

Conservation in Action

Ambitious land campaigns in Hamilton and Wenham will permanently protect nearly 200 acres

Greenbelt's 2025 Annual Fund

Your Annual Fund gift helps Greenbelt conserve wildlife habitat, working farmland, and beautiful places to enjoy the outdoors. Please consider a gift before year-end!

ecga.org/annualfund



DOROTHY KERPER MONNELLY



133 Essex Street/Chebacco Woods
66 Acres in Hamilton

"I support Greenbelt's Annual Fund because I believe in its mission and the lasting impact of every contribution. Each gift helps protect local farmland, wildlife habitat, and beautiful outdoor spaces, while connecting people with nature."

Betsy Shields
Chair, Greenbelt
Board of Directors

Growing community support strengthens efforts to safeguard irreplaceable forest, farmland, and trails.

Building on an already impressive year, which has seen the permanent protection of more than 650 acres — including vital working farmland across Essex County — Greenbelt is keeping the momentum going this fall with significant conservation projects in Hamilton and Wenham.

The 133 Essex Street/Chebacco Woods project in Hamilton will protect 66 acres of woodland, active agriculture, and a popular trail network. In Wenham, the Streeter Conservation Project is comprised of forest, farmland, and trails, along with a National Register-listed First Period house. With decades of conservation expertise and strong community support, Greenbelt is confident these irreplaceable landscapes will be permanently safeguarded.

"These two campaigns represent an extraordinary opportunity to protect land that is central to the character, well-being, and resilience of the entire region. Together, these properties safeguard drinking water, help mitigate the impacts of climate change, and expand access to outdoor recreation."

Chris LaPointe, President

Read more about these projects on page 3

EXPLORING BOUNDLESS LANDSCAPES



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Learn more about Greenbelt's full staff
ecga.org/staff

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Dear friends,

Cycling has always been my gateway to outdoor exploration and adventure. As a child, I was fortunate to grow up in a time and place where the woods felt boundless, and I could ride for miles along winding farm roads. As I grew older, I came to understand that property lines, ownership, and real estate decisions are all layered over that same landscape — and very little is truly permanent.

Today, I still pursue my love of cycling here in Essex County as much as possible, even commuting to the office in Essex this time of year, when weather and daylight permit. My favorite routes wind through town conservation land, private trails, state parks, and, most meaningfully, many Greenbelt-protected properties, including those we are currently working to conserve in Hamilton and Wenham.

Over the years, I've come to know the roads and trails I most frequently use almost by heart — where the tricky roots and muddy spots lie, where deer or dogs might dart across my path, and even where the owls call in the early morning hours. Cycling is my way of connecting — both physically and mentally — with this extraordinary place we call home.

On these rides, I'm constantly reminded of, and deeply grateful to, the thousands of people who make our work possible: generous donors and corporate sponsors; engaged local communities and government agencies; dedicated Board members, staff, and volunteers; and the trusted partner organizations we collaborate with throughout the year.

I am proud to lead an organization at the forefront of ensuring that this kind of conservation — and the access it provides to the natural world — continues across the county for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris".

Chris LaPointe
President





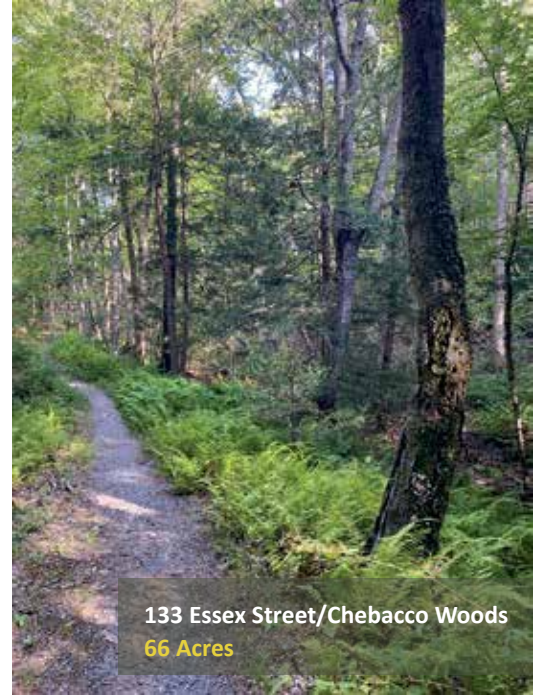
HAMILTON

133 Essex Street/Chebacco Woods

WOODLAND, ACTIVE AGRICULTURE, & TRAIL NETWORK

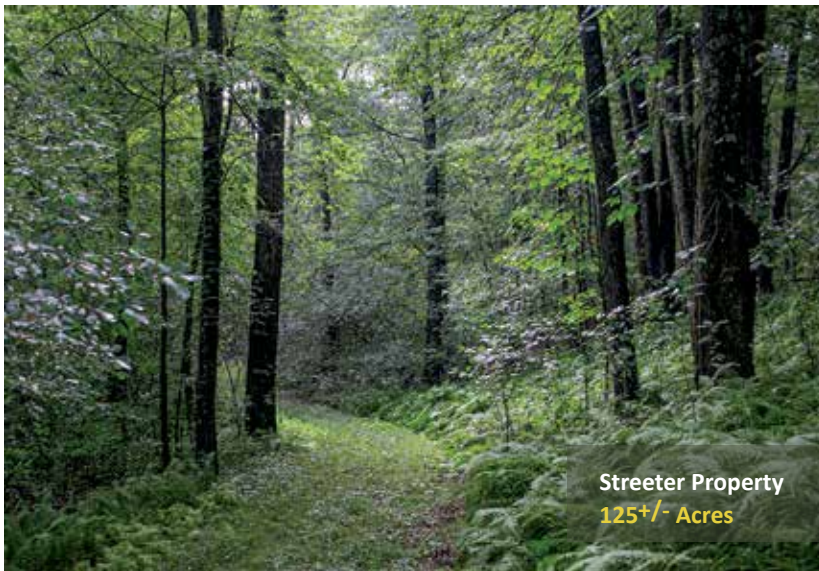
In late July, Greenbelt reached an agreement to purchase and permanently protect 66 acres of ecologically significant land at 133 Essex Street in Hamilton. Adjacent to Chebacco Woods, the property features mature forestland, dramatic rocky outcrops, vernal pools, and prominent working farmland along Route 22 (Essex Street) and Chebacco Road. It also connects directly to the trails in Chebacco Woods, a popular year-round destination for outdoor recreation in the region.

Currently the subject of development proposals, this property has long been a focal point for local conservation efforts, and Greenbelt looks forward to completing this long-awaited project by successfully raising the funds for its purchase by year-end. Protecting this property will increase the total conserved acreage around Chebacco Woods by more than 20%, enhancing this beloved regional resource and the many benefits it provides to the community.



133 Essex Street/Chebacco Woods
66 Acres

BLACK & WHITE WARBLER: GEORGE MCLEAN



Streeter Property
125+/- Acres



DAVID ALDEN-ST.PIERRE (2)



STREETER FAMILY PHOTO

WENHAM

Streeter Property

FOREST, FARMLAND, & TRAILS

Greenbelt is working to permanently protect roughly 125 acres of forest, farmland, and trails, while also safeguarding a significant public drinking water resource that serves nearly 90,000 people.

The Streeter property in Wenham, also known as "Old Farm," comprises 140 acres, including two existing houses. Greenbelt plans to work with Historic New England to protect the 1689 National Register-listed main home and the surrounding 15 acres with a Historic Preservation Restriction before selling it to a private buyer. Additionally, Greenbelt is exploring options for the sale of the smaller cottage, potentially as an affordable unit.

Greenbelt plans to acquire the remaining approximately 125 acres for permanent protection. With funding and project closure anticipated in spring 2026, we look forward to inviting the community to explore this beautiful property.





