



## TVIL Protected Lands Revealed!

### Part 3 of 4: A Critical Piece of Northwest St. Croix Estate Spring Garden Preserve - St. Croix, USVI

TVIL acquired 10 acres of within Estate Spring Garden in 2014 to protect it from possible development, and to safeguard and highlight its cultural, scenic and ecological values. Land conservation and stewardship in the Spring Garden and surrounding area not only protects the headwaters of the Caledonia Valley, but also acts as a catalyst for further efforts to preserve lands in the Maroon Ridge/Annaly Bay area.

The Spring Garden parcels are located within St. Croix's largest area of contiguous forest, at approximately 6,000-acres. This greater forested northwest region of the island includes the majority of St. Croix's mature dry and subtropical moist forest. Protection of the Spring Garden forests, at the upper reaches of the Caledonia Gut, will prevent erosion and runoff that can impact sensitive downstream marine communities.



Photo 1 – St. Croix north shore from Spring Garden (Maroon Ridge)

Spring Garden is worthy of protection for many reasons, but one of the most important is the cultural history of the struggle to escape slavery. The mountains of the northwest, including Maroon Ridge, offered escaped slaves a place of refuge from slavers. The northwest shore is a landscape which plays a vital role in the remembrance of those struggles.

In the words of Olasee Davis, a 30-year professor at UVI, and well-known local author and ecologist, "Believe me, this land is sacred; it is where runaway slaves paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom."

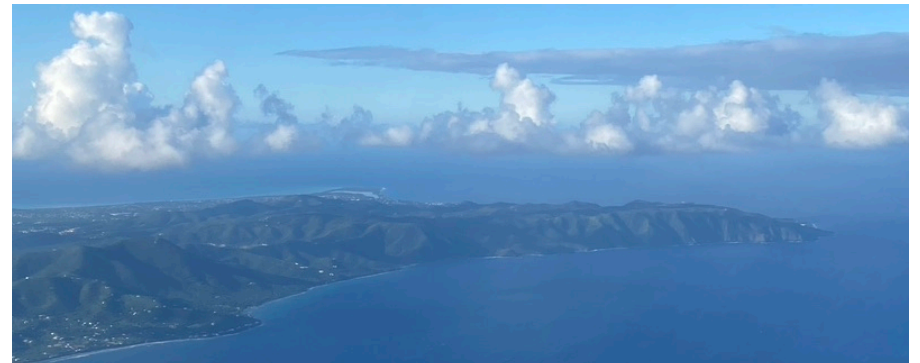


Photo 2 – the rugged Northwest mountains and ridgelines of St. Croix

The Northwest is St. Croix's largest area of mostly undeveloped land and it has high ecological and historical value. Protection of this large swath of dramatic and wild landscape, with its expansive views, wildlife habitat and cultural heritage is one of TVIL's highest ongoing priorities. Please donate to assist the trust in this important work. Every donation, of any size, helps us continue to achieve our mission.

<http://www.virginislandslandtrust.org/>

This property is an open space, wildlife and cultural preserve. There are no access trails. The public can enjoy views of the property from Scenic Road, and views of the protected ridgeline from St. Croix's north shore.