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Northwest Connecticut
Land Conservancy



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July Newsletter

Dear Catherine,

When water is the problem, land is the answer.

The extreme rainfall we experienced in the Northeast this month underscores the importance of NCLC's work to protect the land we love and need. Undeveloped floodplains and natural riparian edges provide places for swollen rivers to go and our forests' trees and understory plants absorb heavy downpours. As climate change brings heavier rain to the region, land-based solutions are increasingly critical to our safety. **This is one of the many reasons the United States has adopted a goal of protecting 30 percent of its land and water by 2030. NCLC is leading the effort to achieve this goal in our region.**

In keeping with that goal, I am delighted to report that **NCLC has reached an agreement with The Metropolitan District to protect over 5,500 acres of land surrounding the Colebrook River Reservoir in northern Connecticut and Massachusetts.** This is a historic win for conservation in Connecticut, made possible by your partnership and support.

As usual, we have a lot to report in this month's newsletter, including introducing you to our **two outstanding summer Land Stewards** and a **full calendar of hikes, parties, and picnics** to connect you to the exceptional natural beauty of Northwest Connecticut.

I hope you will join me in celebrating the land we love and need.

Sincerely,



Catherine M. Rawson
Executive Director



NCLC Announces Agreement to Permanently Protect 5,500 Acres



A groundbreaking win for conservation in Northwest Connecticut is being celebrated by the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC) and Save the Sound, who have reached a Memorandum of

Understanding with The Metropolitan District (MDC) to protect 5,500 acres of land with a permanent conservation easement. A recent decision from the CT Department of Public Health (DPH), along with the MOU, instructs MDC to grant a conservation easement to NCLC on approximately 4,300 acres of pristine, forested lands surrounding the Colebrook River Reservoir in Connecticut and an additional 1,200 acres in Massachusetts.

The Memorandum of Understanding and the conservation easement to protect the lands were prompted by MDC's move earlier this year to seek an abandonment permit for the 10-billion-gallon (BG) of water in the Colebrook River Reservoir as a public drinking water supply. Land surrounding drinking water supplies is currently subject to protections under state law. Environmental organizations were concerned that abandonment could jeopardize the status of the land surrounding the reservoirs, which is currently open space. DPH granted the abandonment permit on July 20. **[Read our full press release here.](#)**

Meet NCLC's Summer Land Stewards

Each year NCLC welcomes summer land stewards for a paid 10-week program to advance their education and career opportunities in conservation. Our land stewards care for our public nature preserves and working farms, provide stewardship support to partner land trusts, and participate in educational, technological, and scientific trainings and activities.



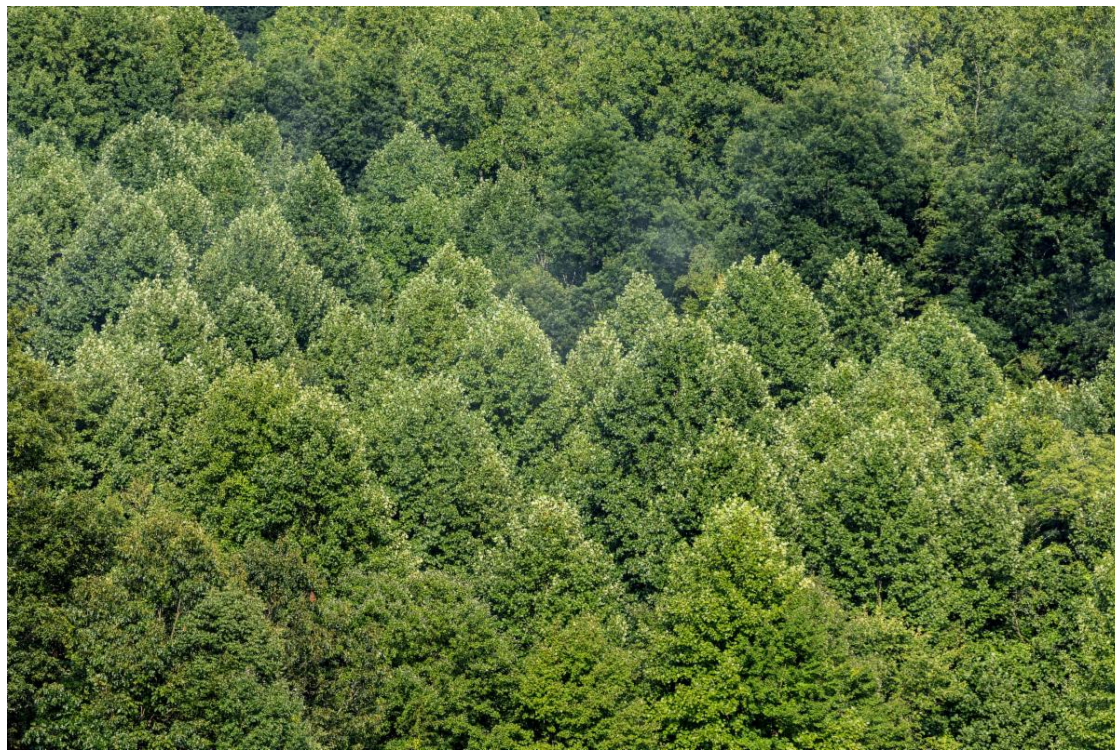
We are thrilled to have two talented interns working for NCLC this summer. Tyler Pilch, of New Milford, CT, is a returning intern who completed his first year at Northeastern University, studying Environmental Engineering. **Tyler says, "I love being able to be in nature and explore the areas that are all around my hometown."** Nathan Winter was born and raised in Kent, CT, and spent time hiking NCLC's Alice McCallister and Cobble Brook Vista Preserves as a boy scout. He graduated this year from The University of Rhode Island with a B.S. in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and is working towards a career in conservation.

