



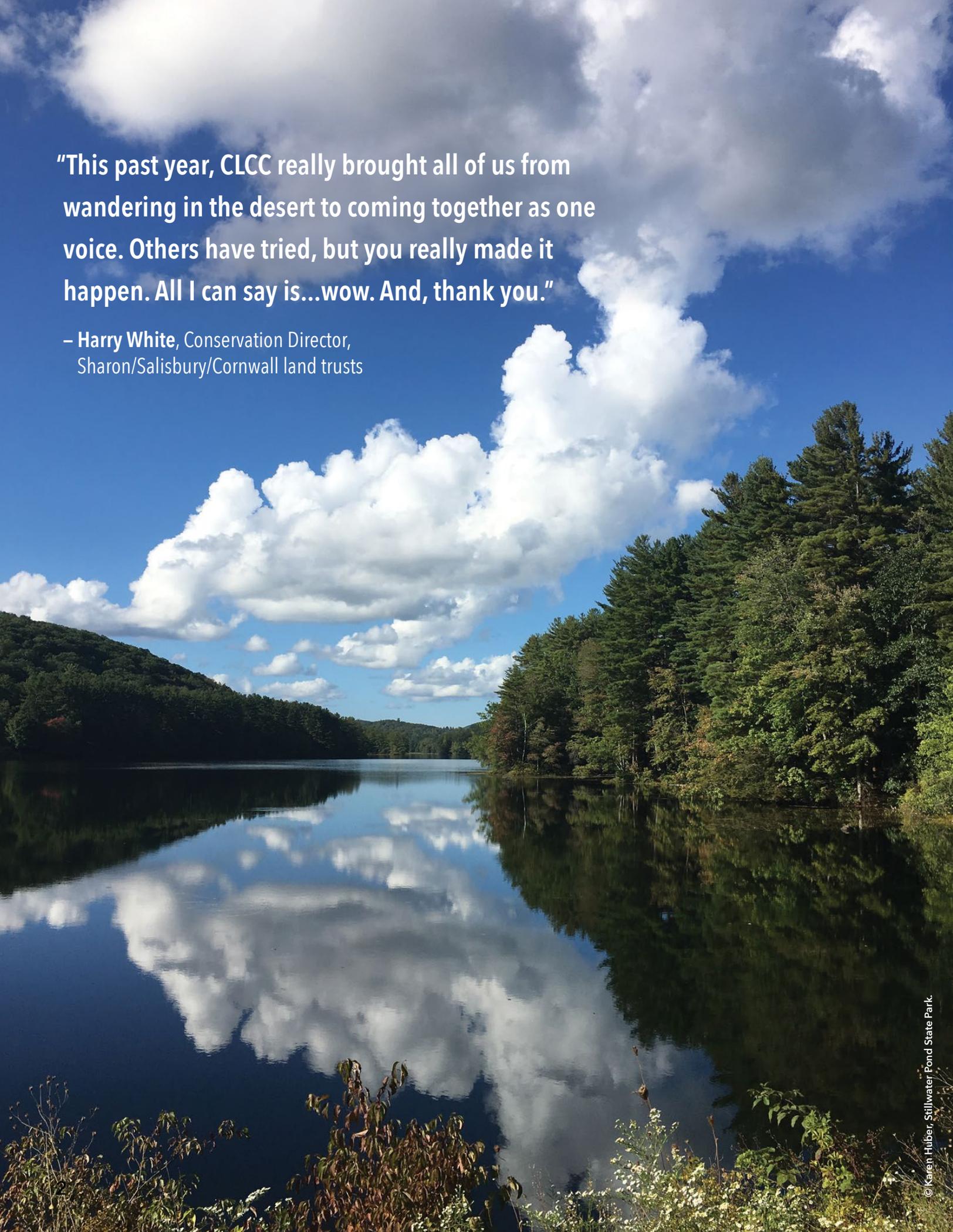
CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

2019 Highlights & Annual Report

Connecticut's only statewide land trust service association

"Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

– Mattie Stepanek



"This past year, CLCC really brought all of us from wandering in the desert to coming together as one voice. Others have tried, but you really made it happen. All I can say is...wow. And, thank you."

