

TUG HILL TOMORROW

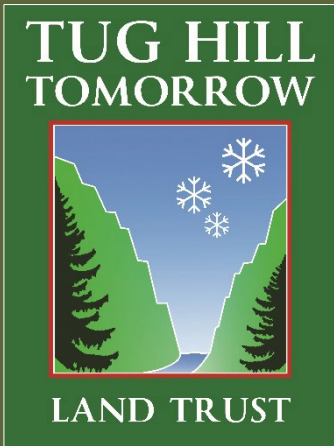


LAND TRUST

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust



Who is Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust?



- Regional, private, nonprofit organization
- Founded in 1990 by group of local citizens
- Incorporated as a 501(c)3 in 1991
- Serves Tug Hill portions of Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego and Oneida Counties; as well as the southern edge of St. Lawrence County and Western Herkimer County
- Office in Watertown

Mission

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust's mission is to protect the wildlands, working forests and farms of the Tug Hill region and surrounding areas, and to promote appreciation of the region's natural and cultural heritage, for present and future generations.

We do this through

Land Protection
Outreach & Education

Where We Work

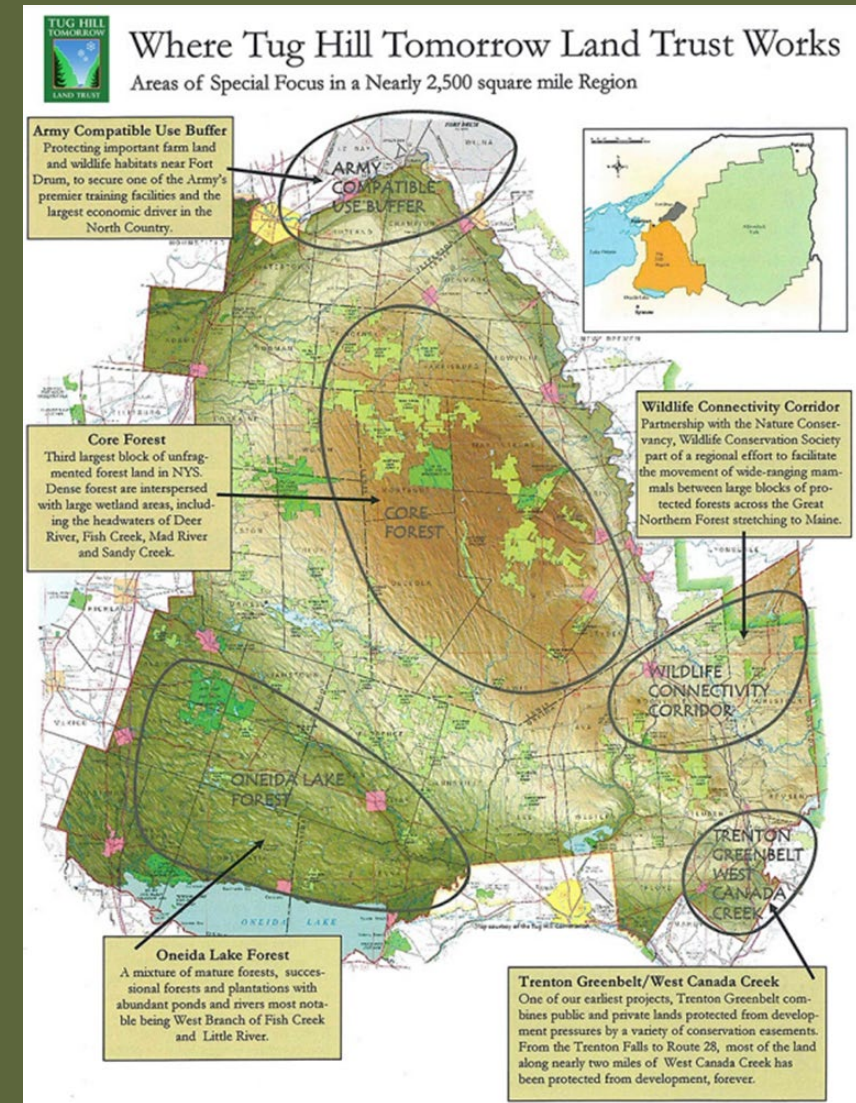
- The Tug Hill region of New York covers 2,100 square miles (1.38 million acres) between Lake Ontario and Adirondacks.
- It is the third largest contiguous forested area in New York State.
- Ancestral lands of the Onondaga, Oneida and Mohawk Nations



