The Post-Morrow Foundation has developed a trail map highlighting Brookhaven hamlet properties and the walking trails that have been established there. Residents and friends are welcome to walk these trails and enjoy the natural beauty of our community. This section briefly describes each trail, but full-size, full-color Brookhaven Trail Guides, which provided the material for this section, are available free of charge at the Foundation's office at 16 Bay Road.
The Post-Morrow Foundation

Conceived by Thomas and Elisabeth Post Morrow and established in 1969, the Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the rural countryside and historic character of the hamlet of Brookhaven and surrounding area.

The Post and the Morrow families have had a long tradition of philanthropy in the community. James H. Post originally purchased land along Carmans River. Now know as Squassux Landing (said to be named for a Native American pot maker who worked on that site), the property was later donated by Post’s daughters to the Brookhaven Village Association for use as a marina. The land where the Brookhaven Free Library is currently located was another gift to the community.

Through the mid-1900s, Elisabeth Post Morrow continued her family’s tradition by donating various gifts to community groups. By establishing the Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc., the Morrows provided a means for this legacy to continue. Since its inception, the Foundation has especially devoted itself to protecting the Beaver Dam Creek, the tidal stream running through the heart of our designated Fireplace Historic District.

The Hamlet and Trail Maps

Most of the properties owned by the Foundation lie within the hamlet of Brookhaven and are shown on the map on p. 90. The public is welcome to enjoy properties that are hiking accessible. Along the way you will see green signs with numbers, each a stop on the audio tour for your cell phone. This book uses similar graphics to identify stops so you can listen to the tour if reading at home. Instructions are available at the Post-Morrow office.

The public is also invited to use the Bay Way water trail by launching from the Post-Morrow Foundation Homestead, traveling downstream on Beaver Dam Creek, eastward along the south shore of the hamlet, then up the Carmans River to Squassux Landing, the Carmans River Maritime Center at Tookers Boatyard, or Indian Landing at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge.

Other protected lands include New York State Department of Environmental Conservation property along the edge of Bellport Bay, Suffolk County’s Dennis Puleston Nature Preserve to the east of South Country Road adjacent to Deer Run Farm, the Town of Brookhaven Nature Preserve at the end of Bay Road and, of course, the expanse of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge to the east of Old Stump Road, straddling both sides of the Carmans River.
Post-Morrow Home & Headquarters

By establishing the Foundation Headquarters on their homestead, the Post-Morrow family provided for their land along Beaver Dam Creek to be saved in perpetuity.

The property also features the Malcolm S. Fleming Annex, a community meeting house with an adjacent parking lot opened for larger events, an herb garden maintained by the Long Island Herb Society, and the beautiful Eastern Red Cedar that inspired the Post-Morrow logo – all situated on a tranquil lawn sloping gently to Beaver Dam Creek, where kayaks and canoes can be launched and visitors can rest on benches by the creek.

Across Bay Road, the Foundation owns a small parcel of mostly open old-growth woods that connects the homestead property with the Edgar Avenue Preserve a block away (see p. 95). It features a wonderful wood-chip trail – designed and created by the Bellport High School Students for Environmental Quality – suited for hiking or riding a bike. In combination with the Foundation’s upland home property it offers an extended hiking trail loop through old-growth upland woods.

Post-Morrow has begun an ambitious project to reconnect the trail that currently wanders downstream, providing panoramic views of the Creek over the marsh, back across the wetlands connecting to the upland woods trail loop (see p. 94).
Beaver Dam Creek Wetlands

These two parcels separated by Beaver Dam Creek display perhaps the most varied terrain and habitats of any Post-Morrow property.

At the edge of open lawn, the east side features the site of an historic home (named The Pond House for the small pond on which it is situated) that served as a studio for well-known Brookhaven artists Malcolm Fraser and George Tooker. In the future, on the site of the house, Post-Morrow plans to construct an observation deck, extending into the expanse of mixed vegetation wetlands that slope down to the creek.

