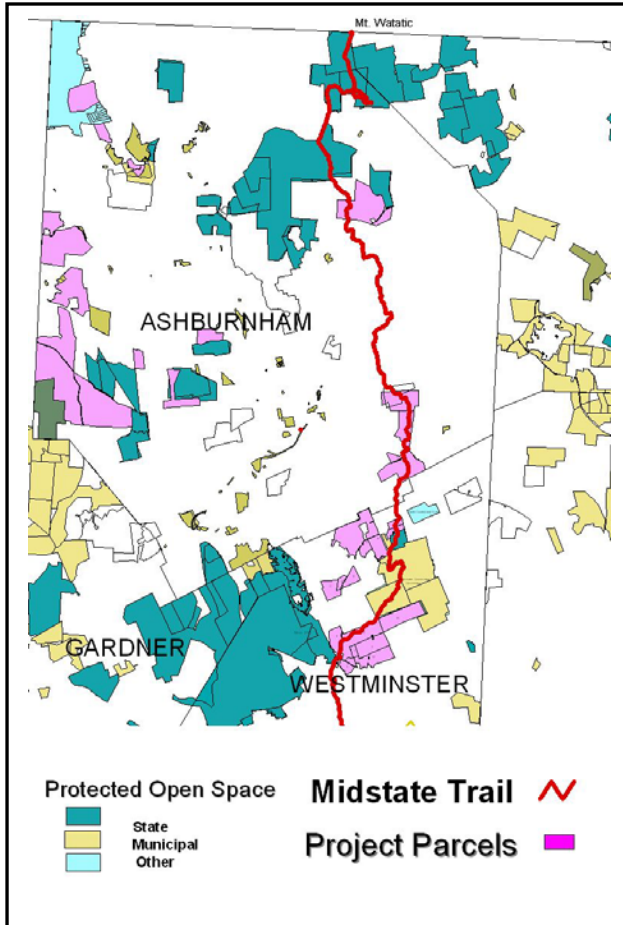


Southern Monadnock Plateau Project



We are happy to report that the “Southern Monadnock Plateau” land conservation project has been included in the President’s budget for funding through the federal Forest Legacy Program. In this project, conservation restrictions are purchased from private landowners to protect open space along the historic Midstate Trail in Westminster and Ashburnham.

The project includes the protection of 1,000 acres of land in the Midstate Trail Corridor in Westminster and Ashburnham, as well as an additional 1,270 acres in western Ashburnham. Project funding will determine the number of acres that can be protected.

The President’s budget allocates \$2.5 million to fund the Southern Monadnock Plateau Project. Actual funding of the project will not be certain until the 2007 Budget is passed by Congress later this year.

In use since 1927, the Midstate Trail is an historic long-distance trail that bisects the state. Its northern-most section runs from Mount Wachusett in Princeton to Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham, a distance of about 22 miles.

The Southern Monadnock Plateau Project accomplishes several objectives at the same time. It helps to preserve and protect the Midstate Trail, while also conserving hundreds of acres of open space for the benefit of town residents, trail users and wildlife.

Project Partners: North County Land Trust, Inc.; Westminster Open Space Committee; Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation; Ashburnham Conservation Trust.

Project Supporters: Towns of Ashburnham & Westminster, Boards of Selectmen, Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions; Appalachian Mountain Club; Monadnock Conservancy; Massachusetts Watershed Coalition; Montachusett Regional Planning Commission; Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust; Nashua River Watershed Association; Brook Bound Nursery; Niemi Insurance Agency; Wachusett Brewing Company, Inc., and others.

Upcoming Events: North County Land Trust’s **Annual Meeting** will be held **June 3, 2006** at the Applewild School in Fitchburg, Mass. We are planning an outdoor event which will include activities on the Crocker Conservation Area: *Trail Race *Biodiversity Day walk *Children’s Activity

Our Conservation Areas

Crocker Conservation Area, Fitchburg, Mass.

This winter, we were busy mapping existing trails and laying out new ones, using a Global Positioning System receiver. (GPS satellite readings are better in “leaf-off” seasons.) We have also posted 10 new signs at entrances to the CCA. Our educational initiative has resulted in a new relationship with the North Central Charter Essential School. The NCCES senior science class has held 3 field sessions on the CCA, to learn animal tracking, mapping and orienteering.

Rome Conservation Area, Gardner, Mass.

We are preparing for the public opening of this 175 acre conservation area. The Rome Conservation Area is a beautiful mixed hardwood/conifer forest, drained by Wilder Brook and carpeted by a variety of mosses and lichens. New trails are being laid out and constructed, as part of an Eagle Scout project. Boy Scouts will also be posting new signs on the trails and at entrances.



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.

- | | | |
|--|---------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1,000 | Name: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$ 500 | Address: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$ 250 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining member | \$ 150 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting member | \$ 100 | Tel. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend/Family | \$ 50 | E-mail _____ |

Please mail your contribution to

North County Land Trust, Inc., PO Box 2052, Fitchburg, MA 01420
 For more information please contact Janet Morrison, Executive Director (978) 342-0174
northcountylandtrust@verizon.net

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Greenprint

NEWS of the North County Land Trust

Winter to *Spring* 2006



Fitchburg Town Pound on the
Crocker Conservation Area
Fitchburg, Mass.

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.