Heart of Tug Hill stream – D. Kohr

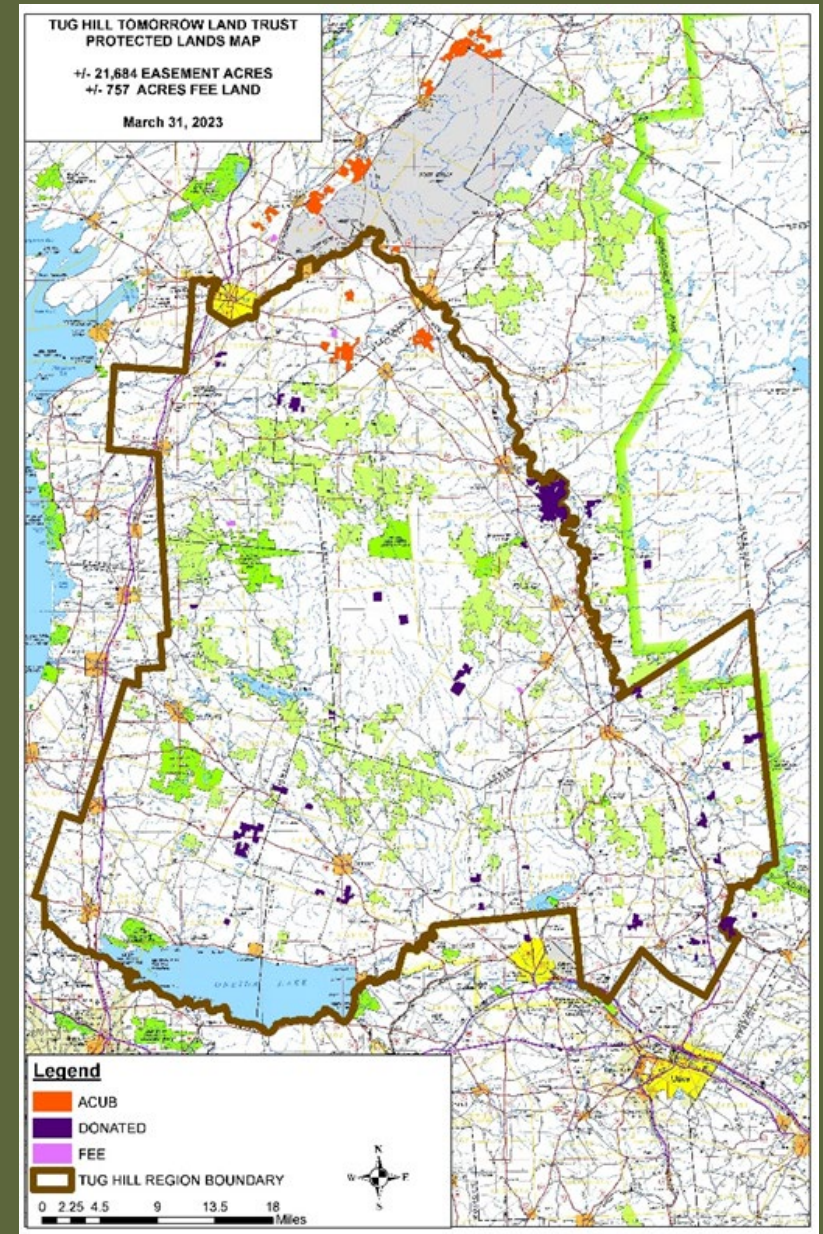
Land Trust Background

- Over 90 land trusts in New York State, over 1,500 nationally
- Funded by individual donations, grants, special events
- 8 staff
- Office in Downtown Watertown



