

# JOIN US

PROTECT | LEARN | EXPLORE



Explore and discover with family and friends.



Join us for guided walks or hike on your own with our Trails Guide.



Dozens of activities include lectures and our annual Environmental Day Camp.

**Your membership matters**

Help your land trust preserve open space in Branford and promote our community's appreciation of Branford's diverse natural features.

[www.branfordlandtrust.org](http://www.branfordlandtrust.org)



**BRANFORD  
LAND TRUST**

## WELCOME TO THE BRANFORD LAND TRUST

The Branford Land Trust is a non-profit organization founded in 1967. Its mission is to preserve open space in Branford and to promote our community's appreciation of Branford's diverse natural features.

### A RICH HISTORY

For more than 40 years, the Branford Land Trust—*your land trust*—has acquired and protected more than 800 acres of priceless open space in Branford. The Land Trust also holds conservation easements on another 340 acres.

In addition, we've worked with all of Branford to help acquire several publicly owned tracts including the Stony Creek Quarry Preserve, Beacon Hill, Saltonstall Mountain and the Queach Preserve.

### THE LAND TRUST TODAY

The Land Trust is an active and important part of the Branford community. Over 1,000 households and businesses in Branford and beyond support the Land Trust mission through their membership. Many more enjoy our trails, join us for guided walks, attend lectures and children's programs and visit our award winning website and displays at the Branford Festival.

We protect diverse natural environments—tidal salt marshes at the shore, wetlands along the Branford River and its tributaries, upland forests and meadows, and even a few tiny





islands in Long Island Sound. The many areas that are not too fragile for pedestrian access are available for walking, bird watching, cross country skiing or just enjoying a few quiet moments.



Maintaining the diversity of habitat for Branford's natural areas is at the heart of what we do. Our active osprey program monitors and maintains osprey platforms and helps band the young chicks, we mow meadows to maintain increasingly rare grassland habitat, we've erected bluebird boxes and wood duck boxes, and established the fishway over the Supply Pond dam, restoring access to breeding areas for anadromous fish.



#### LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

As we look ahead, we envision a major transformation of the Land Trust. As we preserve what we can of Branford's last remaining open space we must increase our capacity to care for the natural areas we protect for future generations.



#### COMMUNITY BONDS

We gratefully acknowledge the support and cooperation of the Branford Community Foundation, Conn. DEP, Foote Family Trust, Regional Water Authority, the Town of Branford and the many individuals and organizations who have helped us fulfill our mission over the years.

*Some of the Land Trust's many activities: live animals at our Environmental Day Camp; Branford High School partnership; hiking on our trails; members and families join to dedicate a new property.*

## OUR TRACT STEWARD PROGRAM

Sound property management practices are critical to the protection and maintenance of land that we hold in trust for the public good. We must monitor the physical status of our land or wetland parcels to insure that the purposes of the donor, as indicated in the deed or contract, are being honored. We must also monitor to insure that our property rights are not being violated by unauthorized uses. Finally, property management fulfills a moral obligation to maintain our property in a natural state and prevent degradation.

Our ability to meet property management objectives depends on **volunteer tract stewards** who are the cornerstone of our program. Each steward is responsible for visiting the property several times per year. While activities vary considerably depending on the type and location of the property, typical responsibilities include:

- Identifying inappropriate use.
- Identifying encroachment problems.
- Assessing actual property use and visitation to the extent possible.
- Biological and ecological monitoring.
- Providing tract and trail maintenance if the property has a trail.

In addition to our **Tract Steward Program**, work parties are scheduled to accomplish property management goals where larger efforts are needed.

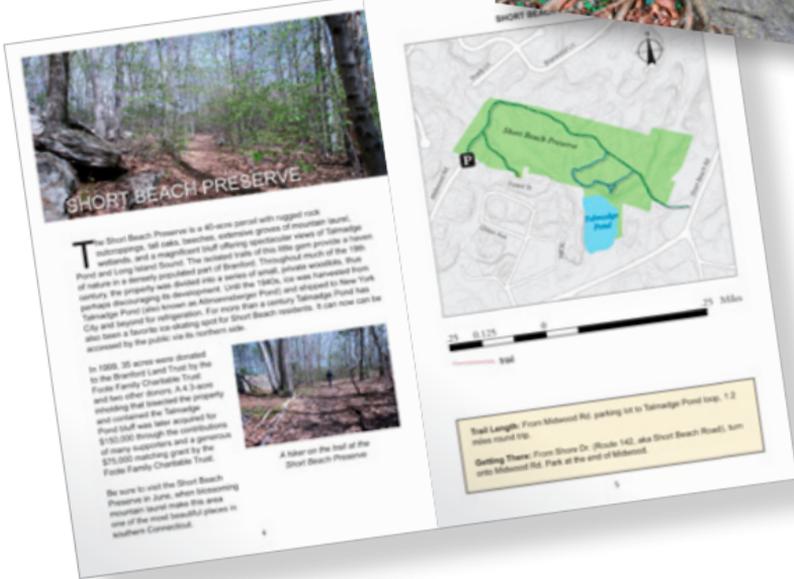
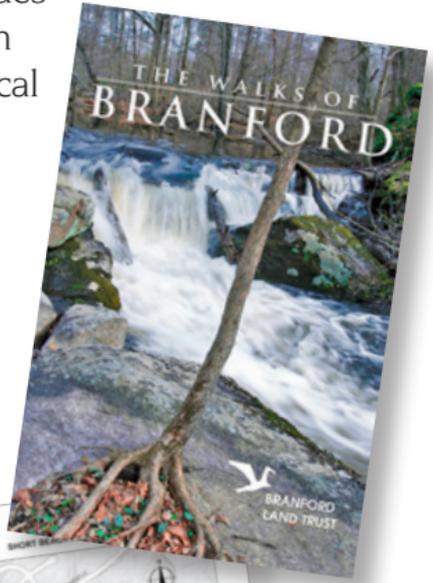


*If you are interested in assisting in our efforts,  
please contact us.*

## “THE WALKS OF BRANFORD” TRAILS GUIDE

The Branford Land Trust trails guide “The Walks of Branford” is beautiful and informative, graced with stunning illustrations. It provides directions, length and location of the major trails, and historical tidbits for eleven open space areas in Branford.

New memberships of \$30 or more qualify you to receive “The Walks of Branford” for free. The guide is also available for sale at town libraries.



## THE BRANFORD RIVER PROJECT

The Branford River Project includes an ever expanding group of enthusiastic individuals—from high school students to senior citizens—who share their expertise in hydrology, wetlands, paleo-botany, environmental engineering, environmental regulation, history, archeology, science education, photography etc. But far more important than our specific areas of expertise, we all bring to our efforts a love of the river and a willingness to work hard for its preservation. We would love to have you join our efforts.

Please join us today! Membership form on the back.

# BRANFORD LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

New memberships of \$30 or more qualify you to receive “The Walks of Branford” trails guide.

<b>Membership Category</b> (Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$ 125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution in support of BLT Programs, Land Acquisition, Education, Conservation	\$
<b>Total Enclosed</b>	\$

Name .....

Address .....

Town .....

State .....

Zip .....

Date .....

Phone .....

Email .....

Your membership involvement and active participation is critical to our success—members join work days, help with trail walks, the newsletter, office work, or education programs, and much more. Join us!

## **Are you available to volunteer?**

If so, what kind of work would you like to do?

Trail Maintenance       Tract Steward

Educational Programs    Office Work

Other: .....

Please place this completed membership form in an envelope with a stamp and mail to: Branford Land Trust Membership, P.O. Box 254, Branford CT 06405

Please make checks payable to **Branford Land Trust**. Dues, contributions and gifts in kind are deductible for income tax purposes. Your check is your receipt.

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS** help in many ways—acquisition of properties; maintenance of trails, dams and fences; trail maps; helping threatened species; lectures; guided hikes; newsletter; website; educational projects in the schools; and sharing environmentally important information with the people of Branford.

**YOUR PARTICIPATION AS A MEMBER** goes beyond your financial commitment. Membership is both commitment to a common goal and participation in the activities that help achieve it. You can care for the land as tract stewards, help maintain trails at monthly work parties, contribute to our newsletter, and share the message of sound environmental practices with family and friends.

**Membership gives you access to:**

- ☐ Guided walks on the properties
- ☐ Maps and guides
- ☐ Lectures and articles
- ☐ Branford Land Trust News
- ☐ Our trails guide “The Walks of Branford”

**Membership helps support:**

- ☐ Efforts to monitor and protect our local environment
- ☐ Maintaining our properties, with their trails, dams and fences
- ☐ Restoring lost or damaged habitat
- ☐ Helping threatened species here at home
- ☐ Lectures and hikes
- ☐ Hands-on Environmental Day Camp
- ☐ Library Book Project
- ☐ Website and newsletters
- ☐ Environmental education for our children
- ☐ Branford High School Partnership



The erection of osprey nesting platforms by the Land Trust and others in Branford has been a resounding success.



Community outreach takes many forms including our Branford Festival booth which attracts visitors of all ages each year.

← Please join us. Become a member today!

## EDUCATION OUTREACH

One of the primary goals of the Branford Land Trust is to promote the community's appreciation of Branford's diverse natural features, and we accomplish this in a number of ways:



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** Our spring lecture series, annual hikes, and participation in the Branford Festival are just a few of the ways we encourage the Branford community to learn about, care for and enjoy Branford's natural resources.

**EDUCATION PROGRAMS** There is nothing more important than our children—they are our legacy. Working in the Branford public school system, the Land Trust hopes to educate students about the variety of natural environments that can be found in Branford. These include Nature Explorers Program, Branford High School Partnership and our annual Hands-On Environmental Day Camp.



**LIBRARY PROJECT** This unique project helps provide the Branford community a wealth of environmental resources, available at both the Blackstone Memorial and Willoughby Wallace libraries.

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which  
ear.

**BRANFORD LAND TRUST NEWS** Our quarterly newsletter keeps the community informed about our efforts and activities, and also helps educate through informative articles about conservation and our natural environment.

**WWW.BRANFORDLANDTRUST.ORG** A valuable resource for learning about the Land Trust's goals and properties. Our calendar of events keeps you up-to-date on our many activities.



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P.O. Box 254

Branford, CT 06405

(203) 483-5263

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