



LAND PEACE FOUNDATION
Protecting the Sacred



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The Land Peace Foundation (LPF) is an Indigenous owned and run organization that is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Indigenous way of Life, which includes: the protection and preservation of Indigenous land, water, religious and/or spiritual rights; proliferation of cultural and traditional practices; strengthening of kinship roles, increasing understanding and building relationships, and; preservation of our ceremonial ways of being.

LPF provides a range of cultural, educational, and spiritual programs and is committed to being a reliable source of information and tools connected to Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Our programs serve Indigenous Peoples and our non-Indigenous neighbors and allies.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Public Education and Climate

The Land Peace Foundation has been engaged in vital education work related to the environment and climate change since 2011. Our work has involved bringing important Indigenous perspectives into collaborative initiatives with local, national, and global partners. Here are some examples of the work we have done in the last three years.

*The Land Peace Foundation co-designed and facilitated two wide-reaching learning series with the Global Council for Science and the Environment (GCSE). The first three-part series titled: *Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science: Collaboration, Relationships, and Climate Solutions*, featured prominent Indigenous scholars bringing awareness to historical context, present impacts, the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems, and insight to facilitate the development of meaningful, balanced & ethical relationships and partnerships. The second series consisted of five sessions and was titled: *Learning Series on Research and Land Stewardship Collaborations with Indigenous Peoples*. This program took participants through three practical examples of successful collaboration with local, national, and international teams who have forged meaningful relationships with Indigenous partners around the world. These two programs reached more than 2000 scientists, scholars, and environmental activist from 40 countries.*

The LPF was also a key team member in the development of the ACE National Framework for the United States, mandated in Article 6 of the UNFCCC, which centered on climate education, justice, and public action. This plan was later adopted by the Biden Administration. And we co-organized and co-hosted two national BIPOC Climate Justice Dialogues that brought together BIPOC scholars from across the country with climate experts and activists, government agency staff, congress people, the United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, and the White House National Climate Advisor.

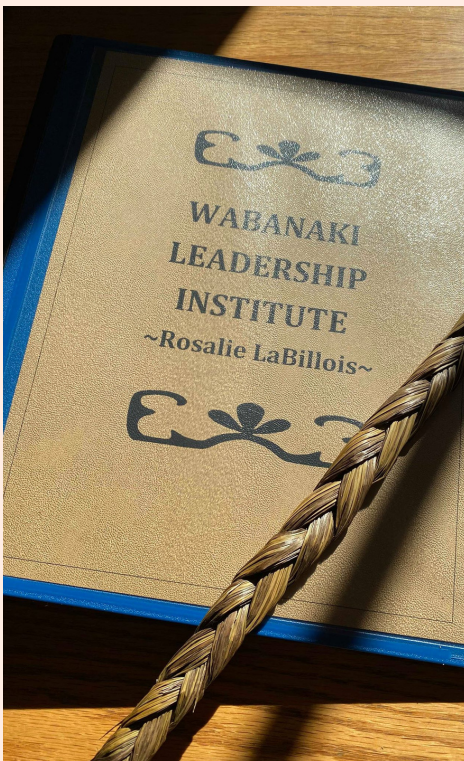
In addition to this work, we have offered in depth trainings on decolonization and climate change and have provided protocols for working with Indigenous traditional and ecological knowledge keepers to the global staff of some of the largest environmental organizations in the world including Conservation International, the World Wildlife Fund, Nia Tero and other organizations.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Wabanaki Leadership Institute



The Wabanaki Leadership Institute (WLI) is a two-year fellowship program that provides intergenerational leadership training for members of the Wabanaki Nations. There are two primary goals of the program. The first is to create well-trained, competent, and culturally grounded leadership for the Wabanaki Nations. The second is to establish a network of leaders who are experienced at working cooperatively to advance the interests of all Wabanaki Peoples. To meet these goals, we have developed a two-part program that provides a year of intensive learning, followed by a year of practical experience. The WLI provides existing and emerging Wabanaki leaders an opportunity to gain the skills and resources needed to provide competent service to their peoples and nations. Whether they are spiritual leaders, government leaders, policy makers, academics, health professionals, artists, or public media makers, the WLI provides leaders with valuable tools and resources that support the development and potential of our fellows.



LAND-BASED PROGRAMS



In 2020, the LPF purchased a 215-acre farm in traditional Penobscot Territory. This land was taken by the State of Maine and given away in a land grant in 1820. Two hundred years later, it has returned to Penobscot hands. While we were searching for the land, we spoke to several traditional and spiritual elders about the appropriate name for our new home base. After considering the organization's history and future direction, they decided on the Wičuhkemtultine Kinship Community.

Wičuhkemtultine (pronounced: we juke um tull tena) means “let’s help one another.” It is a philosophy of caring for one another according to traditional Wabanaki kinship principles. It recognizes that we are more resilient and secure when we work together, and that we have greater access to our creative intelligence to solve problems when we have our basic needs met and collaborate and cooperate with one another.

Another key component to our wellness is access to our ceremonial ways of being. Creating space for ceremony was a critical part of developing our land-based campus. We are currently hosting 4-5 ceremonies per year. The land-based programs at Wičuhkemtultine are focused on creating more resiliency for our people through deeper connection to ceremony and traditional ways of knowing and being. We are also facilitating gatherings that are aimed at creating greater cooperation and collaboration between Indigenous Peoples and our non-Indigenous neighbors and allies.

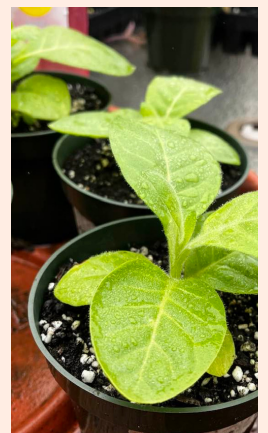
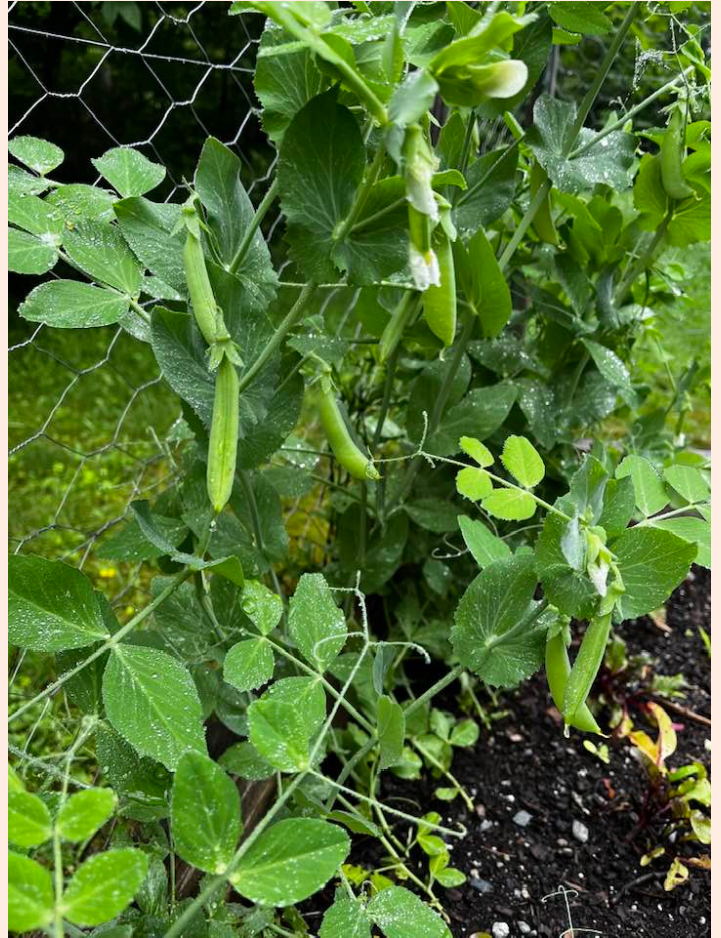


LAND BASED PROGRAMS CONTINUED

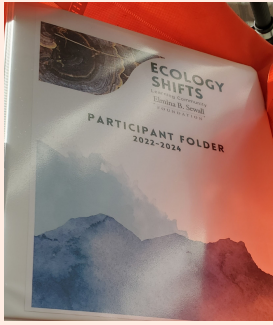
Farming at Wičuhkemtultine

Our farming program is based on our traditional understanding of sovereignty. In our language, the term for sovereignty translates to: *I own myself*. That self-ownership includes the inherent right to self-determination. At LPF, we believe that Mother Earth has that same right to exist without bearing the weight of human expectations for productivity. Therefore, our farming program exists under the sovereignty of the land project.

