

Rice Creek

FIELD STATION AT SUNY OSWEGO

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key

- trails

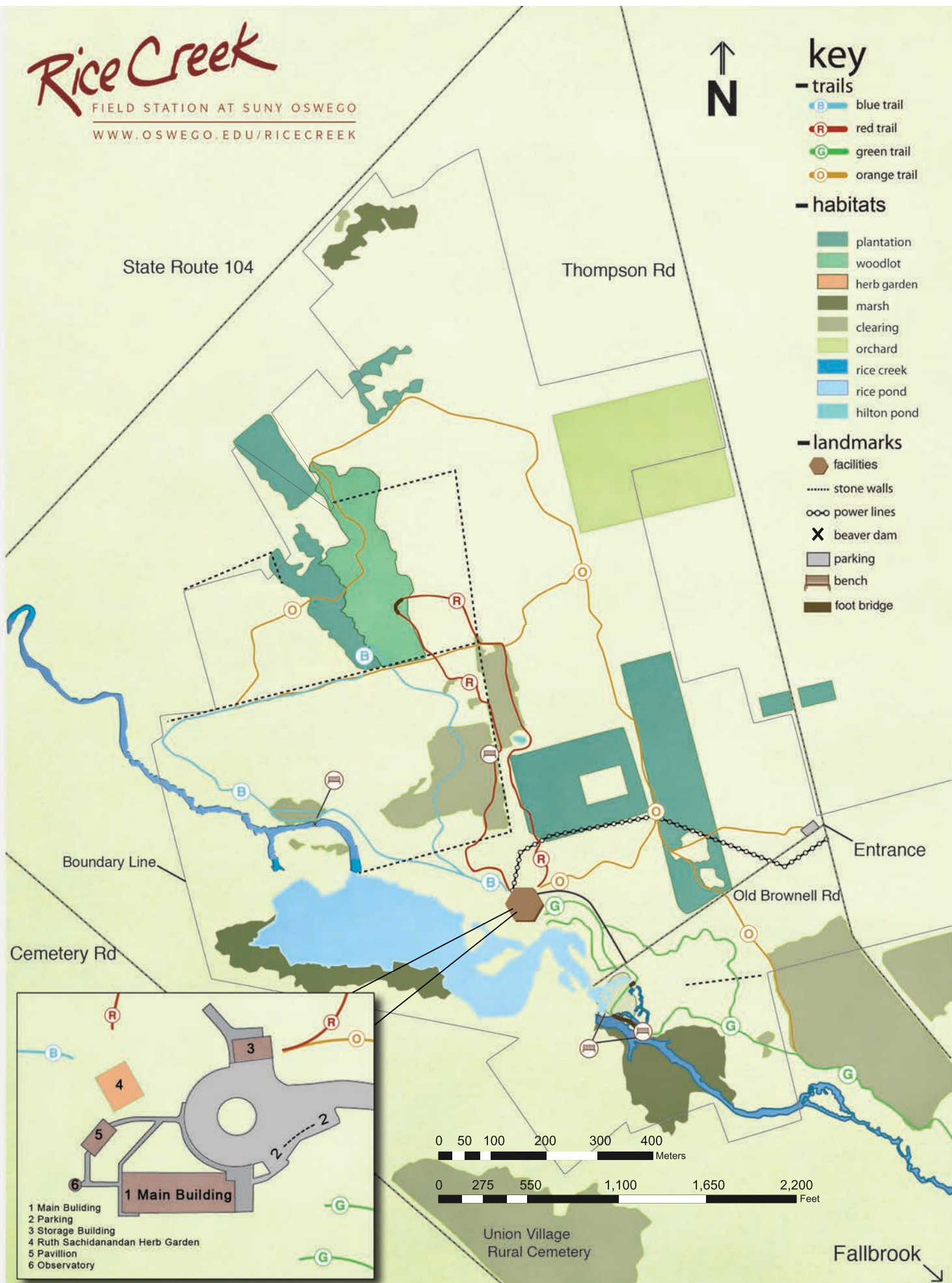
- blue trail
- red trail
- green trail
- orange trail

- habitats

- plantation
- woodlot
- herb garden
- marsh
- clearing
- orchard
- rice creek
- rice pond
- hilton pond

- landmarks

- facilities
- stone walls
- power lines
- beaver dam
- parking
- bench
- foot bridge



- 1 Main Building
- 2 Parking
- 3 Storage Building
- 4 Ruth Sachidanandan Herb Garden
- 5 Pavilion
- 6 Observatory

Union Village
Rural Cemetery

Fallbrook

TRAILS AT RICE CREEK FIELD STATION

Trails are open to the public year around during daylight hours. Use of the Red, Green, and Blue Trails is restricted to hiking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing. Bicycles and activities listed above are allowed on the Orange Trail.

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 [.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 Sachidanandan 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:
 - hedgerow
 - stone fence
 - farm pond
- ♦ Plant and animal life at Hilton Pond, a former farm pond

GREEN TRAIL

Description: This trail comprises the Carlita Snygg Memorial Trail and the Wildflower Trail. The Snygg 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 Snygg Trail. It features a number of local trees and native wildflowers.

Distance: 1.2 km [.75 miles]

Trail Blaze: Green diamond

Location: The trail starts at the east end of the lawn by the field station and enters the wild flower display area in the forest south of the entrance road. After traversing the Wildflower area, it crosses the old bed of Brownell Road, and proceeds in a southerly direction with raised walkways providing passage through wetlands along the upper reaches of Rice Pond and the creek. Eventually it loops back through the forest to reenter the wildflower area near the point of beginning.

Features:

- ♦ Classic young woodland comprising diverse tree specimens
- ♦ Evidence and impact of beaver activity:
 - beaver dam
 - 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: 1.8 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:
 - stone fence
 - farm lane
 - 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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