



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

## MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

October 21, 2021, Volume 19, Number 10

## Member Spotlight



*A cow pastured on a newly conserved field below Warner Hill in the background with views down the valley formed by Maxwell Brook beyond.*

### **Nearly 700 Acres of Contiguous Forests Protected in Charlemont and Rowe**

Franklin Land Trust's Warner Hill Landscape Partnership project is the culmination of more than six years of work, and permanently protects nearly 700 acres in Charlemont and Rowe, resulting in an unbroken block of more than 4 1/2 square miles of permanently conserved wildlife habitat. It was one of the largest conservation projects completed in Massachusetts in the past year. The rationale for conserving this block of land includes not only its wildlife habitat and location in the Deerfield River watershed, but also its size and connectivity to lands previously protected by towns and by the state. The eleven parcels involved connect an additional 2,000 acres of natural lands whose conservation was established years ago. The project was made possible by the Landscape Partnership Grant from the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. [Read more.](#)

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



It was a perfect autumn afternoon for a stroll through the holly grove, into pine and oak woodland to the expansive views of Cape Cod Bay on Brewster Conservation Trust's Eddy Bay Trail.

#OurMassLandTrusts

*Barbara*

## 2022 Conference Workshop Proposal Deadline Extended to October 28<sup>th</sup>

Join us at the 2022 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference and share your expertise with a broad range conservation-minded practitioners and public! The conference will be held virtually via a Zoom-based platform (simpler than last year's platform!) on March 24, 25 and 26. Proposals are invited on a broad range of topics, including community conservation; diversity, equity & inclusion; land conservation tools & techniques; land management & stewardship; legal, tax & compliance matters; organizational management & fundraising; and responding to climate change. This year we **are encouraging proposals for in-the-field workshops** that would be held outdoors around the state, **providing an in-person networking opportunity** during the conference.

This year's theme is "**Communicating Conservation: Building the Message for the 21st Century**". We especially invite presentations that speak to this theme. We also encourage presenters to address equity and inclusion in their workshops. [Submit your proposal here](#). (View as a [PDF here](#).) Each workshop speaker receives one free admission to the full conference.

## Register now for the 18th Annual Land Trust / State Agency Retreat!

November 4, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Red Apple Farm, Phillipston

November 5, 9:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

Join land trust and state agency conservation colleagues for this annual opportunity for networking and collective problem-solving. This year features both in-person and virtual programming. Attend one or both! View the [agenda here](#).

**Thursday, November 4th:** 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., with optional social hour to follow.

**In person** at Red Apple Farm, [455 Highland Avenue, Phillipston](#). **Cost:** \$35 per person, including morning coffee and a wholesome lunch. Note: Attendees must attest to being fully vaccinated or getting a negative test for COVID-19 within three days prior to the event. Masks will be required. **Focus:** Increasing the pace of conservation. The agenda includes social networking time and a walk to Thousand Acre Swamp. Limited to 60 attendees. [Register here](#).

**Friday, November 5th:** 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Virtual**, via Zoom. Free. **Focus:** Engaging with Indigenous communities to transform land conservation and stewardship. Featuring Ciona Ulbrich,

from Maine Coast Heritage Trust and First Light, and case studies of efforts currently underway in Massachusetts. Advance registration is required via [this Zoom link](#).

### **Help MLTC Work for You: A Forum for Executive Staff of Regional Land Trusts**

Monday, November 8, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. via Zoom

This networking discussion provides an opportunity for executive staff of regional land trusts to provide input on MLTC's 5-year strategic planning process currently underway. How can MLTC be a better advocate for you, or help with your technical, funding, communications or other needs? Hosted and facilitated by Robb Johnson, MLTC Executive Director, with Karen Grey, MLTC Board Member and Executive Director of Wildlands Trust. This discussion will not be recorded. Free, but advance registration required [here](#). If you are unable to attend but would like to provide input, please let Robb know at [robb@massland.org](mailto:robb@massland.org).

### **Help MLTC Work for You: A Forum for Leaders of Smaller Staffed Land Trusts**

Wednesday, November 10, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

This networking discussion provides an opportunity for leaders of land trusts with 1 to 3 staff people or trusts that work within a single town to provide input on MLTC's 5-year strategic planning process currently underway. How can MLTC be a better advocate for you, or help with your technical, funding, communications or other needs? Hosted and facilitated by Robb Johnson, MLTC Executive Director, with Janet Milkman, MLTC Board Member and Executive Director of Barnstable Land Trust. This discussion will not be recorded. Free, but advance registration required [here](#). If you are unable to attend but would like to provide input, please let Robb know at [robb@massland.org](mailto:robb@massland.org).

### **Help MLTC Work for You: A Forum for All-Volunteer Land Trusts**

Monday, November 15, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

This networking discussion provides an opportunity for board members of all-volunteer land trusts to provide input on MLTC's 5-year strategic planning process that is currently underway. How can MLTC be a better advocate for you? Or help with your technical, funding, communications or other needs? Hosted and facilitated by Robb Johnson, MLTC Executive Director. This discussion will not be recorded. Free, but advance registration required [here](#). If you are unable to attend but would like to provide input, please let Robb know at [robb@massland.org](mailto:robb@massland.org).

## **Policy**

### **Huge Opportunity to Invest in a Green Recovery**

Having wrapped up public hearings, the Massachusetts Legislature is nearing a decision on how to spend \$4.9B in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Eight statewide environmental NGOs, including MLTC, have been advocating for investing a portion of those funds in a more environmentally resilient Commonwealth. NOW is the time to contact your State Senator and Representative and urge them to support significant ARPA funding for land acquisition and restoration, climate resiliency, and outdoor recreation. For background and details you could cite, see our joint letter [here](#), a recent Op-Ed in the Boston Herald from TNC's Massachusetts State Director Deb Markowitz [here](#), and a Boston Globe editorial [here](#). Find your legislator [here](#).

### **Ground-mounted Solar Projects Draw Attention**

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources recently issued several updates to [the guidelines](#) governing its solar incentive (SMART) program. Draft guidelines on dual use solar/agriculture projects are [open for comment](#) through October 27.

A coalition of environmental organizations, including MLTC, recently released a [joint statement](#) proposing principles to encourage deployment of solar power while balancing climate mitigation with resiliency, biodiversity and equity goals. If you are interested in adding your organization's name to this statement, you can indicate that [here](#).

Meanwhile, the Cape Cod Commission recently developed a new model solar bylaw for municipalities, which can be found here: [Model Large-Scale Solar Bylaw | Cape Cod Commission](#)

### **DCR Special Commission Draft Report is Now Available**

Prepared by the UMass Donahue Institute, [this report](#) makes recommendations to provide pathways for DCR to improve the management, operations and asset condition of the natural, cultural and recreational resources held by the department. The importance of DCR to the overall wellbeing of Massachusetts residents is perhaps clearer today than at any point in the organization's history. [Learn more](#) about this study: why it was conceived, it's goals, and recommended actions, public participation options, and deadlines. Timeline: **written comments accepted through** Thursday, October 28.

## News

### **Academic Conservation Briefs**

New England colleges and universities are conserving land and encouraging land conservation initiatives in partnership with communities in their regions. To highlight working models and best practices for colleges and universities, ALPINE has compiled eight short profiles of New England universities that are successfully advancing large landscape conservation. [View the briefs.](#)

### **Monitoring Juvenile Shad on the Connecticut River**

With the help of partners, MassWildlife biologists are learning more about American shad in the Connecticut River and how dams impact their migration. [Read the research summary.](#)

## Webinars and E-Learning

### **Native Plant Trust**

#### **Climate Resilience Symposium**

Friday, October 29, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Hosted by Native Plant Trust

Through a keynote lecture, workshop, and panel discussion, this symposium will examine current climate change patterns and their implications for the future of the region's plant life, key factors for building climate resilience, and how key players can make resilience possible. Hosted by Native Plant Trust. [Learn more and register.](#)



#### **Climate Communications Networking Event**

Monday, November 8, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., via Zoom

Hosted by Mass ECAN (Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network), this event will include time to discuss how to communicate the need for climate adaptation projects to stakeholders, as well as best practices, resources and toolkits, and actionable items. [Register here.](#)



#### **The N Word: Nature Revisited with Dr. Carolyn Finney**

Thursday, November 11, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Hosted by Groton Public Library and The Groton Conservation Trust

An "accidental environmentalist" discusses being Black in nature and the history of Black environmentalism through engaging storytelling. Free and open to all. [Learn more and register here.](#)

### **MassWoods**

#### **Landowner Webinar Series: Plan for Your Land**

2nd Thursday of each month, November 2021 - April 2022, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Hosted by UMass MassWoods

This six-part webinar series for landowners will feature relevant professionals to provide information and help answer questions. Sign up for individual webinars or the entire series. [Learn more and register.](#)

**November 11** - What's the next step in planning the future of my land?

**December 9** - What's my land worth financially and ecologically?

**January 13** - Who will own my land next?

**February 10** - How can I reduce my property taxes?

**March 10** - How can I conserve my land?

**April 14** - What are the financial benefits of land conservation?



### **Workshop on Resistance, Resilience, and Transformation**

Tuesday, November 16, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. via Zoom

Hosted by Mass ECAN (Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network)

