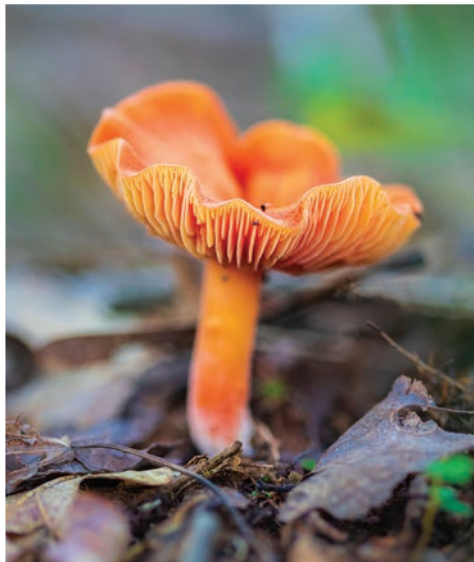


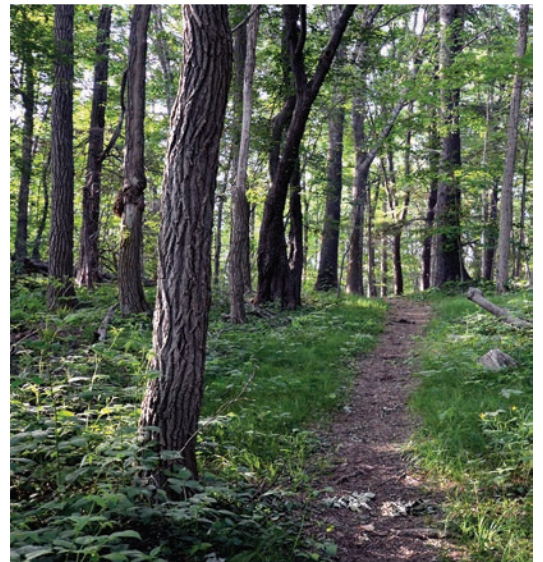
LAND TRUST LIFE



DAVID ALDEN ST. PIERRE



MONKMAN/ECOPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



TOM HOOPES

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As our season transitions with splendor, it seems like the perfect time to share this newsletter with its focus on trails. Changes in the tree canopy open new vistas for us as leaves wither and fall. The forest floor is rich with scent and cooler air heightens our sense of smell.

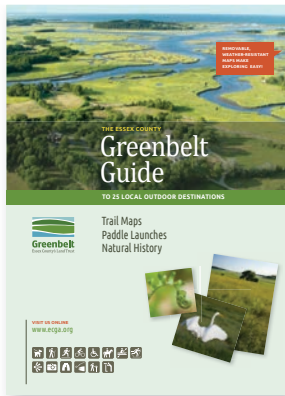
Greenbelt and our partner organizations have learned a lot this unusual and challenging year. As more people get outside, our stewardship proves to be vital, protecting natural resources and habitats, helping people find their way, creating new trail networks and managing complex, multi-use properties.

We've also focused on making the outdoors more accessible to more people. Our website's maps and property search tools have more visitors than ever, and our virtual walks are enjoyed by many. Scattered throughout the pages that follow are messages from many of you, thanking us for the use of our trails during these trying times. It feels good to know our work has such impact.

Thanks to the generous support of EBSCO, we're able to produce this print version of our fall newsletter. Here we share articles that highlight the beauty, diversity and value of Greenbelt's trails, how they get started and how they're maintained. Perhaps you'll be inspired to head out on a new trail, invite a friend for a safe walk outdoors, or share time away from screens with your family. If you're facing challenges this fall, taking time to get outside is sure to help you feel better.

Enjoy time on the trails, and please keep in touch!

Kate Bowditch
President



TRAIL GUIDE
ecga.org/store

Help us improve our interactive map tools with this survey
ecga.org/trails

2020 ANNUAL FUND

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

Our Trails Make a Difference – So Can You!

