



Partner Pledge

1. Introduction

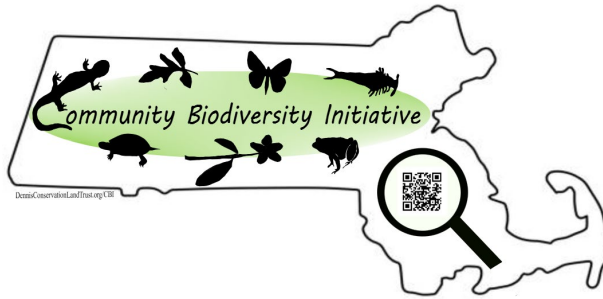
The Community Biodiversity Initiative aims to recruit partner entities to engage in the reporting to MassWildlife of state-listed and vernal pool species observations. When these species are properly identified and reported, observations can lead to the regulatory protection of habitat under the MA Wetlands Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.

By becoming a Project Partner, not only will you help protect biodiversity and habitat, but you will help the Initiative build momentum so it can grow across the region and the state. At the same time, through the recruitment and training of new, trusted volunteers, you will help grow in your community the number of people caring for and actively protecting our state's biodiversity and its rare, sensitive habitats.

2. The Pledge

To ensure that Project Partners are committed to conducting field work and reporting in an effective, safe, and ethical manner, we require that Partners pledge to do the following.

- a. **Quantity of Reports** – Make every effort to submit evidence of three state-listed species observations, three vernal pools for certification, or some combination thereof each year. Share with DCLT the number of reports submitted annually.
- b. **Best Practices**
 - i. Safety – Always work in pairs and have cell phones charged and available.
 - ii. Private Property – Always obtain landowner permission.
 - iii. Ethics – Avoid handling of species and minimize impacts on habitat. Walk slowly and intentionally to avoid trampling of vegetation. Avoid unnecessary stirring up of wetland sediment. Clean equipment, and especially waders, between visits to wetlands, pools, and ponds.
- c. **Confidentiality**
 - i. Your Observations – Only share your observations with MassWildlife and trusted personnel internal to your organization.
 - ii. DCLT's Digital Tools – Only share the Initiative's digital tools, such as its Google Maps, with trusted personnel internal to your organization.



3. Pledge Affidavit

I _____, have read the foregoing Partner Pledge for the Community Biodiversity Initiative. By signing below, I confirm that I am authorized to commit my organization to becoming a Project Partner, and further, that I, our staff, and volunteers are and will be committed to the foregoing Partner Pledge, without fail. I further allow the Dennis Conservation Land Trust to use my organization's logo on digital media relating to the Community Biodiversity Initiative. If at any time my organization would no longer like to be a Project Partner, I will notify the Dennis Conservation Land Trust, and the foregoing pledge and affidavit will become null and void from that point forward.

Organization _____

Title _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return executed forms to info@DennisConservationLandTrust.org