



saratoga
PLAN

Preserving Land and Nature

Preserving the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations. PLAN acknowledges that the lands it conserves are ancestral homelands of Mohican, Mohawk and Abenaki people.



CONSERVING
FARMLAND



PROTECTING
WOODS + WATERS



BUILDING
TRAILS

fieldnotes

FALL 2023

A MESSAGE FROM PETER OLMSTED, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Photo: Ironglass Productions

Greetings PLAN supporters, and happy fall!

I'm delighted and deeply honored to extend this brief message as the newly appointed Board Chairman for Saratoga PLAN.

For those of you who were with us at our successful PLAN for the Future event in September, you heard my enthusiasm about taking on this role and advancing our vital mission.

As I mentioned then, my very first job after graduating from Skidmore College was with a land trust, where I contributed to the preservation of the beautiful and productive farmland in Lancaster County, PA. Now, two decades later, I look back fondly on that experience and am glad to once again be part

of this significant work in land protection, this time in Saratoga County.

As PLAN commemorates its 20th anniversary, the mission upon which the organization was established has never been more crucial. From ensuring food security and fostering local economic growth, to preserving habitats and promoting outdoor recreation, safeguarding our community's natural and working lands remains critical for the next phase of our organization.

Here's to the next two decades, and I want to emphasize that your support is indispensable in our journey. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you!
Peter Olmsted

Graphite Range Community Forest
OPENING THIS FALL!



GRATITUDE IN ACTION

CELEBRATING PLAN'S DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

ON MONDAY JULY 31st, PLAN hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Day at Shenantaha Creek Park. Over 40 volunteers and staff came together to enjoy delectable potluck dishes and exchange stories from their trail and preserve workdays.

As a nonprofit organization, PLAN relies heavily on the steadfast support of dedicated volunteers. Their collective efforts empower our small organization to make a substantial impact as we expand our conservation initiatives throughout the county.



CHANGING CLIMATE

PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES FOR CLIMATE MITIGATION

As we experience adverse effects of a changing climate, like heat waves, increased rainfall and storm frequency, we need to look more critically at how our natural resources can sustain us.

Did you know that forests absorb and reroute water, lowering the risk of flooding? Now's the time to ensure that the natural flood barriers in our region stick around for the long haul.



Every \$1 raised equates to \$10 in land conservation



GRAPHITE RANGE COMMUNITY FOREST

COMING THIS FALL

ON THURSDAY AUGUST 31st, Graphite Range Community Forest partners came together for the Community Social at Artisanal Brew Works. It was an amazing turnout, and we couldn't think of a better way to celebrate all the progress on the project.

Thank you to all the supporters, volunteers, and community members who were able to make it. Together, we raised over \$50,000 for the Homestretch Campaign.

Stay tuned for the opening date from Saratoga County this fall!



land conservation

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that PLAN has secured a \$301,497 grant for a conservation easement on a 435-acre forested property in Greenfield and Wilton. This property is an integral piece of the expansive Palmertown Range within the Southern Adirondack Foothills, which spans 40,000 acres in Saratoga County.

The Land Trust Alliance administers the Forest Conservation Easements for Land Trust (FCELT) grant program in coordination with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).



Vernal Pool located on property. These small seasonal wetlands offer crucial seasonal habitats for amphibian species and support rare plant species.

This forest supports carbon storage and sequestration, aligning with climate change mitigation efforts. The property's diverse ecology and sustainable forest management will contribute to the long-term resilience and well-being of the community.

Did you know?

PLAN is currently working with 17 landowners to safeguard more than 2,000 acres in the Saratoga Region.

That's nearly the size of Saratoga Spa State Park!

WE ARE THRILLED to share that PLAN has been awarded funding for THREE farmland protection projects from NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets as part of New York's Farmland Protection Implementation Grants program!

The local farms that will benefit from this funding include Drummland Farm, Wilson's Betterdays Farm, and Two Lions Farm.



up next

BEAVERLAND

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024
6 PM**

Join us at Northshire Bookstore for a captivating discussion with the renowned author Leila Philip, as she delves into the pages of her latest literary masterpiece, "Beaverland: How One Unusual Rodent Shaped America."

TRUESONGS 2023: LYRICS OF LIFE

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023
7:00 - 10:00 PM**

Caffè Lena will showcase the remarkable efforts of six local organizations (including Saratoga PLAN) with its annual event, TrueSongs. Don't miss this heartwarming evening of music and inspiration.



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