

**WEEKAPAUG FOUNDATION FOR CONSERVATION  
BASELINE DOCUMENTATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN  
Noyes Neck Farm Property  
Westerly, Rhode Island**



**Prepared 2013  
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for the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation**

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**Baseline Documentation and Management Plan  
Noyes Neck Farm Property  
Westerly, Rhode Island**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this document is to establish Baseline Documentation and a Management Plan for the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation's Noyes Neck Farm property. The mission of the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation is to preserve open space in the watersheds of the Quonochontaug and Winnapaug salt ponds, protect the barrier beaches, and ensure the integrity and water quality of the Ponds themselves through the support of the WFC members and the local pond communities. This plan seeks to identify the unique conservation values of the Noyes Neck Farm property and make certain that they are protected.

**PART 1: BASELINE DOCUMENTATION REPORT MATERIAL**

***1. Site Overview / History***

**Land Owner:** Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation (WFC)

**Street Address:** 4 Noyes Neck Road, Westerly, Rhode Island (Figure 1)

**Plat / Lot Information:** Westerly tax Assessor's P133-L43 (Figure 2)

**Acreage:** 40.8 ± acres

**Acquisition History:** This property was acquired from Weekapaug Preservation II on November 29, 1994 for a cost of \$595,000.

**Deed Restrictions:** The deed for this property is recorded in the Westerly Records of Land Evidence in Book 539 at Page 125 and contains no restrictions.

**Survey Information:** A Plan of Land for the property was completed by Cherenzia & Associates, Ltd. for Westerly Preservation II. dated April 30, 1992 (Figure 3).

**Location Description:** The Noyes Neck Farm property is located at the intersection of Shore Road and Noyes Neck Road in Westerly, RI (Figure 4). The property is predominantly wooded, but also contains a community garden and hayfields. The western property line is bound by Shore Road, while a significant portion of the southern property line is bounded by Noyes Neck Road. The northern, eastern, and southern property lines are bound by stone walls and much of the property is bisected by additional walls. The majority of the wooded portion of the property is freshwater wetland, including a small pond located in the interior.

**Land Use History:** Based on the examination of historic aerial photography, it appears that the property was almost entirely cleared for agricultural use at some point prior to

1939. In the earliest available aerial photography (1939), it appears the interior, now forested, portion of the property was cleared for use as pasture.



*Historic Aerial Photograph of the Noyes Neck Farm Property, 1939.*

By the early 1950s, the majority of the property that is currently forested had been released from agricultural use and begun to re-vegetate. Historic stone walls and the existing cart path are clearly visible in this photograph.



*Historic Aerial Photograph of the Noyes Neck Farm Property, 1951-2.*

The natural and human-maintained communities found on the property in the early 1960s were similar in scope as those found on the property today, however the subdivision to the south has been partially built out.



*Historic Aerial Photograph of the Noyes Neck Farm Property, 1962.*

In the early 1970s, conditions are similar with additional development along the southern boundary.



*Historic Aerial Photograph of the Noyes Neck Farm Property, 1972.*

In recent history, the property has approached its current state, with little change in community structure. The Community Organic Garden was begun in 2009. Members of the WFC can sign up for one or more plots and plant and harvest organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Open fields on the property are mowed twice annually for hay by a neighboring farmer. While public access is not prohibited on the property, no significant trail system or other amenities are offered or advertised, and public use is not significant.

**Current & Proposed Future Land Uses:** The mission of the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation (WFC) is to preserve open space in the watersheds of the Quonochontaug and Winnapaug salt ponds, protect the barrier beaches, and ensure the integrity and water quality of the Ponds themselves through the support of the WFC members and the local pond communities. It is the intent of the WFC to maintain the Noyes Neck Farm Property in an open and undeveloped state in perpetuity. Current agricultural uses of the property, for both organic gardening and hay production, are anticipated to continue in the future. The appropriateness of additional forms of public access is currently under discussion.

## ***2. Restrictions, Terms, and Permissible Uses***

The Noyes Neck Farm Property is not currently subject to any deed or conservation restrictions. However, freshwater wetlands on the property fall under the jurisdiction of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (RICRMC) and are subject to the 'Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast' under the authority of R.I. General Laws Chapter 46-23-6 ([http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/Fresh\\_Water\\_Wetlands.pdf](http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/Fresh_Water_Wetlands.pdf)). The property contains freshwater wetlands, a small portion of a 2' wide stream that flows through the adjacent property, and an Area Subject to Storm Flowage (A.S.S.F) which is only intermittently flooded, meaning that portions of the property also fall within areas defined as 50' Perimeter Wetlands and 100' Riverbank Wetlands according to the regulations referenced above (see Figure 3 for wetlands delineation).

In addition, the property falls within the area defined as the 'Rhode Island Salt Pond Region' and so is subject to additional restrictions set forth in the Rhode Island Salt Pond Region: Special Area Management Plan (Salt Pond Region SAMP) as administered by RICRMC ([http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/SAMP\\_SaltPond.pdf](http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/SAMP_SaltPond.pdf)). The Salt Pond SAMP regulates activities occurring within 200 feet of a coastal feature. In this case, the coastal feature is defined as the undeveloped barrier beach backed by Quonochontaug Pond and the contiguous freshwater wetlands associated with this coastal complex. Therefore, all lands within 200' of the freshwater wetlands found on the Noyes Neck Farm property are subject to these requirements.

The Noyes Neck Farm property also falls within an area designated as 'Lands of Critical Concern' ([http://www.crmc.ri.gov/samp\\_sp/sp\\_westerly\\_04.jpg](http://www.crmc.ri.gov/samp_sp/sp_westerly_04.jpg)) which mandates additional restrictions under the Salt Pond Region SAMP, including maintenance of a 200' Coastal Buffer Zone which must be retained in a natural, undisturbed condition.

No additional local restrictions are currently known to apply to this property.

### ***3. Conservation Values***

**Landscape Setting:** The Noyes Neck Farm Property is located at the intersection of Shore Road and Noyes Neck Road in Westerly, RI. The property is predominantly wooded, but also contains a community organic garden and hayfields. The majority of the wooded portion of the property is freshwater wetland, including a small pond located in the interior.

Medium-density residential areas abut the property to the north and south. The property is set within a complex of deciduous forest that extends to the east, as well as northwest and southwest. Across Noyes Neck Road, the property abuts agricultural land that extends west to Old Shore Road. The northern shore of Quonochontaug Pond lies approximately 900 feet to the southeast.

There are approximately 562 acres of conserved open space land within one mile of the property, including: 332 acres protected by the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation (WFC; including the Noyes Neck Farm Property), 66 acres protected by the Shelter Harbor Fire District, 58 acres protected by WFC and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) together, 49 acres protected by RIDEM, 39 acres protected by the Weekapaug Fire District, 14 acres protected by the Town of Westerly, 2 acres protected by the Westerly Land Trust, 1 acre protected by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and 1 acre protected by the Noyes Island Conservation Association (Figure 5).<sup>1</sup>

**Topographic Setting:** The Noyes Neck Farm Property slopes from northwest to southeast towards an unnamed drainage leading to Quonochontaug Pond. Elevations range from 60 feet to 20 feet above sea level for a total elevational change of approximately 40 feet over 1,270 feet of ground (Figure 6).<sup>2</sup>

**Geologic Setting:** The bedrock geology of the property is porphyritic granite.<sup>3</sup> The surficial geology is mapped as glacial till.<sup>4</sup>

**Soils:** According to the Rhode Island Soil Survey, the property contains five soil types: Ridgebury, Whitman, and Leicester extremely stony fine sandy loams (Rf, 15.38 acres), Wapping very stony silt loam, 0-8% slopes (WcB, 11.99 acres), Bridgehampton-Charlton complex, very stony, 0-8% slopes (BnB, 9.31 acres), Agawam fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes (AfB, 2.85 acres), and Gloucester-Hinckley very stony sandy loams, rolling (GhC, 1.36 acres)(Figure 7).<sup>5</sup>

Ridgebury, Whitman, and Leicester extremely stony fine sandy loams are nearly level, poorly drained and very poorly drained soils with moderate or moderately rapid permeability in the surface layer and subsoil and slow or very slow permeability in the

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<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, State and Local Conservation Lands Datalayers, 6/2011; as amended by CL Trocki, 11/2012.

<sup>2</sup> USGS 7.5 Minute Topographical Quad, Sakonnet Point and Tiverton Quadrangles (from RIGIS).

<sup>3</sup> Hermes, Don O. 1994. Bedrock Geologic Map of Rhode Island. Geologic Survey of Rhode Island, URI, Kingston, RI.

<sup>4</sup> Rhode Island Glacial Geology Datalayer, 1989 (from RIGIS).

<sup>5</sup> RIGIS, 2012. Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Soil Polygons for the State of Rhode Island.

substratum. These soils are very strongly acid through medium acid, with slow to medium runoff. These soils are poorly suited to community development due to a high water table. Wetness and stoniness make these soils poorly suited to tree; windthrows are common. Conditions make the use of farm equipment impractical.

Wapping very stony silt loam, 0-8% slopes are nearly level to gently sloping, moderately well drained soils with moderate permeability in the surface layer and subsoil and moderate or moderately rapid in the substratum. Available water capacity is moderate and runoff is slow to medium. These soils have a seasonal high water table at a depth of about 20 inches from late fall through midspring and are very strongly to medium acid. These soils are suited to trees and pasture and are considered suitable for community development, though onsite sewerage disposal systems need special design and installation due to wetness. Stones and boulders on the surface make these soils unsuitable for crop cultivation. Woodland wildlife habitat is a suitable use for these soils.

Bridgehampton-Charlton complex, very stony, 0-8% slopes are nearly level to gently sloping well drained to moderately well drained soils with moderate to moderately rapid permeability. Available water capacity is moderate to high and runoff is slow to medium. Most areas are woodland and are suited to woodland wildlife habitat, as well as community development. Stones and boulders on the surface make these soils poorly suited for cultivation.

Agawam fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes are gently sloping well-drained soils with moderately rapid permeability in the surface layer and subsoil and rapid in the substratum. Available water capacity is moderate and runoff is medium. These soils are very strongly through slightly acid. These soils are suitable for community development and cultivated crops. Most areas are used for farming. Soils are also suitable for trees, woodland and openland wildlife habitat. Agawam fine sandy loam is recognized as a Prime Farmland Soil in the State of Rhode Island.<sup>5</sup>

Gloucester-Hinckley very stony sandy loams, rolling are excessively drained soils with rapid permeability, low available water capacity, slow to medium runoff, and extreme through medium acidity. These soils are suitable for community development and woodland wildlife habitat. Stony surface makes these soils unsuitable for cultivated crops.

**Agricultural Resource Value:**

The Noyes Neck Farm Property has a long history of agricultural use and contains a small amount of Prime Farmland Soil (AfB). The property is currently home to a Community Garden maintained by the WFC and contains approximately 7.3 acres of hay that is harvested twice annually by a neighboring farmer. In addition, the property is immediately adjacent to other agricultural lands, which are an important component of the surrounding landscape.



*Community Organic Garden on the Noyes Neck Farm Property (CLT, 4/5/2012).*

**Hydrologic Setting:** The property is located within the Southwest Coastal Waters watershed and drains to Quonochontaug Pond approximately 900 to the southeast. Quonochontaug is a permanently breached coastal pond that mixes directly with the waters of Block Island Sound. Quonochontaug Pond is designated a Type 2 Water by the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (RICRMC), indicating low intensity use. The immediate coastal water of Block Island Sound is designated as Type 1 Water by the RICRMC, indicating conservation status.

The property does not lie within a public drinking watershed, though private wells are located in the immediate vicinity. The groundwater is classified as 'GA', indicating that groundwater resources are known or presumed to be of drinking water quality, though not assigned GAA designation.<sup>6</sup>

According to a wetlands delineation prepared by Cherenzia & Associates, Ltd. in 1992, statewide wetlands mapping, aerial photo interpretation, and field investigations, the property is approximately 48% wetland, comprised primarily of Red Maple Swamp (19.7 acres) and containing a very small pond (approximately 0.07 acres)<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> RIGIS, 2010. Groundwater Quality Standard; gwqstd10. Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS) Data Distribution System, URL: <http://www.edc.uri.edu/rigis>, Environmental Data Center, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island (last date accessed: 3 January 2011).

<sup>7</sup> RIGIS, 1993. Wetlands; s44wwt93.



*Red Maple Swamp in early spring on the Noyes Neck Farm Property (CLT, 4/5/2012).*

**Habitats & Natural Community Types:** A map of existing habitats and an inventory of the characteristic vegetation observed on the property can be found below (Figure 8; Table 1). Habitat types were delineated based on aerial photo interpretation and field observations on April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup> 2012. The property contains approximately 19.66 acres of Red Maple Swamp and a 0.07 acre pond.<sup>8</sup>

The Property contains predominantly characteristic native wetland and upland vegetation, but is also impacted by invasive vines and shrubs, which are prominent along field edges, roadsides, and the property’s southern boundary. No rare plant species were observed during site visits.

**Table1.** Characteristic vegetation observed on the Noyes Neck Farm Property in Westerly, RI. Species shown in **BOLD** are listed in the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England catalog and are generally considered to be invasive in the region.<sup>9</sup>

<b>Habitat Type</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Wetland Indicator Status*</b>
Red Maple Swamp	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> L.	FAC
	Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> Marsh.	FAC
	Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier</i> spp	Various
	Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymboum</i> L.	FACW-
	Northern Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> L.	FACW-

<sup>8</sup> Enser, R., D. Gregg, C. Sparks, P. August, P. Jordan, J. Coit, C. Raithel, B. Tefft, B. Payton, C. Brown, C. LaBash, S. Comings, and K. Ruddock. 2011. Rhode Island Ecological Communities Classification. Technical Report. Rhode Island Natural History Survey, Kingston, RI. (available at: [www.rinhs.org](http://www.rinhs.org))

<sup>9</sup> Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE): <http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/>

	Northern Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i> L.	FACW-
	Swamp Azalea	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i> L.	FACW+
	Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> L.	FAC+
	Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> L.	FACW
	Marsh Fern	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i> Schott	FACW+
	Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> L.	FACW
	Star Flower	<i>Trientalis borealis</i> Ref.	FAC
	Skunk Cabbage	<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i> L.	OBL
	Sedge	<i>Carex lurida</i> Wahlenb.	OBL
Upland Forest	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> L.	FAC
	Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> L.	FACU
	Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier</i> spp	Various
	Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i> Thunb.	n/a
	<b>Bush Honeysuckle</b>	<b><i>Lonicera</i> spp.</b>	<b>FACU</b>
	Poison Ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i> L.	FAC
	<b>Japanese Barberry</b>	<b><i>Berberis thunbergii</i> DC.</b>	<b>FACU</b>
	Bullbrier	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i> L.	FAC
	Canada Mayflower	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i> Desf.	FAC-
	Star Flower	<i>Trientalis borealis</i> Ref.	FAC
Fields, Garden, Edges	Wild Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i> Ehrh.	FACU
	Apple	<i>Pyrus malus</i> L.	n/a
	<b>Multiflora Rose</b>	<b><i>Rosa multiflora</i> Thunb.</b>	<b>FACU</b>
	<b>Asian Bittersweet</b>	<b><i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> Thunb.</b>	<b>FACU</b>
	<b>Japanese Honeysuckle</b>	<b><i>Lonicera japonica</i> Thunb.</b>	<b>FAC-</b>
	Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> spp.	Varous
	Common Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> Weber	FACU-
	Common Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i> L.	n/a
	English Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	n/a
	Gill-Over-the-Ground	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> L.	FACU
	Black Wild Indigo	<i>Baptista tinctoria</i> L.	n/a
	Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effuses</i> L.	FACW+
	Orchard Grass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> L.	FACU
	Timothy	<i>Phleum pretense</i> L.	FACU
	Velvet Grass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i> L.	FACU

\*Wetland Indicator Status is designated as follows: OBL – obligate wetland, occurs in wetlands >99% of the time under natural conditions; FACW – facultative wetland, occurs in wetlands 67%-99% of the time; FAC – facultative, equally likely to occur in wetland and upland conditions; FACU – facultative upland, occurs in wetlands 1-33% of the time; UPL – obligate upland plants, rarely occur in wetlands (<1% of the time).

**Wildlife Use:** The Noyes Neck Farm Property provides wildlife habitat for a variety of species. During site visits on April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup> 2012, a total of thirty-nine bird species, four mammals, and one amphibian species were observed (Table 2). No threatened or endangered species were detected, however six bird species detected on the property appear on the State’s list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including: Great Blue Heron, Great-Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-Throated Vireo, Wood Thrush, Black-Throated Blue Warbler, and Black-and-White Warbler

(<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/species2.pdf>). The mammal species observed were all common species for the local area and habitat. Deer sign was abundant on the property.

Table 2. Fauna observed during site visits to the Noyes Neck Farm Property, Westerly, RI in 2012.

<b>Fauna Type</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>RI Abundance</b>
Birds	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Present
	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Common
	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallapavo</i>	Present
	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Common
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Present
	Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Present
	Downy woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Present
	Great-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Present
	Yellow Throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Present
	Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Common
	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyphynchus</i>	Common
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Present
	Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapilla</i>	Common
	Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	Common
	Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Present
	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Present
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	Present
	Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Present
	Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Present
	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Common
	Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Common
	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Present
	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Present
	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Present
	Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Present
	Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Present
	Black-and-White Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Present
	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Present
	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Present

	Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Present
	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Present
	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Common
	White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Present
	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Present
	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Common
	Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Common
	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Present
	Northern Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Present
	American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Present
Mammals	Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Common
	Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Common
	Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Common
	White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Common
Amphibians	Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	Present

This species list should not be considered a complete inventory for the property, as only three site visits were conducted during a single season. There are undoubtedly a variety of other species that use the property at various times of the year, including a greater number of birds and mammals, as well as amphibians, snakes, and insects. The property is located within a relatively undeveloped watershed and has contiguous open space to the east and farmland to the west.

During an inventory study of WFC properties in 2002 and 2003, a similar set of species were detected on the Noyes Neck property by Paton et al.<sup>10</sup> The Paton study included systematic point count surveys for breeding birds, active searches for amphibians and reptiles, and trapping efforts for small mammals. Additional species detected by Paton et al and not already represented here during 2012 and 2013 field investigations are presented in Table 3 below. Three avian species uniquely detected by Paton et al. currently appear on the State's list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including: Great Egret, Chimney Swift, and Blue-winged Warbler.

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<sup>10</sup> Paton, P. W. C., E Walsh, J. Osenkowski, and C. Nerone. 2003. An Inventory of the Flora and Fauna of WFC Lands with Management Recommendations: Final Report (unpublished). University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI.

Table 3. Additional fauna observed during Paton et al study investigations in 2002 and 2003 that were not detected during field investigations for this baseline and management planning effort in 2012 and 2013 on the Noyes Neck Farm Property, Westerly, RI in 2012 (see footnote 10 for complete study reference)

<b>Fauna Type</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>RI Abundance</b>
Birds	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Present
	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Common
	Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Present
	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Present
	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common
	Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Present
	Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Common
Amphibians	Northern Redbacked Salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	Common
	Northern Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer crucifer</i>	Common
	Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	Common
Reptiles	Eastern Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</i>	Common
Mammals	Northern Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	Common
	Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Present
	White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	Common
	Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Common



The photo above was taken by a neighbor on the Knight property, immediately to the east of the Noyes Neck Farm property, in 2011. Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) are native but rare in Rhode Island. They are listed as State Threatened and also as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and are protected from harvest.<sup>11</sup>

**Scenic Features:** The property contains agricultural landscapes and wooded open space and is highly scenic in nature. It is also very visible to the public from Shore Road and Noyes Neck Road with over 1,200 feet of road frontage. In addition, the property is located within a State-designated greenway.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program, March 2006. ([http://www.rinhs.org/wp-content/uploads/ri\\_rare\\_animals\\_2006.pdf](http://www.rinhs.org/wp-content/uploads/ri_rare_animals_2006.pdf))

<sup>12</sup> Rhode Island Geographic Information Systems, Greenways Datalayer, RIDEM, 1989.



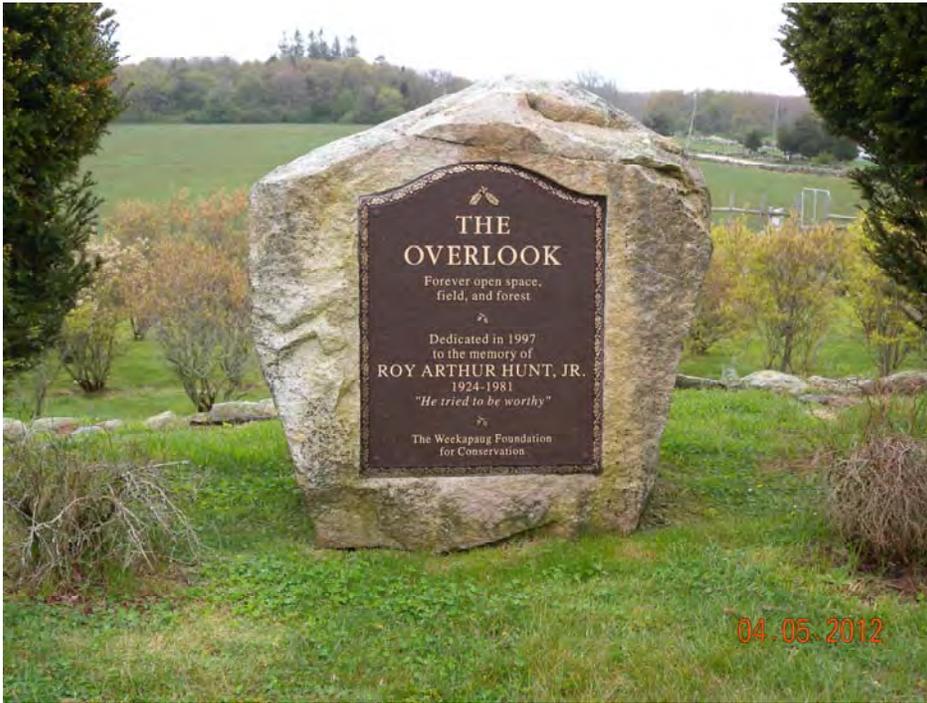
*Scenic agricultural view of the Noyes Neck Farm Property from Noyes Neck Road (CLT, 4/5/2012).*

**Historic / Archeological / Cultural Features:** The property is immediately adjacent to both the Ninigret Farm Historic Candidate Site and the Barnes House Historic Candidate Site, as recognized by the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission.<sup>13</sup> Historic stone walls line the western, eastern, and southern boundaries of the property, as well as being found throughout the interior (see Figure 3). Field stone walls are considered to be an important cultural resource in the region.

