



The Environmental Protection Fund
Preserving New York's Natural Heritage & Quality of Life

Editors

Andy Bicking
Scenic Hudson

Katherine Nadeau
Environmental Advocates of New York

Jessica Ottney
The Nature Conservancy

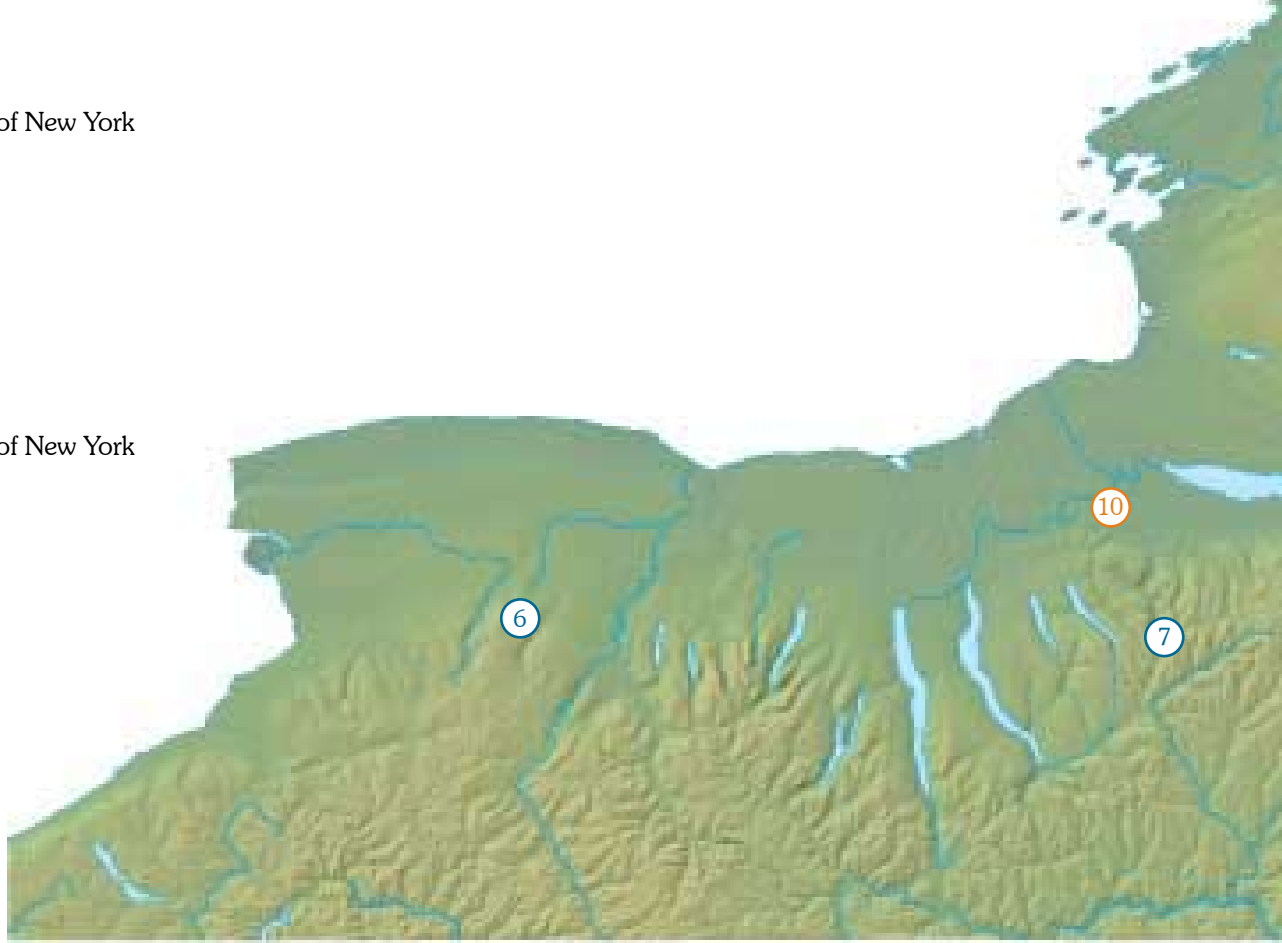
Erica Ringewald
Environmental Advocates of New York

Tim Sweeney
Parks & Trails New York

Jeff Williams
New York Farm Bureau

Graphic Design

Daniella Nordin
Environmental Advocates of New York



About the Report

The Environmental Protection Fund: Preserving New York's Natural Heritage & Quality of Life documents 12 of the countless success stories across the state made possible by the Environmental Protection Fund. The stories highlighted on these pages were submitted to the editors by members of Friends of New York's Environment, which includes more than 100 environmental, health, agricultural, recreational and urban stakeholder groups working to garner support for, and expand, the Fund.

Stories were chosen based on scope of impact, diversity of funding, and geographic representation.

