

# **Tillinghast Pond Management Area**

## **The Nature Conservancy**

### **West Greenwich, RI**

#### **Introduction**

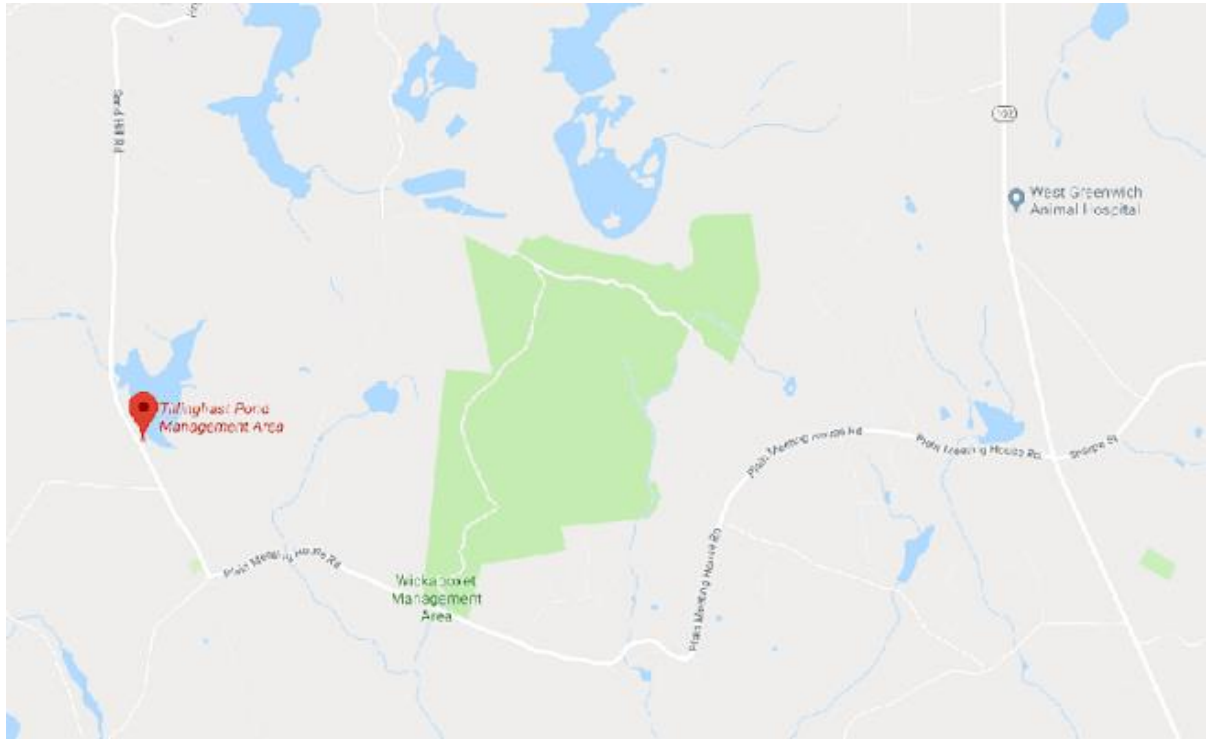
This site, which is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy, has easy access and offers the chance to view a 50-acre area that was recently managed to create early successional habitat. The forestry work was carried out in two phases. In 2009/2010, a 25 block was cut, and in 2015 a second adjacent 25-acre block was cut. Both cuts include a range of vegetation types.



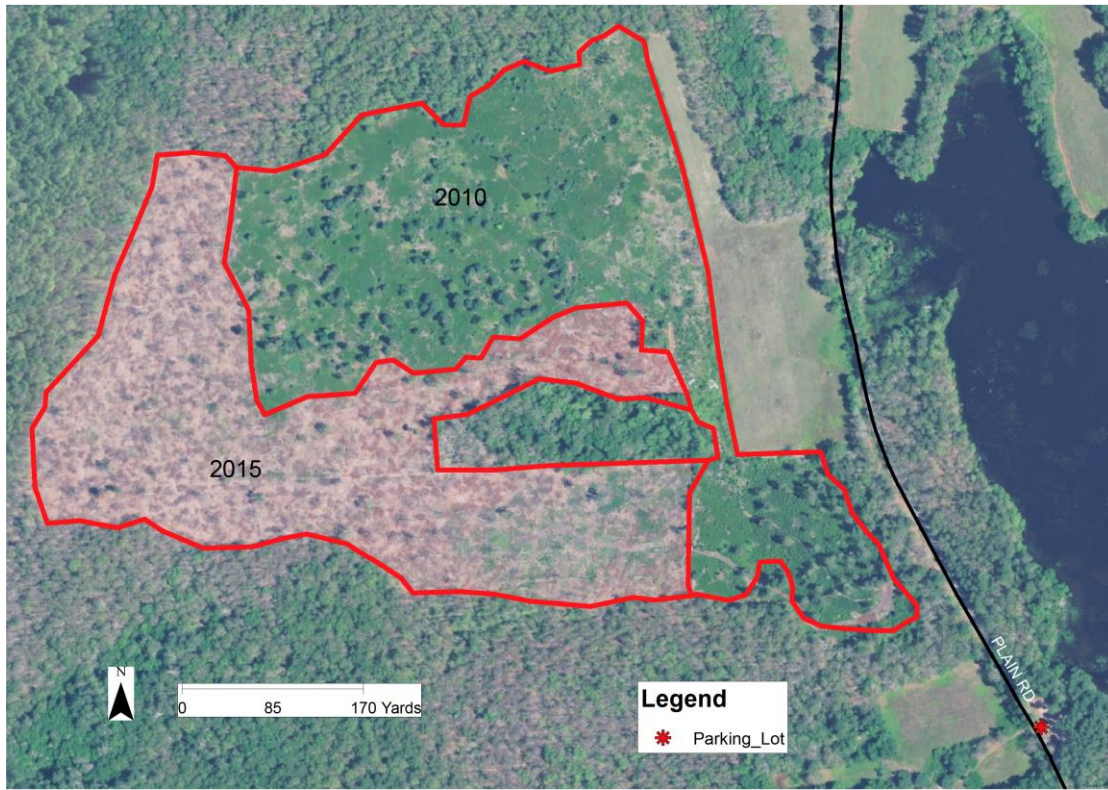
#### **Access**

To reach the Tillinghast Pond Management Area from Rt 102 in West Greenwich, turn west on Plain Meeting House Road and continue 3.9 miles, then then turn north onto Plain Road and after a half mile you will see a parking lot on the right. From the parking lot, walk north on Plain Road for 200 yards and you will soon see a trail heading left (west) into the clearcut.

During hunting season, all visitors should wear fluorescent orange clothing (for RIDEM regulations about clothing during hunting season, see <http://www.eregulations.com/rhodeisland/hunting/general-information>).



### Tillinghast Management Area Clearcuts



## Description

First, you will enter the southwest corner of the 2010 cut. You can either continue north into the main portion of the 2010 cut, or head west into the 2015 cut. You can download a TNC trail map [here](#).

The forest surrounding the 2010 clearcut is dominated by maple, pine and mixed oak species with a height of 20-25 feet. Inside the clearcut, the height of the regenerating vegetation ranges from 2-15 feet (as of 2017), with some bare areas. Many portions of the cut are dominated by blueberry and huckleberry, especially in the northern areas. Other species include black cherry, black oak, black raspberry, chestnut, gray birch, , pitch pine, sweet fern, white pine and yellow birch. A number of mature hardwoods and pine over 30 feet tall were retained throughout the clearcuts to serve as seed trees and to provide food sources for wildlife. A large amount of slash was left on the ground to reduce damage from deer browsing and provide habitat for wildlife.

During a 2017 visit, we observed white tailed deer, eastern towhee, kestrel, sharp shinned hawk, purple martin, tree swallow, great blue heron and American woodcock.



Concentrated areas of white pine growth occur throughout the cut, in varying stages of regrowth.



Slash was left throughout the cut, and now is mostly covered in the pine and berry producing understory.



In some portions of the cut, the understory is dominated by herbaceous species.

Photo credits: Ryan Healey