

ATTRACTIONS IN HAMPTON, CT

AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL

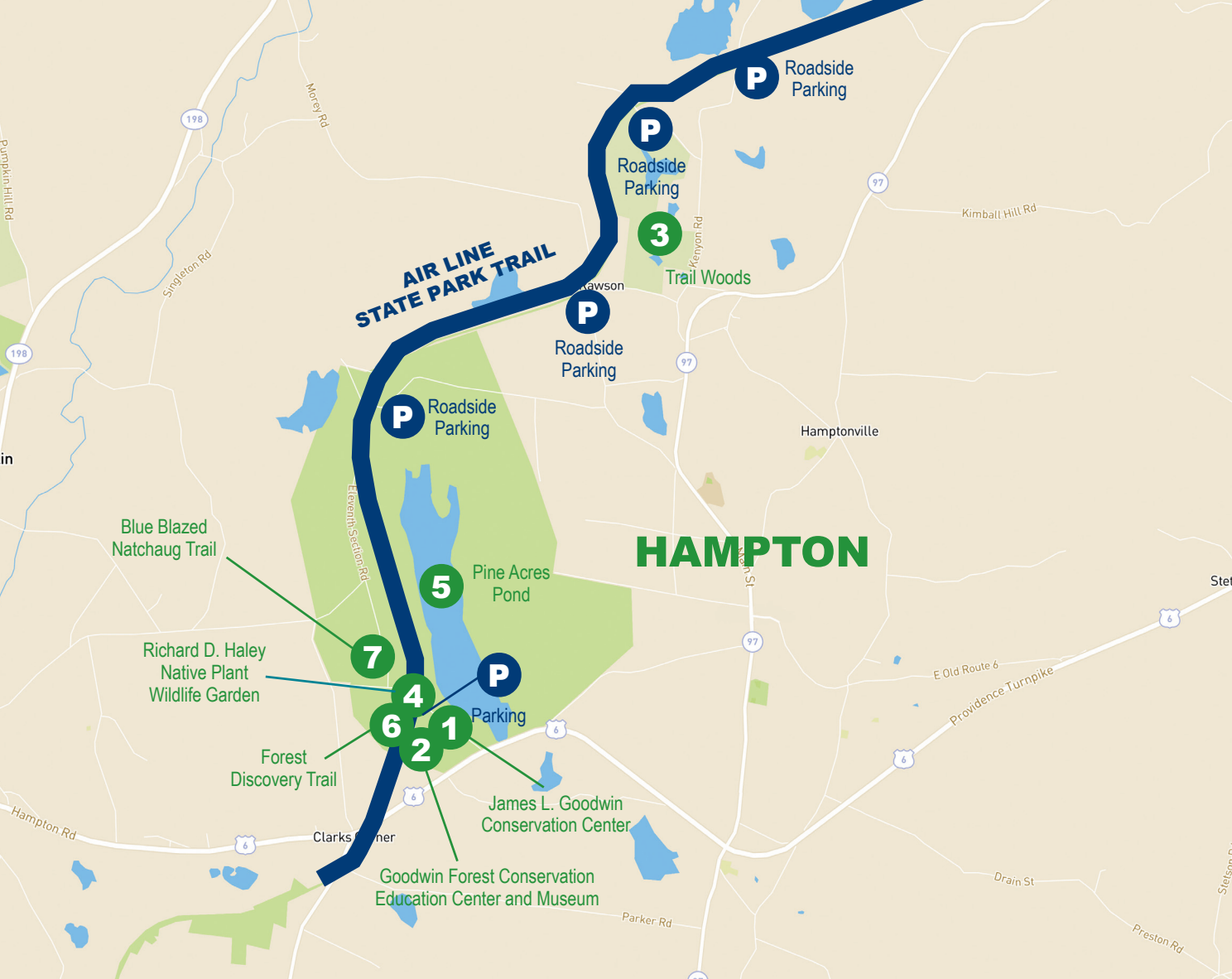


Photo: Pete Vertefeuille

3. Trail Woods
93 Kenyon Road
Trails open daily from dusk til dawn



This former home of acclaimed writer Edwin Teale was gifted to the Audubon Society in 1981. Today it offers almost 4 miles of hiking trails over 168 acres of land. There is also an artist-in-residence program and numerous nature, art and writing programs offered throughout the year.

1. James L. Goodwin Conservation Center
23 Potter Road
Open daily from dusk til dawn



CFPA website:
ctwoodlands.org/Goodwin

DEEP website:
ct.gov/DEEP/Goodwin

Friends of Goodwin website:
Friendsofgoodwinforest.org



Photo: Pete Vertefeuille



Photo: Pete Vertefeuille

2. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center and Museum
23 Potter Road

The original Pine Acres homestead now serves as an education center and museum which focuses on providing educational opportunities on conservation, forestry and natural history. Learn more about Goodwin's remarkable history by visiting the center at the heart of the state forest.

4. Richard D. Haley Native Plant Wildlife Garden
This stunning wildflower garden was created in memory of naturalist Richard Haley. It is maintained by master gardeners, supported by local volunteers, and presents a wide range of Connecticut wildflowers. Native plants are available to purchase from June until August at the plant stand located in the garden near the education center.



Photo: Eleanor Linkkila



Photo: Eleanor Linkkila

Air Line State Park Trail
The Airline Trail runs through Goodwin Forest and provides an excellent, level trail ideal for hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing and horseback riding.



Photo: Eleanor Linkkila

AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL HAMPTON

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Hampton

Hampton was first settled in the early 1700s as Windham Village. The first residents were primarily farmers who worked tirelessly to establish the early agricultural landscape of the town. Throughout the years Hampton has played its part in American history. In the early years of our country, residents provided food and military support to Washington's men during the Revolutionary War. In the 18th and 19th century, while continuing the tradition of farming, residents worked in local mills during the Industrial Revolution.

