



**A project of  
Green Mountain Conservancy Inc.  
PO Box 301  
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GMC President

The Deer Run Nature Preserve will conserve over 1,000 acres of forest and shrub habitat.

Phase I- 287 acres purchased with  
VHCB grant for \$150,000  
\$90,000 raised from the community



Phase II- 626 acres in process

Application for \$282,500 from VHCB

150 acres of contiguous land being conserved by  
landowners



2.2 mile low-gradient trail from “beauty spot” to  
“beauty spot”

Connections to longer trail on Phase II

Planned connections with Putney Mt. Association and  
Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association trails, Missing Link  
Trail, Black Mt. Trails and West River Trail



- Tall and ancient hardwood and softwoods
- A hemlock cathedral
- 185 acres of active deer yards
- Idyllic savannahs
- Frontage on the West River
- Stunning views
- Fascinating geologic features
- Ancient Topographic Benches
- An active landslide
- 75 acres of flood plain
- Shrub habitat
- Vernal pools



Beaver

Bear

Bobcat

Coyote

Fox

Porcupine

Deer

60 species of birds

Jefferson Salamander

Turtles

DeKay's Brown Snake

Vermont Conservation Design has identified on this land:

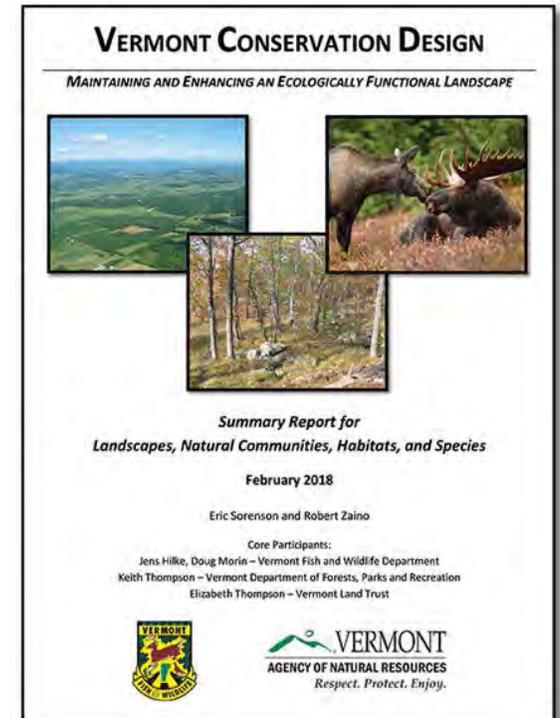
Highest Priority Forest Blocks

Highest Priority Surface Water and  
Riparian Areas

Priority Forest Connectivity Block

Wildlife corridors

Deer wintering yards



Along these rivers, and in these forests, there are many, many federal and state-listed threatened or endangered species, natural communities and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Continued protection is needed so these species do not become extinct, and in the future, they can once again thrive.

Why should the legislature provide full-funding for VHCB to increase their funding of conservation projects?

- Vermont is losing 1500 critical acres of forest every year due to fragmentation.
- *“To make sure our forests are resilient and able to adapt to the changes that climate change and invasive species pose, then the first critical step is to keep those areas forested,” [Tony D’Amato](#), associate professor and director of UVM’s Forestry Program.*
- *“We need to do everything we can—a lot more than what we’re doing now,” says UVM’s Bill Keeton, “to keep our forests, and to keep them resilient.”*

- Public funding for land protection has steadily declined since 2008.
- Conversion to development is the biggest near-term threat to forests, bigger even than climate change.
- The number of landowners is increasing, size of parcels is decreasing.
- Fewer and fewer large parcels.



- “... *impacts of land use will be far greater than those of climate change over the next 50 years,*” said Harvard Forest ecologist Jonathan Thompson.
- “...*climate change slowly alters the health and types of trees that grow, whereas conversion eliminates forests altogether.*”

## Subdividing forests:

- fragments Vermont's forests and reduces their value as wildlife habitat, and as forestry industry resources,
- weakens Vermont's tourist economy,
- contributes to soil erosion, as it did when Vermont was cleared in the 1800's.
- Fewer and fewer large parcels available.



## Smaller parcels:

- reduce overall forest health, degrade habitat quality, lead to long term loss of biodiversity, increase invasive species, and reduce water quality,
- increase isolation between forest communities,
- create edge effects within forest fragments that alter growing conditions within the interior of the forest,
- inhibit the movement of plants and animals, restricting breeding and gene flow, and resulting in long term population declines.



- Areas that have the most ecological and economic values are most at risk.
- Need mixed aged trees, varied canopy closure and micro-habitat resiliency that results from good forest management.





## Land conservation protects our water systems.

- Deer Run Nature Preserve will protect 2.5 miles of shoreline and 75 acres of flood plain on the already stressed West River.
- There is a critical need to protect waterways from further stress and support them in recovery.
- Protection of the watershed provides resilience against extreme weather events.



- Forests absorb water and moderate its influence (forests can absorb staggering amounts of water-70% of incoming water).
- Forests provide clean water for drinking, recreation and habitat protection.
- Tree canopies, extensive root systems, deep, loose soils, and fluffy leaf litter intercept water, slow water down, spread it out and allow it to be absorbed.

Conserving land supports Vermont's tourist industry by protecting views and waterways, and providing opportunities for recreation.

Vermont's tourist industry brings hundreds of millions of dollars into the state each year.





It is critical that we take advantage of opportunities for conserving large parcels like Deer Run due to generational change. There are fewer and fewer of these large parcels available.



The Green Mountain Conservancy appreciates the need for housing, and supports funding for housing near existing settlements, roadways and public services.

We are grateful for the many, many people who have been housed thanks to support from VHCB funding.

Further information can be found in the following documents:

- 2015 Vermont Forest Fragmentation Report-*Report to the Vermont Legislature*
- UVM Today-University of Vermont UVM News :*Vermont Losing 1,500 Acres of Forest Every Year*



Please support full funding for  
VHCB!

Thanks.

