

*Councilman Stuart P. Besen presents*

Town of Huntington

# Trails Guide

2009



**Frank P. Petrone, Supervisor**

**Mark Cuthbertson  
Councilman**

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Councilwoman**

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Councilman**

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Councilwoman**

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# Introduction

Dear Resident:

Welcome to the first edition of the Town of Huntington Trails Guide. As a lifelong Huntington resident, I have visited many of the playgrounds, ball fields, fitness areas and nature trails in our parks and preserves. It is my hope that this guide compels you to explore, discover and take advantage of the wonderful walking trails and recreational assets that exist within the locations listed in the guide.

The Town of Huntington Trails Guide contains pertinent information detailing park locations, parking information, the length of the trail, surface quality, type and difficulty of the trail, as well as park amenities and educational opportunities. With the assistance of summer interns, we compiled numerous maps and photographs, historical facts and information about the park or preserve that the trail is located in, and some of the flora and fauna that you may discover there.

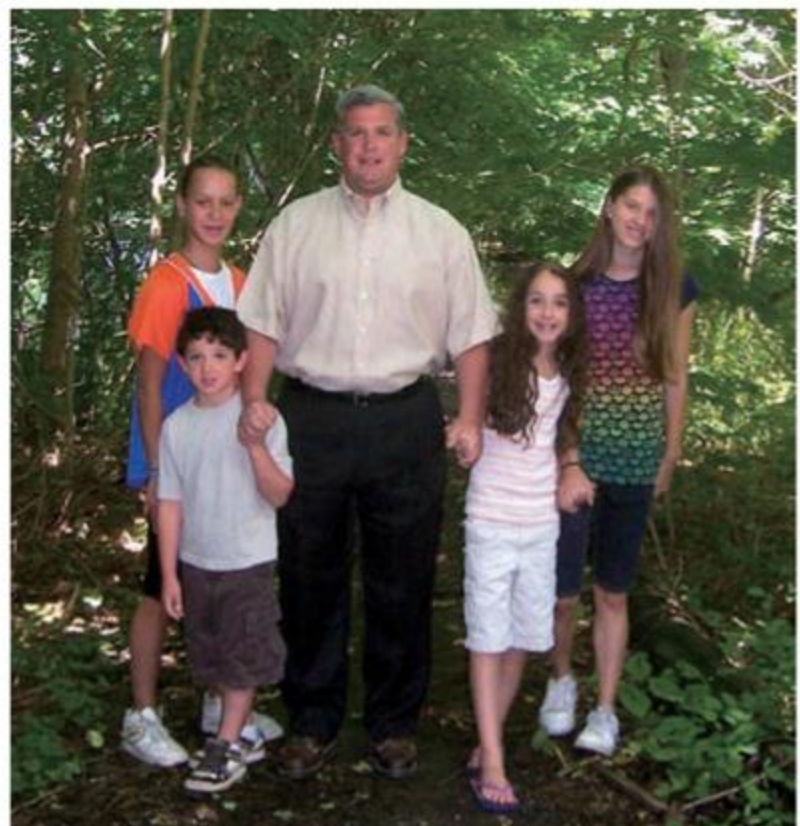
You can also visit the Town of Huntington's website at [www.town.huntington.ny.us](http://www.town.huntington.ny.us) to download the Town of Huntington Trails Guide under "Featured Resources" on the homepage. Since this is a first printing, we featured select trails contained within our parks system. Please feel free to contact me at [sbesen@town.huntington.ny.us](mailto:sbesen@town.huntington.ny.us) to suggest a trail that should be included in the second edition to be printed in the future, or if you are interested in getting involved with this exciting project.

Enjoying nature by hiking a park or preserve trail is a great, inexpensive way for families to do something positive and healthy together. I wanted the trail guide to be a straightforward and simple-to-use resource that you can grab walking out the door or keep handy in the car. I hope this guide helps you discover some new adventures close to your own backyard.

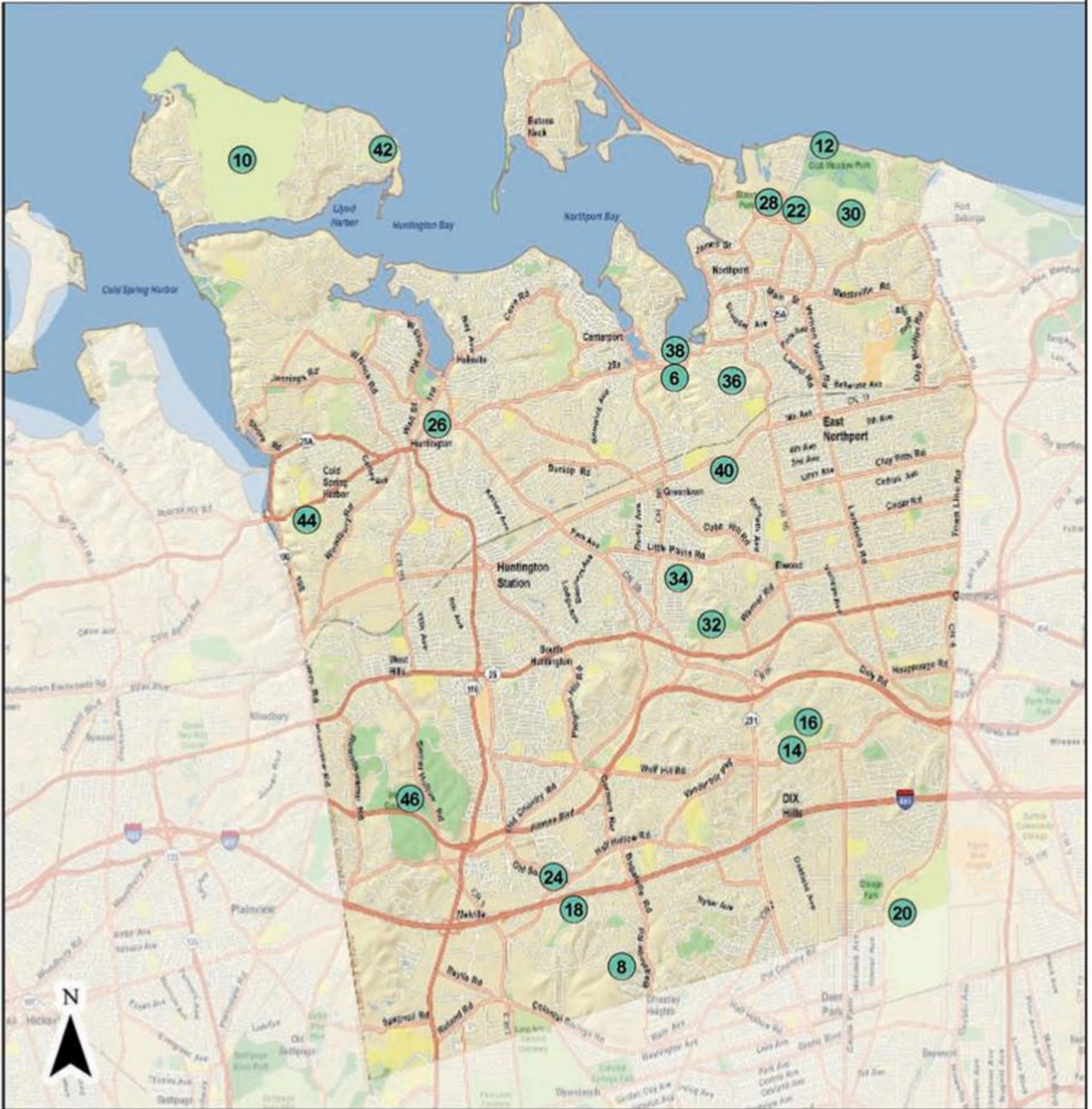
Sincerely,



STUART P. BESEN  
Councilman



Councilman Stuart P. Besen hikes the Northport Rail Trail with his children and nieces.



**Legend For Trail Maps**

- |                   |  |       |
|-------------------|--|-------|
| Parking           | Play Ground                            | Water |
| Picnic Area       | Basket Ball Court                      |       |
| Kayaking          | Beach                                  |       |
| Swimming          | Bocce Court                            |       |
| Food Service      | Golf Course                            |       |
| Equestrian Area   | Tennis Court                           |       |
| Bike Trail        | Parking Field                          |       |
| Agricultural Area | Wetland Area                           |       |
| Scenic Area       | Existing Building                      |       |
| Restrooms         | Foundation or Former Building Location |       |

**8** Indicates Trail Site and Map Page Number. All Trail Sites in Guide are in Alphabetical Order.

- Trail Types**
- Fitness Trail
  - Path
  - Bike Trail
  - Paved Road
  - Walking / Bike Trail
  - Walking Trail

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# Trail Rules

- Stay on the trails.
- Observe trail rules and signs.
- Appreciate the natural resources and leave them in place.
- Pack it in, pack it out (and any litter you encounter).
- Respect others on the trail and be courteous of neighbors.
- Honor the land. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- Access on trails is from dawn to dusk.
- Have fun, enjoy the trail, and visit often.

Please note that the trails in this guide are in Town, County, State, Federal or Nature Conservancy sites. Rules for use vary. As an example, dogs are permitted on leash on County trails, but not on Town trails.

To report concerns in Town parks contact:

Department of Public Safety (24 hours dispatch – 631-351-3234) or

Department of General Services (631-351-3365)

Department of Parks and Recreation (631-351-3094)

# Wildlife

- Observe wildlife. Do not disturb, attract, feed, touch, or harass wildlife.
- Enjoy wildlife from a distance.

If you see an animal you suspect is hurt or needs help, please call the following number or visit the website for instructions on what to do.

- Volunteers for Wildlife: 631-423-0982 [www.volunteersforwildlife.org](http://www.volunteersforwildlife.org)

# Trail Tips

- Watch for and avoid poison Ivy... Leaves of three, let it be!
- Wear long pants, socks and hats to protect against ticks, mosquitoes, and poison ivy.



- Always check for ticks after hiking .
- Shoes and socks provide better footing than flip flops or sandals.
- Tuck pants into socks for protection from ticks.
- Remember the buddy system. Hike with a friend.
- Bring plenty of water.

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# Habitat Types

## **Pioneer:**

Areas with pioneer plants that have been disturbed by natural or human occurrences. Plants include Beardgrass, Goldenrod, Red Cedar, Black Cherry, Sumac, Poison Ivy.

## **Pine Barrens:**

These areas usually have well-drained, sandy soil. Periodic fires help to sustain the habitat. Plants include pines and oaks with an understory of low and highbush blueberry.

## **Upland Deciduous:**

Black oaks dominate dry sunny areas. Birches and mountain laurel are found in cool areas. Tulip trees, Butternut Hickory, Red Maple and White Ash are found in wet areas.

## **Freshwater Ponds and Marshes:**

This habitat is found near the edge of freshwater ponds and streams. Plants include Sedges, Cat-tails, Rushes, Birches, Red Maples, and Willows.

## **Saltwater Wetlands and Estuaries:**

These areas are found along the harbors and bays. Plants include Saltwort, Cordgrass and Salt Hay.

## **Beaches:**

Beach vegetation includes hardy, low plants such as Beach Plum, Rugosa Rose, Bayberry, and Beach grasses.

# Biodiversity

If you are a keen observer who keeps records on the plants and animals you observe, the Town needs you for a biological inventory of its parks. A survey form has been developed, including 245 plants and 418 animals likely to be found in the Town. The plant categories include ferns, floating plants, grasses, rushes, shrubs, trees, sedges and vines. The animal categories include amphibians, birds, butterflies, mammals and reptiles. The form contains places to mark each observed species, a comment field, and space to add additional species observed. Basic instructions and helpful links for identifying species are included with the form. If you have a digital camera or GPS unit, you can use them to help document the sites. Choose a park and call Christian Granelli in the Department of Planning and Environment at 631-351-3196 to participate.

# Betty Allen Nature Preserve

## *Twin Ponds South*

The easy-to-navigate trail at Betty Allen Nature Preserve meanders around its central pond, giving hikers sporadic opportunities to view the water and its inhabitants, which include swans, ducks, and other waterfowl. The preserve was named for Betty Allen, an environmental activist who cofounded the Huntington Audubon Society. The pond was initially used by Native Americans and was formed by the damming of nearby streams. The preserve was purchased using Town of Huntington Funding and a 50% matching grant through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1972.

### **Educational Opportunities**

The short trail is excellent for school field trips, as it is dynamic in vegetation and wildlife. A 1975 trail guide also provides educational details pertaining to the preserve's environment.

### **Guide Information**

The 1975 interpretive guide is available in the Town website's Online Library under the Department of Planning and Environment. The guide leads visitors on the walkway and helps them to identify the preserve's plants and animals and understand the area's ecology.

### **Other Park Amenities**

Various docks and overlooks for fishing, bird watching, and nature observation.

**Park steward says:** "It made me feel good early one morning when I went there and an older gentleman came with two young boys with their poles and creels. People might not realize that there is an opportunity for fishing".

