



This folder has been prepared by the Pound Ridge Conservation Board  
We hope that you will use this as a place to file our subsequent publications.  
We thank Everett Studios for their help with this publication  
Photo credit: Gail Jankus. Design: RWP&V.

# THE TOWN OF POUND RIDGE

Pound Ridge is 14,130 magnificent acres, the most open space per capita than any other community in Westchester. Carved by a glacier, it's dramatic topography differs even from our closest neighbors. Uniquely ours, the dramatic rock outcroppings, steep slopes, woodlands and abundant wetlands support a varied and complex ecosystem.

The generally steep terrain and the shallowness of the soil made farming difficult, but did produce an abundant crop of rock. Fields of rocks became stone fences that defined property and pasture, and they remain a tribute to the fortitude of our forbears.

For most of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries this was a community of cottage industries. Prosperity passed Pound Ridge by. Its population of 1,486 people in 1859 dwindled to 515 in 1920. In the '30s Hiram Halle, an inventor and businessman, started renovating and rebuilding houses. He encouraged artists, writers, actors and musicians to move here from the city, which they did. Weekenders followed. Today we have a population of approximately 4,726.

## **The Land and its Zoning**

The largest landowner in Pound Ridge is the County of Westchester with Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, a park of 4,700 acres, of which over 3,000 are in Pound Ridge. Second is the Aquarian Water Company, with 1,400 acres.

Pound Ridge is zoned into one, two and three acres lots, the majority being three acres. There is a business district, called Scotts Corners; an historic district, called the Hamlet; a Town Park; and a Landscape district where Pound Ridge Nurseries is located.

## **The Town Board**

The town is governed by a supervisor and four board members. The supervisor serves a two-year term. Board members serve four-year terms. The Board meets the first and second Thursday of each month at 8PM at the Town House. Members of the public are invited. 764-5511

## **Town Clerk**

The town clerk is an elected position that carries a four-year term. The clerk keeps the town records and issues marriage, conservation and dog licenses. 764-5549

## **Receiver of taxes**

The receiver collects all town, school and county taxes. 764-3978

## **Tax Assessor**

The tax assessor maintains land and property records and assesses property for tax purposes. 764-3980

## **Town Justices**

The Justices preside over the town court which meets every Monday at 9AM. The court hears traffic, civil and criminal cases arising in town. 764-5511

## **Building Inspector**

The Building Inspector reviews plans for building and plumbing installations, inspects and supervises all tests, issues permits and enforces codes. Call and check before you do any major project. 764-4635

## **Highway Department**

The highway department is responsible for maintaining our roads and supervising our recycling facility. 764-5690

## **Town Website**

Our website is there to provide residents with news and information concerning our town. You'll find meeting dates, scheduled events, recycling information, recreational activities, issues concerning residents - everything you need to help you stay connected to what's going on in Pound Ridge.

[www.townofpoundridge.com](http://www.townofpoundridge.com)

## YOUR CARTER

Your carter, by law, must take your recyclables, newspapers, and corrugated cardboard. (A list all the licensed carters in Pound Ridge and their recycling schedules is on the back of this page.)

You may commingle recyclables: Place glass (clear, brown & green), plastics (#1 & #2), and metal cans together in clear or transparent blue plastic bags.

Bundle newspapers in bags or tie them with twine.

Corrugated cartons - flattened and tied.

County Recycling Hotline at (914) 813-5420

Paint cans are to be disposed of in household trash.

1. paint-oil and latex: should be in solid form. Air dry or stir in kitty litter or paint hardener.
2. Place next to trash cans with lid off.

Don't: recycle plastic pails, polystyrene foam items, film, plastic utensils, flower pots or plastic containers which held potentially hazardous materials such as motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, solvents, etc.

Don't: Glass not used for food or beverages, such as light bulbs, drinking glasses, crystal, window and mirror glass, ceramic ware, kitchen cook-ware, pesticide/herbicide bottles, etc., are not recyclable and should be placed in your garbage.

## THE TOWN RECYCLING CENTER

The Town accepts:

Phone books, junk mail (in clear plastic bags, dry cleaner's bags are perfect), office paper, catalogs and magazines.

Aluminum siding, scrap metal, wire, pipes, tubing motors, sheet metal, auto parts, computers, monitors, TV sets and appliances (make sure empty of Freon) Call 764-5511 for a list of vendors who will dispose of Freon. You must have a sticker certifying your appliance is free of Freon before it will be accepted at the recycling center.