Land protected by Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

- 120 conservation easements protecting over 22,000 acres, monitored annually
- 7 protected properties owned by THTLT totaling 1,340 acres, located in 4 counties
 - Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary, T. of Rutland
 - David S. Smith Public Conservation Area, T. Leray
 - French Settlement Road Public Conservation Area, T. Lorraine
 - Keller Mohawk Hill Public Conservation Area, T. West Turin
 - David E. Ramsey Public Conservation Area, T. Glenfield
 - Stone House Preserve, T. Vienna
 - Dimon and Rhoda Benson Public Conservation Area, T. Sandy Creek



What is a Conservation Easement?

- A conservation easement is a legal agreement between the land trust and a landowner in which “development rights” are sold or donated to the land trust, restricting certain activities on their property.
- The property will remain in its current condition (forest, farm, wetland, etc.) and the land will be used in a way that is consistent with the terms of the easement.
- The easement remains in effect even after land is sold or inherited. It is attached to the deed.

What are the benefits?

- The natural resources are conserved, protecting water quality and wildlife habitat
- Workable farm and forest land is maintained
- Donation of a conservation easement may qualify the landowner for tax deductions
- Preserving open space improves the health and well-being of the community



Farmland Protection



Bill Gleisner – ACUB Project



Henry Parry – Parry Farm Camden

ACUB Program

- 34 projects
- 9,140 acres protected



Murray Farm - Town of Champion, Jefferson County
and Denmark, Lewis County

NYS Farmland Protection Program

- Secured seven dairy grants covering 3,209 acres
- Secured eight farmland protection grants covering 3,746 acres



Flat Rock Farm , Champion Jefferson County

Forest Conservation Easements for Land Trusts (FCELT)

- A public-private collaboration funded through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with NYS DEC
- Land trusts apply for grants to acquire conservation easements to protect privately owned forest land
- Aims are to conserve forests, protect biodiversity, mitigate climate change impact and support outdoor recreation

