

designer, to prepare a garden plan for the site. This was one of only three designs Miss Jekyll drew for clients in the United States. Although the specific plan for the Groesbeck gardens was not implemented, the beautiful gardens that were established, had Jekyll elements. The features that remain are the pillars of the rose garden, a central pathway, a few stone borders, a greenhouse, and a garden shed.

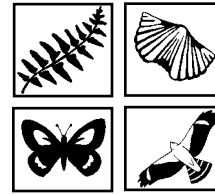


## 14 White Barn and Other Building Remnants

A house and several farm buildings were constructed by the Groesbecks near what is now the Fernwood Trail for John Rosenberger and his family. John farmed nearly 100 acres

for the Groesbecks from 1921 – 1946.

The frame of the white barn is the most conspicuous remnant today. It had a corn crib on one side and storage on the other. The site of a spring (a circular brick structure with a metal lid) can be seen uphill, with a spring house just below. West of the white barn are the remains of an animal barn that was burned by vandals; but the dairy cattle stanchions and raised concrete floor remain. The house which faced Tealtown Road was destroyed by fire in 1946, yet a walk around this area will reveal the house foundation.



# Guide to the History Hike

at Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods

The History Hike takes visitors back in time for a different view of Rowe Woods. While visitors are welcome to hike the entire "trail" end to end, we recommend taking this brochure along as you hike the Geology, Fernwood, Lookout and Upland Trails for insights into the structures you'll see. Follow along with a Rowe Woods trail map or the map inserted into this guide. Enjoy the scenery and learn the history of the property in the process.

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Cincinnati Nature Center was founded in 1965 through the efforts of Stanley Rowe Sr. and 12 dedicated environmentalists. But, its legacy began decades earlier.

In the late 1800s, a boy named Carl Krippendorf took ill and was sent to the country for fresh air and sunshine. He stayed with a doctor in Perintown and enjoyed exploring the nearby woods. Carl later went to work in his father's shoe factory in downtown Cincinnati, while keeping in touch with the country doctor and visiting to hike. When Carl learned the beech woods were up for sale, he purchased the property before it could be turned into farmland. The original 175 acres became the Cincinnati Nature Center soon after Carl's death in 1964.



Over the years, CNC acquired adjacent land which brings the current acreage to 1,025.



## 1 Farmhouse and Barn

Opposite the Rowe Woods entrance sits a farmhouse built in the early 1890s as a replacement for one destroyed by fire. The original house was the one in which Carl stayed in 1883 for several summers to regain his health.

Adjacent to the farmhouse is a bank barn with hand-hewn framing built around 1860. The upper level was used for storing hay and machinery and the lower level was used for livestock.

In 1873, the 191-acre parcel where the farmhouse and bank barn sit was known as Edge Hill Farm. The farm included 75 acres on the opposite side of Tealtown Road—the acreage purchased by Carl Krippendorf in 1898.

## 2 Oak Allee

These oaks were planted in early 1920s to line the drive from Tealtown Road to the lodge built in 1898 for the newlyweds Carl and Mary Krippendorf.



## 3 Daffodils

The beautiful daffodils draw the attention of CNC visitors every April. Daffodils were Carl Krippendorf's favorite flower; he planted millions on the property during his lifetime. He experimented with thousands of cultivars to find those that were hardy and would "naturalize" in his woods. Many still bloom today, making the daffodil the signature plant of CNC. As you walk the trails in April, enjoy the flowers from a distance and then examine individual blooms up close to appreciate their unique beauty.

## 10 Reservoir Pond

In the 1950s, the Krippendorfs had Reservoir Pond dug as an auxiliary source of water near their home in case of fire. Today, school children and visitors who pause to look and listen use it to study pond life.



## 11 Abner Hollow Pioneer Cabin

Abner Hollow Pioneer Cabin was originally built by pioneer settlers in Adams County, Ohio in the early 1800s. The owners of the property

where the cabin stood are long-time members and benefactors of CNC. They donated the cabin as a centerpiece for education about pioneer life. The cabin was dismantled for transport and reassembled on this site in 1997.

