



## A Long Awaited Face-Lift for Hoyt-Hall in Marshfield

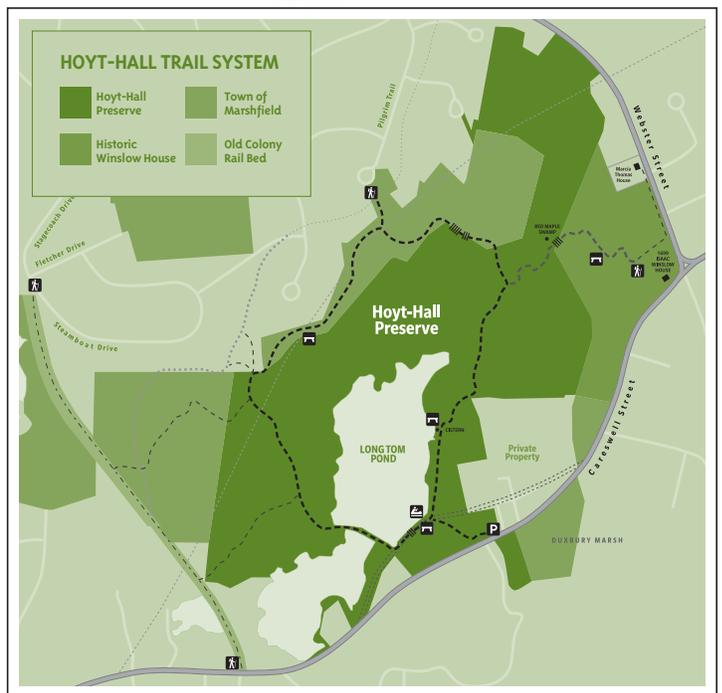
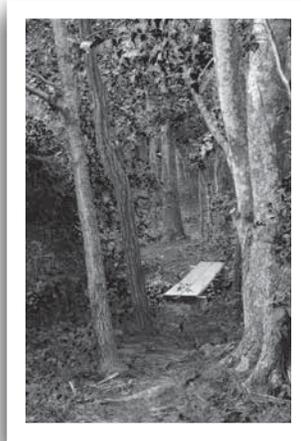
A new trail system through Hoyt-Hall Preserve and abutting Town of Marshfield and Historic Winslow House properties expands passive recreation opportunities at this hidden gem.

Back in 2000 when the Trust purchased the Hoyt-Hall Preserve, a 123-acre parcel located in southern Marshfield, it was envisioned that the property would be one of our finest showcase preserves. Sixteen years later this vision has come to fruition thanks to a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to establish a trail system and enhanced public access. Funds from DCR's Recreational Trail Program have allowed us to expand the passive recreation opportunities in this largely unknown and hidden gem, which features a large undisturbed

pond and beautiful mature pine forest. The new trail system connects the preserve to town-owned land and the Historic Winslow House property, which combined offer public access to almost 200 acres of conservation land.

The starting point for the project was a tangle of overgrown old cart paths, debris strewn trails, no established parking area and no signage welcoming the public. Over the past

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Wildlands Trust works throughout southeastern Massachusetts to conserve and permanently protect native habitats, farmland, and lands of high scenic and ecological value in order to keep our communities healthy and our residents connected to the natural world.

# Ensuring That “Protected” Means Protected

Keeping land under protection is a non-negotiable trust.



Nearly twenty years ago, the residents of Westford, MA voted to spend \$525,000 to protect a nine-acre fruit orchard, a beloved remnant of the town’s former agricultural glory. This purposeful taxpayer investment was to ensure that an active agricultural use remained on the property forever. However, today the town is being asked to permit the commercial development of the property into a 300-seat farm-to-table restaurant and conference facility.

Reading the article about the Westford Farm reminded me of a phone call I got several years ago from a commercial developer asking for a meeting so he could share his plans for a proposed mall expansion near one of the Trust’s properties. Exuding the charm of a person who knows how to get what he wants, he greeted me at the door and led me to a large conference table covered with colorful maps and renderings of the commercial expansion.

“There is only one problem,” he said, “you’re blocking me.” How true. It was easy to see that the only thing standing in the way of his mega mall, big box, car dealer explosion through the woodlands was a 50-acre parcel that had been gifted to the Trust as conservation land a decade earlier.

