THE DISTINGUISHED YOUTH AWARD

Suffolk County Parks Information Booklet

Suffolk County Legislature’s Award for Youth
Arthur Kunz County Park
Landing Road, Smithtown
Is a 93-acre forested property, which is situated on the western bank of the Nissequogue River, near its estuarine mouth. This property is primarily utilized for hiking.

Arthur Kunz County Park features tidal creeks, a lush, mixed deciduous forest, rolling hills and valleys, and quaint hidden ponds all of which provide important habitat for wildlife. The trail system in the park provides a scenic link in a section of the Long Island Greenbelt Trail, which heads north from Arthur Kunz Park to its terminus at Sunken Meadow State Park.
Berkley Jackson County Park
245 Manor Road, Huntington
Is an 130-acre hiking area with a hilly terrain. The trail is about 1.8 miles. Manor Farm Park was purchased by Huntington Town to serve as a trailhead to link the adjoining 20-acre Town Manor Road Park and 100-acre County Berkeley Jackson Park. Prior to the purchase, in 2000, Manor Farm was an animal farm, known by many in the area because of the array of exotic animals kept there.

The Town restored the Manor Farm residence to a period circa 1860. Starflower Experiences, Inc. provides environmental education programs that take full advantage of the adjoining trails. The western part of the County Park contains the remnants of two former sand quarries and is hilly. Further east, the land flattens out.
Blydenburgh County Park
Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown
Is a 627 acre park that is open year-round to Suffolk County residents and their guests. Horseback riders may ride or trailer their mounts to Blydenburgh County Park to utilize an extensive bridle path system and practice ring.

Trailer parking is available at the northern (New Mill Road) entrance. Suffolk County horseback riding permits are required and must be visibly displayed by all riders. Freshwater fishing for pumpkinseed sunfish, large-mouth bass, perch and bluegill is permitted at Stump Pond between sunrise and sunset. Be advised that New York State freshwater fishing laws apply.

Rowboat rentals are generally available from mid-May to Labor Day. To participate in these activities, use the southern entrance (Veteran's Memorial Highway). Finally, hikes through Blydenburgh County Park are led on a regular basis by the Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference, whose headquarters are located in one of the historic district houses. For a hike schedule, contact the Greenbelt office at (631)-360-0753.
Bohemia Equestrian County Center
1369 Sycamore Avenue, Bohemia
In addition to trails for horses year-round, the Bohemia Equestrian Center has three equestrian rings. Parking is available for cars and trailers. Horseback riding is permitted on marked trails with a county permit.

The center also offers opportunities for horse shows and trails through the Islip Horsemen Association and is open to all horsemen and horsewomen and their families, not just residents of Islip township. The intent of this club is to be involved in community affairs that may affect horse ownership, to educate horse owners and horse lovers, and to sponsor horse shows.
Brookside County Park
59 Brook Street, West Sayville
This Brookside property was purchased by the County as parkland through the Clean Water Act, which named Great South Bay Audubon Society as stewards for the property.

Built in 1897, this historic property was part of the Isaac Green Estate. The Green's Creek runs along the east side of the property and empties into Great South Bay. The rhododendrons that border the main lawn were mostly planted by the last owner, Mrs. Thurber throughout her 50-year stay. To date, the GSBAS chapter is monitoring birds present on the property and has logged more than 118 species of birds.
Calverton Ponds County Park
Old River Road, Manorville
This preserve is a jewel for anyone who appreciates a quiet hike amidst one of the world’s rarest and most unique natural communities. This 350-acre oak-pine forest contains coastal plain ponds, which represent one of the rarest wetland types in North America.

Calverton Ponds were utilized as commercial cranberry bogs in the early 1900’s, which operated for over 50 years. Today, Calverton Ponds host rare plants, several rare amphibians and fish and rare damselflies and many other species.

