

Waltham Land Trust 20 Accomplishments for 20 Years of Existence!

1. *The Beginning:* In 1999, members of neighborhood associations, community activists, environmentalists, conservationists, and “just plain folks” came together to found the Waltham Land Trust.

2. *The First Open Space Inventory:* One of the Waltham Land Trust’s early projects was an inventory of the existing open space. We examined the areas and ranked them according to their benefits and their risk of development. The results were shared with the City, and are updated regularly.

3. *Chester Brook Woods and Jericho Hill:* The Waltham Land Trust successfully lobbied the city to acquire both of these areas. As a result, the Storer Estate land, directly connected to Chester Brook Woods, was expanded, and the prominent, wooded summit of Jericho Hill became protected conservation land.

4. *Shady’s Pond:* Waltham Land Trust was instrumental in motivating the city to acquire the Shady’s Pond Conservation Area, as well as Sanderson Heights and the Gaebler Center property.

5. *The Western Greenway, Phase I:* Waltham Land Trust was pivotal in the formation of the Friends of the Western Greenway, a 3-community effort that literally put the 1300-acre Greenway on the map. All the trails have been improved, many boardwalks and bridges installed, and 7 miles of through hiking and mountain-biking trail has been built.

6. *The Community Preservation Act:* Waltham Land Trust was instrumental in the passage of the Community Preservation Act. Waltham’s Community Preservation Committee has spent the

lion’s share of its funds acquiring and protecting open space lands.

7. *Lot 1 and Bow Street:* Waltham Land Trust’s campaigns helped save these key links in the Western Greenway and sunset the state’s “fast-track” auction law that would have permitted its development.

8. *Smith Point:* Waltham Land Trust acquired this scenic 1/5-acre peninsula on Hardy Pond, and through our Hardy Pond Association project we are working with the city to extend protection to 31 abutting acres of wetlands and open space.

9. *Berry Farm:* One of our longest and most fruitful campaigns involved preventing a residential subdivision planned for this wooded corner of the 1265 Main Street development site, and working with the mayor to negotiate the developer’s gift of the land to the city as an 20-acre annex to Prospect Hill Park.

10. *287 AFT Grove Street:* Waltham Land Trust provided technical assistance to the neighborhood group stewarding this 2-acre landlocked meadow, and helped them win the city’s interest in acquiring and protecting the land.

11. *Arrigo Farm:* The Waltham Land Trust brought together the heirs of this threatened, historic family farm and the City of Waltham to work out a preservation strategy. The city used CPA funds to acquire and preserve this oldest farm in our community.

12. *Mass Central Rail Trail (Wayside branch):* The Land Trust is actively involved with the Mass Department of Conservation and the Recreation Department to create our section of this

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multi-use trail from Berlin to Belmont. The design is done, with construction to start in 2020.

13. Stewards: The Land Trust has trained hundreds of volunteers to help maintain the Western Greenway trail, the paths along the Charles, within Prospect Hill Park, the Beaver Brook areas, and along the MCRT.

14. The Fernald Center: The WLT has been a leading participant in the Fernald Working Group, envisioning a community-based plan for the reuse of the Fernald Center site. We have received the go-ahead from City Council to develop a Western Greenway trail segment here.

15. Waltham High School: The WLT joined forces with other groups to help lead the charge to protect Chester Brook Woods against being taken for the new high school. As plans for the new high school emerge at the Stigmatine site, we have been advocates for coaxing the plans in favor of maximizing the preservation of the hillside and woodlands.

16. Conservation Restrictions: Waltham Land Trust was chosen to hold the restrictions and steward 2 city properties acquired using CPA funds, 385 Trapelo and Arcadia Avenue. While agreements are still under review, we are already stewarding these wooded parcels abutting Beaver Brook North Reservation.

17. Prospect Hill Tower: Waltham Land Trust successfully fought for, and rallied members to support, removal of an [illegally-built communications tower](#) and its access road and supports, which had encroached on Prospect Hill Park.

18. Waltham Field Station: This may be our most important project yet! This threatened UMass property is a landmark in agricultural history, home of our only community farmer, part of the Western Greenway, and home base for the Waltham Land Trust. We are working with the other non-profit tenants to get the City of Waltham to acquire the land and protect the sustainability community established here and the farming and open space that are Cornelia Warren's legacy.

19. The Western Greenway, Phase II: Waltham Land successfully signed an easement with Bentley University to extend the Western Greenway Trail south of the current terminus at the intersection of Beaver and Forest streets. We hope to reach agreement to continue beyond Bentley to the Lyman Estate, which would successfully connect the existing greenway to the future MCRT and the Field Station and Fernald beyond. We are also poised to begin a project of trailhead kiosks and infrastructure improvements.

20. The Ongoing Mission: Promoting the community's appreciation and use of its protected open spaces has been a priority since our founding. Over the last 20 years the Waltham Land Trust has guided hundreds of people on scenic walks and educational outings, initiated clean-ups, provided stewardship and overseen trail building projects. Join us at our next event!