



photo courtesy of Grace Bartlett

WHAT CAME TO FRUITION OVER THE SUMMER

Nature tells us that some things need time to germinate, grow, flower, and fruit. So it has been with Bangor Land Trust. Three major Bangor Land Trust projects have come to fruition:

Trail V – a bicycle-pedestrian route from Cascade Park to Stillwater Ave.

The addition of 47 acres to Walden-Parke preserve – BLT conserved lands now total 950 acres

Renewal of our national accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance

Trail V: Kathy Guerin, Executive Director of Keep Bangor Beautiful, helped to germinate the seed for Trail V at a holiday party in 2005. A conversation with her led to a meeting at City Hall with former City Manager Ed Barrett and former City Engineer Jim Ring. It turned out that the City already had its own wish list for trails. Thus began Bangor Trails, a partnership among the City of Bangor, Keep Bangor Beautiful, and Bangor Land Trust.

Together, we held a public meeting at the library and distributed a survey inviting all Bangor residents to draw maps of where they would like to see trail connections. We followed up with 2 years of regular meetings, evaluating options one by one on a 12-point scale. “Trail V”, as the City had called it, emerged as a top priority for utility, buildability, and other attributes. The Bangor City Council accepted the Preliminary Trails Plan in 2008 and included it in Bangor’s 2012 Comprehensive Plan.

Progress required persistence. To avoid disturbing a vernal pool, Bangor needed permission to route part of the trail within the I-95 Right-of-Way. This required strategic negotiations with the Department of Transportation, strict (and expensive) construction standards, and federal funding via the Maine DOT. Bangor City staff were so persistent and tactful in their advocacy that the project moved step by step up the DOT’s priority list until funds became available and crews completed the trail this past spring and summer.

BLT provided much-needed funds early in the process to pay for detailed plans to make the project “shovel ready” and advance it on the DOT list.

We all joined Bangor City Staff and City Council members at the ribbon cutting on August 26th of this year!

The 2008 Bangor Trails plan is available at www.bangorlandtrust.org on the “Links and Resources” tab and on the City Website (<https://www.bangormaine.gov/filestorage/318/352/1109/BangorTrailsInitialReport-9-2008.pdf>) This Plan is a guideline as various citizen groups look for ways to make Bangor bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

47 acres added to Walden-Parke Preserve: Fritz and Caroline Oldenburg planted the seed for Walden-Parke Preserve in 2004 when they literally

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A LETTER *from* BANGOR LAND TRUST PRESIDENT

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President



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Dust of Snow

BY ROBERT FROST

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Dear Friends,

Trying to stay safe and sane during the pandemic has challenged even the most reclusive as we get the messages to stay home, stay apart, do what is right, and remain productive. Many are turning to nature for solace.

Robert Frost's poem has long been one of my favorites. He captures the power of a wild animal, be it a bird or another animal, or even a plant blooming, fruiting, or putting up shoots, to feel better about our world and our place in it. Birds, when they share their songs and show themselves to us, can make a day special. Humans evolved as a species to attune ourselves to the natural world. It is not surprising that contact with our animal neighbors can lift our spirits and reinforce that we are still connected to the great web of life, even in these isolating times. Native Americans recognize this when speaking of "all our relations" in the natural world.

This is part of the value that Bangor Land Trust brings to our community - 950 acres of natural areas, fields and woods, for people to explore and enjoy, to reconnect with our roots in nature, visit "all our relations" and be nurtured by connecting with them.

We hope that you have found comfort in Bangor's Wild Back Yard, and we would welcome pictures and notes about your adventures there.

Sincerely,

Lucy Quimby

A CALL TO CARING *By Grace Bartlett*

In the spring as the essential workforce went to work and almost everyone else worked from home a curious thing started happening. Image after image appeared on Facebook and other social media platforms showing wildlife munching on front lawns, bucks jousting for territory in the streets, a black bear rolling around in a child's wading pool and young moose taking a dip in a swimming pool. People were astonished and wondered aloud what was happening and why now? One man observed that the only wildlife he'd previously seen was a raccoon, who by cloak of night raided his garbage can. As people returned to their work places, the wildlife seemed to disappear again. Was it that the people weren't there to see the deer, black bear and coyote? Or, was it that once human activity increased, the wildlife receded into the night, and away from human activity?

In an ecology and environmental science course I learned about the effect that loss of habitat has on biodiversity and population change in wildlife (mammals, birds and insects). The more the land is divided, the more difficult it is for animals to have the space they need to live. This is especially so for larger mammals.

In recent years, scientific peer-reviewed research has shifted more toward studying the temporal effect of human activity on animals. In the journal *Science* (June 15, 2018) Ana Benitez-López summarized the analysis saying: "Humans, as day-active (diurnal) apex "superpredators", instill fear in other wildlife like no other predatory species. Animals usually respond by reducing movement rates and spatially avoiding anthropogenic activities. However, as wilderness areas disappear, there is little opportunity for animals to spatially avoid humans. In highly disturbed areas, animals may substitute spatial refuges by temporal refuges with animals shifting daytime activities to the twilight or night hours." Of the 141 identified mammals' responses to human disturbance, 83% corresponded with an increase in nocturnal activity. Larger mammals

had a slightly stronger nocturnal response. More and more scientific studies are revealing similar results. All of this sounds like a call to action, a call to caring on behalf of the wildlife, but what can you and I do to help the wildlife have an opportunity to live their lives undisturbed by human activity?

