

Appendix F

Nomination Report for the Reedy Meadow National Natural Landmark



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

New England System Support Office

15 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572

January 31, 2001

Alfred Lima
488 Hood Street
Fall River, MA 02720

Dear Mr. Lima:

I am responding to your request for information about Reedy Meadow or Lynnfield Marsh, National Natural Landmark (NNL). I have enclosed the brief (also emailed), boundary map, evaluation report (P. Favour, 1971), an excerpt from the 1999 report on Damaged and Threatened NNLs, and a brochure and fact sheet about the NNL program. I hope these materials will assist you in completion of the conservation plan for Wakefield. I am interested in receiving a copy of the final conservation plan, specifically portions of the report which pertain to Lynnfield Marsh. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact me by email at Deb_DiQuinzio@nps.gov or by phone at (617) 223-5064. Thank you for your interest in the NNL program and our goal of encouraging preservation of nationally significant, natural areas.

Sincerely,

Deborah DiQuinzio, Regional Coordinator
National Natural Landmarks Program
Northeast Region, New England Cluster

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Natural Landmarks Program

Name: Lynnfield Marsh

Location: Essex and Middlesex Counties, Massachusetts

Description:

The Lynnfield Marsh is a 540-acre fresh water marsh where cattail completely dominates the associated sedges, grasses, rushes and other emergent species. The one pond within the bounds of the present marsh is surrounded by higher ground where cottonwoods, red maples, red oaks, and alders grow. The only other tree growth is on a few acres in the northwest corner where red maple is dominant. The marsh is an exceptionally fine bird watching area and a number of waterfowl and marsh birds (including King Rail and Least Bittern-rare in the region) breed here. The Saugus River flows through the area which is located between Wakefield and South Lynnfield just north of State Route 128.

Significance:

The area preserves habitat of numerous bird species, including two locally rare species - the King Rail and Least Bittern. Its significance for public appreciation is greatly increased because of its location within the Boston metropolitan area.

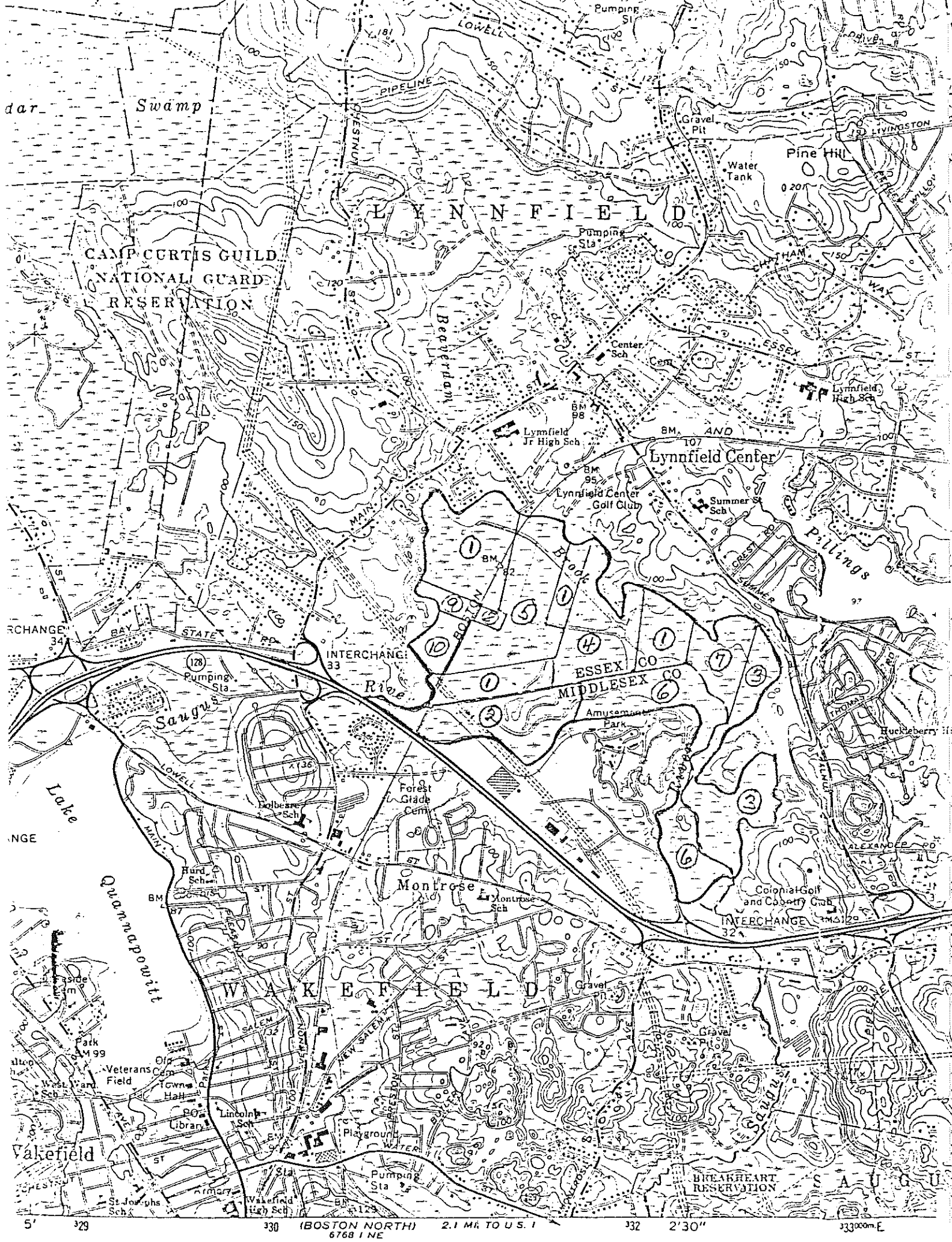
Owner:

A boundary determined by the marsh edge (mostly along the 70-foot contour) encloses about 15 parcels of land in at least 10 ownerships. The town of Lynnfield and the town of Wakefield's holdings total 200 acres and include five parcels, two of which are contiguous.

Designation: March 1972

Evaluation:

Paul G. Favour, Jr., with assistance of Bennett R. Keenan, Chairman, Lynnfield Conservation Commission.



Evaluation of
LYNNFIELD MARSH
Lynnfield, Massachusetts
for eligibilty for

REGISTERED NATURAL LANDMARK
designation

prepared by
Paul G. Favour, Jr.
Special Assistant To The Regional Director
July 1971

Acadia National Park
R.F.D. #1, Box 1
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

N44

July 19, 1971

MEMORANDUM

To: Director, NERP
From: Special Assistant to the Regional Director
Subject: Natural Landmark Evaluation Report - Lynnfield Marsh

There is attached my Natural Landmark evaluation report for Lynnfield Marsh, Lynnfield, Massachusetts.

Paul G. Favour, Jr.

In triplicate
Attachments

LYNNFIELD MARSH

The Study Method

This evaluation has been prepared by Paul G. Favour, Jr., B.S., Special Assistant to the Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Park Service.

Lynnfield Marsh was listed as a potential Natural Landmark site in the Wetlands Theme Study prepared by Drs. Goodwin and Niering. The site is also known by some as Reedy Meadows.

My evaluation study of this site during April to July 1971 included first hand observation; personal interview with Bennett R. Keenan of Lynnfield, Massachusetts, an amateur ornithologist and Chairman of the Lynnfield Conservation Commission; and review of correspondence concerning the area received from several knowledgeable persons.

On April 16, 1971 I spent three hours inspecting Lynnfield Marsh with Mr. Keenan.

Location

The site is located mostly in the southern part of the Town of Lynnfield, Essex County, and partially in the northern part of the Town of Wakefield, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Its coordinates are 42° 3' 30" north latitude and 71° 3' west longitude (Reading, Mass. U.S.G.S. quadrangle).

The site is easily reached by driving northwesterly along the road leading north from Interchange 32, Route 128, two miles west of South Lynnfield.

Size

The size of the landmark site is an estimated 500 acres.

