

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.



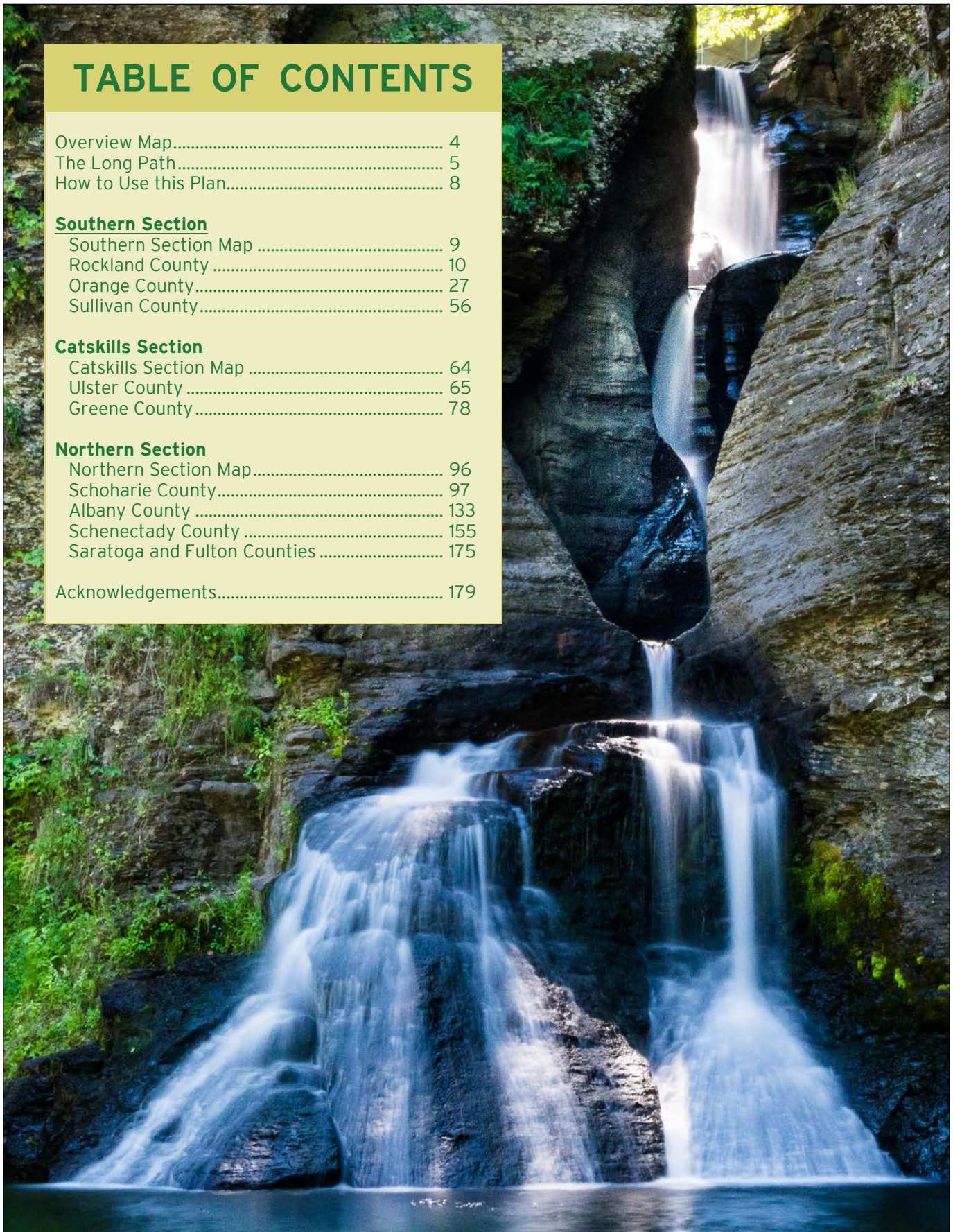
The **Land Trust Alliance** is a national nonprofit conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents more than 1,000 member land trusts and their 4.6 million supporters nationwide. As the voice of the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

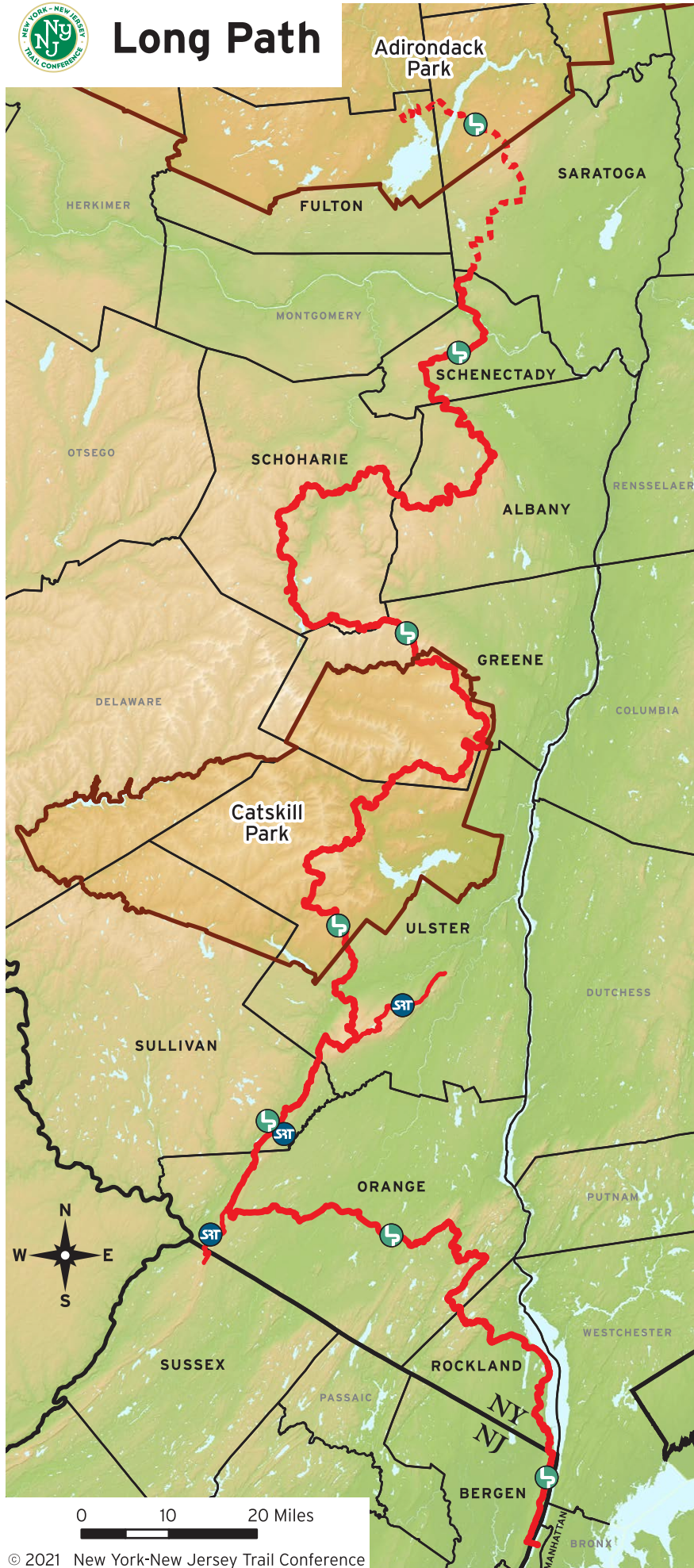
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Long Path



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.