Cooperatively owned and managed by Suffolk County Parks and The Nature Conservancy, trails at the preserve are open for hiking and observing nature from dawn to dusk. Trails lead to several observation points for close-up views around three major ponds—Sandy Pond, the largest, Block Pond, which is dry at times, and Fox Pond, which is farthest from the parking area.
Cathedral Pines County Park
116 Yaphank Middle Island Road
Middle Island

This 320-acre site is situated along the headwaters of the Carmans River. Facilities in this park include campsites for individuals, youth group camping and club camping (10 or more units) and family camping, including 10 sites with water and electric hookups.

Picnic sites and the George Broome Memorial Activity Building are also available. The Prosser Pines Nature Preserve is located adjacent to Cathedral Pines Park, which features a majestic stand of white pines planted in 1812. Prosser Pines is a popular site for hikers and photographers.
Cedar Point County Park

5 Cedar Point Road, East Hampton

The 607-acre Cedar Point, with commanding views of Gardiner's Bay, offers individual and organized group camping areas. Picnic areas, boat rentals, nature trails, vehicular access to the outer beach (with permit only), licensed hunting for waterfowl (in season), surfcasting for bass and bluefish.

Settled in 1651, Cedar Point was once a busy port for shipping farm goods, fish, and timber from Sag Harbor. The historic Cedar Point Lighthouse stood on an island 200 yards from shore when it was built in 1860. Its beacon served to guide whaling ships in and out of Sag Harbor during its heyday as a major port. The hurricane of 1938 transformed the shoreline, shifting sands to create a narrow walkable strip that now connects the lighthouse with the mainland.
Champlin Creek Nature Preserve
50 Irish Lane, East Islip
Located between the hamlets of Islip and East Islip, flowing southward into the Great South Bay, between the Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge and The Moorings.

The fish and wildlife habitat is an approximate three and one-half mile length of the stream, extending from Knapps Lake, just north of the Main Street, to near its headwaters north of the Southern State Parkway. Champlin Creek is a relatively clean, cold, free-flowing, freshwater stream, generally less than 6 feet (1.8 m) wide, partially vegetated sandy substrate. The creek is bordered by limited areas of wet forest land and suburban residential development.

Champlin Creek is one of only a few free-flowing, spring-fed streams on Long Island that have remained in a relatively natural state. This creek provides habitat conditions suitable for natural reproduction by brook trout, and supports one of approximately 6 known wild populations of this species on Long Island.
Charles F. Altenkirch County Park
Dune Road, Hampton Bays
Formerly known as Shinnecock West County Park, this Atlantic oceanfront park offers Outer Beach access from September 15 – March 15. Limited parking is available year round, for County residents, in the parking lot adjacent to the inlet.

This rugged, undeveloped barrier beach park includes a favorite spot for striped bass fishing.
Coram Airfield
246 Middle Country Road, Coram
This small general aviation airport in Coram was established in 1959, by Lester Davis. Originally, the airport was known as the Davis-Coram Airpark. Davis founded the tiny airport by plowing a path down the center of his family’s cornfield to create a runway.

Davis grew sweet corn around the taxiing planes. The tall trees at all runway ends reportedly made for interesting approaches. The earliest depiction of the Coram Airport was a 1962 aerial photo, which showed 6 single-engine aircraft parked northwest & southwest of the end of Coram's unpaved east/west runway. The Coram Airport was closed in 1984, but has been occasionally used for emergency landings.
Corwood Landing County Park
Cedar Drive, Miller Place
Cordwood Landing County Park is in the heart of the Miller Place historic district and is an important parcel of open space. The former Girl Scout Camp Barstow was purchased by Suffolk County in the 1980's and was recently expanded to now over 70 acres.

This spectacular property offers extensive hiking trails and access to the Long Island Sound for hikers, fishermen, sea combers and sunbathers. Dogs on leashes are welcomed and night fishing is permitted with permit only.

This is a carry in carry out park. Taking responsibility for our discarded items encourages awareness of our impact on natural resources, and can prompt environmentally-friendly behaviors such as recycling, and use of recycled or biodegradable products.
Cranberry Bog Nature Preserve
3675-3815 Lake Avenue, Riverhead

Cranberry Bog Nature Preserve is a tiny jewel set in the wetlands of Riverhead. The park is what remains of an abandoned cranberry-growing operation. The 165-acre preserve serves as part of the drainage system of the Peconic River and is a natural reservoir for Long Island's fresh water supply.

The acidic marshes, bogs and wetlands of the surrounding area, made it an ideal habitat for growing cranberries. Hiking trails on the property allow for sights of the Little Peconic River, various plant life, birds species, reptiles and other local wildlife.

You'll enjoy a wide variety of sights, sounds and smells during different seasons—at the height of summer, the aroma of Sweet Pepper Bush fills the air; in the winter the foliage is gone from the trees, but that makes the pond all the more visible. Great Blue Herons fish here frequently, as do kingfishers.

About 3/4 of the way around the trail, you'll come across what's left of an old pump house from when the Woodhull family farmed cranberries at the bog. The focal point of the 1.1 mile loop is the wooden bridge over the bog.

Located on the west side of Lake Avenue in Riverhead, just about a mile or so south of the traffic circle by the river. Look for a sign that marks the entrance to the preserve. There's a small off-road parking area. You'll need to walk in to the loop trail which takes you around Sweezy Pond. At the end of the old tar roadway there's a sign pointing the way to the start of the trail.
Cupsogue Beach County Park
906 Dune Road, Westhampton
This 296-acre barrier beach park offers lifeguard-supervised swimming, sunbathing on white sand beaches and some of the finest saltwater bass fishing to be had on the Island.

A food concession, restrooms, first aid center, showers and changing rooms are all conveniently situated at Cupsogue's pavilion. Campers and recreational vehicles are permitted along the access road running parallel to the outer beach. Diving is permitted at slack tide on the bay side of the park only. The Water depth is approximately 12'.

Amenities:
- Beaches
- Camping
- Fishing
- Food
- Off-Road Outer Beach Access
- Picnicking
- Scuba Diving
- Showers
- Special Events in Season
The story retold is that decades ago, the late Dennis Puleston, one of Long Island's most respected naturalists, craned his neck to see the blazing orange throat of a Blackburnian warbler flying into this park on a southerly wind and gave the park its name. Mr. Puleston called it Warbler Woods. A park known for its solitude and interesting sights, it is definitely a park for those looking to be immersed in nature.

In 2006, the County incorporated the 700-acre Dennis Puleston Warbler Woods Nature Preserve into the Suffolk County Park system. The park is located south of Cathedral Pines County Park, east of County Road 21 and south of Longwood Road.

In season, this park is one of the County's hunting by permit only parks. A small parking area is located on the east side of Yaphank Middle Island Road, north of Shannon Boulevard and south of the Middle Island Country Club.
Dwarf Pine Plain communities are rare ecosystems that exist in only a few locations in the entire world. The New Jersey Dwarf Pine Plains, the Shawangunk Mountains Dwarf Pine Plains, and the Long Island Dwarf Pine Plains are the three existing communities.

The Shawangunk Pine Plain is located in New York closer to the Catskill Region. The Dwarf Pine Plains earned its name from the height of the vegetation that exists in the community. Dominated by pitch pines and scrub oak, these trees will rarely exceed 3 to 6 feet in height.

The suggested reason behind this stunted growth is most likely poor soil conditions. It is known as a podzolic soil, characterized by extreme acidity.

Sandy soils allow the little available nutrients and water to leach out very quickly. Since the water table is located out of reach of the plant roots it is even more difficult for the vegetation to obtain nutrients. The porous, sandy soil evaporates moisture very quickly causing a dry soil condition. The dwarf trees in this community offer little protection from surrounding elements resulting in extreme heat in the summer, and harsh, cold winters.

Since the Long Island Dwarf Pine Plain is a rare ecosystem, it supports some uncommon wildlife species. There is a wide array of bird species that use this habitat. The black-throated green warbler breeds commonly in this area. American kestrels and marsh hawks can be seen hunting for vole and mouse species. Nocturnal birds also inhabit this area. Some owls that you may encounter are screech, northern saw-whet, and long-eared owls. Nighthawks and whippoorwills can also be heard in the Dwarf Pine Plains.