– Harry White, Conservation Director,
Sharon/Salisbury/Cornwall land trusts

I've been thinking about where my love of conservation came from.

I grew up playing outside on the south shore of Long Island. I spent lots of time on the beach, enjoyed canoeing with my dogs, and caught blue claw crabs off the dock in my backyard (and always let them go). The play was unstructured, the hours my own—and along the way, I fell in love with the ocean, wildlife, and wide-open spaces.

Those feelings have stuck with me, leading me to where I am today, working with you to conserve the places that so many people cherish.

We can't take these experiences for granted, and Connecticut's 130+ land trusts—the 3rd most in the country per state—are working hard to make sure that every child, no matter where they live, can experience the out-of-doors in a fun, creative, and safe manner...close to home.

Yet, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. With land in Connecticut disappearing at an alarming rate and new reports underscoring the importance of land conservation in mitigating climate change, the Connecticut Land Conservation Council is committed to ensuring that your work, as a central part of Connecticut's land conservation community, thrives for generations to come.

As Connecticut's only statewide land trust service provider, we recognize that land trusts throughout the state want and need, to increase the pace of land conservation, enhance their stewardship efforts, and connect more people to the land. Land trusts are looking for ways to thrive, rather than survive, so as to bring their communities the conservation and programs they need and deserve.

That's why your support means so much.

Thanks to you, and so many supporters, over the past year we intensified our programmatic focus on building stronger regional land trust networks, coupled with statewide policy initiatives, to galvanize Connecticut's land trusts to take action like never before.

We know this isn't easy. But with so much at stake, it's great news to know that together we are creating a land trust community that will be there to support local efforts to conserve, care for, and build connections with the lands that make Connecticut special. For our children, and theirs, we can't afford to do anything less. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Blaymore Paterson
Executive Director





200,000

Acres conserved by land trusts*



22 Roundtables, workshops, and regional gatherings hosted by CLCC



50 Mentoring sessions and presentations with land trust board and staff

Land trusts are the heart and soul of Connecticut land conservation

Connecticut. It's about rolling meadows and fields, miles of trails, wide expanses of forestland and wetlands, and lots of water—from the Connecticut River to the Long Island Sound and everything in between. Wildlife wander, finding habitat to raise their young. Community gardens thrive and parks and ribbons of greenways run through the most rural to urban streets.

Consider too the kids and adults playing outside, experiencing nature, visiting farms—sometimes for the first time; others as old friends of the land. As the pace of life accelerates, the lands and waters of Connecticut are increasingly becoming a respite to re-energize from a busy life or hectic day.

Land trusts are making that possible, as the heart and soul of Connecticut land conservation. Working with local families, communities, and partnerships, the land trusts of Connecticut are conserving the land and protecting the places we all love and need.

But they tell us that they can't do it alone. And that's where you come in.

Over the past year, CLCC increased technical assistance, trainings, mentoring, and other assistance for land trusts at a critical time in our land conservation history. Whether at regional land trust summits, focus groups, the annual Connecticut Land Conservation Conference, or other programs that CLCC initiated and facilitated, we believe in the power of land trusts coming together across the state to talk, share commonalities, and build lasting trust and engagement with their communities.

It's a team effort, all year long. We can help because of you and all those who collectively support CLCC as the state's land trust service association.

"Our trustees work diligently to expand the open space lands we protect. We are all amateurs, all volunteers. We are much more successful when assisted by the staff of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council."

– Malcolm Barlow, Manchester Land Conservation Trust

*Based upon data from LTA 2015 census

Land conservation's voice is stronger at the Capitol

2019 was another important year for land and water related policies, including successfully protecting important dedicated conservation and state parks funding while defeating legislation that would have undermined tax exemptions for land trusts.

CLCC's role continues to expand as we increase our collective presence at the Capitol on behalf of the state's land conservation community.

We worked hard to make sure you, as conservationists, were able to have a voice in policy development.

And you did.

From all corners of the state, land trusts large and small showed up, and were vocal, strong, and relentless in their advocacy on legislation and policies that protect our land, water, and other natural resources.

Those efforts—including contacting legislators, submitting an unprecedented volume of testimony, and sharing action alerts with your land trust members—absolutely made a difference in ensuring that good bills were passed and harmful proposals were defeated.

Together, we'll build on the progress that we have made.

2020 priorities include pursuing new legislation that integrates land conservation into Connecticut's plan to address the impacts of climate change and establishes new funding options for local land conservation efforts.



LEGISLATORS SEE CONSERVATION IN ACTION:

2nd Annual Conservation Conversations

Approximately 250 land trust members, state legislators, local elected officials, and other people of all ages who love the land, joined us and our local land trust partners for informal walks at preserves, farms, and community gardens to exchange thoughts about land conservation priorities and enjoy each other's company.

Esther Rose-Wilen, of New Haven Land Trust/New Haven Farms relayed, "As an organization working with urban nature preserves, community gardens and farms, it's exciting to work alongside other organizations across the state that protect open space. Bringing together community members and legislators at the event we hosted with CLCC at our English Street Garden this summer was a fantastic way to highlight the important conservation work being done in Connecticut cities and the critical role state funding plays."



© Groton Open Space Association.

Land Trusts are Becoming More Resilient and Effective

Connecticut Land Trust Advancement Initiative

2019 marked the sixth year of this award-winning organizational capacity building and advancement program to provide land trusts with technical assistance to help strengthen their individual organizations and bring them together with other partners to build a stronger, collective conservation vision and impact for the region.

Since the program was launched, over 50 land trusts and regional partners have been selected to work on collaborative projects focusing on communications and community engagement, stewardship, record keeping, regional mapping, strategic planning, shared services, and more.

In 2020 we are working with land trusts throughout Connecticut including those from the Southwest, Northeast, Central and Southeast regions as part of this program.

SPOTLIGHT ON ADVANCEMENT SUCCESS:

Enhanced Community Conservation and Engagement

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, and in partnership with The Last Green Valley, five land trusts from Northeast Connecticut are receiving individual and group coaching and support on community engagement and communications.

From the development of online newsletters and enhanced websites to the creation of a digital interactive map showing conservation priorities across the region, these land trusts are working to raise their visibility and establish the framework for a larger, watershed-wide regional conservation strategy to best serve their communities.

“The coaching our land trust has received through the Regional Land Trust Advancement Initiative has been invaluable to enhancing our land trust’s communications, while the program’s collaborative process has strengthened our relationship with the other land trusts in our region. We have a better sense of what our land trusts are working towards together.”

**– Steve Broderick, Eastern CT Forest Landowners Association/
Wolf Den Land Trust**

What would your land trust be interested in learning, testing, exploring in the coming year?

We know that for land trusts and conservation to withstand the test of time we need to ensure a welcoming and learning culture.

We look forward to finding ways to work with you to make a difference.

If you have thoughts of how CLCC could support your land trust to continue its journey to be inclusive, relevant, responsive and resilient, please email Amy at abpaterson@ctconservation.org.





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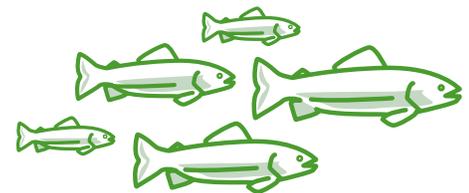
© Lisa O'Brien



75 Representatives of land trusts came to learn and share.



550 People participated around the state, including representatives from 41 conservation commissions, and at least 51 other conservation organizations on both the state and national level.



22 Local high schools and universities represented; a record number of students attended

Connecticut Land Conservation Conference 2019

What does it take to make the state's only full-day land conservation conference a reality?

Vision, passion, hard work and a lot of volunteers who provide everything from technical support to inspiring presentations and workshops.

It takes generous sponsors to allow us to keep the conference fees at an affordable level—and our partnership with Wesleyan University to host a conference that provides state of the art technology and learning equipment at an affordable price.

THE RESULT? 550 people from across the state came together to brainstorm, learn, and celebrate the successes of local land conservation.

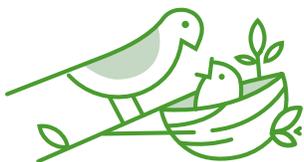
For many, it's the one time of year when they can connect with fellow conservationists and share strategies ranging from removing invasive species to building a stronger membership base.

