

# FIELD TRIPS IN CONNECTICUT

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**Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc**  
**SUGGESTED CONNECTICUT FIELD TRIPS**

**BETHLEHEM**

**Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden**

9 Main Street North  
Bethlehem, CT 06751  
(203) 266-7596

[www.ctlandmarks.org/properties/bellamy-ferriday-house-garden/](http://www.ctlandmarks.org/properties/bellamy-ferriday-house-garden/)

The home, built in two stages between 1754 and 1767, was originally owned by Reverend Joseph Bellamy, an 18<sup>th</sup> century evangelical preacher. The property was purchased in 1912 by the Ferriday family of New York, who updated it with heat, plumbing and electricity, intending it to be used as a summer home. Mrs. Ferriday and her daughter Caroline designed their gardens for their summer enjoyment. Visitors today will find historic roses, peonies, lilacs, and fragrant trees and shrubs.

**BRIDGEPORT**

**Beardsley Zoo Volunteer Association**

1875 Noble Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06610  
(203) 394-6565

[www.beardsleyzoo.org/volunteer.html](http://www.beardsleyzoo.org/volunteer.html)

Did you know that volunteers perform an integral part of maintaining this popular zoo? Volunteer duties are varied and may include greeting and/or educating guests, maintaining the greenhouse collection or becoming a zoo docent. While visiting the Zoo, observe the work of the volunteers and consider becoming one yourself.

**BRIDGEWATER**

**Promisek at Three Rivers Farm**

694 Skyline Ridge Road  
Bridgewater, CT 06752  
(860) 350-8226

[www.promisek.org/](http://www.promisek.org/)

Originally designed by Beatrix Farrand, the [garden](#) fell into disrepair over time. A local garden historian rediscovered Farrand's plan, and volunteers now maintain the beds while respecting the original design. A pink, blue, purple, red and white color scheme predominates.

**BRISTOL**

**American Clock and Watch Museum**

100 Maple Street  
Bristol, CT 06010  
(860) 563-6070

[www.clockandwatchmuseum.org](http://www.clockandwatchmuseum.org)

An authentically restored colonial flower and herb garden is enclosed by a white picket fence centered with a sundial located next to the American Clock and Watch Museum. The garden, appropriate to a small townhouse built in 1801, was designed by Rudy Favretti in 1973 and has been modified keeping the integrity of the materials by the Bristol Garden Club and is maintained by the membership.

## **CANTON**

### **Roaring Brook Nature Center**

70 Gracey Road  
Canton, CT 06019  
(203) 693-0263  
[www.roaringbrook.org/](http://www.roaringbrook.org/)

With a mission to increase awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the natural world, the Nature Center offers dioramas, live animals, 6 miles of trails and outdoor gardens. In addition, a variety of presentation [topics](#) are available for clubs.

## **COS COB**

### **Greenwich Botanical Center**

130 Bible Street  
Cos Cob, CT 06807  
(203) 869-9242  
[www.greenwichbotanicalcenter.org/](http://www.greenwichbotanicalcenter.org/)

The Greenwich Botanical center is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to promoting conservation, horticulture and the arts through educational programs, outreach activities and special events. Located on 61 acres, the Center includes walking trails, a horticulture building and library, gift shops, and offers a full [program](#) of speakers and workshops as well as a May Gardener's Market.

## **DERBY**

### **Osborne Homestead Museum & Kellogg Environmental Center**

500 Hawthorne Avenue  
Derby, CT 06418  
(203) 734-2513  
[www.portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Education/Kellogg/Kellogg-Environmental-Center-and-Osborne-Homestead-Museum](http://www.portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Education/Kellogg/Kellogg-Environmental-Center-and-Osborne-Homestead-Museum)

Frances Eliza Osborne Kellogg, a businesswoman and conservationist, deeded her 350-acre property to the State of Connecticut to preserve the land for future generations. Today, the State Park's Museum grounds feature formal flower gardens, ornamental shrubs and flowering trees. The Environmental Center continues to be the site of several FGCCT schools, which include Environmental School, Flower Show School, Gardening School and Landscape Design School.