Of the three mentioned Dwarf Pine Plain communities, the Long Island Dwarf Pine Plain is most vulnerable to damage by human influence. Its location is not as remote as the New Jersey and Shawangunk dwarf communities. It is important to respect and preserve this globally rare ecological community.
Edward Vincent Ecker Sr. County Park
154 Navy Road, Montauk

Edward Vincent Ecker Sr. County Park is located at the western end of Fort Pond Bay near Rocky Point. Formerly known as “Hangar Dock” the Navy Rd. park is so named because there was a US submarine base here during 2nd World War where they tested torpedoes.

In 2003, the park was dedicated in memory of Edward V. Ecker, Sr. for his service as the East Hampton Town Supervisor, a 55-year member of the Montauk Fire Department, a charter member of the Montauk Ambulance Company and his involvement in the Montauk community.

The park has a parking lot, a deep water dock suitable for fishing, and a rocky beach. This park is perfect for picnics and beachcombing. There is easy access to trails in Hither Woods Preserve. This park is a good place to launch kayaks and canoes, and is dog friendly. Open year round.
Farmingville Hills County Park

501 Horseblock Road, Farmingville

This park offers a large cleared field with access for hiking trails located at the back of that field. The park is a 1.2-mile moderately trafficked loop moderate trail. The park offers two loop trails: blue and orange. The blue trial offers a shorter hike, while the orange trail goes deeper into the park.

The trail in this park is primarily used for hiking, walking, trail running, and nature trips. This park is accessible year-round.
Forsythe Meadow County Park
52 Hollow Road, Stony Brook
This 34-acre preserve nestled between Stony Brook’s Main Street shops, a horse farm and a subdivision, was purchased by Suffolk County in 2000 after developmental pressures threatened to turn what was “Stony Brook’s Last Forest” into a subdivision. Not only does Forsythe Meadow’s unspoiled forest protect a variety of wildlife but it serves as a critical watershed to Stony Brook Harbor.

In 2012, the preserve portion was rededicated in memory of former Suffolk County Legislator Nora Bredes, who represented the area from 1992 through 1998. The 1.5-mile long hiking trail within the park was first blazed in 2015.

Gardiner County Park
Montauk Highway, West Bay Shore
Originally owned by the Gardiner family, Suffolk's first non-native landowners, and later part of the historic Sagtikos Manor Estate, Gardiner County Park is now a 231-acre nature-oriented public park on the Great South Bay.
Greens Creek County Park
Clyde Street, West Sayville
Green's Creek is roughly 4-acres and serves as a small, passive park on the Great South Bay that allows for a relaxing environment. Activities include a boardwalk equipped with benches for a view of the canal and Great South Bay. Please be advised that fishing, swimming, and watercraft launching are prohibited.
Hubbard County Park
Riverhead-Hampton Bays Road, Flanders
Hubbard County Park provides for fishing at freshwater Penny Pond, hunting, hiking, as well as canoeing & kayaking. The check-in for activities is located at Sears Bellows County Park.

This 1,815-acre park is a land of transitions complimented by beach grass extending under pine tree canopy and prairie grasses abutting salt marsh. An array of wildlife can be found, to include clams, scallops, blue heron, osprey, and a variety of turtles and reptiles.

While enjoying the beautiful sights of the park, you may also find yourself enveloped in a land with a 10,000 year heritage starting with the Native American Shinnecock Nation, extending to the Town of Southampton, as farmland through a period of use as hunting land, where remains of duck blinds and tools can still be found along the trails.
Indian Island County Park
Cross Rover Drive (Route 105), Riverhead
This 275-acre Indian Island County Park, at the estuarine mouth of the Peconic River, is open to the public year-round for a variety of activities. Camping is immensely popular at Indian Island, with trailer and tent campsites open to organized groups, individuals and camping clubs.

Restrooms and shower facilities are available for the comfort of all campers. What was formerly the "island" at Indian Island County Park is now connected to the mainland by a causeway composed entirely of white sands. Remote, yet easily accessible to all, this "island", complete with picnic tables, grills, comfortable benches and views of a glistening and peaceful Flanders Bay, offers one of the finest picnicking sites available in Suffolk County.
Lake Ronkonkoma County Park
11 Lake Shore Road, Lake Ronkonkoma
This scenic park offers a variety of recreational opportunities to the public. The facilities include a fishing area, baseball fields, handball courts, basketball courts, a handicapped accessible playground, and a picnic area.

