



The Trustees of Reservations Background Information

www.thetrustees.org

WHO WE ARE

Founded by Charles Eliot in 1891, The Trustees of Reservations are the nation's oldest regional land trust and non-profit conservation organization. Our mission is to preserve, for public use and enjoyment, properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts. For 118 years, we have been devoted to conserving the cultural and historic character that makes Massachusetts' landscape and communities unique. A nonprofit organization funded entirely by our visitors, supporters and more than 44,000 members, we aim to inspire the next generation of conservationists to appreciate and preserve their cultural heritage, for everyone, forever.

WHAT WE DO

Conservation, stewardship and preserving the distinct character of our communities are at the heart of our mission.

Conservation – Saving the Best of the Massachusetts Landscape

We practice conservation through:

- acquisition of properties that become new reservations in our statewide system
- acquisition of parcels of land that buffer reservations
- placement of conservation restrictions on private land, both independent of and integral to existing reservations
- outreach and assistance to landowners interested in protecting their land for themselves and future generations
- collaborative land protection planning with other nonprofits and government agencies, including helping communities to pass the Conservation Preservation Act
- legislative advocacy

Stewardship – Caring for Scenic, Historic, and Ecological Resources

Our principles of stewardship include a commitment to:

- preserving and maintaining features in the landscape that contribute to a reservation's scenic value, including property management
- research, preservation, restoration, exhibition, and interpretation of historic buildings, structures, landscape features, and fine and decorative arts
- inventory, monitoring, and research; habitat conservation, management (including rare species protection), and restoration of natural resources
- comprehensive management planning that includes identifying natural and cultural resources to be protected and determining compatible forms of public access and use

Sharing Special Places

Linking with the special places we protect involves:

- providing various forms and levels of public access where everyone can “find their place”
- maintaining a high-quality experience for a diverse group of visitors
- offering a variety of recreational opportunities, from hiking to cross-country skiing, to birding and paddling
- connecting people to the landscape with educational programs, volunteer opportunities and special events
- inspiring the next generation of conservationists through education and outreach

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 Cape Cod and the Islands, we care for nearly 25,000 acres on 100 reservations, and through our conservation work, have helped protect nearly 59,000 acres. As land continues to shrink at the alarming rate of roughly 40 acres per day, our sense of urgency has only increased.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

In 2006, we wrapped up our Landscapes & Landmarks Campaign—the largest capital campaign by an environmental organization in Massachusetts’s history, signed a permanent affiliation with Boston Natural Areas Network and adopted a new strategic plan to take us through 2017.

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 protecting the special places, heritage and quality of life we love throughout Massachusetts and beyond.