

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.



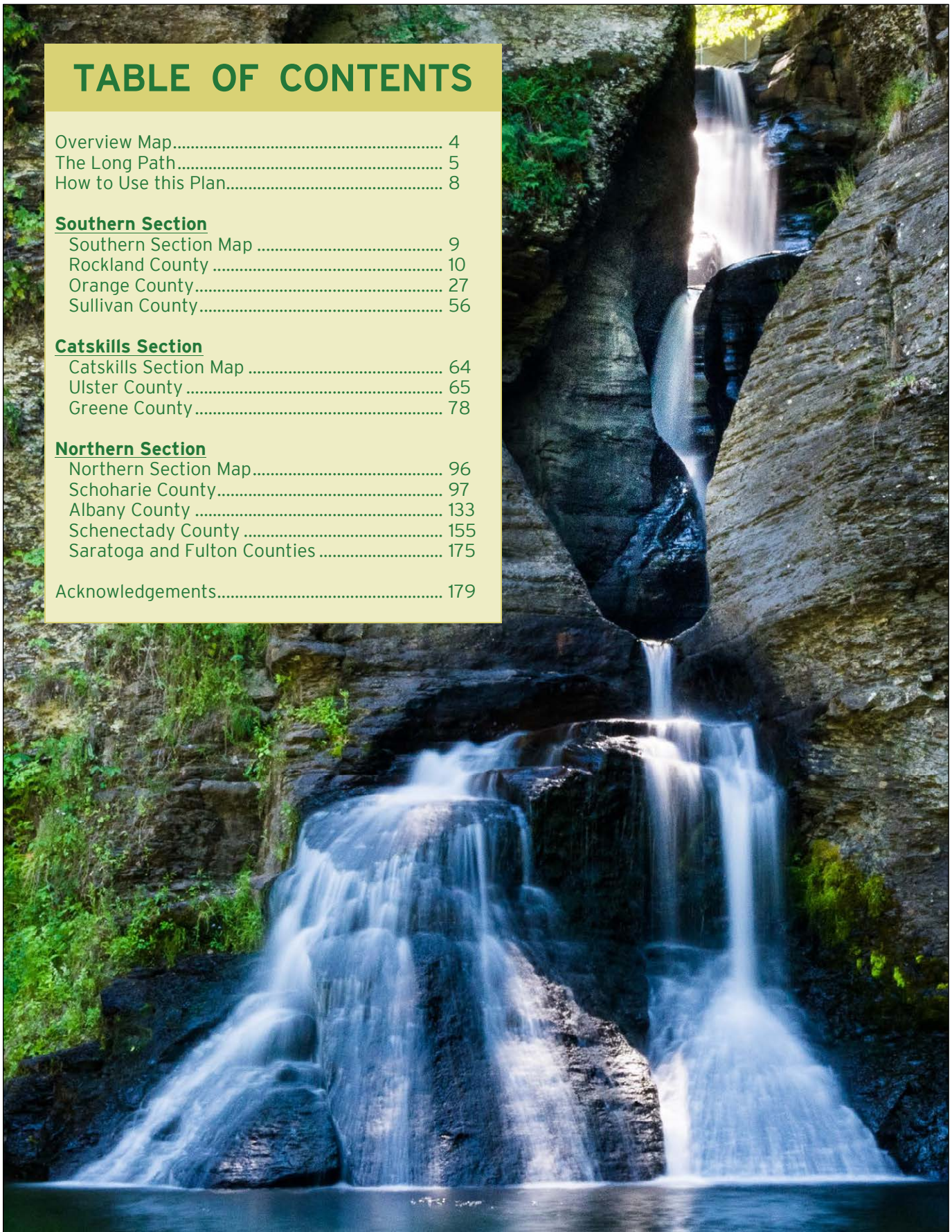
The **Land Trust Alliance** is a national nonprofit conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents more than 1,000 member land trusts and their 4.6 million supporters nationwide. As the voice of the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

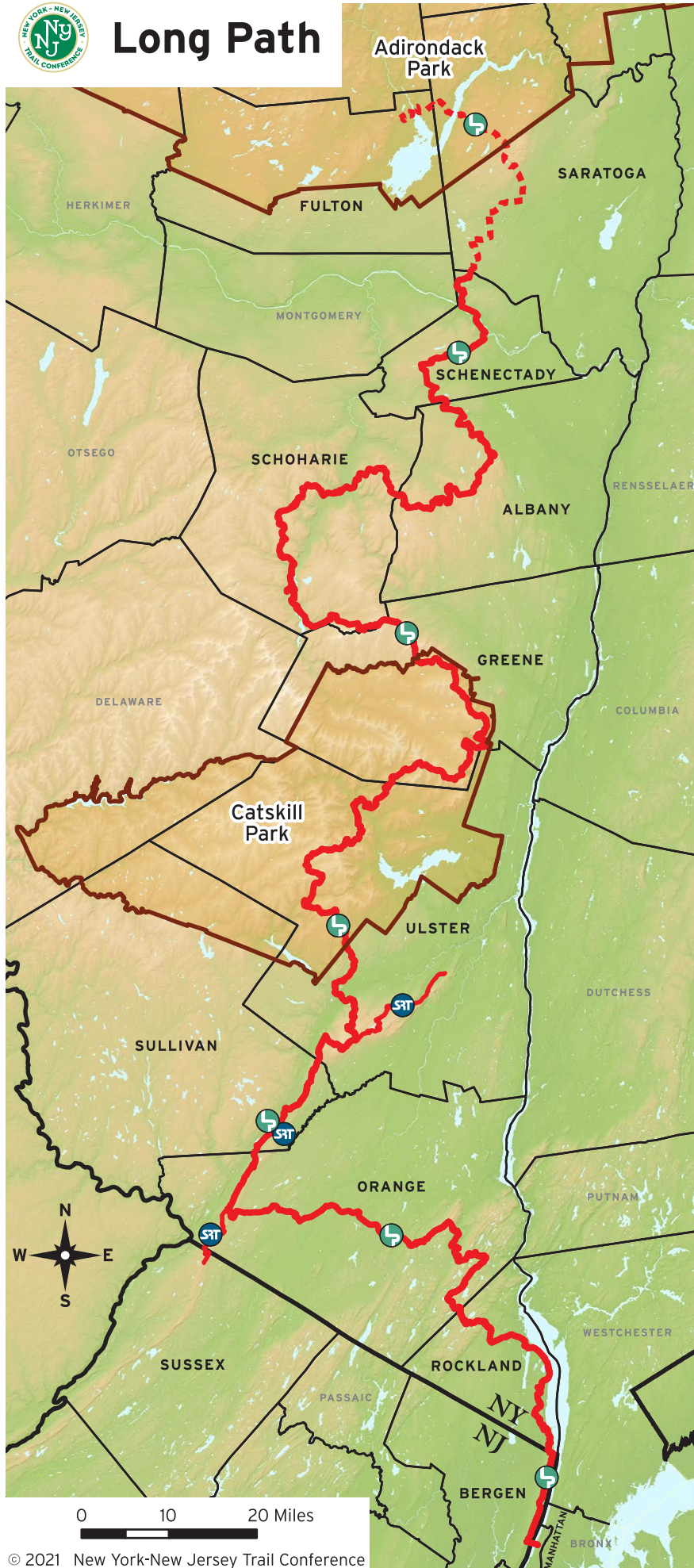
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview Map.....	4
The Long Path.....	5
How to Use this Plan.....	8
<u>Southern Section</u>	
Southern Section Map	9
Rockland County	10
Orange County.....	27
Sullivan County.....	56
<u>Catskills Section</u>	
Catskills Section Map	64
Ulster County	65
Greene County.....	78
<u>Northern Section</u>	
Northern Section Map.....	96
Schoharie County.....	97
Albany County	133
Schenectady County	155
Saratoga and Fulton Counties	175
Acknowledgements.....	179





