



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Member Spotlight



Protection of the Apponagansett Bay Farm Completed

In March, Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) finalized a conservation restriction on the privately-owned [Apponagansett Bay Farm](#), a 22-acre parcel that had been part of a larger 128-acre property owned by the Webb family. This final piece in a rich patchwork of historic farmlands, woods, and wetlands that border [Dike Creek](#) in Dartmouth has been placed under permanent protection, ensuring that the area will retain its wealth of natural resources for clean water, saltmarsh health, and wildlife. Buzzards Bay Coalition will undertake a similar partnership in the near future with Rochester Land Trust to keep an agricultural property viable as such.

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 sunny day in early spring was a great time to explore Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center in Mattapan. Great trails! #OurMassLandTrusts

Robb

With Gratitude.....

Thank you to all the sponsors, presenters and attendees who made last month's [Massachusetts & Rhode Island Land Conservation Conference](#) a success! Recordings of the sessions plus the plenary panel and keynote talk will be available through June 18. If you missed it, [recordings-only tickets](#) are available now through May 20.

Land Trusts and the APR Program: Increasing the Pace of Farmland Preservation

Thursday, May 6, 10:30 am - noon. via Zoom

David Viale, Agricultural Lands Program Manager with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, will lead a discussion with land trust representatives to explore ways to improve the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) acquisition process. Input will be sought on topics including shortening the APR acquisition timeline; increasing available funding and the number of projects per year; possibly reimbursing land trusts for project planning and management, due diligence and pre acquisition; other ideas for increasing the number of applications facilitated by land trusts; expanding eligibility for APR or revising ranking criteria; and a possible pathway for APRs other than NRCS' Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition. Free but advance registration required [here](#).

Models for Land Trust Collaboration: A Stronger Together Learning Collaborative

Three sessions, beginning Monday May 10, 10:00 am – noon, via Zoom.

Next sessions Monday May 17, 10 am – noon; and Monday June 14, 10 am – noon.

This interactive three-part workshop is for land trusts leaders interested in exploring the possibility of formalized collaboration with other conservation organizations. Could formalized collaboration (i.e. beyond occasional advice, networking and project-specific partnership) be a tool for sustaining and strengthening your organization? Learn from peers as you clarify motivations and reservations about collaboration, hear lessons learned from those who have implemented various models, and set concrete objectives for next steps you can take if you want to explore further. Facilitated by Robb Johnson, with guest speakers sharing experience with models including paying for staff time or services from a larger or umbrella organization; sharing staff or office space; and fiscal agency or legal affiliation. Agenda details will be sent in advance. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition. Note: Each participating organization is encouraged to send at least two representatives to participate. Free of charge to [MLTC members](#); Non-member fee: \$30 per organization. For more information contact Robb at robb@massland.org. Advance registration required [here](#). (Registrants will receive a follow-up email with registration links for sessions 2 and 3.)

Environmental Protection at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office: Lessons and Opportunities for Massachusetts Land Trusts

Thursday, May 27, noon - 1:15 pm, via Zoom

Attorneys from the AG's Office will discuss the Environmental Protection Division's work tackling climate change, challenging recent federal environmental rollbacks, enforcing state wetlands laws, and furthering environmental justice across the Commonwealth. The presentation will include lessons learned and opportunities for land trust engagement on some of the most pressing environmental issues facing Massachusetts. Speakers include Chief Legal Counsel Richard Johnston (former president of the Dennis Conservation Land Trust and Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts), Assistant Attorneys General Turner Smith and Meghan Davoren and Special Assistant Attorney General David Frankel. Sponsored by the Dennis Conservation Land Trust, Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts and Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition. Free but advance registration required [here](#).

Sponsored Content on E-News

MLTC is now offering 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.

