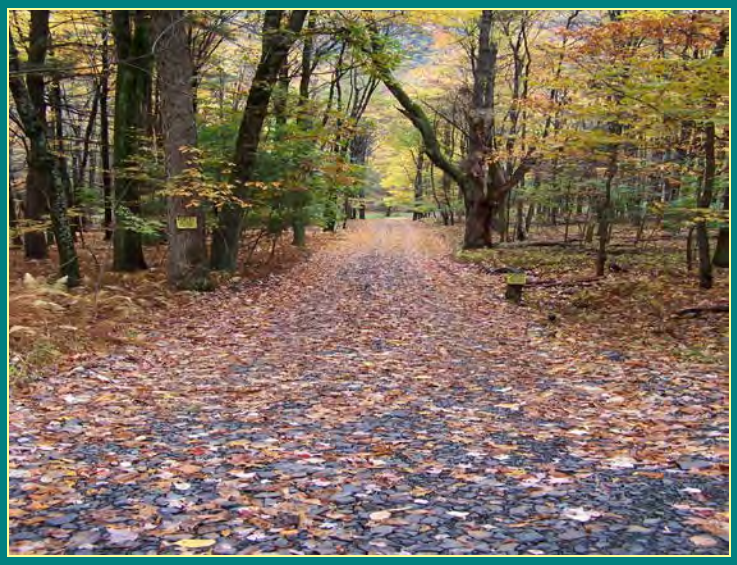
NYS Conservation Partnership Program

Capacity & Excellence



Financial support to build organizational capacity and ensure operational excellence in land trusts.

- **2003 – 2006: $293,850 (52 grants)**

***Mohonk Preserve* – 2006 Highlight**

- **Founded in 1963 – protected 7,000 acres of forest, farmland and Shawangunk Ridge habitat.**

- **$8,750 grant to develop GIS capabilities and create model stewardship program for Shawangunk area land trusts.**

Land Trust Alliance

Conservation Leadership for America's Future

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

Conservation Transaction

Investments to protect and steward open space and important natural areas, with emphasis on priority areas identified in the NYS Open Space Plan.

- **2003 – 2006: $306,650 (53 grants)**
- **7,300 acres protected**

***Finger Lakes Land Trust* – 2006 Highlight**

- **Founded in 1989 – protected 8,100 acres of farmland and open space in Finger Lakes region**
- **$4,750 grant to protect 33-acre Grimes Glen and enable public access to preserve and waterfall.**

Land Trust Alliance

Conservation Leadership for America's Future

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

Conservation Catalyst

Funding to launch regional land protection initiatives leading to conservation of lands prioritized in the NYS Open Space Plan.

- **2005-2006: $165,750 (12 grants)**

***W. New York Land Conservancy* – 2006 Highlight**

- **Founded in 1991 – protected 3,270 acres of prime farmland and open space in eight western New York counties.**

- **$16,800 grant to partner with local governments and launch major initiative to preserve open space and habitat along Niagara Escarpment.**

Land Trust Alliance

Conservation Leadership for America's Future

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

Professional Development

Seed funding to transform volunteer and under-staffed land trusts into strong, effective agents for Community-based conservation.

- **2003 – 2006: $433,750 (13 grants)**

***Winnakee Land Trust* – 2006 Highlight**

- **Founded in 1989 – protected 1,400 acres of farmland and community open space in Hudson Valley.**

- **$30,000, 2-year grant to hire first full-time Executive Director and dramatically accelerate pace of local conservation.**

Land Trust Alliance

Conservation Leadership for America's Future

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

Professional Development

Seed funding to transform volunteer and under-staffed land trusts into strong, effective agents for Community-based conservation.

- **2003 – 2006: $433,750 (13 grants)**

***Genesee Land Trust* – 2006 Highlight**

- **Founded in 1989 – protected 1,200 acres of prime farmland and community open space in Greater Rochester area.**

- **$35,000, 2-year grant to hire its first full-time Land Protection Director and dramatically accelerate pace of local conservation in the region.**

Land Trust Alliance

Conservation Leadership for America's Future

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

Capacity & Excellence Grants

Photo courtesy of Agricultural Stewardship Association

Investments to enhance organizational capacity and operational excellence in New York's land trusts.

- **2007 – $92,560 (13 grants)**
- **2003 – 2006: $293,850 (52 grants)**

Highlight

Agricultural Stewardship Association

Founded in 1990, ASA has protected 7,080 acres of prime agricultural lands, working forest, and riparian habitat in Washington County.

- **$12,000 Capacity & Excellence Grant will help a rapidly growing land trust develop a model stewardship program through updates to baselines, maps, and other records necessary for effective enforcement of its 56 conservation easements.**

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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

Conservation Catalyst Grants

Photo courtesy of Esopus Creek Conservancy

Investments to launch new partnerships and initiatives leading to increased community involvement and landscape-scale conservation, including areas prioritized in the New York State Open Space Plan.

- **2007 – $69,000 (4 grants)**
- **2005-2006: $165,750 (12 grants)**

Highlight

Esopus Creek Conservancy

Founded in 2003, ECC is an all-volunteer land trust that owns and manages a 160-acre public preserve in Saugerties.

