

Connecticut Enviro-Attractions



- **Arboretum at Connecticut College**

270 Mohegan Ave. (Rt. 32)

New London, CT 06320

(860) 439-5020

website: <http://arboretum.conncoll.edu/>

Open daily dawn-dusk (May-Oct), public tours Sun 2p
Admission is free.

750 acres with a variety of natural ecosystems. Native tree and shrub collections. Hiking trails, ponds. woody landscape plants from around the world.

- **Caprilands Herb Farm**

534 Silver St.

Coventry, CT 06238

(860) 742-7244

website: www.caprilands.com

Open daily 9a-5p. High tea served Sun 2p (May-Dec)
General admission is free; fee for lecture, luncheons & tea

Rustic 18th century farmhouse surrounded by over 30 herb gardens (300+ varieties). Greenhouse, book and gift shop, dining room.

- **Center for Environmental Education**
(Formerly the Oak Grove Nature Center)

Oak Grove St.

Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-0949

website: <http://waddell.ci.manchester.ct.us/nature-center/>

Open daily, dawn to dusk.
Admission is free.

Center with nature trails.

- **Connecticut Audubon Center at Glastonbury**

1361 Main St.

Glastonbury, CT 06033

(860) 633-8402

website:

www.ctaudubon.org/centers/glastonbury/glastonbury.htm

Hours: Tue-Fri 1-5, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-4. (Closed major holidays)

Rates vary, call ahead

Exhibits on native flora, fauna and Connecticut River ecosystem.

Hands-on discovery room (\$1 fee). Adjacent to 48-acre Earle Park and trail system. Year-round programs

- **Connecticut Audubon Center at Pomfret**

189 Pomfret St. (Rt. 169)

Pomfret Center, CT 06258

(860) 928-4948

website: www.ctaudubon.org/centers/pomfret/pomfret.htm

E-mail: pomfret@ctaudubon.org

Hours: Nature sanctuary open daily, sunrise to sunset. Center open Wed-Sun 12-4

Admission is free.

The Connecticut Audubon Center at Pomfret is a new community-based nature center that offers environmental education programs, bird walks and many opportunities to learn about and explore the natural world. This new facility serves as the gateway to the adjoining 700-acre Connecticut Audubon Bafflin Sanctuary with its vast rolling meadows, forests, streams, and fertile grassland habitats. Some of the best birding in the state on former farm fields, now managed to provide habitat for hard-to-find grassland birds. Miles of trails, including access to Air Line rail trail.

- **Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center**

1 Milford Point Rd.

Milford, CT 06460

(203) 878-7440

website: www.ctaudubon.org/centers/coastal/costal.htm

Hours: Tue-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-4

Admission is free. (Donations welcome)

Opened in 1995, the Coastal Center is located on an 8.4-acre barrier beach known as the Smith-Hubbell Wildlife Refuge that is situated next to the 840-acre Wheeler Wildlife Management Area (a salt marsh) at the mouth of the Housatonic River. These diverse and interactive

environments of salt water, tidal marsh and fresh water create rich habitats which abound in plant and animal communities that are ideal for observation and study. Center features include: educational exhibits, a tide pool demonstration tank, a salt-marsh laboratory, the Smith-Hubbell Wildlife Refuge and Bird Sanctuary, a boardwalk and observation platform with interpretive signage, 70ft covered observation tower for panoramic vistas, classes, lectures and workshops related to environmental topics for all experience levels, adult lecture series and interpretive bird and nature walks led by naturalists.

- **Connecticut River Museum**

67 Main St. Steamboat Dock

Essex, CT 06426

(860) 767-8269

website: www.ctrivermuseum.org

Hours: Tues-Sun. 10-5p

\$5 Students

Housed in an 1878 Steamboat Dock warehouse and located on the waterfront, the museum tells the river story in four galleries through paintings, models, objects and interactive exhibitions, with a working reproduction of the American Turtle, America's first submarine.

- **Connecticut Archaeology Center and Connecticut State Museum of Natural History**

2019 Hillside Road,

University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT 06269-1023

(860) 486-4460.

website: www.cac.uconn.edu

Hours: Mon-Fri 9a-4p, Sun 1 -4p (closed Saturday and holidays).

