



Become a NorWALKer!

EXPLORE THE RESIDENTIAL WOLFPIT AREA

Challenge yourself to walk the hills of this quiet and quaint neighborhood.

Loop 1

Leaving Wolfpit School on Wolfpit Ave., turn right onto Starlight Dr. Right onto Redwood Rd. Right onto Surrey Dr. Left on Leatherwood Rd. Turn right on Assisi Way. Turn right on Murray St. and follow up the hill to Wolfpit Ave. Turn right on Wolfpit Ave. and return to Wolfpit School.

Loop 2

Start at Wolfpit School. Turn left on Wolfpit Ave., toward Murray St. Continue through the intersection of Wolfpit and Murray. Take a left onto Marlborough Rd. Left on Canterbury Rd. and follow until the end. Turn left on Deerwood Ct. and right on Dorset Rd., taking you back to Canterbury. Turn right on Canterbury Rd., and another right on Marlborough Rd. Turn right on Wolfpit Ave. and continue back to Wolfpit School.

Loop 3

Leaving Wolfpit School on Wolfpit Ave., turn right on Starlight Dr. Right onto Redwood Rd. Turn right up Surrey Dr., left on Leatherwood Rd., and left on Assisi Way. Turn right on Saddle Rd. and left on Mark Dr. Turn left up Surrey Dr. and right on Redwood Rd. Turn left up Starlight Dr., then turn left on Wolfpit Ave. and return to Wolfpit School.



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!

WOLFPIT NEIGHBORHOOD

WOLFPIT AVENUE

Long before there was a Wolfpit neighborhood, there was a Native American trail that traversed the area. It had probably been in existence for hundreds of years. The area was heavily wooded and included numerous streams, lakes, and ponds.

When the Norwalk founders arrived, or some time thereafter, this trail was named "The Stamford Path" and later it must have been given the name Wolfpit Avenue.

We can then surmise that the area may have received its name because there were wolf packs in the immediate area. Since Wolfpit Avenue today seems to run on a ridge with a drop off to one side, it is likely that there could have been a pit or a cave in the area. A noted local historian was of the opinion that in colonial days, hunters dug pits in the area to trap wolves.

Wolves were considered to be a danger to man and to livestock. The Town of Norwalk paid a bounty for wolves killed, so hunters took every opportunity to kill them. Today there are no wolves in this area. However, other wild animals such as turkeys, coyotes, deer, fox, and bear are returning.

In early days, it is believed that there was a tannery in the Wolfpit area, which was primarily used to dispose of horses. Years later, when cellars were being dug, the workmen would place bones, teeth, skulls, and pieces of old harness leather on an

WOLFPIT NEIGHBORHOOD

adjoining stone wall so that young people could pick them up to keep as souvenirs.

One of the better known and widely used buildings in the Wolfpit neighborhood, which is located on the corner of Wolfpit Avenue and Starlight Drive, is Wolfpit Elementary School. The Norwalk Hour's front-page headlines from November 5, 1964 stated, "Wolfpit school classes to begin Monday, orientation session scheduled for Friday." Star Inc., a nonprofit organization, serving physically and mentally challenged persons, is located at 182 Wolfpit Avenue. Today, the Wolfpit neighborhood is mostly single-family homes and is a beautiful place to live.

ALLEN ROAD*

A short distance down Allen Road from Newtown Avenue (Route 53) is a large building with parking lots on two sides and an entrance off its own drive. This building was originally built as Roosevelt Elementary School. Today, the building and the land surrounding it is owned by the City of Norwalk and is managed by the Norwalk Recreation and Parks Department. It has several tenants but is best recognized as the home of the Norwalk Senior Center. Instead of educating children, the building is used to educate or provide social entertainment and enrichment for seniors in many different subject areas.

On the far end of the outside of the building, there is a bocce court. An open field adjoins the building for team sports. There is a

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children's playground. In addition, there are tennis courts and a basketball hoop.

At the back of the property, sort of hidden away, are walking trails, which can take you to Fourteen Acre Pond. There is a campfire ring at the edge of the pond. The pond is almost covered with vegetation and pond flowers. Sit for a while, and small wildlife begin to appear: rabbits, squirrels, and a variety of birds.

*Allen Road is not part of Wolfpit's NorWALKer Routes, but is a beautiful area to explore. Be mindful of Allen Road's sharp curves and lack of sidewalks in some areas.

Compiled by Richard A. (Dick) Booth, 2006

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Healthy4LifeCT

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

www.healthyforlifeproject.org



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