Section 1A

Your New or Rebooted RCP's First Steps: Choosing Partners, Region, and Funding Sources

Every RCP goes through at least one beginning and often there is a reboot too. RCPs are adaptable, but transitions can be tough on partners. We will have three examples of RCPs that are in transition and how they have successful found their way through.

<u>Speakers</u>

- Case Study 1: MA Coastal Pine Barren Partnership (2015)
 Cheryl King-Fischer Co-Coordinator
- Case Study 2: Fairfield County RCP (2008)
 Mary Ellen Lemay , Coordinator
- Case Study 3: Maine West (rebooted Mahoosuc Initiative)
 Mike Wilson.

RCP Handbook

The RCP Handbook is a resource aimed at driving collaborative conservation in New England, New York, and beyond. The RCP Handbook captures the experiences of RCPs to date and outlines 10 steps identified as important to RCP success. Building upon the knowledge gained from partnerships that are part of the RCP Network, the Handbook is organized around the three fundamental stages of RCP growth (Emerging, Maturing, and Conserving).

Case Study 1: MA Coastal Pine Barren Partnership (2015) - Cheryl King-Fischer Co-Coordinator

Emerging RCP developed diverse steering committee and built broad partnership; trained itself in the Logic Model; used the model to organize and develop activities. Within a year: applied for a USFS LSR grant; developing the first strategic conservation plan for the ecoregion.

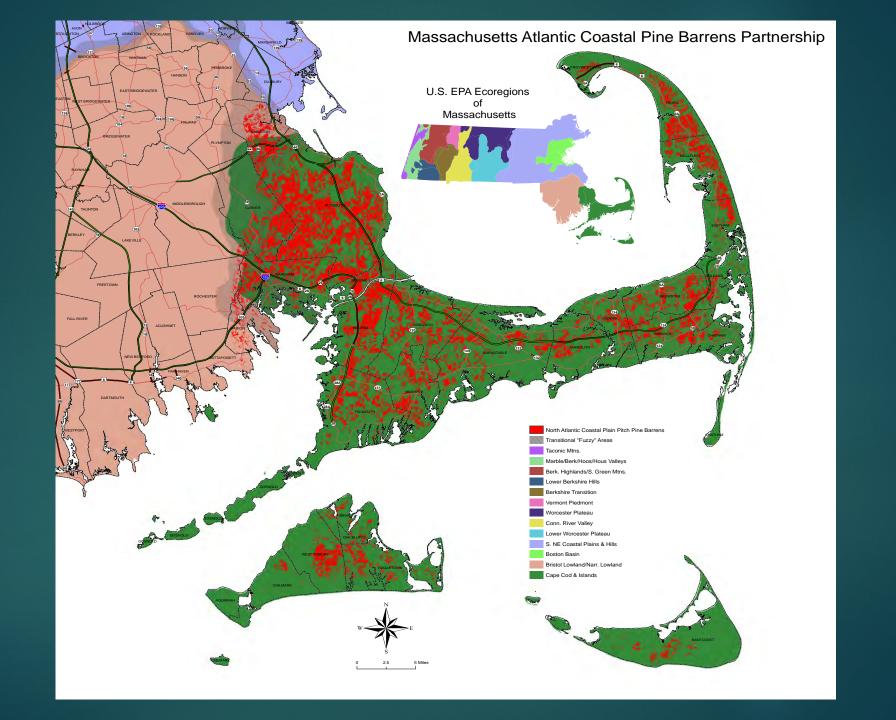
Case Study 2: Fairfield County RCP (2008) Mary Ellen Lemay

Rebooted Maturing RCP - in 2013 grew from 10 towns to 23 towns; developed the strategic action plan; had to re-educate a much larger constituency; created a land use conservation policy map; a story map, poster, and brochure; and the Coordinator is presenting landscape ecology 101 to partners and encouraging subregional collaboration. (10 min) 2 min of clarifying questions.

Case Study 3: Maine West (Rebooted Mahoosuc Initiative - 2015) Mike Wilson, Coordinator

Rebooted-Emerging RCP addressing systemic rural challenges and enhancing community well-being through collaboration across the economic, education, health and conservation sectors. Developed mission and shared beliefs, convened local, state and regional funders to explore new collaborations, supporting community forest outreach, youth outdoor skills development, active communities.





1. Where is our RCP? Just past Emerging = a Young, MATURING RCP

- April 12, 2014, first Regional Conservation Forums organized by SEMPBA
- February 6, 2015 Regional Conservation Forum occurred marking launch of the Massachusetts Coastal Pine Barrens Partnership
- February 6, 2015 Steering Committee established and application to the RCP Network submitted.
- February 17/18, 2015 20 people, including those who had agreed to serve on the Steering Committee participated in the NOAA Logic Model training at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve taking the first step in Partnership planning.
- > Today visioning and planning happening with gusto!

Accomplishments to Date – how we got here....last 18 months

- Defined region's boundaries provided region wide and town by town eco-system pine barrens maps
- Chose RCP coordinator the SEMPBA Team
- > Steering Committee established in March 2015
- > Website created
- > Attended the RCP 2015/2016 Gathering and here to learn from peers
- > Hosted two regional Partnership public meetings:
 - ➤ March 2016 –U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed Great Thicket Wildlife Refuge
 - May 2016 National Parks Service's National Natural Landmarks Program.

Accomplishments (con't)

- First Steering Committee meeting—July 2016— resulted in a LSR grant proposal to do five restoration projects - Partners: Town of Plymouth; Mass Audubon; Manomet; Cape Cod Commission, Music2Life
- Regional Conservation Priority Mapping project underway—Partners: Highstead Conservation Intern; Cape Cod Commission; Town of Mashpee Conservation Commission
- MassLIFT AmeriCorps Natural Communities Identification and Mapping and Training program launched
- And much more

2. What is our challenge?

We are FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS... we must be careful not to burn out or face leadership or member turnover – SHOULD

WE GO SLOWER TO GO FAST?





3. What is our strategy?



- Not sure we really have one @
- Branding the Eco-region and developing a uniting, overarching, connective message thread Partners incorporate into their communication strategies

4. How will it work?



Refine Vision, Goals and Action Plan



On-the-Ground Demonstration Projects

NEVER underestimate the POWER of MUSIC it CHANGES everything.



Develop Eco-system Brand & Message

5. What are we learning?

Build shared strategies on good science, data, knowledge of the resource and the human population living on it.

Then call out a vision and conservation message that is so compelling it will mobilize action beyond our wildest dreams.

Assure that action and planning is in balance – do both simultaneously

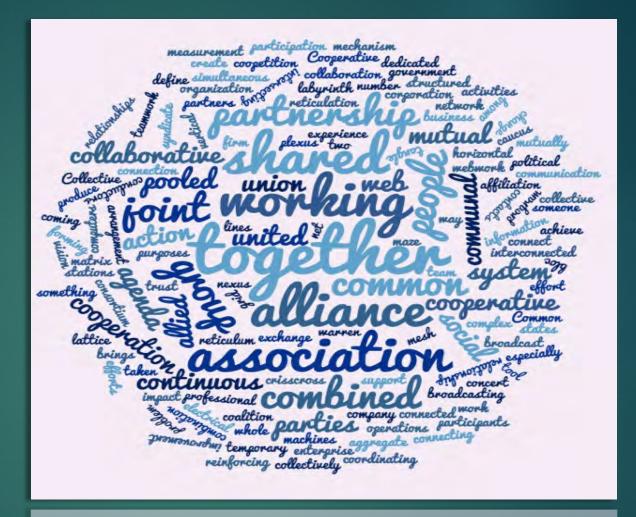
Nothing Shy of ... BHAGs

[BIG HAIRY AUDACIOUS GOALS]

Can Save the Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens

Grow the Partnership – We have no time to lose

Thank You!







Massachusetts Coastal Pine Barrens Partnership

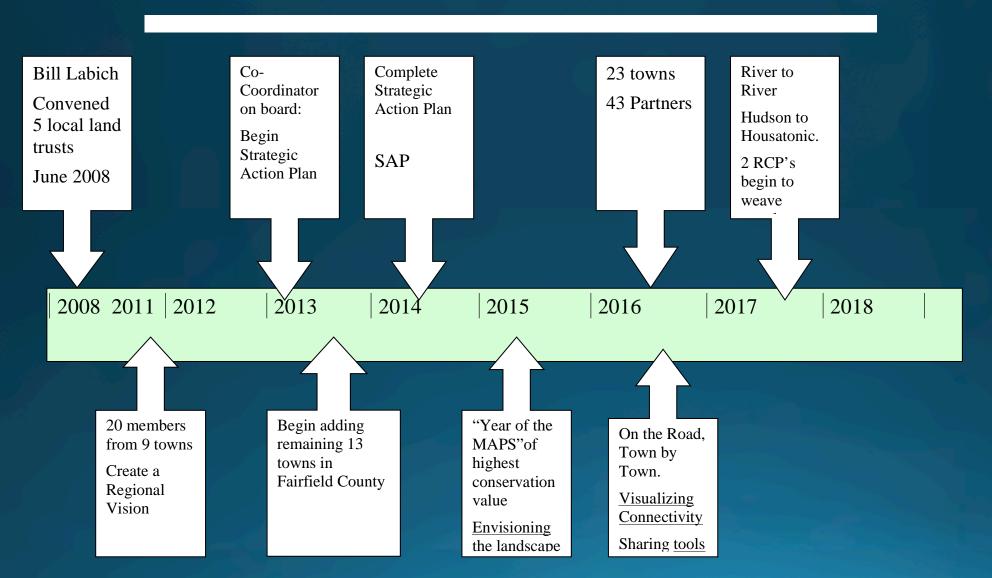


Establishing Common Ground

Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership

Mary Ellen Lemay, FCRCP Coordinator H2H Project Coordinator

1. Where is our RCP? Fairfield County RCP 8 years and counting... Maturing RCP

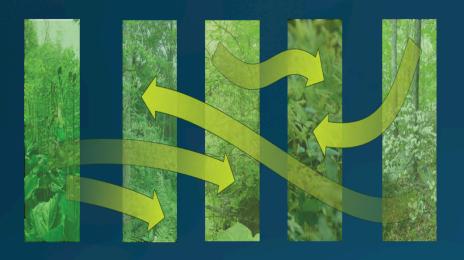


2. What was our challenge?

Expanding the quilt with new partners while keeping the core towns engaged

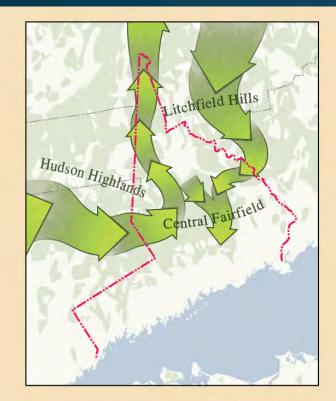


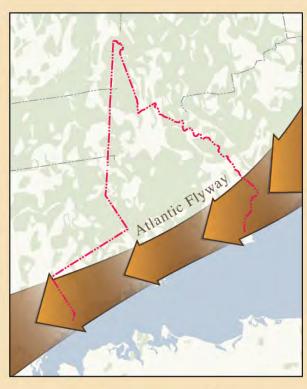
3. What was our strategy?



- The Steering Committee was made up of members of <u>original</u> 5 towns, plus 3 new towns
- This kept early partners engaged in the growth process by drafting SAP, endorsing outreach plans, oversee map designs.
- Our SAP Mission, Vision, Goals are clear and integrated in outreach message.
- Created an Iterative process, Steering Committee continues to re-visit what activities are working and what is not.

Our Clear Consistent Message for Partners: Visualize Large Connected Pathways for Wildlife, Water, and Recreation









Wildlife & Recreational Pathways

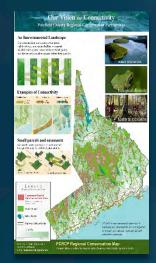


Bird Migration



Healthy Watersheds

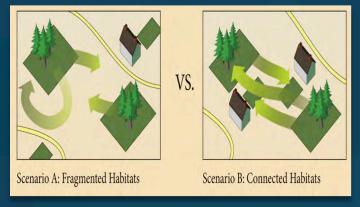
4. How did it work?



Develop Tool Kit

Conservation maps, brochure, needs assessment for subregions, next steps for each partner

.Goal: Increase the Pace and Scale of Conservation and Connectivity



Outreach and Education

Town to town.. In-person

Landscape Ecology 101 encouraging connectivity across town lines

Goal: Strengthen Partnerships



Woods Forums

Programs encouraging stewardship and conservation.

Goal: Increase the quality of land stewardship

5 to 42 Partners in 8 years The FCRCP comprises more than 42 local and regional conservation organizations and

The FCRCP comprises more than 42 local and regional conservation organizations and government agencies in Fairfield County. Our partnership encourages and enables constructive collaboration without interfering with the autonomy of the participating organizations and agencies.

Aspetuck Land Trust

Bethel Land Trust

Brookfield Conservation Commission

Brookfield Open Space Legacy, Inc.

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Connecticut Land Conservation Council

Darien Land Trust

Earthplace

Fairfield Conservation Commission

Greenwich Conservation Commission

Greenwich Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Harbor Watch

Highstead

Housatonic Valley Association

Ives Trail Task Force

Land Conservancy of Ridgefield

Land Trust of Danbury

Metro CT Council of Governments

Monroe Conservation Commission

Monroe Land Trust and Tree Conservancy

New Canaan Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

New Fairfield Land Trust

Newtown Conservation Commission

Newtown Forest Association

Norwalk Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Norwalk River Watershed Association

Redding Conservation Commission

Redding Land Trust

Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Shelton Conservation Commission

Shelton Land Trust

Sierra Club of CT

Southwest CT Conservation District

Stamford Land Conservation Trust

Still River Watershed Alliance

Stratford Conservation Commission

The Nature Conservancy CT Chapter

Trumbull Conservation Commission

Western Connecticut Council of Governments

Wilton Conservation Commission

Wilton Land Conservation Trust

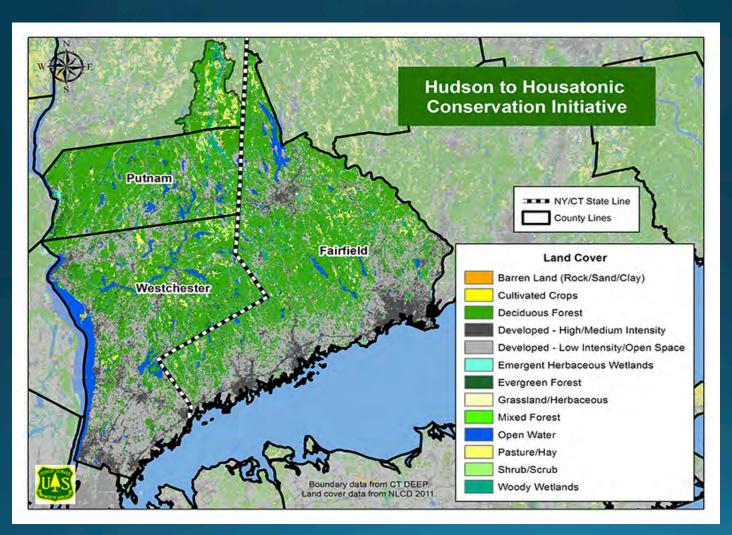
5. What are we learning?

Continue with best practices regarding outreach using clear message and tools.

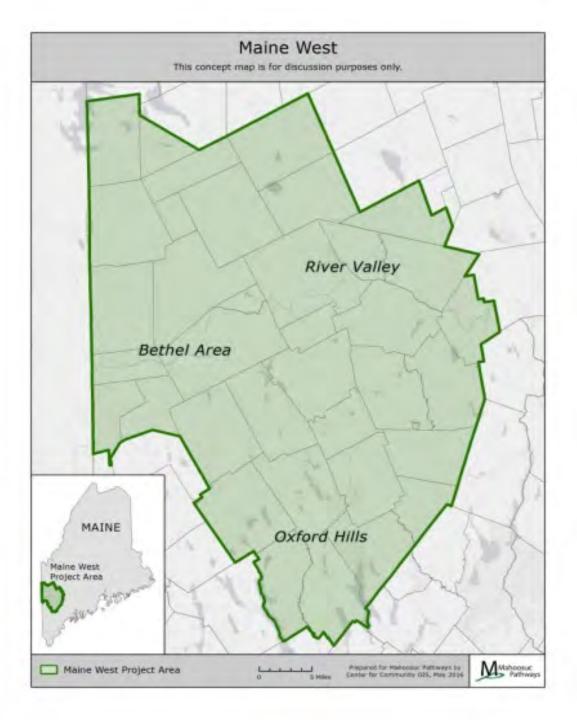
Apply these practices to the new Emerging Hudson to Housatonic RCP

....While keeping FCRCP engaged as we merge with H2H

"Attitude is Everything"



Maine West



Maine West Partners





























- Cathy Newell (at large/ Adult Ed)
 - Steve Wight (at large)

Maine West

Mission & Objectives:

Address systemic rural challenges and enhance community well-being in western Maine through increased collaboration across the economic, education, health and conservation sectors.

- Build relationships and social capital across all elements of the community
- Advance tangible, multi-sector projects to deliver near-term benefits to people, communities, and the environment; and
- Build the capacity of partners and other area stakeholders to attract resources and implement projects that address persistent challenges and enhance long-term community well-being.

Maine West

Guiding Beliefs:

- Effective cross-sector collaboration will improve outcomes for people, communities and the environment;
- Strong relationships and collaboration among project area communities will generate new opportunities to address regional issues;
- Increased investment is needed to secure long-term community benefits;
- Local and sector-specific projects are important for their implicit value and as a testing ground for regional learning and replication;
- Learning together, across sectors and across communities, will build local capacity;
- Engaging people of all backgrounds, incomes and education levels is necessary to ensure work that is grounded and relevant to community well-being;
- The health of people and of the land are interrelated and must be addressed together;
- Systemic change takes time and requires both patience and experimentation.

Maine West – Supported Projects

Maine Youth Trail Stewardship Coalition





Kids Club at the Market

Community Broadband Forums





Program Focal Areas (cross-sector, cross-community, multi-partner...)

- Active Communities
- Broadband Access & Adoption
- Educational Attainment & Aspirations

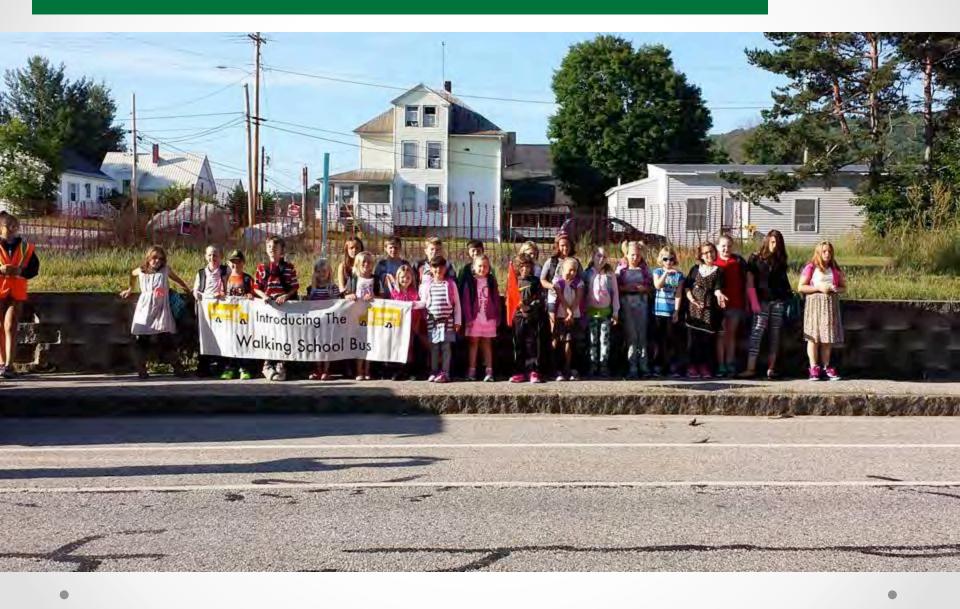


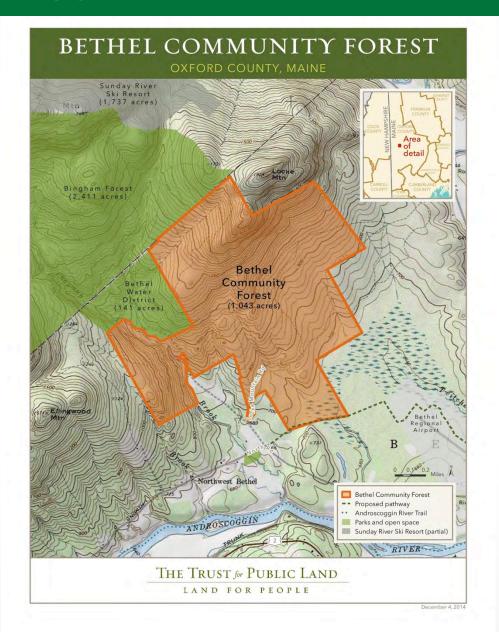


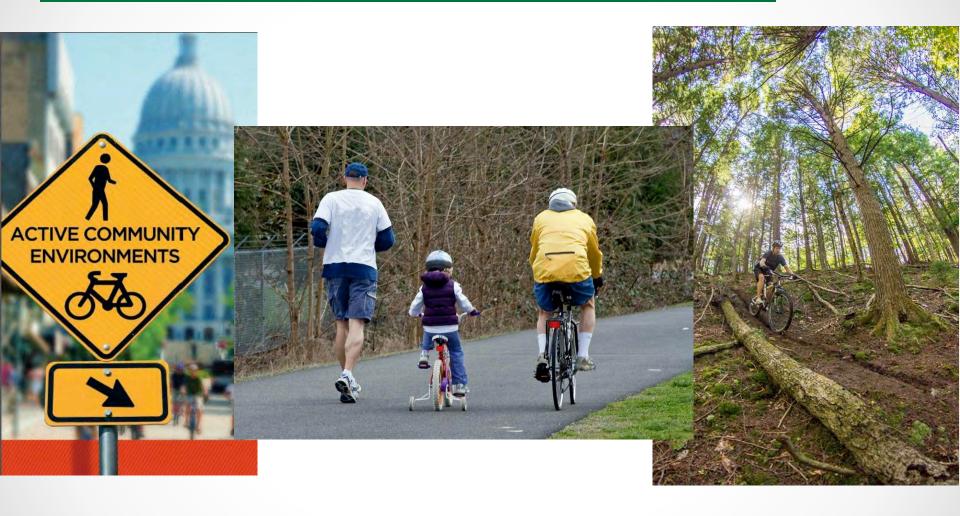


















Addressing systemic rural challenges and enhancing community well-being in western Maine through increased collaboration across the economic, education, health and conservation sectors.

- Active Communities
- Broadband Access & Adoption
- Educational Attainment & Aspirations