



The Power of Local Land Trusts

Arlington Land Trust
Annual Meeting
January 29, 2026

Robb Johnson

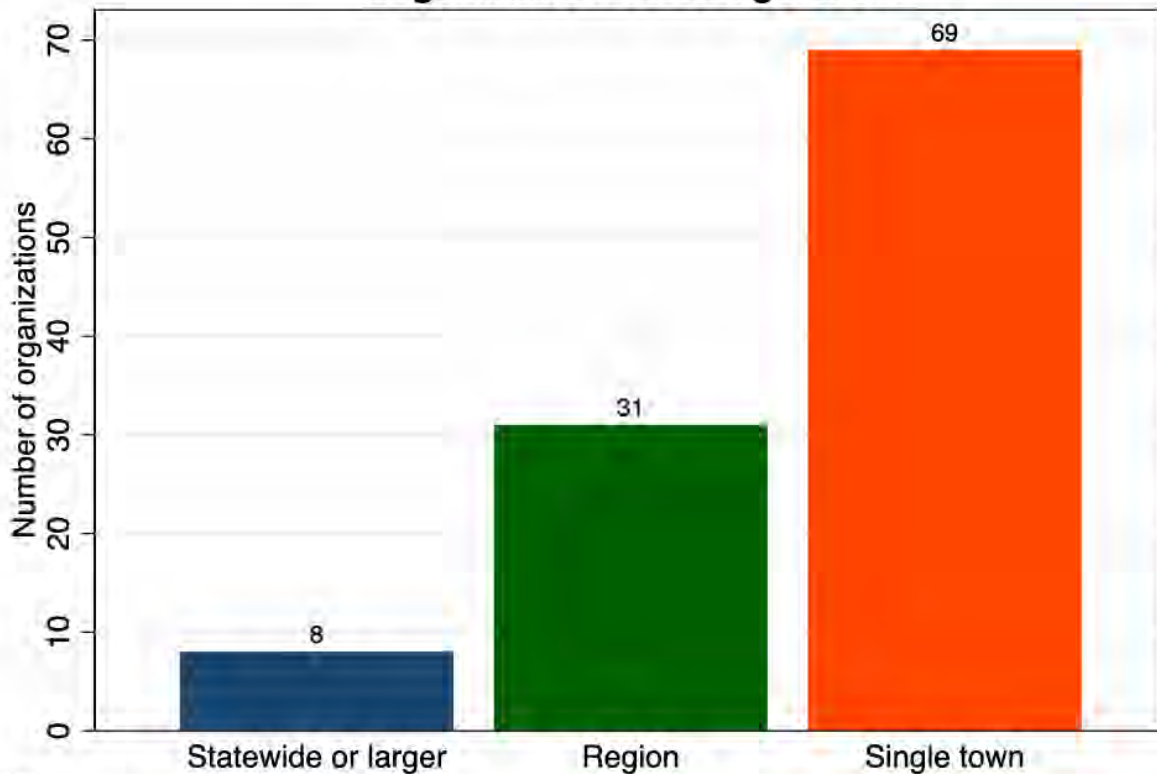


MASSACHUSETTS
LAND TRUST
COALITION

Symmes Park and Woods CR
Arlington

Conservation Land Trusts in Massachusetts

Organization coverage area

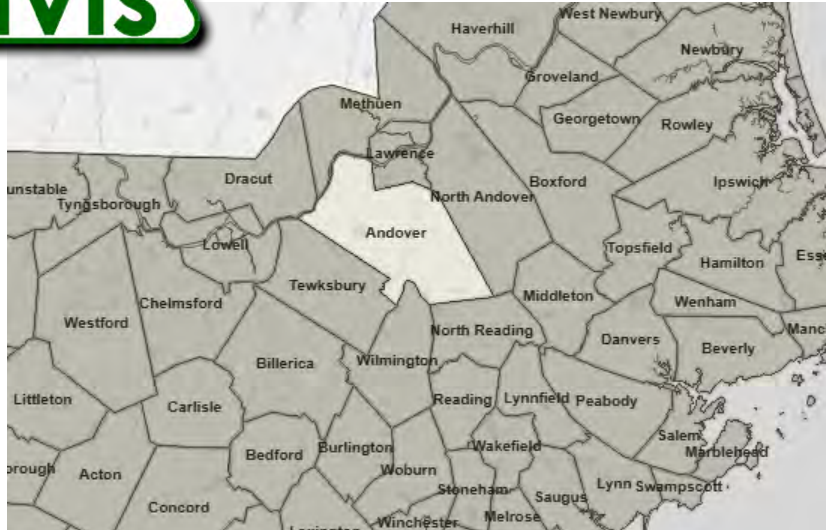


108 valid responses

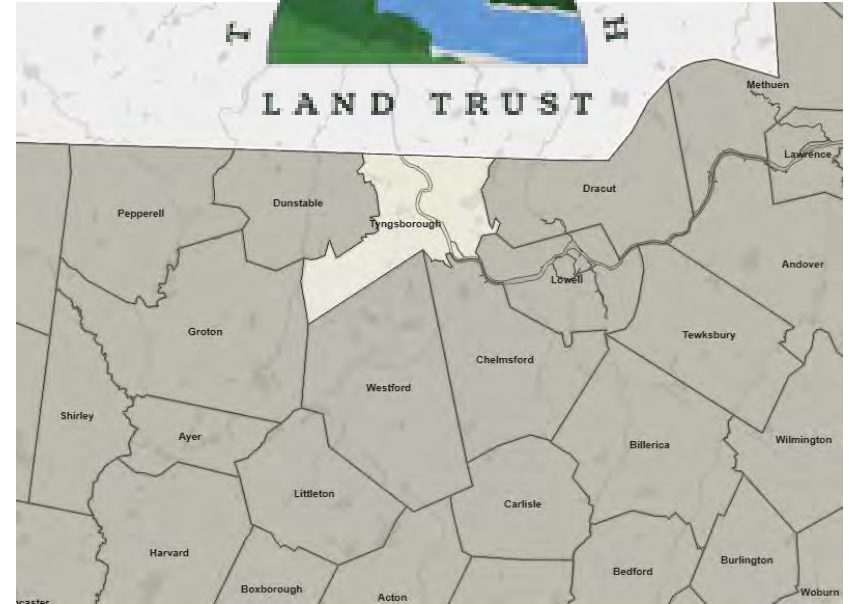
From oldest to newest



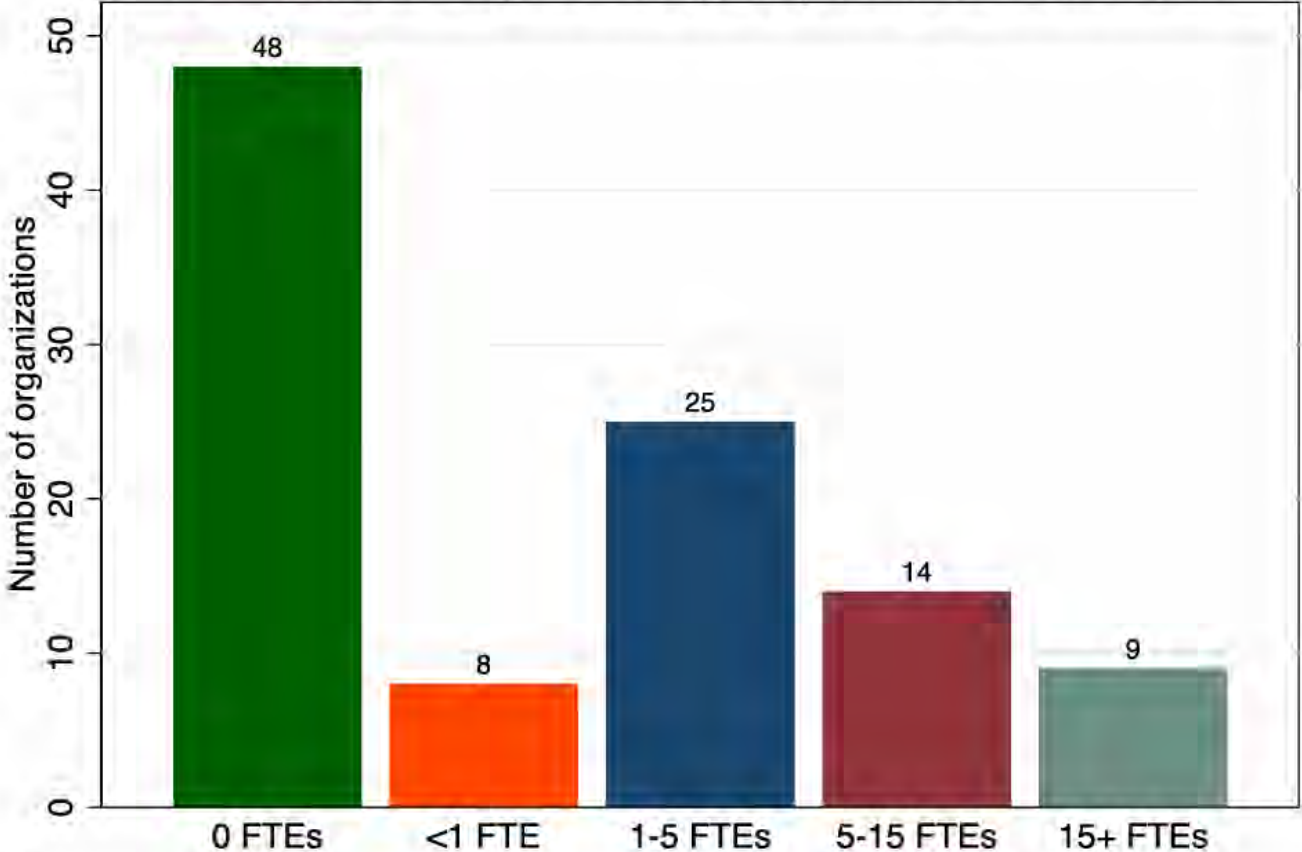
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2023

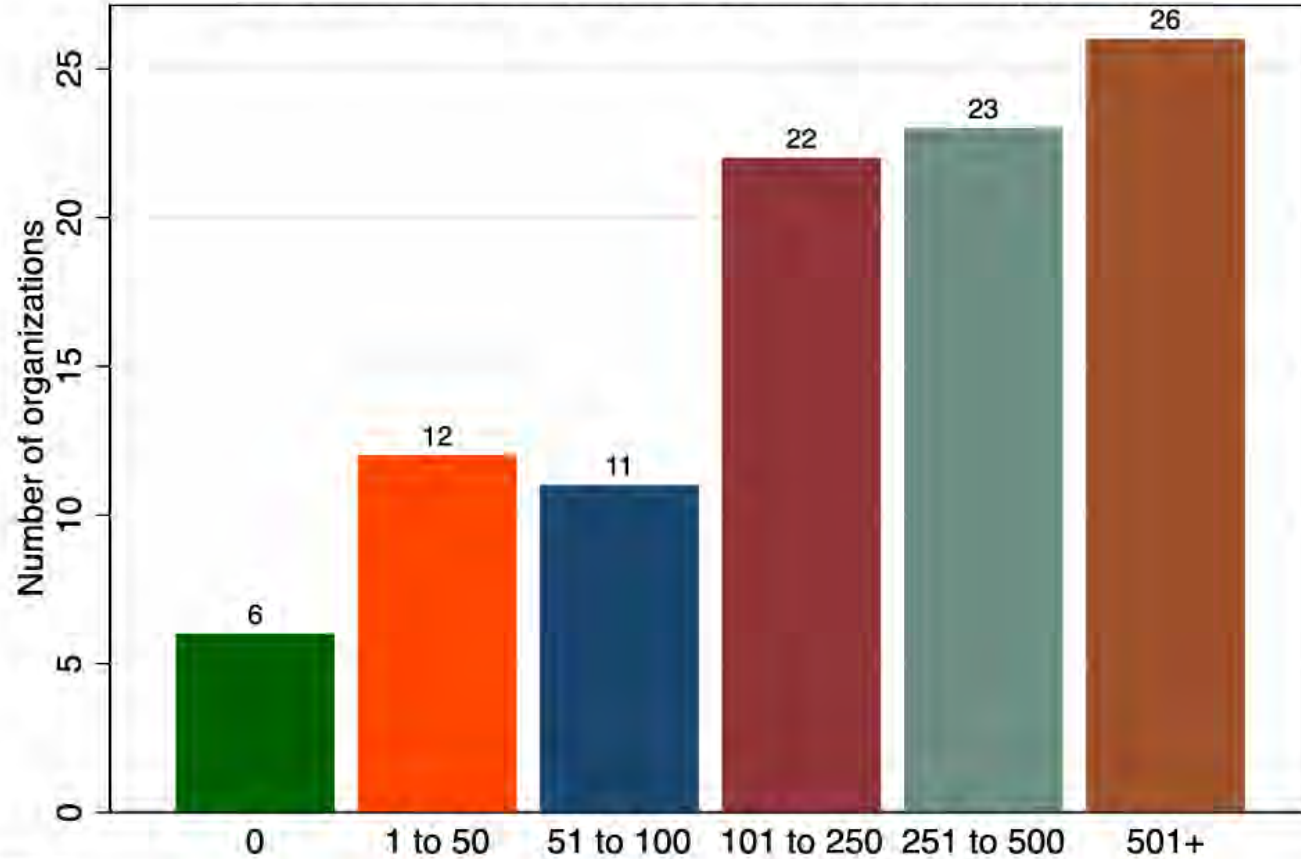


Paid full-time equivalent (FTE) staff or contractors



104 valid responses

Paid members and other financial supporters



100 valid responses

Check out our newsletter



MASSACHUSETTS
LAND TRUST
COALITION

eNews

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

January 14 2026, Volume 24, Number 1

massland.org/updates

Member Spotlight





MASSACHUSETTS
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COALITION

massland.org



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Events Updates Resources Advocacy Membership About

**Strengthening
Land Trusts.
Advancing Land
Conservation.**

Job Board

Service Provider Directory

Listserv

Early Conservation Career Network

Grants Database

Land Trust Resource Library

Landowner Resource Library

Video Library

Check out our Events Calendar

massland.org/events

FEB
5

Thu, Feb 5 2026, 1 - 2pm

Land Trust Finance Quarterly Networking Zoom

via Zoom

FEB
11

Wed, Feb 11 2026, 1 - 2pm

Agriculture Quarterly Networking Zoom

via Zoom

FEB
27

February 2025 Conservation Partners Meeting

via Zoom

Land trust staff and board members as well as conservation partners are welcome to this

MAR
3

Tue, Mar 3 2026, 12 - 1pm

Sponsor Seminar: Introduction to the New EOEEA/DCS Conservation Restriction Tracking System (CRTS)

via Zoom

MAR
5

Thu, Mar 5 2026, 12 - 1pm

Sponsor Seminar: Saltmarshes: Protecting and Restoring These Vital Land and Seascapes (TNC in MA)



MASSACHUSETTS
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Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference



Guyette Farm
Franklin Land Trust

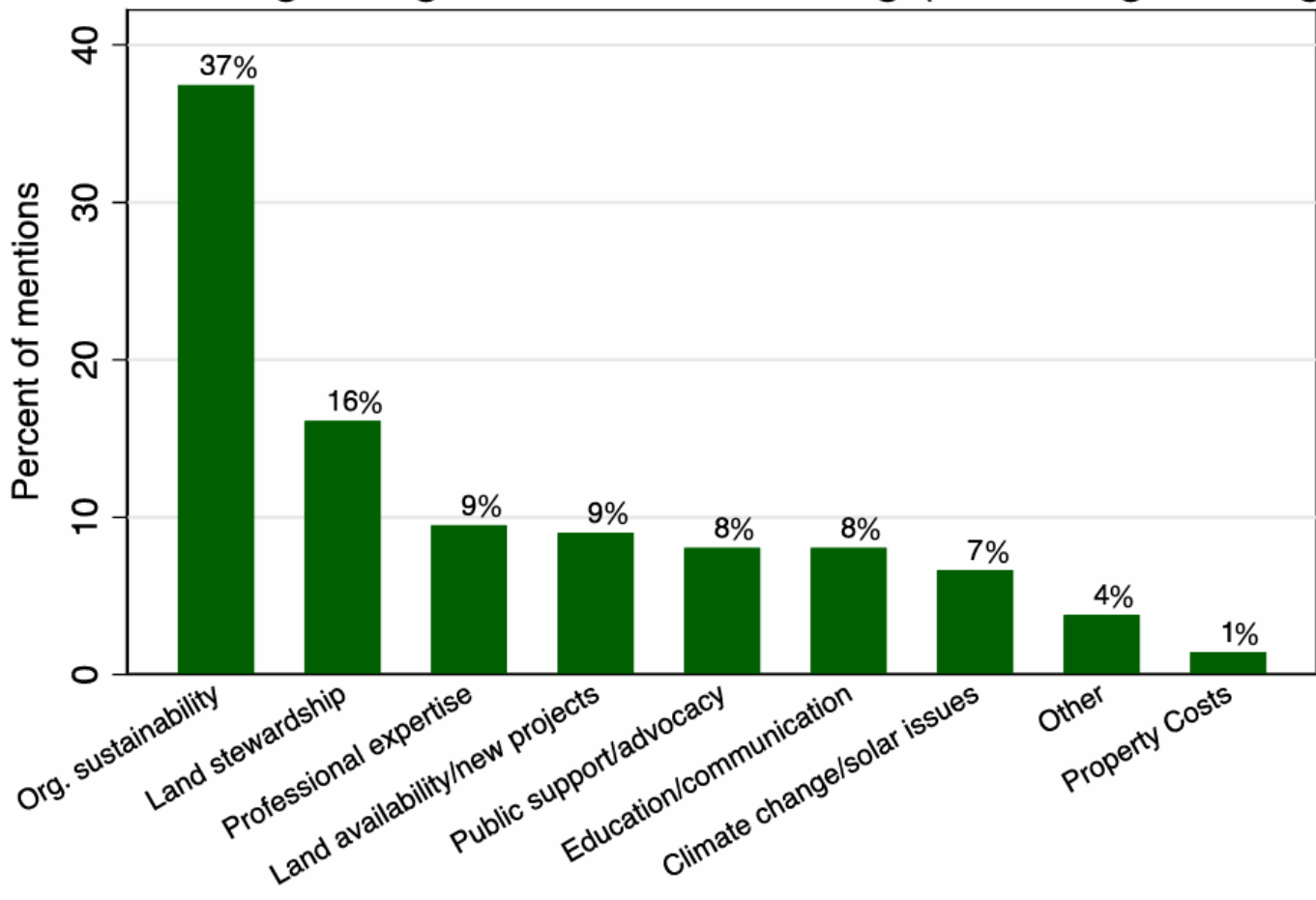
Friday • **March 13** • UMass Amherst
Register by February 20th for early-bird rate!

massland.org/conference for details

featuring a keynote on **Nature and Health** by
Pooja Tandon, MD, MPH
Pediatrician and Health Director, The Trust for Public Land



Challenges organizations are facing (excluding funding)



thanks to our sponsors!

Platinum



Lead



Patron



Fields Pond Foundation



Supporter

BSC Group - Buzzards Bay Coalition - Community Preservation Partners - Davey Resource Group
Ecopixel Websites for Conservation - Franklin Land Trust - Landscape Land Conservation Software
Land Trust Alliance - LandVest - Little Green Light - Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
Norcross Wildlife Foundation - The Conservation Fund - SWCA Environmental Consultants - Tighe & Bond

Contributor

Community Preservation Coalition - The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts - Durand and Anastas Environmental Strategies
Horsley Witten Group - Land Stewardship Inc. - Lynch Scrimo Attorneys - The Trust for Public Land - Wagner Law Group, Stephen J. Small Esq, Of Counsel

Nature for Massachusetts



Nature for Massachusetts
Signature Drop, December 1, 2025

Strategic Plan Updates



- Reviewed status at Board Retreat on January 15th
- Agreed to extend plan through June 2028 so new ED can have a full year before starting work on the next plan
- Tracking quite well on most Objectives
- Agreed to add one sub-objective and defer some others

New sub-objective added

Objective: Motivate and support land trusts to engage in advancing environmental justice	
• Expand relationships and collaboration between land trusts and Indigenous Partners	

Agreed to defer a few sub-objectives

• Work with TerraCorps, Keystone etc. to align their programs with areas of greatest staffing needs	Defer
• Implement a Land Conservation Lobby Day (annual or as needed)	Defer
• Advocate for creation of a backstop entity to address lands orphaned by defunct land trusts	Defer
• Encourage land trusts to put an added layer of protection on their holdings	Defer

Program Discussion:

Expanding Indigenous Conservation Relationships



- 23-person Coordinating Committee
- Two Subcommittees: *Education* and *Bridging Cultural Understanding for Stronger Partnerships*
- Kim Toney and Pam Ellis developing an online curriculum to be hosted on our website, hopefully launching in March.
- Seven modules, each with Zoom discussion sessions
- Where this work goes next is TBD; may be funding contingent.

Expanding Indigenous Conservation Relationships

Online Curriculum Outline



- Legacies of Harm: Colonialism, Conservation and Why This Work Matters
- Cultural Humility and Indigenous Histories of Southern New England
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Land Relations
- Aboriginal Rights, Sovereignty and Recognition
- Community Engagement 101
- Organizational Culture Shift: Moving Toward Ethical Relational Practice
- Indigenizing Conservation: Land Return, Rematriation and Applied Pathways

Program Discussion:

Filling Gaps in the MassGIS Open Space Datalayer

- Funded by EEA capital budget, now through June 2026, with possibility to extend one year
- Initial focus is land trust data
- Subcontract with Center for Geospatial Solutions (CGS):
 - Using *Who Owns America* dataset, identify parcels likely owned by land trusts but missing from current Open Space data
 - Create a web-based review tool for land trusts to review and confirm missing properties
- Assist land trusts in submitting required forms, deeds, survey plans, and related documents
- Provide outreach & education for land trusts on the importance of submitting complete data

NATURE

FOR MASSACHUSETTS



Agenda



1. Welcome and Housekeeping

2. Introduce Campaign and Coalition

3. Campaign Strategy and Status

4. How to Stay Involved

5. Q&A



An aerial photograph of a lush green forest. A river or stream winds through the center of the forest, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The trees are dense and vibrant green, with some darker patches of water visible. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

CAMPAIGN AND COALITION

Everyone in Massachusetts — no matter where we live — deserves **clean drinking water and access to nature.**

Over the next year, Massachusetts has an important opportunity to protect our rivers, lakes, forests, farms, and other natural areas.



Realize the many benefits of conservation

Conserving land improves water quality

Access to nature promotes public health

Land cleans air and stores greenhouse gases

Protect against habitat loss and meet biodiversity goals

Support the growing outdoor recreation industry

Stem the loss of farmland



OUR POLICY

- Create a dedicated Nature for All Fund with \$100 million each year to support the conservation and restoration of water and land in Massachusetts, and to support the creation and improvement of parks, trails, greenspaces, and other outdoor recreation spaces.
- Funded by the state's existing sales tax on sporting goods such as golf clubs, RVs, and camping gear — no new taxes.
- Establish a citizen oversight board that would approve all expenditures from the fund.



OUR COALITION

Nature for Massachusetts is a large and diverse coalition of environmental, conservation, and community organizations that seek to create a dedicated, annual revenue stream to conserve water, land, urban greenspace, outdoor recreation access, farmland and wildlife in Massachusetts.





AMERICAN RIVERS



APCC
Association to
Preserve Cape Cod



Authentic Caribbean Foundation



Berkshire Natural Resources Council



CHARLES RIVER
conservancy



Conservation Law Foundation



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION



IPSWICH RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



Land/
Water Associates

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

Mystic River
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

MASSACHUSETTS
Rivers Alliance



MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL



Wild Cohasset
reimagining back the Native Plants



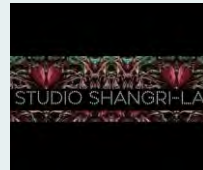
TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND®



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS
Native Plant Trust



QUINCYCAN
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



STUDIO SHANGRI-LA

An aerial photograph of a lush green forest with a winding river or stream cutting through it. The trees are dense and vibrant green, and the water is a dark, calm blue-grey color. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

CAMPAIGN STRATEGY AND STATUS

We are pursuing two strategies



Protect Water & Nature Ballot Initiative

Legislative Campaign

We are pursuing BOTH legislation and a ballot initiative. The legislation (H.901/S.2571) could be moved forward as standalone legislation or included in the environmental bond bill, but if the Legislature doesn't act on the bill, then the ballot initiative is another option to pass this crucial policy.

At the end of the day, both initiatives **work towards the same goal** — of creating a permanent fund for conservation of water, land, urban greenspace, outdoor recreation access, and wildlife in Massachusetts.




Campaign Status

GET READY MASSACHUSETTS!