Policy

Action Needed: House FY22 State Operating Budget

On April 14, the Massachusetts House released their FY22 State Operating Budget, with good news for our state environmental agencies – all of the [Green Budget priorities](#) saw an increase over the Governor's proposed budget. Rep. Joan Meschino has filed Amendment #161 to increase the Division of Ecological Restoration to \$3M (the Green Budget request).

In addition, minority Leader Jones 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 Representative ASAP and ask him/her to support Minority Leader Jones' Amendment #800!** 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 proposed changes, [click here](#). For a sample language for your call or email, [click here](#).

Action Needed on a Bill to Protect Public Lands

While the House is focused on the budget, we urge you to reach out to your State Senators urging them to co-sponsor S.B. 534, *An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth*. Previously known as the Public Lands Protection Act, this longstanding MLTC priority has more momentum than ever, having passed the House at the end of the last legislative session. The bill would codify a thoughtful public process before public parks and conservation land could be used for other purposes, and require the protection of comparable land before such a change is approved. Read more about the bill [here](#). Contact information for your legislator can be found [here](#), and a list of current sponsors can be found [here](#). If your Senator isn't on that list, please reach out with a short call or email to ask them to co-sponsor.

What You Need to Know About the New Mass. Climate Law

Source: By Miriam Wasser, WBUR, March 26, 2021

On Friday, March 26 Gov. Charlie Baker signed a sweeping climate bill into law, signaling a new era in Massachusetts' plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions, build a greener economy and prioritize equity and environmental justice. The new law, An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy, represents the most significant update to climate policy in the Commonwealth since the landmark 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act. The bill codifies the state's Net Zero emissions goal, includes critical environmental justice protections, requires a goal and plan for increasing natural and working lands carbon sequestration and storage, provides a toolkit of

policies and strategies to decarbonize our economy, and more. [Read the full article](#). Many thanks to all who worked on this critical legislation!

News

May 15 Deadline to Opt-Out of Mosquito Spraying

Source: Metrowest Conservation Alliance and SuAsCo CISMA, April 16, 2021

Municipal opt-out applications for calendar year 2021 season are due to EEAopt-out@mass.gov by Saturday, May 15. To opt-out of spraying conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board, a municipality must submit an alternative mosquito management plan. [Learn more and apply here](#). Private landowners and tenants can opt out at any time of the year. Here is more [information](#) on how you can do this for your own property. To learn more about the impacts of spray and current efforts from the [MASSquito Coalition Resources](#).

Nothing's Off the Table: Gina McCarthy Has Big Plans for the Climate Fight

Source: By Andy Kroll, Rolling Stone, March 21, 2021

Gina McCarthy, EPA Head under Barack Obama and keynote speaker at the 2019 Mass. Land Conservation Conference, has been tasked by President Biden to be the domestic Climate Czar. Under Pres. Obama, McCarthy led the creation of the Clean Power Plan, which created the first national emissions standards for power plants, and a slew of other agency-level actions to reduce pollution and transition to clean energy. [Read the interview](#).

Small Parcel Agriculture: Policies for the Changing Face of Massachusetts Agriculture

Source: the MA Food System Collaborative

The average size of farms and farmland parcels has steadily decreased since the 1930s. Land and farm policy meant to benefit agriculture, but tailored to farming on large parcels, has not kept up with these changes. [This document](#) provides some background on the issue and presents possible solutions.

Webinars and E-Learning



Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions

Wednesday, April 28, noon – 1:30 pm

Nature-based solutions provide opportunities to restore ecosystems while also protecting human well-being and the built environment in the face of climate change. Join for a discussion on ways to address climate change impacts through the application of nature-based solutions, including current examples and lessons learned. This panel will highlight work taking place across geographies, habitats, and scales in celebration of 2021 Global Adaptation Month and Earth Day's focus to "Restore our Earth", brought to you by EcoAdapt's National Adaptation Forum. Register [here](#).



Women on the Land Webinar Series

Wednesdays in May, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Hear women landowners and forestry professionals from across the Northeast, mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes regions address topics on forest dynamics and stewardship. Sessions are interactive and will offer opportunities to connect with women woodland owners and enthusiasts.

