



Hoyt-Hall Preserve, Marshfield

Wildlands Integrates Climate Considerations into Future Work

Can open space in Southeastern Massachusetts help mitigate the effects of a changing climate? We say "Yes!"

Over the past several decades, municipal conservation agencies and land trusts have focused on managing open space for public access and ecological protection. However, most regional conservation strategies were crafted before climate change was anticipated, much less realized. According to the 2018 National Climate Assessment, the Northeastern United States has begun feeling the impacts of climate change and can expect air and ocean temperature increases, changing seasonality, and sea level rise three to four times higher than the global average. Wildlands Trust's mission emphasizes both the importance of permanently protecting natural landscapes and keeping our community healthy, two goals directly imperiled by climate change. Because we manage nearly 10,000 acres of land containing diverse habitats and species vulnerable to climate change, we have an obligation to respond to climate change.

Wildlands has created a strategic action plan to begin framing this issue and directing future work. We believe that the opportunities with the most potential for impact are natural extensions of our current work to protect land. Land conservation and intelligent management, dubbed "natural climate solutions," are important climate change responses because natural landscapes store carbon, buffer extreme weather events, and provide ecological refuge. While most discussion surrounding



Expansive fields at Willow Brook Farm are resilient to climate change due to their large size.

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Wildlands Honors Doug Hart with Appointment as Chair Emeritus



Nonprofits rely on volunteer board members who donate time and expertise to help advance mission based work. It's hard work, but with a talented, dedicated group, and an effective board leader, it can be extremely rewarding and meaningful for all involved. As the highest governing position in the organization, a board chair, with the right skills and experience, can set the stage for a successful and highly functioning organization.

Doug Hart has served with distinction as Wildlands Trust's chairman of the board since 2007. Always leading with personal integrity and intelligence, Doug earned the confidence and respect of the board and staff early on in his tenure. His thoughtful approach,

dedication, and ability to show all involved how to "do the right thing, not the easy thing," inspired this most recent chapter of Wildlands' journey. Under Doug's leadership, the journey has led to a new home at Davis-Douglas Farm, endowment growth of 400%, unprecedented membership and donor growth, doubling of the staff, and 6,000 new acres of protected land in Southeastern Massachusetts.

When Doug ran a meeting, everyone had a voice, everyone was respected, and you could count on being out the door by 9:00 p.m. When I called him on the phone for advice (which was frequently), he offered his insights and guidance without ever telling me what to do. He would listen to me carefully and then say "You know, why don't you try this..."

I thank Doug Hart from the bottom of my heart for all he has done for Wildlands Trust and for what he has taught me over the last 12 years. I am honored to call him the best boss I've ever had and we are all proud to call him our Chair Emeritus.

Karen Grey
President

"Land health is the capacity for self-renewal in the soils, waters, plants, and animals that collectively comprise the land."

~ Aldo Leopold

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Tucker Preserve, Pembroke

Acquisition Highlights

Bertozzi CR Addition, Rehoboth

In 1999, the Bertozzi family donated a 52-acre Conservation Restriction (CR) to Wildlands Trust. In August 2019, the family added a 5-acre parcel to the property. The property now includes frontage on the east branch of the Palmer River and extensive pockets of Atlantic white cedar swamp, classified by MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as an "imperiled" habitat type. The additional acreage is also within a town of Rehoboth-designated Aquifer Protection District.



Bertozzi CR Addition
57 acres | Rehoboth

- Atlantic White Cedar Swamp Habitat
- River Frontage
- Watershed Protection
- Wildlife Corridor



Welcome Back Hayley Leonard!

Last year, Hayley served as the TerraCorps Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC) at Wildlands Trust and we are pleased to announce she is serving her second year with TerraCorps at Wildlands! As the CEC, Hayley helps

increase our capacity for public programming, volunteer engagement, and youth unplugged programs. This year, she will continue to develop tour guides and lead tours of Wildlands' showcase preserves, coach the Brockton High School Envirothon team, supervise the summer Green Team, and develop volunteer trainings and engagement opportunities. You can catch her on November 17 in Plymouth for a tour of Halfway Pond Conservation Area!



