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# Willey Woods Community Forest

Located in the heart of the beautiful Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, the town of Burke is a destination for world-class recreation that attracts tourists from all over the Northeast. But local residents are looking for a place to call their own—a town-owned community forest that will preserve the rural character of Burke and provide lots of space to get outside and connect with each other—and with the outdoors.

## Community Benefits

The town of Burke has identified the 283-acre Willey Woods property, located in the village of West Burke, as an exciting conservation opportunity with good public access and natural resource values. The new Community Forest will be protected by a conservation easement and will provide watershed protection, wildlife habitat, public recreation, a neighborhood gathering place, and an outdoor classroom for the nearby schools.

Sustainable timber harvesting will be allowed and could provide an occasional source of income for the town. A management endowment, to be raised through private fundraising and controlled by the town, will be available for the maintenance and improvement of the property for public use.



## Recreation

Willey Woods will serve as a welcoming community gathering space and natural retreat—with old timber roads providing opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. The property contains an important section of VAST trail on the Route 114 corridor, helping keep snowmobiles off the roads and in the woods. Hunting and fishing on this land is an invaluable resource for local residents and will be continued under a new management plan.

The local schools can use the property as an outdoor classroom where children can learn about the natural environment right in their home town—improving physical, mental and social health, and educational outcomes.

## Wildlife and biodiversity

With 36 acres of riparian areas, a mile of headwater streams and 2 acres of significant wetlands downstream from Roundy Brook Swamp, protection of this property will increase flood resiliency and provide habitat for native brook trout.

Willey Woods is adjacent to a high-priority wildlife road crossing and borders an 829-acre deer wintering area. Rare and uncommon species, including bobcat, moose, fisher and State-endangered American marten, depend on this habitat.

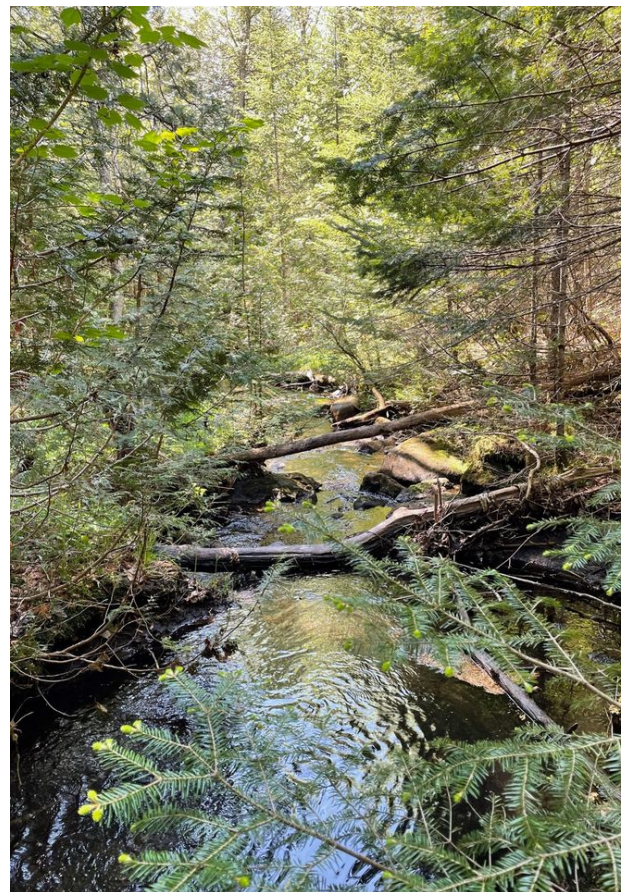
## Prevention of forest fragmentation

Willey Woods Community Forest will be part of an over 2,000-acre block of connected undeveloped forestland. Conserving this land will prevent forest fragmentation creating more resilient, adaptable forests for the future and ensuring water quality and flood resilience, while also preventing the loss of biodiversity.

## Please join us

If a conservation outcome fails, this property will be put back on the market, subdivided, and likely developed, which would fragment the forest and jeopardize public access.

Your generous support of the creation of the Willey Woods Community Forest by December 15, 2022 will help preserve this resource—owned by the community for the community—for generations to come. Thank you!



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### For more information

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