



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

November 14, 2019
Volume 17, Number 09

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MASSLAND NEWS

1) Feature Your Work Here!

Inspire your peers! MassLand invites land trusts around the state to submit a brief item describing a recently closed land protection project or other conservation success to be featured in a future edition of MassLand E-News. An accompanying photo and/or map is encouraged when possible (jpg format preferred). In addition, each month we'll feature a few outings or events from your public events calendars, so feel free to send us listings you'd like us to promote. Please send submissions to info@massland.org.

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2) Land Trust Alliance Rally

Massachusetts was well represented at Rally 2019, the Land Trust Alliance's annual conference held last month in Raleigh, North Carolina. The multi-day conference featured a half day meeting of state land trust associations attended by MassLand's Robb Johnson and Buzz Constable, and many informative sessions. The annual Massachusetts Dinner drew a convivial crowd of 40 to the roof deck of a local Irish pub for a wonderful night of networking. Rally 2020 will be held in Portland, Oregon, next October.

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3) Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition Steering Committee Meeting

Friday, December 13, 10:00am

National Wildlife Refuge Conference Room, 73 Weir Hill Rd, Sudbury

A reminder that the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition's Steering Committee meeting is Friday, December 13, at 10am at the National Wildlife Refuge Conference Room in Sudbury, MA.

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POLICY

4) Public Lands Preservation Act

Introduced to the state legislature by Sen. James Eldridge and Rep. Ruth Balsler, The Public Lands Preservation Act (S459, H732) would provide enhanced protection for public open space covered by Article 97 of the state constitution. We're pleased to report the bill has been reported out favorably by the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and is now before the Senate

Please contact your senator and urge him or her to speak to Senate President Karen Spilka and to Chairman of Ways and Means Michael Rodrigues, asking them to support moving the bill on to the full Senate for a vote! Abbreviated as "PLPA" and also known as the "No Net Loss Bill", this bill would ensure that whenever lands or easements protected under Article 97 are proposed for conversion to another use, proponents would be required to examine alternatives to the proposed disposition, provide prior notice to the public, and secure Article 97 protection of replacement land of comparable acreage and natural resource value. For more information, read this [summary](#) of the act.

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NEWS

5) *Deadline for Conservation Restrictions*

The end of the year is quickly approaching. Please plan to have your year-end conservation restrictions signed and delivered to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for final review by Secretary Theoharides no later than December 1st, 2019.

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6) *Letter in Support of Clean Water Act*

Mass Audubon, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, and other partners across the state have submitted a letter to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) opposing proposed changes to the Clean Water Act (CWA). This proposal would limit state and tribal ability to conduct effective water quality reviews and manage their water resources. The letter recommends that the EPA conduct a full analysis of costs, benefits, and environmental impacts of this proposal. Read the full letter [here](#).

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7) *Statement to Prioritize Forest Conservation*

The Massachusetts Forest Forum has drafted a statement addressing the need to prioritize forest conservation. The primary steps addressed in this letter include expanding tree cover, especially in cities, supporting private forest owners to manage woodlands to be more diverse and resilient to climate impacts, developing local and regional markets for damaged trees, and maintaining wild forest reserves. The Forest Forum works towards five shared goals: educating key groups about forest values, conserving forests, sustaining the economic viability of our forests, striking a balance between working forests and forest reserves, and protecting the health of our forests. Read the whole letter [here](#).

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8) River Run: A Story of Dam Removal in Massachusetts

Sourced from Mass.gov

MA Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) has produced a six-part video series on dam removal projects within the Commonwealth. Created in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Science Media Collaborative, each short video highlights the river restoration efforts of DER and its partners. View the videos and learn more about DER's work [here](#).

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9) State Creates Norcross Hill Wildlife Management Area

Sourced from Boston Real Estate Times, October 9

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has created the Norcross Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Templeton. The WMA's 465 acres of recently acquired land connects to other conserved lands to create a complex of 2,650 acres of protected lands managed by the state, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and land trusts. This property will create outdoor recreation opportunities, protect wildlife habitat and help increase climate change resiliency in the area. In particular, this new protected area contains a large amount of young forest, an uncommon habitat important for many native bird species, including American woodcock, ruffed grouse and the endangered whip-poor-will. Read more about the land purchase [here](#).

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10) Land Trust Alliance Launches Scholars for Conservation Leadership Program

Sourced from Land Trust Alliance Press Release

The Land Trust Alliance and the USDA Forest Service have partnered to launch a new program to expand opportunities for students from underrepresented minority groups in the land conservation field. The Scholars for Conservation Leadership Program brought the first class of ten students, including Sarah Howdy from UMass Boston, together for a one-day professional development experience at Rally 2019: The National Land Conservation Conference. One of the participating students was selected for a year-long, paid conservation fellowship to be hosted by a land trust which will compete for the opportunity to host her. For more information read [here](#).

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11) State Awards Wildlife Habitat Management Grants

Sourced from Mass.gov Press Release, October 11

Massachusetts has awarded \$341,396 to improve wildlife habitat across the state. Awarded to individuals, municipalities, and organizations, the grants provided by the Wildlife Habitat Management Grant Program will be used to fund 13 wildlife habitat improvement projects, totaling 698 acres. Funded projects include prescribed burns, invasive species control, the creation of young forest habitat, and field restoration

work. Read the press release [here](#).

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EVENTS

12) Annual Meeting -- The Native Land Conservancy, Inc.

Sunday, November 17, 2:00-4:00pm

Waquoit Bay Boathouse, 131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth

The Native Land Conservancy, Inc. will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 17. The meeting will include a special presentation on climate change from the indigenous perspective. For more information, read [here](#).

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13) Annual Meeting -- Boston Nature Center

Wednesday, November 20, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Boston Nature Center, 500 Walk Hill Street, Mattapan MA

Boston Nature Center (BNC) will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, November 20. Friends and supporters of the BNC are invited to join Sanctuary Committee Chair Bill Perkins, and Anne & Peter Brooke Sanctuary Director Julie Brandlen for an evening of environmental education. Please consider bringing a friend or colleague who is interested in learning more about the BNC. Read more [here](#), and RSVP by Sunday, November 17 to Zaskya Perez at zperez@massaudubon.org.

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14) Annual Giving Thanks for Nature Festival -- Mass Audubon

Friday, November 29, 10:00am-1:00pm

Drumlin Farm

Spend the day after Thanksgiving with Mass Audubon at the 6th Annual Giving Thanks for Nature Festival at Drumlin Farm. Take a walk through the sanctuary and hear live music and see artwork by local artists, draw and sketch native wildlife, and view nature sculpture and storytelling. For more information, visit [here](#).

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15) Fall Festival -- Mass Audubon

Friday, November 29, 11:00am-3:00pm

Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary

Join Mass Audubon at the 39th Annual Fall Festival at Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary. Enjoy hayrides, face painting, live music, food, crafts, trail walks, and a visit from Marla Isaac and her birds of prey from New England Reptile and Raptor. Admission is \$6 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Additionally, Felix Neck is seeking volunteers to help put on the event. For more information about joining the festival or volunteering,

visit [here](#).

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16) Stewardship Council Meeting -- Department of Conservation and Recreation

Friday, December 6, 10:30am-12:30pm

Fall River Heritage State Park, Davol St, Fall River MA, 02119

The Department of Conservation and Recreation Stewardship Council will hold its monthly meeting on December 6. Schedule for meetings through June 2020 can be found [here](#). For previous agendas and minutes, look [here](#).

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CONFERENCES

17) Land Trust & State Agency Retreat -- East Quabbin Land Trust

Thursday, November 21 and Friday, November 22

Harvard Forest

Are you involved in an innovative land conservation effort that responds to a changing climate? If so, share your project with conservation colleagues during the lightning presentations at the start of our annual gathering. This day and a half retreat (November 21 & 22) is at Harvard Forest in Petersham and costs only \$30, thanks to sponsorship by the UMass Forest Conservation Program. To register and/or submit a lightning presentation proposal, complete this [submission form](#). Note that overnight accommodations at Harvard Forest are full.

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18) Ecological Plant Conference -- Ecological Landscape Alliance

Friday, December 6, 8:30am-4:30pm

Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Brooklyn NY

The Ecological Landscape Alliance will host its fourth annual Ecological Plant Conference on December 6th. This conference will focus on more resilient land design solutions. Topics will include native annuals and grasses as parts of the landscape, climate change resilient plantings, weed management without synthetic chemicals, and forgotten natives. Attendance is \$149. For more information and to register, visit [here](#).

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WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

19) Data Sources and Tools for Prioritizing Land Conservation -- MA Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals

Thursday, November 21, 11:00am-1:00pm
8 New Bond Street, Worcester MA

This part of the MA Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals (MSMCP) brown bag lunch series will cover the GIS data and online tools that can be used to inform conservation decision-making. Scott Jackson, Extension Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts, will review these data sets and tools, and provide background information about their development, intended uses, and how they can complement one another. For more information and to register, visit [here](#).

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20) Farm Succession School -- Land For Good

Three-part program: December 4, January 9, February 6. Registration deadline is Thursday, November 21.

MA Department of Agricultural Resources, West Springfield

Farm Succession School is an opportunity to talk with peers, learn from advisors, and get support on the challenging process of finding the right future for your farm. Farm Succession School is a three-session program, held in West Springfield on December 4, 2019; January 9, 2020; and February 6, 2020, from 10:00am - 3:30pm each day. The fee is \$300 per farmer or farm couple and includes lunch, refreshments, and materials. Upon successful completion of the course, you can be reimbursed for additional succession-related advising, such as an attorney or accountant fees. The registration deadline is November 21st. For more information and to register, visit [here](#).

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21) Alternatives for Restoring the Natural Habitat of Cranberry Bogs

Monday, December 9, and Friday, December 13
Lakeville and West Barnstable, MA

The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District, Environmental Protection Agency, The Barnstable Clean Water Coalition, and The Nature Conservancy are co-hosting two informational sessions on Alternatives for Cranberry Bog Habitat Restoration (click [here](#) for the Informational Flyer). If you are a cranberry bog farmer considering options for retirement, or if you are an organization focused on watershed planning, come learn how to pursue options and incentives that may be available for ecological restoration when ready to retire from cranberry farming. If you are curious about this option - recovering the value and function of our wetlands and water quality - we encourage you to attend Part I on December 9th in Lakeville. Part II, held on December 13th in West Barnstable, will delve into an application of the restoration options at the Marstons Mills Cranberry Bog. Free and open to the public. RSVP is appreciated but not required.

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22) Growing Your Farm Business Planning Course -- MA Department of Agricultural Resources

Each Wednesday, January 22 - March 18
West Springfield MA

This hands-on course is designed to help established farmers develop a business plan for their farm. The course covers topics including resource assessment, marketing strategy, financial management, risk management, quality of life, and goal setting. Cost is \$200 per farm and will be held every Wednesday from 5:30pm-8:30pm each week from January 22 through March 18. Applications will be accepted until December 20 or until the course is filled. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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23) Citizen Planning Training Collaborative Fall Workshops

Various dates and times

The Citizen Planning Training Collaborative, an organization dedicated to providing training to citizens in municipal planning and land use, is hosting a series of workshops on land use topics and permitting. Topics include Writing Fair Defensible Decisions, Zoning with Overlay Districts, and Special Permits and Variance. Cost is \$35 per workshop. View the full list of workshops [here](#).

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WEBINARS

24) Creating a Native Garden from Disturbed Woodland -- Ecological Landscape Alliance

Tuesday, December 3, 12:30pm-1:30pm

This webinar by the Ecological Landscape Alliance will cover how to overcome the challenges of developing a native woodland in suburban areas. Topics will include soil restoration, invasive species removal, creating specific conditions for plants, and addressing surface runoff. The lecture will be hosted by Przemek Walczak, horticulturist at Chanticleer Garden. Cost is \$10. For more information and to register, visit [here](#).

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25) Open Space Planning & Protection Techniques Webinar -- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

Tuesday, December 10, 6:00pm-8:30pm

Attend this evening webinar on open space planning & protection techniques. Topics will include establishing conservation goals, taking inventories of local natural

resources, working with landowners, an overview of conservation restrictions, and funding and grants. Registration is \$55 for members and \$75 for non-members. For more information and to register, visit [here](#).

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26) Massachusetts Vulnerability Preparedness Program Webinar -- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

Wednesday, December 11, 12:00pm-1:00pm

Join the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions for this overview of the Massachusetts Vulnerability Preparedness Program with a case study. This lecture will be led by Sara Burns, Water Resource Scientist of The Nature Conservancy, and Stefanie Covino, Conservation Planner for the City of Worcester. Register [here](#).

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GRANTS

27) Neighborhood Outreach Project -- MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

Deadline: Rolling

This request for proposals (RFP) is for organizations, town boards, or natural resource professionals in Massachusetts implementing neighborhood-based outreach to landowners on conservation-based estate planning and land protection options. The ideal proposal will identify a critical neighborhood and reach landowners through outreach activities that lead to landowners taking specific actions to plan the future of their land. Eligible organizations include land trusts, conservation organizations, municipal boards, and natural resource professionals, such as foresters or wildlife biologists. The maximum grant award is \$5,000. The RFP includes funding for not only the cost of outreach activities but also funding for the time to organize and conduct the efforts. For more information, read [here](#).

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28) Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentives Program -- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Deadline: Wednesday, November 27

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications for the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). This grant program funds projects that encourage owners and operators of privately held land to make the land available for access by the public for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation. Additionally, up to 25 percent of the funding for each award may be used to improve wildlife habitat on public access lands. State and Tribal Governments are eligible to apply for grants up to \$3 million. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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29) Regional Conservation Partnership Program -- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Deadline: Thursday, December 3

This grant opportunity funds projects that address on-farm, watershed, and natural resource conservation goals. Eligible projects should address one or more natural resource priorities, integrate multiple conservation approaches or technologies, and build and develop conservation partnerships. Applications should focus on at least one of the following activities: land management/improvement/restoration, land rental, entity-held easements, United States-held easements, or public works/watersheds. Eligible applicants include State, Tribal, or Local government, farmer cooperatives, institutions of higher education, conservation districts, or any organization with an established history of working to address conservation priorities. The maximum grant award is \$10 million. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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30) Massachusetts Environmental Trust Grants

Deadline: Monday, January 20

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) is seeking proposals for the 2020 Drive for a Better Environment Grants Program. These grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000 fund programs focused on aquatic ecosystem restoration and marine wildlife conservation. Nonprofit organizations and Massachusetts municipalities are eligible to apply. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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JOBS

31) State Director -- The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Massachusetts seeks a State Director to function as a conservation strategist and play a leading role in the cross-boundary initiatives within the New England Division. The State Director is accountable for the Chapter's success in implementing TNC's global conservation approach, producing measurable conservation results, and upholding organizational values. They have a key role in leading and inspiring staff, developing new and existing donors, forming partnerships, and building a broader constituency for conservation. For more info and to apply, please visit [here](#).

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32) Executive Director -- Dennis Conservation Land Trust

Dennis Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) is hiring an Executive Director. Responsibilities

include overseeing operations of all DCLT functions, overseeing the work of staff and volunteers, participating in the development of DCLT's land acquisition strategy, participating in the development and review of the DCLT land stewardship strategy, and overseeing communications operations including the annual DCLT newsletter and outreach activities. Applicants should have experience leading a small organization and experience in a conservation-related field. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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33) Executive Director -- New Haven Land Trust-New Haven Farms

New Haven Land Trust-New Haven Farms is hiring an Executive Director to help manage these two newly joined organizations through a new phase of development and growth. Responsibilities include cultivating a distinctive array of urban nature programming, developing resources for the organization, working with staff to develop and implement new systems and infrastructure, managing daily operations, supporting the development of the newly merged board of directors, and maintaining a strong public presence. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree, five years of experience in a non-profit leadership role, and a passion for urban nature and community development. Read more and apply [here](#).

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34) Director of Conservation & Sustainability -- City of Holyoke

The City of Holyoke is hiring a Director of Conservation and Sustainability to manage conservation lands and conduct environmental reviews for the city. Responsibilities include preparing long-range plans for land acquisition, conducting onsite inspections of conservation properties, assisting the public on environmental matters, serving as a liaison with state and federal agencies, and developing the city's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Applicants should have a Master's degree in regional planning, urban planning, environmental science or a related field, and experience with wetland biology and land use law. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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35) Conservation Director -- Westborough Conservation Commission

The Town of Westborough Conservation Commission is seeking applications from qualified, team-oriented individuals for the full-time position of Conservation Director. The position provides technical support and carries out a broad range of land use assignments related to conservation, environmental enforcement, and land use management. The director will attend Conservation Commission meetings and meet with other town boards as needed. This position supervises the Assistant Conservation Officer. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree and knowledge of Massachusetts Conservation Law, the Wetlands Protection Act, and the Clean Water Act. For more information, visit [here](#).

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36) Development and Communications Manager -- Groundwork US

Groundwork USA is hiring a Development and Communications Manager to help promote and expand efforts to support community-based strategies advancing equity, health, and resilience. Responsibilities include developing and implementing strategies to engage donors, writing foundation communications and reports, implementing best practices in development operations, attending events, and building awareness of and support for Groundwork USA. Applicants should have strong written and verbal communication skills, experience in identifying relationships with funders and donors, and strong project management and organizational skills. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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37) Manager of Foundation and Government Support -- Mass Audubon

Mass Audubon is hiring a Manager of Foundation and Government Support to work in identifying and stewarding key institutional funders, based in the Lincoln, MA headquarters. Responsibilities include writing grant proposals and budgets, identifying new funding opportunities, managing and distributing the ongoing schedule of grant deadlines, and managing records and communications with funders. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree and five years of grant-writing experience. For more information and to apply, read [here](#).

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38) Campaign Manager -- New England Forestry Foundation

New England Forestry Foundation is hiring a Campaign Manager to be responsible for the daily planning, coordination, and management of a campaign to promote the benefits of exemplary forestry and participate in national efforts to combat climate change. Responsibilities include overall campaign management and organization, working with staff and volunteers, collaborating with communications staff, and monitoring fundraising progress and goals. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of five years of experience in major gift fundraising and managing campaigns. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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39) Grant Administrator -- Mass Audubon

Mass Audubon is hiring a motivated professional to ensure compliance with complex and impactful government grants. Responsibilities include overseeing grant activity to track expenditures, maintaining the grant process and systems, serving as a liaison between the business staff and wildlife sanctuaries, and ensuring federal grant

funding is managed in compliance with the Office of Management and Budget guidance. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or a related field, and experience in grant management. This position is part-time and based in the Mass Audubon headquarters in Lincoln, MA. For more information, read [here](#).

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40) Land Stewardship Coordinator -- Brewster Conservation Trust

The Brewster Conservation Trust (BCT) is hiring a Land Stewardship Coordinator to oversee, implement, and complete land stewardship policies and activities on over 1,300 acres owned by BCT. Responsibilities include updating land inventory data, implementing land improvement projects, completing baseline studies on newly acquired properties, overseeing work crews and volunteers, and attending board meetings and BCT events. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in an environmental field, experience in a conservation-related field, strong organizational skills, and experience working with volunteers. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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41) Service Members -- TerraCorps

TerraCorps, a program of Americorps, is an innovative national service program that is hiring members to assist in conservation projects across Massachusetts. Responsibilities include carrying out capacity building projects, recruiting and training community volunteers engaged in land-based activities, and identifying new individuals and groups to participate in education, recreation, or service opportunities centered around land access and conservation. Members will serve in full-time (38 hours/week), 11-month positions from August 26, 2019, through July 24, 2020. These 1,700-hour positions receive a living allowance and are eligible for an education award and additional AmeriCorps benefits. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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