



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

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Land Conservation Community
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"Living sustainably isn't a hippie thing. It's a survival thing. Killing Earth = Killing Ourselves." ~ Anonymous

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MLTC NEWS

1) Save the Date: Fall Member Meeting

Friday, September 15, 2017

Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Regional Office, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA

Save the date for the Fall MLTC Member/Steering Committee Meeting on Friday, September 15, 2017. These valuable gatherings host a wide range of topics that help promote land protection and stewardship for your land trust. They are also great opportunities to connect with fellow land professionals. Stay tuned for an agenda.

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2) Save the Date: FREE Stewardship Workshop at Greenbelt

Thursday, September 21, 2017, 5:00pm - 7:30pm

Does your municipality or land trust have conservation restrictions that need monitoring? Are you wondering where to start? Attend this FREE workshop hosted by Greenbelt, MLTC, and the Land Trust Alliance. You'll learn:

- The what, when, and how of monitoring CRs
- How to efficiently produce Baseline Reports
- The key to effective landowner relationships
- How to create a volunteer monitoring program

Presenters include Becca Washburn, New England Program Manager, Land Trust Alliance, and Dave Rimmer Greenbelt's Director of Land Stewardship. Contact [Vanessa Johnson-Hall](#) for more information. Click [here](#) to register. RSVP is required.

There will also be a social gathering for MLTC's Young Land Professionals group after the workshop in the barn, from 7:30pm - 9:00pm, with beer provided by Greenbelt!

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3) Save the Date: Fall Retreat

October 19-20, 2017

Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA

Save the date for the Fall Retreat for Massachusetts land trust and state agency staff. This two-day gathering is a valuable and enjoyable experience for all who attend. Spend this autumn Thursday and Friday away from the noise and busyness of your everyday lives in a cabin in the woods with your fellow conservation practitioners. Stay tuned for more information.

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LOCAL LAND TRUST NEWS

4) Hatfield & Williamsburg Preserve 128 Acres on Horse Mountain with Help from Kestrel Land Trust

Excerpts from MassLive, July 19, 2017 by Mary C. Serreze

The Horse Mountain ridge forms an iconic landscape element separating the towns of Williamsburg and Hatfield. Now 128 acres of the ecologically diverse forest land will be preserved forever, serving recreation, wildlife habitat, and resiliency in the face of climate change. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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NEWS

5) Information Needed from Land Trust Members

If you are a land trust in Massachusetts, please share information about the lands you

protect. MLTC will use this information to create a clear picture of the benefits our land trusts provide. It is vital that we present information about these benefits to our legislators as they consider proposed legislation to allow Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT).

Land trusts please take this 5-minute [survey](#) by Thursday, August 10th. Thank you!

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6) *Comments Needed for Clean Water Rule Repeal*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been ordered by President Trump to repeal the Waters of the U.S. Rule, also known as the Clean Water Rule, which defines which wetlands and waterways are protected under the Clean Water Act. EPA has opened a 30-day public comment period on the repeal and **we need your help to submit as many comments as possible telling EPA to keep the Rule intact.** To submit comments, [click here to fill out a comment form](#) **before August 28th.**

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7) *Governor Baker Signs Fiscal Year 2018 Budget - What It Means for the Environment*

On July 17, Governor Charlie Baker [signed the Fiscal Year 2018 budget into law](#), a \$39.4 billion plan. This spring, the budget passed by the Massachusetts House proposed allocating \$222M to environmental agencies (EOEEA, DEP, DCR, DFG, MDAR). Following that, the Senate budget proposed to allocate \$224M, so one might have imagined that the compromise budget would have landed somewhere in the middle, around \$223M. However, that's not the case, given the funding gap Massachusetts is experiencing between projected and actual revenues. **So, instead of \$223M, environmental agencies will get just \$218.6M.** Click [here](#) for more information.

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8) *New Natural Heritage Atlas Released*

Excerpts from MassWildlife Monthly: August

On August 1, 2017, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife released the 14th Edition of the Natural Heritage Atlas. Click [here](#) for more information, including the final maps and a summary response to the Priority Habitat public comments.

