

Aspetuck
Land Trust



Established 1966

ALT BIKE TOUR

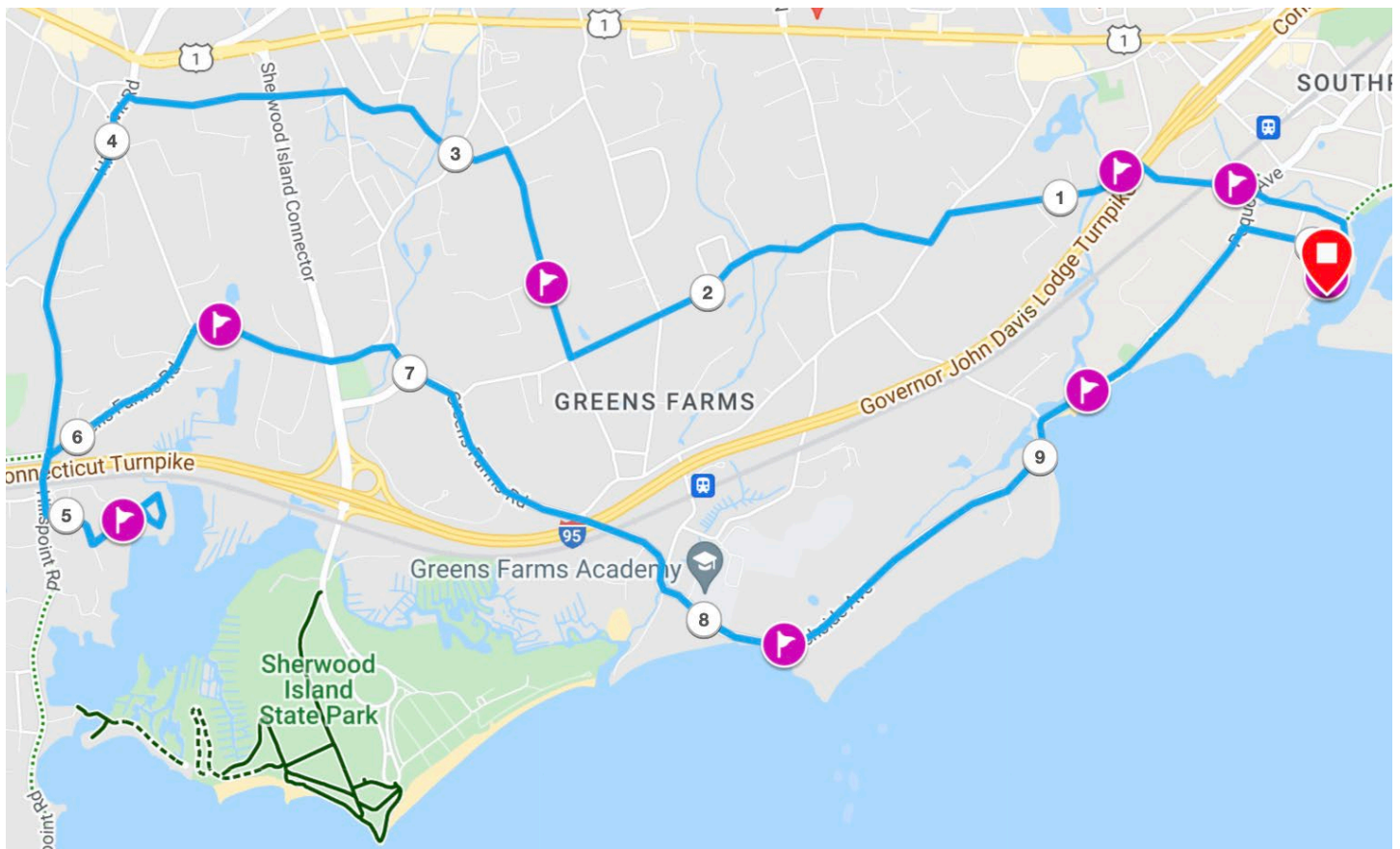
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Explore places you never knew existed! We are so lucky to live along the coast and have land to enjoy that is protected forever. This 10-mile bike ride will give you views of 10 Aspetuck Land Trust properties in Fairfield and Westport. The ride is on the quiet streets South of Route 1 and there are a couple small hike opportunities. Start at Ye Yacht Yard in Southport, Fairfield's second marina. Observe all traffic laws and ride single file.



