

# Aquidneck Land Trust

Annual Report | Fiscal Year 2011





William J. Corcoran, Esq.  
Board of Trustees  
Chair

Dear Fellow Aquidneck Islanders,

It has been a year since I had the honor to become Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Aquidneck Land Trust and the time has flown swiftly past. During the past year, the Land Trust has arranged to conserve approximately 150 acres of land on Aquidneck Island. However, no matter how much land the ALT manages to conserve there always seems to be more open space that is threatened by development. The constant race against the over development of Aquidneck Island demands eternal vigilance. Fortunately our Executive Director, Ted Clement is up to the challenge. Rising early each morning and getting to the office before 7:00 a.m., Ted is hard at the conservation battle before most folks are out of bed. With boundless energy and cheerful optimism Ted keeps conjuring up a seemingly endless stream of conservation projects. If you are feeling bad about the state of the Island, all you have to do is spend an hour at a Land Acquisition Committee meeting and look at all the projects that Ted has in the Land Trust pipeline and you will come away with a renewed sense of purpose and optimism.

We are blessed to live in one of the most beautiful places on earth. Within 10 minutes of our homes we have world class beaches, parks, hiking, golf, sailing and numerous other outdoor recreational activities. We take it for granted that these beaches, parks and other outdoor recreational areas will always be there for ourselves and future generations. However, until recently many of our parks had little in the way of protections to guard them. Fortunately, Ted and a number of visionary Newport City Council members have worked to protect our parks and have placed perpetual conservation easements on various parks such as Morton Park, King Park, Spencer Park and most recently the Coggeshall School Park in the densely populated North End of Newport. Similarly, The Preservation Society of Newport County has teamed up with the Land Trust to protect the beautiful and elegant Rovensky Park on Bellevue Avenue in Newport. Meanwhile, in Portsmouth and Middletown, the Town Council members of these respective communities and many private landowners have teamed up to create the longest nature/hiking trail on the Island. The Sakonnet Greenway is now longer than Newport's Cliff Walk and enjoys a much greater degree of protection.

Hopefully, in the near future we will be able to get protections placed upon more of our beaches to insure them against potential development schemes. There is nothing a developer likes better than waterfront property and many of our municipal beaches are not subject to secure enough zoning regulations. When the economy gets tough many projects that we wouldn't dream of in better times suddenly begin to look attractive. So sometimes we need a conservation easement to protect ourselves from ourselves. But that is a battle for another day and as I end my term as Chairman I gladly pass the torch over to our incoming Chairperson Linda Ujifusa. Linda is a dedicated conservationist with tons of energy. She will continue to fight the good fight and we may all rest assured that she and Ted will continue to protect our beloved Island. Thanks for all your support, it's been a wonderful and green ride.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. Corcoran". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.



Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr.,  
Executive Director

Dear Supporters,

I want you to know how deeply thankful we are for your support, of all shapes and sizes, because it has enabled the Aquidneck Land Trust ("ALT") to substantially protect our beloved island's remaining open spaces and natural character for the lasting benefit of our community.

Just consider some of ALT's green accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2011 (October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011) that you, our supporters, helped us achieve for the benefit of current and future generations:

- Acquired a perpetual 8.05-acre Conservation Easement on King Park in Newport
- Acquired a perpetual 2.46-acre Conservation Easement on Spencer Park in Newport
- Acquired a perpetual 4.95-acre Conservation Easement on Rovensky Park in Newport
- Acquired a perpetual 37.59-acre Conservation Easement on Wicks Nursery in Portsmouth
- Executed an Option Agreement that gave ALT 2 years to raise over \$3 million to save about 70 acres of the St. Mary's Church land between the Saint Mary's Reservoir and East Main Road. To date, we have raised a little over \$2.9 million.
- Completed a year-long mapping and prioritization study of all the remaining and threatened open space parcels within Aquidneck Island's seven primary watersheds
- Acquired a perpetual .70-acre Conservation Easement on the Ocean View Estate next to the Cliff Walk in Newport

We just entered Fiscal Year 2012, and you have already helped us deliver yet more lasting green good to our island:

