



Hopkinton Area Land Trust, Inc. 2023 Annual Meeting

October 24, 2023
7:00 PM

Agenda

- Short Introduction and around the room
- About the Trust & What we do
- Financial Reports
- Election/Re-election of three Directors
- Trust accomplishments
- Land Stewards
- Future Goals
- Q & A
- Adjournment





About the Land Trust

Charter: Assist in acquiring and maintaining Hopkinton's open space and conservation land

- Standalone private corporation, not a part of town government, formed by town residents
- A Federal 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and MA Chapter 180 non-profit since 1995
- Managed by 9-member volunteer board of directors from residents of Hopkinton and neighboring towns, assisted by volunteers for land stewards and maintenance and Boy and Girl Scout projects
- Budget is all through membership dues and donations



The Trust's Mission

Preserve, protect, conserve, and enhance the natural resources within and around the town of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, including open spaces, water resources, marshlands, swamps, woodlands, underground water supplies, land use of historical significance and wildlife habitat, in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in the Town of Hopkinton for present and future generations.

Educate the public in the areas of conservation, ecology, forestry practices, wildlife preservation and land use planning in order to protect open space, plant and animal life.

Encourage and facilitate the use of land conservation, recreation and wildlife preservation by cooperating with the town of Hopkinton, its elected officials and committees, Hopkinton landowners and other individuals and organizations having similar purposes.



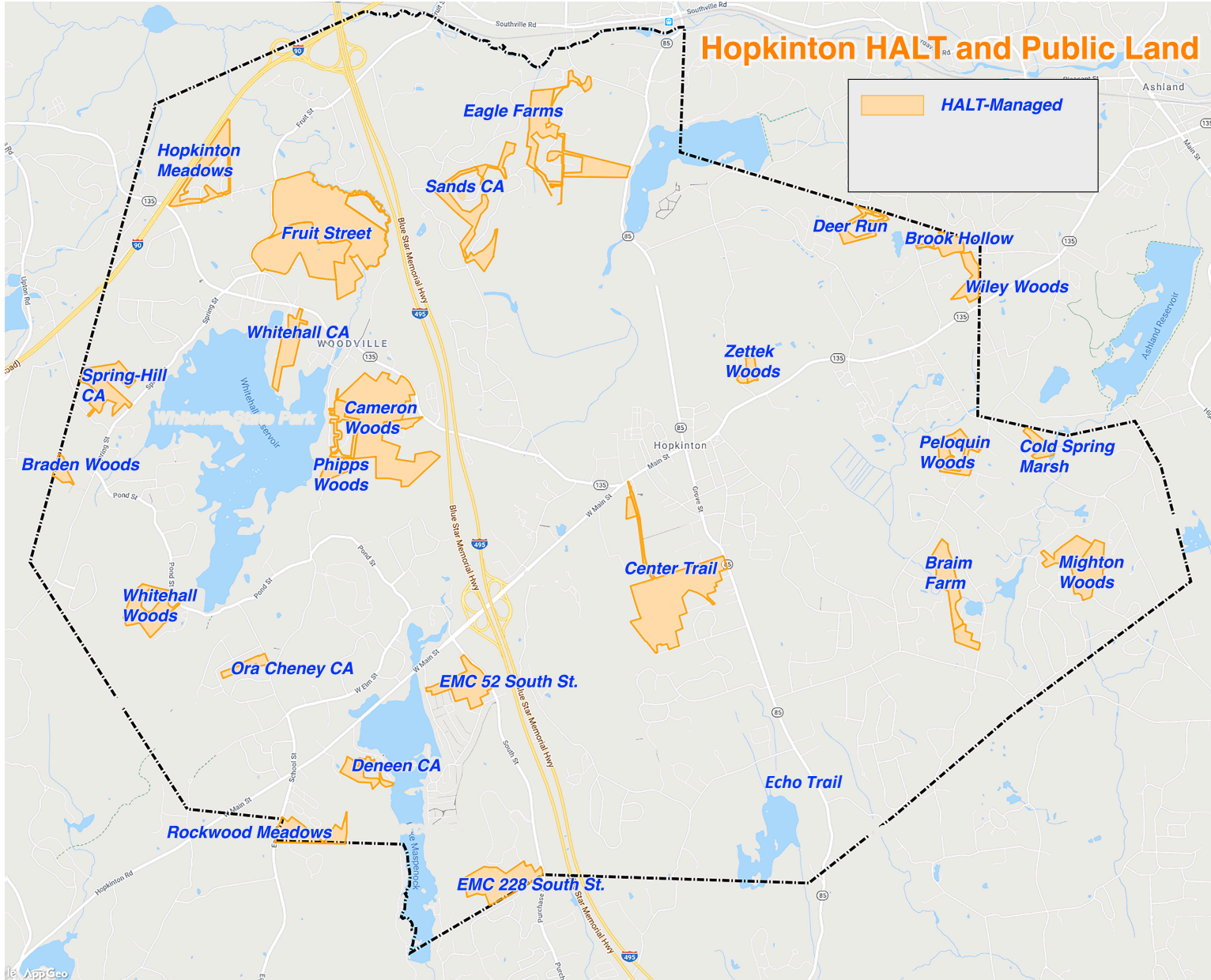
What is a Land Trust?

