



## Become a NorWALKer!

### EXPLORE EAST NORWALK'S WATERFRONT

Pack your camera for breathtaking snapshots of Norwalk's scenic shoreline.

#### Loop 1

Turn right out of Marvin School onto Calf Pasture Beach Rd. At Marvin St., turn right and follow it to the end. Turn right onto Canfield Ave. and follow it around Taylor Farm. Turn right to continue on Canfield Ave. Continue to Calf Pasture Beach Rd. and follow back to Marvin School.

#### Loop 2

Begin at Ludlow Park on Gregory Blvd. Turn left on Gregory Blvd. and continue to the end. Right on Dorlon St. Right on Sylvester Ct. Left on Decker St. Right on Gregory Ct. Right on Blackstone Dr. Left on Gregory Blvd. Continue up Gregory Blvd. and turn left on Marion Ave. Turn right on River Dr. Turn right on Roland Ave. Right on Gregory Blvd. and return to Ludlow Park.

#### Loop 3

Begin at the flagpole. Follow the walkway to the right, toward the fishing pier. Walk to the end of the pier and back. Leaving the pier, continue walking to your left along the walkway until you reach the U.S. Coast Guard Flotilla and turn around, following the walkway back to the beach. Continue on the walkway to the left of the swings, near Ripka's Beach Café. Continue towards the Sounds Fun playground. Follow the walkway to Shady Beach and walk around the turnabout and back where you entered Shady Beach. Follow the walkway back to the flagpole.



### PROCEED WITH CAUTION WHEN FOLLOWING NORWALKER ROUTES!

The *Healthy for Life Project* is not responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur while following NorWALKer routes. Consult your doctor before beginning an exercise program. Use pedestrian crosswalks when available, obey all traffic laws, and if no sidewalks exist, walk against traffic. Wear proper footwear and reflective gear, and bring water with you while walking. Have fun!

## EAST NORWALK & BEACH

Whenever you are in East Norwalk or the Calf Pasture Beach area, you are surrounded by locations important in Norwalk History. For thousands of years, Native Americans lived here. They built their dwellings along the shoreline. Since their dwellings were surrounded by a stockade for defense against war-like tribes, early Europeans called the Native Americans' living area a Fort. They lived on the bounties of the sea, local wildlife, and corn crops.

In 1614, Adriaen Block, a navigator from the Netherlands, whose ship, The Restless, was sailing along the Connecticut coast trading with the Native Americans, recorded his visit to what he called "The Archipelago". His written record was the first mention of what we know as the Norwalk Islands.

The Pequot Wars (1637-1638) brought Colonial Soldiers close to this area, and the final battle of the war was fought in what is called the Sasqua swamp, an area now part of Fairfield, CT at the Southport line.

Two of the leaders of these soldiers, Roger Ludlow and Daniel Partrick, were impressed by the potential of the area and independently purchased land from the Native Americans in 1640/1641. Ludlow bought the land between the Saugatuck River and the middle of the Norwalk River (approximately 15,777 acres) and Partrick bought the land from the middle of the Norwalk River east to the Five-Mile River. Neither one, so far as we know, ever lived on the land that they purchased. A monument to Roger Ludlow is within the traffic circle at the junction of Calf Pasture Beach Road and Gregory Boulevard.

Colonists who bought the land from Roger Ludlow in 1650 and were living in the Norwalk area within a year. These early settlers, often referred to as "The Planters," laid out the town. One of the planters, Mathew Marvin,

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owned the land now known as Taylor Farm, which included much of the shoreline and a cow pasture now named the Calf Pasture Beach. During the Civil War, the Marvin family grew onions on the farm and sold them to the Government at forty-two cents a bushel. The Taylor family members are direct descendants of the Marvins. In the 1950s, the Taylor family donated the Shady Beach area. The park was purchased by the city in the 1970s.

Canfield Avenue may well have been named after Ebenezer Canfield who had a house on Canfield Hill by 1698. There is a Canfield Island, a Canfield Island Creek, a Canfield Swamp, a Canfield's Spring, a Canfield's Hill, and on the other side of Norwalk, land that was known as Canfield's Great Field.

On July 10, 1779, during the Revolutionary War, 26 ships loaded with 2,600 British and Hessian troops, under the command of British General William Tryon, anchored off the Norwalk Islands. Troops were landed on July 11, 1779 at Calf Pasture and deployed along both sides of the Norwalk River. They burned most of Norwalk to the ground, with only a few houses surviving.

The Captain William Clark fishing pier at Calf Pasture was first constructed in the 1960s, extending 600 feet out into the water with a total of 1,400 feet of rail and a "T"-shaped end for maximum width furthest from shore. Hurricane Irene damaged the pier and knocked out the seawall in 2011. One year later, Hurricane Sandy destroyed both the pier and the seawall. The seawall and fishing pier were rebuilt, and the pier reopened in 2014. The new pier is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and is accessible to handicapped fishers.

The pier is recognized as one of Norwalk's best locations to catch flounder, porgies, and bluefish. The view of the approximately 23 islands and the harbor from the pier can hardly be surpassed. Today these islands serve as recreational sites and sanctuaries for wildlife. The Stewart B. McKinney

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National Wildlife Refuge includes Chimon Island, Goose Island, and most of 51-acre Sheffield Island, where the historic Sheffield Island Lighthouse (built in 1868) is located.

Gregory Boulevard, one of the oldest streets in Norwalk, runs from East Avenue starting at the East Norwalk Historical Cemetery and ending at Gregory Point (the Shore and Country Club location). Gregory Point is the point of land lying between the Norwalk Harbor and Charles Creek. John Gregory, the original owner, was also one of the Norwalk Planters. The Gregory name has been evident throughout the history of Norwalk.

*Compiled by Richard A. (Dick) Booth  
Edited by Kaitlin Latham, 2016*

**Healthy4LifeCT**

For more information about NorWALKer Routes, call (203) 854-7776 or visit

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