

# PARAN UPLANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Revised September 2012

## I. Purpose

This Management Plan delineates the long-term use and management of the 147 acres of undeveloped land in the Towns of Bennington and Shaftsbury depicted in Exhibit A (the Property.) This Management Plan replaces the prior plan adopted on January 20, 2008.

The Fund for North Bennington, Inc. (The Fund) acquired the Property in a series of transactions beginning in December 2004. These acquisitions were made possible by two grants from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, generous donations from the public, a “bargain sale” by one property owner, and an in-kind donation by the Sage City Syndicate, Inc.

The Vermont Land Trust (VLT) holds a Grant of Development Rights and Conservation Restrictions on the Property (the Conservation Easement) on all but one acre of the Property.

A copy of the Conservation Easement can be downloaded at:

[http://www.northbennington.org/\\_assets/conservation\\_documents/paran\\_conservation\\_easement.pdf](http://www.northbennington.org/_assets/conservation_documents/paran_conservation_easement.pdf)

The Fund is a Vermont non-profit corporation and a tax-exempt public charity under IRC § 501(c)3. The Fund is also a qualified land preservation organization under 10 V.S.A. Sec. 6306(b). Besides its current holdings near Lake Paran, the Fund owns and manages 265 acres of other woods and agricultural land in and around North Bennington. The Fund also holds conservation easements on other properties in North Bennington. More information about The Fund and its conservation work can be found at <http://www.northbennington.org>.

The Fund can be contacted by mail at P.O. Box 803, North Bennington, VT 05257, and by e-mail at [thefund@northbennington.org](mailto:thefund@northbennington.org).

## II. General Description of Lake Paran and Paran Creek to the north.

Lake Paran is one of the few lakes in Bennington County. A water body of about 35 acres, it is located in three municipalities: the Town of Bennington, the Village of North Bennington, and the Town of Shaftsbury.

A detailed aerial photo of Lake Paran, the Village of North Bennington and the valley of Paran Creek can be found at pages 12-13 of *North Bennington & The Paran Creek. Past and Future 1739-2005*. This guide to Paran Creek and the Village is available at:

[http://www.northbennington.org/\\_assets/publications/North%20Bennington%20&%20the%20Paran%20Creek%201735-2005.pdf](http://www.northbennington.org/_assets/publications/North%20Bennington%20&%20the%20Paran%20Creek%201735-2005.pdf)

Paran Creek rises in South Shaftsbury, flows south through Lake Paran, and then follows Route 67A through the center of North Bennington to its confluence with the Walloomsac River. Until the 1840s, the land now at the bottom of Lake Paran was a broad marshy area

along Paran Creek. When the railroad was first constructed from North Bennington to Bennington, the creek was bridged and dammed. The dam's spillway allowed control of water flow downstream to industrial mills along Paran Creek. Each mill had its own dam and waterworks. The Village of North Bennington became an active industrial center thanks to this string of millponds along the creek, and Lake Paran was the key regulator of the flows. The lake itself was undeveloped except for the railroad track along the south side, and a farm along the north side.

Historic photos of Lake Paran and Paran Creek in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century may be viewed at <http://www.northbennington.org/images/Paran/gallery/index.html>. These include views of the Property.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the rail tracks along the lake became the site of a "hobo village." After the war, the McCarthy family (owners of the farm along Paran's north shore) operated a private swimming concession on the lake. In 1960, a group of concerned citizens acquired title to the swimming access area from Stark Paper Company, which had controlled the downstream flow of Paran Creek for mill purposes since 1881. The citizens organized a Vermont non-profit corporation – Paran Recreations, Inc. – to hold title and to manage the swimming area. With the addition of a second conveyance from Stark Paper Company in 1972, Paran Recreations now owns approximately four acres around the lake.

Paran Recreations currently operates a seasonal swimming and boating access area, with a bathhouse and open pavilion. The organization also hosts concerts, dances and community events in summer, and provides swimming instruction. Paran Recreations, Inc. has donated a restrictive covenant to the Village of North Bennington to assure that its swimming area is maintained for public use.

