



April - May 2026

KEEP DATES OPEN



Annual NHOC Picnic
June 6
 Bethpage State Park
More details in Weekly blasts!

Tuesday May 12, 2026
NHOC MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 7 pm - 9 pm
 Plainview Old Bethpage Library,
 Old Country Rd, Plainview

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!
All NHOC 2025-2026 memberships
expired March 31, 2026

- E-Mail Weekly Blasts
- Electronic SHORELINES (NHOC Newsletter)
- Exciting Hikes ALL YEAR Long led by Trained Leaders

Annual Events:
 Your membership needs to be current to attend.

- JUNE PICNIC
- THANKSGIVING on the TRAIL
- HOLIDAY PARTY

TELL FRIENDS to join and have the fun of hiking with NHOC!

LINK: [MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL](#)



INTRODUCING "D" HIKES
 (Dogs Welcome!) at NHOC! See page 9 for details



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear NHOC Family:

WOW! We made it through one of the most difficult winters since 1978! Freezing temperatures and snow made it impossible for us to enjoy our hikes and events (unless snow shoveling was a welcome event for you!).

I want to thank everyone who has helped this club grow. Part of our growth is word of mouth, while others have stated they found us on Meetup (new to NHOC Aug. 2025) and our new website. I've received emails, texts, and kind words from many of you regarding the accomplishments we've made and I'm proud of the following email stating "while renewing my membership, I was very impressed with our website; it is just awesome. I particularly like the photos which are actual events. Easy to move around the site with valuable information presented in easy-to-read format. This was a substantial effort and I congratulate everyone who contributed." This came from a long-time member and I have received similar statements from other members who are enjoying both the ease of using Meetup and having a wonderful new website as well as the different activities they can choose to join.

We begin Spring with some exciting hikes, bike rides and events being offered by many new and not so new leaders. We welcome more leaders to help us meet the wants and needs of some of our members. It has been recommended to me that some might be interested in NYC, including Central Park, Museums, and/or Broadway. In addition to making the recommendations, please plan the event. If necessary, I will help you post it on Meetup.

Please mark your calendar for our June 6th picnic at Bethpage State Park. It's always a fun day with morning hikes, BBQ, and conversation among our NHOC friends. Also, mark your calendars for our next in-person member meeting; Tuesday, May 12th, at Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library.

Thank you,
 Fran Cassidy, President



WE HIKE EVERYWHERE!
 Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Westchester & Upstate, N.Y.
 Visit WWW.NASSAUHIKING.ORG

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Hiking and other outdoor Club activities are inherently dangerous. Each of us assumes all the risks whenever we participate. Each person must be sure the activity does not exceed his/her ability. Consult a physician if you have any question concerning your health or ability to participate and call the leader if you have any question concerning the activity. Each person is responsible for being properly equipped. Hiking boots and suitable clothing are necessities for all hikes off Long Island and for all A and B hikes on Long Island. Unless the activity description states otherwise, always bring lunch, water, and rain gear. The location, duration, and degree of difficulty of each activity are determined by the leader. The hike or activity leaders are not employees or agents of NHOC. They are volunteers who want each participant to enjoy a safe, pleasant outdoor activity. They must have your complete attention and cooperation. **In order to participate in a hike, each person must have read and signed the SIGN IN/RELEASE FORM.**

The registration/release form contains the following statement. By participating in this hike/activity, I agree to be solely responsible for and ASSUME THE RISK of my own safety and the safety of minor children accompanying me. I acknowledge that these activities contain elements of hazard and risk which could result in damage, injury, or death. I agree to RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS the Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club, its members, officers, directors, and hike/activity leaders from liability, claims, demands, or any causes of action arising from my participation in these activities. This release is expressly intended to release the Club, its members, officers, directors, and hike/activity leaders for its or their fault, carelessness, or negligence in the supervision of Club activities. I know of no physical impediment or disability which would prevent me from completing the activity without injury, and I represent that I am physically capable and properly dressed and equipped to do so. I agree to follow the leader's instructions, to stay with the group, and not to proceed ahead of the group without the leader's consent. My signature indicates that I have read and understand this statement, and that I agree to its content.

HIKE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS – Pace & Terrain

(Mileage is Listed by Each Hike)

A HIKES:

Steep Hills/Scrambling/Rough Terrain or Flat Terrain or Pavement (Moderate Pace on City Hikes), Over 8 Miles

B HIKES:

Hiking Trails with Some Hills/Sand/Beach or Flat Terrain or Pavement, 8 Miles or Less

C HIKES:

Flat Terrain or Pavement, 5 Miles or Less

D HIKES:

These are specific hikes designed for members who want to bring their well-behaved dogs along. You do not need a canine companion to join the hike.

