

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 2023



WLT To Purchase Shoreline Properties

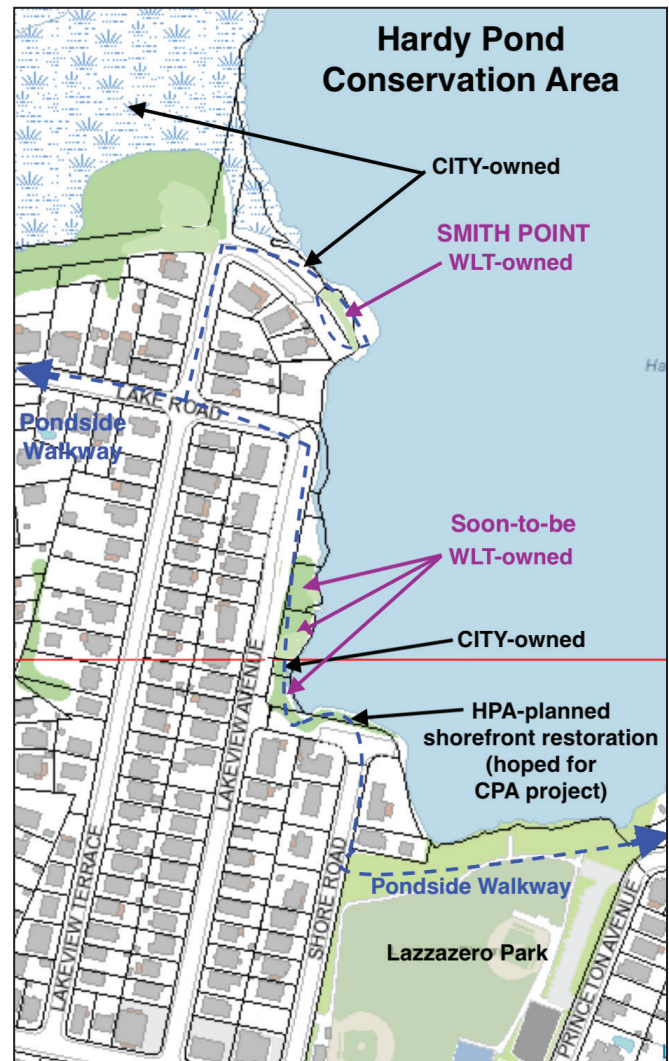
We're extremely excited to announce that the Waltham Land Trust Board of Directors voted on March 22, 2023, to approve the purchase of three small open space plots of land owned by the Giardina Family Trust on Hardy Pond. For decades, the parents of the heirs of these shoreline properties on Lakeview Avenue allowed for public use of them. When the mother passed away recently, the heirs considered their options and decided to sell the plots to the Land Trust. This will allow passive recreational use to continue on the land. WLT Board member Diana Young negotiated the price on behalf of the Board and after some back and forth, a final sale price was determined. A real estate lawyer, hired by the WLT, negotiated the purchase and sale agreement and is working on the closing documents. We expect the sale to be final in mid-May.

We look forward to welcoming people to these properties for a celebration in the future!

The History of Indigenous People on the Western Shore of Hardy Pond

Marie Daly, WLT Founding Director, member/clerk of Waltham Historical Commission

With the retreat of last Ice Age glaciers about 12,000 years ago, human hunters followed eastward wildlife migrations into New England. Some evidence of Watertown settlement of indigenous people dates back as far as the Early and Middle Archaic periods in 9,000 – 6,000 B.P. (before present) at sites along the Charles River.¹ Waltham (established in 1738, formerly part of Watertown) was on the fluid border between the Massachusetts tribes to the south and Pawtucket bands to the north. English and French explorers and fishermen had been visiting the coastal areas of New England as early as the sixteenth century. They brought with them Old World communicable diseases, such as smallpox and measles, to which Europeans had developed immunity and resistance. But they infected the native population of the New World in “virgin-soil” epidemics that ravaged the tribes of the Massachusetts and Pawtucket before the arrival of the Pilgrims and the



