

2023

IMPACT

REPORT



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We are proud to highlight a sample of our 2023 projects made possible thanks to the generosity of our members.

Protecting Land at Risk

Worked with private landowners, municipalities, state agencies, and other organizations to advance 45 land protection projects in Southeastern Massachusetts. Completed projects across the region include:



► 190 acres of prime farmland with 6,000 feet of Nemasket River frontage, Picone Farm in Middleborough.



► 31-acre Conservation Restriction in Plympton protecting land along Jones River Brook.



► 36-acre Conservation Restriction for McCarthy Farm, our first project in the Town of Rockland.



► 12-acre Conservation Restriction in Hanson, protecting the Sleeper property.

Stewarding Land for People and Wildlife

► Convened statewide advisory group to develop programs and policies for newly established Stewardship Training Center.

► Trained 27 new Adopt-a-Preserve volunteers who will help us monitor and steward conservation lands throughout the region.

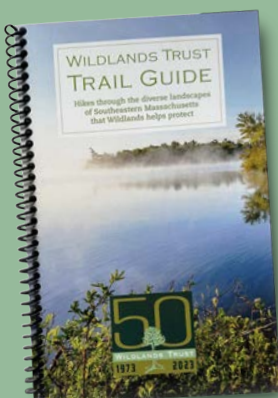
► Worked with Indian Head River Trail Coalition and the Mattakeeset Tribe to finalize trail improvements and public access projects, and to formally dedicate the Mattakeeset Trail in Hanover.



► Advanced habitat restoration projects to remove invasive plants at preserves in Plymouth, Duxbury, and Bourne.

► Managed 154 volunteers who provided 291 site visits to report on Wildlands properties.

► Published Trail Guide, highlighting public access at properties Wildlands helped to protect.



► Offered pilot training courses to 58 professional and volunteer land stewards at the Stewardship Training Center in partnership with nine organizations and seven towns.

► Improved public access and carried out trail maintenance on 40 Wildlands properties throughout the region.

► Completed Baseline Reports for new Conservation Restrictions on private and municipal lands.

► Built a new parking lot, kiosk, and boardwalk to improve public access at Sylvester Field in Hanover.

► Constructed two miles of new trail (Leona's Loop, named for our founder, Leona Asker) at Halfway Pond Conservation Area to create a 4.5-mile loop through pristine Pine Barren.



► Partnered with Town of Plymouth Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs to establish 12-mile trail (8 Ponds Pass) linking Plymouth and Wildlands trail systems.