- **$14,000 Conservation Catalyst Grant will enable ECC to partner with the Catskill Center for Conservation & Development and local school districts to create a regional community outreach and education program using the Esopus Bend Preserve.**

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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

Conservation Transaction Grants

Photo courtesy of Trust for Public Land

Investments to accelerate the pace of conservation and preserve vital community open spaces, including areas identified in the New York State Open Space Plan.

- **2007 – $150,040 (17 grants)**
  - **2007 open space protected: 2,958 acres**
  - **2003-07 open space protected: 8,800 acres**
- **2003 – 2006: $306,650 (53 grants)**

Highlight

New York City land trusts

Four New York City land trusts operating in Harlem, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx together represent the largest urban land trust network in the United States.

- **$20,300 for Conservation Transaction Grants will enable four neighborhood-based land trusts to officially take ownership of 64 community gardens, as well as the nation's first "pocket park," created in Harlem in 1965.**

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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

Professional Development Grants

Photo courtesy of Genesee Valley Conservancy

Seed funding to transform volunteer and small, under-staffed land trusts into strong, proactive and effective agents for community-based conservation in New York.

- **2007 – $117,000 (3 grants)**
- **2003 – 2006: $433,750 (13 grants)**

<u>Highlight</u>

Genesee Valley Conservancy

Founded in 1990, GVC has protected 8,200 acres of working farmland and community open space in Livingston and southern Monroe counties in rural western New York.

- **Two-year, $42,000 Professional Development Grant will enable GVC to hire first full-time Stewardship Coordinator, improving landowner outreach and ensuring high standard of enforcement on its 54 conservation easements.**

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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

2008 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Photo courtesy of Dutchess Land Conservancy

Investments to enhance organizational capacity, implement best business practices, improve readiness for accreditation, and increase mission effectiveness among New York's land trusts.

- **2008 – $308,350 (28 grants)**
- **2003 – 2007: $369,910 (63 grants)**

Highlight

Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC): **Founded in 1985 to protect threatened open space in Dutchess County, DLC holds 270 conservation easements on more than 25,000 acres of land.**

- **A $14,500 Capacity Grant will allow DLC to develop priority maps that identify and prioritize lands to target for conservation. A $10,000 Stewardship Grant will enable DLC to update baselines on 20 conservation easements, bringing them into compliance with Land Trust Standards & Practices, and helping DLC prepare for accreditation.**

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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

2008 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Photo courtesy of Mohonk Preserve

Investments to launch new partnerships and community initiatives leading to increased public involvement in landscape-scale conservation, including areas prioritized in the New York State Open Space Plan.

- **2008 – $109,500 (7 grants)**
- **2005-2007 – $232,650 (17 grants)**

Highlight

Mohonk Preserve: **Established in 1963, the Mohonk Preserve is New York's largest not-for-profit nature preserve. Located 90 miles from NYC, the Preserve offers public access to 6,500 acres in the Shawangunk Mountains.**

- **A $20,000 Conservation Catalyst Grant will enable Mohonk Preserve to lead an effort with seven local land trusts to craft a conservation vision for Ulster County. Through collaboration, the land trusts will leverage a comprehensive set of regional services to face challenges, increase efficiency, lower the cost of operations, and improve the pace, quality, and effectiveness of their conservation work.**

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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

2008 Conservation Transaction Grants

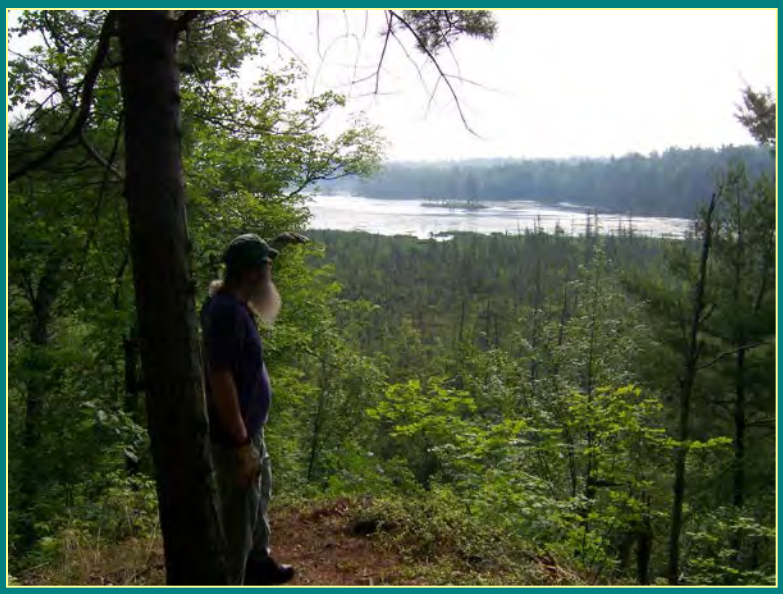

Photo courtesy of Indian River Lakes Conservancy

Investments in specific projects to conserve land and permanently preserve vital community open spaces, including areas identified in the New York State Open Space Plan.

