

Long Path Protection Plan



New York-New Jersey Trail Conference plan to protect the Long Path, extending 400+ miles between New York City and the Adirondack Park.



The Long Path is maintained by volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in conjunction with multiple park partners and maintaining clubs in New York and New Jersey.

The Long Path Protection Plan was supported with funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.



The **New York-New Jersey Trail Conference** has partnered with parks to create, protect, and promote a network of over 2,100 miles of public trails in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region. The Trail Conference organizes volunteer service projects that keep these trails open, safe, and enjoyable for the public. We publish maps and books that guide public use of these trails. The Trail Conference is a nonprofit organization with a membership of 10,000 individuals and 100 clubs that have a combined membership of over 100,000 active, outdoor-loving people.



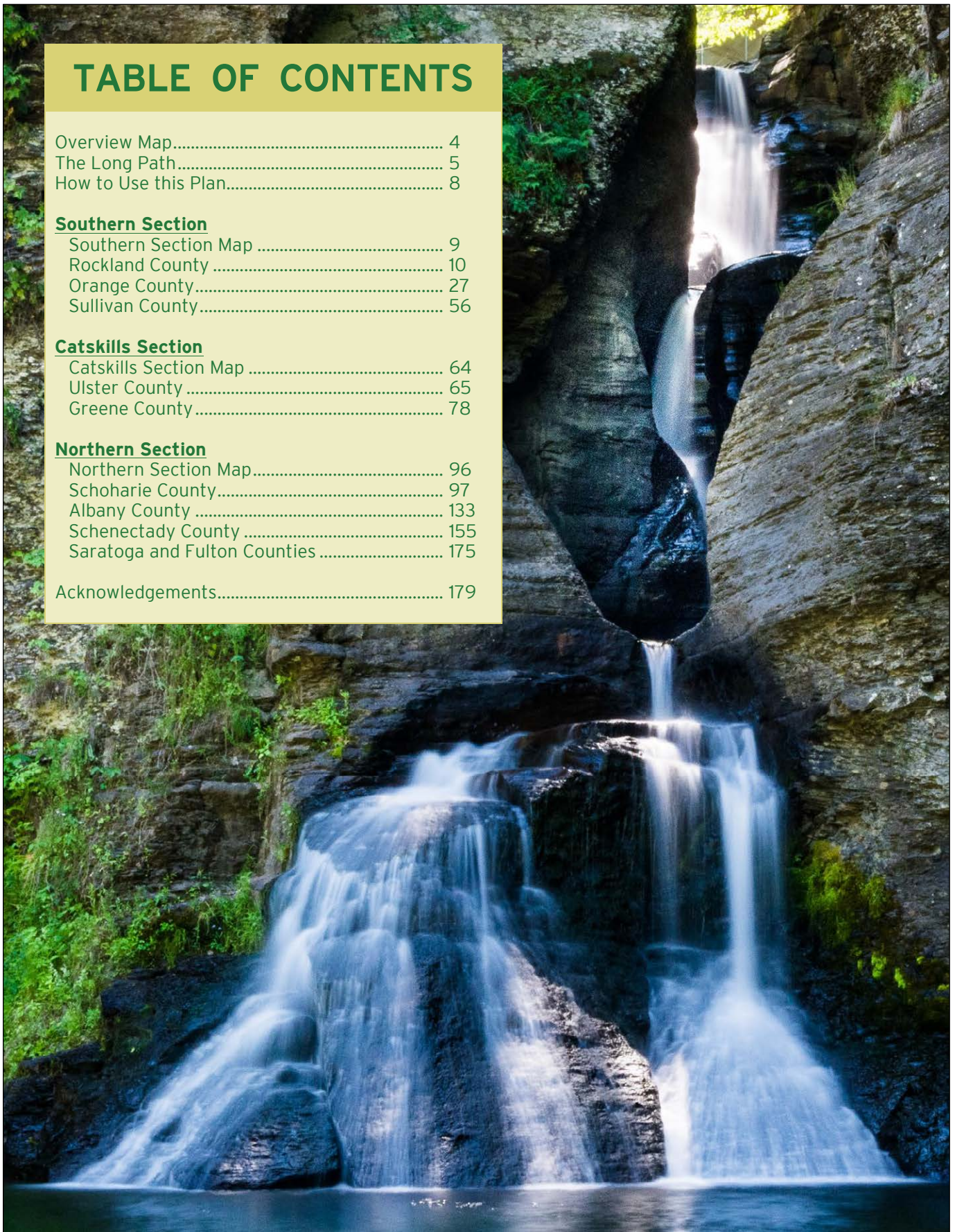
The **Land Trust Alliance** is a national nonprofit conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents more than 1,000 member land trusts and their 4.6 million supporters nationwide. As the voice of the land trust community, the Land Trust Alliance is the national leader in policy, standards and education.



The **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** was created in 1970 to combine all state programs designed to protect and enhance the environment into a single agency. DEC's mission is to conserve, improve, and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.

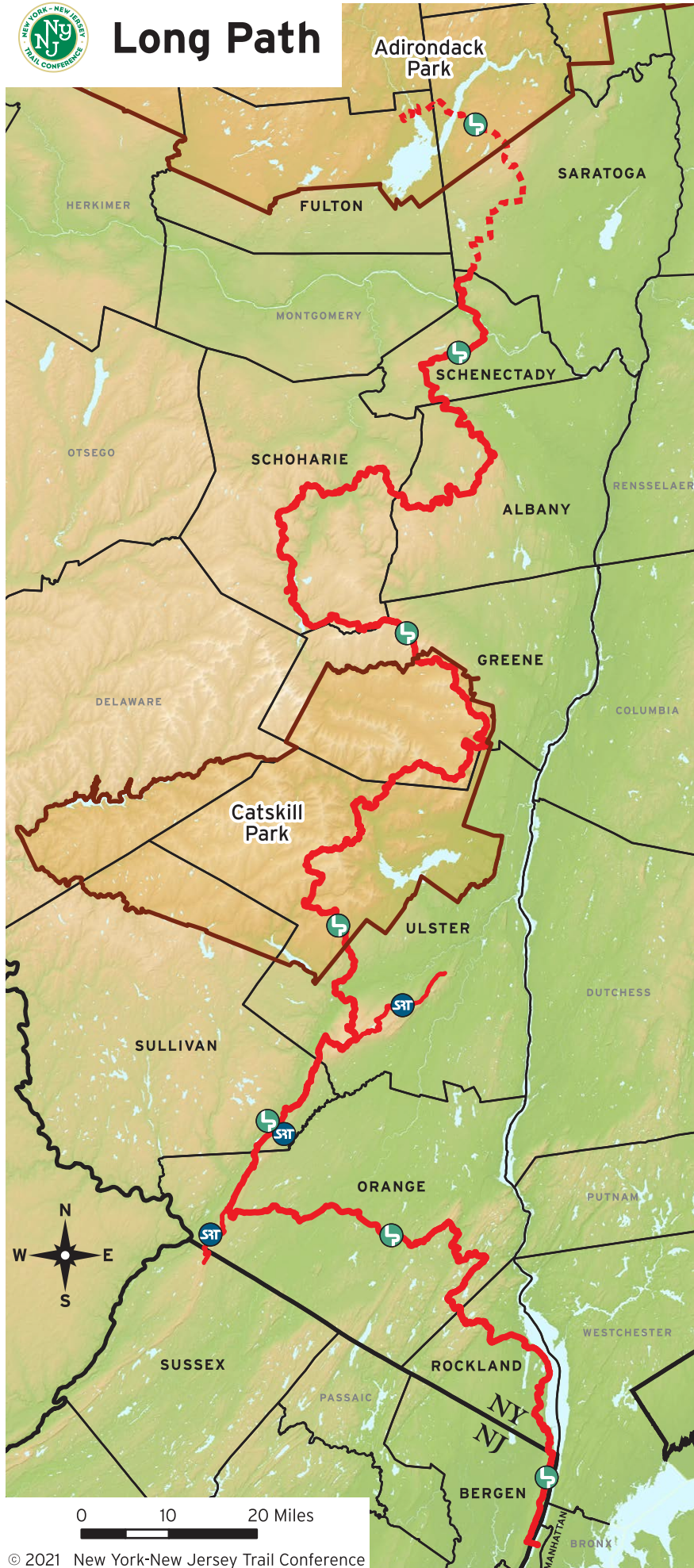
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Long Path



The Long Path

The **Long Path (LP)** is a trail that extends nearly 360 miles as a completed trail from near the 175th Street Subway Station in New York City to John Boyd Thacher State Park near Albany, New York, the current official terminus. The trail continues northward with blazed roadwalks and some off-road sections to the Mohawk River, and then a mostly unblazed roadwalk to reach Northville in the Adirondack Park for a total Long Path length of more than 425 miles; there are ongoing efforts to move more of these sections off the roads. The aqua-blazed Long Path traverses many scenic and historic regions of varied geologic setting on the west side of the Hudson River, including the Palisades, Harriman State Park, the Shawangunk Ridge, the Catskills, and the Helderberg Escarpment.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has been championing the Long Path for decades, with more aggressive protection work beginning in the late-1990s and early-2000s. Efforts have largely been piecemeal, with progress made slowly but surely to close or narrow gaps in protected lands. Assembling a 400+-mile-long trail corridor is a labor-intensive, multi-decade campaign that largely does not fit the missions of most other land conservation organizations, so the experiences and many small achievements has led to the Trail Conference acquiring institutional knowledge of how to create minimalist linear corridors where necessary and state forest-sized corridors where possible.



