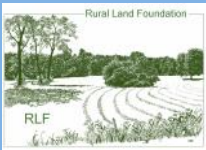


2021 Annual Report

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust & Rural Land Foundation

Photo by Carol Roede



The LLCT and RLF are two private, non-profit organizations working together, along with the Town of Lincoln's Conservation Commission, to preserve Lincoln's rural character through land conservation and responsible development.

About Us

The LLCT protects and stewards deeded conservation land, conservation restrictions, and trail easements on public and private land. The organization seeks to connect the community to the land through membership, volunteer opportunities, and events.

The RLF conserves land through smart development and creative land planning. RLF then donates the land to LLCT to hold in trust, or deeds land to public agencies, such as the Town of Lincoln.

Mailing:
P.O. Box 10
Lincoln, MA
01773

Office:
145 Lincoln Rd.
Suite 102A
Lincoln, MA

www.lincolnconservation.org
781-259-9251

Printed August 2022.

LLCT/RLF Staff

Geoff McGean,
Executive Director

Bryn Gingrich,
Outreach Director

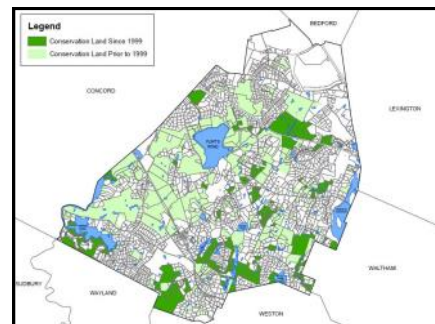
Sara Lupkas,
Stewardship Director

Jane Layton,
Stewardship Coordinator

Natural Climate Solutions

Climate change continues to be of great concern to LLCT. Land conservation, and all that it entails, is a critical strategy for mitigating climate change and its effects. At the September Annual Meeting, **David O'Neill**, President of Mass Audubon, spoke about nature-based climate solutions: conservation and land management actions that increase carbon storage.

A core part of LLCT's mission is conservation land acquisition. Every parcel that is permanently conserved continues to sequester carbon and prevents future carbon emissions that might have resulted from development of that land.



*David O'Neill.
Map of conservation
land acquisition in
Lincoln prior to
(light green) and
after (dark green)
1999.*

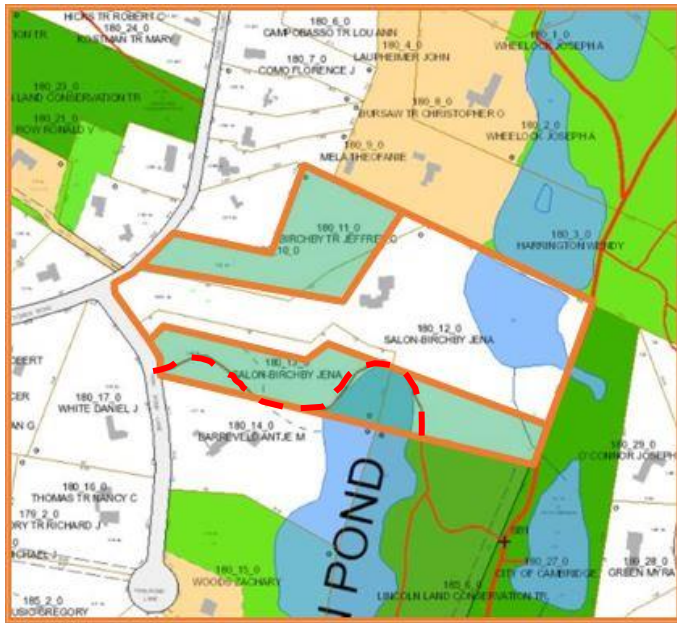
Land stewardship is a second core mission for LLCT. The organization strives to manage land with a light touch, letting ecosystems do what they do best: use sunlight to capture carbon and store it. As part of its land stewardship work, LLCT manages for invasive species, whose presence can accelerate the impacts of climate change on ecosystems and in turn often benefit from warming temperatures. Drought-stressed and infested trees for example, may die and release their stored carbon prematurely. Wherever possible, LLCT keeps tabs on invasive plant and insect populations in Lincoln, prioritizing management of “emergent” infestations.

