

EXPLORE WITH US
GreenbeltGo-Getter
Trails Challenge!

FREE & FUN FOR ALL

Local Conservation Continues 50+ Year Partnership

Sawmill Brook Conservation Project, West Newbury

32 ACRES OF WOODLANDS, WETLANDS AND TRAILS



NEIL UNGERLEIDER

Greenbelt and the Town of West Newbury work to protect an important extension to the well-loved Mill Pond & Pipestave Hill Conservation & Recreation Area

At West Newbury's Town Meeting in April, a sea of hands rose waving their green "Yea" cards. Residents voted overwhelmingly to allocate municipal funds to support the Sawmill Brook Conservation Project. Town Meeting is often the moment of truth, when community members decide with their vote if a conservation project that Greenbelt and municipal partners have worked on for months is worthy of pursuing.

This successful Town Meeting vote wasn't simply the result of weeks of municipal meetings and a concerted get-out-the-vote effort by Greenbelt and the Open Space Committee. Those all helped, of course. But this vote reflected the confidence and trust that Greenbelt and the West Newbury community have been building since 1968, when they began partnering to conserve open space.

Over the past five decades, Greenbelt has helped to protect 840 acres in West Newbury. While Greenbelt may be the conservation catalyst, none of this would be possible without effective town management and leadership, and a robust and engaged Open Space Committee.

Also essential is the Community Preservation Act (CPA), adopted by West Newbury to provide a consistent source of municipal funding for conservation projects, pending community approval on a case-by-case basis. Now, with the Town of West Newbury's vote in April to support the Sawmill Brook Conservation Project with up to \$350,000 in CPA funds, Greenbelt is actively fundraising for the remaining amount needed to complete the project.

If successful, the Sawmill Brook Conservation Project will add 32 protected acres to West Newbury's Pipestave Hill & Mill Pond Conservation Area, expanding existing trails, protecting important habitat and clean water, and increasing the Town's resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change.

We welcome your support! To learn more and donate to this important project, please visit:

ecga.org/sawmillbrook



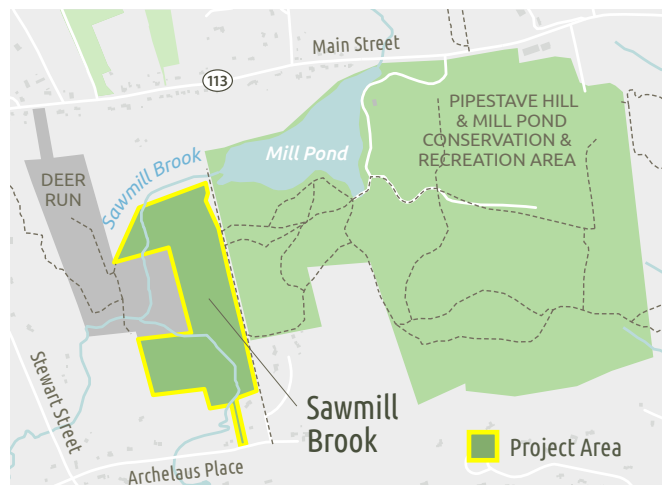
Our GreenbeltGo-Getter Trails Challenge is a fun way for everyone to get outside and explore our trails at their own pace!

CHECK IT OUT/REGISTER
ecga.org/trailchallenge



"Dedicated town staff and committee members are truly the energy that feeds projects and enables them to succeed."

Vanessa Johnson-Hall
Greenbelt Conservation Director





ADRIAN SCHOLDES

*Betsy Shields, Board Chair
Kate Bowditch, President*



SUMMER GREETINGS,

We're delighted to have so much news to share – new land conservation projects, trail improvements, events and activities to help you get outside – plus some new people to introduce.

We're keeping busy here at Greenbelt, but not too busy to take a moment to thank outgoing Board Chair Alison Falk, and to welcome our new Board Chair Betsy Shields. Alison and Betsy share a deep love of the outdoors and Essex County, and Greenbelt is incredibly lucky to have such strong leadership as we work to further our mission.

