

**NORTH COUNTY
Land Trust, Inc.**



Greenprint

NEWS of the
North County Land Trust

SUMMER 2014



Upper Naukeag Lake, Ashburnham

Committed To Conservation...

North County Land Trust, Inc. (NCLT) is a non-profit land conservation organization working in north central Massachusetts to serve the diverse needs of our communities.

Our mission is to conserve the farms, forests and landscapes that define the character of our region.

Wachusett Station and Eco-Tourism

Did you know that there is a direct economic benefit to the conservation of our natural resources?*

The opening of the new Wachusett Commuter Rail Station next year provides an opportunity to showcase the wonderful parks, conservation areas and recreational resources of our region. For the past several years, NCLT has been working with the Fitchburg Greenway Committee (FGC), the Westminster Open Space Committee, the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition and other groups to make the most of this opportunity. NCLT has also been involved in the Wachusett Station Smart Growth Corridor Study and is leading an FGC initiative to develop trails in the study area that could be used by pedestrians and cyclists traveling to and from the station. We envision a future where commuters from the Boston area could travel by train with skis and bicycles to ski on Mt. Wachusett or bike to Leominster State Forest or a riverfront park in Fitchburg, bringing tourism dollars to our region.



Marion Stoddart and other members of the Fitchburg Greenway Committee evaluate a potential trail from West Fitchburg to Wachusett Station

**According to a report released in September 2013 by The Trust for Public Land, every dollar Massachusetts spends on land conservation returns four dollars in goods and services for the state and its inhabitants. "The Return on Investment of Parks and Open Space in Massachusetts".*

Land Conservation: Three Projects Completed

Leger Property: Conserving Phillips Brook in Fitchburg

NCLT accepted the donation of a 2-acre property on Phillips Brook in Fitchburg, from Lillian and Alice Leger. Conservation of this property helps protect this important cold water tributary to the Nashua River.

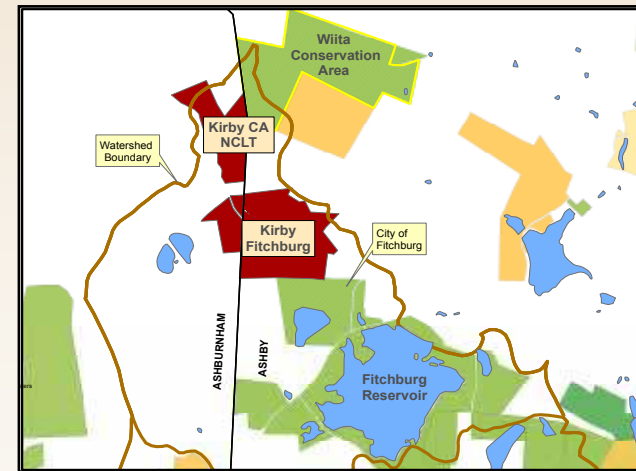
West Wachusett Brook, a tributary to Bickford Pond Reservoir, borders NCLT's Zins Conservation Area in Princeton.



Protecting Fitchburg's Water Supply Watersheds

Kirby Property

With grant funding from the state Drinking Water Supply Protection Program, a landowner donation and a modest outlay of funds from the Fitchburg Water Enterprise Fund, NCLT helped the City to protect 163 acres of privately owned land in its northern water supply watershed. In a two part project, Helen Kirby donated a 53-acre parcel of land in Ashburnham to NCLT late in 2013. Then in 2014, she sold 110 acres located in Ashburnham and Ashby to the City of Fitchburg, retaining 10 acres around her house. To obtain maximum grant funds for the purchase of the 110 acres, NCLT sold a conservation restriction on our 53-acre parcel to the City. All of the property which Mrs. Kirby donated and sold is now held for water supply protection and can never be developed



Kirby Conservation Area is NCLT's newest public access property, abutting the Wiita Conservation Area in Ashby.

Zins Property

This 7-acre parcel in Princeton was donated to NCLT by Leigh Zins and is permanently conserved by a Forest Legacy conservation restriction conveyed to the City of Fitchburg. Zins Conservation Area is a strategically important tract in the Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain (Q2W) Forest Legacy Project, a federally funded project which will protect more than 4,000 acres in our region. In addition to the Zins property, NCLT is facilitating the conservation of an additional 10 tracts in the Q2W Project, totaling more than 1100 acres in Hubbardston, Princeton and Westminster.

