

Additional Resources

Long Island Pine Barrens Society

www.pinebarrens.org

The Society's website is a great place to learn more about the history and the landmark legislation that saved our natural treasure from being developed. You will also find the Society's award-winning television program streamed live.

Bridge to the Barrens

www.bridgetothebarrens.org

Visit the Long Island Pine Barrens Society's educational portal and learn all about the Barrens through videos and interactive games. Designed for students in grades 3-6, the site also has resources for parents and teachers. This project was completed in part from a grant from the National Grid Foundation.

Long Island Pine Barrens Society is on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/PineBarrensSociety

"Like" our Facebook page and share your thoughts about environmental issues on Long Island. Join in the conversation!

Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference

www.ligreenbelt.org

The Greenbelt is an excellent source for information on additional hiking locations, maps and more! Members also are welcome to participate in weekly hikes led by expert guides at locations Island-wide.



LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY

**Happy Hiking
from the
Long Island Pine
Barrens Society!**

A Sampler of Walks in the Long Island Pine Barrens



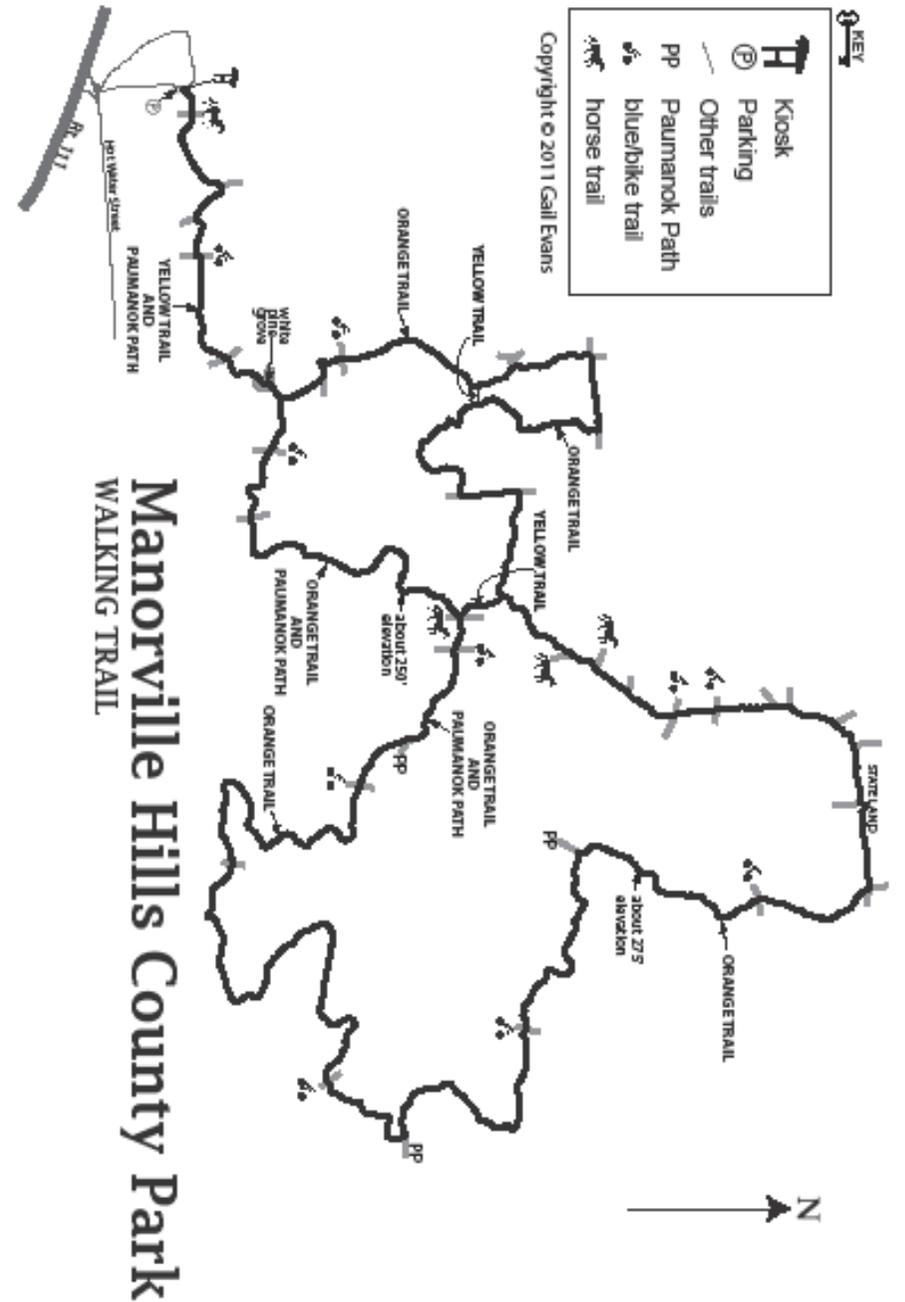
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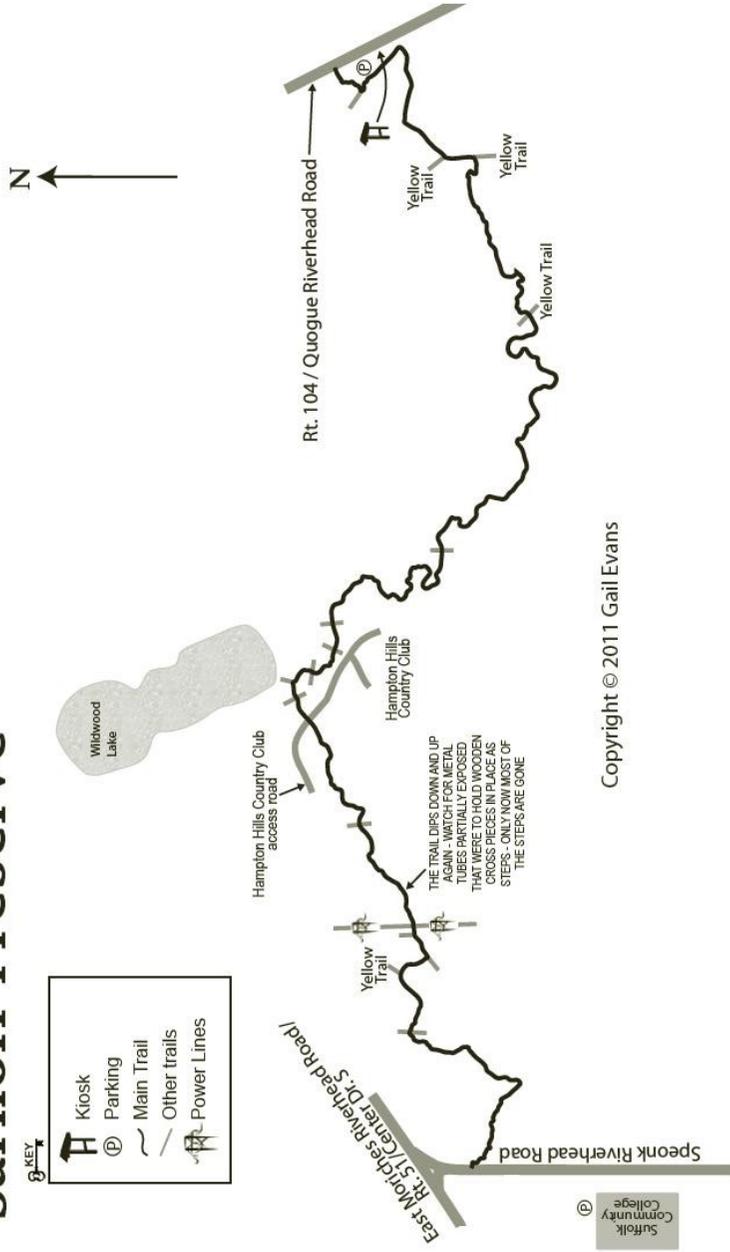
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Sarnoff Preserve



Introduction

Picture early Long Island. Before European settlers came here, the prairies of the Hempstead Plains extended from what is now Queens Village to near the current Nassau-Suffolk county line. Gradually, the plains gave way to a transition zone of scrub oak, heath plants and scattered pitch pines that we now call the Oak Brush Plain. Little remains of these unique areas. Farther east, the pines grew taller and denser, and the Central Pine Barrens stretched for 250,000 acres from west of the Connetquot River to Hampton Bays.

Walt Whitman described "...wide central tracts of pine and scrub-oak, (charcoal was largely made here,) monotonous and sterile. But many a good day or half-day did I have, wandering through those solitary cross-roads, inhaling the peculiar and wild aroma."

Monotonous and sterile? The "barren" part of "Pine Barrens" reflects a farmer's point of view. The sandy soil, the glacial outwash of the last Ice Age, is so porous that many traditional crops fared poorly without extensive soil amendments. (The original name of Hampton Bays was "Good Ground," where the earth became more arable.)

Native plants, however, adapted themselves to near desert-like conditions and frequent brush fires. Pitch pines, scrub oaks and the understory "heath plants"—blueberry, huckleberry, wintergreen and so on—contain pitches and resins that actually promote their own burning. However, these plants store much of their energy in large underground roots, so that when a brush fire blackens the earth they re-sprout in great abundance, while competing, non-native species do not. Poison ivy, for instance, is intolerant of fire and thus rare in the Pine Barrens.

As you walk through this region, you may notice evidence of the frequency of brush fires: where pitch pine dominates the canopy, fire has occurred more recently; where tall tree oaks rule, fire has not been present for a long time. So we really have pine-oak barrens and oak-pine barrens. Some casual observers may find the vegetation here visually unimpressive, but contemplate the tenacity and survival mechanisms of what biologists call a "fire climax community," and you'll appreciate the true beauty of the Pine Barrens.

Post-World War II development changed our landscape forever. The Hempstead Plains virtually disappeared except for two small tracts near the Nassau Coliseum, and the Oak Brush Plain likewise shrunk to the Edgewood Preserve in Commack and a smaller parcel in Brentwood. The Pine Barrens, too, dwindled to about 100,000 acres—and those might be gone had it not been for the 1993 Pine Barrens Protection Act.

The Pine Barrens sit atop vast aquifers of some of the best drinking water in the world. The threat of contamination grew ever closer with the suburbanization of Long Island, providing the impetus for a movement to save this precious resource. The Pine Barrens Act created a 53,000-acre Core Preservation Area where no new development is permitted (55,000 with the addition of the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in 1998) and a 47,000-acre Compatible Growth Area where limited, environmentally-compatible development may occur. Efforts to acquire remaining private land in the Core continue even now. Thanks to the Pine Barrens Act, we can still wander "solitary cross-roads."

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society was in the forefront of the battle to save our natural heritage, but we'll leave the politics and scars of war for recounting elsewhere. Most of the hikes described in this guide traverse the Core Preservation Area. We hope you'll journey into the woods and appreciate the beauty, diversity and importance of what we have worked so hard to save for future generations.

-Tom Casey, Long Island Pine Barrens Society

Know Before You Go

Health and Safety:

Especially in spring and summer, take precautions against ticks, which inhabit several grassy areas, in particular, in great numbers. Stay on the trail as much as possible. Tuck long pants into socks and wear light colored clothing to easily spot ticks.

In the summer months, hydration is key: bring sufficient water for an extended walk. Poison ivy is a non-native species and rare in the Pine Barrens, unless otherwise noted throughout this guide. However, it is always a good idea to refrain from handling plants you are unfamiliar with.

Following the Trail:

Many of the trails described here are marked, or “blazed,” to make them easy to follow. Blazes are usually painted on trees or posts; less often, you’ll find plastic or metal blazes fastened to trees.

