



THE VERMONT RIVER CONSERVANCY

Protecting Land Along Our Waters

HELP CONSERVE THE WHITESIDE PROPERTY



Overview

The Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) has just secured an opportunity to protect over 83 acres of the Whiteside property along the North Branch of the Winooski River in Worcester and Middlesex. Landowner Anna Whiteside has owned the property for thirty years, but recently listed the property for sale. **After weeks of negotiations, VRC has secured a short-term opportunity to permanently conserve this large parcel of undeveloped land along the North Branch.**

Property Features

The Whiteside property has three exciting characteristics. First, it possesses the *second-longest stretch of privately-owned riverfront property* on the North Branch of the Winooski River. With the river bisecting the property on large stretches of the property, this property contains an incredible two miles of undeveloped river frontage. Second, biologists have determined that the Whiteside property provides unusually high quality *reptile habitat*, due to the diversity of aquatic and upland natural communities located on the property. Third, with its extensive river frontage, the Whiteside property provides the opportunity to allow carefully managed *public recreation* in one or more specific locations, while simultaneously creating a large block of conserved wildlife habitat along the river. The property is currently listed for sale as four house lots, all of which have been engineered and approved through the local permitting process.

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Conservation Specifics

VRC holds a purchase and sales agreement to purchase 65.6 acres of land outright, as well as a river corridor conservation easement that protects an additional 18 acres of land. This will protect all of the river frontage. Mrs. Whiteside will retain the right for two secluded houses on an elevated knoll away from the river.

We Need Your Immediate Help

VRC can purchase the land and conservation easement for \$225,000, a price below its actual value. Legal, appraisal, stewardship endowment, closing, and administrative costs will raise this amount to \$260,000. VRC has received \$147,500 from the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) and \$88,500 from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), for a total of \$236,000, or 91% of the project costs.

We need your help! As of mid-August, community members have raised, through contributions and pledges, 73% of the local share. The remaining \$6,500 must be raised by September 15th to conserve the property.

Tax-deductible gifts or pledges can be **mailed to the Vermont River Conservancy, 29 Main Street, Suite 11, Montpelier, VT 05602.** Checks can be made payable to the Vermont River Conservancy with "Whiteside Property" written in the memo line.

For more information about the project, please contact Mark McEathron or Steve Libby at VRC at 229-0820.



August 23, 2010