Climate change and biodiversity are also intertwined. Planting efforts are continually underway on conservation land to help bolster ecosystem resilience. LLCT's Pollinator Action Plan has been an important guiding document for focusing the organization's efforts to improve biodiversity on the landscape and create habitat... (continued)

Land Protection

...for at-risk pollinator species. Lastly, education is incredibly important to help further conversations about climate change and how local land trusts and their communities can make a difference. In November, LLCT Trustees organized a presentation with **Senator Mike Barrett** who discussed state climate change legislation. Throughout the year LLCT included climate change, green energy, and electrification related programming hosted by local community groups in the e-newsletter and on the LLCT website.

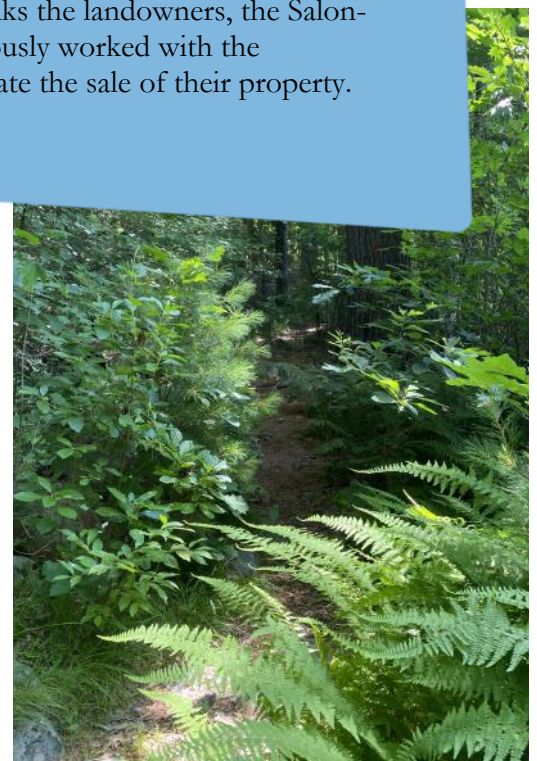
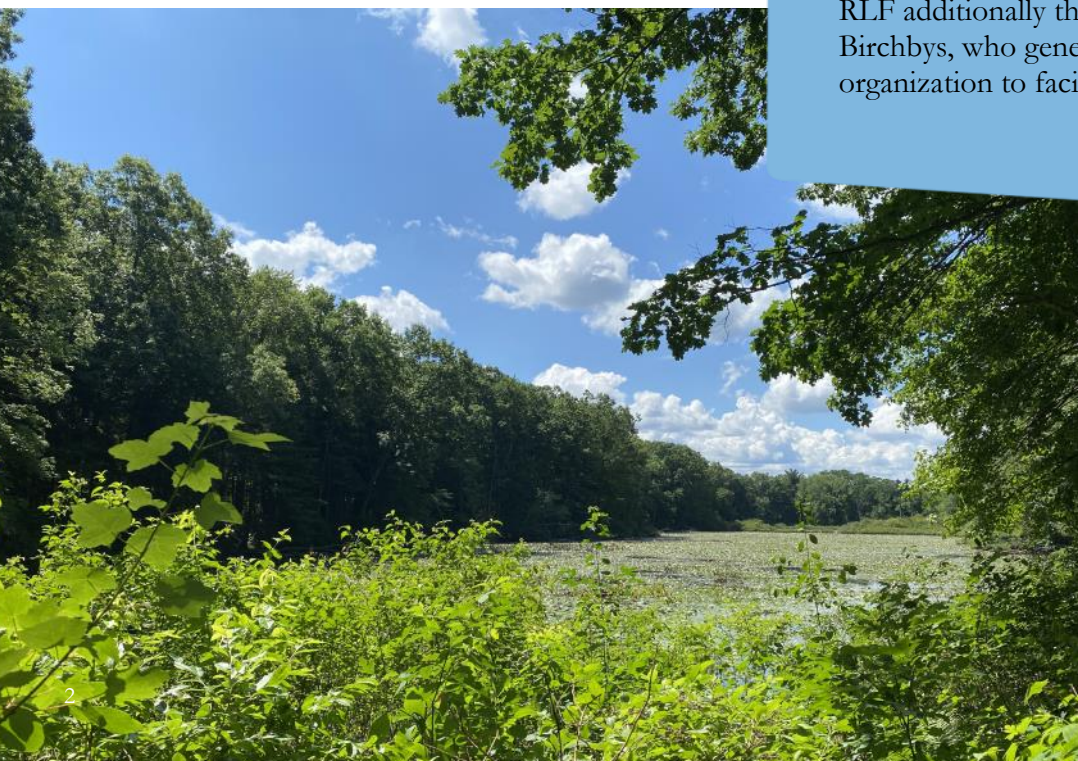
Twin Pond Lane



