

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Joseph Martens
Commissioner



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Rose Harvey
Commissioner

APR -4 2012

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Enclosed is the annual report listing the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's (OPRHP) open space land acquisition activities for calendar year 2011 undertaken using resources from the Environmental Protection Fund, the Natural Resources Damage Fund, Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act, Court of Claims, Federal Forest Legacy Funds, Highland Conservation Act and gifts.

This year DEC and OPRHP combined forces to protect 7,353 acres in fee and conservation easements on 46 projects.

DEC continued its important role in the protection of the New York City Watershed, which provides drinking water to more than nine million New Yorkers, through the acquisition of 1,200 acres of land on the eastern side of Belleayre Mountain, known as Big Indian. Additionally, DEC accepted a conservation easement on 1,310 acres of which the fee ownership was purchased by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to protect the New York City Watershed.

An addition of 565 acres was made to Beebe Hill State Forest in the Columbia County town of Austerlitz. The State Forest was established in 1963 and is the home of the Beebe Hill fire tower, erected in 1964 and operated through 1987.

The Cranberry Mountain Wildlife Management Area was expanded by a third with the state's acquisition of a 261-acre property in Putnam County, which is prized for wildlife habitat and water quality protection. The property, known as North Hollow, is located within the Great Swamp watershed and was acquired by the state with federal grant money and a private donation.

Thirteen acres were acquired in fee within the Washington County Important Bird Area (IBA) located in the Towns of Fort Edward, Argyle and Kingsbury in Washington County. The Washington County Grasslands is one of the few remaining large continuous grasslands in Eastern New York. It provides exceptional breeding and wintering habitat for many grassland birds, including state endangered Short-eared Owls, threatened Northern Harriers, and almost a dozen other threatened, at-risk and rapidly declining grassland bird species.

In 2011, OPRHP completed the following land acquisition projects:

Harriet Hollister Spencer has become a very popular destination for year-round, trail-based recreational opportunities. Acquisition of the Bishop property adds an additional 211.6 acres and provides for the connection of existing protected acreages and implementation of a management plan to enhance biodiversity in this area of New York State. The 26.5-acre Blair property links this state park to DEC's Honeoye Inlet Wildlife Management Area.

A 43-acre property was acquired along the south side of State Route 403 extending back to meet the north boundary of the Osborn Preserve section of Hudson Highlands State Park. The land consists of mature hardwood forest on sloping rocky land. It is an especially attractive section of State Route 403 and augments other conservation lands and parklands along this heavily traveled road.

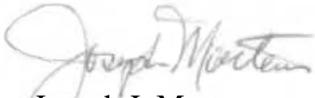
An acquisition of 140.68 acres in the heart of the New York Highlands abuts two separate areas of Bear Mountain State Park and the West Point Military Academy. It extends from the ridge down toward the Hudson River and has high visual prominence. It is likely to include habitat of endangered species. The property could support a trail that would provide an important connection between existing trails on Bear Mountain State Park lands and offer panoramic vistas of the Highlands, Hudson River and Bear Mountain Bridge.

OPRHP also purchased a 25-acre parcel and dedicated it along with two other parcels to the Albany Pine Bush Commission.

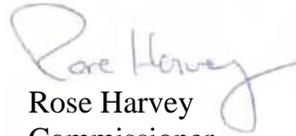
Projects listed in the report come directly from the 2009 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan. The Plan includes a range of sensible and cost effective recommendations that can help protect our outdoor heritage in affordable ways. In addition to DEC and OPRHP, the Departments of State, Agriculture and Markets, and Transportation, the Governor's Smart Growth Cabinet, the Ocean and Great Lakes Council, the Climate Smart Community Network and the Hudson River Estuary Program assist New Yorkers and local government officials in implementing these recommendations to protect and enhance open space and its many environmental and economic benefits.

We are pleased to provide you with this 2011 state land acquisition report and look forward using our State Open Space Conservation Plan to not only preserve our irreplaceable outdoor heritage, but also contribute to the state's economic recovery.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Martens
Commissioner
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation



Rose Harvey
Commissioner
New York State Office Parks
Recreation & Historic Preservation

Enclosure

- c: Sheldon Silver, Speaker, New York State Assembly
- Brian Kolb, Minority Leader, New York State Assembly
- Dean Skelos, Majority Leader, New York State Senate
- John Sampson, Minority Leader, New York State Senate
- Robert Sweeney, Chair, Assembly Environmental Committee
- Mark Grisanti, Chair, Senate Environmental Committee
- Robert Hallman, Deputy Secretary for Energy and Environment

