



**The 55th Annual Meeting and
Shoreline/Wetlands/Woodlands Cleanup of the
Udalls Cove Preservation Committee**
will be held starting at 10 AM on
Saturday, April 13, 2024

Meet on the Back Road (Sandhill Road), west of the Little Neck LIRR station. We will provide trash bags, work gloves and maps advising where you can spend a productive hour or two collecting trash.

Then stay for the free picnic lunch at Memorial Field!

[illegible]

\$40,000 Con Edison Grant Helps UCPC Embark on a Woodlands Ecological Restoration Project!

The Udalls Cove Preservation Committee (UCPC) has received a \$40,000 grant from Con Edison to help us design our most ambitious restoration project yet. The goal of our ***Old Oak Pond Ecological Restoration Project*** will be to remove invasive Norway Maples and other alien species from about 1.6 acres of woodlands and replant the area with appropriate native tree and shrub species.

The site is in the Old Oak Pond portion of Alley Pond Park, located immediately west of the Joe Hellmann Overlook on Douglaston Parkway, two blocks north of Northern Boulevard. ***See page 2 for an aerial photo of the area showing the location of the restoration project site.*** UCPC has long served as the stewardship organization for the portions of Alley Pond Park located north of Northern Blvd. and east of Alley Creek.

The grant from Con Edison will help UCPC pay for a detailed design of the proposed restoration project. UCPC has chosen GEI, a well-respected environmental consulting firm, to carry out the design. UCPC will add our own funds to make up the total design cost of \$60,000. The work of actually implementing the restoration project will cost considerably more. Once the design is complete, UCPC will be seeking significant additional grant funding for the implementation phase.

**Udalls Cove
Preservation
Committee, Inc.**
Founded 1969
251-31 42nd Avenue
Little Neck, NY 11363

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A 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt
Organization

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The proposed restoration site is outlined above in orange. The site slopes steeply down from the Joe Hellmann Overlook on Douglaston Pkwy. to Old Oak Pond. The pond itself extends from near the center of this aerial photo to the upper left corner. Northern Blvd. is at the lower right corner of the photo, and the Douglaston Golf Driving Range is visible in the lower left corner. UCPC maintains a trail system throughout the area, extending from the Joe Hellmann Overlook to the east end of the driving range parking lot (*see page 7*).

The area is owned by the New York City Parks Department, and UCPC is coordinating closely with NYC Parks on the restoration project design. The restoration site is dominated by invasive Norway maple trees. According to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service and Sea Grant organization:

“Norway maples have very shallow roots and produce a great deal of shade which makes it difficult for grass and other plants to grow in the understory below. ... [T]hey are prolific seed producers and are now invading forests and forest edges. ... [F]orest diversity is starting to decline because the excess shade they create inhibits the regeneration of ... native seedlings. The shallow root system makes growing difficult for other native shrubs and wildflowers in the understory. ... Other species of flora and fauna, such as insects and birds, may indirectly be affected due to the change in resource diversity and availability. Norway maple is also susceptible to certain types of fungi, such as Verticillium wilt and anthracnose and may also serve as a host for aphids.”

https://nyis.info/invasive_species/norway-maple/

The design will describe in detail how the work should be implemented and will recommend maintenance procedures to help ensure the restoration is sustainable. It will also include the estimated cost of actual project implementation. We expect to have a close-to-final design by the end of 2024. Working with our partners, UCPC will then apply for necessary permits and will apply for grants to pay for construction (implementation) and maintenance. (*Continued Page 4*)

**FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK!**

facebook.com/UdallsCove





▪ Please attend our brief Annual Meeting and
OUR 55th ANNUAL CLEANUP
starting at 10 AM on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

🍷 And please send your membership contribution today! 🍷

Membership Reply Form:

Enclosed is my annual membership contribution of \$ _____.

Regular Membership: \$10; Family Membership: \$15; Sustaining Membership: \$25;

Sponsor: \$50; Champion: \$100; Junior (under 12): \$2.

(All contributions are fully tax deductible.)

You can send your payment by Zelle, if you have a Zelle account at your financial institution. Add udallscove@aol.com as a recipient, then request the payment. Please also send a separate email with your name and address to udallscove@aol.com to assure that you are properly credited for your payment.

Name (please print)

Address

Use enclosed envelope; or mail to: 251-31 42nd Avenue, Little Neck, NY 11363

Not on our email list? If you'd like to receive occasional updates on important issues concerning Udalls Cove and our local environment, please give us your e-mail address (we won't share it with other groups):

Old Oak Pond Restoration Project, Con't.

(Continued from Page 2) The restoration site has added ecological importance because Old Oak Pond is a freshwater pond with a direct year-round surface water connection to Little Neck Bay, itself part of Long Island Sound. In 1988 Long Island Sound was identified as an Estuary of National Significance. The Long Island Sound Study is the public/private partnership that manages this National Estuary; its objectives include promoting thriving habitats and abundant wildlife; achieving clean water and healthy watersheds; and addressing invasive species. (<https://longislandsoundstudy.net/>)

The Old Oak Pond Ecological Restoration Project is intended to complement some 12 other significant ecological improvement and restoration projects that have been carried out in Little Neck Bay (including Udalls Cove) and its watershed over the past 25 years or are currently in the planning stages. Among these is the **Big Rock Project** envisioned and sponsored by our friends at the Douglas Manor Environmental Association (DMEA). This extraordinary \$4.2 million project, slated to begin construction later in 2024, will create a living shoreline, prevent erosion and enhance coastal resilience along the northwest shoreline of Udalls Cove, from Douglas Manor's Memorial Field north to Big Rock, the large glacial erratic at Douglaston Point.



← For more information about UCPC's Old Oak Pond Ecological Restoration Project, and to follow our progress, point your camera at this QR code!

The Past Year in Review



We had a great turnout for our 54th Annual Cleanup on **May 6** of last year! Working under a beautiful blue sky, our volunteers removed lots of trash from the shoreline, wetlands and wooded uplands of the Udalls Cove watershed. We completely filled the 30-cubic yard dumpster provided by the NYC Parks Department. And our volunteers enjoyed the free picnic lunch at Douglas Manor's Memorial Field, a long-standing tradition that returned for the first time since before the pandemic.

On **May 28** Rain Gan of Boy Scout Troop 10 completed his Eagle Scout project. With his crew of over 30 participants, he installed 32 feet of wooden walkway over a perpetually muddy stretch of trail in the Virginia Point section of Udalls Cove Park. His walkway connects directly to another 32-foot walkway installed six months earlier by Eagle Scout Brady Bossé. Rain built the frames for his walkway a few weeks earlier, and cut and pre-drilled all the decking boards. His crew helped carry in and assemble the pieces. His team also spread fresh woodchips over an amazing 900+ linear feet of trail. Rain's was the 25th Eagle Scout project hosted by UCPC over the past 18 years. Our 26th is taking place in Spring of 2024 when James Griffith of Troop 71 will be working on a trail in the Old Oak Pond section of Alley Pond Park.



The Past Year in Review, Continued

Throughout the year we continued to maintain over a mile of trails throughout the various sections of Udalls Cove and Alley Pond Parks for which UCPC is the stewardship organization. During the spring and summer, using a battery-operated 20-inch hedge trimmer, we trim back excess vegetation that encroaches into the trails. When storms bring down trees or large limbs that block the trails, we use a powerful battery-operated chainsaw to remove them (*top right*). We cleared large branches that were blocking Gabler's Creek in the North Ravine section of Udalls Cove Park (*left*). And we regularly replace broken rails and posts to repair the split rail fences we've installed in several places along the boundaries between the park and adjacent roadways (*bottom right*).



Providing Environmental Education to Special Needs Students

In 2022 State Senator Jon Liu (who formerly represented our area) secured for UCPC a \$10,000 grant through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. We entered into an agreement with the **Alley Pond Environmental Center** (APEC) to provide its unique environmental education and conservation programs to Special Needs students and students with disabilities. Because UCPC is a volunteer organization with no paid employees, we were able to provide APEC with the full \$10,000 that we received from the State. Using the funding, APEC was able to present programs to 113 classes that reached 1,034 students. The programs introduced them to the wonders of nature and the natural world around us, utilizing APEC's beloved "live ambassador" animals. The teachers of every class were asked to complete an evaluation form asking them to Agree or Disagree with five statements about the program: (1) *Program was presented in a clear and concise manner*; (2) *Program included content that was relevant to my class curriculum*; (3) *Were your students introduced to new vocabulary?* (4) *Instructor was friendly and professional*; and (5) *Program met my expectations*. On 100% of the evaluation forms, "Agree" was selected for all five statements. The evaluation form also solicited additional written comments about the program or the instructor; all the forms included comments, and the comments were uniformly positive.



