

# Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary



All Persons Accessible Trail System

FOR ALL SENSES, ALL PEOPLE



Mass Audubon

Protecting the nature of *Massachusetts*



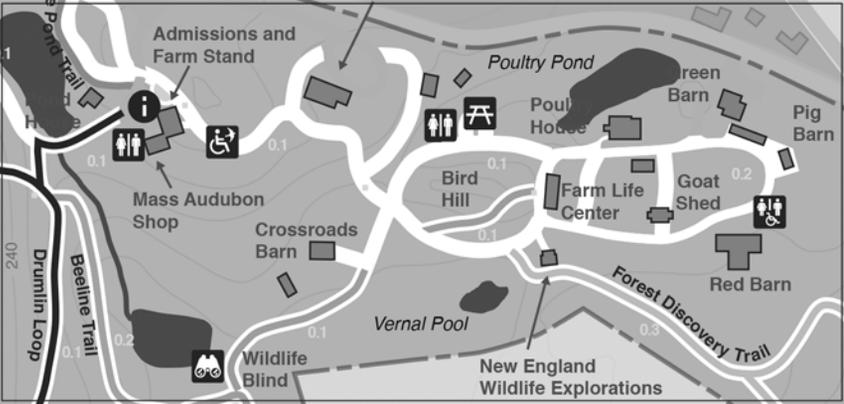
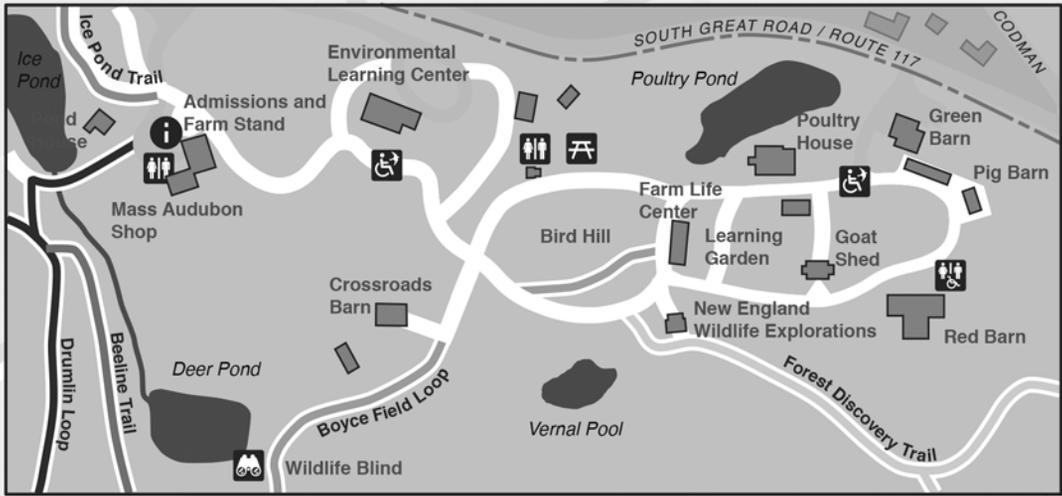
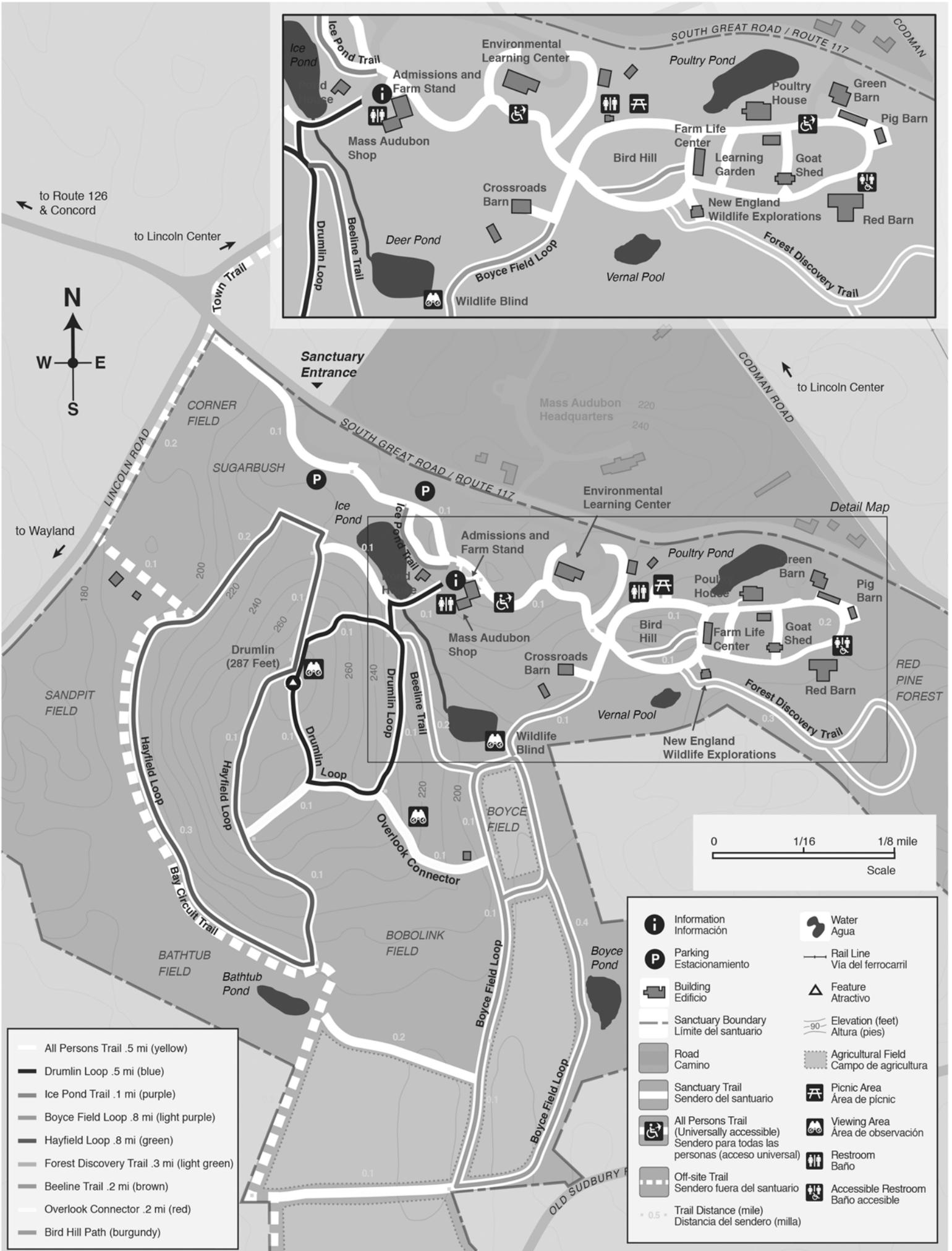
## **Drumlin Farm All Persons Trail Explorations**

