Brunswick Topsham Land Trust Annual Report 2017

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Among the joys of living in Midcoast Maine are the rich diversity of our community and the many ways we engage with this special place we call home. Here, we observe the wide-eyed wonder of young people discovering nature, the energetic enthusiasm of hikers, bikers, and kayakers enticed by scenic vistas and fresh air. We witness the love of getting down-and-dirty through gardening, clearing trails, making bridges, and the sociable chats with friends and vendors at the Farmers’ Market. We’re able to help to promote the opportunity to support a neighbor in need through an act as simple as planting a seed, and the continuation of traditional ways of life through farming, logging, and fishing. Through all of this, we manage to conserve space for future generations.

Our resources and programming do more than simply connect the dots between conservation, people, and community. We ask continuously, “How can we make this the best place to live for all of us?” We are proud of our past contributions, but must continue to strive to conserve the wonderful diversity that makes up the Midcoast for all to enjoy.

Angela Twitchell, Executive Director

Brad Babson, Board President

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Brad Babson, President
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Kristine Ganong
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Elizabeth Hertz
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Tom Settlomire
Charles Spies
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Caroline Eliot, Associate Director
Lee Cataldo, Outreach & Education Coordinator
Margaret Gerber, Stewardship Associate
Nancy Donsbach, Development Associate
Jacqui Koopman, Farmers Market Manager
Lucy Birkett, Garden Coordinator & Programs Assistant
All

pronoun

• The whole quantity or extent of a group
• Used to emphasize the greatest possible amount

For All of Us
Education Blooms at the Tom Settlemire Community Garden

“Mine’s got dirt on it!”
“Mine has two legs, like a funny little man!”
Two first-time carrot harvesters—9-year-old boys—squealed with laughter. They beamed, held their carrots high, and knelt to pull a few more.

Educational programs at the Land Trust’s Tom Settlemire Community Garden blossomed this growing season with support from the Senter Fund and dedicated volunteers.

In the spring, BTLT partnered with Art Van, a local organization that promotes the arts in low-income communities, to bring gardening experiences to families at Perryman Village Family Housing in Brunswick. The Land Trust brought lumber, soil, and volunteers to build small raised beds in residents’ yards at the village. Under the tutelage of Land Trust volunteers, families planted beds with seedlings from local farmers. In July and August, children from the village toured BTLT’s Community Garden. These novice gardeners included the nine-year-old boys who were so excited by their harvested carrots. The group also picked peas and gobbled up kale salad and veggie wraps they made with the help of local SNAP educator, Marissa Rublee. They returned home with bags of carrots and peas—excitedly touting their harvest to friends and neighbors.

In early June and in late September, over 200 Brunswick first and second grade students visited the garden as part of their plant and community curriculum. This wonderful opportunity was orchestrated by reading teacher Lisa Martin. In the spring, the students started seeds and transplanted them at the garden—squash for Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP), and sunflowers and pumpkins for next year’s first graders. In the fall, those ‘new’ first graders, and a number of second graders, visited the garden to press cider and harvest the seeds that will be grown next spring, beginning the cycle again.

Teachers surveyed after the visits were very positive. One wrote, “This opportunity provided a hands-on,
real life experience where kids could explore, get their questions answered, and connect what they are learning in the classroom to real life. There is nothing better.”

The project reflects the Community Garden’s expanding role as a community-wide resource. “Our work is to find ways to serve the needs of our community through the land,” says Outreach and Education Coordinator Lee Cataldo. “We can provide land for community organizations that may not have access to it. We’re finding ways to get kids out to the Garden who may have no experience growing food or even seeing a beautiful, natural space like this.”

“Some will become gardeners and some won’t,” says Cataldo of the hundreds of children that visited the garden this summer. “But all our work with youth is an investment in the next generation of community leaders and stewards of our food system and natural world. It’s worth every moment.”

Volunteer Spotlight

Lisa Martin is a Master Gardener, former BTLT Board member, and current member of the Land Trust’s Community Engagement and Programs Committee. No one imagined the huge logistical and bureaucratic challenges involved in getting 200 first graders from their school to the Community Garden – just a few blocks away – but Lisa’s leadership, creativity, and coordination created something successful in so many ways.

Dedicated volunteers like Lisa make our Land Trust not just for the community but of the community. Thank you, Lisa, for undertaking this important work!