## **EAST HADDAM**

### **Gillette Castle State Park**

67 River Road

Haddam, CT 06423

(860) 526-2336

[www.portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Parks/Gillette-Castle-State-Park](http://www.portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Parks/Gillette-Castle-State-Park)

The 190-acre property overlooking the Connecticut River features the stone “castle,” a medieval-inspired mansion constructed by actor William Gillette. In addition, a Visitor Center, picnic areas and hiking trails leading to the River includes the Gillette Castle State Park [Tree Walk](#) created by the East Haddam Garden Club.

## **FAIRFIELD**

### **Greenfield Hill Dogwood Festival**

c/o Congregational Church

1045 Academy Road

Fairfield, CT 06430

(203) 259-5596

[www.facebook.com/GHCCDogwoodFestival/](http://www.facebook.com/GHCCDogwoodFestival/)

A celebration timed around the blooming of the pink and white dogwood trees in the area. The village is designated an Historic Site by the National Park Service. Call for dates.

### **Ogden House and Gardens**

1520 Bronson Road

Fairfield CT 06430

(203) 259-1598

[www.fairfieldhistory.org/visit/ogden-house/](http://www.fairfieldhistory.org/visit/ogden-house/)

The 1750 saltbox home built for the farming family of David and Jane Sturges Ogden was one of the few buildings to survive the 1779 burning of Fairfield. The property also includes an 18<sup>th</sup> century kitchen [garden](#) designed and maintained by the Fairfield Garden Club. Special tours are available by appointment.

### **Connecticut Audubon Birdcraft Museum**

314 Unquowa Road

Fairfield, CT 06430

(203) 259-0416

[www.ctaudubon.org/birdcraft-home/](http://www.ctaudubon.org/birdcraft-home/)

The grounds of CABM include the Sanctuary, Museum (original headquarters of the Connecticut Audubon Society) and the Caretaker’s Cottage. Much of the Sanctuary has been restored and is maintained by the Sasqua Garden Club. Call for a changing calendar of programs and events. In addition to the Birdcraft Museum, [Connecticut Audubon](#) also maintains 6 centers and 20 sanctuaries throughout the state, providing a glimpse into a variety of ecosystems.

## **FARMINGTON**

### **Hill-Stead Museum**

35 Mountain Road  
Farmington, CT 06032  
(860) 677-4787  
[www.hillstead.org/](http://www.hillstead.org/)

Hill-Stead was the first architectural project of Theodate Pope Riddle, one of the first licensed female architects of the U.S. The home which was built for her parents houses their collection of notable paintings by Monet, Manet, Cassatt, Degas and Whistler. The [grounds](#) of the 152-acre National Historic Landmark include stone walls, stately trees and the Sunken Garden designed by Beatrix Farrand. The Pollinator Garden is a new addition, providing food and shelter for bees, butterflies and birds through its native plantings.

### **Stanley-Whitman House**

37 High Street  
Farmington, CT 06032  
(860) 677-9222  
[www.s-wh.org/](http://www.s-wh.org/)

The circa 1720 National Historical Landmark house is furnished to reflect Colonial life, and is surrounded by period [gardens](#), an apple orchard and heritage stone walls.

### **Shade Swamp Sanctuary**

Route 6 W near intersection of New Britain Avenue  
Farmington, CT 06032

The Sanctuary features self-guiding trails through forest, swamp and ponds in its 800 acres. A 1930's era shelter built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and abandoned "cages" from the wildlife rehabilitation center still exist. The White Trail (2.5 miles) and the Blue Trail (1.3 miles) are marked with blazes. A Blue Trail map can be found [here](#).

