GREETINGS!

Most people feel better when they can connect with nature. LP&CT’s mission is to provide special places within the city for all to enjoy. Have you found your special place?

Once you find that special place, you can simply visit and take in all that the land has to offer - or invest in the land itself. Investment entails a responsibility and understanding of what the land represents. It is to know the ecology, the plants and animals, their habitats, and how they all try to survive.

Learning more about these relationships is to have a “land ethic.” This concept has been promoted by foresters and ecologists, most notably author Aldo Leopold. His book of essays, *A Sand County Almanac*, gives the reader an appreciation of what stewardship entails—caring for not only the land we live on, but for our world in general. Our after-school programs, conducted by LP&CT Stewardship & Education Manager, Gwen Kozlowski, in partnership with Lowell teachers and Mass Audubon's Drumlín Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, are developing young stewards through education and leadership opportunities.

**We learn by investing in our youth.**

LP&CT has the capacity to be a steward of the land we care for because of your support throughout the year. Our land ethic is not only guided by the internal compasses of the LP&CT’s leadership, but by a national community of land trusts that draw from each other’s experiences.

This fall LP&CT submitted our application for accreditation to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Since 2004, we have been working toward this goal when we committed to following the Standards and Practices of the Land Trust Alliance. This level of accountability goes far beyond how we care for the land, even ensuring that your donations are spent where directed and in a manner that sustains our mission. The Board of Directors worked closely with staff on this multi-year project and we’ll be anxious to share our news in 2014.

If successful, LP&CT will be one of the first accredited urban land trusts in the country. You have a voice in the process and we encourage your participation. Please see page 2 for further information about how you can be involved.

The Fall is a wonderful time to visit our parks and properties. Take advantage of the color and weather. Please bring family and friends out to enjoy your special place. You’ll be helping more of the community enjoy the green spaces and gain an appreciation of the LAND that is part of all of us.

Best wishes!  

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**EEL MONITORING ON THE CONCORD**

Citizen Science, Leaky Waders, and a Wooden Ramp

American eels—slimy and snake-like—may not be the most charismatic species to rally around, but with recent population declines, they are under consideration for the endangered species list.

Their sliminess didn’t stop the Trust from partnering with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Spindle City Corps youth this summer to study eel populations in the Concord River. Youth discovered the complicated and delicate life cycle of this species that relies on variety of habitats, from freshwater estuaries to the ocean.

To help monitor the eels in the Concord, the youth built wooden eel “ladders,” monitored them for a critical week of their migration, and experienced the challenges of conducting scientific research in the field. It was all worth it (even the leaky waders) when the youth excitedly handled their first juvenile eel (above)!

This is the first trapping and monitoring of the upstream passage of eels in Lowell.

**Why monitor eels?** Eels are an important indicator species that can tell us about the health of other migratory fish species as well as the eel’s habitat. Recently, eels have made the news because of their monetary value as a delicacy in the cuisine of other areas around the world. The information collected via the eel ladders will help fisheries managers evaluate the effectiveness of their management actions.

It’s hard to believe such a slimy creature can capture the hearts of youth, but it even helped put their hard into perspective; the youth knew they were making a difference.

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A desire to make a difference led to youth in both our Spindle City Corps and our after-school program at the Freshman Academy (above) receiving the SuAsCo River Stewardship Award. Congratulations! From left: Robert Veasna, Alexandria Yan, Anika Am, Ashley Morales, and Brian Holmberg.
“He who plants a tree, plants hope.”
Lucy Larcom, Lowell mill girl, 1826-1893

Since 1995, the Trust has planted thousands of trees across the city as part of our Urban Forestry Program, funded in part through the City of Lowell’s CDBG Program.

This summer the Lowell Leaders in Stewardship program (LLS) planted a red maple at the Stoklosa Middle School. Students selected the location, species of tree, and took turns digging the hole. The teamwork, satisfaction, and enjoyment was captured by a student, “This class is working on some really great things. It seemed like a family instead of a class!” School-year LLS students at the Stoklosa will now be able to observe seasonal changes from leaf-drop to leaf-out.

Several families in Lowell learned how to plant a tree through our first-time homebuyers partnership with the Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership (photo, lower right). In celebration of our third year of offering the training we expanded the opportunity to both the Rock Street and Harmony Way Habitat for Humanity sites. A tree-mendous success!

Finally, a half-dozen trees were planted by behind the Robinson School with Friends of Gage Field volunteers trained by Trust staff (photo above, Melissa Spead, looking out from planting site on hill behind Robinson School).

Have an idea for tree planting? Let us know!

LP&CT Receives Significant Grant Support From:

Theodore Edson Parker Foundation
City of Lowell CDBG Program
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Aubert J. Fay Charitable Fund
Demoulas Foundation
The Deshpande Foundation at The Boston Foundation
Joseph P. Donahue Charitable Foundation Trust
EnTrust
Fieldstone Foundation
Greater Lowell Community Foundation
Massachusetts Environmental Trust
Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities
The Stevens Foundations

Trust Seeks Accreditation

Public Notice - Land Trust Accreditation

The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust is pleased to announce it is applying to receive accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. This program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs. Accreditation will strengthen the Trust’s operating practices and assures the public about our organization’s reliability and legitimacy while fulfilling our mission of protecting Lowell’s special places.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust complies with national standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust’s application will be most useful by Monday, October 28th, 2013.

Participants in our 3rd annual first-time homebuyer tree planting training celebrate planting at tree at the Habitat for Humanity project on Harmony Way in the Back Central Neighborhood of Lowell. All trainees graduated from the Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership Project Genesis and received a tree for planting in their own yard.
**Concord River Kayak Adventure**

On a hot summer day, there’s nothing better than hitting the water for a cool breeze! Thank you to all of the folks who joined our kayak adventure on the Concord River to enjoy some relief from the summer heat! Kayakers saw an abundance of painted turtles basking, great blue herons flying overhead, and signs of beaver! A special thank you to our kayaking partners at Zoar Outdoor.

![Kayakers on the Concord River](Image)

From left: Stephanie Oleksyk, Jim Kilmartin & family, Kathryn Knoblauch, Mary Jane Myers, Pat & Sean Egan, Kayla Knoblauch, and Becky & Matt (Zoar guides).

**Summer Solstice Soirée**

On the perfect first evening of summer, a crowd gathered for our annual Summer Solstice Soirée. The Soirée was held in the beautiful home garden of Trust member, Martha Mayo, whose garden hosts several local sculptures and is the temporary home of a granite carving for the Concord River Greenway Park by sculptor, Jay Hungate.

The evening featured youth from our Lowell Leaders in Stewardship Program, who spoke eloquently about “finding the balance” between human needs and protecting our natural resources through their stewardship projects. Delicious food was provided by Catering by Erin and fine wines donated by Stonehedge Inn and Spa. Pianist Dan Webster provided the perfect Soirée ambiance. The Trust kindly thanks the attendees, generous supporters (see page 4), and those who volunteered many hours to make the Soirée so successful!

![Young people speaking at an event](Image)

**Fall 2013 Programs**

**Please RSVP (978) 934-0030**

**Walk from Lawrence to Lowell**

Followed by Annual Meeting at Tremonte Pizzeria, downtown Lowell

Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013

(9AM hike; 1PM lunch)

Join us for our long-awaited walk along the Merrimack River from the border of Andover/Lawrence into downtown Lowell (<10 miles). We’ll provide a bus from Lowell to the start of our hike and we’ll end by enjoying a pizza lunch. Lunch will include a brief Annual Meeting presentation. All are welcome at one or both events. Hike & pizza lunch ($25) or just a pizza lunch ($10). Please RSVP for more details and for our head-count.

**‘Mapping Thoreau Country’**

with Susan Gallagher

Parker Lecture Series

Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 246 Market St., Downtown Lowell

Sunday, November 17, 2013 2PM

Gallagher’s talk will highlight a new mapping initiative to document Thoreau’s travels in the state and ongoing efforts to preserve Thoreau Country in the face of climate change.

