



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

# Parker Brothers Preserve

## Property Management Plan

River Road  
Pawcatuck, 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 River Road in Pawcatuck, CT. This is a minor-trailed property of varied habitat. See the photos and map that follows. 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](mailto:avalonialc@yahoo.com), by phone at 860-884-3500, and has a website at <http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org>.

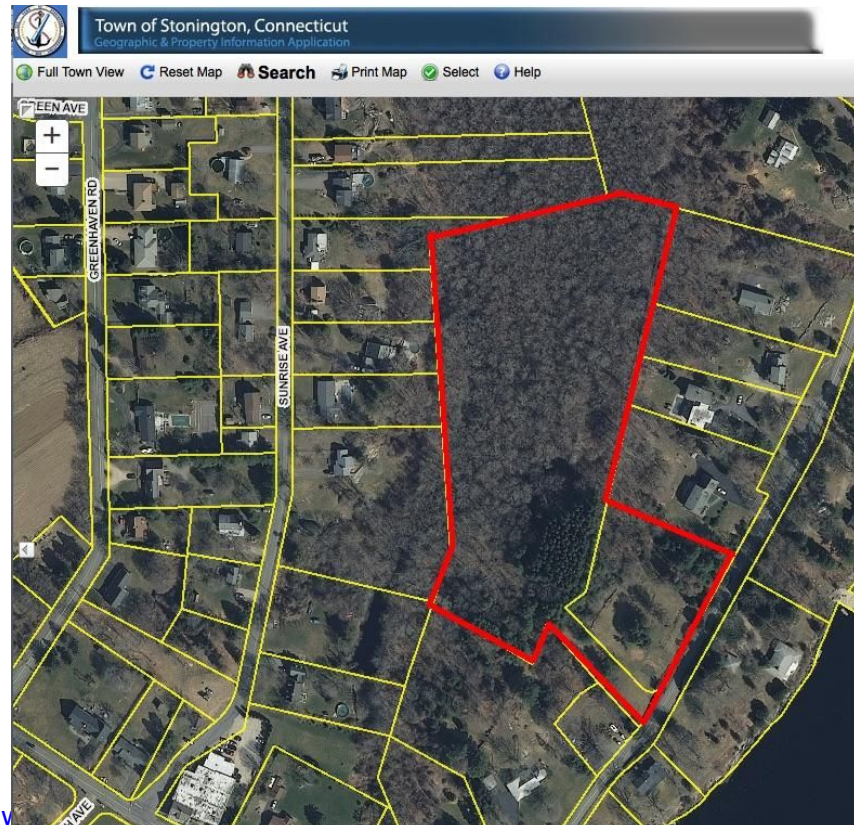
## HISTORY

The Parker Brothers Preserve is located in the Town of Stonington southeast area of town. Residential housing and wetlands surround the property.

## SITE INFORMATION

### The property

A parcel map of the property from the Town of Stonington GIS database is shown to the left.



The property are identified as Map/Book/Lot/Unit 8/2/7 & 8/2/4A. Combined GIS acreage is 7.45 acres.

### Acquisition history

Donation from the estate of David E. Parker via Washington Trust in August 2012.

## Land use history

Historical photos show farmland with existing wetlands. The Parker Brothers owned the waterfront home across River Road (donated to The Nature Conservancy upon David's death), so more recently it has been used as any homeowner would use it – as a small garden-like property. A small orchard and a few cultivated grape vines and berry bushes are on the property along with some evergreens and a small pine grove.

## 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.  
greenhaven road, pawcatuck, ct Find Address

Toggle map layers  
 CT Towns

Google 200 m Terms of Use

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## Public use resources

This property serves as a neighborhood park-like setting with a small trail, some apple trees, berry bushes and grape vines. Neighbors from the Greenhaven area often “do the loop” which mean they walk the circle using Greenhaven, River and Mary Hall roads and are welcome to walk the trail. The wetlands on the property lead to a small pond on the western abutting property.

Public benefit of the protected property:

The entire property falls within a Natural Diversity Database area, meaning there potentially are State listed species on the 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.

