

**Writing the Land:  
Streamlines**

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# WRITING THE LAND: STREAMLINES

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EXAMPLE

# ESSEX COUNTY GREENBELT



**Greenbelt**  
Essex County's Land Trust

Massachusetts

Greenbelt, Essex County's Land Trust, works within the 34 cities and towns of Essex County, Massachusetts helping individuals, families, municipalities and organizations realize their land conservation goals.

Greenbelt protects natural land and working farms across Essex County forever, helping to conserve healthy ecosystems, clean water, local food supplies, scenic landscapes and free, accessible places for all to benefit from nature.

The properties that Greenbelt conserves are on the ancestral lands of the Pennacook and the Pawtucket, Abenaki-speaking people. For thousands of years, these inhabitants and their families fished, hunted, farmed, conducted ceremonies, and developed deep stewardship connections to these unceded lands and waterways. Join us in honoring the elders who lived here before, the Indigenous descendants today and the generations to come.

Website: <https://ecga.org/>

- Annisquam Woods, poet Candace R. Curran
- River Road Conservation Area, poet Hannah Rubin
- Allyn Cox Reservation, poet Samaa Abdurraqib
- Photos by Neil Ungerleider and Greenbelt staff

# Annisquam Woods



## Annisquam Woods

Gloucester

44 Acres

- Conservation Area
- Greenbelt Protected
- Other Protected
- Water
- Wetlands
- Stream
- P Parking
- K Kiosk
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Trail
- Connector Trail
- Contour (3m)



Source data obtained from the Office of Geographic Information Systems (Mass GIS), survey plans, and global positioning systems (GPS). Boundaries are approximate. Map produced by Essex County Greenbelt Association, 2022.

**On a Spur From Trailhead to Langsford Pond**

by Candace R. Curran

wandering under cold bright skies a warmth within  
past a bedrock outcrop glacial erratics offerings  
to the imagination portals to the underworld  
heaps and cairns and hollowed stumps that tell a tale  
to waters edge with the glint of sun and flicker of shade  
an expanse of water teasing me to its stage I linger  
stockstill and dreamy under white pines and the ponds  
reflections breathe in a peace that has settled nesting  
so at first I don't see them under the overhang of green  
swag and bracken the raft of ducks a wobbling of  
waterfowl suddenly in focus a small fleet in the banks  
shadows their discovery startling heart to flight >>>>>>  
I slip back to the path and the snaking walls of stone



Photo: Langsford Pond by Neil Ungerleider

**Rock walls**

by Hannah Rubin

only in forest  
do rock walls remain  
where the land they were built to  
partition has protected them

who owned what?  
the walls forgot that  
long ago,  
and how would the forest know?

secondary succession:  
seeds nourish sprouts  
sprouts become saplings  
and bushes and weeds

and trees! while rock walls,  
unable to procreate,  
nevertheless divide  
into gray lichened stones

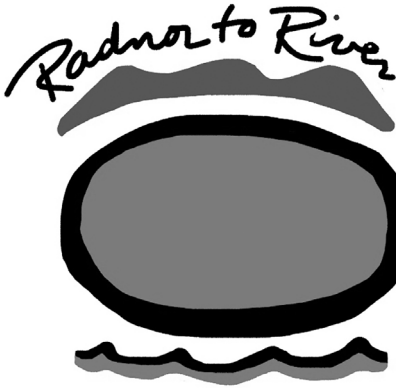




Photo: John Olver at the Richardson Overlook



# RADNOR TO RIVER



Tennessee

Radnor to River (R2R) advocates for coordinated conservation in Nashville, using ecological principles to improve local policy, develop city-wide planning tools, and protect an ecological corridor across the city.

- West Meade Conservation Corridor, poet Julie Sumner
- Photos by Noah Charney

## Radnor to River

R2R was founded upon the vision of securing the ecological corridor that currently encompasses many of the landmark parks in the city, with the aspirational concept of an inclusive, cross-city public hiking trail. We focus on protecting native ecosystems and the species that depend on them. In Nashville, this primarily means old forests and sensitive waterways. Our focal forests clean our air, clean our water, buffer us against flooding, provide recreational opportunities, and provide inspirational spaces to nurture our minds and bodies. We work with local government, communities, nonprofits, and developers to promote smart growth that meets landowner needs, supports local communities, and protects our natural heritage.

