



2023 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Session & Field Trip Descriptions

[Register here](#)

[Schedule](#)

Jump to:

Various dates and times

[Saturday, March 25, 8:45 a.m.](#)

[Saturday, March 25, 10:30 a.m.](#)

[Saturday, March 25, 12:45 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, March 25, 2:30 p.m.](#)

[Friday, April 28, various times](#)

Sponsored Talks

Concurrent Sessions

Welcome and Keynote Panel

Concurrent Sessions

Concurrent Sessions

Outdoor Field Trips around the state

Sponsored Talks

Various dates and times. Via Zoom. Register via the "Register here" link, above.

Tuesday, March 14 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Wildlands Trust

Highlighting Our New Stewardship Training Center

Karen Grey, Executive Director, Wildlands Trust and Buzz Constable, MLTC Board

Wildlands Trust recently purchased the last remaining private inholding within Plymouth's Halfway Pond Preserve, one of the Trust's most expansive and important conservation areas (550 acres). This purchase included a 12k square foot building, the former estate of cranberry baron LBR Barker, where Wildlands plans to host a training center to foster the development of volunteer land stewards and to promote continuing education of professional staff involved in land protection. Learn from project advisor Buzz Constable and Wildlands president Karen Grey about how this initiative seeks to grow stewardship capacity for land trusts and municipalities.

Wednesday, March 15 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The Nature Conservancy

Family Forest Carbon Program

Laura Marx, Climate Solutions Scientist, TNC

In 2022, the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy expanded the [Family Forest Carbon Program](#) into western and central Massachusetts (as well as Vermont and 4 counties in eastern New York). This program provides landowners who are interested in managing their forests – when carbon is one of their top values – with management plans, technical assistance, and annual payments if they commit to either delaying harvest, or doing climate-smart forest harvests, for 20 years. Laura will walk through the program and explain how landowners, land trusts, and foresters can be involved. There will be plenty of time for questions, including about landowner eligibility and how this program is different from other carbon market programs.

Tuesday, March 21 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Mass Audubon

Help Design Mass Audubon's Conservation Assist Program

An open discussion and conversation with *David Santomenna, Sr. Director of Land Conservation* and *Nick Rossi, Land Protection Specialist*, both of Mass Audubon

Wednesday, March 22 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The Trustees

50 Years of CRs - Lessons Learned

Sally Naser, Conservation Restriction Stewardship Director, The Trustees

Olivia Lukacic, Land Conservation Specialist, The Trustees

Recording a Conservation Restriction (CR) marks only the beginning of a lifelong commitment. Join The Trustees CR Program Director Sally Naser and Land Conservation Specialist Olivia Lukacic to learn useful tips and tricks for baseline documentation reports, monitoring, enforcement, and maintaining landowner relationships. Using a case study approach, Trustees will draw upon its 50 years of CRs. Whether your land trust has one CR or 100, whether you are all-volunteer or have a staff, this workshop is for you. Ample time will be available at the end for questions and discussion.

Saturday, March 25

Note that today's conference is in-person. Sessions will not be recorded. Exhibits will be open all day.

8:45 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Community Conservation and Housing: Creating the Future You Want

Bob Wilber, Kathy Sferra, Janet Milkman

Conference Room 171

This session will describe and share lessons learned from three projects with varying conservation and housing components, interwoven. One involves addressing a longstanding conservation priority by including a relatively modest affordable housing component. The second is a work in progress in a densely settled part of Cape Cod, where competition for land between housing and conservation interests is particularly acute. The third is a story of a very large property where conservation and housing interests came together to work collaboratively to their considerable mutual benefit – perhaps creating some new models in the process. Three different stories, with different issues, outcomes and takeaways. Three co-presenters will strive to highlight challenges and lessons learned to help other conservation practitioners consider some of the complexities, and opportunities, involved with conservation/housing mixed-use outcomes.

From Start to Finish - Everything You Need to Know About Land Conservation Transactions

Reggie Hall

Room 165

This introductory overview will explore real estate transactions from the initial conversation with a landowner to the party celebrating the completion of the project. Emphasis will be on exploring best practices in the field while connecting the steps of sound real estate transactions as highlighted by LTA's Standards & Practices.

