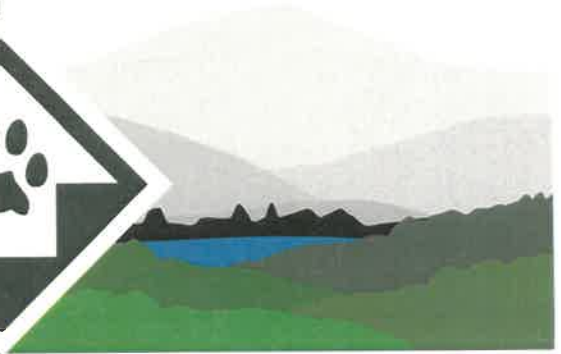


Does Champlain Area Trails
Save Land or Make Trails?

CHAMPLAIN
AREA TRAILS



Both!

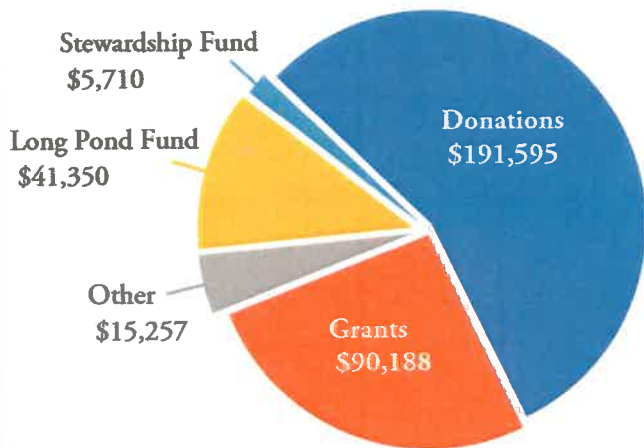
Annual
Report
2018



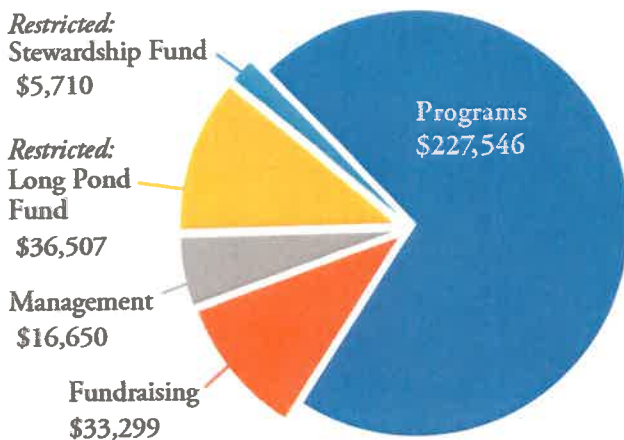


CATS Finances

Income From All Sources \$344,100



Total Expenditures \$319,712



Saving Land

Viall's Crossing

In 2018, CATS used a loan to purchase a conservation easement that keeps the 133-acre property in farming, allows the forest to become old growth, protects habitat connectivity, and secures permanent trails: the very popular Viall's Crossing, John Brown, and Harold's Oak Grove Trails.

The project also enabled this young family to buy the protected property and begin farming it.



The Long Pond West Shore Project

CATS, through its Long Pond Conservancy (LPC) Program, contracted to purchase 48 acres on the west shore to protect its wild nature and secure a permanent trail. Thanks to generous donors in 2018, CATS-LPC is closing in on its goal.

Making Trails Maintaining Trails

Thanks to Stewardship Coordinator Bill Amadon and many volunteers, including 15 American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacationers who spent a week at Viall's Crossing, we created three new trails in 2018 and now maintain 54 miles of them.



Using Trails

Hikes, outdoor education and having fun.



2018 CATS Grand Hike

277 hikers walk 15 miles from Westport to Essex and celebrate at the Block Party at the Essex Inn

2018 CATS Hikes

CATS hosted new trail opening hikes, the Fest-to-Fest Hike at the Adirondack Harvest Festival, moon rise and blue moon hikes, snowshoe hikes, and outdoor education hikes. Most gratifying is that people from near and far simply got out on their own and with family and friends to hike the trails.



Dear Friends of Champlain Area Trails,

This annual report poses a question: “Does CATS save land or make trails?” The answer is “Both!”

This can create tension, especially with finances. For “making trails,” your donations support creating and maintaining them and that’s mostly staff time. For “saving land,” donations pay for property, conservation easements (legal agreements that limit development), transaction costs, and long-term management through a “stewardship fund.” Of the two, saving land is more costly.

So, why do both? Because they are interconnected. Making trails provides paths for people to hike. Saving land preserves farms, safeguards natural areas and habitat connectivity, protects clean water and secures places for trails. Then, as people hike the trails they enjoy the landscape and increase their support of land conservation. So, doing both—saving land and making trails—leads to permanent trails and a conserved landscape now and for future generations.

This is where you come in. Donating for our operations supports making and maintaining trails. Contributing for conservation saves land where we build permanent trails. In combination, you advance the mission to save land, make trails, connect people with nature, and promote economic vitality. Thank you for your support.

♪ Happy trails ♪



Chris Maron

Chris Maron,
Executive Director



THANK YOU TO:

- CATS Donors – **you are CATS!**
- Foundation, corporate, and government grants
- Trail and office volunteers
- 2018 Business Sponsors
 - \$1000 OAK GIVING LEVEL: Edgemont B&B; Lake Champlain Yoga & Wellness; MacMan
 - \$500 HEMLOCK GIVING LEVEL: Champlain National Bank; The Depot Theatre; Heritage Properties of the Adirondacks; Westport Self-Storage/U-Haul Neighborhood Dealer
 - \$250 HICKORY GIVING LEVEL: Adirondack Council; Adirondack Outdoor Enthusiast; Chez Lin & Rays Lakeside Bistro; Covered Bridge Realty; DaCy Meadow Farm; The Deer’s Head Inn; The Essex Inn; The Galley Restaurant & Bar; Hall Design Group; Juniper Hill Farm; Lakeside School; Namaste Inn; Northwaters & Langskib Wilderness Program; Reber Rock Farm; Sim*Vivo; Turtle Island Café; WhistlePig LLC

The online version of this annual report includes a list of all CATS 2018 Donors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 2018

Evan George – *Chair* · Dan Keegan – *Vice Chair*
David McNamara – *Treasurer* · Nadine Lemmon – *Secretary*
Tim Barnett · John Davis · Vincent Dupont
Cynthia Ford-Johnston · Annie McKinley · Rob Powell
Martha Smiles · Sharp Swan · Delia Thompson

Note: We thank former board members Bill Bardeen, Nancy Lindquist, and William James for their years of service to CATS.

STAFF

Chris Maron – *Executive Director*
Bill Amadon – *Stewardship Coordinator*
Beth Rowland – *Operations, Communications & Development*