

THE WOODBRIDGE PARK ASSOCIATION, INC.

WOODBRIDGE, CONNECTICUT

FOUNDED IN 1928

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2004

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Dear Friends,

It is a tremendous pleasure and honor for me to serve you as the President of the Woodbridge Park Association. We have a terrific 21-member Board of Directors who actively support our endless work for open space and conservation. This has been a very busy year for us. As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Woodbridge Park Association this year, I am happy to report to you on our recent activities.

With surprise and profound sadness, Woodbridge Park Association Directors and Officers regret the passing of longtime Director Pat de Man on Sunday, July 4, 2004. Pat dearly loved the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park. She would walk in the park daily. She was a consistent Director of the Park Association, rarely missing meetings, and always supporting our work

and conservation and open space efforts in Woodbridge. Many think of Pat as an outside person, splitting her own firewood.

Pat lived on Cedar Road; her late husband, Paul de Man, was a Professor of Comparative Literature at Yale University. Pat exhibited her love of literature, art, nature and equestrian sports throughout her life. She was also a talented translator of French Literature.

Pat's Memorial Service occurred on Saturday, September 4th at the First Church of Christ, Woodbridge with the Rev. Boyd Johnson officiating.

We believe the Woodbridge Park Association, a 501C3 non-profit organization, is the fourth oldest land trust in Connecticut according to the listing maintained at the Convocation of Connecticut Land



Grandsons of original Alice Newton Street Park benefactor and Woodbridge Town Clerk Newton H. Street, Brad and Bruce Street, cut the cake at the Woodbridge Park Association's 75th anniversary on Sunday, May 16, 2004.

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 all so 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.

The Park Association has been 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 recognize our shared mission with the Town, other land conservation groups, 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 and her team; and also Senator Joseph Crisco and Representative Themis Klarides, show strong leadership and commitment to open space initiatives.

This year, we have conducted numerous maintenance activities. Eagle Scout Candidate Andrew Dickgiesser of Woodbridge Boy Scout Troop 963 completed his project to re-blaze an 1,840-foot section of the trails in our Newton Road property. As a part of this project, Andrew repaired a badly deteriorated plank walk bridge and additional sections over wet areas, and re-blazed our trail system north of the Amity High School. We are in the process of preparing our Newton Road property for public use once again; this project has significantly positively affected this effort.

We conducted a very successful annual workday at our Alice Newton Street Memorial Park property on Saturday, April 24th. Coordinated by Park Superintendent Win Hubbard, significant clean-up efforts occurred at the entrance to the park. This area is also benefiting from some new plantings provided by Officer Barbara Adams and Director Becky Daymon. Additionally, crews worked in the park meadow and along the park's North Boundary Trail.

This workday occurs annually near Earth Day (this year April 22nd) to prepare the park for its most heavily used summer season. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of a number of volunteer workers, "the meadow is now exquisite, the entrance inviting, and the northeast boundary trail intriguing" commented one observer. Assisting us this year were the Amity High School Girls Cross Country Team and the Amity Boys Throwing Team.

Adults who assisted included: Win Hubbard, Richard Zambarano, Barbara Adams, Becky Daymon, Judy Williams, Jay Daymon, Karen Hluchan, Geoffrey Smith, Chris Dickerson and Richard Forselius.

The 75th anniversary celebration of the Woodbridge Park Association was held on Sunday, May 16th at 3:00 PM at the entrance to Alice Newton Street Memorial Park in Woodbridge center. In preparation for celebrating our 75th anniversary, our Archives Committee began a long-term project to research and write a history of the Park Association, and produced a wonderful display of Park Association historical documents, including the handwritten minutes from the first Directors meeting. Through an examination of old records, we determined that the Park Association was incorporated on October 4, 1928. It was not until January 14, 1929, however, that the Board of Directors, consisting of eight members, was elected. Subsequent records indicate that the latter date has since been viewed as the founding date for the purpose of marking anniversaries.

We were thrilled to have members of the Street family in attendance at the 75th Anniversary celebration. These were Brad Street of Madison, and Bruce and Janet Street of Atlanta, Georgia. Bruce told us "the family enjoyed seeing the enthusiasm of the Board and other involved people...the family has always been proud of Newton and Ethel for their desire to protect the land in its natural state. Newton would feel honored that so many people have continued to come together and add land, time and monetary contributions to expand this dream." We express our most sincere appreciation to Brad, Bruce and Janet, as well as Roseann Street of Maine and Mary Ellen Fleming of Virginia.

Also in attendance at the 75th anniversary were Winifred Daniell and her son Gordon, long-time supporters of the Park Association. The lovely granite bench and red maple on the Woodbridge Town Green were dedicated in memory of Winifred's husband Martin H. Daniell on June 13, 1994. Winifred was Park Association Secretary from 1971–1975, then Treasurer from 1981–1994, remaining as a Director in the interim.

In a note to former Park Association President Susan Matheson this spring, Winifred wrote, "As a family we were lucky to live near the park. We walked the trails frequently, enjoying wild flowers, birds, and the falls. It was a favorite place for a holiday stroll."

At the 75th anniversary, several active and recently retired Directors and Officers were recognized for their long-term service to the Park Association. These are:

1. Don Rowland, former Vice President and President, who is mentioned in the historical records as far back as 1966 as Park Superintendent.
2. Louise Rowland, who served as Secretary for many years.
3. Paul Konwerski, a Director of long standing, who also served as both Vice President and President.
4. Susan Matheson, past President and Secretary of the Park Association, who is now Archives Committee Chair.
5. Win Hubbard, who became active in the Park Association in the mid-1960's, and became assistant Superintendent in 1970, and Superintendent in 1973, a position he continues to serve in to this day.
6. Katherine Hubbard, a former Secretary and a Director for a decade.
7. Richard Zambarano, a Director for many years who served as Vice President and Treasurer.

I have had the pleasure of working with these 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.

Connecticut Yankee Council Wepawaug Valley District Boy Scout Commissioner Tim Wilkins spoke to us at the 75th anniversary. He credited the long relationship between the Boy Scouts and the Park Association. At least 27 Eagle projects have been completed successfully at the Park Association's properties over the past four decades. Eagle Scout Jeffrey Stauffer also told us about his project to build a new bridge over a branch of the Wepawaug River on the Alice Newton Park's main trail.

We would also like to credit the dedicated work of Griff Bedworth in acquiring the Historic District designation for the Woodbridge Center area, who also addressed the gathering at the 75th. It is indeed fortunate that our Alice Newton Street Memorial Park property is a part of this designation, for it will allow us some advantages in seeking funding and in perpetual preservation in the present natural state.

Also at the 75th anniversary celebration, a flowering dogwood tree was planted at the entrance near the memorial tablet and the park map, in acknowledgement of the founders of the Woodbridge Park Association. Bruce and Brad Street, and Superintendent Win Hubbard and Assistant Superintendent Mike Walter together planted this tree, similar to one planted at the 50th anniversary.

At our annual meeting in May, the Park Association received and accepted with great regret the resignation of long-time Director and Officer, Richard Zambarano. Dick's skills and insight will be sorely missed.

The annual meeting marked the conclusion of my first 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, Esq., Treasurer. Winchester L. Hubbard continues as Park Superintendent, and Michael Walter serves as Assistant Superintendent. We have two new members on the Board of Directors this year: Sarah M. Davison and Carrie R. Swigart, MD; we welcome them warmly.

