

**NEWS FROM POCONO HERITAGE LAND TRUST
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Land Trust Partners with ESSA to Protect Water, Wildlife Near Stroudsburg

Stroudsburg -- Pocono Heritage Land Trust (PHLT) has acquired a 179-acre tract of land on Godfrey Ridge in Stroud Township. The property was acquired with a generous grant from the ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation.

Once slated for a large development, the property is adjacent to Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge and is uniquely situated, within minutes of downtown Stroudsburg, to become a premier and highly visited natural area/park. Sitting on the ridge overlooking Stroudsburg and Cherry Valley, the preserved property protects headwater streams and drainages that feed into both the Brodhead Creek and the Cherry Creek. With spectacular views of the creeks and the Appalachian Ridge, it is also a key connection in the proposed Glen to Glen trail, connecting Glen Park in Stroudsburg to the Glen Hills Golf Course.

Pocono Heritage Land Trust looks forward to working with its partners to create trails and recreational activities for the community to enjoy. "We're grateful to the ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation for their generous support of this project," said Dawn Gorham, PHLT's executive director. "We're very excited about the future of this property as a wonderful recreational resource for the community. This project is a great example of connectivity, watershed protection and community partnerships".

According to the ESSA Bank & Trust, "The Foundation is pleased to support Pocono Heritage Land Trust in the recent purchase of this tract of land. This support embodies the mission of our philanthropic efforts - to improve the quality of life - and ensures future generations will continue to enjoy the natural beauty of the Pocono region. We look forward to a long-lasting partnership with PHLT to advance the potential for a community park at this site for our residents to hike, bike, explore, and enjoy."

Why This Preserve Is Important

In addition to sweeping views, including the Big Pocono escarpment, from atop Godfrey's Ridge, the newly-preserved land includes a significant ridge-top cold water spring pond, Glen Run Pond, the primary source of Glen Run. This small wild trout stream gathers other cold spring water as it cascades down the face of Godfrey's Ridge through Glen Park, to join the Brodhead. There it creates a "coldwater sink" -- a refuge for wild trout as the Brodhead warms in mid-summer.

The new ridge-line preserve will provide excellent views of the annual migrations of song-birds and raptors. Both spring and fall migrants use these high ridgelines as flight guides and resting spots to find food, water and shelter on their long seasonal travels.

With many existing trails to be marked and developed -- in addition to potential connections along the proposed Glen to Glen trail and an abundance of natural features -- this new Preserve protects pure water, birds, and other wildlife, and is an outstanding addition to public recreational activities for the Stroudsburgs and all of Monroe County.



PHLT Protected - Godfrey Ridge Property

