

Where We've *Been*...



Berkshire Wildlife
Sanctuaries



Where We've Been...

Across the Berkshires, your support is helping more people connect with nature, strengthening our landscapes, and protecting places that matter—now and for the future. Here's a look at what you've made possible, and where we're headed next together.



Making Nature Accessible to All

Thanks to your support, one of the things we're most proud of from the past year is the expansion of Pleasant Valley's All Persons Trail (APT). Today, the trail stretches nearly a mile and includes a longer boardwalk, an expanded viewing platform, and improved access to an upland loop. Thoughtfully placed benches and shared seating areas invite visitors to slow down, rest, and truly take in the beauty around them.

Because of this investment, the expanded All Persons Trail has also deepened the ways people learn and connect here. Inclusive, multisensory, and interactive displays along the route support educational programs and help visitors engage with nature in ways that feel welcoming and meaningful.

The new sections of the trail open up even more of Pleasant Valley to people of all ages and abilities. Visitors can enjoy closer views of wildlife, sweeping vistas of Yokun Ridge, and increased access to wetland areas. Audio tours, sensory and interpretive displays create an experience that many guests are enjoying for the very first time. Mobility devices are also available for use at Visitor Services.

For many visitors, this is their first meaningful experience of nature here—and it's made possible by a community of supporters like you.

Helping to Educate our Youth

Your support is also helping bring hands-on, nature-based science learning to schools across the Berkshires, with a strong focus on Pittsfield classrooms. The Berkshire Environmental Literacy (BEL) addresses a crucial need in schools by offering comprehensive environmental education

opportunities for K-12 teachers and students.

Throughout the year, educators lead a series of in-class and outdoor lessons focusing on local plants, animals, and ecosystems, including outdoor field studies at Mass Audubon's Sanctuaries or nearby natural areas. These experiences align with Massachusetts Science, Technology, and Engineering (STE) standards while prioritizing hands-on, outdoor learning that sparks curiosity and connection.

Together, we are helping to:

- Prepare young people to be the future caretakers of local ecosystems and watersheds.
- Support schools that lack access to science training and enrichment
- Equip teachers with the tools to confidently lead environmental learning

For many students, these programs are their first meaningful experience in nature—sparking curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong connection to the outdoors.



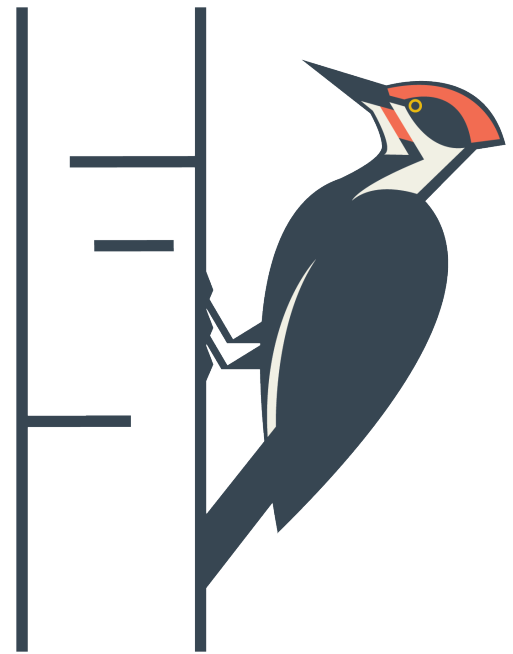
Where We're Going.

Stewarding the Land

Pleasant Valley is a place many of us return to again and again. With more than 1,300 acres, seven miles of trails, and well-loved routes to Lenox Mountain and Yokun Ridge, it's one of the most visited outdoor spaces in the central Berkshires—welcoming an estimated 25,000 visitors each year.

That popularity is something to celebrate – but it also comes with challenges. Much of the trail system is over 90 years old and was built for far fewer visitors. Over time, increased foot traffic has taken a toll on trails, drainage, and surrounding natural areas. At the same time, changing weather patterns are making trail care more complicated. Heavier rainstorms, stronger winds, and shifting water flow are accelerating damage and affecting forest health. These impacts can make trails less safe and harder to maintain if they're not addressed head on.

With your support, the Climate Resilience Trail Project is our proactive response. Through thoughtful trail improvements, better drainage, and targeted restoration, we're working to protect Pleasant Valley's trails, make them safer and more resilient, and ensure continued access for generations to come. This work helps the land absorb the impacts of extreme weather while preserving the peaceful, immersive experience visitors value—and that so many of you return to year after year.

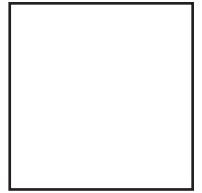


Access to Nature Programs this Spring and Summer

The Berkshires offer fantastic programs for all ages throughout the year. Choose from a wide variety of weekly offerings including Sunset Beaver Walks, Evening Amphibian Searches, Firefly Watches for the whole family and birding programs for any level; from curious beginners to seasoned birders.

To see all of our programs and register online:





Because of you, more people are connecting with nature, more students are discovering the outdoors, and more landscapes are being protected across the Berkshires.

Thank you for being part of this community—and for all you make possible.

Protecting Palmer Brook Land in Becket

Together, we have an opportunity to protect something truly extraordinary. The Palmer Brook land—known locally as the Berkshire Fishing Club—is a remarkable 850-acre property in Becket, offering a rare opportunity to protect a large, unfragmented forested landscape. Situated within a 26,000-acre conservation corridor and adjacent to October Mountain State Forest, this land plays a critical role in protecting wildlife habitat at scale.

In February 2026, Mass Audubon took an exciting step forward by exercising our option agreement to purchase the Palmer Brook property for \$5 million. Thanks to strong early momentum, \$2.5 million has already been committed through public support.

With this foundation in place, we are now working to secure the remaining private support needed to complete the acquisition. This is a pivotal moment—one where the continued support of this community will help ensure this landscape is protected for generations to come.

Once this land is acquired, we can move thoughtfully into stewardship and—as funding allows—carefully planned access, recreation opportunities, and nature education programming. With this purchase, we can safeguard an extraordinary landscape, extend conservation efforts across the Berkshires, and protect wildlife habitat on a truly meaningful scale.

To learn more, visit massaudubon.org/palmerbrook.