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9) *This Dutch Superhighway Was Built Strictly for Bikes*

Excerpts from City Lab, June 22, 2017 by Laura Bliss

Imagine a world where a safe, usable bike route between neighboring towns isn't good enough because there are stoplights interrupting it. That world is the Netherlands. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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10) How A Surge in Visitors is Overwhelming America's National Parks

Excerpts from Yale Environment 360, July 31, 2017 by Jim Robbins

Zion National Park in southwestern Utah is the poster child for the crowding of America's most hallowed natural places. The growing crowds at U.S. National Parks have become unmanageable, jeopardizing the natural experience the parks were created to provide. With attendance this summer continuing to shatter records, officials are considering limiting use of the parks in order to save them. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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11) House Climate Solutions Caucus Continues to Grow

Excerpts from E & E News, August 3, 2017 by Arianna Skibell

The bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus dedicated to studying market-friendly approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation has two new members. The "Noah's Ark" group, which adds Republicans and Democrats in pairs, hit its 50-member milestone in late July. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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Trainings

12) What's New in Municipal Law Seminar

Thursday, September 28, 2017

The Lantana, Randolph, MA

Thursday, October 5, 2017

The Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House, Holyoke, MA

What is new in municipal law? This seminar, offered twice, will provide you with everything you need to know. Your questions will be answered, land conservation topics will be covered, and you can get to know some of your state Department of Revenue folks. Lunch is also provided. Click [here](#) for more information.

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13) Natural Community Survey Techniques

Wednesdays, August 23, 30, 6:30pm- 8:30pm

Saturday, August 26, 2017, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Garden in the Woods, Education Building, New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA

Hosted by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, learn how to prepare, execute, and create a natural plant community survey report for a conservation property. The class will cover how to identify plant communities based on state community classifications and how to determine rarity ranking and quality ranking of natural community types. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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EVENTS

14) *Save the Date - Walk and Talk in Westport*

Friday, September 8, 2017, 11:00am - 2:00pm

Westport, MA (Details TBD)

Come explore water quality issues in the Westport River and Buzzards Bay that are caused by elevated nitrogen levels, and learn what property owners can do to help solve the problem. The event will involve a walking tour and/or boat tour, as well as a picnic lunch. This invitation is for members of the MA Environmental Collaborative, local stakeholders, government officials, and members of the legislature. Hosted by Representative Paul Schmid and Senator Michael Rodrigues of Westport, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Buzzards Bay Coalition, Mass Rivers Alliance, Westport Fishermen's Association, and Westport River Watershed Alliance. This is a free event, but registration is requested. Stay tuned for the registration link in a few weeks.

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CONFERENCES

15) *Land Trust Alliance Rally 2017*

October 26-28, 2017

Denver, Colorado

Registration is now open for the Land Trust Alliance Rally: 2017. Rally: The National Land Conservation Conference is a special place where you can gather round with fellow land conservationists from near and far to catch up and find out what's new in land conservation, discuss opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, and get re-energized and inspired by folks who share your passion for conservation. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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GRANTS

16) *Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program*

Application Period will open on August 14, 2017

The PDM grant program provides funds to states, territories, tribal governments, communities, and universities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects before a disaster. This annual program is all hazards, and is competitive nationwide. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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17) *Massachusetts Food Ventures Program*

September 7, 2017 deadline

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources seeks proposals for funding projects that will advance the [Massachusetts Food Ventures Program](#) ("MFVP"), help to implement the objectives of the Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan and provide economic opportunities that promote job creation enterprises or new businesses. MDAR is seeking to award grants statewide, primarily in communities of low or moderate income, to individuals or entities with experience developing and supporting food businesses. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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JOBS

18) Assistant Environmental Planner - City of Newton

The City of Newton is seeking an Assistant Environmental Planner. The individual will assist the Senior Environmental Planner in implementation of the Wetlands Protection Act, land management, and long-range environmental planning initiatives. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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19) Land Protection Specialist - Mass Audubon

