

Wetlands Trail

The paths that Pillow founder Ted Shawn blazed not only broke new ground in the dance world, but required that he and the Men Dancers literally clear land so that artists and audiences could find their way to the Pillow doors. Since the 1930s, the Pillow has carefully considered how to responsibly steward its 163 acres, historic buildings, performance spaces and artist housing, while welcoming visitors from all over the world and providing opportunities for pure enjoyment, we aim to shield the immediate neighborhood and natural habitats from unwanted development.

The Wetlands Trail, designed in 1999 by environmentalist Peter Jensen, was hand-hewn by the Landmark Volunteers, a not-for-profit service organization that offers high school students experiences in volunteerism.

Enter at the north end of the Main Parking Lot, and enjoy a succession of ecological zones and physical features in a trail totalling 800 feet.

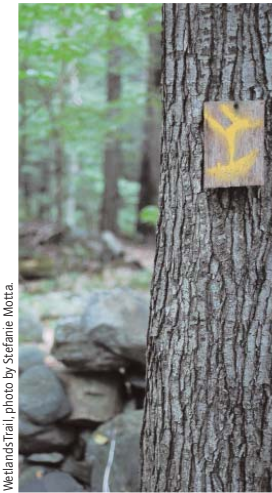
Gradually descend into woodland of primarily hemlock and hardwoods.

Go through a New England mortar-less stone wall and traverse a low moist area on an elevated treadway. Look

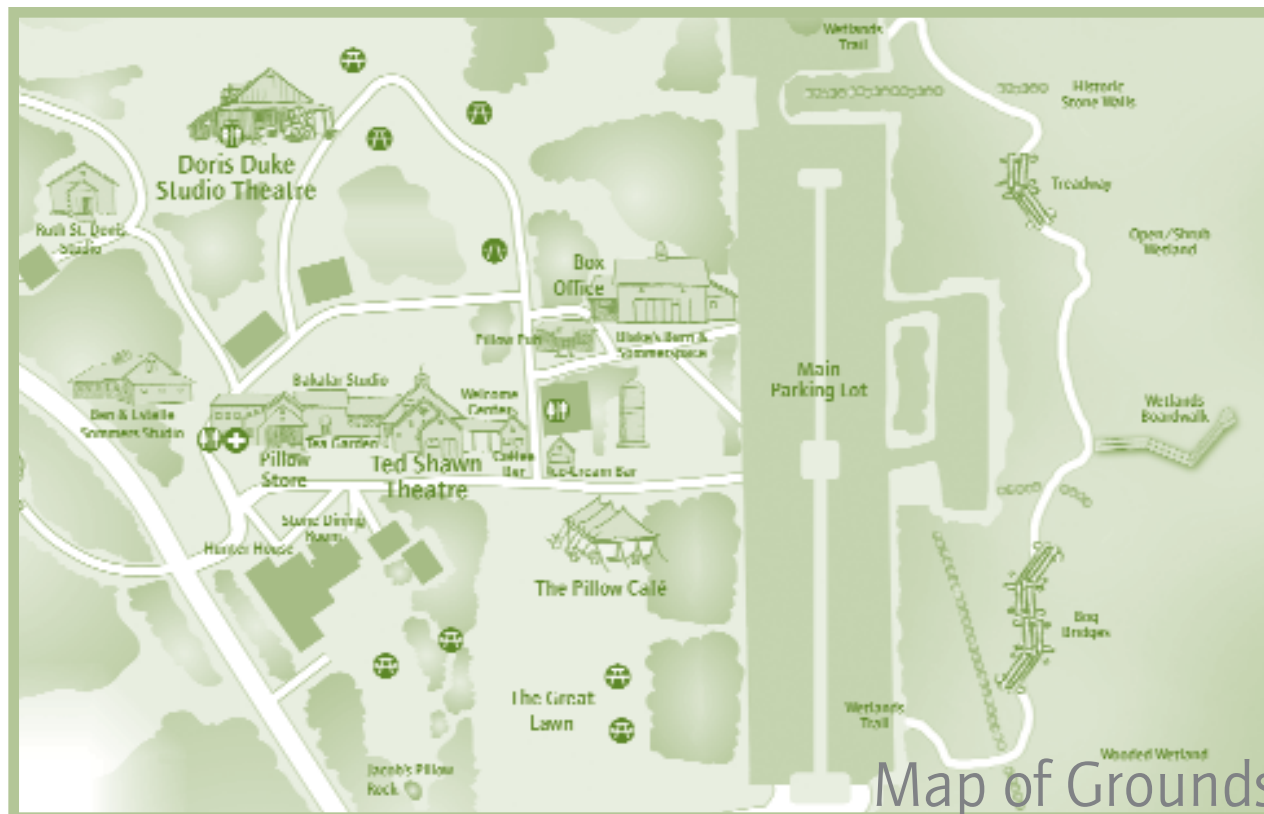
for white pine, hemlock, and hardwoods.