BioMap: The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts

Andy Finton, Eve Schlüter

Room 166

The new BioMap builds on BioMap2 with several innovations. Statewide habitat data are now complemented by the addition of local biodiversity components to better support municipal planning and funding. BioMap also incorporates the latest climate resilient habitat and rare species data, as well as resources to support habitat restoration and management efforts. Our session will provide an overview of the new BioMap and its innovations, a live tour through BioMap's online resources and interactive map, and participant input on which resources will serve them best in applying the new BioMap.

Invasive Plant Control & Native Habitat Restoration

Laura Mattei, Joan Deely

Conference Room 172

Three case studies will be presented to cover a variety of mechanical and chemical techniques. Case Study One will highlight multiple mechanical control techniques that are being monitored for long-term success. Case Study Two is an intensive field restoration project with successful establishment of native grasses and wildflowers. Case Study Three is a floodplain forest restoration project, converting agricultural land. This last case study will focus on the measures necessary to protect new native plantings from wildlife damage.

Restoring Old-Growth Forest Characteristics

Paul Catanzaro, Tom Lautzenheiser

Room 167

Old-growth forests were once the predominant natural condition before European settlement. Though new old-growth forests cannot be created, there is an opportunity through both passive and active management to restore old-growth characteristics in our current forests. There is renewed focus on restoring these characteristics given their compatibility with objectives such as biodiversity conservation, forest carbon, and resilience to climate change. This session will focus on the new publication *Restoring Old-Growth Characteristics to New England's and New York's Forests*, and offer a case study from Mass Audubon's Elm Hill Sanctuary to demonstrate the ways in which these strategies can be implemented.

Increasing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Massachusetts' Land and Water Conservation Fund

Melissa Cryan, Kristen Sykes, Markelle Smith

Room 169

With the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act in 2020 ensuring that \$900 million annually is disbursed nationally through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Commonwealth and its partners, AMC, TNC, and Mass Audubon created an outreach program to help take advantage of this increase of funds. These organizations hosted several listening sessions and sessions to hear from a diverse group of stakeholders on how the funds could be used to equitably serve diverse audiences, including Environmental Justice (EJ) communities. This session will present lessons learned on how we can promote inclusion of, and encourage participation by, DEI populations in the grant process. We will also discuss ways land trusts can effectively partner with EJ communities to encourage LWCF-funded projects.

Lessons Learned through Partnership Projects with Indigenous Communities

Colin Novick, Cynthia Henshaw, Diana Ruiz

Room 164

This workshop begins with a story of a partnership between the College of the Holy Cross, the Quinsigamond Band of Nipmuc, and the Greater Worcester Land Trust, who created a 40 minute documentary on the forgotten history of a Nipmuc village site, and then became the catalyst for that site's conservation. East Quabbin will bring their experiences and perspectives on engaging indigenous communities in land conservation projects, as well as their part in the Nipmuc village project. The Native Land Conservancy will speak to its work building bridges between Indigenous communities and conservation groups, and will share some specific examples of land conservation work they have recently engaged in.

Your Land Trust, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Universal Access

Ray Lyons

Room 109

Though the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990, its applicability to natural areas and the concept of Universal Design are not universally understood in the land trust community. This session gives an overview of how the ADA applies to nature preserves and conservation easement properties.

[<to top>](#)

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Welcome and Keynote Panel

Conference Welcome from MLTC Executive Director Robb Johnson and President Cynthia Henshaw.

Keynote Topic: **Affordable Housing and Land Conservation – Not an Either/Or**
Location: Auditorium

Massachusetts is widely regarded as facing a crisis in home affordability. Given that land is a limited commodity, land conservation interests and housing interests are sometimes perceived to be in competition. Why might it be important for conservation organizations to demonstrate responsiveness to housing concerns? What are some meaningful ways for land conservation organizations to engage? Given their conservation missions, how far should they go in working on housing? For their part, how might housing advocates foster more collaboration with conservation interests?

