

Mountain Views

ANNUAL REPORT EDITION

SPRING 2026



STOWE
LAND TRUST

Dear friends,

In 2025, Stowe Land Trust reached an important milestone: **more than 7,000 acres of land conserved through a combination of direct conservation and collaboration with partners.** To put that number into local context, that's about the size of 8 Waterbury Reservoirs, or approximately 14 times the skiable terrain on Mt. Mansfield and Spruce Peak!

But what does 7,000 acres of conservation mean to our community?

While the bird's eye view might look like a patchwork of parcels across the valley, when we zoom in we get a much clearer picture of what it means to conserve a piece of land.

At Kirchner Woods, a family explores animal tracks in the fresh spring snow. On the Rec Path, friends meet to walk their dogs. Deep in Shutesville Ledges, a Wood Thrush returns to build her nest, filling the woods with her flute-like song. The Muddy Moose forest in Morristown quietly absorbs the melting snow, keeping downstream communities safe from spring floods.

Community land conservation is not something apart from us; it's a part of our daily lives. At our core, Stowe Land Trust protects and cares for land. That's what we do, but it's not why we do it. We conserve land to enjoy a quality of life unique to this special place in the world—for ourselves, for our children, and for everyone who lives or visits here.

The facts and figures in the 2025 annual report represent the progress we've made together. More importantly, each acre represents our shared values as a community, and the promise of a healthy future for the land we love.



See you out there,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Rogers".

Tom Rogers
Executive Director

Thank you to the talented photographers who contributed their work to this newsletter:

Grand View Farm (cover), Mark Vandenberg, stowebeautiful.com

Eastern cottontail (right), yellow warbler (page 6), and barred owl chicks (back), Emanuel Soza-Foias, esozafoiasphotography.com

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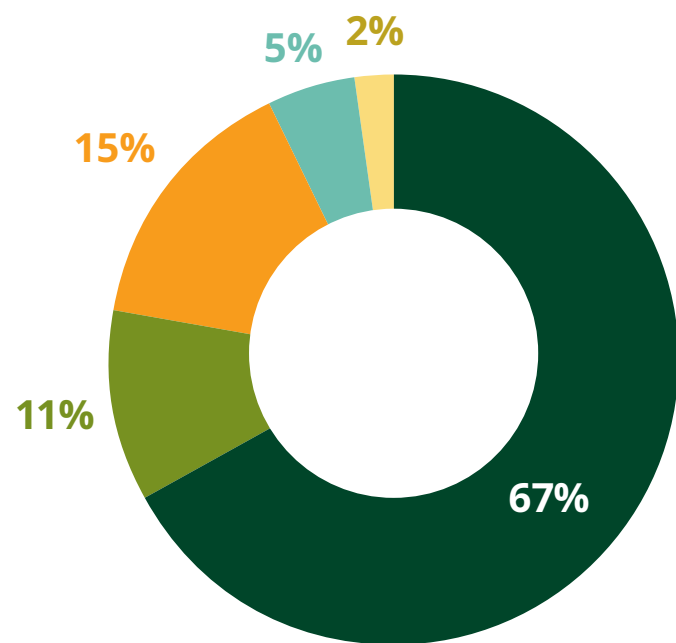
A large, vertical photograph of a brown cottontail rabbit in profile, facing left. It is eating a piece of green grass. The background is a soft-focus green field. Overlaid on the bottom right of the image is a yellow graphic consisting of two L-shaped brackets forming a partial frame around the text.

connect
to something
more

Your 2025 Impact

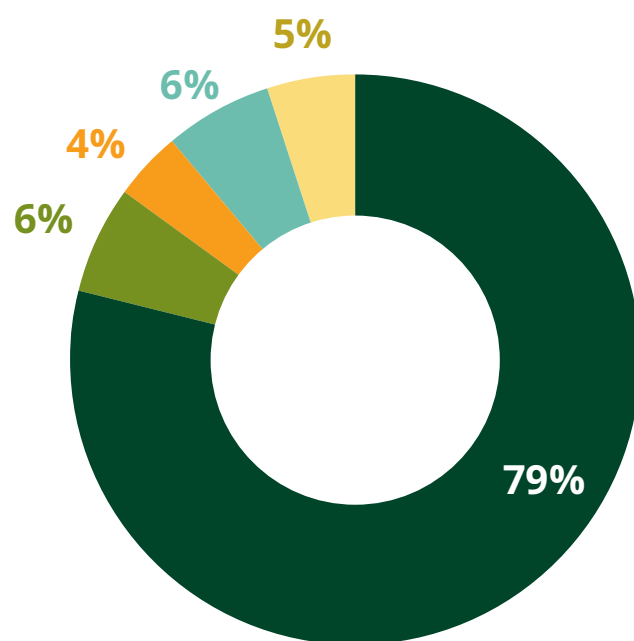
Your support in 2025, combined with grants and strategic partnerships, protected critical landscapes, expanded public access, and strengthened our community's connection to the natural world. We could not do this work without you!

2025 SOURCES OF FUNDS



- INDIVIDUALS
- INVESTMENT RETURNS & OTHER
- FOUNDATIONS
- GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- BUSINESSES

2025 USES OF FUNDS



- PROTECTING LANDS & WATERS
- CARING FOR PROTECTED LANDS AND WATERS
- ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN NATURE
- FUNDRAISING
- OPERATIONS

*Data reflects calendar year 2025 and includes gifts of real estate. Stowe Land Trust's fiscal year is October 1 - September 30 and audited on that basis. View our list of supporters at: stowelandtrust.org/about/financials/donor-list.



Future Conservation Leaders

In 2025, we welcomed Amy and Ashley to our team. They are among the many rising conservation professionals who contribute to clearing invasive species, organizing community events, and improving trails with Stowe Land Trust.

Not only are they contributing to their community, they are gaining valuable skills to launch their careers. Through internships, AmeriCorps service, and a new fellowship, we're committed to helping train the next generation of conservation leaders—and to strengthening the future of land stewardship in Vermont.

Read more about the investment we're making in young professionals at: stowelandtrust.org/news.

What does it mean to "conserve" land?

To conserve land means to protect the natural and working landscapes that define our community—forests, farms, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and scenic views—so that these special places endure well into the future.

Easements are the primary tool we use for land conservation. Think of land ownership as a bundle of rights—the right to build, to subdivide, to harvest timber, to farm, and so on. With a conservation easement, a willing landowner voluntarily gives up some of those rights (typically development rights) while retaining ownership and other uses of the property. Some easements enshrine public access and recreation or promote agricultural use while others focus on safeguarding clean water, flood protection, and wildlife habitat conservation. All of our easements restrict the right to develop land.

How are conserved properties cared for?

Once a property is conserved, Stowe Land Trust makes a permanent commitment to its ongoing care to ensure conservation promises are kept. With the help of dedicated volunteers, we maintain trails, manage invasive species, restore habitats, and work with landowners to address challenges as they arise.

Does Stowe Land Trust own any land?

Kirchner Woods, Wiessner Woods, the Mill Trail, Page Forest, DuMont Meadow, and Shutesville Ledges are owned by Stowe Land Trust, meaning we directly manage these lands. We maintain trails, remove invasive species, monitor ecological health, and welcome the public to explore, learn, and connect with nature.



Adams Camp Connector

Permanently enshrined a connection between Mt. Mansfield and the village of Stowe, and began trail planning.



Stagecoach Meadows

Protected farmland, sweeping views, trail access, and—through partnership with Downstreet Housing & Community Development—housing for year-round residents.



Youth Education

Worked with Stowe Elementary School students to grow and harvest vegetables, fostering connections to local food systems and healthy eating habits.



Community Engagement

Hosted 38 events—from backcountry skiing to birdwatching to the first annual Party in the Meadow—to engage the community and enjoy nature.



Conservation + Housing

Partnered with Downstreet Housing & Community Development to advance two projects that address both conservation and housing for year-round residents.



North Hill Forest

Conserved a critical bottleneck in the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor with support from The Nature Conservancy's Vermont Biodiversity Fund.



Adaptive Trails

Completed trail enhancements at Kirchner Woods to expand a growing network of adaptive trails for walkers, families with strollers, wheelchair users, and mountain bikers of all abilities.



Caring for Land

With our amazing volunteers and community land stewards, we cared for over 4,500 acres of conserved land, including accessibility upgrades, invasive species removal, and trail clearing.

STOWE LAND TRUST

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Keeping up the momentum in 2026

Help Protect Muddy Moose!

Our newest project is a true conservation trifecta: it protects an ecologically important forest, opens public access to an established trail network in Morristown, and permanently protects a stunning gorge. And, in partnership with Downstreet, eight short-term rentals on the property will be converted into year-round housing for full-time residents.

Muddy Moose demonstrates the promise of innovative conservation rooted in community values. To complete this project, we need to raise \$100,000 by May 1, 2026. Will you help us reach our ambitious fundraising goal?

Learn more or donate:

stowelandtrust.org/work/projects/muddy-moose

