



BONNET SHORES LAND TRUST

To Protect and Preserve Founded 1991



Bonnet Shores Land Trust Strategic Document - 2024

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Bonnet Shores Fire District Land Trust Mission Statement

Background

The Bonnet Shore Land Trust was created by a legislative act of the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1991. The R.I. General Assembly subsequently passed amendments in a second act in 1992. The 1991 act as amended represents the "charter" of the BSFD Land Trust and provides the legal basis for the Land Trust.

Visit us at www.bonnetshoreslandtrust.org

Mission Statement

The primary goals of the BSFD Land Trust are to (1) preserve open space in Bonnet Shores and (2) preserve and protect Bonnet Shores' two beaches. To achieve these preservation goals, the BSFD Land Trust is committed to the goals and principles on the following pages.

The land trust owns most of Bonnet's most precious and key spaces. While the Land Trust has accomplished many achievements since the inception in 1991, we are now faced with the opportunity to develop these properties for the maximum enjoyment of the Bonnet Shores residents. This strategic plan's objective is to lay out a multi-year plan of activities that should be undertaken for each of our properties. The expectation is that many of these can be funded through a variety of sources including the annual Bonnet Shores Fire District annual budget and capital funding, local, state and federal grants, donations, fund raising and volunteerism of our residents and local organizations. Each Bonnet Shores Land Trust property should have signage indicating that it is part of the Land Trust and where appropriate, some history of the area such as the Bonnet Battery.



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1. Environmental and Wildlife Stewardship

- a. Continue to look at ways to preserve and protect our land and wildlife
- b. Sponsor educational events in conjunction with other organizations
- c. Promote the safe use of fertilizers, insecticides, weed preventers/killers
- d. Promote ways to conserve water, particularly during dry periods
- e. Consider various ways to utilize the open spaces owned by the Land Trust
 - i. Recreational
 - ii. Flower Gardening
 - iii. Vegetable Gardening
 - iv. Wildlife preservation

f. **Goals for 2024-2025**

- i. Support the Green Bond in Rhode where Land trusts and conservation organizations partner with the state to utilize Green Bond funds to leverage significant federal and philanthropic funds to conserve important landscapes, watersheds, and farms that benefit all Rhode Islanders
- ii. Develop and communicate content on conservation tips via eblasts and website
 1. Actional results from consistent water testing
 2. Chemicals on lawns
 3. Rain barrels
 4. Septic and Cesspool inventory
 5. Water flow

2. Grants available to BSFD and BSLT at the municipal, state and federal levels

- a. Continue to pursue and evaluate potential grants that would benefit our community
- b. Dependent on the grant, create a small group to evaluate and apply for grants, identifying and fulfilling the obligations of the grants for such things as funding, volunteering, management, monitoring, reporting
- c. **Goals for 2024-2025**
 - i. Create "Grant Committee"
 - ii. Follow-through on FEMA grant with URI (mentioned below in Bonnet Harbor section)
 - iii. Actions on BWRP Grant
 - iv. Subscribe to newsletters on various grants applicable to Bonnet Shores

3. Acquiring Open Spaces

- a. in alignment with our overall strategic goals
- b. through donations from public and private sources
- c. through foreclosures with the Town and Narragansett
- d. through fund raising activities for properties
- e. **Goals for 2024-2025**



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- i. create a repeatable process for communication and process, including legal fees and potential back taxes owed

4. Kelly Beach

- a. Maintain access to the beach
 - i. The boardwalk and landscaping from Dunes Road to the Beach
 - ii. Foot shower during summer months
 - iii. Port-a-Jon during summer months
- b. Agreement with the Bonnet Shores Beach Club
 - i. Support for lifeguards and storage of the chairs
 - ii. Raking the beach
 - iii. Garbage removal
 - iv. Maintaining the breachway
 - v. Extension of their private beach to Bonnet Residents and guests
 - vi. **Goal for 2024-2025**
 1. In collaboration with the BSFD Council and BSBC, all of the above should be done under a long term, renewable contract between the Bonnet Shores Land Trust, Fire District and the Bonnet Shores Beach Club

5. Wesquage Pond and Wildlife Refuge

- a. Concerns continue to rise as the water levels rise and frequency of storms increases. Additionally, more water is flowing into Wesquage Pond causing flooding of roads, parking lots and homes. This also causes a safety issue for residents and emergency services getting in and out of our community.
- b. Continue to evaluate and support a multi-year Watershed Plan with DEM, CRMC, Narragansett
- c. Ongoing testing of water quality in accordance with Rhode Island DEM
- d. Activities that promote same wildlife inhabitants including fish, swans, birds, osprey, turtles and other indigenous wildlife
- e. Create viewing areas at various points around the pond for the public to enjoy
- f. **Goals for 2024-2025**
 - i. Follow-through on Watershed plan with Dr. Black and appropriate organizations
 - ii. Continue to search for and apply for grants that align with the Watershed Plan
 - iii. Commitment to regular water testing in conjunction and accordance with URI
 - iv. Create plan for addressing any water quality issues that arise from the testing
 - v. Erect small signage with QR Code link to Land Trust website for more information on the area and wildlife

