



# Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

**MassLand ENews**  
**The Newsletter of the Massachusetts**  
**Land Conservation Community**  
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**"There is no such thing as 'away.' When we throw anything away it must go somewhere."** ~ Annie Leonard, American proponent of sustainability and a critic of consumerism

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## **1) Conservation Land Tax Credit Amendment is Approved by House**

Today the MA House of Representatives approved the bipartisan Conservation Land Tax Credit amendment to the state operating budget! A tremendous thanks to all MassLand Members and Friends for contacting your representatives to expand funding for the program and further on-the-ground conservation. Please thank your representatives and the co-sponsors of the amendment, and stay tuned for next steps in the Senate.

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## **2) MassLand Steering Committee Meeting on May 11**

Friday, May 11, 2018, 10:00am - 1:00pm

**LOCATION CHANGE: Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA**

The next Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition Steering Committee Meeting is coming up! Come join your fellow colleagues and engage in the latest updates in land conservation, as well as an interactive discussion on pursuing an updated report on the economic benefits of open space.

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## **3) Save the Date: MassLand's Young Land Professionals Event on May 17**

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Housatonic Flats, 5:00pm - 6:15pm

Barrington Brewery, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

MassLand's Young Land Professionals, a group of about 100 land trust and state agency conservation professionals in their first 10 years of their careers, have scheduled the next training and networking event. It will be in Western Massachusetts with speakers from the Great Barrington Land Conservancy and Berkshire Natural Resources Council on Thursday, May 17, 2018, 5:00pm - 6:15 at Housatonic Flats, followed by a social event at the Barrington Brewery, 6:30pm - 8:00pm. RSVP to Mariah Auman at [mauman@bnrc.org](mailto:mauman@bnrc.org). Click [here](#) for more information.

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## **4) Save the Date: Protecting Biodiversity in a Changing Climate Workshop on June 12**

Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 9:30am - 4:00pm

Brigham Hill Community Farm, 37 Wheeler Road, Grafton, MA

Are you looking to build climate resilience into your priorities? Learn where plants & animals can adapt in a changing climate? Gain experience with online mapping tools to help prepare for changes? Then this workshop is for you! Hosted by the Mass Land Trust

Coalition, the Land Trust Alliance, Open Space Institute, and Nature Conservancy. Bring your laptop for interactive mapping exercises. Cost is \$20 and lunch will be provided. RSVP to Kara Campbell at [kcampbell@massland.org](mailto:kcampbell@massland.org). Space is limited. Click [here](#) for more information. Full Agenda [Here](#).

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## LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### **5) Amendment Filed to Increase CPA Trust Fund**

Excerpts from the Community Preservation Coalition, April 16, 2018

The Department of Revenue has issued their estimate of an 11% base match from the CPA Trust Fund this November. The Community Preservation Coalition has been working to increase the Trust Fund for quite some time, and with this all-time low, efforts have intensified. Good news - Representative Aaron Michlewitz of Boston has filed a budget amendment, [House Amendment 466](#), which would reverse the trend of the failing trust fund revenue, calling for an increase to the recording fees at the State's Registry of Deeds. Preliminary estimates indicate that this increase would restore the first round distribution in 2019 to a level above 30% for all 172 CPA communities, a much more average and successful level. The FY19 House Budget is being debated this week. Stay tuned for updates.

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## LOCAL LAND TRUST NEWS

### **6) Federal Grant Benefits Connecticut River Watershed**

Excerpts from the Greenfield Recorder, April 18, 2018 by Sarah Robertson

A new \$4.98 million federal grant will aid projects in four states that improve water quality, wildlife habitat and climate resilience along New England's largest river, partnering dozens of environmental organizations to draw from decades of expertise and data. The five-year grant came as part of the 2014 Farm Bill, from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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## NEWS

### **7) Michael Bloomberg Pledges \$4.5 Million for Paris Deal**

Excerpts from BBC News, April 23, 2018

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg says he will pay \$4.5m (£3.2m) to cover some of the lapsed US commitment to the Paris climate accord. Click [here](#) for the full story.

