



Adopted December 18, 2009

SPRINGS PARK

Management Plan



Suffolk County Tax Map 300-61-4-4.2
396 Three Mile Harbor-Hog Creek Highway
Area 42 Acres
Town of East Hampton, New York

The Community Preservation Fund Law was enacted to help protect and preserve open and undeveloped lands in the Town of East Hampton and Incorporated Villages, including wetlands, woodlands, agricultural lands, shorelands and the other natural resources of the town; for the purposes of protecting historic places and properties within the town; and for the purpose of providing the town's visitors and residents with outdoor recreational opportunities.

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Prepared by the Town of East Hampton Land Acquisition and Management Department

Many thanks to Dawn Liubenov of the Peconic Land Trust for the fine job of producing the proposal map that is in use.

FOREWORD

The Town of East Hampton's Community Preservation Fund (CPF) was created to help acquire a diverse range of properties throughout our hamlets and Villages, to preserve open space and historic properties, and to provide recreational opportunities for our community. Over the last 11 years, the CPF program has helped protect our community character, and helped to minimize the suburban sprawl that has afflicted many of our western neighbors. This program is one of the reasons why so many people have come here to live, work and play. For each property acquired, we must also have a plan for that property, to ensure that this program continues to meet the intended purposes for acquisition, and to meet the needs of our community. This management plan has been proposed with that goal in mind.

HISTORY

The property known as "Springs Nursery" at approximately 42 acres is the second largest open space acquisition made by the Town within the Springs school district. The property is slightly larger than Maidstone Park, which was donated to the Town in the early 1900's, and is exceeded in size only by the joint Town & County purchase of the 165 acre Jacob's Farm property. Preservation of this property for open space and park purposes creates a central corridor, although not contiguous, running from Pussy Pond and Ashawagh Hall to Three Mile Harbor Road.

The property was purchased in 1988 from Richard Vrana by Russell Ireland, Jr., who under the name of *The Springs Nursery, a Division of Martin Viette Nurseries* used the cleared portion of the property for growing and storage of nursery stock. The Town of East Hampton procured the property from Mr. Ireland in February of 2002 with Community Preservation Funds and resolved to use the parcel for open space preservation and possible future use for sports and active recreation.

Members of the community were not enamored with the idea of ball fields and lights so the town board heeded the people's wishes and allowed the space to evolve naturally. As the "park" evolved, we have discovered that the primary use has become an area for dogs and their owners to roam in a protected and fenced environment. While the presence of so many unleashed dogs has generated some concern, this plan will try to address and mitigate the concerns of the Town and other user groups. It is important to take into consideration all users of this area to help facilitate a community friendly atmosphere where all can feel welcome and safe. These concerns will be addressed below.

LOCATION and DESCRIPTION of the PROPERTY

The property is generally rectangular in shape and is located on the east side of Three Mile Harbor-Hog Creek Highway in Springs, approximately 627.5 feet north of Gardiners Avenue, and is zoned A-2 Residential. This parcel is designated as Suffolk County Tax Map # 300-61- 4- 4.2.

The parcel is a total of 41.993 acres and is comprised of 22.589 acres that had been cleared for nursery stock of which some vestiges still remain, i.e. Cedars, Pear trees, Ilex, Spruce, Holly, and an abundance of autumn olives. The property is generally level, and the 22 acre section is encompassed by a six foot high wire fence. The remaining 19.404 acres that includes the access road, is made up primarily of Oak woodlands with a scattering of Hickory and Sassafras. The properties soils, (Montauk loamy sand and Montauk fine sandy loam), were formed from retreatal moraine elements as the last ice sheet retreated to the north ca. 15,000 years ago.

The former nursery has become the home of a diversified array of birds and animals; deer, box turtles squirrels are in residence here. A number of birds also reside at different times of the year, including Red winged Blackbirds, Robins, Blue Jays, Catbirds, Yellow shafted Flickers, and Wrens. The area also hosts Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Great Crested Flycatchers, Chipping Sparrows and Indigo Buntings. The South Fork Natural History Society has placed seven Bluebird boxes on site, and thanks to the help of some members from the community this Bluebird trail has fledged at least eight young in the last two years. The boxes have also hosted Tree Swallows. One of the many breeding species is the Field Sparrow, which has regrettably been included in Audubon's list of the top twenty birds in decline. A Red tail Hawk's nest is located on the adjoining property to the northeast and the parcel has also been frequented by various other birds of prey such as Merlin, Cooper and Sharp-shinned Hawks. The management plan that is being developed, i.e.: late fall mowing, and the protection of open spaces, will increase the amount of breeding habitat for all avian types. Birds contribute greatly to our daily life. They eat up to half their weight each day in rodents, insects, weed seeds and other pests. They pollinate flowers and are the distributors of plant seeds. Their songs herald the coming of spring after the long winter. Most importantly birds are a barometer of the world around us. Hopefully the institution of the management plan will allow our avian friends to prosper and grow.

MANAGEMENT GOALS and ISSUES

The primary goal for the management plan of this parcel is to enhance its usefulness while improving accessibility and safety for all members of the community. This can be accomplished at minimal expense to the Community Preservation Fund and the Town of East Hampton. The upkeep of existing paths and the addition of new trails through the fields will allow for greater use of this unique property and give the people of the town a wonderful recreational area to enjoy for many years to come.

The recent use of this parcel for off leash dogs should be maintained with a clear set of rules and regulations to provide for the safety and enjoyment of all wishing to use this area. In cooperation with the members of the dog walking community who have utilized the park more than any other user group, the Town of East Hampton must rely on this group to shoulder some of the responsibility for this special area. Those responsibilities, to be discussed in more detail later, will include the education of newcomers regarding clean up rules and the licensing and control of their dogs. We are happy to work with this special niche in our town, and recognize that the Community Preservation Fund lands availability should be for all. This plan is designed to promote cohesion within the community for the safe use by the general public for low impact recreational activities such as, but not limited to, bird watching, nature studies, educational opportunities, dog walking or just an area to relax and read a book.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

(Please review the accompanying Management Plan Map prepared by Dawn Liubenov of Peconic Land Trust)

- Add parking area (as illustrated on accompanying Management Plan Map) at the entrance to new trail head inside first gate- 3 spots for walkers
- Extend existing parking area to 20 spots, approximately 200 ft. by Highway Department
- Add a double gated entrance enclosure for dogs, 8' x 16' x 6' with 2 (two) 4 ft. gates which will facilitate a safe and orderly entry and exit to the park
- Clearing of new trails along northern boundary, and through wooded area to new gate for northern entrance (As per Management Plan Map). Maintain existing and new trails with the help of the Parks and Recreation Department, Trails Preservation Society, and volunteers from the Springs Park user groups.

- Remove existing sign at entrance and replace with Community Preservation Fund sign, thanking the people of the Town of East Hampton for their support of land preservation and open space, and a general list of guidelines for park usage.
- The road leading in to the park will be paved. However, we will try to keep the width and appearance to that of a long driveway. This “road” will not meet the full specs of a Town roadway, and therefore may not be plowed in the winter. This will help keep the cost and maintenance fees to a minimum. Speed bumps will be installed to help keep speeds to a minimum to protect the users and their dogs.
- Removal of autumn olives. This highly invasive species has become a major problem for the park. Loss of scenic views along with habitat for Bluebirds and other ground nesting birds is imminent. Biologists consider invasive species such as these to be one of the two greatest threats to native plants and animals, second only to the outright loss of habitat to urban sprawl, agriculture, and industrial development. With the help of the volunteers who utilize this park, a massive removal plan should begin in the fall of 2009 to rid the park of this blight. With the help of these volunteers this will be an ongoing stewardship responsibility, as the invasives are an ongoing threat.
- Propose water testing of well for possible future usage.

PARK RULES

Be advised that you enter the park at your own risk.

- **KEEP SPRINGS PARK CLEAN:**

Please bag and discard any visible pet waste. Like human waste, it threatens human health, pet health and the environment.

- **WATCH & CONTROL YOUR DOG:**

As per Town Dog Control Law Section 86-5 B 4, "It shall be unlawful for any owner of a dog to allow or permit such dog to chase or otherwise harass any person in such a manner as to cause reasonable intimidation or to put such person in reasonable apprehension of bodily harm or injury".

Dogs must be kept under control at all times. Keep your dog within sight and voice control. Handlers are responsible for all dogs they bring into the park and should limit the number of dogs they bring accordingly.

- **BRING A LEASH & USE IT:**

A leash is often the best way to prevent or end a problem scenario. At the first sign of aggression or other problem behavior, please leash your dog. Leashing your dog(s) during entry and exit from the park reduces the possibility of injury to others.

- **MINIMIZE CANINE AGGRESSION:**

Leaving toys and treats at home (do not bring food into the park), separating groups of dogs into smaller units and avoiding congestion around the gate can decrease territorial and aggressive tendencies. Aggressive dogs should not be brought to the Park.

- **LEAVE UNFIT DOGS AT HOME:**

Dogs not fit for the park include those that are contagious, not current on all vaccinations, too young to be fully vaccinated, in heat and those with a history of aggression toward other dogs or humans.

- **YOUR DOG MUST BE IDENTIFIABLE:**

Your dog should be licensed in East Hampton Town. Please have your dog wear a collar with ID tag attached (either license tag or personal ID including name of dog, owner & contact phone number).

- **EDUCATE CHILDREN IN PROPER BEHAVIOR AROUND DOGS:**

Educate children before entering the Park and closely supervise them while in the park to avoid problem scenarios.

- **RESPECT OTHER PARK USERS & NEIGHBORS:**

Dog owners, joggers, bikers, bird-watchers and other park users should respect each others' space. Please keep human and canine voices down, especially in the early morning; this is a narrow property in a residential area.

- **PARTICIPATE IN PARK STEWARDSHIP:**

Park users serve as its primary caregivers and have provided many of the Park's amenities. You can help by picking up 'orphan' dog waste and debris, filling in dug holes and participating in organized clean-ups.

- **PARKING BY PERMIT ONLY:**

A resident or non-resident parking permit will be necessary to park at this site.

RESTRICTIONS

Restricted Activities:

No unauthorized motorized access past the designated parking areas

No Digging or artifact recovery

No Woodcutting (unless at the direction of the Town Board)

No abandonment of pets and other domesticated animals

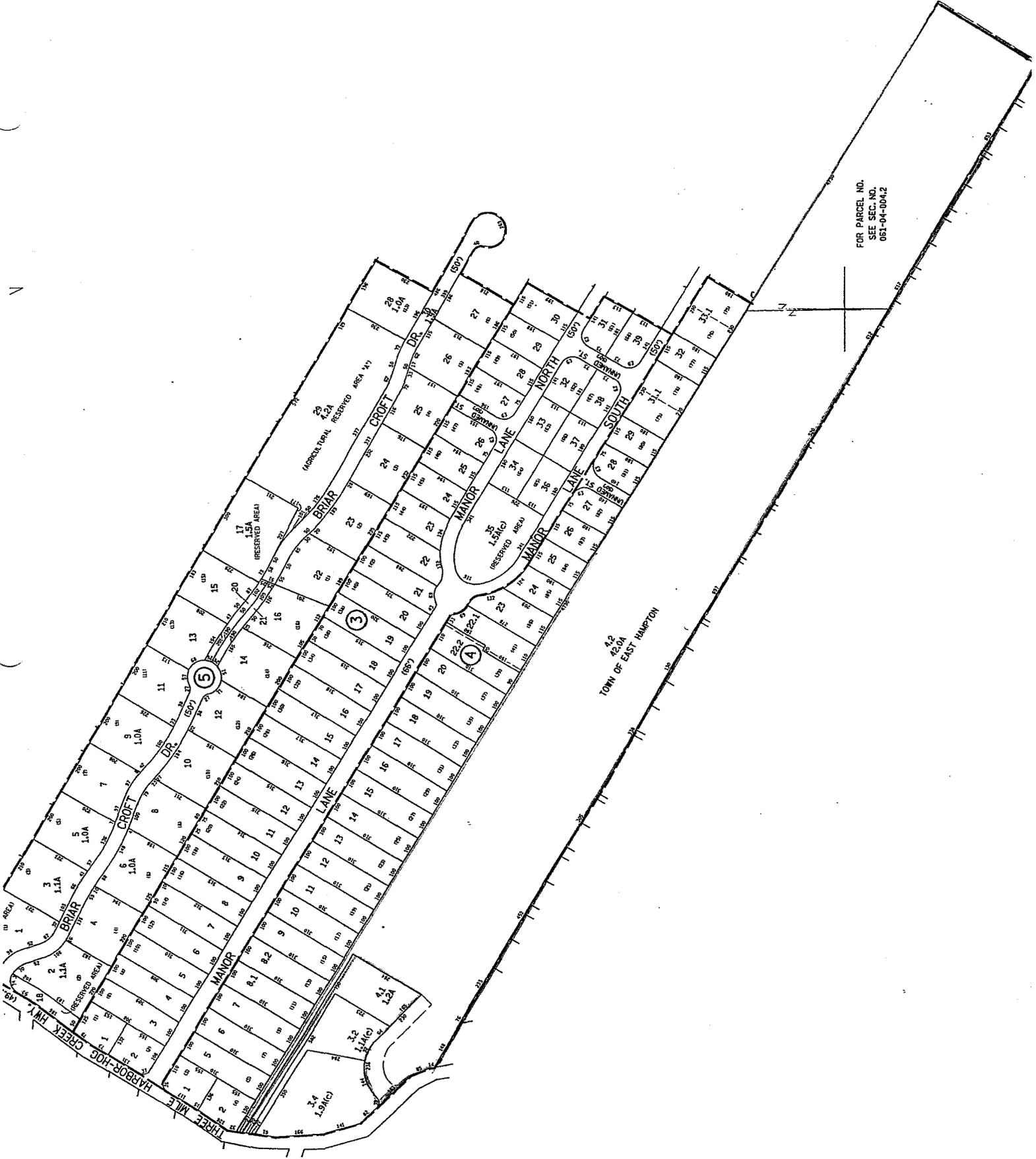
No Dumping

No Removal of any animal or plant species (unless invasive and at the direction of the Town Board)

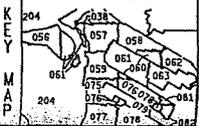
No Fires allowed at any time (unless at the direction of Town Board)

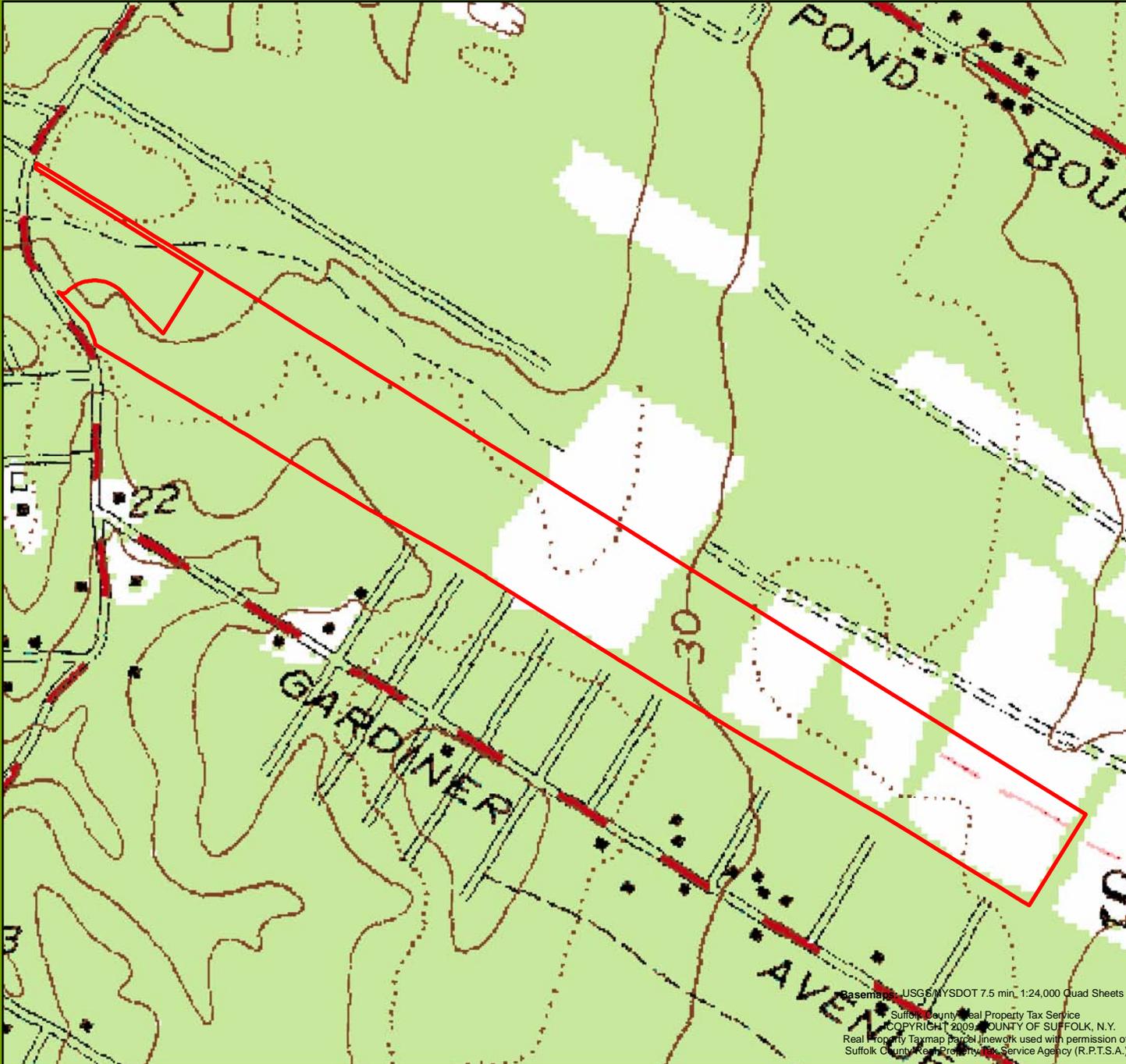
Fines and Penalties:

All existing sections of the Town Code apply to this property.



FOR PARCEL NO.
SEE SEC. NO.
051-04-004.2

 <p>COUNTY OF SUFFOLK Red Property Tax Service Agency County Center Riverhead, N Y 11901 SCALE IN FEET: 0 200 400</p>	 <p>KEY MAP</p>	TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON	SECTION NO
		VILLAGE OF	061
		DISTRICT NO 0300	PROPERTY MAP



1" = 570.8 feet

Feet

0 260 520

**THE TOWN
OF
EAST HAMPTON**
**USGS QUAD SHEET
041072A2**
**GARDINERS ISLAND WEST
FOR
SCTM# 300-61-4-4.2
SPRINGS PARK**

NO PORTION OF THIS MAP MAY BE MAINTAINED, ALTERED, SOLD, DISTRIBUTED, REPRODUCED, STORED IN OR INTRODUCED INTO A RETRIEVAL SYSTEM, OR TRANSMITTED, IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS (ELECTRONIC, MECHANICAL, PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING OR OTHERWISE), WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON.

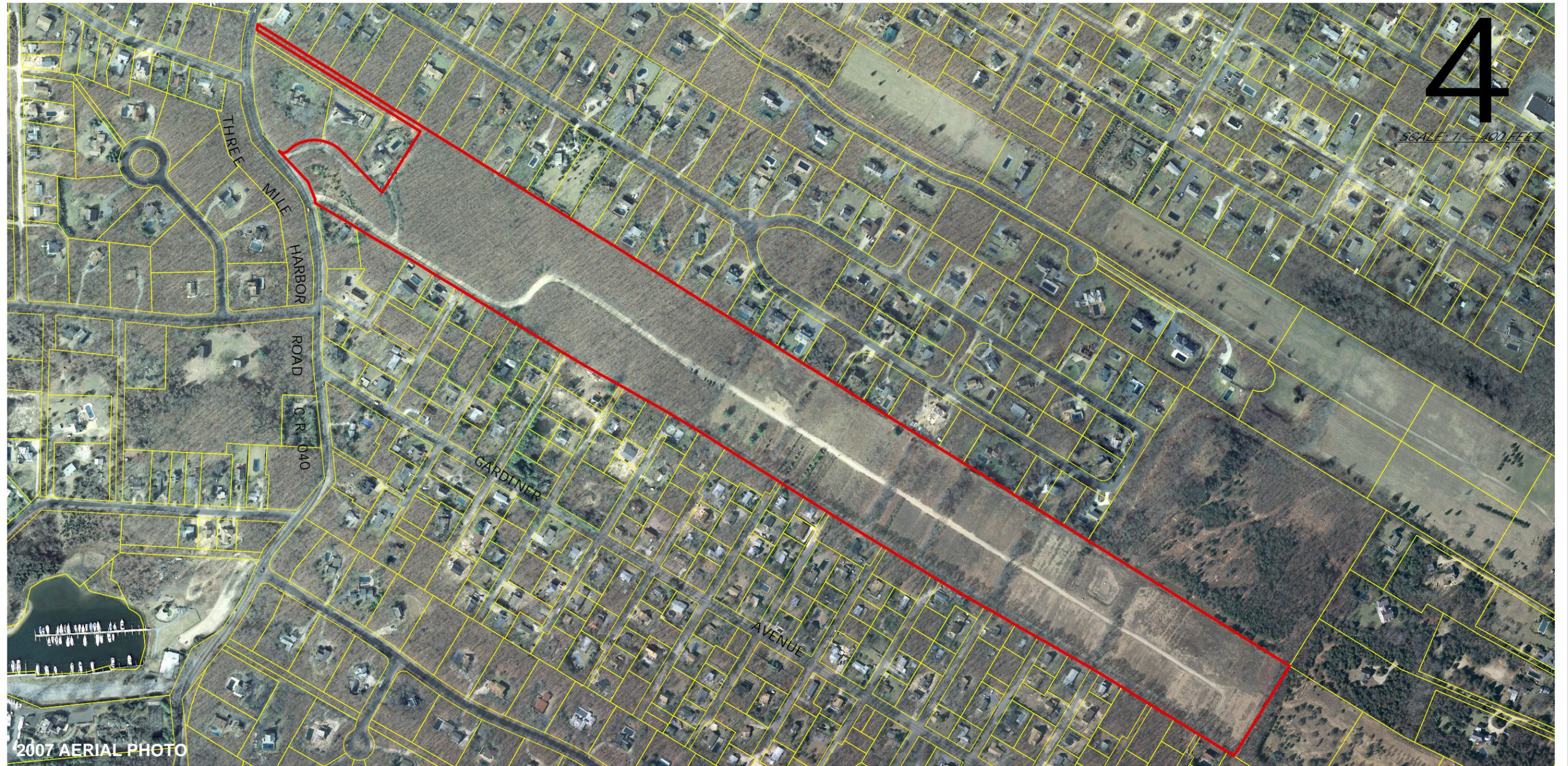
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Prepared by
THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
Suffolk County, New York
Dept. of Information Technology

Date Prepared: December 15, 2009

Basemaps: USGS/MSDOT 7.5 min. 1:24,000 Quad Sheets
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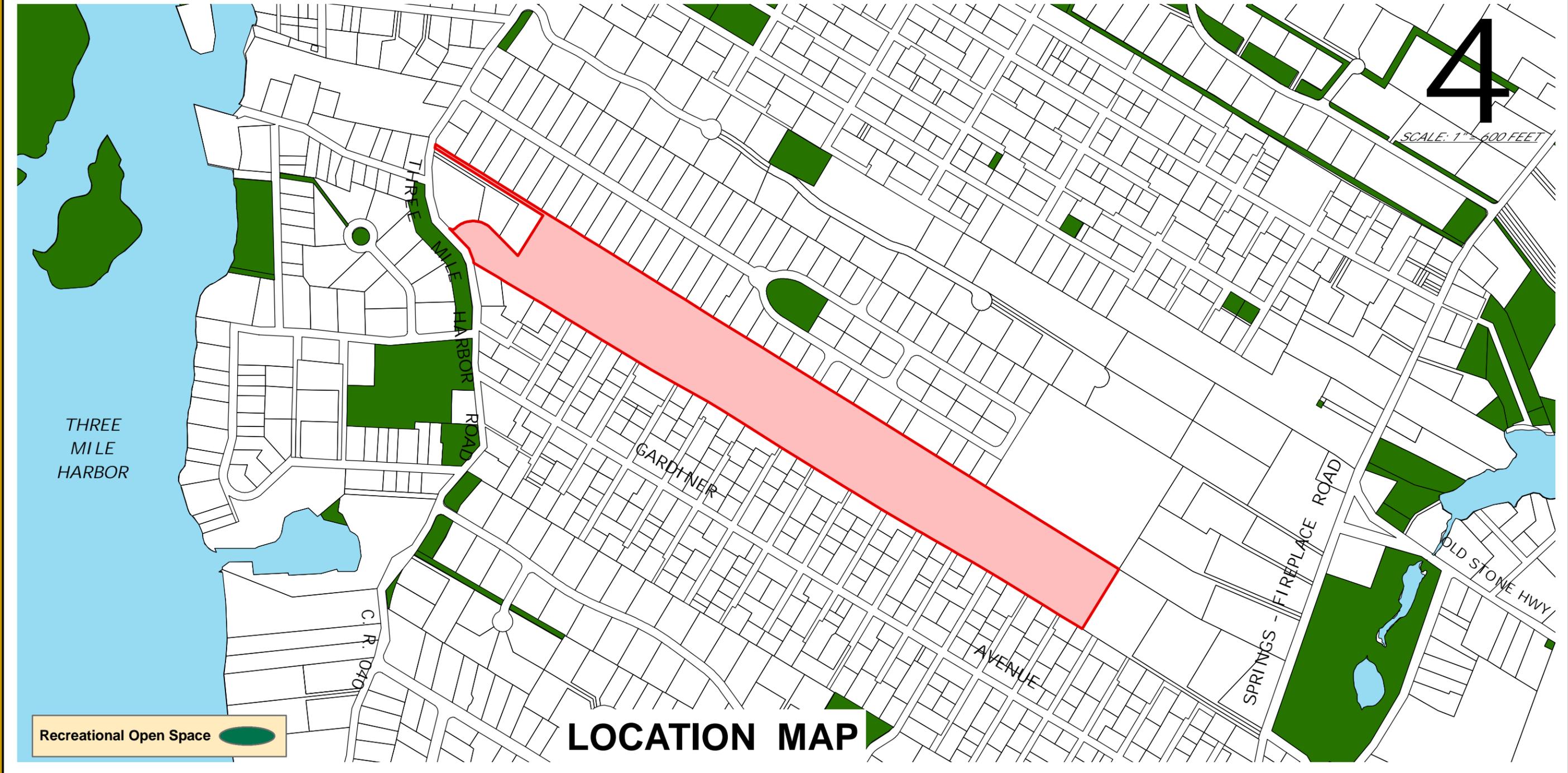
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Prepared by
THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
Suffolk County, New York

CPF PROPERTY

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
SCTM #300-061.000-0004-004.002
Springs Nursery Property
396 Three Mile Harbor Road
Springs School District



LOCATION MAP

Suffolk County Real Property Tax Service
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CPF PROPERTY

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
SCTM #300-061.000-0004-004.002
Springs Nursery Property
396 Three Mile Harbor Road
Springs School District

Springs Park Management Plan After Hearing

Information		Vote		
Legislative File #	RES-2009-1281	Julia Prince	Seconder	Yes/Aye
Status	Adopted	Pete Hammerle	Initiator	Yes/Aye
Department	Land Acquisition	Pat Mansir	Voter	Yes/Aye
Meeting	12/18/2009 10:00 AM	Brad Loewen	Voter	No/Nay
Category	Approvals			

History

Adopted 12/18/2009 10:00 AM

WHEREAS, the Town Board held a public hearing on October 16, 2008, to consider a proposed Management Plan for Springs Park, SCTM #0300-61.00-04.00-004.002; and

WHEREAS, the Springs Park Management Plan was made available in the Town Clerk's office for public review and comment, and oral and written comments were officially recorded at this public hearing; and

WHEREAS, there were a number of public comments primarily culminating in a request to the Town Board to allow the continued use of the entire +- 21 fenced acres for dogs and their owners; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the public comments, the Town Board requested that the management plan be amended to satisfy the concerns of the majority of speakers; and

WHEREAS, as requested, said amendments were made and reviewed at a Town Board meeting; and

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, the following Management Plan is hereby adopted as written:

Springs Park Management Plan
Dated December, 2009

Existing Conditions



Concept Plan



Closeup

