

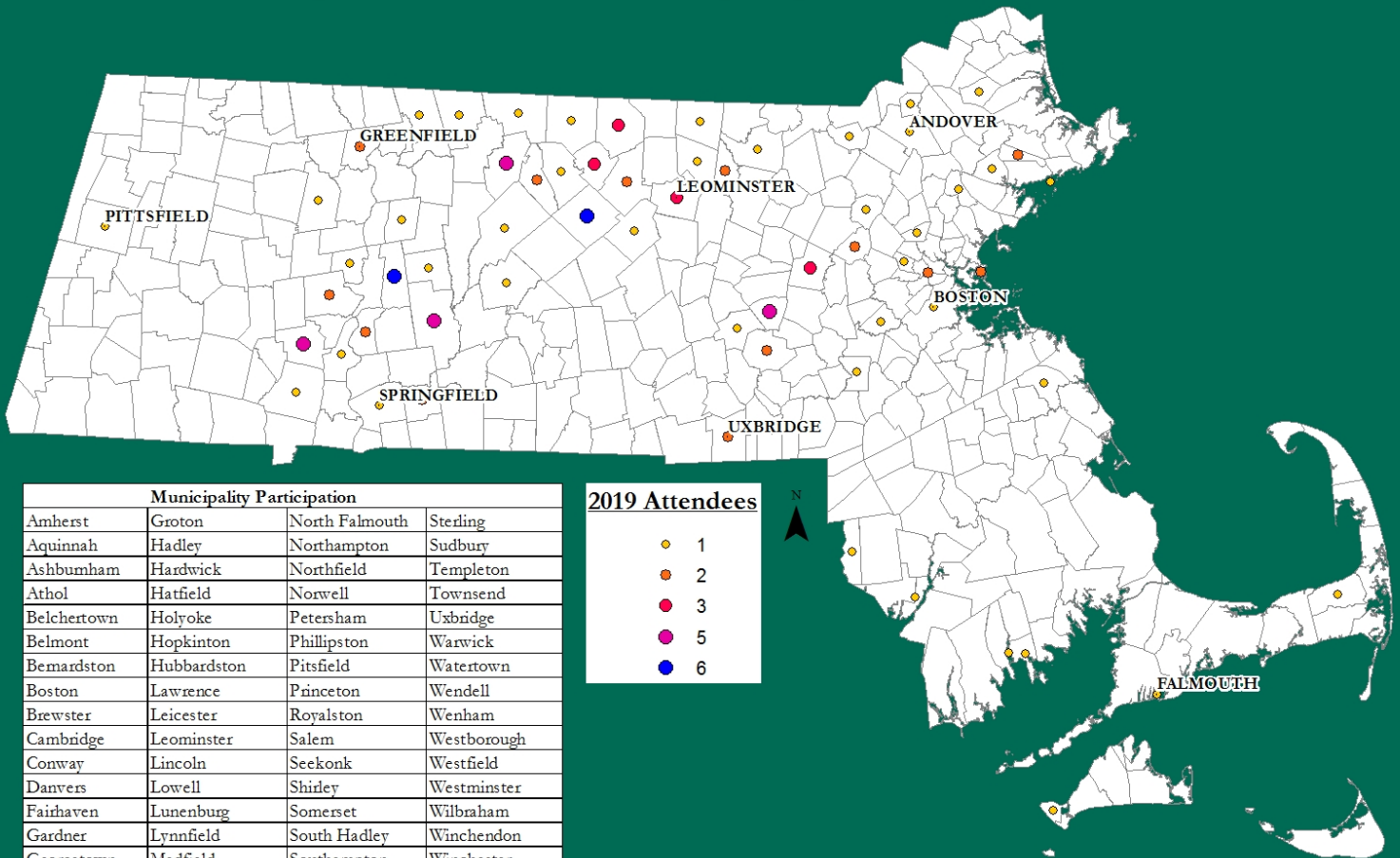


4th Massachusetts Open Space Conference:

Bringing people together to protect the places that we love.

