



Bill Ulfelder © Theo Morrison

Thoughts from the Executive Director

The Nature Conservancy has evolved remarkably over the past six decades. The most notable change in our evolution: People. While we believe it is important to conserve nature for its own sake, we know that there is much more to the conservation puzzle than just protecting special and important places. Our focus on science, collaboration and results have never wavered; but we know that we also must appreciate and highlight the links between nature and people, and the benefits that nature provides. With the world's population going from seven to nine billion people by 2050, this is more important than ever. Knowing that our health and happiness are inextricably linked with the health of nature is what excites me most about the Conservancy's work. I hope it excites you, too. Thank you for your support!

BILL ULFELDER

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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SUPPORT OUR WORK

Make a donation with the enclosed envelope or at [nature.org/donate](https://www.nature.org/donate).



Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge © Jonathan Grassi

Joining Forces to Benefit an Urban National Wildlife Refuge

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, part of Gateway National Recreation Area in Queens, is a true urban gem. It's home to an impressive array of birds—more than 330 species have been sighted—and other wildlife. The Refuge also offers an essential connection to nature for people in New York City.

In partnership with the National Park Service and Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy is improving the ecological health of habitats and enhancing the visitor experience at the Refuge. “We are proud to be working with The Nature Conservancy on this key restoration project that advances our goal to expand public access, increase recreational and educational opportunities, and restore natural areas in Jamaica Bay,” says Tom Secunda, chairman of the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy.

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Tom Secunda, Chairman of the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy

The Conservancy will reduce invasive plants and restore native plant communities to create better habitat for migratory birds. Flood- and salt-tolerant native plants will improve the site's ability to recover from future floods. “With more frequent flooding, sea level rise and storms predicted for New York City, this work has potential applications for the City's 520 miles of coastline and beyond,” says Emily Nobel Maxwell, Director of the Conservancy's New York City Program.

“As we head into the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, we can think of no better way to celebrate than through the restoration of this national treasure,” says Jen Nersesian, Superintendent of Gateway National Recreation Area. “Its impacts will undoubtedly have ripple effects for the future of Jamaica Bay.”



FAST FACT

Nature's Value: Protecting forest lands in upstate watersheds safeguards water quality for New York City.

Q&A

Dollars and Sense

Meet Environmental Economist Elizabeth C. Smith



What do you do as an environmental economist? It's my job to ask what nature is worth and to understand how people value our natural resources. The audience for my work consists of policymakers and decision-makers, who operate in a world of limited resources, especially time and money. From a government official's viewpoint, numerous priorities exist. Putting a dollar value

on the benefits of our natural resources is a way to make sure that nature isn't left out of the equation when decisions are being made.

How did you get interested in environmental economics? I became interested in economics while obtaining my master's degree in policy at Columbia University. The notion of how and why decisions affecting the environment are made fascinated me so much that I went on to earn a Ph.D. from Rhode Island University in environmental and resource economics.

What are you working on? I have been working with our Long Island staff on a major campaign to abate nitrogen pollution and reduce the harmful algae blooms it causes. The solutions to improve water quality are expensive, and we know that offering economic information to decision-makers is a critical tool in addition to providing the biological science.

What do you love about your job? I love when I am able to open people's minds so that they see the world a little differently.

Learn more at nature.org/nywaterquality.

Fire Island © Tim Kieran; Elizabeth C. Smith © Marian Lindberg/TNC

Updates



Opalescent River ©Erika Edgley/TNC

BOOST FOR PUBLIC ACCESS IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK

New York State acquired a 6,200-acre parcel of former Finch Pruyn lands in the southern Adirondacks High Peaks region from The Nature Conservancy for \$4.24 million, using state Environmental Protection Funds. The MacIntyre East tract features an extensive network of rivers and streams, including the confluence of the iconic Hudson and Opalescent Rivers, and enhances public access and tourism opportunities to the park. As properties come into public ownership, the state will develop recreational plans and determine classifications of the lands to encourage public access and appropriate use while protecting their outstanding natural resources. Catch an aerial view of the Opalescent and the magnificent High Peaks at nature.org/adirondacksvideo.

EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

Our calendar is filled with a variety of fun activities for people of all ages. Join us at local parks, preserves and beaches across New York State to enjoy nature and learn about wildlife and the natural world. View our calendar at nature.org/nyeevents.

Join Us

Go online to find out how you can connect, volunteer and support our work: nature.org/newyork.