



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand eNews

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Member Spotlight



Barnstable Land Trust Celebrates New Barn

Barnstable Land Trust celebrated the opening of its new Michael R. Kramer Center at its 22-acre Fuller Farm property in Marstons Mills. The 3-season post and beam barn will provide storage and maintenance space for BLT's land management equipment, as well as workshop space to help educate the public not only about the past, but also about the future of environmental sustainability. The building includes renewable energy sources like a 6.4 kW solar system, which supplies electricity to the barn as well as BLT's offices and a solar electric vehicle charging station; an extensive rainwater harvesting system for permaculture gardening; an alternative septic system;

and more. "We are so excited to see our vision for Fuller Farm become a reality", says Janet Milkman, Barnstable Land Trust's Executive Director. "We acquired the property in 2012 from Barbara Fuller, who never wanted to see it developed. She was very happy to sell it to Barnstable Land Trust saying 'people don't know where their food comes from anymore'. The barn is symbolic of how we are honoring that past but also educating people about the future." BLT also has a partnership with a goat company and a pollinator field on the farm, as well as meadow and woodland hiking trails. [Read more](#). Photo credit: Greta Georgieva.

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 here](#).



Donate

Remember to support MLTC on [AmazonSmile](#) when you make a purchase. Thank you!

MassLand News & Programs



On one of the many warm afternoons we had this month, I enjoyed checking out the fall color at Stow Conservation Trust's Hale & Corzine Properties.
#OurMassLandTrusts

MLTC Steering Committee Meeting

Friday, December 9, 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. via Zoom

Land trust staff and board members as well as conservation partners are welcome to this quarterly meeting, featuring relevant news from state agencies, a timely update on state and federal policy matters, announcements, and a featured topic. This month Eve Schlüter from the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program and Andy Finton from The Nature Conservancy will introduce the newly released BioMap 3, the latest edition of a statewide map of strategic biodiversity conservation priorities. Registration required [here](#).

We're Hiring! Spread the Word!

If you want to be an integral part of running a small, growing organization and are a self-directed person comfortable taking initiative, [learn more](#) about MLTC's **multi-faceted part time Development and Communications Coordinator** position. You'll research grants and funding opportunities; plan and execute the lifecycle of membership and annual appeals and other development outreach; implement expansion of social media; assist in coordinating and implementing logistics of new and existing programs; and more. [Take a look](#) and spread the word!

Check Out Our Annual Report

MLTC recently released our first online [annual report](#), including a summary of our financial statements and list of supporters for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Thanks to everyone who contributed to a successful year! Many of you will soon see our year-end fundraising appeal arrive in your mailbox. Please consider [a gift](#) to support all that MLTC does.

Young Land Professionals Becomes Early Conservation Career Network (ECCN)

Since forming in 2017, the goal of [this group](#) has been to provide networking and training opportunities for people in their first 10 years of a land conservation career. The new name better

reflects the broader audience we hope to attract to our events to develop a strong network, which is irreplaceable in flattening the learning curve in early career. If you know of someone who fits the group's demographic and might be interested in joining, point them to admin@massland.org to sign up. And if you already know ECCN, we hope to see you at our next gathering on December 1st, or another event soon! See Events and Outings below for details on the December 1st gathering.

Policy

PLPA Passed!

Some 20 years after it was first introduced, *An Act preserving open space in the Commonwealth*, also known as the Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA), was passed by the legislature on November 10 and now awaits the Governor's signature. The bill codifies key aspects of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Land Disposition Policy, often referred to as the "No Net Loss Policy". This 1998 policy states that parks and conservation land subject to the protections of [Article 97](#) cannot be converted to another use unless land of comparable natural resource and economic value is designated to replace it. Though an excellent policy, it has been variably enforced over its 24-year history and – without the force of law – could be ignored or rescinded at any time by a future administration. Codifying its key provisions into law has been MLTC's top legislative priority in recent years, so this is a significant victory!

Over the past three months, a House and Senate Conference Committee has worked to reach agreement on the key outstanding issue of whether it should ever be permissible to provide funding in lieu of designation of replacement land. It's not surprising that this idea found its way into the version of the bill that passed in the Senate earlier this year, because this has actually been going on for years. The legislature has approved a number of conversions of Article 97 land with cash being paid in lieu of replacement land. Unfortunately, this has occurred with no transparency or accountability for how that money was ever spent. Clearly the "No Net Loss Policy" hasn't always been working the way many of us assumed it was. Recognizing that no bill would pass that took this de facto option off the table, MLTC and our coalition partners advocated for strong and specific constraints on the cash-in-lieu provision and are pleased with the outcome. Most importantly, the bill requires that any cash payments be expended on comparable replacement land within three years of when the conversion is approved, thus ensuring the intent of the "No Net Loss Policy" is eventually met. The bill also limits the circumstances under which cash-in-lieu can be allowed, and requires annual reporting on the status of all such funds. View our [coalition statement](#) thanking the legislature and urging the Governor to sign the bill. We extend our appreciation to the late Phil Saunders, who championed the bill for 20 years, to tireless lead sponsors Sen. Jamie Eldridge and Rep. Ruth Balsler, and to our coalition partners. View the full text of the bill [here](#).

Governor Signs Economic Development Bill

On November 10th, Governor Baker signed a a \$3.76 billion economic development bill that makes one-time investments on a wide range of needs, including \$175 million for parks & land conservation (\$75 million of which is designated for environmental justice communities), \$100 million for the Clean Water Trust, and \$20 million for the CPA Trust Fund. There are also some earmarks relevant to our constituents. The bill expends surplus funds from the FY22 budget and a second tranche of the state's share of federal ARPA funding. There is still some question of how long state agencies will have to expend these funds, but we expect this will mean increased state funding for conservation over the next couple of years, some of which will be spent directly by state agencies, and some that will likely be awarded through grant programs that are available to municipalities and non-profit partners. MLTC and a coalition of partners advocated for the bill to make significant investments in conservation, restoration and climate resiliency, and we were pleased with this outcome. See our letter thanking the legislature [here](#).

Candidate Environmental Briefing Book Available

MLTC was represented by Board Member Jack Clarke on the Steering Committee for a broad coalition of 26 environmental organizations that collaborated to create a *Climate and Environmental Policy Briefing Book* for candidates running for statewide office in the recent election cycle. MLTC Board Member Kristen Sykes also participated, representing AMC. The briefing book provides an excellent summary of a wide range of environmental issues facing the Commonwealth today, and is [worth downloading](#) to review and save for future reference. In compliance with 501(c)(3) requirements to remain non-partisan, the book was sent to all major party candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and auditor before the primary.

News

New Natural Climate Solutions Report

Highstead recently released *New England's Climate Imperative: Our Forests as a Natural Climate Solution*, which includes five strategies to increase carbon sequestration and storage in New England's forests, and aligns with existing science and research, such as the Commonwealth's [2050 Decarbonization Roadmap](#), New England Forestry Foundation's [30 Percent Climate Solution](#), and [Wildlands and Woodlands](#). [Read the report](#).

Native Groups Seek to Repair Lands Damaged by Colonization

Source: WBUR / Philip Marcelo, Associated Press

The [Wampanoag Common Lands seeks to restore](#) a 32-acre former Catholic summer camp on the banks of the Muddy Pond in Kingston to something closer to what it might have looked like before European colonization transformed it, including re-introducing native plants significant to the Wampanoag culture. Ramona Peters, a Mashpee Wampanoag who founded The Native Land Conservancy, which received the donated land this year, said the effort is all the more meaningful because the land is some five miles from where Pilgrims arriving on the Mayflower established the English colony of Plymouth, near the remnants of a Wampanoag community wiped out by European disease. [Read the article](#).

2022 Land Trust Salaries and Benefits Survey Report

The Land Trust Salaries and Benefits Survey is the only comprehensive source of staff compensation data exclusively for the land trust community. Note: Land Trust Alliance members receive complimentary access to the report. [Learn more](#).

DCR Forest Health 2022 Aerial Survey Results

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Forest Health Program released its annual forest health aerial survey in the form of an interactive story map, which provides a visual snapshot of the Commonwealth's forest canopy, and notes pests, diseases, or abiotic impacts that are causing significant damage. The story map allows the user to click on spotted defoliated areas for more information. [View the report and story map](#).

Webinars and eLearning



Conservation Café: What Is Land Acknowledgment Really All About?

Thursday, November 17

Cost: \$10-15 recommended donation

Join Rico Newman, Elder of the Choptico Band of Piscataway Conoy, as he acknowledges and thanks the land for its blessings and then teaches about what a land acknowledgment is, who "should" do them, why and how to do them, what it means to do a land acknowledgment well, and what not

to do. This talk is geared at a non-Native audience, but those with experience and expertise are welcome to contribute their own perspectives as well. [Register here.](#)



Conservation Finance Learning Lab

Second Tuesday of each month, December 2022 – April 2023

This free five-part lab will feature panel discussions, case studies, and networking opportunities for participants to take a deep dive into tangible, innovative approaches to conservation funding and financing. Each session will build on the previous one, and though participation in all is not required, **attendance at most sessions will ensure the full benefit of the series.** [Learn more and register.](#)



Free Risk Management Webinars via TerraFirma

Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Learn how to plan for risks, avoid unnecessary lawsuits, minimize the damage from legal challenges, and by participating in a webinar, benefit from a discount to the yearly annual TerraFirma insurance premium. Attend one, some, or all.

Thursday, December 8 | [Basic Risk Management: Insurance 101](#)

Thursday, January 12* | [Advanced Risk Management: Managing Risk With Outside Lawyers](#)

* *Advanced webinar. You must have attended at least one risk management training previously.*

Thursday, January 19 | [Basic Risk Management: Tips From TerraFirma](#)



QGIS for ALL: From LiDAR to Topos With QGIS

January 12, 19, 26 (three consecutive Thursdays), 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Offered by the Conway School, the QGIS course is of particular interest to land trusts and other land-based organizations which want to create maps and analyze information, as the software is free and you don't need a license to use it. [Details and to register.](#) Contact CJ Lammers at institute@csl.edu with questions.



Building the New Forest Future

This webinar series by the Northern Forest Center highlights stories, practices, and lessons from rural community development in the Northern Forest. It features communities and organizations that have demonstrated innovation and progress in critical sectors. [View past webinars, check out upcoming ones](#) (the next is Tuesday, January 17, noon on Ensuring Climate Resilience).

Events and Outings



Culvert Replacement Workshop

Thursday, December 1, 7:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Pittsfield

Hosted by the Housatonic Valley Association, this Road Stream Crossing Replacement Workshop will cover how to navigate culvert replacements that are more flood resilient, ecologically friendly, and in compliance with the Mass Road Stream Crossing Standards. Topics include: MassDOT Chapter 85 legal requirements; how to analyze NOIs for Conservation Commissions; field reconnaissance & location prioritization; funding; and a geomorphology Demo with a Stream Table. [Learn more & register.](#)



ECCN (Young Land Professionals) Gathering – Fall 2022, Southeastern MA

Thursday, December 1, 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the revitalized [D.W. Field Park, Brockton](#)

Join the Early Conservation Career Network's Fall outing. [Register here](#).
Schedule: 2:30 p.m. – Meet at the park's [main parking lot](#) on Oak St. | 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. – Walk around Upper Porter Pond and Waldo Lake, about 2 miles (mostly paved). Learn about the park's history, current uses, and how [Wildlands](#) is working with the city and other key partners to create a new park master plan. | 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Social hour (optional) at [Brockton Beer Company](#)'s taproom in downtown Brockton. This is one of the few breweries owned by people of color in Massachusetts, and they have a unique origin story.



Growing Up WILD Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators

Registration deadline: Thursday, December 1

Training date: Saturday, December 10, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Ada & Archibald MacLeish Field Station, Bechtel Environmental Classroom, 80 Poplar Hill Road, Whately

Educators will be guided through the "Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children" program, which builds on 3 - 7 year-old children's sense of wonder, and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Workshop participants will receive a copy of the guide and a certificate of completion. [Learn more and register](#).



Save the Date! 2023 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Saturday, March 25, 2023, in person at Worcester Technical High School and Friday, April 28, field trips around the state

Grants

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants

Info webinars: Tuesday, November 29, 2:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 1, 11:00 a.m.

Application deadline: Monday, January 23, 3:00 p.m.

LWCF grants provide financial assistance to municipalities and the state's Departments of Conservation and Recreation and Fish and Game for the acquisition of parkland, development of a new park, renovation of an existing park, development of trails in an existing conservation or recreation area, or the acquisition of conservation land. Grants up to \$1,000,000 are available. To receive the information webinars link, RSVP to Melissa Cryan at melissa.cryan@mass.gov. [Learn more and apply here](#).

Merrimack Conservation Partnership Land Conservation Grants

Application deadline: Friday, December 2

Land Conservation Grants underwrite transaction costs—appraisals, surveys, title research, staff time, etc.—on conservation transactions that protect land identified as a priority in the Merrimack Valley Regional Conservation Plan (2014). Projects must be located in [these towns](#) to be eligible for funding. [Learn more and apply](#).

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Grant Opportunities

Application deadline: Monday, December 5

These grants provide funding for the development of hazard mitigation plans and the

implementation of projects to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural hazards.

- [Hazard Mitigation Assistance \(HMA\) Grant Programs](#)
- [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#)
- [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) and Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\) Grant Programs](#)

Neighborhood Outreach Project – Request for Proposals

Application deadline: rolling, though applying in the fall is strongly recommended

Landowner decisions are often guided by the advice and stories of friends and neighbors. The goal of this grant is to use social networks to help inform landowner decisions about the future of their land. This grant is intended for areas with significant forest cover. Past projects include direct mailings to high-priority landowners, workshops, potlucks, site visits, and individualized follow-up with interested landowners. Municipal boards, land trusts, conservation organizations, neighborhood associations, natural resource professionals, and conservation partnerships are encouraged to apply. Activities must be completed no later than April 15, 2023. [Details and to apply](#). Questions? Contact Sarah Wells at wells@mountgrace.org or 978-541-1773.

Land Conservation Networking Mini Grants

Application deadline: rolling, though applying in the fall is strongly recommended

Recognizing that many land conservation projects require partnerships among community leaders and other conservation partners, this mini grant program focuses on creating intentional opportunities for networking and relationship building. The ideal proposal will bring together people from a shared geography to build or strengthen relationships in service of community conservation. Maximum grant is \$700. [Learn more and to apply](#). Questions? Contact Sarah Wells at wells@mountgrace.org or 978-541-1773.

Conservation Partnership Grant Program

Deadline: February 1, 2023 at 3:00 pm

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services is seeking applications to the FY 2023 Round 2 Conservation Partnership Grant Program. **This is a second round of funding made available for Fiscal Year 2023.** 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. Questions on the grant program can be directed to Melissa Cryan at melissa.cryan@mass.gov. For additional information and to apply, [click here](#).

Resources & Opportunities

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Calling on all outdoor enthusiasts to complete [this 10-minute survey](#) that will help determine how conservation funding is distributed in Massachusetts.

Women on the Land

The Women on the Land Steering Committee is in the process of planning this year's events. Fill out [this survey](#) to let us know which topics and events you're most interested in. [Learn more](#) about the Women on the Land network.

Cool Science Artwork Competition

Application deadline: Friday, January 13

Cool Science is a free and public art competition held each fall for all K-12 artists. This year young artists are asked to answer one of the following questions with a visual work of art: 1) How might your experience with extreme temperatures be different from kids in other places around the world? 2) Draw someone who is getting ready for flooding where you live. 3) Draw a public transportation system (like buses & trains) that keeps working in a severe storm. The best entries

will be displayed on public buses in 2023, and recognized at an art celebration. [Details and to apply.](#)

MDAR Mapping Data Input and Information – Request for Information

Deadline: Friday, January 13

MDAR is looking for information and potential partners to review the food system mapping needs (GIS) in Massachusetts. They want to learn what information exists and what would be useful to be mapped to help advance the work of food system stakeholders and organizations for the potential development of a statewide food system mapping project. [Learn more.](#) Questions? Contact Keri Cornman at keri.cornman@mass.gov.

Apply for Pro-Bono Consultation via Antioch University's Collaborative Services Initiative

Under this faculty-supervised program, graduate students provide pro bono consultation services on behalf of clients. Projects can include applied ecological or social research, energy and materials management, program evaluation, or other consultative services within the environmental domain. Past projects include: climate change adaptation and planning for communities; completing assessment processes, natural resource inventories, and ecological studies to inform community initiatives; environmental education program evaluation and design; and more. [Learn more and apply](#) to get your project included.

New Conservation Mapping Tool Helps Visualize Opportunities

The Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative launched a [new interactive mapping tool](#) designed to aid northeastern conservation practitioners and organizations advance conservation. Using birds as its guide, the tool supports activities such as habitat management planning and stewardship development, land prioritization and acquisition strategies, and landowner and community engagement. [Read more.](#)

Free HR and Risk Resources Website

The Nonprofit Risk Management Center's newly-launched [website](#) contains resources to help small to mid-sized nonprofits carry out HR functions and manage risk. The website includes factsheets, infographics, checklists, worksheets, and templates. A range of topics is covered, including employee onboarding, cybersecurity defense, how to manage across generations, handling conflict in the workplace, and much more.

Of Interest

Landback Movement Leader Connects Return of Indigenous Lands with Climate Change Mitigation

Allen Warren, former lieutenant governor of Santa Clara Pueblo, a federally recognized Native nation in New Mexico, and a past Director of the Trust for Public Lands National Tribal Lands Program, has long been a leader in efforts to restore traditional tribal lands to Native control. Speaking at Harvard Kennedy School's recent conference "Looking Back, Paying It Forward: Truth and Transformation through Historical Accountability", he stated that returning Native lands is not only about righting historic wrongs, but also about averting future environmental disaster. Noting that Indigenous communities around the world protect the vast majority of the planet's biodiversity, Warren cited several studies that concluded securing land rights for Indigenous communities could generate billions of dollars in economic returns and carbon-emissions reduction benefits. [Read more.](#)

Jobs

Post your job openings on the MLTC **self-serve** [Job Board](#)! Add one anytime. Jobs are posted throughout the month.

[Development and Communications Coordinator](#) (Part Time) - Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

[Development and Communications Manager](#) - East Quabbin Land Trust

[Community Outreach and Events Coordinator](#) (Boston, MA) - The Trustees

[Program Manager](#) - Earthwatch Institute

[Land Conservation Specialist](#) - Mass Audubon

[Steward](#) (Harvard, MA) - The Trustees

[Trails and Preserves Manager](#) - Steep Rock Association

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