CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

2026
IMPACT REPORT

Rick Newton

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Cover Photo: West District Nature Preserve, Farmington Land Trust, by Rebecca Dorsey

Look Around Connecticut

I had more opportunities than ever this year to do just that.

2026 has been a particularly full year for getting out of the office and onto the land with Connecticut's land trusts. We have gathered to celebrate newly protected properties, walk trails, explore restored habitats, and recognize the people who make conservation happen. At most of these events, CLCC has played a role: providing funding for an acquisition, supporting stewardship work, offering technical assistance, or connecting people and resources to help move a project forward.

But what stays with me most is not the grant, the closing, or even the number of acres protected. It is being there—and experiencing firsthand what those acres make possible.

It's easy to see the obvious: a dense forest, a working farm, a trail through the woods, or a thriving wetland.

But standing on the land, I think about what is less visible:

Clean water. Fresh air. Healthy soils. Biodiverse habitat.

And an inner peace that comes from having a place to walk, breathe, explore, and reconnect with nature.

These things are essential to our planet and our own well-being, yet they can be so easy to take for granted. They are also among the many reasons Connecticut's 100+ land trusts matter.

They know their communities. They know the land, the people who own it, and why it must be protected.

And behind every one of these land trusts is a group of people who come together around a shared vision for a cleaner, healthier future. People who care enough to act. People like you.

That is what I see and feel when I look around Connecticut. And it drives me and all of us at CLCC to action every single day.

As you read the stories in this Impact Report, I hope you will see what I see: not simply acres conserved or projects completed, but the countless ways these places enrich our lives and sustain the world around us.

Look around Connecticut. The impact of land conservation is everywhere, and it is our imperative to carry it forward.

Thank you for all that, and more.

With gratitude,

Amy Blaymore Paterson
Executive Director

LAND

Moore Farm, Berlin Land Trust, by Honor Lawler, Trust for Public Land

Protecting Connecticut's woods, waters, and working lands requires swift action, flexible capital, and steadfast advocacy. This year, CLCC empowered local land trusts to permanently secure 1,400 acres across the state through Land and Easement Acquisition Program grants for acquisitions and Transaction Assistance Grant funding for due diligence, alongside the launch of the new Forever CT Fund bridge loan program. Coupled with grassroots legislative advocacy for essential state programs like the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) and Urban Green and Community Garden (UGCG) grant programs, these combined investments and policy wins ensure Connecticut's natural landscapes and communities remain green and resilient for generations to come.

"Connecticut's forests, waters, and wildlife are feeling the impacts of climate change and development pressure, while traditional conservation funding becomes less reliable. Land trusts are ready to step up, but they need the right tools to act quickly. The Forever CT Fund loan program helps ensure they can seize critical conservation opportunities when they arise."

– Bill Kraekel
CLCC Board of Directors & Co-Chair of the Forever CT Fund Campaign

Introducing the Forever CT Fund

Speed is often the difference between permanently saving a vulnerable landscape and losing it to development. Funded through the incredible generosity of individual donors, CLCC's new Forever Connecticut Fund provides a vital financial bridge, offering flexible, low-interest loans to land trusts facing urgent conservation transaction deadlines.

By delivering immediate capital when time-sensitive opportunities arise, this groundbreaking initiative empowers land trusts to act as competitive, swift buyers while permanent state grants, federal funding, and private fundraising are finalized. As loans are repaid, capital recycles directly back into the Fund—creating a perpetual, self-sustaining engine for statewide conservation.

Through the Forever CT Fund, land trusts gain the agility, confidence, and financial backing needed to secure critical natural and working lands and build a resilient landscape for the benefit of future generations.

Land & Easement Acquisition Program

CLCC's Land & Easement Acquisition Program (LEAP) enables land trusts to swiftly protect Connecticut's invaluable land and water. The grant program prioritizes land conservation projects that enhance landscape-scale connectivity, promote biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience, protect high-quality water resources, and provide meaningful public access. In the last year, CLCC has awarded $2,566,750 across 18 LEAP grants, leading to the permanent protection of 963 acres across the state. Since its launch in 2025, CLCC has awarded $4,106,469 across 27 LEAP grants, protecting 8,241 acres.

Land Trust Spotlights

The **Berlin Land Trust** was awarded a $127,500 LEAP grant to help acquire 20 acres of the Moore Farm and Stone House property in Kensington. Working in partnership with the **Trust for Public Land**, this acquisition preserves the historic homestead of renowned Hudson River School painter Nelson Augustus Moore. The property features a mosaic of meadow, cliff, wetland, and forested landscapes, and provides nesting sites for threatened bird species such as the Eastern meadowlark and Bobolink. It also provides a critical buffer for the Mattabesset River and connects to nearby trail systems, including the New England National Scenic Trail. CLCC's LEAP grant is being leveraged by public funding from an OSWA grant and the Town of Berlin.

Litchfield Land Trust (LLT) was awarded a $52,034 LEAP grant in 2025 to acquire the 105-acre Vincent Blakely Forest Preserve (formerly known as the Putnam Property), marking one of the most significant acquisitions in its 58-year history. LLT secured this keystone parcel by leveraging funding from a CLCC TAG grant, an OSWA grant, and the federal Highlands Conservation Act. The Blakely preserve opened in 2026, safeguarding 162 acres of core forest, critical climate corridors, and pristine headwater streams supplying regional drinking water. By bridging adjacent open spaces, the property completes a 1,000-acre contiguous protected forest lands near Torrington and expands the trail network to over five miles of public hiking trails.

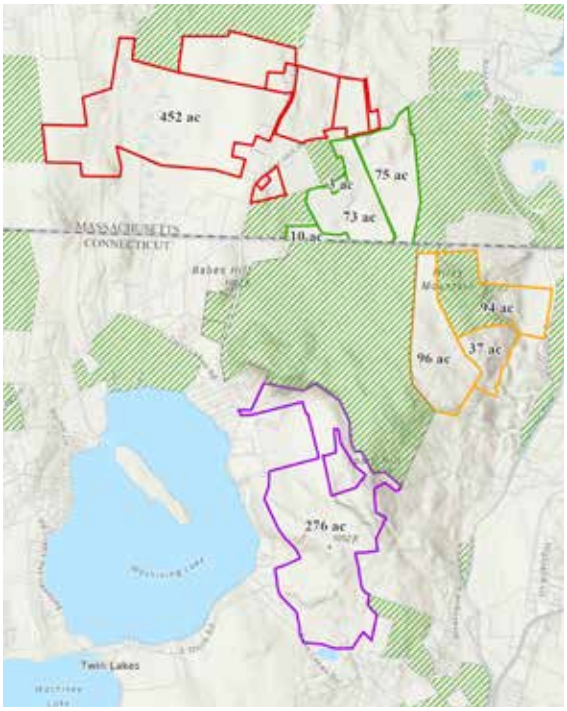
LEAP Grants, October 2025 - September 2026

Land Trust	Project	Town	Acres	Grant
Aspetuck Land Trust	Benedict's Farm	Monroe	62	$200,000
Avalonia Land Conservancy	Charles David Geer Trust	Ledyard	20	$160,000
Berlin Land Trust	Moore Farm & Stone House	Kensington	20	$127,500
Granby Land Trust	Lost Acres Road	North Granby	59	$84,000
Housatonic Valley Association	40 Acres	North Canaan	40	$67,000
Kent Land Trust	Lovig Property	South Kent	62	$215,000
Killingworth Land Trust	Roast Meat Hill Preserve	Killingworth	27	$35,000
Lyme Land Conservation Trust	Cyr Parcel	Lyme	14	$135,000
Middlesex Land Trust	Pistapaug Mountain	Durham	80	$450,000
Old Saybrook Land Trust	Old Saybrook Racquet Club	Old Saybrook	14	$156,000
Roxbury Land Trust	Nelson Property	Roxbury	66	$200,000
Salisbury Association	Miles Mountain	Salisbury	221	$100,000
Sharon Land Trust	Whitetail Forest	Sharon	64	$131.250
Winchester Land Trust	Griswold Property	Winsted	34	$90,000
Winchester Land Trust	Treiber Field	Winchester	15	$40,000
Winchester Land Trust	Rebillard Forest	Winsted	93	$200,000
Winchester Land Trust	Rebillard Farm	Winsted	37	$120,000
Wolcott Land Conservation Trust	Edward & Adelaide Piteo Preserve	Wolcott	35	$56,000
TOTAL (18 Grants)			**963**	**$2,566,750**

Looking Ahead to 2027

CLCC offered the LEAP grant program with funding from and in partnership with The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation (PCLB). Beginning in 2027, PCLB will directly administer LEAP and CLCC will continue to support acquisition projects through its Transaction Assistance Grant Program and its new bridge loan program, the Forever Connecticut Fund.