Admission is free.

The new Connecticut Archaeology Center will be a unique and exciting educational destination with a variety of exhibits and programs. The facility will also provide a home for 600,000 Connecticut artifacts and bring new academic programs to the University community. While the building undergoes renovation, visitors can visit and enjoy a small changing exhibit area and participate in scheduled programs for children and adults.

- **Copernican Observatory & Planetarium**

Central Connecticut State University

1615 Stanley St.

New Britain, CT 06050

(860) 832-3399

(860) 832-2950

website: www.ccsu.edu/astronomy/

Hours: Call for show schedule. Closed state holidays.

\$3.50 Adults

One of the largest public telescopes in U.S. Special programs throughout the year.

- **Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center**

109 Pequotsepos Rd.

Mystic, CT 06355

(860) 536-1216

website: www.dpnc.org

Hours: Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4 (Closed major holidays)

\$6 Adults

The Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, established in 1946, is a non-profit organization dedicated to fulfilling its mission: To inspire and nurture appreciation of the natural world and foster a personal environmental ethic. It is a combination wildlife sanctuary, visitor attraction and educational facility. The Center features all-new exhibits highlighting the habitats and wildlife of southeastern Connecticut, as well as eight miles of trails that wind through a beautiful 300-acre wooded preserve. Through natural history exhibits, educational classes and outreach programs, the center seeks to educate visitors of all ages about the unique interrelationships of animals, plants and non-renewable resources.

- **Dinosaur Crossing at Nature's Art**

1650 Rt. 85

Montville, CT 06370

(860) 443-4367

website: www.dinosaurcrossing.com

Open daily 10:00 am to 6:00 Pm April 16th to October 30th.

(Extended hours Father's Day to Labor day from 9:00am to 7:00pm; Open weekends during the month of November from 10:00 am to 5:00pm; and Open on Election day, Veteran's Day and the day after Thanksgiving from 10:00am to 5:00pm)

Cost: \$8.99 Adults

Dinosaur Crossing is 60 acres of outdoor exploration and discovery adjacent to Nature's Art. One and a half miles of nature trails winding through pristine woodlands provide the perfect prehistoric backdrop for 21 life-like and life-sized dinosaur recreations – from the 40 foot-tall Brachiosaurus welcoming guests at the beginning of the trail to the tiny two-foot-tall Compsognathus hiding in the laurels.

- **Dinosaur State Park**

400 West St.

Rocky Hill, CT 06067

(860) 529-8423

website: www.dinosaurstatepark.org

Hours: Park open daily 9-4:30. Exhibit Center open Tue-Sun 9-4.

\$5 Adults (exhibits only – park is free)

Dinosaur State Park is one of the largest dinosaur track sites in North America. Beneath the geodesic dome, you will find an exceptional display of early Jurassic fossil tracks that were made 200 million years ago. Surrounding the Exhibit Center are more than two miles of nature trails and the Dinosaur State Park Arboretum, containing more than 250 species and cultivars of conifers, as well as katsuras, ginkgoes, magnolias and other living representatives of plant families which appeared in the Age of Dinosaurs.

- **Eco-Tourism Center**

105 Bridge St. (Rt. 82)

Haddam, CT 06438

(860) 345-3910

Hours: Mon.-Thu. 10-5p, Fri. & Sat. 10-4p, Sun. 12-4p

Admission is free.

Center with exhibits on local and regional attractions, including natural and cultural resources. Large mural of Connecticut River habitat.

- **Elizabeth Park Rose Gardens**

Prospect Ave.

Hartford, CT 06106

(860) 722-6514

(860) 242-0017

website: www.elizabethpark.org/index.html

Open daily from dawn to dusk, greenhouses Mon-Fri

Admission is free.

First municipal rose garden in the country; greenhouses, nature walks, perennials and rock gardens. Peak bloom: late June. Pond House offers restaurant, lounge and auditorium. Another entrance located on Walbridge Rd. in West Hartford. Offers concerts, garden tours, and workshops. Call for more information.

