



Reservation Mini Plan

Reservation	Gov. Hutchinson's Field & Pierce Reservation	Completed by	Russ Hopping & Al Yalenezian
Location	Milton	Date	7/29/98
Acreage	10 & 4	Related Plans & Reports	Grasslands Mgt. form Context map Vegetation map Diagram map

Reservation Profile

Natural & Ecological Features:

Approximately 6 acres of the reservations are maintained as grassland. The remaining acreage is primarily forested. The grassland is too small and isolated to provide habitat for grassland obligate birds. Fields do provide habitat, however, for butterflies and small mammals including rabbits. The forest along the Neponset River is mature and includes beech, birch, maple and oak. A strip of early successional forest, a result of periodic cutting to maintain viewshed, occurs between the field and the mature forest on Gov. Hutchinson's Field. There is a steep bank along the river with rocky mud flats and sparse salt marsh beyond. Many exotics occur at Pierce Reservation including Japanese knotweed, black locust, multiflora rose, Asian bittersweet and climbing euonymus to name a few.

Cultural Features:

There is a well built stonewall along Adams St. otherwise, unknown.

Land Use History

Historically maintained in an open state. For more information on Governor Hutchinson see article in *Special Places* Vol. 5, No. 4, Fall 1997.

Scenic Features

The field provides views of the Neponset River and its marshes, as well as the City of Boston in the distance. This field is also a unique scenic feature within an area that is dominated by lawns.

Types of Public Use and Facilities:

There is roadside parking only that requires driving over a curb and parking on the sidewalk; is it legal? A reservation sign is in place. Public use includes passive recreation such as picnicking and enjoying the scenic vista. This is especially true during lunchtime when it becomes a popular pull-off site. Installing benches by the entrance would enhance these uses. The property is occasionally used for events with 200+ people. One short trail leads to the river but it is unimproved with no signs.

What is the most significant feature of the property?

The scenic vista.

Management Issues (Present in order of significance)

Natural & Ecological resources:

The fields are maintained by mowing once a year. Some members of the public have expressed an interest in seeing fields mowed more frequently.

Cultural resources:

There are no management issues associated with the rock wall at this time other than the control of vegetation. The poison ivy and other plants along the rock wall are cut (weed whipped) frequently.

Scenic resources:

The field is mowed to prevent woody plants and trees from growing and obscuring the view of the Neponset. The strip of early successional forest along the lower field edge (see vegetation map) is cut approximately every 10 years, or when trees reach approximately 30 feet, to keep view open.

Visitor use:

Visitors frequently leave behind trash and vandalism has been a problem (e.g. destruction of wooden benches). No information resources (interpretive signs or bulletin boards) currently exist at properties other than the reservation sign. A few individuals of the public have expressed interest in using the property more regularly but have concerns over poison ivy. Although poison ivy does occur throughout the property, it is not abundant. Visitors may be confusing Virginia creeper and dewberry, both common species at the property, for poison ivy.

Which is the most critical issue? Why?

The most critical issue at these properties is the lack of understanding by The Trustees' staff and the general public regarding management goals for these properties.

Management Objectives and Recommended Actions

(What are the objectives that will address these issues and what action steps are needed to achieve these objectives?)

Objective:	Action Steps:	Additional Resources Needed to do the work:	Completion Date:
Maintain scenic vista	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain grasslands (see Guidelines Form) 2. Cut trees at lower edge of field when trees approach 25-30 feet in height. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. None needed 2. None needed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annually 2. Next treatment is do in 1999
<p>Improve opportunities for visitors to use and enjoy the property (i.e. find, access, and navigate the property)</p>	<p>Action Steps:</p> <p>Scenario 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct visitors to park at the museum opposite the reservation and work with town to prevent roadside parking. (T. Foster will talk with museum and town officials). 2. Create an opening in the rock wall directly across from museum drive and paint a crosswalk that connects them. (T. Foster will speak with town officials). 3. Relocate hanging entrance sign to the new entrance and include Pierce Reservation on the sign. 4. Install bulletin board (medium size) by entrance. 5. Replace benches at top of field; use granite to discourage vandalism. 6. Maintain and improve trail. The condition of the trail should be monitored and evaluated annually. Additional management, such as waterbars, may be needed in the future. 7. Maintain bench and picnic areas (see diagram for possible design) 	<p>Additional Resources Needed to do the work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need sign to direct visitors. 2. Costs unknown. Town may pay for crosswalk. 3. New sign only. 4. Cost of bulletin board. 5. Approximately \$1,000 / bench. Seek donors to cover costs. Wooden benches should be installed temporarily. 6. Need volunteer(s) to patrol for trash and to monitor trail conditions. 7. A couple of hours weekly. Ideally this person will be a volunteer. 	<p>Completion Date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1999 2. 1999 3. 2000 4. 1999 5. 2000 6. ongoing 7. ongoing

<p>Cont.</p>	<p>Scenario 2: same as scenario 1 but without new opening in wall</p> <p>1. Relocate hanging entrance sign closer to existing main entrance and include Pierce Reservation on the sign.</p> <p>2. Install "Welcome to" sign by entrance sign, a bulletin board will detract from vista at this location.</p>	<p>1. New sign only.</p> <p>2. Cost of "Welcome to" sign.</p>	<p>1. 2000</p> <p>1. 2000</p>
<p>Objective:</p> <p>Improve awareness and knowledge of The Trustees, the reservation and its property management goals.</p>	<p>Action Steps:</p> <p>1. Install interpretive information. See C&M "Presentation Elements"</p> <p>2. Share mini plan internally and with interested members of the public.</p>	<p>Additional Resources Needed to do the work:</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Completion Date:</p> <p>1999</p>

Are there other limitations to achieving objectives?

To meet some of the above objectives The Trustees will need additional staff resources. Volunteers may be a viable alternative. Without additional staff or volunteers, current staff will likely need to sacrifice time at other reservations.

Is a more detailed management plan needed?

No

Other comments:

It has been suggested that The Trustees could use this property to generate and facilitate interest in the Neponset River.

The nearest 1998-99 Estimated or Priority Habitat is approximately 2 miles away to the southwest.