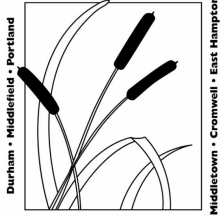


MIDDLESEX



LAND TRUST

The MIDDLESEX LANDSCAPE

Serving the towns of Durham, Middlefield, Middletown, Cromwell, Portland, and East Hampton

CT Makes Slow But Steady Progress on its Open Space Goals

In 2016, the State of Connecticut adopted into law its Comprehensive Open Space Acquisition Strategy, commonly referred to as the Green Plan. This five-year plan aimed to permanently preserve at least 21% (673,210 acres) of the state's land as open space. The plan specified that the State's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) would hold 10% of this land, with nonprofit partners (land trusts, municipalities, and water companies) holding the remaining 11%.



Although the original plan was for five years, by the end of 2022, the goal had not been met, falling short by approximately 157,000 acres. As of the end of 2022, DEEP still needed to acquire about 100,000 acres to meet its part of the overall goal, while the nonprofit partners were approximately 57,000 acres short. This means DEEP had met 82.25% of its goal, and the partners had met only 71.5% of theirs. [Read More...](#)

2024 Annual Meeting: Save the Date!

You are invited to our Annual Meeting on **Saturday, September 21, 2024** at the deKoven House in Middletown. More details to come.

Update on the Invasive Workshop at Palmer Taylor Preserve

In June, Middlesex Land Trust stewards, Alex and Iris, collaborated with Jen Huddleston from The Rockfall Foundation for an invasive workshop at the [Palmer Taylor Preserve](#), and it was a fantastic experience!

After a presentation, Iris and Alex guided us on the barn loop trail, where they have been instrumental in tackling Japanese barberry. They also pulled garlic mustard and created grid areas with stakes, allowing us to monitor what comes up afterward.



If you haven't visited Palmer Taylor Preserve recently, it's worth the trip. The progress made in controlling invasives is impressive, and you can now see the old stonewall in the distance, a reminder of its days as a cow pasture.

Thank you to Jen, Alex, and Iris for this incredible opportunity! Keep an eye out for more chances to volunteer and help us work on controlling invasives.



Hike at Kruger Preserve Saturday, July 20

Join us for a hike at the [Kruger Preserve](#) on Saturday, July 20 at 8:30 am. Wander through old fields and venture through a black birch

groove, a wonderful brook, and a small stand of mountain laurel. Please bring good shoes, hiking poles, a snack, and water.

Meet at Kruger Preserve on Quarry Hill Road in Haddam Neck at 8:30 a.m. This hike will last about 2 hours. Kids and leashed dogs are welcome. Bad weather cancels.



RSVPs are encouraged but not required. To RSVP, please contact the Land Trust office at 860-343-7537 or Jeff Nelson at 860-919-4229.

Event Highlight: Fundraising Concert by Trinity Church

The Portland Trinity Church recently hosted a fundraising concert to benefit the Middlesex Land Trust. The event featured a performance by the Great Hill Mountain Band, which has been playing the best of country and country rock since 1994.

Pictured are Trinity Church committee members and Michael Foley of the Great Hill Mountain Band presenting the check to David Brown of the Middlesex Land Trust. From left: Ray Phillips, Jim Hill, Judy Henderson, Rita Phillips, Carla Harris, David Brown, and Carol Hill.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Portland Trinity Church and everyone involved for their generous support. Events like these underscore the strong community spirit and dedication to permanently conserving land to ensure that natural spaces remain accessible for future generations.

Invest in the future of our planet. Join or renew your membership today.

Become a member!

Help Us Care for Our Beautiful Preserves

We are always looking for new stewardship volunteers. No experience is necessary, and training will be provided. If you're interested in helping to care for Middlesex County's natural treasures, please contact the Land Trust at stewardship@middlesexlandtrust.org.

The Middlesex Land Trust is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve open space in northern Middlesex County (Durham, Middlefield, Middletown, Cromwell, Portland, and East Hampton).

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