Our Mission …

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.
“AmeriCorp” Land Steward Helps with Stewardship

Land stewardship is an important part of NCLT’s land conservation work. Our Conservation Areas require good management of natural resources, trails and amenities for our visitors. For the conservation restrictions we hold on private land (purchased or donated to prevent development), we need Baseline Documentation Reports and annual Monitoring.

Land Steward, Jennifer Tuomala enlisted the help of students from Fitchburg State University to map stone walls on NCLT’s Crocker Conservation Area in Fitchburg.

NCLT Continues Nature Hikes in Fitchburg

With creative titles like “Owl Prowl” and “The Big Night and the Wicked Big Puddle”, NCLT has continued to attract good attendance from families, children and nature lovers of all ages to its Nature Walk programs. Led by NCLT’s Environmental Program Coordinator and naturalist, Laurie Nehring, hikers have explored NCLT’s Crocker Conservation Area and adjacent conservation land, throughout the winter and spring. In January, Laurie led a group eager to try out their new snowshoes in a walk around Overlook Reservoir. The “Wicked Big Puddle” walk in March was to learn about vernal pools and wetlands on adjacent Flat Rock Wildlife Sanctuary. NCLT’s nature walk program is co-sponsored by the Nashua River Watershed Association and Massachusetts Audubon Society, whose Flat Rock Sanctuary is adjacent to NCLT’s Crocker Conservation Area.
NCLT has received a state “Conservation Partnership” Grant to purchase a 6.7 acre parcel of wooded land across the street from Fitchburg's new Gateway Park. This parcel forms a natural backdrop for Gateway Park, rising over 150 feet in elevation from the riverfront park, and affording scenic views of the park, the Nashua River and environs. Wooded trails on this parcel will be accessible from Gateway Park, and will help to link the park with conservation land to the north. The acquisition of this new parkland is made possible by the generosity of Fidelity Bank, which has substantially discounted the sale price.

This project continues NCLT’s partnership with The Trustees of Reservations and the Fitchburg Greenway Committee which worked together to acquire the land for Gateway Park last year. Gateway Park is currently under construction, with completion scheduled for June 30, 2011. Gateway Park is the state's first park acquisition under the new “Gateway Cities Parks Program”.

NCLT is preparing to protect the 4th parcel of land in Fitchburg's northern watershed within the past year. As with prior acquisitions, this land is being purchased for the City of Fitchburg with federal Forest Legacy funds. The City has paid no acquisition cost for the land acquired. With this purchase, NCLT will have facilitated the permanent protection of 121 acres of sensitive water supply watershed land for the City since June 30, 2010. Three of the four parcels acquired protect Zone A tributaries which flow to City reservoirs. NCLT acknowledges its partners in the Forest Legacy grant application, the Nashua River Watershed Association and North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership.
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North County Land Trust depends on membership dues and contributions to fund our operating budget, environmental programs, 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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☐ My company has a matching gift program. Form enclosed.

Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Mail to: North County Land Trust, 325 Lindell Ave, Leominster MA 01453
For more information please contact Janet Morrison, Executive Director
(978) 466-3900; jmorrison@northcountylandtrust.org

NCLT Director, Clay Hobart (center front), prepares to install bird nest boxes at Crocker Conservation Area in Fitchburg with students from Parker Charter School

NCLT Director, James Walsh (2nd from right) and land steward, Jenn Tuomala (far right) with volunteers at a recent Trail Work Day at Crocker Conservation Area in Fitchburg.