- **Goodwin Conservation Center**

Goodwin State Forest 23 Potter Rd.

Hampton, CT 06247

(860) 455-9534

website: www.dep.state.ct.us/educ/goodwin.htm

Trails open dawn to dusk. Call for Nature Center hours.

Admission is free.

The James L. Goodwin Conservation Center is an education facility, owned and operated by the Connecticut DEP. The Center was a gift to the people of Connecticut from James L. Goodwin, to be used for education about "general, wildlife and forest conservation." The 2,000-acre forest contains trails, a 133-acre pond, a picnic area, and a self-guided wildlife garden. The Center offers programs for the public, school groups, educators, and special interest groups.

- **Luddy/Taylor Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum**

Northwest Park 135 Lang Rd.

Windsor, CT 06095

(860) 285-1888

website: www.tobaccohistsoc.org/home.htm

Hours: (Mar-mid. Dec.) Tue-Thu, Sat 12-4p and by appt.

Admission is free.

The John E. Luddy/Gordon S. Taylor Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum collects, preserves, researches, exhibits, and interprets the scope of the tobacco industry in Tobacco Valley, which stretches from Portland, Connecticut, along the Connecticut River Valley through Massachusetts and the lower tip of Vermont. The museum seeks to preserve the artifacts and history of cigar tobacco agriculture before it is completely gone from the valley and to increase public awareness of the importance of the economic, political, and social impact of the tobacco industry on the history of this valley.

- **Lutz's Children's Museum**

**247 S Main St. (Rt. 83)
Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 643-0949**

Hours: Tues.-Fri. 9-5p, Sat.-Sun. 12-5p
\$4.00 Admission

Children's arts and science museum with hands-on exhibits, live animals, gift shop, classes, concerts, concerts, trips and special events.

- **Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center**

**110 Pequot Trail
Mashantucket, CT 06338
1-(800) 411-9671
website: www.pequotmuseum.org**

Hours: 9a-5p daily, last admission at 4p (Closed Thanksgiving)
\$15 Adults

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, a new state-of-the-art, tribally owned-and-operated complex, brings to life the story of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and serves as a major resource on the history of the Tribe, the histories and cultures of other tribes, and the region's natural history.

- **Millstone Discovery Center**

**278 Main St.
Niantic, CT 06357
(860) 691-4670
(800) 428-4234**

Hours: Mon-Fri 9-4 (Closed major holidays)
Admission is free.

Exhibits on Millstone Nuclear Power Station, nuclear energy and other energy sources. Bicycle generators, live marine aquarium and touch tanks, multimedia shows.

- **Mystic Aquarium**

**55 Coogan Blvd.
Mystic, CT 06355
(860) 572-5955**

website: www.mysticaquarium.org

Hours: (Mar-Dec) Sun-Sat 9-6 (Dec-Mar) Mon-Fri 10-5,
Sat/Sun/Holidays 9-6

\$16 Adults (Group rates are available for groups consisting of 10 or more paying people all arriving and entering together)

Through ongoing exploration and discovery, Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration brings you new exhibits and new ways to make an intimate connection with our planet's watery environments and the creatures that inhabit them. Whether it's sharing secrets buried on the ocean floor for centuries, or studying exotic creatures, or learning about eco-systems, or even wading into the water to encounter a beluga whale, Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration brings visitors of all ages, opportunities they simply won't find anywhere else.

- **Mystic Seaport**

**75 Greenmanville Ave. (Rt. 27)
Mystic, CT 06355
(860) 572-5315
(888) 9-SEAPORT**

website: www.mysticseaport.org

Open daily 9a-5p, Winter daily 10a-4p (Closed 12/25)
Adults \$17

The Museum of American and the Sea, is our nation's leading maritime and living history museum. Climb aboard historic tall ships, explore a re-created 19th-century coastal village, discover stars in the planetarium, see work in the preservation shipyard, visit exhibit galleries, marvel at gardens and daily demonstrations of maritime trades. "Sea Dogs-Great Tails of the Sea" on exhibit through Oct. 2004.