[Building Collaboration among Community Land Trusts Providing Affordable Housing and Conservation Land Trusts Protecting Land for Ecological Value | Lincoln Institute of Land Policy](#)

Panel: *Steven Rosenberg* – Co-facilitator, Hudson Valley Affordable Housing & Conservation Strategy, Former Executive Director of Scenic Hudson
Sheila Dillon – Chief of Housing and Director of the Department of Neighborhood Development, City of Boston
Moderator: *Jim Levitt* – Director, International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) at the Lincoln Institute

**11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Lunch / Networking / Exhibits /
New Faces & Development Tables**

12:45 – 2:10 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Updates & Innovations in Whole Farm Protection Tools

Jamie Pottern, David Viale, Chris LaPointe

Room 109

This session will provide context to the affordability and housing tools used by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program, as well as share newer innovations being employed by land trusts. Tools such as the Private APR, Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value (OPAV), and long-term ground lease models will be explored, and case studies by American Farmland Trust and Essex County Greenbelt will be shared. Recent state policy changes and efforts to increase the range of farms eligible for the APR program and the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) will be discussed.

Win-Win at Assabet River Bluff: Land Conservation and Affordable Housing Working Together

Polly Reeve, Delia Kaye, Christa Collins, Rich Feeley

Room 110

When the Assabet River Bluff, a lovely seven-acre riverfront woodland just a short walk along the rail trail from the heart of West Concord, was put on the market for \$2.8 million in 2021, neither local land conservationists nor affordable housing proponents thought it would be feasible to preserve the land for community benefit, despite its outstanding qualities. But by joining forces, they managed to accomplish just this: today, thanks to remarkable public and private support from the community, and to a significant grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, six of the seven acres are preserved forever as natural land, and one acre has been purchased for affordable housing. Representatives from the local Concord Land Conservation Trust and the regional Sudbury Valley Trustees, the Town of Concord's Natural Resources Division, and the Concord Housing Foundation will discuss how this was accomplished.

ABCs of Conservation Restriction Stewardship

Jen Plowden, Linda Vanderveer

Room 164

Are you new to stewarding conservation restrictions? What does it mean to have a program of responsible stewardship? In this introductory session, Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust and the Land Trust Alliance team up to walk you through the best practices of how to steward your conservation restrictions (CRs), from funding through baseline documentation reports, monitoring, enforcement, and more. This session will cover frequently asked questions related to stewardship funding, baseline documentation reports, organizing stewardship files, and landowner relationships.

The Relationship of Property Tax and Land Conservation

Mark Robinson, Ray Lyons

Room 166

While state and federal tax benefits drive many conservation transactions, local property tax implications bear a good deal of influence too. We will help land trusts and landowners understand

how land is assessed in MA and how land conservation strategies can affect valuations. We will also explain the timing and required process for property tax exemption of land trust fee simple holdings. Finally, we will underscore the 2014 landmark case of NEFF v. Town of Hawley in guaranteeing the how and why of property tax exemption.

Getting Your Project Funded: Tapping Public and Private Funding Sources for Land Acquisition

Rachel Horgan, Sarah Wells, Stuart Saginor with David Santomenna, moderator
Conference Room 171

You've got a deal, now how to pay for it. The presenters will provide an overview of state, local and private sources of funding for land conservation projects. This is a "nuts and bolts" session and will cover the use of Community Preservation Act funds, state and federal grants, state agency partnerships and private capital campaigns to fund land conservation. Ample time will be allocated for questions and answers and to session projects from the audience.

What Your Counsel Might Tell You

Buzz Constable, Stephen Small, Joel Russell
Room 167

This "legal roundtable" will address a range of issues suggested by those in attendance, as well as an array of new issues of import to land conservation. While the current IRS attacks on deductions will be discussed, so will issues such as access, enforceability, climate, and litigation postures. Questions will be assembled and solicited in a manner not feasible in Zoom conferences.