Your Annual Fund gift allows us to keep our trails safe and beautiful, and to make the most of every opportunity to conserve more land. Please consider a generous gift today!

ecga.org/annualfund

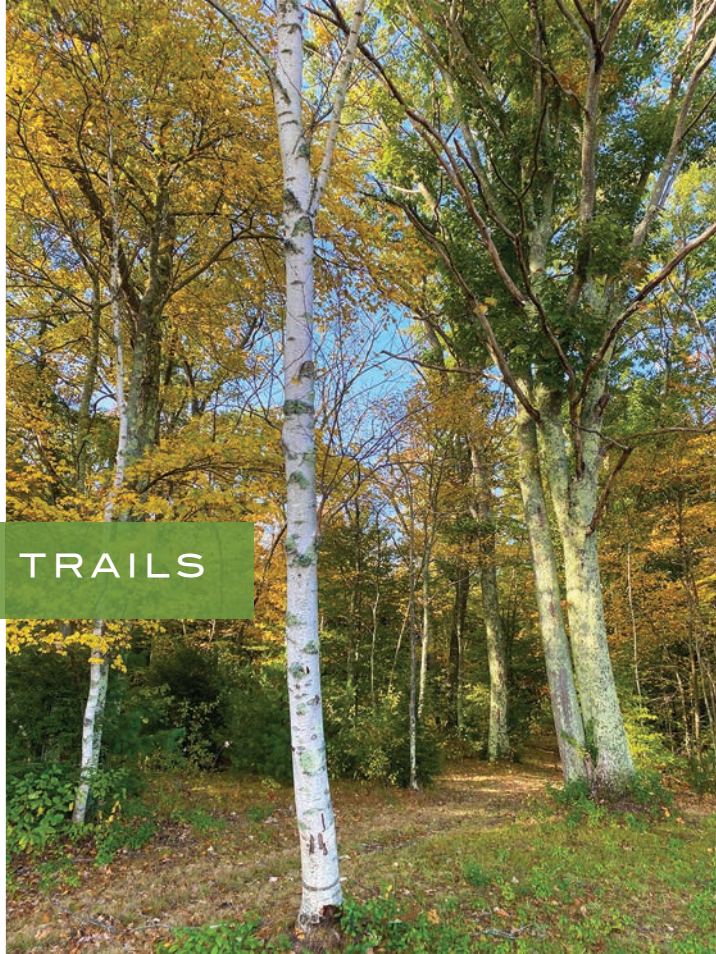
Receive our 2021 Calendar with your gift of \$150+. Many thanks to our generous Greenbelt photographers for their spectacular shots!



KEEPING OPEN SPACE OPEN

“Greenbelt properties have been a haven. As I walk any of the seemingly endless choices, I am deeply, deeply grateful to all of you who care for our precious land. Thank each and every one of you for walking tall.”

TURNING TO THE TRAILS



DAVID ALDEN ST. PIERRE

Never before have Greenbelt’s trails been more appreciated than during the current public health crisis. Since early spring we’ve witnessed an unprecedented number of new and familiar visitors to our properties as people turn to the trails for quiet contemplation, stress relief, fresh air and exercise. The importance of being outdoors in nature to our health and well-being is underscored by the number of people seeking respite on Greenbelt properties.

We’ve received an outpouring of gratitude for keeping our trails accessible these past several months. But the real thanks go to visitors who follow posted guidelines, supporters who are committed to our work,

“We’ve made great use of your trails in the past few months. Thank you!”

and Greenbelt’s Land Stewardship Team: Dave Rimmer, Mike Carbone and Dave McKinnon. Thank you for helping us keep our trails open and safe.

We like to say that Greenbelt is in the “forever business.” The land we conserve today is permanently protected for our benefit now and generations to come; comforting news in uncertain times.

FIRST STEPS FOR A TRAIL

The trails we love don't happen by accident. Conserving land with public trail access often begins with many years of relationship building between Greenbelt and a landowner.

In the simplest of terms, the process to acquire and protect the properties we love may be as straightforward as a donation of land, or may be much more complex. Only after the land is protected can work begin to create a trail that is safe, accessible and compatible with its natural setting.

These are just a few examples of ways in which Greenbelt has conserved land that is now open for the public to enjoy.