## NATURE NEWS

### **8) *First Bat to Make it off the Endangered Species List***

Excerpts from The Washington Post, April 21, 2018 by Darryl Fears

For 30 years, the lesser long-nosed bat languished on the endangered species list, the federal government's sick ward for animals on the verge of being wiped out. But just in time for Earth Day, the lesser long-nosed bat's saga has taken a dramatic turn for the better. Officials announced this week that there are now an estimated 200,000, following an all-out effort to save them by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, acting with the Mexican government, schools, conservationists and various other partners. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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## STORIES

### **9) *To Protect Vulnerable Populations, Plant More Trees***

Excerpts from The Nature Conservancy: Global Solutions, August 2017 by Pascal Mittermaier

In rapidly heating cities, climate change is an environmental justice challenge. One can argue there's nothing new or remarkable about summer heatwaves, of course. But what is new and remarkable is their frequency and intensity, and they'll likely get worse if we don't take steps to curb climate change. Cities will be particularly hard hit, as the urban heat island effect-caused by sparse vegetation and heat-absorbing surfaces like asphalt-can result in temperatures as much as 12°C higher than in less-developed areas nearby. For certain neighborhoods within cities, the situation is even worse. The urban heat islands are most prevalent in lower income neighborhoods, where residents are also less likely to have air conditioning or easy access to public cooling centers. In our fast-heating cities, climate change is threatening those who are already most vulnerable. Urban planners and public health officials are grappling with the best way to approach this complicated issue. But there's one solution we can implement now with a big impact: plant more trees. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### **10) *MassWildlife Requests Reports of Bat Colonies on Properties***

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a disease that has decimated bat populations in Massachusetts, and throughout much of the eastern United States. Before WNS, little brown bats were the most common and abundant bat species in Massachusetts. Since the onset of WNS, the population of little brown bats in Massachusetts has decreased by more than 99% of what it once was. In 2016 and 2017, MassWildlife funded special survey effort to investigate the factors influencing little brown bat populations in

Massachusetts. This summer, MassWildlife will be funding a similar survey effort to help understand the post-WNS status of bats in Massachusetts, including knowing the distribution and abundance of the remaining bat colonies.

MassWildlife's April newsletter highlighted their bat study and have requested the public to report bat colonies found on properties. They are requesting that any colonies of 10 or more bats be reported to them to assist with their 2018 survey efforts. For further information, click [here](#).

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### **11) Massachusetts Petition Initiative for Environmental Responsibility**

Last Tree Laws is beginning a petition initiative in support of stemming pollutants and enacting the Precautionary Principle, a principle allowing reasonable environmental and health concerns to be investigated before potential pollutants can be marketed. A draft of the proposed constitutional amendment is available online [here](#), and suggestions are welcome. Volunteers and coalition supporters are welcomed and needed. Forms are available online for individual volunteers or for coalition supporters to join the petition initiative.

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## **TRAININGS**

### **12) Killer Graphics & Compelling Narratives: Science Communication Workshop**

May 16-18, 2018

Northeastern University, Boston, MA

This 2.5-day course provides participants with a science communication toolbox for effectively communicating their research. At the end of the course, participants will have been introduced to the principles of effective science communication, used hands-on sessions to create their own science communication products, and gained experience learning how to create integrated assessments. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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### **13) Staying Above Water: Land Protection in a Changing Climate**

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 9:30am - 4:00pm

Maine Maritime Museum, 243 Washington Street, Bath, Maine

Are you looking to understand the underlying concepts of coastal resilience, understand where to protect coastal and in the face of rising sea levels and storm surges, learn how other land trusts are integrating coastal resilience into land protection decisions, and gain experience with online mapping tools? Then this workshop is for you! Thanks to the generous support of Jane's Trust Foundation, there is no cost to you for the workshop, but registration is required as space is limited. Lunch will be provided. Register by Friday, May 18, 2018 to Donna Bissett at [dbissett@mcht.org](mailto:dbissett@mcht.org) or 207-729-7366. Click [here](#) for

more information.