Representatives of the Cooper Hill Conservation Alliance at Tom's Hill, Salisbury Association Land Trust



Special Award for Excellence in Conservation Collaboration

Cooper Hill Conservation Alliance

The **Cooper Hill Conservation Alliance** earned CLCC's *Special Award for Excellence in Conservation Collaboration* for a monumental cross-border effort that permanently protected over 1,200 acres of farmland, core forest, and critical habitats spanning Salisbury, CT, and Sheffield, MA. Uniting eight regional partners—the **Salisbury Association Land Trust**, **Housatonic Valley Association**, **Sheffield Land Trust**, **The Nature Conservancy** (CT and MA), **Northwest CT Land Conservancy**, **Mass Audubon**, and **The Trustees of Reservations**—the coalition leaped into action when a massive swath of contiguous land suddenly went on the market. By securing key parcels like Pine Island Farm, Tom's Hill, and Miles Mountain, the Alliance successfully navigated complex multi-state funding to safeguard a continuous forest corridor linking the Housatonic Valley all the way to Canada.

Representatives of Warren Land Trust

Excellence in Conservation Organization Award

Warren Land Trust

Led by President Rebecca Neary and Vice President Elizabeth Chandler, the all-volunteer **Warren Land Trust** (WLT) earned CLCC's *Excellence in Conservation Organization Award* for permanently protecting over 350 acres across the Tanner Farm and Mountain Lake Preserve. These complex, multi-year acquisitions safeguard prime farmland, cold-water fisheries, and an expanding 1,200-acre core forest block within the vital Lake Waramaug watershed. Accomplished through collaborative partnerships with state, federal, and regional organizations, WLT's monumental achievement expands public recreation while securing lasting ecological health and wildlife connectivity for the region.

Transaction Assistance Grant Program

CLCC's Transaction Assistance Grant Program (TAG) helps land trusts cover essential due diligence costs such as land surveys, appraisals, and environmental assessments. In the last year, CLCC awarded 22 TAG grants totaling **$206,060**, facilitating the **protection of 2,493 acres**. Since launching the TAG program in 2022, CLCC has provided a total of 93 TAG grants totaling $737,101, helping land trusts protect 7,788 acres.

Land Trust Spotlights

CLCC awarded **Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust** a TAG grant to complete a survey of the Grzesiak Property in Woodbury. This 23-acre forested parcel is critical to aggregating two of Flanders' most active preserves—the Van Vleck Farm and Nature Sanctuary and the Fleming Preserve—creating a continuous 250-acre wildlife corridor. The acquisition will allow for the expansion of the trust's teaching campus and its popular maple syrup program, while protecting the cold-water habitat of Galpine Brook, which supports native brook trout.

CLCC awarded **Canton Land Conservation Trust** a TAG grant to conduct a survey and complete title and recording work for the Bristol Acquisition, a 31-acre forested parcel in Canton. This project will expand the trust's signature 50-acre Pratt Preserve to establish a contiguous mature forest block of over 80 acres. The land provides an essential wildlife corridor along the southern approach to Ratlum Mountain and protects the Cherry Brook watershed—a major tributary of the Farmington River. Once acquired, volunteer trail crews will extend the existing preserve trail network onto this new open space, increasing outdoor recreation opportunities for families.

TAG Grants, October 2025 - September 2026

Land Trust	Project	Town	Acres	Grant
Aspetuck Land Trust	Benedict's Farm	Monroe	62	$7,245
Aton Forest	Spaulding Pond Preserve	Norfolk	985	$7,000
Avalonia Land Conservancy	Kincaid Property	North Stonington	100	$20,000
Avon Land Trust	76 Acres	Avon & Simsbury	76	$5,724
Canton Land Conservation Trust	Bristol Property	Canton	31	$11,560
Colebrook Land Conservancy	Corliss Mountain Preserve	Colebrook	100	$1,600
Farmington Land Trust	Petrauskas Property	Farmington	27	$2,200
Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust	Grzesiak Parcel	Woodbury	23	$10,800
Granby Land Trust	Mountain Road	North Granby	26	$18,000
Housatonic Valley Association	106 Acres	North Canaan	106	$18,000
Joshua's Trust	Upton Road Property	Ashford	292	$18,000
Kent Land Trust (2 grants)	Lovig Property	South Kent	62	$10,601
Litchfield Land Trust	Montfort House	Litchfield	25	$2,000
Middlesex Land Trust	Wilkes Road Property	East Hampton	2.1	$1,400
New Hartford Land Trust	Stub Hollow West	New Hartford	37	$900
Norfolk Land Trust	Betteridge Property	Norfolk	178	$8,910
Salisbury Association	White Hollow	Salisbury	63	$4,000
Sharon Land Trust	Whitetail Forest	Sharon	64	$20,000
Steep Rock Association	Cornell Parcels Acquisition	Washington	145	$20,000
Wilton Land Conservation Trust	Henry Bullinger Preserve	Wilton	40	$9,000
Winchester Land Trust	Rebillard Farm & Forest	Winsted	130	$9,210
TOTAL (22 Grants)			**2,493**	**$206,060**

Advocacy & Conservation Policy

Land Conservation Day in Hartford

Held on Earth Day at the State Capitol in Hartford, Land Conservation Day brought together land trusts, state leaders, and over 40 environmental partners to celebrate statewide conservation achievements and rally support for essential state funding programs like the OSWA grant program—which has protected over 48,000 acres to date—and UGCG grant program. Led by CLCC, the event featured remarks from Governor Ned Lamont, state agency leaders, and legislators, all reinforcing Executive Director Amy Blaymore Paterson's message that protecting Connecticut's natural and working lands requires passionate, ongoing collaboration and financial investment. Beyond celebrating conservation success stories, the event served as a powerful advocacy launchpad, mobilizing support for legislation to fund critical CT DEEP grant staffing, expand urban green space access in environmental justice communities, and streamline conservation land closings across Connecticut.

CLCC is grateful for support from a diverse group of partners, including land trusts, environmental organizations, and state agencies. Organizations sharing common goals for Land Conservation Day include:

Appalachian Mountain Club | Aspetuck Land Trust | Berlin Land Trust | CT Department of Agriculture | CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection | CT Forest & Park Association | CT League of Conservation Voters | CT Soil and Water Conservation Council | Cornwall Conservation Trust | East Haddam Land Trust | Essex Land Trust | Farmington Land Trust | Great Meadows Conservation Trust | Greenwich Audubon Center | Guilford Land Conservation Trust | Housatonic Valley Association | Interreligious Eco-Justice Network | Kent Land Trust | Land For Good | Lower CT River Land Trust | National Audubon Society | Norfolk Land Trust | Northeast Organic Farmers Association of CT | North Haven Land Trust | Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy | Office of Senator Chris Murphy | Old Newgate Coon Club | Radiance Gardens | River COG | Rivers Alliance of CT | Salisbury Association Land Trust | Save The Sound | Shelton Land Conservation Trust | Sierra Club of Connecticut | The Nature Conservancy | Town of Easton | Trust For Public Land | Winchester Land Trust | Working Lands Alliance

Engaging Local & State Leaders in Conservation Conversations

Each year, CLCC and land trusts across the state host elected officials and community members on land conserved through OSWA grants and other state, federal, and local investments. These *Conservation Conversations* are opportunities for conservation allies to connect their work at the State Capitol and in the halls of municipal government to the natural and working lands that their constituents will enjoy and cherish for generations to come. Thank you to the **Darien Land Trust**, **Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy**, **Simsbury Land Trust**, and **Warren Land Trust** for hosting *Conservation Conversations* at their preserves.

