

# 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 2022

### WLT Has a Commercial!

This summer, the Waltham Land Trust was extremely grateful to be one of several members selected by the Waltham Chamber of Commerce to have a commercial professionally produced, free of charge, thanks to a Travel and Tourism Recovery Grant the Chamber got from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. As part of the Chamber's "Small Business Spotlight" campaign, an email was sent to all of its members, encouraging groups interested in having a video made complete a survey regarding the role they play in



enhancing life and the visitor experience in the Watch City. The WLT, of course, had a lot to say!

Waltham Land Trust Executive Director Sonja Wadman was notified of our selection by Russ Jones of ChamberPG, the firm tasked with creating our commercial. Russ asked Sonja to provide a variety of photos of Land Trust activities, plus a short script one of their voice actors would read while the pictures were being displayed. Sonja wrote "copy" that took about 45 seconds to read and sent over 100 photos! We're sure Russ

had a difficult time deciding which ones to use.

The result is a 49-second commercial: <https://walthamlandtrust.org/ad> Please check it out and share with your friends and family!

We send a huge thank you to the Waltham Chamber Commerce and congratulations to all the organizations who now have new videos: Charles River Canoe & Kayak, Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation, Copper House Tavern, Craft Food Halls, Domenics Waltham, Game Underground, Gore Place Society, Hakata Ramen and Sushi Bar, Hampton Inn & Suites Boston/Waltham, Heidi's Restaurant, In A Pickle Restaurant, Johnson Compounding & Wellness, Little India Restaurant, Lizzy's Homemade Ice Cream, Park Lodge Hotel Group, Pizzeria Enzina, Raj Collections LLC, Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston, Inc., Shoppers Café, Sondra Celli Co., Stazione di Federal, The Federal, The Waltham Museum Inc., Waltham Fields Community Farm, Waltham Land Trust, Watch City Arts dba Tea Leaf RC, LLC, Wilsons Diner, YumCha, and Visit Waltham Video.

## Eagle Scout Project Improves Hardy Pond Pondsideside Walkway

Cathy Mullooly, Hardy Pond Coordinating Committee and WLT Steward

Hardy Pond is a 43-acre Great Pond located in the northern neighborhoods of Waltham. It offers unique views of wildlife and a variety of recreational pursuits. With this in mind, a walking route was identified to increase enjoyment of the pond while protecting its shoreline. The Pondsideside Walkway is the result, and the brochure can be found in the Trails section of the WLT website at [walthamlandtrust.org](http://walthamlandtrust.org).

This summer, WLT was fortunate to have Paul A. Queheillalt of Lexington Boy Scouts America Troup 119 work on the Pondsideside Walkway for his Eagle Scout Service Project. He focused on identifying and placing trail blazes along the route. He started by working with the Hardy Pond Coordinating Committee to identify 20+ locations that needed wayfinding markings placed. WLT designed and purchased the Pondsideside Walkway blazes. Paul took on the rest of the planning. He fundraised



to purchase the needed supplies, contacted DigSafe, installed four 4X4 wooden posts, and attached the trail blazes along the route. Paul spent two separate days supervising his volunteers as they did the work. The result is a trail that is easier to follow and to be enjoyed by residents and visitors.

The next phase of the Pondsideside Walkway is nearing agreement. WLT has approached Windsor Village to extend the trail along its property along the eastern shoreline. Once permission is finalized, Hardy Pond stewards will begin planning and working on its construction. Stay tuned!



## Member Spotlight

In each Fall Journal, we highlight a member of the Waltham Land Trust who helps us achieve our mission of creating a legacy of land conservation in Waltham. Mike Williams and his wife Anna are blessed to live on the peaceful shores of Hardy Pond. Mike has been part of the leadership of the Hardy Pond Coordinating Committee since the beginning and a WLT member since 2000. He assisted Eagle Scout Paul with his first workday installing posts for the Hardy Pond Pondsideside Walkway. A professor in the Guitar Department at Berklee College of Music with many connections in the industry, Mike is *\*instrumental\** in securing our talent each year for the Green Space Blues Jam. Perhaps you saw him playing with The Love Dogs back in July! We asked Mike to take a break from his busy schedule to answer a few questions.