6. Camden Landing

- a. Maintain a dock for fishing and scenic viewing
- b. Maintain a storage area for non-powered boats including kayaks and canoes



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(must they be registered?)

c. Goals for 2024-2035

- i. Evaluate options for rebuilding the dock and extending it to dryer land with DEM and CRMC
- ii. Erect a storage area for kayaks and canoes via volunteers from Boy/Girl Scout Troop with funding from the Land Trust and Fund Raising activities

7. Bonnet Battery

- a. Maintain the landscaping and improve through beautification efforts
- b. Establish as a preserved historical site
- c. Use for events for residents, or for a few, non-residents acknowledging that parking rules and regulations will maintained
- d. Goals for 2024-2025**
 - i. Erect small signage with QR Code to Land Trust website for more information and history on the Battery as supplied by the History Committee

8. Bonnet Harbor and Little Beach

- a. Maintain the dock in accordance with local and state regulations
- b. Maintain the boat launch
- c. Research and establish appropriate short and long term activities to control seaweed
- d. Establish and maintain activities that will enable Little Beach to be used for Bonnet Shores residents and guests
- e. Goals for 2024-2025**
 - i. Complete work on FEMA grant with Dr. King and URI
 - ii. Community presentations and review of findings and recommendations
 - iii. Develop multi-year action plan

9. Community Center

The Community Center and land surrounding the Community Center should evolve into a year round environment that can be used for residents, and for a fee, non-residents for events and activities. Drawing references to other facilities in the area, the Community Center should evolve to have similar capabilities that are found in the Narragansett North Beach Clubhouse

- a. Facilities for summer camp activities
- b. Playground for children
- c. Pickleball Courts
- d. Basketball Courts
- e. Open field for soccer, football, baseball and other sporting activities
- f. Trails to explore nature
- g. A building that embodies the attributes of a year-round club house for residents to use for social gatherings, meetings, events



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- a. Landscaping evolution to serene ground and gardens
- b. Outdoor Function Area
- c. Open area that can accommodate a tent
- d. Handicapped Accessible and ADA compliant facilities
- e. Cooking, cleaning and refrigeration facilities
- f. Office space for District Manager
- g. Multi-media capabilities for meetings and events
- h. A rental fee schedule with varying fees dependent on the nature of the events, duration, etc.
- i. **Goals for 2024-2025**
 - a. Create a committee of BSFD Land Trust, Council and Community members that are interested in developing a short and long term plan for the Community Center and surrounding areas.

10. Memorial Contributions

- a. Memorial Benches
 - i. Finite number in places
 - 1. Bonnet Battery
 - 2. Little Beach
 - 3. Kelley Beach
 - 4. Wesquage Dock
 - 5. Community Center
 - ii. In memory of someone (avoids advertisers)
 - iii. Fully paid for with enough to support perpetual care
- b. Plaque in Community Center
 - i. Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze depending on amount
- c. Donor Bricks
 - i. Along trail at community Center
 - ii. Create walkway to basketball or pickleball courts (future)
 - iii. Donation enough to cover cost and perpetual care
- d. Government Grants
 - i. Wesquage Pond conservation
 - ii. Ocean study in conjunction with URI
 - iii. Other potential sources
- e. **Goals for 2024-2025**
 - i. Create a committee of BSFD Land Trust, Council and Community members that are interested in developing ways we can memorialize residents

11. Bonnet Shores Land Trust Website

- a. Upgrade the BSLT Website and potentially a Facebook Business Page
- b. Online Donations



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- c. Online forms
- d. QR Code Linkage to signage
- e. **Goals for 2024-2025**
 - i. Upgrade website to current version of WordPress Theme
 - ii. Migrate Content
 - iii. Add content as needed and developed

12. Five Year Projection of income and expense

- a. Develop 5-year projection
- b. Budgeted income from Tax Dollars
- c. Fundraising and Grant Income
- d. 1-time and Ongoing Expenses

13. Land Trust Charter

1. Network with other Land Trust organizations to learn how they are structured, governed and funded.
2. Develop understanding of potential outcomes of Land Trust properties and funding, should the BSFD dissolve.
3. Develop strategic plan on purpose, structure, governance and funding with BSFD Council and Community.
4. Seek legal advice and assistance in developing changes to the charter
5. Engage the BSFD Council and Community in potential changes to the charter
6. Act accordingly on the recommended process for any changes