The Trail Conference has learned that providing a vision and a plan for trail corridor protection can be an extremely useful resource. This Long Path Protection Plan (LPPP), with detailed maps and descriptive priority parcel protection narratives, will serve as a roadmap for partnerships and engagements. The Trail Conference already works with many great partners at all levels of involvement, but this LPPP will advance shared missions and open space goals and ultimately help expedite the goal of creating a protected Long Path corridor from New York City to the Adirondacks.

The following testimonial from Kylie Yang, Long Path End-to-End #190 and former Trail Conference NY Program Coordinator, encapsulates the importance of protecting the Long Path:

The Long Path is a truly unique and beautiful trail. After joining the Trail Conference in 2020, I decided to section hike the Long Path over a few months. While I had experience with long-distance hiking on the Appalachian Trail, I was shocked at the swiftly changing scenery the Long Path provided. Winding through Palisades Interstate Park, over cliffs in Minnewaska, with sweeping views throughout the Catskills and views of Albany from John Boyd Thatcher State Park, I cannot think of another trail that encompasses so many diverse parks in so few miles. Walking through small communities I would've otherwise not seen, and being greeted by livestock on road walks was a truly unique experience. The trail was often remote, but it was always marked and maintained well. While I regularly went several days without seeing other hikers, I was grateful for the rugged, beautiful, and often solitary experience that many other long-distance trails cannot provide. The Long Path is a true gem, and deserves protection to ensure it lasts for generations of hikers to come!

History of the Long Path:

In 1931, Vincent J. Schaefer of the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club put forth an idea for "New York's Long Path." Unlike other trails, the Long Path was to be a path without any clearing or marking, where one would just wander using a compass and maps to reach pre-determined destinations, which he labeled as points. This trailless path had a predetermined starting point of "Towers of the George Washington Bridge" and an ending point of "Whiteface Mountain."

With the help of W. W. Cady, he took this one step further to scout the complete route. On March 27, 1934, Raymond Torrey began to print a section of the Long Path every Tuesday in his article "The Long Brown Path." This was done every Tuesday through August 26, 1935. There were soon some efforts to create a marked trail, including by Alexander Jessup who marked the trail into the Catskills by 1943, but the timing of World War II led to the idea soon fading away.

In 1960, Robert Jessen and Michael Warren revived the idea as a cleared, marked and maintained path. By this time both housing developments and private property postings prevented a hiker from wandering wherever they wanted. Without a planned route or permission from private landowners, an off-road bush whacking route would have been difficult to achieve. Through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s the Trail Conference worked to refine the path and protect it through advocacy efforts. In the 1990s, the Trail Conference began to get more aggressive with moving the Long Path off roads while also extending the Long Path north into Schoharie and Albany counties. The Trail Conference also began to purchase properties to protect the Long Path.

By the turn of the century, the Trail Conference was aggressively working to protect the Long Path north of the Catskill Park. Here the Trail Conference's 30-year effort has permanently protected 14.3 miles of the Long Path with the protection of more than 1,000 acres, which was instrumental in the creation of Mount Hayden State Forest. By 2000, the Trail Conference also began to aggressively preserve the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) from High Point State Park in New Jersey to Sam's Point Preserve, now part of Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This mammoth effort required assistance from numerous partner organizations and buy in from New York State. Over the last 30 years, Trail Conference efforts have helped protect more than 4,000 acres along the southern Shawangunk Ridge to help create a protected corridor for the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail. In 2012, the Long Path route through Orange County was significantly moved to align it with the Shawangunk Ridge Trail for nearly 36 miles, from the Town of Greenville in Orange County northward to Sam's Point.

Land Protection Steps:

The strategy used by the Trail Conference in planning and pursuing protected corridors has largely consisted of the following steps:

1. Identify corridor priority parcels

- These are parcels that protect critical areas, parcels that connect to other protect lands, parcels that provide a protected land buffer, or parcels that could provide additional trail opportunities. These parcels are largely identified through a combination of on-the-ground assessment, GIS mapping, and county/municipal tax maps.

2. Identify which parcels may be feasible to protect

- The Trail Conference and its partners may attempt to identify which parcels may actually be feasible for protecting with some form of protection, starting with landowner agreements and progressing to trail or conservation easements and outright acquisition. This process can involve establishing relationships and lines of communication with landowners, negotiating potential costs of the land, and working with park partners to understand whether potential acquired lands would ultimately be transferred.

3. Work to complete the protection

- Once a parcel is considered feasible for protection, the Trail Conference and its partners work to line up everything needed to complete the protection. For an acquisition, this process can involve working with the landowner to finalize a purchase price and other terms, obtaining funds needed to acquire the parcel, and conducting surveys and performing legal reviews and title searches. These steps eventually lead to a closing date, when the land is transferred to the Trail Conference or other land trust partner and becomes protected!

4. If land is acquired, transfer the acquisition to New York State or another partner

- The Trail Conference is not a land trust, so we prefer to not hold on to protected land and instead transfer it to either New York State or a land trust partner. The timeframe for when a transfer occurs depends on several variables, including the parcel's significance and priority in comparison with potential acquisitions statewide, as well as the amount of funding New York State or other land trust partners has available to purchase these lands.

The situations surrounding any particular parcel vary greatly, such that the timeframe between the first step and last step can involve only 1-2 years of work, or require 10-20 years of persistence!

Conservation Corridor Protection:

The Long Path Protection Plan aims to link conservation and recreation goals by preserving land adjacent to the Long Path to contribute to interconnected conservation corridors that support habitat connectivity and combat landscape degradation. The strategic protections outlined in the Long Path Protection Plan aim to create a fully protected corridor that would benefit recreational and environmental resources from New York City to the Adirondack Park.

The protection of ecological corridors is a strategy that land managers, planners, and interest groups utilize to reduce habitat fragmentation and degradation. Anthropogenic disturbances such as urbanization and development disrupt wildlife interactions and movement, resulting in a decline of biodiversity in developed areas. Clearing of native vegetation creates patches or islands of habitats, isolating plants and animals and interrupting ecological processes like migration, dispersal, pollination, and mating.

Ecological or conservation corridors link vegetated areas and water bodies, enabling habitat connectivity that allows plants and animals to migrate and disperse in the face of changing seasons, degraded ecosystems, and changing climate. Wildlife moves daily and seasonally to reach food, water, shelter, and breeding sites and are more frequently relying on corridors to locate their needs. A study in Tensas River Basin, Louisiana found that bears moved more regularly through wooded patches connected by corridors than wooded areas fragmented by agricultural land, indicating corridors supported the idea that habitat connectivity is necessary to sustain black bear population (USDA 1999). Additionally, Aziz & Rasidi (2014) found that greater species richness is likely in wider corridors with more forest.

In addition to habitat connectivity to wildlife, corridors play a substantial role in improving watershed conditions by reducing the impact of agricultural runoff into riparian zones, decreasing erosion and flooding, and improving water and air quality (USDA 1999; Lynch 2019).

Investment in corridor protection adjacent to recreational trail systems offers an opportunity to promote ecological conservation that is compatible with human activity. There is a growing body of research that indicates physical and psychological human health benefit from the presence of biodiversity and natural landscapes (Russell et al. 2013; Seymour 2016; Frumkin et al. 2017). Therefore, by integrating regional trail networks with ecological corridors, the Long Path will serve as a multipurpose corridor that protects functioning ecosystems and promotes human health.

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Seymour V. (2016). *The human-nature relationship and its impact on health: A critical review*. *Front Public Health* 4:260

USDA. (1999). *Conservation Corridor Planning at the Landscape Level*. Chapter 4: *Corridor Benefits*. https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C33&as_vis=1&q=Corridor+Benefits+USDA&btnG=

How to Use this Plan

This **Long Path Protection Plan** examines individual Project Areas that are largely focused on unprotected property between already-protected lands. These Project Areas are organized by county, starting in Rockland County at the New York/New Jersey state border and proceeding northward toward Adirondack Park. The initial section in New Jersey is not included here because once the Long Path crosses the George Washington Bridge, it is routed entirely through protected Palisades Interstate Park land in New Jersey with one small exception that occurs as the Long Path crisscrosses the border at Rockland County.

The counties are grouped into the following sections, with an overview section map proceeding each section in the Plan:

- **Southern Section:** Rockland, Orange, Sullivan
- **Catskills Section:** Ulster, Greene
- **Northern Section:** Schoharie, Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga, Fulton

The first eight counties are structured in the following way:

- **Overview and History** of the Long Path in that county
- **County Map** showing the route of the Long Path and specific project area locations
- **Project Area Descriptions** and **Action Items**
- **Project Area Parcel Lists** of protection priority parcels within the desired corridor
- **Project Area Maps** showing protected lands and preferred Long Path routes

The northernmost counties of Saratoga and Fulton are represented by descriptions of potential routes and rough maps of these routes, but they do not yet include specific Project Areas. The section for Orange County also includes information and project areas for the related Shawangunk Ridge Trail.

While this Long Path Protection Plan is designed to show all the priority areas along the trail, each section and county can also be looked at individually. The hope is that this plan will assist interested Long Path stakeholders in engaging in actions to preserve and protect the Long Path in any given Project Area or County.

