



Bill Ulfelder © Theo Morrison

From Our Executive Director

Thanks to your support, we've been busy. The Nature Conservancy has been increasing resilience in a climate-changing world by promoting the role nature can play. We're restoring coastal forests, understanding how we can better manage coastal wetlands as sea levels rise, bringing back oyster reefs and promoting public investments in clean water. And our efforts have been noticed—I am proud of the partnership award we received from the Director of the National Park Service in recognition of our work to plant 8,000 trees at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens. It was personally inspiring and rewarding to plant alongside staff, trustees, local volunteers and students. Your support of efforts like this helps increase resilience while providing critical habitat for wildlife and a more enjoyable visitor experience.

Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director

DONATIONS:

Go to [nature.org/nydonate](https://www.nature.org/nydonate) to donate. Or you can email natureny@tnc.org for more information.



An aerial view of Honeoye Inlet © The Nature Conservancy (Mat Levine)

Harnessing the Power of Nature

As we face growing demand for food, water and energy in the midst of a changing climate, the challenges that our planet faces continue to intensify. It might surprise you to learn that nature can be our ally in solving these problems.

For instance, we planted 8,000 trees and shrubs at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge to help increase resilience to storm surges and flooding while improving critical habitat for wildlife like migratory birds.

At our Neversink Preserve along the Neversink River, whose headwaters are the source of some of New York City's best drinking water, we planted 15,000 trees in order to restore 50 acres of degraded floodplains. This is a natural approach to slowing water down, reducing potential property damage to communities and soil erosion in the case of a flood. Restored floodplains also keep water clean by acting as a natural filter.

When faced with poor water quality and toxic algae blooms in Ontario County's Honeoye Lake, Conservancy staff and

partners turned to nature to solve the problem. By forging a new stream to connect the Honeoye Inlet to its floodplain, the Conservancy is restoring floodplains and wetlands that will catch sediment before it enters the lake. To reinforce these efforts, staff and volunteers planted 1,500 trees to absorb floodwater, capture carbon and provide wildlife habitat.

“Improving our ability to recover from future floods can make us better neighbors, and improving the habitat will make us an even better refuge.”

— Jen Nersesian, Superintendent of Gateway National Recreation Area

This is just the beginning. These projects are part of a larger effort to increase New York's resilience to a changing climate and reduce risk to New Yorkers.

We continue to find ways to harness the power of nature through nature-based solutions that simultaneously benefit people and nature.

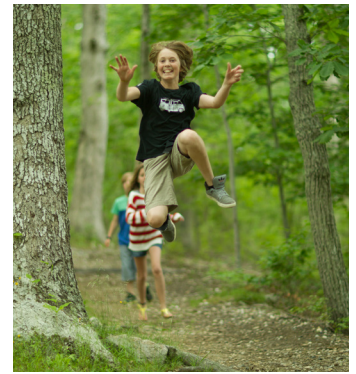


(clockwise) The National Park Service presents the Conservancy with the Director's Partnership Award © Jonathan Grassi; Emily helps LEAF alumni plant a garden in East New York © Jonathan Grassi; Volunteers prepare to plant at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Reserve © Jonathan Grassi

NATURE NEW YORK

Budget Victory for Nature

In 2016, the New York State budget included unprecedented funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), which supports our work, and the work of our partners, on land conservation, water quality improvement, climate change and more. This year, we continue to lead the coalition that is urging the State to maintain a \$300 million EPF to



Jumping for joy at our Mashomack Preserve on Long Island © Kenton Rowe

Bringing Life to Cities

Meet New York City Program Director, Emily Nobel Maxwell

Which Conservancy project particularly inspires you? I can't pick one. What inspires me about all of our work is the way we use smart science to identify a core challenge, find a practical solution, spread the word and get it done. Even more importantly, we find ways to learn from those projects and create bigger change through policy, replication and education. That said, I am thrilled about our work to find ways to use nature to cool and protect our cities in the face of climate change.

Why does conservation matter to you? Everyone deserves the chance to experience nature. To me, it's a fundamental human right. What is more basic than clean air, clean water and natural beauty? All people depend on and deserve a healthy, intact, sustainable environment. It's an honor to work for that every day.

What does a day in the life of a New York City Program Director look like?

No one day is the same! I get to spend a lot of time working with amazing staff to advance our projects, developing partnerships with fantastic organizations of all kinds, communicating with our dedicated leaders and donors, sharing knowledge about our work both internally and externally and thinking strategically about what comes next for our program. The best part of the job is the people, especially when I get out in the field with them!

Where and when did you love of nature begin? As a kid, I grew up in downtown Philadelphia. My mom had the wisdom to send me to a wonderful school, that took us out to an old farm with woods to do field science and free play once a week. She also had the good sense to take us out of the city every summer to spend a few weeks in the Adirondacks. Both of those experiences gave me the chance to feel free; to explore; to play in water and woods; and to discover plants, critters and feel a sense of wonder.

conserve clean water, clean air and open space. Through work with our partners, and with leadership from Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature, we are hopeful that this funding can be maintained or even enhanced over the life of the State's 5-year financial plan, amounting to a \$1.5 billion investment in our environment. To learn more about our work securing public funding to enable conservation, visit nature.org/nypolicy.

29,000

The number of acres of parks in New York City, which absorb excess rainwater and reduce pollution.

New York City Department of Parks & Recreation