## **GREENWICH**

### **The Bruce Museum**

1 Museum Drive  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
(203) 869-0376  
[www.brucemuseum.org/](http://www.brucemuseum.org/)

The community-based museum highlights art, science and natural history through a dozen or more changing exhibits each year. Originally built as a private home in 1853, it is now a center for educational programs for schools, families and other visitors via its exhibitions, collections, blogs and special events. The adjacent Bruce Park features hiking, picnicking, and outdoor sports.

## **Greenwich Botanical Center**

113 Bible Street  
Cos Cob, CT 06807  
(203) 869-9242

[www.greenwichbotanicalcenter.org/](http://www.greenwichbotanicalcenter.org/)

The Greenwich Botanical center is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to promoting conservation, horticulture and the arts through educational programs, outreach activities and special events. Located on 61 acres, the Center includes walking trails, a horticulture building and library, gift shops, and offers a full [program](#) of speakers and workshops as well as a May Gardener's Market.

## **Greenwich Audubon Center**

613 Riversville Road  
Greenwich, CT 06831  
(203) 869-5272

[www.greenwich.audubon.org/](http://www.greenwich.audubon.org/)

The Main Sanctuary and Kimberlin Nature Education Center are located on 285 acres which include 7 miles of both rustic and accessible [trails](#). An ever-changing calendar of [events](#) includes nature programs and activities for children, families and adults. The Nature Store offers environmentally-inspired merchandise.

## **GROTON**

### **Ebenezer Avery House**

54 Fort Street  
Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park  
Groton, CT 06340  
(860) 446-9257

[www.averymemorialassociation.com/ebavery.htm](http://www.averymemorialassociation.com/ebavery.htm)

On-site gardens were established by the former Groton Garden Club, and now the Trillium Garden Club maintains the herb and colonial-style gardens. Cuttings from the gardens are used to decorate the historic house during the summer months.

## **HADDAM**

### **Thankful Arnold House Museum**

14 Hayden Hill Road  
Haddam, CT 06438  
(860) 345-2400

[www.haddamhistory.org/arnold\\_house.htm](http://www.haddamhistory.org/arnold_house.htm)

Renovated in the late 1980's to reflect the Colonial Revival style, the gardens were also researched by the CT Herb Society Research Group to select herbs and other plants that would have been found in home gardens in the 1830's. Most of the garden is now devoted to herbs used for cooking, medicine, dyeing, fragrance and other household uses. The gardens are tended by devoted volunteers from spring through fall. Guided tours may be arranged by appointment.

## **HARTFORD**

### **Butler-McCook House & Garden**

396 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06103  
(860) 247-8996 ext. 11  
[www.ctlandmarks.org/properties/butler-mccook-house-garden/](http://www.ctlandmarks.org/properties/butler-mccook-house-garden/)

Behind the 1782 period home you will find restored Victorian era ornamental gardens, first designed in 1865.

### **Connecticut Science Center**

250 Columbus Boulevard  
Hartford, CT 06103  
(860) 724-3623  
[www.ctsciencecenter.org/](http://www.ctsciencecenter.org/)

The Center offers educational exhibits for kids, including over 165 hands-on activities. Also on-site are a state of the art 3D digital theatre and changing daily programs and events. See the new Butterfly Encounter and visit the rooftop garden, a portion of which was donated by the FGCCT.

### **Elizabeth Park**

1561 Asylum Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117  
(860) 231-9443  
[www.elizabethparkct.org/](http://www.elizabethparkct.org/)

Elizabeth Park is the oldest municipal rose garden in the US, with over 100 acres of park land which includes 15000 plants, 800 varieties and a 2.5 acre rose garden. In addition to its heritage rose garden, an annual garden, perennial garden, rock garden, iris garden, herb garden as well as the University of St. Joseph Pharmacy garden accompany a large collection of trees and shrubs. The Garden is open dawn to dusk 365 days per year and is free and open to the public. The Friends of Elizabeth Park help maintain this park.

