

DPNR Acquires 53-Acre Lowry Hill Property on St. Croix to Preserve Public Lands and Coastal Access

DPNR says the newly acquired Lowry Hill property includes 53 acres of undeveloped land along St. Croix's southeastern shoreline, with informal trails connecting to the Great Pond watershed and funding supported by NOAA through the Inflation Reduction Act.

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An aerial view of the Lowry Hill property on St. Croix, showing undeveloped green hills, surrounding communities, and the southeastern shoreline now preserved through DPNR's acquisition. By. DPNR.

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources has announced the acquisition of the Lowry Hill property on St. Croix, securing 53 acres of undeveloped land along the island's southeastern

shoreline as part of the government's ongoing effort to preserve public lands and protect the territory's natural heritage.

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol said DPNR acquired the property on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The site is being described as a significant investment in conservation, outdoor access, education, and environmental stewardship.

"Today we celebrate a lasting investment in the Virgin Islands," Commissioner Oriol said. "In partnership with Governor Bryan and his team, we are continuing our commitment to protecting our natural spaces. Our goal is to preserve these lands for future generations of Virgin Islanders to enjoy through outdoor exploration, education, and environmental stewardship."

The acquisition is also being viewed as another step in the mission of the Division of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas to safeguard protected lands across the territory while maintaining public access.

TPPA Director Kristina "Kitty" Edwards, who leads the initiative, said the effort is tied to collaboration, community engagement, and long-term planning.

"As we continue to manage projects through the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Award, we remain mindful of the value of strong partnerships and transparent communication with our community stakeholders," Edwards said. "Our team is committed to developing innovative strategies that keep parks throughout the territory safe, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone."

DPNR said Lowry Hill serves an important ecological function as a natural corridor. The property includes informal trails that connect directly to the Great Pond watershed, supporting local ecosystems while offering visitors access to St. Croix's protected landscapes.

Visitors can expect a quiet, immersive setting with sweeping panoramic views and largely unspoiled surroundings, according to the department.

The acquisition was funded through the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Inflation Reduction Act, which awarded \$69 million to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

DPNR did not state how much the Lowry Hill acquisition cost.

For more information, DPNR said residents may contact TPPA Director Kristina "Kitty" Edwards at kristina.edwards@dpnr.vi.gov.

The press release lists the funding source and the \$69 million award to the territory, but does not provide a purchase price for the property.