

WINTER 2020 VOLUME 28 NO. 4

# SPECIAL PLACES

FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE TRUSTEES



**Celebrate  
the Season**

*Winter's wonder astounds*

# Experience Massachusetts' largest Nordic ski area!



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## X-Country Ski and Snowshoe on 25 miles of trails through 3,100 acres of rolling Berkshires terrain

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[thetrustees.org/skipass](http://thetrustees.org/skipass)

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### Notchview

Route 9, Windsor

[thetrustees.org/notchview](http://thetrustees.org/notchview)

SKINOTCHVIEW

## NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE



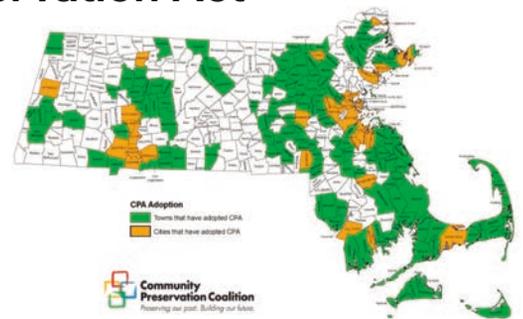
©S.RYDGREN

## New Education Center Will Spotlight Our Changing Coast

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, Trustees will soon build a Coastal Education Center at Crane Beach. Situated between the Atlantic barrier beach and the estuaries of the Great Marsh, the Center will be a regional hub for coastal exploration and enhance The Trustees' commitment to climate issues by offering visitors an immersive educational experience around our changing coast. The ground floor of the two-story structure—which will be built on the footprint of the current Snack Shack building—will house Crane Beach's new refreshment stand and retail store, while the upper floor will provide open-air classrooms, touch tanks, and educational space to serve the reservation's 350,000 annual visitors. Access to the Center will be included in the cost of admission to the beach, and while the Center will operate year-round, the bulk of programming and events will take place in the fall, winter, and spring so as not to increase summer traffic. Trustees is working with DesignLab to develop designs for the Center that include sustainability and resilience as key elements—such as flexible layouts to adapt to flooding events in the next two decades—and to ensure the Center blends well with landscape features and the adjacent bathhouse structure. Pending local approvals, construction is hoped to begin after the 2021 summer beach season, with the Center open and in operation by May 2022. Visit [thetrustees.org](http://thetrustees.org) for FAQs and ongoing updates.

## Nine Massachusetts Communities Adopt the Community Preservation Act

The Trustees is an avid supporter of the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which has passed in more than half of all cities and towns across Massachusetts. During the November 2020 General Election, Trustees reached out to members and other supporters in the nine communities that referred CPA to their local ballots—Framingham, Franklin, Greenfield, Hopedale, Lancaster, Lee, Milton, Shrewsbury, and Whitman—and despite the pandemic, all nine ballot measures were decisive winners on Election Day. Voters showed overwhelming support for community investment in open space, outdoor recreation, and historic preservation. With these nine new wins, 186 of the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns have adopted CPA measures, bringing in \$2.5



billion in new, local revenues, plus an annual match from the state. CPA communities have so far added 31,000 conserved acres, created 5,500 historic preservation and 2,500 outdoor recreation projects in the 20 years since the Community Preservation Act was signed into law. To find out more about the CPA and the Trustees work as a Steering Committee member on the Community Preservation Coalition, visit [communitypreservation.org](http://communitypreservation.org).

# Revitalized Stevens-Coolidge Gardens to Bloom Anew This Spring

The Trustees has recently announced the multi-year rejuvenation of the landscape and gardens at The Stevens-Coolidge Place in North Andover is nearly complete—the revitalized property will open in April as Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens, with a grand floral display and celebration of spring. Highlights of the multi-million-dollar effort include new garden rooms to complement the core historic gardens and house while also providing new experiences for visitors—the result of a master plan created with Mikyoung Kim Design landscape architects and Maryann Thompson Architects. The

project also reorients the site with a new entrance and parking area on Chickering Road, removing the need for pedestrians to cross Andover Street in order to enter the property. The previously restored gardens—including the rose garden, greenhouse, potager, perennial garden, and cutting garden—provide the estate’s primary link to the past. The overall architectural structure and American Country Place style are preserved, while new and expanded display garden spaces—featuring plantings of the latest ornamental species, varieties, and cultivars in contemporary designs—have

been created. Native shrub and wildflower displays, and nature trails through the woodlands, fields, and meadows will also grace the historic Ashdale Farm property. In late April through mid-May, the nine gardens will come alive with the blooming of more than 165,000 bulbs in an exuberant display of spring color. Visitors to the Spring Spectacular will also enjoy a series of programs and events staged amidst the garden’s beauty. For more information on the entire project and on upcoming programs, visit [thetrustees.org/stevenscoolidge](http://thetrustees.org/stevenscoolidge).



A former work shed is being refurbished as the Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens' new Garden Gateway, which provides an orientation to visitors as they arrive. The building will house a small retail store and provide space for talks, classes, and workshops.

## Trustees Presents 129th Annual Meeting

In a year like no other, the Trustees' Annual Meeting on November 5, 2020 was likewise unique—the first virtual Annual Meeting in the organization's 129-year history. Volunteer leaders, staff, and other special friends tuned in to see many of the meeting's traditions presented online through video addresses and tributes. President & CEO Barbara Erickson began the evening with a stirring welcome message, then introducing Board Chair Peter Coffin who presided over the ceremonies. In addition to approving a motion to add new members to the governance boards and paying tribute to dedicated volunteers,

exceptional employees, and this year's Charles Eliot Award winners The Crocker Family (see page 15), the Board of Directors also honored retiring board member Clem Benenson and new Life Trustee Hugh Morton. Coffin reflected on recent accomplishments and provided an update on progress towards the Trustees five-year strategic plan, *Momentum*, and Executive Vice President Jocelyn Forbush concluded the presentation with a sweeping look at plans for the upcoming year and new initiatives. The meeting remains available for view by all, at [thetrustees.org/annualmeeting](http://thetrustees.org/annualmeeting).



# OUT AND ABOUT

**1.** Volunteers and horticulture staff beginning the planting work around the new parking area at Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens in North Andover (see News, previous page).



**2.** In early November, volunteers helped harvest marsh hay and then use it to fill decades-old ditches, as part of the ongoing salt marsh remediation effort at Old Town Hill in Newbury (see *Special Places*, Spring 2020).