In the late 1970s, the railroad dam started to leak, creating an immediate danger for the mills and residences downstream along Paran Creek. The lake was drained for several years while the dam was rebuilt with state funding. A fishing access point and parking area were constructed by the State of Vermont on the lake's south side, and a new spillway was installed next to the boat launch. These facilities are widely used by fishers and boaters during the summer. The parking area also provides access for the many people who use the lake in winter for ice fishing and skating. South of the boat access, the Village of North Bennington maintains two large ball fields. This area, known as Welling Field, is often quite busy on summer evenings when families arrive to watch Little League games, and then walk along the lake near the boat launching area.

While Paran's remaining lakeshore has remained undeveloped, there is extensive residential development in Shaftsbury several hundred yards to the north. Prior to acquisition of the Property by the Fund, three landowners controlled the north shore of the lake from Paran Recreations' beach to the inlet of Paran Creek. All of this land had high potential for housing development because of the views to the lake and mountains beyond. Development of this area immediately to the north of the lake would forever have impaired the open and natural setting of Lake Paran. Acquisition of the Property by The Fund and donation of the Conservation Easement to Vermont Land Trust, Inc. assured the perpetual conservation of the shoreline and adjoining slopes.

### III General Description of the Property

The Property consists of 147 acres, including 2,976 feet of shoreline along Lake Paran, 2,540 feet of shoreline along Paran Creek, and 33.8 acres of richly productive Class II wetlands. The poet Robert Frost formerly owned sixty-eight acres of the Property.

The Property along Lake Paran's northerly shoreline is characterized by open marsh rising to thick woods. These woods are bordered on the east by a meadow and riparian marsh in the area of the Property that was formerly part of the McCarthy farm. Approximately 3.5 acres of open meadow surround the McCarthy farmhouse. (The homeowners retain two acres immediately around the farmhouse; they also retain the right to mow the meadows on the Property).

At the east end of the lake, a slope covered with white birches rises steeply from the shoreline. In the area just easterly of the slope, the Property is generally flat and choked with Japanese honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, with some cleared areas populated with young maples and pines.

From the inlet upstream to the Shaftsbury town line, Paran Creek's thickly vegetated banks adjoin wooded hillsides. The valley slopes become steeper upstream of the footbridge erected by The Fund for a trail crossing. This narrow valley is isolated from development and, until acquisition of the Property by The Fund, had been generally inaccessible to the public. The valley almost certainly serves as a wildlife travel corridor, but no studies have been undertaken to verify the extent of such use. Beavers often are active in this stretch of the creek, and periodically dam the waters into broad pools filled with small, native trout.

Just north of the Shaftsbury town line, a large wetland complex on the Property gives rise to a tributary of Paran Creek. Robert Frost purchased most of this wetland in 1920. Frost's tract included the Stone House on Route 7A in Shaftsbury. Then known as the "Peleg Cole House," the Stone House and several surrounding acres today are owned by the Robert Frost Stone House Museum (the Frost Museum), a Vermont non-profit corporation. In 1920, Frost's land was mostly cleared. Frost maintained an apple orchard upslope from the wetlands. He was particularly fond of the wild orchids in the wetland on his property, although none have been spotted in recent years.

A partial, current species list for the wetland follows:

#### Trees

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)  
Tamarack (*Larix laricina*)

#### Shrubs

Red osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)  
Speckled Alder (*Alnus incana*)  
Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)  
Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)

Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)  
Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)  
*Rosa* sp  
Maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*)

## **Herbs**

Lakeshore Sedge (*Carex lacustris*)  
*Epilobium* sp.  
Tufted Loosestrife (*Lysimachia thyrsoiflora*)  
White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*)  
Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)  
Umbellate Aster (*Aster umbellatus*)  
*Rumex* sp.  
*Solidago* sp.  
Broad-leaved Cattail (*Typha latifolia*)  
Common Dodder (*Cuscuta gronovii*)  
Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*)  
Common Water-horehound (*Lycopus uniflorus*)  
Common Bluejoint Grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*)  
Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)  
Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*)  
Common Tussock Sedge (*Carex stricta*)  
White Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)  
Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

A causeway crosses the wetland along the Property's northerly boundary. The causeway was constructed more than a century ago for the apparent purpose of allowing secure passage for cows to the west side of the wetland. The Fund has cleared vegetation on the causeway as part of its trail development work.

A network of footpaths has been developed on sections of the Property north and east of Lake Paran. A map of these trails is attached as Exhibit B to this plan. Some sections of this network are remnants of old agricultural roads and cow paths, but The Fund established most of the trails with help from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

The principal walking route – The Robert Frost Trail – originates at the boundary with Paran Recreations, Inc. It runs along the lakeshore to an open, marshy area down slope from the McCarthy farmhouse. Several hundred feet of boardwalk have been installed through wet areas there. A bench has been constructed on a small section of boardwalk at the northeast corner of the lake.

The path continues from the bench site up two short, steep grades to the top of the slope above the eastern end of the lake. Views from the high point include all of the lake, much of the Village, the Mile-Around Woods and hills to the west in New York State.

The Robert Frost Trail then trends southeasterly through an open wooded area that has been cleared of honeysuckle. The trail turns easterly and crosses an open hillside that affords

expansive views to the Taconic ridge to the northwest, the Green Mountains to the east, and to Mt. Greylock in the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts to the south.

The Robert Frost Trail then descends to Paran Creek, and crosses it on a footbridge designed by Robert Howe and constructed in 2011. From the bridge, the trail heads easterly, then northerly and easterly again through open woods and under rocky cliffs in the valley of Paran Creek. Part of the area was once a “farm dump” and fragments of old vehicles are picturesquely scattered through the woods. This valley along the creek provides exceptional songbird habitat. The path then turns easterly and rises out of the valley, passing along a line of mature maples to the north with an open field to the south.

The trail then turns northerly and enters the old Frost Farm. The trail continues northerly through open woods along the westerly heights above the expansive wetland and fen complex, and then turns easterly and descends to the historic causeway that crosses the wetland.

From the causeway, the trail continues easterly through the remnants of a red pine stand planted by Robert Frost in the 1920s, then southerly along an old farm path to the remnants of a cow lane defined by stone walls running east to west. This lane leads to the Frost Museum. The Robert Frost Trail runs for 2.1 miles.

A side trail was opened in 2012 that runs along Paran Creek and the lake’s easterly shore from the Paran Creek footbridge to the northeasterly point on the lake near the end of the boardwalk.

Another side trail is partially cleared, and planned to run from a point about 250 east of the bridge to the railroad line at a point several hundred feet northerly of Overlea Road in Bennington.

A gallery of photographs of the trail and surrounding lands can be found at [http://www.northbennington.org/images/Frost\\_trail/gallery/index.html](http://www.northbennington.org/images/Frost_trail/gallery/index.html)

#### **IV. Management of the Property**

**The Property will be managed for purposes of conserving natural habitat, restoring old-growth forest, providing trails for public use, allowing non-motorized public recreation, maintaining scenic and historic qualities and for serving as a laboratory for scientific study and education.**

##### **Vegetation management.**

Meadows. The areas of the former McCarthy farm that were historically maintained as open meadows will continue to be cut from time to time and preserved as open land. The current owners, Edward and Kathleen McCarthy, retain the right to mow the fields, and it is anticipated that they will continue to arrange for annual cutting. These areas of the Property are available for public access.

The Fund may allow these meadows to be planted or seeded for gardens, grazed by livestock or used for other agricultural purposes. One or more benches, chairs and/or picnic tables

may be constructed in a small area at the high point of land near the southwesterly corner of the pasture west of the McCarthy farmhouse.

Woodlands. The Fund will manage the balance of the Property according to the following principles:

- There shall be no commercial harvesting of trees.
- Invasive, non-native species such as honeysuckle, buckthorn, barberry and euonymus may be removed.
- Except as other specified in this plan, trees shall be cut only for the following purposes:
  - Construction and maintenance of foot trails;
  - Protection of the public safety;
  - Removal of diseased specimens;
  - To foster regeneration of native species in connection with removal of invasive shrubs or in small, experimental patches;
  - To maintain the historic boundaries of the Property's meadows;
  - To improve views of the lake and village from the top of the slope above the eastern lake shore;
  - To conserve the existing wetlands; or
  - To restore landscapes near the Stone House to more closely approximate the farm's qualities at the time it was owned by Robert Frost.
- Historic stone walls shall be preserved.
- Downed timber shall not be physically removed from the Property.

Land between the Stone House and the wetlands. During the term of a management agreement, The Fund and the Frost Museum have agreed that the Museum will be principally responsible for managing the portion of the Property that was formerly owned by Robert Frost and which lies easterly and upslope from the wetlands.

The view of Mt. Anthony, shown in the period woodcut below, was visible from the south pastures of the Stone House during Frost's years of residence.



The beauty of this scene has been obscured by trees growing on the 100 ft wide x 475 ft long strip at the southeast corner of Property's border with Route 7A. Under the agreement, the Frost Museum may clear and remove those trees to open and restore the view. The Frost Museum may do other cutting and vegetation management to restore Frost's orchards and fields east of the wetland. Any such work should avoid creating erosion or discharge of herbicides or pesticides into the wetlands.

Eradicating invasive species. Long-term restoration of woodlands on the Property will be greatly delayed and impaired by the widespread infestation of Japanese honeysuckle. In areas (particularly on the uplands above the east end of Lake Paran and along Paran Creek upstream from the railroad bed) the honeysuckle is so thick that access can only be gained on hands and knees. This thick web of vegetation chokes out all competition.

The Fund consulted with James White, then the County Forester in Bennington County, and with Alan Calfee, of Dorset, a forester and teacher of best management practices. Both strongly recommended that The Fund undertake a systematic effort to eradicate the Japanese honeysuckle as a predicate to long-term restoration of natural habitat.

Removal and control of Japanese honeysuckle, barberry and other invasive species may be pursued to the extent financial resources allow, and in accord with the following standards:

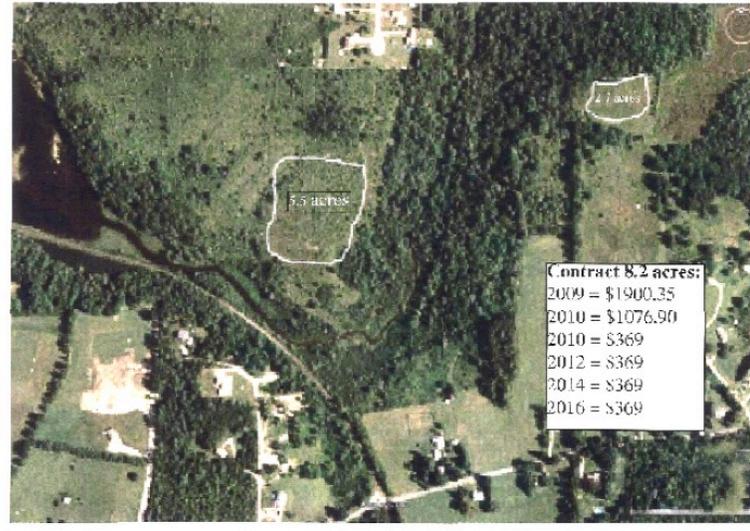
Japanese honeysuckle will be controlled and removed by (a) mechanical and/or hand cutting and/or (b) the application of glyphosphate herbicide (tradenames Roundup, Rodeo or Accord) or Garlon to the foliage and/or to the cut stems of the plant. Removal methods will be consistent with those described in The Nature Conservancy's *Elemental Stewardship Abstract for Lonicera japonica*. A copy of this paper is available at: [http://www.northbennington.org/assets/conservation\\_documents/Lonicera\\_japonica.pdf](http://www.northbennington.org/assets/conservation_documents/Lonicera_japonica.pdf). The honeysuckle branches, roots and stems may be burned on the Property, left to rot or removed. Small trees may also be removed with the honeysuckle as appropriate to aid regeneration.

Any application of herbicide shall be done in a manner that will reasonably assure no runoff or discharge to the lake, and appropriate signage will be posted in advance of any spraying to warn the public.

Removal of honeysuckle should be documented to allow long-term scientific monitoring of the difference in vegetation between areas where invasive species were removed and areas that were uncut. This will require documentation of appropriate control areas as well.

Other invasive species found on the Property include purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and giant or common weed (*Phragmites australis*). The loosestrife is currently found in areas along Paran Creek, and the giant reed is growing on the lake's north shore. Both are found in the wetland complex on the old Frost property. As resources allow, the Fund may take steps to control or eradicate these species. The reed may be controlled by seasonal cutting or, if a permit is obtained from the Agency of Natural Resources, by application of glyphosate herbicide. Loosestrife may be controlled by physical removal or by cutting. If biological controls for loosestrife become generally accepted management tools for conservation organizations in Vermont, the Fund may utilize those as well.