UCPC was delighted to partner with APEC on this great work. We also congratulate APEC on moving into its brand new home on Northern Blvd. between Douglaston and Bayside. The building has many environmental sustainability features including geothermal heating and cooling, and

collecting rainwater to use for flushing toilets and irrigating plantings. All the classrooms have large windows looking out on the woods and wetlands to the south of the building, and doors leading directly out to the trails. Numerous federal, state and city government officials participated in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 4, 2023, which was attended by some 130 people.



The Swallows of Little Neck Bay



In last year's newsletter we told you about Eagle Scout Lefteri Kapnisakis who built and installed 10 swallow nesting boxes in the Fall of 2022. He installed six of these in the Doug Bay section of Alley Pond Park west of 233rd Street, and four on the shoreline across from the Osprey Landing section of Udalls Cove Park. In January we checked the boxes and found that during 2023, nests had been built in 6 of the 10



boxes, with signs that young had been raised in most of these.

(Alas, one nest was evidently unsuccessful, as it had two broken eggs and one unbroken egg inside.) We cleaned out the boxes, which is considered good practice. We trust the swallows will return to Little Neck Bay as faithfully as they do in Capistrano, and we hope that more couples decide to take advantage of these deluxe accommodations!

Severe Storms Cause Extensive Erosion

Severe storms in late 2023 and early 2024 caused extensive erosion of the Udalls Cove shoreline. The storm waves did a great deal of damage, and additional damage was done by the ice that formed during the brief mid-January cold snap. Heavy winds and high tides (made even higher by sea level rise) pushed the ice against the shore, scouring away large chunks of land. NOAA reports: "2023 was a historic year in the number of costly disasters and extremes throughout much of the country. There were 28 weather and climate disasters in 2023, surpassing the previous record of 22 in 2020, tallying a price tag of at least \$92.9 billion. This ... may rise by several billion when we've fully accounted for the costs of the December 16-18 East Coast storm and flooding event that impacted states from Florida to Maine."



<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/2023-historic-year-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters>

Save Money and Help Save the World!

