



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

Preston Nature Preserve

Property Management Plan

Off Krug Road
Preston, New London County, Connecticut

Preston Town Committee is responsible
for the stewardship of this property

Plan Prepared by:
Margaret Gibson
Fall - 2015

Approved by Preston Town Committee: _____

Date _____

Approved by Stewardship Committee: _____

Date _____



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SUMMARY

This preserve is one parcel of land (55.7 acre. Lat: 41 32'7.6"; Long: 71 58'37.4") on the south side of Krug Road in Preston, CT. There are extensive trails and a map box. Directions: RT 395 to RT 164 about five miles to right turn onto Krug Road; or from RT 2 to RT 164 through intersection of 164 and 165, left turn onto Krug Road.

Property is owned by Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc., P.O. Box 49, Old Mystic, CT 06372. Avalonia Land Conservancy 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 property was donated by Palmer and Joyce Steffensen in 1989, and is the site of an old farm with 4 major fields and adjoining wetlands and wooded upland portions.

SITE INFORMATION

See attached map and deed. The deed will show an easement on the property owned by Deborah Savage and Paul Shultz (formerly Steffensen's) adjoining the Preston Nature Preserve wetland area, allowing walkers to follow the trail into the wetlands. There is also a 50 foot right of way along the property of Peter and Jane Leibert into the northerly area of the PNP.

CONSERVATION VALUES:

The Preston Nature Preserve's conservation values are its varied ecosystems: 1) old farm fields which have been kept mowed 2) wooded areas 3) extensive wetlands in which grow sphagnum moss, many varieties of fern; in the "ice pond" and one area of the wetland there is feather foil: an endangered aquatic, documented by the New England Wildflower Society. The following flora have

been noted: spicebush, marsh marigold, CT lily, cardinal flower, skunk cabbage, jack in the pulpit, winterberry, spleenwort, Christmas fern, red trillium, lady slipper, milkweeds, New England aster, butterfly weed, monkey flowers, blue vervain, wild bergamot. Grasses seeded in 2014: bluestem, little bluestem, purple love grass, switch grass, eastern gamma grass, bottle bush grass. There are brush piles to provide cover for birds and for New England cottontail rabbit. In upland areas, trees include , cedar, oak, red maple, yellow birch and others.

The preserve is rich in bird life: hawks, migrating birds and residents. Bluebird boxes are provided.

Public use resources: The property is open to the public for all standard Avalonia passive recreational activities. Educational programs and walks are encouraged.

Public use restrictions: Standard restrictions apply. See attached deed. No mowing between April 15 and September 15 (bird nesting period).

POTENTIAL THREATS TO CONSERVATION VALUES:

Invasive plants (barberry, autumn olive, choke cherry, poison ivy, multi-flora rose, Japanese bittersweet) need to be controlled annually. During the growing season, paths through the fields and up to the oak knoll need to be mowed. In the fall the fields are mowed, alternating and omitting one field a year. Brush piles need to be refreshed, bird-nesting boxes cleaned. Monitoring for ATV activity encouraged.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

To maintain the character of old farm fields; to let the wooded areas thrive, with occasional thinning of cedars to maintain view and to provide material for brush piles. Walking platforms and bridges through the wetlands need to be monitored for safety and replaced when necessary. Areas of walking paths need annual pruning. Overall objective: to maintain property, to open it to the public for educational and passive recreational purposes. No handicap access. Signage needs to be maintained. Reed canary grass in field #1 needs to be discouraged. Map box and benches need to be maintained.

Preparer Certification: I hereby certify that I (or another member of the Preston Town Committee) have personally inspected the property that is the subject of this baseline

documentation file / management plan, and I have personally prepared and / or reviewed the maps, photographs, and other information contained in this file.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name: _____