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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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 Southern Section



SULLIVAN

ULSTER

ORANGE

SUSSEX

ROCKLAND

BERGEN

PASSAIC

MORRIS

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Rockland County



Rockland County

Protection Overview:

There are **6 Project Areas** within Rockland County. Protecting a corridor in each of these areas would completely protect the Long Path in Rockland County, which runs **35.5 miles** through the county.

- After leaving Bergen County, New Jersey, the Long Path continues within the Palisades Interstate Park, as it has been for the last 12 miles since leaving the George Washington Bridge.
- The Long Path then enters **Project Area 1** onto land owned by Columbia University, briefly dips down into New Jersey, and then quickly returns to New York State. It continues through Columbia University land and extends to US Route 9W before following that road a short distance to Tallman Mountain State Park.
- Recently, the Bergson family donated 4.2 acres to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. With this donation in place, the trail will be moved off a dangerous section of Route 9W and through this parcel, which connects directly with Tallman Mountain State Park.
- The Long Path then passes through the Piermont area, where it remains unprotected across a few different properties in **Project Area 2**. The trail then passes through multiple state, county and town parks all the way to Nyack, where it crosses the New York State Thruway (NY Route 87).
- Beyond the Thruway, the Long Path traverses protected lands and unprotected lands alike through **Project Area 3** and **Project Area 4**, before reaching the protection of Hook Mountain State Park.
- Past Hook Mountain State Park, the Long Path traverses through its last unprotected area within Rockland County in **Project Area 5**. After reaching High Tor State Park, the Long Path is fully protected all the way to the Orange County line within Harriman State Park, with **Project Area 6** highlighting one property that barely encroaches on the Long Path corridor.

Rockland County

History:

The Trail Conference became involved with the Long Path after Robert Jessen proposed it in 1960 as a marked and maintained hiking trail. This was a big difference from Vince Schaefer's 1931 concept, a path without an actual trail. Volunteers from the Trail Conference began building the trail in the 1960s, starting from the George Washington Bridge and heading north. By 1970 the basic trail construction through Rockland County was complete.

During the 1970s the route was refined and on occasion relocations were performed. In 1973 the Long Path became part of Rockland County's Open Space and Recreation Program. The state, county and local municipalities have all helped to protect this project which was started by the Trail Conference.

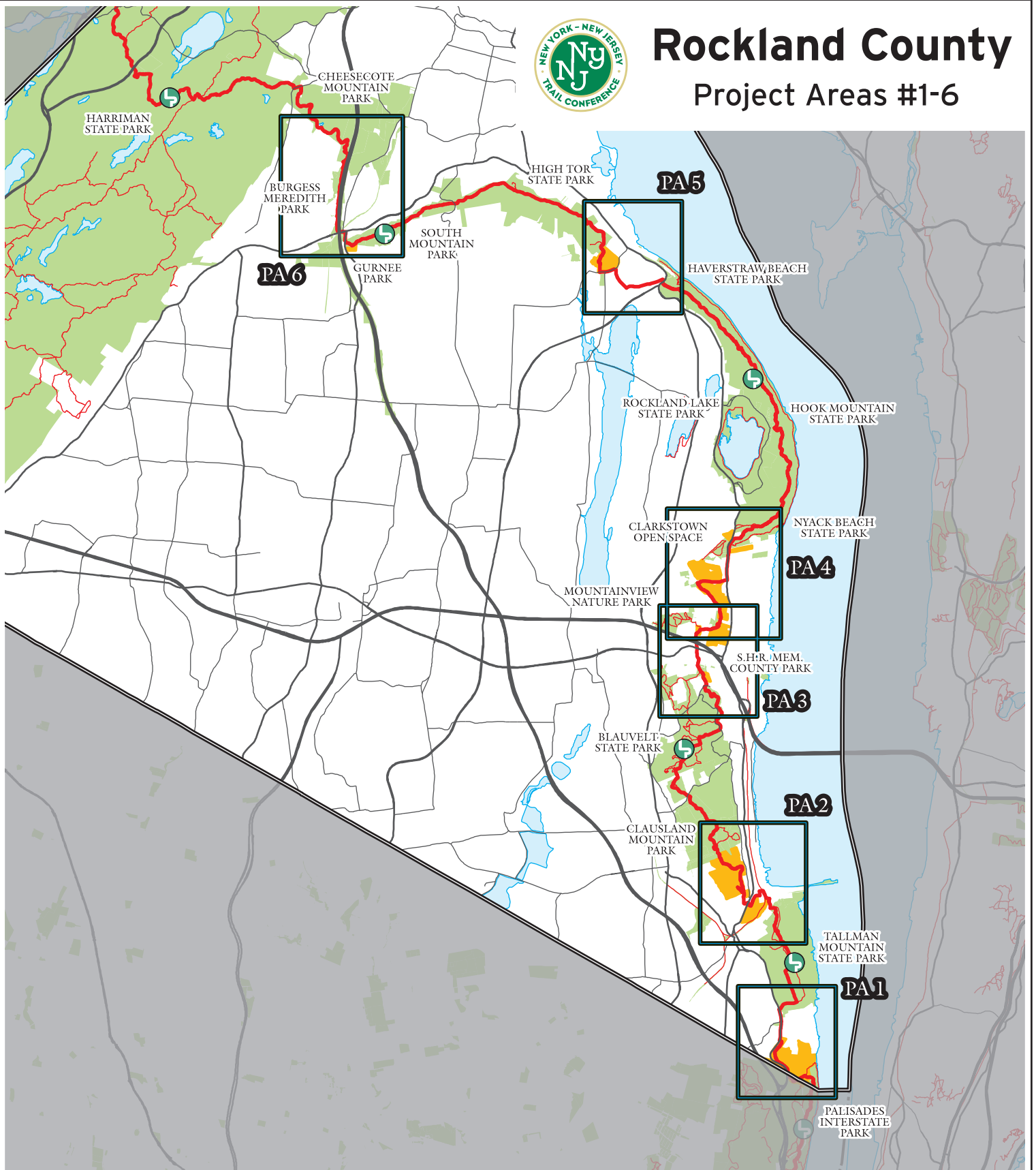
In 1989 Rockland County put the Long Path on their official map. This helped to significantly elevate the status of the Long Path, as this action advises the Trail Conference both when a project first comes to a planning board and if a proposed project is located within 500 feet of the Long Path. Through the years, this has been beneficial to the Long Path as property owners have donated trail easements and, on rare occasion, actual property.