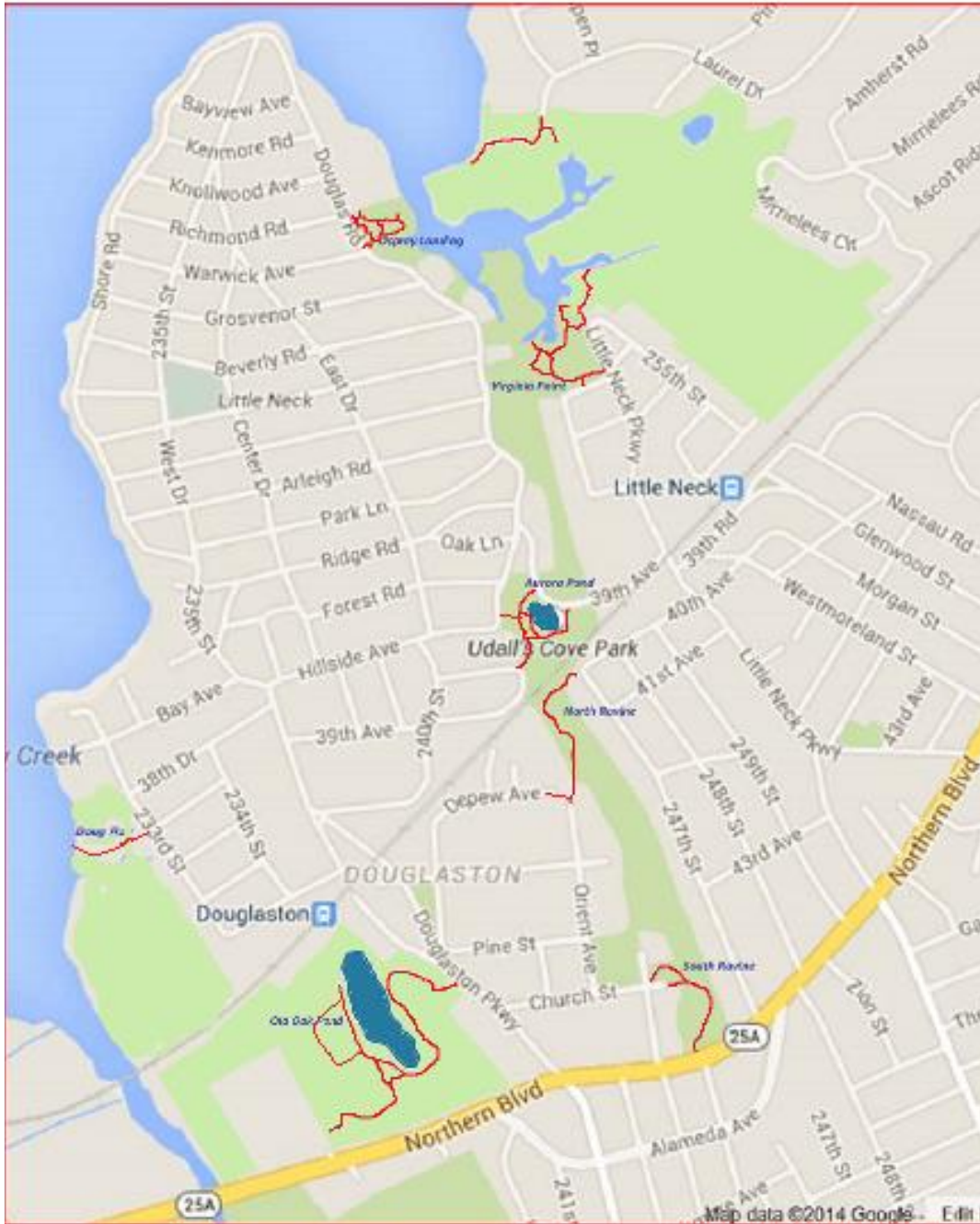


The large and increasing number of severe storms and other weather-related disasters over the past few years is not just a coincidence. It's now beyond question that greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) are causing global climate change. The eight hottest years on record have occurred in the past ten years; 2023 was the hottest. Extreme storms, droughts, floods, wildfires, and even cold spells and blizzards are associated with global warming. You can save money while doing your part to help save the world by installing rooftop solar on your home. With government financial incentives at an all-time high, this is an ideal moment for homeowners to consider the benefits of residential

solar. Typical residential installations require no money down, functioning like a fixed-rate mortgage, with monthly payments that are more than offset by significant savings on your electric bills. In addition to generous federal and state rebates, New York City residents who install solar will also see a substantial property tax reduction. **For more information, visit: <https://www.udallscove.org/solar-for-homes> or point your camera at the QR code here →**



EXPLORE YOUR PARK!



During the past 25 years we've built or rehabilitated over a mile of trails (*shown on the adjacent map*) across the various sections of Udalls Cove Park, and the nearby Doug-Bay and Old Oak Pond sections of Alley Pond Park. (Old Oak Pond, one the hidden treasures in our community, lies between Douglaston Parkway and the Golf Driving Range.)

There are foot-bridges to cross streams, and wooden walkways over several perpetually muddy trail areas.

You can find this trail map on our website, along with narrative descriptions of the various sections of the park and information about how to see and enjoy them, at: <https://www.udallscove.org/map-and-trails>, or point your camera here and click →



AND ... you can also enjoy a walk through recently restored portions of Alley Pond Park. Enter from the dead-end of 234th Street on the south side of Northern Boulevard, just west of the Chevrolet dealership.

The Udalls Cove Preservation Committee ...



... working since 1969 to **C**onserve, **P**reserve and **R**estore the wetlands and woodlands in the Udalls Cove watershed.

*Join our 55th Annual Cleanup
on Saturday, April 13, 2024 – Details Inside!*

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