



**NORTH COUNTY**  
**Land Trust, Inc.**



## 2011 Annual Report

*North County Land Trust's 2011 Annual Meeting* was a celebration of Fitchburg's new **Gateway Park**, created through a unique public-private partnership involving NCLT, the State, the City of Fitchburg and other organizations.



## 2011 ANNUAL MEETING A Celebration of Gateway Park

NCLT's 2011 Annual Meeting was an opportunity to celebrate the opening of Gateway Park, the culmination of years of effort by North County Land Trust, The Trustees of Reservations and other members of the Fitchburg Greenway Committee to create a riverfront park on this former mill site.



*NCLT members, Directors and friends gathered under the tent to view exhibits and keep warm!*



*Mayor Lisa Wong and Fitchburg Greenway Committee member, Marion Stoddart were among the hardy participants, undeterred by the weather.*

The Annual Meeting was a community event, with outreach provided by teens from the **Fun 'n FITchburg** community wellness program. Despite unseasonably cold weather, neighborhood residents joined NCLT members and friends to enjoy tours of the park and an exciting nature program.

The Birds of Prey Exhibition, featuring Tom Ricardi and a spectacular group of birds from Mass. Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center, was a big hit with families and children.

*A peregrine falcon flaps its wings.*



*In an unusual occurrence, a red tailed hawk perched in a nearby tree to watch the Exhibition, featuring a red-tailed hawk!*





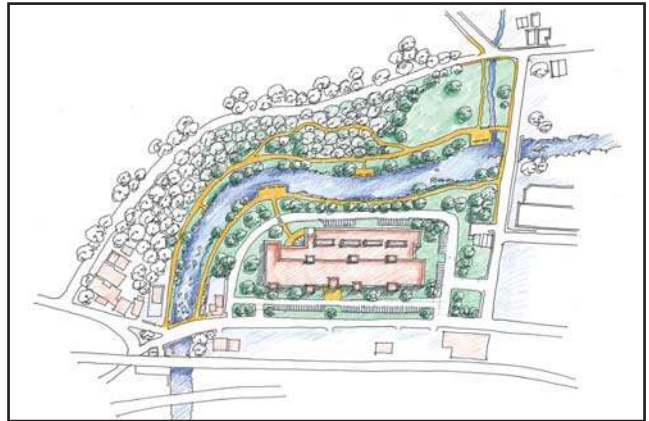
# Fitchburg's Gateway Park

*A vision realized*

It began almost 10 years ago, with a Vision shared by North County Land Trust and other members of the Fitchburg Greenway Committee, who saw in a burned and abandoned mill site on the Nashua River a new riverfront park.

## **From North Nashua River Master Plan 2004**

*“Sketch of potential mixed-use mill redevelopment at Sheldon Street with paths along both sides of the river. The vacant Sheldon Street parcel is shown as a park, with the stream (currently in a culvert) opened up to daylight. Handsome mills along the river would make excellent housing or office space, while also providing an opportunity for river edge open space and a natural vegetated buffer along the river. A walkway easement behind the Premier Box Co. building is (part of the City's redevelopment permit)...” This site is a natural conduit to the Crocker Conservation Area only a half mile to the north.”*