Each Project Area Map includes a legend showing the manager level of protected lands (i.e., state, county, municipal, land trust). Note that orange-shaded Corridor Priority Parcels are parcels for which some form of protection should be secured, so that could include direct acquisition as well as other easements or agreements that could provide protection for the corridor.

County	Number of Project Areas	Number of Priority Parcels
Rockland	6	31
Orange	9	96
Sullivan	2	9
Ulster	4	18
Greene	6	33
Schoharie	13	79
Albany	7	46
Schenectady	6	64
Saratoga	Work is underway to further develop a potential protected corridor through these two counties.	
Fulton		
TOTAL	54	376



Long Path Northern Section



Albany County



Albany County

Protection Overview:

There are **7 Project Areas** within Albany County. Protecting a corridor in each of these areas would completely protect the Long Path, which runs for about **39.3 miles** through the county.

- Currently the Long Path through Albany County crosses land of 7 private landowners. Without their permission, the trail would be following roads through much of the county. The Trail Conference is incredibly thankful that these folks have opened their land for Long Path hikers.
- In **Project Area 1**, the Long Path enters the county onto a 167-acre parcel that the Trail Conference preserved in 2017 and then proceeds into Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area.
- The Long Path continues in the safety of the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area and State Forest for the next 9.35 miles before crossing two private parcels in **Project Area 2** to reach Gifford Hollow Road. From Gifford Hollow Road, the trail follows roads for 2.3-miles to reach Cole Hill State Forest.
- The Long Path passes through the state forest for the next three miles to reach Cole Hill Road. The Long Path follows Cole Hill Road and Woodstock Road for 2 miles to the Albany Doppler Radar Tower. The Long Path next passes through land of five different private landowners for the next 5 miles before again following roads for 2.75 miles to John Boyd Thacher State Park. This **critical area** is described in **Project Area 3** and **Project Area 4**.
- The Long Path passes through John Boyd Thacher State Park for the next 7.2-miles. **Project Area 5** covers a potential threat near the trail corridor.
- Currently, Long Path hikers are eligible to receive an End-to-End patch and certificate when they complete the trail from the 175th Street Subway Station in New York City to the parking area on Old Stage Road at the northeast corner of John Boyd Thacher State Park (<https://www.nynjtc.org/book/endtoend>).
- Beyond John Boyd Thacher State Park, the Long Path is a work-in-progress at this time. While the Long Path is marked with aqua blazes to the Saratoga County border, thru-hikers are not yet required to complete these sections.
- The first section north of John Boyd Thacher State Park is 9.55 miles long with 8.95 miles on the roads, while the next section north of the county line is routed on roads for 7.65 miles. **Project Area 6** and **Project Area 7** deviate from the current road walk, proposing a route that proceeds to Bozen Kill Preserve and then Christman Sanctuary just north of the county border.

Albany County

History:

In 1991, with support from the Trail Conference, a "Long Path North" committee was formed. These local volunteers dedicated themselves to develop and maintain the Long Path, and plans began to materialize for extending the Long Path into Schoharie County and beyond. In May 1991, the Long Path was extended to Mount Pisgah, at the southwest corner of Schoharie County. Sixty years had passed since Vince Schaeffer first envisioned the Long Path as an unmarked path to points of interests and thirty-one years had passed since Robert Jessen and the Trail Conference reinvented Schaeffer's plan to mark and maintain the Long Path. The Long Path was headed north again.

In February 1994, the Long Path North Hiking Club was formed. This club and its members have been the guardians of the Long Path North for 27 years. At the time, the crew was busy extending the trail from western Schoharie County through Albany to John Boyd Thacher State Park. The work through Albany County continued through the mid-1990s. Enough work was completed that the 1996 Long Path Guide described the trail from the George Washington Bridge to John Boyd Thacher State Park in Albany County.

Trail maintenance continued, along with the occasional construction of new, off-road sections. Simultaneously, the occasional landowner revoked permission for the trail. In 1998, the Trail Conference moved the End-to-End requirement to John Boyd Thacher State Park, as the official terminus had previously been at Windham in Greene County.

In 2006, a landowner revoked permission for the Long Path over Roemer's High Point. This was a huge loss, as Roemer's High Point had sweeping views far into the Catskills, Taconics and Adirondacks. The loss of this property and another property resulted in a 2.75-mile road walk through this area.

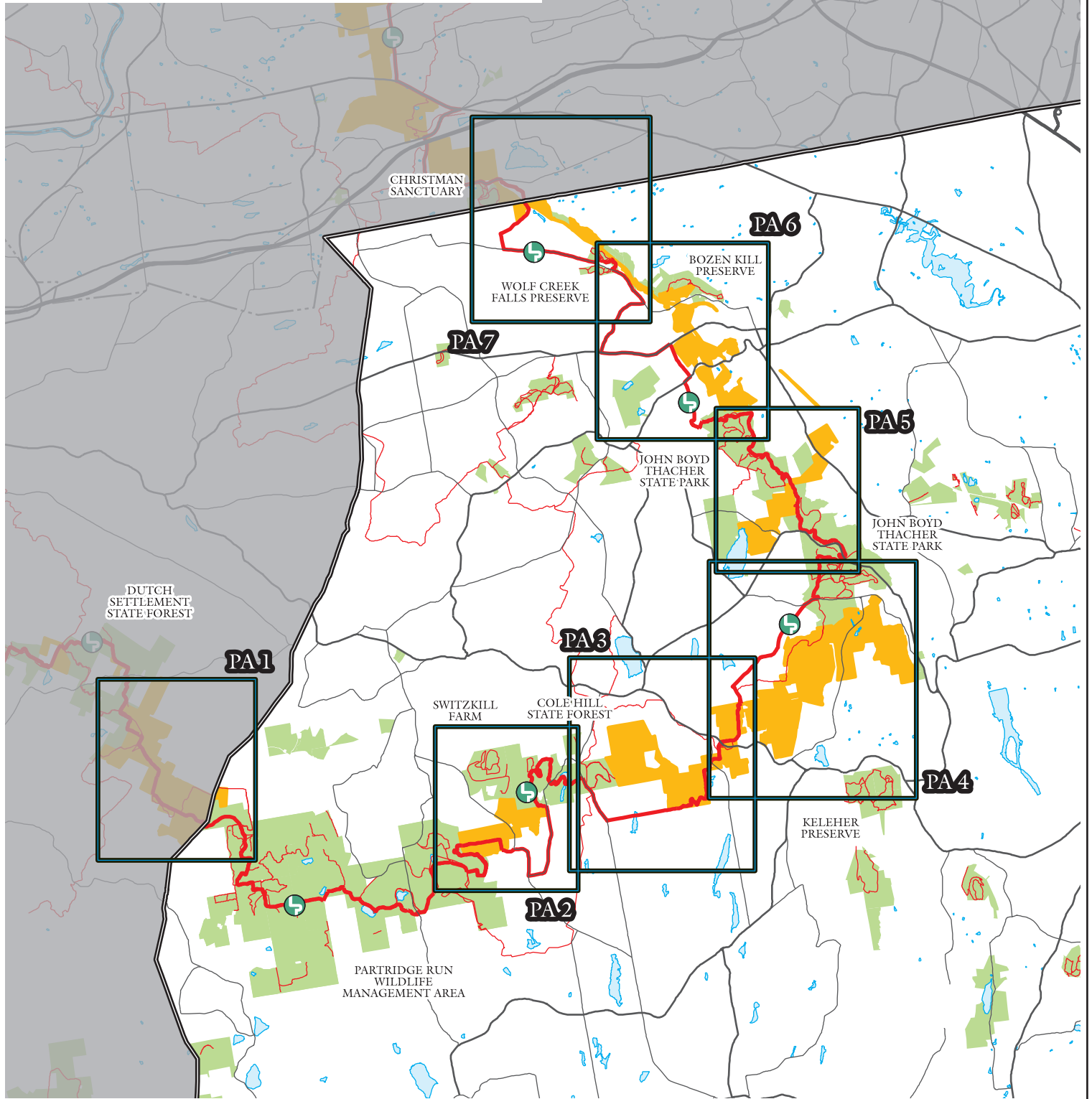
In 2013, the Long Path North Hiking Club blazed the Long Path from John Boyd Thacher State Park to the Schenectady/Saratoga county border. The route mostly follows roads with a brief section through Wolf Creek Falls Preserve.

In July 2017, the Trail Conference purchased 167 acres adjacent to the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area just over the Line in Albany County. The Long Path North Hiking Club negotiated agreements with four landowners on Lawton Hollow Road in Schoharie County. These efforts enabled a new trail in the woods to replace a 2.4-mile road walk at the county line.



Albany County

Project Areas #1-7



- Protected land
- Corridor priority parcel
- Long Path
- Other trail
- Project Area Outline



0 1 2 4 Miles



Albany County

Project Area #1 (same as Schoharie #13)

Dutch Settlement State Forest to Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area

Project Area Description:

- This project area extends into both Albany and Schoharie County. Previously, the Long Path was on roads when it crossed the county line. In 2017, the Trail Conference preserved a 167-acre parcel that is attached with the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area. At that time, four landowners in Schoharie County gave permission to route the trail across their land from Canady Hill Road to the Trail Conference parcel. This removed over 2 miles of road walk for the Long Path.
- The trail between Canady Hill Road and the county line gets closed down for hunting season, and during that period, a 2.35-mile road walk is required. The northwest corner of the Trail Conference parcel is just 300 feet from Lawton Hollow Road. Preserving a right of way or a portion of the Reagan parcel would ensure that hikers would no longer need to follow the road for over a mile in Albany County.