Welcome to Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary! We're excited to join you today as you explore. This tour includes two trail segments. The Ice Pond trail is a woodland walk along the edge of a small pond, running from the parking lot to the admissions window at our Nature Center. The Farmyard Loop Trail begins and ends at the Nature Center and takes you past the main livestock barns and wildlife exhibits of the farm.

While the trail does meet ADA guidelines for grade and surfacing, you may find portions to be steep or strenuous. As with all outdoor trails, please watch your step, since surfaces may be wet or slippery at times depending on recent weather conditions.

Accessible restrooms are located at the Red Barn. Additional restrooms are located in the Nature Center and at the Picnic Area. Please don't hesitate to talk with one of our staff members if there is any way we can help. We hope you enjoy your visit and that these trails will open your senses in new ways.

**If you need assistance or additional information, please call 781-259-2200 during office hours. In case of emergencies, call 911.**



to Route 126 & Concord

to Lincoln Center



to Wayland

to Lincoln Center

Detail Map



- All Persons Trail .5 mi (yellow)
- Drumlin Loop .5 mi (blue)
- Ice Pond Trail .1 mi (purple)
- Boyce Field Loop .8 mi (light purple)
- Hayfield Loop .8 mi (green)
- Forest Discovery Trail .3 mi (light green)
- Beeline Trail .2 mi (brown)
- Overlook Connector .2 mi (red)
- Bird Hill Path (burgundy)

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|--|--|
| Information<br>Información   | Water<br>Agua                              |
| Parking<br>Estacionamiento   | Rail Line<br>Vía del ferrocarril           |
| Building<br>Edificio   | Feature<br>Atractivo                       |
| Sanctuary Boundary<br>Limite del santuario   | Elevation (feet)<br>Altura (pies)          |
| Road<br>Camino   | Agricultural Field<br>Campo de agricultura |
| Sanctuary Trail<br>Sendero del santuario   | Picnic Area<br>Área de picnic              |
| All Persons Trail<br>(Universally accessible)<br>Sendero para todas las<br>personas (acceso universal) | Viewing Area<br>Área de observación        |
| Off-site Trail<br>Sendero fuera del santuario  | Restroom<br>Baño                           |
| Trail Distance (mile)<br>Distancia del sendero (milla)   | Accessible Restroom<br>Baño accesible      |



## 1 Introduction

The Ice Pond trail is a 350-foot accessible pathway, with a five-foot wide crushed stone surface. A guide rope is provided along the entire Ice Pond trail, attached to the top of the fence. This trail provides a quiet spot away from the busier sections of the farm and passes through a woodland and wetland environment.

