

Waltham Land Trust

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

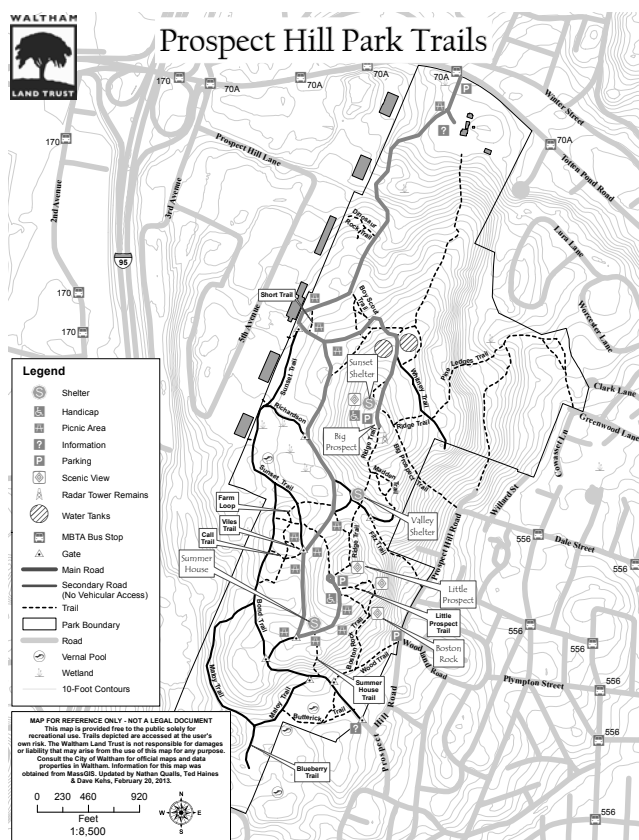
JOURNAL SPRING 2013



Mapping Our Corner of the World

By Joyce Nett

By the time you read this, we will have announced our latest trail map of Prospect Hill Park. The map is available at our website¹, and it shows the surrounding Waltham streets, park outline, hiking trails, structures, paved and unpaved roads. I wanted to find out how



these maps are made and who are the brains behind the work? I started with Dave Kehs, board member and resident map guru. Dave acts as a liaison between the Land Committee, volunteers and our Program Director to communicate needs and coordinate work.

The WLT map collection started years ago when the Land Committee identified the need for eight maps: Hardy Pond, the Charles River Walk, Beaver Brook North, Historic Beaver Brook, Prospect Hill Park, the Paine Estate, Shady's Pond and the Sanderson area. In 2009, a dedicated intern, Allary

Braitsch, started creating the initial maps using ArcGIS software. "ArcGIS is a complete system for designing and managing solutions through the application of geographic knowledge. It enables you to perform deep analysis, gain a greater understanding of your data, and make more informed high-level decisions."² The good thing about the software is its robustness and numerous features; paradoxically, the not so good thing about the software is its robustness and numerous features! In addition to the sophistication of the software, the continuity of mapmakers (often interns with short term stays) has added to the complexity of the project. Recently, Nate Qualls stepped up to work with veteran mapmaker Edward "Ted" Haines. The two very generous volunteers are now up to speed on ArcGIS and the mapping projects are progressing nicely.

The most recent focus has been the Prospect Hill Park Trail map. The group met and discussed the pros and cons of several earlier versions of the guide as well as a recently published map on the City of Waltham website.³ They used the software to tweak things, added labels for picnic sites and shelters, distinguishing paved and unpaved roads. Particular attention and time was spent walking the trails using GPS to accurately draw the trails and elevations. Dave mentioned that there was a code "51c" indicating that the final version had gone through 51 editing cycles! We think you will agree that the new map is a great addition to the existing collection available on the Waltham Land Trust website.

So, what should we expect next from the map group? Dave imagines a map of the entire Western Greenway joining the existing maps of Beaver Brook North Reservation, Beaver Brook Historical Reservation, and Stonehurst Trails with new maps of Lot 1, Shady's Pond, the Chester Brook Corridor and Woods, and the Wayside Rail Trail (a.k.a Massachusetts Central Rail Trail). He showed me the beginnings of a map of the Sanderson lot, which I am personally eager to use. Of course, we anticipate needing many new maps due to the increasing acquisition and conservation of additional parcels of land around Waltham.

1. <http://walthamlandtrust.org/open-space/guide-to-open-spacesoot>

2. From Ersi Headquarters in Redlands, California. Available online at <http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/features>

3. <http://www.city.waltham.ma.us/recreation-department/pages/parks-facilities#PHP>

On Account of Our Members

By Dee Kricker

As a member of WLT's Development Team, let me tell you up front: This article is an unabashed pitch to our land trust community to say Thank You and please keep supporting your land trust! When I was thinking of a title for this piece, I thought of the following: The Value of Green Giving or It Makes Cents to Me or Give it Up for WLT! Then I realized that many of you might want to know, where does the money go, what are we doing with your donations? Why do we need members and contributions each year? So, here goes a quick accounting for the books of recent expenses and revenue.

Our Expenses

The Waltham Land Trust has a modest annual budget of around 60K. With those funds we are able to maintain a small office and supply it with a phone, computer, and Internet service. We provide our trail builders and stewards with tools, such as, loppers, McCleods, rakes, pruners, and training manuals. We pay a small stipend for the steward training workshop. We purchase the metal Western Greenway trail blazes, cedar posts, nails, flags and the wood for about 300 feet of boardwalks and bridges we have built. Our one first aid kit comes along for work crews and other events. Program expenses may include hall rental and speaker fees plus materials for art and nature making projects, such as, the recent school vacation Hawk Talk. We had some expenses to design and build our wonderful nature blind at Shady's Pond. To produce 2,000 copies of the new Hardy Pond Care guide we incurred some expenses, and though we are converting much of our member communication to electronic forms, there are associated fees, such as, our Constant Contact subscription. We now print fewer copies of the Journal, but necessary copying and postage fees make up a chunk of change each year. Other costs may include legal fees for negotiating easements within the Greenway; liability insurance; bank charges, and various expenses that support our regular programs. Additionally, we have committed to fund a Program Director staff position that is critical to supporting the success of our organizational program needs.

Our Revenue

What we do not fund each year is the thousands of hours of volunteer work that is the vital to accomplishing the goals of our land trust. Our volunteer efforts are our most important income source providing the backbone of our organization. In any given

month, volunteers participate in Board and committee meetings including: Land, Tech, Program Activities, Special Events, Development, and other Ad-hoc Committees. Individuals contribute even more of their personal time on projects of interest, such as: trail planning, design and mapping projects; letter/email correspondence with key contacts; research and writing of grants, newsletter articles, promotional materials, and care guides; weekly input and maintenance of our computer and web resources; record and financial account keeping; preparation for educational talks and guided walks; work on trail building and maintenance; and the huge efforts undertaken by volunteers on our fundraising events, such as, the Green Space Blues Jam and silent auction, and the October 2012 Race around the Reservoir. Whew, that's not all of it, either!

We have the support of a solid membership base that comes to our events, rolls up their sleeves on work crews, enjoys our nature talks, walks, and fundraisers. And, our supporters write those checks for our Annual Fund donations and membership dues.

Our actual revenue stream consists of a balance of the following broad categories: individual contributions, membership dues, special event fundraisers, local business support and grants. To obtain these resources of course, requires some expense of volunteer time and/or paid staffing. For example, our special event fundraisers take a lot of planning and related work for a profitable outcome. Producing membership materials, an annual appeal and soliciting business sponsors requires resources. Submitting grant applications takes time and some luck to get an award, especially in these highly competitive times. As our Board, our Treasurer, and our Development Team reviews our budget and options, we try to develop a successful formula to sustain our organizational needs. We hope you are getting the value of your highly valued donation in return!

Our Benefit

However you support WLT, the result is that our joint efforts are creating a community of land protection advocates in our fair city. We all win. Our state of health and well-being wins, and our small corner of the planet is being cared for with your help. Because of your actions today, we are accomplishing our mission of creating a legacy of land conservation for future generations.

Remember, Waltham, means: home in the woods. Those are your woods! Please continue to support WLT. If you are not a member, please join. If you are a member, please renew and consider renewing at a higher level. Thank you, for your investment in WLT!

Get Ready for Green Space Blues Jam 2013

By Scott Shurr

This spring's Green Space Blues Jam promises to be a night to remember. The Blues Jam is the Land Trust's major annual fundraising event, featuring delicious food, spectacular music, unique silent auction items, and great company. The festivities begin at 7:30 on Friday, May 17, at the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation. The Museum is located on the banks of the Charles River in America's first factory, the Boston Manufacturing Company textile mill, celebrating its 200 anniversary this year. Enjoy a hearty Italian dinner from Gracie's Kitchen followed by a delicious dessert from Lizzy's Ice Cream. Wash it down with libations from Sam Adams and Gordon's Liquors while browsing silent auction items for all budgets. Enjoy the music of the Mike Williams' Green Space Blues Jam All Stars featuring the voices of local favorite Toni Lynn Washington, and blues singer and harmonica player Brian Templeton. Joining them will be Duke Robillard keyboardist Bruce Bears and Mark Earley from the Roomful of Blues band on baritone and



Toni Lynn Washington

tenor saxophone. Guests will have the opportunity to view "Steampunk" displays and explore the museum's hands-on exhibits that depict American Innovation and Invention from 1812 to the present. Learn about textile manufacturing, watches and clocks, steam power, and machines. Visit the Land Trust website to order tickets and see updates about this event to look forward to.

Who's been in our woods?

Match the tracks to the name of the animals you think made them. Answers are on page 5.

Coyote • Deer • Muskrat • Crow • Opossum • Squirrel • Raccoon • Fox



WLT's New and Improved Advisory Board

By Joyce Nett

In January, the Waltham Land Trust welcomed several new members to the Advisory Board. The function of the advisory board is to advise and assist the Board in carrying out the mission of the Waltham Land Trust. While the advisory board has no voting authority, we rely on the advisory board's advice and direction, particularly in areas of their specific expertise. Our new advisors are Amanda Cather, Dr. Laura Goldin, Dr. Eric Olson, and Mike Tabaczynski.

Amanda Cather is the Farm Manager at the highly successful Waltham Fields Community Farm, whose



Amanda Cather

mission is to promote local agriculture and food access through farming operations and educational programs, and to encourage healthy relationships between people, their food supply and the

land. She is a major contributor to their wonderfully informative (and tasty) blog.

Dr. Laura Goldin is Brandeis University American Studies Department's Associate Professor of the Practice, Chair of the Environmental Studies Program, and Director of the Environmental Internship Program. She brings extensive knowledge in organizing communities around environmental and sustainability issues, "from hazardous waste and air and water pollution to occupational health and safety, toxic exposure, and land use regulation."¹



Dr. Laura Goldin

Also joining us from Brandeis University is Dr. Eric Olson, professor at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Dr. Olson specializes in a variety of ecological topics. In addition to developing materials that "allow adult learners with little to no

scientific background ... master those ecological concepts that lie at the core of sustainability of Earth's natural resources and environmental services,"² Professor Olson maintains "a research focus on natural enemy, herbivorous insect, and host plant interactions." He was awarded the Newton Conservators' *Environmentalist of the Year* award for 2012.



Dr. Eric Olson

NAOMI OLSON

Finally, we are pleased to welcome Mike Tabaczynski, a volunteer with the New England

Mountain Bike Association. Mike has been involved with the Waltham Land Trust for many years, designing our boardwalks and bridges, and organizing trail work on the Western Greenway. He has led the way for Lexington Conservation Stewards.

Our new advisors join a distinguished group of existing advisors: Chris Rodstrom, Mike Squillante, and Roger Wrubel.

Chris Rodstrom is President of The Massachusetts Land Conservation Trust and is also Director of Operations, Land Conservation on the Trustees of Reservations. Chris lived in Waltham in the late 90s.

Mike Squillante joined our advisory board last year after retiring as a WLT Board Director. Mike has served on the Waltham City Council and Waltham Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as with numerous Waltham organizations including the Hardy Pond Association and the Waltham Historical Society.

Roger Wrubel is the director of Mass Audubon Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary in Belmont. In 2010, Roger was named as Belmont Citizen of the Decade for his perseverance in protecting the Western Greenway.

If you meet one of our advisors around the community or at a WLT event, we hope you will introduce yourself.



Mike Tabaczynski

ED WALASZEK

1. From the Brandeis University Faculty Guide. Available online at <http://www.brandeis.edu/facultyguide>

2. From the Brandeis University Heller School for Social Policy and Management Faculty Guide. Available on-line at <http://heller.brandeis.edu/facultyguide>



JOYCE NETT

Raptors and the Birds of Prey Display

By Sonja Wadman

Every February school vacation, the Waltham Land Trust offers a fun, educational activity for families who love nature. On Thursday, February 21st, twenty-four students on break from Fitzgerald, MacArthur, Northeast, Plympton, Stanley and Whitmore elementary schools took part in the *Hawk Talk & Art Class*, made possible with a grant from the Waltham Cultural Council. Participants learned about different birds of prey, their environments and the sport of falconry. They were introduced to Odin, a handsome hybrid falcon bred for hunting. Then the kids broke into groups and created parts of a display for the Waltham Public Library. Waltham High School students, Boys

Our March display at the Library

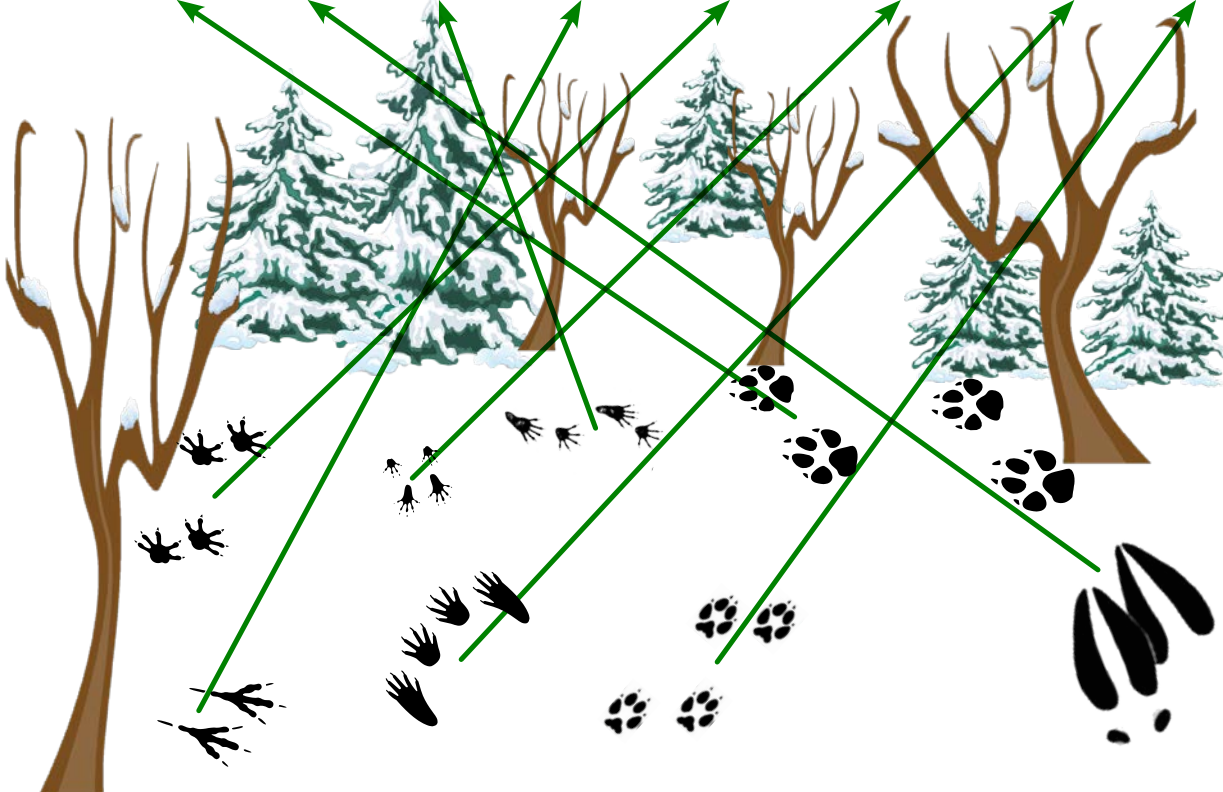
& Girls Club teens and WLT volunteers assisted the youngsters in painting an expansive forest backdrop, creating “hand trees” from cardboard, and making birds from Styrofoam balls, Solo cups and wood circles using felt, feathers, buttons and a host of other craft materials.

The display also contained a suspended bull’s-eye made of re-purposed Oriental bittersweet vines. Viewers were encouraged to look through the bull’s-eye at the forest scene behind it. One hundred of these bull’s-eyes were created last autumn, attached to each other and strung up between three trees in the Shady’s Pond Conservation Area. The full-sized nature viewing blind can be accessed via the Western Greenway Trail in the Chester Brook Corridor. The Land Trust is currently working on a trail map of this section of the Greenway.

Who’s been in our woods?

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WANTED: Regular Volunteers for WLT Activities

By Sonja Wadman

As we welcome spring and anticipate summer, the Land Trust plans to involve more and more nature enthusiasts in our fun and important activities. Just take a look at all of the scheduled Upcoming Events at the end of this Journal! And the list doesn't include bi-weekly tabling at the Farmer's Market and many of our yet-to-be-scheduled stewardship days. Please consider becoming one of WLT's regular volunteers by donating three hours a month of your time to our cause. Sign up for one or more roles below at swadman@walthamlandtrust.org or by calling 781-893-3355. After one easy and truly enjoyable session, you'll wonder why you didn't do it sooner.

Outreach Tablers needed to:

- Help other tablers spread the word at the Waltham Farmer's Market on Saturdays, 10:30 am – 1:30pm, and at community events or business fairs throughout the year.
- Help recruit college students at Service Fairs

Event Staff needed to:

- Set-up and break-down tables and chairs before/after lectures and events.
- Work the registration table and assist with all sorts of tasks at our bigger events like the 9th Annual Green Space Blues Jam.

Stewards needed to:

- Clear invasive species like bittersweet and knotweed on a regular basis from along the Charles River, on the Western Greenway and in our parks.
- Remove poison ivy from our trails.
- Build and improve the Western Greenway Trail under the instruction of the Trail Crew of the Friends of the Western Greenway and our own Chester Brook Greenway Stewards.

HELP WLT GO PAPERLESS!

Join the 120 Land Trust members who have selected to have their Journals sent to them electronically. By opting out of the mailed hard copy, these supporters are helping WLT reduce our carbon footprint and save on costs associated with printing, postage, and transportation. You can also receive the Upcoming Events postcards electronically. Please send an email with your name to swadman@walthamlandtrust.org, with the subject header "Electronic Journal" (and/or Event postcard) if you'd like the next Journal (and/or postcard) emailed to you. **Please remember that receiving The Journal is a privilege of membership.** Be sure you are up-to-date with your dues so you don't miss the Fall 2013 Journal!



MARTHA CREEDON

WLT Directors Diana Young and Susanne Whayne take a smile break from tabling at the Waltham Farmer's Market in the summer of 2012



SONJA WADMAN

Part of our dedicated Trail Crew after completing the newest leg of the Western Greenway. The Crew is headed up by new Advisory Board member Mike Tabaczynski on the far left.

Upcoming Waltham Land Trust Events

14th ANNUAL EARTH DAY CHARLES RIVER CLEANUP

Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Drop In: back corner of Shaw's parking lot, 130 River St.

The Land Trust is thrilled to officially be part of one of the largest cleanups in Massachusetts with the Charles River Watershed Alliance. In addition to trash pickup, we'll be leading an invasive weed pull to remove Japanese Knotweed and Oriental Bittersweet—meet at the table at 9 for weed pull training and to pick up bags, gloves and directions. Return with a filled trash bag to get a free t-shirt and picnic lunch afterwards!

DON'T DUMP DECAL DAY

Friday, April 26, 1 – 4 p.m.

Meet at Lazazzero Park, corner of Princeton and Hiawatha Aves off Lake St.

Join volunteers from Constant Contact, the Cadmus Group, other local businesses and community members to install stainless steel "Don't Dump" markers on storm drains in the Hardy Pond watershed. Members of the Hardy Pond Association will show us how. This event is made possible through a grant from Massachusetts Service Alliance to celebrate National Volunteer Week and Earth Day.

HARDY POND CLEANUP & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Meet at Lazazzero Park, corner of Princeton and Hiawatha Aves off Lake St.

Celebrate a day of stewardship by finishing the installation of Don't Dump decals on storm drains and removing trash from the shoreline of Hardy Pond. Everyone is rewarded afterwards with a volunteer appreciation picnic (Bertucci's pizzas and D'Angelos sandwiches) complete with canoes and kayaks for cruising the freshly cleaned Pond. This event is made possible through a grant from Massachusetts Service Alliance to celebrate National Volunteer Week and Earth Day.