The west side features an old trail loop currently being reestablished that crosses two canals draining marsh and companion pond into the creek. Beyond the water features, the trail climbs gradually, passing through a section of open old-growth woods, down across a seasonal marsh, up a rare Brookhaven hillside, then back downhill to a planned trail that will return to Beaver Dam Road through thick marsh vegetation.

Fire Place Marina

Owned by Post-Morrow and operated by the Carmans River Maritime Center, Fire Place Marina provides boating access to Beaver Dam Creek.

Stretching to the south of the marina lies a wetlands area recently rehabilitated in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This property features a containment berm running parallel to the creek whose rise supports shrubbery along with open patches of trees. The berm also features an old pathway that Post-Morrow hopes to restore, which offers beautiful panoramic views across tall grasses and small ponds, inlets and islands to Beaver Dam Creek.
Ken Budny Boardwalk

The first two phases of the Ken Budny Memorial Boardwalk over the marshland and along Beaver Dam Creek have been completed. The walk extends the woodland trail from Post-Morrow headquarters out to the edge of Beaver Dam Creek where residents can enjoy the calm presence of the creek and the wetlands. One visitor called it the High Line for Brookhaven hamlet.

The walk is dedicated to Kenny Budny, who passed away in Mar. 2015. A valued member of the community, he had worked for the Foundation for 15 years as facilities manager.

Post-Morrow expects to complete the boardwalk over the next few years.

1-4 on Trail Map, on p. 90

Washington Lodge

Once owned by George Constant Washington – the inventor of mass-produced instant coffee – this property was purchased by the Post-Morrow Foundation in 2011 from the Marist Brothers of the Schools, in partnership with Suffolk County and the Town of Brookhaven. In 2016, the Foundation gifted its portion of the property to Brookhaven Town.

The Washington Lodge property features a grand old sprawling, historic lodge, which overlooks a large lawn and high grass field, bordered behind by a hillside of rhododendron. An old road bed trail loop leads uphill through open woods, passing several ruins and a stand of majestic white pine, while heading back to the field.

Across South Country Road is the Dennis Puleston Nature Preserve owned by Suffolk County, and just north of the preserve is Deer Run Farm, operated by Bob Nolan and owned by Post-Morrow.
Edgar Avenue Preserve

Just restored in the past few years from a tangle of undergrowth and choking vines, Edgar Avenue Preserve is now a picturesque, open walking park where Bellport High School Students for Environmental Quality helped design and establish multiple trail loops through a mix of meadow and open woods, with a long berm bordering its eastern side.

In future years, the Foundation plans to introduce and maintain native trees and shrubs so the Preserve will be a lasting showcase for the community.

Long Meadow Farm

Formerly Burnett family land, part of this property is now farmed by the Hamlet Organic Garden Co-op. Long Meadow Farm also features two large meadows whose habitat of seasonal grasses attracts meadow birds and field animals. Connecting trails cut through mixed growth with the entire property encircled by a trail loop through woods that rim the property. This project is supported by the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) of the USDA.

We thank Jen Clement for graciously providing a right of way from the eastern end of Long Meadow Farm through her land to Beaver Dam Road.
Burnett Lane Preserve

Purchased by the Post-Morrow Foundation in partnership with the Town of Brookhaven and the Thorofare Foundation, this 25-acre property straddles Burnett Lane with one large upland meadow on either side. A horse paddock is located just south of the meadow on the east side of the lane. The original Burnett family home is the beautiful yellow house (see p. 20) just to the north across Beaver Dam Road.

The Burnett Lane Preserve features a meandering trail system (newly established in 2011) mown through mixed and new-growth wooded areas (reclaiming what was once farmland), winding through large strands of pine, then gradually sloping down in the southern section into old-growth hardwood forest, increasingly wet with seasonal marsh and ponds as it nears Fireplace Neck Tidal Wetlands.