NHOC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS:

Fran Cassidy	<i>President</i>	631-786-2774	president@nassauhike.org
Paul Aledort	<i>Vice-President</i>	516-978-9291	vice-president@nassauhike.org
Connie Savino	<i>Treasurer</i>	631-664-3120	treasurer@nassauhike.org
Jill Gorin Klasson	<i>Recording Secretary</i>	516-205-2000	recordingsecretary@nassauhike.org
Michele Monahan	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	516-423-1116	corresponding@nassauhike.org
Janet Boccia	<i>A Hiking Coordinator</i>	631-816-1847	AHikes@nassauhike.org
Rhonda Eisenstadt	<i>B Hiking Coordinator</i>	516-445-1735	BHikes@nassauhike.org
Jean Siry	<i>C Hiking Coordinator</i>	631 374-8095	CHikes@nassauhike.org
Janet Boccia	<i>Weekends</i>	631-816-1847	overnight@nassauhike.org
Janet Boccia	<i>Day Events</i>	631-816-1847	events@nassauhike.org
Don Wilber	<i>Publications Editor</i>	516-244-5208	shorelines@nassauhike.org
Guy Jacob	<i>Conservation</i>	516-837-9522	conservation@nassauhike.org
Judy Kislik	<i>Membership</i>	516-965-8353	membership@nassauhike.org
Lewis Levy	<i>NY/NJ Trail Conference Delegate</i>	332-600-5664	NYNJtrailconference@nassauhike.org
Denise Hesselbach	<i>Mileage Tally</i>	631-885-4852	NHOCtally@nassauhike.org
OPEN	<i>Major Events Coordinator</i>		
OPEN	<i>Publicity</i>		
OPEN	<i>Membership Meetings Coordinator</i>		



Adventures Are Better When Shared

PLEASE READ

These mandatory guidelines carefully
WHICH MUST BE
FOLLOWED ON ALL HIKES:

ALL HIKES WILL BE UNLIMITED or, based on the hike leader's discretion, will be limited to a specific number of hikers.

ALL HIKES HAVE A MEETING TIME AND A LEAVE PROMPTLY TIME on all blasts. **HIKE LEADERS WILL LEAVE ON TIME.** Plan to arrive early so you do not miss the hike.

ALL HIKES WILL BE BLASTED ON WEDNESDAY and will cover Friday through Thursday.

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR ALL HIKES CAN BE SENT TO THE HIKE LEADER (specify which hike) by email and will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. **INCLUDE YOUR CELL PHONE # WITH HIKE LEADER OR USE THE NHOC MEETUP GROUP AS OF JANUARY 1 2026 ALL HIKERS MUST REGISTER THROUGH THE MEETUP GROUP.**

PLEASE NOTIFY HIKE LEADER and WITHDRAW YOURSELF ON MEETUP IF YOU CAN NOT MAKE THE HIKE. Removing yourself on Meetup automatically moves someone on the waitlist to be to the attending list.

HIKE LEADERS WILL CHECK with the membership chair to ensure all registrants are current.

HIKERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING WATER, A SNACK AND WEAR LAYERS. No heavy coats, that you will have to carry, because you will warm up once you start hiking.

HIKERS ARE ENCOURAGED NOT TO CARRY A LARGE HANDBAG. Please use a backpack, small bag worn crossbody or a fanny pack to free up your hands.

We encourage all hikers to help the hike leader by **volunteering to be a sweep.**

HIKE LEADERS HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO TELL A HIKER THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HIKE WITH THE GROUP IF THEY ARE NOT FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES AT THE ONSET.

THESE GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PHOTOGRAPHY & WEBSITE RELEASE: Photos/videos may be taken during our events. We remind our members that such photos/videos may be posted to the website, *Shorelines*, and/or Facebook. You grant full permission to Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club to use, reuse reproduce, publish, or republish any photographs/videos or any other record of your participation in any events.

We greatly appreciate your willingness to abide by these rules to secure a pleasant and safe environment.

If you have any questions or concerns about these guidelines, please contact the appropriate hike coordinator:

- A) Janet Boccia ahikes@nassauhike.org
- B) Rhonda Eisenstadt bhikes@nassauhike.org
- C) Jean Siry chikes@nassauhike.org

NHOC Waiver Agreement Change

Effective April 1st, the wording on our Waiver is being changed to provide better protection for our club against claims related to transportation to and from hiking meet ups. This was suggested by our insurance carrier to allow us to continue our practice of sharing rides to and from meeting places.

