



Girl Scouts Silver Award Project at Brookside County Park in Sayville



Girl Scouts Troop 559 is working toward our Silver Award. We plan to landscape the entrance of Brookside County Park on Brook Street (across the street from Sayville High School). The park is the meeting place for the Young Naturalists Club and the Great South Bay Audubon Society (GSBAS). We hope to raise awareness about this special place and help to preserve it.

This bird sanctuary is part of the original estate of architect Isaac H. Green, who designed many of the beautiful historic homes and buildings in our area. The park recently suffered some vandalism, and we hope to raise awareness of this beautiful historic park. We want to help the Suffolk County Historic Services and the GSBAS to preserve the park.

The Great South Bay Audubon Society works hard to maintain the park and supports our project. We hope to add to the historic beauty of this location and make people aware of how fortunate we are for Brookside County Park. Please help spread the word about this project!

If you would like support us, we will gladly accept donations:

Peat moss and mulch, Hosta plants, a cherry tree, daffodil bulbs, gloves and gardening tools.

For more information, please contact us: gennosa@optonline.net

Girl Scout Troop 559
GS Service Unit 32
P.O. Box 471
Sayville, NY 11782

Thank you for your support!

Cadette Troop 559, Sayville



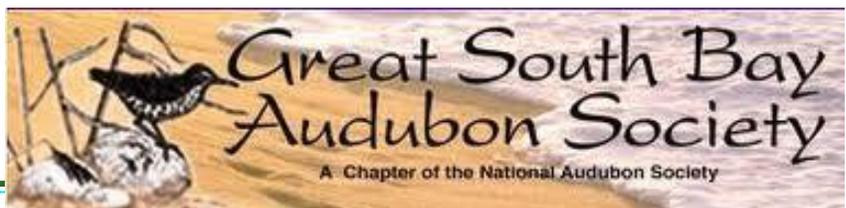
Friends of the troop supporting the project:



SUFFOLK
COUNTY
PARKS



Great South Bay Audubon Society
Young Naturalists Club



May 23, 2013



Dear Community Members and Friends,

We are members of Girl Scouts Troop 559 from Sayville, and we would like to share with you our plans for our Silver Award project.

We have learned that the Silver Award project should be completed in small groups. We should identify a problem and work toward making an improvement on our local or global community. It should be a project that will have lasting value. It is supposed to be a meaningful project that is self-sustaining. Each girl spends at least 50 hours on the project.

Our plan is to landscape the entrance of Brookside County Park in Sayville. We are also educating our community about this special place. We hope to begin planting next month, and will have a lot of work cut out for us this summer as we help to get this landscaping project established. Fortunately, Mr. Brendan Keene, friend of the troop and owner of Keene's Landscaping, is generously donating his assistance. We hope to raise enough money in the next few weeks to purchase trees, plants, and other supplies.

The idea for our project began when we were in our first year of middle school. We were in 6th grade and attended a meeting of the Young Naturalists Club at Brookside Country Park in Sayville. This park is cared for by the Great South Bay Audubon Society, who runs the club. We learned about kestrels, saw amazing photos and objects, and took a tour around the grounds. The adults were so nice and they loved this beautiful little park and the birds that came there.

We decided to return for a special presentation of birds of prey, brought in by bird rescuers. We learned that in a previous year, a real wolf was brought for a visit. All of these presentations were free to the public, and we are so fortunate for that. We decided that this would be a good place to get involved with, since it was such a positive experience.

Brookside County Park is a special place. It is part of the original estate of the architect Isaac H. Green, who designed many of the most historic homes and buildings in Sayville and the surrounding area. The entrance on Brook Street is the original entrance, and the building is the gatehouse where his caretaker lived. Mr. Greene liked to pass it on his way to his estate. This park is a peaceful bird sanctuary now, and we are lucky to have such a nice open space like this, taken care of by community members who appreciate the environment.

During one of our visits we spoke to Janet Gremli and Juliane Wohler, leaders of the Young Naturalists Club, about the possibility of adding a garden or doing some other type of landscaping at Brookside Park to add to its beauty. We spoke about taking this as our Silver Award project. Some troop members and one of our co-leaders later met with these women and selected some locations for the project.

Our next step was to present our ideas to The Great South Bay Audubon Society Board of Directors. We made our presentation to this group by discussing how important this park is and how we would like to contribute. The Board was very appreciative of our ideas and made a generous financial contribution. Mrs. Judy Davis, the president of the Great South Bay Audubon Society, has been very helpful in getting us permission from Suffolk County and the Town of Islip.

Recently one of our co-leaders met with Mr. Rich Martin, who is the Director of Suffolk County Historic Services. Our troop got some history and photos to learn from, in order to gain an appreciation for how the location looked in the 1890s. We know how important it is to preserve the historic appearance of the estate. Thanks to the Suffolk County Historic Services, we are able to see and visit places like Brookside in our historic community, and we really appreciate the opportunity to do this project on an historic site.

At this meeting, Mr. Martin and Mrs. Davis were discussing the problem they are having with vandalism in the park. They said that teenagers are coming in at night and leaving broken bottles and other trash. Some people recently broke some lights and removed items from a shed. We talked about ways to solve this problem, and hope that our project will raise awareness about this wonderful place, and we can teach people how important it is to preserve and respect Brookside County Park. Many people don't even know that this park exists, and should know how lucky we are that it does.

Thank you for your time. We hope you will let others know about this Silver Award project. We are very excited to contribute to our community and hope you will share our flier with friends to let them know how special this park is. We need to work together as a community to help keep this park thriving and safe. It is a wonderful place to visit and enjoy the birds and the quiet and the feeling that we are back in history. We hope to be able to protect and preserve it, and hope that our Silver Award project will have positive and lasting effects.

Sincerely,

Girl Scouts Cadette Troop 559, Sayville