**Cell Phones** may be given to the Police Department for reuse.

**Return** beer and soda bottles/cans for deposit refund.

**Donate books** to a library, hospital, charity or the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.

**Town Spring and Fall cleanup days** accept: paint cans or metal containers that were filled with potentially hazardous materials such as pesticides, glues or solvents. Batteries. Check the town website for days.

**Styrofoam** peanuts and bubble wrap, check with your local packaging supply store which may accept or return to Postnet who will gladly take.

Postnet, 729 North Bedford Rd, Green Lane Shopping Center, Bedford Hills, 914-241-4399

**Clothes, shoes, belts, curtains...**all kinds of fabric may be deposited in the bins on the south side of the south parking lot at the market.

**Oil and tires:** Service Stations must accept used oil and will accept tires for a fee.

### **Never Recycle Household Medical Waste!**

Place needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects in a sealed, puncture proof container you cannot see through. Place sealed container in the trash. Don't place home medical waste in the recycling bin.

**Compost:** Compost is the natural breakdown of organic material and is the greatest soil conditioner known. Composting instructions are available at the Town House or web site.

### **DO YOU KNOW THAT:**

The U.S. is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year.

- If an average family of four recycled all of its mixed plastic waste, the carbon emission equivalent of 221 cars would be reduced each year.
- 1 recycled tin can saves enough energy to power a TV for 3 hours.
- 1 recycled glass bottle saves enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes
- 1 recycled plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for 3 hours
- Recycling a single run of the Sunday New York Times would save 75,000 trees.

## **CARTING COMPANIES AND RECYCLING PROCEDURES**

**Not accepted:** perfume bottles, drinking glasses, smoked glass, window glass, ceramics, baby bottles, automobile glass, alkaline and rechargeable batteries, propane tanks, compressed gas cylinders and helium tanks.

**Bria Carting** 914-277-8896. Recycling pickups every other week on day of scheduled service; Curb and driveway.

**Clark Sanitation** 203-327-9657. Recycled items picked up curbside every other Wednesday 1st and 3rd.

**County Waste, Inc.** 914-241-2200. Recycled items picked up with regular trash pickup \*this schedule may change in the next few months to alternate weeks for certain recycled items. Clients will be advised.

**Longo Brothers Carting, Inc.** 914-934-9315. Serves a few residents on White Birch Road not available for additional routes. Co-mingled recycled items accepted with regular trash pickup.

**Mayfield Carting.** 914-666-2300. Recycling items picked up alongside regular trash pickup.

**Penn Refuse Company.** 203-968-0794. Recycled items picked up on regular trash pickup day;

**Rogan Brothers Sanitation.** 914-476-2838. Recycled items picked up on regular trash pickup day; curbside and driveway.

## **FACILITIES AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

### **Town Recycling Center**

Town Highway Garage, 290 Stone Hill Road.

Hours of Operation: 9-noon every Saturday (except holidays and snow/extremely bad weather.) The town is currently working to expand our recycling facility.

### **Treasure Hunt**

The Treasure Hunt is an informational "swap shop" where county residents and businesses wishing to dispose of usable items are matched with those in need of used goods. It's another way to recycle.

Treasure Hunt can be accessed by clicking the County website [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com) or by calling 914 813-5415.

### **The Westchester County Source Separation Law.**

The law is titled source separation, as it requires various recyclable materials to be separated from the garbage, by each and every waste generator, as each individual is the source of the generation of waste.

If there are any questions, contact the Westchester County Recycling Hotline at (914) 813-5420

# OUR ENVIRONMENT AND TOWN CODES

Pound Ridge has no public water system and no public sewage system. We all get our water from wells on our property, and we dispose of our wastewater and sewage into our own septic systems. As you drive about town you will see numerous wetland areas. These are the water supplies for our wells. The hills and dramatic rock outcropping unique to our town make it prohibitively expensive to lay pipes for a town-wide water and septic system.

So it is vital that we protect our wetlands and our wells.

## **Well Water**

Most of Pound Ridge's water comes from rainfall. Half is absorbed by vegetation or evaporates. The other half drains into the soils and eventually finds its way into rivers and underground rock formations. It is the soil bed of wetlands and aquifers that stores and purifies the water. Wells drilled into the bedrock intersect the cracks and fractures so that groundwater stores from over a wide area can be delivered to a well.

Your well is private and on your property but the water you draw from it comes from the same aquifer that you share with your neighbors. In dry seasons, when one homeowner chooses to use a lot of water, another homeowner's well can run dry.