**LAND AND WATER PROTECTION
IS HEADING TOWARD THE
BALLOT IN 2026**



Learn more and
get involved at
natureforma.org



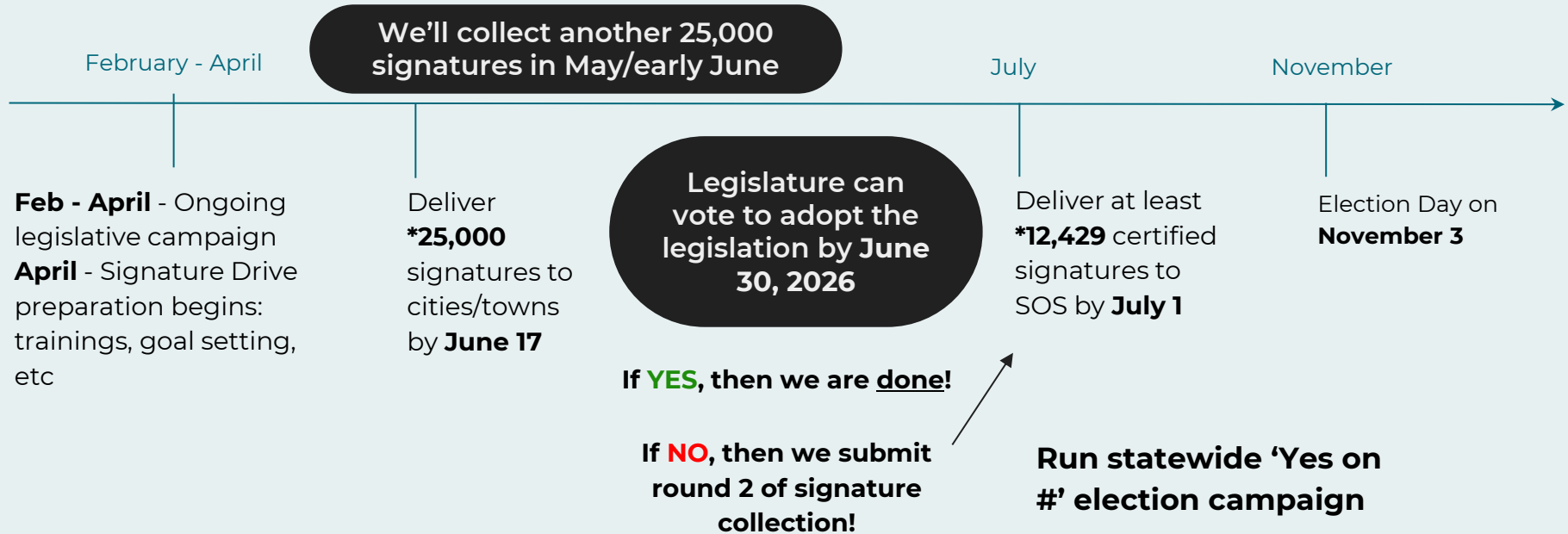
In fall 2025, we collected more than 100,000 signatures from registered voters to qualify the initiative for the ballot, far more than the required 74,574.

Now, the legislature has an opportunity to act.



Ballot Question Timeline

2026



An aerial photograph of a lush green forest with a winding river. The text "HOW TO STAY INVOLVED!" is overlaid in large white letters.

HOW TO STAY INVOLVED!

Ways to Engage



Scan to sign up for our email list:



Sign Up for Signature Collection Training

Learn the skills to lead signature collection events and help put Nature for Massachusetts on the ballot.

Gather Signatures in Your Community

Bring your friends, meet your neighbors, and collect signatures to help put Nature for Massachusetts on the ballot.

Tell Your Representatives Why You Support

Share your story about why protecting clean water, wildlife, farms, and access to the outdoors matters for your community.

Spread the Word in your Community

Help us grow the movement—share Nature for Massachusetts with your friends, neighbors, and local networks.



Stay Connected

Website: <https://www.natureforma.org/>

Facebook: @nature4MA

Instagram: @nature4ma

Twitter: @nature4ma

Bluesky: @natureforma.bsky.social

Join the Facebook group for volunteers: Nature for MA Volunteers
(<https://facebook.com/groups/natureformavolunteers/>)

Questions?

