

Sudbury's New Conservation Land Manager: Joseph Miller

Assuming the role of Sudbury's Conservation Land Manager has already proven to be an incredible experience. Since joining the team in August, I've received a warm welcome from the department staff and the entire town, and have already had the chance to dive right into some rewarding projects.

Before joining Sudbury, I served as the Land Steward and Ranger for the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, just down the road. There, my work primarily revolved around enhancing open spaces through various fieldwork initiatives. These included clearing and improving trail networks for better public access to conservation land, identifying and removing invasive plant populations, creating pollinator gardens, and educating the public on how they can contribute to the preservation of our state's beautiful natural areas.

Along with a great team of staff, senior workers, scouts, hunters, and other volunteers, we've been hard at work bringing these efforts to Sudbury to make meaningful improvements to our conservation lands. If you've ventured out onto our trails recently, you may have already noticed some of these changes, from freshly-painted trailhead signs, to trails cleared of overgrowth, and even a few new trails. In the coming months, you can look forward to seeing updated trail guides at our kiosks, featuring new maps and narratives that delve into the intriguing and diverse histories of Sudbury's protected spaces.

Public engagement is essential to fulfilling the objectives of conservation. Invasive plants and insects pose a significant threat to our forests, fields, and wetlands, both on public and private



Joe Miller pulling invasive garlic mustard.

land, and protecting our native biodiversity demands a collective effort involving everyone in the community. If you're interested in joining this cause, you can get involved by volunteering, addressing invasives on your own property, and educating yourself on what to watch out for during outdoor activities. As part of this initiative, I've begun compiling a comprehensive list of invasive species found in Sudbury to provide a set of identification and management tips. Keep a look out for it soon on the [Conservation Department's website](#).

Thank you to the entire Sudbury community for such a warm welcome. It has been an exciting journey since August, and I am enthusiastic to see the positive impacts that we can make towards preserving our wild spaces with your help and involvement. Stay tuned for more updates and resources through our website, and get outside to enjoy the beautiful landscapes of this lovely town!