- **2008 – $144,150 (12 grants)**
  - **Land protected: 955 acres**
- **2003 – 2007: $437,690 (65 grants)**
  - **2003-07 land protected: 8,800 acres**

<u>Highlight</u>

Indian River Lakes Conservancy (IRLC): **An all-volunteer land trust founded in 1998, IRLC works to protect important natural areas and increase local access to the Indian River Lakes area of Jefferson County.**

- **A $12,000 Transaction Grant will enable IRLC to complete the fee purchase of 26 acres adjacent to the 1,000-acre Grand Lake Reserve. The land trust plans to partner with local schools and open the expanded preserve for use as a living laboratory for students and families in the community.**

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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

2008 Professional Development Grants

Photo courtesy of Otsego Land Trust

Seed funding to add key staff and transform volunteer and small, local land trusts into professional and effective partners for community-based conservation in New York.

- **2008 – $263,000 (5 grants)**
- **2003 – 2007: $437,690 (65 grants)**

Highlight

Otsego Land Trust: **Established in 1988, Otsego Land Trust is a small but rapidly growing land trust with an ambitious goal--to protect 10,000 acres of prime farmland and critical habitat by 2010. They have currently protected 4,500 acres with 38 conservation easements.**

- **A two-year Professional Development grant will enable the Otsego Land Trust to hire its first full-time Land Protection Specialist. The grant will give this organization the capacity and expertise needed to dramatically increase the pace and quality of land conservation in Otsego County.**

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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

2009 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Photo courtesy of Lake George Land Conservancy

Investments to increase mission effectiveness, build organizational capacity, implement best business practices, and prepare New York's growing land trust community for accreditation.

- **2009 Capacity & Excellence Grants: 34 grants ($440,850)**

Highlight

Founded in 1988, the Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) has helped landowners and New York State protect more than 8 miles of shoreline and over 12,500 acres of open space and wildlife habitat on Lake George and throughout the surrounding watershed.

A $5,000 Assessment Grant will enable LGLC to conduct a comprehensive review of its progress in implementing *Land Trust Standards and Practices*. A $10,000 Stewardship Grant will help LGLC complete surveys on two important conservation properties. These grants will help the Conservancy implement best practices and prepare for accreditation.

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NYS Conservation Partnership Program

2009 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Investments in new partnerships and community initiatives that connect people to nature, increase public involvement in community conservation, and save special places, including areas prioritized in the New York State Open Space Plan.

- **2009 Catalyst Grants: 14 grants ($385,893)**

Photo courtesy of North Shore Land Alliance

Highlight

A $25,000 Catalyst Grant will enable the North Shore Land Alliance (NSLA), Nassau County, and local partners to develop an innovative environmental education and stewardship initiative for the 70-acre Roosevelt Preserve in the Town of Hempstead.

Highlight

A $19,500 Catalyst Grant will enable Orange County Land Trust (OCLT) to create new community gardens in Port Jervis and Middletown, as well as improve the Peoples Garden in Newburgh, enhancing quality of life and public health by increasing the community's access to healthy, locally grown food.

Photo courtesy of Orange County Land Trust

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
NEW YORK STATE

NYS Conservation Partnership Program

2009 Transaction Grants

Photos courtesy of The Trust for Public Land

Investments in high-impact, community-based land conservation projects that will protect important natural resources, improve public access, and conserve areas specifically prioritized in the New York State Open Space Plan.

- **2009 Transaction Grants: 10 grants, 1,012 acres ($130,757)**

Highlight

A $40,000 Transaction Grant to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) for the Milton Riverfront Park project will help TPL develop a management plan that ensures public access and recreation on the 14.5 acre waterfront property. Working with Scenic Hudson and state agency partners, TPL will facilitate the transfer of this property to the Town of Marlborough, providing this Ulster County community with its first and only public access to the Hudson River.

This grant will reconnect the community to its natural heritage and revitalize the Hudson River waterfront, while leveraging nearly $1 million in additional conservation funds from public and private funders.

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NYS Conservation Partnership Program

2009 Professional Development Grants

Photo courtesy of New York Agricultural Land Trust

Seed funding to enable successful and growing local land trusts to hire skilled, professional staff, transforming the organizations' reach, capacity and effectiveness in helping communities save special places across New York.

- **2009 Professional Development Grants: 7 grants ($460,000)**

Highlight

A two-year, $75,000 Professional Development grant will enable the New York Agricultural Land Trust (NYALT) to hire a full-time Director of Farmland Conservation Programs. This grant will create opportunities for NYALT to work with farm families, local governments, and state agency partners to permanently protect New York's prime agricultural lands. Established and led by farmers, NYALT plans to use this expanded capacity to protect 10,000 acres of farmland in the next 3-5 years.

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New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2011 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Investments to increase mission effectiveness, enhance organizational capacity, implement best business practices, and prepare New York's growing land trust community for national accreditation.

- **Summary: 46 grants ($570,250)**

Highlight

Grants totaling approximately $100,000 will support urban land conservation by investing in seven urban land trusts: Brooklyn Queens Land Trust, Bronx & Manhattan Land Trusts, Capital District Community Gardens, Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo, Kingston Land Trust, and the Yonkers Land Conservancy.

Photo: Capital District Community Gardens

Photo: Brooklyn Queens Land Trust

The 2011 Capacity & Excellence grants will enable 40 land trusts to implement national standards, expand outreach and landowner assistance initiatives, improve stewardship and land management programs, and build organizational capacity for long term sustainability.

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New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2011 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Two-year investments in partnerships and new community initiatives that connect people to nature, increase public involvement in community conservation, and save special places, including areas prioritized in the New York State Open Space Plan.

- **Summary: 11 grants ($243,000)**

Photo: North Shore Land Alliance

Highlight

A $24,000 Conservation Catalyst grant will enable the North Shore Land Alliance to gather and partner with key stakeholders to examine land use issues and launch a new initiative that will benefit small farmers, gardeners, and local communities in Nassau County.

Highlight

A $20,000 Conservation Catalyst grant will help Westchester Land Trust develop its innovative Farmers Network Program, an initiative that connects farmers with local landowners, supporting the sustainability of farming and permanent protection of key agricultural lands in Westchester County.

Photo: Westchester Land Trust

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New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2011 Transaction Grants

Investments in community supported, private land conservation projects that will preserve important natural resources, improve public access, and conserve areas specifically prioritized in the New York State Open Space Plan.

- **Summary: 17 grants and 3,491 acres conserved ($282,650)**

Photo: Genesee Land Trust

Highlight

A $35,000 Transaction Grant will help Genesee Land Trust leverage $607,000 in federal funding (USDA Farm & Ranchland Protection Program) to purchase a conservation easement on the 607-acre Alasa Farm, a cherished working farm on Lake Ontario. This is the largest land conservation project in GLT's 21-year history.

Highlight

A $9,000 Transaction Grant will enable Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust to partner with Fort Drum through the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program to acquire agricultural easements on two farm properties, conserving 612 acres in Jefferson County.

Photo: Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

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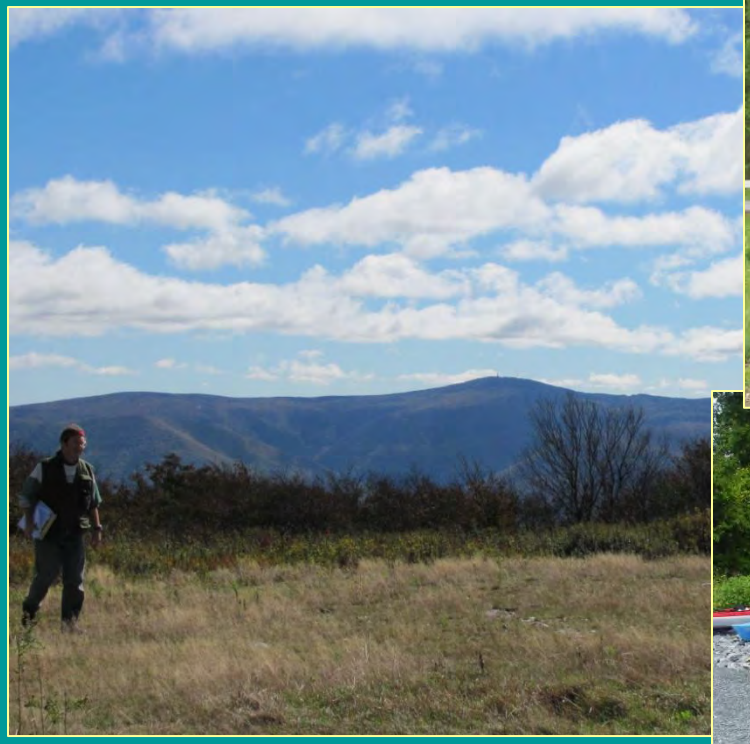
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION • NEW YORK STATE •

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2011 Professional Development Grants

Two-year investments that enable successful and growing local land trusts to hire professional staff, transforming the organizations' reach, capacity and effectiveness in helping communities save special places across New York.

- **Summary: 6 grants ($321,600)**



Photos: Rensselaer Land Trust

Highlight

A two-year, $36,600 Professional Development grant will enable the nationally accredited Rensselaer Land Trust to hire its second staff member, a part-time Development and Communications Coordinator. The grant will significantly increase Rensselaer Land Trust's capacity for fundraising and membership support , expand its watershed education and community outreach programs, and accelerate the pace of private land conservation on and around the Rensselaer Plateau.

