



***LAKES, FARMS & FORESTS FOREVER:
TEN CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR THE FINGER LAKES REGION***

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create a new initiative to purchase perpetual stream buffer easements from farmers and also fund the restoration and construction of “silt trap” wetlands that are designed to intercept nutrient-laden runoff from farms and road ditches - **\$20 million**
- Provide additional funding for the protection of our last undeveloped shoreline through direct acquisition and the use of conservation easements – near term need of **\$10 million**
- Resume the City of Syracuse’s conservation easement purchase program within the Skaneateles Lake watershed to protect its unfiltered drinking water supply - **\$10 million**
- Provide additional funding to New York State’s Farmland Protection Program targeted specifically to the Finger Lakes region to meet demand from local farmers - **\$30 million**
- Assess and prioritize publicly accessible vista points within the region on state highways and the two existing scenic byways and then purchase conservation easements to secure the most scenic vistas - **\$7.5 million**
- Implement a program of expanded technical assistance to local government planning boards in conjunction with the development of a region-specific guide that highlights best practices for rural land use - **\$2.5 million**
- Complete four priority projects identified within New York State’s Open Space Plan and make targeted investments to enhance public access to these sites - **\$20 million**:
 - Canandaigua Skyline Trail
 - Ithaca’s Emerald Necklace
 - Chemung River Greenbelt
 - South End of Skaneateles Lake

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