Action Needed:

- A protected trail corridor is needed between Lawton Hollow Road and the Trail Conference parcel 300 feet to the south. The Reagan parcel is one of two possibilities to accomplish this. The other is across the county line.

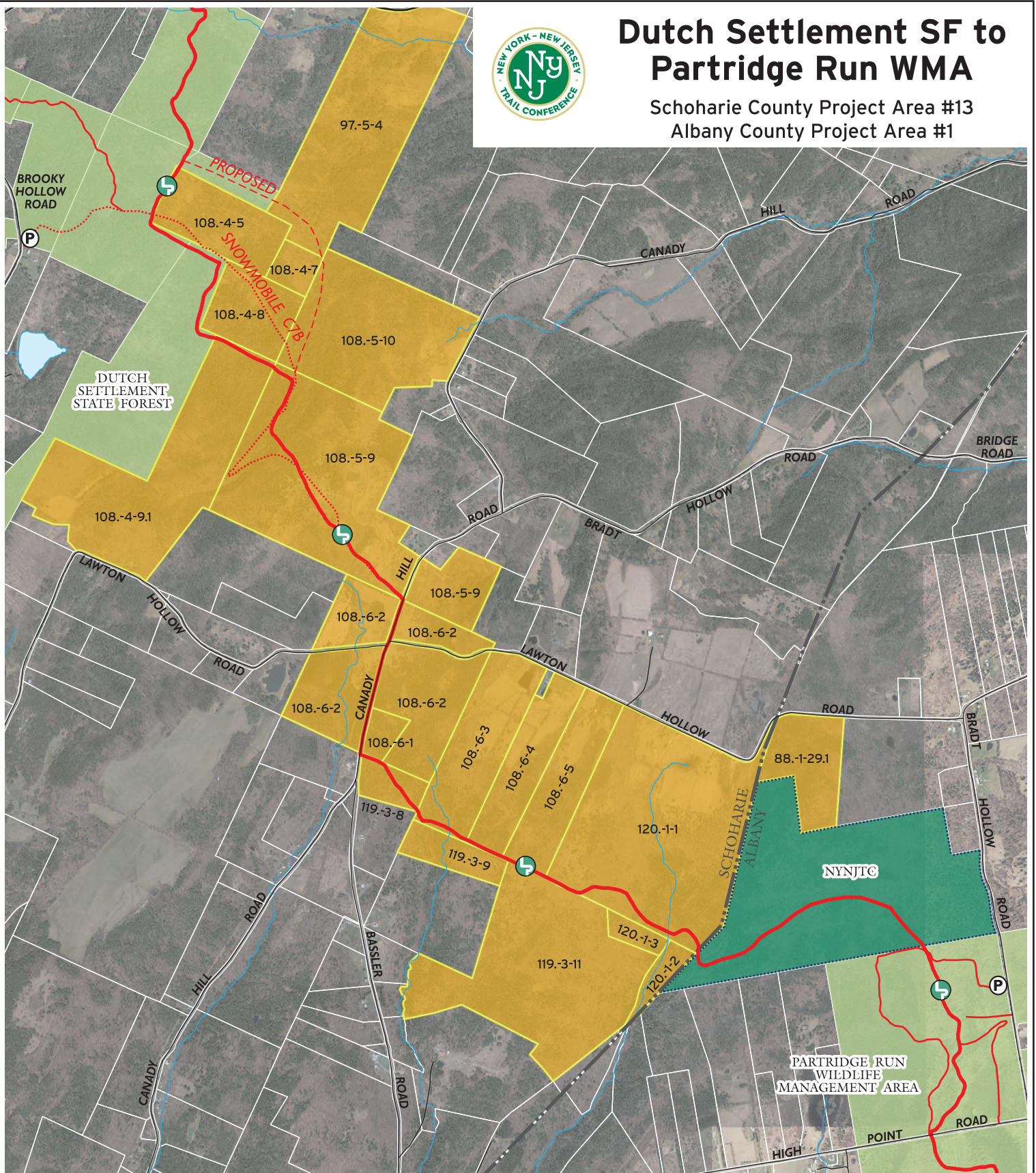
Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 88-1-29.1	Landowner: REGAN	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 33.4	Description: This vacant parcel is connected with a parcel to the south which the Trail Conference preserved in 2017. The property is completely wooded.	



Dutch Settlement SF to Partridge Run WMA

Schoharie County Project Area #13
Albany County Project Area #1

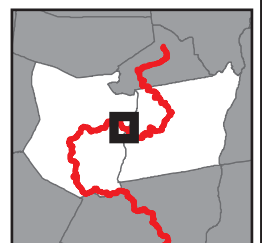


- State land
- County land
- Land trust land
- Municipal land
- Owned by NYNJTC
- Transferred by NYNJTC
- Assisted by NYNJTC

- Corridor priority parcel
- Threatened parcel
- Maintained trail
- Proposed trail
- Long Path
- Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- Parking area
- Viewpoint

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Albany County

Project Area #2

Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area to Cole Hill State Forest

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path currently leaves Partridge Run and crosses the Valachovic and Barron properties to reach the road. The trail then follows local roads for 2.3 miles before heading into Cole Hill State Forest.
- Recently, the Town of Berne acquired a large property, "Switz Kill Farm", which is attached to the Cole Hill State Forest.

Action Needed:

- The first parcel below is strategically important; Once at Switzkill Road, a couple of options exist.
- **Option 1:** The Long Path could cross Switzkill Road, pass through Eighty Seven Properties' land and then enter either Cole Hill State Forest or the Town of Berne's Game Farm Road acquisition. Routing the trail through the Pollard property would enable attaching with the existing Long Path sooner.
- **Option 2:** The Long Path could follow Switzkill Road for 0.65 mile to Game Farm Road and access the Town of Berne Park. Also, it is possible that the trail could pass through the Brown property, west of Valachovic. This option would eliminate a road walk but require a bridge over the Switzkill Browns land.

Priority Parcels:**Current Route**

Parcel: 102-1-6	Landowner: VALACHOVIC	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 137.2	Description: A mix of woods and farm fields south of the creek. North of the Switz Kill there is a house and barn near the road. The property is connected with the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area. The family has allowed a local Boy Scout Troop to construct a Lean-to for the Long Path on this parcel. They also granted permission to build a bridge over the Switzkill on this property.	

Parcel: 102-1-14.11, 102-1-14.12	Landowner: BARRON	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 73, 14.67	Description: These two properties are combined with a home and barn. It is mostly wooded with farm fields down near the creek. The property is connected with the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area.	

Option 1

Parcel: 102-2-4.1	Landowner: EIGHTY SEVEN PROPERTIES LLC - ATT: TIMOTHY WALSH	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 88	Description: Completely wooded at the southern portion. The northern portion is a mix of fields and woods with house. It's attached with the road, Cole Hill State Forest and the town's Switzkill Farm property.	

Parcel: 102-2-14.3	Landowner: POLLARD	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 88	Description: A mostly wooded parcel attached with Cole Hill State Forest. There is an open field along Willsie Road.	