Things changed dramatically in 1872 when the railroad became a vital element of the culture. A stop in Hampton allowed farmers to sell their harvest over a much larger area also provided easy transport for locals and visitors. Summer visitors provided a new type of business in the area: tourism, bringing welcome revenue to the town.

When the rail service was eliminated in 1955, Hampton returned to its traditions of farming and rural life. Today it is populated by a wide range of people including farmers, artists, tradesmen, town officials, teacher and volunteers, all committed to the community, its traditions and a priority of preserving natural spaces.



Photo: Eleanor Linkkila



Photo: Pete Vertefeuille



Photo: Pete Vertefeuille



Photo: Pete Vertefeuille

5. Pine Acres Pond

This large (135 acre) and shallow pond is ideal for boating and fishing. Bass, bluegill and bullheads populate the pond. A boat launch is located at the southeast end of Potter Road, allowing easy access for canoes, kayaks, and boats. Please note, while electric boats are allowed, gasoline boats are not. A Connecticut fishing license is required for pond fishing.

We would like to thank the following for making this project possible

- Canterbury Cat Hospital**
37 S Canterbury Rd
- Hampton Beer, Wine & Spirits**
396 Hartford Turnpike
- Hampton Hill Garage**
407 Hartford Turnpike
- Steve Donahue Construction**
69 Rogers Road
- StoneHurst at Hampton Valley**
119 Providence Turnpike
- VIP on 6 Auto Sales & Service**
441 Providence Turnpike
- Shirley Bernstein
- Roger & Linda Burton
- Diane Gagnon
- Laura & Michael McCabe
- Kathi & Glen Newcombe
- Keith Ouellette
- Peter Witkowski

TRAIL TIPS

- Trails are open from dusk til dawn
- Parking lot is located across the road from the Goodwin Conservation Center on Potter Road
- Restrooms are located at the Goodwin Conservation Center on Potter Road.

For additional copies of this map, please email hamptonairlinetrailmaps@gmail.com

AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL HISTORY

In the 1960s, over fifty miles of the rail bed from East Hampton to the Massachusetts border were acquired by the Connecticut State Park System to construct a recreational linear park.

This trail has a colorful past. The "Air Line" was envisioned as a direct line between New York City and Boston. It opened in 1873 and 25 miles shorter, it offered fierce competition to the shoreline rail service from New York to Boston. The mesmerizing, white-painted express train, known as the Ghost Train, made the run between Boston and New York in six hours, a record time for 1884.

The construction of the new rail line contained ambitious feats of engineering, blasting through granite hills, navigating deep valleys and rivers along the route. The Air Line Railroad's "Ghost Train" began in 1891 and was designed to attract wealthy travelers. Luxurious Pullman cars were painted white with gold trim, and the staff of the train wore formal white uniforms.



The catastrophic Great East Thompson Train Wreck on December 4, 1891 clouded the introduction of this fast new rail service. It was one of the greatest train wrecks in American history, and the only train accident to involve four trains. Still, over the next four years, successful businessmen and prominent citizens, including President Benjamin Harrison, rode the increasingly well-known Ghost Train. As it sped across eastern Connecticut, its luminescent cars were easily recognized, especially at twilight.

In the new 20th century, technology increased, railroad engines became faster, rail cars became longer, everything became heavier and after World War II, access to automobiles and interstate highways reduce the profitability of rail travel. The quaintness of the Air Line's winding grades as well as the weight restrictions of the spindly trestle bridges began to show its limitations. During its construction, the Air Line Railroad was expensive and controversial, but its operational costs would lead to its ultimate demise and abandonment. Passenger service on the Air Line ceased by 1937, and the track was completely abandoned by 1965.

Today, visitors enjoy scenic panoramas, village life, wildlife, hiking trails, and the tranquility of the rural landscape. The United States Department of the Interior recognized the southern section of the Air Line State Park Trail as a national recreation trail in 2002.

For more maps in this series, email outreach@ctrcd.org or visit ctrcd.org.



PARKING

Many parking areas serve the Air Line State Park Trail. Some primary locations are:

- THOMPSON**
 - Large parking lot at 121 Riverside Dr, (Rt 12, Mechanicsville)
 - Pull off for a few cars at Air Line trail crossing, 388 Sand Dam Rd
 - 5 car parking lot, located at 662 East Thompson Rd, near the junction of New Rd
- PUTNAM**
 - 18 Kennedy Dr, across from Canal
 - 80 Kennedy Dr, directly across from the South entrance of Simonzi Park
 - 98 Kennedy Dr
 - 165 Kennedy Dr (DMV lot)
- POMFRET**
 - 18 car paved parking lot at Pomfret Station, 13 Railroad Ave (off of Rt 169)
 - Parking adjacent to trail, in Town owned paved parking lot, west side of Pomfret Town Hall
 - Parking available in rear of Town owned paved parking lot at Pomfret Community Center, 207 Mashamoquet Rd (Rt. 44)
- HAMPTON**
 - Potter Rd 0.6 mile north of its intersection with Rt 6 in Goodwin State Forest
- WINDHAM**
 - Intersection of Beaver Hill Rd and Windham Rd (Rt 203) in North Windham, at the CT Eastern Railroad Museum and in downtown Willimantic.
- COLUMBIA**
 - Rt 87, Cook Hill Rd and Village Hill Rd
- EAST HAMPTON**
 - Depot Hill, Cobalt; Aldens Crossing (at Rt 16); Forest St (Between Hayes Rd and Childs Rd); Town Hall Rd (Off Main St.); Main Street; Watrous Street; Smith Street (at Cranberry Bog)
- PORTLAND**
 - Parking at 82 Middle Haddam Rd