

**Gardiner's Creek Preserve  
SHELTER ISLAND, NEW YORK**

**STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Introduction

On 6/29/09 the Town and Suffolk County jointly purchased 4 acres of open space at the headwaters of Gardiners Creek from the Dorsey family. The portion of the property close to the water is marshy and full of wetland vegetation. The upland portion of the property has been kept open meadow by seasonal mowing. This meadow offers a vista to Gardiners Creek for travelers of Route 114.

Intentions

The property includes frontage on Gardiners Creek, part of the Peconic Estuary system. It lies adjacent to preserved Sylvester Manor property and part of an overall plan to preserve lands fronting on this sensitive waterway feeding Dering Harbor. It is also an excellent area to collect storm water and to allow aquifer recharge.

Gardiners Creek is very shallow and not particularly suitable for motorized boating. Kayak and canoe exploration is popular there. The shallows have traditionally been excellent for shell fishing, but precautionary measures due to proximity of the SIH Sewage Plant to Dering Harbor has resulted in the DEC closing the headwaters to shell fishing. The goal is to protect the headwaters to minimize pollution and reopen the area to shell fishing.

The meadow portion of the property provides scenic vista to Gardiners Creek, so it should be kept meadow by seasonal mowing. The town may remove invasives. EPA approved chemicals can be used to assist in such removal. The town may also remove any diseased trees and dead wood so as to maintain an appropriate and safe environment.

Name

The property will be called "Gardiners Creek Preserve" and will be so-called on all Town maps and descriptive material. The entrance to the property shall be from the Eastern most portion of the cul-de-sac on Quail Hedge Road. There will be no entrance sign, per se, but a CLPB sign shall mark a location near the entrance.

Improvements

There are no improvements on this property and none are planned.

## Management

The Town or its designee will mow the meadow area once per season (preferably in the Spring) no lower than 3 inches in height. The Dorsey family may do additional mowing of the path from the stone pillars on 114 to the northern border of the property on an as needed basis at its own expense. The balance of the property shall be left undisturbed.

The property has never been fertilized or watered, and therefore both are deemed unnecessary and are not contemplated. All activities on the site shall be conducted to maximize protection of the aquifer.

## Public Access and Signage

Public access for small groups for hiking and nature watching is permitted during daylight hours. Assemblage of large groups is prohibited.

The Town will erect the standard town/county community preservation fund signage at the southern end of the property by the stone pillars on Rt. 114 and one sign off Quail Hedge Lane.

The existing chain between the two stone pillars shall be locked & maintained and the key held by the Highway Department.

## 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 keep the meadow open to encourage diversity.
- (ii) Animals: Nuisance hunting if necessary will be conducted in conformance with Town rules and regulations.
- (iii) Wetlands: The area fronting Gardiners Creek shall be left undisturbed.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_