- **New Britain Youth Museum at Hungerford Park**

**191 Farmington Ave. (Rt. 372)
Berlin, CT 06037
(860) 827-9064**

website: www.newbritainyouthmuseum.org

Hours: Tue-Fri 1-5p, Sat 10a-5p,
\$2 Adults

Farm and exotic animals, wildlife, trail system, pond, weather station and gardens; changing exhibits on science, natural history, geology, agriculture. Picnic area, gift shop. Year-round animal programs Sat.

- **Northwest Park & Nature Center**

145 Lang Rd.

Windsor, CT 06095

(860) 285-1886

website: www.northwestpark.org

Hours: Park open dawn to dusk; Nature center/gift shop open Mon-Sat 9-5 (Call for Sun hours)

Admission is free.

Park activities include nature walks and self-guided nature trails (including a Braille trail); programs on owls, bluebirds, pond study, reptiles and amphibians, mammals, endangered species, tracking, and others; live animal exhibits and demonstrations; picnic facilities and playground; cross-country ski and snowshoeing trails and rentals; community gardens; Tobacco Cultural Museum and Archive; gift shop; weather station; and an animal barn.

- **Peabody Museum of Natural History (Yale University)**

170 Whitney Ave.

New Haven, CT 06511

(203) 432-5050

website: www.peabody.yale.edu/

Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5 (closed major holidays)

Adults \$7, Students 18 and under \$5 (FREE admission Thu 2-5)

"Brontosaurus" and Stegosaurus haunt the Great Hall of Dinosaurs, where Rudolph Zallinger's famous Age of Reptiles mural spans 108' and 300 million years of earth history. Frogs and other live animals inhabit the Discovery Room. Exhibits on Native Americans and more. Check their website for current exhibitions and events.

- **Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery**

Trout Hatchery Rd.

Central Village, CT 06332

(860) 564-7542

Open daily 9:30a-3:30p

Admission is free.

One of the largest hatcheries in the East; produces 320,000 pounds of trout annually. Glass wall allows visitors to see into hatchery.

- **Roaring Brook Nature Center**

70 Gracey Rd.

Canton, CT 06019

(860) 693-0263

website: www.sciencecenterct.org/rbncpage/home.html

Hours: Tue-Sat 10a-5p, Sun 1-5p,

\$3 Adults

The present facility houses display's on local flora and fauna as well as changing seasonal exhibits. A replica of an Eastern Woodland Indian longhouse, a wildlife attraction area, outdoor flight cages, and a small collection of live animals offer additional opportunities for learning. A small gift shop features a selection of nature-related books and gift items. Also, maintains five miles of trails on the adjacent State-owned Werner's Woods property. This refuge is home to a variety of native wildlife species – over 150 bird species have been sighted on the property. Outdoor gardens provide opportunities for visitors to view wildflowers, birds and butterflies in season. Self-guiding trail maps, booklets and wildlife checklists are available in the gift shop.

- **Science Center of Connecticut**

950 Trout Brook Dr.

West Hartford, CT 06119

(860) 231-2824

website: www.sciencecenterct.org

Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5 (Open Mon 10-5 from 6/28-9/6)

\$7.00 Adults for Exhibits (Shows cost additional)

Hands-on museum that explores science, nature and technology. Live animals, hands-on exhibits, energetic programs, astronomy and laser shows, interactive and changing exhibits, and an Explore Store.

- **Science Center of Eastern Connecticut**

33 Gallows Lane

New London, CT 06320

(860) 442-0391

Hours: Tue-Sat 10-5 (Closed major holidays)

\$7 Adults (\$4.50 Seniors & children)

Explore and discover science through hands-on interaction with sound and light equipment, computers, puzzles, live animals, marine touch tank. Hiking trails, picnic area, science store. Science and nature programs.

- **Somers Mountain Museum of Natural History & Primitive Technology**

**332 Turnpike Rd.
Somers, CT 06071
(860) 749-4129
website: www.somersmountain.org**

Hours: Sun 1-5 and by appt.
Admission is free.

The Mission of the Somers Mountain Museum is to help foster an understanding of the interconnectedness of the human community and the natural world through the study of nature and the wisdom and experience of our planet's indigenous peoples.

