

Virtual Stewardship Hike: Garnsey Park



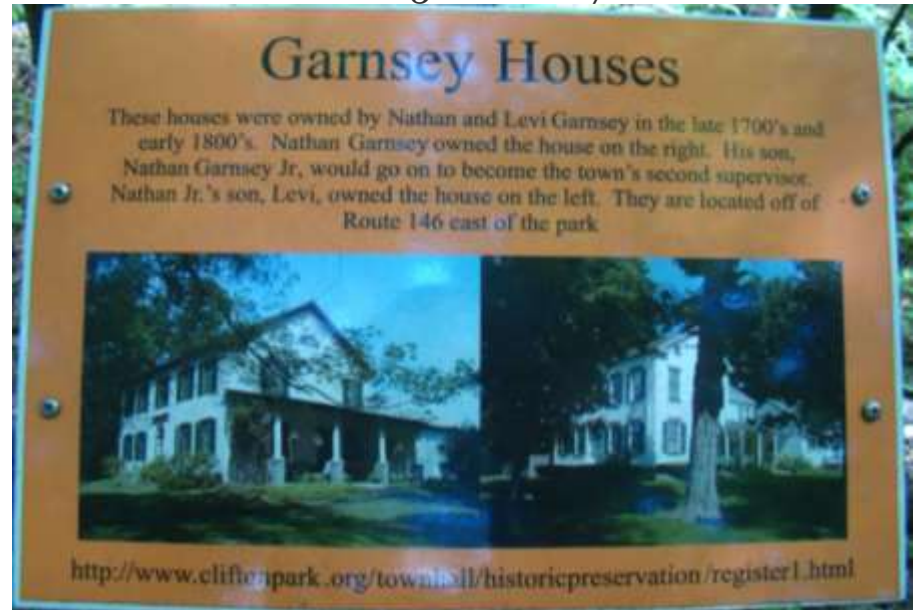
Garnsey Park

150 acres with 97 more to be added!

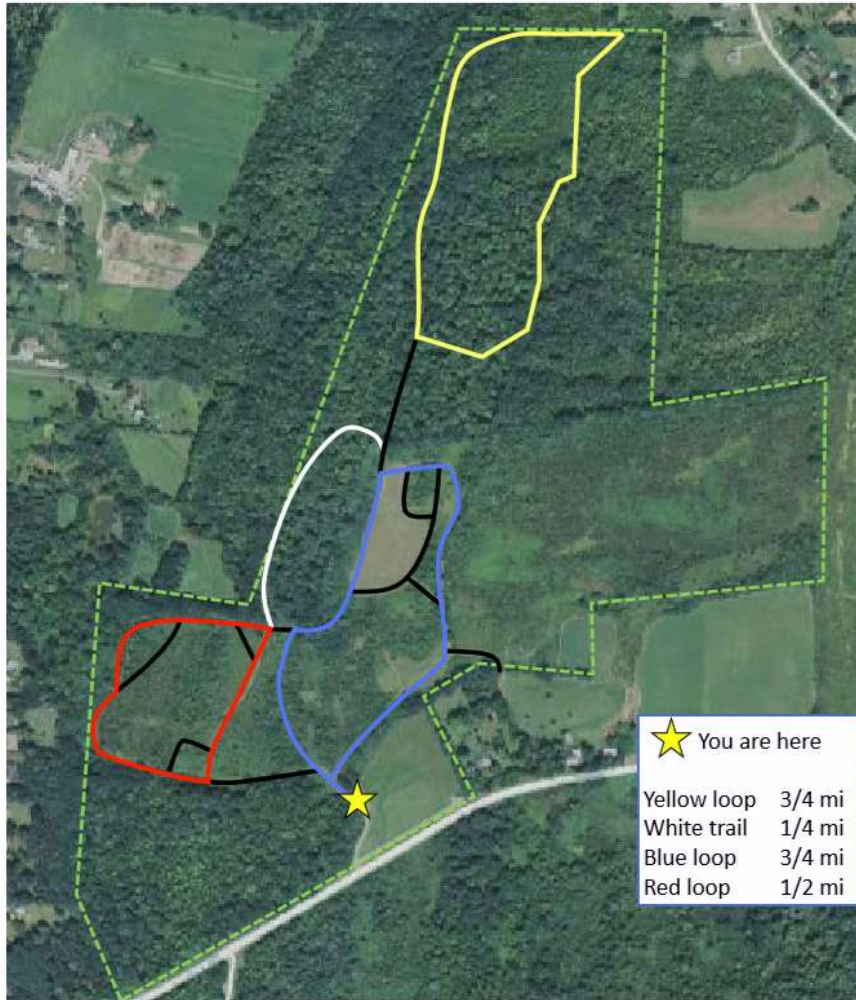


Nathan Garnsey served as town supervisor in 1829. The Garnsey family, whose residence in Clifton Park dates back to 1783, began when Nathan's father, David, purchased the land for farming. The family owned and farmed the land for 100 years.

