






OUR GOALS


 We are in agreement with groups such as Rivers Alliance, Farmington River Watershed Association, and Trout Unlimited concerning the importance of protecting this land and its water resources.

 Pristine drinking water is priceless. We need to **protect this watershed** now and in the future. This land is inappropriate for development!

 Preserving this property in its natural, undeveloped state will be an **important legacy for generations** in the Town of Simsbury, the Farmington Valley, and the Ethel Walker School.


 We support the **Trust for Public Land**, a national, nonprofit conservation organization, in negotiating and gathering local, state, and national monies to offer EWS a fair price for their land.


 We encourage every effort toward a **win-win solution** in protecting this forest.


 Our **united goal** is for a united town, dedicated to the environmental and economic benefits of preserving and enhancing its quality of life.

WHAT CAN I DO?

 Visit keepthewoods.org to learn more and stay informed


 **Join** our secure e-mail list for meeting info and regular updates.


 **Come** to our meetings and support our efforts.

 **Talk** to people about these issues & encourage them to visit our website.

 **Attend** town meetings.


 **Write** to the editors of our local papers and to our town boards.

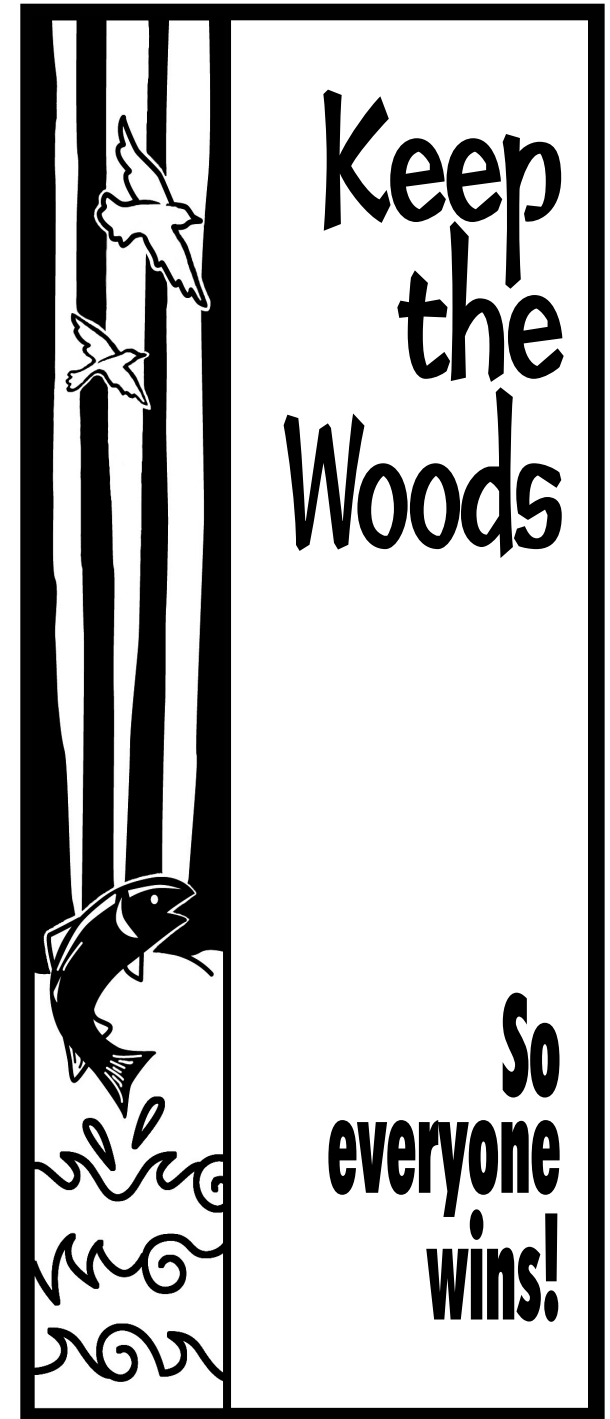
 **Go** to the Trust for Public Land's website and learn about their mission: www.tpl.org

 **Donate** to The Ethel Walker Fund at The Trust for Public Land, 101 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT 06510.

Details at keepthewoods.org or
Call Mary Nemerov at 203-777-7367


 Email us at ktw@keepthewoods.org


 Call at 860-760-6281





The Ethel Walker School is proposing a major subdivision throughout the woods of their west campus. Keep the Woods is concerned about its impact on drinking water, forests, and quality of life.


WOODLANDS

 Ethel Walker School land is a haven for both people and wildlife. This property and the adjacent town- and state-owned lands form a **major wildlife habitat**.


 The lower-lying areas contain many **biologically sensitive wetlands**, vernal pools, and a native trout stream. These and the surrounding woodlands are home to countless plants and animals.


 **Brook and brown trout** spawn in the clean, clear, cold waters of Stratton Brook, flowing through these woods. The warming and polluting effects of run-off would jeopardize this sensitive population.


 Its 450 acres contain 8½ miles of walking, biking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding trails that connect with others on adjacent public lands. They are an important **recreational resource** that is used by people of all ages.


 This is the last, sizable, undeveloped area in Simsbury. No other piece of land has all of its important features. Once it is gone, **it is gone forever!**


WATER


 The **Stratton Brook Aquifer** is the source of 73% of Simsbury, Granby, and East Granby's public water, as well as many additional private wells.

 It is an exceptionally pure, high yield, stratified drift aquifer, a type that is particularly **vulnerable to contamination**.


 Water, filtering through the Ethel Walker Woods, **replenishes this aquifer**.


 The forest, steep slopes, streams, and wetlands are a **natural water purification system** that absorbs, filters, and gradually releases water into the aquifer.


 **Water quality** is directly affected by land use on and near its source. The process of development, as well as runoff from a major subdivision, will degrade this critical resource.


 **Preventing water source contamination** is the most effective and economical way to preserve water quality.


ECONOMICS

 There is **quantifiable economic value** in retaining the character of Simsbury to encourage tourism and attract desirable businesses.

 Tax revenues from the proposed new homes will not cover such **capital expenditures** as school additions.

 Taxes are generally higher in towns that are more developed. Residential land use requires the **most public services** and is the most expensive to support.

 Neighboring towns with large retail and commercial developments still face **higher taxes** due to increased residential development.

 Features like open space manage town growth and balance expenditures. It is a non-depreciating, non-reproducible asset with **increasing benefits over time**.