



AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, Inc.
P.O. Box 49,
Old Mystic, CT 06372

McKinley Preserve

Property Management Plan

Farmholme Road
Stonington, New London County, Connecticut

Stonington Town Committee is responsible
for the stewardship of this property

Plan Prepared by:
Richard Newton & Beth Sullivan
Fall 2015

Approved by Stonington Town Committee: _____

Date _____

Approved by Stewardship Committee: _____

Date _____



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SUMMARY

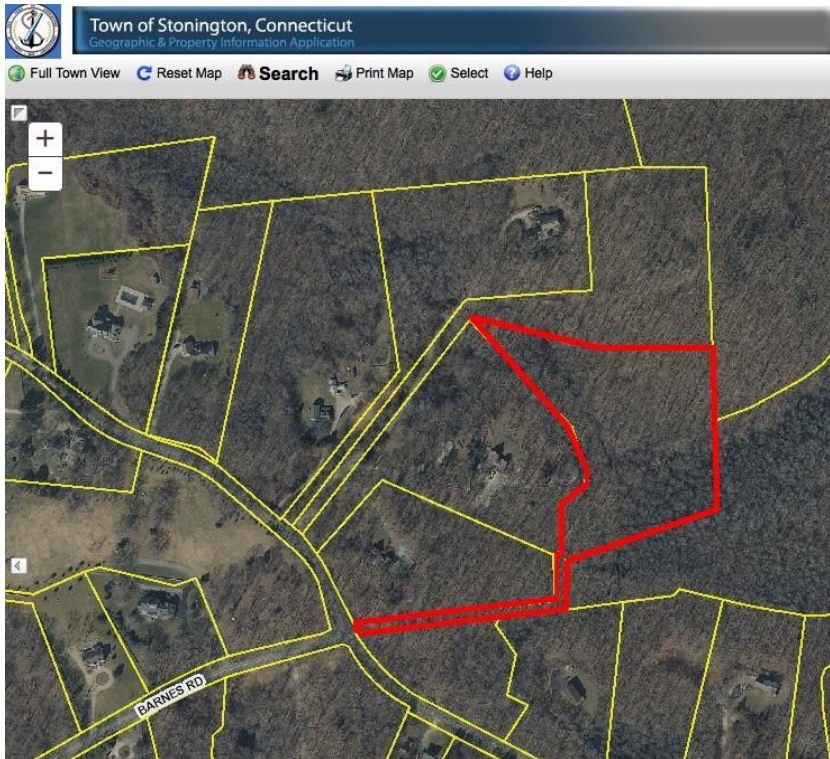
This plan is for a property on Farmholme Road in Stonington, CT. This is a non-trailed property of coastal woodlands with extensive wetlands. See the photos and map that follow. Visitors are welcome.

Property is owned by Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc., P.O. Box 49, Old Mystic, CT 06372. Avalonia Land Conservancy (ALC) can be reached by email at avalonialc@yahoo.com, by phone at 860-884-3500, and has a website at <http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org>.

HISTORY

The McKinley Preserve is located in the Town of Stonington center area of town. Residential housing and undeveloped parcels surround the property. A two-acre parcel abutting to the south

is currently for sale (October 2015).



SITE INFORMATION

The property

A parcel map of the property from the Town of Stonington GIS database is shown to the left. The property is identified as Map/Book/Lot/Unit 59/1/1D. GIS acreage is 5.78 acres.

Access, immediately opposite Barnes Road, is difficult as road frontage is narrow and

there is no parking.

Acquisition history

Donated to Mashantucket Land Trust due to subdivision split-off from William McKinley in September 1994.

Mashantucket Land Trust was renamed Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. in September 1995.

Land use history

Stonewalls and historical photos indicate part of parcel was farmland. The rest has been wetlands.

Neighborhood Change in Connecticut, 1934 to Present

Want to compare 1934, 1990, 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2012 using a transparency tool? [Check out our Connecticut Aerial Photography Interactive Map Interface](#)



Attention ArcGIS and other GIS software users! The 1934 Aerial Photography layer is available via [MAGIC's WMS](#).

