

## Westbrook Land Conservation Trust

The natural world provides endless possibilities for recreation and education in our town. From the beaches to estuarial rivers, preserved forests, trails, and inland lakes and watercourses, the resources I can access next door make me question traveling elsewhere for vacations!

Westbrook is unique in its high percentage and diversity of accessible preserved open space, nicely visible on our Town website with the MapGeo system - under the Open Space tab under Themes. The natural character of Westbrook has been aptly preserved, balancing development, through the action of its voters, and initiatives of Town, State and Federal entities, and our Land Trust, often cooperatively. For example, this year the Land Trust conveyed to the US Fish and Wildlife Service a two acre parcel of salt marsh, acquired in 1994, that is contiguous to other Federally protected salt marsh on the Menunketesuk River. On a hot Sunday this August, catching the tide coming in, my wife and I embarked in kayaks to find this land. The day was all about the journey through pristine, protected open space - through vistas of green, and rare wildlife, from blue crabs to egrets and the first kingfishers I've seen in years. Why go anywhere else?

The Westbrook Land Conservation Trust came into being in 1968 when there was concern over the development of ecologically invaluable salt marshes. With the donation of a privately held piece of salt marsh that year on Hammock Road, the Trust began its journey in preserving open space, now totaling 31 land parcels equalling over 150 acres, as well as the conservation rights to 51 acres. If you live near one of our signs, and would like to join in stewardship of its property, or simply appreciate the protected open space we preserve, please consider joining this organization. Write or email us at: WLCT, PO Box 1124, Westbrook, CT 06498. Email: [WestbrookLCT@yahoo.com](mailto:WestbrookLCT@yahoo.com).