

Protecting Land

Farming Heritage, Scenic Riverside Landscape, Historic Woodlot



Brown Spring Farm Gateway to West Newbury, Fresh, Local Food Source

[LEARN MORE/DONATE
ecga.org/brownspringfarm](https://ecga.org/brownspringfarm)

10-ACRE HERITAGE FARM | WEST NEWBURY

This bucolic property, with its white Victorian home surrounded by fields of hay and vegetables, has been the gateway to West Newbury since the late 1800s. Partnering with local residents, Greenbelt is working to preserve this important cornerstone of West Newbury's agricultural history, and a reliable source of fresh, local food.

To conserve Brown Spring Farm, Greenbelt and the Town of West Newbury propose to purchase a conservation restriction, forever protecting the farm from development and guaranteeing the land is always available for farming. An Essex County farmer will own the land and plans to sustainably grow produce which will be available at Brown Spring Farm's farm stand.



Scenic River Road Landscape Potential for Paddle Launch, Wooded Trails

[LEARN MORE/DONATE
ecga.org/riverroad](https://ecga.org/riverroad)

31-ACRE WOODLAND | WEST NEWBURY

It is called the "most-scenic road in West Newbury," and eagles are frequently seen in the area. The River Road property includes 31 acres of woodland and river views that would expand West Newbury's recreational assets, offering the potential for a paddle launch with modest parking on the Merrimack River and wooded trails.

Greenbelt and the Town of West Newbury have

the opportunity to permanently protect the mature forest with stands of birches, oaks, maples and white pines. The gently rolling terrain provides a beautiful landscape for a meandering trail alongside stone walls and Coffin's Stream.

Wetlands provide an important habitat for a variety of species. Greenbelt's management of this land would create a new public open space, free for all to enjoy, and the Town would hold a conservation restriction.



Glennie Woodlot Classic Forest, Heron Rookery Views

[LEARN MORE/DONATE
ecga.org/glenniewoodlot](https://ecga.org/glenniewoodlot)

9.25-ACRE WOODLOT | NORTH ANDOVER

A few steps into the Glennie Woodlot feels like stepping back in time, to over a century ago when North Andover was a rural farming community interspersed with woodlots like this one. Passed down through generations, it is the last piece of the old Glennie Dairy, much of which is now the permanently-protected Smolak Farm.

In partnership with North Andover residents,

Greenbelt has the opportunity to forever protect this 9.25-acre woodlot on Dale Street, which would provide new access to the Town Farm Conservation Area with trails and parking. Mature trees grace these open woods, leading to views of a 23-nest heron rookery perched in the neighboring wetlands.

The land would be owned by the Town for conservation and passive recreational purposes.



Hello Friends As spring bursts out in New England, we appreciate more than ever the amazing vitality in our landscapes. Walking the fields and forest trails this time of year is always a pleasure, whatever the weather. Across Essex County, trees and shrubs are thick with budding flowers and new leaves, fields are furred with green and streams flow full and fast. Migrating birds are back, busy and noisy as they get ready for a new season. The herring are making their way upriver to their spawning grounds.

The cycle of work at Greenbelt has some parallels to nature's seasonal pulse. Spring feels like a new beginning, and we look ahead to a whole season of outdoor activities: hikes, boat tours, trail days, Art in the Barn, Tour de Greenbelt, and more. We have new queen bees in the hives at Cox Reservation, and a new osprey cam set up on the marsh in Gloucester. Greenbelt's stewardship staff are busy getting trails and parking areas ready for the season, clearing downed trees and repairing bridges and boardwalks.

This time of year, especially Earth Day, always makes us think about environmental conservation. If you've been to our headquarters at Cox Reservation this spring, you have probably seen our two new solar tracking arrays, which produce more electricity than we use every year. Soon we'll be installing an electric car charging station as well. We will be printing two newsletters a year, rather than three, and instead reaching our members more often and with more content in our electronic communications. All of this is part of Greenbelt's effort to reduce our own impact, and to complement our

basic mission. **That work – conserving land – is well recognized as the best thing our society can do to protect our environment and reduce the impacts of climate change.**

Of particular note, as highlighted in this newsletter, Greenbelt's work to preserve farms and farmland is bearing fruit (pun intended), and it's exciting to see the energy created by young farmers and older farmers getting together. The start of a new growing season is a perfect time to celebrate the conservation of Anton Farm in Haverhill, and the exciting potential to protect Brown Spring Farm in West Newbury.

Our work at Greenbelt is possible because of you, our supporters, volunteers and community members who have helped Greenbelt thrive and grow. Thanks for your continued support, and see you out on the trails!

Kate Bowditch
President

Philip Lake
Chair, Board of Directors

STAFF UPDATE



Farewell Shelley

We were sad to say goodbye this winter to Shelley Raymond, Greenbelt's Director of Finance and Operations, who accepted an exciting new position at The Nature Conservancy in mid-coast Maine. Shelley

kept just about everything at Greenbelt running smoothly and was the epitome of grace under fire. While we dearly miss her ability to find the answer to any question and her wonderful sense of humor, we wish her and Keith all the best as they embark on this new adventure together!



Welcome Baby Horgan!

On Sunday, April 21st Greenbelt's Development Manager Rachel Horgan and her husband Ryan welcomed baby Freya Marie Horgan into the world. We're delighted with this beautiful new addition to the Greenbelt family!

OFFICERS

Chair	Philip Lake Hamilton
Vice Chair	Brad Aham Newbury
Vice Chair	Annie Madden West Newbury
Treasurer	Kent Wosepka Hamilton
Secretary	Peter Loring Prides Crossing

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President Kate Bowditch

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Design Manager	Sharon Pacione

Essex County Greenbelt
Cox Reservation Headquarters
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Essex, MA 01929
978 768 7241
ecga@ecga.org

ecga.org

  #wearegreenbelt
@ecgreenbelt



FREE!
Unless noted

Get Outside!

EXPLORE, HIKE AND LEARN WITH US

RSVP FOR ALL GREENBELT EVENTS

ecga.org/events | ecga@ecga.org,
978 768 7241 x10

UPDATES Dates, times, and locations are subject to change due to weather or other unforeseen conditions. Please RSVP and check online for updates.

June

National Trails Day

June 1, Saturday

Invite family and friends to explore a Greenbelt trail with you! Share a photo of your outing on Instagram.

#wearegreenbelt



Art in the Barn

Cox Reservation | Essex

Greenbelt's 30th Annual Art Exhibit & Sale!

June 7-9, Friday-Sunday

Don't miss this weekend showcase and sale of paintings, sculpture, pottery, and jewelry that benefits Greenbelt's land conservation efforts. **FREE.**

MORE INFORMATION

ecga.org/artinthebarn



Wild Edibles for Kids

Cox Reservation | Essex

Family Nature Series

June 15, Saturday | 4:00-6:00pm

Discover plenty to munch on outdoors - if you just know where to look! **FREE.**

Guided Paddle

Ipswich River Watershed Assoc. | Ipswich

Partner Event, IRWA

June 16, Sunday | 1:00-3:00pm

Discover the river and its ecology during this laid-back outing. **FREE.**

Stone Tower Walk

Lynn Woods | Lynn

Partner Event, Y Connections Hiking Club

June 20, Thursday | 9:30-11:30am

Come explore this local gem and climb the stone tower. **FREE.**

Walk Through History

Rafton Reservation | Andover

Monthly Walk

Andover Village Improvement Society

June 23, Sunday | 1:00-3:00pm

Once farmland and woodlot, now crisscrossed by walking trails and stone walls. **FREE.**

July

Pingree Run for the Hills | 5K/10K

Pingree Reservation | Hamilton

North Shore Trail Series

July 13, Saturday | 9:00am Race Start

Get your workout in - run up & over eskers and other glacial landforms in this fun race.

Registration includes Greenbelt running gear.