Saturday, April 27th, 2019
Mount Wachusett Community College
Gardner, Massachusetts

Grassroots Participation in the Massachusetts Open Space Conference



Municipality Participation			
Amherst	Groton	North Falmouth	Sterling
Aquinnah	Hadley	Northampton	Sudbury
Ashburnham	Hardwick	Northfield	Templeton
Athol	Hatfield	Norwell	Townsend
Belchertown	Holyoke	Petersham	Uxbridge
Belmont	Hopkinton	Phillipston	Warwick
Bernardston	Hubbardston	Pittsfield	Watertown
Boston	Lawrence	Princeton	Wendell
Brewster	Leicester	Royalston	Wenham
Cambridge	Leominster	Salem	Westborough
Conway	Lincoln	Seekonk	Westfield
Danvers	Lowell	Shirley	Westminster
Fairhaven	Lunenburg	Somerset	Wilbraham
Gardner	Lynnfield	South Hadley	Winchendon
Georgetown	Medfield	Southampton	Winchester
Gill	Needham	Southborough	Winthrop
Greenfield	New Bedford	Springfield	

2019 Attendees	
●	1
●	2
●	3
●	5
●	6





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Today's Schedule

Welcome!

We are delighted to once again host the Massachusetts Open Space Conference at Mount Wachusett Community College, where we will offer 12 workshops to build your town's capacity to protect and steward open space. All of today's workshops and related activities will take place in the North and South Cafeteria and classrooms 251, 253, and 255. If you are unsure of where to go, be sure to follow the signs for marked locations or refer to the map located on page 3.

Help Us Close the Loop!

Help us to be good stewards of the land by composting and recycling materials when possible. All of the materials that you receive from this event at either compostable or recyclable. "Waste" products for this event can be disposed at our composting stations. All compostable materials will go to a Clearview Composting, a local business in Orange, MA

Stewardship Raffle at 3:00 PM

Be sure to turn in your survey in for a chance to win stewardship prizes to help build your community's capacity to get things done!

This year's prizes include:

- Garmin GPS 64 Handheld Unit
- Stewardship Bundle
 - Loppers and a hand saw
- Sibley Field Guide to Birds
- Bark: A field Guide to Trees of the Northeast
- "Rite in the Rain" Weatherproof Top Spiral

<p>9:00 – 9:25 AM REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST <i>Location: South Café</i> <i>Breakfast is provided by Rose 32 Bread, Red Apple Farm, and Deans Beans</i></p>
<p>9:25 – 9:45 AM WELCOME—Jeff Legros, Conservation Agent of Gardner <i>Location: South Café</i></p>
<p>9:45 – 11:00 AM CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS: SESSION 1 <i>Location: See pages 5-6 & map on page 3</i></p>
<p>11:00 – 11:15 AM MORNING BREAK <i>~Beverages are available in the cafeteria~</i></p>
<p>11:15 AM – 12:30 PM CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS: SESSION 1 <i>Locations: See pages 7-8 & map on page 3</i></p>
<p>12:30 – 1:45 PM LUNCH <i>Location: South Café</i> <i>Lunch is provided by Roots Natural Foods</i></p>
<p>1:45 – 3:00 PM CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS: SESSION 3 <i>Locations: See pages 9-10 & map on page 3</i></p>
<p>3:00 -3:30 PM Closing Remarks and Raffle prizes drawing <i>Location: South Café</i></p>

Be sure to check out the resource tables located throughout the cafeteria!



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Map for the Day

South Cafeteria

- Registration and Breakfast
- Welcome Address
- Lunch
- Closing Remarks and Raffle

