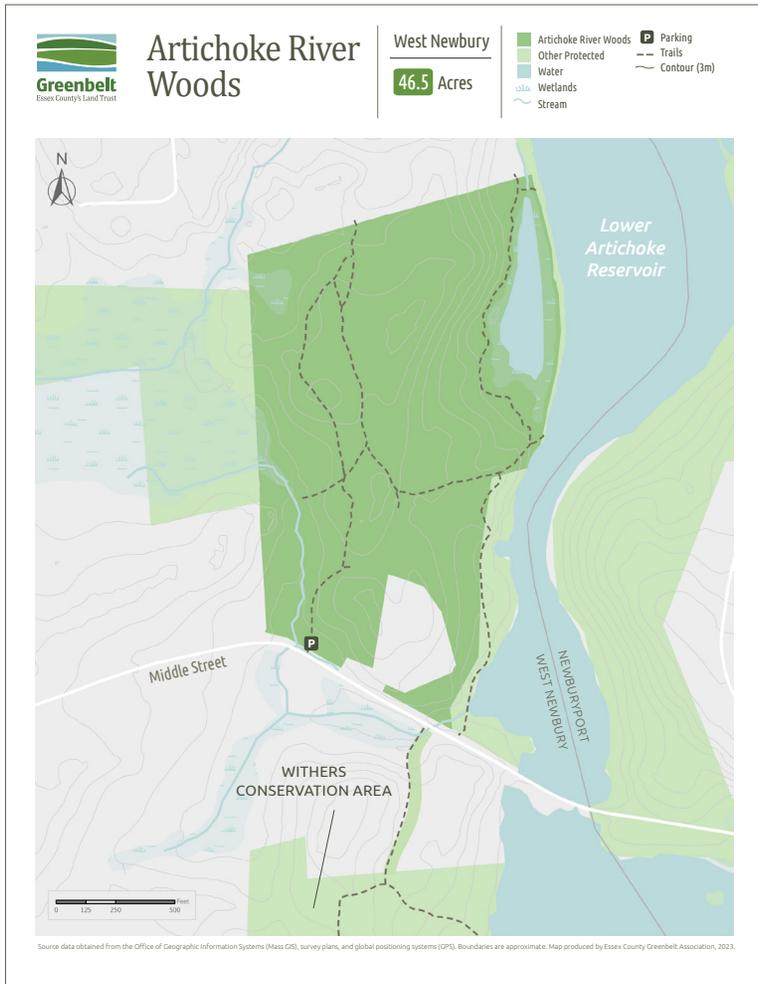


Permanently Conserved

Today, visitors can enjoy scenic trails at Artichoke River Woods Conservation Area. To experience these peaceful woodlands, download our free trail map.

DOWNLOAD MAP ecga.org/trails



GREENBELT CONSERVATION CHRONICLE Artichoke River Woods

| WEST NEWBURY

NEIL UNGERLEIDER

46.5 ACRES OF WOODLANDS ADJACENT TO THE ARTICHOKE RESERVOIR Protecting Drinking Water, Wildlife Habitat, Climate Resilience and Trails

Greenbelt's Artichoke River Woods Conservation Area in West Newbury encompasses more than forty-six acres of beautiful woodlands and ponded wetlands along the Artichoke Reservoir. The Algonquians, one of the region's original inhabitants, likely harvested Jerusalem artichokes in this area. It's thought that this is where the name "Artichoke River" originates.

In the late 1800s, Preston Roger's grandfather began purchasing the parcels that became Artichoke River Woods to expand his dairy farm. Raised in a home down the street, Preston and his wife Debora acquired this property in 1980 and managed it for wildlife habitat, firewood and trails (which are the basis for the trail system managed by Greenbelt today).

Preston and Debora first met with Greenbelt in 2016. With a vision to protect their woodlands forever from development, discussions about conservation options ensued. In early 2020, Greenbelt and the Rogers agreed to a conservation acquisition by Greenbelt that would protect their land.

Protecting land and nature for you, our communities and the future



Essex County Greenbelt
82 Eastern Avenue
PO Box 1026
Essex, MA 01929

978 768 7241
ecga@ecga.org



**DO YOU HAVE A CONSERVATION VISION FOR YOUR LAND?
GREENBELT CAN HELP.**





NEIL UNGERLEIDER (2)



CONSERVATION VALUES

Drinking Water With more than 1,000 feet of shoreline on the Artichoke Reservoir, the intact forests of Artichoke River Woods are vital to keeping this water supply clean. The reservoir is a significant drinking water source for the City of Newburyport, and an important supplement to West Newbury’s water. Forests on the property also protect water flowing into wells owned by West Newbury just off of the northern property boundary.

Habitat Artichoke River Woods is predominantly forested with mature hardwoods interspersed with giant white pines. Its easternmost section harbors a healthy wetland that not only helps clean water flowing into the Artichoke Reservoir, but also provides habitat for a number of wetland-dependent birds, amphibians and mammals. Ensuring these ecosystems remain intact enhances the region’s resilience to higher temperatures, rainfall, flooding and other impacts of climate change.

Public Trail Access Now permanently protected from development, footpaths at Artichoke River Woods are open to the public, free of charge, for all to enjoy. These trails provide a critical link in a proposed greenway stretching from Maudslay State Park to West Newbury’s Withers Conservation Area.

CONSERVATION COLLABORATION

Multiple Partners Achieve Conservation Goals

The property’s significant conservation values and public benefits brought together two municipalities and two state agencies to partner with Greenbelt in conserving Artichoke River Woods. Funding was provided by Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds from both Newburyport and West Newbury, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), who together acquired a conservation restriction on Artichoke River Woods. Greenbelt fundraised from generous private donors to acquire the land. Two state grants – the Commonwealth’s Drinking Water Supply Program and Conservation Partnership – were also instrumental to completing this acquisition.

GOAL

Conserve 46.5 wooded acres next to Artichoke Reservoir

TOOLS

Bargain Sale of Land Income Tax Deduction

LOCAL IMPACT

Drinking Water Protection
Public Trail System
Climate Resilience



CONSERVATION VISION

Greenbelt and the Rogers consider conservation options

Winter 2016 – Fall 2019

MULTIPLE PARTNERSHIPS

Greenbelt initiates discussions with municipal and state conservation partners, and enters into a Purchase & Sale Agreement with the Rogers

Winter 2020

FUNDRAISING

Secured funding from municipal and state partners, two state grants, private foundations and individuals

Spring – Fall 2020

CONSERVATION GOALS ACHIEVED

Greenbelt acquires land
City of Newburyport, Town of West Newbury and DCR co-acquire Conservation Restriction

March 2021

“Our entire family did a memorial walk through Artichoke River Woods today... The beaver family even did a swim-by for the grandkids. I’m so glad the project came together and that our family will be able to visit for years to come.”

- Debora Rogers