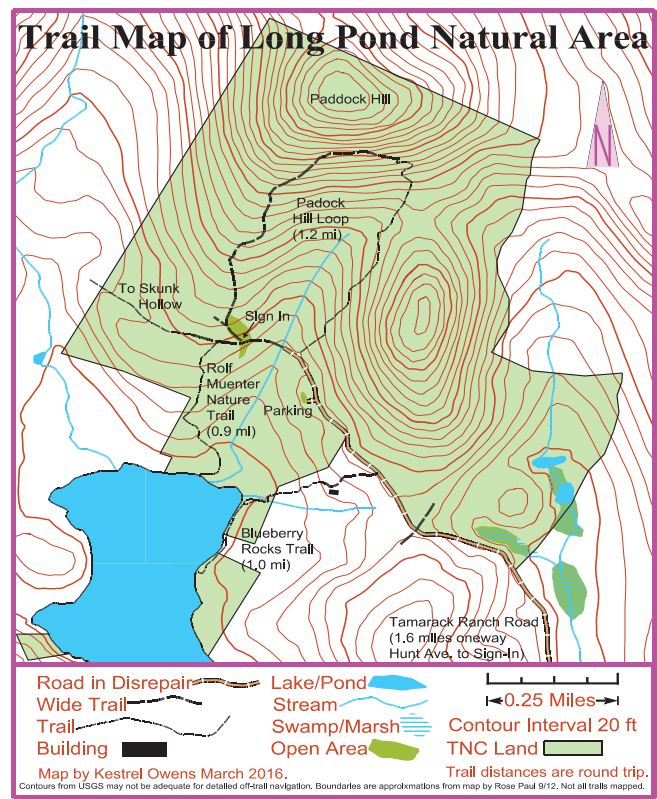


2016 Summer Hike at Long Pond Natural Area

This year’s GLT-sponsored hike, moderately strenuous, will take place at the Nature Conservancy’s Long Pond Natural Area on Saturday, August 6, starting at 10 a.m. from start of Tamarack Ranch Road. Hikers will walk the Paddock Hill Loop, shown in the map (below) prepared by Kestrel Owens, a Craftsbury Academy senior. Led by Kestrel, the group will pass granite scrap quarried on Paddock Hill in the late 1890s/early 1900s, and stop briefly at the premier Long Pond viewing spot below the summit. Parking spot is accessible only by 4-wheel drive vehicles. Distance from starting point to sign-in box is 1.6 mile, loop is 1.2 mile.

Hikers can choose a less strenuous option on one of the two trails to Long Pond shown on Kestrel’s map.

Hikers should watch for posters at Willey’s and P.O. or call GLT chair (533-7723) to confirm timing.



2015 Summer Hike at Green Mountain Monastery

On August 6, 2015, thirty-plus Greensboro residents, including a dozen children, joined a GLT-sponsored hike at the Green Mountain Monastery on Hillcrest Road in North Greensboro. Over ninety percent of the GMM’s 157 acres consists of forest. Welcomed by Sister Gail Worcelo, the visitors hiked a forest trail to Paine Brook, which eventually flows into the Lamoille River in Greensboro Bend.

GLT Supports Upgrading of Barr Hill Road

With support from several agencies, The Nature Conservancy’s Vermont chapter has issued a contract to upgrade the road leading to the Barr Hill Nature Trail and picnic site at the hill’s summit. Making a special appeal with its annual fundraising, the GLT has agreed to bear over half of the cost, with additional contributions coming from The Nature Conservancy’s Barr Hill Endowment and the Greensboro Conservation Fund. The project will elevate the road and introduce drainage ditches, significantly reducing annual maintenance costs and eliminating hazards posed to picnicker/hiker vehicles.



Southerly view from Barr Hill picnic area

Timber Theft at Nature Conservancy Preserve

Conducting boundary survey in February, staff of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) discovered over 100 trees had been cut and stolen this winter near the southeastern boundary of TNC’s Long Pond Natural Area. The theft did not occur close to the pond.



After traipsing through GMM forest to Paine Brook, GLT hikers walk the monastery’s labyrinth

GLT Annual Meeting, Monday, July 25

All are welcome at our annual meeting, scheduled for **Monday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Following a short GLT business meeting, John Schweizer will talk about birds in Greensboro, including best birding sites, habitats and timing for seeing birds. He will also cover changes in the birding population over the past 70 years due to changes in Greensboro habitat and climate. Joining him will be Eric Hanson, biologist for the Vermont Loon Conservation Project, to talk about latest trends in the loon population.

GLT Supports 3 Greensboro VLT Agricultural Easements

In 2015 the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) announced three new conservation easements, conserving 407 acres of Greensboro agricultural land in perpetuity. In North Greensboro the easements cover the former Jaffin farm, purchased by Shaun and Darren Hill, and the former Fontaine-McIntyre farm, purchased by Todd Hardie. The third easement covers land formerly owned by Lacey Smith and Stephanie Herrick in Greensboro village, purchased by Jasper Hill Cheese Cellars. (See map below.)

The Hill and Hardie easements have already closed, the Jasper Hill easement is expected to close later this year. The VLT has also conserved a 75-acre farm in Craftsbury, with support from the Freeman Foundation and the Northern Rivers Land Trust.

Initially the Hill property will be used to grow hay. Todd Hardie has already planted his land to elderberry and rye, the latter supplying Caledonia Spirits, the distillery in Hardwick founded by Hardie. On the former Smith-Herrick land, Jasper Hill Cellars plan to install facilities for a 120-cow herd, as well as a cheese house, viewing area and farm shop.

Each of the easements includes a “Farmland Affordability Restriction” which keeps a farm at its agricultural value in perpetuity. If the landowner wishes to sell and no successor farmer can be found immediately to purchase the

land, the VLT retains the right to purchase at that value and recruit a farmer down the road.

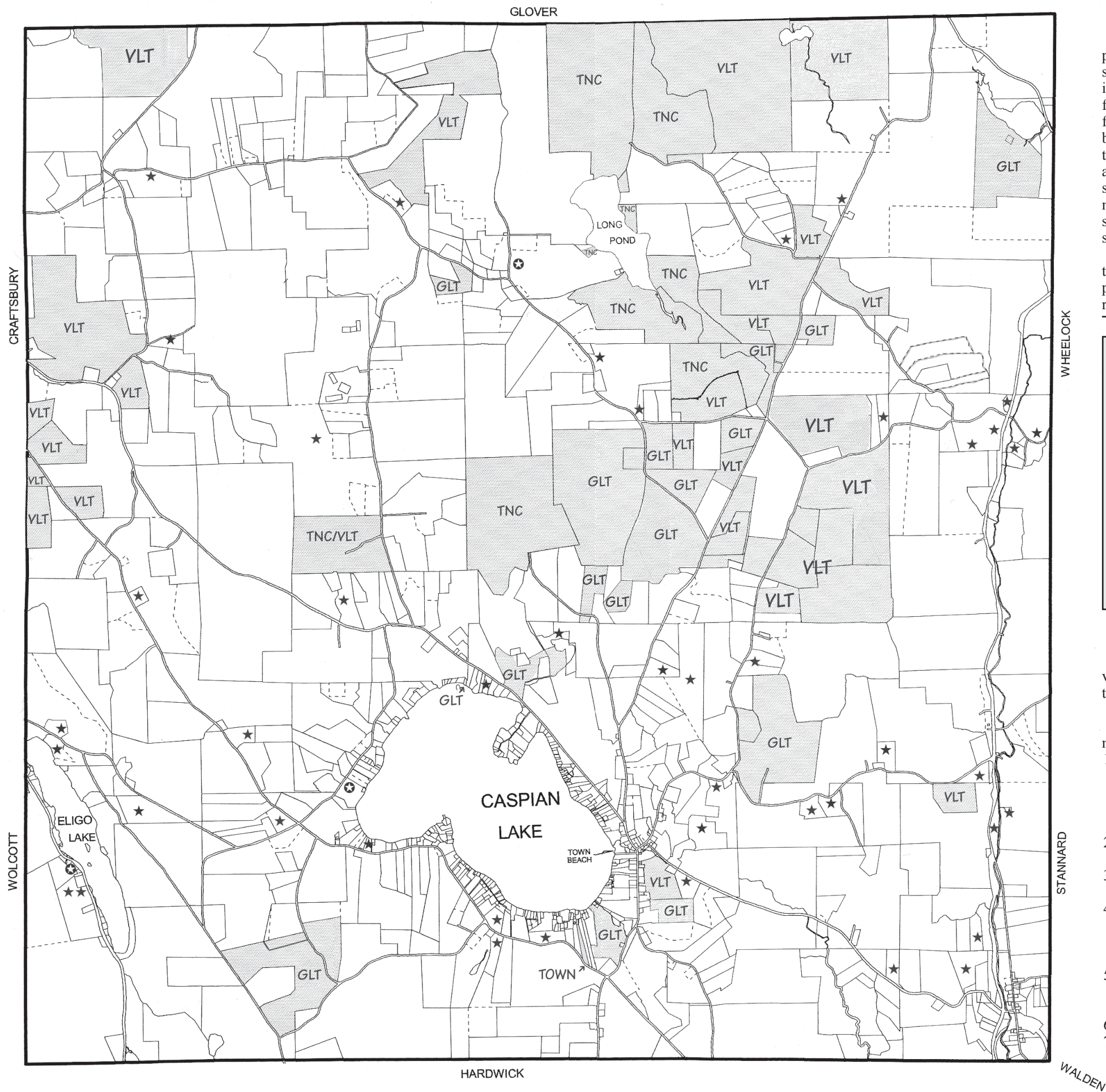
Most of the cost of the easements is being covered by the Freeman Foundation. The VLT requested local support to cover its costs in closing and stewarding the easements. On the recommendation of the Greensboro Conservation Commission, the Selectboard approved a grant of \$12,000 from the Greensboro Conservation Fund. The GLT is donating \$40,000, including more than \$25,000 raised via a special appeal in late 2015.



Monitor barn on former Jaffin farm, bought by Shaun & Darren Hill and conserved by VLT in December 2015



Three VLT agricultural easements supported by the Greensboro Conservation Fund and GLT



About GLT

The GLT is a partnership of Greensboro-area people working together to ensure that, as Vermont steadily changes, important land in Greensboro is not lost to development forever. We help farm families conserve productive agricultural land for future generations, preserving not only our heritage but also our economic future. We protect forestland that supports a healthy wood products industry and sustains habitat critical for moose, black bear, songbirds, deer, and other wildlife. We help to permanently protect irreplaceable fields, woods, and shoreline in Greensboro essential for recreation and scenic enjoyment.

All this is done while recognizing the need for town planning that allocates portions of the landscape to residential and commercial uses.

Conserving Your Land

Using legal tools called “conservation easements” or “grants of development rights,” we help land-owners to voluntarily limit development while keeping the land open for forestry, farming, and recreation. The property remains in private ownership with the peace of mind that it is protected now and in perpetuity. The landowner decides whether to allow public access.

Easement donations qualify as charitable contributions for federal income and estate tax purposes, but do not necessarily reduce property taxes. In 2015 Congress made permanent a concession whereby easement donations can be deducted from adjusted gross income (AGI) at a rate up to 50% of AGI per annum, and spread over 15 years, as opposed to 30 percent and five years for other charitable contributions.

We work with landowners who love their land and want to see it conserved. The GLT buys and accepts gifts of development rights. Sometimes we share a project with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT), which receives funding from The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Freeman Foundation, and private donors. But mainly we rely on funds raised from residents and friends of Greensboro. In 2015, 131 households donated \$32,030, over ¾ of which was raised to help the VLT execute the three new agricultural easements described on page 1.

We talk regularly with potential conservators, and incur expenses for appraisals, surveys, purchase of easements, and monitoring. You can help by sending your tax-deductible contribution to **GLT, PO Box 135, Greensboro, VT 05841.**

Call any trustee or Advisory Committee member with questions. Our website, www.Greensborolandtrust.org, provides details and photos of conserved land, along with GLT’s annual financial report

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Town of Greensboro, Vermont

Our map of Greensboro illustrates the lands conserved by the Greensboro Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Vermont Land Trust, and the Town of Greensboro. It shows all residences constructed in the past ten years, and highlights five constructed in the past year.

Map key

Conserved areas, shaded, comprise the 41 parcels listed below. Total conserved area amounts to 7.3 square miles (= 4,660 acres), or 20% of total town area of 36.7 mi².

1. GLT’s 17 easements, totaling 1,122 acres: Buckley, Circus Smirkus, Dean, Downing, Edsall (2 easements), Gray, Shaun & Darren Hill, Warren Hill, Kehler, Knox, Mann, McGrath (2 easements), Perham, Pinkney, and St. Louis. Subsequent to the original easements, Dean, Mann, Kehlers, Warren Hill and Perhams have acquired parcels conserved by previous owners, Sullivan, Grays, Buckley, Lewis & Nancy Hill, and von Hessert.
2. Long Pond Natural Area (767 acres) and Barr Hill Nature Preserve (254 acres), owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).
3. 30-acre “Greensboro Green,” 362-acre ex-Murdock property on Glover town line, and 30-acre ex-Brassknocker parcel on Craftsbury Road, owned by Vermont Land Trust (VLT).
4. Seven VLT easements to which GLT has contributed: Herbet-Wagner (ex-York) farm (260 acres); two Shaun & Darren Hill farms (73 and 207 acres); Murdock homestead (150 acres); Lowell Urie farm (of which 145 acres in Greensboro); Black Hills tract (of which 189 acres in Greensboro); and Todd Hardie farm (157 acres). [Jasper Hill easement (51 acres) scheduled to close later in 2016.]
5. Nine other VLT easements: Shatney farm (313 acres); Shatney hayfield in Greensboro Bend (34 acres); ex-York homestead, now owned by Circostas (85 acres); Kehler property on Garvin Hill Rd. (37 acres); and five ex-Brassknocker parcels on Craftsbury town line, totaling 323 acres.
6. Barton Homestead Trust on Gebbie Road (VLT and TNC: 121 acres); and
7. Two 3.5-acre strips owned by the Town of Greensboro, one on Lake Shore Road donated by Currier & Dill, the other next to the town beach, purchased by the town with federal assistance.

Conserved land ★ Residence constructed in past 10 years ★• In 2015