



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

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The Newsletter of the Massachusetts
Land Conservation Community

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MASSLAND NEWS

1) Steering Committee Meeting To Be Rescheduled

The final Steering Committee meeting of 2018 was postponed last week due to the snowstorm. We will be in touch after Thanksgiving with the rescheduled date and hope you will be able to join us! Updates can be found [here](#) and a new alert will be distributed once a new date has been selected.

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2) MassLand Young Land Professionals Gather in New Bedford

On November 7th 20 of MassLand's Young Land Professionals gathered in New Bedford to network and learn about the history of New Bedford. The National Park Service led the group through town to learn about New Bedford's rich history and afterwards, the group gathered at Moby Dick Brewing Company to socialize and exchange ideas. A tremendous thanks to Wildlands Trust and Buzzards Bay Coalition for hosting this event.

Are you in your first ~10 years in the conservation field and looking to engage with others who are too? If so, please join us! For more information click [here](#).

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3) 50 Gather for Land Trust-State Agency Retreat

Thanks to those who joined us from the land trust and state environmental agency community November 1-2 for the 15th Land Trust-State Agency Retreat. Approximately 50 practitioners joined us for panels, group discussions, presentations, and to both celebrate and strengthen public-private partnerships in Massachusetts. The full agenda from the day can be viewed [here](#).

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4) Please renew your MassLand membership if you forgot to this summer!

A friendly reminder to land trusts to please renew your membership! If you are a land

trust, please check [here](#) to check whether your organization is currently a member of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition. If the space to the right of your land trust's name is blank, we have not heard from you. The membership year begins July 1. If you have any questions, please contact us!

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5) MassLand Young Land Professionals Welcome New Committee Member

The MassLand Young Land Professionals Committee is delighted to welcome John Gioia to the Young Land Professionals Committee. John is the Conservation Restriction Reviewer for the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services where he reviews all conservation restrictions in Massachusetts. Please join us in welcoming John to the committee!

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6) We Need Your Help with the 2019 Mass Land Conservation Conference

We need your help securing sponsors for the 2019 Mass Land Conservation Conference! We ask each land trust to help us secure one sponsor for this huge gathering of professionals, students, volunteers, and community members. Please help us make next year's conference *Enhancing Community Through the Land* possible by asking a sponsor to join us before December 31st. More information on sponsorship is [here](#). Please let us know once you have someone commit so we know which entity your organization has secured. Thank you so much for your help.

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NEWS

7) Baker open to fee hike to boost state CPA match

Excerpts from State House News Service, By Colin Young, November 16, 2018

As cities and towns participating in a program that provides state funds to support affordable housing and open space preservation watch the state's contribution dwindle, Community Preservation Act advocates have fresh hope that Gov. Charlie Baker supports a fix. For the full story click [here](#).

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8) 2018 Statewide Trust Fund Distribution Announced

Excerpts from the Community Preservation Coalition, November 15, 2018

\$10 million from the state budget surplus has been secured to use as state match for Community Preservation Act communities. This will allow a 2018 match of 19%, rather than 13.8% match secured from fees at the Registries of Deeds alone. When the two sources of funding are combined, it brings the round one match up to 19% for all CPA communities. Cities and towns that adopted CPA with a full 3% local property tax

surcharge will receive a higher percentage. In total, more than \$33 million will be paid to the 172 communities eligible for a distribution. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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9) Land Trust Alliance presents the case for land trusts to the IRS

Excerpts from the Conservation Defense Network E-newsletter, November 15, 2018

Land Trust Alliance president Andrew Bowman testified on a conservation issue of national consequence during a public hearing earlier this month at IRS headquarters. In remarks he delivered to IRS and U.S. Treasury Department officials, the Alliance president said a proposed State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction rule change is "too sweeping" and "quite contrary to the intent of Congress."

The IRS and U.S. Treasury Department are considering significantly reducing deductions available to people who donate to charitable organizations and then receive state or local tax credits. This includes the donation of conservation easements and even land. These reductions would eliminate - or substantially shrink - an important incentive for donors and would slow the rate of land conservation. For Bowman's full testimony, click [here](#).

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10) Boston Mayor Describes Vision to Combat Climate Change

Excerpts from masslive.com , October 17, 2018

The mayor of Boston released a plan entitled "Resilient Boston Harbor," which lists public projects that will help protect the city from the future impacts of climate change. The plan primarily focuses on strategies to protect waterfront neighborhoods from the increased flood risk caused by climate change. To learn more, click [here](#).