Boundaries

The boundary of the site is best described by stating that it follows closely the edge of the wet marsh all the way around its perimeter with the exception of about 35 acres of marshland to the south of the former

Amusement Park which have been excluded because of present and imminently potential commercial development. The winding, meandering boundary line of the site is delineated in red pencil on the accompanying U.S.G.S. topographical map.

An approximation of the interior bound lines of 14 separate tracts making up the site are indicated in lead pencil on the above topo map. These tract bound lines are taken from the large Town of Lynnfield property map No. 2 furnished by Mr. Keenan, which is also appended.

The site boundary line has been determined by me after seeing the site, circumnavigating it completely by car, and after careful study of the topo and property maps containing the area. No buffer zone has been included as it seemed utterly unattainable because of the monetarily high land values surrounding the marsh and the very large number of individual land owners involved.

Owners

There are at least ten different owners of Lynnfield Marsh. These are, together with their addresses and approximate acreages as follows: Town of Lynnfield (Lynnfield Conservation Commission, Bennett R. Keenan, Chairman, 17 Hart Road, Lynnfield, 01940), 150 acres; Massachusetts Audubon Society, Allen H. Morgan, Executive Director, Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773, 50 acres; Colonial Motor Hotel Corporation, George W. Page, President, Colonial Hilton Inn, Wakefield, 01880, 50 acres; Ralph and Mary (Mr. & Mrs.) Hennessey, 259 Summer Street, Lynnfield 01940, 60 acres; Estate of Moulton Cox, c/o Robert Baker, 211 Summer Street, Lynnfield 01940, 75 acres; Fairbanks Amusements, Inc. c/o David Dick, Chapel Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, 50 acres; John and Evelyn Zynsky, 127 Summer Street, Lynnfield 01940, 30 acres; Estate of Telfer Ayer, c/o Laura Ayer, 12 Girard Road, Stoneham, Massachusetts, 6 acres; Estate of Julius Rombult, c/o Felix Rombult, 311 Main Street, Lynnfield 01940, 8 acres; and Salvatore and Mary Tine, 100 Chestnut Street, Wakefield 01880, 21 acres.

As far as I know, there is no special relationship between the owners other than their mutual ownership of the marsh.

Only the first two owners listed above are conservation agencies and both are amenable to landmark status. I have written Mr. Page and talked on the telephone with his corporation lawyer who informed me the corporation was not in favor of landmark status because it wanted freedom to further develop a golf course from the marshland. I wrote the Hennesseys and talked on the telephone with Mrs. Hennessey who I was told wears the pants in the family. Mrs. Hennessey hemmed and hawed and would not commit themselves. I talked in person with Robert W. Cox and Robert Baker of the Cox Estate and Lynnfield Center Golf Course. Messrs. Cox and Baker wanted to think it over, and later I wrote Mr. Cox

but to date I've received no further answer. I wrote Mr. Dick, received no answer, and later talked on the telephone with his corporation lawyer who deferred an answer. After that I wrote this lawyer, but have yet to hear further from him. I have not contacted the Zynsky, Ayer, Rombult and Tine people as I only received their names and addresses a few days ago. Mr. Keenan thinks there may be some additional people who own an acre or two at the edge of the marsh but did not think a listing of them was significant enough at this time.

Correspondents

The names and addresses of these are listed above.

Land Use

The principal⁴ present and best potential use conforming to landmark objectives is bird watching. In addition there is some fall duck hunting, and on the small pond there, a small amount of fishing, boating, and skating. Two of the owners, The Colonial and The Cox people, indicated they might possibly want to expand their existing golf courses by filling in the marsh to some degree.

Dangers to Integrity of the Area

Over the past several years there seems to have been a continual nibbling away at the edges of the marsh as new houses have been built, golf courses expanded, etc. Of immediate imminence is the planning by The Fairbanks people to build a large high-rise apartment complex in the area of the present abandoned Amusement Park. It is probable, though, that these developers will stick to dry ground and not invade the marsh wetland in any appreciable degree. Though undesirable, these nibblings should not preclude landmark designation for the site as a whole.

Description of Natural Values

Lynnfield Marsh is a splendid example of an inland, fresh-water marsh. It falls under the theme classification of special wetland ecosystems: marshes.

Vegetationally, Lynnfield Marsh has the distinction of being a large and almost entirely a homogeneous cat-tail marsh. Associated with the dominant cat-tail growth are various sedges, grasses, rushes and other species of emergent marsh vegetation, but in broad aspect, the cat-tail takes over completely.

Around the one pond in the site which is bisected by the county line, on slightly higher ground there is some tree and shrub growth with Cottonwoods, Red Maples, Red Oaks, and Alders being most in evidence. The only other stand of trees on the site occurs in its northwest corner where Red Maples are prevalent. Elsewhere about the only other woody growth that occurs is along the edges of the marsh where Sweet Gale, small Willows, Alders, and a few other shrubs are found. A rare swamp plant, the Grass of Parnassus (Parnassia glauca), has been found in this site.

Lynnfield Marsh's renown, however, stems from the fact that it is a birding area par excellence for marsh birds and waterfowl. The site is literally nationally famous among ornithologists as one of the few remaining breeding areas in the east of at least two rare and vanishing species of birds, the King Rail and the Least Bittern. Other noteworthy species breeding here are the American Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Virginia Rail, Sora Rail, Common Gallinule, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, and Swamp Sparrow (this last in large numbers). Here also is one of the best places in the state to see numbers of Traill's Flycatchers.

In addition to the breeding birds, there are many other kinds that come to Lynnfield Marsh, especially from March through May during migration-time. At this season, numerous ducks, herons, hawks, and even a goodly variety of land birds (in the drier islands of the marsh) arrive and stay from varying periods of time. Later on in the summer, wandering southern herons - the Little Blue Heron, American Egret, Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron - are not infrequently to be found in this marsh.

Lynnfield Marsh possesses outstanding natural values: it has a specialized wetland biota of relative stability maintaining itself under prevailing natural conditions; it is a habitat supporting rare and restricted species of birds; and it is a seasonal haven for concentrations of native marsh birds, and to a lesser extent, waterfowl. It is a fine example of nature, still intact and essentially unchanged since colonial days.

Individual Ownerships

LYNNFIELD MARSH

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
1. Town of Lynnfield	150
2. Massachusetts Audubon Society	50
3. Colonial Motor Hotel Corporation	50
4. Ralph and Mary Hennessey	60
5. Estate of Moulton Cox	75
6. Fairbanks Amusements, Inc.	50
7. John and Evelyn Zynsky	30
8. Estate of Telfer Ayer	6
9. Estate of Julius Rombult	8
10. Salvatore and Mary Tine	<u>21</u>
	500

References

The Birds of Massachusetts, Griscom and Snyder, Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass., 1955.

Birding From a Sleeping Bag, Dorothy E. Snyder, Bull, Mass. Audubon Society, March 1949.

Birds Over America, Roger Tory Peterson, Dodd, Mead, 1948.

A Guide to Bird Finding in Eastern United States, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Oxford University Press, 1951.

Enclosures

Topographic map showing boundaries of site

Property map containing site

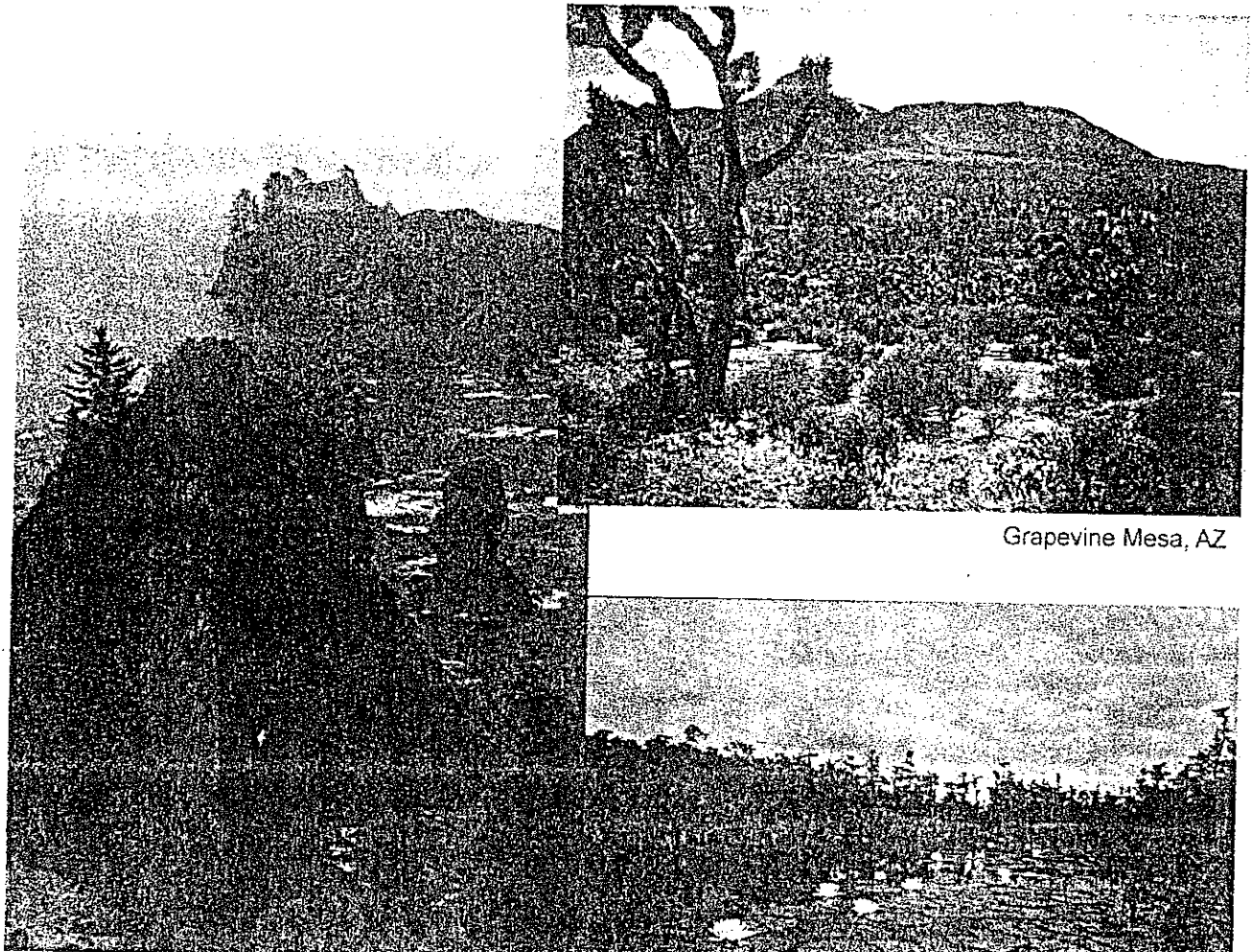
Form 10-4 for this site

Photographs

3 8x8 black and white

1 envelope with negatives and small prints

Damaged and Threatened National Natural Landmarks 1999



Grapevine Mesa, AZ

Point of Arches, WA

Okefenokee Swamp, GA



National Park Service

INTRODUCTION

Section 8 of the National Park System General Authorities Act of 1970, as amended, requires the Secretary of the Interior to monitor the status and condition of National Natural Landmarks (NNLs) and report on those that are threatened or damaged. In response to this mandate, the Section 8 Report is prepared by the National Park Service each year and submitted to Congress.

The report that follows, **Damaged and Threatened National Natural Landmarks for 1999**, lists those landmarks that are judged to be threatened or damaged to a degree that the nationally significant features for which the sites were designated are in jeopardy.

*National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240*

Massachusetts

Name: LYNNFIELD MARSH

Location: Essex County

Ownership: Municipal, private

Designation: June 1972

Section 8 Listings: 1979-1982, 1988-1989, 1993-2000

SIGNIFICANCE The site is an exceptional freshwater marsh. It preserves habitat for two rare bird species that frequent the area. The marsh preserves the habitat requirements of numerous bird species, including waterfowl.

