



2026 Land Trust / State Agency Retreat

Agenda as of Aug. 27

Date: Wednesday, October 7

Location: Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd., Fitchburg MA

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. (30 min)

Gathering, coffee

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. (30 min)

Welcome (agenda overview, ground rules)
Lisa Primiano and Katy Coburn + Introductions

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. (1 hr)

Session 1: Status Updates & Celebrating Our Successes

Where Are We Now? (20 min incl Qs)

Led by the State

Brief topline summary of progress over the past year, including current status and challenges facing land conservation in Massachusetts (i.e., 30x30, basic policy updates, farmland action plan update, etc.)

Welcome – the bigger picture – forward visioning (10 min incl Qs)

By Katy Coburn, Executive Director, MLTC

Celebrating Our Successes (25 min)

Lightning Rounds: 1 - 2 minutes each by a variety of land trusts extemporaneously sharing projects, collaborations, processes, etc. they're proud to have implemented.

ECCN report RE: Mentor Program: successes & call for mentors (5 min)

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. (15 min)	Break
10:45 – noon (1 hr 15 min)	Session 2: Working with Municipalities (Katharine Otto from MDAR facilitates) 15 minutes presentation, then discussion by the audience, guided by Katharine, either in breakouts or full group. Focus will be on how land trusts and state agencies work with municipal decision makers, staff and volunteers who are important partners for land protection and conservation. What are some best practices you have for reaching and working well with them? Where would you like to learn more to explore opportunities and address challenges you face in your work?
noon – 12:45 p.m. (45 min)	Lunch (bring your own)
12:45 – 1:30 p.m. (45 min)	Flextime: 2 formal choices or quiet networking 1. Q&A panel on a topic TBD (targeted to Early Conservation Career folks, but others are welcome) OR 2. A guided walk around the property
1:30 – 2:45 p.m. (1 hr 15 min)	Session 3: In-depth Insights into Key State and Land Trust Initiatives and Projects, Including How Can We Work Better Together <u>State</u> (30 min): examples are Conservation Priorities, MILUS (Mass. Integrated Land Use Strategy), Biodiversity Goals, Ag Plan <u>Land Trusts</u> (30 min): Go Big! partnership, other(s) TBD
2:45 – 3:00 p.m. (15 min)	Break

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. (30 min)

Session 4: Funding Conservation in Turbulent Financial Times

Opportunity for land trusts to discuss how they're navigating the currently shifting funding scene and to learn from each other.

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. (30 min)

Session 5: Forests as Climate Solutions

Where do land trusts fit into the State's emphasis on Forest Reserves? What are land trusts already doing?

4:00 – 4:30 p.m. (30 min).

Final thoughts / wrap up by Lisa & Katy

4:45/5:00 p.m. – ?

OPTIONAL: informal gathering / networking at an offsite venue (location TBD)