Gift of Land

Bailey Reservation | HAVERHILL

The Bailey family generously donated 21.7 beautiful acres to Greenbelt in 2017, the second conservation gift to Greenbelt from Janis Bailey and her late husband Perley. Today, this lovely, family-friendly shoreline trail on Chadwick Pond provides a wonderful place to observe wildlife and enjoy the scenery.

Public Trail on Conserved Private Land

Mehaffey Farm | ROWLEY

This 28-acre, privately-owned farmland is protected with a Conservation Restriction (CR) that includes a trail that is open to the public. After the Mehaffey family approached Greenbelt for assistance in 2015, this conservation project was completed in 2018 with support from Rowley Community Preservation Act funds, the Massachusetts Conservation Partnership grant program, the Mehaffey family, Greenbelt and generous donors. Today, a public trail leads visitors through the conservation-restricted farmland to the adjoining Willowdale State Forest.

Community, Individual, State & Municipal Support

Donibristle Reservation | TOPSFIELD

In 2016, Greenbelt worked with a dedicated, grassroots community group and the property owner to permanently protect 44 acres from residential development. With generous support from the residents of the Town of Topsfield, private donors and a grant from MA Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND), Greenbelt successfully acquired and conserved the land in 2017. The trails on this beautiful wooded hillside are a popular destination for many.

Kamon Farm Conservation Project | IPSWICH >>>

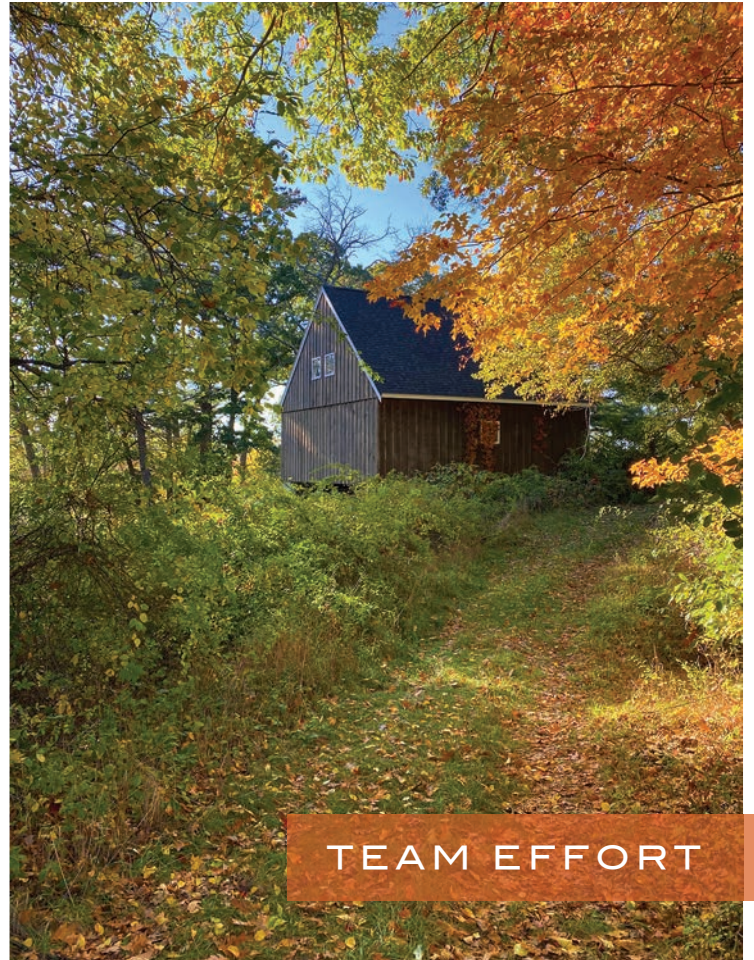
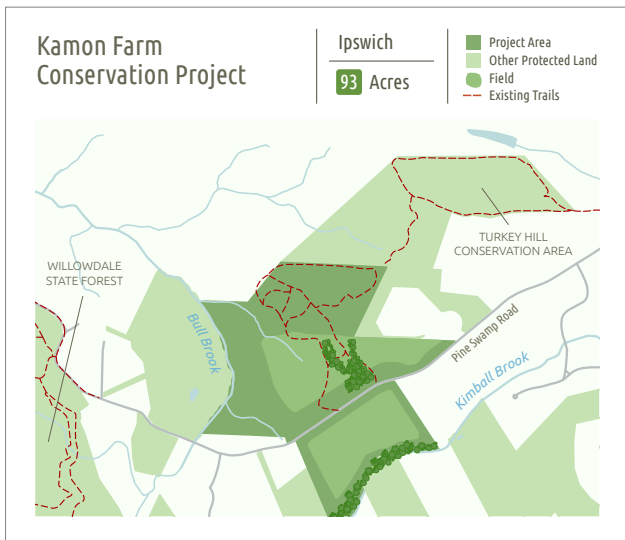
Kamon Farm Conservation Project | IPSWICH

