



# CHAMPLAIN AREA TRAILS



## Annual Report 2017

### LATE 2017 NEWS

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Immediate action needed – CATS acts!

### SAVING LAND - MAKING TRAILS

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- CATS saves Viall's Crossing
- A historic farm in Westport
- Critical link in *Split Rock Wildway*
- Secures railroad crossing for trail going north from Westport Train Station

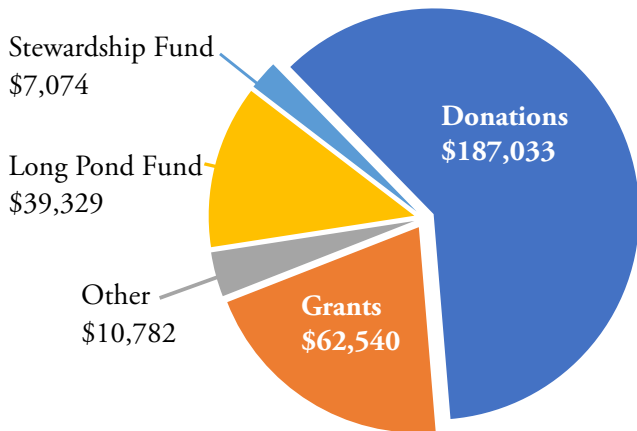


GOOD NEWS FOR 2018  
AND BEYOND!

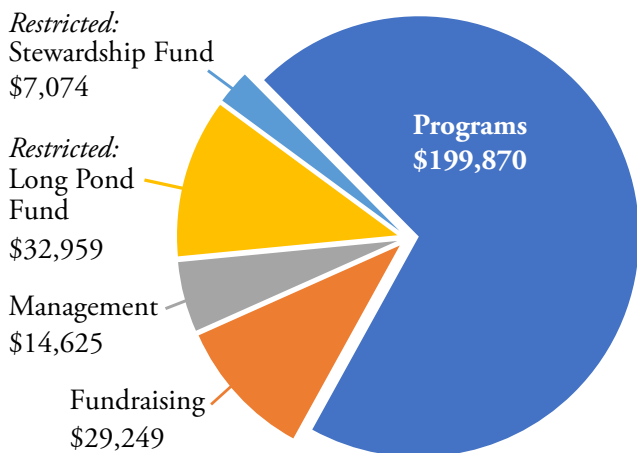


## CATS Finances

Income From All Sources \$306,758



Total Expenditures \$283,777



## Conservation

9/10/17 – CATS begins coordinating the Viall's Crossing Conservation & Trail Project. In the nick of time, CATS enlisted the Eddy Foundation to buy this critical link in the Split Rock Wildway to secure a permanent railroad crossing. CATS is now implementing the plan to protect the forest, conserve the farm, resell it to active farmers, & create the Viall's Crossing Trail linking the Westport Train Station directly to the trail to Essex & beyond.



CATS conserved 15 acres Lola & Ray Johnson added to their already-conserved 75-acre property along Corbeau Creek in Champlain. Stay tuned: We will create our first trail in Clinton County there!