PARK @ Ye Yacht Yard

985 Harbor Road, Southport, CT

1) Southport Harbor Conservation Restriction (Koren)

Acquired 2000, this 0.47-acre conservation restriction abuts Town of Fairfield owned land at the Ye Old Yacht Yard. The property has a sea wall and a dock, but a residence cannot be built on the property. The donor John Koren lives across the street.



2) Sasqua Wildflower Preserve

Donated in 1981 by Roswell F. Barratt, this 0.3a property is primarily wetlands with a small stream in back. In 2021 a Native Garden was planted to show homeowners how native plants can be integrated into a cultivated landscape. This garden is central to Aspetuck Land Trust's Green Corridor Initiative, planting native to support pollinators and overall biodiversity. Designer Deb De Vries created a phenological calendar to demonstrate the changing bloom cycle throughout the seasons.

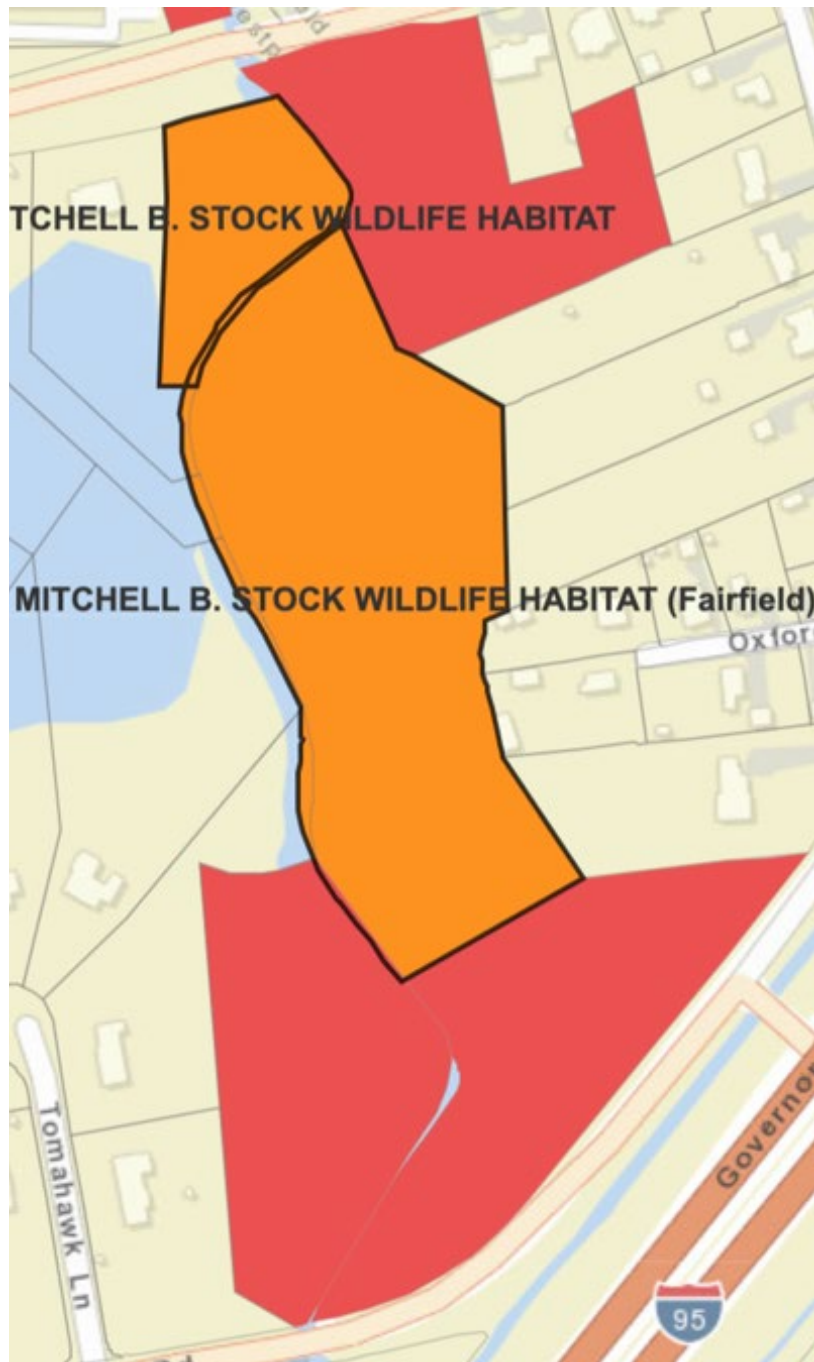


Consider replicating this concept in your own backyard

as a stepping stone for the birds and butterflies that travel throughout your landscape.

3) Mitchell Stock Wildlife Habitat

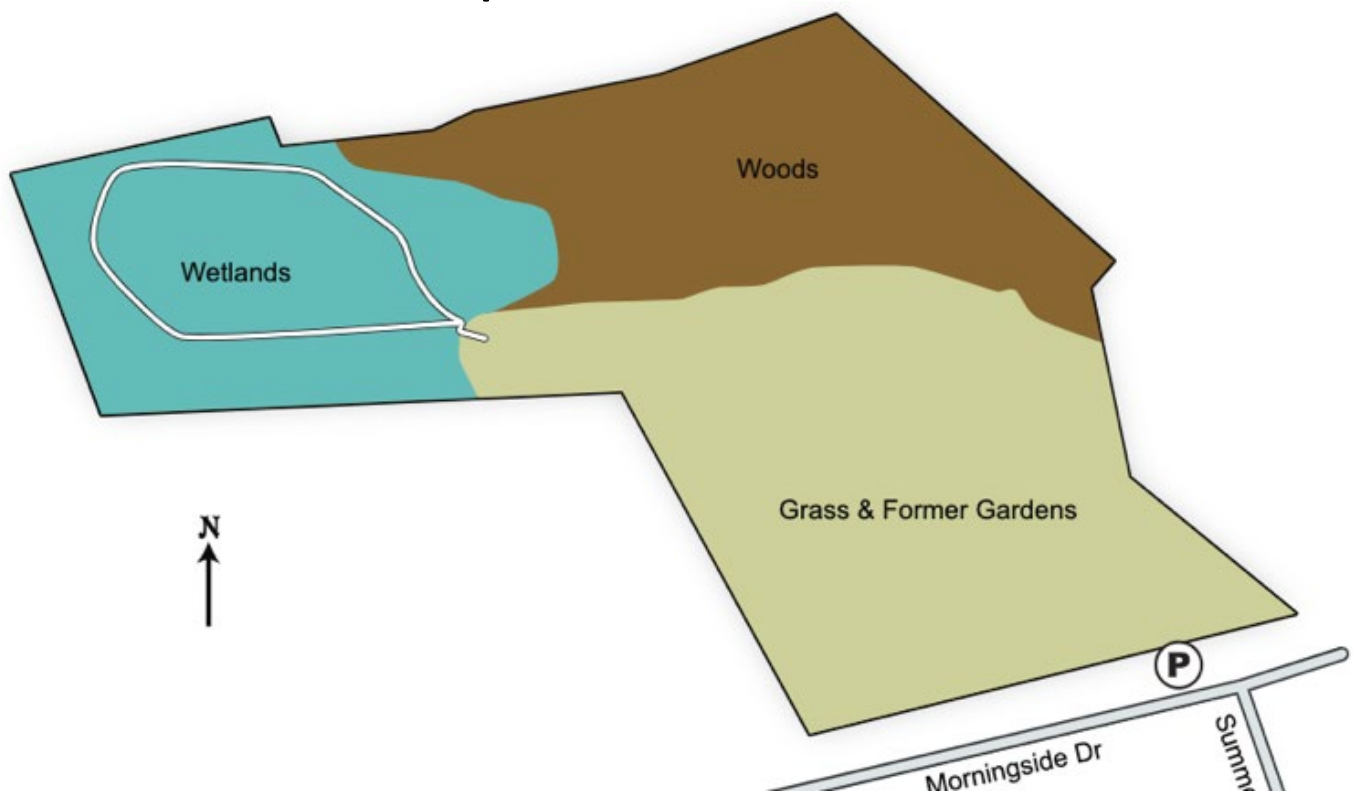
In 1995 the Stock Family gave two gifts, one in Fairfield and one in Westport, on