Conservation in Action

After years of farming the 93-acre Kamon Farm, the property owners decided to discontinue agricultural operations and sell their land, and are hopeful for a conservation outcome.

Greenbelt is working with the Town of Ipswich to permanently protect this property. With expansive hayfields, hills, forest and wetlands, the property features wonderful trails that connect to other conserved land and important drinking water supply protection land.

Ipswich residents unanimously voted to approve spending \$350,000 in Open Space bond money, and the MA LAND program awarded \$400,000 for the project. Greenbelt has committed to privately fundraise for the remaining \$400,000 by June 2021.



Greenbelt Trail Plan

Existing Trail Network to connect to Turkey Hill Conservation Area

The main trail on the Kamon property climbs from the road to an open hilltop with incredible views of rolling fields and forest. From there it leads into the woods and branches into a network of trails amidst lush ferns and old stone walls. If the project is successful, the Kamon property will become a new Greenbelt Reservation, free and open for public enjoyment year-round.

Easy/Moderate
1.4-miles of trails

DONATE/LEARN MORE
ecga.org/kamonfarm



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

TRAIL CREATION

Every new trail approach is unique, with its own set of considerations that require the Stewardship Team to evaluate as they lay the groundwork.



Evaluate

Explore and map any existing trails using GPS. Are they part of a larger trail network?

Understand how trails traverse the property.

Assess trail conditions. Are they adequate? Missing links? Need improvements?

Design

Explore and study landscape and topography. Should natural features be highlighted or given special consideration?

Factor wear and erosion potential into trail design. Are there steep grades to consider? Traversing across steep grades is preferable to going straight up and down. In the case of a very steep grade, terracing the trail provides a flat surface for better hiking and prevents erosion.

Give special attention to wetland crossings. When circumventing wetlands is unavoidable, bog bridges, boardwalks or gravel reduce impact. Is permitting required from local conservation commission?

TRAIL UPKEEP

Greenbelt's public reservations are free and open from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year.

Our Land Stewardship Team takes this responsibility seriously.



Safety & Accessibility

Mow, trim and maintain trail surfaces and parking areas

Keep trails well marked

Monitor and remove fallen trees

Repair erosion damage

Maintain boardwalks, viewing platforms, other trail structures

Ensure event safety

Thank you to our true trail heroes,
for all that you do.

Dave Rimmer
Director of Land Stewardship
Mike Carbone
Assistant Director of Land Stewardship
Dave McKinnon
Land Manager & Trails Coordinator



Create

Carefully clear the way through the landscape. Walk the new trails to confirm that the layout is most compatible with the natural setting and provides the best user experience. Are adjustments needed?

Remove large obstacles, such as fallen trees and brush. Clear debris like sticks and leaves off trail.

Mark trails as needed.



Lead the Way

Provide property maps and signage, two of the most important components of creating a trail. Greenbelt continually works to improve mapping and signage.

Post trail markers and wayfaring signage along the course of the trail to orient trail users along the way. Accurate trail maps - hard copy and electronic - are important.

Install kiosks to provide the property overview including its history and conservation story, and description of important natural features, flora and fauna.

