

Nassau County  
Long Island



*more*  
**historic  
experiences**  
*To explore*

Your Go-To Guide for  
Historical Fun in Nassau County



**BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN**  
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE



## **BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN**

NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, Nassau County is proud to reflect on the people, places, and moments that have helped shape our nation.

From Revolutionary War landmarks and historic waterfront villages to presidential connections and cultural institutions, Nassau County has played an important role in America's history. It's a place where George Washington traveled, where patriot networks secretly operated during the Revolution, and where generations of Americans have continued to build, innovate, and contribute to our nation's success.

That invaluable American spirit continues to be an essential part of our communities. Nassau County remains a destination that is rich in history, culture, recreation, dining, and natural beauty, welcoming visitors from around the region and around the world.

This special summertime guide invites you to explore the historic sites, museums, events, restaurants, and experiences that make our county unique during this milestone year. Whether you're visiting for the first time or rediscovering your own backyard, we hope this guide helps you connect with the stories, people, and places that continue to define Nassau County.

On behalf of Nassau County, thank you for joining us in commemorating America250 and celebrating all that makes Nassau County such a special place to visit, live, and explore.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "B. Blakeman", with a long, sweeping underline.

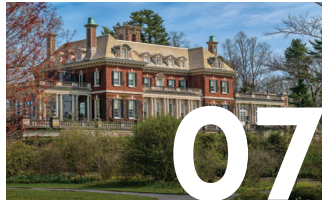
**Bruce A. Blakeman**  
Nassau County Executive



# Contents



**George Washington  
Slept Here**



**Historical Sites,  
Gardens, & Preserves**



**Food**



**Ice Cream**



**Top Picks from  
Long Island Whimsy**



**Parks As A Living History**



**Golf**



**Parks & Beaches**



**Nostalgic Eats**



**Museums, Culture, &  
Live Events**



**Where America Took  
Flight**



Find a digital version  
of this guide online.  
Scan here.

**Nassau County**  
Long Island

# George Washington Slept Here

Nassau County Locations Connected  
to America's First President



Photo: Roslyn Landmark Society

**When you look back to the founding of our nation, Nassau County holds a significant place in Revolutionary War history – think espionage, colonial life, and the movements of soon-to-be President George Washington himself.**

During the Revolutionary War, Long Island became a strategic focal point. After the Battle of Long Island in 1776, British forces occupied the island for much of the war. Even under occupation, however, the region remained central to Washington's strategy, thanks in large part to the intelligence gathered by the [Culper Spy Ring](#), a secret network of informants reporting directly to Washington.

Today, visitors exploring Nassau County can still encounter the places and stories connected to this pivotal era in American history. From colonial homes and historic museums to restored taverns and charming villages, these destinations offer a chance to step into the world of the American Revolution.





Photo: Raynham Hall Museum

## Here are a few Nassau County locations where the story of George Washington and the birth of the United States comes to life.

### Raynham Hall Museum

#### OYSTER BAY

If there's one Nassau County site most closely tied to George Washington's Revolutionary War intelligence network, it's Raynham Hall in Oyster Bay.

Built in the early 1700s, the home belonged to the Townsend family, whose members were deeply involved in the Culper Spy Ring, the covert intelligence operation organized by Washington in 1778 to monitor British activity in New York.

Robert Townsend, known by the code name "Culper Jr.," secretly reported on British troop movements, supply chains, and military plans. His intelligence proved invaluable to Washington and helped the Continental Army anticipate British strategies.

Washington is believed to have visited the home after the war, making Raynham Hall one of the most compelling Revolutionary-era landmarks in the region. Today, the Raynham Hall Museum offers guided tours, exhibits, and programming that bring the story of espionage and colonial life vividly to life.

### Daniel Young's Homestead

#### OYSTER BAY

During his 1790 presidential tour of Long Island, George Washington spent time in Oyster Bay and is believed to have stayed at the homestead of Daniel Young, a prominent local resident.

Washington's five-day tour took place in April 1790 while New York City served as the nation's capital. Traveling east across Long Island, the president visited communities including Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Huntington, Smithtown, and Amityville. The trip allowed Washington to observe the region's farms and local economy while reconnecting with communities that had played a role in the Revolutionary War.

Young's home in Oyster Bay served as one of Washington's stops during the journey. The visit reflects the strong ties between Long Island residents and the early leadership of the new United States, particularly in areas like Oyster Bay where patriot networks and Revolutionary-era activity were deeply rooted.



## Sands-Willets House

### PORT WASHINGTON

Dating back to the early 1700s, the Sands-Willets House in Port Washington is one of Nassau County's oldest surviving homes. The property belonged to the Sands family, prominent residents who supported the American cause during the Revolution. Their home stood during a time when Long Island communities were caught between British occupation and the growing Patriot movement.

Today, the house is operated by the Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society and serves as a museum dedicated to preserving the history of the region. Visitors can explore exhibits that highlight colonial life, local maritime history, and the complex realities of Long Island during the Revolutionary War.

## Rock Hall Museum

### LAWRENCE

Another glimpse into colonial Long Island can be found at Rock Hall Museum in Lawrence, one of the finest surviving Georgian manor houses in New York State. Built around 1767, Rock Hall reflects the prosperity of Long Island merchants and landowners during the colonial period. During the Revolutionary War, the surrounding region experienced the presence and movement of both British and American forces.