### **You May See:**

Mute Swan, Wood

Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Green Heron, Winter Wren, Ovenbird, Red-Winged Blackbird| American Bullfrog, Common Gray Tree Frog, Green Frog, Painted Turtle, Snapping Turtle



## Betty Allen Twin Ponds Nature Park

P



**Location:** South Side of Route 25A near Stony Hollow Rd in Centerport.

**Terrain:** Flat | **Length:** .3 mi | **Parking:** Across Street at Phragmites | **Type:** Loop

**Surface:** Ground, Plank | **Acreage:** 9



# Butterfly Park

While Butterfly park is often used for nature walks, perhaps one of its most pertinent features is its geological history. The park is located on the mid-island Manhasset plateau of the Ronkonkoma Moraine, and is an ideal example of the effects of melting glaciers. Glacial deposits, along with stream-caused erosion, helped to shape the park's hilly terrain. While its eastern trail is sandy and well-drained, Butterfly Park's western trail contains a greater amount of silt and organic matter. It contains a segment of the original Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. The Town of Huntington acquired the park as a result of several subdivisions from 1966 to 1973. The Town Board dedicated the site as a park-preserve in 1980, thus affording it further protection.

## Park steward says:

"In springtime when conditions are right, there's a tremendous amount of Lady's Slippers to be viewed from the trails."

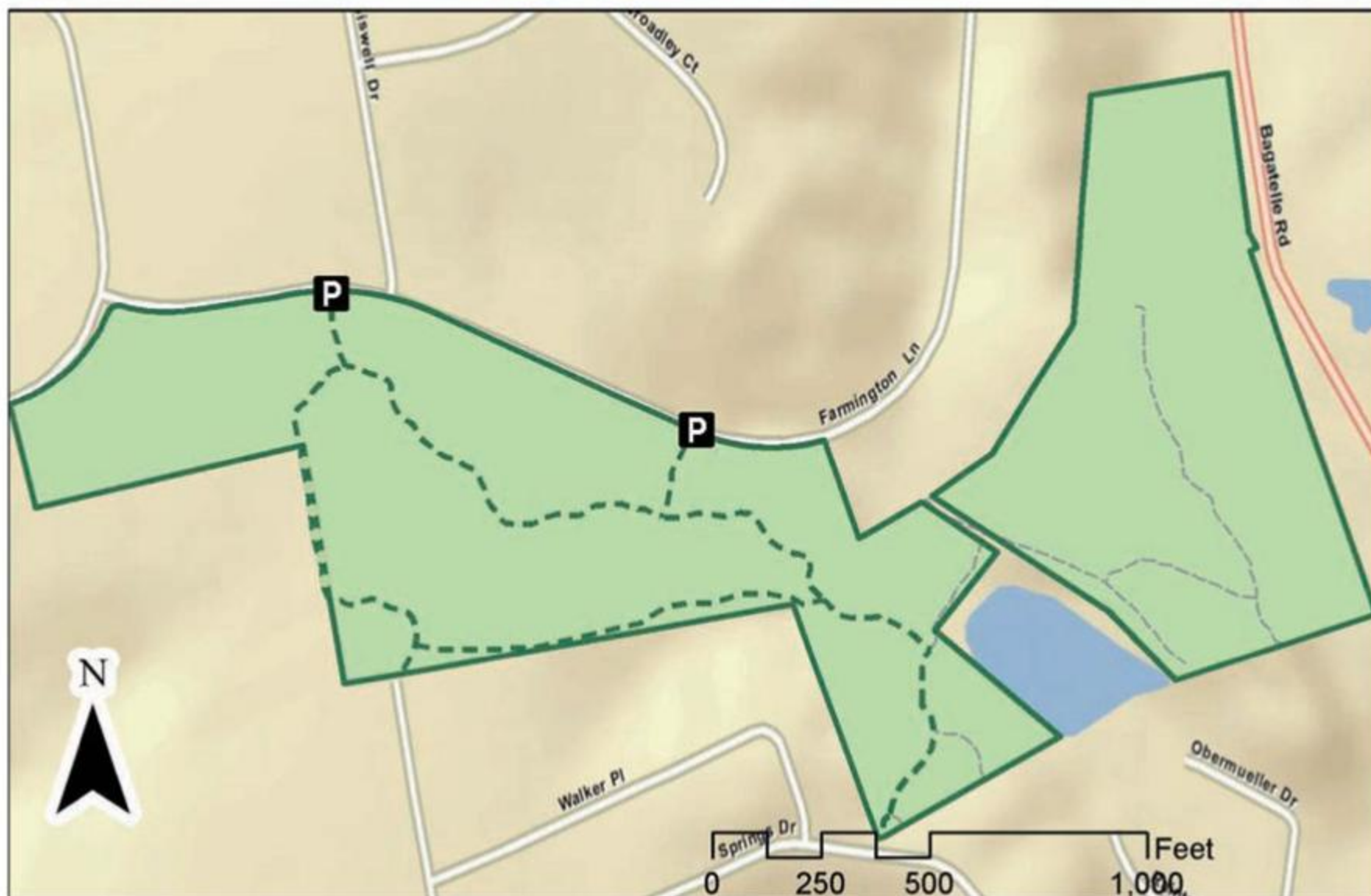
## You May See:

American Chestnut, Catbrier, Club Moss, Flowering Dogwood, Grey Birch, Hawk Weeds, Huckleberry, Lichens, Mushrooms, Mustard, Poplar, Red Oak, Sassafras, White Oak

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Cardinal | Eastern Chipmunk, Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, Eastern Gray Squirrel, Northern Raccoon, Virginia Opossum



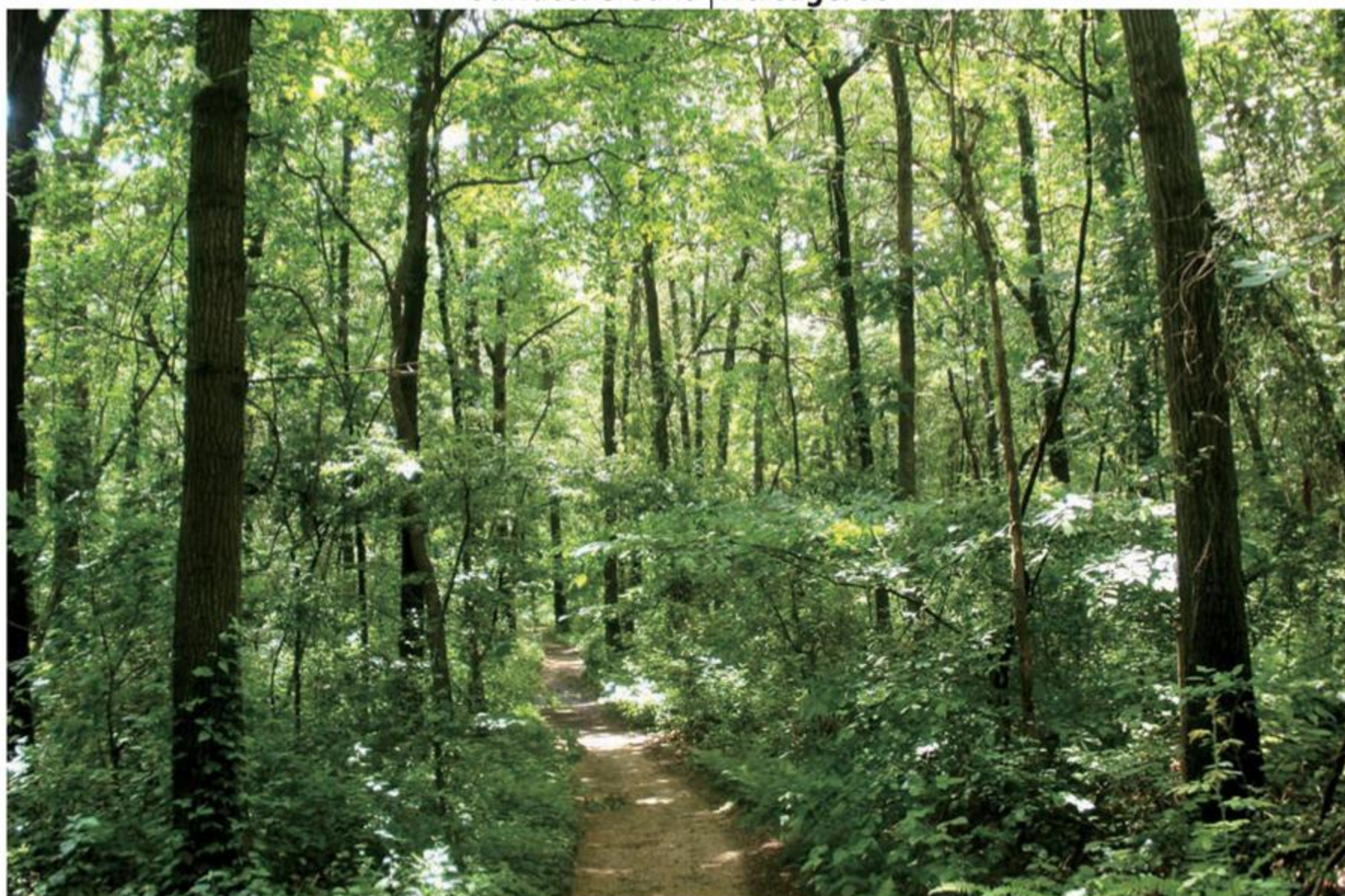
*Butterfly Park (a.k.a. Farmington Lane Park)*



**Location:** Farmington Ln, south of the LIE, west of Bagatelle Rd in Melville

**Terrain:** Some hills | **Length:** .8 mi | **Parking:** Street | **Type:** Loop

**Surface:** Ground | **Acreage:** 38



# Caumsett State Park

Caumsett State Park is the largest park in the Town of Huntington. The land was sold by the Matinecock to British settlers in 1654. Marshall Field III, grandson of the department store founder, came to own the land, and built a mansion and several cottages, which still exist in the park. New York State acquired the park in 1961, and has expanded it by acquiring additional acreage. The park is also the home of Volunteers for Wildlife, a non-profit organization that operates a hospital for sick or injured native wildlife and offers educational programs about Long Island's natural habitats and wildlife rehabilitation. Caumsett State Park is part of an Important Bird Area (IBA), which includes Cold Spring Harbor, Lloyd Neck, Huntington Bay, Eaton's Neck, Northport Bay, and Asharoken, as well as adjacent offshore areas of Long Island Sound.

## You May See:

American Black Duck, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-Throated Loon, Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-Tailed Hawk, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Sanderling, Killdeer, Least Tern, Common Tern, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Northern Flicker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Savannah Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole | Red Fox, White-tailed Deer | Eastern Box Turtle, Diamondback Terrapin



## Educational Opportunities

Caumsett State Park has a guide available at the park that follows its three mile loop and highlights vegetation, wildlife, and historical aspects of the park.



## Additional Information

The Caumsett Foundation: [www.caumsettfoundation.org](http://www.caumsettfoundation.org)

New York State Parks: [www.nysparks.state.ny.us/parks](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/parks)

**Park patron says:** I'll bet I've walked in Caumsett three hundred times, and I still see new and wonderful things, whether it be a new bit of trail I've never explored, a Diamondback Terrapin coming out of the marsh to lay her eggs, or a pair of Bald Eagles migrating overhead. What makes it all the more wonderful is that it's right here in Huntington.



**Location:** North side of Lloyd Harbor Rd in the Village of Lloyd Harbor  
**Terrain:** Some hills | **Length:** 3 mi | **Parking:** In Park | **Type:** Loop/Network  
**Surface:** Paved, Ground | **Acreage:** 1,413 | **Fee:** \$6.00





# Crab Meadow Beach- *Walking Trail*

Crab Meadow Beach was originally sold by the Matinecock in "The Eastern Purchase" in July of 1656. The area was obtained in exchange for two coats, four shirts, and seven quarts of liquor, among other items that are now viewed as economically worthless. Crab Meadow Beach was vested to the Board of Trustees of the Town of Huntington by Colonial grants of Nicoll, Dongan, and Fletcher. Title to these properties was then transferred to the Town as a result of condemnation proceedings in 1959. Crab Meadow is the most popular town swimming beach. It affords a clear view of Connecticut across the Long Island Sound.



## **You May See:**

Bayberry, Black Grass, Common Cattail, Narrow-Leaved Cattail, Salt Marsh Grass, Smooth Cordgrass

White-winged Scooter, Long-tailed Duck, Common Golden-eye, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Osprey, Piping Plover, Herring Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pee-wee, Barn Swallow, Gray Catbird, Connecticut Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Black-bird, Eastern Meadowlark | Eastern Box Turtle | Salt Marsh Snail, Marsh Fiddler Crab

## **Other Park Amenities**

Basketball Court, Kayak Launch, Picnic Area, Playground, La Casa Restaurant

# Crab Meadow Beach- *Boardwalk*

While the boardwalk is a component of the overall walking circuit at Crab Meadow Beach, it is an entity unto itself, as many people simply prefer to traverse the pathway along the Long Island Sound frontage. The boardwalk is planked with recycled lumber and is handicapped-accessible from handicapped parking. It adjoins concrete walkways that wind along the picnic pavilion to an accessible nature observation gazebo, which allows visitors to catch a glimpse of the tidal channel and wetlands that surround the beach.