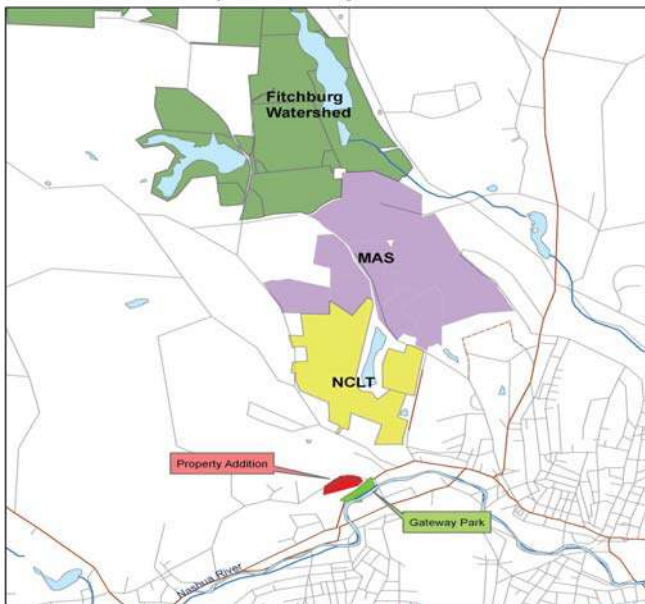
## *The Knoll Addition to Gateway Park*

Before Gateway Park was completed, NCLT, TTOR and the Fitchburg Greenway Committee helped the City of Fitchburg to acquire a 7-acre wooded knoll overlooking the park. NCLT was awarded a state grant to purchase this land from **Fidelity Bank**, which generously agreed to sell it for half its value. The Knoll was given to the City of Fitchburg in 2011 as an addition to Gateway Park.



*Gateway Park walkways link to a riverfront trail that runs 1/2 mile upstream and loops back to the park via a trail easement on the other side of the river in front of the renovated Premier Box mill.*

Gateway Park and Additional Property  
"Gateway" to Fitchburg's Conservation Lands



## *Gateway Park Conservation Restriction and Fund*

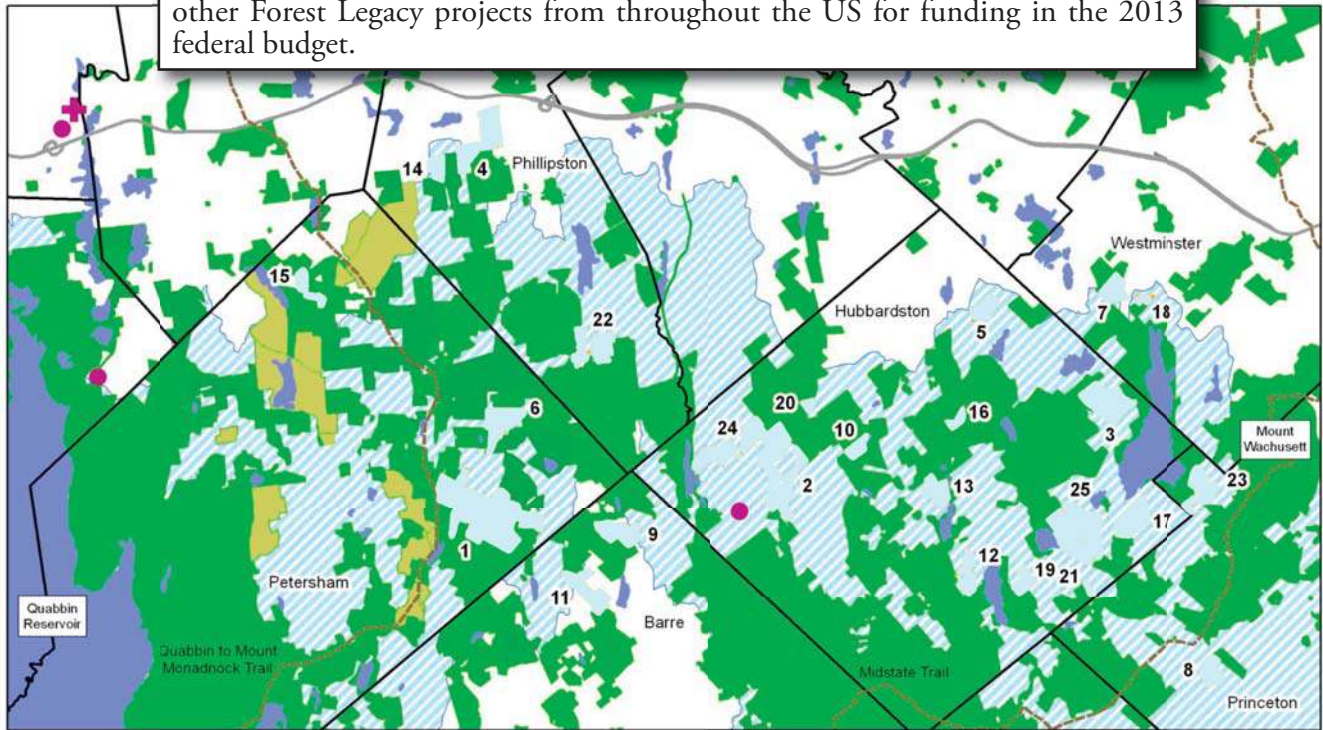
North County Land Trust and The Trustees of Reservations jointly hold a Conservation Restriction on Gateway Park, including the Knoll addition, which insures that the land is always kept as a park. The City of Fitchburg owns Gateway Park and it is managed by the Board of Park Commissioners.

