



BWLT NEWS

Protecting The Land You Love

August, 2026



A fern-lined stretch along the 5K Course at Tappen Brook Trails, Bridgewater

Eversource Partnership A Success *New Grant Awarded*

It's been four years since the Bridgewater Land Trust entered into a long-term license agreement with Eversource Energy, granting the BWLT passive recreational use of 80 acres on the east side of Lake Lillinonah. This partnership has provided a tremendous benefit to residents who enjoy hiking, trail running, birding, or simply spending time in nature. The collaboration has also been a significant conservation success. These 80 acres have remained undisturbed, preserving old-growth forests, vernal pools, and dramatic rock outcroppings that provide valuable habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

Soon after the agreement took effect, the BWLT established the Tappen Brook 5K Course, one of the few off-road race courses in the region. The course traverses the Eversource property, land owned by The Nature Conservancy, and a 60-acre parcel generously donated to the Bridgewater Land Trust by the Witkin family in 2025. This year, we are proud to host the 3rd Annual Tappen Brook 5K on Saturday, August 9.

In addition to providing the land at no cost, Eversource has supported the stewardship of this special property through annual grants that help offset the ongoing costs of trail maintenance and improvements. We are grateful to have been awarded a 2026 stewardship grant, which will fund erosion-control measures, trail enhancements, and updated signage.

The Bridgewater Land Trust is deeply appreciative of Eversource's continued partnership and commitment to conservation, public access, and outdoor recreation.



Daniel Davis, Senior Community Relations Specialist for Eversource and Julie Stuart, Executive Director for the Bridgewater Land Trust.

Living in one of Bridgewater's wildlife crossing corridors, Lorraine has witnessed far too many animals killed by speeding vehicles. While not every collision can be avoided, reducing speed and staying alert can often make the difference between life and death for the many creatures that call our town home.

To help raise awareness, Lorraine has paired her illustration with information about each of the featured animals, compiled from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). Lorraine hopes this educational resource will encourage drivers to be more mindful, helping to protect Bridgewater's wildlife while making our roads safer for everyone.

For questions or to request copies of the poster and accompanying wildlife information, please contact Lorraine at 2lorrainelorenzini@gmail.com.



The First Harvest

Let The Giving Begin

We celebrated the first harvest from the Giving Garden at the Jim Allen Farm Preserve! We gathered a beautiful bounty of yellow squash, zucchini, peppers, cucumbers, two varieties of lettuce, kale, and sweet gold cherry tomatoes.

Once harvested, the produce is washed and delivered to the Bridgewater Food Pantry, where it will provide healthy, locally grown vegetables to neighbors in need.



FIELD NOTES

Thank You HVA Interns

The Bridgewater Land Trust was delighted to welcome four summer interns—Daphne, Lorea, Wade, and Jackson—through the Housatonic Valley Association internship program. Their hard work and enthusiasm made a tremendous impact at the Tappen Brook Trails, where they helped prepare the course for our upcoming 5K Trail Race.



Dairy Barn

Progress

Phase Two of the Town Line Farm Preserve dairy barn renovation is almost complete. The view here shows the front of the office building and milk room with a fresh coat of paint.

