



# The Office of Legislator Al Krupski

## Suffolk County Legislator

### 1<sup>st</sup> District

**For Immediate Release**  
**September 4, 2014**

**Contact: Gwynn Schroeder**  
**631.852-3200**

## **Suffolk County Legislature Establishes North Fork Preserve County Park Advisory Committee**

The Suffolk County Legislature adopted legislation establishing a North Fork County Park Advisory Committee at its July 29 General Meeting. The legislation was sponsored by Legislator Al Krupski, whose district includes the North Fork Preserve County Park property. The role of the committee will be to provide recommendations to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation concerning the development and future use of the park.

According to Legislator Krupski, he sponsored the legislation to create the Advisory Committee because local residents and environmental groups had expressed concerns that the park be developed in a manner which would preserve the ecologically important natural features of the land and would not place undue burdens on the surrounding community.

North Fork Preserve County Park, which is comprised of almost 300 acres of woodlands, fresh water wetlands and some previously developed areas, was purchased by Suffolk County in 2011. The property is located north of Sound Avenue and stretches back to Sound Shore Road in Riverhead.

The northern most 126 acres were purchased with funds through the Open Space component of the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program and will be utilized for passive uses such as hiking. The southern portion, which has road frontage on Sound Avenue and totals about 172 acres, was purchased with active recreation funds which allows for such uses as camping and horseback riding.

“In the process of developing the park for public access and use, there must be a balance between serving the residents of Suffolk County, whose money was used to purchase and preserve this land, and the needs and concerns of local residents” said Legislator Krupski. “The adopted resolution creating the committee provides for a diverse group and all stakeholders will have representation at the table. In my many years as an elected official, my experience with volunteer committees has been that they take their jobs seriously. I have faith this committee will make recommendations that will benefit both the users of the park and the Riverhead community.”

In addition to representatives from the County Executive’s office, the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and Riverhead Town, the legislation calls for one representative each from the Northville Civic Association, a local environmental group, the agricultural community, a camping group, an equestrian group and a Riverhead “at large” member to serve on the committee. Legislator Krupski will also appoint a member.