JERRY MONKMAN/ECOPHOTOGRAPHY

Preserving Vital Farmland 260 ACRES CONSERVED IN 2025 AND COUNTING

Hoyt Farm | MERRIMAC
122 ACRES

Over the past year, Greenbelt has protected significant agricultural acreage throughout the region, securing vital funding for farmland conservation projects, including 260 acres protected this year and more than 440 acres slated for protection in 2026.

In June, Greenbelt purchased and protected the 122-acre Hoyt Farm in Merrimac, which will be renamed Silver Brook Farm in honor of its history and the stream running through the property. Greenbelt also helped the Herrick family permanently protect their 138-acre dairy farm in Rowley through an Agricultural Preservation Restriction earlier this year.

Building on this momentum, Greenbelt helped secure funding for the protection of the 441-acre Bartlett Farm in Salisbury, one of the largest, multi-generational farms in the region. This project is expected to be completed in 2026.

Together, these projects will protect more than 700 acres of irreplaceable farmland, helping to ensure the region's agricultural economy remains vibrant into the future.

HERRICK FARM
ROWLEY
138 ACRES | 2025

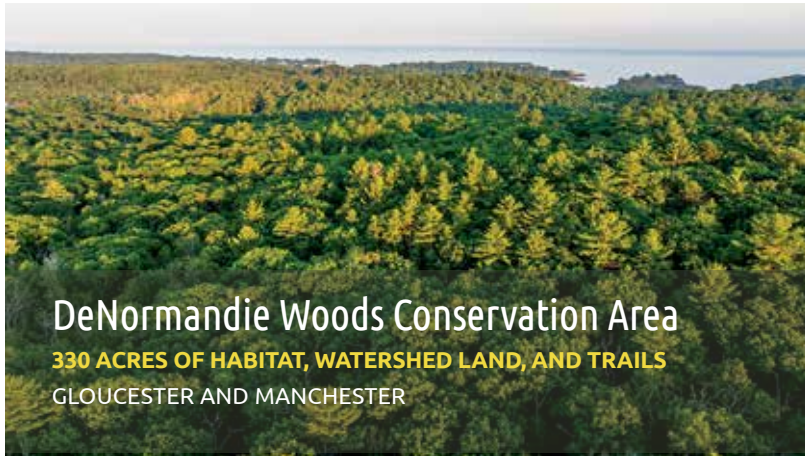
HOYT FARM
MERRIMAC
122 ACRES | 2025

BARTLETT FARM
SALISBURY
441 ACRES | 2026



FARMLAND CONSERVATION TOOLS

In addition to purchasing and protecting farmland, Greenbelt also uses Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs) and long-term ground leases to keep land permanently available for farming, support local farmers, and ensure agriculture thrives.



DeNormandie Woods Conservation Area

330 ACRES OF HABITAT, WATERSHED LAND, AND TRAILS

GLoucester AND MANCHESTER

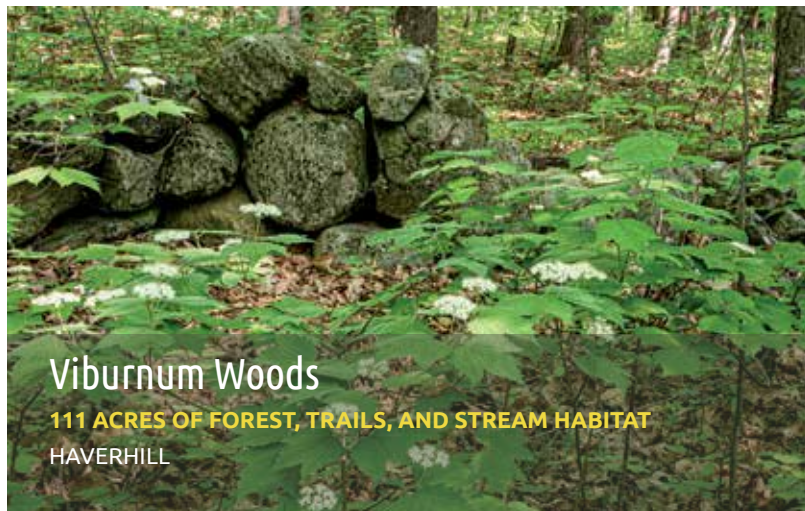
JERRY MONKMAN/ECOPHOTOGRAPHY

DeNormandie Woods is part of a larger 1,400-acre expanse of protected land preserved over decades spanning Manchester, Gloucester, and Essex.

Acquired by Greenbelt in late 2024, this ecologically rich property also contains a network of trails — ranging from gentle carriage paths to more challenging woodland tracks — making DeNormandie Woods an inviting destination for year-round recreation.

“Opportunities to protect such a large expanse of land in this region are increasingly rare, making this project a landmark achievement.”

Chris LaPointe, President



Viburnum Woods

111 ACRES OF FOREST, TRAILS, AND STREAM HABITAT

HAVERHILL

ADRIAN SCHOLLES

Greenbelt celebrated the opening of the Viburnum Woods Conservation Area this June, which includes recently protected Parsonage Hill and a previously land-locked Greenbelt parcel. Conserved in partnership with the City of Haverhill, these woodlands play an important role in preserving water quality in the region.

Named for the native mapleleaf viburnums thriving in its understory, this property offers a newly redesigned trail network, perfect for exploration.

Donovan Habitat Restoration

IMPROVING GRASSLAND BIRD HABITAT

Earlier this year at the John J. Donovan Reservation in Hamilton, Greenbelt’s Stewardship team cleared invasive plants from stonewalls in the upper fields, restoring critical grassland habitat for declining bird species such as bobolinks, meadowlarks, and grass-hopper sparrows. This work not only revitalized the open fields and improved conditions for wildlife, but also highlighted Greenbelt’s ongoing commitment to biodiversity and climate-resilient land management.

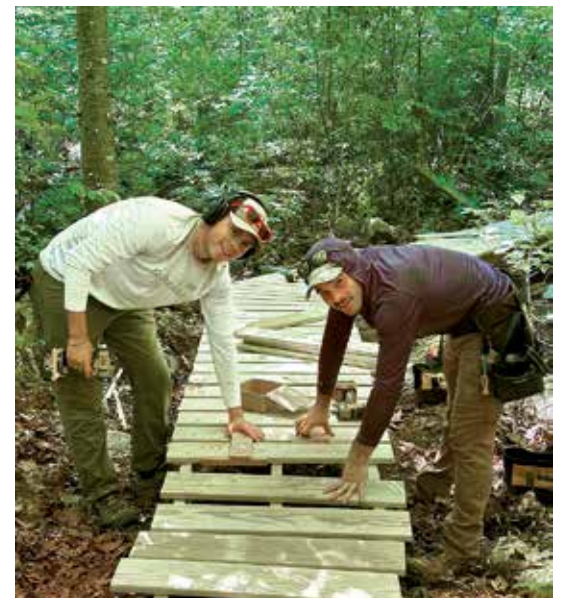


CRAIG GIBSON

New Boardwalk Improves Safety

TOMPSON STREET | BRAY STREET ENTRANCE

This summer in Gloucester, the Stewardship team rebuilt a 36-foot wooden boardwalk over a stream and wetlands at Thompson Street Reservation. The new boardwalk reinforces a heavily used trail connection, providing safe and reliable access to the property’s broader trail network.



The Trails Are Calling: Go-Getter Challenge Gains Momentum

THROUGHOUT ESSEX COUNTY



The 2025-2026 Go-Getter Trails Challenge is off to an impressive start! Since its June launch, more than 280 participants — including individuals, couples, families, teams, and even the occasional dog — have registered to explore Greenbelt's protected properties across the region. From craggy coastlines and quiet woodlands to tranquil marshes and windswept meadows, these outdoor enthusiasts are uncovering hidden gems, making unexpected discoveries, and reaping the health benefits of time spent outside.

