



Presumpscot Regional Land Trust



STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022



Adopted by the Board of Directors, October 23, 2017



MISSION

We engage with communities to conserve, steward, and provide access to local lands and clean water for current and future generations to enjoy.



VISION

We envision a future where:

Networks of conserved land, clean water, wildlife habitat, working farms, and public access to nature are recognized as vital assets to the economy and quality of place.

People of all ages are connected to the outdoors and the next generation is inspired to be environmental stewards.

Our Community, Our Land Trust

Our region encompasses rushing brooks with fish migrating from the ocean, forested river corridors with otters playing and kingfisher chattering, dense woods large enough for bobcats and deer to roam, and sweeping views of working farms providing nourishing food to our community.

The region west of Portland to Sebago Lake is experiencing rapid change with the pace of development dramatically altering the landscape and our quality of place. Community members and local organizations identified their top three concerns as: sprawl, water quality, and lack of public access to open space and trails.

We have an opportunity to protect these places and connect children to the outdoors to experience the value of nature.

Our land trust is uniquely positioned to lead this work. We are a community based nonprofit primarily serving Gorham, Standish, Westbrook, Windham, and Gray. We hold 1,600 acres of conserved lands with 14 free public access preserves—with trails and water access. We are the water stewards of the Presumpscot River watershed, and we coordinate the Sebago to the Sea Trail, a 28-mile trail from Standish to Portland.

Our land trust is dedicated to land protection, stewardship and public access to nature, has a committed volunteer board, skilled staff, over 100 active volunteers, and 300 supporting members and growing. We welcome new partners and we actively engage with communities. The future of our forests, working farms, clean water, wildlife habitat, and the quality of our place depend on this work. This strategic plan will help guide our land trust rise to the challenge.

Goals and Strategies to Guide Our Work

CONSERVE - Our goal over the next five years is to proactively increase conserved land in high priority areas that have the greatest benefit for wildlife habitat, water quality, local working farms, public access to nature, and quality of place.

- Work with municipalities and community organizations to develop shared projects.
- Respond to all conservation inquiries and evaluate each one using our land protection criteria.

STEWARD - We must take exemplary care of our conserved lands and act as stewards of the rivers and wildlife habitat. We provide stewardship in perpetuity that improves wildlife habitat, water quality, public access, and educational opportunities for the community.

- Ensure all public access feels welcoming, and create more family-friendly and all-age trails.
- Expand preserves and trail networks to provide public access to nature that is close to home.
- Collect and distribute data that can be used to assess the changing water quality of the Presumpscot River watershed.
- Work closely with partners on potential restoration projects.
- Ensure every preserve has a management plan that best supports wildlife habitat.
- Monitor and steward the alewife run in Mill Brook, in collaboration with USM.

ENGAGE - Inspiration and greater community connection to the outdoors is critical. We work in close collaboration with municipalities, schools, and community partners to provide ample opportunities to learn through outreach and education programs.

- Strengthen relationships with municipalities, local and state officials, and community organizations, including active participation in planning processes.
- Bridging the gap between Windham and Westbrook on the Sebago to the Sea Trail.
- Expand nature based education by collaborating with schools.
- Provide outdoor experiential education to the public, as well as family specific programs.

STRENGTHEN - In order to achieve the ambitious goals of this strategic plan, we need to expand organizational capacity.

- **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:** Expand, strengthen, and explore collaborations.
- **VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION:** Grow and sustain for all land trust programs.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** Increase to meet the growing operations, land protection, stewardship, and community engagement program needs.
- **ENDOWMENT AND STEWARDSHIP FUNDS:** Expand to sustain our land trust in perpetuity.
- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Represent the communities served with the capability to advance the mission of our land trust.
- **STAFF:** Ensure capacity is adequate to meet our strategic plan goals.
- **ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY:** Apply for accreditation with Land Trust Alliance.





Primarily Serving the Communities of Gorham, Gray, Standish, Westbrook and Windham

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