Principles of Respectful Relationships: Engaging in Land Justice with Northeast Indigenous Tribes

Jennifer Albertine, Sally Loomis, Andre Strongbearheart Gaines Jr.
Auditorium

This session will focus on the importance of including land justice in the work of conservation organizations. Two land trust practitioners and a member of the Nipmuc Tribe will share their experiences collaborating, including principles of respectful relationships that allow conservationists to work with Indigenous persons in a way that respects their culture and acknowledges and appropriately compensates them for their time and expertise. They will discuss the importance of centering relationships and reciprocity in this work. Tools such as cultural use and respect agreements, cultural inventories, and co-management plans will be shared. There will also be a discussion of the need and opportunity for land repatriation.

Planning and Incentives for Climate-Smart Forestry

Josh Rapp, Jennifer Fish, Jennifer Shakun
Conference Room 172

Two new efforts will enable Massachusetts landowners to implement climate-smart forestry, a powerful approach to mitigating climate change while increasing forest resilience. DCR provides cost-share for the new Forest Stewardship Climate Plan, enabling landowners to hire a forester to assess a forest's vulnerability to climate change and select climate-smart management practices. NEFF is launching a USDA-funded \$30 million, 5-year pilot forest landowner incentives program to improve forest management, monitor forest carbon, and produce climate-friendly forest products, including affordable, lower- impact housing made with engineered wood. Presenters will describe the Forest Stewardship Climate Plan, review forestry practices, and describe options for Massachusetts landowners to access funding.

Why You Should Partner with A University GIS Program

Abby Hardy-Moss, John Rogan

Room 165

There are many ways in which geospatial technologies help advance the work of land conservation. However, many land trusts have a limited capacity to undertake GIS projects. By contrast, many university GIS programs have a large pool of talented students and faculty seeking real-world experience. Building partnerships across these lines can be mutually beneficial, and can help land trusts work more creatively and efficiently. Join staff from Essex County Greenbelt and faculty from Clark University to hear both sides of what such partnerships look like; the many different types of GIS projects that can be undertaken; and the benefits of having a reliable stream of interns. Topics will include: climate research, natural resource analysis, data collection, cartography, drone/UAV technology and more.

[<to top>](#)

2:30 – 3:55 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Conservation and Housing, Together

Buzz Constable, Jeff Lacy, Peter Flinker

Conference Room 171

Land trusts have rarely been partners in projects to develop housing or affordable housing. Such partnerships may not only provide substantial advantages to both objectives; they also provide the opportunity to achieve multiple land use goals. While this session will include project examples, this is not a case study. Rather it is a description of the approaches, techniques and challenges in accomplishing such projects. Multi-family and subdivision projects will be addressed.

Team up with your Municipality: DCS Open Space & Recreation Grant Programs

Vanessa Farny, Melissa Cryan, Vanessa Johnson-Hall

Room 166

This session will provide a brief overview of DCS grant programs focused on land protection and/or recreation [Drinking Water Supply Protection, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities, Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity, Conservation Partnership, Landscape Partnership, Assistance for Small Communities] with an emphasis on examples of how land trusts can/have partnered with municipalities in the past to secure grants for their communities to achieve conservation of priority lands.

Community Partnerships: Building Access, Audiences, and Engagement

Sue Dahling-Sullivan, Mariah Fogg, Mackenzie Greer

Conference Room 172

This session will highlight different ways land trusts are leveraging the power of community partnerships. Learn how Barnstable Land Trust's community partnerships are connecting people to the land and to each other in new ways through innovative programs like Words in the Wild, the Flowerpot Music Concert, First Day Hikes Cape Cod, and a 2-day readathon. Berkshire Natural Resources Council has increased its efforts to engage with diverse audiences and reduce barriers to getting outdoors, guided by community partners. BNRC's initiatives focus on Spanish language access, reducing physical barriers through accessible trails, and expanding farmland conservation and access programs. Hear about their experience in establishing new partnerships, working at the speed of trust, and learning from others.

Terrafirma's First Ten Years

Tom Kester

Room 167

Terrafirma Risk Retention Group LLC is a unique charitable risk pool for conservation organizations that helps its members uphold the promise of lasting conservation. This presentation will provide a high-level overview of: Terrafirma's history, structure, benefits, costs, and coverage, data and analysis from Terrafirma's 200+ covered claims over the past decade, and selected case studies and practices relevant for MA land trusts. Terrafirma is celebrating its tenth year (2013-2023). This presentation highlights conservation trends. Participants will take away information that they can use to help reduce disputes, know common issues affecting conserved properties, and understand how Terrafirma can benefit their land trust's risk management strategy.

To Litigate or Not To Litigate – When That Is the Question

Ray Lyons, Elizabeth Wroblecka

Room 169

This session will cover what land trusts should think about when considering litigation, pros and cons, and alternatives to litigation such as mediation. How does Terrafirma factor into your decision? How to minimize the likelihood that you'll need to engage in litigation.

Doo-Doo-able Strategies: Addressing Dog-Related Concerns on Conservation Lands

Kelly Barber, Leah McFarland

Room 165

Issues pertaining to dogs and dog-walkers are a frequent discussion topic among land managers. In this presentation, stewardship staff/dog allies from Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) and Barnstable Land Trust (BLT) will share some strategies they have implemented to engage with dog walkers to reduce these issues on Trust trails. Leah McFarland, DNRT Land Steward, will highlight DNRT strategies implemented including staff-led dog walks, educational signs, and a 'Poo-lution App'. Kelly Barber, BLT Director of Land Stewardship, will share findings from the first year of their pilot program 'Learn. Leash. Lead', implemented on BLT's most popular trail network with a long history of off-leash dog and waste issues. Collectively, Leah and Kelly will share success stories, lessons learned, and what's next.

Applied Urban Forestry and Urban Ecology for Land Conservation

Erica Holm, Nick Long

Room 164

We will cover lessons learned in applied urban forestry and urban ecology through the lenses of Mass Audubon's applied urban ecology efforts 2022 to present, and the City of Boston Urban Wilds Program's efforts including urban green space protection, stewardship, and programming. Decades of natural area protection have led to 30 permanently-conserved Urban Wilds through an array of community-led efforts and partnerships. Similarly, across the state, Mass Audubon's Nature in the City program addresses inequitable access to nature and impacts of climate change.

Climate Change Challenges: Dual-Use Solar, Food Production and Farmland Protection

Heidi Ricci, Grace Fletcher, Jesse Robertson-DuBois, Kathy Orlando

Auditorium

Between 2007 and 2017, 8% of Massachusetts' cropland was converted to other uses, most never to return to production. American Farmland Trust ranks Massachusetts ninth in the U.S. for continued threats to farmland. At the same time, Massachusetts has set ambitious solar energy targets.

Agrivoltaic projects (where elevated panels allow for some farming under them) have been proposed as a way to address both interests, though there is so far relatively little experience with them in this region. Panelists will describe how agrivoltaics work, where they are currently permitted, and what we know about their impact on farmland productivity. How might agrivoltaics impact economics for farmers, local property taxes, and opportunities to permanently protect farmland? What technical and policy questions remain?

Friday, April 28, various times Outdoor Field Trips

Space is limited. Separate registration required. Meeting place details will be sent to registrants by Friday, April 21. Each field trip host will contact registrants with any weather-related updates. Walks may be postponed or cancelled at the discretion of the host. When registering, you will be required to attest that you will take a COVID test within 24 hours of the walk and not attend if you test positive or are experiencing possible symptoms of COVID-19.

[<to top>](#)

| Area / Time / Capacity | Walk Title and Terrain |
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| <p>Dennis (Cape Cod)</p> <p>9:00 - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>capacity: 20</p> | <p>Protecting the Cape's Shellfish Hatchery: A Tour of the ARC's Land and Facility <i>David Fryxell, Rick Sawyer</i></p> <p>The Aquacultural Research Corporation (ARC) on Cape Cod is one of New England's oldest and largest producers of shellfish seed. Located on a barrier beach peninsula between Cape Cod Bay and a tidal creek, it is faced with corrosion, erosion, and a swath of regulatory encumbrances. When the business changed hands in 2014, the Dennis Conservation Land Trust, the Compact, and other nonprofits collaborated with multiple levels of government and the ARC to secure the future of the facility and the land surrounding it. Join the DCLT and ARC for a two-part tour of (1) the barrier beach and saltmarsh surrounding the ARC and (2) the ARC's state-of-the-art hatchery facility. Teaser: http://www.massshellfish.org/the-hatchery-and-conservation-project-at-chase-garden-creek.html</p> <p>Terrain: One mile walking distance on soft sand and pavement outdoors (part 1), and a short walk indoors, up and down steps, among the ARC's facilities (part 2).</p> |

