

Third Edition of Hiking Long Island

The Trail Conference's best-selling publication, *Hiking Long Island*, is scheduled to be available in its new third edition in October.. Hiking Long Island is a comprehensive guide to Long Island parks and trails from eastern Nassau County to the tips of the Twin Forks.

Author Lee Mcallister has updated the book with descriptions of six new trails, and important revisions to five existing hikes. He has also written new material about six small preserves on the North Shore, and added a section on small parks on the Twin Forks. All of the new text is accompanied by maps and pictures taken along the trails.

McAllister is a resident of Ridge, New York, in the heart of Suffolk County. He regularly walks these trails with his wife and three daughters, and is active in many of the conservation and hiking organizations of Long Island. He has established his own personal information network that keeps him informed of trails changes, land purchases, and plans for improvements to the Long Island trail system.

Many of the revisions in the third edition of *Hiking Long Island* are concerned with extensions and reroutes to the Paumanok Path, a long distance trail planned to extend about 145 miles from Rocky Point on the North Shore to Montauk Point on the tip of the South Fork. The Paumanok Path winds through a variety of Long Island habitats, from the deep and fertile soils of the morainal hills of the North Shore, through the sandy outwash plains of the Pine Barrens, to the dunes and bluffs of the Atlantic shore. McAllister includes colorful discussion of the diversity of plants, animals and terrain to be seen along the trails through these ecosystems

McAllister writes "The middle section [of the Paumanok Path] mostly in Southampton Township is incomplete because the 1990s development boom has made it difficult to gain access across private land. Despite this, members of the Southampton Trails Preservation Society are working to patch together sections where the trail will eventually run." To keep up with this work, several changes in the third edition have been made to trails in Southampton Township.