



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand eNews

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Member Spotlight



Beloved Boys & Girls Camp Saved from Development by Greenbelt CR

In partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Lynn and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and with generous help from hundreds of supporters, Greenbelt and DCR purchased a Conservation Restriction (CR) on the Club's Camp Creighton property in Middleton. The purchase of the CR permanently protects this 112-acre property from development and provides financial support to the Club, while allowing camp activities to expand and improve. The Club will retain ownership of the property, and while camp activities and limited expansion are allowed, the land will remain in its natural state. The property provides a landscape scale connection between Harold Parker and Boxford State Forests, and is adjacent to the Bay Circuit Trail. It includes prime upland habitat and is a source for Boston Brook, which flows into the Ipswich River. Greenbelt plans to help the Club enhance the trail system for public enjoyment that is compatible with Camp activities. [Read more](#) about the Camp's history and this project.



Consider supporting MLTC's efforts to inform, connect, and advocate for the Massachusetts land conservation community. Your monthly or one-time tax-deductible donation of any amount is appreciated. Thank you! [Donate here](#).



Donate

Remember to support MLTC on [AmazonSmile](#) when you make a purchase. Thank you!

MassLand News & Programs



It was neat to learn that the beautiful Schoolman Preserve in Rochester is co-owned by Mattapoissett Land Trust and Rochester Land Trust, which cooperate with the Rochester Conservation Commission to manage the property's trails. #OurMassLandTrusts

Robb

Young Land Professionals: Tour of Horse Meadows Knoll, Harvard, MA

Friday, August 5, 3:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Please [register](#), as parking is limited.

Join Sudbury Valley Trustees staff to learn about the acquisition and stewardship of [Horse Meadows Knoll](#) (45 Sherry Road, Harvard, MA). This guided walk will feature a naturalized pond, a mixed hardwood forest, and a large drumlin shaped knoll. Horse Meadows Knoll is an example of a successful collaboration between conservation trusts. It consists of 47 acres of ecologically important land, and is home to several endangered species. A post-walk social hour will take place at nearby Carlson Orchards (115 Oak Hill Rd, Harvard, MA). [Young Land Professionals](#) is an interest group of MLTC, comprised of more than 150 land conservation professionals in the first 10 years of their conservation careers. New members always welcome!

The Value of Land Conservation: How to Use the Toolkit

Wednesday, August 17, noon – 1:00 p.m.

Have you ever wanted better data to convince municipal leaders how important it is to protect land? The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition has developed a toolkit of materials that anyone can download and use to educate, inform, and/or advocate for land conservation in their community. Christa and Robb will walk attendees through how to use the toolkit. Registration for this free Lunch and Learn, sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, is required [here](#). To see the resources, visit [The Value of Land Conservation | MassLand](#)

Being Prepared For “What if”

Free info session Tuesday, August 30, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

MLTC is collaborating with the [Land Trust Alliance](#) and Maine Land Trust Network to help you ensure the permanence of your land trust and its conserved lands! This new program is designed to help land trusts understand and identify risks and assess current risk management strategies through a series of online training sessions, consultant-supported risk assessments, and modest grant support. The program will cover risks you may want to consider, like the risk of someone hurting themselves on a trail or while volunteering, insufficient funding, lack of board member involvement, and conservation easement violations, among others. The program will begin with five consecutive virtual training sessions on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. starting October 4. Join us August 30th at 4 pm for an information session where the Alliance and its partners will share details about [the program](#). The information session is free but registration is required [here](#).

MLTC is Hiring a Part Time Development and Operations Coordinator

Spread the word! We're growing and we're looking for a talented part-time Development and Operations Coordinator who's self-directed, comfortable taking initiative, and excels at handling operational and member relations / development logistics, research and details, as well as is FB and Insta-savvy. Spread the word - or apply now. [Details here](#).

Membership Season Is Here!

We're expanding to better serve the land conservation community, informed by the vision of our new [Strategic Plan](#). Member dues are essential to all our offerings, so whether you're a land trust, conservation partner, individual or business friend, please renew your support -- or join for the first time! We've made it easier than ever to do that [online](#). Thanks!

Policy

Increased Conservation Funding in State Operating Budget

On July 18, the Massachusetts Legislature passed a \$51.9 billion state operating budget for FY23 and sent it to the Governor's desk. With state revenues exceeding projections, the Legislature addressed differences between House and Senate versions of the budget by generally opting for the higher number. The [Green Budget Coalition](#), of which MLTC is a part, was pleased to see all five of its requested increases funded, resulting in increases for DCR, DEP, DER and EEA's Climate and Environmental Justice Programs. The budget also adds \$20 million in state surplus funds to the CPA Trust Fund. If all goes as hoped, these funds would be added to the CPA collections from the state's Registries of Deeds for distribution to CPA Communities in November. While the Governor now has the opportunity to veto budget items he opposes, there is just enough time left in the session for the Legislature to consider overriding such vetoes.

Major Economic Development Bill includes Conservation Investments

Meanwhile, the House passed a separate \$4.1 billion economic development package on July 14, tapping state surplus funds and a second tranche of the state's America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

funds for a wide array of priorities. The Senate is expected to quickly pass its own version so the two houses can agree on a final version to send to the Governor's desk the week of July 25th. While exact details are pending, the bill is expected to include significant investments for open space protection, ecological restoration, climate change adaptation and environmental justice, as MLTC and our partners have been advocating for all year. MLTC is also advocating for inclusion of a provision to expand funding for the Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC), as this bill is our last remaining chance to do so this session. The Governor released his own version of an Economic Development bill in recent weeks and is likely to support many of these investments, though the Legislature is not expected to have time before its session ends to override any line-item vetoes he may issue.

PLPA Down to the Wire

With both the House and Senate having passed versions of *An Act preserving open space in the Commonwealth*, often referred to as the Public Lands Protection Act (PLPA), a conference committee is still working to iron out differences between their versions in order to send the bill to the Governor. MLTC and our partners are strongly advocating that they do so before the session ends on July 31st.

News

In Memory of Chris Loughlin

It's impossible to capture in a few sentences the luminous being that was Chris Loughlin, who died unexpectedly on June 24th. Everyone who knew her has a story of how she touched them and changed their lives. Chris was truly the heart of the Crystal Spring Center in Plainville, guiding and centering all with her strong spirit, clear vision, kindness and love. A Dominican Sister of Peace for 62 years, Chris was teacher, mentor, visionary, activist, nurturer, and gently fierce advocate for the natural world and all of its beings. For more than 30 years, she served as the devoted architect of Crystal Spring's spiritual and earth-centered programs, sent her unique vision into the world through the Streams newsletter, and put her reverence for the land into practice with the Religious Lands Conservation project, a partnership with MLTC. Many will remember her faithful presence at the Mass Land Conservation Conferences. Well-known for being a friend, neighbor, and advocate for land in the local community, she was equally valued as a resource to religious communities across the nation who faced difficult decisions about the future of their lands. Famously humble and never refusing a request, she might just as often be found cleaning or baking for a meeting as sitting with someone in need of advice or solace. Colleagues at the Crystal Spring Center will hold her light close as they conclude the Center's work. Memorial gifts to [Wildlands Trust](#) for creation of the Community Preserve at Crystal Spring are greatly appreciated.



Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future

American Farmland Trust has released "Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future", which models scenarios for how farmland could best be preserved across the country. The report shows that, due to sprawling cities, climate change, energy development and remote work, the U.S. is on track to convert more than 18 million acres of farmland and ranchland — an area the size of South Carolina — from 2016 to 2040. This threatens land that grows food, jeopardizing the nation's food security and the environment. [Read the report.](#) [Explore interactive maps.](#)

Open Meeting Law and Remote Meeting Options

On July 14 the Legislature passed a bill extending provisions regarding remote public meetings. Under this bill, pandemic-related provisions related to Open Meeting Law and remote meetings, which were set to expire on July 15, 2022, will be extended to March 31, 2023. The bill is awaiting Governor Baker's signature and will take effect immediately upon signing.