On Arbor Day, April 30th, 2004, the Woodbridge Garden Club and the Woodbridge Park Association announced a joint project to identify and catalog notable trees within the town of Woodbridge. The purpose of this project is threefold. Primarily, it 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. Secondly, it is a terrific way to celebrate the Park Association's 75th anniversary, and the Garden Club's 70th, highlighting the work of both organizations as well as the interest and concern for one of Woodbridge's greatest historical assets and natural resources. A third benefit of this project is to register Woodbridge grand and unique species with the Connecticut Notable Trees Project, which automatically enters identified town trees in the National Registry of big trees. I especially wish to express my appreciation to Betty Fearon and Director Leslie Martino for their vision to bring this valuable project to Woodbridge.

We would encourage you to visit our newly established 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. Frank D'Ostilio chairs our active Land Acquisition committee; we continue to actively seek opportunities to purchase or acquire open space land for preservation as part of the Park Association's holdings, to supplement the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park and our preserve east of Newton Road. The Park Association is considering several parcels; however, these are out of our financial capability. Several grant writers have offered to assist us in applying for government and foundation grants, but these can only supplement the contributions of Woodbridge residents.

We are working closely with the Town of Woodbridge and the Trust for Public Land in our quest to ensure that additional open space is preserved. Former president Susan Matheson and Vice President Chris Dickerson have been essential this year in furthering the cooperation between these various entities.

We have a finite period of time to acquire additional properties, as there are very few parcels remaining in Woodbridge. Please keep this in mind when you consider your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed donation envelope; we encourage you to become a sponsor or patron this year; please remember we function solely on the voluntary contributions from Woodbridge residents and a few corporations. The Park Association gratefully wishes to acknowledge the essential support through donations or in-kind assistance from individuals and organizations.

We wish to express our special appreciation to our Park Association's Lifetime Members, who have contributed significant amounts of funds over the years. Several years ago, our Treasurer recommended doing away with the Lifetime Membership category. This was due to our not having an adequate up-to-date listing of living Lifetime Members; it is the responsibility of our Treasurer to receive gifts and renew the listing every year for publication in the annual newsletter. We did away with all membership categories as we also recognized there is a subtle nuance regarding matching funding opportunities. Corporations, which provide matching gift contributions, only do so when the funds are gifts or donations, not for a membership category. We encourage all company matching gifts; please provide details about your company's gift program.

Please walk in the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park frequently and encourage others to enjoy our 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

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Words from Woodbridge First Selectman Amey Marrella at the 75th Anniversary Celebration

When my husband and I moved to Connecticut several years ago, we knew it would allow us to live closer to family. But we never dreamed that it would allow us to live in a community with numerous woodland trails within a few minutes of our home.

Think about it — Woodbridge, like such neighboring towns as West Haven and Hamden, shares a border with New Haven. Yet Woodbridge has retained much more of its historic charm. How was this possible? It was possible thanks to the forethought of Town leaders and residents of the 1920s and 1930s. Back then, even before World War II and the post-war industrial age, Woodbridge residents planned ahead and took steps to preserve our Town's heritage. In that pre-War timeframe, they adopted a minimum 1.5-acre lot size. And they developed and nurtured the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park.

The Park lies at the heart of our Town. This central location is fitting, for dedication to open space and natural beauty lies at the heart of our Town's character. Thanks to the Park Association, you can visit Town Hall, pay your taxes or pick up a landfill permit, and then stroll into the Park for a lovely walk to Wepawaug Falls. The numerous trails within the Park offer many alternate routes, so you can walk in the Park regularly and enjoy many different views and pathways. The treasure that is the Park lies at the heart of our Town, both literally and figuratively.

It is my honor and pleasure to represent all Woodbridge residents in this celebration of the Park Association's 75th Year. Woodbridge residents owe much to the Park's founders, and to the many residents who have kept it strong for 75 years. With you, I look forward to the Park Association's next 75 years in service to our community's character.



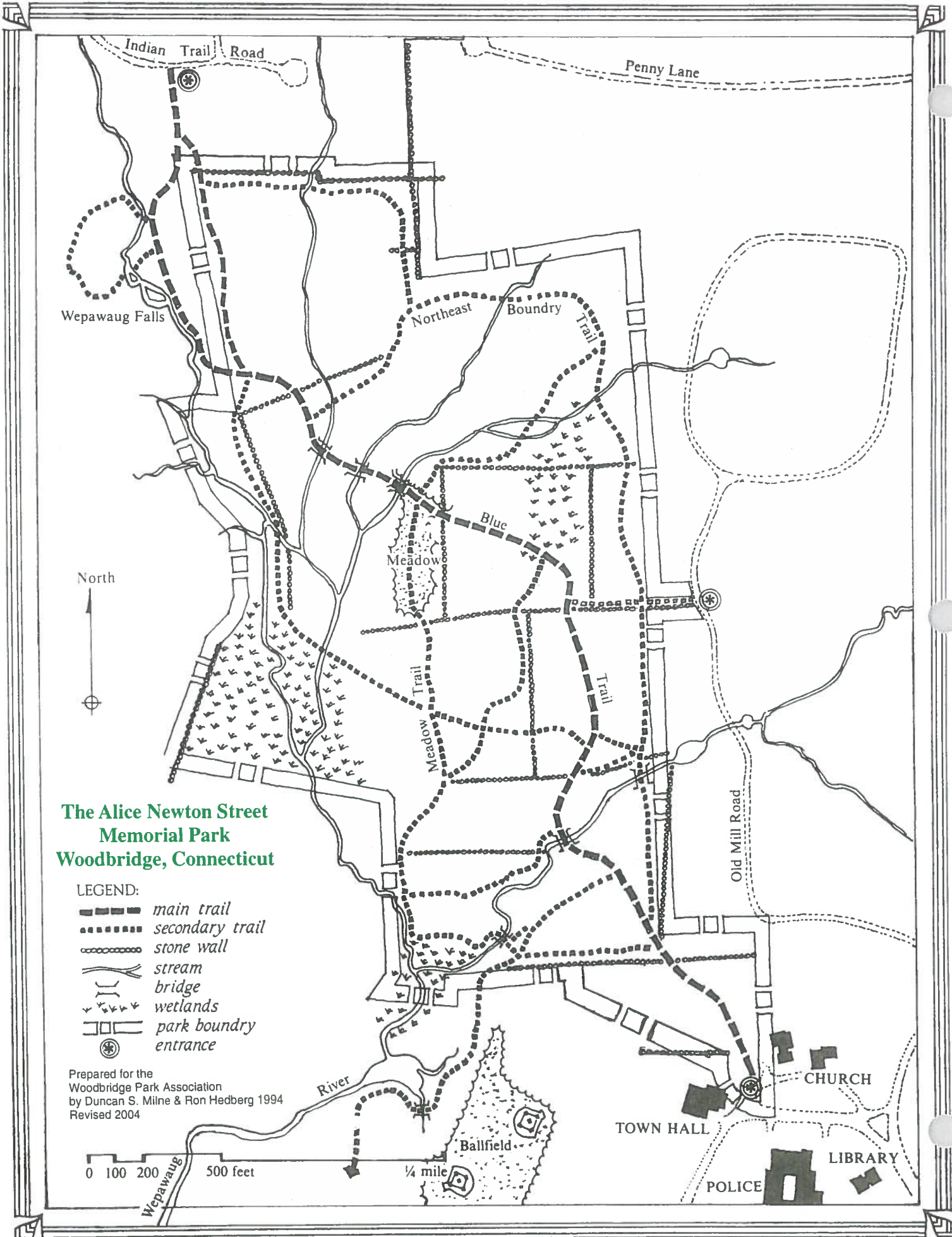
Use of Woodbridge Park Association Properties

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.









Web Site

www.woodbridgeparks.org



**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

Wepawaug

River

Ballfield

TOWN HALL

CHURCH

POLICE

LIBRARY

Indian Trail Road

Penny Lane

Wepawaug Falls

Northeast Boundry Trail

Blue

Meadow

Meadow Trail

Trail

Old Mill Road

North

