

CHEBEAGUE & CUMBERLAND LAND TRUST

Stewardship Principles for Fee Owned Properties

The management of the Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust's (CCLT) fee owned preserves is guided by CCLT's conservation values, donor intent, ecological health, federal/state and local laws, commonly accepted best management practices and what is feasible given the human and financial resources available. Management plans may take many forms ranging from "let nature take its course" non-interference, to active intervention.

The Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust will develop a Land Management Plan for each property it owns in fee. At the time of acquisition and periodically thereafter, each preserve will be inventoried and assessed as to its most appropriate use or value. Management plans will be reviewed periodically and may be revised as needed, based on changed conditions on the preserve or in the surrounding environment.

At a minimum, each plan will include:

- A description of the property (size, location, etc.)
- A description of the conservation values or attributes
- A summary of any restrictions that came with the property or were placed on the property after the Land Trust took ownership
- A description of the potential threats to the conservation values or areas of special concern (i.e. invasive species, neighbor encroachment, unauthorized access)
- Overall management goals and key actions
- A timeline for planned activities and for regular inspection of the property

Monitoring

Each fee-owned property will be monitored at least annually to prevent misuse, to maintain the integrity of the conservation values and to evaluate management efforts. Each monitoring visit will be documented on the CCLT Fee Monitoring Form and stored in the permanent property files in accordance with the CCLT Records Policy.

Public Use of Preserves

The Board of Directors will determine the level of public use of each preserve. If the land was donated, the donors' wishes regarding use of the land may be considered and incorporated into the management plan, if they are in keeping with LT's conservation objectives. Some preserves may not be open to the public because of donor intent, access difficulties, rare and endangered species, or fragile natural communities. In other cases, public use will be encouraged as long as such usage does not adversely affect the integrity of the ecological systems.

Boundaries and Signs

Each preserve will have its boundary clearly and visibly marked with CCLT signs.

Signs will be put at the entrances of the preserves that are open for public use.

Community Relations

CCLT recognizes the importance of building support for land conservation within the greater community. CCLT will educate the community of its commitment to preserving the conservation values of the properties it owns and endeavor to include neighbors in stewardship, management activities and public events.

Certified by:


Kerry McCormack, Secretary

Sept 22, 2010
Date

Management Plan Outline

Cover (include date, scenic photo)

Executive Summary (highlight key aspects of the property, significant attributes, threats, and opportunities/actions)

Acknowledgements

Table of Contents

1) Introduction

- a) Location of property
- b) Legal description
- c) Geographical overview (of parcel and region)
- d) General property description
- e) Abutters
- f) Open space context
- g) MAPS: property map with important natural, cultural features etc. and regional location inset, surrounding open space map

2) Acquisition History

- a) History and intent of acquisition
- b) Funding source
- c) Deed restrictions or conservation easements
- d) Zoning or other land use restrictions

3) Natural Resources

- a) Topography, geology and soils
- b) Hydrology (waterbodies, watershed, wetlands, vernal pools))
- c) Vegetation (plant communities and dominant species)
- d) Fish and wildlife (eagle nesting sites, seabird breeding colonies, etc.)
- e) Rare species and community types, exemplary communities
- f) Invasive species and control options
- g) MAPS: soils, geology, plant communities, invasive plant populations

4) Human Context

- a) History of land use
- b) Community factors that may or will influence management

Stage 4: **Board Approved 7/13/10**

Created with reference to LTA Standard and Practices 2004 and the Stewardship Policy documents of Hudson Highlands Land Trust and Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

- c) MAP of cultural features, if needed

5) Current Use and Management

- a) Current management
- b) Education programs
- c) Public use
- d) Structures and improvements
- e) MAP of any existing or proposed infrastructure

6) Stewardship Targets, Goals, Threats, Protection Strategies (narrative discussion and summary matrix)

7) Implementation Table (management actions, timeline, and budget)

8) References

Appendices (if applicable):

- Existing property rules/regulations
- Conservation easement
- Planning Committee, stakeholders
- LMF agreement
- Land Trust stewardship philosophy
- Monitoring forms and information
- Plant list