# LIDAR: Illuminating the landscape

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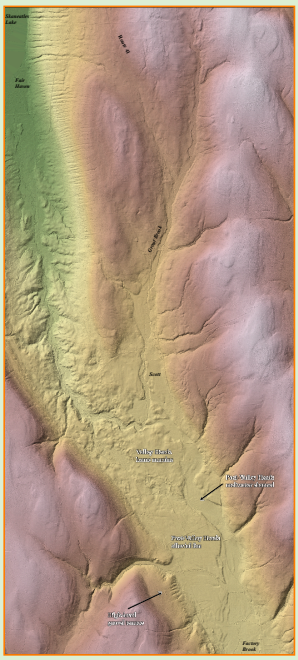
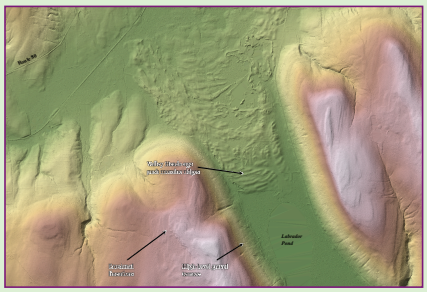
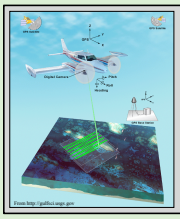


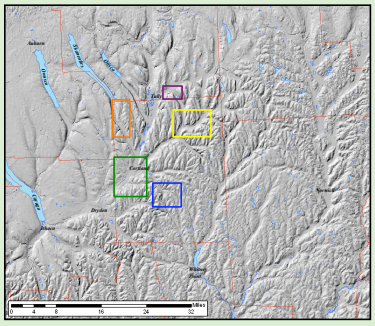


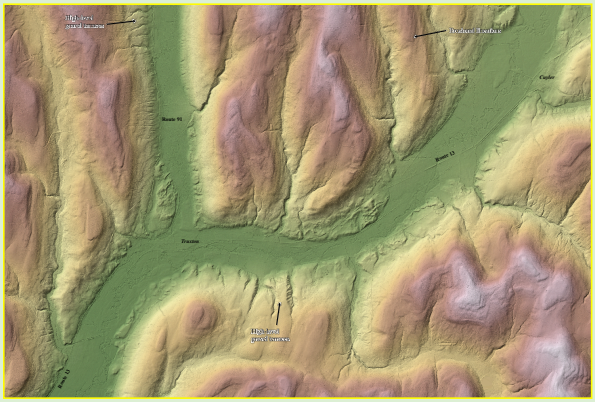


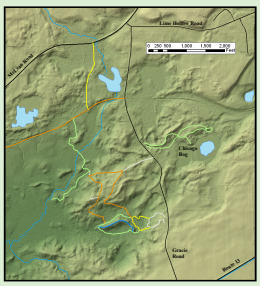
## OVERVIEW

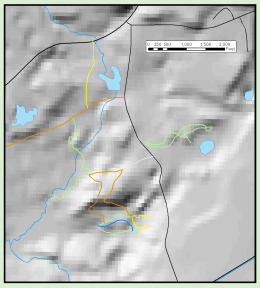
Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR) is a distance-measuring system that can be mounted on an aircraft and used to survey the topography of the land surface in very high detail. A Cortland County data set, collected in May 2005 and obtained for this project from the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, has a vertical accuracy of 0.91 feet and data points spaced ~10 feet apart. This is vastly superior to the more widely available National Elevation Dataset (NED).

LIDAR data are used in this poster to reveal the landscape in and around Cortland County and to identify landforms that developed during and after late Pleistocene glaciation of the area.

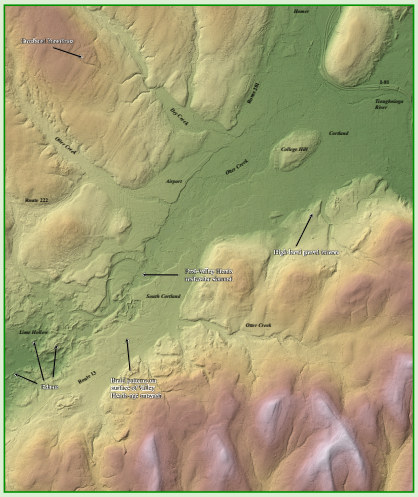


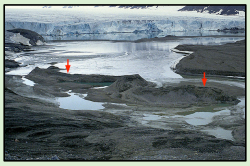




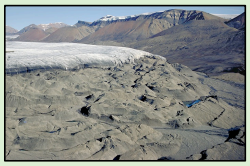


Comparison of LIDAR and National Elevation datasets for Lime Hollow.

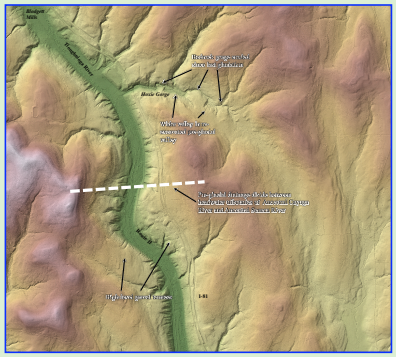


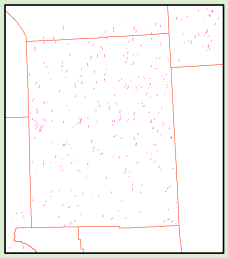


Esker at Comfortlessbreen, Svalbard. Photo by M. Hambrey, 1992.



Push moraine ridges at Thompson Glacier, Arctic Canada. Photo by J. Alean, 1977.





Lineations were eroded on the highest summits of central New York by the Laurentide Ice Sheet at the peak of the last glaciation. These show that ice was generally moving across the region from north-east to south-west.