4% of Massachusetts woodlands are early successional “new” forests. In the 1950s, about 40% of MA woodlands were open. As our woodlands have matured, many once common species who prefer open forests have dwindled in numbers: ruffed grouse, woodcock, rabbits, snowshoe hares, white throated sparrows, eastern towhees, and many warbler species.

110 ACRES of woodlands and wetlands donated by the Taylor Family to MFT in 1992.

$47,950 MassWildlife grant for habitat improvement, following the 2008 ice storm, which badly damaged many trees, removed value, and made conventional forest management impossible.

10 YEARS until the forest canopy will again shade out low-level vegetation. For these ten years, the open forest habitat will provide abundant herbaceous growth: ideal food and shelter for many animals.

30 ACRES harvested in 2017 with a MassWildlife Grant and the support of the Ruffed Grouse Society. The cleared land is regenerating as hardwood forest and is providing early successional habitat for threatened wildlife species.

70 SPECIES of birds and other wildlife benefit from new forest openings.

Eastern Towhee/Bill Byrne/MassWildlife
All other images courtesy of Greg Cox
1970  The Massachusetts Forest Trust (MFT) is founded as the Massachusetts Land League. MFT is now part of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance. MFT’s mission is to encourage forest landowners to care for their woodlands and conserve them for the use and enjoyment of future generations. MFT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and acts as a land trust, accepting donations of conservation restrictions and deeded woodlands. MFT focuses on the protection of working forests, managed sustainably to provide forest products and other ecosystem services.

1,000  Acres protected by MFT

2,100  acres protect by MFT in conjunction with partner organizations