

Map Key



- Butterfly Meadow Loop
- Gray Fox Loop
- Widener Trail
- Woodcock Trail
- Ravine Loop
- Towhee Trail
- Wind Dance Pond Trail
- Penn's Native Acre
- Bridge
- Unnamed Trail
- Man-Made Structure
- Ruin
- Building
- Stream
- Pond
- Fence
- Public Road
- Private Road
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area

Butterfly Meadow Loop
(0.25 miles, 10 minutes) leads through fields and woods before it joins the Ravine Loop. A distant view of the Philadelphia skyline is visible from this trail on clear days when foliage does not obstruct the view. This trail is mostly level with a short downward slope to meet the Ravine Loop.

Ravine Loop
(1.0 miles, 60 minutes) crisscrosses a spring-fed stream, Smith's Run, on several rustic bridges. This trail includes a few challenging slopes, where you will pass rock outcroppings and the Center's oldest sections of forest. You will also pass the wetlands, a marshy area where many native plants and freshwater creatures can be found.

Gray Fox Loop
(0.9 miles, 45 minutes) winds through fields and wooded areas leading to Wind Dance Pond. The trail passes Founder's Grove, a memorial tree collection inside deer fencing. Further along, note the Pine Plantation. The trail intersects with the Woodcock Trail, and the connector trail at Springhouse Pond leads to the Ravine Loop.

Towhee Trail
(0.08 miles, 5 minutes) begins at the rear of the Education Building and connects to the Ravine Loop Trail. It's a great little shortcut down to Cattail Pond, which is an excellent spot to view freshwater aquatic insects, frogs, tadpoles, and dragonflies.

Widener Trail
(0.25 miles, 15 minutes) a handicapped accessible paved trail leads through forest to the Widener Bird Blind. Feeders are filled year-round so you can observe local and migrating birds. Midway along the trail is Shadow Bog with a wooden deck and seating area.

Wind Dance Pond Trail
(0.3 miles, 15 minutes) joins the Woodcock Trail at the dam at Wind Dance Pond, where, in the nesting season there may be Mallards or Canada geese. Little green and Great blue herons are frequent visitors. The trail passes through a mature stand of beech trees. The trail is short, but steep.

Woodcock Trail
(0.3 miles, 15 minutes) gently slopes away from the Widener Bird Blind through fields and thickets. This is a delightfully shady trail in the summer.

Penn's Native Acre Trail Loop
(0.5 miles, 30 minutes) This trail traverses Penn's Native Acres. Pick up this trail at the gate by Polliwog pond, follow the natural stone steps to the far end, and loop around again. Gently to moderately sloped.



Landscape information used to produce this map was provided by the Delaware Valley Orienteering Association (DVOA).

Port Royal Avenue



9. Widener Trail and Bird Blind

At the end of The Center's only paved trail, the bird blind offers an opportunity for visitors to observe the interaction of birds at the feeders without disturbing them. Try your hand at identifying the birds you see here!

10. Pavilion and Amphitheater

Notice how well these structures blend in with the environment? They are constructed from local Wissahickon schist. From our 125-seat amphitheater, you can see the Springhouse Pond and enjoy seasonal activities.

11/12. Cattail and Polliwog Ponds

These manmade ponds are lined with clay to keep water from seeping out through the soil. As standing ponds maintained only by rainwater, their breadth and depth vary depending on recent precipitation. As with all the ponds at The Center, they serve as resources to teach about flora and fauna. In spring, toads lay eggs here and their small black tadpoles can be seen swimming at the edges.

13. Fire Pond

The Education Building is not connected to a public water supply; we are therefore required to have a nearby source of water in case of fire. The pond also serves as a wildlife habitat for Canada geese, Green herons, Painted turtles, Green and Pickerel frogs and bluebirds! At Fire Pond and as you are hiking on the trails, look for bluebird nesting boxes. The Center is working to support the recovery of nesting sites for these at-risk birds of the field.

14. Second Site: Brolo Hill Farm

Second Site: Brolo Hill Farm, was at one time an active farmstead. It retains an 18th-century farm house, barn, and the remnants of a plowed field once used to grow feed hay for livestock. Now used as a site for educational programs and environmental art exhibitions that explore both the agricultural and cultural conditions that might have existed on the site when the farm was active.

15. Market Garden Farm

The Schuylkill Center's two acre Market Garden Farm produces fresh fruits and vegetables grown, harvested, and sold in season by Urban Girls Produce.



About The Schuylkill Center

Founded in 1965, The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education is one of the first urban environmental education centers in the country. Envisioning an "island of green" where city dwellers could experience and learn about the natural world, sisters Eleanor Houston Smith and Margaret Houston Meigs, along with their families, donated the extensive parcels of farmland and woods that make up The Center's grounds today. As our founders intended, The Center is used by thousands of people each year to discover, explore and study the natural world.

From the moment you step into our woods, you'll be amazed by how quickly you leave the feeling of the city behind. The Schuylkill Center offers six miles of trails for your exploration; please help us keep them in good condition by observing the following rules:

- Bicycles, horses, ATVs/motorized vehicles are not permitted on our trails.
- Do not collect plants and wildlife.
- Pets are not permitted on our grounds.
- Refreshments can be enjoyed in the designated Picnic Grove area.
- Smoking, alcohol and drugs are not permitted on our grounds.
- Dispose of trash properly.

Enjoy your visit!



Ongoing Exhibition Program

For more information about current exhibits, events and programs visit www.schuylkillcenter.org

The Environmental Art Department at the Schuylkill Center incites curiosity and sparks awareness of the natural environment through art, and works collaboratively to create exhibitions of the highest quality that attract, educate and inspire the public.

