

Event Packet



Photo by Jamie Malcolm-Brown

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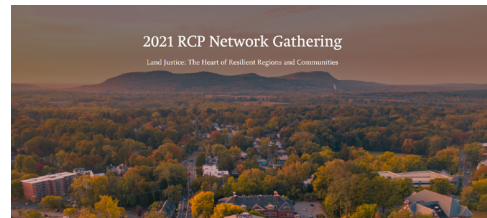


The second RCP Network Gathering in 2011

Important Links & Resources

Story Map

This year's Gathering focuses on raising awareness and understanding of the legacy of racism and white supremacy in conservation. We invite you to view the 2021 story map that provides information and context to familiarize yourself with the issues of Land Justice and with the organizations that participate in the RCP Network. [Access the story map here.](#)



Tech Support

Need help navigating Zoom or attending the event? Our event staff is online and on call to support you:

- **Support chat:** <https://www.tidio.com/talk/earthcoast>
- **Support email:** eventsupport@earthcoast.live
- **Support phone:** (720) 770-1725

Continuing Forestry Education Credits

Attendees are eligible to receive 4 Continuing Forestry Education credits through the Society of American Foresters (SAF) certification program. If you are interested in receiving credits, please remain until the end of the gathering and fill out the [sign-in sheet](#).

Upcoming Events

Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network Webinars

Meet with RCP leaders and partners and navigate topics relevant to leading networks, and continue discussions started at the RCP Network Gathering. Stay tuned for dates and details in early 2022.

Conservation Finance Learning Lab

The five-part Conservation Finance Learning Lab will take place from December 2021 to April 2022, and take a deep dive into tangible, innovative approaches to conservation funding and financing. The concepts and lessons learned will be broadly applicable to practitioners everywhere. Attendance at all/most sessions will ensure the full benefit of the series. [Learn more and register today.](#)



THE CONSERVATION
FINANCE NETWORK

Find Us on Social Media

Follow [@wwconserve](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), and look out for [#RCPGathering2021](#) on posts relating to this year's virtual event.

2021 RCP Network Gathering Schedule

9:00 am	Welcome on behalf of the RCP Network , Bill Labich
9:15 am	Networking & Connecting
9:30 am	Keynote Address: <i>Environmental Legacy: Justice, Land Use, and a History of Connection</i> , Parker McMullen Bushman
10:40 am	Break
10:50 am	<p>Panel I: <i>What Does Land Justice Mean, and How Does it Affect my Communities?</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Cassius Spears Sr., Founder/Director, Narragansett Food Sovereignty Initiative at Ashawaug Farm, and member of the Narragansett Indian Tribe</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amber Arnold, Collaborative Director, SUSU CommUNITY Farm • Apolo J. Catala, Farm Manager, OASIS On Ballou Avenue Urban Farm Codman Sq. NDC • Melissa Ferretti, Chairwoman and President, Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Plymouth, MA • John Walkey, Director of Waterfront & Climate Justice Initiatives, GreenRoots Inc.
11:45 am	Breakout discussion: <i>What Does Land Justice Mean to Me?</i>
12:25 pm	Review of morning and what's to come
12:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm	<p>Leopold Conservation Award Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guy Choiniere, 2021 Leopold Conservation Award New England Recipient • Nathan L'Etoile, New England Regional Director, American Farmland Trust • Christina Schellpfeffer, Vice President, External Relations, Sand County Foundation
1:30 pm	Breakout discussion: <i>Connecting and Surveying Our Experience with the Land</i>
2:00 pm	<p>Panel II: <i>Guiding Principles for Scaling up Community-Driven Land Justice and Conservation Outcomes</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Joy Gary, Executive Director, Boston Farms Community Land Trust</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Guertin, Senior Policy Fellow, Desegregate Connecticut • Ian McSweeney, Director, Agrarian Trust • Nick Richardson, Executive Director, Vermont Land Trust • Sheila Vargas Torres, Government and Community Relations Manager, The Nature Conservancy
2:50 pm	Next Opportunities for Change
3:00 pm	Adjourn

Code of Conduct

The 2021 RCP Network Gathering aims to increase participants' understanding of Land Justice and is an environment for learning. Together we can embody a culture of respect. If you're finding the meeting to be difficult at any time, feel free to take a break or message [Katie Blake](#) or [Bill Labich](#).

