

= Heckscher State Parkway =

The Heckscher State Parkway ( formerly known as the Heckscher Spur ) is an 8 @. @ 24 @- @ mile @- @ long ( 13 @. @ 26 km ) parkway on Long Island , New York , in the United States . The parkway , located entirely within the Suffolk County town of Islip , begins at the south end of the Sagtikos State Parkway in West Islip , from where it continues west as the Southern State Parkway . It proceeds east as a six @- @ lane parkway through Brentwood and Central Islip , loosely paralleling New York State Route 27 ( NY 27 ) . At Islip Terrace , the Heckscher Parkway turns southward , crossing NY 27 before ending at the toll barrier for Heckscher State Park in Great River . The parkway comprises the eastern portion of New York State Route 908M ( NY 908M ) , an unsigned reference route , with the Southern State Parkway occupying the western section . In order to avoid confusion , the highway is signed as an extension of the Southern State Parkway west of the NY 27 interchange ( exit 44 ) .

The parkway was originally built in 1929 as a connector between NY 27A and the newly opened Heckscher ( formerly Deer Range ) State Park . In 1959 , bids were announced for a new Heckscher State Parkway , which would connect the original road to the Sagtikos State Parkway . This section was officially opened on November 3 , 1962 , with a ceremony featuring speeches by Robert Moses and Governor Nelson Rockefeller . The Long Island Transportation Plan 2000 , a long @- @ term study done in the late 1990s , called for the Heckscher Parkway to be widened west of NY 27 to accommodate a carpool and bus lane .

= = Route description = =

The Heckscher State Parkway begins at an interchange with the southern terminus of the Sagtikos State Parkway in the hamlet of West Islip on Long Island . The junction is signed as exit 41A on the Heckscher Parkway and the Southern State Parkway , the Heckscher Parkway 's westward continuation toward New York City . Past the interchange , the Heckscher Parkway heads east as a six @- @ lane divided highway , passing through residential areas in West Islip and the North Bay Shore section of town of Islip . It soon enters exit 42 , a cloverleaf interchange with County Route 13 ( CR 13 , named Fifth Avenue ) . Half of the junction 's ramps directly connect to CR 13 while the others use one of the parkway 's two service roads , named Spur Drive South and Spur Drive North . After the interchange , the parkway continues generally eastward through Brentwood , running past dense woods buffering the highway from more developed areas .

Brentwood eventually gives way to Islip Terrace , where the parkway enters another cloverleaf interchange , exit 43 for NY 111 ( Islip Avenue ) . Exit 43A , a junction for CR 17 ( Carleton Avenue ) , follows shortly afterward . After exit 43A , the Heckscher State Parkway makes a gradual bend to the southeast toward exit 44 , a cloverleaf interchange with NY 27 ( Sunrise Highway ) . The two service roads flanking the Heckscher Parkway end just north of the junction , with both feeding into local streets adjacent to the parkway . Past Sunrise Highway , the Heckscher State Parkway enters East Islip , crossing over Long Island Rail Road 's Montauk Branch at a point just west of the Great River station .

On the other side of the tracks , the parkway begins to run along the western edge of Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park while crossing over CR 50 ( Union Boulevard ) . The CR 50 overpass is located just north of exit 45 , a cloverleaf interchange serving NY 27A ( Montauk Highway ) . South of here , the Heckscher narrows from six to four lanes as it heads into Great River . Here , the road passes alongside residential neighborhoods while slowly curving to the south toward Heckscher State Park . The parkway intersects Timber Point Road at exit 46 before ending shortly afterward at the tollbooth for Heckscher State Park . While the parkway designation ends here , the highway 's right @- @ of @- @ way continues southwest into the park , 8 @. @ 52 miles ( 13 @. @ 71 km ) from the Southern State .

= = History = =

Heckscher State Park , formerly known as Deer Range State Park , dates back to 1925 . At that time , the construction of the Northern State Parkway was opposed by area residents as they believed it would hurt their ability to hunt foxes in the area . Their representatives in the New York State Legislature refused to provide money for a park , leading a group to contact August Heckscher , a local philanthropist . He donated \$ 262 @, @ 000 ( 1929 USD ) to the Long Island State Park Commission ( LISPC ) and got land appropriated for a new park , which became Deer Range State Park . On June 2 , 1929 , the park was rededicated in the name of August Heckscher . Former Governor Alfred E. Smith , LISPC chairman and highway designer Robert Moses , and Heckscher all made remarks at a ceremony for the name change , and Heckscher was presented with a bronze tablet honoring his work . Heckscher died in April 1941 .

A two @-@ lane highway providing access from NY 27A to Heckscher State Park was constructed in 1929 . This highway became the basis for what eventually became the Heckscher State Parkway . Plans for the parkway called for it to extend northwest to a junction at Bay Shore Road in West Islip , where the Heckscher , Southern , Sagtikos and Captree Parkway ( now the Robert Moses Causeway ) would meet . Thus , when the extension of the Southern State Parkway opened in November 1949 , the junction was built to accommodate the proposed Heckscher Parkway . In 1952 , the state acquired the W. Bayard Cutting estate in Great River . Projections made at this time called for the Heckscher Parkway to be constructed by 1954 so the Cutting land could be turned into an arboretum .

Work on the road was delayed until March 1959 when bids were finally announced by the State of New York Department of Public Works to construct the last 6 @. @ 27 miles ( 10 @. @ 09 km ) section of the Heckscher State Parkway from the Sagtikos State Parkway to NY 27A . This , along with a widening of the Southern State Parkway , would fill the gaps in the original 200 @-@ mile ( 320 km ) parkway system proposed by Robert Moses . The estimated cost of construction was \$ 8 @, @ 327 @, @ 000 ( 1959 USD ) , and the road was slated to be completed in September 1960 . An additional two years were ultimately needed to finish the highway , and LISPC announced on November 1 , 1962 , that the parkway would open on the upcoming Saturday ( November 3 ) with a ceremony featuring Robert Moses and Governor Nelson Rockefeller .

On the morning of November 3 , the Heckscher State Parkway 's full alignment was opened to traffic in rainy conditions . A motorcade of 110 vehicles followed the new parkway to the Bayard Cutting Arboretum , but Governor Rockefeller was late due to mechanical difficulties with his personal plane . The new parkway led to the expansion of facilities along the road , which included an additional 1 @, @ 658 acres ( 671 ha ) of land and 18 @, @ 000 feet ( 5 @, @ 500 m ) of new beachfront . Opening the parkway also created connections to the nearby Southside Sportsmen 's Club , which would be turned into a recreation area , and the Bayard Cutting Arboretum . A new set of trees were planted along the parkway in 1963 . LISPC was to plant 67 @, @ 000 trees , shrubs and ground cover along the new parkway and several others on Long Island . Evergreen trees , Japanese crab , cherry , mimosa , magnolia , forsythia and laurel plants were among those planted .

From 1997 ? 2001 , engineers at Parsons Brinckerhoff worked on " Long Island Transportation Plan 2000 " , a \$ 6 @. @ 5 million ( 2001 USD ) study focused on improving Long Island 's transportation system by 2020 . The study 's findings included 130 miles ( 210 km ) of road widening . One widening proposal would give the Heckscher Parkway an extra restricted @-@ access lane for buses and carpooling drivers between the Sagtikos State Parkway and NY 27 . The added lane would be part of a 60 @-@ mile ( 97 km ) system of restricted @-@ access lanes across Long Island .

= = Exit list = =

Exit numbers continue sequentially from those of the Southern State Parkway . The entire route is in Suffolk County .