



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Member Spotlight



Historic Hanover Field Permanently Preserved

Sylvester Field in Hanover was recently purchased and protected via a collaboration between Wildlands Trust and the Town of Hanover. Encompassing a small pine grove and 660-feet of frontage on Third Herring Brook in Hanover's Four Corners neighborhood, Sylvester Field's highly-visible 10-acre meadow and stone wall bordering Washington Street is a cherished part of the town landscape. It has both historical and ecological value, and has long served as an agricultural, recreational and aesthetic resource for the community. Most recently known to many locals as Robinson Field, the last property owner was Clayton Robinson, who died in March 2020. Debbie Lincoln, his cousin, was an important advocate among family members for preserving the scenic open field and the continued public use of its frequently-visited walking trails. Under Wildlands Trust's ownership, Sylvester Field will be maintained in its current state. The field-edge walking trails

will remain and annual mowing of the field itself will continue. [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



Along the accessible trail at Alderbrook Wildlife Sanctuary in Northfield, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has installed an impressive array of interpretive signs created with input from the Northfield Historical Commission and representatives of the Narragansett, Wampanoag, Nipmuc, and Abenaki Nations.

#OurMassLandTrusts

Robb

River Restoration Hike at Mass Audubon Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary

Wednesday, September 15, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Join the [Young Land Professionals](#) (YLP) for an afternoon with Mass Audubon staff for a hike in the recently restored Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary (60 Beaver Dam Road, Plymouth, MA). Learn how this former cranberry bog underwent the largest freshwater ecological restoration in the Northeast while exploring the cold water streams, ponds, forests and wetlands that now populate the

sanctuary. Post-hike social hour will be at the nearby Rye Tavern at their outdoor bar and patio. Masks may be required. Register [here](#). Schedule: 3:00-4:00 pm: River Restoration Hike, 4:00-5:00 pm: Social hour at Rye Tavern

MLTC Steering Committee Meeting

Friday, September 17, 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 this month's featured topic: an update from an MLTC committee working on new tools to communicate the economic value of land conservation to local decision makers. A detailed agenda will be sent in advance to all registrants. Advance registration is required [here](#).

COVID and Your Fall Events

Wednesday, September 22, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

This informal "Stronger Together" networking discussion sponsored by MLTC provides an opportunity for conservation leaders to share questions and ideas about how news regarding COVID breakthroughs and variants is impacting plans for your fall meetings and events. Go live or virtual? Hybrid? Masks or no masks? Exchange ideas with peers on this timely topic. Facilitated by Robb Johnson, MLTC Executive Director. This discussion will not be recorded. Advance registration required [here](#).

News

15th Edition of the Natural Heritage Atlas Now Available

Produced by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), the Atlas represents the known geographic extent of habitat for rare plants and animals protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) and the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA). These maps are used primarily to determine whether a proposed project or activity must be reviewed by NHESP for compliance with the MESA and the WPA. [Access the maps and learn more.](#)

Land Trust Wins State Dam Removal Funds

Of the 28 grantees receiving over \$17 million in funding from the EEA's 2021 Dam and Seawall Grant program, all but one are municipalities. Wildlands Trust was awarded \$729,000 to remove the Sylvia Place Pond dam in Kingston. The dam is in poor condition and has outlived its usefulness; breaching it will restore fish passage, improve public safety, and relieve a management concern for the land trust. One of a series of interconnected impoundments originally constructed to supply power to nearby mills, Sylvia Place Pond is nearly surrounded by Wildlands Trust's 27-acre Stewart-Person Preserve. [Learn more.](#)

Legal Options for Restoring Indigenous Tribes' Access to Land

Source: LTA Conservation Defense Network; Ellen Fred, Conservation Partners

Land trusts can play an important role in assisting in the restoration of Indigenous tribes' access to land. In a recent [blog](#) titled "Restoring Tribal Access to Land: A Menu of Options to Reestablish Cultural Access Rights," attorney Ellen Fred outlines innovative options for employing traditional property agreements to restore Native Americans' access to land. Land trusts may be able to help by facilitating discussions, assisting in obtaining grants, providing due-diligence expertise and garnering public support, among other possible roles. [Read more.](#)

CPA Databank Updated

The newly designed CPA Databank holds 20 years of CPA statistics, and contains details on each CPA program, along with carefully curated reports. Types of data include adoption data, yearly revenue figures, spending reports, CPC bylaws, and more. [Learn more.](#) The CPA project database has also

been improved, with an updated user interface for easier browsing.

Groton Conservation Trust Wrestles with History

Source: Groton Conservation Trust, by Alice Cary

This timely article addresses the dilemma land trusts may have regarding re-naming a property due to troubling facts about slavery uncovered about an individual or family for whom the property was named. [Read the article.](#)

Be Ready for Ticks Campaign: Tools and Research Available

Researched and developed by [TickEncounter](#) at the University of Rhode Island, the Warning! Tick Habitat tool has two purposes: 1. Warning! Tick Habitat signs are available for purchase and posting at trailheads and other public-access areas where ticks are present, and 2. Provides people with easy access to simple, convenient, and effective actions to take regarding ticks by scanning the QR code on the sign. [Learn more.](#)

Webinars and E-Learning



Sustainably Managing Forests with Birds in Mind

This interactive webinar series, presented by Steve Hagenbuch, Senior Conservation Biologist and Forester at Audubon Vermont, will focus on best practices in silviculture and forestry management for birds in New England, with a focus on at-risk species. [Learn more.](#) Continuing Education credits may be available. Sponsored by Highstead and partners. All dates are Wednesdays.

