



Bill Ulfelder © Jonathan Grassi

### From Our Executive Director

The global health pandemic and recession underscore the need to create a healthier, more just and thriving world. Nature has an essential role to play, and New Yorkers know it. Our recent poll of New York voters show that they don't want to return to the past. Quite the opposite. They believe the pandemic recovery offers an opportunity to address big challenges, including climate change. As you'll read from the stories here, urban and rural forests alike play a big role—helping build a stronger, more climate-resilient tomorrow for all to thrive. We can only have a vibrant, sustainable natural world with equity, justice and peace for all of humanity. Thank you for all that you do to help us make this work a reality.

Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director

#### DONATIONS:

Go to [nature.org/newyork](http://nature.org/newyork) to donate. Or you can email [donate@tnc.org](mailto:donate@tnc.org) for more information.



A healthy urban forest makes our city more livable for all New Yorkers and helps tackle both the causes and effects of climate change.

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## Future Forest NYC

Did you know that all the trees across New York City make up a forest? Across NYC, about 7 million trees live in tree beds on our sidewalks, in public parks, in natural areas, in backyards, and at the institutions where we live, work and play. Together, these trees make up NYC's urban forest.

These trees enhance quality of life and improve the health and well-being of people, but their many benefits do not reach everyone equitably. And with no dedicated, long-term funding or committed plan for managing NYC's trees in the years ahead, the future of our urban forest is at risk.

Enter: The Nature Conservancy's Future Forest NYC initiative. This collaborative work will assure the future of the city's urban forest—and the social and environmental benefits it provides—in a just and equitable way. Our three efforts

will help move the needle:

Communicating the latest science through our forthcoming *State of NYC Trees* report; activating a diverse tree leadership group, the NYC Urban Forest Task Force; and coordinated tree stewardship efforts.

“Science helps us make better decisions, and there are real people, lives and stories behind the data. Working in partnership with leaders and communities is critical,” says New York Cities Program Director Emily Nobel Maxwell. “Every New Yorker deserves to live in a neighborhood rich with healthy trees and all the benefits they provide.”

Learn more about the NYC Urban Forest Task Force from Tami Lin-Moges, deputy director of the New York Cities program, on the next page.



Clockwise from left: Tami Lin-Moges at a conference in Washington, D.C. © Courtesy of Tami Lin-Moges; © Jonathan Grassi; © Diane Cook and Len Jenshel

The percentage of surveyed New York State voters who believe that the pandemic recovery offers an opportunity to plan for future challenges, including climate change. Explore more findings from our recent poll: [nature.org/nycovidpolling](https://nature.org/nycovidpolling).

# Valuing Our Urban Forest

## Meet Deputy Director of NY Cities Program Tami Lin-Moges

### What got you interested in NYC trees?

Trees are a new area of focus for me. I previously worked on water and energy infrastructure and greenhouse gas mitigation projects with the NYC government, driving home my overall passion to protect the environment. Coming to The Nature Conservancy, I see trees as another type of infrastructure—they require long-term care and investment, but their existence is sometimes taken for granted, much like turning on your faucet and having clean water without appreciating the work it takes to make that a reality. Trees are a living infrastructure that similarly require constant care.

### How can the NYC Urban Forest Task Force play a role in the economic recovery?

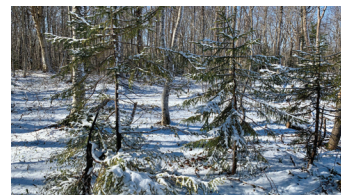
Investments in the green economy remain critical and present a pathway for new jobs. While volunteer tree stewards are a crucial part of caring for the city’s trees, there is a disparity in terms of which neighborhoods have them. In addition to working on recommendations for how to better protect, manage and grow the urban forest, the Task Force is also looking at urban forestry workforce development and what we can do to create more green careers for people, especially for those who have not traditionally been able to access these opportunities. We would love to see more trainings and well-paying jobs for New Yorkers to care for the trees in their own neighborhoods.

### What do you enjoy most about your work?

I’m honored to be able to work with almost 50 organizations on the Task Force that represent so many different partners and constituencies across the city. Since launching this coalition a year ago, everyone is still very enthusiastic, which is a testament to their passion for this work, the strength of our shared vision and our ability to collaborate. I’m proud of how much progress we have made, and I love that I continue to learn something new every day.

### Growing a Climate-Resilient Forest on Tug Hill

When our New York forest restoration team planned a spring tree planting on Tug Hill, a mosaic of lands located between the Adirondacks and the Appalachian Mountains, they didn’t anticipate doing it in a snowstorm, or during a pandemic. Against a backdrop ranging from wind and snow to 90-degree days, team members planted thousands of red oaks, white oaks, sugar maples and white pines across a 12-acre restoration site, an experiment aimed at learning how forests on Tug Hill respond to climate change. “Helping forests get ready for what’s coming is a big job, and there’s no map,” says our Central and Western New York chapter director Jim Howe. “But we have the perfect living laboratory for seeking answers.” These findings will help uncover innovative ways to increase forest health and resilience, preparing our forests—and ourselves—for the future. This wouldn’t be possible without your support!



Tug Hill forest in May 2020  
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