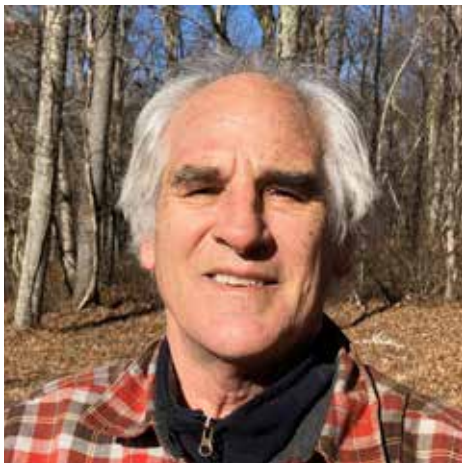
Tanner Farm, Warren Land Trust

Advocacy Goal: Support Funding & Staff For Land Conservation & Farmland Preservation

Policy Priority	Progress & Results
Ensure consistent bond funding for state land conservation programs	CLCC advocated for continued investment in key CT DEEP land conservation programs, including OSWA and UGCG. The budget adjustments maintained existing 2025 bond authorizations, including $10 million annually for OSWA. The State Bond Commission will still need to allocate previously authorized bond funds to support the next OSWA and UGCG grant round. CLCC will continue to advocate for those allocations as the process moves forward. The Connecticut General Assembly also approved several targeted amendments to OSWA that improve administrative efficiency and make the UGCG grant program more accessible to a broader pool of applicants.
Expand CT DEEP's capacity	Despite broad advocacy support, including robust attendance at Land Conservation Day at the Capitol, the final version of the 2026 budget adjustments did not include funding for the requested new Land Acquisition and Management staff positions. CLCC will advocate strongly for these positions in the next biennial budget.
Protect the integrity of the Community Investment Act	CLCC joined partners across multiple sectors to protect the Community Investment Act and ensure the funds stay intact and dedicated to supporting state programs for open space, farmland/dairy, historic properties, and affordable housing.
Support CT Department of Agriculture's farmland access program	Thanks to strong advocacy in partnership with Working Lands Alliance, budget adjustments authorized funding for an additional agency staff position to coordinate the new farmland access grant program, including financial assistance to land trusts, new, beginning, and historically marginalized farmers, and other tools to increase farmland access opportunities for farmers seeking land.

PEOPLE

Behind every acre protected by land trusts are dedicated volunteers, staff, and community leaders whose passion drives land conservation. CLCC strengthened this human infrastructure by providing tailored technical assistance, peer learning retreats, and specialized training that equipped conservation champions to navigate complex operational and legal challenges. By cultivating connections and fostering partnerships statewide, CLCC helped land trusts to build the enduring capacity needed to protect and steward Connecticut's natural and working lands for generations to come.



Katchen Coley Award for Excellence in Conservation

Anthony Irving, Lyme Land Trust

For over four decades, Anthony Irving has served as a steadfast advocate for conservation in Lyme, helping to permanently protect more than 4,100 acres through town open space acquisitions, land trust holdings, and conservation easements. Beyond his multi-term presidency with the **Lyme Land Trust**, Tony was a foundational leader in securing the federal Wild & Scenic Partnership River designation for the Eightmile River, where he continues to lead watershed monitoring and community stewardship efforts. Honored with the *Katchen Coley Award for Excellence in Conservation*, Tony's enduring legacy reflects his deep commitment to protecting the region's land, wildlife, and community.

Conservation Hero Award

Elisabeth Moore, Connecticut Farmland Trust

As Executive Director of the **Connecticut Farmland Trust** since 2004, Elisabeth Moore has spent more than two decades championing agricultural preservation and has successfully protected 75 family farms. Her distinguished career includes managing major watershed and community protection initiatives at the Trust for Public Land and the Maryland Environmental Trust, as well as dedicated board leadership with the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, Working Lands Alliance, CitySeed, and The Claire C. Bennitt Watershed Fund. As she begins her retirement, Elisabeth leaves an enduring legacy of steadfast advocacy, regional collaboration, and permanent protection for Connecticut's natural and working lands.

Hope, Inspiration & Action:
CT Land Conservation Conference Highlights

The 42nd annual Connecticut Land Conservation Conference convened over 650 land trust staff, volunteers, environmental professionals, and advocates for a transformative day of learning, connection, and renewal. Keynote speaker Wanjiku "Wawa" Gatheru, founder of Black Girl Environmentalist and native of Connecticut's Quiet Corner, delivered an inspiring message on building an inclusive, empathetic climate movement that deepens community connections to the land. The conference served as the launchpad for CLCC's $1.5 million Forever Connecticut Fund bridge loan program, celebrated state Conservation Heroes and Excellence in Conservation Award recipients, and offered 56 specialized workshops across seven tracks covering cutting-edge topics from satellite monitoring and nature-based solutions to habitat stewardship and strategic fundraising.

SAVE THE DATE Connecticut Land Conservation Conference

March 20, 2027 Quinnipiac University

Building Land Trust Capacity

Conservation in Connecticut is powered by more than 100 land trusts deeply rooted in their communities. While this grassroots network drives local passion, nearly 75% of these organizations operate as all-volunteer teams with annual budgets under $100,000. In an increasingly complex environmental, financial, and legal landscape, limited capacity remains a persistent hurdle. CLCC bridges this gap by delivering targeted technical assistance, peer leadership networks, and practical resources to help land trusts to deliver on their mission.

Technical Assistance for Land Trusts

Advanced Collaboration and Merger Assistance Program: Connecticut's land trusts have a wide range of organizational capacities, resources, and expertise. Some find that they can be more effective or efficient by collaborating with neighboring land trusts through joint programs, shared resources, or organizational merger. Last year, CLCC continued to guide land trusts through structural realignments and mergers that pool capacity and ensure perpetual land protection so that natural and working lands remain free and green forever.

Navigating State Grants: In partnership with CT DEEP, CLCC hosted info sessions on the OSWA and UGCG grant programs. This technical assistance is helping land trusts access the core state funding streams that fuel conservation projects. Last year, these two programs accounted for $11.8 million in grants that protected 1,243 acres and funded 15 urban green spaces across Connecticut.

> **"Mergers are a transformative process where land trusts consider not just what they've built individually, but what they can achieve collectively to create something stronger, more resilient, and poised for the future."**
>
> **– Aaron Lefland**
> Deputy Director, CLCC

Stronger Together: Colchester & Salem Land Trusts Join Avalonia Land Conservancy

In a landmark victory for regional conservation, the **Colchester Land Trust** and **Salem Land Trust** entered a strategic three-way merger with **Avalonia Land Conservancy** to consolidate resources and scale stewardship capacity across southeastern Connecticut. By uniting Colchester's 379 acres and Salem's 1,354 acres with Avalonia's existing 5,621 acres, the unified organization immediately protects over 7,300 acres across 111 preserves—with pending acquisitions projected to quickly push total protected land past 8,000 acres. Transitioning into local "Chapters" of Avalonia, Colchester and Salem maintained their volunteer identity, local board representation, and beloved community events while unlocking professional staffing, shared stewardship equipment, $25,000 in annual administrative savings, and over $500,000 added to long-term endowments to guarantee perpetual land protection. CLCC guided the partnership process through its Advanced Collaboration & Merger Assistance Program.

Webinars

Keeping the Promise: Core Skills for Effective Land Stewardship: Every conservation easement and fee property represents a lasting promise to protect the land's conservation values forever. To help land trusts deliver on that promise, CLCC and the **Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy** created *Keeping the Promise: Core Skills for Effective Land Stewardship*, a six-part webinar series that focused on the foundational elements of stewardship: conducting meaningful annual monitoring, responding effectively to encroachments, collaborating with natural resource professionals, integrating remote sensing tools into stewardship workflows, and using national Terrafirma claim trends to proactively manage risk.