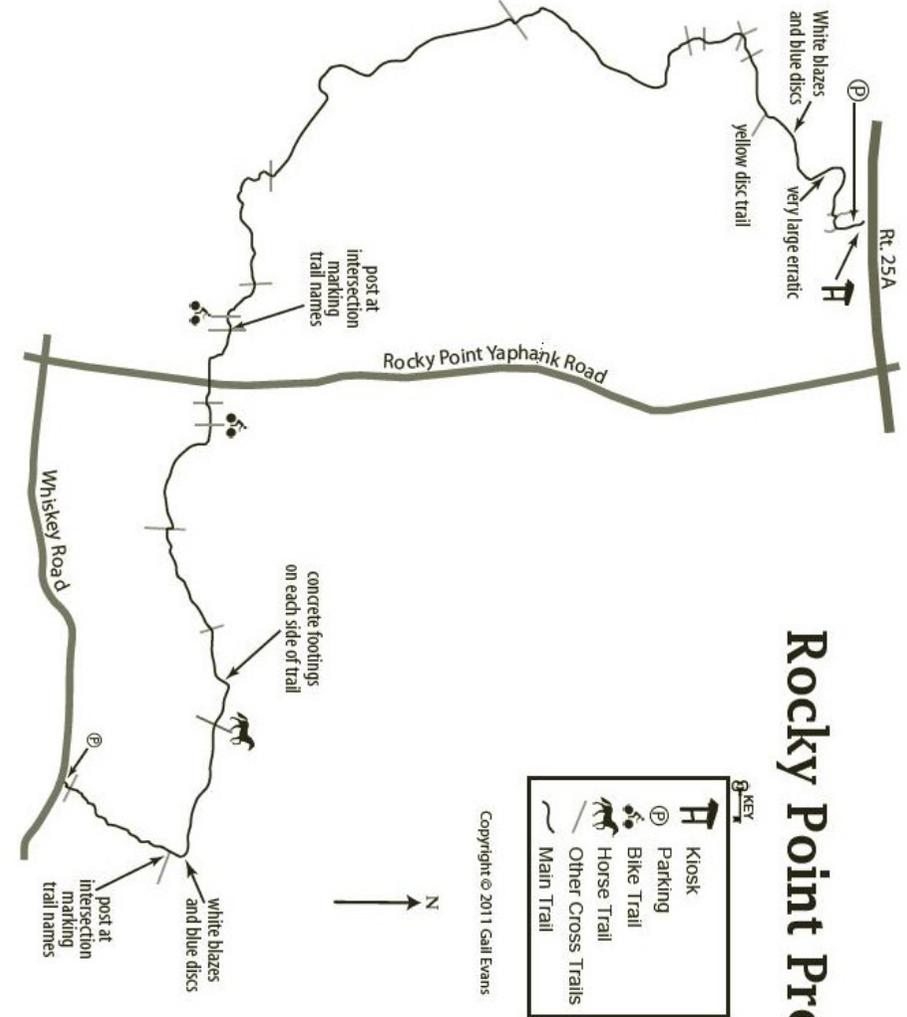
If you see a blaze, continue straight ahead. If two blazes appear together, follow the top one: if offset to the left, look for a left turn; if offset to the right, turn right. Three blazes mean you’ve come to the end of a trail. Generally, when you’re standing at a blaze, you should see another ahead of you, unless the trail is obvious.

Sometimes we daydream our way past a turn, and sometimes a blaze simply is missing for any number of reasons. Should you lose your way, turn around and retrace your steps until you regain the blazes. For more remote ventures, it’s always wise to have a map or guide handy, too.

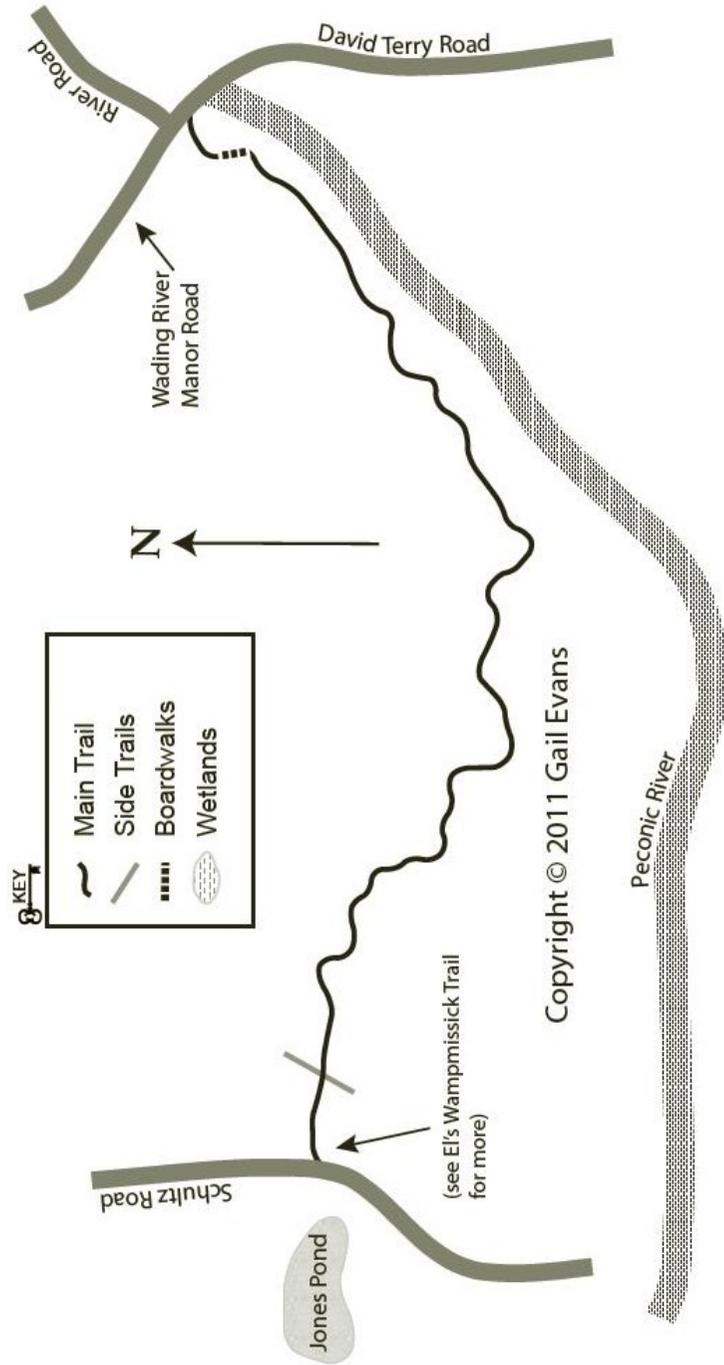
Maps:

Maps of preserves managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation are also available from the D.E.C. regional office at Stony Brook University. See the descriptions of Rocky Point and Sarnoff Preserves. In other places, such as Quogue Refuge, maps may be available on site.

Additional maps of many of the areas on Long Island are available for a modest fee from the Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference, P.O. Box 5636, Hauppauge, NY 11788. Call 631-360-0753, or check the Greenbelt’s website, www.ligreenbelt.org for more details. Gail Evans also maintains a website with maps of East End hikes not featured in this guide, for more information visit www.gailstales.net.



Paumanok Path - Wading River-Manor Road to Schultz Road



Permits:

Use of some of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)- managed trails require a permit. These are free, issued annually, and can be obtained by writing to or visiting NYSDEC, Division of Lands and Forests, 50 Circle Road SUNY-Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409; or phone the license clerk at (631)444-0273. Throughout this guide, the symbol **P** denotes where a permit is needed.

Car Shuttles:

Some of our walks are loops or out-and-back routes. Others are better done point-to-point, which means a buddy system is in order. In such cases, hike with a friend. Leave one car at the *end* point of the journey, and take the other to the *start*. You can retrieve it afterwards. Of course, you can begin any of the point-to-point routes, walk only as far as you please, and return.

All-Terrain Vehicles:

ATVs chew up the sandy soils of Long Island and are prohibited on public land. Should you encounter illegal users in the Pine Barrens, do not confront the riders, but call 911 as soon as possible. The operator will route your call to the proper authorities. ATV use is illegal and is considered an emergency call. You can also dial 1-877-BARRENS, which is routed directly to the Suffolk County Parks Police.

The Paumanok Path

“Long Island’s Appalachian Trail” runs more than 125 miles from Rocky Point to Montauk Point. Completed from Rocky Point to Shinnecock Canal and again from the Southampton-East Hampton town line to Montauk Point, the Path awaits the closure of a few gaps in Southampton east of the canal.

Several of the hikes described here follow the Paumanok Path, which is the product of a collaboration of the Southampton and East Hampton Trails Preservation Societies, the Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference, and state, county and town land-management agencies.

Pine Barrens Superstar: The Pitch Pine

Those hot, dry days when the pungent aroma of pitch pine fills the summer air are good times to reflect on just how remarkable this sometimes scrubby tree is. It survives in near desert-like conditions by sending huge taproots and lateral roots far into sandy soil. The plate-like bark of the pitch pine, full of insulating air pockets, allows the tree to survive fires as hot as 2,000 degrees if the crown remains intact. Failing that, a charred tree may send up basal sprouts from its roots. Pitch pines are also self-pruning, dropping their lower branches as a way of keeping their feet out of a fire. Some pitch pines exhibit epicormic buds, which sprout from under the bark in the aftermath of passing brush fires.

Ironically, one reason the pitch pine has survived the commercial exploitation that has befallen other species is that it is perceived to have little dollar value. However, this was not always so. Soft, light, and durable, but too coarse-grained for fine woodwork, old virgin stands of pitch pine often ended up as railroad ties and joists in log houses. Much pitch pine was burned to create charcoal. At the turn of the 20th Century, pitch pine was a staple of the box-manufacturing industry; today it is still fashioned into cargo pallets. Because of its somewhat decay-resistant properties, the wood was also used for the buckets and spokes of mill wheels and occasionally for pilings. The heartwood was suited for small boat building and ship's pumps. Even the resinous pine knots from rotting logs had value: employing a technique brought to this country from Scandinavia, early settlers in the Pine Barrens split the resinous knots into thin splints and bundled them, often on long hickory or birch handles, for torches.

Pitch pines were also a source of turpentine. The original method of collecting the resin was to "box" the tree: it was cut into, a foot above the ground, to a depth of four inches; then a wide, slanting cut angled down into the initial cut, forming a collecting "box." Additional slanting axe cuts angling toward the box allowed the resin to drip down. At the end of the flow, "scrape," the dried resin remaining on the cuts, was scraped off and added to the harvest.

This technique caused severe damage to the trees, which survived only three or four years of such treatment. Later, galvanized iron "gutters" allowed for more efficient and less harmful collection.

Tar, important as wagon-axle grease, was yet another by-product of the pitch pine. Stumps, roots, and other waste wood were piled on clay-covered earth mounds up to twenty feet in diameter, with collecting ditches at their bases. The stacks, or "ricks," received a very slow, controlled burn from the top down, permitting tar to ooze from the wood down to the ditch, to be quickly collected and barreled. The "humble" pitch pine, then, has played an important role in the lives of those who have lived in its shadow.

Manorville Hills County Park *map on page 39* 0.5 mile entrance trail—yellow blazes; 7 mile loop—orange blazes

Why:

West to east, Manorville Hills offers the longest expanse of roadless land on Long Island. Long abused by off-road vehicles, the rolling hills of the Ronkonkoma Moraine are badly eroded in many places, but recent efforts at better management are helping to reclaim the pinelands here.

The Paumanok Path passes through Manorville Hills, and a fine trailhead on the east side of County Route 111, complete with excellent parking, provides access to new, separate loop trails for hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders.

Directions:

From L.I.E. Exit 70, go south to a marked left turn at Hot Water Street. Continue across the road to the parking area. From Sunrise Highway (NY 27) eastbound, go north from Exit 62 on C.R. 11 to the county park sign and the parking lot.

Description:

The parking area is a very short drive in from the entrance sign. From here, the well-marked yellow hiking trail heads through a flat, shady tract partly lined with thick stands of ferns. A few species of non-native and invasive plants dwell on this former farm, but field succession is slowly returning it to a more natural state. It's a delightful walk.