As is common among funded initiatives, the projects described are not financed exclusively with resources from the Fund. The stories illustrate how the Environmental Protection Fund helps build community partnerships by providing a foundation of public money to draw in matching funds from both government and private sources.

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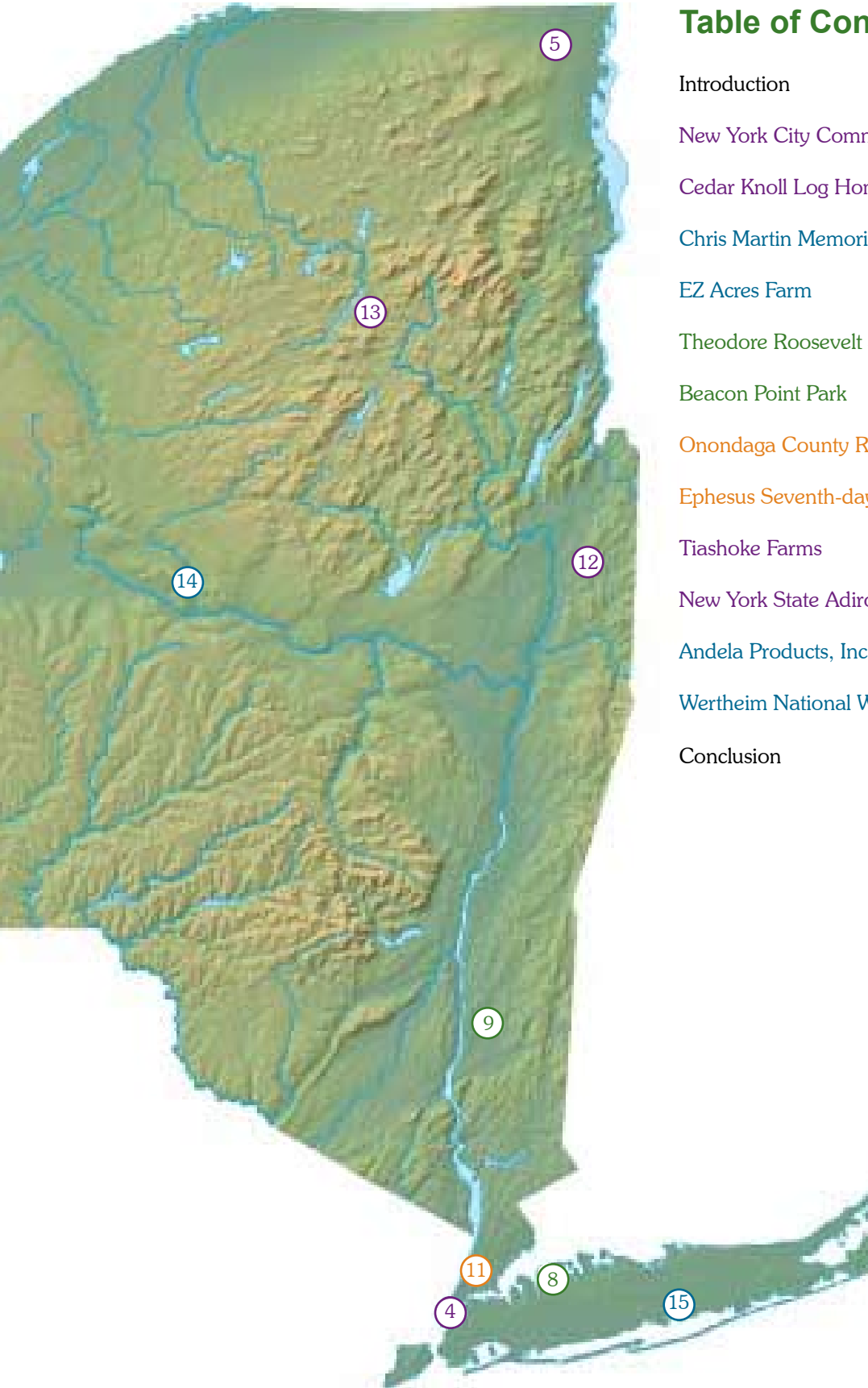


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Environmental Protection Fund

Account	Category
Open Space	Supports open space land conservation; biodiversity stewardship and research; agricultural and farmland protection; non-point source abatement and control; Long Island Central Pine Barrens area planning and Long Island south shore estuary reserve planning; and operation and management of Albany Pine Bush Preserve.
Solid Waste	Supports non-hazardous municipal landfill closure; municipal waste reduction or recycling; waste prevention; developing, updating or revising local solid waste management plans; and the development of the pesticide sales and use database in conjunction with Cornell University.
Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation	Supports municipal parks; historic preservation; urban cultural parks; waterfront revitalization; and coastal rehabilitation.

Introduction

New York State is home to a great variety of people, landscapes and resources. We revel in our diversity, from Manhattan’s bustling downtown to the irreplaceable vistas of our farms and communities upstate.