Strategic Approaches to Invasive Plant Management: As any land steward knows, not every invasive plant can be eradicated. This webinar explored how land trusts can make thoughtful, strategic decisions about when and why to manage invasive plants, acknowledging both ecological realities and limited capacity. It covered prioritization frameworks, such as protecting high-quality habitats or targeting early infestations, and explored cases where leaving some invasives in place may be more practical than active management.

Peter B. Cooper Award for Excellence in Conservation Law

Keith R. Ainsworth

CLCC proudly presented the 2026 *Peter B. Cooper Award for Excellence in Conservation Law* to Attorney Keith R. Ainsworth. For over 25 years, Keith has been a fearless conservation advocate, combining deep environmental science expertise with exceptional litigation skills to represent land trusts, municipalities, and individuals in complex land-use matters. Beyond the courtroom, he generously shares his wisdom through CLCC workshops, including the ever-popular "Land Trust Law School" and consultations, empowering land trusts to confidently defend their protected lands. CLCC and Connecticut's conservation community offer its deepest gratitude to Keith for his extraordinary service and unwavering dedication to protecting the state's environment and natural landscapes.

Presidents Retreat at the deKoven House, Middletown

Tools & Resources

Equipping conservation leaders with turnkey tools does more than streamline daily operations—it turns grassroots passion into lasting community impact. CLCC's efforts to strengthen land trust capacity saved local leaders hundreds of administrative hours, reduced legal and financial risks, and helped them unlock critical funding. This allowed land trust volunteers and staff to focus on what matters most: delivering direct, everyday benefits to their communities. When land trust volunteers and staff have the tools to succeed, communities gain cleaner drinking water, expanded public trail networks, improved climate resilience, and preserved local farmland.

Land Trusts Deliver for Connecticut: CLCC produced a new communications and advocacy resource for land conservation that details the vital role of Connecticut's 100+ land trusts in delivering economic, health, and climate returns for people and communities.

Collaboration Pathways Guide: CLCC published a practical framework for land trust boards seeking to evaluate shared staffing, joint programs, and strategic partnerships.

Grants Database: CLCC continued to connect local organizations to statewide, federal, and private funding opportunities. The database covers CLCC's grants for land trusts, as well as grants for farms, municipalities, schools, and nonprofits.

Conservation Job Board & Service Directory: CLCC continued to maintain centralized hubs connecting land trusts with top conservation talent and specialized legal, land use, and environmental contractors.

Thank You, Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust

This year's Executive Directors' retreat was especially meaningful because it marked the first time CLCC hosted the gathering on-site at a land trust property. We are deeply grateful to **Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust** for welcoming the group to their campus in Woodbury. The setting added something special to the day. With clear skies and fresh snow on the ground, participants spent part of the lunch break outdoors—walking Flanders' accessible trail, learning about the property, and visiting their maple sugaring operation. Being together on conserved land served as a powerful reminder of why this work matters.

Leadership Convenings & Peer Networks

Executive Directors' Retreat: CLCC gathered land trust executive directors from across the state to cultivate collaboration and tackle common challenges. Discussions focused on navigating sustainable organizational growth, preventing staff burnout, expanding equitable outdoor access, and defining the next phase of land trust work.

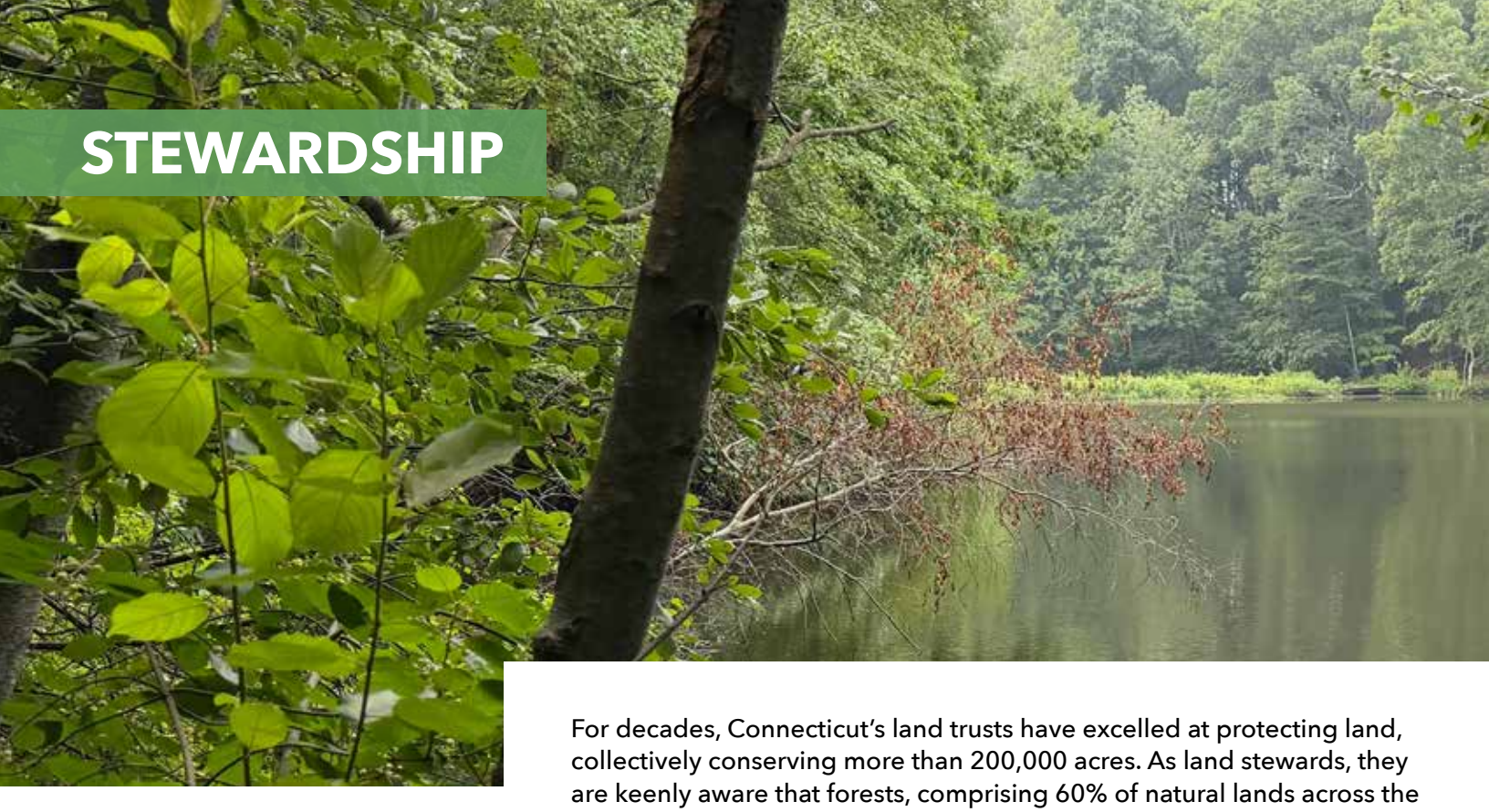
Presidents' & Treasurers' Summits: CLCC welcomed land trust leaders from across Connecticut for its annual Presidents' and Treasurers' Summits—two gatherings focused on strengthening organizational capacity, sharing lessons learned, and planning for long-term sustainability. Though each summit explored role-specific challenges, they both provided participants with practical tools, fresh ideas, and, most importantly, a stronger network of peers to call upon when challenges arise.

Regional Gatherings: Through regional convenings in Northern Connecticut and Greater New Haven, CLCC created opportunities for conservation leaders to make new connections, reinforce existing ones, and explore opportunities to collaborate across town boundaries. What made these sessions meaningful was not any single tactic or takeaway, but the time and space to step back, compare experiences, and think collectively about how to move forward together.

"CLCC's Northern Connecticut regional gathering was enlightening on multiple fronts. We gained valuable insights into CLCC resources that will make our land trust more effective, learned how neighboring organizations navigate board capacity and mergers, and discovered new community programs. I'm delighted we're members and look forward to our continued partnership."

– **Peter R. DeMallie**
President, South Windsor Land Conservation Trust

STEWARDSHIP



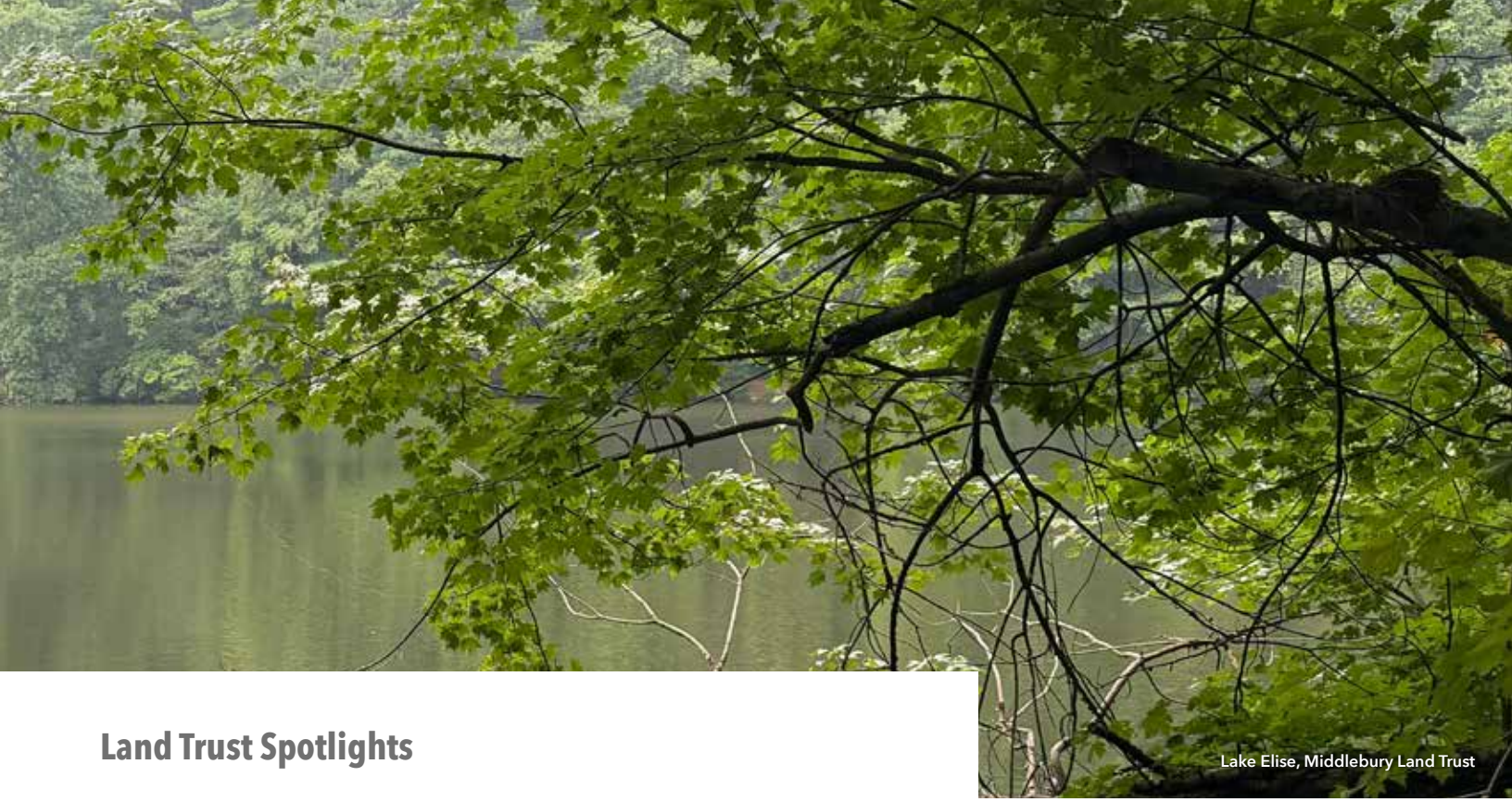
For decades, Connecticut's land trusts have excelled at protecting land, collectively conserving more than 200,000 acres. As land stewards, they are keenly aware that forests, comprising 60% of natural lands across the state, are now navigating unprecedented challenges. From increasingly intense extreme weather and drought to the pervasive threat of invasive species, these pressures underscore a changing landscape. While protecting land remains essential, a shifting climate calls for deeper consideration of how we care for these protected places.

Advancing Climate-Smart Stewardship Practices

CLCC's two Climate-Smart Stewardship Grant Programs aim to increase the number of acres in Connecticut managed with climate-smart stewardship practices, and to encourage future use of climate-smart practices among Connecticut's land trusts.

CLCC's Land Stewardship Grant Program was awarded and administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture through its Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Grant Program. Over the last two years, CLCC awarded 27 planning and implementation grants to land trusts to increase their lands' capacity to store and sequester carbon, support biodiversity and healthy habitats, withstand disturbances, and adapt to changing conditions.

In 2026, CLCC launched its new Forest Stewardship Grant Program. The re-grant program was awarded and administered by CT DEEP with funding from the U.S. Forest Service and its Forest Stewardship Program, under the Inflation Reduction Act. It creates an opportunity for land trusts to implement the forest management plans developed through CLCC's Land Stewardship grant program.



Lake Elise, Middlebury Land Trust

Land Trust Spotlights

Bent of the River Audubon Center proposed to improve bird habitat across a 90-acre section of its 700-acre Sanctuary. The parcel features a 1.35-mile stretch of the Pomperaug River, containing floodplain forest, forested wetlands, shrublands, and critical vernal pool complexes. It is under severe ecological stress, having been heavily impacted by intense weather events, including a devastating tornado in 2018 and recurring floods, as well as canopy loss from the emerald ash borer and hemlock woolly adelgid.

The Center first created a forest management plan with the support of CLCC's Climate-Smart Land Stewardship Grant Program. CLCC's new Forest Stewardship Grant will enable the Center to implement that plan. Its primary goals are to control invasive species and perform targeted tree thinning to remove damaged growth, giving space for natural and assisted regeneration of native young forest. This hands-on management will rebuild a dense, multi-layered forest that helps this important waterway while providing critical habitat for woodland songbirds and other wildlife.

Burlington Land Trust (BLT) proposed improving the overall health of its 11-acre forest on Vineyard Road. The parcel is unique because its dense tree canopy and running water create a cooling microclimate around Burlington Brook (Bunnell Brook), which supports a native brook trout population and features the scenic Seven Steps Falls waterfall.

BLT earlier created a forest management plan with the support of CLCC's Land Stewardship Grant Program. This new Forest Stewardship Grant will enable the land trust to implement that plan by tackling invasive plant populations and carefully removing certain declining hemlock and ash trees to plant native trees and shrubs, restoring plant diversity and helping the woods recover from past disturbances. These intentional plantings will strengthen the stream's edge, boost long-term carbon capture, and provide essential food and cover for wildlife.

Elizabeth Manus, Executive Director of the Darien Land Trust, at Olson Woods & Piacentini Preserve

Climate-Smart Forest Stewardship Grants Awarded in 2026

Land Trust	Project	Town	Grant
Avon Land Trust Land Trust	Lasbury Park Forest Stand Improvement	Avon	$77,355
Bent of the River Audubon Center	Pomperaug River Riparian & Post-Tornado Restoration	Southbury	$100,000
Burlington Land Trust	Seven Steps Falls Forest Health & Conifer Restoration	Burlington	$32,188
Shelton Land Conservation Trust	Riparian Restoration for Resiliency at Nicholdale Farm	Shelton	$78,652
Southbury Land Trust	Phillips-Lovdal Farm Preserve Forest Management	Southbury	$100,000
Steep Rock Association	Hidden Valley Preserve Forest Management	Washington	$100,000
TOTAL (6 Grants)			**$488,195**

Looking Ahead to 2027

Land trusts funded by the Climate-Smart Land Stewardship Grant Program are on track to complete their planning and implementation grants and report on their accomplishments in 2027. New forest stewardship grantees will be in the early stages of implementing their forest management plan. CLCC looks forward to sharing highlights and lessons learned along the way.

