

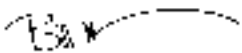


Bill Ulfelder © Theo Morrison

Thoughts from the Executive Director

In the past year, the Conservancy transferred 25,000 acres to New York State for inclusion in the “forever wild” portion of Adirondack Park, and we helped conserve 500 acres on Long Island, as well as key properties in the Catskills and Finger Lakes. We worked with partners to successfully increase by \$19 million the state’s Environmental Protection Fund, which protects conservation lands, working farms, clean drinking water and supports zoos and botanical gardens. We also worked closely with leaders across the state to make New York more resilient in the face of climate change and to promote the use of natural solutions like dunes, trees, wetlands and parks to reduce the threats of storm surge, sea level rise, flooding and heat waves. As we look ahead, the Conservancy is focused on the toughest and most important challenges we face — encouraging smart investments in natural defenses, improving water quality in our coastal bays and along our beaches and working to ensure New York’s water supply remains abundant and clean for future generations. Thank you for your continued support, which makes all of this possible.

BILL ULFELDER



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Make a donation with the enclosed envelope or at nature.org/donateny.



Cornell graduate student Ellen George showing off a small mouth bass caught during sampling for lake herring or “cisco,” in Lake Ontario. © Mat Levine / TNC

Reviving Great Lakes Fisheries

The Great Lakes hold one-fifth of the world’s surface fresh water and provide drinking water to nearly three million New Yorkers. But New York’s Great Lakes are highly altered ecosystems. Overfishing, habitat loss, pollution and invasive species have all contributed to the decline and, in some cases, the total collapse of fish stocks.

One way to help our Great Lakes flourish is to rebuild healthy freshwater food webs where native fish thrive. This winter, The Nature Conservancy worked with partners on a project designed to do just that. The team spent four and a half weeks radio-tagging and tracking lake herring — an important prey fish — on a shoal near Lake Ontario’s Chaumont Bay where they are believed to spawn. The information the team gathered will help our scientists understand where the fish go, assess why they are not coming back on their own and, ultimately, inform efforts to rebuild this critical link in the Great Lakes food web. Learn more at nature.org/cwny.

See For Yourself



El Dorado Beach Preserve © Carl Heilman II

See Great Lakes conservation at El Dorado Beach Preserve

Location: Just north of Syracuse on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

Great for: Birders, botanists and beach-lovers. Eastern Lake Ontario attracts large concentrations of long-distance migratory birds and breeding populations of species including the endangered black tern. The Lake’s bays, coves and wetlands are important nurseries for spawning fish like lake herring and Northern pike.

Look for: Rare plants such as the dune willow. Along with Champlain beach grass and cottonwood trees, this shrub traps sand to form dunes that help protect the coast from erosion. Follow the 1.4-mile trail to get a glimpse.

Plan your visit: Get directions and download a trail map at nature.org/eldorado.



Q&A

Jessica Ottney Mahar

Director of Government Relations — and voice for nature in New York



What's the role of government relations? We work with government officials, and other stakeholders, to advance conservation policy and public funding at the local, state and federal levels. In many ways, we serve as a resource and partner to governments by connecting them with our extremely knowledgeable staff doing conservation work on the ground.

What's the most exciting thing you're working on? Since New York was hit with some major storms, we've learned that we must take action now to not only reduce emissions leading to climate change, but also rebuild and develop our communities in such a way that they are not as vulnerable. When most of our communities were developed, this stuff wasn't even on the table to think about. Now we have members of communities; local, state and federal government officials; environmental groups and scientists coming together to think about how we can make our communities safer in the face of climate risk — and most importantly, how we can use nature to help reduce risks.

How can New Yorkers get involved with these issues? I think a lot of the time public policy seems distasteful, daunting or inaccessible. But the good news is that if you're a member of The Nature Conservancy, you probably really care about conservation issues, and there are probably places that matter to you. Those are powerful messages. Telling your story — why you care about the environment as much as other issues like healthcare or the economy, and what it means to you and your family — that's important and meaningful to the people who represent you.

From top: Manus River Gorge © TNC; Jessica Ottney © Dawn Schiaks

News and Events



A trail sign points to public lands in the Essex Chain of Lakes. © Connie Prickett / TNC

MORE TO EXPLORE IN THE ADIRONDACKS

The 18,000-acre Essex Chain Lakes tract in the Adirondacks features more than 11 lakes and ponds, 14.7 miles of Hudson River shoreline and two mountains taller than 2,000 feet. It provides habitat for moose, otter, common loon and many other species. And now it's all open to the public. See a video about the Essex Chain at nature.org/adirondacks.

NATURAL DEFENSES IN NEW YORK

What does a more resilient New York look like? Last year, The Nature Conservancy was asked by the City of New York to perform a conceptual study of natural infrastructure. We used Howard Beach, Queens, as a representative example and evaluated the role of nature and natural defenses like dunes, mussel beds, wetlands, parks and beaches in helping protect the community from sea level rise, storm surge and flooding. The first-of-its-kind report shows how a mix of natural and built defenses could be implemented in a dense urban area like New York City. Download the report at nature.org/nyreport.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH US!

This Earth Day, celebrate the land and water we all depend on by getting involved with The Nature Conservancy in New York. Find an event near you at nature.org/nyearthday.

Get Involved

Want to know more about what The Nature Conservancy is up to in New York? There are lots of ways to connect with us!

- Email us: natureny@tnc.org
- Sign up for our free, e-newsletter: nature.org/nyemail
- Follow us: [facebook.com/tncny](https://www.facebook.com/tncny) and twitter.com/nature_ny
- Find volunteer opportunities: nature.org/nyinvolved