

BAUER PARK

Madison, CT

The Bauer Park was established in 1990 when Erwin Bauer gave his farm to the Town of Madison. The Park has been set up for Open space use, Agriculture, Trails and Nature activities. The Park encompasses some 64.5 acres with 40 acres located on the west side of Cope Road and 24.5 acres on the east side, just north of Hunter's Trail. The farm buildings on the property include the farm-house, barn, tool shed, garage, and an outhouse. These buildings are being maintained by the Town for nature study activities and a future farm museum.

There are 2 trails at the park on either side of Cope Road. The Woodland Trail to the east is a 1 mile long loop. It plies through grassy meadows, wooded wetlands and past hillside cliffs and stone fences. A distinctive black oak tree is visible in the field and the trail leads past a small pond.

The pond was created in 1960 for raising trout, but the water was too warm for such cold-water fish. A footbridge crosses a stream which is a tributary of the Neck River that flows into Long Island Sound. A little farther, the trail turns left along old Ridge Road and a tulip (poplar) tree. The trail passes a stone wall that once marked a pasture border and begins to climb into uplands containing sugar maples, oak, and beech. A rock outcrop is visible to the east as the trail again begins to follow a stream and then opens onto a field with wetlands indicated by tall Phragmites reeds.

The Pond Wetland trail is a smaller loop (1/2 mile) to the south of the Community Gardens. The trail hugs the two ponds, first on the east side then on west side leading to a short boardwalk into a red maple forest swamp. From there, the trail loops south again across the field lined with bluebird boxes. The trail leads back to the parking lot along the east side of the ponds.

The old Bauer Barn is a post and beam framed structure, framed of chestnut in an English style. The Barn is as old as the original part of the farmhouse; circa 1840, built on a native granite foundation. Cows were kept in the barn, as was hay in the loft. In 2001, there is a naturalized beehive established in the north double wall of the barn.

Photo by the Town of Madison



Directions and Parking:

From the southbound entrance of I-95 on Route 79, go .01 mile north and turn left onto Hunter's Trail and turn right onto Cope Road. Follow Cope Road to the Community Gardens parking area on the left.

Permitted Activities:

The two trails are part of the larger Bauer Park which has activities and site related to the former working farm. No swimming or wading in the ponds is permitted. Dogs are permitted on leash.

For more information about this location, contact:

Town of Madison
Beach and Recreation Department
203 245-5623

This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.



The descriptive information for this trail is excerpted from the MLCT's Madison Trails Guide.

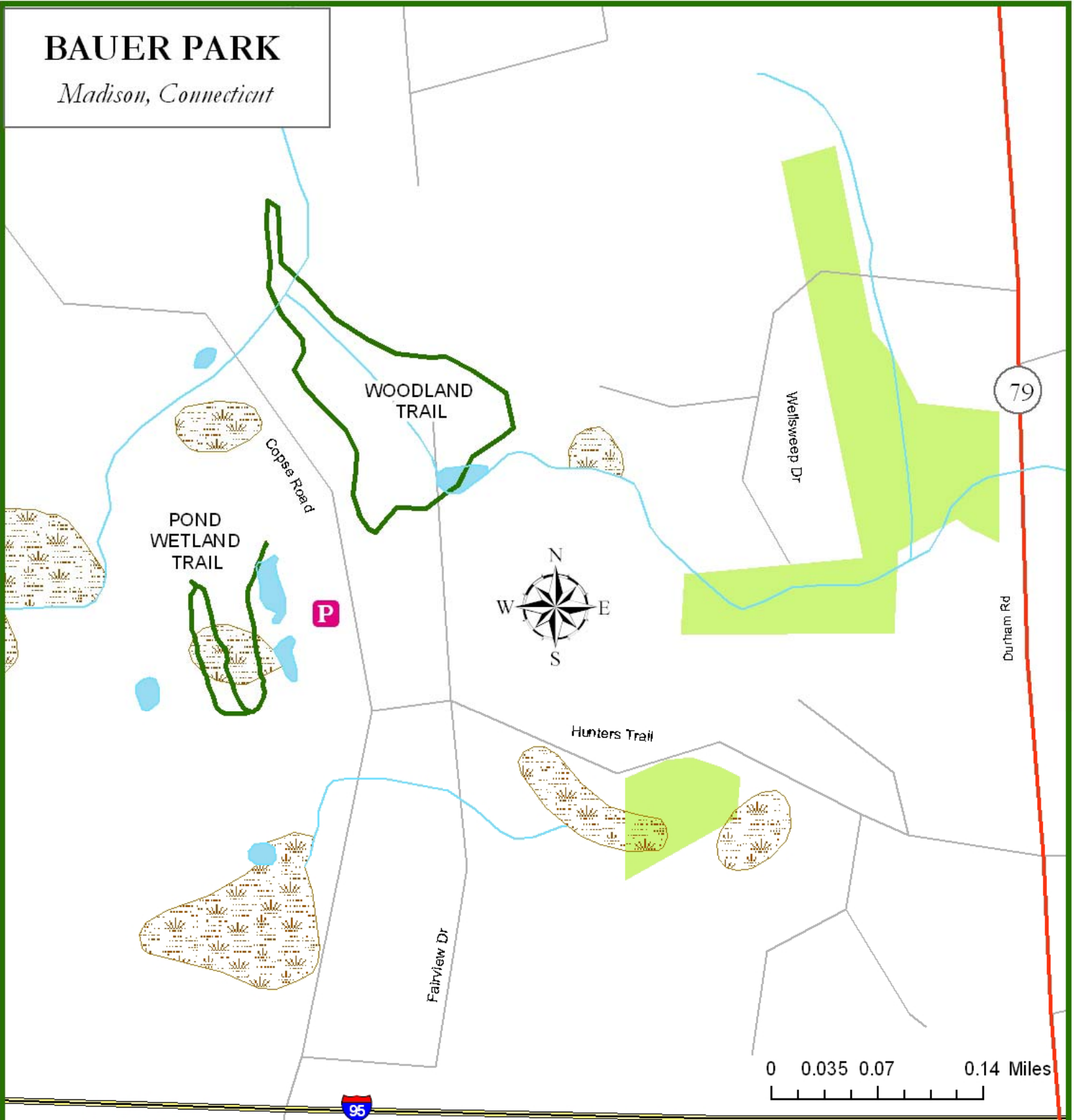
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- Parking
- Town Boundary
- Open Space - All Types
- Water Bodies
- Wetlands
- Trails
- Rivers and Streams
- Interstate or Parkway
- Local Route
- Streets