

Long Path Protection Plan



New York-New Jersey Trail Conference plan to protect the Long Path, extending 400+ miles between New York City and the Adirondack Park.



The Long Path is maintained by volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in conjunction with multiple park partners and maintaining clubs in New York and New Jersey.

The Long Path Protection Plan was supported with funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.



The **New York-New Jersey Trail Conference** has partnered with parks to create, protect, and promote a network of over 2,100 miles of public trails in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region. The Trail Conference organizes volunteer service projects that keep these trails open, safe, and enjoyable for the public. We publish maps and books that guide public use of these trails. The Trail Conference is a nonprofit organization with a membership of 10,000 individuals and 100 clubs that have a combined membership of over 100,000 active, outdoor-loving people.



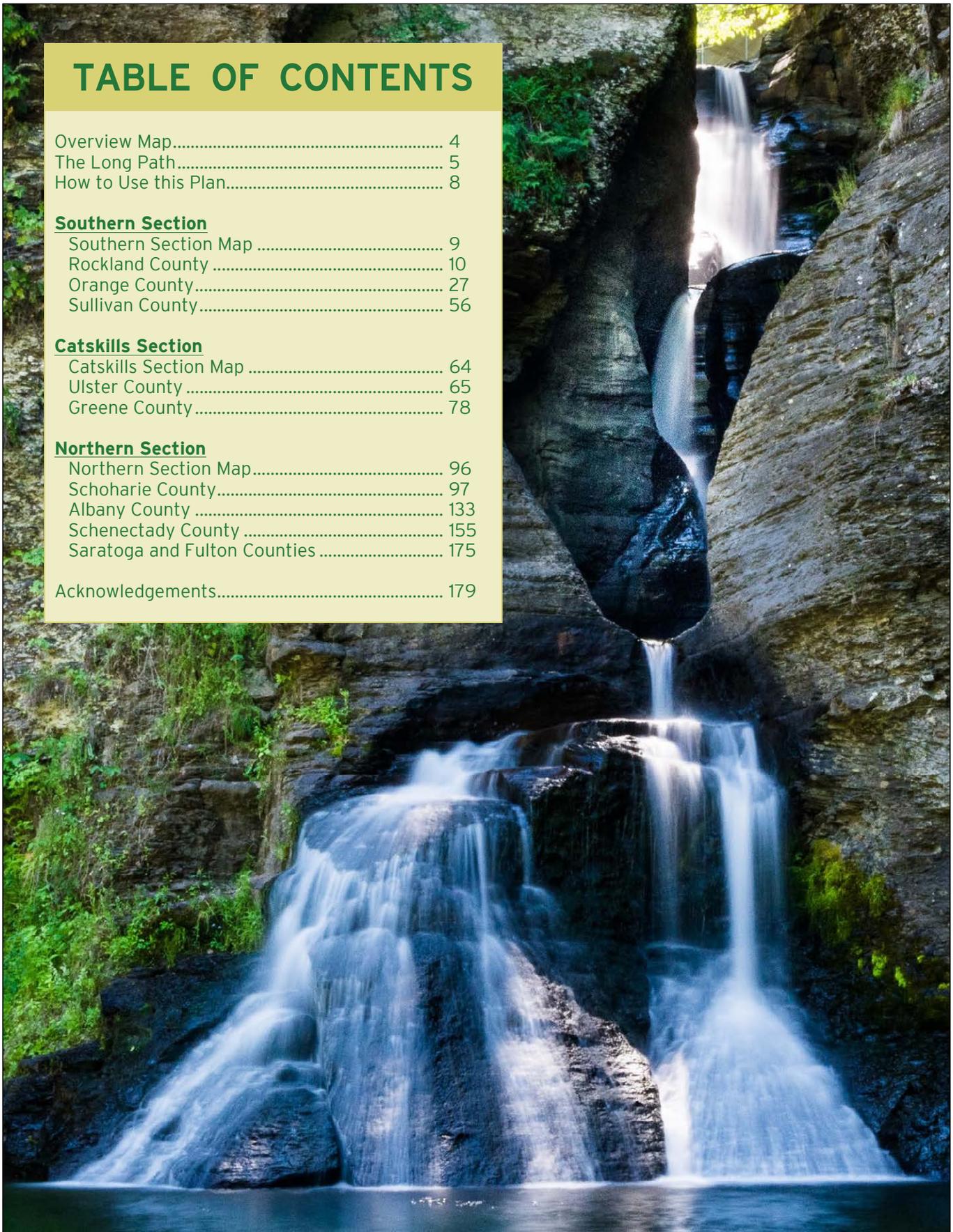
The **Land Trust Alliance** is a national nonprofit conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents more than 1,000 member land trusts and their 4.6 million supporters nationwide. As the voice of the land trust community, the Land Trust Alliance is the national leader in policy, standards and education.



The **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** was created in 1970 to combine all state programs designed to protect and enhance the environment into a single agency. DEC's mission is to conserve, improve, and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.

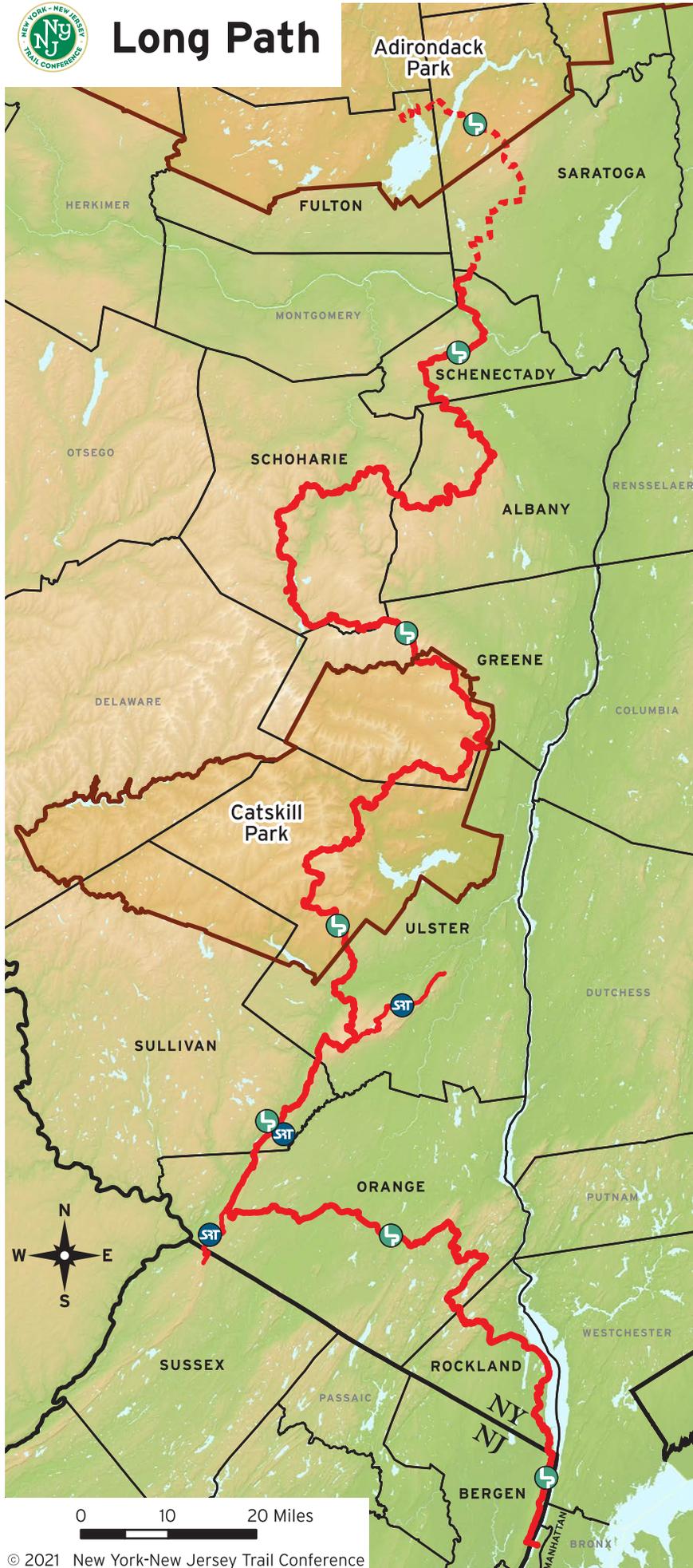
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview Map.....	4
The Long Path.....	5
How to Use this Plan.....	8
<u>Southern Section</u>	
Southern Section Map	9
Rockland County	10
Orange County.....	27
Sullivan County.....	56
<u>Catskills Section</u>	
Catskills Section Map	64
Ulster County	65
Greene County.....	78
<u>Northern Section</u>	
Northern Section Map.....	96
Schoharie County.....	97
Albany County	133
Schenectady County	155
Saratoga and Fulton Counties	175
Acknowledgements.....	179