Powwow River Paddle

Lake Gardner | Amesbury

Partner Event, Y Connections Hiking Club

July 18, Thursday | 9:30-11:30am

See Amesbury and its inspiring hills and valleys from a new perspective. **FREE.**

Spicket River Greenway Walk

Groundwork Lawrence | Lawrence

Monthly Walk

July 28, Sunday | 1:00-3:00pm

Revel in the green corridor of Lawrence, and learn about how it was created. **FREE.**

August

Discovering the Salt Marsh

Rough Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary

Family Nature Series | Rowley

August 3, Saturday | 4:00-6:00pm

Learn about the strange plants and animals that live in the salt marsh. **FREE.**

Quarry Walk

Dogtown | Rockport

Partner Event, Y Connections Hiking Club

August 15, Thursday | 9:30-11:30am

Explore the area encompassing a number of old quarries within Dogtown. **FREE.**



Beverly Commons Trail Run | 3.5/7.0-mi

Beverly Commons Conservation Area

North Shore Trail Series

August 24, Saturday | 9:00am Race Start

Challenge yourself at this technical run along the rocky trails of this 127-acre conservation area. Registration includes Greenbelt running gear.

The Stories Trees Can Tell

Tompson Street Reservation | Gloucester

Monthly Walk

August 25, Sunday | 1:00-3:00pm

Learn to identify a variety of local trees from former state ecologist Tim Simmons. **FREE.**

September

Star Party

Donovan Reservation/Sagamore Hill Conservation Area | Hamilton

Partner Event, North Shore Amateur Astronomers Club

September 3, Tuesday | 8:30-10:30pm

Join Greenbelt and local astronomers to observe and learn about the night sky. **FREE.**

Water, Land & Sky

Willowdale Mill & Bradley Palmer | Ipswich

Partner Event, Y Connections Hiking Club

Sept 12, Thursday | 9:30-11:30am

Observe a fish ladder, enjoy hiking rolling meadows, and bask in expansive views. **FREE.**



TOUR DE GREENBELT
CYCLE FOR LAND CONSERVATION

Cox Reservation | Essex

5th Annual Ride

September 21, Saturday | 9:00am Start

50-mile/25-mile Road Routes

40-mile Gravel Grinder Route

Enjoy spectacular scenery, on-road support, and finish-line festivities. Pass more than 50 properties conserved by Greenbelt.

Registration includes jersey, BBQ & live music.

PRE-REGISTER | ROUTES | PHOTOS | SPONSORS

tourdegreenbelt.org

PROJECT UPDATE

Merrimac's Beaver Pond Reservation Permanently Protected

23-ACRES ALONG COBBLERS BROOK | MERRIMAC



Thanks to the support of Merrimac residents, other generous donors, and a Massachusetts Conservation Partnership Grant, 23 beautiful acres adjacent to Merrimac Town Forest on Battis Road have been permanently protected. We're grateful for the Merrimac 4th graders at the Helen R. Donaghue School who helped name the property "Beaver Pond Reservation." The students learned about the importance of open space as part of their curriculum. We're looking forward to a celebratory opening of the property when trail work is completed.

Haverhill Farmland: A Conservation Gift

25.7-ACRE HISTORIC FAMILY FARM | HAVERHILL

Last month, Mayor James Fiorentini and Haverhill's City Council unanimously approved a Conservation Restriction (CR) donation to Greenbelt by sisters-in-law Janice Anton and Barbara DiSalvo.

Through this conservation gift, Janice and Barbara will ensure that their 25.7-acre historic family farm will never be converted to homesites or otherwise developed, and can always be used as working farmland. Ninety-six residents signed a petition in support of the CR, and more than 20 residents and neighbors attended the City Council meeting to voice their support for preserving this rural, farming landscape in Haverhill.

Anton Farm has been owned and farmed by just three families since 1765: the Merrills, the Dawleys, and the Anton family when it was purchased by Barbara's grandfather in 1922. The farm is now leased to two local farmers – one who hays, and one who grows rhubarb for his nearby winery, Willow Spring Vineyards.

"To think of it going to development would have broken my heart," says Barbara DiSalvo. "I'm frequently reminded of how lucky I was to have grown up on a farm, an education you can't get any other way."



...this CR is an opportunity to make a [large], lasting impact. And knowing that this piece of land will remain much as it always was is the best part."

Greenbelt is honored to have worked with Janice and Barbara to protect their land, and thereby conserve a piece of Haverhill's farming heritage and help ensure the city's farming future.

MassLand Conference

CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS OFFERED



Greenbelt was well-represented among speakers at the 2019 MassLand Conference in March,

where more than 500 participants heard former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy deliver the keynote. Chris LaPointe, Director of Land Conservation, led the workshop "Land Conservation 101" and Vanessa Johnson-Hall, Assistant Director of Land Conservation, presented an "Update from the Conservation Restriction Review Program at MA EEA." Thank you, Chris and Vanessa, for sharing your expertise with fellow Massachusetts land trusts.

