

AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, Inc.
P.O. Box 49,
Old Mystic, CT 06372
(860) 884-3500
www.avalonialandconservancy.org

HONNEN PRESERVE

Site Management Plan

Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut
Latitude: N 41° 35'48.3" Longitude: W 71° 57'50.1"

Property managed by the Avalonia Town of Griswold Committee
Plan prepared by the Avalonia Town of Griswold Committee

Management Plan POC: Richard "Dick" Conant

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Management Plan Approval:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Site Information:

Property name and location: The Honnen is a 6.81 acre red maple and Atlantic white cedar wetland located at south of Taylor Hill Road and immediately east of Interstate 395, Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut. **See site maps in Avalonia office stewardship files and Griswold Dropbox files??**

Directions to the property: Take Taylor Hill Road located off Route 138 just east of I-395. Look for Avalonia property signs along the south side of the road just before Taylor Hill Road crosses over I-395 in a westerly direction. Access is down a steep road embankment and over a road boundary metal link fence.

Land trust contact information: AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, Inc. P.O. Box 49, Old Mystic, CT 06372
Landline #:(860) 884-3500 Website address: www.avalonialandconservancy.org

Legal description from deed/survey: See property deed in Avalonia office stewardship files and Griswold Dropbox files??

Description of surrounding area:

The immediate environ surrounding the Honnen Preserve is mixed residential development and road corridors surrounding the red maple wetland on the east, north, and west. The southern boundary is red maple forest with mixed woodlots further to the south.

The property is a relatively small 6.8 acres mature red maple and Atlantic white cedar wetland, surrounded by residential development and road systems, having limited conservation value for native raptors, woodpeckers, woodland birds, insectivorous birds and song birds. The wooded parcel may support transient white-tailed deer and coyote while also providing upland woods for small mammals. The emergent wetland supports a healthy population of amphibians.

Acquisition history

Date of donation or purchase:

The Honnen Preserve was donated by Edward R. Honnen on August 28, 1993. The donor's expectations for property and any restrictions placed on property at time of gift are included in the transfer documents. **See property deed in Avalonia office stewardship files and Griswold Dropbox files??**

Land use history

The site contains an extensive mature red maple and Atlantic white cedar palustrine forested freshwater wetland with areas of Phragmites, high bush blueberry, sweet pepper bush, tussock grass and sphagnum moss. Wetland hydrology is perennial standing groundwater from higher elevation north and west of the property. No previous structures or foundations have been noted on the property. Extensive dumping of trash and household debris is on the steep road bank access to the property from Taylor Hill Road. The boundaries are very poorly marked on the north side only with a mix of old Mashantucket Land Trust and newer Avalonia signage.

Public Use Resources

The property is open for foot access and observation although no established or maintained trails exist and access is extremely challenging down a steep embankment from Taylor Hill Road, over a wire fence and through standing hydrology in the wetland. Permissible activities include hiking, nature study and wildlife observation. Prohibited activities include, but are not inclusive to, camping, cutting or collection of any vegetation, hunting or trapping, disposal of trash, litter, or vegetative debris, removal of rocks and/or cultural artifacts.

Avalonia signage is extremely sparse and consists of dated with Mashantucket Land Trust signs on the east and south.

Natural Resources: On the Honnen Preserve property, the upland vegetative communities are strewn with trash and some bittersweet, Japanese barberry and multiflora rose encroaching on the wetland areas. Portions of the wetland are infested with Phragmites. There is no evidence of any stewardship efforts to date. Effort is needed clean up trash on the northern boundary and eradicate the invasive species with mechanical control and selective seasonal “painting” with herbicides. The upland portions of the site support white pine, red cedar, black birch and interspersed red maple. The wetland supports primarily mature red maple, sweet pepperbush, high bush blueberry, Atlantic white cedar and phragmites.

Raccoon, eastern gray squirrel, coyote and white-tail deer may exist as permanent or transient residents of the property tract. The property does not contain any habitats of special concern as defined by the Connecticut Department of Energy and the Environment.

The property is generally flat and contains year-round ponded water in the red maple and Atlantic white cedar wetland. Drainage continues towards the south out of the preserve. The central portion of the property is a meandering undefined watercourse stream, pools of standing water, and wetlands with a uplands to the north.

Cultural Resources: None noted.

Management objectives

Protection:

Protect site from tree cutting/fire wood removal, hunting, dumping of brush and vegetative debris from adjacent residential neighbors, littering and damage to cultural resources and artifacts. “No Hunting” signs should be posted.

Boundary identification and sign posting:

Site access points and boundaries are NOT fully posted and marked with Avalonia property boundary identification signs.

Surveillance objectives:

The site requires an extensive trash clean-up adjacent to Taylor Hill Road and then periodic inspection for littering, defacing/removal of boundary and access signage, and illegal dumping of yard waste and trimmings.

Protection of special natural and cultural features:

Monitor site access from Taylor Hill Road.

Public use and Restrictions:

The site has no established and maintained trails, but is still open for public pedestrian access to provide the general public with opportunities to view passively the site’s natural and cultural resources. No camping, cutting of firewood or vegetation, dumping or disposal of litter or residential vegetative debris is authorized. No hunting is permitted. Public access to the Honnen Preserve is via a steep road embankment adjacent to Taylor Hill Road.

Implementing the plan

Recurring and occasional requirements:

Pursue annual assessment, trash removal, and management of invasive species by mechanical and chemical strategies. Post site and maintain signage.

Annual obligations:

Conduct a full boundary walk with GPS equipment. Install/replace/maintain signage as necessary. Produce a brief annual report capturing yearly management and stewardship work accomplished on the property and outlining management/stewardship priorities for the upcoming year.

Floral or Faunal Species Noted On-Site

| COMMON NAME | SCIENTIFIC NAME | DATE OBSERVED | COMMENTS |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| PLANTS: | | 11/20/2015 | |
| Red Cedar | | 11/20/2015 | |
| Atlantic White Cedar | | 11/20/2015 | |
| Red Oak | | 11/20/2015 | |
| Phragmites | | 11/20/2015 | |
| Multiflora rose | | 11/20/2015 | |
| Highbush Blueberry | | 11/20/2015 | |
| Red Maple | | 11/20/2015 | |
| White Pine | | 11/20/2015 | |
| Sweet Pepperbush | | 11/20/2015 | |
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| MAMMALS: | | | |
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| REPTILES: | | | |
| Painted turtles? | | | |
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| INVERTEBRATES: | | | |
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| BIRDS: | | | |
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| AMPHIBIANS: | | | |
| Frogs and salamanders? | | | |
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Site Surveys and Mgt. Plan Progress (annual update of work accomplished)

- 1. See 2011 and 2015 Annual Boundary Survey – Avalonia Office Site Inspections Folder and jotform records??**