



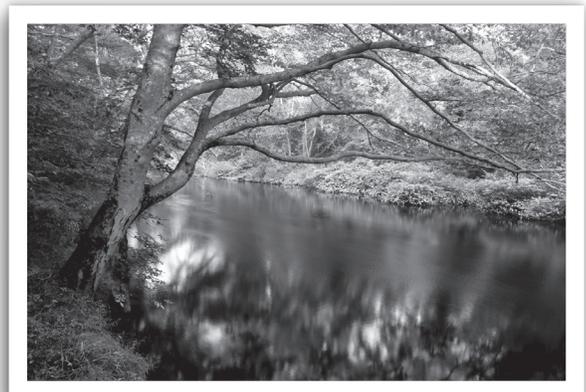
Wildlands Teams-Up with Fish and Game to Save More Land

An example of how partnerships between private nonprofits and public agencies yield big results.

Thanks to several recent acquisitions, Great River Preserve in Bridgewater and the larger Taunton River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) it lies within have expanded by 150 acres.

The first acquisition comprises 62 acres directly adjacent to the southwestern edge of Great River Preserve. This property includes approximately one half-mile of river frontage, six potential vernal pools and areas designated by the Commonwealth's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as Bio Map 2 "Core Habitat" and "Critical Natural Landscape," a designation afforded only to those areas that contain some of the best remaining biodiversity in our state. The property also enhances opportunities for establishing trail linkages, including a proposed Taunton River trail.

A prime example of "pre-acquisition," an important land preservation strategy often involving a land trust and a public agency, Wildlands Trust (WT) initially held this land for a few weeks and subsequently



TOP: Regular haying maintains the open field habitat of the preserve.
MIDDLE: Signage invites exploration of the fields, woodlands, and river.
BOTTOM: A section of the 4-mile protected corridor of the Taunton River.

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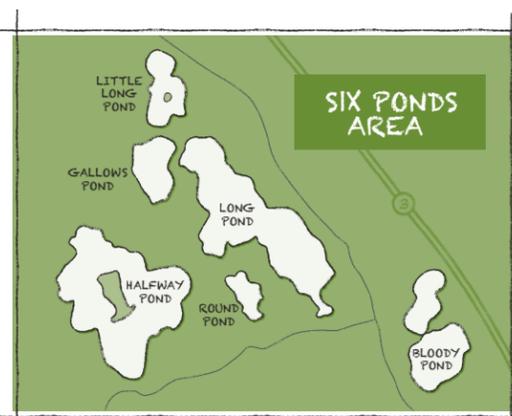


WILDLANDS TRUST

Wildlands Trust works throughout Southeastern Massachusetts to conserve and permanently protect native habitats, farmland, and lands of high scenic and ecological value in order to keep our communities healthy and our residents connected to the natural world.

Six Ponds: A Passionate Community

Six Ponds Association's members have a passion for conservation that goes hand-in-glove with Wildlands' mission.



Even though general environmental advocacy is not part of Wildland's mission, we recognize the tremendous value it brings to our work in conserving land. It is no coincidence that nearly 25 percent of our holdings are in the greater Six Ponds area of Plymouth where advocacy is adeptly carried out by the Six Ponds Association, an affiliation of smart and tenacious environmentally-minded

residents who live on and around Long, Little Long, Gallows, Round, Halfway and Bloody Ponds in Plymouth. "Six Ponders" are passionate about the quality of life they enjoy in South Plymouth, and more importantly, they never take it for granted. The group meets monthly to share information and take positions on activities and policies that could potentially affect the aquifer, ponds, forests and wildlife in their community.

Six Ponders pack public meetings when an issue they care about is being discussed. They host community clean-ups and monitor water quality in the ponds. They raise awareness for land protection and step forward when conserved land is being considered for roadways, wells and other community needs. Their work supports and inspires our work to protect land and Wildlands Trust is a stronger, more effective land trust because of their voices.

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ACCOUNTING

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TERRACORPS MEMBER 2017/2018

Tommy Blanchard

Land Stewardship Coordinator

FOR INFORMATION about membership or the benefits of conveying land or conservation restrictions (agricultural included) to Wildlands, call or write:

Wildlands Trust
675 Long Pond Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

(774) 343-5121 Phone
(774) 343-5124 Fax
info@wildlandstrust.org

www.wildlandstrust.org



Plymouth Airport CR Protects Critical Habitat

Recently, Wildlands propelled its conservation efforts toward protecting a habitat a number of rare avian species call home.