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## EVENTS

### **14) Park Bench Chats: Everyone Deserves a Park**

Thursday, May 3, 2018, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

6 Beacon St, Suite 615, Boston, MA

Come to the first of a speaker series on how great parks can address inequities in America. This event will include a discussion on displacement, with perspectives from Charlie McCabe, Director of the Center for City Park Excellence and David Queeley, Director of Eco-Innovation of Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation. Lunch will be provided. There will be an additional half hour of discussion for those who wish to stay. RSVP by Monday, April 30 to Emily Randall at [emily.randall@tpl.org](mailto:emily.randall@tpl.org) or 617.371.0507.

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### **15) Mayor Walsh's Neighborhood Coffee Hours in the Parks**

"The Neighborhood Coffee Hours give residents a unique opportunity to speak directly with Mayor Walsh and staff from City departments about open space and other needs in their neighborhoods. Through these discussions and a suggestion box at each site, Mayor Walsh looks forward to hearing how the City of Boston can improve upon local parks, public areas, and city services." Information and full schedule [here](#).

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### **16) Garlic Mustard Challenge Events for 2018**

Multiple dates and locations in May

[The Garlic Mustard Challenge](#) hosted by [Nature Groupie](#) is upon us! Partners, Nature Groupie staff, and volunteers are getting gloves ready! Local groups have posted some Garlic Mustard events on the Nature Groupie calendar in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Garlic mustard is easiest to find and pull throughout the month of May. Attending a volunteer event and pulling up garlic mustard for a couple hours is the best way to learn how to identify garlic mustard and you'll almost certainly have fun. Click [here](#) for the list of events. No pulls in your area? [Submit an event](#) of your own!

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### **17) Meet New EPA Regional Director Alexandra Dunn**

June 20, 2018, 11:00am

MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA

Come meet and welcome Alexandra Dunn, EPA Region 1's new Regional Director on June 20th at MassWildlife's headquarters in Westborough. Ask your questions and share your suggestions for how the EPA can be helping to protect our environment in New

England. The big room is reserved for this meeting, so there is plenty of room - feel free to share this invitation with your staff, volunteers, and board members. As always, it's important for government agency and legislative leaders to see there is a large and engaged constituency for land and water protection.

The meeting with Ms. Dunn will go from 11-noon, followed by an optional brown bag lunch. RSVP to [Julia Blatt](#) by June 11 including who from your organization plans to attend.

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## GRANTS

### **18) Energy & Environmental Affairs Park & Conservation Grants**

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services (DCS) is seeking applications for the FY 2019 [Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities](#) (PARC), [Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity](#) (LAND), and [Conservation Partnership](#) grants. PARC grants help communities acquire parkland, develop new parks, and renovate existing parks. LAND grants provide funds to municipal conservation commissions to purchase conservation land and conservation restrictions. Conservation Partnership grants provide funds to nonprofit organizations for land acquisitions. DCS will hold two workshops for the PARC and LAND grants-on May 16 at 11:00 am in Amherst and on May 17 at 11:00 am in Boston. PARC and LAND grant applications are due by July 12. Conservation Partnership applications are due by July 16. RSVP for one of the LAND grant workshops to [emmanuel.owusu@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:emmanuel.owusu@massmail.state.ma.us) and for the PARC grant workshops to [melissa.cryan@state.ma.us](mailto:melissa.cryan@state.ma.us).

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### **19) MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program**

Excerpts from Energy & Environmental Affairs, April 13, 2018 by Peter Lorenz

Continuing its commitment to working with communities and local partners to prevent and prepare for climate change, the Baker-Polito Administration has announced \$5 million in supplemental funding for the [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Program](#). The grant and designation program, which was created last year as part of Governor Baker's [Executive Order 569](#), provides communities with funding, technical support, climate change data and planning tools to identify hazards, develop strategies to improve resilience, and implement priority actions to adapt to climate change. Click [here](#) for more information. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

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### **20) FY19 Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Round Open**

June 11, 2018 deadline

This year, eligible projects include the acquisition of land to support the development of trails, the renovation of existing trails, and the construction of trails in an existing recreation or conservation area. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

A grant workshop will be held on May 22, 2018 at 11:00 am at the DFW Headquarters in Westborough. For more information and to RSVP for the workshop, please contact Melissa Cryan at [melissa.cryan@state.ma.us](mailto:melissa.cryan@state.ma.us) or (617) 626-1171.