The Fund entered into a conservation program contract<sup>1</sup> in 2008 with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to cut and mow 8.2 acres of the Property for purposes of wildlife management and invasive species control through 2016. The area involved is depicted in the following photograph:



This contract may be renewed, or similar contracts consistent with other provisions of this Management Plan, may be entered into with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Ecologically sensitive areas. Fieldwork to date has not identified any rare or endangered species on the Property. The shoreline of Lake Paran, particularly along the northern edge of the lake, is characterized by marshy wetlands.

If rare or endangered species are identified, or if access by individual members of the public might create damage to shoreline habitat, the Fund may post signs to prevent or limit access to areas that may be endangered or damaged by public use. It is not expected that this will be necessary, and the Fund will endeavor to use the least restrictive means necessary to assure conservation.

Control of nuisance wildlife. Lake Paran has been the home of large flocks of Canada geese and other fowl during recent winters, and this intensive use may have long-term implications for water quality and shoreline habitat. The Fund has no immediate plans to take any action respecting geese, and there has been little observed use of The Fund's Property by the flock. The Fund will cooperate with the State of Vermont, local authorities and other landowners in any control or management program that has been reviewed and approved by State wildlife management officials.

Beaver dams have occasionally flooded sections of the Paran Creek upstream from the railroad tracks, and Vermont game wardens have in some years trapped individual beavers. Again, The Fund will cooperate with the State of Vermont, local authorities and other

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<sup>1</sup> WHIP 2008 7216440907Y

landowners in any control or management program that has been reviewed and approved by State wildlife management officials.

Current Use Plan. The Fund applied in 2012 to the State of Vermont for designation of most of the Property for use-value taxation under 10 V.S.A. § 6306(b) as conservation land. The statutory restrictions imposed by a use-value tax designation are consistent with this Management Plan.

### **Walking trails.**

The Fund will maintain its existing trails, and may also construct new walking trails. Any such new trails would be constructed to specifications similar to existing trails. In general, these should be readily accessible to hikers wearing light shoes, should be at least wide enough for two walkers to pass side by side, and to the extent reasonably feasible, should avoid wet areas or sensitive habitat. Short sections of puncheon or boardwalk may be used in wet areas. Construction measures such as water bars and steps may be employed to minimize erosion. The Fund may relocate sections of existing trail currently on steep slopes for purposes of moderating the grade and minimizing erosion. Berms or appropriate barriers may be constructed to discourage entry by ATVs.

Trail maintenance will involve mowing, clipping and/or trimming. Fallen trees will be removed, and cutting may be undertaken to remove potentially dangerous trees or limbs. If erosion becomes a problem on steeper sections, water bars, steps or other improvements will be made consistent with maintaining the look and feel of a woodland trail.

Lyme disease (*Lyme borreliosis*) is an infectious disease transmitted by ticks found on mice and deer. Lyme disease is increasingly being reported in Vermont, and Bennington County leads the state in incidents. Walkers on the Property's trails should assume that they run the risk of encountering ticks, and take suitable precautions. To protect against ticks, walkers are advised to wear long sleeves and trousers, and to avoid high grass and leaf litter. Hats and Deet-based insect repellents also help to prevent contact with ticks. The Fund has designed most of the sections of trail on the westerly side of Paran Creek with wide, mowable corridors to minimize contact with ticks.

Informational and directional signs will be posted at the entrances to the trail and at trail intersections. A trail map and other information are posted on the Fund's wet site at <http://www.northbennington.org/frost.html>.

One or more benches, chairs and/or picnic tables may be constructed along The Robert Frost Trail at the top of the slope above the eastern end of Lake Paran, and/or at the viewpoint that faces south to the Berkshires.

**Scientific study and education.** The Fund encourages use of the Property for scientific research, particularly with respect to the reforestation of the land after removal of invasive species. The control of invasive honeysuckle on a portion of the Property offers opportunity for study of comparative forest regeneration. Persons interested in such work are encouraged to contact The Fund. Information about grants from the Fund can be obtained at <http://www.northbennington.org/grants.html>.

The Fund also encourages local schools to use the Property as a laboratory for education in the outdoors and natural history. No permission is required for such use by groups, but the Fund requests teachers and educators to communicate ideas or report results about educational use of the Property to the Fund.

