



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Member Spotlight



Protecting Lowell's Last Farm

Three organizations – [Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust](#) (LP&CT), [Mass Audubon](#) (MAS), and [Mill City Grows](#) -- are working in partnership to protect Lowell's last farm, owned by the Perron family and located at 1413 and 1415 Varnum Avenue. The vision is to create an urban wildlife sanctuary and education center dedicated to local agricultural and community-based environmental education. These two parcels are currently classified under MGL c. 61A and have been operated for years as Rollie's Farm, growing Christmas trees, corn, and tomatoes. The rolling hills of the farm are the unceded lands of the Pawtucket and Penacook people. The property's proximity to both the Merrimack River and the Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsborough State Forest provides a critical corridor for wildlife. When acquired, the two parcels, comprising about 20 acres, will be managed in perpetuity as protected conservation land, open to the public. Says Jane Calvin, Executive Director of the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust: "This unique partnership provides the opportunity for community-based conservation on a larger scale, enabling us to impact more people close to home. We're excited to expand our programming and amplify our land conservation and environmental education programming for the greater Lowell community". The property is under agreement for acquisition within two to three years, giving the organizations time to fundraise, and

for Rollie Perron to run his tree farm for three more seasons. [Read more.](#)

Support Our Annual Appeal

If you've found value in viewing an unspoiled landscape, walking on a quiet trail, or enjoying the crops from a local farm, **please consider a tax-deductible donation** to MLTC this giving season so we can continue to offer the education, tools, networking opportunities, and advocacy to enable land trusts do what they do best: protect more land. [Donate here.](#) Any amount is appreciated!



Donate

MassLand News & Programs



A warm Sunday in December offered a great chance to check out sights at the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust's Martin Wildlife Refuge, including this view of Burr's Pond.

#OurMassLandTrusts

Robb

Responding to Concerns about Safety of Trail Users

Wednesday January 19, 2022, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., via Zoom

Have you heard increased concerns about trail user safety in the wake of the late November attack on a woman hiking at the Middlesex Fells? If so, have you been wondering about an appropriate response? Are more group hikes a good idea? Additional signage or social media messages? This "Stronger Together" networking discussion provides an opportunity to share thoughts and ideas with peers. Facilitated by Robb Johnson, MLTC Executive Director. This discussion will not be recorded. Sponsored by MLTC. Free, but advance registration required [here](#).

Leadership Succession Planning for Land Trusts

Four 90-minute sessions via Zoom, starting Wednesday, January 26 noon – 1:30 pm.

Continues Wednesdays February 2, February 9 and March 9 (noon – 1:30 p.m. for staffed land trusts and 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. for all-volunteer land trusts)

At its heart, [succession planning](#) is not about replacing people, but a way to facilitate change and growth, making your mission more enduring. With separate tracks for staffed and all-volunteer land trusts, this Land Trust Alliance (LTA) seminar series will give you tools and resources to build new leaders, transform your organization and create a timeline for thoughtful succession processes. Regular cost: \$95 for LTA members; \$125 for non-members, but **a significant discount is available for Massachusetts land trusts, so contact us at admin@massland.org** for your discount code before registering. [Learn more](#) and [register](#). Co-sponsored by the MLTC's Stronger Together program.

Boot Camp for Land Trust Board Members

Five consecutive Tuesdays, February 15 – March 15, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

This five-part series provides an orientation to unique elements of land trust work and important roles that Board members play. Drawing from Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices and feedback received from Massachusetts land trusts, Alliance Circuit Rider [Connie Manes](#) will guide participants through an exploration of governance, finance, transactions and stewardship issues. Ideal for new Board members or any land trust board or staff members looking to refresh their

knowledge! Cost: \$25 for MLTC [member organizations](#); \$45 for non-members. [Register here](#).

Save the Dates: 2022 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

Thursday March 24 – Saturday March 26, online

The theme this year is "**Communicating Conservation: Building the Message for the 21st Century**". Watch for registration information early in 2022! **Sponsoring** the Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference offers the opportunity promote your organization or business to a large audience of conservation practitioners over the course of **several months**, starting now. Opportunities include (based on level): sponsorship of workshops, name or logo placement on email and social media outreach, and the possibility to schedule a one-hour info session of your own topic and design. [Details and sign up here](#).

