GRASSY HOLLOW NATURE PRESERVE: MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by the Management Plan Subcommittee of the Town's Nature Preserve Committee

(The attached is a management plan for the Grassy Hollow Nature Preserve located on Northwest Road.)

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July 17, 2003

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I. INTRODUCTION

History: Name and Ownership

East Hampton's Northwest's history is intertwined with that of the Van Scoy family. From earliest days until the founding of Sag Harbor in about 1730, Northwest Harbor was East Hampton's port. Nevertheless, the area was not permanently settled until Isaac Van Scoy, a descendent of the Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam, moved to Grassy Hollow with his wife Mercy in 1757. The cellar hole and stone-lined well of the house they built in 1771 still exist, a short distance from their family burial plot off Old Alewive Brook Road, just off Northwest Road. The Van Scoys were prominent in Northwest's affairs through the 19th century when the area's scattered farmsteads supported a school district. In 1792, Henry Dominy was hired by the Town Trustees to build the first schoolhouse in the Northwest. In 1827, it was replaced by a new schoolhouse at a cost of $250. The school was located in Grassy Hollow across from the Van Scoy's cemetery, where the school's corner stones can still be seen today. The Northwest school district was in place until 1885 and though it was not very large, it did house as many as 40 students at one time. An Atlas of Long Island, dated 1873, shows 16 houses in the Northwest belonging to familiar family names of Van Scoy, Richardson, Bennett, Osborn, Ranger, Foster, Kirk, La Farge and Quaw. Many other early names have since disappeared. W.R. Grace (from whence comes the name "Grace Estate") owned another tract at what is still called Grassy Hollow. Due to poor soil for farming and lack of a deep-water harbor, the Northwest became a ghost town in the late 1800's. During the 1900's, trees slowly re-claimed much of the former farmland and it has become a popular area for second home development and recreation. With about 3000 acres of the Northwest preserved by the Town, County and State, people now enjoy activities such as hiking, horseback riding, fishing, nature study, photography and hunting.

Location and Size

This preserve is comprised of 2 tax map parcels along Northwest Road.

The parcels contained in the Grassy Hollow Nature Preserve are as follows:

SCTM #	300-73-3-1.16	(Con't. - SCTM Section 55)	113.8 acres
	300-73-3-11.24	(Con't. – SCTM Section 91)	49.8 acres

The total acreage of the preserve is 163.6 acres.

Reasons for Nature Preserve Designation

- Essential buffer to the Grace Estate Preserve.
- Suited to Environmental education programs or academic research programs.
- Refer to *Chapter II – "Description of Site"* for historical and natural features.

II. DESCRIPTION OF SITE

Habitat Type

Grassy Hollow is an area covered by old growth eastern deciduous oak-hickory and second-growth oak-pine forest. The terrain is moderately sloped with a few deeply sloped kettles. The soil is shallow, moderately fertile, well drained of the type deposited on top of glacial till (boulders, rocks, gravel and finer materials) subsoils called retreatal moraine. In other words, the subsoils were dropped by the glacier during its retreat from the South Fork ca. 20,000 years ago. Part of the land had been cleared early on for the Van Scoy schoolhouse. A masonry-lined well about 20' deep, reaching down to the water table, evidently marks the former location of the colonial schoolhouse. The woods have been forested for timber and cordwood from time to time, but not since World War II.

The kettles contain groundwater, i.e., they are water table ponds. They are usually wet, even during the droughtiest times. They provided breeding habitat for a variety of amphibians and drinking water for many mammals and birds.
(See Appendix IV through VI for habitat (flora and fauna) descriptions and listings.)

III. MANAGEMENT GOALS AND ISSUES

The Grassy Hollow Preserve, Northwest Estates RA (113.8 acres) and Grassy Hollow Preserve, Grassy Hollow Estates RA (49.8 acres) together with the Grace Estate Preserve (431 acres) is part of a large contiguous block of undeveloped woodland in Northwest East Hampton. There is a rich historical significance in this area of East Hampton as it contains several sites (remains of old buildings) and a cemetery dating back to the 1700's. The Paumanok Trail also connects the adjacent sections of the Preserve with the Grace Estate up to Cedar Point Park to the north and further south of Grassy Hollow to the East.

