

Annual & Membership Report

Caring for Our World Here at Home

May 2022



Essex Land Trust

2021 represented the 53rd year of Essex Land Trust operations. The need to socially distance and minimize group activities during the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic did not prevent the land trust from pursuing its mission. Far from it as is highlighted in this Annual Report, there have been many initiatives and achievements. Our finances are in excellent shape, reflecting sound budgeting and expense planning and, most importantly due to the strong, ongoing financial support from our members and sponsors. If we are true to our commitment to current and future generations, caring for our preserves is major land trust responsibility. There have been some very interesting developments and accomplishments in this area.

The Year in Review

Highlights for the past year include:

- Membership at an all-time high of 438, including 22 Corporate supporters
- Volunteers contributed over 4,800 hours
- Increased social media presence significantly with over 600 Facebook followers
- Developed and updated our Strategic Plan, a document which drives everything we do
- Deb Carreau and Leif Owens joined the Board of Directors
- Acquired 3 acres in Essex and Westbrook to expand our Fern Ledge Preserve
- Updated historical signage at the Millrace
- Established the Falls River Society, for members wishing to make a legacy contribution
- Developed a new website with enhanced features including a PayPal donation option
- Two VRHS Capstone projects: a bench at Falls River by Kaid Matesky and a video featuring drone work by Jason Swerling
- Numerous programs, including hikes, informational walks, a concert, kayak/canoe paddles, the Ivoryton Pumpkin Chase, invasives pulls, preserve clean-ups, and Arbor Day at Essex Elementary

We continue full steam ahead into 2022, with plans to establish a presence on Instagram, hold a meet and greet with new members, collaborate with the Essex Historical Society in the ongoing Follow the Falls Project, hold a hike and happy hour event, and recognize new Conservators Rock members. We are also participating with the Town of Essex in the planned Thatchbed Restoration project.

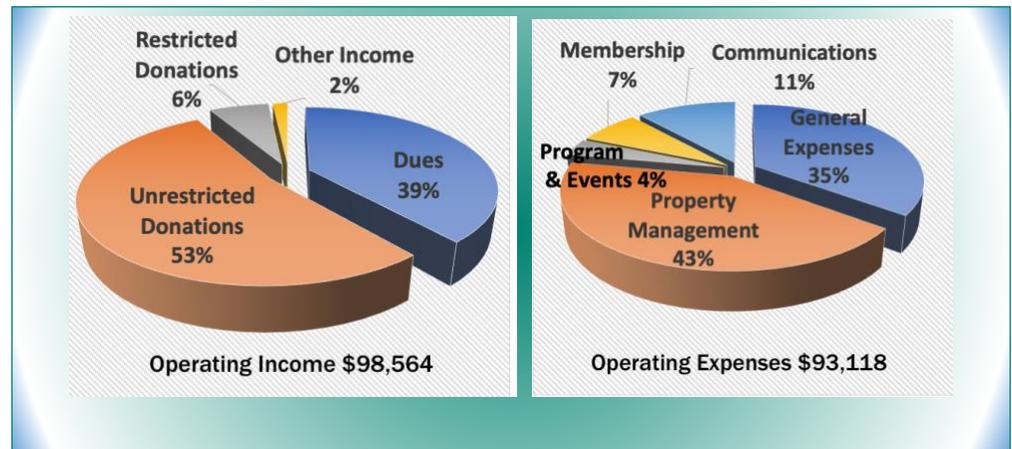


Treasurer Report

We had solid financial performance in 2021 with our income from donations exceeding our operating expense by over \$5,000. Income was up 15% while expenses were down 7% which resulted in the positive cash flow.

We also had strong investment returns with our portfolio returning 11% in 2021. We maintain a balanced portfolio of stocks and fixed income under the guidance of Essex Financial Services and our Finance Committee. 75% of the funds we have in our investment accounts are encumbered and dedicated to generating income for maintenance of our preserves.

We set aside reserves to assist in opportunistic acquisitions. During 2021, we streamlined our financial operations by aligning our QuickBooks accounting system to our management reporting.



We implemented mobile banking and payments through QuickBooks as opposed to manually preparing checks. In late 2021, we went live with PayPal on our website, enabling donations for unrestricted and restricted gifts. We are also evaluating implementation of PayPal for membership in 2023.