Webinars and eLearning



American Farmland Trust's (AFT) 2023 Farm Bill Platform Explained

Tuesday, July 26, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., virtual

A lot has changed since the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill. AFT staff will present their 2023 Farm Bill policy platform, which was informed by hundreds of stakeholders. [Learn more and register.](#)



The Value of Land Conservation: How to Use the Toolkit

Wednesday, August 17, noon – 1:00 p.m.

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Being Prepared For "What If"

Program info session: Tuesday, August 30 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Free, but registration is required [here](#). More details above under "MLTC News and Programs".



In Case You Missed It: Introducing BioMap

In a program held last month, Andy Finton, TNC in Massachusetts' Conservation Ecologist, and Dr. Eve Schluter, MassWildlife's Assistant Director for the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, introduced and described the latest iteration of BioMap, a climate-smart and dynamic conservation planning blueprint for state agencies, land trusts, and municipalities. [View the recording.](#)

Events and Outings



Field Tour: Pelham Lake Park, Rowe, MA

Friday, July 22, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mass ECAN, Mass Audubon, and Long View Forester Alex Barrett host this outing to share information about the Mass Audubon Forest Climate Resilience Program's work with municipalities to implement climate-smart management strategies. The tour will visit sites of the future old growth enhancement area and discuss plans to increase forest stocking via planting. [Learn more and register](#) (limited to 20).



Accessible Kayaking

D.A.R. State Forest — Goshen | Wednesdays, July 6 - August 24

Cochituate State Park — Natick | Tuesdays, July 12- August 2

Quinsigamond State Park — Worcester | Tuesdays, August 9 - August 30

Join [All out Adventures](#) for accessible kayaking across Massachusetts.

Kayakers will paddle together in a small pod. There will be 1 hour 15 minute timeslots to allow for set-up time and paddling. Instruction, adaptive equipment, and assistance as needed provided. Cost: \$8 per participant.

One guest of a program participant with a disability can attend at no charge. To register, call 413-584-2052 or email info@alloutadventures.org.



Young Land Professionals: Tour of Horse Meadows Knoll, Harvard, MA

Friday, August 5, 3:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Please [register](#), as parking is limited.

Are you a new land conservation practitioner? Join this tour of [Horse Meadows Knoll](#) (45 Sherry Road, Harvard, MA) to learn about the property and network with colleagues, with optional post-walk social hour. See details above under "MLTC News and Programs".



Land Trust Alliance Rally 2022

September 15 - 17 (Thursday - Saturday)

New Orleans, Louisiana (in person)

Early bird registration ends Monday, July 25

More information [here](#).



Historic New England Summit 2022

Thursday and Friday, October 13 and 14

Mechanics Hall, Worcester, MA and livestream

This first-ever Historic New England Summit will explore topics such as agricultural preservation, preservation and affordable housing, activating landscapes, climate change and resiliency, and more with local and national leaders, and address how to create livable, resilient communities. [Learn more](#).



Save the Date: MACC's Fall Conference

Saturday, October 15, in person at Devens Common Center, Devens, MA

Building resilience and adapting for climate change are the focus at this year's Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) Fall Conference. Topics include running a more efficient commission meeting, engaging youth, green infrastructure, wetlands restoration challenges and more. Details coming soon.

Grants

Tribal Funding Resources

In partnership with First Light and Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Highstead Conservation finance team has compiled the funding opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that are most relevant to the needs of Tribal Governments and Entities. The Law provides funding for approximately 380 new and existing programs across transportation, water, resilience, energy, environment, and broadband. [Learn more and access the materials here](#).

Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) Grants

Application deadline: Friday, July 22

Through its Coordination and Collaboration in the Resilience Ecosystem Program, CRF will provide up to 20 \$10,000 grants to train climate service practitioners to support efforts that scale up and accelerate equity-centered adaptation planning. [Learn more and apply](#).