Long Path



The Long Path

The **Long Path (LP)** is a trail that extends nearly 360 miles as a completed trail from near the 175th Street Subway Station in New York City to John Boyd Thacher State Park near Albany, New York, the current official terminus. The trail continues northward with blazed roadwalks and some off-road sections to the Mohawk River, and then a mostly unblazed roadwalk to reach Northville in the Adirondack Park for a total Long Path length of more than 425 miles; there are ongoing efforts to move more of these sections off the roads. The aqua-blazed Long Path traverses many scenic and historic regions of varied geologic setting on the west side of the Hudson River, including the Palisades, Harriman State Park, the Shawangunk Ridge, the Catskills, and the Helderberg Escarpment.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has been championing the Long Path for decades, with more aggressive protection work beginning in the late-1990s and early-2000s. Efforts have largely been piecemeal, with progress made slowly but surely to close or narrow gaps in protected lands. Assembling a 400+-mile-long trail corridor is a labor-intensive, multi-decade campaign that largely does not fit the missions of most other land conservation organizations, so the experiences and many small achievements has led to the Trail Conference acquiring institutional knowledge of how to create minimalist linear corridors where necessary and state forest-sized corridors where possible.



The Trail Conference has learned that providing a vision and a plan for trail corridor protection can be an extremely useful resource. This Long Path Protection Plan (LPPP), with detailed maps and descriptive priority parcel protection narratives, will serve as a roadmap for partnerships and engagements. The Trail Conference already works with many great partners at all levels of involvement, but this LPPP will advance shared missions and open space goals and ultimately help expedite the goal of creating a protected Long Path corridor from New York City to the Adirondacks.

The following testimonial from Kylie Yang, Long Path End-to-End #190 and former Trail Conference NY Program Coordinator, encapsulates the importance of protecting the Long Path:

The Long Path is a truly unique and beautiful trail. After joining the Trail Conference in 2020, I decided to section hike the Long Path over a few months. While I had experience with long-distance hiking on the Appalachian Trail, I was shocked at the swiftly changing scenery the Long Path provided. Winding through Palisades Interstate Park, over cliffs in Minnewaska, with sweeping views throughout the Catskills and views of Albany from John Boyd Thatcher State Park, I cannot think of another trail that encompasses so many diverse parks in so few miles. Walking through small communities I would've otherwise not seen, and being greeted by livestock on road walks was a truly unique experience. The trail was often remote, but it was always marked and maintained well. While I regularly went several days without seeing other hikers, I was grateful for the rugged, beautiful, and often solitary experience that many other long-distance trails cannot provide. The Long Path is a true gem, and deserves protection to ensure it lasts for generations of hikers to come!

History of the Long Path:

In 1931, Vincent J. Schaefer of the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club put forth an idea for "New York's Long Path." Unlike other trails, the Long Path was to be a path without any clearing or marking, where one would just wander using a compass and maps to reach pre-determined destinations, which he labeled as points. This trailless path had a predetermined starting point of "Towers of the George Washington Bridge" and an ending point of "Whiteface Mountain."

With the help of W. W. Cady, he took this one step further to scout the complete route. On March 27, 1934, Raymond Torrey began to print a section of the Long Path every Tuesday in his article "The Long Brown Path." This was done every Tuesday through August 26, 1935. There were soon some efforts to create a marked trail, including by Alexander Jessup who marked the trail into the Catskills by 1943, but the timing of World War II led to the idea soon fading away.

In 1960, Robert Jessen and Michael Warren revived the idea as a cleared, marked and maintained path. By this time both housing developments and private property postings prevented a hiker from wandering wherever they wanted. Without a planned route or permission from private landowners, an off-road bush whacking route would have been difficult to achieve. Through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s the Trail Conference worked to refine the path and protect it through advocacy efforts. In the 1990s, the Trail Conference began to get more aggressive with moving the Long Path off roads while also extending the Long Path north into Schoharie and Albany counties. The Trail Conference also began to purchase properties to protect the Long Path.

By the turn of the century, the Trail Conference was aggressively working to protect the Long Path north of the Catskill Park. Here the Trail Conference's 30-year effort has permanently protected 14.3 miles of the Long Path with the protection of more than 1,000 acres, which was instrumental in the creation of Mount Hayden State Forest. By 2000, the Trail Conference also began to aggressively preserve the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) from High Point State Park in New Jersey to Sam's Point Preserve, now part of Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This mammoth effort required assistance from numerous partner organizations and buy in from New York State. Over the last 30 years, Trail Conference efforts have helped protect more than 4,000 acres along the southern Shawangunk Ridge to help create a protected corridor for the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail. In 2012, the Long Path route through Orange County was significantly moved to align it with the Shawangunk Ridge Trail for nearly 36 miles, from the Town of Greenville in Orange County northward to Sam's Point.

Land Protection Steps:

The strategy used by the Trail Conference in planning and pursuing protected corridors has largely consisted of the following steps:

1. Identify corridor priority parcels

- These are parcels that protect critical areas, parcels that connect to other protect lands, parcels that provide a protected land buffer, or parcels that could provide additional trail opportunities. These parcels are largely identified through a combination of on-the-ground assessment, GIS mapping, and county/municipal tax maps.

2. Identify which parcels may be feasible to protect

- The Trail Conference and its partners may attempt to identify which parcels may actually be feasible for protecting with some form of protection, starting with landowner agreements and progressing to trail or conservation easements and outright acquisition. This process can involve establishing relationships and lines of communication with landowners, negotiating potential costs of the land, and working with park partners to understand whether potential acquired lands would ultimately be transferred.

3. Work to complete the protection

- Once a parcel is considered feasible for protection, the Trail Conference and its partners work to line up everything needed to complete the protection. For an acquisition, this process can involve working with the landowner to finalize a purchase price and other terms, obtaining funds needed to acquire the parcel, and conducting surveys and performing legal reviews and title searches. These steps eventually lead to a closing date, when the land is transferred to the Trail Conference or other land trust partner and becomes protected!

4. If land is acquired, transfer the acquisition to New York State or another partner

- The Trail Conference is not a land trust, so we prefer to not hold on to protected land and instead transfer it to either New York State or a land trust partner. The timeframe for when a transfer occurs depends on several variables, including the parcel's significance and priority in comparison with potential acquisitions statewide, as well as the amount of funding New York State or other land trust partners has available to purchase these lands.

The situations surrounding any particular parcel vary greatly, such that the timeframe between the first step and last step can involve only 1-2 years of work, or require 10-20 years of persistence!

Conservation Corridor Protection:

The Long Path Protection Plan aims to link conservation and recreation goals by preserving land adjacent to the Long Path to contribute to interconnected conservation corridors that support habitat connectivity and combat landscape degradation. The strategic protections outlined in the Long Path Protection Plan aim to create a fully protected corridor that would benefit recreational and environmental resources from New York City to the Adirondack Park.

The protection of ecological corridors is a strategy that land managers, planners, and interest groups utilize to reduce habitat fragmentation and degradation. Anthropogenic disturbances such as urbanization and development disrupt wildlife interactions and movement, resulting in a decline of biodiversity in developed areas. Clearing of native vegetation creates patches or islands of habitats, isolating plants and animals and interrupting ecological processes like migration, dispersal, pollination, and mating.

Ecological or conservation corridors link vegetated areas and water bodies, enabling habitat connectivity that allows plants and animals to migrate and disperse in the face of changing seasons, degraded ecosystems, and changing climate. Wildlife moves daily and seasonally to reach food, water, shelter, and breeding sites and are more frequently relying on corridors to locate their needs. A study in Tensas River Basin, Louisiana found that bears moved more regularly through wooded patches connected by corridors than wooded areas fragmented by agricultural land, indicating corridors supported the idea that habitat connectivity is necessary to sustain black bear population (USDA 1999). Additionally, Aziz & Rasidi (2014) found that greater species richness is likely in wider corridors with more forest.

In addition to habitat connectivity to wildlife, corridors play a substantial role in improving watershed conditions by reducing the impact of agricultural runoff into riparian zones, decreasing erosion and flooding, and improving water and air quality (USDA 1999; Lynch 2019).

Investment in corridor protection adjacent to recreational trail systems offers an opportunity to promote ecological conservation that is compatible with human activity. There is a growing body of research that indicates physical and psychological human health benefit from the presence of biodiversity and natural landscapes (Russell et al. 2013; Seymour 2016; Frumkin et al. 2017). Therefore, by integrating regional trail networks with ecological corridors, the Long Path will serve as a multipurpose corridor that protects functioning ecosystems and promotes human health.

References:

- Aziz, H. A., & Rasidi, M. H. (2014). *The role of green corridors for wildlife conservation in urban landscape: A literature review*. In *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science* (Vol. 18, No. 1, p. 012093). IOP Publishing.
- Frumkin, H., Bratman, G. N., Breslow, S. J., Cochran, B., Kahn Jr, P. H., Lawler, J. J., ... & Wood, S. A. (2017). *Nature contact and human health: A research agenda*. *Environmental health perspectives*, 125(7), 075001.
- Hector, T. S., Allen, W., Carr, M., Zwick, P. D., Huntley, E., Smith, D. J., ... & Hilsenbeck, R. (2008). *Land corridors in the southeast: connectivity to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services*. *J Conserv Plan*, 4, 90-122.
- Lynch, A. J. (2019). *Creating effective urban greenways and stepping-stones: Four critical gaps in habitat connectivity planning research*. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 34(2), 131-155.
- Rinaldo, A., Gatto, M., & Rodriguez-Iturbe, I. (2018). *River networks as ecological corridors: A coherent ecohydrological perspective*. *Advances in Water Resources*, 112, 27-58. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advwatres.2017.10.005>
- Russell R, Guerry AD, Balvanera P, Gould RK, Basurto X, Chan KMA, et al. (2013). *Humans and nature: how knowing and experiencing nature affect well-being*. *Annu Rev Environ Resour* 38:473-502
- Seymour V. (2016). *The human-nature relationship and its impact on health: A critical review*. *Front Public Health* 4:260
- USDA. (1999). *Conservation Corridor Planning at the Landscape Level*. Chapter 4: *Corridor Benefits*. https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C33&as_vis=1&q=Corridor+Benefits+USDA&btnG=

How to Use this Plan

This **Long Path Protection Plan** examines individual Project Areas that are largely focused on unprotected property between already-protected lands. These Project Areas are organized by county, starting in Rockland County at the New York/New Jersey state border and proceeding northward toward Adirondack Park. The initial section in New Jersey is not included here because once the Long Path crosses the George Washington Bridge, it is routed entirely through protected Palisades Interstate Park land in New Jersey with one small exception that occurs as the Long Path crisscrosses the border at Rockland County.

The counties are grouped into the following sections, with an overview section map proceeding each section in the Plan:

- **Southern Section:** Rockland, Orange, Sullivan
- **Catskills Section:** Ulster, Greene
- **Northern Section:** Schoharie, Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga, Fulton

The first eight counties are structured in the following way:

- **Overview and History** of the Long Path in that county
- **County Map** showing the route of the Long Path and specific project area locations
- **Project Area Descriptions** and **Action Items**
- **Project Area Parcel Lists** of protection priority parcels within the desired corridor
- **Project Area Maps** showing protected lands and preferred Long Path routes

The northernmost counties of Saratoga and Fulton are represented by descriptions of potential routes and rough maps of these routes, but they do not yet include specific Project Areas. The section for Orange County also includes information and project areas for the related Shawangunk Ridge Trail.

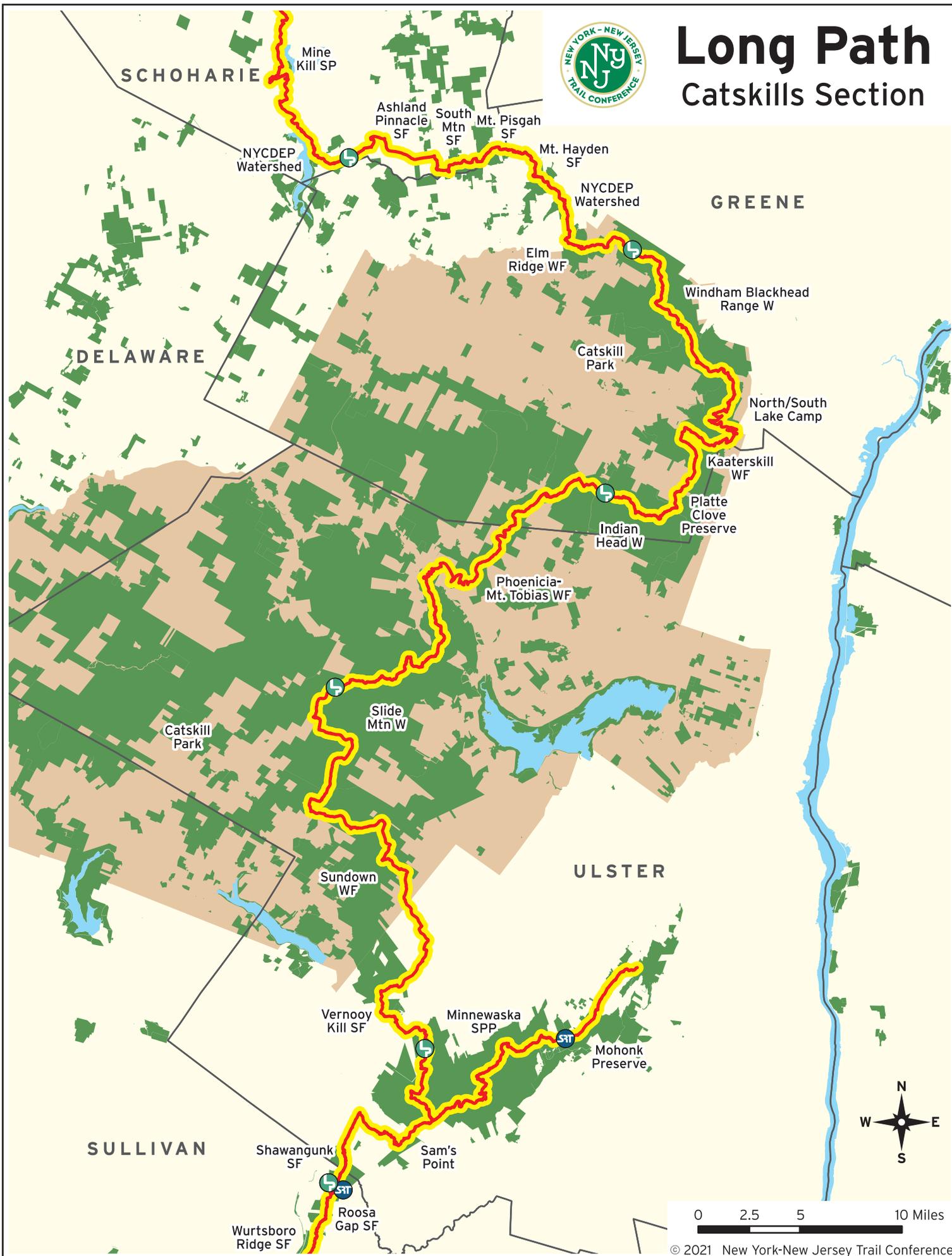
While this Long Path Protection Plan is designed to show all the priority areas along the trail, each section and county can also be looked at individually. The hope is that this plan will assist interested Long Path stakeholders in engaging in actions to preserve and protect the Long Path in any given Project Area or County.