Our mission – protecting natural land and working farms forever – feels especially relevant and important now. The climate is changing, stressing habitats, water supplies, coastlines and local food supplies. Many more people are recognizing the benefits of getting outside in nature, and our properties are seeing more use than ever. We're increasingly aware of the need to partner

with others; and to explore projects that not only meet conservation goals, but specific community needs, as well.

Greenbelt is rising to these challenges, carrying on our tradition of exciting land conservation work, careful stewardship and helping people get outside. At the same time, we're building our capacity to do more in key strategic areas. Please join us – on a walk, at an event, as a volunteer, in support of a land conservation project, as a member, or all of those! We love this work, and we love sharing it with you.

Enjoy the summer, and please keep in touch!

Kate Bowditch
President

Betsy Shields
Board Chair



NEIL UNGERLEIDER

Alison Falk
*Chair, Board of Directors
2020-2023*

It has been an incredible privilege to observe and serve Greenbelt from an increasingly close range – from that of a member, volunteer, Board member, and Board Chair. The closer I venture, the more in awe I am with Greenbelt and the lasting impact it is having across Essex County.

Operating with a spirit of optimism, strength, and shared purpose, Greenbelt is incredibly well-positioned for the years that lie ahead, and I am thrilled that Betsy Shields will be the next Board Chair. She is a gifted connector of both people and ideas, and will bring exceptional leadership to the Board!

- Alison Falk

ACKNOWLEDGING THE HISTORY OF THESE LANDS

The properties that Greenbelt conserves are on the ancestral lands of the Pennacook and the Pawtucket, bands of Abenaki-speaking people.

For thousands of years, these inhabitants and their families fished, hunted, farmed, conducted ceremonies, and developed deep stewardship connections to these unceded lands and waterways.

Join us in honoring the elders who lived here before, the Indigenous descendants today and the generations to come.

- adopted by Greenbelt, 2022

GREENBELT WELCOMES ALL

Greenbelt recognizes that the work of land conservation has historically played a role in perpetuating social injustice and racial inequity. We are committed to considering historic and present inequities as we advance our conservation mission; to fostering a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment; and to accountability and action around diversity, equity, and inclusion to enrich our organization and our work.

OUR COMMITMENT

ecga.org/mission-values

STAFF UPDATES

2022-2023



Joanne Flannery *Finance & Operations Manager* *October 2022*

Joanne brings her many years of accounting and operations experience to Greenbelt. She worked for more than 20 years at North Shore 104.9FM/WBOQ radio in the accounting and operations area.

Elizabeth Harkness *Events & Communications Coordinator* *March 2022*

With a strong background in non-profit development work, Elizabeth joined the Development & Community Engagement team to assist with event management and logistics, and provide support for Greenbelt's communications and outreach work.



Mary Ellen Kelly *Volunteer Coordinator | Consultant* *January 2022*

Mary Ellen brings more than 30 years of volunteer management to Greenbelt and welcomes the opportunity to help our volunteers find meaningful, engaging, and fun opportunities.

Nick Merlene *Land Steward* *May 2023*

Nick's degree in Conservation & Ecology from the University of Vermont, and his experience as a U.S. Forest Service wildland firefighter, bring broad skills to Greenbelt's new position within the Stewardship team.



Joan O'Connor *Accounting Assistant* *March 2022*

Joan brings her business experience to Greenbelt's Finance & Operations team, supporting many of our financial processes. Previously, she worked as a Business Office Director at assisted living communities in Boston and on the North Shore.

Becca Smalley *GIS Specialist* *January 2023*

With her newly-acquired Master's degree in Geo-Information Science from Salem State University, Becca supports the Conservation team by creating maps and web map applications, maintaining our database, and assisting with Greenbelt's Prioritization Project and the GreenbeltGo Trails app.

Haynes Elmlea Property Conserved!