# Creating Trails to Link Communities, Connect People with Nature, & Promote Economic Vitality

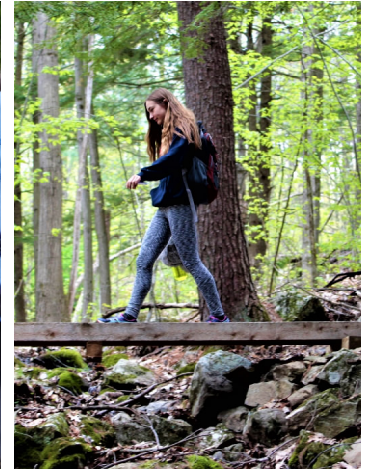
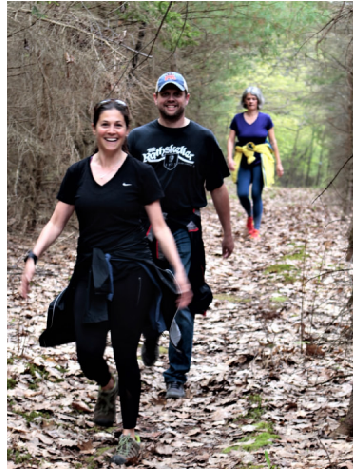
The Grand Hike on May 12, 2018 will start at the Westport Train Station, cross Rt. 9N, and get on the new Viall's Crossing Trail leading to the only place a trail can legally cross railroad tracks. Then on to Essex! For the September 15 Train-to-Fest Hike, the trail follows the same route north to the railroad tracks and then circles back on the Woods and Swale Trail to Westport and the Adirondack Harvest Festival.

2017 Adirondack Harvest Festival

**100** hike from farm to fest,  
join 2000 "festers"

2017 CATS Grand Hike

**250** hikers go from  
Wadhams to Essex





Dear Friends of Champlain Area Trails,

“You have one chance in your life to buy a property you want to own, so given that chance, you’d better act.” That’s the lesson that came to mind when I learned that Harold White’s farm in Westport, called “Viall’s Crossing,” was for sale.

My next thought was “That’s where the trail going north from the Westport Train Station can legally cross the railroad tracks. Plus, it’s part of the Split Rock Wildway’s connection to Westport Woods.”

Thus began the project highlighted in this 2017 Annual Report. It illustrates how quick action, working with partners, and your support make visions come to life. It also shows that projects don’t just happen in a single year. While this annual report looks back at 2017, it also looks ahead to 2018 and coming years as Viall’s Crossing advances our goal of making trails that link communities, connect people with nature, and promote economic vitality.

Hiking a trail means looking to see what’s ahead. And that’s what CATS does. It’s what leads to success. That means more trails; more land conserved for wildlife, farmers, and scenic vistas; more hikes for you to enjoy.

Beth, Bill, and I have the great fortune of working for CATS, along with a terrific board of directors – the reality is that we are all CATS, including you. Yes, you are CATS. Your belief in the vision, your hiking the trails and even thinking about hiking them, your volunteer participation, and your generous donations make CATS real. You create success.

Thank you.  
Best wishes,

Chris Maron, Executive Director

P.S. Come on. Just say it. “I am CATS.” Feels good, doesn’t it!

THANK YOU TO:

- CATS Donors – **you are CATS!**
- Foundation, corporate, and government grants
- Landowners with CATS trails on their properties
- Trail and office volunteers
- Partner organizations
- Business Sponsors
  - SYCAMORE LEVEL: Champlain National Bank; Sim \*Vivo; Chez Lin & Rays Restaurant; The Galley at Westport Marina; Lake Champlain Yoga & Wellness
  - HICKORY LEVEL: Adirondack Council; Cloudsplitter Carpentry; Covered Bridge Realty; Heritage Properties of the Adirondacks; Namaste Inn B & B; Turtle Island Café; Northwaters & Langskib Wilderness Programs
  - OAK LEVEL: Pok-O-MacCready Camps; Pre-Tech Plastics; The Art Farm at Crooked Brook Studios; DaCy Meadow Farm; The Deer’s Head Restaurant; Emmet Carter Green Design
  - MAPLE LEVEL: Cupola House Lodging on Lake Champlain; Chazy Westport Communications; Decker Flats Greenhouses; Boquet Liquor Store; Hall Design Group

*The online version of this annual report includes a list of all CATS 2017 Donors*



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 2018**

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*Note: We thank Malinda Chapman and Anne Lincoln, who rotated off the board, for their six years of service to CATS.*

**STAFF**

- Chris Maron – *Executive Director*  
 Bill Amadon – *Stewardship Coordinator*  
 Beth Rowland – *Operations, Communications & Development*

A special thanks to Gail Testa, for all her years of service to CATS.