Lakeland County Park
Johnson Avenue, Islandia
This 70-acre, fully accessible park facility was designed for the disabled and their families. It includes a nature trail-boardwalk over the head-waters of the Connetquot River, affording unique views of wetlands, vegetation, waterfowl and wildlife. Picnic area with gazebo, boardwalks, shuffleboard, & basketball courts.
Makamah Nature Preserve
Fort Salonga Road, Fort Salonga
Originally called Crab Meadow Park East Watershed, the Makamah Nature Preserve was acquired by Suffolk County in 1973. The preserve contains dry and wet woodlands, as well as marsh.

Approximately 94 species of birds have been recorded in and around the property. The park is prime habitat for owls and woodpeckers, as well. The park contains heavily wooded hills with one rising to 60 feet in its center and others rising to 100 feet.

The easterly portion of the park is a valley that drains the surrounding area. This valley includes a main stream that was once dammed to form two ponds and several feeder streams, some spring-fed. The property was once owned jointly with what is now the Town Crab Meadow Golf Course, just to the west of the preserve.

An additional tract of land on NYS Route 25A was dedicated, resulting in the trailhead parking area. There is an additional trail access on Makamah Road, south of Breeze Hill Road. The preserve is available for hiking, bird watching, dog walking (on leash).
McAllister County Park
Anchorage Road, Belle Terre
In 1971 James P. McAllister deeded land he owned to the County of Suffolk, which in turn dedicated this 113-acre scenic seafront property for parks purposes. This site, which includes Pirates Cove, has become very popular with boaters, who anchor near the shoreline during the summer months. Please be advised that limited parking is available.

Meschutt Beach County Park
Canal Road & Old North Highway, Hampton Bays
Meschutt Beach County Park is a stillwater, supervised bathing beach located on Great Peconic Bay, on the east side of the Shinnecock Canal. A windsurfing and sailing area is also available.
Millers Pond County Park

Smithtown

Millers Pond is a small pond located in Smithtown on Suffolk County park land with about a mile of shoreline. Millers Pond is located several blocks south of Main Street in Smithtown and just east of Route 111.

Parking for four to six cars is available on the west side of the pond off Maple Avenue, but the lot is often full due to the popularity of waterfowl feeding at this county park.

Boats are prohibited, and shoreline access is limited. The pond does have Largemouth Bass, Sunfish, Brown Bullhead, and Yellow Perch and serves primarily as a neighborhood fishing hole, but experienced bass anglers have enjoyed high catch rates and the occasional lunker bass over the last decade.
Montauk County Park
Montauk Highway, Montauk

Montauk County Park offers outer beach access and outer beach camping, seasonal hunting, salt and freshwater fishing, hiking, horseback riding trails and canoeing.

On the County Park property the Deep Hollow Ranch has available popular horseback rides to the beach for park visitors. Also, the historic Third House is located inside the park. This House was utilized by Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders. There is camping for self-contained trailers and campgrounds for youth scout groups. The park is dog friendly as long as dogs are kept leashed.

Montauk County Park was created from a series of land acquisitions by Suffolk County beginning in 1971. The park’s boundaries extend all the way to the north shore from Oyster Pond, around Shagwong Point to Gin Beach by the entrance to Montauk Harbor Inlet.