On the fence we have placed a set of trail markers so you can become familiar with them. “Number 1. Introduction” is the first of six signs identifying the stops along the Ice Pond Trail. You will also find two sample wooden beads here. A round bead indicates a narrated stop where you will find a sign within reach with the stop name and number in print and braille. A square bead indicates that there is seating nearby.

With each step you take away from the parking lot, the noise and bustle of daily life recede. It is a surprise and a delight how quickly the natural world can come to the front of your thoughts when you step into the woods. Take a moment to pause, relax, and experience the sounds and smells around you. Can your nose detect the difference between the smells in the parking lot and the air here in the woods? Can you feel the moisture in the air from the nearby pond? Can you hear the sounds of any wildlife?

Before you, the woodland path rolls slightly downhill before continuing uphill and to the left, following along the edge of a small pond. Beyond the pond, more woods lead uphill to the drumlin itself, a small hill formed many thousands of years ago when glaciers covered New England. As the ice melted, oval-shaped mounds of debris were deposited, including the one that gives Drumlin Farm its name. The drumlin forms a sheltering backdrop to the Ice Pond, providing a wooded upland habitat for the wildlife that lives here.

Our drumlin has an elevation of 270 feet above sea level, making it high enough for hikers at the top to see the mountains of central and western Massachusetts on a clear day. Other drumlins you may be familiar with in this area include Bunker Hill, the Blue Hills, and the Boston Harbor islands. Viewed from the air, these long narrow hills are all aligned in the same direction (northwest to southeast), indicating they were all formed by the same, large-scale geologic process across what is now Eastern Massachusetts.

## 2 Pond Chorus

The Ice Pond can be a noisy place in early spring. Visitors sometimes hear quite a “racket” of quacking noises from all parts of the farm! These are the seasonal calls of wood frogs, golden brown frogs with a dark mask across the eyes. In early spring, hundreds of these small frogs congregate to breed and lay their eggs here.

The Ice Pond can be home to other frogs as well. A display of life-sized frog replicas is attached to the top fence rail to the left of this trail marker so you can compare the sizes of three frogs commonly found here.

Spring peepers are tiny, one inch long tree frogs that also come to this pool to breed. Like wood frogs, they return to the woods and leave their tadpoles to mature quickly into adults and move onto land. Occasionally you may hear the resonant “jug-o-rum” of a bullfrog or the short trill of a gray tree frog. Aquatic frogs like the bullfrog and its smaller relative the green frog survive the winter at the bottom of the pond, absorbing oxygen through their skin. Terrestrial, or land-dwelling, frogs like wood frogs, spring peepers, and gray tree frogs, bury themselves in leaf litter under logs or in mammal burrows near the pond. Wood frogs can literally freeze solid for a short period before thawing again in the spring; other frogs have a natural “antifreeze” in their body fluids that allows them to survive the very low temperatures of a New England winter.



There’s a whole array of other creatures that live in the pond as well. Some, such as water fleas, water beetles, and isopods spend their entire lives in the pond. Insects like dragonflies and mosquitoes spend their larval lives in the pond before becoming aerial adults. You may have already heard the familiar buzz of mosquitoes around your ears and even the whirr of dragonfly wings as they attempt to capture them. As much as we may dislike mosquitoes, their larvae provide food for many other species that live here and the adults are food for other insects, frogs, bats, and many birds.

### 3 Wetland Wildlife

Did you hear any of our resident turtles “plop” into the water as you walked along the trail? Painted turtles bask in the sun atop logs in the water, soaking up heat. Snapping turtles float just below the surface with only their noses out of the water. The exhibit to the left of the sign marker has models of these two common turtles so you can compare the texture of their shells.

Females of both of these turtle species come out of the pond in the spring to dig holes and lay eggs that will hatch in the fall or even the following spring. The young turtles find their way back to this same pond to feed, grow, and lay their own eggs someday. Can you imagine a life lived all within a few hundred yards of this one pond?

You may hear a chattering sound as you pass through the woods. Gray squirrels react to intruders in their territory with loud chattering. It’s fairly easy to know a squirrel is nearby. Listen for the crashing of branches as they travel through the underbrush or leap from branch to branch in the trees overhead. Squirrels are active year-round. In fall they gather nuts for winter, burying them in shallow caches. In winter they will dig up the nuts when they’re hungry.