The Town of Clifton Park obtained the land in two sections in 2005 and 2007.



Garnsey Park



- ~2.25 miles of marked trails
 - natural surface (grass and dirt)
 - gentle-moderate, rolling terrain
 - meadows, forest, former farm fields in ecological succession
- 2 very small ponds and wetlands
- 2nd highest viewpoint in Town
- Rexford Veterans Memorial (rededicated in 2012) plus a memorial garden
- Bluebirds and more!

News & Updates about Garnsey Park



- Recently –

- Saratoga P.L.A.N. conveyed 97 acres to Town

- ✦ forest, freshwater forested/shrub wetlands and stream

- Shen Nordic Club

- ✦ grooming of cross-country ski trails

- Empire Orienteering Club of the Capital Region (EMPO)

- ✦ no contact orienteering event

- Great Walks & Day Hikes in Adirondack Sports

- ✦ <https://www.adksports.com/2020-06-great-walks-day-hikes>



News & Updates about Garnsey Park



- What's ahead –
- Maintain main entrance and perimeter trails
- Routine mowing to keep trails open and wide
- Once-a-year mowing of meadow
- Connect park's forest to the 97 acres acquired from Saratoga PLAN
 - Improve public access from north



Stewardship Issue: invasive species

((Left) Amur Maple and (Right) Asiatic Bittersweet)



Stewardship Issue: invasive species

((Left) Autumn-olive and (Right) Morrow's Honeysuckle)



Where will we go today?



Where will we go today?



Sampler of blooms we've recently missed



- **Fringed Loosestrife**
- **Indian Pipe**
- **American Basswood**

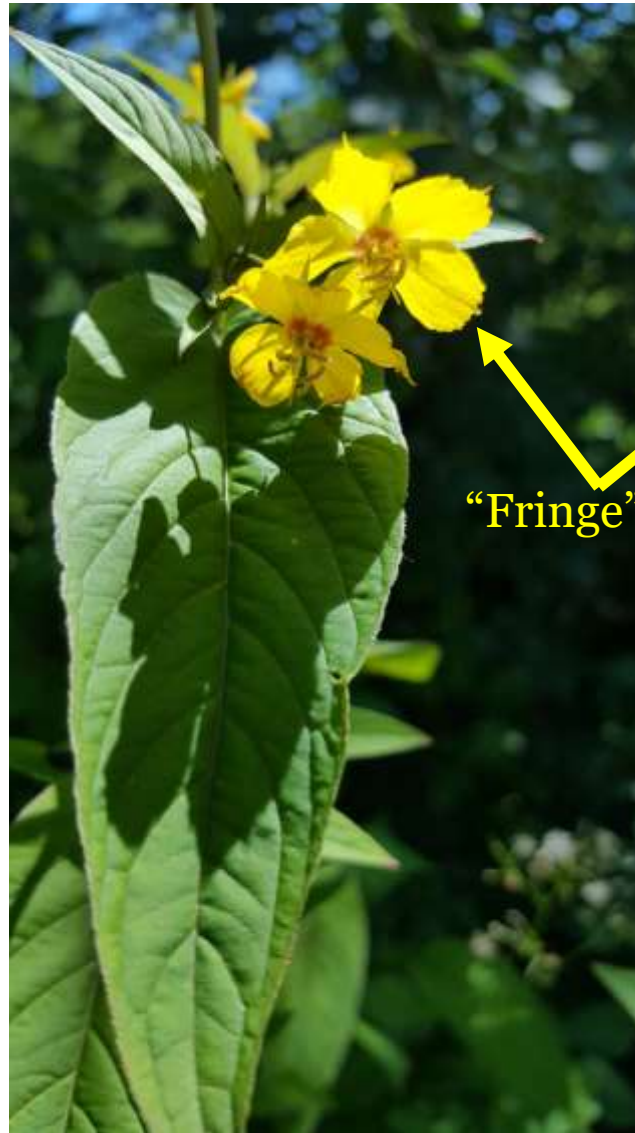
- **Ditch Stonecrop**
- **Arrow-leaved Tearthumb**





Fringed Loosestrife

Flowers attract Melittid bees, which collect the floral oil and pollen for their larvae. Sweat bees are also attracted to these flowers, but they collect only pollen.