And let's not forget the inspirational keynote speaker, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Katie Dykes, who provided our audience with insights into her personal connection to the land, while also reaffirming the agency's commitment to important land conservation programs.

The 2019 conference was the best yet, with a sold-out crowd, 53 amazing workshops, awards for excellence in land conservation, and a fun-filled reception with local food and drink.

We're expecting the same level of energy and inspiration at the 2020 event. We hope that you'll be a part of this special day for the Connecticut land conservation community.

To see the list of sponsors, funders, volunteers and in-kind business donations please view the Annual Report at ctconservation.org.



85 Sponsors made it financially possible to keep the conference affordable



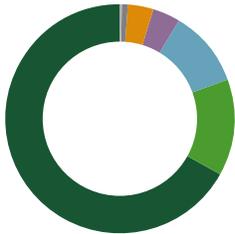
53 Workshops inspired change and growth



Level of energy and enthusiasm?
Off the charts!

Thanks to you, conservation is a community we all share

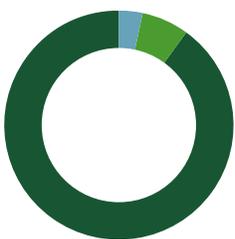
2019 FINANCIALS



2019 Operating Income

■ Municipal Commission Contributions	\$ 2,590
■ Program Revenue	\$ 3,360
■ Land Trust Memberships	\$ 18,900
■ Corp./Org. Contributions	\$ 20,272
■ Conference	\$ 56,500
■ Individual Donations/Gifts	\$ 69,776
■ Foundation Grants*	\$345,891
Total	\$517,289

*Includes multi-year grants that will be spent down in 2020-21



2019 Operating Expenses

■ Fundraising	\$ 10,042
■ Management & Support	\$ 18,297
■ Programs (Incl. Conference)	\$249,845
Total	\$278,184

2019 financial review and 990 will be available on our website at ctconservation.org

As a community-supported nonprofit, the Connecticut Land Conservation Council relies on the generosity of people like you; those who love the land, want to make sure that our communities have healthy places to live, work and play, understand the role that land plays in mitigating climate change, and are committed to ensuring that people from all walks of life grow up to cherish these places, like you do.

Thank you to the hundreds of people, foundations, land trusts, and partners who supported the technical assistance, mentorship, policy work, and educational gatherings CLCC hosted in 2019. Together, we are stronger and our journey to conserve land and water for generations to come, has never been more important.

Get a shot of inspiration

When you want to be in the know, and learn from your peers, there's no better place to do that than becoming part of the CLCC team. That's why we created #LoveYourCTLandTrust—a monthly statewide electronic newsletter to spread your good news, photographs, and land conservation success stories to people across the state. It complements our monthly statewide conservation updates eNewsletter, as well as regular policy, funding and training updates and alerts.



You can sign up for the #LoveYourCTLandTrust and our monthly eNewsletter for updates, at ctconservation.org

"I find I really look forward to reading about what other land trusts are doing in our state. It's inspiring to think about how we can put some of those ideas to work in our community too."

– Sidney Van Zandt, Groton Open Space Association

Want to ensure that land trusts thrive, all year long?

This year we see some significant opportunities for land conservation in Connecticut.

With climate change policy now in the mix, and the need to keep a vigilant eye on current conservation funding at the state level, we have a chance to make sure that land and water conservation—and the community programs needed to support them—continue to be a focus.

Your donation to the Connecticut Land Conservation Council is more timely than ever.

Donations of all sizes matter, and monthly gifts really add up. They allow us to support the land trusts who conserve the lands that make our state the special place it is to live, work and play.

For a list of donors, partners, sponsors and other supporters, please refer to the online 2019 Annual Report on our website ctconservation.org



CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

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"When we look ten years into the future,
the strength of land trusts will be based upon
our ability to adapt, partner, and re-envision what
land conservation means to, and for, the people
of Connecticut. CLCC is going to need to be
part of that for us to collectively succeed."

– Aaron Lefland, New Canaan Land Trust