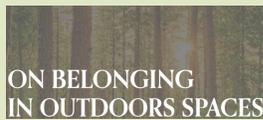
May 5 | Forest Ecology & Forest Succession

May 12 | Creating a Plan and Working with a Forester

May 19 | Active Stewardship

May 26 | The Future of Your Woodland

[Register here.](#)



On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces: Access, Inclusion and Connection in Nature

This free virtual series highlights speakers whose work advances efforts to strengthen belonging and connection between communities of color and the outdoors. [Learn more.](#) [Register here.](#)

Wednesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. | Dr. Monica White, Author of "Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement"

Wednesday, June 2, 7:00 p.m. | Dr. J. Drew Lanham, Coloring the Conservation Conversation



Symposium on Advanced Legal Topics in Land Conservation

Thursday & Friday, June 10 & 11

Sponsored by LTA, this symposium will discuss complex legal challenges and emerging issues such as: implications of building envelopes and inconsistent uses; case law and the impact of syndication litigation; fundraising from a legal and tax perspective; enforcement of permitted rights and stewardship; issues in drafting of amendment clauses; and more. It's ideal for attorneys, senior conservation practitioners and law school faculty, and offers up to 6.5 continuing legal education credits (including 1.5 ethics credits). [Agenda.](#) [Register here.](#)



Climate Adaptation for Land Trusts – Short Course

June 9, 16 and 30 at 2 p.m. Central / 3 p.m. Eastern for 90 minutes each

Cost for LTA members: \$10 thanks to support from the [USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub](#)

Sponsor: Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

This online short course is designed for land trusts actively working on stewardship projects in rural, suburban and urban forests, forested watersheds and wetland systems. Goals are: identify locally important climate change impacts, challenges and opportunities; use the [quick start guide to adaptation planning for land trusts](#) to consider climate change and carbon in land stewardship and management; develop actions to help a specific natural area adapt to changing conditions; and communicate with stakeholders about climate impacts and adaptation responses. [Learn more.](#) [Register here.](#)



New England Regional Fellowship through the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP)

Applications due: Monday, May 10, 11:59 p.m. Eastern

Cost: \$1,800. Some needs-based scholarships are available

ELP Fellowships offer intensive leadership and skills training, national networking opportunities, and, through immersive retreats, help emerging leaders hone their leadership styles, improve their strategy and organizational development, strengthen their outreach to diverse constituencies, and develop a Personal Leadership Plan. Applicants must work or live in New England; have at least three years of work experience or are enrolled in graduate-level academic studies related to environmental or social change issues, broadly defined; and be able to participate in all 3 retreats. [Details here.](#)

Climate Solutions 101 Video Series

Filled with the latest need-to-know science and insights from global leaders

Did You Miss It? Recordings from Webinars Past

[Problems with Invasive Shrubs/ Identify, Remove, Replace](#)

With Cricket Vlass, Wellesley Town Horticulturist and Landscape Planner. Supported by Wellesley Conservation Land Trust, Wellesley Natural Resources Commission, Sustainable Wellesley, and Wellesley Free Library. Recorded February 23.

[Wild Carbon](#) (Carbon Storage in Wild Forests)

By Mark Anderson, Director of Science for The Nature Conservancy, Eastern Region, and Northeast Wilderness Trust President. Recorded March 17.

Events and Outings

Tuesday, April 20, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

A conversation with **Dina Gilio-Whitaker**, author of [As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice from Colonization to Standing Rock](#), member of Colville Confederated Tribes, lecturer of American Indian Studies at California State University San Marcos, and an independent consultant and educator in environmental justice policy planning. Through the unique lens of "Indigenized environmental justice", Indigenous researcher and activist Gilio-Whitaker explores the history of treaty violations, struggles for food and water security, and protection of sacred sites, while highlighting the important leadership of Indigenous women in this centuries-long struggle. In conversation with Daniel Faber, Director of the Northeastern Environmental Justice Research Collaborative (NEJRC). [Registration required.](#)

Celebrate Earth Day 2021 (Thursday, April 22)

Open space, fresh air, taking a walk, eating fresh food from a local farm, enjoying birdsong in a forest, field or lot. All these are excellent reasons to be thankful for your local land trust. Celebrate them and the earth on April 22 by getting out onto the land. [Find a land trust](#) near you, and support them as you are able.