## 12 Stone Lodge

This impressive stone lodge was built around 1918 and was the home of Grace and Glendening Groesbeck, friends of the Krippendorfs. It is an example of a rural, English Revival limestone country house, characterized by the graduated sizes of the pieces of slate on the roof. The Groesbecks divorced in 1930, and Grace continued to live on the property until her death in 1957. CNC purchased the property, formerly owned by the Presbytery of Cincinnati as Wildwood Camp and Conference Center, in 2007.



## 13 Garden Remains

The Groesbecks purchased their first parcel of land on Salt Run Road in 1914. In that same year they asked Gertrude Jekyll, famous British landscape



This building, now called the Sugar House, currently houses maple syrup-making equipment. It was originally constructed as an **ice house** before 1905 to store ice cut from East Fork River or purchased in Milford. After refrigeration was added to the lodge in the early 1930s, the building was used for bulb storage and gardening equipment.

The square concrete block in the center of the circular drive marks the approximate location of the cistern, an underground tank for collection of rainwater from the lodge roof. Gutters and underground pipes sent water to the cistern. Water was then pumped to the water tower which was the primary source of water on the property until the pump house on Avery's Run was built in 1911.

**Cold frames** were used to start plants from seeds or cuttings and were located behind the water tower and below the rock wall. Those behind the water tower had electric cables beneath and glass tops above to protect young plants from frost. Frames below the present Herb Wall were built in 1938; canvas covers ran on metal tracks to protect these plants from cold temperatures.



A kitchen garden (with asparagus, beans, peas, raspberries, sweet corn, and tomatoes) and a cutting garden (with flowers for display in the house or to give to guests) were located where the Krippendorf Lodge parking lot is today.

## 9 Swimming Pool

The swimming pool was built before 1910 and was likely the first in Clermont County. Guests from Cincinnati often came to visit the Krippendorfs and especially enjoyed the outdoor pool, which was a rarity in the early 1900s. The pool developed a serious leak and was abandoned as a place to swim. It later became a collection place for leaves and soil to use for potting plants—an early compost bin!



## 4 Present Day Caretaker House & Maintenance Barns

The house and surrounding buildings were built between 1905 and 1910 for the Krippendorf farmer/caretaker and family.

In addition to the house, other buildings included: animal/hay barn, chicken house, cistern, corn crib, implement barn, outhouse, smokehouse, and wash house. Animals included: chickens, dairy cows, draft horses, ducks, hogs, and mules. Crops and produce included: apples, corn, grapes, hay, melons, oats, peaches, potatoes, and wheat.

## 5 Stone Pump House

The pump house on the east fork of Avey's Run was built around 1911. This structure contained a water collection reservoir and a pump which delivered water uphill to the water tower and later directly to the house. A small dam was built across the creek to divert water into the reservoir.



Gasoline, and later electricity, powered the pump. The dam often washed out with heavy rains and had to be reconstructed. Construction of the swimming pool and difficulty getting sufficient water to fill it were likely factors in the Krippendorf's decision to purchase land on Avey's Run and construct the pump house soon thereafter.

## 6 Stone Bridges and Steps

Lewis Bach (1894-1944), a long-time employee of the Krippendorfs, helped build the stone terrace in front of Krippendorf Lodge, and the stone bridges and steps on nearby walking paths. Stones were transported from Avey's Run and nearby Shaylor Run.



## 7 Rock/Dry Wall

The rock wall/dry wall (now the Herb Wall) was said to have contained the greatest variety of plants in the Mid-West during the Krippendorf period. Three-tiered beds below the wall were built to display tulips, roses and other flowering plants.



## 8 Krippendorf Buildings

**Krippendorf Lodge** was built between 1898 and 1900 as the home of Carl and Mary Krippendorf and served as CNC's Interpretive Building from 1967 – 1971, before the Rowe Visitor Center was completed. Now, it is used as CNC's Marketing & Development offices and can be rented for special events.

The lodge is an excellent example of shingle-style architecture, which is characterized by shingles on vertical surfaces, heavy use of wood, a wrap-around porch, and large gables.

In the early 1900s, fireplaces were the only source of heat in the house, and the Krippendorfs spent most winters in the city of Cincinnati. When central heat was added in the 1930s, Carl and Mary lived in the lodge year-round.

The front terrace was added in the mid-1930s. Stones were hauled by tractor from nearby creeks.