Stewardship Report

Any report on stewardship needs to start with acknowledging the individuals who make it all happen. More than 30 individuals have collectively put in thousands of hours over the past year to maintain and improve our 23 preserves which cover over 650 acres of habitat.

Over the past year, the stewardship team completed many projects:

- Added 1 mile of new trails and 10 bridges at Bushy Hill-Platt Preserve
- Installed 10 viewing benches
- Worked with the Essex Fire Department to create 18 new access points and signage at 16 other access points in case of emergency
- Built a new entrance bridge at the Millrace
- Participated in an archaeological dig
- Started replacing aging kiosks
- Created a Steward's Handbook
- Continued efforts from our Bird and Pollinator Garden stewards

The land trust has been pursuing several exciting initiatives focused on habitat improvement:

- Eradicating invasive phragmites on the Great Meadow, which is allowing native phragmites to establish itself in what is one of the largest tracts in the State

- ☛ Participating in a Forest Management seminar organized by the North Branford Land Trust
- ☛ Implementing barberry removal experiment project at Johnson Farm led by Professor Tom Worthley
- ☛ Learning and applying the techniques necessary to develop and maintain meadow and shrubland habitat
- ☛ Kicked off an American Chestnut Tree reintroduction at Cross Lots with the planting of 50 chestnuts (with another 50 planned for this upcoming year)

Finally, a major project that is being implement in 2022 is the electrification of the Cross Lots Barn, which will allow us to convert to more battery-operated equipment. A grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County has enabled this project to kick off.



Special Recognition

The land trust acknowledged Mike Carlucci for his contributions as a Board Member and Treasurer for the past 15 years. With his retirement from the Board, Mike is leaving a legacy of dedication and a consensus focused approach in his role on the Board. In appreciation, the Board is recognizing Mike Carlucci as a Conservator for Life. His name will be added to the Conservators Rock at Cross Lots.

Board Matters

Members attending Annual Meeting held on May 19, 2022, approved the minutes from prior year’s Annual Meeting. They also approved the new Board classes as show below:

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Joel Anik	James Daly	Chet Arnold
Deb Carreau	Jim Denham	Jeff Croyle
Carrie Daly	Barbara Sarrantonio	Paul Greenberg
Bob Nussbaum		Leif Owens

After the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors elected the following new slate of officers.

Jeff Croyle, President Bob Nussbaum, Vice President
 Deb Carreau, Treasurer Carrie Daly, Secretary

2021 Members & Contributors

As of December 31, 2021



Essex Land Trust

This 2021 Essex Land Trust Members and Contributors list includes all family, individual, and corporate memberships, contributing foundations and organizations plus those making matching grants, and individuals in whose names we received memorial gifts during the year. We also list those who have joined the Falls River Society by deciding to include the land trust in their estate planning. The support of all donors makes it possible for us to pursue our mission of acquiring, preserving, and managing open space to protect the environment and character of our community.

We look forward to your continued involvement and support in 2022 and encourage you to visit one of our 23 preserves representing over 650 acres. Visit our website at essexlandtrust.org where you can learn more about the land trust and read about upcoming events.

Conservator for Life

Thea Alderman
Chet & Wendy Arnold
Janice & Tip Atkeson
Charles Atwood & David Dedmon
Leslie & Cotty Barlow
Mrs. John Bent
Ina S. Bomze
Richard & Barbara Booth
T.K. Boyd
Alison & Stephen Brinkmann
John A. Bross
Joanne Browne
Richard Buel
Mrs. Francis Buell
Ed & Suzy Burke
Jennifer Tate & Walker Burns
Grant & Peggy Cambridge
David Canfield
Richard Carlson
Shirley & Judson Carr
Deborah & Wright Carreau
Bill & Helen Chatman
Herb & Sherry Clark
Roberta Clarke
Community Foundation of
Middlesex County
Bill Connolly
Mary Coolidge
Peter Coombs & Jane Siris
Kate Cordsen
Jeff Croyle & Pam Peters

