

WESTERN FOOTHILLS LAND TRUST

Spring 2026



Noyes Mountain
Preserve Grows

69 acres added to
Greenwood preserve
pg 1

WFLT Hosts
100,000+ Visits

Record-smashing rec. visits
shows conservation impact
pg. 2

Investing in Trails,
Forest Health

Caring for land and trails
in the Oxford Hills
pg. 4

Photo by Ashley Nye

Growing Noyes Mountain Preserve Unearthing the Past, Protecting the Future

This winter, Western Foothills Land Trust purchased nearly 70 acres of forestland abutting Noyes Mountain Preserve in Greenwood. This addition significantly expands one of our region's most beloved community spaces, protecting a large, contiguous forest vital to the ecological health of Lake Pennesseewassee and the Androscoggin River watershed.

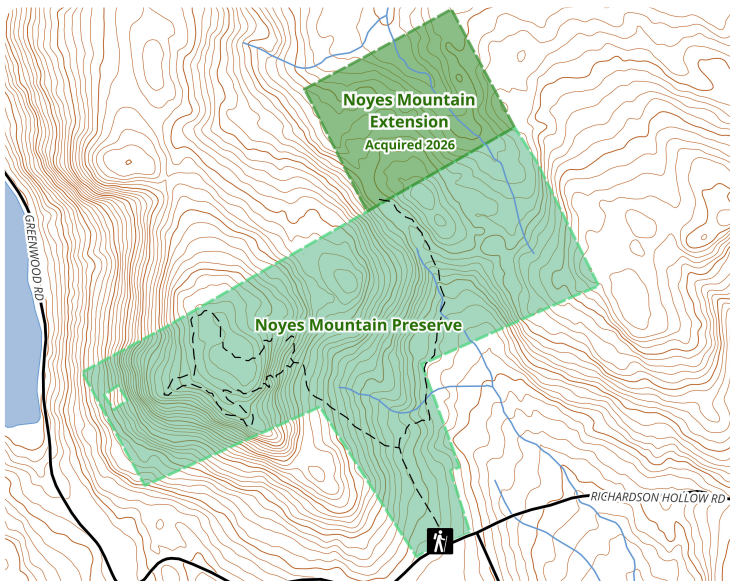
Noyes Mountain, located off the Richardson Hollow Road, sits within a mineral-rich area that has long been part of Greenwood's history. The preserve is home to historic gem and mineral mining sites, and WFLT continues to offer artisanal mining opportunities that connect visitors to this unique heritage.

Beyond the ecology and history of the parcel, the addition of nearly 70 acres adds to the recreational opportunities so many people already enjoy at Noyes Mountain: hiking, snowshoeing, hunting, and backwoods exploration, to name a few. WFLT is currently developing updated recreation plans and policies to thoughtfully integrate this parcel into the preserve.



The sun passes through the opening in the "keyhole" mine, which was once a feldspar mining site. Photo by Korey Morgan

Conserving this parcel was made possible by the Land for Maine's Future Program and the generous support of Rich Sousa, a longtime WFLT board member and volunteer. In 2019, Rich saw the conservation potential and jumped in as a conservation buyer. Thank you Rich, and thank you to our volunteers and supporters who make WFLT's work possible.



~70 acre acquisition shown in dark green. Map by Jamie Tommins



Care For This Land

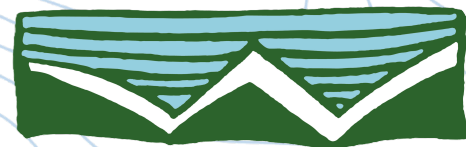


Photo by Andy Gagne Photography



Retracing our Steps

WFLT's Trails See 100,000 Visits in 2025

By Jamie Tommins, Stewardship Coordinator

The Leave No Trace motto says, “Take only memories; leave only footprints.” For trail managers, footprints count for a lot. Visitor traffic is one of the most important factors in deciding how to manage any trail. So in 2025, WFLT’s Stewardship team launched its first systematic visitor use monitoring program.

Now the numbers are in, and they confirm what we’ve long suspected: WFLT lands provide a crucial outdoor recreation resource to the community and in our region.

Last year, WFLT’s Preserves received a (conservatively) estimated 98,219 recreational visits—nearly 270 people per day! This data transforms how we understand trail use and will guide stewardship decisions for years to come.

Roberts Farm: Our Community Hub

Roberts Farm accounted for 55% of all visits, more than all other WFLT preserves combined. Unsurprisingly, February was Roberts Farm’s busiest month—including our single busiest day, the annual Norway Maine Snow-

shoe Festival. In fact, the parking area at Roberts Farm sees *more cars* every month than *visitors* at any other WFLT trailhead. In short, Roberts Farm is one of the premier outdoor recreation areas in our region.

Year-Round Outdoor Access

While August was our busiest month in terms of visitors, Twin Bridges and Smith Bridge saw the most consistent use year-round, providing accessible, multi-use community trails. Weekdays were nearly as busy as weekends across all of our preserves—a sign that WFLT’s trails provide valuable, accessible outdoor experiences.

Different Trails, Different Pressures

When we analyzed “visitors per trail mile,” Roberts Farm topped the list. But surprisingly, Witt Swamp—our least-visited property by total numbers—ranked second due to its compact 0.65-mile loop. Located in an ecologically sensitive wetland, this signals a need for careful monitoring.

Next, we’re adding additional counters at our trailheads, calibrating our counter data, and using this information to plan trail maintenance activities. The data show we are on track to see more visits, and visitors, than last year.

Keep making those memories!

From the Director's Desk

Spring 2026



Photo by Korey Morgan

Back in February, I found myself working an event table at Roberts Farm Preserve. We had a fresh snowfall. A fire warmed the hut. The trails were recently groomed and full of activity, with kids learning to ski and neighbors catching up. It felt like winter had found its way back to Norway, and folks had found their way to Roberts Farm.

Those moments at Roberts Farm Preserve—indeed across all our conserved lands—don't happen by accident. I'm grateful for the people that make it all possible: our staff, our volunteers, and the landowners who have chosen to conserve their land. **This work doesn't happen without you.**

With the busy winter ski season in the rear-view, we are taking stock. We have significant wins to celebrate, including the **expansion of the Noyes Mountain Preserve**. Greenwood is my hometown, and it is rewarding to see this project reach the finish line. We have also grown our team, **welcoming new talent** to work alongside our seasoned staff.

As we look down the road, we see that our work is evolving. Conserving land will always be core to our mission, but we're placing more focus on caring for the lands already entrusted to us. That means **focusing on healthy forests and ecosystems**. It also means **well-maintained trails and recreation opportunities that are accessible to everybody**.

Our task remains urgent. As our landscapes change, we must be deliberate about what we conserve. **The choices we make today will shape the future of the Oxford Hills region.**

I look forward to what we will accomplish together.

See you out there.

Korey Morgan, Executive Director

The Tailgate Lean



Get Involved

Projects succeed because of volunteers like you. Watch for volunteer and work day announcements this summer at wflmaine.org/volunteer.

Investing in Roberts Farm



As our most popular community hub, Roberts Farm sees more traffic than all other preserves combined. That level of use leaves its mark. This year, we're beginning major trail improvements focused on drainage, tread stability, and erosion control—work that will keep Roberts Farm resilient for the 54,000+ visitors who explore it annually.

Restoring Universal Access to Shepard's Farm



WFLT has secured funding through the Maine Recreational Trails Program to restore and improve the Detert Trail, a universally accessible half-mile loop through the scenic fields, pines, and art installations at Shepard's Farm. A professional trail building firm will remove invasive crabgrass and resurface the tread with

gravel, creating a smooth, stable path suitable for visitors of all abilities. When finished, the Detert Trail will offer an accessible and unique outdoor experience for all members of our community. Work will begin early this summer—keep an eye out for volunteer days!

