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 or our region.
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.

* 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”.

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-acres 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-acres 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.

Leger Property: Conserving Phillips Brook in Fitchburg

NCLT accepted the donation of a 2-acres 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.

Zins Property

This 7-acres 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 AmeriCorps 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.

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!

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 AmeriCorps 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 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!
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Levels</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Member Benefits</th>
<th>Business Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Benefactor</td>
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<td>$500 and up</td>
<td>All SPONSOR benefits plus framed NCLT landscape photo</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>$50 - $149</td>
<td>NCLT window decal half price event admission &amp; Annual Report recognition</td>
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Name: ______________________________  Address: ______________________________  Phone: ______________________________  E-mail: ______________________________

Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Mail to: North County Land Trust, 325 Lindell Ave, Leominster MA 01453
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You can also donate online at:
http://www.northcountylandtrust.org/membership.html