Use the search box below to locate an address in Connecticut.

barnes road, stonington ct

Toggle map layers
 CT Towns

1934



Satellite



Google 100 m Terms of Use

Public use resources

The property is open to the public for all standard Avalonia passive recreational activities. Essentially the only intended activity is to provide wildlife habitat for neighborhood. At this time there are no formal trails and there are none planned due to extensive wetlands. There is, however, evidence of local usage and an old trail from an eastern property through this land and

onto adjoining land. At this point its value is in protecting the headwaters of the small, unnamed brook and wetlands and providing some local usage trails for passive recreation. It is possible that it has been used by ATVs at some point so monitoring may be needed.

Public benefit of the protected property:

The property is a significant natural area that qualifies as being preserved for a “conservation purpose” under 26 US Code 170(h)(4):

(4) Conservation purpose defined

(A) In general

For purposes of this subsection, the term “conservation purpose” means—

(i) the preservation of land areas for outdoor recreation by, or the education of, the general public,

(ii) the protection of a relatively natural habitat of fish, wildlife, or plants, or similar ecosystem,

(iii) the preservation of open space (including farmland and forest land) where such preservation is—

(I) for the scenic enjoyment of the general public, or

(II) pursuant to a clearly delineated Federal, State, or local governmental conservation policy,

and will yield a significant public benefit, or

(iv) the preservation of an historically important land area or a certified historic structure.

Natural resources

This property contains very typical wet woodland and Red Maple swamp habitat. The areas of rocky ridge, ledge and outcrops provide unique denning opportunities for wildlife.

The northern portion is drier, upland woods with unnamed brook emerging from NW corner and flowing down into and through central wetlands with vernal pools suitable for amphibian breeding habitat.

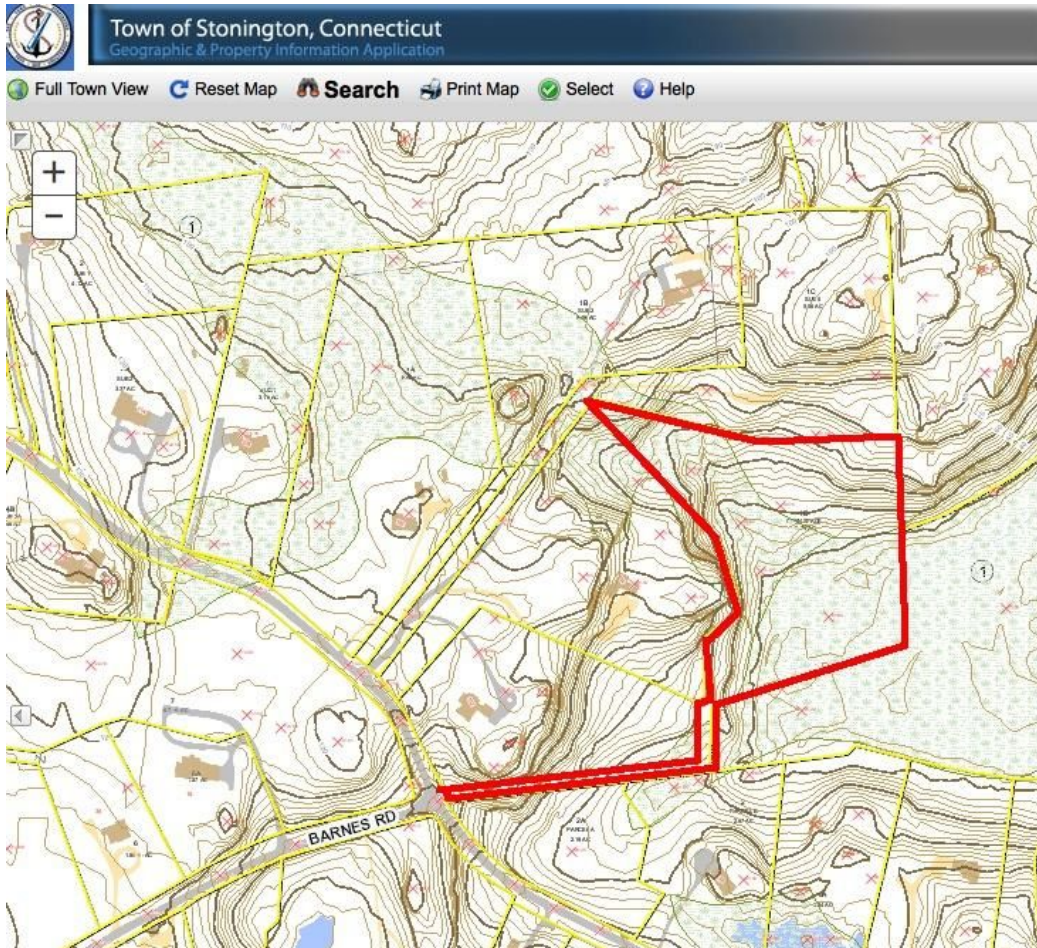
Vegetation: Wetlands comprised of Red (Swamp) Maple with some Yellow Birch, some White Oak with mid-level shrub layer comprised of Sweet-pepper Bush and Spice Bush. Native green brier also present throughout, ferns, hellebore, skunk cabbage and sphagnum and other mosses dominate forest floor in wetlands with typical wetland plants. Some invasive plants noted: mostly at entrance and some barberry in wetland areas.

