

Welcome to the Rose Trail at the historic Bolton Heritage Farm

Established in 2007, this trail was a collaborative effort of the Bolton Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Friends of the Rose Farm and Bolton Land Trust. Follow the Rose colored blazes to walk the full 1.5 mile length of the trail, which includes a loop through the interior of the farm pastures, and connects to the Hop River State Park Linear Trail, which is part of the East Coast Greenway. Parking is available at either end of the trail, at the house and barn buildings or at the Steeles Crossing parking area for the Linear Trail.

The town purchased the farm in 2000, consisting of 103 acres, 90 of which are permanently preserved. Hay is harvested from its fields, continuing a two-centuries-long tradition. Many types of wildlife and plant life live in the farm's fields, wetlands and woods. Enjoy many species of birds which inhabit the farm.

The terrain covers both fields and forested areas, and trail conditions are easy to moderate, with about 200-ft of elevation change over its distance. Sturdy footwear is recommended, as some areas are seasonally wet, and large stones are frequent. The buildings, currently under renovation, are not accessible to the public. Maps are available at the trailhead kiosk. For more information, please contact the town of Bolton at 649-8066.

Please enjoy your hike of the farm keeping these rules in mind:

- The trail is open only during daylight hours.
- Please respect adjoining private property.
- No motorized vehicles are permitted.
- Dogs permitted under control of their owners.
- Horses prohibited due to unsafe terrain.
- Please do not remove anything from or leave anything on the trail.
- No alcoholic beverages permitted.
- During the growing season (May – Sept) please stay off the hayfields – stay on the perimeter of the fields.
- Hunting is not permitted on the farm.

Directions:

From Manchester, Hartford and points West:

Take I-384 to Exit 5 – Bolton, then right onto Bolton Center Rd. At Town Hall stop sign, continue left past Church and locate entrance to Farm on your left.

From Vernon/ Coventry and points North:

Follow Route 44 West to Mobil Station/ Bolton Motors, turn left up hill onto Bolton Center Road and follow as above.

From Andover and points East:

Follow Route 6 West to Steeles Crossing Road turnoff on left just after you enter Bolton. Park at Linear Trail area or continue to end. Right onto Bolton Center Road and enter Farm on your right.

From Glastonbury/ Hebron and points South:

Follow Route 85 to Bolton Center Road, turn right towards Bolton Center. At Town Hall stop sign, continue left past Church and locate entrance to Farm on your left.

Special Features along the Rose Trail:

Encampment Hill – In 1781, General George Washington asked French troops for assistance to defeat the British. Led by le Comte de Rochambeau, the French troops marched from Newport, Rhode Island, averaging 15 miles a day, heading to New York. The fifth camp along the route was on this farm. Four regiments of French troops each spent one night at the camp between June 21 and 25, 1781. The campsite is on the National Register of Historic Sites.

Historic Stone Walls – A 1781 map by Rochambeau's engineer shows some of the same stone walls you see here today. Look for them in the upper fields, as shown on the trail map.

Scenic Vista – As you enjoy the view along the upper field, think of Jonathan Edwards, Bolton's first pastor in 1723. Edwards later became a major philosophical contributor to religious revival movements known as "The Great Awakening". His diary shows that he drew inspiration from the farm's fields.

Stone Spring – A remnant of the farm's early beginnings as a dairy. Look for the animal enclosure nearby.

The Oak Grove – Enjoy a picnic under these majestic shade trees.

Cathedral Glade – A serene canopy of mature growth on the lower part of the wooded section of the trail – can you feel it?

Copper Beech Tree – A notable example can be found along Bolton Center Road in front of the House.