## Our Mission

We are a nonprofit, volunteer, tax-exempt charitable organization whose mission is to preserve the beauty and character of Mount Holly through the conservation of land, environment, and natural resources that are valued by the community.

Our primary objectives are to: (1) conserve specific parcels of land, (2) protect and maintain important natural resources (3) educate the community about the merit of conservation and the means of achieving it, (4) acquire financial resources for conservation, and (5) work with other organizations to promote our mission.

## Who Benefits?

Everyone who loves Mount Holly. Residents and visitors enjoy public swimming, fishing, and boating access. Families are able to preserve heritage lands. Future generations will continue to benefit from conserved farmland. Foresters and loggers benefit from the conservation of well-managed woodlands. Hikers, hunters, skiers, and snowmobilers benefit from open areas with protected recreational access. Wildlife benefits from the preservation of vital habitats. Many businesses depend on the preservation of Vermont's scenic beauty and rural character. Most importantly, conservation helps us **preserve the distinctive character of our town**.

# Projects

We work with national, state, and regional partners to preserve both wild and working lands. Our primary goal is to secure a continuous corridor between the northern and southern sections of the Green Mountain National Forest—linking public and privately conserved tracts to protect black bear and other wildlife while assuring a working landscape and public recreational opportunities in perpetuity.

**2025**
In March, MHCT purchased approximately 49 acres nearly surrounded by the Green Mountain National Forest, protecting pristine habitat and securing public access.

**2024**
On July 24, MHCT purchased approximately 11 acres in the northwest corner of Andover to protect a critical wildlife link across Route 100.

**2021–2022**
On December 14, 2022, MHCT and ANR, with generous support from the Doolittle Family, completed the project to protect forever a 440-acre property in Mount Holly and Weston now known as Awasos Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and is open to the public.

**2020**
MHCT assisted with the private donation of a conservation easement on roughly 100 acres of Whalen family lands to the New England Forestry Foundation.

**2018–2020**
MHCT, VLT, and ANR protected a 346-acre property in Mount Holly that connects the Green Mountain National Forest with Okemo State Forest. This will guarantee that animals, increasingly on the move due to climate change, will have a safe corridor for traveling to find food, mates, and new territory. It is now part of Okemo State Forest.

**2011–2016**
MHCT welcomed the Friends of Star Lake (FOSL) as a committee to help oversee the Star Lake dam reconstruction. The entire project cost of $628,385 was funded by more than 280 private donations, including a $500,000+ gift from Patricia Nye.

**2008**
The Conservation Fund purchased the 506-acre Richard Anderson property along Branch Brook Rd. with financial support from MHCT. It provides contiguous habitat protection for bear, moose, beaver and other wildlife that is critical to their long-term success.

**2006**
The P.K. Brown parcel (400+ acres), located above Buttermilk Falls, was protected by The Conservation Fund. A 10-acre parcel on Route 103 was conserved by The Ninevah Foundation and The Conservation Fund. This property was cleaned up with financial assistance from the MHCT. Protection of this land at the head of Buttermilk Falls was important for stream quality and the wildlife corridor.

**2005**
Lory and Pete Doolittle donated a conservation easement on 70 acres of property on Bowlsville Road.

**2004**
The Freeman/Fiske private donation of a conservation easement on 40 acres of property across from the Dana-Seward Project brought the total for this Route 155 Project to 117 acres.

**2003**
The Dana-Seward Farm Conservation Project protected 77 acres of mixed farmland/woodland thanks to support from VLT, the Freeman Foundation, and