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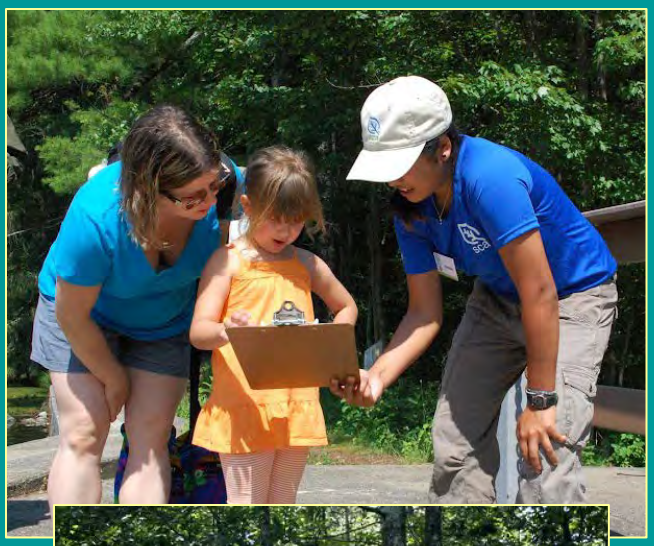
New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2012 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Investments to build strong land trusts, enabling them to implement best practices, prepare for national accreditation, and become more effective community organizers. For 2012, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 43 Capacity & Excellence Grants totaling $646,150.



Photos: Bronx Land Trust, Lake George Land Conservancy, and Wilton Wildlife Park and Preserve

Building the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

This year, the Conservation Partnership Program is partnering with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to help land trusts build program capacity while training our next generation of conservation leaders. Capacity Grants will enable the Bronx & Manhattan Land Trusts, Lake George Land Conservancy, and Wilton Wildlife Park and Preserve to hire seasonal interns to work on community outreach, education, and land stewardship projects.

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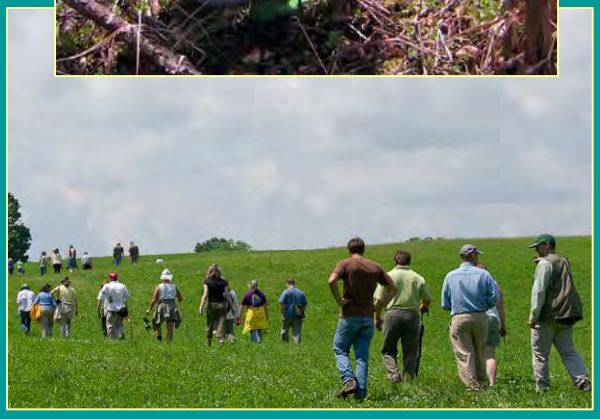
New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2012 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Two-year investments to forge community partnerships and new collaborations that connect people to nature, increase public involvement , and accelerate the pace of strategic land protection, including key areas prioritized in New York State's Open Space Plan. For 2012, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 10 Conservation Catalyst Grants totaling $285,362.



Photos: Finger Lakes Land Trust
and Otsego Land Trust

Conserving Land and Water in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin

Conservation Catalyst Grant's will enable the Otsego Land Trust and Finger Lakes Land Trust to launch a major conservation initiative in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin. In coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York State, and local partners, the land trusts will complete a basin-wide critical areas assessment, educate landowners, and secure permanent protection of significant natural and recreational resources. Recently ranked America's most endangered river, the Susquehanna provides drinking water to six million people on its way to the Chesapeake Bay.

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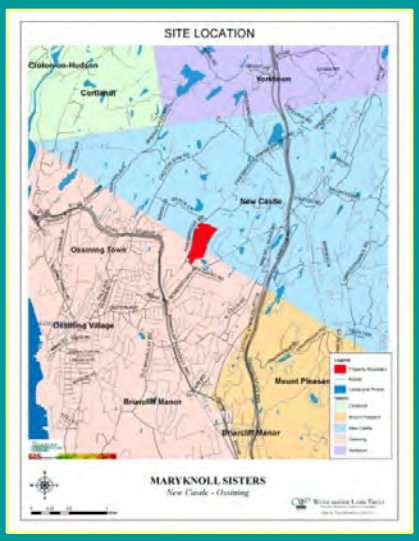
NEW YORK STATE

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2012 Transaction Grants

Investments to help land trusts, landowners and community partners enhance public access and permanently conserve important wildlife habitat, recreation areas, urban open space, and other resources prioritized in New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan. For 2012, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 12 Transaction Grants totaling $165,988, and conserving1,950 acres across the state.



Photos: The Maryknoll Sister and Westchester Land Trust

This project has great meaning for us, because it will preserve land in a densely populated suburban county and it represents our commitment to preserve and care for God's gift, planet earth which is hope to us all."

-Doreen Longres, MM, Maryknoll Sisters

Protecting Sacred Land in Westchester County

A Transaction Grant will enable Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc., a non-profit religious organization, to partner with Westchester Land Trust. This project will result in a 42-acre conservation easement on their historic campus, which borders the Croton-to-Highlands Region Biodiversity Area. It will also advance the Maryknoll Sisters' commitment to environmental stewardship and enhance access for educational purposes. This is the first collaboration between Westchester Land Trust and a local religious institution and is a model for local efforts to protect private lands in the Hudson Valley and around the state.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION • NEW YORK STATE •

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2012 Professional Development Grants

Two-year investments to enable local land trusts to expand programs and increase their effectiveness by hiring professional staff and enhancing services for landowners and the communities they serve. Professional Development grants have proven to be transformative in building local capacity to conserve prime farmland, wildlife habitat, and important recreational areas around the state. For 2012, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 5 Professional Development Grants totaling $320,000.