“There’s got to be something really big out there. Let me buy it and we can trade,” he offered. His exuberance and charm faded quickly as I explained that this was not even a remote consideration for our organization. Protected land is protected land.

I’ve had this same conversation with the solar developers and cell tower companies who call from time to time, as well as the private landowners who just need a little more land to accommodate a pool, a garage, a buildable lot.

Whether you are a town or a land trust, honoring the original intent of a land donation or transaction is the obligation you assume. Protected land is not there to accommodate the societal needs of the day, be it a mall, energy generation, better cell service, or a restaurant and conference facility.

Karen Grey  
President

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FOR INFORMATION about membership or the benefits of conveying land or conservation restrictions (agricultural included) to the Trust, call or write:

Wildlands Trust  
675 Long Pond Road  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
  
(774) 343-5121 Phone  
(774) 343-5124 Fax  
info@wildlandstrust.org  
www.wildlandstrust.org



# Multiple Projects Preserve Farmland and Riparian Corridors

The Trust worked with conservation partners in Hanson, Plymouth, and Halifax to protect a total of 73 acres.

## POOR MEADOW BROOK GREENWAY CPA CR

The Trust worked with the Town of Hanson to preserve this parcel which is one of Hanson’s earliest CPA-funded open space acquisitions. It expands a wildlife corridor and greenway along Poor Meadow Brook, and helps protect the town’s Crystal Spring well field.



**Poor Meadow Brook Greenway CPA CR**

**11.2 ACRES, HANSON**

Extensive frontage on Poor Meadow Brook (a tributary of the Wild & Scenic Taunton River) and just upstream of a Hanson drinking water well

- ⊙ River Frontage
- ⊙ Drinking Water Protection
- ⊙ Rare Species Habitat
- ⊙ Riparian Corridor

## EEL RIVER FIELDS

The Eel River Watershed Association transferred this property in Plymouth’s Chiltonville neighborhood to the Trust. Cultivated by a local organic farmer, it is under an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, and includes scenic vistas and extensive Eel River frontage.



**Eel River Fields**

**58 ACRES, PLYMOUTH**

Rolling fields adjacent to the Eel River in the heart of Chiltonville, one of Plymouth’s most scenic locales

- ⊙ Agricultural Fields
- ⊙ Scenic Views
- ⊙ River Frontage
- ⊙ Wildlife Corridor
- ⊙ Upland



## HALIFAX ACQUISITION RESTORES TAUNTON RIVER ACCESS

In May, the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) acquired four acres in Halifax adjacent to the Taunton River. The acquisition connects two existing DFG holdings, and combines with them to create a contiguous block of conservation land along Cherry Street.

The Trust helped facilitate the acquisition by introducing property owner Steven Striar to our DFG colleague Joan Pierce, who serves as the agency’s Land Agent for the southeast District. The Trust previously worked with Mr. Striar and his family to preserve multiple properties in the Taunton River watershed, including what is now our Striar Conservancy in Halifax.

Quality access points to the Taunton River are at a premium, particularly along the river’s upper reaches. The Cherry Street site historically served as one of the best kayak/canoe launch locations anywhere along the upper Taunton, but has been under-utilized since the nearby Cherry Street bridge was reconstructed in 2002, effectively blocking access in the process. The new acquisition will allow DFG to create an off-street parking area, thereby reopening this vital river access point.

In collaboration with partners such as DFG, the Trust has been working to protect land along the Taunton River for twenty years, with a particular focus on affording better access to southeastern Massachusetts’ only National Wild and Scenic River.

# Sierra Club Volunteers Roll Up Their Sleeves to Help

Volunteers from all over the country converge in Plymouth for a week of tackling improvements at Trust properties.



The Sierra Club offers working vacations for volunteers from around the country to “give back to Mother Nature” on public lands. On the week of August 15th, the Sierra Club partnered with the Trust, sending volunteers armed with hand tools to cut, rake, pull, haul, build, and dig.

At Emery Preserve East, the trail system had become overgrown, leaving Cotton Pond barely accessible. Thanks to the continuous hard work of the volunteers, Cotton Pond Trail, ending in a loop down to the pond, was officially opened by the end of the week. Wildlands Trust Trailblazer volunteers have since gathered on our monthly workday to continue to improve the quality and longevity of the trail.