R = Take Responsibility for what you say and feel. Use "I" statements, such as "I think," "I feel," "I noticed," "I wonder," or "I believe."

E = Use Empathetic listening and look for common ground.

S = Be Sensitive to differences in perspective and communication styles. Make room for others to speak.

P = Ponder what you hear and feel before you speak.

E = Examine your assumptions and perceptions.

C = Keep Confidentiality.

T = Trust that others have and attend the Gathering with positive intent. Not everyone is at the same stage in their Land Justice journey.

[RESPECT Acronym adapted from Civic Reinventions, Inc.](#)

Keynote Address & Speaker

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Environmental Legacy: Justice, Land Use, and a History of Connection, Parker McMullen Bushman

We can see a legacy of racism in the environmental disparities that currently plague our nation, and history tells a clear story about where we've landed today. Effects of past institutions have left racial and ethnic groups in disadvantaged social positions. Often present institutions sustain the disadvantage of members of the racial groups unknowingly without immediate racist or discriminatory intent. Join Parker McMullen Bushman for a discussion of and the connections between socio-cultural inequity and environmental issues.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Parker McMullen Bushman is Chief Operating Officer of [Inclusive Journeys](#), a tech company that creates data-driven, economic incentives for more inclusive businesses, and is the founder of [Ecoinclusive Strategies](#), which provides training and resources for non-profit, cultural, and environmental organizations. She is a dynamic speaker and facilitator that engages organizations in new thinking around what it means to be a diversity change-agent and create dynamic organizational change.

Parker's background in the non-profit leadership, conservation, environmental education and outdoor recreation fields spans over 24+ years. Her interest in justice, accessibility, and equity issues developed from her personal experiences facing the unequal representation of people of color in environmental organizations and green spaces.

Parker brings a unique background to this work, having served as the Vice President for Community Engagement, Education, and Inclusion at Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster, CO, and as the Director of Education for the Marine Science Consortium on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Parker has a Master of Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, with a focus in Interpretation and Environmental Education. She leads several committees that focus on diversity in environmental fields as well as serves as a presenter and trainer on diversity issues. She sits on the board of Environmental Learning for Kids, Metro Denver Nature Alliance, The Next 100 Coalition and the National Association for Interpretation.

Speaker/Panelist Bios

Panel I: What Does Land Justice Mean, and How Does it Affect my Communities?

MODERATOR

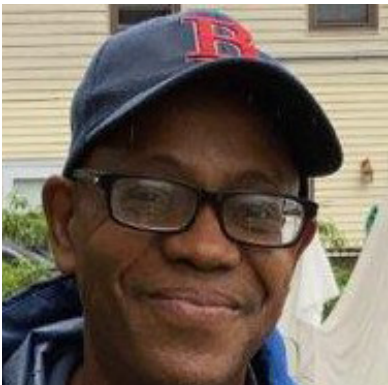


Cassius Spears, Sr. (He/Him) has dedicated his life to the preservation of Narragansett culture throughout New England and the world. He remains active in the practice of ethnobotany, traditional home building, and has demonstrated eastern woodlands culture at powwows, museums, college campuses, and film sets across North America. Spears' passion for healthy traditional lifeways led to the establishment of the [Narragansett Food Sovereignty Initiative at Ashawaug Farm](#).

PANELISTS



Amber Arnold (She/Her) is one of the Co Founders of the [SUSU commUNITY Farm](#), an Afroindigenous Farm and land based healing center in Southern Vermont that elevates Vermont's land and foodways. She is passionate about creating transformative systems and spaces of change in Vermont that center our innate needs to experience safety, belonging, connection, and liberation in the spaces we inhabit and the communities we are part of. Through her work as a Somatic Practitioner, collaborative director, and as an organizer of Liberation and Healing Justice, Amber aspires to bring new opportunities for resilience and transformation.



Apolo Cátala (He/Him) is the Farm Manager of the [OASIS On Ballou Avenue Urban Farm](#). The OASIS On Ballou is committed to sustainable farming driven by strong regional and local partnerships focused on expanding access to nutritious and locally grown produce and inspiring and helping others create successful farming enterprises and rewarding gardens in and outside the urban space. Apolo believes that food is indeed medicine, not only for individuals, but also for all communities and the environment across the urban, peri-urban, rural, regional, and beyond the food system continuum.



Melissa Ferretti (She/Her) is the daughter of Bernard Marsden Harding (Herring Pond Wampanoag), and was raised in Cedarville/South Plymouth by Verna May Harding (Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribal Elder). Her work experiences include the Mashpee Town Clerk's office, Executive Administrative Assistant for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Vice President of Operations for Select Staffing of MA, and she is a Massachusetts licensed Real Estate Sales Associate and Notary Public. Melissa is proudly in her second term as elected Chairwoman of the [Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe](#), working tirelessly on many initiatives and challenges Indigenous communities face. Some of her work includes youth empowerment and grant programming, sacred sites and ancestral burial grounds protection, tribal archival research, documentation and digitization, tribal rights and self-determination advocacy, mental health, substance use, addiction and prevention. She is passionate about educating the non-native public about the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe.



John Walkey (He/Him) is an East Boston resident committed to Environmental Justice and Urban Ecology in the Boston area for the past fifteen years. John has a B.A. in Archaeology and Anthropology from Boston University and a M.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before returning to the Boston area, he worked for a decade in Latin America and the Caribbean for the UN Environment Programme, the US Geological Survey, and several NGOs. He currently directs [GreenRoots](#)' waterfront and climate justice initiatives.

Speakers/Panelist Bios

Panel II: Guiding Principles for Scaling Up Community-Driven Land Justice and Conservation Outcomes

MODERATOR



From seed to fork and from grassroots to beltway, **Joy Gary (She/Her)** is passionate about food and community. She is a lifelong Boston resident who has dedicated her time to supporting regenerative systems development, food justice, and education through urban agriculture projects. Joy is a regenerative systems designer and culinarian. She serves as the Executive Director of [Boston Farms Community Land Trust](#) where she leads a team in transforming vacant urban land into collective opportunity, supporting neighborhood farmers to grow the food that sustains us.

PANELISTS



Nick Guertin (He/Him) is a design and community development practitioner that has worked extensively across housing, economic development, and city planning. His work has spanned communities throughout the Northeast, including Boston, New York City, and his home state of Connecticut. He currently serves as a Senior Policy Fellow with [DesegregateCT](#), where his work has focused on supporting local organizing and community engagement initiatives. A member of the 2019 Enterprise Rose Fellowship class and an EcoDistricts Accredited Professional, Nick practices in service of empowered communities pursuing just and equitable futures.



Ian McSweeney's (He/Him) life work is focused on the human connection to the land. First, Ian worked as a social worker focused on developing and operationalizing outdoor experience-based education programs. Later he sought work more directly linked to soil and food in real estate by founding a brokerage and consulting company to focus on prioritizing conservation, agriculture, and community within typical land development. He then served as Director of the Russell Foundation, a private foundation focused on assisting landowners and farmers through customized approaches to farmland ownership and conservation. Ian now leads [Agrarian Trust](#) and has created the [Agrarian Commons model](#).



Nick Richardson (He/Him) is the Executive Director of the [Vermont Land Trust \(VLT\)](#), a leading statewide conservation and working lands organization. He previously served as Vice President for Enterprise and Finance at VLT, where he led the organization's capital recruitment and strategic finance work. Before VLT, Nick held leadership roles in energy efficiency and renewable energy development companies. Nick serves on the Land Trust Alliance Leadership Council and the Board of the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation as Chair. In 2020 Nick served on Governor Scott's COVID Recovery Task Force. He received his MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in 2008.



Sheila Vargas Torres (She/Her) advances [The Nature Conservancy \(TNC\) New Hampshire](#)'s state-based public policy and conservation goals in the NH State House. She also coordinates and manages TNC NH's community engagement program with the goals of building relationships with new audiences, enhancing the chapter's visibility, building conservation awareness, and connecting people to nature. Sheila has a decade of experience in issue advocacy, state-level policy, political campaigns, and in both in NH & TX, in media relations and strategic coalition-building. Sheila grew up in NH, has a BA in Journalism, is originally from Aibonito, Puerto Rico, and lives in Manchester, NH with her dog and partner.



The Leopold Conservation Award celebrates voluntary conservation and provides a prominent platform to recognize farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners as conservation ambassadors. Private landowners are nominated or apply for the award based on their land ethic and ability to showcase that conservation and production have a symbiotic relationship. The region-specific program represents the very best in conservation on private working lands.

SPEAKERS



Guy Choiniere believes the health of the soil is the health of the farm. This land ethic drives his actions on a dairy farm that's been in his family since 1945. While navigating changes in the farm economy and climate, [Choiniere Family Farm of Highgate Center](#), Vermont has become a model of innovation and adaptability for other New England dairies. Soil health and erosion control practices have kept their farmland and forests productive and resilient. Guy and Beth Choiniere and their children, Matt and Hannah, sell beef, milk, pork, chicken, eggs and honey at an on-farm store.



Nathan L'Etoile (He/Him) leads [American Farmland Trust's](#) (AFT) programs in New England. Before joining AFT, he worked at Start Strategies LLC as a public policy advocate focused on land use and other issues affecting natural resource-based businesses and as executive director of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance. Nathan has worked in support of the farming community throughout his career. He served as the youngest ever assistant commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and as director of government relations for Massachusetts Farm Bureau. He is active in his family's diversified farm, Four Star Farms, Inc., located in western Massachusetts.



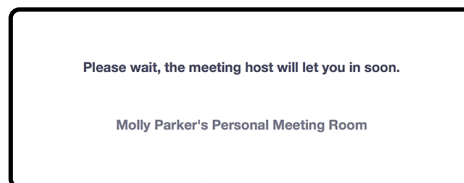
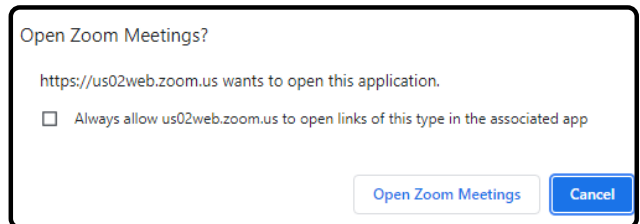
Christina Schellpfeffer (She/Her) leads [Sand County Foundation's](#) communications and development programs. She joined the Foundation in 2013, bringing more than 20 years of experience in marketing, strategic communication and stakeholder relations to the organization. A former journalist, she covered government, public policy and politics for nearly 10 years at the Wisconsin State Capitol as Managing Editor for the Wisconsin Radio Network. Her work has spanned industries and issues ranging from food production and medical research to environmental science and economic development.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

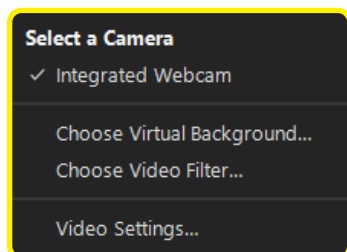
- An internet-connected computer, laptop, or device with webcam.
- A confirmation email from Highstead, containing the Zoom link/ID number to join the meeting.
- A phone (if you're unable to receive audio via your computer, laptop, or device).

ACCESSING ZOOM

- To join the meeting, click the link in the confirmation email provided by Highstead.
- You will be directed to the Zoom website. From here, you will need to click 'Open zoom.us?'
- You will then be placed in a waiting room until a member of the meeting staff admits you into the meeting room.
- Be sure your Zoom name is updated. If needed, you can rename yourself by clicking on the three dots in the top right-hand corner of your video box and selecting "Rename."
- Feel free to say hello in the chat!