Working with the Town of Plymouth through their Airport Commission, we recently completed a Conservation Restriction on 45.5 acres of the airport's holdings. The restriction protects land that provides habitat for several state-listed rare species and is directly adjacent to Plymouth Airport's large expanse of grassland habitat, an increasingly uncommon habitat type in Southeastern Massachusetts.

The restriction will also allow for habitat management and enhancement, which is anticipated to include converting a portion of the property to grassland habitat. The restored habitat will join with the airport's existing grassland areas to create an expanded assemblage of this important habitat type. Multiple rare avian species, including the upland sandpiper and grasshopper sparrow, depend on substantial tracts of grasslands for breeding and nesting.

Volunteers Make Light(er) Work on Our Trails

Trail safety a top priority for Wildlands and community volunteers after recent winter storms.

March was a difficult month for many of us. The string of nor'easters that descended upon the region took down many trees over a very short period, leaving our stewardship crew with an overwhelming amount of work. Fast forward to today and we are happy to report that nearly all of our trails are clear of debris and damaged trees.

A big THANK YOU is in order to our community volunteers as well as our Adopt-A-Preserve volunteers for their assistance in the post nor'easter cleanup over the last two months. Their efforts allowed us to clear away the damage found on our preserves quickly and make them safe for community enjoyment again. Dedicated volunteers are vital in the stewardship of our properties throughout the region. Whether it's through a longer-term commitment like adopting a preserve or a one-day Trailblazers event, we greatly appreciate the community support we receive in maintaining the trails we all enjoy.

Volunteer for the Annual Spring Spruce-Up
May 19 | 9:30 am–Noon | Davis-Douglas Farm | Plymouth

Those who can attend will be assisting with everything from fixing fences and filling potholes to preparing garden beds and planting flowers.
More information can be found on our website at wildlandstrust.org/events



HELP WANTED: VOLUNTEER WITH GGCP BROCKTON

The Greening the Gateway Cities Program (GGCP) is designed to reduce house-hold heating and cooling energy use by increasing tree canopy cover in urban residential area. Volunteer with the GGCP and contribute to the environmental, economic and public health of Brockton.

Volunteer Positions Available:

- Outreach Assistant
- Program Advocate/Canvasser
- Communications Specialist/Translator
- Community Liaison
- Social Media Campaigner

Interested?

Find our more at: wildlandstrust.org/volunteer-with-ggc

Great Neck Conservation Area Gets a Facelift

Overgrown and in need of some TLC, Adopt-A-Preserve monitoring helped Wildlands Trust's stewardship staff breathe new life into the trail systems at this Wareham preserve.



Great Neck Conservation Area is 104 acres of open space located in central Wareham and comprises three land parcels: Jack's Marsh, Mink Cove-Elkins Reservation and Minot-Weld Conservancy. Back in 2015, the first few steps from the parking area off Crooked River Road onto the property were ones of dodging brambles, ducking under trees and getting lost rather quickly in the labyrinth of trails and the overgrowth that consumed them. The trails, at that point, had been untouched for quite some time and the existing trail map reinforced the need for a more navigable trail loop.

Over the last 18 months, Wildlands Trust's stewardship staff has been working closely with Skip Stuck, a dedicated volunteer from Bourne, to update the trail systems and clear the overgrowth that made the trails impassible. Skip "adopted" the property through Wildlands' Adopt-A-Preserve program and spent months mapping and marking trails, allowing for the creation of a nearly 4-mile looped trail system. He and Butch Ripley, a neighbor of the Mink Cove parcel, also assisted in reestablishing many of the overgrown trails and creating new connector trails that move foot traffic away from homes abutting the conservation area. One of the newly established trails, in particular, gives hikers a more direct path to the portion of the trail that runs along Mink Cove.

Trail systems on-site run through a variety of coastal habitats including pitch pine barren, salt marsh, white pine-red oak, an abandoned cranberry bog and a kettle pond. Property highlights include a view of Mink Cove, which provides glimpses of ospreys nesting along the cove, and a portion of trail that runs along the boundary of a large sheep farm. Visitors will find the recent improvements to these systems have resulted in an overall safer and more enjoyable experience for all who may walk the property throughout the year.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Preserve program, please visit wildlandstrust.org/volunteer



Exploring the Local Landscape with Wildlands Trust

Public programming at Wildlands Trust gets communities back in touch with their natural roots.

Local landscapes have much to offer the residents of Southeastern Massachusetts, from the outdoor enthusiast to the casual stroller. A walk or hike on Wildlands Trust's properties throughout the region can take you on a journey through pine barrens, open meadows, hardwood forests, marshes, shorelines and more. With trails that meander along rivers and brooks, circumnavigate ponds and lakes, and open up to ocean beaches, Wildlands is here to help you get the most out of your time on our properties.

Hike with Malcolm

Malcolm MacGregor, our resident "Trail Guy," leads 4- to 6-mile hikes throughout Plymouth, monthly. These hikes highlight lesser-known trail connections and the natural history of the town.

Mindful Meditation

With warmer weather finally here, our monthly mindfulness workshop with Betsy Hall will hit the trails for group sitting and walking meditation.

Hike with a Naturalist

This summer, we will offer hikes at our showcase preserves with naturalist Jim Sweeney, highlighting the biodiversity of plant and animal species living at these spectacular properties.

The Big Ramble

More ambitious hikers can look forward to The Big Ramble, a two-part hike planned for June 10 and 17. During last year's Big Ramble, hikers traversed 20 miles over two consecutive Sundays from Plymouth to Wareham, highlighting one of the largest greenbelt corridors in Eastern Massachusetts.

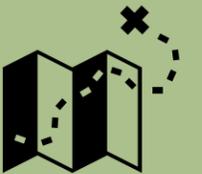
OkTRAILberfest

This fall, the entire family can join us at OkTRAILberfest, a celebration combining hiking with Oktoberfest fun! Last year's inaugural OkTRAILberfest offered 9-mile, 6-mile, 5-mile, 4-mile and 2-mile hikes, all ending at Wildlands Trust's headquarters, where festivities included live music, lawn games, and local food and libations.

Attending a guided hike with Wildlands Trust is a great way to familiarize yourself with new trails, meet others in your community and learn about the landscapes—and maybe a bit about yourself! Visit wildlandstrust.org/events for a full list of upcoming programs.



CALLING ALL OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS!



TAKE PART IN WILDLANDS' 2018 SUMMER TRAIL CHALLENGE

Enjoy some of the most beautiful and diverse natural spaces in Southeastern Massachusetts while participating in Wildlands' Summer Trail Challenge!

Visit and explore all 22 properties listed on Wildlands Trust's website between June 21 and September 22 and win a prize!

Be the first one to finish and get additional prizes. Adventure solo or with your friends and family. Revisit the local preserves you know and love while discovering ones you have yet to fall for.

For rules and more information, visit us at: wildlandstrust.org/summer-trail-challenge

SPECIAL EVENTS MAY/JUNE



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

TICK TALK & WALK

TALK:
Thursday, May 17
6:30 pm
Davis-Douglas Farm, Plymouth

WALK:
Sunday, May 20
1:00 pm
Eel River Preserve, Plymouth

CREATURES of the NIGHT HIKE

Friday, May 18
8:30 pm
Willow Brook Preserve, Pembroke

VINYASA FLOW YOGA

Tuesday, May 22
6:15 pm
Davis-Douglas Farm, Plymouth

WETLANDS: SIGHTS & SOUNDS

Saturday, May 26
10:00 am

PRESENTATION:
4-H Clubhouse, Halifax

WALK:
Striar Conservancy, Halifax

HIKE with NATURALIST JIM SWEENEY

Sunday, June 10
Time: TBD
Striar Conservancy, Halifax

Wildlands Teams-Up with Fish and Game to Save More Land — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