Farm Credit East AgEnhancement Grants

Application deadline: Monday, August 1

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to programs that promote and strengthen the agriculture,

forest products, or commercial fishing industries in New England, New York and New Jersey. [Types of projects](#) supported. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Habitat Management Grants

Application deadline: Wednesday, August 31

This program provides financial assistance to private and municipal owners of conserved lands to enhance wildlife habitat (notably game and State Wildlife Action Plan species), enhance ecological communities disproportionately susceptible to climate change, and promote public access for wildlife-related recreational opportunities. To speak to a MassWildlife Habitat Biologist about habitat management on your property, or your eligibility for the MHMGP, contact [James Burnham](#), Program Coordinator. [Learn more.](#)

Merrimack Conservation Partnership: Two Grants

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

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

Land Conservation Grant Program underwrites transaction costs—appraisals, surveys, title research, staff time, etc.—on conservation transactions that protect land identified as a priority in the 2014 Merrimack Valley Regional Conservation Plan.

Environmental Science, Education and Outreach Grant Program provides funding for environmental science, education and outreach activities related directly to the Merrimack River or its watershed. Funds can be used for activities such as youth or public environmental educational activities, development of outreach and educational materials, river clean ups, water quality testing and monitoring activities, and other related activities.

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

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

Eligible towns: [see list](#)

The Q2C Land Conservation Grant Program underwrites transaction costs—appraisals, surveys, title research, staff time, etc.—on conservation transactions that protect land identified in the Q2C conservation plan. Non-profit land trusts, municipalities, and state agencies that have land conservation as a primary function are eligible to apply. [Learn more.](#)

Resources & Opportunities

Request for Conference Proposals: Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network Gathering

The RCP is soliciting proposals for conference events, and for panels, webinars, and field trips that share how organizations are advancing climate justice and resilience by making land more accessible, more useful for nature and people, and more resilient to the impacts of climate change for the benefit of others. Webinars will take place November 3 - 10 (Thursday to Thursday); the Gathering will happen on Thursday, November 17. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Reduce Waste in Landfills

Did you know that clothing and textiles comprise 6% of all material going into U.S. landfills and incinerators—including 230,000 tons annually in Massachusetts alone? Textile reuse and recycling has the second-highest potential positive environmental impact on reducing greenhouse gases compared to other recyclables, yet only 15% of reusable textiles are recovered from the waste stream. Effective November 1, 2022, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has mandated that textiles no longer go in regular trash. Instead, residents will be required to bring unwanted clothing and other textiles to a textile drop-off site or have them collected curbside. [Learn more.](#)

Of Interest

Peregrine Falcon Chicks Relocated Successfully

MassWildlife relocated four peregrine falcon chicks from a dangerous nest at a construction site near Boston to a safer new home at UMass Lowell. Biologists banded over 40 peregrine chicks this year as part of continuing conservation efforts. [Read more.](#)

What To Do If You See a Bear

As the bear range expands eastward toward the most densely populated communities of Massachusetts, bear sightings are increasing, and many people are asking "How dangerous are bears? Is it normal to see a bear in my neighborhood? What do I do if I encounter one?". [Learn what to do.](#)

Jobs

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

New! [Executive Director](#) - Land For Good

New! [Tribal Land Recovery Manager](#) - First Light

[Director of Strategic Communications](#) - Northeast Wilderness Trust

[Director of Development](#) - The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts

[Major Gifts Manager - Northeast](#) - The Conservation Fund

[Development and Operations Coordinator](#) (Part Time) - Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition

New! [Assistant General Counsel - Lands](#) - Department of Fish and Game

[Conservation Administrator](#) - Town of Duxbury MA

New! [Climate Resilience Program Coordinator](#) - Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

[Restoration Costs Data Specialist](#) - MA Department of Fish & Game

New! [Connecticut River Valley Pollinator Conservation Planner and NRCS Partner Biologist](#) - The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, USDA-NRCS, American Farmland Trust

[Seasonal Regulatory Review Assistant](#) - Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

New! [Stewardship Director](#) - Chocorua Lake Conservancy

New! [Conservation Restriction Stewardship Technician](#) (Leominster, MA) - The Trustees of Reservations

[Land Stewardship Coordinator - Americorps](#) - Hilltown Land Trust

[Land Stewardship Coordinator \(TerraCorps-Americorps\)](#) - The Trustees of Reservations

[3x TerraCorps Land Stewardship Positions on Cape Cod](#) - various non-profit

conservation trusts

[AmeriCorps/TerraCorps Service Members](#) - available at additional land trusts and conservation organizations

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