“The Tom Settlemire Community Garden has been a wonderful place to tie together three of my passions: teaching, gardening, and connecting with the outdoors. During this garden project, it has been exciting to watch 5, 6, and 7-year olds’ fascination with planting seeds, observing the plants’ growth, and then seeing it all come to life (and death) in the garden. Providing opportunities to dig in the dirt, explore sunflower heads, and tour garden plots full of ripe vegetables is a sure way to grow lots of little green thumbs!” – Lisa Martin
On a sunny afternoon in early October, 21 Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) employees took off their thinking caps and took up pickaxes, shovels, and other implements to help out the Land Trust. They got their hands dirty alongside Land Trust staff on a variety of tasks key to our land stewardship and community programs. This collaboration with CEI is another example of how we use strategic partnerships to help us better understand the needs in our community, and utilize diverse organizations and volunteers to support our important stewardship work.

At the Tom Settlemire Community Garden, volunteers cleared giant sunflowers from the education area, and transplanted native and perennial plants for next year’s Taking Root Plant Sale. In other parts of the 320-acre Crystal Spring Farm, they worked alongside Seth Kroeck, our farm tenant who operates Crystal Spring Community Farm, to harvest thousands of carrots. Others brandished loppers, weed wrenches, and hand tools to clear invasive plants from roadsides, field edges, and the blueberry barren. Volunteers learned about the telltale yellow and red berries of invasive bittersweet which are easily spread if vines aren’t bagged for removal, and the
Along with our partners Kennebec Estuary Land Trust and Phippsburg Land Trust, we now own a shared use truck. Thanks to support from Merrymeeting Bay Trust and Lee Auto, our new truck will help with hauling tools, materials, and staff to work on trails and other land management projects.

milky-white substance secreted from the base of a maple leaf that distinguishes a Norway maple from native maples.

Another group removed old farm debris and cleared invasive plants from a spectacular new 121-acre Land Trust-owned property in Topsham that spans the area between the Muddy and Cathance Rivers.

We are grateful for organizations like CEI, as well as Apogee Adventures, Bowdoin College, Stantec, Scouts, and Master Gardeners and other community members, who have provided such wonderful support on our trails and other projects this summer. Partnerships are what community conservation is all about – connecting with diverse parts of our community to ensure we are using resources efficiently, providing engaging opportunities to do good work on the land, and assuring that there is some way for everyone to connect with the Midcoast’s amazing natural areas.

CEI volunteers clean up roadside at Crystal Spring Farm.

With support from Access Health/Midcoast Hospital, and in partnership with the Town of Brunswick, Bowdoin College, Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, and community volunteers, we purchased signs to mark the safest bike route across the Brunswick Landing Property and materials to build bridges across wet areas on a children’s mountain bike trail.

Stewardship team putting our new truck to good use.
Conserved Lands Meet Many Needs

Land conservation projects can be years in the making. Last year, the Land Trust closed on 12 properties, some of which had been in the works since 2010. This year, the Land Trust moved forward with several exciting projects on the Cathance and Muddy Rivers in Topsham and the coast in Brunswick. Although not all have come to fruition in FY2017, we will be reporting more about them in our Spring Newsletter. Land conservation achievements of note in the last fiscal year included the following:

- BTLT entered into an exciting partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and landowners, Jaki Ellis and Andy Cook, to conserve the spectacular Woodward Point property in Brunswick. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to conserve more than 80 acres on the coast, including 2 miles of shoreline. Despite decades of rapid development along Maine’s southern coast, Woodward Point is intact today thanks to three generations of landowners who wanted to see the land maintained for traditional
values. Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust have an amazing opportunity to permanently conserve the property and open it to the public. But first, we must work together to raise $3.5 million – the cost of acquiring the land and supporting its future management as a public preserve – by the spring of 2019. Thanks to Jaki and Andy, who are selling the property below appraised value, we are closer to reaching that goal—but it is still a long road before this vision becomes a reality.

To learn more or contribute to the Woodward Point project, please contact Angela Twitchell, BTLT Executive Director at angela@btlt.org or 207-729-7694.