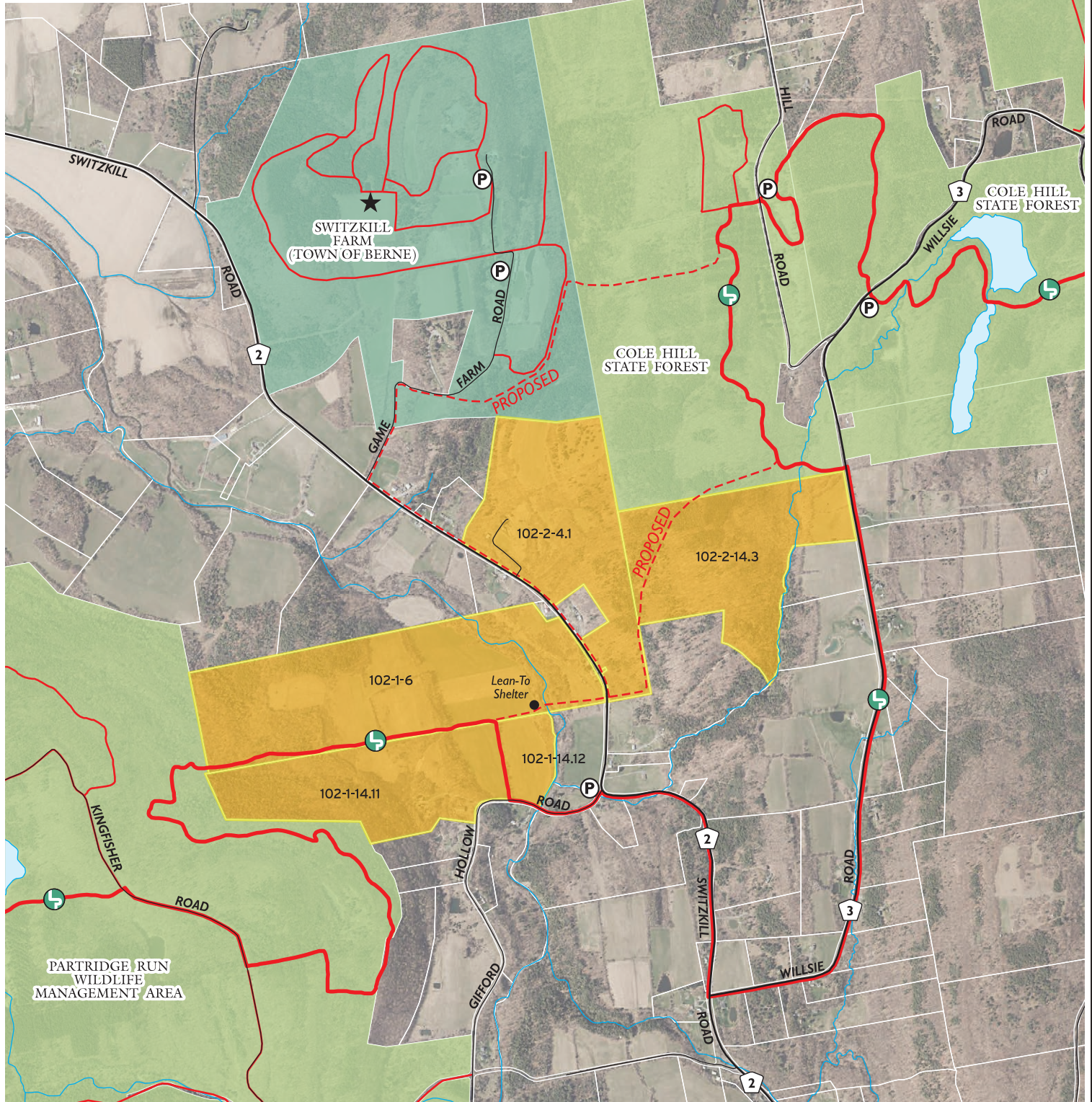
Option 2

Parcel: 102-1-3	Landowner: BROWN	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 70	Description: A mix of woods and open fields with a house. The access road to the town's Switzkill Farm property is across the road from the northwest corner of this parcel.	



Partridge Run WMA to Cole Hill SF

Albany County Project Area #2



- State land
- County land
- Land trust land
- Municipal land
- Owned by NYNJTC
- Transferred by NYNJTC
- Assisted by NYNJTC

- Corridor priority parcel
- Threatened parcel
- Maintained trail
- Proposed trail
- Long Path
- Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- Parking area
- Viewpoint



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Albany County

Project Area #3

Cole Hill State Forest to NY-443/Stage Road

Project Area Description:

- Currently, the Long Path follows Cole Hill Road, then Woodstock Road for 2 miles to the Albany Doppler Radar Tower. Beyond the tower, the trail goes another 2 miles through property of three different owners and then crosses route 443, ending at an abandoned section of Stage Road.
- The ideal solution here would be to preserve an off-road trail route between Cole Hill State Forest.
- This is a **Critical Area**. **Project Area 3** combined with **Project Area 4** add up to a long stretch of unprotected trail. Together, the distance between Cole Hill State Forest to John Boyd Thacher Park is about 4 + miles in a straight line.
- The Long Path runs 7.8 miles between these two points. The increased distance is caused by the land that the trail currently has permissions for. Currently, the trail leaves the state forest, follows roads for 2 miles, and then weaves through private land for 5.05 miles and then returns for 2.75 miles on the roads to the state park.

Action Needed:

- The Gross property would make a great addition to Cole Hill State Forest. Beyond this, permanent trail easements through the listed properties would be one solution for preserving the trail through this project area. Conservation easements for farming, combined with a trail easement is another option.
- The map shows both the existing route and a proposed completely off-road route. The next step is to begin talking with these landowners.

Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 91-1-4	Landowner: GROSS	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 409.8	Description: This is a large wooded property attached to Cole Hill State Forest. There are four small homes near a pond on this property. Other than those, is completely vacant.	

Parcel: 91-1-36.3	Landowner: KIVELA	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 9.3	Description: This is a mostly wooded parcel with a home at the north end of the property.	

Parcel: 91-1-36.1	Landowner: GIEBITZ	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 69.5	Description: This is a completely wooded parcel with a house at the north end of it.	

Parcel: 103-1-7	Landowner: WAGONER	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 77	Description: This vacant parcel is completely wooded with a seasonal cabin at the south end of the property.	

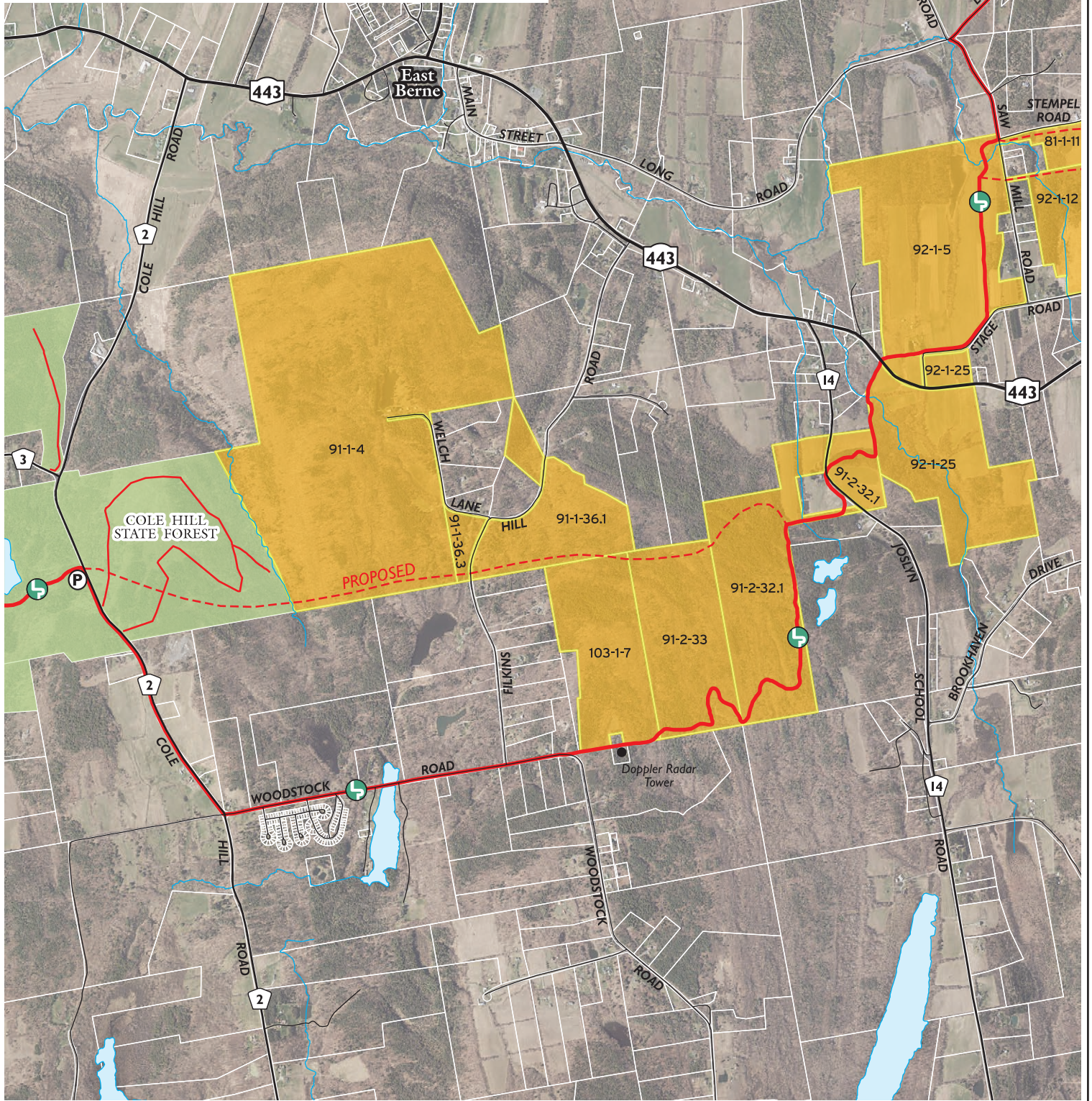
Parcels: 91-2-32.1, 91-2-32.2, 91-2-33	Landowner: GARRY	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 127.5, 8, 80	Description: The eastern portion of this property has hay fields on both sides of Joslyn School Road. The western portion is completely wooded.	

Parcel: 91-1-25	Landowner: WILLSIE	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 116	Description: Around half of this property is wooded while the other half contains woodlands. Fox Creek runs through the property which also has some wet areas.	



Cole Hill SF to NY-443/Stage Road

Albany County Project Area #3



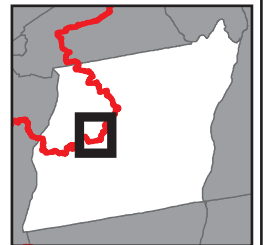
- State land
- County land
- Land trust land
- Municipal land
- Owned by NYNJTC
- Transferred by NYNJTC
- Assisted by NYNJTC

- Corridor priority parcel
- Threatened parcel
- Maintained trail
- Proposed trail
- L Long Path
- SRT Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- P Parking area
- ★ Viewpoint



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Albany County

Project Area #4

NY-443/Stage Road to John Boyd Thacher State Park

Project Area Description:

- The first mile of this project area is on the Willsey property. Leaving the Willsey property, the Long Path follows local roads for the next 2.75 miles where it reaches Boyd Thacher State Park. This section was not always a road walk, it once crossed private land. Landowner changes have resulted in the revocation of permission for the trail.
- This is a **Critical Area**. **Project Area 3** combined with **Project Area 4** add up to a long stretch of unprotected trail. Together, the distance between Cole Hill State Forest to John Boyd Thacher Park is about 4 ½ miles in a straight line.
- The Long Path runs 7.8 miles between these two points. The increased distance is caused by the land that the trail currently has permissions for. Currently, the trail leaves the state forest, follows roads for 2 miles, and then weaves through private land for 5.05 miles and then returns for 2.75 miles on the roads to the state park.