Protecting the Sensitive Ecology of Witt Swamp



The short, half-mile Witt Swamp Loop winds through an ecologically sensitive wetland, and the boardwalks that keep hikers above this fragile ecosystem need attention. Witt Swamp is unique among WFLT properties for having some of the highest-intensity visitor use relative to its small size, so maintaining our trail structures at this special place is critically important. We will be gathering volunteers this summer to replace and rebuild our twenty-year-old bog bridge, ensuring Witt Swamp remains protected for several more decades to come.



Support our trail work



Jamie Tommins Joins the Team



Jamie Tommins brings recreation management, national perspective to WFLT's land stewardship

Jamie joined WFLT in January 2026, bringing diverse experience in trail work, recreation management, and land stewardship in Maine and beyond. Originally from Connecticut, he has worked as a wilderness and trail crew leader on the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming, the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine, and the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington.

In the Forest Service, Jamie supervised seasonal field crews in the backcountry and managed projects focused on sustainable recreation and resource protection in some of the country's wildest and most visited public lands.

Prior to his career in conservation, Jamie was a freelance journalist and writer covering environmental issues, outdoor recreation, and trail crew culture. One of his favorite jobs to date was working as the woods crew supervisor for a large maple syrup producer in Vermont.

Jamie holds a lifelong appreciation for the landscapes, ecologies, and communities of the New England forests, the region's complex human and environmental history,

and the enduring legacy of woodland skills and working lands in the Northern Forest. When he's not in the office or assessing the trails, you might find him birding, snorkeling in trout streams, or looking for ancient trees and old growth in the overlooked corners of the New England forest.

WFLT Hosts Community Tree Steward



Es Sweeney is a *Maine Conservation Corps Community Tree Steward** serving with Western Foothills Land Trust. At WFLT, Es maps and removes invasive species, collects ecological data, and supports community forestry projects with other organizations around the region.

Originally from the Boston area, Es graduated with a B.S. from the University of Vermont (UVM) in 2025. They are passionate about sustainable forest management and creating and conserving healthy landscapes.

Outside of their role at WFLT, Es can be found hiking, exploring, drawing, and crafting.

**The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) Community Tree Steward program places trained Americorps members with municipalities, nonprofits, and conservation groups around the state of Maine.*



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People



Introducing our Treasurer



After a 25-year career as a lawyer in the Washington, DC area, Brad Lennie and his partner, Tanya, relocated to Norway, Maine in 2025. Originally from the Milwaukee area, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Madison with a degree in international relations.

After college, Brad spent a year skiing in Colorado before moving to Washington, DC to attend law school at American University.

He spent the majority of his legal career at Hunton & Williams LLP, followed by four years at Pepper Hamilton in Washington, DC. His practice focused on patent litigation and intellectual property counseling, primarily serving clients in the medical device industry. In addition to his private practice, he provided pro bono support to individuals and nonprofits on matters like incorporation, disability rights, and immigration.

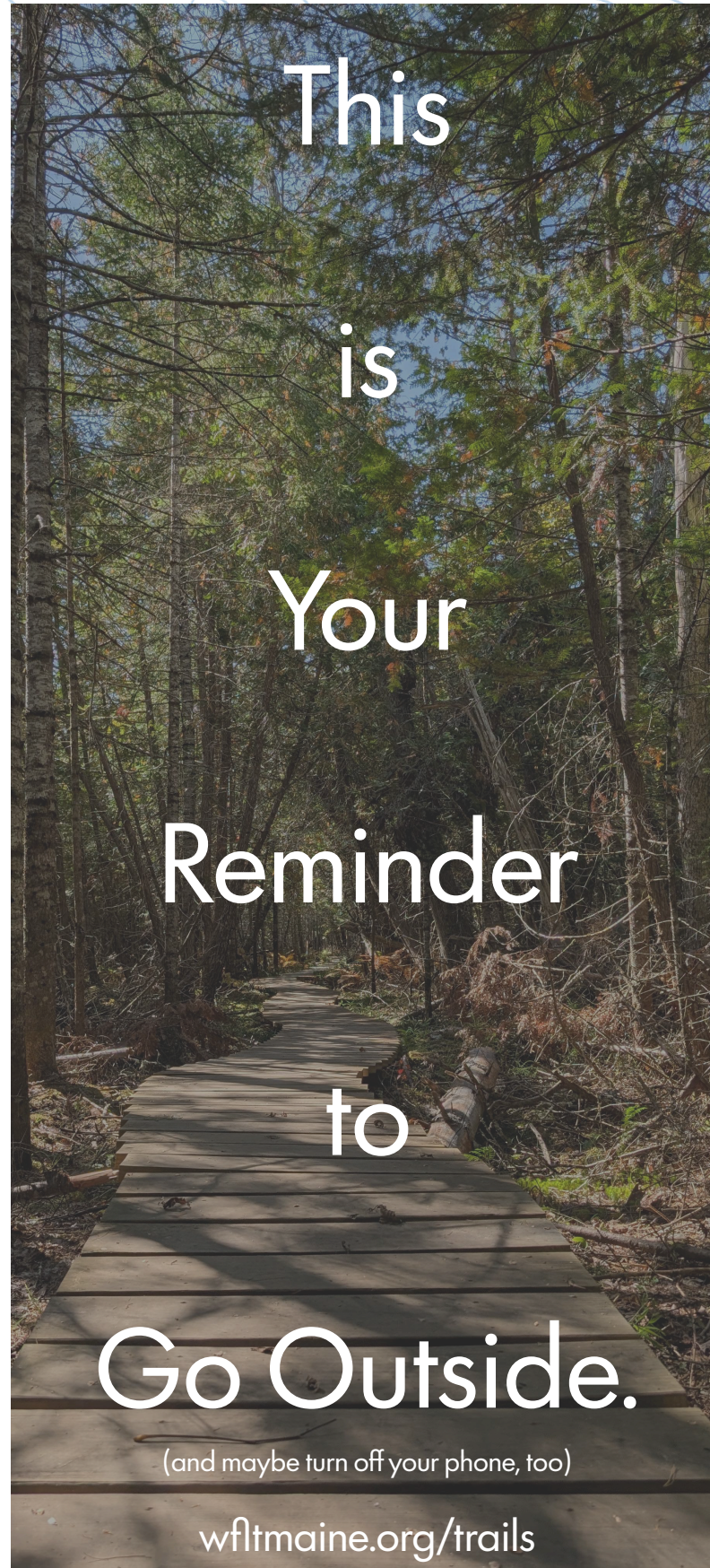
A lifelong outdoor enthusiast, he enjoys downhill skiing, camping, hiking, biking, running, and paddle boarding.

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This
is
Your
Reminder
to

Go Outside.

(and maybe turn off your phone, too)

wflmaine.org/trails



Western Foothills Land Trust
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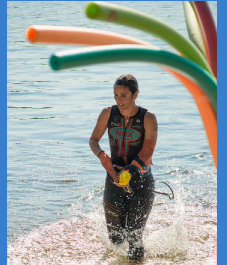
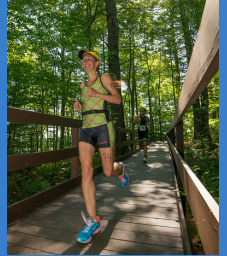
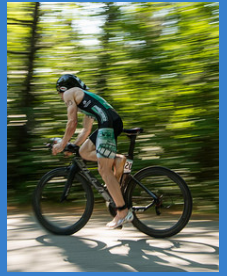
2026 NORWAY TRIP

NORWAY



Triathlon

Saturday
July 11
2026



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