

The Sheffield Land Trust, the Egremont Land Trust & Greenagers

are proud to announce a **\$500,000 challenge**

to purchase, protect, and maintain a new community trail and woodland education area

Bow Wow Woods

Three local nonprofits have joined together to purchase and protect this key woodland property that connects to hundreds of acres of already-protected land. Its purchase will also start the next phase in the conservation of the landscape-scale *Sheffield-Egremont Agricultural, Ecological & Scenic Corridor*, a significant landscape in southeastern Egremont and northwestern Sheffield.

Bow Wow Woods, 54 acres along Route 41 and Bow Wow Road where Egremont borders on Sheffield, was for sale in the hot pandemic real-estate market. Another part of the property had just been sold, so we needed to act fast.

Most of Bow Wow Woods is a mature, healthy forest of conifers and deciduous trees. An old logging road that snakes up a ridge is a good start on an easily accessed trail. Nearby lowlands and wetlands are home to ferns, lilies, and dozens of endangered species.

That diverse ecology makes Bow Wow Woods a perfect place for Greenagers to expand its programs of conservation education and youth-led land stewardship. April Hill, Greenagers' headquarters on Route 41, is less than a mile away. As part of its work, the organization will transform the old logging road into a public trail and keep it maintained. Close by are other conserved properties, including the Appalachian Trail and the forests, farms, and fields that have been protected by the Sheffield Land Trust, the Egremont Land Trust, other nonprofits, and the Commonwealth.

Greenagers will own the land and act as its day-to-day steward. The two land trusts will hold a conservation restriction on the property and share the duty of monitoring the land to make sure it remains protected.



The challenge

Thanks to the generosity of the Geoffrey Hughes Foundation, the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Berkshire Environmental Endowment Fund, and donations from several benefactors, the three organizations are able to offer a **one-to-one** challenge to raise the \$1,000,000 needed to purchase and permanently protect the land, and to set up the stewardship funds that will maintain and monitor it for future generations.

It's a dollar-for-dollar match

That means that every dollar you give will be matched by the \$500,000 challenge! Contributions can be sent to any of the three organizations (addresses below), with a notation "Bow Wow Woods & Corridor." **Thank you for your generosity!**

The context

Bow Wow Woods is an essential link in the *Sheffield-Egremont Agricultural, Ecological & Scenic Corridor*, a relatively intact natural and rural landscape that extends from the Housatonic River to the Taconic Mountains. Working at this large scale allows focus on whole ecosystems and agricultural landscapes as well as individual properties—and opens up additional sources of funding from government agencies and foundations. So far, the Sheffield and Egremont



land trusts have conserved more than 1,200 acres of spectacular fields, forests, and wetlands there, land that connects to more than 5,000 protected acres, including the Appalachian Trail and Mount Everett and Jug End State Reservations. **FARMS:** There are almost a dozen Agricultural Preservation Restrictions protecting farmland in the Corridor. **RECREATION:** The roads that run through this region are favorite walking, running, and biking routes, and people come from near and far to see the spectacular views. **HABITAT:** Dozens of endangered species have been identified in this healthy ecosystem. The unbroken stretches of forests and fields running north to south and east to west create corridors that allow wildlife to migrate—important as the climate changes.

The partners



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Corridor history

The Sheffield-Egremont Corridor initiative began in 2001. The **first** phase ended in 2009, conserving 394 acres; the **second** ended in 2012, conserving 376 acres; the **third** ended in 2013, conserving 400 acres; and the **fourth** will finish in January 2022 having conserved 229 acres. **Bow Wow Woods** anchors the **fifth** phase of the Corridor, with a goal of conserving over 500 more acres.

About the partner organizations

Greenagers was founded in 2007 as a program of the Center for Peace through Culture and incorporated as its own organization in 2013. Greenagers provides employment and volunteer opportunities for teens and young adults in the fields of conservation, sustainable farming, and environmental leadership. Through vocational-environmental programs and community

engagement, Greenagers prepares youth for success in their education and work. The **Egremont Land Trust** was founded in 1985 as Egremont Environmental Action, updating its name in 1998 to reflect a broader mission. The **Sheffield Land Trust** was founded in 1989. Both organizations work to protect land throughout their communities. For 20 years, they have made conserving land in the Sheffield-Egremont Agricultural, Ecological & Scenic Corridor a special focus, in addition to their other conservation, outreach, and education work.