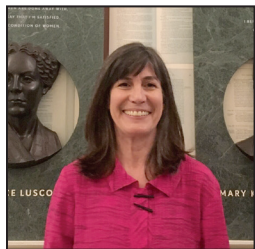
Puritans. The newcomers also infected the indigenous people on whose land they settled. A letter sent to relatives in England mentioned an outbreak of disease among the Pequuset tribe, who inhabited the north side of the Charles River in Watertown, in 1630-31. “Here are but few [Indians], a great part of them died this winter, it was thought it was of the plague.”² Although Hardy Pond was likely a campground of the Pequuset tribe of the Massachusetts Confederacy in the pre-Contact period, very few survived the onslaught of the novel diseases that European explorers and settlers introduced to coastal communities.

History continued on page 4

Waltham Land Trust 2022 Annual Meeting

Diana Young, WLT Director, Program Committee Chair

After two years of Zoom meetings, our 2022 Annual Meeting was a hybrid meeting allowing people to be at the First Parish Church in person or on Zoom.



Ann Clifford, the former curator of Stonehurst, the Paine Estate, was named the *Inge Uhler Environmentalist of the Year*. During Ann's tenure at the Paine Estate, she expanded community events, restored the Olmsted landscape, managed restoration projects in the house

as well as daily activities and grants. She worked closely with the Conservation and Historic Commissions. Many of her community outreach programs were done with the Waltham Land Trust and we have missed her since she became a senior planner in Concord.

The keynote presentation was from Lead Ranger Sophia Bass Werner and Community and Youth Engagement Coordinator Isabel Schulman from the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline. They discussed Olmsted's design philosophy and explained how he put that thinking into local properties such as the Paine Estate and many other properties in the Boston area. Olmsted designed Franklin Park, the Arboretum and Emerald Necklace and numerous others. The Land Trust was invited to tour the Olmsted site on July 12, 2023, so that we can see more of how he worked. Registration will be required and will be available through the Waltham Land Trust website closer to the date.

Laurel Carpenter, one of our lead stewards and a member of Waltham's Rail Trail Advisory Committee, gave an update on the Mass Central Rail Trail project. The Waltham portion of the Wayside Trail is about 4.2 miles and reaches the borders of Belmont and Weston. The City of Waltham has contracted with ET&L to construct the middle segment which is approximately 2.75 miles long and runs between Beaver Street and the 1265 Main Street Development. Later phases include connecting the trail with Belmont and Weston. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is working on plans to rehabilitate bridges over I-95 and over the Fitchburg Line railroad tracks to connect the Waltham segment with the existing 5-mile section of the MCRT in Weston. Designs and permitting for that short link are expected to be finished in 2023, but its construction has yet to be funded.



Brian McCormick presented a summary of the Land Trust's financial results for our fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The Profit of the year was \$8,257 and the net assets were \$191,753.

We were delighted that three of our directors agreed to an additional three years on the board. John Dieckmann, Barbara Jacobs, and Anna Richardson were all re-elected unanimously.

Sonja Wadman gave the final presentation by laying out the Waltham Land Trust's positions that had been presented at the nine ward meetings on the City's Master Plan. Our input was for the plan to recognize climate change, preserve small and large parcels of open space and to place conservation restrictions on all the open space acquired for open space by the City of Waltham.

After the formal meeting was complete, the attendees were treated to Toscanini's ice cream and good conversation. A special thank you to Sally Wetzler supplying the many flavors of ice cream.

Green Space Blues Jam Back at CityPoint

Scott Shurr, Special Events Committee

Come on out to our 19th Annual Green Space Blues Jam for an unforgettable night of live music, snacks, drinks, and celebration! We're delighted that the gala is returning to 500 Totten Pond Road, and it will be on Saturday, June 3, from 7:30 to 10:30 pm. A Band of Killers, Boston's all-star working musician supergroup, will perform for your listening and dancing pleasure.

A major sponsor of the event, Boston Properties will once again generously host the benefit, donating the huge lobby and expansive outdoor space of their 10 CityPoint facility. We will offer a variety of delicious snacks and fantastic desserts, plus beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks.



A Band of Killers, Boston's all-star supergroup, featuring Tim Gearan and Johnny Trama, bring their own mix of blues, soul, rock, and funk. And they bring it on with satisfaction. As the Keene Sentinel put it, "A group of working musicians formed a supergroup of their own and they'll be playing to kill."

