

2024 Annual Report

Lincoln Land Conservation Trust & Rural Land Foundation

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

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 creative land acquisition projects. RLF donates acquired land to LLCT to hold in trust, or deeds the land to public agencies, such as the Town of Lincoln.

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The Nature Link Conservation, Housing, & Access

For the last several years, **The Rural Land Foundation (RLF)** has worked closely with **Farrington Memorial (Nature Linc)** and the **Panetta Family** to bring a collaborative land use deal to Lincoln. At a June 2025 Special Town Meeting, Town of Lincoln residents voted overwhelmingly in support of the project, continuing Lincoln's legacy of open space protection.

More than one hundred private donors pledged to support the project, helping RLF lower our public CPA funding request from \$950,000 to \$850,000.

The project protects more than **77 acres** of forest, wetland, and field habitat in northeast Lincoln. Both properties are land of conservation interest and together **represent the largest area of undeveloped and unprotected woodlands and wetlands in Lincoln.**

A new **1.5 mile public trail** will be created, spanning the length of the Farrington property and connecting the Osborne Conservation Area to a new housing development near Route 2. The new trail will substantially expand East Lincoln's public trail network.

Lastly, the project will create a mixed-income neighborhood of **20 homes**, addressing a gap in Lincoln's housing diversity. As part of the Town Meeting zoning request, a new parcel for Gerard's Farm Stand will be created so that the store can continue to operate.

Land Acquisition

Project Partners

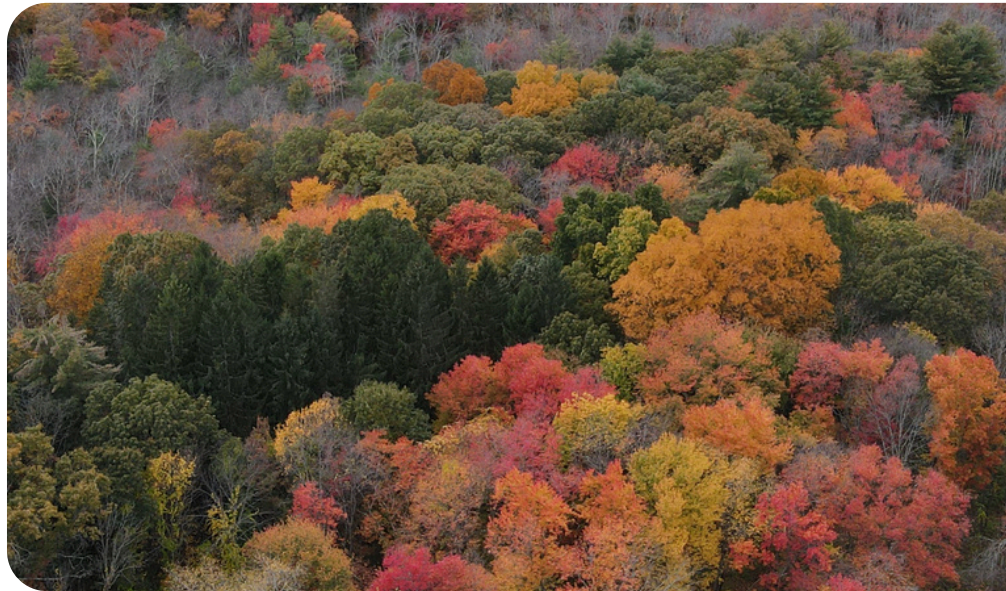
RLF has been leading land use planning in Lincoln since 1965, continually seeking opportunities to protect land and meet other town needs.

Nature Linc's parent organization, Farrington Memorial, has operated on their land since 1912, and their mission since 2011 has been to provide children from low-income, urban communities with equitable access to and immersive engagement in nature.

The Panetta Family has been on their land for generations and previously farmed much of their property.

The **City of Cambridge** has been a crucial land protection partner in Lincoln for decades, helping conserve more than 500 acres of land in Lincoln that is part of the Cambridge Reservoir's watershed. They were an enthusiastic partner on this project, pledging \$800,000. In return, they will hold the deed for some of the conserved land, with a Conservation Restriction (CR) going to the Town.

The Town of Lincoln's **Conservation Commission** remains a critical partner in all town-wide conservation efforts. Lastly and importantly, Town of Lincoln **residents** who give generously and vote in support of conservation make these complex projects possible.

