



Reservation Mini Plan

Reservation	Medfield Rhododendrons	Completed by	Russ Hopping & Jeff Montgomery
Location	Medfield	Date	7/29/98
Acreage	196	Related Plans & Reports	Locus / Context map Est. Habitat & Priority Communities map

Property Profile

Natural & Ecological Features:

This property is dominated by red maple swamp. Along the boundary of the Stop River, floodplain communities including shrub swamp and marsh dominate. The little upland that exists supports mature mixed forest of hemlock and red oak. Native rhododendrons (*Rhododendron maximum*) occur throughout the understory. A few rhododendrons also occur within the swamp.

Cultural Features:

A "rough" stonewall along the property boundary appears to be the only cultural feature.

Land Use History

Unknown. The land was likely cleared of trees for fuel and building materials. Grazing by livestock may also have occurred. The Trustees acquired the property in 1934 and since that time no management has occurred.

Scenic Features

Rhododendron viewing, although plants may represent more of a botanical interest than a scenic interest.

Types of Public Use and Facilities:

A small parking lot has recently been created on a non-TTOR property nearby. A short hiking trail leads to the rhododendron colony. Because the majority of the property is wetland, there is no access beyond the colony. Fishing and canoeing along the Stop River are also possible during high water but access is limited to Causeway St. and from the Charles River.

Management Issues (Present in order of significance)

Natural & Ecological Resources:

Rhododendrons are in declining health. The cause is unknown but over-shading may be responsible.

Cultural Resources:

None

Scenic Resources:

The dying rhododendrons look terrible and offer little floral beauty and attraction when they do bloom.

Visitor Use:

During wet seasons portions of the trail are soggy to flooded. Some trail improvement may be necessary, especially if visitor use increases. No information resources (interpretive signs or bulletin boards) currently exist at property.

Which is the most critical issue? Why?

The most critical issue is the maintenance and health of the rhododendrons. This is a state-listed threatened species. These rhododendrons represent a native stand, not one that has been planted, and they are the reason The Trustees originally accepted the property. They are the namesake of the reservation.

Management Objectives and Recommended Actions

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

<p>Objective:</p> <p>Maintain rhododendrons</p>	<p>Action Steps:</p> <p>Develop strategy for improving and monitoring the stand based on expert opinion</p>	<p>Additional Resources Needed to do the work:</p> <p>Information and advice from experts</p>	<p>Completion Date:</p> <p>1999 for information</p> <p>Mgt. & monitoring will be ongoing per recommendations</p>
<p>Objective:</p> <p>Maintain access</p>	<p>Action Steps:</p> <p>Maintain and monitor condition of trail</p>	<p>Additional Resources Needed to do the work:</p> <p>If trail conditions deteriorate due to wet areas, some trail hardening may be needed (e.g. raised boardwalks)</p>	<p>Completion Date:</p> <p>When needed</p>
<p>Objective:</p> <p>Improve awareness and knowledge of The Trustees at the property</p>	<p>Action Steps:</p> <p>Install signs. Sign installation should follow the recommendations found within the Communications & Marketing Long-range Strategic Plan. Michael Triff will provide details.</p>	<p>Additional Resources Needed to do the work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be determined (see Action Steps) 2. Permit from the town for installation of The Trustees reservation sign near parking lot 	<p>Completion Date:</p> <p>1999</p>

Note: Any work regarding the management of the rhododendron stand or the trail will typically fall within the 100 foot buffer from the wetlands and may require permitting. Managers should consult with the local conservation commission prior to beginning work in these areas.

Are there other limitations to achieving objectives?

Not at this time.

Is a more detailed management plan needed?

No.

Other comments: