



Finger Lakes Land Trust

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Skaneateles Lake: Our Forever Home, Our Forever Work
Join the Finger Lakes Land Trust today and your gift will be matched 100%

VILLAGE OF SKANEATELES

October 20, 2023

Village of Skaneateles
26 Fennell St
Skaneateles, NY 13152-1038

Dear Friends,

The non-profit Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) is protecting lands and waters within the Skaneateles Lake watershed with great success. We are thrilled to report that we just completed the largest land conservation project completed in this area to date – the permanent protection of 690 acres overlooking the lake's eastern shore!

The protection of this property will ensure the continuation of vegetated buffers on several tributaries to the lake; scenic vistas associated with extensive frontage on State Route 41; productive farmland; and more than 200 acres of woodland. It will also add to a growing network of conserved lands in this area that includes our Hinchliff, Staghorn Cliffs, and High Vista nature preserves.

When the FLLT protects lands around the lake, we are protecting the lake itself. We have already conserved more than 3,000 acres in the Skaneateles Lake watershed and over 30,000 acres across the region – lands that help maintain water quality, protect important wildlife habitat, and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and education. You can help us do even more!

Please join the Finger Lake Land Trust as a new member today so we can conserve additional lands around Skaneateles Lake and across the region. This fall, **your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar**, up to \$100,000. This is your opportunity to make an impact!

Recent highlights of our work to save our lands and waters include:

- The protection of lands bordering Shotwell Brook in the Town of Skaneateles and Hooker Brook in the Town of Niles – both through the use of perpetual conservation easements that limit development while allowing the land to remain in private ownership;
- The completion of a key addition to our High Vista Preserve – adding to the mature forest for which this refuge near the south end of Skaneateles is known. As with our other nature preserves, High Vista is open to the public at no charge and is a popular destination for hikers, dog walkers, and birdwatchers.

- The completion of our third acquisition of steep wooded hillsides bordering the Glen Haven Road on the west side of the lake. Protection of these lands ensures that these forests will continue to prevent erosion while providing a scenic backdrop to the lake.

We are now under contract to protect additional land at the headwaters of Shotwell Brook – just a stone’s throw from the Village of Skaneateles! The FLLT intends to acquire the property and then open the site as a nature preserve that protects wildlife habitat and lake water quality while also providing the community with a new place to get outdoors. This is a major undertaking for the FLLT and we need your help! Please join the FLLT today.

Elsewhere in the region, the FLLT is working on the acquisition of more than 900 acres of forest in the Southern Tier; the establishment of a new nature preserve overlooking Cayuga Lake; and the protection of an undeveloped cove on Canandaigua Lake.

As we pursue these land conservation projects, the FLLT is also working with partners to reduce nutrient runoff to our lakes through the restoration of streams, wetlands, and vernal pools. Near Skaneateles, we partnered with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to restore wetlands and pools that provide wildlife habitat while also reducing stormwater runoff to the lake. Near Owasco Lake, we recently planted more than 300 trees and shrubs to expand vegetated buffers bordering a tributary to the lake.

When the land thrives, the water thrives. With your help, we can conserve our lands and waters so that future generations can enjoy them as we have. Please join us to make this happen.

To learn more about the Finger Lakes Land Trust and how we are working each day to protect the health of Skaneateles Lake, please visit www.fllt.org or email info@fllt.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Andrew Zepp
Executive Director



Dave Birchenough
President’s Council

P.S. Your gift to the Finger Lakes Land Trust will be matched, dollar-for-dollar. Please mail your tax-deductible gift or give online at fllt.org/join.