- Acquired a perpetual 18.83-acre Conservation Easement on the Dey property next to Paradise Brook in Middletown
- Acquired a perpetual 14.25-acre Conservation Easement on the Welch Farm in Portsmouth
- Removed the last remaining and obtrusive overhead utility poles and lines along the critical 4-mile stretch of Ocean Drive in Newport, one of the United States' premier scenic and historic roadways

The magnitude of our land conservation accomplishments has been widely recognized and celebrated. For example, this past year, the Newport County Chamber of Commerce selected ALT for its Outstanding Community Achievement Award, the Aquidneck Island Watershed Council selected ALT for its Citizen of the Year Award and the Master Gardener Foundation of Rhode Island selected ALT for its Tradition of Excellence Award.

Please understand that these accolades and awards are just as much for you because you are a member of the ALT family and without your support we could not realize and enjoy such great successes. We are a manifestation of the good will, generosity and long-term vision of our wonderful community. Thank you for helping us love Aquidneck Island!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a horizontal line above the letters "Ted".

**F**ounded in 1990, the Land Trust's first conservation easement was placed on the historic Slocum estate on Bellevue Avenue. Since that time the Land trust has conserved over 2,000 acres with many landowners. We gratefully thank these very special individuals, families, businesses, neighborhood associations, municipalities, and other government agencies who have partnered with us to preserve and steward their land in perpetuity. Their vision for the future, and appreciation of the past, leave a legacy for all to enjoy.



Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Friends of Almy Pond  
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Alvarnas  
 Edythe Anthony  
 Muriel Anthony  
 Armory Revival Company  
 Manuel J. Borges  
 Mrs. Jean I. Braman  
 Carolann Brown  
 James F. Carlin  
 James Chadwick  
 City of Newport  
 Clubhouse Partners, LP  
 Denys and Margery Cousens  
 Crystal Spring Water Company,  
 The Scott Family  
 Philip S. Dey II  
 The Dick Family  
 Joe and Kristal Dockery  
 Jan and Michelle Eckhart,  
 Sweet Berry Farm  
 The Elshant Family  
 Louis Escobar  
 Roberta Faria  
 Farmlands, LLC  
 Farmscapes Holdings, LLC  
 Greenscape, LLC  
 Green Valley Country Club, Inc.

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 Diana Harrison  
 Mr. and Mrs. F. James Hodges, Jr.  
 The Kempenaar Family  
 Joe Lacerda, Jr.  
 Marcella McCormack  
 Town of Middletown  
 Middletown Main, LLC  
 Middletown Open Space  
 and Fields Committee  
 Katherine M. Murphy  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 Newport Country Club  
 Newport National Golf Club  
 /Realty Financial Partners  
 John and Paul Nunes,  
 Newport Vineyards & Winery  
 Newport Water Department  
 Norman Bird Sanctuary  
 Larry and Mary Nunes,  
 Anna Flaherty and Edna North  
 Peter Olaynack  
 Donald and Helene O'Neill  
 Bill and Barbara O'Reilly,  
 Bally Machree Farm, LLC  
 The Peckham Family  
 The Pennfield School  
 The Perry Family Partnership

Manuel Peters, George Peters  
 and Marie Ney  
 Town of Portsmouth  
 The Preservation Society  
 of Newport County  
 RI Agricultural Land  
 Preservation Commission  
 RI Department of Environmental  
 Management  
 RI Water Resources Board  
 Carol Rodrigues and Nancy Cleasby  
 Salve Regina University  
 The Silvia Family  
 Mrs. John J. Slocum  
 John J. Slocum  
 F.M. Sullivan  
 Sweet Flag Partners  
 George Thurston  
 David R. Tibbetts  
 US Dept. of Agriculture's Natural  
 Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
 Valley Associates II  
 van Beuren Family  
 Katherine and Michael Waters  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Webster  
 C. William Welch  
 Charles R. Whitehouse  
 The Wicks Family

