



Park trails refurbished to memorialize 9/11

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By GLENN NYBACK
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More than a dozen outdoor enthusiasts spent the day in Wolfe's Pond Park yesterday with clippers and trimmers to help carve out miles of overgrown trails.

The group chopped away in the Prince's Bay park at vines that block the running paths and create erosion by hindering the natural water flow. Volunteers also put down wood chips to soak up standing water and planted 33 trees.

The pine, gray ash and tulip trees, donated by the Parks Department and the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, were planted in memory of firefighters, police officers and other emergency personnel who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, said coordinator Matt LeBow, race director for the New York Adventure Racing Association (NYARA).

"We're improving the woods and preserving their memory," the Eltingville resident said, "and are hopefully getting people interested to preserve more woods."

Eventually, LeBow hopes to plant one tree for each of the rescue workers who perished during the World Trade Center attacks and place a plaque with a victim's name by each tree, he said.

Earlier this year, LeBow submitted a proposal to Parks to create a multi-use trail system in Wolfe's Pond and Long Pond parks. If approved, each trail, which would serve hikers, mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, runners and equestrians, would be named after a Sept. 11 rescue worker.

Robert Genco, of Annadale, read about the clean-up on NYARA's Web-site and decided to help out since he'll be participating in the Ladder 5 Cross Country Challenge in the park July 19.

"I'm going to be in the race so I figured I could help out now," he said, amazed at how overgrown many of the trails were. "Why let someone else do all the hard work?"

Prince's Bay resident Cynthia Moran said she wanted to help put the trails back in shape and donated her morning to the cause.

"I'm doing something good for the parks," she said and grabbed a hedge shear. "And I like being outdoors."

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