



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect." ~ Mark Twain

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MLTC News

1) MASSLAND WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER BUZZ CONSTABLE

At their February 24 Annual Meeting, the Mass Land Trust Coalition Steering Committee unanimously voted Buzz Constable to the Board of Trustees. Buzz has a long history with MLTC and has been an active member of the Steering Committee. Read more [here](#).



Members of MLTC's 2017 Steering Committee at their Annual Meeting held February 24 at the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in Westborough

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2) REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2017 MASS LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

The conference is filling up fast! Register now to save your place. Register or get more information on conference workshops [here](#).

We still have a few spaces for **Exhibitors!** Showcase your products and services to more than 500 attendees from all parts of the land conservation community. Spaces will be filled on a **first-come, first-served basis**. Find more information [here](#). Please download the form to request exhibitor space [here](#).

Volunteers are the key to our success! We'd love your help as we assemble the conference folders on March 16th, or while we set up tables and attend to all the last-minute details on March 24th. Please click [here](#) to let us know how you'd like to help!

Land trusts and sponsors share your successes from 2016! Email slides with a photo and caption to be included in the slide loop shown at the conference plenary session to: masslandconference@gmail.com.

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Local Land Trust News

3) THE UNIQUE CONSERVATION OF THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE

Excerpts from To Live Lightly on the Land, the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts

The Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) is unique in many ways. Congress added the 44,000-acre tract to the National Park Service system in 1961. What was unique about this National Seashore - besides its beautiful blend of ocean, dunes, forests, ponds and marshes - was that it was conceived from a partnership among the federal government, the six towns sharing the Seashore, and the 600 families that were allowed to remain as private homeowners within the Park.

The six Seashore towns (Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet, Eastham, Orleans and Chatham) adopted 3-acre zoning districts and still administer building and subdivision regulations in

the Park. The National Park Service manages federal lands for resource protection and compatible recreation, and respects private properties within the Park. And it is hoped that the 600 or so private households within the Park boundary will "live lightly on the land." This means, in exchange for the privilege of enjoying part of a nationally-treasured landscape as their own, landowners agree not to endanger Seashore resources by overdeveloping their private homes, commercial businesses and natural lands. Click [here](#) to read more about the unique story of the Cape Cod National SeaShore. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

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News

4) ENERGY SPRAWL IN CONNECTICUT: FARMLAND & FORESTS BEING DEVELOPED FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION

Excerpts from A Special Report of the Council on Environmental Quality, February 3, 2017

One industry that continues to grow in Connecticut is the installation of photovoltaic equipment that converts sunlight to electricity. Solar panels have been installed on commercial rooftops, industrial lands and old landfills. Unfortunately, Connecticut adopted laws and policies that encourage utility-scale solar photovoltaic facilities to be developed on farmland and forest land. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has identified two critical deficiencies in existing laws that encourage utility-scale solar facilities and offers three recommendations to correct them. Click [here](#) to read the full report.

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Trainings

5) KEYSTONE PROJECT TRAINING

Thursday, April 6, 2017 - Sunday, April 9, 2017

Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA

The Keystone Project is an intensive, 3-day, retreat style training at the Harvard Forest which focuses on forest ecology and stewardship, wildlife management, and land protection. The training consists of both indoor and field sessions, as well as informal time to learn from fellow participants. The Keystone Project educates forest owners and community leaders. In return for this valuable educational opportunity, participants agree to return to their communities as a local resource and commit at least 30-hours of time to a conservation project(s) of their choosing.

This spring, the program will take place on Thursday evening, April 6 through Sunday afternoon, April 9, 2017. The application deadline is March 6, 2017. The Keystone Training will be held thanks to the generous financial support of Harvard Forest, the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, and UMass Extension. For more information about Keystone or to download an application, click [here](#). Contact [Paul Catanzaro](#) or 413-545-4839 if you have any questions.

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6) STATE REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 9:00am

DoubleTree Hotel, Milford, MA

While landscape and turf professionals may be knowledgeable about the state regulations that govern the type of work they normally do, regulations that govern certain aspects of invasive plant management may be different. This session covers state regulations including the Wetlands Protection Act, the Rivers Protection Act, and pesticide regulations, including those specific to rights-of-way. Click [here](#) to register.