Beyond a dense stand of white pine, the trail reaches three orange blazes, marking the beginning of the loop trail. Pick a direction. Traveling clockwise, you'll reach a lovely glacial kettlehole (about a 2.5 mile round trip from the parking area). Beyond, the trail travels up and down the convoluted Manorville Hills, deposited as part of the Ronkonkoma Moraine by the receding glaciers of the last Ice Age. Elevations top out at 250 feet.

Options:

1) Cross trails and old north-south fire roads make for almost limitless hiking here. The loop described above can be cut almost in half by a cross path at a narrow point in the route. Other trails and dirt roads radiate in many directions. If you care to explore, be sure to bring a map and/or compass.

2) Take a 10-mile hike on the Paumanok Path. Drop a car at Suffolk County Community College's Field 1 (off County Route 51 south of Riverhead). Take the second car south on 51 to C.R. 111; go north to a traffic light at Halsey Manor Road, turn right, and park on Halsey Manor just south of the Expressway. On the east side you'll pick up the white blazes of the Paumanok Path heading into Manorville Hills. Currently, the trail parallels the Expressway for over a mile and a half before turning away from the road; eventually, a reroute will move it into the woods sooner.

This section of the Paumanok Path traverses 9.7 miles of roadless area east to County Route 51, passing over Riverhead's Bald Hill (elevation 295') shortly before the end. Look to the northeast for a view of Peconic Bay. Continue across C.R. 51 to the college.

Sarnoff Preserve

map on page 38

Why:

Directly south of the center of Riverhead lie some of Long Island's most important tracts of protected open space, the 2,324-acre David Sarnoff Preserve administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Sarnoff Preserve has been in state hands since 1978, when R.C.A. donated it to the public along with Rocky Point Preserve. Both properties were used as antenna fields for overseas communication until satellite technology rendered them superfluous. Now, areas that once were cleared for transmitting use are returning to a natural state. Fire roads and trails abound.

Directions:

Drop a car at Field 1 at Suffolk Community College—Riverhead. Go north on County Route 51 to a right onto C.R. 63, then a quarter turn at the Riverhead traffic circle. Take C.R. 104 south to the most convenient parking place, on the west (right) side 104 south of the junction with C.R. 105, prominently marked with a D.E.C. sign, complete with a map of its trails. Oddly, the Paumanok Path does not appear on the map, but it does exist!

From the traffic circle in downtown Riverhead, go south on 104 to the parking area; from NY 27, go north from Exit 63 on C.R. 31, turn left onto 104, and go north a half mile; from NY 27 Exit 64, go north on 104 to the parking area.

Access to David Sarnoff and other D.E.C. lands currently requires a free annual permit, details on page 5.

Description:

Be prepared for light bushwhacking—budget cuts have effected maintenance here. From the kiosk in the parking lot, walk west a bit more than 150 feet and locate a sign for the D.E.C.'s Blue and Red Trails. (A map at the kiosk illustrates their routes.) You'll also find the white blazes of the Paumanok Path. For this hike, follow them to the left for 150 feet or so, where the trail turns westward and soon immerses you in pine barrens with a dense understory of scrub oak, blueberry, huckleberry, wintergreen, and the triangular fronds of bracken fern.

The trail passes a junction with a yellow side loop of about 0.9 miles which heads south, turns around a glacial kettlehole pond, and returns north to the main trail. This short walk is a fine excursion in itself.

The Paumanok Path continues west and northwest through dense patches of scrub oak occasionally opening into viewpoints north and east. At 4.1 miles Wildwood Lake appears below and to the right. In less than a quarter mile the trail crosses the paved road into Hampton Hills golf course. The Hampton Hills tract was one of the first major purchases of open space in the Pine Barrens. This section ends at Speonk-Riverhead Road, across from, where parking is available at Field 1.

Options: Following the Paumanok Path eastward from the D.E.C. lot will bring you to the Pleasure Drive trailhead described below in 2.6 miles. The trail first heads north on the west side of 104, crosses and continues eastward, then swings south around an area that saw a controlled burn in the early 2000's. Controlled burns are an occasional management tool to eliminate heavy fuel load in the understory.

P

5.9 miles one way—white blazes

Photo courtesy of Tom Casey



A pitch pine blackened by the 1995 wildfires sends up new shoots weeks later.

DID YOU KNOW?

Animals in the Pine Barrens include over 100 bird species, many of which are disappearing in the region; an outstanding population of butterflies and moths, including the threatened buck moth; and such threatened or endangered vertebrates as the eastern tiger salamander, eastern mud turtle and northern harrier hawk.

In fact, the Long Island Pine Barrens boast the greatest diversity of plant and animal species anywhere in the state of New York. To learn more about specific species' locations on Long Island, visit the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Environmental Resource Mapper: www.dec.ny.gov/imsmaps/ERM

Pine Barrens Trails Information Center

map on page 9

0.75 mile loop—blue blazes

Why:

If you haven't yet walked in the Pine Barrens and want an easy introduction, there's a perfect place waiting for you in Manorville: El's Wampmissick Trail. The Trails Information Center, a joint effort of Suffolk County Parks and the Greenbelt Trail Conference, is open seasonally and mostly on weekends, but the trail behind it is open every day. The Center is equipped with a fat-tire wheelchair, allowing those with disabilities to access the unpaved but hardened surface of the loop; the surface makes the trail great for kids, too. The Center also features a large map of trails in the Pine Barrens, photos and artifacts. The trail system here also connects with the Paumanok Path.

Directions:

Take the L.I.E. to Exit 70 and go north a quarter mile to the Center. The Trail begins at the back door of the building.

Description:

The Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference and the Suffolk County Department of Parks officially opened loop on June 3, 1995 and called it the Wampmissick Loop, a Native American name for extensive swamps two miles west of Manorville. On June 2, 2001, the path was dedicated as "El's Trail," in honor of M.E. "El" Burton, longtime member of the LIGTC's Board of Directors. It was El's idea to improve the surface and grade of the trail to make it more accessible for visitors who experience some difficulty walking or use wheelchairs.

A part of the loop follows an abandoned railroad bed, then circles through classic Pine Barrens. Stop at one of the benches along the way and soak up the atmosphere—and maybe the sound of towhees, chickadees and warblers. Side trails connect El's trail to the nearby Paumanok Path, a long-distance hiking route. The Trails Information Center truly is at the center of what's happening in the Pine Barrens.

The trail is marked with blue paint blazes. The first third of the route runs concurrently with the yellow blazes of the spur trail link to the Paumanok Path. The beginning of the trail passes not through Pine Barrens but through a slowly maturing old field. Sun-loving red cedars, pioneers in old fields, are giving way to taller cherry, locust and red maple trees. Wild rose, Virginia creeper, garlic mustard and lily of the valley, typical in places of past human activity, appear in the understory. Beware: so does a little poison ivy, which is suppressed in the Pine Barrens proper by more frequent brush fires.

The path turns right onto an abandoned railroad bed. Here once ran the Long Island Railroad's "Scoot" train, which ran from Greenport to a "wye" junction here in Manorville, then south to Eastport and on to Amagansett. The line succumbed to the Depression in the winter of 1931. The trail then turns left off the roadbed into classic Pine Barrens, with pitch pines and white, scarlet and black oak in the canopy and an understory of highbush blueberry, lowbush blueberry and black huckleberry.... **Continued on page 13**

Turn left at the junction and you'll complete a fine, ten-mile loop; turn right and you'll reach the parking area on Whiskey Road where you left the second car, four-tenths of a mile away. From here, if you wish, you can now follow the white blazes through the old Route 111 corridor, across Route 25 into the Pine Trail Preserve, and on to the Peconic headwaters—a total of twelve beautiful miles.

Options:

1) Following the white blazes of the Paumanok Path instead of ending at Whiskey Road adds additional mileage for the more adventurous. Limited parking is available on the road on the first four streets listed below (look for white blazes where the trail crosses them), and a designated parking area exists on the south side of NY 25 at the Pine Trail Preserve.

Continuing to...

... Woodlots Road total mileage =	6.16
... Raynor Road	6.28
... Ridge Road	6.60
... Randall Road	7.43
... William Floyd Parkway	7.63
... the Pine Trail at NY 25	8.46

2) The D.E.C.'s Red Trail leads from a junction with the Blue Trail near Whiskey Road and completes a 10-mile loop back to the NY 25A parking area. Because of cutbacks in staffing and funding, the D.E.C. has not been maintaining this route as of this writing. The red-disc blazes have faded, and the trail is overgrown. If you long for a wilderness experience and have good tracking skills, you may wish to attempt this loop. Otherwise, we recommend that you ask your state legislators to restore funds to the D.E.C. so that it can maintain trails the way it can and should.

Keep your eyes peeled for giant ant mounds like this one here!



Rocky Point Preserve

P

map on page 37 5.4 miles point to point—white blazes & blue discs

Why:

Anchoring the western end of the Paumanok Path is the vast Rocky Point Natural Resources Management Area, 5,249 acres administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Rolling terrain on the north end gives way to a mostly gentle tract of classic upland Pine Barrens, with a healthy dose of history thrown in. Here's a place where you can walk all day.

Directions:

The parking area for the preserve and the western terminus of the Paumanok Path lies on the south side of NY 25A in Rocky Point, 0.6 mile east of the junction with NY 25A and North Country/ County Road 20 and 0.4 mile west of Rocky Point— Yaphank Road/County Route 21. The turn is easy to miss; look for the D.E.C. sign up the driveway. The trail begins at the east end of the gravel lot. For a point-to-point hike, leave one car at the Whiskey Road parking area where the Paumanok Path crosses. This lot is west of William Floyd Parkway and about a half mile west of Wood Lots Road. To hike here you'll currently need a free, annual D.E.C. permit, see page 5 for details.

Description:

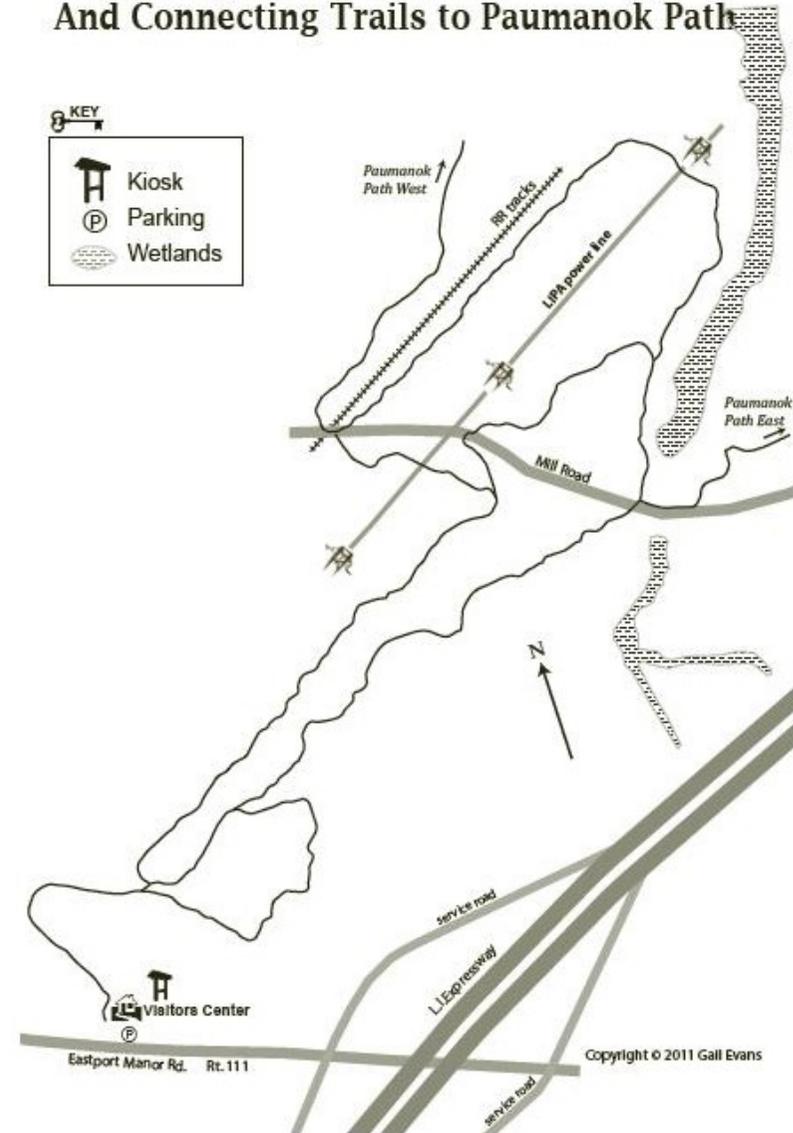
Purchased by RCA in 1920 and dubbed "Radio Central," Rocky Point Preserve once housed a huge antenna field, the largest radio transmitting facility in the world. Concrete footings scattered throughout the property are the only reminders of the 400-foot towers that once dominated the landscape here. By the 1970s new technology made the transmitters obsolete, and RCA donated the tract, along with the David Sarnoff Preserve near Riverhead, to the State of New York, which "purchased" the land with a single dollar from a 1972 Environmental Quality Bond Act.

