

## CCOM Trail Guide Suggestions Celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Year Caring for Montauk

While some activities have been restricted due to the Coronavirus, Montauk is fortunate to have many places for a short walk or longer hike. For those who may not be familiar with every inch of our homeland, here is a short summary of some of the most accessible outings:

**Shadmoor State Park:** (saved by CCOM and The Nature Conservancy in 2000) Just off Rt. 27 less than a mile east of town, a map in the parking lot outlines several trails. The main route takes you straight to the cliffs on a wide and dry roadbed. The other trails are well marked and some lead right past the WWII bunkers.

**Camp Hero:** (saved from development by CCOM in 1983) You can park at either the cliffside lot by entering at the designated entrance just a few yards from the lighthouse, or on the old entrance road off Rt. 27 about a half mile before the lighthouse. Camp Hero has both dry paved roads and a collection of forest trails to choose from. You walk right by the old gun batteries and can easily reach some wonderful highpoint bluffs.

**Hither Woods:** (saved by CCOM in 1986) Start at Eddie Ecker Park over the tracks on Fort Pond Bay. Looking across the wide “dog park” field, the trail begins on the shore line and follows an old road – actually the original road into Montauk. It’s wide and dry, and cuts through some high tree forest with side paths along the shore. Check the map at the beginning because the area is huge with many optional hikes.

**The County Park Big Reed Pond:** (saved by CCOM in 1972) A small parking lot off East Lake Drive just short of the airport is the best place to start. Once you get going, there are two options: you can stay on the dirt road that eventually leads all the way to the water on the east side of Shagwong Point; or divert onto the smaller path that takes you through a deep forest out to a small viewing deck on Big Reed Pond. There is a plaque set in the ground recognizing Big Reed as a National Natural Landmark. Follow the marked trail and you will eventually get to the location of the last Montauk Indian homestead. Both options can be wet, so time your hike to follow some dry days.

**Amsterdam Beach:** A small parking lot just across from the stables on Rt. 27 is the entrance to the Amsterdam Beach Loop trail. A single path leads to an intersection about five minutes in. This is the beginning of the loop. You can either stay on the loop or take the side trail that leads to the cliffs overlooking Cavett’s Cove with a view of the Seven Sisters historic houses. A second option leads to the beach just west of the old Warhol estate. There can be one or two short damp sections in Spring.

There are even more trails to explore such as the Seal Walk trail, Money Pond, The Walking Dunes, and Oyster Pond. Enjoy our natural wonders.