

## News Release

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North County Land Trust, Inc.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:    CONTACT:**

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Janet Morrison, Executive Director, NCLT - 978 342-0174

### Grant Awarded for Gardner Conservation Project

North County Land Trust, Inc., a regional land conservation organization, has been awarded a grant from the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership to pay costs associated with the conservation of land in northern Gardner. This \$3,000 grant will help the land trust cover initial expenses of a project to conserve land in the Bailey, Wilder and Perley Brook watersheds.

The protection of these watersheds is very important to the ecological and human health of the City. The Perley Brook watershed protects drinking water flowing into the Perley Brook Reservoir. Together with Wilder Brook and Bailey Brook, these three watersheds comprise an area of Core Habitat designated by the state's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. This Core Habitat designation means that the area contains rare plant habitat, rare animal habitat, and viable natural plant communities which support these habitats.

The land trust hopes to work with landowners and the City of Gardner to determine a conservation strategy and conservation priorities in this Core Habitat area. A key to the success of the project is obtaining the revenues needed to pay interested landowners to conserve their land. The land trust expects to access state conservation grant funds. Landowners who wish to conserve their land can also benefit from a new conservation tax deduction that may be taken against the landowner's income and capital gains.

For more information about land conservation or this project, please contact Janet Morrison, Executive Director, North County Land Trust at 978 342-0174 or [northcountylandtrust@verizon.net](mailto:northcountylandtrust@verizon.net).

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North County Land Trust, Inc. is a non-profit, land conservation organization which works to protect open space in Westminister and other communities in north central Massachusetts.