During difficult times the land sustains us.

I suspect there’s something in our DNA that responds to the arrival of spring: our steps are a little bit jauntier, we whistle a slightly happier tune, the sun feels just a few degrees warmer. It’s hard, this spring, to feel that same sense of levity.

During this pandemic, I’ve found - as you may have - that spending time in nature is one way to reconnect to my spring-ier self and disconnect from the news cycle, if only for a few moments. CLC’s Public Conservation Areas are a wonderful place to spend time, whether you’re tromping the hills of Overmountain in Ancram, or searching for spring flowers at Hand Hollow in New Lebanon.

CLC hopes to be able to keep properties open for respite, recreation, and reverence through this pandemic. Your observance of social distancing practices will play a big part in making that possible.

You may notice other activity when you visit!

- **At High Falls, the Red Trail is closed** for invasive species removal work. You can access the overlook from the Green Trail.

- The trail from the **Hand Hollow Gale Hill Road entrance to Meizinger Lake** has been improved significantly thanks to a grant.

- The **native wildflower meadows** at Siegel-Kline Kill and Overmountain should be sprouting soon. Please stay on the trails to ensure the young plants make it to adulthood!

You’ll also likely see the Public Conservation Area team. This hard-working crew of three has been working tirelessly to ensure that properties are safe for visitors, so consider a smile and a thank-you wave (from a safe distance, of course), and making a donation to support their work, if you can.

Thank you. Stay well.

Peter R. Paden
Executive Director

HELP KEEP LAND OPEN:

Visit clctrust.org for up-to-date information about site conditions.

Practice social distancing in parking lots, on trails, and on benches. Avoid using gazebos.

If you see a site is full, come back at a later time or visit another property. Please do not park on roadsides.

Follow site rules: keep your dog on a leash, carry out all trash, and stay on the trails.

Try a new site! Properties like Drowned Lands, Harris, and Overmountain Conservation Area are less visited. Sites like Greenport, High Falls, and Ooms are more prone to over-crowding.

Sign up to volunteer when we’re able to be together again!
Letters from the land: Your outdoor experiences

All photos courtesy the individuals named below.

With everything going on in the world at the moment, I am beyond grateful to have such well-managed Conservation Areas local to me.
- Matthew Jones

It’s been such a blessing to go somewhere in nature during this time.
- Leeanna Merante

At this time, while it is difficult to be close to many of the people we love, we are still able to be close to nature because of these wonderful properties.
- Gavin Preuss

Drowned Lands Swamp – my favorite place to watch beavers and birds. Thanks to CLC for preserving these beautiful properties.
- Tracy Rakin

Another wonderful walk in the woods with my furry buddy.
- Jennifer L.
Captured a great shot like this one? Enter the Annual Photography Show!

This show is open to people of all ages and all levels of experience, and is a great way to connect to this land we love. This year’s theme is CLC’s Public Conservation Areas. You can enter up to three photos of your favorite places. The deadline to enter has been extended until 2021, due to the pandemic.

Visit clctrust.org/photoshow2020 to learn more.