### **Harriet Beecher Stowe Center**

77 Forest Street  
Hartford, CT 06105  
(860) 522-9258  
[www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/](http://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/)

An enthusiastic flower gardener, Harriet Beecher Stowe planted material typical of the Victorian era. Eight [gardens](#) highlight a variety of plantings including woodland and wildflower gardens, an antique rose garden and a Victorian texture garden. The property is also home to the state's largest magnolia tree and grafts from a pink dogwood tree believed to have been planted during Stowe's gardening days.

## LITCHFIELD

### **White Memorial Conservation Center**

80 Whitehall Road  
Litchfield, CT 06759  
(860) 567-0857

[www.whitememorialcc.org/](http://www.whitememorialcc.org/)

WMCC is the State's largest nature center which includes a museum, 4000 acres of woodlands and 35 miles of trails. In addition to its several ponds, wetland habitats may be viewed from boardwalks. [Maps](#) are available. Nature programs are available for all age groups. A "Virtual Vault" of past [programs](#) can be viewed on line.

## MADISON

### **Allis-Bushnell Historical Home**

835 Boston Post Road  
Madison, CT 06443  
(203) 245-4567

[www.madisonhistory.org/allis-bushnell-house/](http://www.madisonhistory.org/allis-bushnell-house/)

The Garden Club of Madison has maintained the front garden and herb garden, a Bicentennial gift to the town of Madison, since 1975. Recently, a new design has been planned for the [herb garden](#), which will be completed during the 2020-2021 timeframe. The house is open on occasion for tours and special exhibits.

## MANCHESTER

### **Wickham Park**

1329 Middle Turnpike West  
Manchester, CT 06040  
(860) 528-0856

[www.wickhampark.org/](http://www.wickhampark.org/)

Within the 250-acre park, gardens total almost 11 acres and include an Oriental Garden, a Lotus Garden, an Italian Shrine, an English Garden, a Scottish Garden, a Wetlands Garden, a Sensory Garden and a Cabin Garden. A great location for garden club events, the park offers extensive perennial plantings and walking trails. A map of the park is available [here](#).

## MYSTIC

### **Mystic Seaport Museum**

75 Greenmanville Avenue  
Mystic, CT 06355  
860-572-0711

[www.mysticseaport.org/](http://www.mysticseaport.org/)

Connecticut is home to America's largest maritime museum with the Seaport. The Museum includes numerous nineteenth century exhibits, seasonally interpreted gardens and perennial gardens throughout the grounds. Tours by special arrangement are available as well as a large array of [programs](#) and workshops for all age groups.

### **Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center**

109 Pequotsepos Road  
Mystic, CT 06355  
(860) 536-1216  
[www.dpnc.org/](http://www.dpnc.org/)

The DPNC facility includes a 200 acre sanctuary, covering woodland, wetland and meadow habitats. Natural history exhibits feature live animals and plenty of opportunities for interactive education. Picnic facilities and a unique gift store are also on-site. Year-round environmental education programs include classes for children, slide presentations, summer camp, birding trips and special events.

## **NEW CANAAN**

### **Olive and George Lee Memorial Gardens**

89 Chichester Road  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
(203) 972-3410  
[www.newcanaanbeautification.org/lee-garden](http://www.newcanaanbeautification.org/lee-garden)

Plant collector George Lee began planting his property in 1940 with the intention to create “a peaceful place where plants can reveal their characteristic beauty in a natural setting.” Under a canopy of oaks, tulip trees, maples and dogwood, reside an extensive display of 175 varieties of azaleas, 200 varieties of rhododendron as well as wildflowers, groundcovers and bulbs. Guided walking tours for groups no larger than 10 can be arranged for the April-June peak display.

### **Helen and Alice Bristow Sanctuary and Wildwood Preserve**

47 Old Stamford Road  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
(203) 594-3070  
<https://bristowpark.com/about-the-park/>

The 17-acre preserve has documented 100 bird species since its founding in 1924. Wildlife trails, ponds and brooks provide habitat for threatened species. Parking is available at the adjoining Mead Park.