Today, the museum offers tours and educational programs that allow visitors to explore 18th-century architecture, furnishings, and daily life, providing a deeper understanding of the world in which George Washington and the Founding Fathers lived.

## Hendrick's Tavern

### ROSLYN

Hendrick's Tavern in Roslyn sits on the site where President George Washington stopped for breakfast during his 1790 tour. On April 24, 1790, Washington arrived in Roslyn from Oyster Bay and began his day with breakfast at the home of Hendrick Onderdonk, whose property stood where the restaurant is located today. At the time, Onderdonk was one of the area's most prominent residents, owning the Roslyn Grist Mill and the Onderdonk Paper Mill, which was part of a network used to pass messages during the Revolutionary War.

The house, originally known as the Pine-Onderdonk-Bogart House, had already experienced the turbulence of the Revolution – it was raided by British forces in 1781 during the occupation of Long Island. In the early 1900s, the property was converted into a restaurant and has continued serving guests ever since. After a major renovation in 2012, it reopened as Hendrick's Tavern, blending historic character with modern dining in the heart of Roslyn's historic district.

## Hewlett House

### EAST ROCKAWAY

The Hewlett House, built around 1740, offers another window into the complexities of life during the Revolutionary War. The Hewlett family were Loyalists who supported the British Crown, highlighting the deep divisions that existed within many Long Island communities during the conflict. Families, neighbors, and entire towns often found themselves on opposing sides of the war. Today, the house stands as an important historic site, helping tell the broader story of how the Revolutionary War affected everyday life across Long Island.

## Experience Revolutionary History in Nassau County

During the 250th anniversary of the U.S., Nassau County offers visitors the opportunity to explore the places where early American history unfolded. From spy networks and colonial homes to historic villages and waterfront communities, the region's Revolutionary-era heritage continues to shape its identity today. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a curious traveler, or a local looking to discover something new, Nassau County's past is waiting to be explored.

**Plan your visit and discover more historic sites, tours, and  
America250 events at [NassauCountyTourism.com](https://NassauCountyTourism.com).**





# More legendary locations To explore

**Discover endless family-friendly activities in Nassau County at our beautiful parks and gardens, boasting amazing hikes, stunning landscapes and captivating museums!**

## **Clark Botanic Garden**

193 I. U. Willets Rd, Albertson  
516-484-2208

A living museum and an educational facility, boasting extensive collections of wildflowers, roses, daylilies, and more. With its diverse plant families and educational programs, visitors will enjoy a rich botanical experience.

## **Garvies Point Museum and Preserve**

50 Barry Dr, Glen Cove  
516-571-8010

Garvies Point Museum and Preserve features regional geology, exhibits on Long Island Native American culture, and archaeology.

## **Muttontown Preserve**

25A West of Jericho-Oyster Bay Rd,  
Muttontown Ln, East Norwich  
516-571-8500

Comprising 550 acres of fields, woodlands, ponds, and estate grounds, Muttontown is Nassau County's largest nature preserve. The preserve features miles of marked nature trails and various historic landmarks.

## **Old Bethpage Village Restoration**

1303 Round Swamp Rd, Old Bethpage  
516-572-8409

Step back in time and experience life in a recreated mid-19th century American village, and enjoy a steady series of family-friendly events and exhibits.

## **Old Westbury Gardens**

71 Old Westbury Rd, Old Westbury  
516-333-0048

The former home of John S. Phipps and his family, this magnificent mansion on 200 acres boasts formal gardens, ponds and lakes. On the National Register of Historic Places, there are guided tours, family and children's programs and events, indoor and outdoor concerts, and more.

## **Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park**

1395 Planting Fields Rd, Oyster Bay  
516-922-9210

A former Gold Coast estate, Planting Fields is an early 20th-century, 409-acre estate preserved today as a celebration of art, architecture, landscape, and the people who designed and resided on the land.

## **Raynham Hall Museum**

30 West Main St, Oyster Bay  
516-922-6808

Explore 300 years of espionage, trade, and labor at the Raynham Hall Museum through the preservation and interpretation of the Townsend family home.

## **Sagamore Hill National Historic Site**

20 Sagamore Hill Rd, Oyster Bay  
516-922-4788

Sagamore Hill was President Theodore Roosevelt's home from 1885 until his death in 1919. Explore 83 acres of natural surroundings, historic buildings and trails to become inspired by the legacy of one of America's most popular presidents.

## **Sands Point Park and Preserve**

127 Middle Neck Rd, Sands Point  
516-571-7901

Sands Point Preserve, on the original Guggenheim Estate, embodies the opulence and elegance of the Gilded Age on the Long Island Sound. The 216-acre park offers educational and cultural programs, seasonal celebrations, mansion tours, and a variety of other museums and historical houses to explore.



more  
epic eats  
to explore

**Nassau County's restaurants offer deliciously diverse tastes—from classic burger joints and fresh seafood spots to authentic Italian kitchens, top-notch sushi bars, and international cuisine from around the world.**

### **317 Main Street**

317 Main St, Farmingdale

516-512-5317

**American**

"Chopped" Champion, Chef Eric LeVine brings his talents to Farmingdale, a growing destination spot for great food, distinctive cocktails, and unbeatable entertainment.

### **All American Hamburger Drive-In**

4286 Merrick Rd, Massapequa

516-798-9574

**Burgers**

Since 1963, we've been bringing you the best burgers in town, hands-down! We offer old-fashioned all-American food, with fresh tastes, at affordable prices that can't be beat.