Many thanks to the sponsors who have already joined us!

Lead:



Patron:



Supporter: [Berkshire Natural Resources Council](#) | [Buzzards Bay Coalition](#) | [Essex County Greenbelt Association](#) | [Horsley Witten Group](#) | [New England Forestry Foundation](#) | [Parterre Ecological](#) | [Sheriff's Meadow Foundation](#) | [Sudbury Valley Trustees](#) | [Wildlands Trust](#)

Introductory: [The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts](#) | [Landscape - Land Conservation Software](#) | [Law Office of Stephen J. Small](#)

Policy

Speak up for the Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA)

An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth (S.524 & H.851), also referred to as the Public Lands Preservation Act, was passed by the House in late July, and is now before the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Please reach out to your State Senator to express your support for this bill and ask that they advocate for the bill to advance to a vote by the full Senate. For background and talking points you can use, see a copy of a recent partner letter [here](#). Find contact information for your Senator [here](#).

Conservation to Benefit from State and Federal Spending

On December 13, Governor Baker signed a bill authorizing spending of \$4 billion in American Rescue

Plan Act (ARPA) and state operating surplus funds. Funds will address a broad range of community needs, including over \$250 million for environmental priorities such as environmental infrastructure, water system improvements, tree planting, land conservation and park improvement, and CPA matching funds. Meanwhile, the \$1.2 trillion federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law in November includes increased funding for NOAA's Coastal Resilience Fund grants, FEMA's Building Resilient Communities grants, and certain USFS and USDA restoration programs, among others. Some of this state and federal funding will flow into grant programs that land trusts can apply to directly, or to grants available to our state and municipal partners. **In coming months, watch grant program announcements for expanded opportunities resulting from this funding.**

DCR Special Commission Report Released

On December 8, a [final report](#) was approved by a Commission established by the legislature in 2019 to review the operations, assets and mission of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. DCR stewards almost 500,000 acres of open space and is the foundation of an outdoor recreation industry in Massachusetts which, along with land trusts and other public agencies, contributes approximately \$10.5 billion dollars to the state economy. Commission members included Fran Blanchard of The Trustees, Kate Bowditch of Greenbelt, Heather Clish of AMC and MLTC President Buzz Constable. The report recognizes nature services provided across the state, the need for additional capital and operating funds to restore and operate the system, and the value of a strategic plan to refine operations among the varied uses of DCR assets. Importantly, the Report expressly recognizes that open lands and waterways in Massachusetts play a key role both in mitigating carbon emissions and in adapting to climate change by providing flood control, urban cooling and nearby recreational opportunities for all.

Farm Bill

The Land Trust Alliance's Farm Bill Working Group is currently fleshing out recommendations for the 2023 Farm Bill. If you would like to join the group, you can email Manager for NRCS Programs, Nikki Nesbary at nnesbary@lta.org.

News

The Trustees Selects New President

Following an eight-month search, John Judge has been selected as The Trustees' fifth President and CEO following his role as President and CEO of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). Jocelyn Forbush, recent MLTC Board member, served as Acting President and CEO of the Trustees following the illness and subsequent passing last fall of its longtime CEO, Barbara Erickson. "We have immense gratitude for Jocelyn's stewardship through one of the most challenging years in organizational history including a global pandemic and the passing of Barbara Erickson," said Peter B. Coffin, Chair of The Trustees Board of Directors. [Read more.](#)

Land Trust Alliance Offering Support Opportunity for New Land Trust Executive Directors

The Alliance is launching a year-long supportive peer group for a cohort of land trust executive directors who have been in their leadership roles for less than three years. If you are interested in participating, complete this brief [questionnaire](#).