Experienced individual sought to work collaboratively with an inspired team in Mass Audubon's Land Conservation Department to identify, evaluate, and complete compelling land protection projects throughout the Commonwealth. Based at Mass Audubon Headquarters in Lincoln, MA, this position will involve planning, due diligence, and negotiation relative to the acquisition of land and rights in land to respond to climate change, provide opportunities to connect people with nature, and enhance Mass Audubon's 31,000+ acre statewide sanctuary system. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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20) Land and Water Steward - Merrimack River Watershed Council

The Merrimack River Watershed Council is seeking a Land and Water Steward. The individual is responsible for the implementation of the capstone stages of multi-year grants totaling \$400,000 from the U.S. Forest Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The central focus is to identify and complete riparian buffer restoration through the planting of native species along key tributaries of the Merrimack River, and to communicate with and educate the public about the long-term value of this initiative. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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21) Superintendent - Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission is seeking applicants for the position of Superintendent. The Superintendent implements, under the supervision of the Executive Director, the various management plans for the various land bank properties. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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22) Director of Conservation - Town of Needham

The Town of Needham seeks a highly motivated and experienced individual for the full-time position of Director of Conservation. Under the Director of Planning and Community Development, the Director of Conservation performs professional and technical support serving as advisor to the Conservation Commission. In addition to developing strategies and materials and overseeing the administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Needham Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Director works collaboratively with other Town departments on projects that require conservation-related expertise. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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23) Land Management Assistant - Town of Amherst

The Town of Amherst seeks a Land Management Assistant in their Conservation office. This is a physically challenging 30-40 hours/week job managing Amherst's conservation areas, including forestry work, wildlife management, trail development and general maintenance of conservation lands and open spaces. Assists in laying out, constructing and maintaining erosion control structures, bridges and boardwalks; mapping and marking trails; and managing town forest areas; coordinates and directs volunteers in carrying out special projects; maintains records of projects, and current trail conditions. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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24) Marketing & Communications Manager - Conservation Law Foundation

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) is seeking a Marketing & Communications Intern to assist in the development of CLF's photography, email and social media marketing, video, and other multimedia projects. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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25) Development Assistant - Conservation Law Foundation

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) seeks a development assistant to provide critical support to CLF's comprehensive development program. Candidates should have some experience in development and/or with providing administrative support in an office setting. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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26) How Your Land Trust Can Participate in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program to Promote Nature-Based Solutions

In September 2016, Governor Baker established the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP) through Executive Order 569, and it has already awarded over \$1 million in funding to 20% of the municipalities in the Commonwealth to undergo a stakeholder-based planning process called Community Resilience Building (CRB). Through CRB, in each community, a core team performs a climate change vulnerability assessment and designs an adaptation/resiliency plan with the help of a larger advisory team over the course of two workshops led by trained service providers. Communities that develop plans through CRB receive favorable consideration for state conservation funding. [There are four components of the MVP program in which local land trust can participate in the process and promote nature-based solutions.](#) Land trusts in communities which received MVP awards should consider contacting their local officials to explore opportunities to get involved.

There will be a presentation at the September 15th MLTC Member Meeting.

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27) Back to School Shopping Comes with Big Waste of Energy - Do Your Part to Make a Difference!

Back-to-School shopping season has begun. Stores are attracting customers with big sales and open doors -- but during hot days with the air conditioning running, these open doors waste a lot of energy. Each open-door store pollutes the atmosphere with over 2 tons of CO₂ over the summer. If stores across the country closed their doors in the summer, it would reduce the amount of pollution generated by cars driving 830 million miles - every year.

Generation 180 is a national non-profit committed to advancing a cultural shift in energy awareness and clean energy adoption. To help empower consumers to make a difference, they have created the [Keep It Cool](#) campaign to decrease retail energy waste nationwide. **Participating in Keep It Cool is easy.** When consumers notice a store wasting energy with open doors or conserving energy with closed doors, they share the store location with Generation 180 using Facebook Messenger. They then reach out to the stores to recognize them for closing their doors or remind them that open doors waste energy and increases pollution. Do your part today!

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28) 9 Takeaways From the National Climate Report

Excerpts from the New York Times, August 8, 2017 by Henry Fountain and Nadja Popovich

A scientific report on climate change obtained by The New York Times, part of a regular federal climate assessment, shows that warming is already having a large effect on the United States. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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