The trail heads southwest through the morainal sections, swings south through the kettlehole, then southeast toward Rocky Point Road (C.R. 21), a distance of 3 1/2 miles. The northern sections have rich enough soil to support a mixed hardwood forest of mostly oak, with hickory, sassafras, poplar, dogwood, birch and black cherry also common. The Harbor Hill Moraine, the last advance of the Ice Age that forms our North Shore bluffs and the North Fork, is much in evidence here in the undulating terrain, the numerous erratics, and a large kettlehole that straddles the Paumanok Path.

Farther south, a classic pine barren sprouts from sandier soil on mostly level ground. Pitch pine, scrub oak, tree oaks, blueberry, huckleberry, bearberry, bracken fern and sheep laurel predominate in these flatter areas. Approaching Whiskey Road, you'll see evidence of the 1995 wildfires that swept through Rocky Point Preserve and the pine barrens in Westhampton.

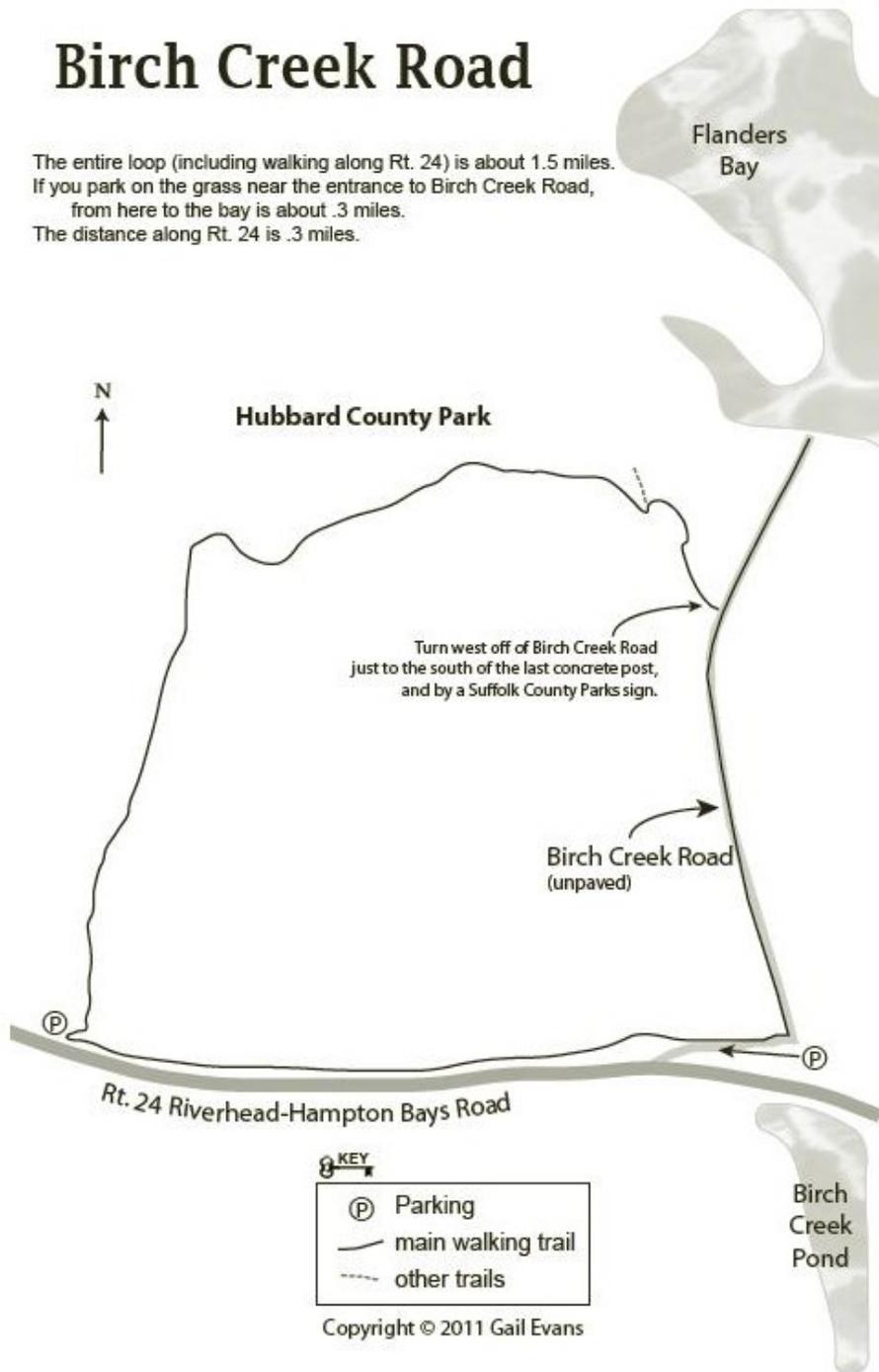
Just before the road, a yellow side trail entering from the right leads to a second parking area. East of Whiskey, the trail continues a mile and a half to a T-intersection with the Red Trail, also marked with D.E.C. discs (see following page).

El's Wampmissick Trail And Connecting Trails to Paumanok Path



Birch Creek Road

The entire loop (including walking along Rt. 24) is about 1.5 miles.
If you park on the grass near the entrance to Birch Creek Road,
from here to the bay is about .3 miles.
The distance along Rt. 24 is .3 miles.



KEY

- (P) Parking
- main walking trail
- - - other trails

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Paumanok Path: Wading River-Manor Rd. to Schultz Rd.

map on page 36

5.2 miles out and back—white blazes

Why:

The Peconic River passes through Manorville, and so does the Paumanok Path hiking trail. Taking a round-trip walk of under three miles here will reveal much to you about the Pine Barrens.

Directions:

From Exit 70 of the L.I.E, go north past the Trails Information Center to a T-intersection. Turn right, cross the LIRR tracks, and turn right again at the next T-intersection. Shortly after, bear left onto David Terry Road/Wading River Manor Road. In about half a mile, you'll reach a small bridge over the Peconic River and a sign marking the border of Riverhead and Southampton towns. Park here and look for the white-blazed trail on the west side, just north of the river.

Description:

At first, you'll walk a narrow corridor between the Peconic and private property, but after crossing a small footbridge you'll find yourself in an expanse of Pine Barrens with an interesting recent history. Notice that the trail is shady and lined with typical vegetation: sweet pepperbush near water, then pitch pines, oaks and berry bushes in the drier areas.

Not far down the trail, however, the canopy thins out and the understory growth increases. You've reached the edge of what was a moderately hot brush fire back in 1993. Notice that the fire-adapted pines, berry bushes and heath plants still thrive here, but the tree oaks are only now returning. After the fire, thick scrub oak, fire sedge and grasses dominated the area. Though they remain today, they are slowly receding as the canopy thickens once more.

Before reaching your turn-around point at Schultz Road, you'll pass an old kettlehole pond, which has slowly and naturally filled in over the years but still harbors ferns in the lower areas. If you're lucky, you'll spot beautiful eastern bluebirds, which love to nest in old burn areas, and perhaps wild turkeys.

Observing subtle changes in the always-resilient Pine Barrens is part of the fascination of walking our open spaces.

Options:

Continuing west across Schultz Road will bring you to Jones Pond, on your left, in another 0.2 mile; Sandy and Grassy Ponds lie another 1.0 mile beyond Jones.

DID YOU KNOW? A Kettlehole is an irregularly shaped freshwater pond or lake that is formed when large chunks of ice are left behind by a receding glacier. Long Island's largest kettlehole is Lake Ronkonkoma, which is 243 acres and ranges in depth from 15 to 65 feet.

Brookhaven State Park Loops map on page 24

5.3 miles—green blazes; 3.7 miles—red blazes; 1.7 miles—blue blazes
Why:

Rescued from closure for budgetary reasons in 2010, Brookhaven State Park now boasts a new network of well-marked trails easy to access and sure to please everyone from all-day hikers to casual walkers.

Directions:

The entrance for the loops is on the east side of William Floyd Parkway, north of NY 25 and opposite Whiskey Road.

Description:

A kiosk displaying a trail map lies inside the gated entrance to the park. Those of you concerned about picking up ticks should appreciate these wide paths, many of them on old, unpaved roads in the interior of the park. Not to say you shouldn't remain vigilant, but your chances of finding hitchhiking ticks will be greatly reduced by following these trails.

Start at the new gated entrance, complete with kiosk and map. Picnic tables are available. From here the red loop heads northward, paralleling the parkway, then eastward and back to the start. The green trail extends 5.3 miles eastward along old Long Pond Road, then south almost to NY 25 and back. Each of these routes intersects the Brookhaven Trail twice, offering many options for shortening or lengthening walks.

Finally, the blue trail, concurrent with the green much of the way, uses a north-south cutoff to form an easy, 1.7 mile loop from the entrance. Long distance trekkers can also use the William Floyd entrance to connect to the Brookhaven Trail, walk south across NY 25, and keep going on the Paumanok Path to their heart's content.

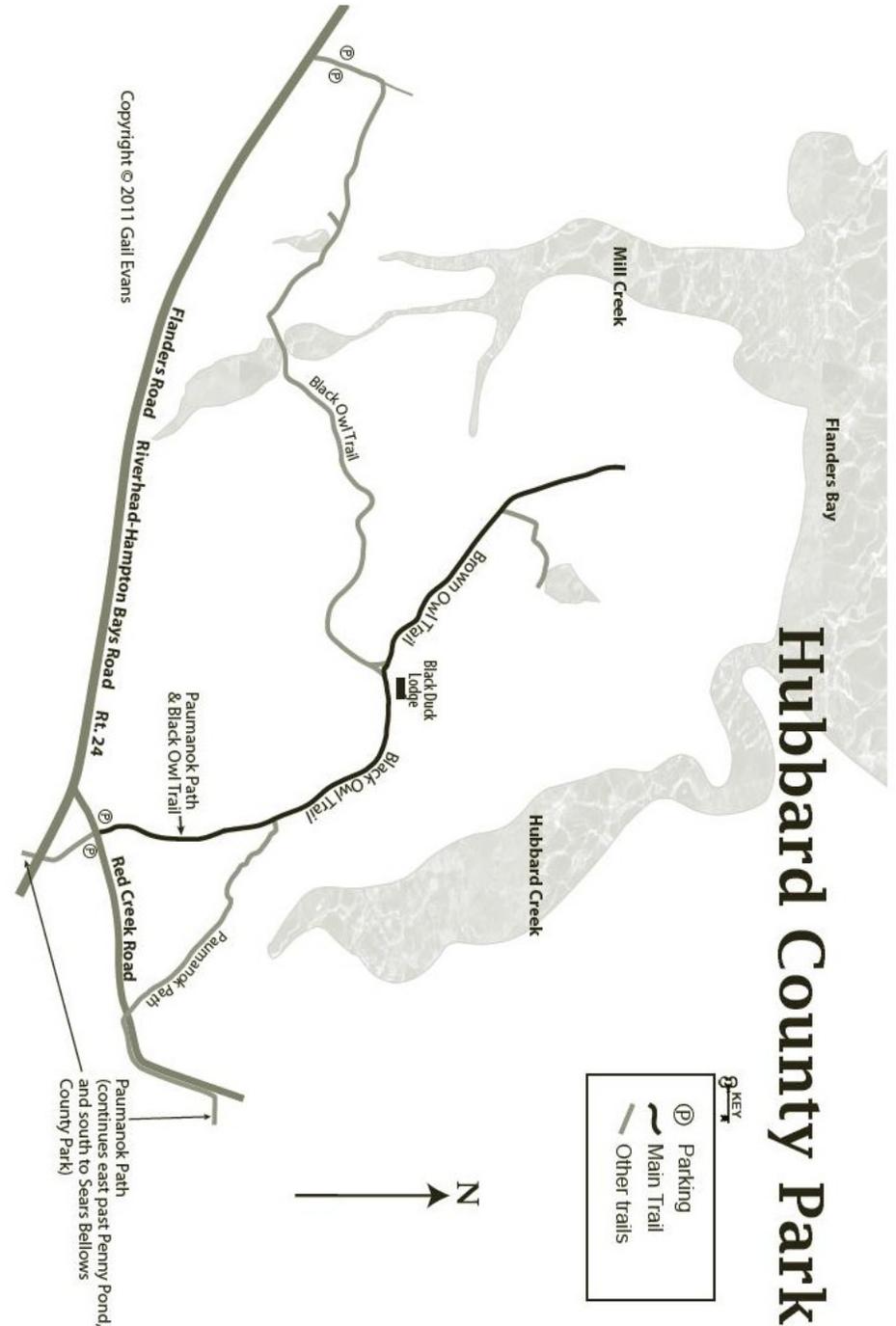
We applaud Brookhaven's small, committed staff for not only for creating these trails but for securing the perimeter of the park and ending the dumping and ATV abuse that pervaded the place for years. With few resources, they've turned Brookhaven Park around.



