

SALEM LAND TRUST



View Across Whittlesley Swamp

The Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region is one of the most fruitful and attractive natural systems in the temperate world. Ocean frontage, rich fresh and saltwater wetlands, fertile fields, productive forests, trap rock ridges, and cedar swamps all gather here around the final watersheds of the Connecticut, one of the continent's great rivers. Unlike nearly all the other major river mouths on the planet, the lower Connecticut culminates in Long Island Sound through a largely unspoiled natural landscape that still retains most of its inherent integrity and its function as an intact ecosystem.

Salem, Connecticut is located east of the Connecticut River. Historically it was populated largely by farmers and became prominent as a crossroads town in the stagecoach era. Salem is a rural town of farms and forests, set in a geologically complex area that evolved a patchwork of soils types and habitats, resulting in remarkably diverse communities of plants and wildlife. Salem lies at the headwaters of the Eightmile River and Latimer Brook. The Eightmile, a federally recognized Wild and Scenic River, provides fresh, cold, clean, water to the internationally recognized Tidelands region of the Connecticut River. Latimer Brook is a tributary of the Niantic River, which has persisting herring runs and is nationally famous for its coastal region bay scallop fishery.



Blue-winged Warbler

The Salem Land Trust (SLT) is an all-volunteer land trust, working to preserve what it can of the native wildlife and stream ecology, threatened by development. The SLT has achieved national accreditation for meeting the rigorous Standards and Practices for Land Trusts. Its members:

- help identify key parcels for protection,
- maintain many miles of public trails,
- provide educational hikes and lectures,
- monitor the land to assure it is not misused,
- remove invasive species, and
- work to restore and protect native plants and wildlife (such as the Frosted Elfin Butterfly and plantings of blight-resistant American Chestnut saplings).



Amphibian Walk Participant

The SLT is proud to work as a partner with State and Federal agencies, the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange, and with the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee, on regional issues that affect the

watershed and the coastal wetlands downstream of our community. As a part of the larger effort, conservation of land in Salem plays a vital role in providing clean air and water downwind and downstream.

Thousands of acres are at risk of subdivision and adverse development in Salem. Local land conservation and linkage of existing protected areas (see “Salem Open Space” map, below) is essential to the regional effort. But SLT will need resources that are beyond the scope of this small land trust, to achieve these goals. Partners are essential. Please visit our website at salemlandtrust.org and our Facebook page at facebook.com/SalemLandTrust.

For further information, please contact us:

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Salem Open Space

