



Woodstock Land Conservancy

Protect Critical Property on Mt. Tobias from Development

You can help us save 65 acres of unfragmented forest on Mt. Tobias ~ preserving it forever for recreation and wildlife ~ by donating today! We have until March 31, 2025 to raise \$310,000 to ensure this unique area stays out of the hands of developers who could subdivide it to create multiple homesites. Either a few select homeowners can have access to these awe-inspiring views of the Catskills, or we all can enjoy them as we hike, mountain bike, enjoy backcountry skiing or go snowshoeing. If WLC purchases the property, we also get a big step closer to constructing a trail that connects the top of Mt. Tobias to the Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey Catskills Visitor Center.

THE DETAILS

- The property is 65.2 acres along the southwestern Mt. Tobias ridgeline.
- The current landowners want to preserve the unique habitat, agreeing to sell the property to Woodstock Land Conservancy for habitat protection if we can raise the funds in time.
- If this property were sold to a developer, it has right of way access from Abbey Road, and a subdivision of the property could result in multiple homesites.

CONSERVATION VALUES

- This unique acreage is composed of pristine forest habitat, which is ranked in the top 1% of the Forest Condition Index.
- It is part of the Hudson Valley “Core Forest” ~ especially important for sensitive wildlife including many forest songbirds.
- The property comprises a significant wildlife corridor connecting lower and higher elevations. These corridors are critical to protect as they are increasingly important for wildlife movement in a changing climate.
- Rare terrestrial animals rely on high quality forest habitats like this area.
- This designated Significant Biodiversity Area supports processes critical to maintaining habitats for rare animal and plant populations while helping protect the integrity of unfragmented forest in the Catskills.



TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

According to its Open Space Plan, for several decades the state has prioritized the development of a public trail between the top of Mt. Tobias and the Catskills Visitor Center down in the Esopus Valley floor. While New York has been successful in acquiring certain parcels of land to further the goal, these 65 acres are central to the proposed trail. WLC will work collaboratively with state officials to ensure the public can access the impressive views while protecting the fragile ecosystem that makes Mt. Tobias so unique.

- This is from the state's Open Space Plan Region 3 Priority Project Conservation Areas document: "Opportunity to connect the proposed Ulster County Interpretive Center site with existing Forest Preserve lands situated on Mt. Tobias. Acquisition of key parcels along Rt. 28 and Wittenberg Rd. will protect the views of mountains, forests, and meadows from the proposed visitor center." [pg. 110]
- The state's 1994 Phoenicia - Mt. Tobias Wild Forest Unit Management Plan also mentions the prioritization of connecting the elevated portion of the mountain to the Catskills Visitor Center.

HOW TO HELP

- If you'd like to send a donation by check, please write "Tobias Purchase" in the memo area and mail your check to Woodstock Land Conservancy, P.O. Box 864, Woodstock, NY 12498.
- You can also give through ACH transfers, wire transfers, cash and stock donations. Please contact us at info@woodstocklandconservancy.org for details regarding these options. Need our EIN number? It's **22-2950482**.
- Would you prefer to donate by credit card? Simply point your cell phone camera at this QR code and touch the link that shows up in the yellow box. You will see a private webpage set up for interested donors with detailed information on donating by credit card.
- Are you interested in donating but have more questions? Please reach out to Andy Mossey, WLC's Executive Director, or Melissa Peterson, Land Acquisition and Stewardship Manager, at (845) 679-6481.



YOUR GIFT'S POTENTIAL

There may be an opportunity for this land to become part of the Catskill Forest Preserve. If that transfer were to become a reality, your donation today helps to permanently save this land from development, secure the forest's carbon sequestration,



provide recreation opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts and maintain an important ecosystem that promotes biodiversity. The same donation can also conserve land in the future. **Your donation could go twice as far,** since it would be used to purchase this special land then returned to WLC's land acquisition fund to protect other critical habitats.

Finally, any additional funds raised beyond the \$310,000 will be automatically added to our general land acquisition fund. Conversely, if we fail to raise enough to acquire this property, we will contact you regarding your donation.

Thank you for your support. We cannot protect this land without you!