



TVIL Protected Lands Revealed!

Part 2 of 4: Continuing a St. Croix Conservation Legacy Estate Marienhoj Preserve - St. Croix, USVI

In 2012, TVIL was approached by the former owners of an undeveloped property in Estate Marienhoj who wished to have the land trust take over ownership and continue the long-term commitment to conservation that had begun when the property was initially protected in 1990.

In 1990, the property had been gifted to a non-profit body and at that time, deed conditions were placed on the 15 acres of land. The deed ensured the land “be held for the purpose of preserving open spaces, greenbelt areas, buffer zones or nature preserves.”

With support from generous donors, outstanding bills associated with the property were paid and TVIL was able to take on the ownership and stewardship of the property in 2013, continuing a conservation legacy that had been put in place 23 years earlier.



Photo 1 – looking north, property in foreground, Buck Island Reef National Monument in the distance



Photo 2 – The Marienhoj pond

While, the Marienhoj preserve does not offer the same extent of native tree or shrub species or ecological diversity of a historically untouched landscape, the property, given the right climatic factors and weather conditions, can harbor a freshwater pond. Permanent and ephemeral ponds are both very rare in the Virgin Islands, where freshwater resources can be limited. With appropriate levels of standing water, the pond at Marienhoj becomes a busy hub for waterfowl and other species of birds and wildlife. This part of the property is surrounded by forest on all sides, offering a quiet refuge for various waterfowl and waders drawn to the habitat and abundance of food sources.

Continued protection of this undeveloped parcel offers birdlife and wildlife an undeveloped, forested refuge, and, when the right conditions exist, a particularly precious resource. The Trust for Virgin Islands Lands has committed to the protection and stewardship of this important land. Please donate to assist the trust in this important work. Every donation, of any size, helps us continue to achieve our mission. <http://www.virginislandslandtrust.org/>

This property is an open space and wildlife preserve with no access and is not appropriate for public use.