Goshen Land Trust, Inc.
Strategic Plan 2026
Adopted December 11, 2025

Mission

The Goshen Land Trust seeks to improve the quality of life for current and future generations of Goshen-area residents through the preservation and stewardship of natural and open lands.

The Goshen Land Trust's intent is to protect such land in perpetuity for the purpose of habitat preservation and enhancement, water quality protection, agricultural productivity, education, passive recreation, and scenic and historic preservation.

Vision

Through donation, fund raising, town funding, state acquisition and /or the securing of grants, the Land Trust will seek to:

1. Preserve additional land in NE Goshen with the goal of creating a large block of relatively unfragmented wildlife habitat, extending from Torrington Water Company land in West Torrington, through North Goshen to connect with Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk and Canaan.

2. Expand our Fox Brook trail system to the Norfolk border and secure the West Branch of the Batam River corridor for public passive recreation and education purposes.

3. Preserve other important lands that meet our preservation goals.

Through the continued effective management of our resources, the Goshen Land Trust will be recognized as a vital community organization making an impact in the lives of current and future residents by participating in the preservation of a truly viable ecosystem in the northwest corner of Connecticut

Goals and Strategies

1. **Revitalization of the Board of Directors**
   - A. Expand professional capabilities of the board, by:
     1. Advertising in local publications and our newsletters,
     2. Designating times of year for current board members to present names of potential new directors and determine steps to reach out.
     3. Designating a board meeting annually for a 'meet & greet' with potential volunteers/directors.
   - B. Re-establish the three (3) town commission liaison director positions: Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning, and Conservation Commission.
   - C. Create and implement a plan for educating board members.
   - D. Encourage/Increase participation to the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) annual conference, Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC), Small Area Land Trust meetings, Greenprint/HVA, and other opportunities for board development.

Responsible Party: President, Board of Directors, and Governance Committee

Time Frame: 2026-2028

2. Increase the Acquisition of Properties

A. Increase members of Land Acquisition Committee.
B. Explore possibility of conducting a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) with town.
C. Annually review and prioritize the prospective properties list.
D. Establish protocols to foster relationships with owners of high priority properties.

Responsible Party: President, Chair of Land Acquisition Committee
Time Frame: Present -2031

3. Maintain a High Level of Stewardship of all Properties

A. Transition management of fee and easement property inspection to new team of directors/volunteers.
B. Review management plans as needed for the promotion of biodiversity, resilience to drought/flood, and protection of priority features.
C. Continue to promote best management practices on both fee and easement properties.
D. Contract with professional support, as needed.

Responsible Party: Stewardship Committee
Time Frame: Present-2031

4. Increase Donations

A. Create and fill a part-time or volunteer Donor Coordinator position.
B. Mail summer newsletter as well as a year-end appeal.
C. Promote and participate in online giving events sponsored by local community foundations.
D. Re-evaluate and implement improved processes to develop and maintain donor relationships.
E. Strive to include legacy information in all appropriate communications.

Responsible Party: President, Communications Committee, Donor Coordinator
Time Frame: Present-2027

5. Develop and Engage a Volunteer Force

A. Create a Volunteer Plan that includes an annual volunteer calendar.
B. Create a part-time position of Coordinator to oversee volunteer outreach and training as well as further develop social media presence.
C. Update website to include volunteer opportunities and events.
D. Regularly recognize volunteers for meaningful accomplishments.

Responsible Party: Communications Committee, Coordinator
Time Frame: 2026-2028

6. Re-energize Community Outreach

A. Create a Community Outreach Committee
B. Participate in appropriate community events to share our mission and work, i.e. Meet Your Greens
C. Designate director(s) as liaison to Small Area Land Trust (SALT) meetings and Greenprint/HVA. Designees to report back to the board.
D. Collaborate with other organizations to co-sponsor activities or events.

E. Create an annual calendar of events with activities to engage families and community members, and share our mission.
F. Communicate using social media, emails, mailings, website, etc.
G. Encourage public use of Land Trust trails through:
    1. Continued high standard of trail maintenance;
    2. Education of the public via social media, newsletters, and our website; and
    3. Establish a calendar of guided hikes focusing on unique features and/or seasonal highlights of each trail.
    4. Publish trail maps and seek ways to distribute.

Responsible Party: President, SALT/Greenprint Liaisons, Community Outreach Committee
Time Frame: 2026-2028

*This Strategic Plan 2026 replaces the plan adopted in 2008 and reviewed in 2019. It will be reviewed annually by the Governance Committee with recommends to the board at January meetings. It will be formally reviewed by the full board by January 2031.