While there is still work left to protect the Long Path through Rockland County, it is largely agreed that the effort to protect the Long Path in Rockland County is a model that should be adopted by other counties along the Long Path corridor. There are no long road walks within the county, and a high percentage of the trail has been permanently protected.



Rockland County

Project Areas #1-6



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



0 1 2 4 Miles



Rockland County

Project Area #1

Palisades Interstate Park to Tallman Mountain State Park

Project Area Description:

- Within this project area, the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory owns parcels on both sides of the New York-New Jersey border. Columbia University has provided written documentation that they support the Long Path and agree that the link across their land is important. They are reluctant to encumber their deed with an easement.
- This project area includes a proposed route for the Long Path through the recent Bergson donation and acquisition. The Long Path Committee is currently putting together a plan to implement this relocation, as of late November 2021.

Action Needed:

- Build the new section of trail on the Bergson acquisition.

Priority Parcels:

Parcels: 202-151-2, 202-151-3, 202-151-4	Landowner: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	Municipality: ALPINE
Acres: 1.11, 2.25, 6.29	Description: Three vacant and wooded parcels contiguous with the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory grounds just over the state border. The Long Path passes through one parcel.	

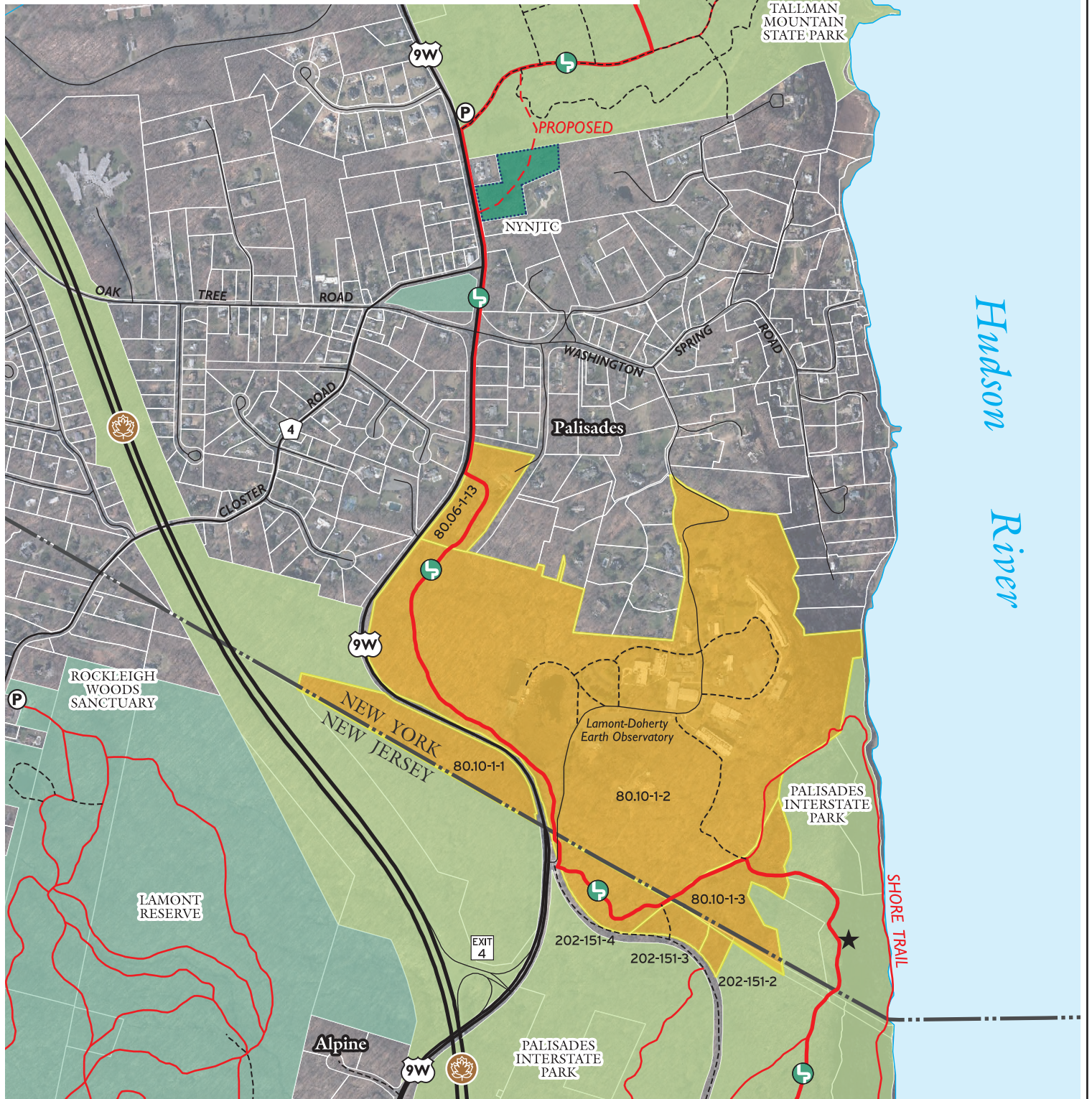
Parcels: 80.10-1-3, 80.10-1-2, 80.06-1-13	Landowner: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	Municipality: ORANGETOWN
Acres: 20.00, 136.28, 6.50	Description: Parcels east of Route 9W that include the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Combined, these parcels are roughly 60% developed and 40% wooded. The Long Path passes through the wooded portions.	