Do you hear any another bird-like chipping sounds in these woods? Do you know who makes a loud chipping sound? The same animal makes a rustling noise in the dry leaves. Many people think it is a bird, but it is really a chipmunk. The woods are filled with chipmunk chatter, particularly in the fall when they are gathering acorns and other nuts and seeds for winter, filling their cheek pouches until they bulge. Chipmunks hoard a large food supply in underground burrows where they remain dormant for much of the winter. Listen for a single sharp chip or for a series of rapid pops.



There is a grouping of rocks nearby in case you want to sit and spend more time in this setting. Sit quietly for a few moments and the wildlife nearby may feel comfortable enough to reemerge from the water or leaf cover so that you can observe or hear them.

## Trees of New England

All along the trail are trees of all kinds in different shapes and sizes. This small section of forest has an amazing variety of trees, including pine, maple, ash, and oak. The abundance of hard and soft wood trees contributed to the growth of the New England economy in colonial times. Everything from crates to houses, and ship masts to farm tools, could be made from lumber harvested from woods like this one. At the same time, clearing the land of trees made room for farm land. At the time the first European settlers arrived, New England was covered by woodlands like this. As the number of people and their need for lumber and land grew, most of the forests were cleared to become fields. Over time, as our economy has shifted away from agriculture, nature has reclaimed the fields and sowed a new crop of trees. This landscape bears the signs of past agricultural use in the types of trees growing here now – with hardwoods having overtaken conifers in a process known as forest succession.

On the other side of the trail from this marker, an enormous white pine tree rises above the forest canopy. With your back to the fence, walk about five feet and then reach out and feel the trunk. Can you reach your arms all the way around it? This type of tree – a large pine surrounded by trees of other varieties – is known as a “wolf pine.” Imagine a solitary wolf standing tall on the horizon, looming over all other animals in the forest, and you will have a sense of the majesty that these trees bring to the landscape.

As you travel to the next stop, enjoy the many smells and textures that can be found all along this trail. In addition to the pines and oaks, maple trees are also common in this area and provide us with one of New England’s tastiest crops. Do you know what food we get from maple trees? That’s right, maple syrup!

We’re not sure exactly how people figured out that the sap that flows from the roots to the buds of maple trees in the spring can be made into a sweet treat. If you tasted the sap yourself, you would probably think it was just water. But when the sap is boiled for a long time, the water evaporates and what is left is the maple sugar. We do know that Native Americans who lived here long ago gathered sap in birch buckets and boiled it by dropping in hot rocks from their fires. Today, we use metal buckets to collect sap, and then use a combination of a wood fired evaporator and our kitchen stove to boil and finish our own Drumlin Farm maple syrup.



## Backyard Birds

You have probably already noticed birds calling as you entered the woods. The trail here passes right behind our bird feeding area, which is a favorite spot for birds to gather. As you continue your walk, take time to listen for some of our year-round resident birds. Although birds sing most in the spring when they are breeding, birdsong can be heard in any season.

One of the easiest songs to recognize is the “chicka-dee-dee-dee” of the black-capped chickadee, our Massachusetts state bird. A model of a chickadee is attached to the top of the post to the left of the marker for this trail stop for you to explore. You’ll find a woodpecker model climbing up the side of the fence post as well.

You may hear other birds in these woods that sound familiar to you from your own home or local park: the nuthatch’s nasal “anh-anh-anh,” the “cheer-cheer-cheer” of a bright red cardinal, or the harsh “jay” of a blue jay. You may be fooled by one bird that makes a sound like “whoo-a-hoo-hoo.” Some people sometimes think it’s an owl, but it’s actually a mourning dove.



Some of the most interesting birds that live in and around ponds rarely make sounds at all. The great blue heron stands three to five feet tall with a wingspan up to seven feet. Although there are no fish in the Ice Pond, great blues and their smaller cousins the green heron will hunt in these waters for snakes, frogs, crayfish, and young turtles. Other water birds like kingfishers will also stop here for a meal, and many species of ducks use ponds during migration or for nesting.

## 6 Ice Harvest

In the early 19th century and perhaps even before, this pond was an important source of another crop for the New England farmer. Based on the name of this trail, can you guess what it is? That's right – ice! Before electric refrigeration, people used ice to preserve perishable food. Iceboxes held huge blocks of ice to cool the meat, milk, or other dairy products that couldn't be consumed in a single day. But how do you get ice year round? Why you harvest it yourself from the nearest frozen pond like this one. In the winter, when the ice was thick enough to walk on, the farmer would use an ax to chop a hole as a starting spot. A long saw was slid down into the hole to cut the ice into large blocks. These blocks were pulled from the pond and stored in ice houses – underground buildings where the blocks were buried in thick layers of sawdust to keep them frozen through the warmer seasons until the pond froze again.