Our exhibitions are on the trails, around the main building and in the Gallery, located in the Main Building.

Hours

Monday – Saturday 9am to 5pm. Closed on most major holidays.

Bookstore Hours

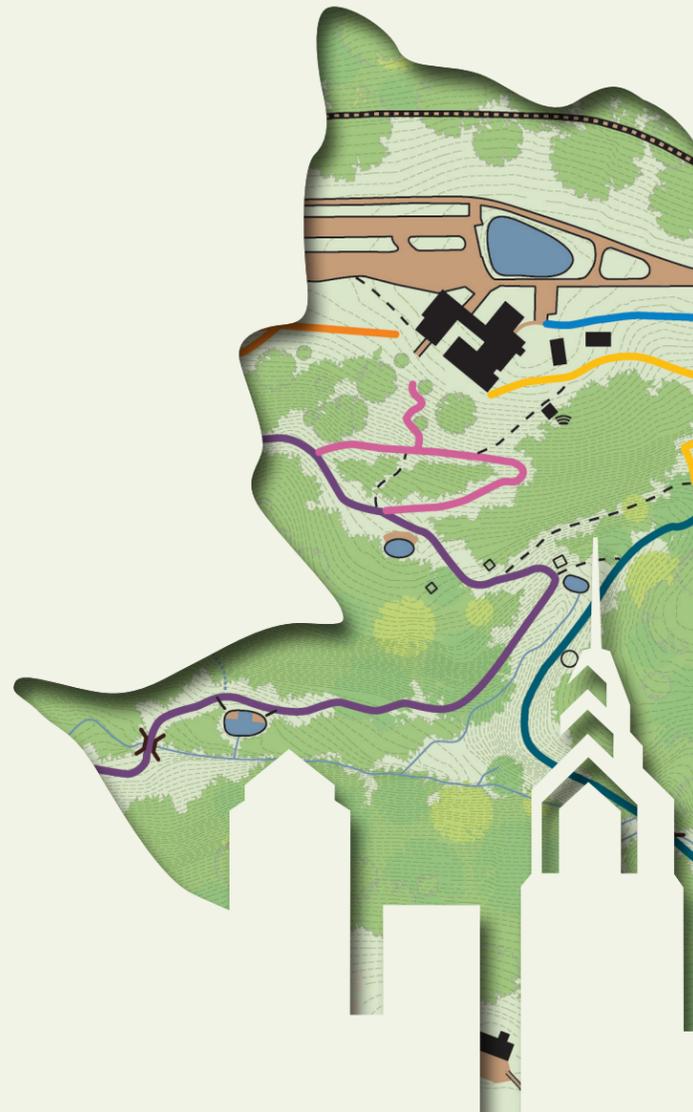
Monday – Saturday 9am to 4:30pm.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic Hours

Monday – Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Currently on View at The Schuylkill Center

Trail Map



www.schuylkillcenter.org

8480 Hagy's Mill Road
Philadelphia, PA 19128
215.482.7300



Points of Interest

- 1. Main Education Building**
The Schuylkill Center's Education Building is home to The Schuylkill Center staff and The Green Woods Charter School. The building features our Discovery Center, Bookstore, Art Gallery, and public restrooms. Visitors to our building will enjoy seeing and learning about our Green Roof and our array of solar panels.
- 2. Butterfly Meadow**
The vast array of berry and seed producing plant life that grows in the Butterfly Meadow attracts spectacular butterflies and many species of birds including the Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Common Yellowthroat and the Tree Swallow.
- 3. Penn's Native Acre**
The long-range goal of Penn's Native Acres is to recreate a forest that William Penn would recognize if he visited today. This 10 acre forest restoration project, which began in 2001, highlights several of Southeast Pennsylvania's historic ecosystems including woodland, wetland, meadow, slope, and edge. Penn's Native Acre is completely enclosed in deer fencing to protect the plantings.
- 4. Smith's Run**
This first-order stream winds along the bottom of our eastern ravine. The water in this stream flows directly from its source at The Center into the Schuylkill River, the source of much of Philadelphia's drinking water supply. The stream provides important habitat for a wide variety of wildlife that live at the Center. The two rustic bridges on the Ravine Loop were constructed in 2002 as a part of a major trail restoration project.
- 5. Wetlands**
Fed by water that flows from a nearby eternal spring, this marshy area is saturated by water and supports a plethora of vegetation and creatures adapted for life in still water. Inland wetlands like ours are most common on floodplains along rivers and streams.
- 6. Springhouse Pond and Vicinity**
This pond was created in 2002 by excavating the area around the eternal spring over which the Springhouse is built. This 19th century structure served the nearby farmhouse by keeping perishables cool during the summer. The stone edge of the pond serves as a teaching area for student groups and the vegetated area provides cover and forage for wildlife. It is the first pond at The Center to be planted with native vegetation, and requires protective deer fencing.
- 7. Wind Dance Pond**
Filled with fish, frogs, turtles and invertebrates, the largest of The Center's ponds offers an abundance of food and cover for wildlife. The grassy area is actually a dam that holds the water in place. Since its creation in 1967, the pond has never been stocked, but birds have carried fish and frog eggs on their legs and feathers, bringing inhabitants to a new home! Of all The Center's ponds, Wind Dance most closely resembles a natural pond, and was named for the wind rippling across its waters.
- 8. Pine Plantation**
Planted in the early 1970's, the White and Virginia pine in Pine Plantation offer cover and forage for wildlife. White pines commonly grow among deciduous trees and Virginia pine more commonly in barrens, open slopes and ridge tops.