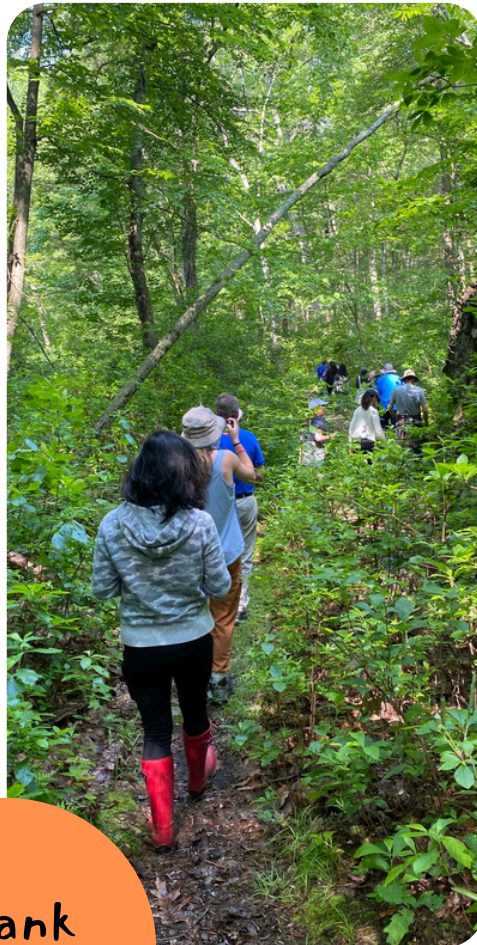


The Nature Link Project Map



77 Acres of Forests, Wetlands, and Fields Conserved
20 New Homes in a Mixed-Income Neighborhood
1.5 Miles of New Trails





Thank
you!

Conservation Project Financing

100 Private Donors:

\$1,450,000

RLF & LLCT:

\$500,000

City of Cambridge:

\$800,000

Town of Lincoln CPA Fund:

\$850,000

Housing Development Financing

Civico: \$3,300,000

Why Land Conservation Matters

Land conservation is one of the most impactful ways to address climate change and carbon sequestration at the local level. Additionally, a project of this scale significantly contributes to the protection of contiguous forest habitat, critical for many species such as ovenbirds, heard frequently in the Farrington woods. Watershed protection ensures clean drinking water and increases resilience to storm water flooding.

Limited Development

RLF has consistently supported limited development in Lincoln as a way to continue conserving open space while also recognizing the need for housing and recreation in town. This project continues to strike that balance, with the creation of a small cluster development, an attractive community of 20 new homes that are detached and meet Lincoln's new stretch energy code. At Town Meeting, Lincoln residents voted to approve the housing and the continued operation of Gerard's Farm Stand as part of the North Lincoln Overlay District.



Stewardship & Land Management



Robert pulling Water Chestnut on Fairhaven Bay



Joe mowing at Chapman Pasture near Old Winter Street



Sara and Ryan repairing duck boards on the Todd Property near Tower Road

Summer Land Stewards

LLCT shared Summer Land Stewards **Robert Killam** and **Joe Pariser** with the Town Conservation Department, a model that offers more hours to the student workers and facilitates collaborative land stewardship projects.

200
Volunteer
Hours

15
Work
Days



Annual Maintenance & Monitoring

LLCT staff conducted annual monitoring of deeded conservation land and CRs for both LLCT and the Town Conservation Department. Monitoring is critical for tracking changes to the landscape and ensuring that protected conservation values are upheld.

Sara Lupkas, LLCT Stewardship Director and **Ryan Brown**, Town Land Manager, organized a dedicated group of volunteers to tackle many plant species that are negatively impacting our ecosystems, including Garlic Mustard, Bittersweet, and Buckthorn. The best work day of the summer is always the Fairhaven Bay Water Chestnut pull (pictured above)!

Out on the Trails

Ongoing maintenance of Lincoln's 80+ miles of trails continued to be a priority in 2024. Tree falls, flooding, and rot impact the many duckboards on Lincoln's trails. Pictured below is the repaired bridge connecting Stony Brook and Beaver Pond.



A bench honoring **Bob Lemire** was installed along the shore of Farrar Pond in 2024, with the help of Jim Henderson, LLCT Trustee, and Town Conservation/LLCT staff. Ginny and Elise Lemire and friends gathered in April 2025 for a dedication ceremony.



Thank you Patti!

Since 2020, **Patti Cable** has gone above and beyond to support bluebird nest box monitoring for LLCT! 2024 was her last year taking on the entire program. In 2025 Patti continues to monitor the Tower Road box and support other volunteer monitors.