At one time, New England was the premier ice-making region of the entire Eastern Seaboard. Ice from lakes and ponds in Massachusetts was carried by ship as far south as New Orleans, Cuba, the Caribbean islands, India, and London! The availability of ice year round was a multi-million dollar industry that led to major changes in the lifestyle and eating habits of people in warmer climates. That is, until electric refrigeration and artificial ice making brought a rapid end to the practice of shipping the frozen waters of New England around the globe.

The fence and rope guide end about a dozen more steps along the trail from this point. From there, you can cross the service road and enter the Welcome Area for Drumlin Farm. The admissions window is on the far side of the plaza. Please be aware that rocks for seating surround the plaza and a fenced in tree grows in the center. You can elect to begin our second accessible trail there, the Farmyard Loop.



## 7 Nature Center

The Farmyard Loop begins here at the Nature Center.

The Farmyard Loop is a 0.4 mile roundtrip trail that takes you from the main entrance at the Drumlin Farm Nature Center, past the wildlife exhibits and the many barns and animals of the farmyard, and back here to the Nature Center for your exit. The surface is a combination of nine-foot wide paved walkway and hard-packed road. The path slopes downhill from the Nature Center between markers 8 and 10, with benches available for rest stops at the steepest sections. There is a picnic area after stop 17 where you can enjoy lunch or a snack.

Visiting all eleven of the stops on the Farmyard Loop trail takes about 30 minutes, although most visitors find they can easily spend one and a half to two hours enjoying the animals and natural habitats along the Farmyard Loop. The tour also includes several optional detours to the wilder areas of the sanctuary, some covering rougher ground, which you can also explore if you have time during your visit.



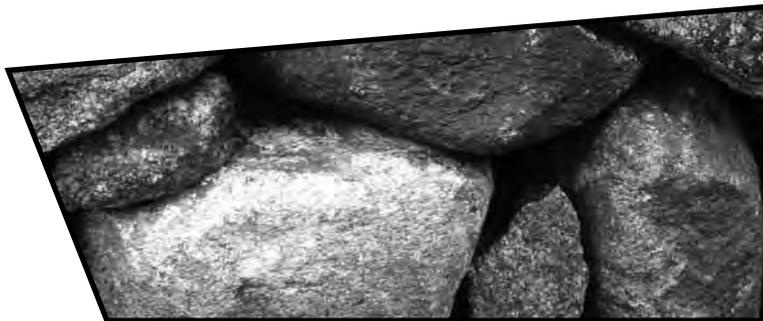
While you are at the Nature Center, please check in with our visitor services staff at the admissions window and ask them about any special programs taking place today on the farmyard. Bathrooms and a water fountain are located inside the building.

## 8 Changing Landscapes

Follow the walkway past the Nature Center, and you will sense the vista open up to the rolling landscape of Drumlin Farm. The fields and forests before you may look like they have been there forever, but the landscape here, as is the case all across New England, has been changed over the years by the touch of both nature and farmer.

Look up and you will find one of the more modern additions to the landscape: our Sun Birds solar sculpture. Designed by kinetic sculptor Gregory Curci, the tall tower is topped by three sets of red metal bird wings that move with the power of the sun. Try covering the photovoltaic panel with your hands or body. Can you change the sculpture's movement by using yourself as a shadow? There is another larger solar panel on the rear roof of the Nature Center. Can you find it? This panel provides "clean and green" energy for about one quarter of the electricity needed to power the building.

Just beyond the Sun Birds sculpture is a low rock wall, an interesting contrast of the old with the new. Stone walls like this one still crisscross the landscape of New England, remnants of the hard work of farmers who piled the rocks they dug out of their fields into these "dry" walls. Needing to get the rocks out of their farm land, farmers built these walls to define borders and corral farm animals. Think about the effort it must have taken to lift every one of these rocks by hand and stack them so neat and high. Today, New England's rock walls offer excellent habitat for mammals like chipmunks and mice who find homes and places to store food in the crevices. Snakes and insects also hide between the stones. As we enjoy the beauty of this and other rock walls at Drumlin Farm, and the link they present to traditional farming practices, we can appreciate their continued habitat value in the landscape today.



## 9 Sensory Tree

About halfway down the entrance hill path, you will find a favorite stop for young children: the Sensory Tree. There is a rock bench just in front of this area that makes the perfect place to sit while children play. This nature play area was made from a real cedar tree that originally grew by the Nature Center. When the tree needed to be removed to make room for this accessible pathway, we saved the trunk for visitors to enjoy. It has been coated with resin to preserve it, but you can still see the rings at the end of the horizontal branch.

