



The MPD Tide

April 2025



Mattituck Park District's Monthly Newsletter

Permits Required Starting May 23 ! Purchase via Button Above. 

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Commissioners' Corner

Dog Park at Aldrich Fields Grand Opening May 17!

Yahoo! Finally the highly anticipated Grand Opening of Mattituck Park District Dog Park has arrived. Join us for our opening day activities on Saturday May 17th, from 12:00-2:30 at Aldrich Fields, 350 Aldrich Lane, Laurel. We will be showing off new ramps and shade shelters, as well as the dog park generally. Looking for your next furry best friend? The Noth Fork Animal Welfare League will be on hand for a dog adoption day. Deputy Chair Denise Geis adopted Marty and Trouble from NFAWL (Pictured right.)

Our dog park will include a pantry residents can use to share dog and cat supplies with each other; leave what you can, take what you need: food, treats, supplies. The MPD will seed it, partially filling it for the Grand Opening, but our intention is to provide a platform for community members to support each other. Please bring a dog/cat food donation to the Grand Opening. We hope to fill the pantry and stuff NFAWL's pantry too. We look forward to seeing you for our Grand Opening.

MPD thanks Deputy Chair Denise Geis for her leadership on this project. She organized with NFAWL, conceived of the pantry, and provided toys and equipment for the dog park.



April Recap

April featured two great events: Our 35th Annual Easter Egg Hunt with the Mattituck Chamber of Commerce and our first ever Planting Day.

Some 300 families joined us for the Hunt on April 13. The weather was so uncertain we only committed to the date that morning, but it all worked out. The children collected about 7,000 eggs, 6,550 small prizes, and 450 big prizes of gift cards and baskets for dining at local restaurants and shopping at local stores, donated by the generous local community, businesses, organizations, and clubs. This Easter Egg Hunt was our biggest yet, and a wonderful time was had by all.

Planting Day was a great success! Thank you 50 or so volunteers for helping us finish planting the Native Pollinator Meadow at Sabat Park. Families with little kids came, neighbors came, retirees came, pollinator and garden lovers from other hamlets came. We hope you enjoy your seed packets and have fond memories when you walk the meadow.

In truth, Planting Day was Planting Weekend. Friday morning we postponed our volunteer call until Sunday, due to Saturday's very wet forecast. Later that morning North Fork Boutique Gardens delivered the 1,650 plants, and Commissioner Getches, her team from Living Lands, and Abigail Field distributed the plants across the property. Saturday Chris Mohr volunteered four workers, joining Commissioner Getches and her team, Chairman Kevin Byrne, Treasurer Lyle Girandola, Abigail Field, her son Jason, and a couple of neighbors to plant about half the plants in the ground. Our goal in preplanting was ensuring volunteers could complete the job on Planting Day without working *too* hard.

Sunday morning we discovered volunteers from Chris Mohr planting, so we sent them off with big thanks--we wanted the community to enjoy planting a meaningful amount of meadow. Volunteers started showing up at 11:45 and came in earnest at noon. Gardens by Kristin's Kristin Sabat sent help (thank you!), and several high school students earned community service credit. CAST loaned out the tools local businesses donated, a service that was needed and much appreciated.

Even more plants than those MPD bought went into the ground. Brad Ascalon, one of the designers of the layout of meadow, brought a bunch of Ostrich ferns and an apple tree. Benja Schwartz, a volunteer from Cutchogue, noticed some nice baby cedars and other small plants growing in a spot without enough sunlight. With Commissioner Getches' blessing,



Photo Credit: Kristin Curtin



All six Planting Day photo credits go to Kim Caldwell

he transplanted them to thrive. With all the help, everything was in the ground by 1 pm. The collective planting in the sunny but cool weather was such a pleasure many people hung out chatting and exploring the meadow for another hour and a half. A new organization, Friends of the Mattituck Park District, set up a table and started introducing themselves. As the final volunteers left, Commissioner Getches went around placing Deer Scram carefully around each plant. The plants will absorb it, making them taste nasty to deer. (While most of the species are deer resistant, we're happy to maximize our deer repelling.)



Please come by and walk the new meadow. When you do, you'll notice we didn't yet plant the berms. We will do that by seed at another time. You'll also notice all the local woodchips on the berms and ground, which were donated by North Fork Tree and Landscape Inc. Thank you! See our blog post on Planting Day (button above) for more pictures and a plant list.

Summer is Coming!