North County Land Trust and TTOR are Advisors to the Gateway Park Fund, established with a generous donation from **WDC Construction, Inc.**, sellers of the Gateway Park site, and held by the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts.

# Land Conservation Projects - 2011

## Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy Project

Q2W is a landscape scale effort to conserve forested lands within the watersheds that provide drinking water for 2.5 million people in the Boston-Worcester Metro area. This project has been ranked no. 1 in Massachusetts and will compete with other Forest Legacy projects from throughout the US for funding in the 2013 federal budget.



**Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain (Q2W) FY13 Forest Legacy Grant Application**

5 Miles

Source Credit: MassGIS Map by NORLP

The Q2W Project is the work of a unique partnership of non-profit organizations, municipal governments and the Mass. DCR Division of Water Supply Protection. The project seeks to protect a total of 3,275 acres in 6 communities. As one of the Partners, North County Land Trust submitted 12 of the 25 Tracts of land included in the Quabbin to Wachusett Forest Legacy application, totaling 1,474 acres.

### Protecting Fitchburg's Southern Water Supply Watershed

In addition to protecting Boston's drinking water, Q2W protects land in Fitchburg's southern water supply watershed, in Hubbardston (tract 3) and Princeton (tract 23).

TOWN	TRACT	ACRES
Hubbardston	2	255
	3	205
	5	65
	12	81
	13	85
	16	16
	21	13
	24	221
Westminister	7	74
	18	15
Princeton	23	113
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1474</b>

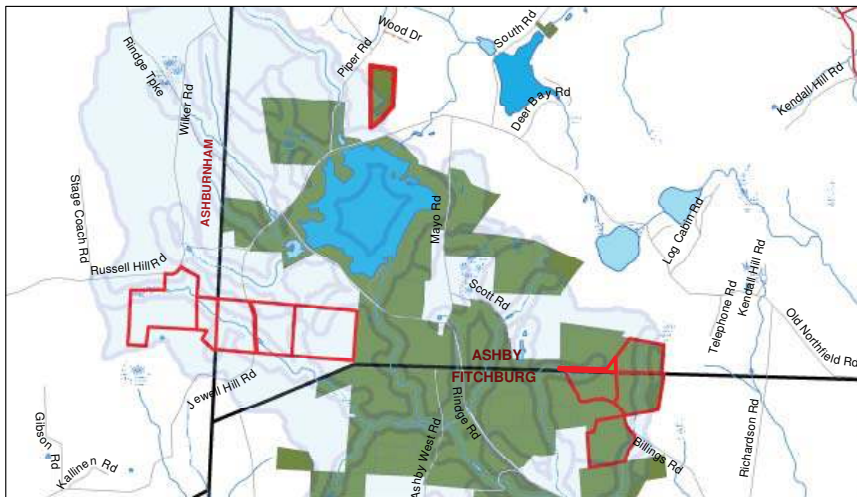


# Protecting Drinking Water while Conserving Important Landscapes

## *Southern Monadnock Plateau - Phase II Forest Legacy Project*

With Funding from SMP II, North County Land Trust has helped communities protect drinking water sources. Protecting these sources sometimes means conserving land in other communities. In this way land conservation protects water resources for one community while preserving a scenic landscape or recreational trails for another community.