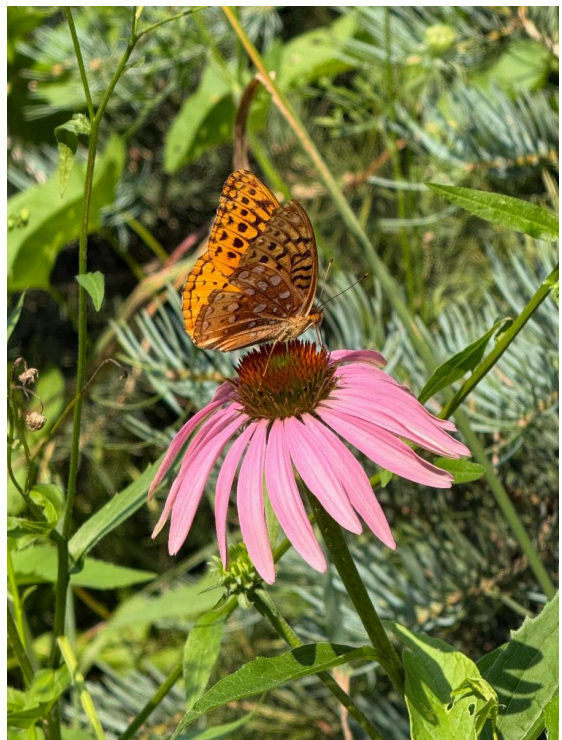


Community support has been critical to this significant renovation.

Pollinator Meadow

Three years ago, we planted a field of wildflower seeds at the Jim Allen Farm Preserve with the hope of creating a beautiful habitat for pollinators. This summer, that vision has come to life.

The meadow is now bursting with an incredible diversity of blooms that provide vital nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. Among the flowers now in bloom are bee balm, St. John's wort, black-eyed Susan, common milkweed, swamp milkweed, yarrow, bindweed, knapweed, coreopsis, purple coneflower, and many more. Pictured here is a Great Spangled Fritillary on a cone flower.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteers Needed

As we gear up for the Tappen Brook 5K, we're looking for a few volunteers to help give the course a final trim and tidy before race day.

If you have an hour or two to spare, we'd love your help! Please bring your own hedge trimmers, loppers, or a weed whacker if you have one. Every little bit makes a difference in creating a safe and enjoyable experience for our runners and hikers.

Many hands make light work, and we'd greatly appreciate your support.



Last Call - 3rd Annual Tappen Brook 5K

Lace up your running shoes! The Bridgewater Land Trust will again host one of the few five-kilometer foot races in Connecticut run entirely on trails. The Tappen Brook 5K (3.1 miles) is scheduled for Sunday, August 9 at 9 a.m. at the Bridgewater Town Park. The race is co-sponsored by the Bridgewater Recreation Commission. Registration is available at ultrasignup.com. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for runners ages 13–21. Runners age 12 and under can compete for free.

All runners will receive a choice of race swag, including caps and neck gaiters. Top finishers will each receive a special prize. Thomas Parrett captured first place in 2025 with an impressive time of 19 minutes, 1 second.

Join the Bridgewater Land Trust and the
Bridgewater Recreation Commission

TAPPEN BROOK 5K RUN 2026

DATE:
SUNDAY,
AUGUST 9TH

LOCATION
BRIDGEWATER
TOWN PARK
221 TAPPEN ROAD

TIME:
9:00 AM
START TIME

REGISTER AT ULTRASIGNUP

QUESTIONS: ALISON@BRIDGEWATERLANDTRUST.ORG



Tappen Brook 5K: Team Bridgewater

Looking to make it even more fun? Local entrants are encouraged to join Team Bridgewater! You don't have to be fast, just ready to hit the trails and give it a try. Team participants will receive special shirts thanks to HRRA and are invited to a post-race tailgate gathering after the finish. To join the team and order your shirt contact Julie at julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Save The Date(s)

Native American History **HIKE**

Sponsored by the The Institute For American Indian
Studies and the Bridgewater Land Trust

SAT | OCTOBER 10 | 10 AM - 12 NOON

**LOVER'S LEAP STATE PARK
MEET AT THE PARKING AREA
NEW MILFORD, CT**

Join us for a moderately difficult guided hike
featuring sites that highlight the deep history of
local Native American peoples. Special
welcome by Darlene Kascak of the
Schaghticoke Tribal Nation.

This is a free event but RSVP is required
julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org





Celebration & Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 18th at 4:00 PM

De Hoek Farm

32 Hine Rd. (not Hine Hill)
New Milford, CT



PLEASE JOIN US

Tickets: \$50

Includes drinks & hors d'oeuvres

www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org
Questions: 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.

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