Southborough Open Land Foundation

Preserving and protecting open land and rural character in the Town of Southborough

Ways to Help SOLF & Other News

November 2026

Annual Appeal is Underway

Our Annual Appeal letter was recently sent to you. This year we remediated the Beals Preserve parking lot to comply with its Conservation Restriction, built a new shed to store the tools that we need to maintain our properties, and brought in a forester, with help from a state grant, to draft a long term Forest Plan for Beals Preserve. We continued with our regular trail maintenance at Templeman Woods, Clark Grove, and Bigelow, hosted the tenth Art on the Trails, and initiated the successful Connecting with SOLF program to encourage residents to visit many of our properties. As a private, non-profit land trust, we rely on donations from local residents and grants.We paid for all mowing, the shed construction, and the parking lot remediation. Regular maintenance is done by volunteers in all kinds of weather all over town. Please consider making a donation to show your commitment to the preservation of Southborough's natural resources. To donate on line, go to https://solf.org/support-solf-today/ .





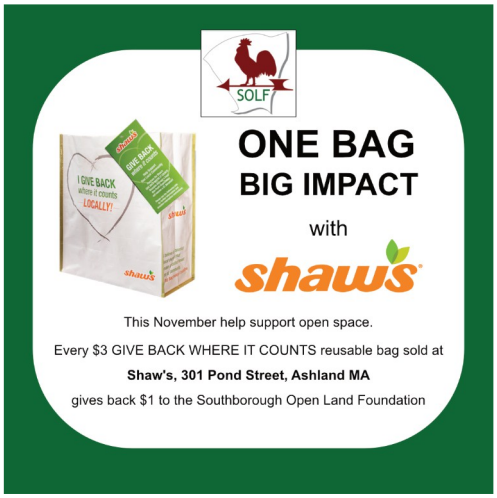
Beals Preserve Parking Lot

In the spring, SOLF closed the badly eroded parking area in the Main Street Field to be in compliance with the conservation restriction that is held by Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT). In order to remediate the damaged area the area needed to be graded and seeded.The grass has come in nicely and was over-seeded in the fall. The area will be closed all winter. Going forward, the lot will be open seasonally and closed during wet periods to help prevent damage to the area, This is the only way to keep the lot grassed and healthy as required by the Conservation Restriction. Parking is available along the shoulder of the street and at the intersection of Main Street and Northborough Road. The entrance to the field is on both sides of the parking area (marked with arrows). Parking is also available at the Hickory Road and Red Gate Lane entrances to Beals Preserve. Thank you for your understanding.



Templeman Woods

Volunteers have been hard at work replacing the bog bridges at Templeman Woods. In early October, Vincent Valvo and Larry Samberg (pictured below) replaced one of the four bog bridges at Templeman Woods. Later in October, Steve Wallace and Jim Stewart joined Vincent and Larry to replace the second bridge. The remaining two bridges will be replaced in the spring. The bridges were originally part of an Eagle Scout project over 25 years ago. A second Eagle project replaced them about a decade later. The bridges enable people to gain access across wetlands to SOLF's Templeman Woods property and the adjoining town property, Watkin's Woods. Once across the bridges, the trail winds through through upland mixed hardwood and pine woods. At the top of the trail is a bench where you can sit and absorb the beauty around you.



One Bag Big Impact

For the entire month of November, Shaw's Give Back Where it Counts reusable bags are benefiting the Southborough Open Land Foundation! Every time you pick up one of these bags at Shaws at Shaw's, 301 Pond Street, Ashland MA, you are directly supporting our work to conserve, care for, and connect our community with the land we all share. Pick up your bag on your next grocery run and help us carry conservation forward!



Volunteering

Several groups have volunteered at Beals Preserve, including employees of SWCA Environmental Consulting, located in Southborough. This did a massive invasive plant removal on our “bath tub” lane.