

MAIDSTONE NATURE PRESERVE: **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

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Date: March 2003



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I. INTRODUCTION

NAME AND OWNERSHIP

The Maidstone Nature Preserve is made up of ten parcels acquired by the Town of East Hampton between 1971-1999. Bisecting the preserve is a paper Trustee Road called Twillingate Avenue. The Trustees also own the bottomland shoreline between Harbor Boulevard and the southern end of Twillingate Avenue. A list of the tax map parcel numbers is shown in *Appendix # I*.

LOCATION AND SIZE

These parcels comprise 6.13 contiguous acres adjacent to Maidstone Park on the Maidstone Peninsula. *Appendices # III and IV* show their locations.

REASONS FOR NATURE PRESERVE DESIGNATION

Although not large, this preserve has many unique features and contains at least six of the eight criteria for qualification as a nature preserve. It serves as a habitat and breeding area for endangered species of animal life, including the Piping Plover. It contains sensitive saltwater wetlands and beach coastline. It is well suited for environmental studies and acts as an essential buffer to Maidstone Park. Its prime water coastline deserves to be protected in order to be enjoyed forever by the public.

HISTORY

Tradition has it that Simon Franklin lived on the land that became known as Franklin Farm, now mostly taken up by Maidstone Park and Blue Bay Girl Scout Camp. No records are available to verify when or how long he lived there. Some time after the Revolutionary War, Isaac Edwards, an ex-war soldier from Amagansett went to the Franklin Farm to live. The Edwards family owned and occupied Franklin Farm and adjacent Duck Creek Farm during two centuries, although not continuously. The farm commanded a majestic view of Gardiner's Bay and covered a 200-acre tract east of Three Mile Harbor channel. Until about 1900, it was mostly woodland with only about 35 acres cleared. At about that time, two brothers from Ohio, Albert and Fredrick Gallatin bought the field and beach portion that is now known as Maidstone Park. They used it as a

summer getaway until 1911 when Frederick and his wife Almy sold 23 acres of it to the Town of East Hampton for one dollar with the proviso that it would bear the name "Maidstone Park" and be a public park forever. During World War I, Duck Creek Farm was sold to David Gardiner. Soon after, many houses were built along the farm's two-mile waterfront on the east bank of Three Mile Harbor. Some years later, the remaining half of Franklin Farm was sold to the Girl Scouts of Nassau County (Blue Bay Girl Scout Camp) while the other half made up Maidstone Park, Gardiner's Dock and some small subdivision.

In 1955, Charlie Weiss bought the southern most portion of the Maidstone Peninsula from Tony DellaPolla for six thousand dollars and started a fishing station/marina. He built a single story building directly across from Sedge Island, put in 25-30 rental rowboats, sold bait and tackle for people to go fishing. In 1975, Bunny and Bill Cox bought the station, made improvements to the single exting building, including a partial second story, added powerboat slips and continued to run the business. Bill died in 1980 and Bunny sold to Harry Macklowe, a real estate investor, in 1981. He held it for his personal use until 1994 when he sold it to the Town. The building was razed in 2000 by the fire department and the bulkhead was removed in 2001. The other adjacent parcels and small subdivisions making up the nature preserve were acquired by the Town between 1971 and 1999.

II. SITE DESCRIPTION

Maidstone Park Natural History:

Maidstone Park is comprised of three distinct types of natural habitats: Beach, Dunes, and Salt Marsh. The underlying soils were deposited by glaciers 15,000 to 40,000 years ago. The upper soils have wind-blown sands and fine particles mixed together. The soils are poor in nutrients and percolate water rapidly. Consequently, after rains, there is very little runoff. Most of the rainwater infiltrates into the soil and subsoils. The jetty on the east side of the inlet to Three Mile Harbor accretes sand, which tends to flow westerly in the littoral drift currents. Consequently, Maidstone Beach is accumulating sand from the erosion of the bluffs and beaches to the east that are situated between Hog Creek and Flaggy Hole.