Welcome Eamon Horrigan!

Wildlands would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Eamon Horrigan! Eamon is a Baltimore native, graduate of Connecticut College, and now a proud TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator.

Throughout the next year, Eamon will be working on growing Wildlands' Adopt-a-Preserve program and innovating new concepts to build community support and stewardship capacity. Eamon will also be contributing to Brockton's Greening the Gateway Cities Program by helping to communicate the importance of a healthy and expanding urban tree canopy to Brockton residents. Be sure to say hello if you see him around!

Upcoming Events

Willow Brook Farm, Pembroke

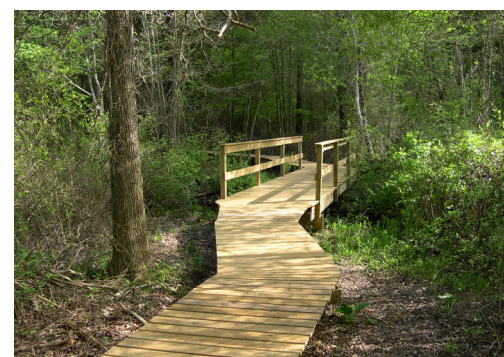
School House Field, Plymouth

Ways to Give

MassTrails Grant Funds Willow Brook Trail Improvements

With increased trail usage and erosion affecting the trails, Wildlands recently secured funding to begin the Willow Brook Farm Trail Enhancement project.

What do Alleghany mound ants, the rare Eastern box turtle, and rare hemlock parsley have in common? They all are found at Wildlands' Willow Brook Farm Preserve. A historic former dairy farm, the 150 acres that comprises Willow Brook Farm is at the heart of a 700-acre conservation block in the center of Pembroke that provides a biodiverse ecoregion and critical habitat needed to protect state listed rare species. One of Wildlands' most popular preserves, Willow Brook has received an impressive uptick in the number of visitors over the years. Unfortunately, the increased trail usage, coupled with an increase in precipitation events, have resulted in sections of the well-used trails to become rutted out.



A bridge leads visitors safely over Pudding Brook at Willow Brook Farm.

To mitigate these effects, as well as provide an improved educational experience for visitors, Wildlands submitted a request for funding earlier this year to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. After months of review, Wildlands was selected to receive a \$19,000 grant through the Recreational Trails Program for the Willow Brook Farm Trail Enhancement project. Slated to begin by November 2019, planned improvements include construction of several large sections of bog board, restoring the eroded sections of trail and providing protection for surrounding habitat. The grant also provides for the design and construction of several interpretive panels to highlight the unique qualities of the property and provide information on land conservation and habitat protection. Finally, to optimize the parking lot's capacity, split-rail fencing will be installed and landscape timber will designate parking spaces.

Wildlands' goal in improving this trail system is not only to protect sensitive habitat but also to increase the availability of environmental education for local school and community groups. By the end of this two-year project, interpretive signs will allow educators and families to lead self-guided nature lessons as they stroll through the protected Atlantic white cedar and American hornbeam groves. School groups will be able to learn about vernal pools and their inhabitants like the four-toed salamander and wood frog – better yet, they will be able to see these critters firsthand!

This grant has one other critical component: it cannot be completed without your help! Throughout the two-year grant period, Wildlands will be seeking volunteers to help with trail work, sign installation, and parking lot improvements. If you are interested in lending a hand on the Willow Brook Farm Trail Enhancement project, keep an eye on our website for volunteer opportunities (wildlandstrust.org) or email Community Stewardship Manager Conor Michaud at cmichaud@wildlandstrust.org.

Connecting Beer and Land Conservation

Wildlands expands programming and supports agricultural land through the craft-beer craze sweeping the South Shore.