Pollinator Pathway

Spring Plant Sale

At the spring plant sale, LLCT members and the general public browsed a selection of native perennials that support wild pollinating insects. In coordination with *Lincoln Common Ground's* No Mow May campaign, LLCT gifted a groundcover plant to every member with their plant purchase. LLCT estimates that we have distributed more than 10,000 native plants since the first sale in 2020.



LSRHS Seniors added 350 plants to Chapman Pasture during their annual day of service. The planting was funded by a grant from the *Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation*. LLCT's land stewards then added a temporary fence around the newly planted meadow garden to protect it from wildlife predation.

1,000
Plants
Sold

Planting Days

Stacy Carter, Town Conservation Planner, designed and led the installation of a pollinator garden behind Town Offices. LLCT donated 50 plants to the new garden. LLCT also planted at the Pollinator Meadow in spring and fall. Additional thanks to *Weston Nurseries* for their donation of 50 plants in the fall.



People for Pollinators Power

Jillian Perkins, a Lincoln resident and LLCT volunteer completed a summer internship as part of her UNH degree, spending more than 80 hours conducting maintenance at each of LLCT's pollinator sites. Jillian also led four community work days in July and August.

Other regular helpers at the Pollinator Meadow were **Jeannette Wardell**, a rising 8th grader at Birches School, and **Holly Wessman**, a recently graduated high school senior.



New Signs

Designed in 2023 by volunteer **Amy Dorfman**, permanent signs were installed by LLCT's seasonal field assistants at five of our pollinator gardens.

The signs were partially funded by a grant from the *Lincoln Cultural Council* and will help LLCT engage with the community about the importance of pollination systems.

Educational Outreach

Thank you Speakers!

Chris Richardson, *BU*, Bats in MA

Liz Olson, *Biodiversity Works*,
Tracking Spotted Turtles

Ron McAdow, *Well Meadow*
Otters

Rachel Neurath, *LLCT Trustee*,
Soil Ecology and Groundcovers

Tia Pinney, *Mass Audubon*,
Science of Fall Foliage

Spring Birding Leaders

Gwyn Loud, Norman Levey, Ron
McAdow, Pam Sowizral, Nancy
Soulette, and Michele Grzenda

Out on the Trails

Gwyn Loud organized LLCT's
annual spring birding walks. In
an expanded Noticing Walk
Series, **John Calabria** led a total
of 12 walks in 2024. In June,
Avalon Owens led a walk
through Smith-Andover Field
to observe fireflies. In
December, **Jeff Adams** began
volunteering for LLCT and led
two plant identifications walks
through Browning Field and
Pigeon Hill.

Walk Spotlight: Ferns!

In June, **Ellen**, *LLCT Trustee*, and
Jim Meadors led a fern
identification walk in Codman
South. The Meadors' pointed out
thirteen species of ferns, from the
common Royal Fern to the
uncommon Beech Fern, which
was growing over a stone in the
middle of the trail!

Bluebird Fun

John Calabria made several visits
to LEAP in 2024 to take students
for nature walks around the school
campus and to install two bluebird
boxes at the Pollinator Meadow.



20 Trail
Walks





Puddle Stomping

In coordination with the *Lincoln Public Library*, LLCT welcomed **Linda Booth Sweeney** to read her book, *The Noisy Puddle*. Later in the spring, **Matt Burne**, *BSC Group*, and **Will Leona**, Town Conservation Ranger, led a vernal pool exploration.

Coyotes, Our Carnivores

Coyotes, one of Massachusetts' top predators, are incredibly important to the ecosystem and have ingeniously adapted to suburban and even urban habitats. In the spring, LLCT welcomed **Geri Vistein** to a zoom program about "America's Songdog". In the fall, **Jonathan Way** of *Eastern Coyote Research* drew a crowd to the Lincoln Public School Learning Commons to speak about his research tracking coyote populations in the region. Both speakers shared insight into how humans can better coexist with coyotes.

Planting Roots

In December, **Rachel Neurath**, *LLCT Trustee*, led a seed paper making workshop for local families. The two sessions took place in the Birches School Community Room.

Owling

LLCT's Annual Meeting catered to naturalists of all ages. **Mark and Marcia Wilson** of *Eyes on Owls* brought their fantastic live-animal program to the Lincoln Public School Learning Commons, followed by a burrito dinner from The Tack Room.

Calendar

LLCT published the 2025 Open Spaces Calendar. Contributing photographers joined LLCT for a reception in November. The cover featured a snowy scene by **John LeGates**.