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### **21) U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Program 2018**

June 29, 2018 deadline

The Community Forest Program (CFP) is a competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to tribal entities, local governments, and qualified conservation non-profit organizations to acquire and establish community forests that provide community benefits. Community benefits include economic benefits through active forest management, clean water, wildlife habitat, educational opportunities, and public access for recreation. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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### **22) FY19 Planning Assistance Grants**

May 11, 2018 deadline

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is again offering Massachusetts municipalities technical assistance to improve their land use practices. Through the procurement issued on April 13th, EEA is making grant funding available to the Commonwealth's municipalities and Regional Planning Agencies in support of their efforts to plan, regulate (zone), and act to conserve and develop land consistent with the Massachusetts Sustainable Development Principles. Grants are available for diverse land use planning related work with a preference given to zoning for sustainable housing production, zoning that results in permanent land conservation, and mitigation of climate change through zoning and other regulations that reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Optional bidders conferences are being held in Springfield on May 1st. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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## **JOBS**

### **23) Development Assistant - Westport Land Conservation Trust**

The Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT) is seeking a Development Assistant to be an integral part of the 1,000-Acre Campaign team, providing administrative support for all fundraising activities including but not limited to special events, gift processing, donor coordination, and other donor-related activities. The Development Assistant plays a crucial role on the campaign team coordinating administrative functions as well as providing high quality customer service to the public and WLCT's donor base. The Development Assistant will report to the Executive Director and assist in other WLCT events or programmatic initiatives as assigned. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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#### **24) Vice President, Engagement - Buzzards Bay Coalition**

Buzzards Bay Coalition is seeking a Vice President, Engagement. The new Vice President, Engagement will lead all activities related to growing the participation and investment of people. The new VP will take the Coalition to new levels of community engagement, support and presence. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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#### **25) User Services Support Specialist - Mass Audubon**

Mass Audubon has an opening for a User Services Support Specialist who is a dynamic self-starter with a desire to help people understand and effectively use their technology. The ideal candidate has great verbal and written communication skills, a passion for learning and teaching, and a knack for troubleshooting. Frequent travel to our wildlife sanctuaries is required. Duties include monitoring the IT Helpline, user training and support, documentation, and technology purchasing and inventory management. Mass Audubon is a Windows shop with a growing use of Office 365. Weekend "on call" helpline duties on a rotating basis with other IT staff is required. This is an hourly position. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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#### **26) Chief Executive Officer - Nantucket Conservation Foundation**

The Nantucket Conservation Foundation seeks a Chief Executive Officer. This individual will lead a land conservation organization that works to preserve the natural character of Nantucket Island at a time of increasing stress on the island's natural resources. The CEO is a person who possesses leadership capabilities to engage staff, board and volunteers in advancing a robust and enduring enterprise. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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#### **27) Land Steward Program Coordinator - Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests**

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests seeks a well-organized, communicative, personable, and self-motivated individual for the position of Land Steward Program Coordinator. The successful candidate will have a four-year college degree in an applicable discipline, experience training and supervising adult volunteers, excellent oral communications skills, and significant outdoor stewardship skills. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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#### **28) Land Conservation Program Administrator - Mass Audubon**

Mass Audubon is seeking a Land Conservation Program Administrator. Responsibilities

include program administration, land records management, internal and external communications, fundraising and event planning, and conservation legacy agreement portfolio management. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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### **29) Loyal Donor Officer - The Nature Conservancy (MA)**

The Nature Conservancy (MA) is recruiting for a Loyal Donor Officer to work closely with fundraising staff to secure bequest notifications, steward our most loyal supporters, and uncover major and planned gift potential. Bachelors degree and 5 years experience or equivalent, as well as experience building relationships and managing/tracking prospects and donors. Search for job #46175 on [www.nature.org/careers](http://www.nature.org/careers). Posting closes 5/10/18.