What is Resilience? It seems to mean everything and nothing these days. How do we move towards Transformation? This workshop will explore the spectrum of adaptation actions that exist across Resistance, Resilience, and Transformation (RRT), including examples from different ecosystems, with opportunities to share work in breakouts. [Register here.](#)



### **Mapping Well-Connected Climate Refugia for Species of Conservation Concern in the Northeastern U.S.**

Wednesday, November 17, 4:00 p.m. via Zoom

Through the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (NE CASC)

As the climate continues to change, vulnerable wildlife species will need specific management strategies to help them adapt to these changes. One strategy is the concept of refugia, which are areas buffered from the impacts of climate change and therefore remain suitable habitats for vulnerable species over time. This project maps refugia which will allow town, state and federal officials to prioritize land that will serve as refugia in the future, and will ensure it will be accessible to species that are likely to need it. [William DeLuca](#), of the National Audubon Society, will lead the conversation. Zoom connection information will be available on [this page](#) approximately one week before November 17.



### **Regional Conservation Partnership Network Gathering**

Thursday, November 18, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

This year's topic is "Addressing Land Justice in Conservation". What is land justice, and how can we form meaningful partnerships with historically excluded people to build more resilient regions and communities? How can Regional Conservation Partnerships (RCPs) support, amplify and replicate the successes of neighborhoods, grassroots groups, communities, networks, and organizations already driving land justice work in the northeast? This year's gathering will feature ideas and real-world examples of how land justice and collaborative conservation can be locally-driven, replicated, and scaled-up to create stronger, more equitable, and resilient communities and regions. Free. [Learn more and register here.](#)



### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Conservation**

Wednesday, December 15, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Host: ALPINE (Academics For Land Protection In New England)

Presenters TBD. [Register here.](#)

# Events and Outings



## **DCR Universal Access Program: Haunted Hike**

Sunday, October 24, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Maudslay State Park

Stroll through the autumn grandeur of this beautiful park. Enjoy spooky skits and haunting scenes along the way. Bring the whole family for a variety of tricks and treats. Costumes encouraged! [Learn more and enroll.](#)

# Grants

## **USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements**

*Application deadline: Monday, October 25*

These Cooperative Agreement arrangements are available for projects that expand the delivery of conservation assistance to historically underserved farmers, including socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning, tribal, and veteran. Proposals should support activities that introduce the concepts of climate-smart agriculture, and to assist producers with planning and implementation of conservation practices and principles. [Learn more.](#)

## **Neighborhood Outreach Grants**

*Application deadline: Rolling until all funds are allocated*

Grants of up to \$5,000 from DCR's Working Forests Initiative are available to land trusts, municipalities, watershed associations and other conservation organizations to support neighborhood-scale outreach activities that encourage landowners to take specific action of plan for the future of their land. All activities must be completed by April 15, 2022. For information, contact Sara Wells at [wells@moutgrace.org](mailto:wells@moutgrace.org).

## **onX Public Recreation Access and Stewardship Project Grants**

*Application deadline: Friday, November 19*

onX, a company that creates navigation apps for "adventurers", is accepting applications to help fund public recreation access and land stewardship projects across the country. [Learn more.](#)

## **Land Trust Alliance Remote Monitoring Grant Program**

*Information session: Friday, November 19*

These grants will support land trusts in exploring how remote monitoring technologies can help to enhance their stewardship work. Learn more and register for the information session [here.](#)

## **MassWildlife Climate Change Resilience Grants**

*deadline November 22, 2021, 3 pm.*

The [MassWildlife Climate Change Resilience Grant Opportunity](#) seeks to make awards of \$10,000 - \$50,000 for habitat improvement projects in ecological communities disproportionately susceptible to climate change, including, but not necessarily limited to fire adapted natural communities and riparian communities and floodplains along cold water streams and other climate-vulnerable wetland/aquatic systems (e.g. coastal marshes). Projects must be completed by June 30, 2022. Proposed activities must reduce stressors adversely affecting project sites, thereby enhancing climate resilience. For example, projects in fire-adapted communities that improve habitat quality, native species diversity, remove invasive species, and mitigate risk of extreme wildfire behavior reduce climate vulnerability. Projects in coldwater stream riparian zones that maintain or enhance tree canopy coverage, reduce erosion or other adverse alterations to stream water quality or hydrology, and/or control invasive species may enhance climate resilience. See the [MassWildlife Climate Change Resilience Grant Opportunity](#) webpage for the RFP and more information.

## **MVP Planning Grant**

*Application deadline: Friday, January 7, 4:00 p.m.*

The MVP Planning Grant offers funding to municipalities that want to assess their vulnerability to, and prepare for, climate change impacts, build community resilience, and receive designation from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) as an MVP Community. MVP Communities are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding to implement the priority actions identified through the planning process. [Learn more](#).