Generous Conservation Gifts

20-ACRES OF LAND | HAVERHILL

20 acres of wooded upland along the Little River in Haverhill has been donated by WBC Extrusion Products, Inc. The land will be permanently preserved as a natural woodland buffer to the Little River, which meanders along the edge of the property. It provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species, including turtles, fox, deer, and songbirds, and is adjacent to the City of Haverhill's Clement Farm Conservation Area.

30-ACRE CONSERVATION RESTRICTION
GLOUCESTER

Sam and Betsy Holdsworth generously donated a Conservation Restriction on 30 acres of their property in West Gloucester. Much of the land is located within the Great Marsh Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and the property is an important upland buffer to the marsh. Parcels like this are increasingly important as sea level rise and the effects of climate change are becoming more evident. While agricultural activities will be allowed, the land will be protected, ensuring scenic views of the property from the Essex River.

9-ACRE CONSERVATION RESTRICTION
BEVERLY

Past Greenbelt Board member and longtime friend and supporter Ann Nichols has generously donated a Conservation Restriction on 9 acres of her property in Beverly. The land is adjacent to the Beverly Commons Conservation Area, and the restriction will permanently preserve the ecological values provided by the land, which includes a mix of wetlands and woodlands characteristic of the area.

Spotlight on Stewardship



David Rimmer
Director of Land Stewardship

DAVE MCKINNON, DAVE RIMMER, MIKE CARBONE, AND SEASONAL STAFF AND VOLUNTEER PROPERTY MONITORS MAKE UP THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM.

WHAT ARE THE KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT?

- Maintain safe public access to Greenbelt's reservations, year-round
- Administer agricultural license agreements with farmers on our properties
- Monitor Conservation Restrictions (CR) to ensure compliance
- Provide a full range of logistical support for Greenbelt events
- Monitor and manage invasive plants and resources such as Osprey & Piping Plover

WHAT ARE THE MOST CRITICAL ASPECTS OF STEWARDSHIP WORK?

Stewardship is responsible for safe public access to our beautiful reservations, creates and maintains trails and parking areas, mows fields and grasslands and installs signage and fencing. This includes our much-visited Cox Reservation Headquarters: caring for the grounds, plowing snow and overseeing the upkeep of our historic farmhouse, barns and gardens.

100+
MILES OF
MARKED TRAILS
MAINTAINED

438
PARCELS OF LAND
OWNED
TOTALING
6,337
ACRES

243
CONSERVATION
RESTRICTIONS HELD
TOTALING
7,253
ACRES

As of May, 2019

Stewardship's logistical support at Greenbelt events is essential, particularly signature events such as Annual Meeting, Art in the Barn, Tour de Greenbelt and Trail Runs.

WHAT TYPE OF STEWARDSHIP WORK IS LESS VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC?

Behind the scenes, the administration and oversight of more than a dozen agricultural license agreements with farmers is critical.

In addition, monitoring of Conservation Restrictions through careful inspection, record keeping and strong relationship building with the landowners, is essential. A CR is an agreement between a landowner and Greenbelt to protect the conservation values on their private property, and Greenbelt is legally responsible to monitor activities on CRs to ensure compliance.

WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES?

The Stewardship team is challenged continually to adapt their work plan to keep pace with the additional acreage that Greenbelt conserves each year. Other challenges include responding to the impacts of climate change (particularly with regard to storm damage such as flooding, erosion and downed trees), and addressing invasive plant species (mapping of these plants and using non-chemical solutions to combat them). To best meet these challenges, Stewardship stays current with best practices and emerging strategies.

HOW CAN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY SUPPORT STEWARDSHIP?

Be respectful of Greenbelt properties by staying on marked trails, cleaning up after your pet, and being considerate of the land's natural features. And be our eyes and ears - report any issues you observe to us. Finally, we can always use volunteers to help us get our work done.

WHAT DON'T PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM?

- We love Carhartt clothing, Muck Boots and a well-tuned chainsaw.
- To be more efficient, we use technology such as a customized App for CR monitoring.
- Occasionally, we get a little turned around in the woods!

Osprey Webcam is Active Again!

LIVE STREAM VIDEO OF NESTING PAIR

NEW LOCATION Greenbelt is excited to announce that we are once again live-streaming video from an active Osprey nest, this time in Gloucester in the salt marsh near LobstaLand restaurant. With the installation of a solar-powered battery, we are able to wirelessly stream video. We are very appreciative of LobstaLand owner Corey Grammas for his collaboration.



Greenbelt Goes Net Zero

SOLAR TRACKING ARRAYS INSTALLED

As part of Greenbelt's overall efforts to address climate change, we installed two new All-Earth solar tracking arrays at the Cox Reservation Headquarters in Essex. Generously underwritten by Tim and Emily Collins of Topsfield, the trackers will produce more than enough power to offset the energy used by Greenbelt. These are the most efficient type of solar array, using GPS to track the sun and maximize output.

MORE INFORMATION

Dave Rimmer, dwr@ecga.org
978 768 7241 x14



Welcome Fiona
Seasonal Stewardship
Technician

We are thrilled to have Fiona Hill of West Newbury join the stewardship staff this summer. Fiona is a rising junior at UMass Amherst,

majoring in natural resource conservation. Fiona will be assisting in all aspects of stewardship this summer, including property maintenance, Piping Plover protection in Gloucester and Greenbelt's Osprey Program.



“The Biggest Little Farm”

FILM SCREENING, BROOKLINE'S COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Greenbelt enjoyed a sneak preview of “The Biggest Little Farm” at the Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline. Following this documentary about a young couple’s journey from California suburbia to a life of sustainable farming, Greenbelt hosted a panel of Essex County farmers who shared their own successes and challenges with farming. We’re grateful to Coolidge Corner Theatre for partnering with us, and to members of the Greenbelt community who joined us for the evening.



Remembering Mickey

The Greenbelt community was deeply saddened by the passing of Francis “Mickey” Culver on December 1, 2018. Mickey joined Greenbelt’s board of directors in 1998, serving as President from 2005-2008, and Treasurer from 2009-2018. Passionate about Greenbelt’s mission of land conservation and stewardship, he was an impactful and insightful leader who was instrumental in the success of Greenbelt’s growth over the decades. We will forever be grateful for Mickey’s commitment, leadership, wisdom and wit, and are honored to dedicate our **2019 Al Creighton Conservation Award** to him posthumously.

ANNUAL MEETING

Volunteer Recognition

INDISPENSABLE OVER THE YEARS
AT ART IN THE BARN

Greenbelt’s 2019 Volunteer Recognition Award goes to three exceptional volunteers whose talent and tireless efforts make Greenbelt’s “Art in the Barn” a tremendous success every year. Thank you!

NATHALIE MEYFARTH | TOPSFIELD

Natalie keeps Art in the Barn running smoothly with her extraordinary organizational skills, keen appreciation for art and boundless enthusiasm.



ANN JONES | GROVELAND

A participating artist herself, Ann uses her professional, discerning eye to ensure that the art is top quality and beautifully displayed throughout the Cox Reservation.



BETH COOPER | GLOUCESTER

Arguably the most talented floral artist around, Beth never fails to awe visitors and artists alike with her breathtaking arrangements of flowers from local gardens.



Cell Signaling
TECHNOLOGY®

Greenbelt New Corporate Partner

Greenbelt is honored to be selected as a new Cell Signaling Technology Corporate Partner. This partnership program was created by CST to “strengthen [their] relationship with local community,” and Greenbelt is already enjoying the opportunity to collaborate with this enthusiastic and conservation-minded group.

Earth Day Endeavors

Here at Greenbelt, we think of every day as Earth Day as climate change increasingly shapes our approach to the work we do. Using sophisticated mapping technology, Greenbelt can strategically identify and then focus on conservation projects best suited for their resiliency to climate change.

Greenbelt enjoyed participating in a number of festivities as we marked the 49th anniversary of Earth Day including those in Merrimac, Newburyport, Boxford, Topsfield, and Rockport.

For the first time, Greenbelt held a special Earth Day fundraising campaign, #earthdaygiving. Thank you to everyone who participated so generously, and particularly to New England Biolabs who offered to match the first \$5,000 received!