What happened in the spring can give us clues. With less human movement, light and noise the animals began to appear in unusual spots in the middle of the day. Likewise, when we began to increase our activities, the animals receded. The wildlife need time to have the land to themselves without human disturbance. One thing we can do is limit our time in the preserves from dawn to dusk and never use artificial lights such as head lamps or bike lamps. Like it or not, from the animal's perspective we are "superpredators" that they fear. We need to give them time and space to live their lives unimpeded by our activities. The land is theirs before it is ours.



Bangor Land Trust photo



photo by Grace Bartlett

OVER THE SUMMER ~ *continued from page 1*

put Bangor Land Trust on the map with a gift of 13.1 acres which, added to land already gifted to Maine Audubon, became the 31.5-acre West Penjajawoc Grasslands Preserve. They had a wonderful vision of having conserved land near to residential areas so that people could have ready access to a natural environment.

When Bangor Land Trust heard that an ecologically important 710-acre parcel was for sale (with a sales plan that divided the whole parcel into 1.5-acre house lots with no open spaces other than wetlands) we approached Fritz and his partner Dennis Shubert to see if they would be interested in being conservation buyer/developers. They were! Walden Parke LLC purchased this land and with extraordinary magnanimity gifted over half of it (410 acres) to Bangor Land Trust in two installments.

In 2018 they made another 47 acres surrounding a significant vernal pool available for our purchase. We turned to the Maine Natural Areas Conservation Program (MNRCP), a state program administered by The Nature Conservancy, that funds the preservation of Maine's wetlands and portions of their associated uplands.

MNRCP receives funds from developers who want to disturb protected wetlands in Maine and choose to pay into this fund rather than purchasing and permanently protecting a nearby wetland of equal ecological value. MNRCP distributes these funds regionally through a rigorous and competitive application process. BLT was delighted to receive funds that allowed us to purchase the 47 acres with its vernal pool. The land will continue to be open for public use with adequate protection for its vernal pools and other wetlands.

Accreditation: On August 13, 2020, Bangor Land Trust received word that the National Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission had approved our re-accreditation application. We are now accredited for another 5 years. This national program holds land trusts to rigorous standards pertaining to Governance, Finance, Land Transactions, and Stewardship. We are committed to following the Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices. More information about the accreditation program is available at <https://www.landtrustalliance.org/topics/accreditation>



A big thank you to volunteers from both Orono and Bangor Land Trusts - Brian Ahern, Geoff Gratwick, Ron Logan, Dave Thompson, and Adam Toothaker - who pitched in to rebuild the bridge on the Blue Jay Trail. Special appreciation to our friends from Orono Land Trust at the northern end of the Caribou Bog Penjajawoc Corridor.

HEALTHY COEXISTENCE

In these difficult pandemic times Bangor Land Trust preserves are an important resource for animals of many kinds, from springtails and chickadees to bears and humans. By following some simple guidelines, we can support greater health for all.

- Stay six feet apart from everyone not in your household
- On the trail, bikers yield to runners and both yield to walkers
- Be kind to our animal neighbors – no artificial lights on BLT preserves
- Bear, deer, and porcupines live on Bangor Land Trust preserves – good reasons to keep your dogs on leash at all times.

Land trusts in some communities have had to close trails because of overcrowding and thoughtless behavior.

With everyone's cooperation Bangor Land Trust trails can remain open for everyone's safe enjoyment.



Have you been thinking about a way to make a difference that will last even after you're gone? You can give an enduring gift of Bangor's wild back yard to future generations by making a bequest to Bangor Land Trust in your will.

For more information call 942-1010
or send a message to
info@bangorlandtrust.org.

"Nature is not a place to visit, it is home."

Gary Snyder



The Bangor Land Trust newsletter is available to view in full color on our website www.bangorlandtrust.org (use your phone's QR code reader to bring you to the website!)



Bangor Land Trust can also be found on facebook, follow us for updates

How to play: Visit the preserves and look for the nature items that are all in a row, a column, or on one of the two diagonals of 4 boxes. When you find one, enter the preserve in the box below the item's name. When you have completed 4 boxes in a row, column, or along a diagonal, email a copy of the completed Nature Bingo Card to info@bangorlandtrust.org to make arrangement to receive a Bangor Land Trust water bottle prize.

 <p>White Ash & leaflet</p>	 <p>Ice crystals</p>	 <p>British Soldiers lichen</p>	 <p>Evergreen Wood Fern</p>
 <p>Bigtooth Aspen</p>	 <p>Tamarack</p>	 <p>Christmas Fern</p>	 <p>Northern Red Oak</p>
 <p>Sensitive Fern, fertile fronds</p>	 <p>Northern White Cedar</p>	 <p>Yellow Birch</p>	 <p>Lungwort Lichen</p>
 <p>Black Cherry branch</p>	 <p>Witches Butter Fungus</p>	 <p>Liverwort Frulania asagrayana</p>	 <p>American Beech</p>



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If you would like to learn how to sponsor Bangor Land Trust please visit our website or call



BANGOR LAND TRUST

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