A major part of the Blues Jam is the silent auction, which is free to access and will happen online for several days. A few select items will be on site for viewing the night of gala. Items in the past have included gift certificates to local restaurants and services; tickets to sporting and cultural events; hand-made jewelry and crafts; and beautiful artwork. The auction will be available for viewing and bidding on Wednesday, May 31, and will close on Sunday, June 4.

If you would like to donate an item to the silent auction or better yet, step up to be a sponsor of the event (we really need these), please contact Sonja at swadman@walthamlandtrust.org or call the office at 781-893-3355. If you are Do It Yourselfer, we welcome

your crafts, homemade items, and baked goods. Be creative and show how much you care about open space!

Gala tickets (\$60 for WLT members and \$65 for the general public before May 20, \$10 more after) are available now at our website. In addition to snacks, desserts, beer, wine, and soda, you are guaranteed a great time mingling with other open space supporters and dancing to tunes from A Band of Killers! All proceeds from this fun event and the silent auction items will directly benefit our mission to create a legacy of land conservation in Waltham. We hope to see you there!

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 Fall 2023 *Journal*!

Mass Cultural Council Awards Grant to WLT

The Waltham Land Trust is pleased to announce that the Land Trust has received a Cultural Sector Recovery for Organizations grant of \$9,610 from the Mass Cultural Council. Through the support of this grant the Waltham Land Trust will lead monthly walks through the open spaces in Waltham, support a strong Stewardship Program of volunteers who work in the many open spaces in the area to clear them of invasive plants, keep the trails clear and clean for the community, and provide educational program for families and Land Trust members.



from page 1 *History*

In June 1630, Roger Clapp and a small group of men explored the Charles River up to the shore near the Perkins Institute. They encountered a band of three hundred members of the Pequuset tribe, who lived on the north side of the river, and exchanged token gifts of a bass and a biscuit. Clapp left shortly after to found Dorchester, while a larger settlement of Puritans led by Sir Richard Saltonstall arrived later that summer. Although their population had been greatly reduced, the surviving native people initially enjoyed somewhat friendly relations with the Puritan settlers of Watertown, since the English settlers were dependent on their advice and labor. Early Watertown records reveal payments to indigenous inhabitants for labor, and punishments to Watertown English settlers for selling or providing guns and liquor as payments for labor. One such incident was documented in Charles A. Nelson's book. In 1632, a Watertown farm laborer, Tim Hawkins (who had previously been cited for idleness and drunkenness) sold a gun and powder to an indigenous man, Cutstomack. Hawkins was punished with public whipping and branded on the cheek.³

"The indigenes practiced an extensive and mobile system of sustenance, a semisedentary lifestyle involving the removal of the whole village at certain seasons for hunting and fishing and dispersal at others for food gathering."⁴ They moved from the banks of the Charles River in the spring, when fish were migrating upstream, to lakeside sites, such as the western shore of Hardy Pond, in the winter for ice fishing and hunting. At the time of first European contact, indigenous people also engaged in farming, as they raised crops of corn, beans and squash. In June, 1676, native people living in wigwams on the west side of Hardy Pond reported seeing numerous dead fish. Their presence in summer suggests that they may have tended agricultural fields there in addition to winter hunting and fishing.

The land around Hardy Pond has now been greatly disturbed by development, so that any evidence of indigenous habitation has been erased, but there could have been some farming sites in the meadows and bottomland on the west side of the pond. Indigenous people also produced a variety of stone tools, examples of which, over the years, have been uncovered on Waltham hillsides with an abundance of rock outcroppings. A 1707 entry in Watertown town meeting records described what later was named Trapelo Road as ending at a turn-off to Hardy Pond.⁵ Archaeologists have located at least two prehistoric sites along the



brook in what is now Beaver Brook Reservation, and indigenous people would have beaten a path between the falls at Beaver Brook and Hardy Pond.⁶

