



CHARLOTTE LAND TRUST

CharlotteLandTrust.org

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TO OUR NEIGHBORS

THE HEART of Charlotte Land Trust's (CLT's) work is conserving Charlotte's best farmland, natural areas, and scenic vistas. But increasingly our efforts are focused on supporting the long-term viability of conserved lands. For agricultural land, that question of long-term viability is complex.

For most of CLT's history, conserved farms in town have been dairy related. But year after year, dairies in Vermont — in particular small ones — are going out of business. For our local conserved land to remain in active agriculture, new, innovative farms will increasingly be a part of the mix. So, over the next year, CLT's outreach programs will provide a look at the changing farm sector. We're organizing a panel discussion highlighting our diversifying agriculture operations in town as well as a summer event showcasing beverages made with Vermont grown ingredients. We are also planning a Charlotte farms study to document the existing operations in town and help envision the possibilities for the future.

Though each conserved parcel is different, together they form an impressive web which contributes to the vitality of our landscape. Our conserved farm properties not only keep Charlotte beautiful, they also provide the foundation for farm jobs and locally grown food. A working landscape has been a defining piece of this community historically and we aim to help it thrive into the future.

Thank you for your past and continuing support.

— Katherine Lampton, President, Charlotte Land Trust



2019 Charlotte Land Trust Board of Directors —
Front row, l-r: Steve Schubart, Lindsay Longe, Mary Volk, Jessica Sanford
Back row, l-r: Jay Strausser, Jessie Price, David Pill, Frances Foster, Kate Lampton, Jane Lawlis, Marty Illick (Not pictured: David Watts)



The mission of the Charlotte Land Trust is to conserve the natural and working lands of Charlotte for the benefit of present and future generations

On the cover: Nitty Gritty Grain Company used conserved land at the corner of Lake and Greenbush Roads to grow wheat in 2019.



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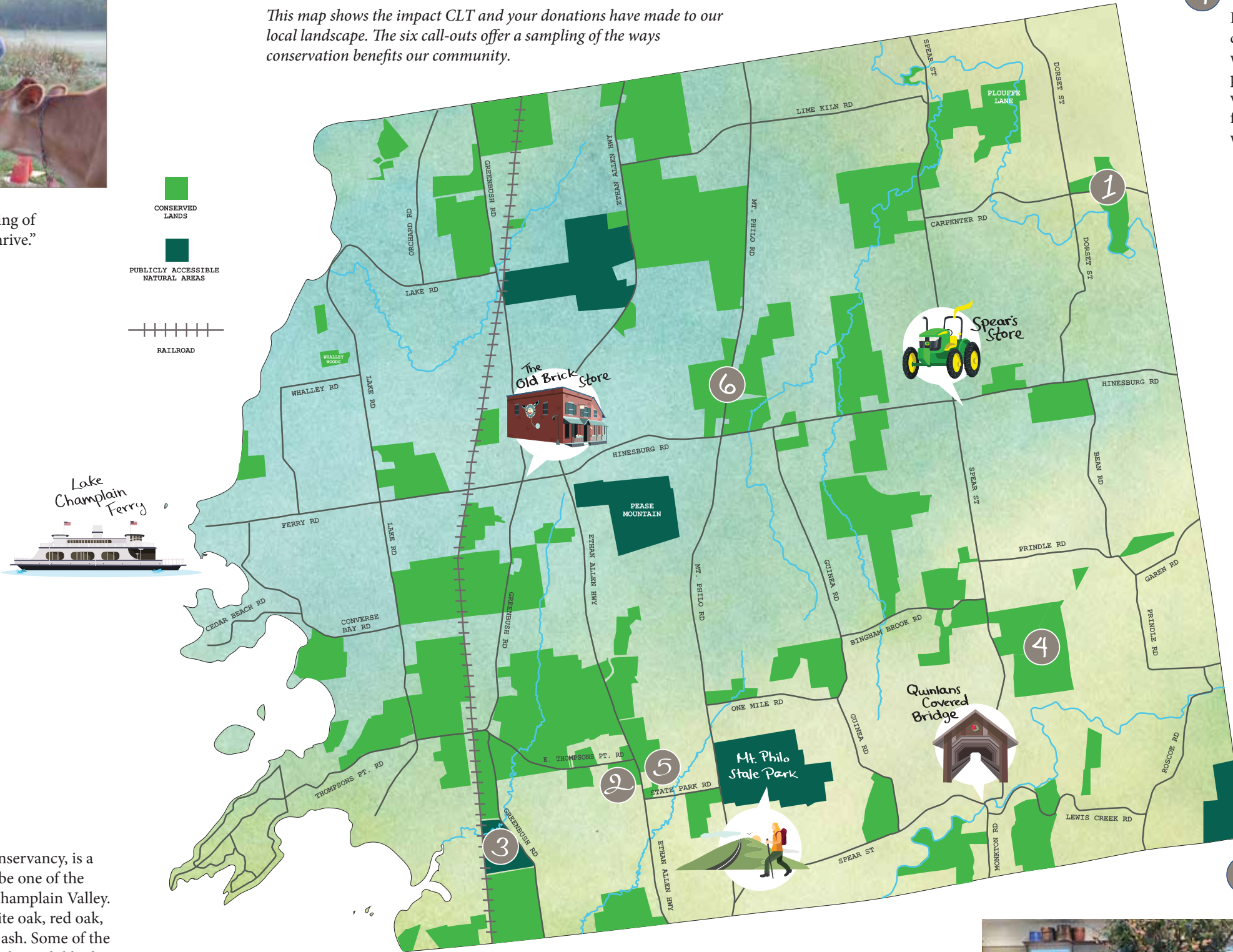
1 DONEGAN

The Donegan family continues to adapt their practices to accommodate the slumping organic dairy market. Joe and Emily have reduced the number of cows and adjusted their milking schedule to reduce their reliance on hired help. As Joe explained, "Labor efficiency, cost of feed, cost of bedding material, and soil fertility are four interrelated parts of our farm system that need improving as we move forward. Lord willing, a continued fine-tuning of our approach will enable both our family and farm to thrive."



CHARLOTTE'S CONSERVED LAND

This map shows the impact CLT and your donations have made to our local landscape. The six call-outs offer a sampling of the ways conservation benefits our community.



4 BURLEIGH

In 2009, the Burleigh family collaborated with numerous conservation organizations and donors to protect 200 acres with a variety of natural assets. The Vermont Land Trust protected 73 of the acres, all of it farmland, with a conservation easement. The remaining land, which includes a forest and a large wetland with a tributary of Lewis Creek, was acquired and conserved by The Nature Conservancy.

5 STATE PARK ROAD

At the corner of Route 7 and State Park Road, this 61-acre parcel with Adirondack views was conserved in 2001. Shelburne Vineyards leased the land in 2010, planting 10 acres of grapes. They are primarily growing Minnesota hybrids, including Marquette and La Crescent varietals which are crosses between native North American and traditional European ones. This property is also the location of the Melissa and Trevor Mack Trail, a section of the trail system that will eventually run from Mount Philo to the Town Beach.



2 OAK RIDGE FARM

Despite a wet spring which made the start of the season challenging, in 2019 several farm fields around Charlotte sprouted hemp for the first time. Oak Ridge Farm, LLC planted 50 acres of hemp on conserved land on East Thompsons Point Road. "Farming is something I always hoped I'd be able to do, sustainably, and hemp is giving me that opportunity," said Chris Mack. "The benefits of operating an organic, family-run farm in our hometown are worth the hard work and we are proud to do it on conserved land."

3 WILLIAMS WOODS

This 63-acre natural area, owned by The Nature Conservancy, is a mature valley clay plain forest and is considered to be one of the best remaining examples of this forest type in the Champlain Valley. Take a walk on the 1.2-mile trail and you'll find white oak, red oak, red maple, white pine, shagbark hickory, and white ash. Some of the oak trees are estimated to be over 200 years old. The loop, dubbed the Hamilton Trail, was named for Larry Hamilton (seen below), a long-serving trustee of The Nature Conservancy, and former town tree warden who passed away in the fall of 2016.



"The Charlotte Land Trust is so important as it protects our beautiful and unique landscapes here in Charlotte. Every time I see those CLT red signs, it makes me smile to know that vista will remain the same for future generations to enjoy."

— Linda Gilbert, CLT donor

6 PHILO RIDGE FARM

Besides the restored barns and carefully curated market, one of the most striking visuals at Philo Ridge Farm is the herd of Belted Galloway cows. This heritage breed forms the backbone of their intensive rotational grazing system, an approach which aims to produce top quality meat, while growing nutrient rich grasses, increasing soil fertility and trapping carbon in the ground. The farm's store, café, and events provide a market for the meat and vegetables grown on the land as well as a gathering place for the community.



Credits — Cover, Grapes, & Philo Ridge: Jessie Price; Donegan: Emily Donegan; Hemp: Lindsay Longe; Williams Woods: Linda Hamilton; CLT Board: Christina Booher; Map Illustration: Jolee Main; Design & Production: SERIOUSdesign