



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

March, 2024

Tappen Brook Trails News

New 5K Course In The Works

With spring around the corner, we are excited to offer improvements at Tappen Brook Trails including additional trails to explore in 2024. The expansion is due to the generosity of the Witkin family who has offered a passive recreational trail easement through their 60 acre parcel located along Hemlock Road. This land connects to open space parcels owned by the Nature Conservancy and the Bridgewater Land Trust.

Part of this expansion will include a 5K Course (3.1 miles) that will start and end at the Bridgewater Town Park. The course will feature gentle slopes with an elevation gain of 328 feet. Along the way, you will see old growth forest, numerous stone walls, glacial erratics, vernal pools and several water courses. Mile markers will be visible every 1/2 mile. Christian Feuer, president of the BWLT, commented: "We are thrilled to be able to offer this experience to the entire community. What could be better than a healthy outdoor activity through beautiful Bridgewater land."

A new kiosk has been built and installed, thanks to Eagle Scout candidate and Bridgewater resident, Henry Gsell of Scout Troop 65. The kiosk is at the trail entrance in the Bridgewater Town Park on Tappen Road. The kiosk will house trail maps, trail use guidelines, safety tips and other helpful information. The BWLT is very grateful to Henry and his team of Scouts for completing this project and providing this well-built and useful structure. (see photos below)



Henry Gsell and his team at Tappen Brook Trails.

Trail Monitors Now In Place

Volunteers Helping To Maintain Our Trails

BWLT has implemented a trail monitor program at each of our preserves with public access. The monitors are community volunteers who are instrumental in helping us

maintain our public properties. Monitors walk their assigned preserve monthly to ensure that the trails are clear of debris, well-marked and maintained. They do light trail work on their own, and report back to our staff on downed trees, condition of structures, any erosion or flooding concerns, etc. Thank you to residents Mark Carlson, Joe Dolen and Bob & Lanie Flanagan for taking on this critical role.



The beginning of the Town Line Farm trail

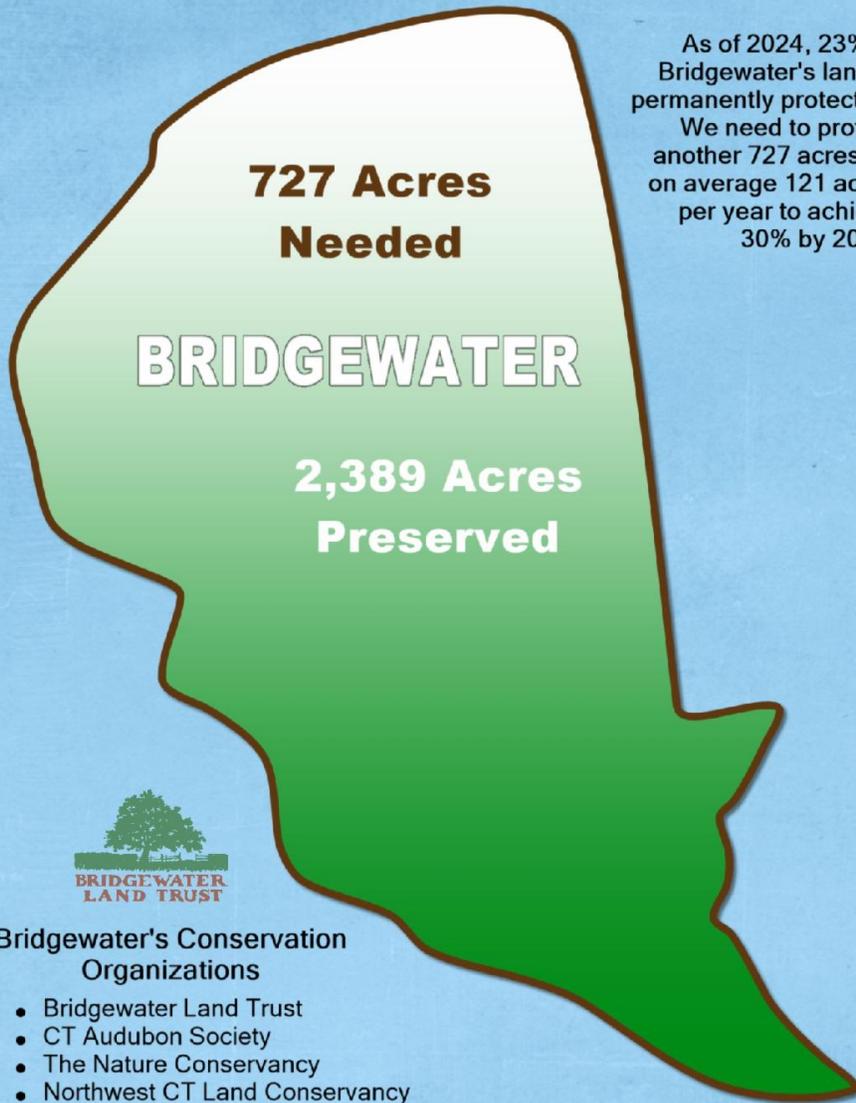
BWLT's Commitment to 30 x 30 *A Global Preservation Initiative*

