



Waltham Land Trust, Inc. is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving our community's natural resources for the future through education, open space acquisition and protection.

OUR VIEW ON LINCOLN WOODS

The conversion of Lincoln Woods to a housing development would be one of the greatest open space losses imaginable for Waltham. This densely wooded parcel, crisscrossed by old stone walls and hiking trails, has been enjoyed by residents for passive recreation and nature study for generations. Enjoyed, that is, until the developers peppered the site with “no trespassing” signs in preparation for destruction of this green space that the generous owner, Mr. Sal Vinciullo, has allowed the public to use for many years.

Lincoln Woods is a 26-acre parcel forming the western flank of Jericho Hill, the highest point in the city outside of Prospect Hill Park. The 6-acre parcel at the summit of the hill was purchased by the City, at the urging of the Waltham Land Trust, in order to protect it as an open space resource. The trails of the summit parcel spread out across Lincoln Woods and the densely wooded portion of the 40-acre Stigmatine Fathers compound on the eastern side of the hill, that is also rumored to be put on the market in the near future. Taken as a whole, these three parcels represent a unique, incomparable opportunity to create a 72-acre public park second only to Prospect Hill Park in size.

Regardless of the future possibility of a park here, Lincoln Woods already provides valuable wildlife habitat and important connectivity with the city's other important open space. It is currently possible to walk from the proposed Western Greenway, or from the City's Storer Conservation Area, all the way to Prospect Hill Park largely along wooded trails in pastoral settings. The development of Lincoln Woods would sever this connection forever.

Lincoln Woods has weathered previous attempts at development. Its frontage on the steep, twisting and narrow Lincoln street, irregular topography, large outcroppings of ledge, significant wetland resources, and

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DAVID KEHS

The rock outcroppings and vernal pools of Lincoln Woods are threatened by a proposed housing development.



AMY ROTHSTEIN

FROM THE BOARD: THE FUTURE OF THE FERNALD CENTER

The Fernald Center occupies 190 acres of land in northeastern Waltham. Much of the land contains buildings and roads, but there is an undeveloped swath of land along the Center’s western and southern borders. This undeveloped land is considered to be part of the Western Greenway. The Fernald land provides a vital connection between the former Met State Hospital land on the opposite side of Trapelo Road and the City land known as Forest Street Park, as well as the Patriots Trail Girl Scout Camp and the Lawrence Meadow property currently controlled by the University of Massachusetts.

The Waltham Land Trust, and Marie Daly in particular, has worked to establish and protect the entire Western Greenway since 1999. During that period it has become apparent that significant changes will be taking place at the Fernald, although the precise nature of those changes has yet to be decided.

Starting in early 2003, WLT determined to take an active role in helping to shape a future “vision” for the

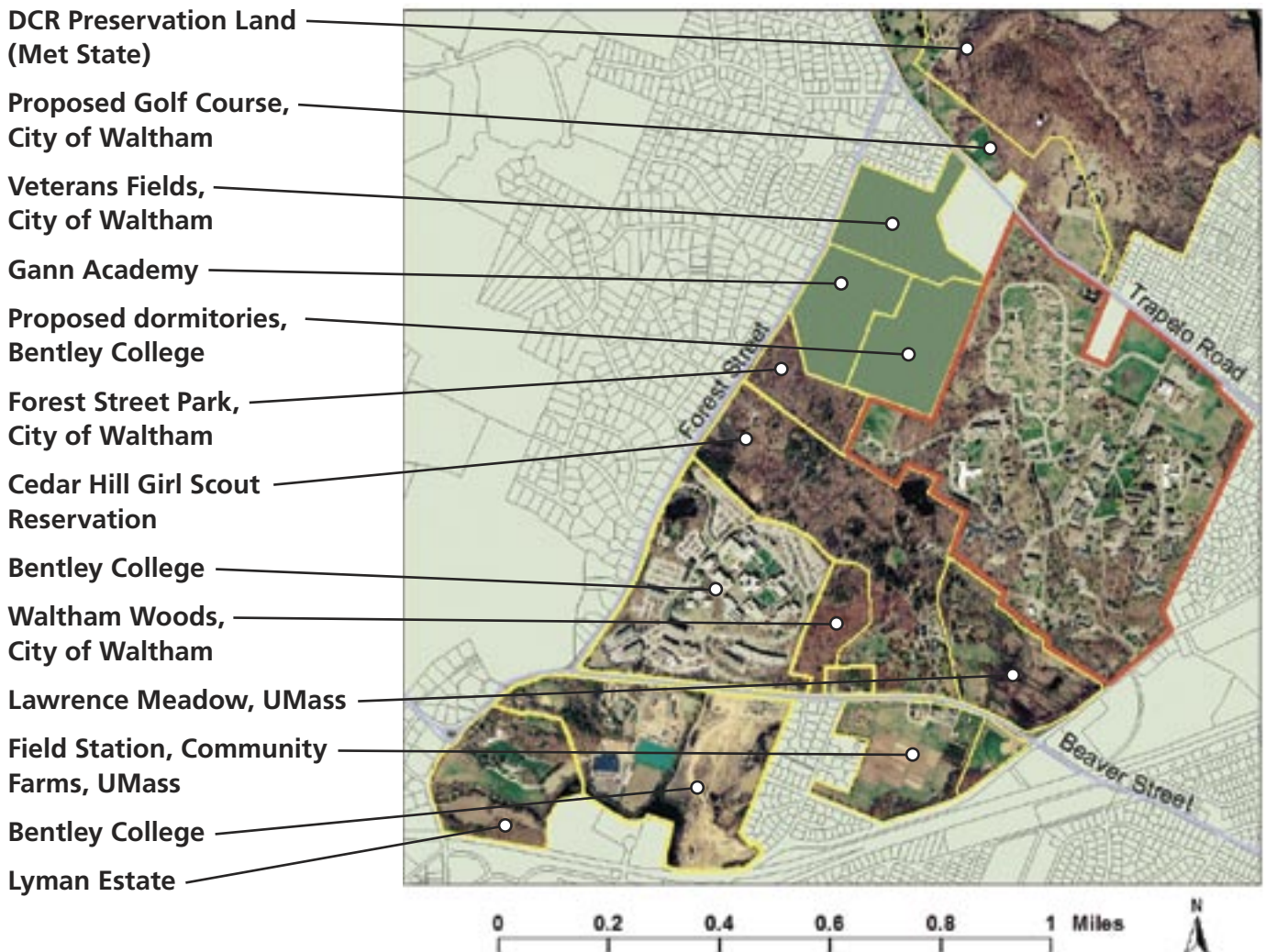
190-acre Fernald campus. WLT has joined with the Waltham Alliance to Create Housing/Community Development Corp. (WATCH/CDC) and the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Waltham to form the Fernald Working Group (FWG) to work toward a broad-based, community centered proposal for that property.

The efforts of the Fernald Working Group are guided by the following principles:

- Public comments will be encouraged every step of the way toward development of a model for reuse of this campus.

This map shows the Fernald property (outlined in red) and the surrounding open space parcels, as well as the heavily developed areas nearby.

This image is based on aerial photographs that exist for the entire city of Waltham. These photographs were taken after the leaves had fallen off the trees in order to make it easier to see buildings and roads. Consequently, the undeveloped areas show up as brown, even though they are referred to as the Greenway.



- Existing natural areas will be protected and amplified if possible.
- All hazardous materials will be safely removed from the site.
- Historically significant structures that are viable will be adapted for current needs.
- New or rehabilitated construction will conform to the best environmental and economic efficiency standards.
- Public transportation will be enhanced, sidewalks within and around the site will be built and bicycle use will be encouraged.
- Residences for a variety of incomes along with small retail and service establishments will be designed to minimize auto traffic.
- DMR and HHS residents who continue to reside at the Fernald Center will be encouraged to be a part of the new community through such shared activities as band concerts, in- and out-door exercise programs, support services like the dental clinic, and on-site workshops and educational programs.

Grant applications to help fund more detailed development plans are pending.

Over the past year a number of significant steps have been taken to help shape reuse of the Fernald Center. The Waltham legislative delegation, lead by Rep. Tom Stanley, was successful in appending a provision to the state budget last year that establishes a twelve member Reuse Committee. After two preliminary meetings of that committee they suspended further meetings in order to work toward amended Reuse Committee membership and an extended timeframe for their work through October 2005.

In January the LWV sponsored an informational meeting with Joseph Breen, Acting Director of the Fernald Center and Kathleen McMennimen, a Fernald Trustee.

WLT has lead walking tours of the Fernald campus in September 2003 and again this past June.

For more information about the current draft of our “vision” for this key part of our city please contact Erica Schwartz, WATCH/CDC 781-891-6689.

The newly-restored picnic pavilion in Prospect Hill Park will be the site of a picnic, sponsored jointly by WLT and the Prospect Hill Park Advocacy Group. [see Upcoming Events].



DAVID KEHS

GREEN SPACE BLUES JAM SELLS OUT

by Dee Kricker and Jenn Dean

On Friday, March 19, the Land Trust held its first-ever public fundraiser, the Green Space Blues Jam. 150 people packed the Robert Treat Paine Estate to hear Mike Williams and members of the Bruce Katz Band play red-hot blues music. Attendees ate barbecue from Jake's Dixie Roadhouse at tables spread out throughout the rooms of the estate. Partygoers also bumped into political comedian Jim Flaherty, who sold raffle tickets to benefit the land trust to a largely liberal crowd while impersonating George W. Bush. When asked to open up his briefcase, Flaherty revealed a copy of *Coalition Building for Dummies*, and an instant packet (suspiciously the size of a taco seasoning packet) of "weapons of mass destruction."

