

## Background of the ENNA

The Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association began in 2001 as VZSHAN. This acronym (pronounced vision) stood for Van Zant to Sunset Hill Association of Neighbors. The group formed to address zoning, development, traffic and other “quality of life” concerns shared by residents in neighborhoods along East Avenue on both sides of the Interstate.

The group grew into the East Avenue Neighborhood Association and then became the ENNA. Through the name changes our mission remained the same.

In 2003, the ENNA formed a Board of Directors and is in the process of obtaining official nonprofit status.

Neighborhood businesses and local merchants are as much a part of our eastern Norwalk community as homeowners and residents. Our goal is to strengthen and enhance all aspects of our neighborhood, celebrating its history, charm and community spirit.



A tranquil pond behind Fitch Park off lower Strawberry Hill Ave. with I-95 in background.

## Historic Profile of eastern Norwalk

- First settlement in Norwalk in the 1600s located near today’s East Norwalk train station.
- Oldest cemetery in Norwalk is East Norwalk cemetery near Van Zant Street. Governor Fitch is buried there.
- The first Meeting House in Norwalk erected near the site of today’s Penny’s Diner on East Avenue.
- Fort Point Street was the road for the first settlement and exists today as laid out by the early settlers.
- Veterans Park was once salt marsh that was land-filled for a park.
- The street fronting Liberty Square once led over the Norwalk River to SoNo.
- I-95 construction meant the relocation of several historic eastern Norwalk houses, including the Fitch law office that is now part of the Mill Hill historic site.
- Calf Pasture Beach once was a pasture for cows to graze. The Town Green was also common grazing land.
- The Great Flood in 1955 saw the Norwalk River destroy many of the buildings on Wall Street and led to extensive redevelopment of the area.
- Some of the attractive old hat factory buildings remain standing (e.g. on Van Zant St. and Hoyt St.) and are used for other purposes today.
- The Norwalk River becomes Norwalk Harbor south of the Wall Street Bridge.
- Mill Pond is a salt-water pond that once had a mill.
- Andrews Field was once a wetland that is returning to its natural state.

## Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association



SeaToTheGreen®

# ENNA



Visit our website:

<http://eastnorwalk.org>

## Mission Statement

Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association is organized and operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes as follows:

- To foster and preserve the residential character, natural and historic resources and quality of life in the eastern Norwalk community;
- To encourage the residents of eastern Norwalk to actively participate in achieving the purpose set forth above;
- To provide assistance to governmental and not-for-profit organizations with purposes similar to, or with activities in furtherance of, the purposes set forth above.

## 2004-2005 Accomplishments

- Organized 6 neighborhood cleanups.
- Conducted a bus and walking tour with the Mayor and City officials to address neighborhood concerns identified by ENNA members.
- Made Master Plan recommendations to the Planning Commission.
- Landscaped and maintained an "adopt a spot" on East Ave. at City Hall
- Worked with the City to have traffic safety fixtures installed in School Zones on Strawberry Hill Ave.
- Co-founded and remain an active member of the Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhood Associations.
- Regularly represent eastern Norwalk neighborhoods at the Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation meetings.

## ENNA Scope

ENNA includes neighborhoods east of the Norwalk River to the Westport line and south of Post Road to Long Island Sound. See map on front.

## 2005-2006 Projects

- Hosted a Fall Gathering – an Annual State of the Neighborhood Event
- Organized an ENNA-wide Cleanup in the Spring, and a Fall Cleanup in the Hendricks Avenue area near Exit 16.
- Researched, drafted and submitted a Plan to the City requesting grant funds for improvements to Liberty Square.
- Maintaining two "adopt a spots" – one on East Avenue, and the other on Strawberry Hill Avenue.
- Participating in an ENNA-initiated task force examining proactive planning for Rte. 136 in the vicinity of the East Ave. train trestle.
- Helping to improve quality of life through close monitoring of proposed developments at: NordenPark; former Fitch School; former Gibbs College; former Pepperidge Farm; Cove Marina; and the East Wall Street area.

## Ongoing Activities

- Monitor for harmful zoning changes & inappropriate development
- Recommend traffic and school safety enhancements as needed
- Act to decrease friction while listening to and addressing all sides of each neighborhood issue

## How You Can Help

### Volunteer.

You can help with any of our activities. Please call (203) 855-7668 to find out how to get involved.

### Join.

To continue current projects and expand our activities we ask for your support. Memberships are \$25 annually per household.

### Contribute.

Additional financial contributions – and donations of materials – are also greatly appreciated.

To be part of ENNA, complete the form below and mail to: ENNA  
6 Walnut Ave., Norwalk CT, 06851

Name(s):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Check enclosed \_\_\_ Volunteer \_\_\_

Interests or special skills:

Contributions are tax deductible.