

# Essex Land Trust

P.O. Box 373 – Essex, CT 06426



**Essex Land Trust**  
Caring for our world here at home

## Who we are and what we do...

The Essex Land Trust was founded in 1968 by a group of like-minded individuals interested in preserving the small-town character of the Town’s three villages: Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton. We are a non-profit, all-volunteer organization that acquires and maintains open space in Essex. We cooperate with town and state governments and adjacent communities but rely on the generosity of those who donate land, money, or their time to achieve a balance between open space and development in our community.

Our location in the Lower Connecticut River Estuary is recognized by The Nature Conservancy as one of the “Last Great Places” in the Western Hemisphere and by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as a unique wetland of international importance. Additionally, the Connecticut River has been designated an American Heritage River due to its historic and cultural significance to the nation; one of just fourteen rivers receiving the designation nationwide. As residents of this area, we have a responsibility to protect this vital habitat.

The land trust owns or has easements on 650 acres and helps to manage some of the Town of Essex’s open space as well. ELT is the largest landholder in the Town of Essex and is committed to promoting passive recreation for the enjoyment of the community.



Arbor Day Planting at Essex Elementary



Woodja Hill Hike



Fall Clean-ups

Email: [info@essexlandtrust.org](mailto:info@essexlandtrust.org)  
Web: [www.essexlandtrust.org](http://www.essexlandtrust.org)

Essex Land Trust  
Board of Directors:

Joel Anik  
Chet Arnold  
Mike Carlucci  
Deb Carreau

Jeff Croyle  
Carrie Daly  
James Daly  
Jim Denham

Paul Greenberg  
Leif Owens  
Bob Nussbaum  
Barbara Sarrantonio

# Annual & Membership Report

## Caring for Our World Here at Home

May 2022



Essex Land Trust

2021 represented the 53<sup>rd</sup> 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.

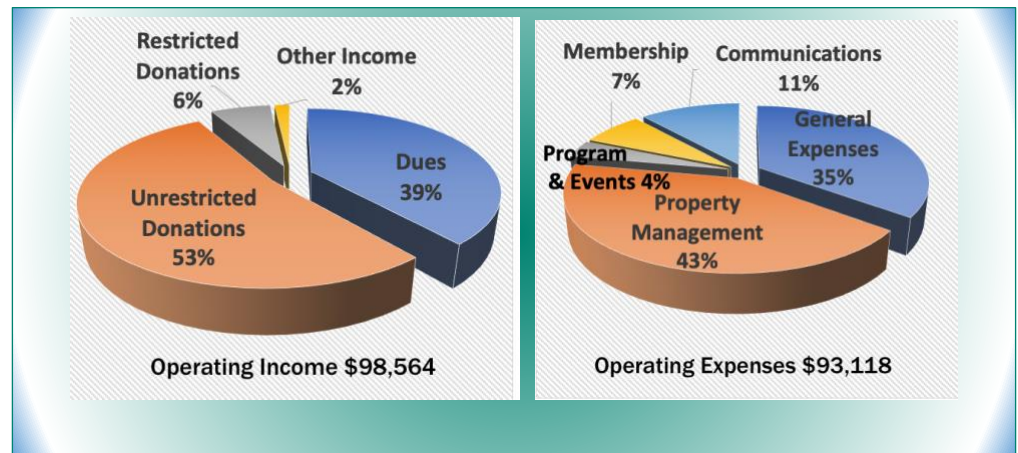


## Treasurer Report

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](http://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  
William J. & Sandra M. French  
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.  
Rob Hernandez  
Chuck & Cathy Hill  
Dana & Joan Hill  
Charles & Tammy Hinckley  
Donn & Leslie Holland  
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

# 2021 Members & Contributors

As of December 31, 2021



Essex Land Trust

## Conservator for Life

Gudrun LeLash & Harry Bird  
Jean M. Leuchtenburg  
Moses Lieberman  
Jeff & Judy Lovelace  
The Lyon Family  
Jack & Carol MacElwee  
Alan & Barbara Macgregor  
Wendy & John Madsen  
Kathleen Maher & Chip Goodrich  
Susan Malan & Robert Ward  
Al & Barbara Marulli  
Sophie Masin  
Joanne E. Masin  
John & Alex Matthiessen  
George L. Maxwell  
Ross & Susan McConnell  
Joseph & DeniseMarie Kaire Mendler  
Mimi Merton  
Karen Milano  
Philip Miller  
Robert & Carolyn Miller  
Wilk & Dagmar Miller  
Mitchel-Foster Associates, LLC  
Garret & Mary Penniman Moran  
MUR Properties  
Bob Nussbaum  
Carmen O'Connor  
Tony & Sue O'Connor  
Patrick & Amy O'Keefe  
Ann S. O'Reilly  
Wini Olson  
Leif & Kristen Owens  
William L. Palmer & Family  
Terry Parkinson  
Joan & Douglas Paul  
George & Anne Lacouture Penniman  
Dr. Michael & Susan Perl  
Michael Plouf & Toni Robinson  
Rives & Nancy Potts  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter S. Prichard