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

MW: I was born and raised in Northern California, and as a youth I developed a lasting appreciation and respect for open space and the great outdoors. Some of my earliest outside activities included hiking and camping as a Boy Scout. And from my teenage years into my 20's, countless days and nights were spent exploring areas in and along the ocean, rivers, and redwood forests near my hometown of Arcata, CA.

During the last two years of high school, quite a few of my evenings concluded by camping/crashing inside a giant Sequoia that was a half mile or so up in the forest above Humboldt State University. The upper half or so of that tree was still alive, but the base was burnt/hollowed out, and it had an inside diameter of approximately 12 feet. During the couple of years that a close friend and I frequented that redwood, I grew more and more to appreciate the quiet time (and shelter) that it graciously provided. That ancient redwood was well off of the beaten trail, and I was proud of the fact that I could make my way up through the forest to find it in the darkness of the night.

Many other evenings during that same time concluded 75 feet (or so) up among the branches of another nearby redwood. Before I discovered it, a previous adventurer had balanced a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood between limbs at an altitude that never



failed to impress the senses. That plywood platform was just big enough to accommodate two sleeping bags, and I still have vivid recollections of the stunning views that tree provided at dusk and sunrise.

I could go on and on about extended hiking and camping trips in the Pacific Northwest, because those experiences left a huge and positive impact on my life at the time. And they also shaped my views about the value and importance of open space.

**WLT: We know you are active in the Hardy Pond Coordinating Committee, and we thank you! What is the oddest and/or most beautiful thing you've encountered while being involved with the Pond?**



MW: One memorable encounter took place in my canoe during a Hardy Pond cleanup. While removing trash and debris along the shoreline, I happened upon a “mother lode” of discarded automotive tires. They had been roped together as part of some abutter’s home-made dock, and had evidently floated off, and come to rest in the wetlands along the west side of the pond. After hauling several of the mud-laden and cumbersome tires into the canoe, I was reaching out to grab another with my hoe, and to my surprise, I (instead) poked and seriously startled the largest snapping turtle

that I’ve ever encountered. Snappers reportedly grow to around 19 inches in length—but at that instant, the turtle appeared to be much larger. Whatever the size—that reptile was quite annoyed that its habitat had been upended, and it seriously startled me as it stormed off, and disappeared below the surface. That unexpected encounter left me breathless for a moment, and I was thankful to be out in my Cadillac-sized canoe that day, instead of my kayak.

**WLT: Do you have a favorite natural place in Waltham that you can share with our readers?**

MW: That would have to be Hardy Pond, since my wife and I are residents along the water’s edge. So we are lucky enough to witness the pond’s abundance of wildlife and unique environment every day, from our own back yard. As well, I walk 2–3 miles a day with our dogs around our neighborhood, and enjoy getting out to Graverson Park and the Seminole path—so that keeps us moving.

Waltham has so many amazing open space areas, (several of which I’m yet to explore), so that’s a goal for the future.

**WLT: Why do you support the Waltham Land Trust?**

MW: Our planet’s resources, along with our remaining open spaces, are currently being stressed and threatened beyond the breaking point, due to the continued wasting of resources, over-development, human complacency, climate change, and several other factors.

As citizens, we all need to step up, to protect our local, and global environment. So in closing, I’ll share a line or two from Joni Mitchell, who stated it concisely, and hit it right on the mark:

“Don’t it always seem to go, you don’t know what you got till it’s gone. They paved paradise, put up a parking lot...”