Land stewards experience the full breadth of conservation, from small moments of wonder to complicated preserve improvements. This month they helped band American kestrels and removed a large slide that had washed down a stream and into the Brookland Preserve in Sherman.

NCLC's paid summer internships are made possible by the Memorial Fund for Elizabeth de Lambert. Elizabeth was a dedicated board member of Brookfield Open Space Legacy, Inc., and a strong advocate for connecting young people to the natural world. **Our special thanks go to the de Lambert family for making our summer intern program possible!**

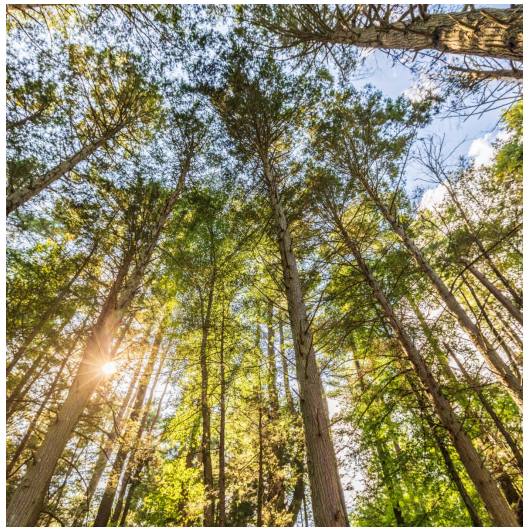


Five Ways Forests Create Healthy Communities



Forests are a marvel. By simply existing, forests perform services that no human technology can replicate at scale. For example, did you know that forests reduce the frequency, intensity, and extent of flooding events? Check out our blog post on **[Five Ways Forests Create Healthy Communities](#)**. Interested in learning more about Northwest Connecticut's natural and working lands? Email **info@ctland.org** and suggest a blog post.

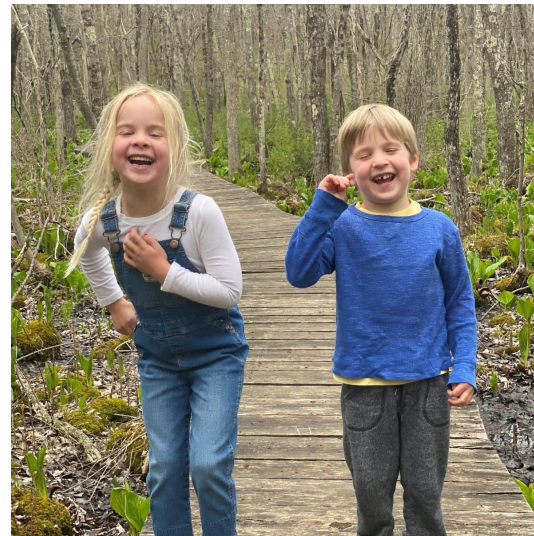
Upcoming Events



Explore the Forests of the Mount Tom Preserve

August 5
New Milford

[Register Here](#)



Story Walk at the Mallory Preserve

July 25 - August 16
Sherman

[Learn More](#)



Midsummer Party for Conservation

**MEET
YOUR
GREENS**
SEPT. 21
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Norbrook Farm
Brewery
204 Stillman Hill
Road, Colebrook
Light Refreshments will be provided.

Northwest Connecticut
Land Conservancy
PROTECTING LAND AND WATER FOR PEOPLE FOR WILDLIFE, FOREVER

Co-hosted by Colebrook Land Conservancy,
Norfolk Land Trust, Winchester Land Trust

This casual event is free, open to the public, and an excellent opportunity to
get to know others working or volunteering in the conservation field.

Meet Your Greens Norbrook Farm Brewery

August 12
Bridgewater

[Purchase Ticket](#)



**Housatonic
Heritage Hike**
September 23
Kent

[Register Here](#)

September 21
Colebrook

[Learn More](#)



Annual Picnic
September 30
Kent

[Learn More](#)



NCLC is hiring and we hope you will join our team. NCLC welcomes people of all backgrounds, identities, and beliefs to join us in achieving our mission to protect the lands and waters of Northwest Connecticut forever. **To apply for an open position, please visit our [Job Opportunities page](#).**

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 13,200 acres (and growing) of vast, connected natural areas in Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties.

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Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

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