

The Nature
Conservancy



New Jersey

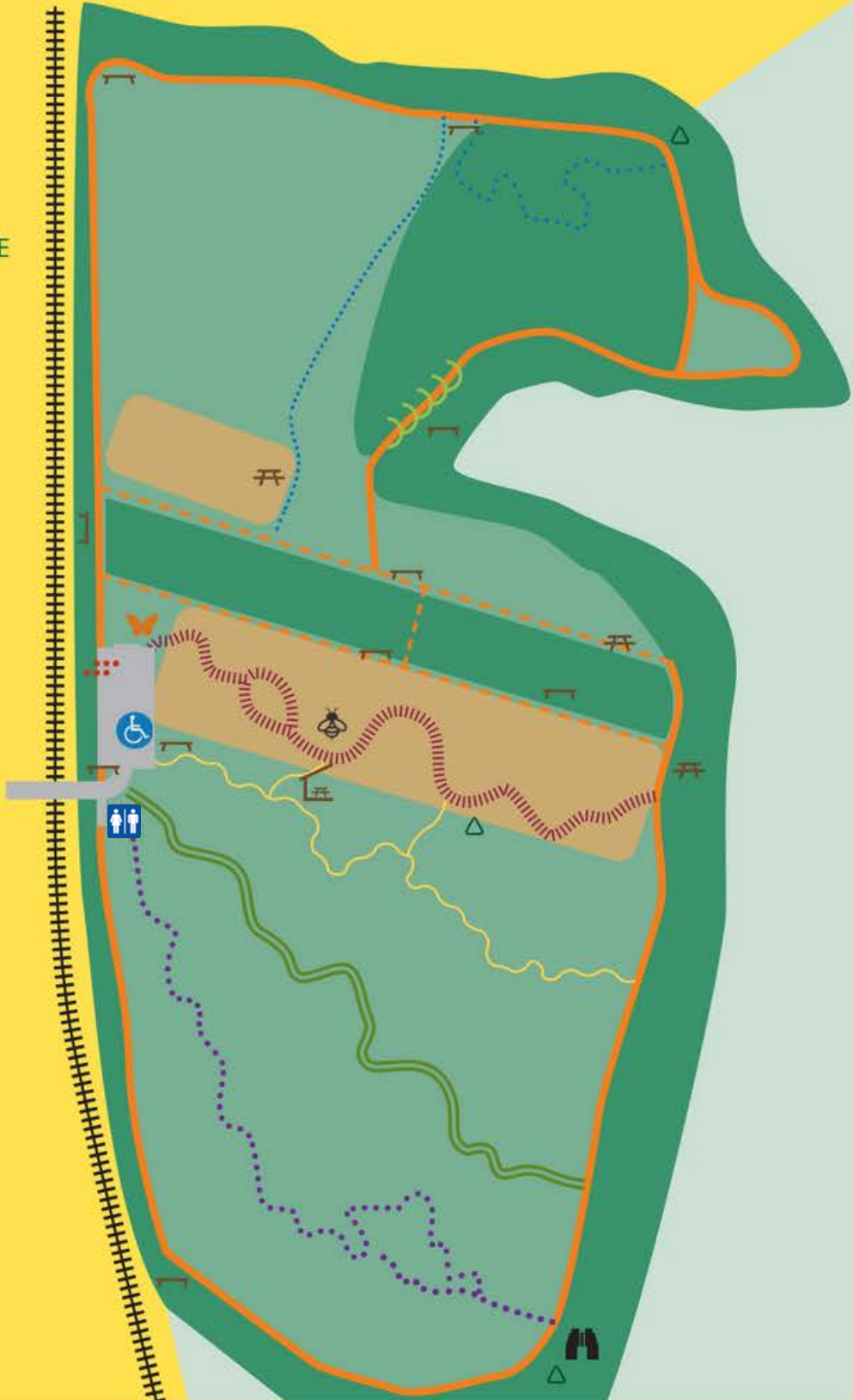
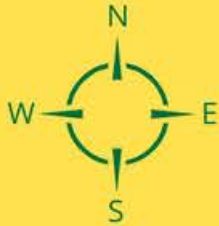
Garrett Family Preserve



Visitors Guide

801 Wilson Street
Cape May, NJ, 08204

Preserve Map



LEGEND	
	Forested Edge
	Field
	Wildflower Meadow (seasonal)
	Salt Marsh
	Bench
	Picnic Table
	Bird Blind
	Picnic Shelter
	Art Easels
	Arbors
	Braille Trail Entrance
	Accessible Paved Parking Spot
	Portable Restroom
	Monarch Butterfly Statue
	Insect Hotel
	Railroad
	Perimeter Loop Trail (1.3 miles)
	Loop Trail Connectors (0.4 miles)
	Songbird Trail (0.3 miles)
	Poet's Trail (0.2 miles)
	Artist Trail (0.2 miles)
	Butterfly Trail (0.25 miles)
	Meadow to Marsh Trail (0.35 miles)
	= 100 feet

General Information

Hours

Dawn to Dusk

Busy Times

May, August and October are the busiest months. Year-round, weekend days are the busiest days. The busiest times are typically 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Holiday weekends are very busy.

Service Information

Cell Service- Yes.

Number to call for emergency- 911

Lower Township Police Department non-emergency line- (609) 886-2711

The Nature Conservancy Office- (908) 879-7262

Group Information

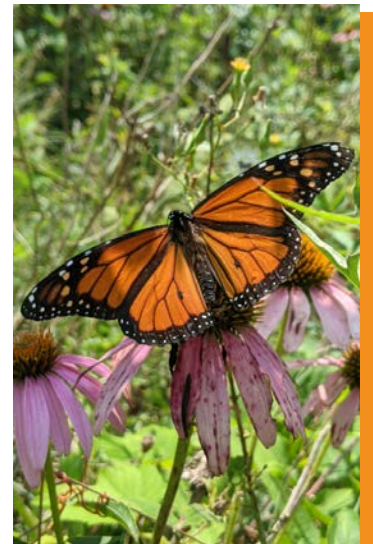
Large groups are welcome, there is no group size limitation.

Preserve Users

- Birders/Naturalists
- Dog walkers (November to March)
- Cyclists
- Tour groups
- Artists
- Volunteers- our Friends Team helps maintain trails
- Joggers/Runners
- Families

Preserve Rules

- Leashed dogs are welcome from **November 1 to March 1**. Dog waste must be picked up and carried out.
- Service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome year-round. Handler must keep control of service animal at all times and abide by preserve rules. The ADA service animal definition does not include emotional support or comfort animals.
- Bikes are allowed. **Bikers, please yield to pedestrians.**
- Please carry out all garbage.
- Please stay on marked trails.
- The flowers are for everyone; please don't pick them.
- Horses are not permitted.



Monarch on purple coneflower.



Getting There



Address

801 Wilson Street,
Cape May NJ, 08204

Parking Information

Parking Fee- No

Entrance Gate- No

Lot Surface Type- Gravel

Number of Spaces- 24

standard car spaces

Accessible Parking- There is a paved area large enough for an accessible van. It has space for two vehicles, with a loading/ramp space in-between. The path from the parking pad to the closest trailhead is a ~32 feet long, ~four feet wide gravel and grass surface.

Van Access- Yes



ADA-parking spot.



Bike rack.

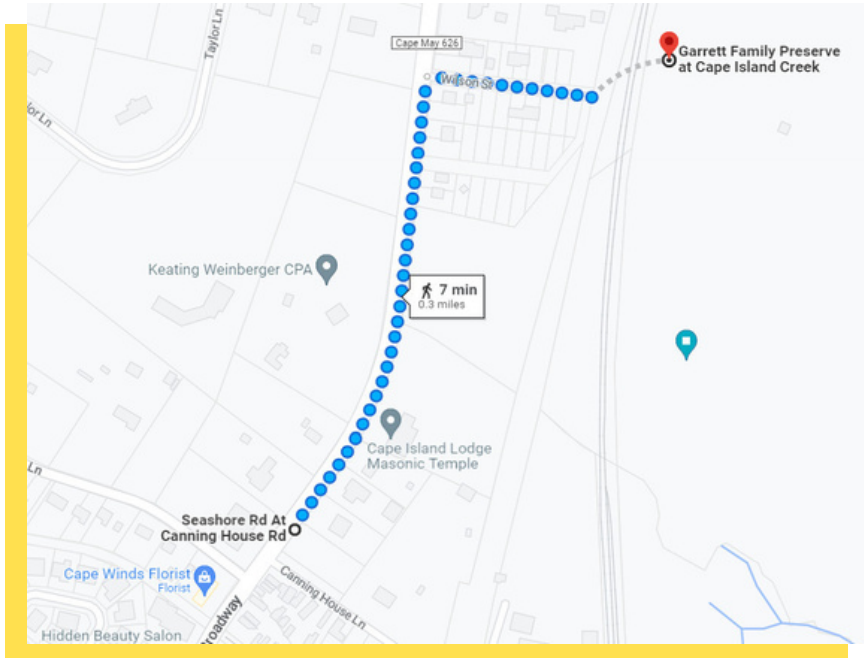
Biking Information

The trails are bike-friendly. A rack in the main parking area accommodates about nine bikes.



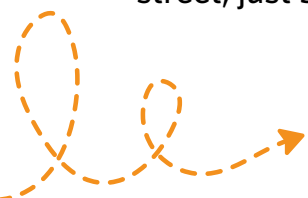
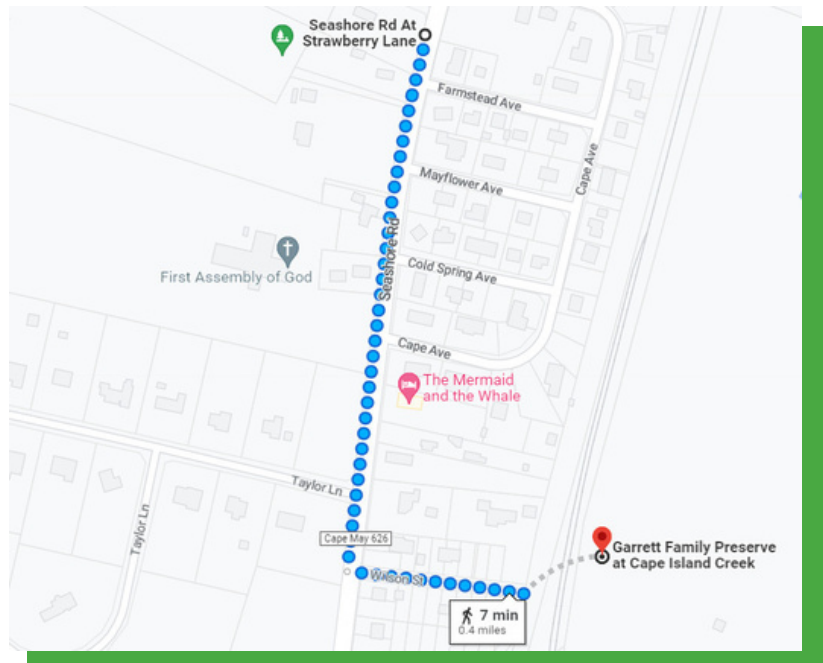
Public Transportation

The NJ Transit bus 552 has two stops near the preserve.



From Cape May (heading north), get off at the stop for **Seashore Road at Canning House Road**. Head north on Seashore Road for about 0.3 miles/seven minutes. There is no sidewalk. The road's shoulder is about five feet wide and doubles as a bike lane. Take a right onto Wilson Street. The preserve's entrance is at the end of the street, just beyond the train tracks.

From Atlantic City or Wildwood (heading south), get off at the stop for **Seashore Road at Strawberry Lane**. Head south on Seashore Road for about 0.4 miles/seven minutes. There is no sidewalk. The road's shoulder is about five feet wide and doubles as a bike lane. Cross Seashore Road at Wilson Street on the left, just past Taylor Lane. Be mindful as there is no crosswalk. Follow Wilson Street to the end. The preserve's entrance is at the end of the street, just beyond the train tracks.



Amenities



Visitor Center- The preserve does not have a visitor center. There are several welcome kiosks just off of the parking lot, and interpretive signs along the trails.

Trail Maps- There are two trail maps on the preserve. One is at the start of the Artist's Trail and the other is to the left of the monarch butterfly statue, along the Perimeter Trail. Trail maps are also available to download from the [preserve website](#).

Restrooms- From April to November, there is an accessible portable toilet at the south end of the parking lot, to the right after you cross the railroad tracks. It is serviced and cleaned on a weekly basis. The portable toilet is removed from December to March.

Water Fountains- No.

Trash Cans- No.

Staff- Seasonal staff manage the site from April-October.

Art Easels- There are three adjustable art easels permanently installed at the preserve.

Picnic tables- The preserve has eight picnic tables; their locations are highlighted on the trail map. An ADA-compliant picnic table that accommodates wheelchairs and strollers can be found under the shade pavilion (between the Artist and Butterfly Trails).