## Crab Meadow Beach



**Location:** end of Waterside Rd off of 25A in Northport

**Terrain:** Flat | **Length:** .4 mi | **Parking:** In Park | **Type:** Walking Trail: Loop, Boardwalk: Linear

**Surface:** Paved, Plank, Sand | **Acreage:** 14 | **Fee:** \$15/Day, \$25 Season Pass (Town Residents\*)

\* provides access to all Town beaches



# Dix Hills Park-

## Woodland Trail

The hilly woodland trail at Dix Hills park has a history unknown to many of its users. The Town obtained the original park acreage from the Havemeyer family as a result of a 1962 townwide public park referendum, and more property was added in 1982. This additional land was a component of the former Kalbfleisch Field Research Station of the American Museum of Natural History, where scientists studied and published information on the area's flora and fauna. The trail, which loops around the park's borders, allows its visitors to forget their suburban surroundings and enjoy the Town's history and wildlife.



### You May See:

American Chestnut, Black Birch, Common Mugwort, Eastern White Pine, Mountain Laurel, Norway Maple, Pignut Hickory, Pitch Pine, Red Maple, Red Oak, Scarlet Oak, Sweet Birch, White Oak

Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Common Grackle | Eastern Chip-

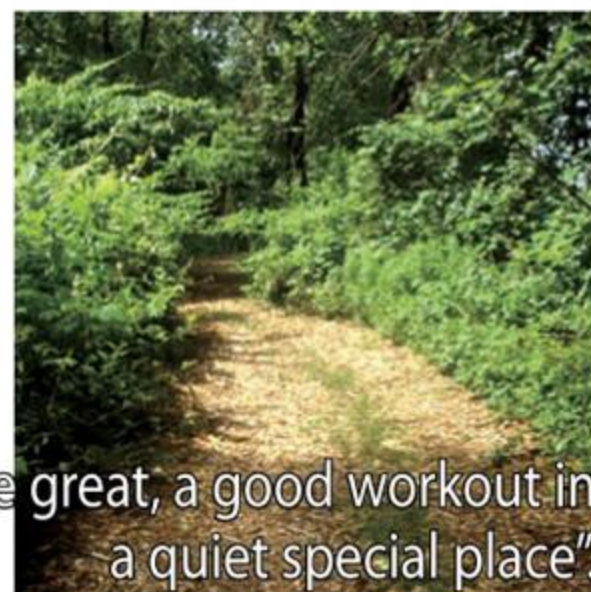
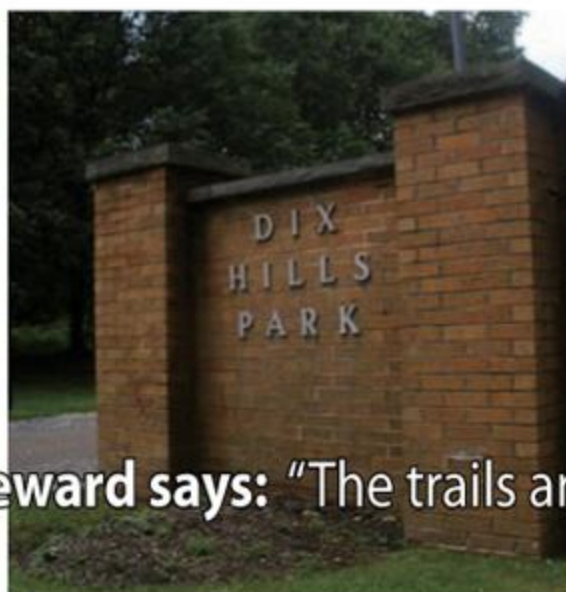
munk, Eastern Cottontail, Eastern Gray Squirrel, Eastern Mole, Masked Shrew, Meadow Vole, Muskrat, Virginia Opossum | American Bullfrog, Spring Peeper, Eastern Box Turtle

### Other Park Amenities

Adventure Camp, Fitness Trail, Golf Course, and Driving Range, Ice Rink, Picnic Area, Playground, Swimming Pool

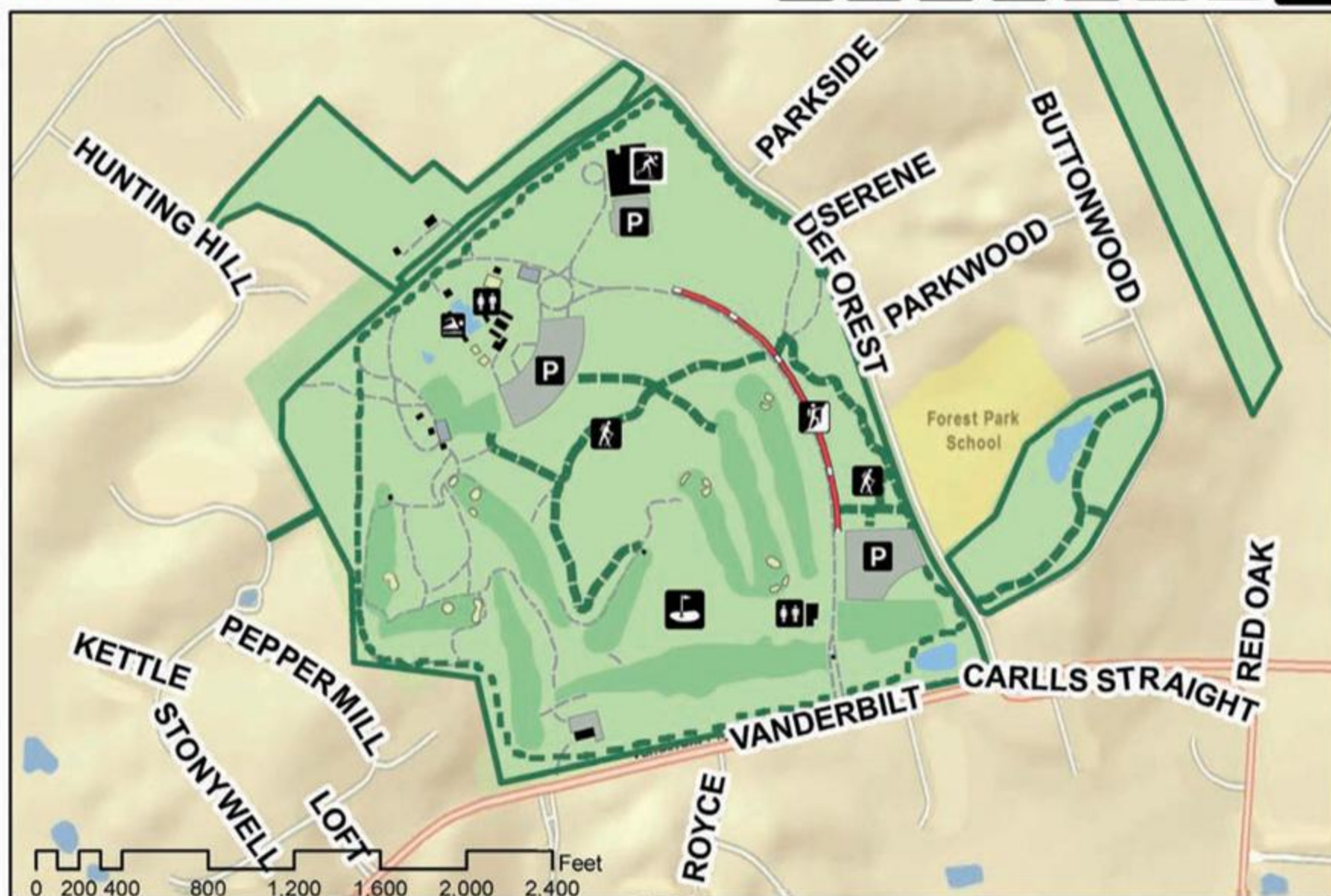
### Educational Opportunities

Part of the woodland trail contains signs identifying and explaining the trail's common trees.



**Park steward says:** "The trails are great, a good workout in a quiet special place".

## Dix Hills Park



**Location:** north side Vanderbilt Parkway, East of Deer Park Ave in Dix Hills

**Terrain:** Hilly | **Length:** 1.9 mi | **Parking:** In Park | **Type:** Loop

**Surface:** Ground, Wood chips | **Acreage:** 160



# Dix Hills Park-

## *Fitness Trail*



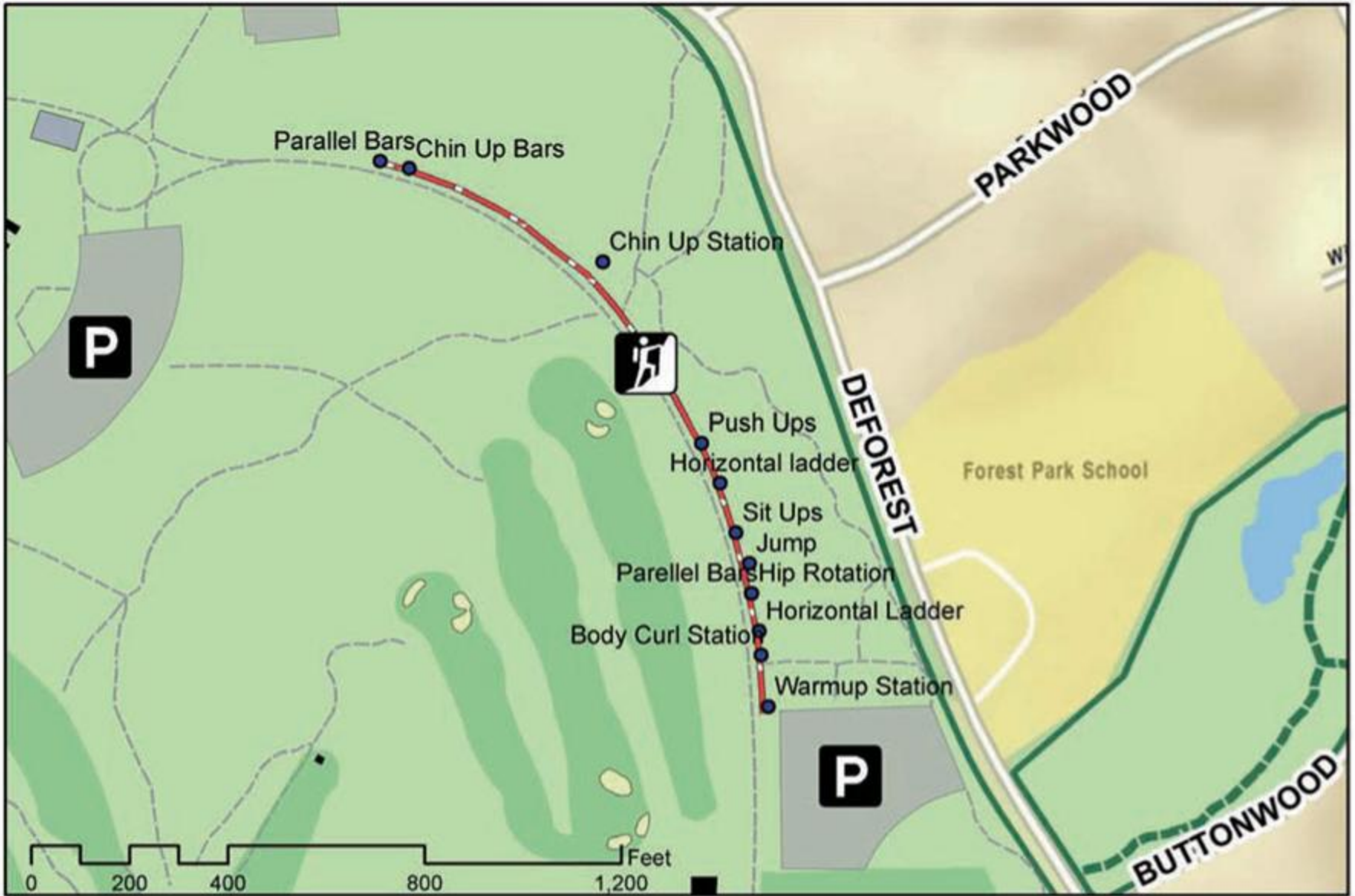
**Also see Dix Hills Park- Woodland Trail.** The Dix Hills fitness trail was installed in 2001 and was funded through the Huntington Environmental Open Space and Park Fund (EOSPA). It consists of 20 stations with equipment and guidance for specific exercise activities that stretch between the entrance parking area and the ice rink. The trail is located on the lawn along the east side of the entrance drive.

### Stations Include

Balance Beam, Beam Jump and Beam Run, Chin-Up Bar, Isometric Squat, Leg Lift, Leg Stretch, Push-Up Bar, Sit-Up Platform, Steps



## Dix Hills Park Fitness Trail



**Location:** on the North side of Vanderbilt Parkway, East of Deer Park Ave in Dix Hills

**Terrain:** Few hills | **Length:** .25 mi | **Parking:** In Park | **Type:** Linear

**Surface:** Lawn between stations, safety surface under equipment | **Acreage:** 160



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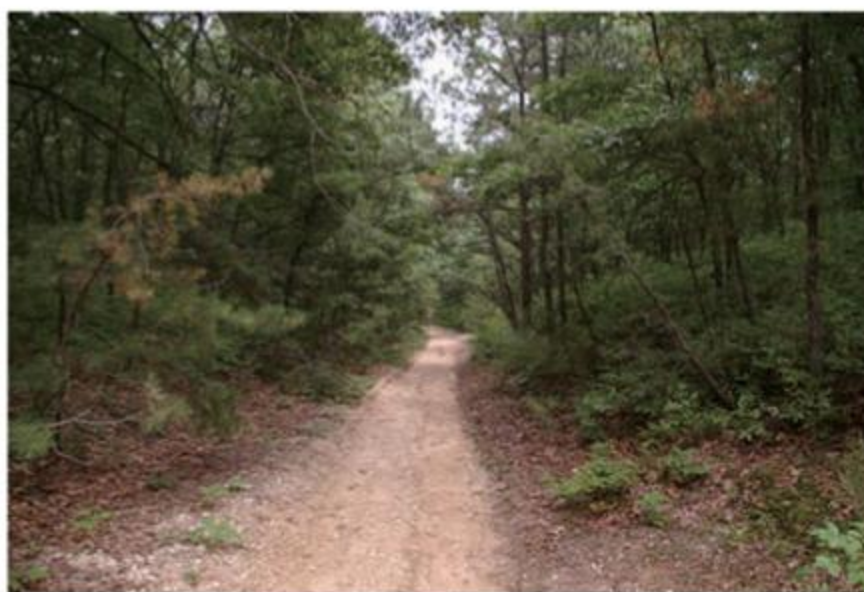
# Dr. Jeffrey Wenig Memorial Park

Formerly called Roundtree Park, this site was dedicated to the Town of Huntington in separate parcels as the result of subdivision modifications. This passive parkland was rededicated in memory of Dr. Jeffrey Wenig, a former Town of Huntington Director of Environmental Protection from 1973-1980, as well as a renowned toxicologist, inventor, and developer of pharmaceutical products.

## You May See:

Black Cherry, Broad Dock, Common Chickweed, Flowering Dogwood, Hay-Scented Fern, Moccasin Flower, Pitch Pine, Red Oak, Wild Indigo

Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle,  
| Juvenal's Duskywing Butterfly



## Dr. Jeffrey Wenig Memorial Park



**Location:** Round Tree Dr, South of the LIE in Melville  
**Terrain:** Hilly | **Length:** 1 mi | **Parking:** Street | **Type:** Network  
**Surface:** Ground, Sandy | **Acreage:** 94



# Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve



Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve is located at the juncture between the Towns of Huntington, Babylon, and Islip. Only a portion of the site is in Huntington. The site was once a psychiatric hospital and is located next to Pilgrim State Hospital. After Edgewood Hospital's closing, community members pushed for the preservation of the land. In 1987, the area was dedicated as a state nature and historic preserve, and the formerly active buildings were demolished. The preserve is now classified as the largest remnant of pitch pine-scrub oak barrens on Long Island, and the second largest in the State. While a majority of the preserve exists on the east side of Commack Road, a small section adjoins Otsego Park on the west side.

**You May See:** Bigtooth Aspen, Pitch Pine, Scrub Oak, Sweet Fern, Wild Indigo

Sharp-Shinned Hawk, Red-Tailed Hawk, American Woodcock, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great-horned Owl, Whip-Poor-Will, Eastern Kingbird, Red-Eyed Vireo, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Gray Catbird, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Orchard Oriole, American Goldfinch | Checker Spot Butterfly

## **Additional Information**

Friends of Edgewood:

[www.edgewoodpreserve.wordpress.com](http://www.edgewoodpreserve.wordpress.com)

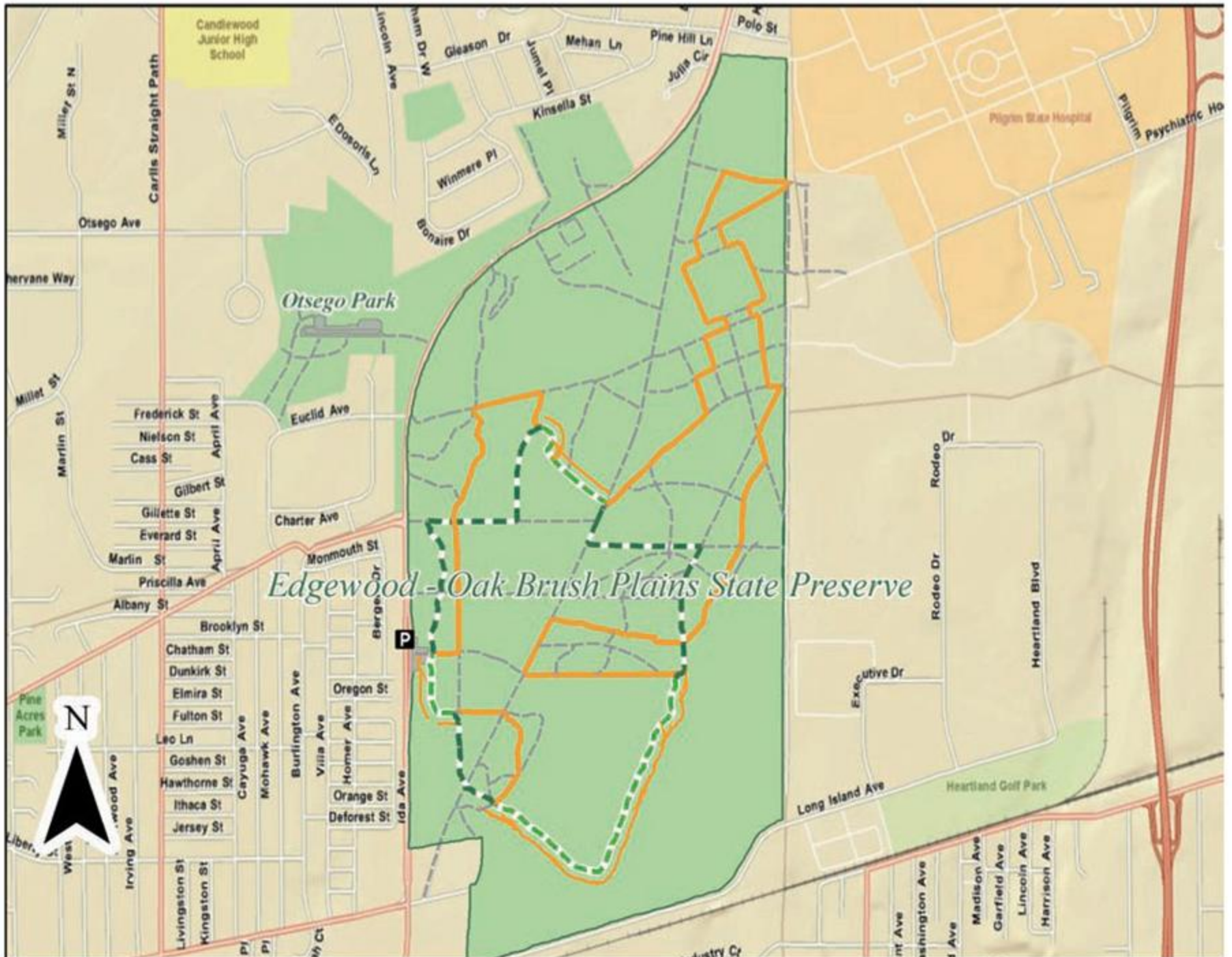
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation:

[www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7815.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7815.html)

**Park steward says:** "A unique window into the past, offering views of how much of central Long Island looked more than 100 years ago, and home to a rich variety of native species".

## Edgewood - Oak Brush Plains State Preserve

P



**Location:** on Commack Rd, south of the Long Island Expressway  
**Terrain:** Flat | **Length:** 5.5 mi | **Parking:** In park | **Type:** Loop  
**Surface:** Ground, Paved | **Acres:** 843 | **Fee:** Free with NYSDEC permit



# Fuchs Pond Preserve

Fuchs Pond Preserve adjoins the Jerome Ambro Memorial Wetlands Preserve, which neighbors the Town's Crab Meadow Beach. The Town and County acquired the Fuchs Pond Preserve in 2003, using funding from the Huntington Environmental Open Space and Park Fund (EOSPA) and County Greenways-Open Space programs. Fuchs Pond Preserve consists of a five-acre spring-fed freshwater pond, freshwater marsh, upland slope forest, and a high plateau area.

## Educational Opportunities

Fuchs Pond Preserve has been widely utilized as an educational tool, especially by elementary school children, who often take nature study hikes. In 2009 Cornell Cooperative Extension registered 240 students for its Marine Stars Summer Program based at the site.



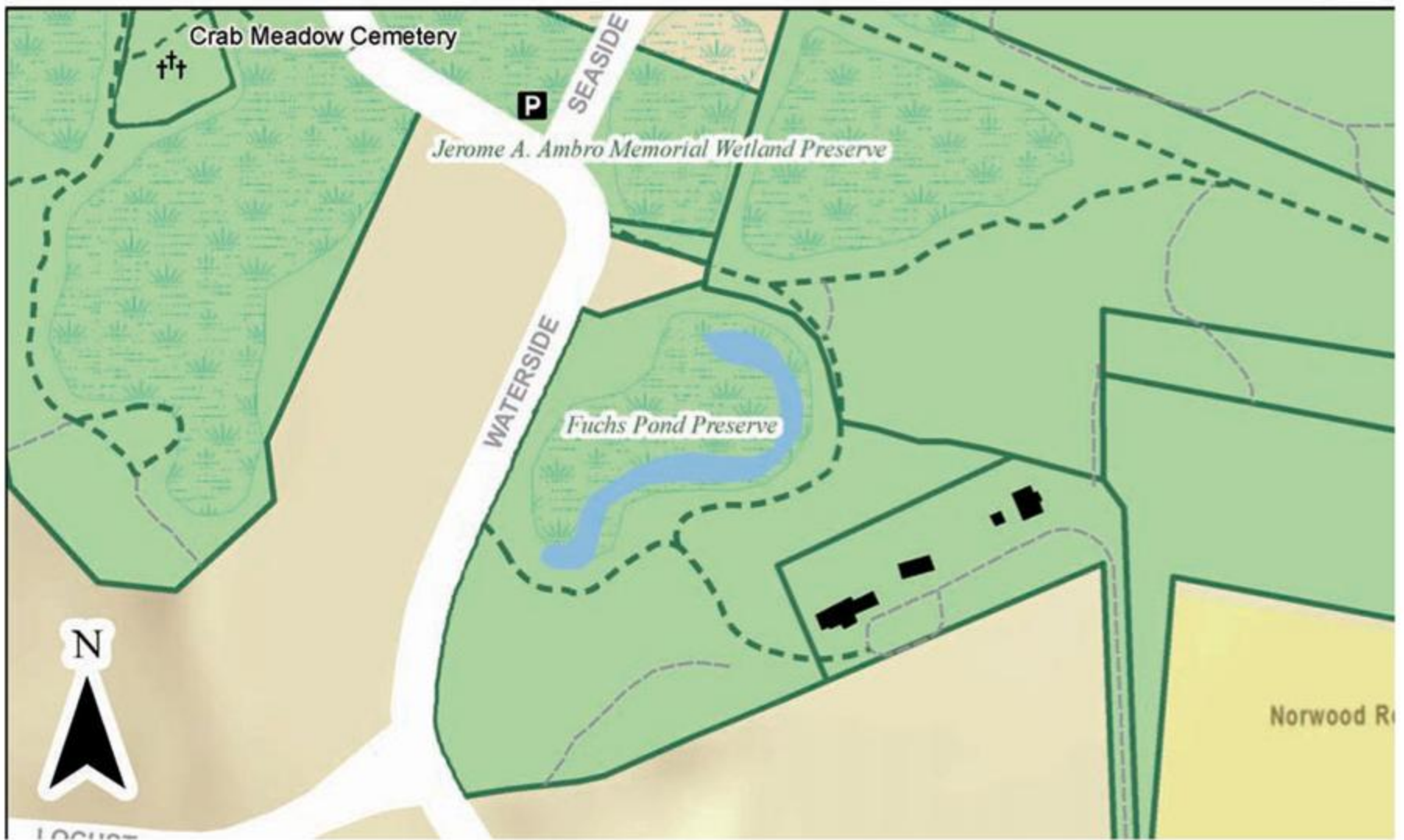
## You May See:

Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Red-Tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Tufted Titmouse, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, American Goldfinch | Little Brown Bat, Masked Shrew, Meadow Vole, Muskrat, Red Fox, Short-Tailed Shrew, Southern Flying Squirrel | Eastern Box Turtle, Painted Turtle, Snapping Turtle | Bullhead, Large Mouth Bass, Sun Fish

**Park Steward says:** "I enjoy meeting students, now adults, still visiting the park [and] seeing a rock split from seasons of ice and snow".

## Fuchs Pond Preserve

P



**Location:** East side of Waterside Rd, South of Seaside Court in Northport  
**Terrain:** Few hills | **Length:** .5 mi | **Parking:** Street | **Type:** Linear |  
**Surface:** Ground | **Acres:** 21



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# Half Hollow Park

The 31-acre Half Hollow park was deeded to the Town in 2005 as a condition of rezoning for The Greens at Half Hollow. It was formerly a component of the New York State-owned Long Island Developmental Center property. Unlike most dedications that accompany requests for land use changes, this property was planned for active recreational use. The site has been developed primarily as a soccer park with ten fields, two of which are mini practice fields. A new playground and two bocce courts were installed in 2009, offering plenty of activities for a variety of ages. The one-mile trail is a recreational asset, a simple open perimeter pathway that follows much of the park's boundary. The site lies within the West Hills-Melville Special Groundwater Protection Area, and helps recharge the underlying aquifer, the source of Long Island's drinking water.

