

INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE 29.6 ADDITION TO THE KRUSCH NATURE PRESERVE

Accepted by Cambridge Selectboard 4.7.2026.

Submitted to Vermont Land Trust and VT Housing and Conservation Board for review and final approval, necessary before the land transfer can take place.

I. Overview

The Town of Cambridge acquired the 51.5-acre Peter A. Krusch Nature Preserve in December 2020, with the help and guidance of the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), which hold conservation easements on the land. First, an entrance and parking lot was built on North Cambridge Road. By October 2022, the nature trail was completed and the two bridges, bog bridging, and interpretive signage were in place. **The Long-Term Management Plan** for the Preserve was adopted by the Selectboard and then approved by the VLT and VHCB 7 November 2022. The plan and its appendices can be found at: <https://kruschnaturepreserve.org/management-plan-adopted-by-the-town/>

Thanks to a successful fundraising campaign carried out by the Vermont Land Trust and the new non-profit Friends of the Peter A Krusch Preserve, an additional 29.6 acres adjacent to the current preserve will come into Town ownership in June 2026. **Entrance to the new acreage** will be through the existing Preserve entrance/ parking lot on North Cambridge Road and up the existing nature trail. The property entrance off Bartlett Road (through Fox Den Lane) will be gated and used only for property management activities, including trail construction and trail repair, and for emergency access.

The new Preserve land adjoins land owned by the Village of Cambridge for protection of their wellhead, source of the village's water. The Trustees will allow the Town to build and maintain trails on a portion of the property, safely away from the wells, in Zone 3. *An easement agreement between the Town and the Village* is pending.

This interim management plan for the new 29.6-acre addition to the Krusch Preserve is adopted by the Town of Cambridge with the intention of informing the management of the new property for a year (or so) following its purchase, during which time a more complete and thorough plan can be developed. This plan is intended to inform the partner organizations, the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, who will co-hold conservation easements on the property. The Krusch Preserve Committee presented the draft plan to the public on 26 March 2026; that input is incorporated in this document. The Committee presented this plan to the Selectboard at their meeting 7 April 2026, and the Board accepted it. Next it goes to the VLT and the VHCB for approval. **It must be in place before the land can be transferred to Town ownership.**

II. Two Maps of Property and Planned Trail Routes (pages 4 &5)

The VLT has completed its ecological assessment of the new property. Thus, the trail routes as mapped can be approved and construction can begin once the land is in Town ownership.

OVERVIEW MAP of current Preserve and surroundings: 29.6 new addition, Village Wellhead Property, and the Cambridge Pines State Forest/Natural Area. See the maps on page 4 &5. TRAILS: access to new land, current trails, and proposed new trails in yellow.

With landowner permission, we will complete trail construction planning this spring, prior to ownership transfer, by obtaining expert advice on trail construction from Erin Amadon (Town 4 Trails Service, LLC), the professional trail builder/designer who routed and designed the Preserve's original trails. Then, once the property is in Town Ownership, volunteer work on trail construction can begin this summer.

III. Present Conservation Easements and Management Plan for the Preserve

The full current plan and appendices are available at <https://kruschnaturepreserve.org/management-plan-adopted-by-the-town/>

- **The present Conservation Easements** will apply to the new 29.6 acres and will be a VLT restriction on the deed when the land is transferred to the Town.
- **The present Long-Term Management Plan** will apply to the new land also - with some provisions specific to it in the Land Management section.