The Maidstone Beach has been host to breeding piping plovers in the near past, and least terns in the far past. A variety of shorebirds use the Maidstone harbor edge for feeding and resting. Ducks use the water for feeding. An osprey pair has been resident on the harbor side on a marshy island just east of the site of the old fishing station.

The dune lands, shores and beaches of the fishing station site in the process of restoration.

III. MANAGEMENT GOALS AND ISSUES

1. Protect waterfront, shoreline and wetlands.
2. Protect breeding sites for shore birds such as Piping Plover, ospreys and least terns.
3. Only low impact activities should be allowed.

IV. DEFINITION

Nature Preserve in the Town of East Hampton General Management Plan for Nature Preserves in **Appendix II**.

V. RESTRICTIONS

No parking on the Maidstone Nature Preserve.

Vehicle access is via Maidstone Park Road: See **Section II** of the *Town of East Hampton General Management Plan* in **Appendix II**

APPENDIX

MAIDSTONE NATURE PRESERVE

I. SUFFOLK COUNTY TAX MAP LIST

| <u>SCTM # 300-</u> | <u>Acres</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 38-3-3 | .21 |
| 38-3-4 | .24 |
| 38-3-5 | .70 |
| 38-3-6 | .20 |
| 38-3-7 | .38 |
| 38-3-8 | 1.00 |
| 38-3-9 | 1.00 |
| 38-3-10 | .30 |
| 38-3-11 | .60 |
| 38-3-12 | <u>1.50</u> |
| | 6.13 |

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR NATURE PRESERVES

All properties designated by the East Hampton Town Board as Nature Preserves are protected by this general management plan, unless preempted by a specific plan or plans for specific parcels.

- I. **Definition:** Nature Preserve — “Any area of land or water owned by the town which is formally dedicated to being maintained as nearly as possible in its natural condition; said area either retains, to some degree, its primeval character (though it need not be completely natural and undisturbed at the time of its dedication) or has endangered, threatened, special concern or rare species of flora or fauna, unique geological or hydrogeological features, wetlands or features of scientific or educational value; and which area is used in a manner and under limitations consistent with its continued preservation, without impairment, disturbance or artificial development, for the public purposes of scientific research, watershed preservation, aquifer protection, education, aesthetic enjoyment and providing habitat for plant and animal species and communities and other natural objectives.” (Nature Preserve Chapter 182, Article 1, General Provisions 182-3, Dated 11-25-91)

Trustee Lands — “Dedication pursuant to this chapter shall have no effect on wetlands, beaches, highways, underwater lands or other property in the ownership of the Trustees of the Freeholders and Commonality of the Town of East Hampton.” (Nature Preserve Chapter 103, Article II, Property Comprising the Town Nature Preserve 182-11F, Dated 11-25-91) (Added 9-18-1992 by L.L. No. 31-1992)

II. **General Prohibitions at all Nature Preserves:**

- Digging and artifact recovery
- Unauthorized woodcutting
- Unauthorized removal of vegetation
- Abandonment of pets and other domesticated animals
- Dumping
- Uncontained fires
- Unauthorized vehicles

III. **Procedure for changes:**

- A. Any changes to general or specific nature preserve management plans must be reviewed by the Nature Preserve Committee and approved by the Town Board.
- B. Nature preserve properties shall not be disposed of, improved or cleared without a public hearing and a majority-plus-one vote by the Town Board. (Nature Preserve Chapter 182, Article II, Sections 182-13B and 182-14, Dated 11-25-91.

