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Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
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Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust Renews National Recognition
Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission



[LOWELL, MA] – The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust has renewed land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

“The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust’s accredited status demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation that benefits the entire community,” says Mark Romanowsky, President. “Our land trust is a stronger organization today having gone through the rigorous accreditation program.”

The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust (LP&CT) has been awarded accreditation renewal. LP&CT is one of only 439 land trusts across the nation that have been accredited. Accredited land trusts are authorized to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of **distinction in land conservation**.

LP&CT was founded in 1990, and has been working hard towards its’ mission to connect people to and protect the open spaces in Lowell. As one of the few urban land trusts in the country, LP&CT has a unique mission and its impact can be visibly seen throughout the landscape of Lowell, including the Edwards Street soccer fields, Hawk Valley Farm, the Concord River Greenway Park, and the Spalding House. LP&CT has also had a hand in protecting smaller parcels throughout the city, such as Jollene Dubner Park that offer an oasis in our dense neighborhoods. “In the spirit of Margaret Mead, a small number of committed people can make incredible things happen. And begin to change, if not the world, our small piece of it for the better,” said Christine Cole, LP&CT Board Member.

“It is exciting to recognize Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust’s continued commitment to national standards by renewing this national mark of distinction,” said Tammara Van Ryn, executive director of the Commission. “Donors and partners can trust the more than 400 accredited land trusts across the country are united behind strong standards and have demonstrated sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, and lasting stewardship.”

Each accredited land trust submitted extensive documentation and underwent a rigorous review.

According to the Land Trust Alliance, conserving land helps ensure clean air and drinking water; safe, healthy food; scenic landscapes and views; recreational places; and habitat for the diversity of life on earth. In addition to health and food benefits, conserving land increases property values

near greenbelts, saves tax dollars by encouraging more efficient development, and reduces the need for expensive water filtration facilities. Across the country, local citizens and communities have come together to form more than 1,700 land trusts to save the places they love. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners to save over 47 million acres of farms, forests, parks and places people care about, including land transferred to public agencies and protected via other means. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

“The accreditation seal is a testament to our organization’s commitment to conservation in Lowell for generations to come. Having met the standards of accreditation signifies that our organization upholds a level of excellence in community conservation, organizational management, and leadership,” said Jane Calvin, Executive Director.

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About the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust

The Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust (LP&CT) is a private, non-profit land trust located in Lowell, Massachusetts. LP&CT was founded in 1990 by residents with a vision to protect the natural resources upon which the city of Lowell was built. LP&CT provides conservation leadership and programs which focus on four major areas: land protection, stewardship, environmental education, and special places.

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LP&CT has a dedicated [board of directors](#), a small [staff](#), and over 300 [volunteers](#) who assist us in meeting our mission and stewarding our properties. Annually, we offer over 50 programs to people of all ages, including after-school programming for urban youth, natural history programs to historic preservation initiatives, park stewardship, and tree planting projects. Check out our [calendar of events](#) for upcoming programs!

About the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. See a complete list of all six recently accredited land trusts online at <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/newsroom/press-releases>. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission’s website, www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

About The Land Trust Alliance

The Land Trust Alliance, of which the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust is a member, is a national conservation group that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America. It works to increase the pace and quality of conservation by advocating favorable tax policies, training land trusts in best practices and working to ensure the permanence of conservation in the face of continuing threats. The Alliance publishes *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and provides financial and administrative support to the Commission. It has established an endowment to help ensure the success of the accreditation program and keep it affordable for land trusts of all sizes to participate in accreditation. More information can be found at www.landtrustalliance.org.