Parcel: 80.10-1-1	Landowner: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	Municipality: ORANGETOWN
Acres: 11.5	Description: Vacant wooded parcel west of Route 9W that is also part of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and adjacent to Palisades Interstate Parkland.	



Palisades Interstate Park to Tallman Mountain SP

Rockland 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



Rockland County

Project Area #2

Tallman Mountain State Park to Clausland Mountain Park

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path currently leaves Tallman Mountain State Park and follows local roads for nearly 0.75 mile to the intersection of Route 9W and Castle Road. Although a private road, Castle Road has a deeded right of way for the Long Path, with the exception of the last parcel.
- The landowner of the last parcel has actually built a trail for the Long Path across their land. The trail then passes through Rockland Cemetery to reach Clausland Mountain County Park.

Action Needed:

- The road walk between Tallman Mountain State Park and Route 9W could be eliminated by crossing the Griff Construction and South Orangetown School District parcels in conjunction with the popular Old Erie Path Rail Trail.
- A permanent right of way for the Long Path is needed through the Ouroussoff parcel.
- A wooded ravine runs through the developed area of the Rockland Cemetery, and this would be a more desirable route for the Long Path. A trail easement is needed through the cemetery.

Priority Parcels:

Tallman Mountain State Park to Route 9W & Castle Road

Parcels: 75.62-1-39, 75.62-1-22	Landowner: GRIFF CONSTRUCTION	Municipality: PIERMONT
Acres: 0.50, 4.50	Description: Two connected wooded parcels. The smaller parcel has road frontage. The larger parcel is between two old rail beds, including the Old Erie Path Rail Trail.	

Parcel: 75.70-1-1	Landowner: SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT	Municipality: PIERMONT
Acres: 39.30	Description: The main office of the South Orangetown School District. The northern portion includes a large undeveloped and wooded area. The Old Erie Path Rail Trail, Route 9W, and local roads are connected with this parcel.	

Route 9W & Castle Road to Clausland Mountain Park

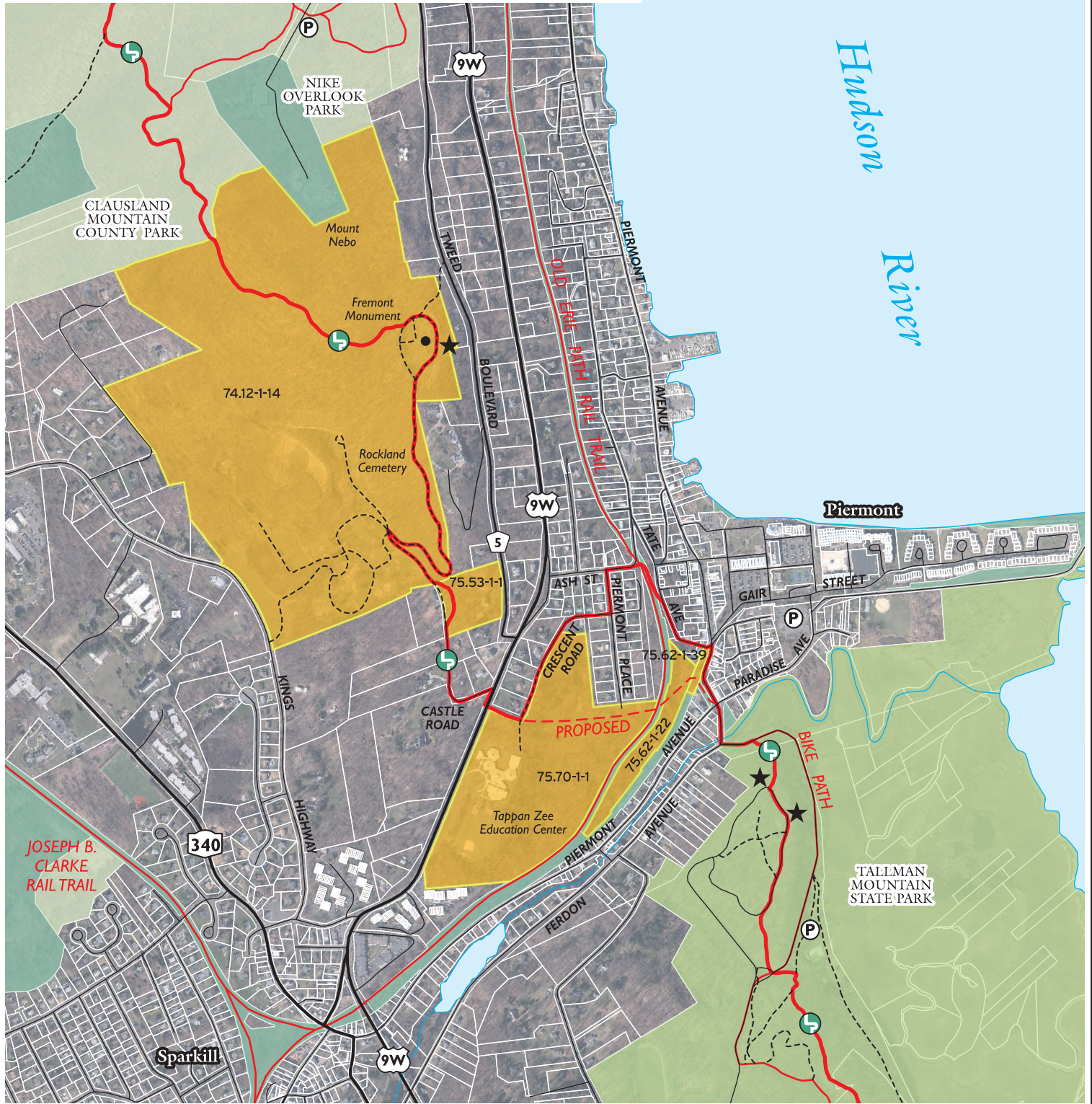
Parcel: 75.53-1-1	Landowner: OUROUSSOFF	Municipality: ORANGETOWN
Acres: 4.79	Description: Includes a home is accessed from Tweed Boulevard, but the backside of the parcel along Castle Road is wooded and includes the route of the Long Path.	

