

FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST ACQUIRES 4,000 FEET OF CAYUGA LAKE SHORELINE IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

Photo of Cayuga Lake: Bill Hecht

[AUGUST 11, 2021 IN FLLT NEWS, PRESS RELEASES](#)

The Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) today announced it has acquired 200 acres featuring 4,000 feet of shoreline on the east side of Cayuga Lake in the town of Lansing, Tompkins County. Conserving the property—located directly across from Taughannock Falls State Park—safeguards an important viewshed for the region, creates new recreation opportunities, and helps protect the lake's water quality by prohibiting development on its steep slopes.

The diverse property features meadows, woodlands, gorges, waterfalls, and panoramic lake views from several locations. Pitch pine and red cedar trees stand above exposed ledges while mature hardwood forest covers a prominent ridge overlooking the lake. Multiple creeks and streams flow through hemlock studded gorges on their way to Cayuga Lake.



Photo of Taughannock Point as seen from Cayuga Cliffs by Jeff Katris

The shoreline is part of a National Audubon Society-designated Important Bird Area and the property contains substantial portions of two county-designated Unique Natural Areas: Lake Cliffs North of Myers Point and Hidden Glens.

The FLLT plans to establish a public nature preserve on the property for low-impact uses including hiking, cross-country skiing, and wildlife observation. The organization also plans to work in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore small wetlands and vernal pools, improving wildlife habitat and water quality. It is anticipated that the property will be formally opened to the public sometime in 2023.



Photo: Jeff Katris

In addition to the 200-acre purchase, the FLLT worked with landowners William and Jean Sims to secure a donation of a conservation easement on an adjacent 41 acres that will buffer the preserve. Conservation easements are legal agreements that limit future development while allowing land to remain in private ownership and on the tax rolls. The Sims also generously agreed to sell the 200 acres for less than its appraised value.

"This is a tremendous win for Cayuga Lake and everyone who has ever admired the scenic views from Taughannock Falls State Park," said FLLT Executive Director Andrew Zepp. "We are grateful to the Sims family for their commitment to the land as well as the strong community support for this project."

The FLLT received \$327,475 in grant funding from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), \$100,000 from Tompkins County's Natural Infrastructure Capital Program, and many generous individual contributions in support of this project. To

contribute to the ongoing fundraising campaign to raise \$854,950, please contact Senior Director Kelly Makosch at (607) 275-9487 or kellymakosch@fllt.org or give online at fllt.org/cayugacliffs.

← Recording: The Little-Known World of ...

Land Trust Adds One-Mile Hiking Trail ... →



FEATURED PRESERVE

Logan H...



RECENT NEWS

The Cayuga Cliffs Project: Saving Spectacular Lands Above Cayuga's Waters!

December 16, 2020

[View Article](#) [Subscribe](#)

LEARN THE LAND

SAVE MORE LAND

GIVE & JOIN



JOHN & KATIE RYBINSKI

Landowners

When I was a young kid I always dreamed of having our farm intact.

FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST

202 EAST COURT ST, ITHACA, NY 14850

607-275-9487 INFO@FLLT.ORG