## **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program Grants**

*Application deadline: Monday, January 10, 2022*

Local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land. The purpose of the program is to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses, and provide community benefits such as sustainable forest management; environmental benefits including clean air, water, and wildlife habitat; benefits from forest-based educational programs; benefits from serving as models of effective forest stewardship; and recreational benefits secured with public access. Learn more [here](#) and [here](#). For questions about the CFP application process or to discuss a potential project, contact Eastern Region CFP Program Manager Neal Bungard at 603-833-3287 or email [neal.bungar@usda.gov](mailto:neal.bungar@usda.gov).

# Resources & Opportunities

## **Trails for All People: Guidance for Accessibility and Inclusive Design**

*By WeConservePA*

First published in 2014, this greatly improved and [expanded edition](#) features extensive additional content including a new chapter dedicated to signage, a new section on inclusionary planning that goes beyond disability-related issues, new case studies, and many new and improved illustrations. It answers questions such as: How can trail groups, local governments, and land trusts responsibly plan, develop, and operate trails that are accessible by all people, including those with limited mobility? What are best management practices? What is legally required? When is universal accessibility not appropriate? 133 pages.

## **Trails Are Common Ground: The National Campaign to Reduce Conflict, Promote Respect, and Increase Diversity on Our Trails**

*Recorded September 9, 2021*

[This recording](#) dives into the goals and future of this new national initiative, and identifies how momentum can be built to accomplish the goals.

## **Open to All: A Disability Inclusion Guide for Land Trusts**

*By Land Trust Alliance*

Land trusts around the country provide access to nature, the benefits of which are well documented, from better overall health through exercise to reducing stress levels. But land trusts need to ask: "Who are we leaving behind?". [This guide](#) addresses that question regarding people with disabilities, and provides practical ideas for incorporating inclusion into land trusts' programming and organizational culture.

## **Resilient Lands Mapping Tool**

*A joint project between TNC and Clark University*

This tool allows land managers and other decision-makers to calculate the potential of intact forests across the continental US to capture and store climate-changing carbon emissions through 2050. The tool also shows that many of America's forests with the highest carbon stocks and high potential for future carbon sequestration also are among the most important places for diverse

species to find refuge from growing climate impacts. [Access the tool](#).

### **Advancing Climate Change Adaptation through Watershed-Scale Collaboration**

Collaborating across a watershed is an effective and impactful way to tackle climate change. This resource provides context for, and highlights the benefits of, these types of collaborations. [Learn more](#).

### **A Guide to Finding and Working with Foresters in Massachusetts**

This [guide](#) outlines what a forester is, what services s/he can provide, how to find one, and lists handy resources about caring for and protecting your forest and land. Updated version. To request a hard copy(ies) of the publication, email Olivia Lukacic at [olukacic@umass.edu](mailto:olukacic@umass.edu). To learn more about caring for your land, visit [here](#).

### **Call for K-12 Artists: The 10th Annual Cool Science Artwork Competition**

*Deadline: Friday, December 10*

The competition asks young artists to answer one of these questions with a visual work of art: What did you learn about extreme weather and climate that you want to teach adults? Why is a weakening Polar Vortex causing wild ups and downs in winter temperatures? How will our lives change as weather becomes more severe? The best entries will be on display on public buses September - November 2022. The honorees will also be recognized at art exhibit celebrations in 2022. [Rules and learn more](#).

### **Seeking Land Trust Input on Coastal Wetland Migration Needs**

Mary Schoell, a NOAA Digital Coastal Fellow working on behalf of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association (NERRA), is administering a survey on coastal wetland migration. If you are a land trust that works in a coastal community, please consider taking [this survey](#). Contact Mary for more information at [mary@nerra.org](mailto:mary@nerra.org).

## Jobs

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

[Executive Director](#) - Grow Native Massachusetts

[Deputy Director for Policy](#) - Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

[Portfolio Director, The Islands](#) - The Trustees

[Director of Development](#) - New England Forestry Foundation

[Assistant Director, Fundraising and Community Engagement](#) - Berkshire Natural Resources Council

[Farmland Preservation Specialist](#) - Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

[Land Protection Specialist](#) - Mass Audubon

[Solar Equity Fellow](#) - Solstice Initiative

[Land Conservation Paralegal and Contracts Specialist](#) - Mass Audubon

[Grants Specialist: Foundation, Corporate, and Government Awards](#) (half-time) - Berkshire Natural Resources Council

[Fundraising Associate/Grant Writer](#) - Boston Farms Community Land Trust

[Administrative Assistant](#) - New England Forestry Foundation

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