

Plants belonging to the heathland plant community are also abundant on the property. An evergreen, woody ground cover known as bearberry, with pink flowers in early spring and bright red, pea-sized berries in late summer and fall, covers slopes along the trails. False heather is a low-growing ground cover that bears brilliant yellow flowers in early summer. Thickets of bayberry, beach plum, pasture rose, low bush blueberry, and black huckleberry are also abundant on the property, all of which serve as important sources of food and cover for wildlife such as eastern cottontail rabbits, white-tailed deer, and a number of species of songbirds.

Dense groves of pitch pine and Japanese black pine occur along the southern and western edges of the Tupancy Links. The stunted, bonsai-like form of some of these trees is the result of powerful winds and salt spray that comes in from Nantucket Sound during storms and gales. The Japanese black pines on this property were likely planted to serve as a wind break along Cliff Road prior to Foundation ownership. Japanese black pine has been designated as a highly invasive, non-native species on Nantucket. Black turpentine beetles have infested many of these trees. The boring of these beetles causes resin to flow, harden, and produce pitch tubes where the beetles lay their eggs. When hatched, the larvae feed on the inner bark and will inevitably girdle and kill the tree. The Foundation's properties maintenance staff have been working to remove these dead and dying trees for many years.

The trails crossing the rolling terrain on the property lead to a spectacular view overlooking Nantucket Sound and beyond. The path to the bluff (a former golf course service road) slopes upward past shrub thickets that become interspersed with beach grass near the

bluff. There is also an abundance of poison ivy just off the edge of the paths in this area. The cliff at this location is approximately 42 feet above sea level and regularly experiences high rates of erosion. Please stay behind the fence and away from the edge of the bluff, which is extremely steep.

The vantage point from this location provides a spectacular scenic view of the north shore. Down the shoreline to the east, Jetties Beach and the entrance to Nantucket Harbor is visible, with Coatue beyond. On a clear day, the Great Point Lighthouse can be seen 8 miles away across Nantucket Sound to the northeast. The church steeples, Town Clock and whaling captain's mansions of Nantucket Town are silhouetted against the eastern horizon. To the west are Dionis Beach and Eel Point, with Tuckernuck Island just visible on the horizon. With a good pair of binoculars, this location point offers birders an excellent vantage point for observing many species of sea birds, shorebirds and sea ducks on Nantucket Sound.

**We encourage you to visit
this remarkable gift of land,
where you can appreciate the generosity
of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald A. Tupancy.**



*The Nantucket Conservation Foundation's
Tupancy Links property contains approximately
70 acres of open grassland, pine woodland,
heathland, maritime shrubland, and coastal bluff
located within one mile Nantucket's
downtown Historic District.*

Property Regulations

-  Visitors are welcome on the Tupancy Links from sunrise to sunset.
-  Dog owners are required to clean up after their pets. Waste bags and trash receptacles are provided at the property entrance gate. All dogs must be well-behaved and under the control of their owners.
-  To minimize damage to the property's grasslands and erodible soils, please stay on established paths.
-  Bicycle and horseback riding, motorized vehicles, camping, hunting, and all commercial activities are prohibited.
-  Please note that there are no public buildings, telephones, water fountains, or restroom facilities on the property.
-  The Foundation's workshop, staff residence, and access driveways are not open to the public. Please respect the privacy of Foundation staff living on the property.

The Nantucket Conservation Foundation is a non-profit conservation land trust which owns and maintains approximately one-third of Nantucket Island as protected, undeveloped habitat. The Foundation relies entirely on the generosity of its members and supporters for its funding. To become a member and make a donation that will help support our mission of protecting, preserving, understanding, managing, and maintaining Nantucket's unique open spaces and the rare resources that they contain, please visit our website.



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A TRAIL GUIDE TO THE

Tupancy Links



Nantucket Conservation Foundation
Nantucket, Massachusetts



NCF Staff

THE TUPPANCY LINKS property, which is bounded by Cliff Road to the south, Washing Pond Road to the west, Nantucket Sound and private property to the north, and private property to the east, is a lasting tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Oswald A. Tupancy, who generously donated the land to the Foundation in order to protect it from development.

The Tupancy Links conservation area can be accessed through the parking area and main entrance along the Cliff Road bicycle path, approximately ¼ mile east of the intersection of Washing Pond Road. This bicycle path, which parallels Cliff Road on the southern side of Tupancy Links, was constructed by the Town of Nantucket in 1989. The Foundation contributed a ½ mile long easement for this project so that bicyclists and pedestrians could safely enjoy this rural and scenic area of the island. From the main entrance, several pedestrian paths lead across the property and eventually converge at one of the most dramatic views of Nantucket Sound available from publicly-accessible land. **Please note: beach access is not available through this property.**

The Tupancy Links was originally part of the Nantucket Golf Course, established in 1921 as the first golf club on the island. This small operation consisted of a nine-hole course mowed by 200 sheep and 50 angora goats. As

golfing became more popular on Nantucket, the course expanded to eighteen holes and a permanent clubhouse was constructed in 1926 at 118 Cliff Road. In 1981, this building was acquired by the Foundation from other benefactors and was transformed into the organization's administrative offices.

Tupancy Links History

In 1949, Mr. Tupancy, a talented and dedicated golfer, purchased enough of the Nantucket Golf Course property to operate a nine-hole course. By this time, the balance of the course's original acreage south of Cliff Road was gradually being converted to house lots. Mr. Tupancy operated his course for only a few years, closing it to play in 1953. He and his wife, Sallie Gail Harris Tupancy (who served on the Foundation's Board of Trustees), donated the Tupancy Links property to the Nantucket Conservation Foundation in several transactions occurring between 1976 and 1987. As a result of their planning, insight and generosity, their land is now an open space refuge for the enjoyment of future generations.

