

11/18/11

**DICKERSON CREEK OVERLOOK PRESERVE  
SHELTER ISLAND, NEW YORK  
STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Introduction

In 2008 the Town and Suffolk County jointly purchased 1.2 acres of open space at 1 Ian's Lane, bordering Dickerson Creek and the town landing at the end of Graces Lane. Portions of the property have been previously disturbed and contains dumped brush and overgrown vegetation.

Intentions

The property includes a 221' bulkhead fronting on Dickerson Creek, part of the Peconic Estuary system. Dickerson Creek has been stressed by development around it, and it is hoped that this stress will be reduced by preserving this frontage in a natural, undeveloped state. In addition, this property borders the Town Landing at the end of Graces Lane.

The presence of a raised bulkhead means that the property is not suitable as a bathing beach. However, the portion of the property bordering on Dickerson Creek has a 300° view of the marshes and uplands bordering Dickerson Creek. With a little clearing of undergrowth, it could be a pleasant place for a quiet picnic or scenic contemplation of the wetlands.

Name

The property will be called "Dickerson Creek Overlook Preserve" (formerly owned by Lawnsdale) and will be so-called on all Town maps and descriptive material. The only entrance to the property shall be from Graces Lane, on the south side of the property, and shall be marked with a town/county ownership plaque.

Improvements

The property contains 221' of bulkhead which will have to be maintained over time. The Town and County share ownership 50-50 and should split the cost 50-50. Ordinary repair/maintenance shall be paid from general funds. Costs for replacement of the bulkhead could be charged to Community Preservation Funds if available, or otherwise shall be a general charge on the town.

Management

The southeasterly corner of the property, adjoining the bulkhead and Graces Lane, will be kept clear of undergrowth (catbriars, bittersweet, etc.) The existing trees and bushes will be left undisturbed. The goal is to keep a small area open for public use. A single picnic table or bench will be placed there, with a sign asking people to take out their own trash. There will be no grilling on this property. The initial cost for clearing the southeasterly corner would be \$500 and would be charged against the Community Preservation Fund. The estimated cost of maintaining the place for sitting and enjoying the view is up to \$500 annually.

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The balance of the property will be left in its current state, to act as open space, habitat for animals and for storm water recharge. It is currently overgrown with invasive, non-native vegetation, and this plan may be amended at some future time to deal with removal of those plants, grading and other materials which may have been dumped on the property.

#### Public Access and Signage

Public access will be permitted on the south-easterly corner. The end of Graces Lane is very quiet, so people using the property should park on the road.

The Town will erect the standard town/county community preservation fund signage at the southerly side of the property near Graces Lane.

#### 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.
- (iii) Wetlands: If the bulkhead reaches the end of its usefulness, the town could consider replacing it with a more natural shoreline protection device using the technology available that time.

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