- **Sundial Gardens**

**Brault Hill Rd. Ext. (off Rt. 81)
Higganum, CT 06441
(860) 345-4290
website: www.sundialgardens.com**

Shop hours: Sat-Sun 10-5 (Jan-mid. Oct.)
\$2 donation for gardens

***The Sundial** is a unique setting of Formal Gardens, Tea and Gift Shop located in the Higganum section of Haddam. Founded in 1976, The Sundial has been featured in numerous national publications and shown on major TV Stations. Over the years, The Sundial has become well-known as an oasis for fine tea and tea knowledge. **Formal Gardens** include a Persian-style knot garden, an 18th century style garden with geometric walkways, and a topiary garden with boxwood, roses and ivy garlands surrounding a fountain. These architectural gardens, or "outdoor rooms" are carefully incorporated into the landscape around a restored 18th century farm house.*

- **Trail Wood: The Edwin Way Teale Memorial Sanctuary**

**Connecticut Audubon Society
93 Kenyon Rd.
Hampton, CT 06274
(860) 928-4948**

Grounds open daily, sunrise to sunset.
Admission is free.

This is the site of Edwin Way Teale's home and subject of many of the Pulitzer Prize winning author's writings. There are well-developed trails that access woodland, field, wetland and pond habitats abounding with wildlife. Teale's writing cabin and a small museum has seasonal

visiting hours. Connecticut Audubon resident staff naturalists serve as caretakers and offer guided walks of the property throughout the year.

- **Trash Museum of Connecticut**

**Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority Visitors Center
211 Murphy Rd.
Hartford, CT 06114
(860) 247-4280**

Hours: Wed.-Fri. 12-4p (Call for Sat. hours)

Admission is free.

Educational facility, tours and hands-on exhibits on solid waste management and recycling, including the 'Temple of Trash' adjacent to recycle center.

- **West Rock Nature Center**

**Wintergreen Ave.
New Haven, CT 06515
(203) 946-8016
website: <http://cityofnewhaven.com/parks/westrock.htm>**

Hours: Mon-Fri 10-4 (Closed weekends and holidays)

Admission is free.

40-acre center has native reptiles, nature building with wildlife displays. Programs include: animal tracking/tree identification, biodiversity monitoring, bird walks, candle & wreath making workshops, geology walks, Haunted Candy Hunt, hawk watch and hawk festival, "Hiking and Nature Interpretation," "Introduction to Reptiles," "Landscaping for Wildlife," nature walks, orienteering, Ropes Course, "Talking to Turkeys," kayaking, maple sugaring, owl pellet workshops, pond exploration, snorkeling, touch tanks, whale watching, wildflower walks, and more!

- **Wethersfield Nature Center**

**30 Greenfield St.
Wethersfield, CT 06109
(860) 721-2953
website: http://wethersfieldct.com/rec/nature_center.html**

Call for hours.

Admission is free.

The Wethersfield Nature Center is an environmental education facility devoted to the mission of sharing and exploring our natural world through exciting environmental learning. Visitors are provided a unique

opportunity to view our live animals, mammals, birds and reptiles, and the Owl's Nest gift store! The center includes educational exhibits, hands-on science displays, live animals, a log cabin, gift shop, and a 120-acre adjoining nature park.

Parks & Forests Near the University

• Tolland County

- Bigelow Hollow State Park (Union)
www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/bigelow.htm
- Gay City State Park (Hebron)
www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/gaycity.htm
- Mansfield Hollow State Park (Mansfield)
www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/mansfield.htm
- Nipmuck State Forest (Union)
www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/forests/nipmuck.htm
- Shenipsit State Forest (Ellington)
<http://www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/forests/Shenipsit>

• Windham County

- Mashamoquet Brook State Park (Pomfret)
www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/mashamoquet.htm
- Natchaug State Forest (Eastford)
www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/forests/natchaug.htm

• New London County

- Day Pond State Park (Colchester)
www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/daypond.htm
- Salmon River State Forest (Colchester)
www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/forests/salmon.htm