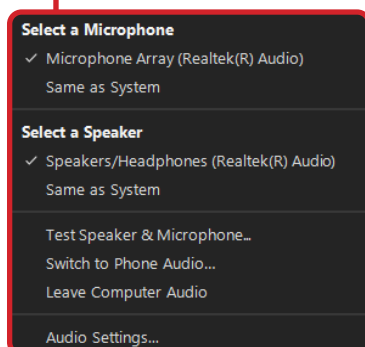
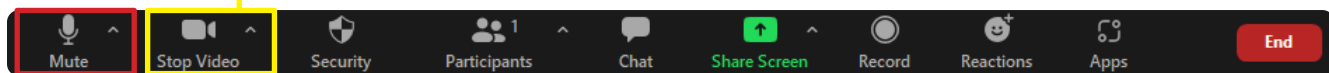


ZOOM TOOLBAR



START/STOP VIDEO & VIDEO SETTINGS

- You can turn your camera on or off with the Start/Stop Video button.
- By clicking on the "^^" next to the Start/Stop video button, you can change webcams, access your Zoom video settings, or select a virtual background (if enabled).

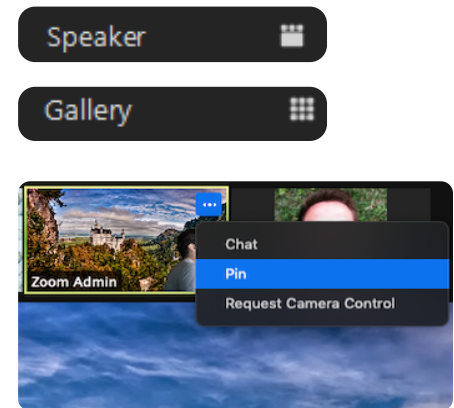


MUTE & AUDIO SETTINGS

- Click Unmute when having a discussion in breakout rooms.
- Click the "^^" to the right of the Mute button to test your microphone and speaker. If you have headphones or a headset you can select them as your microphone or output source here.
- To prevent patchy audio when your internet connection is unstable, click "Switch to Phone Audio..." and call the provided number to listen and speak through your phone. Be sure to enter Meeting ID and Participant ID to make sure your phone audio is connected to your video.

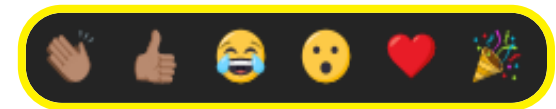
GALLERY/SPEAKER AND VIDEO LAYOUT

- To switch between Gallery View (screen is split between all attendee tiles) and Speaker View (the person speaking fills the screen), toggle the Speaker View/Gallery View button in the top right corner of the screen. We recommend using speaker view during the presentations.
- To the right of this button is the full-screen button.
- If you would like to focus on one speaker, hover over the top right corner of their tile and a "... " will appear. Click that and select "Pin Video" from the dropdown menu.
- To un-pin their video, click on the button in the top right corner of the screen and select "Remove Pin."



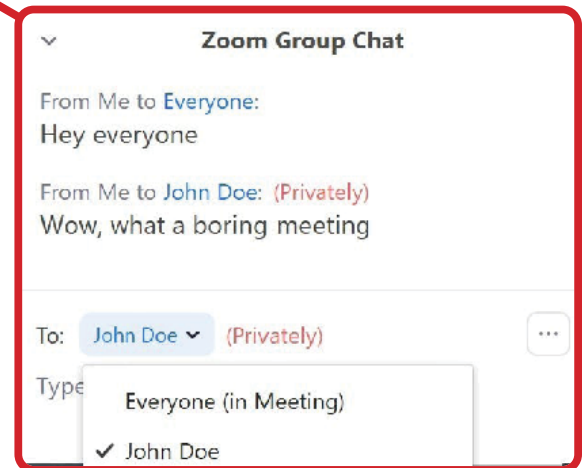
REACTIONS

- Use emojis to react to and give feedback to speakers and panelists.



CHAT

- When you click the chat button, a chatbox like the one on the right will open.
- Here you can send a message to everyone, or a private message to anyone directly.
- Helpful links and resources can also be shared in-chat by panelists or attendees. Be on the lookout for these!



TECH SUPPORT

Need help navigating Zoom or attending the event? Our event staff is online and on call to support you:

- **Support chat:** <https://www.tidio.com/talk/earthcoast>
- **Support email:** eventsupport@earthcoast.live
- **Support phone:** (720) 770-1725

MORE INFORMATION

[Contact Zoom Technical Support](#)

[Zoom Help Center](#)

[Getting Started Tutorials](#)

[Mobile Guide](#)

Zoom Etiquette Guide

Mute your microphone

To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.