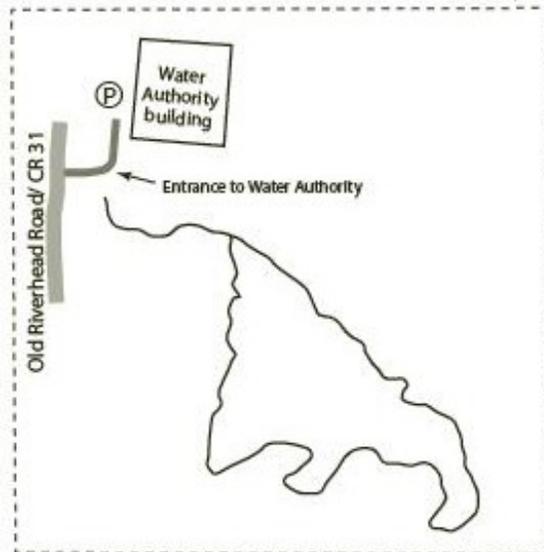
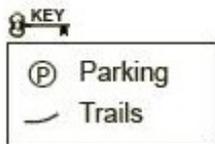
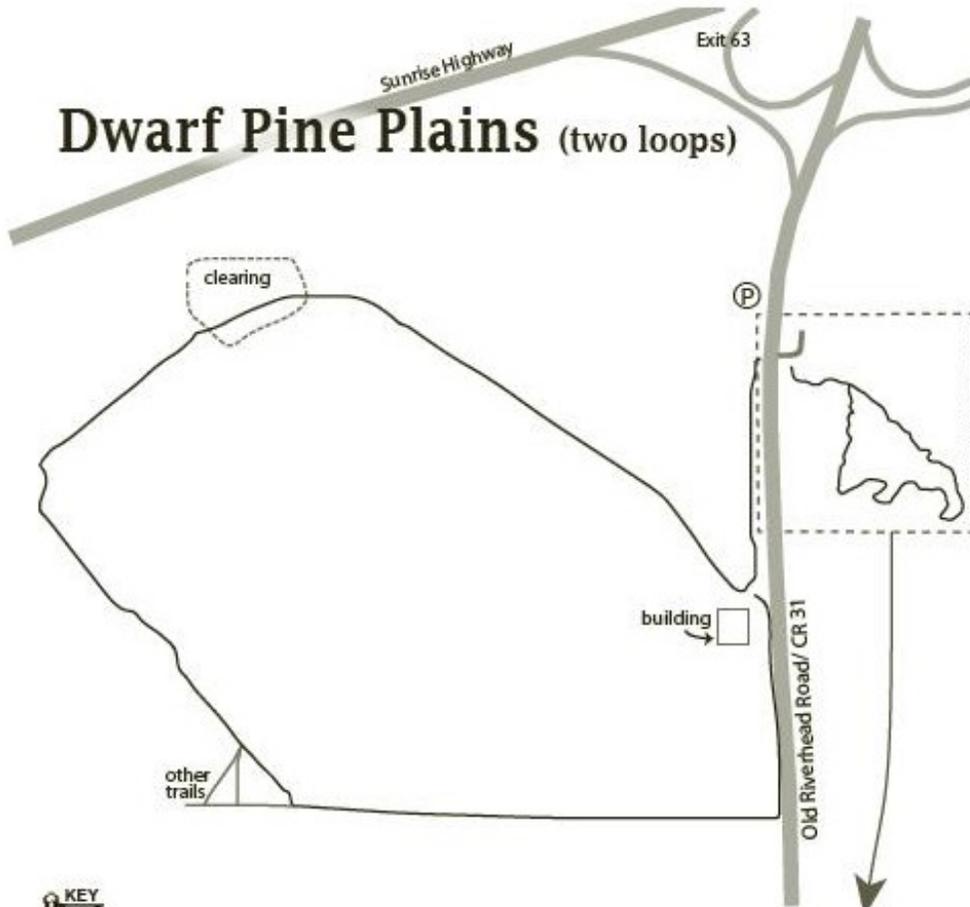
Photo courtesy of Tom Casey

Did You Know?

The New York State Environmental Protection Fund provides critical resources to many of our favorite cultural sites on Long Island— from the State Parks, to historic sites like Connetquot Lodge, as well as provides for other events like the fireworks at Jones Beach on the fourth of July. The EPF also finances open space acquisition of such prime lands as the Pine Barrens and the Montauk bluffs.



Dwarf Pine Plains (two loops)



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Brookhaven Trail

map on page 24

4.0 miles to NY 25—yellow blazes

10.45 miles to Paumanok Path and back—yellow blazes

Why:

The Brookhaven Trail traverses beautiful upland pine-oak and oak-pine barrens and connects with the Paumanok Path for longer hikes. Brookhaven State Park also hosts a series of fine new loop trails.

Directions:

Begin at Shoreham-Wading River High School. Take William Floyd Parkway (County Route 46) north to its end at NY 25A. Go east a short distance to the school entrance. Keep right, and park at the southwest corner of the lot. There are many marked trails here, many for the cross-country team at the high school. Walk on the west side and parallel to the ball field, and at the far side look for the yellow blazes of the Brookhaven Trail.

Description:

1) Most of the Brookhaven Trail lies within 2,300-acre Brookhaven State Park, formerly part of the Army's Camp Upton and later Brookhaven National Laboratory. The terrain is slightly rolling at the north end and flatter to the south. An easy 4-miler requires leaving a car on the north side of NY 25 in Ridge, just east of East Margin Road at a fence line where the trail emerges.

Starting from Shoreham-Wading River H.S., you'll come to views of Burnt Hollow within a mile and a quarter. Brush fires years ago have left this depression with thicker understory vegetation. At 1.7 miles cross the dirt Wading River Hollow Road, which now has red blazes (see Hike #11), and at 2.4 miles Long Pond Road, with green blazes.

At 3.0 miles, you'll notice the green blazes again and a side path to a small pond. The trail continues on fairly flat ground to NY 25.

Out-and-back hikers may wish to continue on the trail across NY 25 to the junction with the white-blazed Paumanok Path. The southernmost segment saw a hot brush fire in the late 1980's, with evidence remaining in the denser understory growth of scrub oak

Options:

1) Use a buddy system with two cars and leave a car at the Pine Trail Preserve lot on NY 25, 0.6 miles east of William Floyd Parkway. Then drive the other car to the Shoreham Wading River School parking lot and park there. Hike the Brookhaven Trail south to its junction with the Paumanok Path, and turn right to return to the Pine Trail lot. **Total mileage: 6.8**

2) Combine parts of the Brookhaven Trail with parts of the loops described in the Brookhaven State Park section. A great variety of long and short loops is possible.

Description:

For the first half mile or so, you'll be within sight of subdivisions off to your left and cross several dirt fire roads. In this area, fires are suppressed quickly, so tree oaks have been able to outnumber the more fire-resistant pitch pines. The trail descends slightly and gradually as you walk southeast, and in wet weather you may encounter large puddles before reaching a power line and again closer to the ponds. In most parts of the Pine Barrens, water percolates quickly through the porous soil, but here there's more silt from ancient beds of the Peconic.

After a left turn under the power line, keep a sharp eye out for a right a hundred yards later. You'll now enter an area that endured a very hot brushfire in the mid-1980s, and the effects are still visible. The fire destroyed oak trees and small pitch pines and left a few taller pines. Afterwards, thick stands of sun-loving scrub oak emerged. Notice that the canopy remains thinner now than the unburned areas you've walked through, but tree oaks and more pines are now shading out, and thinning out, the scrub oak. Don't be surprised if you startle a wild turkey here.

At 1.6 miles from the start, you'll reach a junction with the yellow-blazed Brookhaven Trail, which runs north from here 5.22 miles to NY 25A in Shoreham. Take the right fork, and continue following the white blazes.

Near the end of the burn area, you may notice several large anthills, which are really the tips of icebergs, leading to vast underground galleries where the ants thrive. The hills are more visible in fall and winter. Beyond a north-south fire road, the trail dips slightly into wetlands where in early summer you'll find pink sheep laurel and fragrant swamp azalea. You'll cross a branch of the Peconic River on a narrow footbridge and come to Sandy and Grassy Ponds, part of the Peconic Headwaters, which contain the largest concentration of endangered species in New York State. Look for pitcher plant, sundew and bladderwort—all insectivorous plants—and cranberry and leatherleaf along the shores of the ponds. Look also for large snapping turtles and painted turtles sunning themselves on snags sticking up from the ponds, for deer visiting the shore, and ospreys overhead.

Options:

1) If you do the out-and-back 4.3-miler but are still up for more, try continuing north across NY 25 on the Paumanok Path...

...to William Floyd Parkway and back makes total mileage

5.95

...to Randall Road and back

6.35

...to Ridge Road and back

7.95

2) Continue eastward on the Paumanok Path past Sandy and Grassy Ponds to Schultz Road, passing Jones Pond along the way, before returning.

Total mileage: 6.7

To distinguish blueberry from huckleberry, examine the underside of a leaf in the sunlight; blueberry will have a matte finish, while huckleberry will reveal glistening resin dots.

At 0.29 mile the yellow-blazed side trail diverges left to Mill Road (see below). Continue on El's Trail by following blue blazes to the right. A large glacial erratic, a boulder transported here from New England by the glaciers of the last Ice Age, sits to the left of the trail.

Shortly after, take time to relax on benches shaded by large white pines. Listen for rufous-sided towhees, with their distinctive, three-note, "drink-your-tea" call. Among many other species present are catbirds, migratory warblers, cuckoos, flycatchers, orioles, towhees, chickadees and red-tail hawks. At 0.48 mile the path rejoins the old railroad bed. Look for the triangular fronds of bracken fern; the pointed, fragrant leaves of sweet fern (actually a woody-stemmed shrub, not a fern); and striped wintergreen, a low, dark-leaved plant with lighter centers.

Turn right to return to the Center.

