

# The Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust

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The Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (BTLT), located in midcoast Maine, is one of the state's most vibrant and innovative local land trusts. Founded in 1985, and now with a membership of over 1,100 families and individuals, BTLT:

- conserves and stewards vital natural areas,
- supports a vibrant local food system, and
- connects people with the natural world through inclusive education and recreation programs.

Our goal is to protect natural resources, cultivate care for the natural world, inspire appreciation for the environment through educational programs, and in so doing, foster resilient, connected communities now and for generations to come.

A 501(C)(3) non-profit organization, BTLT has been accredited by the Land Trust Alliance since 2012.

**Programs and Activities.** To date, BTLT has conserved 72 properties covering 3,200 acres with over 24 miles of trails and continues to explore further opportunities to conserve land in the towns of Brunswick, Topsham, and Bowdoin, Maine. We actively steward our conservation properties to fulfill our responsibility to care for them in perpetuity, including proactively managing for values ranging from habitat to recreation to climate mitigation.

BTLT supports local farms and local food by: protecting farm and pastureland for agriculture, including ownership of a 321-acre working farm; operating a farmers' market that provides a retail outlet for 40 local farmers and producers; leading the Merrymeeting Food Council; and providing three robust community gardens.

Through a recent merger with the Cathance River Education Alliance (CREA), BTLT conducts highly successful youth educational programs in partnership with local schools and operates a popular nature immersion summer camp. It also sponsors a range of educational and recreational opportunities for adults.

Concerns for climate change and for diversity and inclusion are manifest across this range of programs and activities.

**Finance and Development.** BTLT's annual operating budget is just over \$1,000,000, exclusive of income and expenses for most land conservation projects. Income for these operations come from a mix of charitable giving, grants, earned income, and draw from an endowment now valued at approximately \$1.7 million.

Our Annual Fund contributes nearly half of the operating income and includes significant support from local business organizations.

**Staff.** There are currently twelve permanent [staff](#) members, some of whom are part-time. Staff roles are described on BTLT's website. In addition, BTLT employs contractors for specific services, seasonal staff for stewardship, agricultural programs, and summer camp, as well as volunteers for both operational and administrative support.

**Governance and Culture.** With completion of the recent merger with the Cathance River Education Alliance, the [Board of Directors](#) now numbers 22 and meets monthly. There are eight standing Committees, an Advisory Council, and several ad hoc working groups. A [Strategic Plan 2023-27](#) was recently approved by the Board. BTLT's culture emphasizes excellence, integrity, cooperation and a welcome for all.