

Catamount Community Forest Project

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board Funding

Presented by Gary Hawley

➤ **Forestry and Environmental Sciences
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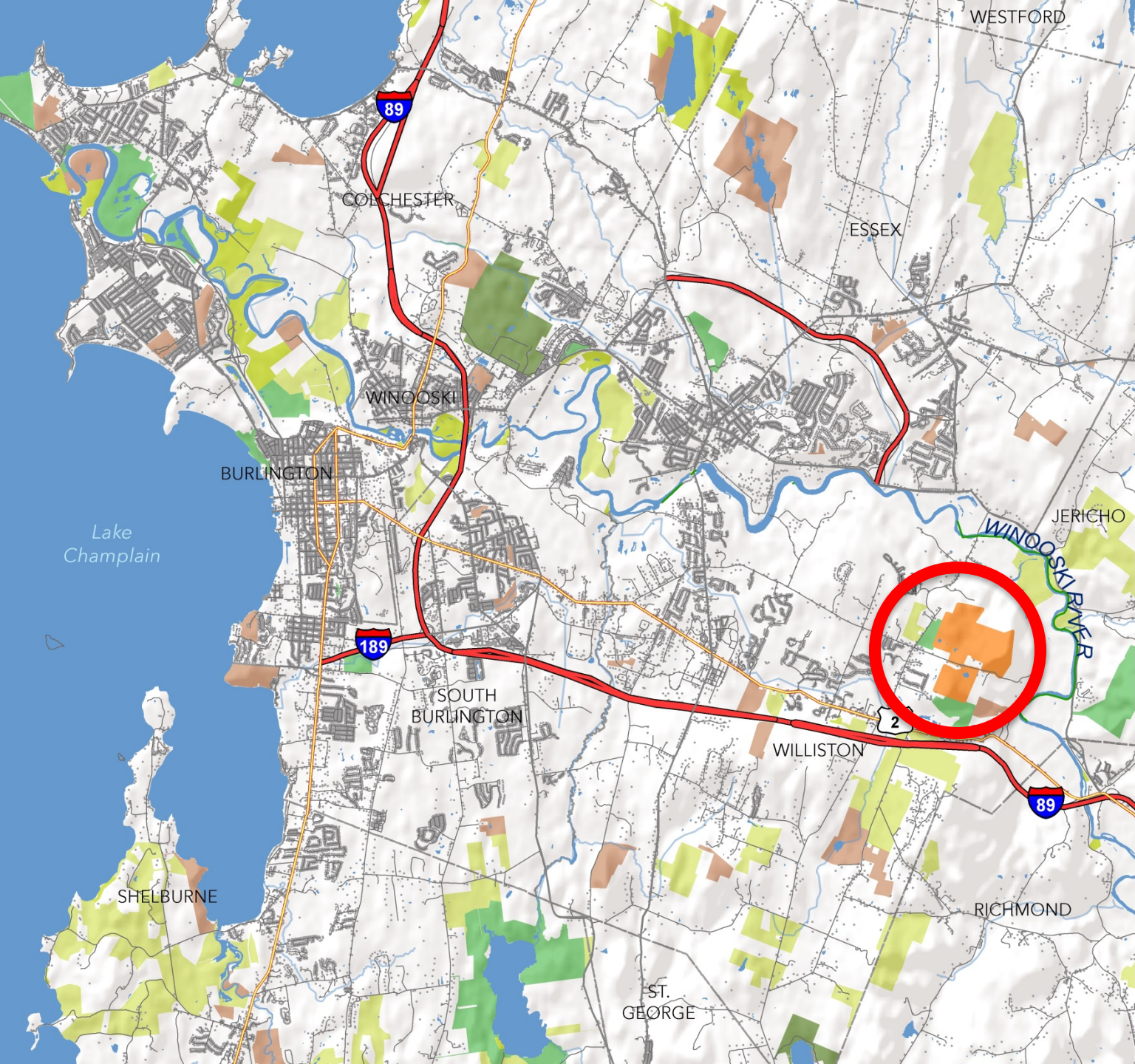
➤ **Member Williston
Conservation Commission
for 24 years**



Catamount Community Forest Locus

Williston, Vermont

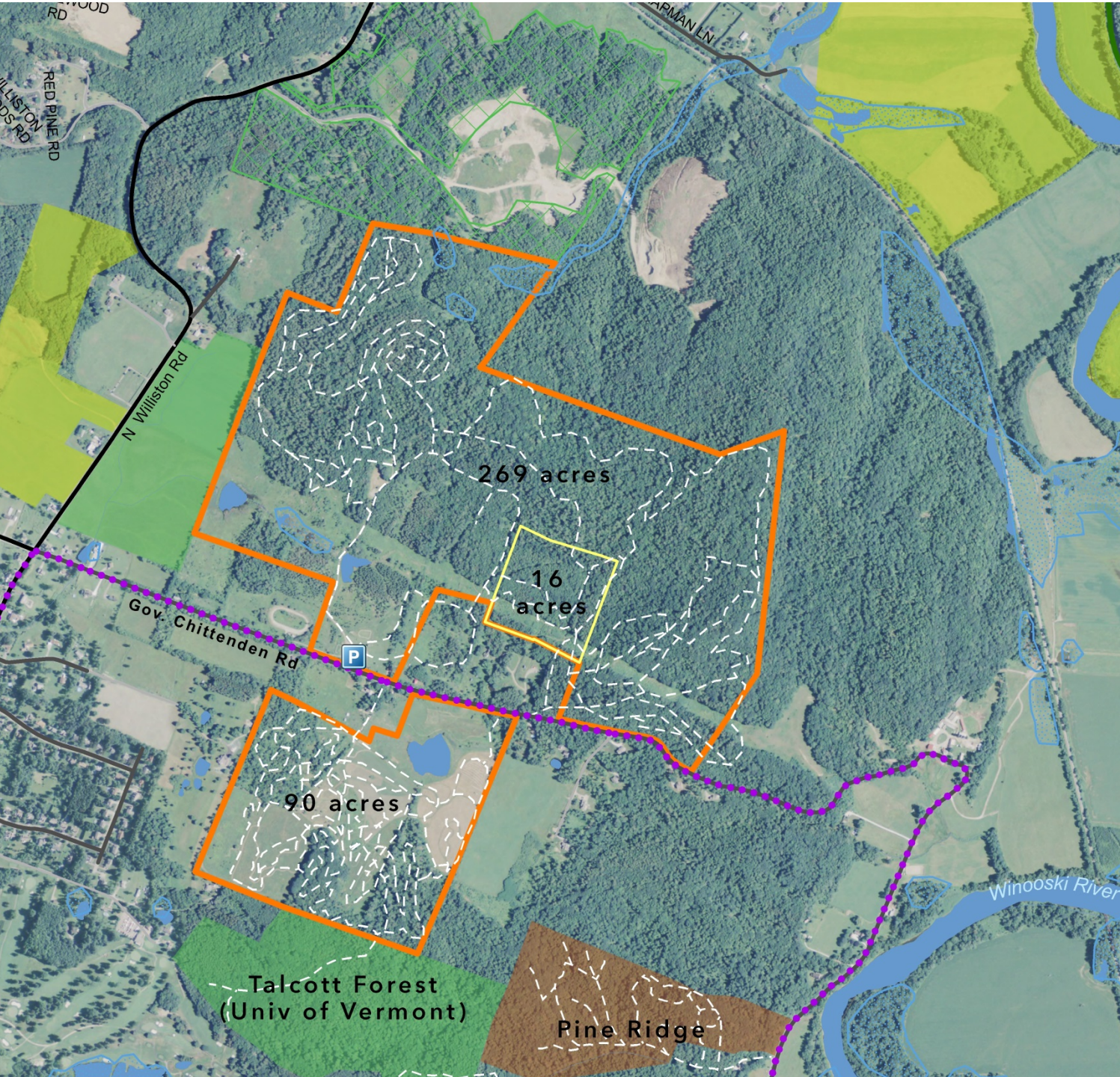
-  Catamount Community Forest
-  Municipal Land
-  Federal Land
-  State Land
-  Private Conservation Land



Proposed Catamount Community Forest

Williston, Vermont

- Proposed Community Forest
- Land to be donated
- Pending VTFW Cons Easement
- State Land
- Municipal Land
- Private Conservation Land
- Existing Trails
- Cross Vermont Trail
- Wetlands



**375 total
acres +**



Catamount Community Forest

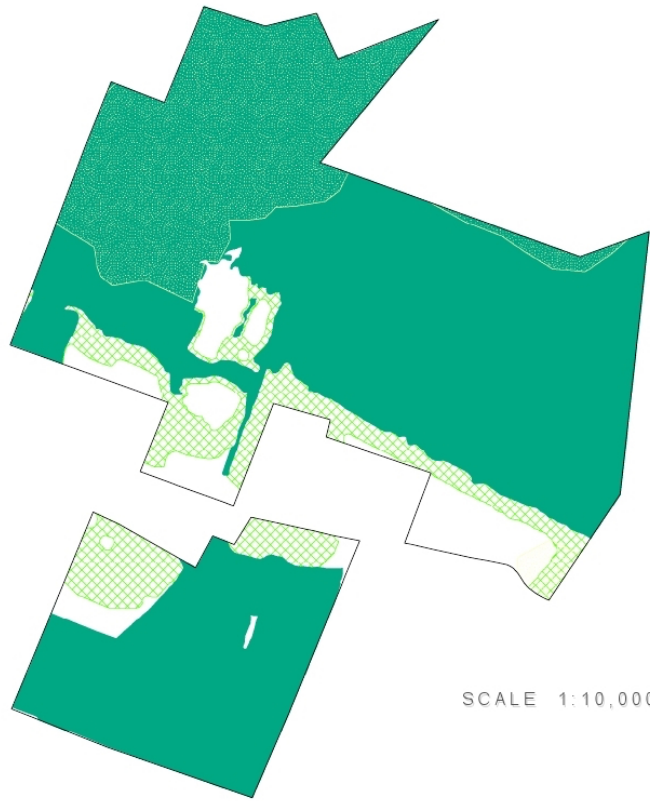
Rare, unique opportunity for region

- ✓ Large, well-managed projects are rare in Burlington area
- ✓ This piece of land has recognized conservation attributes
- ✓ Property ranks very high on Williston's town list of valuable pieces of land
- ✓ High stormwater, wildlife and recreation value

Significant Wildlife Habitat, Catamount Community Forest, Williston, VT



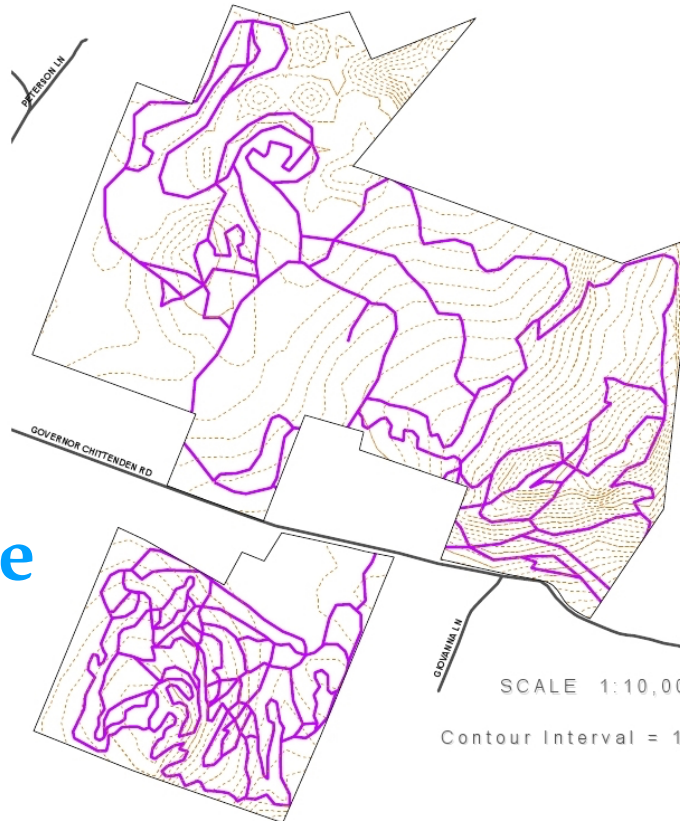
Catamount Community Forest



- Deer Wintering Yard
- Core Habitat
- Wildlife Travel Corridor

SCALE 1:10,000

Trails, Catamount Community Forest, Williston, VT



- Trails Maintained by
Catamount Family
Outdoor Center
- Roads

SCALE 1:10,000

Contour Interval = 10 Feet

Williston Conservation value



Catamount Community Forest

A very special piece of Vermont

Local and Regional Benefits

- Recreation & Health
- Economic Benefits
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Protection of Water Quality
- Educational Opportunities
- Protection of Wildlife Habitat
- Quality of Life & Community Opportunities
- Scenic, Historic & Cultural Values
- Connectivity of Public Land



Economic Benefits

- Analysis in progress on the economic impact of the estimated 20,000 annual visitors to the property
- Recent analyses of similar trail networks have shown significant benefits:
 - Blueberry Lake trails in Warren bring in \$1.8 million annually to Mad River Valley
 - The 10,000 users of the Catamount Trail spend more than \$500,000 annually in the communities that host the trail
 - The 94,000 annual users of Kingdom Trails result in total annual spending of \$7.9 million



Proposed Funding Sources

- Federal Community Forest & Open Space Program \$400,000
- Town of Williston, Environmental Reserve Fund \$500,000
- **Vermont Housing & Conservation Board \$300,000**
- Land and Water Conservation Fund ~ Stateside \$200,000
- Open Space Institute's Community Forest Fund \$180,000
- Vermont Recreation Trail Grant \$ 50,000
- Private Foundation Grants and Individuals \$270,000

Total: \$1,900,000

VHCB funds leveraged more than 6:1 by other funds



What project means to Williston and the surrounding community

Largest and most important conservation project ever in Williston

A way for us to leverage town resources with VHCB and many others

Unique opportunity to conserve and manage an important, well known and well maintained piece of our region

Free public access to all

Project provides valuable educational opportunities

Please support Governor's budget of \$16.3m to VHCB for FY18