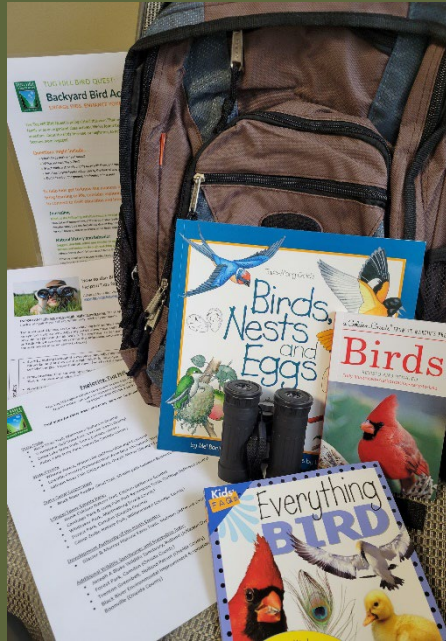
Educational Programs and Resources



Library Programs



Tug Hill Bird Quest



Tug Hill Explorer Backpacks



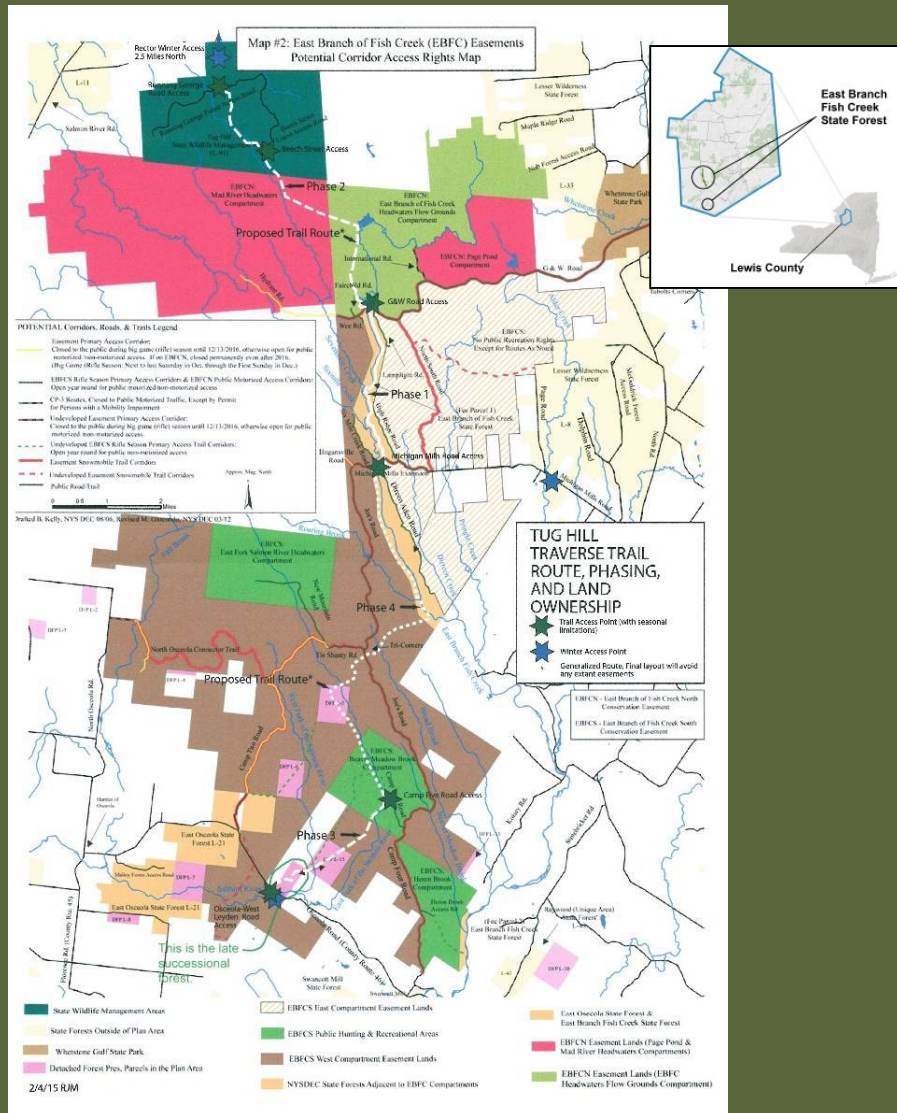
Programs at Our Properties & Other Public Lands



Venerable Folks Exhibit

Tug Hill Traverse Trail

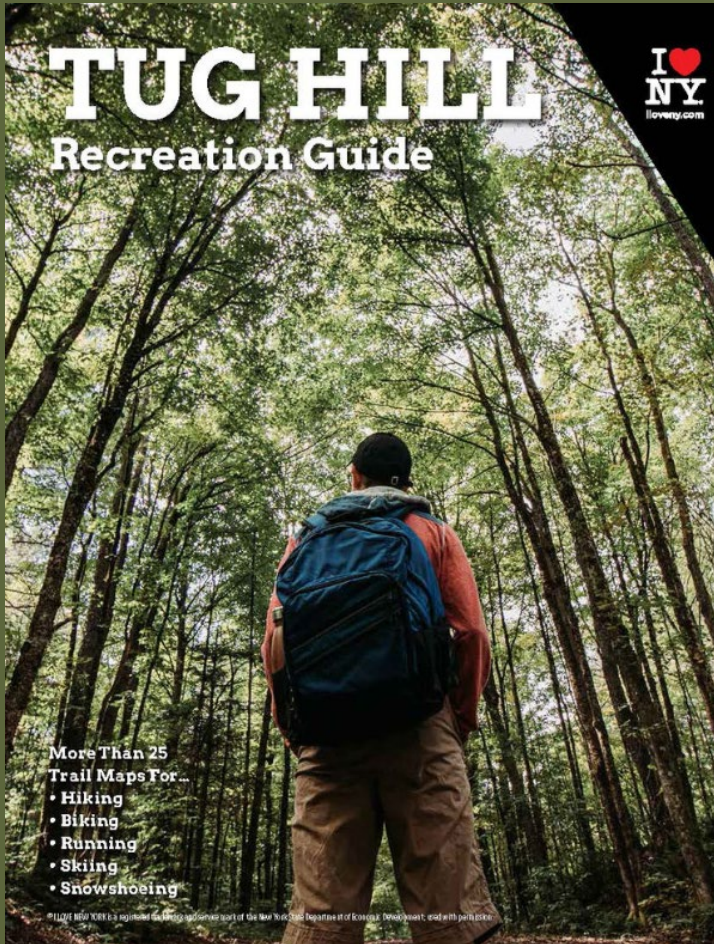
- Osceola to Martinsburg
- 1st long distance trail on Tug Hill (20 miles)
- Hiking, snowshoeing, back country skiing
- First ten miles complete as of summer 2023



