



Follow the Forest – where a moose or perhaps even a mountain lion can still wander freely from the Adirondacks to the Litchfield Hills, and animals can find their way northward as the climate changes. It’s a big idea - that we can reconnect the woodlands, fields and wetlands of a vast wildlife corridor that passes through the heart of the Housatonic River Valley from the Hudson Valley to the forests of Canada. It brings together conservation partners in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont at a scale that none of us had tried before to articulate or attempt. Together, we are starting to realize a shared vision that connects us all to the places we love and the wildlife that shares it with us.

The wooded hillsides and mountaintops of our region have been the focus of land protection efforts for many decades. The Appalachian Trail runs through much of this iconic rural New England landscape. More recently, conservationists have started to understand that these forested uplands are important not only for their many environmental benefits, but because vital habitat linkages between them form a continuous north-south wildlife corridor for climate migration. Follow the Forest is our region’s “Yukon to Yellowstone” and of comparable national significance.

The bobcat that slips through the trees on the trail of wild turkey, or the northern flying squirrel displaced from Connecticut by a warming climate in search of a new home in the Berkshires, depend on us to maintain this greatest of our greenways. So do the wild brook trout in our streams and the migrating birds that nest deep in the heart of the forest. It is no small task, but it is a conservation vision worth pursuing, and still within our reach.

You can [Follow the Forest](http://www.followtheforest.org) through our online map viewer and story map at www.followtheforest.org or directly through this link: <https://arcg.is/SaLOu>. To learn more about our partnership and its ambitious goal to protect at least 50% of the forest habitat and its vital linkages across western New England and Eastern New York, contact Tim Abbott at the Housatonic Valley Association www.hvatoday.org.