Options:

The Trails Information Center offers convenient access to the Paumanok Path. From the T.I.C., begin the loop trail, continue to the railroad bed, and follow yellow blazes instead of the blue. This spur trail reaches Mill Road and the Paumanok Path in 0.67 miles. From here you can turn left toward Wading River-Manor Road and Schultz Road, or right to Halsey Manor Road and beyond, for hikes of any length.

Birch Creek Road

map on page 10

1 mile or less--unblazed

Why:

We often think of much of the Pine Barrens as a dry inland habitat, but in Flanders the pines march down to Flanders Bay in spectacular fashion. This is an easy but very diverse walk.

Directions:

Head east on NY 24 from Riverhead and look on the north side for Birch Creek Road, an unpaved, sandy dead end opposite Birch Creek Pond. The road is short, so if the sand seems too deep, pull off and walk down to the bay. This spot is also popular with kayakers who launch into the bay.

For alternate parking which avoids the sand, use the wide, paved area on the south side of NY 24 at Spinney Road, a closed, gated road just east of Birch Creek. Use extreme caution crossing NY 24 on foot!

Description:

You'll see the Pine Barrens end at the high tide line, with marsh elder and groundsel on the fringe. The salt marshes beyond perform the vital functions of filtering pollutants, buffering the shore against storms, and providing nutrients and breeding habitat for many species. ...**Continued on next page**

At the shore you may see ospreys, terns, horseshoe crabs, razor clams, red-bearded sponges and lots more. Turn back up the road, and a few yards north of the tide line look for a wide, unmarked trail to the right. Follow this into Flanders County Park for perhaps a quarter mile, and keep your ears open for the sound of trickling water. If you're vigilant, you'll find its source at an artesian well, where pure Pine Barrens water bubbles to the surface at a constant 54 degrees. And there it is—the Pine Barrens water we've all worked so hard to protect.

Options:

It is possible to walk from this area into Hubbard County Park. Consult Greenbelt or Suffolk County Parks maps.

Hubbard County Park and the Ghost Forest

map on page 11 **about 2 miles—unblazed**

Why:

Melding pine barrens, salt marshes, and considerable history, Hubbard presents a beautiful and gentle landscape for easy exploration.

Directions:

From NY 27 Exit 65, go north about two miles on NY 24 to Red Creek Road. Park alongside RC Road in one of the many pull-off spots and walk the 1/5 of a mile in to the Black Duck Lodge.

Description:

Black Duck Lodge was built by the Hubbard family in 1838 and later was owned by financier E.F. Hutton. At present there is no public access to the building. As you face the Lodge, look to your left for a wide trail with a metal gate to bar vehicles. Walk down the trail to where it divides, and bear right. The under-story is thin here, evidence of a former farm. Mill Creek appears to the west.

The trees end abruptly at a large salt marsh. Check for a sign announcing closures. This trail is often restricted in spring and early summer in deference to ospreys nesting nearby. When the trail is open, notice a band of groundsel, a shrub that denotes the high tide line. Beyond lie acres of salt hay (*spartina patens*), cordgrass (*spartina alterniflora*) and black rush (*juncus gerardii*). Look closely among the taller grasses for glasswort (*salicornia*), an edible succulent also known as pickleweed. It's easier to spot in the fall, when it turns yellow, orange, then red.

Continue to an isolated grove of trees fronting on Flanders Bay. Prickly pear cactus grows on either side of the trail. At low tide, notice the stumps of the "Ghost Forest," the remnants of Atlantic white cedars that lived when sea levels were lower and the shoreline farther out into Flanders Bay. Horseshoe crabs thrive here.



Owl Pond

Photo courtesy of Tom Casey

Options:

1) From Owl Pond you may continue following the white blazes of the Paumanok Path, first southward and then eastward to the closed Spinney Road and then turn north on Spinney to the parking area. Avoid this route in hot weather!

Total mileage: about 4.5.

2) Continuing across Spinney instead of turning onto it will take you farther east on the Paumanok Path, again on rolling terrain, past Sears, Division, House and Grass Ponds, ultimately to a turn northward to NY 24.

Total mileage: 6.3.

Pine Trail to Sandy and Grassy Ponds

map on page 23

4.3 miles out and back—white blazes

Why:

Enjoy a flat, easy section of the Rocky Point-to-Montauk Paumanok Path. Land once destined for an extension of County Route 111 from Manorville to Port Jefferson now forms a corridor of preserved land that links the huge Rocky Point Preserve to the Peconic Ponds region. This walk offers a fine introduction to the interior of the Pine Barrens, including two beautiful ponds, without ever getting too far from "civilization."

Directions:

From the junction of NY 25 and William Floyd Parkway in Ridge, drive east on NY 25 1/6 mile to a dirt parking area on your right. The trail begins at a sign identifying Suffolk County's Pine Trail Preserve. The trail is marked with white blazes.

For a one-way hike, a buddy system with two cars works well here. Park one at the end of the hike at NY 24 and Spinney Road, where there is a closed, gated road on the south side of the highway near Birch Creek Road. This wide parking area is a safe place to leave a car. Drive the other car south east on NY 24 to NY 27, and get on 27 heading west. Take the next exit, 64 north onto county road 104. Follow the rest of the directions from the paragraph above.

Description:

After a level start, the trail soon climbs a low hill of the Moraine and then descends to cross a power line right of way within a half mile. The sunny, sandy r.o.w. harbors prairie grasses, bracken fern, indigo and bayberry. Returning to the woods, you'll pass through classic pine-oak barrens with an understory of blueberry, huckleberry, wintergreen and other heath plants. Reindeer lichen and pixie cups also appear.

The trail traverses a dry kettlehole, a bowl-shaped remnant of the Ice Age, and then some denser vegetation near wetlands, where you'll find swamp azalea in the early summer and highbush blueberry. After a left turn onto a wider fire road, 1.5 miles from the start, you'll find Maple Swamp on your left. This kettlehole isn't dry. Maple Swamp's bottom dips below the water table, which is thus visible as the surface of the pond. Red maple and water willow abound here.

Just beyond the swamp the trail takes a sharp right turn onto more rolling terrain, and soon you'll notice many dead oak trees. These had once outstripped the pines here, as there hasn't been a significant brush fire here in many years. Now they have succumbed to the double whammy of tiger oak worm and gypsy moths, which ravaged the trees for at least three years in succession in the early years of this century. Grasses now thrive under the thin canopy, and pitch pines are slowly reasserting themselves, all part of the dynamic landscape that forms the Pine Barrens.

After crossing three fire roads on undulating terrain, at about 2.7 miles into the walk the trail reaches a ridge where the land visibly falls off to the east into the Birch Creek-Owl Pond drainage—a good spot to catch a refreshing breeze. Beyond, the trail bears right and passes a dry patch of nutrient-poor soil where bearberry and Pine Barrens heather survive.

The route reaches a junction with a yellow-blazed side trail that runs along the west side of Birch Creek Pond 0.4 mile to NY 24, a quick exit if you need one. However, we suggest staying on the white trail as it briefly heads south, with Birch Creek barely visible on your left and sheep laurel and inkberry all around you. You'll cross a small earthen dam and immediately turn right through wetlands featuring sphagnum moss, inkberry, skunk cabbage and a few magnificent, tall Atlantic white cedars.

At 3.25 miles, you'll find a fine view of peaceful Owl Pond, ringed with sweet gale, leatherleaf, swamp azalea and other wetlands shrubs. A few yards to the left of the viewpoint, an old concrete duck blind sunk into the soil is mostly filled with water and harbors frogs in warmer weather.

At the pondside clearing you'll spot the yellow blazes of another side trail. This one offers a flat, easy walk of a little more than half a mile out to a parking area at Spinney Road and NY 24. Again, poor soils and a relatively sunny trail allow bearberry to thrive.

Options:

1) The left fork near the beginning of the trail, marked with black-diamond blazes, heads west across Mill Creek and into Suffolk County parkland known as the Smithers Property, which also has a trail leading to the bay, and eventually westward to Birch Creek. Round trips of four to six miles are possible.

2) From Black Duck Lodge, yellow and white blazes lead back down the entrance road to a point where the white-blazed Paumanok Path crosses. Go east (left) to cross Red Creek Road and reach Penny Pond in about a half mile. Other trails marked by the Southampton Trails Preservation Society pass through this area.

3) Follow the Paumanok Path down the Hubbard entrance road, across Red Creek Road and NY 24, and into Sears-Bellows Park. Use a Greenbelt Trail Conference map to explore a vast network of trails. For an ambitious loop, follow the white blazes westward past Sears Pond to Owl Pond, then take a yellow side trail north to NY 24 at Birch Creek. Using a map, follow trails and fire roads from Birch Creek through the Smithers Property and back to Black Duck Lodge.

Total mileage: about 6.3.

Photo courtesy of Tom Casey



Horseshoe crabs

Dwarf Pine Plains—Two Loops

map on page 12

2.5 to 3 mile loop--unblazed
0.64 mile loop—blazed with signposts

Why:

The Dwarf Pine Plains of Westhampton is the smallest of only three such areas, the other two being found in the New Jersey Pine Barrens and Ulster County's Shawangunk Mountains. Extremely poor soil and frequent wildfires combine to create a harsh environment where pitch pines rarely grow taller than six feet. Generously interspersed with the pines are scrub oaks, the host plant for the endangered buck moth. In the hot summer months, buck moths seek protection from the threat of wildfires by burrowing into earthen cells in the forest floor. In the autumn they come to the surface for their mating flight, laying eggs on a twig of scrub oak trees. In October, the moth emerges from underground resting places to live a few short days and seek mates. From late morning through early afternoon, these black-white-and-orange insects take to the skies in a sight not to be missed—and the pines are so accessible that you won't have to.

We suggest you try both short loops, one an unblazed route on the west side of County Route 31 and the other an interpretive loop on the east side. The Dwarf Pine Plains is extremely hot in the summer, so go early or wait for cooler seasons. The berry bushes here provide spectacular autumn color.

Directions:

Take Route 27 (Sunrise Highway) to Exit 63. At the southwest corner of the interchange, pull off immediately into an unpaved clearing just beyond the shoulder. Alternately, parking is available across the road at a Suffolk County Water Authority building adjacent to the interpretive loop.

For the west-side loop, locate an unmarked trail at the south end of the dirt parking area and heading south parallel to C.R. 31. The path extends a quarter mile to the side yard of a small commercial building. (If you wish, you can simply walk down the road to the building.) Turn right, and at the rear of the property a wide, straight trail heading northwest lures hikers into the heart of the Dwarf Pines.

Description for West-side Loop:

The soils of the Dwarf Pine Plains are the driest, most acidic, and most nutrient-poor of the entire Pine Barrens. Venture here in the middle of a warm day and you'll gain added respect for the plants and wildlife that can survive on this severe and sandy plain, which holds little of the moisture it receives. Amid the dominant dwarf pines and scrub oaks are bearberry, lowbush blueberry, huckleberry, wintergreen, sweet fern and *Hudsonia* heathers. All are well equipped to endure dry conditions. Up to ninety percent of the biomass of the plants here lies underground, a protection against fire. In fact, resins found in most of the vegetation here actually *promote* burning to drive out competing species.

The abundant pines here have adapted to fire. Most pitch pines produce cones which open every fall naturally and drop seed every year. Most dwarf pines, however, produce closed, or "serotinous," cones, which usually open only after being heated by a passing wildfire. After a fire, all the cones open slowly and drop their seed onto the ashy sand.

Deer, too, are plentiful, able to find enough moisture in the morning dew

At the next intersection, continue straight ahead to the fence line at the refuge's western boundary, then left to follow the pond shore back to the Nature Center. Along the way, a short boardwalk winds through another pretty wetland.

For a 1.4-mile loop, go straight instead of turning at the first intersection. You'll reach another junction where a left turn will take you across an earthen dam at North Pond, where another fine viewpoint awaits. Beyond the dam, look for cranberry on the right, then turn left onto a trail which will bring you back to the junction described in the previous paragraph. Turn left and go around the pond.

