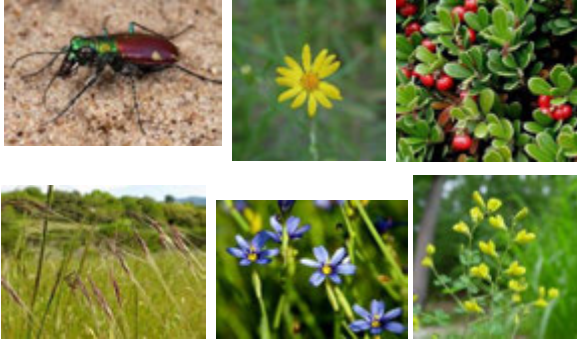


The Sandplain Rescue Zone at the Trade Wind Fields Preserve Rare Species



Clockwise from top left: Purple Tiger Beetle, Sickle-leaved Golden Aster, Bearberry, Purple Needle Grass, Sandplain Blue-eyed Grass, Wild Indigo.

The greatest threat to the Sandplain Rescue Zone is boots, shoes and paws. Human incursions in the Zone will eventually kill the grasslands and all of the species which depend on it. Visitors are asked to limit their exercise to the existing marked trails on the Zone's perimeter. These trails have been sited as to allow maximum human freedom to ramble on the preserve while permitting sandplain species to continue to exist.

Trade Wind Fields Preserve Oak Bluffs, MA

User's Guide



Martha's Vineyard Land Bank
Commission

167 Main Street
Edgartown, MA 02539
508-627-7141

www.mvlandbank.com

A Brief History of Trade Wind Fields Preserve

The sandplain that is now Trade Wind Fields Preserve began in the 1800s as a successful dairy farm run by the Chase family. The farm comprised land that is now Trade Wind Fields Preserve as well as land that is now part of the Farm Neck golf course. The transition into an airfield occurred after the Chase family sold the farm to Antone S. Sanchos, who was fascinated by airplanes and owned an airplane repair shop. Eventually, Mr. Sanchos opened up one of the fields for airplanes. It was then sold to W. Gerould Clark in 1946. His wife, Major Helen Clark, U.S. Air Force, leased the property to retired Captain Carolyn Cullen, and partner Rachel Williams. Together they formed the Trade Wind Flying Service. In the early 1980s the property was slated for housing development. The land bank purchased the property for conservation in 1989, after Oak Bluffs proposed to acquire the land through eminent domain.



Dog Walking Rules and Regulations

- **Owners must keep dogs on designated trails.**
- **Owners must keep dogs off the runway and taxiway; leash pets if necessary.**
- **Owners must clean up after their dogs and carry out waste.**
- **Owners must not leave dogs unattended.**
- **Owners must have their dogs under immediate control and must remove any dogs showing aggressive behavior.**
- **Creation of new trails is prohibited**



Goals of the Preserve

- To protect and maintain the globally rare ecosystem of the sandplain grassland, as well as the rare and endangered species that are present.
- Promote and maintain habitat characteristics that are desirable for migrating and breeding birds, as well as other wildlife species.
- Control the invasive species and the processes of succession from encroaching on the sandplain grassland.
- Establish and maintain a perimeter trail system for public use.
- Retain and operate the grass-strip runway and taxiway as a private restricted landing area (one of the commonwealth's few remaining grass runways).



Shared Use

Keep in mind that Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission allows people to walk their dogs on this property but does not consider Trade Wind Fields Preserve to be a dog park. This is a shared use preserve in which the preservation of the sandplain and its species is paramount, while public use is a very important but subordinate goal.



General Rules:

- The property is open dawn until dusk.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed.
- No alcohol is permitted on the property.