BASELINE DOCUMENTATION REPORT
Doctor’s Field
Scituate, Rhode Island

Prepared May 2018
By Carol Lynn Trocki
For the Scituate Land Trust

Author’s Signature:
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**BASELINE DOCUMENTATION REPORT**

**Doctor’s Field**

**Scituate, Rhode Island**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDITION STATEMENT
BASELINE DOCUMENTATION REPORT
Doctor’s Field
Scituate, Rhode Island

The Town of Scituate hereby certifies that this Baseline Documentation Report is an accurate representation of the property (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Premises’), at this time. This Baseline Documentation Report contains the following: Cover Page; Table of Contents; Acknowledgement of Condition Statement; Background Information; Scituate Tax Assessor’s Plat 10; Location Map; Aerial Photo / Property Map; Landscape Context Map; Contour Map; Soil Survey Map; Photo Point Map; Photo Point Description; and Photographs.

The Town of Scituate further certifies that to the best of their knowledge, there are no structures or improvements on the Premises other than as described in this Baseline Documentation Report, and no activities are conducted on the Premises which are inconsistent with the restrictions contained in the Deed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Baseline Documentation Report this __________ day of _____________________ 2018.

WITNESS:

CURRENT OWNER:
TOWN OF SCITUATE

______________________________

By:______________________________

Its:______________________________

Address: _________________________

______________________________
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
COUNTY OF ___________________

In _____________________, on this __________ day of _____________________, A.D. 2018, then personally appeared ________________________, of the TOWN OF SCITUATE, to me known and known by me to be the party executing the foregoing instrument, and s/he acknowledged said instrument, by him/her so executed, to be his/her free act and deed in his/her said capacity and the free act and deed of said TOWN OF SCITUATE, before me,

__________________________________________
Notary Public
Printed Name: ______________________________

My commission expires: _________________________
BACKGROUND INFORMATION
BASELINE DOCUMENTATION REPORT
Doctor’s Field
Scituate, Rhode Island

Note: This Baseline Documentation Report reflects the condition of the Premises on December 18, 2017.

CURRENT LANDOWNER
Town of Scituate

LOCATION OF PROPERTY
Street Address: South Doctor’s Lane
Municipality: Scituate
County: Providence
State: Rhode Island
Plat/Lot: Town of Scituate Tax Assessor’s Plat 10, Lot 318 (Figure 1).

CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS
The Premises were conveyed to the Town of Scituate by Hope Associates on December 18, 2008 by Quit-Claim Deed (recorded in the Scituate Land Evidence Records, Book 410 / Pages 163-165). The Premises are subject to restrictions set forth in a prior deed from Thomas Perry Jr and Katherine B. Perry to Hope Associates dated December 21, 1987.

Deed restrictions include the following:
1. Use shall be limited to open space athletic and recreational purposes.
2. Motor bikes, motorcycles, snowmobiles and similar vehicles are prohibited from the Premises.
3. Hunting the use of firearms is prohibited.
4. Use of electronic amplifiers and public address systems is prohibited.
5. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed on the Premises.
6. Musical performances, concerts and dances are prohibited.
7. The Premises shall be closed for all use from 9pm to 9am during Eastern Daylight Savings Time and from 6pm to 9am during Eastern Standard Time except for activities conducted and supervised by Hope Associates.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Acreage:
The lot area totals 3.16 ± acres (Figure 1, Figure 2).

Prior Land Uses: In historic aerial photographs from 1939 and 1951-2, the Premises and surrounding area are entirely cleared for agricultural use. In photos from 1962, the beginnings of residential development to the west and north have begun, and portions of the cleared areas have begun to revegetate. This progression continued and the ball field is evident in photos from the 1980s.

Current & Future Land Use: The Premises were conveyed to the Town of Scituate by Hope Associates in 2008, with all of the deed restrictions referenced above. It is intended that the future use if the Premises will remain consistent with these provisions.

