

The Commonwealth of Massachus::tts House of Representatives Late House, Boston 02133-1054

TODD M. SMOLA REPRESENTATIVE

1ST HAMPDEN DISTRICT

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Representative Smola and Senator Gobi Announce

BOSTON – **Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren) and Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** are pleased to announce that the Opacum Land Trust has been awarded a Conservation Partnership Grant in the amount of \$85,000. These funds will be used to protect a 76 acre parcel of woodland that is adjacent to Brimfield State Forest and also provide an additional entry point to the forest.

Grant for Opacum Land Trust

"The Opacum Land Trust is a tremendous asset to our community," said Representative Smola. "It's great to know that this property will be protected and enjoyed by local residents for many years to come."

"The first land trust was founded over 100 years ago right here in New England, and the many others since, throughout the region, have played an indispensable role in protecting open spaces of all kinds," said Senator Anne Gobi, Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture. "The Opacum Land Trust is a major part of that mission and I am thrilled that they have received support from the state to continue the great conservationist work that they do."

Conservation Partnership Grants assist not-for-profit corporations in acquiring lands suitable for conservation or recreation purposes. All projects funded through these grants must provide access to the public. Conservation Partnership Grants are awarded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.