



The Southampton Trails Preservation Society (STPS) was founded in 1986 by a group of horseback riders who discovered the scenic trails they rode were being lost to development. Many in the community realized the importance of saving our walking and hiking trails as well and joined the riders in a broad preservation effort.

Since its beginning, STPS has worked actively with Southampton government, neighboring trail groups and other environmental organizations to promote and create a system of public use trails. STPS helped amend the Southampton Town Code, establishing parameters for trail preservation and use. STPS also was instrumental in creating the Southampton Trails Advisory Board, which makes recommendations to the Southampton Planning Board on opportunities for trail easements within subdivisions.

Today, STPS is a not-for-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to protecting historic trails, preserving greenbelts and open space, and creating new trail systems. STPS includes Horses on Trails (HOT), which encourages recreational horseback trail riding. In 2002, STPS co-founded the Long Island Safe Trails Coalition (LIST). Our organization originated and annually participates in The Great East End Clean-up and organizes community activities on National Trails Day and South Fork Trails Day weekends.

Over the course of nearly two decades, the Southampton Trails Preservation Society has sponsored thousands of free weekend and weekday hikes led by experienced volunteers. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt, the Walk-It-Off Hike on the day after Thanksgiving, and our historic walks are family favorites. Hike schedules are sent to STPS members each month and are listed in local newspapers and on the Internet at www.hike-LI.com/stps. Our trail maps are available for a nominal charge.

STPS hikes range from two to fifteen miles. We lead brisk hikes on our workout paths and also meander through scenic woods and meadows, up to hilly overlooks, and alongside farmland ponds, bays and the ocean. Always within view is the magnificent terrain, created more than twenty-one thousand years ago by glaciers, including the Long Pond Greenbelt, home to one of the highest concentrations of rare plants and animals in New York State.

Our volunteers work hard to create public trails, most notably the **Paumanok Path**, a 125-mile long regional trail, nearing completion, that stretches from Rocky Point in Brookhaven Town to the Atlantic Ocean at Montauk Point. Other trails can be found in the **Long Pond Greenbelt**, extending from Sag Harbor to Sagaponack; the woods of **Northwest Path**; **Brick Hill** in Bridgehampton; **Laurel Valley** and **Trout Pond** parks in Noyac; **Elliston Park** in North Sea; and **Red Creek**, **Hubbard**, **Sears Bellows** and **Munn's** parks in Hampton Bays. Currently, we are working on links to complete the **Bay to Ocean Trail**.

"All my life through, the new sights of nature make me rejoice like a child."

—Marie Curie

A dedicated group of local residents and other concerned individuals make all this and the many pleasurable hiking experiences possible.

Member volunteers:

- join and/or lead hikes and walks
- participate in monthly meetings
- cut, blaze and maintain trails
- educate the public about our trails and open space preservation
- organize fund raising events

STPS members receive:

- monthly hike schedules
- minutes of meetings
- event and trail information
- our newsletter, *The Pathfinder*

Phone: 631-537-5202

Visit us at our Website:
www.hike-LI.com/stps

To contact us by e-mail:
southamptontrailspreservationsociety@hotmail.com

If you are not already a member, or if your membership is not current, please join us now in this important community effort.