



Contact: Dexter C. Mead  
Executive Director  
Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust  
PO Box P-17, Dartmouth, MA 02748  
Phone: 508-991-2289  
Email: dexter@dnrt.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 8, 2011**

**DNRT Protects Another 54 Acres in Little River Watershed**

DARTMOUTH, MA -- The Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) and Buzzards Bay Coalition announce the protection of 54 acres of woodlands and salt marsh at the head of Little River in Dartmouth. This acquisition fills in the last significant gap in a block of over 650 acres of conservation land that runs from Potomska Road across Little River to Smith Neck Road. As a consequence, a remarkable 60% of the entire Little River watershed is now under protection, helping safeguard the water quality in this tidal river and Buzzards Bay into which it flows.

Long interested in this key property, DNRT was able to quickly step in and acquire it when the opportunity arose, thanks to a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant obtained by the Buzzards Bay Coalition. "We were pleased to again partner with the Coalition and the NAWCA program on yet another great conservation success in Dartmouth," said Dexter Mead, Executive Director of DNRT.

The property shares a 3,000-foot border with the Dartmouth Conservation Commission-owned McBratney Property and a 350-foot border with DNRT's recently acquired Jonny Point Reserve. After some work on the property is completed, DNRT will open it to the public for hiking, providing access from DNRT's existing Frank Knowles/Little River Reserve on Potomska Road.

The property's ownership dates back to 1809 when it was part of the homestead farm of Barnabus Russell. Although aerial photography from 1936 shows nearly half the property as open field areas, all that remains of the farm today is a stone farmhouse foundation adjacent to one small field, now overgrown with small trees and shrubs.

The property also includes a mature upland forest with huge American Beech trees and a lovely small stream valley that leads to the salt marsh at the head of Little River. The large contiguous forest areas on this property and neighboring conservation lands make excellent breeding habitat for species such as Barred Owl, Wood Thrush and Veery. The entire property has been designated as "Core Habitat" for biodiversity and a third of the property as "Priority Habitat for State-Protected Rare Species" by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

DNRT will announce an official public opening of this important new addition to its Little River Reserve later this year.

###