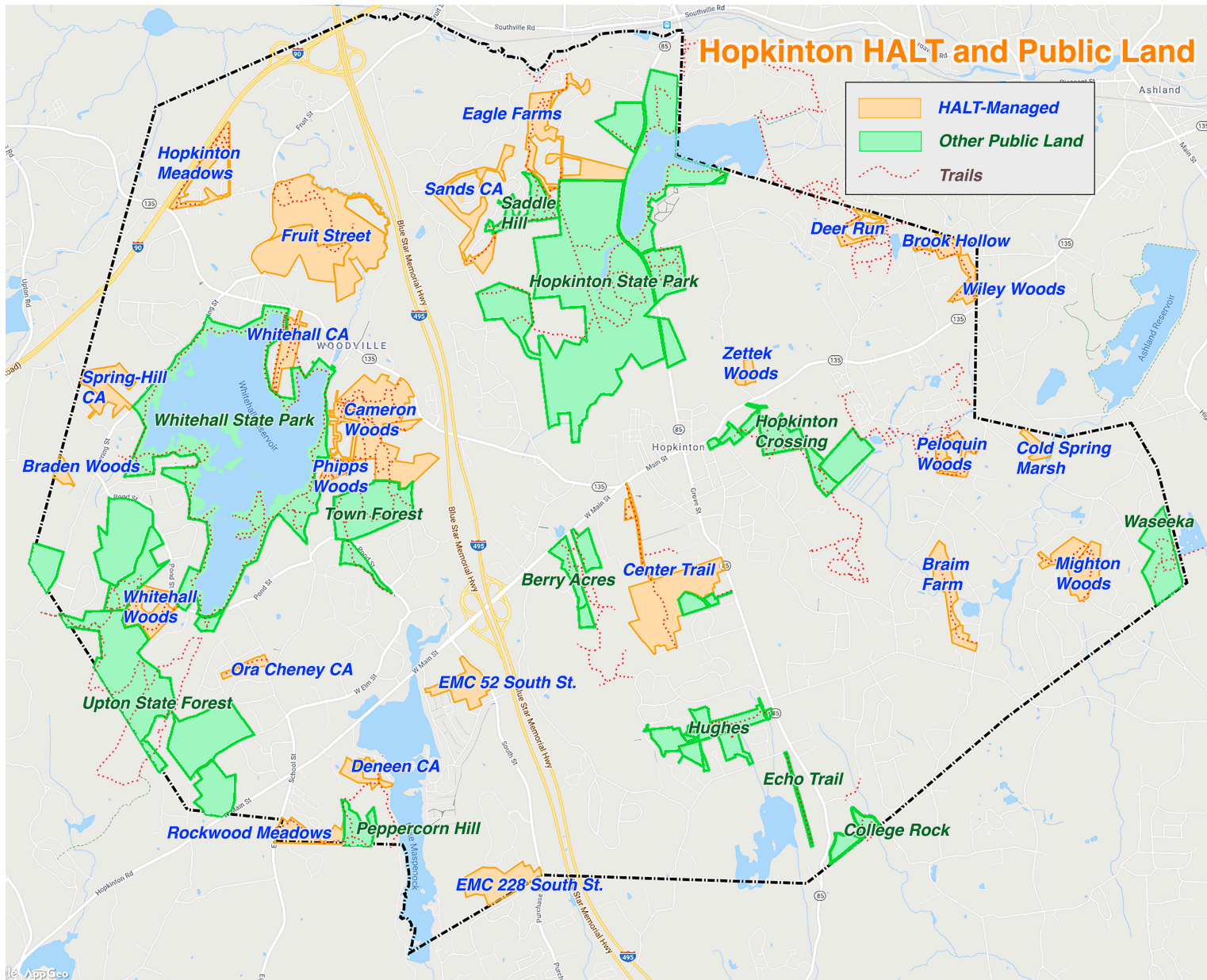
- A **private** nonprofit corporation whose mission is to conserve land
- Land is conserved in one of two ways (or both):
 - **Fee**: Donation of land to the trust through a deed; Trust is owner
 - **Conservation Restriction (CR)**: Landowner grants CR to the Trust
 - State authorizes and approves CRs
 - CR limits what can be done with the land; prohibits development
 - Land Trust enforces terms of CR
- 1400 Land Trusts in the U.S. protecting 95,000 square miles
- Other nearby Land Trusts
 - Trustees of Reservations (the first one)
 - Sudbury Valley Trustees
 - Mass Audubon
 - Friends of Whitehall
 - Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust
 - Metacomet Land Trust
 - Numerous town-oriented trusts



HALT Fee and CR Land

- How acquired
 - Donations by private individuals
 - Donations by developers
 - Land in a subdivision that cannot be developed
 - 50% required open space in an OSLPD subdivision
 - Order of Conditions for some developments
 - Donation of CR by town
- Fee owned
 - 343 acres, 16 properties
- Conservation Restrictions
 - 515 acres, 7 properties
- In process or expected
 - 100 acres, 8 properties
- 28 Miles of Trails







What HALT Does with Conservation Land

- Ensure land retains its conservation value
 - Clean up any existing problems
 - Prepare **baseline documentation** describing initial conditions of land
 - Monitor land at least yearly for encroachments or future problems that detract from conservation value
- Activities
 - Find and mark boundaries
 - Support public access (usually)
 - Build and maintain trails
 - Erect trailhead signs
 - Trail markers and interpretive signs
 - Trail maps
 - Website



Annual Meeting Business

Election of Board of Director Seats

Board of Directors & Nomination Slate

Current Board Members	Terms of Office	
	From	To
<u>For Re-election 2023</u> Edwin G. Brohm	9/23/2020	Sept 2023 Annual meeting
Charles H. Dauchy	9/23/2020	Sept 2023 Annual meeting
Barry Rosenbloom	9/23/2020	Sept 2023 Annual meeting
Kenneth Parker	10/14/2021	Sept 2024 Annual Meeting
Morrie Gasser	10/14/2021	Sept 2024 Annual Meeting
Open		Sept 2024 Annual Meeting
Steve Frohbieter	10/4/2022	Sept 2025 Annual Meeting
Peter Barbieri	10/4/2022	Sept 2025 Annual Meeting
Steve Levandosky	10/4/2022	Sept 2025 Annual Meeting
<u>Director Emeritus</u> David S. Goldman	4/17/2022	4/17/2025

What We've Accomplished in 28 Years

- 930 acres of open space owned, under conservation restriction or in process
- 27 Miles of trails actively used by the community
- Applied for 18 and won 17 grants for trail development, trail signage and trail repairs
- Geocaching program on trails and properties
- Increased Trust awareness through newsletters, advertisements, articles, events and a web site
- Begin development of comprehensive trail maps

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST, INC.
SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
in Dollars