The Sovereignty of the Land project aims to express how caring for the land at Wičuhkemtultine is integral to the preservation of the Indigenous way of life. We approach farming as a kinship practice - a respectful and mutual relationship between humans, land, plants, soil, other animals, water, sky and all life. We utilize agricultural approaches that fall under labels such as organic, no-till, regenerative or permaculture, but our engagement with the land is rooted in a spiritual understanding of our kinship with the land. In this kinship relationship, we respect the inherent sovereignty of the land, with its own right of self-expression and right to experience life to the fullest. The sovereignty of the land, and the food sovereignty that it offers to our communities, is essential to our Indigenous sovereignty as Penobscot and Wabanaki Peoples.



CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS AND EVENTS



Elmina B. Sewall
FOUNDATION



We are currently partnering with the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation's Ecology Shifts Program as the curriculum design lead. Ecology Shifts is a community-learning and change-making experience that recognizes personal growth and organizational change as being critical to creating shifts toward greater equity and justice in the environmental field in Maine.

Ecology Shifts is an 18-month learning program that includes individuals from various environmental and climate related organizations from across Maine. In addition to curriculum design, two LPF staff members are facilitating trainings and curating learning experiences for cohort members.

UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS AT WIČUHKEMTULTINE

Cultural Film Series - During the months of July - October we are hosting an awareness building film series in the WKC learning center. We are highlighting one film a month on various cultural and social justice topics, followed by discussion.

Matriarch's Gathering - This year we will host our second annual Matriarch's Gathering at Wičuhkemtultine. Last year, we hosted 120 women from eight countries. This year, we are expecting nearly 200 participants. The theme of this year's gathering will be honor. Our discussions will be centered on honoring one another as women, respecting difference, and making space for new ways of being in relationship across diverse backgrounds and interests. This gathering will take place September 29 - October 1st.

Men's Healing Gathering - We are hosting our second Men's Healing Gathering in October. Last year, forty men from various backgrounds came together to do the hard work of unpacking the toxic traps of the imbalanced patriarchal culture. This year, we expect to double that number. The theme for this year's gathering is Help/Strength/Ceremony. Topics will include grieving the "good man" narrative that so many have been raised with, rethinking the idea of help between men, and learning to place yourself in the stories that you carry and in the stories that carry you. This workshop will take place October 21st and 22nd.

Trauma, Resistance, and Restoration Workshop - This workshop is currently in development. It is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2023, featuring Sherri Mitchell and Resmaa Menakem, author of *My Grandmother's Hands* and *The Quaking of America*.



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ONGOING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

The Learning Center at Wičuhkemtultine



We have accomplished a great deal in the three years that we have been on the land at Wičuhkemtultine. We have renovated the 1890's barn into a safe learning and gathering space, constructed ceremonial structures, set up a yurt and tiny house, erected a 32-foot greenhouse, planted fruit and nut trees, planted multiple varieties of berry bushes, and sheet mulched large new garden beds for spring planting in 2024. We have also made substantial improvements to the 1860's farmhouse, including removing 99% of its fossil fuel use.

We are now focusing on three remaining infrastructure projects: 1) Completing the Land Peace Foundation offices in the top floor of the barn; 2) Building a large maintenance/farm garage for our land-based programs, and 3) Improving the safety, comfort, and accessibility of our spaces for all those who will visit here. This includes, building a large front entrance to the barn with an accessibility ramp and solid flat surface at the bottom of the stairs, putting toilets into the barn and out in the ceremonial areas, upgrading the parking area; adding an off-street walkway between the parking area, gardens, and ceremonial spaces, and building a large dining hall with an industrial kitchen to feed guests who participate in our programs.

We are grateful to all those who have supported our journey over the last three years. We hope that you will continue to support us through the completion of these remaining infrastructure projects so that the Land Peace Foundation programming at Wičuhkemtultine can continue to have a positive impact on the land and in the lives of all of our relatives, friends, and allies in Wabanaki Territory and beyond.