

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

SOUTHWIRE PRESERVE

Site Management Plan

Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut
Latitude: N 41° 36'52.9" Longitude: W 71° 57'56.9"

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 Southwire Preserve is a 22.1 acre Atlantic White Cedar and Red Maple wetland complex located at off East Main Street adjacent to Lake Road in Jewett City, Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut. **See site maps located in the Avalonia Office or in the Griswold Dropbox folder??**

Directions to the property: Take East Main Street east of downtown Jewett City and turn into the Indian River apartments on the north side of the road adjacent to Lake Road. Park in the back of the apartments and access the Southwire Preserve to the north of the parking lot.

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 the Avalonia Office or in the Griswold Dropbox folder??

Description of surrounding area:

The immediate environ surrounding the Southwire Preserve is mixed residential and apartment complex development and road corridors on the south and west. Unmanaged woodlots and wetlands exist to the north and east of the preserve. The southern boundary fronts the rear parking lot of the Indian Ridge apartments.

The property is a 22.1 acre Atlantic white cedar and mature red maple wetland surrounded by residential development and unmanaged woodlots. The wetland provides good conservation value for native raptors, woodpeckers, woodland birds, owls, insectivorous birds and song birds. The preserve support white-tailed deer, especially during overwintering periods, while also provides upland woods for transient coyote and small mammals. The wetlands are suspected of supporting a healthy population of amphibians, although no informal or formal survey has been done to date.

Acquisition history

Date of donation or purchase:

The Southwire Preserve was donated by the Southwire Company on August 5, 1998. The donor's expectations for property and any restrictions placed on property at time of gift are included in the transfer documents. **See warranty deed located in the Avalonia Office or in the Griswold Dropbox folder??**

Land use history

The site contains an extensive mature red maple and Atlantic white cedar palustrine forested freshwater wetland with an understory of high bush blueberry, sweet pepper bush, spice bush, and sphagnum moss. Wetland hydrology is perennial standing groundwater from higher elevations north and west of the property. No previous structures or foundations have been noted on the property. Extensive dumping of trash and household debris has occurred adjacent to the southern property access boundary where the preserve fronts on the back parking lot of the Indian Ridge apartments. The boundaries are poorly marked on all sides with only one Avalonia sign near the access point.

Public Use Resources

The property is open for foot access and observation although no established or maintained trails exist and there is standing hydrology in the wetland most months of the year. 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 almost non-existent around the preserve's perimeter.

Natural Resources: On the Southwire Preserve property, the limited and disturbed wetland and upland vegetative communities adjacent to the Indian Ridge apartments are strewn with trash and overgrown with bittersweet, Japanese barberry and multiflora rose encroaching on the preserve to the north. Portions of this area are also infested with Phragmites. There is no evidence of any stewardship efforts to date. Effort is needed clean up trash and litter and eradicate the invasive species with mechanical control and selective seasonal "painting" with herbicides. The upland portions of the site support white pine, black birch and interspersed red maple. The wetland supports primarily mature red maple, sweet pepperbush, high bush blueberry, and stands of Atlantic white cedar.

Raccoon, eastern gray squirrel, coyote, and white-tail deer are evident as either permanent or transient residents of the property tract. The property does contain an Atlantic white cedar stand, which is a habitat 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 east and south out of the preserve. The southern portion of the property has a meandering undefined watercourse, with pools of standing water throughout the preserve.

Cultural Resources: None noted.

Management objectives

Protection:

Protect site from tree cutting/fire wood removal, hunting, dumping of brush. Litter, and vegetative debris from adjacent apartment complex. "No Hunting" signs should be posted.

Boundary identification and sign posting:

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

Surveillance objectives:

The site requires an extensive trash clean-up adjacent to the Indian Ridge apartments 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 Indian Ridge apartments.

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 Southwire Preserve is via the rear parking lot behind the Indian Ridge apartments.

Implementing the plan

Recurring and occasional requirements:

Pursue annual assessment, trash removal, and management of invasive species by mechanical and chemical strategies. Post site with Avalonia boundary signs 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:			
Atlantic White Cedar		11/20/2015	
Red Maple		11/20/2015	
White Pine		11/20/2015	
Sweet Pepper bush		11/20/2015	
Oriental Bittersweet		11/20/2015	
Japanese barberry		11/20/2015	
Spice bush		11/20/2015	
Multiflora rose		11/20/2015	
Sphagnum moss		11/20/2015	
High bush blueberry		11/20/2015	
MAMMALS:			
Raccoon		11/20/2015	
White tail deer		11/20/2015	
Gray squirrel		11/20/2015	
REPTILES:			
Painted Turtle?			
INVERTEBRATES:			
BIRDS:			
AMPHIBIANS:			
Expect frogs and salamanders			

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

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