

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

QUINNEBAUG VALLEY PRESERVE

Site Management Plan

Town of Griswold, New London County, Connecticut
Latitude: N 41° 37'07.2" Longitude: W 71° 55'08.3"

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: Quinnebaug Valley Preserve is a 3.4 acre red maple wetland located at 11 Uncas Drive in the Arrowwood Acres development off of Route 201 north of Route 165, Town of Griswold, and New London County, Connecticut. **See site map in office stewardship file/scanned files??**

Directions to the property: Take Route 201 north of Route 165. Take a left at Uncas Drive and proceed toward the stop sign. 11 Uncas drive is on the west side of the road with access through a maintained lawn right-of-way. The site is partially marked with an Avalonia sign at the right-of-way access point.

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 property maps in office stewardship files or scanned files located in Dropbox??

Description of surrounding area: The immediate environ surrounding the Quinnebaug Valley Preserve is mixed residential development surrounding the red maple wetland on the east, north, and west. The southern boundary is red maple forest with pasture further to the south. The property is a relatively small 3.4 acres mature red maple wetland surrounded by residential development and having limited conservation value for native raptors, woodpeckers, woodland birds, insectivorous birds and song birds. The wooded parcel may support transient white-tailed deer and coyote, while also provides upland woods for small mammals. Amphibians may inhabit the parts of the wetland where surface hydrology is persistent through most of the year.

Acquisition history

Date of donation or purchase:

The Quinnebaug Valley Preserve was donated by the Quinnebaug Valley Builders, Inc. on June 17, 1975. The donor's expectations for property and any restrictions placed on property at time of gift are included in the transfer documents. **See warranty deeds located at the Avalonia office files or the scanned files in Dropbox??**

Land use history

Upland woods are a 2nd or 3rd regrowth hardwood forest of approximately 50-75 years of age and are limited to a small northwestern portion of the 3.4 acre tract. The entire preserve was undoubtedly used as pasture in the past centuries since the settlement of the Town of Griswold. Stone walls and barb wire define the property boundaries in the south, west, and

north. The site contains an extensive mature red maple palustrine forested freshwater wetland with mature stands of red maple and an understory of high bush blueberry, sweet pepper bush, tussock grass and sphagnum moss. Supporting the wetland hydrology is a perennial stream leading from natural drainage to the north end of the property. No previous structures or foundations have been noted on the property. There is some evidence of encroachment onto the property along the eastern boundary from the dumping of scattered trash and woody landscaping debris behind the residences on Uncas Drive. The preserve's boundary is very poorly marked on east and south only with a mix of Avalonia and old Mashantucket Land Trust signage.

Public Use Resources

The property is open for foot access and observation although no established or maintained trails exist. A single strand of galvanized barb wire runs along the top of the stone wall boundary intermittently on the south, west, and north. No other improvements have been made on the property. Permissible activities include hiking, nature study and wildlife observation. Prohibited activities include, but are not inclusive to, camping, cutting of any vegetation, hunting or trapping, disposal of trash, litter, or vegetative debris, removal of rocks and/or cultural artifacts. Avalonia signage is extremely sparse and has dated Mashantucket Land Trust signs on the east and south.

Natural Resources: On the Quinnebaug Valley Preserve property, the upland and wetland vegetative communities remains relatively healthy and relatively free of invasive species with the exception of some Oriental bittersweet, Japanese barberry and multiflora rose encroaching on the eastern wetland areas near the residences on Uncas Drive. There is no evidence of any stewardship efforts to date. Effort is needed eradicate these species with mechanical control and selective seasonal "painting" with herbicides. The small upland portions of the site support mature red/white/black oak with yellow and black birch and interspersed red maple, sassafras, and witch hazel. The wetland supports primarily mature red maple, sweet pepperbush, and high bush blueberry.

Raccoon, coyote, eastern gray squirrel and white-tail deer may exist as permanent or transient residents of the property. The property does not contain any habitats of special concern as defined by the Connecticut Department of Energy and the Environment.

The property slopes gently from a small upland in the northwest into the red maple wetland before drainage continues towards the south out of the preserve. The central and southern portion of the property contains a meandering stream course, pools of standing water, and palustrine wetlands with an uplands surrounding on the west.

Cultural Resources: None noted. Extensive field-stone walls exist throughout the property.

Management objectives

Protection:

Protect site from tree cutting/fire wood removal, hunting, dumping of brush and vegetative debris from adjacent residential neighbors, littering and damage to cultural resources and artifacts. “No Hunting” signs should be posted.

Boundary identification and sign posting:

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

Surveillance objectives:

The site requires 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 Uncas Drive, which the neighbors have converted into a mown lawn.

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 Quinnebaug Valley Preserve is through a grassy right of way at 11 Uncas Drive in the Arrowhead Acres housing development.

Implementing the plan

Recurring and occasional requirements:

Pursue annual assessment, control, and management of invasive species by mechanical and chemical strategies. Post site and maintain signage. Effort is needed to pick up litter along the property margins.

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
		12/4/2015	
PLANTS:		12/4/2015	
Red Maple		12/4/2015	
Red Oak		12/4/2015	
Black Oak		12/4/2015	
Tussock Grass		12/4/2015	
Japanese Barberry		12/4/2015	
Black Birch		12/4/2015	
Sweet Pepperbush		12/4/2015	
Oriental Bittersweet		12/4/2015	
Azalea		12/4/2015	
Highbush Blueberry		12/4/2015	
Multiflora Rose		12/4/2015	
Sphagnum Moss		12/4/2015	
American Beech		12/4/2015	
MAMMALS:			
Gray Squirrel		12/4/2015	
REPTILES:			
Painted turtles?			
INVERTEBRATES:			
BIRDS:			
AMPHIBIANS:			
Maybe frogs and salamander			

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

- 1. See 2011 and 2015 Annual Boundary Survey – Avalonia office property stewardship files and website jotform records??**