The pond was created in 1960 for raising trout, but the water was too warm for such cold-water fish. A footbridge crosses a stream which is a tributary of the Neck River that flows into Long Island Sound. A little farther, the trail turns left along old Ridge Road and a tulip (poplar) tree. The trail passes a stone wall that once marked a pasture border and begins to climb into uplands containing sugar maples, oak, and beech. A rock outcrop is visible to the east as the trail again begins to follow a stream and then opens onto a field with wetlands and a distinctive black oak tree. A pond sits on the east side of the trail. A rock outcrop is visible to the west of the pond. A distinctive black oak tree is visible in the field. A pond sits on the west side of the trail.

The Pond Wetland trail is a smaller loop (1/2 mile) to the south of the Community Gardens. The trail hugs the two ponds, first on the east side then on west side leading to a short boardwalk into a red maple forest. The trail loops the two ponds, then returns to the Pond Wetland trail, a smaller loop.

Directions and Parking:
From the southbound entrance of I-95 on Route 79, go .01 mile north and turn left onto Hunter’s Trail and turn right onto Copse Road. Follow Copse Road to the Community Gardens parking area on the left.

Permitted Activities:
The two trails are part of the larger Bauer Park which has activities and site related to the former working farm. No swimming or wading in the ponds is permitted. Dogs are permitted on leash.

For more information about this location, contact:
Town of Madison
Beach and Recreation Department
203 245-5623

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The descriptive information for this trail is excerpted from the MLCT’s Madison Trails Guide.

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