



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

Samuel Lamb and Forsberg Preserve

Property Management Plan

609 Shewville Rd.
Ledyard, New London County, Connecticut
Map 87 Block 2210 Lot 609

Ledyard Town Committee has stewardship
responsibility for this property

Plan Prepared by:
Karen Askins
September 2017

Approved by Ledyard Town Committee: _____
Chairman

Date _____

Approved by Stewardship Committee: _____
Chairman

Date _____



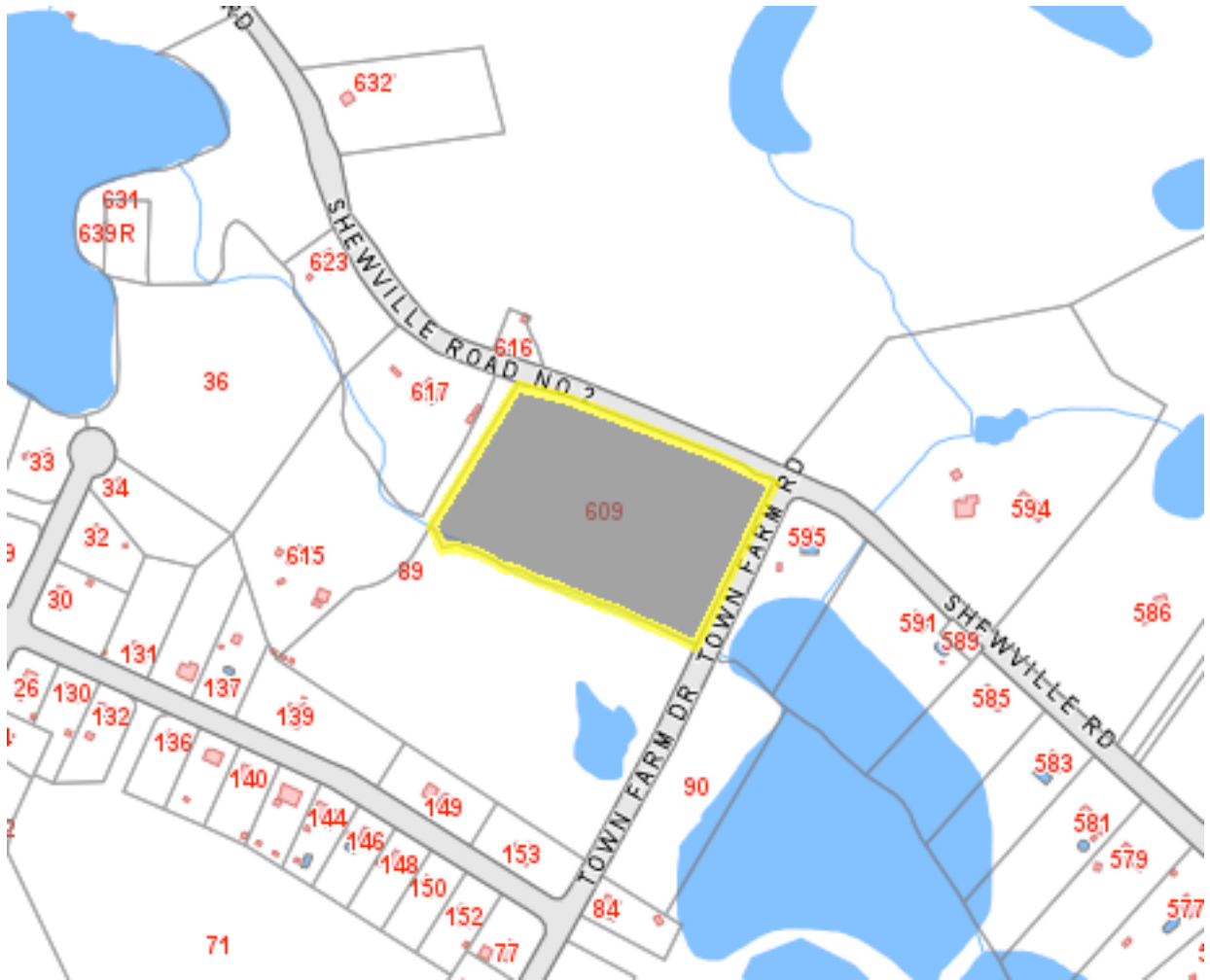
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Overview

The Samuel Lamb and Forsberg Preserve is located in eastern Ledyard, Connecticut at the intersection of Shewville Road and Town Farm Road. The entrance is on Town Farm Road.

The preserve is owned by Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc., P.O. Box 49, Old Mystic, CT 06372. Avalonia Land Conservancy (ALC) can be contacted by email at avalonialc@yahoo.com or by phone at 860-884-3500. Avalonia's website is <http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org>.

The Samuel Lamb and Forsberg Preserve is a 5.92-acre parcel donated to Avalonia Land Conservancy on September 30, 2016 by William R. Forsberg and Daniel Forsberg. The property is a rectangle bounded on the north by Shewville Rd., on the east by Town Farm Rd., on the south by Williams Brook, and on the west by a pentway.