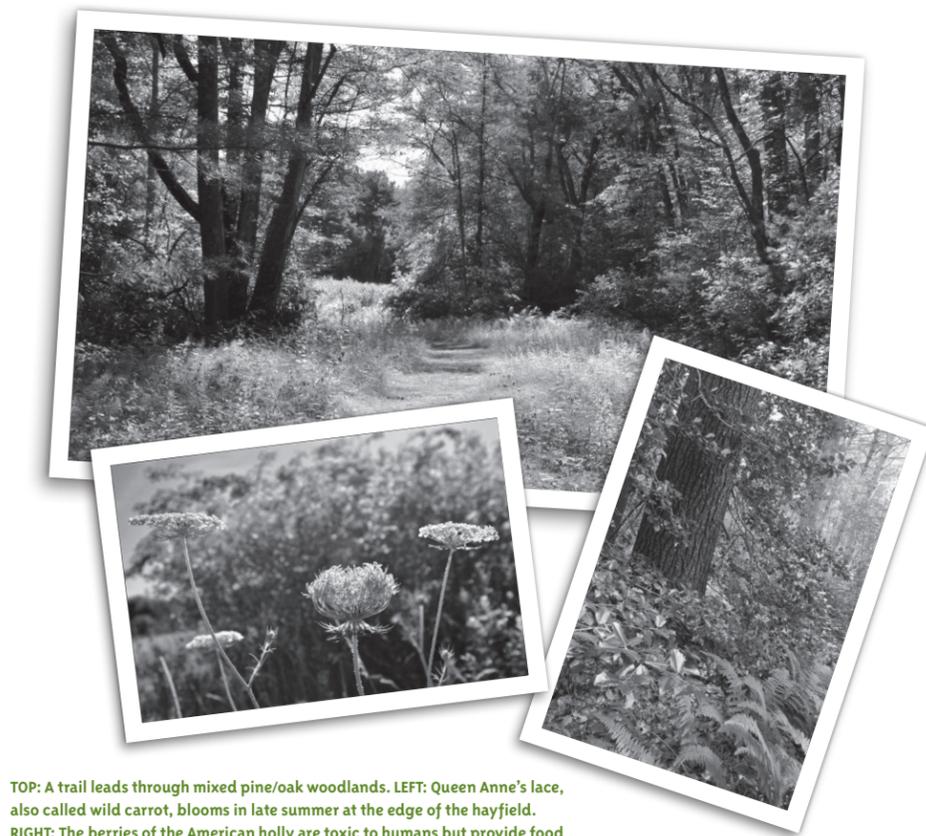
transferred it to the Mass. Department of Fish and Game (DFG). One of Wildlands' advantages as a nonprofit organization is the ability to mobilize very quickly to take advantage of time-sensitive preservation opportunities.

Just a few weeks after Wildlands Trust completed the purchase and transfer of the aforementioned 62 acres, DFG acquired an additional 81 acres on the upstream end of the Taunton River WMA. Directly abutting existing DFG land, the property includes multiple vernal pools, extensive river frontage and a mix of upland woods and forested floodplain.

Most recently, DFG closed on a 5-acre wooded parcel abutting the southwestern corner of Great River Preserve. Possessed of extensive frontage on Beaver Brook, a Taunton River tributary, this parcel also provides a direct connection between Great River Preserve and the 62 acres we acquired and transferred to DFG.

As a result of these three acquisitions, the Taunton River WMA, the largest contiguous conservation reserve along the upper Taunton River corridor, now encompasses over 576 acres, 4 miles of river frontage in Bridgewater and Middleborough, extensive riparian forests and some of the most valuable wildlife habitat anywhere in the Taunton watershed. This portion of the river corridor is, in the eyes of many, the most scenic section of the Taunton River's 44-mile main stem and undoubtedly helped make the case for the river's successful entry into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers program in 2009.

Wildlands' history with this landscape dates back to 2009 when, in partnership with DFG, Wildlands established the 230-acre Great River Preserve. DFG owns 105 acres of the preserve and holds a Conservation Restriction over WT's 125-acre portion. The preserve includes scenic open fields, over a mile of river frontage, multiple vernal pools and as



TOP: A trail leads through mixed pine/oak woodlands. LEFT: Queen Anne's lace, also called wild carrot, blooms in late summer at the edge of the hayfield. RIGHT: The berries of the American holly are toxic to humans but provide food for many birds and mammals.

of this year, a wheelchair accessible path offering enhanced access to the river for all ages and abilities. Wildlands' Executive Director, Karen Grey, related, "Establishing Great River Preserve was one of the most significant events in our history and a direct outgrowth of our ongoing collaboration with DFG. It is gratifying to see that collaboration achieve additional success in expanding the preserve and the larger Taunton River Wildlife Management Area. It is through partnerships such as this that we maximize land preservation outcomes, whether in the Taunton River watershed or elsewhere in the region we serve. We look forward to future collaborations with DFG."

Land Acquisition Agent, Joan Pierce, commented, "Over the past two decades the Mass. Department of Fish and Game has invested substantial resources along the upper Taunton River corridor to acquire the almost 600-acre Taunton River Wildlife Management Area. In 1997, DFG completed

its first acquisition in this corridor, 68 acres on the north side of River Street in Middleborough. Since then, DFG has acquired over 4 miles of river frontage and some of the most ecologically significant properties along the entire upper Taunton River. Wildlands Trust is our most valued partner in this long-term effort to preserve Southeastern Massachusetts' best remaining open space, biodiversity and areas for passive recreation by the public. The Department of Fish and Game welcomes future collaborations with [Wildlands]."