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| <p>Fitchburg & Leominster (Central)</p> <p>9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</p> <p>capacity: 20</p> | <p>Field Tour of the Greening the Gateway Cities Program's Tree Planting Program <i>Douglas Hutcheson, Rachel DeMatte, Ayn Yeagle</i></p> <p>This field tour will provide an overview and on-the-ground examples of the Commonwealth's urban tree planting initiative, the Greening the Gateway Cities Program (GGCP). The GGCP plants trees in Environmental Justice neighborhoods and hires tree planting staff from local and surrounding communities. The program partners with community groups and nonprofits to assist with outreach and education to residents. Translated outreach materials are available based on community demographics. Trees are planted in designated planting zones in each city, determined by overlaying Environmental Justice, Tree Canopy, Population Density, and Impervious Surface layers, and inclusive of K-12 educational facilities and Housing Authority properties. The program strives to address the environmental inequity experienced by residents who live within Urban Heat Islands by planting more trees in affected areas.</p> <p>Terrain: Mostly level ground, some mild to moderate inclines of short duration. We will be mindful of organizing the tour to minimize the length of the walks, any inclines, and to provide participants the ability to park near and view some tree plantings from their vehicle.</p> |
| <p>Hamilton & Topsfield (North Shore)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - noon</p> <p>capacity: 30</p> | <p>From General Patton to Affordable Farmland <i>Chris LaPointe, Dave Rimmer</i></p> <p>In the years after his 1980 retirement, Major General George S. Patton IV and his wife, Joanne Holbrook Patton, turned an estate owned by Patton's father, General George S. Patton, Jr., into Green Meadows Farm, once the longest running organic farm in the region. Over several decades, Greenbelt has worked with the Patton family to conserve their land in Hamilton and Topsfield, culminating in the purchase of the former Green Meadows Farm and Vineyard Hill in 2019. After a year-long process, Greenbelt selected Iron Ox Farm as the recipient of a 99-year lease on the farm. Greenbelt staff and farmers Alex Cecchinelli and Stacey Apple will be on hand to describe that process and this model of affordable farmland conservation, and see how it's going in real time. We will also have the opportunity to visit adjacent Vineyard Hill Reservation, and a viewing platform on the Ipswich River. We will round out the day with a special tour of the Patton Archives, housed in the adjacent Patton Homestead, led by staff of the Wenham Museum.</p> |

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| | <p>Terrain: Mostly level ground, some mild to moderate inclines of short duration. Walking on trails for 1 - 1.5 miles. Wide farm and woods roads, some roots and rocks. Bathrooms available.</p> |
| <p>Littleton (Metro West)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - noon</p> <p>capacity: 20</p> | <p>Adventures in Invasive Plant Control <i>Laura Mattei, Jane Maloney</i></p> <p>Join SVT staff on a tour of the Smith Conservation Land. The property has exceptional habitat values with freshwater marshes, multiple vernal pools, and hemlock and mixed pine-hardwood forest. However, the old field areas became infested with bittersweet and other invasive plants due to decades of neglect. SVT acquired the property in early 2019 and is implementing a variety of mechanical and chemical techniques to control invasives and restore native vegetation. You will be provided with a tour of our various invasive plant control areas and be able to enjoy beautiful scenery and a pleasant walk.</p> <p>Terrain: Mostly flat, slightly rolling. A couple areas with uneven footing. We will be doing some bushwhacking.</p> |
| <p>Springfield (CT Valley)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - noon</p> <p>capacity: 25</p> | <p>Spotted Lanternfly: Egg Mass ID, Scouting, and Scraping <i>Elizabeth Barnes, Astra Perkins</i></p> <p>Spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that is rapidly spreading through the Northeast. It is often moved to new areas through hitchhiking and has been found in isolated populations in Massachusetts. This trip will be to one of the infested sites. We will demonstrate egg mass scouting and scraping. Several types of spotted lanternfly traps will be setup and there will be a discussion of their pros and cons. Finally, we will run an activity that can be used either at outreach events or in trainings.</p> <p>Terrain: The site has a moderate slope and dense undergrowth. Participants should come prepared with sturdy hiking clothes and shoes.</p> |
| <p>North Adams (Berkshires)</p> | <p>Forest Climate Resilience Program: Engaging Communities in Climate-Smart Forestry <i>Andrew Randazzo, Lisa Hayden, Gary Gouldrup</i></p> |