# Aquidneck Land Trust

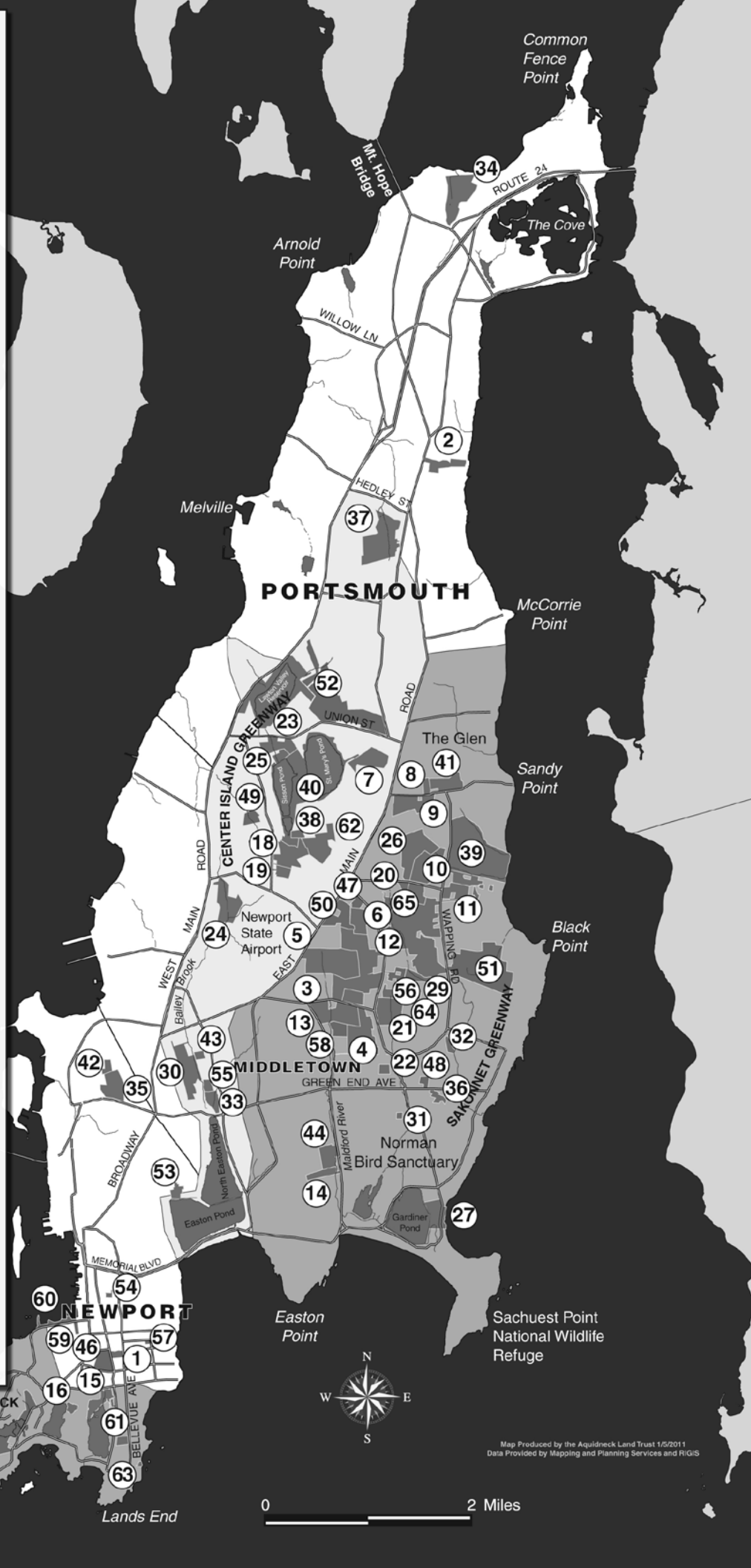
## Protected Properties

SEE HOW WE ARE GROWING ACRE BY ACRE

■ - Protected Properties

1993	①	The John J. Slocum Estate	2.4
1995	②	The Pierce-Anthony Farm	16.50
1996	③	Middletown Soccer Fields	13.98
	④	Sweet Berry Farm	77.57
1998	⑤	Perry Farm (Including Newport Vineyards)	82.07
1999	⑥	Tibbetts Farm	33.25
2000	⑦	Oakland Forest & Meadow	30.10
	⑧	Hodges/ Pennfield School	6.88
	⑨	3S / Portsmouth	50.28
	⑩	Peters Farm	50.00
	⑪	Farmlands, LLC	43.17
	⑫	Newport National Golf Club	299.42
	⑬	Nunes Farms	51.00
	⑭	Braman / Olaynack Farm	12.60
	⑮	Almy Pond Conservation Area	19.66
2001	⑯	The Whitehouse Family	5.12
	⑰	Newport Country Club	3.00
	⑱	Cousens Farm	34.97
	⑲	Bally Machree Farm, LLC	8.16
	⑳	Greenscape, LLC / Braman's Meadow	10.55
	㉑	Webster Farm	38.22
2002	㉒	Sweet Berry Farm, Inc. / Borges	6.38
	㉓	Almy-Thurston Farm	16.34
	㉔	Crystal Spring Water Company	39.66
2003	㉕	Alvarnas / Lacerda Farm	6.48
	㉖	Greenscape, LLC Farm / North	47.21
	㉗	Norman Bird Sanctuary / Third Beach	23.87
	㉘	The Dockery Estate	12.57
2004	㉙	Commonwealth Farm	17.00
	㉚	Kempenaar Valley	45.80
2005	㉛	Clubhouse Partners, LP Preserve	1.18
	㉜	Harrison Farm	2.62
	㉝	Sullivan Preserve	14.90
	㉞	State of RI / Town Pond	45.55
	㉟	City of Newport / Miantonomi Park	29.78
	㊱	Silvia Farm	15.30
	㊲	Escobar's Highland Farm	74.98
2006	㊳	Elshant Preserve	5.45
	㊴	Vauluse East Estate	128.79
	㊵	Water Reservoir Area	404.21
	㊶	Brown Preserve	28.76
	㊷	Sunset Hills	5.47
	㊸	Sweet Flag Partners	4.53
	㊹	Paradise Valley Park/Diocese	20.95
2007	㊺	City of Newport / Goosenek Cove	58.00
	㊻	City of Newport / Morton Park	12.10