Parcel: 74.12-1-14	Landowner: ROCKLAND CEMETERY ATT: EILEEN KUNKEL	Municipality: ORANGETOWN
Acres: 157.40	Description: A cemetery with a substantial amount of woodlands, which include some steep slopes. The parcel directly connects with Clausland Mountain County Park and Nike Overlook Park.	



Tallman Mountain SP to Clausland Mountain Park

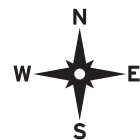
Rockland County Project Area #2



- 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
- L Long Path
- SRT Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- P Parking area
- ★ Viewpoint



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



Rockland County

Project Area #3

Blauvelt State Park to Mountainview Nature Park

Project Area Description:

- This project area is divided into two areas by the New York State Thruway. The Long Path crosses the Thruway on the Mountainview Avenue overpass.
- South of the Thruway, the Long Path leaves Blauvelt State Park and enters Rockland County-managed Sean Hunter Ryan Memorial Park. The south end of this park is narrow, so the trail runs along private land. The Long Path leaves the park and follows local roads for 0.75 mile to reach Mountainview Avenue and cross the Thruway.
- Once across the Thruway, the Long Path continues on the sidewalk for 0.1 mile before turning into the woods. The trail soon reaches the Rockland County-managed Mountainview Nature Park. This portion of the park is long and skinny as it passes between two condo complexes. The trail leaves the county park and passes through the corner of the Oak Hill Cemetery, then follows an access road uphill to a village water tower.

Action Needed:

- South of the Thruway, preserve the two former Nyack College parcels on the ridge to protect the trail corridor.
- Beyond Sean Hunter Ryan Memorial Park, the trail follows sidewalks through a developed area. It is a short stretch and the best option for reaching the Thruway crossing.
- North of the Thruway, additional land needs to be added to the Mountainview Nature Park to protect and enhance the trail corridor. The undeveloped land between Mountainview Avenue and the Warren Hills Condo Complex is **extremely important** for the Long Path corridor. The northwest corner of the Oak Hill Cemetery contains steep slopes, and it would be beneficial to preserve those.

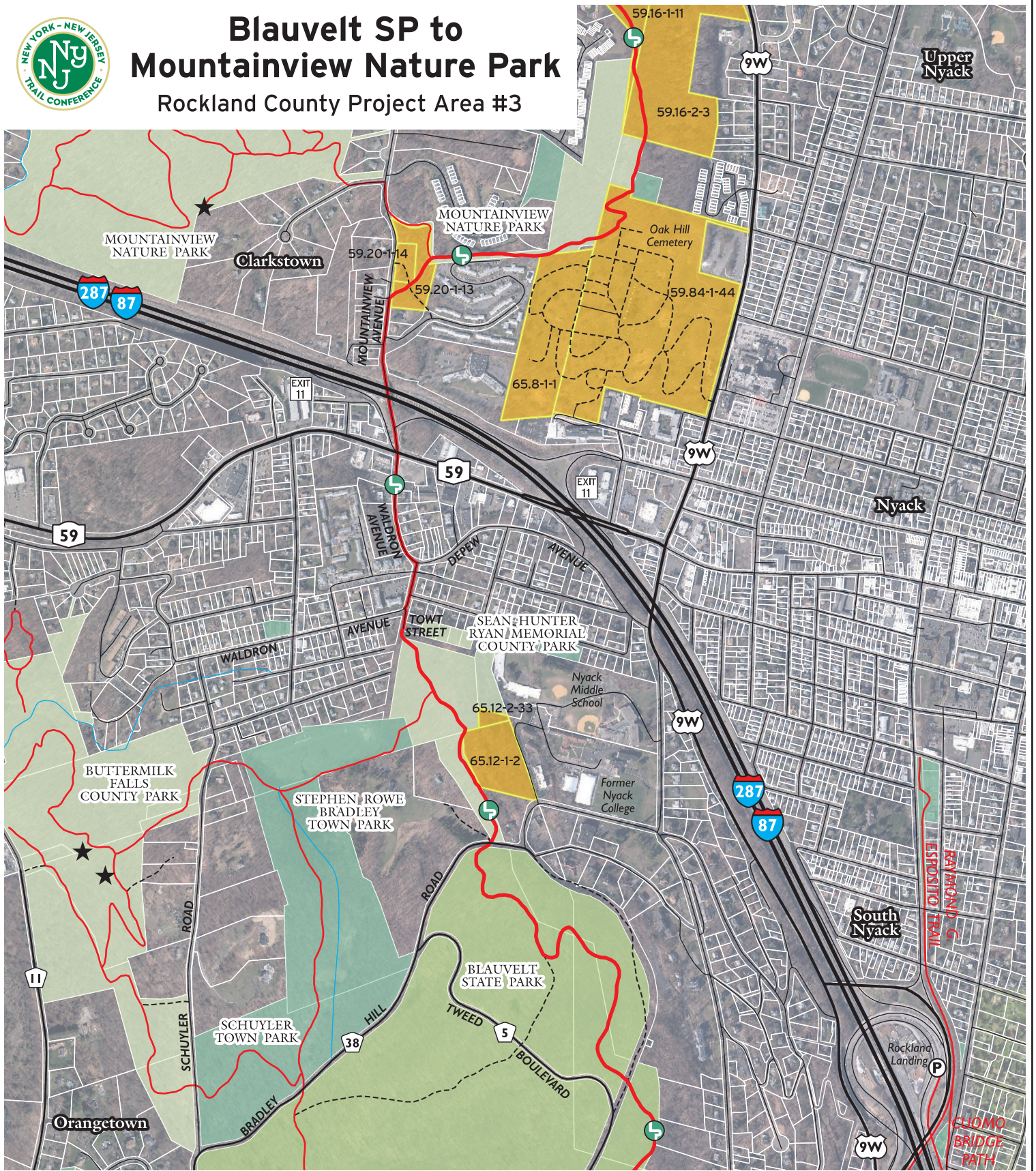
Priority Parcels:

Parcels: 65.12-1-2, 65.12-2-23	Landowner: YESHIVATH YIZNITZ DKHAL TORATH CHAIM INC.	Municipality: ORANGETOWN, CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 5.60, 0.38	Description: Part of the former Nyack College complex, these parcels extend steeply to the top of the cliff near where the Long Path is located. This portion of the complex is completely undeveloped and extends to the top of the Palisades cliff.	
Parcel: 59.20-1-13	Landowner: WARREN HILLS ASSOC - PW FUNDING INC.	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 3.00	Description: Vacant wooded parcel that contains the access road for the Warren Hills Condo Complex to the east.	
Parcel: 59.84-1-44	Landowner: OAK HILL CEMETERY	Municipality: ORANGETOWN
Acres: 36.80	Description: An active cemetery. The village has an access road on the cemetery property which leads to a water tower.	