## **Septic waste-disposal systems**

There are many different types of septic systems. All need to be pumped out periodically. The Town Building inspector can advise you as to which type of system services your home and how you should maintain it.

If your home predates the Town's records, the County Health Department will have a record. Pound Ridge is served by the Mt. Kisco office: 864-7333.

## **Freshwater Wetlands Protection**

Many of the Town's ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands provide important beneficial functions, including natural flood and storm water control, groundwater recharge, natural pollution treatment, erosion and sediment control, wildlife habitat creation, recreation and open space enhancement and educational opportunities.

The purpose of the Wetlands Ordinance is to protect, preserve and ensure the proper maintenance and use of ponds, lakes, etc. as well as to protect the potable surface and ground water supplies.

Included in the law are specific guidelines:

- wetland categories
- permits for activities in controlled areas
- minimum activity setbacks
- activities permitted by an administrative permit.

The ordinance is very detailed and covers many areas that a home owner might not consider such as gardening, deposition of material, driveways, clear cutting of small trees, accessory buildings or structures, and changes to existing buildings. Before you begin any work on your home or property or before any hired worker or contractor begins work - drop by the Town House and get a copy of the Wetlands Ordinance. You will not only protect yourself but also the vitality of our community.

## **Alarms**

All home alarm devices must be registered with the town clerk. There are charges levied on the home owner for false alarms: \$25 for the first false alarm each year, \$50 for the second and \$100 for the third.

It is a strain on our volunteer fire fighters and ambulance corps members to have them stop their work to respond to a false alarm. Please have your alarms periodically checked by the installer.

## **Animals**

Dogs must be licensed. Dogs must be kept under control or on leash. Dogs in heat must be confined. No family may own more than four dogs at one time.

## **Buffers**

All property has a buffer zone that is dependent upon its zoning: One acre = 10 feet, two acre = 15 feet, three acre = 20 feet. All wetlands are protected by a 150 foot buffer zone. Before working in a buffer zone, check with the Building Department.

## **Burning**

Out door burning is prohibited in Pound Ridge.

## **Compost and Mulch**

Compost is often called Black Gold. A leaf pile, lawn mowings, garden waste, egg shells, coffee grounds and vegetable matter from the kitchen make an ideal compost system. Turn it occasionally and you'll create rich healthy soil for your garden. Mulch keeps the roots of plants cool. It retains moisture in the ground and helps prevent weeds.

## **Fences**

Fences are tightly regulated. A permit is required for any type of fence anywhere on the property. This includes not only fences and deer fences but pillars and driveway gates.

## **Landmark Homes**

The landmark homes of Pound Ridge have a special role in preserving our town's character. If you live in one of these homes and wish to alter its outside appearance, you must go before the Landmark Commission and receive their permission. Call the Townhouse and they will refer you. 764-5511

## **Lawns**

Try these non-polluting tips for a healthy lawn and garden!

<http://www.westchestergov.com/waterquality/> or [www.grassrootsinfo.org](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org)

- If you feel fertilize your lawn, use organics. They are far safer for you and your family. If you use a lawn service tell them to use organics.
- Test the soil before applying fertilizers (pH test kits are available at garden centers or through your local cooperative extension).
- When used improperly fertilizer can end up in the water we drink. Nutrients in fertilizers cause algae to grow in water, sapping it of oxygen.
- Use compost in your garden.
- For strong roots, keep grass 3" to 3.5" high.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn, they will help feed it.
- Keep the soil healthy by removing debris and mulching trees and shrubs.

## **Leaves**

It is against the law to blow leaves into the street or into culverts or streams. Pile and compost your leaves on your property. Leaves left under shrubs add nutrients to the soil as they decay.

## **Littering**

No person shall throw, deposit or abandon items on any property in town whether public or private or owned by that person. Signs and posters used to advertise an event, and election posters, must be removed 10 days after the event or election.

## **Noise**

Construction crews may work Monday through Saturday between the hours of 8AM and 6PM. The noise a homeowner creates while doing chores or entertaining is primarily governed by his consideration of others. If it becomes too loud, too incessant, or too late at night, it falls under the jurisdiction of the Police Department.

## **Pesticides**

Westchester County is among the more progressive counties in New York State on the issue of pesticides. Not only has Westchester committed to phase out the use of pesticides on county property, but in 2001 the Board of Legislators adopted the Neighborhood Notification Law requiring commercial applicators to inform abutting neighbors in writing 48 hours in advance of an application.