### *Protecting Fitchburg's Northern Water Supply Watershed*



#### Fitchburg Northern Water Supply Watershed Permanently Conserved Land FY 2009 - 2011

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  City of Fitchburg Watershed Land              |  Water Supply Protection Zones                 |
|  Property Acquired FY 2010 - 2011<br>121 Acres |  Conservation Restriction FY 2009<br>160 Acres |



North County Land Trust has worked with the Fitchburg Water Department to protect over 280 acres of land in the northern watershed in the past 3 years. NCLT helped the City to access grant resources from the Federal Forest Legacy Program, Mass. Water Supply Protection program and Private Foundations.

The land conserved is in Fitchburg, Ashby and Ashburnham, including the scenic landscape around Jewell Hill in Ashburnham. The Towns of Ashby and Ashburnham have supported these conservation projects.

### *Conserving the Riverfront in Gardner, while Protecting Templeton's Water Supply*

North County Land Trust is working with the City of Gardner to protect 140 acres of pristine riverfront property on the Otter River, bordering Gardner and Templeton. While conserving the intact gravel eskers and 1.25 miles of riverfront on this property, this project also protects drinking water for the Town of Templeton. The property is entirely within Water Supply Protection Zone II of Templeton's Otter River Well. This project is funded by the Southern Monadnock Plateau Forest Legacy Project and a state water supply protection grant.



## Environmental Education Programs in Fitchburg Public Schools

For the 2nd consecutive year, North County Land Trust has been awarded a grant to provide environmental education programs in Fitchburg public schools.

In the 2010-2011 school year, a grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts enabled us to provide an after school enrichment program to 60 Crocker Elementary School students in grades 3 & 4, with an outdoor nature-based theme. We conducted a watershed education program with an additional 165 5th graders in Longsjo Middle School. Both programs were provided in partnership with the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA).



*The River is our Classroom.*



*NCLT's Crocker Conservation Area and the Nashua River are sites for environmental education activities.*

*Find Your Tree Game*

In the 2011-2012 school year, NCLT received a grant from the Ronald Ansin Foundation to continue the environmental science enrichment program with Longsjo Middle School 5th graders. While continuing our partnership with NRWA, we have created a new partnership with Appplewild School, whose 8th grade students will serve as mentors and 'big brothers-big sisters' for the LMS 5th graders.



*NCLT's environmental educator, Laurie Nehring uses the Longsjo Middles School grounds for lessons about water runoff.*





# Land Stewardship

## *Harnessing the Power of Volunteers*

Volunteers are essential to achieving NCLT's land stewardship goals. From trail work on our conservation areas to field work by our AmeriCorps land steward, volunteers help us manage and maintain our conservation areas and meet our monitoring obligations for restricted land in our care.



*AmeriCorps Land Steward, Jenn Tuomala and NCLT President, Alan Rousseau work with volunteers to maintain trails at Rome Conservation Area.*



*NCLT Director, Jim Walsh led a group of volunteers from DRS Power Technology in a trail work day which included the installation of bollards and chains to prevent unauthorized access to Crocker CA trails by motor vehicles.*



*Volunteers participating in the United Way Day of Caring, led by Keith Bockus (front), repaired stone walls on Underwood Road CA.*

## *Our Conservation Areas*

**ROME CONSERVATION AREA** - Gardner. The first meeting of the Rome CA Stewardship Committee took place this spring at Mount Wachusett Community College. MWCC Students, local Boy Scout leaders and residents discussed new trail initiatives, including construction of a trail linking Rome CA to the Gardner City Forest.

