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and COVID-19 Trail Rules
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FIELD NOTES

Newsletter of the Great Barrington Land Conservancy

10th Annual Run for the Hills Went Virtual!

Now more than ever, Berkshire community members are going outside and enjoying the beautiful rolling hills. This year we revamped our special programs to meet the challenges of COVID-19. From Saturday, September 19th to Sunday, October 4th we held our first virtual Run for the Hills to encourage individuals, teams, and families to spend time safely together outdoors, reach personal health goals, and show support for the local businesses and landscapes we love.

Forty-four runners and walkers selected their own routes and reported to our race partner the Berkshire Running Center, giving participants the chance to win prizes for fastest times and longest distances. Some runners followed the original race route while others incorporated other GBLC trails such as the Housatonic River Walk and the Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest Trails.

On October 4th the race participants gathered for a socially distanced awards ceremony on the newly opened Riverfront Trail (see photo below). Following the ceremony, GBLC Board members Christine Ward and Dale Abrams gave tours of the trail and pointed out native species of interest.

This year we honored the businesses that have supported us in the past, many of which have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. They were



included in our race publicity and runners were encouraged to patronize them as well. A number of businesses were able to provide race sponsorships this year and we thank them for their very generous support during this difficult time.

Thank you to: Adelson & Company, Berkshire Bank Foundation, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Berkshire TypeGraphic, Bola Granola, Carol Noble, Domaney's Liquors and Fine Wines, Ed Herrington, Inc., Edwards, Krol & Nazarov PC, Family Dentistry, Guido's Fresh Market, Lee Bank, Nature Works Land Care, Senta Reis, Salisbury Bank & Trust, Red Lion Inn, Suburban Internal Medicine, The Sweetish Baker, Ward's Nursery, Wheeler & Taylor, and Windy Hill Farm.



The new Riverfront Trail. Photo by Eric Brenner.

Enjoy Our Trails This Winter

We have a present for you this holiday season! We have opened new outdoor spaces that will provide a respite from long winter hours indoors. We have completed two sections of the new Riverfront Trail-- accessible walking paths that can be enjoyed year-round-- bringing us even closer to reaching our dream of building an interconnected town-wide trail system just steps from downtown Great Barrington.

From the Riverfront Trail, you can continue on to the Housatonic River Walk (check gbriverwalk.org for winter closures). During the winter, you can continue to explore (with or without snowshoes or skis!) the Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest Trails, Pfeiffer Arboretum, and Threemile Hill Trail at Fountain Pond. Please observe our COVID-19 Trail Rules (posted on our website) to keep everyone safe.

GREAT BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVANCY

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GBLC logo courtesy of Michael McCurdy

GBLC is dedicated to conservation and stewardship of our community's natural resources and special places.

We work to protect open space for ecological, recreational, agricultural, and scenic purposes. We organize community volunteers on behalf of land conservation and stewardship. We partner with local, regional, and national land trust organizations. We support sustainable agriculture as a means of preserving our farming heritage. We support neighborhood initiatives that align with our mission.

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