In 2021 RLF acquired two parcels with a combined 7.8 acres on Twin Pond Lane. The conservation of the two parcels permanently protected vital forested land, pond frontage, and wetland habitat.

Additionally, an important trail connection between Fernald Woods Conservation Area and Stony Brook and Beaver Pond Conservation Areas (via Twin Pond Lane) was preserved. A permanent trail easement will be held by LLCT.

Conservation initiatives like this one strengthen critical wildlife corridors, protect scenic buffers in Lincoln, and enhance watershed protection. This project was supported by the City of Cambridge which will hold the land in fee, the Town of Lincoln which will hold the Conservation Restriction, the Community Preservation Committee, and neighbors and friends of conservation who donated generously. RLF additionally thanks the landowners, the Salon-Birchbys, who generously worked with the organization to facilitate the sale of their property.



Stewardship & Land Management

Trail Work

Jane and Sara maintain the boardwalk behind the Lincoln Public Schools.



LLCT and LCD staff and interns build and install a new kiosk at the Mt. Misery Trailhead.

Volunteers install new bridges along the Silver Hill Bog Trail. This project was coordinated with the help of **Peter von Mertens**.



LLCT staff attended a chainsaw safety workshop in December. Organized with Lexington, Concord, and Lincoln, land managers practiced new skills and left confident in their ability to remove downed trees from trails.



In 2021 LLCT continued to prioritize land management and stewardship. LLCT staff, summer interns, and volunteers worked throughout the year to maintain Lincoln's trails. LLCT continued to collaborate closely with the **Town of Lincoln's Conservation Department (LCD)** in these efforts.

LLCT conducted annual monitoring of deeded conservation land and conservation restrictions. Monitoring is critical for ensuring that the conservation values of the land are being protected and helps LLCT track changes to the landscape, such as the movement of invasive species.



LLCT and LCD staff and interns remove fencing from the edges of Chapman Pasture. Thank you Stacy, Emma, Ryan, Joe, and Adrian!

Stewardship and Land Management

Invasive Management



Summer intern **Joe Miller** works with Jane to remove an invasive aquatic plant, Water Chestnut, from Beaver Pond.

Invasive species management remains a key priority in the summer. Staff and interns cleared Garlic Mustard, Wall Lettuce, Water Chestnut, Glossy Buckthorn, Burning Bush and Japanese Knotweed from conservation land. LLCT works to identify and prioritize projects that will have the greatest positive impact on conservation areas.

Community Involvement



(Left) Neighbors contributed to help Codman Farm and LLCT restore Donaldson Field's haying capacity. (Right) Volunteer Patti Cable monitored nest box activity in Chapman Pasture and two other conservation fields throughout the spring and summer. These Eastern Bluebird chicks are 11 days old.

In November, LCD and LLCT began conversations about updating the trail rules and regulations. After a public forum, both organizations continued conversations with the community in preparation for updates in 2022. The goal of any changes will be to preserve the land's conservation values and ensure trails are welcoming to all.



LLCT went live with the OuterSpatial Trail App in January. The interactive app promotes inclusion and appreciation of nature by making it easier for everyone to navigate the trail system and explore new trails and points of interest. For Winter Carnival in February, LLCT collaborated with **Birches School** and local artists **Jane Layton** and **Norman Levey** to display animal-themed art on the trails. Participants used OuterSpatial to view the scavenger hunt locations and upload selfies with the art.