### **Backyard Barbeque**

300 Woodcleft Ave, Freeport

516-656-1686

**Barbecue**

#1 BBQ on Long Island. Our family run, black-owned restaurant brings you the best of southern-style barbecue, slow-smoked to perfection, right here on the Nautical Mile!

### **Caracara Mexican Grill**

354 Main Street, Farmingdale

516-777-2272

**Authentic Mexican**

Serving authentic, upscale Mexican food in a comfortable setting for brunch, lunch, and dinner. Couples, families, and singles will feel at home both in our Dining Room and Tequila Lounge.

### **Cipollini Trattoria & Bar**

2110C Northern Blvd, Manhasset

516-627-7172

**Contemporary Italian**

Enjoy an array of contemporary Italian specialties from savory salads to enticing entrees to authentic, brick-oven pizzas. Savor every bite.

### **Emilia Restaurant**

195 Brower Ave, Rockville Centre

516-536-2018

**Italian**

Wood-fired pizza, authentic Italian cuisine, and quality cocktails in a cozy, laid-back atmosphere.

### **Farina 00**

970 Hempstead Tpke, Franklin Square

516-673-4630

**Italian**

Discover the authentic flavors of Italy in a casual, family atmosphere. The wood oven pizzas are the stars, but every Italian favorite is made with fresh ingredients and lots of care.

### **Gimme Burger**

39 E Main St, Oyster Bay

516-922-3300

**Burgers**

Fast-food restaurant focusing on fresh, never-processed food dishes up custom-blend burgers and freshly baked buns, plus fries, milkshakes, and beer.

### **Ginza**

170A Gardiners Ave, Levittown

516-882-9688

**Sushi**

Sushi specialist where dramatic atmosphere complements artful rolls and other harmoniously balanced Japanese dishes.

## Gioia

94 South St, Oyster Bay  
516-922-1660

### Italian

Inspired by the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy, handmade pasta, seasonal vegetables, classically-focused Italian cocktails, and warm hospitality come together to create a JOYOUS dining experience.

## Jordan Lobster Farms

1 Pettit Pl, Island Park  
516-889-3314

### Seafood

Enduring restaurant and market offering the freshest seafood, with a New England nautical motif plus an outdoor patio.

## Juniper at the Vanderbilt

990 Corporate Dr, Westbury  
516-820-1200

### New American

A modern dining experience with locally sourced, seasonal dishes. The stylish ambiance complements its creative menu, making it perfect for casual dining or special occasions.

## King Bar by David Burke

Garden City Hotel  
45 Seventh Street, Garden City  
516-877-9385

### New American

Savor New American cuisine featuring signature dishes like clothesline bacon, paired with cocktails, fine wines, and local beers. Enjoy Wine Down Wednesdays, Seafood N' More evenings, and seasonal lunch offerings.

## Lazy Lobster

10 Front St, East Rockaway  
516-837-8484

### Seafood

Seasonal waterfront restaurant and beer garden showcasing lobster rolls and other hand-held fare in a welcoming, casual atmosphere. \*Opens May 12.

## Mala Madre Taqueria

1610 Old Country Rd, Westbury  
516-502-1277

### Mexican

Casual Mexican eatery serving classic fare such as tacos, nachos, and enchiladas, plus margaritas, signature cocktails and happy hour specials.

## Okaru

1401 Old Northern Blvd, Roslyn  
516-621-3300

### Japanese

Enjoy elevated, Japanese-inspired dishes in a space offering a modern zen vibe. Multiple dining areas include a chef's table, omakase and sushi bar, private dining rooms, and outdoor patio.

## Patio Bar by David Burke

Garden City Hotel  
45 Seventh Street, Garden City  
516-877-9385

### New American

Lush outdoor oasis featuring bites like guac & chips, naked oysters, and lobster rolls, complemented by signature cocktails. Enjoy events like Tequila & Tapas Tuesdays and Starry Nights & Country Bites.

## Peter's Clam Bar

600 Long Beach Rd, Island Park  
516-432-0505

### Seafood

Enjoy the freshest scratch-made seafood and a warm, welcoming dining experience at Long Island's oldest clam bar!

## Red Salt Room by David Burke

Garden City Hotel  
45 Seventh Street, Garden City  
516-877-9385

### Steakhouse

Experience award-winning New American cuisine in an elegant setting, featuring signature Himalayan salt dry-aged steaks, inspired seasonal dishes, vegan options, Surf & Turf nights, and renowned Sunday Brunch.

## Sea Bar

7 Great Neck Rd, Great Neck Plaza  
516-441-5708

### Seafood

Chef Gregory Zapantis elevates the seafood dining experience in a casual atmosphere offering only the freshest fish and hand-selected global ingredients. Seafood arrives 7 days a week.

## Smok-Haus

712th St, Garden City  
516-400-7100

### Barbecue

Enjoy award-winning BBQ with a global twist. Slow-cooked BBQ and street food plus draft beer and cocktails are served in bustling, informal surroundings.

## Stellina Ristorante

76 South St, Oyster Bay  
516-757-4989

### Italian

Seasonally-inspired, authentic Italian cooking, including a variety of spuntini, pasta, pizzas, and more, served in a cozy space that hopes to be the "little star" of Oyster Bay.

## The Shed

685 Merrick Ave, Westbury  
516-794-0572

### American, Comfort Food

Located in The Selby Luxury Apartments and billed as Long Island's top brunch spot, from-scratch comfort food is warmly served as Brunch, Lunch & Dinner all day.

## Uva Rossa Taverna

243 Hempstead Ave, Malverne  
516-612-7400

### Italian

Old-world Italian restaurant and wine bar with rustic-chic decor offering tantalizing entrees, small plates, and a diverse wine list.

## Waterzooi Belgian Bistro & Oyster Bar

850 Franklin Ave, Garden City  
516-877-2177

### Belgian

Savor Belgian cuisine, like moules (mussels), frites (fries), and more, at Long Island's only Belgian bistro, featuring an innovative menu, sophisticated service, and impressive beer list.

## Won KBBQ

125 Old Country Rd, Carle Place  
516-226-3282

### Korean

Family-owned, limitless Korean BBQ dining destination dedicated to offering delectable cuisine with premium ingredients, traditional beverages, and warm, hospitable service for an exceptional Korean culinary experience.

For even more epic eats to explore,  
visit [NassauCountyTourism.com](http://NassauCountyTourism.com)



# 7 Ice Cream Parlors You Won't Want to Miss



**N**othing says summer quite like savoring a good, old-fashioned ice cream cone. Whether you're a fan of classic flavors or craving something more adventurous, there is no shortage of ice cream parlors to satisfy your sweet tooth. From local institutions that have been beloved by generations to new shops pushing the limits of frozen treats, Nassau County, Long Island, has it all. Below are seven Nassau County must-visit ice cream parlors. Bring the family along and make it your mission to hit all of them. Your taste buds will thank you.

## LIDO BEACH

### Frozen Cow Ices & Cream

The best part about visiting Frozen Cow Ices & Cream is its rotating menu of creamy creations. Frozen concoctions have included unexpected flavor combinations like Cracker Jack Fudge and Ricotta Fig. If you're craving something a bit more savory, Frozen Cow also offers hot dogs, tater tots, and pizza.

**Try this →** Be adventurous and try the Lavender Honey, Banana Pudding, or Holy Cannoli flavors.

## HICKSVILLE

### Hicksville Sweet Shop

Take a trip back in time at this century-old ice cream parlor. The Hicksville Sweet Shop serves heartier fare like wraps, salads, and burgers, but the stars of the menu are the ice creams and syrups made in house.

**Try this →** Order the vanilla egg cream. You'll thank us.

## VALLEY STREAM

### Itgen's Ice Cream Parlour

A Long Island institution since 1890, Itgen's Ice Cream Parlour is known for its old-fashioned charm and small-batch homemade ice cream. Guests can choose from dozens of classic flavors, decadent sundaes, floats, and ice cream sodas served in a nostalgic setting.

**Try this →** The famous Sock It To Me sundae if you're sharing, or a scoop of Butter Pecan for a timeless favorite.

## BELLMORE

### International Delight Café

The International Delight Café is more of a diner than an ice cream parlor. But with more than 80 flavors of gelato on its never-ending menu, those with a sweet tooth may want to pay this café a visit. Gelato is richer than ice cream, due to using more milk than cream and not containing egg yolks. Aficionados will find all the classic flavors here—or be daring with an order of the Kitchen Sink, Zuppa Inglese, or Hawaiian Heaven flavors.

**Try this →** Order a scoop of whatever you're craving (we dare you to choose just one) on a Belgian waffle.

## MINEOLA

### Manny's Sweet Treats

Manny's Sweet Treats puts a playful spin on dessert with premium ice cream, towering milkshakes, creative sundaes, and loaded waffle creations. Bright, colorful, and family-friendly, it's the kind of place that turns dessert into an event.

**Try this →** A Manny's Milkshake inspired by our favorite indulgent treat, like Oreo, Nutella, or birthday cake.

## PORT WASHINGTON

### Smusht

Smusht is an ode to gloriously gooey ice cream sandwiches. Customers choose their favorite homemade ice cream flavors and then sandwich them between two chocolate chip or Funfetti cookies. These colorful, frozen creations are then rolled in your pick of crunchy toppings.

**Try this →** Try the Peanut Butter & Jelly Ring ice cream "smusht" between two chocolate chip cookies and covered in your choice of crunchy candy.

## PORT WASHINGTON

### Sweet Treats on the Wharf

Customers come here for frozen treats, best enjoyed while soaking in the views of Manhasset Bay. This family-favorite ice cream parlor offers a variety of homemade ice creams, frozen yogurts, Italian ice, shaved ice and other brain freeze-inducing goodies. Those with dietary restrictions can find lactose-free and kosher options on the menu.

**Try this →** Get your caffeine fix with a scoop of Coffee Oreo and another of Mocha Chunk served in a chocolate-dipped, waffle bowl.



# LONG ISLAND WHIMSY

Long Island native Traci Hoch is the voice behind **Long Island Whimsy** (@longislandwhimsy), where she shares her favorite restaurants, attractions, seasonal events, and hidden gems from across the region. With more than 30,000 Instagram followers, Traci has built a loyal audience by highlighting the very best of Long Island life—making her the perfect guide to a memorable Nassau County summer. Check out some of Traci's recommendations for summer fun in Nassau County.



## Fun for the Whole Family

### FARMINGDALE

#### Adventureland

This place has been a Long Island summer staple since 1962 and it still delivers every single time. Over 30 rides including a roller coaster, kiddie rides, water attractions and a huge arcade.

### ELMONT

#### Belmont Park Village

Just minutes from UBS Arena, Belmont Park Village is Nassau County's luxury outlet destination. Exclusive, rare and archival pieces from top boutiques at up to 65% off. Five-star concierge services, hands-free shopping, and summer activations make this far more than a shopping trip.

### SEAFORD

#### United Skates of America

Nassau County's beloved roller rink...and a perfect option for an evening out or a rainy afternoon. Skating sessions, an arcade and themed skate nights make this one of the most fun venues in the county for families.

## Must-Visit Restaurants

### GARDEN CITY PARK

#### Uncle Bacala's

A Nassau County favorite for Italian-American food that hits every time. White subway tiles, red and white checkered tablecloths, a room that feels like a fisherman's wharf courtyard. The menu covers all the classics alongside some genuinely inventive dishes, and the portions are generous. The whole place just has a feel-good energy that keeps people coming back.

### BETHPAGE

#### Embassy Diner

The Long Island diner is a cultural institution and Embassy is one of the best. Enormous menu, all-day breakfast, portions that could feed a small village. What sets it apart is the seasonal decor that completely transforms the space throughout the year.

### HICKSVILLE

#### Bubbakoo's Burritos

Halal and totally craveable. Bubbakoo's is the fast casual spot that Long Island has fully embraced, and once you try it you will understand why. Build your own burrito, bowl, or tacos with fresh ingredients and endless customization. Quick, affordable and genuinely good every single time.

## Sweet Treats

### MULTIPLE LOCATIONS ACROSS NASSAU COUNTY

#### Playa Bowls

Fresh acai bowls, pitaya bowls, smoothies and juices with a bright beachy vibe that fits Nassau County perfectly. A great post-beach stop or a healthy midday treat that still feels like a splurge.

### PLAINVIEW & WESTBURY

#### Mango Mango Dessert

If you have never had a mango sago dessert, this is where to start. The menu is unlike anything else in Nassau County — light, fresh and so refreshing on a hot day. A little different, a lot delicious. Trust me on this one.

### LONG BEACH

#### Dolce Bella

Dolce Bella has gone viral for a reason. Over-the-top cannoli creations and house-made gelato that people genuinely can't stop talking about. If you are in Long Beach for the day, this is your dessert stop.

For more inspiration on things to explore in Nassau County, follow Traci at @longislandwhimsy.



# Parks as Living History

## Exploring Nassau County's Historic Landscapes





**History doesn't always live behind museum doors. In Nassau County, some of the most meaningful connections to the past can be found outdoors, along winding park trails, open fields, and beaches shaped by generations of visitors.**

**Nassau County parks hold layers of cultural history, from literary inspiration to presidential connections and some of the most ambitious public works projects of the 20th century. Places like Christopher Morley Park, Eisenhower Park, and Jones Beach State Park show how landscapes evolve while still carrying the stories of the people who helped shape them.**

### **Christopher Morley Park: A Literary Legacy in Motion**

Located in North Hills, [Christopher Morley Park](#) honors one of Long Island's most beloved writers. Christopher Morley, author of *Parnassus on Wheels* and longtime columnist for the *New York Evening Post*, lived nearby in the early 20th century. Known for his wit and love of everyday adventure, Morley was deeply connected to the landscapes around him. The park was named for him and strives to preserve that spirit.

A small hill within the park, once known as "Mount Misery," was one of Morley's favorite spots. From its summit he could look out across Long Island and reflect on the changing world around him. Today, visitors hike the same trails, play sports on open fields, and gather in spaces that continue to bring people together.

The park reflects Morley's belief that ordinary moments like reading a book, walking through the woods, sharing conversation are part of life's richest experiences.

### **Eisenhower Park: From Airfield to Public Gathering Place**

[Eisenhower Park](#) is one of the largest public parks in the region, covering hundreds of acres in the heart of Nassau County. But before it became a destination for golfers, runners, and community festivals, the land had a very different purpose.

The site was once part of the Mitchel Field air base, a major aviation training and operations center during the early 20th century. During World War I and World War II, the field played a significant role in military aviation and national defense.

After the airfield was decommissioned, Nassau County transformed the land into a public park, where wide runways and open training grounds evolved into green spaces for recreation.

Today, Eisenhower Park hosts concerts, sporting events, and cultural celebrations. Beneath the soccer fields and walking paths lies a landscape shaped by aviation history and the broader story of America's growth during the 20th century.

### **Jones Beach State Park: A Vision for Public Access**

Few places capture the ambition of early 20th-century public planning like [Jones Beach State Park](#). Developed in the 1920s under the leadership of Robert Moses, Jones Beach transformed a remote barrier island into one of the most iconic public beaches in the United States. The project included not only the beach itself but also parkways, bridges, and architectural elements designed to create a cohesive visitor experience.

Jones Beach represented a new idea in American life: that access to nature and recreation should be available to everyone, not just those who owned private shoreline estates.

The Art Deco bathhouses, boardwalk, and sweeping Atlantic views quickly made the beach a regional landmark. Generations of families have spent summers here swimming, walking the boardwalk, and watching the sun set over the ocean.

While the park is famous for its size and beauty, its deeper legacy lies in how it redefined public space, turning an isolated coastal landscape into a shared destination for millions.

### **Parks That Connect Past and Present**

As Nassau County prepares to commemorate America's 250th anniversary, these parks remind us that history isn't only found in historic homes or monuments. Sometimes it lives in the places where people walk, gather, play, and reflect. The landscapes we enjoy today are part of a much longer story that continues to unfold every time someone steps onto a trail, a field, or a stretch of sand along the Atlantic.

**[Read more about Nassau County's history and how the County helped shape America's history.](#)**



**Nassau County has some of the best public golf courses in the country, offering challenges and scenic beauty for golfers of all skill levels.**

### **Bay Park**

**198 First Avenue, East Rockaway  
516-571-7242**

Bay Park features a 9-hole, par-30 golf course, including two holes over 300 yards. There is also a putting green.

### **Bethpage State Park Golf Course**

**99 Quaker Meeting House Road, Farmingdale  
516-249-4040**

One of the most popular and cherished golf courses on Long Island, Bethpage State Park features five 18-hole regulation golf courses, including the world-renowned Black Course.

### **Cantiague Park**

**480 W John St, Hicksville  
516-571-7061**

This 9-hole, par-30 gold course is flat, open, and easy to walk. There is also an illuminated driving range.

### **Eisenhower Park**

**1899 Hempstead Turnpike, Westbury  
516-572-0327**

Schedule a tee time at one of the three famed Eisenhower Park golf courses open to the public: Red, White, and Blue.

### **Golfzon Range by Leadbetter**

**655 Merrick Ave, Westbury  
516-388-6210**

A brand-new concept in indoor golf training offering a blend of self-learning, live instruction, and unlimited range time.

### **Harbor Links Golf Course**

**1 Fairway Dr, Port Washington  
516-767-4816**

Harbor Links, designed by Dr. Michael Hurdzan in 1998, features unique sand bluff teeing areas and picturesque views.

### **Merrick Golf Course**

**2550 Clubhouse Rd, Merrick  
516-868-4650**

Elevated greens, open fairways, and a practice putting green are cornerstones of this challenging MGA-rated, 9-hole golf course.

### **North Woodmere**

**750 Hungry Harbor Rd, Valley Stream  
516-571-7814**

The largest of Nassau County Parks Department's 9-hole courses, with four holes over 300 yards.

### **Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course**

**1 S. Woods Road, Woodbury  
516-677-5980**

Situated on 121 acres, the town's 18-hole, par 70, championship golf course features narrow fairways, water holes, sand and grass bunkers, as well as a putting green.





# More sand and surf To explore

Discover endless family-friendly activities in Nassau County at our beautiful parks and beaches boasting amazing playgrounds, tennis courts, fishing, and more.

## Bay Park

198 First Avenue, East Rockaway  
516-571-7245

A 96-acre park with lighted tennis courts and basketball courts, athletic fields, two handball courts, and bicycle and running paths.

## Cedar Creek Park

3340 Merrick Road, Seaford  
516-571-7470

An expansive, 259-acre park featuring playgrounds, tennis & basketball courts, athletic fields, and a dog run.

## Cantiague Park

480 West John Street, Hicksville  
516-571-7056

From tennis, basketball, and golf to serene walking trails, a splash park, pool, and fun playgrounds, Cantiague Park truly has something for everyone.

## Eisenhower Park

1899 Park Blvd, East Meadow  
516-572-0348

Eisenhower Park, a 930-acre oasis of open space and recreation in Nassau County, features a range of athletic and family activities, as well as a full schedule of summertime events.

## Hempstead Lake State Park

1000 Lake Drive, West Hempstead  
516-766-1029

Hempstead Lake State Park has playgrounds, extensive sporting facilities, bridle trails for horseback riding, biking and hiking trails, a beautiful observation deck overlooking Hempstead Lake, and a historic hand-carved wooden carousel.

## Long Beach

1 West Chester Street, Long Beach  
516-431-1000

Nicknamed "The City by the Sea," Long Beach features 2.1 miles of boardwalk, a pristine beach, family-friendly activities, specialty shops, and a variety of dining options.

## Long Island Whale & Seal Watching

31 Woodcleft Ave, Freeport  
516-544-6698

Long Island is one of the East Coast's top whale watching destinations. Come aboard Captain Lou Fleet's Atlantic Pearl! You might get close to groups of baleen and toothed whales or spot seals at play.

## Nickerson Beach Park

880 Lido Blvd, Lido Beach  
516-571-7700

155 acres of sun-drenched recreation, including beach access, campgrounds, picnic areas, pitch-and-putt golf, swimming pools, a skate park, playgrounds, and more.

## Wantagh Park

1 King Road, Wantagh  
516-571-7460

A waterfront park with magnificent views, as well as a variety of sports and recreation, including a fitness trail, mini-golf, tennis courts, a basketball court, baseball and softball fields, a swimming pool complex, picnic areas, and more.



**N**ostalgia has a unique way of bridging the past and present, especially when it comes to food. There are a handful of incredible restaurants in Nassau County that can take both residents and visitors alike on a trip back in time. From classic diners to family-owned sweet shops, Nassau

County has a variety of eateries that have stood the test of time. Whether you're a long-time resident reminiscing about childhood favorites or a visitor who wants to experience the authentic tastes of Long Island, these restaurants are sure to make you feel right at home. Check out Nassau County's best and most nostalgic eateries.



### Hildebrandt's

First opened in 1927, Hildebrandt's is a Nassau County staple. Located in Williston Park, this 1920s-themed ice cream parlor and restaurant has become a beloved landmark, thanks to its kitschy vintage charm. Equally as great as the vibe is the menu. Renowned for their hand-crafted ice cream, those with a sweet tooth can enjoy a variety of flavors including chocolate, mint chip, strawberry, and so much more, all of which are made on-site. Beyond ice cream, Hildebrandt's has food options like burgers, sandwiches, and salads.

### Thomas's Ham & Eggery Diner

Established in 1946, Thomas's Ham & Eggery Diner in Carle Place is one of the best restaurants in Nassau County and has some of the best food around. With a focus on breakfasts and equally satisfying lunches, there's something here for everyone. Breakfast is served all day, offering favorites like big omelets, hearty scrambles, and delicious breakfast wraps. For lunch, patrons can have specialty burgers, sandwiches, and salads, as well as comfort food favorites like pot roast, meatloaf, and pork chops. Don't miss out on Thomas's Specials, which rotate every week. Expect to see dishes like mouthwatering egg sandwich melts and smoked tuna tartine. (Follow their Instagram page to stay up to date with weekly specials.)







## Laurel Diner

Formerly known as The Laurel Luncheonette, Laurel Diner in Long Beach has been serving customers for over 90 years. (It has been around since 1932!) This family-owned restaurant is a local favorite thanks to its tasty selection of traditional American fare, retro decor, and friendly service. Guests can nosh on burgers, sandwiches, wings, steak, and so much more since the menu is absolutely massive. One of the highlights of the Laurel Diner is the Mug Full O' Pie dessert, which consists of a beer mug full of hot fruit pie with a scoop of ice cream, caramel, whipped cream, and granola on top. Here, people feel right at home thanks to the welcoming atmosphere and fun vibe.

## Krisch's Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlour

Krisch's is a beloved institution in Nassau County. Originally opening its doors in Brooklyn in 1920, this Massapequa spot has been a favorite since it moved here in 1955, known for its good food and old-fashioned charm. It's famous for its classic diner fare, including breakfast, juicy burgers, and comforting sandwiches, all served in a cool, throwback atmosphere. However, their homemade ice cream is the star of the show, with a variety of flavors to choose from. Plus, they come out with new flavors every now and again, so guests can always look forward to trying something new. Oh, and the sundaes are also a must-try, generously topped with hot fudge, whipped cream, and (of course) cherries. Be sure to get a booth as we're sure you're going to want to stay awhile.



## Sid's All American

Located in the heart of Glen Cove, Sid's All American is a retro-inspired restaurant with one of the best menus around. Here, foodies can find a mouthwatering selection of traditional American favorites, each made with fresh, high-quality ingredients. Their burgers and hot dogs are the main highlights and can be topped with all kinds of fixings. Sid's is also famous for its frosted flake chicken tenders and crispy fries, so don't miss out. This place does get pretty busy on the weekends, so go early if you want to get a table by the windows.

## Mineola Diner

Plain and simple, Mineola Diner is cute, quaint, and ultra nostalgic. This delicious Mineola spot has got it all, including an extensive menu that caters to a wide range of tastes. Guests will find everything from breakfast favorites and lunch staples to 'Fantastic Finger Foods,' triple-decker sandwiches, and even some Greek options. We suggest trying the Chicken Supreme Sandwich, which is made with a crispy chicken cutlet smothered with melted mozzarella, crisp bacon, lettuce, tomato, and your choice of dressing on a hero or wrap. Plus, the brunch menu is pretty incredible, so if you're looking for a brunch spot, this should be at the top of your list.



## Marvel Frozen Dairy

Marvel Frozen Dairy has been serving up delicious sweet treats since 1951. Located in Lido Beach and Long Beach, this family-owned ice cream stand is best known for its creamy soft serve and friendly service. The menu includes fan-favorite flavors such as vanilla, pistachio, coffee, dulce de leche, and chocolate, as well as the option to do a swirl, or mix of two flavors. Plus, they have non-fat Greek yogurt and vegan options. What's more, they have a ton of toppings (think rainbow sprinkles, chocolate chips, toasted coconut, and more) as well as custom cakes, ice cream sandwiches, and slushies. It's the perfect place to stop by after a long day in the sun – the ice cream is sure to cool you down in minutes.

## Henry's Confectionery

Henry's Confectionery is a family-owned diner that has been around since 1929. Located in Glen Cove, it has a great old-school vibe that makes people feel instantly comfortable. Plus, the menu is hard to beat. For breakfast (which is served all day), diners can enjoy fluffy pancakes, crispy bacon, and delicious egg dishes, while lunch options include deli sandwiches, savory soups, and fresh salads. However, it's the homemade ice cream and desserts that truly steal the show. They also have homemade muffins that are sure to make anyone's mouth water. However, one of the best things about this spot is that it's a true local hangout. Don't be surprised if you see the same people there every time you go.







# more cultural connections to explore

Explore our array of museums and performance spaces that offer captivating glimpses into history, science, nature, and the arts.

## **African-American Museum and Center for Education and Applied Arts**

**110 N. Franklin St, Hempstead  
516-572-0730**

Celebrating African-American culture with rotating art exhibits, vibrant events, genealogy workshops, and educational programs. Honored with a 2005 Preservation Award.

## **Center for Science Teaching & Learning/ Tanglewood Preserve**

**1450 Tanglewood Rd, Rockville Centre  
516-764-0045**

CSTL encourages science learning and literacy in people of all ages. Located in Tanglewood Preserve, CSTL features a one-of-a-kind dinosaur exhibit designed to both entertain and educate.

For even more  
cultural connections  
to explore, visit  
[NassauCountyTourism.com](http://NassauCountyTourism.com)

## **The Cradle of Aviation Museum**

**Charles Lindbergh Blvd, Garden City  
516-572-4111**

Over 75 air and spacecraft in eight exhibit galleries, plus a state-of-the-art planetarium, chronicling 100 years of aviation from hot air balloons to an actual Apollo Lunar Module.

## **Long Island Children's Museum**

**11 Davis Ave, Garden City  
516-224-5800**

The Long Island Children's Museum offers daily programs, live theater, interactive exhibits, the iconic 112-year old Nunley's Carousel, and more for children of all ages.

## **Nassau County Firefighters Museum**

**Charles Lindbergh Blvd, Uniondale  
516-572-4177**

The Nassau County Firefighters Museum is a place to learn all about fire safety while having fun! Visitors are taken step-by-step through a working fire, plus see the evolution of fire trucks and more.

## **Nassau County Museum of Art**

**One Museum Dr, Roslyn Harbor  
516-484-9338**

Located on a 145-acre property, the Nassau County Museum of Art features a permanent collection, special exhibitions, workshops, a sculpture garden, an arboretum and trails, and more.

## **Tilles Center for the Performing Arts**

**720 Northern Blvd, Brookville  
516-299-3100**

Tilles Center enriches lives through diverse arts experiences, from premier performances to inclusive arts education programs for all ages and communities.

## **UBS Arena**

**2400 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont  
516-460-8950**

Experience the excitement at UBS Arena, home of the New York Islanders, where sports, entertainment, and community converge.

# Where America Took Flight

## Before Silicon Valley built rockets and Houston ran Mission Control, Nassau County was where America learned to fly.

For more than four decades – from the roaring 1920s through the Space Race – Nassau County sat at the center of aviation history. Runways stretched across open farmland. Engineers and test pilots pushed the limits of technology. And the aircraft designed here would eventually help carry astronauts to the moon.

Today, that legacy lives on at places like the [Cradle of Aviation Museum](#), but the story begins much earlier. Here's the remarkable arc of how Nassau County helped America take flight.

### 1927: Lindbergh and the Flight That Changed the World

On the morning of May 20, 1927, a crowd gathered at Roosevelt Field, an airfield carved out of Long Island farmland. Their focus was a modern aircraft called the Spirit of St. Louis and Charles Lindbergh, the young pilot preparing to fly it.

When Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field that morning, he began what would become one of the most famous journeys in aviation history: the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean, from New York to Paris. Thirty-three hours later, Lindbergh landed at Le Bourget Airport and instantly became a global celebrity. The flight changed aviation forever, and Roosevelt Field became known worldwide as the place where it all began.

### Amelia Earhart and the Rise of the Aviators

Lindbergh wasn't the only aviation pioneer launching from Long Island. In the years that followed, Amelia Earhart also flew out of Roosevelt Field. By the late 1920s and early 1930s, Long Island had become one of the country's most important centers for experimental flight.

Airfields dotted the region, attracting pilots, engineers, and entrepreneurs eager to test new aircraft and chase aviation records – and for decades, Nassau County was the epicenter of American aviation.

### The 1930s and '40s: The Aviation Boom

As aviation technology advanced, Nassau County evolved from a testing ground into a major aircraft manufacturing hub. Companies built factories across Nassau County, employing thousands of engineers, machinists, and skilled workers. Airplanes designed and produced here would soon become critical to the United States during World War II.

Among the most important players was Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, headquartered in Bethpage. Grumman produced aircraft like the F6F Hellcat and the TBF Avenger, both of which played crucial roles in the Allied victory during the war. At its peak, Grumman employed tens of thousands of workers across Long Island, and the region's aviation industry officially entered the global stage.

### 1969: The Eagle Lands

After World War II, aviation innovation on Long Island reached even higher. Grumman engineers began working on one of the most ambitious projects in American history: building the Lunar Module for NASA's Apollo program. The spacecraft that would eventually land astronauts on the moon was designed and assembled in Bethpage.

On July 20, 1969, the world watched as Apollo 11 touched down on the moon. Inside the Lunar Module named Eagle, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin prepared to step onto the lunar surface. The vehicle that carried them there had been built by Grumman. When Armstrong delivered the famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," a piece of Nassau County history was sitting on the moon.

### Experience the Legacy at the Cradle of Aviation

Today, visitors can explore this extraordinary chapter of American innovation at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City. Located just minutes from where Roosevelt Field once stood, the museum celebrates Long Island's role in aviation and space exploration through historic aircraft, interactive exhibits, and the story of the engineers and pilots who helped shape the future. It's a reminder that the path from early aviation to the Space Age didn't begin in Houston or Cape Canaveral. It began right here.



# More Nassau County To explore

Get special offers, exclusive itineraries, and behind-the-scenes access to the best of Nassau County. Scan to start exploring.



Explore the stories, landmarks, and local experiences that helped shape America, alongside award-winning dining, scenic parks, vibrant downtowns, and coastal charm.

**Nassau County**  
Long Island



@visitnassaucountyli



Visit Nassau County, Long Island

NassauCountyTourism.com