



THE HINGHAM LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

2024 Annual Report & Newsletter

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Goodrich Environmental Grant Supports Young Scientists

Have local conservation efforts affected the watershed?

Where is eel grass declining and why should we care?

*What role does dune grass play in protecting our seaside towns?**

Thanks in part to HLCT's Goodrich Environmental Research Grant, local high school students are using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to answer these questions through a unique certification program offered at the Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research (CSCR). On Sept. 18, HLCT hosted a talk with CSCR to learn more about how CSCR used the grant in conjunction with funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Cohasset Conservation Trust. The program was recorded by Harbor Media and is available to stream at <http://100.17.2.222/CablecastPublicSite/show/5619?site=1>.

HLCT board member Eileen McIntyre opened the discussion with a brief background of the Goodrich Environmental Research Grant, which was created in honor of HLCT's founder, Sally Goodrich, to foster the conservation of local open space, and to improve access to and/or encourage area residents to enjoy it. HLCT board member Dr. Alyssa Novak introduced CSCR's founder and Executive Director, Jack Buckley, who gave an overview of the program the grant supported this year. He explained that GIS technology is a powerful tool used to analyze information spatially, on maps. CSCR has created a GIS proficiency certification program, recognized by the Commonwealth, for area high school students who learn how to use the technology, apply it in their community, and then present their findings to local and state stakeholders. Anna Post, Will Crespi, Randy Chen, and Wilson Ferguson, Hingham High students who participated in the program over this summer, presented highlights from their research and fielded audience questions. Massachusetts state representative Joan Meschino applauded the young scientists and affirmed the impact they were having on her and her colleagues' work.

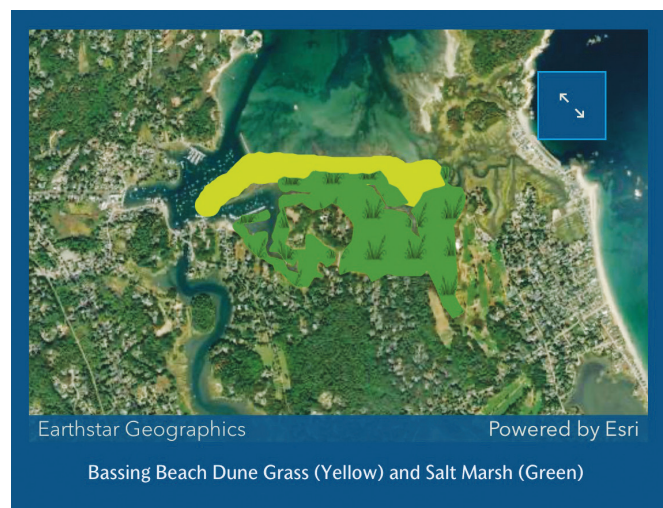
Another cohort of the GIS certification program is starting this November to examine the question "what is the value in preserving natural and working lands in the Commonwealth?" More information may be found on CSCR's website, and here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/706fd3c7244143bfaa9d37869030a65d>



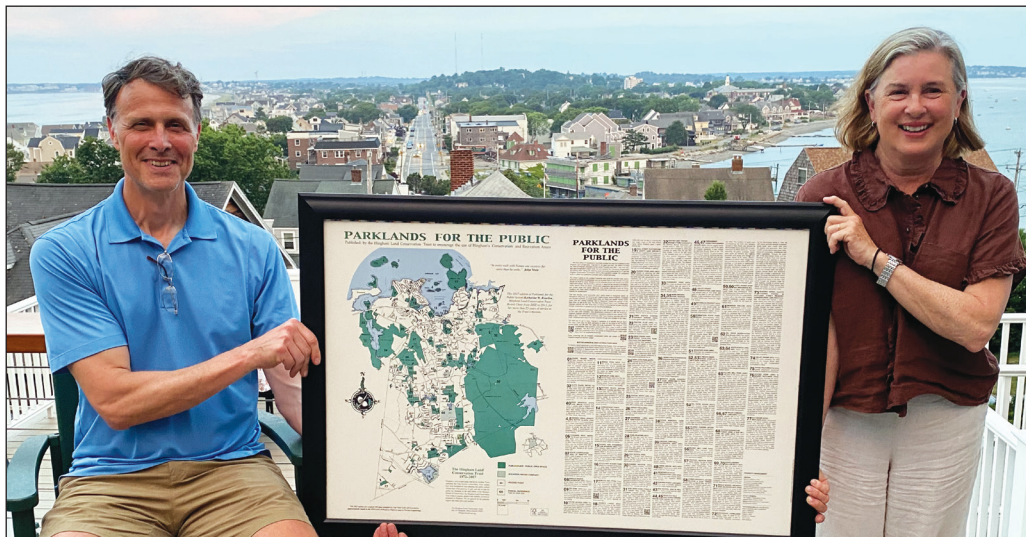
Students discussing their GIS analysis with local stakeholders, Summer, 2025. From left: Jeff Donze, Cohasset Conservation Trust; Jonathan Loja, Cohasset Supt., Water Dept.; Roze Guzman, and Charlotte Lynch of Scituate; Wilson Nussbaum of Cohasset; and Randy Chen and Will Crespi of Hingham

