



Citizens for Lexington Conservation



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

EILEEN ENTIN, CHAIR APRIL 2026 RUTH M. LADD, EDITOR

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LINK TO ON-LINE VERSION



RENEW OR JOIN TODAY!

It's a new year and Dues are due! Annual membership in CLC is only \$25.00 (a deal!) although wouldn't you like to be a branch or tree instead of a twig?!

Membership Levels: (Please select one)

\$25 Twig: _____ **\$50 Branch:** _____ **\$100 Tree** _____ **\$250 Grove:** _____

(Additional donations are always welcome! Become a Forest member for \$500!)

You can pay dues on-line at the CLC website. Follow this link and press the **Join/Donate** button on the top right of the page: <https://www.clclex.org>

If you prefer to pay by check or are using a donor-advised fund, please send this form (or information*) along with your check made payable to "Citizens for Lexington Conservation" to PO Box 292, Lexington, MA 02420-0002.

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

*Email: _____

**You can also send this info by email to CLCLexington8@gmail.com*

Please note that including your email address is essential. We aim to be more environmentally and fiscally responsible by sending our newsletter primarily via email. The online version offers the advantage of color and live links. It is eco-friendly by reducing paper use and more budget-friendly by lowering the CLC's printing and mailing costs. That said, if you prefer a paper copy, please contact us at CLCLexington8@gmail.com.

_____ Check here if you want your donation to be anonymous in newsletter gift acknowledgements.

Citizens for Lexington Conservation (CLC) is a registered 501(c) (3) organization. Membership dues support the CLC's mission, and qualifying contributions are tax-deductible and acknowledged with a receipt.

Thank you for supporting the CLC!

CLC BOARD

President	Eileen Entin
Treasurer	Anne MacDonald-Broun
Secretary	Pamela Lyons
Membership	Priya Singh
Walks Coordinator	Gali Diamant
Newsletter Editor	Ruth Ladd
Website Management	Rita Pandey and Keith Ohmart
Social Media Coordinator	OPEN
Conservation Restriction Monitors	OPEN
Members at Large	Bobbie Hodson Miriam Boucher Barbara Tarrh



Eileen Entin



Anne MacDonald-Broun



Pamela Lyons



Priya Singh



Gali Diamant



Ruth Ladd



Rita Pandey



Keith Ohmart



'Bobbie' Hodson



Miriam Boucher



Barbara Tarrh



LOVE LEXINGTON'S CONSERVATION LANDS?

Join our team!

CLC needs a Publicity/Social Media director(s)

Citizens for Lexington Conservation (CLC) is looking for a friendly, media-savvy volunteer or volunteer team to join our board as Publicity & Social Media Director(s). It's only a small time commitment, extremely flexible, and a great way to connect with local nature lovers. Our board meets every other month from September to May, usually on the third Wednesday, and our annual meeting happens in early spring.

In this role, you'll help us spread the word about our spring and fall guided walks, seasonal activities, and annual meeting – which are at the heart of what we do! You'll promote our events through town newsletters, email updates, and social media. If you enjoy storytelling, community outreach, and sharing a passion for the outdoors, we'd be happy to welcome you.

Interested? Drop us a note at clclexington8@gmail.com – and let's chat!



NEEDED: INFORMATIONAL SIGN IDEAS

Recently CLC has been adding well-researched informational signage to our Lexington conservation lands. We plan to continue this project by adding 1-2 large signs per year. This year we are working on two signs for Whipple Hill.

Please visit the birding info sign in Dunback Meadow and the vernal pool sign in Hayden Woods to see examples that are in place. To increase knowledge of the history, geology, or botany of our Lexington protected areas, we want to tap your interest and knowledge. We would appreciate working with you as we and our graphics designer, Jon Sachs, decide on the words and photos for each sign.

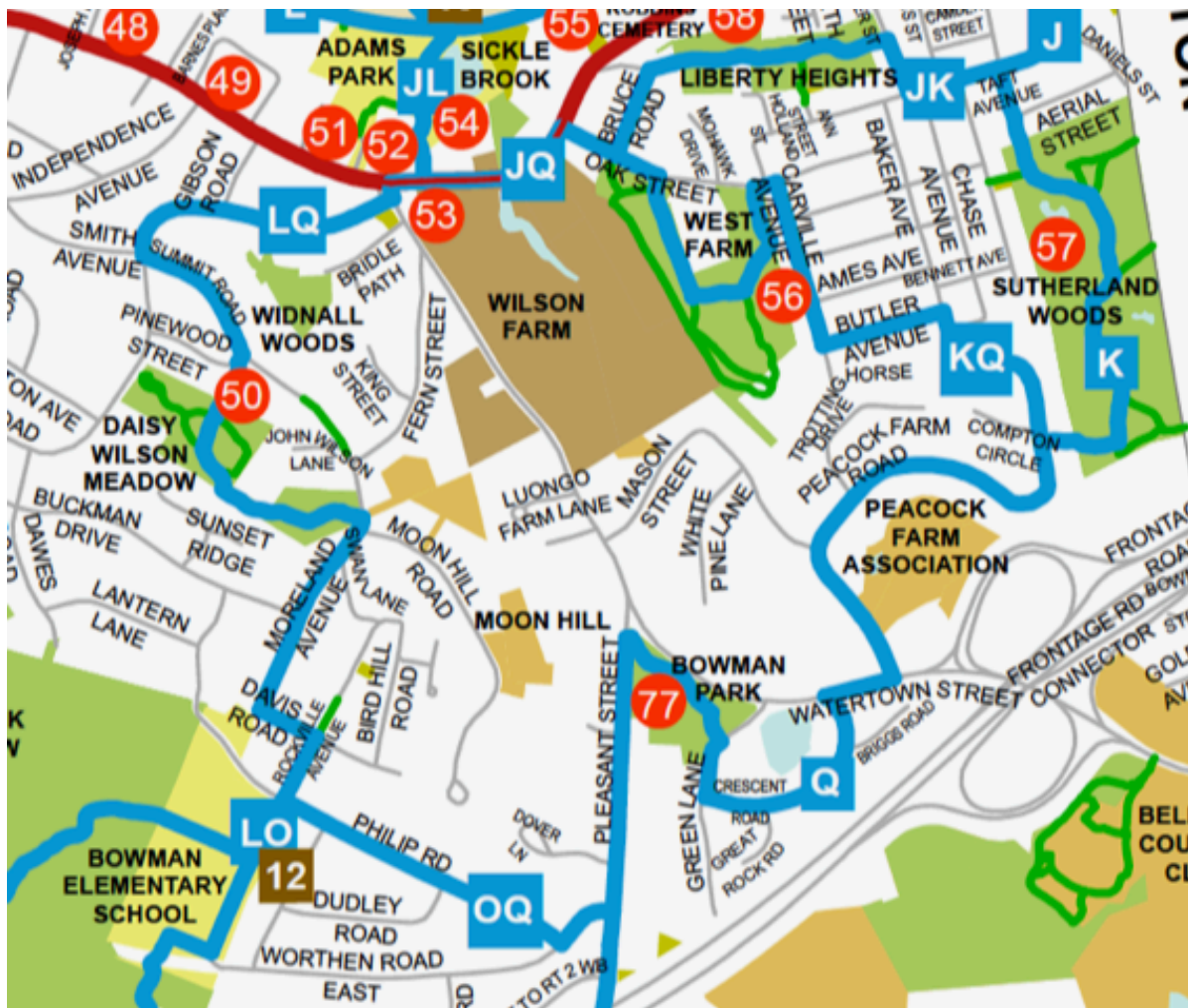
Further signs could include the Native American paint mine, Meagherville history, the history of farming areas in town (Chiesa, Poor Farm, Dunback, etc.), and more. We're open to your suggestions. Just let us know.

For more information or to make suggestions, contact Bobbie Hodson at robertahodson@comcast.net

NEW ACROSS LEXINGTON ROUTE Q

If you are looking for a new ACROSS Lexington route to explore, check out the Greenway Corridor Committee's latest offering, Route Q. It is located in the southeast corner of Lexington and is centered on Bowman Park, the 5 acre wooded park adjacent to the traffic rotary joining Pleasant Street and Watertown Street. Traversing Bowman Park on a newly constructed boardwalk built by Eagle Scouts last year, Route Q meanders through the Peacock Farm neighborhood via Peacock Farm Road and then follows ACROSS Route K over to West Farm. On exiting West Farm, Route Q joins Route J briefly before joining Route L over to Daisy Wilson Meadow. Continuing along Route L to the Bowman School, Route Q then joins Route O over to Pleasant Street where it turns north up Pleasant Street and back to Bowman Park.

Totaling 3.7 miles in length, Route Q provides a peaceful and leisurely opportunity to explore the neighborhoods on either side of Watertown Street in this quiet part of Lexington. Best parking to access Route Q can be found on Worthen Road East where it joins Pleasant Street.



MARCH 2026 ANNUAL MEETING



Our speaker: Dr. Jeff Howry

Dr. Howry gave a fascinating talk about Willards Woods - from thousands of years ago to the present.



Full house of about 40 attendees

FREE TREES STILL AVAILABLE!

In honor of Lexington's 250th celebration, the Town is again offering free native saplings in one-gallon pots. Any property or business owner can sign up to reserve a tree, which may be planted anywhere on your property.

At the time of this writing, several species are still available including two special species of oak trees (burr oak and swamp white oak), which are vital contributors to local biodiversity. Details and an order form can be found on the Town's website: <https://www.lexingtonma.gov/2317/Lex250-Tree-Sapling-Giveaway> and the Tree Committee's website: <https://www.lexingtonma.gov/872/Tree-Committee>. The ordering deadline is April 18th, so check the website soon! Email the Tree Committee, using the link on their web page, with any questions.

You can pick up your sapling, an ID tag, planting and care instructions, and rabbit fencing on either of the first two Saturdays in May (May 2nd or May 9th) from 8 am to 11 am. Free mulch (bring a container) will be available.



*Swamp white oak
(Quercus bicolor)*



Tupelo (Nyssa sylvatica)

NEW ASSISTANT CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

We welcome Evan Paige as the assistant to Karen Mullins, Conservation Director. He will be helping with conservation restrictions, permitting-related work, and working with conservation stewards.

Evan has most recently worked as an ecologist doing soil and plant surveys and pest/disease management. He has his pesticide applicators license and is a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) certified industrial stormwater inspector.

He got his bachelor's and master's in Environmental Science at UMass-Lowell. While there he was a graduate research and teaching assistant. His graduate research focused on understanding the composition and successional dynamics of urban forest in Massachusetts.



CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT IS HIRING

Know anyone 18 or over looking for an opportunity to work outside this summer? The Conservation Department is seeking summer work crew members. For more information, contact Karen Mullins at kmullins@lexingtonma.gov.

DID YOU KNOW THAT....?

...There are benches available in several of our conservation areas (see maps at <https://www.lexingtonma.gov/231/Trails?>)

- Chiesa Farm
- Dunback Meadow
- Hayden Woods
- Juniper Hill
- Meagherville
- Parker Meadow
- Cotton Farm (picnic tables)
- West Farm.



