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The Land Conservancy Opens Newest Preserve in Cattaraugus County

The Western New York Land Conservancy is thrilled to announce that it has opened its newest preserve, a spectacular 185-acre forest in Cattaraugus County: the Janet Gallogly Allegany Wildlands. Named after the co-founder of the Gallogly Family Foundation, the preserve is located near Allegany State Park, and it is home to a rich diversity of plants and animals. It also includes 2.1 miles of publicly accessible hiking trails.

In 2022, the Land Conservancy community and the Friends of the Allegany Wildlands successfully raised funds to purchase and steward the land, which had been in the same family since the early 1800s. The Sluga family chose to sell the property to the Land Conservancy to ensure that it would be permanently protected and available for the public to enjoy.

Marisa Riggi, the Executive Director of the Land Conservancy, said: “One of the best aspects of our land protection efforts is that we get to work with landowners, like the Slugas, who voluntarily choose to conserve their land for the betterment of every living thing in our region. Thanks to their love of nature, the Janet Gallogly Allegany Wildlands is now part of a broader network of forests that includes thousands of acres of protected state land. The protection of this property is a huge step forward for the Western New York Wildway.”

The Gallogly Family Foundation, which gave the largest private donation during the campaign to save the Allegany Wildlands, views the interconnectivity of the Western New York Wildway as a game changer. “We are more than thrilled to contribute to this new preserve and to be a part of the Land Conservancy’s bold effort to protect, connect, and restore our region’s largest forests,” said the foundation’s Executive Director, Kasey DeLuke. “We are strong proponents of the Western New York Wildway and the ecological benefits it will provide our region. Given the critical need for plants and animals to roam in a changing climate, it is the ambitious and innovative approach to land conservation that we need now.”

Getting there: The Janet Gallogly Allegany Wildlands is located on W. Perimeter Road in the town of South Valley. Visit WNYLC.ORG/alleganywildlands for directions to the preserve.

The Western New York Land Conservancy is a regional, non-profit land trust that has protected more than 7,000 acres of land with significant conservation value in Western New York for the benefit of future generations. We envision a future in which forests, farms, meadows, and waterways are connected, cherished, and protected in Western New York. Our clean air, clean water, and fertile soils will equitably support the health and wellbeing of future generations of every living thing. The Land Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. For more information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, or the mission of the Western New York Land Conservancy, please call (716) 687-1225 or visit wnylc.org.

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