

Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt



Who We Are

Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt is a group of volunteers who work for **the preservation, stewardship, and public appreciation of the Long Pond Greenbelt**, a unique expanse of coastal plain ponds, freshwater swamps, wetlands, and woodlands that stretches from Sag Harbor to Sagaponack, in the Town of Southampton, New York.

What We Do

- Sponsor an **Annual Celebration Day** at Round Pond in Sag Harbor with informative exhibits from local environmental organizations and guided walks in the Greenbelt.
- Establish a **tree identification trail** marking over 20 species of native trees and shrubs
- Organize **clean-ups** and participating in the annual Great East End Cleanup held each spring to honor Earth Day.
- Organize **walks, hikes, and star-gazing events**
- Partner with the Nature Conservancy, Southampton Town, Suffolk County, and other groups to **rehabilitate disturbed areas**.
- Work with Southampton Town Code Enforcement Officer, Suffolk County Park Rangers and Town Bay Constables to **increase enforcement** of motorized vehicle prohibition, illegal dumping, and illegal hunting.
- Hold **monthly meetings** to plan work projects and educational programs and distribute a monthly **newsletter**, with meeting notes and feature articles on nature and Greenbelt history.
- **Identify parcels for preservation** and encourages their purchase through established open space programs.

And . . . we are restoring a native grassland at Vineyard Field in Bridgehampton

In 2005 FLPNG began a **15-year grasslands restoration project** at Vineyard Field, a 39-acre property behind the South Fork Natural History Museum-SoFo on the Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike

in Bridgehampton. The field, one the few protected open grasslands remaining in the Town of Southampton, had become **overrun by widespread infestations of aggressive invasive species** that **threatened its rich ecosystem** of ponds, wetlands, and meadow.

By 2009 autumn olive had been removed **from 30 acres** and large patches of Japanese knotweed subdued. Areas of mile-a-minute vine, which spreads alarmingly fast, have been cleared by hand. To squelch regrowth of autumn olive the field is mowed annually. **A start-up grant from the USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** grant got the project underway **and additional support** has been received from the NYS DEC through a Legislative Initiative Grant from New York State Assemblyman Fred Thiele, the Town of Southampton, the Brine Family Charitable Trust, the Evan Frankel Foundation, the estate of Gene A. Morin, the Andy Sabin Family Trust, and many private individuals and local businesses.

The Greenbelt: An Environmental Treasure

Spectacular in its wealth of rare plants, animals, and ecological communities, the Greenbelt is **widely recognized as one of the New York State's most environmentally significant areas**. Its most splendid feature consists of a collection of thirteen coastal plain ponds: Long Pond, Poxabogue Pond, Crooked Pond, Little Long Pond, and Round Pond being the largest. The New York Heritage Program classifies **many of the Greenbelt's ponds, fauna, and flora as rare both in New York State and worldwide**.

Within the LPG management boundaries – roughly Sagg Road/Sagg Main Street to the east and Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike/Ocean Road to the west –over **650 acres have been preserved** outright since 1975 by Suffolk County, the Town of Southampton, and the Nature Conservancy.

Ways to Enjoy It

Hikers enjoy many miles of trails that criss-cross the Greenbelt, some tracing ancient Native American routes to the ponds. (A trail map produced by the South Fork Natural History Society is available at the SoFo Museum or from FLPNG.)

Horseback riding is permitted on designated bridle paths. Motorized vehicles and bicycles are prohibited on all trails.

Birders are offered excellent opportunities for sighting the **over 100 species** recorded in the Greenbelt.

Kayaks, canoes, sculls, rowboats, and boats with electric motors are allowed. Boats using gas or diesel engines are prohibited.

For information on waterfowl hunting and fishing licenses, contact the Southampton Town Trustees.

FLPNG

a 501C nonprofit organization

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