Dedicated Core of Volunteers



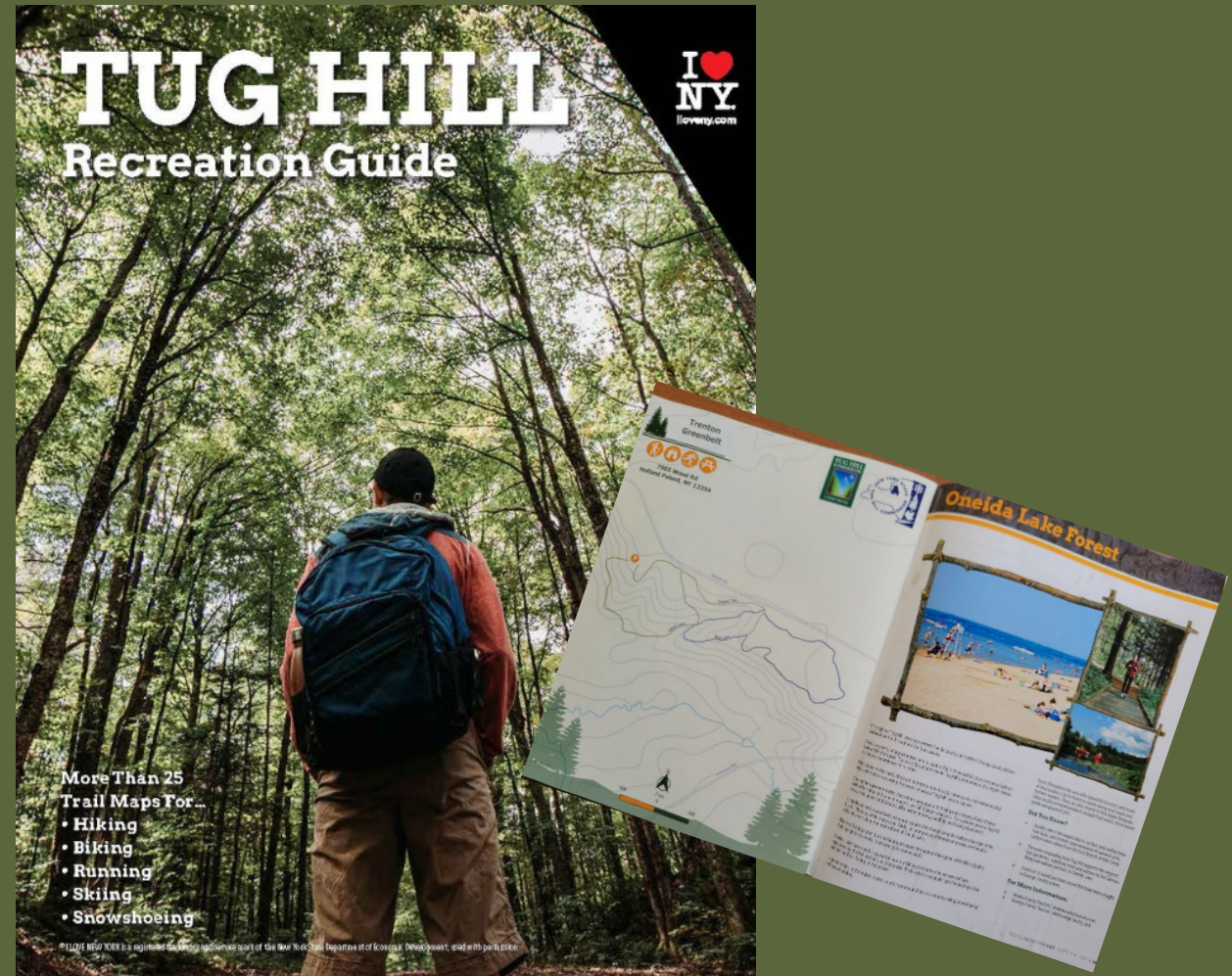
