

Dear Student,

The Central New York Land Trust is New York State's sixth largest land conservation organization. We protect wildlife, safeguard natural resources, and restore wilderness areas in Onondaga and Oswego Counties. In the past 50 years, we have saved 54 unique wildlife habitats encompassing close to 4,000 acres of land right here in CNY.

Last year students around the region participated in Walk for Nature, our annual walkathon and fundraising event. Their efforts helped make several projects a success, including:

- Tree Planting: We planted several hundred trees to reforest logged woodlands.
- Native Wildflower Meadows: We planted several acres of native wildflower meadows to create habitats for pollinators, birds and small mammals.
- Universal Access: We built bridges and installed benches at three of our sites to give people with mobility impairments increased access to our nature preserves.
- Habitat Restoration: We removed invasive plants to help reclaim native habitats and restore native species.
- Reconnected Aquatic Passages: We protected and repaired waterways to give aquatic animals unfettered access to migration and spawning grounds.
- Safeguarded Drinking Water and Aquatic Habitats: We undertook our largest restoration project in the Skaneateles Lake watershed to safeguard the drinking water of Syracuse City residents and to protect riparian habitats for local wildlife.

When we look back on all of the work we have done to make the world a better place, we have a renewed excitement to keep going, and we know it is with that excitement and consistent dedication that we can combat negative changes to our environment. When we feel like succumbing to the negative news and to thoughts that as individuals we are helpless to change the course our planet, we remember that every individual and every effort has a much greater impact than we can imagine. The Dalai Lama said "Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into the water, the actions of individuals can have a far-reaching effect." At The CNY Land Trust, we believe when we harness those individual actions, we can watch those ripples of change spread from our little corner of the planet to the farthest reaches of the world.

We are calling on you to help us keep that momentum going and take a personal stake in the future of the planet on a local level. This year we have ambitious goals to protect several hundred acres of land along Onondaga Creek, open up new sites and trails to the public, plant a few thousand more trees, and expand our native pollinator meadows. These are big goals, but we know we can reach them with your help.

We hope you will lace up your sneakers this May 4<sup>th</sup> and walk with us for nature at Marcellus Park. We have already begun registering walkers and sponsors on our website at [www.cnylandtrust.org/walk-4-nature](http://www.cnylandtrust.org/walk-4-nature).

Sincerely,

Paul Porter  
Director of Stewardship