



Bill Ulfelder © Jonathan Grassi

From our Executive Director

Dear Friend,

As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, New York holds a distinctive place in our story. Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy emerged from a powerful idea: that committed individuals could come together to protect the natural world.

That belief took early shape in New York, where our first land protection efforts demonstrated what courage, collaboration and creative financing could achieve. Today, New York remains a place where big ideas are tested, refined and scaled far beyond our borders.

The stories that follow reflect how this legacy continues to evolve, powered by your support.

With gratitude,



Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director



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Community members and scientists, including Gloria Hollister Anable (center), gather at Mianus River Gorge. © The Nature Conservancy

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From beginnings to breakthroughs

Redefining what's possible for conservation

Nearly 75 years ago, early champions led by scientist Gloria Hollister Anable came together to protect Mianus River Gorge in Westchester County, New York. That 60-acre purchase—The Nature Conservancy's first land protection project—launched the private conservation movement and sparked a model that has since helped conserve more than 100 million acres worldwide.

Today, that collaborative spirit continues across New York. In New York City, we helped secure the city's first-ever Urban Forest Plan—a roadmap to reach 30% tree canopy cover by 2040 to cool neighborhoods, clean the air and improve livability in each borough.

In the Adirondacks, the return of 600 acres in Onchiota to Indigenous care

marks one of the largest land returns in what is now New York state, honoring long-standing relationships between the Haudenosaunee and their ancestral lands.

New York develops ideas that scale. Among them, a climate grant program that started here now spans all 18 states in the Appalachians.

Policy leadership underpins many of our successes. As a nonpartisan organization, we've advanced key environmental legislation, including the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act.

From our first steps to today's far-reaching impact, your support propels this work forward—redefining what's possible for conservation in New York and beyond.



Left to right: Dirk Bryant, New York director of lands and New York Appalachians program director, at Follensby Pond © Celia Talbot Tobin; The Chemung River flows through Steuben and Chemung Counties in Western New York. © Mat Levine/TNC

A big-picture approach to protecting nature at scale

Insights from Dirk Bryant

As The Nature Conservancy marks 75 years, how has our approach to land conservation changed over time?

When I joined The Nature Conservancy 22 years ago, our work often focused on protecting individual species in specific places. But in a climate-changing world, we've recognized the need for a big-picture approach—one that protects interconnected landscapes so that nature can adapt and thrive. Today, connecting habitats at a continental scale is central to this work, and New York is an essential link within the 2,000-mile Appalachians. We are protecting key lands that keep these natural corridors open, safeguard coastlines and wetlands, and conserve carbon-rich forests. Together, these efforts strengthen biodiversity, community safety and adaptability to climate change.

Why are partnerships so essential?

Protecting nature at this scale requires effective, long-term collaboration with

trusted partners who share our vision. One example is the Staying Connected Initiative, a coalition supported by The Nature Conservancy, which now includes 75 partners across five states and three Canadian provinces. Together, we protect wildlife corridors, improve infrastructure to ensure that wildlife and fish can move safely, and help cities and towns implement conservation-friendly solutions.

What do you see as the next chapter for land conservation in New York and beyond?

The next chapter is taking shape right now, and it's all about empowering nature and communities to adapt to climate change by following the science, working across teams and disciplines, and developing new solutions for a rapidly changing world. By partnering widely and looking beyond traditional boundaries, we can amplify what works and maximize our collective impact.

NEW YORK

New York supports conservation initiatives around the globe.

Here is a recent highlight:

328,000 acres

in the heart of Chilean Patagonia are now protected.



The Nature Conservancy, Puelo Patagonia and Patagonia, Inc. teams in Cochamó Valley, Chile. © Puelo Patagonia

Conserva Puchegüin: A landmark win for nature and people

As part of the Conserva Puchegüin coalition, The Nature Conservancy helped secure the long-term protection of Puchegüin—328,000 acres of free-flowing rivers, forested valleys and mountain landscapes in Chilean Patagonia.

Led by Puelo Patagonia, the coalition of local and international partners raised more than \$78 million for a conservation achievement that safeguards vital ecosystems and biodiversity, protects a critical carbon sink and strengthens a vast ecological corridor between Chile and Argentina for generations to come.