

Whitman Woods Project



WWP Mission

Whitman Woods Project Mission: Distill Art, Nature, History & Science into a living land legacy that will preserve precious passive Open Space in perpetuity, serve as an Open Classroom and pay homage to the iconic American poet Walt Whitman.

WWP Vision

To protect the rare wooded tract from development in the modest town where Whitman famously sought renewal through the solitude of wild Nature embodies the project vision. As a Chadds Ford, PA-based nonprofit 501c3 with a national footprint, **North American Land Trust** has creatively conserved land in 23 states and seeks to make New Jersey #24. With an endowment secured, NALT will ...

Nature

- protect the rare wooded tract in perpetuity as a sanctuary for wildlife and humans.
- distinguish “Whitman Woods” from all other regional parks and conservation efforts.
- sow the seeds of conservation and community via collaborations with area Naturalists and birders.

History

- reclaim the wooded lakefront as a remnant of the now near-relic native Inner Coastal Plain Forest.
- document periods of human habitation, preserving otherwise vanishing historic reference points for future generations.

Art

- establish “Whitman Woods” as a creative continuum for the legion of painters, photographers, poets and students of the Arts who have been drawn to this enchanting woodland for decades.
- create an Open Classroom in harmony with Nature for cultural workshops.

Science

- preserve the forest canopy, the rare native flora, the threatened and/or endangered fauna that shelter or forage here.
- illuminate the rare geologic Vincentown Formation and create a living laboratory for topical environmental science and a community platform for lake stewardship.
- protect specimen trees and retain the substrates in which they grow.
- implement sound, science-based management of the woodland.
- accomplish preservation and restoration programs in league with university-level Environmental Studies programs (Rowan/Rutgers/Penn) in an Open Classroom setting.

When “Whitman Woods” is funded, NALT will own, steward and manage the passive park. The private land that has drawn generations of children will then be saved from development and forever serve as a wildlife sanctuary and a place of wonder and renewal for humans.

Give and Get Involved!

To “ earmark” a “Whitman Woods” donation to North American Land Trust, visit

<https://northamericanlandtrust.org/donate/>

For more information, contact Elizabeth Smith at projectmanager@whitmanwoods.org

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“Now I see the true secret of making the best person, it is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth.” — Walt Whitman, Specimen Days

“Come, ye disconsolate, in whom any latent eligibility is left — come get the sure virtues of creek-shore, and wood and field. Two months have I absorb’d them, and they begin to make a new man of me.”

— Walt Whitman, Specimen Days



Learn more. Get involved. Save nature.

www.nalt.org | www.whitmanwoods.org