Use Integrated Pest Management, (IPM). Only spray if you have a problem and spray to relieve only that specific problem.

General spraying can also kill the helpful insects that control the bad ones. We need our pollinators. If you have professional lawn care and landscapers, make sure you know EXACTLY what they are doing. Ask them to be organic. Tell them that you don't want them to use chemicals and pesticides. Ask them to show you the labels for all the chemicals they use. Find an organic substitute if you don't get good information. Find out how long the chemicals stay on the lawn. Remember, children and pets will be in contact with all those chemicals.

## **Recycling**

Pound Ridge takes recycling seriously. Private carters require a license to operate in Pound Ridge and pick up household waste and recyclables. Recyclables may be mixed including: glass, plastic and metal all in the same blue/clear bag. Recyclables must be clean, with metal removed from glass bottles. Newspapers and magazines should be tied in bundles. For a more comprehensive list of recycling procedures, consult the Conservation Board pamphlet on Recycling.

The Pound Ridge Recycling Center is located at the Town Highway Garage, 290 Stone Hill Road. It is open every Saturday 9am-noon except on holidays and in case of snow. The town is in the process of working to expand this facility, which is an important resource for the town. It's important to note that this is a facility for recycled items only and not regular garbage.

There are "Dumpster Days" each spring and fall for large objects.

## **Signs**

For the most part signs may not exceed two square feet. Each dwelling must have a sign in conformance with the 911 code. Information is available at the Town House. 764-5511

## **Stone Walls**

Respect them. Before you build, rebuild or tear one down, take a walk in the woods and study the ones our farmer forefathers built in the early 1800s. Most of them are still standing and in pretty good shape.

These are the true Pound Ridge walls. Protect them, please, as they are our heritage. Copy them if you want the authentic look of a Pound Ridge wall. There's another important difference between a dry wall and a wet wall. The dry wall lasts a lot longer. Note: All new stone walls require a permit. Call the building inspector: 764-4635

## **Tree Preservation**

Trees stabilize the soil and control water pollution by preventing soil erosion and flooding. Trees reduce air pollution, provide oxygen, temper noise and provide natural habitat for wildlife. Further, large and old trees have a unique visual, aesthetic and historical value. Indiscriminate removal of these trees causes the deprivation of these benefits and disrupts the town's ecological systems.

The purpose of the Tree Preservation Law is to prevent the indiscriminate or unnecessary destruction of trees. Included in the law are specific guidelines:

- restrictions on clearcutting
- regulations for tree removal
- list of protected trees
- standards for granting tree removal permits
- penalties for violating the provisions.

So, before you cut - talk to the Building Inspector. A permit is required before any tree cutting.

## **The Pound Ridge Building Inspectors and this small pamphlet**

The codes of Pound Ridge are complex. What we have written here is a simple overview. To protect yourself and to protect Pound Ridge, call our Building Inspectors before you start a project. They are here to help you. Some times you may think your particular wish or action is trivial and you shouldn't bother them. Nothing to do with Pound Ridge is trivial. Your wants are not a bother.

Pound Ridge cares. Call 764-4635.

## Town Committees

### **Board of Assessment Review**

Reviews tax assessments in contention. Meets 3rd Tuesday as needed.

### **Board of Ethics**

Renders advisory opinions re: conflicts of interest, use of town property, and confidential information. Meets as needed.

### **Conservation Board**

Concerned with maintaining the environmental quality of the town. Meets 1st Wednesday at 7:15.

### **Drug Abuse Prevention Council**

Provides programs to assist in the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse. Meets 2nd Tuesday at 7:30.

### **Landmarks and Historic District Commission**

Enforces protecting and preserving landmark homes, sites and town historic districts. Meets 2nd Wednesday at 7:30

### **Open Space Acquisitions Committee**

Promotes the increase of permanent open space within the town. Meets as needed.

### **Planning Board**

Reviews and approves, modifies or disapproves sub-divisions in residential areas and site plans in commercial areas. Meets 4th Thursday at 7:30. Work session 2nd Thursday if needed.

### **Recreation Commission**

Establishes the overall goals and objectives for town recreation. Meets 2nd or 3rd Monday at 8.

### **Water Control Commission**

Regulates areas around water, local wetlands and the 150 foot buffer that protects the wetlands. Meets 4th Wednesday at 8.