### **New Canaan Nature Center**

144 Oenoke Ridge  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
(203) 966-9577  
[newcanaannature.org/](http://newcanaannature.org/)

The 40-acre site features many unusual and diverse habitats, including wet and dry meadows, two ponds, wet and dry woodlands, dense thickets, and old orchard and a cattail marsh. Two miles of [trails](#) crisscross the site (including a 350-foot boardwalk across the marsh) and two observation towers overlook the wetlands and cattail marsh. A live birds of prey exhibit and a greenhouse in addition to the Visitor’s Center are also on site. Both children’s and adult programs can be booked.

## **NEW HAVEN**

### **Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station**

123 Huntington Street  
New Haven, CT 06504  
(203) 974-8500  
[www.portal.ct.gov/caes](http://www.portal.ct.gov/caes)

In addition to its extensive diagnostic laboratories, the CAES grounds and gardens display many interesting plant materials. Tours may be arranged. A substantial [speakers list](#) and [publications](#) provide additional expert resources.

### **Edgerton Park**

75 Cliff Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 777-1886  
[www.edgertonpark.org/](http://www.edgertonpark.org/)

Surrounded by a high stone wall, the former Frederick Brewster Estate encompasses 25 acres originally owned by Eli Whitney. While the home was demolished per directions in Brewster's will, the greenhouses, carriage house, gatehouse and bridge remain. Educational and horticultural programs are offered through the greenhouse, and the Sarah T. Crosby Conservatory houses a collection of plants from around the world. Docent lead tours (203) 624-8941 are available. The Conservatory is wheelchair accessible.

### **Pardee Rose Garden**

180 Park Road  
New Haven, CT 06504  
(203) 946-8142  
[www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/parks/our\\_parks/garden.htm](http://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/parks/our_parks/garden.htm)

Over 50 varieties of roses as well as annuals, perennials and herbs bloom from April through October, with a peak in June and July. The park is open from dawn until dusk.

### **West Rock Nature Center**

1080 Wintergreen Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06514  
(203) 946-6559  
[www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/parks/our\\_parks/west\\_rock.htm](http://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/parks/our_parks/west_rock.htm)

While the entry of the park is in Hamden, the West Rock Nature Center sits amidst 40 acres of woodland trails and meadows in New Haven and is listed on the State Register of Historic Places by The Connecticut Historical Commission. Strategically located interpretive trails allow location of many of the 300 plant species identified in the park as well as traveling along the Wintergreen Brook, with its waterfall and gorge. The park is a popular birding site.

## NEW LONDON

### **Connecticut College Arboretum**

270 Mohegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320  
(860) 439-5020

[www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/](http://www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/)

The Arboretum consists of a diverse 750 acres which include the landscape of the College campus as well as the surrounding plant collections and natural areas. Docent-led tours are available of the Native Plant Collection, the Caroline Black Garden and the Campus landscape. Interactive [maps](#) allow for self-guided tours.

### **Shaw-Perkins Mansion**

11 Blinman Street  
New London, CT 06320  
(860) 443-1209

[www.nlchs.org/about/shaw-mansion/](http://www.nlchs.org/about/shaw-mansion/)

Steeped in early Connecticut history with mentions of George Washington and Benedict Arnold, the Shaw-Perkins Mansion exists today as the home of the New London County Historical Society. On-line [exhibits](#) may be enjoyed from afar and the extensive southeast Connecticut [genealogy](#) archive may be viewed by appointment.

## OLD LYME

### **Florence Griswold Museum**

96 Lyme Street  
Old Lyme, CT 06371  
(860) 434-5542

[florencegriswoldmuseum.org/](http://florencegriswoldmuseum.org/)

Florence Griswold opened her family home to artists of the time, establishing an art colony which came to be known as the Lyme Art Colony, the center of the American Impressionism movement. Many of the artists painted Miss Griswold's extensive gardens during their stays. She, like us, continued to search out new and unusual plants for her gardens which were located close to the house. Today, a dedicated group known as the Garden Gang meets often to tend the gardens.