During Carl Krippendorf's time, the area of the current celebration garden consisted of arbors, small stone terraces with benches, and walkways lined with masses of flowering plants in a design typical of the Victorian Period. Ornamentation included a sun dial, stone benches, sun chairs, fish pond, and a



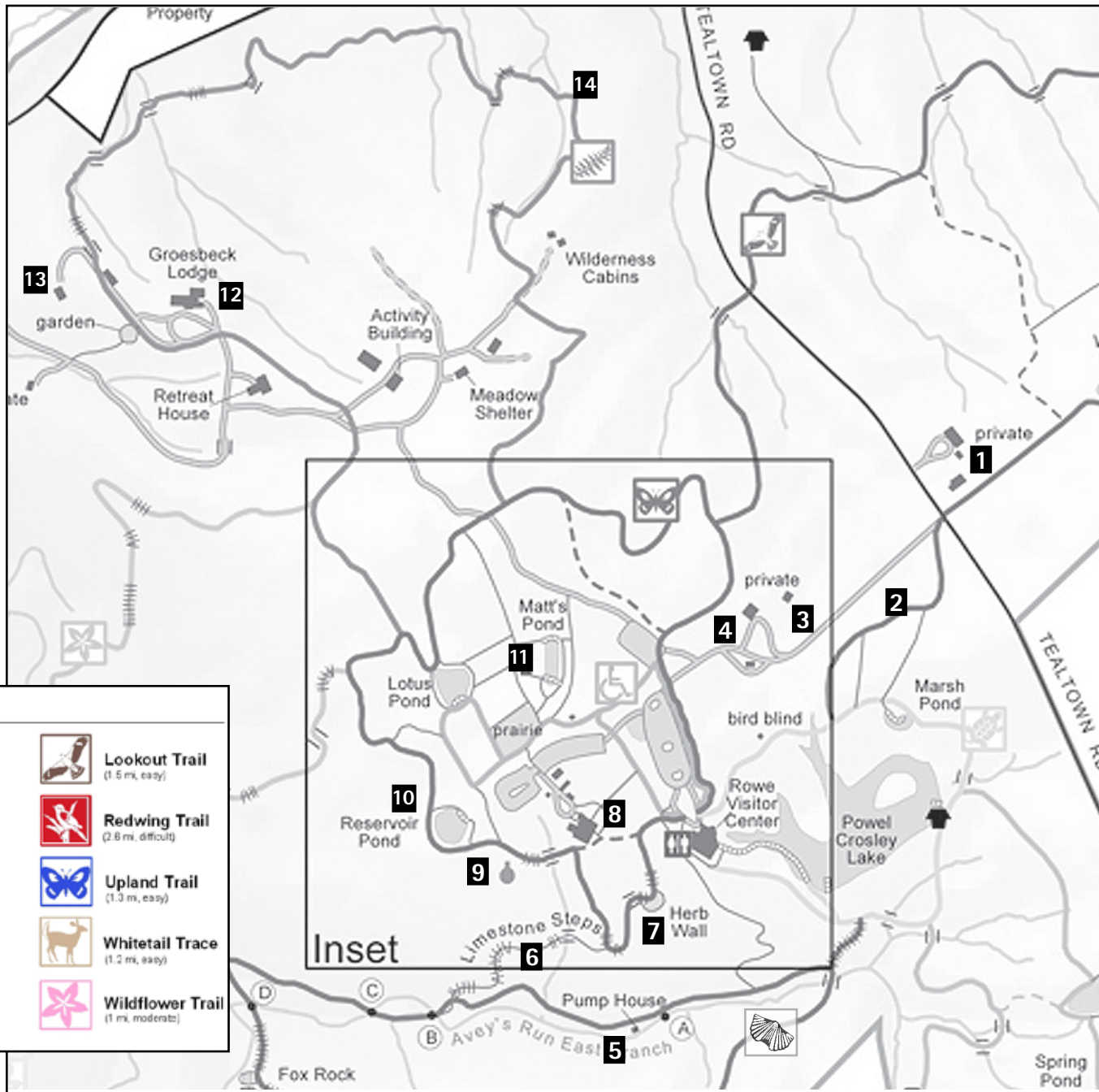
gazing ball. Part of the current All-Person's Trail follows one of the **early garden paths**.

One of the small terraces with an attached stone "**dipping well**" remains today. Water was piped to this container and was "dipped" out by Mary Krippendorf to water pots of flowers on the terrace. Gold fish were used to keep the water clean. A reinforced concrete arbor post can also be seen at the edge of this terrace.