To fully appreciate Quogue Refuge, take the bridge over the Old Ice Pond and then turn right. As you head north, you'll see classic Pine Barrens, with tall, lowland pitch pines, blueberry, huckleberry, wintergreen, and scarlet, white and black oaks. The trail offers a surprise, though: as it almost imperceptibly gains elevation, it moves away from the water table and into coarser soil. You'll notice the pitch pines thinning out and getting smaller until, after a very slight rise, you enter a part of the Dwarf Pine Plains. Listen for prairie warblers and towhees. At the north end you can return the way you came or follow the fence line around to the right. A loop of more than three miles is possible.

Upon returning, be sure to stop in at the Nature Center, where picture windows overlooking Old Ice Pond offer a spectacular view year-round. There are maps, artifacts, kids' activities, and critters live and stuffed.

Options:

Fairy Dell is a separate section of Quogue Refuge, a very short walk from the parking lot across the railroad tracks to an entrance on Meetinghouse Road. A boardwalk trail offers excellent views of Quantuck Creek as it widens out to the bay.

Paumanok Path:

Pleasure Drive to Spinney Road

map on page 22

4 miles one way—white blazes

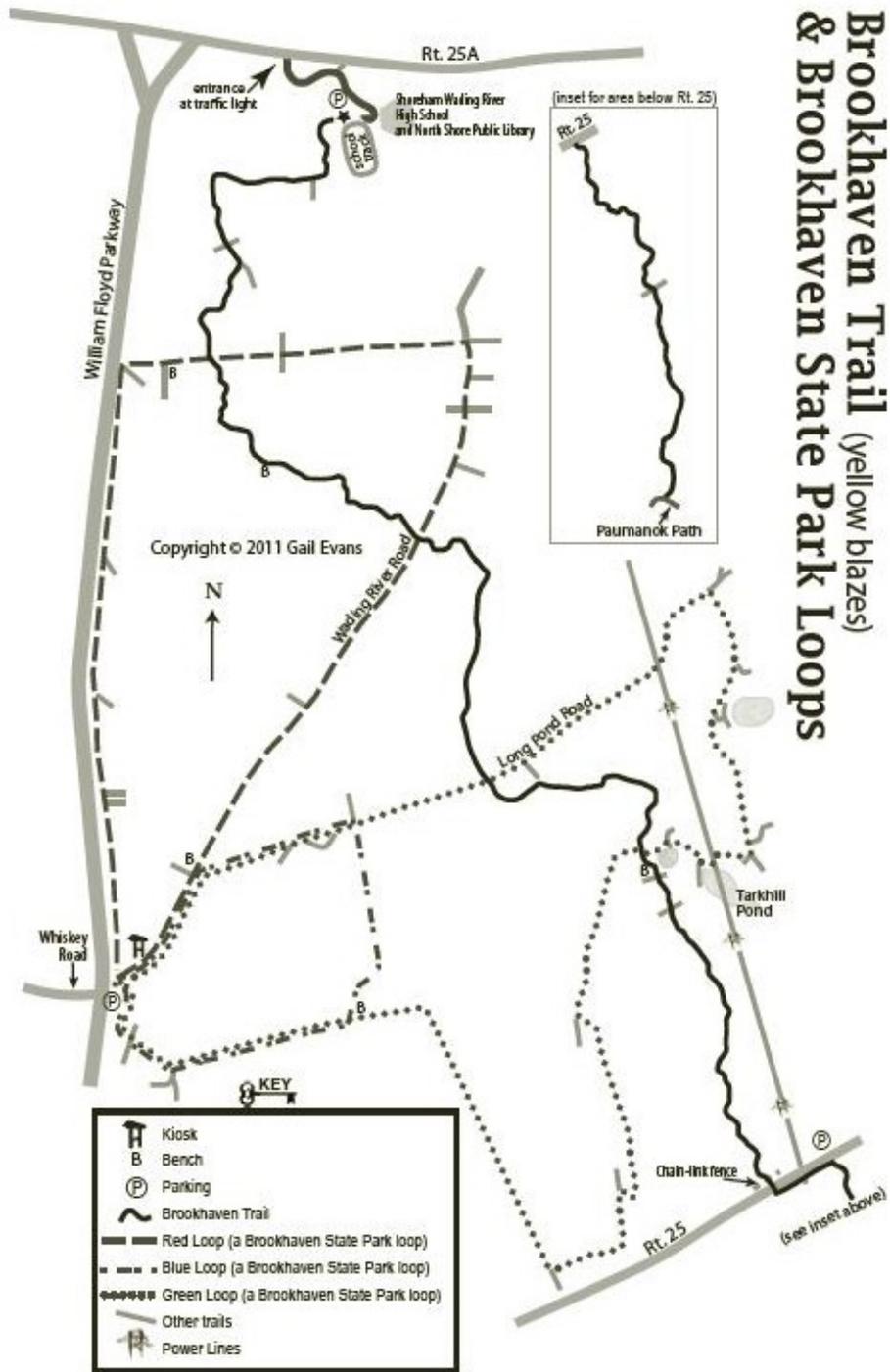
Why:

Although our Long Island Pine Barrens are famous for their ability to withstand light brush fires and even regenerate after major ones, they are not immune to other forces of nature. Along a fairly pristine section of the Paumanok Path hiking trail, you'll find evidence of such changes as you traverse the rolling hills of the Ronkonkoma Moraine, deposited during the last Ice Age. Maple Swamp, Birch Creek and Owl Pond add scenic interest on what is an especially pretty hike in fall and winter.

Directions:

Just north of Exit 64 on Sunrise Highway (NY 27), turn right off C.R. 104 onto Pleasure Drive. A short distance ahead, where the road takes a sharp left turn, park on the wide shoulder on your right. You'll find the white blazes of the trail, heading east into the woods, at an opening in a guard rail ahead of you.

...Continued on next page



on the oaks and by occasionally wandering south to outlying ponds. They tend to lie low during the day, but you'll see plenty of tracks. Listen for the ever-rising notes of the prairie warbler, whose call sounds a bit like a jet engine warming up.

Farther along the trail the noise of Sunrise Highway's traffic grows more pronounced. Within a half mile or so (don't worry: there are no side trails to mislead you), one enters a clearing just south of the road. This barren spot was created in the 1960s by construction crews extending Sunrise Highway eastward. What makes the clearing interesting now is how relatively devoid of vegetation it remains so long after. Isolated patches of *Hudsonia* have crept in from the edges, an occasional scrub oak pokes barely a foot or two above the earth, and a few pitch pines are finally taking hold after forty years.

Follow the south edge of the clearing until a clearly visible path appears straight ahead. Follow it until the first cross path, and there turn left. The sandy path is sometimes a tough walk if it's been chewed up by illegal ATV users. As you walk south, you'll be walking on the eastern edge of the burn area from the 1995 "Sunrise Fire," the wildfire that burned from Suffolk Community College in Riverhead south to the Westhampton LIRR station. To the right you'll see a vast area of scrub oak and low pitch pine that is filling this once completely blackened tract. To the north, the hills of the Ronkonkoma Moraine, created in the last Ice Age, are clearly visible.

Eventually you'll reach the end of an old east-west road paved with old, spent coal, or "clinkers." The road dates to World War II, when the area was used as a military bombing and gunnery range. Follow it straight to C.R. 31, about a half mile away. At the end of the abandoned road, you'll need to walk around a gate built to keep vehicles from entering the plains. Turn left to return to your car, an easy half-mile walk on a safe, wide shoulder. You may choose to avoid half of the paved part of the journey by picking up the trail parallel to the road just north of the commercial building.

Now, cross the road and try the Dwarf Pines Interpretive Trail, a project of the Central Pine Barrens Joint Policy and Planning Commission that opened in the fall of 2008. Signboards at the trailhead, just south of the Water Authority building, describe the trail and the precious drinking water aquifer beneath it. The short, Q-shaped loop is an easy, pleasant walk.

Caution: Should you visit the Dwarf Pine Plains in early summer, you'll encounter the buck moth in its caterpillar stage. *Do not* touch the caterpillar. Its protective poisonous spines could make your trip much more memorable than you intended!



Dwarf Pines Interpretive Trail

Quogue Wildlife Refuge

map on page 19

3.1 miles round trip for longest loop—no blazes, but easy to follow

Why:

A walk in beautiful Quogue Wildlife Refuge is a short course in Pine Barrens ecology. You'll see wetlands, creeks, ponds, tall lowland pitch pines, and dwarf pines, all on a pristine parcel that includes the fine Charles Banks Belt Nature Center and an old ice house, complete with interpretive signs. Outdoor pens house birds and animals which were either injured or at one time kept illegally and cannot be released into the wild. The refuge, founded in 1934 and operated by the Southampton Township Wildfowl Association, is open every day; the Nature Center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-4 PM and Saturdays and Sundays 11 AM - 4 PM. Call 631-653-4771.

Directions:

From NY 27 Exit 63, go south on County Road 31 to Montauk Highway (C.R. 80). Turn left, and head east to a curve in the road. (You'll see a road sign for Quogue on your right.) At the curve, turn left onto South Country Road, and follow it to its end. Turn left; the refuge will be in front of you across the LIRR tracks, where *South Country Road* becomes *Old Country Road*.

Alternately, take NY 27 to Exit 64, go south on NY 104 to *Old Country Road*, and turn right to the refuge. There is limited parking at the preserve, with plenty of additional space just across the road.

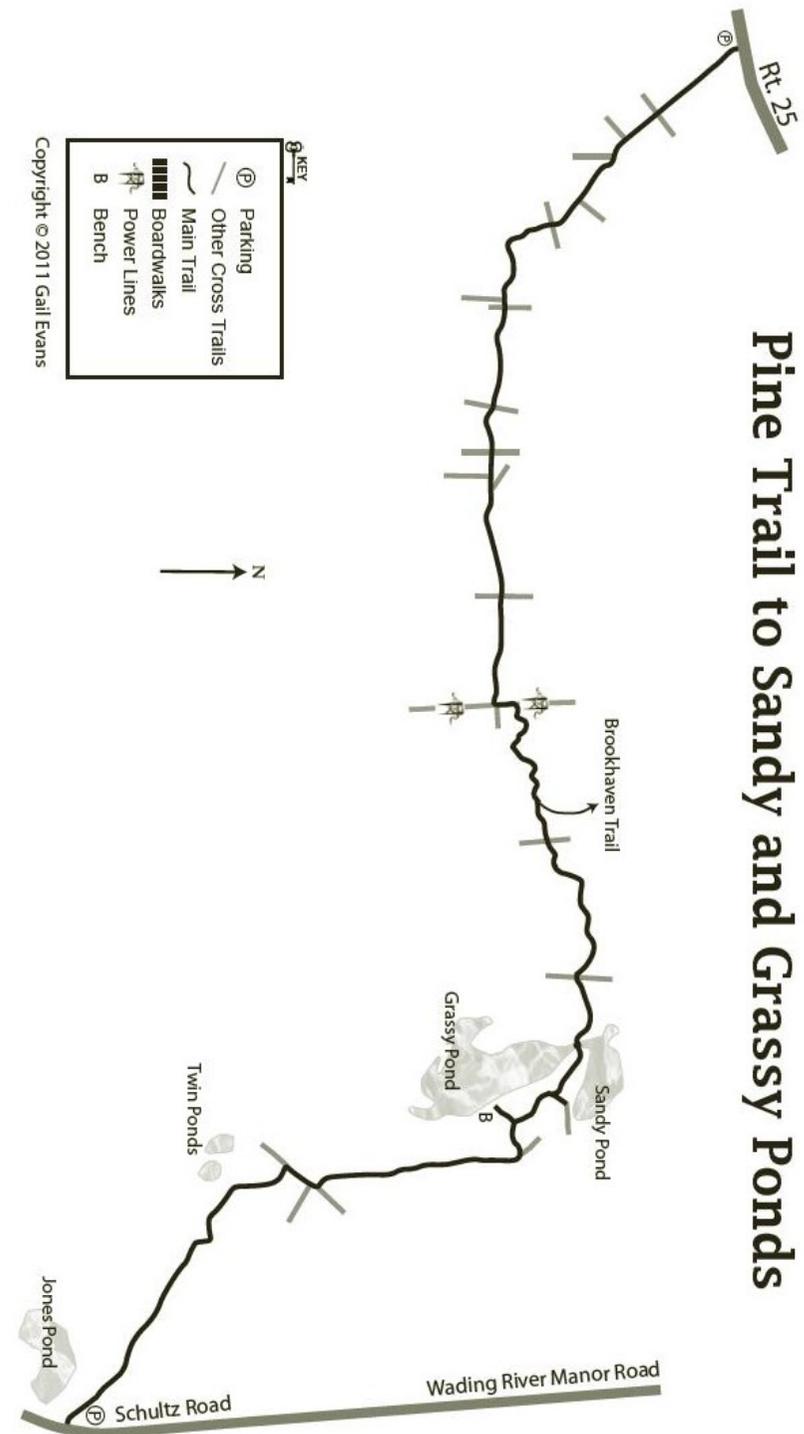
Description:

Begin by checking out the ice house exhibit at the left side of the parking lot. In the age before electric refrigeration, ice was a winter cash crop on Long Island. Men with horse-drawn sleds would harvest foot-thick blocks of ice, pack it in hay, and store it in ice houses. Now, with suburban development and thousands of miles of roads acting as heat sinks, winter temperatures prevent ponds from freezing to that extent.

