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Carroll's Hill in Swanzey now protected



Photo caption: Old woods roads on the property are an invitation for walking in the forest.
Photo courtesy of the Monadnock Conservancy

KEENE, N.H. — The Monadnock Conservancy, along with the Swanzey Open Space Committee and the Tolman family of Swanzey, is pleased to announce that another special Swanzey place has been preserved for future generations.

Sixty-two acres have been protected by Carroll & Liz Tolman. The land, which has been in the family for more than 100 years, includes a remote hill near Westbrook Court off Route 32 in Swanzey. The hill is immediately southeast of Hewes Hill, the summit of which is protected by the Tippin Rock Farm conservation easement held by the Conservancy. The Tolman property's southern boundary is the Swanzey/Richmond town line.

Those who have known this property since childhood—like Lindsey Tolman—can show the way to a forest stream that flows over moss-covered bedrock, to a 200-year-old oak tree, to huge boulders and impressive ledges, and to the hilltop at the northern end of the Franconia Mountain Range from which you can see a sliver of Mount Monadnock.

The land is entirely forested with a few streams, providing a natural habitat for wildlife and plants. There are approximately 1.5 acres of prime agricultural soils and the property overlies a stratified drift aquifer. This means, in addition to the scenic values of the property, the public will benefit from the protection of clean water, viable farmlands, well-managed forests and undeveloped habitat important for wildlife.

Additionally, the public will have access to a network of woods roads that run throughout the property for pedestrian use.

Transaction funding for the project was provided by the Swanzey Open Space Committee and the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership, a public/private effort to protect the Monadnock Highlands of western New Hampshire and north central Massachusetts. To learn more, visit www.q2cpartnership.org.

About the Monadnock Conservancy

Founded in 1989, the Monadnock Conservancy is the only land trust dedicated exclusively to the 35 towns of the Monadnock Region in southwestern New Hampshire. Its mission is to identify, promote and actively seek protection of significant natural, aesthetic and historic resources in the area; and to monitor and enforce the protection of lands in the trust. Based in Keene, N.H., the Conservancy has protected 15,000 acres of forest, farmland, shoreline, wetlands, wildlife habitat and recreation trails in the region. For more information, visit www.MonadnockConservancy.org.

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