



The Trust for Virgin Islands Lands

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LANDOWNER'S GENEROUS GIFT MAY SAVE A ST. CROIX PARK

A significant gift of valuable agricultural land on St. Croix was announced today by the Trust for Virgin Islands Land (TVIL). The donors, Pat and Macy Wall, deeded forty (40) acres of Lowry Hill on the south shore to TVIL out of a desire to see it preserved and ultimately, part of a park.

The land is part of a 1200 acre Castle Nugent National Historic Park that was proposed to the US Congress in 2006 through the office of Delegate Donna Christiansen and approved by the House of Representatives that same year. With the change of political winds and the economic crisis in 2008, the project has languished and stalled. The then Secretary of the Interior Salazar described the area as one of the most beautifully preserved historical park sites in the national inventory.

The Pat and Macy Wall gift is a clear sign of hope for continuing with park planning on a local level.

"We feel that our years of preparing to responsibly accept gifts of land have allowed us to effectively assist Pat and Macy Wall with this gift within the legal constraints and requirements of the IRS timetable on very short notice. We were able to serve a private landowner and the Virgin Islands public and that is a sweet moment of satisfaction" Nataki Finch Richards, the Executive Director for TVIL commented.

"The South Shore of St. Croix is a special place and I was fortunate to be able to spend my childhood there. The more we have traveled the world, the more we have realized just how special it is. My wife Pat and I sincerely hope that TVIL can use our gift to spark the creation of a park on the South Shore for the benefit of Generations of Crucians." Wall offered.

The Trust for Virgin Islands Lands (TVIL) is a nonprofit 501c(3) organization that was formed in 2006 and has protected over one hundred (100) acres of land on the islands of St. Croix and St. John. On St. Croix, TVIL was granted a perpetual easement on thirty (30) acres of privately held land near Annaly Bay in 2009, obtained title to fifteen (15) acres in Estate Marienhøj in 2013 and raised funds to acquire ten (10) acres in Estate Spring Garden in 2015. In cooperation with the Nature Conservancy and the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture, TVIL acquired twenty-two (22) acres of pristine, mature forest in the Coral Bay watershed in St. John in 2012.

For more information please visit www.virginislandslandtrust.org.