Each corner of New York has distinct assets and challenges. But one thing unites New Yorkers from the St. Lawrence Seaway to Niagara Falls to the Long Island Sound—our state is defined by its natural and built environments. New York has a responsibility and a vested interest in protecting the health of both.

With this in mind, the New York State Legislature created the Environmental Protection Fund in 1993. The Fund invests primarily in capital projects that protect the environment and enhance our communities. It has helped to create jobs, eliminate solid waste, prevent pollution, protect ecosystems and community character for future generations, and connect communities and children with the outdoors. And that’s not all.

This visionary program recognizes that funding conservation and restoration affects far more than our natural environment. The Fund’s investments yield big dividends for our economy and quality of life. These results are easily measured by the number of jobs created, acres of wilderness preserved, tons of waste diverted, and millions of dollars saved every year.

According to an April 2007 announcement by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, the Environmental Protection Fund is the most significant source of funding for environmental projects in communities across the state. But like all good investments, the Fund must be managed and enhanced over time to realize its maximum return.

How the Environmental Protection Fund Works

The Environmental Protection Fund is financed primarily through a dedicated source, Real Estate Transfer Tax revenue, and is allocated by the New York State Legislature and the Governor through annual appropriations. Because of its dedicated revenue stream, the Fund can support projects that restore and enhance New York’s natural and built environments in both good fiscal times and bad.

The Fund awards monies for projects as the need arises. This ensures that New York State is not incurring debt to finance projects, but rather relies on current resources. Furthermore, as a trust fund created in state law, these resources must be kept separate from other state monies.

Since its inception, the Fund has gradually grown from its original appropriation of \$31 million in fiscal year 1994-1995. In 2007, the State Legislature and Governor overwhelmingly supported a law (Chapter 258 of the Laws of 2007) to provide nearly \$300 million to the Fund in fiscal year 2009-2010, and each year thereafter.

Once the money is directed to the Environmental Protection Fund, it is divided into three accounts: open space; solid waste; and parks, recreation and historic preservation. Spending purposes are further divided into categories. The amount of money dedicated to each category is determined by the appropriation process. Each category has legislatively designated uses per Section 92-S of the State Finance Law, described in detail in Article 54 of State Environmental Conservation Law, and summarized in the table to the left.



Planting at the Classon Ful-Gate Block Association Garden (Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn). Photo courtesy of Seth Sherman.

Additionally, some purposes are authorized in other sections of state law (i.e. the Farmland Protection Program), as well as spending authorizations included in year-to-year budget appropriations. Examples include, but are not limited to, support for: zoos, botanical gardens and aquaria; the Pollution Prevention Institute; certain water quality improvement projects; soil and water conservation districts; and agricultural waste management initiatives.

Projects selected to receive resources are chosen based on a number of variable criteria, depending on the category. But fundamentally, supported projects help to protect and conserve New York's natural heritage while improving every New Yorker's quality of life.

The Fund is rarely a project's sole funding source. Most often support from the Fund helps recipients leverage other resources to realize a community vision.

Most of the funds are administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Empire State Development Corporation, Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the Department of State. Resources are distributed either for state-led projects (such as parkland acquisition), partnerships between state agencies and municipalities (i.e., non-hazardous landfill closures), or between state agencies and nonprofit organizations (i.e., historic preservation projects).

The legislature hereby finds, declares, and reaffirms that the preservation, enhancement, restoration, improvement, and stewardship of the state's environment are among the government's most fundamental obligations; and that appropriate actions to make the state's invaluable natural and historic resources available for public use and enjoyment are key components of the environmental and social policy of the state (L.1993, ch. 610 § 2).

New York State Environmental Conservation Law

However, there are additional examples of partnerships that work to achieve the goals of the Environmental Protection Fund. For example, a nonprofit organization or municipality may partner with a business to achieve the goals of waste reduction or to open a secondary use market for recyclable goods. Two examples of this type of partnership are profiled in this report.

None of the critical projects funded across New York would be possible without the support of the Governor and the State Legislature. Our leaders understand that today's investments in critical services such as open space preservation, agricultural waste management, recycling, and recreation will yield benefits that include cleaner water and air, places to play, and historic touchstones for generations to come.



Restoration of Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church. Photo courtesy of Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Parque de Tranquilidad in East Village, Manhattan. Photo courtesy of Troy Farmer, Trust for Public Land.

An Oasis in the City

Community gardens provide dense city neighborhoods with green space, fresh fruits and vegetables, learning opportunities for children, and a place for neighbors to meet and work. As the 2006 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan points out, “(o)pen space and trees in urban environments can significantly reduce residential and commercial heating and cooling costs, reduce air pollution, lower consumption of non-renewable fossil fuels, and make our communities more livable at the same time.”

Thanks to two grants from the Environmental Protection Fund, the Trust for Public Land was able to make improvements in most of the community gardens acquired from the City of New York. The Trust for Public Land installed decorative steel fencing, much like fencing in city parks, to communicate the permanent status of these gardens, and connected gardens to the City water supply.