New England's craft-beverage movement has reached Southeastern Massachusetts, with breweries, cideries, wineries, and distilleries popping up all over Wildlands Trust's service region. These small businesses have had their effect on local economies and social scenes, but what do they have to do with land conservation? According to mass.gov, Massachusetts craft-beverage businesses, in many cases, help to maintain open space and use locally grown ingredients. Here in Southeastern Massachusetts we certainly have our fair share of craft-beverage businesses, and with growing public program offerings and agricultural land in our portfolio, Wildlands Trust has become involved in the craft beer movement in more ways than one.



Hike & Hops participants enjoy a cold beer at the Mayflower Beer Garden at the Pinehills after hiking Halfway Pond Conservation Area.

Local brewer, Paul Nixon, from Independent Fermentations (IndieFerm) Brewing, began growing hops at Wildlands' School House Field in 2018. This farmland in Plymouth came into Wildlands' portfolio in 2015, and with an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on the land, we work with local farmers to ensure that the fields remain in active agriculture. Now, part of this landscape is Paul's 400 hop plants. He and his crew harvested 20 pounds from the hop yard this fall, which they put directly into the beer they brew and sell in Plymouth.

The connection between beer, agriculture, conservation, and the people behind it also gave us an idea for a new public program. We led our first Hike & Hops program last December, hiking a nearby Plymouth preserve then visiting IndieFerm Brewing for a pint. This simple program was an instant hit, and we began to notice that many of the breweries around the region are quite close to our preserves. We now offer Hike & Hops programs monthly, highlighting a different Wildlands Trust property and nearby brewery each month. Hike & Hops has both increased exposure to Wildlands Trust trail systems and helped bridge the connection between beer and land. As a bonus, we support local businesses, and in some cases agriculture, with each brewery visit. If hitting the trails and grabbing a pint with your fellow hikers sounds like your cup of brew, then we hope to see you at a Hike & Hops program soon!



Attendees at OkTRAILberfest 2018 toast to land conservation with beers from local breweries.



A Great Way for Seniors To Give

One of the best ways for retired people to give is from their IRA. Anyone aged 70 ½ or older can give using their IRA's required mandatory distribution.

You can contact your fund manager and ask that an amount of your choice be sent to Wildlands Trust. It will lower your tax burden since the distribution is taxed as part of your gross income.

At Wildlands, we will make sure your IRA required mandatory distribution gift is properly thanked for your tax purposes. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Chamberlain at schamberlain@wildlandstrust.org.

Thank you for your continued support!



Preserve Tour

Sunday, Nov. 17 | 10 am - 12 pm
Halfway Pond Con. Area, Plymouth
Free Program

Mindful Meditation

Wed., Nov. 20 | 9 am - 11:00 am
Davis-Douglas Farm, Plymouth
\$5 Members | \$10 Nonmembers

Wreath Making Workshop

Sunday, Nov. 24 | 1 pm - 3 pm
Davis-Douglas Farm, Plymouth
\$30 Members | \$40 Nonmembers

Post Feast Waddle

Friday, Nov. 29 | 10 am - 1 pm
Davis-Douglas Farm, Plymouth
Free Program

Preserve Tour

Sunday, Dec. 8 | 10 am - 12 pm
Willow Brook Farm, Pembroke
Free Program

Reusable Gift Wrap Workshop

Saturday, Dec. 14 | 10 am - 12 pm
Davis-Douglas Farm, Plymouth
\$8 Members | \$12 Nonmembers

Winter Solstice Yoga

Saturday, Dec. 21 | 4pm - 5:30pm
Davis-Douglas Farm, Plymouth
\$8 Members | \$15 Nonmembers

For monthly hikes, workshops, yoga and more, visit our website: wildlandstrust.org/events

climate change has focused on fundamental changes to our energy and transportation sectors, these natural climate solutions are often cost effective practices. Griscom et al. (2017) found that 37% of global cost-effective CO2 mitigation to meet the Paris Climate Accords' goal through 2030 could be met with natural climate solutions. With this in mind, Wildlands has used the lens of natural climate solutions to guide our action plan; small, purposeful changes to our land acquisition, property management, and outreach practices will magnify the contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation that exist as a natural byproduct of our work.



