



Our Mission:

Westwood Land Trust is a public charity dedicated to promoting the protection & stewardship of open space and natural resources in Westwood.

Dear Friend,

November 2022

When we ask residents why they chose to live in Westwood, the availability of open space right in our town is one of the top answers. Our vibrant community includes scenic views of rolling stone walls, open grassy fields, and dense forests. This creates a special community not just for us, but essential habitat for plants and animals too.

To affect change, we are told that it is best to focus on our local community - such as when a group of passionate Westwood residents, motivated by the grass-roots effort that saved Lowell Woods in the mid-1990s, formed Westwood Land Trust (“WLT”) in 1999. Since then, over 220 acres have been protected by WLT, all funded by private individuals like you connected to our community. We couldn’t have gotten this far without you.

The largest open space in our community is the privately owned Hale property. This treasured outdoor space is home to a wide variety of wildlife, and at more than 1,100 acres, is larger than New York City’s Central Park. Hale is working to permanently preserve its land through the *Campaign for Kids, Conservation, and Community*, raising private and public funds to offset the value that will be relinquished when the property is preserved. WLT has partnered with Hale, Dover Land Conservation Trust, and The Trustees to raise awareness around this goal with town management, residents, and other stakeholders. It’s an effort that will have a significant positive effect on our community.

To continue our land preservation efforts, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution this year to Westwood Land Trust. Your donation will help cover the costs of monitoring the fourteen properties that we protect. WLT also wants to be prepared for the next opportunity to protect more of Westwood’s open space. Donations of any size are appreciated, and public support is crucial. Together, we can work to protect the open space that we love, strengthen our community, and create a healthier environment.

With Warm Wishes,

Westwood Land Trust Board of Directors

*Karen Manor Metzold, President
Steve Harte, Treasurer
Andy Bemis
Abby Homiller*

*Nancy Dempze, Vice President
Andy Walker, Clerk
Steve Olanoff
Trevor Laubenstein*

Why Contribute to WLT?

- Westwood Land Trust protects over 220 acres of land in Westwood, an area greater than Legacy Place and University Station combined.
- WLT is the only charitable organization dedicated to saving our town’s open space and receives no funding from the Town of Westwood.

Westwood Land Trust Highlights and News from 2022



Residents gathered for a hike sponsored by WLT on a recent fall day. The hike started on Hale property off of Twin Post Road and continued across Hartford Street to Sen Ki. Sen Ki is the only portion of the 1,100+ acre Hale property that is permanently protected from development.

*Why Preserve Open Space in our Communities?**

Open Space Benefits Municipalities By:

- Avoiding increased costs of public services that would have been required if the conserved property had been developed, such as increased school, public works, and public safety services
- Enhancing nearby property values by creating an amenity value, increasing tax revenue collected as assessments are adjusted
- Protecting clean drinking water from contamination, filtering and cleaning drinking water, and enhancing infiltration and replenishment of groundwater resources, reducing treatment costs
- Naturally infiltrating and managing stormwater, lowering the levels of phosphorus, nitrogen, and total suspended solids that end up in waterbodies, and thereby lowering management costs
- Storing and slowing runoff from storms, thereby reducing the frequency and magnitude of floods

Open Space Improves Quality of Life for Residents By:

- Allowing for and encouraging recreational use. Local recreational access is important because most recreational activities are conducted within five miles of home
- Providing numerous health benefits. Research indicates that people with access to the outdoors show long term health improvement
- Improving air quality, helping to avoid the costs associated with pollution (e.g., medical expense and lost work because of asthma attacks)
- Keeping temperatures cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, avoiding a range of health problems and reducing energy bills
- Helping to address disparities in access to nearby open space

**Full report available at massland.org/naturesvalue*

How Can You Support Westwood Land Trust?

*Donations of any size are welcome by check, PayPal, Donor Advised Fund, Matching Gift, Stock or IRA donation. Checks may be mailed in the enclosed envelope.
Questions? Call 617.697.5671 or visit www.westwoodlandtrust.org.*