The main focus for this Preserve is to protect its undeveloped character and bring in some continuity with the Grace Estate Preserve, protection of its unique historical significance as well as the flora, fauna; and at the same time, encouraging its use for hiking, birding, biking and other low impact uses.

There is a woods road in the northern section of Grassy Hollow and continues on into the Grace Estate. Some illegal debris has been an issue along this road and should be addressed.

IV. ACCESS

Emergency vehicle access is provided by two unpaved roads: Old Alewive Brook Road and Sleepy Hollow Road.

Trail access from a trailhead, where vehicle parking is available, on Northwest Road on to the Paumanok Path. The Paumanok Path bisects the preserve in a NE/SE direction.

V. USAGE

Suggested activities in the Preserve include:

Hiking
Bird Watching
Bicycling
Nature Study
Big Game Hunting as per E.H. Town and DEC Regulations
Small Game Hunting as per E.H. Town and DEC Regulations

Restricted activities at this Preserve include:

Access by any Illegal or Unregistered Motorized Vehicles
Digging and Artifact Recovery
Woodcutting
Removal of Vegetation
Abandonment of Pets and Other Domesticated Animals
Dumping

VI. SIGNAGE AND ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS

East Hampton Nature Preserve signs, as designated by the Nature Preserve Committee and approved by the East Hampton Town Board, shall be posted about the perimeter of the Preserve to notify the public of its Nature Preserve status. Signage shall also be placed at the primary trail access points identifying the Preserve for public use.

Fines and Penalties:

All existing sections of the Town Code apply to this Preserve.
All fines and penalties should be assessed at the maximum amount.

VII. MAINTENANCE and RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Make existing well safe.
- Clean up and repair cemetery on the Preserve. It is possible a project like this could be given to a volunteer group such as the Boy Scouts. The Town should supply all repair items: paint, lumber, etc.