42 ACRES OF WOODS, WETLANDS, HABITAT & TRAILS
BOXFORD

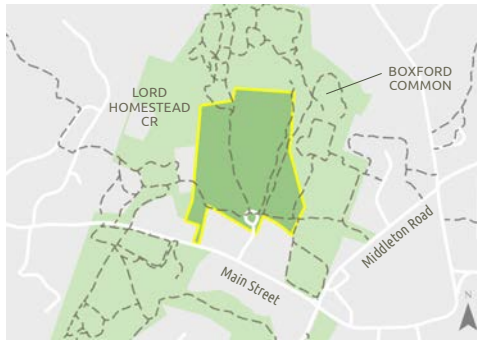
This June, Greenbelt purchased the 42-acre Haynes Elmlea property in Boxford. This property was identified as a priority for protection by Greenbelt’s 2019 Land Conservation Prioritization Analysis for its rare species habitat, and its ability to preserve biodiversity and store large volumes of flood water as our climate changes. Greenbelt is grateful for the generous support received from individuals, foundations and BTA/BOLT, and for the Conservation Partnership Grant awarded by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

CONSERVATION GOALS

- Preserve critical wildlife habitat and connectivity for flora and fauna
- Ensure existing recreational trails remain uninterrupted and open to the public
- Strengthen climate resilience as it relates to biodiversity and flood mitigation
- Expand an area of existing protected land adjacent to the Town Common



NEIL UNGERLEIDER



LEARN MORE
ecga.org/HaynesElmlea-Conservation-Project

 Project Area

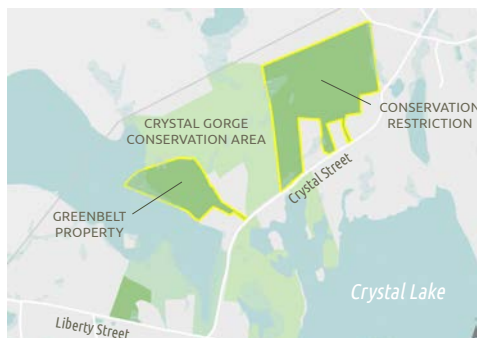
Crystal Lake Watershed Conservation

72 ACRES CRITICAL FOR WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION
HAVERHILL

In partnership with the City of Haverhill, Greenbelt has permanently protected two parcels of land that encompass 72 critical acres of the Crystal Lake Watershed. Greenbelt acquired 19 acres and co-purchased the development rights on 53 acres with the City of Haverhill through a Conservation Restriction. Conserving this land protects it from development – preserving important wildlife, creating the potential to expand trails from Crystal Gorge Conservation Area, and helping safeguard the City of Haverhill’s drinking water supply. Generous support was provided by individuals, foundations, and Conservation Partnership and Drinking Water Supply Protection Grants awarded by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

CONSERVATION GOALS

- Eliminate the risk of development
- Protect Haverhill’s drinking water
- Preserve threatened wildlife
- Expand Crystal Gorge Conservation Area
- Enhance Haverhill’s public trail system



These two parcels were identified in Greenbelt’s prioritization analysis for preserving drinking water, habitat and biodiversity in a changing climate.

 Project Area

Our Farms, Our Future

After a long agricultural history, our region is losing farmland at one of the highest rates in the nation. Within Essex County, over 14,000 acres of agricultural lands are currently unprotected and at risk of being sold for development.

Greenbelt has conserved more than 50 farms, protecting over 1,000 acres of working farmland in the county. While Greenbelt's work to conserve agricultural land is critically important to ensuring that farming remains a viable part of Essex County, there are other obstacles to address, such as finding affordable farmland – one of the greatest barriers facing new farmers today.



In addition to protecting farmland, Greenbelt's Farmland program:

- **Offers free farm-related educational opportunities with partner organizations**
- **Educates community members on benefits and impact of supporting local farms**
- **Works with farmers to create secure and affordable access to farmland**

Through programs such as 99-year inheritable ground leases, farmer-to-farmer land transfers, and facilitation of Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, Greenbelt provides farmers with long-term stability and the opportunity to confidently invest in their farm and their future.