At Trust headquarters, Davis-Douglas Farm, we built a bench that was installed at Emery Preserve East and a compost bin for the community garden, and we transplanted and seeded a new pollinator garden. At the Town of Plymouth’s Center Hill Preserve, trash and a giant pile of wood from a washed up dock were hauled about a half-mile from the beach.

All of us at Wildlands Trust would like to extend a very big “thank you” to the volunteers and organizers of this wonderful trip and encourage you to visit and enjoy improvements they have made! We hope to partner with the Sierra Club in the future on more projects throughout our service region.



## WELCOME BACK RACHEL CALDERARA, 2014-15 MASSLIFT AMERICORPS MEMBER

Rachel is back as our full-time Program Coordinator and Educator! A Plymouth native, she earned her Bachelor’s in Environmental Science at UMass Amherst in 2012. She has worked at various nonprofits across the country in environmental education and community outreach. This past year, she completed a fellowship in Minnesota, earning a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Education from Hamline University.

During her year of service with the Trust, Rachel focused on public programming and youth education. She helped lead the charge on the Youth Unplugged Initiative, co-coaching the first Brockton Envirothon Team and co-supervising the first summer Green Team. She looks forward to continuing to grow this initiative and engaging with the community through meaningful and creative public programming.

# Accessing Nature: Connecting All People to the Land

The Trust provides outdoor programming to make the joys of experiencing the natural world available to everyone.



Wildlands Trust volunteer naturalist, Karen Kurkoski, teaches a Community Connection group about what might live in a Trust preserve. Karen also led a low-mobility walk for the Trust.

Starting in 2014, the Trust began partnerships with several local organizations that work with individuals with physical or social and emotional challenges. Working with Community Connections in Plymouth, the ARC of Greater Plymouth, Skills for Living in Norwell, and Friendship Home in Norwell, Wildlands Trust provided tailored nature programming for adults and teens living with physical or social and emotional challenges.

What fun we have had! Together the Trust and these wonderful groups have done scavenger hunts on Halfway Pond Preserve, enjoyed taking photos at Great River Preserve in Bridgewater and Willow Brook in Pembroke, and learned about birdsong and animal tracking with volunteer naturalists and these are just a few of our explorations.

With their teacher Mary Lou Matkya, a group of autistic individuals from Arc of Greater Plymouth has been showing off their green thumb growing vegetables and herbs at the Trust’s Community Garden. The garden features two upright standing beds that are wheelchair accessible and help those with limited mobility reach into the soil. Clif Bar, the National Association of Realtors and the Master Gardeners Association helped fund the Community Garden and the accessible garden beds.

Mary Lou notes that “Our ongoing volunteer partnership with Wildlands Trust has been essential to the teaching and learning environment we work to create every day for our individuals at The Arc of Greater Plymouth. Continuing to provide inclusionary opportunities, visibility, awareness, and contributions without barriers within the greater community is what Wildlands Trust has meant to our partnership. Hands on real life experiences for our individuals is what has made this partnership so much fun for us!”



ABOVE: Friendship Home of Norwell spent a weekend morning taking photos with Wildlands Trust AmeriCorps member, Anthony Serra.

BELOW: At Davis-Douglas Farm Community Garden, gardeners from Arc of Plymouth take a well-deserved break from weeding and watering.

## JOIN OUR FALL PROGRAMS



### MONTHLY TRAIL RUNS

NOV 19  
8:30 – 10:30 am  
Meet at Trust Headquarters and run Halfway Pond

### WINGS OVER THE WATER

With Wayne Petersen  
OCT 30  
8:00 – 11:00 am  
Meet at Trust Headquarters  
\$10 members, \$12 nonmembers

### MONTHLY HIKES with MALCOLM

NOV 13  
10 am – 12:30 pm  
Hoyt-Hall Preserve, Marshfield

### HOLIDAY CARD MAKING

NOV 20  
1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Wildlands Trust Conservation Barn

### POST FEAST WADDLE

NOV 25  
Time: TBD  
Meet at Trust Headquarters

### HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING

December 4  
10:00 am–Noon  
Wildlands Trust Conservation Barn

Visit [wildlandstrust.org/calendar](http://wildlandstrust.org/calendar) to register and to see a full calendar of events.