Flooding could lead to the proliferation of pesticides and fertilizer in the Winnetuxet River.

Within the land trust community, most organizations have criteria to guide land acquisition projects to ensure that each falls within the organization's mission statement. Wildlands is adding a criterion that focuses on a property's climate mitigation and adaptation potential. With this new benchmark, we hope to permanently protect properties that contain habitats in Southeastern Massachusetts, like cold-water streams, tidal marshes, and vernal pools, which are expected to be affected by climate change more so than others are. Moving forward, we would like to prioritize these habitats through direct protection or through protection of adjacent land, providing the flexibility for ecological migration. Through this criterion, we also hope to highlight

properties that contain habitats that may buffer against future climate impacts, such as dunes and barrier beaches, and properties that may serve to mitigate climate change effects in the short term because of their high carbon sequestration potential, for instance "blue carbon" ecosystems like tidal marshes. By adding this climate criterion and using publicly available climate projection, resiliency, and green infrastructure maps, we hope to imbue climate considerations into every future land acquisition project. In the long term, updating our acquisition criteria will allow us to conserve resilient sites throughout Southeastern Massachusetts, protecting the local, natural landscapes we love and buffering damage-s from future storms, flooding, and droughts.

We hope that in guiding future acquisitions toward resiliency we can strengthen the region's response to climate change; however, presently, our current properties are also at risk from climate change. Because climate change will create a new baseline for normal, we believe that ignoring climate impacts in our stewardship would be shortsighted. We have revisited the management practices at our

Showcase Preserves and coastal Community Preserves to mindfully incorporate climate considerations by creating a hybrid management plan and vulnerability assessment for each property. These plans outline the landscape context, habitats and rare species, current stewardship tasks, climate vulnerabilities, potential public health and environmental justice issues, climate resiliencies, and immediate actions to undertake. In completing these analyses, we scored each property's vulnerability and resiliency on a scale of 1-5, guiding short-term management choices so properties that are more vulnerable receive immediate focus in day-to-day

stewardship and future grant applications. By revisiting our management strategies in light of climate change impacts, we hope to be well-positioned to protect the habitats, species, and ecosystems that spurred us to conserve the land in the first place.

Finally, while undertaking these climate-relevant land acquisition and property management tasks, we hope to amplify these responses by increasing our public climate centric programs and content offerings. In this way, we want to engage our members in the conversation, spread knowledge of regional vulnerabilities and resiliencies, and broadcast acquisition and management projects, which are particularly relevant. Current outreach initiatives such as our Greening the Gateway Cities partnership in Brockton and our Youth Unplugged offerings have a clear climate resiliency connection; over the next few years, we have outlined initiatives we would like to be a part of and potential programs we would like to offer. We are excited to immediately jump into the topic through Plymouth's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program and by including climate change content on the Recreational Trails Program funded informational signs at Willow Brook Farm in Pembroke.



The Bluefish River salt marsh near Captain Cushman Preserve in Duxbury is highly vulnerable to climate change due to sea level rise.

Wildlands Trust hopes to be mindful of how climate change will impact our organization and region by making a concerted effort



Great South Pond, Plymouth

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:

DONALD BOWDEN
- Alison Bowden | *Holbrook*

WEDGE BRAMHALL
- Benjamin Bramhall | *Plymouth*

PETER BRIGGS
- Robert Hobler | *Miami, FL*

DEBORAH WOOD DAVIS
- Frank & Sarah Geer | *Plymouth*
- George McCarter | *Little Silver, NJ*
- Ethan & Linda Warren | *Marblehead*

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- Jane & Greg Bartholomew | *Santa Barbara, CA*
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- Dr. Karen Goodell | *Granville OH*
- David & Mary Otto | *Norwich, VT*
- Elizabeth Otto | *Buffalo, NY*
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- Kim McGinn | *Lancaster, SC*



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KATHLEEN S. ANDERSON
- Elizabeth Mallory | *Duxbury*

ELIZABETH BARBER
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- Patricia Platt | *Norfolk, CT*

