VEGETATION COMMUNITY MAPPING

PROJECT: Myles Standish State Forest Trail Management Plan, Plymouth, MA

CLIENT: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Epsilon assisted the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation in the development of a Trails Management Plan for the Myles Standish State Forest located in Plymouth and Carver, Massachusetts. As a first step in recommending the location of trails within the sensitive state forest, Epsilon assessed and verified existing natural resource data. This verification included a detailed field mapping of vegetation with the forest using GPS technology. One of the final products of this effort was a detailed map showing vegetation community types within the state forest.

PROJECT: Nantucket Airport Expansion Project. Nantucket, MA

CLIENT: Nantucket Airport Commission

Epsilon assisted the Nantucket Airport Commission analyze terminal expansion alternatives, runway safety area enhancements, construction of new taxiways, and other proposed airside and landside improvements to the Nantucket Memorial Airport, one of the busiest airports in Massachusetts. A key environmental challenge included protecting nearly 20 state protected plants, moths, and bird species. As part of this issue, Epsilon designed and implemented a comprehensive floristic and protected plant survey on airport property. During this survey, numerous protected plants were identified on the airport. To better identify suitable habitats for rare plants and other rare species, Epsilon also developed a detailed vegetation community map for the site.

PROJECT: Block Island Airport Master Plan Revisions, Block Island, RI

CLIENT: Hoyle Tanner Associates

Epsilon assisted the Rhode Island Airport Corporation update its existing Master Plan for the Block Island Airport as the initial phase of planning airport improvement. As a means to identify sensitive natural resources on airport property, Epsilon completed a vegetation community inventory there using GPS and GIS techniques. Using information collected on the site Epsilon developed a detailed vegetation community map of the airport identifying common and sensitive habitats.