

THE WOODBRIDGE PARK ASSOCIATION, INC.
WOODBRIDGE, CONNECTICUT
FOUNDED IN 1928

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2005

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Dear Friends,

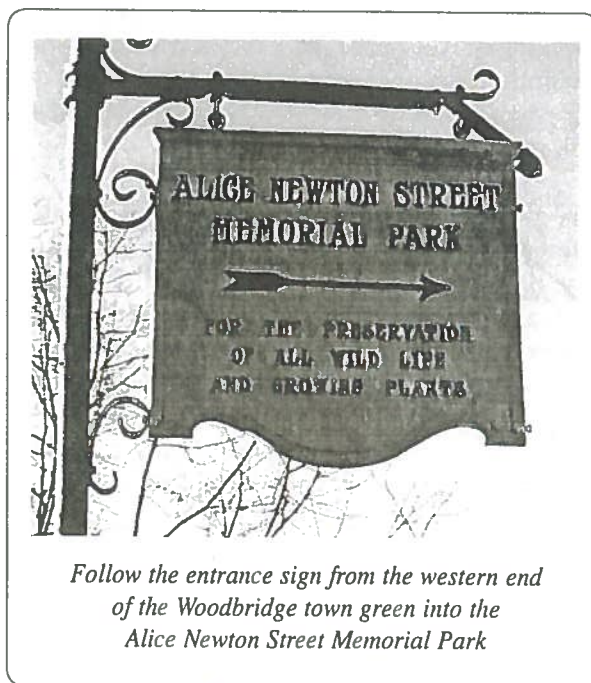
This has again been a busy year for the Woodbridge Park Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as President. We have enormous strength and diversity in our present 21-member Board of Directors who actively support our work for open space and conservation.

Last year we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Woodbridge Park Association. We were incorporated on October 4, 1928 and on January 14, 1929, the Board of Directors, consisting of eight members, was elected. Records indicate that the latter date has since been viewed as the founding date for the purpose of marking anniversaries. We believe the Woodbridge Park Association is the fourth oldest land trust in Connecticut according to the listing maintained at the Convocation of Connecticut Land Trusts. From our Articles of Association recorded in the Woodbridge Land Records on November 21, 1928, the Park Association has the following purposes:

"To acquire by gift or purchase lands within the town of Woodbridge and to hold the same for any or all of the following purposes: to establish such lands as a bird refuge and for the preservation of birds, fish and other animal life, and of trees, shrubs and plants; for the planting and care of trees in accordance with the principles of scientific forestry; to build roads and paths therein and to make accessible to the public any

historic locations therein; to establish its holdings as a park for public use and recreation, in accordance with such rules and regulations as it may adopt..."

We are lucky as Woodbridge residents to live in our beautiful town, with all the properties we have set aside for public access held by the town of Woodbridge, the Woodbridge Land Trust and the Woodbridge Park Association. It is indeed an unusual situation to essentially have two land trusts within one town.



Follow the entrance sign from the western end of the Woodbridge town green into the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park

We continue to be active in joining other supporters of open space initiatives in Woodbridge to encourage the Town to devote additional funds to the acquisition and preservation of open space. We have also increased our grant writing knowledge and applications to attempt to obtain funds from sources outside your generous donations.

The headline from the town of Orange in the June 23, 2005 Amity Observer said: "Ewen Farm Goes to Developer. Two Years of Negotiation Didn't Make a Difference." We are actively trying to preserve open space in Woodbridge, and we are actively negotiating on several parcels. The Woodbridge Park Association recognizes its shared mission with the Town, other land conservation groups in Woodbridge, and the many citizens of Woodbridge who cherish the town's rural quality to preserve the open spaces that make it special. We are pleased that First Selectman Amey Marrella, Senator Joseph Crisco and Representative Themis Klarides, show strong leadership and commitment to open space initiatives.

Our biggest news this year is the Woodbridge Park Association acquiring access to our Newton Road properties from Hampton Drive, off of Newton Road. We have purchased an additional approximately six-acre parcel at #7 Hampton Drive, on the south side. Access has long been a problem along Newton Road; this acquisition provides for an additional safe access point and access to a land-locked piece we already own. We are working on developing trail access from Hampton Drive with a through trail to the Amity High School athletic fields with the construction of a bridge over a fast-moving stream.

Acquisition of this property was made possible with sincere thanks to Robert Manocherian of Manocherian Brothers of New York City; they are locally known as Woodbridge Estates. We also express appreciation to Engineer and Land Surveyor John-Paul Garcia for his assistance.