In 2027 CLCC will also be launching a new stewardship program that enables land trusts to access Upstream Tech's Lens satellite monitoring platform. The initiative will provide access to high-resolution satellite imagery, automated change detection tools, and technical support to enhance land trusts' capacity to monitor their protected parcels.

Climate-Smart Advocacy

Advocacy Goal: Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions & Resilience

What Are Nature-Based Solutions?

Nature-based solutions (NBS) refer to "a wide variety of actions and policies implemented in natural and managed ecosystems that ultimately provide benefits to communities through reduced flooding, retained ecosystem services, sustainable economies, and many other desirable results such as risk reduction during extreme weather events" (CT DEEP). Examples include land conservation and restoration, wetlands, riparian buffers, habitat protection, invasive species management, and other natural approaches that help ecosystems sequester and store carbon, support biodiversity, improve climate resilience, and protect public health.

> "Public Act 25-125 and the NBS evaluation mark an important step forward in Connecticut's commitment to integrating nature-based solutions across all facets of government. Now is the time to build on that momentum, including through increased and sustained investment in the conservation of forests, trees, and other natural and working lands that absorb and store millions of tons of carbon pollution each year while protecting biodiversity, strengthening our economy, and making Connecticut more resilient.."
>
> – **Amy Blaymore Paterson**, Executive Director, CLCC,
> via CT DEEP's announcement, "New Study Highlights Benefits of Nature-Based Solutions in DEEP Funding Programs, Further Opportunities," July 1, 2026.

Policy Priority	Progress & Results
Make nature-based solutions a priority and preferred alternative in state policies, goals, and legislation	CLCC continued to lead and coordinate advocacy related to Public Act 12-125 Section 12 by helping to compile information evaluating how to both integrate and advance NBS in Connecticut, including consideration of best practices that encourage NBS. The public listening sessions to review the report and provide public comment proceeded in May, followed by the final report's publication in July.
Protect public lands	CLCC successfully opposed two proposals that would have conveyed portions of state forest land for non-conservation purposes. Protecting the integrity of Connecticut's State Parks, State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and conservation easements remains a core organizational priority.

Madeline Regan Preserve, Joshua's Trust

Hands-On Stewardship Workshops

Prescribed Fire for Land Trusts: **Joshua's Trust** (JT), the **Norcross Wildlife Foundation**, and CLCC hosted a specialized, hands-on workshop and a field tour of JT's Madeline Regan Preserve in Tolland. Designed for land conservation organizations looking to add prescribed fire to their management toolkits, the event drew a passionate crowd eager to learn how controlled burns can restore habitats, control invasive species, and supercharge local biodiversity. JT's efforts to build expertise and deploy prescribed fire as a stewardship tool are being supported by a Climate-Smart Land Stewardship Grant from CLCC.

Invasive Plant Management: **Aspetuck Land Trust** and CLCC hosted land stewards at its Trout Brook Valley Preserve to show how organized, persistent work with willing volunteers can make a significant difference. This field workshop brought together a dedicated group representing three town land trusts and created a collaborative space for volunteer-led land trusts to connect with regional neighbors and share tried-and-true invasive management methods.

Climate-Smart Forest Management: The **Woodbridge Park Association** (WPA) and CLCC hosted a tour of WPA's Alice Newton Street Memorial Park, highlighting an innovative Climate-Smart Land Stewardship grant project. Supported by CLCC, this project actively treats diseased American beech trees and invasive plants across an eight-acre site to improve long-term carbon storage, habitat value, and forest resilience. In partnership with the **CT Agricultural Experiment Station**, the park functions as a living laboratory comparing active silvicultural methods against an untouched control section. Through descriptive trail signage and transparent community outreach, the initiative demystifies scientific forest management while providing a replicable blueprint for climate-smart stewardship across Connecticut.

Sperry Preserve, Middlebury Land Trust

Nightingale Forest, Wyndham Land Trust

Sperry Preserve, Middlebury Land Trust

Long Wharf Nature Preserve, Gather New Haven

Great Mountain Forest

COMMUNITY

Youth from the Afri-Caribbean Cultral Center at Lake Elise, Middlebury Land Trust

Community-Centered Conservation aims to use protected land to address local needs like access to nature, affordable housing, and food insecurity. CLCC is inspired by the creative ways land trusts, community organizations, municipalities, and allies are working together to make Connecticut's communities stronger.

Introducing Pathways to Nature

The land conservation movement often focuses on large-scale landscapes and ecological connectivity. People are sometimes left out of the picture. Nature is presumed to be for everyone, but in reality, that's not always the case. To bridge this gap, CLCC launched its *Pathways to Nature* initiative in March 2026 with a mission to foster equitable access to nature and conservation opportunities by cultivating long-term, collaborative relationships between local land trusts and diverse communities across Connecticut.

Dismantling Barriers to Foster Belonging: *Pathways to Nature* is designed to dismantle historical barriers to outdoor access and welcome populations that have been underserved by traditional land conservation-including people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, youth, faith-based groups, people with disabilities, and veterans. To ensure physical accessibility, the initiative provides vital transportation support, removing one of the most persistent hurdles preventing urban communities from exploring conserved lands.

A Unique Three-Way Partnership Model: At the heart of *Pathways to Nature* is a foundational three-way collaboration between a land trust, a community-based organization, and a community field guide. By recruiting and mentoring local naturalists, historians, and birders as field guides, *Pathways to Nature* ensures participants see themselves represented in conservation leadership. This intentional mentorship model also builds the long-term capacity of local land trusts to sustain inclusive outdoor programming independently in the future.

Pathways in Action

Some of the ways people are engaging in *Pathways to Nature* include:

- *Bird & Hikes*
- *Bird & Bikes*
- *Art & Hikes*
- *Community Science*
- *Guided History Tours*

Land trusts, community organizations, youth groups, schools, and citizen field guides interested in being a part of the *Pathways to Nature* initiative are are encouraged to reach out to CLCC.

Land Trust Spotlight

Forest Floor Masterpieces at Lake Elise with Middlebury Land Trust

At the **Middlebury Land Trust** Lake Elise property, an Art & Hike event with youth from the **Afro-Caribbean Cultural Center** summer camp reimagined the forest floor as an outdoor studio. Inspired by the documentary *Rivers and Tides*, which showcases the ephemeral art of Andy Goldsworthy, youth participants used the landscape as both a classroom and a canvas. They investigated the local ecosystem before splitting into teams to create transient masterpieces from found materials. Creative highlights included architectural domes engineered from woven twigs, concentric stars formed by arranging branches into geometric designs, and Minecraft-inspired tools built with the dried stalks of invasive Japanese knotweed.

This outing was part of a series of events supported by a grant to CLCC by the **Connecticut Community Foundation** designed to foster a connection to nature among Waterbury area residents. By covering costs associated with transportation, these grant-funded programs demonstrated that conservation is not merely about lines on a map, but about creating equitable, joyful spaces where people can build lasting relationships and a sense of belonging in the natural world.

"You're telling me a beaver caused all this water to be here? They cut down trees with their teeth and built that dam with sticks and mud? Seriously?"

– Student
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater New Haven

Land Trust Spotlight

Discovering Magic in Nature with Bethany Land Trust

In Greater New Haven, **Bethany Land Trust** collaborated with the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater New Haven** to introduce youth to suburban preserves like Mendell's Folly and bring land trusts volunteers into urban greenspaces like New Haven's Edgewood Park. With transportation supported by a grant to CLCC from **The Claire C. Bennitt Watershed Fund**, the partners eliminated barriers to the outdoors and bridged municipal boundaries to connect urban youth with regional natural spaces.

The immersive opportunities to explore wetlands, discover wildlife, and experience the wonder of nature sparked young people's curiosity, fostered environmental stewardship, and promoted outdoor equity. The collaboration is a great example of how community-centered conservation creates inclusive spaces where young people build lasting, meaningful connections with the natural world.

Connecting to National Movements & Community Science: Participating in nationwide events and campaigns provided a powerful framework for land trusts to build trust, foster representation, and ensure outdoor recreation feels welcoming and inclusive.

***Black Birders Week*:** Celebrated nationwide during the last week of May, CLCC co-organized unique excursions that brought together expert and novice birders of color. These included a Bird & Bike with **Gather New Haven** that brought 30 cyclists to New Haven's Sandy Point Bird Sanctuary, a Bird & Hike in Hamden along the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, and a partnership with the **GirlTrek** Waterbury chapter and **Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust** at Fulton Park.

***City Nature Challenge*:** This annual, global, four-day community science project mobilized people to document local flora and fauna using the iNaturalist platform. CLCC partnered with the **Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury** for a guided walk at Addison Bog & Woodlands, where participants scanned a rare Black Spruce bog and logged species ranging from spring wildflowers to a calling pair of Barred owls. Collectively, participants across the Hartford/New Haven County project documented 1,157 species, including threatened species like Piping Plover and Osprey.

***Latino Conservation Week*:** Celebrated nationwide in September, Latino Conservation Week brought people and nature together to honor and reaffirm Latinos' passion for enjoying and preserving the outdoors. To celebrate, CLCC co-organized a Bird & Hike with **Latino Outdoors CT** and **Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust** at the Whittemore Sanctuary in Woodbury.

Excellence in Community Engagement Award

East Haddam Land Trust & East Haddam Library System, with special recognition of Gaynell Meij & Evelyn Morgen

Where do you go to read about ecology or have a conversation about the natural and cultural history of moss?

If you're in the area, the **East Haddam Land Trust** and **East Haddam Library System** have a great answer: a community meeting room in St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

Founded in 2024 by Gaynell Meij of the land trust and Evelyn Morgen of the library system, their "Words from the Woods" Book Circle connects literature with land stewardship by pairing monthly nature-themed readings with guided hikes across local preserves. The innovative initiative earned CLCC's *Excellence in Community Engagement Award* for its community impact and creative approach to cultivating lifelong conservation values.

Conservation Hero Award

Doris Johnson, CT DEEP Environmental Justice Program

If CLCC's *Pathways to Nature* initiative were to be embodied in a person, Doris Johnson would be a great model. As Outreach and Education Coordinator for CT DEEP's Environmental Justice Program, Doris Johnson empowered over 10,000 Connecticut youth while guiding communities through critical environmental and public health challenges.

Throughout her distinguished career, she shared her leadership across numerous civic and conservation organizations, including serving on CLCC's Board of Directors from 2020 to 2024. As she retires, Doris leaves an inspiring legacy of environmental justice advocacy, youth mentorship, and a steadfast commitment to community-driven land conservation.

Thank You

Thank you to the land trusts, community-based organizations, and field guides who worked together to connect people to nature across Connecticut.

Pathways to Nature Partners	Location
Sierra Club CT, Black Wing Coalition	Ancient Burial Ground Association, Hartford
Bethany Land Trust, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater New Haven, Black Wing Coalition	Mendell's Folly Nature Preserve, Bethany
Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury	Addison Bog & Woodlands, Glastonbury
Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust, Middlebury Land Trust, Afro-Caribbean Cultural Center	Sperry Preserve, Middlebury
Gather New Haven, Black and Brown Soul Cycle, NHCAT	Long Wharf Nature Preserve, New Haven
African American Society, Save the Sound, Sovereign Land Trust	Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Hamden
Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust, GirlTrek	Fulton Park, Waterbury
Wyndham Land Trust, NAACP Windham / Willimantic, Pomfret Historical Society	Nightingale Forest, Pomfret
Bethany Land Trust, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater New Haven, New Haven Bird Club	Edgewood Park, New Haven
Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust, Middlebury Land Trust, Afro-Caribbean Cultural Center	Lake Elise, Middlebury
Trust for Public Land, University of Bridgeport Sustainability Department	Seaside Beach, Bridgeport
Great Mountain Forest, Norfolk Land Trust, Sierra Club CT, Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, Norfolk United Church of Christ	Great Mountain Forest, Norfolk
Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust, Latino Outdoors CT	Whittemore Sanctuary, Woodbury
Land Trust of West Haven, Black & Brown Soul Cycle	Sandy Point Bird Sanctuary, West Haven
Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust	Van Vleck Farm & Nature Sanctuary, Woodbury

ABOUT US

Progress Towards a Strategic Vision

Our strategic goals for 2023-2027 include:

1. **Dramatically increase the pace and amount of land protected in Connecticut**
2. **Build a strong, sustainable land conservation community with capacity to permanently conserve and steward natural and working lands**
3. **Enhance permanence of protected lands**
4. **Integrate diversity, equity, inclusivity, and environmental justice into all aspects of land conservation**
5. **Strengthen CLCC's organizational capacity and sustainability to lead the state's land conservation community**

Thank you for being a crucial part of this journey.

Looking Ahead to 2027

CLCC's current strategic plan runs through 2027. In the next year, CLCC will be evaluating progress against its current plan and setting new goals and targets for the next five years. Stay tuned for updates.

Our Team

Officers & Board of Directors

Gwen Marrion, *Chair*
Bolton

Jonelle Reynolds, *Vice-Chair*
Coventry

Eric Hammerling, *Secretary*
West Hartford

Richard Newton, *Treasurer*
Mystic

Sue Cope Brittell
Simsbury

Akiebia Hicks
West Hartford

Bill Kraekel
Easton

Eric Lindquist
Griswold

Elisabeth Moore
New Haven

Rebecca Neary
Warren

Catherine Rawson
New Preston

Charlie Stebbins
Fairfield

Celina Vansetti
Killingworth

Staff

Amy Blaymore Paterson
Executive Director

Ricky Bentley
Program Manager

Yaw O. Darko
Director, Grants & Programs

Vanessa Daye
Community Conservation Coordinator

Hana Watanabe
Sandy Breslin Conservation Fellow (2026-27)

Aaron Lefland
Deputy Director

Michael J. Sikora
Communications Manager

Brett Thompson
Office & Operations Manager

New Staff Members: Welcome to CLCC, **Hana Watanabe**, 2026-2027 Sandy Breslin Conservation Fellow.

Thank You: Thank you to **Rebecca Dorsey**, 2025-2026 Sandy Breslin Conservation Fellow. We are grateful for your contribution to our mission and vision for land conservation in Connecticut.

Is Your Land Trust A Member?

CLCC's grant programs, capacity-building programs, and technical assistance are available to land trust members. To learn more about membership, visit ctconservation.org/membership.

Land Trust Members

Plus Members △ Welcome to our newest members!

Aspetuck Land Trust
Aton Forest
Avalonia Land Conservancy
Avon Land Trust
Berlin Land Trust
Bethany Land Trust
Bethlehem Land Trust
Bolton Land Trust
Branford Land Trust
Bridgewater Land Trust
Burlington Land Trust △
Canton Land Conservation Trust
Cheshire Land Trust
Chester Land Trust
Clinton Land Conservation Trust
Colchester Land Trust
Colebrook Land Conservancy
Connecticut Farmland Trust
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Cornwall Conservation Trust
Darien Land Trust
Deep River Land Trust
East Haddam Land Trust
East Haven Land Trust
ECFLA/Wolf Den Land Trust
Essex Land Trust
Eversource Land Trust △
Farmington Land Trust
Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust
Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve
Gather New Haven
Goshen Land Trust
Granby Land Trust
Great Meadows Conservation Trust
Great Mountain Forest
Great River Land Trust △
Greenwich Land Trust
Groton Open Space Association
Guilford Land Conservation Trust
Haddam Land Trust
Hamden Land Conservation Trust
Hartford Audubon Society
Harwinton Land Conservation Trust
Heritage Land Preservation Trust △
Housatonic Valley Association
Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust
Kent Land Trust
Killingworth Land Conservation Trust
Kongscut Land Trust
Land Conservancy of Ridgefield
Land Trust of West Haven
Litchfield Land Trust
Long Pond Commons Land Trust △
Lordship Improvement Association
Lower Connecticut River Land Trust
Lyme Land Trust
Lynde Point Land Trust
Madison Land Conservation Trust
Manchester Land Conservation Trust
Meriden Land Trust △
Middlebury Land Trust
Middlesex Land Trust
Milford Land Conservation Trust
Morris Land Trust
New Canaan Land Conservation Trust
New Hartford Land Trust
Norfolk Land Trust
North Branford Land Conservation Trust
North Haven Land Trust
North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance
North Woods Land Conservancy
Northern Connecticut Land Trust
Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy
Old Lyme Land Trust
Old Saybrook Land Trust △
Prospect Land Trust
Ragged Mountain Foundation
Redding Land Trust
Roxbury Land Trust
Salem Land Trust
Salisbury Association Land Trust
Sharon Land Trust
Shelton Land Conservation Trust
Simsbury Land Trust
South Windsor Land Conservation Trust
Southbury Land Trust
Southington Land Conservation Trust
Steep Rock Association
The Nature Conservancy - CT
Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy
Trust For Public Land
Wallingford Land Trust
Warren Land Trust
Waterford Land Trust
Watertown Land Trust
Westbrook Land Conservation Trust △
Wilton Land Conservation Trust
Winchester Land Trust
Wolcott Land Conservation Trust
Woodbridge Land Trust △
Woodbridge Park Association
Wyndham Land Trust

Municipal commissions access CLCC's capacity-building programs and technical assistance through its affiliate program.

Affiliate Members

Bolton Conservation Commission
Branford Conservation & Environment Commission
Brookfield Conservation Commission
Canaan Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission
Columbia Conservation & Agricultural Commission
East Haddam Conservation Commission
Ellington Conservation Commission
Haddam Conservation Commission
Ledyard Conservation Commission
Mansfield Conservation Commission
Meriden Conservation Commission
Monroe Conservation & Water Resources Commission
New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission
North Stonington Conservation Commission
Old Lyme Open Space Commission
Seymour Conservation Commission
Stratford Conservation Commission
Vernon Conservation Commission
Wallingford Conservation Commission
Willington Conservation Commission
Woodbury Conservation Commission

"Litchfield Land Trust is grateful for the grant opportunities made available through CLCC as well as the technical and strategic guidance provided by their talented staff. CLCC support has allowed Litchfield Land Trust to effectively expand protections for forests, farmland, and watersheds."

– Dean Birdsall
Executive Director
Litchfield Land Trust

Vincent Blakely Preserve, Litchfield Land Trust

2025 FINANCIALS *

Operating Income

Contributions	$1,089,069
Program Revenue	$101,723
Investment Income	$178,458
Other Income	$4,061
Net Assets Released From Restriction	$435,800
Total	**$1,809,111**

Operating Expenses

Programs & Services	$1,483,242
General & Administrative	$389,929
Fundraising	$54,964
Total	**$1,928,135**

Financials

This past year, CLCC bolstered its resources, expertise, and collaborations to better equip our 100+ land trusts to meet today's complex conservation challenges. Visit CLCC's website for its full financial statement.

* Pending final audit. Revenue and expenses include multi-year grants, including those awarded in 2024 and recognized in 2025.

What Will Your Conservation Legacy Be?

The most effective way to ensure a greener, healthier Connecticut forever is through planned giving. By remembering CLCC in your estate plans, you join others who share a passion for our natural and working lands and who value their enduring protection and stewardship..

Your planned gift—regardless of size—creates a lasting legacy, providing for the places and organizations you value most while protecting Connecticut's conserved lands for future generations.

To learn more about making an immediate, recurring, or planned gift, please visit ctconservation.org/ways-to-give/planned-giving/.

Rick Newton

About CLCC

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening and uniting land trusts and communities to permanently protect the state's natural and working lands.

Our **mission** is to elevate and strengthen land conservation in Connecticut.

We pursue our mission by serving as the **voice and support system** for Connecticut's land trusts. We provide programs and services that help land trusts succeed, including grant funding, technical assistance, and advocacy.

Our **vision** is a future where every Connecticut community is supported and sustained by a diverse mix of conserved land, and land conservation is embraced as an essential community value.

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

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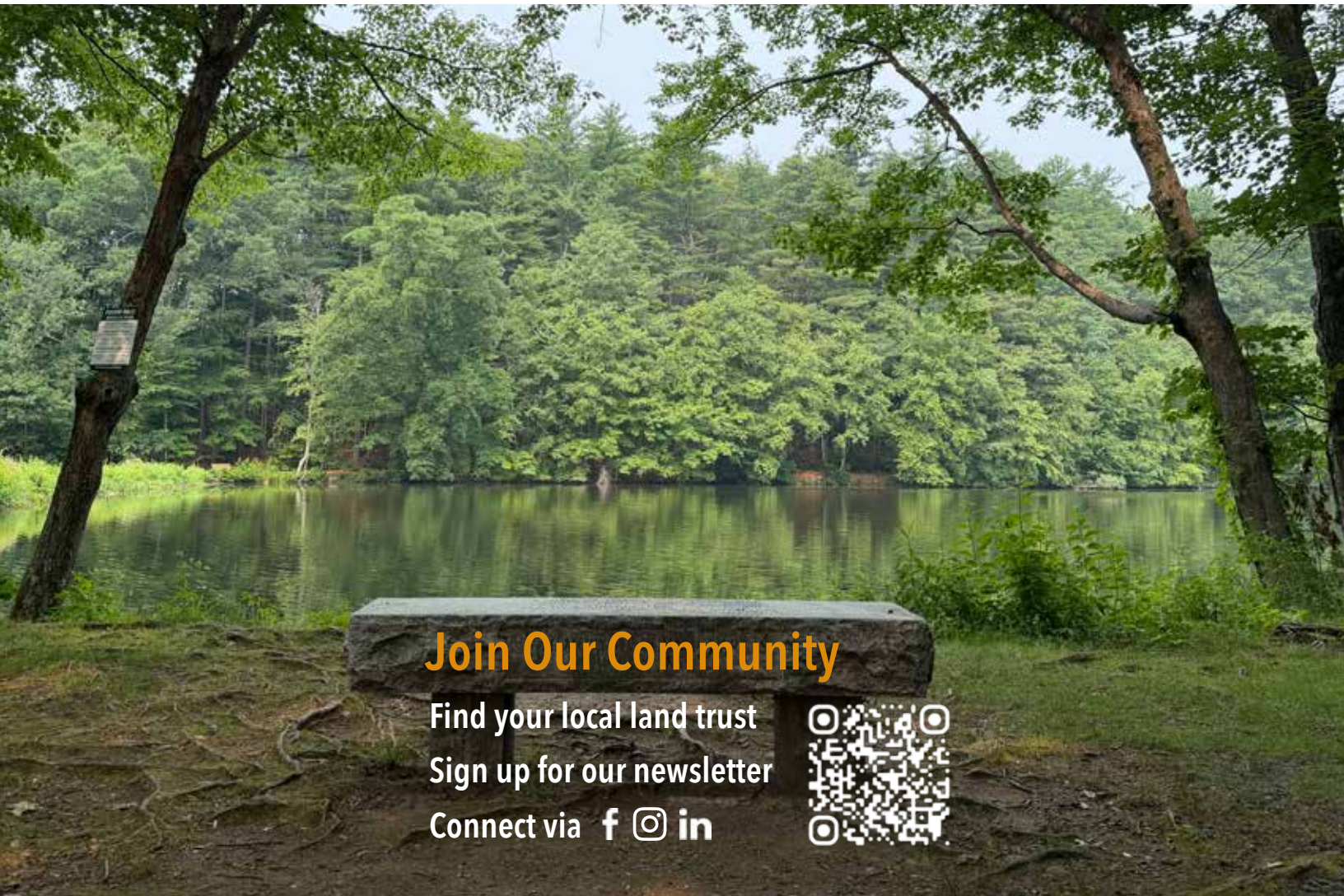
Middletown, CT 06457

ctconservation.org
(860) 852-5512

#LoveYourCTLandTrust