

Green Mountain Club LONG TRAIL PROTECTION 2020 Update

To the Senate Institutions Committee

34 Years Conserving Public Access to Vermont's Long Trail



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB and the LONG TRAIL

The Green Mountain Club (GMC), founded in 1910, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to maintain and protect the Long Trail —the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the nation. The Long Trail runs for 272-miles along the crest of the Green Mountains from Massachusetts to Canada.

The Vermont Legislature, in 1985, recognized the Long Trail as a

“unique, historic and irreplaceable resource, whose protection is of great benefit to the people of the State of Vermont”

and resolved that the

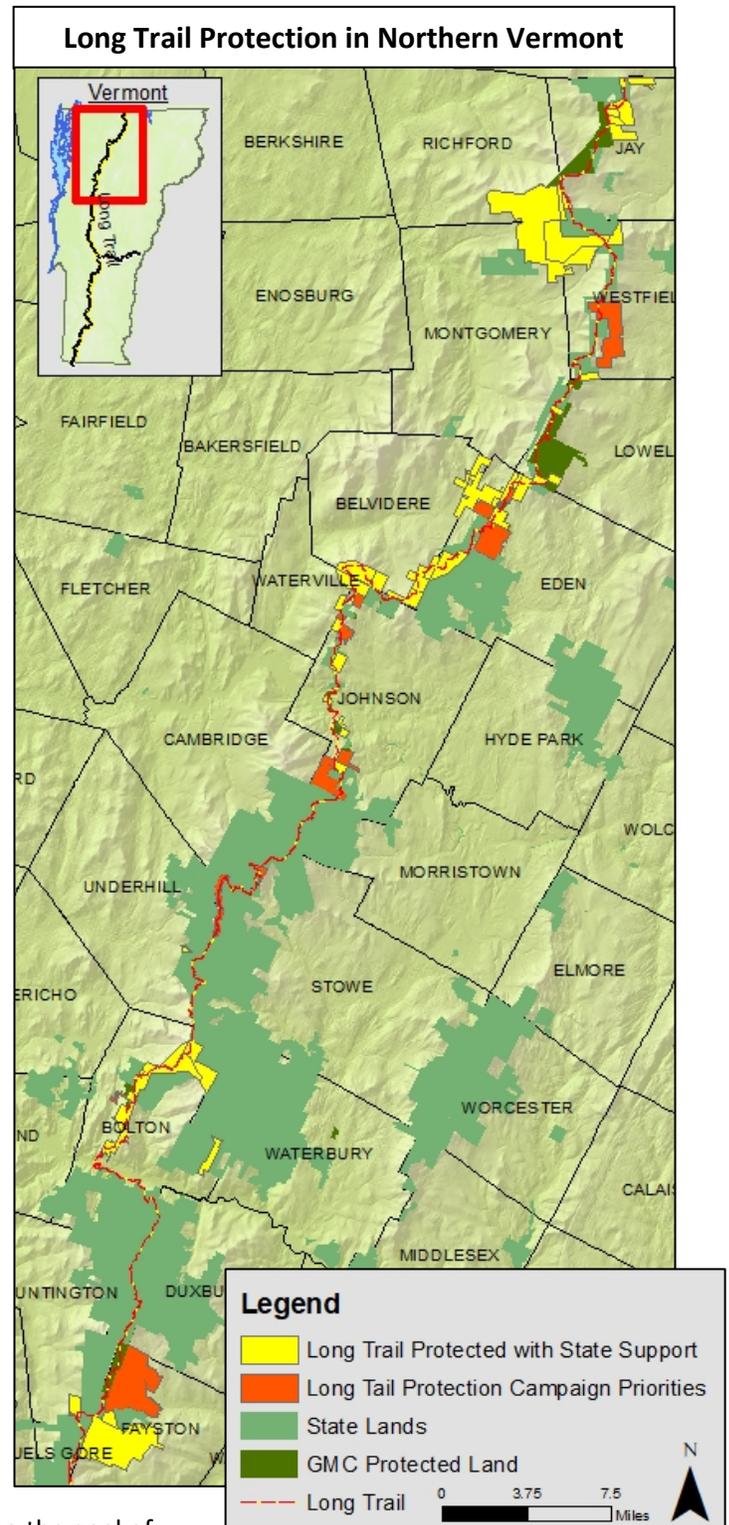
“General Assembly supports the efforts of the Green Mountain Club to protect the Long Trail System.”

LONG TRAIL PROTECTION CAMPAIGN

In 1986, the Green Mountain Club launched the Long Trail Protection Campaign with the goal of acquiring land and easements by working with willing sellers to protect a continuous route for the Long Trail.

Over the last 34 years, 88.5 miles of Long Trail have been permanently protected through the conservation of over 25,000 acres in 92 conservation projects. This work has largely been made possible thanks to the strong support of the State of Vermont through appropriations for Long Trail Protection Campaign, which has contributed over \$3.5 million to the land protection effort to date.

