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The Land Conservancy Opens New Public Trail at the Love Road Preserve in Grand Island

The Love Road Preserve will officially open on November 8, 2024. The preserve is a mature hardwood forest bordered on three sides by additional undeveloped land, and it contains wetlands and vernal pools that make it a desirable ecological site. Over the past several months, the Land Conservancy's stewardship team removed the invasive common and glossy buckthorn and multiflora rose that impacted the forest. They also built just over a mile of dirt-packed trail for the community to enjoy, with some sections of bog bridging like visitors will find at the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary, also on Grand Island. The new preserve boasts an oak forest with swamp white oaks, pin oaks, red oaks, and even large American elms. The Love Road Preserve was previously owned by the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) since 1953. In 2021, with funding from the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee (GESC), the Land Conservancy was able to purchase the property to ensure that it would be permanently protected. As a hardwood forest, it is suitable habitat for interior-forest songbirds such as vireos, thrushes, and some warbler species.

A note for visitors: The parking lot at the Love Road Preserve has only two parking spaces for vehicles, and no parking is allowed along the road. If the Love Road lot is full, we suggest that visitors who wish to go for a hike on Grand Island drive to our Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary.

Part of a Collaboration with the GESC and the Town of Grand Island

The Love Road Preserve is part of a broad conservation program the Land Conservancy has undertaken on Grand Island. Since 2018, thanks to funding from the GESC, the Land Conservancy has created connections and recreation opportunities for Grand Islanders by protecting 276 acres—a figure that includes the Margery Gallogly (gal-a-gee) Nature Sanctuary, the Alt Preserve, the Funk Preserve, and the Love Road Preserve. The Land

Conservancy aims to close on an additional 100 acres by the end of this year, bringing that total to 376 acres.

Thanks to GESC funding, the Land Conservancy was able to prioritize parcels for conservation values, do landowner outreach, and work with interested landowners to protect their properties.

The Western New York Land Conservancy is a regional, non-profit land trust that has protected more than 7,800 acres of land with significant conservation value in our region. We envision a future in which forests, farms, meadows, and waterways are connected, cherished, and protected in Western New York. We are accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. To learn more about our mission and vision, and to read our land acknowledgement, visit wnylc.org.

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