



Wolcott Community Forest

Vermont is known for its beautiful natural landscapes—picturesque greenspace, awe-inspiring mountaintops, and vast expanses of land that draw thousands of visitors every year. However, not all Vermonters have the same access to local greenspace. Trust for Public Land is partnering with the town of Wolcott and the Northern Rivers Land Trust to conserve and create the 735-acre Wolcott Community Forest.

Our commitment to Vermont communities

Trust for Public Land has worked with VT communities for decades to ensure that they have the close-to-home access to the outdoors that they need to thrive. Now, we are working with the town of Wolcott to ensure that the Wolcott community has an easily accessible shared backyard to call their own—allowing opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and outdoor exploration as well as the physical, mental, and social benefits that nature brings—for the Wolcott community and beyond.

Bringing a community forest to Wolcott can attract new residents and businesses, empower community members to participate in town management, and provide a space for community bonding. The future Wolcott Community Forest is adjacent to the Wolcott Elementary School and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and within walking distance to the village center, making it a possible central hub for community activity.

Recreation benefits

Creation of the Wolcott Community Forest will add 735 acres of new public land to Wolcott, and bring a local gathering space where the community can explore the woods through a network of trails, stay active while skiing, snowshoeing, or mountain biking, and bond with their neighbors while enjoying the open fields that this property provides. Hunting and fishing may also be a part of the recreational draw of the community forest, as determined by the management planned by the community, for the community. These recreational benefits can contribute to improved community health both physically and mentally, and build social bonds as the community comes together to enjoy their local greenspace, a benefit that has only become more crucial in recent times.

Wildlife, biodiversity and water resources

The property holds importance for a variety of species and natural resources. The majority of the property is within an area which shows above average ability to maintain ecological functions and diversity of native species, even as the climate changes. The property can act as a valuable stepping stone for wide-ranging species such as bobcat and moose between nearby large protected forests, such as Green River Reservoir State Park, Elmore State Forest, and East Hill Wildlife Management Area.

The property's 29 acres of wetlands, vernal pools, 4.7 miles of headwater streams and frontage on Elmore Brook and the Lamoille River will support water quality in the Lamoille River Basin and increase flood resiliency in Wolcott. The property also contains rare natural communities and populations of 17 rare and uncommon bryophytes and plant species.

Economic benefits

The Wolcott Community Forest has the potential to boost the economy of the town of Wolcott by generating revenue via sustainable timber harvest, by hosting events in the beautiful open fields of the property, and by encouraging more patrons of local businesses as people come to explore the forest and the surrounding area. 2 acres of the property will be donated to Lamoille County Habitat for Humanity to create a perpetually affordable duplex providing much needed housing for two families near the Elementary School.

Join us to protect land for people

Once protected, the Wolcott Community Forest will be owned and managed by the Town of Wolcott, with a conservation easement co-held by Northern Rivers Land Trust and the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board. Trust for Public Land is committed to protecting this community asset, creating a shared backyard for the people of Wolcott, and we cannot do it without you! Your generous support will ensure that the Wolcott community has a place to enjoy the multitude of benefits that close-to-home access to nature provides. Thank you!



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