

For hiking, nature study and passive recreation, Wild Duck Reserve is a small yet choice open space parcel acquired by the Town in 1969. A 1954 report prepared for the Town identified this area as land that should be acquired for neighborhood open space. The major portion of the park, 13.881 acres, came to the Town through subdivision dedication. An additional 2.165 acres was donated to the Town in 1985 by Jerry Tuccio.

*T*he trail system at Wild Duck Reserve makes a wide loop around the eastern portion of the park. From the entrance, the trail heads north skirting the edge of the red maple swamp that occupies the central portion of the park. For the wet season, a bypass trail has been cut that is further removed from the wetland area.

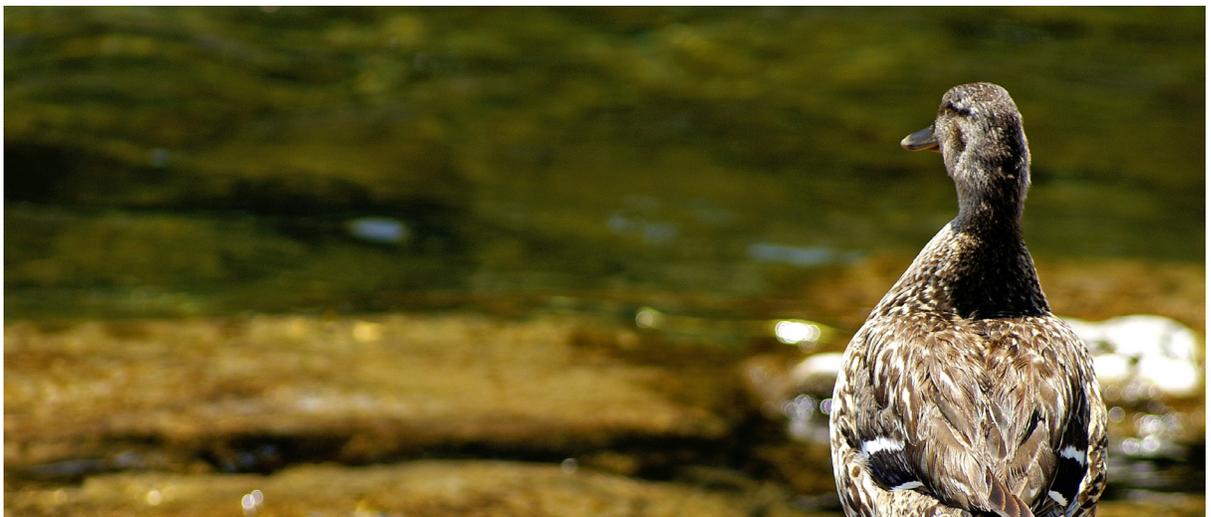
Toward the northern end of the park, the trail swings east and scrambles over a series of ledges leading to the high point of the park. From here, the trail makes a gradual twisting descent through second growth woods, ultimately looping back to the entrance point.

Although no trail system has been developed along the western side of the park, it is possible to walk along the crest of the ledge rocks that extends out to the southern boundary. From here, there are views to the south and east.

Wild Duck Reserve is an attractive park which has many interesting features, chief among which are the many moss-covered ledge rocks.

The vegetation species vary with the terrain. Yellow birches and red maples are dominant in lowland areas, while various oaks and hickories grow on the dry uplands. On the ground, one may observe the remains of chestnut trees. The rot resistant wood persists even though the chestnut was virtually wiped out following the blight in the early part of this century. Mountain laurel is plentiful in the northeast area, and a number of spring wildflowers bloom throughout the park.

Wild Duck Reserve is a good spot to visit, particularly if time is limited. The trails, taken at an average pace, can easily be covered in an hour.



Directions: From the Wilton Center, follow Rte. 33 north 1.3 miles to Drum Hill Road; go left on Drum Hill and take first right onto Cheese Spring Road. Travel 1 mile to Thayer Pond Road. Proceed 1.2 miles to Wild Duck Road (east) left. Parking is on north side of Wild Duck Road.

Acreage: 16.046

Parking: Limited; alongside Wild Duck Road

Access: Entrance off Wild Duck Road

Trails: Loop Trail approximately 0.75 miles, Wet Season Bypass 0.1 miles

Ownership: Town of Wilton