2011 DEC Land Acquisition Report

Project ID	DEC Region	Primary County	Park Name	Project Name	Recording Date	Acres Fee	Acres CE	Total Acres	Cost
51.02	5	Saratoga		Saratoga Sandplains/Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat	2/18/2011	4.821	0	4.821	0
161.13	4	Greene	N/A	Long Path Trail	03/10/11	205	0	205	\$217,300
131	3	Sullivan	N/A	Camp Pine	03/29/11	232	0	232	\$626,300
38.01	9	Erie	N/A	PFR Cattaraugus Creek	04/26/11	0	0	0	\$16,900
129	3	Sullivan	N/A	Bashakill WMA	05/03/11	25	0	25	\$127,800
120.2	7	Chenango	N/A	Chenango SRA # 5	05/04/11	8	0	8	\$27,700
469	5	Essex	N/A	Donation AFP	05/13/11	248.15	0	248.15	\$0
127	3	Sullivan	N/A	Shawangunk Ridge Trail	05/17/11	101	0	101	\$244,900
58	5	Saratoga	N/A	Blanding Turtle Habitat	05/27/11	101	0	101	\$250,000
16.042	1	Albany	N/A	Albany Pine Bush	06/01/11	12.74	0	12.74	\$234,200
454	5	Essex	N/A	AFP	06/21/11	47	0	47	\$53,800
19.02	3	Putnam	N/A	Great Swamp	06/21/11	30	0	30	\$32,600
74	7	Chautauqua	N/A	Boutwell Hill State Forest	06/17/11	0.83	0	0.83	\$2,400
1414	4	Delaware		NYC Watershed	07/06/11		1310	1310	\$0
33/39	3	Orange	N/A	Shawangunk Ridge Trail	07/06/11	395	0	395	\$1,555,100
258	5	Franklin	N/A	AFP	07/12/11	1	0	0.5	\$0
29.01	2	Richmond	N/A	Butler Woods	10/04/11	0.92	0	0.92	\$975,100
31.01	9	Erie	N/A	Hampton Brooks	10/07/11	5	0	5	\$64,500
24	3	Putnam	N/A	California Hill WMA	09/30/11	8	0	8	\$229,800
78	5	Washington		Eldridge Swamp	09/30/11	7	0	7	\$500
39.01	9	Erie		Spring Marsh	11/01/11	73	0	73	\$0
47.01	4	Otsego		Susquehanna River Access	11/02/11	0	0	0	\$0
46.01	4	Columbia		Beebe State Forest, Taconic Ridge, "The Kingdom"	11/16/11	565	0	565	\$1,225,700
25.01	3	Putnam		Cranberry Mtn. Wma	11/29/11	261	0	261	\$653,500
229	3	Ulster		Big Indian/Belleayre	12/08/11	1,205	0	1,205	\$5,600,000
229	3	Ulster		Big Indian/Belleayre	12/09/11	0	31	31	
303	5	Hamilton		AFP	12/08/11	71	0	71	\$205,000
84.08	5	Washington		Ft. Edward Grasslands	12/14/11	6	0	6	\$26,000
84.02	5	Washington		Ft. Edward Grasslands	12/14/11	7	0	7	\$0
293	3	Ulster		Black Creek Watershed	12/09/11	595	0	595	\$1,293,700
84.07	5	Washington		Ft. Edward Grasslands	12/22/11	6	0	6	\$22,000
SUB TOTALS						4,221.69	1,341	5,562.8	\$13,684,800

2011 OPRHP Land Acquisition Report

Project ID	OPRHP Region	Primary County	Park Name	Project Name	Recording Date	Acres Fee	Acres CE	Total Acres	Cost
779	Genesee 3	LIVINGSTON	Letchworth	OMRDD Mt. Morris Hostel	2/10/2011	3	0	3.00	
786	Palisades 8	ORANGE	Storm King	Orange Co. Tax Parcel 28-1-18.1	2/14/2011	0.56	0	0.56	
751	Thousand Islands 10	JEFFERSON	Rock Island State Park	Rock Island Forced Main Sewer Easement	2/17/2011	0	0	0.00	\$3,200
777	Central 5	OSWEGO	Sandy Island Beach SP	Sandy Island Beach/Sandy Pond Beach	3/11/2011	211.4	0	211.40	
776	Genesee 3	ALLEGANY	Genesee Valley Greenway	Genesee Valley Greenway Transfer	5/10/2011	1106	0	1106.00	
738	Finger Lakes 4	ONTARIO	Harriet Hollister Spencer	Blair Property	5/12/2011	26.518	0	26.52	\$97,309
713	Finger Lakes 4	LIVINGSTON	Harriet Hollister Spencer	Bishop II	6/6/2011	211.609	0	211.61	\$228,822
780	Central 5	ONONDAGA	Green Lakes	Sherwood Exchange	6/29/2011	0.024	0	0.02	
611	Taconic 7	PUTNAM	Hudson Highlands	Osborn Preserve / OSI 43	6/30/2011	43.055	0	43.06	\$2,309
671	Saratoga 11	ALBANY	Albany Pine Bush	Baron / Nature Conservancy	8/26/2011	24.94	0	24.94	\$383,750
778	Long Island 9	SUFFOLK	Cold Spring Harbor State Park	Page Gift	11/23/2011	2.44	0	2.44	
94	Saratoga 11	WASHINGTON	Salem-Granville Recreationway	Telescope Furniture	12/5/2011	0	0	0.00	
740	Palisades 8	ORANGE	Bear Mountain	RMH / Scenic Hudson Land Trust	12/13/2011	140.68	0	140.68	\$1,109,495
787	Saratoga 11	ALBANY	Thacher	Maddux Gift	12/28/2011	8	0	8.00	
677	Palisades 8	ROCKLAND	Blauvelt	Tripp Exchange	12/29/2011	12.25	0	12.25	\$15,400
SUB TOTALS						1790.48	0.00	1790.48	\$1,840,285

	Acres Fee	Acres CE	Total Acres	Total Cost
TOTAL	6,012	1,341	7,353	\$15,525,085