These improvements encourage participation and commitment by neighboring residents, which are vital for long-term stewardship of the gardens. The Trust for Public Land worked closely with garden neighbors to ensure that the final project meets community needs.

Additionally, an Environmental Protection Fund Acquisition Grant supported the purchase of the center lot of one of the gardens from a private owner. That purchase protected the garden from being split in two and preserved it as open space for the neighborhood.

Complementing these important investments, additional grants administered by the Land Trust Alliance are helping to ensure the effectiveness and long-term success of three new community-based land trusts in New York City established with support from the Trust for Public Land.

Community benefits: Educational opportunities for neighbors, healthy food production, open space in neighborhoods poorly served by the traditional park system, training for board members and volunteers and targeted capacity-building support to strengthen NYC’s community garden land trusts, creating a national model for community-based urban garden organizations.

Gardens improved: 37

EPF categories: Acquisition, Park Improvement, and the Conservation Partnership Program authorized by Environmental Conservation Law Section 54-0911

EPF funds: Two Parks grants totaling \$648,115, Acquisition Grant for \$32,500, Conservation Partnership grants totaling \$101,790

Matching funds: \$823,673 in private contributions



Volunteers help clean up Carver Community Garden in Harlem, NY. Photo courtesy of Avery Wham.

Community benefits: Re-use of waste materials for other products, 22 jobs in high-unemployment area and internships through the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.

Jobs created: 12 at Cedar Knoll; 10 jobs for disabled clients at Champlain Valley Industries

EPF category: Environmental Investment Program authorized by Section 261 of Economic Development Law

EPF funds: \$217,500

Matching funds: \$246,150

Trimming Budgets While Eliminating Waste

One New York company has converted its waste stream into new products while creating jobs and internship opportunities for college students in Plattsburgh.

Cedar Knoll Log Homes is a family-owned business that grew from a small lumber yard and retail supply store in 1980 to a seven-acre yard site today. The business includes a 20,000-square-foot milling operation running six days per week and the capacity to mill more than

100 log homes a year. In addition to its mill operation, Cedar Knoll has a 1,680-square-foot model log home and sales offices, as well as wholesale, retail and international sales offices elsewhere.

Two Environmental Protection Fund investments, four years apart, helped the Plattsburgh manufacturer convert its waste stream into new

products, create new jobs, and partner with the State University of New York at Plattsburgh to provide internships for local students.

In 2000, Cedar Knoll was awarded \$90,000 to help purchase equipment to re-saw, cut, and refinish 3,750 tons of waste wood each year into dowels, balusters, slats and railing systems that generated more than \$800,000 in additional sales. The business also reduced its raw material costs by \$120,000 and hired seven employees to operate a new division, Adirondack Fence and Rail Co. Cedar Knoll also accepts waste wood from six other local sawmills, helping to reduce costs, as well.



EPF-supported investments helped Cedar Knoll Log Homes, Inc. convert its waste wood into new products. Photo courtesy of Cedar Knoll Log Homes.



As a result of EPF funding, Cedar Knoll uses waste material to make new, valuable products. Photo courtesy of Cedar Knoll Log Homes.



A memorial stone dedicated to Chris Martin sits behind home plate. Photo courtesy of Andrea Aldinger.

Connecting with the Outdoors

Every year from April 1st to November 15th, children ages five to 19 spend their days playing baseball, softball and soccer and running cross country on the 71-acre Chris Martin Memorial Field of Dreams.

Adjacent to the Alexander School in the Town of Alexander (population 2,500), bordering Genesee and Wyoming counties, the field offers recreational opportunities for children and teens, as well as a gathering space for this rural community.

Alexander and the surrounding area have a longstanding tradition of supporting sports and outdoor activities for youth. The local teams help build self-confidence, teamwork skills and physical fitness while benefiting everyone who lives in the community. And from 1998-2000, Environmental Protection Fund resources from the New York State Department of

Parks and Recreation jump-started a community-based project to fulfill Alexander's vision for youth recreation programs.

Eighty-five thousand dollars in public funds helped to secure approximately \$90,000 in private monies and thousands of hours of donated services from local businesses to design and build the field. But without support from the community and New York's Environmental Protection Fund, there would be no Field of Dreams.

In addition to providing a great play space for every Alexander resident regardless of age, the Field of Dreams fulfills important environmental goals. The Field's wetlands, grassy areas and woodlands remain undeveloped and in their natural state. The site was also designed, with help from the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District, to ensure no adverse impacts to the area as a result of runoff.

Community benefits: Preserved wetlands and woody areas, unique outdoor recreation area, community partnerships, and a lasting memorial to a beloved teen who loved baseball.

Acres of parkland created: 24

EPF category: Municipal Parks Acquisition, Development or Improvement Program authorized by Section 54-0903 of Environmental Conservation Law

EPF funds: \$85,000

Matching funds: \$90,000 and hundreds of hours of volunteer time and in-kind services from local businesses



A grassroots nonprofit organization secured EPF funds to purchase the site and offer much-needed recreation for the youth in Alexander, NY. Photo courtesy of Andrea Aldinger.