North Cafeteria

- Sessions: 1D, 2D, 3C

Room 255

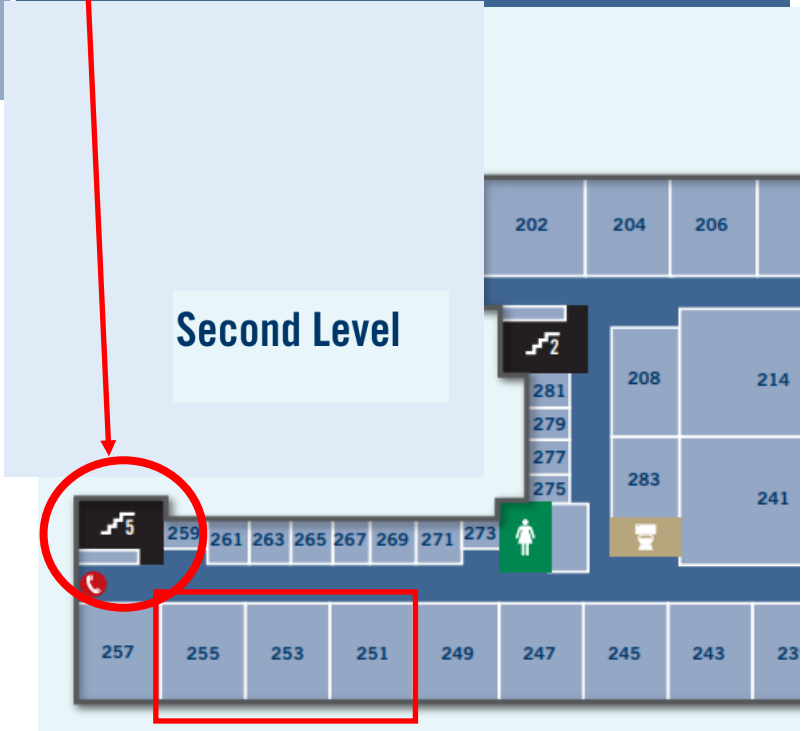
- Sessions: 1C, 2A, 3A

Room 253

- Sessions: 1B, 2B, 3B

Room 251

- Sessions: 1A, 2C, 3D





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A Special Thanks to our TerraCorps members:

This state-wide event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of TerraCorps-AmeriCorps members serving at land trusts across the commonwealth.

- Michael McGrath, North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership
- Robin Austin, North County Land Trust
- Lee Halasz, Kestrel Land Trust
- Sara Amish, Sudbury Valley Trustees
- Kat Kowalski, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
- James Eager, Berkshire Natural Resources Council

Also, many thanks to the Conference Planning and Advisory Committee:

- Bob Clark, Chair of Phillipston Open Space Committee
- Bonnie House, Chair of Phillipston Open Space Committee
- Brian Hall, Chair of Athol Open Space Committee
- Joanne McGee, Chair of Northfield Open Space Committee
- Dave Small, Member of Athol Open Space Committee

Finally, we are grateful to all the workshop presenters, facilitators, and event volunteers who are generously contributing their time and talent today. More than 20 individuals are volunteering their time to share their stories and spread ideas so that we can proactively plan to protect and steward the places that we love and depend upon.

Funding for this event has been provided by the MA Working Forest Initiative, in partnership with UMass-Amherst and the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.





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9:45 – 11:00AM | SESSION 1: CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Session 1A: New Powers for Agricultural Commissions

Location: Room 251

Agricultural Commissions (Ag Coms) have been granted new powers under the Massachusetts General Law. Ag Coms can now hold agricultural land and conservation restrictions, apply for grants, create agricultural land plans for a town's open space plans, initiate agricultural preservation funds, and manage agricultural land. This session will focus on reviewing new and continuing Ag Com powers and outline strategies to accomplish your municipality's agricultural goals. In this session you can learn from an experienced land conservation consultant and an active Ag Com member as they help us navigate and implement these new powers.

Presenters:

- Mary-Louis Altobelli, Chair of Agriculture Commission for Town of Westminster
- Janet Morrison Esq., Land Conservation Consulting

Facilitator: Kat Kowalski, TerraCorps Member at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

Session 1B: Who's at the Table? Managing Multiple Partners in OSRP Development and Implementation: A Town Case Study from Lincoln

Location: Room 253

We all know that collaboration is great in theory, but how can we put it into practice on our Open Space Committees? This session discusses who should be at the table, what benefits may arise, and how to manage multiple partners when writing and renewing your town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The session contains a participatory workshop element, inviting attendees to consider who should be at the table and what parts of the OSRP could benefit from more input.

Presenters:

- Dan Pereira, Parks and Recreation Director for Town of Lincoln
- Patty Donahue, Parks and Recreation and Youth Soccer Board member for Town of Lincoln
- Geoff McGean, Executive Director of Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation

Facilitator: Robin Austin, TerraCorps Member at North County Land Trust



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Session 1C: Accessing Grants for Land Protection

Location: Room 255

Land conservation tends to require at least one source of funding to see a project come to fruition. While there is a plethora of grant opportunities available, typically only one or two are really suited to the project at hand. A fundamental understanding of the various grants and their processes and developing relationships with potential partners, can help build the confidence and develop the capacity of municipalities to take on land conservation projects. This session aims to highlight some of the more likely land conservation grant opportunities available, consider how to identify potential projects, and provide case studies on how grants have been used to enact land conservation.