The added wording is highlighted below:

I and my heirs agree to RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS the Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club, its members, officers, directors, and hike/activity leaders from liability, claims, demands, or any causes of action arising from my participation in these activities including transportation to and from events.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

THE ONLY WAY TO REGISTER for NHOC Hikes/Events is THROUGH MEETUP! 100% Of Registration Will Be Done Through "Nassau Hiking And Outdoor Club" Meetup group

(some exceptions for special events and events requiring payment may be made and will be noted in the description)

Effective January 1st, all members must use MEETUP to register for hikes/events. MEETUP IS FREE, you do not need to accept paid Meetup to join Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club Meetup. This is most important since some hikes/events have maximum number of participants.

IMPORTANT: When signing up on Meetup for any hikes/events, it is important for the leaders to know who is attending. If you are using a nickname or just first name, please add your full name in comments.

If you are having problems joining our Meetup group, please contact: Judy Kislik - Judyk.nhoc@gmail.com (Nassau County Residents) Connie Savino - treasurer@nassauhike.org (Suffolk County Residents).

A HIKE

Steep Hills/Scrambling/Rough Terrain or Flat Terrain or Pavement (Moderate Pace on City Hikes), Over 8 Miles

B HIKE

Hiking Trails with Some Hills/Sand/Beach or Flat Terrain or Pavement, 8 Miles or Less

C HIKE

Flat Terrain or Pavement, 5 Miles or Less

D HIKE

Walk with dogs

WEEKLY HIKES *Members Only*

PLEASE REGISTER USING MEETUP ONCE POSTED

Mon Weekly

STILLWELL FIELDS IN SYOSSET

B 5 mi

NO HIKE 4/13 and 4/20 **NEW TIME:** Meet at 9:30 am Hike leaves promptly at 9:40 am near trail head.

UNLIMITED

Leader: Rhonda Eisenstadt - Contact information for Rhonda rpe711@aol.com or 516-445-1735.

Let us hike from Stillwell Fields towards Cold Spring Harbor. We will explore varied wooded trails on our way to Rte.108 and back. We will encounter some hills along the way. Rain/snow cancels. Wear hiking boots. Bring water. No restrooms/facilities on trail. Please register for hike on Meet-UP once posted.

Directions: Seaford Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135) North to Jericho Turnpike (Route 25). Go East on Jericho Turnpike. Pass three traffic lights to Southwoods Road. (Town Golf Course on left). Make a left on Southwoods Road and go past three lights. Stillwell is just past Syosset HS on the right. Park close to the trail head.

Mon Weekly

WALK AT SUNKEN MEADOW STATE PARK

C 4 mi

April: Meet at 2:45 pm, hike leaves promptly at 3 pm walk at moderate pace

UNLIMITED

May: NEW TIME: Meet at 4:45 pm, hike leaves promptly at 5 pm walk at moderate pace.

Leader: Maureen McDonald @ 516-524-3163 or email maureenmcd@optonline.net

Directions: Take Sagtikos/Sunken Meadow Parkway north and go through toll booth (no fee after 4 pm) Proceed to parking lot 1 on the right and walk to the main building where we will meet by the office.

Thu Weekly

BETHPAGE STATE PARK

B 5 mi

April 2, 9, 16, 23, May 7, 14, 21, 28 **NO HIKE 4/30**

UNLIMITED

Meet at 10:50 am, Hike leaves promptly at 11:00 am. Meeting place in the picnic parking lot near bathrooms

Leader: William DeGraff wjdegtraff@msn.com or (text) 516 238-2677.

We will together tour the many trails that start in the vicinity of the parking lot. There is some up and down, but no big hills. Recommend light weight hiking shoes. Bring water.

Directions: N NY135 South Oyster Bay Expressway. Exit Powell Ave. Turn left at the end of the exit ramp. Approximately 100 yards on the left is the entrance to the park. Use Bethpage State Park Playground on GPS

HIKE LEADERS WANTED

- NHOC WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE OUR MEMBERS TO BECOME A HIKE LEADER
- BEGIN BY LEARNING ONE OF THE MANY TRAILS ON LONG ISLAND, THE FIVE BOROUGHS OR UPSTATE NY
- LEARN HOW TO READ BLAZES AND TRAIL MARKERS

If anyone is interested, please email president@nassauhike.org



SPRING IS HERE, birds are singing and it is finally time to get those bike wheels spinning again!

NHOC will be doing more bike rides. If the wind is 14 mph or more, we do not ride, also temperature will be a factor.

THE GAME PLAN:

Rides will be posted on Meetup for the following week. So, we can assess the weather.

We have many bike paths to choose from. We will post the location on Meetup when we post the ride.

