

JACOB'S FARM NATURE PRESERVE: **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

Zachary Cohen, Bill Lundin, Bob Miller,
Tim Sullivan and Mitch Yates

Date: September 18, 2003



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction

Name and Ownership

Location and Size

Reasons for Nature Preserve Designation

History

II. Description of Site

III. Management Goals and Issues

IV. Access

V. Permitted Uses

VI. Restrictions

VII. Maintenance

VIII. Recommended Improvements

APPENDIX

1. Tax Map

2. Trail Map

3. List of Flora and Fauna

I. INTRODUCTION

NAME AND OWNERSHIP

Jacob's Farm Nature Preserve was purchased by the Town of East Hampton and Suffolk County on February 16, 2001 from Andrew Sabin. The site was designated a Nature Preserve by the Town Board on May 2, 2003.

LOCATION AND SIZE

The Jacob's Farm Nature Preserve is 165.5 acres in size and is located in the Springs. It is an irregular parcel bounded on the south by Red Dirt Road, the northwest by Accabonac Road, north by Lilla Lane and the northeast by Neck Path.

REASONS FOR NATURE PRESERVE DESIGNATION

The bulk of the Jacob's Farm Nature Preserve is in the Accabonac watershed while a smaller portion is in the Fresh Pond watershed.

The Jacob's Farm Nature Preserve also provides a habitat for many breeding birds and other flora and fauna common to East Hampton's Eastern deciduous or Appalachian forests.

HISTORY

The name Jacob's Farm is believed to refer to Jacob Schellinger who purchased the property from his half-brother Sylvester Schellinger on May 10, 1815.

The property is believed to have been farmed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries but has lain fallow for more than 50 years.

Jacob's Farm was purchased from Andrew Sabin on February 16, 2001, who had bought the site from Evan Frankel on December 15, 1986.

II. SITE DESCRIPTION

Jacob's Farm Natural History:

Jacob's Farm is the largest undeveloped woodland in the Springs. Its soils were formed from retreatal moraine elements as the last ice sheet retreated to the north ca. 15,000 years ago. The soil is of poor quality, stony and sandy. The topography is gently sloping. The property is almost exclusively covered by hardwood species, with a few eastern red cedars and an occasional pitch pine. It is an extensive wildlife habitat and its fauna includes the wildflower pink lady slipper, on the New York State endangered species list. The gypsy moth is a natural threat to the site with damaging infestations occurring ca. 1970, 1982 and 2001.

A list of flora and fauna appears in **Appendix 3**.

III. MANAGEMENT GOALS AND ISSUES

The primary goals for this Preserve are protection of drinking water from any and all forms of pollution; maintaining critical habitat for birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and the restoration of former wildlife to the Preserve.

Therefore, care for its ecology must be exercised at all times to insure this protection.

In order to insure this protection, there should be no paving, construction, clearing of trees or high impact use of the land.

Low impact activities such as hunting, hiking, biking, horseback riding and nature studies should be permitted to the general public.

A county owned parcel opposite this property on Red Dirt Road offers opportunity for expanding low impact usage.

Fire safety and emergency access should be adequate as the property is bordered by Accabonac Road, Red Dirt Road and Neck Path.

There are critical issues for immediate attention: clean-up of dumped debris and metal; enforcement of Town Code regarding dumping; enforcement of no vehicle code; improving, connecting and maintaining trails.

IV. ACCESS

The Preserve is bounded on the south by Red Dirt Road, the northwest by Accabonac Road, north by Lilla Lane and the northeast by Neck Path.

There three access points as shown on the **Trail Map in Appendix 2** into the Preserve's existing but not completely connected trail system.

V. PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

Suggested Activities in this Preserve Include:

- Hiking
- Passive Family Recreation
- Bird Watching
- Bicycling
- Horseback Riding
- Bow and Arrow Hunting during Archery Season as per E.H. Town
and DEC regulations
- Shotgun Hunting Special Season as per Town Board Resolution
- Dog Training
- Nature Studies
- Wildlife Restoration

VI. RESTRICTIONS

Restricted Activities in This Preserve Include:

- All motorized access
- Digging and artifact recovery
- Woodcutting
- Removal of vegetation
- Abandonment of pets and other domesticated animals
- Dumping

Signage and Enforcement of Restrictions:

East Hampton Nature Preserve signs, as designated by the Nature Preserve Committee and approved by the 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

Town employees charged with managing Nature Preserves should, in addition to their assigned duties, work with user groups and area residents to schedule "clean up days" and create an "Adopt a Nature Preserve" program.

Trail access should be maintained and properly posted.

The Preserve should be left as pristine as possible.

VIII. RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

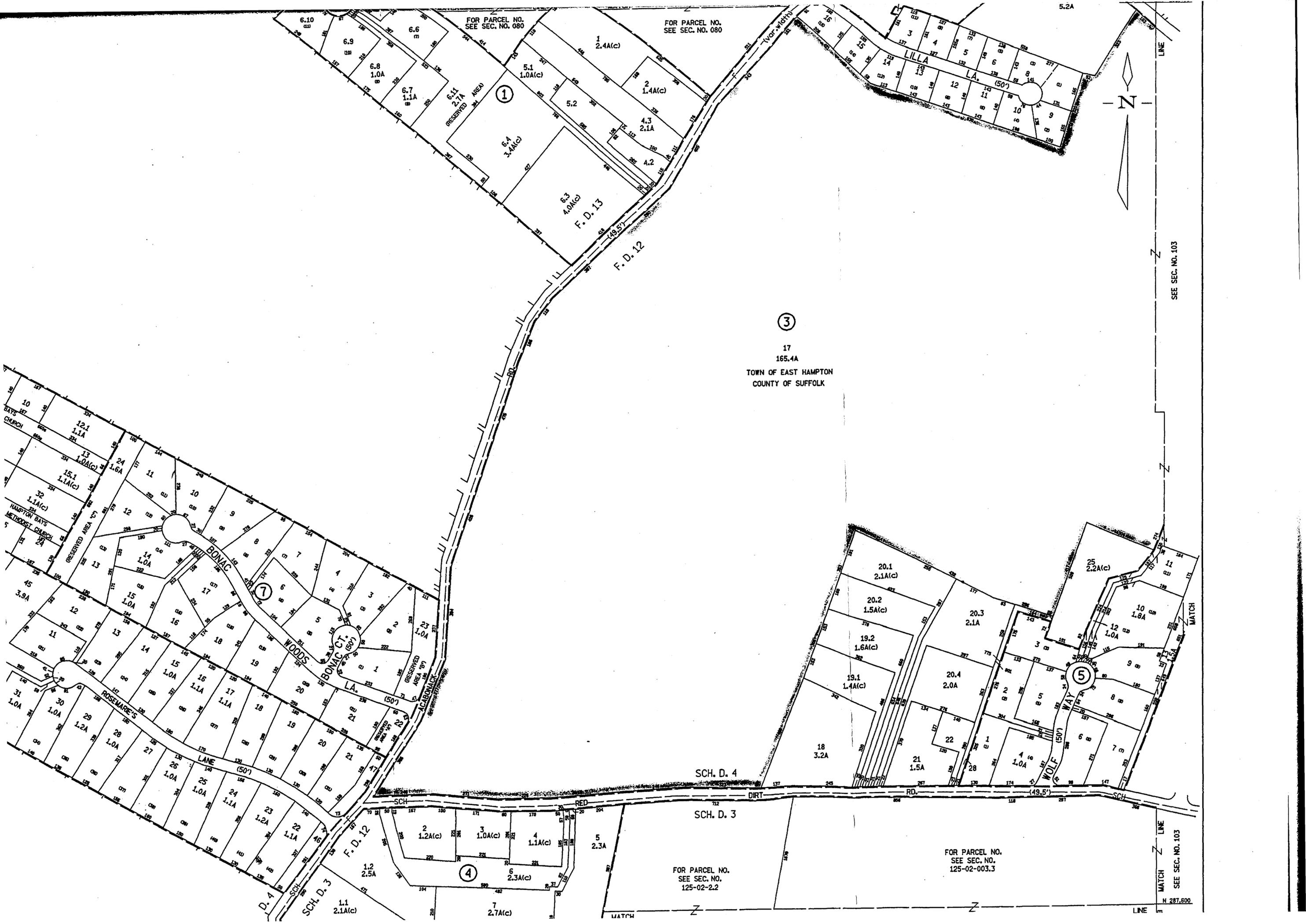
The Town should have all parcels making up the Preserve surveyed, showing accurate boundary lines and ownership.

Trails should be improved, connected and properly maintained.

Members of the Nature Preserve Committee should take an active role in the oversight of these properties by reporting activities and usage that are not allowed under current code or regulations.

The Town must improve its enforcement of the "no motorized vehicles of any kind" section of the Town Code as it applies to particular Nature Preserves.

APPENDIX



FOR PARCEL NO. SEE SEC. NO. 080

FOR PARCEL NO. SEE SEC. NO. 080

SEE SEC. NO. 103

③
17
165.4A
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

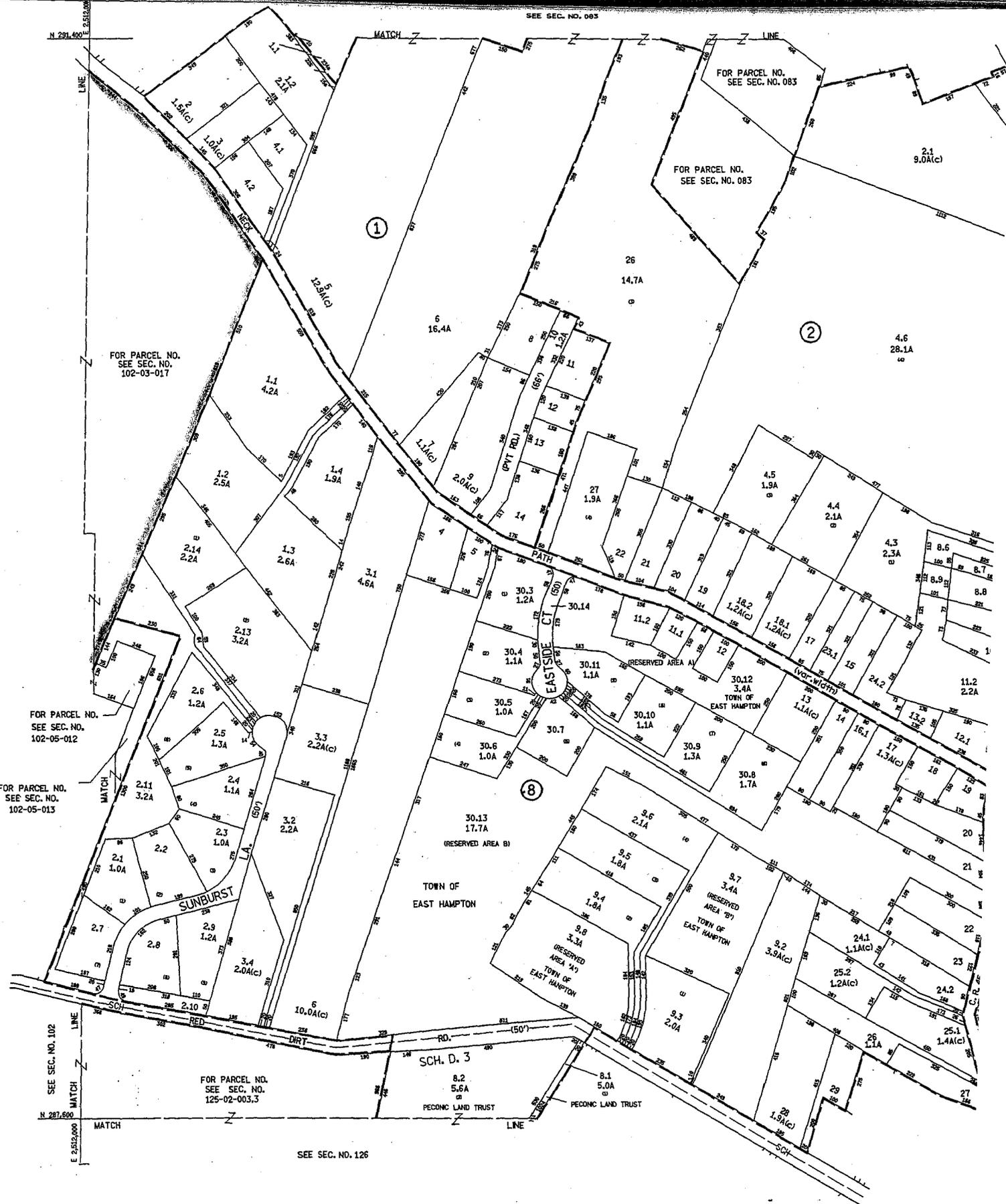
FOR PARCEL NO. SEE SEC. NO. 125-02-003.3

FOR PARCEL NO. SEE SEC. NO. 125-02-2.2

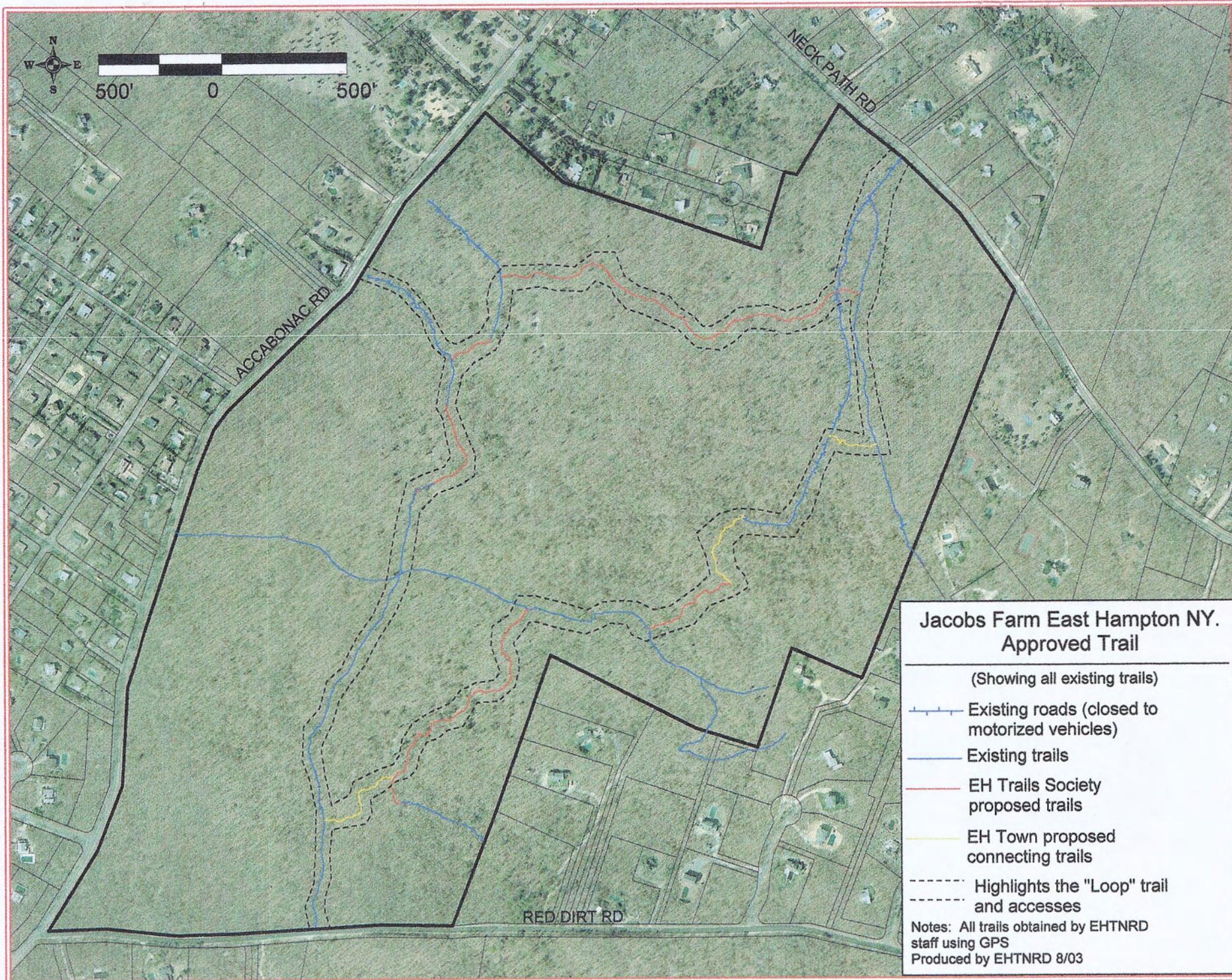
MATCH LINE
SEE SEC. NO. 103

N 287.600

- 1-06-96
- 1-06-97
- 1-01-97
- 1-01-96
- 1-15-96
- 1-01-96
- 1-16-96
- 1-21-99
- 1-05-00
- 1-14-00
- 5-07-00
- 9-16-00
- 2-07-01
- 3-23-01
- 4-03-01
- 4-26-01
- 4-14-01
- 7-31-01
- 0-10-01
- 2-14-02
- 2-25-02
- 1-07-02
- 2-16-02
- 3-06-03



LEGEND	Property or RI Line	-----	Subdivision Lot No.	123	Block List	-----	School District Line	---SCH---	Hydrant District Line	---H---	UNLESS DRAWN ARE WITHIN THE SCHOOL FIRE LIGHT PARK AMBULANCE OTHERWISE THE FOLLOWING SEWER WATER REFUSE WASTEWATER ALL PROPERTIES DISTRICT
	Denote Co-Owner	-----	Subdivision Block/Block No.	(21)	Block No.	②	Fire District Line	---F---	Refuse District Line	---R---	
	Subdivision Lot Line	-----	Deed Dimension	62	County Line	-----	Water District Line	---W---	Historical District Line	---HST---	
	Stream / Shore	~~~~~	Scaled Dimension	62	Town Line	-----	Light District Line	---L---	Ambulance District Line	---A---	
Parcel No.	23	Dead Area	12.1 A(d) or 12.1A	Town Line	-----	Park District Line	---P---	Wastewater District Line	---WW---		
		Calculated Area	12.1 A(c)	Village Line	-----	Sewer District Line	---S---				



**Jacobs Farm East Hampton NY.
Approved Trail**

- (Showing all existing trails)
 -  Existing roads (closed to motorized vehicles)
 -  Existing trails
 -  EH Trails Society proposed trails
 -  EH Town proposed connecting trails
 -  Highlights the "Loop" trail and accesses
- Notes: All trails obtained by EHTNRD staff using GPS
Produced by EHTNRD 8/03

IV. FLORA DESCRIPTION AND LIST

Woodlands:

The dominant tree species is white oak. Some of the white oaks along Accabonac Road may qualify as "old growth". Also found on site:

Black Oak	Scarlet Oak
Mockernut	Pignut Hickory
Sassafras	Big leaf Aspen
Shad	Black Cherry
American Beech	

Groundcover/ Subshrubs/Vines:

The predominant understory layer is made up of saplings of all of the above species. The Subshrubs and groundcover species are typical for scrubby oak woodlands on Long Island, consisting mostly of:

Huckleberry	Lowbush Blueberry
Bayberry	Bracken Fern
Pennsylvania Sedge	Several mosses
Fox Grape	Virginia creeper
Poison Ivy	

Wildflowers:

To date, no endangered or threatened species of plants have been found on the site. Dominant on site are:

Aster	Goldenrod
Pink Lady's Slipper (most unusual on site)	
Multiflora Rose*	Tartarian Honeysuckle*
Japanese Honeysuckle*	Asiatic Bittersweet*

*Indicates exotic species

V. FAUNA DESCRIPTION AND LIST

Birds:

Several birds nest in the Jacob's Farm woods. The East Hampton Town Natural Resources Department carried out a breeding bird survey on ten sites in 1993 and 1994 and it was discovered that Jacob's Farm had the most *diverse* breeding bird population. It ranked higher than the Grace Estate, Hither Woods, Barcelona, Sanctuary and other areas with lush, damper habitats than Jacob's Farm. The breeding birds include:

Eastern Bluebird	Rufous-sided Towhee
Bobwhite	House Wren
Carolina Wren	Common Grackle
Common Crow	Blue Jay
Brown-headed Cowbird	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Whippoorwill	Red-tailed Hawk
Screech Owl	Red-winged Blackbird
Flicker	Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker	Wood Pewee
Brown Creeper	Common Yellowthroat
Yellow Warbler	Blue-winged Warbler
Ovenbird	Song Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow	American Goldfinch
White-breasted Nuthatch	Black-capped Chickadee
Gray Catbird	Eastern Kingbird
Baltimore Oriole	Great-crested Flycatcher
Scarlet Tanager	Mourning Dove
Red-eyed Vireo	

Mammals:

Gray Squirrels	White-footed Mice
Pine Voles	Meadow Mice
Common moles	Masked Shrews
Eastern Chipmunks	Eastern Cottontails
Red Fox	White-tailed Deer
Opossum	Raccoon
Long-tail Weasel	

Amphibians and Reptiles:

Inasmuch as there are no ponds on the site, no amphibians breed there; however Jacobs Farm is home to the following:

Eastern Box Turtle	Eastern Garter Snake
Eastern Hognose Snake	Northern Black Racer
Eastern Milk Snake	Red-back Salamander (gray phase)
Fowler's Toad	Gray tree frog
Spring peeper	

Insects:

In the past, particularly ca. 1970, but as late as 1982 and 2000-2001, gypsy moth caterpillars have done damage to the trees in Jacob's Farm. Among the more interesting insects occupying this site in season are:

Morning Cloak Butterfly	Monarch Butterfly
Spring Azure	Cabbage white Butterfly
Painted Lady	Wood Nymph
Skipper	Angle-winged Butterfly