**Human-made Features:** Human-made features observed on the property include the aforementioned historic stone walls, fenced Community Organic Garden, split-rail fencing lining the parking area, culvert along Shore Road, scattered perc pipes, and WFC signage. According to the Plan of Land (Figure 3), there were 29 perc pipes located on the property in 1992; the number remaining is not precisely know at this time. Finally, a stone marker bearing a plague dedicating the site, is located near the parking area in the northwest corner.

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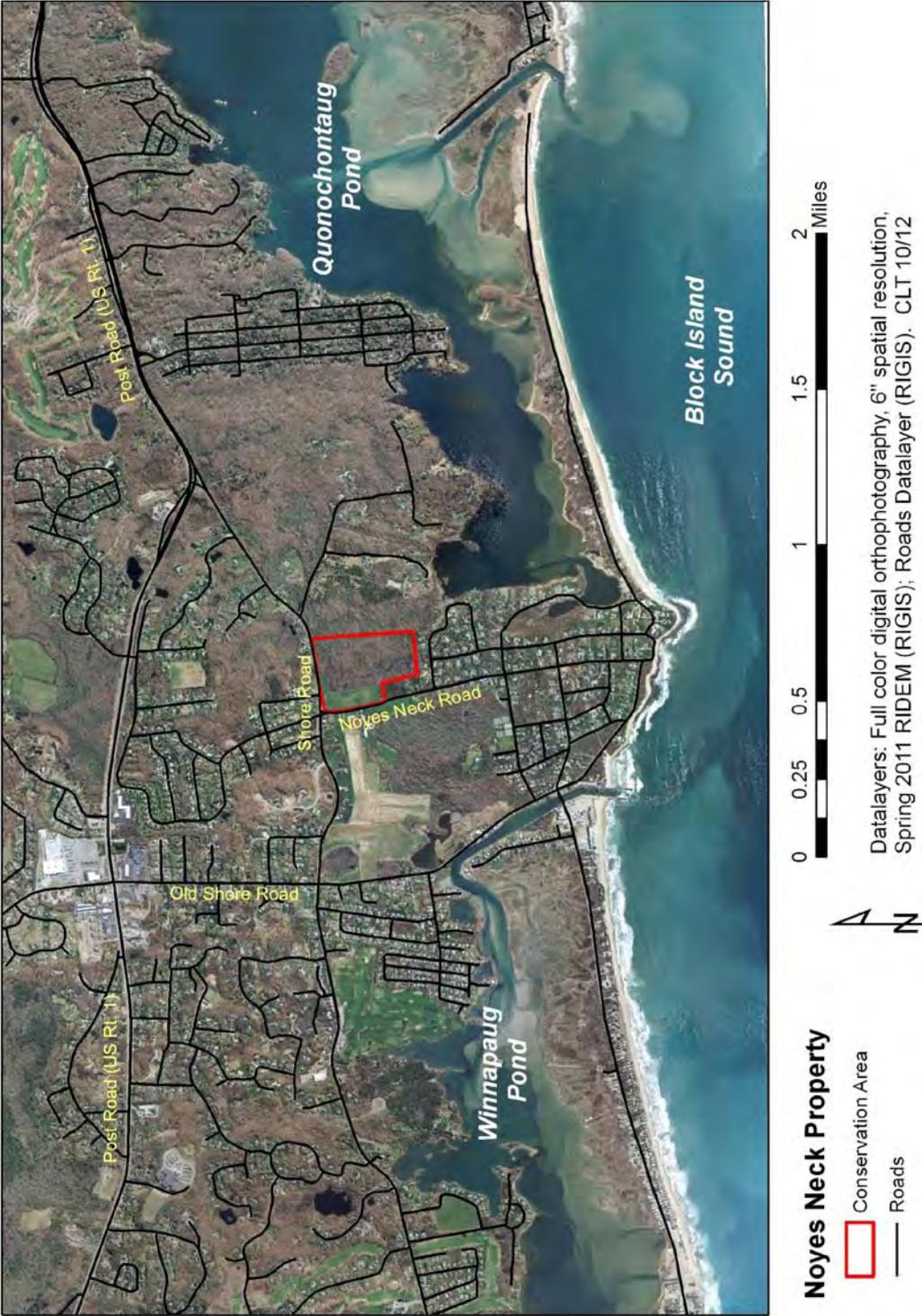
<sup>13</sup> Rhode Island Geographic Information Systems, Historic Candidate Datalater, RIHPC, 1992.



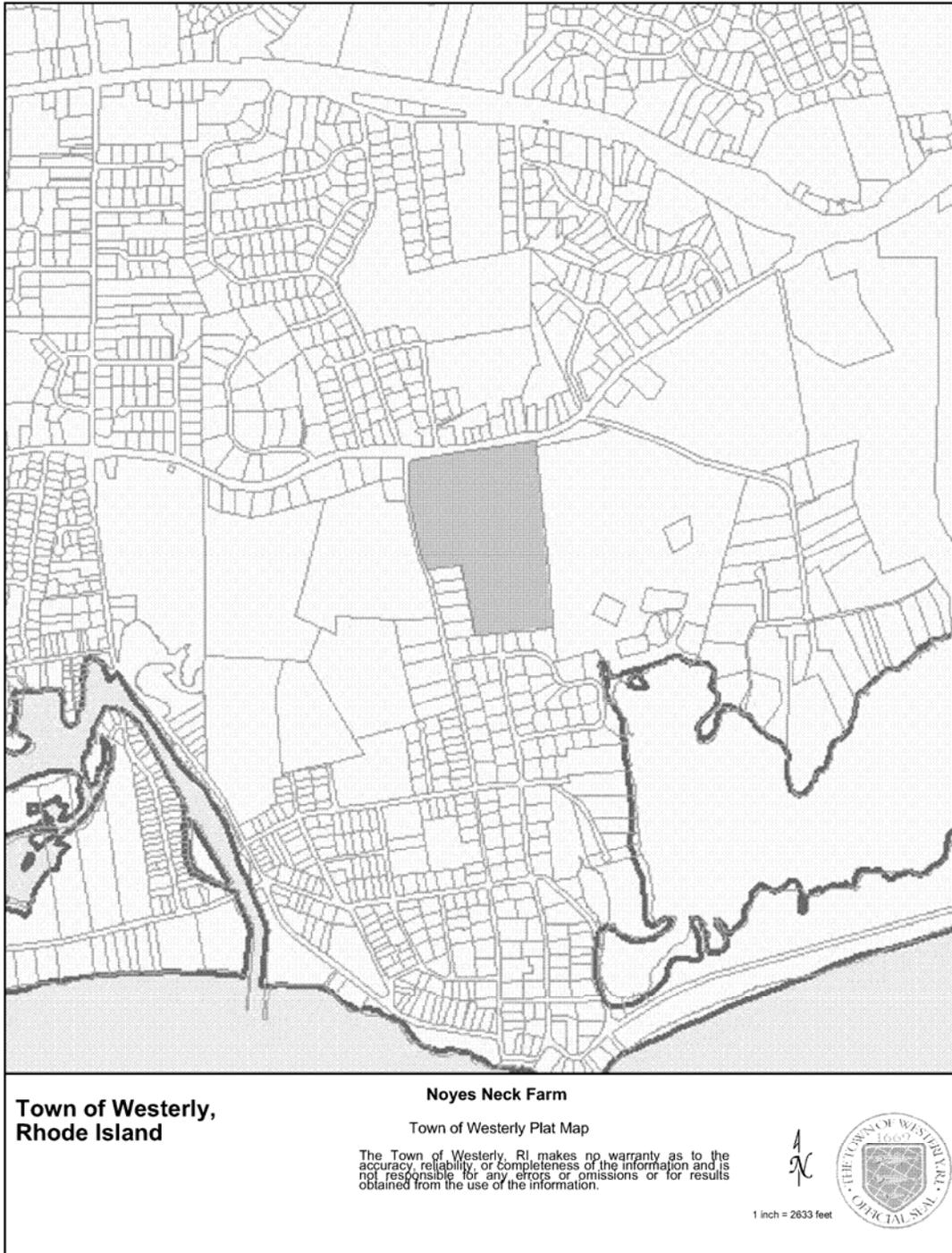
*Stone marker dedicating the stunning view of the Noyes Neck Farm Property to Roy Arthur Hunt, Jr. (CLT, 4/5/2012).*

#### ***4. Baseline Maps, Boundary Documentation, & Photos***

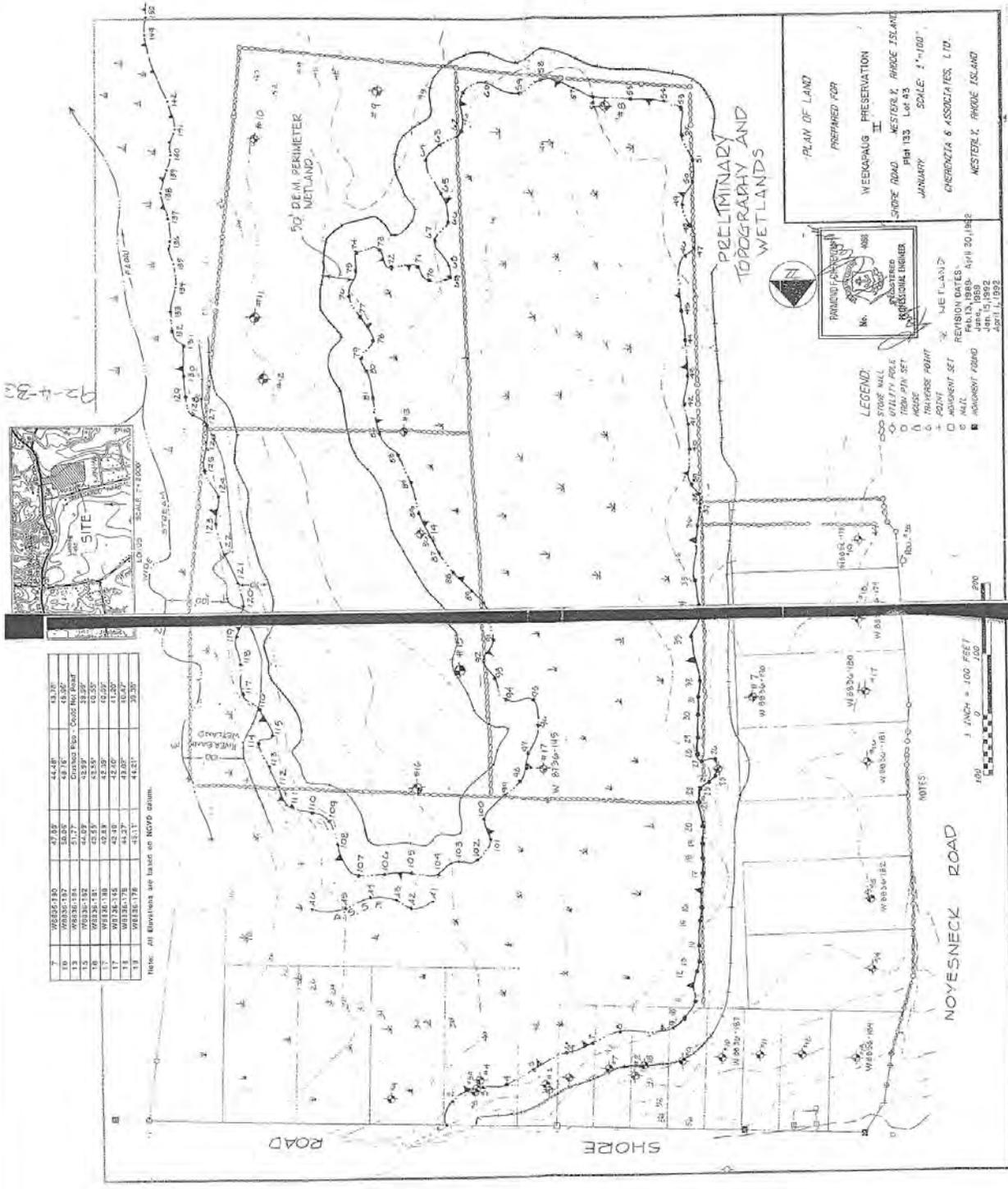
**Figure 1.  
Location Map  
Noyes Neck Farm Property  
Weterly, Rhode Island**