For our part, we at Wildlands Trust are equally pleased to partner with the Department of Fish and Game toward preserving some of the most ecologically and aesthetically valuable landscapes anywhere in Southeastern Massachusetts and look forward to future partnership opportunities along the Taunton River and its tributaries.

Thank You for Your Contribution

Wildlands Trust relies on private philanthropy to fund the work we do to save land throughout the region. You, our supporters, are Wildlands Trust. Thank you for your vision and for your dedication to preserving land for future generations.

In Memory of

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- Alan Exon, *Plymouth*

LYDIA G. COCHRANE

- Elizabeth Fama & John Cochrane, *Palo Alto, CA*

CHARLES WILLIAM CORNELIUS

- Margaret & Stephen Holda, *South Easton*

SAM DAVIS

- Eric Schmidt, *Alexandria, VA*

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- Noreen Finneran, *Marshfield*

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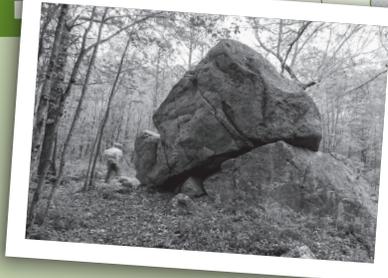
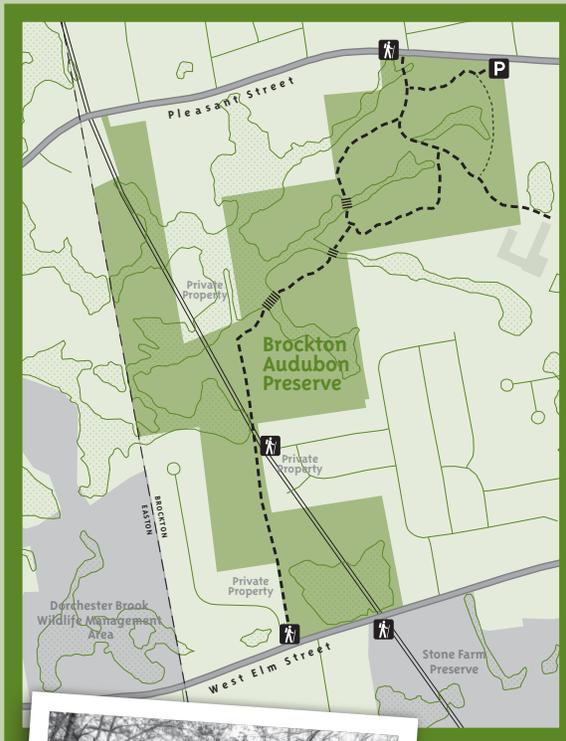
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PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT

STAFF PICK: Brockton Audubon Preserve | Brockton

This woodland paradise is Wildlands Trust's only urban preserve, providing much needed open space for Brockton residents and the surrounding communities.



When the then 92-year-old Brockton Audubon Society disbanded in 2011, 126 acres of conservation land on the west side of the city was transferred to Wildlands Trust, ensuring the permanent protection of valuable open space. With grant funding from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Wildlands restored and expanded the property's existing trail system, allowing visitors to enjoy a wide variety of intriguing natural and historical features throughout; educational signage describing these features are located along the trail system. The preserve also features two trailside benches and a small public book exchange box in the northeast section.

An extensive system of stone walls and remnants of old farm roads can be found throughout the property, serving as reminders of the land's agricultural use prior to the area's reforestation. Beautiful boardwalks allow passage through a scenic wetland network containing vernal pools and providing valuable habitat

for a large variety of species. An ecologically diverse area, visitors can admire both open shrublands and towering pines throughout the preserve. Additionally, the property is home to several very large glacial erratic boulders, deposited roughly 14,000 years ago by the area's most recent major glacier, the Laurentide Ice Sheet.

A parking area is located on Pleasant Street, nearly across from Albany Street. Brockton Audubon Preserve is adjacent to the Brockton Conservation Commission's Stone Farm, creating a combined protected area of 225 acres and establishing a 4.3-mile hiking corridor.