



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 2023

For almost 25 years, Westwood Land Trust (“WLT”) has been committed to improving our community by protecting open space. In addition to over 220 acres saved, there are less tangible yet critical benefits to land trust work - cleaner air, improved quality of life, and reduced pollution, to name a few. All of the funding that WLT has received to date has come from private individuals, like you, connected to our community. We couldn’t have gotten this far without such support.

We are pleased to share that in January a deed restriction was placed on 552 Gay Street - a property that abuts other protected land. The restriction includes keeping the beautiful acre-sized rear meadow in its natural state, designating no cut zones, and specifying building limitations. The original house dates back to 1750 and is one of the oldest buildings in Westwood. The new owner elected to preserve and update the original structure as part of the recently renovated home.

In May, the adjacent 590 Gay Street property, the largest parcel of land protected by WLT, was purchased by the Poor Clare Sisters. WLT met with their representative, and the Sisters are happy to be in Westwood on this conserved land. Please note that the property continues to be privately owned, and we ask everyone to be respectful of their privacy.

WLT continues with the multi-year effort to preserve Hale Education. At more than 1,200 acres, Hale is the largest open space in our community, home to a wide variety of wildlife and outdoor recreation amenities. However, Hale is largely unprotected from development. Dover Land Conservation Trust, The Trustees, and WLT are partnering with Hale in a campaign to raise public and private funds to offset the land value that will be relinquished when the property is preserved. It’s an effort that will have a significant positive effect on our community for generations to come.

To help us with our efforts, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution this year to Westwood Land Trust. Your donation will help cover the costs of monitoring the 14 properties that we protect and will support land preservation projects. Donations of any size are appreciated; public support is critical. Together, we can work to protect land and habitat 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 Steve Olanoff Abby Homiller

Nancy Dempze, Vice President

Andy Walker, Clerk

Grace Weller 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 2023



Flora of interest on a Spring hike



Hunnewell Property next to Lowell Woods



Hiking at Sen Ki - 1255 High Street

News from the Board

Our newest Board member, Grace Weller, joined Westwood Land Trust this Fall. WLT is fortunate to have an energetic, young talent join our all-volunteer board. She writes:

My husband and I moved to Westwood in early 2021 for my current job in clean energy at Eversource. It was easy to love Westwood right away. From the first visit, we were charmed by the tree canopy and conservation land that seemed to surprise us around every bend of a road. As an active member of the Conservation Commission, I am familiar with the open spaces in town and the value natural land can bring to not only the wildlife but the people as well. The struggle for land conservation is ongoing – but is in good hands whenever neighbors come together.

552 Gay Street

While the deed restriction permits a larger home, the new owner elected to preserve and update the existing house and add a modest addition, keeping more of the lot as open space. WLT worked closely with the builder to ensure it remained in keeping with the style and scale of the historic structure.



A view of the protected meadow



Circa 1750 home, prior to renovation

How Can You Support Westwood Land Trust?

Donations of any size are welcome by check, PayPal Giving via the QR Code at right, 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.