You can be a Go-Getter too! **The challenge runs through May 30, 2026, so there's plenty of time to join the fun — it's free, open to all, and perfect for every pace.** Whether you prefer to hike, bike, run, stroll, snowshoe, or simply wander, the challenge offers the perfect excuse to get outside and explore. Visit 5, 10, even 25 properties and earn your Go-Getter badge — or go for all 50 and claim ultimate bragging rights as a member of the Trailblazer's Circle!

280+ Explorers
in Trails Challenge

12 Teams
and counting

255+ Properties
explored so far!

ecga.org/trails-challenge
SIGN UP TODAY!



MICHELLE DUNLEAVY



PAMELA MANSFIELD



SECRET SQUIRRELS TEAM



KATE BOWDITCH

Glow Mural Project

**BLENDING PUBLIC ART, COMMUNITY SCIENCE, AND
HABITAT RESTORATION**

In collaboration with Merrimac-based artist Jenn Houle, Greenbelt installed glow-in-the-dark murals at four of our properties from August through October, creating a unique nighttime art experience. **The murals were designed to highlight the impact of light pollution on native pollinators while giving visitors a chance to explore nature after dark in a new and inspiring way.**

At each site, community members were also invited to use their phones to participate in the Globe at Night community science program, gathering real data on how light pollution affects moths, bats, bees, and other vital species. Following the season's data collection, each mural site was seeded with native flowering plants in collaboration with The Monarch Gardener, leaving behind lasting pollinator habitat. The murals will rotate to new Greenbelt properties each year, expanding the project across Essex County.

This initiative was made possible through a Creative County Initiative grant from the Essex County Community Foundation.



JENN HOULE



Artist Jenn Houle in her studio with the hand-painted, glow-in-the-dark tiles she displayed at four Greenbelt properties this summer and fall.





GOVSPUS

Greenbelt Hosts GovsPLUS Students for a Day of Fun and Discovery

This July, a curious and enthusiastic group of middle school students from Lawrence visited Greenbelt's Bailey Reservation in Haverhill for an action-packed day of learning and exploration.

Guided by Greenbelt staff and volunteers, the students took part in a variety of hands-on activities that highlighted biodiversity, water quality, and the often-overlooked life in freshwater habitats. Rick Roth of the Cape Ann Vernal Pools team also captivated the group with his menagerie of live frogs, turtles, snakes, and salamanders. The outing concluded with a short hike through Bailey's woodlands and along Chadwick Pond.

GovsPLUS (Powerful Learners Unlocking Success) is a tuition-free academic enrichment program hosted by The Governor's Academy in Byfield for motivated middle school students from Lawrence.

Greenbelt first connected with GovsPLUS in 2022 thanks to longtime friend and former Board member Spencer Purinton, a Governor's Academy Trustee, and has been hosting summer outings ever since.



Greenbelt Business Sponsors

"We are deeply grateful to our donors, volunteers, and business sponsors — your support makes our vital land conservation work possible."

Rachel Horgan,
Director of Development
& Community Engagement

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ROAD & GRAVEL ROUTES



Vineyard Hill Trail Run
5K/10K WOODLAND ROUTES



Monthly Walks
COUNTY-WIDE

GRAY SERGI

Greenbelt in Motion!

With 50+ Greenbelt events throughout the year, there's sure to be something for all activity levels! **COME JOIN US** ecga.org/events

TONY MISTRETTA



PO Box 1026
Essex, MA 01929
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Printed on FSC-certified paper
containing 30% post-consumer waste,
using vegetable-based inks.

A wide-angle aerial photograph of a dense, green forest. The trees are mostly evergreens, and the canopy is thick. In the background, a line of trees marks the horizon under a sky with soft, orange and pink clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is peaceful and natural.

LAND & LEGACY

GIVING CIRCLE

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Your legacy gift to Greenbelt will protect the land you love in perpetuity, leaving a lasting impact for generations to come.

It's as easy as including Greenbelt in your will or naming us as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy.

ecga.org/planned-giving

"If you have already included Greenbelt in your estate plans, or are considering doing so, please let us know! We would love the opportunity to thank you for your generous commitment to land conservation."

Rachel Horgan
Director of Development
& Community Engagement
rachel@ecga.org