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11) Baker-Polito Administration Announces Support for River Restoration and Climate Adaptation Projects

Excerpts from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration, November 16, 2018

The Baker-Polito Administration has announced \$188,600 in state grant funds for river and wetland restoration projects in Falmouth, Northampton/Easthampton, North Adams, and Plymouth through the Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration's Priority Projects Program. The program provides projects with grant funding, project management, and contracted technical services for wetland and river restoration, urban river revitalization, and streamflow restoration projects that present the greatest benefit to the Commonwealth, ecologically, socially, and economically. For the full story, click [here](#).

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12) Massachusetts Integrated State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan Now Available

This plan, the first of its kind to comprehensively integrate climate change impacts and adaptation strategies with hazard mitigation planning, also complies with current federal requirements for state hazard mitigation plans and maintains the Commonwealth's eligibility for federal disaster recovery and hazard mitigation funding under the Stafford Act. For more information, click [here](#).

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13) Become a TerraCorps Service Site

TerraCorps is looking for non-profit land-based organizations in MA that are interested in hosting a TerraCorps Service Member. TerraCorps is a national service program helping communities conserve and secure land for the health and well-being of people and nature. It supports 36 AmeriCorps service members who serve with nonprofit organizations across the state to tackle issues around land access, conservation, and revitalization. This year it has six 1,200 hour service member positions that will run from December 3rd, 2018-July 26th, 2019. Members serve full time (38hrs/week) and receive a living stipend, education award, and additional AmeriCorps benefits. For more information, please click [here](#).

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14) Massachusetts to receive \$700,000 for wildlife conservation

Excerpts from WWLP-22News, By Amy Philips, September 28, 2018

The U.S. Department of the Interior will award Massachusetts \$700,000 through the DOI's State Wildlife Grant Program. Grant funds will be used to assist habitats and species in need of assistance. For more information, visit [here](#).

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15) River rafting to study fish

Excerpts from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, November 1, 2018

A raft donated by a group of Trout Unlimited members is helping MassWildlife biologists study trout and other fish in previously inaccessible areas. For the full story, click [here](#).

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16) Baker-Polito Administration Announces Over \$1 Million in Land Use Planning Assistance Grants

Excerpts from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, November 2, 2018

The Baker-Polito Administration has announced \$1,030,659 in grants for 31 projects to improve municipal land use planning and development through the second round of grants from the Planning Assistance Grant Program. Through this program, the Energy and Environmental Affairs provides municipalities funding to undertake public processes and hire technical expertise to improve their land use practices, diversify

housing choices, mitigate and prepare for climate change impacts, and conserve and develop land consistent with the Massachusetts Sustainable Development Principles. For the full story, click [here](#).

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17) Federal Court Supports New England Marine Monument

Excerpts from Earth Justice, October 8, 2018

A federal court has supported the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument (NCSNM) by dismissing a challenge to the monument from an industrial fishing group. The first marine monument in the Atlantic Ocean, NCSNM is located off the coast of New England and covers 4,913 square miles. The national monument protects a biodiversity hotspot that includes undersea canyons, extinct undersea volcanoes, deep-sea corals, and numerous whale, seabird, and fish species. Support for the national monument in the year-long public engagement process before its designation included 300,000 citizens, 145 scientists, 100 businesses, ten aquariums, and dozens of fishing and conservation organizations. For more information, visit [here](#).

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18) deCordova Museum Agrees to Merge with The Trustees

Excerpts from the massnonprofit news, October 27, 2018

The deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln and The Trustees have announced their intention to merge, a move aimed at strengthening the finances of the museum while supporting the mission of the Trustees to connect people through art and the outdoors. For the full story, click [here](#).

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19) Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program: Massachusetts' new solar initiative begins accepting applications 11/26

The Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program is the newest program established to support the development of solar in Massachusetts. The tariff based incentive is paid directly by the utility company to the system owner, following the approval of the application by the Solar Program Administrator. The SMART Program is a 1600MW declining block incentive program. Eligible projects must be interconnected by one of three investor owned utility companies in Massachusetts: Eversource, National Grid, and Unitil. Each utility has established blocks that decline in incentive rates between each block. For more information, click [here](#).

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20) Editorial: We're betting on a new generation of farmers

Excerpts from the Greenfield Recorder Editorials, October 11, 2018

An aging Massachusetts farming community has many worried about the fate of farmland. Some are hoping that younger people looking for new land as they start

their farming careers may help save the day. "We hope that organizations like Land for Good can keep making productive matches as the transition continues. We urge continued support for local non-profits like Mount Grace and Franklin land trusts and the state's Agriculture Preservation Restriction program, both of which help shield farmland from development, and organizations like Communities Involved in Sustaining Agriculture with its "Local Hero" marketing campaign, and even the locavores among us who buy food at CSA farms. They all help perpetuate farming as a way of life in the region." For the full editorial, visit [here](#).

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MEETINGS

21) Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee Meeting

November 26, 2018 10:00 am,

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters, Westborough, MA

MEETING AGENDA

- I. UPDATE: Department and APR Program.
- II. APR LEGISLATION: Criteria for Waiver of OPAV and ROFR
- III. APR LEGISLATION: Business Plan Definition and Criteria for Evaluation

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CONFERENCES/TRAININGS

22) National Summit for Gateway Communities

December 11-13 2018 , Shepherdstown, WV

This three-day summit will bring together gateway communities, their partners and experts from conservation, community and economic development, recreation and tourism, planning, and other creative fields to highlight success stories and lessons learned while engaging in robust discussions that lead to specific actions for invigorating the future of gateway and rural communities. This event is being offered by The Conservation Fund in partnership with Scenic America, and sponsored by Appalachian Regional Commission and Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA). For more information click [here](#).

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23) Essex County Open Space Conference

December 1, 2018 8:00a.m.-3:00, Haverhill, MA

The Essex County Open Space Conference is December 1st. Learn about topics ranging from land conservation basics to prioritization tools. MassLand Board member Kathleen O'Donnell will be presenting on Article 97 and land conservation permanence. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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24) Farm Succession School

Three-session series offered in New Hampshire or Rhode Island

Among farmers' biggest challenges is planning for farm succession. The Farm Succession School provides farmers and farming couples looking toward retirement and farm transition with the structured and sustained support to make decisions, engage their families, and organize the legal and financial mechanics. For more information, click [here](#).

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25) UMass Extension Fall Wrap Up

November 27, 2018, 8:30 am-3:45pm

Hadley Farms Meeting House

Join UMass Extension Specialists for a look at the challenges and problems of the 2018 season. Topics on woody ornamentals in the morning session include: Invasive Insects in Massachusetts: 2018 Updates; What We Saw in the Plant Diagnostic Lab in 2018; and Managing Tough Landscape Weeds. Turf topics in the afternoon session include: Best Management Practices for Managing Grassy Weeds in Turf; Strategies for Managing Turf Damaging Pests in an IPM System; and BMPs that Maximize Turfgrass Tolerance to Stress and Pests. For more information, click [here](#).

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26) Utility Resilience: Lessons from Puerto Rico and Local Preparation

November 30, 2018 7:15 am-11:45am

Boston, MA

Adapting utilities to be resilient to climate impacts, from extreme storm events to heatwaves, poses significant challenges and opportunities for providers and communities. Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in 2017 and resulted in the longest blackout in U.S. History. The Climate Adaptation Forum welcomes Malu Blázquez Arsuaga, the Executive Director of the Resilient Puerto Rico Advisory Commission, and speakers from Resilient Power Puerto Rico to discuss lessons learned from Hurricane Maria and rebuilding resilient utility infrastructure. For more information, click [here](#).

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27) Webinar: Backyard Carbon Sequestration - How You Can Help

December 4, 2018 1:30pm-2:30pm

Landscapers and gardeners have long known that soil is not simply the stuff that props up plants. But not everyone knows that organic and native plant gardening practices can help mitigate climate change by building and protecting soil health.

In this webinar presentation, Adrian Ayres Fisher will review the characteristics of healthy soil, how plants and soil life work together to store carbon below ground, and how gardeners and landscapers can make a difference in the fight against climate change. For more information, click [here](#).

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GRANTS

28) Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs

December 7, 2018 Deadline

The Department of Agricultural Resources invites responses from farmers who own or operate farm land under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction ("APR") Program who wish to participate in the Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs Program. The purpose of the program is to address stewardship or restoration issues on farmland resources in order to maximize productive agricultural use of the protected resource. Funding of up to \$25,000, with a 15% match, may be available for identified improvements that will help restore or enhance the protected land resources on an APR farm property. For more information click [here](#).

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29) Watershed Monitoring Grant

The Baker-Polito Administration is pleased to offer a new Watershed Group Monitoring Grant program to eligible volunteer groups across the state. This grant program will support watershed groups conducting baseline monitoring program activities, as well as those who wish to build program capacity. The program is part of a \$450,000 investment by MassDEP to support collaborative efforts to improve surface water quality in the Commonwealth's rivers, streams and waterways. An overview of the grant process, followed by a Q&A session will be held December 6 10 am-12pm at the MassDEP's Central Office, Main Conference Room (8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA). For more information on the MassDEP's watershed planning monitoring and assessment programs click [here](#) or contact Kim Groff at (508) 767-2876 or kimberly.groff@mass.gov

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30) Municipal Small Bridge Program

April 1, 2019 deadline

The Municipal Small Bridge Program provides financial support to cities and towns for small bridge replacement, preservation and rehabilitation projects. It is a 5 year program to assist cities and towns to replace or preserve bridges with spans between 10' and 20'. Each municipality may qualify for up to \$500,000 per year. These small bridges are not eligible for federal aid under existing programs. To apply, click [here](#).

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31) Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program

November deadline

The DWSP grant program provides financial assistance to public water systems and municipal water departments for the purchase of land or interests in land for the following purposes: 1) protection of existing Department of Environmental Protection-approved public drinking water supplies; 2) protection of planned future public drinking water supplies; or 3) groundwater recharge. It is a reimbursement program.

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

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32) Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Program

Rolling deadline until March 29, 2019

The Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Program provides funding for towns with 6,000 people or less for:

- The preparation of real property appraisals
- Open Space & Recreation Plans (OSRPs)
- Other planning in support of land conservation

For more information and application instructions, click [here](#).

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33) Better Environment Grants Program

December 15, 2018 deadline

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust is soliciting proposals under the FY20 Drive for a Better Environment Grants Program for projects that protect endangered marine animals, and activities that restore and improve critical aquatic ecosystems. For more information, click [here](#) or contact Kim Elias at kim.tilas@mass.gov.

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JOBS

34) Northeast Program Coordinator - Land Trust Alliance

The Northeast Program Coordinator position offers an exciting opportunity to play a vital role for the Northeast Program of the Land Trust Alliance, providing program and administrative coordination and assistance to help ensure the delivery of quality programs for the northeast region, especially focused on New York, All-Volunteer Land Trusts, Community Conservation and Training program areas. For more information click [here](#).

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35) Education & Stewardship Manager - Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust

The position of Education & Stewardship Manager encompasses duties that relate to membership, land protection, and education programs. LP&CT is very much a teamwork based environment which requires flexibility/adaptability, self-initiative, goal setting, and interacting with the public - all working toward project accomplishments that meet the clearly defined mission of the Trust. This is an exempt position and some weekend and evening work is expected. Responsibilities will vary from week to week in consultation with the Executive Director. For the full description, please click [here](#).

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36) Director of Development - Merrohawke Nature School

Reporting to and in partnership with the Executive Director, the Director of Development will provide strategic leadership and execution of all aspects of fundraising at Merrohawke. A new position in the organization, the Director will have the opportunity to increase Merrohawke's development capacity to support operations, education programs, scholarships and special projects aligned with annual financial goals. For more information, click [here](#).

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37) Easement Acquisition Specialist - American Farmland Trust

The Easement Acquisition Specialist works under the supervision of the Land Protection Director and is a member of AFT's Land Protection Initiative team. The position's primary purpose is to further AFT's strategic acquisition of new agricultural easements within the context of AFT's mission and broader conservation goals. The Easement Acquisition Specialist will coordinate all aspects of AFT's easement acquisitions including: identifying funding sources, property research, due diligence, document preparation, site evaluations and coordination with project stakeholders. For the full description, click [here](#).

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38) Executive Director - Concord Land Conservation Trust

The Concord Land Conservation Trust, a local non-profit organization with more than 1,000 acres of conserved land, is seeking a year-round, 30-40 hour/week staff person with interest in the environment to serve as this organization's first executive director, beginning as soon as possible. Reporting to the Chair of the Board of Trustees and working primarily at the Land Trust's office in Concord, this person will support and administer the organization's activities and initiatives, and will help define the role of the executive director. For the full description, click [here](#).

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39) Executive Director - Franklin Land Trust

Franklin Land Trust is searching for an Executive Director to provide vision and leadership following the highly successful tenure of our retiring Executive Director. FLT conserves rural landscapes in Western Massachusetts for the benefit of present and future generations while connecting citizens to the land in tangible, enduring ways. The Executive Director will be passionately committed to FLT's mission, an excellent communicator, a proven networker and collaborator, an effective fundraiser, an experienced non-profit administrator, and an accessible team leader who will foster a culture of cooperation between Board and Staff. For more information, click [here](#).

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40) Project Coordinator - Mass Audubon

Mass Audubon is seeking a dynamic individual experienced in community planning, outreach and project management to coordinate the Shaping the Future of Your Community program. This program helps communities in Massachusetts understand, formulate, adopt, and implement tools for charting a more sustainable future through customized community workshops and direct assistance. For more information, click [here](#).

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41) Agriculture Program Director - The Trustees

The Agriculture Program Director shapes and implements the vision, goals, growth, and policies for the Trustees Agriculture Program, which is focused on

- a) Supporting a set of signature farms that engage the public in The Trustees mission through vibrant, fun, and creative visitor experiences, programming, and farm-based enterprise;
 - b) Building financial and property stewardship best practice into the care of our agricultural landscapes, programs and enterprises
 - c) Continuing to build a network of Trustees agricultural properties that build Trustees statewide profile and contribute to the vibrancy of agriculture in Massachusetts
- For the full job description, click [here](#).

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42) Conservation Agent - Town of Falmouth

The town of Falmouth is looking for a Conservation Agent to assist in land management decisions including identifying priority conservation parcels, writing grant proposals, reviewing building permit applications, and providing environmental information to the public and town departments. Qualifications include a degree in natural resources, land management, or a related field, and a working knowledge of Massachusetts conservation law and the Wetlands Protection Act. This position is part-time (19 hours per week). For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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43) Jobs - Associate Director of Philanthropy - The Trust for Public Land

Reporting to the New England Director of Philanthropy, the position will contribute to The Trust for Public Land's annual operating and programmatic needs organization-wide and particularly in Massachusetts. For more information, click [here](#).

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44) Internships - New England Wild Flower Society

The New England Wild Flower Society has provided rewarding internships and

fellowships for several decades. Based at Garden in the Woods in Framingham, MA, or at Nasami Farm in Whately, MA, these opportunities are intensive and on-the-job. Internships are offered by the Horticulture, Public Programming, and Conservation departments. For more information, click [here](#).

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45) Outreach Program Instructor - Northeastern University

The Northeastern University Marine Science Center is hiring a full-time, Outreach Program Instructor. Under the direction of the Outreach Program Coordinator, the Outreach Program Instructor is responsible for developing and implementing meaningful and effective programs to develop ocean literacy in youth, and to foster their interest in and awareness about the study of marine science and related careers. For more information, click [here](#).

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46) Chapter Director - Sierra Club Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club seeks a Chapter Director. The Chapter Director develops and oversees or implements all programs, policies and initiatives for the Chapter; performs long-range planning; and makes appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding short- and long-term priorities and strategies to develop and strengthen the effectiveness of the Chapter. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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47) Ecological Restoration Specialist - Division of Ecological Restoration

The Environmental Analyst II/Ecological Restoration Specialist serves as an ecological restoration project manager with emphasis on river restoration and dam removal in DER's Dam Removal Practice Area. The Ecological Restoration Specialist also provides programmatic support for the Dam Removal Practice Area, such as field data collection, assistance with project identification and evaluation, and participation in other forms of data collection that inform the practice of dam removal. This position performs duties in support of DER operations, including monitoring, training, and outreach to partners and stakeholders. For more information, click [here](#).

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48) Ecological Restoration Engineer - Division of Ecological Restoration

The Civil Engineer III Ecological Restoration Engineer assists with ensuring proper design and integrity of ecological restoration projects implemented by DER's Habitat Restoration Program and provides engineering technical assistance to DER staff and partners for aquatic habitat restoration projects, including but not limited to dam removal, culvert replacement, and tidal and freshwater wetland restoration. For more information, click [here](#).

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49) Land Records & Database Coordinator- MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

DCR is hiring Database Coordinator to assist in managing records of new land acquisitions. Responsibilities include entering new acquisition projects into the database, creating and maintaining corresponding paper files for new acquisition projects, and coordinating with Land Acquisition and Protection and GIS Staff on various projects. For more information, click [here](#).

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50) Archives Assistant - The Trustees

The Trustees is hiring a part-time archives assistant to work at the Archives & Research Center in Sharon, MA. Responsibilities include preparing historical and institutional records collections for processing, and surveying, sorting, and creating a rough inventory of material to be organized. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

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