- Continuing our effort in the historic Pennellville neighborhood of Brunswick, BTLT worked with landowners to place a conservation easement on the Pennellville Shipyard property. Since 1988, the Land Trust has conserved 70 acres of land in and around the Pennellville Historic District to preserve the natural, scenic, and historic character of this special area.
Merrymeeting Gleaners Procure Much-Needed Cold Storage Trailer

The Merrymeeting Gleaners, made up entirely of volunteers, are working hard to gather produce that might otherwise go to waste in the fields of local farms. A project of the Merrymeeting Food Council (MFC), the Gleaners spend several mornings each week at multiple farms, then distribute food to sites from Georgetown to Freeport – all to help ensure that those in need have access to fresh, healthy food.

At the close of the 2016 season, the Gleaners identified cold storage as a key limiting factor to growth of their efforts.

As fiscal sponsor for the group, BTLT applied to Bowdoin Common Good and New England Grassroots Environment Fund for funding to build an innovative ‘cool-bot’ trailer, modeled after one created by the Maine Gleaning Network. We received both grants, and were proud to learn that we received the first ever $5,000 grant from Bowdoin’s student-led philanthropic program. Over the summer, Land Trust staff, the MFC coordinator, and dedicated volunteers purchased a trailer, supplies, and construction materials, and through the herculean effort of volunteers, transformed these into a refrigerator on wheels.

This new piece of equipment will enable the gleaners to harvest and keep fresh much more local produce while it awaits delivery to those who need it.

Interested in getting involved? Contact merrymeetinggleaners@gmail.com

Volunteer gleaners (along with Food Council and Gleaning leaders, and Nate Drummond, co-owner of Six River Farm) celebrate the new trailer as part of Maine Gleaning Week in October.
Saturday Farmers’ Market Curated for Diversity

The Saturday Farmers’ Market at Crystal Spring Farm is one of the most significant and important ways we engage with diverse members of our community. Our Market Manager, Jacqui Koopman, strives to ensure that the Market can supply a complete meal, even a week’s groceries, by offering a unique and comprehensive array of vendors. In our 18th year, we had the largest roster of vendors yet. We’ve added distinctive items like miso and almond milk, while ensuring that the classics – fresh produce, meats, cheeses, coffee, breads, and oils – are all offered too. We are reaching out to diverse members of our community by offering incentives for using SNAP benefits (food stamps) at the market. We are grateful to the many people who support the Market and contribute to making it such a wonderful place!

Volunteer Spotlight

“I love volunteering in the BTLT booth at the Farmers’ Market! Great music, beautiful scenery, fresh air, an incomparable array of locally produced food, a chance to connect with neighbors and friends – what’s not to like? But just as important as seeing people I know is the chance to connect with people I don’t know. The sense of community at the market is palpable and is one of the most important ways BTLT helps to connect community members to the land, to the men and women who make up our vibrant local farm economy, and to each other. Every conversation I have with marketgoers about BTLT trails, projects, programs and events is a welcome chance to tap into that priceless shared spirit.”

~ Emily Swan, Board Secretary, Chair of Community Engagement and Programs Committee
Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust continues to be supported by a broad cross section of our community. For this, we remain infinitely grateful. Over the past year, the Land Trust has focused our fundraising efforts on developing sustainable sources of unrestricted annual fund gifts and broadening the community’s awareness and support for BTLT, as well as raising dedicated funds for endowment, stewardship, programs and land acquisition.

Highlights of FY2017 include:
• Raising $235,000 through annual fund gifts which provide critical support for all Land Trust activities;
• Maintaining a retention rate of our general Community Members of 75%;
• Increasing the number of Community Partners to 61 and Business Partners to 35. (The Community Partner and Business Partner giving programs were established in FY2016 to recognize annual gifts of $1,000 or more.);
• Increasing our stewardship and endowment funds to over $400,000;
• Establishing a Legacy Partners giving program to encourage planned gifts to support our work into the future and receiving commitments from 7 donors.

Our FY2018 fundraising goals include:
• Growing annual fund gifts to $250,000 and overall membership by 50 members;
• Increasing the number of Community Partners to 65 and Business Partners to 40;
• Growing our number of Legacy Partners to 11 and encouraging all donors to consider supporting BTLT’s work in perpetuity through a Legacy Gift;
• Seeking major gifts and grant awards for imminent land conservation projects and community programs;
• Building our stewardship and endowment funds to $450,000 by the end of FY2018, with a goal of reaching $2 million over coming years.
Business Supporters

We are fortunate to have the support of our vibrant local business community. Together we are supporting the economic vitality of our region while making the Brunswick-Topsham area a special place to live, work, and visit.

Business Partners contribute $1,000 or more of unrestricted support to the Land Trust annually. Please help us thank our Business Partners:

To find out more about becoming a Business Partner please visit www.btlt.org/business-partners or call the Land Trust at (207)729-7694

Thank you as well to our 48 Business Members (up to $1,000 of annual support):

Albert Putnam Associates  Fairwinds Farm  Mirto Art Studio
Anevay Solutions, LLC.  FIORE  Moncure & Barnicle
Applewald Farm  Flight Deck Brewing  Morning Glory Natural Foods
Atayne  Fresh Pickins  Office of Cornellia Viek, CPA
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust  G.M. Wild Construction  Plainview Farm
Borealis Breads  Goranson Farm  Pretty Flowers
Bowdoin Baking  Gulf of Maine Books  Rousseau Management
Carrot Signs  Hannaford Supermarket  Scatter Good Farm
Center Street Cycles  Heather Perry Photography  Skills Greenhouses
Chad Little Power Equipment  Hootenanny Bread  Squire Tarbox Farm
Cool as a Moose  Johnny's Selected Seeds  Tess' Market
Country Fare  L.L. Bean  The Picture Framers
Crystal Spring Community Farm  Local Market & Cafe  TMA Development Corporation
Dolphin Marina & Restaurant  Maine Pines Racquet & Fitness  Vail's Tree Service, Inc.
Down East Cleaning  Maine Waterside Homes  Whatley Farm
Edgar Catlin, Attorney at Law  Mangum and Associates, LLC  Wright-Pierce
Thank You!
Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, foundations, and organizations for their annual membership contribution during fiscal year 2016-2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017).

Community Partners
Community Partners contribute $1,000 or more to the Land Trust annually. These annual gifts are key to the Land Trust’s ability to continue to innovate and creatively meet community needs. The Land Trust is grateful for our broad base of support, but we are especially grateful to those who are willing and able to give at this higher level.

Anonymous (2)
Edwin Allen Jr. and Barbara Bean
Ellen Asherman
Bradley and Katharine Babson
Tim and Anne Banks
Mark Battle and Kathy Thorson
Robert and Mary Biette
Jef and Ms. Susanne Boeke
Les and Michelle Borodinsky
Jim Brokaw and Mollie Sandock
Amanda and Kevin Bunker
Michael Cain and Debra VanVikites
John Chapman in memory of Walter Norton
Philip and Jane Crichton
Kevin and Annemarie Curnin
Nelia and Charles Dunbar
Marilyn Dwyer
Bill and Catherine Ward Ferdinand
Rollin and Averil Fessenden
Jerrold and Robin Galleher
Rick J. and Kris Ganong
Chris and Alyssa Goodwin
Fred and Jill Haer
Reginald L. and Tinker Hannaford
Robert and Marge Healing
Heather and Bill Higbee
Kristin Hite
Dewitt and Jane John

Helen B. Johnson
Robert C. and Nancy King
Elizabeth Knowles
N. Macauley and Carol Lord
Linda H. and Kerford Marchant
Mark Mason
William and Jennifer Mason
Kevin and Sheila McManus
Daniel A. Morgenstern and Moriah Moser
Jeff and Ann Nelson
Betsy Niven
P. Andrews and Brooke Nixon
Helen Norton
Clifton and Susan Olds
Ralph Perry and Mary Louise Seldenfleur
Liz and Jan Pierson
Susan E. Russell
Priscilla Sargent
Tom Settlemire and Sharon McHold
Charles and Bonnie Spies
Sarah Stevens
David and June Vail
Steve Walker and Jackie Sartoris
Steven and Susan Weems
Nat and Genie Wheelwright
Rupert and Ruth White
Wayne Whitney and Shelby Patton
Marty and Jan Wilk
Lloyd Van Lunen and Margaret Wilson
Marc and Sarah Zimman

To find out more about becoming a Community Partner please visit www.btltn.org/community-partners or call the Land Trust at (207)729-7694
“We originally became members of BTLT to support the conservation of Crystal Spring Farm. Through this, we saw how the small but collective action of many can make a tremendous difference for our community. Thanks to the Land Trust, we and so many others enjoy buying our food, taking walks, and driving or cycling past this lovely part of Brunswick. Over the years, there have been many more special places in the Midcoast area preserved for all to enjoy and discover. Yet, we have come to understand that BTLT is more than land preservation and environmental stewardship. BTLT encourages area residents and businesses to join together in other ways, creating community working with school children, hosting programs at local libraries, maintaining community gardens as well as supporting local food producers. We are BTLT members because it brings us together to make where we live a better place— for people and for the environment.”

~The Thorson-Battle family, Kathy, Felix, Zoe, and Mark
“Having grown up in a suburb of Boston, I watched as all the land we explored and played on as children slowly disappeared to development. My friends and I were always happiest (and in the least amount of trouble!) when we were out in nature, exploring and learning about the world around us. As I got older and my world became fuller with responsibility, the value of untouched, undeveloped land became even more apparent to me. Walking my dogs through the forests at Tufts Veterinary School became the best way I knew to remain sane in those crazy days, and I vowed to myself that if I had the chance, I would do what I could to preserve that haven for others. It would be great to be able to do more, but I also see how much a group of dedicated people can do when they join forces. I am proud to be a small part of that.”

~ Veterinary Clinic owner Dr. Matthew Horgan and Finn
We've tried our best to ensure the accuracy of this donor list. We sincerely apologize if there are any errors. If your name is omitted or listed incorrectly, please call 729-7694 or contact angela@btlt.org. Thank you!
“We have both worked many years to conserve land in our community. We want to provide assets to continue protecting what we have worked for – long after we are gone.”
~ Margaret Wilson and Lloyd Van Lunen, long-time BTLT board members and volunteers

Gift Planning

Conservation is Forever, Your Legacy can be too!

What is your legacy? Would you like it to include productive farmland and healthy clam flats, special places to walk, hike, hunt, fish, and explore close to home - places that make our part of Maine such a wonderful place to live, work, and play? Then consider including Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust in your estate plans.

Planned gifts come in all shapes and sizes, and each is an expression of a person’s desire to make a difference and leave a legacy that lasts forever.

The Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust will work with you and your advisors to create your own unique legacy supporting conservation in our community. If you are interested in making a planned gift, or have already made a provision for the Land Trust through a bequest, beneficiary designation, or other arrangement, please contact Angela Twitchell at (207)729-7694 or angela@btlt.org.

For more information on planned giving opportunities visit www.btlt.org/planned-giving/
Together we are building a strong financial base. With over 1,000 members and a growing stewardship endowment, we are confident that the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust will be able to fulfill its mission long into the future. We are working to strengthen our foundation so that this generation and those that follow will be able to enjoy the natural beauty and bounty of the communities we serve.

**SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND GAINS**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$381,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donated land and easements</td>
<td>$503,257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$166,126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other revenues</td>
<td>$78,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support, Revenue and Gains</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,129,544</strong></td>
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**EXPENSES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td>$122,703</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$69,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$896,031</strong></td>
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**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

$233,513

**NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning of year</td>
<td>$3,685,194</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of year</td>
<td>$3,918,707*</td>
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*Of this total, approximately $99,402 is permanently restricted, and $460,791 is restricted or designated for specific land projects or other purposes.

**BREAKDOWN OF PROGRAM EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education, Outreach</td>
<td>$45,541</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Conservation</td>
<td>$440,440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>$142,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$703,765</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a publicly supported organization as defined by Section 170(b) A-6. Contributions are tax deductable to the extent allowed by law. An independent auditor’s report is available upon request. Our 990 is also available online at www.btlt.org.
Support, Revenue, and Gains by Category
Totaling $1,130K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017

- Contributions 34%
- Donated Land and Easements 44%
- Grants 15%
- Other Revenues 7%

Expenses by Category
Totaling $896K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017

- Programs 78%
- Fundraising 8%
- Supporting Services 14%

Program Expenses by Category
Totaling $704K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017

- Land Conservation 63%
- Agriculture Programs 11%
- Education and Outreach 6%
- Stewardship 20%

Additional Data:
- Properties Managed: 52
- Volunteers: 300+
- Miles of Hiking Trails: 17
“I must thank you folks for the trail system on Crystal Springs Farm. It is a treasure. I have been walking the paths this spring, and what fun. They are beautifully groomed. I rest on every bench.”

– Bruce (quote taken from Crystal Spring Farm trail log)