



Anderson Farm, Bridgewater

## Keeping Agriculture in our Communities

**The pandemic has underscored the important role of local agriculture in bolstering food security. Building and strengthening partnerships with local farmers is more important than ever.**

Supporting and partnering with local farmers is one of the true delights of our work at Wildlands Trust. Farming is a complicated business, but farmers themselves are generally not complicated. Whether they are working bogs, tending row crops, or running a dairy operation, our farmers are delightfully straightforward and unfussy and usually greet us with a smile—especially during the off-season—when we show up in their fields or at their farm stands. We value them as real partners in our mission; they are connected to land like no other.

Farmers know land—and not just their own land. They have a built-in radar that extends across the landscape to any parcel that is even remotely capable of being farmed. They understand soils, drainage, water and climate. But what they also understand is the ever-growing value of their land asset on the open market.

Massachusetts is the third most densely populated state in the United States, and our aging farmers, and their families, are increasingly tempted by high land values and ensuing offers from developers. As land trust practitioners, we see it every day. The developers are knocking on the farmhouse doors, checkbooks in hand. It's very tempting for even the most dedicated farmers, evidenced by the fact that during the five short years between 2012 and 2017, Massachusetts lost 7% of its agricultural land.

Over the next ten years, an estimated 400 million acres of farmland is expected to change hands nationwide as aging farmers pass on their land to new ownership. Add to this phenomenon the COVID-19 pandemic and what we see are newly revealed vulnerabilities in

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## Moving Forward, Together

The past year has jolted us all back to reality: life is anything but linear. The pandemic has reminded us that it's a fool's errand to become too comfortable with the trajectory of our life circumstances; the world can change on a dime, and with it, the reality of our family and social lives, our economic well-being, and our health.

The resulting phenomenon of COVID-19 at Wildlands Trust is that landowners with unique properties have been prompted into action. Perhaps this is because otherwise busy people have more time on their hands, or then again, maybe the pandemic brings into focus the tenuousness of our lives and the importance of nature. Whatever the reason, the phenomenon is playing out at Wildlands, and we have never been busier.

With each project we take into our portfolio of protected lands, we accept more responsibility for monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement to ensure these properties do as intended—protect conservation values in perpetuity. This is where each and every one of you has a role in our work. Your commitment and generosity give us the confidence to move ahead with projects to protect the landscapes and resources we all value. In this uncertain, non-linear world, Wildlands Trust is bolstered knowing you are behind us.

Thank you for your support of land protection.



Karen Grey  
President



*"The environment, after all, is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest. It is one thing that all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become."*

~ Lady Bird Johnson

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## Newly Protected Land

### Gifford Bog CPA Conservation Restriction 21 acres | Duxbury

- A part of a 149.9-acre assemblage in north Duxbury.
- The town of Duxbury used Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to acquire the properties that compose the assemblage in multiple transactions made between 2015-2018.
- An extensive trail system allows access to the reservoir and its surrounding woodlands.
- Within an area identified as an "Important Scenic Landscape" in the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Within a Zone II Wellhead Protection Area and Duxbury's Aquifer Protection Overlay District.
- Within Duxbury's "Eastern Greenbelt", a priority protection area for the town.



### Keeping Agriculture in our Communities - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

food supply chains that elevate the importance of keeping our farms. Local production and distribution bolster food security, and we need to build farm resiliency to ensure that we can feed our communities. Publicly funded resources, services and farmland protection programs provide essential support for local farms, but more is needed to keep our farmers going.

Wildlands is committed to supporting local agriculture. With nearly one dozen agricultural properties in our portfolio, and more expected soon, we license our properties to farmers to ensure that these lands are maximized for agricultural value. We also try to help farmers any way we can and here are just a few examples of how our staff works to keep local farmers farming:

#### From Kofi and Erin Ingersoll | Bay End Farm, Bourne

"Wildlands Trust has been an integral partner in saving our family farm. After my grandmother Hope Ingersoll stopped the state from destroying her land with the extension of Route 25 in Bourne, she



Kofi and Erin Ingersoll

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Tucker Preserve, Pembroke

## Upcoming Events

### Hike with Malcolm

Sat., May 8 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Beaver Dam Conservation Area, Plymouth  
Free Program

### Mother's Day Hike

Sun., May 9 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Luddam's Ford Park, Hanover  
Free Program

### Mindful Meditation

Wed., May 12 | 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
Shifting Lots Preserve, Plymouth  
Free Program

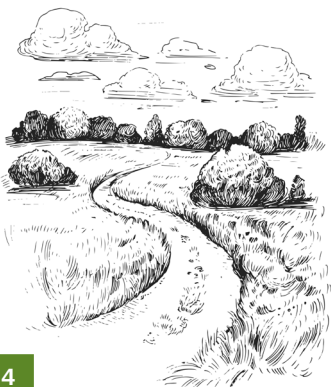
### Spring Hike at Stephen C.L. Delano Mem. Forest and Rounseville II Preserve

Wed., May 19 | 10 am - 1 pm  
Stephen C.L. Delano Memorial Forest, Rochester  
Free Program

### Willow Brook Night Hike

Fri., May 21 | 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm  
Willow Brook Farm, Pembroke  
Free Program

For monthly hikes, workshops, yoga and more, visit our website: [wildlandstrust.org/events](http://wildlandstrust.org/events)



## New Signage Installed Along IHR

The IHR Coalition wrapped up the first phase of their RTP grant with the installation of new kiosks and trail signage along the IHR Loop Trail.

