

ABOUT RAUSCHER FARM

29 Clamshell Road, Clinton, MA

www.rauscherfarm.org

info@rauscherfarm.org



- ▶ Sixty-plus acres of conservation land purchased by the Town of Clinton in 2008
- ▶ Previously a working farm
- ▶ Town oversight is the responsibility of the Clinton Conservation Commission
- ▶ Maintenance, programs, and activities orchestrated by the Rauscher Farm Management Subcommittee, which answers to the Conservation Commission

WELCOME TO RAUSCHER FARM

Recreational Activities



Habitat Enhancement



Seasonal Events



Recreational Activities

- ▶ Open daily dawn to dusk
- ▶ Free to the public

IN YOUR OWN TIME



- Spot four-legged residents
- Fish or paddle on Clamshell Pond
- Look for birds



- Explore the trails
- Sleuth out letterboxes and geocaches



- Sit awhile
- Indulge your inner shutterbug
- Soak in nature



Rauscher Farm –
open year-round,
dawn to dusk.
Enjoy!



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RECENT EVENTS ON RAUSCHER FARM



We've Gone Batty –for Bats!



Spring Bird Walk



Give Nature a Hand!



From Farm to Forest



Let's Build a Fairy House!



Summer Butterfly Walk



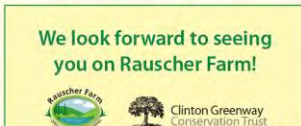
Name That Mushroom!



7th Annual StoryWalk®



Fall Volunteer Day



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Seasonal Events

► Free to the public

Habitat Enhancement

- ▶ Habitat enhancement is done in consultation with subject-matter experts
- ▶ Implementation of habitat enhancement is reliant on volunteer efforts
- ▶ Implementation timelines are determined by volunteer availability and weather conditions
- ▶ **This summer's drought has dramatically impacted this year's planned enhancements**

Habitat Enhancement Activities 2022

- ▶ Pollinator meadow: Phase 1, Site Preparation
- ▶ Biocontrol of invasive Purple Loosestrife



Pollinator Meadow on Rauscher Farm

- Native plant pollinator system designed in consultation with Professor Robert Gegear of UMASS Dartmouth.

RAUSCHER FARM



bombus fervidus | Golden Northern Bumblebee Professor Robert Gegear bombus vagans | Half-black Bumblebee

NEW! ***Rauscher Farm's Pollinator Meadow***

Saturday • May 28, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Meet **Professor Robert Gegear**. The Gegear Lab* at UMASS Dartmouth studies pollinator-plant relationships.

Help install... our first plants in Rauscher Farm's pollinator meadow	Hear how... orchestrated pollination systems increase diversity	Have a plan ... for a pollination system in your yard or community
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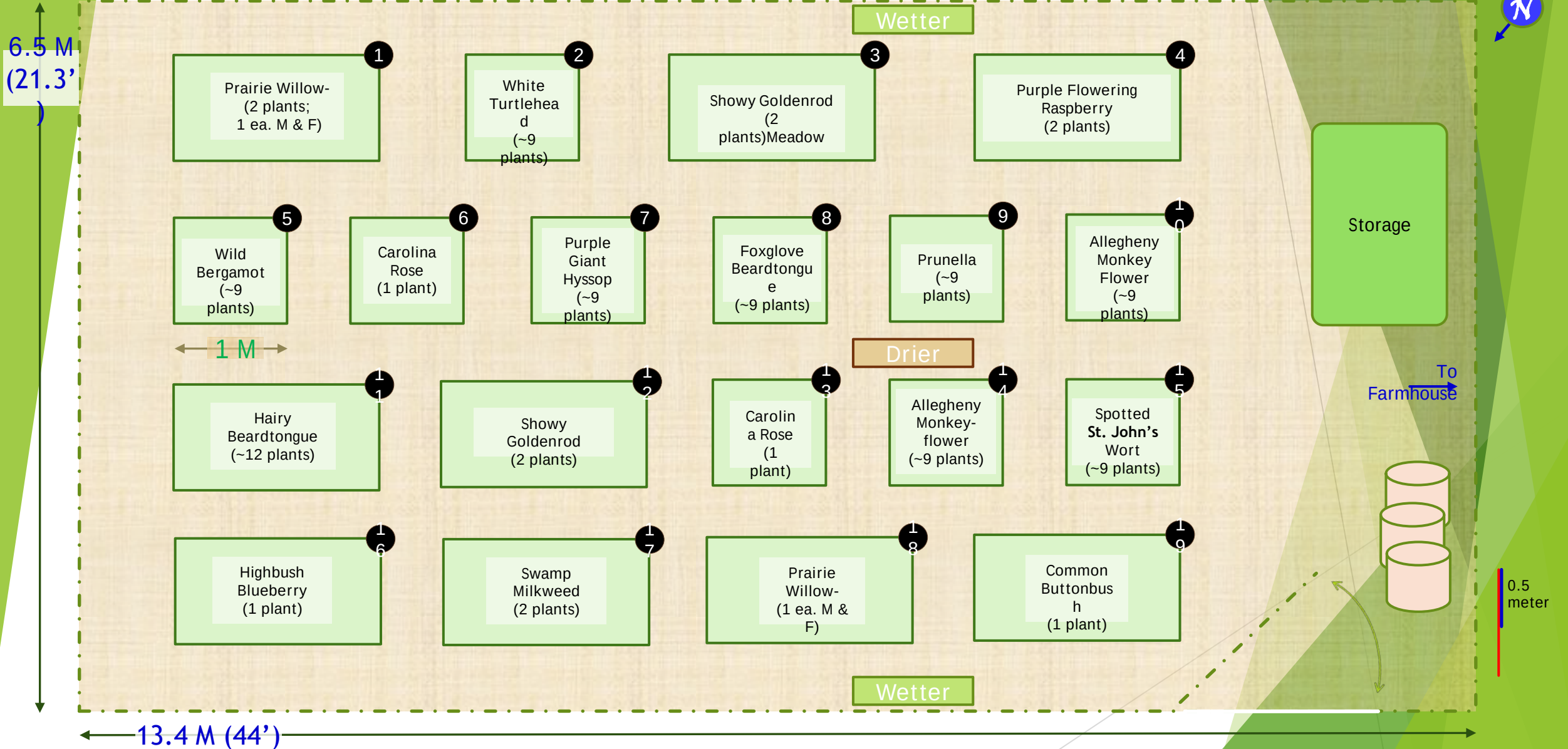
Rauscher Farm, 62 acres of protected open space, maintained by volunteers.

 Clinton Greenway  www.rauscherfarm.org **FREE!** *learn more: gegearlab.weebly.com
29 Clamshell Road • Clinton, MA

Pollinator Meadow Site Prep...Volunteers!



Pollinator Meadow 2023 Planting—Plant Layout





Invasive Purple Loosestrife

- ▶ Guided by experts on biocontrol of purple Loosestrife—
- ▶ Clinton Conservation Commission approved the use of the Loosestrife defoliating beetle *Galerucella californiensis*
- ▶ Volunteers placed 1,500 beetles on Rauscher Farm Loosestrife on May 27, 2022



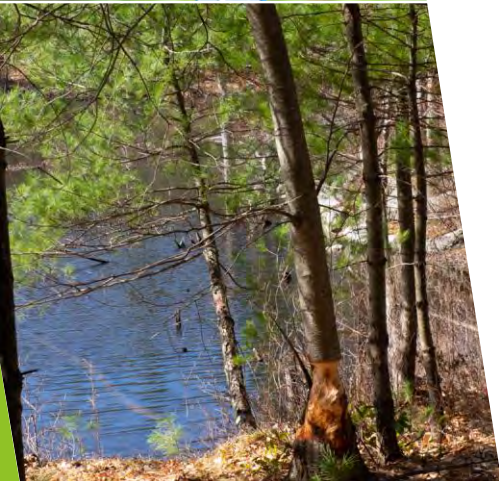
Invasive Purple Loosestrife

- ▶ Volunteers release leaf-eating beetles
- ▶ These beetles eat only Loosestrife leaves
- ▶ Defoliation weakens the plant
- ▶ These beetles are a government-approved Loosestrife biocontrol strategy
- ▶ Recent local observation shows Purple Loosestrife is not exclusive to Rauscher Farm
- ▶ Loosestrife is growing aggressively in surrounding towns



Climate Change/Habitat Sustainability

- ▶ Rauscher Farm comprises diverse habitats:
- ▶ Grasslands
- ▶ Woodlands
- ▶ Wetlands
- ▶ Water (Including access to Clamshell Pond)
- ▶ Clinton Conservation Commission and its Rauscher Farm Management Subcommittee are developing a climate-adaptability land management plan



Rauscher Farm Trail Maintenance

- ▶ Rauscher Farm trails include woodland and grassland trails
- ▶ Woodland trail maintenance tends to be seasonal
- ▶ Grassland trails require regular mowing during the growing season
- ▶ Volunteers maintain the trails!



- ▶ ADA compliant
- ▶ Town funding for the project has been identified
- ▶ Project entering permitting phase with Clinton Conservation Commission
- ▶ Once permitted, the town will take over obtaining bids for a contractor who will implement the project



Rauscher Farm

- ▶ Visit!
- ▶ Enjoy!
- ▶ Volunteer!

