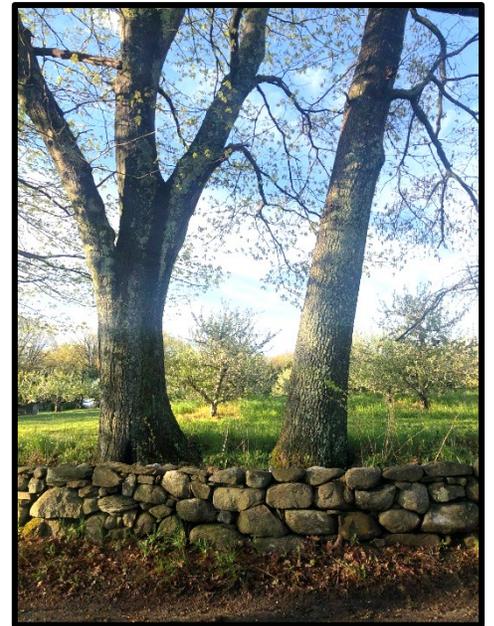




Harvard Conservation Trust Muller Conservation Collaborative 2019 Annual Report

The Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT) was founded in 1973 to “assist in and promote the preservation of the rural character of the Town of Harvard”. In 2015, one of HCT’s founders, Erhart Muller, bequeathed \$1.5M to HCT to be used solely for land protection in Harvard, provided these funds are first matched 1:1 through new donations from private individuals and foundations. To fulfill Erhart’s vision of a collective effort to protect Harvard’s land and natural resources, HCT created the Muller Conservation Collaborative (MCC). Since its inception in the fall of 2015, the MCC has received donations totaling over \$817,000.

The end of 2019 marked two important advancements for the “agriculture” focus of the HCT’s *Strategic Land Protection Plan*. First, was the completion of the *Finnegan Orchard Conservation Restriction* (CR) on a portion of Mark and Hillary Finnegan’s Oak Hill Road homestead (see photo right). This area of Oak Hill is identified as “distinctive” in the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Scenic Landscape Inventory. While the report, *Harvard’s Rural Landscape: A Case for Historic Conservation*, notes, “The town’s two largest apple producers have their main plants on Oak Hill Road. With apple blossoms of spring and the ripening apples of summer and fall, this section of Harvard regularly draws residents and visitors along its narrow country roads, to see, smell, and taste the fruit of the town’s present as well as its past.” The Finnegan orchard contains soils of high agricultural value and is adjacent to other permanently protected farmland. Carlson Orchards, Inc. will continue to manage and maintain the orchard as part of their operations, as they have for the past two decades.



Second, was the inception of a new partnership between HCT, the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), and Community Harvest Project, Inc. (CHP) to permanently protect one of the highest priority parcels for conservation in all of



Harvard – CHP’s Prospect Hill orchard (see photo left). With an anticipated project of over \$2M, the Board sent a clear message to project partners that HCT was committed to bringing the MCC to bear on the project should it come to fruition. In September, CHP received an offer of \$1.2M from the State’s Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, all but guaranteeing this project will continue to develop in 2020.

MCC Financial Summary

As of December 31, 2019, the MCC received donations totaling \$817,000, each donation releasing an equal amount from Erhart's bequest. In addition, completed land protection projects have leveraged another \$550,000. Leveraged funding includes the bargain sale value of *John's Field*, and the value of the *Horse Meadows Knoll* conservation restriction purchased by the Sudbury Valley Trustees. Gifts have come from over 140 different individual donors and foundations, ranging in amount from \$5 to \$100,000.

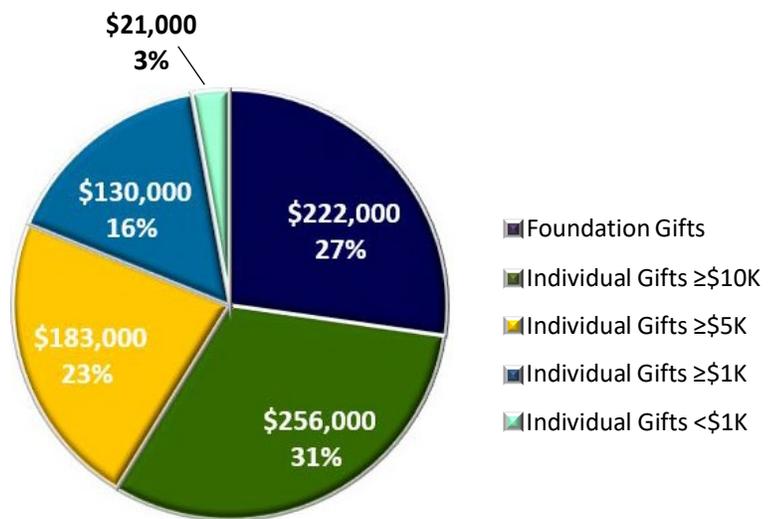
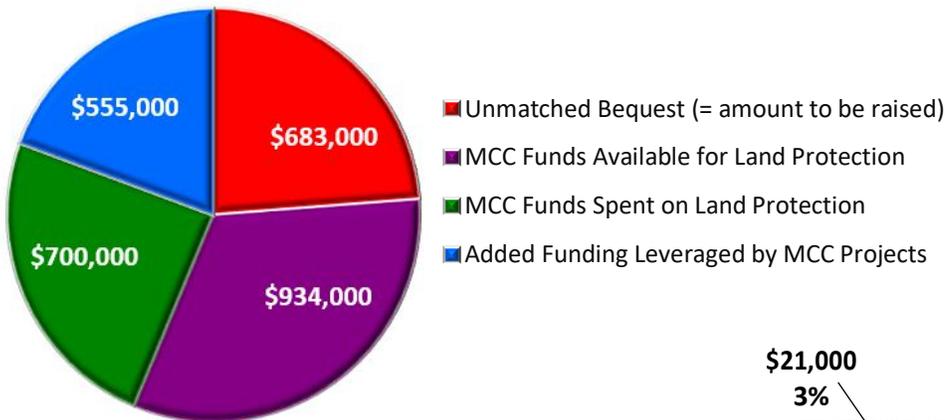


Chart Above: Overview of MCC financial status, including funds spent and leveraged, as well as remaining unmatched bequest;

Chart to Right: Breakdown of MCC donor matching gifts.

MCC & Strategic Land Protection Outcomes



48 acres of ecologically exceptional land home to multiple rare and endangered species permanently protected



5 scenic agricultural fields containing the highest quality farmland soils permanently protected



6 new connections made with-and-between 552 acres of existing conservation land



15 new community conservation leaders catalyzed (individual donors at ≥\$10K with no prior record of capital giving to HCT)

Thank you to all those who have generously given to HCT's Muller Conservation Collaborative; please visit - https://harvardconservationtrust.org/mcc_donorlist_2019/ - for a complete listing.