## You May See:

Basswood, Japanese Zelkova, Red Maple

Rock Pigeon, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, American Robin, European Starling, Common Grackle



## Other Park Amenities

Bocce Courts, Concession Building/Restrooms, Playground, Soccer Fields



## Half Hollow Park



**Location:** Old South Path and Half Hollow Rd in Melville

**Terrain:** Flat | **Length:** 1.0 mi | **Parking:** In Park | **Type:** Loop

**Surface:** Wood chips | **Acreage:** 34



# Heckscher Park



The stamped asphalt pathway around the pond at Heckscher park is undoubtedly the heaviest-used trail in the Town of Huntington. Its level nature is ideal for both joggers and nature viewers, and is completely handicapped accessible. The park is home to a large variety of plant and animal life, which can be observed along the trail. Heckscher Park was a private park founded in 1917 by the Heckscher Trust, and passed into Town ownership in 1954. The initial park construction included the cottage and cobblestone arches, and the Heckscher Museum followed three years later. Heckscher Park is now home to Huntington's annual Fall Festival, Summer Arts Festival, and Spring Tulip Festival.

## You May See:

American Holly, Black Cherry, , Cucumber Magnolia, Poke-weed, Red Mulberry, Servicetree, Sweet Cherry, Sycamore Maple, Weeping Willow

Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail Duck, Canvasback Duck, Lesser Scaup, Buffle-head, Hooded Merganser, Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, House Sparrow | Muskrat | Painted Turtle, Snapping Turtle



## Educational Opportunities

Heckscher Park is popular for nature study, and has many opportunities to view the varied plants and wildlife around the park's pond.

## Other Park Amenities

9-11 Memorial, Art Museum, Bocce Courts, Chapin Rainbow Stage, Model Boating, Playground, Playing Fields, Restrooms, Sculpture Garden, Tennis Courts



## Heckscher Park



**Location:** Madison St off of New York Ave in Huntington  
**Terrain:** Flat | **Length:** 0.3 mi | **Parking:** Street | **Type:** Loop  
**Surface:** Paved | **Acres:** 18



# Henry Ingraham Nature Preserve

The history of the Henry Ingraham Nature Preserve is easily observable by a walk on the trail that winds up from Waterside Road, which takes hikers through a cemetery with graves that date back before the Revolutionary War. In the past, much of the site's vegetation was cleared for farming. An oak-tulip tree forest has progressively revegetated what was once more open land. The Ingraham family safeguarded the woods and wetlands for many years. The preserve was protected in 1998 as a tripartite public-private venture with funding provided by the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, and the Iroquois Gas Transmission System. The site is a component of the headwaters to the Town's 300+ acre Jerome Ambro Memorial Wetlands Preserve.



## You May See:

American Beech, Black Gum, Black Walnut, Canada Mayflower, Eastern Red Cedar, Eastern White Pine, Hercules Club, Honey Locust, Mockernut Hickory, Pennsylvania Bittercress, Red Maple, Smooth Alder, Spotted Wintergreen, Sweet Birch, Water-Pepper, White Oak, Wood Strawberry

Red-Tailed Hawk, Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Yellow-Shafted Flicker, Bluejay, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Wood Thrush, Northern Waterthrush, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal | Cabbage White Butterfly | Star-Nosed Mole, White-Tailed Deer

## Educational Opportunities

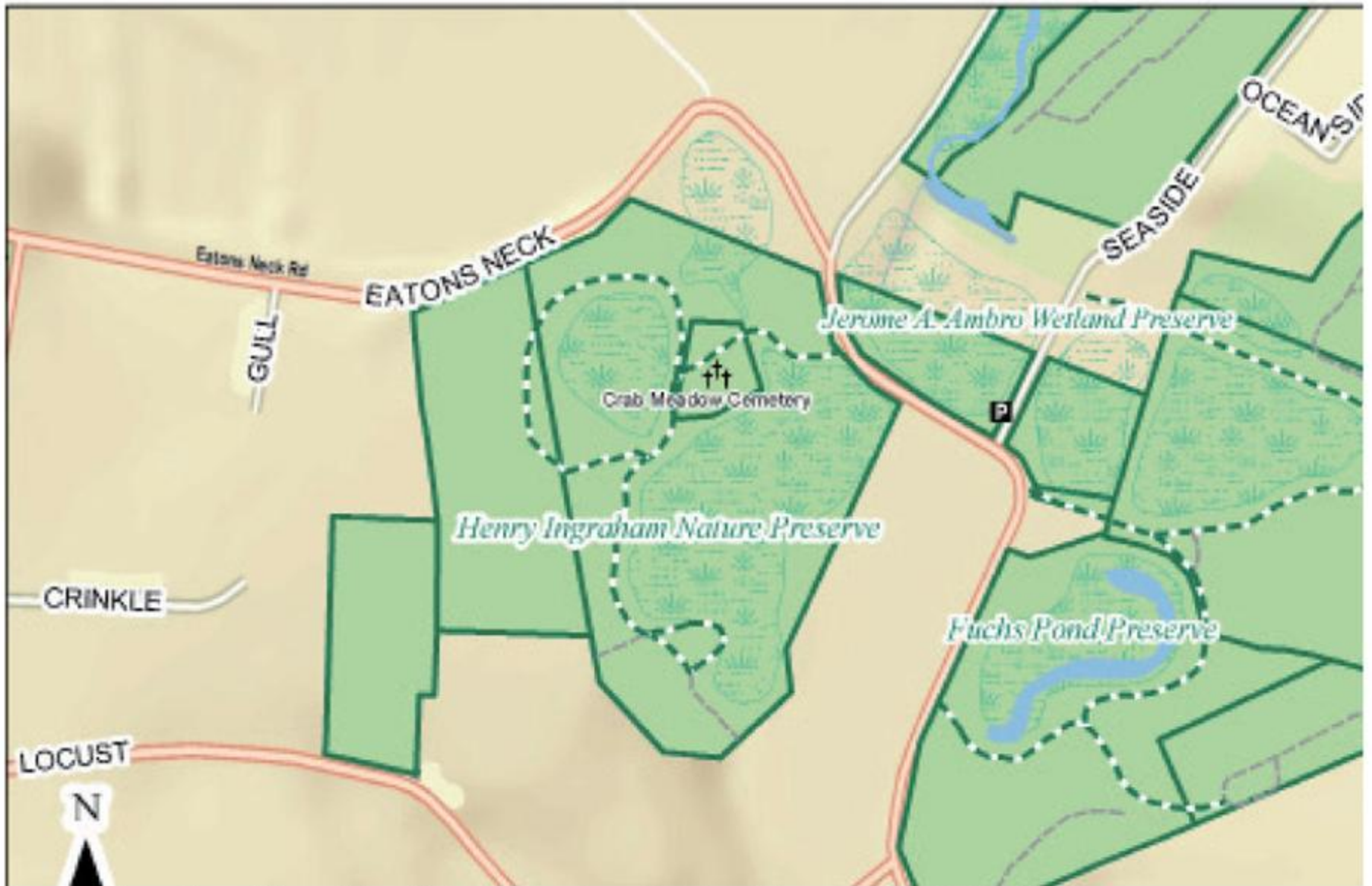
With the nearby Fuchs and Ambro Preserves, visitors can experience nearly all of the natural habitat types in the Town of Huntington. Eagle Scout built benches provide an opportunity to quietly sit and observe the preserve's natural resources.

**Park steward says:** "Pond, streams, wetlands, open field, Harbor Hill Moraine, history--tremendous diversity in this hidden jewel".



## Henry Ingraham Nature Preserve

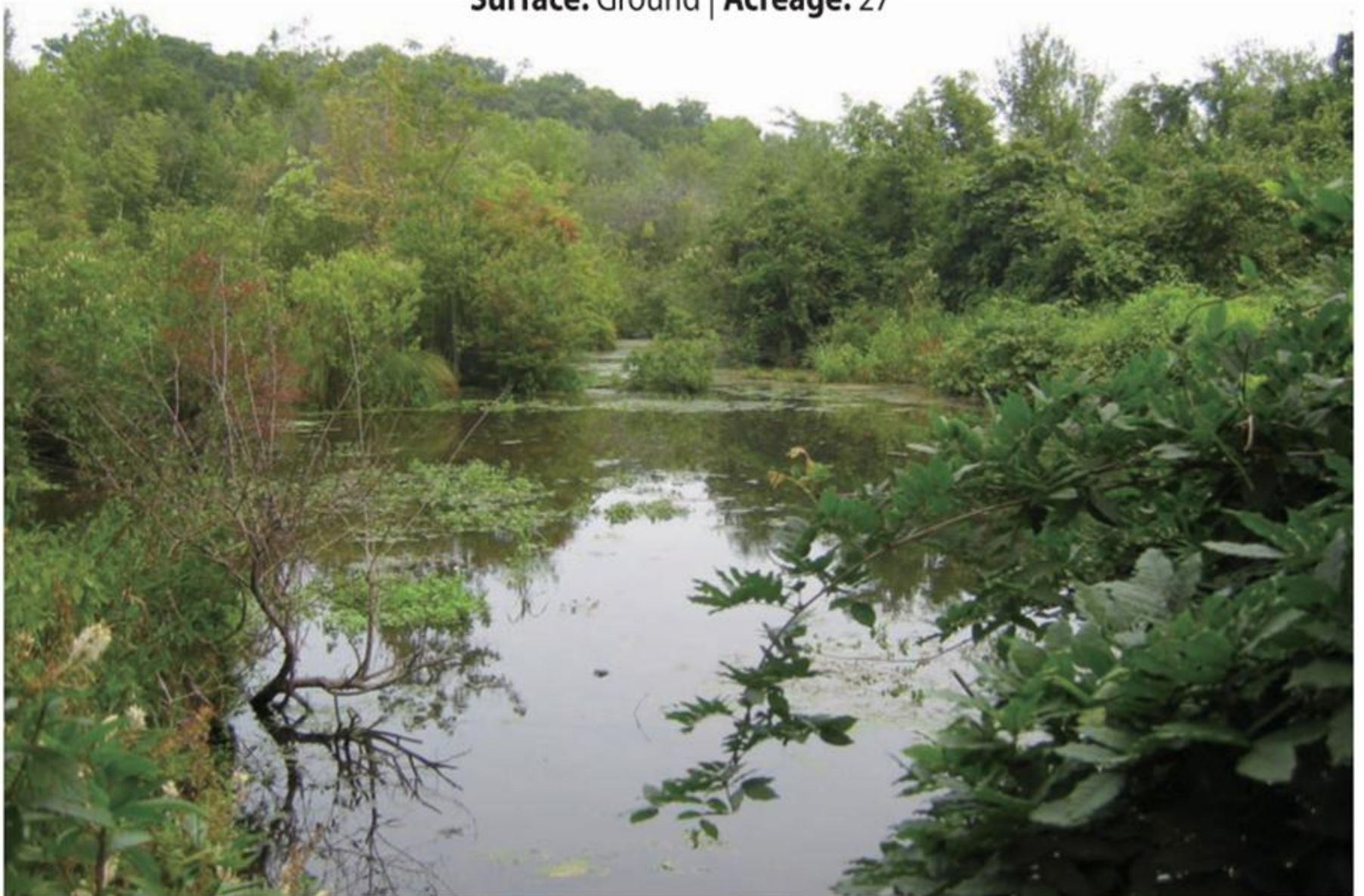
P



**Location:** West side of Waterside Ave, South of Eatons Neck Rd in Northport

**Terrain:** Hilly | **Length:** .5 mi | **Parking:** Street | **Type:** Loop

**Surface:** Ground | **Acreage:** 27



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# Makamah Nature Preserve

Originally called Crab Meadow Park East Watershed, the Makamah Nature Preserve was acquired by Suffolk County in 1973. It contains dry and wet woodlands, as well as marsh. A 1970 report prepared by the Town Conservation Advisory Council noted that 94 species of birds were recorded in and around the property, noting prime habitat for owls and woodpeckers, and 12 species of mammals indicating an intricate and healthy network of predator-prey relationships. It contains heavily wooded hills, one rising to 60 feet in its center and others to 100 feet. The easterly portion is a valley that drains the surrounding area. It includes a main stream that was once dammed to form two ponds and several feeder streams, some spring-fed. The property was once owned jointly with what is now the Town Crab Meadow Golf Course adjoining to the west. An addition to the preserve on NYS Route 25A was dedicated from the Wodaembarc subdivision, resulting in the trailhead parking area recently enhanced as a local Eagle Scout project. The preserve is available for hiking.

