

WILDLANDS TRUST STEWARDSHIP TRAINING CENTER

Wildlands Trust will launch the Stewardship Training Center (STC) in 2024 to help bolster stewardship of conservation lands.

Wildlands and partners will offer a wide range of training programs at the STC to

(1) help municipalities and land-holding organizations build much-needed stewardship capacity and (2) encourage continuous learning for professionals working in land protection.

New and expanded funding for land protection is good news. However, the care and management of these lands will be left to an already stressed and under-resourced land stewardship system. Strapped stewardship resources are the norm at our National and State Parks and on our townlands and land trust properties. Without more funding and innovation directed toward caring for land, we risk an erosion of public confidence and the degradation of the biological and social values we seek to protect.



"Without innovation like this directed toward caring for the land, we risk eroding public confidence and degrading the biological and social values we seek to protect."

Buzz Constable, Committee Chair



WILDLANDS TRUST
Stewardship Training Center
wildlandstrust.org/training



“THE CROWN JEWEL OF HALFWAY POND”

Karen Grey
Wildlands Trust President



Halfway Pond Conservation Area, Plymouth

THE SETTING

Halfway Pond Conservation Area is an ecological gem in South Plymouth, complete with pine barrens, wetlands, mixed-oak forests, and a shoreline on idyllic Halfway Pond. With support from private donors, Wildlands purchased the last remaining private parcel abutting the preserve, which now totals over 550 acres. Combined with its big sister to the west, Myles Standish State Forest, and its little sister to the south, Halfway Pond Wildlife Management Area, these properties comprise the most expansive protected public open space in Eastern Massachusetts.

THE FACILITY

The Stewardship Training Center is housed in a 12,000-square-foot building, the former estate of prominent cranberry grower LeBaron Russell Barker. Lodging and meals will be available for overnight program participants in the Barker Estate. Wildlands will make the STC available to organizations wishing to host trainings and meetings. We will offer an affordable fee structure to encourage the use of this accommodating facility by partners.

Wildlands Trust is developing a core curriculum to assist municipalities and small land trusts recruit, train, deploy, and recognize volunteers.



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