While originally targeted to raise a modest sum, the event raised over \$4400, largely from public support, donations, and the underwriters, notably CDQ and the State Department of Conservation and Recreation. (See a complete list of the underwriters and donors adjacent to this article). Invitations went out in early February, and a month later the event was sold out. Obviously there exist plenty of people in

Waltham and the surrounding communities eager to attend a fun event in the name of a good cause. The Land Trust Board has unanimously endorsed repeating the event next year. To that end, we are seeking two new Co-chairs for next year's event, as well as volunteers to help with the various components. If you are interested, contact Scott Sideman of the Development Committee, at 781-893-5813, or at sideman@comcast.net.

We wish to thank the following volunteers who helped make the event a success:

Kate Buttolph	Evelyn Guillette
Marcia Stone	Norm Hirschfeld

Green Space Blues Jam organizers Dee Kricker and Jenn Dean.



SCOTT SIDERMAN

BLUES JAM UNDERWRITERS AND DONORS

CDQ and the State Department of Conservation and Recreation

Donors and In-kind Donors

Cyndie Barone
Bill and Barbara Burgess
Alberto Costales
Russ and Ellen Cohen
Judy Fallows
Jim Flaherty, comedian and actor
Jen Fuchel, invitation designer
Marcia Goodwin and the Robert Treat Paine Estate
Gordon's Fine Wines and Spirits
Evelyn Guillette, Reiki Master

Harvard Printing
In-Blossom
Lorna Jane
Jake's Dixie Roadhouse
The Bruce Katz Band:
Bruce Katz, Ralph Rosen,
Rod Carey, Joe Bargar
Jane and Richard Leard
Elizabeth Meissner
Marc Rudnick and Sally Wetzler
Peterson Party Rental

Dave and Amy Salett
Jill Stein
Work Out World
Waltham Conservation
Commission, Joe Maguire
Chairperson
Waverly Place Community
Greenhouse Project,
UMASS Field Station
Mike Williams, blues guitarist
Martha and Vin Winter
Diana Young



The map above shows the Lincoln Woods property (in red), along with the city-owned Jericho Hill parcel (in blue), and the property owned by the Stigmatines (in green).

Lincoln Woods from page 1

community opposition, have stymied development in the past. Its prominence in the West Chester Brook watershed makes it important for flood control downstream along Winter, Beaver and Linden Streets.

The Waltham Land Trust believes that a housing development at Lincoln Woods would not be in the best interests of the community. Such a development would bring significant loss of open space and tree cover, irreversibly compromise public safety and flood control, and degrade the value of the city's abutting open space parcel at the summit of the hill. The public would be best served by the complete preservation of this important site.

An iced-over wetland in Lincoln Woods. Prospect Hill is visible in the background.



DAVID KEHS

Waltham Land Trust Journal

is published by Waltham Land Trust, Inc.
PO Box 541120
Waltham MA 02454-1120.
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Waltham Land Trust, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation, and is a member of the Land Trust Alliance and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

An electronic file (pdf) of this newsletter is available on our web site. <www.walthamlandtrust.org>

Editor: Dave Kehs *Design/Layout:* www.pondproductions.com

Officers: Stephen Rourke (President), Marie Daly (Vice Pres.), Dave Kehs (Clerk), Diana Young (Treasurer)

Directors: Katherine Buttolph, George Darcy III, Dave Kehs, Daniel Melnechuk, Allison Mooney, Joris Naiman, Scott Sideman, Robert Stanton, Lesya Struz, Inge Uhlir, Diana Young

Waltham Land Trust's Mission

We are a group of Waltham citizens who want to save open space in our city. Our mission is to acquire, preserve or restore land in a way that:

- ♦ balances conservation and access,
- ♦ maximizes the natural value of land,
- ♦ reduces habitat fragmentation, and
- ♦ permanently protects and conserves natural resources;

So that

- ♦ public appreciation of natural resources grows,
- ♦ native habitat is preserved and restored, environmental quality of life is improved (air, water, noise and light pollution are reduced),
- ♦ biodiversity is increased, and
- ♦ a legacy of conservation is perpetuated in Waltham.

Please send any comments to the return address below, or email to <memberlink@walthamlandtrust.org>.

Waltham Land Trust
PO Box 541120
Waltham MA 02454-1120

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Time to renew? Your membership renewal date is on the label. If there is no date, please consider joining today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Picnic at Prospect Hill Park

Saturday, July 31, 2004

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

A time for hikes, games, fun, and food sponsored jointly with the Prospect Hill Park Advocacy Group.

Bring a lunch. Drinks and desserts will be provided.

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 27, 2004

Time and location to be announced.

TIME TO RENEW?

Please check the date on the mailing label of this issue of the Journal. This is the date that your membership expires. To renew your membership, please use the enclosed membership application and return to:

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PO Box 541120
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 Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper.