

**The Mildred Flower Hird Nature Preserve - West
SHELTER ISLAND, NEW YORK
STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Introduction

In 2001 the Town, Village of Dering Harbor and Suffolk County jointly purchased 13.7 acres of open space at on the west side of Manhasset Road extending down to Julia Dodd Creek (SCTM 0700-01-03-19.2) from Grandma & Partners Ltd, the Hunt family. The southern border of this property is contiguous with the wood bordering the Our Lady of The Isle Cemetery. The property is entirely within the Village of Dering Harbor.

Intentions

The properties reflect old growth woodland extending west from Manhasset Road to the wetlands of Julia Dodd Creek. The woodlands are fairly open and accessible for walking. This property has sensitive wetlands and marshes bordering Julia Dodd Creek and serves as the headwaters for the creek which flows into, and opens up to, a beautiful view of Dering Harbor.

Name

The property will be called **The Mildred Flower Hird Nature Preserve West** and will be so-called on all Town maps and descriptive material.

Improvements

There are no improvements on this property and it should be kept that way.

Management

Because the upland portion of the property is relatively old growth woodlands, they have little invasive vegetation. **The marsh areas should be left in its natural state and walking on that area discouraged.** If possible, encroachment of invasive vegetation should be discouraged or garbage cleaned up. The maximum estimated cost of maintaining the place for walking is up to \$500 annually although it is anticipated that there will be many periods when no maintenance is required.

The parcel will be left in its current state, to act as open space, habitat for animals, excellent for waterfowl and shorebird viewing and for storm water recharge.

Public Access and Signage

Public access to this parcel should be from the southerly area of Manhasset Road near the boundary shared with the Catholic Cemetery, as the road has a small shoulder for parking at that location.

The Town will erect a bronze plaque (see attached draft) embedded into a large stone identifying the preserve name along with its intended usage at a point along Manhasset Road. The property should be available for the public to walk. Future signage will not contain any restrictions indicating "Private Property" or "No Trespassing". In addition to the bronze plaque, there will be "Town of Shelter Island,

County of Suffolk, Preserved Open Space signs modified to reflect "Hunting by Permit Only" with a contact phone number to Town Representative.

Measures to Protect Ecology

The Town will manage the property to protect the ecology of this property. Specifically:

(i) Birds: no particular action will be taken except to avoid use of pesticides or chemicals which could harm them.

(ii) Animals: The bulk of the property will be left in an undisturbed state as habitat for plants and animals. Nuisance hunting is allowed on this parcel. The properties should not be included in the town's wood cutting program because the vehicle disturbance associated with cutting would not be appropriate.

(iii) Wetlands: The area serving as the headwaters for Julia Dodd Creek should not be disturbed in any way.

The CPF Committee will prepare an annual report to the Town Board of expenditures from the Community Preservation Fund for stewardship of this property.

Grandma Partners II



See page 2 for Disclaimer and Map Legend

Shelter Island, NY

1/11/2012

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