

Jane's Walk 2017

Led by the Tottenville Historical Society

Biddle's Grove

Tottenville, Staten Island, NY

Jane's Walk® is a series of neighborhood walking tours. Named after urban activist and writer Jane Jacobs, Jane's Walks are organized by the Municipal Art Society and held annually during the first weekend in May to coincide with her birthday.



Group participants gathering at the Tottenville train station.

Walk route: Bentley St. to Hopping Ave. to Satterlee St.



An exclusive interior tour of 65 Hopping Ave. was a treat!



The Biddle's Grove tour ended at the H.H. Biddle House, Conference House Park, where guests enjoyed the sounds of the Staten Island Philharmonic Quintet.



Tottenville Historical Society

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The Tottenville Historical Society is the premier resource for information about the history and heritage of Tottenville and vicinity.

The mission of the Society is to "collect, document and preserve the history and culture of the former village of Tottenville, County of Richmond, Staten Island, New York and vicinity through the collection and preservation of artifacts, photographs and memorabilia, and to share this information with the general public through its website, newsletters, educational programs and exhibits.

The Tottenville Historical Society has hosted a series of walking tours in Tottenville and surrounding communities since 2008.

A Walking Tour of Historic Biddle's Grove

BIDDLE'S GROVE, Tottenville

The historic name *Biddle's Grove* refers to the summer retreat for city groups, especially Sabbath Schools, that was developed by Henry Hogg Biddle in the 1850s. (For more information, explore the *Biddle House*, *Conference House Park*.) This multi-acre waterfront property was described as "a most inviting spot... shaded by thousands of trees... where you can enjoy the healthful sea breeze, and bath houses have been erected on the beach for the comfort of visitors." These visitors arrived via chartered steamboat from Manhattan and New Jersey.

By 1861 the Biddle's Grove property was sold; an attempt to develop the site into a religious retreat with hotel, spa and dwellings never materialized. In 1866 three Tottenville businessmen purchased a triangular-shaped parcel of the property and laid out streets and large building lots for development. The boundaries were recorded in a surveyor's map titled *Map of the Biddle Grove Property belonging to A.H. Wood, James W. Slaight and James C. Robinson; Surveyed June, 1866; Filed June 1870.*

