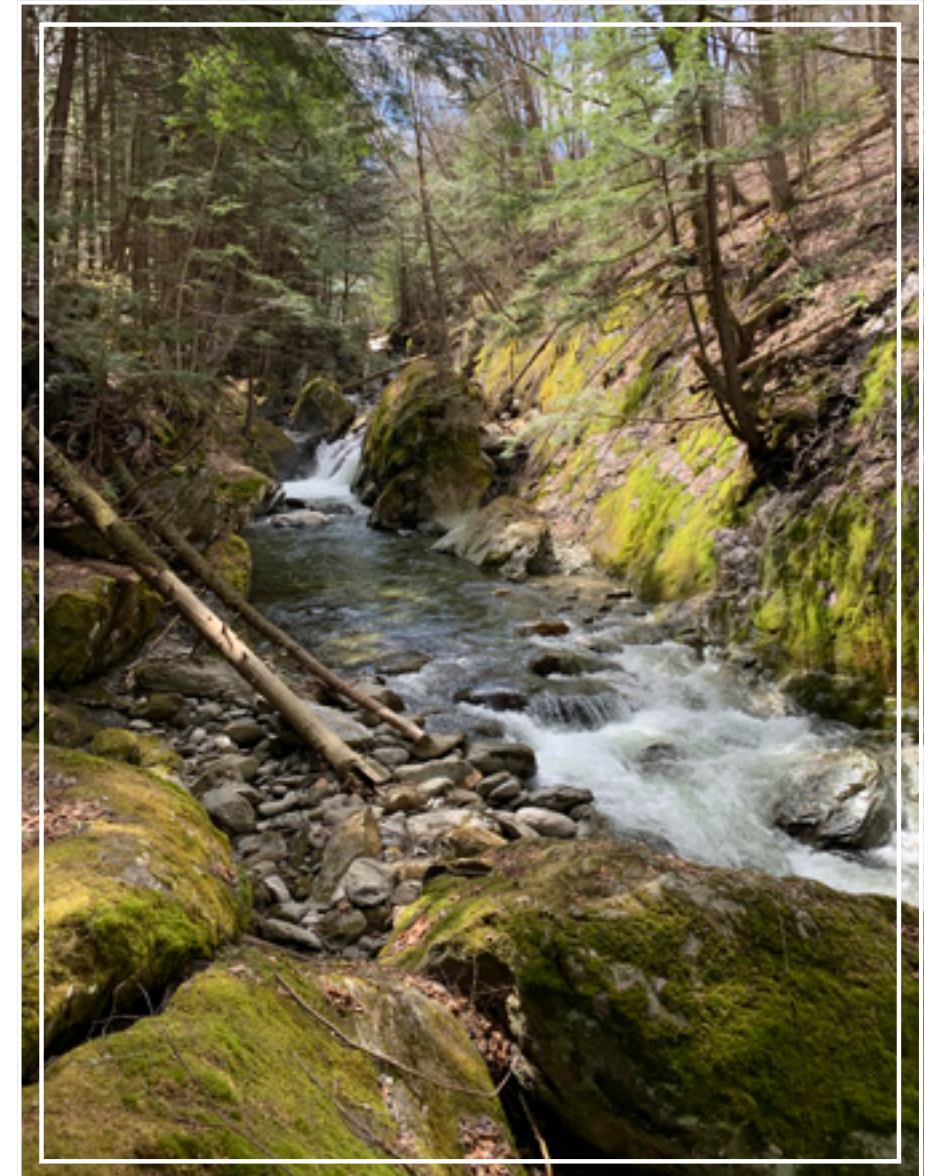


# CONSERVATION PROJECT SUCCESS STORIES

## Ridley Brook Conservation Project

This addition to Camel's Hump State Park in Duxbury protected **73 acres** that provide important water quality, riparian, flood resilience, public access, historical and forest connectivity benefits. Numerous conservation partners came together to make this project a reality.

- This project was a partnership between the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Duxbury Land Trust, the Green Mountain Club, the Vermont River Conservancy, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and the Flood Resilient Communities Fund. Each partner brought unique capacities to the table, which **came together to create a sustainable and enduring conservation outcome**. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the Vermont River Conservancy co-hold a conservation easement on the majority of the property.
- This addition to Camel's Hump State Park protects over a half a mile of frontage on Ridley Brook, as well as 0.7 miles of frontage on the Winooski River. The conservation of these shoreline and riparian areas, as well as floodplain area, provides **critical water quality and flood resiliency benefits** while also providing important riparian and cold water aquatic habitat. The property's shoreline and riparian areas are all identified by Vermont Conservation Design as Highest Priority Surface Water and Riparian Areas. These shoreline areas also provide **ample opportunities for public access** to Ridley Brook and the Winooski River for recreational opportunities such as fishing, paddling and swimming.
- The project protected **important historical resources**, including large stone walls that represent the remains of a sawmill that was active on the property along Ridley during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- The property is identified by Vermont Conservation Design as part of a Highest Priority Interior Forest and Connectivity Block, and also as having Highest Priority Terrestrial and Riparian Wildlife Crossings. The property's upland forest, riparian areas, road frontage and its location in a critical wildlife corridor between the southern and northern Green Mountains make it **important for wildlife and habitat connectivity at all scales**.
- This project served as match to one of FPR's federal Forest Legacy Program grants, helping to leverage federal funds to protect more forestland in Vermont.



## North Pawlet Hills – Moore Tract

This TNC conservation project expands the North Pawlet Hills Natural Area, which is recognized as an area of statewide conservation importance and contributes to water quality and flood resilience in the Mettowee River watershed.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

TNC, with funding from VHCB, acquired an **192-acre Moore Tract** as an addition to the North Pawlet Hills Natural Area.

This ecologically significant region - anchored by three primary peaks, Haystack, Middle, and Bald Mountains, and four adjacent smaller hills - currently encompasses **1,437 acres of conserved lands**.

The North Pawlet Hills ecosystem is recognized as an **area of statewide conservation importance**, defined by forested peaks and ridges in the northern Taconic Mountains.

Approximately 60 acres of the Moore Tract are occupied by a **rare dry oak-hickory-hophornbeam forest**, a natural community found in few places in Vermont, providing habitat for several rare plant and animal species.

The Moore Tract is located within multiple high-priority conservation designations outlined in Vermont Conservation Design, including a Geologic Diversity Block, an Interior Forest Block, a Connectivity Block, and a Natural Community Diversity area.

Permitted activities include hiking, hunting, and other forms of nature-based recreation. The broader North Pawlet Hills Natural Area currently offers **public access at five separate trailheads**, and the Moore Tract will enhance connectivity across the network.

The property contains **3,220 feet of surface water frontage** along an unnamed stream that flows into the Mettowee River, benefiting aquatic ecosystems and downstream communities.