DESCRIPTION The site is a 540-acre freshwater marsh dominated by cattails, with sedges, grasses, and rushes. Higher ground has cottonwood, red maple, red oak, and alder. The Saugus River flows through the site.

THREAT OR DAMAGE

Source Activities:

- urban development
- dredging
- contamination

Resource Impacts:

- WATER: potential water flow disruption
- ECOSYSTEM: pollution and sedimentation
- VEGETATION: invasion of exotic plants

Summary

Much development has occurred on the boundary of the NNL. Dredging and filling of the wetlands adjacent to the NNL boundary for construction has occurred. There are subsequent increases in anthropogenic inputs into the marsh from development such as toxic run-off from parking lots and golf courses, fecal bacteria, and nutrient inputs. An exotic plant (purple loosestrife) is becoming a problem.

CURRENT SITUATION The site is progressively becoming a habitat island in the midst of surrounding urban development. It is estimated that development surrounds 50% of the perimeter. The marsh is bordered by much large-scale development such as an industrial park, hotel, and others. The Lynnfield and Wakefield Conservation Commissions have applied to the State for Area of Critical Environmental Concern status for the marsh. The application is pending.

Dredging of approximately 6x4 feet of the marsh in the vicinity of one of the golf courses has been completed. The project was submitted as Category 2 and rejected by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1995. The area was first proposed for dredging by the Lynnfield Flood Council to alleviate the increased water flow in the area that they believe to be part of the Saugus River.

Along Partridge Lane condominiums are completed and have residents. There is a treeline buffering the marsh from the condominiums. The parking garage and business complex at Edgewater Industrial Park

borders the NNL. The parking garage is less than 2 feet from the marsh and it is uncertain whether water runoff is entering the wetland.

The Lynnfield Conservation Commissioner, in conjunction with the Federal Transportation Commission, is trying to secure land to protect it from development under the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program. The Boston and Maine Railroad has filed a petition to abandon 7.8 miles of railroad tracks that transect the marsh.



Frequently
Asked
Questions

National Natural Landmarks Program

Information Bulletin, Number 1, Update 2, July 1999

Contacts

Definition and Purpose

A National Natural Landmark (NNL) is a nationally significant natural area that has been designated by the Secretary of the Interior. To be nationally significant, a site must be one of the best examples of a type of biotic community or geologic feature in its physiographic province. Such examples include terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; geologic features, exposures, and landforms that record active geologic processes or portions of earth history; and fossil evidence of biological evolution. It is a goal of the program to identify, recognize, and encourage the protection of sites containing the best remaining examples of ecological and geological components of the nation's landscape. Landmarks are designated on both public and private land, with the program designed to have the concurrence of the owner or administrator. To date, 587 sites have been designated as National Natural Landmarks.

Legislative and Administrative History

The program was established by the Secretary of the Interior in 1962, under authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461-467), and administered by the National Park Service. The revised National Natural Landmark Program Regulations, 36 CFR, Part 62, were published in the Federal Register May 12, 1999.

Selection and Designation of Sites

The United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Trust Territories were divided into 33 natural regions or physiographic provinces. Contracted ecological and geological theme studies of these regions (generally completed by qualified university scientists) have identified sites to be considered for further evaluation. To date, 64 of the 66 theme studies have been completed (because of other funding priorities, it is unlikely that the two remaining studies, Brooks Range Geology and Southern Blue Ridge Geology, will be contracted). Additional sites can be added through the initial recommendation of outside groups or individuals. Some of these may be identified in more recent inventories or field studies. For example, state natural area programs may identify sites which are then recommended for National Natural Landmark consideration by the state or by other groups.

The National Park Service then contracts with other scientists to conduct on-site evaluations of those sites that are ranked highly in the theme studies or from other recommendations. The evaluations gather more information and comparatively evaluate the site in question against other similar sites, using the National Park Service National Natural Landmark national significance criteria. The determination that a site is one of the best examples of a particular feature in a given natural region is based on the primary criteria of illustrativeness and condition of the specific feature, and secondary criteria of rarity, diversity, and values for science and education. Completed on-site evaluation reports are reviewed by other scientists and then by staff. A final judgement is then made by the National Park Service, based on all available information on the site, as to whether the site appears to qualify for National Natural Landmark status. Notice of the National Park Service determination that

the site appears to qualify for National Natural Landmark designation is placed in the Federal Register for a public comment period.

Following the comment period, the National Park Service reviews all information on the site to determine if it still qualifies for National Natural Landmark designation and that all procedural requirements have been met. The Director of the National Park Service then nominates those sites which he/she believes are qualified to the Secretary of the Interior for designation. Areas which the Secretary designates as National Natural Landmarks are listed on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks.

Owner Notification and Public Notice

Under current National Natural Landmark program regulations, owners of sites being considered for National Natural Landmark status are contacted at three points in the process. Prior to the on-site evaluation, owners are notified that the area is being considered for study for possible National Natural Landmark designation. When the National Park Service has determined, following the review of the onsite evaluation, that the site appears to qualify for designation, the owners are notified again. In addition, notice is given to state officials, Congressional representatives, and other individuals or organizations that have expressed interest in the site. In addition, general public notice of the proposed action is also placed in the Federal Register for a public comment period.

When the Secretary designates a site as a National Natural Landmark, owners are notified for a third time. The executive of the local government jurisdiction in which the site is located, Governor of the State, Congressional delegation, and other interested individuals and organizations are also notified. In addition, notice of the new designation is included in an update of the National Registry of Natural Landmarks, published in the Federal Register.

Management and Protection of National Natural Landmarks

National Natural Landmark designation is not a land withdrawal, does not change the ownership of a site, and does not dictate activity. However, federal agencies should consider the unique properties of the landmark in National Environmental Policy Act compliance. There may also be state or local planning or land-use implications. Additionally, the Secretary is required to provide an annual report on damaged or threatened National Natural Landmarks.

Landmark preservation is made possible through the long-term, voluntary commitment of public and private owners to protect an area's outstanding values. Under current program regulations, owners who choose to enter into a voluntary, non-binding agreement with the National Park Service to protect the landmark are eligible to receive a plaque and certificate for display at the site. This agreement does not transfer with ownership of the property and can be terminated by either the owner or the National Park Service at any time.

Under section 170(h) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, some owners of designated National Natural Landmarks may be eligible to take a charitable contribution deduction on their federal income tax for interests in their natural landmark property donated for a qualified "conservation purpose" to a qualified "conservation organization." Owners should contact the Internal Revenue Service for an advance ruling to determine if their particular situation meets the Internal Revenue Service requirements.

Report on Damaged and Threatened Natural Landmarks

The National Park Service monitors the condition of designated National Natural Landmarks and each year is required by law (90 Stat. 1940; U.S.C. 1a-5) to prepare a report for the Secretary to

transmit to the Congress identifying all designated National Natural Landmarks with known or anticipated damage or threats to the integrity of their resources, and the sources of such threat or damage. National Natural Landmarks that are determined to have lost the values that originally qualified them for designation may be removed from the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. To date, no site has been removed from the Registry due to listing in this report.

Relationship to the National Park System

National Natural Landmarks occur both within and outside the National Park System and complement it in two ways: (1) as a means for recognizing and preserving nationally significant areas that cannot or need not be managed by the National Park Service; and (2) as a form of special recognition for areas within the National Park System deserving special attention and management. To date, 18 of the 587 sites designated as National Natural Landmarks have later been included in 15 units of the National Park System.

Program Coordination

The National Park Service Washington Office provides overall program policy and direction for the National Natural Landmark program. National Park Service Natural Landmarks Program field coordinators conduct program operation in the field, including identification and evaluation of nationally significant sites, coordination with other federal and state agencies, dissemination of information, and National Natural Landmark site inspections for the annual report to Congress on damaged and threatened National Natural Landmarks.

For further information:

National Natural Landmark Program, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240 or nnl@nps.gov

Last Update 7/13/1999

Back to Natural Resources Partnerships

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/partner/nnlp.htm>