Maintenance activities in park properties continue throughout the year. We conducted another successful annual workday at our Alice Newton Street Memorial Park property on Saturday April 9, 2005. This workday occurs annually near Earth Day; please let me know if you are interested in assisting us with future workdays. More folks attended than ever in recent memory. Thanks to the Amity High School Girls Track Team and Coach Chris Dickerson for their help too!

Superintendent Win Hubbard and Assistant Superintendent Michael Walter have overseen maintenance and clean-up throughout the park. We have also been re-blazing trails where necessary. The Alice Newton Street Memorial Park is the preeminent hiking area in the town of Woodbridge, and gets lots of use, especially by folks with their dogs. Remember, it is the volunteer effort of townsfolk that keeps our park properties maintained.

Eagle Scout projects have slowed a bit this year, but we have identified several new candidate projects and are assisting a few Life Boy Scouts with their Eagle Project applications. These projects should clear up some of the issues related with the East Boundary Trail – North Section: Cleaning and building of several plank walks over wet areas. We will be installing new plankwalk sections on the North Boundary Trail, or relocating parts of the trail. We continue to work closely with the Boy Scout Troops in Woodbridge. George Karsanaw has had the Cub Scouts Den 11 helping us with clean-up duties; thanks to them! At least 27 Eagle projects have been completed successfully at the Park Association's properties over the past four decades.

We had an excellent "harvest hike" with students, principals, teachers and parents from Beecher Road School last October. Approximately 75 hikers came to learn about the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park and enjoy its fall beauty. I would like to especially thank Director Sarah Davison for chairing this valuable event. We hope to conduct another fall hiking event this year.

The Woodbridge Garden Club and the Woodbridge Park Association continue our joint project to identify and catalog notable trees within the town of Woodbridge. This is a way for the

Woodbridge Garden Club and the Woodbridge Park Association, both concerned with maintaining the beauty of our natural environment, to work together and with other interested members of the community to document notable trees of Woodbridge, on both public and private property. We will register Woodbridge grand and unique species with the Connecticut Notable Trees Project, which automatically enters identifies town trees in the National Registry of big trees. I especially wish to express my appreciation to Betty Fearon, Leslie Martino and Barbara Bosco for their leadership with this project. We are thrilled to announce that we have named Alycia Wilson of Wallingford as Woodbridge Tree Identification Captain.

The annual meeting in May marked the beginning of my third year as President, and I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Officers and Directors for their dedicated stewardship of the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park and the generous vision of the Park Association's founders, and their energetic efforts in moving toward preservation goals. I am also grateful to attorney David W. Schneider for his wise and expert guidance in the increasingly complex issues surrounding open space preservation. I have an outstanding slate of Officers to work with: Christopher R. Dickerson, Vice President; Barbara W. Adams, Secretary, and Michael E. Burt, Treasurer. Winchester L. Hubbard continues as Park Superintendent, and Michael Walter serves as Assistant Superintendent.

We have had some transition this year on our Board. Director Geoffrey Smith has moved to North Carolina. We welcome new Directors Mark Kohler and Georgia Chavent Morgan. It is my pleasure to work with generous and dedicated Park Association Directors for many years, and speak for everyone involved with the Park Association in thanking them profoundly for their devotion to the park and our goals. They have been true friends to the people of Woodbridge, each serving the community in other capacities, also.

We encourage you to visit our website at www.woodbridgeparks.org. We provide trail maps there for your downloading and other items of current interest, such as a printable Notable Tree Nomination Form. We also maintain a photo gallery; your submission of photos taken in our park properties is welcomed.

In a resolution of May 1995, the Park Association moved to encourage gifts of land located within the town of Woodbridge. We are actively negotiating with a number of parties regarding purchasing additional parklands. We continue to seek to purchase or acquire open space land for preservation as part of the Park Association's holdings. At the annual meeting in May we discussed many potential open space acquisitions. The Park Association is considering several of these parcels; however, they are out of our financial capability. Director Jinny Schneider has proven her valuable assistance this year in assessing grant opportunities. She has also applied for government and foundation grants, and we have received a small grant from the state of Connecticut to enhance educational and recreation activities at the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park. The Trust for Public Land is also assisting us; we are grateful for the help provided by Tim Northrop, State Director.

We need your assistance and especially generous donations to help us continue to preserve open space in Woodbridge, while there remains undeveloped land in private hands. Please consider the need to preserve open space and donate generously to us this year. Please also consider us in your estate planning; we are ready to assist with this.

We have a finite period of time to acquire additional properties, as there are very few parcels remaining in Woodbridge. Keep this in mind when you consider your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed donation envelope; remember we function solely on the voluntary contributions from Woodbridge residents and a few corporations. The Park Association also gratefully wishes to acknowledge the essential support through donations of in-kind assistance from several companies. We encourage all company matching gifts; please provide details about your company's gift program.