Conservator for Life

Danielle Danese
Tom & Alyson Danyliw
Mr. & Mrs. Jan Deknatel
Emme & Jonathan Deland
Jim & Carol Denham
Robert L. Doane
Rob & Linda Douglas
Robert & Theresa Dryfoos
Reynolds Du Pont, Jr.
Kathleen Duggan
David Edwards
Ostrom Enders
Bob & Debbie English
Essex Savings Bank
Mr. Harry Fanslau, Sr.
Joseph Feczko & Leighton
Gleicher
John & Lily Flory
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John & Debbie Fuller
The Fuller Family Foundation
Geoff Furtney
Eleanor Schneider
The Galiette Family
Joseph Garner & Leslie Scoutt
Richard W. Gates
Bruce & Taffy Glowac
Jenifer Grant & Ron Noe
Paul & Phyllis Greenberg
Janet & Malcolm Gross
Dee Grover

Conservator for Life

Steve & Barbara Haines
Frank & Barbara Hall
Donald Hanberg
David & Verena Harfst
Kristin Harris & Ian T. Douglas
Sybil Harwood
Frank P. Heinemann
The Hermes Foundation, Inc.
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PJ Hovey & Ralph Heath
Jacqueline Hubbard & Norman
Needleman
Barbara & Robert Hughes
Maureen Hyde
John & Emily Johl
Polly Johnson
Ned & Helene Johnson
Mary Jones
Kathy & Tom Kallman
Kathryn S. Katz
Christopher & Sarah Keenan
Judy Kells
David & Judy Kelsey
Jon & Catherine Kirby
The Kitchings Family
Phillip Krall
Mara Lavitt & D. Hayne Bayless

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As of December 31, 2021



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Conservator for Life

Gudrun LeLash & Harry Bird
Jean M. Leuchtenburg
Moses Lieberman
Jeff & Judy Lovelace
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George & Anne Lacouture Penniman
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Michael Plouf & Toni Robinson
Rives & Nancy Potts
Mr. & Mrs. Peter S. Prichard

Conservator for Life

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Greyson Diver Reamer
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Lynn Richardson
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River View Cemetery
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Fowler Storms
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Matthew & Judith Winkler

Conservator for Life

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Shirley & Carl Zinn

Explorer

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2021 Members & Contributors

As of December 31, 2021



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2021 Members & Contributors

As of December 31, 2021



Essex Land Trust

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Lana Westgate
Chet & Eileen White
Cicely Worrall
Polly W. Zarella

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Essex Land Trust

As of December 31, 2021

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Anne Penniman Associates, LLC
Bartlett Tree Experts
Bogaert Construction Company
Brett Law, LLC
Brockway Island LLC
Burr Capital Advisors
Centerbrook Architects and Planners
Computer Signs
Essex Hardware
Essex Printing Company, LLC
Essex Savings Bank
Giroux Landscaping LLC
J. B. Filtration LLC
Kaufmann Masonry LLC
Stevens Excavating
The Clark Group
The Lee Company
The Sugar Kelp Cooperative
Tower Laboratories, Ltd.
Tree Tender
Wild Birds Unlimited

Corporate Matching Grants

3M
GE Foundation
Google
IBM Corporation
Pfizer Foundation
Virtus Partners

Foundations and Organizations

AmazonSmile Foundation
Carlson Family Foundation
Chester Kitchings Family Foundation
Community Foundation of Middlesex County
Community Foundation of Middlesex County/Jones Family Fund
Essex Lions Club
Essex Savings Bank
Fuller Family Foundation
Joanne E. Masin Foundation
MRB Foundation

Gifts in Memory

Thea Alderman
Kevin Duggan
Bill Grover
Lucy Leo
Ann Nussbaum
Christopher Winkler
Shirley Zinn

Gifts in Honor

Myron Stacks
PJ Hovey
Kate McSpadden

Falls River Society

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Elizabeth Callender
Anne Comstock
Daniel Dewey
Elizabeth Dewey
Harriet Cheney Downing
Jean R. Hanor
Robert Nussbaum
Philip Putnam
Richard Tredwell
Estelle Ives Zahn



The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.

Mission & Vision

The Essex Land Trust acquires, preserves, and manages its open space to protect the environment and small-town character of the villages of Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton for current and future generations and provides our community with recreational and educational opportunities through strategic acquisitions and responsible stewardship of properties with significant environmental value.

Our vision is to provide the Essex community with a network of permanently protected preserves that give residents of all ages ample opportunities to enjoy the beauty of nature while safeguarding our waterways, wetlands, and supporting healthy wildlife habitats.