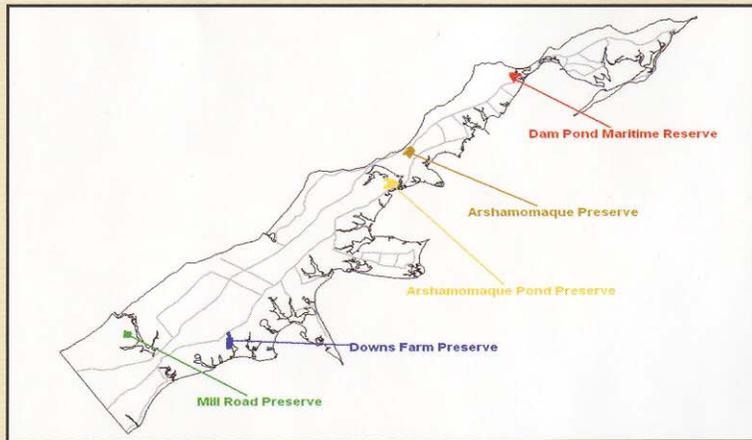


Welcome to Dam Pond Maritime Reserve:

The reserve is a 35.9-acre parcel that was purchased by the Town of Southold and the County of Suffolk during 1999-2001, with the assistance of the Peconic Land Trust. The Dam Pond Maritime Reserve has been included in the New York State Open Space Plan, the Long Island Pine Barrens Maritime Reserve, Peconic Bay Maritime Reserve, and the federally-designated National Estuary Program, underscoring its environmental significance.

Restoration Projects:

You will find that several areas have been recently cleared and restored as part of a grassland restoration project. These areas had been overgrown with successional woody shrubs, non-native roses and autumn olive. Open grasslands are highly attractive to wildlife, particularly those that can also use the woody margin and wetlands surrounding Dam Pond.



Help protect and maintain the natural beauty and wildlife habitat of the area.

Please:

- Stay on designated trails.*
- Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints.*
- Leash your dog.*
- Check carefully for ticks after your walk.*



Educational content provided by the Marine Program of:

Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
of Suffolk County

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.

The Dam Pond Maritime Reserve is open to the public year-round from dawn to dusk.

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RESERVE

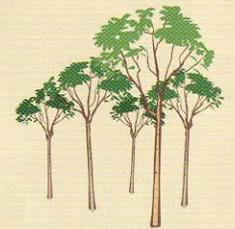


Town of Southold



PO Box 1179
Southold N.Y. 11971
631-765-1800
<http://southoldtown.northfork.net>

Trail Guide

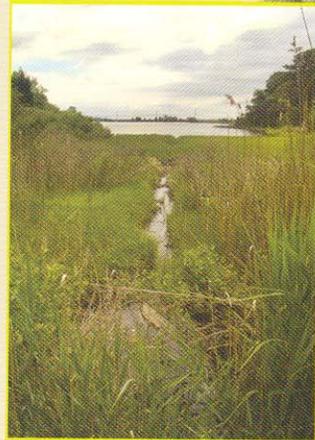


Habitat and Wildlife:

The reserve includes several ecological communities. The old field successional community is the dominant community in the reserve. Old field communities are common on Long Island, where a majority of the land was once cleared for farming. Early old field successional communities are dominated by grasses and forbs (perennial herbs) and slowly transition, over time, to shrubs and fast-growing trees (i.e., bayberry, red cedar, black locust). Old field communities will eventually become mixed hardwood forests, if left undisturbed. All stages of this community exist within the reserve thus providing habit and food for many species of animals including whitetail deer, red fox, eastern cottontail, raccoons, opossum, squirrels, bobwhite quail, pheasant, and a variety of songbirds.

The reserve also includes some small stands of mixed hardwood forest, composed of oaks (white, black, scarlet) and hickories (pignut and bitternut). The forest provides shelter and food for woodpeckers, owls, redtail hawk, whitetail deer, and squirrels. Nuts dropped from the trees provide forage for many species, sustaining them through the winter.

Dam Pond and its fringing salt marsh are important habitat for osprey, diamondback terrapin, and migrating/overwintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Dam Pond also serves as a significant ecological nursery and feeding area for many estuarine fish species and it is an important spawning area for weakfish, scup, and winter flounder. The New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat Inventory reported more than 15 pairs of ospreys in the Long Beach Bay, Orient Harbor, and Dam Pond Area. This is one of the highest concentrations of osprey in New York, and, with a newly established nest in 2003, there is promising potential for additional nesting pairs.



Dam Pond

NORTH

1 Inch = 370 Feet

Trail Head

Rt. 25

Aerial photo: Copyright New York State



Key:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Green Trail |  Reserve |
|  Red Trail |  = Trail Head |

Site Map

For more information about this and other recreational opportunities in the Town of Southold, please contact:

Town of Southold

631-765-1800

PO Box 1179

or:

Southold NY 11971

<http://southoldtown.northfork.net>

