Exploring Duke Farms

The mission of Duke Farms is to be a leader in environmental stewardship and inspire visitors to become informed stewards of the land.

Duke Farms is one of the largest privately-owned parcels of open land in New Jersey. Created by James Buchanan Duke and preserved by his daughter, Doris Duke, the property is rich in ecological, agricultural and horticultural resources.

Today, Duke Farms serves as a habitat for native plants and animals. Regeneration of the land helps to protect wildlife, to promote biodiversity and to preserve natural resources.

Learn about the history of Duke Farms and explore miles of trails through woods and meadows, and along lakes and streams, to see how natural and human history have shaped the landscape.

GETTING AROUND DUKE FARMS

Orientation Center and Café

Begin your trip to Duke Farms at the Orientation Center housed on the first floor of the historic Farm Barn. Find information on upcoming programs and events, tour interactive exhibits to learn about the ecology, history and mission of Duke Farms and our land stewardship and sustainability efforts. You may view a short film or borrow an Eco-kit to take with you as you explore the property, or stop for a meal and refreshments at the café.

Walk and Hike

On paved ways, stone lanes and mulched paths. There are more than 18 miles of trails to explore. Wear comfortable outdoor walking shoes.

Bicycle

Only on paved and gravel paths; woodchipped paths will pop your tires. Bring your own bike and protective head gear.

PARK HOURS AND INFORMATION

Spring/Summer Hours of Operation: April to November - 8:30a to 6:00p

Winter/Fall Hours of Operation: November to April - 8:30a to 4:30p

Closed: Duke Farms is closed on Wednesdays, and is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

Address: 1112 Dukes Parkway West, Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Phone Number: (908) 722-3700 ext. 2

ADMISSION IS FREE

Some events and programs require a fee and advance registration; visit www.dukefarms.org for more information.

TREAD LIGHTLY ON THE LAND

Duke Farms is proud to be home to a wide variety of species, and to welcome you to experience these plants and animals in their native surroundings. We ask that you help us to protect and preserve these vital habitats.

GUIDELINES FOR VISITORS

For the safety and enjoyment of visitors and wildlife:

- Pedestrians and wildlife always have the right-of-way.
- Duke Farms has a carry-in carry-out policy for trash—please take your trash with you, or deposit it in bins at the Orientation Center.
- Your activities should be restricted to marked trails.
- Bicycles are restricted to paved roads and stone trails. Vehicles are restricted to designated areas.
- Hoverboards and electronic devices are not permitted.
- Pets are not permitted.

Duke Farms prohibits the following activities:

- Commercial activity including fee-based classes, professional photography, selling any products, or even solicitation of goods or services.
- Alcohol use.
- Smoking or vaping.
- Weapons of any kind (including paint-ball weapons) and fireworks.
- Campfires and open burning, including portable grills.
- Disturbing habitats, including removing plants or animals; and feeding animals.
- Activities adverse to wildlife such as fishing, using remote controlled vehicles and drones, kite flying, ball playing, frisbee throwing, tree climbing, setting up any kind of tent, blowing or releasing balloons, etc.
- Swimming or wading in any body of water.
- Commercial activity including fee-based classes, professional photography, selling any products, or even solicitation of goods or services.
- Alcohol use.
- Smoking or vaping.
- Weapons of any kind (including paint-ball weapons) and fireworks.
- Campfires and open burning, including portable grills.
- Disturbing habitats, including removing plants or animals; and feeding animals.
- Activities adverse to wildlife such as fishing, using remote controlled vehicles and drones, kite flying, ball playing, frisbee throwing, tree climbing, setting up any kind of tent, blowing or releasing balloons, etc.
- Swimming or wading in any body of water.

GUIDES TO YOUR VISIT

The Duke Farms App provides navigational maps with step-by-step directions to each property highlight, offers historical and ecological context to our projects, and informs through behind-the-scenes audio tours for visitors.

ON THE PROPERTY:


AT THE ORIENTATION CENTER:

Eco-kits are available on-loan and contain binoculars, a compass, a Field Guide and a nature journal to record observations.

A Field Guide to Duke Farms provides an overview to what you may see on your visit, including habitats, plant and animal species, cultural features and green initiatives.

DUKE FARMS’ FARMERS MARKET

Our Farm Market offers an assortment of fresh organic produce, jams, baked goods, free-range meats and artisan crafts from local farmers and craftsman. Open Sundays from May to November. See dukefarms.org for details. Please come out and support your local farmers!

Duke Farms is owned and operated by the Duke Farms Foundation, an operating foundation of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.