HILLSIDE PARK

On the western side of the wooded tract, Hillside Park (49.9 acres) slopes toward the Hudson river. Streams flowing from its watershed are mostly underground, but appear as small streams or brooklets above and below Sugar Pond and Chemka Pool, south of the Community Center and on the Cropsey Foundation’s landscaped grounds. The watershed above the pond is approximately 88 acres and includes wooded areas of Children's Village and residential areas of Judson Avenue and Circle Drive. Rocky slopes of Hillside Park are steep in places and mostly wooded. Geology of Hillside Park is known as metamorphosed gneiss with white bands of intruded quartz, and large glacial erratics brought into the area during the Wisconsin glaciers, 10,000-13,000 years ago.

Hillside Park area was once part of tenant farms on land owned by Frederick Philipse, who acquired extensive lands from local Indian tribes in 1682. Some of the purchased land was divided into four nearly equal-sized tenant farms. One of these, the current Hillside Park, was settled by Amos Levines before 1723. This area was acquired by the village from the Jewish Mental Health Society in about 1941. Hillside Woods was purchased for the village through The Trust For Public Land to avoid development, following passage of a $3,356,000 bond issue in 1993.

HILLSIDE WOODS

Hillside Woods, 48.06 acres of forest land, is bordered on the west by Hillside Park. The two areas are artifically separated by the remains of an old stone wall which formed the property line between the Lefurgy and Birnie/Smith farms; the wall ran from what is now Edgewood Avenue north to the present Children’s Village property. Sugar Pond, Hillside School, the tennis courts and Chemka pool are in Hillside Park; the Meadow, Vernal Pond, and Algonquin Trail are in Hillside Woods. The Algonquin trail is so-named because a part of it may follow an Indian trail that appears on an early map of Hastings-on-Hudson. Settlers cleared much of this land for pastures and crops.