



Eel River Preserve, Plymouth

Learning the Basics: “Conservation 101”

“What does Wildlands Trust do?” It’s a fairly simple question. And yet, did I really know the answer?

I was a teacher for 20 years before joining the Wildlands staff this summer. As an educator, I was no stranger to acronyms, abbreviations, or jargon that’s unclear to outsiders looking in. But having spent most of my life in that world, I took for granted the value of such understanding... until I entered an entirely different career field. The truth is, I really didn’t know exactly what Wildlands does. There was no crash course in land conservation that was broad in scope and yet specific to Wildlands Trust, so I read a wealth of material and took notes on countless conversations. By summer’s end, I probably could have filled an entire book. But--let’s be honest--the Cliffs Notes version is undoubtedly more practical! So, in case someone asks you, “What does Wildlands Trust do?” you won’t need to spend hours picking the brains of Karen Grey or Scott McFaden (as I did)...you now have this beginner-level land conservation reference guide to help you craft your well-informed response!



Wildlands’ staff and volunteers work together to maintain protected properties, like Hoyt-Hall Preserve, in Marshfield.

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Our Shared Future

Dear Friends,

Growth and change are critical to the evolution of effective organizations. The best organizations resist complacency; instead, they routinely check-in, first glancing backward and then focusing forward, to craft strategies for improving outcomes and impact. It has been six years since Wildlands Trust moved to the Davis-Douglas Farm, and still, we are inspired by the incredible promise our new home presents for growing our base of support.



Conservation Barn at Davis-Douglas Farm

Guided by our mission, as well as our campaign slogan, “Davis-Douglas Farm: A Center for Connecting People to the Land,” we have developed our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan with input from the staff, the Board, our members, volunteers, colleagues, and representatives of the towns we serve. It presents a vision for Wildlands Trust for the next five years as we remain highly focused on delivering land protection while adding capacity for public programming and fundraising growth to sustain our enormous commitments. The plan will carry us up to 2025, which will be our 52nd anniversary.

We consider ourselves fortunate to operate in southeastern Massachusetts, where there is still ample opportunity to save the natural resources that make our region unique. We have a robust 500 billion gallon aquifer, 400 miles of tidal coastline, 92 Great Ponds, 90,000 acres of farmland, excellent air quality, and healthy forests. The time is now.

We hope you will continue to support Wildlands Trust, as your generosity allows our work to go forward. We give you our unyielding commitment to continue protecting and managing the lands we all hold dear in exchange for your support. The quality of life in the southeast region relies on our partnership with you.

Karen Grey
President

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Newly Protected Land

Hart Family Conservation Restriction (Donation of CR) 15.5 acres | Duxbury

- Located on the Standish Shore peninsula
- Expands an extensive contiguous corridor of protected open space along Eagles Nest Creek
- Protects Coastal Natural Community Systems, including areas of salt marsh and freshwater tidal marsh
- Within an area identified by the Natural Heritage Program as able to accommodate the inland migration of saltwater habitats
- Provides Surface Water Quality Protection, with a tributary stream to Eagles Nest Creek



Hart Family CR, Duxbury

Stiles and Hart (Community Preservation Act CR) 5 acres | Bridgewater

- Expands town-owned 70-acre Stiles and Hart Conservation Area
- Possible site for trailhead parking area for enhanced access to Stiles and Hart Conservation Area
- Includes MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program-identified Core Habitats
- Within an area designated by MA DEP as a Medium-Yield Aquifer Area
- Wildlands' first CPA CR in Bridgewater

Historic Sylvester Field (Purchase) 10 acres | Hanover

- One of Hanover's most visually compelling and revered landscapes
- A top community priority for preservation
- Protects a riparian corridor, with 660 feet of frontage on lower Third Herring Brook, a North River tributary
- Historically agricultural land includes areas of state-designated "Prime Farmland Soils"
- Anchors a 19.75-acre contiguous block of protected open space in Hanover's historic Four Corners neighborhood
- Includes MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program-identified Core Habitats
- Will support passive recreation with walking trails and a trailhead parking area



Sylvester Field, Hanover

Overlock Woods Preserve Addition (Donation) 1.3 acres | Berkley

- Directly adjacent to and expands the 9-acre Overlock Woods Preserve
- Includes MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program-identified Core and Priority Habitats

Sylvester Field, Hanover

Upcoming Programs

Turkey Trot 'n' Waddle Friday, November 26, 2021 10am

Roll out of your post-Thanksgiving food coma and get your waddle on!

- ~Check-in at Davis-Douglas Farm
 - ~Snacks & beverages provided
 - ~Bring non-perishable items for Wildlands' local food drive
 - ~Must register prior to the event
- <https://wildlandstrust.org/events>

New Year, New Gear: Outdoor Gear Swap January 10-15, 2022

Clean out your closets and garage for the New Year, and give your old gear a new life!