**Figure 2.**  
**Westerly Tax Assessor's P133-L43**  
**Noyes Neck Farm Property**  
**Westerly, Rhode Island**



**Figure 3.**  
**Plan of Land**  
**Noyes Neck Farm Property**  
**Westerly, Rhode Island**



**Figure 4.**  
**Aerial Photo / Property Map**  
**Noyes Neck Farm Property**  
**Westerly, Rhode Island**



**Noyes Neck Property**

 Conservation Area

0 100 200 400 600 800  
Feet

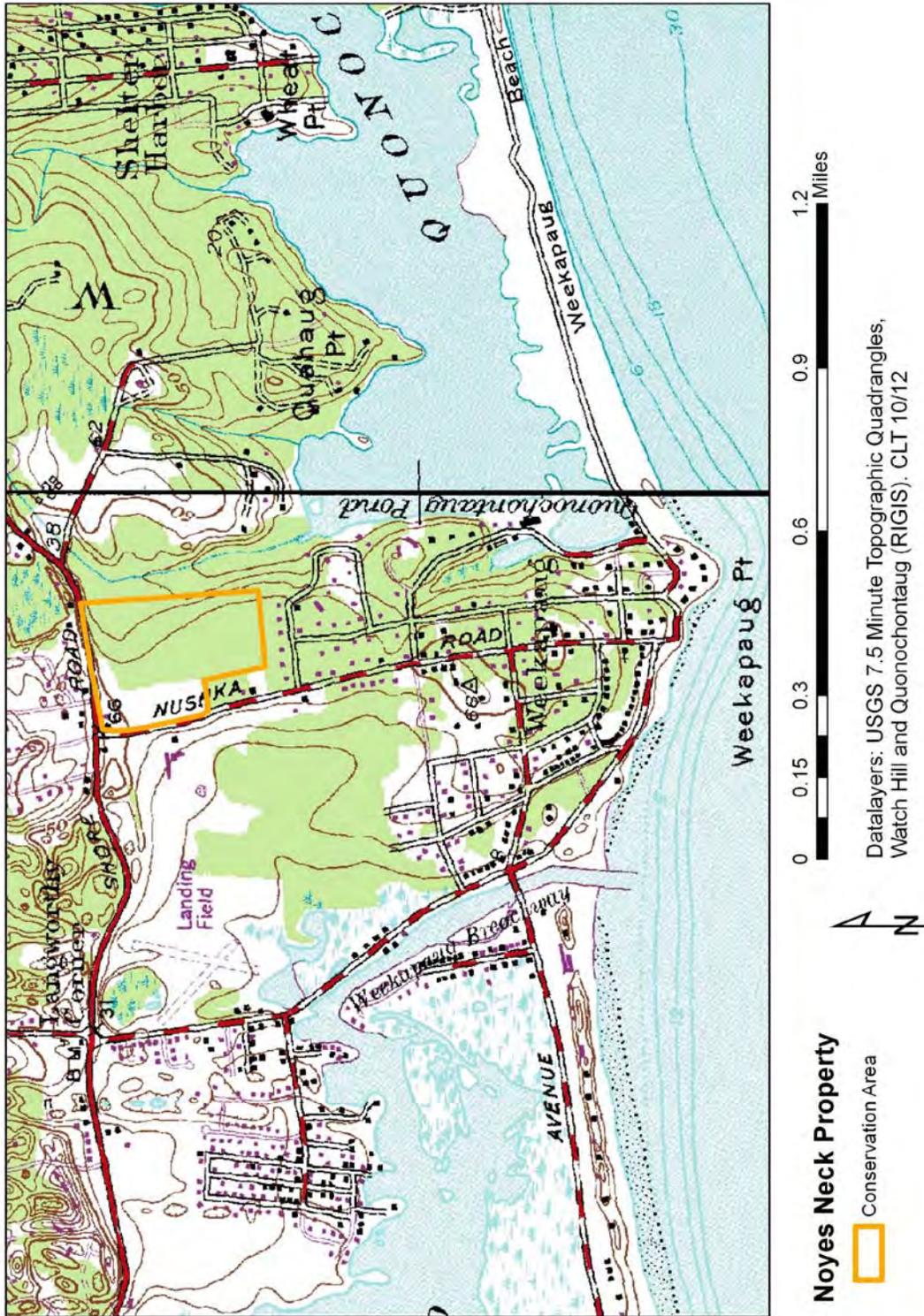


Datalayers: Full color digital orthophotography, 6"  
spatial resolution, Spring 2011 RIDEM (RIGIS).  
CLT 10/12

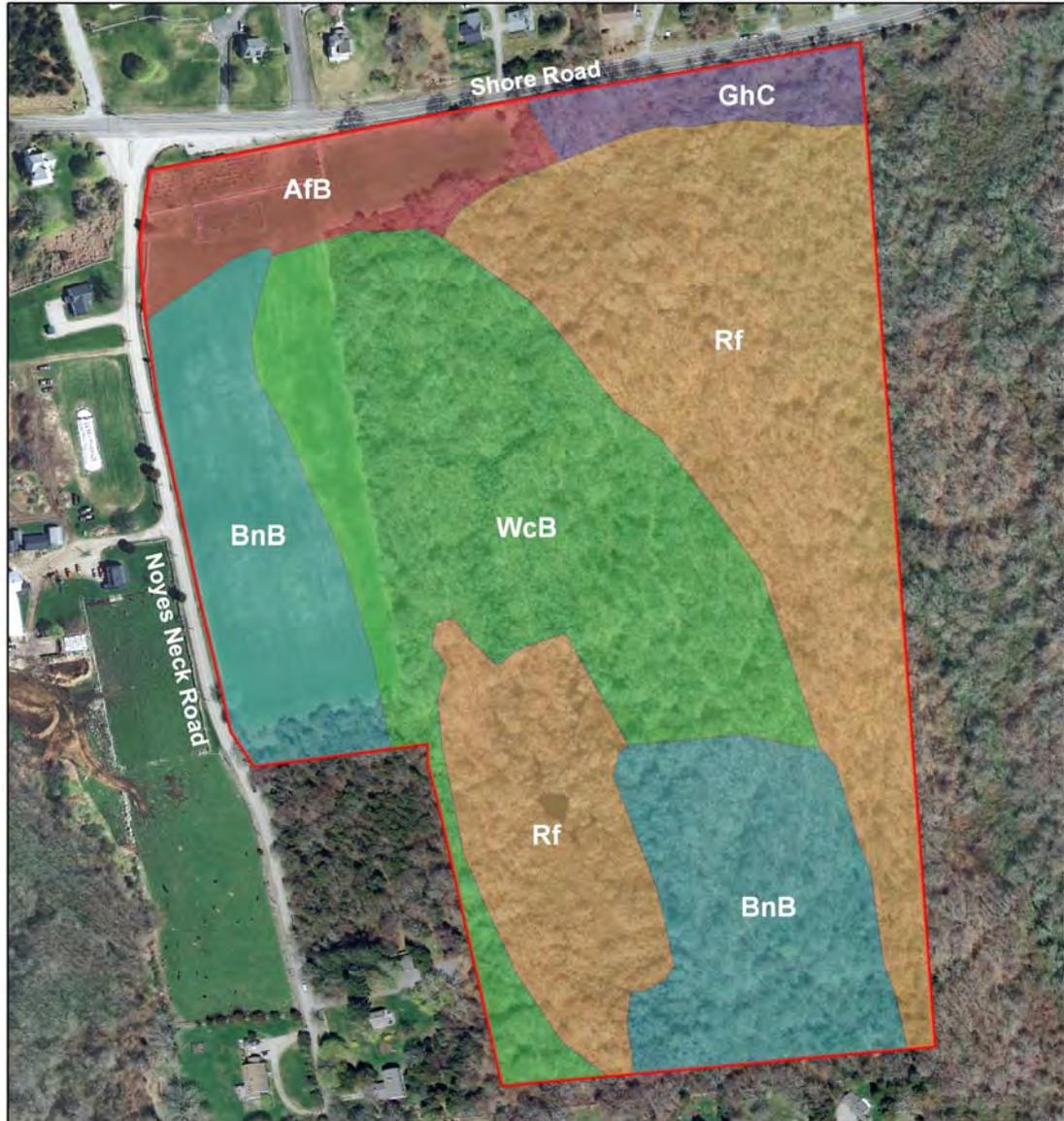
**Figure 5.**  
**Landscape Context Map**  
**Noyes Neck Farm Property**  
**Westerly, Rhode Island**



**Figure 6.**  
**USGS Topo Map**  
**Noyes Neck Farm Property**  
**Westerly, Rhode Island**



**Figure 7.**  
**Soil Survey Map**  
**Noyes Neck Farm Property**  
**Westerly, Rhode Island**



**Noyes Neck Property**

Conservation Area

**Soils**

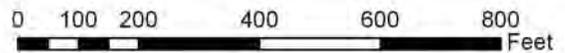
Agawam fine sandy loam (Afb)

Bridgehampton-Charlton complex, very stony (BnB)

Gloucester-Hinckley very stony sandy loams (GhC)

Ridgebury, Whitman, and Leicester extremely stony fine sandy loam (Rf)

Wapping very stony silt loam (WcB)



Datalayers: Full color digital orthophotography, 6" spatial resolution, Spring 2011 RIDEM; Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Soil Polygons for the State of Rhode Island, USDA-NRCS, 2012. CLT 3/13

**Figure 8.  
Natural Communities Map  
Noyes Neck Farm Property  
Westerly, Rhode Island**



**Noyes Neck Farm**

- Conservation Area
- Community Types**
- Garden
- Hayfield
- Pond
- Upland Forest
- Wetland Forest

