



For Immediate Release  
September 2, 2020

**CONTACT:**  
Kyle Semmel  
Communications Manager  
(585) 519-1564 (mobile)  
[ksemmel@wnylc.org](mailto:ksemmel@wnylc.org)

## **The Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary Trails Now Open on Grand Island**

The Western New York Land Conservancy is pleased to announce the opening of publicly accessible trails at the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary on Whitehaven Road in Grand Island. The Land Conservancy purchased the forest surrounding Assumption Cemetery in 2018 from Catholic Cemeteries of the Roman Catholic Diocese, which still owns Assumption Cemetery. With the trails now open at the sanctuary, Grand Island residents and visitors will be able to enjoy activities like hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

The Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary is a remarkable 145-acre oak and hickory forest. Big and Little Sixmile Creeks each flow through this unique landscape as they make their way to the Niagara River. The large, wooded wetlands provide a haven for migratory songbirds like the Wood Thrush, with its distinctive black spots on its white belly and its sweet musical trill. The preservation of the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary means that this beautiful bird, whose numbers are sadly in decline, will continue to have a spring home in which to nest. To make the forest more hospitable to such birds, as well as native plants and animals, the Land Conservancy will also begin controlling invasive shrubs, like buckthorn, at the sanctuary this fall.

The Gallogly Family Foundation was instrumental in making the sanctuary possible. “We are really excited to reach this day,” said Kasey DeLuke of the foundation. “The sanctuary’s namesake, my grandmother Margery, taught her children and grandchildren to love and respect nature. We are thrilled that Western New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds can now enjoy this marvelous wetland forest, one of Grand Island’s most ecologically significant treasures, for generations to come.”

Town of Grand Island Supervisor John Whitney said, “On Grand Island we are blessed with some of the largest remaining forests in the Niagara River Watershed. The Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary may be a home for birds, salamanders, and countless other wild creatures, but it’s also a hugely significant new attraction for the island, providing yet another opportunity for people to get outdoors and enjoy nature right at home.”

“The Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary is just a short drive from both Buffalo and Niagara Falls,” said Nancy Smith, Executive Director of the Land Conservancy. “Spending time in nature has profound mental and physical benefits. This may be especially true now, when so many families are cooped up at home, staying safe. With the trails complete, we are looking forward to having Western New Yorkers make the trip to see this incredible place for themselves and to reap some of those benefits.”

To visit the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary, enter Assumption Cemetery on Whitehaven Road. The trail begins at the forest edge in the southwestern corner of the cemetery. There is a small parking area there for visitors. The trails are only open to people walking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing. Bicycles, motorized vehicles—such as ATVs—horses, or dogs are not allowed on the property.

This project was also supported by the Niagara River Greenway Commission. The Greenway Ecological Standing Committee helped pay for the property acquisition in 2018. The Buffalo and Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee, the Gallogly Family Foundation, and individual donors helped pay for the new trails.

If you would like to donate to save valuable land in Western New York for future generations, you can do so online at [wnylc.org](http://wnylc.org) or send a check made payable to "Western New York Land Conservancy" to P.O. Box 471, East Aurora, NY 14052. Please call or email if you have questions: (716) 687-1225 or [info@wnylc.org](mailto:info@wnylc.org).

The Western New York Land Conservancy is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation value in Western New York for future generations. The Land Conservancy envisions a future in which open spaces, working lands, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty are cherished and protected as part of the landscape and character of Western New York. The Land Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and is one of 1000+ land trusts nationwide, including 90 in New York State. Land trusts have protected 56 million acres of land. For more information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, or the mission of the Land Conservancy, please call (716) 687-1225 or visit [www.wnylc.org](http://www.wnylc.org).

###