

CVRLT and NCLC Merger

Frequently Asked Questions

Effective September 30, 2025, Candlewood Valley Regional Land Trust (CVRLT), the land trust for Danbury and New Fairfield, will merge with Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC), the regional land trust that serves Litchfield and northern Fairfield County. The questions and answers below offer clarity and context for this important decision.

What is happening to CVRLT?

The Board of Directors of CVRLT and NCLC recommend the merger of CVRLT with NCLC.

Who is CVRLT merging with?

NCLC is the largest land trust in the State of Connecticut and the twenty-second largest in the United States by the number of lands it conserves. Over its 60-year history, NCLC has permanently protected over 13,400 acres in Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties. After the merger with CVRLT, NCLC will protect over 14,000 acres. NCLC's conserved lands include 23 public hiking preserves; 49 working farms; and over 3,000 acres of habitat for endangered, threatened, and special concern species.

NCLC's professional team includes 11 full-time employees, one part-time employee, and two seasonal land stewards. Along with acquisitions, stewardship, and public education, partnerships are a core program area for NCLC. The organization works closely with land trusts throughout its region, contributing about 1,900 hours of staff time each year in support of shared conservation goals. NCLC previously joined together with partner organizations through mergers with Brookfield Open Space Legacy in 2019 and Naromi Land Trust in 2020.

More information on NCLC, including its most recent [Impact Report](#), audited [financial statements](#), [Certificate of Incorporation, and all amendments](#), can be found on the [About Us pages of our website](#).

Has NCLC's mission or programs changed?

NCLC is expanding its service area to include the communities of Danbury and New Fairfield. You can count on the same team of professional staff working to safeguard natural lands and waters, protect farmland for future generations, and connect people to nature. Learn more about our conservation work [here](#).

Why does CVRLT want to merge with NCLC?

The promise to safeguard land forever comes with significant legal and fiduciary duties, and the work has grown more technical over time. All land trusts must operate with long-term risk in mind. The CVRLT Board has been considering these issues for several years, and has considered several types of partnership models, from informal collaboration to project-based efforts to full merger.

In fact, CVRLT itself was formed in 2016 through the merger of the Land Trust of Danbury and New Fairfield Land Trust. That merger created a stronger, more diverse organization than either could have been alone, demonstrating the value of uniting resources and expertise.

The CVRLT Board of Directors enthusiastically recommends a merger with NCLC as the best option to ensure the land CVRLT has protected in Danbury and New Fairfield will remain protected forever. The merger will bring financial and organizational resources that extend beyond what CVRLT can sustain as an all-volunteer organization, and will more efficiently provide services and benefits that are important to CVRLT's existing members and communities. The shared vision of the two organizations to safeguard the natural lands, clean waters, and working farms of our communities will deepen and expand as a merged entity.

What are the terms of the merger agreement?

- **Organizational structure:** CVRLT and all of its assets will be merged into NCLC, and CVRLT will no longer exist as a separate entity.
- **Local Advisory Role:** A new advisory committee—the Candlewood Valley Council—will be established to provide recommendations to the NCLC Board of Directors on matters related to New Fairfield and Danbury. This will include stewardship, acquisitions, outreach, and fundraising. [Let us know](#) if you would like to get involved.

When will this happen?

The effective date of the merger is September 30, 2025.

Will I still be able to hike on my favorite CVRLT Preserve?

Yes! Your experience enjoying CVRLT trails and special places will not change. Preserve signs may take some time to replace with the new name and logo.

I am an existing member of CVRLT. How and why should I become a member of NCLC?

By becoming a member of NCLC, you will carry forward the commitment you've already made to protecting land in New Fairfield and Danbury, while also helping to strengthen conservation across the region. Your support as a CVRLT member has been essential to caring for 611 acres of land locally. Through NCLC, that same support will continue to steward those lands and expand conservation impact through a more resilient regional organization.

Membership in NCLC ensures:

- Forever protection of CVRLT's lands and public recreation areas in New Fairfield and Danbury, with continued local stewardship and care.
- Greater efficiency and impact, as NCLC's regional capacity directs more of every dollar to conservation programs rather than administration.
- Expanded benefits, including opportunities to participate in NCLC's broader programs, walks, talks, and community events across Northwest Connecticut.
- A stronger collective voice for protecting clean water, wildlife habitat, working farms, and the rural character of our communities. You can begin your membership with NCLC today, by making a secure, online contribution [here](#).

I gave a restricted contribution to CVRLT. What will happen to it?

All restricted contributions made to CVRLT will be transferred to NCLC with the original donor restrictions (also called donor designations) and fully honored.

How can I reach NCLC?

The NCLC office is at 5 Maple Street in Kent. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 821, Kent, CT 06757. NCLC's phone number is 860-927-1927. We are also on Facebook and Instagram @nwctconservancy.

I have more questions! Can I talk to someone at CVRLT or NCLC?

Yes!

CVRLT - Faline Schneiderman, President: [email here](#)

NCLC - Catherine Rawson, Executive Director: 860-927-1927 ext. 1507 or [email here](#)

NCLC - Amanda Branson, NCLC Director of Operations and Finance: 860-927-1927 ext. 1501 or [email here](#)