Bird Blind- A structure for bird viewing is sited at the southeast corner of the preserve along the Perimeter Trail. The entrance has six steps, each 42 inches wide. The inside of the blind is ~nine feet wide and ~six feet long. The viewing window starts at 51 ½ inches from the floor and extends up to 77 inches.

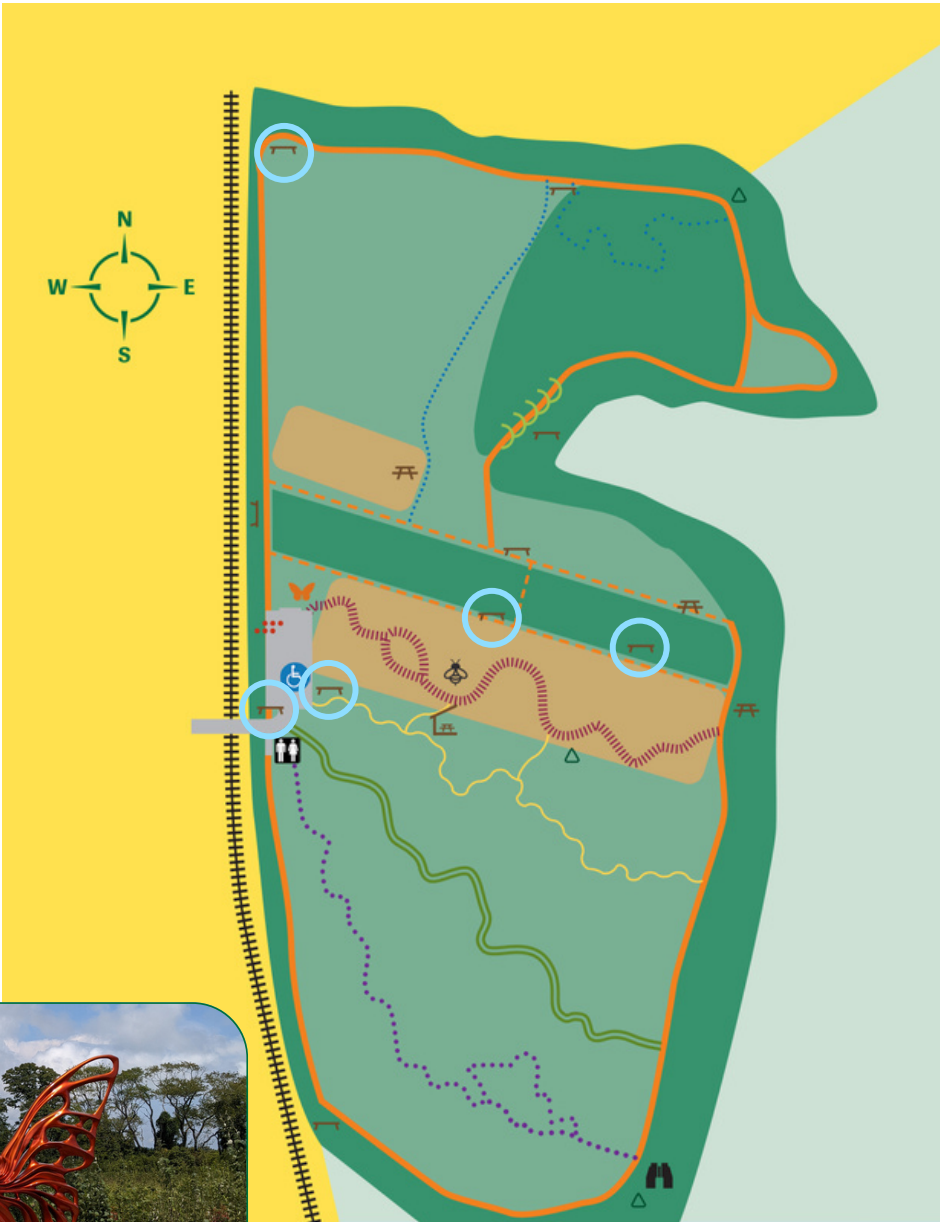
Sign Translations- Translations of the preserve's interpretive signs are available in [Spanish](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), and [French \(Quebec dialect\)](#). Scan the QR code to access the translations.





Benches-There are 10 benches on the preserve; those circled in light blue on the map shown here have arm rests.

Monarch Statue- A large statue of a monarch butterfly awaits at the north end of the parking lot. Created by artist Rubem Robierb to celebrate nature's positive transformative power, it makes an excellent photo opp.



Butterfly statue.

#####	Railroad
—	Perimeter Loop Trail (1.3 miles)
- - -	Loop Trail Connectors (0.4 miles)
.....	Songbird Trail (0.3 miles)
—	Poet's Trail (0.2 miles)
—	Artist Trail (0.2 miles)
- - -	Butterfly Trail (0.25 miles)
.....	Meadow to Marsh Trail (0.35 miles)
—	= 100 feet

Shade Information

The trails that provide the most shade are: Songbird Trail, Poet's Trail and Artist's Trail. Along the Artist Trail, there is a shaded picnic area with four picnic tables. The picnic tables along the Loop Trail and Meadow to Marsh Trail are completely shaded, but the trails getting to them may not be. The south end of the Perimeter Trail is mostly shaded. There is no shade on the Butterfly Trail, the Meadow to Marsh Trail and portions of the Perimeter Trail.

Braille Trail- A ½ mile loop trail for people with low or no vision features a guide rope, interpretive Braille signs and [an audio tour](#). The free audio tour is currently available only in English; it can be downloaded in advance of your visit using the VoiceMap App.

When you enter the parking lot, turn left and head towards the backend of the lot towards the large butterfly sculpture. The tour starts just beyond the northwest portion of the parking lot on the Perimeter Trail, to the left of the monarch butterfly sculpture. After roughly 200-feet, the tour goes right onto the Loop Trail Connector, continues straight for about 0.2 miles and then turns right onto the Butterfly Trail. The remainder of the tour continues on the Butterfly Trail, and ends at the Monarch Statue near the parking lot. The guide rope hugs the inner portion of the trail, and is meant to help users navigate the tour's path. Along the guide rope are rubber stoppers that indicate upcoming features: One rubber stopper means an interpretive braille sign is coming up, two rubber stoppers signify a bench.



Rubber stopper on the guide rope.



Braille Trail trailhead.