The majority of the property is an old field that had been used as a hay field by the Forsbergs. The western end of this field is wet during certain times of the year. The area along Williams Brook is very wet and also wooded.

The property is bordered on the south by 8 acres of Town of Ledyard-owned land, including the town's water pollution control facility, and then by a relatively dense housing development. To the north are a number of very large undeveloped wooded lots.

SITE INFORMATION

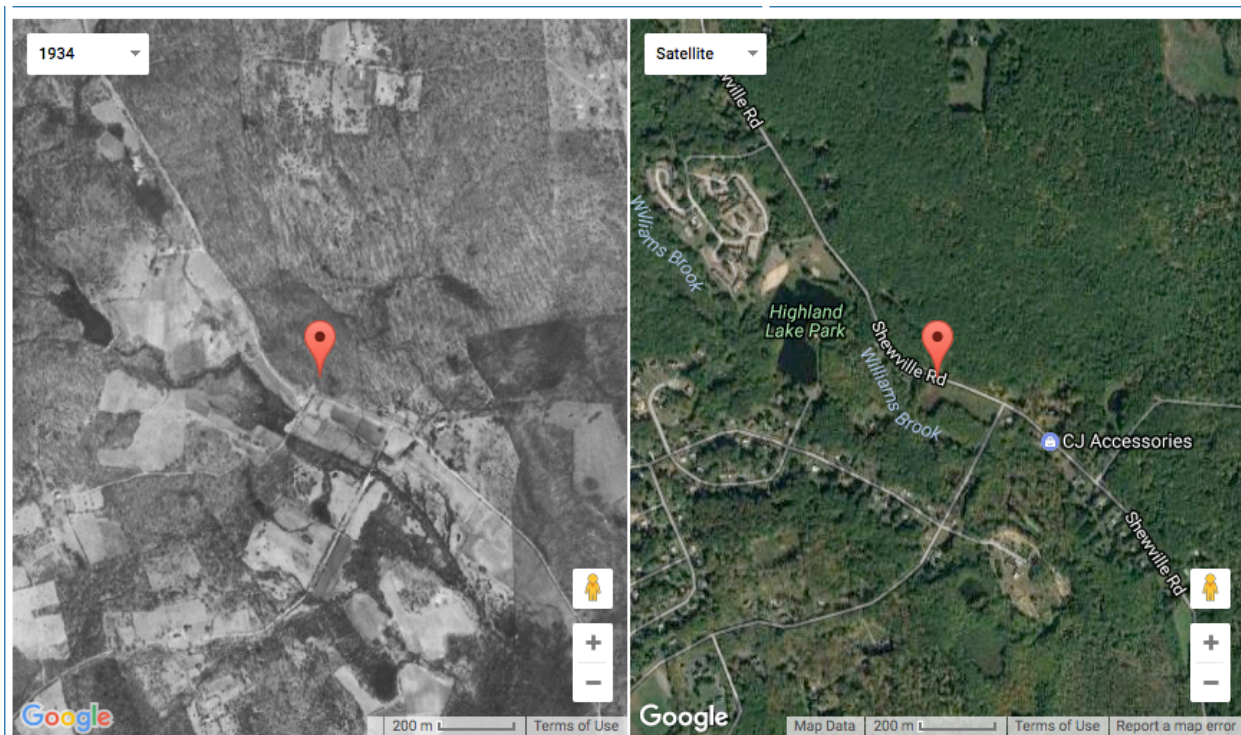
The property

The property is 609 Shewville Road. This lot and all surrounding land is zoned R-60, low density residential. Official town designation is Map 87 Block 2210 Lot 609.

Samuel Lamb and Forsberg Preserve is a flat, 5.92-acre parcel located south of Shewville Road and west of Town Farm Road. These two roads form the north and east boundaries of the property. The southern boundary is formed by Williams Brook, which flows out of Highland Lake and eventually into the Mystic River and Long Island Sound. The western boundary is an unimproved pentway leading to 615 Shewville Rd.

History of the property

The 1934 aerial photograph of the parcel reveals an agricultural field surrounded by other agricultural areas. Successive aerial images indicate that in the following years the drier portion continued to be used for agriculture, although the area along Williams Brook was allowed to grow up into forest. During this same time it is evident that much of the surrounding land either became forested or was developed for housing. The parcel was acquired by William and Daniel Forsberg in 2010 from Marjorie Gaffney for use as a hay field. The Forsbergs donated it to Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. on September 30, 2016. The deed contains no restrictions.



Natural Resources

The majority of the property had been an agricultural field for at least the last 80 years. At the time of acquisition the field not been used for cultivation or hay for a number of years and essentially had become a meadow with primarily herbaceous vegetation. The dominant plants include a variety of grasses, various goldenrods, Joe –Pye Weed, and New York Ironweed. The wetter northern end actually also has a high density of ferns, including Royal Fern, Sensitive Fern and Marsh Fern. There are also scattered shrubs throughout the field. These included Highbush Blueberries, Speckled Alder, Common Juniper, Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose. Along the wall abutting Town Farm Rd. is a healthy stand of Gray Dogwood. The invasive shrubs, primarily Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose, were removed during the fall of 2016.

The southern edge of the field along the stream is wooded and is wetter and shadier. It supports another set of wildflowers, including Wild Geranium, Wild Columbine, Wood Anemone, Jack in the Pulpit, and False Hellebore, as well as Royal Fern and Sensitive Fern. Cardinal Flower and Boneset are also present along the stream. Shrubs along the stream include Arrowwood Viburnum, Nannyberry Viburnum, and Red Chokeberry.

During a visit in May blue-winged warblers, Rufous-sided Towhees, and Baltimore Orioles were seen or heard. Red-tailed Hawks and Cooper’s Hawks have been seen flying over.

Conservation Values

The property is a significant natural area that qualifies as being preserved for a “conservation purpose” under 26 US Code 170(h)(4). Although small, this property has high value as a pollinator habitat because of the density of wildflowers already growing there and the potential for increasing the number of flowers attractive to native bees and butterflies. After brush hogging the field in late 2016, the display of pollinator flowers during the summer of 2017 was very impressive. A visit during the morning of August 26 recorded not only very large numbers of bumblebees (*Bombus impatiens*) and smaller bees, but also a number of butterflies including American Lady, Monarch, Pearl Crescent and Halloween Pennant and large numbers of Eastern Tiger Swallowtails.

The preserve also serves to protect a part of Williams Brook and the waters downstream.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions listed in the deed.

Topographic map

The map displays a topographic view of a rural landscape. Sheville Road No 2 is a prominent feature, running from the top left towards the right. Town Farm Dr runs vertically on the right side. A river flows from the top left towards the bottom center. Several land parcels are outlined, with some labeled with numbers like 616, 617, 595, and 591. The map also shows various distances and bearings along the roads, such as 120.73', 67.79', 60.34', 90.93', 56.84', 207.30', 130.06', 250.00', 105.78', 157.31', 46.83', 88.87', 82.8', 412', 149', 60', 25', 371.93', 415' (S), 66.87', 128.32', 59.50', 58.57', 107.48', 225.38', 77.52', 70', 620' (S), 16.65', 4.41', 120.73', 67.79', 60.34', 90.93', 56.84', 207.30', 130.06', 250.00', 105.78', 157.31', 46.83', 88.87', 82.8', 412', 149', 60', 25', 371.93', 415' (S), 66.87', 128.32', 59.50', 58.57', 107.48', 225.38', 77.52', 70', 620' (S), 16.65', 4.41'. The map also shows various land parcels, some labeled with numbers like 616, 617, 595, and 591. The map also shows various distances and bearings along the roads, such as 120.73', 67.79', 60.34', 90.93', 56.84', 207.30', 130.06', 250.00', 105.78', 157.31', 46.83', 88.87', 82.8', 412', 149', 60', 25', 371.93', 415' (S), 66.87', 128.32', 59.50', 58.57', 107.48', 225.38', 77.52', 70', 620' (S), 16.65', 4.41'.

The soils are glaciofluvial meaning that they are materials that dropped out of the melt water streams of a glacier. Except for a narrow band along Shewville Road they are very poorly drained.

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The only cultural resources are the stone walls that define the northern and eastern boundaries.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The principal management objective is protection of the property as open space. Boundaries are identified with Avalonia signs to help guard against intrusions. A large Avalonia trailhead sign has been placed along Shewville Rd.

The current meadow will be maintained as a wildflower meadow. The goal is to maximize the density of flowers attractive to native pollinators. Because of the diversity of appropriate species at the time of acquisition, this may be best achieved by allowing those plants already there to spread naturally. In the future it may be appropriate to plant other species that are native to Connecticut. Yearly brush hogging will be necessary to prevent woody plants from becoming established. There will be no management of the forested area along Williams Brook.

Four bluebird houses have been placed in the meadow.

The preserve is open to the public. Vehicles are not permitted. Visitors are permitted to walk the property and engage in other passive recreation activities including hiking, photography, and bird and animal watching. Horses, bikes and motor vehicles are not permitted. The entrance is off of Town Farm Rd. Visitor parking is available on Town Farm Rd. adjacent to the bridge over Williams Brook, where there is a shoulder wide and long enough to accommodate several cars. A trail will be maintained through the meadow.

Avalonia Land Conservancy Fee Land Stewardship Principles approved on December 16, 2009 and amended on September 24, 2014 (or later revision) shall be used as guidance for issues not specifically covered by this plan.

Implementing the plan

The Ledyard Town Committee is responsible for stewardship of this property. They are required to walk the property boundaries at least once each year and document their findings. The inspection should include making sure boundary signs are in place and that there have been no intrusions or other damage to the property.

The meadow will be brush-hogged on an annual basis, preferably in the late fall or early winter. A mowed trail will be maintained through the meadow. Invasive plants will be removed as discovered. The walls along Shewville Rd. and Town Farm Rd. will need special attention to keep them clear of invasive plants and to preserve the walls.

This plan should be reviewed and updated in 2022 and every five years thereafter.

Legal documentation

Deed:

Restrictions: There are no restrictions.