Who's Farming on Greenbelt-Protected Land?

Cedar Rock Gardens | GLOUCESTER
Colby Farm | NEWBURY, WEST NEWBURY
End of the Road Farm | IPSWICH
First Light Farm | HAMILTON
George Hoyt | MERRIMAC
Grant Family Farm at Brown Spring | WEST NEWBURY
Heron Pond Farm | SOUTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Herrick Farm | ROWLEY
Holiday Tree Farm | TOPSFIELD
Iron Ox Farm | TOPSFIELD, HAMILTON
Marini Farm | IPSWICH
Mehaffey Farm | ROWLEY
Richard Perkins | ESSEX
Richardson's Farm | MIDDLETON
Royce Knowlton | IPSWICH
Russell Orchards | IPSWICH
Seaview Farm | ROCKPORT
Tendercrop Farm | WENHAM, NEWBURY
Three Sisters Garden Project | IPSWICH
Tillie's Farm | PEABODY
Utopia Farms | MANCHESTER
Wally's Vegetables | HAVERHILL

RESOURCES

ecga.org/farmland



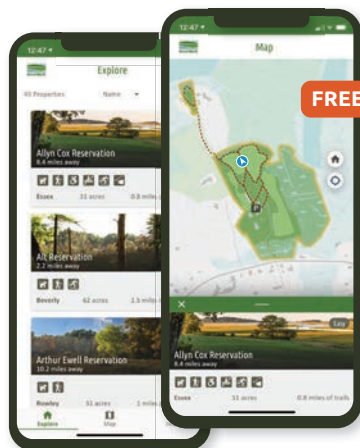
6,000+
DOWNLOADS!

New! Track-Your-Hike Feature

Greenbelt's **FREE GreenbeltGo Trails App** serves as a mobile guidebook, enabling users to search for properties to explore, track their position along the trails, get directions to parking areas, and download offline maps.

In May, Greenbelt's GIS team debuted an exciting new *Track-Your-Hike* feature that allows users to track the distance and time of their hikes using GreenbeltGo.

NATURE MADE EASY!
ecga.org/greenbeltgo



JEANNETTE MIRANDA

GIS Intern

Jeannette joined Greenbelt's Conservation Technology & Planning Division as a GIS Intern in March. As a graduate student in Salem State University's Geo-Information Science program, Jeannette's thesis focuses on how drone technology and high-resolution satellite data can efficiently map coffee plantations and validate reforestation in Honduras. Jeannette is working on a number of projects at Greenbelt, including open space planning and our Conservation Prioritization project. In the fall, she will begin the final year of her master's program, and plans to pursue her PhD.





New Parking Helps Visitors Enjoy Alt Reservation

BEVERLY

Greenbelt’s Stewardship team recently created a four-vehicle parking area at Alt Reservation in Beverly, providing safe off-street access for visitors. If you haven’t had a chance to visit Alt, check out its old stone walls, and enjoy a peaceful walk through the tall white pines to views of the relic white cedar swamp, Beaver Pond, at the southern edge of the woodland. It’s a beautiful time to get outside and explore!

EXPLORE & ENJOY

ecga.org/property/alt-reservation



Growing with Greenbelt – Community Gardens

SUPPORTING LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Locally-grown food is healthy food. Greenbelt supports local food production not only through farmland conservation, but also by owning and managing two community gardens.

Young Farm Community Garden was established in 1995 in Lanesville Village, Gloucester. With 42 garden plots that are primarily “direct soil” planting beds, Young Farm is already well into the 2023 growing season!

Dodge Farm Community Garden, next to Pingree Park in Wenham, was founded in 2012 by a volunteer group of gardeners working with the Hamilton Wenham Open Land Trust (HWOLT). In 2022, HWOLT conveyed the land to Greenbelt, including 60 raised-bed garden plots. Please contact Greenbelt if you’re interested in gardening one of these beds!

