

WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT OF
ARN NA GREINE
PRESERVE

A Sussex County Land Trust Initiative

CASE FOR SUPPORT



Several years of discussion and planning with local landowners has resulted in an agreement for the Sussex County Land Trust to purchase and preserve 89 acres of agricultural, forest and marshlands just off New Road, adjacent to Lewes City limits.

As with any major preservation project, the total cost of \$9,000,000 will require participation by a range of public and private funders. These include local, county, state and federal grants, support from private foundations and corporate giving programs and, of course, donations from members of the local Lewes- area community.



The property, known as Ard na Greine (“the rise that catches the sun” – Gaelic) by its owners, has been managed as a family farm over several generations.

Replete with wetland habitat bordering both Ebenezer Branch and Canary Creek, the parcel provides a critical natural oasis supporting native and migratory species.

Ard na Griene shares a long border with the Lewes-to-Georgetown Trail, and provides hikers and cyclists a spectacular viewshed of one of the last remaining rural landscapes in the area.

When acquired, it will be the third in a string of public parks and preserves established by the Trust, in partnership with Sussex County Council, along the trail. Others already under the Trust’s stewardship include Hopkins Preserve and Steven P. Hudson Park, located a few miles west of Route 1.



This project represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to permanently protect a large tract of open space in the rapidly changing landscape of the Lewes area. A future master plan envisioned once the property is acquired will define future passive recreation opportunities as well as habitat enhancements.

We welcome
your participation
in this important
initiative.

Our Opportunity

Ard na Greine has been owned by the same family over several generations. The owners have a deep love of the property and what it has meant their family over the years. Their property is the largest and most significant privately-held open space in this section of Sussex County. Failure to act now to preserve it for public benefit could result in hundreds more future residential units near New Road

The owners wish is to permanently preserve this land, which represents a family legacy, and they have substantially discounted the price of the property to help secure its permanent protection. The time is now for our community to act to protect this a a public legacy for future generations.

Proposed Timeline and Project Cost

The sales agreement calls for settlement of the property by April, 2025.

Thus, it is important for fund development activity to move ahead as quickly as possible.

COMPONENTS OF PROJECT COSTS INCLUDE:

Property Purchase	\$ 8,500,000
Surplus for future use-related expenses	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 9,000,000

Project Partners

Our funding partners represent a significant number of public donors, as listed below.

The added participation of Lewes-area residents will demonstrate a necessary commitment from our community to other donors.

PROPOSED SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Sussex County Land Trust	\$ 1,200,000
Lewes Community Support	\$ 225,000
Delaware Open Space Council	\$ 575,000
USDA/NRCS funding	\$ 4,000,000
Foundation Support	<u>\$ 2,000,000</u>
Other Public Sector funding	\$ 1,000,000
TOTAL	\$ 9,000,000
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Sussex County Land Trust

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