Each Project Area Map includes a legend showing the manager level of protected lands (i.e., state, county, municipal, land trust). Note that orange-shaded Corridor Priority Parcels are parcels for which some form of protection should be secured, so that could include direct acquisition as well as other easements or agreements that could provide protection for the corridor.

County	Number of Project Areas	Number of Priority Parcels
Rockland	6	31
Orange	9	96
Sullivan	2	9
Ulster	4	18
Greene	6	33
Schoharie	13	79
Albany	7	46
Schenectady	6	64
Saratoga	Work is underway to further develop a potential protected corridor through these two counties.	
Fulton		
TOTAL	54	376



Long Path Catskills Section



Ulster County



Ulster County

Protection Overview:

There are **4 Project Areas** within Ulster County. Protecting a corridor in each of these areas would completely protect the Long Path in Ulster County, which runs **76 miles** through the county.

- The co-aligned Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail enter Ulster County along the Shawangunk Ridge within Shawangunk Ridge State Forest. Leaving the state forest, the trail follows the former Newburgh and Ellenville Plank Road, a dirt right of way leading from the state forest to Route 52. Along this old plank road built in 1849 is **Project Area 1**.
- The trail then crosses Route 52 and enters the Sam's Point Area of Minnewaska State Park Preserve. Climbing through South Gully, both the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail pass the famous ice caves and Verkeerder Kill Falls. As the trail approaches the falls, it crosses onto private land, and this is **Project Area 2**. The trail here directly passes the Verkeerder Kill Falls, recognized as one of the many exquisite natural landmarks of the area, and it is essential that Verkeerder Kill Falls and the Long Path that provides access to the falls are protected for generations to come.
- The trail continues through the private land to a trail junction, where the Long Path splits away from the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and heads north toward the Catskill Park. Leaving Minnewaska State Park Preserve on the former berm of the D&H Canal, the trail enters a town park before reaching the road which it follows to the Catskill Park at Vernooey Falls. This is presently a 12-mile road walk.
- Currently a new section of trail is being built between Cutler Road and Vernooey Falls through Vernooey Kill State Forest and Sundown Wild Forest, which will reduce the road walk to 2.35 miles. **Project Area 3** examines how to reduce this road walk even further and create a protected corridor between Minnewaska State Park Preserve and Vernooey Kill State Forest.
- The new section of the Long Path under construction will be completed and opened some time in 2022. Long Path hikers will leave Cutler Road and remain in State Forest, Wild Forest and Wilderness Area for the next 33.5 miles.
- After a short road walk of about 0.75 mile, the Long Path arrives in Phoenicia. **Project Area 4** begins at the intersection of Bridge and Main Streets. The Long Path currently follows Mt Tremper-Phoenicia Road (County Route 40) for 1.3 miles to reach the Phoenicia-Mt Tobias State Forest. The desired route from this intersection would pass through Parish Field, a local park which provides access to the Tanbark Loop Trail. The trail would then climb the mountain following those trails, and then new construction through the Wild Forest would connect to the existing Long Path on Tremper Mountain.
- The Long Path then leaves Ulster County within the Phoenicia-Mt Tobias Wild Forest.
- Preserving the Long Path in only a few locations within Ulster County will relocate the trail off of the road, providing a significant improvement in both user experience as well as safety. This is a top priority, particularly in Project Area 3 and Project Area 4.

Ulster County

History:

In the 1960s, volunteers were clearing and blazing the Long Path between New York City and the Catskill Park. At that time, the trail mostly followed local roads and was routed through private land wherever permission was granted. The trail climbed the Shawangunk Ridge through private land to reach Verkeerder Kill Falls. The trail continued through private land all the way to Route 44/55, and then followed roads to Kerhonkson. From Kerhonkson, the trail followed old farm service roads and back roads to reach Vernoooy Falls. Into the 1990s, routing the Long Path through the Catskills was no easy task. While some trails existed in the Forest Preserve, the Long Path started as a mix of road walks and wilderness hiking trails. Through the 1990s, future Long Path reroutes were written into the state's Unit Management Plans for the numerous forest preserve units along the Long Path route.

In 1972, New York State purchased 6,725 acres and created what we now know as Minnewaska State Park Preserve. Still, nearly 9 miles of private land separated Minnewaska State Park Preserve from the Forest Preserve in the Catskill Park. With the exception of 160 acres of isolated state land in Sullivan County, it was private land all the way south to High Point State Park in New Jersey, where the Shawangunk Ridge Trail starts now.

Over the years, Minnewaska State Park Preserve has grown to over 24,000 acres and is connected with Mohonk Preserve, a huge preserve in its own right with over 8,000 acres. Approximately 2,000 more acres are owned by land trusts and other preserves. Altogether, this area is an interconnected swath of preserved land totaling more than 34,000 acres on the Shawangunk Ridge north of Route 52. South of Route 52, the Shawangunk Ridge State Forest is part of an interconnected and preserved corridor of land that stretches south through Sullivan County and into Orange County. The Long Path now follows this route into Ulster County, which eliminates the road walk at the south end of the county.