Presenters:

- Sarah LaValley, Conservation, Preservation and Land Use Manager for City of Northampton
- David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager and Director of Conservation and Development for the Town of Amherst
- Melissa Cryan, MA Executive Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs

Facilitator: Lee Halasz, TerraCorps member at Kestrel Land Trust

Session 1D: Solar Siting Recommendations

Location: North Café

An expert panel consisting of representatives from town boards, municipal committees and a solar developer will offer a panel presentation regarding the siting and review of solar projects based on the current iteration of the SMART Program. This session will look at the intersection of open space, possible development pressures from commercial solar development, pollinator friendly solar, and alternative zoning language that can be used to encourage the 'smart growth' of renewable energy.

Presenters:

- Dave Small, Chair of Planning and Community Development Board for the Town of Athol
- Zara Dowling, Energy Committee and Conservation Committee for the Town of New Salem

Facilitator: Michael McGrath, TerraCorps Member at the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership



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11:15 AM – 12:30 PM | SESSION 2: CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Session 2A: The Right of First Refusal

Location: Room 255

Come learn how a group of concerned citizens successfully helped Southamptton navigate and exercise the Right of First Refusal for the very first time when 85 acres of land were slated to come out of the Chapter 61 current use enrollment program in order to be developed. Sustained effort resulted in a new town-owned conservation area, protected with funding from the state's LAND grant program, and the creation of an open space review committee.

Presenter:

- Kristina Madsen, community leader in Southamptton

Facilitator: Sarah Wells, Director of Land Protection at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

Session 2B: Making your Open Space Committee a Force within Town

Location: Room 253

We all know that your town's Open Space Committee is responsible for writing and renewing the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. However, the potential for your Open Space Committee to make an impact goes beyond this important planning document. In this session, a peer will share their personal insights on how to run an effective Open Space Committee by sharing insights from over 20 years of project-based exploration. Key lessons learned will be shared for topics ranging from: What should be in your OSRP that no one told you about; outside-the-box strategies for land protection; how to dazzle the public and garner support; tips for creating fortuitous partnerships with unexpected benefits; recommendations for knowing how to use your zoning code; land stewardship projects; public programming to educate and entertain; finding funding and getting projects passed through Town meetings; and of course, making lemonade out of lemons. Attend this workshop if you are looking to boost the impact of your Open Space Committee to protect and steward open space in your town.

Presenter:

- Freddie Gillespie, Chair of Open Space and Preservation Commission and Chair of the Community Preservation Committee for the Town of Southborough

Facilitator: Michael McGrath, TerraCorps Member at the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership



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Session 2C: Reviewing and Renewing your Open Space and Recreation Plan

Location: Room 251

Open Space and Recreations Plans are an amazing tool for communities to envision future conservation and recreation initiatives and complement a community's master plan. The planning process can take time, but is easier to complete with some forethought and organization. If you are mid-way through renewing your plan or just discovering that it's about to expire, join volunteers who have been through it with a representative from Massachusetts' Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to dig into the different aspects that go into writing a community's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Presenters:

- Jeff Legros, Conservation Agent and Open Space Committee member for City of Gardner
- Melissa Cryan, MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Facilitator: Sara Amish, TerraCorps Member at Sudbury Valley Trustees

Session 2D: The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program—A Case Study from Arlington

Location: North Café

Representatives from the Town of Arlington will explain how a diversity of stakeholders within a town can engage in the Commonwealth's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to prepare our communities for a rapidly changing climate. The presentation will discuss Arlington's MVP planning experience, its current MVP action grant, and its collaboration on an MVP regional grant with other members from the Mystic River Watershed. The presenters will also share how the MVP process is influencing the drafting of other planning documents within the town such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan and future updates to the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Presenters:

- Emily Sullivan, Environmental Planner and Conservation Agent for the Town of Arlington
- Ann LeRoyer, Chair of the Open Space Committee for the Town of Arlington

Facilitator: Ariel Maiorano, Assistant Coordinator of Shaping the Future of Your Community Program at Mass Audubon



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1:45 PM – 3:00 PM | SESSION 3: CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Session 3A: Landowner Outreach

Location: 255

In this workshop town staff will share their experiences in reaching out to fellow residents within their town who are interested in exploring conservation options. This session will cover effective strategies for outreach events for landowners, estate planning workshops, talking points for land conservation, an overview of Chapter 61, and personal anecdotes for how to approach landowners. Resources such as “Their Land, Their Legacy” and “Using a Will to Pass On Your Land” will also be made available to those who attend.

