



Protecting The Land You Love

January, 2025

With Gratitude

2024 has been a very exciting year for land preservation in Bridgewater. Your help has enabled us to protect more of the land we love!

We also engaged with the community on 14 events this year, most of them were free, and many of them connected people to the natural world. We live in a special place and it is our pleasure to share more of it with you. Take a quick look at this 2 minute video (click button below). It is a fun visual review of what we have been up to over the last 12 months.

Our deepest thanks to all of our members, supporters, volunteers and residents who have pushed us forward as we continue our important work.

2024 In A Flash

30 x 30 Initiative Gains Ground *Your Help Has Fueled Land Preservation*

Last year we announced our goal of preserving 30% of Bridgewater's land by 2030, and thanks to three generous land owners we protected an additional 90 acres in 2024. This puts Bridgewater at 24%, well above the state average and above most of our neighboring towns.

Protecting land forever is doing something bigger than yourself, that transcends your own interests. It impacts the long-term ecological health of our world, it helps our most vulnerable creatures thrive, it provides solitude and an unspoiled refuge, and ultimately benefits future generations.

Our Board of Directors and staff are always available to discuss preservation with landowners who may be interested. In addition to saving the planet, there are more practical financial benefits that are appealing. There are also options for people who want to retain ownership of the land and keep it private, but give up future development.

If you have questions or want to hear more, please contact Julie Stuart, Executive Director at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org.



A trail along our new Tappen Brook Preserve.

BWLT Volunteers 2024 *Thank You For Your Contributions*

According to a recent survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, Connecticut ranks among the top 10 states nationwide in formal volunteering (#7 - not bad!). Bridgewater residents probably contribute to this high ranking! We are so pleased to have an army of dedicated volunteers to help. Whether it is clearing trails, leading hikes, hosting events, or writing thank you notes, volunteers play an essential role in land trust work. Thank you to all the residents below, who have lent a hand in 2024. Your time, skills and expertise means the world to us!



2024 Volunteers



Ted Alt Chris Amorossi Lisa Antel Kevin Cady Christian Feuer Ed Franklin Rich Kaplon Russell Marcus Jean Robinson Andrew Smith Peg Toledo Joe Wilcox

Outreach Team

Lisa Antel Helaina Buzzeo Larina Cipolla Cynthia Feuer Leslie Granger Philippa Malkin Mae Orkisz

Special thanks to the Bridgewater Emergency Management Team for support at the 5K race. Walt Barlow Smita Bandyopadhyay Neal Bandyopadhyay Patty Batten Scott Benjamin Alison Birks Samantha Bisignano Becky Bottari Hunter Brawley Mark Carlson Kathy Creighton Jamie Curren Connor Dillon Joe Dolen Carolan Dwyer Chuck Farnsworth Bob Flanagan Lanie Flanagan Sharon Gawe Wendie Grabel Allison Gsell Henry Gsell **Brad Goldstein** MaryAnn Goldstein



Kevin Hobbs Monsie Hobbs Marc Isolda Jeff Jones Dave Kendall Lynn Kubisek Kendrick LaPrade Erik Landegren Patti Landegren Mike Macko Dawn MacNutt Louise Marble Rachel Murray **Brian Neff** Tom Orkisz Tom Presby Curtis Read Ron Seger AJ Souza Christian Stuart Will Stuart Bill Stuart Jr. Bill Stuart Sr. Julie Wachtel Al Warden Lee Anne Zarger

Many thanks to the fifty plus residents who helped clean up our roadsides in April.

FIELD NOTES

Weather Related Blowdowns

Heavy rainfall has caused some large trees to fall on our trails (pictured here along our new 5K Course). Thank you to volunteers Mark Carlson



and Curtis Read for cutting away a number of fallen trees in the past few weeks.

Tappen Brook Preserve Marked

Placards have been placed along Hemlock Road identifying the land that is now part of our Tappen Brook Preserve. Over the next few weeks we will be clearing the fallen branches and invasives along that same stretch in front of the stone walls.



UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

Winter Hiking Challenge Sign Up Now

Winter is here and so is our Hiking Challenge. You can go where you want, when you want. The BWLT will hold a guided First Day Hike for those who want to kick off the challenge on January 1st (see details below). Join our facebook group called **BWLT Winter Hiking Challenge** and keep us posted on your progress, plus learn of prize opportunities. For those who achieve the goal, there will be a warm and stylish reward.

Interested? Contact Julie Stuart at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



HIKE 60 MILES

20 MILES PER MONTH JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2025



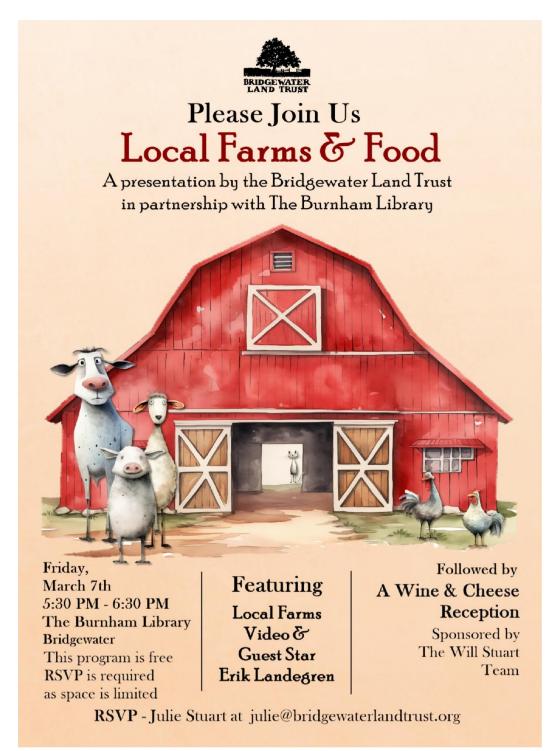
On Tap Later This Winter & Beyond

Save The Dates

Two events are planned for March, both are not to be missed. Our "Local Farms & Food" program was sold out in November, and as promised, we will offer it again on Friday evening, March 7th. This will be a free event and will include a wine & cheese reception immediately following the presentation. The program will highlight our new film featuring local farms and food hosted by Bridgewater resident and chef Erik Landegren.

We will celebrate the first day of spring at Italia Mia Restaurant with an extraordinary Happy Hour in the Patio Room. Enjoy drinks, appetizers, door prizes and a spring themed silent auction.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to celebrate our land, including a farm crawl (joint event with the Roxbury Land Trust), themed hikes, festive gatherings, *Follow the Forest* activities and more.









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