## OLD SAYBROOK

### **General William Hart House**

350 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475  
(860) 395-1635

[saybrookhistory.org/hart-house-gardens/](http://saybrookhistory.org/hart-house-gardens/)

The historic House, built in 1767, is currently the home of the Old Saybrook Historical Society. Notable are the Public Heritage gardens located behind the House. Medicinal, culinary and fragrant herbs, old roses and a wildflower section are maintained by volunteers. The Stevenson [Archives](#) include maps, family records, diaries and cemetery records which may be viewed with an appointment.

## **RIDGEFIELD**

### **Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art.**

258 Main Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
(203) 438-4519  
[www.thealdrich.org/](http://www.thealdrich.org/)

Located behind the new Museum is the 2-acre sculpture garden which is open to the public. In addition to changing exhibits during the year, educational programs for all age groups are offered.

### **The Keeler Tavern Museum**

152 Main Street  
Ridgefield, Ct 06877  
(203) 438-5485  
[www.keelertavernmuseum.org/](http://www.keelertavernmuseum.org/)

The museum has enjoyed many lives, as a farmhouse, a tavern, a post office, a stagecoach stop and a hotel for travelers. It was also the home of architect Cass Gilbert, who built the [Garden House](#) for his wife and designed the circa 1910 “Charleston Garden”.

## **ROCKFALL**

### **Connecticut Forest & Park Association**

16 Meriden Road  
Rockfall, CT 06481  
(860) 346-TREE  
[www.ctwoodlands.org/](http://www.ctwoodlands.org/)

The CFPA, the first nonprofit conservation organization in Connecticut, endeavors to unite the public with the land in order to promote preservation of forests, trails and open space for future generations. The State’s well-known Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System is complete with an interactive [map](#).

## **ROCKY HILL**

### **Dinosaur State Park**

400 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
(203) 529-8423  
[www.dinosaurstatepark.org/](http://www.dinosaurstatepark.org/)

In addition to the early Jurassic era dinosaur tracks for which the Park is known, visitors may tour the Arboretum which was established to showcase plants having a link to those growing during the Age of Dinosaurs. The “Arboretum of Evolution” includes more than 200 varieties of conifers. A [map](#) of the collection is available.

## SHARON

### **Audubon-Sharon Audubon Center**

325 Cornwall Bridge Road  
Sharon, CT 06069  
(860) 364-0520  
[www.sharon.audubon.org/](http://www.sharon.audubon.org/)

Situated on 1147 acres of mostly forested land, the Sharon Audubon center is noted for 11 miles of [trails](#), a Visitor Center and Nature Store and a Children's Adventure Center. Raptor aviaries, a butterfly house, a pollinator garden, a working sugarhouse and a Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic manned by naturalists are also found on site. Programs suited for all ages and the opportunity to participate in citizen scientist projects can be found on the website.

## SIMSBURY

### **The Phelps Homestead**

(Owned/operated by Simsbury Historical Society)  
800 Hopmeadow Street  
Simsbury, CT 06070  
(860) 658-2500  
[www.phelpsfamilyhistory.com/history/america/phelps-homestead-simsbury.asp](http://www.phelpsfamilyhistory.com/history/america/phelps-homestead-simsbury.asp)

The museum complex includes more than a dozen historic [buildings](#) and [gardens](#) on a two-acre site in the heart of Simsbury. The Gardeners of Simsbury and the Simsbury Garden club maintain the varied gardens, and a self-guided tour is found [here](#).

## STAMFORD

### **Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens**

151 Brookdale Road  
Stamford, CT 06903  
(203) 322-6971  
[www.bartlettarboretum.org/](http://www.bartlettarboretum.org/)

It is a difficult challenge to describe the offerings of the 93-acre arboretum. Plant [collections](#), both recently planted and some planted 50-100 years ago accompany walking [trails](#). Educational opportunities cross many interests both in-person and remotely. Special [events](#) are posted regularly. Bartlett CEO Jane von Trapp was recognized in 2020 with the FGCCT Bronze Medal, its highest award.