12th Annual Scarecrow Classic 5K



RUNNERS



SPONSORS



VOLUNTEERS

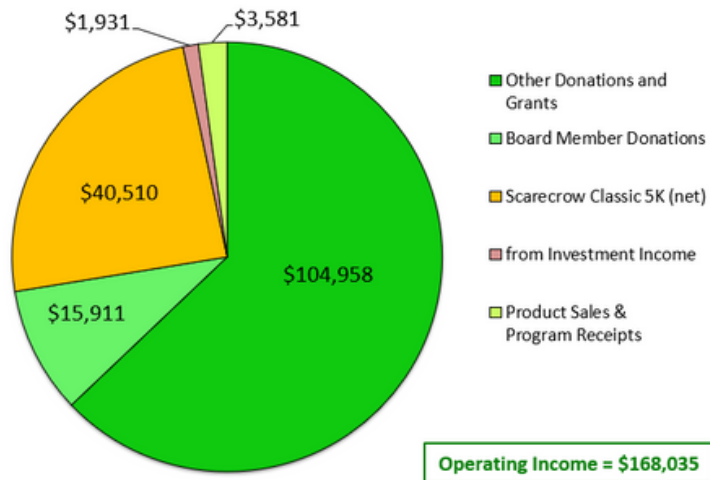


CIDER DONUTS

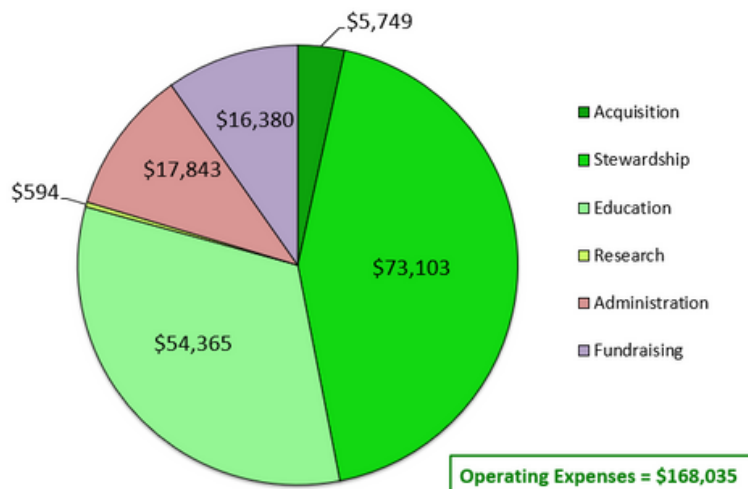


2024 LLCT Financials

2024 LLCT Operating Income



2024 LLCT Operating Expenses



2024 Membership

Total Number of Members	331
Leadership Level (\$1000+)	38
Friend (\$500-999)	29
Sustaining (\$250-499)	55
Supporting (\$100-249)	107
Patron (\$75-99)	24
Individual (\$35-74)	78



Lincoln Station

Festivities

LLCT/RLF continued to deepen its programmatic relationship with *Farrington Nature Linc.* The inaugural “Fairyland Festival” welcomed more than 300 families to Lincoln Station for a nature-themed scavenger hunt, hot cocoa, and an ice sculpture. Local artists **Sarah Cannon Holden, Diana Rice-Sheahan, and Jackie Lenth** displayed fairy houses alongside houses created in a family workshop the previous week. A warm thank you to the tenants of Lincoln Station who participated and opened up their space for the event.



LLCT continued to co-sponsor the On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces speaker series. In the spring, **Erika Rumbley** of *The New Garden Society* and **Doug Sutherland** spoke. Continued support for the series was provided by *Freedom's Way National Heritage Area* and the *Ogden Codman Trust*.



In June, The LPS Pride Day celebrated love on the Green at Lincoln Station with performances by the step team, ice cream, and other festivities.

Local Retail

Local retail exists in Lincoln thanks to the support of businesses by our community! RLF continues to own and operate the Mall at Lincoln Station to provide a retail space in town. Shopping local at Lincoln Station supports many small businesses, and proceeds from the Mall are reinvested into the space and support RLF's conservation land acquisitions.



LLCT and RLF share a volunteer Board of Trustees who are all Lincoln residents and care deeply about Lincoln's conservation lands.

2024 Lincoln Land Conservation Trust & Rural Land Foundation Trustees

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Susan Allen, Vice-Chair
Kenneth Bassett
William G. Constable, President
Daniel England

Andrew Gnazzo, Vice Treasurer
James Henderson
Diana Jong
Bob Mason
Rachel Neurath
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