

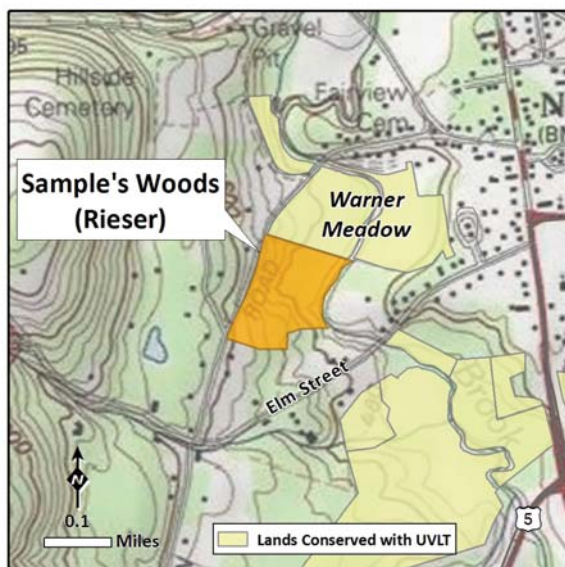
# Sample's Woods and the Rosemary Rieser Trail

A partnership of the  
Upper Valley  
Land Trust  
and the  
Upper Valley  
Trails Alliance

## Securing a Popular Footpath and a Piece of History

In the heart of Norwich village, in the area behind the Norwich Inn, Dan and Whit's and across from the Hillside Cemetery, open fields and woods along Hopson Road slope down to Blood Brook. A footpath runs along the brook and continues through the fields. Higher on the slope, a wooden sign marks a hill ("Sample's Jump") that once served as a ski jump where local youth and Dartmouth students gathered to practice. The Norwich Conservation Commission has recognized the ecological, recreational and scenic significance of this area.

Now there's an opportunity to extend the corridor of conserved land along the brook and secure a short but important trail segment. Success depends on contributions from everyone who enjoys passing through and by this wonderful open and wooded space.



**We need to raise \$50,000 by April 30 to acquire the conservation easement and trail rights.**



*Many people enjoy walking along Blood Brook and through Warner Meadow -- we invite you to join with us to secure public access to this trail forever.*

## Project Scope

The Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) have come together to conserve an 11-acre parcel owned by the children of Leonard and Rosemary Rieser, and to obtain trail rights of way across the Rieser property and adjoining Warner Meadows property. This short, but vital trail connector will be named for Rosemary Rieser, an avid walker and devoted member of the Norwich community for more than 50 years.

## Timing and Cost

Tim, Abby and Len Rieser have worked with UVLT to plan for the future of their parents' property, allowing only one home to be built there in a location they carefully selected to minimize scenic impacts on Hopson Road and from the trail. They've generously agreed to sell a conservation easement for a fraction of its value. To support this initiative, the 24 households who jointly own Warner Meadows have agreed to donate a trail right of way on their property.

Sample's Woods and the Rosemary Rieser Trail

- 11 acres, extending conservation corridor south along Hopson Road from Warner Meadows
- 630 feet along Blood Brook
- Forested viewshed from Warner Meadows
- Site of historic "Sample's Jump" ski jump popular in the 1960's



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## YOU CAN HELP!

Make your tax-deductible gift payable to:

Upper Valley Land Trust  
19 Buck Road  
Hanover, NH 03755

or make a secure online contribution at:  
[www.UVLT.org](http://www.UVLT.org)



Hopson Road viewscape: Warner Meadow with Sample's Woods in background

## Questions About Sample's Woods and the Rieser Trail

### How was this property selected for conservation?

For many years, the Norwich Conservation Commission and Trails Committee have recommended that land should be preserved and trails connected along Hopson Road and Blood Brook. The area is identified as a priority in the town's Open Space Plan. The conservation of Sample's Woods and the protection of the existing trail across Warner Meadows is a key step.

### What is a conservation easement?

Conservation easements are permanent legal agreements that specify how a property can be used and developed no matter who owns the land in the future. Conservation easements may be sold or donated to a land trust; they can also be sold for less than their fair market value in a charitable transaction known as a "bargain sale." UVLT is responsible for upholding the conservation easement terms forever and maintains an endowment fund to provide for inspection and enforcement.

### Why are trail rights of way needed?

Although Norwich neighbors have enjoyed the open space around the village for many years, public access to some of these places has not been guaranteed, and new owners could close the informal trails, fracturing the network.

There is a conservation easement that protects against development of Warner Meadows, but it does not provide trail access. If this project is successful, access across both the Rieser's and Warner Meadow Associates' properties will be secured, and UVTA will take on trail stewardship and oversight, assuring public enjoyment for years to come.

**Please join us as we come together to realize important conservation and recreation goals and care for the lands and trails entrusted to us.**

### For more information contact:

**Anne Janeway, Upper Valley Land Trust**

**[anne.janeway@uvlt.org](mailto:anne.janeway@uvlt.org), 603-643-6626, or**

**Russell Hirschler, Upper Valley Trails Alliance**

**[russell.hirschler@uvtrails.org](mailto:russell.hirschler@uvtrails.org), 802-649-9075**



*Left: An aerial view of the two properties and the location of the trail right of ways.*

*Above: Sample's Woods, once owned by artist Paul Sample, was the location of a ski jump documented by the New England Lost Ski Areas Project at <http://www.nelsap.org/ot/altow.html>. The property also contains intermittent streams, small wetlands and wildflowers.*