### **Stamford Museum and Nature Center**

39 Scofieldtown Road (Main entrance)  
151 Scofieldtown Road (Farmhouse entrance)  
Stamford, CT 06903  
(203) 977-6521  
[www.stamfordmuseum.org/](http://www.stamfordmuseum.org/)

A working farm with animals and gardens accompanies the 80 acres of hiking trails, Nature Center and Planetarium. In addition, seasonal displays in the Museum and [programs](#) ( [youth programs](#)) for all ages fill out the event calendar.

## **STORRS**

### **University of Connecticut**

Storrs, CT 06269

Multiple locations on Storrs campus

[uconn.edu/campus-life/arts-culture/](http://uconn.edu/campus-life/arts-culture/)

While Yale University was Connecticut's first land grant university, the designation was removed and transferred to the property that is today UCONN. The University has much to offer the plant lover, with its Plant Biodiversity [Conservatory](#) and Research Core and its extensive array of greenhouses and plant collections, the Plant Science and Landscape Architecture [Facilities](#) and the Sid Waxman Conifer collection just down the [road](#) from campus. From home, you may also explore the [Plant Database](#) while researching for future acquisitions for your landscape.

## **SUFFIELD**

### **Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden**

55 South Main Street

Suffield, CT 06078

(860) 668-0055

[www.ctlandmarks.org/properties/phelps-hatheway-house-garden/](http://www.ctlandmarks.org/properties/phelps-hatheway-house-garden/)

The 1761 center chimney home enjoys an extensive colonial history, and a tour will exhibit the substantial antique furniture collection housed there. The formal parterre garden designed by Mary Wells Edwards, flowering shrubs and an herb garden are today maintained by the Suffield Garden Club.

## **WASHINGTON**

### **Hollister House Garden**

300 Nettleton Hollow Road

Washington, CT 06793

(860) 868-2200

[www.hollisterhousegarden.org/](http://www.hollisterhousegarden.org/)

Nestled on 25 acres in Litchfield County, Hollister House Gardens blends both formal and informal in its uniquely American interpretation of the great gardens of the United Kingdom. Both hardscaping and green material form a series of rooms to wander. The gardens provide inspiration for not only gardeners, but also for artists and photographers. Lectures and other special events entertain and educate.

## **WATERFORD**

### **Harkness Memorial State Park**

275 Great Neck Road

Waterford, CT 06385

(860\_ 443-5725

[www.portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Parks/Harkness-Memorial-State-Park](http://www.portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Parks/Harkness-Memorial-State-Park)

The property owned by Edward and Mary Harkness included the mansion (their summer home) 'Eolia', and 200 acres of working farmland. Between the years of 1918 and 1929, Beatrix Farrand redesigned the West Garden and created the East Garden, the Boxwood Parterre and the Alpine Rock Garden. The property was left to the State of Connecticut in 1950, with the gardens being restored and replanted respecting the original landscape plans.

## **WEST HARTFORD**

### **Elizabeth Park**

1561 Asylum Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117  
(860) 231-9443  
[www.elizabethparkct.org/](http://www.elizabethparkct.org/)

Elizabeth Park is the oldest municipal rose garden in the US, with over 100 acres of park land which includes 15000 plants, 800 varieties and a 2.5 acre rose garden. In addition to its heritage rose garden, an annual garden, perennial garden, rock garden, iris garden, herb garden as well as the University of St. Joseph Pharmacy garden accompany a large collection of trees and shrubs. The Garden is open dawn to dusk 365 days per year and is free and open to the public. The Friends of Elizabeth Park help maintain this park.