IV. **Enforcement:**

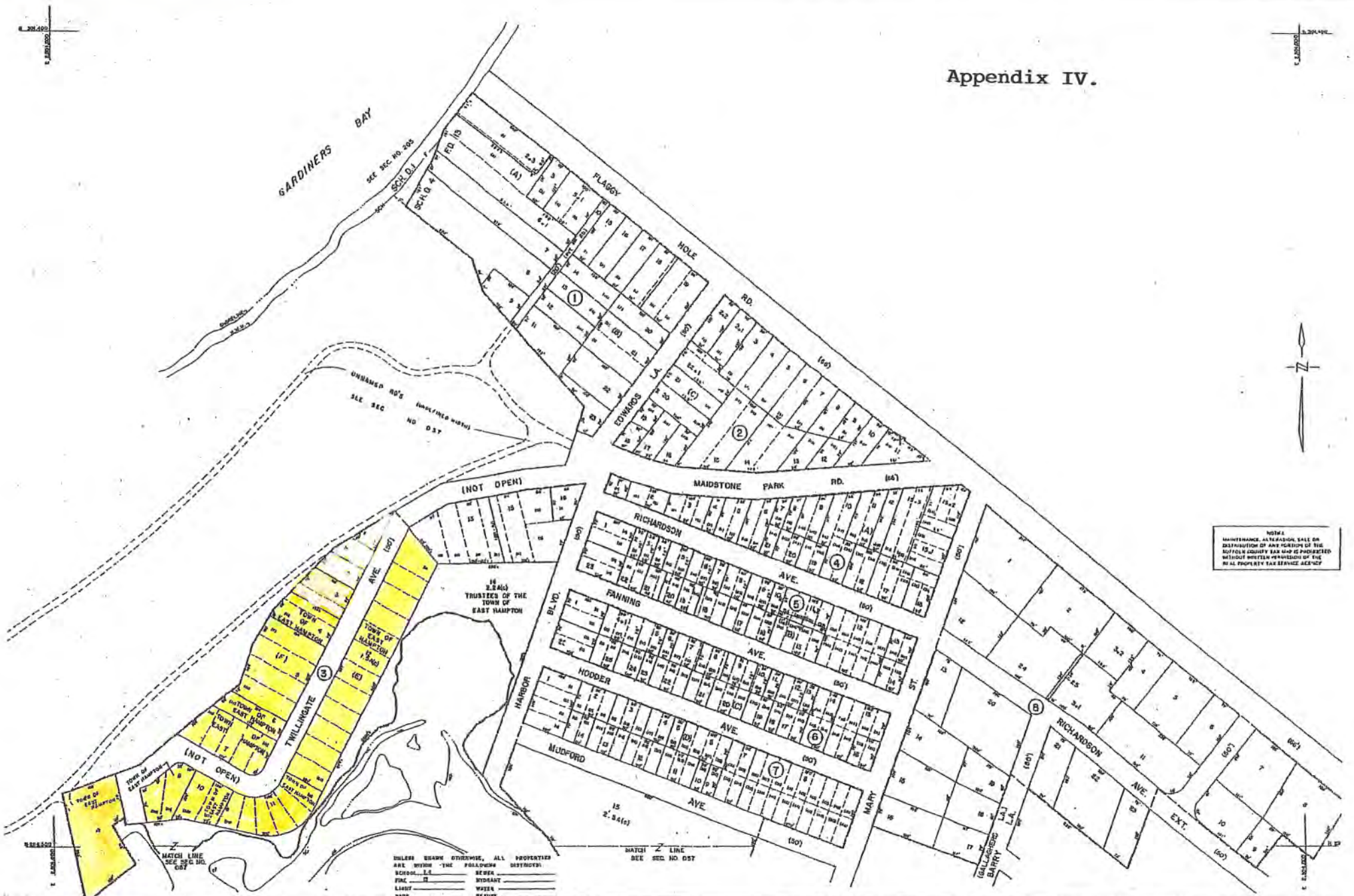
All Nature Preserves will fall under the existing East Hampton Town Code of “Regulations for Town Owned Lands”.

Natural Resources Department – Fines up to \$2000.00 per violation will be enforced.



Open Space\Maidstone Area\MaudstoneFinal

Appendix IV.



NOTE: MAINTENANCE, ALTERATION, SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF ANY PORTION OF THIS SUFFOLK COUNTY TAX MAP IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY

UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE, ALL PROPERTIES ARE WITHIN THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS:
 SCHOOL, I.E. SEWER
 FIRE II HYDRANT
 LIGHT WATER
 PARK REFUSE

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>Property in R/W Line</p> <p>District Common Owner</p> <p>Subdivision Lot Line</p> <p>Ballroad</p> <p>Swamp</p> | <p>County Line</p> <p>Town Line</p> <p>Village Line</p> <p>Block Line</p> <p>Block District Line</p> <p>Block District Line</p> | <p>Fire District Line</p> <p>Water District Line</p> <p>Light District Line</p> <p>Park District Line</p> <p>Sewer District Line</p> | <p>Hydrant District Line</p> <p>Refuse District Line</p> <p>Block No.</p> <p>Parcel No.</p> <p>Subdivision Block No.</p> | <p>Subdivision Lot No.</p> <p>Dead Dimension</p> <p>Soiled Dimension</p> <p>Dead Area</p> <p>Colored Area</p> | <p>KEY MAP</p> <p>SCALE IN FEET</p> | <p>© COUNTY OF SUFFOLK Real Property Tax Service Agency County Center Riverhead, L. I., New York</p> | <p>TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON</p> <p>VILLAGE OF</p> <p>DISTRICT NO. 0300</p> <p>Date of Cancellation</p> | <p>3B</p> <p>038</p> <p>PROP</p> |
|---|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|

V. FLORA AND FAUNA

Flora:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Alkali-blite | <i>Chenopodium rubrum</i> |
| Beach Clotbur | <i>Xanthium strumarium</i> |
| Beach Grass | <i>Ammophila breviligata</i> |
| Beach Heather | <i>Hudsonia tomentosa</i> |
| Beach Pea | <i>Lathyrus japonicus</i> |
| Beach Plum | <i>Prunus maritime</i> |
| Bear Oak | <i>Quercus ilicifolia</i> |
| Black Oak | <i>Lespedeza violacea</i> |
| Bush Clover | <i>Lespedeza violacea</i> |
| Catbriar | <i>Smilax rotundifolia</i> |
| Hairy Bush Clover | <i>Lespedeza sp.</i> |
| Common Mullein | <i>Verbascum thapsus</i> |
| Eastern Red Cedar | <i>Juniperus virginianus</i> |
| Evening Primrose | <i>Oenothera biennis</i> |
| Groundsel | <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> |
| High Tide Bush | <i>Iva frutescens</i> |
| Hyssop-leaved Eupatorium | <i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i> |
| Jointweed | <i>Polygonella articulata</i> |
| Little Bluestem | <i>Schizachrium scoparium</i> |
| Marum Grass | <i>Panicum amarum</i> |
| Northern Bayberry | <i>Myrica pensylvania</i> |
| Phragmites | <i>Phragmites communis</i> |
| Pinweed | <i>Lechea maritime</i> |
| Poison Ivy | <i>Rhus radicans</i> |
| Post Oak | <i>Quercus stellata</i> |
| Prickly Pear | <i>Opuntia humifusa</i> |
| Purple Lovegrass | <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> |
| Reindeer Lichen | <i>Cladonia Tenuis, alpestris and rangiferina</i> |
| Salt-meadow Grass | <i>Spartina patens</i> |
| Salt Spray Rose | <i>Rosa Rugosa</i> |
| Scarlet Oak | <i>Quercus coccinea</i> |
| Sea Rocket | <i>Cakile edentula</i> |
| Seaside Goldenrod | <i>Solidago sempervirens</i> |
| Shining Sumac | <i>Rhus copallinum</i> |
| Sickle-leaved Golden Aster | <i>Chrysopsis falcate</i> |
| Slender Fragrant Goldenrod | <i>Euthamia tenuifolium</i> |
| Slender Wormwood | <i>Artemisia stelleriana</i> |
| Smooth Sumac | <i>Rhus glabrum</i> |
| Sweet Everlasting | <i>Gnaphalium obtusifolium</i> |
| Switchgrass | <i>Panicum virginatum</i> |
| Virginia Creeper | <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> |
| Wild Rose | <i>Rosa virginianum</i> |

FAUNA

Birds

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> |
| Belted Kingfisher | <i>Ceryle alcyon</i> |
| Blackbacked Gull | <i>Larus marinus</i> |
| Blackbellied Plover | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> |
| Blackcrowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> |
| Black Duck | <i>Anas rubripes</i> |
| Black Scoter | <i>Melanitta nigra</i> |
| Black Skimmer | <i>Rynchops nigra</i> |
| Bobwhite | <i>Colinus virginianus</i> |
| Brant | <i>Branta bernicla</i> |
| Bufflehead | <i>Bucephala albeola</i> |
| Canada Goose | <i>Branta Canadensis</i> |
| Chimney Swift | <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> |
| Common Goldeneye | <i>Bucephala clangula</i> |
| Common Loon | <i>Gavia stellata</i> |
| Common Tern | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> |
| Flicker | <i>Colaptes auratus</i> |
| Great Blue Heron | <i>Ardea herodias</i> |
| Great Horned Owl | <i>Bubo virginianus</i> |
| Greater Yellowlegs | <i>Totanus melanoleucus</i> |
| Herring Gull | <i>Larus argentatus</i> |
| Eastern Kingbird | <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i> |
| Kestrel | <i>Falco sparverius</i> |
| Least Tern | <i>Sterna antillarum</i> |
| Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> |
| Mourning Dove | <i>Zenaida macroura</i> |
| Northern Harrier | <i>Circus cyaneus</i> |
| Oldsquaw | <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> |
| Piping Plover | <i>Charadrius melodus</i> |
| Prairie Warbler | <i>Dendroica discolor</i> |
| Redbreasted Merganser | <i>Mergus merganser</i> |
| Redtailed Hawk | <i>Buteo borealis</i> |
| Ringbilled Gull | <i>Larus delawarensis</i> |
| Redwinged Blackbird | <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> |
| Robin | <i>Turdus migratorius</i> |
| Roseate Tern | <i>Sterna dougallii</i> |
| Ruddy Turnstone | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> |
| Sanderling | <i>Crocethia alba</i> |
| Seaside Sparrow | <i>Ammospiza caudacuta</i> |
| Semipalmated Plover | <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i> |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | <i>Ereunetes pusillus</i> |
| Sharptailed Sparrow | <i>Ammospiza caudacuta</i> |
| Song Sparrow | <i>Melospiza melodia</i> |

Spotted Sandpiper
Tree Swallow
Whimbrel
Whitewinged Scoter
Willet
Wood Pewee
Yellowrumped Warbler

Actitis macularia
Iridoprocne bicolor
Numenius phaeopus
Melanitta fusca
Cataprophorus semipalmatus
Myiochanes virens
Dendroica coronata

Mammals

White-tailed Deer
Common Mole
Eastern Cottontail
Gray Squirrel
Long-tailed Weasel
Masked Shrew
Meadow mouse
Muskrat
Opossum
Raccoon
Red Fox
Short-tailed Shrew
White-footed Mouse

Odocoileus virginianus
Scalopus aquaticus
Sylvilagus floridanus
Sciurus carolinensis
Mustelus frenata
Sorex cinereus
Microtus pensylvannicus
Odonatra zibethica
Didelphis virginiana
Procyon lotor
Vulpes fulva
Blarina brevicauda
Peromyscus leucopus

Reptiles

Box Turtle
Diamondback Terrapin
Black Racer
Eastern Garter Snake
Eastern Hognose Snake
Milk Snake
Snapping Turtle

Chelonia testudinia
Malaclemys terrapin
Colubris restrictor
Thamnophis sirtalis
Heterodon
Lampropeltis getulus
Chelydra serpentina

Amphibians

Fowler's Toad

Bufo fowleri