



The Trustees of Reservations Background Information

www.thetrustees.org

WHO WE ARE

In 1891, Charles Eliot, a visionary landscape architect from Boston, founded The Trustees of Reservations on the bold idea that people and places are interconnected, and that preserving our natural and cultural landscapes is key to protecting everyone's quality of life.

Today, The Trustees of Reservations own and care for 106 special places – more than 25,000 acres in 75 communities across the Commonwealth. With the support of our nearly 45,000 members and donors, each year The Trustees welcome over one million people to our beaches, gardens, forests, farms, and historic houses. We offer programs and learning opportunities that engage tens of thousands of adults and children annually. And every day, we work with individuals, communities, partners, volunteers, and philanthropists to protect the landscapes and landmarks, parks and greenways that make Massachusetts the place we want to call home.

This love and passion for place, whether it's a rural forest, a suburban farm, or an urban park, drives The Trustees' vision of a Commonwealth made up of 351 healthy, active, and green communities – places where people have access to open space for play and relaxation, and good food to nourish the mind and body; places where neighbors are engaged and empowered to create change; and places where people are living and working in ways that ensure the health and vitality of Massachusetts – and the entire planet – for generations to come.

Conservation – Saving Special Places across Massachusetts

We protect special places by:

- Acquiring properties to become new reservations in our statewide network.
- Accepting conservation restrictions on private properties when landowners want to protect their land in perpetuity.
- Collaborating with public and private partners to protect and care for land that will be open to the public.
- Promoting land acquisition, stewardship, and public access for gardens, parks, and greenways in Massachusetts' cities.
- Advocating for statewide issues that promote land conservation, a healthy environment, and sustainable communities.
- Affiliating with leading organizations in their fields, including Boston Natural Areas Network, the city's leading advocate for community gardens, greenways, and urban wilds.

Stewardship – Caring for Scenic, Historic, and Ecological Resources

We are committed to:

- Caring for our reservations to the highest standards possible to ensure their health and resiliency.
- Researching, preserving, and sharing the stories of our historic and cultural landscapes.
- Leading by example in protecting rare species and caring for and restoring habitat.
- Balancing the needs of our 1 million visitors with the exceptional care and protection of the flora and fauna that call our properties home.

Sharing Special Places

Connecting people to place involves:

- Creating a high-quality experience for a diverse group of visitors.
- Providing programmatic and educational opportunities to deepen people's relationship with Massachusetts' land and history.
- Offering a variety ways for people to experience the outdoors, from hiking, cross-country skiing, and paddling to gardening, farming, and volunteering.
- Inspiring the next generation of conservationists through education and outreach.
- Providing opportunities for people to become better caretakers of Massachusetts' natural and cultural resources, which are so critical to fostering healthy, active, and green communities.

WHAT WE PROTECT AND WHY

Since 1891, The Trustees of Reservations have been saving the Massachusetts landscape for people to enjoy. From the mountains of the Berkshires to the beaches of the Islands, we care for more than 25,000 acres on 106 reservations, and, through our work with landowners and partners, have helped protect over 60,000 acres across the Commonwealth.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

With more than 1 million acres in Massachusetts still unprotected from development, the effects of climate change threatening the health of our properties and communities, and a generation of children becoming increasingly disconnected from the places that sustain us, The Trustees' work is more urgent today than ever before. As we work to achieve our bold vision, The Trustees have developed an ambitious, 10-year strategic plan, *Trustees 2017*, built around four goals: accelerating our land protection efforts; engaging and mobilizing many more people to get involved in conservation; leading by example, not only in the care of our reservations but in living and working sustainably; and continuing to lead by example as the oldest and one of the most effective conservation organizations in the country.

As we move forward, we will work to build a larger and more diverse network of caring communities and like-minded individuals – all linked by a shared commitment to creating healthy, active, and green communities throughout Massachusetts and beyond.