

Duxbury Land Trust Strategic Plan 2018-2023

The mission of the Duxbury Land Trust (DLT) is to preserve and protect the natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources that contribute to the rural character of the Town for the benefit of current and future generations of its citizens and those of neighboring communities. The Land Trust achieves its mission through securing interest in targeted land parcels, forging partnerships with other land trusts and conservation organizations, and promoting education to encourage responsible stewardship of such lands or interests.

Our vision is that future generations of Duxbury citizens, people from neighboring communities, and visitors will be able to experience the same natural and historic resources we currently enjoy.

Duxbury Land Trust Focus and Methods:

While all of Duxbury's natural and cultural resources are important, the Duxbury Land Trust focuses particularly on natural areas along the corridors of our rivers, streams, and mountains. By focusing on riparian zones and forested mountain areas, the Duxbury Land Trust can contribute to the important values and services provided by our town's healthy forests and clean river systems.

The Duxbury Land Trust achieves its aims through a variety of conservation tools, including land acquisition, conservation easements, and educational community events.

The Duxbury Land Trust takes a voluntary, collaborative approach in working with the Town of Duxbury and its elected and appointed officials, landowners, partner organizations and neighboring communities.

The Duxbury Land Trust has identified the following priority areas:

- Large intact blocks of forested and agricultural lands
- Wetlands and riparian corridors
- Scenic vistas
- Wildlife habitat
- Public access for recreation
- Sites of historic value

Duxbury Land Trust Goals

I: To promote the growth and sustainability of the DLT

Objective 1: Ensure fiscal health of DLT

Strategies:

- Maintain sufficient funds to cover three years of operation
- Continue to grow stewardship funds
- Maintain Land Trust Alliance and Terrafirma memberships
- Maintain sound financial practices

Objective 2: Maintain integrity of DLT

Strategies:

- Continue to implement the Land Trust Alliance's most current Standards and Practices
- Strive to maintain a representative full board
- Maintain sound and accountable financial practices
- Retain legal counsel and fulfill legal requirements, as necessary

Objective 3: Continue to grow as an organization

Strategies:

- Review goals and develop annual workplan/establish committees as needed
- Retain current members and increase membership
- Promote DLT through annual newsletter, press releases, postings, and town meeting display
- Create an officer succession plan
- Maintain and update transition plan as posted on board page of website
- Organize and participate in local natural resource related events
- Participate in town government, when appropriate
- Develop rapport with like-minded individuals and organizations

II. To ensure protection of land and conservation easements

Objective 1: Implement plans for protecting properties in perpetuity

Strategies:

- Confirm back-up protection for all lands and easements
- Establish and continually increase a stewardship fund to protect easement values
- Maintain continuous easement insurance coverage with Terrafirma through the Land Trust Alliance (LTA)

Objective 2: Ensure that properties meet easement conditions and protect conservation values

Strategies:

- Prepare baseline documentation and reports
- Identify and mark boundaries
- Conduct annual monitoring and address issues
- Maintain positive relationships with landowners
- Confer with Vermont Land Trust, the back-up easement holder, as needed
- Participate in land use permitting procedures, as appropriate

III. To identify and pursue potential land conservation opportunities

Objective: Strive to be able to act swiftly on conservation opportunities

Strategies:

- Review and update land conservation criteria
- Identify properties that further DLT mission
- Collaborate with town and other organizations as needed
- Draft conservation easements
- Seek and secure funding through grants and other fund-raising