



**PRESUMPSCOT REGIONAL LAND TRUST**

# IMPACT REPORT 2019-2020



Little River Preserve, Gorham

## NOTE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

In this stressful time, we hope you and your family are healthy and safe. This is our first Impact Report and it replaces our fall newsletter and a traditional Annual Report. The purpose of this Impact Report is to focus on how our Land Trust is providing service to our community and helping to improve the quality of life in the region.

In the last year this country has changed dramatically, due to the pandemic, which will have ripple effects for years to come. In the last six months people have used our forested walking trails at record levels. This spring we saw an unbelievable number of visitors at Mill Brook Preserve to experience the largest fish migration from Casco Bay.

Providing access for people to connect to nature close to home is central to our mission, and thanks to ongoing support from individuals we are able to provide that service to the community year-round. Thousands of people are taking the opportunity to walk, run, bike, and explore with families and friends. How the pandemic will shape our society and affect our nonprofit in the coming years is unknown. Through it all, you can rely on the Land Trust to be creatively working to meet community needs.

Looking forward the Land Trust is talking with a dozen different landowners in Gorham, Gray, Standish, Westbrook, and Windham about forever conserving high value land for wildlife habitat, working farms, clean water, and outdoor access. We hope to have exciting updates for you in the near future.

We will continue to provide education programs for the community. We will also develop new programs and supportive activities for families in order to help make learning outdoors in nature during the pandemic more accessible. In addition, our Cultivating Youth to be the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards project will continue working with youth programs throughout the region.

As always, we will continue the land, water, and wildlife stewardship programs that ensure our preserves are protected for wildlife and open for the public to enjoy. As a local nonprofit we appreciate hearing from the community. As you read our first Impact Report, we look forward to hearing your feedback.

Rachelle Curran Apse, *Executive Director*  
Matt Streeter, *Co-President*  
Tamara Lee Pinard, *Co-President*



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gretchen Anderson, Buxton  
Sarah Andre, Westbrook  
David Cole, Gorham  
Richard Curtis, Gorham  
Megan Entwistle, Gorham  
Jesse Ferreira, Old Orchard Beach  
James Hughes, Gorham  
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Priscilla Payne, Windham  
Tamara Lee Pinard, Gray  
Tom Pitman, Gorham  
Matt Streeter, Portland  
Mikki van Summern, Windham

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Don Rich, Windham  
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Scott Roberts, Gorham  
Marla Stelk, Gorham  
John Tewhey, Gorham  
Bob Wake, Windham  
Don Wescott, Gorham  
Dan Willett, Gorham

### STAFF

Rachelle Curran Apse  
*Executive Director*  
  
Toby Jacobs  
*Stewardship and Outreach Manager*

# 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.



## WHAT WE PROTECT FOR THE COMMUNITY:

### LAND:

- Forever conserved 1,840 acres of forest, meadow, and farm lands

### WATER:

- Protected 20 miles of river, stream, and lake frontage
- Monitored water quality at 40 sites throughout the Presumpscot River watershed and Stroudwater River every summer

### WILDLIFE:

- Protected 6 miles of wild brook trout habitat
- Protected 2 state-designated deer wintering habitat areas
- Stewarded the migration of thousands of alewife fish
- Created a pollinator garden for butterflies and bees



## WHAT WE PROVIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY:

### PUBLIC ACCESS

- Maintain 23 miles of forested walking trails across 15 Preserves
- Coordinate the 28-mile Sebago to the Sea trail
- Provide 4 water access launch points for paddling
- Ensure 5 miles of snowmobile trails stay open
- Provide access to 1,200 acres of land for hunting
- Provide access to 20 miles of stream frontage for fishing

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THIS PAST YEAR

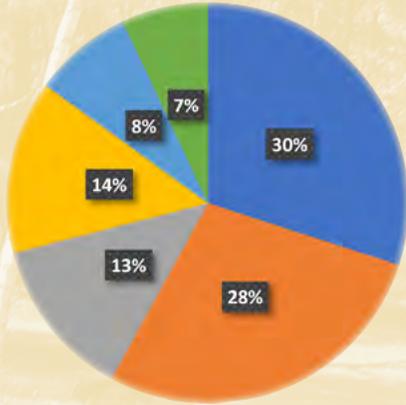
- Engaged 150 youth in becoming environmental stewards
- Engaged 300 people in wildlife and outdoor education programs
- Coordinated 150 volunteers who gave 1,400 hours of service



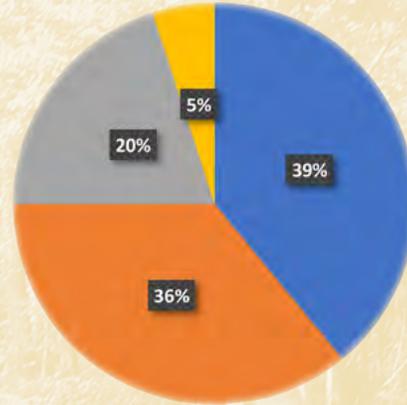
# BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

EXPENSES FY 2019-2020 \$194,000

INCOME FY 2019-2020 \$260,000



- 30% Stewardship: Land and Wildlife (\$59,000)
- 28% Conservation (\$55,000)
- 14% Supporting Services (\$27,000)
- 13% Community Engagement (\$25,000)
- 8% Water Stewardship (\$15,000)
- 7% Development/Membership (\$13,000)



- 39% Individual Contributions (\$100,000)
- 36% Private Grants (\$94,000)
- 20% Federal and Municipal Grants (\$52,000)
- 5% Business Contributions (\$14,000)

## FINANCIAL NOTES

The income pie chart does not include in-kind donations. This past year our income was larger than usual because it included funds raised for the Pride Preserve project, much of which will be spent in the current fiscal year. Presumpscot Regional Land Trust is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. An independent third-party financial review is available upon request. Our 990 is also available online at [www.prlt.org](http://www.prlt.org).

## THANK YOU TO FOUNDATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Over 30 foundations and organizations supported the Land Trust this past year. A special thanks to the Cornelia Warren Community Association for providing significant support for the Pride Preserve project and the Mill Brook Preserve bridge project. To see a full list, go to [prlt.org/business-support](http://prlt.org/business-support).



## THANK YOU TO MEMBERS

Individual contributions are our largest and most important funding source for the ongoing sustainability of our nonprofit. Thank you so much to every member for your support – you are the foundation for our work. Anyone can become a member and help increase the impact of the Land Trust.



## THANK YOU TO BUSINESS PARTNERS

### ADOPT-A-TRAIL SPONSORS



### LEAD BUSINESS PARTNERS



### PATRON BUSINESS PARTNERS



### SUPPORTING BUSINESS PARTNERS

Chalmers Insurance Group  
Douglas, McDaniel, and Campo  
Norway Savings Bank

# HIGHLIGHTS

## CONSERVING LAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS: PRIDE PRESERVE

The newly conserved Pride Preserve provides the largest forever conserved forestland in urban Greater Portland:

- For outdoor recreation
- To protect diverse wildlife habitat and clean water
- To provide vast open space for families and youth to experience the outdoors, for generations to come

Pride Preserve is 188 acres, which conserves nearly 2% of the City of Westbrook as forestland forever. Minnow Brook, a tributary of the Presumpscot River, now has 1.5 miles of frontage protected. The public can access 3.5 miles of trails for walking, running, biking, and snowshoeing, and the Land Trust is committed to maintaining these trails forever. Through collaborations with the snowmobile club, the snowmobile trail on Pride Preserve remains intact. In addition, traditional uses of the land such as hunting and fishing are allowed. This land was part of the traditional lands of the Wabanaki People for over 10,000 years.

This project was possible thanks to the incredible generosity of Florence Pride Hawkes and her family's land donation plus funding from Cornelia Warren Community Association, City of Westbrook Recreation and Conservation Commission, and over 100 individual supporters.



**“My mom’s wish for the future is that those who embark on a journey in Pride Preserve may observe the trees, flowers, and animal signs and listen to the sounds of nature as she has enjoyed doing over the last century.”**

– Dennis Hawkes (son of Florence Pride Hawkes)



## ENGAGING YOUTH TO BECOME FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

Our “Cultivating Environmental Stewards through Enhancing Wildlife Habitat” project has engaged 150 youth this past year. The youth learned about local wildlife species that are quickly declining and how they can help by becoming environmental stewards. Students got outside to seven different conserved lands helping to create pollinator gardens for bees and butterflies; install bat boxes for little brown bats; and plant native trees and shrubs along streams for nesting birds.

In the past year the Land Trust worked with youth from: Gorham, Standish, Westbrook, and Windham’s summer recreation programs, My Place Teen Center in Westbrook, and Westbrook’s alternative education program. While this project has slowed down due to the pandemic, we are still moving forward and connecting with new youth programs. For example, in the coming year we will begin working with Windham’s alternative education program. This project has been possible thanks to funding from the Horizon Foundation, Maine Community Foundation Rines/Thompson Fund, Margaret E Burnham Charitable Trust, Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust, Onion Foundation, and member support.

**“We value the opportunity to collaborate with the Land Trust as part of our teen programming. Our collaboration began with our youth helping to build Mill Brook Preserve South and the experience was so positive, we are continuing to collaborate on projects that will get youth outside.”**

– Tina Burns, Operations Director of My Place Teen Center



**Presumpscot  
Regional  
Land Trust**  
P.O. Box 33  
Gorham ME 04038  
**WWW.PRLT.ORG**



## **PRESUMPCOT REGIONAL LAND TRUST**

**Mission:** The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust engages with communities to conserve, steward, and provide access to local lands and clean water for current and future generations to enjoy.

**Primarily Serving the Communities of Gorham, Gray, Standish, Westbrook, and Windham**  
**207-839-4633**

**P.O. Box 33, Gorham ME 04038**

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