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7) THE INVASIVE PLANT ISSUE AND INVASIVE PLANT IDENTIFICATION

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 9:00am - 2:00pm

DoubleTree Hotel, Milford, MA

An overview of the topic of invasive plants, focusing on why we should be concerned about them and enhancing your ability to readily identify invasive plants as well as their look-alikes. The work of the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group, including its strategies, recommendations, and the recently released Early Detection/Rapid Response Priority List document, will be discussed. Click [here](#) to register.

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Conferences

8) MASS AUDUBON ANNUAL BIRDERS MEETING/CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 19, 2017, 8:00am - 4:00pm

UMass Boston Campus Centre Ballroom, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA

Mass Audubon is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the region's largest annual gathering for birders of all abilities on Sunday, March 19, when its Birders Meeting returns to UMass Boston's Campus Centre Ballroom on Dorchester Bay. This year's theme is Warblers: From Soundscapes to Landscapes. The 2017 Meeting will feature presentations on a variety of aspects of warbler natural history, from ecology and taxonomy to song and conservation. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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Events

9) COMMONWEALTH CONVERSATIONS - STATEWIDE SENATE LISTENING SESSIONS

The Massachusetts State Senate is conducting a series of statewide forums in every corner of the state known as "Commonwealth Conversations". This is a perfect opportunity for land trusts to speak to their legislators on issues of importance to their organizations. For example, raising the cap on the Conservation Land Tax Credit (there will be a bill re-introduced this year), how PILOT payments could hurt land trusts, and supporting 1% of the state budget for the environment, are a few of the topics your legislator needs to hear about from you.

Commonwealth Conversations 2017 is the legislature's ongoing effort to make government even more responsive and accessible to their constituents. State Senators from around the Commonwealth will be listening to what you have to say, and will be working hard to make sure they carry your voices and ideas back to Beacon Hill.

Take a look through the website, take the survey, tweet them using #MAconvos, and most importantly, attend a town hall event that they will be holding near you. Click [here](#) to see when and where they will be close to you and plan to attend.

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10) MASSWILDLIFE/TROUT UNLIMITED FORUM

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 9:30am - 12:30pm

MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA

Join MassWildlife and Trout Unlimited for a forum to showcase the resources that MassWildlife contributes to coldwater fisheries management and habitat protection, highlight past cooperative efforts between MassWildlife and Trout Unlimited, and discuss areas in which to partner in the future. Click [here](#) for the agenda and to register.

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11) THE SHAPE OF RIVERS: PERSPECTIVES FROM ART AND SCIENCE

March 9, 2017, 6:30pm

deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA

"The Shape of Rivers" will be a dynamic conversation between artist, Fritz Horstman and MIT geophysicist, Daniel Rothman on how water flows through natural landscapes. Horstman's sculptures explore human construction and ecological systems while Rothman has studied the physical foundation of natural geometric forms. The evening will include a lively discussion about rivers as sources of beauty and inspiration, followed by a reception. Attendance is FREE, but registration is required. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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12) LOBBY FOR THE RIVERS DAY

Thursday, March 30, 2017, 11:00am

State House, Boston, MA

The Massachusetts Rivers Alliance invites you to participate in the first-ever Lobby for the Rivers Day, on Thursday, March 30th at 11 am, at the State House in Boston. With a new administration in Washington weakening river protection, and news of water disasters around the country, our rivers desperately need our help. One critically important, positive action we can take is to protect our rivers at the state level. Register [here](#) by Wednesday, March 22nd at 5 pm.

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Grants

13) TRIBAL HERITAGE GRANTS - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 24, 2017 deadline

The Tribal Heritage Grants Program provides support for cultural and historic preservation projects, including efforts to protect Native languages, oral history, plant and animal species important in traditions, and sacred and historic places, and for the establishment of tribal historic preservation offices. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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14) NORTHEAST FARM CREDIT AG ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

April 1, August 1, and December 1, 2017 deadline

The Northeast Farm Credit Ag Enhancement Program supports nonprofit organizations that promote agriculture, commercial fishing, and forest products in the six New England states, as well as New Jersey and New York. Areas of interest include projects that assist in the development of young and beginning farmers, projects that encourage leadership development to strengthen agriculture and the food and fiber industries, and events that promote these industries. Individual farms and single county or local projects are not eligible. Grants range from \$500 to \$8,000. Click [here](#) for more information.

