

# CONSERVATION PROJECT SUCCESS STORIES

## Chateauguay Forest

This recent conservation project **conserved 869 acres** as an addition to Les Newell Wildlife Management Area in Stockbridge and **775 acres** as an addition to Coolidge State Forest in Reading. The protected property includes critical large blocks of high-elevation interior forestland.



Being large blocks of Highest Priority Interior Forest identified by VCD, this project protects **important forest habitat** and helps to protect an ecologically intact landscape in south-central Vermont.

The Conservation Fund, who previously owned the properties, worked with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, as well as the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to find **long-term conservation solutions** for the land. FPR and TCF worked together to seek funding from the federal Forest Legacy Program, a significant federal funding source focused on protecting important forestland.

This project protected opportunities for **dispersed public recreational activities** such as hunting, hiking, and cross country skiing, while also protecting VAST snowmobile trails that are vital to local communities during the winter. As part of Les Newell WMA and Coolidge State Forest, and in accordance with the goals of the Forest Legacy Program, the properties will remain **open for sustainable forest management** when deemed appropriate through ANR's Long Range Management Planning process, allowing these lands to continue to support Vermont's working forest economy.



## Whetstone Woods

This success story shows the **intersecting benefits conservation can provide** - this parcel protects critical habitats, including vernal pools and wetlands, provides and research opportunities on invasive species and bird species, and includes recreational and birding trails.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Located in West Brattleboro; protected since 2001 and contains **39 acres**

Home to four types of forests, a brook, two vernal pools, and two wetlands.

Visitors can explore a short **birding trail through woods and shrubland** developed by the Southeastern Vermont Audubon Society, and many other people use it for snowshoeing, walking, and other recreational activities. Along the trail, there are educational signs about the different species people might see while visiting.

Serves as a **learning destination for research and trials** to explore ways to improve songbird habitat, manage invasive species, and support healthy forests. There are educational events held several times a year to share updates on research. Researchers also use this property to test management approaches to invasive species and have volunteers from the Southeast Vermont Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association.

The **blue-winged warbler** (declining population) breeds in the parcel's scrubby grasslands.

Volunteers work to remove invasive plants and have planted **300 native shrubs**.