We also strongly support the town's acquisition of the Regional Water Authority's 181 acre Race Brook Tract properties in the town of Woodbridge: This acquisition is being accomplished in three phases by the town of Woodbridge. The Woodbridge Park Association is on record as supporting additional funds allocated in the annual town budget proposals for fiscal years 2005, 2007, and 2009. We also provided a

letter of support to the South Central Regional Council of Governments Open Space Committee for funding for this acquisition.

We continue to work closely with the Woodbridge Commission on Publicly Owned Properties, the Woodbridge Conservation Commission and the Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society on open space issues. I would also like to acknowledge the valuable assistance that Don Menzies of the Historical Society has provided us this year.

Please walk in the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park frequently and encourage others to enjoy all the fabulous forestland in Woodbridge. I especially invite you to hike some of the lesser-used trails. Please also feel free to contact me at any point at president@woodbridgeparks.org. We sincerely welcome your support and active involvement in the dedicated work of the Woodbridge Park Association.

With all best wishes,

Richard J. Forselius
President



Use of Woodbridge Park Association Properties

Woodbridge Park Association properties are free and open to all, every day of the year. Our properties are designed to remain in their natural state. Hiking trails are marked; please remain on the trails. No motorized vehicles are allowed except those used for maintenance. Hunting and fishing are not allowed. Please do not pick wildflowers or disturb other plants or wildlife. To ensure the safety of visitors, smoking and fires are prohibited. Additional restrictions are posted at entrances.

The main entrance to the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park is on Meetinghouse Lane just north of the Woodbridge Town Hall and west of the First Church of Christ Parish House. A large map is posted at the main entrance next to the memorial tablet.



Please be generous with your tax-deductible contribution to the Woodbridge Park Association! Your support is needed more than ever to protect Woodbridge open space! If you misplace your donation envelope, contribution forms are available at <http://www.woodbridgeparks.org/Contributions.htm>

Nominate your favorite grand and unique species tree! Read more about our joint initiative with the Woodbridge Garden Club at <http://www.woodbridgeparks.org/WoodbridgeNotableTree.htm> where Notable Tree Nomination Forms are available for downloading.

Please assist the Woodbridge Park Association with trail maintenance. We schedule periodic park workdays, usually on Saturday mornings. If you would be available to help us, please send an e-mail to: trailmaster@woodbridgeparks.org

Web Site

www.woodbridgeparks.org

Contributions 2004-2005

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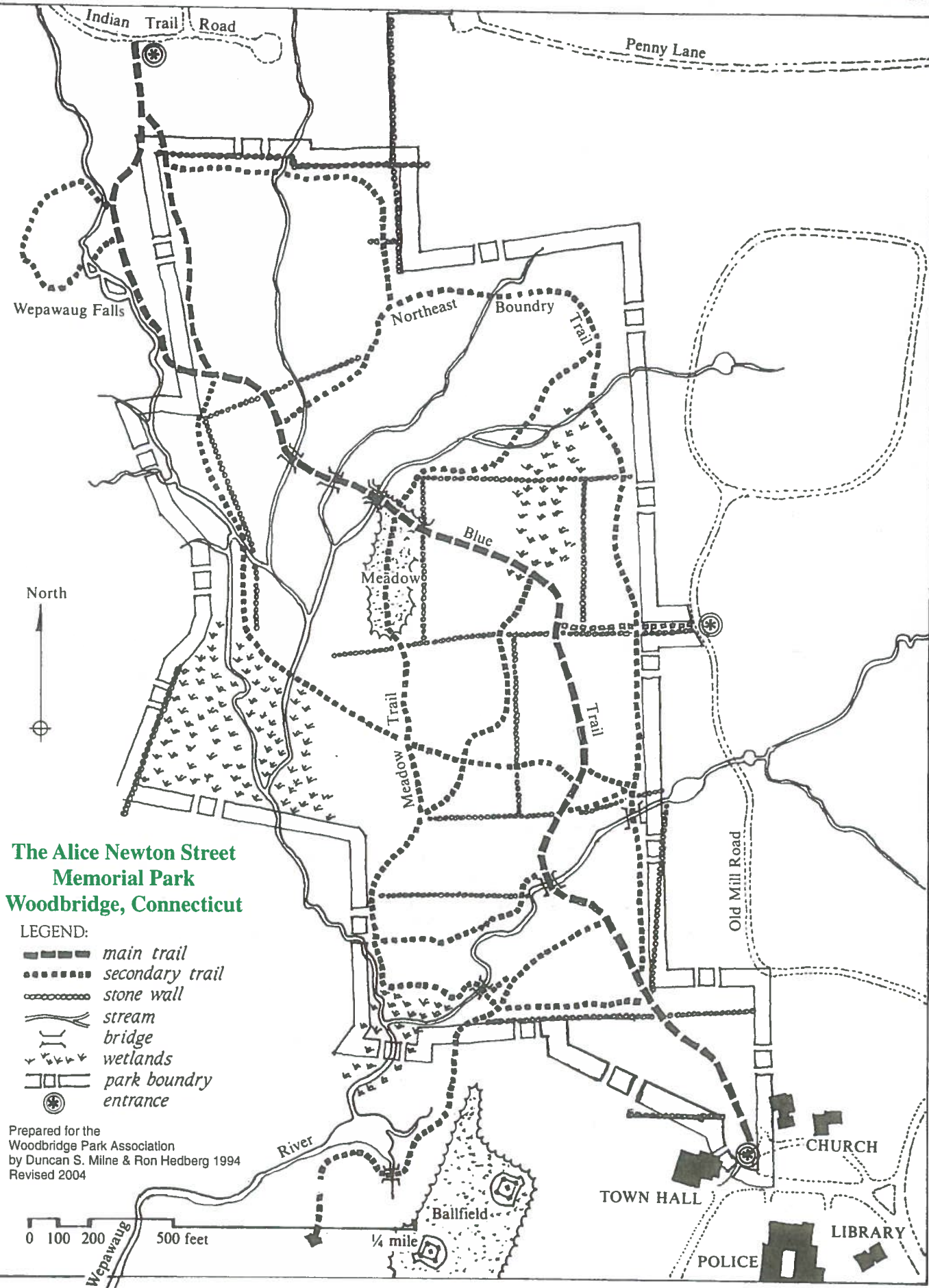
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* in memory of John Chatfield

Woodbridge Park Association Boy Scout Eagle Projects

For many years, Woodbridge Eagle Scout candidates have helped to improve and maintain the association's parks, providing an invaluable service to the town. This listing of recent projects is the best we presently have. If you are aware of other projects, please advise us.

Year	Scout	Project	Troop
1	Robert Drabkin	Located, cleared and marked border	907
2	Jeffrey Foulk	Large entry map and cleared trails	907
3	David Hagopian	Installed divider bars on entry trail	907
4	John Marlowe	Cleared north section of meadow	907
5	Peter Moore	Located and cleared border and markers	907
6	Seth Chosak	Cleared overgrown trail and placed stepping stones on swampy areas	41
7	Matt Berlutti	Diverter bars and gravel entry way trail	907
8	Peter Konwerski	Cleared and enlarged southwest side of meadow	907
9	Benjamin Carvalho	Constructed bridge on yellow trail and developed picnic site north of meadow	907
10	Jeff Reinfelder	Benches on red and blue trails, picnic table	907
11	Saleem Khan	Built trail, cleared picnic area, installed trail map sign on Newton Road property	907
12	Wesley J.T. Bosco	Added, improved & remarked trails; picnic table, bluebird & wood duck houses	907
13	Robert Marlowe, Jr.	Improved entry trail and moved part of main trail to higher ground	907
14	Edward Buffa	Cleared northeast boundary trail through a dense section.	907
15	Brian Blessinger	Reworked boundary trail from Old Mill northward	963
16	Amit Ayer	New trail in northwestern area of park, two bridges	907
17	Kurt Kopchik	Northeast boundary trail bridge: 28' long	907
18	Justin Ramos	Bridge extensions and plank walks on Meadow Trail over east branch of Wepawaug	907
19	Garland Jackson III	Tree identification signs, park rules signs	907
20	Philip Smith	Main entrance sign	907
21	Carl Ekman	Eastern boundary trail clearing, blazing and plank walks	907
22	Jeff Lange	Clearing and installing new trail markers on red trail	907
23	Dan Ireland	New boardwalks, removed brush, raked and cleaned the northeast trail	963
24	Pete Hubbard	Meadow Trail to East Boundary trail: Re-blazing, clearing, building of plank walks	963
25	Jeff Stauffer	Replaced large bridge over main blue trail	907
26	Andy Dickgiesser	Reblaze red trail on Newton Road property	963



**The Alice Newton Street
Memorial Park
Woodbridge, Connecticut**

LEGEND:

- main trail
- secondary trail
- stone wall
- stream
- bridge
- wetlands
- park boundary
- entrance

Prepared for the
Woodbridge Park Association
by Duncan S. Milne & Ron Hedberg 1994
Revised 2004

0 100 200 500 feet

1/4 mile