

Ruzzo/Stella Hall Conservation Area
Coventry Land Trust
AP 318 Lot 204.2, adjacent to Phillips Hill Road, Coventry, RI

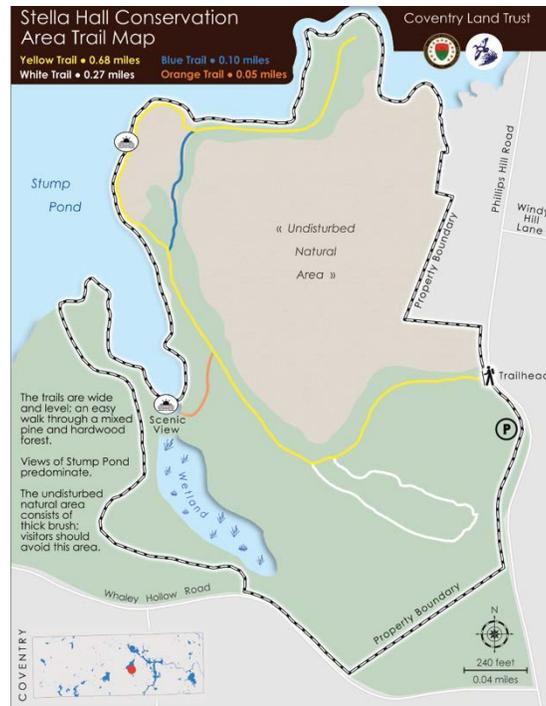


Figure 1. Diagram mapping trails of the Stella Hall Conservation Area. Image indicates trails, trailhead, adjacent area, and usage recommendations.

Brief Report on Expected Wildlife Species

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The forested areas of the Ruzzo/Stella Hall Conservation Area can be classified as a (pitch) pine barren, given the dominance of pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) in most of the forested area, and the sandy- and gravel-based soil, as was observed during a site visit 1/3/2023 (11:25 AM to 2:25 PM, overcast/partly cloudy, approx. 45°F). The forest represents uneven age classes. The 'undisturbed natural area' is composed of herbaceous species, mosses, and deciduous shrubs, as noticed during the site visit and from historical satellite imagery taken during the summer season (Google Earth images, 1985-2022). In addition, this area is home to an Atlantic white cedar swamp, which is an uncommon and unique forest type in the region.

The **trees** observed include:

Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), scrub oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), gray birch (*Betula populifolia*), American beech (*Fagus*

grandifolia), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), bigtooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)

The **woody shrubs** observed include:

Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)*, lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), speckled alder (*Alnus incana*), catalpa (*Catalpa spp.*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), silky dogwood (*Swida amomum*)

The **herbaceous (non-woody) plants** observed include:

Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), spotted wintergreen (*Chimaphila umbellata*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), princess pine (*Dendrolycopodium obscurum*), sweet-fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), prickly dewberry (*Rubus flagellaris*), crisped pincushion moss (*Ulota crispa*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria sp.*)

*These species are known invasive species and should be carefully managed.

The **wildlife** observed include

Birds: Golden-crowned kinglet, American crow, red bellied-woodpecker, northern flicker, mallard, black-capped chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch
Mammals: Coyote, gray squirrel, beaver (historical evidence—old, no longer watertight dam), red fox, black bear
Amphibians and Reptiles: Unknown turtle (eggs), wood frog
Invertebrates: Crane fly (Family Tipulidae), inchworm (Lepidoptera larva)

Expected Wildlife Species

Based on the local topography, geographical features, and forest composition, the following species can be expected to use the Stella Hall Conservation Area for all or part of the year^{1,2}:

Amphibians & Reptiles	<i>(Amphibians/Reptiles, cont.)</i>	<i>(Mammals, cont.)</i>
Blue-spotted salamander	Northern redbelly snake	Silver-haired bat
Northern redback salamander	Northern brown snake	Eastern pipistrelle (bat)
Marbled salamander	Northern ringneck snake	Big brown bat
Spotted salamander	Eastern milk snake	Red bat
Eastern American toad	Common garter snake	Hoary bat
Fowler’s toad	Ribbon snake	Eastern cottontail
Northern spring peeper	Eastern hognose snake	New England cottontail**
Gray treefrog	Eastern worm snake	Snowshoe hare
Green frog	Northern water snake	Eastern chipmunk
Wood frog		Woodchuck
Bullfrog	Mammals	Red squirrel
Pickerel frog	Virginia opossum	Northern flying squirrel
Common snapping turtle	Masked shrew	Deer mouse
Common musk turtle	Water shrew	White-footed mouse
Painted turtle	Little brown myotis (bat)	Southern red-backed vole
Spotted turtle	Northern long-eared bat	Meadow vole

(Mammals)

Coyote
Red fox
Black bear
Raccoon
Fisher
Ermine
Long-tailed weasel
Mink
Striped skunk
River otter
White-tailed deer

Birds

Turkey vulture
Bald eagle
Northern saw-whet owl
Great horned owl
Barred owl
Broad-winged hawk
Red-tailed hawk
Sharp-shinned hawk
Cooper's hawk
Osprey
Ruffed grouse
Wild turkey
Great blue heron
Green heron
Canada goose
Common loon
Ring-necked duck
Hooded merganser
Common merganser
Wood duck
American black duck

(Birds)

American wigeon
Mallard
Bufflehead
Common snipe
American woodcock
Northern bobwhite
Chimney swift
Purple martin
Cliff swallow
Barn swallow
Bank swallow
Tree swallow
Northern rough-winged swallow
American crow
Common raven
Blue jay
Common nighthawk
Whip-poor-will
Red-bellied woodpecker
Downy woodpecker
Hairy woodpecker
Northern flicker
Brown creeper
White-breasted nuthatch
Red-breasted nuthatch
Common grackle
Ruby-throated hummingbird
Mourning dove
Golden-crowned kinglet
Ruby-crowned kinglet
Prairie warbler
Yellow-rumped warbler
Canada warbler
Common yellowthroat

(Birds)

Black-throated green warbler
Pine warbler
Blue-winged warbler
Indigo bunting
Hermit thrush
Northern waterthrush
Eastern phoebe
Great crested flycatcher
Eastern kingbird
Eastern towhee
Blue-gray gnatcatcher
Gray catbird
Eastern phoebe
Eastern bluebird
White-eyed vireo
Blue-headed vireo
Dark-eyed junco
Northern mockingbird
Brown thrasher
Cedar waxwing
House wren
Carolina wren
Winter wren
Chipping sparrow
Fox sparrow
White-throated sparrow
Song sparrow
Black-capped chickadee
Northern cardinal
Rusty blackbird
Brown-headed cowbird
Pine siskin
Red crossbill
Pine grosbeak
Purple finch

**The New England Cottontail is a species of state³ and regional concern⁴ and is likely not present in this area. However, the abundance of dense vegetation in the 'natural area' suggests that this area may be able to provide habitat for a reintroduced population.

1. DeGraaf, R.M., Yamasaki, M. 2001. New England wildlife: habitat, natural history, and distribution. University Press of New England. 482 pp.
2. DeGraaf, R.M., Yamasaki, M., Leak, W.B., Lester, A.M. 2006. Technical guide to forest wildlife habitat management in New England. University of Vermont Press. 305 pp.
3. Rhode Island Natural History Survey. 2006. Rare native animals of Rhode Island. https://rinhs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ri_rare_animals_2006.pdf. 9 pp. Accessed 6 Jan. 2023.
4. New England Cottontail [regional consortium website]. <https://newenglandcottontail.org>. Accessed 6 Jan. 2023.