**Eco-Film Series: Chasing Ice**

Location TBD, RSVP for details

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 6:30PM

Chasing Ice is the story of one man’s mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of climate change. Using time-lapse cameras, his videos compress years into seconds and capture ancient mountains of ice in motion as they disappear at a breathtaking rate. See: [www.chasingice.com](http://www.chasingice.com)

Because of your interest, the Eco-Film Series, offered in cooperation with the Lowell Film Collaborative, will return in 2014 for a monthly screening (January-June). Dates to be announced soon! Themes and films being considered include:

- **Natural Cycles/Soils**: Symphony of the Soil ([www.symphonyofthesoil.com](http://www.symphonyofthesoil.com))
- **Climate Change/Sea Levels**: Island President ([www.theislandpresident.com](http://www.theislandpresident.com))
- **International**: Elemental ([www.elementalthefilm.com](http://www.elementalthefilm.com))
- **Environmentalism**: A Fierce Green Fire ([www.afiercegreenfire.com](http://www.afiercegreenfire.com))
- **In addition to**: local films, Oscar shorts, and films with themes about fracking, urban sprawl, and food.

![Eco-Film Series](Image)

The Eco-Film series is supported in part by a grant from the Lowell Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

![Mass Cultural Council](Image)
Thank you to the following attendees, volunteers, and generous supporters that helped make the Soirée so successful:

Martha Mayo: the evening’s hostess & musical sponsor
The Stonehedge Inn & Spa: for their generous wine donation
The Romanowsky Family: for their generous wine and tent donation
Sarah Conant & Lee Ashworth: for providing gracious beverage service
Nancy Conant: for our beautiful, creative floral arrangements


Ask your employer about its Matching Gift Program.
Please remember to submit your matching gift form with your next donation to LP&CT.

Current business participants include (*new):
Arbella, Aspect, Autodesk, Inc., Bickling Financial/LPL, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Dell, FHI, HP, IBM, Johnson & Johnson*
Juniper Networks, Millipore, National Grid/MA Electric, New Balance*
Polaroid, Sun Microsystems, and Verizon.

Hawk Valley Farm History
Exploring 350 Years of Land-use History in Lowell

Scholar-in-Residence, Gray Fitzsimons, has just completed researching the history of Hawk Valley Farm. The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities supported this project through a grant to LP&CT from the Scholar-in-Residence Program. Our goal is to help bring the property’s history alive and make it more relevant and available to a new generation of visitors, including nearby school students. By tapping into Varnum family documents, local historical societies, archives, deeds, landowner interviews, and on-line sources, Gray has pulled together a captivating history of this nearly 350-year-old property.

The maps above and below convey the changes in the landscape (note the name Thomas Varnum) from 1783 to 1936. Bottom: Gray Fitzsimons presenting history of Hawk Valley along the banks Clay Pit Brook.

Hawk Valley Farm is privately owned, but is permanently protected, and public access is provided through a conservation restriction co-held by the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust and The Trustees of Reservations. Look for a sign near the trailhead at the intersection of Varnum Ave. and West Meadow.

The maps above and below convey the changes in the landscape (note the name Thomas Varnum) from 1783 to 1936. Bottom: Gray Fitzsimons presenting history of Hawk Valley along the banks Clay Pit Brook.
Please support those businesses that support our work. Welcome to our newest members (bold)!

We’ve now made it easier for you to become a sustaining member (monthly donor)!

Renewing Members $1-49

Sustaining Members $50 +
Jeanne Thompson, Mr. J. David Titterington, David Tweed & Mark Vincenzes

Sustaining Members $100-249
Beverly Coughlin, Jon & Joni Dubner, Allegra & David Fieldsend, Matthew Foster, Robert & Jane Gilmore, Sheila Kirschbaum, Maria Mccary, John Moynihan, Bernard & Kathleen Petrzuelli, Richard & Nancy Pitkin, Doug Preble, DJ Prowell, Theresa Shelzi, Carolyn Walsh

Sustaining Members $1-99
Brian & Amy Cutler, Elaine Demetroulakos, Phyllis Linane, Phillippe and Jennifer Loher, Ruth Murray, Lisa FitzGerald Wagner

Sustaining Members $250 +

Sustaining Members $100-249
Beverly Coughlin, Jon & Joni Dubner, Allegra & David Fieldsend, Matthew Foster, Robert & Jane Gilmore, Sheila Kirschbaum, Maria Mccary, John Moynihan, Bernard & Kathleen Petrzuelli, Richard & Nancy Pitkin, Doug Preble, DJ Prowell, Theresa Shelzi, Carolyn Walsh