Indigenous inhabitants, whose culture did not include individual land ownership, faced increased pressure for their lands from Watertown and Cambridge English settlers. With the arrival of more immigrants from England, Watertown faced increased demand for land resources by 1636. Worried that the remaining property would be taken by more arrivals, Watertown leaders decided to allot all the land within the town boundaries among existing residents, beginning in 1636 and extending over several years to 1642.⁷ The Nonantum tribe had been located on the south side of the Charles River in an area now on the Brighton-Newton border. Reverend John Eliot had devoted his efforts to ministering and converting the indigenous people of the Boston area to Christianity. He established the "praying town" of Natick and enticed the Nonantum and Neponset tribes to relocate to Natick, a town built on English ideals



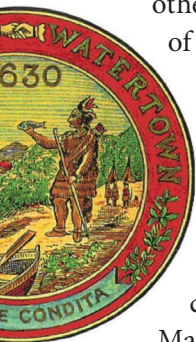


Water; adapted to English by Hydrargyrum - Wikimedia Commons - Image:Wohngebiet_Südneueingland.png, as of July 2006, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php?curid=5276243>

of community.⁸ On the north side of the Charles, the Pequot tribe had been greatly reduced in numbers by disease, and it is unknown if any members joined the Natick community.

By the 1670s, the English settlers in Watertown and other communities were heavily dependent the labor of indigenous people in summer and harvest times.⁹

In 1676, clothier Thomas Loveran owned 80 acres of land on the southwest side of the Great Fresh Pond in the Woods (Hardy Pond), which was Lot 21, 3rd Division or Squadron. Loveran also owned the fulling mill on Beaver Brook.¹⁰ A war between the indigenous tribes of New England and the colonial immigrants broke out in 1675-1676, but the Massachusetts tribes did not participate in the war. This devastating conflict resulted in the highest per capita mortality rate of any American war and the destruction of half of the colonial towns of New England. Fifty percent of the native population of New England were killed by warfare or disease.¹¹ Despite the lack of their involvement in the war, the people of Massachusetts tribes, including the praying town of Natick, were



rounded up and transported to a concentration camp on Deer Island in October 1675.

In April 1676, native warriors attacked the town of Sudbury, which also included what are now the towns of Maynard and Wayland. Some theorize their strategy was to gain food and arms, as well as to destroy the infrastructure, as a preliminary step towards an attack on the neighboring English settlement of Watertown.¹² In June 1676, colonists were alarmed to discover wigwams on the west shore of Hardy Pond.¹³ Their tribal affiliation is unknown; they could have been members of the Nonantum tribe who somehow avoided internment by fleeing to their winter hunting grounds on the Great Pond; or perhaps they were agricultural laborers who lived in this remote section of Watertown. These inhabitants of the wigwams had reported an unusual event of fish deaths.¹⁴ Given the barbarity of the King Philip's War, the fate of this band of indigenous people may have been dire. But there are no reports of a battle or killing there, so they may have been interned at the concentration camp on Deer Island. In the following year, half the men, women and children in the prison camp died. Others were sold into slavery in the West Indies. Eventually, the surviving prisoners returned to the praying town of Natick.¹⁵ But land swindles and sales eroded much of their land ownership so that the last of their reservation was sold in 1828. Many moved away or joined other tribes, and by 1861, Indian Commissioner John Milton Earle reported only two families of the Natick tribe remained.¹⁶ Today, the Praying Indians of Natick and Ponkapoag meet at the Eliot Church in Natick and celebrate their heritage at powwows at Cochituate State Park.¹⁷

For thousands of years, the lots along the western shore of Hardy Pond were inhabited by indigenous people, who suffered from diseases, land confiscations, war and imprisonment wrought by the European settlers of the seventeenth century. The Waltham Land Trust recognizes their history and presence on our Hardy Pond land.

Endnotes

- 1 Massachusetts Historical Commission, *Historical and Archaeological Resources of the Boston Area* (Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1982, 1991) 16, <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhchpp/RegReconnRpts.htm>.
- 2 "Letter to William Pond, the correspondent's father, March 15, 1631," in *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 2nd Series, vol. 8* (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1892-1894) 471-473.

History notes continued on page 6

Waltham Land Trust Secures New Office Space

The Waltham Land Trust is excited to announce the relocation of our administrative offices to downtown Waltham. It is with mixed emotions that we depart from 240 Beaver Street, where we rented from the University of Massachusetts starting in 2002. We've thoroughly enjoyed being part of the collaborative and inspiring Waltham Field Station community comprised of amazing people dedicated to sustainability, agriculture, and local food production.

As an organization, we've pledged to make stronger efforts to serve and represent a more diverse cross-section of the community, and we hope a move to downtown will help us achieve that goal. Locating closer to the Blue Heron Trail along the Charles River and the Mass Central Rail Trail is a strong match for our outdoor programs. Plus, we'll be a stone's throw away from the Waltham Common and Lower Moody Street, where we often participate in community festivals and events.

Our new location brings us closer to our regular haunts — City Hall, Government Center, Waltham Public Library, and the Main Street post office to name a few. At the crossroads of Main Street and Moody, our new office positions us at the heart of Waltham's local business sector and near some of Waltham's most beloved institutions—homegrown restaurants and companies that have long supported our mission of open space preservation with frequent donations to our benefit events and easy willingness to host “give back” fundraisers.

Lastly, the change in ownership from UMass to the City of Waltham, for which we advocated whole-heartedly and fully support, presents challenges for us as a non-profit focused on land preservation. Becoming a tenant of the City could create a conflict, or the appearance of one, affecting our ongoing efforts to influence environmental and development policy and practice in Waltham, to be a holder of the City's Conservation Restrictions, and to lobby for more of them.

You can now find us at our new location: **8 Common Street, Unit 2, Waltham MA 02451** (right behind Café on the Common). We will retain our mailing address of P.O. Box 541120, Waltham MA 02454.

We appreciate the City of Waltham stepping up to purchase the Waltham Field Station, protecting it from development and ensuring its future as a haven for agricultural production and open space enjoyment in

perpetuity. We look forward to learning who will be the holder of the permanent Conservation Restriction for the parcel, which is a state requirement of all Community Preservation Act funded acquisitions.

from page 5 History (Endnotes)

- 3 Charles A. Nelson, *Waltham, past, present and its industries, with an historical sketch of Watertown from its settlement in 1630 to the incorporation of Waltham, January 15, 1739* (Cambridge, Ma.: Moses King, 1882) 59-60.
- 4 Roger Thompson, *Divided We Stand: Watertown, Massachusetts 1630 – 1680* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001) 145-146.
- 5 *Watertown Records, comprising the Third Book of Town Proceedings, ...* (Watertown, Mass.: Watertown Historical Society, 1900) 175 [185].
- 6 Donald George Jones, “Results of an archaeological reconnaissance survey of Beaver Brook Reservation in Belmont and Waltham, Massachusetts.” *Boston University, Office of Public Archaeology, no. 7* (Boston, Mass., Office of Public Archaeology, Boston University, 1989).
- 7 Henry Bond, *Genealogies of the Families and Descendants of the Early Settlers of Watertown, Massachusetts, Including Waltham and Weston: To which is Appended the Early History of the Town* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1860) 1019.
- 8 Roger Thompson, *Divided We Stand*, 148-149.
- 9 Roger Thompson, *Divided We Stand*, 149.
- 10 Henry Bond, *Genealogies*, 353, 1022, 1039. Thomas Loveran sold Lot 21 in the 3rd Division to George Lawrence in 1678 [Middlesex Land Registry, Vol. 6, p. 414].
- 11 Robert E. Cray Jr., “Weltering in their Own Blood,’ Puritan Casualties in King Philip’s War,” in *Historical Journal of Massachusetts, Fall 2009*, 106 <https://www.westfield.ma.edu/historical-journal/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Weltering-in-their-Own-Blood-Puritan-Casualties.pdf>
- 12 The Sudbury Fight, 1676: A Decisive Native American Victory in King Philip’s War, [video] <https://www.worldhistory.org/video/2312/the-sudbury-fight-1676-a-decisive-native-american/>
- 13 Roger Thompson, *Divided We Stand*, 153.
- 14 Charles A. Nelson, *Waltham, past, present and its industries*, 28.
- 15 Lance Young, *From Paradise to Prison* (Boston: Partnership of the Historic Bostons, 2021) blog: <https://historic-bostons.org/blog-1/deer>.
- 16 John Milton Earle, Commissioner, *Report to the Governor and Council Concerning the Indians of the Commonwealth under the Act of April 6, 1859* (Boston: William White, 1861) 71-73.
- 17 Praying Indians of Natick and Ponkapoag website, <https://natickprayingindians.org/index.html>.

Upcoming Events with the Waltham Land Trust

The Rat Poison Problem: How Rodenticides Harm People, Pets, & the Planet

Saturday, May 6, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (in-person and via Zoom)

Waltham Public Library, 735 Main Street

Join us for a program by local wildlife advocate Laura Kiesel who will review the history of rodenticides, their impact on our health and environment, and solutions for a way forward. At the request of the presenter, masks will be required. Register for the Zoom link at walthamlandtrust.org if you can't make it in person.

Guided Walk along the Charles River

Saturday, May 13, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Meet in Landry Park by the fish ladder, 154 Moody Street

Take a break from the Watch City Steampunk Festival with an easy walk along the Charles. We'll learn about the Mill and its environs as we trek over the beautiful boardwalk that passes by the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation. After continuing under Elm Street on the paved pathway, we'll cross to the other side of the river and look for wildlife at various places before turning around and returning to the festivities. Costumed participants encouraged!

Wagon Wheel Fundraiser

Saturday, May 20, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wagon Wheel Farm Stand, 927 Waltham Street, Lexington

Pick up seedlings for your garden, groceries for the house, deli sandwiches, flowers, fruit baskets, fish, etc. at this family-owned farm stand just over the line in Lexington. Tell the cashier you love the Waltham Land Trust, and we get 20% of your purchase. No certificate needed, but we'll provide something at our website if you need a reminder! Not valid on mulch orders, landscaping services, or deliveries.

19th Annual Green Space Blues Jam

Online auction Wednesday, May 31 - Sunday, June 4

In-person gala event Saturday, June 3, 7:30 - to 10:30 p.m.

500 Totten Pond Road

Attend the Land Trust's major fundraiser at last year's awesome venue with lots of indoor and outdoor space featuring live music with an exciting new supergroup, A Band of Killers, who will bring their own mix of blues, soul, rock, and funk. Ticket price (\$60 for WLT members and \$65 for the general public before May 20, \$10 more after) includes snacks, desserts, beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages, plus access to our silent auction. Get details and buy tickets at our website now.

walthamlandtrust.org/gsbj-2023

Waltham Riverfest Walk

Saturday, June 17, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Meet by bench on Blue Heron path near 151 Moody Street

Celebrate and learn about the mighty Charles at the annual Waltham Riverfest with an easy stroll along the river. Traveling on the paved pathway, we'll head upstream from Moody Street and hear how what was once an unsightly industrial area became the beautiful Upper Charles River Reservation. As we cross over the Prospect Street bridge, we'll discuss famous residents of the Mt Feake cemetery, the popular canoeing and entertainment venues along the river where big bands regularly played in bygone times, and contributions the Waltham Watch Factory made to the American Industrial Revolution and the Waltham community. If time allows, we'll head towards Woerd Woods where WLT stewards have planted hundreds native trees, shrubs, ferns, and flowers. All day long, festival attendees can soak up live music on multiple stages, buy crafts from vendors and visit outreach tables of local non-profits like the WLT on a closed-to-traffic Moody Street Bridge, and enjoy kids activities.

WALTHAM



Waltham Land Trust
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www.walthamlandtrust.org
*Protecting Waltham's land...
forever.*

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Waltham Land Trust Journal

© 2023 Waltham Land Trust is published in Spring and Fall 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), Barbara Jacobs (Vice Pres.), Anna Richardson (Clerk), Marc Rudnick (Treasurer), Dan Berlin (Chair)

Directors: Erika Bourne, Martha Creedon, Marie Daly, John Dieckmann, Tom Geary, Brian McCormick, Daniel Melnechuk, Lesley Sneddon, Debbie von Rechenberg, Diana Young

Executive Director: Sonja Wadman

Published material represents the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Waltham Land Trust.

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 or special occasion!

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

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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!

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