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- Marilyn Phillips | *Duxbury*

LAUREN & JERRY MELILLO
- Maureen Kelly | *Plymouth*

"MY CHILDREN"
- Jennifer Cona | *Kingston*

BOBBY OTTO
- Lisa Kingston | *Buzzards Bay*

HOWARD RANDALL
- Kevin O'Connor | *Marshfield*

JOYCE & GEOFF STEWART
- Ruth & Russell Fry | *Plymouth*

DORIE STOLLEY
- Frank & Sarah Geer | *Plymouth*

MAGGI & KEN TAVARES
- Ruth & Russell Fry | *Plymouth*

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to understand and respond to climate impacts starting today. Through this strategic plan, we hope to thoughtfully integrate climate considerations into our acquisitions and property management practices, participating on a local scale in the larger global push to use natural climate solutions to combat climate change. We also believe that beginning to think about climate change now is a great way to begin considering the long-term possibilities and future policy directions that our region may face in the next century.



Property Highlight

Tucker Preserve | Pembroke

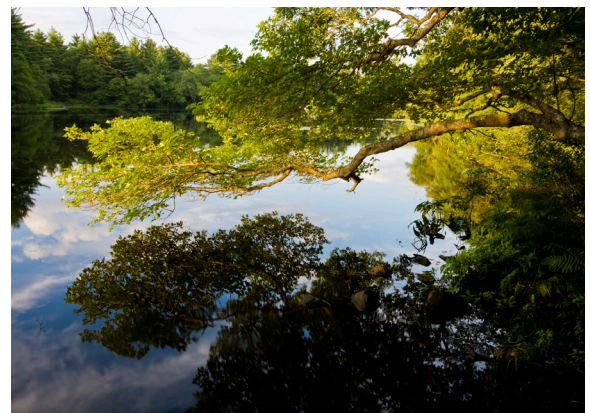
Gifted to Wildlands Trust in 1993, Tucker Preserve is a 78.6-acre parcel of land located off West Elm Street in Pembroke. Its unique terrain and vegetation transports visitors to what feels more like northern New England than the South Shore.

When Sidney and Harold Tucker gifted the parcel of land that would be dubbed Tucker Preserve to Wildlands Trust in 1993, they did so having felt it was a “very special place” due to its frontage on the Indian Head River. Feeding into the North River, Indian Head River was once host to an assortment of manufacturing plants, the signs of which can be seen throughout the area; the most obvious being the foundation of the Clapp Rubber Company located on town land right before crossing the bridge over into Tucker. Today, the river provides visitors with breathtaking scenic views as they traverse the waterway either by floating down it via kayak or walking the trails that run along its shoreline.

The property inland from the river doesn’t disappoint either. Upon entering the preserve at its trailhead, accessed by parking at Luddam’s Ford Park, if taking the loop away from the river, visitors will walk through an open understory of shrubs as well as through giant hardwoods like red oak and hickory. Progressing towards the western half of the property, groves of hemlock trees stand tall before the trail winds back up towards the river. Stone walls throughout the property point to the land’s agricultural past, and the number of large glacial erratics and more technical trails make this property different than most in Wildlands’ portfolio.

The trail system at Tucker also serves as a linkage for the Indian Head River Trail Loop, a 4-mile trail that traverses both sides of the river through conservation land in Pembroke, Hanover, and Hanson. In the fall of 2018, the stakeholders of the properties on this loop received a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Recreational Trails Grant Program to make improvements on the trail. The improvements will range from trail maintenance, new trailhead kiosks, wayfinding kiosks throughout the loop, and blazing of the pathways.

Wildlands currently has a need for volunteers at Tucker Preserve as a part of the “Adopt-a-Preserve” (AAP) volunteer property-monitoring program. If you are interested in applying, please contact Stewardship Manager Erik Boyer at eboyer@wildlandstrust.org or fill out an AAP application on our website at wildlandstrust.org/volunteer.



A tree limb hovers above the water’s surface on the Indian Head River at Tucker Preserve.