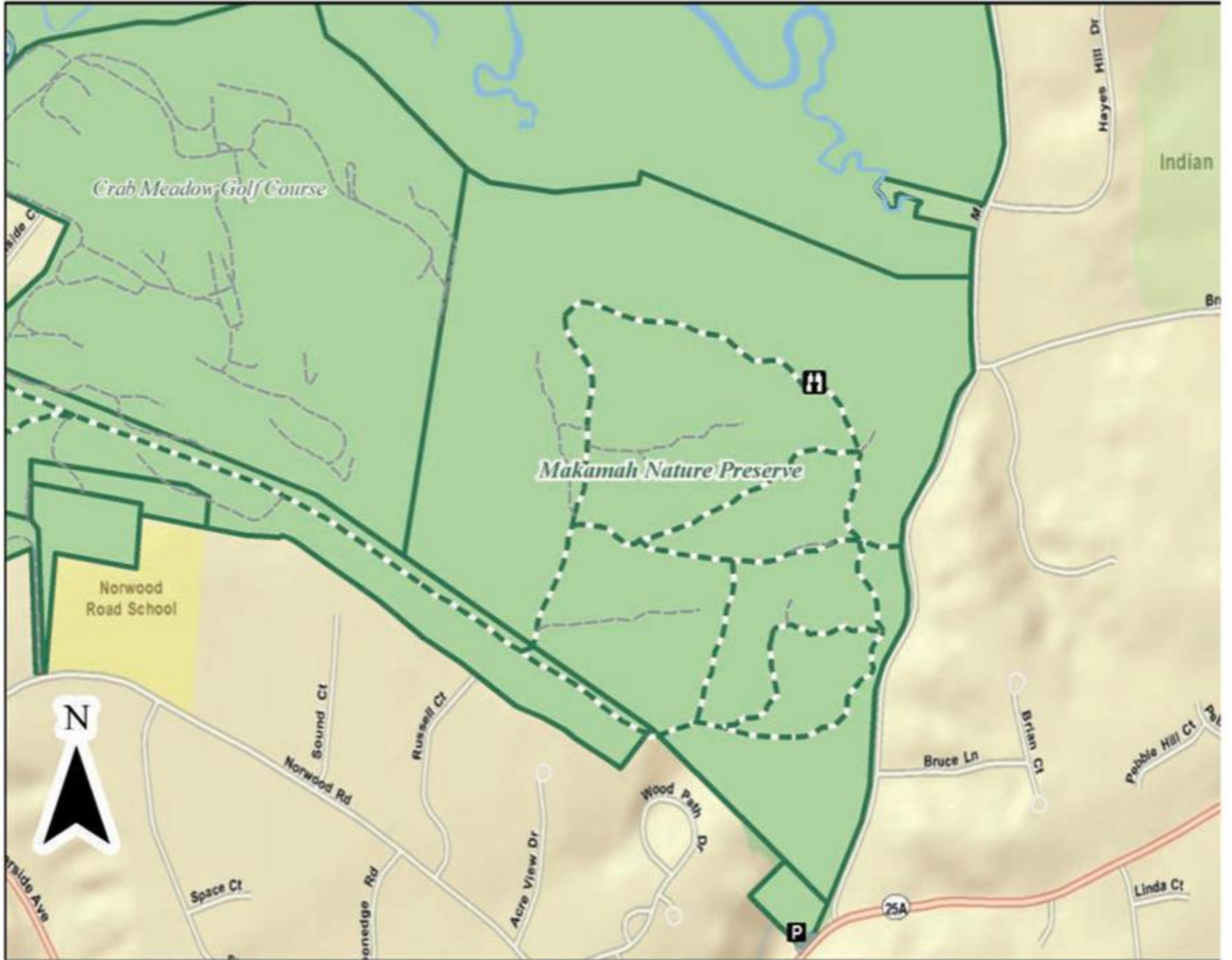
## You May See:

American Beech, Arrowwood, Bayberry, Black Oak, Christmas Fern, Hickory, Huckleberry, Interrupted Fern, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Lady Fern, Mapleleaf Viburnum, Partridge Berry, Pipsissewa, Red Oak, Serviceberry, Skunk Cabbage, Sweet Birch, Tulip Tree, Tupelo, White Oak

Wood Duck, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Horned Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Osprey, Greater Yellowlegs, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Fish Crow, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Indigo Bunting | Woodchuck, Eastern Cottontail, Eastern Mole, White-Footed Mouse



## Makamah Nature Preserve



**Location:** North side of Route 25A and Makamah Rd in Northport  
**Terrain:** Hilly | **Length:** 2.6 mi | **Parking:** In Park | **Type:** Network | **Surface:** Ground | **Acreage:** 160



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# Manor Farm Park/ Berkeley Jackson County Park

Manor Farm Park was the Town's first EOSPA acquisition, and was purchased to serve as a trailhead to link the adjoining 25-acre Town Manor Road Park and 100-acre County Berkeley Jackson Nature Preserve. Prior to the five-acre purchase in 2000, Manor Farm was an animal farm, known by many in the area because of the array of exotic animals kept there. The Town restored the Manor Farm residence to a period circa 1860, which was funded through the EOSPA Program. Starflower Experiences, Inc. provides environmental educa-



tion programs that take full advantage of the adjoining trails. The western part of the County park contains the remnants of two former sand quarries and is hilly. Further east, the land flattens out and the soils retain more moisture.



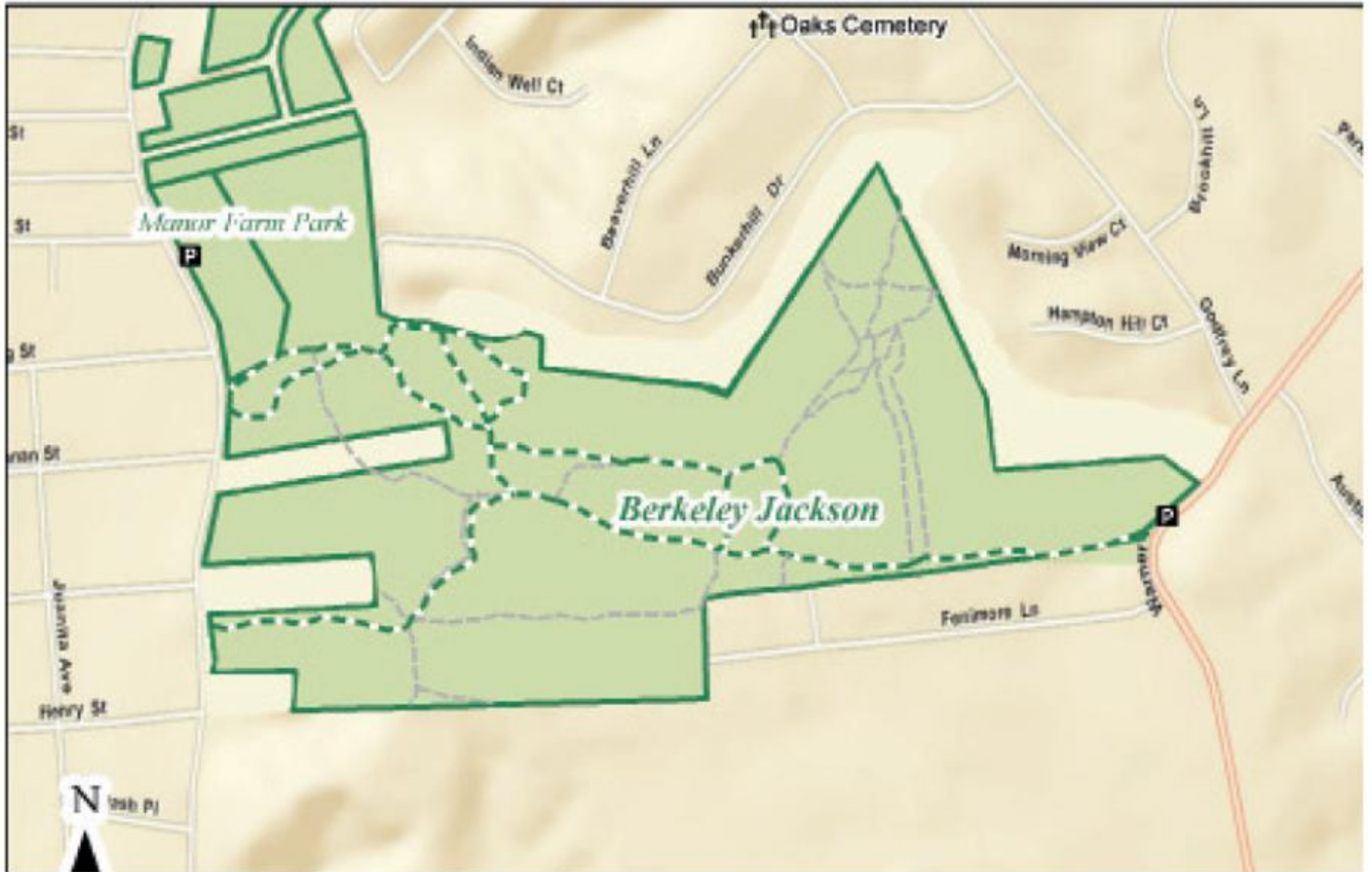
**Park steward says:** A jewel in the heart of Huntington.

### You May See:

Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow

## Berkeley Jackson Nature Preserve

P



**Location:** East Side of Manor Rd, North of Jericho Turnpike (NYS Route 25)

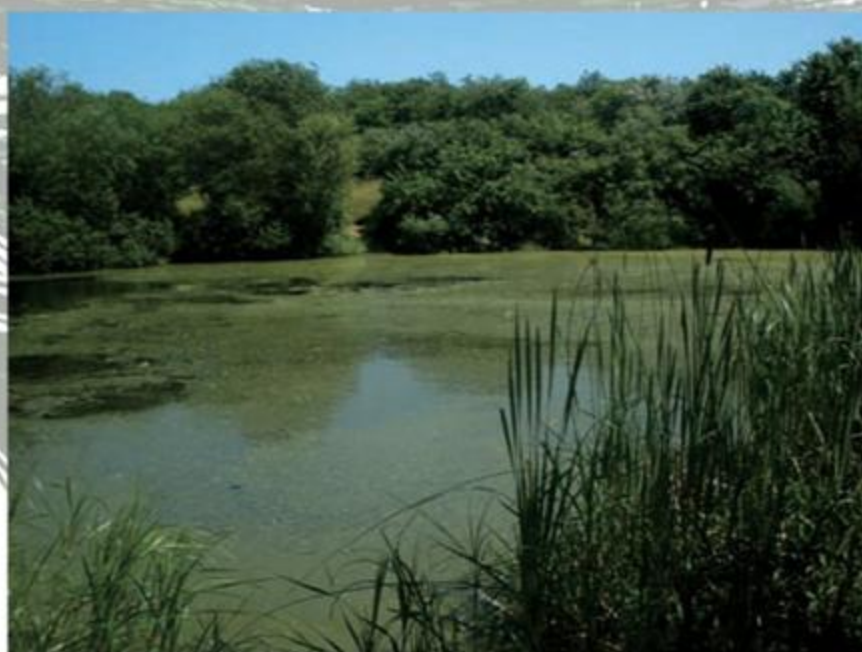
**Terrain:** Hilly | **Length:** 1.8 mi | **Parking:** In Park | **Type:** Network

**Surface:** Sand, Ground | **Acreage:** 130



# Manor Plains Nature Park

The Town purchased Manor Plains Nature Park in 1963 from the Perkowski family which had cultivated crops on the site for generations. This specific region of Greenlawn has a long farming history extending back prior to the 1640s. Local lore, reported in an archaeological investigation conducted in the area, holds that there was once a war camp which may have been used in association with a Secatogue village in the hills east of Manor Road. The Secatogue were part of the larger Montauk Confederacy, a Native American people who inhabited Long Island before English settlement. The site was developed into a nature education area in 1969 through the efforts of members of the Elwood community. The 7-foot deep man-made pond and its surrounding field area are ideal for wildlife and wildflower viewing.



## You May See:

Bigtooth Aspen, Bog Goldenrod, Common Pipewort, Common Ragweed, Crab Apple, Eastern Cottonwood, Eastern Red Cedar, Heath Aster, Japanese Black Pine, Lady's Thumb, Quaking Aspen, Red Clover, Red Maple, Russian Olive, Wild Strawberry, Yellow Wood Sorrel

Ring-necked Pheasant, Downy Woodpecker, European Starling, Common Yellowthroat, Red-

Winged Blackbird | European Skipper Butterfly, Little Wood Satyr Butterfly | Ring-Necked Pheasant | Eastern Painted Turtle, Snapping Turtle | Blue-Gil Sunfish, Large Mouth Bass, Pumpkin-Seed Sunfish | Dragonfly

**Park steward says:** "MPNP is truly a people's park. The park use was initiated by a student. The pond was built by scouts and plantings were done by students and community members. It's a great place to go for a peaceful walk".



# Manor Plains Nature Park



**Location:** West side of Manor Rd in Huntington  
**Terrain:** Flat | **Length:** .3 mi | **Parking:** In Park | **Type:** Loop  
**Surface:** Ground | **Acreage:** 12



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# Northport Rail Trail



In the 1860s, a new

railway was constructed to extend the trainlines from Syosset to Northport. While these trains were widely used by residents of the Northport area, this spur was abandoned as a result of geographic interference with further extension plans. Influenced by the Rails-to-Trails movement, the old railway was granted to the Town of Huntington by the Metropolitan Transit Authority by means of a 10 year license agreement for public trail purposes in 2008. The trailway lies in the rail corridor that leads from Laurel Hill Road to Elwood Road. The rail line used to run past the trailway, across Elwood Road to what is now the Riverhead Building Supply, delivering freight. To the north, the car wash lies on a segment of the rail line, as does the King Kullen Shopping Center. This former rail branch was once also proposed to be used as a component of the defunct Babylon-Northport Expressway. In 2009 the New York State Department of Transportation donated an adjoining four-acre parcel to the Town with access from Orchard Court.

