

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



TORNE VALLEY. PHOTO: CLARK JONES.

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND *in New York*

For more than three decades, The Trust for Public Land has been protecting land where New York residents and visitors can hike, bike, fish, and enjoy the great outdoors.

Whether protecting large landscapes or smaller critically important parcels, TPL helps communities balance growth with essential land conservation. TPL protects forests, preserves drinking water and local food sources, safeguards critical wildlife habitats, expands New York's prized state park system, and connects people to the land by improving public access to parks and public open space.

TPL acts quickly to help communities acquire lands of high priority for conservation, securing them until they can be purchased by the public.

TPL structures, negotiates, and completes land transactions that lead to new parks, trails, playgrounds, gardens, and protected natural areas and waterways.

TPL supports a broad range of conservation initiatives throughout New York State with three primary areas of focus:

1. New York Harbor Estuary
2. Hudson River Valley
3. Great Lakes Region

1 NEW YORK HARBOR ESTUARY

High-rise buildings and thruways dominate the skylines at the intersection of New York and New Jersey, but the two states also share a natural connection of estuaries in the harbors between them. A century of industrial pollution and neglect brought aquatic life in these waters to the brink of extinction. Fortunately, clean-up over the last two decades has restored the estuaries and brought people back to the waterfronts. TPL is working to reclaim public access to the waterfront, protect the last remaining natural lands in the area, and increase parkland in one of the country's most densely populated urban areas.

This ambitious effort stretches from Staten Island in the south, through the lower and upper portions of New York Harbor, and along both sides of the Hudson River to the Bronx in the north. To date, TPL has protected more than 600 acres adjacent to the harbor in New York City, including at South Brother Island in the Bronx, East River State Park in Brooklyn, and Old Place Creek in Staten Island.

East River State Park

Until the mid-1900s the Eastern District Terminal in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, was a major rail-to-barge shipping facility, mainly for sugar from a nearby refinery. Abandoned for decades, the site fell into disrepair and was abandoned. Meanwhile, due to growth pressure in Manhattan, the Williamsburg and nearby Greenpoint neighborhoods swelled with new residents. In the 1990s, neighbors organized to successfully oppose the construction of a major new waste-transfer station on the property. With the support of local and state politicians, TPL negotiated with the landowner and acquired two blocks (six acres) to create East River State Park—the core of a future seven-block park along the East River waterfront. The land's protection has inspired a major rezoning that will bring residential and park development to the entire 1.7 miles of riverfront in these growing neighborhoods.



TOM GRAVEL/TPL

Mount Loretto

When developers targeted a small patch of woods on Staten Island's southwestern shore for 24 homes the state asked TPL to help add the land to the Mount Loretto Unique Area, created with TPL's help years earlier. TPL was able to purchase the land, known as Butler Manor, and its protection kept intact over 600 acres of unbroken and ecologically diverse parkland near New York City's waterfront.



AVERY WHAM

2 HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Rich in history, with watersheds that provide clean drinking water for millions of people, and encompassing thousands of acres of state parks and state forests, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area is a unique and cherished landscape. While significant portions of the valley have been preserved through careful development, its natural legacy is threatened by population growth and sprawl. Over the years, TPL has assisted the state, counties, and municipalities in protecting more than 51,000 acres in the ten-county river valley area and today it is helping preserve the pastoral and natural lands that attract residents and support the valley's much-sought-after quality of life. Recent successes include those at Torne and Ticeteneck Mountains and the preservation of more than 18,000 acres within the Sterling Forest Highlands.

Torne Mountain–Wrightman Plateau

Legend has it that General George Washington lost his watch on Torne Mountain while spying on British troops during the American Revolution. No one knows where this happened, but today's visitors to Harriman State Park can daydream about finding the watch as they hike to the mountain's summit through 495 newly protected acres overlooking Ramapo Pass. TPL partnered with the state and Rockland County to conserve the historic landscape around Torne Mountain forever and put to rest plans for the land's development. In addition to its history and value for recreation, the land encompasses the Ramapo River basin, which provides drinking water for two million people in Rockland County and northern New Jersey. It offers habitat for redtailed hawks, great blue and green herons, foxes, coyotes, black bears, and protected timber rattlesnakes and ospreys.



CLARK JONES

Sterling Forge

When the last undeveloped land within Sterling Forest was slated for a golf course and 100 new homes, TPL led the effort to help save it from development. Sterling Forge is the latest of many additions TPL has helped make to Sterling Forest State Park, the 18,000-acre crown jewel of the state park system. Preserving Sterling Forge as natural land helped to ensure clean drinking water for millions of people, protect critical wetlands and wildlife habitat, and enhance access for recreation.



KEN SHERMAN

3 GREAT LAKES REGION

Western New York is blessed with two of America's greatest natural resources in Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Millions of people draw drinking water from these Great Lakes, and countless species of wildlife thrive in their estuaries, bays, watersheds, and deep water. With growth straining these natural support systems for humans and wildlife, TPL is spearheading the strategic protection of the region's most critical shorelines and watersheds. To date, TPL has conserved nearly 6,000 acres in the Great Lakes region, including Woodlawn Beach on Lake Erie, Camp Beechwood on Lake Ontario, and properties in Braddock Bay and in the Thousand Islands.

Salmon Creek

In partnership with the state and the Town of Parma, TPL added 240 pristine acres along Salmon Creek to the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area. Conserved marshes on the land prevent pollution from entering the creek and Lake Ontario—and the land is now available for public fishing, hiking, birding, hunting, and cross-country skiing. The addition to the wildlife area provides excellent nesting, feeding, and resting habitat for the 300-plus species of birds that frequent the marsh and the bay.

Great Lakes Mapping

As a critical part of our work to raise awareness and appreciation of the Great Lakes region, TPL created an internet mapping service (IMS) for the region. Our Great Lakes IMS uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools to display currently protected lands and highlights future conservation opportunities. Using the IMS, TPL and its partners are working to link parks and trails across the region as a way of protecting natural resources and maximizing opportunities for public recreation.



ANN AND JOHN MAHAN

In addition to our work in these three primary focus areas, TPL's proud history of conservation in New York includes protection of tens of thousands of acres throughout the state. In only the last few years, TPL has helped conserve the Grasse River Forest in the Adirondacks, add parkland and improve park access in the Finger Lakes region, and create a new state park on Long Island's North Fork. Through our urban program, TPL works with local park-poor communities throughout New York City to transform vacant lots into playgrounds and protect community gardens.

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THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND
NEW YORK OFFICE
666 BROADWAY NINTH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10012
212.677.7171

tpl.org/newyork