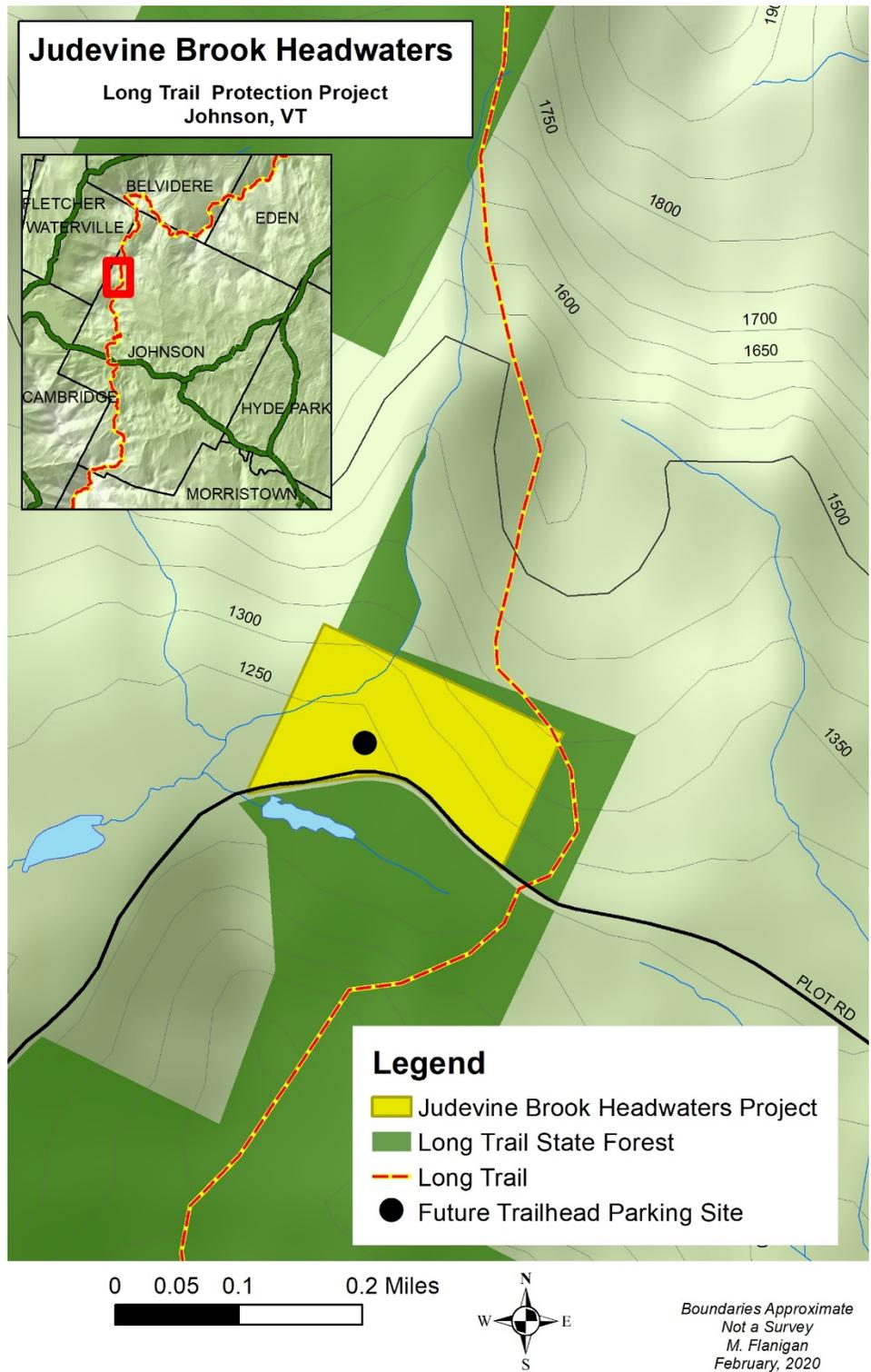
There remains approximately 6 miles of the Long Trail with no permanent legal protection, spread over 18 private properties. Conserving the remaining sections of the Long Trail is estimated to cost \$1.5 million. The ongoing support of the Vermont Legislature directly, and through funding for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, is critical to the goal of permanently protecting public access to the entire Long Trail.



2020 LONG TRAIL APPROPRIATION REQUEST:

GMC is seeking State Support to conserve a 14.5-acre property in Johnson that hosts trailhead parking, Long Trail treadway, and forest land around the Long Trail to enhance the trail experience.

Estimated Legislative Appropriation request: \$105,680



For more information about the Long Trail Protection Campaign, Please contact Mike DeBonis, Green Mountain Club Executive Director (802) 241-8212 or mdebonis@greenmountainclub.org