LEARN MORE
ecga.org/climatesolutions





Consider a Legacy Gift to Greenbelt

Planned giving advantages, opportunities and reasons to consider this avenue of giving.

MANY PATHS TO A LASTING LEGACY

Greenbelt's work lasts forever, and its impact will be felt over generations. A planned gift of a charitable bequest creates a lasting legacy advancing that work.

Even if it's not possible to give a gift today, planned giving allows the promise of a gift in the future. There are many paths to that lasting legacy. Charitable gifts can range from simple to complex, and can include the gift of a tangible asset, a gift that returns income, or a gift that costs nothing during the donor's lifetime.

A bequest can range in size and value and can be funded with almost any asset, such as cash, stocks or mutual funds, IRAs and retirement funds, real estate, and personal property. Donors can support the programs and activities that are most important to them by designating the bequest for general operations, endowment, land protection, or land stewardship.

GENEROUS GIFT OF LAND

Last year, a house in Haverhill with 8.5 acres was left to Greenbelt through the planned giving of Maureen Corbett. When Greenbelt met with Ms. Corbett in 2016, she generously agreed that her home could be sold after her death, as long as the surrounding woodlands were protected.



Greenbelt recently sold the house, and retained 5.65 acres of native woodlands that connect to watershed lands. We are honored to have been included in Maureen's wishes to leave a lasting gift of conserved land in Haverhill.

With planned giving to Greenbelt, you can have a lasting impact on the farmland, wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes of Essex County for generations to come.

"Of all the charities I know, Greenbelt represented the things I care most about. Maybe other people will be tempted to do the same."

- Nancy Weare
Legacy Gift

Advice from a trusted professional advisor is strongly recommended to help determine the type of gift that specifically meets your personal, financial and philanthropic goals.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Cathy Lanois, Director of Development
ccl@ecga.org, 978 768 7241 x13

ecga.org/plannedgiving

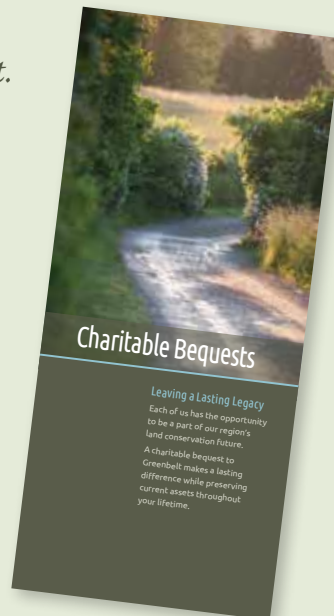


ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIX/KATEMANGOSTAR

YOUR EXCLUSIVE INVITATION

Special Excursions

FOR GREENBELT MEMBERS

NEW THIS YEAR!

Our way of saying thanks for your membership.

Farm Walk + Family Fun

August 10, Saturday 10:00am - noon

Alprilla Farm | Essex

Explore a working farm followed by a kid-friendly, hands-on activity.

Full Moon Hike

October 12, Saturday 6:30 - 7:30pm

Whittier Hill | Amesbury

Venture onto the trails for a peaceful moonlit hike with friends, then meet up at Brewery Silvaticus.

REGISTER
ecga.org/events

Reserve early, events fill up quickly!
Enter code: **GreenbeltMember**

If you're not a member, this is a good reason to join!



Family Nature Series

BRING THE KIDS!

Enjoy the wonders of nature with your kids at Greenbelt's family-friendly outings led by environmental educators from the North Shore Nature Program.

Wild Edibles for Kids

June 15, Saturday 4:00 - 6:00pm

Cox Reservation | Essex

There's plenty to munch on outdoors, if you just know where to look! Take a yummy walk around Cox Reservation where you'll taste wild edible plants on the property. Learn how to spot the edible plants, and which ones to eat and not eat outdoors.

Discover the Salt Marsh

August 3, Saturday 4:00 - 6:00pm

Rough Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary | Rowley

Discover the ecosystem of the salt marsh, and meet the strange plants and animals that live where the ocean meets the land. Muck boots are strongly recommended to make your way through the marsh grass to meet insects, fish, horseshoe crabs, algae and marshland birds.



