



Strategic Plan 2008-2015

Vision

In the next 5-7 years, Lime Hollow will...

- a. Provide and expand experiential environmental education opportunities for life-long learning that are recognized for their excellence.
- b. Provide first-class, low-impact outdoor recreation opportunities year-round.
- c. Continue to develop our physical facilities in support of our educational goals, to exemplify our stewardship commitment, to facilitate growth, and to provide maximum accessibility to our natural assets and physical facilities.
- d. Maintain and increase our human, financial, and institutional resources.
- e. Develop a comprehensive land-management plan, which will include an accurate inventory of our resources with the intent of eliminating invasive and non-native species while still increasing native diversity.
- f. Demonstrate and model sustainable and “green” practices.

Mission Statement

To provide year-round environmental education and recreation opportunities through utilization and protection of the natural and cultural attributes of the Lime Hollow area.

Beliefs and Values

We value and believe in...

- a. The inquiring minds of all people (especially children) and their innate desire to learn.
- b. Learning natural history and conservation through hands-on and field experiences is a necessary and significant component in the proper development of every person, especially children.
- c. The idea that everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner.
- d. Enhancing lives by developing a sense of wonder and providing close contact with nature.
- e. Environmental education as a means of promoting lifelong behaviors that protect the natural world.
- f. Teaching environmental stewardship by example.
- g. The intrinsic value of green space and wilderness areas.
- h. Advancing our mission by maintaining a welcoming, friendly, and high-integrity atmosphere.
- i. Nurturing volunteerism, community involvement, and active citizenship.
- j. The synergy of teamwork, and its key ideals: mutual respect, honesty, open-mindedness, and open communication.

GOAL I: EDUCATION
(Our Primary Focus for 2008)

Assist people in the development of environmental awareness, appreciation, knowledge, commitment and skills.

Objectives:

- a. Maintain, improve, and expand a system of interpretive nature trails.
- b. Continue to improve and maintain our Visitors Center interpretive building and other facilities as possible/appropriate.
- c. Provide formal and non-formal environmental education programs for all ages (pre-school to seniors) that include nature walks, demonstrations, lectures, workshops and exhibits.
- d. Engage in broad-based public outreach and education through the media, public engagements, conferences, and workshops.
- e. Heighten community awareness regarding the relationship between a high quality of life and a healthy environment. Take the lead in reconnecting people and nature.
- f. Invite participation of community, academic, cultural, and professional experts in programs that allow people of all ages to experience and develop an appreciation the natural world around them through environmental enhancement and community service projects.
- g. Promote understanding of the importance of conserving and enhancing our natural surroundings for present and future generations.
- h. Develop strategies to maximize our educational impact: continued breadth programming, new depth programming for middle and high school students and teacher support in elementary science.
- i. Expand environmental education school field trips and in-school visits to accommodate more school groups throughout the Finger Lakes and Central New York regions.
- j. Expand summer camping opportunities and capacity so that “No Child is Left Inside” by 2010, culminating in the building of a state-of-the-art “green” environmental education center complex in the vicinity of the Visitor Center on McLean Road.
- k. Employ and then promote “green” practices and technologies.
- l. Develop a one of a kind cultural exhibit detailing the story of our relationship to the region’s environment throughout history.

GOAL II: RECREATION

(Our Primary Focus for 2009)

Provide low-impact, nature-based recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

- a. Promote recreation uses that are compatible with the biological and recreational carrying capacity of Lime Hollow.
- b. Establish Lime Hollow as one of Central New York's premiere year-round outdoor recreation facilities.
- c. Develop and maintain a system of trails, overlooks, and exhibits that encourage multiple uses. These include, but are not limited to the following points of focus:
 - Continue to develop the Lehigh Valley Railway Right of Way into a multi-purpose, multi-use trail network that supports hiking, running, XC skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and bicycles.
 - Partner with SUNY Cortland athletics, Tompkins Cortland Community College, local schools, and other non-profit agencies to develop regular fitness events and health-based uses for our trail system.
 - Continue to develop and improve the Tamarack Art Trail and foster strong relationships to the art community.
 - Research, build, and promote a Low Ropes Challenge Course that encourages personal development, teamwork, and leadership development.
 - Expand our "Access to All" trail system to encompass the Tamarack Art Trail and connect to Lehigh Valley Trail.

GOAL III: PROTECTION

Protect, through employment of conservation management techniques, the ecologically diverse and unique natural and aquifer recharge area know as Lime Hollow.

Objectives:

- a. Determine the current level of ecological diversity and uniqueness of Lime Hollow and produce a comprehensive inventory and management plan.
- b. Develop cooperative relationships and strategies with various agencies, businesses, government bodies, private landowners and organizations to protect the natural and cultural attributes of the Lime Hollow area.
- c. Continue to acquire and preserve land along the Lehigh Valley Railway Right of Way in accordance with the Cortland County Planning Department document dated August 1978 with emphasis on:
 - Acquiring that portion of Chicago Bog and its adjacent property which is included in the Finger Lakes East development project.
 - Acquiring Gracie Pond and its adjacent facilities to allow for environmental education expansion, preserving and interpreting the site's historical dairy and lumber mill significance.
 - Explore other land-acquisition opportunities as they arise.

GOAL IV: LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Effectively develop and manage sufficient fiscal and capital resources to implement and sustain the organization's mission.

Objectives:

- a. Build a strong, committed, and fully involved Board of Directors.
- b. Build organizational capacity and staff capable of managing and growing programs and operations – and executing Lime Hollow’s stated mission.
- c. Increase capital and revenue streams in support of Lime Hollow’s mission, operation, and longevity through the following means:
 - Increased financial support provided by individuals
 - Increased support from community, corporate, and granting organizations
 - Increased funding from membership, programs, and gift-store operation
 - Exploration of other revenue streams and development tactics
- d. Build Lime Hollow’s endowment fund in support of programs, operations, and maintenance.
- e. Raise the visibility of Lime Hollow region-wide, in order to continue the growth of its programs, outreach, relevance, and “giving” programs.
- f. Continually seek ways to increase, demonstrate, and promote our relevance to the community (aka: meet real community needs across as much of the community as possible)
- g. Build strategic relationships, coalitions, and alliances on initiatives and issues of benefit to Lime Hollow or the furtherance of Lime Hollow’s mission.

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