

1.0 Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE AND GOALS

Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library is committed to being a good steward of the land and to fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of our environment. As a result of that commitment, in October 1996, Natural Lands Trust, along with Patricia Ann Quigley, Inc. and Hyla Associates, was engaged to prepare an Environmental Management Study for the more than 900 acres that make up Winterthur. The purpose of the study is to develop and implement a stewardship plan which will assure that future management, events, and site development will be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

Winterthur's short term goal for the study is to inventory the environmental resources and review current management practices. The long term goals include using the study as an educational tool, as a baseline for future measurement of the health and quality of the environment, and as a guide for future site development.

1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

Natural Lands Trust’s approach to the study was to gain a thorough understanding of the site, its potential, and current management practices, capabilities, and problems, and then develop a stewardship plan that will serve as a long term guide to the future use and management of Winterthur. NLT, along with Patricia Ann Quigley, Inc. and Hyla Associates, conducted an inventory of the biological and physical resources of the property from the fall of 1997 through fall of 1998. Interviews and site visits were held with key personnel to review current management practices and to obtain their input. Work sessions were also held with various staff to discuss existing and potential programmatic uses of Winterthur.

1.3 SITE DESCRIPTION

Winterthur, the former country estate of Henry Francis du Pont (1880–1969), is a ±966 acre property located approximately five miles northwest of the city of Wilmington in New Castle County, Delaware (see Figures 1 and 2). The property features a museum filled with du Pont’s collection of American decorative arts made or used in America between 1640 and 1860; a 60-acre naturalistic garden, considered one of the world’s finest, that represents the artistic vision of its creator, H. F. du Pont; and a research library for the study of American art and material culture.

Meadows, woodlands, hedgerows, and ponds and streams comprise almost 70% of the Winterthur property. The steeply rolling topography is covered with native grass meadows and

primarily native hardwood forests, many of which can be classified as old growth (>150 years old). Clenny/Wilson Run flows eastward through the property to the Brandywine Creek and creates the primary feature of the property, a stream valley with steep sides and a series of six ponds. The diversity of wildlife inhabiting Winterthur is relatively high including a number of species of special concern, those that are rare or uncommon and/or threatened within the state.

FIGURE 1: Location Map

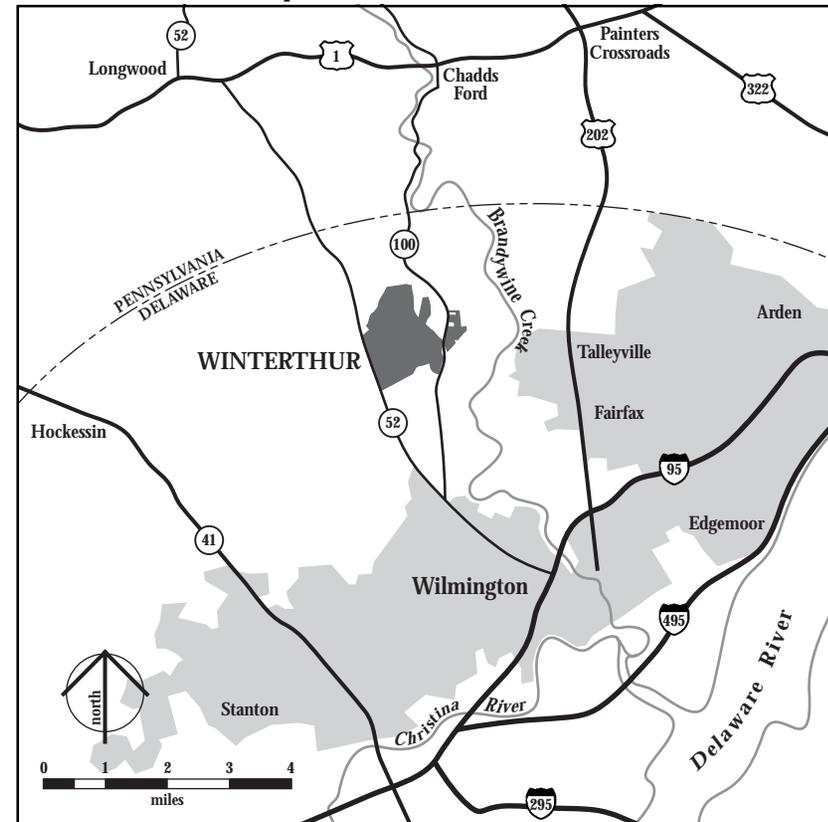
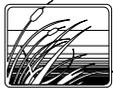
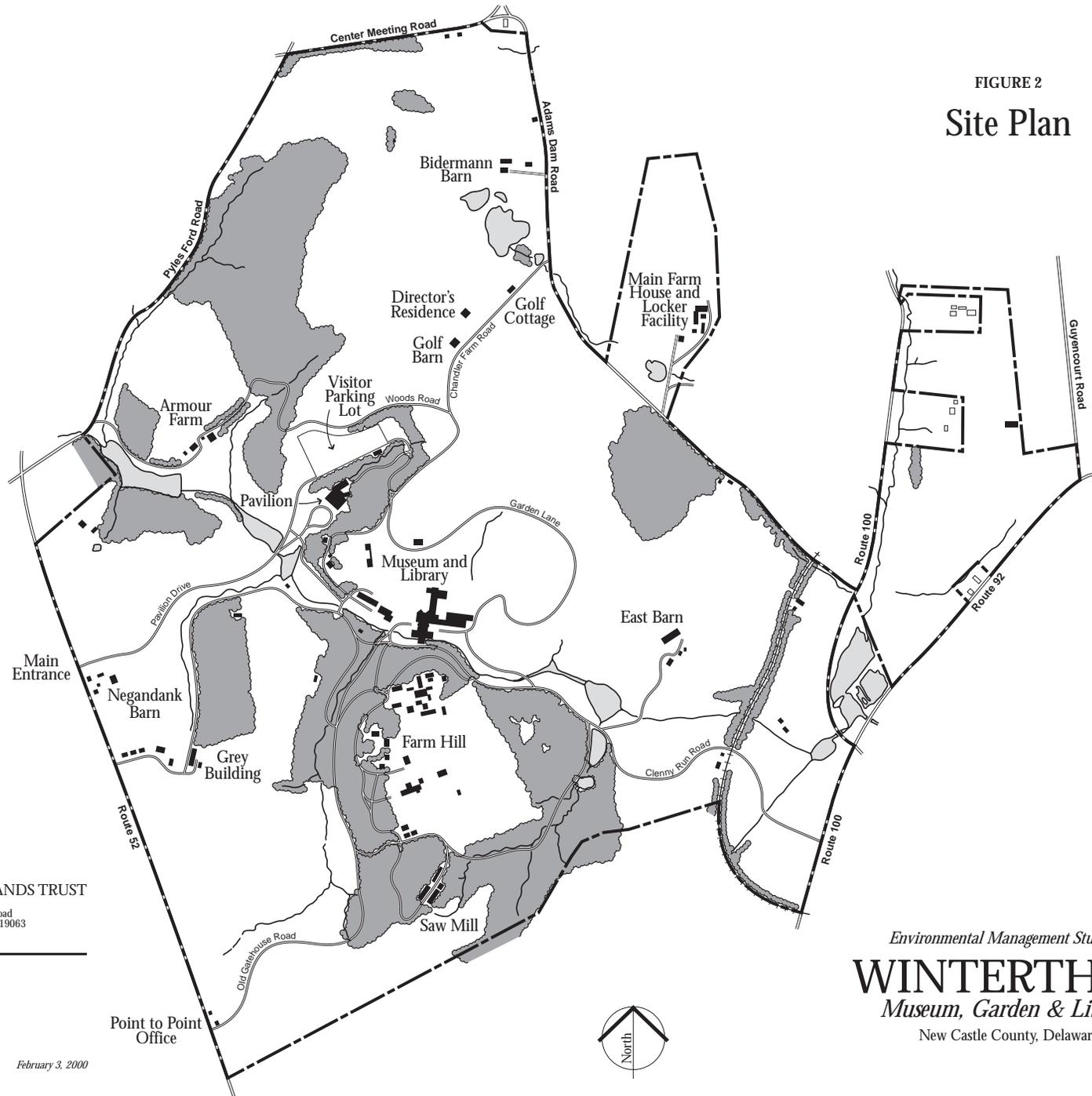


FIGURE 2
Site Plan



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 Hildacy Farm
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with

PATRICIA ANN QUIGLEY, INC.
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Environmental Management Study for
WINTERTHUR
Museum, Garden & Library
 New Castle County, Delaware