Blauvelt SP to Mountainview Nature Park

Rockland 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 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



Rockland County

Project Area #4

Mountainview Nature Park to Hook Mountain State Park

Project Area Description:

- This area has various open space parcels located throughout it. The first is located at the eastern border of Mountainview Condominiums. Although narrow, there is permanent protection for the Long Path and the area directly around this parcel at the east end of the condo complex.
- Leaving the protection of the Mountainview easement, the Long Path crosses the western boundary of Nyack High School land before reaching the Christian Herald Road Open Space parcel. The trail then follows Christian Herald Road and Route 9W to Hook Mountain State Park.
- North of the Christian Herald Road Open Space is the West Hook Mountain Open Space parcel. Both are owned by the Town of Clarkstown and were preserved for the Long Path. A planned relocation of the Long Path is shown in the project area map through West Hook Mountain Open Space.
- Once Christian Herald Road is reached, the Long Path could follow a sidewalk to Old Stone Road to reach the West Hook Mountain Open Space. A significant obstacle to this route is the crossing of Route 9W to Hook Mountain State Park, as this area includes steep cliffs.

Action Needed:

- The permanently protected trail corridor in this area should be extended across the western boundary of the Nyack High School. The forested slope through this area is on average over 500 feet wide, and preservation here would increase the width of the entire trail corridor from Mountainview Nature Park to the Christian Herald Road Open Space and would securely protect the trail.
- Currently, users can access West Hook Mountain by walking Old Stone Road. Preservation of the Camp Ramah and Blinn parcels would move the trail off of the road.
- The eastern exit of West Hook Mountain is currently a problem for the Long Path. One solution would be to build a bridge from the cliff to the east shoulder of Route 9W. A site has been identified and construction of a bridge at this location is possible.
- Another option is to preserve the Weinberger parcel at the north corner of the West Hook Mountain Open Space. The parcel is suitable for a trail route from the mountaintop, down to Route 9W.

Priority Parcels:

Mountainview Nature Park to Christian Herald Road Open Space

Parcels: 59.16-2-3, 59.16-1-11	Landowner: YESHIVATH YIZNITZ DKHAL TORATH CHAIM INC.	Municipality: UPPER NYACK, CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 21.45, 14.43	Description: Some development along the highway, but otherwise a steep wooded slope of the Palisades. Located in two different communities.	

Parcels: 59.16-1-4, 59.16-1-5	Landowner: MOUNTAINVIEW CONDOMINIUM	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 2.88, 54.9	Description: Condo complex on the Palisades Escarpment approved in 1972, includes dedicated 6-foot-wide walking easement for the Long Path.	

Parcel: 59.16-1-3	Landowner: UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT #4	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 33.70	Description: Site of Nyack High School. The complex is located on the eastern flat portion, with wooded steep slopes to the west where the Long Path is located.	

West Hook Mountain Open Space Southern Access

Parcel: 59.12-1-11	Landowner: JEWISH THEOL SEMINARY	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 35.69	Description: Day camp known as Camp Ramah. The entire camp operation is located on the eastern portion, with wooded steep slopes to the west.	

Parcel: 59.12-1-12.1	Landowner: OLIVE M BLINN REVOCABLE TRUST	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 27.18	Description: Mostly vacant mountain top parcel, with one residence in the southeast portion. Access roads traverse this parcel to various residences and the West Hook Mountain Open Space.	

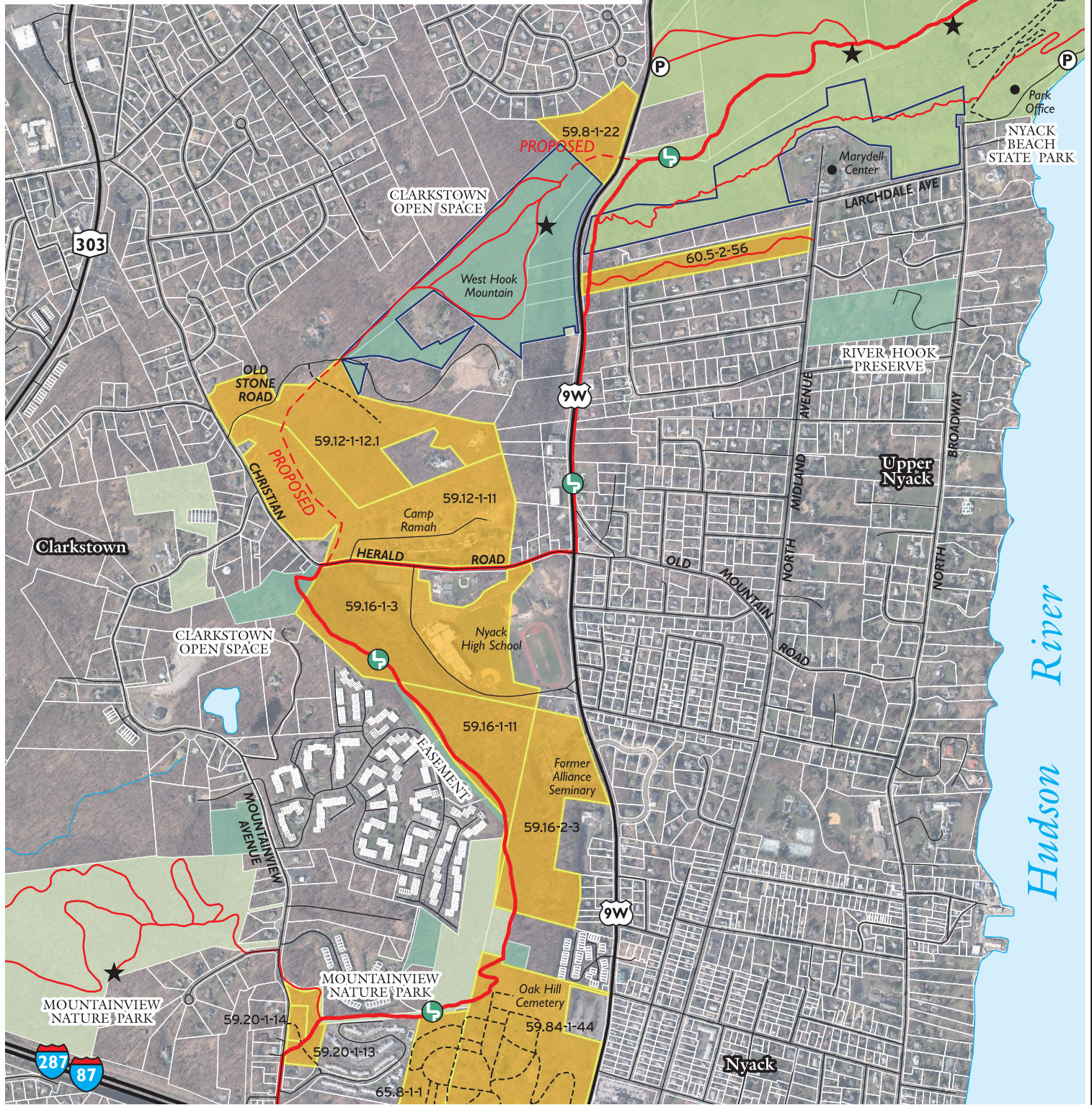
West Hook Mountain Open Space Northern Access