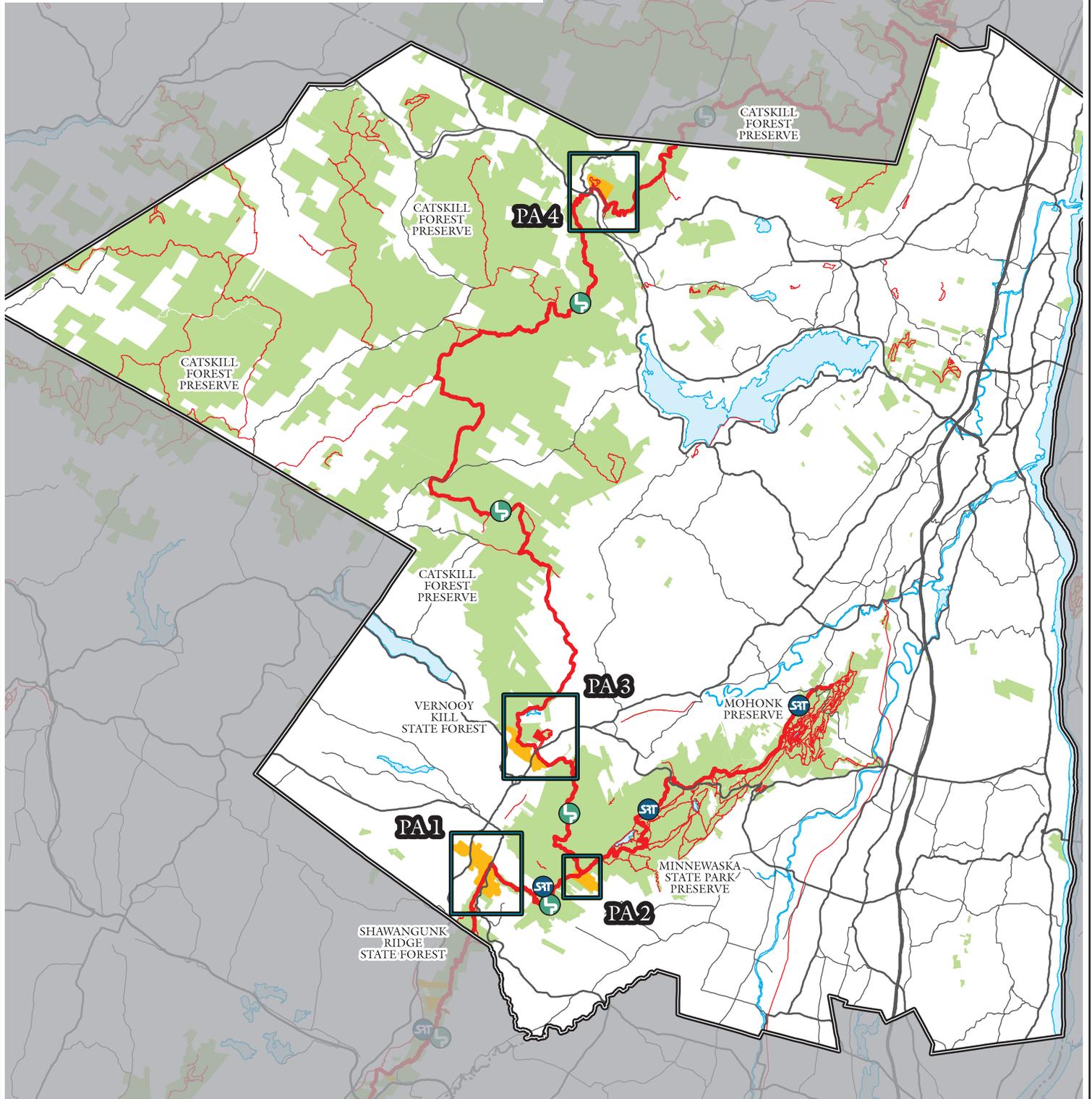
While the northern Shawangunk Ridge was getting protected, 5,400 acres was also preserved in the year 2000 at the southern tip of the Catskill Park. This extended the size of the Sundown Wild Forest and also created the Vernoooy Kill State Forest, south of the state forest preserve's blue line of protection yet still connected with the Catskill Park. Today, the state land of the Catskills is separated from Minnewaska State Park Preserve by 1.25 miles.

In 2014, the Trail Conference designed and led the effort of building a section of trail over three mountains in the Slide Mountain Wilderness Area. This eliminated the last multi-mile (5.6 miles) road walk for the Long Path inside the Catskill Park. Currently, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is leading the effort to build another section for the Long Path in the Vernoooy Kill State Forest and Sundown Wild Forest, which will eliminate an additional 10 miles of road walk.

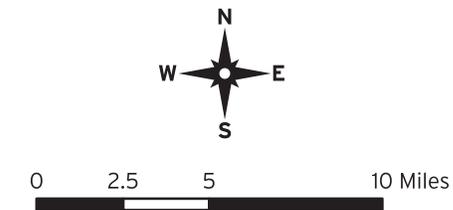


Ulster County

Project Areas #1-4



- Protected land
- Corridor priority parcel
- Long Path/Shawangunk Ridge Trail
- Other trail
- Project Area Outline



Ulster County

Project Area #1

Shawangunk Ridge State Forest to Minnewaska State Park Preserve

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path follows an old dirt road from the state forest to the state park. This old road is the former Ellenville-Newburgh Plank Road and located below and parallel to NY State route 52.
- While the old road is a public right of way it runs through private land for one mile before reaching route 52. The concern here is that development will encompass the old plank road which the Long Path follows.

Action Needed:

- Whether a protected corridor is assembled above or below route 52 does not matter. Either would serve the LP & SRT well. The first four parcels listed below are below route 52, the last two are above route 52.

Priority Parcels:

Current Route

Parcel: 91.3-1-3	Landowner: BLACK	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 87.5	Description: Vacant parcel that begins at the abandoned O&W RR and climbs steeply up the mountain, ending just above Route 52. The Long Path and SRT run along a dirt road.	

Parcel: 91.3-1-2	Landowner: JC REALTY CORP	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 49.7	Description: Vacant parcel that begins at the abandoned O&W RR and climbs steeply up the mountain, ending just above Route 52. The Long Path and SRT run along a dirt road.	

Parcel: 91.1-1-8	Landowner: NOVAL	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 50.2	Description: Vacant parcel that begins at the abandoned O&W RR and climbs steeply up the mountain, ending just above Route 52. The Long Path and SRT run along a dirt road.	

Parcels: 91.1-1-6,11, 91.1-1-13	Landowner: NEVELLE HOTEL LLC	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 464, 33.9	Description: Resort that is built up in the valley but wooded as it climbs the mountain to end just above Route 52. The Long Path and SRT run along a dirt road.	

Mountainside Route above Route 52

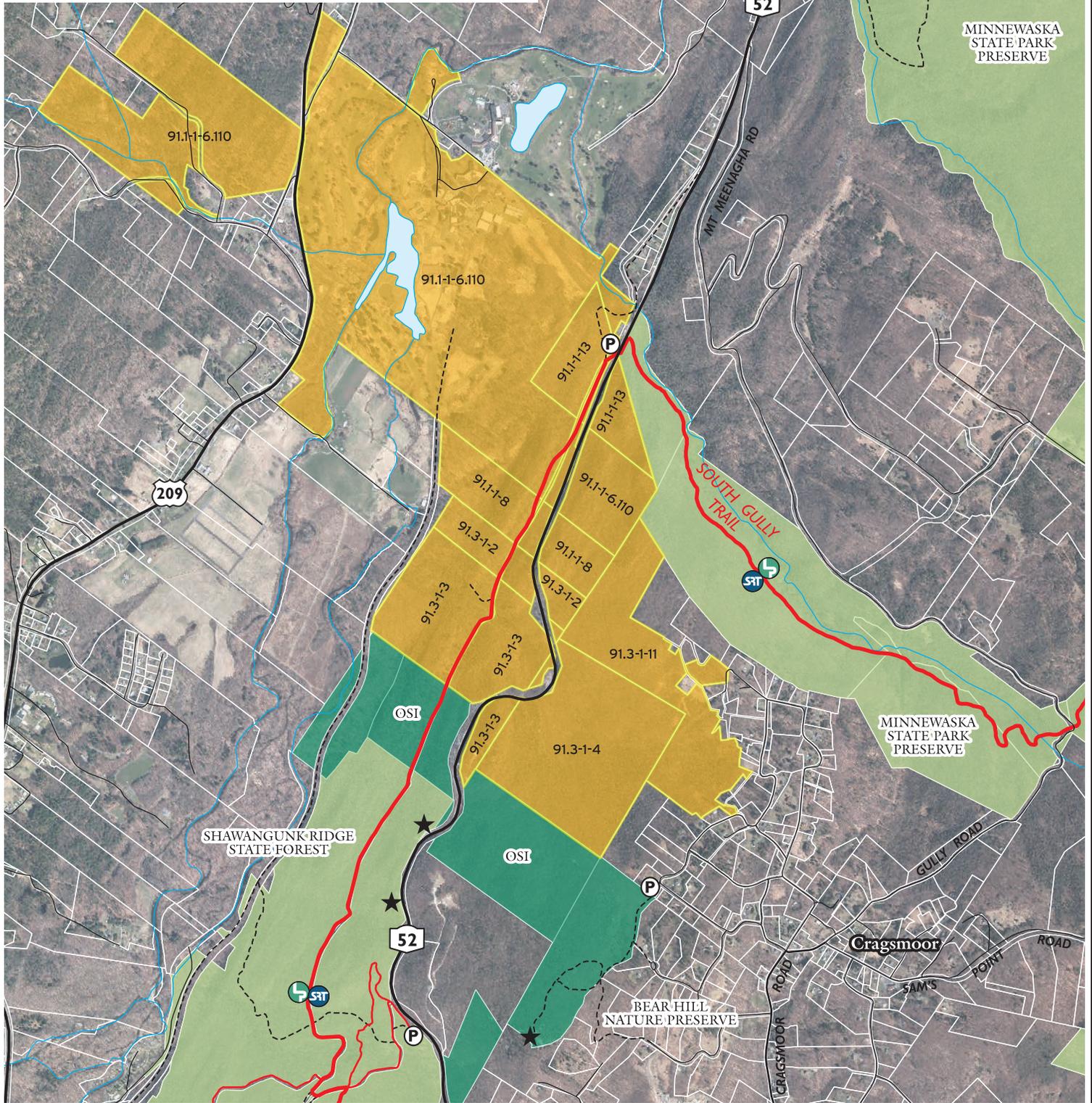
Parcel: 91.3-1-4	Landowner: BOOLUKOS	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 104	Description: Parcel is under contract for preservation. This parcel is above route 52.	

