



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR ACQUIRES 293 ACRES AT GREAT POND TO PROTECT ST. CROIX'S SOUTH SHORE

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) is pleased to announce the acquisition of 293 acres of land along the South Shore of St. Croix on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands.

The acquisition includes Remainder Parcel No. 52, Parcel Nos. 53, 55, and 57 of Estate Hartmanns, as well as Remainder Parcel No. 47 and Parcel No. 56 of Estate Great Pond.

Great Pond has long been recognized as an important natural and cultural resource in need of protection and restoration. Preserving the area remains a priority because of its ecological significance and its longstanding cultural importance to the people of St. Croix.

"The acquisition of Great Pond represents a significant investment in the future of St. Croix," Commissioner Oriol said. "By protecting this property, we are preserving an important natural and cultural resource for the benefit and enjoyment of generations to come."

Division of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas (TPPA) Director Kristina "Kitty" Edwards said the acquisition provides an opportunity to honor traditional practices while working with community partners to ensure Great Pond remains a cultural cornerstone of the South Shore.

"Great Pond is a beloved community gathering place that holds special meaning in the hearts of many across the territory," Director Edwards said. "We look forward to developing a plan that will help protect this beautiful cultural gem while keeping it clean, safe, and accessible for years to come."

The acquisition was made possible through funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), awarded in 2024. For additional information, contact TPPA Director Kristina "Kitty" Edwards at kristina.edwards@dpnr.vi.gov.



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