The BWLT has joined local and regional land trusts, statewide conservation organizations, the United States and 89 other countries, by supporting the global conservation goal of protecting 30% of the planet by 2030. The visual below shows where we are now and what it will take to accomplish this goal. In our calculations, we include both land owned by conservation groups and land protected through conservation easements. We do not include "quasi-protected" lands, such as land owned by the Town or utility companies.

This ambitious goal means protecting an additional 121 acres per year for the next 6 years. In order to get there, we are working proactively to identify land that has high conservation value starting with large tracts of existing unprotected open space.

BWLT 30 x 30 Goal

The Bridgewater Land Trust has embraced the global conservation goal of protecting 30% of the planet by 2030



As of 2024, 23% of Bridgewater's land is permanently protected. We need to protect another 727 acres or on average 121 acres per year to achieve 30% by 2030.



Bridgewater's Conservation Organizations

- Bridgewater Land Trust
- CT Audubon Society
- The Nature Conservancy
- Northwest CT Land Conservancy



Give Local Is Around The Corner *New Matches and Challenges Announced*

Our annual Give Local Campaign will take place on April 24th & 25th. This fun and inspiring give-a-thon is a very successful annual fundraiser for the BWLT. In 2023, we raised \$62, 487 from 190 donors! This total includes our matching dollars, cash prizes and bonus money given by the CT Community Foundation. We achieved 1st place among like sized organizations, and 2nd place overall out of 287 participating non-profits.

We are thrilled to share amazing news regarding the upcoming campaign. Thanks again to the generosity of Bridgewater resident and BWLT Director, Chris Amorossi, for funding an extraordinary match in memory of her late husband, Butch Thompson. The Chris Amorossi "Match Our Way to 60K" means that Chris will match up to \$30,000 for the 2024 Give Local campaign!

In addition, we have a 2 x 2 x 2 Donor Challenge: During the 2 giving days we need 200 individual donors to unlock another \$2,000! Thank you to The Will Stuart Team of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services for funding this challenge.

Don't miss this chance to maximize your impact and help protect Bridgewater's unspoiled land, clean air and water, wildlife habitat and natural places for all of us to enjoy.



Chris Amorossi

MATCH

OUR
WAY
TO

60K

Make the most of your donation to the
Bridgewater Land Trust!

Spring Patio Party

Welcome Spring With Us

Join us on Tuesday evening, March 19th at Italia Mia Restaurant in New Milford. We will gather in the new (enclosed) patio room to enjoy food and drink at happy hour prices. 10% of your purchase will be donated to the BWLT. Thank you Italia Mia!

We will also sell \$20 Door Prize Tickets that could land you one of five desirable prizes (see below)! The drawing will take place the night of the event. Guests will also receive an eco-friendly party favor thanks to Poppa John's Home and Garden Center opening soon in Bridgewater.

Happy Hour

Celebrate the first day of spring with us!

Spring Patio Party

Italia Mia Restaurant

223 Danbury Road New Milford, CT

Tuesday, March 19th

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Thank You

With special thanks to Italia Mia Restaurant!

Prize Sponsors: Bridgewater Chocolate, Burnham Library, Maywood, Poppa John's Home & Garden Center, Will Stuart of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

No RSVP needed. All proceeds benefit the Bridgewater Land Trust. Door Prize drawing at 6:30 PM.

Questions contact Bridget McCarthy at bridget@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Ticket #: _____



Name: _____

Phone or

Email: _____

Happy Hour



Door Prizes

\$20 Per Ticket

1. \$250 Tractor Supply Gift Card
2. Spring Wine Basket
3. \$200 Italia Mia Gift Card
4. The Bridgewater Basket
5. Hiking Package

Winners will be drawn at 6:30 PM on March 19, 2024 at Italia Mia Restaurant 223 Danbury Rd, New Milford, CT. Winners need not be present. All proceeds support the Bridgewater Land Trust.

Ticket #: _____



SAVE THE DATE

On The Ridge

A Benefit For The Bridgewater Land Trust

Friday, June 14th

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM



Support Us

The Bridgewater Land Trust is a federally recognized 501(c) (3) charitable organization, and all your contributions are tax deductible.

DONATE

Stay Social

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