References:

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Hector, T. S., Allen, W., Carr, M., Zwick, P. D., Huntley, E., Smith, D. J., ... & Hilsenbeck, R. (2008). *Land corridors in the southeast: connectivity to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services*. *J Conserv Plan*, 4, 90-122.

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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.

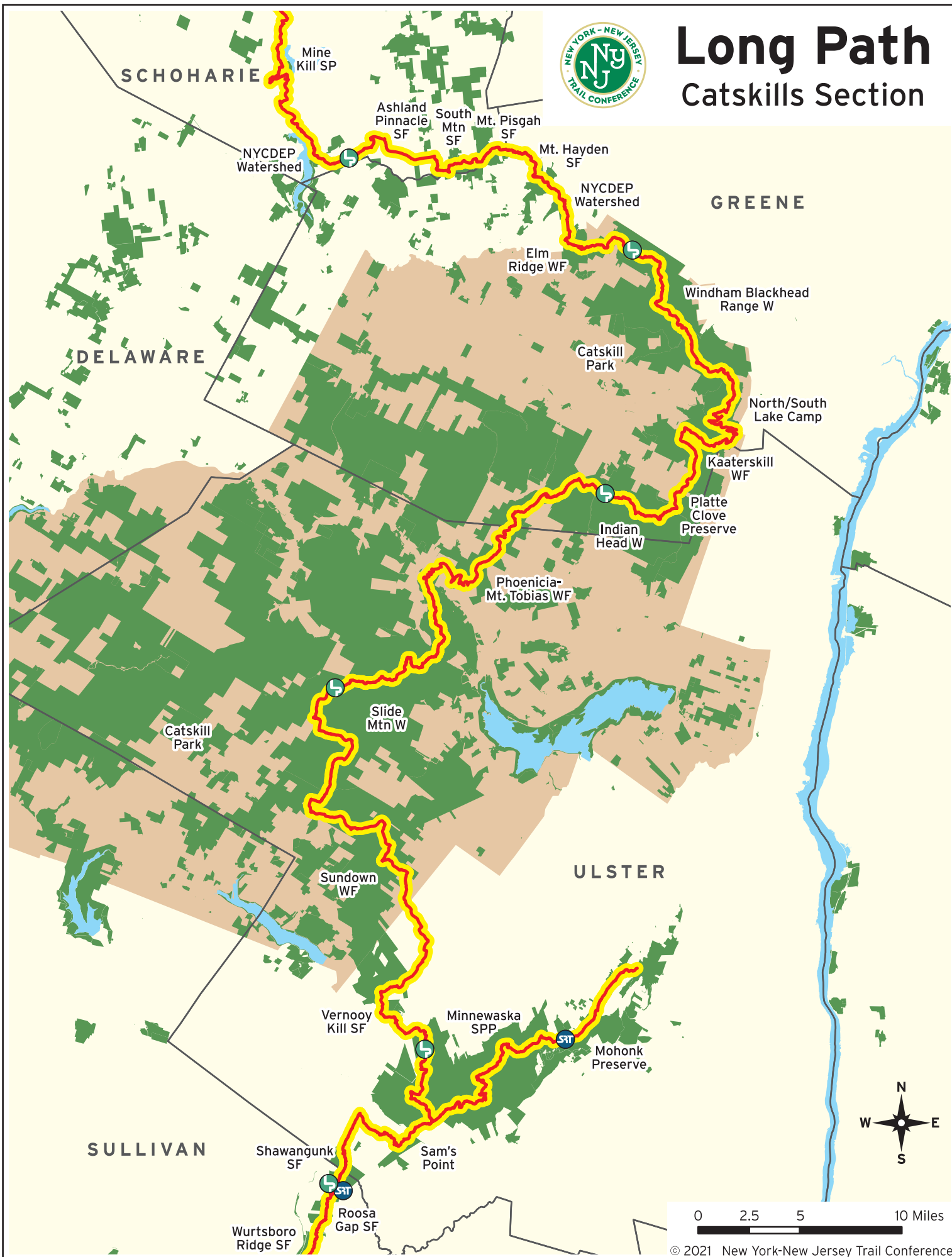
While this Long Path Protection Plan is designed to show all the priority areas along the trail, each section and county can also be looked at individually. The hope is that this plan will assist interested Long Path stakeholders in engaging in actions to preserve and protect the Long Path in any given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



SCHOHARIE

Mine Kill SP

Ashland Pinnacle SF

South Mtn SF

Mt. Pisgah SF

Mt. Hayden SF

NYCDEP Watershed

NYCDEP Watershed

GREENE

Elm Ridge WF

Windham Blackhead Range W

DELAWARE

Catskill Park

North/South Lake Camp

Kaaterskill WF

Platte Clove Preserve

Indian Head W

Phoenicia-Mt. Tobias WF

Slide Mtn W

Catskill Park

ULSTER

Sundown WF

Vernooey Kill SF

Minnewaska SPP

Mohonk Preserve

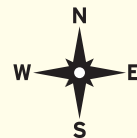
SULLIVAN

Shawangunk SF

Sam's Point

Wurtsboro Ridge SF

Roosa Gap SF



0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Greene County



Greene County

Protection Overview:

There are **6 Project Areas** within Greene County. Protecting a corridor in each of these areas would completely protect the Long Path, which runs for about **60 miles** through the county.

- After exiting Ulster County, the Long Path traverses the east end of the Devil's Path and travels along the Catskill Escarpment, known to locals as the "Manitou Wall." Both the Devil's Path and the Catskill Escarpment are popular destinations within Catskill Park.
- The Long Path remains inside the Catskill Park "Blue Line" for the first 49 miles in Greene County. There is one instance where the trail passes through unprotected land in the Palenville area, covered by **Project Area 1**.
- Soon after leaving the Catskill Park, the Long Path passes through a mix of New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) land and Trail Conference land before reaching State Forest land. The Long Path then meanders along the Greene/Schoharie border for about 2.75 miles before crossing into Schoharie County for good.
- Both **Project Area 2** and **Project Area 3** are in this area approaching the Greene/Schoharie border. Both currently involve short road walks and have nearby unprotected land. The continuity of the trail is not threatened in these areas, but further protecting these lands would allow the Long Path to move off the road and also protect it from any possible development.
- Recently, the Long Path Committee at the Trail Conference secured a revocable trail agreement from a key landowner that will allow the trail to continue west into Huntersfield State Forest and through several NYCDEP watershed properties within Greene County.
- The Long Path is currently routed off the ridge to local roads in Schoharie in **Project Area 4**, but protecting additional lands in Greene County would help produce a protected land corridor as work gets underway to reroute the Long Path back through Huntersfield State Forest.
- Preserving the mountaintop land through **Project Area 5** is a **very critical priority**. One family owns all the mountaintop land that would connect Ashland Pinnacle State Forest with Huntersfield State Forest.
- **Project Area 6** is also a **critical priority**. Preserving just one property or a portion of it would be a remarkable achievement.
- The desired Long Path corridor follows the mountains from Windham to the Schoharie Reservoir, a 20-mile trail corridor. Preserving a trail corridor across two key properties would permanently ensure that the continuity of the Long Path could not be interrupted within the entire 20-mile stretch.

Greene County

History:

The Long Path passes through 6 other counties before reaching Greene County. When the Long Path was re-envisioned as a marked and maintained trail in 1960, the creators had not looked beyond Route 23 near Windham. After all, these trail builders had a ton of work ahead of them just to get there. Still, their aspiration was to someday make it to Whiteface Mountain in the Adirondacks.

