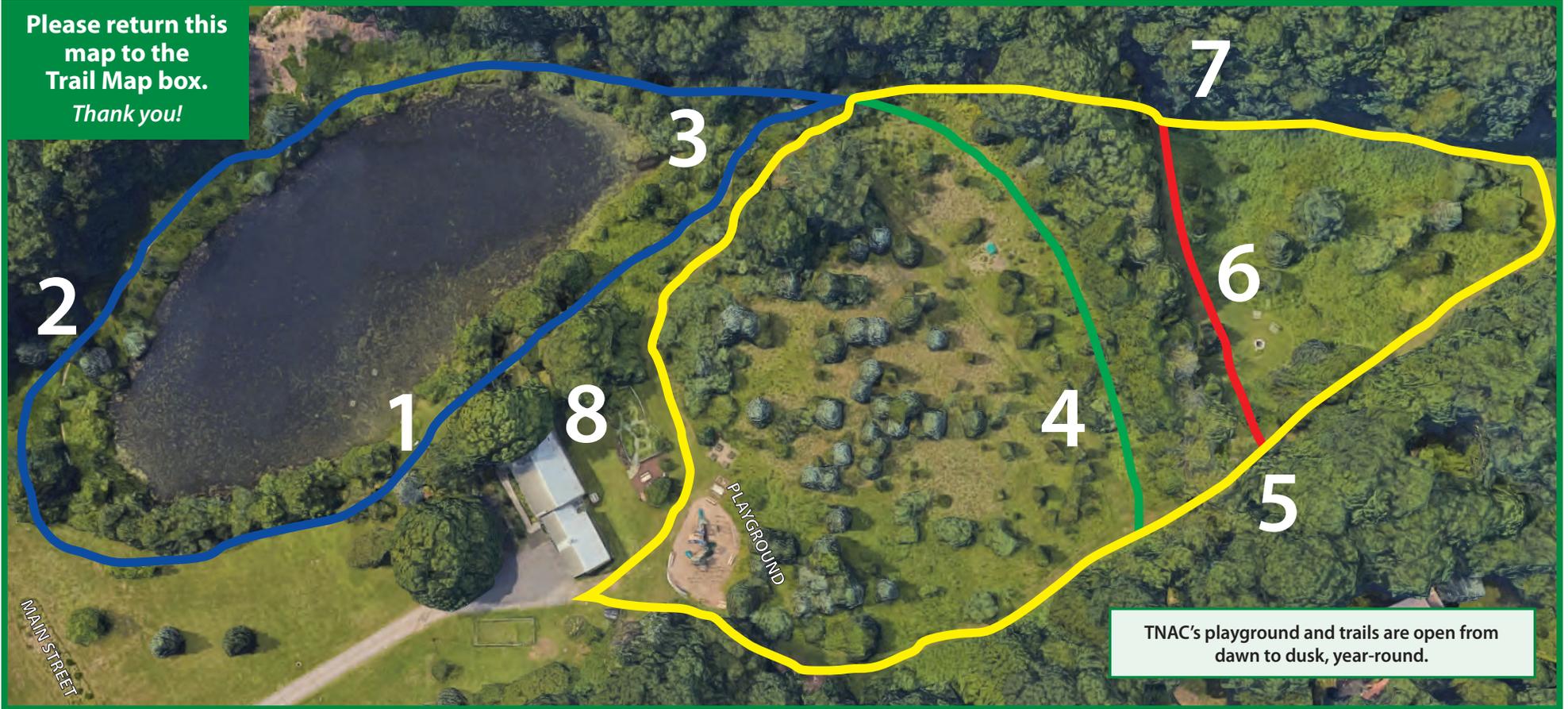


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Thank you!

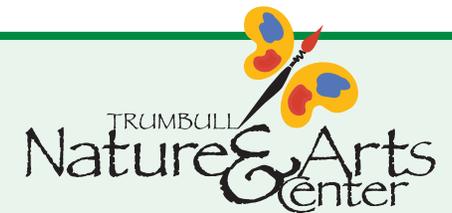


Trail Names

-  = Pond Loop
-  = Nature Trail
-  = East Meadow Pass
-  = West Field

Trail Markers (Descriptions are on the back of this guide)

- | | |
|--|--|
|  = Turtle Rafts |  = Brook |
|  = Bat House |  = Conifer |
|  = Pond |  = Rock Bridge |
|  = Bluebird House |  = Butterfly Garden |



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The Trumbull Nature and Arts Center (TNAC) is run by the Patrons of TNAC, a 501(c)3 organization. TNAC's mission is to provide nature-rich experiences to the members of our community.

1 What are those rafts doing there?

The two rafts floating in the pond were originally intended to be platforms on which turtles would sun themselves. However, Canada geese now use them as a place to lay their eggs away from predators. There is much evidence of geese on this property, including scat and feathers.



2 What's that up there?

That's no birdhouse you see, it's a bat house! This bat house is a place where bats could spend the day while they sleep. Bats are beneficial because their diet consists of insects that could be harmful to humans. The number of bats has diminished, due to a disease called white nose syndrome. Bat houses help protect this struggling species.

3 What lives in this pond?

The large body of water at the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center (TNAC) is a relatively shallow warm water pond. It serves as a home to sunfish, crayfish, bass, pickerel, frogs, numerous aquatic insects, and waterfowl.

4 Why are there so many birdhouses here?

The birdhouses on the TNAC property were installed to help boost the eastern bluebird population. This species of bird is frequently out-competed for nesting space from invasive birds like sparrows and starlings. Other birds that live here include: American robins, black-capped chickadees, Carolina wrens, and cardinals.

5 Was the brook always like this?

This water feature, known as North Farrar Brook, did not always run through the property. Many years ago, one of the land owners wanted to redirect the water to flow through the property. They dug a trench and blocked the original path. This is just one example of how humans have had a large impact on the environment.

This brook always has water in it, even during times of drought, and keeps the pond well fed before draining into the Pequonnock River and ultimately, Long Island Sound.

6 What kind of tree is this?

This is a coniferous evergreen tree, called a spruce. This spruce tree provides shelter and food for wildlife during the winter, and is an ideal spot for bird nesting. Conifers produce two types of cones. The familiar woody cone, which contains the seeds, is a female cone. The much smaller, short-lived male cone produces pollen. The pollen from these cones travel through the air due to wind and flying insects, until it reaches a pinecone on another tree. Once it reaches a pinecone, it fertilizes it, causing the pinecone to produce seeds that fall out when the pinecone opens up.

7 Why is there a rock bridge here?

Those rocks weren't always there. The bridge was actually constructed by people who wanted to build a trail. They wished to make a bridge without disrupting the natural look of the property.

8 What makes this garden special?

This spot is home to TNAC's Butterfly Garden, which was created to attract butterflies and to serve as a butterfly habitat. The plants in this garden were chosen to provide nectar for butterflies, and to serve as host species for butterfly larva to feed upon. Many different varieties of butterflies are attracted to the flowers in this garden, including the monarch butterfly, whose population is rapidly declining. The habitat of the monarch butterfly has been dwindling, and gardens like these help to provide safe places for them on their migration journeys. The Butterfly Garden at TNAC has been certified by monarchwatch.org as an official Monarch Waystation. In 2021, TNAC's Butterfly Garden was registered with pollinator-pathway.org, an organization that promotes the establishment of pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife. Note: the orange boxes in this garden are intended to serve as butterfly houses, but sometimes other species of insects, and even birds, make their homes there.



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Matthew Seuch of Boy Scout Troop 67 created the Trail Markers at the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center in June, 2017 for his Eagle Scout project.

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