**3.** The wreck of the Ada K. Damon, on Steep Hill Beach at the Crane Estate in Ipswich, was hit hard in September by winds and waves that pounded the coast as Hurricane Teddy passed far out to sea. The wreck had been gradually emerging over recent years as the beach's sand has shifted.



**4.** deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln hosted a group of employees from Global Partners in October. The volunteer team carved pumpkins for Halloween decorations and cleaned up 'Alice's Garden' prepping the beds for a long winter's nap.



**5.** Trails team members have been preparing the trails in the new Flag Rock area of Monument Mountain in Great Barrington, including building this foot bridge across a mountain stream.



**6.** Trustees Stewardship team members putting the final touches on the repainting and re-siding of the historic Guest House at Field Farm in Williamstown this fall.



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ON THE COVER: WINTER'S WONDERS, AS SEEN AT MARY CUMMINGS PARK, BURLINGTON & WOBURN. PHOTO COURTESY OF JON SACHS.



# MESSAGE

*from the President*

Dear Members:

As we head into the winter months, I hope you and your family are safe and well. We are deeply grateful for your continued support for our mission during these trying times.

Reflecting over the last twelve months, The Trustees has accomplished quite a lot in a most unusual year. We opened The Brickyard on Martha's Vineyard, finished extensive work at Mary Cummings Park, and began our stewardship of Jewell Hill. We rejuvenated the Rose Garden ruins at Castle Hill and began ditch remediation in the Great Marsh at Old Town Hill. We launched our first *State of the Coast* report to detail the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge on the North Shore. And, we continued our transformational projects at Long Hill and Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens.

We created virtual programming that included deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum's *Artfull at Home* readings, Claire Saltonstall Education Program *Science Fridays*, and historical tours and lectures from Fruitlands Museum, Naumkeag, and the Crane Estate. When it was allowed, we implemented extensive safety protocols to safely bring kids back to camp to hike the trails, discover nature, create works of art, and make friends in a socially distant way. Now, our indoor spaces are open with new exhibits at deCordova, including *Visionary New England* and *Transcendental Modernism*.

This year we saw remarkable appreciation for what has made our organization great and relevant throughout the decades—getting outdoors and enjoying open space. Our summer visitation numbers were at record highs and we have seen, gratefully, a big boost in membership. We also witnessed the dedication of our volunteers who came back in abundance—they play such a vital role in our future.

The Trustees has a history of recovery and resiliency over the last nearly 130 years. As we look forward to a return to normalcy, healing, and the gratitude for what endures, we are sharing tips for combatting the winter blues from staff members across the state and we're creating safe, outdoor experiences for individuals and families to enjoy through the colder months. We believe this spring and summer will be brighter than ever before and encourage you to focus on that as you sign your kids up for some fun and educational camps.

We are deeply thankful for you, our valued Members, as we implement strategies that will bring us out of these dark times to come back better and stronger, like we have so many times before. We wish you good health and look forward to welcoming you at our properties throughout the winter and spring.

Warm regards,

Barbara J. Erickson  
President & CEO

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# Under New Management

BY JEFF HARDER

Trustees begins caring for beloved Burlington open space

# W

Within one of the most congested regions of the Commonwealth, Mary Cummings Park has endured as a counterpoise of peace, quiet, and open space for nearly a century. Its 216 acres straddling Woburn and Burlington provide critical habitat for rare species as well as a restful lunch-hour locale. And now, with The Trustees having assumed management of the property earlier this year, it's a great time to get acquainted with this approachable, ecologically diverse hidden gem inside Route 128.

"You travel through different habitats and landscape types—open fields, marshes, woodlands—and there's a certain sense of adventure," says Jeremy Dick, The Trustees' stewardship manager for Mary Cummings Park.

**"On every trail you take, you find something new."**

The park's namesake, Mary P.C. Cummings, was a teacher, child advocate, philanthropist, and traveler who, through visits to far-off destinations like the Parc de Saint-Cloud in Paris, came to comprehend the value of public natural spaces. In a rare arrangement, Cummings left her estate to be held in trust by the City of Boston. Her will articulated her wish after her death in 1927: that this former farmland property remain "forever open as a public pleasure ground."

In the coming years, the park became a treasured retreat, its serene meadowlands, hardwood forests, and wetlands left largely untouched. But as development sprouted up all around—commercial buildings and office parks line the park's northern edge, separating it from nearby I-95/Rt 128—the unmaintained landscape was perennially at risk of being swallowed up. Fortunately, a group of passionate devotees—the Friends of Mary Cummings Park, now The Trustees' 2020 Volunteers of the Year (see page 7)—staunchly advocated for its conservation. Through their unwavering efforts, last spring

## MARY CUMMINGS PARK



the City of Boston designated The Trustees to manage the property.

"The restoration and management of Mary Cummings Park is a perfect example of the Trustees mission," says Katherine Macdonald, director of The Trustees' Stevens-Coolidge Portfolio, which includes the park. "We're protecting the places that people love for future generations."

The Trustees' strategy at Mary Cummings Park fulfills a series of key objectives: improving trails and parking infrastructure, bolstering the site's ecology—particularly by clearing encroaching invasives like buckthorn and bittersweet—and shaping a destination that's accessible to visitors of all abilities. The

early signs of a transformation are apparent from the moment you turn into the park's newly defined entrance on Blanchard Road, where construction of a new parking lot wrapped this past August. Arriving visitors take in a sweeping view of the new picnic lawn, as well as Flyers Field—named for the radio-controlled aircraft enthusiasts who gather there—and the new Pollinator Meadow, planted with natives like goldenrod and milkweed and encircled by an ADA-accessible trail.

The park features three miles of paths, including the MilliporeSigma Science and Nature Trail, which travels half a mile past stonewalls that recall the property's farm





history. After reaching a five-foot-thick silver maple, the landscape abruptly shifts: a 125-foot boardwalk bends into a marsh buzzing with wildlife. Other trails travel around and through wildflower-punctuated meadows, Northeastern University's Burlington Campus, and early successional and established hardwood forests, eventually connecting with the City of Woburn's adjacent Whispering Hill Woods site. "It's a suburban property, but in some ways it has an urban park feel to it," Dick says. "It's a little bit more approachable for people who aren't necessarily backwoods hikers and are looking for more of a park-y experience."

The revitalization of Mary Cummings Park is a cooperative project of the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts PARC Grant Program, and The Trustees. Ultimately, the efforts completed and in progress—which have also benefited from donors and corporate sponsors like MilliporeSigma, Keurig, Breckinridge Capital Advisors, and Cummings Foundation—represent the beginning of an ongoing effort. "Restoration is just one step in stewardship," Macdonald says. "You don't just restore a place once and stop: you're obligated to keep looking after it." And with most of the work so far concentrated on six acres near the entrance, soon the focus will broaden to include Flyers

Field and Central Field, the latter a grassland habitat for bluebirds and bobolinks.

And even in the age of Covid, Mary Cummings Park has found an audience. Between August—when The Trustees effectively re-opened the property—and October, more than 13,000 visitors have come to the property, offering universally positive reviews. One late summer day on her commute home, Macdonald detoured to

Burlington and turned onto Blanchard Road. She came upon a family, spread out on a blanket, eating a picnic dinner as the sun went down. "It was a wonderful sight to see," Macdonald says—"a *this is why we do this* kind of moment." It's just the sort of scene Mary Cummings had in mind so many years ago.

*Jeff Harder is a freelance writer and editor who lives in New England.*



**The MilliporeSigma Science and Nature Trail culminates in a stunning, newly constructed boardwalk that extends 125 feet into the wetlands habitat on the park's western side. "The boardwalk is magical," says Friends of Mary Cummings Park Board Member Jon Sachs. "The first time I went out there, I saw a muskrat swimming by...something you'd [otherwise] never get to see."**

# SPACE SAVERS

The Friends of Mary Cummings Park



©ABOVE SUMMIT

The Friends of Mary Cummings Park, from left to right: Steve O'Leary, Betsey Hughes, Steve Keleti, Dave Webb, Ed LoTurco, Patrick O'Reilly, Jon Sachs (holding a photo of David Cummings, one of Mary's descendants), Catherine Moore, and Jane Morse.

**F**or more than a dozen years, the Friends of Mary Cummings Park (the Friends) have helped protect the wildlife, habitat, and watershed in this 216-acre park in Burlington and Woburn, as well as keep it open for recreational usage for all—from local residents, who have limited access to open space in this densely populated region, to employees of nearby businesses, to remote control airplane enthusiasts, and many more. When the park was in jeopardy of possibly being sold, this group of volunteers stepped

in, organized, and committed their time and resources to save it. They have been stalwart advocates who have maintained relationships with area legislative delegations, monitored abutting projects that had potential implications for the health and wellbeing of the park, held volunteer days and monthly events, raised funds, and coordinated stewardship projects. “Saving Mary Cummings Park has truly been a community effort, and many people played a role in getting to this point. It is very rewarding to

see years of hard work at the Park come to fruition,” said Stephen O’Leary, president, board of directors of the Friends.

When Mary P.C. Cummings left the property in trust to the City of Boston in 1927, she stipulated that it was to be held “forever open as a public pleasure ground.” Thanks to the Friends, her wishes have been upheld and the Park, now being managed by The Trustees, will continue to be protected for future generations. “It has been quite the journey for our group,” adds O’Leary.



©ABOVE SUMMIT

**“We couldn’t be happier to see Mary Cummings’ vision protected and the Park preserved for all to enjoy.”**

For their pioneering efforts to save the park from development, drawing attention to what was open space almost unknown to area residents, and stewarding this remarkable landscape on behalf of the community, Trustees is pleased to honor the Friends of Mary Cummings Park as Volunteers of the Year for 2020.



COURTESY OF MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH ASSOCIATES, INC.

# Pier Renew

by CHRISTINE BOYNTON  
TRUSTEES STAFF

## Plan for new waterfront parks in Boston begins to take shape

Colonial-era maps of Boston trace an unrecognizable coastline. Rapid industrialization and growing populations in the 19th century drastically reshaped the City's harborfront, with swaths of land reclaimed from the sea. Coves and wharves were dammed, and later filled, as hills were razed to cover tidal flats and ponds. By the late 1800s the shoreline looked much as we know it today, and booming development caused Charles Eliot to publish his concerns for dwindling open, green urban space in 1890, noting that Boston was "far behind in this matter." He founded The Trustees the following year.

A protégé of Frederick Law Olmsted, Eliot was involved in early efforts to help "green" the city, contributing to the designs of iconic Boston parks including Franklin Park, The Arnold Arboretum, and the Fens; and helped to establish the Metropolitan Parks Commission, now part of the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation. Today The Trustees is active throughout the state, with an expanding presence in our capital city, including a central office, 56 community gardens, a Mobile Farmers Market, and a Seaport CSA. The Trustees is also the

largest private owner of protected coastline in the state, with 120 miles under its care.

### ONE WATERFRONT

In 2016, concern for the recent and renewed construction boom in the city, particularly along the waterfront, led The Trustees to form its Boston Waterfront Initiative (BWI), dubbed *One Waterfront*. The initiative was launched to create and manage a series of waterfront parks offering equitable access to dynamic open space while helping to protect the city from sea level rise and storm surge—a very real concern for a City with waterfront reclaimed from the sea. Building on its deep and growing roots in Boston, The Trustees committed to this initiative as a key component in the organization's five-year strategic plan, *Momentum*.

"Our first step in this work was to identify potential sites along the harborfront that would satisfy our four guiding principles for preservable open space in the city: Parks that would be open for all, include world-class design to engage residents and visitors alike,

improve sustainability and resiliency along the waterfront, and be financially feasible in perpetuity," explains Nick Black, managing director of the BWI. Fueled by gifts from many generous donors and several nonprofits, a series of planning grants led The Trustees to identify sites in East Boston, the North End, and along the South Boston waterfront for further exploration.

### MOVING FORWARD: EAST BOSTON

Over the last two years the Trustees waterfront team has worked closely with the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) through an RFP, MOU, and site assessment process around an abandoned and dilapidated pier adjacent to Piers Parks I & II, on the



Taken nearly 100 years ago, this aerial photo shows the pier (right) in its original use as a freight yard.

EAST BOSTON. BOSTON AND ALBANY FREIGHT YARDS, 1925; FAIRCHILD AERIAL SURVEY, INC. N.Y.C.; BOSTON PICTORIAL ARCHIVE, BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

southwest side of East Boston, overlooking Boston Harbor and downtown Boston. A recent vote from Massport's Board granted The Trustees official site designation for this parcel—known as Piers Park III—advancing the work to the next phase: designing an iconic, welcoming, and resilient waterfront park.

Landscape architecture firm Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. (MVVA), renowned for its welcoming urban park designs throughout the country—including Martin's Park, an inclusive play area and waterfront park on Fort Point Channel in South Boston and Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York City—will lead the iterative design process in partnership with The Trustees, the East Boston PiersPAC (Project Advisory Committee), and the local community to ensure designs align with needs and neighborhood concerns. Meetings with neighborhood associations and community groups began this fall, with outreach and input opportunities planned to continue as important touchpoints throughout the project.

"We are thrilled to be working with The Trustees and Massport to develop a

resilient waterfront park in East Boston," says Michael Van Valkenburgh, Founder & Partner at MVVA. "Our hope is to create a public landscape that offers all of Boston—and especially people in East Boston—a rugged spit of land with soft watery edges that jut into the harbor, allowing everyone to feel the sea."

Ultimately, park construction is contingent upon the next phase of agreements with Massport, including the execution of a development agreement and a ground lease. The community design process will take place throughout 2021, with construction to follow.

### **RESILIENT. EQUITABLE. HEALING.**

"Boston Harbor shaped our City's history, our economy and our culture—it's the reason our City grew into a national and global hub, and a welcoming port for generations of immigrants. In order to grow sustainably and build a healthier, more equitable future we need to protect and enhance our greenspaces, and our beautiful waterfront," says Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "We're proud to have strong partners

like The Trustees. Working together we can go further, we can be creative, and develop beautiful and inclusive world-class waterfront parks, and Piers Park Phase III is a great example of that."

To date, The Trustees has raised \$20 million in pledges for the Piers Park III site, which will fund a significant percentage of the anticipated capital costs for the project. Such support will be multi-year and conditional on final budget, site design, and the construction planning required to transform these sites into accessible, vibrant public spaces.

"Boston recognized the value of parks early on, and over the last several months we've seen the Covid-19 pandemic underscore the importance of open, outdoor space," adds Black. "One Waterfront will build on the strides made by our City since those early days, helping to imagine and create a more welcoming, accessible, and resilient waterfront, one that can be enjoyed by generations to come."

To learn more about One Waterfront, find updates on Piers Park III, and lend your support, visit [onewaterfront.thetrustees.org](http://onewaterfront.thetrustees.org)



An early conceptual rendering shows the vision for Piers Park III as an iconic, resilient, and welcoming space with stunning views of the harbor and downtown Boston from its shores. Designs for the park—with input from area residents, neighborhood associations, and community groups—are now in the initial phases.

CONCEPTUAL RENDERING COURTESY OF MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH ASSOCIATES, INC., FOR THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS.



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# Fledge **DRIVE**

Shorebirds thrive on Trustees beaches

A successful season for shorebirds on Trustees beaches drew to a close as the summer entered its final weeks—with the last plover, tern, and oystercatcher chicks fledging by the end of August. Though Covid restrictions made for a particularly challenging summer in 2020, Trustees beach and ecology staff stayed focused on the task at hand: Piping plover productivity across all Trustees shores exceeded the target of 1.24 chicks per pair, with 69 pairs fledging 89 chicks, indicating a stable and slightly

growing population. Notably, these numbers include a significant jump in plover productivity on Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket,

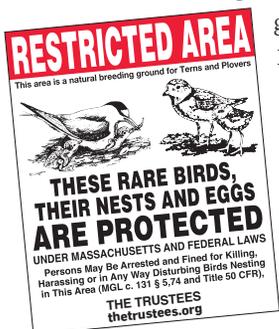
where the number of fledglings doubled year-over-year. Building on the success of the 2019 season, Crane was again one of the beaches with the highest number of plover pairs in the state.

“Plovers are a state and federally listed threatened shorebird,” explains Russell Hopping, Trustees’ Lead Ecologist, Coastal Ecology. “Good production years like 2020 mean we’re making progress on preserving the future of this iconic beach species, and that our beaches are being managed well for high-quality habitat.”

In addition to plovers, Trustees beaches supported 19 pairs of American Oystercatcher, which fledged 12 chicks. While fewer pairs of terns nested this year overall, 149 pairs nested on Crane Beach and had a good year fledging chicks. “The shorebirds visiting our beaches in the summer face many challenges, including

traveling hundreds of miles from their wintering grounds, and storms that threaten their nests and chicks,” says Hopping. “Managing for resilient beaches is one way The Trustees continues to provide these birds a safe place to nest and fledge their chicks.”

Trustees staff up and down the coast extend much gratitude to beachgoers for respecting the fenced-off areas and temporary beach restrictions during shorebird season. “Members: your understanding and support are a big part of this success story. We, and our birds, thank you,” adds Hopping. “And if you’re visiting our beaches this season, keep an eye out for our winter migratory shorebirds throughout the cold months—including sanderlings and dunlins, along with snowy owls and snow buntings as well!”





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# Celebrate the Season!

## Experience winter's wonder—why not?!

An intrepid cross-country skier visiting the Crane Estate in Ipswich once quipped that instead of going to the Y, he was at the 'Why Not!' What a great attitude! How wonderfully rewarding is a cup of cocoa and a snug blanket after you've been out and explored what winter has to offer? Come visit a Trustees reservation this season—experience our trails with their expansive leafless views,



© TRUSTEES

learn about owls, flowers, or maple sugaring, or just get some fresh air and a little exercise—why not?! Check out the Things To Do highlights on the next two pages and find many, many more on our website—visit [thetrustees.org/things-to-do](https://thetrustees.org/things-to-do) to see the full list and to register.

### HIKE WITH US

Give your resolution a kick start with a *First Day Hike* along the trails of one of our 121 reservations. Take in an organized outing—

see [thetrustees.org/1stday](https://thetrustees.org/1stday) for a listing—or explore on your own. And throughout the season, we'll have guided treks and owl prowls, hikes by the light of the moon, animal tracking, and beach safaris for socially distanced families, and more.

### SCHOOL'S OUT

How can you find new ways to get the kiddos out of the house? With school vacation and afterschool programs at Trustees farms and museums, of course! Take in a *Farm Camp* during school vacation week, or programs like *Winter Wonders* or *Afternoon Adventures* at Appleton Farms in Hamilton & Ipswich, *Preschool Farm Explorers* at Chestnut Hill Farm in Southborough, or *Friends on the Farm* at Powisset Farm in Dover. deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln offers art-making and creativity inspiring programs during vacations and throughout the season. (Psst... they've got a wide variety of classes and workshops for adults too!)

### EAT, PLANT, LEARN

If you love flowers and gardening, try a workshop in our horticulture series at The Stevens-Coolidge Place in North Andover, or an Indoor Citrus Tree Workshop with our Boston Community Gardens experts. Learn new kitchen skills and sample diverse

cuisines with a cooking class at Powisset Farm. And when the sap starts to flow, come experience the fascinating process of maple tree tapping and syrup making at Appleton Farms or Chestnut Hill Farm.



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For the full list of winter programs, visit [thetrustees.org/things-to-do](https://thetrustees.org/things-to-do). All of our programs follow Covid best practices and guidelines for your continued safety. Event details are subject to change, especially if state guidelines for gatherings are revised, so please check the website for updates and to register. Try the *Why Not!*



January | February | March

# WINTER 2021 THINGS TO DO

Winter's **wonders** are truly astounding. Why not come out to some of our many programs and **experience the seasons marvels** for yourself? Whether it's socially distant fresh air hikes, a picnic around a blazing firepit, a family quest, or even a new culinary adventure, we've got something **safe and fun** to try this season. Of course, as updates to the state's Covid-19 guidelines come up, programs may be altered, participation limits may vary, and schedules may be changed—be sure to check [thetrustees.org/things-to-do](https://thetrustees.org/things-to-do) for the most up-to-date information on these and many more offerings, and to register.



## Light House: Castle Hill Illuminated

Experience the magic of the Winter Solstice with *Castle Hill Illuminated: The Longest Night*, a multi-sensory experience in the landscape.

**Castle Hill at the Crane Estate**, Ipswich

Runs through Sunday January 10

[thetrustees.org/illuminated](https://thetrustees.org/illuminated)

## Vineyard Tour: Brickyard Open House

Explore the historic remnants of the 19th-century brickworks on this guided tour of our newest reservation on Martha's Vineyard.

Sunday January 17

[thetrustees.org/things-to-do](https://thetrustees.org/things-to-do)



## Art Aware: Exhibitions On View

**deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum**, Lincoln  
*Visionary New England and Transcendental Modernism*

**Fruitlands Museum**, Harvard  
*Recruiting for Utopia, Ascutney Revisited, Polly Thayer Starr, and Decolonized Map of Massachusetts*

All on view through March 21

[thetrustees.org/exhibitions](https://thetrustees.org/exhibitions)



KIM WESTON (B. 1969) *MEDICINE* 2018 ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INKJET PRINT, EDITION 5



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## Crackling Good Time: Firepits

Reserve your firepit—for a cozy picnic, date night, or family outing at some of our most iconic reservations!

**Appleton Farms**, Hamilton & Ipswich; **Castle Hill**, Ipswich; **Fruitlands Museum**, Harvard; **Chestnut Hill Farm**, Southborough; **Powisset Farm**, Dover; and more!

Times and offerings vary; see website for details:

[thetrustees.org/firepits](http://thetrustees.org/firepits)

## Make Tracks: Guided Hikes

Dunes by moonlight, prowling for owls, hikes for pizza and beer—let Trustees guided hikes take you somewhere new!

**Appleton Farms**, Hamilton & Ipswich; **Castle Hill on the Crane Estate**, Ipswich; **Chestnut Hill Farm**, Southborough; **Fruitlands Museum**, Harvard; **Powisset Farm**, Dover; **Weir Hill**, North Andover; and more.

For schedules, more details, and to sign up:

[thetrustees.org/things-to-do](http://thetrustees.org/things-to-do)



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## Top Chef: Powisset Cooks!

Celebrate Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, and more with cooking classes and dinners at our welcoming and warm farm kitchen! Limited availability, per Covid-19 guidelines.

**Powisset Farm**, Dover

[thetrustees.org/powissetcooks](http://thetrustees.org/powissetcooks)

## Sweet Dreams: Maple Sugaring

Join us for our annual sugaring events at two historic farms. Chestnut Hill Farm presents its *Maple Tree Tap-a-Thon*, and Appleton Farms has sweet *Maple Happenings*.

**Appleton Farms**, Hamilton & Ipswich  
**Chestnut Hill Farm**, Southborough

Sugaring season is late February through mid-March.

Visit [thetrustees.org/things-to-do](http://thetrustees.org/things-to-do) for details.



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## Green Thumb: Gardener's Gathering

Now in its 46th year! Kick off the planting season with virtual workshops on gardening and urban homesteading skills, interactive panel discussions on food justice, climate, and community. Awards presented by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh.

**Gardener's Gathering**, Boston Community Gardens

FREE | Starts Saturday Mar 20

[thetrustees.org/gathering](http://thetrustees.org/gathering)

# What Will You Discover This Summer?

## Unparalleled experiences at six iconic reservations



ALL PHOTOS ©TRUSTEES

**Appleton Farm Camp**  
Hamilton & Ipswich

**SummerQuest at the Crane Estate**  
Ipswich

**Farmer, Forester, Chef! at Powisset Farm**  
Dover

**Weir River Farm**  
Hingham

**World's End**  
Hingham

**the hive**  
deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum  
Lincoln

**Registration opens for MEMBERS: Friday, January 15**  
**NONMEMBERS: Friday, January 22**

The benefits of summer camp experiences for children's social, emotional, and academic growth has been well documented. The Trustees diverse nature-based camps at six of our signature properties offer immersive experiences that take kids far away from the world of digital devices

**Adults feeling left out?**

**Join us for the Adult Hive at deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum!**

**Details at: [thetrustees.org/camps](http://thetrustees.org/camps)**

and remote learning. With something for every interest—from art to farming, to science on the coast, cooking, and nature—adventure, collaborative learning, and fun and games are all a part of Trustees unique camp experiences.

“Each camp is designed around the unique characteristics of its natural environment, the site’s essential activities, and the distinct needs of parents and campers,” notes Julie Bernson, The Trustees’ Associate Director of Learning. “Camp staffs are well trained to engage campers, support their personal growth, and foster community. We see families returning summer after summer.”

Whether it’s helping farmers care for livestock, learning about where

their food is grown and cooking with produce they helped harvest, swimming and exploring the cool coastal waters, or getting a chance to build ginormous outdoor sculptures, campers are engaged and entertained as they learn real life skills. Adds Bernson, “Our camps worked together last summer to develop programs and protocols that made camp safe for campers, families, and our beloved camp staff. Some of our health and safety adaptations led to creative new ideas, and we’re eager to bring them all to you this coming summer!”



**[thetrustees.org/camps](http://thetrustees.org/camps)**

[Ed. Note: At press time, several camps are still in development. All camp offerings are subject to change as the State and local Covid guidelines are revised for 2021. Please check our website for updates.]



# The Crocker Family

## 2020 CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR

©ABOVE SUMMIT



©ABOVE SUMMIT

**The Crocker Family**—from left: Alfred Crocker, Alfred's wife Stephanie Cassano, Gus Crocker.

**F**or Alfred and Gus Crocker, Jewell Hill is entwined with family. From their agriculturist father, who turned a hobby farm into an award-winning dairy business, the brothers gained an intimacy with every acre of the stony, hilly Central Massachusetts landscape. And from their naturalist mother, they inherited a sense of the greater significance of the place their great grandfather purchased in 1917: to the plants and animals moving

through the forests and hayfields, to the Fitchburg residents who drank from a water supply nourished by Jewell Hill's streams, to the hikers who came for breathtaking views from the 1,411-foot peak.

That's why Alfred and Gus—the recipients of The Trustees' 2020 Charles Eliot Award for Conservationists of the Year—sought to ensure Jewell Hill remained protected. "It's very hard not knowing what's going to happen when your generation passes," Alfred says. "That's why it was a really important thing that we find a way to conserve the land."

Bringing Jewell Hill under the auspices of The Trustees was a long, complex process involving the three towns the property spans—Ashby, Ashburnham, and Fitchburg; all told, the deal took more than a decade to come to fruition. It would have been far simpler for the brothers to sign away to developers, but their understanding of the landscape's significance ensured their commitment to its stewardship. "The fact that the land is going to be preserved, as opposed to sold to a developer, made it easier to see that transition," Gus says.

"The Crocker family has worked to protect not only an idyllic farm, but the agricultural landscape, ecological values, and the property streams and waterways that feed Fitchburg's drinking water supply," says Barbara Erickson, President and CEO of The Trustees. "The family has our deepest gratitude and admiration for the personal investment and incredible support it has demonstrated for the long-term protection of this landscape that is so valuable to the entire region."

### VISIT JEWELL HILL

*Trustees' 120th reservation!*  
Crocker Road, Ashby, MA 01431

#### Directions & Parking:

To stay on paved surfaces, use Rindge Road to Crocker Road. Please use designated parking area at the top of the hill on Crocker Road, past the house and barn. Note: The temporary parking area holds 4-5 cars; a new permanent lot is planned for construction in the spring.

For more information, visit:  
[thetrustees.org/jewellhill](http://thetrustees.org/jewellhill)



Francis William Bird Park, Walpole

© TRUSTEES

# BLUES CLUES *Helpful, hopeful ways to stay positive this winter*

BY VICTORIA ABBOTT RICCARDI

If you're feeling anxious about how you're going to persevere, emotionally, through the darker, colder months ahead, you're not alone. Almost everyone I know is trying to figure out how to stay healthy in body *and* mind as we navigate the uncharted challenges of a winter season compounded by pandemic.

Fortunately, research has shown there are loads of things you can do to stay positive and energized. In the *we're all in this together* spirit, we checked in with several Trustees staffers and asked them to share how they expect to counter the winter and Covid blues this season. Here are some of their plans:

## Refresh: Head Outside

"Even just a short morning walk makes my day that much better," says Michelle de Lima, Engagement Manager, Boston Community Gardens. "Breathing fresh air and looking up at the sky fights that cabin fever feeling and stimulates the senses." Research shows spending time in nature helps reduce stress, anxiety, and depression.

"Instead of getting down when it snows,

say, 'great, what can I do?'" says Belmont-based Pete Marotta, Stewardship Data & Projects Coordinator. "I plan to do a lot of winter hiking around many Trustees properties," including favorites Whitney and Thayer Woods in Hingham & Cohasset, Bear Swamp in Ashfield, and Royalston Falls in Royalston.

Shana Dumont Garr, Curator of Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, who lives in Acton with her husband and seven-year-old son, plans to bike, run, and take walks this winter. "I clipped back tree branches to make a loop on our property and if you go around it eight times, it's a mile."

## Prepare: Equip Yourself

Brian Westrick, Associate Field Director, based in Florence, regularly hits the trails near his Northampton home with his wife and toddler son. But with earlier sunsets, they switch the light on darkness. "We already had headlamps, but we recently bought several flashlights to go on night walks around our neighborhood and look at stars."



© TRUSTEES/SHANA GARR

Shana Dumont Garr and her son Tommy in their basement creative corner collaborate on a new t-shirt design created with pieces of old shirts.

Pete Marotta says an important part of enjoying the cold is dressing appropriately, and recommends layering and sturdy winter clothes. The Westricks also recently invested in a Thule Chariot for their son. “It’s like a stroller, but instead of using the wheels [when it snows], we swap them for skis. So, while we snowshoe or cross-country ski, my son is in a self-contained pod.”

### Invite: Socialize Safely

According to the Harvard Study of Adult Development, people who are more socially connected to family, friends, and their community are happier, healthier, and live longer than those who are less well connected. “I’ve started inviting neighbors and friends to sit around our firepit,” says Garr. “Reaching out and inviting people to stop by is a great way to deal with isolation.”

“I have a portable firepit that I bring to friends’ houses,” says de Lima. “It allows everyone to feel warm and socialize outside.” For Garr and Westrick, who have young kids, they’re planning playdates in the form of family hikes. In addition to fresh air and exercise, everyone gets to catch up with friends.

### Explore: Redefine Travel

Experimenting with more adventurous cooking also can be transporting. Westrick and his wife plan to make Middle Eastern and Asian recipes from Israeli-born chef Yottam Ottelenghi. De Lima, who teaches foraged garden mixology classes at The Trustees, will make Amaro (a bitter Italian herbal liqueur) with cranberries, apples, and foraged twigs from a spicebush.

“Breathing fresh air and looking up at the sky fights that cabin fever feeling and stimulates the senses.”

—Michelle de Lima

### Act: Get Creative

Studies show that engaging in the creative arts can decrease anxiety and stress. “In the evening after doing the dishes, I go to the basement and sew,” says Garr, who also does crafts with her son and has begun making collages from old *New Yorker* magazines for friends. “Creating things boosts my self-esteem.”

Research shows that the act of giving to others has health benefits and stimulates areas of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, resulting in a “warm glow” effect. Other pursuits can work as mood enhancers, too: Westrick’s wife has started meditating and in inclement weather, de Lima pulls down the shades and cranks up some Bollywood or old school hip-hop to dance around the house.

### Take It All In: Nature Heals

Science shows that house plants can purify the air we breathe, reduce stress, increase pain tolerance, and boost productivity. “If you’re dreaming about your garden, try an indoor citrus,” says de Lima. “Even if it doesn’t fruit, the flowers smell nice.” She also suggests growing microgreens, noting, “Fedco Seeds and Johnny’s Selected Seeds sell seeds especially for growing sprouts. Untreated whole seeds or beans from the grocery store can work well too, including lentils and chickpeas.”

Although winter might feel like it will never end, in the Northern Hemisphere it’s actually the shortest season of the year. The days are already starting to get longer, and the increasing daylight energizes the spirit. Try one or more of our staffers’ tips—a little extra effort goes a long way to carrying us through these colder months—and never fear, spring will soon be here!

*Victoria Abbott Riccardi is a freelance travel, culture, and food writer, and author of Untangling My Chopsticks: A Culinary Sojourn in Japan (Broadway) from Newton.*

### FIND MORE

For the full list of our staffers’ tips and tricks, and links to the research sources for this article, visit [thetrustees.org/cope](https://thetrustees.org/cope).

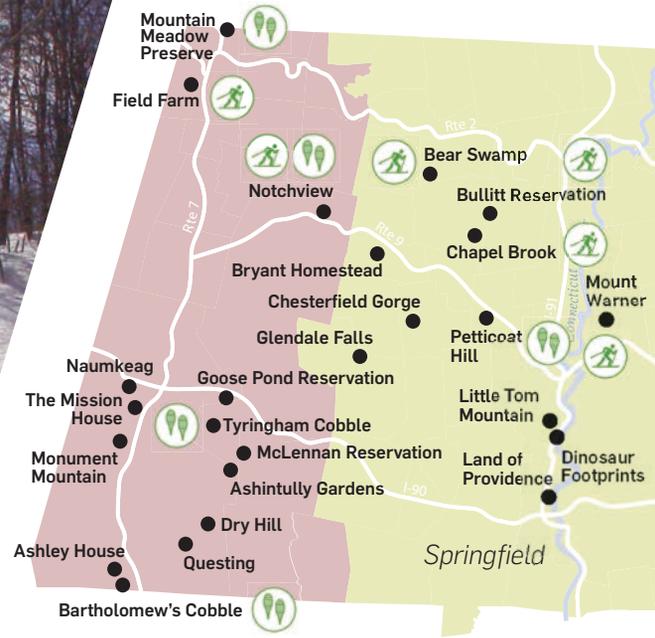
Pete Marotta and fiancée Kelsey are avid winter hikers.



©TRUSTEES/PETE MAROTTA



Moose Hill Farm,  
Sharon  
© J. NAPOLI



# Snow-bilize!

Whether you're an avid Nordic skier or you've been wanting to try out a snowshoe adventure, we've got gorgeous spots to provide the perfect backdrop for an energizing, refreshing, winter's day. Here are some of our staff's favorite places across the state to head to when the temperature drops and the snow starts to pile up.

Several reservations offer snowshoe rentals and our Nordic skiing and snowshoeing center, Notchview in Windsor, offers rentals, lessons, and season passes (see ad, inside front cover).

*NOTE: Be prepared—few facilities are available in winter. And while most parking lots and trailhead areas are plowed regularly, we cannot guarantee that all will be cleared after every snowfall.*

Tyringham Cobble, Tyringham

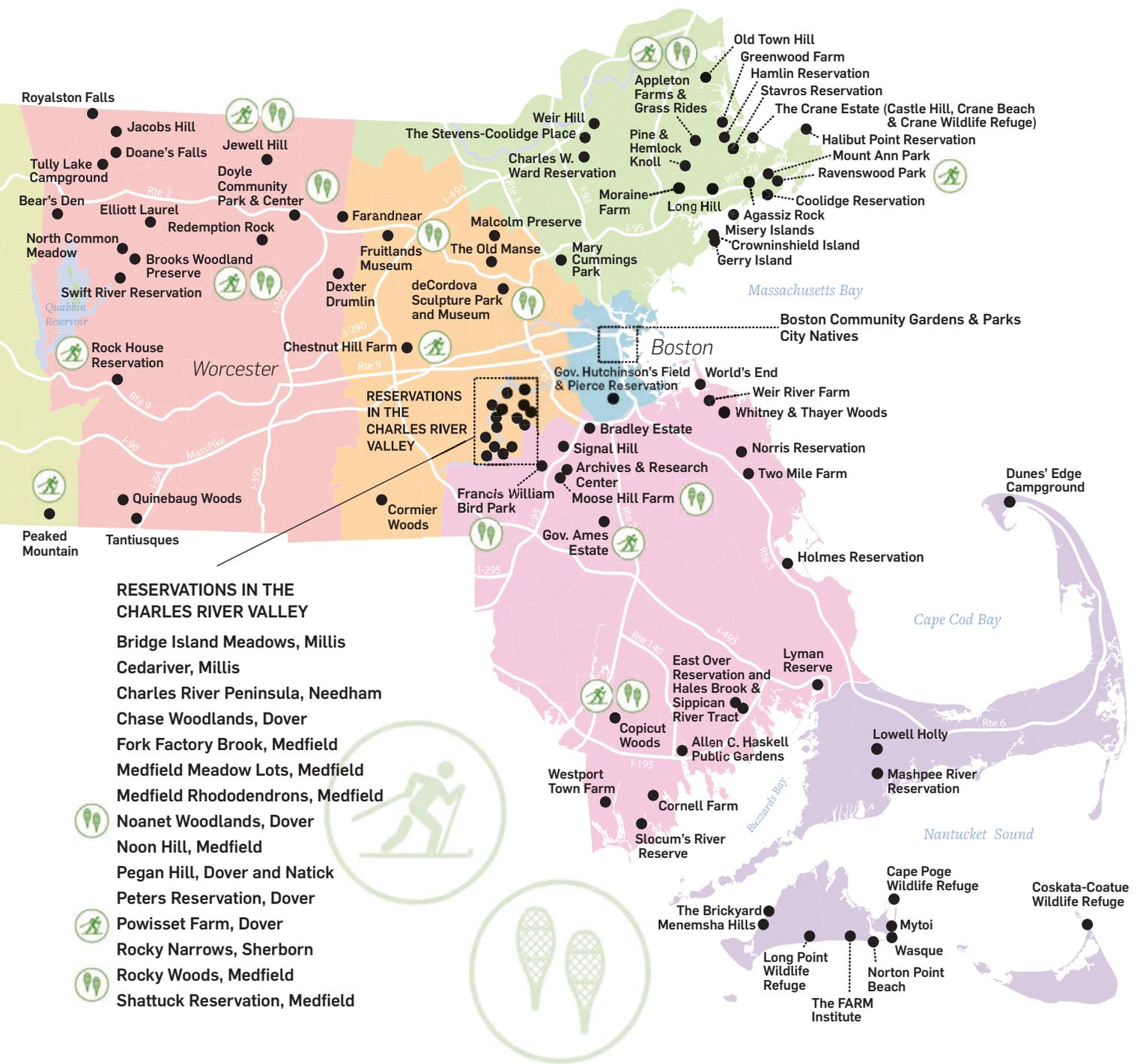


© J. MONKMAN

Appleton Farms, Hamilton & Ipswich



@NORTH\_SHORE\_NORDIC



**RESERVATIONS IN THE CHARLES RIVER VALLEY**

- Bridge Island Meadows, Millis
- Cedariver, Millis
- Charles River Peninsula, Needham
- Chase Woodlands, Dover
- Fork Factory Brook, Medfield
- Medfield Meadow Lots, Medfield
- Medfield Rhododendrons, Medfield
- Noanet Woodlands, Dover
- Noon Hill, Medfield
- Pegan Hill, Dover and Natick
- Peters Reservation, Dover
- Powisset Farm, Dover
- Rocky Narrows, Sherborn
- Rocky Woods, Medfield
- Shattuck Reservation, Medfield



*Try one or more of these great spots!*

While these are just a few ideas of reservations to visit, this is by no means all of our special places that would be fun for cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.

For more information on accessibility and to download trail maps, visit each property's page on [thetrustees.org](http://thetrustees.org). Updated conditions at Notchview can be found at [xcskimass.com](http://xcskimass.com).

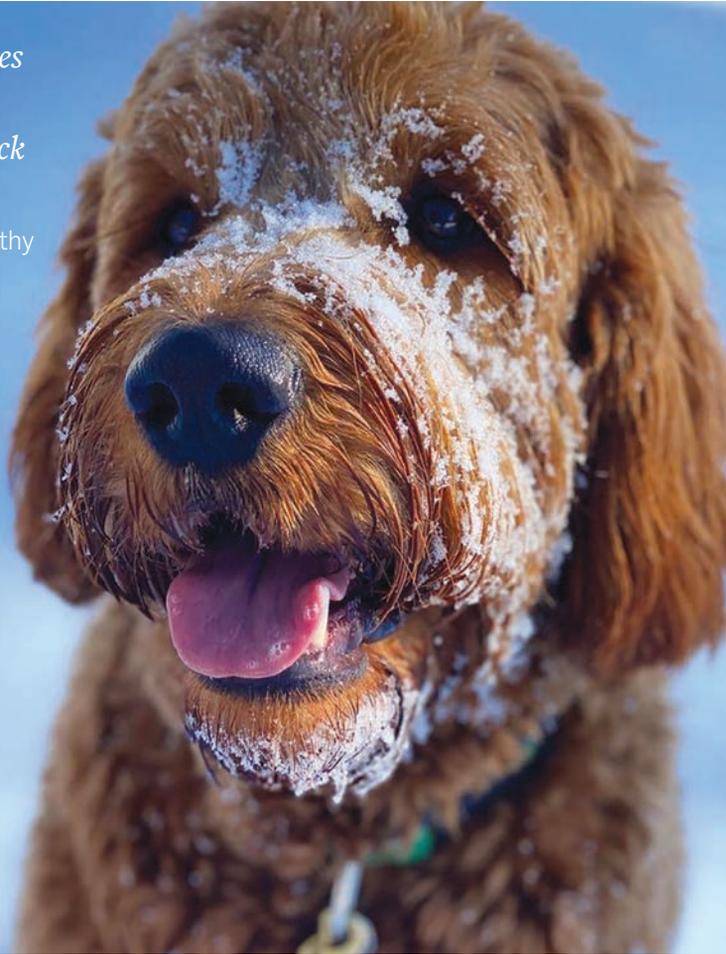
**Snowshoe Rentals**  
 are available at the following reservations

- Appleton Farms, Hamilton & Ipswich
- deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln
- Fruitlands Museum, Harvard
- Notchview, Windsor
- Rocky Woods, Medfield

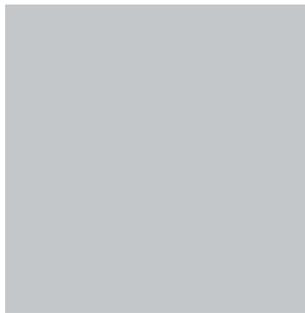
# You **tag** us. We you!

*“Snow provokes responses that reach right back to childhood.”*

- Andy Goldsworthy



**find  
magic in  
the moment**



Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens, North Andover



©AMY BUELOW

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Give today at [thetrustees.org/yearend2020](http://thetrustees.org/yearend2020)



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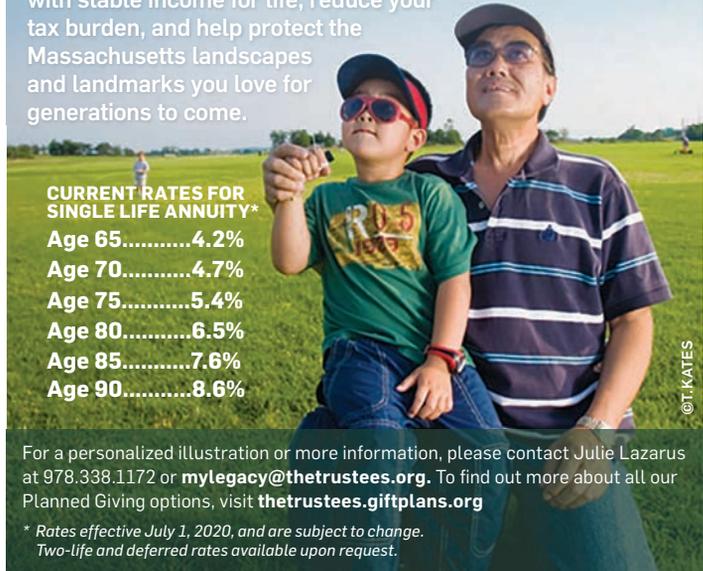
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\* Rates effective July 1, 2020, and are subject to change. Two-life and deferred rates available upon request.



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