Photos: Champlain Area Trails

Making Connections in the Champlain Valley

A two-year Professional Development Grant will enable a recently established local land trust to leverage matching funds and create a full time position that will greatly strengthen its community outreach and communications program. Founded in 2009, Champlain Area Trails is dedicated to connecting local communities and visitors to a growing network of trails in the scenic Lake Champlain Valley, a regional priority area for President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative. Champlain Area Trails is a first-time recipient of a Conservation Partnership Program Grant.

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New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2013 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Investments to build strong land trusts, enabling them to implement best practices, prepare for national accreditation, and be more effective community partners. For 2013, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 44 Capacity & Excellence Grants totaling $620,200.

Photos clockwise from left: Mohonk Preserve, Genesee Land Trust, Saratoga PLAN

A Commitment to Service and Excellence

This year the Conservation Partnership Program celebrates a decade of targeted grant funding and technical assistance that has made land trusts in New York a national leader in best practices, increasing the impact and effectiveness of locally supported conservation efforts. Capacity & Excellence Grants in 2013 will support 12 land trusts as they prepare for accreditation or renewal of accreditation over the next two years.

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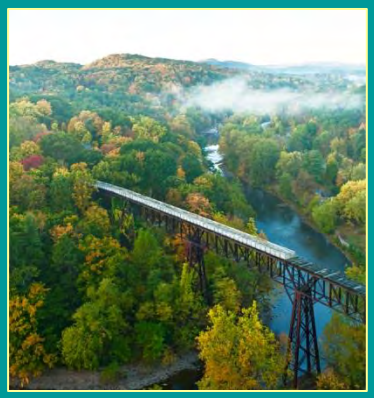
New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2013 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Two-year investments to forge community partnerships and new collaborations that connect people to nature, increase public involvement , and accelerate the pace of strategic land protection, including areas prioritized in New York State's Open Space Plan. For 2013, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 9 Conservation Catalyst Grants totaling $290,500.



Photos clockwise from left : Wallkill Valley Land Trust, Open Space Institute, Scenic Hudson

Building & Connecting Healthy Communities in the Hudson Valley

Conservation Catalyst Grants in 2013 will help the Open Space Institute, Scenic Hudson, Wallkill Valley Land Trust, and local partners to acquire and connect several conservation areas in Ulster County, strengthening the area as a destination for tourism and outdoor recreation. Through collaboration with towns and landowners, these projects will enhance a regional trail network that includes the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, Walkway over the Hudson State Park and other popular trails.

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New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2013 Transaction Grants

Investments to help land trusts, landowners and community partners enhance public access and permanently conserve important wildlife habitat, recreation areas, urban open space, and other resources prioritized in New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan. For 2013, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 19 Transaction Grants totaling $322,800, and conserving 2,902 acres across the state.

Photos left to right:
Fedler Farm conserved by Agricultural Stewardship Association
Triple Creek Farm conserved by Columbia Land Conservancy & Scenic Hudson
Foster Sheep Farm conserved by Saratoga PLAN

Supporting New York's Economy by Protecting Local Farms

Transaction Grants in 2013 will enable Agricultural Stewardship Association, Columbia Land Trust, Dutchess Land Conservancy, and Saratoga PLAN to help farm families permanently preserve 1,400 acres of prime agricultural lands. These land trusts are partnering with local farmers to leverage millions of dollars in federal, state, local and private funds, helping to ensure the future of agriculture in the Hudson Valley and around New York state for generations to come.

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New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2013 Professional Development Grants

Two-year investments to enable local land trusts to expand their programs and increase their impact by hiring professional staff and enhancing services to the communities they serve. Professional Development grants have been transformative in building local capacity to conserve urban green space, prime farmland, wildlife habitat, and popular recreational areas around the state. For 2013, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 3 Professional Development Grants totaling $184,000.

Photos: Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo

Strengthening Community Gardens in Western New York

Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo maintains and sustains more than 70 community gardens on 135 once vacant lots throughout the City of Buffalo. A 2013 Professional Development Grant will enable the organization to hire its second full-time staff member, strengthening its education and garden stewardship program and supporting a proactive approach to protecting cherished community gardens throughout the City of Buffalo. Across the state, urban land trusts are key partners in supporting public health and neighborhood development initiatives.

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New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2014 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Investments to build strong land trusts, enabling them to implement best practices, prepare for national accreditation, and be more effective community partners. For 2014 the Conservation Partnership Program will award 29 Capacity & Excellence Grants totaling $511,000.

Photos courtesy of Dick Gibbs, David Hunt, and Rensselaer Plateau Alliance

Protecting New York's Forest Resources

From clean air and water to wildlife habitat, recreation, and locally sourced wood products, New York's forests are an important economic and environmental asset. This year, the Conservation Partnership Program will award a $25,000 Capacity Grant to the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA) to complete a ten-year strategic plan to increase the pace of conservation in and around the Rensselaer Plateau area, promote the benefits of working forests, and develop a new community forest initiative.

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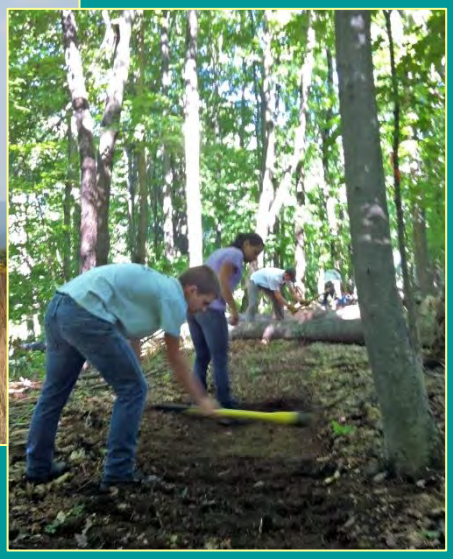
New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2014 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Two-year investments to establish community partnerships and new collaborations that connect people to nature, increase public involvement , and accelerate the pace of strategic land protection, including areas prioritized in New York State's Open Space Plan. For 2014, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 11Conservation Catalyst Grants totaling $322,900.



Photos courtesy of Columbia Land Conservancy

Engaging the Next Generation in Conservation and Stewardship

With a two-year, $45,000 Conservation Catalyst Grant, Columbia Land Conservancy will partner with a successful youth environmental service program to support job training and help educate the next generation of conservation leaders. Working closely with two local Columbia County high school districts, students in this collaborative program will learn trail building and land stewardship skills to prepare them for future employment.

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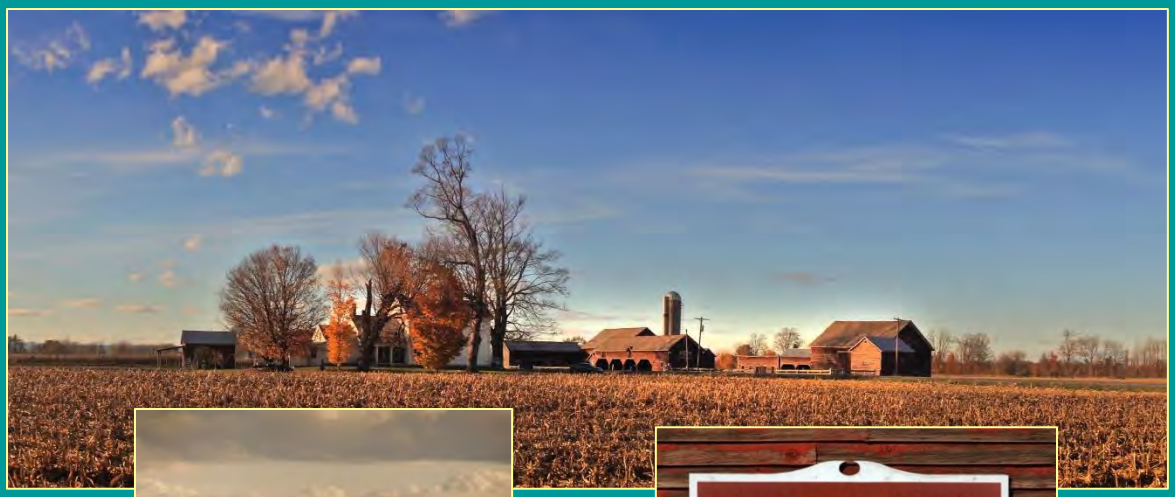
New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2014 Transaction Grants

Investments to help land trusts, landowners and community partners enhance public access and permanently conserve important wildlife habitat, recreation areas, urban open space, and other resources prioritized in New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan. For 2014, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 18 Transaction Grants totaling $308,100, conserving 2,944 acres across the state.



Photos courtesy Lawrence White, Agricultural Stewardship Association

Supporting New York's Economy by Protecting Local Farms

Farming is a key industry in New York state, producing $5.4 billion in agricultural products. This year the Conservation Partnership Program will support protection of one of the state's oldest family-owned farms. A $24,000 Transaction Grant will enable the Agricultural Stewardship Association to purchase a conservation easement on the 159-acre McArthur-Sauert Farm in the Town of Greenwich, Washington County. The farm has been in continuous production since before the Civil War and provides cropland for local dairy operations.

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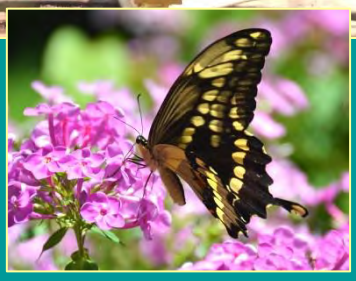
The New NY WORKS for the Environment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION · NEW YORK STATE ·

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2014 Professional Development Grants

Two-year investments to enable local land trusts to expand their programs and increase their impact by hiring professional staff and enhancing services to the communities they serve. Professional Development grants have been transformative in building local capacity to conserve farmland, wildlife habitat, scenic landscapes and popular recreation areas around the state. For 2014, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 4 Professional Development Grants totaling $275,500.



Photos courtesy of Mark King, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy

Building an Accredited Land Trust

Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy has conserved over 2,700 acres in Albany, Schenectady, and Montgomery counties, including 1,100 acres of nature preserves open at no cost for the public to enjoy. A 2014 Professional Development Grant will provide much-needed capacity to this recently accredited land trust. A new full-time program assistant will enable the Conservancy to significantly expand on its conservation portfolio while building its landowner outreach and community programs.