Parcel: 91.1-3-11	Landowner: WOUGH	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 80	Description: Mountainside parcel with nice views, covered with blueberry and other common vegetation at higher ridge elevations. Routing the Long Path here is possible, and the property connects with Minnewaska State Park Preserve.	



Shawangunk Ridge SF to Minnewaska SPP

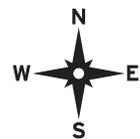
Ulster County Project Area #1



- State land
- County land
- Land trust land
- Municipal land
- Owned by NYNJTC
- Transferred by NYNJTC
- Assisted by NYNJTC

- Corridor priority parcel
- Threatened parcel
- Maintained trail
- Proposed trail
- Long Path
- Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- P Parking area
- Viewpoint



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Ulster County

Project Area #2

Verkeerder Kill Falls near Minnewaska State Park Preserve

Project Area Description:

- This area is completely owned by one family. The Verkeerder Kill Falls is entirely on this private land as is nearly 8/10 of mile of the Long Path and a little more than 1/10 of a mile of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail where it splits from the LP.
- State parkland wraps around this private land in the area of the trails and the falls. Even so it would be a huge loss to not have access to the iconic Verkeerder Kill Falls.

Action Needed:

- Passing the falls as the trail currently does is the desired location. This is an important area to preserve.
- The state of New York owns property all along the eastern border of the private parcel with the falls. Perhaps a land swap could be worked out with the landowners.

Priority Parcels:

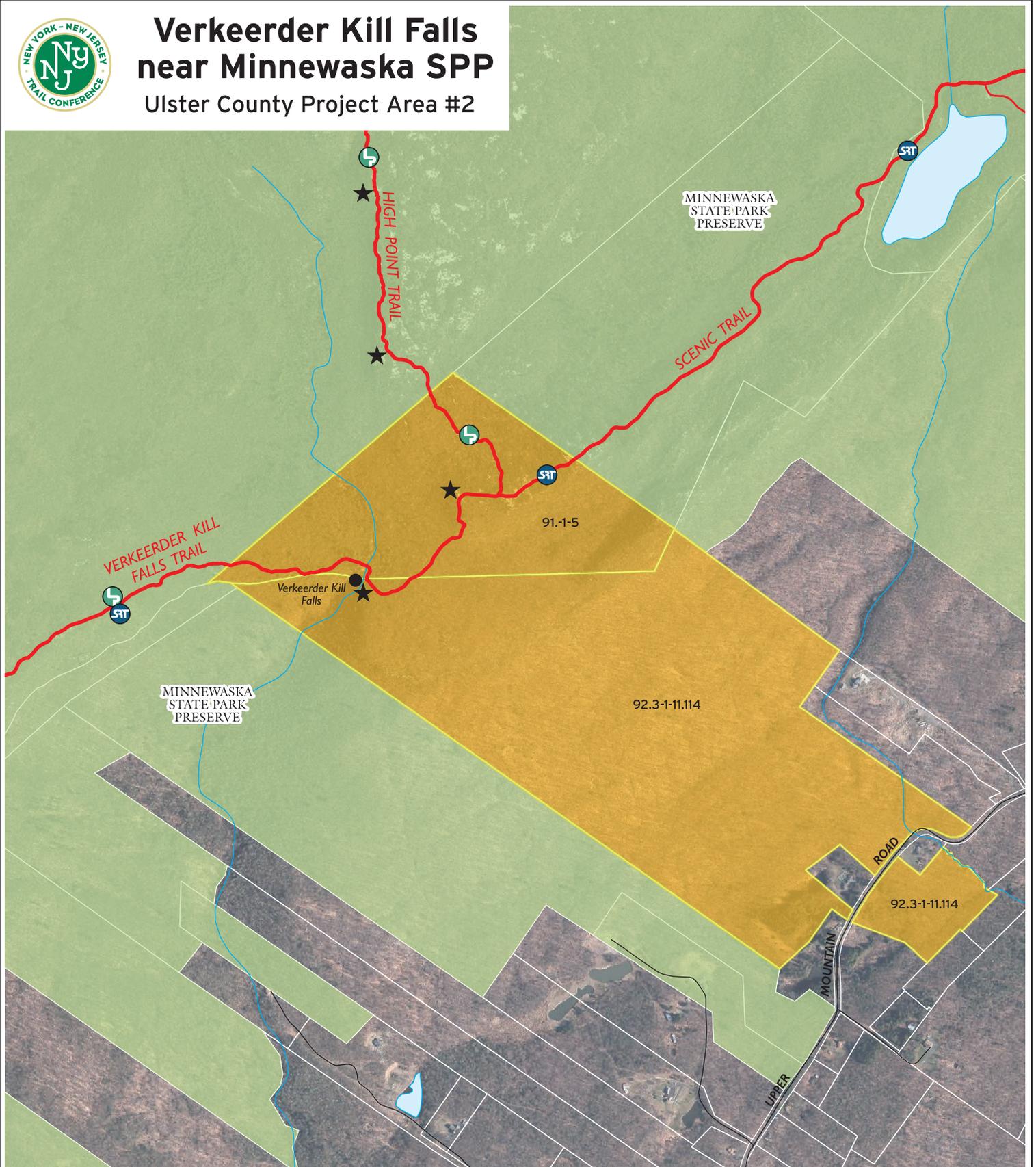
Parcel: 91.-1-5	Landowner: CONCORS	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 70.3	Description: This vacant parcel is on top of the ridge. The parcel contains part of the iconic Verkeerder Kill Falls. Also, the Long Path and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail both cross this property.	

Parcel: 92.-3-11.114	Landowner: CONCORS	Municipality: SHAWANGUNK
Acres: 194.2	Description: This is a large parcel vacant parcel with part of the iconic Verkeerder Kill Falls on it. The parcel is part of the 480a real property tax law with 106 acres registered in the DEC's forestry program.	



Verkeerder Kill Falls near Minnewaska SPP

Ulster County Project Area #2



- State land
- County land
- Land trust land
- Municipal land
- Owned by NYNJTC
- Transferred by NYNJTC
- Assisted by NYNJTC

- Corridor priority parcel
- Threatened parcel
- Maintained trail
- Proposed trail
- L Long Path
- SRT Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- P Parking area
- Viewpoint



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



Ulster County

Project Area #3

Minnewaska State Park Preserve to Vernooy Kill State Forest

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path follows roads between the D&H Canal Path and the Vernooy Kill State Forest. Walking through the small community of Port Ben is necessary to reach the bridge over the Rondout Creek, closed to vehicle traffic at this time. The Long Path currently follows Port Ben Road to 209. It then follows 209, followed by Lundy Road to reach the state forest.
- New York State Department of Corrections owns the land on both sides of Port Ben Road at the north side of the creek. The land was once part of a prison farm program. This parcel also borders route 209 at several locations. The parcel State Corrections southwest of Port Ben Road is desirable for an off-road trail route.
- Across route 209 the Town of Wawarsing own a large parcel of land. The highway department occupies a portion of this parcel along 209. Behind the Highway garage the town owns the vacant hill that faces the road. A Cemetery is next to the highway department.