Be mindful of background noise

When your microphone is not muted, avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers.

Position your camera properly

If you choose to use a web camera, be sure it is in a stable position and focused at eye level, if possible. Doing so helps create a more direct sense of engagement with other participants.

Limit distractions

You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and muting your smartphone.

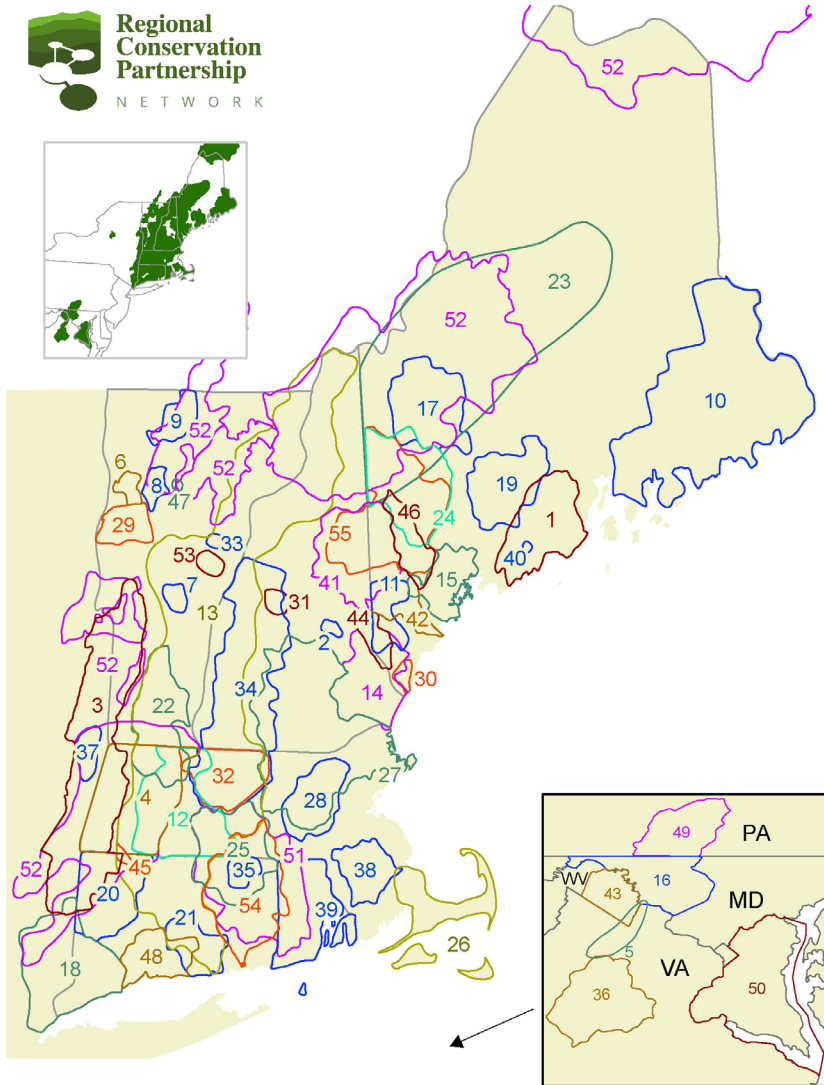
Avoid multitasking

You'll retain the discussion better if you refrain from replying to emails or text messages during the meeting and wait to work on that PowerPoint presentation until after the meeting ends.

Prepare materials in advance

If you will be sharing or referring to content during the meeting, make sure you have the files and/or links ready to go before the meeting begins.

Map of the RCP Network



Information from Bill Labich, Highstead. RCPs 20211013. With Other Potential RCPs outside New England.mxd

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RCP NETWORK? CHECK OUT THESE LINKS AND RESOURCES:

Interactive RCP Network [Map](#)

Wildlands & Woodlands [Website](#)

The Highstead [Website](#)

RCP Handbook ([Full PDF](#)) ([2-page Summary](#))

Woodlands and Wildlands, Farmlands and Communities Report
([Full PDF](#)) ([6-page Summary](#))

Engaging Landowners in Conservation Guide ([PDF](#))