## Western Greenway Trail 5K Run/Walk Beckons You

The Western Greenway Trail 5K Run/Walk has been a major fundraiser for the Waltham Land Trust for nine years, since 2013. Proceeds from entrance fees and sponsorships help the Land Trust continue to protect open space in Waltham. Everyone is timed and prizes are awarded to the fastest in many categories. Snacks and drinks are provided, and extra prizes for lucky bib numbers are awarded so everyone who registers has a chance of winning something!

The event is enjoyable for runners of all abilities, but it's also a great family and friends event. The 5K (3.1 mile) route traverses through Beaver Brook North Reservation and Belmont's Rock Meadow, through a variety of habitats such as cattail marshes, vernal pools through forests and across open meadows. It's perfect for runners, as running in the woods is more forgiving than running on pavement. Grassy, woodland and earth paths are usually easier on the legs, and the Western Greenway 5K offers all of these natural trails.

Please note, the route no longer goes over the small bridge where runners expressed concern that it was often slippery under the conditions that typically are present during the race.

There is always a large number of people who walk the course together (starting after the runners depart), enjoying a more relaxed pace, so don't think you need to run or jog to participate!



If you'd rather not take to the woods but would like to be a part of the fun, we are looking for volunteers to help us with many tasks. We'll want folks at the sign-in table to register attendees and give out bibs/goodie bags. Parking attendants are needed to direct people to the ample, on-site parking (please carpool if you can). We'll have treats and water after the race that will need to be distributed to tired, hungry 5K participants. When the event is over, we must be sure that the area is cleaned up so that others can enjoy the space once we're done.



You can't be there but STILL want to help? Great news – we are looking for both individuals and businesses to sponsor the race. There are several levels of sponsorship available; your name or your company's name will look fantastic on the official race t-shirt!

We are grateful for the continued support of Bistro 781, which will be our restaurant sponsor once again.

This fun, very hip and popular Moody Street eatery will host the two "Bib Pick-up" events, where participants can retrieve their bib registration number and goodie bag before the race. Bistro 781 will also be the spot for the post-race party—everyone who registers (or volunteers in an official capacity) will get one drink ticket valid for one beer or non-alcoholic beverage immediately after the race back at Bistro 781.

Online registration ends at 10 pm on Thursday, October 20. The fee will be \$5 more to sign up in person at the bib pick-ups at Bistro 781 the evening of Thursday, October 20, and during the day Saturday, October 22, as well as before the race starts on Sunday at the McLaughlin Building. To register for the race as a runner, walker, sponsor, or volunteer, visit [waltham-landtrust.org](http://waltham-landtrust.org).



## A Perfect Day for Fishing Junk

*Maj-Britt Moreton, WLT Steward and member of the Development Team*

Many WLT members are stewards and thus familiar with picking up trash along the trails throughout Waltham's open space as they go out for their daily walks or hikes. Alessio Baggio has taken the commitment of picking up trash to the next level. For about five years he has been practicing magnet fishing for junk in the Charles River. For those who are uninitiated in this interesting activity, rest assured, there isn't a lot of protocol to it. Generally, you try to find an area that is contaminated (not too difficult) and then scope it out with magnets to see if it connects to any metal junk. If something has an edge that could be grasped, you would use a grappling hook or two to latch onto it. With the help of a few friends that you have invited along, you would then haul it up onto the bridge.

Whilst magnet fishing on a sunny day in August, Alessio spotted a motorcycle resting on the bottom, in the middle of the river. He had long had an inkling that there might be something slightly bigger there. He couldn't be sure until on that day when he was able to see a tire and the frame of the motorcycle. The angle of the sun and his position on the bridge created a perfect condition to clearly see objects in the river. Additionally, the water depth was exceptionally low due to the extreme drought the area has endured all summer.

Alessio instantly knew that he wanted to haul out the motorcycle. Having been a member of the Land Trust for several years, he therefore sent a text message to Sonja Wadman who is the Executive Director of the Waltham Land Trust. She helped him gain permission from the Massachusetts Department of Recreation (DRC) to haul it out. She also contacted a long-time friend, Spencer Sostilio, who immediately agreed to help out with his Jeep which is fitted with a 100-foot winch.