The park includes:
- Big Reed Pond – a National Natural Landmark.
- Montaukett Village – a home and burial ground of the Montaukett tribe of Native Americans, which includes the grave of member Stephen Talkhouse.
- Deep Hollow Ranch – the first and oldest cattle ranch in the United States, established in 1658.
- Third House – the third residence constructed in the 18th century for cattle keepers, who brought cattle to graze in Montauk each summer. The house is open seasonally.
- Camp Wikoff – this is the area where Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders came to recuperate after the battle of San Juan Hill during the Spanish–American War in 1898.
- Shagwong Point is a favorite among surfcasters, who routinely patrol the shoreline between the inlet and the Point looking for Striped Bass and Bluefish. RV camping is permitted here. This is also the entrance for Outer Beach for Off Roading by permit only.
Munns Ponds County Park
228 Montauk Highway, Hampton Bays

At Munn’s Ponds County Park, you can combine an educational visit to a wildlife rehabilitation center, with a walk around several ponds and through classic Pine Barrens forest. A tour along the pine-needled paths of this park conveys a surprisingly wild and isolated feeling. The Park is connected to the Sears Bellows Pond County Park on the other side of Sunrise Highway.

The Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center of the Hamptons is located at the entrance to Munn’s Ponds Park. The Center fields calls 365 days a year and their hospital staff and volunteers help Eastern Long Island’s distressed wildlife. It is a superb destination for educational groups. Visitors get to see such unusual species as osprey, gannet, and razor-billed auk. The staff aims to bring injured wildlife back to health so they can be released back into the wild. Some animals, however, are permanently injured, and the pens of this center are the only home they will know. The facility has a Raptor Flight Conditioning Building that is 100 feet long and 20 feet high. There is also a critical care center (a wildlife E.R.!).
Northwest Harbor County Park
100 Northwest Landing Road, East Hampton
Situated at the mouth of the Peconic River and Northwest Harbor this shoreline park offers a boat ramp, fishing and a small off roading area.

Many enjoy this quaint little park to fish while enjoying the beautiful scenery.
Noyack County Park
2401 Deerfield Road, Sag Harbor
This 142-acre park has about 2.5 miles of lightly trafficked loop trail located near Sag Harbor, for all skill levels. This park offers scenic views and is primarily used for hiking and is accessible year-round. There is a small parking area, which can accommodate 2–3 cars.

Old Field Farm
92 West Meadow Road, Stony Brook
Long Island philanthropist Ward Melville built Old Field Farm, originally known as the North Shore Horse Show Grounds, in 1931. Melville commissioned architect Richard Haviland Smythe to create a unique equestrian facility located on a distinctive waterfront setting on Long Island’s North Shore.

The stable complex is composed a Main Barn and courtyard, numerous free standing stables and a large Old Fashioned wooden grandstand, all designed in the Colonial Revival style. The Farm is located on 13 scenic acres in the historic Three Village area adjoining 88 acres of protected wetlands overlooking Long Island Sound on the north and the West Meadow Creek wetlands to the south -- an area which has been designated “outstanding natural coastal area” (ONCA) by New York State. Long Island artists have found inspiration for their award-winning works in the Farm’s remarkable combination of man-made and natural beauty. In its day, this extraordinary facility was considered unparalleled for horse sports (The North Shore Horse Show).

For over half a century Old Field Farm attracted thousands of riders and spectators to high-quality equestrian competitions, many of which were successful charitable fund-raisers. Privately owned until 1986, the Farm was acquired by the County to prevent commercial sale of the property or possible subdivision and development. During this period the facility stood vacant and continued to deteriorate. The County initiated a search to identify an appropriate entity to take on an extensive restoration required and manage Old Field Farm and return this prized local institution to its rightful place in the community.
Orient County Park
41425 NY-25, Orient
Located on the eastern tip of the north fork of Long Island, this small waterfront Park known for its pristine views of Long Island sound and offers ample fishing. Fisherman can park in the small parking area on the point and fish along the rocks or walk onto the beach area to fish along the beach shoreline.
Paul T. Given County Park
West Main Street, Smithtown
This park is a beautiful little respite by the side of the road under the railroad trestle. The park is great for launching rowboats and kayaks, fishing, relaxing. A small little jewel in the heart of busy Smithtown.

Hard surface ramp, hand launch. Located at exit 56 off the LIE (Rte. 111 north) to Rte. 25 west (left) about 1.5 miles on the right. The parking lot accommodates 50 cars and trailers. You are able to rent Canoes and Kayaks from Nissequogue River & Kayak Rentals, which is a County Park Vendor, and paddle along for 5.5 miles of the unspoiled nature of Suffolk County’s north shore. Your canoe or kayak trip begins or ends at the "Headwaters" at Paul T. Given County Park. To obtain Tidal information in advance, you may contact 631-979-8244.
Pine Barrens Trails Information Center
County Road 111, Manorville

Situated conveniently near several access points to hiking trails in the Pine Barrens, this facility was established to provide the public with environmental interpretation of the Pine Barrens. Exhibits include information on Pine Barrens Coastal Plain Ponds and Pine Barrens land and wildlife management.

Informative literature and brochures are also available at the center. A short, interpretive "Blueberry Loop" trail has been routed on the grounds of the center to give visitors a sampling of a Pine Barrens outdoor experience. Also on the grounds is El's Trail, a 3/4-mile accessible trail (trail chair available.) A children's "Pine Barrens Touch Museum" is another highlight of the Pine Barrens Trail Information Center.
Prosser Pines Nature Preserve
67 Yaphank Middle Island Road, Middle Island
In 1812, William Dayton planted the first white pine seedlings on his farm in Middle Island. In 1889, the farm was sold to George Prosser who continued to nurture the Pine Plantation. As the years passed, the trees grew to almost 100 feet and seeded themselves until they covered nearly 15 acres. This plantation became the only white pine forest on Long Island.

Suffolk County purchased the land in 1967, and dedicated the property as the Prosser Pines Nature Preserve for future generations to enjoy. Today, Prosser Pines is a unique and rare forest and is one of the oldest surviving White Pine Plantations to exist on the eastern seaboard of the United States.

As you hike through the quiet solitude of these pines on a thick carpet of pine needles, and look up into their treetops, the outside world seems far away. Prosser Pines Loop Trail is a 0.7-mile moderately trafficked loop trail that features a great forest setting and is good for all skill levels. The trail is for hiking and trail running and is accessible year-round. Dogs on leashes are welcome on this trail.
Raynor Beach County Park
174 Ronkonkoma Avenue, Lake Ronkonkoma
Raynor Beach County Park has become one of Lake Ronkonkoma's finest assets. The old Raynor Beach Pavilion, operated in the 1920s, has been transformed into a wonderful community park. All that is left of the original Beach Pavilion are the stairs that lead from Lake Shore Road parking lot into the park.

The park has views of Lake Ronkonkoma from a 16-acre plateau of paved walking trails, a handball court, a basketball court, a soccer field, a baseball diamond, a veterans' memorial and pavilion, a tennis court, and a small section of beachfront on the lake, (just across Lake Shore Road).

There are also two children’s playgrounds, picnic tables, restrooms, a scenic overlook with benches, and a jogging path. There is parking both on Ronkonkoma Avenue and Lake Shore Drive.
Robert Cushman Murphy County Park
River Road, Calverton/Manorville

Robert Cushman Murphy, the county's first natural park, offers boating and hiking. This park is a favorite for hiking and bird watching.

Rare coastal plain pondshore habitat provides professional scientists with opportunities to conduct important biological experiments and inventories. Hunting, managed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, is permitted seasonally on portions of the property.
Sans Souci County Park
Broadway Avenue, Sayville
Sans Souci is French for "without worry," and at Sans Souci Nature Preserve you will be able escape the stressors of daily life by walking through this serene park filled with plant and wildlife.

This 316-acre nature preserve is teeming with plants and animals. As you are hiking through the nature preserve, trail markers will inform you on all aspects of the preserve from plants to pollution, and water levels to fire damage. The Sans Souci lakes were one continuous lake until the mid 1800’s, when small dams were built to turn the land into a cranberry farm. Today, you can enjoy these beautiful lakes undisturbed.
Sears Bellows County Park
Bellows Pond Road, Hampton Bays
Nestled within the Long Island Pine Barrens, Sears Bellows offers a broad range of recreational opportunities to Suffolk County residents and tourists. Campsites for both tents and trailers are available. Rowboat rentals are offered on freshwater Bellows Pond.

Sears Bellows' extensive trail system attracts hikers and horseback riders from all points, east and west. Riders may use the park with a horseback riding permit. This park is closed to certain activities during waterfowl hunting season. Sears Bellows Park is a sportsman's paradise. Freshwater fishing for bluegill, bass, perch and pickerel, with bait, is permitted between sunrise and sunset. New York State regulations apply to all sporting activities.
Schinnecock East County Park
Dune Road, Southampton
Flanking the eastern border of the Shinnecock Inlet, where it meets the Atlantic Ocean, this rugged, undeveloped barrier beach park includes both ocean and bay beach recreation areas.

Shinnecock East County Park is a favorite spot for striped bass fishing. Off-road recreational vehicles may drive on the outer (ocean) beach. 100 campsites on the outer beach are available to self-contained campers with a valid Suffolk County Parks Green Key Card. No tent camping is permitted. A small parking lot is available for Green Key card holders, who do not have an Outer Beach Recreational Vehicle Permit. Vehicles with Suffolk County Parks Outer Beach Recreational Vehicle Permit must park on the beach.
Smith Point County Park
1 William Floyd Parkway, Shirley
Smith Point, on the Fire Island barrier beach, is a haven for sportsmen, surfers and beach lovers. An extremely popular facility, the park's white sands, rolling Atlantic surf and adjoining camping facility attract Suffolk County residents and tourists each summer season.

Reservations are required for all the sites in the campground. All sites have water, and many have electric hookups and sewers. Outer beach camping is available on first come, first served basis, beach conditions permitting. A nationally recognized team of lifeguards makes Smith Point its home base, providing ocean visitors with an extra-special safety feature. Off-road vehicles, with permit only, may drive on the western portion of the outer beach.

All beach-goers are advised to respect the marked, protective fencing around the nest sites of endangered shorebirds inhabiting the ocean and bay beaches.
Southaven County Park
Victory Avenue, Brookhaven
The Carmans River flows through this scenic, pine-oak forested park. Southaven is a popular picnicking site, containing group areas capable of accommodating up to 1,000 people. Southaven's 1,356 acres also offer a bicycle hostel. Boating and freshwater fishing are permitted. Camping is also available, with sites for tents and trailers.
Suffolk County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park
Bald Hill, Farmingville

Situated on top of Bald Hill, one of the highest points on Long Island, this monument was constructed under the guidance of the Suffolk County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee in 1991.

The monument, a sharply sloping pyramid, painted boldly in the colors of our nation's flag, acknowledges the service and sacrifice of all Vietnam Veterans - those who died, those who were wounded, and the men and women who served. It is hoped that the memorial will help heal the trauma of those war years in a spirit of reconciliation and remembrance. This site affords a spectacular and inspirational, unobstructed view of Suffolk County for miles in all directions. A large parking area exists for the convenience of visitors.
Terrell River County Park
Montauk Highway, Center Moriches

Terrell River County Park is a passive park and preserve located south of Montauk Highway in Center Moriches. This particular park has phenomenal vistas and is known for its abundance of hiking trails, beach access, and brilliant scenic views.

The Terrell River Trail is a 2.6-mile moderately trafficked trail and is good for all skill levels. Terrell River Park has an incredibly diverse amount of plants and trees that make for a magical experience. Formerly known as the Havens Estate, this 263-acre preserve was purchased by Suffolk County in 1986.

In 2001, the Moriches Bay Audubon Society was designated as the park’s steward. There are no amenities but there are a few picnic tables and benches. It is a “carry in, carry out” park, so be prepared to bring out any garbage. Dogs on leashes are welcome.
West Hills County Park
Sweet Hollow Road, Melville

This park has picturesque, well-groomed nature trails, including the historic Walt Whitman Trail to Jayne's Hill (Long Island's highest peak, at an elevation of 400 feet), wind through this highly popular, mixed-deciduous forested park.

West Hills flora and fauna include wild Mountain Laurel, Moccasin Flower, several fern species, salamanders, turtles, chipmunk, squirrel and red fox. Camping at West Hills is offered to organized youth groups only. Campsites, lean-tos, and primitive shelters are available year-round. Reservations are required.
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