Greenbelt

Essex County's Land Trust

82 Eastern Avenue
Essex, MA 01929

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for you, our communities
and the future.



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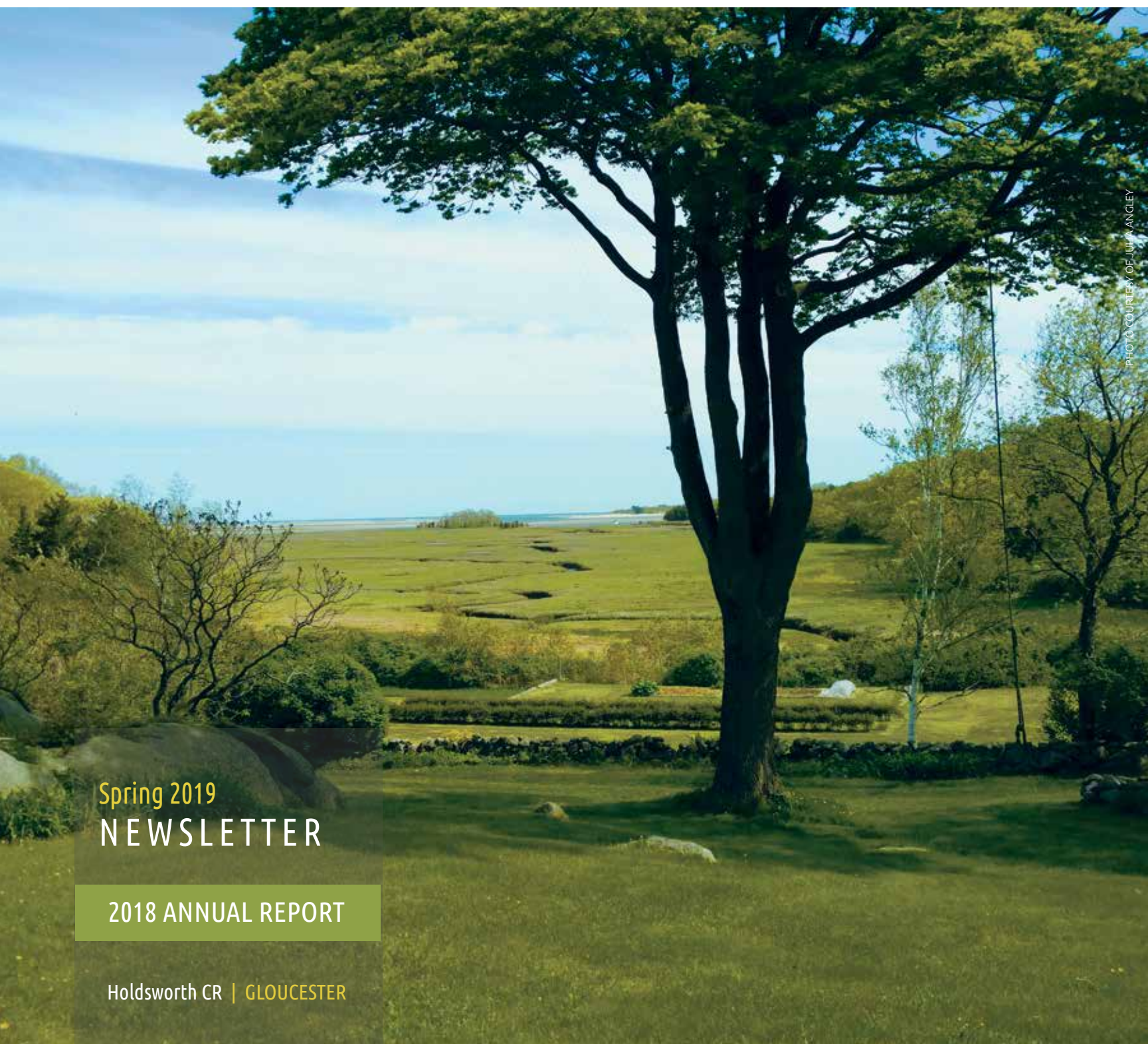


PHOTO COURTESY OF JUIA ANGLE

Spring 2019
NEWSLETTER

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Holdsworth CR | **GLOUCESTER**