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[ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org](mailto:ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org)**JACOB'S PILLOW PARTNERS WITH GREAT BARRINGTON-BASED  
GREENAGERS INC. TO RESTORE AND REVIVE ITS WETLANDS TRAIL**

June 10, 2017 – (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow will partner with Greenagers Inc., a non-profit youth organization based in Great Barrington, MA to restore and revive the 800-foot Wetlands Trail located on the eastern side of its 225-acre property. From July 10 through July 13, six to twelve youth and one experienced trail worker will begin the process of creating an accessible and updated walking trail. The project, spearheaded by Jacob's Pillow's Community Engagement Department, is representative of the Pillow's relationship with its natural surroundings and dedication to community partnerships. A gift from an anonymous donor has made this collaboration between Jacob's Pillow and Greenagers possible.

"We are thrilled to partner with Greenagers to connect Berkshire County youth to their cultural and environmental heritage. This collaboration is an opportunity to steward investment in our most precious resources: the Pillow's 220-acre campus of woods, wetlands, and historical buildings. We hope to seed curiosity and appreciation for dance and environmental conservation through meaningful experiences that will connect their site-based work to the history, present, and future of Jacob's Pillow," says Thasia Giles, Director of Community Engagement at Jacob's Pillow.

"The collaboration between Jacob's Pillow and Greenagers joins the threads of culture, environment, and youth workforce development toward a vision of a truly sustainable and vibrant local economy and ecology. We are delighted to work with Jacob's Pillow and for Greenagers' youth to experience the beautiful environs and dance offerings as they work to improve access to the wetland trail." says Will Conklin, Executive Director of Greenagers.

The Wetlands Trail was originally designed by Openspace Management to provide a "universally accessible pathway accessing a diverse wetland on the eastern side of the property" and was completed before the 2000 summer festival season. Since then, the trail has been rendered impassable--overtaken by brambles, hemlocks, thorns, thicket, fallen trees, and a rotting bog bridge section.

The revival process will take place in two phases, the first of which will happen this year and focus on moving aside fallen trees, pruning the overgrown thicket, and making other repairs to the trail.

In the fall, the Pillow will determine the financial feasibility of phase 2, replacing the bog bridge. Installed in 2000, the bridge must now be replaced with a more complicated structure in order to comply with Department of Environmental Protection regulations.

**About Greenagers, Inc.**

Greenagers, Inc. was established as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2013 and provides employment and volunteer opportunities for teens and young adults in the field of conservation, sustainable farming, and environmental leadership. The collaboration between Jacob's Pillow and Greenagers is creating new demands in investment and leadership. Both organizations and Berkshire County will share in this growth. In addition to work on the trail, participants will tour the grounds, attend dance performances on the Inside/Out stage, and dine with summer interns and staff.

**Vision '22** is a strategic approach for the Pillow's development over the next five years, through 2022. The plan provides a blueprint for enabling the Pillow to become a year-round center for dance creation and to more robustly serve artists and audiences alike. Three key areas of focus include: strengthening the artistic core, boosting civic leadership and community involvement, and renewing essential campus facilities. Jacob's Pillow is America's first and longest-running dance festival; as it celebrates its 85th anniversary this summer, the organization sets its sights on important future milestones.

**ABOUT JACOB'S PILLOW:** Jacob's Pillow, celebrating its 85th Festival in 2017, is a National Historic Landmark, recipient of the National Medal of Arts, and home to America's longest-running international dance festival. Each Festival includes more than 50 national and international dance companies and 350 free and ticketed performances, talks, tours, classes, exhibits, and events. The School at Jacob's Pillow, one of the most prestigious professional dance training centers in the U.S., encompasses the diverse disciplines of Ballet, Cultural Traditions, Contemporary, and Musical Theatre Dance, as well as an Intern Program in various disciplines of arts administration, design, video, and production. The Pillow's extensive Archives, open year-round to the public, chronicle more than a century of dance in photographs, programs, books, costumes, audiotapes, and videos. Notable artists who have created or premiered dances at the Pillow include choreographers Antony Tudor, Agnes de Mille, Alvin Ailey, Donald McKayle, Kevin McKenzie, Twyla Tharp, Ralph Lemon, Susan Marshall, Trisha Brown, Ronald K. Brown, Wally Cardona, Andrea Miller, and Trey McIntyre; performed by artists such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Carmen de Lavallade, Mark Morris, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Edward Villella, Rasta Thomas, and hundreds of others. On March 2, 2011, President Barack Obama honored Jacob's Pillow with a National Medal of Arts, the highest arts award given by the United States Government, making the Pillow the first dance presenting organization to receive this prestigious award. For more information, visit [www.jacobspillow.org](http://www.jacobspillow.org).

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