



Life on the trail



The **Wappinger Creek Trail** follows the East Branch of Wappinger Creek for part of the trail's two-kilometer (1.25-mile) length. The Wappinger Creek, which flows to the Hudson River, is named after the Wappinger Indians, of the Algonquin culture, who once lived in this area. The trail passes through forests, marshes, and old fields before heading back to the Gifford House. It is a relaxed 30 to 40 minute walk.

The **Sedge Meadow Trail** (off the Wappinger Creek Trail) takes visitors on a small boardwalk that cuts through a young stand of red maples in a sedge-hummock wetland.

The **Cary Pines Trail** winds through open spaces, thickets, and peaceful pine and hemlock forests before rejoining the Wappinger Creek Trail. This 2.1-kilometer (1.3-mile) trail is a relaxed 30-to 40-minute walk off the Wappinger Creek Trail.

The **Fern Glen** is on Lovelace Drive next to a stone bridge that crosses the East Branch of Wappinger Creek. Its several habitat displays contain over 150 species of trees, ferns, and wildflowers native to the Dutchess County area. Stroll the boardwalk or relax on the deck overlooking the creek.

Campus Trail Guide



The science behind environmental solutions

The **Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies** is located in New York's Hudson Valley, approximately 70 miles north of New York City and 70 miles south of Albany.

Parts of the Cary Institute's 2,000-acre research campus have been designated for public access. Our grounds provide visitors with a unique opportunity to connect with nature and view local wildlife. The Cary Institute's hiking trails, Fern Glen, and internal roadways are open from April 1 to October 31.

We encourage you to enjoy the outdoor spaces we have set aside for you, but ask that you respect the integrity of the research being done by remaining in the designated areas and honoring the campus rules.



VISITOR HOURS

April 1 - October 31

Grounds are open from sunrise to sunset.

Internal roadway gates open at 8:30 a.m.

Gates are locked at 7 p.m.

Points of Interest

EM Environmental Monitoring Station

We monitor basic meteorology, such as temperature and precipitation, as well as variables related to air pollution. These include ozone as well as sulfur dioxides (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x), which can cause acid rain. We also measure solar radiation, including UV (ultraviolet) radiation. Because the instruments are sensitive, reservations are required to tour the Environmental Monitoring Station.

FG The Fern Glen

The Fern Glen is an area devoted to the preservation and enjoyment of plants found in our region of New York. As you explore the Fern Glen, you will encounter a variety of unique plants that are adapted to wetland life, as well as amphibians and reptiles that prefer dwelling in moist, shaded environments.

LL Lowlands

The lowlands landscape is made up of wetlands, grassy meadows, forests, and the East Branch of the Wappinger Creek. Explore the area by car, bicycle, or on foot. More than 126 bird species have been spotted in our lowlands.

CAMPUS RULES

Please refrain from the following activities:

Smoking and use of alcohol
Camping and building fires
Hunting and fishing
Horseback riding and use of horse-drawn vehicles

Self-guided Science Tour

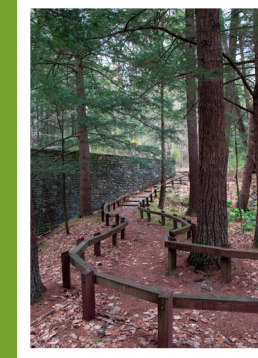
DM Deer Management
Left unchecked, large herds of deer transform forests by consuming tree seedlings and eroding understory habitat that is critical to native plants and animals. View a deer enclosure at this site.

AR Acid Rain
How does precipitation become acidic and what effects does it have on streams, forests, and wildlife? Learn about the link between human activity and the acid rain problem.

LD Lyme Disease
Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium found in forest animals. There is a direct relationship between acorn abundance, small mammal diversity, and our risk of contracting Lyme disease.

WW Watershed Wisdom
Fresh water is essential to life; protecting the land surrounding our lakes, streams, and rivers is vital to a healthy water supply. Learn what can be done to keep our water safe and clean.

SS Soundscapes
The sounds you hear, natural or human, transmit vital information about the environment. Listen to the birds and animals in this natural landscape. How many species do you hear?



About Us

The **Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies** is a private, not-for-profit environmental research and education center. For more than thirty years, our scientists have been investigating the complex interactions that govern the natural world. Their objective findings lead to more effective policy decisions and increased environmental literacy. Focal areas include air and water pollution, climate change, invasive species, and disease ecology.

The Cary Institute is dedicated to connecting its findings to learners of all ages. To find out more about our educational offerings, public programs, and free scientific seminars, visit www.caryinstitute.org.

For general information, call: (845) 677-5343

Our **trail head** is located at the Gifford House:
2917 Sharon Turnpike (Rt 44)
Millbrook, New York 12545

Our **main campus** and **auditorium** are located at:
2801 Sharon Turnpike (Rt 44)
Millbrook, New York 12545