

## The Sandplain Grasslands 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.*

Major threats to sandplain grasslands are reforestation and repeated trampling by boots, shoes and paws. Concentrated human incursions off the perimeter trail system will eventually kill the grassland species which depend on it. Visitors are asked to limit their exercise to the existing marked trails on the grassland'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.

## 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 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. Mr. Sanchos opened up one of the fields for airplane use. It was then sold to W. Gerould Clark in 1946. His wife Major Helen Clark, U.S. Air Force, leased the field 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.



## Trade Wind Fields Preserve Oak Bluffs, MA

### User's Guide



Note: Map prepared by the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank for planning purposes only. The Land Bank is not responsible for end-users interpretation of Data source: Aerial USGS Orthophotography - Mass GIS2009, Trails - MVC 2013.

## Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

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## Dog Walking Rules and Regulations

- **All users and dog owners must stay on designated trails .**
- **Owners must keep dogs off the runway and taxiway; All dogs must be leashed while planes are landing and taxiing .**
- **Owners must clean up after their dogs and dispose of all waste in provided bins.**
- **Owners must not leave dogs unattended.**
- **Owners must have their dogs under immediate control and must remove any dogs showing aggressive behavior.**
- **Owners must obey all signs and staff directions; any use of unauthorized 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 throughout the preserve and keep the processes of woody 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).
- Help protect the Town of Oak Bluffs adjacent drinking water well field.

## 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.

