



MASSACHUSETTS
LAND TRUST
COALITION

2025 Land Trust / State Agency Retreat

Agenda as of Oct. 1

Registration required. [Register here.](#)

Day 1 (Wed. Oct. 8) at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation (394 Pleasantdate Rd., Rutland MA)

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|-----------------------|--|
| 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. | Gathering, coffee (30 min) |
| 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. | Welcome (agenda overview, ground rules) Lisa Primiano and Robb Johnson / Introductions (30 min) |
| 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. | Status Updates (30 min) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Brief topline summary of progress over past year, and current status and challenges facing land conservation (including federal policy/funding) (Kurt Gaertner)2. Short update on Environmental Bond Bill from Robb Johnson3. American Farmland Trust on the newest farmland protection resources (5 min)4. ECCN report out RE: Mentor Program: success & call for mentors (5 min) |
| 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. | Shifting allocations among DCS grant programs (45 min)
With decreases in State funding, what target areas are most critical for land trusts to get funded? (Lisa Primiano)

OR

Informal walk for ECCNers |
| 10:45 - 11:00 a.m. | Break |
| 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 pm | Massachusetts' Integrated Land Use Strategy (75 min)
Description: Status of and proposed uses for EEA's recently launched initiative to create a comprehensive land use plan for the state, and opportunities for input from the conservation community. (Kurt Gaertner) |
| 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. | Lunch (1 h) |

1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

2 choices: (1 h)

1. Mentoring / career development panel discussion – for both early career professionals AND experienced folks (Panelists: Doug Brown, Chris LaPointe, Anna Willkins, Rachel Bruce)
OR
2. A walk around the Camp property (scavenger hunt)

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Making the Case for Conservation at a Time of Many Needs (1 h)

Perceived or real competition between land conservation and other community needs such as affordable housing is nothing new. With the statewide Nature for Massachusetts ballot campaign asking voters to redirect \$100 million in sales tax revenue from the general fund to a new dedicated fund for conservation, we may see some heightened debate on these issues over the next year. We'll share ideas about how the land conservation community can respond to constituent questions and concerns about the ongoing need to support land conservation, even at a time when many other societal needs also need more funding. NOTE: Given the large number of state employees in attendance, this discussion will not be about the specifics of the ballot campaign or campaign strategy. (Robb Johnson)

3:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Break or goodbye (15 min)

3:45 - 4:30ish p.m.

Conservation Trivia with Russ Cohen (45 min)

Overnighters drive to Harvard Forest and start cooking.

Day 2 (Thurs. Oct. 9) at Harvard Forest (324 N Main St., Petersham MA)

Overnighters cook breakfast.

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Next steps: How do we progress with what we learned yesterday?
(Robb Johnson) (30 min)

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The Dizzying Landscape of Farmland Protection Tools in Massachusetts:
A Discussion (Kathleen Doherty / Jamie Pottern) (60 min)

11:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Bringing It All Together - Resilient Lands Initiative update and Mass Audubon Catalyst Fund and 30X30 (Jocelyn Forbush / Lisa Primiano) (60 min)

Subtopic (if time permits): Data Gathering, Barriers to submission of CR and protected land data to EEA

12:15 - 12:30 p.m.

Final thoughts / wrap up by Lisa and Robb (15 min)