Webinars and E-Learning



Insurance 101

Tuesday, January 11, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Meghan Mullee, vice president of Alliant Insurance Services, will cover which insurance coverages respond to physical incidents and which are

designed for management/financial incidents. This crash course to insurance will help attendees gain a better understanding of how to protect their land, partners, and people. Sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance. Free to LTA members. [Details and register.](#)



Conservation Restriction Baselines 101 Workshop

Wednesday, January 12, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This class will cover the basics of Baseline Documentation Reports for Conservation Restrictions. It will include a step-by-step process on how to do everything from fieldwork, report contents, and document storage. Special attention will be paid on how to catch up. This is a great class if you are new to CR baselines or just need a refresher. Sponsored by MACC. Cost: \$24-40. [Details and register.](#)



Landowner Webinar Series: Plan for Your Land

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

Hosted by UMass MassWoods and co-sponsored by MLTC

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

January 13 - Who will own my land next?

February 10 - How can I reduce my property taxes?

March 10 - How can I conserve my land?

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



People of Color Experiences in Conservation and Municipal Governance

Friday, January 14, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

This MACC Lunch and Learn program will be a conversation with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) conservation commissioners and environmental advocates regarding their experiences serving on, and appearing before, conservation commissions, and how commissioners can work towards just and equitable outcomes for BIPOC residents, consultants, and commissioners. Free. [Details and link.](#)



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Winter Webinar Series

Wednesday, January 19, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Local and Regional Climate Adaptation Tools and Techniques. [Register.](#)

Wednesday, January 26, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Building Trust and Community Partnerships. [Register.](#)

Wednesday, February 2, 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. | Networking event (virtual). Special Guest Speaker: Beth Card, EEA Undersecretary of Environmental Policy and Climate Resilience. [Register.](#)



Trails for Everyone: Planning Inclusive Trails From the Ground Up

Wednesday, January 19, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This talk will cover considerations to keep in mind when planning and managing trails; the principles of Universal Design and how they can be applied to trails; and the importance of considering accessible design parameters for trails. Sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance. Cost: LTA Members: \$70 | Non-members: \$100. [Details and register.](#)

Risk Management Case Study: Sonoma v. Thompson

Thursday, January 20, 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join Sarah Sigman, an attorney with Shute, Mihaly, and Weinberger, and Bob Neale, stewardship director at Sonoma Land Trust, for an in-depth case study of this landmark conservation victory. Not only did the land trust and Terraforma fight to protect the property, but they also successfully fought for costs and fees to compensate the land trust for their time and effort in doing so. Free to LTA members. There is a prerequisite of at least one LTA risk management training to attend.

[Details and register.](#)



Engaging Landowners in Sustainable Stewardship

Wednesday, January 26, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Through experiences and lessons learned from a multi-year landowner outreach project in the MassConn Woods, this presentation will discuss how private owners of woodlands and other natural areas can be motivated to take specific actions to steward and benefit the lands they hold. Sponsored by the Ecological Landscape Alliance. [Details and register.](#)



UMass Jumping Worm Conference

Wednesday, January 26 – Thursday January 27 (9:00 a.m. – noon each day)

UMass Extension welcomes scientists who specialize in jumping/snake worm research for online discussion about the latest understanding of jumping/snake worms, including how to identify them, their potential impacts, and latest research on how to manage them.

Cost: \$25-40. [Details and register.](#)



28th Ecological Landscape Alliance Conference

Wednesday, February 23 - Thursday, February 24

Topics will include: [Ecological Lessons from Pollinator Habitat](#) · [Strategies for Supporting Urban Landscapes and Pollinators](#) · [Focus on Design](#): parks, watershed design, garden ethic · [Focus on Practice](#): native grass/sedge/rush, communication · [Idea Exchange](#): jumping worms, hummingbirds, monarchs. [Details and register.](#)



Professional development and life-long learning

The **Conway Institute** has several upcoming classes of interest to our readership, from site grading to QGIS for ArcMap. Check them out at <https://cslsld.edu/institute/>.

Grants

Neighborhood Outreach Project

Deadline: rolling

The Working Forest Initiative is sponsoring grant funding to implement "neighborhood-based outreach" to landowners about conservation-based estate planning, including land protection options. This project aims to use social networks to help inform landowner decisions about the future of their land. This grant is intended for areas with significant forest cover. Maximum funding is \$5,000. All activities of this reimbursement grant must be completed by April 15, 2022. [Details here.](#)

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Grant

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

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

Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program Grants

Application deadline: Monday, January 10

Local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land by protecting it from conversion to non-forest uses, and to provide 1) community benefits such as sustainable forest management; 2) environmental benefits including clean air, water, and wildlife habitat; 3) benefits from forest-based educational programs; 4) benefits from serving as models of effective forest stewardship; and 5) 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\[at\]usda.gov](mailto:neal.bungard@usda.gov).

Remote Monitoring Grants

Application deadline: Friday, January 14

Remote Monitoring Grants support land trusts in exploring how remote monitoring technologies can help to enhance their stewardship work. One-year grants of up to \$20,000 will help land trusts identify remote monitoring solutions that address their unique needs, and help organizations to build capacity to implement new technologies. [Learn more](#).

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grants

Early submission deadline (highly recommended): Friday, January 21

Final deadline: Friday, February 14

The [MVP Action Grant program](#) is open to municipalities who have completed the MVP planning process and invest in municipal priorities that build resilience. Through [this form](#), potential applicants provide basic information about their project idea. MVP staff will then provide feedback prior to the Request for Responses release date in Spring 2022. Submission of an EOI for a project is not mandatory in order to submit an application in the spring, but it is encouraged.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Program

Application deadline: Monday, January 24, 3:00 p.m.

The LWCF Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipalities and the state's Departments of Conservation and Recreation and Fish and Game for the acquisition of parkland, development of a new park, renovation of an existing park, development of trails in an existing conservation or recreation area, or the acquisition of conservation land. Grants up to \$1,000,000 are available this grant round. [Details and apply](#).

2022 MassTrails Grant Round Now Open

Application deadline: Tuesday, February 1

MassTrails provides matching grants to communities, public entities, and non-profit organizations to plan, design, create, and maintain the diverse network of trails, trail systems, and trails experiences used and enjoyed by Massachusetts residents and visitors. [Details](#).

Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund Grant Program

Application deadline: Thursday, February 3

This program is managed in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to support projects that increase the resilience of wildlife habitat and coastal communities impacted by natural disasters. \$24 million will be available and, because of the emergency nature of the funds, there is no cost-share requirement. [Details and apply](#).

U.S. Standard NAWCA Grants

Application deadline: Friday, February 25

This matching grants program supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) Grant Program

Application deadline: Friday, March 18

This 50% matching grant reimbursement program supports the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites listed in the State Register of Historic Places. Applicants must be a municipality or nonprofit organization. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to view the MPPF [Application Presentation video](#). [Learn more and apply.](#)

Opportunities

Host a Scholar for Conservation Fellow

Application deadline: Monday, January 31

The Land Trust Alliance's Scholars for Conservation Leadership Program provides career and leadership development opportunities for college students of underrepresented and marginalized backgrounds interested in natural resource management and conservation careers. This year, Nina Jeffries was selected for a paid year-long fellowship with a land trust starting in summer 2022. If your land trust is interested in being a host, [apply](#) by January 31.

Volunteer Opportunity with Native Plant Trust

Application deadline: Wednesday, March 16

Plant Conservation Volunteers will participate in a variety of activities vital to the preservation of native New England flora, including rare plant monitoring, seed collection, and habitat management. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Environmental Justice (EJ) Video Challenge for Students

Submission deadline: Friday, April 1

Sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the goals of this challenge are to 1) inspire students at accredited colleges and universities to work directly with communities to identify and characterize EJ challenges, and 2) help communities (including residents and other stakeholders) address EJ challenges and/or vulnerabilities to environmental and public health hazards, in both instances using data and publicly available [tools](#). [Details and apply.](#)

Resources

Providing Steps to Building a Diverse Board

This document is an initiative of InDEEP (Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in Environmental Philanthropy). [Race to the Board: Strategies for Readiness, Recruitment, and Retention of Black Trustees on Green Nonprofit Boards](#)

Full Recording of Regional Conservation Partnership Network Gathering

More than 300 attendees from across the Northeast and beyond joined conservation and Land Justice leaders on November 18 at the 2021 RCP Network Gathering. The virtual program consisted of a keynote address and two moderated panel discussions designed to raise awareness and understanding of the legacy of racism and white supremacy in conservation, and examine actionable approaches for addressing this history while advancing land conservation goals. View the recordings [here](#).