In 2018, the Indian Head River Coalition, comprised of Wildlands Trust, the North and South Rivers Watershed Association, Plymouth County and the towns of Hanover, Hanson and Pembroke, received a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant to provide trail maintenance and enhancements to the Indian Head River (IHR) loop trail. The 4-mile trail runs through and connects multiple properties in Hanover, Hanson and Pembroke, including Wildlands' Tucker Preserve, town conservation lands, as well as conservation land owned by Plymouth County.



Connor Jewson (third from left) and fellow scouts install an interpretive sign with Land Steward Owen Grey (far left).

As of this spring, the Coalition is excited to share the installation of three new kiosks and seven interpretive signs that allow for self-guided educational tours of the properties. Visitors can view the new kiosk boards at the trailhead areas at Tucker Preserve, Luddam's Ford Park at Hanover and Chapman's Landing. Information provided on the kiosks includes a trail-system map, information on the Coalition, property rules and regulations, as well as historical, ecological and general information about the preserves.



A new interpretive sign stands next to a glacial erratic found on the property.

The interpretive signs can be found along the loop-trail system. Topics covered on the signs include ecological information, such as the different types of fish that are found in the Indian Head River and why there are large rock formations on the properties. Other signs provide an overview of the historic uses of the lands, like at the site of the former Waterman Tack Factory. Eagle Scout candidate Connor Jewson worked with Wildlands staff to mark the locations of the interpretive signs prior to installing them with his fellow scouts.

Although we've accomplished much of the planned work, there is still more to be done. In December 2020, the state approved an extension of the RTP grant for one more year. Throughout the coming year, the group will focus on finishing up these final items, such as installing up to three more interpretive signs and three trailhead signs that will help visitors better follow the IHR loop-trail. We look forward to keeping you updated as we finish up this exciting and rewarding project.

Willow Brook Farm Preserve, Pembroke

## Honoring a Life Through Stone

A local artist completed a very special installation at Willow Brook Farm Preserve in memory of a longtime Wildlands supporter.

If you have visited Willow Brook Farm in Pembroke recently, you may have noticed the relatively sudden appearance of large boulders on the property. These stones are a monument dedicated to the late Dr. Wallace Kemp, a longtime Wildlands supporter and friend.

The sculpture, titled *Permanence*, was arranged by Duxbury stone sculptor Kriss Brennen using local granite and glacial erratic stones found at Willow Brook. Inspired by the wintertime exposure of rocks along the sides of the trail, the installation of the piece was split into two phases, occurring in September 2020 and January 2021.

When asked if it had any specific meaning, Kriss noted, “*Permanence* lends itself to the individual’s interpretation. Gently leaning on each other, the rocks sit naturally on a grassy field, offering a resting place to contemplate the natural beauty of both the rocks and the landscape...A sense of history and endurance permeates the installation.” The cost of engraving a dedication on the sculpture was graciously underwritten by the Massachusetts South Shore Woodturners Association, a group that Dr. Kemp was a founding member of.



Kriss Brennen and Dr. Wallace Kemp

Kriss studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and graduated from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2006 with a degree in architectural design. Today, she uses her talents to create benches, birdbaths and sculptures using locally sourced stones. Her work can be found in homes throughout the South Shore, as well as at the Art Complex Museum and Duxbury Library.

If you’d like to view Kriss’ installation at Willow Brook, you may visit it throughout the year. The installation will remain at the property—as its name suggests—permanently.



*Permanence* can be viewed along the main trail in the field at Willow Brook.

## Fundraising Effort Underway to Protect Historic Sylvester Field

Help Wildlands save Sylvester Field! This iconic property in Hanover is one of the town’s most visible and appreciated landscapes.

The purchase of this property will provide open space for passive recreation, wildlife habitat management, maintenance of the bordering stone wall and a beloved scenic vista for all to enjoy.

Situated along Washington Street in the historically rich part of Hanover known as “Four Corners”, Sylvester Field is considered a top priority for preservation in the town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan.

\$700,000 is needed by May 15, 2021 to complete this purchase! An anonymous donor has offered a generous 2:1 match for gifts up to \$500 and a 1:1 match for any donation between \$501 - \$5,000.

Donate today by visiting our website: [www.wildlandstrust.org](http://www.wildlandstrust.org)

Thank You

looked for allies to help her preserve the farm. Wildlands Trust stepped up and accepted the responsibility for monitoring the agricultural covenant she had placed around the Grazing Fields Farm center. Additionally, the shared goals of Wildlands Trust, my grandmother and my parents led to the preservation of extensive areas of valuable wetlands and wildlife habitat adjacent to our farmland. Wildlands Trust employees and volunteers have cared for land my family donated and brought enthusiastic young people out to the farm to experience what daily life is like on our certified organic farm. We appreciate their efforts and look forward to working with them for generations to come.”



Anne & Jock Prentice

that together total 58 acres, which they license to local farmers. The two fields, separated by the Eel River, are used for hay crops and a hop yard for local craft beer production. The hay is mowed and baled by Whip’s Farm and used locally. Not only has Wildlands made sure that

the fields are used in local agriculture, but they also send a crew from Wildlands to help us with the hay baling, which is very hard work. Erik, Owen, Hugh and John have been welcomed additions to our baling team. They also help with other field maintenance work like cutting back the encroaching brush along the field edges, controlling invasive plants and brush burning.”

**From Anne & Jock Prentice | Whip’s Farm, Plymouth**

“The Eel River fields are greatly valued agricultural lands that are an important part of Chiltonville heritage. Wildlands owns Hoxie Field and School House Field

**From John Hornstra | Hornstra Dairy Farm, Norwell**

“Wildlands Trust has been a great partner to me and other local farmers. Karen and Scott know the importance of not losing farmland to subdivisions. They have relationships with the towns, the

landowners and the funding programs, and they help us navigate opportunities when they arise. Wildlands communicates with farmers and keeps us in the loop on agricultural lands that may be going up for sale. It’s great to work with them. Wildlands also has agricultural land that they license at no charge to farmers. With a dairy herd of over one hundred cows, I need all the hayfields I can get. There’s just not enough land out there, and every piece helps.”



John Hornstra

## Thank You for Your Contribution

Wildlands Trust relies on private philanthropy to fund our work to save land throughout the region. We would like to thank those who have recently given in honor or memory of a loved one. Your gifts help us permanently protect the natural beauty of Southeastern Massachusetts.

### In Memory Of:

KATHLEEN “BETTY” ANDERSON  
- Jonathan Shaw | *Plympton*

DR. ROBERT I. AYLING  
- Marsha Montgomery | *Whitehouse Station, NJ*

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- David & Dawn Neustadter | *Mertztown, PA*  
- Gary & Patricia Peters | *Orefield, PA*  
- Ranger Rod & Gun Club | *Coplay, PA*  
- Glenn Roth | *Catasauqua, PA*

Thank You for Your Contribution - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

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HELEN DROZDICK

- Joan & Jo Iovino | *Hingham*

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## Property Highlight

# Tucker Preserve | Pembroke

Gift Of: Sidney & Harold Tucker (1993) | 78.6 acres

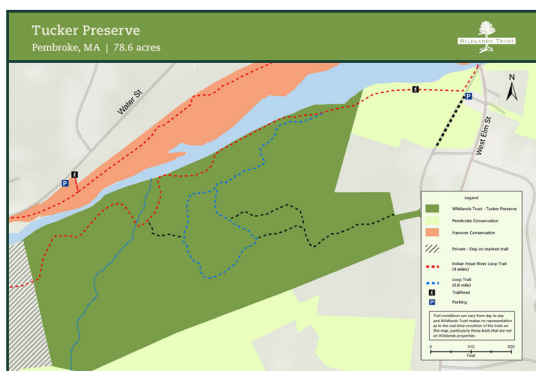
The 78.6 acres of land that make up Tucker Preserve were generously gifted to Wildlands Trust in 1993 by Sidney and Harold Tucker who felt it was a “very special place” and that the scenic value of the Indian Head River should be protected. Since then, Tucker Preserve has become a major attraction for hikers and nature lovers alike. With over 2,500 feet of shoreline along the IHR and 1.75 miles of walking trails, this property can be enjoyed by foot or by canoe and kayak. Visitors who are looking to take a longer walk can continue on along the Indian Head River Loop Trail, a 4-mile walking trail that leads through Hanson, Hanover and Pembroke.

Formerly owned by the E.H. Clapp Rubber Company, whose mills were located at the Pembroke town park and Luddam’s Ford Park, this area supported a shipbuilding industry and a number of manufacturing plants along the river’s banks. Today, however, Tucker Preserve is a far cry from this industrial past.



DREW LEDERMAN

Visitors can choose to follow the trail system along the riverbank or follow a looped trail that meanders further into the center of the preserve. Hardwoods like black birch, hickory, ash, elm and red oak tower over the forest floor, while a hemlock grove can be found on the western side of the preserve. During the spring and early summer, keep an eye out for wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) and pink lady slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) in bloom.



**DIRECTIONS:** From Route 3: Take Exit 27 (old Exit 12). Merge onto Route 139 West toward Hanover. In 2.1 miles, turn right onto Washington Street. Continue onto MA-139 W/MA-53 N/Columbia Rd. Turn left onto Broadway. Turn left onto Elm Street. Drive approx. 0.7 miles to Luddam’s Ford Park (Pembroke) on right (past the bridge). The preserve entrance is visible from the parking lot.

**PARKING:** Parking is available at the Luddam’s Ford Park (Pembroke) parking lot.

(Download trail maps at [wildlandstrust.org/trails](http://wildlandstrust.org/trails))