**CROCKER CONSERVATION AREA & Overlook Reservoir Conservation Restriction** - Fitchburg. The Crocker CA Stewardship Committee met at Applewild School to discuss several issues, including water levels in Overlook Reservoir, management of visitors with dogs and an upcoming timber harvest. Our AmeriCorp land steward completed field work and GIS mapping for a Baseline Documentation Report which will document conditions on the ground at Crocker CA and Overlook Reservoir.

**UNDERWOOD ROAD CONSERVATION AREA** - Hubbardston. NCLT's newest conservation area opened to the public this fall. A gift from Tom and Mary Robinson of Hubbardston, this 65-acre wooded parcel is already popular with local residents. In preparation for the opening, signs were erected, and trails were cleared and marked. More than 25 people (and their dogs) joined us for a hike on opening day.

## *Our Conservation Restrictions*

NCLT is responsible for six conservation restrictions on private property in four communities, Ashby, Fitchburg, Lunenburg and Templeton. With the help of our AmeriCorp land steward, Jenn Tuomala, we have completed Baseline Documentation Reports on five properties. These reports provide essential documentation that enable us to monitor these properties for compliance with the conservation restriction. Jenn is working with other AmeriCorps land stewards to train volunteer monitors. These volunteers will help us fulfill our obligation to monitor each conservation restriction annually.

## President's Message

NCLT has been successful in achieving our conservation goals in 2011. Overall, we are on a steady path of growth with regard to our involvement in land conservation projects, stewardship of NCLT conservation areas and educational /outreach programs.

From a financial perspective, we were able to achieve revenues of \$63,351 (21% under our revenue budget of \$80,000, but an increase of 12% over FY2010). While grants related to land protection projects and project cost reimbursements came in under budget, stewardship and member donations came in 22% over budget and 63% over FY2010. On the expense side, we were able to hold expenses to \$77,481 (3% under our expense budget of \$79,975). While the result yielded a net loss of \$14,130, the expenses were the result of stewardship costs that were recoverable from existing designated funds. As we go forward, we will focus on revenue growth and diversification to include increasing membership and other private sources in order to sustain a high level of involvement in conservation projects.

From a program perspective, Executive Director, Janet Morrison has continued to provide excellent leadership for our conservation efforts. One of our most significant conservation projects was our contribution to creation of Fitchburg's Gateway Park, the first park acquired and constructed under the State's new Gateway Cities Parks Program. At the same time, good progress was made on conservation projects in Gardner and Templeton that are scheduled for completion in FY2012. AmeriCorps Land Steward, Jenn Tuomala led 4 trail improvement projects on NCLT conservation areas, involving 34 volunteers who provided 120 hours of service. Jenn also completed 5 baseline documentation reports and 4 monitoring reports on NCLT conservation areas and conservation restrictions. Program Coordinator, Laurie Nehring led two new Environmental Education programs that delivered an outdoors educational experience for 225 students in the Fitchburg school system and also conducted 14 guided nature hikes which attracted 168 participants.

In closing, I would like to thank our Members, Contributors, Staff, Volunteers and Board of Directors who continue to be generous in donating their time, money and expertise toward ensuring the success of our land trust.

Alan Rousseau, President  
December 2011

### Board of Directors:

Alan Rousseau, *President*

Elaine Mroz, *Treasurer*

Clayton Hobart, *Clerk*

Paul DeMeo

Jackie Leger

Laila Michaud

Donald Ostrowski

Paula Packard

James Walsh

*Janet Morrison, Esq.,*  
Executive Director

### Financial Report (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

#### Revenues

Member Contributions	\$14,691
Grants	\$47,200
Project Cost Reimbursement	\$450
Stewardship Contributions	\$800
Other	\$210
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$63,351</b>

#### Expenses

Payroll	\$54,462
Office	\$4,195
Insurance	\$1,126
Postage & Delivery	\$903
Professional Fees	\$500
Memberships & Conferences	\$1,453
Other	\$2,884
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$77,481</b>

#### Net Income

**-\$14,130\***

*\*Net loss was covered by revenues from Board Designated Funds.*