

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

DUTKA FAMILY PRESERVE

Site Management Plan

Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut
Latitude: N 41° 33'29.4" Longitude: W071° 54'57'3"

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: Dutka Family Preserve, corner of Bethel Road and the unpaved Cedar Lane, Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut. **See site map located in Avalonia Office files or Griswold Dropbox folder??**

Directions to the property: Take Bethel Road north of Rte 165 in the Town of Griswold. Pass Dutka Lane on your right and look out for Avalonia boundary signage before coming up on Cedar Lane to your right, Turn on to Cedar Lane and park off to the side of the road. The Dutka Family Preserve is to the south.

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 warranty deed located in Avalonia Office or Griswold Dropbox folder??

Description of surrounding area:

The immediate environ surrounding the Dutka Family Preserve property is mix of sparse residential development along Bethel Road, unmanaged private wood lots, CT DEEP protected open space, and an unimproved road (Cedar Lane) adjacent to agricultural and dairy land. The preserve property parcel is bounded on the north by agricultural fields and Cedar Lane, on the east by CT DEEP open space, on the south by mixed mature upland woods, and on the west by Bethel Road and sparse residential development.

The property has excellent upland conservation value for native raptors, owls, turkey, insectivorous birds and song birds. The wooded parcel supports a population of white-tailed deer and transient coyote while also provides upland woods for small mammals including rabbits, fox, groundhogs, and chipmunks. The preserve has very limited and intermittent watercourses and wetlands.

Acquisition history

Date of donation or purchase:

The 17 acre Dutka Family Preserve was donated to the Avalonia Land Conservancy by Mary F. Dutka on February 1, 2012 to be held in perpetuity as natural open space. The Dutka Family Preserve includes maturing upland wood and reverted open fields on a glacial sand plain formerly used for agriculture. Wetlands are extremely limited to a small ephemeral wetland along the north central property boundary and intermittent drainage corridor in the southwestern portion of the property. The donor's expectations for property, and any

restrictions placed on property at time of gift are contained in the transfer documents. **See warranty deed located in Avalonia Office or Griswold Dropbox folder??**

Land use history

The preserve contains a mix of upland 2nd or 3rd regrowth hardwood forest of approximately 50-75 years of age, late successional old field regrowth, extensive expanses of mature and regrowth white pine with very limited wetland areas. The wooded areas were undoubtedly used as for field crops and/or pasture in the past centuries. Stone walls line the most of the perimeter of the property. No previous structures or foundations have been noted on the property.

Public Use Resources

The property has no maintained trail system, but the open woods are easily walkable and contiguous on the east with CT DEEP open space. 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 has been extensively posted along the property access points and boundaries and is in good condition.

Natural Resources: On the Dutka Family Preserve, the mature sandy-soiled upland forest community remains healthy and almost totally free of invasive species, with the exception of some Japanese barberry in the southwestern drainage corridor and intermittent oriental bittersweet. The mix of mature and successional forest is dominated by red/white/black oak with black birch and extensive white pine. Shrubs include extensive highbush blueberry, some winterberry, sassafras, and red maple. Grasses and goldenrods dominate a successional field/ephemeral wetland in the north central portion of the property.

Raccoon, eastern gray squirrel, turkey, owls, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawk, and white-tail deer have been observed either directly or indirectly (tracks) on the property. The properties do not contain any habitats of special concern as defined by the Connecticut Department of Energy and the Environment.

The property is generally flat with rolling hills in the southeastern corner. Drainage is generally from the northwest to the southeast.

Cultural Resources: None noted aside from extensive stone walls extending around most of the perimeter of the preserve.

Management objectives

Protection:

Protect site from tree cutting/fire wood removal, hunting, littering and damage to cultural resources and artifacts.

Boundary identification and sign posting:

Site access points and boundaries are fully posted and marked with Avalonia property boundary identification signs. “No Hunting” signs should be posted.

Surveillance objectives:

The site requires periodic inspection for littering along the margins of Bethel Road, and the defacing/removal of boundary and access signage

Protection of special natural and cultural features:

None

Public Use and Restrictions:

The site is open to the general public with opportunities to view passively the site’s natural and cultural resources. No camping, cutting of firewood or vegetation, or encroachment by mechanized vehicles is authorized. No hunting is permitted. .

Implementing the plan

Recurring and occasional requirements:

Pursue annual assessment, control, and management of invasive species by mechanical and chemical strategies. Perform periodic litter clean-up along the preserve perimeter boundary. Do sign maintenance and repair as necessary.

Annual obligations:

Conduct a full boundary walk. 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.

Site Surveys and Mgt. Plan Progress (annual update of work accomplished)

- 1. See FY 2015 Annual Boundary Survey - Site Inspections Folder or jotform records online??**