GROW WITH US

ecga.org/community-gardens



JERRYMONKMAN
ECOPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

DALENE LAPOINTE



Lynnfield Woodlot

LYNNFIELD

A plan for a six-vehicle parking area at the Lynnfield Woodlot is being reviewed by the Lynnfield Planning Board. Site work, construction, and trail work is scheduled to begin when permits and approvals are finalized. This work is part of a larger multi-year effort to activate and improve the trail system in the adjacent Willis Woods.



© ROBYN LAFATA/EBENS CREEK PHOTOGRAPHY

Soaring into Summer – Osprey Program’s 14th Season

Another Osprey nesting season is well underway! Since the first sightings in March, Greenbelt’s 30+ community scientist nest monitors have reported Osprey pairs on nearly all of the nests observed in 2022, plus additional nesting sites. In Essex County, Osprey are heavily reliant on human-made structures; over 80% of active nests are on wooden platforms like those installed by Greenbelt. Since the start of the Osprey Program, Greenbelt has installed more than 60 nesting platforms throughout the region, seven of which are new this season in Essex, Ipswich and Salisbury.

To observe an Osprey pair raising their brood up close, Greenbelt’s OspreyCam live-streams the nest at Lobstaland Restaurant in Gloucester, where local favorites Annie and Squam are raising their three chicks: Atty, Babson and Lane. As the summer progresses, we’ll continue to monitor all of this season’s active nests. We’re grateful to our many dedicated Osprey Monitors who submit well over 1,000 online reports each season, and who play a critical role in the success of Greenbelt’s Osprey Program.

WATCH THE OSPREY LIVE!
ecga.org/osprey-cam

Monitoring Protected Land – Key to Good Stewardship

CONSERVATION VALUES PROTECTED FOREVER

A critical tool in land conservation, a Conservation Restriction (CR) allows landowners to protect their property’s future, ensuring it will be conserved forever. Greenbelt can serve as the legal “holder” of a CR, giving us the right and the responsibility to ensure the CR is not violated, even if the property is sold. Monitoring Greenbelt CRs on private and public property is a significant responsibility of Greenbelt’s Stewardship team, working in close partnership with landowners to ensure long-term protection through the framework and management of CRs. Currently, Greenbelt holds 257 Conservation Restrictions totaling 8,000+/- acres.

The Stewardship staff completes 160-180 CR monitoring visits annually, representing 4,000-5,000 acres of permanently protected land.

“Greenbelt views our relationship with CR landowners as a partnership, both working together to ensure that the terms of a CR are followed, and that a wide range of conservation values are permanently protected.”

Mike Carbone
 Assistant Director
 Land Stewardship

OWEN HARDY

Land Steward Intern

Owen Hardy joined Greenbelt’s Stewardship team in May as a full-time intern for the summer season. Raised in Gloucester, Owen comes to Greenbelt with excellent regional knowledge as he assists Stewardship in all areas of their work. This fall, Owen will enter his junior year at Bates College where he is majoring in Environmental Studies, Ecology and Earth Systems.



Nature for All Ages

At Greenbelt, we encourage people of all ages to enjoy nature here in Essex County. From nourishing the next generation of nature lovers to spending time with seniors, there are many ways to explore the outdoors that are healthy and fun for everyone!

As part of our Family Nature Series this year, Greenbelt partnered with North Shore Nature Programs to host Signs of Winter Wildlife and Exploring the Salt Marsh. We celebrated Earth Day with family activities at the Book Shop of Beverly Farms, where our popular *Get Outside! Family Nature Guide* is carried. At our annual Birds, Bees and Butterflies event in May, more than 100 people of all ages visited Cox Reservation to learn all about pollinators with hands-on activities and presentations by local beekeepers, native plant gardeners, and environmental educators.

Greenbelt is also working with SeniorCare Inc. of Gloucester to lead guided walks and meditation experiences for dementia patients and their caregivers. Offered by trained professionals where there are gentle trails and lovely resting places, these walks are refreshing and restorative.

JOIN US OUTSIDE!
ecga.org/events



CHRIS BUTLER



CHRIS BUTLER

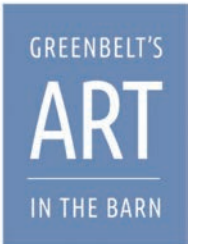


ADRIAN SCHOLES

Greenbelt's Popular Art in the Barn

ANNUAL SHOW & SALE SUPPORTS GREENBELT'S WORK

In June, more than 1,000 people attended Greenbelt's 34th annual Art in the Barn at Cox Reservation in Essex. This year's exhibit and sale included 125+ local artists' paintings, ceramics, sculptures and more. Friday evening festivities featured music by The Vinegar Flies, food from Butter UR Biscuit, and beverages from True North Ales. A huge success, Art in the Barn was a fabulous time for friends to gather, enjoy the art and – best of all – support Greenbelt's mission while doing so. More than 50% of proceeds from art sales were generously contributed to support Greenbelt's land conservation work. Thank you to all who were a part of it!



Be More than a Visitor, Become a Member!

Each year, Greenbelt Members support our mission to protect natural land and working farms across Essex County, helping to conserve healthy ecosystems, clean water, local food supplies, scenic landscapes and free, accessible places for all to benefit from nature.

JOIN GREENBELT TODAY
ecga.org/membership

3,000+ Members
 and counting!



Connecting with Nature Lovers

HAVERHILL COMMUNITY FOCUS | MERRIMACK VALLEY



While Greenbelt serves the 34 cities and towns throughout the county, some areas are more familiar with our work than others. We are engaged in a multi-year effort to raise awareness of Greenbelt’s mission across the Merrimack Valley, specifically in the City of Haverhill. From unprotected farmland and watershed parcels, to urban parks and community gardens, Haverhill presents unique land conservation opportunities.

In addition to land conservation initiatives, Greenbelt has been connecting with numerous Haverhill community groups, getting residents out on existing conserved properties, engaging with community organizers, tabling at the local farmer’s market, and supporting trail usage projects.

Greenbelt has led 100+ residents on local hikes around the city, and recently explored beaver activity at our Bailey Reservation with students from Haverhill’s Wildflower Schools. Haverhill’s vibrant grassroots community has welcomed Greenbelt with open arms. We look forward to more collaboration in the future—and more conserved areas for all to enjoy!



Students explore beaver activity at Bailey Reservation

WILDFLOWER SCHOOLS

Corporate Conservationists – Local Investment, Local Impact

Corporate Conservationists show their employees and their community an unwavering commitment to environmental and social justice through their dedication to protecting open space, increased climate resiliency, promotion of local farmland business and free access to nature for all.

By generously committing to more than \$20,000 in annual support, Corporate Conservationists are contributing to the community where their employees work and live, keeping Essex County healthy, resilient and beautiful.

Corporate Conservationists



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NEIL UNGERLEIDER



DAVID ALDEN-ST.PIERRE

SCOTT RYDER



All Riders Welcome

September 16

OFFERING A VARIETY OF UNTIMED ROUTES

Whether a weekend recreational rider, seasoned cyclist, or one seeking a more adventurous ride, Greenbelt's annual Tour de Greenbelt offers a variety of routes. Join us to ride through the beautiful landscapes of Essex County while benefiting local land conservation. Start and finish: Cox Reservation, Essex, MA.

Tour de Greenbelt offers untimed routes to be enjoyed at a rider's own pace, with on- and off-road excursions passing by or through more than 50 of Greenbelt's protected properties! Venture past open fields, into state forests, and along local farmland before returning to Cox Reservation for delicious food and live music under the big tent.

ON-ROAD 50-mi Half-Century Ride
25-mi Recreational Ride

OFF-ROAD 40-mi Gravel Grinder
28-mi Gravel Grinder
GPS Navigation

REGISTER NOW!
ecga.org/tourdegreenbelt



Presenting Sponsor

INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS
BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER SINCE 1820.

OFF-ROAD 5K/10K Routes

Run the Trails with Greenbelt!

August 19

VINEYARD HILL RESERVATION | HAMILTON & TOPSFIELD

Our 5K/10K Trail Run begins at Greenbelt's Vineyard Hill, runs through sections of Bradley Palmer State Park, along the Bay Circuit Trail, and across our scenic Shaw Field. The trails are wide and fast, and the hill at Vineyard Hill adds a challenge to this course!

Snacks, water and sports drink provided. Local gift card prizes for fastest finishers per age category. Greenbelt swag included in the registration fee.

Timing provided by Bay State Race Services.

Proceeds benefit Greenbelt's conservation work.

GRAB A FRIEND & REGISTER TODAY!
ecga.org/greenbeltruns

Questions for either event?
jane@ecga.org
978 768 7241 x117



DAVID ALDEN-ST.PIERRE

Get Outside!

FREE!
Unless noted

Join us for activities that teach, challenge, motivate and inspire

RSVP FOR ALL GREENBELT EVENTS
ecga.org/events | ecga@ecga.org
978 768 7241 x117

July	13	Fire Ecology	Woodland Acres Rockport 9:30-11:30am
	18	Star Party	John J. Donovan Reservation Hamilton 9:00 - 10:30pm <i>(Fully booked)</i>
	20	Babson Boulders Hike	Dogtown Gloucester 9:30-11:30am <i>(Fully booked)</i>
Aug	5	Pond Habitats	Bailey Reservation Haverhill 3:00-4:30pm <i>For families!</i>
	10	Senior-Friendly Stroll	Castle Neck River Reservation Ipswich 9:30-10:30am
	13	Native Plants Walk	Winnekenni Park Haverhill 1:00-2:30pm
	19	5K/10K Trail Run	Vineyard Hill Reservation Hamilton 9:00am Start \$40/\$30 Members
Sept	16	Tour de Greenbelt & Bash	Cox Reservation Essex <i>(Fees vary)</i> Register: ecga.org/tourdegreenbelt
	23	Forest Bathing	Julia Bird Reservation Ipswich 9:00am-Noon \$30pp
Oct	7	Nature Poetry Workshop	Private Residence Rowley 10:30am-12:30pm
	19	Cooking with Mushrooms	Webinar Online Noon-1:30pm
	21	Spooky Animals	Vineyard Hill Reservation Hamilton 3:00-4:30pm <i>For families!</i>
Nov	5	Salt Marsh Science Walk	Rough Meadows Reservation Rowley 10:30am -noon
Dec	10	Mutt Strut	Tompson Street Reservation Gloucester 1:00-3:00pm
	21	Solstice Celebration Hike	John J. Donovan Reservation Hamilton 3:00-4:30pm

Family Nature Series

UPDATES Check back often as new events come online. Dates, times and locations are subject to change due to weather or other unforeseen conditions.

New Benches Provide Nature Lovers Scenic Places to Rest

VOLUNTEERS LEND A HAND

For nature enthusiasts who enjoy gentle strolls and lovely views, watching wildlife, or relaxing on our beautiful conservation land, Greenbelt has provided new benches along the trails to offer additional scenic places to rest.

Our team of volunteers recently assembled and oiled several teak benches in the stewardship barn at Cox Reservation. Thank you!

These new benches can be enjoyed at the following Greenbelt destinations:

- Alt Reservation | BEVERLY
- Cox Reservation | ESSEX
- Ewell Reservation | ROWLEY
- Hans Morris Reservation | NEWBURY
- River Road | WEST NEWBURY
- Seine Field | GLOUCESTER



MAKE A DIFFERENCE
ecga.org/volunteer

Have a talent you'd like to share?
volunteer@ecga.org



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#wearegreenbelt
[@ecgreenbelt](https://www.instagram.com/ecgreenbelt)



Greenbelt

Essex County's Land Trust

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and the future



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Summer 2023
NEWSLETTER

Sawmill Brook

WEST NEWBURY