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15) FY 17/18 CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES - EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

April 28, 2017 deadline

This grant program provides funding to communities with a population of 6,000 people or fewer for the preparation of real property appraisals, Open Space & Recreation Plans (OSRPs), other planning in support of land conservation, and/or development of Open Space Residential Design (OSD)/Natural Resources Protection Zoning (NRPZ) bylaws. To receive funding, the town must also submit a complete and eligible application to any of the following DCS grant programs in FY18 LAND, PARC, Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP), Landscape Partnership, Land & Water Conservation Fund, or commit to hold an interest in a property that is the subject of an FY18 application to the Conservation Partnership grant submitted by an eligible non-profit, except, towns may receive funding for preparation of an OSRP if they also develop OSD/NRPZ bylaws. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

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16) NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION: RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Pre-proposals due March 30, 2017

The Resilient Communities program, an initiative of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with support from Wells Fargo, is dedicated to helping communities prepare for future impacts associated with sea level rise, water quantity and quality, and forest conservation. The program places special emphasis on helping traditionally underserved, low- and moderate-income communities build capacity for resiliency planning and

investments in "greener" infrastructure.

In 2017 grants will be offered in the following two categories: The Regional Adaptation through Regional Conservation Projects category will support projects that help prepare for sea-level rise in the Eastern Region. Grants in this category will range from \$200,000 to \$500,000. The Community Capacity Building and Demonstration Projects category will support projects that help communities understand, organize, and take action to address risks and opportunities through improved resilience brought about by enhanced natural features. Grants in this category, ranging from \$100,000 to \$250,000, can take place anywhere in the U.S., but should address multiple cities and communities. Nonprofit organizations, local governments, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply in both categories. Click [here](#) to apply.

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17) PUNCHBOWL ENVIRONMENTAL FUND TO REDUCE PAPER WASTE

March 10, 2017 deadline

Punchbowl.org envisions a world where unwanted and obsolete paper and paper-products are eliminated. The Punchbowl.org Environmental Fund supports nonprofit organizations that help address the harmful environmental impact of wasteful paper production. Grants are provided to organizations that do one or more of the following: identify and explore sustainable alternatives to paper-based products; develop and promote legislation to reduce paper waste and the production of wasteful paper products (i.e. phone books, junk mail); and create programs to educate consumers about responsible waste management and sustainable alternatives to wasteful paper products. Grants typically range from \$500 to \$5,000. Applicants must be a nonprofit organization with an environmental mission, or part of a project that supports the reduction of wasteful paper production or paper waste. Click [here](#) for more information.

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18) J. M. K. INNOVATION PRIZE

April 28, 2017 deadline

The J.M.K. Innovation Prize, an initiative of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, supports social entrepreneurs across the United States who are spearheading game-changing solutions to our society's most urgent challenges. Specifically, the Prize seeks to support innovation in the following fields: Heritage Conservation, with a focus on conserving America's greatest monuments and places; Social Justice, with a focus on supporting decarceration and humane immigrant integration; and Environment, with a focus on reducing the pace and impacts of climate change. Up to ten Prizes will be awarded to nonprofit organizations and mission-driven for-profit organizations. Each Prize will provide up to three years of support at \$50,000 per year, as well as a \$25,000 "bank" of funds available for technical assistance or targeted project expenses. Click [here](#) for more information.

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Jobs

19) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - MANCHESTER-ESSEX CONSERVATION TRUST

The Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust (MECT) is looking for an executive director to lead the organization. The executive director will manage priorities in land conservation, stewardship, outreach and education, and organizational management. The successful candidate will have a solid grounding in land conservation, familiarity with natural science and law, have strong oral and written communication skills, and demonstrate strong operations and staff management skills. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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20) ADVOCACY CENTER DIRECTOR - CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) is seeking an experienced and innovative advocate on energy and the environment to lead its Massachusetts Advocacy Center, the largest of its five Advocacy Centers in New England. Working with the President, the Executive Vice President, and CLF senior staff, the Massachusetts Advocacy Center Director (ACD) will be responsible for developing and implementing an advocacy program for Massachusetts with the potential to impact law and policy throughout New England and nationally. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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21) FAMILY FOREST GRADUATE STUDENT - FAMILY FOREST RESEARCH CENTER/UMASS AMHERST

The [Family Forest Research Center](#) (FFRC) is a partnership of the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the USDA Forest Service and is engaged in applied research to inform family forest owner decisions and policy. They seek to train a graduate student in their professional degree Forest Resources program that is interested in working to inform family forest owner decisions using one or more research-based outreach programs, including the Massachusetts Keystone Project, MassWoods outreach website, and more. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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22) PUBLIC PROGRAMS COORDINATOR - NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER SOCIETY

The New England Wild Flower Society is seeking a Public Programs Coordinator. This is a full-time, permanent position that is responsible for assisting with the development and execution of all public programs and projects. He/she provides exceptional customer service, takes the lead role in administering programs, and serves as an ambassador for the organization. The successful candidate will have a unique opportunity to streamline current department operations and help create a strategic vision for the Society's public programs. The Public Programs Coordinator reports to the Director of Public Programs. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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23) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION

DISTRICTS

The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts is seeking a motivated professional to serve as its Executive Director. Primary duties and responsibilities include outreach and communications, government affairs and nonprofit management and fundraising. With wide latitude for individual initiative and judgment, the Executive Director guides the implementation of the association's policies and programs. The Executive Director will oversee MACD staff and contractors, be responsible for grant, contract, program and service management, and creating measurement, outcome and performance standards. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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24) INTERN - COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COALITION

The Community Preservation Coalition (CPC) is a non-profit alliance of open space, affordable housing, and historic preservation organizations that works with municipalities to help them understand, adopt, and implement the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA). The Coalition offers an opportunity to build your skills in: communications and social media outreach, nonprofit media development, community engagement, website design and maintenance, event planning

Specifically, the CPC seeks an intern to assist with CPA Communications and Social Media Outreach. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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25) PHILANTHROPY ASSOCIATE - THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

The Trust for Public Land seeks a Philanthropy Associate. This individual is responsible for supporting all aspects of the philanthropy program, including assisting the Director of Philanthropy, the philanthropy team, and program and project staff with donor cultivation, solicitation and recognition; the management of donor tracking in fundraising database; conducting research on donors and prospects; scheduling meetings, travel, and appointments; and assistance in the production of donor communications. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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26) ADVOCACY DIRECTOR - NEPONSET RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

The Neponset River Watershed Association is looking for a part-time Advocacy Director to help cleanup and protect the watershed through legislative, administrative and permitting advocacy, technical assistance, and partnership building. The Advocacy Director will be working with municipalities on stormwater and streamflow, and representing the organization on a variety of policy and permitting questions at the federal, state and local levels. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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27) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - WESTPORT LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

The Westport Land Conservation Trust, in coastal southeastern Massachusetts, seeks a full-time, salaried Executive Director to lead the staff and implement the strategic plan set by the board of directors, including a multimillion-dollar capital campaign that is underway to fund a number of exciting land conservation projects. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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28) LAND MANAGER - EASTHAM CONSERVATION FOUNDATION/ORLEANS CONSERVATION TRUST

The Land Manager will help the nonprofit land trusts Eastham Conservation Foundation and the Orleans Conservation Trust advance their missions of open space protection through a variety of land management and stewardship activities. He/she will be asked to assist with land management needs and requests, reporting directly to the ECF President and OCT Director. He/she can expect to be involved with property inspections and maintenance, long and short-term land management planning, land management grant research, property boundary investigating, educational outreach, and volunteer engagement. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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29) FOOD, FARM & SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM COORDINATOR - HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE

Hampshire College, an independent, innovative liberal arts institution and member of the Five College consortium, is accepting applications for a food, farm and sustainability program coordinator. This is a one-year, grant funded position with continuation pending future funding.

The food, farm and sustainability program coordinator will work with the sustainability initiative director on the Food, Farm and Sustainability program which aims to transform the way the Hampshire community interacts with food, from production to consumption, as well as collaboration with the local community. The program coordinator will work with the community supported agriculture (CSA) and farm managers, area farms and local food businesses, and Bon Appetit Management Company. The food, farm and sustainability program coordinator will document the program's planning process and accomplishments, through writing and editing the Food, Farm and Sustainability blog, as well as various communications to the College and local community. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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Resources

30) APPLICATION TO BE A MASSLIFT-AMERICORPS HOST SITE

The Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT) AmeriCorps program was initiated in 2010 by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (Mount Grace) as a collaboration of seven regional land trusts with a shared goal to increase the pace of land protection across the Commonwealth. In August 2017, MassLIFT will begin its eighth year

with a corps of up to thirty-six new AmeriCorps members helping their host sites to build local and regional capacity for conservation outreach, land stewardship, collaborative conservation, and community engagement. Our 2017 program will run from August 28, 2017 - July 27, 2018. Our members will serve full-time (1700 hours over 11 months) in one of four positions: Land Stewardship Coordinators, Regional Conservation Coordinators, Community Engagement Coordinators, and Youth Education Coordinators.

Non-profit organizations in MA with land conservation or land stewardship in their mission interested in applying to host MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members in our program should contact [Sean Pollock](#), MassLIFT Program Director, at Mount Grace Conservation Land Trust for further information and to discuss your position interests. New and prior organizations, as well as collaborations between staffed and unstaffed organizations, are encouraged to apply. Host site eligibility and application information is posted [here](#). Host sites will be selected on a rolling basis, with a target date of March 3. Applications will be considered after that date if there are still unassigned AmeriCorps members available.

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31) NEW DEFINITIONS FOR PARC AND LAND GRANT PROGRAMS

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has recently altered the definitions of passive and active outdoor recreation as applied to the PARC and Land Grant Programs.

The new definition for Passive Outdoor Recreation reads:

Any outdoor activity that occurs in a natural setting with minimum disturbance of the natural and cultural resources and that is consistent with quiet enjoyment of the land including but not limited to hiking, nature study, outdoor education, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, trail bicycling, hunting, fishing, picnicking, canoeing, ice-skating, community gardening in existing fields, swimming in a natural water body with minimal site development, or informal sports activities on an open natural field. For the purpose of eligibility and reimbursement under these regulations snowmobiling may be considered passive outdoor recreation if the municipality determines that it is compatible with other activities. Facilities necessary to support passive recreation with a minimum of disturbance to the natural and cultural resources such as natural surface trails and wood roads, and appropriately-scaled parking areas, bathrooms, and nature centers are considered consistent with passive outdoor recreation. Passive outdoor recreation areas may also be managed for sustainable forestry and farming including community farms and forests.

The new definition for Active Outdoor Recreation reads:

Outdoor recreation that occurs in parks and requires significant alteration of the natural landscape to provide playground or active sports facilities such as tennis, basketball or other sport courts, ball fields, swimming pools or spray pads, paved bike or walking trails, golf courses, marinas, enclosed dog parks, boat rentals, concession stands, community gardens, outdoor skating rinks, bathroom buildings, bleachers or stands or other developed facilities needed for active outdoor

recreation.

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32) REVISED LAND TRUST STANDARDS AND PRACTICES APPROVED; ACTION NEEDED

Earlier this month, the Land Trust Alliance Board of Directors approved the final revised version of Land Trust Standards and Practices. Click [here](#) to view the updated document. See what's new [here](#).

Action Needed

The Land Trust Alliance is asking that all Alliance members who renew their land trust membership during the course of the year confirm they have adopted the new Standards by providing the Alliance with a copy of their board resolution. This applies to members renewing as early as this month. View the board resolution [here](#). The Alliance extends its sincere appreciation to the members of the 2017 Standards Advisory Team and core team and to the hundreds of land conservationists across the country who participated in the development of the 2017 revisions.

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33) THE BOBOLINK PROJECT - FARMERS, LANDOWNERS JOIN TO 'BUY TIME' FOR BOBOLINKS

Mass Audubon and partners in Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire are increasing their outreach to farmers and other owners of large open fields on behalf of the bobolink, a once-abundant grassland bird threatened by loss of agricultural habitats and hay-mowing schedules that coincide with its nesting and rearing of young. The Bobolink Project pays farmers to delay their harvests until early August, when young bobolinks typically have fledged. Last year, The Bobolink Project received \$42,000 in donations and supported delayed-mowing on fields totaling more than 500 acres. However, there were more interested farmers than funds available to compensate them-and farmer bids that would have protected an additional 420 acres had to be turned away. Click [here](#) to read more.

Applications from farmers interested in participating this year will be accepted until Monday, March 20, and selection of farms will begin in early April. For more information and to participate in or donate to The Bobolink Project, click [here](#).

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Edited by Kathy McGrath and Kara Campbell
enews@MassLand.org Tel: 978-443-2233

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