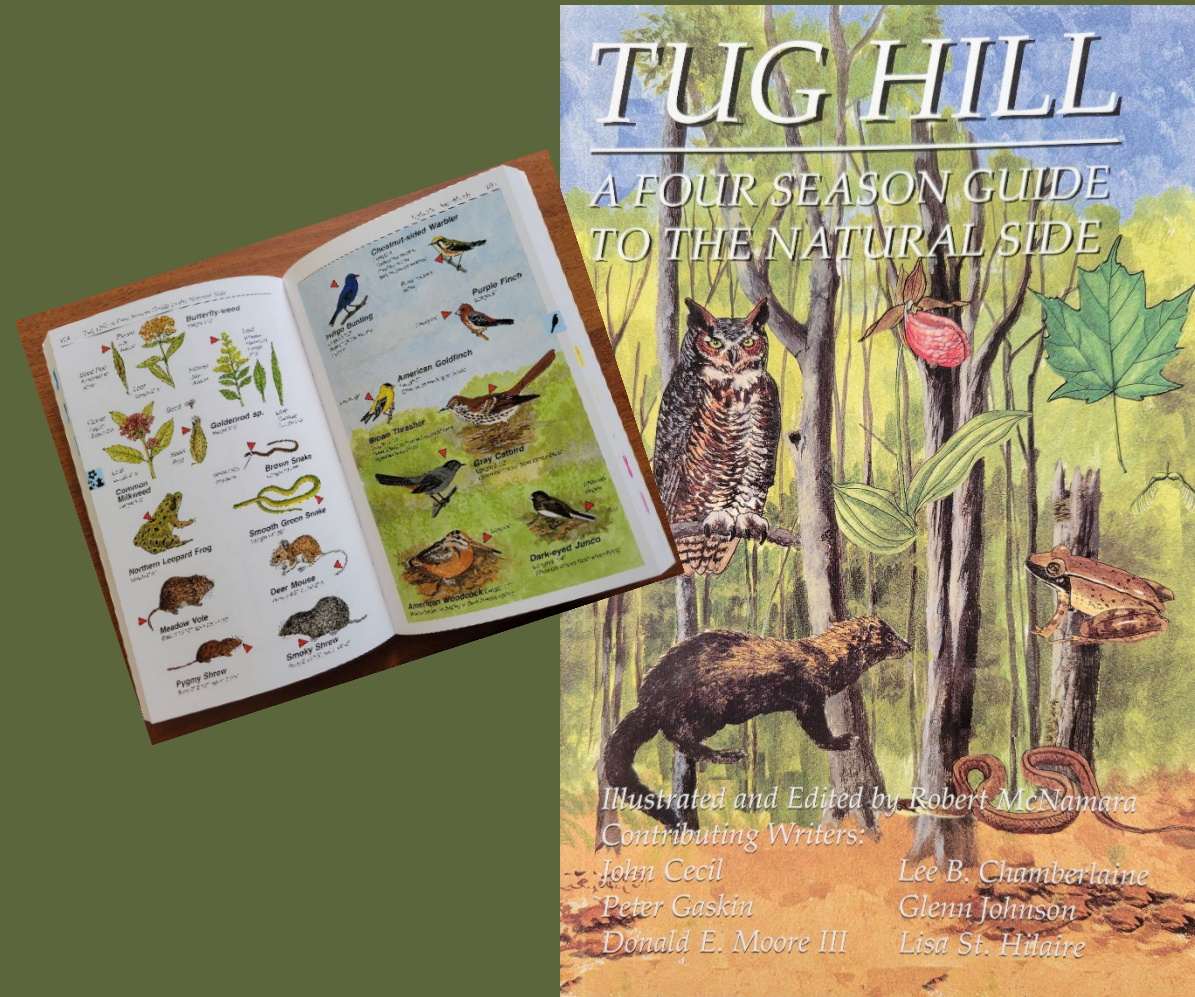
Tug Hill 10 Challenge



- Visit a minimum of 10 trails in the Tug Hill Recreation Guide
(available in print or online)
- Fill out our online Challenge form
- We'll send you our Challenge Patch or Decal, your choice, to congratulate you on your accomplishment!



Publications

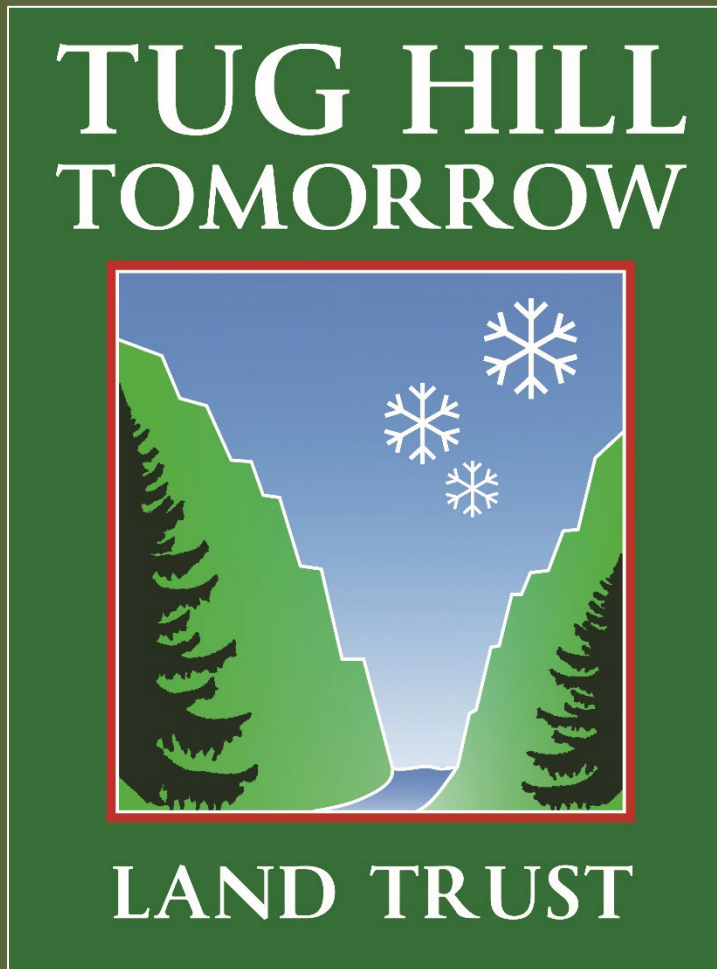


Volunteer Opportunities

(You know – just a few ideas....)

- Helping Make and Maintain Trails for Public Access
- Regularly Monitoring a Public Conservation Area
- Assisting with land protection organization and field monitoring
- Leading and assisting with outings for students and/or the public
- Advising and assisting in development of enhanced educational resources for students and adults
- Assist with administrative tasks: mailings prep, office organization
- Taking photos and contributing to our photo library





Questions?

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Land Protection

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