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Reviews applications for relief from the zoning regulations. Meets 3rd Wednesday at 7:30.

## **Community Organizations**

**Ahavah Hadassah Pound Ridge**

**Hiram Halle Memorial Library**

**Neighbor to Neighbor**

**Pound Ridge Business Association**

**Pound Ridge Community Church**

**Pound Ridge Garden Club**

**Pound Ridge Land Conservancy**

**Pound Ridge Library Foundation**

**Pound Ridge Lions Club**

**Pound Ridge Museum**

**Pound Ridge Newcomers Club**

**Pound Ridge Theatre Company**

**Pound Ridge Volunteer Ambulance Corps**

**Pound Ridge Volunteer Fire Department**

[www.townofpoundridge.com/organizations](http://www.townofpoundridge.com/organizations)

We all get our water from wells on our property. After using the water, we return it to the earth, through our septic systems, to be recycled. Here's how water gets to our wells, how a septic system works, and what we should do to protect the purity of our water.

## THE WATER CYCLE

The earth has a limited amount of water. In its cycle it falls as precipitation. Some is absorbed by vegetation or runs into streams and lakes to become surface water. The rest percolates through the soil and becomes ground water. Eventually it returns to the sky through evaporation and the cycle starts over again. Pound Ridge has eleven different watersheds, averaging 1,200 acres each, which we all share. Gravity pulls the water through the soil which acts as a filter system, purifying it, until the water reaches a saturated zone known as an aquifer. The line at which the water starts to accumulate in the aquifer is called the water table. The water table can be from a few to hundreds of feet below the ground and can fluctuate in unusually dry or wet times

## YOUR WELL

Most wells are drilled into bedrock. The bedrock contains fractures and cracks that hold water. (Much like a sponge.) When your well intercepts these cracks and fractures, ground water stores from over a large area are delivered to your well.

## YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Most homes in Pound Ridge have a conventional septic system. When sewage enters a septic tank, some solids, fats, and greases partially decompose, and rise to the top forming a layer of scum. Other solids settle at the bottom, are attacked by bacteria, and form sludge. Waste water flows to an absorption field. The absorption field is a series of perforated pipes placed on gravel close to the surface of the soil. Some of the effluent that is distributed evaporates through vegetation. The balance works its way down through the soil back to the water table.

## SOME COMMON SENSE

- Avoid contamination of your well by avoiding pesticide use. Remember, they're designed to be toxic to the pests they target, and they can also harm children and pets. Be sure to cover or

remove toys from treated area.

- Automatic watering systems often waste water. During droughts they can cause wells to go dry. A brown lawn in August is natural, it will turn green again with Fall rain.
- Decaying leaves help woodland soils absorb water and build nutrient rich soil. Don't have your property blown clean in the Fall.
- Do not use salts and chemicals on your driveway during winter, as they pollute groundwater.
- Do not dispose of household hazardous waste in the sink or toilet
- Garbage grinders substantially increase the accumulation of solids in your septic tank.
- Cigarette butts, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins do not readily decompose.
- Pump your septic system, removing all solids, every two to three years depending upon the size of the system and the size of the family.

**If a septic tank is not cleaned, the solids are carried into the absorption field and rapid clogging will occur. Cleaning a tank is a lot cheaper than replacing a field!**

- Poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into waterbodies.

The following characteristics can be evidence of a failing septic system, although a system can fail without showing any signs at all.

- Slowly draining sinks and toilets
- Gurgling sounds in the plumbing
- Plumbing backups
- Sewage odors in the house or yard
- Ground wet or mushy underfoot
- Grass growing faster and greener in one particular area of the yard
- Tests showing the presence of bacteria in well water

Finally, don't plant shrubs or trees near your septic system, and don't drive heavy machinery or build anything over any part of the system—all of these things can damage the system and keep it from working properly.

# DEER, TICKS & DEER TICKS

## DEER

Undoubtedly, you have notice the large number of White-Tailed deer in Pound Ridge. They have proved to be hazardous to our environment, our safety while traveling in automobiles, and, since they carry the blacklegged or deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), our health.

Deer have consumed most of the wild flowers that once were prevalent. The understory of our woods has disappeared, harming the habitat of other animals. Future generations of trees are being eaten before they can establish themselves. The ground cover on steep slopes that helps prevent erosion and lets the rain be absorbed into the water table is disappearing.

Because of this the Town has encouraged the use of bow hunting to help control the deer population.

