



# SELT everlasting

NEWS FOR OWNERS OF LAND PROTECTED BY A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

SPRING 2024

## Conserving and Connecting

Happy spring!

I had the pleasure of meeting many of you over the years, but in case our paths have yet to cross allow me to introduce myself. As the Easement Stewardship Manager for SELT, I oversee easement landowner relationships as well as our annual monitoring activities.

First things first: I am pleased to let you know that new this year, Katie Bates has joined our team as SELT's permanent Conservation Easement Steward. Last year, she served as the Seasonal Land Steward and we are fortunate to have her as a fixture on the team. Her addition will help us achieve our stewardship goals as our portfolio of conservation lands continues to grow. Welcome aboard Katie!

Our easement stewardship team is focused on supporting your land management goals within the context of your conservation easement. We hope you will consider us a resource as you work on planning upcoming projects!

Feel free to reach out any time with your questions, your concerns, and your feedback. As we always say, it's worth the time to connect with us early in your project planning process, so we can help with clarification on the easement's language to secure any needed approvals.

As we look forward to the rest of 2024, we want to provide you and our other SELT easement landowners opportunities to attend workshops and field trips that you may find interesting or useful. And we are always looking for suggestions for specific workshop topics, so please share any ideas you have with us!

Thank you for partnering with SELT on behalf of our shared mission to save, share, and steward the lands we love!

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## SELT's Easement Stewardship Team



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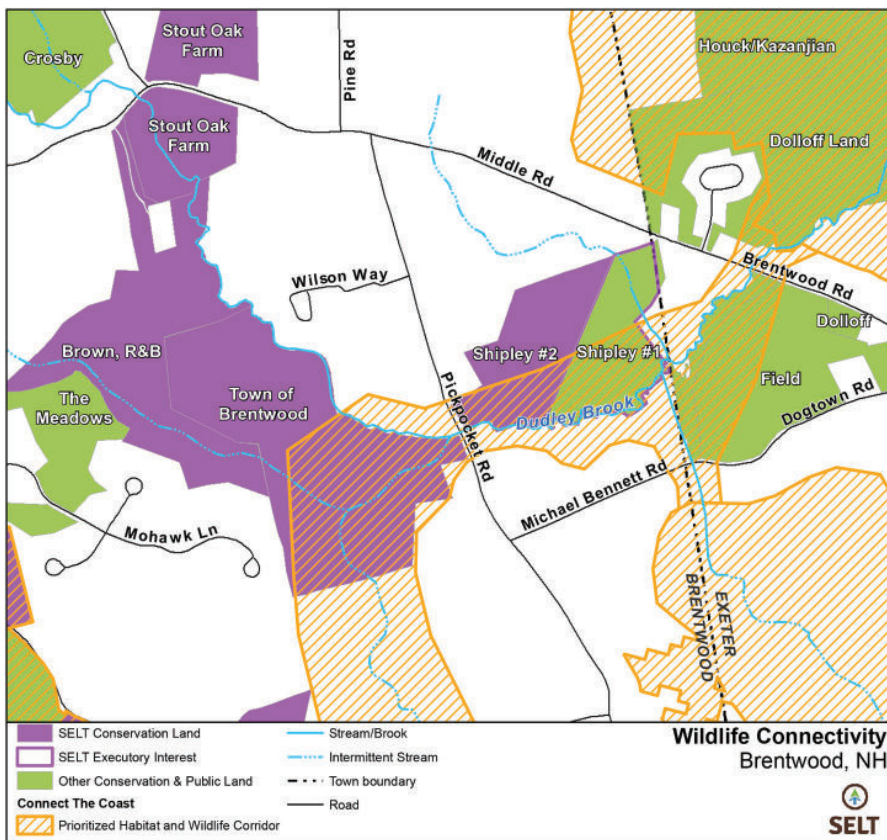
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# The Importance of Wildlife Corridors

A core focus of SELT's conservation approach is the creation and preservation of wildlife corridors. Wildlife corridors provide the land passages animals require to move in, around, and between habitats.

And in a state (NH) and region (southeast NH) where development is red-hot, dwindling open space means fewer contiguous blocks of protected land, which represent the very best venue for wildlife corridors to thrive. Large blocks of land are important as many species of wildlife require broader real estate to move through. Take the bobcat for example, which has a home range of approximately 10 square miles.

A bobcat may not be willing to sprint across a highway or intrude in a suburban backyard, and this restriction by the built and developed environment can have negative effects on the ecosystem (e.g., there is no way for a new bobcat population to establish itself, the offspring doesn't move, inbreeding takes over, genetic diversity tanks, and subsequent generations lose resilience and ability to adapt to outside threats like pathogens and changes in climate).



In this map, you can see the various wildlife corridors protected through the "Connect the Coast" vision, set against the backdrop of several SELT-conserved lands in Brentwood.

Taken in the context of broader land conservation efforts, preserving these wildlife corridors is particularly critical. Some barriers we face in preserving these corridors include the existing fragmentation of land, the availability of lands that can be conserved, and the certainty that fragmentation will continue as part of development in our region.