The Power of Birds in Driving and Sustaining Forest Management within the RCP Network

September 15, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. [Details and register here.](#)

Habitat Requirements and Management Considerations for Forest Birds in New England

September 22, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. [Details and register here.](#)

Bird-friendly Forestry Practices and Strategies for Landowners

September 29, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. [Details and register here.](#)

Technical and Financial Assistance for RCPs, Conservation Partners, and Landowners

October 13, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. [Details and register here.](#)



Farm Succession Training for Attorneys & Financial Advisors

September 21 & 23 (Tuesday and Thursday), 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Over 10,000 New England farmers are likely to exit farming in the next decade. They need knowledgeable technical advisors to support and guide the complex planning process. This two-day training will focus on the legal and financial components of farm succession plans. There will be peer-to-peer learning and network-building, presentations by experts, small group case and problem-solving clinics, and round-table "best practice" discussions. [Learn more.](#) Register by September 10. Continuing legal education credits will be offered.

2021 MA Historic Preservation Conference

September 23 & 24 (Thursday and Friday)

Presented by Preservation Mass, this virtual event will cover topics ranging from "Preservation as an Act of Reclamation," to sustainability, barn restoration, tax credits, connecting preservation trades trainees with companies that are hiring, and more. The [program](#) features two keynote



speakers (one is [Sara Zewde](#) from Harvard's Landscape Architecture program), 14 breakout sessions, plus on-demand virtual content. [Learn more and register here](#) (\$25).



Registration is Open for 2021 Virtual Rally

October 5 - 7 (Tuesday - Thursday)

Rally is the annual gathering of land conservation practitioners from across the country where diverse interests and perspectives inform a shared interest in protecting special places. [Learn more](#) about this year's Rally. Highlights include group pricing, over 60 workshops including access to recordings post-conference, networking, and Rock & Roll Trivia(!). [Register here](#). Early-bird registration rates end September 20th.

Events and Outings



Mass Rivers End of Summer Celebration - Outside!

September 12 (Sunday), 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, September 19)

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

Grants

MassWildlife Habitat Management Grants

Application deadline: Friday, August 27, 5:00 p.m.

Habitat management grants between \$10-50k are available to private and municipal owners of conserved lands to enhance habitat and improve outdoor recreation opportunities, with all work to be completed by 2022. The project area must be within [Priority Habitat](#). Grants can be used to: 1) Improve habitat(s) for game species. 2) Manage habitat(s) for Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the [Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan](#) with special emphasis on State-Endangered and State-Threatened Species. 3) Promote public recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, and other wildlife associated recreation on conserved lands. [Learn more](#).

Merrimack Conservation Partnership: Two Grants

Application deadline: Wednesday, September 15, 5:00 p.m.

Eligible towns: [see list](#); Learn more [here](#).

- [Land Conservation Grant Program](#) underwrites transaction costs—appraisals, surveys, title research, staff time, etc.—on conservation transactions that protect land identified as a priority in the 2014 Merrimack Valley Regional Conservation Plan.
- [Environmental Science, Education and Outreach Grant Program](#) provides funding for environmental science, education and outreach activities related directly to the Merrimack River or its watershed. Funds can be used for activities such as youth or public environmental educational activities, development of outreach and educational materials, river clean ups, water quality testing and monitoring activities, and other related activities.

Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership (Q2C) Land Conservation Grant Program

Application deadline: Wednesday, September 15, 5:00 p.m.

Eligible towns: [see list](#)

The Q2C Land Conservation Grant Program underwrites transaction costs—appraisals, surveys, title

research, staff time, etc.—on conservation transactions that protect land identified in the Q2C conservation plan. Non-profit land trusts, municipalities, and state agencies that have land conservation as a primary function are eligible to apply. [Learn more](#).

Salt Water Fishing Enhancement Grant

Application deadline: Friday, October 15. Grant opens September 1.

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is offering a grant of up to \$15,000 to coastal communities in Massachusetts to promote or enhance salt water fishing access. Eligible applicants include municipalities and NGOs, including land trusts and similar organizations (Buzzards Bay Coalition and Marshfield Tennis at Peter Igo Park have been awardees). Funded projects have included canoe and kayak launches, boat ramp lighting, fillet stations, surveying of public ways to water, and landscape architects. The project area must have equitable access to all individuals, and be located where salt water fishing can take place. This is a reimbursement grant and all projects must be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Email ross.kessler@mass.gov for an application and supporting documentation.

Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program Grants

Application deadline: Monday, January 10, 2022

The U.S. Forest Service invites local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes 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.bungard@usda.gov.

Jobs

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

[Executive Director](#) - Wareham Land Trust

[Climate Adaptation Scientist](#) - The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts

[Senior Land Protection Manager](#) - Housatonic Valley Association

[Land Steward](#) - Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.

[New England National Scenic Trail Coordinator](#) - Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)

[Trail Volunteer Programs Supervisor- Southern New England](#) - Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)