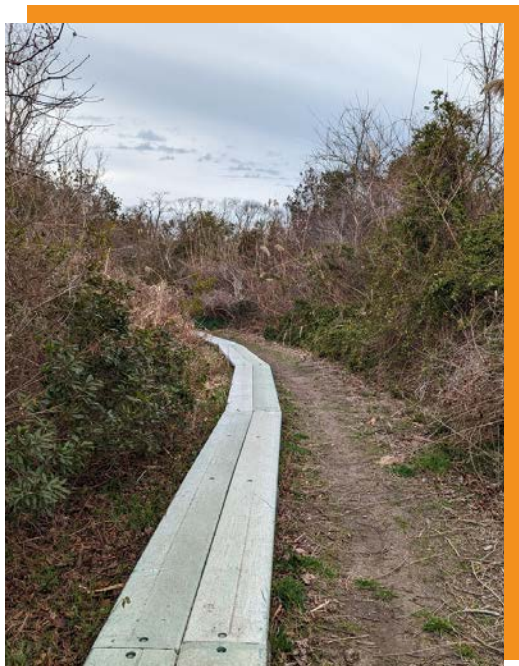
The Braille Trail.



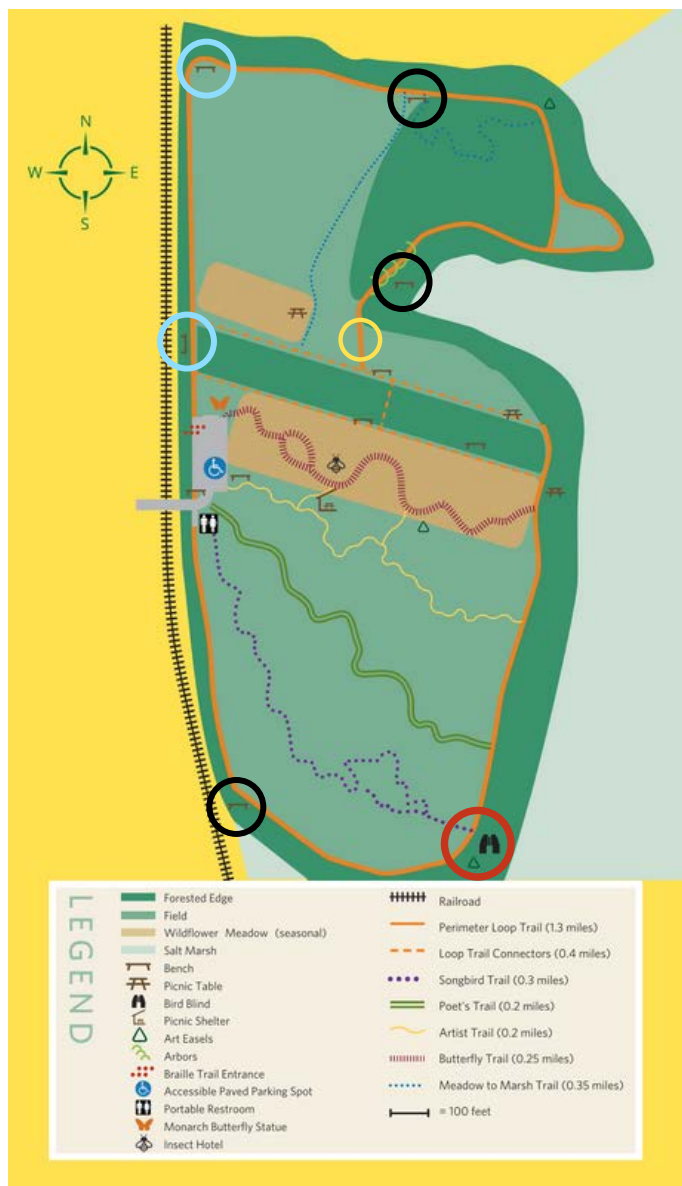
Trail Profiles

Perimeter Trail

- Color on map- Solid orange
- Length- 2 miles
- Surface type- Compact dirt and grass
- Average trail width- 10 feet
- Minimum trail width- 5 feet
- Average trail slope- 1% or less
- Maximum trail slope- 1% or less



Footbridge on the trail.



Benches- There are five benches on these trail segments, two feature handrails (circled in light blue). The other benches are circled in black.

Obstacles- Rarely, fallen tree branches can block the trail.

Flooding/Erosion- The southeast corner near the bird blind, circled in red on the map, is prone to flooding during high tide. After heavy rains, the ground on either side of the footbridge may develop large puddles.

Navigation Notes- A small footbridge, circled in yellow on the map, is 21 inches wide and 144 feet long. It is not accessible by wheelchair or stroller. A four foot wide path runs parallel to the foot bridge and is accessible by wheelchair or stroller. After a heavy rain, this path may develop large puddles.

Trail Features- On this trail you will encounter two art easels, wooden arbors, a footbridge, six benches, two picnic tables and a bird blind. Please note there are six steps at the bird blind entrance.



Perimeter Trail



This trail has several trailheads, but the main trailhead is located at the north end of the parking lot, to the left of the butterfly statue. The entrance gate width is 63 inches.

The trail can also be accessed from the south end of the parking lot, to the right after you cross the railroad tracks. The entrance gate width is 58 inches wide.

North end trail entrance.



Perimeter Trail.



South end trail entrance.



Perimeter Trail.



The wooden arches.



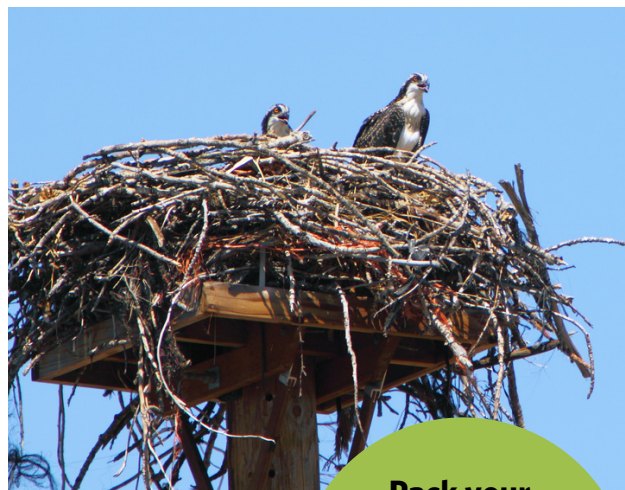
Perimeter Trail



The bird blind.

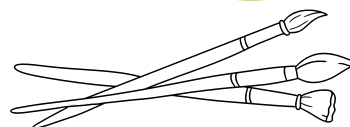


View of the tidal marshes from the bird blind.



The osprey nest.

Pack your binoculars, this trail has an osprey nest visible from the bird blind!



To the right of the bird blind, visitors can enjoy one of the three art easels found on the preserve. Please consider that after a heavy rain, this portion of the trail may not be accessible due to high tide and minor flooding.



The art easel on the Perimeter Trail.

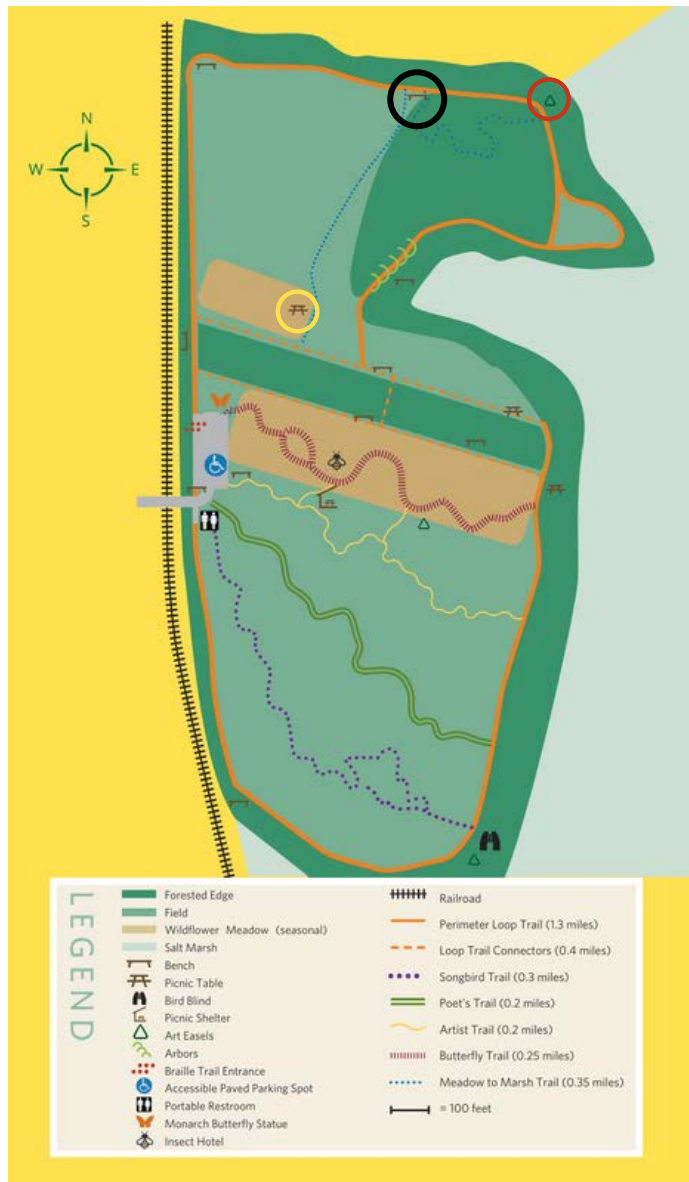


Meadow to Marsh Trail

Color on Map- Light Blue
 Length- 0.35 miles
 Surface type- Compact dirt and grass
 Average trail width- 7 feet
 Minimum trail width- 5 feet
 Average trail slope- 1% or less
 Maximum trail slope- 1% or less



The art easel at the Meadow to Marsh and Perimeter Trail intersection.



Benches- The trail's single bench is circled in black on the map.

Picnic Tables- The trail's one picnic table is circled in yellow on the map.

Obstacles- Rarely, fallen tree branches can block the trail. There are some areas along the forested portion of the trail where the forest cover overhangs onto the trail.

Flooding/Erosion- N/A

Navigation Notes- There are six steps to get up to the bird blind; each step is 42 inches wide. The inside of the blind is ~9 feet wide and ~6 feet long. The bird blind window starts at 51 ½ inches and extends up to 77 inches.

Trail Features- On this trail you will encounter one bench, one picnic table and one art easel. The picnic table is partially shaded under a large mimosa tree. The art easel is located at the intersection of the Meadow to Marsh Trail and Perimeter Trail; it is circled in red on the map.



Meadow to Marsh Trail



An egret in the marsh near the art easel.

As the trail's name suggests, this trail brings you from wildflower meadows to tidal marsh habitat. There is a small marsh viewing area just beyond the art easel where visitors can enjoy beautiful vistas of Cape Island Creek.



The picnic table under the mimosa tree.



The bench on this trail.



Loop Trail Connectors

- Color on map- Dashed orange
- Length- Each connector trail is 0.2 miles
- Surface type- Compact Dirt and Grass
- Average trail width- 7 feet
- Minimum trail width- 5 feet
- Average trail slope- 1% or less
- Maximum trail slope- 1% or less



The wildflower field visible from this trail.



Male cardinal in a tree.



Benches- There are three benches on these trail segments, two are ADA-compliant and feature handrails (circled in light blue). The third bench is circled in black.

Picnic Tables- The two picnic tables on these trail segments are circled in yellow.

Obstacles- Rarely, fallen tree branches can block the trail.

Flooding/Erosion- N/A

Navigation Notes- N/A

Trail Features- On this trail you will encounter three benches and two picnic tables.



Loop Trail Connectors



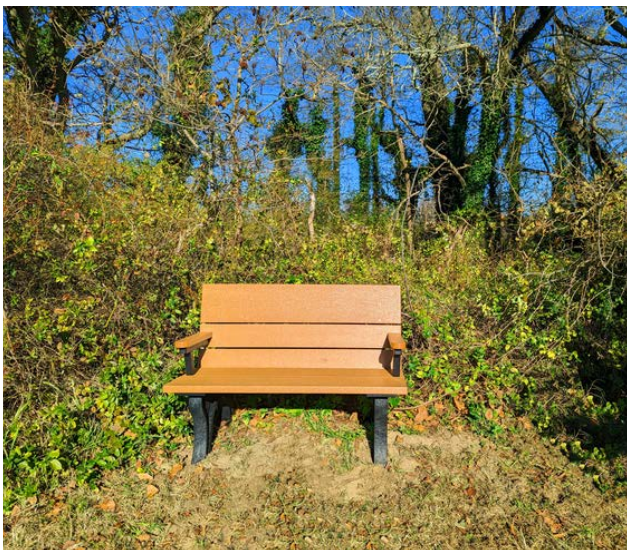
One of the picnic tables on this trail is located under a mulberry tree. It is completely shaded. On a sunny day, this is the perfect place for a cool picnic.



Shaded picnic table under a mulberry tree.



Loop Connector Trail.



ADA-compliant bench with handrails and clear ground space.

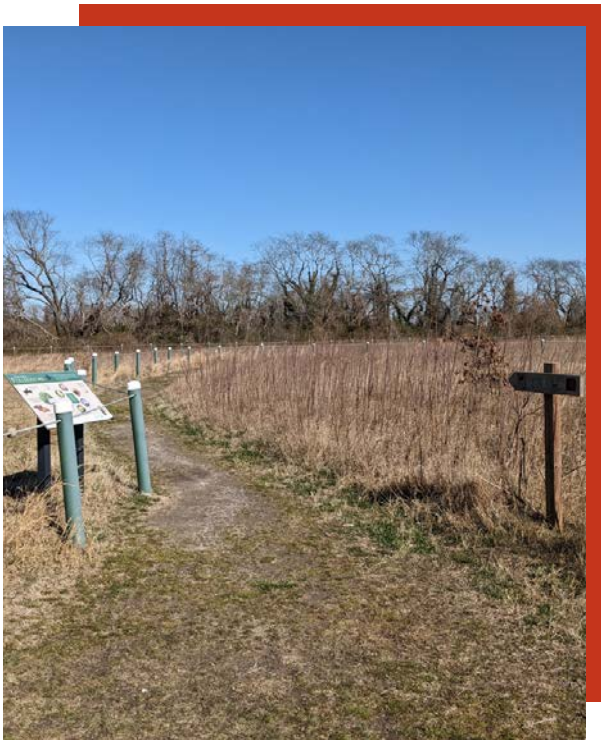


Loop Connector Trail..

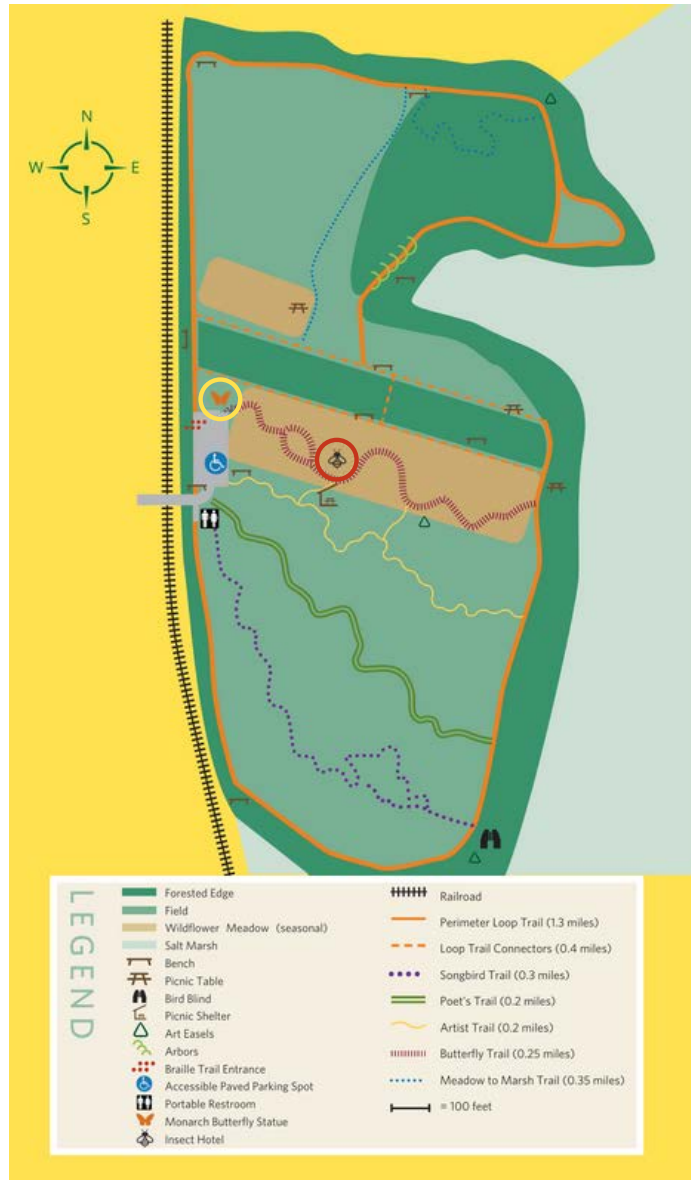


Butterfly Trail

- Color on map- Maroon
- Length- 0.25 miles
- Surface type- Compact dirt and grass
- Average trail width- 7 feet
- Minimum trail width- 5 feet
- Average trail slope- 1% or less
- Maximum trail slope- 1% or less



The Butterfly Trail trailhead.



Benches- N/A

Picnic Tables- One picnic table is located near the trail entrance, to the right of the monarch butterfly statue.

Obstacles- When milkweed and goldenrod are in bloom (June-October) they may overhang onto the trail.

Flooding/Erosion- N/A

Navigation Notes- N/A

Trail Features- On this trail you will encounter the Dream Machine Monarch butterfly statue (circled in yellow) and the pollinator hotel (circled in red).



Butterfly Trail



A person is standing in front of the butterfly statue.

At the start of the trail, visitors can enjoy the beautiful Dream Machine Monarch statue, crafted by artist Rubem Robierb. It makes for a great photo opportunity!



The pollinator hotel.

Join our
kaleidoscope by
snapping a pic with
the butterfly statue
and share it using
#TNCMonarch

What's the buzz?
You won't want to miss
seeing the pollinator
hotel on this trail.



The Butterfly Trail during goldenrod season.

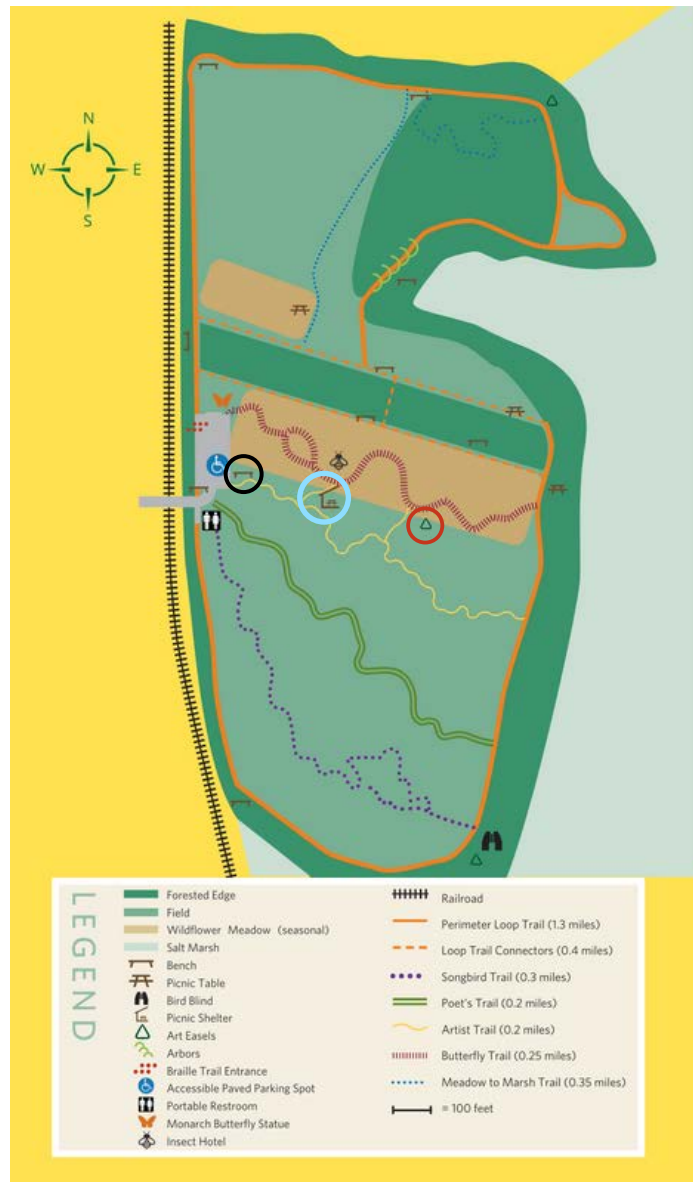


Artist's Trail

- Color on map- Yellow
- Length- 0.2 miles
- Surface type- Compact dirt and grass
- Average trail width- 7 feet
- Minimum trail width- 5 feet
- Average trail slope- 1% or less
- Maximum trail slope- 1% or less



Trail leading to the shaded picnic pavilion.



Benches- One bench at the trailhead is circled in black.

Picnic Tables- The trail's shaded picnic pavilion has four picnic tables, one of which is ADA-compliant. The picnic pavilion is circled in light blue.

Obstacles- Rarely, fallen tree branches can block the trail. The surface under the pavilion is compact mulch, but certain areas may loosen and be difficult for some people to navigate.

Flooding/Erosion- N/A

Navigation Notes- The picnic pavilion is open-air, without doors.

Trail Features- On this trail you will encounter one bench, the picnic pavilion and one art easel. The art easel is circled in red.



Artist's Trail



The Artist trail trailhead.

The trailhead is just off the parking lot. The entrance gate width is 59 inches.



The bench near the Artist trail entrance.



The art easel on this trail.



The shaded picnic pavilion.

This trail has two short cut-throughs that eventually intersect with the Butterfly Trail. One leads you to the picnic pavilion.

The other cut-through trail leads you to the art easel. This art easel is particularly nice to visit when the wildflower field is in bloom, roughly from May to October.

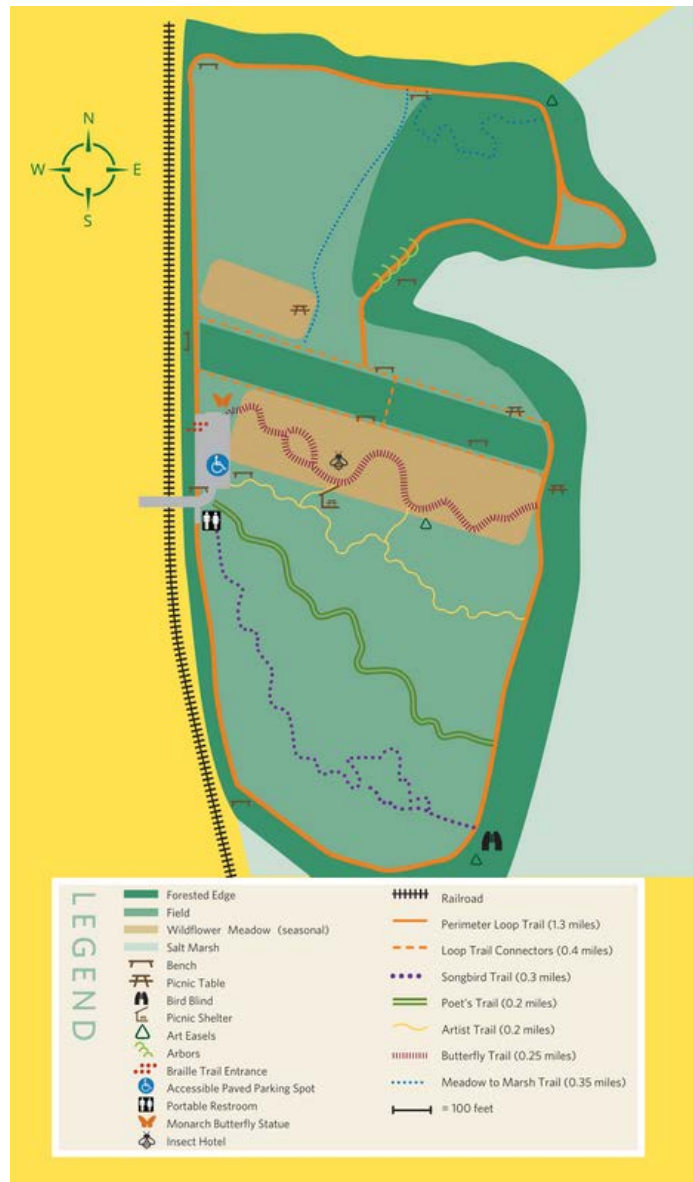


Poet's Trail

Color on map- Green
 Length- 0.2 miles
 Surface type- Compact dirt and grass
 Average trail width- 6 feet
 Minimum trail width- 5 feet
 Average trail slope- 1% or less
 Maximum trail slope- 1% or less



The Poet's Trail.



Benches- N/A

Picnic Tables- N/A

Obstacles- Rarely, fallen tree branches can block the trail.

Flooding/Erosion- N/A

Navigation Notes- N/A

Trail Features- On this trail you will encounter nature inspired poems and quotes on small plaques.



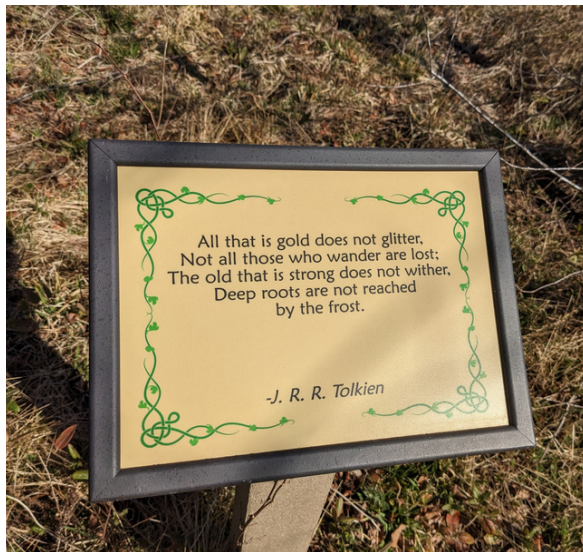
Poet's Trail



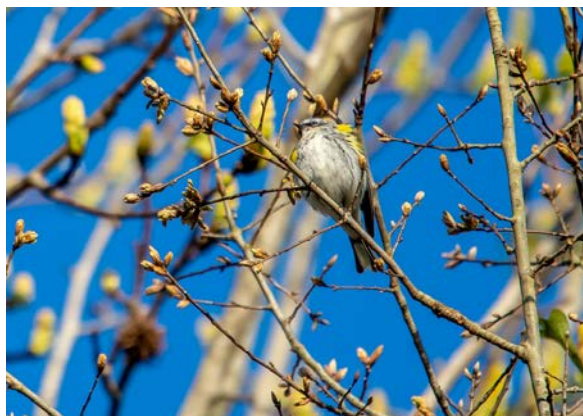
A nesting box at the trailhead welcomes Eastern bluebirds and occasionally tree swallows during the spring and summer.



The Poet's Trail trailhead.



One of the nature inspired poem found on this trail.



A yellow-rumped warbler in a tree.

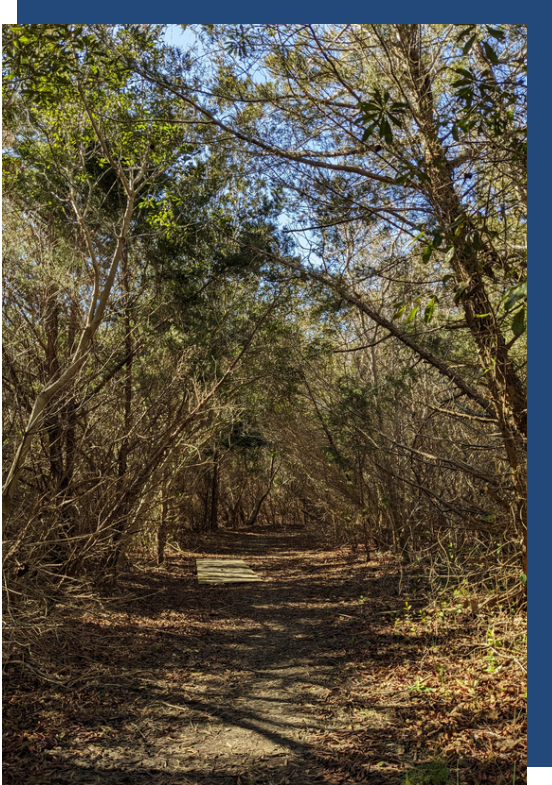


The Poet's Trail.

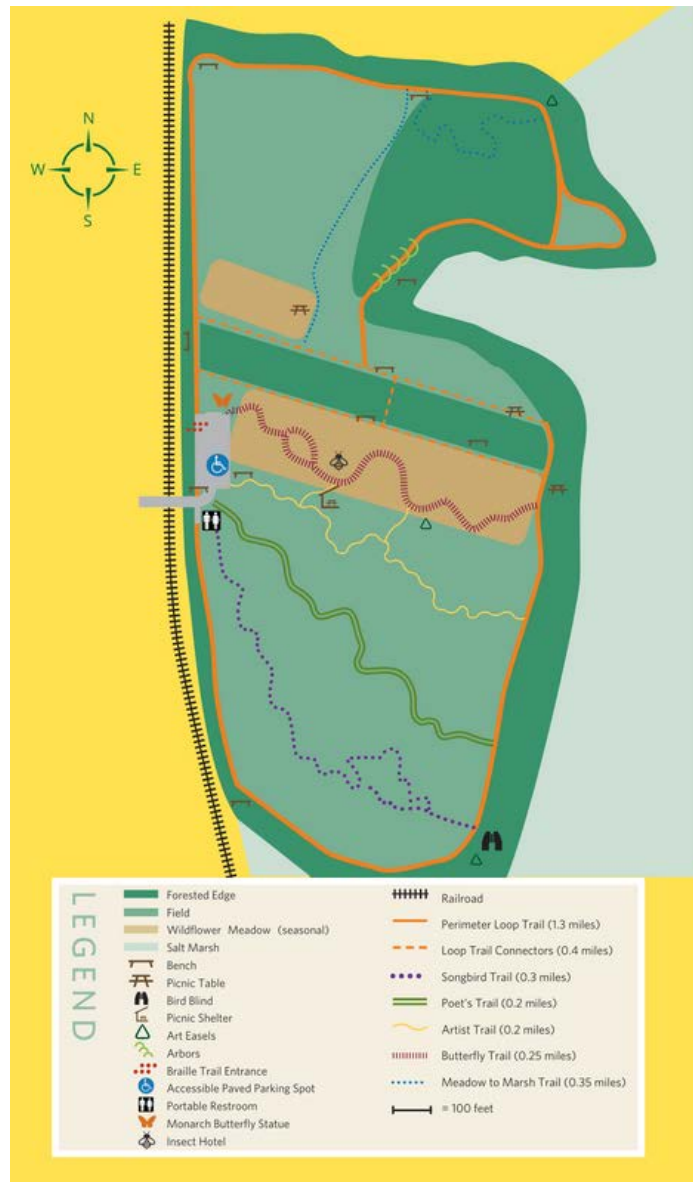


Songbird Trail

Color on map- Navy Blue
 Length- 0.25 miles
 Surface type- Compact dirt and grass
 Average trail width- 6 feet
 Minimum trail width- 5 feet
 Average trail slope- 1% or less
 Maximum trail slope- 1% or less



The tree canopy and natural arch of this trail.



Benches- N/A

Picnic tables- N/A

Obstacles- Rarely, fallen tree branches can block the trail.

Flooding/Erosion- After heavy rain, certain portions of this trail develop large puddles.

Navigation Notes- N/A

Trail Features- While this trail doesn't have any man-made features, the forest canopy creates a natural arch over several portions of the trail.



Songbird Trail



The tree canopy of this trail.

The Songbird Trail has the thickest tree canopy of Garrett Family Preserve's trails, providing shade along most of the route.



The leaf litter on this trail is often home to baby box turtles!



A baby box turtle.



Butterflies on goldenrod flowers.



The Songbird Trails' trailhead.