Wildlife: Typical woodland resident birds observed: Chickadees, Titmice, Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers and White Breasted Nuthatch. Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles noted in wetlands. One would expect typical migrant nesters including several species of warblers. There is enough contiguous woodland acreage to expect other forest nesters to be present such as: Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager and Wood Pewee.

Potential threats to Conservation values: Over growth of invasive plants could degrade the habitat, so monitoring for significant changes will be necessary during annual surveys. The

objective is to maintain the property as woodland / wetland habitat.

ELEVATIONS / WETLANDS



SPECIAL FEATURES AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Rock ledge and ridge are very impressive. Signs of old quarry activity present.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Stewardship policies

Avalonia Land Conservancy Fee Land Stewardship Principles were approved on December 16, 2009 and the document is available at the Conservancy's office on Hatch Street in Mystic, CT.

This document sets forth the general principles governing stewardship of all Avalonia properties. The document or any approved successor is hereby incorporated as part of this management plan.

Protection

Condition of Boundaries:

- Corner monuments/pins found
- Boundary signs posted

No entrance / roadside sign at present. Boundary has been posted except for wetlands on southwest border.

There are no specific management goals at this time besides preservation of the area. The long narrow corridor in from the road and along the ledge could be kept clear and allow easier access to the upland portion for those interested in entering. Annual surveys needed to check on possible misuse of trail by ATVs from adjoining property. Signs have been posted at bar-way in boundary wall.

An annual walk around the boundaries of the properties is required. Yearly surveillance should be conducted to check for infringement or encroachment by neighbors (especially northern border due to close proximity of border to neighbor's driveway) depositing yard waste. All motorized vehicles are prohibited on the properties except for maintenance.

Maintaining properties appearance

Litter control.

Public use

The preserve is open to the public for passive recreational use though there are no trails. Motor vehicles, bicycle riding, and horseback riding are not permitted. Hunting and the use of firearms on the property including bow hunting and target practice are not permitted. Camping is not allowed. Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 7 feet long. Visitors are not allowed to pick vegetation or disturb wildlife excessively.

Enhancing wildlife habitat(s)

Nothing planned.

Controlling invasive species

Removal of invasive species by manual means will be accomplished as resources permit.

Erosion control and flooding

No issues.

Productive uses

Provides habitat for neighborhood wildlife.

Scientific and educational activities

None planned.

Response to large natural disasters

Removal of any hazards will be undertaken as necessary.

Special management considerations

None. One neighbor had a deer stand close to property line prior to posting of signs. No issue since posting.

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

Recurring and occasional requirements

Stonington Town Committee members visit the site on a limited basis.

Annual obligations

A boundary walk around the outside perimeter the property is required.

Short term plan (1 – 5 years)

Annual boundary walk.

Long term plan (5+ years)

Monitor site. Control invasive plants.

Schedule for revising this plan

This plan shall be reviewed at least every five years and updated as necessary.

APPENDICES

I. Zoning map for property and surrounding area is available at the Stonington Town Hall or online at <http://gis.stonington-ct.gov>.

Deeds are available in Avalonia files, Stonington Town Hall and online at <https://connecticut-townclerks-records.com/User/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fIndex.aspx>