*Answers to the questions above:

- Local conservation efforts have positively impacted the health of the watershed in Cohasset, which was the area studied.
- The broader decline of Eel Grass was also documented in Cohasset Harbor. Current locations of Eel Grass were mapped to enhance restoration and conservation efforts. Eel grass is important as it absorbs carbon dioxide at twice the rate of terrestrial forests, as well as provides critical habitat for sea life.
- Dune grass stabilizes the sand dunes, protecting salt marshes and land from erosion. 🌿



Hingham High Senior Anna Post's GIS research on Dune Grass density.



Art presents Martha Falvy with Parklands for the Public map in gratitude for her 14 years serving on the HLCT board.

2025 has been a busy year for the HLCT. As you'll read about in this newsletter, we combined some of our familiar themes of exploring and learning about open spaces with learning some revolutionary history in the spirit of REV250 on our Spring Walk, as well as learning about a valuable educational resource available to local students interested in environmental issues. Now in its third year, the Goodrich Environmental Research Grant award went to the Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research, which used it to support their GIS certification program.

Our property stewardship special projects involved working with the Wilder Memorial and the Wilder Nursery School to move the entrance to Jacobs Meadow outside of the school's fenced playground. It is no longer necessary to go through the gate and walk through the playground to access the property.

We had a well-attended fall walk on a crisp and bright October day where we demonstrated the 50 Walks program and introduced a new tracker which is available on our website. We are looking forward to hearing from anyone who manages to complete all of the walks.

We have also had some changes on the Board of Trustees. Our longest serving Trustee, Martha Falvey, stepped down after 14 years of service. Daniel Wells also stepped down. We also welcomed three new Trustees to the board. You can read about them on page 3.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers on our Board of Trustees, but as always, we would be excited to welcome new members to bring their ideas and energy to the board, so please reach out if you are interested in getting involved. Areas of high need for us are people with skills and interest in communication and media as well as someone with some basic web development background to help with our ongoing Parklands for the Public map digitization effort. There is always a need for those interested in helping to maintain our properties, so please reach out to find out more if you can help, or have an idea for a special project.

On a personal note, I kept my commitment to spend more time exploring local trails and open space this year, and also took a trip out west to do some backpacking, this time in Colorado. 🌲



Philip O. Swanson Scholarship

Millie Walker is this year's recipient of our Philip O. Swanson Scholarship. Millie matriculated to the University of California, Los Angeles where she studies Environmental Science. Congratulations, Millie! 🌲



Feature on Hingham's Open Spaces in Hingham Anchor

For a comprehensive look at Hingham's open spaces, including how they became public spaces and the entities charged with their care, please look up *This is Home: From Forest Trails to Harbor Islands: Exploring Hingham's Open Spaces* by Art Collins, published in the Hingham Anchor on Oct. 14, 2025 and available at <https://hinghamanchor.com> 🌲



ALYSSA NOVAK

Alyssa Novak, Ph.D. is research faculty in the Department of Earth and Environment and the Marine Program at Boston University. She works in a variety of temperate and tropical coastal ecosystems with a focus on ecology, blue carbon storage, modeling, monitoring, restoration, and management. Alyssa has published over 90 papers, presentations, and technical reports on seagrass and salt marsh systems. Alyssa is also the seagrass leader for International Union for Conservation of Nature; on the Board of Directors for SeagrassNet, a global monitoring program with over 160 sites worldwide; has served as a consultant on the Municipal Vulnerability Action Plans for the Towns of Newbury, Essex, Orleans, Chatham, and Brewster; and is a general consultant for the Town of Nantucket. Outside of work, Alyssa enjoys spending time with her family, skiing, hiking, watching her kids' sports, and traveling. She and her young son also enjoy exploring the trails in Wompatuck State Park. 🌿



ANTHONY "TONY" GEORGE

Tony and his wife Carol Baimas have lived in Hingham since 1992. They enjoy visiting their two grown daughters, who live out of state, and they are proud grandparents to Layla, who is the highlight of their travels to Portland, Maine. Tony's professional life encompassed a career as a Business Applications Development Specialist, and a career in Commercial Banking. He is now retired and spends as much time as he can outdoors hiking, biking, skiing, and gardening. Around town, you may see him walking at World's End, mountain biking through Wompatuck, or at a meeting of the Cleaner Greener Hingham town committee, on which he is an active member. 🌿



DIANA CLARKE

Diana Clarke has lived in Hingham since 1992, when she and her husband moved here with their three children. Diana works part-time as a Clinical Research Pharmacist at Boston Medical Center as a specialist in HIV treatment and prevention in children and pregnant women. When her children were young, she served on the Board of Directors for Hingham Youth Soccer and co-chaired the Hingham High School Ski and Sport Sale.

Now with seven young grandchildren, Diana is interested in fostering a love of nature in toddlers and young preschoolers. She recently completed the Field Naturalist Certification Program and is currently participating in the Bird Certification Program, both offered by Massachusetts Audubon Society. She looks forward to working on the HLCT to develop a program for grandparents to introduce their grandchildren to nature by enjoying the many trails and properties that Hingham and the surrounding communities have to offer. Diana loves hiking, birding, and kayaking. Her favorite place to kayak is Hingham Harbor where American Oystercatchers, cormorants, gulls, and snowy egrets can be observed nesting on the harbor islands. 🌿



Why Support the Hingham Land Conservation Trust?

The HLCT works to acquire, hold, and preserve open space in Hingham for the benefit and enjoyment of our town. Presently we own 65 acres and hold conservation restrictions on 118 acres in the town of Hingham.

We conserve land to protect our water supply, wildlife habitat, and freshwater ponds and streams. We collaborate with other civic organizations on educational programming and events.

Your gifts fund trail maintenance and seasonal mowing to provide access while protecting forest, wetlands and open meadow habitats, surveys to define property boundaries, the printing of our beloved "Parklands for the Public" map, and other organizational needs.

All contributions to HLCT are tax-deductible, including land and conservation easements. Your gifts contribute to the quality of life in Hingham now, and for generations to come. Use the enclosed envelope or visit our website www.hinghamlandtrust.org to contribute by credit card.

Contact us at info@hinghamlandtrust.org or by mail at the following address:
Hingham Land Conservation Trust
PO Box 10
Hingham, MA 02043

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Diana Clarke

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2024 Financial Summary

Total Revenue:	\$28,066
Total Expenses:	\$23,143
Goodrich Fund:	\$53,712
Austin Fund:	\$15,982
Other Cash Assets:	\$237,959

More information can be found on our website: hinghamlandtrust.org, designed and maintained by KLSuttonDesign LLC.



Spring Walk Celebrates Nature and Rev250

Our Spring Walk at Webb Memorial State Park in Weymouth drew a crowd! At just around a mile, what the walk lacked in length, it made up for in history, both geological and political. Andrew Hultin, Weymouth Conservation Administrator, guided us along the Hingham Bay peninsula. He shared his knowledge about the drumlins that formed the land, the coastal dunes and conservation efforts to protect them, native and invasive species, and, as we were at the height of the songbird migration, the migrating birds. To acknowledge the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, we were also joined by Captain Perkins from the Hingham Militia. Captain Perkins, in full uniform, shared the story of the second engagement of the Revolutionary War: the Battle of Grape Island, the site of which was visible from shore. Occurring about a month after the battles of Lexington and Concord, the Battle of Grape Island was the only battle sited close to Hingham.



L to R: Andrew Hultin, Captain Perkins, and Art Collins behind the HLCT banner.



Walkers listen to hear about the second Revolutionary War engagement. The Memorial reads: "Grape Island Alarm: Sunday May 21, 1775 / From this Site Weymouth militiamen repulsed an attempt by the British to secure supplies from Grape Island for General Howe's Beleaguered Army in Boston."



Fall Walk

Beautiful weather and brilliant fall foliage brought out a lively group to explore one of HLCT's 50 Walks: the Accord Brook/ Woodpecker Pond Walk in Wompatuck State Park. We traveled just under 2.5 miles over varied terrain, including a steep but brief climb, deeply rooted paths, and wooden walkways that spared us from most of the mud from recent rain. Though we did not have a formal guide, several Board members and attendees shared their knowledge of the area. Dolly DeNyse commented, "I'm awed by the knowledge of the group... I learned so much about the history of Hingham and our green spaces, and I am impressed we have 50 amazing walks right here at our fingertips, for all to enjoy." HLCT also debuted its 50 Walks Tracker, an interactive list of all 50 of our featured walks that enables users to check off the ones they have completed. Download the tracker on our website at <https://hinghamlandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Hingham-50-Walks-Tracker.xlsx>. HLCT Chair Art Collins promised a prize to the first person to complete all 50 Walks. One down, 49 to go!



L to R: Dolly DeNyse, Margery Carr, Ann Fickenwirth, and Kelley Collins enjoy the fall day in Wompatuck.



Taking in the scenery at Woodpecker Pond.