About a week after Alessio had spotted the bike he met up with high school friends, family and a few WLT stewards. He changed into a wet suit and put on his diving mask fitted with a GoPro camera. Then he met up with Spencer for some last-minute advice. Spencer maneuvered his yellow Jeep into position as close to the riverbank that could allow. With friends and family watching from the bridge, Alessio moved slowly into the river stirring up mud and sand as he proceeded. He carried around his neck a heavy chain attached to the



winch, so he had to be very careful when stepping forward. He slowly moved towards the motorcycle and when he reached it, dove in. Trying to attach a heavy chain around a rusty old motorcycle wasn't exactly easy but eventually he managed to do so.

Spencer began to winch the bike in, which due to its weight, scraped along the bottom, remaining under water throughout until it reached relatively shallow water. Unfortunately, the chain came off some 20 feet from the riverbank, so Alessio had to reattach it, this time through the front tire. Unfortunately, having spent years under water the tire had rusted completely through so the chain came off. Not to worry, Alessio's friends hauled the tire up and put it down onto a growing pile of junk. Attaching the chain a final time to the bike frame, it finally ended up on dry land. And it was a Yamaha!

When most people would have considered hauling up the motorcycle enough, Alessio continued to look for junk for a few more hours. All we can say is, thank you Alessio for a job well done!



## Meet Ranger Adam Green

If you've spent time at Prospect Hill Park in the past three years, chances are you've run into Ranger Adam Green. Or you might have made his acquaintance at one of the Wellington Fields work parties. Hired full-time, year-round in 2019 as part of the City of Waltham Recreation Department, Ranger Adam patrols and runs programs at Prospect Hill Park where his office is located, but you can often find him at Wellington, in a Hardy Pond watershed park, at the Totten Pond Ice Rink, or other places where the Recreation Department has care and control of the property. He has an extensive background as a sustainable forester, having worked for The Nature Conservancy, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the town of Lexington, where he still works part-time! We asked Ranger Adam to tell us more about himself and what he thinks about the Recreation Department's partnership with the WLT.

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

AG: I would have to say a camping trip in the Adirondacks with just my dad and me. I was about five at the time and so excited to get some quality time alone with my dad. That trip was full of great memories and was, as I recall, the first time I started really appreciating nature.

**WLT: Please tell us what you did before taking the Ranger job with the City of Waltham.**

AG: Right before I starting working for the City of Waltham, I was a Forester for the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation with the State of Massachusetts. There I worked closely with the Asian Longhorned Beetle eradication program. I also handled forest management plans and outreach within Worcester County.

**WLT: What do you like most about being Waltham's Ranger?**

AG: Variety, any given day can be different and I get to meet the most interesting people!

**WLT: What is the oddest and/or most beautiful thing you've encountered while working, either here in Waltham or elsewhere?**

AG: I would say the oddest thing I have ever encountered was while working as a Ranger in Pittsfield State



Forest, they allow over night camping there. I got a call for a rowdy campsite. When I arrived, six mostly undressed adults were dancing in a circle while drinking gallons of chocolate milk. They were very friendly and turned the music down—it was quite the sight.

**WLT: What do you think about the partnership between the City's Rec Department and the WLT?**

AG: My experience with WLT has been nothing but positive. I think the partnership is mutually beneficial as we share many of the same goals.

**WLT: Do you have a favorite natural place in Waltham that you can share with our readers?**

AG: Well, I'm not sure I can share the exact place as the reason I enjoy it so much is its seclusion, but I'll leave you with a hint. It's surrounded by pines, only accessible by foot, and is the nesting site of a red shouldered hawk.

### 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](mailto: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 2023 Journal!

## Upcoming Events with the Waltham Land Trust

### Wellington House Lands Work Party

*Saturday, September 24, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Park on Sherwood Lane, Abbot Road, or Temple Road*

Celebrate National Public Lands Day by clearing the fields and seeding ground cover at the historic Wellington site. There will be tasks for all ages and abilities.

### Waltham Farm Day

*Saturday, October 15, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Waltham Fields Community Farm, Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver Street*

Learn about and celebrate Waltham's only community-supported-agriculture (CSA) and our last operating produce farm! Enjoy agricultural demonstrations, fun activities, and games for all ages. Groove to live music while strolling through the farm fields and visiting outreach tables from various non-profit groups like the WLT.



### Western Greenway 5K Trail Run/Walk

*Sunday, October 23, 1 p.m. start time  
Start/end at McLaughlin Building, Metropolitan Parkway, off Trapelo Road opposite Forest Street*

Be part of our annual fall Race for Open Space fundraiser as a walker, runner, or sponsor! Following more-or-less the same course since 2013 with the start/finish line and staging area at the atmospheric McLaughlin Building in the Met State property, the route travels through various habitats in Beaver Brook North Reservation and Rock Meadow along the Western Greenway and other trails. Registration fees (\$25 for WLT members before October 21) 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 welcome!

### Western Greenway Hike

*Saturday, November 5, 1:00 p.m. start time  
Meeting location to be determined*

Join WLT Board Vice President and frequent walk leader Barbara Jacobs for a hike in the woods along the Western Greenway trail and other paths in open space parcels north of Trapelo Road. The trek will go over roots, rocks, and stumps. Please wear appropriate footwear. Space is limited, registration required.

### Waltham Land Trust 23rd Annual Meeting

*Thursday, November 17, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (tentative)  
First Parish Church of Waltham, 50 Church Street*

Help celebrate our 23rd anniversary by attending our annual meeting, which will be held in person after two years! A ranger with the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site will give a presentation about the amazing accomplishments of Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture and designer of the grounds of Waltham's own Robert Treat Paine Estate, who was born 200 years ago and is the focus of countless events happening across the country this year. We'll also provide updates on the projects we're tackling, celebrate our *Inge Uhlir Environmentalist of the Year*, and vote on returning WLT Directors.

### #GIVING TUESDAY

*Tuesday, November 29, all day  
Online at [www.walthamlandtrust.org](http://www.walthamlandtrust.org)*

Reclaim the true meaning of "the giving season" by joining people worldwide donating online to local charities like the WLT on the Tuesday after Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Give through our website: [walthamlandtrust.org/donate](http://walthamlandtrust.org/donate).

### BISTRO 781 Give Back Event

*Tuesday, December 13, 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Bistro 781, 336 Moody Street*

Thank Bistro 781 for being the restaurant sponsor of our Western Greenway 5K and supporting local causes like the Land Trust by eating dinner on-site or ordering take out. The WLT gets 15% of all food sales with included certificate, available at [walthamlandtrust.org](http://walthamlandtrust.org).

WALTHAM



Waltham Land Trust  
PO Box 541120  
Waltham MA 02454-1120  
[www.walthamlandtrust.org](http://www.walthamlandtrust.org)  
*Protecting Waltham's land...  
forever.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Waltham Land Trust Journal

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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](http://www.walthamlandtrust.org)>.

*Officers:* Nadene Stein (President), Barbara Jacobs (Vice Pres.), Anna Richardson (Clerk), Marc Rudnick (Treasurer)

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*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](http://walthamlandtrust.org)  
or call 781-893-3355

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Please send any comments to the return address, or email to <[info@walthamlandtrust.org](mailto: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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When you present this flyer for dine in or take out, 15% of your food bill will be donated to the **Waltham Land Trust**.

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 4 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

Bistro 781, 336 Moody Street, Waltham 02453  
Phone 781.899.0297, [www.bistro781.com](http://www.bistro781.com)



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