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| <p>11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>capacity: 18</p> | <p>The field tour will explore how North Adams has been engaging with the Forest Climate Resilience Program and highlight climate-smart forestry recommendations that have been developed for the property. In the field, discussion will focus on the what and how of climate-smart forestry practices and discuss strategies for engaging communities in forest management. The program will highlight the stakeholder engagement efforts of Mass Audubon and the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts and discuss strategies for deepening our engagement with landowners.</p> <p>Terrain: The trail is relatively even and wide and has only gradual elevation gains. A few sections of the hike will involve a steeper off trail section but those who don't feel comfortable may remain on the trail. Off trail portions will be relatively brief.</p> <p><to top></p> |
| <p>Lincoln & Concord (Metro West)</p> <p>1:00 - 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>capacity: 20</p> | <p>Conservation and Housing Projects – Together <i>Buzz Constable, Jane Gruba-Chevalier, Christa Collins, Delia Kaye</i></p> <p>Partial site development has long been a tool of conservation acquisition. Coordination among the conservation land trust, the municipality (with its regulatory and funding hats) and the developer (either private or nonprofit community land trust) can provide multiple public values. This field trip will survey a few such projects in Concord and Lincoln, with short walks, short talks and perhaps libation at the end.</p> <p>Terrain: Parking for Assabet River Bluff is at the West Concord train station and accessible parking is available. It is a five minute walk to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT). The route to the BFRT and the rail trail itself are flat and paved. The trail up and down to the bluff is pitched for about 20 feet. The trail treadway is otherwise fairly level and free of obstructions. Sneakers are sufficient unless it is wet, then boots are recommended. Other locations may include short walks, but all will be level and most involve improved properties. There are no bathroom facilities at the Assabet River Buff location where we will end, and limited facilities at the Mall at Lincoln Station.</p> |
| <p>Brockton (Southeast)</p> | <p>D.W. Field Park Initiative: Revitalizing the Park for People and Planet</p> |

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| <p>2:00 - 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>capacity: 30</p> | <p><i>Rachel Bruce</i></p> <p>The D.W. Field Park Initiative is a forward-thinking park revitalization project led by Wildlands Trust in partnership with the City of Brockton. We are working collaboratively with community partners and experts to create a new master plan for Brockton's crown jewel, D.W. Field Park. Spanning 700 acres that include 7 water bodies, the park serves as an outdoor oasis for recreation and nature study for 100,000 Brockton residents, 5,000 Avon residents, and visitors from many surrounding towns. The new master plan will include green infrastructure solutions for stormwater management, infrastructure upgrades to better serve recreational activities and improve safety and accessibility, and widespread community engagement and environmental education. Join Wildlands Trust Director of Special Projects Rachel Calderara Bruce for a 2 mile walk at the park to learn all about it.</p> <p>Terrain Paved, mostly flat with one hill.</p> |
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A huge thanks to our generous conference sponsors!

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- Berkshire Natural Resources Council
- Buzzards Bay Coalition
- The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts
- The Conservation Fund
- Essex County Greenbelt Association
- Franklin Land Trust
- Kestrel Land Trust
- Land Stewardship, Inc.
- Land Trust Alliance
- Nantucket Conservation Foundation
- USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service
- New England Forestry Foundation
- Sheriff's Meadow Foundation
- Sudbury Valley Trustees
- Tighe & Bond
- UMass Forest Conservation Program

Contributor

The Community Preservation Coalition at the Trust for
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Durand & Anastas Environmental Strategies
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Landscape Land Conservation Software
Law Office of Stephen J. Small
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[<to top>](#)