For the first 27 years, the missing link on the Long Path was the section from Platte Clove to Palenville. As in Ulster County at the time, the Long Path followed available New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) trails in addition to numerous road walks. It required decades of advocacy and volunteerism to get permission to build new sections of trail on Forest Preserve land within Catskill Park. Then, in 1987, a new section of the Long Path was built through the Kaaterskill Wild Forest.

While waiting for approvals in Kaaterskill State Forest, the Long Path Committee of the Trail Conference began talking with landowners north of the Catskill Park. By 1989, the Long Path was extended northwest of Windham, to Greene County Route 32C. At that time, no preserved land existed between Old Road in Windham and Greene County Route 10; however, beyond this section, State Forest land existed.

The Trail Conference obtained revocable trail agreements with 12 private landowners across 7 miles of mountains, who all agreed to allow a public trail to pass through their lands. Over the next 30 years, the Trail Conference was able to negotiate agreements with nearly all of these landowners to sell their land to be preserved as State Forest land. The DEC supported the goals of the project and directly purchased some of the land that had been optioned to the Trail Conference, while the Trail Conference then purchased the remaining parcels. These lands have since been sold to DEC, and altogether they form Mount Hayden State Forest. The remaining two landowners sold their land to New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), and that land is now open for recreation. In 2020, the Trail Conference acquired the last private parcel in this 7-mile stretch.

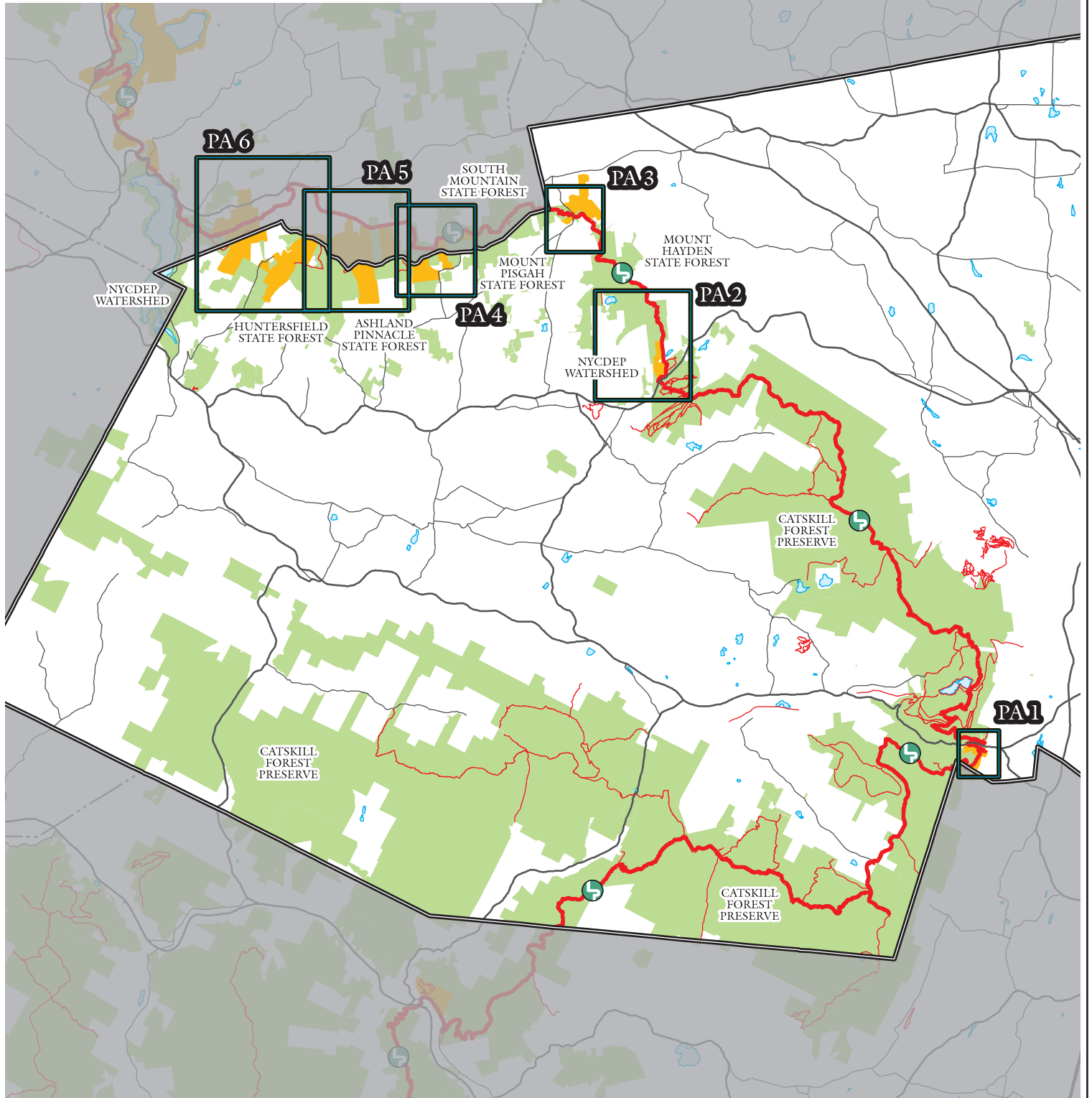
In 1994, just over the Greene County border, the Trail Conference purchased two small parcels of land. These small parcels connected Mount Pisgah State Forest with Ashland Pinnacle State Forest. With this update in preservation, the Long Path was extended further west into Greene County and through Huntersfield State Forest. Beyond the State Forest, the trail was routed through land of seven different owners to reach Pangman Road in Schoharie County. Soon after the work was complete and the trail was opened, there was a landowner change with one property, and the new owner revoked the permission for the Long Path on their land. This caused a new gap in the Long Path, and currently the Long Path follows roads in Schoharie County for 4.3 miles to get around this area.

In recent years, NYCDEP has been acquiring land in this area for watershed protection. Even more recently, NYCDEP has opened much of this land for recreational purposes. These recent successes, combined with some landowner changes, has resulted in an opportunity to route the Long Path through this area once again. This does not come without risk, as we will be relying on revocable trail agreements with two landowners, but historically, this is the life of piecing together the Long Path.



Greene County

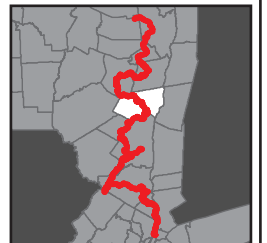
Project Areas #1-6



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



0 1.5 3 6 Miles



Greene County

Project Area #1

Kaaterskill Wild Forest in Palenville

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path leaves Kaaterskill Wild Forest on a dirt road known locally as the old Red Gravel Hill Road. There are numerous private parcels that that only have this road as a right of way to reach them. Currently no traffic uses the old road which would now need a lot of work before vehicles could use it. Currently nothing would prevent this area from being developed and the road being upgraded.
- There are two parcels north of this area which each connect with the state forest and the public road, Malden Avenue. Both are away from the developed area.
- Beyond Malden Avenue the Long Path follows Route 23a, over a blind hill with little shoulder for walking, to reach the DEC parking area and trailhead around 4/10 of a mile away.
- A little west of the current trail junction with 23a the Kaaterskill Wild Forest connects with both sides of 23a. The Kaaterskill Creek lines runs parallel with the north shoulder of 23a. This creek flows hard and high at times.