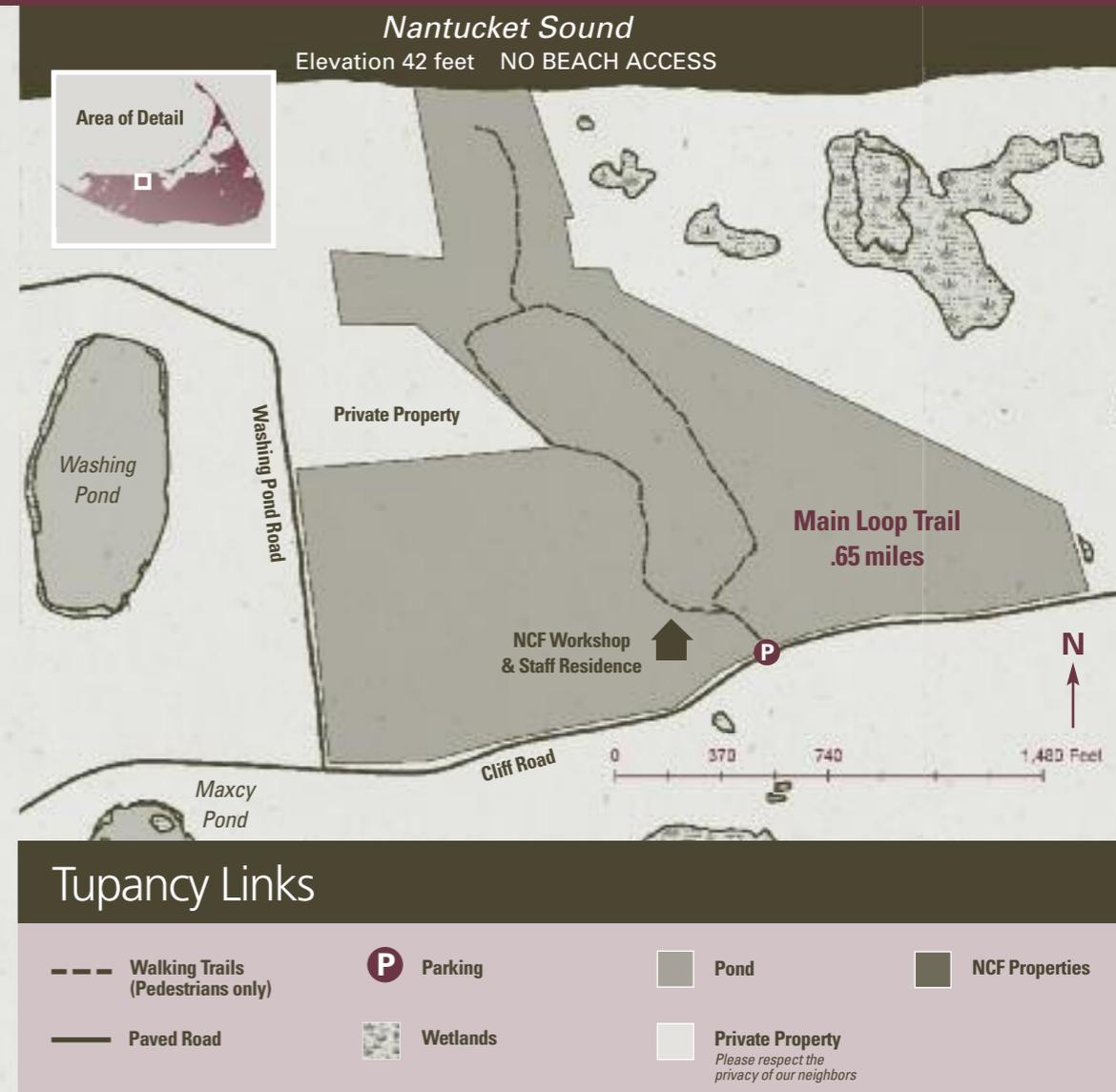


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Mr. and Mrs. Tupancy also provided an abutting parcel of land for the construction of the Foundation's staff residence and workshop facility, located just west of the parking area on Cliff Road. This portion of the property was contributed specifically for the purpose of addressing the management needs of the Tupancy Links, as well as other Foundation properties. The Foundation's year-round and seasonal staff has made good use of the much-needed workshop, equipment storage barn, and residence since its completion in 1993. A portion of this area also contains a small greenhouse that is used to propagate native plant species used in various restoration projects on the Foundation's conservation lands, as well as a community vegetable garden for the Foundation's employees.

Natural Features

The rolling, expansive grasslands on the property are the remnants of the tees and greens that were in use when the golf course was open for play. This open grassland habitat is now maintained by the Foundation through annual mowing, conducted just prior to the spring growing season. The dominant grass in this area, little bluestem, forms 2-3 foot tall flowering stems in the late summer that turn a distinctive purplish-blue color in early autumn, thus giving the species its common name. In addition to little bluestem, a wide variety of wild flowers and other native grasses can be observed here, including sandplain blue-eyed grass, ox-eye daisy, evening primrose, Pennsylvania sedge, yarrow, Queen Anne's lace, and a variety of goldenrods and asters. Mowing these areas only once per year at the beginning of the growing season allows the native grasses and wildflowers to grow, flower and set seed over the course of the summer, fall and early winter. This management is an important and effective means of maintaining this unique open habitat.



False Heather



White-tailed Deer



Sandplain Blue-eyed Grass

Nantucket Sound
Elevation 42 feet NO BEACH ACCESS



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Vernon Laux

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