

Progress Report

As we come to the end of another year, we're happy to report these highlights of our progress:

Organization. Our new Board Designated Funds have helped us reach important objectives in stewardship and land protection. The Crocker Conservation Area Stewardship Fund has facilitated outreach to neighboring schools which can use the CCA for educational activities. The Westminster Midstate Trail Fund paid for land appraisals essential to the Southern Monadnock Plateau Project.

Stewardship. Applewild School's 8th grade ecology class has been utilizing the Crocker Conservation Area in Fitchburg in its curriculum this fall. The class has laid out transects to analyze the population of different tree species along the Overlook Trail. They have also begun to identify ecosystems and biomes found in the CCA.

We look forward to increasing our outreach to schools! We hope that Applewild School and our public school neighbors in Fitchburg will continue to visit the CCA for field work, outings and community service work. We want to make our partnership with area schools mutually beneficial and rewarding.

Grant Awards. We have received grants from the Mass. Forest Stewardship Program to prepare forest stewardship plans for the Crocker Conservation Area and the Sibley Property in Westminster. We are in the process of hiring a licensed forester to prepare plans that address timber production, wildlife habitat and recreational use of these properties.

Do you have an idea or skill to share?

North County Land Trust is looking for **VOLUNTEERS** who can help us increase public use and enjoyment of our conservation areas in Fitchburg, Westminster and Gardner. Do you enjoy birding, animal tracking or geo-caching? If you would like to share your interest with others, please contact us.

Southern Monadnock Plateau Project

Our work in Westminster has resulted in the preliminary success of a regional project to protect land along the Midstate Trail. The Southern Monadnock Plateau Project would protect 590 acres in Westminster and 1680 acres in Ashburnham, through conservation restrictions. (It was formerly known as the Northern Midstate Trail Project, before the addition of several hundred acres in Ashburnham which are not in the trail corridor.)

We had the benefit of working with several strong partners in this project, including the Westminster Open Space Committee, Ashburnham Conservation Trust and Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Southern Monadnock Plateau Project was ranked first in the state by the Massachusetts Forest Legacy Committee. In January 2006, the project will be considered for funding by the National Forest Legacy Committee in Washington D.C.

Membership Makes a Difference!

North County Land Trust depends on membership dues and contributions to fund our operating budget, stewardship of our conservation areas and our land protection work. Please take a moment to make a contribution and join us in the important work we do.

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|--|---------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1,000 | Name: _____ |
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Please mail your contribution to

North County Land Trust, Inc., PO Box 2052, Fitchburg, MA 01420

For more information please call Janet Morrison, Director of Land Protection (978) 342-0174

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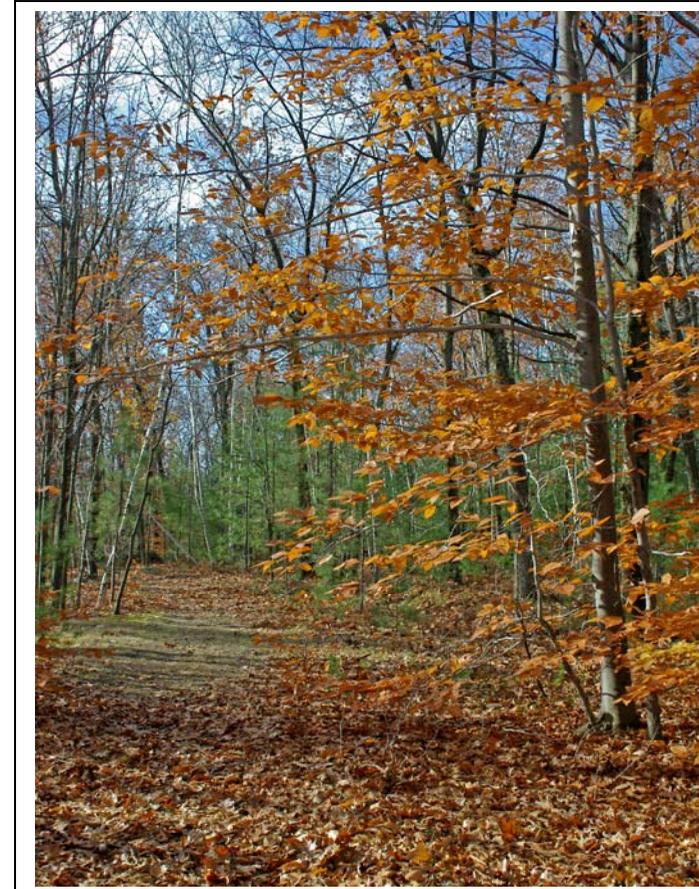
Greenprint

NEWS of the North County Land Trust

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PO Box 2052
Fitchburg, MA 01420



Our Mission ...

Is to protect the land and water resources of north central Massachusetts, by preserving the farms, forests and landscapes that define the character of our region.

Overlook Trail on the Crocker Conservation Area.
Fitchburg, Mass.