



Post Office Box 1836  
Westfield, Massachusetts 01086-1836  
Telephone & Fax (413) 562-1386  
Email: [wriver@exit3.com](mailto:wriver@exit3.com)  
Online: [www.windingriverlandconservancy.org](http://www.windingriverlandconservancy.org)



A changing landscape



Have you noticed as you look around that the farm fields and wooded lands that once seemed to be everywhere are no longer there? Your favorite hiking, fishing or hunting spot that not very long ago seemed so remote has somehow grown much closer, and perhaps even “civilization” is now visible from once pristine vistas?

Our region is changing and experiencing the same sprawl seen throughout the rest of America. Many area communities have lost the fine balance between farmland, residential, commercial, and open space.

The 11 communities that make up the service area of the Winding River Land Conservancy include Agawam, Blandford, Chester, Granville, Holyoke, Montgomery, Russell, Southwick, Tolland, West Springfield and Westfield. These towns have lost over 10,000 acres to urbanization since 1976.

**The landscape of our region has not changed this dramatically since the last ice age.**

Growth is changing the balance and character of our communities. A recent Massachusetts Audubon report lists Agawam, Southwick and Westfield among the top 20 municipalities in the state losing agricultural land to residential development. Since 1971 our region has lost 376 acres of open land annually to new development. Agawam, Southwick, West Springfield and Westfield are four of the fastest growing communities in our region, having lost a total of 8,802 acres of land since 1971 – an 83% growth in 28 years. A state-conducted build out analysis of every town in the Commonwealth based on current regulations and land constraints has determined our region would **DOUBLE/TRIPLE??** in population at full build out. This consumption of land, coupled with the population increase it brings, has created new demand for municipal services, increased traffic congestion and a fragmented landscape.

We have two choices – First, do nothing and let market forces shape the future of our communities and the landscape around us, and build out our region to an estimated population of 60,000,000, or, second, take steps to preserve our landscape for future generations and maintain a balanced community character.

We need to protect family farms that provide us with locally grown produce, save forest land for wood products, conserve open land for hunting, fishing and passive recreation, and preserve the habitat of wildlife and endangered species. Although many new people coming to the area is not a bad thing in itself, the recent pattern of local land use choices is.

Our region is rich in (Bio-map, Living Waters etc Watersheds and drinking water).





## WINDING RIVER LAND CONSERVANCY

The Winding River Land Conservancy's mission is to preserve and protect natural open space and farmland in Western Hampden County for present and future generations. Formed in 1998, Winding River Land Conservancy is a 501(c)3 charitable not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of open space.

## Testimonials



In pursuit of this goal, we seek to:

- > *educate landowners about the value and benefits of land protection*
- > *assist landowners to protect open space and farmland by securing donations of money, land and development restrictions.*
- > *work with local, federal, state and private organizations to protect the land.*

Winding River Land Conservancy is the only private non-profit land protection agency actively protecting land and its natural communities in our region. We are not a government agency so we have more flexibility in how we can accomplish this goal. We are able to negotiate with landowners in private. The Conservancy is in a unique position to serve as a bridge between the public and private sectors. Winding River Land Conservancy, Inc. proactively uses private means to do public good. Since our founding in 1998, with the help of people like you, we have protected over 550 acres of land and obtained \$3.5 million in funding for land protection. These funds are paid to landowners, keeping this money in our local economy.

Properties protected by the Winding River Land Conservancy include:

- > the 66 acre Chrzanowski farm on Shaker Road in Westfield
- > the 66 acre Loupinski farm in Southwick on Honey Pot Road, located in what is considered to be the richest amphibian area in the state
- > the 43 acre Kosinski orchard on Russellville and North Roads in Westfield
- > the 80 acre Pomeroy farm on Russellville and Wyben Roads in Westfield
- > the 127 acre Sofinowski property on Mort Vining Road in Southwick
- > the 32 acre parcel of land at the corner of West and Montgomery Roads in Westfield.

## Testimonials

You are invited to become a friend of the Winding River Land Conservancy and help us save the important open spaces that make our community so unique!

By doing so, your tax-deductible contribution will assist us in conserving a legacy of protected farm, forest and open lands for yourself and your children to appreciate for many years to come.

Friends of the Winding River Land Conservancy:

- > receive newsletters to keep you up to date on projects and activities of the Winding River Land Conservancy
- > allow us to purchase educational materials for landowners considering land protection
- > allow us to establish a land protection fund
- > allow us manage lands held by the conservancy for community goals
- > have the satisfaction that you have made a difference in your community and left a legacy of protected areas for future generations
- > help us to advocate important land protection projects to local, state, federal and private organizations for possible funding.

You can also support the work of the Winding River Land Conservancy, Inc. by:

- > Donating money, land, or stocks
- > Naming Winding River Land Conservancy, Inc. as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- > Helping us identify endangered properties
- > Volunteering