**Buildings and shelters.** There are no current plans to construct buildings or shelters on the Property. It might be appropriate in the future to construct simple buildings or shelters solely for purposes of enhancing the non-motorized recreational and/or educational use of the Property. No such buildings or shelters shall be constructed unless the Vermont Land Trust first approves the particular design and location in writing. Any such construction must (a) use materials and colors compatible with the natural environment, (b) be located to minimize the visual impact from the lake, the fishing access area and the swimming beach, and (c) minimize impacts to habitat and water resources.

**Vehicular and Other Access.** Except as provided below, no automobiles, motorized equipment, motorized vehicle, trail bikes, bicycles, snowmobiles, or ATVs shall be permitted on the Property. Any person violating these rules shall be subject to an immediate ban from use of the Property for any purposes. This ban may be enforced by service of Notice Against Trespass or any legal means.

Access to the Property may be allowed for motorized wheelchairs or other appropriate vehicular means used by persons with disabilities -- to the extent that such access will not damage or impair existing trails or vegetation. Inquires about facilitating handicapped access should be directed to [thefund@northbennington.org](mailto:thefund@northbennington.org).

Authorized contractors or representatives of the Fund may use equipment or motorized vehicles on the Property in connection with vegetation management or for construction/maintenance activities allowed under this Plan and the Conservation Easement.

Horses shall not be permitted on trails on the Property because of the potential for damage.

**Parking.** Visitors should park principally at the Paran Recreations, Inc. lot. (Map [here](#)). Parking there is subject to rules established by Paran Recreations, Inc.

Parking may also be found at the Village of North Bennington railroad depot, or on Houghton Street near the Norshaft Lions Park.

Walkers seeking to reach the Property directly from the State fishing access area on the south side of Lake Paran are warned that they must cross a train trestle over Paran Creek. This is done routinely by residents of the Village, but may be challenging for individuals with unsure gait or a fear of heights. The trestle can be very slippery when wet or icy, and was designed for passage by freight cars – not by walkers. *Use great care if you choose this route.* Once across the trestle, walkers must follow the lakeshore to their right across property owned by Paran Recreations, Inc. That organization may at times limit entrance along the lakeshore.

As of 2012, there was limited, seasonal parking at the Frost Museum available to hikers who wish to start their walk at The Robert Frost Trail's easterly entrance. No overnight parking is permitted.

The Frost Museum gave notice in 2012 that it wished to terminate its management agreement with The Fund at the end of 2014. Parking at the Frost Museum may not be available after 2014, and the museum in the interim has attempted to limit use of its parking lot by hikers.

Accordingly, the narrow strip of the Property that adjoins Route 7A and lies south of the Frost Museum's property may be developed by The Fund for trail parking. This parking area would be accessible from Route 7A via an existing access easement over the entrance drive to the Frost Museum. It is anticipated that the parking lot and the short, associated section of new access drive would be constructed of gravel, although paving might be added if prudent for maintenance. The size of the lot would be scaled to accommodate parking for approximately a dozen vehicles. If seasonal demand proved to be substantially greater, the lot would be re-sized accordingly.

If and when the lot is constructed, the Robert Frost Trail would be extended to the parking lot. This would involve clearing and trail construction on the Property for several hundred feet westerly and south of the boundary with the Frost Museum.

**Hunting, fishing and trapping.** There are no current plans to generally restrict hunting or fishing on the Property. No duck blinds or other stands may be erected on the Property without the prior written permission of The Fund. The Fund reserves the right to limit or prohibit hunting in areas if it appears to pose risks to public safety, is a nuisance for neighboring homeowners or if in the Fund's sole judgment hunting would conflict with use of the walking trails or other purposes of this Management Plan or the Conservation Easement. Visitors are strongly encouraged to contact The Fund if any safety problems are observed.

The public may generally fish during season from anywhere on the shoreline of the Property. However, The Fund may restrict access to the shoreline in particular areas for purposes of vegetation and habitat management, or if littering or destructive behavior is observed. Trapping will only be allowed with the prior written permission of the Fund.

It is not anticipated that any special management precautions will need to be taken to provide for sustainable fish and wildlife resources on the Property.

**Camping.** Camping on the Property shall only be allowed with prior written permission of The Fund. Such use will generally be confined to the existing camping spaces located above the lakeshore easterly of the swimming area operated by Paran Recreations, Inc.

