



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

February, 2025

Town Line Farm Preserve

Major Renovations In Store

Our signature farm on Town Line Road will receive a needed overhaul this year. This historic farmstead defines the landscape on Town Line Road. It includes the 1842 Chauncey Beers farmhouse and the original dairy barns, silos, and hay barn.

Phase One of the renovation will address the south end of the dairy barn. This area is rapidly deteriorating. It is completely unusable for anything but storage due to its poor condition and unsafe floor. The work will include replacements of the concrete floor, windows, doors, siding, and deck. Local contractors will be selected within the next few weeks. We will apply for an Agricultural Enhancement Grant through the CT Department of Agriculture to help offset the cost of this large project.

We are also partnering with the Region 12 AgriScience Academy, to explore ways to use this newly renovated area and provide opportunities for students pursuing agricultural careers.



The right side of the Town Line barn will be renovated in Phase one.

Follow The Forest Initiative

Engaging Land Owners To Help Wildlife

The *Follow the Forest* initiative seeks to protect and connect core forests and promote the safe passage of wildlife throughout the Northeast. The threat of forests being disconnected through fragmentation and changing land use persists and can erode the ecological integrity of our region.

Bridgewater has areas that have been identified as core forests and the BWLT wants to do what we can to protect these large tracts that are vital wildlife passageways. We are in the process of talking to landowners who own these heavily traveled corridors to see what we can do to increase wildlife safety. In addition to keeping the land undeveloped, there are other ways to help such as: native planting choices, eliminating pesticides, adding field buffers, creating pollinator pathways, and reducing obstructions. Whether or not your land is in a designated corridor, we can all do something to foster and protect the many species that live among us.

Take a look at the newly released, short video (button below) with insight into the *Follow The Forest* initiative. If you have questions or want to hear more, please contact Julie Stuart, Executive Director at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org.

[Click Here: Follow The Forest](#)



A red fox heading from Warner Road towards Sarah Sanford Road East.



A coyote traveling near Hut Hill Road on the Bridgewater/Roxbury line. Coyotes in Connecticut can be light in color, ranging from blonde to whitish-gray, but can vary greatly.

2024 Impact Report

Be On The Look Out

2024 was a landmark year of advancing conservation efforts in Bridgewater. We are excited to share our annual Impact Report which highlights what we have accomplished together. We will be mailing it to all Bridgewater residents and members next month.



FIELD NOTES



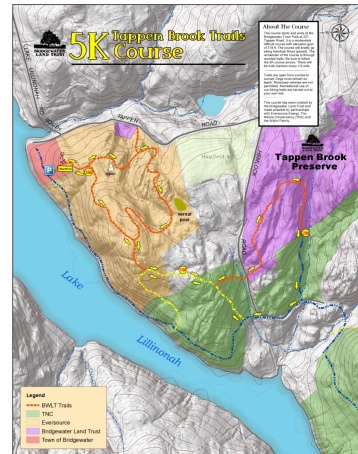
Railing Replacements

We continue to replace railings at our Town Line Parking area. For those who use the area, please be sure not to sit on the fence. We are pleased that this is a well-used and convenient spot to park for dog walkers, birders, and those who like to take in the view.

Tappen Brook 5K Map

Our new 5K Course map is now available at the kiosk at the Town Park and on our website. Our trails are open 7 days a

week from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation. When using these trails in the winter months, please be cautious of slippery conditions, especially crossing bridges. For those who are trail runners who track your time, the official course record is 25:04.



Tappen Brook Preserve

We have completed a conservation value report of our new Tappen Brook Preserve located on Hemlock Road and Tappen Road. It has been confirmed that the conservation value of this 60-acre parcel is high. The front half of the photo below shows the preserve, note the proximity to Lake Lillinonah in the background. If you would like a copy of the report please contact: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org.

In addition to our 5K Course, we anticipate more public trails on the Tappen Brook Preserve later this year.



UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

Winter Hiking Challenge

Keep The Miles Rolling

Our Winter Hiking Challenge is off to a fantastic start! Thanks to those of you (over 40) who signed up and are dedicated to staying active through the cold winter months. Our Facebook group called **BWLT Winter Hiking Challenge** has 26 members who are motivating others by posting pictures of various hikes and clearly enjoying the many trails and preserves in our area.

Interested? Contact Julie Stuart at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



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, party favors, and a spring-themed silent auction. Tickets are available now at: bridgewaterlandtrust.org/buy-your-tickets-for-our-spring-patio-party/

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.



Please Join Us
Local Farms & Food
A presentation by the Bridgewater Land Trust
in partnership with The Burnham Library



Friday,
March 7th
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
The Burnham Library
Bridgewater
This program is free
RSVP is required
as space is limited

Featuring
Local Farms
Video &
Guest Star
Erik Landegren

Followed by
A Wine & Cheese
Reception
Sponsored by
The Will Stuart
Team

RSVP - Julie Stuart at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

Celebrate the
first day of spring
with us!



Spring Patio Party

Italia Mia Restaurant

223 Danbury Road New Milford, CT

Thursday, March 20th

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$25

Includes 1 Drink & Appetizers

Door Prizes
Silent Auction
Party Favors

Tickets can be purchased in advance on our website or venmo:
@bridgewaterlandtrust. Questions contact Bridget McCarthy at
bridget@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Help Keep Bridgewater Green (and Clean)!

TOWN CLEANUP

Saturday, April 26, 2025

(rain date Sunday, April 27)

10 AM to 12:30 PM

Keep
our
town
neat!



Stop by our booth at the **Town Green** (in front of Town Hall) to pick up your supplies and let us know where you will clean. Check out our prizes! You could be a winner!

Please
help
clean
your
street!

Sponsored by the Bridgewater Land Trust and HRRA

Questions please contact HRRA at education@hrra.org or Julie Stuart at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

Support Us

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

Stay Social

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