Genesee Land Trust
Strategic Conservation Plan - Resources

The Genesee Land Trust’s (GLT) mission is to preserve and protect lands including waterways, wetlands, farmland, open space, fish and wildlife habitat, and scenic or recreational areas. The Cornell team developed a Conservation Plan to help the GLT to identify conservation resources and become proactive in conservation efforts in their territory. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the Cornell team was able to identify a wide range of natural, scenic, and policy-oriented conservation resources available to the GLT. The Conservation Plan reflects the conservation values of the GLT and will serve as an advisory document for making informed conservation decisions.

**Soil Class**
Agricultural lands in the GLT Territory benefit from extremely high quality soils, the highest quality soils, or drainage classes 1 and 2, comprise 36% of the GLT lands. The map shows a broad east-west swath of well and moderately drained deep soils oriented to the path of the Erie Canal. As one of the most productive agricultural regions in the state, farmlands in the GLT Territory receive protection from both agricultural districts and tax allotments. There are 443,000 acres of agricultural districts and 341,000 acres of tax allotment lands in Monroe and Wayne Counties.

**Water Resources**
The GLT Territory has a complex network of water resources including rivers, wetlands, streams, and the Erie Canal. An aquifer is an underground water source, flowing or stationary, residing in permeable rock layers. There are over 2,139 miles of moving water draining into Lake Ontario, one of the world’s largest freshwater lakes. Integrated in this system are numerous wetlands classified as “of greatest importance” by the State of New York. Protecting these valuable resources is important for maintaining high water quality and diverse ecosystems.

**Land Cover**
The 1.3 million acre GLT Territory includes a spectrum of land covers. In 2001, the U.S. Geological Survey created land cover data for Wayne and Monroe Counties using satellite and remote sensing imagery. The land cover data suggests a contrast between land covers in Monroe and Wayne Counties. While over 50% of Monroe County is classified as urban land, only 7% of Wayne County is classified as urban. Furthermore, nearly 56% of Wayne County lands are designated as agricultural. Since large swaths of the GLT Territory are unprotected, many of these diverse landscapes remain untouched. Currently, 45,748 acres of the territory are protected, with the GLT holding 3.5% of those lands.

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**Projection:** NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18 N
**Maps Units:** Meters
**Photos:** Courtesy of the Cornell team

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