2008	㊼	Town of Middletown / Albro Woods	8.65
	㊽	Town of Middletown / Demery Memorial Park	6.24
	㊾	Peckham Farm	11.59
	㊿	Boulevard Nurseries	29.46
	1	Swan Farm	124.38
2009	2	Green Valley Country Club	126.37
	3	Braga Park	8.35
	4	McCormack Estate	2.29
	5	Valley Associates II	6.65
	6	Easy Street Farm	8.67
	7	Sulthorne / Salve Regina University	1.14
2010	8	O'Neill	8.23
	9	City of Newport / Spencer Park	2.46
	10	City of Newport / King Park	8.05
2011	11	Rovensky Park	4.95
	12	Wicks Nursery	37.59
	13	Ocean View	0.70
	14	Dey	18.83
	15	Welch Farm	14.25

**Total Conserved Acres = 2,385.63**





## AQUIDNECK LAND TRUST MILESTONES | FISCAL YEAR 2011

### OCTOBER 2010

- Hosted an outdoor movie screening of *Miss Potter*, about children's author, illustrator and conservationist Beatrix Potter, at Newport Vineyards as part of ALT's 20th Anniversary celebrations.
- Launched ALT's Young Friends membership program, which offers affordable membership options for young people interested in showing their support for ALT, as young people have much at stake with our environment.
- Attended the national Land Trust Alliance Rally in Connecticut.

### NOVEMBER 2010

- Hosted ALT's 3rd annual Race for Open Space on the Sakonnet Greenway Trail.

### DECEMBER 2010

- Acquired a perpetual Conservation Easement from the City of Newport, as part of ALT's Newport Conservation Initiative, on 8.05 acres of King Park.
- Acquired a perpetual Conservation Easement from the City of Newport, as part of ALT's Newport Conservation Initiative, on the 2.46-acre Spencer Park.

### JANUARY 2011

- Hired Sophia DeMaio as ALT's new Stewardship Director.

### FEBRUARY 2011

- Conducted ALT's 21st Annual Meeting to a sold-out crowd at the Atlantic Beach Club in Middletown.
- Acquired a perpetual Conservation Easement from The Preservation Society of Newport County on the 4.95-acre Rovensky Park as part of ALT's Newport Conservation Initiative.
- ALT's Executive Director attended a multi-day symposium on advanced legal topics in land conservation in Boston.
- In collaboration with newportFILM, as part of ALT's Conservation Speaker Series, presented a screening of the documentary film *GASLAND*, a cautionary and real tale of how greed and ignorance can irreparably harm our landscapes and natural resources.
- ALT's Executive Director spoke at the Annual Meeting for St. Mary's Church.

### MARCH 2011

- In collaboration with the Newport Garden Club, as part of ALT's Conservation Speaker Series, presented Chip Osborne and his talk "*The Living Lawn, A Lawn for Living: Simple Steps to Organic Lawn Care*," which helped participants understand how we can all become better conservationists at the most local level, our backyard.
- ALT's Executive Director delivered a lecture on Conservation Easements at the Annual Rhode Island Land and Water Conservation Summit at the University of Rhode Island.

### APRIL 2011

- Signed a Conservation Collaboration Agreement with the Pennfield School in Portsmouth, under which the entire school became members of ALT, and did a joint Earth Day cleanup.
- Successfully completed the Campaign to Save Wicks Nursery with the purchase of a Conservation Easement from the Wicks siblings on nearly 38 acres of their farm in Portsmouth.
- Instituted the first annual Peter Merritt Day, in which several local garden shops supported ALT by donating a percentage of their sales to the Merritt Neighborhood Fund.



## AQUIDNECK LAND TRUST MILESTONES | FISCAL YEAR 2011

### MAY 2011

- Awarded 8 grants, totaling \$6,030 to local conservation projects through ALT's Merritt Neighborhood Fund. Grant awards will be used to expand community gardens that provide food to local shelters, for pocket park creation, community clean up projects, and for wildlife education.
- Launched ALT's Campaign to Save the Saint Mary's Land when ALT, St. Mary's Church and the Gibbs Trust signed an Option Agreement giving ALT two years to raise over \$3 million to conserve about 70 acres of this critical open space.
- Offered a Conservation Circle Trolley Tour of ALT conserved properties.
- Hosted the Annual Landowner Appreciation Party for landowners of ALT conserved lands.

### JUNE 2011

- Presented a Land Matters Walk & Talk tour for the public on the Saint Mary's Church land in Portsmouth.
- Offered a Conservation Circle Trolley Tour of ALT conserved properties.
- Hosted the Annual ALT Trustees and Advisors Meeting.

### JULY 2011

- With assistance from Salve Regina University and Roger Williams University, completed a year-long mapping and prioritization study of all the remaining and threatened open space parcels within Aquidneck Island's seven primary watersheds.
- Hosted our 9th Annual Golf Tournament at Newport National Golf Club.
- Acquired a perpetual Conservation Easement from the Dick family, as part of ALT's Newport Conservation Initiative, on the open space portion of their estate, Ocean View, next to the Cliff Walk.
- Hosted *Fiesta Verde 2011: City by the Sea* to a sold-out crowd on the adjoining lawns of Miramar, Ocean View and Rock Cliff between the Cliff Walk and Bellevue Avenue in Newport.

### AUGUST 2011

- Assisted the Kirby family with the Aquidneck Island Paddle Race Day and Waterman Competition to benefit ALT, Lucy's Hearth and the Norman Bird Sanctuary.
- Offered a Conservation Circle Trolley Tour of ALT conserved properties.

### SEPTEMBER 2011

- Awarded the Master Gardener Foundation of Rhode Island's Tradition of Excellence Award.
- Adopted a new 3-year Strategic Plan.
- In collaboration with Newport Harbor Corporation, as part of ALT's Conservation Speaker Series, hosted chefs Jonathan Cambra and Casey Riley's presentation on "Green Eating," which taught participants the "hows" and "whys" of eating in an environmentally friendly way.
- Presented a Land Matters Walk & Talk tour for the public on the Sakonnet Greenway Trail in Portsmouth.
- Offered a Conservation Circle Trolley Tour of ALT conserved properties.

## PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT | FISCAL YEAR 2011

The Board of Trustees is deeply grateful to the hundreds of individuals, families, businesses, organizations, foundations, government entities, and landowners who generously support our work each year. The Aquidneck Land Trust strives to offer creative, flexible, respectful and convenient methods to enlist lasting philanthropic support. Membership dues, targeted appeals and campaigns, specials events, planned gifts and bequests, in-kind goods and services, and donations of land and conservation easements all enable those who treasure Aquidneck Island to participate in the work of ALT. Our heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the Aquidneck Land Trust during this fiscal year, which concluded on **September 30, 2011**.

### \$50,000+

Diana Oehrli Charitable Trust  
Loebs Family Foundation  
Prince Charitable Trusts  
State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations  
Town of Portsmouth  
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### \$500 - \$999

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Management Co.  
Green Valley Country Club  
Katherine Field & Associates, Inc.  
Narragansett Engineering  
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The Green Island Society is a group of ALT supporters who have made the preservation of our Island a part of their legacy through a bequest and/or other planned giving vehicle. For more information, contact ALT's Development Director.

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**IN HONOR OF:**  
Glenna Andrade,  
on the occasion of her retirement  
from Roger Williams University  
Sara Donaldson  
Steven and Sandy Parks  
Robert Victor

If your name is listed incorrectly or has been omitted, please notify the Land Trust's Development Office and accept our sincere apologies.















## FINANCIAL SUMMARY (UNAUDITED) For the Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2011

### CHANGES IN *UNRESTRICTED* NET ASSETS:

#### PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions of easements	\$ 65,000
Grants	100,127
Donations and Appeals	133,574
Membership Dues	67,470
Special Events, net of direct benefit costs	184,674
Investment Income	\$ (5,576)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 545,269</b>

#### Net Assets released from restrictions:

Satisfaction of program restrictions	\$ 1,401,451
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<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,946,720</b>
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### EXPENSES

#### Program Services:

Land Acquisition and Stewardship	\$ 356,021
Conservation Easements	1,130,000
Membership and Education	93,849
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$ 1,579,870</b>

#### Support Services:

Management and General Operations	\$ 302,256
Fundraising	97,289
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$ 399,545</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,979,415</b>
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<b>TOTAL CHANGES IN <i>UNRESTRICTED</i> NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ (32,695)</b>
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### CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:

Investment Income	\$ (9,980)
Grants	1,130,000
Donations and appeals	286,702
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ (1,401,451)

<b>Total changes in temporarily restricted net assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,271</b>
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<b>TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ (27,424)</b>
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<b>NET ASSETS, beginning of the fiscal year</b>	<b>\$ 6,732,114</b>
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<b>end of the fiscal year</b>	<b>\$ 6,704,690</b>
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Land Preservation Fund	\$ 3,359,712
Merritt Neighborhood Endowment Fund	68,857
Legal Defense Fund	291,393
Stewardship Endowment Fund	2,279,629
General Operating Fund	705,099
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ \$ 6,704,690</b>

If you would like a copy of the Aquidneck Land Trust's Audited Financial Statements for the twelve months ended September 30, 2011, prepared by Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd. or information about the ways you can support the Aquidneck Land Trust, please contact David A. Thalmann, Director of Finance & Administration at (401) 849-2799 x 17 or email [dthalmann@ailt.org](mailto:dthalmann@ailt.org).

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These annotated lists reflect the composition of the Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors and their place of local residence as of December 31, 2010. The Board of Trustees thanks retiring Board Members for their outstanding dedication and support.





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## OUR MISSION

*"Preserving the Island's open spaces and natural character for the lasting benefit of our community."*

## OUR VALUES

The Aquidneck Land Trust believes that we must take a holistic approach to land conservation if we are to help our island community achieve a sustainable future. Therefore, ALT works to protect a number of natural resource types that we depend upon as a species (wildlife habitat, agricultural land, water resource areas, outdoor recreational space, scenic vistas, etc.). In this work, ALT is guided by its values: Integrity; Environmental Consciousness; Embracing Community as a Partner; Respect and Stewardship of the Land; and Volunteerism.

*ALT was founded as a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization in 1990.*

# Aquidneck Land Trust

The Aquidneck Land Trust preserves the Island's open spaces  
and natural character for the lasting benefit of our community.

790 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842  
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