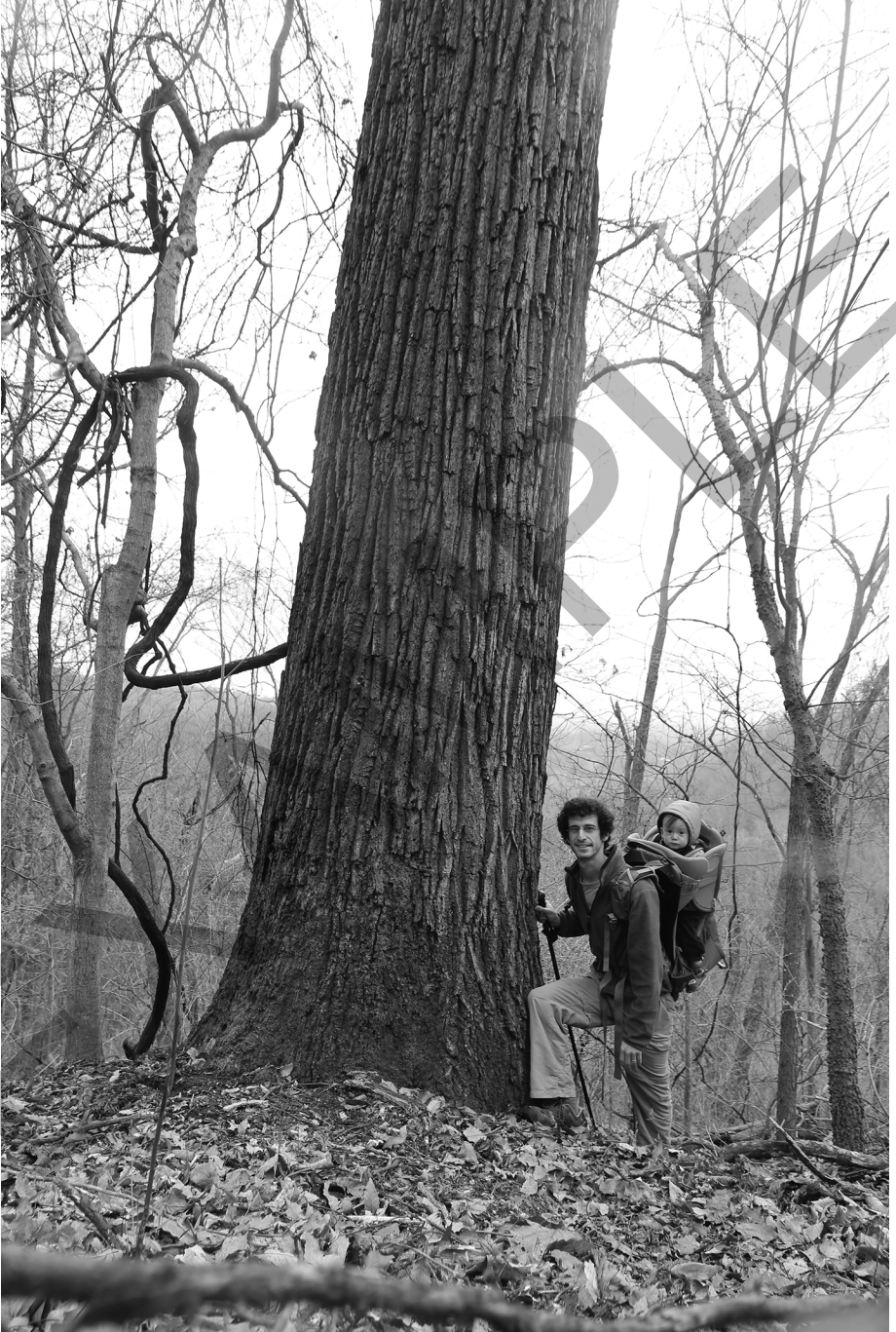
Our founders began working towards our conservation vision in 2006, with the creation of a neighborhood organization, the West Meade Conservancy. That organization established the first conservation zoning policy in the city and secured conservation easements on several forested properties. An extension of this earlier work, Radnor to River was launched in 2011, formally chartered in 2014, and gained federal nonprofit status in 2015. With no paid staff, we are run by a working volunteer board.

At the ground level we have been directly involved in protecting over 300 acres of forest within the city. This includes: the purchase of a waterfall, which now serves as a public park; the purchase of a cave, which is now held by a land trust (TennGreen); and re-negotiating building footprints to secure open space zoning for portions of two separate parcels that had previously approved plans for cut-and-fill developments.

While working to secure specific components of our ecological corridor, Radnor to River is committed to long-term change via greater environmental protections through open space planning, zoning policy, and the city's development review process. Over the years, we have hosted many working meetings that bring together representatives from local non-profits and various policymakers to strengthen Nashville's approach to conservation and to build a strong base of support for this movement.



West Meade Waterfall



Noah Charney, Juno Mizuno, and an over 200 year old Chestnut Oak



Box Turtle and Belle Meade Plantation Wall



**Northern Zigzag Salamander**

by Julie Sumner

Speckled with white and resplendent  
in the gray half-light of Belle Forest

Cave, the creature glitters as if he  
is headlining the Grand Ole Opry.

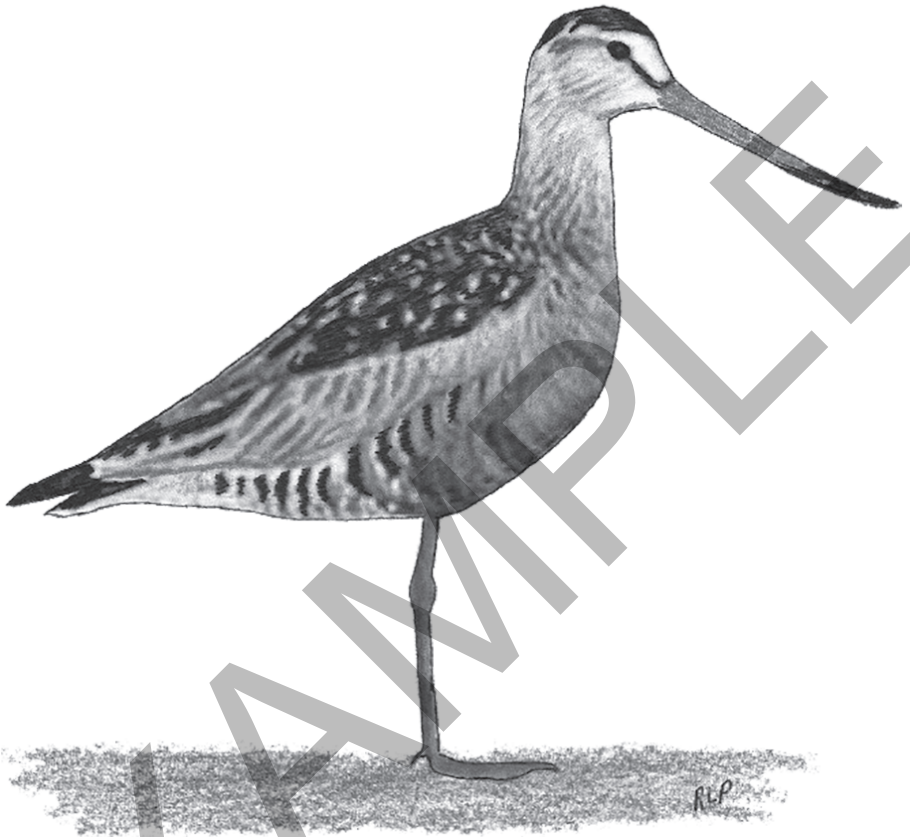
No rhinestones for him though—  
he prefers this dimmed world

layered in limestone, this deep,  
this damp under-earth that drops

into caverns, drips into stalactites  
as slowly as a tree trunk collects

its rings. I blink my eyes—he's gone—  
vanished from view, a shy celebrity

slipped away from his adoring fan.



Hudsonian godwit © Robert Penner/TNC

Of the 482 bird species known to be in Kansas, 356 species have been observed at Cheyenne Bottoms.

**Becoming Lizard**

by JuPong Lin

Tiny  
 creatures' bodies  
 sculpt intricate patterns.  
 Delicate burrows leave traces  
 of order & chaos in limestone  
 sur-faces of 30,000 years.  
 Curves echo rhythms  
 of tides, ocean  
 waves that rush to shore, break, retreat into the depths  
 Rock cousin basks  
 on these petrified maps  
 of past lives. Lizard  
 holds up its head, basks  
 in searing sunlight, smells  
 ghosts of organismal living,  
 dying becoming another, eating,  
 secreting, growing. Soft tissue  
 secretes hard—flesh into bone.  
 Shadows stretch long and langorous.  
 Cold reptile scurries out to catch early  
 sun. Rooster crows. Human asks  
 “Native or invasive?” Only two  
 options, in this immense World?  
 How to run like lizard, cool  
 like lizard, lounge like lizard  
 listen like lizard for tasty  
 insect chirps under billowing  
 palms. Smell like lizard  
 inhaling banana orchid  
 lick like lizard  
 lie like lizard  
 Still as unmarked clay headstones—she lets blood warm  
 near to boiling, ejects her  
 unfathomably long tongue,  
 catches scent specks. She'll  
 eat anything to stay alive,  
 even deadly waste.  
 I become lizard  
 heart still as  
 stone yet  
 ready to  
 dart in  
 a flash  
 curly  
 tail  
 t  
 u  
 c  
 k d  
 e