

Campaign for the **SARATOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOREST**



Community Forests: Recreational Access for Everyone

Driving along busy Route 9 in Wilton, New York, located in one of the fastest growing counties in the state and nestled between the restaurants and shopping plazas, it is hard to imagine the gateway to a pristine forest ripe with opportunities. The proposed 202-acre Saratoga County Community Forest features a rocky ridgeline, dark forested ravines carved by tumbling creeks, a diversity of mixed northern hardwoods crisscrossed by logging roads ready for recreation, and an old graphite mine waiting for interpretation.

Envisioned as a multi-use, community-managed forest to be owned by Saratoga County, the property will become a recreational hub for the surrounding communities and a space for environmental education – all while helping to permanently protect the ecological value and resilience of the southern foothills of the Adirondacks, an area vital for regional natural resource connectivity.



Join the Community Effort to Protect Saratoga County's First Community Forest!

The Saratoga County Community Forest, currently named in interim, will provide recreational, educational, and economical benefits to the community. Through the creation of a Community Forest Management Team, comprised of local community members and regional experts, the forest will support equitable and accessible forestland to the towns of Wilton and Greenfield.

Saratoga PLAN, Open Space Institute (OSI), and Wilton Partners will work in partnership with Saratoga County to permanently protect and provide recreation improvements to the forest.

The campaign will support, first and foremost, securing the forest for public access, and ultimately aid in the creation of a world-class trail

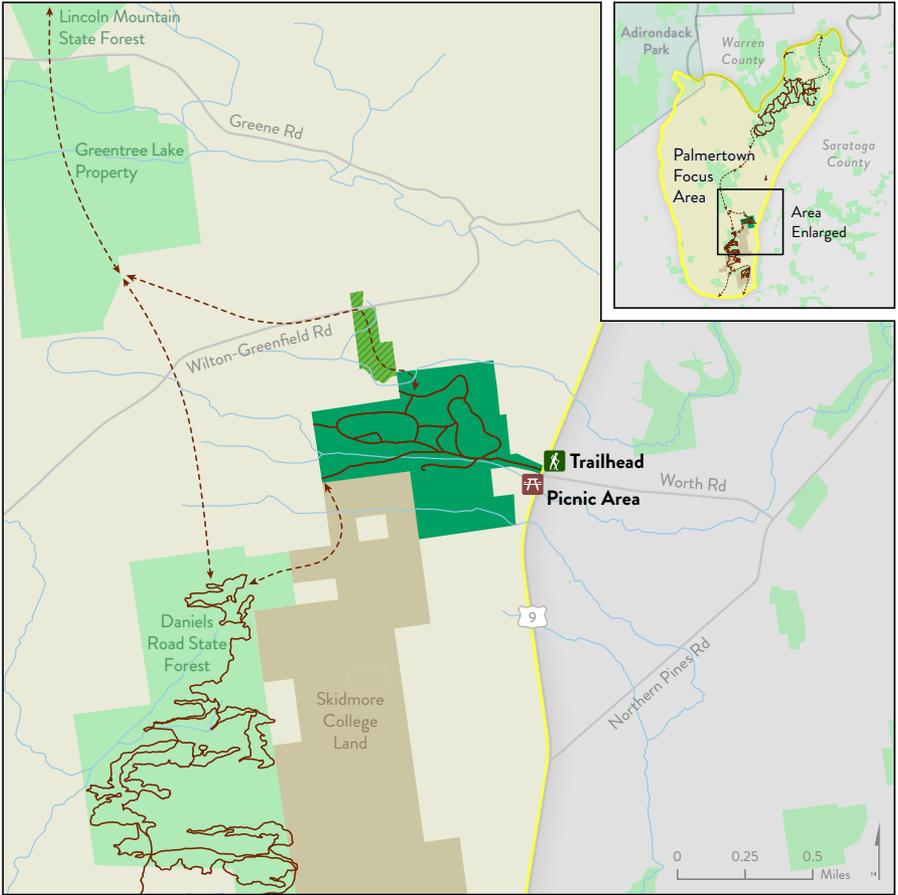
system to be incorporated in the larger Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trails system. The success of this campaign will lend to further phased purchases of forestland and multi-use recreational trails.

We have garnered 70% of our initial \$1 million goal through private and public commitments from Wilton Partners and Saratoga County. Saratoga County has exclusively pledged \$120,000, plus an additional \$20,000 to benefit municipal access. These efforts further complement the county's acceptance of a \$391,000 U.S. Forest Service grant, which ranked fifth in the nation.

Your support is essential to achieve this vision and reach our campaign goal!

Make a contribution at saratogaplan.org/saratoga-county-community-forest

SARATOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOREST



- Saratoga County Community Forest
 - Palmertown Focus Area
 - Existing Trail
 - Potential Future Acquisition
 - Skidmore College Land
 - Potential Trail Connection*
 - Protected Land
 - Adirondack Park
- *Lines are generalized for visual purposes*

The Saratoga County Community Forest will provide an essential linkage of multi-use recreational trails within the 31-mile landscape scale trail system known as the Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trail System.



To learn more about the Saratoga County Community Forest and to contribute, visit saratogaplan.org/saratoga-county-community-forest

Community-Managed Forest Land Centered Around Local & Regional Partnerships

The Palmertown Range links many local communities and is a high priority landscape for conservation. The Saratoga County Community Forest will serve as a catalyst to protect and sustainably manage other private forestlands identified through the Palmertown Range planning process. These efforts are led by the following project partners:

Saratoga PLAN is a local conservation organization preserving the natural and scenic character of Saratoga County for future generations. Saratoga PLAN has spearheaded conservation efforts in the Palmertown Range and has now taken the lead in raising funds to accomplish the overall vision of the community forest.

OpenSpace Institute brings over 40 years of experience in land conservation and has protected over 5,500 acres in the region so far. Through its long history of advocating for locally driven and managed conservation, OSI has granted more than \$2 million to support the creation and expansion of 25 community forests in the Northern Forest region and hopes to further advance this model in New York.

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