



NEWTOWN FOREST ASSOCIATION

Background

The Newtown Forest Association is the oldest land trust organization in Connecticut. It has been dedicated for over seventy-five years to "securing for the residents of Newtown and their posterity the benefits derived from open space lands. Lands which include but are not limited to forest land, wildlife preserves, park lands and lands not suitable for building." This excerpt is taken from the Forest Association's charter and remains its goal to this day.

The Association was started in 1923 when Dr. Howard Peck presented a gift of 7.2 acres of land to nine Newtown neighbors forming "Newtown Forester's Association." Additional lands, added from concerned citizens, formed the 15.5-acre "Newtown Town Forest". This is an example of how a land trust works to protect the character of the community by preserving scenic, historic, agricultural and recreational lands for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Newtown Forest Association has grown from the initial 7.2 acres to its current holdings of more than 1000 acres located in all sections of town. This acreage was and is primarily donations deeded to the land trust in several ways. The Association helps in guiding the legal transfer of land into the trust, allowing the donor to realize substantial tax savings. These donating landowners were motivated by a desire to see the lands they love preserved forever in a land trust.



CURRENT PROGRAMS

Land Trusts

- A land trust is a private, nonprofit conservation organization that works to protect in perpetuity land and water resources for the benefit of everyone.
- Lands that are preserved as open space are useful in the ecological chain and promote protection for wildlife.
- Benefits include the reduction of water pollution, prevention of flooding and conservation of water resources by setting aside vital lands.

Preserving Lands for Open Space

- A board of directors governs the non-profit, tax exempt Newtown Forest Association.
- Since the Forest Association is directed by residents of Newtown not subject to the changes in the political structure, the association can assure land donors that their wishes for the future use of their contributions will be respected year after year.
- Some donated land is designated as wildlife sanctuaries, bird havens or just natural undisturbed forest. No matter what type of land, wet, dry, meadow or forest, it is held for all time as open space for the benefit of the Newtown community.

Adding to Open Space Holdings

- The Forest Association works with landowners interested in preserving their land by explaining tax and other benefits.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Membership

- Annual dues are collected for family or individual memberships.
- Membership offers the opportunity to participate in our annual association meeting. This meeting brings our members together with the Board of Directors to discuss and vote on upcoming issues and concerns.

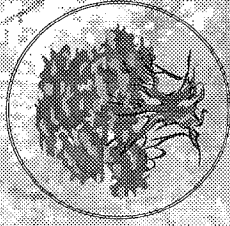
Active Volunteers

- We depend on the hard work of dedicated volunteers and the support of the people in the community. There is no paid staff.
- Volunteers serve as members on the board of directors, working on committees, or doing periodic monitoring of one or more of the Forest Association properties.
- If you have expertise relating to our work, such as, accounting, appraisal, forestry issues, legal matters, public relations, or surveying, we could use your help.

**You can help! Contact the
Newtown Forest Association at:**

**Newtown Forest Association
P.O. Box 213
Newtown, CT. 06470**

The Newtown Forest Association



Growing Since 1923

**Protecting
Your
Environment**