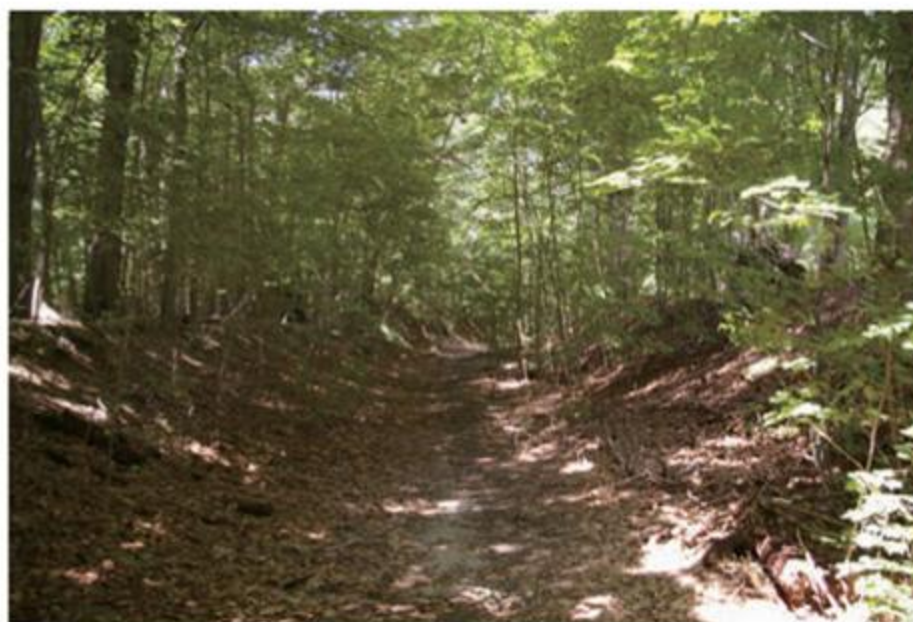
## Other Trail Uses:

This trail is widely used by pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists.

## You May See:

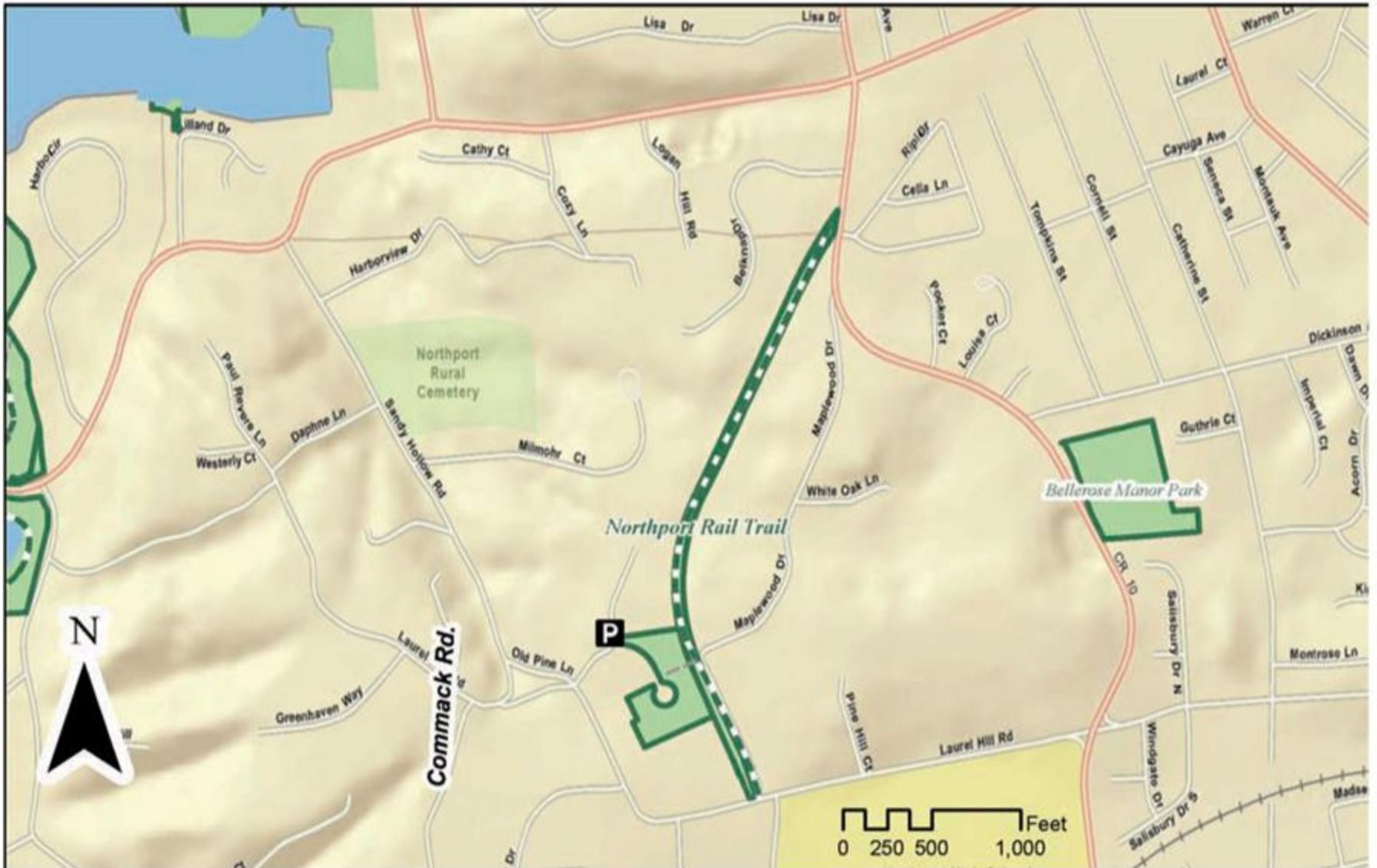
Blue Jay, American Crow, American Robin, European Starling, House Sparrow, Common Grackle

**Park steward says:** "So many neighboring people take care of this small trail and treat it like the gem it is".



## Northport Rail Trail

P



**Location:** North side of Laurel Hill Rd and Maplewood Dr in Northport  
**Terrain:** Flat | **Length:** .5 mi | **Parking:** Street | **Type:** Linear  
**Surface:** Ground | **Acreage:** 8



# Phragmites Park

## *Twin Ponds North*

The land that is now Phragmites Park was created primarily by the deposition of dredge spoil, the result of Northport Harbor dredging by Suffolk County in the early 1960s. This is quite evident by the sandy pathways that traverse the site. The town has proposed a future restoration of the wetlands in a component of the site, which would create a tidal impoundment to provide greater habitat diversity, therefore providing a sanctuary for many more species of birds and fish. The parking area at this park also provides access to Betty Allen Nature Preserve across Route 25A. The site offers a sweeping view of Northport Harbor and Bird Island, which was also created from dredge spoil.



### **You May See:**

Bayberry, Bigtooth Aspen, Black Cherry, Black Willow, European White Poplar, Field Pennycress, Gray Birch, Groundsel Bush, Horse Nettle, Prickly Pear Cactus, Quaking Aspen, White Mulberry

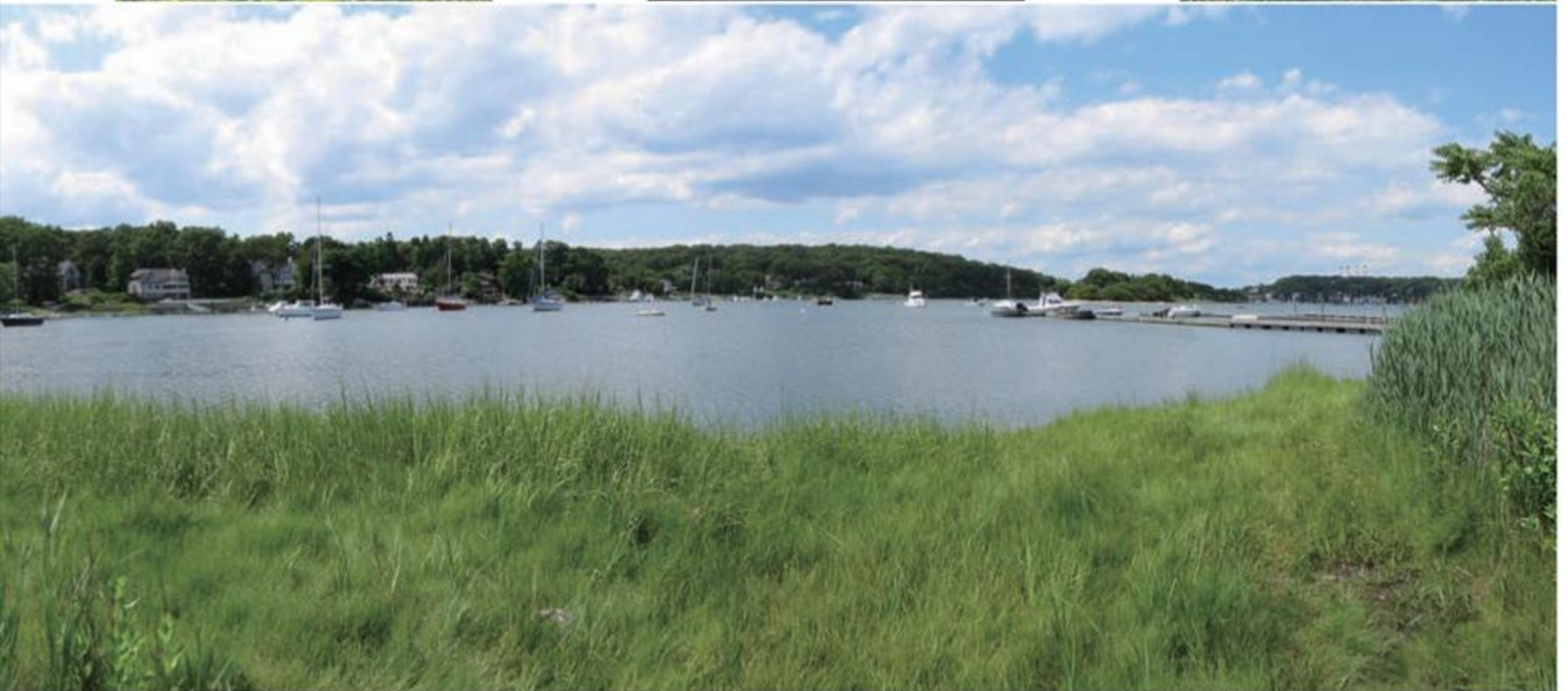
American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Neron, Herring Gull, Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-Winged Blackbird, American Gold Finch



*Phragmites Park (a.k.a. Twin Ponds North)*



**Location:** North side Route 25A in Centerport  
**Terrain:** Flat | **Length:** .6 mi | **Parking:** In park | **Type:** Linear  
**Surface:** Ground | **Acreage:** 19



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# Savings Court Park

## *Fitness Trail* ♿

Savings Court Park was set aside as a result of the cluster plan for Paumanack Village, the Town's first senior housing project. The site adjoins the Waldbaum's shopping center on Pulaski Road and Paumanack Village. It is fully handicapped-accessible and contains a twelve-station cardio course, the Town's first fitness trail, and gazebo that were installed in 2000 with support from the Huntington Community Development Agency and Huntington EOSPA Park Improvement Program.

### **You May See:**

Bayberry, Bigtooth Aspen, Black Cherry, Black Willow, European White Poplar, Field Pennycress, Gray Birch, Groundsel Bush, Horse Nettle, Quaking Aspen, White Mulberry

Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, American Gold Finch



### **Stations Include:**

Isometric Squat, Leg Lift, Push-up, Pull-up, Sit-up

# Savings Court Park



**Location:** Paumanack Village Dr, South of Pulaski Rd  
**Terrain:** Flat | **Length:** .3 mi | **Parking:** Street | **Type:** Loop  
**Surface:** Paved | **Acreage:** 7



# Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge

During the Revolutionary War, British soldiers would use the large rock located at the north end of Target Rock Federal Preserve's trail for target practice. The preserve's trail allows hikers to experience its history, which ranges from geology to past ownership. The park is located on the Harbor Hill Moraine, and its soils consist of Riverhead and Haven graded loams. The preserve originally was an estate owned by Ferdinand Eberstadt, a New York banker. It was donated to the United States Department of Interior in 1967. It is now managed as a component of the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge complex. A blind allows visitors to view wildlife in a brackish pond with minimal disturbance.

## **You May See:**

Azalea, Eastern Red Ceder, Marsh Cordgrass, Rhododendron, White Pine

Brant Goose, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Red-Breasted Merganser, Red-Throated Loon, Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Piping Plover, Ring-Billed Gull, Common Tern, Least Tern, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Bank Swallow, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Veery, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow | Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, Eastern Gray Squirrel, Northern Raccoon, Red Fox, White-tailed Deer

## **Other Park Amenities**

Beach, Observation Deck, Restrooms, Wildlife Blind

## **Educational Opportunities**

Interpretive signs and a kiosk point out the preserve's vegetation, wildlife, and historical values.

## **Additional Information**

[www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges/](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges/)





**Location:** East side of Target Rock Rd in Lloyd's Neck

**Terrain:** Some hills | **Length:** 1.4 mi | **Parking:** In Park | **Type:** Loop | **Surface:** Ground, Bluestone

**Acres:** 80 | **Fee:** \$4.00 vehicle, \$2.00 pedestrian/bicycle, \$12.00 annual pass



# Uplands Farm Sanctuary

The double-trailed loop at The Nature Conservancy's Uplands Farm Sanctuary is ideal for family hikes. The grassy, marked trail takes hikers through deciduous forests, providing opportunities to explore bird and butterfly meadows, an old dairy farm, and areas that are perfect for viewing Long Island's diverse wildlife. A kiosk at the sanctuary's trailhead contains information regarding the area's habitat, as well as a map directing hikers around the sanctuary, and to its connection with the Nassau-Suffolk Greenbelt Trail.

## You May See:

Black Birch, Black Cherry, Butterfly Weed, Flowering Dogwood, Mountain Laurel, Red Maple, Tulip Tree, White Pine, Yellow Birch

Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, American Goldfinch

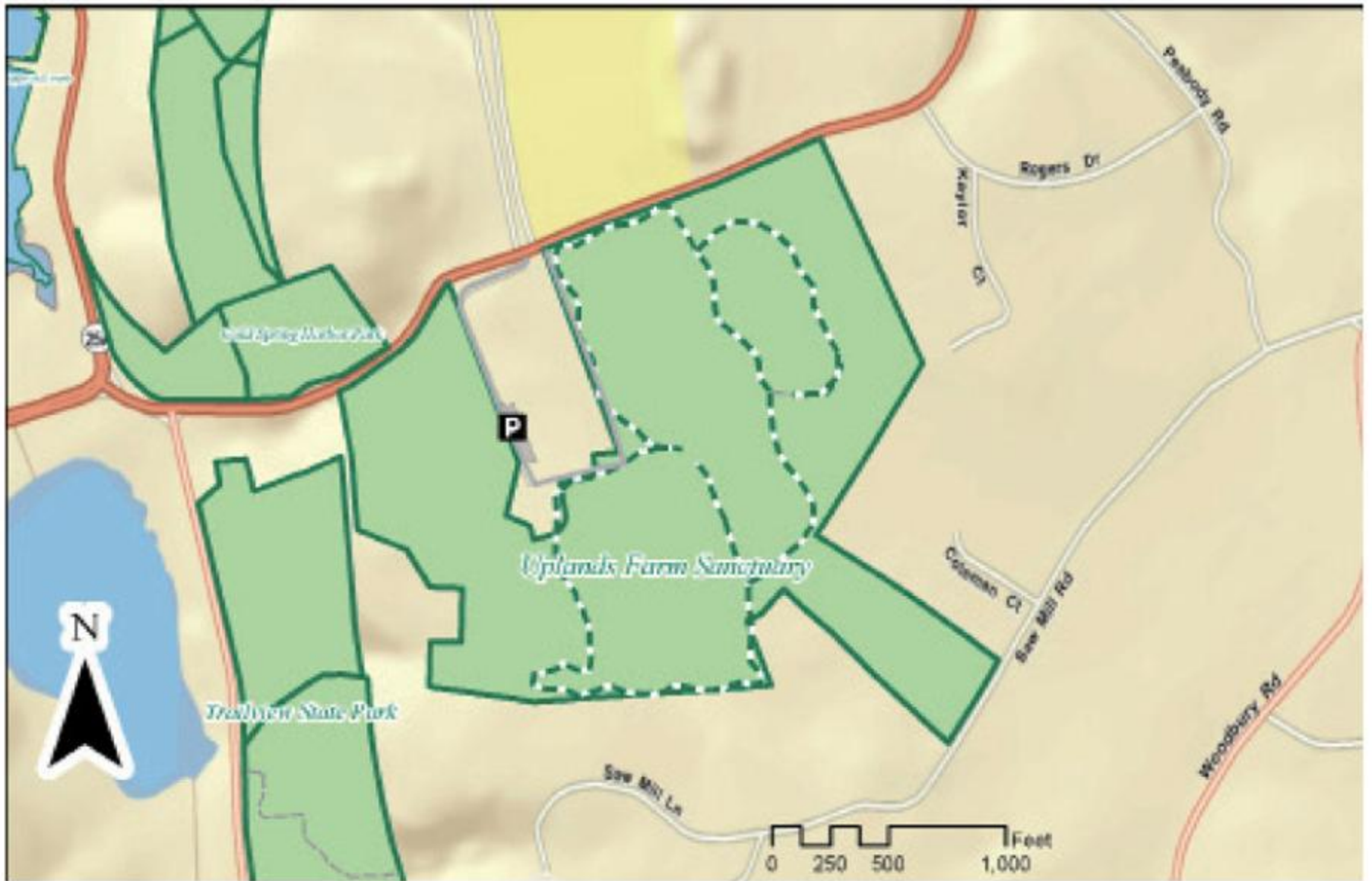
## Additional Information

[www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)



## Uplands Farm Sanctuary

P



**Location:** South side of Lawrence Hill Rd, in Cold Spring Harbor  
**Terrain:** Some hills | **Length:** 2.5 mi | **Parking:** On Site | **Type:** Loop  
**Surface:** Ground | **Acres:** 86



# West Hills County Park

The Walt Whitman trail in the eastern section of West Hills County Park leads hikers up to Jayne's Hill, the highest natural point on Long Island (400.9 feet), which was named after the prominent pioneer family. A marked stone identifies the hill's location in the center of the park's woods. The 800+ acre park is separated into sections by Sweet Hollow Road, High Hold Drive, and the Northern State Parkway. Much of the western section of West Hills Park was once owned by Henry Stimson, Secretary of War during World War II, who hosted the annual "Highhold Games" at his estate, Highhold. Grand fox hunts were held, and Theodore Roosevelt would hike from Sagamore Hill with the 'young cousins' to visit. After the Stimsons died, the property was sold to the New York City Boy Scouts who used it as a scout camp for many years. A campground in the park is still used by scouts. West Hills County Park is located on the Ronkonkoma Moraine, which has steep slopes and thin soils over sand.

## You May See:

Black Birch, Black Oak, Greenbrier, Mapleleaf Viburnum, Pignut Hickory, Staghorn Sumac, Witch-Hazel

Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Baltimore Oriole

## Additional Information

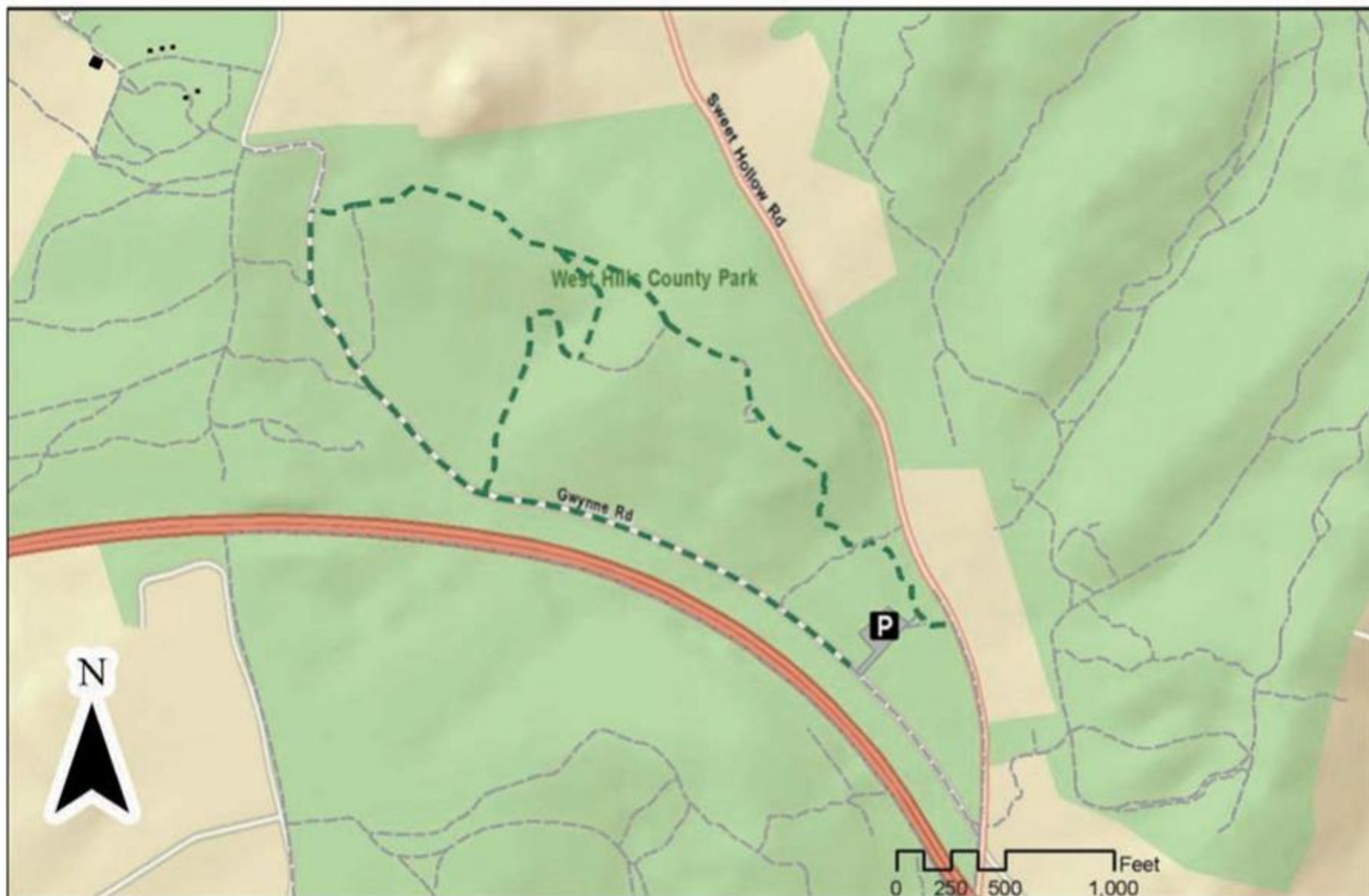
*Ghosts of Long Island*, by Kerriann Flanagan Brosky

## Other Park Amenities

Dog Park, Playground, Scout Campground, Stables



**Park patron says:** "Going to the high point, just after the leaves fall, you can see Orient Point or Connecticut".



**Location:** Sweet Hollow Rd, South of Jericho Tpke in Huntington.

**Terrain:** Hilly | **Length:** 1.7 mi | **Parking:** In Park | **Type:** Network

**Surface:** Ground | **Acres:** 854



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# Huntington Conservation Board

The Huntington Conservation Board is a Town Board-appointed volunteer advisory organization. The Conservation Board reviews and provides comments to the Town Board, Planning Board, Board of Trustees, and Zoning Board of Appeals on applications for land use change that have potential to affect Open Space Index-mapped property. The Conservation Board reviews Marine Conservation Law applications. In addition to its advisory review functions, the Conservation Board serves as a vital conduit for conveying environmental information on key topic areas (land use and review, marine and freshwater resources, parks, solid waste, and legislation) to Town leaders. The Conservation Board coordinates the successful Park Stewardship Program with over 220 volunteer stewards appointed to date.

## Become A Park Steward!

If you live near a park or visit one periodically, you may be a perfect candidate for the Town of Huntington Park Stewardship Program. Park Stewards are a vital Town Board-appointed volunteer force of concerned citizens that volunteer to serve as the “eyes, ears, and mouths” of our parks in the field. Their input helps the Town to monitor its park inventory and keep step with needed maintenance tasks.

The Conservation Board hosts park steward meetings twice a year, in the spring and fall, to offer guest presentations, an opportunity to raise questions and concerns with Town staff, and to enable the sharing of information and ideas. Stewards fill out and submit park inspection forms twice a year, just prior to the meetings. The Conservation Board routes the information submitted to the appropriate department for response. Please call Joy Squires, Chair, at 351-3398 for a program brochure or for further information.

## Nominate a Project

You can make a difference. If you have a suggestion to share, let the Town know. Nominations are reviewed on a continuous basis for acquisition of open space, park improvements, neighborhood enhancements, and green energy projects in the Town of Huntington. To submit a nomination, complete the form from the Online Library for the Department of Planning and Environment on the Town website or contact the Environmental Open Space and Park Improvement (EOSPA) Committee directly (351-3398).

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# Credits

**Designed and created by David Kaufman and Elana Israel, Interns**  
Department of Planning and Environment, Town of Huntington

**Supported by the Huntington Greenway Trail Citizens Advisory Committee**

Bruce Howe, Chair: Concerned Long Island Mountain Bicyclists

Laura McKellar: Huntington Conservation Board

Simone DaRos: Huntington Audubon Society

Barbara Haerter: Environmental Open Space Committee

Lynn Geisler: Huntington Trails Association

Anthony Barone: Huntington Bicycle Club

Marvin Glassmann: Nassau-Suffolk Horseman's Association

Bill Fleming: Northport Runners Club

Gregg Spoering: Scouting

Denis Byrne: Long Island Motor Parkway Trail Association

Laure Farber: Starflower Experiences, Inc.

Tom D'Ambrosio, at large

**And by the Departments of Planning and Environment, GIS, Citizen Services  
and the Huntington Conservation Board**