Open to All: A Disability Inclusion Guide for Land Trusts

by Land Trust Alliance

[This guide](#) offers concrete steps that land trusts can take to create opportunities for all people - no matter their ability - to enjoy nature.

Land Conservation Tools Portal

by UMass Amherst Extension

The Land Conservation Tools [portal](#) is a collection of land conservation information sources and tools developed by a variety of organizations that can guide the decision making of Massachusetts conservation practitioners. The resources are summarized and organized in different ways to help users more easily choose the ones best suited to their conservation needs. View the [cheat sheet](#) for a quick overview.

Glyphosate: Friend or Foe?

[Webinar recording](#) by Jason Ferrell, Professor and Director of the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants at the University of Florida.

Why Can't I Buy Burning Bush?

From Weston Nurseries, a [great article](#) to share with anyone new to invasive plants.

Learn How to Identify Kudzu

The vine that ate the south is moving north, including a few locations in eastern Massachusetts. Read this [fact sheet](#) so we can keep it from getting worse!

A Management Guide to Increase Carbon Storage in Northeast Forests

Healthy Forests for Our Future: A Management Guide to Increase Carbon Storage in Northeast Forests describes 10 forest management practices designed for hardwood forests in New England and New York. These practices can maintain or increase the carbon that forests store within the next two decades, while also increasing a forest's ability to withstand climate changes and other threats such as invasive species. [Download](#). [View online](#).

Free Educational Series from Northern Woodlands

Vital connections between forests and water influence - and are influenced by - land management decisions at nearly every scale. These connections are the subject of a series of articles and infographics from [Northern Woodlands](#) magazine. Topics - with concrete examples - include: [ecological forestry](#); the [intersection of land conservation, working forests, and watershed protection](#); [different approaches to sustainable forest management](#); [floodplain forest restoration](#); and the [natural filtering power of trees](#) and the [importance of intact forests](#) along waterways. [Access all articles here](#).

Nature-Based Solutions Case Studies

by Mass ECAN's Nature-Based Solutions Work Group

This [set of case studies](#) showcases a variety of projects such as conserving natural landscapes, restoring or enhancing ecosystems, and increasing the natural elements within the built environment. Each identifies the hazards addressed, cost, location, scale, partners, and funding sources, along with providing an interview with partners involved, references, and additional resources.

Jobs

Post your job openings on the MassLand **self-serve** [Job Board](#)! Add one anytime.

[Conservation Restriction Reviewer](#) - Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

[Executive Director](#) - Valley Conservation Council

[Program Director](#) - Connecticut Land Conservation Council

[Stewardship Director](#) - Chocorua Lake Conservancy

[Director of Land Protection](#) - North County Land Trust

[Director of Lands and Ecological Management](#) - The Audubon Society of New Hampshire

[Ecological Restoration Grants Manager](#) - MA Division of Ecological Restoration

[Ecological Restoration Specialist - Ecohydrology](#) - MA Division of Ecological Restoration

[Communications Manager](#) - Buzzards Bay Coalition

[Capital Project Manager](#) - Mass Audubon

[Urban Ecologist](#) - Mass Audubon

[Land Stewardship Manager](#) - Buzzards Bay Coalition

[Numerous positions](#) - Environmental League of Massachusetts

[AMC AmeriCorps Member](#) - Appalachian Mountain Club

[Senior Program Officer, Conservation](#) - Fidelity Foundations

[Program Officer, Conservation](#) - The Fidelity Foundations

Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition | 18 Wolbach Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776 | <https://massland.org>