



**Wantastegok Sacred Site Protection**  
**Elnu Abenaki Tribe with Vermont Land Trust**  
350 Putney Road/25 Shore Drive, Brattleboro, VT 05301



With the adjacent riverbank now under threat of development, [Elnu Abenaki Tribe](#) (Vermont state-recognized) with [Atowi Project](#) and in partnership with [Vermont Land Trust](#), is raising the funds to purchase a privately-held 1.83 acre parcel now going on the open market. This is a one-time opportunity to help return this culturally-significant, sacred site to a place of vital and reciprocal relationship. For thousands of years, the Original People of this region have visited, celebrated, lived, and been laid to final rest at the confluence of the Wantastekw (West River) and Kwenitekw (Connecticut River), in what is now known as Brattleboro, VT. The significance of this place as sacred, both holding balance and exchanging Spirit, is acknowledged by the rare presence of petroglyphs - submerged due to hydro development 100 years ago - and historically documented Indigenous burials.

*Purchase price: \$320,000*

*Legal and closing cost allowance: \$30,000*

*Total capital to be raised: \$350,000*

*Urgency: Critical*

Well-documented in the Euro-American written record, from the late 1700's forward – usually referred to as Indian Rock – this place is a potent example of the persistence of earth-based indigenous spiritual practice and lifeways. Petroglyphs, or rock carvings, are relatively rare in the New England region as a whole, and this site is one of only two significant examples in what is now Vermont. Its significance is attested in [this letter of support](#) by Jess Robinson, VT State Archaeologist. An 8 page overview of the site [can be seen here](#).



A successful joint effort to conserve this place will ensure that this Traditional Cultural Landscape would again be honored, and indigenous access for ceremonial practice and honoring of ancestors would be safeguarded. Historic disturbance of those who have been laid to rest will be ended and Spirits will be given the recognition they merit.

The land will remain open to everyone, as a place of community rest, enjoyment, and sharing. Opportunities for cultural interpretation and respectful education will be put in place, by means of signage and programming, to raise awareness and restore a sense of relationship to place. Funds are needed to acquire the property and its rights, facilitate the transfer, site documentation, and provide for its future financial needs. We have established [a fundraising campaign here - please join us!](#)