River Rally 2021

May 17 - 20 (Monday - Thursday)

Join river advocates from around the country for this virtual annual conference for four days of workshops, networking, plenary speaker, and awards panels. Tracks include: resilient communities, water and agriculture, drinking water, policy and advocacy, science and climate, and more. [Learn more.](#) [Register here.](#)

Grants

Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund

Applications due: Friday, April 23

This initiative of the Network for Landscape Conservation is intended to help accelerate the pace of landscape conservation across the United States. The Fund makes strategic investments in strengthening the collaborative capacity and process of place-based, community-grounded landscape conservation partnerships. A portion of the Fund is reserved specifically to advance Indigenous leadership in landscape conservation. One- or two-year grants of \$10,000 to \$25,000 will be provided. The [guidelines](#) are complex, and a funding match of 1:1 is required. [Learn more.](#) [Download the RFP.](#)

DCR Partnership Matching Funds Program

Concept Form due: Friday, April 30

Matching funds are available for capital projects and equipment at DCR properties. Proposed projects MUST be on DCR property. External partners identify needed improvements in their DCR parks and donate funds which are matched by DCR, and DCR completes the work. DCR will consider a 2:1 match on contributions of up to and including \$25,000 and a 1:1 match on those of more than \$25,000. DCR will consider applications for projects that may require more than one fiscal year to plan and complete. [Learn more.](#) [Apply here.](#)

The 2021 [Climate Adaptation Fund RFP](#) is Open

Pre-proposal applications due Wednesday, April 28

The Wildlife Conservation Society will award grants to nonprofit conservation organizations across two funding categories: Adaptation Implementation of innovative actions for wildlife and ecosystems, and Adaptation Mainstreaming. [Learn more.](#)

LAND and PARC Grant Programs

Pre-application workshops: Tuesday, May 4, 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, May 13, 2:00 p.m.

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. For the LAND program RSVP to nathaniel.thomas1@mass.gov for the login information. For the PARC grant program, RSVP to melissa.cryan@mass.gov for the login information. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

EPA Environmental Justice Grants

Applications due: Friday, May 7

The EPA is now accepting [EJ Small Grants](#) and [EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving](#) grant applications. Eligible entities include: Non-profits, US territories, Tribal Governments (both federally recognized and state-recognized), and Native American Organizations.

FY22 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant Programs

[Learn more](#) about the MVP programs and application process.

[MVP Program Action Grants](#)

Applications due: Friday, May 7

Provide designated MVP Communities funding to implement identified priority climate adaptation actions.

[MVP Program Planning Grants](#)

Applications due: Friday, June 4

Provide support for cities and towns to complete climate vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented climate resiliency plans.

Statement of Interests (SOIs) are being accepted on a rolling cycle for the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) and/or Flood Mitigation Assistance project, scoping, and planning grants. Assistance will be provided on a first come first served basis.

Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant

Applications due: Monday, May 10, 3:00 p.m.

Grants of up to \$300,000 in reimbursable expenses are available to municipalities and water supply and fire districts looking for financial assistance for the purchase of land in existing Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)-approved drinking water supply protection areas, or land in

estimated protection areas of identified and planned future water supply wells or reservoirs. [Details here.](#)

Landscape Partnership Grant

Applications due: Monday, May 10, 3:00 p.m.

