

Marteka

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way to Willimantic.

The land officially changed hands last month, and will be called the Andrew Kenneth Webster Preserve, after Andrew

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Knapp's great-grandfather. Trust members have promised to preserve and enhance the current trails on the land, part of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association's 700-mile blue-blazed system, and to leave much of the parcel in its unspoiled state.

Knapp said the land originally was used as a wood lot for a local farmer. Webster bought the land at the turn of the century, and four generations of Knapps have enjoyed it ever since.

"Growing up in a suburban setting, it was always an adventure to go off to the woods, out into open spaces with my family. We would always be there for the first day of trout fishing—a lot of cherished memories," Knapp said.

Karl Hasel, a Vernon resident and vice president of the trust, began a letter campaign four years ago to reach owners of large tracts of undeveloped land in town. Knapp responded to the trust two years later.

"These letters don't always work like this, but we wanted to know how much interest was there," Hasel said. "Right now there is quite a greenway corridor shaping up from Vernon into Bolton. That was the whole intent when we started the effort.

"It is very satisfying to have been a part of the effort to ensure that no development will be allowed to spoil the beauty and serenity of the Valley Falls area, one of the great natural resources."