

# Doherty Park Nature Trail

Town of Beekman, Department of Recreation & Parks



The mission of the Town of Beekman Recreation & Parks Department is to provide recreational opportunities which will encourage a healthy and active lifestyle. We strive to promote lifelong leisure skills and to enhance the quality of life and sense of community for all residents of the Town of Beekman.

**For more information or to volunteer on the trails committee contact us at: 845-227-5783 or [rec@townofbeekman.com](mailto:rec@townofbeekman.com)**



Welcome to the **Nature Trail at Doherty Park**, part of the park and trails system for the Town of Beekman.

It is a loop trail that is approximately 1 miles and takes you through field and forest with lots of interesting things to see along the way. There are many natural points of interest and many instances where you can witness the effects of humans on our environment.

Follow the **powder blue** trails signs, and PLEASE

**Take Only Pictures**

**Leave Only Foot Prints**



You will see lots of Goldenrod ... a plant growing at the edge of the woods where humans have previously cleared the land. It grows in the zone between the forests and the fields cleared by humans.



You will see lots of decaying logs. Look underneath and below them to see the natural process of wood turning into soil



Much of Doherty Park previously contained gravel, a resource humans use for roads. This area to the left as you travel the trail after the soccer fields shows the depression left after the gravel was mined AND some limestone outcrops that were not mined.



These holes left by woodpeckers are found in the trunks of dead trees. The woodpeckers were hunting for insects that live in the dead trees and eating the decaying wood.



The THREAT of VINES: Throughout the park take note off all the trees that are covered by vines. These vines are “invasive species”. They are growing up trees to get sunlight so they can grow. At the same time the vines are covering the tree’s leaves and will eventually kill the trees. The tree above is covered, the trees below have already lost all their branches ... having died from being unable to get any sunlight.



In the fields of wildflowers notice all the different kinds of seeds. Here you can see some Milkweed. The pods open and the seeds are spread by the wind, helping the plant to grow in more and more places. How much Milkweed can you find along this trail?



The seeds of this bush are in the berries. Birds eat the berries, then fly to other parts of the park and beyond, and after passing the berries through their digestive track they deposit them elsewhere to grow a new bush.

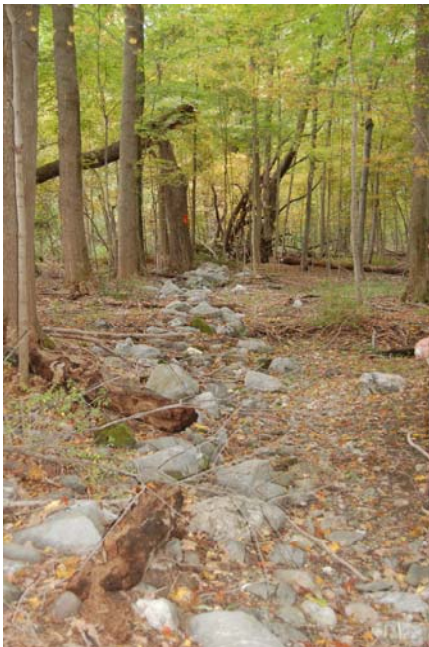


Notice the number of trees that have been cleared so you can walk this trail. Look at the cross section: The living cells of the tree are the dark ones near the inner edge of the bark. Each year a new layer grows outward and the tree gets wider.

The POWER of WATER: Notice how the soil is washed away from under the trees ... and how the roots are helping hold what little soil is left. This intermittent stream is washing away lots of soil!



The POWER of HUMANS: From left to right – an old rock wall built by a farmer from when this land was a farm; a tree stand built by a hunter to stand above the forest and hunt deer; an old tractor left by a homeowner



The POWER of NATURE: on the left – what's left of a tree trunk after a tornado ripped the top off and on the right a pond that is filling in with vegetation soon to be a swamp

