

SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES Annual Report 2020

CONSERVATION, COLLABORATION, AND COMMUNITY SINCE 1953

Healthy Land,
Strong Communities



Sudbury Valley Trustees

Your partner in protecting
natural areas around the Sudbury,
Assabet, and Concord Rivers



Dear SVT members and friends,

Collaboration. That was the theme of Fiscal 2020, as we furthered our efforts to protect and care for natural areas in the region. We worked with local governments and nonprofit groups to conserve 228 acres, joined region-wide efforts to improve wildlife habitat, and co-sponsored workshops to help area residents understand good conservation practices.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic upended our work in late March, but we quickly realized how much everyone needed nature. We kept our trails open during the statewide shutdown, and our staff adroitly changed course to host nature programs as webinars, hold online training sessions for volunteers, and keep SVT on track to protect land and steward our properties.

All of this was made possible by you, the 2,900 members, 200 volunteers, and innumerable partners who generously support our work and contribute to the conservation of natural areas and open space.

Thank you.

Andrew Magee, President; Lisa Vernegaard, Executive Director.

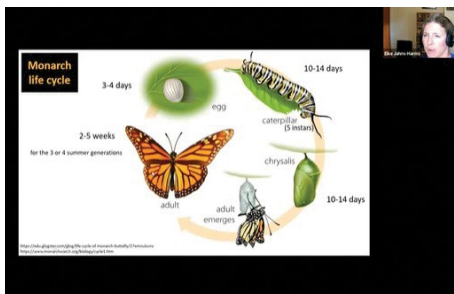


5 New CRs, 228 Acres

We now hold conservation restrictions (CRs) on Salt Box Farm in Westford (co-held with the Westford Conservation Commission), Oak Street Land in Ashland, Bonner Natural Area in Upton, Southborough Golf Club, and the Wendler Property in Berlin (pictured). We also assisted in the protection of the 47-acre Robertson Property in Upton.

46 Nature Programs

SVT welcomed 528 people to the 33 outings and programs we hosted between July 2019 and March 2020. When the pandemic forced us to cancel in-person programs, we launched webinars in their place—and we quickly learned how essential nature is during a time of stress: 855 people tuned in to the 13 webinars we aired in April, May, and June 2020. Webinars are clearly here to stay.

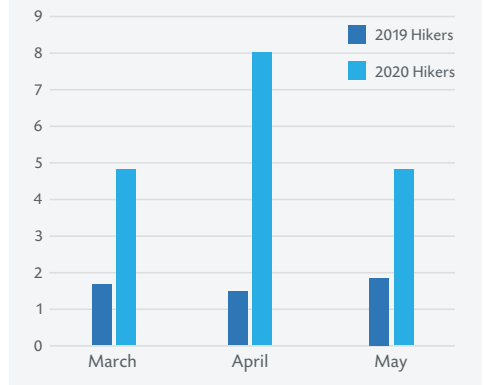


91 Reservations, 90 CRs

In one of our most important projects of every year, SVT visited each of the properties under our care to ensure their ecological values are being maintained.



Average Number of Trail Users Encountered
Per SVT Property Visit

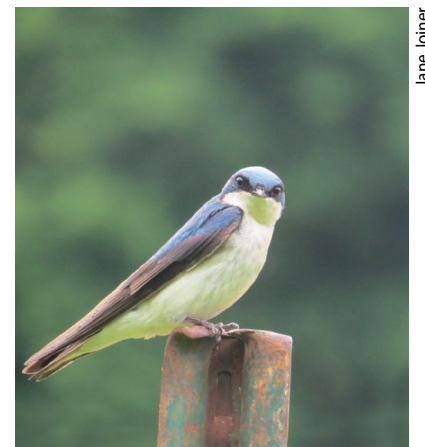


65 Miles of Trails

Our trails proved to be an essential refuge during the pandemic shutdown in Spring 2020, as evidenced by the surge in visits over the previous year. With the December 2019 opening of the hiking trail at our Smith Conservation Land in Littleton, we now care for 65+ miles of trails.

