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*Protecting land and encouraging land stewardship in North Central Massachusetts*

## **Gales Brook: Extending the Promise of the Tully Initiative**

Mount Grace pioneered the use of multi-landowner collaborations to effect large-scale land conservation in the densely populated northeast. Our 2000-2002 Tully Initiative protected 9,000 acres in Athol, Orange, Royalston, and Warwick. This matrix of conserved lands is a foundation for many of the strategic conservation decisions we make today. Protecting strategically located parcels increases the contiguity of the protected landscape, filling in the gaps to ensure that the resulting habitat is resilient in the face of climate change.

The Greater Gales Brook Project area includes habitats that are home to a wide variety of native species. The Initiative will protect 750+ acres of open meadows, working forests, and riparian habitat along Gales Brook, Rum Brook, Black Brook, Hodge Brook, and Fish Brook in the Millers River Watershed.

Tully Mountain and the surrounding landscapes to be protected through this initiative make up part of the North Quabbin Bioserve—dedicated in 2002 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as “a place where natural communities will continue to thrive and people can enjoy nature, unspoiled.” The reserve includes almost 55,000 acres of semicontiguous protected land in the eleven towns north of the Quabbin Reservoir.

The project will also help bring more people out to enjoy the local landscape, as the 22-mile Tully Trail provides recreational hikers with the opportunity to circumambulate the project parcels, with many of the protected properties visible from vistas along the trail and open for non-motorized recreation.

The project builds on our 9,000-acre Tully Initiative and is inspired by landowner partners who began to buy land with conservation potential after protecting their campsite during that effort in 2002.

Mount Grace is now working with Mass Audubon, the Towns of Warwick and Orange, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to design a multi-landowner project in the towns of Warwick, Royalston, and Orange to be supported by the Massachusetts Landscape Partnership Program

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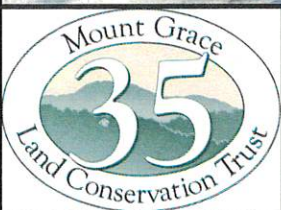
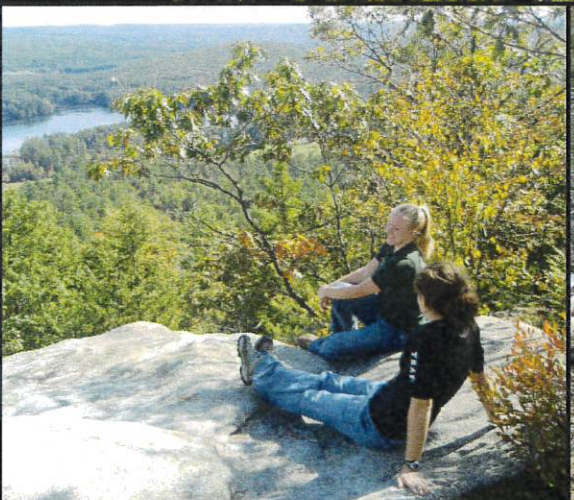


# Support Mount Grace's Gales Brook Conservation Initiative



Clockwise from top left:

- ~ Five coldwater streams will be protected through this project
- ~ The BioReserve provides habitat for species threatened by climate change
- ~ Project parcels offer recreation opportunities for all
- ~ Protecting the land maintains the rural character of the Tully Region
- ~ Mount Grace seen from one of the project parcels



Your support will help Mount Grace protect the local landscape in the Millers River watershed!