The bird and animal pens lie just inside the entrance, with a restroom behind them and to the right. Just beyond the pens, which face waterfowl-filled Old Ice Pond, the trails begin at a large sign board that makes it easy to orient yourself and plan your walk. Don't be fooled by the size of the map; it's easy to cover most of this 305-acre preserve on a short outing.

At the start, wetlands and Old Ice Pond will be on your left; on the right, look for an entrance into an open field with bird houses for martins. In June, you'll be treated to the sight of prickly pear cactus, native to Long Island, in bloom on the sandy soil. You might also find slight depressions and shards of eggshell where turtles have hatched.

Continue north a short distance to an intersection in the trail. For a 0.8-mile loop around the pond, turn left here. Look for cranberry, swamp azalea, sweet pepperbush, red maple and other wetland flora. The trail crosses Quantuck Creek on a narrow bridge. Old stumps of Atlantic white cedar killed by salt water intrusion during the great hurricane of 1938 are still visible here. At the other side of the bridge, a small bog is a great place to get a close view of insect-eating pitcher plants and sundew, rose pogonia and white-fringed orchids, and other unusual species.

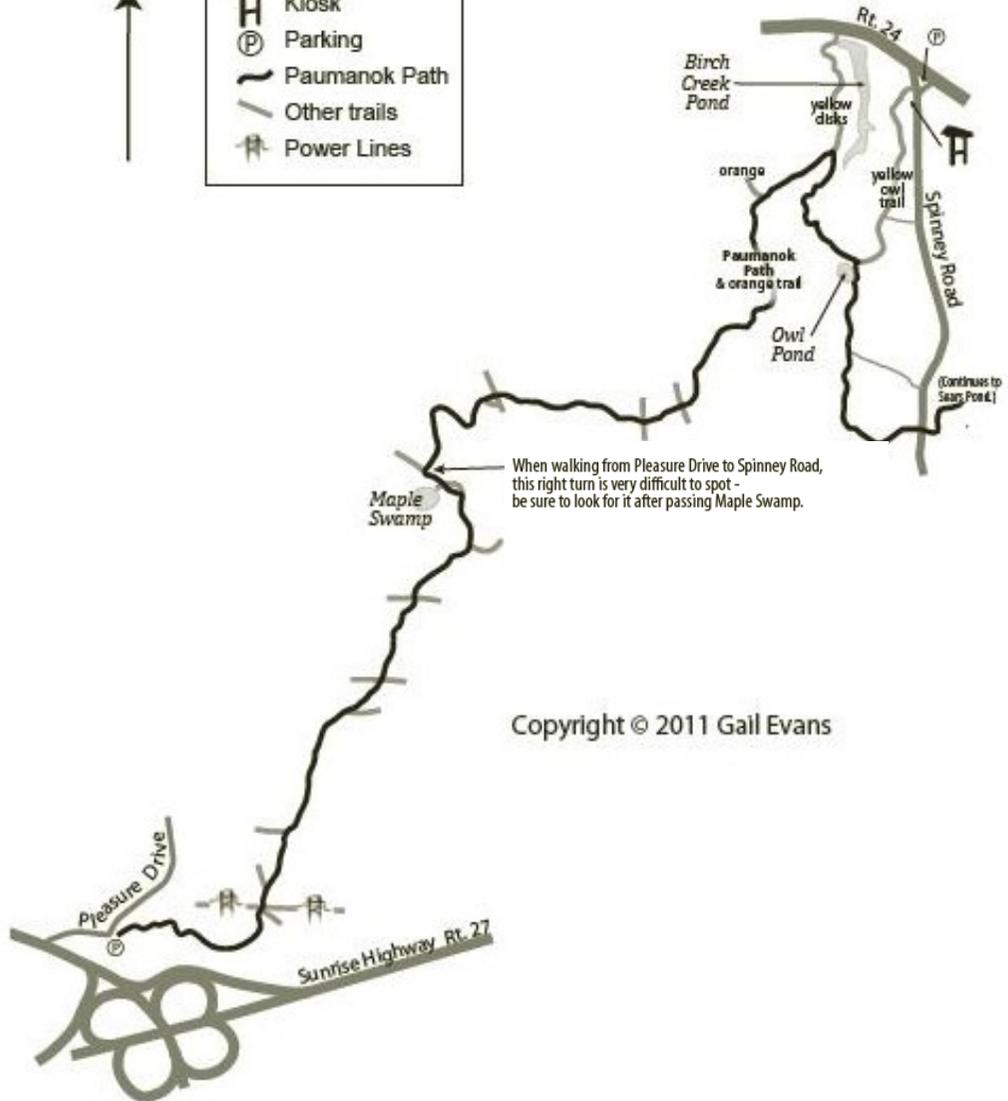


Paumanok Path: Pleasure Drive to Spinney Road



KEY

-  Kiosk
-  Parking
-  Paumanok Path
-  Other trails
-  Power Lines

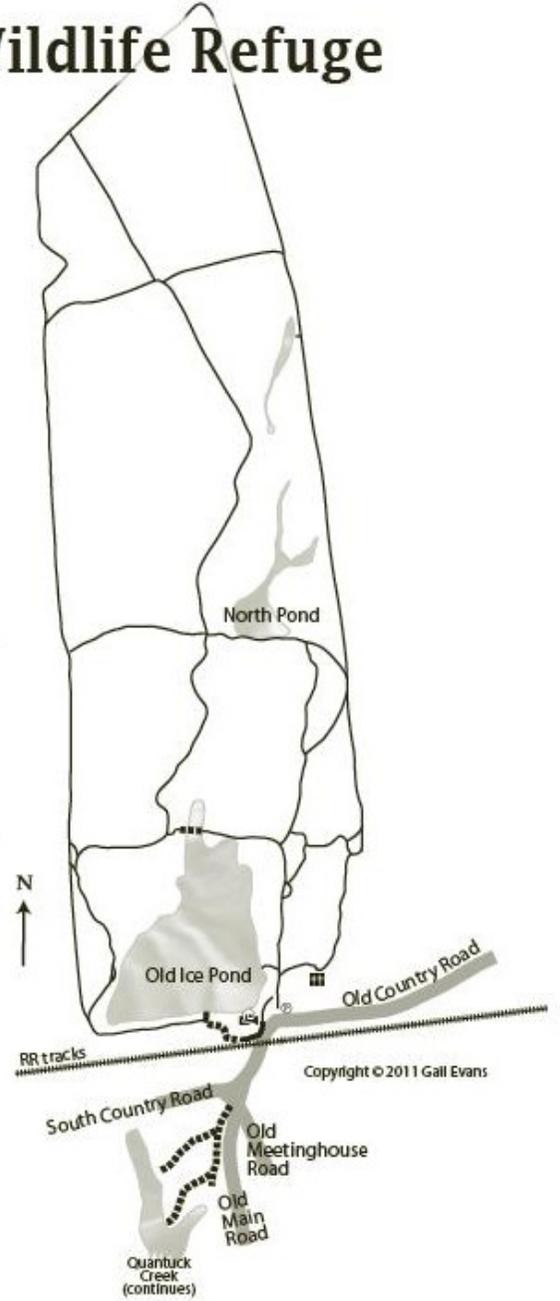


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Quogue Wildlife Refuge

KEY

-  Nature Center
-  Parking
-  Rest Rooms
-  Boardwalks



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THE PINE BARRENS SOCIETY

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the study, appreciation, and protection of these unique woodlands. Founded in 1977, the Society has become one of Long Island's most effective champions of preserving natural resources through sound land use. Through its scientific research and public education programs, the Society has shaped public debate on the subject.

It has also been active in the halls of state and local government, and in the courts, pushing for needed action and winning an impressive list of victories. The Society is best known for leading the Pine Barrens Preservation Initiative - an ambitious, 10-year legal and legislative campaign. This initiative led to approval by the New York State Legislature of the Pine Barrens Protection Act and the Comprehensive Management Plan which permanently preserved more than 50,000 acres of Pine Barrens while directing strictly controlled development to the least sensitive areas.

PRESERVING A NATURAL TREASURE

The gifts of nature, once lost, are gone forever. In the case of the Long Island Pine Barrens, the loss would be monumental. Formed by a unique set of geological conditions over the past 15,000 years, the Pine Barrens is one of the Northeast's greatest natural treasures. It is home to literally thousands of plant and animal species, many of them endangered or threatened.

Dry upland areas are dominated by the pitch pine that gives the region its name, though in many areas black, scarlet, and white oak share the tree canopy. Scrub and dwarf chestnut oaks dominate the shrub thicket, joined by a variety of interesting heath plants. From the forest floor springs a profusion of lichens and wildflowers.

The barrens also contains a diverse range of wetland communities, including marshes, heath bogs, red maple swamps, and rare Atlantic white cedar swamps. Wetland areas teem with unusual plants, including several insectivorous species and over a dozen species of orchids.

Animals in the Pine Barrens include over 100 bird species, many of which are disappearing elsewhere in the region; an outstanding population of butterflies and moths, including the threatened buck moth; and such threatened or endangered vertebrates as the tiger salamander, eastern mud turtle and northern harrier.

PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER

Virtually all of Long Island's drinking water is drawn from a single system of underground reservoirs, known as aquifers. This dependence led the federal Environmental Protection Agency to designate our aquifer system as the nation's first "sole source aquifer", requiring special protection. The Pine Barrens represent the source of the greatest quantity of the purest drinking water on Long Island.

The threat to water quality lies on the land above the aquifers. Any contaminants which the rainwater contacts will be carried with it into our drinking supply. Common contaminants include: household sewage; fertilizers and pesticides used on lawns, farmland and golf courses; solid waste, including toxic chemicals, in landfills; industrial wastewater and chemical wastes from laboratories; pet waste and livestock manure.

The quality of our drinking water depends, therefore, on how Long Island's land is used. The more land used for homes, lawns, agriculture, business and industry, the greater the contamination of our aquifers.

Two hundred years ago the Pine Barrens blanketed one-fourth of Long Island, assuring a plentiful supply of pure water. Today, most of that land has been developed, and our water supply has been diminished.

BECOME A MEMBER AND SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT WORK

The Long Island Pine Barrens Society's work is made possible through the generosity of members like you. Members receive a yearly subscription to our full-color newsletter *The Pine Barrens Today*, monthly e-updates, and invitations to special events. As a member, you will also receive news about how you can become involved.

And best of all, membership dues are tax-deductible. You will also get the satisfaction of knowing that you're directly involved with preserving Long Island's last great open spaces, wildlife habitat and drinking water.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Visit our website to sign up or renew your membership:
<http://pinebarrens.org/donatenow.asp>

Or call (631) 369-3300 and we can enroll you as a member over the phone!