**Sanitary and waste facilities.** No sanitary facilities are planned on the Property. It is estimated that most hikes on trails will take less than two hours. The maintenance and construction of sanitary facilities would likely be more disruptive to the conservation and use of the Property for public recreation than would the occasional walker relieving himself or herself in an area away from the trails. The lavatories at the Frost Museum are only available for use by paying visitors to the museum.

The Fund does not intend to install litter barrels but reserves the right to do so if littering becomes a problem.

**Limitations on access by the public.** The Fund may limit or restrict public access to portions of the Property to assure compliance with the requirements of the Conservation Easement, to protect natural habitats, or to help assure the public health or safety. The Fund may issue notices against trespass on the Property to particular individuals for these purposes or for any other reason that in the judgment of The Fund is reasonable or prudent.

**V. Amendments to the Management Plan.**

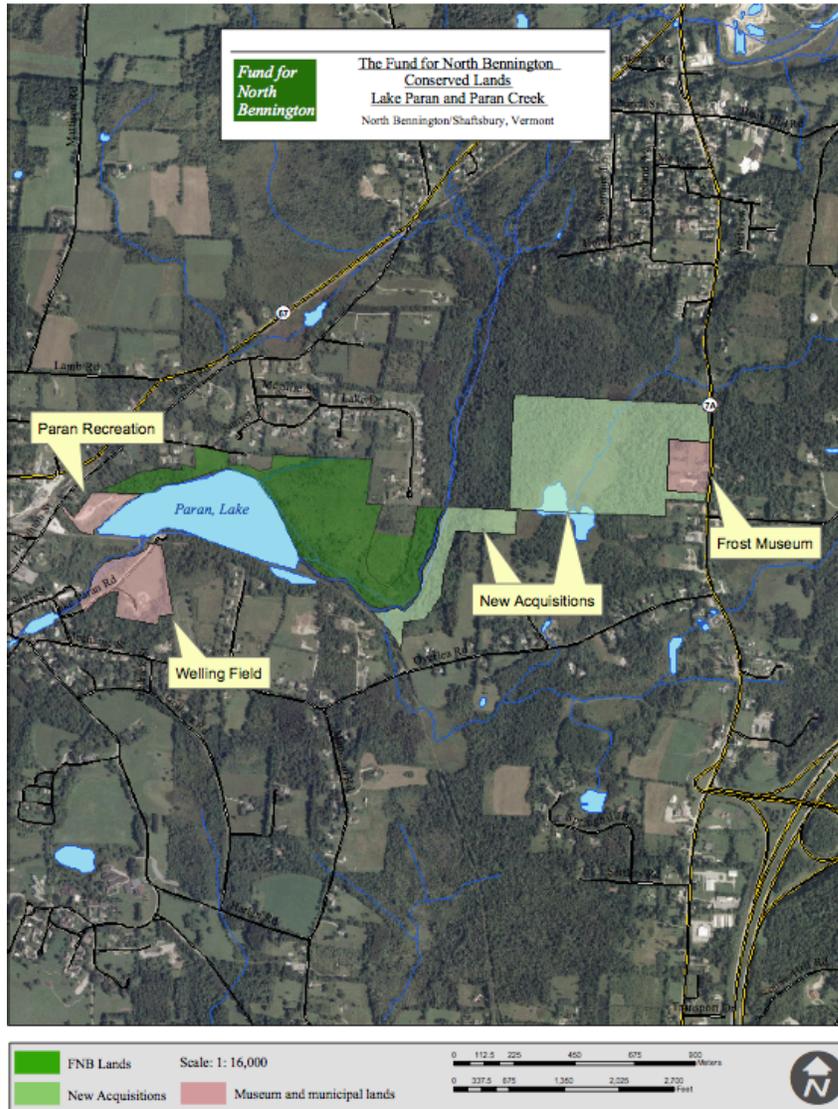
This Plan may be amended from time to time, consistent with the terms and conditions of the Conservation Easement. Any amendment must be approved in writing by both The Fund and by VLT.

Dated at North Bennington, Vermont, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 2012.

THE FUND FOR NORTH BENNINGTON, INC.

By: /s/ Robert E. Woolmington  
President

Exhibit A: The Property



Note: The Property also includes a one-acre parcel acquired by The Fund in 2012 adjoining the railroad right of way. This parcel has merged into adjoining lands of The Fund, and is depicted on a survey by David Mance recorded in the Town of Bennington Land Records.

Exhibit B: Hiking Trails