- ~Donations of clean, usable gear will be accepted at Davis-Douglas Farm, from January 10-14
- ~Included items: coats, shoes, skis, bikes, and more!
- ~Come to Wildlands' Conservation Barn and choose a limited number of items to take home with you on January 15
- ~Any remaining items will be donated to local community members in need after the swap

Love is for the Birds February, 2022

- ~In mid-February, Wildlands will take a week to focus exclusively on bird-related programs. Be on the lookout for:
- birding walk
 - lecture
 - birding crafts
 - other activities

Welcome, Wildlands Staff Members!

It's been an exciting fall at Wildlands, as we put the isolation of the last year behind us and we've begun looking ahead to expanding programs in the coming months! We are so grateful for our community of dedicated and enthusiastic members, volunteers, staff, and board members. You have weathered this unusual time with us, and we are eager to embark on a post-Covid comeback...together!

If you saw our September E-News, you know that we recently hired four new staff members. Our well-qualified new hires are quickly becoming "seasoned staff members" here, and each is filling an important role in Wildlands' plans for organizational growth. Be on the lookout for these new faces at our upcoming events!

● Amy Markarian - Senior Copywriter

Amy worked in public schools for 20 years before moving to Plymouth and joining the Wildlands staff in July. She taught both English and history, and has valuable experience with the management and marketing of grant-funded programs, grant writing and reporting, and curriculum development. Amy holds a B.A. in psychology and sociology from Ithaca College, and an M.S. in education from Binghamton University. She enjoys coastal explorations and photography, and spends much of her spare time cheering on her three sons in their various athletic pursuits.



● Kyla Isakson - Membership and Digital Media Coordinator

Kyla is a graduate of Eckerd College, with a B.S. in marine science. Prior to joining the Wildlands staff in August, she served as a TerraCorps service member with The Wareham Land Trust as the Youth Education and Community Engagement Coordinator. She has also interned with both Tampa Bay Watch and South Shore Natural Science Center, and has experience in digital communication and social media outreach, in addition to planning fundraising events and educational programs. She spent five months in Australia, and enjoys travel, hiking and kayaking.



● Mitchell Hennings - Land Steward

Mitch recently graduated from the University of New England, where he earned a B.S. in environmental science. As a student, he held multiple field-related internships both on campus and at the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge, where he worked with New England cottontail populations and gained experience with habitat creation, and invasive plant and animal management. After completing a summer internship with Wildlands, Mitch joined us full-time in September. He was a collegiate football player, and enjoys birding and identifying flora while spending time outdoors.



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Hoyt-Hall Preserve, Marshfield

Great River Preserve, Bridgewater

Welcome, Wildlands Staff Members (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

- Claire Johnston - Programs and Outreach Manager**
 Claire is the newest staff member at Wildlands Trust, filling the role of Programs and Outreach Manager in September. Before joining us from Seattle, Claire worked in community engagement with Trek Bicycles in the Pacific Northwest region. She has also worked as a lead bicycle mechanic and class leader for REI, has experience with ESG risk analysis and corporate sustainability, and completed internships with Columbia Earth Institute and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Claire holds a Bachelor of Science in environmental science and resource management from the University of Washington. She loves spending time outside with her partner and trail dog--especially mountain biking, rock climbing, skiing, and backpacking. And, in her spare time, she also helps out on a locally-managed oyster grant in Brewster, MA.



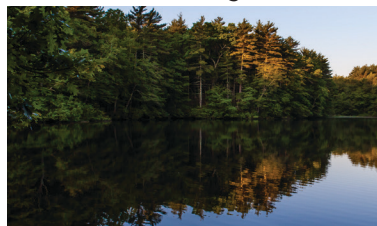
News Briefs

Wildlands Addresses Illegal Dumping

In January 2021, Wildlands' stewardship team was alerted to a massive pile of 40 to 50 bags of household trash and various appliances left at one of our Plymouth preserves. Several items were found to have attached mailing labels containing one person's name and address, so our stewardship team notified the Plymouth Police. The responsible party was identified, charges were pressed, and the Plymouth County District Attorney's office is currently seeking restitution from the offender for Wildlands' costs. We hope that this situation serves as a reminder to others that dumping is illegal, it is detrimental to our land, water supply, and wildlife, and it will not be tolerated. We will continue to work collaboratively with local police departments to ensure that our communities' natural spaces remain beautiful and safe for all.