Grants up to \$1,250,000 are available for the acquisition of property interests with a minimum of 500 acres in large, unique, unfragmented conservation and working lands, in single or multiple parcels, by two or more entities acting in cooperation. [Details here.](#)

DER Priority Projects Program Pre-RFR (Request for Response)

RFR anticipated release: Tuesday, April 20

Applications due: Monday, May 17

The pre-RFR period serves as a preview of the full RFR. The RFR will solicit applications for Priority Projects that focus on cranberry bog wetland restoration, dam removal and river restoration, coastal wetland restoration projects, or a combination of these. DER (Division of Ecological Restoration) can discuss and answer any questions regarding proposed projects during the pre-RFR time, and strongly encourages those considering applying for Priority Project status to discuss their project idea. For cranberry bog wetland restoration projects, contact alex.hackman@mass.gov or 802-318-6915. For dam removal and river restoration projects, contact nick.wildman@mass.gov. For coastal wetland restoration projects, contact georgeann.keer@mass.gov. **Once the full RFR is published, DER staff will not be able to discuss individual projects.** [Read more](#) about the Priority Project program.

Coastal Resilience Grant Program

Proposals due: Monday, May 24 by 4:00 p.m.

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) announces the availability of approximately \$3 million in funding to coastal communities and eligible nonprofit organizations to reduce risks associated with coastal storms and sea level rise impacts. Eligible coastal resilience initiatives include vulnerability and risk assessment, planning and public outreach, redesigning and retrofitting vulnerable municipally owned facilities and infrastructure, and non-structural shoreline restoration approaches (such as beach, berm, and dune building; fringing salt marsh restoration; and coastal bank stabilization using bioengineering techniques). See the Request for Responses and more information [here](#).

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

Pre-RFR release: Late May 2021

RFR release: mid-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. Interested potential applicants are encouraged to contact Jenny Sanders jenny.sanders@mass.gov, DER's Ecological Restoration Partnerships Specialist, with questions.

2021 Restoration and Resilience COVID Recovery Fund through the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

Applications due: Tuesday, June 1

Grants of up to \$2,500, to be spent over six months, are available to assist public lands impacted by increased use during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, eligibility, and application instructions, [read here](#). Certain restrictions apply.

Conservation Partnership Grant Program

Applications due: Monday, 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 with questions. [Learn more and apply here](#).

Opportunity

The Nature Conservancy is **looking for one sub-tenant** to share their bright, beautiful space in downtown Boston. Up to 18 desks are available with access to shared meeting/phone rooms, kitchen, etc. Please contact Meg Connerton at mconnerton@tnc.org for more information.

Notable

Good Owners Make Good Dogs

This free [brochure](#) educates dog owners about how they can reduce dogs' negative impacts on conservation lands. Approved by Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals, it includes space for your own organization's branding. To request an editable version, contact admin@massland.org.

Young Wildlife in Spring

Source: *MassWildlife*

You might think that young wildlife found alone are orphaned, but parents will leave their young for long periods as they search for food. If you find young wildlife this spring, leave them alone—their best chance for survival is in the wild. [Learn more](#) on what to do.

Jobs

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

[Executive Director](#) - Rhode Island Land Trust Council

[Institutional Giving Manager](#) - The Trust for Public Land

[Development & Administration Coordinator](#) - Ipswich River Watershed Association

[Campaign Manager](#) - New England Forestry Foundation

[Land Manager](#) - Dennis Conservation Land Trust

[Conservation Manager](#) - Kestrel Land Trust

[Stewardship Coordinator](#) - Northeast Wilderness Trust

[Office Manager](#) - Harvard Conservation Trust

[Arthur V. Savage Paid Internship](#) - Parks & Trails New York

[Stewardship Field Assistant, Summer 2021](#) - Sudbury Valley Trustees

[Trails Team Leader](#) - The Trustees

Property Worker (Allens Pond/South East) - Mass Audubon

See the [MLTC Job Board](#) on our website for the latest openings.

Also navigate to massland.org > Resources > Job Board.

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