



November 2023

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**PRESIDENT**

Karen Grey

Dear Friend:

Three years ago, the future of Picone Farm looked grim. The owners of the iconic Middleborough farm had accepted a developer's offer to convert the 192-acre riverfront property into 440 units of housing. When he learned of this news, Wildlands Land Protection Director Scott MacFaden appeared at my office door with a question.

The Middleborough conservation agent had called; would Wildlands Trust lead a partnership to raise the \$6.2 million needed to save the farmland from development? Our answer was yes, but only because we knew we could count on your support.

The successful completion of this high-risk project is a highlight that makes 2023 a year to remember for Wildlands Trust. Thanks to you, Wildlands protected Picone Farm and other lands, while also:

- Continuing our important urban resilience work to restore open spaces and parks in our region's gateway cities of Brockton and Taunton.
- Launching the Stewardship Training Center to expand capacity to care for conservation lands through skill-building programs for professionals and volunteer land stewards.
- Creating new trails and access amenities across the region so that people can experience the lands we protect and the benefits of spending time in nature.

None of this is possible without your generosity. We rely on our members to provide important financial support for our work. Because of you, Wildlands Trust is an effective, creative, community-based land trust making an enormous impact on the future of Southeastern Massachusetts. Steadily, we have carried out this work for 50 years, growing from our one-town coverage area in 1973 (Plymouth) to today, where our impact stretches across 55 cities and towns.

Please enjoy our 2023 Impact Report, knowing that you are a vital part in making that work possible. By supporting Wildlands Trust, you are helping to ensure that our water and air remain clean and pure, and that our forests, farms, wetlands, fields, ponds, and coastal areas will never vanish from our region.

We hope you will support our work again in 2024 because no one knows when the phone will ring with the next opportunity to preserve more of the wildlands that uplift our health, spirits, ecosystems, and communities.

Thank you for being an important part of our organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Grey'.

Karen Grey, President