Turn left to view the open/shrub wetlands on the wetlands boardwalk spur. Return to main trail and go through another traditional stone wall to cross hemlock-wooded wetlands dotted with many large and small boulders on plank bog bridging constructed of rough tamarack.

You are now on a former logging trail on dry ground, go through a third old stone wall and follow the path around to the right to emerge at the south end of the Main Parking Lot. Cross over to the Great lawn and enjoy the rest of your stay!



Wetlands Trail, photo by Stefanie Morra



Map of Grounds

the gardens and wetlands

Jacob's Pillow Dance



Jacob's Pillow Mission

To support dance creation, presentation, education and preservation; and to engage and deepen public appreciation and support for dance

Jacob's Pillow flower gardens and containers have been designed and maintained for 25 years by Valerie Locher Horticulturists.

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JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE
Festival • School • Archives • Community Programs

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The Tea Garden before a performance, 1935.



Ruth St. Denis in Tea Garden, 1941. Photo by John Lindquist, ©Harvard Theatre Collection.

The Harriet Freed Tea Garden



Photo by G. Gunderson.

Today, the Tea Garden remains a focal point for the Pillow community, which hosts tens of thousands of visitors each summer. The beautification for the 75 seasons of the festival, continues today across the grounds and changes each season, according to master gardener Valerie Locher's plan. For example, in areas that are frequented in the evening, colors are chosen to reflect light and are visible during darker hours.

Scabiosa

These prolific plants bloom early and heavy. The foliage is neat, forming a low mound of decorative leaves.

Aster "Alma Potschke"
Adorned with hundreds of charming quarter-size star-like daisies, this big, bushy plant offers late summer color in the garden and abundant flowering in a

rich rosy pink with bright yellow centers.

Geranium "Jolly Bee"
Huge cupped blue flowers with white centers and maroon veins. Marbled leaves have a soft velvety appearance.

Nierembergia "Cup Flower"
An annual somewhat re-ssembling an open-faced bowl.

Iris Pallida "Variegata"

Highly prized for its fragrant blue flower and striking tri-colored foliage. Stiff, upright leaves are vertically striped with ribbons of green, white and cream adding color and contrast to flower beds.

Coreopsis Moonbeam

A drought tolerant, decidu-

ous perennial, with long, blooming pale yellow flowers.

Echinacea

Tall stems that bear a single pink or purple flower, with a central cone that is usually purplish-brown in color. The large cone is actually a seed head with sharp spines resembling a stiff comb.



Jacob's Pillow, a National Historic Landmark, has a long history of tending gardens on its campus. For their 75-cent admission, audiences enjoyed tea and listened to Ted Shawn speak for twenty minutes in the Tea Garden, followed by a twenty minute demonstration by the Men Dancers in the adjacent Bakalar Studio. These first talks and performances set a precedent for the ambiance of the current-day festival.

In Front of the Ted Shawn Theatre

The primary color scheme for the gardens and containers here is blue, white, and yellow, with dollops of pink for liveliness.



Rudbeckia "Prairie Sun"

An eye-catching, green cone-like center is ringed by bright yellow petals with sun-kissed, pale yellow tips.

Rudbeckia "Toto"

Tiny, compact plants with strong side shoots and rich golden yellow blooms, each with a deep brown central cone.

Catmint Nepeta

"Souvenir d' Andre Chaudron" Features loose whorls of

small, abundant, trumpet-shaped medium to deep violet-blue flowers in racemes atop square, leafy stems with deep green foliage.

Angelface "Wedgewood"

Blue orchid-like plants on tall spiky stems. Unusually heat tolerant, requires almost no care. The foliage never wilts.

Dusty Miller "Cirrus"

A rounded, strong silver, compact bedding plant.

Petunia

An annual having funnel shaped, variously colored flowers, in this case blue.

Salvia Argentea "Hobbits Foot"

Platter-sized flat rosettes of soft, silky white, felted foliage emerge in a dramatic basil-like clump. New leaves emerge crinkled, but flatten as they grow. Flower stems to 30" with white blossoms tinged with yellow.



Blake's Barn

The deep red of Blake's Barn serves as a backdrop for the yellow, red and orange flowers there.

Ligularia

A perennial for moist soils, it has large leaves and spikes of yellow, daisy-like flowers.

Japanese Painted Fern

A low-maintenance, deciduous fern with soft grayish-green and silvery dark maroon foliage.

Lady's Mantle

Felted, round green leaves with toothed edges that catch dew drops, and sprays of tiny yellow-green flowers.

Foxglove

Soft, hairy, toothed, ovate and lance-shaped leaves in a basal rosette.

Rudbeckia hirta "Maya"

Golden yellow petals, reminiscent of the outstanding architectural feel of the ancient Mayan civilization.