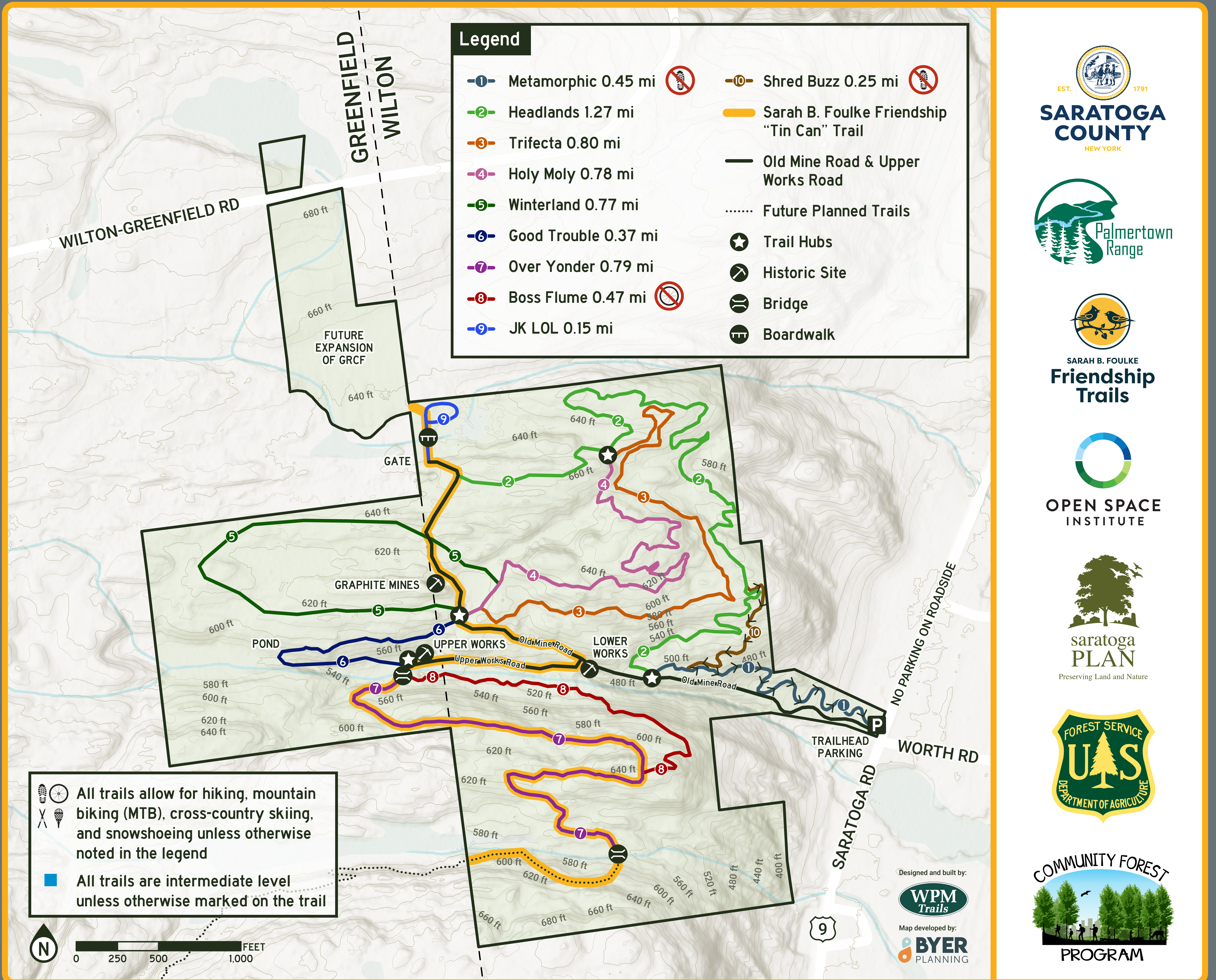




Graphite Range

COMMUNITY FOREST

WELCOME to the Graphite Range Community Forest, a multi-use preserve featuring a historic graphite mine set in rugged Adirondack bedrock, now accessible to the public as a Saratoga County-owned parcel and managed by community partners.



FOUNDING FRIENDS

WILL & JEN ALDRICH
 PHYLIS ALDRICH
 ANONYMOUS (2)
 ARNOLD FAMILY
 BROOKFIELD RENEWABLE
 JOHN & JEAN BUHAC
 CENTEA FAMILY
 COMMON ROOTS FOUNDATION
 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE GREATER CAPITAL REGION
 DA COLLINS
 CHRISTOPHER DAILEY FOUNDATION
 SUSAN DAKE
 PETER DEAN
 ROBERT DEMARCO
 SETH & VICTORIA DUNN
 ERICA & SCOTT FULLER
 THE GOUTOS FAMILY

JOHN & MICHELLE HALLER
 SALLY HART
 HIGGINS FAMILY
 DAVID & JESSICA HINDSON
 THE HOWE-LUTZ FAMILY
 MARGARET & HANK KINOSIAN
 THE KLEPETAR FAMILY
 AMY KNOELLER & JAMES NORTH
 ANTHONY & RACHEL KRACKELER
 PHIL & ANDI LODICO
 MICHAEL LOS & MARY GAGE-LOS
 THE MACGREGOR FAMILY
 DOUGLAS MEYER & LEE MCGOLDRICK
 MILLER FAMILY
 MINICH MACGREGOR WEALTH MANAGEMENT
 PHYLIS MIYAUCHI
 MUNTER ENTERPRISES

DR. MARIANNE MUSTAFA
 NOAH SHAW & KAREN BARONE
 RAY & MARY O'CONNOR
 PETER & BETSY OLMSTED
 MARGARET OLSEN
 JEFF & MARGO OLSON
 OPEN AIR SPORTS
 ORTHONY - KEVIN KLEIS
 BRADFORD OSWALD
 KYLE & JENNIFER PERRY
 DAVID & ANDREA POLANCO
 ANDREW ROGINSKI & JENNIFER BENAMAN
 SARATOGA MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION
 SARATOGA SHREDDERS
 SARATOGA STRYDERS
 JESSICA & YU SCHWARTZMAN
 THE SEFCIK FAMILY (MAX SEFCIK)

JIM & ROBIN SEVINSKY
 MARTIN & CATHARINE SHIELDS FAMILY
 LORRAINE SKIBO & DANIEL CHERNOFF
 GEORGE SLOAN & SUZANNE LANCE
 SNYDER, KILEY, TOOHEY, CORBETT & COX, LLP
 ELIZABETH SOBOL & JORGE GOMEZ
 SCOTT STRAZIK & JENNIFER SCHANNALUT
 TEAKWOOD BUILDERS
 THE TEPPER FAMILY
 LINDA & MICHAEL TOOHEY
 SHANNA & NICK TORRES
 MAX & CAROLYN WALKER
 CORY H. WARD
 THE WETMORE FAMILY
 ETHAN & ANNE WINTER
 NANCY HAMILL WINTER
 YOUNG/SOMMER LLC

RULES OF THE RANGE



Graphite Range
COMMUNITY FOREST

This community forest is also a forest community. The native plants and animals were here long before us and will be here for a long time to come. Let's share the land, take care of one another, extend courtesy at all times, and respect this place and all its inhabitants. These rules and regulations will ensure this place remains a place for all.



No horseback riding.



No ATV or other motorized uses.



No smoking.



No hunting, trapping, or fishing. No firearms.



No camping or igniting fires.



No alcohol or drugs.

STAY ON TRAILS:

The mixed-use trails at Graphite Range Community Forest have been professionally developed for the enjoyment of a variety of visitors. Please enjoy the property from the designated trails and allow the surrounding wilds to remain just that: Wild!

A PLACE FOR ALL:

Bikers should yield to walkers and hikers. Walkers and hikers should expect to encounter bikers on built trails.

DAY-USE ONLY:

Please enjoy this land from dawn to dusk.

PERMITTED USES:

Hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing are permitted. E-bikes allowed if pedal assist, no throttle, and ridden at less than 15 mph.

LEASHED DOGS ARE WELCOME:

Always keep dogs on leash out of consideration to other visitors and local wildlife. All waste bags must be carried out.

WASTE DISPOSAL:

Trash receptacles are not provided. If you carry it in, carry it out (dog waste included).

