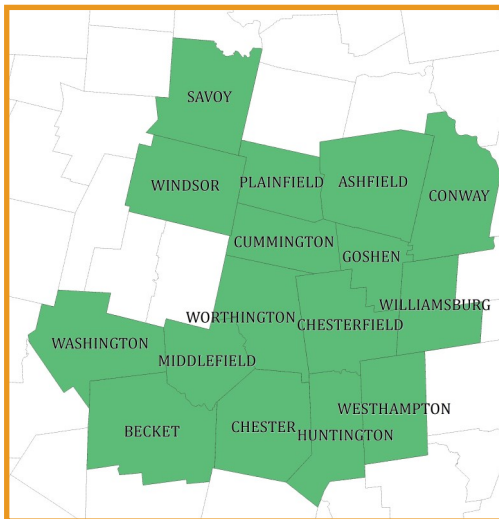


How You Can Help

- Listen for the frogs in spring and let them guide you to the vernal pool in your back woods.
- Find out if you have a potential vernal pool on your land using MA GIS map OLIVER http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map_ol/oliver.php
- Reach out to a local conservation organization or trained vernal pool representative to learn more about finding and protecting local vernal pools.



Map of 16 Hilltowns with Vernal Pool Representatives

For more information please visit:

<https://www.hilltownlandtrust.org/vernal-pool-plunge>



CONTACT

Your Town Vernal Pool Representative:



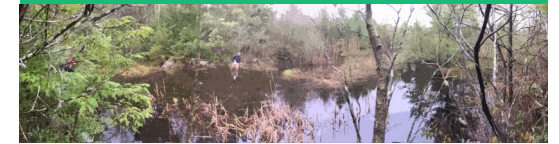
**WILD & SCENIC
WESTFIELD RIVER
COMMITTEE**

Westfield Wild and Scenic
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westfieldriver@gmail.com



**Hilltown
Land Trust**
AN AFFILIATE OF THE TRUSTEES

Hilltown Land Trust
332 Bullitt Road
Ashfield, MA 01330
(413) 628-4485
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Vernal Pools

*and their
ephemeral gifts*



"It was a spring without voices. On the mornings that had once throbbed with the dawn chorus of robins, cat-birds, doves...and scores of other bird voices there was now no sound; only silence lay over the fields and woods and marsh."

-Rachel Carson

And what of the evening chorus of wood frogs and spring peepers?

They are as much a harbinger of spring as the robin.

Frog species are dying with populations likely to be cut in half in 20 years if actions are not taken now to help.

Vernal Pools are vital breeding habitats for these species and need protection.



What is a **Vernal Pool**?

A Vernal Pool is a seasonal body of standing water that typically forms in the spring from melting snow, dries out completely in summer, and often refills in the autumn.

BENEFITS OF VERNAL POOLS

Not only do vernal pools provide **necessary breeding areas** for Frogs, Salamanders, and Fairy Shrimp, they also:

- Offer Flood and Storm Water Control
- Purify Water
- Sequester Carbon
- Provide Habitat for a Variety of Wetland Plants and Animals



Vernal pools are under threat from development because they are easily overlooked.

You can get help to find and protect Vernal Pools.

In 2019, under the leadership of Westfield Wild and Scenic, Hilltown Land Trust, and local naturalist Charley Eiseman, **representatives from 16 hilltowns in Western MA**



trained in vernal pool and aquatic wildlife identification. They studied the requirements for MA state vernal pool certification so that they could legally protect the pools.

By the end of the season, **seven vernal pools were newly certified!**

But there is still a ways to go.

Fewer than 1 in 8 mapped potential vernal pools in Massachusetts is certified, and many others are unmapped, which means this vital habitat is still greatly at risk.