Do you have your parking sticker? We're going to start checking May 23 at Veterans Beach, Breakwater Beach, and Peconic Bay Beach. (If you've let it slide, click the button up top to get it done.) Summer brings more than parking attendants of course. When you see our lifeguards, note their new uniform bathing suits and new red t-shirts, designed to make staff easy to spot. Please respect our bathing beach dog policy, namely dogs aren't allowed on our bathing beaches from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. We'll have new signage up to make this clear, but please understand our lifeguards politely will ask you to remove your dog if you forget. (Bring them to our new dog park instead!) Our beaches are more than places to swim. Summertime also brings our popular concert series and our movie nights--check the calendar at the newsletter's end for dates and bands so you make your plans. All that said about our beaches, please explore our

other parks too--stroll Wolf Pit, perhaps. To get ready for all this summer goodness, the facilities staff are hard at work sprucing everything up. As the summer comes and shines on us all, you'll see new garbage cans, new picnic tables, fresh paint, improved bathrooms, and more. Enjoy!



From the Clerk: Beach Clean Up Help

Have you seen one of these basket stands at our beaches? Relic has worked with municipalities for four years to establish cleanup stations at beaches. By providing beachgoers with recycled plastic baskets, they leverage community volunteerism to help clean our coastlines of pollution year-round.

Already 100 beach cleanup stations strong, they work with over 25 municipalities on LI and thousands of community members like you. Their program, is built around a collective model, where the major stakeholders in our beaches are part of the solution:

- Relic: Build, install, and maintain cleanup stations at no cost to the municipality
- Township: Maintain existing trash management at beach sites
- Community Members: Take baskets on walks, pick up trash, empty into pre-existing trash cans, and return
- Local Sustainable Businesses: Provide program funding via sponsorship

You'll find Relic stations at our Veterans Beach, Bailie Beach, Breakwater Beach, and Peconic Bay Beach. Many appreciative community members use these baskets daily and say that these sites look consistently cleaner. Even so, the sound and bay deliver fresh trash daily-- (so many balloons, plastic bottles, plastic fragments, and fishing lines!) Please grab a basket yourself and help us move forward together in the fight against coastal pollution.



Facilities Update: The Lodge at Bailie Beach

The facilities crew wrapped up winter work at the Park District's 5,600 sq foot multi-purpose building at Bailie Beach last month (The Lodge). Over the winter we tackled a major inventory and deep cleaning of the entire structure, began drawing up plans for ADA compliant restrooms, repaired windows, replaced blinds, mitigated an outdated buried oil tank, and scheduled summer work on the building. The kitchen was painted and electrical upgrades were made.

This building was erected in 1988 by members of the community on Park District land to replace a 600 sq' Scout Lodge destroyed by arson in 1984. For over a decade, the Lodge hosted local and regional Scout troops for day and overnight events. The district took over ownership of the building in 1999 and made it available for public rental as well as Scout use.



Today, the Lodge is the home of local Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troop 39. It is also used by other scout troops throughout the region. The Lodge has become a popular venue for birthdays, weddings, quinceaneras, quinceaneros and even educational events such as the recent boaters safety class held there in April.

This summer the facilities crew will be making additional interior repairs, replacing deck railings and painting the deck. There will be replacement of some outside fixtures as well. Many additional upgrades, such as air conditioning, lighting, kitchen equipment, and restoring the wood floors and walls are planned in the future, as time and funding allow.

Good to Know

The Commissioners hold a Work Session and a Meeting every month, and occasionally a Special Meeting. In May, the Work Session will be May 1 and the Meeting May 15. These meetings are at 6 pm in the conference room at Veterans Beach. Agendas are posted on our website. You are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Click on the Facebook and Instagram icons to follow us on social media. If you received this newsletter from a neighbor or friend, please click on the button below to subscribe.

Mark Your Calendar

May 17	Aldrich Field Dog Park Grand Opening
May 23	<u>Beaches Officially Open... be sure you have your parking permit</u>
June 21	The Concerts at Veterans Start: Mean Gene and The Flamethrowers
July 5	Concert: Who Are Those Guys
July 19	Concert: Eagle River Band
July 26	Rotary Lobsterfest
August 9	Concert: Four Way Street
August 15	Old Town Arts & Crafts Guild Fair
August 15	Movie TBD
August 30	Concert: Liverpool Shuffle
September 5	Southold Senior Picnic
September 6	Movie TBD
September 14	MFD Antique Car Show
December 6	Santa



The dog park begins. Photo Credit: Kristin Curtin.

Does your furry friend need exercise?

We Invite You to the

Grand Opening of the

Mattituck Park District Dog Park

17 May 2025

Noon – 2.30PM

Aldrich Fields at 850 Aldrich Ln, Laurel



Save a life, give a dog a forever home!

North Fork Animal Welfare League

will be present for pet adoption.