



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand eNews

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Member Spotlight



Lynnfield-Greenbelt Collaboration Saves 21 Forested Acres in Key Watershed

Thanks to a renewed interest in conservation in a four-town area, Essex County Greenbelt Association and the Town of Lynnfield partnered to purchase 21 acres of undeveloped open space known as the Richardson Green property, which sits at the intersection of Lynnfield, Middleton, North Reading and Peabody in the headwaters of the threatened Ipswich River. It is gateway to an even larger forested parcel of 500+ acres known as Willis Woods. The property's protection is part of a larger effort that will improve recreational access, protect public drinking water supply, and preserve thousands of mature, carbon absorbing trees that were slated to be cleared for a large single-family residential development. Funding for the project came from a variety of sources, including ARPA, Town of Lynnfield Conservation Commission, and the state's Municipal Vulnerability Program, which funds climate-resilient projects ranging from new culverts and storm water systems to land acquisition. Lynnfield's Conservation Commission will hold the conservation restriction. [Read](#)

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



Was surprised by the balsams amidst the beech, oak and ivy on a chilly May afternoon walk through Orleans Conservation Trust's delightful Icehouse & Rueben's Pond Trails.
#OurMassLandTrusts

Barbara

Sign up for the next MLTC Steering Committee Meeting

The next MLTC Steering Committee meeting will be held via Zoom on Friday, June 10th, 10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. 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. Register [here](#).

Filling Land Trust Staff Vacancies in a Competitive Market

Thursday, June 16, 2022, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., via Zoom

A scan of the MLTC job board shows there's a lot of great job opportunities in conservation right now! This Stronger Together networking discussion provides an opportunity for staffed land trusts to discuss approaches to attracting and retaining staff in a competitive labor market. Where are you finding your best candidates? Is there more we could be doing to build a strong pipeline of conservation professionals? Bring your thoughts and questions to this conversation among peers. This discussion will not be recorded. Sponsored by MLTC and facilitated by Robb Johnson, Executive Director. Free, but advance registration required [here](#).

Join MLTC at the Statehouse for Nature and Climate Lobby Day!

June 22, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Virtual Kickoff Rally & Training on June 21, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

In the final weeks of the current legislative session, MLTC is partnering with the state's leading conservation organizations to organize small-group meetings with legislators to talk about the importance of investing state funding to protect nature and respond to climate change. Please amplify our message by joining a meeting with one or more legislators! Talking points will be provided, and we'll take care of the scheduling. Virtual meeting options may be possible for those who can't attend in person. Review talking points and get motivated at a virtual Kickoff Rally on Tuesday, June 21. Learn more and register [here](#).

Access to Conference Recordings Extended Through June 30th

Over 30 recordings of sessions from the 2022 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference will remain available to attendees via the conference portal through June 30th. Check out anything you missed while you can!

Meet the Young Land Professionals of MLTC

This month we feature Robin Austin, YLP Committee member. View her [bio](#). The Young Land Professionals (YLP) is a subset group of MLTC, formed in 2017 to provide networking and training opportunities for those in their first 10 years of a career in land conservation. If you'd like to join the YLP, email admin@massland.org with your name, affiliation and role.

Policy

ACTION NEEDED by May 23: Senate FY23 State Operating Budget

Massachusetts Senate released their FY23 State Operating Budget, and Senator Bruce Tarr has filed an amendment addressing one of MLTC's highest legislative priorities -- to increase the annual cap for the Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) program. Please contact your Massachusetts State Senator by Monday, May 23 and ask them to support Senator Tarr's Amendment #1! All it takes is a quick call or email to their office. Contact information for your legislator can be found [here](#). For a fact sheet on the CLTC program and Amendment #1, click [here](#). For sample language for your call or email, [click here](#).

