

MOUNT GRACE LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

Community Conservation Across the Commonwealth



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Greg Wright of Blue Ox Farm returning Doc and Joe to summer pasture at neighboring Gale's Hilltop Farm, now Tully Meadow Farm, in Orange.

OUR MISSION

*To benefit the environment,
the economy, and future generations
by protecting significant land
and encouraging land stewardship.*

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Mount Grace's Athol headquarters, Skyfields Arboretum (Skyfields), formerly known as the Willis Farm, was bequeathed by Margaret Power-Biggs in 1999. Open to the public, it is adjacent to our first project, the Lawton State Forest. Skyfields is a place that exemplifies our mission, our work and the trust of our supporters.

Dear Friends,

What do the Quabbin Reservoir, the Connecticut River Valley, the New England National Scenic Trail, and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust have in common? The answer is more complex than you might first guess. Yes, they are all located in our region, but in addition, each of these resources provides benefits to people and communities far beyond the town boundaries of where they are located.

The Quabbin Reservoir provides drinking water to 2.5 million people in greater Boston. Connecticut River farms contribute \$1.3 billion to the Massachusetts economy and provide fresh, local produce throughout Massachusetts and New England. The New England National Scenic Trail passes through 39 communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut, providing easy access to outdoor recreation for over 2 million people who live within 10 miles of the trail and many more visitors from places near and far.

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust is a regional land trust whose leadership extends across political boundaries and among organizations and communities throughout Massachusetts helping to strengthen them all for the benefit of the entire Commonwealth.

An innovator since its founding in 1986, its earliest project was helping to create the Lawton State Forest. Mount Grace was the first land trust to utilize a new state statute allowing towns to assign their Chapter 61 Right of First Refusal. With the help of community leaders, town government, and state agencies, the Lawton Tree Farm, Massachusetts's Tree Farm No. 1, was saved from development.

Partnering with land trusts large and small, within and beyond our region, we continue to build and share innovative models of conservation and stewardship.

Today, because of its culture of collaboration, Mount Grace leads the nation in the number of multi-landowner, landscape-scale US Forest Service Forest Legacy projects completed. Partnering with land trusts large and small, within and beyond our region, we continue to build and share innovative models of conservation and stewardship.

The Massachusetts Land Initiative For Tomorrow (MassLIFT), a statewide AmeriCorps program created and managed by Mount Grace since 2010, serves communities across the state through regional and local land trusts. Each year, 20 MassLIFT AmeriCorps volunteers cultivate local capacity to do more regional conservation, land stewardship, community engagement, and service learning activities with youth. In addition, MassLIFT is a much-needed job training program for tomorrow's conservation leaders.

We are working to keep communities, forests, farms, and landscapes whole, healthy, and permanently intact across the Commonwealth, and with your support we pledge to continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Mathison".

Howard Mathison
President, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leigh Youngblood".

Leigh Youngblood
Executive Director





Mount Grace helped transform this local landmark into the 1,200-acre Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area in Orange and Royalston.

... the work you do is important as a member of Mount Grace. You are protecting our valuable watersheds and wildlife habitat. It is important work because you enhance the working forests and farmlands of the North Quabbin. And it is important because you are leaving a lasting legacy for your children and their children.

— Bob Durand, former Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs,
from his keynote address at the 25th Mount Grace Annual Meeting

SAVING LARGE, CONNECTED NATURAL AREAS

There is unique potential in our region, renowned for its expanses of unfragmented forest and contiguous conserved lands, to complete the protection of important ecological systems within the third most densely populated state in the country. For the benefit of nature and people, Mount Grace's **LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROGRAM** maximizes by design the protection of the plants, animals, communities, and natural systems common and uncommon that characterize the diversity of life spanning our 500,000-acre core service area. (See map inside back cover.)

We are helping to achieve the *Wildlands and Woodlands Vision for Massachusetts Forests* (Harvard Forest, 2005, updated 2012), which calls for protecting an additional 1,250,000 acres of managed woodlands statewide to maintain biodiversity while providing ecosystem services such as clean air and water, timber resources, recreation, and educational opportunities; and also 250,000 acres of wildlands where human impact is minimized and landscape-scale ecological processes are allowed to unfold. In the Mount Grace region, another 150,000 acres needs to be conserved.



The New England National Scenic Trail winds through a sea of green connecting 1,180 acres across six towns protected in Mount Grace's Metacomet-Monadnock Forest Legacy project.

Our proposed Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy project is ranked second in the country for federal funding and is queued to protect 3,275 acres of critical contiguous watershed lands.

Thinking Big About Large Landscapes

Mount Grace: A Pioneer of Multi-landowner Project Design

Such an ambitious goal as the *Wildlands and Woodlands Vision* cannot be achieved one landowner, or fifty acres, at a time. We must increase the pace of conservation.

That's why Mount Grace pioneered an innovative multi-landowner, multi-partner land protection model that since 2006, alone, has secured more than \$12 million in federal Forest Legacy Program and state Landscape Partnership Program funding to purchase land and conservation restrictions on over 7,000 acres.

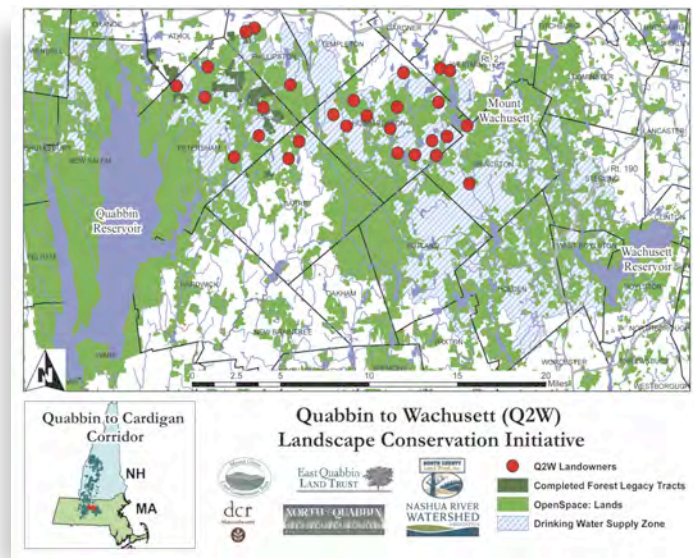
This collaborative model is so effective that the national Land Trust Alliance supported Mount Grace with a LEAP (Land Trust Excellence and Advancement Program) grant, and the nationwide Regional Plan Association selected us to provide technical assistance as 1 of only 3 mentors in their 2012 Northeast Landscape Conservation Peer-Exchange Program.

QUABBIN TO WACHUSETT (Q2W)

Q2W is an innovative land protection and climate change adaptation project in central Massachusetts strategically designed using our Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping analyses to have multiple overlapping benefits, including:

- Protecting land in the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoir watersheds which supply drinking water to 2.5 million Massachusetts residents;
- Securing a critical 20-mile wildlife corridor, evaluated for climate resiliency, to support species adapting to our rapidly changing climate;
- Supporting a key area for the forest products economy in Massachusetts.

Mount Grace has worked with its partners to complete sixty projects in the Q2W corridor already with \$5 million in additional funding pending.





Red Fire Farm at Montague Meadows is a model for towns, private landowners, and other land trusts of long-term leasing that provides affordable access to land for farmers and allows them to invest in sustainable farming practices.

If we want to ensure that our communities have future access to fresh, locally-grown produce, we must make certain that farmers are able to afford access to the land and infrastructure they need to run a successful farm business.

SUPPORTING FAMILY FARMS & LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Family farmers face tough conservation, generational transfer, and affordability issues that often drive conversion of farmland to nonfarming uses. Mount Grace's **FARM CONSERVATION PROGRAM** helps to sustain our local economy, maintain rural character, and support environmental stewardship by ensuring that farms can continue to provide locally grown, healthy food for our Commonwealth and offer opportunities to the next generation of farmers.

Over the years, we have helped protect more than two dozen locally beloved farms in our region including: **Aurora Ranch, Bascom Hollow Farm, Blue Ox Farm, Charlie's Red House Farm, Chase Hill Farm, Greenfield Town Farm, Johnson's Farm, Maple Grove Farm, Murdock Farm, Red Apple Farm, Red Fire Farm, Seeds of Solidarity Farm, Sweetwater Farm, The Farm School and Maggie's Farm, and Upinngil Farm.**

Creating Solutions for Today's Realities

Farming at Risk

The simple truth is: farmland is too expensive for farmers. Many Massachusetts farms have been sold for development, driving up the cost of the farmland that remains. Even when conserved as farmland, the mortgage or lease terms often make it impossible for a farmer to earn a living from the land. If farmers cannot find or afford farmland, locally grown food will continue to be at risk.

This is the case for Red Fire Farm, a successful, organic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm in Montague, Massachusetts, distributing over 1,400 farm shares across the state. Though a proven success, Red Fire Farm's long-term viability is at risk.

Since 2001, Red Fire Farm was unable to secure a long-term lease on most of the land it tills. Without long-term access to affordable farmland, the future of Red Fire Farm is uncertain.

In a state with farmland prices among the highest in the country, land trusts have a role to play to ensure that farmers can farm.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR AFFORDABLE FARMS A Model of Whole Farm Affordability

Secure, affordable access to land is the greatest challenge facing entering and expanding farmers today.

In Massachusetts, the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program has gone a long way towards permanently protecting farmland. While APRs can dramatically reduce the cost of agricultural land, there has been no equivalent tool in place to ensure that whole farms, including the necessary buildings and infrastructure, are affordable into the future.

Under a new model, Mount Grace will own the land, and Red Fire Farm will own the farmhouse, barns, greenhouses, and other buildings. Mount Grace will grant a 99-year renewable lease to the farmer at a market-based rate that is viable for food production. In addition, the resale of the farm buildings will be restricted to ensure that it is always affordable and transferred only to a farmer.

The result is a permanently affordable whole farm, or a farm that has the elements that a farmer needs — fields, barns, greenhouses, and housing — at a rate that a farmer can afford.



Small farms are key to increasing Massachusetts' food self-reliance from our current 5% level to 50%. To achieve this we must triple the amount of working farmland.

Hands-on experiences at Aurora Ranch in Royalston (above), Greenfield Town Farm (below), and Red Fire Farm in Montague (left), help connect people to the land and the farmers at the forefront of our agricultural economy.





JOHNSON'S FARM RESTAURANT AND SUGARHOUSE

Steve Johnson is the 4th generation earning a living by farming and making maple syrup on the family land in Orange. In 2002, as part of the Tully Valley Private Forest Lands Initiative, Steve and his wife DeDe worked with Mount Grace to sell a conservation restriction on their

land. Reinvesting the proceeds, they opened Johnson's Farm Restaurant and Sugarhouse, considered to be a local treasure, where neighbors and visitors can always be found sampling the maple syrup, and word-of-mouth is the best form of advertising.

PROTECTING FORESTS, WATER, & RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Our region is characterized by quintessential New England town commons, forests punctuated with streams and wetlands, hills dappled with open pastures and grazing cattle, valleys connected by family farmsteads, and country roads dotted by farm stands and sugar houses.

Mount Grace's **COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM** specializes in the conservation of working forests that are critical to sustaining our rural livelihoods and local economies, and providing pure drinking water and climate moderation. We do this by engaging directly with communities in strategic planning that empowers them to conserve local natural resources and secure their rural way of life, and by assisting them with locally important land protection and stewardship projects. We also engage urban, suburban, and former mill town communities with conservation and recreation projects.



Lifelong farmer John Moore and his horse Ben, worked together many winters collecting sap at Moore's Maple Grove Farm in Orange, a 332-acre Mount Grace project.

Direct Engagement, Success for All

COMMUNITY FORESTS

Buying local wood is as important as buying local food. Less than 5% of the wood and paper products used in Massachusetts are grown here. By partnering with towns,

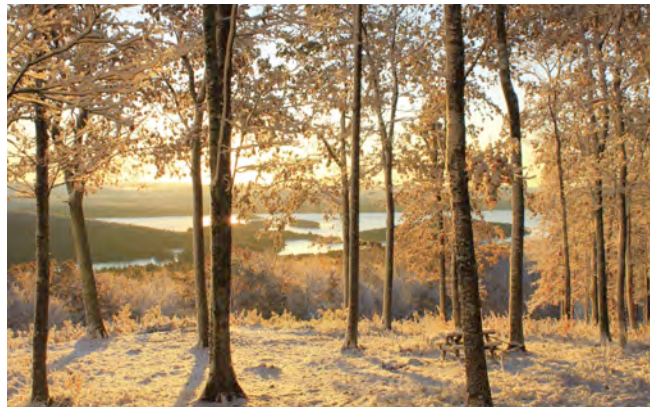
Mount Grace has leveraged federal funding to match state and community investments in town-owned conservation land. This land is managed to offer many benefits including: hands-on forest stewardship education; sustainable forestry to augment municipal budgets; opportunities for recreation and tourism; protection of drinking water supplies; and production of no- or low-cost cordwood to provide sources of heating fuel.

Mount Grace has successfully assisted the communities of Ashburnham, Erving, Hubbardston, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Warwick, and Wendell in establishing Community Forests, Municipal Watershed Lands, and Town Conservation Areas — and we have more projects in the works.

Watershed Preservation

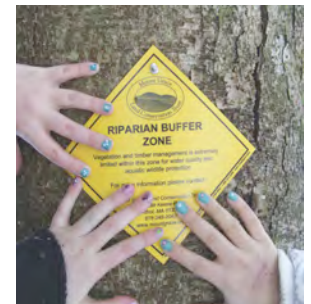
At the heart of the Mount Grace region is a land and water resource that many people would argue is the most precious in Massachusetts. The Quabbin Reservoir supplies drinking water to over 40% of the state's population. Since 1986, Mount Grace has been working with forest landowners in the Quabbin watershed to help them choose conservation over development.

Working Forest Conservation Easements and Watershed Preservation Restrictions offer voluntary options that compensate landowners for eliminating future development rights while allowing them to continue earning income from the land through traditional means such as farming, forestry, and sugaring. The net result is that local economies and rural livelihoods are supported while the land continues to provide far-reaching benefits to people across the Commonwealth by naturally filtering drinking water, mitigating climate change, and supporting fish and wildlife.



Late autumn view of the Quabbin Reservoir from New Salem.

It was a busy winter work day for Girl Scouts from Phillipston, who learned about water quality, forestry, and wildlife habitat while assisting with boundary marking to help implement Mount Grace's Forest Stewardship Plan.





The International Union of Forest Research Organizations toured the managed forest at Red Apple Farm, in Phillipston, protected by a 100-acre conservation restriction held by Mount Grace.

Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and aesthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise. — Aldo Leopold, *The Land Ethic*

DEMONSTRATING A LAND STEWARDSHIP ETHIC

Effective conservation requires both land protection and stewardship. Working with a dedicated volunteer network of natural resources professionals and committed citizens, Mount Grace demonstrates a range of stewardship options. We employ practices and techniques on our land that are based upon time-tested and leading-edge science from the fields of forestry, conservation biology, and agriculture. Our practices demonstrate for the benefit of the public and other conservation organizations how active and responsible stewardship can provide long-term environmental and economic rewards.

The Mount Grace **STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM** provides critical follow-through to our land protection work by carrying out the ecological land management, landowner assistance, easement monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities that constitute effective long-term conservation.



The Mount Grace region is filled with wildlife making their home and leaving their mark on the landscape. Above, bear claws on cedar at the Shaw Cedar Swamp in Winchendon. Below, moose scrapes at Fox Valley in Phillipston and beaver activity near Collar Brook in Royalston.

Mount Grace's MassLIFT AmeriCorps members provide conservation restriction monitoring training to municipal volunteers.



Working Forests and Wilderness Conservation

FSC Green Certified Forestry

As a forest landowner, Mount Grace supports The Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) vision of meeting the world's current needs for forest products without compromising the health of our forests for future generations.

Using local forestry and wood products are a critical part of achieving that vision. Since 2008, when the Massachusetts Forestry Bureau began offering FSC group certification for private landowners, Mount Grace has been upgrading our Forest Stewardship Plans to be Green Certified and harvesting our timber in accordance with the forestry industry's highest standards.

FOREVER WILD

Some places are so special because of the diverse array of plants, animals, and natural habitats that exist there that they need special consideration when it comes to conservation and stewardship. In these instances Mount Grace works with landowners to create Forever Wild Reserves, a designation for land protected and stewarded primarily for its biodiversity and wilderness values where natural disturbances such as wind, floods, ice storms, fire, and beaver activity are allowed to be the dominant forces that shape the land over time.

The result is a reserve where natural processes unfold and create a diverse multi-aged forest structure with both young and old growth habitat, standing and downed dead wood, and natural meandering watercourses where wildlife and humans benefit from the many values of wilderness.

Bill and Christine Copeland's land in Northfield is one such case. In 2011, Mount Grace worked with the Copelands to determine the best conservation strategy for their 183 acres. When a biological inventory turned up a cluster of 10 vernal pools, 5 rare natural plant communities, 3 area-sensitive carnivores (black bear, bobcat, and fisher), 10 watch-listed song bird species, 1 rare snake species, and 13 of 19 amphibian species that occur in Massachusetts, the Copelands decided to protect their property with a Forever Wild Conservation Restriction and work with our staff conservation biologists to develop an Ecological Stewardship Plan. The plan focuses on ecological restoration, invasive species management, and maintenance of high biodiversity values.





Mount Grace Conservation Director, David Graham Wolf, aided by a spotted salamander, intrigues high school students with the science of vernal pool certification.

I would like to see every young person in the country learn about and care about conservation and nature.

— Bob Ellis, wildlife artist, veteran, and member of the Legacy Circle of Mount Grace's Margaret Power-Biggs Society

ENGAGING WHOLE COMMUNITIES

Just like the faces that make up our community, conservation is changing. As we look forward at Mount Grace, we do so with an eye to what is important and relevant to the diverse perspectives and experiences of our whole community. The future sustainability of our organization depends on our willingness to consider community needs that may at first seem beyond our organization’s mission — food, education, work, health, spirituality, recreation, companionship — knowing that we will find mutual connections to the land if we look deeply.



Fostering the Future

Youth Conservation Service

With the goal of fostering a land ethic in future generations, Mount Grace’s MassLIFT Service Learning Program works with schools and youth-development organizations to deliver service learning and experiential education programs that reinforce the connection between people, nature, and community, and demonstrate the importance of land conservation and stewardship.



Students from Boston’s Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School are ready to wade into a vernal pool certification project in Ashburnham on land protected with a Mount Grace conservation restriction.



DIVERSE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

At Mount Grace we are engaging diverse demographics and civic interests to ensure that land conservation reaches every community and becomes meaningful for all people.

Our work with Noonday Farm in Winchendon is supporting local hunger relief efforts. At Heywood Hospital in Gardner we are helping to address public health issues related to diabetes and exercise. At the Greenfield Town Farm we have helped secure land where people can grow their own fresh fruit and vegetables. And at Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries’ Fresh Air Camp in Athol and New Salem, we secured federal funding to protect the 500-acre summer camp for Boston-area urban youth.

In fact, Mount Grace’s Partnership Director has an explicit directive to engage communities broadly and deeply and look for opportunities to work with people and civic groups whose voices and interests are not typically represented in the conservation conversation.

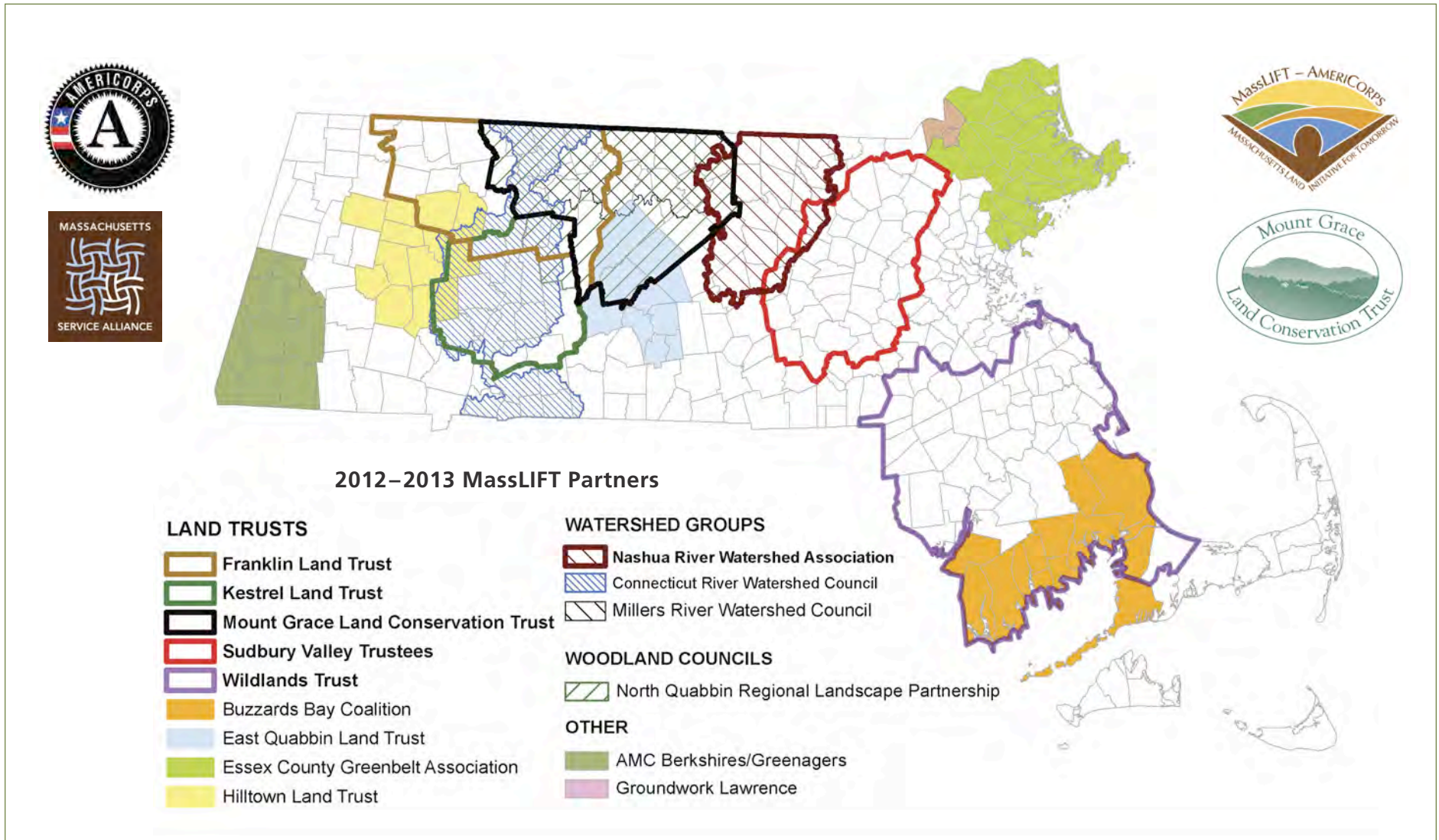


Invited outdoors for a variety of Mount Grace programs throughout the year, community members across a broad spectrum are learning about the nature of things around them and teaching others new perspectives. Involving community groups, families, individuals, and children in conservation and stewardship builds new networks of sustainability.



MassLIFT-AmeriCorps: Massachusetts Land Initiative For Tomorrow

Serving Land Conservation from the Berkshires to the Bay



From the Berkshires to the Bay, MassLIFT members converge quarterly to learn skills, exchange ideas, and cultivate *esprit de corps* for volunteerism in service of nature and communities.

MassLIFT has attracted remarkably talented individuals to serve with our program. While impressed by the high levels of conservation activity provided by our members' assistance, I am most excited by new projects that have developed out of a member's special interests. — Dee Robbins, MassLIFT Program Manager

A RISING TIDE IN MASSACHUSETTS CONSERVATION

The aphorism, “A rising tide lifts all boats” accurately describes the far-reaching impact of Mount Grace's collaborative work.



MassLIFT AmeriCorps

In 2010, Mount Grace created and launched a hugely successful statewide conservation program called the Massachusetts Land Initiative For Tomorrow (MassLIFT). The MassLIFT vision is to build public support for land conservation, increase regional conservation capacity, and accelerate the pace of land conservation in Massachusetts by enhancing the regional land conservation network in order to promote collaborative conservation and deep community engagement.

SERVICE ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

Managed by Mount Grace staff, the MassLIFT vision is achieved in partnership with the Massachusetts Service Alliance and the Corporation for National and Community Service via its AmeriCorps program. Each year, 20 MassLIFT AmeriCorps members serve in communities from the Berkshires to the Massachusetts Bay providing critical, hands-on support for local land conservation and stewardship, garnering the power of more than 4,000 community volunteers so far.



North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership

Since 1997, Mount Grace has been a leader in collaborative conservation. The North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership is a voluntary association of conservation-focused people from land trusts, town and regional planning commissions, academia, local nature clubs, and government agencies working collaboratively to protect open space in the North Quabbin region. As the program's fiscal sponsor, Mount Grace provides full-time professional staff for the Partnership and a MassLIFT member who serves as its Regional Conservationist.

EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

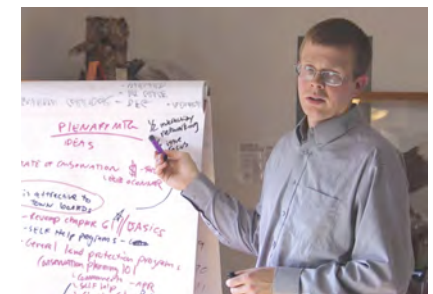
Respecting organizational differences while recognizing common interests, Mount Grace strategically collaborates with a wide range of agencies, organizations, and people to advance our conservation mission and encourage other collaborations like the Forever Farmland Initiative in the Pioneer Valley

Over the years, the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership has demonstrated the effectiveness of collaboration in projects such as the 22-mile Tully Trail, the two-state Quabbin to Cardigan Initiative, and the US Forest Service Redesign Program. The Partnership also served as the model for the Regional Conservation Partnership network of Harvard Forest's *Wildlands & Woodlands Vision*.



Identifying common interests and sharing resources has brought millions of otherwise inaccessible dollars to the region through the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership and Mount Grace's statewide MassLIFT AmeriCorps program. Dee Robbins is the Mount Grace staffer running the MassLIFT program since 2010, providing support to events coordinated by MassLIFT members, such as the first statewide conference for municipal Open Space Committees in 2011.

Mount Grace's Partnership Director, Jay Rasku, has been coordinating the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership since 2006.





Diverse pollinator species collectively ensure the continuation of two-thirds of all flowering plants and agricultural crops.

Mount Grace's continued role as a keystone conservation organization requires the generous financial support of big-picture conservationists like you who understand how a relatively small player with the entrepreneurial spirit of a bumble bee can make a world of difference.

SUPPORT A KEYSTONE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

In the field of ecology, a keystone species is one that plays a central role in maintaining the entire structure of an ecological community and whose impact on the community is greater than expected based on its relative abundance. Because of their significant influence on community structure and species diversity, keystone species are a target for conservation efforts. Protecting one keystone species supports an entire community.

Mount Grace's work, like the work of keystone species, plays a critical role in maintaining the diversity, structure, and capacity of the regional and local land conservation community across the Commonwealth—an ecology, of sorts.



An Ecology of Conservation Organizations

MassLIFT is a vibrant example of the influence that Mount Grace has on the conservation community across Massachusetts.

By means of MassLIFT, our partners at **Nashua River Watershed Association, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and Wildlands Trust**, are better able to organize regional conservation partnerships and protect more land. At **AMC Berkshires/Greenagers, Connecticut River Watershed Council, East Quabbin Land Trust, Essex County Greenbelt Association, Groundwork Lawrence, and Millers River Watershed Council**, our partners have gained sufficient capacity to engage youth in conservation work, build community gardens, clean up rivers and streams, and "green" urban communities. At **Buzzards Bay Coalition, Franklin Land Trust, Hilltown Land Trust, and Kestrel Land Trust** our partners are better able to organize community volunteers to assist with critical land stewardship and provide assistance to conservation commissions and open space committees.

The reasoning is sound — support one keystone conservation organization, and in doing so, support an entire conservation community across the Commonwealth.



Support is particularly encouraged in these areas:

- Multi-year commitments to the annual operating fund or a specific program or project
- Lifetime or bequest additions to our general and stewardship endowment funds
- Automatic monthly donations via credit or bank card
- Non-conservation real estate for resale, and other appreciated assets
- Membership in the Margaret Power-Biggs Society for annual gifts of \$1,000 or more.

To discuss these and other ideas, please contact:

Leigh Youngblood, Executive Director
978-248-2055 x20
youngblood@mountgrace.org

ABOUT THE MARGARET POWER-BIGGS SOCIETY

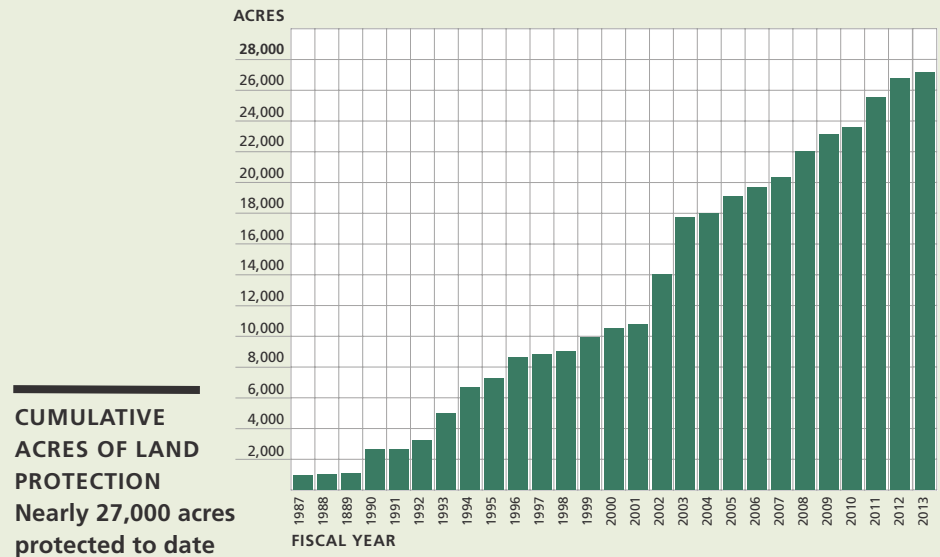
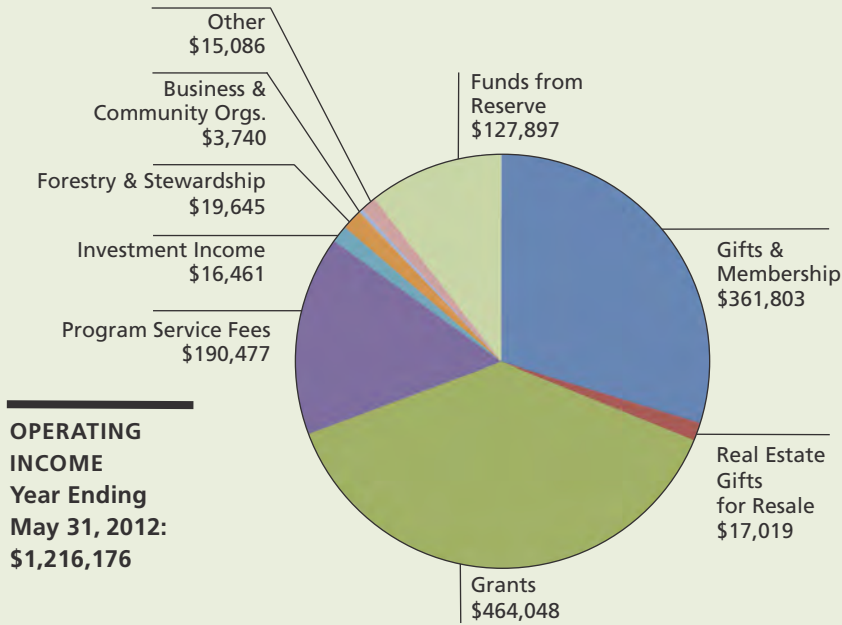
A native of Greenfield, Massachusetts, Margaret (Allen) Power-Biggs (1917–1999), wife of organist E. Power-Biggs, resided in Cambridge, Massachusetts for fifty years. In 1966, Peggy Biggs, as she was known, purchased and began restoring the house, stone walls, and fields at what would become Skyfields Arboretum.

Peggy's commitment to nature and local conservation are memorialized in the Margaret Power-Biggs Society, which encourages generous annual support to sustain the conservation and stewardship work of Mount Grace.



Mount Grace is the fifth land trust in Massachusetts to be accredited. Accreditation allows the land trust movement to ensure the quality and professionalism of member trusts.

ILLUSTRATING INTEGRITY AND FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY



Mount Grace Funds Available for Philanthropic Investment

Funds are invested as short- or long-term assets, according to the Mount Grace Investment Policy Statement. A Fund may include donor-restricted and board-designated amounts.

LONG-TERM ASSETS

Endowment Fund endows all of the programs of Mount Grace.

Stewardship Endowment Fund endows the stewardship program.

Conservation Restriction Enforcement Fund is for this sole purpose.

SHORT-TERM ASSETS

Operating Fund represents income to be used for operating expenses in the budget annually approved by the Board of Directors.

Operating Reserve Fund is for operating cash-flow needs and an operating safety reserve.

Capital Improvement Fund is for facility improvement needs at Skyfields, Mount Grace headquarters.

Stewardship Capital Fund is for stewardship needs, including land management, service learning activities, and conservation restriction landowner assistance.

Land Protection Fund is risk capital for land acquisition and transaction costs.

Revolving Loan Fund serves as a revolving fund for land conservation projects.

Revolving Appraisal Fund is a catalyst for feasible potential projects.

Donor Restricted & Other Designated Fund includes non-fund-specific donor restricted gifts and board-designated funds for specific projects or uses.

OTHER ASSETS

Local Landscape Collateral Fund consists of CDs, owned by others, pledged to Mount Grace to use as collateral for loans to purchase land for conservation.

Mount Grace is grateful for the many photographers who capture the beauty and vitality of our region:

Photo © David Brothers, pp. 2, 6

Photo © Red Fire Farm, pp. 4, 5

Photo © John Burk, p. 7

Photo © Liane Brandon, p. 7

Photo © UMass, p. 8

Photo © Mike Phillips, p. 8

Photo © Catherine Muther, p. 12

All other photos by Mount Grace staff

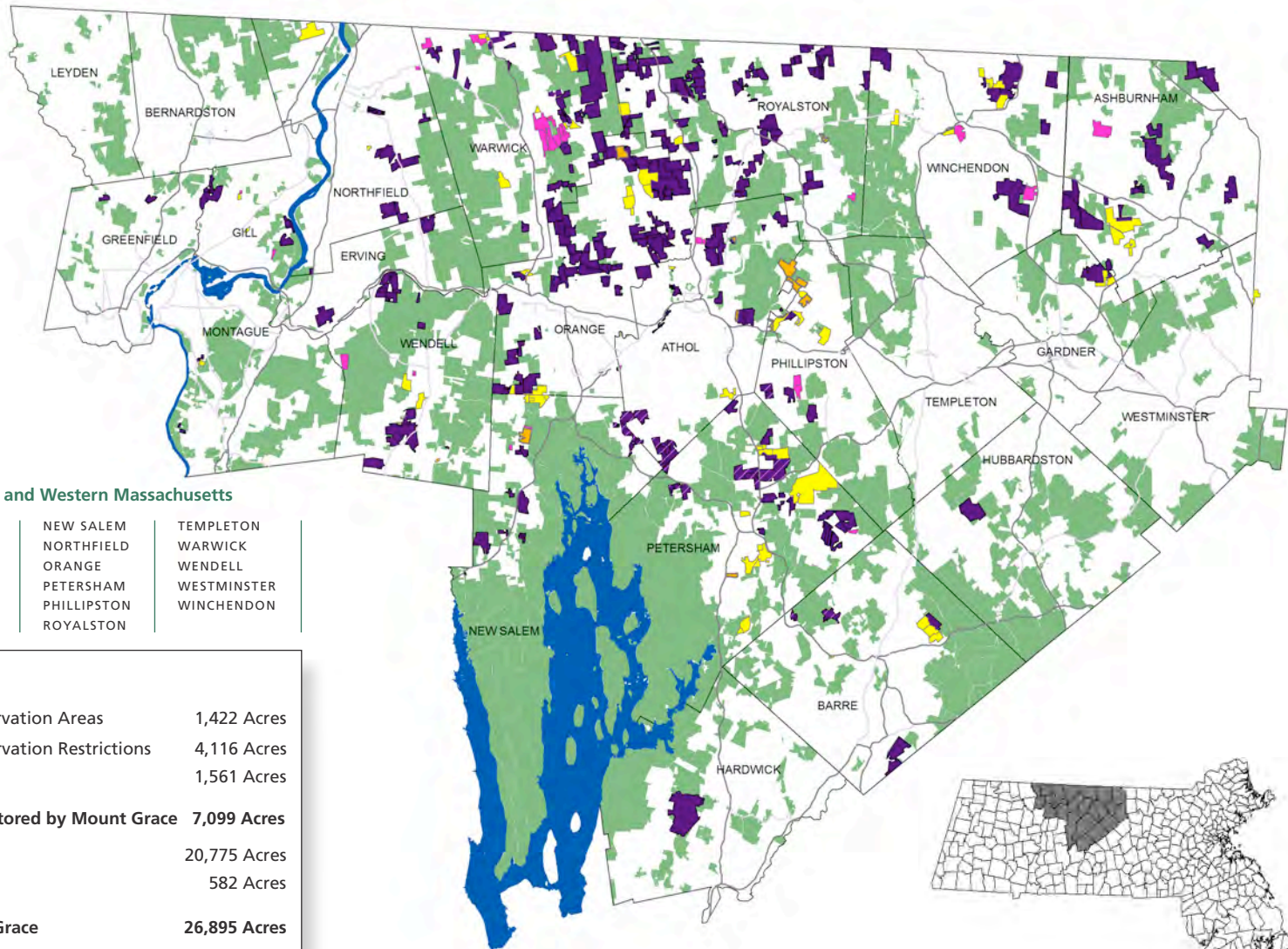
Thank you to the AmeriCorps/Commonwealth Corps Alumni for their photography work for Mount Grace:

Kate Marquis, Commonwealth Corps Outreach Coordinator 2009–10, pp. 7, 11

Davis Brush, MassLIFT-AmeriCorps Service Learning Coordinator 2011–12, p. 14

MOUNT GRACE LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

Conservation Projects 1986–2013









OUR REGION

23 communities in North Central and Western Massachusetts

ASHBURNHAM	GILL	NEW SALEM	TEMPLETON
ATHOL	GREENFIELD	NORTHFIELD	WARWICK
BARRE	HARDWICK	ORANGE	WENDELL
BERNARDSTON	HUBBARDSTON	PETERSHAM	WESTMINSTER
ERVING	LEYDEN	PHILLIPSTON	WINCHENDON
GARDNER	MONTAGUE	ROYALSTON	

PROJECT MAP

	20 Mount Grace Conservation Areas	1,422 Acres
	51 Mount Grace Conservation Restrictions	4,116 Acres
	6 Stewardship Assists	1,561 Acres
All Property Managed & Monitored by Mount Grace		7,099 Acres
	210 Facilitated Projects	20,775 Acres
	9 Project Assists	582 Acres
All Land Protected by Mount Grace		26,895 Acres
	Other Protected Land	158,048 Acres
Total Protected Land		184,943 Acres
Total Land in Mount Grace Region		510,640 Acres





mountgrace.org

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CONSERVATION TRUST**

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Friend us on Facebook



ON THE COVER:

First grade students from the Sanders Street School in Athol discover nature at Mount Grace Headquarters, Skyfields Arboretum, with staff biologist Tom Wansleben.

AT RIGHT:

Organic rye along the Connecticut River at Red Fire Farm in Montague, Mount Grace's first Whole Farm Affordability project, benefiting the environment, the economy, and future generations.