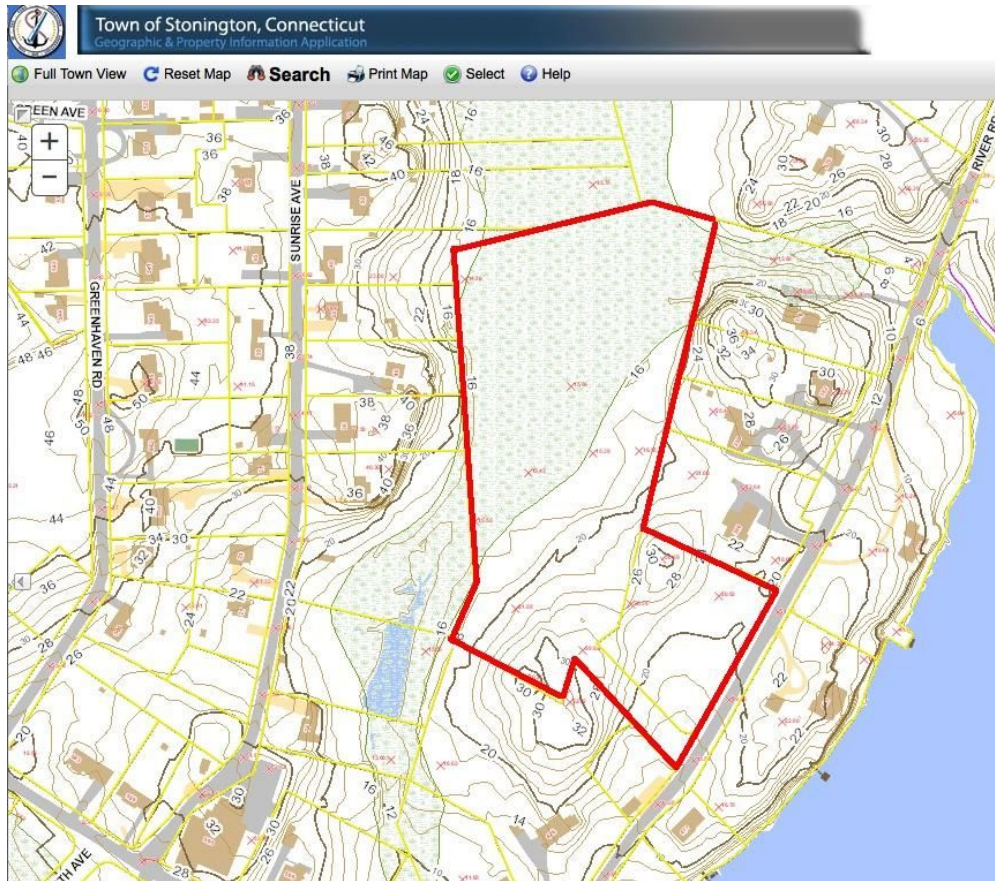
Natural resources

The parcel is open to the public, as are all Avalonia properties. There are no real threats other than maybe a neighbor dropping yard waste over a wall.

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 it was donated to Avalonia: a small grassland habitat, a few apple trees, some grapevines and berries, a small evergreen grove and wetlands. The severe weather events of 2011-2012 caused significant damage to the Pine grove on the property. Most of the debris has been left on the site but neighbor, Dave Brown volunteered to clean and pile some of the branches off to the side. Some invasive plants have emerged in the understory with increased sunlight.

Wetland areas are difficult to access to assess plant and wildlife species. As such they form a valuable greenway of wetlands with contiguous properties.

## ELEVATIONS / WETLANDS



## SPECIAL FEATURES AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Property is within a CT DEEP Natural Diversity Database area. The presence of cultivated fruit trees and bushes is unusual for Avalonia properties, but to honor the donors, the intent is to maintain them as time and resources allow.

## 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

Entrance / roadside sign is posted. The western boundary still needs to be posted but terrain is difficult due to green briar and wetlands.

The management objective for this property is to leave it in its natural state as protected open space. The neighbor to the south, David Brown, currently (2015) assists Avalonia with stewardship of the property by pruning fruit trees and vines and maintaining a mown path through the meadow and does yearly mowing of fields. Contact: 860-599-5870, dbrownlandscape1@gmail.com)

An annual walk around the boundaries of the properties is required. Yearly surveillance should be conducted to check for infringement or encroachment by neighbors depositing yard waste. All motorized vehicles are prohibited on the properties except for maintenance. Attempt should be made to communicate with neighbors to west as access to boundaries through their properties, may be necessary.

