

Recreation

Tuller Hill State Forest is popular for hunting, trapping, camping, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. Group and competitive events may be considered during favorable soil conditions with a permit from DEC.

GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

For your safety and the protection of the forest:

- Stay on designated trails.
- Unauthorized cutting of live trees and building of new trails are prohibited.
- Horseback riding and mountain biking are only allowed from May through October to limit trail erosion.
- Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of open water, trails and roads. A camping permit is required for stays longer than three nights and groups larger than 10 people.
- Do not litter. Carry out what you carry in.
- For campfires, use only dead wood that is on the ground. Make sure the fire will not spread. Afterward, pour water on the fire and stir the coals until they are cold to the touch. Fires are not allowed on roads or parking areas.
- All off-road motor vehicle use, including ATVs, is prohibited.
- Paint balls and paintball guns are prohibited.
- Possession or shooting of breakable targets is prohibited.
- No person shall deface, remove, destroy or otherwise injure any plant (including trees), plant-like organisms, moss, rocks, soil, fossil, mineral or object of archeological or paleontological interest found or growing on state land. Contact DEC at 607-753-3095 Ext. 217 for more information about this rule.
- Mountain bikers and hikers should yield to horses.
- Do not put anything in water resources, including dishes.

Multiple-Use Trails

About 19 miles of multiple-use trails are available, about 7 miles on Cortland 9 and about 12 miles on Cortland 10. These trails have circular, color-coded markers. Trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding and mountain biking are designed for beginners and intermediate users. Trails on Cortland 10 are maintained to horse trail standards through an AANR agreement with a horse riding club. Trails on Cortland 9 are maintained to cross-country ski trail standards through an AANR agreement with a concerned individual.

Snowmobile Trails

The five miles of snowmobile trails on the forest are classified as secondary trails. These trails, S-53 and S-55, connect to corridor trail C-5A and are maintained through AANR agreements with snowmobile clubs.

Cross Country Ski Trails

Two short cross-country ski trails (one mile total) are located on Cortland 10 and maintained through a special permit with a tourism business. Horses and mountain bikes are not allowed on these trails at any time. These trails tie into the multiple-use trail system.

Hiking Trails

Five miles of hiking trails are located on Cortland 9. They are all part of the long-distance trail known as the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) and are maintained through an AANR agreement with a trail advocacy group.

The main section of the FLT has white- blaze markers, while destination trails—two trails to Snyder Hill PFAR, one to Pipeline PFAR, and one to Woodchuck Hollow Lean-to and privy—have blue-blaze markers.

Horses and mountain bikes are only allowed on the portions of the Y4 and Y8 trails that are part of the multiple-use trail system. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on hiking trails.



Tuller Hill State Forest

Map and Guide



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



Tuller Hill State Forest (2,440 acres) was established during the 1930s to produce forest products, reduce soil erosion, and provide space for outdoor recreation. Prior to state ownership, most of the property was used for agriculture. Using Civilian Conservation Corps labor, the Conservation Department (predecessor of the Department of Environmental Conservation) planted nearly two-million tree seedlings in two reforestation areas, Cortland 9 and Cortland 10.

DIRECTIONS

Tuller Hill State Forest is in the Town of Virgil, Cortland County, south of the City of Cortland. From the south, take NY Rt. 11 to NY Rt. 392 west to Snyder Hill Road, which runs north and south through the eastern portion of the forest. Alternatively, continue west on NY Rt. 392 past Snyder Hill Road to Clute Road, which runs north and south through the center of the forest. From the north, take NY Rt. 11 to Blodgett Mills Road to Clute Road. Two parking areas are located on Clute Road (see map).

Forest Management

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) professional foresters manage Tuller Hill State Forest guided by the Virgil Mountain Unit Management Plan. Forest management goals include: maintaining healthy and diverse ecosystems, providing recreational and economic benefits, and conducting sound stewardship of the forest.

Ecosystem-based Management Principles

DEC uses ecosystem-based management principles at Tuller Hill. Ecosystem-based management takes into account the affect of management decisions on the entire ecosystem—plants, animals and their habitats—rather than just tree health. It is designed to foster healthy, sustainable

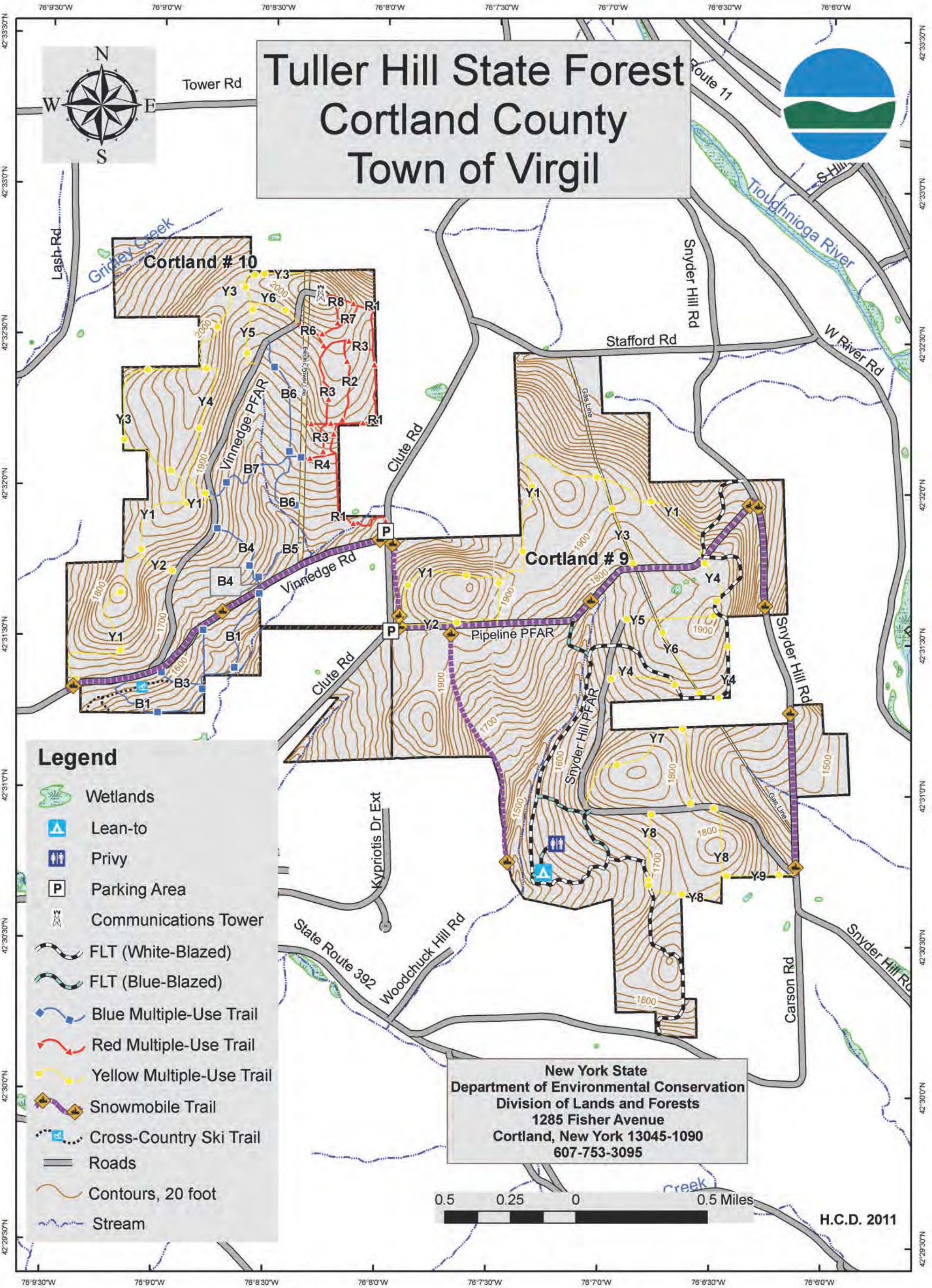


and biologically diverse ecosystems, while optimizing the forest’s many public benefits for current and future generations.

For example, sales of forest products are a tool used by land managers to increase forest health and biological diversity, while protecting soil, water and cultural resources, providing economic benefits, and maintaining public forest access roads (PFARs).

Partnerships and agreements, like Adopt-A- Natural Resource (AANR) agreements and other special permits, are additional tools used in ecosystem-based management. Currently, five AANR agreements at Tuller Hill allow recreational groups to maintain trails in partnership with DEC. Using a special permit, the conservation organization Upper Susquehanna Coalition constructed wetlands on the forest. Wetlands reduce the severity of floods, improve water quality, and increase wildlife and habitat diversity. Many natural wetlands were drained when these lands were cleared for agriculture prior to state ownership.





- Trail conditions vary by season, storm damage and addition of new routes. At various times, maintenance or improvements may be underway and trails may be temporarily blocked or signs may need to be repaired or added.
- Horses and mountain bikes are prohibited on the Finger Lakes Trail except where the Finger Lakes Trail is also a multiple-use trail, which includes sections of Y4 and Y8 on Cortland 9. Horses and mountain bikes are only allowed on multiple-use trails from May through October to reduce trail erosion.
- Please report illegal activities to DEC by calling 833-NYSRANGERS (833-697-7264).
- IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 911.