Parcel: 59.8-1-22	Landowner: WEINBERGER	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 7.70	Description: Wooded parcel with steep rocky slopes that could be suitable for a trail. It is adjacent to the northeast corner of the West Hook Mountain Open Space.	



Mountainview Nature Park to Hook Mountain SP

Rockland 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



0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

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Rockland County

Project Area #5

Hook Mountain State Park to High Tor State Park

Project Area Description:

- Leaving Hook Mountain State Park, the Long Path first follows abandoned Landmark Road. Although the road was abandoned, it was preserved as a permanent right of way for the Long Path. The abandoned road is next to the active Tilcon Quarry operation. The trail continues around the quarry on local roads. The Long Path then climbs High Tor Mountain, passing through land owned by Tilcon to reach High Tor State Park.
- The roads around the quarry are public roads. Even if they were abandoned, the roads would remain public right of ways for the Long Path.

Action Needed:

- The most critical need is to preserve the existing Long Path route through Tilcon-owned parcel 35.09-1-5 between County Route 90 and High Tor State Park.
- Long term action is needed for this entire project area. This quarry area should be preserved once it reaches its useful life as a quarry, as Tilcon owns all of the land between Hook Mountain State Park and High Tor State Park.
- Prior to the quarry's end-of-life, a different route through Tilcon-owned land could improve both the Long Path and Tilcon's operation.

Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 35.15-1-1	Landowner: TILCON MINERALS INC.	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 4.3	Description: Includes an office building, located along abandoned Landmark Drive.	

Parcel: 35.10-1-1	Landowner: TILCON MINERALS INC.	Municipality: HAVERSTRAW
Acres: 68.9	Description: Contains the eastern portion of the existing quarry excavation and the remaining ridge along Route 9W, which faces the Hudson River.	

Parcel: 35.10-2-2	Landowner: TILCON MINERALS INC.	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 106.8	Description: Contains the western portion of the existing quarry excavation.	

Parcel: 35.10-2-1	Landowner: TILCON MINERALS INC.	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 21.3	Description: Contains the Maintenance building and yard for Tilcon's operation west of the quarry.	

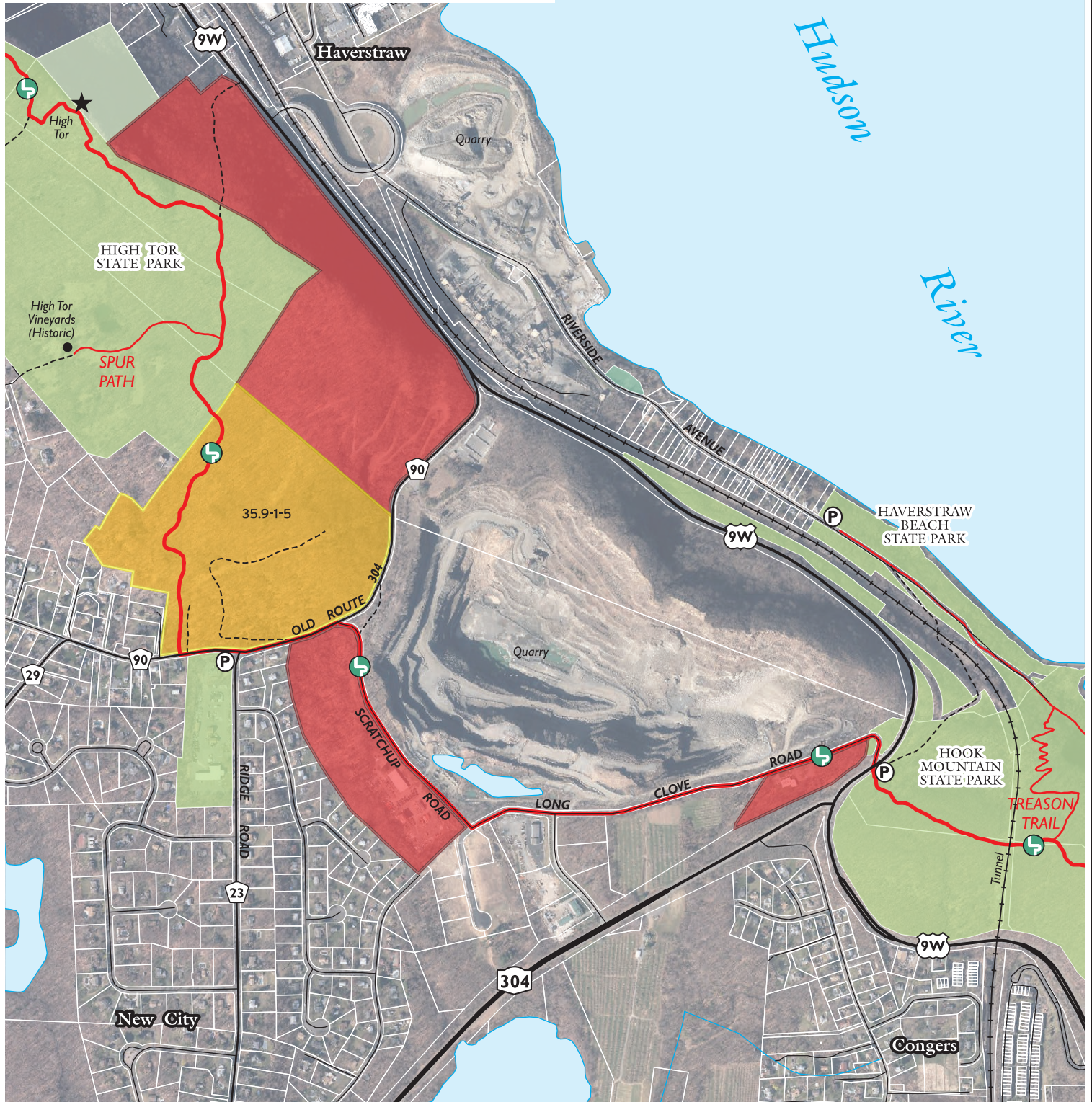
Parcel: 35.09-1-5	Landowner: TILCON MINERALS INC.	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 57.00	Description: Vacant wooded parcel that is part of High Tor Mountain. The Long Path crosses the western boundary.	

Parcel: 35.06-1-1	Landowner: TILCON MINERALS INC.	Municipality: HAVERSTRAW
Acres: 65.9	Description: Part of High Tor Mountain, it faces south and east and is visible from the Hudson River.	



Hook Mountain SP to High Tor SP

Rockland 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
- L Long Path
- SRT Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- P Parking area
- ★ Viewpoint



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



Rockland County

Project Area #6

Gurnee Park to Cheesecote Mountain Park

Project Area Description:

- With the exception of a short road walk to get under the Palisades Parkway, this project area has a protected trail corridor. One parcel south of Gurnee Park is extremely close to the trail corridor and should be preserved.
- The Long Path continues along the Palisades Parkway through Palisades Interstate Parkland before reaching Cheesecote Mountain Town Park.

Action Needed:

- Preserve the northern portion of the lone private parcel in the trail corridor.

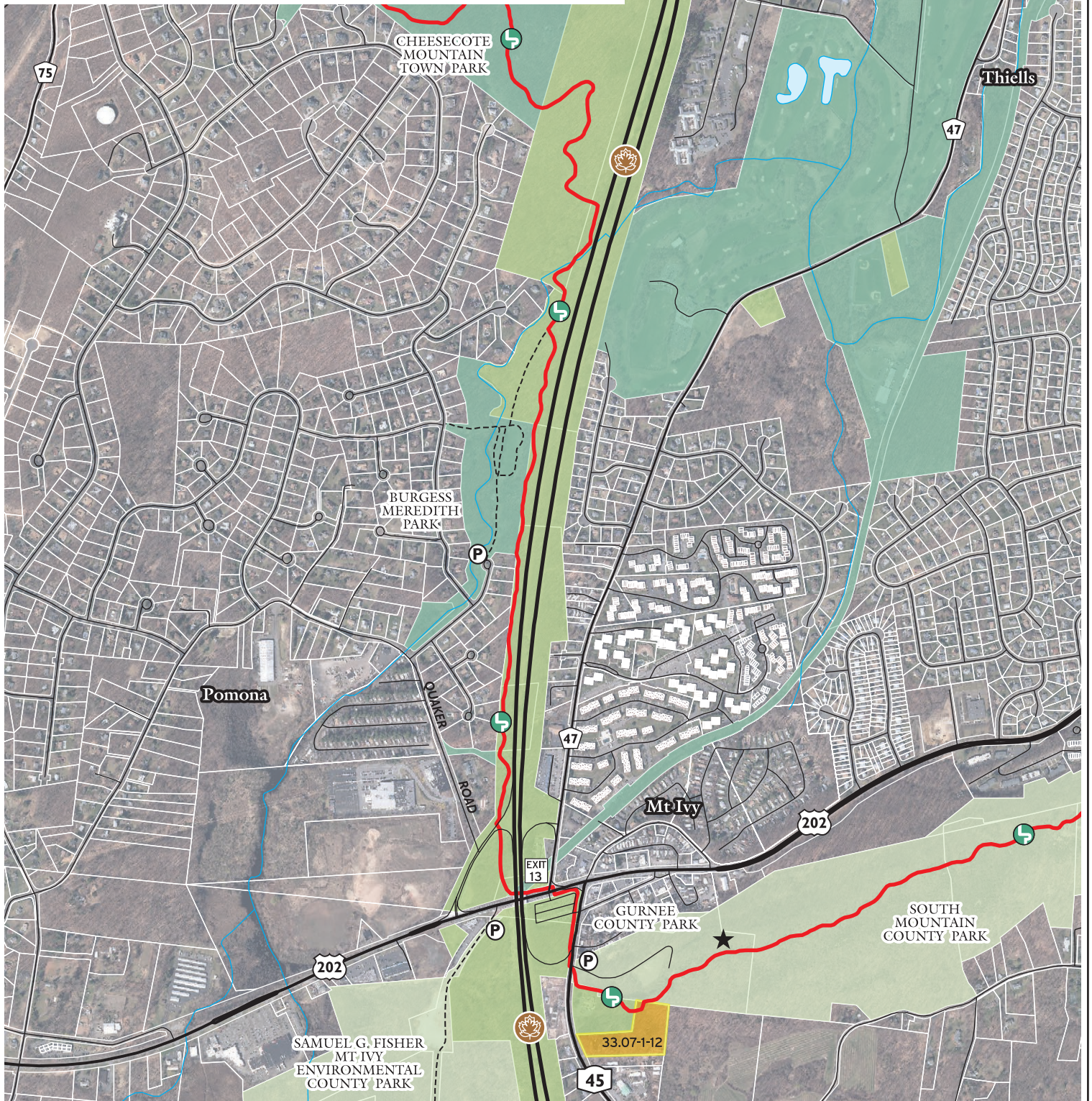
Priority Parcels:

Parcel: 33.07-1-12	Landowner: STUARTS OUTDOOR LIVING INC	Municipality: RAMAPO
Acres: 5.4	Description: Mostly wooded parcel with a residence along NY Route 45. The Long Path passes through the most northern portion.	



Gurnee Park to Cheesecote Mountain Park

Rockland 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

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 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