Wildlands Awarded Grant to Remove Kingston Dam

On July 28, Wildlands Trust received a \$729,000 state grant to remove the Sylvia Place Pond dam in Kingston, MA. This award will allow us to improve public safety in the area and to restore fish passage by conducting a breach of the dam. The dam was once used for ice harvesting and to supply power to nearby mills, but it is no longer utilized, and its poor condition now poses a significant hazard to the surrounding area. Wildlands Trust was one of 28 grantees, and the only non-municipal entity, to receive funding from the 2021 Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Dam and Seawall Program.



Sylvia Place Pond at Stewart-Person Preserve, Kingston

Learning the Basics: "Conservation 101"

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WHAT'S INVOLVED IN LAND CONSERVATION?

Protecting and maintaining land is a multi-faceted endeavor that includes:

- 1. LAND ACQUISITION/PROTECTION** - refers to the land that is permanently preserved and managed by Wildlands Trust (reported in acres)
- 2. STEWARDSHIP** - management and care of the land (trail and field maintenance, removal of invasive species, protection of natural habitat)
- 3. MEMBERSHIP** - committed supporters of the organization who choose to become actively involved with our programming, volunteering, and fundraising
- 4. PROGRAMMING** - events and activities that allow people to learn about the organization and enjoy the natural spaces we aim to preserve
- 5. FUNDRAISING** - ongoing efforts to garner financial support for conservation through membership fees, private donations, and grant funding
- 6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS** - 17 committee members who donate their time and expertise to oversee finances and operations and help guide the organization's decision-making
- 7. OUTREACH** - continual process of building and maintaining relationships within the communities we serve

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8. **BOOKKEEPING** - financial literacy and maintenance of detailed and accurate records that is critical for the integrity of the organization
9. **VOLUNTEERS** - people from the communities we serve who perform a wide variety of important tasks, including serving on the board, gardening, leading hikes, teaching classes, and monitoring trails (to name a few)
10. **ADMINISTRATION/TECHNOLOGY** - day-to-day management of our office space, personnel, supplies, and technology that keeps our doors open and our organization connected to the communities we serve

HOW DOES WILDLANDS TRUST ACQUIRE NEW LAND?

Land acquisitions rarely happen quickly. In many cases, it's years of relationship-building and collaborating with landowners that eventually leads to the addition of a new property to Wildlands' portfolio. Wildlands recognizes that landowners engage in this process because they choose to, and so we work with them--at *their* pace, and to achieve *their* goals for the land that's meaningful to them.

1. It begins with a conversation (and then several more conversations) with a landowner. Whether the person reaches out to us, was referred to us, or we approach them, the first steps are the same...we walk the land together, and we listen. It's not so much about talking as it is listening and learning: what are the landowner's wishes, questions, concerns, and obstacles?
2. From there, we gather information... ALL of the information that we can compile. In order to make informed recommendations and decisions about the future of a property, Wildlands looks at plans, deeds, and Mass GIS maps. We talk to conservation agents in the town, people who may know the property, and any relevant organizations and municipalities.
3. With all the knowledge that we amass,

we next consider the best strategy (or strategies) for protecting the land. And then we return to the table and talk with the landowner some more.

4. Together, Wildlands works with the landowner to execute a plan that not only benefits the region, but also ensures that the landowner's individual interests and aspirations are an integral part of the preservation plan.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE INTERESTED IN PROTECTING THEIR LAND?

- **LAND DONATION** - This typically involves a landowner who cares deeply about their land and/or the environment and wants to make a lasting positive impact for the community, and it also can be a useful option for someone who wishes to reduce their tax liability. With this option, at any point in the landowner's life, the property's ownership can be transferred to Wildlands Trust.
- **PRIVATE CONSERVATION RESTRICTION(CR)**- This option benefits both the landowner and the environment because the landowner is able to continue to own and use their land, but the CR identifies restrictions that will limit development and permanently protect it, regardless of future changes in ownership. Each CR is uniquely created to reflect the landowner's needs/objectives and the specific parcel of land that's protected.
- **LIFE TENANCY/LIFE ESTATE** - Although less common, this option is sometimes used in cases when a landowner has no heirs. The landowner's entire real estate asset (land and house, for example) can be donated with the caveat that the landowner will remain there for the duration of their life, after which the ownership will be transferred to Wildlands Trust.
- **BEQUEST OR TESTAMENTARY GIFT** - This is an example of planned giving from a donor, in which the landowner's estate plan includes the donation of

- land upon their death. Sometimes Wildlands is aware of this type of planned giving from a donor, but other times we are unaware until the gift is received.
- **SALE TO A CONSERVATION ENTITY** - Sometimes Wildlands Trust purchases available land from a landowner who's looking to sell. This can be done by Wildlands alone, but is often carried out in conjunction with our partners. Funding for such a purchase may involve private donations, public foundation grants, or municipal funding sources like Community Preservation Act funds.

IS WILDLANDS TRUST'S CONSERVATION LAND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?

Both. The larger preserves (those with trail maps on our websites and signs on the trails) are publicly accessible. However, we also hold "conservation restrictions" on nearly 100 privately owned properties, and these are not open to the public.

WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS "CONSERVATION RESTRICTION" THAT KEEPS GETTING MENTIONED?

A CR, as it is often called, is a permanent, legally binding agreement to protect natural resources with conservation value. There is a state-mandated process involved in setting up a CR, whether it is on public or private land. On public land, towns often rely on Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to secure the CR. In these cases, the state of Massachusetts requires a qualified third party organization like Wildlands Trust to hold and monitor the CR. Because of this CPA requirement, Wildlands frequently partners with municipalities on CRs for town-owned land. However, we also hold a significant number of private CRs for individual landowners as well. All CRs require annual monitoring and completion of reports to document land conditions by qualified Wildlands staff members. In total, Wildlands Trust is currently responsible for 4,300 acres of CR-protected land.

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:

WARREN BOISE

- Kathleen Boise | Hanover, MA

FRANK DISABATINO

- Cheryl Moore | Hilton Head Island, SC

ALI GAGNIER

- Mr. & Mrs. G.E. Atterbury | Plymouth, MA

CONSTANCE GAUDET

- Ed Gaudet | Hanover, MA

DIANNE GRADY

- John Grady | Plymouth, MA

GEORGE GREEN

- Walnutport Friendly Senior Citizens | Slatington, PA

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- Shannon Laubenstein | Hanover, MA

GARY EVAN KARLING

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 - Wendi Walker | Denver, CO
 - Estate of Pat O'Rourke | Plymouth, MA
 - Keith & Vicki Sibley | Plymouth, MA
 - Beloved Hiking Friends | Plymouth, MA

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- Joyce Maclellan | Hanover, MA

G. ELLIOT, BETTE & CLAY ROBINSON

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- Leighton & Dorothy Price | Plymouth, MA

ADELA RYMUT

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MARTIN SELMER

- Anne Selmer | Marshfield, MA

WILL STEARNS

- Cathy Browning | Plymouth, MA

SYBIL STONE

- Deborah Stone | Brookline

PAPAPA

- Will Ehbrecht | Santa Monica, CA

In Honor Of:

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- Judy Savage | Plymouth, MA

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BENJAMIN RYMUT

- Susan Mian | Melrose, MA

"FOR THE BIRDS"

- Peter Jacobson | East Bridgewater, MA



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Memorial garden honoring Mark Kaetzer, at Great River Preserve

Property Highlight

Accessible Trail at Great River Preserve

Bridgewater | 125 acres

Great River Preserve encompasses 125 acres of fields and woodlands along a pristine stretch of the Taunton River, a nationally designated Wild and Scenic River. With abundant wildlife in a variety of natural habitats, Great River Preserve offers sweeping and diverse views, including over a mile of river frontage. It is a rural refuge in a largely developed region and, thanks to improvements made over the last several years, it also offers a fully accessible experience for visitors with limited mobility.

The main trail begins with a ¼ mile segment that is wide, flat, and paved, extending from the preserve entrance to the bank of the Taunton River on the southern border of the property. It was once a part of Auburn Street, before fire destroyed the Auburn Street Bridge and permanently closed that section of road. Thanks to this easily navigated path that passes through woodland, riparian, and open field habitats, the property is appealing to visitors using strollers, wheelchairs, or other adaptive mobility devices.

Wildlands began adding additional accessibility features in 2017, sparked by a meaningful donation from Judy Kaetzer, a Bridgewater Adopt-a-Preserve volunteer who wanted to honor her late husband, Mark. Throughout Mark's battle with cancer, the Kaetzers enjoyed almost weekly visits to the preserve, finding solace in nature at a difficult time.

Inspired by the Kaetzers' experience, Wildlands Trust set out to create a fully accessible trail for visitors with limited mobility. A handicapped parking space with appropriate signage was added near the trailhead. An entrance upgrade included a new farm gate to replace a deteriorating road blockade and a stone path to facilitate the passage of wheeled-devices from the new parking space to the paved trail. A memorial garden honoring Mark Kaetzer and two benches were added near the preserve's entrance, where pollinator activity in the garden and surrounding meadow can be enjoyed from a vehicle or with minimal walking. And, funded by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Partnership in 2019, Wildlands enlisted local contractor Stephen Kimmett to build an accessible viewing platform overlooking the Taunton River at the end of the paved trail. This installation is equipped with a ramp, railings, and plenty of space for maneuverability. It completes the accessible trail with a worthy destination for visitors to observe the sights and sounds of the passing river.



The entrance to Great River Preserve's paved trail



Accessible viewing platform, constructed in 2019 at Great River Preserve