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Northwest Connecticut
Land Conservancy



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

June Newsletter

Dear Catherine,

Connecting you to the land is one of our top priorities, so I am thrilled to announce that the **CT DEEP Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program** has awarded transformational funding to help NCLC improve access to nature across Northwest Connecticut. We anticipate that work on this regional trail assessment and master plan will begin in the fall. In the meantime, our summer interns, Robert and Catherine, have been busy clearing trails for this summer's visitors. I hope you will visit one of our **public preserves** for a hike, a picnic, or to sit on a bench and enjoy the view. Please remember to bring plenty of water and take breaks during this period of intense summer heat.

Finally, it wouldn't be summer without our **Midsummer Party for Conservation**, which raises much-needed funds for all our conservation efforts. All gifts to this fundraiser help us protect more land for you, for wildlife, forever. I hope you will consider participating at any level.

Warm regards,

Catherine

Catherine M. Rawson
Executive Director



Trail Grant



NCLC is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a \$280,000 grant from the State of Connecticut as part of Governor Ned Lamont's initiative to invest in recreational trails. This generous funding is from the CT DEEP Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program and the CT Greenways Council.

NCLC will use this grant to develop and improve trail networks on its protected lands, enhancing access to nature across its service region of Northwest Connecticut. NCLC will assess its current trails and develop a master plan for a trail system in its existing 22 public preserves and 5 potential new public nature preserves. The preserves are in 11 municipalities (Canaan, Cornwall, Brookfield, Kent, Litchfield, New Milford, Newtown, Roxbury, Sharon, Sherman, and Torrington), and serve the entire region. The assessment and planning process will examine safety and multi-use options for hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts. The plan will determine where to locate ADA-accessible trails, helping NCLC connect more people to the land.

Welcome Summer Land Stewards



My name is Robert DiNatale, I am currently working as a Summer Land Steward with Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy. This past spring I finished up my second year at Connecticut College where I am currently pursuing a major in Environmental Studies with minors in both Psychology and Botany. I have always been passionate about working outdoors and impacting the environment in a positive manner, which has led me to consider conservation as a potential career path.



Hello, my name is Catherine Biasetti. I graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University in May, 2024. I received my bachelor's degree in Environmental Earth Science with a concentration in Environmental Science. Throughout my course and field work during school, I discovered my interest in environmental restoration, specifically habitat restoration. I am passionate about conserving and restoring important habitats. I am excited to be a part of Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy and continue my environmental education here throughout the summer.

Building Bridges at Birch Rocks

Earlier this month, NCLC celebrated the installation of a new bridge at the Birch Rocks Preserve in Brookfield, made possible through the Iroquois Community Grant Program. Jill Johnson from Iroquois Community Grant joined NCLC's Executive Director Catherine Rawson for a ribbon-cutting.



Volunteers from NCLC's Brookfield Council and Brookfield Conservation Commission members were on hand to help celebrate. Public Lands Manager Zach Adams guided the hike pointing out an impressive sycamore and several woodland birds.

Birch Rocks Preserve is a wonderful, shady hike with views of Lake Lilinonah. [Click here to learn more](#) and plan a visit.

Upcoming Events



Meet Your Greens

Thursday, June 27
5 PM to 7 PM



Summer Story Walk

Monday, July 10
10 AM to 12 PM



Meet Your Greens
Thursday, August 22
5 PM to 7 PM



Annual Picnic
Saturday, September 21
10 AM to 12 PM

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Midsummer Party for Conservation
Saturday, August 10
Litchfield

Join us for a delightful evening with friends at the Midsummer Party for Conservation, held at one of our most recent conservation projects, Milde Farm!

This annual fundraiser supports NCLC's conservation programs. It is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy delicious food and great company—all to benefit conservation in our community.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

We're Hiring!
**Join the NCLC Team and
Save the Land You Love**

NCLC is growing and we are actively seeking to fill the following full-time position: **Senior Land Protection Specialist**. NCLC is an equal opportunity employer, and we welcome 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.

As a guardian of natural and working lands, public recreation areas, and drinking water resources, NCLC permanently protects 13,300 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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