## **WESTPORT**

### **Earthplace, The Nature Discovery Center**

10 Woodside Lane  
Westport, CT 06880  
(203) 557-4400  
[www.earthplace.org/](http://www.earthplace.org/)

Earthplace, also known as the Westport Nature Center, was founded in 1958. Sixty-two acres of open space include miles of walking trails accessible to wheelchairs and strollers. In addition to the variety of natural habitats, a Birds of Prey Exhibit and an indoor Animal Hall provide close-up views of a variety of animal ambassadors. Educational programs span pre-school through adult interests.

## **WETHERSFIELD**

### **Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum**

211 Main Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
(860) 529-0612  
[www.webb-deane-stevens.org/](http://www.webb-deane-stevens.org/)

The Museum is composed of three 18<sup>th</sup> century homes and their grounds located in the center of Connecticut's largest historic district. The Webb House [Colonial Revival Garden](#) was designed by landscape designer Amy Cogswell in 1921. Over the years, the garden evolved until it retained little of the character of its original design. Cogswell's original designs were discovered in archives in the mid-1990's and by decade's end the gardens had been restored to reflect much of the original plans. The gardens are maintained by volunteers.

## **WILTON**

### **Weir Farm National Historic Site**

735 Nod Hill Road  
Wilton, CT 06897  
(203) 834-1896  
[www.nps.gov/wefa/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wefa/index.htm)

The 60-acre property, once owned by three generations of the artistic Weir family, includes the Weir House, Weir and Young Studios, barns, gardens, and Weir Pond. A colonial revival Sunken Garden and the Weir Garden (created in 1915) which includes a fountain, sundial and rustic cedar fence are preserved and maintained by local garden clubs and other volunteers. Their goal is to present the property as it appeared to Weir and the other artists who lived and painted there.

### **Woodcock Nature Center**

56 Deer Run Road  
Wilton, CT 06897  
(203) 762-7280  
[www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/](http://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/)

The Preserve on 149 acres of state-protected land includes a pond, wetlands and 3 miles of publicly accessible woodland trails. It is also home to a variety of living local and exotic creatures including snakes, frogs and lizards, and houses a handful of injured birds of prey. Special events and programs for all ages are listed on their website.

## **WOODBURY**

### **Flanders Nature Center and Land Trust**

596 Flanders Road  
Woodbury, CT 06768  
(203) 263-3711  
[www.flandersnaturecenter.org/](http://www.flandersnaturecenter.org/)

The Flanders Land Trust holds in trust more than 2100 acres of open space in the towns of Woodbury, Bethlehem, Southbury and Middlebury, and includes seven nature preserves and sanctuaries. The Nature Center found at the corner of Flanders and Church Hill Roads serves as the main teaching campus of Flanders. Seasonal programs for all ages and school programs are listed on the website. The several protected properties across the towns provide ample opportunity for hiking, with [maps](#) available. The award-winning Botany Trail at the Van Vleck Farm and Nature Sanctuary was developed in 1965 by members of the Pomperaug Valley Garden Club of Woodbury, who continue to maintain and improve it.

### **Glebe House Museum & Gertrude Jekyll Garden**

49 Hollow Road  
Woodbury, CT 06798  
(203) 263-2855  
[www.glebehousemuseum.org/](http://www.glebehousemuseum.org/)

This simple 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse was restored and opened to the public in 1925. The following year, Gertrude Jekyll was commissioned to design an appropriate garden to enhance the new museum. Mysteriously, her garden plans were never fully installed in the 1920's, and the garden plans lay undiscovered until the late 1970's. Today, 300 feet of foundation plantings and English-style mixed borders exist according to her original plans.

## **WOODSTOCK**

### **Roseland Cottage**

556 Route 169

Woodstock, CT 06281

(860) 928-4074

[www.historicnewengland.org/property/roseland-cottage/](http://www.historicnewengland.org/property/roseland-cottage/)

Henry Bowen, a successful New York businessman, returned to his hometown in 1846 to establish a retreat where he entertained friends and others which included four U.S. presidents. The boxwood-edged parterre gardens planted in the 1850's still exist as do other features of the property including an icehouse, an aviary and Connecticut's oldest surviving indoor bowling alley.

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