Action Needed:

- We need to advocate to the state to open up the land they own for recreational purposes. NYSDOC's once had a farm program that was operated as a prison training program which also supplied food for the prison. It was shut down over a decade ago. This land is not near the prisons.
- Across route 209 a trail easement between the highway Garage/yard and the cemetery will be needed to reach the towns land on the hill behind the highway facility.
- North of the town property there is private land. Preserving these properties or a trail corridor through them would allow for the Long Path be routed off of the local roads.

Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 83.2-1-17	Landowner: NYS DOC	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 133.79	Description: This was once a farm field for the now closed down prison farm. The large field has the Rondout Creek along its southern boundary.	

Parcel: 83.6-4-1	Landowner: TOWN OF WAWARSING	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 25.8	Description: The town highway department is located on this parcel. The mostly vacant rises up steeply and would be a good route for the Long Path.	

Parcel: 83.6-4-2	Landowner: EZRATH ISRAEL CEMETERY	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 9.2	Description: This parcel is just listed as an option. The Long Path passes through many cemeteries, why not another.	

Parcel: 75.3-2-8.120	Landowner: PECKHAM MATERIALS CORPORATION	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 131	Description: This abandoned quarry has been vacant for years, it would be perfect for a hiking trail. This parcel is part of the preferred Long Path route through this area.	

Parcel: 75.18-1-23	Landowner: PIATEK	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 3	Description: Has a house near the road. The western portion of this property may be desirable for the trail to cross if we need to cross over the Vernooy Kill.	

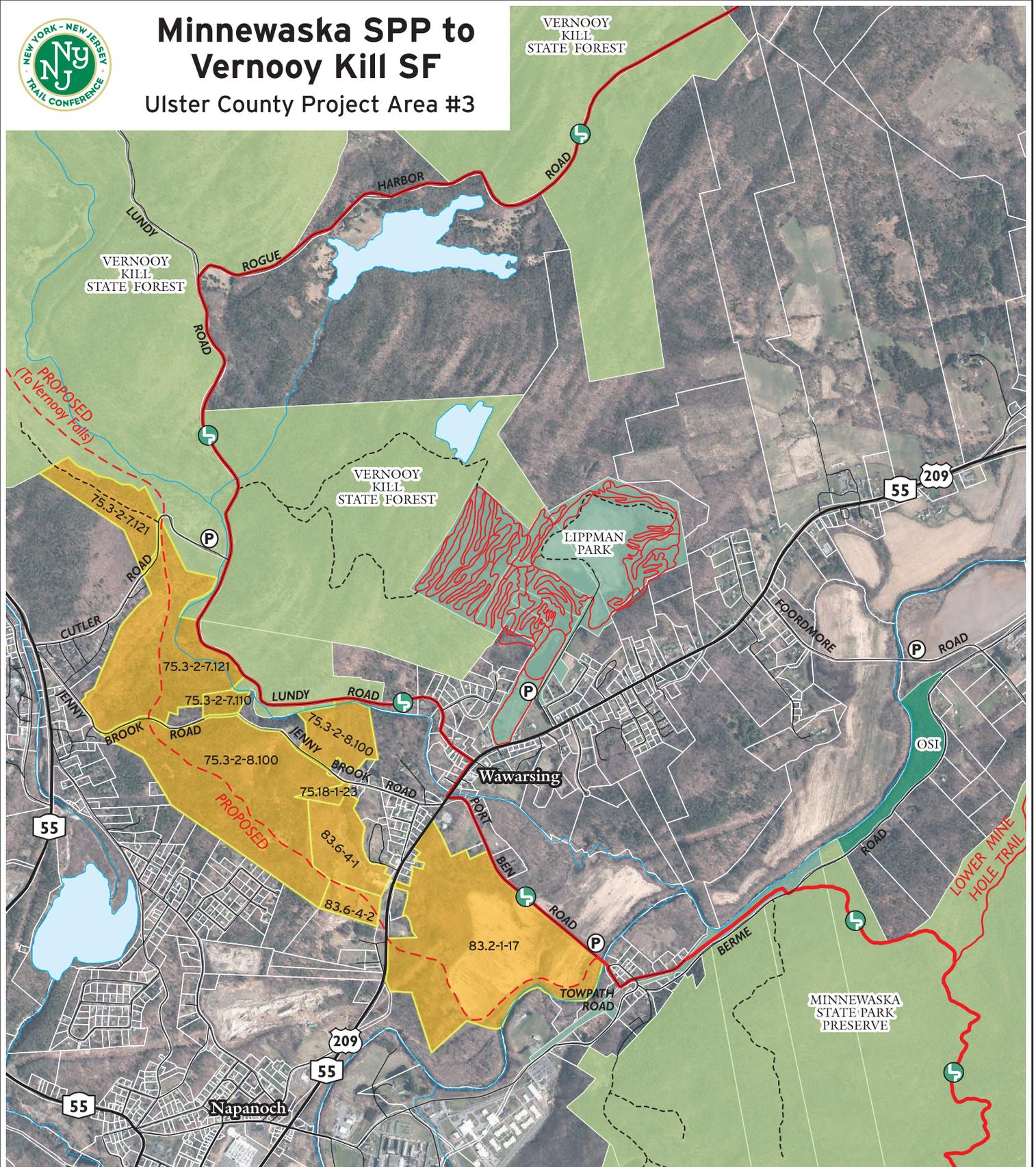
Parcel: 75.3-2-7.11	Landowner: STEVEN M. LEVINE LIVING TRUST	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 4.6	Description: Vacant parcel along the creek. This parcel would enable us to remain close to the west side of the creek.	

Parcel: 75.3-2-7.121	Landowner: THE LAND REMAINS LLC	Municipality: WAWARSING
Acres: 106	Description: This parcel is mostly vacant and wooded. The Vernooy Kill runs through part of it. This parcel is part of the preferred Long Path route through this area.	



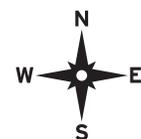
Minnewaska SPP to Vernooey Kill SF

Ulster County Project Area #3

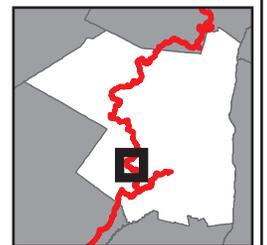


- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | State land | | Corridor priority parcel |
| | County land | | Threatened parcel |
| | Land trust land | | Maintained trail |
| | Municipal land | | Proposed trail |
| | Owned by NYNJTC | | Long Path |
| | Transferred by NYNJTC | | Shawangunk Ridge Trail |
| | Assisted by NYNJTC | | |

- Parking area
- Viewpoint



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Ulster County

Project Area #4

Phoenicia to Tremper Mountain

Project Area Description:

- Currently the Long Path follows the road for 1.3 miles in this area. Getting the trail off the road here would be a significant improvement as it's not a safe road walk. Currently the town has a park and trail system on the land owned by the local Church. The trail is known as the Tanbark Trail. Our plan is to follow this trail up to the Wild Forest.
- There is an old woods road that runs through the wild forest that would work well for a relocation of the Long Path. For a short stretch the woods road crosses the corner of a private parcel before entering back into the wild forest. The woods road passes the steep cliffs on Mount Tremper in this area.
- This is the last road walk within the interior of the southern Catskill Park that needs to be addressed. Many Long Path hikers have expressed their harrowing experiences while walking this road.
- Project Area 4 offers an opportunity to connect the Hamlet of Phoenicia with the Mt. Tremper Fire Tower as well as the entire Catskill Park trail system. Phoenicia's access to parking and bus service is a **Priority Linkage** within the Catskill Park Master Plan.

