

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 FALL 2019



Remembering David Kehs (1950 – 2019)

On July 21, 2019, the Waltham Land Trust family lost a true conservation hero, longtime WLT board member David Kehs. This is the message we sent to our supporters.

It is with deep and profound sadness that we write to inform you of the death of longtime Waltham Land Trust board member David Kehs. Ever the adventurer, Dave was on a whitewater rafting trip in Utah when he died in a tragic accident on July 21, 2019. Words cannot express our heartbreak and grief at losing him so suddenly and unexpectedly.

Dave has been a pillar of the Waltham Land Trust and the broader Waltham Community. As a concerned citizen and environmental activist, Dave successfully led the charge to have the improperly installed private commercial communications tower removed from Prospect Hill Park so the land could be restored for all of the public to enjoy. As a mainstay on the WLT Land Committee, Dave was a constant presence at public meetings and events, advocating for land preservation and conservation. As a Land Trust board member since 2001 - a tenure second only to that of the Land Trust's founding members still serving - he gave generously and tirelessly of his time, talent, treasure, and heart to advance the Land Trust's mission.

Dave's encyclopedic knowledge of Waltham's natural open space resources led him to become the Land Trust's unofficial cartographer - if you've ever consulted a Waltham Land Trust map on a walk through Prospect Hill Park, the Beaver Brook Reservation, the Chesterbrook Woods, or any of Waltham's other open spaces, Dave was (and still will be) by your side guiding you on your way.

When he wasn't busy attending meetings, researching properties at the Land Court, or serving as the Land Trust's Clerk, Dave enjoyed travel, hiking, kayaking, and cycling. He was a vocal advocate for the Mass Central Rail Trail and the preservation of Arrigo Farm, two projects he was instrumental in getting started that he

tragically will not be with us to see completed. Only last week, Dave served as the Land Trust's representative at a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals concerning the impact of a pending special permit. Dave's extensive knowledge of the history of the Paine Estate and Chesterbrook woods was also critical to informing the Land Trust's advocacy when it appeared those parcels might be at risk of development.

Dave's generosity of spirit was not limited to the Land Trust alone. Every Thursday, he delivered lunch to the senior citizens in the Pine Street high-rise with Meals on Wheels. He will also be deeply missed by his thespian friends in the Reagle Players and Arlington Friends of the Drama, his work colleagues in the field of software engineering, his singing group, many City employees and public officials, cycling partners, conservationists in neighboring communities, family, and too many friends to count.

We hope that those who knew Dave will take a small measure of comfort in knowing that he died doing what he loved - enjoying nature and the outdoors while living life to the fullest.

Details of an anticipated memorial service in Waltham will be shared with the Land Trust membership when they are received from Dave's family.

While Dave may be gone, his work in Waltham will continue to live on. The acres of land he worked so hard to ensure were preserved for everyone are a lasting legacy that will never be forgotten.

To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, "nature is loved by what is best in us." Dave loved nature and was one of the Land Trust's and Waltham's best. He was a cheerful and calming presence wherever he went. Our entire community will miss him greatly.

May he rest in peace.

On September 29th, Waltham and neighboring communities shared memories of Dave's life in Massachusetts during a lovely service organized by his brothers at the Chateau Restaurant, one of Dave's favorites. We are still grieving, and will be for some time.



Dave at Prospect Hill Park

Community Preservation Funds for the Field Station

Diana Young, WLT Board Director, former Chair of Community Preservation Committee

In August, the Mayor applied to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for \$14 Million to fund the potential purchase of the UMass Field Station from the University of Massachusetts. The CPC held a public hearing on the application on September 10. The Field Station is where the Waltham Land Trust has its office and some of its activities. It is also home to Waltham Fields Community Farm, the Green Rows of Waltham (GROW) community gardens, Grow Native Massachusetts and other environmental and sustainability groups.



Field Station building

The purchase is not a sure thing, as UMass could decide to sell the property to a hospital or educational institution, but at present, the university is only dealing with the City of Waltham. The property is on both sides of Beaver Street and includes Lawrence Meadow, an area with a contaminated wetlands as well as some beautiful open space. The price has not been agreed, but both parties have appraised the property, and those appraisals are in the same range according to the Mayor.

CPA funds can only be used for purchases that meet at least one of the permissible uses. The proposal was for open space, open space recreation, and historic preservation. Open space and open space recreation includes uses such as agriculture, wetlands, community gardens, trails, land for wildlife, and non-commercial sports. Historic preservation could be used to protect some or all of the buildings on the site as well as recognizing the historic importance of the land as having been farmed by Cornelia Warren. Cornelia Warren was mentioned frequently during the meeting by the Mayor and speakers such as Dee Kricker, the leader of the tenant group on the property. Cornelia was an entrepreneur in the early 1900s who willed her property



WFCF fennel field in sunrise

to the University, the Girl Scouts, Harvard, and the City of Waltham. Warren Field is named for her.

The Mayor asked the CPC to table the proposal until its next meeting on October 15 as environmental studies are not complete. The Council Chamber was filled with supporters and no one spoke in opposition. The Mayor told the CPC that every City Councillor was in favor of the CPC application. George Darcy and Kathy McMenimen spoke in support of the proposal and both Robert Logan and Tom Stanley asked that their support be reported to the committee.

Although the deal is not complete, the Mayor informed the group that the current tenants would not be evicted from the property if the City completes the purchase. The sale will require special state legislation, and she indicated that language of the bill was expected to protect the tenants. All the advocates of the various tenants were relieved and grateful.

Although it wasn't discussed at the CPC meeting, Waltham will be required to put permanent restrictions on the land and buildings and those restrictions will be held by another party or parties to make sure that no future city government changes the uses of the land. It looks like the land – farms and open space, could be protected forever.

HELP WLT GO PAPERLESS!

Join the 125 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. Please send an email with your name to swadman@walthamlandtrust.org, with the subject header "Electronic *Journal*" if you'd like the next *Journal* 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 Spring 2020 *Journal*!

Candidates Respond

Sonja Wadman, WLT Executive Director

Every election season, the Waltham Land Trust poses questions concerning open space in our city to candidates running for office. This year, we asked these questions to Mayoral and City Council hopefuls. Read their responses in the [News section of walthamlandtrust.org](#).

How would you assess how the city has managed and maintained open space? What plans do you have in mind to improve this work?

Should Waltham Land Trust’s position on development guide the management of city-owned property?

As the City of Waltham negotiates with UMass to take control of the Waltham Field Station and Lawrence Meadows on Beaver Street, what do you envision as the future for these parcels? What uses would you allow and encourage?

For Ward 1 Candidates only: We hope you are aware that the City of Waltham’s Recreation Department is working on an updated Master Plan for Prospect Hill Park. What would you do to bring more residents and visitors to Waltham’s oldest and largest park while enhancing their experience there?

Carnivores in Massachusetts Look for words across, down, and diagonal.

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B	S	Y	A	O	M	E	X	V	L	P	A	F	I	S	H	E	R	Z	G	R	E	Y	S	E	A	L	C	X	X
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D	M	W	I	C	D	A	L	A	I	B	H	A	L	V	W	U	R	E	D	F	O	X	Q	F	S	U	D	H	Z
P	Q	Y	C	C	I	L	I	G	B	I	G	P	K	M	T	C	L	H	U	D	A	U	S	D	L	I	W	M	D
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P	B	V	M	N	C	U	A	Y	F	O	B	H	H	G	M	M	A	K	G	A	R	Q	W	L	O	M	P	A	Y
J	M	M	A	T	G	M	Z	J	W	C	A	N	A	D	A	L	Y	N	X	A	C	I	I	Y	T	X	E	F	Z
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- American black bear

Gray fox

Bearded seal

Harbor seal

Bobcat

North American River Otter

Stoat

Walrus
- Coyote

Red fox

Grey seal

Ringed seal

Cougar

American Marten

Long-tailed weasel

Raccoon
- Gray wolf

Hooded seal

Harp seal

Canada lynx

Wolverine

Fisher

American mink

Striped skunk

Western Greenway 5K to Support the Waltham Land Trust

Nadene Stein, WLT President, Special Events Committee Chair

Wouldn't it be great to spend a few hours enjoying the late fall foliage in your backyard while supporting the Waltham Land Trust? It absolutely would! And you can do that by participating in the October 27th *Western Greenway 5K Trail Run/Walk*. This race, part of the Race Around Waltham series, begins and ends at the atmospheric McLaughlin Building, located on Metropolitan Parkway next to the City of Waltham's Dog Ranch. The 5K (3.1 mile) course goes through and around a variety of habitats in Beaver Brook North Reservation and Rock Meadow, including cattail marshes, forests, vernal pools, and open meadows. In addition to flora, you may even get a glimpse at the local fauna since red-tailed hawks, foxes, mink, great horned owls and various migratory birds make their homes in this area.