225 Fledglings

SVT's Bird Box program provides cavity-nesting birds with a place to build nests and lay eggs. Our volunteer monitors visited 58 boxes across 11 properties and tabulated the fledglings: 67 bluebirds, 78 house wrens, and 80 tree swallows (pictured).



Jane Joiner

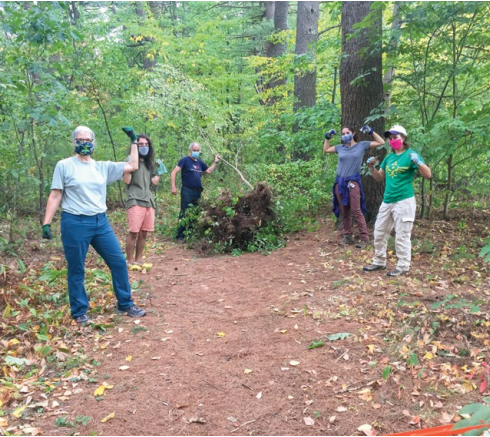
Forest Health

As the administrative partner of the Metrowest Conservation Alliance, SVT led the Forest Health Initiative to teach local officials how to read the health of their forests and make sound management decisions for their lands.



46 Stream Crossings

SVT led an effort to assess the condition of culverts and stream crossings in Littleton, Harvard, and Boxborough. We catalogued those that need to be upgraded so fish and other wildlife can safely navigate the local waterways.



Weed Warriors

Through our newly launched Weed Warrior program, we trained 15 volunteers to identify and pull non-native invasive plants on SVT reservations. Once fully trained, Weed Warriors are permitted to work independently on our properties, providing an invaluable service during a time of social distancing. New volunteers welcome.



Doug Howgate

Advocating for Conservation

To encourage the State Senate to expand the Conservation Land Tax Credit that provides incentives to landowners to donate land for conservation, Executive Director Lisa Vernegaard (second from left) and two of our conservation partners met with Senate President Karen Spilka in February.

Financial Overview

During these difficult times, SVT is especially grateful for the generosity of our members who through membership and fundraising events provided 73% of our operating revenue. These contributions, as well as tight control of expenses, resulted in a surplus of \$116,000 for Fiscal 2020.

In addition to this support of our behind-the-scenes work, over \$330,000 was raised for land protection projects and approximately \$98,000 for our stewardship endowments. Our Finance Committee conservatively managed our investments, resulting in a \$539,000 or 4.72% return on our investments.

SVT will continue to manage our resources and contributions responsibly while pursuing our mission to preserve and steward land. We welcome your financial questions and comments.

FY20 Investments, Market Value

(in thousands of dollars)

Beginning Balance	\$11,258
Contributions/Other	410
Transfers/Use of Funds	6
Unrealized/Realized Gains	539
Total Investments	<u>\$12,213</u>

Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.

FY20 Financial Summary

(in thousands of dollars)

Revenue

Member Support	\$881
Grants	76
Corporate	18
Fundraising Events	135
Earned Income	61
Endowment Draw	179
Other	49
Total Revenue	<u>1,399</u>

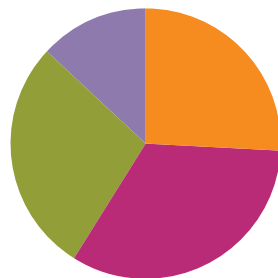
Expenses

Personnel	893
Non-Personnel	390
Total Expenses	<u>1,283</u>

Net Income

\$116

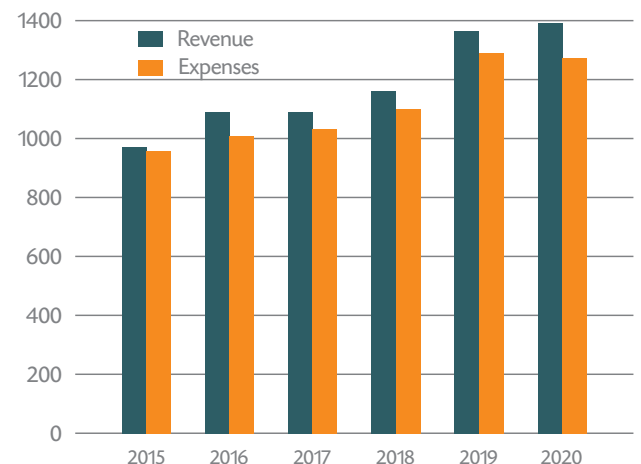
FY20 Expenses



- Land/River Protection: 26%
- Stewardship: 33%
- Community Engagement & Development: 28%
- Administration: 13%

Operating Revenue and Expenses

2015-2020



Our Donors

We are grateful for the generosity of our more than 2,900 members, foundations, business sponsors, and in-kind contributors. Listed below are those who made contributions between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. Due to space limitations, we are only able to list donors of \$250 and above. We extend sincere thanks to all of our contributors.

Annual Fund

\$25,000 and Up

Anonymous
Robert Kamen and Trudi Veldman
Susan Litowitz
Edith H. Overly Foundation
Jim and Lisa Valone

\$10,000 to \$24,999

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Edmund J. Walsh and Jane M. Walsh
M. Jane Williamson
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\$1,000 to \$2,499

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Karen Yeowell and Mark O'Connell
Stephen and Anne Ziobrowski

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Dan and Jill Bradford
Allan Brookes
Margie and Chris Brown
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Alessandra Kingsford
John and Kathleen Lehmann
Eve Lewinger
Christopher and Joan Lynch
Rick and Laura Malnight
Susan Maranhao
Elizabeth Markiewicz



Celebrating Collaboration The October 2019 Grand Opening of the 33-mile Boroughs Loop Trail celebrated the collaborative effort to link the trail networks of Marlborough, Northborough, Westborough, and Southborough. SVT worked alongside the four communities in planning the route, recruiting volunteer trail workers, and creating trail maps.



5 Years of Giving Thanks

We held our 5th annual "Give Thanks for the Land Walk" on Thanksgiving Weekend 2019. This fast-paced walk along an SVT trail provides a chance to embrace and celebrate nature—and maybe work off a bit of the holiday feast.

Allen Marshall and Anne Bickford
 General William Mayer Foundation
 Kathleen McIsaac and Robert Goldsmith
 Merrimack Valley Apiaries
 Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation
 Anthony Mirenda and Tracey Cornogg
 Martin J. Moran
 Charles and Lois Morgan
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 Niels Vernegaard
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 Robert and Deborah Ware
 Peter T. Wheeler and Elizabeth H. Munro
 Penny and Bob Wickey
 Debra Winslow
 David and Melissa Wolf
 Sara L. Wragge

\$250 to \$499

Anonymous (26)
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 Tariq Abu-Jaber
 Lisa and Daniel Anderson
 Paulo Andre and Margaret Hanshaw
 Stephan and Faith Bader
 John and Josie Baggott
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 Georgia Barry and Anne Kress
 Jim and Ellen Bassett
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 Beals & Thomas, Inc.

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 Michael and Mary Garfield
 Mr. and Mrs. Brad Gentry
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 Dwight Gertz and Virginia Welles
 Gus and Lori Gerulskis
 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Goldfine
 Tom Green and Jeannie Vineyard
 Devens H. Hamlen
 Judy Handley and Craig Parkhill
 Andrea Harris and Rick Sherman
 Tammy C. Harris
 Thomas and Stephanie Hastings
 Samuel and Nicole Hawkey
 Douglas Herman
 Steven and Charlene Hinton
 Peter Hoenig and Cathy Schen
 Demetra J. Holly
 David and Alice Howe
 Barbara Howell
 Anthony and Annemarie Howes
 Mark and Jeanne Hubelbank
 David Hunter
 John Hunter and Lauren Mullin
 Arthur S. Johnson

Ellie Johnson
 Joan and Bruce Johnson
 Pamela Keeney and David Panich
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 Wayne and Judy Keseberg
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 Kenneth and Jennifer Koblan
 Tom and Deborah Kruskal
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 Hale and Ron Lamont-Havers
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 Yasuko and Richard Mattione
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 Amanda and Brodie Miles
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 Kristin Mix
 Sheila Murphy and Sherene Aram
 The Murphy Family
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 Brett and Allison Wilkinson
 Andrew Wilmot and Kathryn Mckinley
 Morgan and Kristin Wilson
 Michael T. Wilson
 Theodore and Heather York
 Denise and Mark Yurkofsky
 Jack and Hilary Zarin-Rosenfeld