Action Needed:

- First action is to get approval for constructing a trail connection through the Phoenicia - Mt Tobias Wild Forest. An amendment to the DEC's Unit Management Plan will be require.
- We would also like to talk with the Church about preserving their parcel with the Tanbark Trails on it. The Pearlman parcel boundary will be close to the trail Corridor. Preserving the Pearlman parcel or a portion of it would permanently protect the trail corridor. The trail can't be moved to the north as there is a high cliff directly north of the proposed trail.

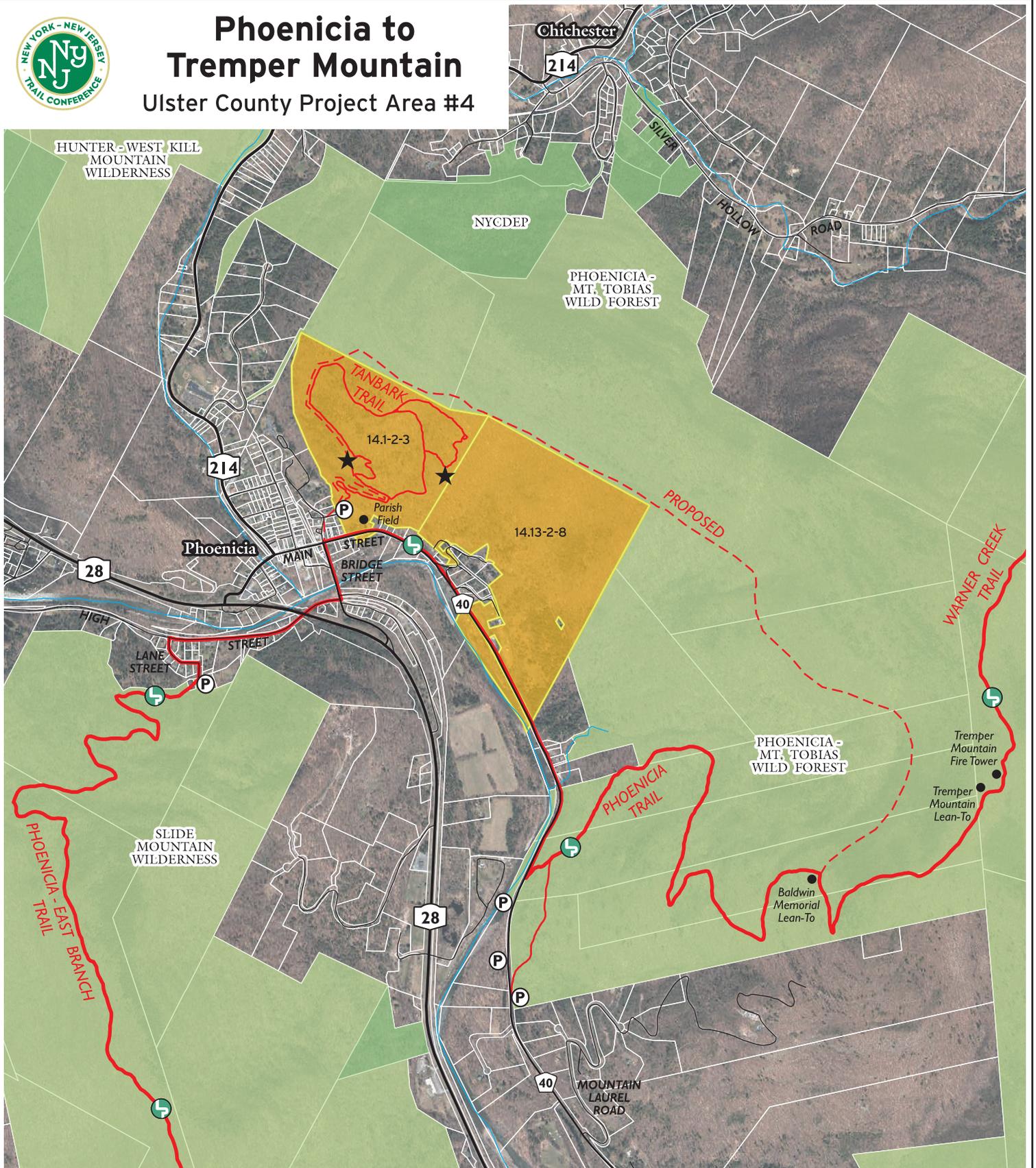
Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 14.1-2-3	Landowner: SAINT FRANCIS DESALES	Municipality: SHANDAKEN
Acres: 99.1	Description: The Town of Shandaken leases a portion of this property for Parish Park, a public park. The Tanbark Trail is also entirely on this property.	
Parcel: 14.13-2-8	Landowner: PEARLMAN	Municipality: SHANDAKEN
Acres: 152.9	Description: Borders the wild forest along two of its borders. The parcel is part of the 480a real property tax law with 112 acres registered in the DEC's forestry program.	



Phoenicia to Tremper Mountain

Ulster County Project Area #4



- State land
- County land
- Land trust land
- Municipal land
- Owned by NYNJTC
- Transferred by NYNJTC
- Assisted by NYNJTC

- Corridor priority parcel
- Threatened parcel
- Maintained trail
- Proposed trail
- Long Path
- Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- Parking area
- Viewpoint



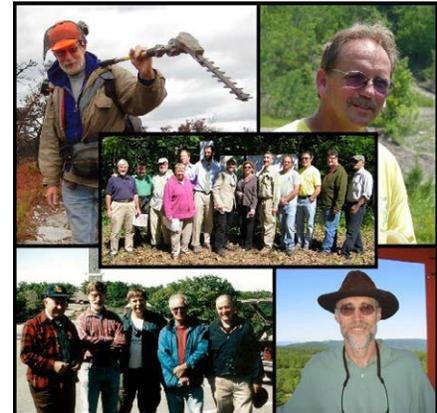
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Acknowledgements

The creation of a greenway corridor, perhaps above all else, requires dedicated people working together for a common conservation cause. Over the past several decades, land protection progress along the Long Path has been the result of Trail Conference volunteers and staff working closely with land trust partners, New York State park partners, local community members, and landowners themselves. The photos to the right show just a few of the people who have played instrumental roles in creating protected corridors for the Long Path, especially along the Shawangunk Ridge.

This Long Path Protection Plan has come together thanks to several dedicated individuals. The following two volunteers deserve special recognition for their contributions:



Andy Garrison, for his long-time dedication to the Long Path both on the physical trail and behind-the-scenes. His step-by-step knowledge of the entire Long Path and ability to plot out potential corridors has been instrumental to preparing each of the project areas in this plan and the overall vision for protecting the Long Path.

Nick Boyle, for working closely with Andy to develop the structure of this plan, and also helping to organize and edit the descriptions and parcel info for each of the counties and project areas.

Thanks also to contributed photos from **Steve Aaron, Daniel Chazin, Jakob Franke, Alex McClain**, and other volunteers, and text about the importance of conserving corridors from **Cory Tiger**.

Our land protection efforts and the development of this Plan would also not have been possible without large amounts of funding support.

- The Long Path Protection Plan was supported with funding from the **New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP)** and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the **Land Trust Alliance**, in coordination with the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**.
- Additional funding for this Plan came from the **Trail Conference's donor-supported Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund (LASF)**.

We hope this Long Path Protection Plan will also inspire more people to join this cause to protect the important lands throughout our region.

Happy Trails!

Jeremy Apgar
Cartographer
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference