



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4611 Tutu Park Mall
Suite 300, 2nd Floor
St. Thomas, VI 00802
(340) 774-3320

45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted
St. Croix, VI 00840
(340) 773-1082
dpnr.vi.gov



Office of the Commissioner

Contact: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator
jamal.nielsen@dpnr.vi.gov

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF LOWRY HILL PROPERTY ON ST. CROIX TO PRESERVE PUBLIC LANDS

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Lowry Hill property on St. Croix on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The newly acquired site encompasses 53 acres of undeveloped land along the island's southeastern shoreline and represents a significant investment in the preservation of the territory's natural heritage.

"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 Division of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas (TPPA) views the acquisition as another meaningful step in its ongoing mission to safeguard protected lands across the territory while ensuring continued public access. TPPA Director Kristina "Kitty" Edwards, who leads the initiative, emphasized the importance of collaboration and thoughtful 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."

In addition to its scenic beauty, Lowry Hill serves an important ecological function as a natural corridor with informal trails that connect directly to the Great Pond watershed. This connection supports local ecosystems while offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience and appreciate St. Croix's protected landscapes. Visitors can expect a quiet, immersive setting with sweeping panoramic views and largely unspoiled surroundings.

The acquisition was made possible through funding provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the Inflation Reduction Act, which awarded \$69 million to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For more information, please contact TPPA Director Kristina "Kitty" Edwards at kristina.edwards@dpnr.vi.gov.