

THE FRIENDS OF CANONCHET FARM was created

in 2007 by a group of Narragansett residents who recognized this forgotten parcel of land could be preserved as a natural space for the community to enjoy. The group has evolved into a partnership with the Town to provide funding and volunteers for enhancing the property. We are committed to help create a natural park for the enjoyment and education of Narragansett residents and visitors.

Today Canonchet Farm is a green space unlike any other in Rhode Island. Comprised of 175 acres of fresh and saltwater wetlands, forests, brooks, and ponds abutting Pettaquamscutt Cove on Narrow River, the land is habitat for a wide variety of birds, plants, animals, and insects. The John H. Chaffee National Wildlife Refuge owns ten acres of the land, while the remaining 165 acres belong to the Town of Narragansett. The original open fields of farmland have, over the years, grown into a thick forest of native and invasive plants and trees.



Children find a lot to discover in the fields and along the trails.

Visitors and members will enjoy learning about the area on our popular guided walks, led by experts in the fields of nature, culture, and the sciences. With 1.5 miles of walking trails and proximity to the South County Museum, Canonchet Farm is a perfect venue for a day's outing.



Autumn view of Lake Canonchet and goldenrod. Photo: Kathie Kelleher

HISTORY

Canonchet Farm's earliest inhabitants were the Narragansett Indians, followed by the first colonial settlers and farmers of the area. In 1865 Governor William Sprague and his wife, Kate Chase Sprague, purchased the property and constructed a sprawling sixty-eight-room mansion. They called the farm "Canonchet" after the renowned sachem of the Narragansett tribe. In 1909 the mansion burned to the ground. Now, only the stone framework remains from the original stable, which burned in 1960's.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With the ongoing habitat restoration program, made possible by the support of donations and volunteers, the ponds are becoming visible from Boston Neck Road. A proposed linear park along the shores of both ponds with a landscape design of native plants begins to take shape. We also plan to install educational signage, offer programs for children, and hold courses in forestry management.

BECOME A MEMBER

Whether your interest is a quiet walk through the forest or the hands-on experience of preserving the environment, we invite you to join Friends of Canonchet Farm, and help support the natural development of this unique place in Rhode Island.

Map and brochure design, courtesy of Flagg Design



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER at one of the following levels. By doing so, you will support ongoing efforts to preserve and improve the park. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

OAK TREE	\$1000
OSPREY	\$500
RED FOX	\$250
TURTLE	\$100
DRAGONFLY	\$50
MEMBER	\$25

I am interested in volunteering.

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Please contact me regarding:
Joining a committee
Habitat restoration
Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip
Telephone:
Email:

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