#### Maintaining properties appearance

Litter control. Mowing of field and pathway. Maintaining fruit trees and vines. Management of invasive species which threaten the fruit bearing plants.

There is some debris from well before acquisition, over the wall from homes on River Road.

### Public use

The preserve is open to the public for passive recreational use. 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 disturb wildlife excessively, or to pick native vegetation. Fruit and berries are to be shared.

#### Enhancing wildlife habitat(s)

Submit NDDDB request and assess for presence of listed species. The grassland is too small for breeding grassland birds, so maintaining it for pollinators and milkweed for Monarchs is best use of that habitat. Brush piles in woodland areas provide cover for wildlife. Bluebird nest boxes could be added but monitoring for House Sparrows would be needed.

#### 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 varied habitat for local wildlife. Fruiting plants provide extra attraction for public as well as for wildlife.

#### Scientific and educational activities

None planned.

#### Response to large natural disasters

Removal of any hazards will be undertaken as necessary.

#### Special management considerations

Maintain fruit trees/shrubs as time and resources allow, to provide a public benefit as well as benefit for wildlife. There is an old well on the site, close to roadside, which needs to be checked that it remains covered.

### 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. Mowing of grassland areas is necessary at least yearly to maintain grass and prevent invasives and woody plants.

#### Short-term plan (1 – 5 years)

Annual boundary walk. Post western boundary.

Long term plan (5+ years)

Monitor site. Control invasive plants especially within Pine grove. Maintain fruit trees and bushes.

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>

II. Historical information on Parker Brothers:



## URI Receives \$2.5 Million in Estate Gifts from Alumni Brothers David Parker '34 and John Parker '40

### Estate Gifts Received in 2012 will Support the Library and the College of Engineering

(January 8, 2013 – Kingston, RI) - With their affinity for the University of Rhode Island equaled only by their love of sailing, URI alumni John and David Parker provided approximately \$2.5 million for their alma mater in their estate plans, it was announced today by the University of Rhode Island Foundation.



The University has received the proceeds from the brothers' estates and the generous bequests will be used primarily to support the College of Engineering as it embarks on a new building campaign. A portion of the funds were also earmarked by the late David and John Parker, the latter of whom served as a professor at the College of Engineering for many years, to fund two endowments. The first, the Dr. Malcolm L. & Nicole Spaulding Scholarship in Ocean Engineering, is an existing endowment fund that provides scholarship funding to undergraduate students studying ocean engineering. The other endowment, the John Parker and David E. Parker Library Endowment, created by and named for the brothers, provides library resources to support the engineering curriculum.

URI President David M. Dooley expressed his gratitude for the gift, saying, "This is a very significant gift and is, in fact, one of the largest bequests ever received by the University. I am told that John Parker was a wonderful and much-admired professor and member of the University community. His generosity, as well as that of his brother, David, will stand as a lasting tribute to the brothers' commitment to this university and to the profession of engineering. A great number of students will benefit both directly and indirectly from this gift for many generations."

John and David Parker were the sons of a Westerly granite quarry worker, who, along with his wife, placed a priority on their sons' educations. After finishing college, the brothers shared a home and lived modestly on the banks of the Pawcatuck River for many decades. Well known as highly competitive and skilled sailors, they also spent much of their time building skiffs, which they donated to the URI Graduate School of Oceanography. They also spent a great deal of time racing as members of the Watch Hill Yacht Club.

David Parker, the eldest brother and more private of the two, received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from the URI College of Arts and Sciences in 1934. He worked as a chemist for the Naval Underwater Systems Center in New London for many years, retiring in 1972. He passed away in 2001. His younger brother John, a 1940 engineering graduate, received his master's in mechanical engineering (University of Michigan) in 1950, and served as a professor of mechanical engineering on URI's Kingston campus for 25 years, retiring in 1977. Before coming to work at URI, he served as an engineering instructor at the University of Connecticut and before that, was a Navy Lieutenant. After retirement, John Parker became treasurer of the URI Alumni Association. He received a highly regarded Ram Award in 1975 for his involvement in campus activities. John died in June 2011 at the age of 93.