

# CITY OF RYE GUIDE



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# RYE OVERVIEW

The City of Rye, on the picturesque shore of the Long Island Sound, has the distinction of being the smallest city in the state of New York, just 5.5 square miles in size.

This flourishing residential community offers an abundance of natural and cultural resources unrivaled by larger cities. Residents enjoy a close-knit, small-town setting reminiscent of a New England village, where traditional charm blends with modern living. This tranquil City is characterized by miles of magnificent shoreline, scenic vistas, rolling landscape and charming, tree-lined streets. A lively downtown thoroughfare on Purchase Street is lined with upscale shops and restaurants. Residents take pride in Rye's many natural resources. They are devoted to the preservation of the city's coastline and protected harbor to ensure future enjoyment of its beaches, public marina, golf courses and parklands. Nearly one-fifth of Rye has been devoted to recreation and preservation.

The residential communities of Rye offer a plethora of options that include majestic waterfront estates with sweeping views, stately Tudors, historic Colonials, Ranches and Split-levels. There are also cooperative and condominium complexes, some with beach access or in waterfront townhouse communities.



**AREA** 5.5 square miles

**POPULATION** Approximately 15,000

## HISTORY

Rye is the oldest permanent settlement in Westchester County, established in 1660 when a group of settlers from Greenwich, Connecticut purchased land from the Mohegan Indians. They named the town "Rye" after a town in England. Rye remained secluded until the late nineteenth century, when the trolley made surrounding communities accessible. The city thrived, population grew, and in 1904, what is now the City of Rye was established as a village within the larger Town of Rye. In 1942, it became a "City" entirely independent of the Town.

Today, the City of Rye is a unique blending of old and new, combining serene village life with historic landmarks that bind it to its three-hundred year history. It has six sites on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Timothy Knapp House. Now the Square House Museum, the former tavern is Westchester's oldest building, with George Washington having been a guest.

## VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

The "City" status of Rye, independent of the town, offers advantages, one being relief from paying a disproportional

share of the Town tax. The City Council is comprised of an elected Mayor and six council members. They serve without compensation for four-year terms. The legislative power and the determination of all matters of policy are vested in the Council.

## TRANSPORTATION

**New York City:** 25 miles

**Kennedy Airport:** 30 miles

**LaGuardia Airport:** 23 miles

**Newark Airport:** 41 miles

**Westchester County Airport:** 10 miles

**Greenwich:** 5 miles

**White Plains:** 7 miles

Rye is an express stop on the Metro North Railroad, with a commuting time of approximately 35 minutes to Manhattan's Grand Central Station. There is bus transportation via Bee-Line and taxi service.

## CITY OF RYE WEB SITE

[www.ryeny.gov](http://www.ryeny.gov)

## LIBRARIES

The Library, The Rye Free Reading Room, was established in 1884, and is conveniently located near the Village Green. Its mission is to provide up-to-date information and services, utilizing a variety of resources, including books, state-of-the-art technology, and public programs. The library serves as a central gathering place and learning facility for Rye residents of all ages.

The library offers a new meeting room, with a capacity of over one-hundred, that is available for private rental or for public programs. It offers smaller rooms, each with a capacity of twenty.

The Rye Free Reading Room is a member of the Westchester Library System, which enables card holders to borrow books and materials directly from any of the 38-member libraries.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CIVIC GROUPS

In addition to national, civic and fraternal organizations, there are a variety of clubs based on local Rye interests, including the Rye Garden Club, Rye Figure Skating Club and the Rye Newcomers Club. The Rye Historical Society and the Jay Heritage Center ensure the preservation of Rye's history. The Jay Heritage Center is focused on restoring and maintaining the 1838 Peter Augustus Jay House which occupies the original site of the Jay family farm, known as "The Locusts." Restoration of the Jay mansion is an official project of the "Save America's Treasures" Program.



Rye Middle School



Rye Playland



Oakland Beach

## RYE CITY SCHOOLS

The elementary schools of Rye City include the Osborn School, Midland School and Milton School, which serve kindergarten through fifth grade. All are New York State Schools of Excellence. Academics stress language arts, reading, social studies, science, mathematics and critical thinking skills. art, computer and music are taught in all grades.

