



12/8/16 (update 09/06/18)

Rod's Valley Park Preserve

Management Plan

ADOPTED by Resolution 2019-118 (1/17/19)



Suffolk County Tax Map# 300-26-1-1.1
200 Navy Road
Montauk
22.45 Acres
Town of East Hampton

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I. Foreword

This Management Plan covers the former Benson Point Realty Corp. property located at 200 Navy Road (Suffolk County Tax Map # 300-26-1-1.1) in the Montauk School District of the Town of East Hampton.

II A: Purchase

The former Benson Point Realty Corp. parcel, consisting of approximately 22.45 acres, was acquired for \$6,700,000.00 using the Community Preservation Fund in 2001, by resolution #2001-1409 (Appendix G). \$1,700,000 of the purchase price was financed by New York State's Environmental Facilities Corporation which made a short term loan to the town, used to secure the property's purchase. After closing, the loan became a long term debt held by the Environmental Facilities Corporation and which was paid by the CPF.

As stated in the purchase resolution, the property was purchased from Benson Point Realty Corp. for the purpose of preservation of open space and passive and active recreation. The property has therefore been sometimes known as the Benson Point Preserve or Benson Point Park.

II B: Name

Besides Benson Point Preserve, the property has been known by the following names:

- "The Hangar Dock" (for the World War II seaplane hangar which was one located on the property; it was associated with the Navy-built pier)
- Fort Pond Bay Park (Town Parks website)
- Navy Road Park (often confused with "Navy Beach," further east along Navy Road)
- Rod's Valley Park (as shown on 2004 Whalen trails map; Rod's Valley is the oldest known name for this place, where a deep valley opens onto the shore from the interior of Hither Woods)
- Eddie Ecker Park (This is a misnomer. The confusion is caused by the adjacent Edward Vincent Ecker Sr. County Park, as well as the fact that the pier was dedicated to Mr. Ecker in 2003.)
- Taber's Valley (as shown on 1997 Hither Woods Trails Map, for lobster and trap fisherman Emerson Taber)

See the Section II C for the historical derivation of some of the names.

The Committee recommends that the official name of the preserve be Rod's Valley Park Preserve to honor the original inhabitant for whom the valley had been named in the 19th century. It is also important for the Town to differentiate this Town Park from the neighboring Eddie Ecker County Park as there is no shared management agreement or shared uses of the two properties.

II C: History

The Benson Point Realty Corp. parcel, comprising the area known historically as Rod's Valley, has a surprisingly rich history.

Its 21.85 acres were the last of part of Arthur Benson's Hither Woods holdings to be acquired by the public. Benson's heirs owned approximately 1,400 acres of land at Hither Woods until they sold it in 1956. The Town bought 30 acres of this land in the mid-1960s for the Montauk landfill. By 1982 the former Benson holdings at Hither Woods still consisted of 1,357 acres. The southernmost 777 acres were purchased at this time by Sunbeach Hills Real Estate Development Corp., whose president was Nicola Biase. A partnership known as Dunes Associates acquired the northerly 580 acres, straddling the Long Island Rail Road tracks, from the Toronto Dominion Bank of Canada.

A long saga of development proposals and countervailing preservation efforts ensued, culminating in the largest land preservation success in East Hampton Town's history. Suffolk County announced a deal to purchase the Sunbeach Hills property in December 1988. Most of the Dune Associates property was acquired in 1986 by a consortium involving The Nature Conservancy, the Town, Suffolk County, and New York State. The subject property was the only land excluded from these purchases. The reason for this exclusion is rooted in the parcel's history and use.

Two centuries after East Hampton Town's founding in 1648, roughly half of present-day Hither Woods was still forested. The remainder of what we call Hither Woods had been cleared by wood-cutting and for pastureland. Enough woods still remained in the 1870s for the Montauk Proprietors, who then owned all of Montauk, to contract for the cutting and sale of wood in Hither Woods. A man named Henry E. Remington got this timbering concession in about 1871. He employed an African-American man named Rod as his principal axe man. Little is known of Rod – including his last name – but he was married and his wife's name was Riah. Based on her first name, she may have been of Native American descent. Rod and Riah lived on the western shore of Fort Pond Bay.

Montauk's Fort Pond Bay is a natural deep water roadstead, open to the northwest but otherwise offering sheltered water for vessels. During the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, the British Royal Navy stood into shore here when they sought to remove some of Montauk's livestock to provision their men. In 1839 Fort Pond Bay was where the famous slave ship *Amistad* made landfall, after the schooner's cargo of slaves had overwhelmed their Spanish captors off the coast of Cuba. The principal features on the west side of Fort Pond Bay are the headland which forms its northwesterly boundary – known since 1665 as Rocky Point – and a deep valley which extends southwestward for 2/3 of a mile into the interior of Hither Woods. This valley is one of the most noticeable topographical features in Hither Woods, if not in all of Montauk.

Rod and Riah lived in a house on the west shore of Fort Pond Bay, at the foot of this valley. Because of the valley's steep sides, it almost certainly had never been cleared for pasturage. Because Rod lived here at around the time all of Montauk was sold at auction to Arthur Benson in 1879, the valley was named for him. It thus became *Rod's Valley*.

In 1895 the Long Island Rail Road was extended from Bridgehampton to Montauk. A steeply-sided embankment was built to support the railway bed where it bisected Rod's Valley. This embankment still closes off the interior part of Rod's Valley from the coast.

At about the turn of the 20th century, a small community of seasonal fishermen's cottages grew up on the west side of Fort Pond Bay, extending from Rod's Valley north to and around Rocky Point. The cottages and shanties were on land leased from the Benson heirs. This scattered settlement of small homes, which lasted until the Bensons sold the land in 1956, was called West Side. Access to these houses was taken from the Old North Road, which crossed the railroad tracks a little east of Rod's Valley and continued out to Second House Road on what is today called North Shore Road. The fishermen who originally lived at West Side were lobstermen and trap fishermen. In the 1920s and 1930s Emerson Taber was one of them. Either Taber or another local fisherman – possibly Dee Lawson, a lobsterman with two houses just around Rocky Point – built a small dock at Rod's Valley. Three or four buildings – dwellings and storehouses – were located at Rod's Valley in 1926.

Real change finally came to Rod's Valley with the advent of World War II. The U. S. Army arrived on Montauk in a big way in 1941-1942. The War Department condemned 469 acres of land near Montauk Point for a coastal artillery installation that became Camp Hero. The military took possession of the land at the head of Fort Pond Bay on which the old Montauk fishing village was situated, in order to establish a torpedo testing facility. Lastly, the Navy established a seaplane base at Rod's Valley. The seaplane base consisted of a large hangar building to shelter the seaplanes and their maintenance facilities, a concrete boat launching ramp and large concrete pad for handling the seaplanes on shore, and a stoutly-built

creosoted timber pier that extended into deep water. Other facilities were built on the high wooded land just to the south. The Rod's Valley seaplane complex was accessed by a cement road which the Navy built from Second House Road to Rod's Valley, north of the railroad tracks. This became known as Navy Road.

After the Second World War the seaplane facilities slowly fell into disrepair. The Navy had not purchased the land here outright – it was merely leased – so private owners were back in control. When in 1957 East Hampton Town enacted its first Zoning Ordinance at least 75 acres of land at Rod's Valley and Rocky Point were zoned CIH – Commercial-Industrial, Heavy.

In 1965 the Town Board approved a sand-mining operation at Rod's Valley. The mine operators built a hopper at the foot of the pier, with a conveyor belt to carry the sand out onto the pier, where it was off-loaded onto barges. This operation did not last very long. It appears to have ceased operations in 1966, after a winter gale sank some nine or ten barges alongside the pier. But this was long enough to effect a substantial and permanent change in the landscape along the shore at Rod's Valley. The part of the valley seaward of the railroad tracks was essentially obliterated, and the high bluffs on the north side of the valley were stripped down. The resulting devastation left a virtual moonscape, with bare sandy slopes encircling a denuded flat area about 10 acres in extent.

During the following years a variety of uses were proposed for the Rod's Valley site. When the prospect of offshore oil drilling along the mid-Atlantic seemed realistic, in the 1970s, the idea of using Rod's Valley as a base for drilling companies was floated. The Town actually seemed to favor this possibility, even as it opposed offshore oil drilling in principle. A study by Suffolk County Planner Lee Koppelman in the 1980s suggested dredging the floor of Rod's Valley to create a basin for a commercial fishing port. By this time, however, residential development had become the economic driver in the area. Because the Rod's Valley site had been so damaged, it was left out of the Town, County, & State purchase of the Dune Associates property in 1986. The land here was zoned Resort (RS), and it was assumed the property owners would eventually build a shore side condominium development here.

Of course, that's not what happened. During the 1990s Benson Point Realty, which succeeded Dune Associates in ownership, asked the Town to rezone the land from Resort to A-Residence. This allowed the owners to propose a 13-lot residential subdivision, with each lot owner to receive their own boat slip at a refurbished pier. By this point, the seaplane pier – or "Hangar Dock," as some called it – was completely derelict, with almost all the decking gone.

Not once but twice during the 1990s, the Planning Board approved a final subdivision of the Benson Point Realty parcel. The developer took no steps to bring the subdivision to fruition. Instead, in about 2000 Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman opened negotiations with the property owners – by this time William (Bill) Tintle (President of Benson Point Realty Corp.) and his family – with an eye towards purchasing the Rod's Valley site and rehabilitating it as a public park.

That is what finally happened. On March 18, 2002 the Town of East Hampton, relying on CPF funds but with the monies for closing advanced from the New York State's Environmental Facilities Corporation, purchased the property from Benson Point Realty Corp. for \$6,700,000. Thus the last of 1,357 acres of private land which was fought over by environmentalists since 1983 was protected from development. As part of the purchase the Tintle family agreed to break up and remove the still-extant concrete pad where the seaplane hangar once stood; to reshape the entire property into a bowl with gently sloping sides; to topsoil and reseed the whole property; and to reconstruct the old Navy pier, in slightly shortened form. This restoration work was done scrupulously and well. By the time the Tintle family completed the project all vestiges of the sand mine had disappeared and the Navy pier was in pristine condition.

The result is a broad grassy bowl fringed by woods – all things considered a respectable restoration of the original lower end of Rod's Valley. The property has proven to be immensely popular with the public. The Navy pier is especially favored by recreational fisherman. When a replica of the *Amistad* schooner visited Montauk in the summer of 2000, it docked at this pier.

The property serves as one of the main trailheads for the Hither Woods preserved land. The Navy Road connecting trail passes through woods alongside Navy Road, including an unusual stand of white poplar trees, then climbs uphill through grasslands en-route to a juncture with the Old North Road trail. The Town Board dedicated the Hangar Dock as the Edward V. Ecker, Sr., Pier on July 17, 2003. A plaque evidencing this dedication is located at the foot of the Hangar Dock.

III. Location and Description of Property

The property is located on the northeast side of Navy Road in Montauk and has approximately 1220 feet of shoreline on Fort Pond Bay. The property is bounded by Edward Ecker Park owned by the County of Suffolk to the east, and Hither Woods Preserve to the south and west, which is owned jointly by the Town of East Hampton, County of Suffolk, and State of New York. The parcel's habitat type consists of woodland, field and bay beach.

The heart of this property is the meadow and field area. The east side of the field is regularly mowed low along with paths that intersect the meadow. The southern edge of the cleared area extends beyond the property line into the Hither Woods Preserve to the forest edge, where viney species such as Fox Grape, Mile-a Minute and Oriental Bittersweet dominate. Mugwort dominates the majority of the field in the center, but the western section of grassland holds quite a bit of species diversity. A large stand of Phragmites may be found towards the southern-center of the field. These invasive species were likely introduced here during the excavation and restoration of the property.

To the east and west of the field, is hardwood forest consisting primarily of Oak and Hickory trees, with an understory of Huckleberry and Lowbush Blueberry. In the western woodland area adjacent to Hither Woods, there is a high density of Mountain Laurels. Vegetation was cleared from an area approximately 30' in diameter where a campsite has been established at the approximate coordinates, N41°02.630 W71°58.894.

To the north of the field there is a bluff, 50 feet in elevation at its highest point, that transitions to a rocky beach along Fort Pond Bay. Japanese Black Pines, Bayberries, and Rose species' may be found within the bluff/beach transition and nowhere else on the property. The shoreline runs approximately 1220 feet along the property's northern edge. Authorized 4x4 vehicles (Town/County/State) may take access into Hither Woods from the beach.

The easternmost property lines come to a point north of Navy Road. Approximately 375 feet from the point to the west, there is a concrete access road leading into Edward Ecker County Park that cuts across the Benson Point property at an approximate length of 175 feet. There is a locked gate across the access at Navy Road, as well as a large rock placed in front. It is unknown whether the County has a legal easement across the Town property. No exemptions regarding this may be found in the Title Report of the Benson Point property.

There is an "earth art" installation of a cobble stone "labyrinth", approximately 50' in diameter, situated on the northern side of the field that was donated and installed by a civic group known as "The Twelve Women" in 2015.

IV. Access & Parking

Access to the property exists via a driveway and a parking lot at the western end of Navy Road. The final portion Navy Road and the parking are on the preserve.

An estimated 25 cars may be accommodated within the parking lot. The parking is sufficient for ordinary use. When more parking has been needed for a large event occurring here, many more cars have been accommodated along the sides of Navy Road outside of the lot.

No town permit is required to park in the main lot. Cars are only allowed to park in the main parking area, and not elsewhere on the property, except for people who have a handicapped parking permit. Those who have handicapped parking permits may use the dirt access road and park by the pier.

A toilet is available all year round on the south side of parking area, near the entrance from Navy Road.

A dirt access road runs from the parking lot along the northeastern edge of the property, to the pier, and then towards the west along the beach and into Hither Woods Preserve. The section going into Hither Woods had been used by the Boy Scouts as well as an emergency access. The western sections along the beach frequently become impassable after storms deposit logs and large debris on the beach. The town has adopted a resolution to redirect a portion of this road away from the beach, through the meadow, and to connect with an older access road that was at one time part of Navy Road (see Appendix M).

There are four handicapped accessible spaces at the pier but no handicapped accessible spaces in the parking lot. The handicapped accessible parking area by the pier is situated on loose sand, and the only existing access to the area is on a sandy dirt path. Neither the handicapped accessible parking nor the road to it is ADA compliant.

The minimum recommended handicapped accessible parking spaces should be one or two by the pier, and one or two in the main parking area situated to provide access to the port-a-potty and the meadow. One space at each location may satisfy ADA requirements, but two may be preferable to better accommodate public events as well as the general public who often use this preserve as a place to meet.

The existing dirt vehicular road that connects the main parking area to the pier should be evaluated for ADA compliance. The width of the road should be the minimum as required by ADA and other codes so that a vehicle can reach the handicapped accessible parking spaces by the pier. The composition and/or surface of the road should be kept as natural looking and porous as possible while meeting applicable codes. This vehicular road should have a sign stating that its use is limited to authorized users.

The construction specifications of the handicapped accessible roads and parking should be made by the Town Engineer, the Town Attorney, or others with the required expertise.

In accordance with Town Code Chapter 91 (Beaches and Parks), the property shall be open for recreational use 365 days a year, from sunrise to sunset, except that individuals engaged in hunting or fishing may be permitted to do so at such hours as may be permitted under applicable state and/or county laws, rules or regulations.

V. Management

The Rod's Valley Preserve has become one of the most popular and actively used preserves in Montauk. It is used extensively by those who wish to walk and play with their dogs. The pier is used for fishing. The shore is readily accessible from the parking lot, and allows for carry in and carry out boat launching. It is also an excellent place from which to begin a run or bike ride into the surrounding preserves. Any management plan must respect this successful and extensive use of the preserve.

V (A): Management – Current Status

Land Acquisition & Management Department is responsible for regular monitoring of the property, maintaining Town "Community Preserve" signs as necessary, and litter cleanup in the wooded and beach areas. The same Department is responsible for regular maintenance of the thru-hiker campsite and trail that leads to it from Hither Woods Preserve.

Active management responsibilities of the Parks & Recreation Department include:

- Maintenance of Eddie Ecker Pier as needed. This department maintains the decking surface and railing of the pier "in house". The pier is in good condition. Several broken pilings were replaced by an outside company in 2015.
- Regular and needed maintenance of the parking lot- including, fence repair, rubbish removal, replenishing ("Mutt Mitts") dog waste bags in the dispenser at the south side of the lot and overseeing upkeep of the portable toilet.

Maintenance of the stone labyrinth is the responsibility of "The Twelve Women", the group that installed it.

Regular mowing of the field area during the growing season is addressed in the following subsection.

V (B): Management – Specific Issues and Goals

Mowing of Grasslands

The natural grassland should be mowed once annually, either in early spring or late fall, to avoid disturbing wildlife that would likely be present. This schedule would best maintain the current characteristics and grassland/meadow habitat of the land, while keeping hardwood species and viney invasives at bay. However, the grassland may be mowed more frequently as part of an effort to suppress or remove non-native species. These efforts may last several years and include techniques other than mowing.

If the Town cannot perform the mowing of the grasslands, then the Town should either hire an independent contractor to do this mowing, or formally engage a reliable firm or individual to do the mowing on a voluntary basis without pay.

Trail Connector to Eddie Ecker County Preserve

This property adjoins the Eddie Ecker County Nature Preserve, a 20.9-acre parcel just to the east which lies on the north side of Navy Road. The Ecker Preserve contains remnants of the U. S. Navy's World War II facilities; it also contains a bluff almost 90 feet above sea level which overlooks Fort Pond Bay. This is the highest coastal bluff in the Town excluding Gardiner's Island.

The Ecker Preserve has a parking area on Navy Road, at the site of an old sand mine – but there are no trails or other facilities associated with this parking area. Suffolk County has in the past expressed interest

in establishing a trail system on its property. A substantial part of the wooded high ground which appears to be associated with the Ecker Preserve is actually part of the Rod's Valley property. The concrete road which leads to the old Navy structures starts on Town land. It would be natural to create a small trail system within the Ecker Preserve, which would then descend the hilly slope east of the Rod's Valley parking area. This would provide a physical link between these two properties and would enable trail users to more easily explore the Ecker Preserve. This trail connection is recommended.

Active Recreation

The purchase resolution, and the rules of the CPF, allows the property to be used for both passive and active recreation. In the past, the large open meadow has staged bicycle and running races. The start and finish lines, as well as display booths and areas of congregation, were on the Rod's Valley Preserve which provides access to excellent trails for the competitions in Hither Hills and Hither Hills Woods. These events, and others which comply with CPF rules, should continue to be allowed by Town Board resolution and satisfaction of any other town or CPF requirements.

The purchase for "active recreation" also allows for the construction of playing fields or courts. It is not recommended to construct any new active recreational facilities at this time. However, the inclusion of active recreation as a permitted use in the purchase resolution should be interpreted to allow for informal ball playing and other similar types of active recreation.

The preserve contains a boat launch ramp constructed by the Navy that is currently in extreme disrepair. The ramp was made to handle heavy boats and according to the town harbormaster is up to 21 inches thick. Repairing the existing ramp does not appear to be feasible. An evaluation should be done by the Town Engineer and legal liability assessed by the Town Attorney. Removal of the ramp and returning the area to the natural shoreline should be considered. Removal of man-made structures from CPF properties is an eligible CPF expense.

The preserve has had occasional commercial use, including uses by a summer camp and a paddle board school. In some cases, the commercial use and the clients are technically located on the water, off the preserve, and the preserve is only used to access the water. However, the commercial use can still displace other users since all the clients and commercial employees arrive by vehicle, and they also often visit other parts of the preserve. The Committee recommends that town approval be required for commercial use of the preserve to assure that the user has sufficient liability insurance and that the use will not unduly displace or disturb the other users of the preserve.

Paumanok Path Campsite

A campsite was established in the wooded area adjacent to Hither Woods at the approximate coordinates, N 41°02.630 W 71°58.894 in May of 2016. The site is for backpacking purposes only (single night stay). The campsite was established as a pilot program and then extended by town board resolution.

The site is less than 30' in diameter and has been cleared of vegetation except for the stump of one oak tree that was too difficult to remove. The specific area had been chosen based on topography and vegetation present. An access trail spur was cut into an existing trail (blue rectangle) on the Hither Woods Preserve (Town/County/State) which leads to the site.

This campsite may be known as the "Korn's Valley Tentsite" from the name of the little valley where it is located. The campsite is on level, well-drained ground, and is very well hidden from nearby trails. Hikers may acquire permission to camp for a maximum of one night at the site. Hikers wishing to use the campsite must first fill out an application with the Department of Land Acquisition and Management.

The Department will issue a Permit that the camper must keep with them when at the site. A first-come, first-served policy has been implemented for permit.

Campsite Rules (Appendix J) are posted at the site along with a “Community Preserve” sign. The Department of Land Acquisition and Management will monitor the site regularly.

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

The permanently-in-place portable toilet should be handicap accessible because it is available all year round for the multiple park uses of the property, including fishing from the pier and occasional organized events of active recreation (with permit). An ADA parking space should be created near the accessible portable and connected to it with an accessible path.

The four existing non-compliant ADA parking spaces in the sand near the pier should be abandoned. One or two ADA parking spaces should be rebuilt using an ADA compliant hard surface near the pier. This parking should be connected to the pier by an ADA accessible path.

ADA signage should be brought up to code wherever it is needed though it should be kept to the minimum needed to satisfy ADA requirements.

Miscellaneous Issues

Dog poop bag dispensers should be monitored and kept full.

The lock on the gate that blocks use of the concrete access road off Navy Road (see the second to last paragraph of “III. Location and Description of Property”) should be removed. As noted above, this concrete road leads into the County’s Ecker Preserve. The single lock should be replaced with two pieces of strong chain link with one lock at each end. The key to one lock should be given to the County so that they can access their property. Keys to the other lock should be given to the Montauk Fire Department and appropriate Town Departments.

VI. Restrictions

- (1) Unauthorized digging and artifact recovery
- (2) Unauthorized wood cutting or removal of vegetation
- (3) Abandonment of pets and other domesticated animals
- (4) Littering and Storage or Abandonment of Boats and Personal Property
- (5) Uncontained fires or burning not in accordance with Town Code Chapter 141 (Fire Prevention)
- (6) Unauthorized vehicular access
- (7) Unauthorized hunting (Town Code Chapter 91, Beaches and Parks)
- (8) Camping without Town Board approval at any location other than a town authorized camp area
- (9) Concessions/catering services/rentals/commercial uses not in accordance with Town Code Chapter 198 (Peddling)
- (10) Placement of memorials, plaques, benches, art installations, etc. except by Town Board resolution
- (11) Unauthorized commercial activities (see “Issues and Goals”)

VII. Permitted Uses

- (1) Hiking
- (2) Bicycling (non-motorized)
- (3) Horseback riding
- (4) Foraging (nuts, fruits, berries, leaves, shoots, mushrooms) for personal consumption
- (5) Fishing in accordance with applicable state and local regulations
- (6) Picnicking
- (7) Carry-in/carry-out of kayaks and small craft
- (8) Temporary waterfowl blinds (with permit from Town Clerk or Town Trustees as per Town Code Chapter 246, Waterways and Boats)
- (9) Geocaching/placement of geocaches
- (10) Activities permitted by the Town's Adopt-A-Preserve program, if applicable
- (11) Trail and meadow maintenance by approved organizations or businesses (e.g. East Hampton Trails Preservation Society)
- (12) Parking in designated areas
- (13) Overnight stay (one night maximum) at designated campsite by permit issued from Land Acquisition and Management
- (14) Informal active recreation
- (15) Organized active recreation and assembly with Town permission

Appendix A: Flora/Fauna Inventory

Compiled by A. Gaites/L. D'Andrea April 2014

Flora List

American Beachgrass	<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Avens	<i>Geum sp.</i>
Beach Pea	<i>Lathyrus maritimus</i>
Beach Plum	<i>Prunus maritima</i>
Beach Rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>
Bigtooth Aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>
Blackberry	<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Black Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Canadian Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Catbrier	<i>Smilax spp.</i>
Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>
Chokeberry	<i>Aronia sp.</i>
Common Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla simplex</i>
Common Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites communis</i>
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>
Common Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
Curly Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Eastern Redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Elderberry	<u><i>Sambucus canadensis</i></u>
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Gray Goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>
Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium sp.</i>
Japanese Black Pine	<i>Pinus thunbergii</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Lowbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>
Mile-a-Minute	<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>
Mockernut Hickory	<i>Carya alba</i>
Moss	multiple genera
Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia sp.</i>
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Northern Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>
Northern Bayberry	<i>Morella pensylvanica</i>
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
Pennsylvania Sedge	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>
Pignut Hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>

Poison Ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
Pokeweed	<i>Phytolacca americana</i>
Pyrola	<i>Pyrola sp.</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Salt Hay Grass	<i>Spartina patens</i>
Scarlet Oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>
Seaside Goldenrod	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>
Sheep Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
Sickle-leaved Golden Aster	<i>Chrysopsis falcata</i>
Slender Fragrant Goldenrod	<i>Solidago tenuifolia</i>
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>
Striped Wintergreen	<i>Chimaphila maculata</i>
Sweet Fern	<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
Tartarian Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>
Trailing Arbutus	<i>Epigraea repens</i>
Wandlike Bush-clover	<i>Lespedeza intermedia</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>
Whorled Milkwort	<i>Polygala verticillata</i>
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Wild Grape	<i>Vitis sp.</i>
Wild Lily-of-the-valley	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>
Wineberry	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>
Wormwood	<i>Artemisia caudata</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

Fauna List

American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
American Robin	<i>Turdus migatorius</i>
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Black Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>

Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
Common Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>
Common Mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Diamondback Terrapin	<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i>
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
Eastern Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>
Eastern Hognose Snake	<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Eastern Milk Snake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>
Eastern Mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>
Eastern Screech Owl	<i>Megascopes asio</i>
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>
Eastern Wood-Pee-wee	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Field Mouse	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>
Fish Crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>
Fowler's Toad	<i>Bufo fowleri</i>
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Great-horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>
Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>
Milk Snake	<i>Lampropeltis sp.</i>
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Northern Ring-necked Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus edwardsii</i>
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>
Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>
Prairie Warbler	<i>Setophaga discolor</i>

Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>
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-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Seaside Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Vole	<i>Microtus spp.</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>
White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>

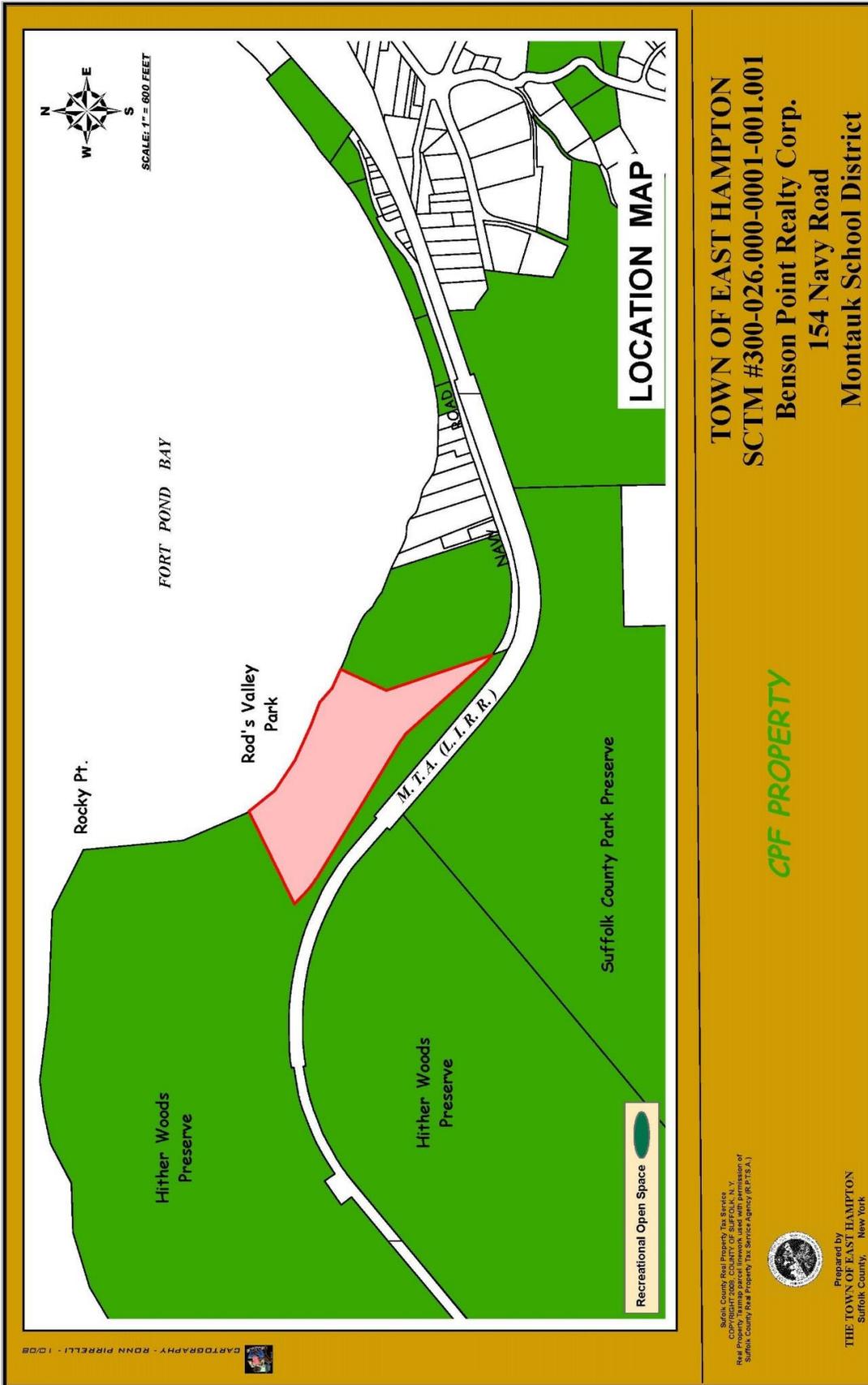
Appendix B: On-Site photos (2009)



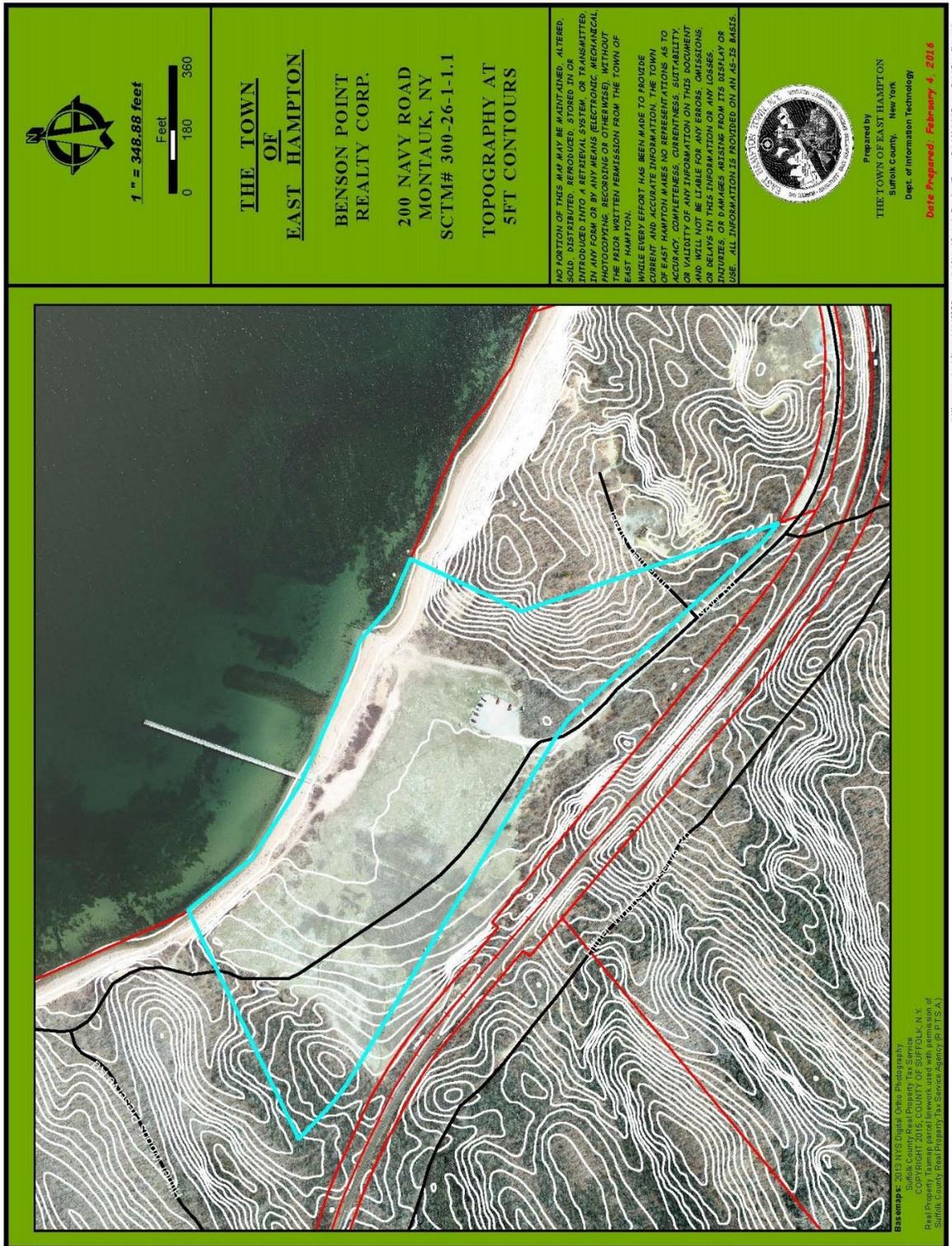




Appendix D: Location Map



Appendix E: Topographic Map



Appendix F: Aerial Photograph 2013



Appendix G: Acquisition Resolution 2001-1409

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Resolution No. 1409

Dated: November 27, 2001

AUTHORIZE ACQUISITION

Property of Benson Point Realty Corp., Navy Road, Montauk
SCTM #300-26-1-1.1

The following resolution was offered by **Supervisor J. Schneideman** . . .
seconded by **Councilwoman P. Mansir** . . . and adopted:

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 247 of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, the Town Board held a public hearing on November 14, 2001 to consider the purchase, for purposes of open space preservation and passive and active recreation, of approximately 22.4 acres of land located at the westerly end of Navy Road, Montauk, which land is identified on the Suffolk County Tax Map as SCTM #300-26-1-1.1, and

WHEREAS, said property consists of a former sand and gravel mine at the mouth of Rod's Valley on the shore of Fort Pond Bay, and has more than 1,200 feet of frontage on Fort Pond Bay; and

WHEREAS, said property includes a concrete boat-launching ramp and a timber pier extending into Fort Pond Bay, both of which were originally constructed by the U.S. Navy during World War II; and

WHEREAS, said property directly adjoins the Hitler Woods Preserve owned jointly by the Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, and New York State, and is the last remaining piece of the former Curtiss-Wright Aircraft Corporation landholdings at Hitler Woods (once 1,357 acres in extent) which is still in private ownership; and

WHEREAS, the proposed purchase price for fee simple acquisition of the subject property is \$ 6,700,000.00 plus survey, title, environmental audit, prorated tax, and recording charges; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of said acquisition is preservation of open space and passive and active recreation; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the subject property is classified as an Unlisted Action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, no playing fields or new active recreational facilities shall be constructed on the property unless and until the Town Board has undertaken a SEQRA review specific to the installation of these facilities; and

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Appendix H: Labyrinth Resolution 2015-437

Town of East Hampton Long Island, NY

Resolution RES-2015-437

Adopted

Apr 16, 2015 6:30 PM

IV.B.19 Accept Donation of Labyrinth for Eddie Ecker Park Montauk

Department:	Town Attorney	Sponsors:	Councilman Peter Van Scoyoc
Category:	Agreements, Contracts	Functions:	None

WHEREAS, the Town owns a parcel of property (SCTM#300-26-1-1.1) in the CPF program that is part of Eddie Ecker Park in Montauk; and,

WHEREAS, a civic group, commonly known as, "Twelve Women", has offered to donate, install, and maintain a natural cobble stone labyrinth of approximately 50 feet in diameter; and,

WHEREAS, the installation of the labyrinth will require no clearing of the property and will require very limited maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, the public use and enjoyment of the property will be enhanced by the labyrinth installation as it is compatible with the natural, scenic, historic and open space character of such property; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town hereby accepts the donation of the installation and maintenance of a natural cobble stone labyrinth on the parcel of property (SCTM#300-26-1-1.1) in the CPF program that is part of Eddie Ecker Park in Montauk; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized and directed to execute all necessary documents, including a donation agreement if required, to accept the donation, installation and maintenance of a stone labyrinth on the Town owned parcel of property (SCTM#300-26-1-1.1) in the CPF program, that is part of Eddie Ecker Park in Montauk.

Apr 16, 2015 6:30 PM

East Hampton Town Board

Regular Meeting

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVER: Peter Van Scoyoc, Councilman

SECONDER: Sylvia Overby, Councilwoman

AYES: Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Peter Van Scoyoc, Sylvia Overby, Fred Overton, Larry Cantwell

Appendix I: Dedication of Ecker Pier Resolution 2003-1014

Dedication of Edward Ecker Sr. Pier

Number: 2003-1014
Sponsors: Diana Weir, Jay Schneiderman
Status: Adopted
Meeting: 07/17/2003
Document:  [Download](#)

(1014) The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Diana Weir, seconded by Supervisor J. Schneiderman, and adopted

Dedication of Edward Ecker Sr. Pier

WHEREAS, Edward V. Ecker Sr. has served the Town of East Hampton and the people of East Hampton for over 50 years in his capacity as Town Councilman, Town Supervisor, Deputy Commissioner of the Suffolk County Parks Department and Deputy Commission of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, and

WHEREAS, Ed, at the early age of 25, was one of the youngest elected officials ever in Suffolk County when the people of the Town elected Ed Councilman on November 8, 1955, and

WHEREAS, Ed was a two time Town Supervisor first elected on November 5, 1963, and

WHEREAS, Ed has raised a wonderful family devoted to the community and community service, and

WHEREAS, Ed has served the community in many other ways, including being the voice of the East Hampton Bonacker Football Team for many years, and one of the oldest active members of the Montauk Fire Department, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in recognition of Edward V. Ecker's life long service to the people of East Hampton and the East End, the newly acquired Town pier at the Navy Road park overlooking Fort Pond Bay in his native Montauk be dedicated as the Edward V. Ecker Sr. Pier and be done so by placing a boulder with brass plaque identifying the pier as such, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the monument be paid for out of appropriation line A7550.54980, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to Edward V. Ecker Sr., the Parks Department and the Bookkeeping Office.

Appendix J: Paumanok Path Campsite Resolution 2016-612



**Town of East Hampton
Long Island, NY**

Adopted
May 19, 2016 6:30 PM

**Resolution
RES-2016-612**

Paumanok Path Campsite Pilot Program - Benson Point CPF Property (SCTM#300-26-1-1.1)

Information

Department:	Land Acquisition	Sponsors:	Councilman Fred Overton
Category:	Agreements, Contracts	Functions:	Misc.

Attachments

[Printout](#)

Financial Impact

Program will be managed within the Department of Land Acquisition & Management. No additional costs are expected.

Body

WHEREAS, the Paumanok Path is a hiking trail that extends approximately 125 miles in total length from Rocky Point to Montauk Point and is on its way to gaining national recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Town of East Hampton is the owner of the property formerly owned by Benson Point Realty Corp. (SCTM# 300-26-1-1.1) at 200 Navy Rd in Montauk; and

WHEREAS, there has been a campsite proposed by the Land Acquisition & Management Department along the Paumanok Path on said property for the purpose of multi-day hiking; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Nature Preserve Committee and the East Hampton Trails Preservation Society are in support of the proposed program ; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the implementation of a Paumanok Path Campsite Program for a trial period of one (1) year, after which time the Town Board will review the program and determine whether it benefits the Town and should be continued permanently; and be it further

RESOLVED, that interested parties shall contact the Land Acquisition & Management Department for a permit for overnight use of the site, and if approved, written consent shall be required from all participants indicating that they will abide by the limitations established by the Town, together with such releases and hold harmless agreements as may be deemed appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the program and the campsite will be managed and maintained by the Department of Land Acquisition and Management to assure participants' compliance with the terms and conditions imposed upon their participation.

Appendix K: Paumanok Path Campsite Rules

CAMPSITE RULES

Paumanok Path, Benson Point

N 41°02.630' W 71° 58.894'

This campsite is meant for thru-hiking purposes only.

- Up to 6 people may camp at this site per night, at a maximum length of one night. *No tents may be pitched between the hours of 11am and 4pm.*
- At least one camper of a group must have an East Hampton Town “Paumanok Overnight” Permit with them while at this site. Permission may be obtained from the Department of Land Acquisition & Management (A. Drake, 631-324-7420, 159 Pantigo Road, East Hampton- Land Acquisition/ Animal Control building).
- NO FIRES ALLOWED.
- No alcoholic beverages allowed (Town Ordinance §82-3).
- Carry out what you carry in. Practice "leave no trace" camping and hiking. There are garbage cans present in the parking lot if needed.
- Public urination is prohibited, as defined by Town Ordinance §82-6. Use the bathroom at the parking lot.
- Observe and enjoy wildlife and plants but leave them undisturbed. Please stay within the cleared area.



Warning: This is a tick infested area! They are present year-round. Stay on the trail and within the campsite area to best avoid exposure. *Larval* ticks are typically present late summer through fall. They are extremely small and difficult to spot. Be sure to check yourself well when leaving the Park.