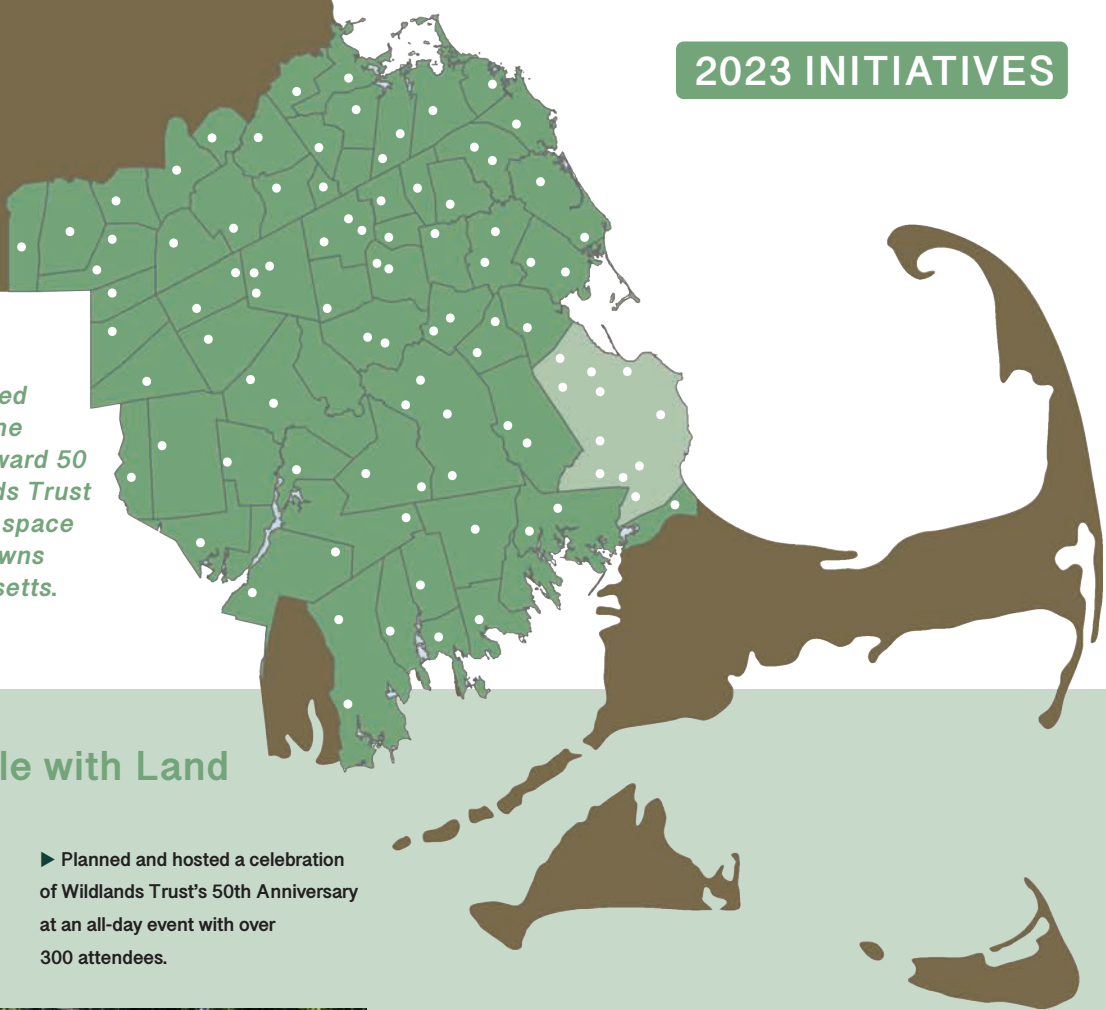
► Constructed water crossings for Town of Stoughton at Bird Street Conservation Area.

► Worked with the Nature Conservancy to design public access amenities for conservation land in Norwell.

► Collaborated with Manomet to design and construct outdoor learning space at Manthala George Jr. Global Studies Elementary School in Brockton.

2023 INITIATIVES

Wildlands Trust was founded in 1973 to protect land in the town of Plymouth. Fast forward 50 years to 2023, and Wildlands Trust now serves the broad open space needs of **55** cities and towns in Southeastern Massachusetts.



Connecting People with Land

► Piloted "Summer of Service" program, offering volunteer stewardship opportunities for 36 high school students.



► Planned and hosted a celebration of Wildlands Trust's 50th Anniversary at an all-day event with over 300 attendees.

► Led urban youth program, the Green Team, which coached 15 Brockton teenagers in completing five D.W. Field Park projects, as well as projects at the George Elementary School and Stone Farm Conservation Area.

► Coached 20 Brockton High School students for Massachusetts Envirothon competition.

► Partnered with 8 organizations to create collaborative programming.

► Hosted 36 public programs, engaging over 700 participants.

Building Urban Resilience

► Conducted community survey for D.W. Field Park Initiative, garnering responses from 1,424 community members.

► Established framework and led community members in the creation of a master plan for most popularly used section of D.W. Field Park in Brockton.

► Awarded Mass Trails grant to create new urban preserve with trail system and river access at our Striar Snake River property in Taunton.

► Helped to secure a \$1.5 million Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant awarded to Town of Avon to protect and incorporate an additional 32 acres of land into D.W. Field Park.

► Conducted urban heat mapping study with Manomet, City of Brockton, Town of Avon, and Town of Abington.

► Worked with Conway School of Landscape Design students to design improvements at 5 key areas within D.W. Field Park.

► Renovated 100 feet of boardwalk at our 126-acre urban nature preserve, Brockton Audubon Preserve.

