

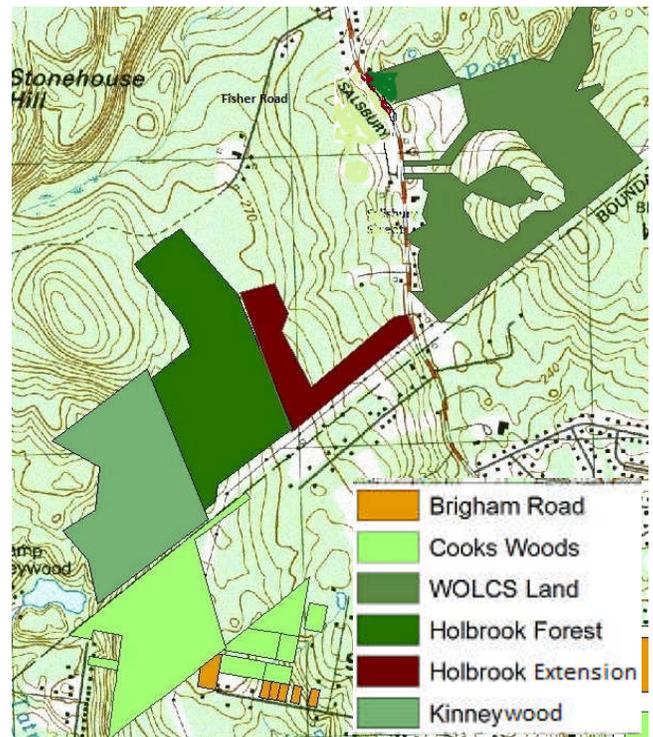
White Oak Land Conservation Society

GROWING HOLBROOK FOREST

It has been a goal of nature walkers, serious hikers, outdoor organizations and local and state planners to create a continuous trail through Leicester, Paxton, Worcester and Holden. We are writing to you, as friends and members of the White Oak Land Conservation Society (WOLCS), to announce the exciting news that we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire a parcel of land, which is a critical and necessary link towards the achievement of that goal. We ask for your help.



In 2014 we purchased Holbrook Forest, 60 acres of beautifully forested land on Fisher Road, off Salisbury Street. We now have the opportunity to purchase an additional 21 acres of Holbrook land, with frontage on Salisbury Street. This land will become part of Holbrook Forest, which abuts Kinneywood, 53 acres owned by Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT), and Cook's Woods, owned by the Worcester Conservation Commission. White Oak helped raise funds for the purchase of Kinneywood and holds a Conservation Restriction on this land, with the Town of Holden.



Acquiring these additional 21 acres makes possible a continuous trail from Cook's Woods, Dawson or Brigham Roads in Worcester to Salisbury Street in Holden. The Salisbury Street access to these 21 acres is only a few yards from Stanjoy Road and access to the 63 acres around the Oak Hills development that WOLCS owns as conservation land.

With this connection you will be able to hike from Cook's Woods in Worcester to the Winter Hill neighborhood in Holden by a continuous trail on conservation land. It brings 4 miles of hiking trails through a rich variety of woodlands, including brooks and vegetated wetlands. It includes access to one of the few remaining coldwater streams in Holden, where dace and brook trout live, and to small areas of woodland regenerating from a timber harvest, now prime nesting ground and cover for birds and small mammals. It will be a destination for bird watching, hiking, cross country skiing, finding wild flowers, tracking wildlife, blackberry and blueberry picking.

Holbrook Forest was once farmed and even 40 years ago traces of pasture were still evident. One of its stone walls is one of the most elegant and shapely to be found in Holden, and is largely intact. William Holbrook and his family held and cherished this land since early in the last century and only now have decided to sell it. You have the rare opportunity to contribute to extending a large area of conserved land to which the public has full access, next to some 2000 acres of land conserved as watershed for the City of Worcester's reservoirs, to which public access is prohibited. If we succeed in acquiring this property, we will donate a permanent conservation restriction to the Town of Holden and GWLT, ensuring that the land will remain forever undeveloped and open to the public. White Oak will own and manage this land in perpetuity. Opportunities like this are rare, with the chance for each of us to take a stand and help to save a piece of our natural heritage and provide open space for all to enjoy.

You can help White Oak ensure that this land is preserved for future generations and that the exciting possibilities, created by its role as a link between existing conservation lands, are realized – please make a gift today.

Please send your gift to: White Oak Land Conservation Society, P.O. Box 346, Holden MA 01520 or donate online at our website. www.whiteoaktrust.org



Yes, I want to help preserve these additional 21 vital acres of Holbrook Forest

Here is my donation of: _____ \$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$200 _____ \$100 _____ (Other)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address _____

My employer _____ will match my gift

This gift is in honor of : _____

This gift is in memory of: _____

Please send an acknowledgment of this special gift to the following person:
