

## **Policy Statement**

### **Regarding Public Use and Recreational Activities on FLLT Preserve Properties**

January 2010

The Finger Lakes Land Trust is pleased to be able to offer the public the opportunity to visit more than 25 nature preserves and conservation areas around the Finger Lakes region – many of which feature maintained hiking trails, kiosks with interpretive information, waterfalls and other unique features, important ecological communities, and an abundance of scenery and wildlife to enjoy.

It is critical for the future of these special places that visitors minimize their impact on the land and help to maintain the integrity of the natural features that we and our supporters have worked so hard to protect for the benefit of the region's residents, visitors, and future generations. To do this, we ask that visitors to FLLT preserves and conservation areas abide by the following recreational use policies:

- The public is welcome to engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low-impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Please stay on marked trails, where they exist, to minimize disturbance of native plants and wildlife.
- Activities that are PROHIBITED on all FLLT lands include:
  - Use of motorized vehicles (*except parking in designated parking areas*);
  - Animal trapping and small-game hunting;
  - Target shooting or paintball shooting;
  - Camping and fires;
  - Swimming;
  - Collecting of any sort (*except by research permit*);
  - Littering, dumping, placement/storage of personal property, or release of any plants, animals, substances, or materials.
- Activities that are NOT generally allowed, but MAY have limited exceptions or be permitted with explicit FLLT permission on certain preserves, include:
  - Deer hunting (*by permit only, in accordance with the FLLT Deer Management Program*);
  - Visitation by large organized groups;
  - Scientific collecting or placement of research devices;
  - Riding bicycles, horses, or any other mechanical devices or animals; fishing; climbing; any other recreational activity or property use not specifically listed above.
- Dogs must always be kept in full control by their owners, and must not be allowed to chase wildlife or intimidate other visitors.
- Always be aware of natural hazards such as hanging trees or branches, cliffs, steep slopes, loose shale, slippery rocks, or other unstable footing.
- Be prepared for the outdoors: bring a map; carry sufficient water and food; wear footwear and clothing appropriate for the terrain and weather conditions; wear blaze orange during hunting seasons; watch for harmful plants such as poison ivy and giant hogweed; and check for ticks.
- Always be mindful and respectful of any special conditions, restrictions, or notices that are posted at specific preserves. Some FLLT preserves are closed to the public during deer hunting seasons.
- Always strive to have as little impact on the land as possible; learn about and practice Leave No Trace principles; and be respectful of the land, native plants and animals, and other people.
- Contact the Land Trust to provide management suggestions, report problems, offer to volunteer, or make a donation to support our work.