Pollinator Action Plan



Action Plan & Plant Sale

LLCT kicked off 2021 with the newly published *Pollinator Action Plan*. **Evan Abramson**, who authored the plan, gave a virtual program in April to introduce the community to the pollinator work that LLCT is undertaking.

Later in the spring, LLCT offered its second pollinator plant sale, with nearly 150 LLCT members purchasing roughly 2,000 plants to be planted in gardens in Lincoln and surrounding communities. LLCT staff, interns, and volunteers spent a Friday and Saturday in May accepting plant deliveries and organizing orders. As part of the sale, LLCT also worked with a local company to offer wholesale rain barrels. **Ruth Ann Hendrickson** of Lincoln's Water Commission shared materials on water conservation with participants.

New Pollinator Sites



Codman Road/Route 126 Intersection Garden



"Harrington" Parking Lot Garden at Stony Brook



LLCT purchased and installed nearly 400 perennials and shrubs at two new pollinator demonstration sites and at the existing Lincoln Station Garden. The new sites, a traffic island at the intersection of Codman Road and Route 126 and the trailhead parking area at Stony Brook "Harrington" Conservation Area were chosen for their high visibility. **Jane Gruba-Chevalier** designed the two sites and supplied the plant list and quantities to LLCT. Many thanks to the group of volunteers who turned out to help plant! Throughout the summer, LLCT staff, interns, and volunteers, including **Isabel Bailey**, **Terry Green**, **Sarah Maas Scheuplein**, and **Mike Luneau** continued to help maintain all the pollinator sites, weeding and watering as needed.

Pollinator Action Plan



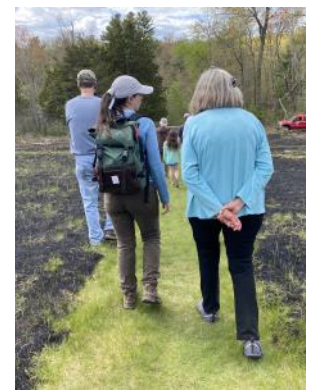
Adrian and Joe add perennials to the Lincoln Station Garden. With the help of the Lincoln Station landscape contractor, Iemmello, the rest of the grass in the garden area was removed.

Chapman Pasture

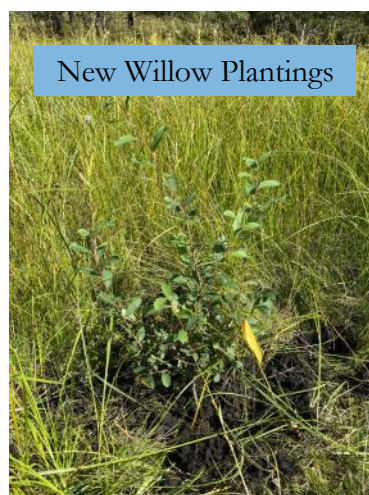
At Chapman Pasture, one of LLCT's major pollinator sites, work started in early spring 2021. In preparation for a prescribed burn, LLCT staff, with help from LCD, undertook significant field edge clearing. In the winter, with funding from the **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**, a contractor removed branches overhanging into the pasture, as these are a risk during the burn. In May, USFWS contracted with **Star Tree Wildfire Protection** to conduct a prescribed burn for LLCT with support from the Lincoln Fire Department and State Fire Crews. The burn was successful at knocking back some non-native grasses and removing thatch from the field. **LLCT Trustee Andy Stevenson** took aerial imagery before and after the burn to help LLCT document the field's progress. During the summer, LLCT observed increased plant diversity in the pasture, including more milkweed. In the fall, native willow and oak saplings were planted in the pasture by LLCT staff and **volunteer Mike Luneau**.



Aerial View of the Field



New Willow Plantings



Pollinator Action Plan



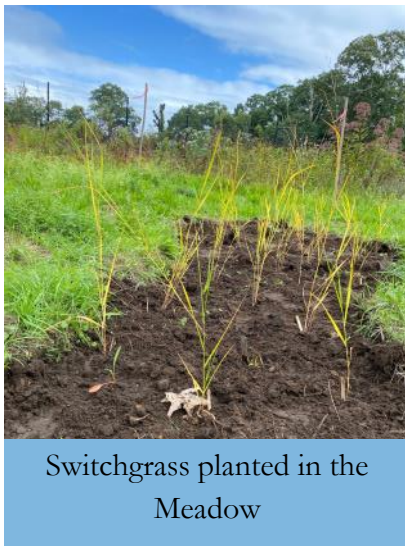
Meadowsweet and Northern Bush Honeysuckle planted near the Meadow. LSRHS Seniors pose for a photo!

People for Pollinators Meadow

The LSRHS Seniors helped with the PFP Meadow planting, adding nearly 100 new shrubs to the perimeter of the meadow during their Senior Service Day. Toward the end of the growing season, LLCT staff and volunteers **Ruth Ann and Finn Fosnot** removed sod from several areas inside the meadow which were overgrown with non-native plants. LLCT then planted plugs and sowed a pollinator seed mix in the cleared areas. Additional willows were planted outside the fenced area.

At the end of the year, LLCT began to dig and place footings for a pavilion next to the fenced meadow, which will provide shade for visitors and funnel rainwater into four barrels. Many thanks to **Myra Ferguson, Norman Levey, and Michelle Barnes**, as well as **LCD Staff** for assisting LLCT with this project.

Joe, Adrian, and Jane rolling cut sod.

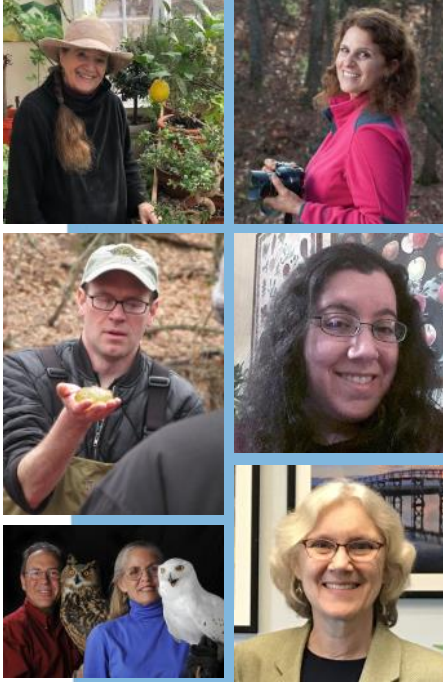


Switchgrass planted in the Meadow



Educational Outreach

Fireside Chats & Virtual Gatherings



In January, **Robin Wilkerson** gave a presentation on ecological gardening. Representatives from the **Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources** spoke about invasive insects in February. Later in the month, **Barbara Peskin** shared nature photos and photography tips. These virtual programs were a great way to enjoy cold winter evenings!

LLCT offered a virtual Vernal Pool Exploration in April, with **Matt Burne** sharing photos and videos of these special habitats. Later in the spring, LLCT collaborated with **Farrington Nature Linc** to offer a virtual **Eyes on Owls** experience.

Michele Grzenda, Town of Lincoln Conservation Director, restarted monthly Conservation Coffees as a virtual series in 2021. In addition to the LCD and LLCT updates, these programs also featured a speaker for a casual presentation and discussion. Some topics included jellyfish at Walden Pond and local mammals.

In November, LLCT invited **Alison Field-Juma**, Executive Director of OARS, to speak about river health in the Sudbury, Concord, and Assabet River Watersheds. Alison shared the most recent “river health report card” and spoke about the impacts that climate change may have on the three rivers and surrounding wetlands.

Clockwise: Robin Wilkerson, Barbara Peskin, Jennifer Forman-Orth (MDAR), Alison Field-Juma, Mark and Marcia Wilson (Eyes on Owls), and Matt Burne.

Trail Walks Return

LLCT offered in-person birding walks in the spring. Local experts **Gwyn Loud, Nancy Soulette, Nancy Hammond, Norman Levey, Ron McAdow, and Michele Grzenda** led four walks through some of Lincoln’s top birding spots. In the fall, Noticing Walks with **John Calabria** returned. These walks were co-sponsored with the Council on Aging and Human Services.



Educational Outreach

On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces



LLCT participated in a collaboration with five other local organizations to bring a new speaker series to Lincoln. The series featured voices of color in the conservation world with a goal of starting conversations about how to increase a sense of belonging for all people who are in outdoor spaces.

In March, **Akiima Price** spoke about her work connecting stressed populations to nature. In April, **Evelyn Rydz** shared photos of her art installations that seek to imagine a future shaped by connections and care. In May, **Monica White** introduced the audience to the importance of justice and equity in food systems. In June, **Dr. J. Drew Lanham**

spoke about “coloring the conservation conversation.” In November, **Rich Holschuh** discussed the importance of language when describing “indigeneity” and concepts of belonging to the land. In December, **Mardi Fuller** shared her perspective as a black outdoorswoman in a culture of white supremacy.

The other host organizations for this series were **Farrington Nature Linc**, **deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum**, **Mass Audubon**, **The Food Project**, and the **Walden Woods Project**. The spring lectures were further supported by the **Ogden Codman Trust**, **The Bemis Free Lecture Series**, and the **Lincoln Garden Club**. The series received fall support from the **Sudbury Foundation**.



Publications

LLCT published the 2022 Open Spaces Calendar in September. Designed by **Lindsay Clemens**, this publication once again featured Lincoln’s beautiful rural landscapes, flora, and fauna.

Gwyn Loud continued to write a monthly wildlife column, which was enthusiastically received by Concord Journal readers and LLCT e-newsletter subscribers.



Calendar Cover Photo by Jocelyn Finlay. Gwyn Loud leading a birding walk. Spotted Sandpiper photo by Harold McAleer. Barred Owl photo by Norman Levey.



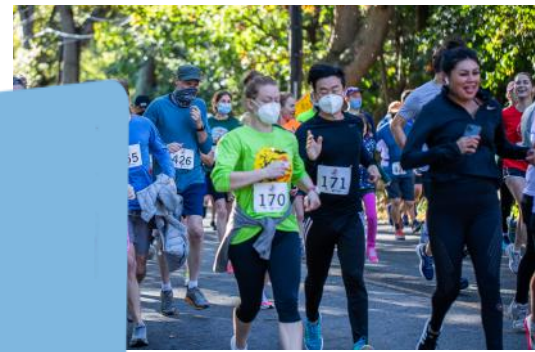
9th Annual Scarecrow Classic 5K



Family Fun!



600 RACERS



BYOB!



45 SPONSORS



50 VOLUNTEERS

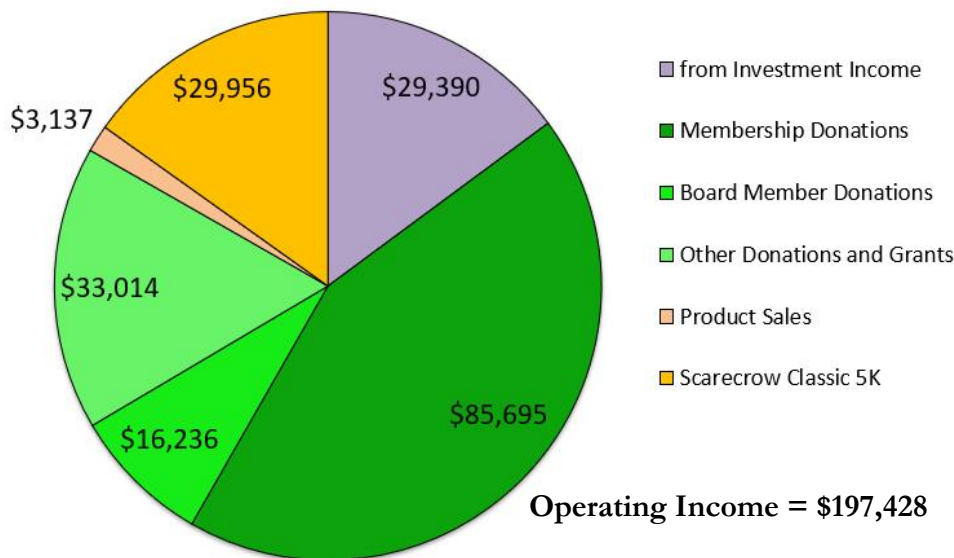


It takes a village!

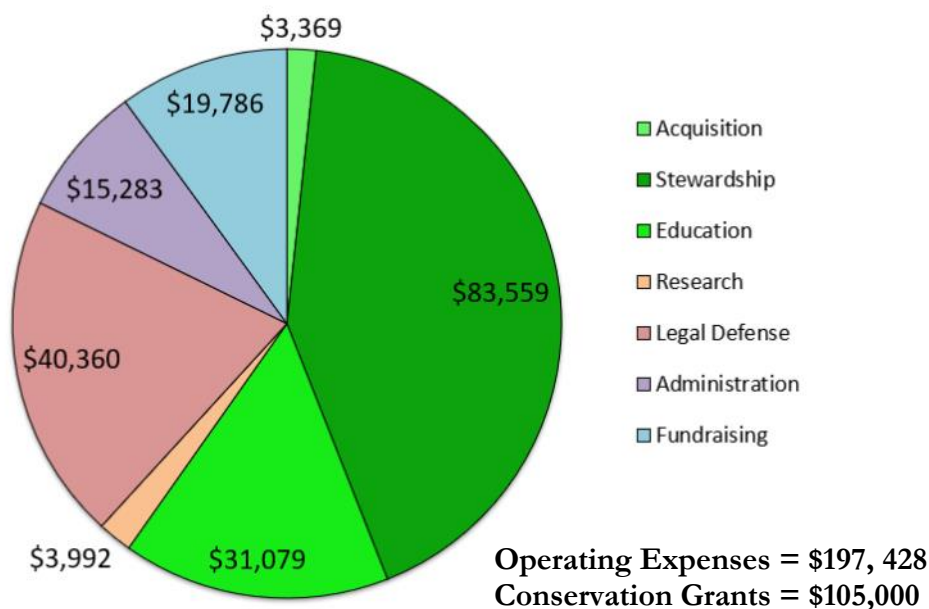


2021 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust Financials

2021 LLCT Operating Income



2021 LLCT Operating Expenses



2021 Membership

Total Number of Members

392

Leadership Level (\$1000+)

35

Friend (\$500-999)

26

Sustaining (\$250-499)

56

Supporting (\$100-249)

120

Family (\$75-99)

25

Individual (\$35-74)

130

*Thank you for
your continued
support!*

Photo by Marcia Gnagey



Lincoln Station

Winter Carnival



As part of Winter Carnival and the LLCT’s Trail Scavenger Hunt, RLF brought ice sculptor **Donald Chapelle** of Brilliant Ice Sculpture to Lincoln Station. More than 100 people gathered on the Front Green to watch Don carve a moose and other animals. Twisted Tree offered sweet treats throughout the afternoon. Passersby continued to enjoy the sculptures for the rest of the week. This program was co-sponsored by Property Manager **William Jackson Associates**.

Shop Local!

A warm thank you to the community for their support of local businesses at Lincoln Station. Revenue from the Mall at Lincoln Station supports RLF’s land acquisition work, so by shopping local you are supporting small, family-owned businesses and conservation in Lincoln. *Thank you!*

Picnic benches on the back green expanded outside eating at the Mall. Jocelyn Finlay breathed fresh life into the window displays by Donelan’s with her colorful photographs. The Friends of the Lincoln Library installed a book donation bin in the parking lot. The Farmer’s Market set up shop on Saturdays in the summer on the front green, with music, crafts, and produce attracting visitors.



2021 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust and Rural Land Foundation Trustees

Susan Allen, *Vice-Chair*

Michelle Barnes, *Chair*

Kenneth Bassett

William G. Constable, *President*

Daniel England

Andrew Falender

Andrew Gnazzo, *Vice Treasurer*

James Henderson

Weston Howland, III

Diana Jong

Gwyneth Loud

Bob Mason

Ellen Meadors, *Treasurer*

Paul Shorb

Nancy Soulette, *Secretary*

Andrew Stevenson

Susan Welsh