Rye Middle School serves students in grades six through eight, who learn from teacher teams in the core academic areas. More than a link between elementary and high school, it attends to the characteristics and needs of the early adolescent and promotes academic, personal/social development of each child.

Rye High School students are offered curriculum opportunities at Regents, Honors and Advanced Placement levels. An extensive selection of elective courses augment core academics and an extracurricular program includes activities for almost every interest. A community service program is mandatory. The vast majority of high school graduates move on to institutions of higher education.

The Rye School of Leadership is an off-campus alternative high school which serves the needs of those students who benefit from non-traditional educational approaches.

## RYE NECK SCHOOLS

The Rye Neck Union Free School District serves students who live in the southern tip of Rye City. Recognized for its excellent teaching staff, high standards and the finest in learning facilities, it offers a first-rate education within a small setting, where students receive a great deal of individual attention.

The district has a two-part elementary school system. Students in kindergarten through second grade attend Daniel Warren School. FE Bellows, which encompasses grades third through fifth, feeds into the Rye Neck Middle School for grades sixth through eight.

The Rye Neck High School offers a comprehensive academic and elective curriculum, complemented by a varied athletics program. Special programs include an intensive three-year Science Research Opportunity, The Independent Learner Program for pursuing real world interests while earning school credit and a Theater Arts program in conjunction with several colleges and universities.



Milton School



Train Station



Rye YMCA

## RYE RECREATION

Rye's Sound Shore location is a source of many excellent recreational activities, including boating and fishing. The Rye Marina, in scenic Milton Harbor, has mooring space for 350 boats. Two other popular destinations are Oakland Beach and the county-operated Rye Playland Amusement Park, listed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks. The beach is enjoyed in the summer months and in the winter there is indoor ice skating. The Rye Golf Club offers a 19-hole golf course, olympic-size swimming pool and three wading pools, all exclusively for Rye residents.

Also located in Rye are The Nature Center, a bird sanctuary, and the 120-acre Marshland Conservancy on the waterfront. The Rye Nature Center is a Rye City-owned facility offering environmental programs through the cooperative efforts of the "Friends of Rye Nature Center" and the City of Rye. The wildlife preserve is located on 47 acres with miles of hiking trails, ponds, streams and granite outcroppings. The Nature Center has classrooms and museum space for visiting classes and special events. The grounds are open daily, for hiking, from dawn to dusk.

The Rye Recreation Department is recognized for its distinctive approach to providing high quality programs, special events, activities and facilities for all ages. Facilities includes the Damiano Center, McDonald Building, a new Senior Citizen Center, four parks, nine athletic fields, twelve tennis courts (six with lights), three picnic shelters, four playgrounds, basketball courts and open green space. The new addition is the Skate Park, which opened in 2007.

The large variety of programs offered by the Recreation Department include youth sports leagues, Little League, softball, soccer, lacrosse, yoga, computer, cooking and science for all ages, beginning with pre-schoolers. There is a meeting room and multipurpose room, one with a capacity of 80 and the other 150. They can be reserved for parties, meetings and catered events. Picnic grounds can also be reserved for company events or private functions.

Other yearly events that the rec department sponsors include a summer camp and special events such as bike rides, ski trips, a turkey run, walk-a-thon and Halloween painting contest, to name a few.

## NURSERY SCHOOLS IN THE AREA

**Bellefair at Bright Horizons**  
38 Bellefair Boulevard, Rye Brook 914.935.0618

**Christ's Church Nursery School**  
Rectory Street, Rye 914.967.5758

**Church of the Resurrection**  
910 Boston Post Road, Rye 914.967.0142

**Harrison Presbyterian Nursery School**  
231 Park Ave, Harrison 914.835.0055

**KTI**  
575 King Street, Port Chester 914.939.1004

**Little Flower Nursery School**  
310 E Boston Post Rd, Mamaroneck 914.777.1281

**North Baptist Nursery School**  
284 King St, Port Chester 914.937.8401

**Ridge Street Country School**  
431 North Ridge Street, Rye Brook 914.939.5460

**Ridgeway Nursery School & Kindergarten**  
465 Ridgeway, White Plains 914.949.3134

**Rye Community Synagogue**  
200 Forest Avenue, Rye 914.967.6262

**Rye Presbyterian Nursery School**  
882 Boston Post Rd, Rye 914.967.2073

**Rye Methodist Nursery School**  
964 Boston Post Rd, Rye 914.921.1939

**Webster Avenue Nursery School**  
300 Harrison Ave, Harrison 914.835.4504

## PRIVATE/PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

**Corpus Christi School**  
135 S Regent St, Port Chester 914.937.4407

**French-American Schools of New York**  
Pre-School: 85 Palmer Ave, Scarsdale 914.250.0522  
Lower School: 111 Larchmont Ave, Larchmont 914.250.0468  
Upper School: 145 New Street, Mamaroneck 914.698.8707

**German School of New York**  
50 Partridge Road, White Plains 914.948.6513

**Greek School**  
2195 Westchester Ave, Rye 914.967.2838

**Holy Rosary School**  
18 Central Avenue, Port Chester 914.939.1021

**Keio Academy**  
3 College Road, Purchase 914.694.4825

**Our Lady of Mercy Parochial**  
17 Spring Street, Port Chester 914.939.2963

**Resurrection Schools**  
Grammar School: 116 Milton Road, Rye 914.925.3500  
Middle School: 946 Post Road, Rye 914.925.3500

**Rye Country Day School**  
3 Grandview Avenue, Rye 914.967.1417

**School of the Holy Child**  
2225 Westchester Avenue, Rye 914.967.5622

**Solomon Schechter Schools of Westchester**  
Lower School: 30 Dellwood Road, White Plains 914.948.3111  
Upper School: 555 West Hartsdale Ave, Hartsdale 914.9487979

**The Westfield Day School**  
23 Purdy Avenue, Rye 914.967.2530

**Westchester Day School**  
856 Orienta Avenue, Mamaroneck 914.698.8900

**Westchester Hebrew High School**  
856 Orienta Avenue, Mamaroneck 914.698.0806

**Westchester Fairfield Hebrew Academy**  
270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich 203.863.9663

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergency: 914.967.1234

### AMBULANCE

Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergency: 914.939.8112

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergency: 911 or 914.967.3457  
Non-Emergency: 914.967.4530

### RYE FREE READING ROOM

1061 Boston Post Rd  
914.967.0480  
www.ryelibrary.org

### POST OFFICE

41 Purdy Ave.  
1.800.275.8777

### GREENWICH HOSPITAL

Emergency Services: 203.863.3637  
Main Number: 203.863.3000  
www.greenhosp.org

### WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL

Main Number: 914.681.0600  
www.wphospital.org

### WESTCHESTER COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER

Emergency Department: 914.493.7307  
Main Number: 914.493.7000  
www.wcmc.com

### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: 888.426.4435  
www.apcc.aspc.org  
Assessor Department: 914.967.7565  
Boat Basin Supervisor: 914.967.2011  
Building Department: 914.967.7372  
City Court: 914.967.1599  
Department of Planning: 914.967.7167

Department of Public Works: 914.967.7464  
Department of Engineering: 914.967.7676  
Metro North: 1.212.878.7000 • www.mta.info/mnr  
Rye Central School District: 914.967.6100  
www.ryecityschools.lhrc.org  
Rye Neck Union Free School District: 914.777.5200  
www.ryeneck.k12.ny.us  
Rye Historical Society: 914.967.7588  
Rye Recreation Department: 914.967.2535  
Rye Nature Center: 914.967.5150  
Tax Assessors Office: 914.967.7565  
Westchester Animal Emergency: 914.723.1526  
Westchester Bee-Line Bus System: 914.813.7777  
www.beelinebus.westchestergov.com

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

City of Rye: www.ryeny.gov  
Westchester County:  
www.westchestergov.com  
Westchester County Airport:  
www.whiteplainsairport.com

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