TRAILS AT RICE CREEK FIELD STATION

GREEN TRAIL
Description: This trail comprises the Carllita Snyg Memorial Trail and the Wildflower Trail. The Snyg Trail leads one through young woods and wetlands bordering the upper reaches of Rice Pond and Rice Creek, past areas of beaver activity, through a locust grove, and through shrub lands and an evergreen plantation. The Wildflower Trail consists of several loops which branch from the first section of the Snyg Trail. It features a number of local trees and native wildflowers.

Distance: 1.2 km [0.75 miles]
Trail Blaze: Green diamond

Features:
- Classic young woodland comprising diverse tree species
- Evidence and impact of beaver activity: o beaver dam o beaver-maintained wetland
- Observation of wetland vegetation and wildlife-excellent birding area
- Exploration of wildflower plots, planted with species native to this area

BLUE TRAIL
Description: This trail, rich in the diversity of the plant and animal life, takes the hiker through several distinctive habitats, including a conifer plantation, open meadow, transitional hardwoods, wetland forest, and along Rice Creek and Rice Pond.

Distance: 1.6 km [1.1 miles]
Trail Blaze: Blue dot

Location: The trail begins just west of the herb garden, proceeds north, then west, and loops back in a southeasterly direction to the point of beginning.

Features:
- Characteristics of a 50-year old evergreen plantation
- Interesting historical evidence of farming activity: o stone fence o farm lane o hedgerow
- Meadow habitat and the effect of rotational mowing
- Bluebird boxes, sometimes inhabited by tree swallows and house wrens
- Transitional hardwoods and shrubs that have taken over former pasture land
- Stream valley verging on wooded wetland
- Swamp forest along the edge of Rice Pond

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November 2013

TRAILS AT RICE CREEK FIELD STATION

RED TRAIL
Description: This trail, exhibiting the full range of natural succession, passes through hedgerows and young woodlands, a spruce and pine plantation, skirts Hilton Pond, passes through an open field, crosses a stone fence, and then takes the hiker into a mature hardwood forest community.

Distance: 1.5 km [0.93 miles]
Trail Blaze: Red triangle

Location: The trail begins just east of the maintenance shed on the north side of the parking area, proceeds north uphill, then west for a short distance into the old growth section, returning south to its finish at the Ruth Sichardanndan Herb Garden.

Features:
- Full range of succession from mown field to stabilized old-growth hardwood forest
- Contrast in meadow between mown section and natural area
- Contrast between second-growth forest and old-growth forest 100 years old
- Remnants of farm use prior to 1955: o hedgerow o stone fence o farm pond
- Plant and animal life at Hilton Pond, a former farm pond

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- Interesting historical evidence of farming activity: o stone fence o farm lane o hedgerow
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