

Saving the Jim Todd Land on Mianus River Road



We have 25 days to raise the remaining \$600,000 needed to close on this \$1.7M property. We need your help!

- The property in question is a beautiful 23-acre piece of land that was once owned by Jim Todd, who was one of the original co-founders of the Gorge back in 1953.
- The property was once a small farm and comprises pastures, a small lake, beautiful woodlands, important wetlands, and an active amphibian-breeding vernal pool. The land buffers the old-growth forest and is surrounded on three sides by the Mianus River Gorge Preserve.
- In more recent times it became, in our view, among the Gorge's highest priority properties for preservation.
- We have been working on it for many years, and in 2018 we were able to preserve a hugely important 10-acre portion of it; a piece of land that literally cut right across the Gorge's main trail system.
- We've had an ongoing dialogue with the owner about the rest of the property, which has remained a very high priority for the Gorge.
- The land is in close proximity to the Mianus River Gorge trail system that is such an important asset to the community. It is surrounded on three sides by MRG's main Preserve, and sits directly across the road from other land that the Gorge owns and protects in perpetuity. It is an important wildlife corridor as well.
- Those of you who walk the road also know how beautiful this section of Mianus River Road is – from St. Mary's Church Road, south to the bottom of the hill that leads up to East Middle Patent Road.
- In summary, it is impossible to overstate the importance of this land to our efforts to preserve and protect the Mianus watershed for the benefit of the community and future generations.
- The property is approved for a four lot subdivision with two separate driveway cuts on Mianus River Road.
- Recently, the owner put one of the lots on the market and was eager to sell due to some time constraints on permits.
- We accelerated our talks with the owner, and were able to come to terms and sign a contract that will lock up the property forever. Mianus River Gorge will own 3 of the 4 lots—which is 17.5 out of the 23 acres, and the balance will be preserved through a permanent conservation easement.
- We need your help! Please give generously to help protect this critical property forever!

(See map on reverse page)

Land to be protected is in orange, just south of St. Mary's Church Road.