The Sensory Tree is a great place to stop on your way down to the farmyard to begin tuning into your own powers of observation and start feeling a connection to nature. What does the texture of the bark remind you of? Can you smell the original cedar scent still lingering? Can you guess what the great-horned owl on top is looking at?

## 10 Crossroads Barn

The yellow building at the bottom of the hill is our Crossroads Barn, home to different livestock depending on the time of the year. Our female sheep give birth in the lambing pens and then watch their lambs jumping about the pasture in the spring. Fall or winter might bring larger livestock like our cows.

Year-round, chickens might be found grazing around one of our Egg Mobiles, mobile chicken coops that can be moved about the pasture to give the chickens access to fresh grass and insects. You can learn more about how the Egg Mobile works by trying out the puzzle on the left wall inside the front barn door. There is also a drum carding machine used to comb wool to be spun into yarn and knit or woven into cloth. Rotate the handle and see how much energy it takes to get from sheep to sweater!

The Crossroads Barn was designed to illustrate the connections between farming and nature. Did you know that Drumlin Farm grows much of the hay that our animals eat right here on the property? We could use even more of our land for hayfields or cropland, but we purposely leave some areas uncut as habitat for the wildlife that depend on these “field-forest edges” as their source of food and shelter.

After you explore the Crossroads Barn, you may choose to walk down the road to the right to visit the Deer Pen and Boyce Field, our 20-acre cropland where we grow produce for our farm stand, farmer’s market, Community Supported Agriculture shares, and local restaurants. The road becomes uneven and rutted from this point and can be quite muddy in wet seasons.

If you choose to skip this optional part of the tour, continue on the main road towards the farmyard. As you walk down the road, be on the alert for our hayride! The tractor-pulled wagon goes by about every 15 minutes on weekday mornings and all day on weekends from April through October, so watch out on the road as the hay wagon slowly lumbers past. If you would like to take a ride yourself, you can buy a ticket and board the wagon at the Red Barn.



## 11 New England Wildlife

Drumlin Farm is home to a collection of native New England wildlife that allows visitors to get an up-close view of a variety of bird and mammal species. The animals that live at Drumlin Farm were orphaned or have injuries that prevent them from being able to survive on their own in the wild. Please be respectful of their need for a peaceful environment by walking and talking quietly in this area.

Bird Hill is home to our collection of tree-dwelling wildlife. Just off the road, you will find our first exhibit enclosure, which depending on the time of year may include a turkey vulture, wild turkey, crow, or other bird. They are often quite vocal animals. Listen to their calls and the rustling movements they make among the leaves. Have you ever met one of these creatures out in the woods near your home or a nearby park?



The exhibits on Bird Hill change depending on which animals are currently in need of our care, but typically include many birds of prey – hawks, falcons, or owls. We also are thrilled to have one tree-climbing mammal on Bird Hill – a fisher!

After this point, the path along Bird Hill has steep sections with heavy roots underfoot and can be slippery when wet. If you choose to continue on the rougher trail past all of the bird exhibits, you can return to the next spot on the audio tour by taking a right at the end of the Bird Hill path and walking behind the Farm Life Center to pick up the tour at Drumlin Underground. If you choose to remain on the accessible trail, you can continue on the main road.

Drumlin Underground is a great place for an up-close visit with some of New England’s resident mammals. The animals have glass-walled burrows inside the lower level of the building; try to see them there as they rest if they are not outside. This underground area is not ADA-accessible but is another optional side trip. There are log benches nearby to sit and enjoy this setting above ground.

The cottontail is the common rabbit of Massachusetts, identifiable by its classic fluffy white tail. As herbivores, they have an entirely plant-based diet, consisting mostly of tender stems. Our cottontail can be quite shy and are also very good at camouflage! If you don’t notice her right away, try looking into the enclosure from the side to see if she is hiding near the log at the front of her cage.

Do you smell a skunk nearby? Surprise! It’s actually coming from the fox exhibit! Foxes have musk glands that give off a distinctive sharp odor, but unlike skunks, they cannot spray their scent long distance. Our two foxes are both members of the red fox species but differ in a surprising way – only one of them is red! The larger male fox actually has black and gray fur, a coloring known as “silver fox” which was very prized in the days of the fashion fur trade. The female has the traditional reddish brown color, and both have that instant identifier of the red fox – a white tip of the tail.



We sometimes find tracks outside these cages made by wild red foxes visiting the foxes of Drumlin Farm, likely drawn by their scent. Imagine hearing their yipping barks back and forth on a dark night....

