

Greenbelt can be enjoyed by all

I strongly disagree with Elizabeth Connelly's anti-Greenbelt remarks as reported in the Advance, especially her contention that the Greenbelt could be enjoyed by nobody but the most hearty hiker, much less anyone with a disability.

Actually, the Greenbelt terrain is such that one can walk there for hours with no climbing whatever. I, an overweight, middle-aged housewife, have hiked through the Greenbelt wearing a skirt and blouse and carrying a handbag. Among the other hikers were senior citizens and children. Hardly anyone present was a naturalist, although those who were kindly answered questions and explained things of interest for the rest of us.

Walking through the Greenbelt, I have found, is a healthful recreation for mind, body and spirit. What could be a more worthy recipient of public funds? The Greenbelt can be enjoyed even by those lacking athletic skills, intellect or money.

Moreover, Mrs. Connelly's remarks concerning the handicapped brought a flashback to my mind. Years ago at Brooklyn College there was a meeting of the hiking club, to which I was taken by a friend. When I learned that the upcoming hike was to involve climbing, I refused to attend. The girl in front of me did sign up. She had deformed arms, shorter than elbow length, which ended in stubs instead of fingers. Yet she signed her own name and went on the climbing hike and had a fine time.

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