

Manorville Hills County Park

0.5 mile entrance trail—yellow blazes; 7 mile loop—orange blazes

Why:

West to east, Manorville Hills offers the longest expanse of roadless land on Long Island. Long abused by off-road vehicles, the rolling hills of the Ronkonkoma Moraine are badly eroded in many places, but recent efforts at better management are helping to reclaim the pinelands here.

The Paumanok Path passes through Manorville Hills, and a fine trailhead on the east side of County Route 111, complete with excellent parking, provides access to new, separate loop trails for hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders.

Directions:

From L.I.E. Exit 70, go south to a marked left turn at Hot Water Street. Continue across the road to the parking area. From Sunrise Highway (NY 27) eastbound, go north from Exit 62 on C.R. 11 to the county park sign and the parking lot.

Description:

The parking area is a very short drive in from the entrance sign. From here, the well-marked yellow hiking trail heads through a flat, shady tract partly lined with thick stands of ferns. A few species of non-native and invasive plants dwell on this former farm, but field succession is slowly returning it to a more natural state. It's a delightful walk.

Beyond a dense stand of white pine, the trail reaches three orange blazes, marking the beginning of the loop trail. Pick a direction. Traveling clockwise, you'll reach a lovely glacial kettlehole (about a 2.5 mile round trip from the parking area). Beyond, the trail travels up and down the convoluted Manorville Hills, deposited as part of the Ronkonkoma Moraine by the receding glaciers of the last Ice Age. Elevations top out at 250 feet.

Options:

1) Cross trails and old north-south fire roads make for almost limitless hiking here. The loop described above can be cut almost in half by a cross path at a narrow point in the route. Other trails and dirt roads radiate in many directions. If you care to explore, be sure to bring a map and/or compass.

2) Take a 10-mile hike on the Paumanok Path. Drop a car at Suffolk County Community College's Field 1 (off County Route 51 south of Riverhead). Take the second car south on 51 to C.R. 111; go north to a traffic light at Halsey Manor Road, turn right, and park on Halsey Manor just south of the Expressway. On the east side you'll pick up the white blazes of the Paumanok Path heading into Manorville Hills. Currently, the trail parallels the Expressway for over a mile and a half before turning away from the road; eventually, a reroute will move it into the woods sooner.

This section of the Paumanok Path traverses 9.7 miles of roadless area east to County Route 51, passing over Riverhead's Bald Hill (elevation 295') shortly before the end. Look to the northeast for a view of Peconic Bay. Continue across C.R. 51 to the college.

**Happy Hiking
from the
Long Island Pine Barrens
Society!**



LONG ISLAND
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SOCIETY

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KEY



Kiosk



Parking

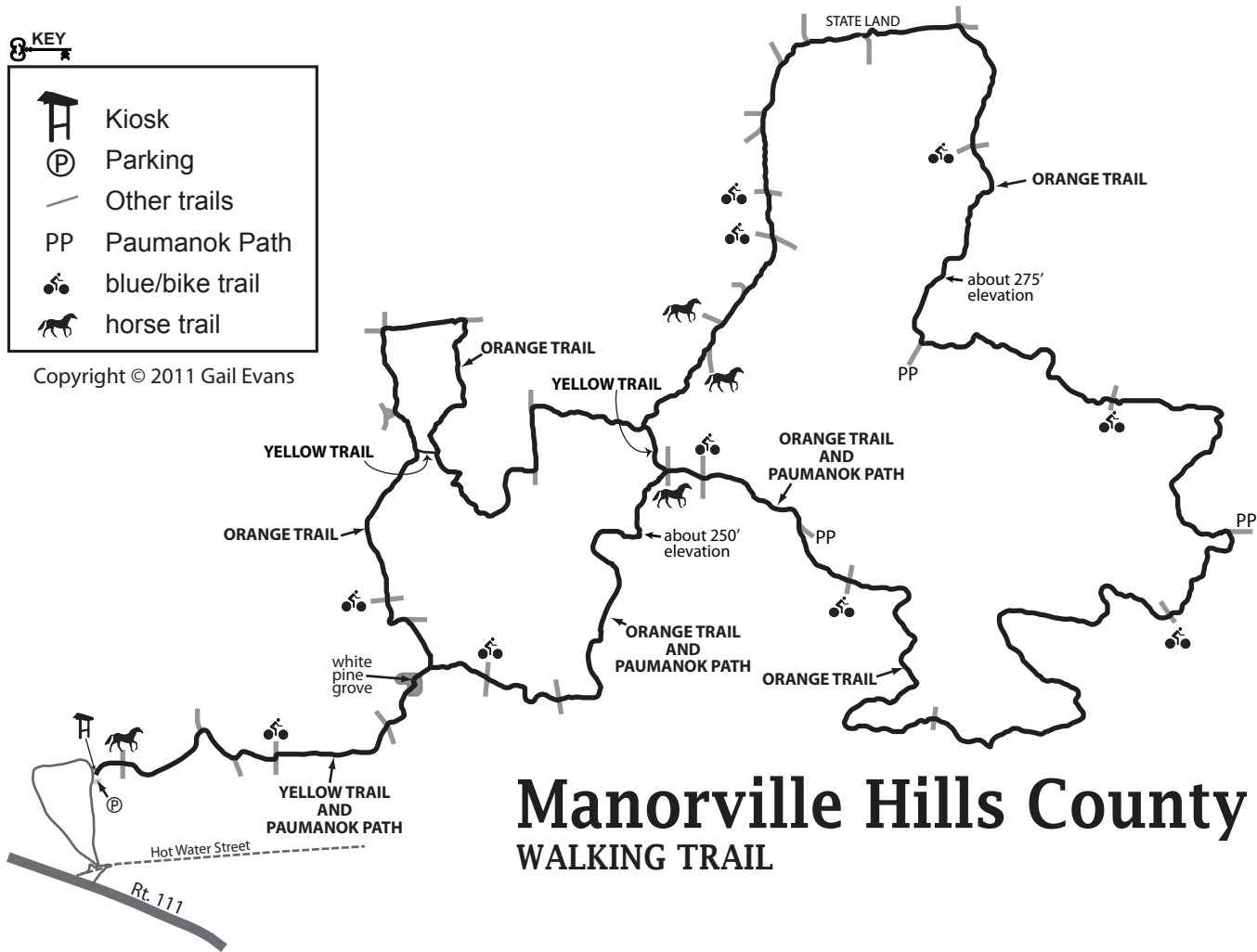
Other trails

PP Paumanok Path

blue/bike trail

horse trail

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WALKING TRAIL