## 12 Farm Life Center

Opposite Drumlin Underground is our newest classroom building, the Farm Life Center. Its rounded roof gives it a unique shape on the farmyard and a sense of the modern touches that lie inside. The building was designed with the highest standards for energy efficiency, making it a “green building.” We designed the building, inside and out, to use as little energy as possible. All of the electricity, heating, and cooling of the building is generated by solar panels on the roof of the nearby Sheep and Goat Shed. We also chose design elements, like the linoleum on the floor inside, that are made from natural materials. The lumber used for the porch was cut and milled from larch trees that were removed to make room for the new building. “Reduce-reuse-and-recycle” are important words, and actions, at the Farm Life Center and for Drumlin Farm.



Inside the door underneath the arched awning is the Nature Nook – a small room with a bench and a small exhibit area. Unlike some museums, at the Drumlin Farm Nature Nook, we say, “Please touch!” If you have time for a stop now, you will find a great place for children to enjoy: small nature objects to explore, books to read, and small toys to play with. There is also a kiosk inside with a collection of short videos made from our wildlife camera program. It’s also a great place to warm up on a cool day, or to cool off on a hot one.

## 13 Sheep and Goat Shed

As you start moving counterclockwise around the main loop of the farmyard, the gray-green barn you come to first is the Sheep and Goat Shed. I'm sure you can guess who lives here! If there is a sheep or goat up close to the fence, you are welcome to reach out and give it a pat to feel its soft coat. When you venture into the barn, you will probably awaken another of your senses – smell! Yes, like all farm animals, sheep and goats and their manure can produce a strong odor. If you notice a particularly strong musky smell, that is probably the smell of our male billy goat. While you may not like the smell, the does find it very attractive, especially during breeding season.

Our goat herd shares one side of the barn and the pasture closest to the Farm Life Center. Goats are very versatile animals for farmers, giving people milk, meat, and fiber for knitting or weaving. Goats can also serve as great lawn mowers! Goats will eat most common weeds, including some invasive species. Our goats are a mix of breeds including Nubian. Kids are born each spring and are most known for their jumping ability. There is a measuring stick on the wall outside this barn where you can test your own ability to jump or stretch your body as high as a goat can!



Many of our sheep spend part of their year here, usually in the pasture on the farm side of the barn. Our sheep are shorn by hand every March at our Woolapalooza festival. If there are no sheep nearby close enough to touch, you can still feel samples of their wool at the “Sheep to Sweater” exhibit on the wall inside. Most of our sheep are Romney or Corriedale breeds that provide both wool and meat.

## 14 Red Barn

The big Red Barn is Drumlin Farm's most iconic building, and a visitor favorite. Accessible bathrooms are located on the outside wall of the Red Barn, along with a water fountain and a stone bench for seating.

Inside the Red Barn you will find our cows and equines (that's another word for horses or ponies). Depending on the time of day, you might find our farmer milking a cow or feeding the animals. Everyone in the Red Barn is a hay eater, and they certainly eat a lot of it! A large dairy cow needs a quarter bale of hay or grass each day. They have pastures to graze in spring, summer, and fall, and hay to eat year-round.

A female cow must have a calf in order to make milk, so we breed some of our female cows each year. Although we can't sell Drumlin Farm milk, we do find a great use for it if there isn't a calf that needs it – the milk goes to our pigs!



If horses are your favorite, don't miss the Tack Room inside the Red Barn. It's a great place to see and touch the saddles and harnesses that are used with farm horses, and also to play a little bit too! Try brushing the pony's tail or riding one of our saw horses – you won't go very far but you will have fun! You may find our Welsh pony Midnight in his stall outside the Tack Room as well.

Before you leave the Red Barn, take a moment to stand quietly and listen with your eyes closed. Do you hear soft chirping or the beat of flying wings? Look up in the corners of the barn rafters for the nests of barn swallows or house sparrows.

There may also be mice and chipmunks running about trying to get their share of hay and grain. They better watch out for our fastest Red Barn resident though – Felix the Cat is often prowling about. If you find him strolling through the barn, feel free to reach out a hand to him. He can't resist a nice petting!

## 15 Pig Barn

The orange Pig Barn is another favorite spot for visitors. Pigs are amazing creatures that have been domesticated to do two things well: eat and grow. A newborn piglet is about the size of a small puppy, but can gain up to ten pounds per week. Multiply that by ten to twenty pigs in an average size litter, and that's a lot of piglet pounds! When they are small, piglets huddle together for warmth, giving rise to the expression "pig pile." As they mature, they become more independent and need more space. We usually have several piglets in the pens, along with an adult sow.

Pigs are highly intelligent animals that have been known to understand human speech. They can also be quite determined to do exactly what they want to do. It's hard for a farmer to convince an 800 pound pig what to do, so we usually let them make the choices – snooze inside or go out for some fresh air and a mud bath. If pigs aren't inside the barn, check around the back; they are probably outside wallowing in the mud or playing with their favorite toys, bowling balls! The pigs push the balls around in the mud with their noses, turning up the soil in a behavior known as rooting. A pig's snout is extremely sensitive, flexible, and strong, making it a great animal adaptation for finding food.



Want to see what size of pig you are? Try climbing on the scale inside – alone or with friends and family – to find out whether you are still a piglet, or are big enough for market.

## 16 Poultry House

Even if you don't know what the word "poultry" means, you will probably be able to guess who lives in the yellow Poultry House based on the sounds coming from the pens outside. That's right, chickens! Chickens are one of the oldest domesticated animals, going back thousands of years to Asia. Many different varieties have been bred for their colorful eggs, tender meat, and beautiful feathers. At Drumlin Farm, we usually have six to eight different types of chickens. As you go past the pens, see what differences you notice between them. Which one is your favorite?

Hens typically lay one egg per day, with the productivity depending on the amount of daylight they are exposed to. In winter, when the days are shorter, we leave the indoor lights on for longer periods so that we can still have fresh eggs. There is one rooster in each pen. See if you can spot them by their three physical differences – a larger comb on top, longer tail feathers, and "spurs" on the back on their legs for defense. Roosters are also the only chicken that crow. While storybooks usually describe the rooster's early morning crow, they can actually make this loud and distinctive cry any time of day. If you stick around the Poultry House long enough, you will probably hear it! If you don't want to wait, you can always go inside the Poultry House, where the sound exhibit on the rear wall demonstrates how rooster calls are interpreted in different cultures. The Poultry House certainly isn't a quiet spot, but it's always interesting to visit!





## 17 Learning Garden

The Learning Garden is a busy spot on the farm both above and below ground! Here we have a set of demonstration garden beds that we farm with our school groups, children and family classes, summer camp, and visitors like you. Try exploring just one bed while using your senses. The raised accessible bed near the greenhouse door is a great place to start. How many different shades of the color green can you see? Can you smell the rich earth? How does the earth feel beneath your fingers?

Depending on the time of year, you may notice fresh green smells of growing herbs, vegetables, or flowers in the beds as well. You are welcome to use your sense of touch as well – gently feel the different textures of the plants growing here. Some are smooth and some may be more prickly to your fingertips.

Do you hear any wildlife buzzing by? The garden is home to wildlife of all shapes and sizes, from the tiniest beetles to larger insects, birds, and mammals. While we aren't as fond of the ones that come to eat their share of the fruits and vegetables that we would like to keep for ourselves, we are happy to have the pollinators, insects like bees and butterflies that are essential to the process of growing food for us to eat.

Once you start exploring, it's amazing what you can find and learn. If you want to try out your sense of taste, stop at the farm stand at the Nature Center on your way out and see what's in season. You can find fresh produce in the summer and fall, maple syrup in the spring, and eggs from our chickens year-round.

You've reached the last guided stop on the Farmyard Loop. From here, you can continue down the road to the picnic area, a restful spot for a break or quick meal, as well as a bathroom. From there, the trail continues back up the hill to the main entrance, where you can choose to begin our second accessible pathway, the Ice Pond Trail, if you haven't already, or return to the parking area and exit.

You have just visited a small part of this 232-acre wildlife sanctuary, with miles of trails where you can experience farm animals and native wildlife, and walk through a working farming operation. We want to thank you for taking the time to experience our accessible trails. We hope that you enjoyed learning more about the farm, the animals that live here, and their connections to people and to nature.

We would appreciate your feedback on how this trail worked for you. To provide feedback, please talk with one of our staff or volunteers. If you borrowed any of our publications, binoculars, or adaptive equipment, please return these items to the office before you leave. **Thank you for visiting!**



## THANK YOU

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# Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

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Mass Audubon protects more than 38,000 acres of land throughout Massachusetts, saving birds and other wildlife, and making nature accessible to all. As Massachusetts' largest nature conservation nonprofit, we welcome more than a half million visitors a year to our wildlife sanctuaries and 20 nature centers. From inspiring hilltop views to breathtaking coastal landscapes, serene woods, and working farms, we believe in protecting our state's natural treasures for wildlife and for all people's vision shared in 1896 by our founders, two extraordinary Boston women.

Today, Mass Audubon is a nationally recognized environmental education leader, offering thousands of camp, school, and adult programs that get over 225,000 kids and adults outdoors every year. With more than 135,000 members and supporters, we advocate on Beacon Hill and beyond, and conduct conservation research to preserve the natural heritage of our beautiful state for today's and future generations. We welcome you to explore a nearby sanctuary, find inspiration, and get involved. Learn how at [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org).