Our rides will be on paved bike paths at a leisurely pace of 8-10 mph. We are not training for a marathon. We like to enjoy our scenery.

We will limit the rides to 10 people so please sign up as soon as you receive the Meetup notice.

Please bring a picnic lunch and a bike lock. Depending on the ride, we will either have lunch mid-way or at the end of the ride.

Sign up will be on Meetup each week when the ride is posted.

BIKE HELMETS ARE MANDATORY!



Here are some of the rides our leaders will be choosing from:

1. BETHPAGE STATE PARK to MASSAPEQUA PRESERVE: 20 miles round trip
2. CEDAR CREEK PARK to JONES BEACH AND BOARD WALK: 20 miles round trip
3. JONES BEACH BOARDWALK to THE NATURE CENTER or to TOBAY Beach: 15 miles round trip
4. CAPTREE STATE PARK to TOBAY BEACH: 20 miles round trip
5. NORTH SHORE RAIL TRAIL - MT. SINAI to WADING RIVER: 20 miles round trip
6. WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON - (RAIL TRAIL FROM HOPEWELL JUNCTION to POUGHKEEPSIE): 30 miles round trip

Any questions: Email: Judyk.nhoc@gmail.com text: 516 965 8353

HIKES and EVENTS *Members Only* REGISTER USING MEETUP

Tue Apr 14

ANNUAL HIGHLINE & LITTLE ISLAND WALK

C 4.0 mi

Meet at 10:40 am under the clock at the Moynihan Train Hall section of Penn Station. We will promptly start at 10:50 am.

Leader: Lewis Levy 332 600-5664 call or text.

Annual exploration of New York's elevated and linear park the Highline. Along the way we will stop at the artificial Little Island near 14th Street on the west side. Lunch of course at the Tavern on Jane.

Directions: The Moynihan Train Hall is the most western section of Penn Station. Therefore, best if you sit in the front of your train.

Sat Apr 18

QUEENS ZOO, FLUSHING MEADOWS PARK

Event / C 2.0 mi

Meet at 9:50 am at the North Parking Lot of the Queens Museum. We will start walking to the zoo at 10:00 am.

Leader: Lewis Levy 332 600-5664 call or text. lewislevy53@aol.com

The Queens Zoo is dedicated to the animals of the Americas. Highlights include the Sea Lions, the Bird House and the Farm Animals. Admission is \$11 for Adults and \$9 for Seniors 65+. You must buy a timed ticket (for 10:00 AM) before the day of the event. It is strongly suggested that you wait until the day before the event to make sure, the Weather is good. You can purchase your ticket at Queenszoo.com

Directions: Set your GPS to the Queens Museum to get here.

INFORMATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT OUR EMAIL SYSTEM When you join, NHOC enters your e-mail address in our Constant Contact (CC) email messaging system. NHOC is on the job all year, adding members to the list and informing 200+ of us with club information.

BLOCKED EMAILS of upcoming hikes, events, and most importantly, last minute changes. A large percentage of the members stopped receiving our emails. The cause: A few members had marked our emails as "spam" or "junk." This is very harmful, as it only takes a few of these "spam reports" to BLACKLIST our nassauhike.org domain - just a few of these can hurt EVERYONE. PLEASE DO NOT MARK ANY NASSAUHIKE EMAILS AS SPAM OR JUNK.

"SAFE UNSUBSCRIBE" DON'T DO IT! Occasionally we hear from members who mistakenly clicked on the "Safe Unsubscribe" link that automatically appears at the bottom of every CC email. Doing that causes the system to quarantine your e-mail address and makes it impossible to send blasts out to you. (It is CC's way of protecting folks from unwanted e-mail.) Please do not click that link. Once it knocks you off the system, we would need to send you instructions with a few steps on your part to get back on contacts list.

Sat Apr 18**BETHPAGE STATE PARK****C 4mi***Meet at 10:15 am by the restrooms in the picnic area. We will start walking at 10:30 am**Leader: Maureen McDonald @ 516-524-3163 or email maureenmcd@optonline.net*

Four mile walk at moderate pace on the concrete bike path (NOT THE DIRT TRAILS)

Directions: Seaford Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135) to exit #8 Powell Avenue. Go east (left turn) about 100 yards to the park and proceed to parking area.**Wed Apr 22****BROOKLYN BOTANICAL GARDENS****EVENT***10 am arrival (gardens close 4 pm)**Limited to 16**Leaders: Fran Cassidy and Paul Aledort - Questions or need to contact: paledort@gmail.com; 516-978-9291*Brooklyn Botanical Gardens - **REGISTRATION MUST BE DONE ON MEETUP** - if your full name is not included on Meetup, please either email Paul or add your full name in comments after signing up on Meetup. It is important to have complete names of registered members. Thank you.