## Conservator for Life

Nancy Rambeau  
Ernie & Linda Reamer  
Greyson Diver Reamer  
Pam Reeser & David Winstead  
Mark J. Reeves & Dale M. Griffith  
Joan & Bill Reichenbach  
Lynn Richardson  
Richard Rieder  
River View Cemetery  
Dr. Allan Rubenstein & Dr. Jane Halperin  
Rubenstein  
Tom & Lucy Rutherford  
Jean T. Sargent  
Barbara Sarrantonio  
Michael & Andrea Saxe  
Linda & Philip Scheffler  
Rennie & Judy Schoonmaker  
Mr. & Mrs. John Senning  
David & Theresa Sistare  
Brant Smith  
Helen Smits & Roger LeCompte  
Elvera A. Sopkiw  
Barbara & Myron Stacks  
Madeline Stanley  
Jim & Robbi Storms  
Zack Storms  
Fowler Storms  
Jeffrey Sund & Jane Piro  
Richard Tredwell  
Nancy Turner  
Peggy & Howard Tuttle  
Jody Van Loan  
Jim & Nancy Vaughn  
The Waldo Trust  
Mimi & Stuart Warner  
Tom & Betsy Whidden  
Mr. & Mrs. William Whitney  
Merrill Wilder  
Rosemary Willis  
Matthew & Judith Winkler

## Conservator for Life

Vicky Winterer  
Carolyn A. Young  
Shirley & Carl Zinn

## Explorer

Paula & Joel Anik  
Carl Boland & Jennifer Clark  
Charles Bumar & Victoria Hanor  
Thomas & Sally Crawford  
Glenn & Melissa Jacobsen  
John & Melinda Patterson  
Margaret Perry  
Robert W. Pickett, Jr.  
Barbara Prendergast  
David Preston  
Jean M. Richards  
The Rogers Family  
Elizabeth & Marc Schnitzer  
Catherine Stevens & Juliette Meeus  
Molly & David Watkins

## Adventurer

John & Susan Abbot  
Kathleen & Lawrence Bolanowski  
Michael & Susan Carlucci  
Jennifer Chu & John Weikart  
Lisa Civitillo  
Randy & Cynthia Clegg  
Michael & Beth Crain  
Claire E. Crosby  
The D'Occhio Family  
James & Carrie Daly  
Mrs. R. Dempsey  
Genie & Rodney Devine  
Marialina Dominguez  
Robert J. Donohue  
Cynthia & Roger Field  
Betsy & Jim Godsman  
Ann & Patrick Callahan  
Ed & Judy Greene  
Bob & Susan Grillo

# 2021 Members & Contributors

As of December 31, 2021



Essex Land Trust

## Adventurer

Marilou & Andrew Griswold  
Scott and Karen Harris  
Richard & Elise Helmecki  
Karen & Michael Hines  
Candace Holmes  
Fred & Lu Huntington  
Brian & Susan Jobson  
Joan & Keith Jones  
Dylan Jones  
Jim & Kathy Kern  
James L. Kerr & Helen H. Miller  
Jim Leo  
William & Lisa Leonard  
Eric Leu  
Richard & Linda Levene  
Joseph Lux & Margaret Fagan  
Shirley Malcarne  
Henry & Sharon McInerney  
Louis Mazzaresse  
Alan & Clara Miller  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Muhlfelder  
Jim Painten & Mary Bell  
Eleanor Perkins  
Gregory & Jan Perruccio  
Dennis & Verity Powers  
Leslie Quarrier & Peter Amos  
James L. Ressler  
Carol & James Richmond  
Melissa & James Rist  
John & Kathryn Ryan  
Tracey & Mauricio Salgar  
Ms. Judith M. Saunders  
Jim Scala  
Susan & Peter Scott  
Tom Soboleski  
Terry Stewart  
Robert Surdam & Patricia Ellis  
Fred Szufnarowski  
Bette D. Taylor  
Lois Stahlbush Tolley & Steve Tolley

## Adventurer

Susan Van Benschoten  
Bruce Weiss  
Beth & Michael Whitcomb  
Sydney & Caroline Williams  
Mrs. Jerome Wilson  
Jon Wojculewicz  
William & Elisa Young

## Trekker

Diana & Bob Annon  
Bob & Barbara Anselmi  
Tom Atkinson  
The Baczewski Family  
George Ann Bardenheier  
Paul & Sandra Beckman  
Dee Beckmann  
Andrew & Carolyn Blicharz  
Stephen & Linda Boatti  
Pierre & Dawn Boulanger  
Ian & Mary Lou Bowen  
Adrienne Brochu & Steve Bancroft  
Cathy Burnett & Arthur Bogen  
Maureen Butler  
Anthony & Mary Cannella  
Brett D. Carey  
David A. Carlson  
Claire O'Toole Cashman  
Ann Thompson & Jim Childress  
Mary C. Colburn  
Keith & Carolyn Crehan  
Sarah DuBois  
Elaine M. Erdman  
Jonathan Ewert  
Peter B. Fleischer  
Brenda & Chad Floyd  
John & Corinne Forster  
Earl & Liz Fowler  
Jim & Celia Francis  
Michael Furgueson  
Tom & Aurise Gallucci  
Stephanie & Roger Gatto

## Trekker

Tom & Evelyn Gezo  
Chuck & Rose Grusse  
Mr. & Mrs. David T. Guernsey, Jr.  
Michael & Mary Beth Hammond  
Patricia L. Harper  
Jenny & Peter Holland  
Cathy & Mike Holmes  
Renate Houchin  
Dick & Gail Hoxsey  
Patricia Hurley  
Tom & Valerie Izzo  
Ona & Todd Josselyn  
Maggy & Mike Kaczorowski  
Maxine Klein & David Zeleznik  
Mihae Lee & Bill Purvis  
Kassandra Leiva & Misha Semenov  
Craig & Kathy Lifland  
Rona Malakoff & Ethan Goller  
Bob Malchiodi  
Bob & Alison Marcinek  
Stan & Linda Marciniac  
Dick & Pat Mather  
Claire K. Matthews  
Sally & George Mayer  
Lisa Melnicsak & Keith Kelley  
Alan Miller & Janet R. Sparrow  
Len & Beebe Miller  
Andrew & Monica Mitchel  
Ron & Sue Nelson  
Jeanette Netsch & Gary Riggio  
David & Brenda Newbegin  
Philip & Linda Nuzzo  
Danny & Sandra O'Neill  
August F. Pampel, Jr.  
Ellen Pfarr  
Carol Pierce  
Anna Pollock  
Tom & Mary-Louise Polo  
Robin Pool  
Laura Copland & Michael Pressman

# 2021 Members & Contributors

*As of December 31, 2021*



Essex Land Trust

## **Trekker**

Alec Robertson  
Todd Rossel  
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Ryan  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Ryland  
Susan E. Saltus  
Roger Salway  
Peter Sawkins & Christine Hagan  
Donald Shildneck  
Robert Simpson  
Thomas & Karen Smith  
Gerri & Geoffrey Smith  
Bill Taylor  
Edward Tedeschi  
Lois & Ken Thomsen  
Paul Thornwall  
Kathleen McKinney Tucker  
Hans & Barbara Ullstein  
Jill Vaughn  
Gary & Carol Weed  
George & Kirsten Wendell  
Rev. Kate Wesch  
Debra Whalen  
Andrea Woolston  
Joseph & Katharina Youll

## **Hiker**

Michelle Arsenault  
Joanna Aversa  
Karen Baker  
Frank, Joan & Laura Behrendt  
Dudley & Mary Lawrence Bickford  
Linda & Peter Bierrie  
Diana Blair  
John & Lisbeth Blake  
Kathryn Bonomi & Sam Tanenhaus  
Linda Brughelli  
Joseph Carfagno

## **Hiker**

Mark Carroza  
Lawrence T. & Marian A. Carson  
David & Merry Coleman  
Bob & Sue Cornell  
John Cosenza  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Coviello  
Ronald & Mary Ellen Cozzolino  
Catherine Craighead  
Christine Rogers & Marc Croteau  
Anthony J. B. Cutone  
Diane & Robert Day  
Fred & Carol DeCrescentis  
Deborah Dembo  
Shaun English  
Linda Esty  
Finlay & Mary Ferguson  
Robert & Jean Fisher  
Neal Fisher & Susan Grant  
Jill Frazer  
Linda Freedman  
Anne Gantner  
Donna Lee and Michael Gennaro  
Steve Gephard & Leslie MacLise-Kane  
David Gephard  
Charles & Barbara Goodwin  
Beth Ann Grant & Todd Evarts  
Aimie Gresham  
Deb Griswold  
Mellicent & Bill Hawke  
Kathy & Larry Heebner  
John & Judy Heiser  
Susan Hellier  
William & Susan Jackson  
Alexandra & Bruce Johnson  
Megan Joseph  
Susan Kaufmann  
Joanne N. Kelley

## **Hiker**

Louisa Ketron  
L. C. Doane Company  
Breck & Susan Lardner  
Nikki Lindberg  
Jim Lockhart  
Nicole Logan  
Hon. Terrence D. & Bette Lomme  
The Lopez Family  
Audrey Lyons  
Michele Marshall  
Richard Mawhinney  
Scott McCoid  
Peggy McDonnell  
Kate McSpadden  
Diane M. Niles  
Robert Osborn Jr.  
Christine Palm  
Anne Picciano & Harvey Pinger  
The Rev. & Mrs. George W. Razez  
Sarah Richardson & Rich Olson  
Ned & Norma Rogin  
Rebecca Russell  
George & Dianne Sexton  
Judy Shepherd  
Douglas Shomo  
Daniel & Mara Slatkin  
Denise Smith  
Joan & Nicholas Squeglia  
Jack & Barbara Stillwaggon  
Claire Tiernan  
Gail & Bill Tubbs  
William J. Vile Sr.  
Lana Westgate  
Chet & Eileen White  
Cicely Worrall  
Polly W. Zarella



# 2021 Members & Contributors



Essex Land Trust

**As of December 31, 2021**

## Corporate Members

A. J. Shea Construction  
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

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



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

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## 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.