You may arrange to have deer hunted on your property during hunting season (October 14 thru December 31). The Police Department will have a list of hunters and can provide you with additional information. 764-4206

Exercise caution when driving on our country roads and be aware that if you see one deer there are likely to be others nearby. Hitting a deer can do tremendous damage to your car, not to mention cause injury to your person.

Deer are most active at dawn and at dusk. During late October through early December deer are in rut. Bucks are chasing does at all times of day and night. Be extra cautious because they aren't.

## TICKS

There are about 80 different kinds of ticks in the United States. The American dog tick or wood tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*) may be brought indoors on pets or clothing. They are larger than a deer tick and do not establish populations indoors. The brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*) is one of the few ticks that will infest a structure. Check your pets back, ears and between the toes.

## DEER TICKS

Deer ticks are tiny! Their size is that of a pin head. Research indicates that a tick must feed for at least 24 hours to transmit the disease, so early detection and removal is key to prevention.

Remove imbedded ticks with tweezers as near to the point of attachment as possible. Use a firm, steady pull. Do not jerk or twist, because you may break off the mouthparts and get the site infected. Do not use unprotected fingers. Apply a disinfectant to the site.

## FENCES

Deer fences will NOT protect you from deer ticks! When the deer tick leaves the deer it is transported by mice, squirrels, chipmunks and birds. All can easily penetrate any fence.

Deer can jump fences up to 10 feet in height. Fencing is costly and can be unsightly. Regular fence maintenance is essential. Fencing pushes the deer onto neighbors' property. It only helps an individual home owner not a community.

Fencing can prevent the migration of other wildlife through land necessary for the continuation of their species.

### **The Early Signs of Lyme Disease:**

- Headache
- Flu like symptoms
- "Bull's eye" rash (Sometimes)
- Pain and Swelling in the Joints

If you suspect you've contracted Lyme disease, consult a physician immediately. Lyme Disease is easily treated with antibiotics if caught early.

### **To protect yourself and your family, take precautions:**

- Avoid tall grass and shrubby areas.
- Wear long pants tucked into socks. Wear light-colored clothing.
- Check yourself and others
- Keep grass mowed.
- Use a repellent: DEET ("Off," "Cutter," "Muskol," etc.) repels ticks -- labeled for skin or clothing. CAUTION: Certain people are sensitive to formulations of DEET that contain more than 50% active ingredient. PERMETHRIN (Permanone, Duranon) kills ticks on contact--labeled for clothing only, it will last through two or three washings.

## THE DANGER OF LAWN PESTICIDES

Several types of cancer, neurological problems, endocrine disruption and certain birth defects have been associated with exposure to common lawn care pesticides. Children are especially at risk because of the vulnerability of their developing bodies and the amount of time they spend playing on lawns.

## WHAT NOT TO USE

Avoid chlorpyrifos (Dursban) and diazinon, which have now been banned for consumer use because of their neurotoxic effects. Be aware that combination “Weed and Feed” fertilizer products often contain the toxic herbicide 2,4-D.

Do you need fertilizers containing phosphorus? While phosphorus helps roots develop, most of our soils already contain enough. Applied phosphorus can be washed into our streams and cause algae blooms in our lakes and ponds. If you must use it, use a slow-release variety.

## HOW TO CREATE A HEALTHY LAWN

The key to a healthy lawn is healthy soil. Start by using a soil test kit to discover what your soil needs are.

- Aerate your lawn.
- Top dress with compost, compost tea, liquid seaweed or kelp.
- Fall is the best time to fertilize. use a slow-release low nitrogen organic fertilizer.
- Use corn gluten, instead of 2,4-D for pre-emergent weed control.
- Use milky spore or beneficial nematodes for grub control.
- Set mowing height to 3” to 3 1/2”.
- Leave clippings on the lawn. They provide nitrogen.
- Deep water once a week. Mornings are best.
- Reseed annually with a mixture of hardy grasses, including some endophytic types.
- If you use a lawn care company, choose one that follows the procedures above. If they have an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) program make sure they do not use toxic pesticides.

## WHO CAN HELP YOU

Chubby’s Hardware, Poundridge Nurseries and Mill River Supply carry a selection of organic fertilizers.

Educate yourself. Here are two more web sites.

Cornell Extension: [www.cce.cornell.edu/-westchester](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/-westchester)

Westchester County: [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com)

“All pesticides are toxic to some degree ...and most have not been adequately tested to determine their effects on people or the environment”

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

“As a pediatrician I urge all parents to reduce pesticide use as much as possible, especially lawn services. Children’s health is more important than a few weeds”

**Phil Landrigan, M.D.**

Director of the Center for Children’s Health and the Environment, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

“Pesticides pose health risks, even when used and applied in full compliance with manufacturer’s recommendations and legal requirements”

**Eliot Spitzer New York State Attorney General**

“Scientific research has proven that many pesticides and other toxic chemicals can cross the placenta and can be transferred to nursing infants in the breast milk.”

**Dr. Gina Solomon**

University of California  
Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit

# NATIVE PLANTS WITH SALT TOLERANCE

## Native Trees tolerant of saline soils or salt spray

Common name	Latin name	Decid./ Evergr.	Type of salt tolerance	Cold hardiness
Paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	D	Salt spray	2-7/7-1
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	D	Saline soils, salt spray	6-9/9-3
Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	D	Salt spray	4-9/9-1
American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	E	Salt spray	5-9/9-5
Eastern red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	E	Saline soils, salt spray	3-9/9-1
Black gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	D	Salt spray	5-9/9-5
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	D	Salt spray	3-8/8-2
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	D	Saline soils	5-9/9-5
Red oak <sup>2</sup>	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	D	Saline soils	5-9/9-4

## Native Shrubs tolerant of saline soils or salt spray

Common name	Latin name	Decid. Evergr.	Type of salt tolerance unknown	Cold hardiness
Red chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	D		5-9/9-4
Summersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	D		5-8/8-3
Red osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	D		5-8/8-3
Common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	E		3-9/9-1
Bayberry <sup>2</sup>	<i>Myrica pennsylvanica</i>	D		3-6/6-1
Shrubby cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	D		3-7/7-1
Staghorn sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	D		3-8/8-1
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	D		4-9/9-1
Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	D		5-9/9-2
Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	D		3-8/8-1

## These Perennials will have a High Salt Tolerance

<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Blue Lyme Grass
<i>Calmagrostis acutifolia</i> 'Karl Foerster'	<i>Dianthus pulminarius</i> x <i>allwoodii</i>
<i>Elymus arenarius</i>	Fountain Grass
Helen Allwood Pinks	Karl Foerster Reed Grass
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	Sea Thrift

## These Perennials were shown to be Moderately Salt Tolerant.

<i>Artemisia absinthium</i> x Powis Castle	<i>Artemisia schmidtiana</i> 'Silver Mound'
Elijah Blue Festuca Grass	<i>Festuca</i> sp. 'Elijah Blue'
<i>Hemerocallis hybrida</i> 'Stella d'Oro	<i>Heuchera micrantha</i> 'Palace Purple'
Hosta	<i>Hosta plantaginea</i>
Lilyturf	<i>Limonium latifolium</i>
<i>Liriope spicata</i>	Palace Purple Coral Bells
Powis Castle Artemisia	Sea Lavender
<i>Sedum Autumn Joy</i>	<i>Sedum spectabile</i> 'Autumn Joy'
Silver Mound Artemisia	Stella D'Oro Daylily

## **The Bye Preserve** [Pound Ridge Land Conservancy]

The Bye Preserve has a parking area off the east side of High Ridge Road, close to the Stamford border. The preserve has its own trails, and through the generosity of the Hsu family, visitors can now walk to the Mill River on a trail that goes through the Hsu property. Second and third growth deciduous forest and wetlands dominate this preserve. The woods are mixed with hemlock and dense areas of mountain laurel. Remnant boundary stonewalls criss cross the preserve, and streams flow to the south through a large ravine.

## **Carolin's Grove** [Pound Ridge Land Conservancy]

In the 1930's Hiram Halle planted a spruce plantation on this five acre preserve located on Stone Hill Road. In 1969 Robert Lawther gave the land to The Nature Conservancy in memory of his wife Carolin. The Halle Ravine Committee, working with the Pound Ridge Elementary School and the town, has created trails and open classrooms for the elementary school on this land and the abutting town owned property. The trails are open to the public for passive recreation and are a valuable resource for students' field trips.

## **The Clark Preserve** [Pound Ridge Land Conservancy]

This gift of seventy acres by Ben and Charlotte Clark is accessible from a parking area off Autumn Ridge Road. Three marked trails of different length and terrain lead through highland, swamp, woodland and field. Stone fences, rock outcroppings and specimen trees show the variations of terrain that make Pound Ridge so special.