Action Needed:

- This area has two issues to address. One is the possibility of development encroachment along the existing route. The second issue is the short but dangerous walk along route 23a.
- The trail could be rerouted within the state land coming back onto old red gravel Road as it goes in to the Muzzi / Gagner parcels. Preserving the uphill lands of Muzzi / Gagne would prevent further building on those parcels. The trail would still come out in the residential area as it does now.
- A little north of the present route both the Klaessig and the Karch properties each border the state land and Malden Avenue. Either of these parcels would be suitable to replace the current trail route.
- A third possibility would be to route the trail completely through state land to route 23a. This would need to be carefully investigated as the land in this area is very steep.
- Avoiding the blind hill on 23a may prove to be very difficult. The state land does meet 23a just east of the bridge that crosses the Kaaterskill Creek. It too appears to be incredibly steep and would need to be carefully investigated.
- All new trail construction, including reroute on state land must be approved by NYSDEC.

Priority Parcels:

Current Route

Parcel: 199-1-13	Landowner: STORY	Municipality: CATSKILL
Acres: 23.7	Description: This mostly wooded parcel has a hunting cabin on it. old Red Gravel Hill Road passes through this parcel; it is the right of way for this parcel. The Long Path follows the old dirt road.	

Parcel: 199-1-7	Landowner: KENNEDY	Municipality: CATSKILL
Acres: 16.5	Description: This vacant parcel is steep and completely wooded. The centerline of old Red Gravel Hill Road is the western property line with the adjacent Kaaterskill Wild Forest.	

Parcel: 199-1-1.2	Landowner: SHRIMP MIRAMAR LLC - C/O MUZZI	Municipality: CATSKILL
Acres: 10	Description: This vacant parcel is steep and completely wooded. Old Red Gravel Hill Road passes through this parcel.	

Parcel: 199-1-19	Landowner: MUZZI & GAGNER	Municipality: CATSKILL
Acres: 9.23	Description: Has the Fernwood restaurant on it. Abandoned Red Gravel Hill Road passes through this parcel.	

Parcel: 199-1-17	Landowner: ROBINSON	Municipality: CATSKILL
Acres: 4.4	Description: Has a house on it. The old Red Gravel Hill Road passes through and leads to Malden Ave.	

North of Current Route

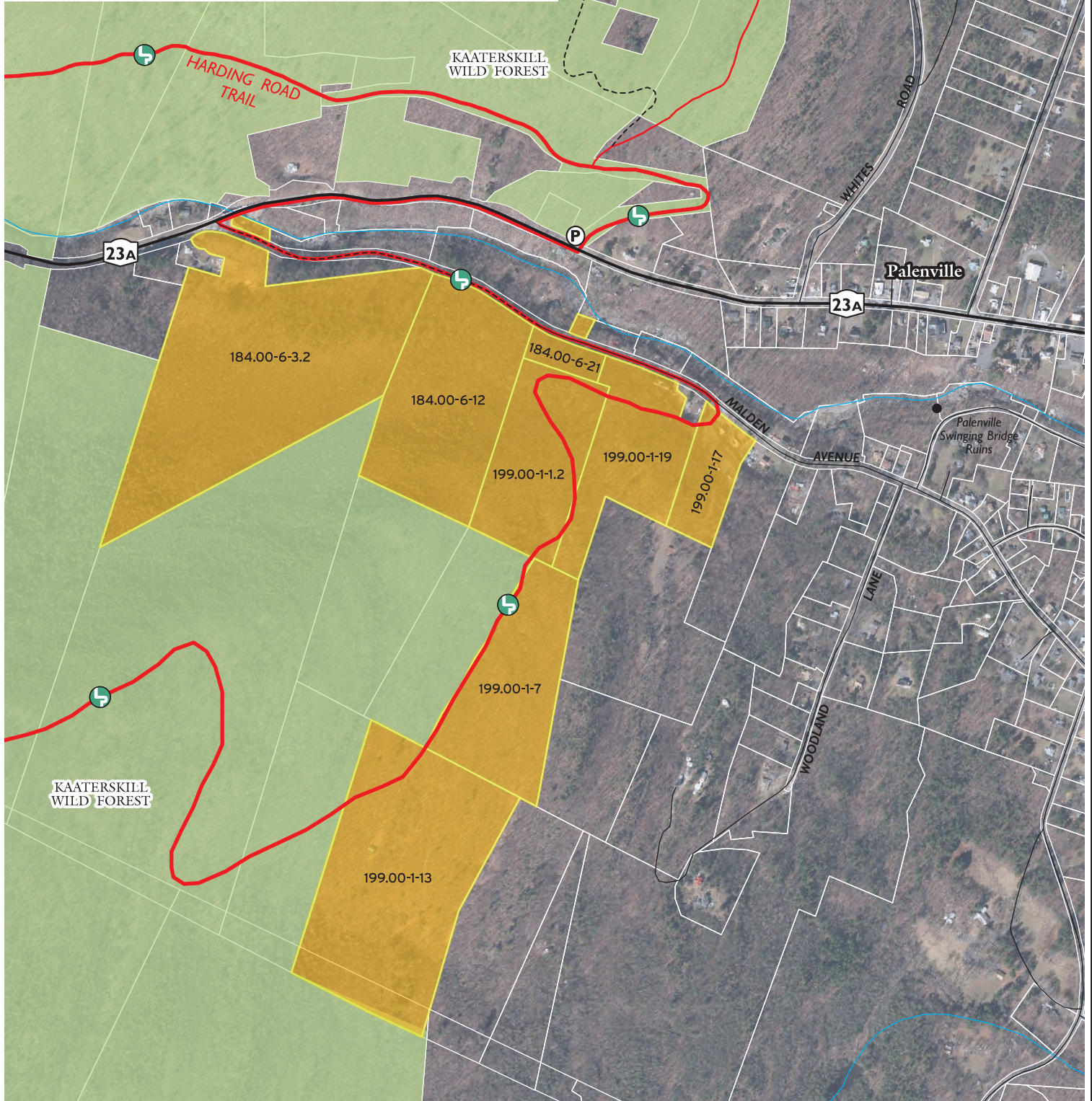
Parcel: 184-6-12	Landowner: KLAESSIG	Municipality: CATSKILL
Acres: 16.5	Description: This vacant parcel is directly attached with the state land and public road. This would be a nice a parcel to route the Long Path on. A parking area could also be built on this parcel.	

Parcel: 184-6-3.2	Landowner: KARCH	Municipality: CATSKILL
Acres: 29.64	Description: Mostly vacant with a building at the roadside on route 23a. This parcel is directly connected with the state land and public road.	



Kaaterskill Wild Forest in Palenville

Greene 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 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



Greene County

Project Area #2

Elm Ridge Wild Forest to NYCDEP Jennie Notch

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path leaves the Catskill Park crosses a low volume back road. Across the road it follows Jennie Notch Road for about ¼ mile. The road ends near a house and then follows an access road to a small parking area located in the NYCDEP's Jennie Notch property.
- A completely off-road option would be to route the trail through Starvoulakes property and into the DEP's land.

Action Needed:

- Option A would be preserving land along Jennie Notch Road. This would prevent development adjacent to the trail and most likely a place to move the trail off the road.
- Option B would be preserving a portion of the Starvoulakes property would create a nice off road trail corridor. Either of these actions would improve the Long Path

Priority Parcels:

Option A

Parcel: 79.00-2-8	Landowner: KENNY	Municipality: WINDHAM
Acres: 48.5	Description: This is a vacant parcel on the west side of Jennie Notch Road. The same landowner owns 218.5 acres east of Jennie Notch Road	

Parcel: 62.00-1-40	Landowner: DRIFTWOOD MOUNTAIN INC.	Municipality: WINDHAM
Acres: 3	Description: This is a vacant parcel that currently buffers the Long Path as it at the end of Jennie Notch Road.	

