



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

## MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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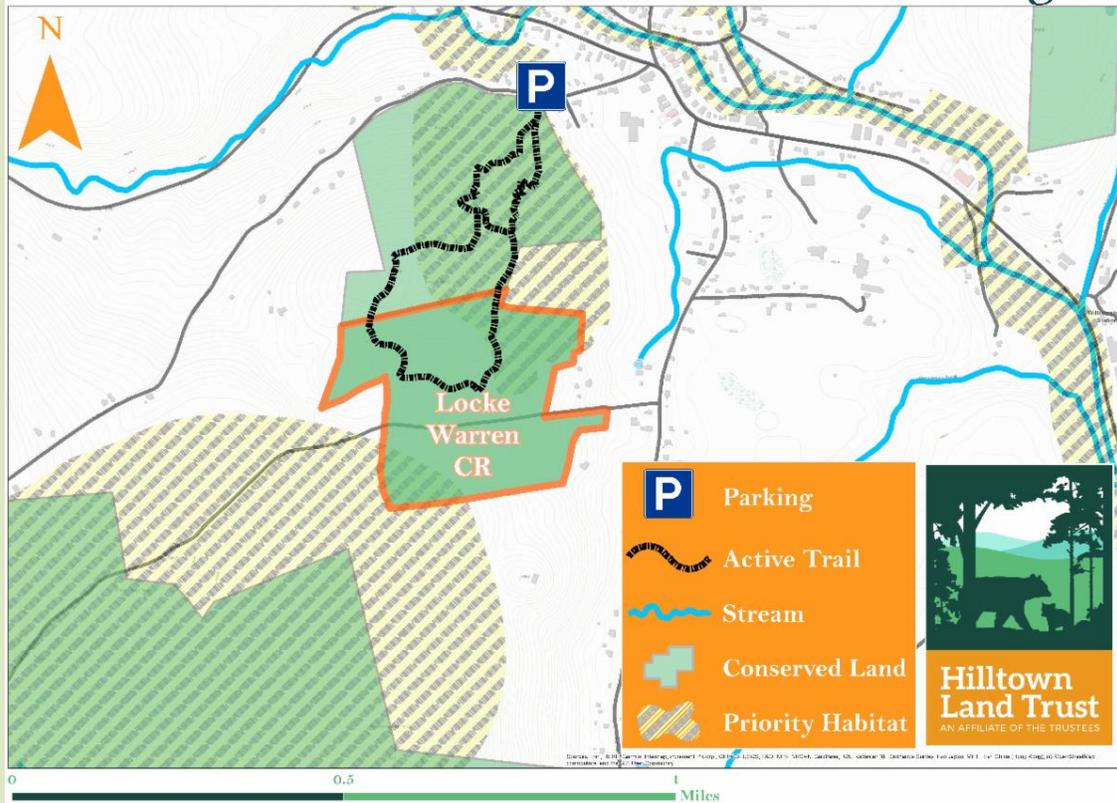
## Member Spotlight



### 56 Acres Protected in Williamsburg

Important wildlife habitat and a public trail in Williamsburg are now permanently protected by Hilltown Land Trust through the donation of a conservation restriction by property owner Sandra Warren and her late husband Jim Locke. The land abuts the existing [Petticoat Hill Reservation](#), creating a continuous block of over 100 acres of protected habitat, including areas identified as BioMap2 Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape by the state Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. "Jim truly loved this land, and enjoyed opening up its trails for public use. Knowing that it will be protected forever for public access would bring him great satisfaction" says Warren. [Read more.](#)

# Locke Warren CR with Trail, Williamsburg



Consider supporting MLTC's efforts to inform, connect, and advocate for the Massachusetts land conservation community. Your monthly or one-time tax-deductible donation of any amount is appreciated. Thank you!



Donate

## MassLand News



A hot day in June was perfect for exploring the densely wooded Merrimack River Trail on Andover Village Improvement Society's Deer Jump Reservation.  
#OurMassLandTrusts

*Robb*

### Membership Season is Here!

As we prepare for our new fiscal year on July 1, we'll soon be sending our membership appeal. Over the past year, generous support from our members not only sustained us, but enabled us to significantly expand programming. Membership support is key to our ability to inform, connect and advocate for the land conservation community. Whether you're a land trust, conservation partner or individual friend, please consider joining us, or renewing your support! We've made it easier than ever to join online, [here](#). Thank you!

### Land Trust Collaboration: Resources Posted

MLTC's first Learning Collaborative, devoted to exploring models for land trust collaboration, wrapped up earlier this week. Representatives from six organizations attended three sessions, learning from guest speakers and one another about ways that working together might serve to advance their work. The series was made possible with the support of UMass Amherst's Working Forests Initiative and the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts. Materials shared during the series are now posted on the [massland.org website](https://massland.org) to download. A logon is required.

### **Upcoming Learning Collaborative: Racial Justice, Equity and Inclusion for Land Trusts**

Our next three-session learning collaborative will focus on helping land trusts explore ways to advance equity and inclusion initiatives, and begin in the late summer or early fall. The series will be led by [Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna](#), a dynamic researcher, educator and advocate for racial equity and environmental justice. More details will be forthcoming, but if you think you would be interested in participating, please drop a note to [robb@massland.org](mailto:robb@massland.org) so we can work to schedule this when it works for as many of you as possible!

### **Sponsored Content on E-News**

MLTC offers businesses the opportunity to post brief newsletter items of interest to the land trust community. For sponsorship rates and more information, contact [admin@massland.org](mailto:admin@massland.org).

## Policy

### **Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA) advances**

We are pleased to announce that *An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth* (S.524 & H.851), also referred to as the Public Lands Preservation Act, received a favorable report from the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and is now awaiting a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. A favorable report this early in the session bodes well. MLTC is sending a support letter, and urges you to do the same, to House Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz, House Committee on Ways and Means, 24 Beacon Street, Room 243, Boston, Massachusetts. A copy of a recent support letter can be viewed [here](#).

### **Conservation Land Tax Credit expansion**

MLTC's other top legislative priority this session is An Act Increasing the Conservation Land Tax Credit (S. 1986/H.2960), which would raise the annual cap for this important program from \$2 million to \$5 million, and amend the definition of organizations that may receive land donations. The same language is being advanced as an amendment to the FY22 state budget. The amendment was unanimously adopted by the House, but not by the Senate. It will be thus up to the Budget Conference Committee to determine whether the language will be included in the final budget forwarded to the governor. This week, MLTC and many of our partners sent [this letter](#) to the FY22 Budget Conference Committee stressing the importance of passing this critical measure.

## News

### **Comment Period for Integrated Lists of Waters & Related Reports**

*Deadline: Monday, June 21*

As required by the Clean Water Act, Massachusetts develops a list every two years of waterways that do not meet federal pollution standards, and submits this list to the EPA. These waters then receive individual plans (Total Maximum Daily Loads, or TMDLs) of how much of a certain pollutant may be released into that waterbody. MassDEP has recently released its 2018/2020 [list of polluted waters](#). Email comments to Richard Chase at [Richard.f.chase@mass.gov](mailto:Richard.f.chase@mass.gov)

### **Public Comment Period Is Open for the DRAFT Priority Habitat Map for the 15th Edition Natural Heritage Atlas**

**Deadline: Saturday, July 3**

The public is invited to comment on the status of areas proposed for delineation or removal as Priority Habitat. Priority Habitat maps are primarily used for determining whether or not a proposed project must be reviewed by NHESP for compliance with the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). See [instructions](#) on how to access the map and leave comments. [More](#) about the comment period.

### **Land Conservation Tools Portal Launched**

[Land Conservation Tools](#) is a recently launched website by UMass Extension that summarizes and links to various information sources and tools that can help conservation practitioners guide their decisions on land protection and stewardship. The portal was developed based on survey and focus group research with consulting foresters, and with practitioners from land trusts, municipalities, regional planning authorities, and State government agencies. Users can filter the tools to their interests, and view a standardized profile for each. The website also includes direct links to the various tool products.

