

Hands Creek Farm Nature Preserve **Management Plan**

*Prepared by A. Gaites/Land Acquisition & Management Dept. with assistance from
L. D'Andrea and T. Borsack/Planning Dept.*

December 2009

Adopted by Resolution 2011-96; January 20, 2011

I. Introduction

The Hands Creek Farm Nature Preserve is made up of eight reserved area parcels situated between Hands Creek Road and Middle Highway in the East Hampton School District. This plan will cover the following parcels:

<u>Suffolk County Tax Map #</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
300-118-1-12.65	1.9
300-118-1-12.66	1.8
300-118-1-12.67	12.8
300-118-1-12.68	14.2
300-118-1-12.69	2.1
300-118-1-12.70	0.7
300-118-1-57.13	7.1
300-118-1-57.14	0.5

These properties were acquired by the Town of East Hampton as a gift from the Hands Creek Farm Property Owner's Association, Inc. for the purposes of open space preservation. Resolution #166, authorizing this acquisition was passed on January 18, 2001. The resolution references some significant natural features including a kettle hole, trail corridor, road buffers, and an unusual open meadow.

The properties were designated as Nature Preserves on November 7, 2003 with resolution #1469.

II. Description of Site

The winding, irregular shapes of these reserved area parcels is best understood by viewing an aerial photograph overlaid with Suffolk County Tax Map lines (see Appendix IV). The majority of the Hands Creek Nature Preserve is wooded, consisting of pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) and oak (*Quercus sp.*) trees. There is also an uncommon meadow of approximately 4.5 acres on parcel #300-118-1-12.67 covered with a variety of native grasses. The field continues to the south onto an adjacent property in private ownership. These woodland and meadow habitats are desirable to ground nesting birds such as turkeys, as well as deer, red fox, praying mantises, and many other animals and insects. Lady slippers have been spotted among dozens of common plants that grow here as well (see Appendixes V and VI).

The topography is relatively flat across most of the area but ranges from 70-130 feet above sea level. There is a steep slope on the widest part of parcel #300-118-1-12.68 which forms one side of a large kettle hole (see Appendix II).

Road boundaries and trail heads have been posted with East Hampton Town Nature Preserve signs.

III. Management Goals and Issues

The Hands Creek Farm Nature Preserve lies in Long Island's Special Groundwater Protection Area as well as the Town's Water Recharge Overlay District. Groundwater will remain well protected if only passive recreational uses are permitted.

The Town should strive to maintain a view of the field from Hands Creek Road.

IV. Access

There is currently no designated parking area and no such area is recommended at this time, considering the infrequent use of this property. Access may be taken from Hands Creek Road, Quarty Court, Trail's End Road, or Middle Highway. The only existing trail is part of the Paumanok Path which traverses parcel #300-118-1-12.68 (see Appendix III). This trail continues to the north and to the south on Middle Highway. Vehicles may be parked at the end of Trail's End Road or Bucks Path if hikers wish to access the trail.

V. Permitted Uses

Nature Study
Wildlife Viewing
Hiking, Biking and Horseback Riding (and any other permitted uses of the Paumanok Path)

VI. Restrictions

Digging and artifact recovery
Unauthorized wood cutting
Unauthorized removal of vegetation
Abandonment of pets and other domesticated animals
Dumping/littering and abandonment of personal property
Fires
Unauthorized vehicles
Hunting of any kind

VII. Maintenance

The meadow area on parcel #300-118-1-12.67 should be maintained by mowing at least once a year so that the field is not lost to the ecological succession of pitch pines (*Pinus rigida*) and scrub oaks (*Quercus ilicifolia*). Mowing will be the responsibility of the Town.

Basic trail maintenance should be performed as needed. This work may be coordinated by the Town with the East Hampton Trails Preservation Society or other Town approved organizations and individuals.

VIII. Recommended Improvements

None at this time.

IX. Appendices

Appendix I. Suffolk County Tax Map

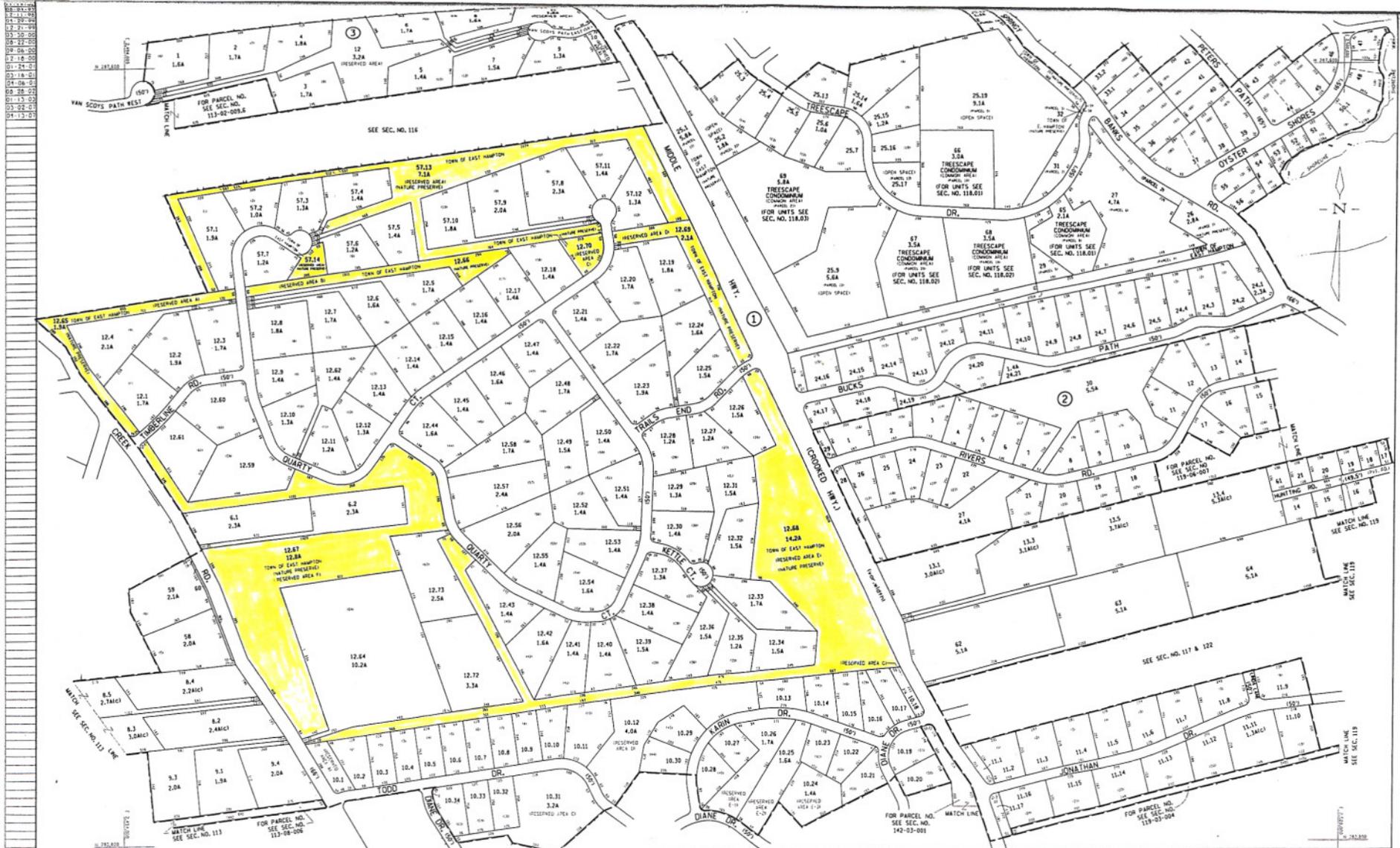
Appendix II. Topographic map

Appendix III. Trail Map

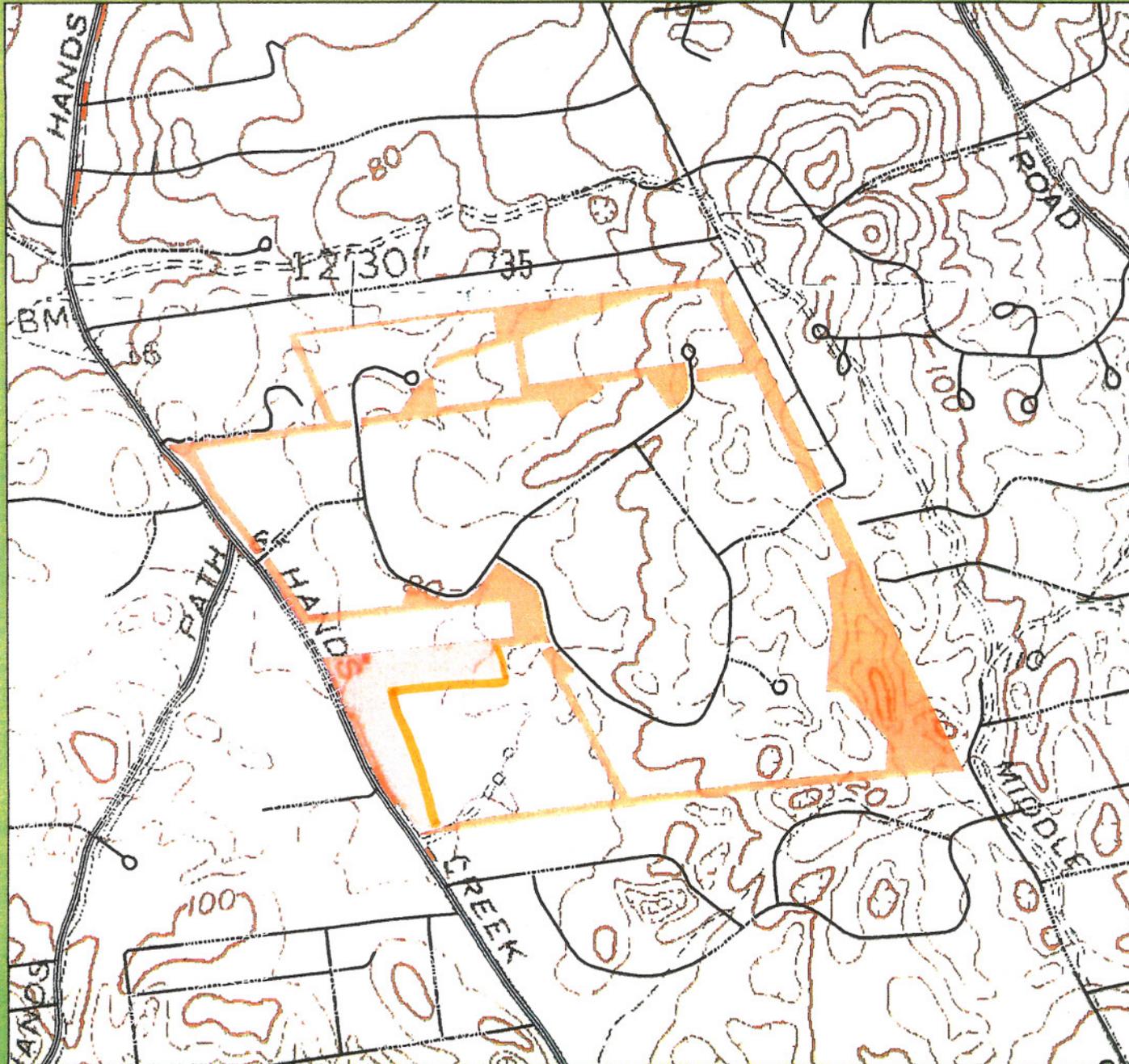
Appendix IV. Aerial photo

Appendix V. Flora

Appendix VI. Fauna



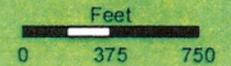
LEGEND Property of RR Line Simples Common Border Subdivision Lot Line Section of State Precinct	Subdivision Lot Line Subdivision Back-Side Lot Best Dimension Street Name 12.1 Acre of 12.1A Calculated Area 12.1 Acre	Back Lot Back No. (21) Quarter Line Quarter No. Quarter Line Quarter No.	School District Line Fire District Line Sewer District Line Light District Line Park District Line Town District Line Precinct Line	Highway District Line Precinct Line Precinct Line Precinct Line Precinct Line Precinct Line Precinct Line	UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE, ALL PROPERTIES BELONG TO THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS: AGRICULTURE SCHOOL SENIOR WATER WASTE WASTEWATER	NOTICE REDEMPTION, REVERSION, SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF ANY PORTION OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY TAX MAP IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY.	COUNTY OF SUFFOLK Real Property Tax Service Agency County Center Riverhead, N.Y. 11901 SCALE IN FEET	TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON PARCEL OF DISTRICT NO. 0300	SECTION NO. 118 PROPERTY MAP
	23	12.1 Acre	21	12.1 Acre	12.1 Acre	12.1 Acre	12.1 Acre	12.1 Acre	12.1 Acre



Basemaps: 2007 NYS Digital Ortho Photography
 Suffolk County Real Property Tax Service
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 Real Property Taxmap parcel finework used with permission of
 Suffolk County Real Property Tax Service Agency (R.P.T.S.A.)



1" = 800 feet



**THE TOWN
 OF
 EAST HAMPTON**
**HANDS CREEK FARM
 NATURE PRESERVE**
 SCTM#300-118-1-12.65,
 12.66, 12.67, 12.68,
 12.69, 12.70, 57.13,
 & 57.14
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

NO PORTION OF THIS MAP MAY BE MAINTAINED,
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Prepared by
THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
 Suffolk County, New York
 Dept. of Information Technology
A. Colter/ Land Acquisition & Management
 September 3, 2009

C:\Andy\GIS\Hands Creek Farm topo.mxd



Basemaps: 2007 NYS Digital Ortho Photography
 Suffolk County Real Property Tax Service
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 Real Property Taxmap parcel line work used with permission of
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1" = 275 feet



**THE TOWN
 OF
 EAST HAMPTON**
**HANDS CREEK FARM
 NATURE PRESERVE
 SCTM#300-118-1-12.68
 TRAIL MAP**

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Prepared by
THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
 Suffolk County, New York

Dept. of Information Technology
A. Fontes, Land Acquisition & Management
 September 3, 2009

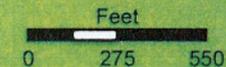
C:\Andys_GIS\Hands Creek Farm trail map.mxd



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1" = 600 feet



**THE TOWN
 OF
 EAST HAMPTON**

**HANDS CREEK FARM
 NATURE PRESERVE
 SCTM#300-118-1-12.65,
 12.66, 12.67, 12.68,
 12.69, 12.70, 57.13,
 & 57.14**

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Prepared by
THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
 Suffolk County, New York

Dept. of Information Technology
4. Office of Land Acquisition & Management
 September 3, 2009

Appendix V

Flora List

American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Bamboo	<i>Bambusa sp.</i>
Birdfoot Violet	<i>Viola pedata</i>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Black Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Broom Sedge	<i>Carex scoparia</i>
Catbrier	<i>Smilax spp.</i>
Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>
Common Mullein	<i>Verbascum Thapsus</i>
Eastern Redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Foxtail Grass	undetermined
Golden Heather	<i>Hudsonia ericoides</i>
Indian Pipe	<i>Monotropa uniflora</i>
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>
Lady's Slipper	<i>Cypripedium spp.</i>
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Lowbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>
Mockernut Hickory	<i>Carya alba</i>
Moss	multiple genera
Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
Northern Bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>
Pennsylvania Sedge	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>
Pignut Hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>
Pitch Pine	<i>Pinus rigida</i>
Purple Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>
Reindeer Lichen	<i>Cladina sp.</i>
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
Scarlet Oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>
Scrub Oak	<i>Quercus ilicifolia</i>
Sweet Everlasting	<i>Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium</i>
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
Trailing Arbutus	<i>Epigraea repens</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisa tinctoria</i>
Wintergreen	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>

Fauna List

American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
American Robin	<i>Turdus migatorius</i>
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
Common Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
Common Screech Owl	<i>Otus asio</i>
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
Eastern Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>
Eastern Milk Snake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>
Eastern Mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>
Eastern Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Fish Crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
Great-horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Northern Ring-necked Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus edwardsii</i>
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>
Opossum	<i>Diadelphus virginiana</i>
Praying Mantis	multiple genera
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>

Appendix VI (page 2 of 2)

Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>
Vole	<i>Microtus spp.</i>
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>

**RESOLUTION 2011-96**

Item # 4.F.4

ADOPTED

DOC ID: 9218

Adopt Hands Creek Farm Nature Preserve Management Plan

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of East Hampton on January 20, 2011 regarding the proposed Management Plan for the Hands Creek Farm Nature Preserve (SCTM #300-118-1-12.65, 12.66, 12.67, 12.68, 12.69, 12.70, 57.13, 57.14); and

WHEREAS, the Hands Creek Farm Nature Preserve Management Plan was made available in the Town Clerk's office for public review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this management plan is an unlisted action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered a prepared Environmental Assessment Form which evaluates the potential environmental impact of the proposed management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the adoption of this management plan will not have a significant negative impact upon the environment; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a negative declaration is hereby made pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and, be it further

RESOLVED, the following Nature Preserve Management Plan is hereby adopted:

Hands Creek Farm Nature Preserve Management Plan
Dated December 2009.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dominick Stanzione, Councilman
SECONDER:	Theresa Quigley, Councilwoman
AYES:	Pete Hammerle, Theresa Quigley, Dominick Stanzione, William Wilkinson
ABSENT:	Julia Prince