The **water tower**, or domestic tank house, was constructed between 1900 and 1905. Water was pumped from a cistern until 1911 and then from Avey's Run (see Stone Pump House below), into a large tank in the top of the tower. It was then gravity-fed to the house for cooking and laundry, and to faucets for watering plants. Garden tools were stored in the base of this tower. In 1936, two 500-gallon water tanks were placed in the basement of the lodge. Water from Avey's Run was pumped directly into these tanks, bypassing the tower, making it obsolete.



The **cottage** was constructed around 1910. Laundry facilities were built below and household maids' rooms were built upstairs. The one-story maintenance building was attached in the early 1930s. Today the cottage can be used as an apartment-style residence.



**Trail Marker Icons**

	<b>Stanley M. Rowe All-Persons' Trail</b> (0.6 mi, easy)		<b>Lookout Trail</b> (1.5 mi, easy)
	<b>Edge Trail</b> (0.6 mi, easy)		<b>Redwing Trail</b> (2.8 mi, difficult)
	<b>Far Ridge Trail</b> (1.5 mi, difficult)		<b>Upland Trail</b> (1.3 mi, easy)
	<b>Fernwood Trail</b> (1.6 mi, difficult)		<b>Whitetail Trace</b> (1.2 mi, easy)
	<b>Geology Trail</b> (1.2 mi, moderate)		<b>Wildflower Trail</b> (1 mi, moderate)

Stop by the Rowe Visitor Center for more information.

Check out all of CNC's self-guided opportunities!

**Pond Study**

Matt's Pond is the only pond at CNC you can explore on your own.

Stop by the visitor service desk for your Matt's Pond Dipping Permit. You'll receive a net, collecting bin, identification guide and exploring instructions.



**Guide to the Edge Trail**

at Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods

The Edge Trail guides the visitor through overlapping habitats of field, forest and pond. In each habitat you'll find plants and animals specially adapted to live there.

This easy .6 mile loop trail can be hiked in about 45 minutes. Enjoy the diversity and beauty of the Edge Trail in all seasons!



**Guide to the Geology Trail at Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods**

*Everything flows and nothing abides; everything gives way and nothing stays fixed.*  
Heraclites of Ephesus (ca. BC 540-480)

Welcome to the Geology Trail at Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods! This brochure will guide you through the fascinating geology of this landscape. The story begins 450 million years ago as ancient Ordovician seas deposited the bedrock. Numerous glacial advances and thaws followed, and finally, recent human activity has yet again altered the landscape. Try to envision the dynamic landscape during each of these eras. Follow along with a Rowe Woods Trail Map, or use the map on the back of this guide. Enjoy your journey back through time!

**Maple Syrup-Making for the Beginner**

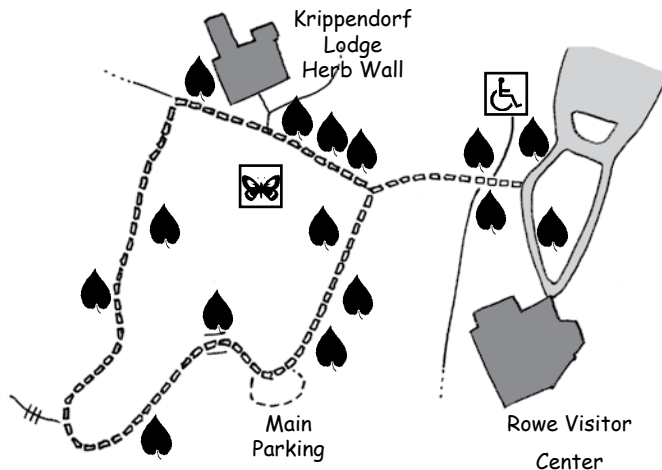


Try this at home!



**Tree Trail**

Rowe Woods is home to more than 60 species of native trees and shrubs. In addition, many non-native and ornamental varieties were introduced during CNC's horticultural past. The Tree Trail, key will help you identify 15 of Ohio's native tree species.



**Art Packs for Kids**

Nature is inspirational! With a CNC art pack, children can capture the moment when inspiration hits. Pick up your art pack complete with colored pencils, watercolors and brush, art paper, a sit-upon and lap desk - at the visitor service desk.