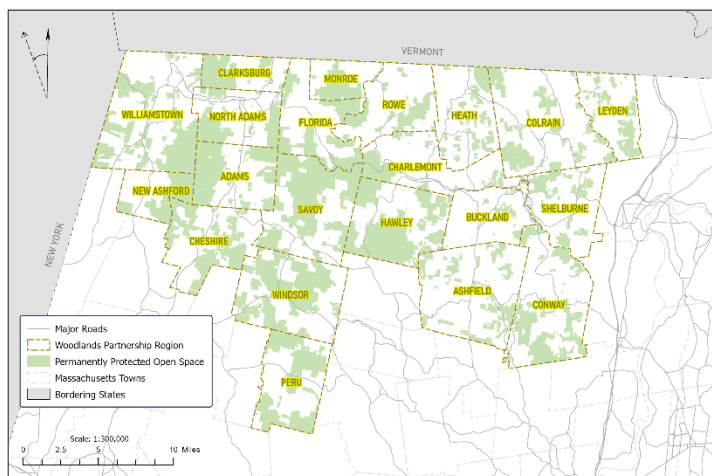


# Woodlands

## PARTNERSHIP

The Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts (established as the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership in 2018 state law) is a public body with its board comprised of representatives from the 21-town region (Franklin

County: **Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain\*, Conway, Florida, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Rowe, Shelburne**; Berkshire County: **Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, New Ashford, North Adams, Peru, Savoy\*, Williamstown, Windsor**) as well as from Berkshire Natural Resources Council,



Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Deerfield River Watershed Association, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Franklin Land Trust, Franklin Regional Council of

Governments, Hoosic River Watershed Association, Lever, Inc., Massachusetts Society of American Foresters, Massachusetts Forest Alliance, Ohketeau Cultural Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and the U.S. Forest Service. New England Forestry Foundation serves as Administrative Agent for the Partnership.

### Active & Ongoing

- The formation of Demonstration Forests in member town forests, one in Berkshire County and one in Franklin County—including outreach events, monitoring and research activities.
- Implementation of climate-smart forestry practices on properties with Forest Stewardship Climate Plans with cost-share funds and application development. Practices include thinning, riparian buffer planting, invasive species treatment, under-planting, forest regeneration patches, and forest improvement of degraded stands or Timber Stand Improvement.
- Recognition of the need to build relationships with Indigenous Peoples while bringing their perspectives to the work, and to embark on needed research into and action on ongoing struggles regarding aboriginal rights and access to land.
- Board committees meet frequently, with each member providing unique perspective and ideas—committees include: Education, Outreach, & Research; Executive Committee; Finance & Budgeting; Forest Conservation; Municipal Financial Sustainability; Natural Resource Based Economic Development.
- Local land trusts work on pursuing conservation projects for Forest Legacy Program consideration, following the Partnership's successful admittance into the eligibility area.

\*As of April 2024, Colrain and Savoy have not yet voted to join the Partnership.

# 2023

- **Ten-Year Plan (2022-2032)** continues to guide Board action
- **\$460,000 awarded in grant funding to increase economic development focusing on the conservation and sustainable management of forests**
- **Buckland and Florida voted to join—welcome!**
- **Ohketeau Cultural Center of Ashfield added to the Board by unanimous vote—welcome!**
- **State legislation submitted by Sen. Mark to officially change our name**
- **Hank Art of Williamstown steps down as Board Chair—we thank him for his service!**
- **Dicken Crane of Windsor steps up as new Board Chair—we thank him for his leadership!**
- **Outreach to state as they develop policies and initiatives related to forests (incentives and climate action) and municipalities (Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes reform)**
- **Virtual Forest Center website nearing completion in partnership with Mass Audubon, Rowe, and others for municipal resources related to forest stewardship**
- **Woods walks, in-person workshops, webinars, conferences**
- **Trees planted in Shelburne Falls and Williamstown for riparian restoration**