Indian Pipe

Emily Dickinson's neighbor, Mabel Loomis Todd, painted a watercolor of Indian Pipe as a gift to Dickinson – the same image appears on the cover of the first posthumous edition of Dickinson's poems.





American Basswood

Flowers were added to baths to quell hysteria or steeped as a tea to relieve anxiety-related indigestion.





Ditch Stonecrop

Fruit is star-shaped capsule consisting of 5 carpels united at the base, which turns red in autumn.





Arrow-leaved Tearthumb

Some wetland birds eat the seeds, including Mallards and other dabbling ducks and songbirds such as Bobolink, Swamp Sparrow, and Redwing Blackbird.

Because it often forms dense tangles, Tearthumb's barbed stems provide protective cover for various small wildlife.



**Square stem with barbs
along each ridge**

Now performing along the Meadow Loop...



- Common Yellowthroat

Photo: Randy Streufert/Audubon Photography Awards



Now performing along the Meadow Loop...



Photo: Tim Sackton /The Macaulay Library

- [Eastern Towhee](#)



Now performing along the Meadow Loop...



- Yellow Warbler

Photo: Photo: Alejandra Lewandowski/Audubon Photography Awards



Now showing...

View of freshly mowed, Blue Trail, looking north



Now showing...

View along Red Trail of mixed scrub-shrub/meadow habitat, including...



...Common Blackberry whose fruit are popular with berry pickers!
(But you'll have to wait until next month!)



Now showing...

Bluebird boxes - several pairs are located throughout the property



Now showing...

"Nature Passport" program location in Garnsey Park...can you find it?



Now showing...

Looking southerly along Yellow Loop Trail



Now showing...

Stone walls dating from late 1700s that once separated farm fields



Now showing...

View of pond (near trailhead) from its west along "trail route in progress"



Now showing...



- Come along for a virtual hike...
 - ...[part 1](#) (00:43) and...
 - ...[part 2](#) (00:46).

Coming soon...



Boneset



White Vervain



Coming soon...



Indian Tobacco



Virgin's Bower



SAVE the date!



Explore Clifton Park—Be Outdoors More:



HIKE WITH US!

Join the Clifton Park Open Space, Trails & Riverfront Committee as a "working, stewardship" hike where you'll help with maintenance work at these preserves and parks.

Join us for an upcoming Virtual Stewardship Hike –

- **September 11 @ 1pm:**

Meet up at 1pm on September 11 at Veterans Memorial Park along the stream. Bike parking is available. Be prepared for uneven, natural surfaces, and hilly terrain.

APR. 3: Mohawk Landing Nature Preserve

Meet up at the preserve's entrance located off of Riverview Road, east of the intersection of Biles Drive. Be prepared for mud on a seasonal route, rough terrain, off the regular trail.



MAY 1: Dwanis Kill Nature Preserve

Meet up at preserve entrance located off of Pierce Road. Be prepared for uneven, natural surfaces and some hilly, steep terrain.

JUNE 5: Collins Park & 37-ac town parkland

Meet up at the William K. Collins Park's parking lot, at 525 Main Rd. Be prepared for uneven, rough, bumpy surfaces.

JULY 10: Garnsey Park

Meet up at the trailhead near the parking lot, located off of NYS Route 140. Be prepared for rugged, uneven natural surfaces, and hilly terrain.

Please wear appropriate footwear and gear. Uneven, natural surfaces are anticipated. Please kindly RSVP (518) 371-6054.

www.cliftonpark.org
www.cliftonparkopenspaces.org

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Join us for an upcoming Virtual Stewardship Hike –

- **MARCH 6: North Woods Nature Preserve**

Meet up at the preserve entrance between 38 and 40 Shadow Wood Way. Park along the street. Bike parking is available. Be prepared for uneven, natural surfaces, and hilly terrain.

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Meet up at the preserve's entrance located off of Riverview Road, east of the intersection of Biles Drive. Be prepared for mud on a seasonal route, rough terrain, off the regular trail.



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THE END