Project Support

\$20,000 and Up

Anonymous
 Cile and Bill Hicks
 Gordon and Marjorie Osborne
 Foundation

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Fields Pond Foundation
 William H. Wharton Trust

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Donna and Art Appel
 Donald Hindley
 Merrimack Conservation Partnership
 Anthony and Jamie Miceli
 Christopher Riley
 Town of Berlin

\$2,500 to \$4,999

John Coolidge and Anne Richards

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Paul and Annette Bakstran
 Marshall and Nikki Bartlett
 Nikki Borman

\$500 to \$999

Anonymous
 David and Susan Clark
 Mary E. Curran

Elizabeth and John Darley
Julie and John Fjeldheim
Barry and Connie Hershey
Barbara and Eric Sheffels

\$250 to \$499

Valerie Anastasio and Steven Stalzer
Alix Carey
Edward Council and Bridget McManus
Richard and Barbara Forman
Emily and Ken Gardner
The Grauer-Gray Family
Andre and Christine Navez
Lisa Vernegaard

Grants

Anonymous
Cummings Foundation
Foundation for Metrowest
Gordon and Marjorie Osborne
Foundation
Hollis Declan Leverett Memorial Fund
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
National Park Service
Sudbury Foundation

Matching Gifts

AbbVie
Amundi Pioneer
AT&T
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Boston Scientific Employee Giving
Bright Funds Foundations
Charities Aid Foundation of America
Citizens Charitable Foundation
Dell Employee Engagement Fund
Digital Federal Credit Union
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Google Matching Gifts Program
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John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance
Macy's Foundation
Metavante Corporation
National Grid
Oracle Corporation
Travelers Community Connections
Walmart Foundation

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\$250 and up

29 Sudbury Rustic Mediterranean
Colin and Melody Anderson
ata Cycles
Beveridge & Diamond
Paul Bakstran
Bay State Tae Kwon Do Academy

Molly and John Beard
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Jeff Collins
Molly Cutler
Joyce Dwyer
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Margaret and Scott Estes
Patty Ann and John Flint
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Arthur Miliken
Jean Pratt
Sylvia Rovito
Lewis Russell
Harold Streeter
Arnold Tofias
Anna Vernegaard
Alfred Viola

Life Members

Chosen by the Board of Directors in acknowledgment of extraordinary contributions to SVT's work.

Anonymous (4)
Bruce and Marian Anderson
Colin and Melody Anderson
Robert and Rita Anderson
Donna and Art Appel
Frederick and Janet Ballou

Molly and John Beard
Billie Bentzen
Carla Bentzen
Torsten Bentzen
Forrest Berkley and Marcie Tyre
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Cile and Bill Hicks
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Robert Kamen and Trudi Veldman
Ruth Kennedy Sudduth
Judy King
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Chester and Evelyn Small
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Charles E. Stearns

Jonathan Stearns
The Stevenson Family Charitable Trust
Jean Claude and Carole Sureau
Jim and Lisa Valone
M. Jane Williamson
Fran and Debra Zarette

Living Water Society

Members and friends who have included SVT in their estate plans

Anonymous (3)
Diana Abrashkin
Colin and Melody Anderson
Nancy Burke and Donald Burn
Laurel J. Carpenter
Carol H. Case
Sherri Cline and Thomas McGowan
Laura Diamond and Carolyn McDonald
Richard and Lorraine Dinjian
Carol Englander
Betty Foley
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Laurence Grossman and
Rita Gibes Grossman
Cile and Bill Hicks
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Andre and Christine Navez
Philip and Donna Schaefer
The Stevenson Family Charitable Trust
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Karl Thober
Jim and Lisa Valone
Lisa Vernegaard
Joy Viola
M. Jane Williamson

Our Volunteers

SVT receives much-needed support from more than 200 volunteers each year. Many of the volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors and Committees (listed elsewhere in this report) also help out in countless other ways. In addition to our Board and Committee members, the following volunteers also provided at least 15 hours of service in this year upended by the pandemic. We are grateful to them and to all our volunteers for their commitment to conservation.

Betsy Athan
Nancy Burke
Brad Conant
Missy Davis
Eve Donahue
Judy Eneguess
Bill Fadden
Marjorie Fisher
Michele Girard
Carole Hohl
Jill Johnson
Jeanne Johnstone
Jane Joiner
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Chris Swain
Steve Tobin
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Joe Tyrrell
Jan Vanselow



Conservation Workshops To lay the groundwork for future land protection projects, we co-hosted a workshop in Bolton that explained conservation options to owners of agricultural land. We also co-hosted a workshop that helped local officials understand how to take advantage of the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program to mitigate their community's vulnerability to climate change.

We apologize for any errors or omissions and hope you will notify us of them.

Board of Directors

For FY20

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Rebecca Cutting, Sudbury

Sean Fair, Wayland

Richard T.T. Forman, Concord

Robert Kamen, Sudbury

Ruth Kennedy Sudduth, Stow

John Mastrobattista, Framingham

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Greg D. Peterson, Carlisle

Lisa Schimmel, Wayland

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Executive Director

Christa Collins,

Director of Land Protection

Ashley Davies,

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Membership & Community
Engagement Manager

Deborah Sargent,

Communications &
Office Manager

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Assistant Director of Stewardship

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Business Manager

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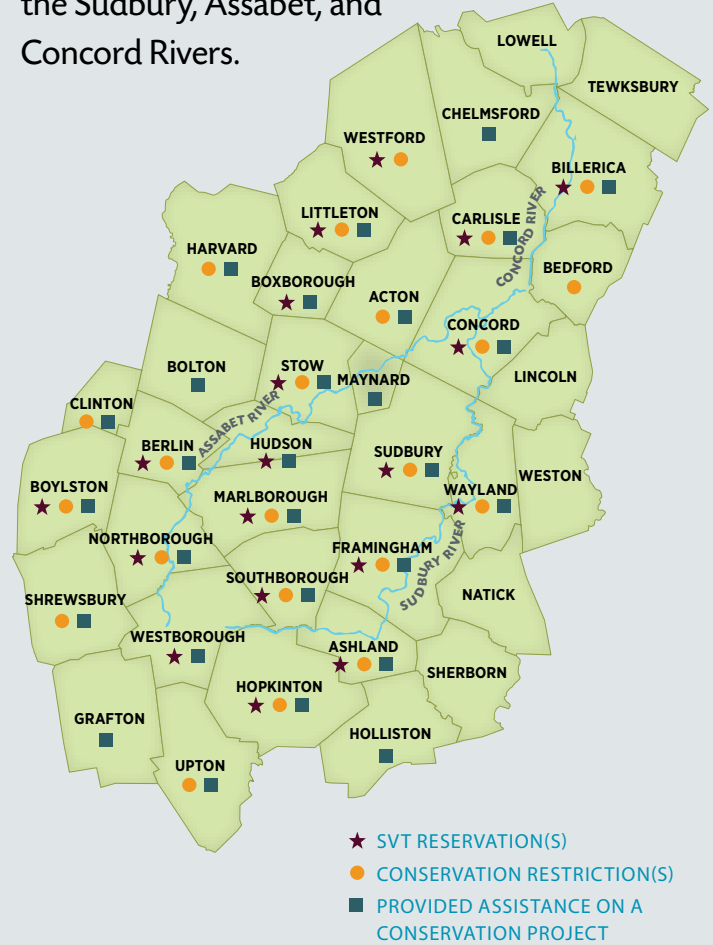
Bruce Osterling

William Sterling*

*Committee Chair

Where We Work

36 communities around
the Sudbury, Assabet, and
Concord Rivers.



Our Mission

Sudbury Valley Trustees works to protect natural areas and farmland for wildlife and people in the 36 communities that surround the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers.

About Us

Working in collaboration with landowners, local conservation commissions, and government agencies, SVT pursues its mission through land acquisition, stewardship, advocacy, and education.

Founded: 1953

SVT-Owned Properties:

91 in 19 communities; 2,400 acres

SVT Conservation Restrictions:

90 in 22 communities; 3,060 acres

Miles of Trails: 65+



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