The upper trail leads to an overlook and then a field of cedars and dogwood. The hub is at the south end of a five- acre field, perfect for birding. A magnificent Black Birch, White Oaks, Beech and Tulip trees dot the woodlands. A wetland trail was added in 2001.

## **The Halle Ravine** [Pound Ridge Land Conservancy]

The Halle Ravine of 38 acres is an exceptionally scenic preserve dominated by a steep gorge and stream running through a majestic first-growth hemlock forest. A red maple swamp surrounds two ponds near the main entrance. The preserve is a haven for numerous species of birds that feed and breed on the property. A variety of ferns enhance this idyllic setting.

The entrance is on Trinity Pass just south of Donbrook Road at a white gate set in a bordering stonewall. The trails are well marked and there are stone benches for resting and contemplation.

## **The Russell Preserve** [Pound Ridge Land Conservancy]

Mary Jane and Ed Russell donated 9 acres of land with frontage on High Ridge Road just south of Upper Shad Road and running in an easterly direction to Old Mill River. Planned as a bird sanctuary some years ago, it includes 1.5 acres of man-made pond and many trees and shrubs that were planted to provide food and shelter for bird life.

There is a short trail and good bird watching. Over 100 different species of birds have been observed. They include Woodcock, Great Blue Heron, Bittern, Golden Winged Warbler, American Redstart, nesting Screech Owls, Crested Flycatchers, Wood Ducks, and many others.

## **The Westchester Wilderness Walk** [Westchester Land Trust]

150 acres of diverse terrain, the Zofnass family and the Westchester Wilderness Walk offers over 10 miles of meandering hiking trails. Accessed at the trailhead off Upper Shad Road, between High Ridge and Long Ridge Roads, the Walk offers the hiker such highlights as a stairway of stepping-stones mounting through the middle of a cascading waterfall. Some sections of the trail are steep and hiking boots are recommended.

### **The Morganthau Preserve** [The Nature Conservancy]

The Henry Morganthau Preserve of 34 acres is set along the shore of 100-acre Blue Heron Lake. The preserve includes a portion of the lake, a small island, wetlands, vernal ponds, a small stream and woodlands. A 35-year-old lakeshore conifer plantation is gradually giving way to neighboring hardwoods. A 200-year-old oak can be found on the yellow trail. Numerous waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds are present.

The preserve is on Route 172, on the south, near the intersection with Tatomuck Road. Look for a small parking area with a sign to the right.

### **Mianus River Gorge** [The Nature Conservancy]

The Mianus River Gorge Wildlife Refuge and Botanical Preserve presently contains over 347 acres. The cool, moist micro-climate provides an ideal environment for the growth of a climax forest of oak, beech, black birch and eastern hemlocks, estimated in many instances to be up to 300 years old. The terrain is rugged and spectacular with mineral outcroppings of many varieties and bold rocky promontories jutting out in the gorge. The river makes its way to Mianus Harbor on Long Island Sound.

Over 800 species of trees, shrubs and vines; wildflowers, ferns and lichens; birds and animals; reptiles, fishes and amphibians have been identified and catalogued.

The Gorge is open daily 9:30 until 5:50: April through November. From Long Ridge Road, take Miller's Mill Road to Mianus River Road. There is parking for 30 cars; maps are available at the trail shelter. The trails are marked.

### **Ward Pound Ridge Reservation** [Westchester County]

This wonderful County park of 4,700 acres, over 3,000 of which are in Pound Ridge, was assembled under the leadership of William Ward in 1925. The main entrance is on Route 121 in Cross River. It is open 8am – dusk seven days a week year round. There are picnic areas, walking trails, bike paths, cross country ski trails and camping areas. Dogs must be leashed and are not allowed in picnic areas. The park is home to the Trailside Nature Museum, which hosts weekend nature interpretive programs year-round. There is plenty of parking. It is a glorious part of our town. Enjoy it!

### **The Aquarion Trail** [BHC an Aquarion company]

This two plus mile trail traces the west side of Trinity Reservoir. It is open to residents of Pound Ridge and their accompanying guests. Walking, cross country skiing, snow shoeing and fishing from shore on the west bank of the reservoir are allowed. To use this property you must obtain a recreation pass and a vehicle identification tag from the Town House.

Parking for four cars is available on Trinity Pass.

### **Pound Ridge Town Park**

The town park has 3 different walking trails. A walking/exercise trail is set in the woods at the back of the park; a small nature path rings the pond; and a paved trail leads from the park to Scotts Corners.