

Red Cote Preserve Update



This summer, Red Cote Preserve's parking lot got some much-needed updates. New plantings such as sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), high bush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) and eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) were installed between the parking lot and Yellow Cote Road. These native plants can provide food and shelter for various bird and butterfly species and add diversity along the parking area/forest interface. And the Village of Oyster Bay Cove provided funding to install a new apron, this fall to provide easier access for vehicles entering and leaving.

The parking lot wasn't the only area of Red Cote Preserve that received an update. This summer a new

interpretive sign was installed at the trailhead. The sign includes a brief history of the preserve and a trail map, which guides visitors from the meadows where monarch butterflies lay eggs on milkweed into the woodland up the hill, where you may see an Eastern box turtle. The sign also has information on preserve management activities like the best times to mow this gorgeous meadow.

The Land Alliance would like to thank Dodds and Eder, the O'Neil Stewards, volunteers and the Village of Oyster Bay Cove for helping to bring new life to this wonderful corner of our world.



Apron



Interpretive sign



Preserve resident