	FY 23 Ending 3/31/23	FY 22 Ending 3/31/22	FY 21 Ending 3/31/21	FY 20 Ending 3/31/20	FY 19 Ending 3/31/19	FY 18 Ending 3/31/18
REVENUES:						
Contributions	\$ 28,526	\$ 19,602	\$ 19,809	\$ 17,815	\$ 11,200	\$ 9,535
Other Income		6,500				
Interest income	2,434	254	1,038	1,890	1,008	379
TOTAL REVENUES	30,960	26,356	20,847	19,705	12,208	9,914
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,107	8,252	9,995	12,764	12,259	8,311
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	24,853	18,104	10,852	6,941	(51)	1,603
NET ASSETS, BEGIN OF YR	\$ 145,091	\$ 126,987	\$ 116,135	\$ 109,194	\$ 109,245	\$ 107,642
NET ASSETS, END OF YR	\$ 169,944	\$ 145,091	\$ 126,987	\$ 116,135	\$ 109,194	\$ 109,245

Includes 2023 Marathon Bib contrib. of: \$ 898

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
in Dollars

	FY 23 Ending 3/31/23	FY 22 Ending 3/31/22	FY 21 Ending 3/31/21	FY 20 Ending 3/31/20	FY 19 Ending 3/31/19	FY 18 Ending 3/31/18
<u>Net Assets</u>						
Operating Funds	\$ 22,654	\$ 41,865	\$ 21,534	\$ 11,883	\$ 6,738	\$ 5,382
Land Protection/Stewardship	\$ 148,063	103,536	105,453	104,252	102,456	103,863
Accounts Payable	(773)	(310)				
Total Net Assets	\$ 169,944	\$ 145,091	\$126,987	\$ 116,135	\$ 109,194	\$ 109,245
Change	\$ 24,852	\$ 18,104				

Hopkinton Area Land Trust, Inc. Functional Expenses

in Dollars

	3/31/2023	3/31/2022	3/31/2021	3/31/2020
Stewardship/program	\$ 345	\$ 1,836	\$ 4,823	3,895
Newsletter/fundraising	689	1,623	1,496	3,112
Dues	400	400	400	550
Website	659	639	626	2,336
Accounting	400	750	1,000	1,200
Insurance	1,114	1,114	1,007	1,038
Office/postage	240	76	117	169
Contribution	600	1,300		50
Fees	660	514	526	414
Scholarship Awarded	1,000			
TOTAL	\$ 6,107	\$ 8,252	\$ 9,995	\$ 12,764

Note: categories per bank registers

Membership Donations Trend

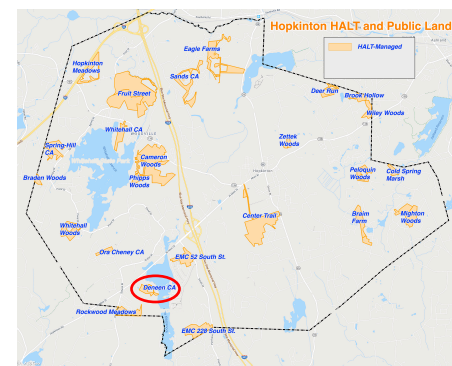
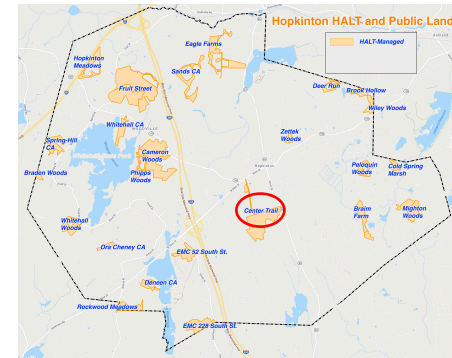
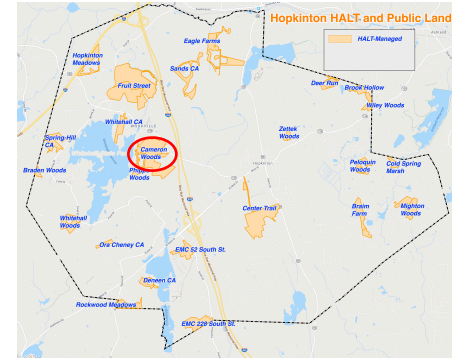
	FY 2023			FY 2022			FY 2021			FY 2020	
	4/1/22 - 03/31/23			4/1/21 - 3/31/2022			4/1/20 - 03/31/2021			4/1/19 - 3/31/20	
	Total Qty	New Members	\$ Amount	Total Qty	New Members	\$ Amount	Total Qty	New	\$ Amount	Total Qty	\$ Amount
Family Donations											
Members Paid with Check/cash	82	0	\$ 12,386	107	16	\$13,287	98	2	\$13,219	107	\$11,586
Members Paid with PayPal	30	3	\$ 4,600	52	18	\$5,050	50	29	\$3,940	9	\$ 900
Marathon Bib Donations	10	10	\$ 898								
Net PayPal Donations *See Note for Change in FY 23						-\$122			-\$99		-\$24
						\$4,928			\$3,841		\$ 876
Total Member Donations/New Members	122	13	\$ 17,883	159	34	18,215	148	31	\$ 17,060	116	\$12,462
Other Organizations											
Amazon, The Benevity Fund Matching funds, Fidelity Charitable Grants, LinQuest	3		\$ 243	6		\$ 1,386	3	-	1,250	5	2,400
Total Members & Org's *	125	0	\$ 18,126	165	0	\$ 19,602	151	0	18,310	121	\$14,862
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:											
Other Donation- Solar PV Management, LLC			\$ 10,400								
Other Revenue -Sale -10 Emerson Way-Mighton						\$ 5,000					
Other Revenue-Easement Granted 42 Greenwood						\$ 1,500					
Other Revenue-Easement- 6 Brookhollow Lane Lussier CR-Valentine Cir.									\$1,500		\$1,000
B Lafferty -Peloquin Sign											\$1,956
Total Donations & Other Income			\$ 28,526			\$ 26,102			\$ 19,810		\$17,818

* Note:(FY23 PayPal Fee acctg change-reported as Fee Expense Prior yrs as net revenue)

2022-2023 Accomplishments

Properties and Trails

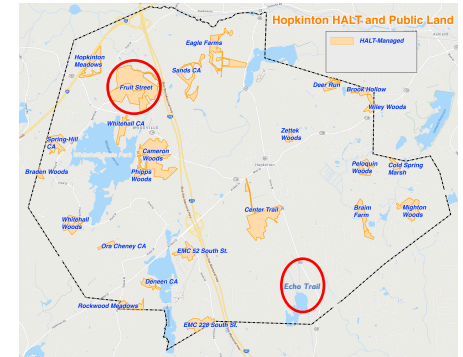
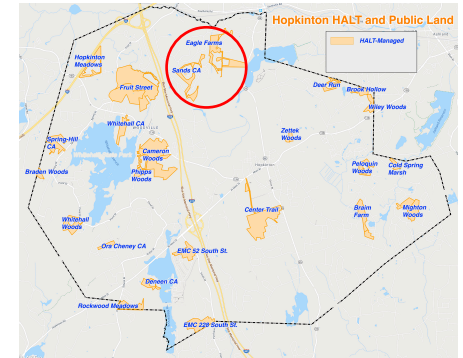
- Cameron Woods
 - Whisper Way entrance trail reroute
 - Added bicycle ramps to ends of 3 bridges
- Center Trail
 - Conservation restriction in state hands
- Deneen Conservation Area
 - 5 new bridges and ramps



2022-2023 Accomplishments

Properties and Trails (cont'd)

- **Eagle Farms & Sands (Highland Park)**
 - Reroute Pipeline trail to Saddle Hill
 - Bench cutting and rock clearing on Fitzpatrick Trail
 - 32 feet of boardwalks on Greenwood Trail
 - Bench cutting and rock clearing on Greenwood Trail
- **Fruit Street**
 - Knotweed mowing
 - Relocation of 3 trails due to beaver flooding
 - Approval for 5 new bridges and boardwalks
 - Coordinated reroute of trail around pickleball courts
- **Echo Trail**
 - Conservation Restriction in state hands



2022-2023 Accomplishments Events

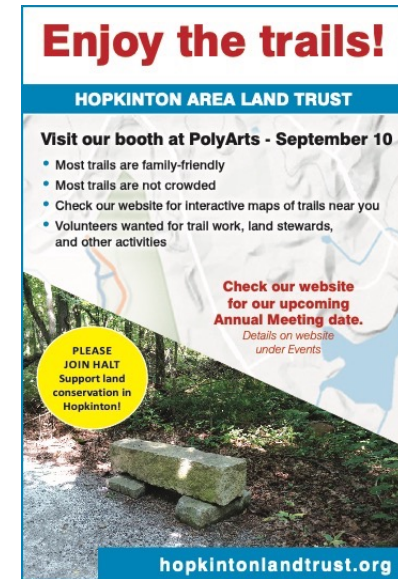
- Led or supported Trails Club walks
 - Cameron Woods
 - Fruit Street
 - Sands (Greenwood Trail)
- Trail walk for kids & families at Fruit St.
- Support Art on the Trail (Center Trail)
- Participation in Hopkinton 101
- Sponsored Eyes on Owls presentation in Library
- Participation in Trail Explorers Event at library

2022-2023 Accomplishments Outreach

- Hopkinton Independent ads
- Maintain sign boards at trailheads



- Scholarship program for environmental sciences
 - \$1000 to Bharat Mekala and Margaret Joyce
- Marathon Charity Bib
 - Kate Coleman raised over \$6000



2022-2023 Accomplishments

Public Involvement

- Open Space Preservation Commission
 - Open space acquisition: Rice Woods
 - Invasive control
 - Open space demarcation at Whisper Way developments
 - Property monitoring and encroachment resolutions
- Trails Coordination and Management Committee & Trails Club
 - Work days for invasive removal and trail improvements
- Community Preservation Committee
 - Quarterly updates on prior grants for
 - Conservation restrictions at Center Trail, Echo Trail
 - Bridges and boardwalks at Cameron Woods
 - Applied for grants for CRs at Rice Woods and Hughes
- Conservation Commission
 - Exemption requests for bridges and boardwalks
- Hopkinton Trails Club
 - Work days
 - Monthly walks

2022-2023 Accomplishments

Scout Projects

- Evan Lieu, Eagle Scout candidate
 - Bridge at Deneen Conservation Area
- Akarsh Doki, Eagle Scout candidate
 - Bridge at Deneen Conservation Area
- Gabe Lee, Eagle Scout Candidate
 - Bridge at Deneen Conservation area



Volunteers & Land Stewards

- Land work building and maintaining trails and bridges
- Assisting as a property steward
- Share your knowledge with nature as an event presenter
- Advocate for the Trust helping us spread the word
 - Referrals to the website for info on properties available
- Please sign up with us as a land steward or a volunteer to help with skills you would like to share
- Currently Trust has 30-40 stewards

Land Steward Responsibilities

- Assigned to a Trust's Property to monitor
- Annual walk of the property's boundaries to detect encroachments yards, debris or construction, bench and bridge conditions, any safety threats such as hunting stands.
 - Complete monitoring report of all observations of the condition of boundaries. **We need more help here.**
- Walking trail is monitored more frequently—at a minimum of twice annually to observe if trail is:
 - Safe, clean, clear of obstacles, downed trees.
- File steward report on website with each visit



2022-2023 Goals

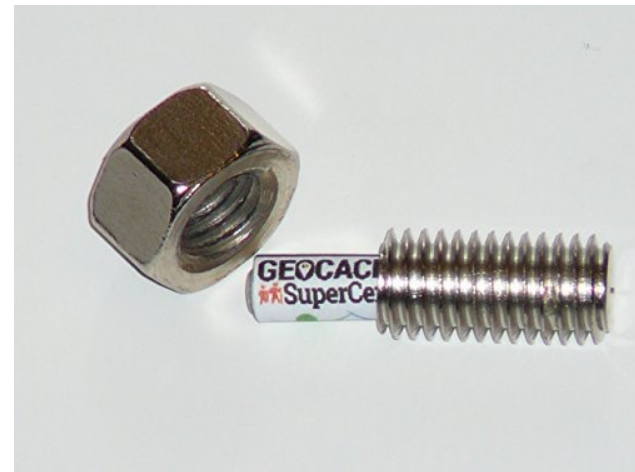
- Increase membership
- Continue to increase awareness
 - Hold events
 - Communicate through email
- Create 2-3 additional trail maps
- Complete CRs for Rice Woods and Hughes
- Complete baseline reports for Echo Trail and Center Trail addendum
- Continue working with town committees to support trail development and land acquisition
- Complete baseline reports for earlier acquisitions
- Establish more consistent annual monitoring



Geocache Program

- What is Geocaching
 - Geocaching is an activity to find “Treasures”, in hidden containers using a GPS or cell phone
 - Cache contains a log, and other trinkets that the finder can swap and leave a different one behind
 - Finder signs the log and reports the find on geocaching.com
- What and Why
 - The trust sponsors, registers and hides the geocache
 - Supports others to hide geocaches on HALT property
 - Encourages people to walk and enjoy the trails
 - A treasure hunt for families and kids
- Where are sites
 - 24 locations across 16 HALT-managed properties, usually not far from trails
 - Placed by HALT and others with HALT coordination
 - Check our website and geocaching.com for locations

Pictures of Geocache Containers

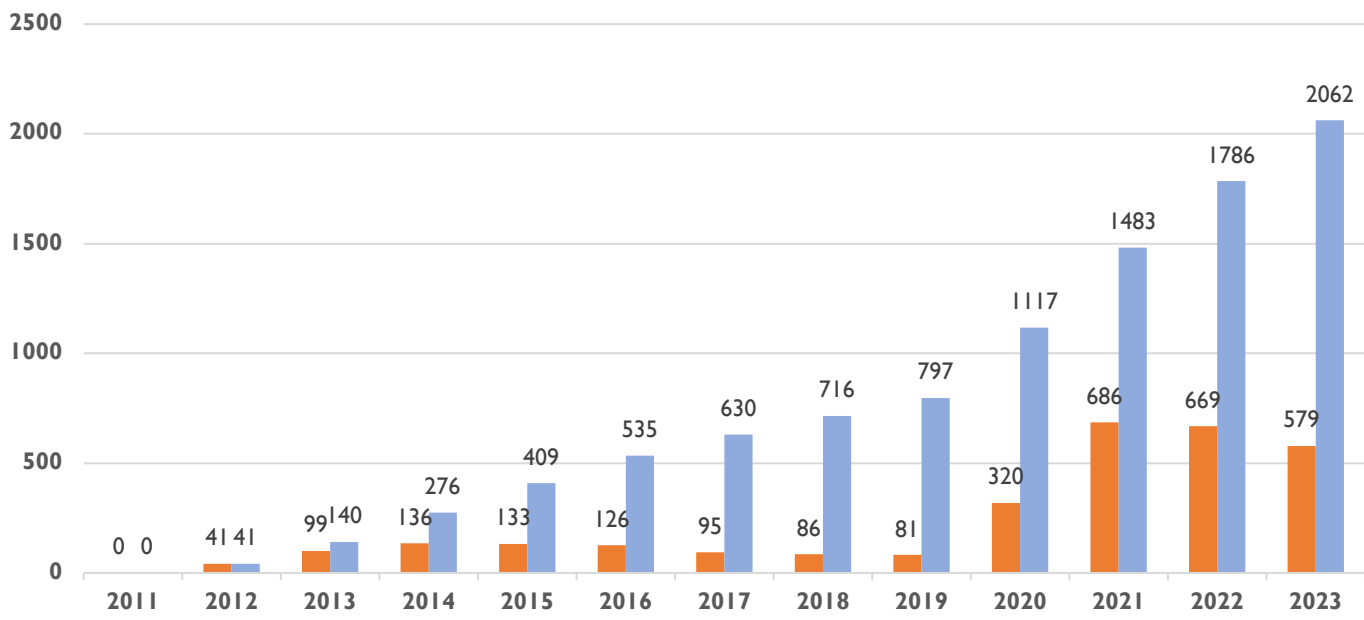




Geocache Use

Includes HALT-owned and HALT-authorized

Yearly and Cumulative Hits



#caches 2 4 7 7 9 9 9 10 10 14 25 24 24

Q&A

?



Support Your Town Land Trust

We hope to see you on the trails.

Support your town Land Trust's operating expenses through your membership support and spreading the word for others to do the same.

Thank you for attending today