Community benefits: Protection of Homer Aquifer and local streams from excessive nutrient loading, protecting drinking water, and preserving recreational and tourism opportunities.

EPF category: Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program authorized by Section 17-1409 of the Environmental Conservation Law and Section 11-b of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law

EPF funds: \$247,500

Matching funds: \$165,000



Michael McMahon, owner of EZ Acres Farm. Photo courtesy of New York Farm Bureau, EZ Acres Farm.

Water Quality & Habitat Protection

EZ Acres Farm is a 750-acre dairy farm in Homer, which has worked with the state over the past 20 years to conserve farmland and serve as a good environmental steward. Within the Skaneateles Lake watershed, the farm sits on the aquifer that provides drinking water to neighboring Homer and Cortland, as well as more than 250,000 people in nearby Syracuse. One of the state's nine naturally stocked Brown Trout streams runs through the center of the farm and provides recreational and tourist-related benefits to the area.

To preserve these resources, EZ Acres recently upgraded its manure storage systems to accommodate enough storage so the farm can spread nutrients only at the most beneficial growing times in order to prevent runoff and water contamination.

Before building the \$736,000 manure storage pit in 2006, the farm was only able to store one week's worth of manure from its dairy herd, which includes 650 milking cows and 550 young stock. This required spreading manure on a weekly basis. The new, highly engineered manure storage facility measures 185 feet in diameter and 16 feet deep, allowing enough storage so that the farm can spread nutrients only when the land can absorb them, thus preventing runoff from entering the local water supply.

Support for the project came from the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program funded by the Environmental Protection Fund. EZ Acres also received \$165,000 from the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Land Protection Program and financing from a local bank for the farm's portion of the project.



The project has helped ensure public health and preserve recreational and tourism appeal to the area. Photo courtesy of New York Farm Bureau, EZ Acres Farm.

Community benefits: Education and information to nearly 55,000 visitors and schoolchildren annually.

EPF category: Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquaria authorized through annual appropriation by the New York State Legislature and the Governor

EPF funds: \$27,000/year

Matching funds: \$27,000

Preservation for Generations to Come

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center, located in Oyster Bay, was established in 1923 as the nation's first Audubon Songbird Sanctuary. While the Sanctuary's original purpose was to provide a protected environment for songbirds whose populations were declining due to habitat loss, it is now one of the largest providers of environmental education in the region, reaching approximately 55,000 children and adults each year.

The Sanctuary features 19 non-releasable birds of prey, including hawks, owls, falcons and a vulture, as well as several species of reptiles and amphibians. Visitors can view the birds of prey in outdoor aviaries, or take a step inside the Center

to become acquainted with wildlife species from throughout the world.

Off-site, the Center relies on the birds of prey to conduct Audubon New York's *For the Birds!* elementary education program in schools across Long Island. *For the Birds!* teaches environmental awareness through classroom lessons, field trips, a live bird program, and a conservation project designed to provide bird habitat in the local community.

By providing funding for the care of the sanctuary's wildlife, the Environmental Protection Fund helps to offset the program's costs, thereby allowing the sanctuary to provide more opportunities for participation by high-needs schools and districts with limited resources.



About 55,000 visitors explore and participate in environmental education activities at the Audubon Center each year, mostly school children between grades 3 and 6. Photo courtesy of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center, Oyster Bay, NY.



Long Dock Beacon after the waterfront revitalization project. Photo courtesy of Joseph Kiernan.

Where Environment & Community Revitalization Meet

Communities in the Hudson River Valley are known for their ability to turn former industrial waterfronts into magnets for economic development and community revitalization.

In 1996, Scenic Hudson purchased 23 acres along the Beacon waterfront, the contaminated site of a former industrial/railroad complex. Through a public stakeholder process, it became clear

By 2001, Beacon Point Park had undergone extensive cleanup, including removal of industrial debris and shoreline restoration and stabilization. Trails, parking facilities and kiosks have also been created. Trakas' terraced deck and boardwalk were completed in 2007, providing easy access to the water and a place for visitors to relax and enjoy views of the Hudson Highlands and the Town of Newburgh across the river. The park is used regularly by anglers, as well as environmental educators from Scenic Hudson, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and the state's Hudson River Estuary Program.

Community benefits: Recreation and education for anglers, schoolchildren, the arts community and local residents.

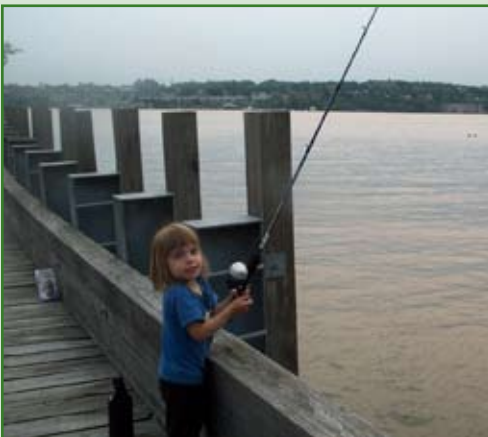
EPF categories: Waterfront Revitalization authorized under Section 54-1101 of Environmental Conservation Law and Municipal Parks, grants authorized by Section 54-0903 of Environmental Conservation Law

EPF funds: Two grants totaling \$508,000

Matching funds: \$508,000



Kids enjoy the view at Beacon Point Park. Photo courtesy of Robert Rodriguez, Jr.



Children of all ages enjoy the boardwalk and its easy access to the water. Photo courtesy of Betha Meyers.

that local residents were interested in a waterfront park to enhance the rebirth of the city's Main Street.

Working collaboratively with the City of Beacon and DIA: Beacon, a world-class art museum near the waterfront, Scenic Hudson engaged renowned sculptor and landscape artist George Trakas to evaluate and implement opportunities for improved public access to the river.

The City of Beacon has been a staunch supporter and active partner in Long Dock Beacon's revitalization, collaborating on grant applications, assisting in the permit process, and integrating the redevelopment with the plan to revitalize the local Main Street, and the harbor management plan. Commercial uses for the site are being actively pursued and the park is seen as an asset that has helped to fuel the rebirth of the local economy.



Local children with one of the thousands of bins that are part of OCRRA's curbside blue bin recycling program. Photo courtesy of OCRRA.

Reducing Waste & Creating Jobs

The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency was created by the New York State Legislature to manage the solid waste produced in Onondaga County.

Since 1991, the year Onondaga County launched its community-wide recycling campaign, residents and businesses have recycled more than 10 million tons of material. Prior to that most of the waste coming out of local businesses, factories, schools and homes simply went into the trash.

The Agency provides recycling programs that reduce the solid waste stream by more than 60 percent in Onondaga

County. Environmental Protection Fund resources support a wide variety of recycling programs in the County, including an award-winning public education campaign, a New York State-certified recycling educator who visits 575 classrooms every school



Onondaga County residents with blue recycling bins supported by resources from the Environmental Protection Fund. Photo courtesy of OCRRA.

Community benefits: EPF-funded programs created 70 jobs; reduced Onondaga County solid waste stream by 60%; state-certified recycling educator visits 575 classrooms every year; recycled more than one million pounds of computers, televisions, and other e-waste; prevents 40,000+ tons of newspapers, cans, and plastic bottles from entering the waste stream every year.

EPF category: Recycling and Waste Reduction as authorized by Article 54 of the Environmental Conservation Law

EPF funds: Nearly \$3 million over 10 years



Two participants in Onondaga County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Photo courtesy of OCRRA.

year, the collection and recycling of more than one million pounds of computers, televisions, and other electronic waste, and a curbside recycling collection that prevents over 40,000 tons of newspapers, cans, and plastic bottles from entering the waste stream every year.

Each year, Onondaga County recycles more than 200,000 tons of recyclable materials generated by local businesses, schools and residents. The Agency estimates that over 700 local jobs are connected to the community's recycling efforts, including processing facilities, manufacturing plants and transportation.

Community benefits: Re-energized sense of community, reminding residents and visitors of its historic significance.

EPF category: Historic Preservation Grant Program authorized by Environmental Conservation Law Section 54-0911

EPF funds: \$250,000

Matching funds: \$889,500



A decorative stone gargoyle after church restoration. Photo courtesy of Page Ayres Cowley Architects, LLC.

Preserving Our Built Environment

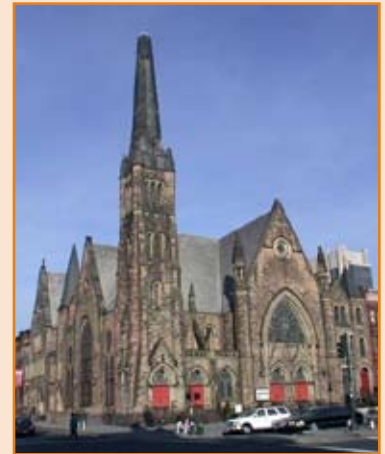
New York City is home to some of the oldest churches in the country. These churches are part of our state's rich history; they enhance our cultural landscape and add beauty to our streetscapes. Recognizing this, Environmental Protection Fund resources may be directed to church restoration when a church is listed on the state or national register of historic places and the project is focused on restoring its exterior.

In Harlem's Mt. Morris Historic District, Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church serves a congregation of approximately 1,500 and is the birthplace of the Boys Choir of Harlem. Built in 1886, the church anchors 123rd Street overlooking Lenox Avenue in Central Harlem.

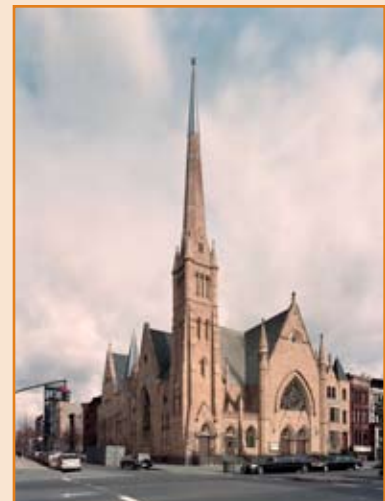
On one of Harlem's premier boulevards, the restoration of Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church plays an integral role in the renaissance along Lenox Avenue, which also includes restaurants, cafes, retail shops, housing and cultural activities. Cultural tourism is expanding in Central Harlem and the area has become a favorite destination for visitors to New York City. The Church remains a house of worship but also provides social services, educational and youth activities, as well as a home for senior and volunteer organizations.

Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church undertook a restoration and construction project to stop water damage, stabilize fractured and loose masonry and building components, and replace the top 20 feet of the steeple tower lost to fire in 1969. Replaced in 2006, the majestic steeple tower climbs 120 feet above street level and can be seen for blocks up and down the Boulevard.

The exterior restoration has been ongoing for roughly 10 years and was divided into three phases. The steeple's restoration, the third phase of the project, was accomplished with \$250,000 in Environmental Protection Fund resources from the Historic Preservation Grant Program, and \$889,500 in matching funds for a total Phase III cost of approximately \$1.1 million. With a total estimated cost of \$1.6 million, the full restoration represents the first major exterior restoration of the structure since it was built in 1886. The renovation's primary funding came from church members, who gave twice as much as external sources.



Exterior conditions of church before restoration. Photo courtesy of Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Exterior conditions of church after restoration. Photo courtesy of Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Tiashoke Farms is one of Washington County's most important dairy farms. Photo courtesy of Tiashoke Farms, New York Farm Bureau.

Enhancing Food Security One Acre at a Time

With support from the Environmental Protection Fund's Farmland Protection Program, dedicated efforts of the Agricultural Stewardship Association, and the foresight of leaders in Washington County, New York can add two additional farms to the growing list of protected parcels of valuable farmland.

Thanks to its productive soils, effective business management, and location on the edge of the Capital District, Tiashoke Farms is one of Washington County's most important dairy farms. And thanks to the Environmental Protection Fund, it will continue to serve as working farmland, securing New York's food sources for future generations.

The Tiashoke home farm in Cambridge and the Tiashoke satellite farm in Easton (collectively known as Tiashoke Farms) were awarded state farmland protection funding and matching federal funds. This allowed the family to secure the 586 acres of their land base and expand operations after their sons returned from college to begin their lives as the state's next generation of farmers.

By purchasing the development rights on these farms, these lands will forever be open and put to their best use as productive farmland.



Visitors on a tour of Tiashoke Farm. Photo courtesy of Tiashoke Farms, New York Farm Bureau.

Community benefits: Conservation of 586 acres of productive farmland.

Acres improved: 586

EPF category: Farmland Protection Program authorized by Article 25AAA of the Agriculture and Markets Law

EPF funds: \$289,089 FY 2004-05, and \$407,338 FY 2005-06

Matching funds: \$85,705 and \$135,032 from the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program

A Legacy of Preservation

New York's Adirondack Park, made up of a combination of public and private lands, is considered a conservation model for the world. It has immense biological, economic and recreational value for all New Yorkers and the millions of people who visit the Park each year.

The Environmental Protection Fund enabled New York State to purchase, from The Nature Conservancy, the 5,836-acre Round Lake tract in 2005 and the 1,100-acre Bog Lake/Clear Pond tract in 2006. The Nature Conservancy purchased the properties for preservation from the International Paper Company as part of a larger 26,500-acre conservation acquisition in 2001. The remaining 15,500 acres are privately owned and protected by a conservation easement.

These acquisitions protect irreplaceable ecological resources and provide major new recreational opportunities for New Yorkers, most notably the

re-establishment of an historic 45-mile wilderness canoe circuit. The purchases protect lands known for vast, unbroken forests, high-quality wetlands, countless water bodies, and low road density. These lands are also home to wide-ranging mammals such as black bears and moose, interior nesting songbirds, waterfowl and raptors.

The canoe circuit connects such beautiful and popular lakes as Round, Little Tupper, Lila, Bog and Lows, linking the William C. Whitney and Five Ponds Wilderness Areas. The land protection project also includes the state's purchase of conservation easements on an additional 4,220 acres surrounding the Round Lake parcel.

The 45-mile canoe route has been hailed as one of the finest wilderness canoe routes in the Adirondack Park.

Community benefits: Preservation of essential freshwater resources, habitat for black bear, moose, native brook trout, songbirds, waterfowl and raptors, top-notch canoeing, kayaking destinations.

Acres protected: 26,500

Water resources protected: 85 miles of rivers and streams, 16 lakes and ponds

EPF category: Open Space Land Acquisition authorized in Section 92-S of State Finance Law as part of the state's Open Space Plan

EPF funds: \$4.5 million

Matching funds: \$5 million in private donations, \$2.5 million in federal funding



Aerial view of the Adirondacks with Round Lake and Little Tupper Lake in the foreground. Photo © Mark Godfrey/The Nature Conservancy.



Writer Bill McKibben and Nature Conservancy staff with local guides from Tupper Lake canoeing a newly accessible waterway. Photo © Mark Godfrey/The Nature Conservancy.



Andela Products, Inc. created a method to convert mixed-color glass into environmentally friendly products. Photo courtesy of Andela Products, Inc.

Where Environment & Economy Meet

In New York State, thousands of businesses are finding cost-effective ways to go “green” while expanding operations, creating jobs, and contributing to the local community.

In Richfield Springs, Andela Products, Inc. is putting Environmental Protection Fund money to work for New Yorkers. The company is creating new, value-added markets for color-mixed container glass and enhancing the local economy.

Glass containers collected through municipal programs tend to get broken, and the resulting glass ends up color-mixed and contaminated with metal rings, paper labels, organic residuals, dirt and more. But in 2006, Andela Products, Inc. created an innovative method to convert this mixed-color glass into new, environmentally friendly products.

The company currently has the capacity to convert more than 35,000 tons of the glass each year into a sandblasting material, a high-end landscaping material, and very fine glass powders that can be used to manufacture concrete products. The glass performs just as well as similar products made without recycled glass, and the “glas-

crete” product also entitles users to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credits.

The company received \$315,449 in Environmental Protection Fund assistance from the State’s Environmental Investment Program, administered by New York’s Department of Economic Development. This investment was matched by \$606,369 in private funds and led to a significant expansion of the business and six new employees.

In addition to the positive impact on Andela Products, Inc., and the jobs created, the company’s ability to convert contaminated, mixed-color glass into valuable products created a new regional recycling market. Based on an average \$50/ton disposal cost in New York’s Mohawk Valley, the project is saving municipal recycling programs about \$450,000 per year and conserving approximately 7,342 cubic yards of landfill capacity annually.



Andela Products saves municipal recycling programs nearly \$450,000 annually. Photo courtesy of Andela Products, Inc.

Community benefits: New jobs, reduced landfill waste, second life for glass, and a new recycling market.

Jobs created: 6

EPF category: Environmental Investment Program authorized by Section 261 of Economic Development Law

EPF funds: \$315,449

Matching funds: \$606,369

Community benefits: Re-introduction of native plant and wildlife species, proof that invasive species control is possible, and public education about the dangers of invasive species.

Acres of wetland restored: 62

EPF category: Invasive Species Management authorized through annual appropriation by the New York State Legislature and the Governor

EPF funds: \$53,234

Matching funds: \$328,000

Protecting Wetlands from Invaders

As one of the 20 most invasive plants in New York State, phragmites, also known as the common reed, have become a ubiquitous part of our wetlands landscapes. This invasive reed has moved into ecosystems from the St. Lawrence River to New York City, and in many cases has degraded the habitat of native species by consuming limited resources.

In 2006, Ducks Unlimited received a grant from New York's Aquatic Invasive Species Eradication Grant Program to treat approximately 62 acres of phragmites-dominated marsh in the Carmans River on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge.

Throughout 2006 and 2007, Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service battled the phragmites using marsh management tactics, such as filling old mosquito control ditches and creating a series of tidal creeks, pools and pannes to increase tidal flow and provide open water habitats for fish, waterfowl and other water birds. Marsh management tactics were supplemented with herbicidal treatments and mowing.

Since the project began, plant and wildlife have increased many times over, providing



Wetlands in Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

restored habitat for native species. The salt marsh is now home to numerous species of migratory birds; and it's not uncommon to see wading birds such as the Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron and Glossy Ibis along the riverbank, as well as shorebirds such as Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Killdeer, Dowitcher and Semipalmated Sandpiper in the mudflats during migration.

In addition to restoring habitat, this project provides New York State with an excellent opportunity to educate the public about the importance of wetlands, their role in our lives, and what we need to do to keep them healthy. The refuge hosts thousands of visitors every year, many of whom visit the restored areas.



Wetlands in Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Conclusion

New York State's dedicated Environmental Protection Fund is a precious state resource that provides countless benefits to all New Yorkers.

By leveraging resources to secure matching funds from foundations, corporations, individuals and federal and local governments, the Fund provides innumerable and far-reaching benefits to New York State. In one way or another, the Environmental Protection Fund touches all of our lives, providing the critical investment we need to protect our favorite places, build habitat, encourage biodiversity, invest in local businesses, and strengthen our communities.

The projects in *The Environmental Protection Fund: Preserving New York's Natural Heritage & Quality of Life* are just a sample of the work going on across the state. In communities from one end of New York to the other, the Fund provides money for clean water, clean air, new jobs, better places to play, and opportunities to explore what it means to be a New Yorker.

New York's Governor and State Legislature can be proud of the Environmental Protection Fund. With the help of citizens across the state, the Fund has blossomed into a healthy and productive legacy that we can all share.

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