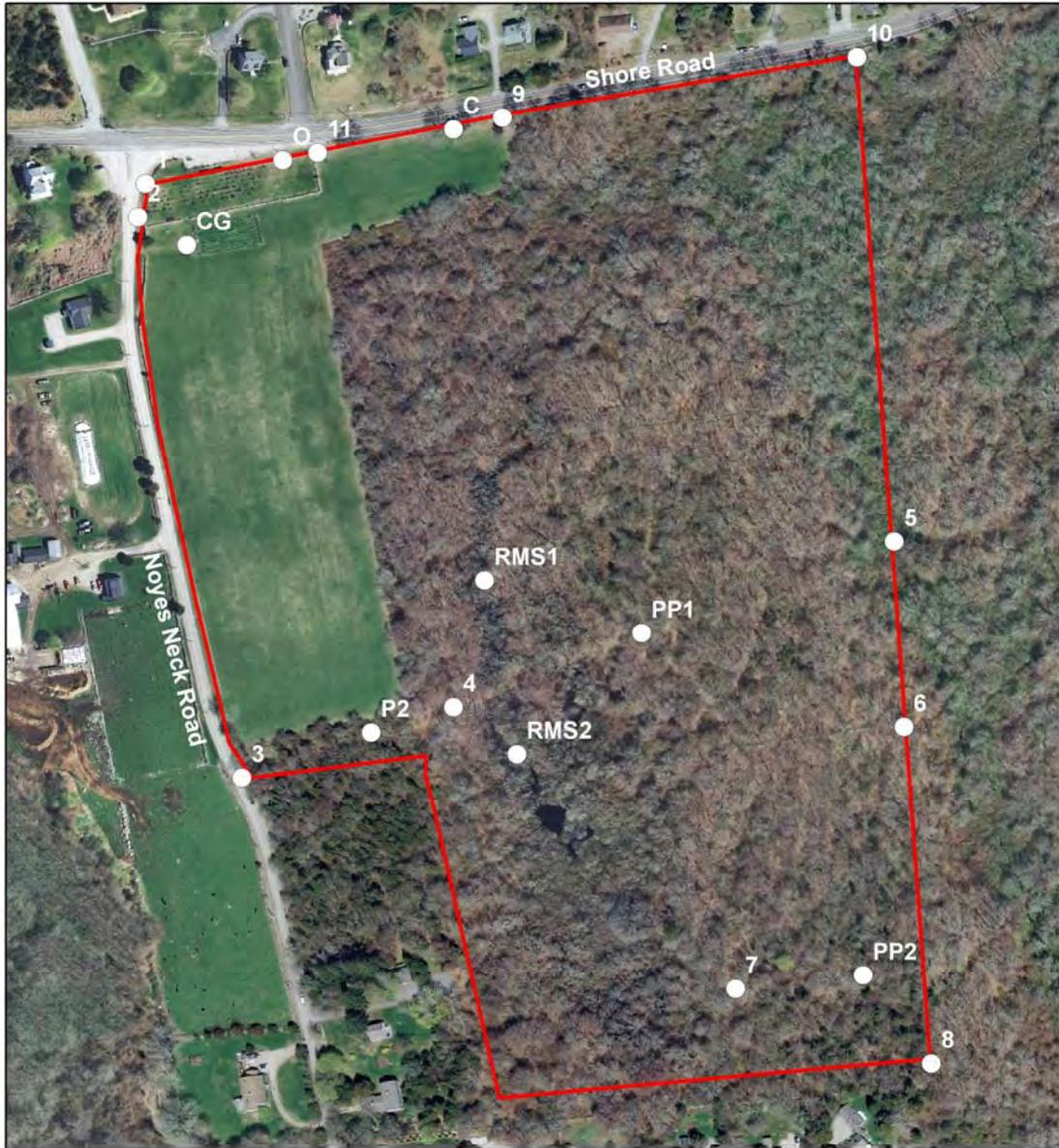


0 100 200 400 600 800 Feet

Datalayers: Full color digital orthophotography, 6" spatial resolution, Spring 2011 RIDEM (RIGIS). CLT 3/13

\*\*\*Wetland delineation is approximate and not intended for regulatory use.\*\*\*

**Figure 9.**  
**Photo Station Map**  
**Noyes Neck Farm Property**  
**Westerly, Rhode Island**



**Noyes Neck Property**

- Conservation Area
- Photo Stations

0 100 200 400 600 800 Feet



Datalayers: Full color digital orthophotography, 6" spatial resolution, Spring 2011 RIDEM (RIGIS).  
 CLT 3/13

**Photo Point Description Sheet  
Noyes Neck Farm Property  
Westerly, Rhode Island**

<b>Photo No.</b>	<b>Photo Description</b>
1A	Looking ENE along the northern property boundary from the NW corner.
1B	Looking SSW along the western property boundary from the NW corner.
2	Looking S along the western property boundary.
3A	Looking E into the property along the western portion of the southern boundary.
3B	Looking N along the western property boundary from the SW corner on Noyes Neck Road.
4	Looking N into a portion of the property where recent clearing had taken place.
5A	Looking S along the eastern property boundary.
5B	Looking N along the eastern property boundary.
6A	Looking W into the property from a 3-way stone wall intersection on the eastern boundary.
6B	Looking N along the eastern property boundary from a 3-way stone wall intersection.
6C	Looking S along the eastern property boundary from a 3-way stone wall intersection.
7	Dense area of primarily invasive vegetation in the SE portion of the property. (Location Approximate)
8A	Looking W from the SE corner of the property.
8B	Looking N from the SE corner of the property.
9A	Looking S from the northern property boundary on Shore Road.
10A	Looking S along the eastern property boundary from the NE corner on Shore Road.
10B	Looking W along the northern property boundary from the NE corner on Shore Road.
11A	Looking S across the property from the northern property boundary.
11B	Looking SW across the property from the northern property boundary.
11C	Looking SE across the property from the northern property boundary.
CG	Community Organic Garden.
C	Culvert along Shore Road.
O	Overlook stone marker dedicating the view.
P2	Cart path leading into the wooded portion of the property.
PP1	Remnant perc pipe. (Location Approximate)
PP2	Remnant perc pipe. (Location Approximate)
RMS1	Flooded Red Maple Swamp. (Location Approximate)
RMS2	Flooded Red Maple Swamp. (Location Approximate)

**Photographs  
Noyes Neck Farm Property  
Westerly, Rhode Island**



**Photo 1A**

Looking ENE along the northern property boundary from the NW corner.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 1B**

Looking SSW along the western property boundary from the NW corner.  
Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki  
**5/4/2012**



**Photo 2**

Looking S along the western property boundary.  
Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki  
**5/4/2012**



**Photo 3A**

Looking E into the property along the western portion of the southern boundary.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 3B**

Looking N along the western property boundary  
from the SW corner on Noyes Neck Road.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 4**

Looking N into a portion of the property where recent clearing had taken place.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 5A**

Looking S along the eastern property boundary.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 5B**

Looking N along the eastern property boundary.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 6A**

Looking W into the property from a 3-way stone wall intersection on the eastern boundary.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 6B**

Looking N along the eastern property boundary from a 3-way stone wall intersection.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 6C**

Looking S along the eastern property boundary from a 3-way stone wall intersection.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 7**

Dense area of primarily invasive vegetation in the SE portion of the property. (Location Approximate)  
Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki  
**5/4/2012**



**Photo 8A**

Looking W from the SE corner of the property.  
Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki  
**5/4/2012**



**Photo 8B**

Looking N from the SE corner of the property.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 9**

Looking S from the northern property boundary on Shore Road.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 10A**

Looking S along the eastern property boundary from the NE corner on Shore Road.  
Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki  
**5/4/2012**



**Photo 10B**

Looking W along the northern property boundary from the NE corner on Shore Road.  
Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki  
**5/4/2012**



**Photo 11A**

Looking S across the property from the northern property boundary.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 11B**

Looking SW across the property from the northern property boundary.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo 11C**

Looking SE across the property from the northern property boundary.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo CG**

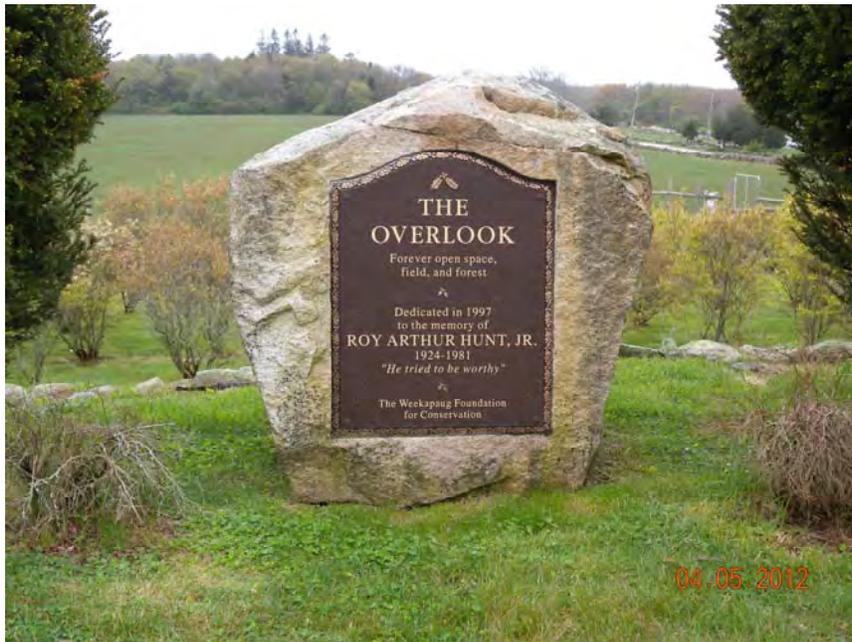
Community Organic Garden.

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo C**  
Culvert along Shore Road.  
Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki  
**5/4/2012**



**Photo O**  
Overlook stone marker dedicating the view.  
Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki  
**5/4/2012**



**Photo P2**  
Cart path leading into the wooded portion of the property.  
Photographed by Rebecca McCue  
**5/14/2012**



**Photo PP1**  
Remnant perc pipe. (Location Approximate)  
Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki  
**5/4/2012**



**Photo PP2**

Remnant perc pipe. (Location Approximate)

Photographed by Carol Lynn Trocki

**5/4/2012**



**Photo RMS1**

Flooded Red Maple Swamp. (Location Approximate)

Photographed by Rebecca McCue

**4/27/2012**



**Photo RMS2**

Flooded Red Maple Swamp. (Location Approximate)

Photographed by Rebecca McCue

**4/27/2012**

## **PART 2: PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

### ***1. Overview***

**Management Responsibility & Management Plan Review:** The Noyes Neck Farm Property is owned and maintained by the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation (WFC). It is the purpose of this Management Plan to provide guidance for the protection, maintenance and use of the property in a manner that ensures its sustainability for future generations.

Annual monitoring should occur on the property. Periodically, this plan will also be reviewed by a committee dedicated to the stewardship of WFC lands. Each review should: (1) evaluate the success and effectiveness of maintenance and management activities; (2) identify any problems or management issues that need to be addressed; (3) and determine the individual or group accepting responsibility for each planned management activity.

**Monitoring / Management History:** While public access is not prohibited on the property, no significant trail system or other amenities are offered or advertised, and public use is not significant at this time with the exception of the Community Organic Garden. Members of the WFC can sign up for one or more plots and plant and harvest organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers. In addition, open fields on the property are mowed twice annually for hay by a neighboring farmer. Otherwise, the property is not actively managed or regularly monitored at this time.

No know violations have been noted in the historic records for this property. During site visits in 2012, so clearing and yard waste dumping was noted. The property is bound by roads and historic field stone walls (Figure 3). Property boundaries have not been thoroughly or consistently marked, though some flagging and signage was noted along the eastern property line.

### ***2. Potential Threats to Conservation***

**Invasive Species:** The ecological health of this property is threatened by encroachment from invasive plant species, though the agricultural management and wetland nature of unmanaged portions of the property has limited their advance to some degree (Table 1).

Invasive species are organisms that have been introduced into areas where they did not evolve and therefore generally have no natural enemies in the areas where they have been introduced. Invasive species threaten natural biodiversity by out-competing native species, thus permanently altering the balance of ecosystems. Invasive shrub species [such as Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and several Bush Honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.)] and vines [such as Asian Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)] are prevalent at the edges of the property. Bush Honeysuckle was also found to be densely occurring in the southeast portion of the property and along the southern boundary.



*Area of dense, primarily invasive vegetation in the Southeast portion of the Noyes Neck Farm Property (CLT, 4/5/2012).*

For the most part, these species rely on sunlight and relatively dry conditions to thrive, so should be limited by wetland conditions and a forested overstory. However, Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) is a shade tolerant species that can invade dry forests, and was detected in several interior locations on the property.

#### **Yard Waste Dumping, Clearing & Encroachment:**

Some observations of yard waste dumping were noted along the southern property boundary during site visits. In addition, fairly aggressive clearing (presumably storm cleanup and/or firewood collection) had been undertaken just within the wooded portion of the property, accessed by the existing cart path, without WFC's knowledge or permission (see Photo 4). While individual violations may be minor, the cumulative impact of clearing, dumping, or minor encroachments by neighbors can be significant for a property with numerous abutters.

#### **White-tailed Deer Overabundance:**

An overabundance of White-tailed Deer can cause dramatic changes to forest composition and regeneration capability. Signs of deer overabundance are most apparent following a cold winter. A forest with a poorly developed understory or one dominated by only deer resistant plants may indicate a larger deer population than the landscape can support.

An overabundant deer population creates an imbalance in the ecosystem with many consequences, including: an unhealthy deer herd at heightened risk for starvation and disease spread (of especial concern is the spread of diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease); changes in vegetative community structure with associated risks to biodiversity,

specifically species of nesting songbirds; and heightened human risk from tick-borne disease. Many options exist for deer management, but to be effective all must be undertaken on a comprehensive community-wide basis.

Some evidence of overbrowse by White-tailed Deer (clipped stems, restricted understory) was apparent on the property. Site-specific options for deer control are limited by a property's size and proximity to residential areas. Given the size of this property and its adjacency to other forested open space land, hunting by permission is feasible.

### ***3. Management Goals***

The Noyes Neck Farm Property is owned in fee by the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation, whose intent is to manage the property for conservation purposes in perpetuity. To further secure the perpetual conservation of this property, the WFC should negotiate a Conservation Easement on the property with another willing conservation organization as the third-party holder.

**Agricultural Resource Management:** Whenever possible, management of this property will seek to maintain its agricultural resources and preserve its farmland character.

- All agricultural use of the Premises should employ sound and prudent farming techniques, in accordance with Best Management Practices established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), and the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (RICRMC).
- Current field habitat on the property will be mowed at least one time per year to maintain grassland characteristics. If field use is not for hay production, mowing should occur as late as possible in the fall to allow nesting birds to have fledged, butterflies to have migrated, and to best reduce shrub encroachment and provide control of invasive vegetation.
- Consideration should be given to formalizing the current agreement with a neighboring farmer for field maintenance. Such an agreement might address: mowing schedule, maximum cuts per year, payment or services bartered, wetland restrictions, and hayfield maintenance needs (no-till seeding potential, fertilization, etc.)
- The Community Organic Garden will continue to operate within its existing footprint and under the existing rules and regulations specified in Appendix 1, in accordance with CRMC permissions. All growing practices shall be in accordance with Northeast Organic Farming Association ([www.ctnofa.org](http://www.ctnofa.org)) organic standards and all soil amendments, pesticides, and fungicides must be approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute ([www.omri.org](http://www.omri.org)).

**Wetland & Water Resource Protection:** All maintenance and use of the property will seek to limit human impacts and protect the functions and values of the native wetland systems found there and the integrity of the contiguous coastal wetlands of Quonochontaug Pond.

- Any activities planned on the property will adhere to the requirements of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (RICRMC) and are subject to the 'Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast' under the authority of R.I. General Laws Chapter 46-23-6 ([http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/Fresh\\_Water\\_Wetlands.pdf](http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/Fresh_Water_Wetlands.pdf)).
- Any activities planned on the property will adhere to restrictions set forth in the Rhode Island Salt Pond Region: Special Area Management Plan (Salt Pond Region SAMP) as administered by RICRMC, and meet additional restrictions required for Lands of Critical Concern ([http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/SAMP\\_SaltPond.pdf](http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/SAMP_SaltPond.pdf)).
- Approximate delineations for 50' Perimeter Wetland, 100' Riverbank Wetland, and 200' Coastal Buffer Zone are given in Figure 10. Natural and undisturbed conditions will be retained within these areas. Please note that these descriptions are meant for general guidance only and are based on wetland delineations from the 1992 Plan of Land (Figure 3) and are not approved by RICRMC.

**Ecological Conservation & Habitat Management:**

Management of the property will seek to preserve its ecological integrity and value as wildlife habitat. Further study of the natural and ecological features of the property may be considered in the future.

- Selective control of invasive species on the property should be considered. Currently, the ecological health of this property is threatened by encroachment from invasive plant species, especially along the southern property boundary.
- If invasive species control is undertaken, manual control techniques are the preferred method whenever feasible. The application of chemical herbicides may have unintended secondary effects that are not yet well understood; chemical herbicides should only be used in wetlands under exceptional circumstances. Often, recommendations for control are species-specific so it is important to research current best management practices thoroughly. In addition, it is important that any activities planned on the property, including invasive species management, adhere to the requirements of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (RICRMC) and are subject to the 'Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast' under the authority of R.I. General Laws Chapter 46-23-6 ([http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/Fresh\\_Water\\_Wetlands.pdf](http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/Fresh_Water_Wetlands.pdf)).

- White-tailed deer may be hunted on the property in accordance with WFC's Deer Hunting Policy for Noyes Neck Farm Property (Appendix 2). Deer hunting on the property will conform to the existing hunting laws and regulations of the State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Division of Fish and Wildlife as referenced in RI State Law (RIGL 20 -13 and 20-15).
- Study of the natural and ecological features of the property should be encouraged. A more complete inventory of breeding and migrating birds, mammals, amphibians, and stream quality may be desirable in the future.

**Public Access, Recreational, & Educational Resource Use:** While public access is not prohibited on the property, no significant trail system or other amenities are offered or advertised, and public use is not thought to be significant at this time.

- Any future trail development will seek to avoid wetland impacts wherever possible and minimize impacts where necessary. Trails through wetlands require special design and permitting from the RICRMC. Careful consideration should be given to balancing recreational use with wetland and ecological protection.
- Future study of the natural and ecological features of the property should be encouraged.
- Interpretive information about the natural and ecological resources on the property and their need for protection could be developed for educational use with abutters and garden users to improve stewardship efforts.

**Scenic, Historic, & Cultural Resource Protection:** Management of the property will seek to retain its scenic qualities and protect its historic and cultural resources.

- Regular mowing of the garden area and roadside during the growing season should be continued.
- In the future, WFC may wish to consider clearing and restoring the property's historic field stone walls, especially those highly visible to the public along Shore Road and Noyes Neck Road.
- Routine roadside litter pick up should be undertaken at least annually.

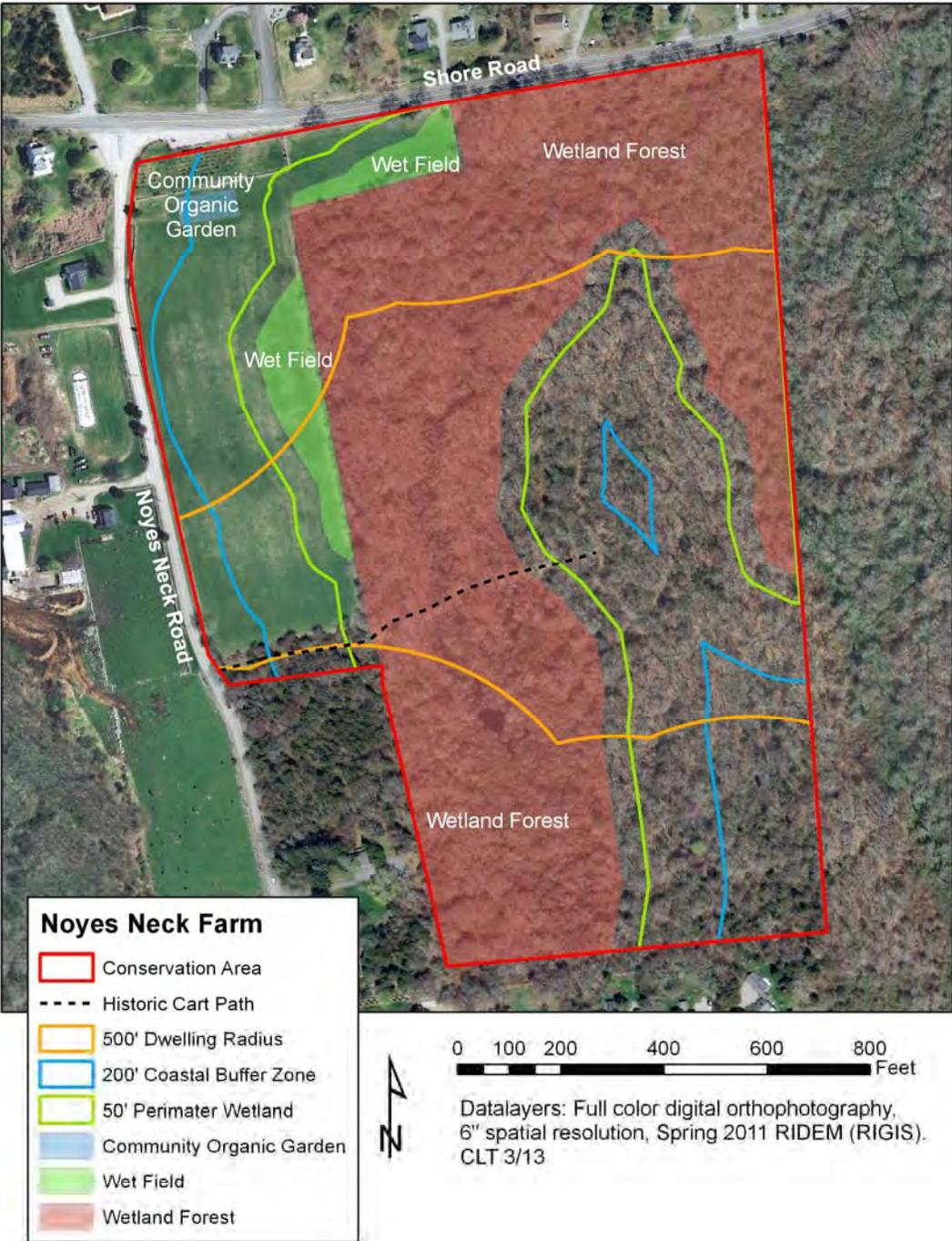
**Infrastructure Maintenance:**

- Property boundaries should be marked adequately to allow for regular monitoring and provide clear guidance regarding protection of the property to limit encroachment, dumping, etc.

- Information on the conservation values of the property and the efforts of the WFC to preserve these values should be shared with all abutters to increase understanding, avoid unintended impacts, and build stewardship support for this property.

#### ***4. Management Plan Maps***

**Figure 10.**  
**Management Plan Map**  
**Noyes Neck Farm Property**  
**Westerly, Rhode Island**



## *Appendices*

## **Appendix 1. Community Organic Garden**

The Community Organic Garden was opened in May 2009. It is located in the southeast corner of the property just south of the Hunt Overlook on Shore Road. Entrance and parking for the garden is off Noyes Neck Road.

The garden is 100 ft by 50 ft and fully enclosed by an agricultural grade-deer exclusion fence with chicken wire on the lower perimeter. Funding was provided for the fence through a grant from NRCS.

Members to the garden must be members of WFC and agree to garden organically and follow the Organic Gardening Rules. Plots measure 4 ft by 15 ft and are \$50 per plot with a \$20 per plot mowing fee. Funds collected from the fees pay for annual tilling, seasonal mowing, water supply (Town of Westerly), maintenance of the fence and irrigation system, and miscellaneous costs for necessary garden maintenance.

A committee of volunteers from the garden oversees the garden and communicates to WFC Administrative Assistant when repairs are necessary. In 2012, gardeners with more than one plot began to combine their plots to reduce the mowing areas and more efficiently use of the space.

The garden opens the first weekend in May and closes Columbus Day weekend.

Gardeners clean out their own gardens at closing and plant a cover crop purchased by the Administrative Assistant at the direction of the garden committee. Cover crop is ordered from Johnny's Seed at the end of July and typically is a fall green manure mix or ryegrass. Area of garden plots is approximately 2200 sq ft.

The garden paths and the outside perimeter of the garden are mowed weekly throughout the season by an outside landscape contractor (Grandscape 2013). The irrigation system is serviced by Shoreline Lawn Sprinklers in Westerly RI (401)-322-8096.

**See 'WFC 2013 Organic Community Garden Registration & Rules', attached.**



## ***WFC 2013 Organic Community Garden Registration***

Fill out both sheets, sign and mail to:  
The Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation  
366 Post Road, Westerly, RI 02891

Name.....

Mailing Address.....

Summer Address.....

Phone numbers.....

Email address.....

Number of plots requested this year.....

(We limit gardeners to two plots until May 1<sup>st</sup> at which time you may request another, based on availability.)

We have limited flexibility in the location of your garden plot. Please let us know here if you have any special needs. Returning gardeners have priority in requesting location of beds .....

Garden Fee for the Season - \$50 per plot \$\_\_\_\_\_

*(Please note all Community Gardeners must be members of WFC)*

Mowing Fee per plot - \$20 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee for WFC \$\_\_\_\_\_

*(One time donation of \$250.00 for a lifetime membership)*

Community Garden Steward Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

*(To support the expenses of the WFC Organic Community Garden)*

Total enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to The Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation.  
Memberships and gifts of support are tax-deductible.*

*Each member of the WFC Organic Community Garden is requested to help care for the overall garden. Please choose at least one of the following jobs that you agree to take on. If you will be unable to help with the spring opening prep and planting or fall cleanup, please let us know. Many hands make light work!*

\_\_\_ Spring cleanup, preparation, and planting of community beds which include the flower beds outside garden gate, the cutting flower beds, the herb garden, and the beneficial insect plant beds.

\_\_\_ Watering of these beds during the growing season.

\_\_\_ Weeding and staking of these beds during the growing season.

\_\_\_ Compost care

\_\_\_ Fall cleanup which includes turning over the community beds and seeding them with the winter crop

I have read the WFC Organic Community Garden Rules and agree to follow them. In addition I agree to participate with the garden community in the care and maintenance as stated above.

I indemnify and hold harmless WFC and its directors and staff against any and all claims resulting from my actions, negligent or otherwise, while on the WFC Organic Community Garden property.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation Organic Community Garden Rules***

**To ensure an enjoyable and productive gardening experience for all gardeners, please read the garden rules and return a signed copy to the WFC.**

**The WFC organic community garden provides us with a fenced piece of land to grow organic vegetables. Because our garden plots closely abut others, we need to be good neighbors and consider the entire garden as we care for our own plot. We can share knowledge, experiences, new ideas, and resources. As members of the community garden, we also accept responsibility for the tasks of maintaining the whole garden for our mutual benefit.**

### **Have a great growing season!**

- Community gardeners must be members of the WFC. A garden and fee can be shared, but each party must be a member.
- Each person must apply each year for a plot but returning gardeners will be given first preference and permitted to keep the same plot if they wish. The number of plots per gardener will be limited according to demand.
- Opening Day is the first Saturday in May. Year-end cleanup and closing of the garden is Columbus Day weekend.
- All growing practices shall be in accordance with \*Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) organic standards and all soil amendments, pesticides and fungicides must be approved by the \*\*Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). ***Keep in mind that the Noyes Neck Road property borders on coastal wetlands and that we are permitted by CRMC only for organic gardening. WFC will be subject to fines and loss of our permit if any gardener violates this rule.***
- You are responsible for your own garden plot ***and, as a member of the community garden, will share in maintenance of the overall garden through your choice of at least one garden job listed on the registration form.*** This may include preparing and planting the community flower and herb beds, weeding and watering these during the summer, or cleaning up and sowing winter crops in the community plots.
- Do not pick from your neighbor's garden even if you think they have neglected their plot.
- You are responsible for keeping your plot free of weeds and insect pests. Insect infestation and weed seeds easily spread from one plot to another. Please remove diseased plants from the garden and dispose of them at home. If your plot is not maintained with regular weeding or is infested with insect pests, you will receive a warning. After one week of no action, your plot may be mowed, your infested plants pulled, and the plot reassigned. The Garden Stewards' committee is happy to advise on garden maintenance.

- Composting guidelines are posted on site and should be followed.
- Keep vines, hoses, and all supplies out of the paths. We are not responsible for damage by the mower to plants or items in the pathways.
- Keep plot boundaries edged and the perimeter fencing free of weeds that can go to seed. We have observed that many plots have shrunk over the years. Feel free to maximize yours, keeping the edges straight and weeded.
- Water conservatively. Never leave water running when you leave the garden. Notify the Garden Stewards if a faucet is leaking.
- Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, straw, and hay are encouraged. Remove any non-organic mulch, such as black plastic, by closing day. No wood chips are allowed as mulch.
- Limit the number of tall plants such as corn or sunflowers and plant these in the center of your plot so they do not shade your neighbor's plants.
- No pets in the garden!
- If you decide not to use your plot, please contact the WFC Executive Director so it may be reassigned to someone else. If there is no evidence of activity at your plot by June 1st, it may be reassigned. **Please communicate if you will be delayed in planting your plot. We suggest that you mulch your plot to minimize weeds and ease later planting.** There are no refunds on plot fees paid.
- If you are unable to care for your plot because of illness or vacation, ask a fellow gardener for help with weeding and harvesting. There is nothing worse than seeing ripe vegetables rotting on the vine.
- At the end of the garden season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plots of all plant material and planting a cover crop to be supplied **even if the gardener is not planning on renewing the plot. This insures that all plots have the benefit of the winter crop nutrients.**

\*Northeast Organic Farming Association NOFA: [www.nofact.org](http://www.nofact.org)

\*\*Organic Materials Review Institute OMRI: [www.omri.org](http://www.omri.org)

## **Appendix 2.**

### **DEER HUNTING POLICY FOR NOYES NECK FARM PROPERTY**

Lands entrusted to Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation (WFC) entail legal and good faith responsibilities that continue forever. Managing and maintaining the lands that we have protected through good stewardship practices is an important part of our work. Whitetail deer are a species with great reproductive potential that can damage habitats, destroy rare plants and spread tick borne disease to humans. Hunting may be allowed as a management tool to control deer populations at sustainable levels to prevent negative impact.

Deer hunting on WFC owned properties will conform to the existing hunting laws and regulations of the State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Division of Fish and Wildlife as referenced in RI State Law (RIGL 20 -13 and 20-15).

#### **Hunting Guidelines:**

1. Approval to hunt will be granted on a limited, annual basis after completion of the WFC Application to Hunt.
2. It is the responsibility of the hunter to be aware of property lines and stay within the designated area.
3. Applicants must demonstrate possession of a valid Rhode Island hunting license as referenced in RIGL 20-13-1 and obtain the necessary deer hunting special permit as referenced in RIGL 20-15-2.
4. Deer hunting by archery, muzzleloader and shotgun will be permitted and only during each respective portion of the deer season.
5. No archery will be done within two hundred feet (200') of any building or dwelling as referenced in RIGL 20-15-1.
6. No muzzleloader or shotgun deer hunting will be done within five hundred feet (500') of any building or dwelling as referenced in RIGL 20-15-1.
7. The construction or use of permanent tree stands is prohibited. The use of nails, spikes bolts, or devices that may damage trees is prohibited. Climbing and ladder tree stands are permitted and shall be attached to the tree by use of a cable, chain or strap to minimize injury to the tree. Tree stands must be removed at the end of the season.

8. Hunters are required to report to WFC how many deer, (doe and buck) are harvested from each property.
9. No vehicles of any kind are allowed on property. Parking is in designated areas only. All care should be taken to have minimal impact on natural surroundings.
10. Hunters are requested to report any unauthorized or unsafe activities to WFC stewardship committee.

Failure to comply with these and all state hunting regulations will result in termination of hunting privileges on WFC properties.

*Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation assumes no responsibilities for any injury to person or property while hunter listed is using this land to hunt. Please note RI State Law (RIGL 32-6-3) as it applies to these privileges.*

I have reviewed and understand the WFC Deer Hunting Policy and agree to abide by the guidelines.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Rhode Island State Hunting License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

Contact:  
Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation  
366 Post Road  
Westerly, RI 02891  
T(401)315-5380

## **Permission to Hunt**

Date:

Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation (WFC) grants permission to

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to hunt on Noyes Neck Farm property, located at the southeast corner of Shore Road and Noyes Neck Road, Westerly, RI.

### **Appendix 3. Author's Curriculum Vitae**

#### **CAROL LYNN TROCKI**

55 East Main Road, Little Compton, RI 02837

Phone: (401) 952-2937, E-mail: [cltrocki@verizon.net](mailto:cltrocki@verizon.net)

#### **EDUCATION: University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI**

- Master of Science in Environmental Science, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, 2003
- Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science and Management, with highest distinction, 1999
- Bachelor of Science, Secondary Science Education, with highest distinction, 1999

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Conservation Biologist – Assorted Land Conservation Organizations & Municipalities, 2004 - present

- Provide conservation value assessment of prospective properties; create Baseline Documentation Reports and design Management Plans, including detailed mapping and species inventories

Lead Scientist – Boston Harbor Islands Coastal Breeding Bird Monitoring Program, 2008-present

- Develop and implement a long-term volunteer monitoring program for breeding waterbirds in Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area; collect and present annual waterbird breeding data in a spatially explicit manner

Wildlife Management Undergraduate Course Instructor – University of Rhode Island, 2005-present

Research Associate II - URI Dept. of Natural Resources Science, 28 hrs/wk Jan 2006-present

- Developing a long term marshbird monitoring protocol for parks in the Northeast region; using GIS to evaluate sampling design and establish survey points (Dec 2010 – present)
- Ocean SAMP Avian Research - Explored avian use of RI offshore waters to inform potential future wind development siting; conducted a variety of land-based, boat-based and aerial surveys for offshore and coastal bird species; developed spatially explicit density surface models using Program DISTANCE and ArcGIS 9.3 (Jun 2009 – Dec 2010)
- Developed a biotic synthesis report for Fire Island National Seashore; provided detailed species and habitat accounts and suggested management recommendations based on best available information and the scientific literature (Jan 2006 – Jun 2009)

Contract Biologist - URI Dept. of Environmental and Natural Resources Economics, 2005-2008

- Worked with area farmers to better understand the effects of hayfield and cattle grazing on grassland nesting birds as part of an innovative experimental market for ecosystem services
- Conducted field surveys of breeding grassland birds on project area farm fields; developed occupancy models to explain the presence and absence of nest territories based on field characteristics and habitat variables

Contract Research Associate - URI Dept. of Natural Resources Science, 2003-2007

- Developed a coastal breeding bird monitoring protocol for Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area that uses volunteers for implementation (2007) based on inventory work done in 2003 and 2005-7; Conducted mammal, reptile, and amphibian inventory in Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area (2005, 2006)
- Created a spatially explicit grassland bird conservation strategy for Saratoga National Historical Park (2003 - 2005)
- Oversaw breeding season avian monitoring in the Northeast Temperate Network of the National Park Service; managed field crew, created survey protocol documentation, managed data, prepared final maps, report, and database documentation to NPS specifications (2003- 2004)

Avian Ecology Independent Contractor – USEPA, Atlantic Ecology Division, May 2005-2007

- developed a grid-based model in ArcGIS to examine the spatial correlation of avian population declines and acid and mercury deposition in the eastern U.S.

Contract Biologist – USGS Pawtuxent Wildlife Research Center Approx 25hrs/wk, Nov 2004 - 2006

- Field sampled medium-sized mammals on Cape Cod National Seashore using a variety of methods for development of a monitoring protocol; established and located sampling points using GPS coordinates output from a stratified random sampling design; developed an occupancy model to assess the effects of various survey techniques and habitat variables

Stewardship/Trail Manager - Aquidneck Island Land Trust, Full Time, Jan. 2004 – Nov. 2004

- Created Baseline Documentation Reports and Management Plans; provided input and support in determining the conservation value of prospective properties; designed and implemented a strategic conservation mapping project to identify conservation priorities on Aquidneck Island
- Stewarded and managed AILT-owned properties and trail projects; conducted annual monitoring visits on all properties, managed volunteer monitoring program, and maintained positive landowner relations
- Obtained an ESRI grant for GIS software for non-profit use; provided supporting maps

Graduate Research Assistant - URI Dept. of Natural Resources Science, 25-30 hrs/wk., 2001–2004

- Monitored wading bird use of salt marshes in southern Rhode Island during the breeding and the post-breeding season (2001 and 2002); Used photo-interpretation and GIS to create habitat maps of coastal wetland study sites; Acquired complete project funding through competitive small grants for field assistance and travel; Mentored and supervised undergraduate field research assistants; Provided management recommendations to organizations and agencies interested in preserving and restoring salt marshes and active agricultural lands for foraging wading bird use

Program Coordinator - URI Coastal Fellows Program, May 1999-Jan. 2003

- Mentored undergraduate research and outreach fellows, developed student opportunities, monitored student progress, and evaluated program success; developed and team-taught an undergraduate seminar in the communication and presentation of scientific research and outreach

Research Assistant – URI Dept. of Natural Resources Science, May 1999 – Jan. 2000

- Conducted shorebird surveys of three coastal ponds in southern Rhode Island; Designed and carried out project protocol to meet Army Corps specifications, with a focus on habitat use by endangered species; responsible for data acquisition, entry and analysis, budget tracking, drafting final report and presentation
- Conducted research on avian community structure at a recently restored salt marsh in Galilee, Rhode Island; Performed point count surveys, spot-mapping, nest searching, and tracking of color-banded birds throughout the breeding season to correlate bird use to habitat change occurring with restoration

#### COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES:

Rhode Island Land Trust Council, Board of Directors, 2011-present

Jamestown Conservation Commission, 2004 –2013, Chair beginning 2011

Jamestown Farm Viability Committee, 2003 - 2012

Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Board of Directors, 2003–09, Board President 2005-09

#### PUBLICATIONS:

- Trocki CL. 2012. Coastal breeding bird monitoring in Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area: Northeast Temperate Network 2011 summary report. Natural Resource Technical Report. NPS/NETN/NRTR—2012/595. National Park Service. Fort Collins, Colorado. Published Report-2186044.
- Trocki, C. L. 2011. Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area coastal breeding bird monitoring: 2010 field season summary. Natural Resource Technical Report NPS/NETN/NRTR—2011/459. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.
- Trocki, C. L., B. R. Mitchell, and P. W. C. Paton. 2011. Coastal breeding bird monitoring protocol for Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area: 2011 Revision. Natural Resource Report NPS/NETN/NRR—2011/417. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.
- Trocki CL. 2011. Biotic synthesis of Fire Island National Seashore. National Park Service, Natural Resource Program Center. Fort Collins, Colorado. Natural Resource Report. NPS/NCBN/NRR—2011/292. Published Report-2167695.
- Trocki, C., B. Mitchell, and P. Paton. 2010. Coastal breeding bird monitoring protocol for Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area: Northeast Temperate Network. Natural Resource Report NPS/NETN/NRR—2010/176. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.
- Trocki, C. L. 2011. Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area coastal breeding bird monitoring: 2010 field season summary. Natural Resource Technical Report NPS/NETN/NRTR—2011/459. National Park Service. Fort Collins, CO.
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- Trocki, C. L. 2009. Boston Harbor Islands Coastal Breeding Bird Monitoring 2008 Field Season Summary. Natural Resources Report NPS/NETN/NRTR—2009/209. National Park Service. Fort Collins, CO.
- Trocki, C. L. 2008. Coastal breeding bird monitoring in the Boston Harbor Islands. *Bird Observer* 36(6).
- Trocki, C. L. and P. C. W. Paton. October 2007. Boston Harbor Islands Coastal Breeding Bird Monitoring 2007 Field Season Summary. Natural Resources Report NPS/NER/NRR—2007/016. National Park Service. Northeast Region. Boston, MA.
- Trocki, C. L. and P. C. W. Paton. August 2007. Study Design for Assessing the Effects of Knapweed Control on Grassland Birds at Saratoga National Historic Park. Natural Resources Report NPS/NER/NRR – 2007/015. National Park Service. Northeast Region. Boston, MA.
- Trocki, C. L., N. W. Talancy, and P. C. W. Paton. August 2007. An Inventory of Amphibians, Reptiles, Nonvolant Mammals, and Select Bird Species on Islands in Boston Harbor. Technical Report NPS/NER/NRTR – 2007/094. National Park Service. Northeast Region. Boston, MA.
- Trocki, C. L. and P. C. W. Paton. 2006. Assessing habitat selection by foraging egrets in salt marshes at multiple spatial scales. *Wetlands* 26(2):307-312.
- Trocki, C. L. and P. C. W. Paton. 2006. Comparison of two foraging habitats used by Glossy Ibis during the breeding season in Rhode Island. *Northeastern Naturalist* 13(1):93-102.
- Paton, P. W. C., R. J. Harris, and C. L. Trocki. 2005. Distribution and Abundance of Birds during the Breeding Season in Boston Harbor. *Northeastern Naturalist*. 12 (Special Issue 3):145-168.
- Trocki, C. L. and P. C. W. Paton. March 2005. Developing a Conservation Strategy for Grassland Birds at Saratoga National Historical Park. Natural Resources Report NPS/NER/NRR—2005/004. National Park Service. Boston, MA.
- Trocki, C. L. and P. C. W. Paton. December 2003. Avian Surveys in the Northeast Temperate Network Parks. Technical Report NPS/NER/NRTR – 2005/004. National Park Service. Woodstock, VT.
- Trocki, C. L. Patterns of Salt Marsh and Farmland Use by Wading Birds in Southern Rhode Island. Master of Science Thesis – University of Rhode Island. 2003.

#### **Appendix 4. Maintenance of Hunt Overlook and Property Perimeter**

Maintenance of Hunt Overlook and property perimeter along Noyes Neck Road and Shore Road.

An outside landscape contractor mows the grass at the Hunt Overlook and along the perimeter of the stonewalls at Shore Road and Noyes Neck Road (2013- Granscapes). Irrigation for the blueberries planted at the Hunt Overlook is serviced by Shoreline Lawn Sprinklers, Inc. in Westerly RI (401)-322-8096 and the water supply is Town of Westerly.

Blueberries are picked and enjoyed by members of the WFC Community.

**Appendix 5. Noyes Neck Farm Haying Agreement with Farmer**

**(TO BE ADDED)**

**Appendix 6. CRMC Finding of No Significant Impact for Community Organic Garden**



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Oliver H. Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3  
Wakefield, R.I. 02879-1900

(401) 783-3370  
FAX: (401) 783-3767

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**\*(Corrected 4/6/2009)\***

February 23, 2009

Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation  
366 Post Road  
Westerly, RI 02891

RE: CRMC Assent No. F2009-02-062  
Site: 4 Noyes Neck Road, Westerly  
Plat: 133 Lot: 43

Project Description: Install a community organic garden for membership use, as per plan submitted & received by **CRMC APRIL 6, 2009.**

The Coastal Resources Management Council has reviewed your project proposal and has determined the findings of no significant impact on coastal resources. This project must be completed within three (3) years of the date of this notification. If this project involves excess excavated materials, excess soils, excess construction materials, and debris (including any destructed materials) these materials shall be removed from the site and disposed of at an inland landfill or a suitable and legal upland location. **If the project involves earthwork, appropriate erosion controls shall be utilized.** All applicable policies, prohibitions, and standards of the RICRMP shall be upheld.

**CAUTION:** The limits of authorized work shall be only for that which was approved by the CRMC. Any activities or alterations which deviate from the approved plans will require a separate application and review. If the information provided to the CRMC for this review is inaccurate or did not reveal all necessary information or data, then this permit may be found to be null and void. Plans for any future alteration of the shoreline or construction or alteration within the 200' zone of CRMC jurisdiction or in coastal waters must be submitted for review to the CRMC prior to commencing such activity. Under no circumstances will this permit authorize any work which is considered prohibited under any of the sections of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program.

Permits, licenses or easements issued by the Council are valid only with the conditions and stipulation under which they are granted and imply no guarantee of renewal. The initial application or an application for renewal may be subject to denial or modification. If an application is granted, said permit, license and easement may be subject to revocation and/or modification for failure to comply with the conditions and stipulations under which the same was issued or for other good cause.

A copy of this authorization to perform construction related activities shall be kept on site and available for inspection. **NOTE:** Failure to have this letter on site or work in excess of your proposal constitutes a violation under this program.

Sincerely,

*William J. Mosunic*  
William J. Mosunic, Administrative Officer  
Coastal Resources Management Council

/rcm

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

NOTICE OF

ASSENT

CRM/C Assent No.: A2009-02-062 Date: February 25, 2009

This certifies that Wekapung Foundation for Conservation has permission to Install a community organic garden for membership use, as per plan submitted & received by CRM/C Feb 18, 2009

situated at 4 Noyes Neck Road Lot No. 43  
Plot No. 133

Said construction operations to be done in accordance with an approved assent on file in the Offices of the Coastal Resources Management Council and subject further to all the provisions of the building ordinances of the :

City/Town of Westerly

and to all the applicable State, Local and Federal provisions. This assent shall expire three (3) years from date of issuance.

Official Designee  
Coastal Resources Management Council

THIS CARD MUST BE DISPLAYED IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE ON THE PREMISES.  
FAILURE TO DISPLAY WILL RESULT IN LEGAL ACTION.