WILDFLOWER WALK AT CEDAR HILL

Thursday, May 2, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Meet at front steps of UMASS Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver St.

Enjoy spring wildflowers like trillium and lady's slippers along the beautiful trails of Cedar Hill, a current Girl Scout property historically owned by philanthropic Waltham cattlewoman, Cornelia Warren. To observe all the glorious flora and fauna of this expensive open space site, we'll traverse through woods and fields, pass by a pond and over creeks, and visit the remains of Ms. Warren's "Maze" on the front lawn.

WALK AROUND WALTHAM COMMON

Saturday, May 11, time tbd

Meet at front steps of City Hall, 610 Main St.

Join us on a jaunt around Waltham's first communal open space to learn about its history and monuments. Check out the characters of the Watch City "Steampunk" Festival who will be also be on the Common selling wares, playing music, simply strolling and having fun.

NINTH ANNUAL GREEN SPACE BLUES JAM

Friday, May 17, 7:30 – 11:00 p.m.

Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation, 154 Moody St.

This is the big fundraiser you don't want to miss. Mike Williams and his GSBJ Allstars provide the music, the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation provide the venue, Gracie's, Lizzy's, Sam Adams and Gordon's provide food and libations, and local businesses/individuals provide silent auction items for every budget! Have fun with fellow open space supporters. Tickets available now by calling WLT's office and through our website.

RIVERFEST CHARLES RIVER WALK

Saturday, June 15, time tbd

Meet at Riverwalk trail next to ALOHA Mind Math, 133 Moody St.

Celebrate Riverfest with a walk up the Charles along Riverwalk Park, over Prospect Street Bridge to the trail now open by the Watch Factory Lofts. We'll circle back and return down Crescent Street to the music stage at Magarita's. A great activity for all ages!

GREAT DIVIDENDS: RESEARCHING LAND IN A NEW ENGLAND COMMUNITY

Saturday, June 29, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Lyman Estate, 185 Lyman St.

Marie Daly, a director of the Waltham Land Trust and the Waltham Historical Society, presents an illustrated lecture on the history of land in Waltham. She will show how colonial predecessors shaped the underlying foundation of our modern landscape 350 years ago. Marie will draw upon her research of land in Waltham from the seventeenth-century farms to the twentieth-century subdivisions, and demonstrate how to research land parcels in the city, using family histories, deeds, tax records, town meeting minutes and more. She will illustrate her lecture with examples of historic Waltham properties, early maps and colonial roads. This program is co-sponsored with Historic New England. It will cost \$5 for WLT and HNE members, \$10 for non-members.

WALTHAM



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is published by Waltham Land Trust, Inc.
PO Box 541120, Waltham MA 02454-1120.

Waltham Land Trust, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation, and is a member of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

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

Officers: Nadene Stein (President), Joyce Nett (Vice Pres.), David Kehs (Clerk), Marc Rudnick (Treasurer)

Directors: Kate Buttolph, Marie Daly, George Darcy, Marjory Forbes, Maureen Fowler, Dee Kricker, Betsy Lewenberg, Daniel Melnechuk, Stephen Rourke, Lesya Struz, Susanne Whayne, Diana Young

Please renew or join

To renew or join please use the enclosed membership application and send to:

Waltham Land Trust
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Waltham MA 02454-1120

♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

Waltham Land Trust's Mission

To create a legacy of land conservation in Waltham by promoting, protecting, restoring, and acquiring open space.

We envision growth in public appreciation of natural resources, preservation and restoration of native habitat, and increased biodiversity to foster a healthier environment.

• SPECIAL GIFT MEMBERSHIP •

Have a friend, neighbor, or relative you think would enjoy being part of the Waltham Land Trust? Why not give them a gift membership? **We are offering a special promotion for a limited time: 6 months for only \$10!** (The normal price of an individual membership is 12 months for \$25). **Support open space for a birthday, special occasion, or the holidays!**

Like Waltham Land Trust on Facebook.

Follow us on Twitter @walthamlandtrst

See videos at youtube.walthamlandtrust.org

See photos at flickr.walthamlandtrust.org

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

If you're not already a WLT member and have received this complimentary copy, please consider joining today!