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CONSERVATION VALUES

Location: The Premises are located just northeast of the village of Hope, southwest of the Scituate Reservoir, and along the eastern shore of the Pawtuxet River (Figure 3, Figure 4). The Premises itself is entirely comprised of a recreation and athletic field, but is surrounded by other forested conservation land held by Hope Associates, and some limited residential development along North and South Doctor’s Lanes.

Landscape Context: There are approximately 427.5 acres of conservation land within one mile of the Premises (Table 1, Figure 4).¹ ² In addition, the Premises are nearby to over 12,417 contiguous acres of land held by Providence Water surrounding the Scituate Reservoir.

Table 1. Conservation land within one mile of the Doctor’s Field Property, A.P. 10 / Lot 318, in Scituate, Rhode Island as of December, 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Holder</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State of Rhode Island, Dept. of Environmental Management</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope Associates</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Providence &amp; Audubon Society of Rhode Island</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope Associates &amp; Scituate Land Trust</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audubon Society of Rhode Island</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Scituate &amp; State of Rhode Island, Dept. of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Management</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>427.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Topography: The Premises have been graded for use as a recreation area, however surrounding land elevations range from approximately 205-210 feet above sea level in the south, to just less than 220 feet above sea level in the northeast portion of the Premises (Figure 5).

Soils: According to the Rhode Island Soil Survey, the Premises contains three soil types (Table 2, Figure 6).\textsuperscript{3}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Approx. Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canton and Charlton very stony fine sandy loams, 8-15 % slope</td>
<td>ChC</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, rolling</td>
<td>HkC</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udorthents-Urban land complex</td>
<td>UD</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canton and Charlton very stony fine sandy loams of 8-15 \% slope (ChC) are sloping, well drained soils found on side slopes of glacial upland hills and ridges. Stones and boulders cover 2 to 10 percent of the surface. The permeability of the Canton soils is moderately rapid in the surface layer and subsoil and rapid in the substratum. Available water capacity is moderate, and runoff is medium. This soil is extremely acid through strongly acid. The permeability of the Charlton soils is moderate to moderately rapid. Available water capacity is moderate, and runoff is medium. This soil is very strongly acid through medium acid. Most areas of these soils are in woodland, and the soils are suited to trees. A small acreage is cleared and used for pasture.

Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, rolling (HkC) are excessively drained soils found on terraces, outwash plains, kames, and eskers. The permeability of this soil is rapid in the surface layer and subsoil and very rapid in the substratum. Available water capacity is low, and runoff is slow. The soil is extremely acid through medium acid. Many areas of this soil are wooded. This soil is suited to trees but is limited by droughtiness. This soil is suited to cultivated crops, and some areas are used for pasture. The hazard of erosion is moderate. This soil is recognized as a Soil of Statewide Importance for Agriculture.

Udorthents-Urban land complex (UD) is a complex that consists of moderately well drained to excessively drained soils that have been disturbed by cuffing or filling, and areas that are covered by buildings and pavement. Most cut areas were used as a source of fill material, but in some areas cuts were made in order to level sites for buildings, roads, and recreational facilities, as found here. The permeability and stability of this unit are variable. The unit requires onsite investigation and evaluation for most uses.

Agricultural Resources: Although the Premises are not currently in agricultural use, they have an agricultural history. Approximately 35\% (1.12 acres) of the Premises are classified as a Soil of Statewide Importance for Agriculture.

Water Resources: The Premises lie within the Pawtuxet River Watershed and drain directly into the North Branch of the Pawtuxent River, just south of the Scituate Reservoir, approximately 650 feet to the south. The North Branch of the Pawtuxet River is a 4\textsuperscript{th} order stream listed as an ‘Impaired Waters’ in

RIDEM’s Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Assessment from 2012. Groundwater on the Protected Property is classified as ‘GA’, indicating that groundwater resources are known or presumed to be suitable for drinking water use without treatment.\(^5\)

**Natural Communities / Wildlife Habitat Resources:** The Premises are comprised of Recreation Fields and Ruderal Forest. A site visit to the Premises was conducted on December 18, 2017 and the following species were observed:

**FLORA**
- Common Mugwort (*Artemis vulgaris*)
- Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)
- Gray Birch (*Betula populifolia*)
- Mixed Pasture Grasses (*Poaceae* Family)
- Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
- Path Rush (*Juncus tenuis*)
- Poverty Grass (*Aristida* spp.)
- Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
- White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

**FAUNA**

**Birds**
- Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapilla*)

**Mammals**
- Coyote (*Canis latrans*)
- White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Only a single site visit was conducted on the Premises in late autumn, therefore, there is a limited likelihood that uncommon species, or species present or visible during other portions of the year could be detected. No rare plant species were observed during the site visit. However, the State’s ‘Christmas Green’s Law’ protects White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) from being removed from the property without written permission from the landowner.\(^6\) The majority of the plants listed here are representative of either ruderal forest or recreation areas. A ruderal species is a plant species first to colonize disturbed lands.


Wildlife observations were very limited, as might be expected given the size, available habitat, and timing of the site visit. It is very likely that the Premises is visited by a wider variety of wildlife species at various times during the year, including additional migratory and resident birds, small and medium-sized mammals, reptiles, and a more diverse array of insects and invertebrates than listed here.

**Scenic, Historic, Educational, & Recreational Resources:** The Premises provide direct recreational value to the public and are located within a State-designated greenway.7

**Human-made Features:**
The Premises are maintained as a baseball field and contain fencing, benches, lighting and signage appropriate to that use (see below and Photos 1 & 2C). No other human-made features were noted.

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Figure 1.
Scituate Tax Assessor's Plat 10
Doctor's Field
Scituate, Rhode Island
Figure 2.
Location Map
Doctor’s Field
Scituate, Rhode Island
Figure 3.
Aerial Photo / Property Map
Doctor’s Field
Scituate, Rhode Island
Figure 4.
Landscape Context Map
Doctor’s Field
Scituate, Rhode Island
Figure 5.
Contour Map
Doctor’s Field
Scituate, Rhode Island
Figure 6.
Soil Survey Map
Doctor’s Field
Scituate, Rhode Island

Doctor’s Field

Soils
- Canton & Charlton very stony fine sandy loams, 8-15% slopes (ChC)
- Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, rolling (HkC)
- Udorthents-urban land complex (UD)

Figure 7.
Photo Point Map
Doctor’s Field
Scituate, Rhode Island
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo No.</th>
<th>Photo Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Doctor’s Field Sign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Looking SE along the eastern boundary of the Premises from the northeast corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Looking SW along the eastern portion of the northern boundary of the Premises from the northeast corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Looking SSW across the Premises from the northeast corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Looking NNW along the eastern boundary of the Premises from the southeast corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Looking WSW along the southern boundary of the Premises from the southeast corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Looking NW across the Premises from the southeast corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>Looking ENE along the southern boundary of the Premises from the southwest corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Looking N along the western boundary of the Premises from the southwest corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Looking NE across the Premises from the southwest corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Looking S along the western boundary of the Premises from the northwest corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Looking NE along the northern boundary of the Premises from the northwest corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Looking SE across the Premises from the northwest corner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Photographs
Doctor’s Field
Scituate, Rhode Island

Photo 1
Doctor’s Field Sign.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017
Photo 2A
Looking SE along the eastern boundary of the Premises from the northeast corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017

Photo 2B
Looking SW along the eastern portion of the northern boundary of the Premises from the northeast corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017
Photo 2C
Looking SSW across the Premises from the northeast corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017

Photo 3A
Looking NNW along the eastern boundary of the Premises from the southeast corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017
Photo 3B
Looking WSW along the southern boundary of the Premises from the southeast corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017

Photo 3C
Looking NW across the Premises from the southeast corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017
Photo 4A
Looking ENE along the southern boundary of the Premises from the southwest corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017

Photo 4B
Looking N along the western boundary of the Premises from the southwest corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017
Photo 4C
Looking NE across the Premises from the southwest corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017

Photo 5A
Looking S along the western boundary of the Premises from the northwest corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017
Photo 5B
Looking NE along the northern boundary of the Premises from the northwest corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017

Photo 5C
Looking SE across the Premises from the northwest corner.
Carol Lynn Trocki, 12/18/2017
Appendix 1. Author’s Curriculum Vitae

Carol Lynn Trocki
Conservation Biologist
325 Long Highway, Little Compton, RI 02837
401.952.2937 / cltrocki@gmail.com

Carol Lynn Trocki is a conservation biologist and educator with over 15 years of experience helping others better understand, manage, and appreciate the natural world. Since 2004, she has been working with local land trusts and conservation groups, assisting them to map and prioritize their land acquisition efforts, document conservation values, and plan for the long-term stewardship of their protected properties. For ten years Carol Lynn taught Wildlife Management at the University of Rhode Island, where she is now teaching a graduate-level Land Conservation Practicum in an effort to train and develop the next generation of practitioners that will be needed to solve today’s challenges. Carol Lynn specializes in coastal, avian and wetland ecology and is passionate about local agriculture as a vital part of any thriving landscape. She is currently most interested in the intersection of ecology and human values and believes that the health and integrity of any landscape relies on people’s sense of connection to it.

Conservation Biology Consulting Experience

Principal Conservation Biologist, Mosaic Land Management, LLC (2014-present)
- Small business owner, providing ecological consulting support and integrated land management advice to private landowners and land conservation organizations

Freelance Conservation Biologist, Sole Proprietor (2004 – present)
- Assisting land conservation organizations in prioritizing acquisition efforts, documenting conservation values, and planning for the long-term stewardship of their protected properties.
- Supporting the efforts of the Rhode Island Land Trust Council, Rhode Island Conservation Stewardship Collaborative, and the Land Trust Alliance to promote sound stewardship practices in accordance with local needs and informed by national standards through board coaching, workshops, presentations and the development of statewide guidance documents

Stewardship / Trail Manager, Aquidneck Land Trust (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
Ecological Research & Monitoring Experience

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

Research Associate II, Univ. of Rhode Island, Dept. of Natural Resources Science (Jan 2006-Jul 2012)
- 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
- Assisted in the design of a long term marshbird monitoring protocol for parks in the Northeast region, using GIS to evaluate sampling design and establish survey points
- 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

Contract Biologist, URI Dept. of Environmental & 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)
- Designed a coastal breeding bird monitoring protocol for Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area (BHI) that uses volunteers for implementation (2007) based on inventory work done in 2003 and 2005-7; Conducted mammal, reptile, and amphibian inventory in BHI (2005, 2006)
- Created a 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)

- 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.

- 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

Graduate Research Assistant, URI Dept. of Natural Resources Science (2001-2004)
- Monitored wading bird use of salt marshes in southern Rhode Island
- 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

Research Assistant, URI Dept. of Natural Resources Science (1999-2000)
• 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
• Conducted research on avian community structure at a recently restored salt marsh in Galilee, Rhode Island; Preformed 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

Teaching Experience

Land Conservation Practicum Instructor, URI Dept. of Natural Resources Science (2016-present)
• Developed course exposing students with existing skills in natural history and ecology to the applications and contributions they can make to local land conservation efforts
• Guide each student in the creation of a Baseline Documentation Report for a piece of protected land in partnership with a local land trust

Wildlife Management Course Instructor, URI Dept. of Natural Resources Science (2005-2015)
• Undergraduate survey lecture; core requirement for Wildlife Biology majors

Program Coordinator, URI Coastal Fellows Program (1999-2003)
• 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

Degrees

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

Community Leadership

Little Compton Conservation Commission (2017-present)
Rhode Island Land Trust Council, Board of Directors (2011-present)
Jamestown Farm Viability Committee (2003 – 2012)
Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Board of Directors (2003–2009, President 2005-09)
Representative Publications