opposite sides of Sasco Creek. This 6.3-acre property is mostly a phragmites marsh along Sasco Creek, but does include some uplands on the north side adjacent to Fairfield Open Space, which is accessible from Greens Farms Road.

4) Hilla von Rebay Arboretum

Former estate of Hilla von Rebay who was born in Germany in 1890 and emigrated to the US in 1927. She was an artist and mentor of Solomon Guggenheim. She guided his selections of art and convinced him to hire Frank Lloyd Wright to build the Guggenheim Museum. She is considered a co-founder and the first director of the Museum. Von Rebay retreated from public life and spent her final years in Westport where she passed away in 1967. The Von Rebay house and barn still stand abutting the north side of the preserve.



5) Walter Allen Salt Marsh



This beautiful 6.5-acre salt marsh preserve on the western side of the Sherwood Mill Pond is not trailed, but offers access for viewing the wildlife and scenery. Donated by the Northrop family and named for Captain Walter D. Allen who operated a clam and oyster shack on the banks of the Mill Pond in the early 1900's. The Northrup family, relatives of Captain Allen,

operate a shellfish operation in the pond today sending their shellfish to some of the finest restaurants.

The marsh was preserved in 1984 with the help of The Nature Conservancy. In 1989, Edward Hicks added to the preserve with a ½-acre donation. In 2008, ALT received funding through the CT DEEP Landowner Incentive Program funding to share the cost of removing phragmites with landowners.

Marshes are one of the most biologically productive types of wetlands. Seasonal flooding continually adds nutrient-rich water and sediments to marshes. These nutrients nourish plants which, in turn, attract other wildlife. Marshes have three times the plant productivity of agricultural land and are four times as productive as lakes and streams.

6) Sherwood Mill Pond Wildlife Refuge (& Signal Lake)

This property was acquired in 1970 and does not have any access. It's a wildlife refuge, separated from the world by the New Haven Railroad and I-95 to the north. Access could be had by canoe.

*The extra 10th

ALT property not mentioned and barely visible is Signal Lake. Acquired in 1978, these 8 acres are mostly inaccessible wetlands.



7) Talcott Wakeman Wildlife Habitat



These 17 acres were preserved in 1988 through a donation from Sherwood Farms Development Corp. The property is mostly wetlands with a small pond and upland portion along the west and next to Greens Farms Road.

The property was named after brothers and onion farmers Talcott B. and Henry B.

Wakeman who helped make Westport onions some of the most popular agricultural products in the Northeast. The brothers owned adjacent farms which extended south from Greens Farms Road to the shore.

In 2018, ALT began efforts to restore both the Talcott Wakeman and Allen Salt Marshes by removing the highly invasive phragmites weed. The propagation of these federally recognized invasive plant species result in the loss of biologically rich tidal marsh over time. The dense growth of the tall reeds blocks sunlight from reaching marsh soil preventing germination of native plant seeds. Marshes overtaken by Phragmites result in an unsuitable habitat for many native marsh birds and other animals.

8) Southport Beach Open Space



This habitat only preserve has no public access.

ALT saved this land by purchasing it from a developer in 2015. David Brant fought for this land

by testifying at local meetings against development for environmental reasons. ALT worked out a deal with neighbors and The Southport Conservancy to fund the acquisition. In 2016, local landscape architect Jay Fain developed a native garden planting plan for

the property which was completed in 2021 with native grasses and wildflowers. These plantings are still in their infancy, but they will continue to develop over the next couple of years.

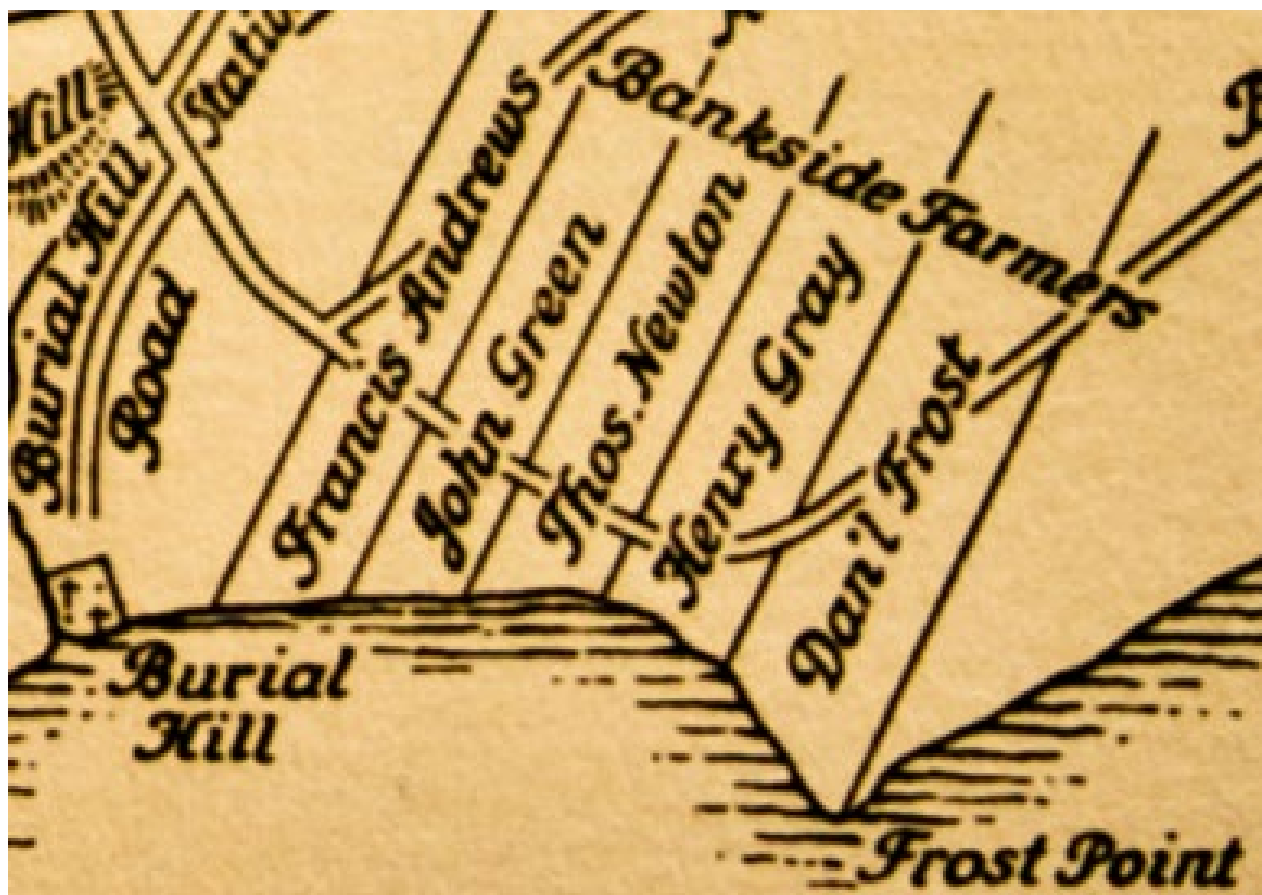
9) Kensie Point Conservation Restriction



In 1997-98 ALT acquired conservation restrictions from Katherine Reigel Emory and Louise H. Benton Wagner totaling over 17 acres on the shores of the Long Island Sound across from Sasco Beach. This area known as Kensie Point has an easement that protects the coastline from being developed.

BONUS STOP – FROST POINT
(not an ALT property)

Shhhh...Frost Point is a fisherman's hidden paradise. Named after Daniel Frost, one of the first 5 settlers to this area of Westport in 1648. The lack of parking here makes it a perfect bike stop. There are great views of New York City when the air is clear. No access.



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