



BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

• ESTABLISHED 1979 •

St. Andrews Farm and the McCulloch Fields

St. Andrews Farm and The McCulloch Fields comprise a special piece of open space with an interesting history. Located on Middle Highway, across from the St. Andrews School campus, the 28.53-acre expanse of field and forest was operated by St. Andrews School as a working farm from the 1890s until the 1960s. In 2000, the McAdams Charitable Foundation, through the generosity of Norman and Dorothy McCulloch, purchased the property from St. Andrews School and donated it to the Town of Barrington.

Dogs must be kept on leashes at St. Andrews Farm. Bicycles are allowed on the primary path through the field, as it often used by students to bicycle to school. Bicycles are not allowed on the woodland trails or tributary paths through the field. A large public parking area is located at the entrance to the field.

The Barrington Land Conservation Trust serves as the steward of the property under the guidance of the St. Andrews Farm Management Committee, which includes members of the Land Trust, the Town Manager, the Town Planner, a DPW representative and an abutter. The primary purpose of this generous gift was to preserve and maintain the property as open recreational space for the benefit of the public. Although part of the property was set aside for the construction of at least one soccer field, the remainder is subject to specific restrictions intended to preserve the existing landscape of rolling grassland and copses of trees bounded by upland and wetland forests. Consistent with the McCulloch's goals for the property, the Town and the Land Trust have been working to restore the property to its original condition and encourage greater public use of it for walking, birding and educational purposes.

Utilizing funds donated by the McCullochs and matched by the Town, the work included new entry ways from Middle Highway and at the entrance to the trails that lead into the fields and improvements to the parking area. Granite blocks were installed as natural seating areas to make the McCulloch Fields more welcoming. In order to restore the fields to the condition that existed when the property was purchased, selective tree removal was necessary to prevent the forest from encroaching into the meadow and that piles of construction debris needed to be removed. Continuing efforts to introduce pollinator plants, remove invasive non-native plants and conduct strategic late-season mowing to control woody growth are helping the meadow to rebound.

The property also includes a network of woodland trails between the parking lot and the fields, providing a habitat for birds, small mammals and other animals which depend on the forest environment.

The McCulloch Fields contain a mix of plant communities ranging from field grasses and wildflowers interspersed with islands of shrubs and trees to a woodland buffer around the periphery. Of particular note are a rare Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*) and a “champion” White Oak tree with a trunk exceeding 12 feet in diameter. The Fields provide a habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and insects. Their proximity to the coastal flyway makes it a potentially important stop-over for migratory birds.

The McCulloch Fields and the forest trails St. Andrews Farm provides immeasurable benefits to the community, thanks to the generosity of the McAdams Charitable Foundation and Norman and Dorothy McCulloch. The Land Trust encourages everyone to visit St. Andrews Far to enjoy the open space and all the plants and animals preserved within them.