

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.

Benefactor	\$ 1,000	Name: _____
Patron	\$ 500	Address: _____
Sponsor	\$ 250	_____
Sustaining member	\$ 150	_____
Supporting member	\$ 100	Tel. _____
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 www.northcountylandtrust.org

Greenprint

NEWS of the North County Land Trust Spring 2008



Town Pound
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.



PO Box 2052
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Protecting Fitchburg's Northern Water Supply

Conservation Restriction will Protect Fitchburg's Northern Water Supply

NCLT is working with the City of Fitchburg and the state Department of Fish & Game to place a conservation restriction on City-owned land in the northern water supply watershed. This land is located in the northern part of the City of Fitchburg and in the Town of Ashby. The conservation restriction will permanently protect this land from development.

The state Department of Fish and Game will purchase the conservation restriction from the City. The City will continue to own the land and manage it for water supply protection. In addition, the City will open the land to public access for fishing, hunting and passive recreation, with reasonable limitations necessary to protect the water supply.

On April 2nd, a public hearing was held at Fitchburg City Hall, where NCLT, and representatives from the City of Fitchburg and the state explained the conservation project and answered questions about it. Over 80 people attended, most of whom are abutters in the northern watershed. Comments were overwhelmingly in favor of placing the land under the conservation restriction, to protect the water supply watershed. Some concern was expressed that public access might negatively impact the water supply. However, NCLT will continue to work with our partners to insure that only appropriate public access is allowed.

The City-owned land in the northern watershed is part of a large contiguous area of open space, stretching from NCLT's own Crocker Conservation Area near the Upper Common north to Mount Watatic. This landscape protects many important habitats, including those of rare and endangered species. On the state Biomap, the Fitchburg Reservoir is Core Habitat (inhabited by rare species) and the remaining City-owned land is designated as Supporting Natural Landscape.

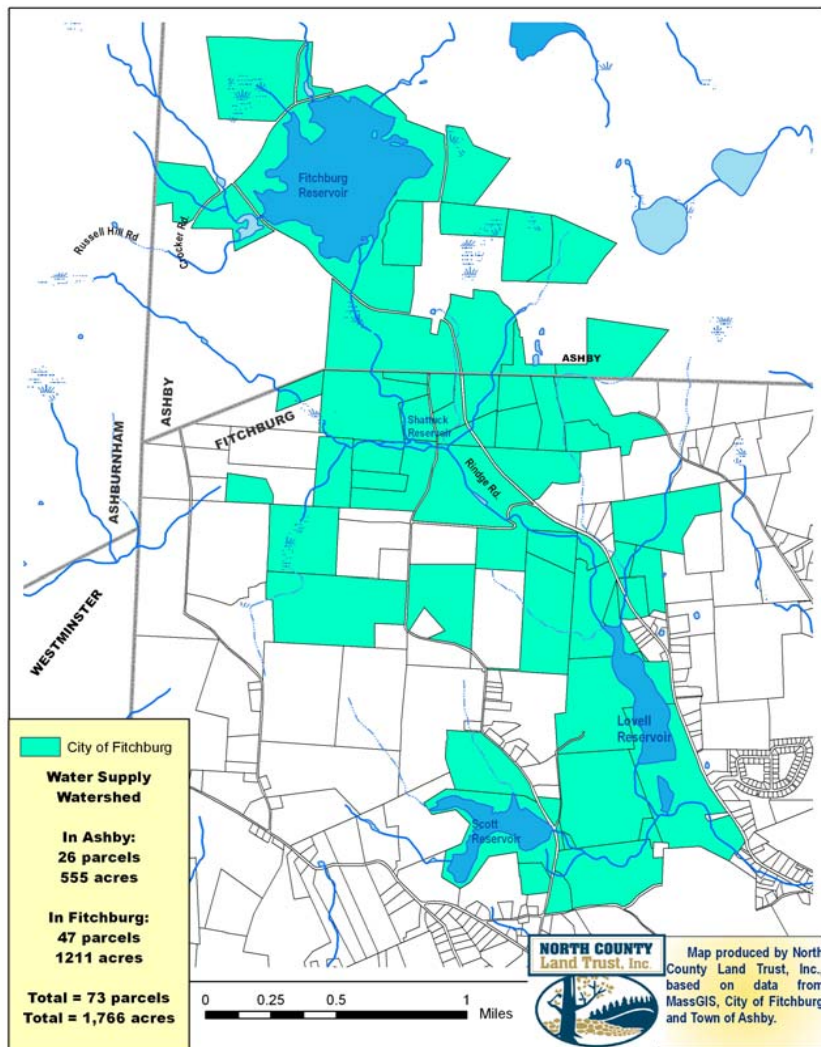
This landscape has an extensive trail system, which will allow the public to access and enjoy its woodlands, fields and streams. There are also century's old roads and homes sites on the land, some of which have been the subject of archeological investigations.

The City of Fitchburg will be able to use revenues from the sale of the conservation restriction to protect other land in the water supply watershed that is not owned by the City. This will help to protect our precious water resources, while providing habitat for wildlife.

The process of placing the land under conservation restriction is expected to be completed by June 30, 2009.

Southern Monadnock Plateau Forest Legacy Project - Westminster

NCLT continues to work with the landowner and the Town of Westminster to prepare to close this project by June 30, 2009. At the Westminster Town Meeting on May 3rd, residents voted to authorize the use of Town funds for appraisal, survey and other required services. NCLT is helping the Town apply for a state grant which will be used for the purchase of Conservation Restrictions on the land. The project is being funded primarily through the federal Forest Legacy Program.



GRANT AWARDED for Gardner Conservation Project

NCLT has been awarded a grant of \$3,000 to cover initial expenses of a new project to conserve land in the Bailey and Wilder Brook watersheds of north Gardner. These important watersheds are located within an area of Core Habitat that also protects the Perley Brook Reservoir in Gardner. The grant was awarded by the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership.