# The Palmertown Range: A Vision for Conservation, Recreation & Economic Development

# The Southern Palmertown Range

- 40,500 acres in the southern portion of the Palmertown Mountain range, located in Saratoga County
- Predominantly forested landscape, with many interconnected wetlands
- Approximately 8,000 acres of currently protected lands
- Three key recreation hubs: Moreau Lake State Park, Daniels Road State Forest, and Lincoln Mountain State Forest

# The Palmertown Range Strategy vision

The vision for the Palmertown Range Strategy (the Strategy) is to establish the area as a regional recreation destination while also conserving its critically important natural resources. The Strategy will bolster the region's forest products and outdoor recreational tourism industry, and create regional connectivity of protected lands.

# **CONSERVATION** priorities

- Conservation of ecologically important forests & wetlands
- Protection of our drinking water
- Preservation of wildlife habitat
- Creation of community owned & managed forests

# **RECREATION** priorities

There is a demand for a diverse set of recreation activities throughout the project area, including biking, hiking, skiing, horseback riding, snowshoeing, snowmobiling & hunting. Recreation priorities include:

- Development of a multi-use spine trail connecting Spa State Park to Moreau Lake State Park
- Establishment of a network of spurs & loop trails
- Creation of a region-wide Trail Master Plan

#### The Strategy will stimulate local ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Local recreation & tourism related businesses will benefit from increased recreational use
- Support for the local forest product industry will create jobs & preserve intact forests
- Support compatible uses for large redevelopment projects in the area







#### **Project Milestones**

- 2018: Strategy completed
- 2019: Hired a project coordinator
- 2019: Formed the Guidance Committee
- 2014-2019: 4 properties conserved (2,050 acres)

#### What are we working on in 2020?

- Strategy implementation
- Initiate the Trail Master Plan
- Outreach to actively engage the public
- Land conservation efforts are ongoing

# Interested in learning more or helping this vision become a reality?

Email Wendy Mahaney, the Palmertown Project Coordinator <u>wendy.palmertown@gmail.com</u> Read the Palmertown Strategy: <u>https://www.saratogaplan.org/explore/public-preserves-</u> <u>trails/palmertown-conservation-area/</u>



**About OSI:** The Open Space Institute protects scenic, natural, and historic landscapes to provide public enjoyment, conserve habitat and working lands, and sustain communities. Founded in 1974 to protect significant landscapes in New York State, today OSI is a national leader in environmental conservation, having partnered in the protection of nearly 2.2 million acres in North America, from Alabama to southeastern Canada. Learn more at: www.openspaceinstitute.org

**About Saratoga PLAN:** Saratoga PLAN (preserving land and nature) preserves the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of the upper Hudson Valley so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations. PLAN works with communities, volunteers and individual landowners to accomplish their conservation goals to protect fertile farmland, life sustaining waters and wildlife habitats, and to build a countywide trails network. Currently stewarding more than 5,000 acres, PLAN has been instrumental in conserving more than 7,000 acres in Saratoga County. Learn more at <u>www.saratogaplan.org</u>





# **Palmertown Conservation Area**

