

October 31, 2014

Dear Selectboard:

I am writing to request a letter of support affirming the value that the Williams Woods Natural Area provides for your town and its residents. The Williams Woods Natural Area is open to the public for walking, hunting, skiing and general nature appreciation. This 63 acre property has 1 mile of trail that provides free access for the public to enjoy this ecologically significant natural area.

We are currently preparing an application to the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council (VT&GC) to have our trails recognized as part of the statewide Vermont Trails System, an honorary designation. This will not change the taxes we pay to your town, nor will this exempt us from any local permits we might need in the future, such as a zoning permit to install a sign or informational kiosk. Your letter of support will be included as part of our application.

The Nature Conservancy has 55 natural areas in Vermont, of which 19 have maintained trails that provide easy access for the public to explore some of the state's most vibrant ecosystems. We are proud of the work that we do to maintain our trails, with improvements such as kiosks and boardwalks, and believe our trails deserve to be recognized as part of the Vermont Trails System.

If your town values the Williams Woods Natural Area, then we ask that you please reply with a letter of support by **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. We have attached a sample letter that can be used as a template if you so choose and we also encourage you to include additional thoughts as you see fit.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.



Rose Paul  
*Director of Critical Lands & Conservation Science*  
Email: [rpaul@tnc.org](mailto:rpaul@tnc.org)  
Phone: 802.229.4425 x108

Dear members of the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council,

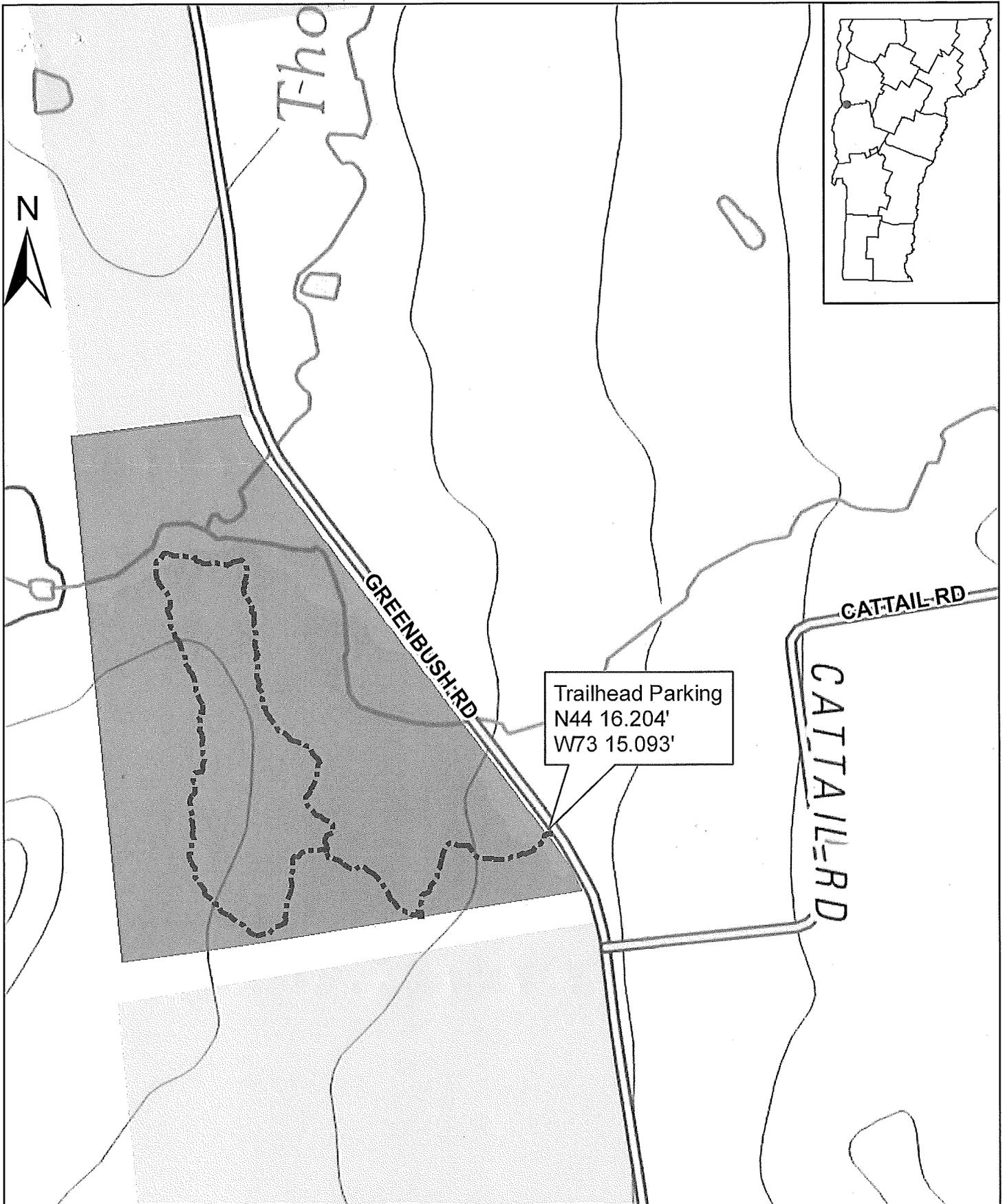
We are writing to support The Nature Conservancy's application to include the trail at Williams Woods Natural Area in Charlotte as part of the Vermont Trails System as designated by the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council.

As members of the select board in Charlotte, we recognize the value this trail adds to our community. The Williams Woods Natural Area consists of 63 acres of land and 1 mile of trail maintained by Conservancy staff and volunteers. The trail provides free recreational opportunities, including hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing, while enabling residents to freely access and enjoy ecologically significant natural resources.

The trail winds through the most mature and intact example of a valley clayplain forest in Vermont, with a high number of tree species, rich wildlife habitat and rare plants. While walking the mile trail, visitors are able to cross over branches of Thorpe Brook several times via footbridges and puncheons while enjoying the plethora of exposed roots and wet hollows.

We hope that you agree to include this trail in the Vermont Trails System.

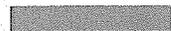
Thank you.



Trailhead Parking  
 N44 16.204'  
 W73 15.093'

**The Nature Conservancy**  
 Protecting nature. Preserving life.®

**Hiking Trail at Williams Woods Natural Area in the Town of Charlotte**

-  Hiking Trail
-  TNC Natural Area
-  VLT

Feet

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