Presenter:

- Rebecca Longval, Conservation Agent for the Town of Bolton

Facilitator: Paul Catanzaro, Associate Professor at UMASS Forestry Extension

Session 3B: Using GIS to think Strategically

Location: Room 253

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are used by many town volunteers to meet the state’s requirements for Open Space and Recreation Plans, to keep track of their conservation lands, to decide which lands are most important in town, and to improve fundraising success. GIS does not need be expensive or scary and can be a fun way to learn more about your town. In this session—led by a GIS professional who sits on an open space committee—we will discuss some free data and software needed for plans, look at some new data that will help you think more strategically, and talk about some ways to make your mapping less burdensome. No mapping experience is required.

Presenter:

- Brian Hall, Chair of Open Space Committee and member of Conservation Commission for the Town of Athol and Harvard Forest GIS Research Assistant

Facilitator: Fletcher Harrington, Community Conservation Program Manager at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust



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Session 3C: Using CPA funds to assist with Open Space and Recreation Projects

Location: North Café

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a great funding source for many towns and can lead to innovative and collaborative projects. This session features a panel of Open Space Committee Members and other municipal volunteers who will discuss projects they completed in their towns using CPA funds. Bring your questions about project design, incorporating Open Space and recreation projects, or CPA logistics to pick the brains of the people who have been there.

Presenters:

- Jassy Bratko, former Open Space Committee member for the Town of Hubbardston
- Freddie Gillespie, Chair of Open Space and Preservation Commission and Chair of the Community Preservation Committee for the Town of Southborough
- Bill Taylor, Open Space Committee member in the Town of Upton

Facilitator: Robin Austin, TerraCorps Member at North County Land Trust

Session 3D: Planning Resilient Trails

Location: Room 251

Trail building can be instrumental to both bringing people into nature and also limiting the human footprint in these delicate natural spaces. Building resilient trails which stand the test of time is central to ensuring that these spaces can continue to be used, without frequent rebuilding or complete abandonment. In this session, speakers will discuss ecological analysis, trail design principles, matching trail amenities to trail classification, infrastructure for nature-based design, accessibility, and thinking about how to prioritize trail placement on public land.

Presenter:

- Tamsin Flanders, UMass-Amherst Regional Planning Program and Conway School of Design alumna

Facilitator: James Eager, TerraCorps Member at Berkshire Natural Resources Council



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2019 Mass Open Space Conference Date: April 27 th					
		Track A: Municipal Land Conservation	Track B: Effective Municipal Planning	Track C: Funding Your Projects	Track D: Mitigating Climate Change
9:00-9:25 AM	Registration & Breakfast (South Café)				
9:25-9:45 AM	Welcome & Opening Address (South Café)				
9:45-11:00 AM	Concurrent Workshops: Session 1	1A. New Powers for Agricultural Commissions (Rm 251)	1B. Who's at the Table? Managing Multiple Partners in OSRP Development and Implementation: A Case Study from Lincoln (Rm 253)	1C. Accessing Grants for Land Protection ➤ LAND ➤ APR (Rm 255)	1D. Solar Siting Recommendations (North Café)
11:00 AM-11:15 AM	Morning Break				
11:15 AM -12:30 PM	Concurrent Workshops: Session 2	2A. The Right of First Refusal: A Case Study from Southampton (Rm 255)	2B. Making Your Open Space Committee a Force within Town (Rm 253)	2C. Reviewing and Renewing your Open Space and Recreation Plan (Rm 251)	2D. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program: A Case Study from Arlington (North Café)
12:30-1:45 PM	Lunch (South Café)				
1:45-3:00 PM	Concurrent Workshops: Session 3	3A. Landowner Outreach (Rm 255)	3B. Using GIS to Think Strategically (Rm 253)	3C. Using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to assist with Open Space and Recreation Projects (North Café)	3D. Perspectives in Trail Planning (Rm 251)
3:00-3:30 PM	Closing Remarks & Raffle Prizes (South Café)				