6 on Trail Map, on p. 90
Tookers Boat Yard

The most heralded Brookhaven shipbuilder was Captain Samuel Newey. Starting in 1900 he turned out boats of all description from his shipyard – sloops, yachts, yawls, boats for ferrymen and boats for the oil trade, commercial dragers equipped with heavy booms and hoisting gear, and little sailboats for the younger generation who wanted to race.

After selling to Vacuum Oil Company a 55-foot freighter that he had built for himself, he delivered 14 more tankers to them that sailed to India and Africa.

Since 1997, the boatyard has been home to the Carmans River Maritime Center, which is keeping this tradition alive, as well as SN1, which operates the marina. Tookers Boat Yard lies adjacent to Squassux Landing, owned by the Brookhaven Village Association.
Residents whose homes are shown on map, from left:

"C. Swezey" - Charles (1818-1894)
"J.L. Ireland" - John L.
"T. Rogers" - Thomas (1789-1876), a farmer who removes to Sayville
"D. Hawkins" - Daniel H.
"S. Hawkins" - Samuel, his brother
"S. Hawkins" - Selah, their uncle
"G. Burnet" - George Hubert
"W. Swezey" - William Egbert
"B. Rose" - William Brewster
"S. Rose" - John Smith
"Wid. Rider" - probably Hannah Ryder (b. about 1793), widow of Barnabas Ryder (1790-1851), whose gravestone lies, inaccessibly, off Meadow Lane.
"J. Carman" - Joseph Carman, son of Samuel
In 1858, the hamlet was still called Fire Place or Fire Place Neck. In 1871, the name officially became Brook Haven hamlet, and, in 1924, it officially became Brookhaven. This map is from a section of the large wall map, “Atlas of Suffolk Co.,” published by J. Chace Co., New York, 1858. An original copy of this map is available at the Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead.

The map was constructed by Chace under the supervision of the Smith-French survey of New York State, the most ambitious and advanced mapping project for any American state to that date. Originals of this map are quite rare. In addition to the original copy available at the Suffolk County Historical Society, another is available at the State University of New York at Stony Brook library. Copies of this map occasionally become available for sale at prices that have ranged from $7,500 to $9,500.
In 2010, John Deitz created this map from a tracing of a section of the large wall map "Atlas of Suffolk Co.," published by J. Chace Co., New York, 1858. While replacing the original handwritten notations with modern type, he also added a few clarifying notations in parentheses and italics, which are not found on the original map. An original copy of this map is available at the Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead.
This is a section of an atlas by the J. B. Beers & Company, a major supplier of maps and atlases in the 19th Century. This atlas is available through libraries of the Suffolk County Cooperative Library System.
Residents whose homes are shown on map, from left:

"C. Swezey" - Charles
"D.H. Hawkins" - Daniel H., first cousin to Lewis and Harmon
"O.G. Moore" - Orin G. (b. about 1846)
"S. Hawkins" - Samuel, brother of Daniel
"L. Hawkins" - Lewis
"H. Hawkins" - Harmon, brother to Lewis (both sons of Selah, deceased)
"E. Albin" - Elbert (b. about 1822)
"M. Wells" - Morris (b. about 1822)
"G. Burnett" - George
"Capt. P. Corwin" - ? (this was the Richard Corwin farm)
"W. Swezey" - John Warren?
"B. Swezey" - William Egbert (Bill?)
"R. Albin" - Robert
"G. Booth" - Gordon (b. about 1814)
"B. Rose" - William Brewster
"S. Rose" - John Smith
"S. Barteau" - Stephen Curtis (1838-1925)
"C. Smith" - Charles (b. about 1842)
"E. Albin" - Ebenezer (1824-1898)
"C. Newey" - Charles
"J. Carman" - Joseph.
1888 Map ~ Beaver Dam Road

Segment of Wendelken map shown in full on page 104..
The complete 1888 Wendelken map of Brookhaven hamlet. Full copies of this atlas are available through libraries of the Suffolk County Cooperative Libraries System.

Segment of above map of Brookhaven hamlet showing the Andrews farmlands (see p. 78) and the house at 388 South Country Road (p. 52).