These facts highlight the time-sensitive need to protect those wildlife corridors that still remain. Wildlife corridors through connectivity is a driving force for SELT's conservation strategy and pinpointing the linkages between properties is a key factor in evaluating future SELT projects.

That is the goal – and as a landowner with a conservation easement, you play an important role.

Your land may be a puzzle piece in this greater picture and why your easement provides critical support for local wildlife.

# Tips for Encouraging Wildlife Transit on Your Land

## Identifying Potential Corridors

New Hampshire's collaborative plan to help ensure wildlife has the room to travel throughout the coastal watershed is outlined in the Connect the Coast report (found here: <https://bit.ly/3V1xFw0>). This report was the result of many organizations and individuals working together to help protect places that are most valuable for wildlife. Connect the Coast includes information regarding specific wildlife corridors and prioritized habitat blocks which can also be viewed online through the NH Coastal Viewer platform (<https://bit.ly/3WvxtX7>). Anyone can use this free mapping resource to see what habitat corridors are closest, or run through, their property! If you are interested in learning more about these corridors as they relate to your own backyard, we encourage you to check it out.

There is also a short video to help you get started ([https://youtu.be/7PXTV3C\\_xHo](https://youtu.be/7PXTV3C_xHo)). Visit this link to view the interactive wildlife corridor mapping tool.

## Removing or Reducing Barriers

Nothing can short-circuit wildlife transit like natural and man-made barriers that can show up on your property. Fences, entrance paths, and even wide-open spaces like expansive lawns without areas for animals to find shelter can qualify as barriers for wildlife to move through. Obviously, some of these barriers are easier to address than others, but anything you can do – even if it's slight modifications – can go a long way towards enhancing thoroughfares.

## Develop the Route

Here's where your DIY aptitude can kick in. Once you have identified your corridor path, consider some of the following enhancements (via [growingwithnature.org](http://growingwithnature.org)).

- Plant native plants to support local insects
- Increase the amount of shelter available, through shrubs or stone walls, to help smaller wildlife feel safe from predators
- Leave snags (dead trees) in place to support wildlife such as owls
- Plant a mixture of plants that produce food like seeds and berries for wildlife

## SELT Earns Accreditation Renewal Through the Land Trust Alliance

We are excited to announce SELT has achieved its land trust accreditation renewal for a third consecutive term! Renewing our accreditation shows SELT's continued commitment to permanent land conservation, good governance, and sound fiscal management.

First awarded accreditation in 2013 and then a second term in 2018, SELT provided extensive documentation and was subject to a comprehensive third-party evaluation to earn accreditation renewal for a third term through March 2029.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded renewed accreditation, signifying its confidence in SELT's procedures and approach to conservation and stewardship.



The poster features the SELT logo at the top, which consists of a green tree icon inside a circle followed by the text 'SELT'. Below the logo, the words 'Conservation Celebration' are written in a large, green, cursive font. Underneath, the date and time 'Saturday, June 8 at 4:00 pm' are displayed in a bold, black font, with the phrase 'Rain or shine' in a smaller, italicized font below it. The location 'Burley Farms 247 North River Road Epping, NH 03042' is listed in a black font. A decorative graphic of a sun rising over hills is positioned behind the text. At the bottom, there is a call to action: 'Join us to celebrate another year of saving, sharing, and stewarding the lands we all love!' followed by 'Enjoy a catered barbecue buffet and a cash bar stocked with local brews, followed by an inspiring presentation.' The text 'RSVP' is centered, and the website 'seltnh.org/celebration' is prominently displayed at the bottom in a bold, black font.

**SELT**

*Conservation Celebration*

**Saturday, June 8 at 4:00 pm**  
*Rain or shine*

**Burley Farms 247 North River Road Epping, NH 03042**

Join us to celebrate another year of saving, sharing,  
and stewarding the lands we all love!

Enjoy a catered barbecue buffet and a cash bar stocked  
with local brews, followed by an inspiring presentation.

**RSVP**  
**[seltnh.org/celebration](http://seltnh.org/celebration)**



247 North River Road  
Epping, NH 03042

SELT Everlasting • May 2024

# SELT



*As of May 2024*

To contact SELT, please call 603-778-6088 or email [info@seltnh.org](mailto:info@seltnh.org). To update your contact information, please contact Amanda Ellms at [amanda@seltnh.org](mailto:amanda@seltnh.org) or 603-658-9480.

SELT Everlasting is published twice a year and is the Easement Stewardship newsletter of SELT. Written and edited by Amanda Ellms and Dave Johnson.

## Leave it to Beavers



View the SELT events calendar at [seltnh.org/events](http://seltnh.org/events)

On May 8, SELT held a special workshop for easement landowners. Over 30 attendees came to Burley Farms for “Co-existing with Beavers,” led by Patrick Tate (NH Fish and Game Certified Wildlife Biologist). Patrick reviewed beavers’ preferred habitat, their positive impacts on ecosystems, and what to do if you have a beaver “problem.”

If you have any suggestions for future workshops please email Amanda Ellms at [amanda@seltnh.org](mailto:amanda@seltnh.org).