



Charlotte Land Trust

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TO OUR NEIGHBORS

2022 WAS ANOTHER BUSY YEAR for the Charlotte Land Trust (CLT) with several projects underway representing a mix of farms, forest, wildlife habitat, and wetlands. CLT helped fund, along with a grant from the Charlotte Conservation Fund, a new project with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT): the conservation of 59 acres owned by Clark Hinsdale near Bingham Brook Road. CLT's partnerships with organizations like VLT help us conserve larger, more complex landscapes.

We also continued work on our Farm Study, undertaken with UVM's Center for Rural Studies. Through data research, a survey, a focus group, and individual interviews, the study provided an inventory of farming in town. Although the number of dairy farms in Charlotte has dwindled to two, our total number of farms stood at 77 as of the last government count. Those farms provide an impressive array of produce, value-added products, soil management techniques, and on-farm activities for the public. In 2022, CLT did several presentations of key Farm Study findings for Charlotters.

Major projects such as the Farm Study and the 59 newly conserved acres mentioned above are dependent on support from people like you. So, we thank everyone who has donated in the past, along with the 163 donors who contributed to our work in 2022. Please visit charlottelandtrust.org for more information on the Farm Study, our conservation easements, 2022 financial reports, and ways to contribute.

— Katherine Lampton,
President, Charlotte Land Trust



Board members of the Charlotte Land Trust in front of Charlotte's Town Hall: Steve Schubart, Mary Volk, David Pill, Frances Foster, Jessie Price, Dana Hanley, Jane Lawlis, Kate Lampton. (Not shown: Lindsay Longe, Jessica Sanford, Jay Strausser)

With this Annual Report, we are pleased to debut (below) our new logo with an illustration by Elizabeth Traynor and design by James Van Fleteren. It symbolizes the interconnectivity of Charlotte's agricultural and undeveloped lands with its waterways and lake.



Charlotte Land Trust

The mission of the Charlotte Land Trust is to conserve the natural and working lands of Charlotte for the benefit of present and future generations.

On the cover: Fall colors explode on conserved land along Lake Road

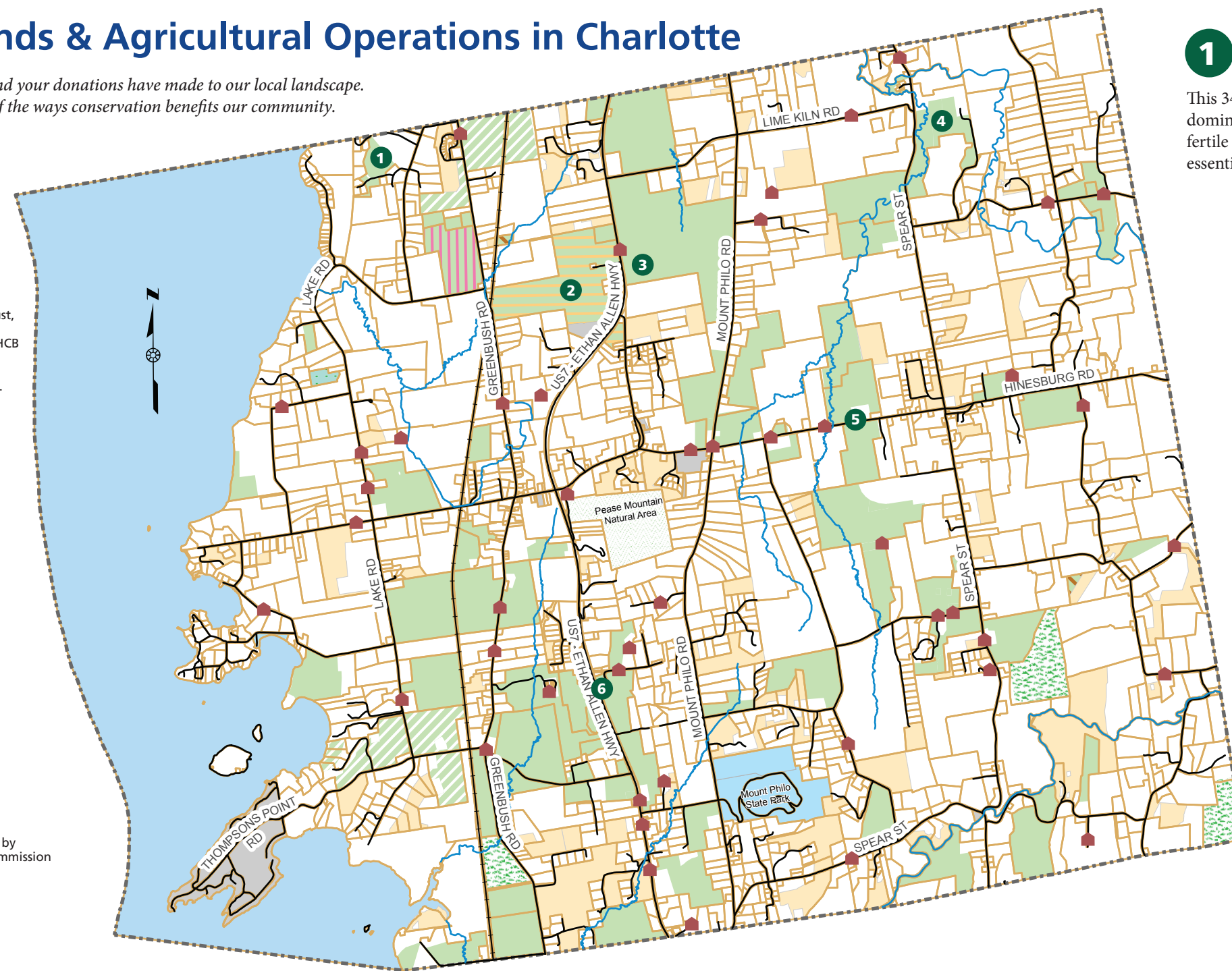
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Conserved Lands & Agricultural Operations in Charlotte

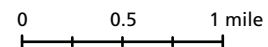
This map shows the impact CLT and your donations have made to our local landscape. The six call-outs offer a sampling of the ways conservation benefits our community.

- Roads
- ▬ Town boundary
- ▭ Parcel boundaries
- 🏠 Fam Locations
- Railroads
- Streams
- 🌿 Easement with Vermont Land Trust, Charlotte Land Trust, Lake Champlain Land Trust, VRC, or VHCB
- 🌿 Town Conservation Agreement
- 🌿 Conservation easements with VLT and the Town
- 🌿 Town-owned land with VLT easement
- 🏠 VLT-owned land
- 🌿 Open Space Agreement with the Town
- 🏠 Town-owned land
- 🌊 State-owned land
- 🌿 The Nature Conservancy
- 🌿 Whalley Woods Natural Area – Town-owned
- 🌿 Pease Mountain Natural Area – Town/UVM



Conserved and open space data provided by Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

Date created: 5/1/2022



6 BUILDING A FARM NETWORK

In its second season, Sweet Roots farm stand (left) offered berries and produce grown on the farm along with a diverse array of products grown elsewhere including meats, cheeses, and more. Other Charlotte farms have benefitted from this new retail outlet. For example, Unity Farm (also on conserved land) provided bouquets and Golden Apple Family Farm shared eggs. Sweet Roots vegetables, herbs, and annuals were certified organic in 2022 and they're aiming to complete certification for the fruit in 2023.



5 FOSTERING BIRD HABITAT

Researchers from the University of New England visited Grass Cattle Company's 160-acre farm, owned by CLT board member Steve Schubart, several years ago to count bobolinks. In a virtuous cycle, the beef cattle rotate through the pastures quickly, clipping the grass and adding nutrients, which helps the grasses grow strong, with no mowing involved. This is ideal for bobolinks which require lush meadows that are not mowed during their nesting season. Schubart documents the rich habitat on instagram (@grasscattlecompany) and attests that his herd lives among a diverse array of birds, pollinators, insects, turkeys, moles, deer, and foxes.

1 PROTECTING NATURAL AREAS

This 34-acre parcel in northwest Charlotte is clayplain forest, a species-rich ecosystem that was once a predominant feature of the Champlain Valley and now remains only in isolated fragments. These forests have deep, fertile clay soils. Because this land is protected from development, the forest is continuing to regenerate, providing essential habitat for wildlife and plant species, and helping keep nutrients on the land, out of our waterways.



2 FIGHTING INVASIVE SPECIES

Volunteers have been battling invasive species, including honeysuckle and buckthorn, at the 290-acre Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge over the last decade. Those efforts may soon get a boost from the Cornell Land Trust Small Grant Program which works to increase habitat for target bird species, in this case blue- and golden-winged warblers. These birds require early successional forests—formed as meadows transition back to forest—with native shrubs like dogwoods, and trees like birches, green ash, and red cedars. Nearby, Earthkeep Farmcommon and Shelburne Farms are managing land for this habitat, creating connected areas for these birds to reproduce.



3 BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

On August 18th, attendees streamed into Earthkeep Farmcommon when CLT co-hosted a special Thursday market. Sixteen additional Charlotte farmers and producers set up stands along with the regular Earthkeep Collective farms, which produce everything from shrimp to baked goods. Horsford Gardens & Nursery offered perennials. Kids sucked down Adam's Berry Farm popsicles. Shoppers stocked up on fermented goodies from Sobremesa and cornmeal from Nitty Gritty Grain Company. The team from Philo Ridge Farm (right) showed off flowers, tomatoes, and garlic.

4 STEWARDING LAND

One of CLT's oldest easements, this 66-acre property in northeast Charlotte has a mix of farmland, forest, streams, and ponds. As part of our stewardship practice for all CLT held easements, a CLT volunteer walks this piece of land each year to ensure that the terms of the easement are being followed. Over the years of checking that the property remains undisturbed, the forest has matured and wildlife habitat has increased.

“Twice we have moved from Charlotte, and twice we have returned. Besides the people and the sense of community, we love the land and the scenic views which have been preserved, thanks to conservation. Charlotte is home.” — Claudia Pfaff