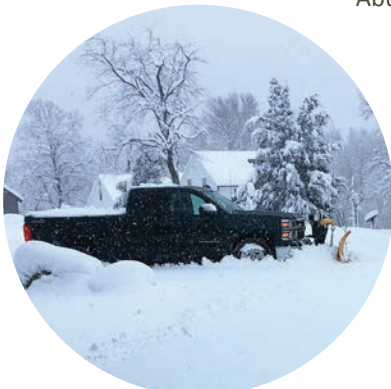


Expansion & Alterations

Create new trails and off-property trail connections

Update trail maps

Monitor seasonal trail impacts - close trails temporarily or limit use if necessary



Strong Relationships

Volunteer trail monitors

Trail users - hikers, dog walkers, bikers, equestrians, families and educators

Trail groups, advocates and partners

Abutting landowners

Congratulations to our Land Manager & Trails Coordinator Dave McKinnon on completing the UMass Invasive Plant Certification Program!

**MORE LAND CONSERVED
= MORE LAND TO STEWARD**

VINEYARD HILL RESERVATION

Once part of a larger estate purchased by Major George S. Patton and his wife Beatrice in 1928, Vineyard Hill remained in the Patton family until it was acquired and conserved by Greenbelt in 2019.

The 139-acre Vineyard Hill Reservation is one of Greenbelt's newest and most beautiful properties.

The trails at the Vineyard Hill Reservation are wide and welcoming, leading hikers across a varied terrain - sometimes flat and other times steep - but always safe and well-marked. While most trails date back perhaps over 100 years and are well-trodden, new trails have been built to complete the full trail system. Trails are mostly through wooded areas, crossing an enchanting stone arch footbridge, traversing along wetlands and the edge of Shaw Field, and running the ridgeline of Vineyard Hill.

The woodlands consist of mixed hardwoods including oak, maple and beech with majestic white pines throughout. Diverse habitats offer homes for many woodland animals, owls and a wide array of songbirds, especially in spring. When leaves have fallen, the Vineyard Hill ridgeline offers views across the Ipswich River and beyond to the west.

Visitors have the opportunity to explore hikes of various lengths and terrain. For the most ambitious, trails connect to a larger trail network in the adjacent Bradley Palmer State Park.



WELL-TRODDEN PATHS

Hamilton
Topsfield

139 Acres



Vineyard Hill Trail Well-Trodden Paths

Enters the woods, crosses a stone arch footbridge and turns uphill to loop around Vineyard Hill with some steep sections.

Easy/Moderate
1.4-mile trail loop

Shaw Field Trail Trail Network Connection

Leads past the blueberry patch, into the woods and around the edge of Shaw Field, passing several intersections connecting to Bradley Palmer State Park.

Easy
1.2-mile trail loop



“I can’t begin to tell you the joy walking the Greenbelt properties has been.”



NEXT STEPS

Steep hills like this one are drumlins, formed during the last glaciation. For other challenging drumlins to hike, bike or run, visit

- Bald Hill** | BOXFORD
- Baldpate Hill** | GEORGETOWN
- Donovan Reservation & Sagamore Hill Conservation Area** HAMILTON
- Indian Hill Conservation Area** WEST NEWBURY
- Whittier Hill** | AMESBURY

TRAIL GUIDELINES

Thank you for doing your part to respect nature and others on Greenbelt trails.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Carry out all trash at all times!

STAY ON THE TRAIL

Protect fragile habitats and wildlife, and respect our neighbors.

VISIT DAWN TO DUSK

DOG WALKERS

Carry out pet waste, leash your dog when necessary.

SHARE THE TRAILS



PLAY IT SAFE

Children, adults and dogs should wear fluorescent colors in hunting season, even where hunting is not permitted.

NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES

MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE



INDIAN HILL CONSERVATION AREA

West Newbury

315 Acres



Considered West Newbury’s “emerald necklace,” Indian Hill Conservation Area’s extensive trail network leads through miles of diverse habitats and to spectacular viewpoints. It is comprised of four Greenbelt Reservations - Indian Hill Farm, Atherton Field & Trail Connector, Ordway Reservation and South Street Woodlots.

This ribbon of contiguous, conserved land and trails is an outstanding example of how an expansive “greenbelt” of protected land can take decades of vision, patience, generosity and hard work to take shape. Beginning in the early 1990s with the protection of the first South Street Woodlot parcel, this conservation area continues to expand today as Greenbelt pursues the potential addition of the 25-acre Colby property, a piece that fits perfectly into this conservation puzzle.



TAKING THE LONG VIEW



DAVID ALDEN ST. PIERRE (3)



JERRY MONKMAN/ECOPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



“We appreciate the Greenbelt properties that have sustained us!”

Indian Hill Farm Trail
Dry-stacked Stone Walls
Stunning Views

Traverse and climb to views of Indian Hill Reservoir and a mosaic of fields and forest below.

Moderate/Difficult
2.8 miles of trails

Ordway Trail
Diverse Wildlife Habitat

Winds through fields, wetlands and forested uplands, along old wood roads and stone walls.

Moderate
0.8 miles of trails

Atherton Trail
Bucolic Trail Connection

Meanders over gently rolling terrain leading to Pike's Bridge Road, known as "Warbler's Alley."

Moderate
0.5 miles of trails

South Street Woodlots Trail
Hardwoods, Pines, Outcrops

Leads through forests, across boardwalks, along stone walls to reservoir overlook and connection to Indian Hill Farm Reservation.

Moderate
0.7 miles of trails



NEXT STEPS

VISIT OTHER MERRIMACK VALLEY TRAILS

Bailey Reservation | HAVERHILL 22 acres

A beautiful, ¼ mile woodland trail that hugs the shore of Chadwick Pond is a wonderful place to explore and observe pond wildlife, including plenty of beaver activity and birds. The trail is easy and short, making it very family-friendly.

Baypoint Riverfront | HAVERHILL 15 acres

The wooded trail through this riverfront reservation has exceptional views of the Merrimack River. Popular with dog walkers and fishermen, Baypoint is an excellent place to observe wildlife (including Bald Eagles during winter).

Whittier Hill Reservation | AMESBURY 21 acres

A wooded trail leads to views of Woodsom Farm and Lake Gardner from the summit of Whittier Hill, and eventually connects to more trails at Woodsom Farm. The path was originally established thousands of years ago by Indigenous people, and then became a carriage road and then a walking trail. Deer, coyote, hawks and owls are common.

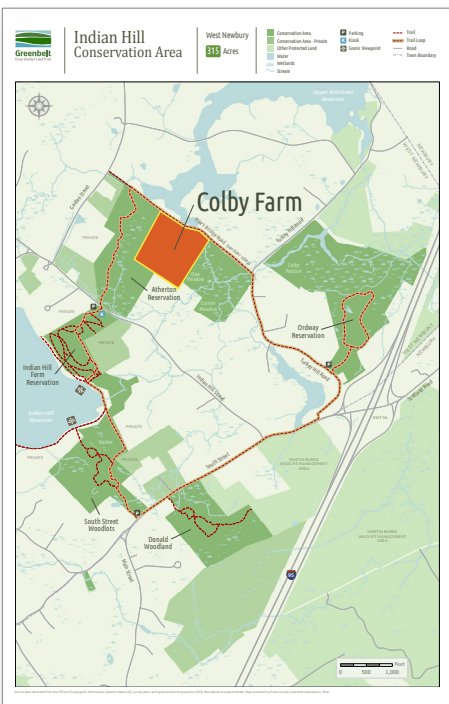
MV TRAILS IN PROGRESS

Beaver Pond Reservation | MERRIMAC 38 acres

Greenbelt is in the process of enhancing a walking trail through this amazing parcel that abuts the 311-acre Merrimac Town Forest. A footpath along the pristine woods and wetlands through which Cobbler's Brook flows will provide scenic views of a lovely beaver pond and seasonal wildflowers.

River Road Property | WEST NEWBURY 31 acres

Rising up from the southern shore of the Merrimack River on River Road are mature stands of giant white pines, oaks, maples and paper birches. Greenbelt is in the process of creating one or more trail loops through these woods, and on the other side of the road is hoping to create a footpath to the river and a car-top boat launch.



Patchwork of Conserved Land Over Time

Colby Farm
 Help Greenbelt add the 25-acre Colby property to the Indian Hill Conservation Area.

LEARN MORE
DONATE
ecga.org/indian-hill-conservation-area-expansion

TOMPSON STREET RESERVATION

Gloucester

320 Acres



JERRY MONKMAN/ECOPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



ADRIAN SCHOLES

With 320 acres and dozens of trails, Tompson Street Reservation in Gloucester is one of Greenbelt's most popular destinations. From low-lying red maple swamps to exquisite hilltop views, Cape Ann's extraordinary and rugged landscape is on full display. Tompson Street's seemingly endless trails twist and turn around weathered outcrops of Cape Ann granite, massive glacial boulders, vernal pools and hardwood forests.

The Reservation takes its name from the old Tompson Street cart path, once part of an historic main road used by early colonial settlers to travel between Ipswich and Gloucester. Other interconnected trails throughout the property are foot and wagon paths that harken back to much earlier days.

There are multiple trails to explore at Tompson Street. Greenbelt maintains three loops, each providing excellent opportunities to experience Cape Ann's natural beauty.

Sunset Mountain Trail Sunset Mountain Gateway

Climbs to an unsurpassed, 360-degree view from Sunset Mountain's granite summit.

Moderate/Challenging
0.8-mile trail loop

Eagle Rock Trail Bray Street Gateway

Leads to a spectacular view across Ipswich Bay toward Plum Island and the New Hampshire coast.

Moderate/Challenging
1.4-mile trail loop

Red Maple Swamp Trail Norcross Gateway

Includes an impressive boardwalk crossing over a red maple swamp that has been flooded by beaver activity.

Moderate
2.1-mile trail loop



NEXT STEPS

To experience more of Cape Ann's rocky terrain, explore

Carter Reservation
GLOUCESTER



TAKING IT ALL IN

VIEWING PLATFORMS

Greenbelt has several lovely viewing platforms to rest and observe wildlife!

- Allyn Cox Reservation** | Essex
- Carter Fields** | Boxford
- Patton Riverwalk** | Hamilton
- Rough Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary** | Rowley
- Sally Weatherall** | Ipswich
- Wet Meadows** | Newbury

EASIER ACCESS

Visitors with limited mobility can find easier access at these properties.

- Allyn Cox Reservation** | Essex
- Castle Neck River Reservation** | Ipswich
- Hans Morris Reservation** | Newbury
- Harvey Reservation** | Gloucester
- Sally Weatherall** | Ipswich
- Seine Field** | Gloucester
- Stoney Cove/Presson Point** | Gloucester
- Willowdale Mill Reservation** | Hamilton

Our goal is to expand this list where feasible.

DID YOU KNOW?

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Greenbelt is incredibly fortunate to benefit from trail improvements accomplished by Eagle Scouts in our region. In the past two years alone, these projects have significantly improved our trail safety and accessibility.

Mathew Freeman

Trail extension at Whittier Hill, Amesbury

Nathan Stankus

Bridge at Barrett Reservation, Middleton

Findley Moran

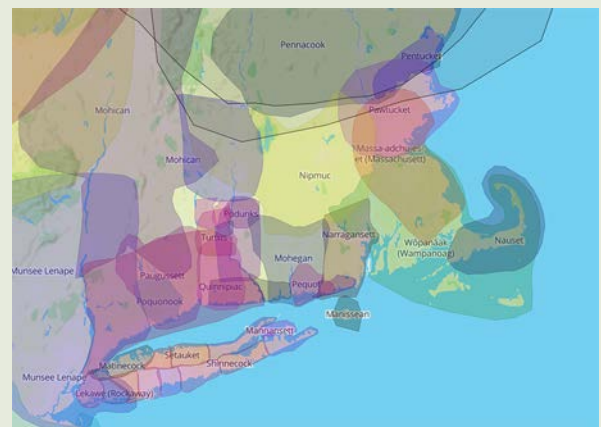
Bridge at Alt Reservation, Beverly

Patrick Morin

Bridge at Woodland Acres, Rockport

MAPPING INDIGENOUS LANDS

There is a long history of the land that today is called Essex County. Learn about the people who lived here prior to European settlers by using the interactive map native-land.ca.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Seine Field is a stop on the Cape Ann Transport Authority (CATA) public transit route.

Seine Field | Gloucester

Schedules available at canntran.com

We are working with partners to provide more public transportation to our properties. Stay tuned!

COX RESERVATION + HEADQUARTERS

With rich history and extraordinary views, Allyn Cox Reservation is not only home to Greenbelt’s operations, but also to hikers, artists, dog walkers and nature enthusiasts year-round.

The land we now call Cox Reservation is native Pawtucket land. Ancient “middens” or shell piles along the Essex River point to their presence for thousands of years. As early as the 1630s, the main trail from the Cox barns to the Essex River was an “ancient road” used by European settlers traveling between Gloucester and Ipswich.

This land served as a dairy farm, apple orchard and gentleman’s farm for more than three centuries. Settled in 1648 as a salt marsh farm, from 1650 to the early 1900s it was part of a larger property that was used as a “School Farm” to support Ipswich’s first grammar school. The Burnham family built the original farmhouse here in 1787 and the barn in 1863. Muralist Allyn Cox and his wife later lived here in the summers and used the barn as an art studio from 1940 to 1974, when they donated the property to Greenbelt.

Essex

31 Acres



Today, the trail to the river and the paths through the fields offer breathtaking views that expand across Essex Bay, the Great Marsh and beyond.



Marshview Trails Well worth a visit

A pleasant walk offering some of the region’s most spectacular vistas.
Easy
0.8-mile of trails

Viewing Platform Birders’ Paradise

The wooden platform on the edge of the Great Marsh offers spectacular views across salt marsh, tidal creeks, salt pannes and the Essex River. Look for Osprey, wading shorebirds, egrets and herons.



NEXT STEPS

For other Great Marsh viewing platforms visit

Sally Weatherall | IPSWICH

Rough Meadows

Wildlife Sanctuary | ROWLEY

COMMUNITY NEWS



Baby Nora Please join us in congratulating Alexandra and Frankie Letizia on the birth of Nora Louise Margaret on October 16th. We're thrilled for the entire family, and we can't wait to meet you, Nora!

Jessie Herlihy Serving as our Development and Administrative Coordinator for the next few months of Alexandra's maternity leave, Jessie is pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies and is a fantastic addition to Greenbelt's team.

Becca Smalley A Junior at Salem State University, Becca is interning with Greenbelt's Conservation Department this fall. She is majoring in Cartography & GIS and is hoping to be accepted into SSU's 5-year BS/Master's Program in her field.



Tractor Dedication Greenbelt named our new tractor in honor of Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld, a member of Greenbelt's Stewardship Committee, a former Board Member and dedicated supporter of Greenbelt's trails and stewardship programs. Many thanks to Susanna and all of our generous stewardship supporters!

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Stay connected to Greenbelt and nature.

CHECK IN FOR UPDATES
ecga.org/events



**2021
FILM+
LECTURE
SERIES**

**Coastal Resiliency
& Climate Change**



Greenbelt

Essex County's Land Trust

82 Eastern Avenue
Essex, MA 01929

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Protecting land and nature
for you, our communities
and the future

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Essex County Greenbelt
Cox Reservation Headquarters
82 Eastern Avenue
Essex, MA 01929

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ecga@ecga.org

ecga.org



SHARING COMMON GROUND

Greenbelt is grateful to partner with dozens of organizations and our invaluable property monitors to create, maintain and encourage use of the trails on our properties. While the mission and make up of these cohorts may vary, the common ground we all share is to keep trails safe, welcoming and beautiful.

Conservation Commissions | Open Space Committees | Property Monitors | Watershed Councils and Associations



TRAIL PARTNERS

MORE PARTNERS

ecga.org/our-partners

Local, regional and governmental partners



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