North County Land Trust at Work in the Community

Natural History Talks & Walks

This year, NCLT's AmeriCorp member, Charlotte Levy provided a series of talks on the natural world. The subjects of these nature talks, which were held in Fitchburg, Gardner, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Lunenburg and Templeton, ranged from local birds, to the history of local flowers and trees and climate change. The talks were great opportunities for education and outreach. "The most gratifying [part] was the questions and how interested everyone was", said Jeanne Blauner, who helped organize two talks in Lancaster. Many who attended a talk later participated in a guided nature walk on a NCLT conservation area in their community.



Our AmeriCorp Member, Charlotte Levy talked about animal tracks at the Winter Wonders Hike on Rome Conservation Area

Old and New Nature Programs

For the third year, NCLT offered an environmental education program about Owl Adaptations for 3rd graders in Hubbardston's Center School, funded by Tom and Mary Robinson of Hubbardston and led by environmental educator, Laurie Nehring. Many of the children in this program also participated in the "Owl Prowl" held at Underwood Road Conservation Area. This year, Laurie was able to call in a record three owls at once!



In "Nature Rocks" kids decorated rocks in the spirit of the creatures and plants they saw on a nature walk on Underwood Rd. Conservation Area in Hubbardston.



"Owl Prowls" are perennial favorites for families and children, also held this year at Crocker Conservation Area in Fitchburg

NCLT Helps to Launch the Gateway Park Friends Group

Gateway Park is a beautiful, new park and trail system on the Nashua River in the heart of Fitchburg which NCLT helped the City to create several years ago. Thanks to extensive outreach by our AmeriCorp member, the Gateway Park Friends group was established this year. The Friends will serve to connect the community to the park, through programs, organized clean-up days and other kinds of support. The Gateway Park Friends have already helped



More than 200 children and their families participated in the Spring Egg Hunt.

with two programs at the park, including a spring "Egg Hunt", sponsored jointly with the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center. The Friends group also supports other activities at the park, such as the community gardens, where neighbors grow healthy vegetables. We are really excited about the future of Gateway Park!

Stewardship Events Involve Neighbors in Management of Conservation Lands

This year North County held three stewardship meetings to discuss the management of our public access conservation areas in Fitchburg, Gardner and Hubbardston. These meetings are great opportunities for neighbors and users of our conservation areas to ask questions and get involved in maintaining and managing these properties. After the Crocker Conservation Area stewardship meeting this spring, 17 people participated in a trail work day, marking trails and cleaning up litter. We really appreciate community involvement in our conservation areas!



Participants in the Trail Work Day at Crocker Conservation Area in Fitchburg

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This spring, NCLT dedicated our restoration of the Fitchburg Town Pound, located on Crocker Conservation Area, to the Crocker Family. The restoration project was inspired by the 50th anniversary of the last restoration by Bigelow Crocker, Jr. and Jeanne Crocker and the 250th Anniversary of the City of Fitchburg. The restoration included the removal of 12 trees from the stone walled impoundment, a new wooden gate in the style of the 1963 restoration, and the placing of an inscribed monument. We wish to thank those who contributed to the restoration effort, including the Fitchburg Historical Commission, Fitchburg Boy Scout Troop 41, Philip Cacioppo Carpentry and Philip and Lester Jordan.

Your Membership Makes a Difference!

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.

Membership Levels	Family	Individual	Member Benefits	Business Members
Benefactor	\$600 and up	\$500 and up	All SPONSOR benefits plus framed NCLT landscape photo	Business membership is an additional \$100 to each Individual level. Benefits Include: *Premium Business Partner listing on the NCLT website and in the Annual Report *Admission of four persons to any event
Sponsor	\$350 - \$599	\$300 - \$499	All SUPPORTER benefits plus nature note card set	
Supporter	\$200 - \$349	\$150 - \$299	All MEMBER benefits plus FREE event admission	
Member	\$75 - \$199	\$50 - \$149	NCLT window decal, half price event admission & Annual Report recognition	

Name: _____

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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

You can also donate online at:

<http://www.northcountylandtrust.org/membership.html>

NCLT'S FOCUS AREA



We are continuing to expand our work and outreach within our 14 communities Focus Area. We have acquired new conservation areas in Ashburnham and Princeton and we have expanded our community outreach with nature talks and walks in 6 communities.



325 Lindell Ave
Leominster, MA 01453