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### **30) Climate Change Program Coordinator - Mass Audubon**

Mass Audubon is seeking a program coordinator to join a collaborative team engaged in a dynamic initiative to effectively communicate the impacts of climate change to the people of Massachusetts and inspire them to take action. The Climate Change Program Coordinator is a key staff position that will implement and refine Mass Audubon's Climate Literacy strategy as outlined in our Strategic Plan, facilitate ongoing sharing of best practices in climate change education among our wildlife sanctuaries and support community-based advocacy efforts that promote climate change solutions and action. S/he will focus Mass Audubon's climate change message through consultation on education programs, public outreach and engagement strategies, and member communications. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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### **31) Agricultural Lands Acquisition Specialist - Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources**

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) mission seeks an Agricultural Lands Acquisition Specialist (Regional Planner III) to support to the Department's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. The APR Program Lands Acquisition Specialist (Regional Planner III) will manage projects to be acquired under the APR program to achieve a closing in a timely manner upon approval by the Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee (ALPC). This includes coordination with the land use field agents, legal staff and administrative staff on appraisal, title, and survey review; development of APR documents; review and tracking of APR transfers and communicating with landowners, partner agencies and organizations and municipalities. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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### **32) Executive Director - Farmington River Watershed Association**

Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) is a local, citizen-based, non-profit

organization working to address critical water quality problems in cooperation with federal, state and local governments, business and industry, and with people in the watershed's 33 surrounding communities. The executive director will partner with community, environmental, and business leaders from communities of the watershed to accomplish FRWA's mission via research, stewardship, education and advocacy activities. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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### **33) Market Development Specialist - MA Department of Agricultural Resources**

The MA Department of Agricultural Resources is seeking candidates for the position of Program Coordinator II/ Market Development Specialist. The position will be based in Boston however, there will be a need throughout the year to regularly work out of the Massachusetts Building which is located on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. The position entails four core areas:

- Manage the Massachusetts Building located on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.
- Coordinate the Department's involvement with the Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs.
- Develop and implement strategies to assist agricultural producers seeking opportunities to market their product through various market venues.
- Assist with the priorities of the Division of Agricultural Markets.

For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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### **34) Seasonal Trail Crew - Berkshire Natural Resources Council**

Berkshire Natural Resources Council, a private, non-profit land trust based in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is hiring 2 Trail Crew positions for the 2018 season. The Trail Crew will collaborate frequently with the Stewardship Crew. BNRC has over 50 miles of trail, with more to be built in 2018. Trail Crew members will work with the Land and Trails Coordinator to construct and maintain new and existing trails. The Crew will work alongside contracted youth and professional trail crews; some backcountry camping may be required. The Trail Crew will also assist with a variety of other stewardship tasks as needed. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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### **35) Stewardship Technician, Part-Time Seasonal, Sudbury Valley Trustees**

Sudbury Valley Trustees is seeking a part-time Stewardship Technician for May to October 2018. The Stewardship Technician will assist with property maintenance at SVT reservations and will be responsible for mowing trails and small fields, maintaining trails and signs, and conducting property visits. The Technician will work on invasive plant removal projects alone and with volunteers. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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### **36) Conservation Easement Steward - The Forest Society**

The Forest Society seeks a Conservation Easement Steward. The individual is primarily responsible for ensuring that the Forest Society fulfills its perpetual stewardship responsibilities for over 750 conservation easements and deed restrictions covering more than 130,000 acres.. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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### **37) Program Director - Land For Good**

Land For Good is seeking a dynamic, supremely organized and experienced professional to serve as its Program Director. This is a unique opportunity to work on critical issues facing our farmers, rural communities, and food system: accessing and passing on farms and farmland. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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Edited by Kara Campbell, Outreach Coordinator  
[enews@MassLand.org](mailto:enews@MassLand.org) Tel: 978-443-2233

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