Action Needed:

- The Hens' property would be a great addition to the south end of Boyd Thacher State Park. Especially since Roemer's High Point is on the property. South of that, permanent trail easements through the listed properties would be one solution for preserving the trail through this area. Conservation easements for farming, combined with a trail easement is another option.

Priority Parcels:

Option 1

Parcel: 91-1-5.100	Landowner: WILLSEY	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 151	Description: Most of this property is being actively farmed, vegetable fields mostly. property There are trees and a small wetland at the northern end. There is a house and barn at the southwest corner of the property.	

Parcel: 81-1-11.100	Landowner: STEMPEL	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 55.4	Description: This vacant property is predominately agricultural fields with scattered woodlands.	

Parcel: 81-1-10	Landowner: ARMSTRONG	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 24	Description: This vacant property is completely wooded with the exception of a gas pipeline which runs across the northern portion.	

Parcel: 81-2-16.3, 81-2-16.4	Landowner: HENS	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 272.14, 46.85	Description: This property stretches for over a mile across the top of the Helderberg Escarpment. The north end of this property is completely wooded, as is the eastern border. Roemer's High Point is located on the northern portion. The smaller parcel is west of Elm Road. That parcel is completely wooded with the exception of a gas pipeline which runs across the northern portion.	

Option 2

Parcel: 92-2-12	Landowner: VANENBURGH	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 70	Description: This property has abandoned farm fields on the eastern portion with a house in the southeastern part of the property. The northwest portion is wooded.	

Parcel: 92-1-14.1	Landowner: CHASE	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 62.12	Description: The northern portion of this parcel is completely wooded. The southeastern portion has hay fields. There is a house located on the southwestern part of this property.	

Parcel: 92-2-1	Landowner: VAN WIE FARMS LLC	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 180	Description: This parcel is used for agricultural crops. There are some wooded areas along the borders.	

Parcel: 81-2-18	Landowner: VAN WIE FARMS LLC	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 100.50	Description: This parcel is used for agricultural crops. There are some wooded areas along the borders.	

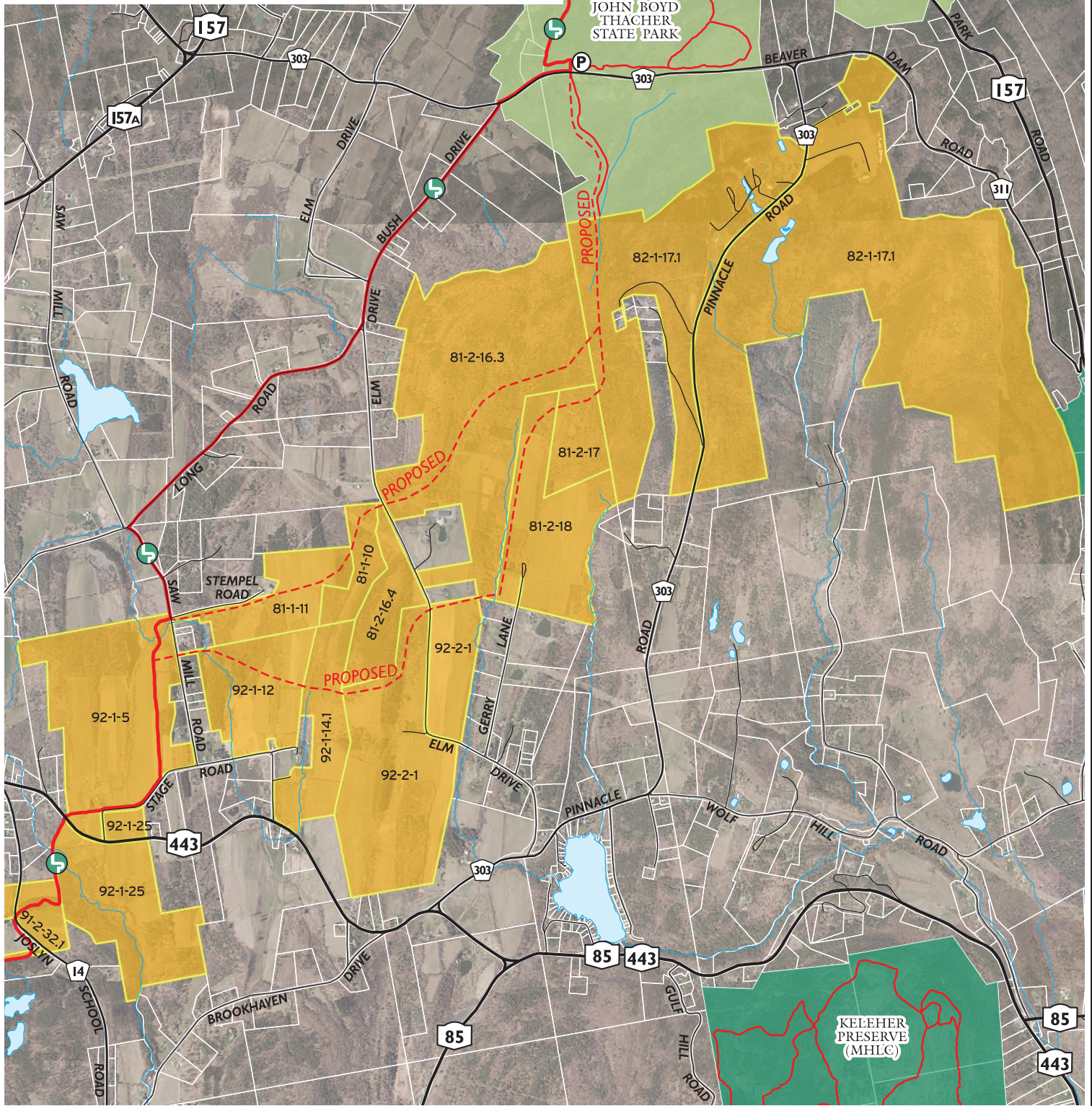
Parcel: 81-2-17	Landowner: ALBANY BIBLE INSTITUTE	Municipality: BERNE
Acres: 55	Description: This vacant parcel is completely wooded. It's part of the 825 acres that they own on the Helderberg Escarpment.	

Parcel: 82-1-17.1	Landowner: ALBANY BIBLE INSTITUTE	Municipality: NEW SCOTLAND
Acres: 785.40	Description: This is an 825-acre camp on top of the Helderberg Escarpment. The property is mostly wooded. There is a camp with numerous camp buildings concentrated in an open area at the north end of the property.	



NY-443/Stage Road to John Boyd Thacher SP

Albany County Project Area #4



- State land
- County land
- Land trust land
- Municipal land
- Owned by NYNJTC
- Transferred by NYNJTC
- Assisted by NYNJTC

- Corridor priority parcel
- Threatened parcel
- Maintained trail
- Proposed trail
- L Long Path
- SRT Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- P Parking area
- ★ Viewpoint



Albany County

Project Area #5

John Boyd Thacher State Park Trail Buffers

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path crosses a private parcel to reach the north end of Thacher Park. The state has a permanent trail easement for the trail on the Ketcham property. The Open Space Institute has a conservation easement on the 282.5-acre property.
- There is another property next to the trail. About 10 acres of it sits on top of the Escarpment directly next to the trail corridor.

Action Needed:

- The first listed parcel is protected, and the second parcel does not appear to impose a threat on the trail corridor at this time. The situation will need to be monitored.

Priority Parcels:

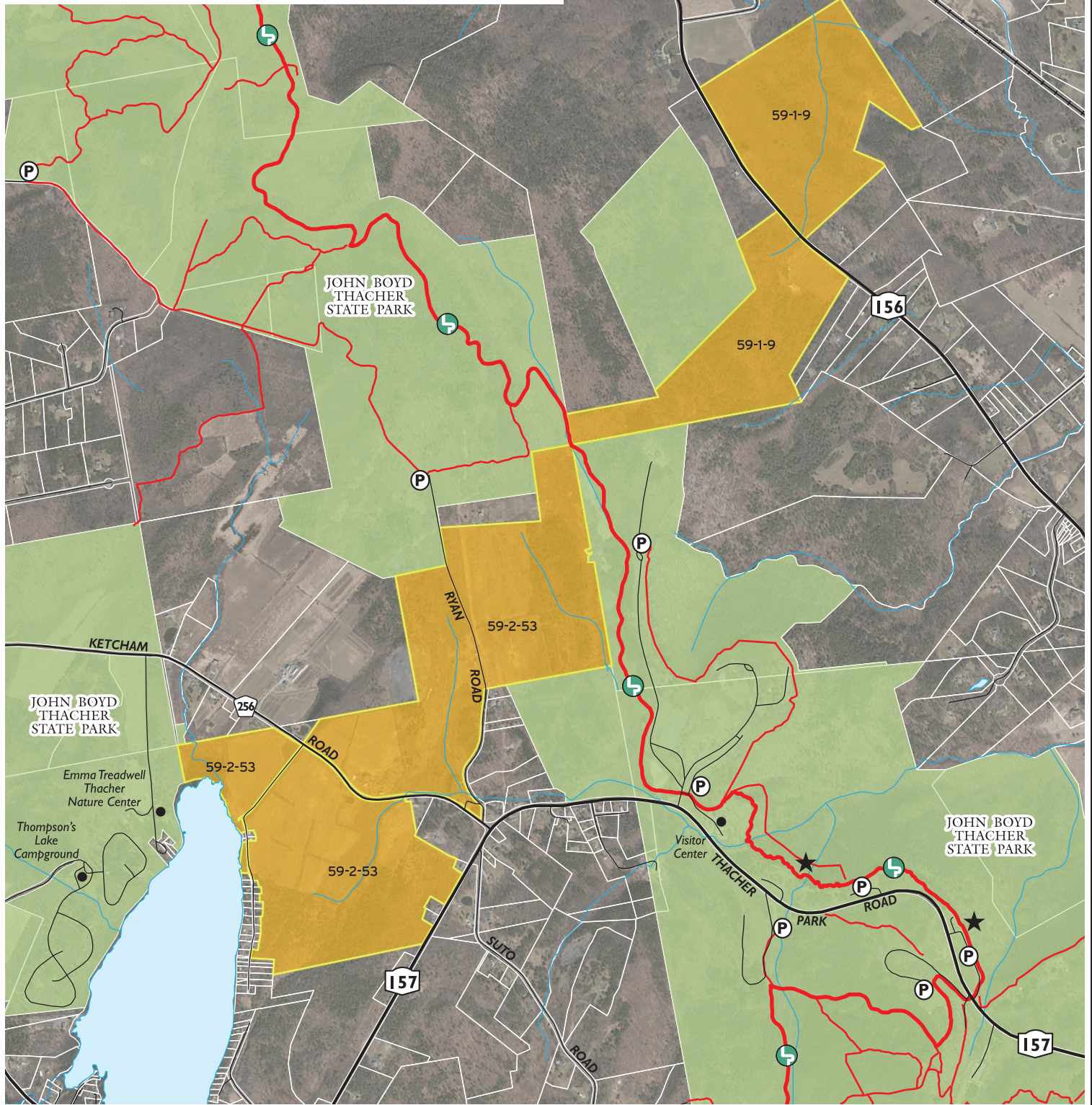
Parcel: 59-2-53	Landowner: KETCHAM	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 282.5	Description: This property is protected by a Conservation Easement held by the Open Space Institute. In addition, New York State holds a trail easement for the Long Path where it crosses this property.	

Parcel: 48.00-1-25	Landowner: SBARDELLA	Municipality: GUILDERLAND
Acres: 161.1	Description: The bulk of this property is below the steep cliff of the Helderberg Escarpment. There is a ten-acre portion of this parcel at the top of the Escarpment and next to the Long Path. This portion of the property is completely wooded.	



John Boyd Thacher SP Trail Buffers

Albany County Project Area #5



- State land
- County land
- Land trust land
- Municipal land
- Owned by NYNJTC
- Transferred by NYNJTC
- Assisted by NYNJTC

- Corridor priority parcel
- Threatened parcel
- Maintained trail
- Proposed trail
- Long Path
- Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- Parking area
- Viewpoint



Albany County

Project Area #6

John Boyd Thacher State Park to Bozen Kill Preserve

Project Area Description:

- Currently, the Long Path section north of Thatcher Park is predominantly on roads, ending at The Nature Conservancy's Christman Wildlife Sanctuary.
- This project area contains a list of properties that have been determined to be suitable for the Long Path between Thatcher Park and Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's Bozen Kill Preserve.

Action Needed:

- The next step is to begin reaching out to these landowners.
- Swinging the Long Path down through Altamont is not out of the question. Altamont would surely make a great trail town.

Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 48.00-1-25	Landowner: THE JOSHUA FOUNDATION	Municipality: GUILDERLAND
Acres: 94.40	Description: This property is completely wooded with the exception of a mansion and pond in the northeast portion of the parcel. The property is attached with Boyd Thacher Park and includes the northeast portion of the Helderberg Escarpment.	

Parcel: 48.00-1-37	Landowner: SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION	Municipality: GUILDERLAND
Acres: 42.6	Description: The western portion of this property is completely wooded. There is a private school on the eastern portion of this property. The parcel connects with route 156.	

Parcel: 47.-2-55	Landowner: COWAN	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 50	Description: This vacant parcel is a mix of woods and open areas. The property connects with route 156 at the northwest corner.	

Parcel: 47.-2-54	Landowner: WHIPPLE	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 3.1	Description: This property has a house located on the western portion. The eastern portion of this property is completely wooded.	

Parcel: 47.-2-51	Landowner: DIGESER	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 28.2	Description: This vacant property is completely wooded. It located on the north side of route 156.	

Parcel: 35.00-1-28.4	Landowner: VESTA COMMUNITY HOUSING	Municipality: GUILDERLAND
Acres: 59.90	Description: This property is predominately wooded. There is an open area on the southwest portion of this parcel.	

Parcel: 47.-2-19.1	Landowner: SCHUHLE	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 8.1	Description: This vacant parcel is completely wooded. There is a pond located on this property.	

Parcel: 47.-2-19.2, 47.-2-18.2	Landowner: BROOMSHALL	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 79.8, 18.8	Description: These two vacant parcels combined are nearly 100 acres. The property is completely wooded.	

Parcel: 36.-2-14.1	Landowner: WHITE	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 9.2	Description: This vacant property is completely wooded. This parcel connects route 146 with 253 at the RR crossing.	

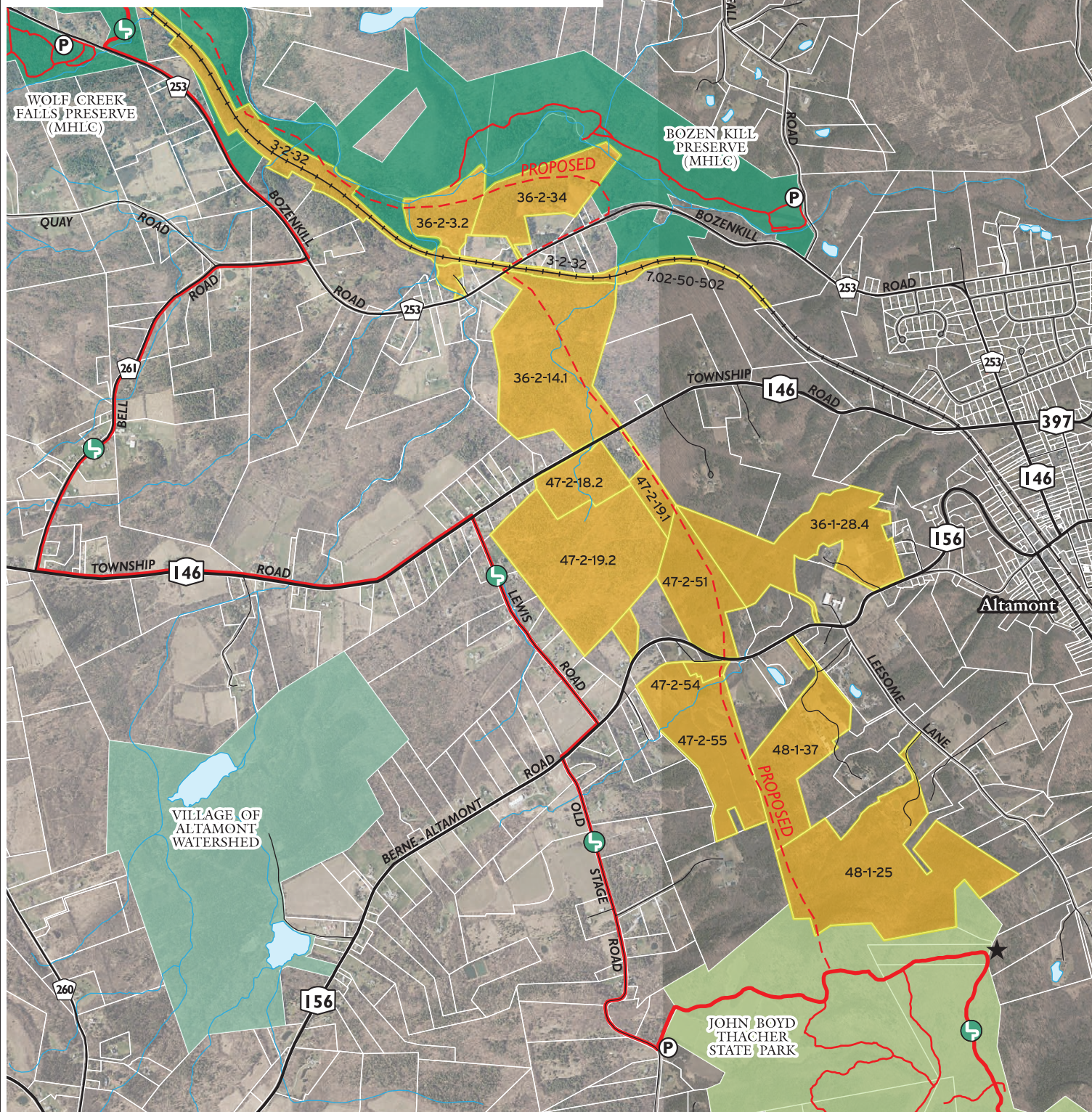
Parcel: 36.-2-34	Landowner: VADNEY	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 29.1	Description: This is a vacant parcel. The property is mostly wooded with the Bozen Kill on it. It is also attached with the Bozen Kill Preserve.	

Parcel: 36.-2-3.2	Landowner: CURTIS	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 18.3	Description: The property is divided by the active RR. There is a home on the smaller section of the property south of the RR. The area north of the RR is completely wooded and vacant. It is bordered by The Bozen Kill Preserve, the Bozen Kill and Wolf creek	



John Boyd Thacher SP to Bozen Kill Preserve

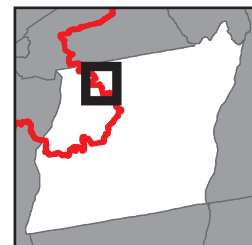
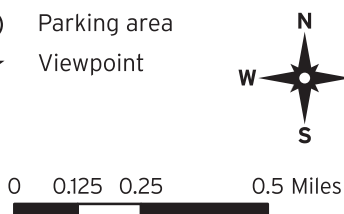
Albany County Project Area #6



- State land
- County land
- Land trust land
- Municipal land
- Owned by NYNJTC
- Transferred by NYNJTC
- Assisted by NYNJTC

- Corridor priority parcel
- Threatened parcel
- Maintained trail
- Proposed trail
- L Long Path
- SRT Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- P Parking area
- ★ Viewpoint



Albany County

Project Area #7 (same as Schenectady #1)

Bozen Kill Preserve to Christman Sanctuary

Project Area Description:

- Currently, the Long Path section north of Thatcher Park is predominantly on roads, ending at The Nature Conservancy's Christman Wildlife Sanctuary.
- This project area takes advantage of all of the land which Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy has already preserved. The plan here is for the Long Path to follow the Bozen Kill to Christman Wildlife Sanctuary.

Action Needed:

- The next step is to meet with Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, as this is a corridor they are working to preserve. The Long Path Committee and the Conservancy have met once prior to the pandemic.

Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 24.-2-18	Landowner: GARRAMONE	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 51.2	Description: This property has the Bozen Kill on the northern boundary and the RR on the southern. Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy property is on the eastern and western boundary.	

Parcel: 23.-1-11	Landowner: MURPHY	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 38	Description: This vacant wooded parcel is attached with an isolated Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy parcel. It is also bordered by a RR, the Bozen Kill and the Schenectady County line. This landowner owns continuous property in Schenectady County.	

Parcel: 23.-1-7.1	Landowner: JUST	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 4	Description: This is a vacant wooded parcel with the Bozen Kill flowing through it. It is also bordered by a RR and the Schenectady County line. This landowner owns continuous property in Schenectady County.	

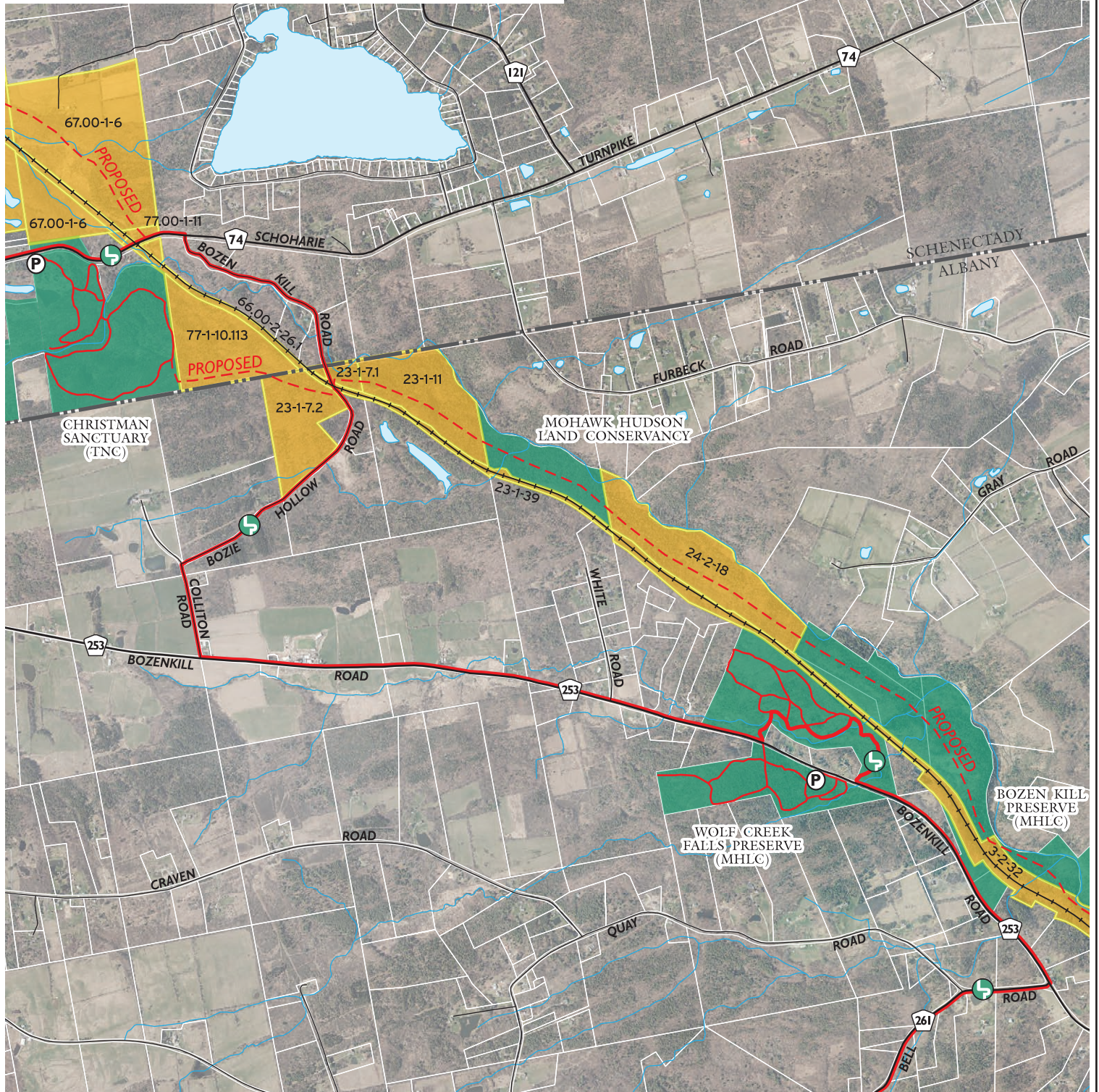
Parcel: 23.-1-7.2	Landowner: SERRANO	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 33.5	Description: This vacant parcel is completely wooded. It is continuous with two other parcels the owner owns. One over the border in Schenectady County. It is attached with the Christman Wildlife Sanctuary.	

Parcel: 36.-2-32, 23.-1-39	Landowner: NORFOLK SOUTHERN	Municipality: KNOX
Acres: 54, 10.4	Description: This is an active RR corridor. It contains excess land outside the required safety corridor.	



Bozen Kill Preserve to Christman Sanctuary

Albany County Project Area #7
Schenectady County Project Area #1



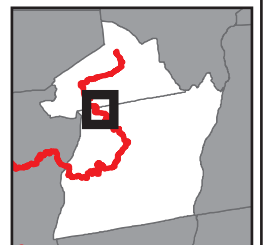
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- Threatened parcel
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- Proposed trail
- Long Path
- Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- Parking area
- Viewpoint



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Acknowledgements

The creation of a greenway corridor, perhaps above all else, requires dedicated people working together for a common conservation cause. Over the past several decades, land protection progress along the Long Path has been the result of Trail Conference volunteers and staff working closely with land trust partners, New York State park partners, local community members, and landowners themselves. The photos to the right show just a few of the people who have played instrumental roles in creating protected corridors for the Long Path, especially along the Shawangunk Ridge.

This Long Path Protection Plan has come together thanks to several dedicated individuals. The following two volunteers deserve special recognition for their contributions:



Andy Garrison, for his long-time dedication to the Long Path both on the physical trail and behind-the-scenes. His step-by-step knowledge of the entire Long Path and ability to plot out potential corridors has been instrumental to preparing each of the project areas in this plan and the overall vision for protecting the Long Path.

Nick Boyle, for working closely with Andy to develop the structure of this plan, and also helping to organize and edit the descriptions and parcel info for each of the counties and project areas.

Thanks also to contributed photos from **Steve Aaron, Daniel Chazin, Jakob Franke, Alex McClain**, and other volunteers, and text about the importance of conserving corridors from **Cory Tiger**.

Our land protection efforts and the development of this Plan would also not have been possible without large amounts of funding support.

- The Long Path Protection Plan was supported with funding from the **New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP)** and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the **Land Trust Alliance**, in coordination with the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**.
- Additional funding for this Plan came from the **Trail Conference's donor-supported Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund (LASF)**.

We hope this Long Path Protection Plan will also inspire more people to join this cause to protect the important lands throughout our region.

Happy Trails!

Jeremy Apgar
Cartographer
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference