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**Northwest Connecticut
Land Conservancy**



**PROTECTING LAND AND WATER
FOR PEOPLE, FOR WILDLIFE, FOREVER.**

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May Newsletter

Dear Friend,
This month, President Biden released **Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful**, a ten-year locally led effort to conserve 30% of the nation's lands and waters.



Land trusts are essential to the plan's success in Connecticut and NCLC is prepared to lead in this important work. **In this month's newsletter, I am pleased to announce that NCLC will be a technical advisor on a \$6.7 million USDA-NRCS grant for a new Connecticut Conservation Partnership Program.** The funding will be used to increase the pace and scale of conservation across the state. **This additional funding is essential because Connecticut is not on track to meet its land conservation goals.** You can read the full press release [here](#).

In addition, we have a number of upcoming in-person and virtual events, including **a presentation at The Sherman Library**, an **event with the Institute for American Indian Studies**, and in-person guided hikes. I hope you will be able to join us at one or more.

As each day lengthens, and the opportunities to enjoy the natural world grow, I hope you find time to spend in nature. I look forward to seeing you on the land.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine".

Catherine Rawson
Executive Director



Increasing Conservation Through Partnerships



Great news for conservation in Connecticut! The USDA-NRCS awarded the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment (DEEP) 6.7 million for a new Connecticut Conservation Partnership Program. The program will be a source of matching funds for CT DEEP's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program. NCLC and Connecticut Farmland Trust will provide technical support to land trusts applying for these funds, helping to increase the pace of conservation statewide. There has never been a more important time to invest in Connecticut's extraordinary lands and waters to protect them for future generations. NCLC looks forward to partnering with CLCC, Connecticut Farmland Trust, and DEEP on this bold

and ambitious plan to increase the pace of conservation statewide. **Read more.**

The View from Above: Aerial Monitoring Technology for Land Trusts



Did you know that accredited land trusts monitor every property they protect every year? It is an essential part of fulfilling our mission to protect land in perpetuity. One of the most exciting advancements in land stewardship is the emergence of digital aerial monitoring. This technology allows NCLC, and our partner land trusts, to be both more efficient and thorough.

We are excited to announce that the Land Trust Alliance awarded NCLC \$13,800 to establish a pilot program to train our partner land trusts to use a program called LENS for aerial monitoring, outreach to landowners, and tracking changes in the land over time. The program is open to every land trust in NCLC's service area. **Read more.**

Trail Expansion at Sherman's Mallory Preserve

New trails are coming to Sherman's **Mallory Schneckenburger Preserve!**

With the generous support of the Iroquois Community Grant Program, NCLC has built a new bridge across the Sawmill Brook, the first step for a trail expansion planned for this summer.

The bridge was built using trees from the preserve and locally milled locust planks. Feel free to visit the bridge, use it to race sticks, or as a place to sit and listen to the sounds of nature. However, we ask that you do not go hiking on the other side until we open the first section of the trail on CT Trails Day (**Saturday, June 5**).



Our special thanks also goes to Grace Parker, Alice Schneckenburger's daughter and **Mary Mallory Hadlow's** niece. Grace is a tremendous conservation partner and leader, supporting the trail expansion and working with NCLC to ensure her family's conservation legacy is available for the public to enjoy—forever. Without her, the new trail would not have been possible. Thank you, Grace!

Upcoming Events



Saving Special Places: Land Conservation in Connecticut

May 19 at 7 PM

[Register Here](#)



Connecticut's Indigenous Peoples and the Natural World

May 27 at 7 PM

[Register Here](#)



Technology and Your Land

June 3 at 7 PM

[Register Here](#)



CT Trails Day

Registration Opens May 20

[Register for Sherman, June 5](#)

[Register for Brookfield, June 6](#)

Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy is a nonprofit regional land trust and the largest land trust in the state. As a guardian of natural and working lands, public recreation areas, and drinking water resources, NCLC permanently protects 12,500 acres (and growing) of vast, connected natural areas in Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties.

DONATE NOW

GET INVOLVED

OUR TRAILS



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