The course is an awesome one for runners as running in the woods is more forgiving than running



Bridge over Beaver Brook

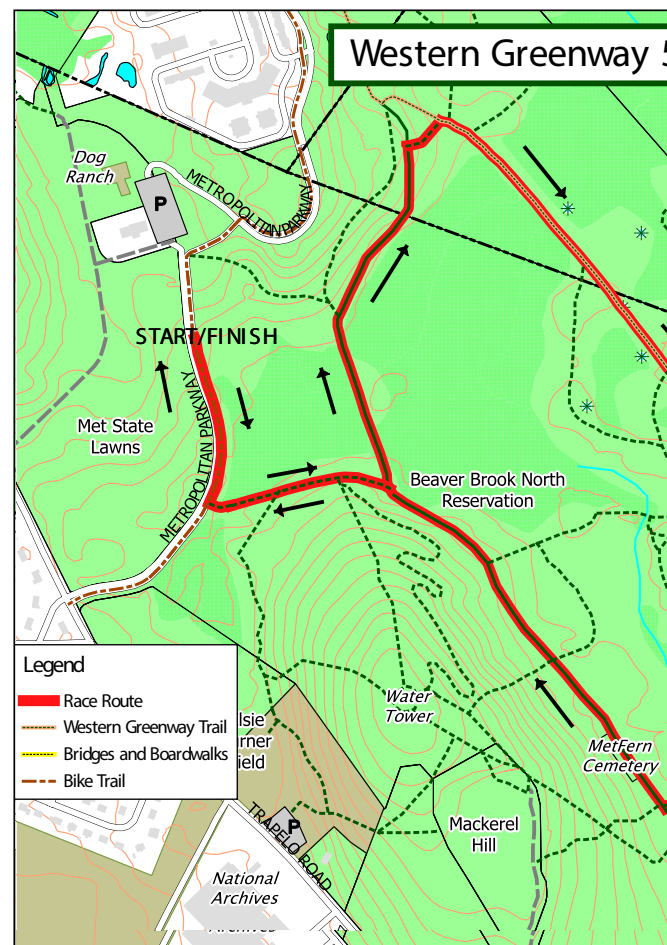
on pavement. Grassy, woodland and earth paths are usually easier on the legs and the Western Greenway 5K offers all of these natural trails.

There are always a large number of folks who walk the course, enjoying a more relaxed pace, so please do not let the thought of running intimidate you.

What? You are not a runner and do not want to walk the trail? The best part is this: you do not have to be a runner/walker to join the fun! We are looking for volunteers to help us with many tasks. We'll need folks at the registration table to give out bibs and goodie bags and to register runners. We'll be providing water along



Wetlands foliage





Metfern Cemetery on race route

the route and at the finish line. We'll make sure that the area is cleaned up at the end so that other groups of community members can enjoy the space. We'll have yummy Bertucci's pizza and rolls to distribute to tired, hungry 5K participants after the race and we'll need help serving them.

The registration fee for this extremely popular fundraising event is only \$25 for current Waltham Land Trust members, \$30 for non-members, and \$15 for youth aged 12 and younger. Online registration ends at 10 p.m. on Thursday, October 24th. The fee will be \$5 more to register in

person at the bib pickup on Saturday, October 26th, at restaurant sponsor Bistro 781, or before the race starts on Sunday at the McLaughlin Building. In order to register for the race as a runner or a volunteer, visit the Race Wire web site.

A few more pieces of information: this is a gun timed race; prizes are awarded to fastest in many categories; there are often extras for lucky bib numbers so everyone who registers has a chance of winning a prize! Most importantly, ALL proceeds from the entrance fee directly helps the **Waltham Land Trust** keep protecting open space in Waltham. This year we celebrate our 20th year of creating a legacy of land conservation in Waltham by promoting, protecting, restoring and acquiring open space and we'd love for you to be a part of supporting this work by running, walking, or volunteering at this year's *Western Greenway 5K*.

Member Spotlight

In each Fall *Journal*, we highlight a member of the Waltham Land Trust who volunteers their time and energy to further our mission. Scott Shurr, a WLT member since 2012, lives off Trapelo in a house surrounded by container gardens. He has been a member of both the WLT's Special Events and Program Activities committees for years. Scott attends nearly every fundraiser, whether it be dining at the WLT Community Table at a local restaurant or enjoying the music at our annual Green Space Blues Jam. He even participated in our recent Art in the Fields Zentangles benefit, where he astonished us with his artistic abilities. Scott is often found at the Waltham Farmers' Market, of which he is a co-founder, or at a Green Rows of Waltham (GROW) community gardens function.

WLT: What is your first memory of enjoying open space and nature?

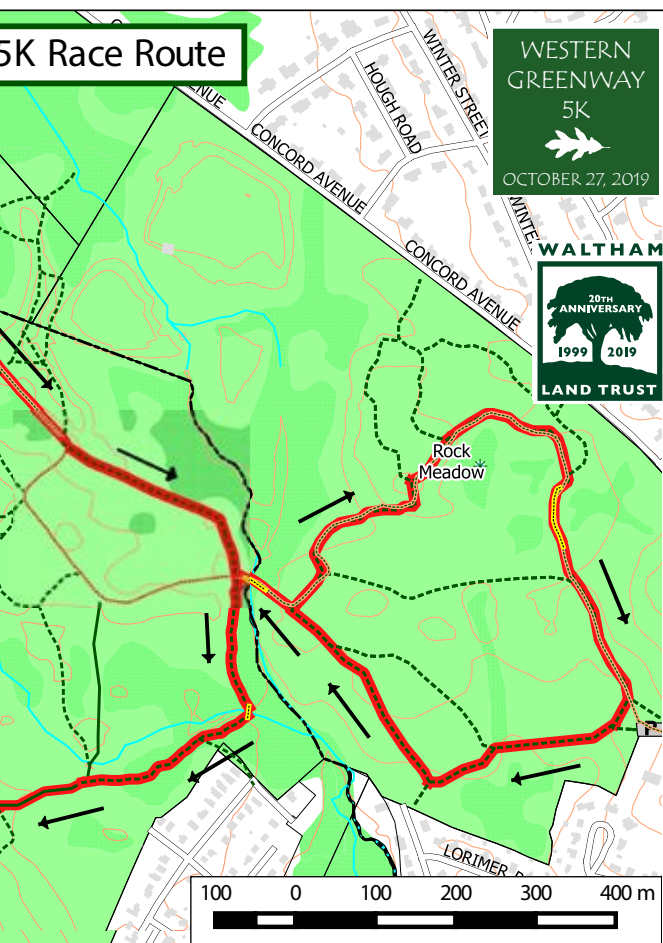
SS: I grew up in what was at the time a rural part of Pennsylvania, so I was outdoors a lot. I liked hiking on the Appalachian Trail with the Boy Scouts.

WLT: We know you are on the Special Events Committee and Program Activities Committee. Thank you! We are looking for more people to join our Program Activities group. Why should someone consider being part of this committee?

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WALTHAM
LAND TRUST
JOURNAL
OCTOBER 27, 2019



Involving More Folks in our Activities

In August, the Waltham Land Trust was thrilled to share the experience of admiring and tending to the Watch City's wonderful natural resources with two groups of eager volunteers. The first were teenagers from Belmont taking part in that town's summer Youth Environmental Entrepreneurship Program. Along with their adult and college-aged leaders, the team of fourteen removed litter and invasive plants from the Charles River path upstream of Moody Street. We filled seven huge trash bags provided by the Mass Department of Conservation & Recreation, who was more than happy to support the effort. A green insect made friends with one of the helpers for the group photo!



Leaf insect

The second batch of enthusiastic trail cleaners were adults involved with day-time activities provided by Opportunities for Inclusion (formerly known as GWarc). After a quick talk about the Waltham Land Trust with the entire Opportunities for Inclusion group, WLT's Executive Director and three amazing WLT trail stewards lead a smaller group of eight and two staffers a few blocks to Prospect Hill Park's Wood Trail. Walking through the forest to the service road up to the base of Little Prospect and the view of Boston was very



Opportunities for Inclusion at Prospect Hill Park

exciting! We picked up litter along the way, listened to music, and took lots of photos. Plans have been made to do additional cleanup walks with Opportunities for Inclusions, and we can't wait.

WLT Committees Need New Members

Are you interested in doing more to help save open space as part of the Waltham Land Trust? The WLT has several committees and "teams," comprised of WLT Board members, the Executive Director, and regular open space supporters like yourself, that assist with implementing our important mission of creating a legacy of land conservation. Generally meeting on a monthly basis in the evening at the WLT office in the Waltham Field Station, a few of these committees need new members. Consider putting in some extra time and help us expand our reach!

- **Program Activities Committee** (meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 5 pm): This group plans and runs the fun educational, social and other programs offered throughout the year by the Land Trust. Folks interested in educational programming, community outreach and engagement, event planning, marketing, and member recruitment should join this committee.
- **Land Policy Committee** (meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm): This committee monitors pending land development threats in Waltham, evaluates potential land preservation opportunities and advocates for land preservation. If you have experience or interest in drafting statements, conservation restrictions and other land agreements, or if you enjoy researching legal, environmental and property issues, this group is for you.
- **Tech Team** (meets as needed, usually on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 pm): The Tech Team helps with the WLT's website, CRM (constituent relations management) database, and social media outreach. They also assist with office technology research, acquisition and training.
- **Development Team** (meets as needed, issues often handled via email): This group monitors and identifies grant opportunities. Working closely with the ED, members of this team draft and submit applications to various governmental programs, local funders and family foundations. They are also involved with membership development.

If any of these groups sound appealing to you, please email WLT Executive Director Sonja at swadman@walthamlandtrust.org and let's get you involved!

Upcoming Events with the Waltham Land Trust

Bertucci's Dining for Dollars
Tuesday, October 22, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Bertucci's Italian Restaurant, 475 Winter Street
Thank Bertucci's for donating pizza to the Western Greenway 5K and help earn the Waltham Land Trust a little cash. Use the certificate enclosed with this newsletter when you eat in, order take-out, or get delivery, and we get up to 25% of the food and drink sale.

Western Greenway 5K Trail Run/Walk
Sunday, October 27, noon start time
Start/end at McLaughlin Building, Metropolitan Parkway, off Trapelo Road opposite Forest Street
Be part of our sixth annual fall Race for Open Space fundraiser as a walker, runner, or sponsor! Following the same course since 2013, with the new (last year) out and back start/finish line and staging area at the very atmospheric McLaughlin Building in the Met State property, the 3.1 mile route travels through various habitats in Beaver Brook North Reservation and Rock Meadow along the Western Greenway and other trails. Registration fees (\$25 before October 25) and race sponsorships help raise money to keep building this community path and outfit our volunteer stewards. Walkers will begin shortly after the runners depart. Families encouraged!

Guided Fungi Foray - the Western Greenway Trail
Saturday, November 9, 1 – 3 p.m.
Meeting location tbd
Mark your calendar now for a guided walk with mushroom expert Lawrence Millman, who will educate us about these fascinating plants as we hunt for them along the Western Greenway trail. Registration will be limited; check walthamlandtrust.org soon for details and to sign up. Thanks to the Waltham Community Foundation for providing partial funding for this program.

Waltham Land Trust 20th Annual Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 7 – 9 p.m.
First Parish Church in Waltham, 50 Church Street
Help celebrate our 20th anniversary by attending our annual meeting! Hear about the early days from founding Directors, relive exciting victories preserving Waltham's land, and help us plan for the future. We'll also provide updates on all the projects we're tackling, celebrate our *Inge Uhler Environmentalist of the Year*, and vote on new and returning WLT Directors. Come over and mingle with other open space supporters!

#GIVING TUESDAY
Tuesday, December 3, all day
Online at walthamlandtrust.org
Reclaim the true meaning of "the giving season" by joining people worldwide donating online the local charities like the WLT on the Tuesday after Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Give through our website: walthamlandtrust.org.

BISTRO 781 Give Back Events
Wednesday, December 11, 5 – 10 p.m. and
Thursday, December 12, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Bistro 781, 336 Moody Street
Thank Bistro 781 (our restaurant sponsor for the Western Greenway 5K) by eating dinner there or ordering take out on Wednesday evening or during the day on Thursday before 5 p.m. The WLT gets 15% of all food sales with a certificate (on our website, closer to the date).



WALTHAM



Waltham Land Trust
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Waltham MA 02454-1120
www.walthamlandtrust.org
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forever.*

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

Officers: Nadene Stein (President), Maureen Bagge Fowler (Vice
Pres.), Anna Richardson (Clerk), Marc Rudnick (Treasurer)

Directors: Martha Creedon, Marie Daly, George Darcy, John
Dieckmann, Natalie Hayes, Brian McCormick, Daniel Melnechuk,
Phil Moser, Diana Young

*Published material represents the views of the authors and not neces-
sarily those of the Waltham Land Trust. Interested in submitting an
article, photo, or poem? Please send to WLT at P. O. Box 541120,
Waltham MA 02454 or to info@walthamlandtrust.org*

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 birth-
day or special occasion!**

To renew or join, visit our web site:
join.walthamlandtrust.org
or call 781-893-3355

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Follow us on Twitter @walthamlandtrst
See videos at youtube.walthamlandtrust.org
See photos at flickr.walthamlandtrust.org*

Please send any comments to the
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info@walthamlandtrust.org.

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

 Printed on recycled paper.



DINING FOR DOLLARS FUNDRAISER

When you present this flyer, up to 25% of what you spend will be donated to the **Waltham Land Trust**

Tuesday, October 22, 2019. 11:00 am – 10:00 pm

Dine in, Carry Out or Delivery

Bertucci's of Waltham, 475 Winter Street, Waltham MA 02451
Phone 781-684-0650



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