Land Trust Alliance Advocacy Days Report

Colin Novick (Executive Director of Greater Worcester Land Trust) and Ray Lyons (an attorney who works with New England Forestry Foundation and other conservation organizations) represented Massachusetts and New England in Washington DC last week at LTA Advocacy Days. They held meetings with Representative Jim McGovern and staff from offices of Senator Ed Markey and House Ways and Means Chair Richard Neal, as well as senior officials from the US Forest Service and US Department of Agriculture. Ray also met with staff from New Hampshire's Sen. Maggie Hassan and Rep. Annie Kuster. They addressed the importance of passing The Conservation Easement Integrity Act, and ensuring strong conservation provisions are included in the 2023 Farm Bill, including a proposal to create a new Forest Conservation Easement Program modeled on the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program with its own dedicated funding stream. They also educated policy makers about the importance of funding a pilot program to pay forest owners to grow larger trees for forest products that could serve as carbon sinks. Read more about LTA's current federal priorities and how you can help [here](#).

News

EEA names Bob Wilber its new Director of Conservation Services

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has named Bob Wilber as Director of Conservation Services, the role held by Bob O'Connor until he stepped down last year. He is scheduled to begin on May 23. Bob Wilber's storied career in land conservation includes serving as Director of Land Conservation for Mass Audubon since 2000, and previous work in similar capacities for the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Massachusetts State Forests & Parks (now DCR), and longtime volunteer leadership of the all-volunteer Stow Conservation Trust. A founding member of MLTC's Board of Trustees, Bob has been integral to planning many of our annual Land Conservation Conferences and Land Trust/State Agency Retreats. MLTC thanks Bob for his long service to the land trust community and looks forward to working with him in this new capacity!

Request for Conference Proposals for Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network Gathering

Gathering: Thursday, November 17; Webinars: October 3 - November 10; Field Trips: mid-September - December

The RCP invites proposals for panels, webinars and field trips that share how organizations are advancing climate justice and resilience to make land more accessible and useful for nature and people, and more resilient to the impacts of climate change for the benefit of others. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Land Conservation's Impact on Property Taxes

Looking at data from New England cities and towns, recent research shows the tax impacts were small in most communities with significant new land protection. For the owner of a typical New England home (valued at \$266,493), an average 85-acre annual increase in protected area would result in an additional \$1.92 on their tax bill. Read the report [here](#). See also MLTC's recently completed [toolkit](#) on how to communicate the economic impacts of land conservation.

New Report and Mapping Tools Highlight Inequities in Access to Conserved Land

A new study by researchers from the Harvard Forest and Amherst College shows striking disparities in the distribution of conserved land across multiple dimensions of social marginalization in New England. Access the [tool](#) that helps address these inequities. [Learn more.](#)

Webinars and E-Learning



Building New Bridges Through Climate Communications

Friday, May 20, 9:30 a.m. - noon

How do you talk to someone who may not share your concern about climate change? Why does it matter? It matters because our society still lacks the broad social will to solve climate change. This virtual workshop by Maine Climate Table/Our Climate Common will present some of the newest, practical ideas from social psychology to use when communicating how to solve climate problems across many divides. Free, but [registration](#) is required.



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Training

Registration deadline: May 31

Wednesday, June 15, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

This free training will give an overview of eligibility rules for fiscal recovery funds, limits on the use of ARPA funds, and reporting requirements. Participants will also learn about applying Chapter 30B to ARPA funds, using collaborative and cooperative contracts, and complying with federal single audit requirements. Login details will be mailed to registrants. [Learn more and register.](#)

the **Conway School**

Teacher Training: Engaging Young People Around Climate Change

Registration deadline: Wednesday, June 29

A series of three days: Wednesday, July 6; Friday, July 8; Thursday, August 4
The [Conway Institute](#), the continuing education arm of the Conway School, will provide teacher training in climate change through the course [Engaging Young People Around Climate Change](#). Teachers will learn how to inspire students by evaluating a local landscape (their school or a local park), and learn ways to make it more climate resilient. One training is [for all teachers](#), provided in collaboration with the Collaborative for Educational Services. Another is for [teachers in Berkshire County](#), where scholarships are provided to help cover the fee. [Learn more.](#) Contact CJ Lammers at Institute@csl.edu with questions.



Risk Management in the Non-Profit Sector

Wednesday, July 20 | Risk Management Fundamentals

Thursday, October 13 | Advanced Risk Management and ERM

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is partnering with the Nonprofit Risk Management Center to offer LTA affiliates free registration for the 2022 Virtual Risk Summit. That means staff or Board members of MLTC member organizations can attend up to three full days of virtual training for free. Recordings are available for 30 days after the live event. [Learn more.](#)

[Register.](#)

Events and Outings



Earth Night Reception

Thursday, May 19, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

New England Aquarium, Harborview Terrace & tent

Environmental League of Massachusetts' Earth Night gala is attended by policymakers, environmental advocates, and business and civic leaders from across the Commonwealth. This year's focus is on the intersection of climate, health, and equity. In addition, the Commonwealth Environmental Leadership Awards will be presented to those who have worked at this nexus. [Learn more and register.](#)



MassAg in the Classroom

Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom (MAC) is a volunteer-run non-profit which supports teachers who provide students with lessons about agriculture. MAC has created some MA-specific lessons, and has access to the national lesson database. The next training is Thursday, May 26, 6:30 p.m. [Learn more.](#)



Rhode Island 2022 Land & Water Conservation Summit

July 14 - 16 (Thursday - Saturday, main event Friday, July 15)

Location: Univ. of Rhode Island Memorial Union and sites in South County

Join land trusts, watershed organizations, conservation commissions and other conservation organizations for workshops and panels on a range of topics including vulnerability to, and adaptation strategies against, climate change; solar development and forest protection; and how to better support diverse environmental communities and hear their voices. Lorén Spears, Executive Director of the Tomaquag Museum, will present the keynote address on "Sustaining and Conserving in Unprecedented Times". Topics covered will include traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous peoples' rights and environmental justice, and the history of Indigenous peoples and the Narragansett Nation. [Learn more and register.](#)



BIPOC Mirroring Training: Reflecting BIPOC Stories Through Nature and Belonging

July 17 - 23, Wild Mountain (near Buena Vista, CO)

Open to all who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), this program is part of a series of trainings intended to empower BIPOC guides for leadership in nature-based programming. Participants will learn to listen and tell from the full spectrum of BIPOC experiences by going intentionally onto the land alone. Stories will come from time on the land, through which participants will find their own unique way to listen and

mirror, key skills that those who work with people, especially BIPOC and mixed race groups, must know in order to respond to diverse stories of pain, trauma, belonging, celebration and resilience. There is a \$100 registration fee required up front, with tuition pay-as-you-are-able. [Learn more.](#)

Grants

Land Use Planning Grants

Application deadline: Friday, May 20

These grants, available to municipalities and Regional Planning Agencies, support EEA's efforts to plan, regulate (zone), conserve and develop land consistent with the Massachusetts Sustainable Development Principles. Grants are available for diverse land use planning-related work, with preference given to zoning that addresses compliance with Section 3A of the Zoning Act (MBTA Communities) or any of the Housing Choice Best Practices; zoning that results in permanent land conservation; and mitigation of climate change through zoning and other regulations that reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. [Learn more.](#)

National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant

Letters of Interest deadline: Friday, May 27

Coastal Watersheds Grants support projects that address urgent and challenging issues that threaten the well-being of coastal and estuarine areas; achieve quantifiable improvements in these habitats; apply new or innovative approaches to prevent, treat or remove pollution entering estuaries; and build local capacity to protect and restore coastal watersheds and their living resources. The grant program encourages partnerships to achieve these goals. View the [RFR](#) and [informational webinar](#). The grant is administered by Restore America's Estuaries.

Tree Planting Implementation Grant

Application deadline: Monday, June 6

These reimbursement grants will be awarded to Gateway City municipalities and qualified non-profits to facilitate tree planting that has a measurable impact on the urban canopy in Gateway Cities. Maximum award is \$100,000. Applications must include a detailed planting plan and adhere to 'right tree, right place' policies. Planting work must be managed by a certified arborist. [Learn more.](#) [Bid document.](#)

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) FY23 Planning Grant

Application deadline: Tuesday, June 7

The MVP Program offers planning grants to municipalities to assess their vulnerability to, and prepare for, climate impacts, build community resilience, and receive designation as an MVP Community. [Learn more.](#)

Land and Climate Grant Program

Application deadline: Wednesday, June 8

Land and Climate Grants support the development of climate-informed land conservation, stewardship or communications plans that address one or more of the following issues: habitat resilience, carbon mitigation, or community adaptation to climate impacts such as stronger storms, flooding, drought, fire or extreme heat. The program is a collaboration between Land Trust Alliance and Open Space Institute. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Coastal Resilience Grant Program

Application deadline: Monday, June 13

The MA Office of Coastal Zone Management seeks proposals for innovative and transferable local and regional projects to address coastal flooding, erosion and sea level rise. Up to \$2,000,000 per

project may be requested. Eligible to apply are the [78 municipalities located within the Massachusetts coastal zone](#), as well as 501(c)(3) organizations that own vulnerable coastal property that is open and accessible to the public. [Learn more and apply](#).

LAND and PARC Grant Programs

Application deadline: Thursday, July 14

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services seeks applications for the FY23 LAND and PARC grant programs. The [LAND](#) (Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity) grant program is for municipal conservation commissions looking to protect conservation land. The [PARC](#) (Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities) grant program is for municipalities looking to acquire parkland, renovate an existing park, and develop a new park. To learn more and apply, tap the desired program link above.

Resources & Opportunities

Tracking Land Protection on the Wildlands and Woodlands Website

The improved Wildlands and Woodlands [website](#) tracks progress on the [vision](#) to protect land, nature and people in New England. Learn about pathways to achieving success, evaluate New England's progress by region and state, and find news and resources to inspire, inform and enhance conservation efforts.

Toolbox for Farm Transfer Planning

For people who are in the beginning stages of thinking about retirement, looking for a successor, have an identified successor, or are part of a farm family in transition, [this toolbox](#) offers guides, worksheets, articles and other resources to inform decision-making and guide planning for transferring the farm. Interested in farmland issues? Check out the [New England Farm Link Collaborative](#) and [American Farmland Trust](#).

Native Plants for Gardens

Native "wild type" species are more difficult to find in local nurseries than cultivars and natives. Why is it important to know the differences, and why, in most cases, is it best to select the native species? Local expert Uli Lorimer, Director of Horticulture at the Native Plant Trust, explains the differences, and why making an informed decision is important. Watch [Native Plants for your Garden](#).

Summit Speaker Series - Workshop Recordings

Our colleagues at Rhode Island Land Trust Council and Audubon Society of Rhode Island jointly hosted a series of workshops throughout April on a range of topics, including board member recruitment. Check out recordings and materials [here](#).

Nip the Knotweed: Manual Control

Got knotweed? Try the [nip the knotweed technique](#), which is a series of cuts over several years. This is one of a few manual techniques that shows promise at controlling knotweed without herbicide application.

Make Your Yard Bee-Friendly

Many bumblebee species are in decline in Massachusetts. Help bumblebees and other pollinators by selecting native plants that bloom at different times of the year, and by avoiding the use of pesticides. Here are some [tips and a plant sheet](#).

Attract Birds Naturally

Bird feeders often do more harm than good. Feeders can disrupt natural behaviors, spread disease, and attract wildlife other than birds. By providing natural foods, water sources and nesting habitat,

view songbirds all year without feeders. [Learn which plants and features work best.](#)

Jobs

Post your job openings on the MassLand **self-serve** [Job Board!](#) Add one anytime.

[Executive Director](#) - Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust

[Senior Director of Land Conservation](#) - Mass Audubon

[Director of Land Protection](#) - Sudbury Valley Trustees

[Director of Rivers & Lands](#) - The Nature Conservancy

[Vice President of Operations](#) - Buzzards Bay Coalition

[Finance and Operations Manager](#) - Greenbelt

[Director of Development](#) - Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

[Development Associate](#) - New England Forestry Foundation

[Fundraising Associate & Grant Writer](#) (part-time) - Boston Farms Community Land Trust

[Program Coordinator](#) - Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture

[Program Assistant](#) - Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture

[Christmas Tree Farmer](#) - Society for the Protection of NH Forests

[Land Protection Specialist](#) - Squam Lakes Conservation Society

[Land Protection Specialist](#) - Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

[Stewardship Associate](#) - New England Forestry Foundation

[Summer Land Steward](#) - Buzzards Bay Coalition & Rochester Land Trust

[Wide variety of summer and seasonal positions](#) - with DCR across the Commonwealth.
Most involve working outdoors at state parks and forests.

Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition | 18 Wolbach Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776 | <https://massland.org>