Celebrate cherry blossom season and all the spring blooms on Earth Day! Park on street or Fee-based Parking Lot at 900 Washington Avenue; meet at the 990 Washington Avenue Entrance at 10 am with your pre-purchased, non-refundable tickets (I'm not sure tickets will be available the day of our event). Check to see if any of your other memberships offer Reciprocal Admission (I know my New York Botanical Garden membership is; I just need to bring my membership card and my ID).

Sun Apr 26**Private Bayard Staff guided walking tour of Paradise Island.****C 1.5 mi***Meet 9:50 am - 11:30 am**Leaders: Fran Cassidy and Paul Aledort - If you need to reach the leader after registration contact: Paul at paledort@gmail.com*

Join Bayard's education staff on a private guided walking tour for NHOC members of Paradise Island; explore this unique coastal ecosystem and watch for wildlife. Discussion revolves around the diversity of plant and habitat conservation.

\$10 CASH DONATION DAY OF EVENT. OPTIONAL LUNCH AT HIDDEN OAK CAFE AFTER TOUR.

Bayard Cutting Arboretum (631) 581-1002 440 Montauk Hwy, Great River, NY

IF YOUR MEETUP NAME DOESN'T MATCH YOUR MEMBER'S NAME, please add in comments so leader is aware of attendees.

Thu Apr 30**METS GAME AT CITI FIELD****EVENT FULL***We will meet at the seats. 1:10 pm game time Cost \$18**Limited to 12 members**Leader: Darryl Steckler (darrylsteckler@verizon.net or 646-942-0021)*

Citi Field - Mets vs Washington Nationals - 41 Seaver Way, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park when signing up on meetup, make sure to add in comments your full name and email address OR sign up on meetup & email Darryl your full information so he can send you payment information via email. ELECTRONIC TICKET WILL BE SENT TO YOUR EMAIL AND MUST BE SCANNED FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE AT THE GATE.

Sat May 2**BIKE RIDE Dutchess Rail Trail & Walkway Over the Hudson****30 mi***Meet at 9:00 am at Daddy O's (Hopewell Depot Trailhead Parking)**3 Turner Street, Hopewell Junction, NY Kickstands up at 9:30 am.**Leader: Judy K. If you need more information, please text me at 516 965 8353*

We will be riding 30 miles round trip (15 miles each way.) We will be riding at a casual speed of 8-10 miles per hour. The entire route will be on a mostly flat, beautiful, paved bike path from Hopewell Junction to Poughkeepsie NY. You cannot get lost on this path.

The highlight of our trip will be "the Walkway Over the Hudson" which is a beautiful bridge with a lovely scenic view. You will have a great view of the vibrant Spring foliage on this ride.

There are restrooms available a few feet north of the parking lot, near our meeting place. The restaurant Daddy O's will not be open in the morning. Helmets are mandatory. Bring a bike lock and a snack. Optional lunch, after the ride, at 1:30 will be at Daddy O's Restaurant. 3 Turner Street, Hopewell Junction NY. Same address as our morning meeting place.

Sign up will be on Meetup when the ride gets posted. Please also let me know then if you are planning to join us for lunch so I can make reservations. Hopewell Junction is about 90 minutes from central Long Island. Rain Cancels.**Sat May 9****NASSAU COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART****Event / C - 2.0 mi***Meet at the Museum Entrance at 11:00 am. We will start exploring the museum promptly at 11:10 am.**Leader: Lewis Levy 332 600-5664 call or text. lewislevy53@aol.com*

Always nice to return to this little gem of a museum for its ever-changing exhibits. Currently there are 4 exhibits at the museum including one on Baseball and another on 250 years of art on Long Island. Admission is \$15 Adults and \$10 for Seniors. Check your local library for free museum passes. If the day is nice, there is an optional, approximately 2 mile walk starting at 10:15 am. Meet in the parking lot for the walk. Also, optional lunch at Ben's Deli about a 3-minute drive from the museum.

Sat May 16

BETHPAGE STATE PARK

C 4mi

Meet at 10:15 am by the restrooms in the picnic area. We will start walking at 10:30 am

Leader: Maureen McDonald @ 516-524-3163 or email maureenmcd@optonline.net

Four mile walk at moderate pace on the concrete bike path (NOT THE DIRT TRAILS)

Directions: Seaford Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135) to exit #8 Powell Avenue. Go east (left turn) about 100 yards to the park and proceed to parking area.

Sun May 17

HEMPSTEAD HARBOR SHORELINES TRAIL, PORT WASHINGTON

C 3.8 mi

Meet at 10:20 am at the Harbor Links Soccer Fields parking lot. We will start walk promptly at 10:30 am.

Leader: Lewis Levy 332 600-5664 call or text. lewislevy53@aol.com

A very pleasant out and back walk along the waterfront in Port Washington. No big hills but a surprising amount of up and down for a Shorelines Trail. Optional lunch at Finn McCool's at 205 Main Street, Port Washington.

Directions: Set your GPS to Harbor Links Soccer Fields to get here. Back up address is 100 Fairway Drive, Port Washington which is the address of the church across the street from the Soccer Fields parking lot.

Sun May 17

FIVE BRIDGES AND THREE BOROUGHS

A 17+ mi

Meet at 10 am - Hike leaves promptly at 10:10 am from Moynihan Train Hall by big clock.

Limited to 15 hikers

Pace is a 20-minute mile.

Leaders: Rhonda & Richard Eisenstadt – Any questions Contact Rhonda at rpe711@aol.com or 516-445-1735.

Come join us on a hike that explores Five Bridges and Three Boroughs. We will be crossing the East River via the Queensboro, Williamsburg, Manhattan, and Brooklyn Bridges and between Queens and Brooklyn via the Pulaski Bridge. There are neighborhoods to explore such as Long Island City, Polish Greenpoint, artsy and Hasidic Williamsburg, the melting pot of the Lower East Side and Dumbo & Brooklyn Heights. We will complete our hike by walking over the Brooklyn Bridge from Brooklyn to Manhattan with an optional dinner TBD. If needed there can be drop off points. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. Wear comfortable shoes. Rain Cancels hike. Bring OMNY Card or Credit Card for return to Penn Station.

Fri May 29

WESTBURY GARDENS SCULPTURE WALK

B 5 mi

10 am arrive parking lot; meet outside house entrance to begin walk 10:20 am.

Limited to 20

Five miles leisurely (near exhibits/gardens) to moderate (paths/grounds). RAIN CANCELS

Leaders: Paul Aledort (paledort@gmail.com; 516-978-9291) & Fran Cassidy

[Link to view sculptures](#)

While walking these beautiful gardens, we will enjoy Amsterdam-based artist, Sean Kenney's Nature Connects®, an award-winning outdoor exhibit made entirely with LEGO® bricks, celebrating beauty, balance, and interconnectedness of the natural world. Seventeen vibrant, larger-than-life sculptures—crafted from more than 300,000 LEGO pieces—will transform the Gardens and invite visitors of all ages to experience art and nature in a bold, playful new way as they explore the landscape.

Check your local library for free passes to Old Westbury Gardens.

Optional picnic lunch (bring your own or purchase at cafe).

NEW MEMBERS

Maria Barilla	Donald Raimond	David Kurtzman	Susan Dziurzynski
Janet Pospisil	Jill Wainwright	Tracy D'Andrade	Patricia Lester
Catherine Kelly	Karen Moore	Elaine Gernana	Angela O'Brian
Rene Myatt	Jeffrey Bloom	Martha Dugan	
Reed Yanofsky	Kaylee Stephens	Stephanie Laluder	

DONATIONS

Rosemary Claus	Kathy Bailey
Martine Dufrense	Amy Rosen
Joanne Semararo	
Jerry Williams	
& Susan Seltzer	

Attention New Members: Each Member of a Family Membership must fill out their own Membership Form and sign the online waiver to be entered into our Membership. Membership form with the waiver is on www.nassauhiking.org. Click on Membership.



WE HIKE EVERYWHERE!

Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Westchester & Upstate, N.Y.

Visit WWW.NASSAUHIKING.ORG



Stillwell's History Brings Us to Current Dilemma

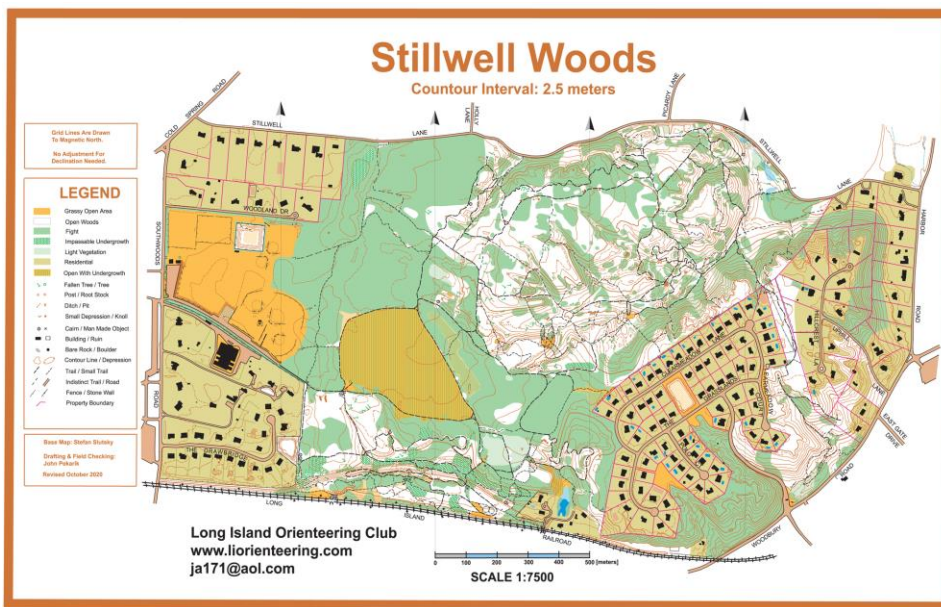
By Guy Jacob, Conservation Chair

Nassau County Ordinance No. 510-1989, which was approved on November 27, 1989, dedicated Stillwell Woods as "Perpetual Preservation Land". This ordinance references a map entitled "Map Showing Real Property to be Designated as Perpetual Designation Land on the South side of Velsor-Stillwell Road from South Woods Road East to Bethpage State Parkway Vicinity of Syosset Town of Oyster Bay".

While the county's conservation biologists under the Gulotta Administration eloquently and passionately articulated the importance of protecting the ecology of Stillwell Woods, which was obtained by Nassau County on October 3, 1973, via condemnation, both the ordinance and the map are ludicrously silent regarding a historically and culturally important issue regarding the property. Evidently either the elephant in the room or gross negligence or a combination thereof, neither the ordinance nor the map makes any reference to athletic fields that sit between residential homes to the north and The Center for Developmental Disabilities to the south.

The Town of Oyster Bay has had Stillwell Woods management/operating agreements with Nassau County since 1978. Athletic fields were authorized by two permits. Nassau County signed its first Permit for Use and Occupation of County Owned Property with the TOB on November 14, 1978. The county signed its second permit with the TOB on April 8, 1986. The 1978 permit allows the TOB to erect athletic infrastructure on approximately 18 acres, and the 1986 permit allows for 23 additional acres. Both permits justify the arrangement as development on "surplus land," which stands in stark contrast to Ordinance No. 510-1989.

On the Perpetual Designation Land map, the area where ballfields exist is shown without any label or border between the athletic fields and the habitat, as if they don't exist. The only label on the map is located in the middle of the property and entitled "Stillwell Woods Parcel No 1." There is a rectangle-like figure that borders Velsor-Stillwell Road (now called Stillwell Lane) to the north and a trapezoid-like figure that borders the LIRR to the south.



The Long Island Orienteering Club's map of Stillwell Woods fills in missing details (PFA). It shows 14 homes between South Woods Road, Cold Spring Harbor Road, Stillwell Lane and Woodland Drive. The trapezoid-like property to the south includes the Drawbridge community (30 homes and a sump) as well as the Center for Developmental Disabilities located at 72 South Woods Road in Woodbury, NY.¹ The athletic fields are clearly marked between the homes and the center.

Given the timeline for when the athletic fields were constructed, their absence on this map and the silence about them in the preservation designation are unfortunate non sequiturs. The preservation of Stillwell Woods as a perpetual preserve should have included a clear line of demarcation between the town's athletic fields and Stillwell's extant forest and meadow

habitats and the established trails that meander through this open space. Given the strong language in the 1989 preservation document, preserving and protecting Stillwell's ecology should have superseded any TOB permits to expand its recreational footprint, and this should have been unequivocally codified within the preservation document.

Instead, the language in Title 15 Land Preservation: Perpetual preservation of County-owned natural, environmental, recreational, historical and scenic resources provides the TOB with grandfathered future development privileges. The specific language of Section 1 of Local Law 5-1988 (from Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County, pages 32-33) allows for the ongoing development of Stillwell Woods Preserve that is "consistent with the recreational... purposes of the land."²

Stillwell's History Brings Us to Current Dilemma *continued*

Nassau County Planning Commission acknowledged that the TOB indeed has grandfathered privileges relative to their athletic fields and any future potential acquisition of Stillwell Woods Preserve.³ Its status as a perpetual preserve is no warranty against elimination of its habitat. Moreover, there are at least two historical maps/surveys that set a plan for the expansion of the TOB's athletic infrastructure that would eradicate perpetually preserved habitat.

Because Stillwell Woods Preserve is environmentally sensitive land adjacent to NYS parkland in a special groundwater protection area and supports nature-immersed recreation on Long Island where we suffer from insufficient open space, the NYS Legislature must never allow these plans to have the potential to come to fruition (PFA). This is why the TOB's survey must unequivocally delineate the current border between its athletic field infrastructure and Stillwell's extant forest and meadow habitats. No one should have to glean this boundary from the survey results: it must be clearly marked and specify the acreage on either side of the boundary. This was promised by Supervisor Joseph Saladino when we met on July 16, 2025. It was again promised by TOB Special Counsel, Thomas M. Sabellico, in an email that I received on July 21, 2025. And this line of demarcation is being demanded by over 3,300 change.org signatories and 36 Long Island organizations and businesses.

On July 16, Supervisor Saladino also promised to pass a TOB Board resolution that creates a protective covenant instructed by the survey's boundary line, that would, in effect, nullify the TOB's grandfathered development privileges. Supervisor Saladino offered to do this without our asking, and it is a critically important step. However, the language of such a resolution must also be codified within NYS alienation of parkland legislation.

It would appear that the definition of perpetually preserved land at Stillwell Woods must include its athletic fields, not merely undeveloped habitat, but this itself is a non sequitur. The more reasonable explanation is that the 1989 designation's glaring omission of a borderline was the result of error, which must now be corrected, for our families, for our future.

The history of Stillwell Woods enmeshed with its present circumstances is a unique story that begs many questions and has the potential to set an unfortunate precedent and threaten habitat if alienation of parkland is not done thoughtfully and carefully. We will continue to assess our unease about the potential consequences of this proposed transfer until such time that sufficient safeguards are in place and publicly documented. We will not relent in our advocacy efforts.

Resources:

1. <https://www.centerfordd.org/>

2. Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County:

<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37580/Miscellaneous-Laws-1122?bidId=> (Pages 32-33)

3. Nassau County Planning Commission (NCPC) meeting:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/11350648?video=1037947504>(starts at one hour, 33 minutes) (12/12/24)



Every Dog Has Its Day (or Hike)!

Exciting News: Introducing "D" Hikes (Dogs Welcome!) at NHOC!

Great news for all the dog lovers in our club! We are thrilled to announce a new addition to our hiking lineup: D Hikes – where "D" stands for your favorite four-legged friends (dogs)!

We know many of you love to hit the trails with your canine companions, and now you have the perfect opportunity to do so with your fellow club members. It is a fantastic way to enjoy nature, socialize our pets, and explore new dog-friendly routes together.

Here is the scoop:

- **What are D Hikes?** These are specific hikes designed for members who want to bring their well-behaved dogs along. However, you do not need a canine companion to join the hike.
- **Safety First:** As always, responsible pet ownership is key. Please ensure your dog is leashed, under control, and you follow all park/trail regulations (including cleanup!).
- **D-Dog Hikes will be listed on our NHOC Meetup:** The details will include any specific rules or requirements for the trail being used. It will also include the usual difficulty ratings of A, B or C.

Want to lead a D-Dog Hike?

We need enthusiastic members to organize and lead these new excursions! If you have a dog and would like to organize a "D" hike for NHOC please let us know by emailing the details of your D hike to Janet Boccia jbocc@hotmail.com for approval. Once your hike is approved, you will be able to add the hike to our NHOC Meetup site.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for 3 NON-ELECTED positions...

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS COMMITTEE: *Non-Elected Position*

- Plan, coordinate, and arrange for programs at club meetings.
- Set up and clean up and be responsible for refreshments at membership meetings.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: *Non-Elected Position*

- Promote Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club in local media, i.e., newspapers, radio, Internet, TV, etc.
- Write press releases, design brochures, flyers, and membership cards. Create new marketing and promotional policies.

MAJOR EVENTS COMMITTEE: *Non-Elected Position*

- Oversee the planning of Board approved social events, including but not limited to the following: Annual Picnic, Thanksgiving on the Trail, Annual Holiday party

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT EMAIL: Fran Cassidy: PRESIDENT@NASSAUHIKE.ORG

PAST HIKES and EVENTS





Next Issue of Shorelines June - July 2026

This issue covers the period From
June 1st to July 30th.

All Materials Must Reach Appropriate Hike Coordinator
(A, B, C, D Or Events)

ON or BEFORE Monday May 25th

All other materials **MUST REACH** the Editor at
shorelines@nassauhike.org, **by the same date.**

SHORELINES: Don Wilber, 516-244-5208, shorelines@nassauhike.org

MEMBERSHIP: If you do not receive Shorelines, please contact: membership@nassauhike.org