OBSERVE NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS WITH COURTESY:

We are sharing this land with the wildlife that calls it home. Respectfully observe from a distance and please leave all natural areas as you find them.

WEATHER-RELATED CLOSURES OR RESTRICTIONS:

Seasonal closures of some or all trails may occur to preserve year-round trail conditions. Please check saratogacountyny.gov/community/attractions for information on closures or restrictions.

DRONES:

Drone use may be allowed with permission from Saratoga County.



RESPECT THIS GIFT

Riding trails on public or private lands is a gift, not a right. With every ride, let's remember to be grateful for this shared community forest and all those who made it possible.

PROTECT NATURE

Enjoy nature, don't ruin it. Keep on the trails. Erosion is our single highest impact when we're out riding. Skidding causes erosion. Cutting corners can cut off access. Riding muddy trails messes it up for everyone. If we see animals, don't bother them, remember them. Pick up trash, pack it out, carpool here and back.

CARE FOR OTHERS

We share the trails with others, and they have the same rights and responsibilities as each of us. If someone needs help, we help. If someone needs encouragement, we share our enthusiasm. And if it's going to make the situation better, we dismount. Be nice, yield to others, and give a smile.

BE THE EXAMPLE

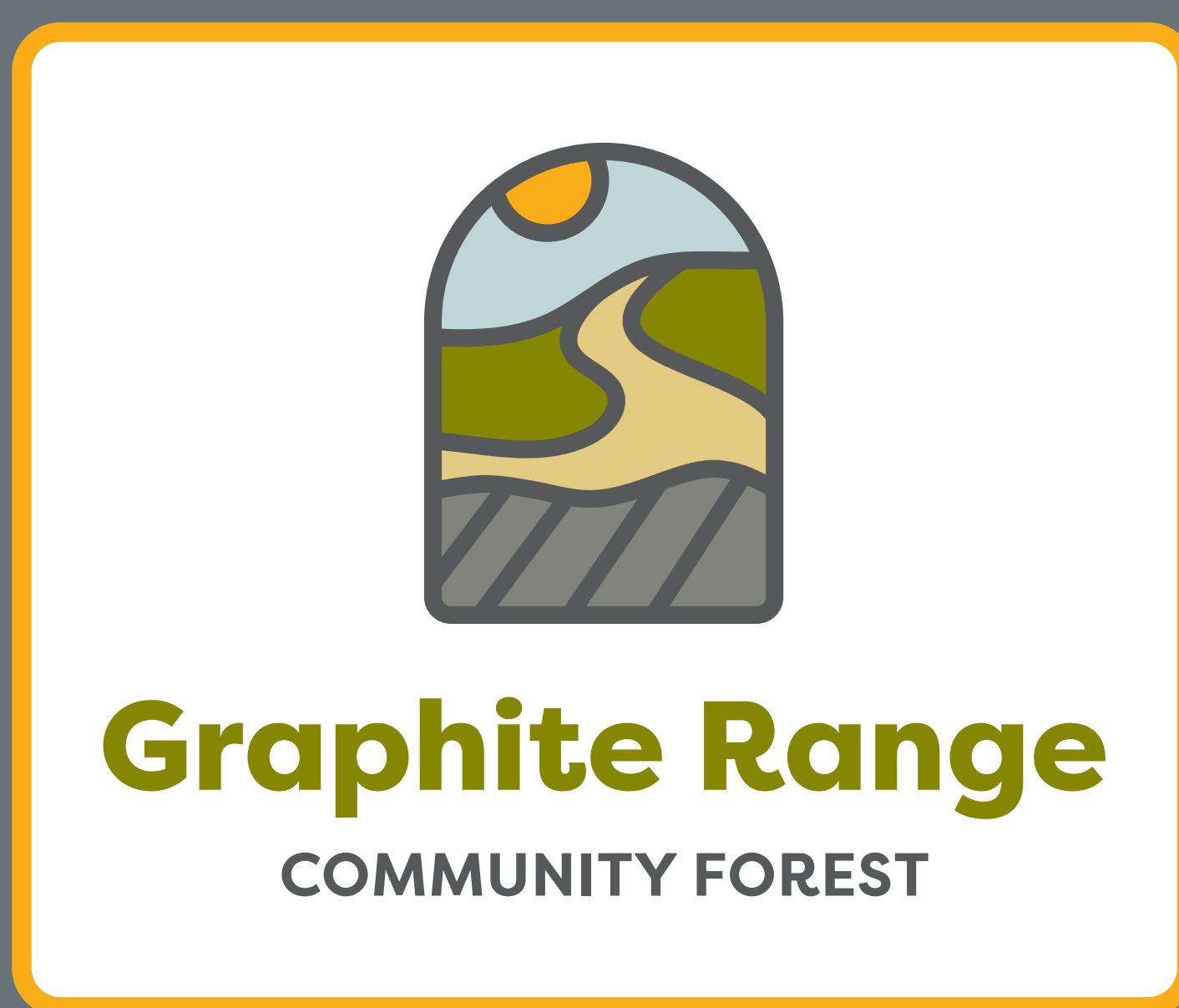
Being aggressive has no place in mountain biking. We know our limits, and we ride within them. Beyond the ride, let's park where we're supposed to, keep the tunes to a dull roar, and leave the IPAs for après somewhere else. Reckless behavior? A simple, polite call out will do.

THANK YOU

The Graphite Range Community Forest is made available to you by the generosity of:

THE WINTER FAMILY
SARATOGA COUNTY
SARATOGA PLAN
OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE
US FOREST SERVICE

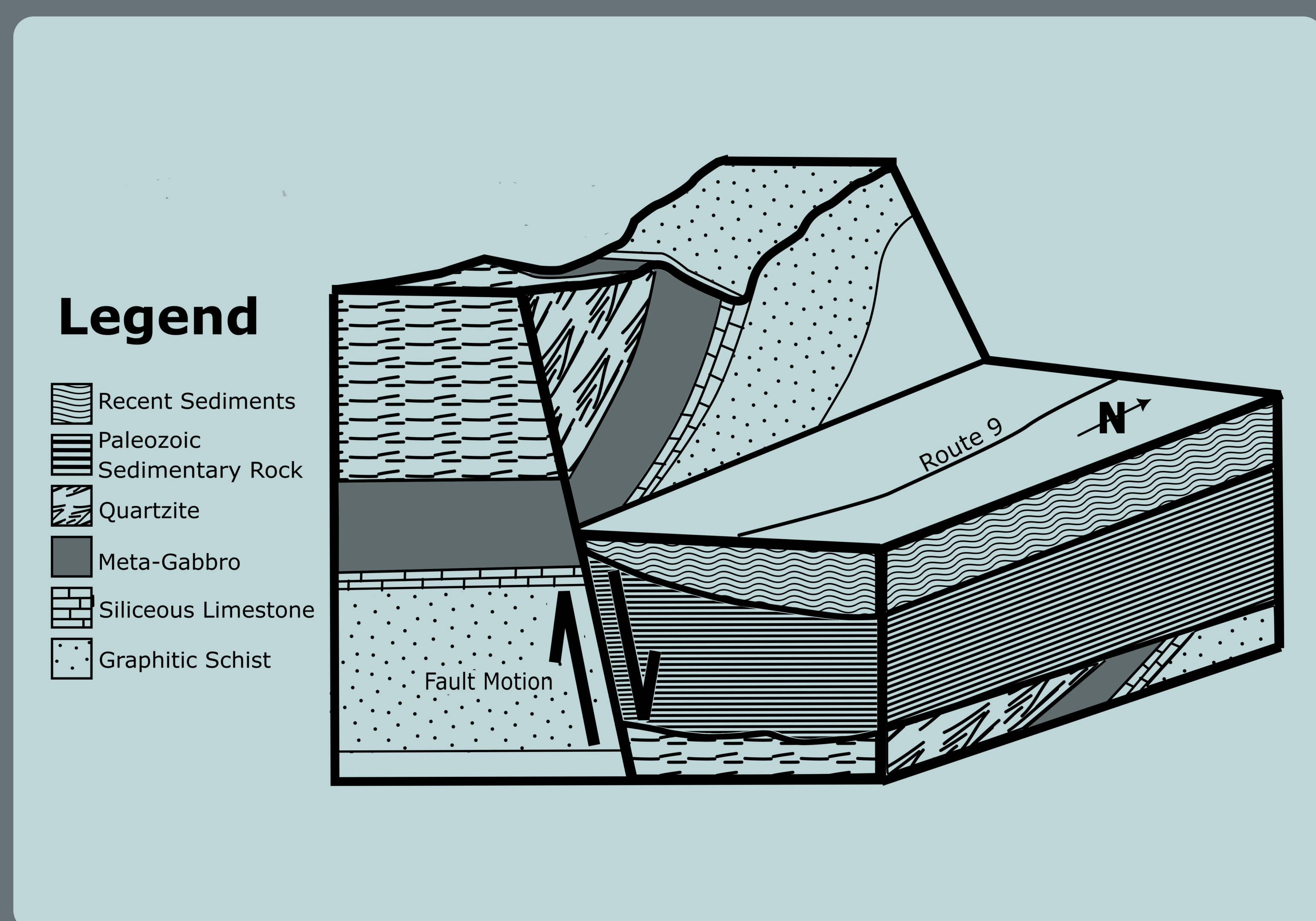
TOWN OF WILTON
TOWN OF GREENFIELD
GENEROUS DONORS
GRCF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRAIL VOLUNTEERS



The 225-acre Graphite Range Community Forest (GRCF) is owned by Saratoga County, open to the public for permitted uses, and managed by citizen volunteers. Situated in the southeastern foothills of the Adirondack Mountains, the land holds significant value from its location on this upland/lowland landscape boundary. It is recognized as the ancestral home of the Mohawk, Mohican, and Abenaki people, who are thought to have used the land as hunting grounds and a crossroads between nearby settlements.

GRCF was conserved in 2023 through a collaborative effort between the Winter Family, Saratoga County, Open Space Institute, Saratoga PLAN, and the U.S. Forest Service's Community Forest Program. Many generous individuals and local businesses helped make the vision a reality. These public trails, for mountain biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing, are part of the more extensive Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trails network in the Palmertown Range that is currently under development through public and private partnerships.

Graphite Range Community Forest is nationally acknowledged for its role as a community forest project, with partial funding from the U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Program.



GEOLOGICAL FORMATION AND LANDSCAPES OF THE SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN RANGE

Around 1.3 billion years ago, the GRCF bedrock was deposited as sediment on the floor of an ancient sea. This sediment contained small amounts of organic matter, likely from algae. These sediments were then subjected to the intense heat and pressure of a continental collision during the Grenville Orogeny (mountain-building event), which transformed the basin sediments into metamorphic rocks. These include quartzite, gneiss, and graphitic schist - the source of the graphite later mined up the hillside.

In the billion years since their formation, erosion of miles of overlying crust has brought these metamorphic rocks to the surface, where they outcrop throughout the Adirondacks. The rugged "washboard" topography is the result of tilting and folding of the layered bedrock, which, when eroded, give rise to east-west oriented ridges and valleys. Glaciation and post-glacial lakes deposited the beach sands located at the foot of the hill just beyond the parking area.

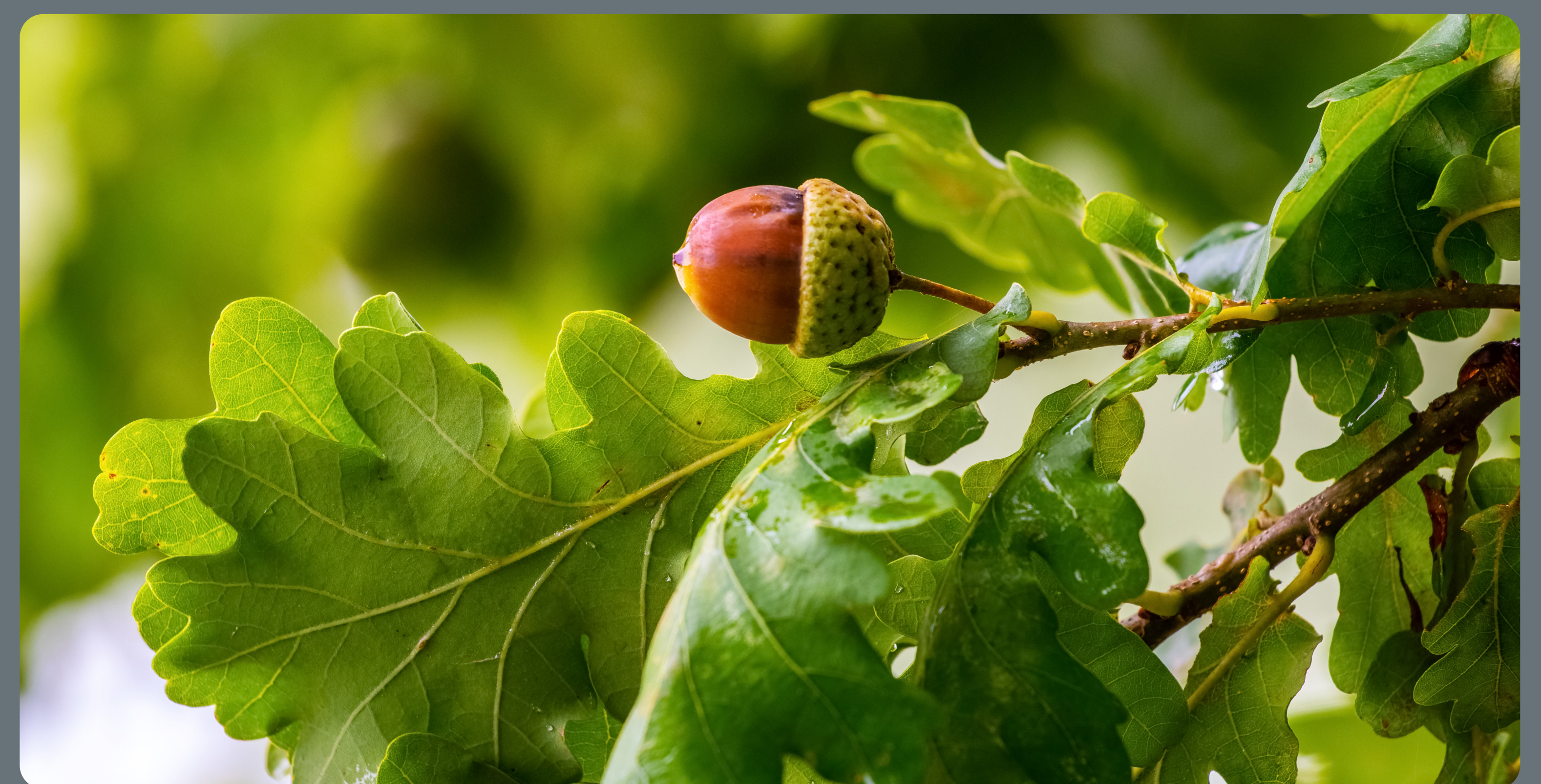
The GRCF spans a regional watershed boundary, with water running into Spring Run to the south and Snook Kill to the north. The impressive eastern escarpment of the Graphite Range was generated through multiple episodes of activity on the Saratoga-McGregor fault, where the Hudson Valley sank down relative to the rising Palmertown Ridge.

ECOLOGY AND SIGNIFICANT ECOSYSTEMS

The GRCF is almost completely forested, despite an industrial legacy that includes extensive mining and timber extraction.

The steep slopes adjacent to the stream as you climb up from Route 9 have diverse flora and fauna associated with more northern climates due to the cool shady conditions and rich soils. These cool ravines, which are commonly associated with the washboard terrain of the Palmertown Range, provide optimal conditions for the abundant growth of the keystone tree species eastern hemlock (evergreen conifer). Shallow wetlands are scattered throughout the area, providing habitat for a host of unique water-adapted species and promoting important ecosystem services like water quality and flood control.

The south-facing slopes at higher elevations often have dry, thin, rocky soils that support oak-hop hornbeam savannahs, wild blueberries, and other dry-adapted species such as woodland sedges. Recovery from past disturbances illustrates the dynamic and resilient nature of the biotic communities and ecosystems within the GRCF, and more changes are expected as they respond to anticipated environmental change over the next century.



PARKING:

Parking for the Graphite Range Community Forest is limited to the parking lot on Route 9. Parking is prohibited on Route 9 and Worth Road. If the lot is full, please come visit another time or enjoy one of the many nearby trails systems.