

Dear Gallatin Residents,

We hope this end of year newsletter finds you well! The Gallatin CAC wanted to take this opportunity to wish you a happy New Year and provide an update on the work we've done in 2022.

On Earth Day, we organized a half day trail clearing and cleanup at the Gallatin Conservation Area. CAC members, with the help of a dozen town residents (thank you!), helped clear and mark a perimeter walking trail around GCA. The trail runs from the parking area down to and along the former rail bed, up through the forest, then back along the top of the meadow to the East of the former dump site.

We also applied for a \$1500 grant to build a 100ft diameter deer fence and install a wide range of native plants in the woods at the GCA. Grants are to be awarded in January 2023. If we receive the grant, the CAC will be organizing a fence building, invasive plant removal and native planting event this coming spring and we would love to see you there.

The CAC has also helped the Town pursue Climate Smart Communities, a NYS program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The Climate Smart Community committee will be starting work in 2023 so stay tuned for updates.

On August 18th, Christine Vanderlan of the NY DEC presented the Gallatin Habitat Summary. This document can be found on the town website and provides information for land-use planning and decision-making and identifies significant ecosystems in the town, including streams, forests, wetlands, and other natural areas with important biological values. We learned that although we often think of Gallatin as an agricultural community, the vast majority of our land is forested, as shown in the blue and green patches in the map above. Gallatin's forests are some of the highest-quality woods around and form part of a critical regional forest "corridor" that supports birds, insects, and many other creatures.

**Coming Up in 2023:** In addition to continuing work towards our Natural Resources Inventory, or NRI, the Gallatin CAC plans to host educational walks this coming spring and summer. Topics may include forest health and regeneration, the importance of planting native species, managing your property to support at-risk pollinators, and how to manage and restore stream banks. We wish you a very happy New Year and look forward to connecting in 2023!

