



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything." ~ William Shakespeare

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MLTC News

1) WE NEED YOUR HELP! Support us in our \$20,000 Challenge!!

Given the changes in Washington, there are ways to make an impact locally.
Giving to MLTC is one of those ways!

We are the only Massachusetts organization that does what we do in the interest of land conservation.

Help us continue to provide the programs and services you value:

- Hold the largest statewide land conservation conference in the country
 - Publish a bi-weekly E-news with other 2,000 subscribers
 - A voice for the interest of land trusts at the State House
- Host workshops and meetings to keep land trusts and conservationists

We must raise \$20,000 in the next six weeks to match another \$20,000!

Donate online [here](#)

Or print a donation form [here](#)



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2) THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE 27TH ANNUAL MASS LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!

Thank you to all who attended the 27th Annual Mass Land Conservation Conference on March 25. It was a spectacular event, with a record-breaking number of attendees - 575! Dr. E. O. Wilson delivered an inspiring and entertaining Keynote Address alongside Laura Johnson of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Click [here](#) to watch the conversation.

This unifying event drew land professionals across the state together to learn new skills, meet new friends, and reconnect with old. We hope you will carry the invigorating energy from the conference with you throughout the year in your respective positions. This year's theme, Scaling Up: Meeting New Challenges, makes apparent the imminent and continuous challenges we will face in the future to defend our land and progress.

Thank you for being a part of this great event, and for supporting the Mass Land Trust Coalition. We will continue to serve your needs and assist you in every battle throughout the year. We are looking forward to another great conference next year. Stay tuned for our other workshops and events throughout the year.

Click [here](#) for the conference workshop materials. And if you haven't yet completed one, please click [here](#) for the conference evaluation.

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Legal/Legislative News

3) GREEN BUDGET COALITION ACTION ALERT: CONTACT SENATORS TO SELECT A PRIORITY FROM THE GREEN BUDGET

The Environmental League of Massachusetts recently sent a budget request letter to the House Chair of Ways and Means on behalf of the Green Budget Coalition. ELM will be sending it to the whole Senate to urge them to adopt a Green Budget priority and include it in their asks to Senate leadership. Here is an outline of some key upcoming dates regarding the state budget:

4/11: Likely date for House Ways & Means budget release

4/14: Likely date for House amendments due

Week of 4/17 or 4/24: House budget debate

5/9 or 5/16: Senate Ways & Means budget release

5/11 or 5/18: Senate amendments due

5/15 or 5/22: Senate budget debate, i.e. 5/23-25

Click [here](#) for a sample e-mail message to your Senators.

For more information, [read the Green Budget](#).

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4) CHALLENGES TO PROTECTION OF LAND UNDER ARTICLE 97

On March 27, 2017, the law firm of Mintz Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo filed an amicus brief with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on behalf of MLTC, Mass Audubon, and the Trustees of Reservation. At issue is a dispute between the City of Westfield and its residents over the City's desire to build a school where there is now a city playground.

Westfield had received PARC funding for the playground, agreeing in the process that the playground was subject to Article 97. When the decision was made to convert the playground to school use, the City decided the property was not subject to Article 97 protection. Residents sued the city and lost in the Superior Court and Appeals Court. The Appeals Court relied on two SJC decisions in reaching its conclusion that the property did not have Article 97 protections. The residents then filed with the SJC a petition for further appellate review.

A Hearing is tentatively scheduled for April 6. MLTC and others feel this is an important decision that should be overturned with respect to Article 97 protection law. Read the amicus brief [here](#).

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5) SUPPORTING LAND CONSERVATION INCENTIVES

On Monday, April 3, MLTC joined The Nature Conservancy, Mass Audubon, and The Trustees who testified in support of An Act Relative to Land Conservation Incentives ([H.2614](#)) during its State House hearing before the Joint Committee on Revenue. The bill raises the cap on the state's Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) program to increase the incentive for more land donations for conservation purposes. MLTC supports this bill which would increase the pool of funds available for the CLTC from \$2 million to \$10 million. Currently, this program's available funds are completely depleted for 2017 and 2018.

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6) PUBLIC COMMENT ON PRIORITY HABITAT MAPS NOW OPEN

Excerpts from MassWildlife Monthly: April

The Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) protects rare species and their habitats. Through MESA regulations, MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) creates a Priority Habitat map, which represents the known habitat for rare species within the Commonwealth. The NHESP reviews projects and activities proposed within Priority Habitat to reduce impacts to MESA-listed species.

Priority Habitats are based on occurrences-within the last 25 years-of MESA-listed species. The Priority Habitat map has been recently updated. Changes to the MESA species list, an improved understanding of species biology and habitat requirements, and the use of improved mapping tools are also reflected. A draft of the latest Priority Habitats will be available for a 60-day public comment period, starting April 3, 2017. Once the comment period ends and relevant revisions are made, the final Priority Habitat map will be available online. Click [here](#) for more information, including the draft maps.

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News

7) CITIZEN'S APPEAL OF MASSDEP 401 WATER QUALITY CONTINUES TO FINAL DECISION BY COMMISSIONER IN KINDER MORGAN'S CONNECTICUT EXPANSION PROJECT

Excerpts from Pipe Line Awareness Network for the North East

The citizens' appeal of the MassDEP 401 Water Quality will be allowed to continue through to a final decision by the commissioner. This is an important legal victory for Clean Water Act advocacy in the context of Natural Gas Act proceedings. See the ruling [here](#). Read the Pipe Line Awareness Network for the North East (PLAN-NE) press release [here](#).

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8) CLIMATE CONVERTS: THE CONSERVATIVES WHO ARE SWITCHING SIDES ON WARMING

Excerpts from Yale Environment 360, March 30, 2017 by Marc Gunther

It's hardly being noticed, given the current political atmosphere in Washington. But a small yet growing number of Republicans, conservatives, and libertarians are starting to push for action on climate. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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9) CHANGES IN THE MA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT LIST OF RARE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Excerpts from MassWildlife Monthly: April

On March 10, 2017, changes were made to the MESA species list involving 21 species of animals and plants. Nine species were delisted, eight species had a change in status, and four species were added to the list. Because the status of rare and vulnerable species can change due to many factors, the MESA list undergoes periodic review conducted by MassWildlife scientists and external experts. Any changes to the list are brought to the NHESP Advisory Committee and the Fisheries and Wildlife Board for

approval. Changes to the MESA list are based on three primary criteria: species rarity, population trends, and threats to the species in Massachusetts. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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10) SCIENTISTS DISCOVER A NEW SOURCE OF METHANE: TREE TRUNKS

Excerpts from Yale Environment 360, April 3, 2017

Forests have long been seen as important sinks, or storage sites, for greenhouse gases. But scientists recently discovered that tree trunks emit methane, a powerful greenhouse gas at least 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short-term. The discovery comes from researchers at the University of Delaware, who measured methane output from soils, individual trees, and decomposing woody biomass lying on a forest floor in northeast Maryland over a 10-month period. Click [here](#) for the full story.

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Grants

11) NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION: ACRES FOR AMERICA

Pre-proposals due April 13, 2017

Acres for America, a partnership between Walmart Stores, Inc. and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), provides funding for projects that conserve important large-scale habitats for fish, wildlife, and plants through land acquisitions and perpetual conservation easements. Preference will be given to projects that achieve more than one of the following program priorities: conserve critical habitats for birds, fish, plants, and wildlife; connect existing protected lands to unify wild places and protect critical migration routes; provide access for people to enjoy the outdoors; and ensure the future of local economies that depend on forestry, ranching, and recreation. All grant awards require a minimum 1:1 match of cash or contributed goods and services. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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12) PARC, LAND, AND CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANTS - EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

July 12 and July 17, 2017 deadlines

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services (DCS) is seeking applications for the FY 2018 [Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities](#) (PARC), [Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity](#) (LAND), and [Conservation Partnership](#) grants. PARC grants help communities acquire parkland, develop new parks, and renovate existing parks. LAND grants provide funds to municipal conservation commissions to purchase conservation land and conservation restrictions. Conservation Partnership grants provide funds to nonprofit organizations for land acquisitions. DCS will hold two workshops for the PARC and LAND grants-on May 17 at 11:00 am in Amherst and on May 18 at 11:00 am in Boston. PARC and LAND grant applications are due by July 12. Conservation Partnership applications are due by July 17.

Here are new definitions for passive and active outdoor recreation under the PARC and LAND grant programs:

Passive Outdoor Recreation: 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.

Active Outdoor Recreation. 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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13) FARM VIABILITY GRANTS - MA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

May 15, 2017 deadline

The MA Department of Agricultural Resources is accepting applications for the FY 2018 Farm Viability Enhancement Program. Participating farm operators receive technical assistance, a business plan and \$25,000 or up to \$100,000 to implement farm growth and viability strategies. To receive grant funds the farm land owner signs an Agricultural Covenant agreeing to keep the land in active agricultural use for 5 to 10 years. The program introduces land owners to farmland protection and has been successful in keeping farms in active use well beyond the covenant terms. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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14) AETNA FOUNDATION: CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

April 14, 2017 deadline

The Aetna Foundation is dedicated to promoting wellness, health, and access to high-quality healthcare for everyone. The Foundation's Cultivating Healthy Communities grant program is intended to help local communities in the continental U. S. to become healthier places to live, with emphasis on projects that benefit underserved, low-income, and minority communities. Grants are provided to nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and federally recognized Indian tribes committed to improving the health of

their participants by focusing on activities that align to one or two of the following five domains: Healthy Behaviors, Community Safety, Built Environment, Social/Economic Factors, and Environmental Exposures. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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15) FUND FOR WILD NATURE

May 1 and October 1, 2017 deadlines

The Fund for Wild Nature provides grants to grassroots nonprofit organizations in the United States and Canada for campaigns to save native species and wild ecosystems, with particular emphasis on actions to defend threatened wilderness and biological diversity. Priority is given to ecological issues that are not receiving sufficient public attention or funding. Grants, ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000, are provided for advocacy, litigation, public policy work, development of citizen science, and similar endeavors. The Fund does not support proposals from organizations with budgets of over \$250,000 annually. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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16) PATAGONIA ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS PROGRAM

April 30 and August 31, 2017 deadlines

The Patagonia Environmental Grants Program provides support to small, grassroots organizations with provocative direct-action agendas that are working on multi-pronged campaigns to protect the environment. Patagonia funds activist groups that are dedicated to protecting local habitats in the United States and Canada, as well as in targeted countries around the world. The company is most interested in supporting organizations that work on the root causes of problems and that approach issues with a commitment to long-term change. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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17) NEW ENGLAND FORESTS & RIVERS FUND - NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

May 11, 2017 deadline

The New England Forests and Rivers Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), is dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native bird populations, as well as freshwater and diadromous fish populations, throughout the New England states. The Fund will award approximately \$1.5 million in grants, ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000 each, during the current cycle. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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18) SINGING FOR CHANGE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

May 1, 2017 deadline

The Singing for Change Charitable Foundation is dedicated to supporting nonprofit organizations that inspire personal growth, community integration, and the enhanced

awareness that collectively people can bring about positive social change. The Foundation provides grants to progressive, community-based nonprofit organizations nationwide that address the root causes of social or environmental problems. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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Jobs

19) LAND STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANT - ESSEX COUNTY GREENBELT

Since 1961, Essex County Greenbelt (Greenbelt) has been working with local landowners to conserve farmland, wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes throughout Essex County, Massachusetts. Greenbelt seeks a full-time (40 hours per week) Land Stewardship Assistant to support all aspects of the land stewardship department across Essex County, MA. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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20) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Founded in 1993 by two attorneys, Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE) builds the power of communities of color and low-income communities in Massachusetts to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environmental justice. ACE is seeking a new Executive Director who will, through strong collaboration and analysis, manage and support member-led campaigns, secure sustainable funding, lead a diverse team of (currently) eight staff members, and work with seven board members to set a strategic direction for organizational focus and growth. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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21) DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT - NANTUCKET CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The Nantucket Conservation Foundation (known locally as "the Foundation") is a member-supported, Trustee-governed nonprofit organization established in 1963 to assist in the preservation of Nantucket's uncommon character through the conservation, management and enjoyment of the Island's undeveloped open spaces and rare natural resources. The Nantucket Conservation Foundation seeks a proven, "hands-on," frontline fundraiser and strategic partner for the role of Director of Development and External Relations (DOD) reporting directly to Executive Director (ED). The DOD will work with senior colleagues and highly engaged volunteer Board members to further foster a culture of high-impact and relationship oriented philanthropy, implementing a comprehensive development program with innovative strategies designed to grow and sustain donor relationships. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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22) MASSACHUSETTS FIELD AGENT - LAND FOR GOOD

Land For Good (LFG) is accepting applications to fill its Massachusetts Field Agent position. LFG works throughout New England helping farmers access and transfer farms and farmland, and is one of the few U.S. groups focused on farmland access and transfer issues. LFG Field Agents educate and consult with farm seekers, established farmers, and landowners. Field agents cooperate with other groups on education, community outreach, advocacy and special projects toward improving farmland access and transfer in each New England state and across the region. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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23) CONSERVATION DIRECTOR - SARATOGA PLAN

Saratoga PLAN is a not-for-profit land trust dedicated to preserving the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County. PLAN'S Conservation Director oversees and provides day to day management and strategic direction for PLAN's land conservation and stewardship program. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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24) FISHERIES OUTREACH SPECIALIST - INTEGRATED STATISTICS

Integrated Statistics is looking for an Outreach Specialist to assist the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). The Outreach Specialist will work with the Population Dynamics Branch (PDB) on the development and implementation of an outreach and awareness campaign for the fishery stock assessments that are used to set annual catch quotas. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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25) SEASONAL CONSERVATION STAFF - TOWN OF LINCOLN

The Town of Lincoln's Conservation Department is hiring a seasonal employee to assist with invasive plant management, trail maintenance and other land management activities. Duties include hand-pulling invasive plants, operation of trail mowing and clearing equipment with some trail infrastructure construction. The position is for nine weeks, Monday-Thursday 7:30-3:30. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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26) RANGER - TOWN OF CONCORD

The Town of Concord is currently accepting applications for 2 temporary, full-time positions of Ranger. Under general direction of the Natural Resources Director, the Ranger assists the Town in educating the public about the Town-owned land Rules and Regulations and enforcing compliance when necessary. Advises visitors on natural resource preservation and performs occasional land management such as invasive plant control, clearing brush, and trail maintenance. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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27) CONSERVATION CREW - TOWN OF CONCORD

The Town of Concord is currently accepting applications for 2 temporary, full-time positions of Conservation Crew. Under general direction of the Natural Resources Director, the Conservation Crew assists the Division of Natural Resources in trail, field, and land management activities, including invasive species control, trail clearing, habitat restoration, and associated field and office activities. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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28) CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT SEASONAL HIRE - TOWN OF WAYLAND

Wayland Conservation is looking for a seasonal laborer(s) to perform and assist with a variety of duties in connection with conservation land management and maintenance work including, but not limited to, mowing of conservation fields, cutting grass, raking leaves, watering, invasive plant removal trail maintenance, light chainsaw work and perform other related duties as required. Ability to follow oral and written instructions; work in a team setting; exercise sound judgment. Invasive Plant knowledge helpful/desirable but not necessary. Work hours are from 8-4 Monday through Thursday and Friday 8-12:30, Salary \$12.82/hr. To apply contact Wayland Conservation Department 1 (508) 358-3669 or email bharris@wayland.ma.us

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29) SEASONAL LAND MANAGEMENT INTERN - TOWN OF LEXINGTON

The Town of Lexington is currently accepting applications for the two full-time seasonal positions of Seasonal Land Management Intern. Duties include maintaining trails on Lexington's conservation land, including brush-mowing, weed-whacking, pruning, and clearing debris, mowing conservation meadows, managing invasive species, restoring plant and wildlife habitat, building/repairing boardwalks, supporting volunteer stewardship efforts, conducting outreach and educational efforts related to conservation land, and speaking with the public about conservation initiatives and issues. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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30) 2017 OPEN SPACE INTERN PROGRAM - TOWN OF DANVERS

The Town of Danvers is a municipality of about 26,000 population located on the North Shore of Massachusetts, comprising an area of approximately 14 square miles. The Town has over 350 acres of open space lands which are available to the public for use for passive recreation including walking, bird watching, picnicking, fishing, and canoeing. Seasonal staff is needed to maintain and improve these special places. The Town seeks a Field Technician Foreman to oversee and direct other interns on the maintenance of existing open space and passive recreation lands, including grounds and facilities, the monitoring of these lands, and the construction of new trails and facilities. The Town also

seeks 3 Field Technicians to work with the foreman and other interns on the above tasks. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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