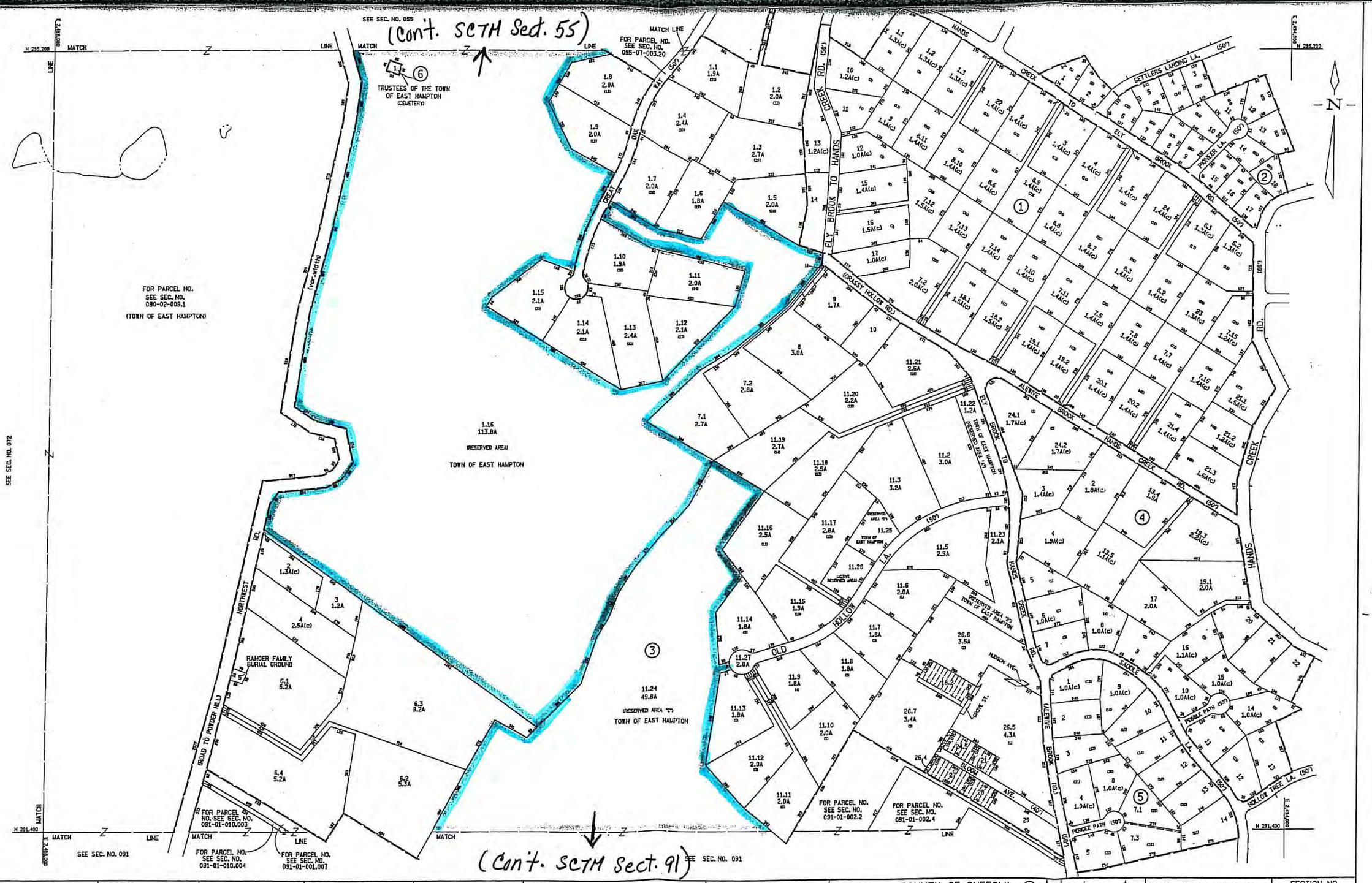
APPENDIX

D | Parcel No. 23 | Deed Area 12.1 A(c) or 12.1A | Calculated Area 12.1 A(c) | Town Line | Village Line | Park District Line — P — | Sewer District Line — S — | Wastewater District Line — WW — | AMBULANCE | WASTEWATER

WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY

A P 049 090 091 | DISTRICT NO 0300 | PROPERTY MAP

REVISED
12-26-96
12-05-97
03-04-98
06-21-98
08-31-98
02-04-99
05-19-99
07-30-99
09-21-00
10-16-00
10-21-00
11-29-00
03-16-01
03-21-01



ZONING	
Property or Bl Line	
Denotes Common Owner	Z
Subdivision Lot Line	
Stream / Shore	
Parcel No.	23
Subdivision Lot No.	
Subdivision Block/Bldg. No.	(21)
Deed Dimension	
Scaled Dimension	
Deed Area	12.1 A(d) or 12.1A
Calculated Area	12.1 A(c)
Block Limit	
Block No.	2
County Line	
Town Line	
Village Line	
School District Line	— SCH —
Fire District Line	— F —
Water District Line	— W —
Light District Line	— L —
Park District Line	— P —
Sewer District Line	— S —
Hydrant District Line	— H —
Refuse District Line	— R —
Historical District Line	— HST —
Ambulance District Line	— A —
Wastewater District Line	— WW —

UNLESS OTHERWISE, ALL PROPERTIES ARE DRAWN WITHIN THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS:

SCHOOL	1	SEWER	
FIRE	18	HYDRANT	
LIGHT		WATER	
PARK		REFUSE	
AMBULANCE		WASTEWATER	

NOTICE

MAINTENANCE, ALTERATION, 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: 200 0 200 400

KEY MAP		
054	055	056
072	073	074
090	091	092

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
VILLAGE OF
DISTRICT NO 0300

SECTION NO 073

PROPERTY MAP

CONVERSION DATE: Dec. 26, 1996

Parcel No.	23	Deed Area	12.1 A(d) or 12.1A	Town Line		Park District Line	— P —	Wastewater District Line	— WW —	AMBULANCE	WASTEWATER	WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY.	P	072	073	DISTRICT NO 0300	PROPERTY MAP
		Calculated Area	12.1 A(c)	Village Line		Sewer District Line	— S —										

Revision	
12-16-96	
06-18-97	
06-24-98	
09-11-98	
08-30-00	
06-11-01	

LEGEND									
Property or RR Line		Subdivision Lot No.		Block Limit		School District Line	— SCH —	Hydrant District Line	— H —
Denotes Common Owner		Subdivision Block/Bldg. No.	(21)	Block No.	(2)	Fire District Line	— F —	Refuse District Line	— R —
Subdivision Lot Line		Deed Dimension		County Line		Water District Line	— W —	Historical District Line	— HST —
Stream / Shore		Scaled Dimension		Town Line		Light District Line	— L —	Ambulance District Line	— A —
Parcel No.	23	Deed Area	12.1 A(d) or 12.1A	Village Line		Park District Line	— P —	Wastewater District Line	— WW —
		Calculated Area	12.1 A(c)			Sewer District Line	— S —		

UNLESS DRAWN OTHERWISE, ALL PROPERTIES ARE WITHIN THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS:

SCHOOL	1	SEWER	
FIRE	18	HYDRANT	
LIGHT		WATER	
PARK		REFUSE	
AMBULANCE		WASTEWATER	

NOTICE

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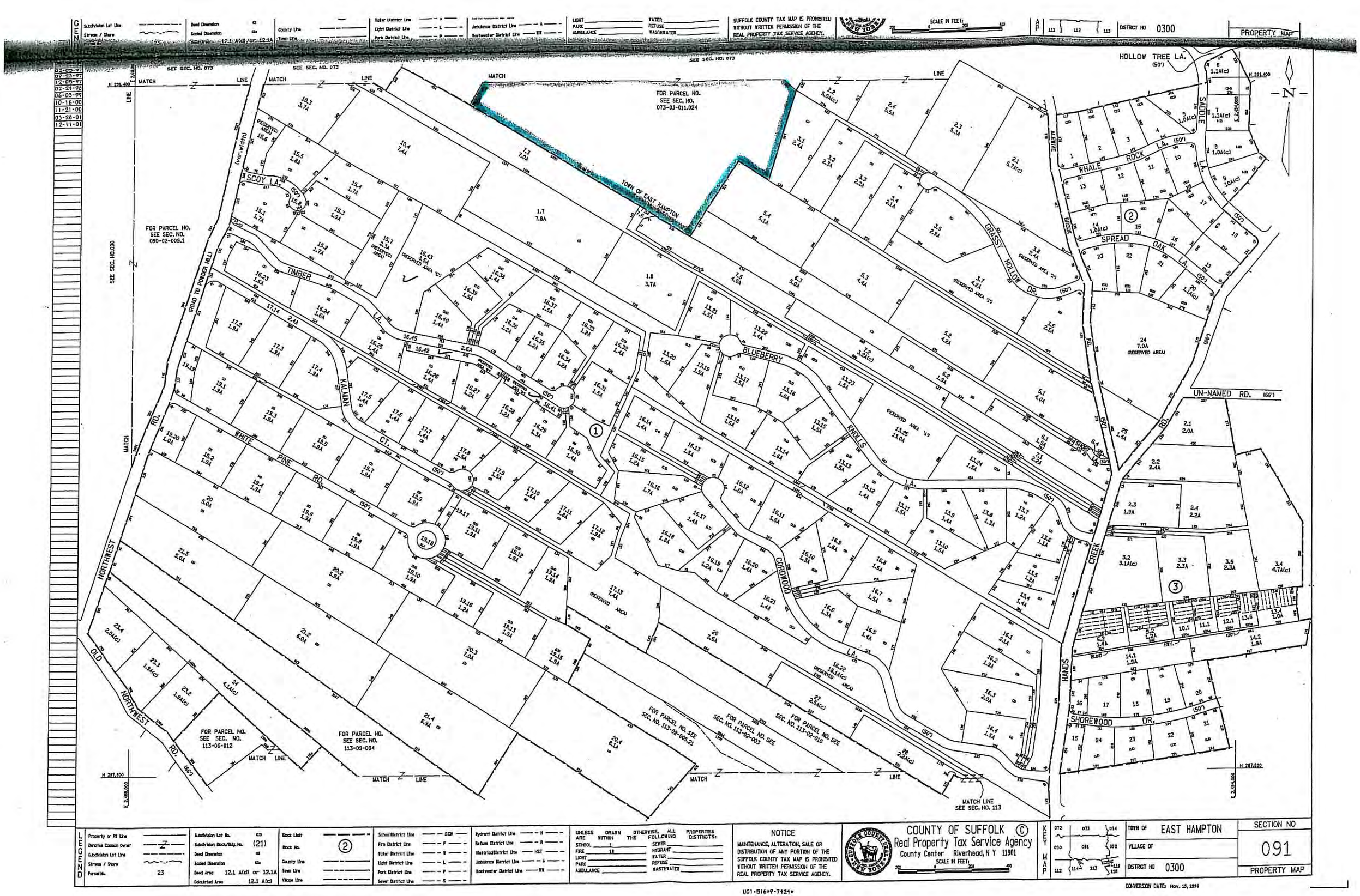
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK ©
Real Property Tax Service Agency
County Center Riverhead, N Y 11901
SCALE IN FEET: 200 0 200 400

KEY MAP: 034 035 036 204 054 055 056 072 073 074

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
VILLAGE OF
DISTRICT NO 0300

SECTION NO 055
PROPERTY MAP

CONVERSION DATE: Dec. 19, 1996



LEGEND							
Property or RR Line		Subdivision Lot No.		Block Limit		School District Line	SCH
Denotes Common Owner		Subdivision Block/Bldg. No.	(21)	Block No.	2	Fire District Line	F
Subdivision Lot Line		Deed Dimension		County Line		Water District Line	W
Stream / Shore		Scaled Dimension		Town Line		Light District Line	L
Parcel No.	23	Deed Area	12.1 A(d) or 12.1A	Village Line		Park District Line	P
		Calculated Area	12.1 A(c)			Sewer District Line	S

Hydrant District Line — H
Refuse District Line — R
Historical District Line — HST
Ambulance District Line — A
Wastewater District Line — WW

UNLESS DRAWN OTHERWISE, ALL PROPERTIES ARE WITHIN THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS:
SCHOOL 1 — SEWER
FIRE 18 — HYDRANT
LIGHT — WATER
PARK — REFUSE
AMBULANCE — WASTEWATER

NOTICE

MAINTENANCE, ALTERATION, 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:

KEY MAP: 072 073 074 090 091 092 112 114 113 116 118

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
VILLAGE OF
DISTRICT NO 0300

SECTION NO 091
PROPERTY MAP

CONVERSION DATE: Nov. 15, 1996

UG1-516*9-7424*

IV. FLORA DESCRIPTION AND LIST

Woodlands

The woods are similar in aspect to the deciduous woods north of the golf course on Barcelona to the west and Cedar Point Park to the northeast. They are dominated by oaks of four species. Some of these oaks represent mature growth forest, i.e., they are more than 100 years old. Of these, white oaks and black oaks are the oldest. Chestnut oaks are of interest, as they don't occur locally in oak woodlands south of the moraine. Second-growth forest elements are represented by black locust, eastern red cedar, pitch pine and white pine. The latter two species have been spreading easterly from a strong base to the south and west.

Not only have the woodlands been partially cleared from time to time, they have also been ravaged by wildfires and insect pests. The most notorious of the insect pests is the gypsy moth, the larvae of which have attacked these woodlands on several different occasions since first invading them in the early 1960's. There have been at least three serious gypsy moth epidemics since, the last two peaking in 1982 and 2001, respectively. Gypsy moth larvae killed hundreds of trees, mostly aged white oaks throughout Northwest over the course of the last three years. Several of these gypsy moth tree kills occurred in the Grassy Hollow woodlands.

The second growth woodlands will most probably come to resemble the older woodlands, except that pitch pine and white pines that are more resistant to gypsy moth larvae than broad-leafed hardwoods, will become more and more common. Black locusts and eastern red cedars are senescing and dieing and being replaced by the more typical woodland tree species.

Trees:

American Beech
White Oak
Black Oak
Scarlet Oak
Chestnut Oak
Pignut Hickory
Mockernut Hickory
Quaking Aspen
Big-tooth Aspen
Red Maple
Tupelo
Gray Birch
Hawthorne
Flowering Dogwood
Smooth Shad
Sassafras
Black Locust*
Tree of Heaven
Elderberry
White Pine
Pitch Pine
Eastern Red Cedar
Black Cherry
Sweet Cherry*
Red-berry Arbutus

There are mainly only three types of plant communities in the Grassy Hollow Nature Preserve: oak-hickory woodlands, second-growth woodlands, and kettle wetlands. A few rare species of plants are found in the Grassy Hollow uplands. These include the orchid, rattlesnake plantain, a flax, white milkweed, grape fern and ebony spleenwort. There are a handful of rare sedges and smartweeds in the wet kettles.

The under story and shrub layers are relatively complex. Flowering dogwood and smooth shad are the most common under story trees. Maple-leaf viburnum, wild raisin, high-bush blueberry comprise the tall shrub layer, while huckleberry and lowbush blueberry are the dominant low shrubs. Ground covers include pipsissewa, spotted wintergreen, red-berried wintergreen, bristly dewberry, trailing arbutus, princess pine, and fescue grasses and Pensylvania sedge.

There is an assortment of wildflowers, including wood betony, northern down violet, several different goldenrods and several different asters. Several wildflowers grow on the more open shoulders fronting Northwest Road.

Ferns:

Bracken Fern
Cinnamon Fern
Hay-scented Fern
Royal Fern
Wood Fern
Lady Fern
Marsh Fern

Shrubs:

Swamp Azalea
Sweet Pepperbush
Northern Arrowwood
Wild Raisin
Maple-leaf Viburnum
Tartarian Honeysuckle*
Highbush Blueberry
Staggerbush
Maleberry
Shining Sumac
Smooth Sumac
Dangleberry
Water Loosestrife
Wild Rose
Pasture Rose
Multiflora Rose*

Subshrubs:

Huckleberry
Lowbush Blueberry

Groundcovers:

Red-berried Wintergreen
Partridge Pea
Trailing Arbutus
Mosses
Pennsylvania Sedge
Red Fescue
Pipsissewa
Spotted Wintergreen
Princess Pine
Creeping Bent

Vines:

Fox Grape
Poison Ivy
Japanese Honeysuckle*
Asiatic Bittersweet*
Virginia Creeper

Wild Flowers:

Wood Aster
Calico Aster
Small White Aster
New York Aster
Panicled Aster
Toothed White-topped Aster
Heath Aster
Late Flowering Aster
Bushy Aster
Stiff Aster
Silver-rod
Rough-stemmed Goldenrod
Early Goldenrod
Slender Fragrant Goldenrod
Cow-wheat
Canada Frostweed
Wood Betony
Canada Goldenrod
Old-field Toadflax
Butter-and-Eggs*
Common Dandelion*
Small Wild Dandelion
Wild Strawberry
Common Cinquefoil
Dwarf Cinquefoil
White Milkweed
Common Milkweed
Blunt-leaf Milkweed
Dogbane
Starflower
Pink Lady's-Slipper
Rattlesnake Plantain
Rattlesnake Weed
Rattlesnake-root
Northern Downy Violet
Spotted Touch-me-not
Solomon's Seal
False Solomon' Seal
Pennsylvania Smartweed
Opal Smartweed
Downy False Foxglove
Fern-leaf False Foxglove
Blue-stemmed Goldenrod

Emergent Wetland Plants

Canada Rush
Soft Rush
Atlantic Sedge
Crinite
Manna Grass
Polygonums
Strict Sedge
Lurid Sedge
Folliculate Sedge
Water Loosestrife
Arrowhead
Bugleweed

* Indicates exotic species

V. FAUNA DESCRIPTION AND LIST

There are several rare-to-the-area bird species that inhabit these woodlands. In terms of species rare to Long Island, the following birds breed in the Grassy Hollow woodlands: rose-breasted grosbeak, black-throated green warbler, chuck-will's-widow, broad-winged hawk, hermit thrush, brown creeper, and black-billed cuckoo. (Most of the species that breed in the Grace Estate, as recorded in the Natural Resources Department's Breeding Bird inventory conducted in 1933-1995, also breed in the Grassy Hollow Nature Preserve.)

There are no rare-to-Long Island species of mammals occupying the Grassy Hollow Nature Preserve.

Birds***

Green Heron
Ring-necked Pheasant
Ruffed Grouse
Northern Bobwhite
Wood Duck
Red-tailed Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Great Horned Owl
Eastern Screech Owl
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo
Whip-poor-will
Chuck-will's-widow
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-pewee
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird
Blue Jay
American Crow
Tree Swallow
House Wren
Carolina Wren
Brown Creeper
White-breasted Nuthatch
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Wood Thrush
Robin
Hermit Thrush
Eastern Bluebird
Northern Mockingbird
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Black-throated Green Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Yellow Warbler
American Redstart
Pine Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Ovenbird
Black-and-white Warbler
Blue-winged Warbler
Red-eyed Vireo
Baltimore Oriole
Red-Winged Blackbird
Scarlet Tanager
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
European Starling*
House Sparrow*
House Finch*
Cardinal
Eastern Towhee
Rose-breasted Towhee
Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow

Mammals

Opossum
Little Brown Bat
Common Mole
Domestic Cat
Red Fox
Long-tailed Weasel
White-footed Mouse
Meadow Mouse
Pine Vole

Dusky Shrew
Short-tailed Shrew
White-tailed Deer

Raccoon
Gray Squirrel
Eastern Chipmunk

Norway Rat*
House Mouse*
Muskrat

* Exotic Species
*** Only breeding species included

INSECTS**

Butterflies**

Mourning Cloak
Monarch
Spring Azure
Wood Satyr
Folded-wings
Skippers

Wood Nymph
Questionmark
Painted Lady
Cabbage White*
Common Sulphur

American Copper
Hair-streaks
Tiger Swallowtail
Black Swallowtail
Spicebush Swallowtail

Moths**

Gypsy Moth
Sphinx Months

Oak Moth
Polyphemus

Lunar Moth

Other Insects***

Dragonflies
Damselflies
Water Strider
Water Boatmen
Giant Diving Beetle
Back Swimmers
Carrion Beetles
Mosquitoes
Gnats
Thrip
Midge
Horse Fly
House Fly
Stable Fly
Deer Fly
Honey Bee*

Bumble Bee
Japanese Beetle*
Aphid
Ladybird Beetle
Wooly Adalgid
Oak Leaf Borers
Katydid
Snowy Tree Cricket
Dog-day Cicada
Grasshopper
German Field Cricket*
Field Cockroach
June Beetle
Firefly
Milkweed Bug
Wood Borers

Leaf Hoppers
Gall Wasps
Bald-faced Hornet
Yellow jacket
Wasp
Earwig
Springtail
Termite
Carpenter Ant
Argentine Ant
Red Ant
Velvet Ant
Assassin Bug
Carrion Beetle
Click Beetles

Spiders

Black Widow	Wolf Spiders	Daddy Longlegs
Harvestmen	Jumping Spiders	Grass Spider
Black-and-yellow Argiope		

Ticks/Lice/Mites**

Lone-star Tick	Deer Tick	Dog Tick
Deer Louse	Deer Louse	Water Mige
Chiggers		

Other Invertebrates**

Sow Bug	Centipedes	Millipedes
Banana Slugs	Land Snail	Earthworm

** Only commoner insects and invertebrates included