Sustaining Members $500 +
*Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union

Sustaining Members $250 +
Nancy Dubner, *Lowell Sun Charities, Corei Sciuto

Sustaining Members $100-249

Sustaining Members $50-99

Please note: All donations listed below were received between April 1—June 30, 2013

Volunteers

Thank you to the following groups for providing volunteer land and park stewardship care:

- Tsongas Industrial History Center
- Eco-Explorers campers for their work weeding the Concord River Greenway;
- First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church for a morning of energetic volunteering at Jollene Dubner Park, and;

**Polycom** employees for their boundless landscape enthusiasm on the Concord River Greenway.

The energy that groups like these bring to special places like the Greenway or Jollene Dubner Park helps bring immediate, positive change to an area that needs some extra TLC. **We welcome your group to join in the fun!**

Volunteers, whether individual or as groups, create impact, not just visibly on the ground, but collectively. LP&CT volunteers last year logged nearly 1,300 hours of time stewarding protected land, collating mailings, lock tending, and landscaping. **It all matters! You can make an impact.**

Finally, we welcome **two new interns** from UMass Lowell. **Trevor Cullen** will be working with us on several writing projects and **Ashley Coleman** will be helping us with archiving organizational records. **Welcome!**

Endowment Funds

LP&CT has several small **endowment fund, which are held at the Greater Lowell Community Foundation.** Interest from these funds support maintenance at several of our properties, as well as our operations. When making a donation to LP&CT, you can **target your donation** to any of the following locations:

- Coburn Park
- Kittredge Park
- Donahue Park
- Dubner Park
- and/or the Spalding House.

In addition, there is an **LP&CT agency endowment** for general operations.
Support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust. Become a member or renew today!

The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust relies on membership dues for continuing our mission to protect the parks and open spaces of Lowell. If you haven’t already, please consider joining the Trust today or renewing your membership.

Yes, I want to support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust!

☐ $250  ☐ $100  ☐ $50  ☐ $25  ☐ $15  ☐ $ _______ Notecards: #___ sets ($10/set + $2/shipping)

☐ Please send me the NEW Special Places Print Brochure  ☐ I’ve enclosed a matching gift form from my/my spouse’s employer.

☐ I’d like to become a sustaining ‘green’ member and donate $___ monthly through my credit card

☐ Please call or email me about volunteering: ____________________________ (mailings, land stewards, lock tending, etc.).

Payment method: ☐ Check enclosed  ☐ Charge my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx

Account #________________________________________  Exp. ________ Signature_______________________________________

Name & address: ______________________________________

______________________________________

(For LP&CT e-news!) EMAIL:____________________________

Please mail to: LP&CT, PO Box 7162, Lowell, MA 01852

Fall 2013 Events

Fall 2013 NEWSLETTER

Gift Memberships

Is there a special friend, neighbor, or relative that would enjoy being part of the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust?

Give the gift of a membership!

We have memberships at all levels to suit your need. Pair your gift with a hat or notecards.

Support open space and special places in your own backyard for a birthday, special occasion, or the holidays!

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Fall 2013 Events

Please RSVP (978)934-0030

Annual Meeting
Lawrence to Lowell Hike
Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013 8am-12pm
Followed by a pizza lunch

Eco-Film: Chasing Ice
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013 6:30 pm

Merrifest
Saturday, Oct 26, 2013 11 am—3 pm
Lowell State Heritage Park

Look for upcoming “Special Places” exhibits of Mark Romanowsky’s paintings at the Greater Lowell Community Foundation and Brew’d Awakening.

LP&CT Board of Directors
Brian Chapman
Christine Cole (Treas.)
Stephen Conant
Matthew C. Donahue, Esq.
Sheila Kirschbaum (Clerk)
William Martin, Esq.
Jamie O’Hearn
Dr. Mark Romanowsky (Pres.)
Sopheap Theam
Jane L. Calvin, Executive Director
Gwen Kozlowski,
Education & Stewardship Manager

www.lowelllandtrust.org