

Key Granite State Land Acquisition Links Nearly 2,000 Natural Acres

The Challenge

New Hampshire's capitol city of Concord is one of the fastest growing cities in the state, experiencing a population increase of 27 percent in the past 20 years. The farms and forests that once dominated the outskirts of the city are being lost to housing developments as the population sprawls.

More than 1,000 acres of private and public land west of the city center has been conserved, though in a disconnected, fragmented, and parcelized matrix. The protection of additional key parcels would form a protected block of nearly 2,000 acres, linking critical wildlife corridors and recreational trails.

The Solution

The Rossvie Forest Legacy project sought to protect 550 acres of the 670-acre family owned Rossvie Farm. The property provides a critical link to existing protected lands including a state forest and forest land owned by the City of Concord. The project—sponsored by The Trust for Public Land—pulled together resources from the Forest Legacy Program, New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, City of Concord Conservation Funds, and private donations.

Resulting Benefits

- The completed conservation easement, over 550 acres of this property, adjacent to 70 acres of fields previously conserved, protects a critical link in a roughly 2,000-acre swath of conservation land which protects Concord's public drinking water supply.
- Acquisition of a working forest conservation easement on the Rossvie Forest Legacy project guarantees the property will remain a working forest and farm, continuing to contribute to New Hampshire's forest and agricultural economy.
- The public will continue to have access to the property for recreational uses such as hunting, hiking, fishing, and snowmobiling.



Property owner Don Ross enjoys property's ponds and wetlands that provide vital habitat for wildlife as well as features for public recreation and scenic enjoyment. (Photo credit: Trust for Public Land)

Highlights of New Hampshire's Forest Legacy Program

- New Hampshire has protected more than 200,000 acres through the Forest Legacy Program including the programs largest conservation easement project – Connecticut Lakes Headwaters (146,000 acres).
- The New Hampshire program focus on traditional forest uses guarantees that Forest Legacy projects will continue to support New Hampshire's forest-based economy and provide recreational resources to the states citizens and visitors.
- The New Hampshire Forest Legacy Program project completion timeframe is in most cases within a year of receiving funding. This is due in great part to the use of a private contractor to help insure projects are kept on task and on time.

Sharing Success

The successful completion of the Rossvie project showcases the importance of working with partners of a wide-ranging scope in implementing the program. The project was only possible because of the commitment by the landowner and the work of the project sponsor, The Trust for Public Land, to bring together resources and support from all levels of government (Federal, State, and city) and private citizens.

With the momentum and model established by the Rossvie Farm conservation, the city, State, and partners continue to work toward protecting remaining links in the full 2,000-acre block.

*Collaboration helps make
eco-success a reality.*



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