Current Management and Stewardship Plans (page 13 and 14 of the current plan)

These provisions will all also apply to the new 29.6 addition. NOTE: THIS IS A DIRECT QUOTE FROM THE CURRENT PLAN AND CANNOT BE CHANGED WITHOUT AMENDING THE CURRENT PLAN

“Allowed Activities for Visitors

- *All types of non-commercial, non-motorized, non-mechanical recreation and educational uses, including walking, running, hiking, nature observation, birdwatching, photography, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.*
- *Use during dawn to dusk hours.*
- *Parking is allowed only in the Preserve parking lot at the entrance on North Cambridge Road.*
- *Visitors are required to keep dogs leashed and to pick up and pack out dogs’ waste. (Town of Cambridge ordinance)*

Allowed Uses for Maintenance

- *Building and maintaining nature trails and bridges according to approved plans*
- *Maintenance of existing fields/open areas*
- *Identification and protection of natural communities and other ecologically sensitive or important area*
- *Common sense to be used in managing blowdowns or hazardous trees, with the priority being to maintain trail access*
- *Placement of benches for educational programs and trail-side benches for walkers*
- *Placing interpretive and directional signs for the nature trail*
- *Identification and protection of natural communities and other ecologically sensitive or important areas*
- *Delineating the Preserve’s border where necessary*

Not Allowed

- *No recreational use of motorized vehicles, including ATVs, dirt bikes, snowmobiles etc. (Note: ATVs & dirt bikes are prohibited in the conservation easement).*
- *No wheeled recreational vehicles (such as mountain bikes and fat tire bikes).*
- *No Foraging. Do not pick ferns, fungi, flowers etc. The Preserve is a small area, and its natural environment needs protection.*
- *No camping or open fires.*
- *No horseback riding (because of erosion damage to narrow walking trails).*
- *Streams cannot be manipulated except as reasonably needed for bridge crossings.*

Hunting is not prohibited.

- *Hunters must be aware that the Preserve is open year-round to visitors*
- *Visitors must be aware that hunters may be active during the hunting seasons.*
- *Visitors are strongly advised to wear suitable bright orange clothing during the hunting seasons “*

IV Management Activities

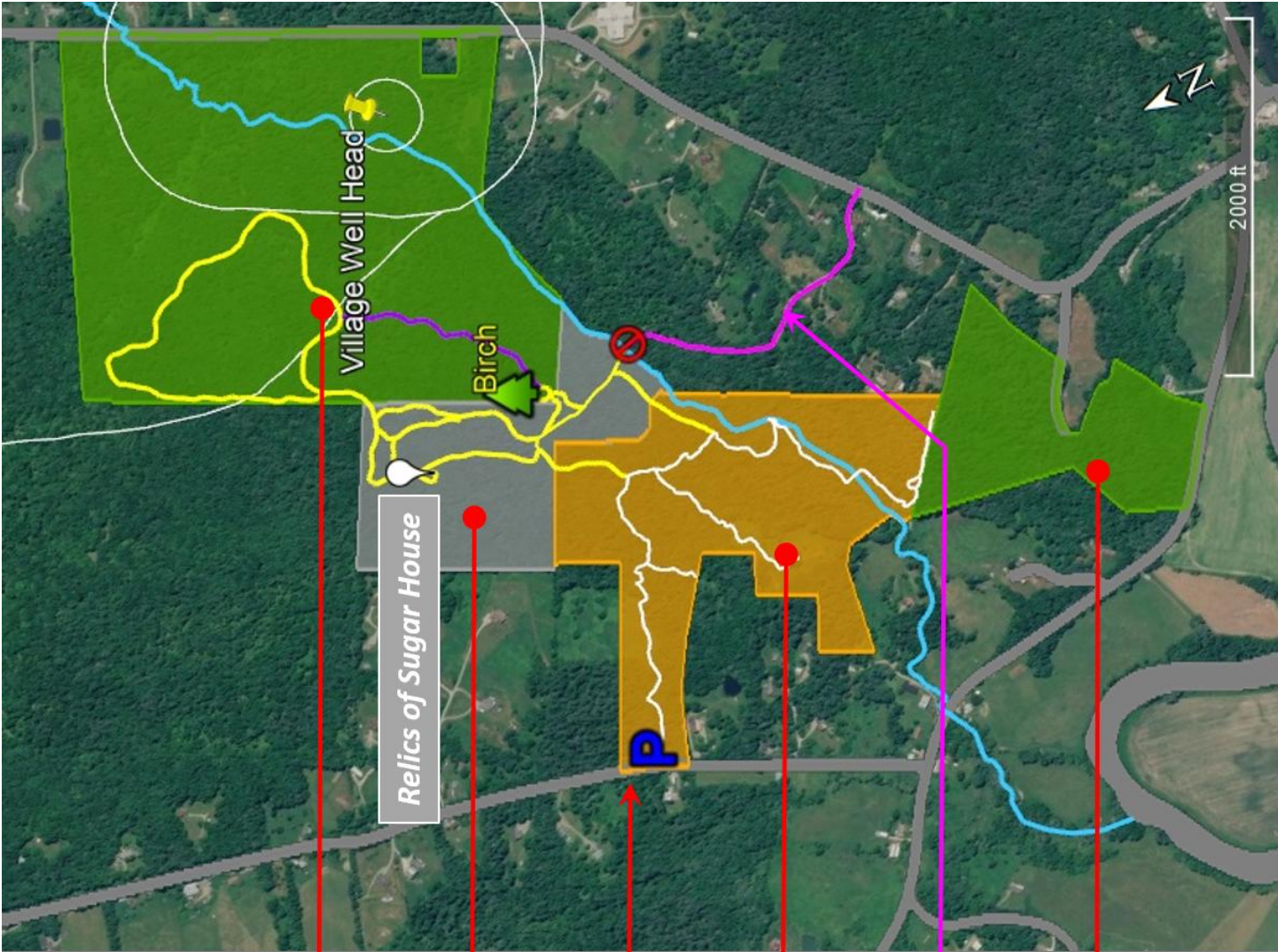
Village of Cambridge Wellhead Property

The Krusch Preserve Committee will work with Village of Cambridge Trustees on formalizing permission for trail access on their Wellhead Property (see map) and present final agreement to the Selectboard.

- Approval of Trail Routes
- Establishing a Trail Easement between the Town and the Village of Cambridge Trustees for trails on the Village Wellhead Property. The Town lawyer will prepare a draft easement for the Village Trustees to review as listed in MOU between Town and Vermont Land Trust. Trails will be safely away from the well itself.
- Planning for viewing the large, old Yellow Birch near the border of the new Preserve acreage on the Village Wellhead property. Working with experts, develop careful recommendations to allow people to view the tree without potential damage to the tree or root structure. Perhaps a circular trail, with some clearing of brush and placement of viewing benches, would be best.

Once In Town Ownership

1. **Gate** installed at Fox Den Lane entrance. It will be placed before the culvert, where a pull off in the right-of-way allows space for a turn around. This entrance will be used only for property maintenance (including trail building, maintenance, and repair) and emergency access. The locked gate will be one bar and will prevent vehicle access. The plan is to install as soon as possible after Town ownership.
2. **Forest Inventory and Assessment of new land.** Contract with Jonathan Wood (Woody) to conduct an inventory of the existing forest, assessment of the relics of the old sugarhouse site, and make recommendations on the possibility of maintaining a few successional clearings for wildlife and plant diversity.
3. **Trail construction by Town Trails Committee** and other volunteers.
4. **Assess** historical significance of the relics of a sugar house and the potential for an interpretive exhibit
5. **Plan and design** interpretive signs, following the Krusch Preserve's theme of interpreting the land's human and ecological history.



**Krusch Preserve
New 30 Acre Acquisition Overview**

**Village of Cambridge Wellhead
Property 114.8 Acres**

**New Acquisition
29.6 Acres**

**Krusch Preserve
Entrance / Parking Lot**

**Peter A. Krusch Preserve
51.5 Acres**

**Fox Den Lane ROW
Emergency Access Only**

**Cambridge Pines State Forest
22.0 Acres**

Krusch Preserve 30 Acre Addition. Conceptual Trail Layout

Conceptual Trails
(2 miles approx')

New route idea
(0.47 miles)

Ground Water Source
Protection Zones.
GW_SPA Zones 1, 2 & 3

Dragon Brook

Existing Trails on the
Krusch Preserve

Gate at Fox Den Lane ROW
Emergency Access Only