Option B

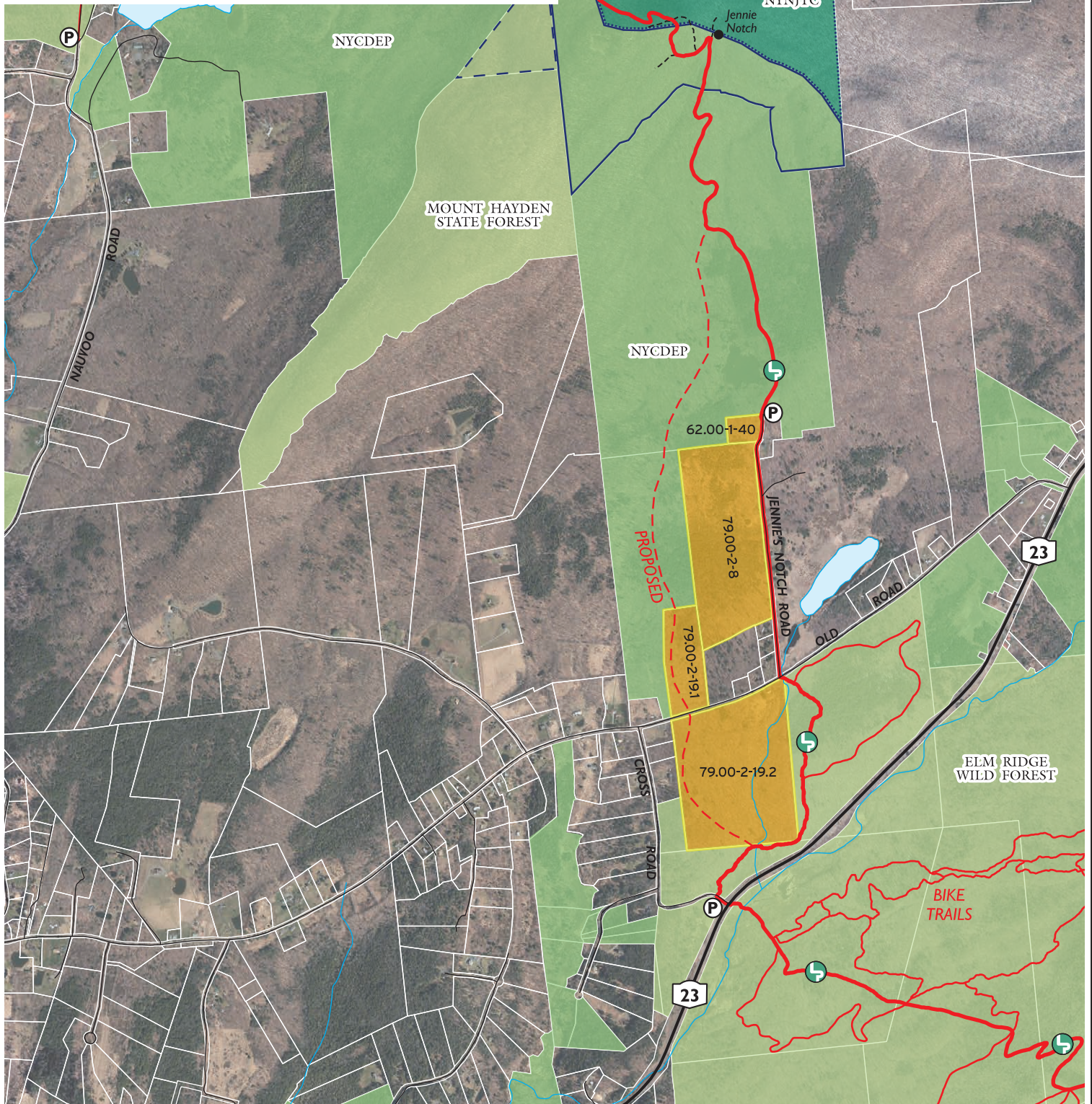
Parcel: 79.00-2-19.2	Landowner: STARVOULAKES FAMILY TRUST	Municipality: WINDHAM
Acres: 54.7	Description: With the exception of a house at the northwest corner this parcel is vacant and wooded. A portion of the east side of this parcel would be needed to align the trail with DEP land across Old Road.	

Parcel: 79.00-2-19.1	Landowner: STARVOULAKES	Municipality: WINDHAM
Acres: 12.88	Description: This is a vacant parcel directly next to a parcel owned by NYCDEP. Preserving it would buffer the Long Path if it were to be relocated onto the NYCDEP land	



Elm Ridge WF to NYCDEP Jennie Notch

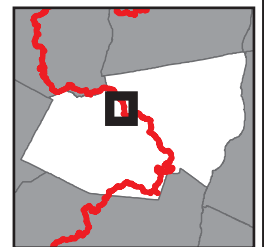
Greene County Project Area #2



- Parking area
- Viewpoint



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Greene County

Project Area #3

Mount Hayden State Forest to Mount Pisgah State Forest

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path passes through a very skinny part of the state forest soon after crossing Cunningham Road. It then has to follow the road for a bit before turning into the state forest across the road. Preserving a portion of each of the first two parcels below would allow the trail to be moved away from a homesite. The second listed site also has road frontage on Greene County 10 that would be good for parking. This is the preferred option.
- Across the County Road is a second option for routing the Long Path straight across the road. The third and fourth parcels would be good enough to straighten out the crossing. That would not help parking or development near the trail south of the county road.

Action Needed:

- Preserve at minimum a 500-foot-wide trail corridor on both sides of Greene County 10. It would be best to include enough land to construct a parking area at this location.

Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 32.00-3-21	Landowner: CUNNIGHAM	Municipality: DURHAM
Acres: 74.09	Description: About 15% is being used for active farming, the remainder is wooded. Preserving a portion of it would buffer the Long Path.	

Parcel: 32.00-1-25.1	Landowner: DORAZIO	Municipality: DURHAM
Acres: 166.5	Description: This is a large vacant parcel. Preserving a portion of it would buffer the Long Path and give space for a parking lot.	

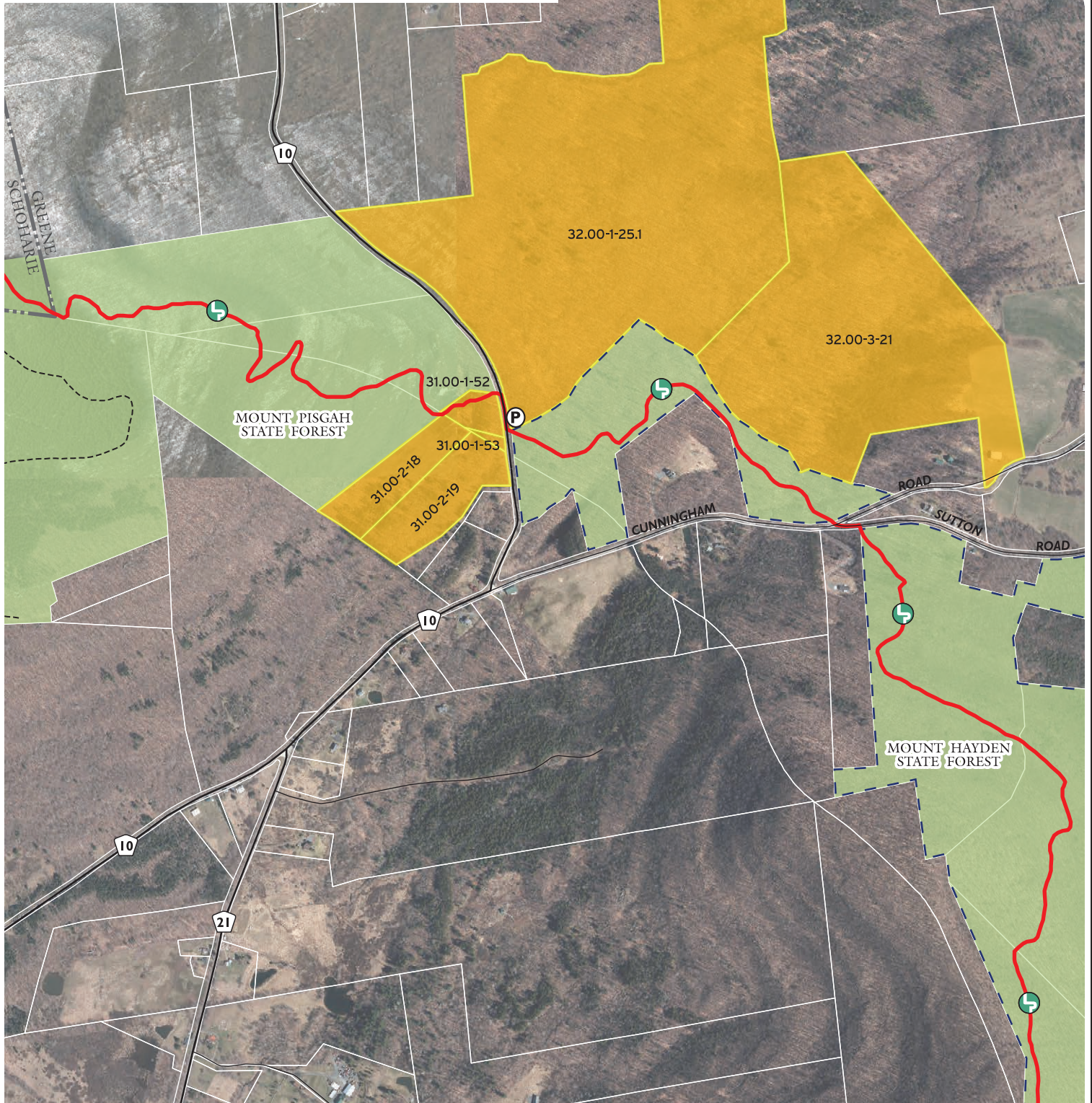
Parcels: 31.00-1-52, 31.00-1-53	Landowner: DURKIN	Municipality: DURHAM
Acres: 2.44, 0.30	Description: Preserving these two vacant parcels would improve the trail crossing at County Route 10.	

Parcels: 31.00-2-18, 31.00-2-19	Landowner: DURKIN	Municipality: WINDHAM
Acres: 7.2, 10.1	Description: These two vacant parcels are attached with the parcels listed above.	



Mount Hayden SF to Mount Pisgah SF

Greene 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



Greene County

Project Area #4 (same as Schoharie #1)

South Mountain State Forest to Ashland Pinnacle State Forest

Project Area Description:

- Currently the Long Path descends off of the ridgeline and goes around two private parcels. Permission to cross the second private parcel could not be obtained. The current trail east of Bluebird Road is pleasant. West of Bluebird Road the is routed through an area that is seasonally wet and has tree roots exposed high above the ground.
- The current red trail that leads to Huntersfield State Forest is the desired route for the Long Path. This route runs near private land which is currently forested. This leaves the risk of development next to the trail.

Action Needed:

- The Megerle parcel is the most important parcel to preserve through this project area. This would allow for rerouting the trail higher on the ridge east of Bluebird Road, continuing above the wet area west of Bluebird Road. This would be a significant improvement along the existing Long Path.
- Preserving the mountaintop portion of the Casella and Thorp parcels would ensure protection of the trail along the ridgetop.

Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 45-1-2	Landowner: MEGERLE	Municipality: ASHLAND
Acres: 62.40	Description: Mostly wooded parcel with a house on the southern portion. They own adjacent property over the mountain in Schoharie County	

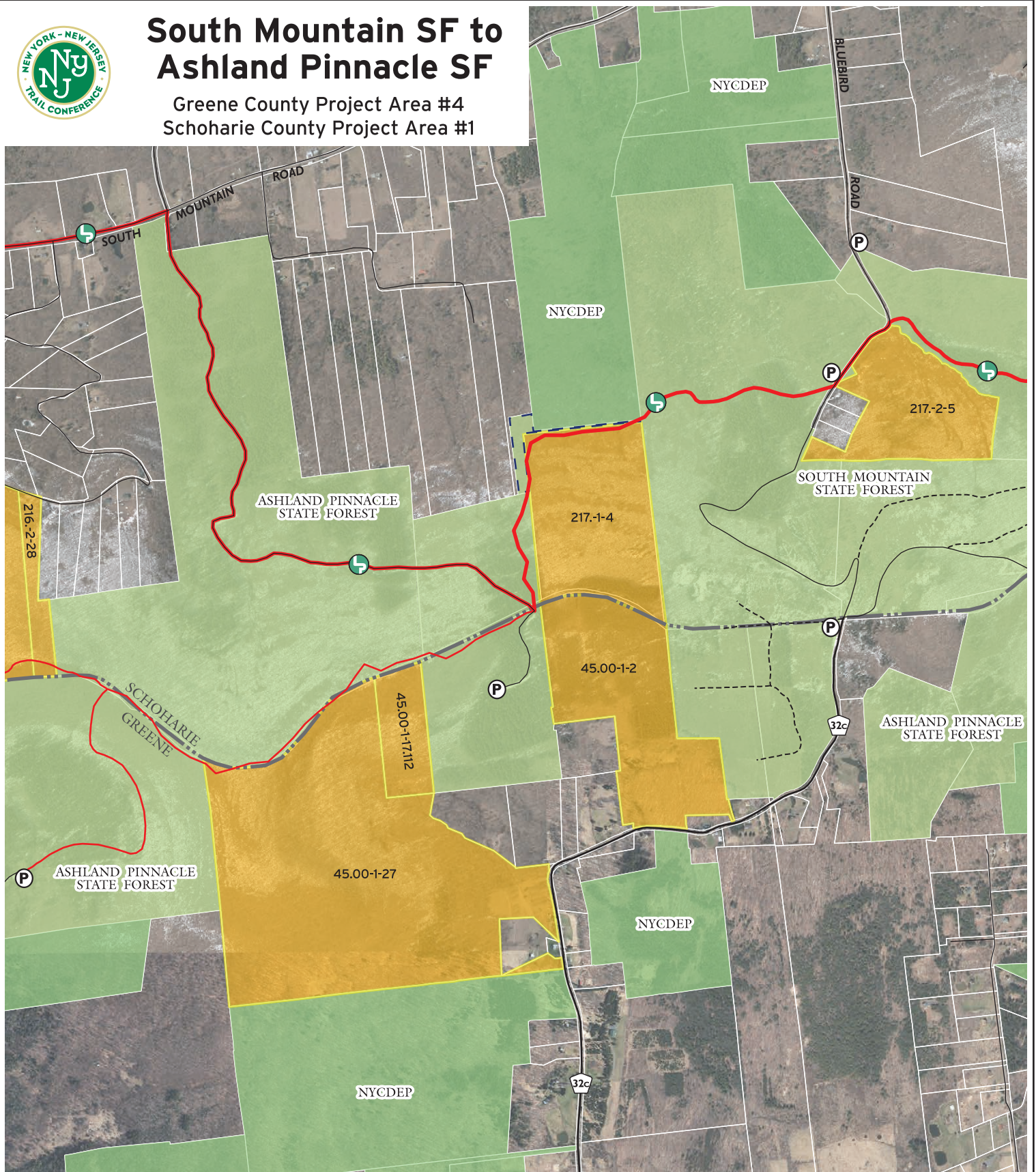
Parcel: 45-1-17.112	Landowner: CASARELLA	Municipality: ASHLAND
Acres: 15	Description: Mostly wooded parcel with a mobile home on the southern portion. The northern border is at the ridgetop.	

Parcel: 45-1-27	Landowner: THORP	Municipality: ASHLAND
Acres: 168.19	Description: Mostly wooded parcel with a house on the extreme southeastern corner. The northern border is at the ridgetop.	



South Mountain SF to Ashland Pinnacle SF

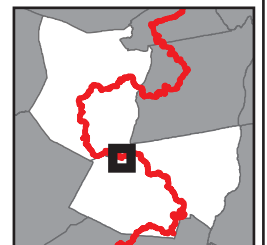
Greene County Project Area #4
Schoharie County Project Area #1



- 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
- L Long Path
- SRT Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- P Parking area
- Viewpoint



Greene County

Project Area #5 (same as Schoharie #2)

Ashland Pinnacle State Forest to Huntersfield State Forest

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path once crossed this area before losing access beyond Huntersfield State Forest. We are working to route the Long Path through this area again as this is the preferred route. This is the only private parcel between the Ashland Pinnacle State Forest and Huntersfield State Forest. It has an operating farm on the south end of the parcel. The northern part is steeper and climbs up to the top of the ridgeline of this mountain. About 190 acres of the northern end is wooded. The Partridge Farm has a house, barn and other utility buildings at the south end of the parcel.

Action Needed:

- Preserving the top part of the farm would attach two state forests and permanently protect the trail which passes through it. This is a critical parcel.

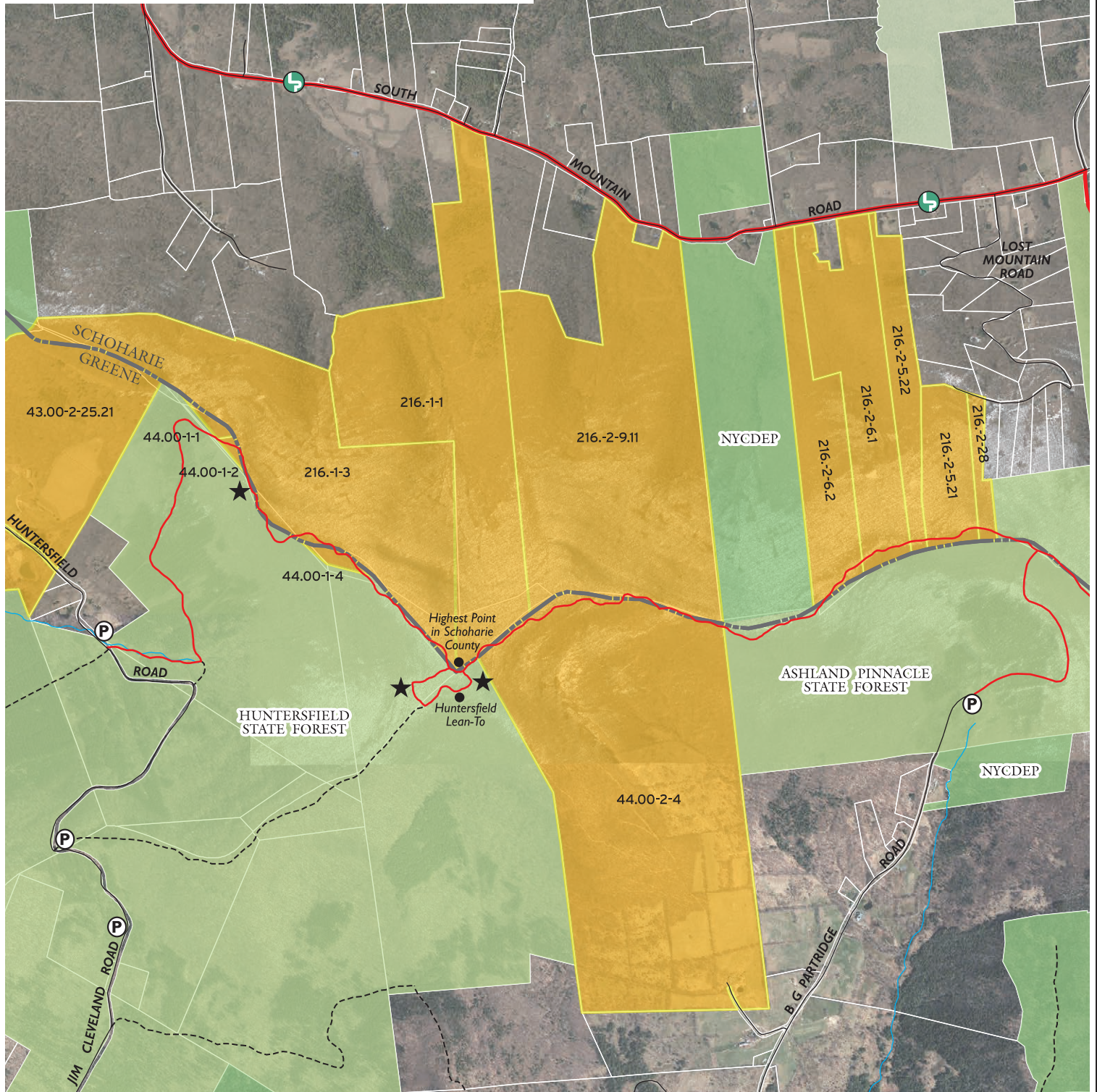
Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 44.00-2 -4	Landowner: PARTRIDGE	Municipality: ASHLAND
Acres: 328.1	Description: Includes an active farm and the wooded mountain top. The trail crosses this parcel in a wooded area at the top of the mountain. The owners have expressed an interest in selling the top of the mountain for preservation; a subdivision would be required.	



Ashland Pinnacle SF to Huntersfield SF

Greene County Project Area #5
Schoharie County Project Area #2



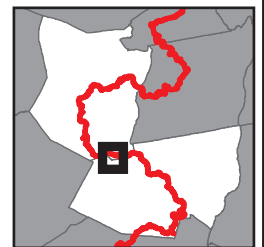
- State land
- County land
- Land trust land
- Municipal land
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- Transferred by NYNJTC
- Assisted by NYNJTC

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

- P Parking area
- ★ Viewpoint



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Greene County

Project Area #6 (same as Schoharie #3)

Huntersfield State Forest to NYCDEP: Pangman Road

Project Area Description:

- Not being able to get the Long Path off of the roads in this area has been caused by the resistance encountered with landowners through this area. Recently permission was given by a landowner that would have allowed us to route the trail through here on a revocable agreement. Before getting the new trail onto the ground a nearby long-time landowner sold their land; the new owner revoked our permission.
- New York City Environmental protection Agency has been preserving land in this are to protect their vast watershed. They have named each separate area to help identify them.
- The two proposed routes on this map involve leaving the Huntersfield State Forest and passing through a mix of NYCDEP land and private land.

Action Needed:

- Through nearly three decades we have been unable to reach agreements with multiple landowners between Huntersfield State Forest and the current route of the Long Path shown on this map Therefore the plans here discuss two proposed routes shown in four segments. The segments are interchangeable, two of the routes briefly cross into Schoharie County.
- Segment A - This route would leave Huntersfield State Forest and goes through the Huntersfield Christian Camp property to reach NYCDEP's Macumber Road property. Leaving the DEP property, it follows Marv Rion Road to either DEP's Huntersfield Headwaters or Four Corners property.
- Segment B - This route would leave Huntersfield State Forest, crosses the Ruehlmann property and then passes through the NYCDEP's Huntersfield Creek Headwaters property, then the Herbert property reaching Marv Rion Road.
- Segment C - This route would leave Marv Rion Road on DEP's Huntersfield Headwaters property, then through Rikard property and into the Buel property across the county line. It then crosses back into Greene County entering DEP's Pangman Road property.
- Segment D - This route would leave Marv Rion Road and pass through DEP's Four Corners property, then the Martindale property and into DEP's Pangman Road property.

Priority Parcels:

Option A

Parcels: 43.00-2-34, 43.00-2-35	Landowner: HUNTERSFIELD CHRISTIAN TRAINING CAMP	Municipality: PRATTSVILLE
Acres: 166, 99	Description: This camp has multiple buildings near Huntersfield Road. They own over 300 acres in two counties which includes the top of the mountain. It is a mix of fields and forests.	

Option B

Parcel: 43.00-3-10.1	Landowner: RUEHLMANN	Municipality: PRATTSVILLE
Acres: 230.8	Description: Has a mix of woods along with active hay fields. It also has a house and a couple small farm buildings. The property is attached with Huntersfield State Forest and NYCDEP's Huntersfield Headwaters and Four Corners properties.	

Parcel: 43.00-2-17.112	Landowner: CASTILLO	Municipality: PRATTSVILLE
Acres: 17.5	Description: This parcel has a camp on the northern portion. The remainder is wooded and borders the Huntersfield Creek at the southern border.	

Parcels: 43.00-3-2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Landowner: HERBERT	Municipality: PRATTSVILLE
Acres: 5.8, 1.8, 10.2, 2.1, 13	Description: These five vacant parcels assemble into one pie shaped parcel. The parcel is located between two DEP's Huntersfield Headwaters and Four Corners properties.	

Option C

Parcel: 43.00-1-1	Landowner: RIKARD	Municipality: PRATTSVILLE
Acres: 183.9	Description: This wooded parcel is mostly vacant with a small seasonal cabin. It is attached with NYCDEP's Huntersfield headwaters and Pangman Road properties	

Parcel: 43.00-1-14	Landowner: BUEL	Municipality: PRATTSVILLE
Acres: 6.6	Description: This is a vacant parcel attached with NYCDEP's Pangman Road property. This landowner has continuous property across the border in Schoharie County.	

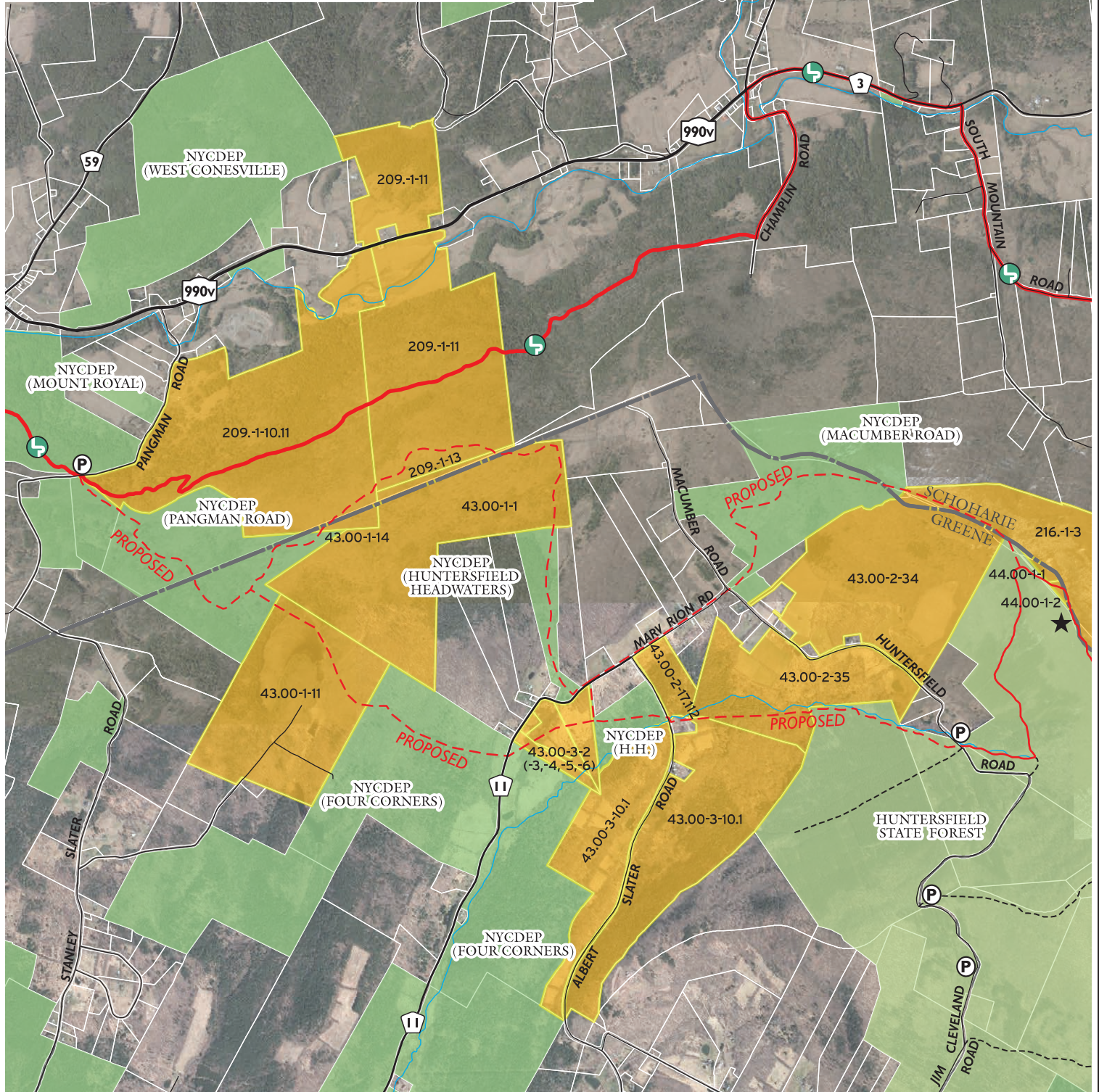
Option D

Parcel: 43.00-1-11	Landowner: MARTINDALE	Municipality: PRATTSVILLE
Acres: 150	Description: Mixed woods and wetland, there is a seasonal cabin here. It is connected with NYCDEP's Four Corners and Pangman Road properties.	



Huntersfield SF to NYCDEP: Pangman Road

Greene County Project Area #6
Schoharie County Project Area #3



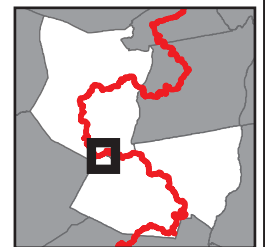
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- P Parking area
- ★ Viewpoint



0 0.175 0.35 0.7 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