Chiesa Farm

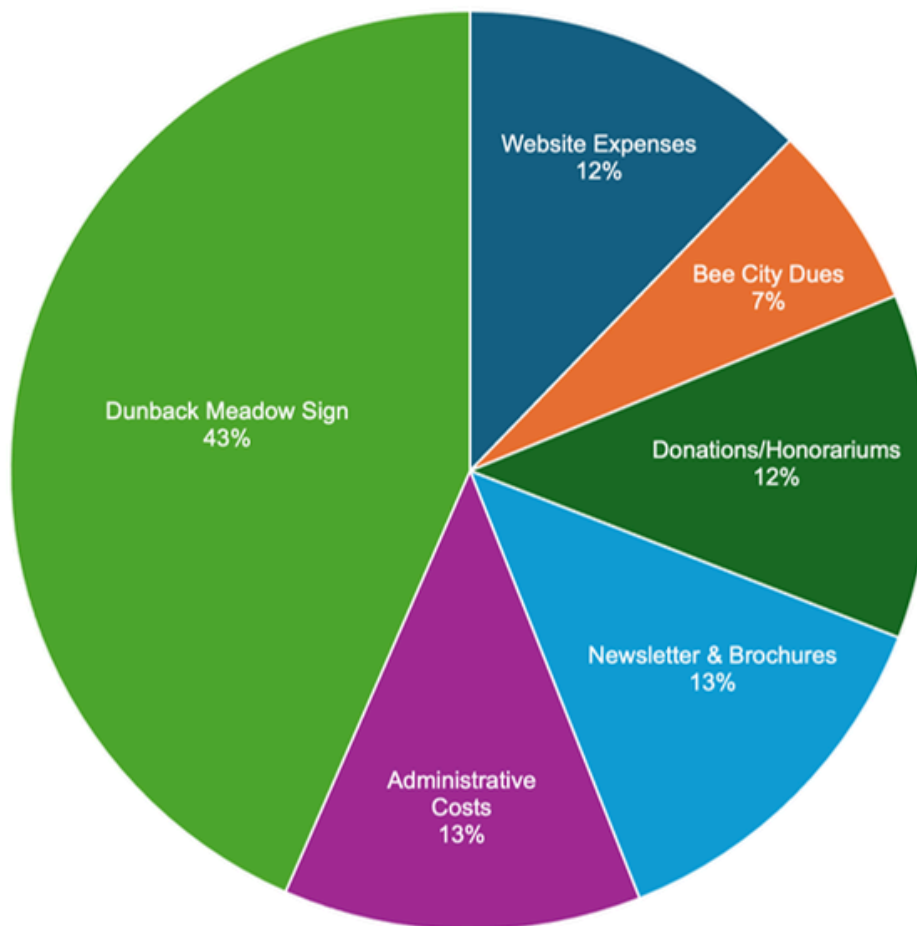
CLC TREASURER'S REPORT

For the period April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

Thank you to all our contributing members for your support!

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, the CLC received \$4,664.07 in donations and dues. Additionally, we earned about \$35 in interest, bringing our total income just under \$4,700! Our expenses for the year were \$4,585.71. See the pie chart below for a detailed breakdown:

**Citizens for Lexington Conservation
Summary of Expenditures for Year Ended March 31, 2026**



CLC WALKS - SPRING 2026

- Check our website for updates and cancelation.
- Registration is not necessary unless specifically mentioned in the walk notes.
- Walks will be canceled in case of steady rain/snow, unless otherwise noted.
- **No dogs, except certified service dogs.**

Citi Nature Challenge iNaturalist observation walks



April 24-27 is the City Nature Challenge, an international event, motivating people around the world to find and document wildlife in their own cities. Join one or both walks, offered in collaboration with Lexington Living Landscapes.

The walks (see below) are an opportunity to learn to use iNaturalist to observe and share biodiversity information in Lexington's conservation land and to participate in this year's Challenge.

iNaturalist is an online social network of people who care about biodiversity and want to contribute to knowledge and learn from each other. So far, people in Lexington have made over 30,000 observations comprising over 2,100 species of plants, birds, bugs, fungi, etc. in iNaturalist!

Please download the iNaturalist app to your phone (iPhone or Android) and create an account before you arrive at either walk. Come even if you don't intend to make official observations yourself; help us find plants and animals to record, and see how the process works.

Online iNaturalist Tutorial for the City Nature Challenge

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 pm

Join us as Lexington resident and iNaturalist expert Barbara Katzenberg walks us through how to use iNaturalist. Before the session, please download the iNaturalist app to your phone and create an iNaturalist account. Also have a sprig handy of something with leaves to practice on (a conifer or evergreen broadleaved plant like holly).

registration required – [see CLC web site for registration to get the ZOOM link \(https://clclex.org/events/\)](https://clclex.org/events/)

iNaturalist observation walk at Paint Mine

Saturday April 25, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Meet in the Estabrook School parking lot. Heavy rain cancels.

Leader: Evan Paige - epaige@lexingtonma.gov

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iNaturalist observation walk at Dunback Meadow

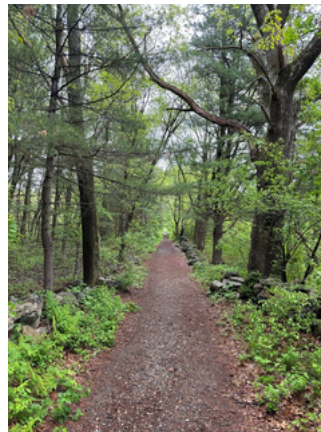
Sunday April 26, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Meet at the Allen Street entrance to Dunback Meadow. Parking is available on Allen Street. Heavy rain cancels.

Leader: Barbara Katzenberg - barbara.katzenberg@lexingtontmma.org

Willard's Woods: A Brief Journey Through a 12,000 year-old Landscape

Sunday May 3, 2:00 pm



By popular demand, Jeff Howry, Ph.D., a Lexington historian and archaeologist will lead another walk exploring Willard's Woods. The area presents many examples of how our New England landscape was shaped by nature and occupied by humans. The tour will show participants many of the features of the 100 acres that tell stories of what has happened in the past 12,000 years. Posters and artifacts will supplement the narrative as we explore various terrains and historic areas within the conservation area. Not seen before imagery of the historic landscape will be presented. Participants will particularly come to appreciate what the past tells us about our colonial forbearers' lives.

Wear long pants with closure straps, hiking footgear and weather-proof clothing. Meet in the main parking lot on North Street opposite 44 North Street.

Limited to 30 participants, registration required – [see CLC web site for registration link \(https://clclex.org/events/\)](https://clclex.org/events/). Changes/cancellations will be emailed to participants

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

...Since the fall of 2021 there have been 10 walks on ACROSS Lexington Routes: A, B, F, G (3 times!), H, K, L, and M. This spring there are two more!

Spring Birding at Lower Vine Brook

Saturday May 9, 7:30 - 9:00 am

Rain Date: Sunday May 10, 7:30 - 9:00 am

Lower Vine Brook can be a fantastic area to see warblers, beautiful small tropical birds that migrate north at this time of year. They will eventually reach the forests of northern New England and Canada to breed, but if weather and foliage are right, you may see a dozen species here in a single morning. Dress for the weather (boots if it's wet) and bring binoculars and a bird ID book, or app. Children with adults are welcome. No dogs please. Meet at the entrance to Lower Vine Brook conservation area opposite 107 Vine St. Rain or lightning will cancel the event; if conditions are uncertain, please call the walk leader.

Leader: Harry West: 617-461-9500, hwest2020@gmail.com

Geology and More at Whipple Hill

Saturday May 16, 1 - 2:30 pm

Whipple Hill Conservation Area features Lexington's highest point, topping out at 374 feet above Boston Harbor. Whipple Hill is also home to fascinating remnants of the last glacier to cover the area some 10,000 years ago. The walk up and down the trails will include stopping at a vernal pool and observing typical New England woodland plants, some in bloom.

Meet at the Winchester Drive entrance, 196 Johnson Rd Winchester, MA 01890. Parking is available on Berkshire Drive off Winchester Drive, across the street from the entrance. Heavy rain or lightning cancels.

Leader: Fran Ludwig: 617-686-8442, fludwig12@yahoo.com

Explore Hayden Woods

Sunday May 17, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Walk the longest boardwalk in Lexington to the center of Hayden Woods, then loop through varied terrain including a large vernal pool, Old Shade Street (1660), and the mystery stone bench. About two miles total. Mostly level, but a few gentle slopes. Meet at the trailhead at 77 Valleyfield Street. Park on the street. We will start walking at 2 pm sharp, rain or shine.

Leader: Bob Hausslein - 781-862-9102, rhausslein@rcn.com

**** Citizens for Lexington Conservation Newsletter (clclex.org/newsletters) ****

Wild Edibles of Lexington's Waysides

Tuesday May 19, 6-8 pm

Once again CLC is delighted to have Russ Cohen return for another walk to teach us about wild edible plants! Lexington is home to over 70 species of edible wild plants, both native and non-native, including plants considered to be weedy or invasive. Some are more nutritious and/or flavorful than their cultivated counterparts. Join Russ Cohen, expert forager and author of *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten*, on a two-hour ramble in and around Lincoln Park to learn about at least 18 edible species. Russ will present information on identification tips, edible portion(s), season(s) of availability and preparation methods, as well as general guidelines for safe and environmentally-responsible foraging.

Meet at the Fitness Trail entrance at the crosswalk on Worthen Road across from the Lexington High playing fields. Steady rain cancels.

Leader: Russ Cohen - 781-646-7489, eatwild@rcn.com

Spring Goat Pasture Walk at Chiesa Farm

Sunday May 24, 12-2 pm

Rain date: Monday May 25, 12-2 pm



Come join the local Lexington goats for their daily pasture walk through the fields and woodlands at Chiesa Farm. Each season the land provides them with diverse plant life. The goats are very specific to what they need to eat, depending on many factors. We will have two Lexington herds, totaling over a dozen adult female dairy goats, and a few youngsters. Learn how the goats in our town are working to keep the invasive plants from taking over. All adults and children are welcome.

Parking is at Diamond Middle School or Fiske Elementary School parking lots. Meet us in the pasture. Check out the new children's book about the Lexington herds and their adventures at pasture: www.goodwinhillgoats.com

Guides: Halé Sofia Schatz and Laurene Beaudette - laurene@iwebinsight.com

ACROSS Lexington Route Q

Saturday May 30, 10am

Rain date: Sunday May 31, 10am

Join this walk to discover ACROSS Lexington Route Q. This approximately 3 mile loop is the newest ACROSS Lexington Route. The walk will take approximately one hour. It goes through residential streets, and several conservation areas and includes a new path through Bowman Park. The walk is not suitable for walkers, strollers or baby carriages. Wear comfortable clothing and walking footwear.

Meet at the intersection of Worthen Road East and Pleasant St. Parking is available on the street. See page 5 for an article on this route.

Leader: Miriam Boucher – 781-248-6695, mdcb16@verizon.net

Fauna and Flora of Arlington's Great Meadow

Saturday June 6, 1:00-3:00 pm



AGM features meadows, wetlands, and woods within its borders. Over 675 species of trees, plants, insects, mammals and more have been documented on iNaturalist to date. We'll share observations and insights of AGM's natural communities, a changing mixture of native and introduced organisms, with a focus on taking a closer look at wildflowers and insects.

Wear long pants and have bug repellent in reserve, bring magnifiers if you have them. Meet at the end of Emerson Gardens Rd. off Maple St. in Lexington. Public parking is available just past the entrance to Lexington Meadow townhomes. Use Emerson Gardens Rd for overflow parking.

More than light rain cancels.

Leader: Andrea Golden - andgold@comcast.net

ACROSS Lexington Routes C and J **Saturday June 13, 1:00 pm**

This walk will join two routes by eliminating a long stretch along the Minuteman Bike Path. This will result in a loop walk of about 3.2 miles. We will go through three conservation areas: Cataldo Reservation, Arlington's Great Meadows, and Liberty Heights. Wear comfortable clothing, walking footwear, and bring water if it is hot. Meet in the parking lot next to the Minuteman Bike Path off Bow Street. This is rain or shine - unless there is thunder and lightning.

Leader: Ruth Ladd 781-956-6774,
wetlandmom@gmail.com



HENNESSEY BARN

The barn, originally a horse barn, is now used by our Conservation Division staff and conservation stewards to store equipment and supplies used to maintain our conservation lands. Note how neat they keep it! It is located next to Hennessey Field.