## WE’RE RAISING THE ROOF!

The “Raise the Roof” appeal to fund the completion of the ceiling of the Conservation Barn at Davis-Douglas Farm is in full swing and we are planning to open the doors in early November.

As a venue for community engagement and environmental learning, “the Barn” will allow us to offer programs, events, lectures, and meetings on site and inspire broader support for land protection by connecting more people with nature.

Much has been accomplished and we are so close! Finishing the Barn is the last phase in the restoration of the Long Pond Road property that serves as our headquarters.

If you have any questions about the project, or if you didn’t receive a Raise the Roof appeal, contact Sue Chamberlain 774-343-5121 x101 or [schamberlain@wildlandstrust.org](mailto:schamberlain@wildlandstrust.org)

# Pembroke Boy Scouts Complete Project at Trust's Willow Brook Preserve

Boy Scouts Camden and Colton Cappa enhance the visitor experience at Willow Brook Preserve.

Willow Brook Preserve is experiencing a makeover this fall with the help of twins, Camden and Colton Cappa, from Pembroke Boy Scouts Troop 105. They have both hiked the preserve in the past and saw ways in which the visitor experience could be enhanced.

Camden is working on the carpentry side of things, replacing older benches and installing a picnic table which will allow visitors to stop and grab a bite while taking in a view of the picturesque fields at the preserve.

Colton will be installing signage to help guide walkers to Willow Brook Preserve's most visited spots, including the Tower and the Mary-Harry Todd trail. Colton is also partnering with local drone photographer, Lee Woodward, to get some beautiful HD aerial shots of our preserve that he will share on our Facebook page and website.

During this project, Camden and Colton received help from friends: Coleman Earner, Lucas Evans, Justin Geise, Connor Giese, Eric/Greg Kaplowitz, Nicholas Palmer, Coleman/Sean Spring, and Thomas Tremblay. If you know of any Boy Scouts who are looking for an Eagle Scout project, feel free to contact [eboyer@wildlandstrust.org](mailto:eboyer@wildlandstrust.org).



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six months, Wildlands Trust Stewardship crews and Trailblazer volunteers have been hard at work in creating new trail connections, clearing old trails, installing water crossings, and erecting interpretive signage. A new parking lot was leveled and graveled by the Marshfield Department of Public Works. The Trust crews installed the beautiful split rail fence and new kiosk.



A walk along these beautiful new trails leads to the causeway and dam that create the freshwater pond. It is an excellent spot for wildlife viewing and even offers a kayak and canoe access point (a short 450' easy portage from the parking area). An interesting historic structure of past land use, a stone cistern, still sits at the edge of the

pond. It was likely at one time part of a water supply system as water was extracted via a windmill-driven water pump located on higher ground to the east.

The Hoyt-Hall preserve was protected thanks to the generosity of a committed donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The land was originally identified for

protection because of its important habitats and significant hydrological resources, including upland woods, wetlands, and open ponds. The Preserve and surrounding lands are also located in critical drinking water resource protection districts.

Improved access and infrastructure is already being appreciated by the neighbors and other residents who are just discovering the property for the first time. We envision opportunities for environmental awareness and education, including school field trips, after-school activities, bird watching, water quality testing, and volunteer stewardship opportunities for this great property. We welcome you to visit and enjoy the Hoyt-Hall Trail Network!

# Thank You for Your Contribution

The Trust relies on private philanthropy to fund the work we do to save land throughout the region. You, our supporters, *are* Wildlands Trust. Thank you for your vision and for your dedication to preserving land for future generations.

## In Memory of

ANNA WARE BIRD  
-Diana Barker Price, *Plymouth*

GERDA CONANT  
-Jamie Beaton, *Bolton*  
-Margaret Conant, *Milton*  
-Charlene Galarneau, *Cambridge*  
-Nancy Nichols, *Tamworth, NH*  
-Lois and Doug Post, *Plymouth*

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-Duxbury Garden Club, *Duxbury*

LEE ZARO  
-Helen Drozdick, *Medfield*  
-Adela Rymut, *Halifax*

## In Honor of

ELLEN BLANCHARD  
-Richard Serkey, *Plymouth*

CRYSTAL FARRAR GOULD  
-Robert & Kathleen Carr, *Marshfield, MA*

MARY HATHAWAY  
-George Mutrie, *Kingston*

ROBERT MACDONALD  
-Margaret MacDonald, *Boston*

FRAN QUAGLIO  
-Lois E. Poule, *Bridgewater*

## FALL VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP



### TRAILBLAZERS

OCT 29  
10:00 am – Noon  
Wildlands Trust Headquarters  
Join us to help prepare the community garden for winter!

### COASTSWEEP BEACH CLEANUP

OCT 29  
9:00 am – Noon  
White Horse Beach  
Plymouth  
Take part in international beach cleanup and research.

### TRAILBLAZERS

NOV 17  
10:00 am – Noon  
Cotton Pond Trail  
Emery Preserve East  
Plymouth  
Finish installing a natural staircase and hand rail.

Sign up on our website:  
[wildlandstrust.org/calendar](http://wildlandstrust.org/calendar)

## WANT TO BE A PART OF THE TRAILBLAZING TEAM?

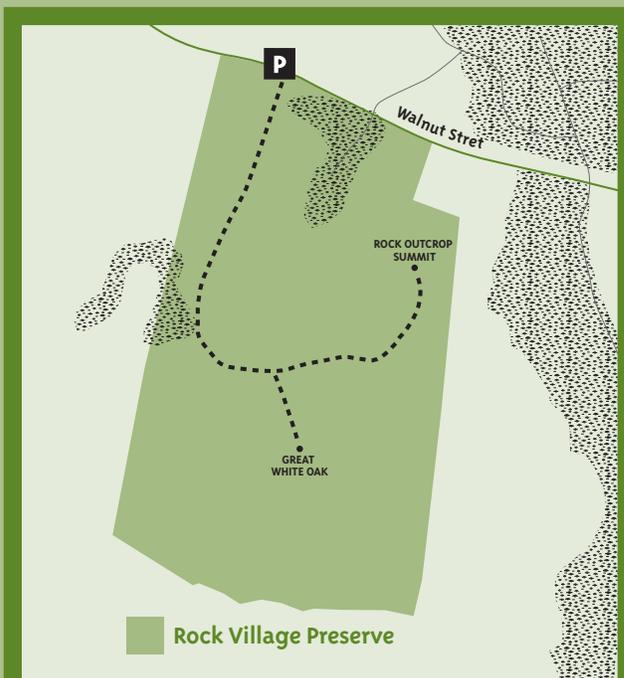
Once a month, usually on a Saturday, Wildlands Trust Trailblazer volunteers tackle a variety of land management projects: trail maintenance, creation and marking, invasives removal, carpentry, boardwalk installation, garden maintenance, and trash pickup. If you are interested in becoming involved, email [eboyer@wildlandstrust.org](mailto:eboyer@wildlandstrust.org).



**PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT**

**STAFF PICK: Rock Village Preserve / Middleboro, MA**

**Granite outcroppings that are unique to the area, a prominent knoll and a magnificent white oak make this 14.4-acre rocky preserve worth visiting.**



Rock Village Preserve was gifted to the Trust by Edward Medeiros in 1994. Named after the village in Middleboro where it is located and the presence of large granite outcrops which are unusual to find in southeastern Massachusetts, Rock Village is small in size but unique in the geological features that it offers its visitors. The rocks were quarried back in the 19th century and the east-west pattern of the longer outcrop suggests it may be the location of an ancient fault that is no longer active. The trail follows an old cart path and provides a short but interesting walk through the preserve's rocky woodlands of evergreen and deciduous trees. A side trail leads to a view of a magnificent white oak. The main trail ends at the peak of a prominent rocky knoll with views of the surrounding woods. The nearby Rocky Gutter Wildlife Management Area on Rocky Gutter Street is worth a visit for the large holly trees on the property. Almost 4,000 acres, it's owned by the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

**DIRECTIONS:** Rt. 495 to Exit 3. Head south on Rt. 28, turning right onto Smith Street. Follow until it "Ts" into Miller Street. Turn left onto Miller, then right on Walnut. Preserve is ahead on left before road climbs the hill.