

Rock River Preservation Inc.
Indian Love Call
Management Plan

I. Purpose

This management plan covers 4.5 acres adjacent to Rock River in Newfane, Vermont, purchased by Rock River Preservation Inc. in March 2007 from Connecticut River Watershed Council. The plan is intended to be used by Rock River Preservation Inc. and the Vermont Land Trust, which owns a deeded conservation easement on the property.

II. Rock River Preservation Inc.

Rock River Preservation Inc. (RRP) was incorporated in August 2005 in response to this parcel of land being offered for sale. RRP is comprised of the users of the popular swimming areas at Rock River. RRP believes that the best stewards of the land are the users, who visit the land on a daily basis throughout three seasons and have an interest in protecting access to and the traditional uses of these swimming areas.

III. Property Description

The property that is the subject of this management plan consists of two adjacent parcels of land, approximately 1.8 acres and 2.7 acres, off the north side of Depot Road in Newfane, Vermont. The land is vacant and unimproved. The lots are combined and designated as Parcel F-130 on the Newfane Grand List and Newfane property tax maps. Access to most of the property is via footpaths, particularly "Town Trail Number 11." The land includes a long frontage along the Rock River, including some natural scenic spots that are well known in the region and are used extensively for recreational purposes by the general public.

A Grant of Development Rights and Conservation Restrictions is held by the Vermont Land Trust, with its principal office in Montpelier, VT. The Southeast Regional office is located at 54 Linden Street, Brattleboro, Vermont (Phone (802) 251-6008). The Grant is recorded with the deed as part of the Newfane Land Records.

IV. Site Management

A. Vegetation and Topography

No alterations to the area's vegetation or disturbance of its topography are permitted, except in accordance with a written plan to address erosion, invasive species, or other environmental concerns. Trees and other vegetation are to be left in as natural a condition as possible.

B. Physical Improvements to the Property

Permanent structures are specifically prohibited by the conservation easement. Physical improvements will be limited to those that become part of a written plan to address erosion or

other concerns. Any such improvements should be undertaken only for the purposes of supporting continuing public access to and the traditional uses of the land.

C. Monitoring the Property

RRP will monitor the property on a regular basis, and will address littering, dumping, trail damage, erosion and other activities that may limit access or the traditional uses of the area, or affect water quality. RRP shall, upon request of the Vermont Land Trust, report the results of monitoring inspections to the Land Trust.

The Rock River Stream Geomorphic Assessment, being undertaken by the Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District, may provide guidance in addressing issues of erosion, including the loss of stream bank at what is commonly called the third swimming area, where the river and trail turn sharply to the left as the trail goes up river. A Phase I Report was made available in the Spring, 2006.

D. Public Use and Information

1. Access: Access to this land should be made known and available to as many who are able and interested to use it and as the land's carrying capacity will allow. Typical access is along Town Trail No. 11, which is experiencing erosion down river from the parcels owned by RRP. RRP may work in cooperation with other landowners or community groups to address erosion and ~~safety issues on that part of the trail.~~ If the traditional access along the town trail is curtailed, access may be established through the south end of Parcel No. 1 (see survey), which has frontage along Depot Road.

2. Emergency Planning and Coordination: Responses to law enforcement, fire control, and search and rescue emergencies are fundamentally the responsibility of local, state, and federal agencies. RRP has no legal authority to respond to emergencies, but it may play a role in educating recreational users, partners, and the public about the land so as to reduce problems of this kind.

3. Hunting and Trapping: Although hunting and trapping are traditional uses of forest lands, both on public and private lands, they are activities that pose concern for the safety of recreational users on this land. Hunting and trapping will only be allowed by owner permission. Designing, constructing and posting signs should be coordinated with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.

4. Motorized Vehicles: There shall be no operation of motorized vehicles on the property except for property management and for emergency purposes, and excepting that non-commercial recreational snowmobiling may be permitted at the discretion of RRP. There shall be no all-terrain vehicle use permitted on the property except for emergency or management purposes. RRP may permit motor-driven wheelchairs or all-terrain vehicles for use by handicapped persons on the property. All-terrain vehicles include motorized four-wheel, three-wheel and two-wheeled or tracked vehicles.

E. Parking

A tradition of parking had been practiced at the south end of Parcel No. 1 for a number of years until the Town of Newfane erected barriers at that location, which are in place from spring to fall. Parking is prohibited at this site while the barriers are in place.

Users of the swimming areas at Rock River, as well as users of the West River, commonly park along Vermont Route 30 near the intersection of Depot Road in the Town of Dummerston. RRP will take an active role in processes established to address issues related to parking in this area, including those efforts of the Water Quality Division of the Agency of Natural Resources of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (Marie Levesque Caduto, Watershed Coordinator), Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTRANS), Windham Regional Commission, and the towns of Newfane and Dummerston.

V. Management Plan Update

This plan will be reviewed and updated on a five-year cycle beginning on the first anniversary of the date of transfer from Connecticut River Watershed Council to RRP.

VI. RRP Contact Person

Paul Cameron, currently serving as Secretary/Treasurer
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VII. Survey Map attached

