

Caroline Tuthill Preserve

NHESP # 08-24774

Site name: Caroline Tuthill Preserve

Ownership: Sheriff's Meadow Foundation

Town: Edgartown

Acreage: 150 acres

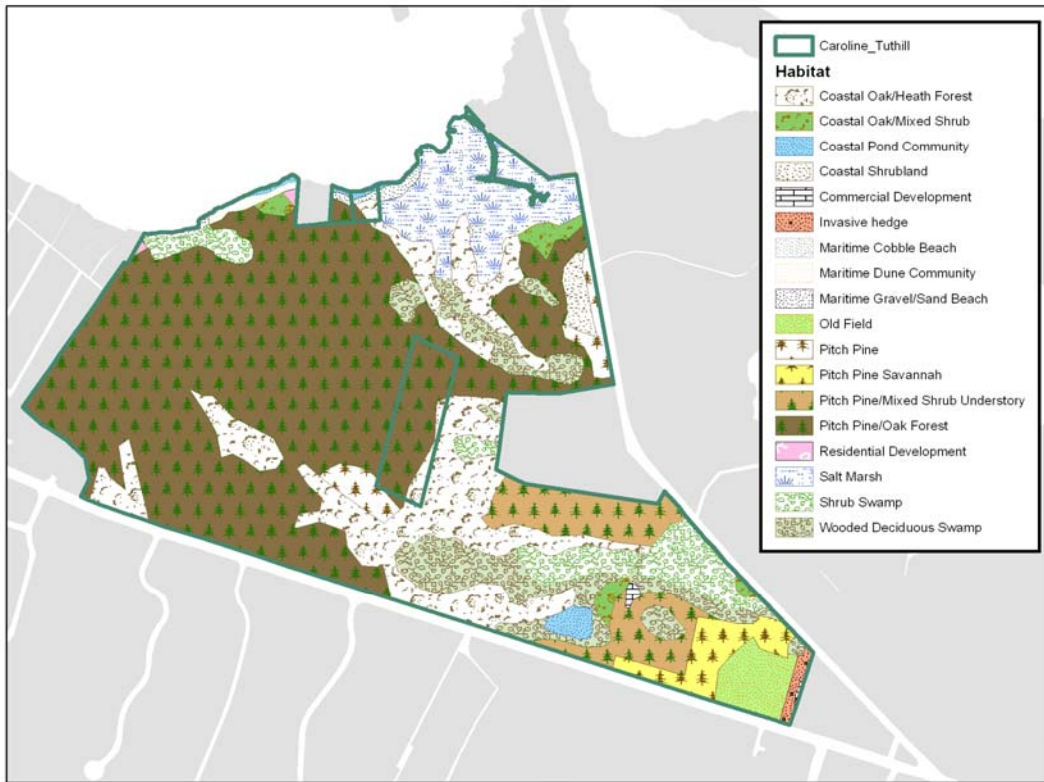


Description of habitat/community: The Caroline Tuthill Preserve is a 150 acre property in Edgartown located within a V formed by Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road and Beach Road. The vegetation includes oak and pitch pine woods, pitch pine savannah, field and extensive wetlands including saltmarsh, fresh water ponds, shrub swamp, streams, seasonal pools, wet meadow, and 1200ft of shoreline on Sengekontacket Pond.

Pitch Pine Woodland = 85 acres

Oak Woodland = 28 acres

Wetland = 28 acres



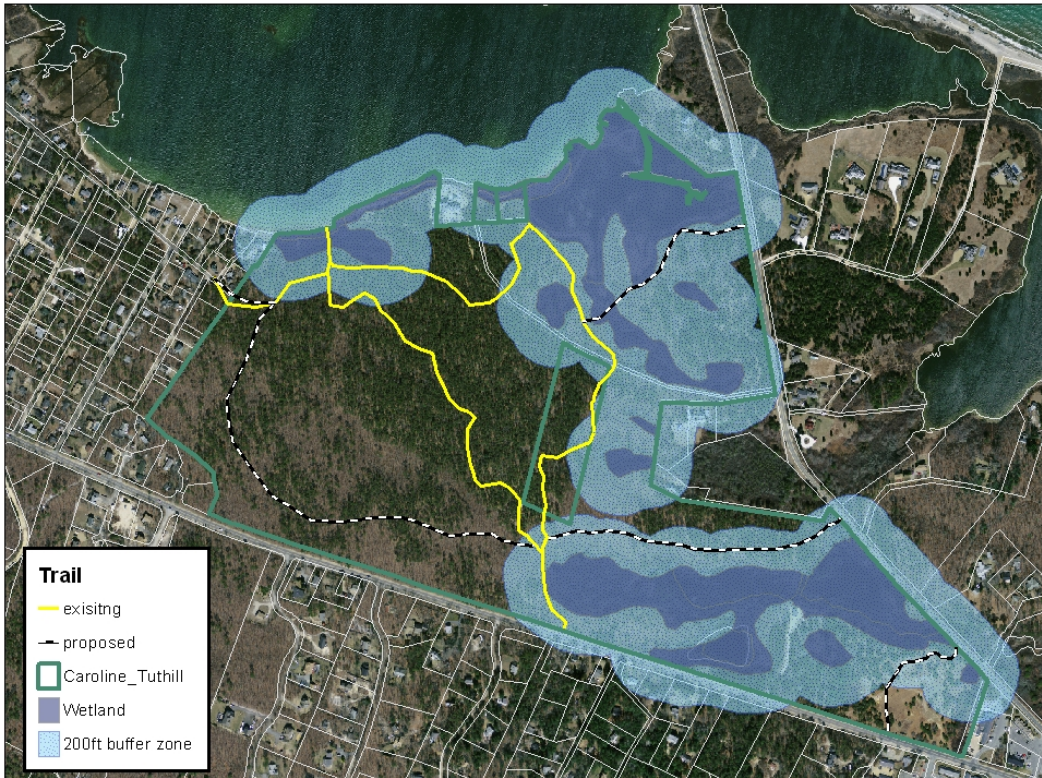
History of land use: The property was donated by Dr. John W.G. Tuthill from 1972-1983.

Existing restrictions:

Most of the property is classified as "Priority Habitat" and is subject to review by NHESP (Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program) under MESA (Massachusetts Endangered Species Act).



Some of the property is subject to review by NHESP, DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) and the Edgartown Conservation Commission under the WPA (Wetlands Protection Act).





A drainage easement is held by the town of Edgartown.

Telephone and electric easements are also granted.

The Edgartown Water Company beginning December 1, 1976, has a 75 year lease on the land containing a well field. The lease includes 14.6 acres near Lily Pond to be used as the well site.

A private residence is located on a 1 acre in-holding on Sengekontacket Pond, which includes a right of way 15ft in width. There is also a 7 acre in-holding off Beach Road.

Property has the benefit of the use of a 20ft right of way from the northwestern corner to Vineyard Haven Road.

The Certificate of Title as described includes an abutting 6 acre residential parcel.

Management responsibilities:

1. Maintenance of trails
2. Maintenance of public views
3. Control of invasive species
4. Ecological management

Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species documented from site:

Listed species known from the area include:

Five moth species

- *Eacles imperialis*- Imperial Moth
- *Acronicta albarufa* – Barrens Daggermoth
- *Catocala herodias gerhardi* – Gerhard’s Underwing Moth
- *Stenoporpia polygrammaria* – Faded Grey Geometer
- *Zale sp. 1nr. lunifera* – Pine Barrens Zale

Two bird species

- *Sterna dougallii* – Roseate Tern
- *Sterna hirundo* – Common Tern

One amphibian species

- *Scaphiopus holbrooki* – Eastern Spadefoot

Assessment of threats to wildlife:

- Invasive species
- Insecticide spraying
- Habitat loss

Management goals:

- 1) Parking area & trail maintenance
 - a) Maintenance of kiosk and trails
 - b) Maintenance and creation of views
 - c) Reroute sections of trail as needed for erosion control
 - d) Create additional trail links to access Beach Road, connect to trail networks and neighborhoods.
 - e) Blaze trails
 - f) Widen trails from 3ft to 4ft
- 2) Removal of invasive and/or non-native species
- 3) Maintain/restore scenic views from Edgartown-Vineyard Haven and Beach Roads
- 4) Maintain field and coastal heathland habitats.
- 5) Maintain imperial moth habitat by managing 6-acres of pitch pine savannah habitat (NHESP # 08-24774)
- 6) Locate property boundaries
 - a. Resolve any encroachments
 - b. Mark property boundaries
- 7) Creation and implementation of a forest management plan
- 8) Investigate certificate of title:
 - a) to determine if the gift includes the abutting 6 acre parcel off Beach Road.
 - b) locate the right-of-way of Edgartown Vineyard Haven Road and put it in use if desirable.
- 9) Remove all trash and debris on the property.
- 10) Investigate potential for restoring a perch and/or eel fishery in Lily Pond and its environs, and investigate the potential to cooperate in the restoration of a herring fishery in Trapp’s Pond. If potential is there, pursue fishery restoration and improvement through cooperation with the Massachusetts Division of Marine

Fisheries, the Town of Edgartown, neighbors, the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby and other interested parties.



Proposed techniques:

- Trails will be widened to 4 ft
- New trails, 4ft in width, will be installed in approximate location shown on the above map. Care will be taken to avoid the removal of trees when possible and to limit impact on habitat. A Kiosk may be installed by the new trail entrances off Beach Road. Boardwalks will be installed where necessary.
- Invasive species will be removed mechanically or with the application of herbicides.
- The property boundary along the eastern edge should be located and any right to the paper road established. The wide band of invasive may be removed with a bobcat or other machinery, or other recommended method. This area will be then be replanted with native species for screening and habitat purposes.
- Access to the boulevard through paper road should be established. Paper road may need to be surveyed to ensure we are not encroaching on neighboring lots.
- The current views will be maintained and enhanced by trimming vegetation.
- Dead/dying trees may be removed if they present a hazard.
- Pitch pines will be pruned and thinned out to improve the habitat for *Eacles imperialis*, improve the health and of the remaining trees and to reduce the hazards from wildfires.
- Open Areas will be maintained according to the following:
 - a. Annually to bi-annually brushcut coastal shrubland area sometime from late fall to early spring.
 - b. Annually mow/brushcut the field area sometime from late fall to early spring

- c. Continue restoration area located along Edgartown Vineyard Haven Road, including rototilling up dense bittersweet and replanting area with native grassland species.
- d. Restore field community by removing pitch pines, cedars, choke cherries and oaks, either with a chain saw or tree spade, in areas where they threaten to take over the open fields.
 - 1) Finish soil amendments as outlined in Restoration and Habitat Management Plan November 21, 2008.
 - 2) If areas damaged by machinery or where soil amendments occurred, do not re-vegetate naturally, they will be sown with native warm season grasses and wildflower seeds collected from island sources.
- e. Pitch Pine Savannah - project to be carried out over a 5 yr period (NHESP # 08-24774) : The 6-acre area of pitch pine savannah will be maintained by brush cutting area as needed on an annual basis, more so if necessary to control invasive species.

Management regime:

The open areas, field, coastal shrubland and pitch pine savannah areas will be maintained by mowing/brush-cutting annually to bi-annually or as necessary to control woody vegetation.

Criteria for evaluation: Vegetation, Lepidoptera and avian inventories

Evaluation interval: 10 yr monitoring intervals