### **Ancestral Lands in New York State Returned to Mohican Nation**

Source: *Open Space Institute*

Nearly 400 years after their ancestors were removed from the land, Papscanee Island has been returned to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. The land was protected from development in the 1990s, and has since been a quiet preserve on the shores of the Hudson River, just 10 minutes from downtown Albany. "Our land is intrinsic to who we are, it's our identity," said Bonney Hartley, the Community's historic preservation manager. "The greatest gift is to have our land back." Explore the history of Papscanee Island and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community's centuries-long journey from New York to Wisconsin and now back again in a story map created by the Open Space Institute (OSI). [The Long Journey Home](#) includes video interviews with Community members, interactive maps of the land of the Mohican people.

### **New hunting and fishing fees**

Source: *MassWildlife*

After a stakeholder process, MassWildlife released [proposed fee increases](#) for hunting and fishing licenses, which will be phased in over five years beginning in 2022. [Public hearings](#) will be held in June for public feedback. This is the first time these fees have been increased in twenty-five years. Increased fees will directly support MassWildlife's conservation and education efforts.

### **Global Protected Planet Report**

This biennial report tracks progress towards global targets for protected and conserved lands. Though not US-focused, it provides information to support conservation goals world-wide.

### **Stand Up for Forests Campaign**

June - October, 2021

This Facebook and Instagram campaign, mobilized by the Northeast Forest Network (NFN) and being implemented by conservation organizations, is intended to remind social media followers how "forests make us healthier", and to encourage them to enjoy their local green spaces and share their experiences. Campaign assets – including images, copy and detailed instructions – are [available here](#) for your use. The [NFN](#) believes we can collectively increase funding for forest conservation and stewardship in cities and rural communities

by reminding people, including lawmakers, why forests are so important to our lives.



## Webinars and E-Learning



### **Farm Succession Training for Attorneys & Financial Advisors**

September 20 - 30, 16 hours. Exact dates and times TBD.

Over 10,000 New England farmers are likely to exit farming in the next decade. They need knowledgeable technical advisors to support and guide the complex planning process. These virtual sessions will focus on the legal and financial components of farm succession plans. There will be a unique opportunity for peer-to-peer learning and network-building, with presentations by experts, small group case and problem-solving clinics, and round-table "best practice" discussions. [Learn more](#). [Request updates](#) about this training opportunity.

**RALLY 2021**

October 5-7 | Virtual Event

### **Registration is Open for 2021 Virtual Rally**

October 5 - 7 (Tuesday - Thursday)

Rally is the annual gathering of land conservation practitioners from across the country where diverse interests and perspectives inform a shared interest in protecting special places. [Learn more](#) about this year's Rally. Highlights include group pricing, over 60 workshops including access to recordings post-conference, networking, and Rock & Roll Trivia(!). [Register here](#).

## Events and Outings



### **Free (Virtual) Summer Solstice Event**

Sunday, June 20, noon - 2:15 p.m.

Join the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture for this bilingual celebration of the summer solstice. Learn about the significance of the summer solstice from cultural astronomer Anthony Aveni; study solar storms; learn to forage for local edible plants by Massachusetts' own conservation colleague, Russ Cohen; and more! There will be events for children, too. [Learn more](#). [Register here](#).

### **Native Names & Poetry of Place Guided Experience**

Saturday, June 26, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Learn more about the Native Names of the area and explore your own



connection to the land with guided writing and a walk around the pond at Kestrel's new "home on the Range", 37 Bay Road, South Amherst. The program is free (donations are welcome), but *space is limited and [registration is required](#)*.



### **Mount Grace Turns 35 Celebration**

*Saturday, June 26, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.*

Since June 1986, Mount Grace has worked with partners to conserve 35,000 acres of forests, family farms, public trails, and waterways in thirty-one towns. Help celebrate this successful history with an afternoon of local food and drinks, companionable conversation, and a surprise announcement! [Details and cost here](#).



### **Mass Rivers Annual Celebration - Outside, In-Person!**

*Sunday, September 12 (rain date: Sunday, September 19)*

Join Mass Rivers' community of river advocates and supporters for a fun, informal afternoon at Hale Reservation in Westwood. There'll be food and drinks, a live band, awards, boating, and a raffle for a new stand-up paddleboard, courtesy of Paddle Boston. [Register here](#).

## **Did You Miss It? Recordings from Webinars Past**

### **Inclusive Journeys**

by Parker McMullen Bushman

Parker's background in environmental education, conservation, outdoor recreation, and interpretive fields spans over 23 years. Her interest in diversity, equity and inclusion issues developed from her personal experiences facing the unequal representation of people of color in nonprofit and environmental organizations. She tackles these complex issues through head on activism and education. View the dynamic presentation [here](#). (password: ecojustice) Hosted by Friends of Assabet River NWR.

### **The Next Generation RoadMap Law & Nature Based Solutions Webinar**

Topics include: how you can help your community protect open space, improve climate resiliency, and increase investments in conservation, as well as how to effectively advocate to municipal government. Recorded April 14.

## **Grants**

### **Land and Climate Grant Program**

*Info. session: Tuesday, June 29, 1 p.m. [Register here](#).*

*RFP opens Monday, June 21*

Sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance and Open Space Institute, this program seeks to build the capacity of land trusts' strategic planning projects that promote habitat resilience, carbon mitigation, or adaptation to flood, drought, fire or extreme heat. Projects should achieve one or more of the following goals: land protection plans, management plans, and/or communications plans. [Learn more](#).

### **Regional Restoration Partnerships Program through the Dept of Ecological Restoration (DER)**

*Pre-RFR open through Friday, June 25, 4 p.m.*

*RFR release: late-June 2021*

*Pilot Partner selection: late summer 2021*

This new program supports regional partnerships working to restore aquatic ecosystems throughout Massachusetts. The RFR (Request for Responses) will solicit proposals from eligible nonprofit organizations and regional planning agencies to become Pilot Partners in the program. DER will provide funding and technical assistance to support selected Pilot Partners over a 3-5 year period. During the Pre-RFR period, DER will be able to discuss and answer any questions. Interested applicants are encouraged to [contact Jenny Sanders jenny.sanders@mass.gov](mailto:jenny.sanders@mass.gov), DER's Ecological Restoration Partnerships Specialist, to discuss their proposed Partnership. Once the full RFR is published, DER staff will not be able to discuss application details or individual Partnerships.

### **LAND and PARC Grant Programs**

*Applications due: July 14, 3:00 p.m.*

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services seeks applications to the FY22 LAND and PARC grant programs. The LAND grant program is for municipal conservation commissions looking to protect conservation land. The PARC grant program is for municipalities looking to acquire parkland, renovate an existing park, and develop a new park. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

### **Conservation Partnership Grant Program**

*Applications due: July 19, 3:00 p.m.*

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services is seeking applications to the FY22 Conservation Partnership Grant Program. Conservation Partnership grants are for 501(c)(3) organizations looking for assistance in acquiring land in fee or a conservation restriction, as well as assistance with due diligence costs associated with gifts. Contact [melissa.cryan@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.cryan@mass.gov) with questions. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

### **Agricultural Preservation Restriction**

*Applications due: July 23*

The deadline for applications for the APR Program has been extended to July 23. The main objective of the APR program is to protect productive farmland with the deed restrictions and revitalize the agricultural industry by making land more affordable to farmers and their operations more financially secure. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

## **Opportunity**

### **Worcester Polytechnic Institute Launches a Masters in Community Climate Adaptation**

*Applications due: Thursday, July 15*

In this collaborative, three-semester program (with an option of one summer), students will work within teams to use engineering, social science, and physical and biological science skills to address climate change challenges and adapt in communities around the world. [Learn more.](#)

## **Jobs**

Got jobs to fill? Post them on the MLTC self-serve [Job Board](#)! Add one anytime.

[Central Region Director](#) - Mass Audubon

[Director of Development](#) - North County Land Trust

[Stewardship Coordinator](#) (part time) - Seekonk Land Conservation Trust

[Project Manager](#) - Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