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The New NY WORKS for the Environment

Department of Environmental Conservation · New York State ·

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2015 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Investments to build strong land trusts, enabling them to implement best practices, prepare for national accreditation, and be more effective community partners. For 2015 , the Conservation Partnership Program will award 34 Capacity & Excellence Grants totaling $594,250.

Photos courtesy of Bedford Audubon, Great Swamp Conservancy & Rensselaer Land Trust

Building Support for Conservation through Strategic Communications and Community Outreach

In today's connected world, nonprofit organizations must invest in novel ways to tell their story, communicate impact and strengthen community awareness of their mission.

This year, land trusts will leverage Conservation Partnership Program funding to upgrade websites, develop their social media presence, and offer an array of new and expanded programs to connect directly with the communities they serve. Capacity Grants are also positioning New York's land trust network as a national leader in land trust accreditation and good governance.

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2015 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Two-year investments to establish community partnerships and new collaborations that connect people to nature, increase public involvement, and accelerate the pace of strategic land protection, including areas prioritized in New York State's Open Space Plan. For 2015, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 16 Conservation Catalyst Grants totaling $457,540.

Photos courtesy of Genesee Land Trust & Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo

Investing in Healthy Communities through Urban Partnerships

Conservation Catalyst Grants will enable land trusts working in Buffalo, Rochester and Albany/Troy to collaborate with urban partners and support revitalization through community gardens, multi-use trails and environmental youth service programs.

These and other urban projects supported by the Conservation Partnership Program are at the forefront of the Alliance's national Community Conservation initiative and advance state goals to provide open space and recreational opportunities near where people live.

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2015 Transaction Grants

Investments to help land trusts, landowners and community partners enhance public access and permanently conserve important wildlife habitat, recreation areas, urban open space, and other resources prioritized in New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan. For 2015 the Conservation Partnership Program will award 20 Transaction Grants totaling $378,210, helping to conserve more than 1,850 additional acres across the state.

Photos courtesy of Indian River Lakes Conservancy & North Shore Land Alliance

Enhancing Public Access for Recreation and Tourism

Outdoor recreation, tourism, and other activities that connect people to New York's world class land, water and wildlife resources contribute $59 billion a year to New York's economy.

Transaction Grants will enable Mianus River Gorge, Indian River Lakes Conservancy, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, and other organizations to partner with private landowners as well as state and local agencies in conserving priority lands, improving public access, and enhancing opportunities for hiking, birding, paddling, and other outdoor pursuits that attract visitors and support thousands of local jobs.

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New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2015 Professional Development Grants

Professional Development grants are intended to transform an organization's professional capacity to serve and engage local communities, accelerating conservation of priority lands, enhancing public access, and creating new opportunities for collaboration. For 2015, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 6 Professional Development Grants totaling $370,000.

Photos courtesy of Teatown Lake Reservation

Debemos Proteger El Medio Ambiente :
Expanding Environmental Education in Westchester County

Established in 1971 and covering 1,000 acres, Teatown Lake Reservation serves as a valued community resource, hosting popular environmental education camps, seminars and special events for kids, teens and adults.

A 2015 Professional Development grant will enable Teatown to create a new full time position and hire its first bilingual Science Coordinator and Environmental Educator. The additional capacity will greatly enhance opportunities for Teatown to reach and engage expanding Hispanic and Latino communities in Ossining and throughout Westchester County.

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2016 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Investments to build strong land trusts, enabling them to implement best practices, prepare for national accreditation, and be more effective community partners. For 2016, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 35 Capacity & Excellence Grants totaling $711,800.

Photos courtesy of Thousand Islands Land Trust

Improving Public Access for Outdoor Recreation & Tourism

Across the state, land trusts are using grant funds to enhance public access and provide outdoor recreation and educational opportunities that can engage the entire community.

This year, Conservation Partnership Program Capacity Grants are supporting a variety of initiatives to increase visitation through new trails, public access improvements, and expanded outreach programs. Thousand Islands Land Trust's Zenda Farm project will enable people of all ages and abilities to enjoy this iconic conservation property in Clayton (Jefferson County).

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2016 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Two-year investments to establish community partnerships and new collaborations that connect people to nature, increase public involvement, and accelerate the pace of strategic land protection, including areas prioritized in New York State's Open Space Plan. For 2016, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 10 Conservation Catalyst Grants totaling $323,000.

Photos courtesy of American Farmland Trust and Capital Roots

Food Matters: Next Generation Farmers & Community Gardens

New Yorkers are paying more attention than ever to their food. From conventional dairies and organic farms in the Hudson Valley to quarter-acre community gardens in Albany and Troy, efforts to preserve the land that grows local food takes many forms. This year, grant funding will enable American Farmland Trust and Capital Roots to develop innovative programs to support the next generation of New York farmers and to assess the needs of the Capital Region's regional food system.

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2016 Transaction Grants

Investments to help land trusts, landowners and community partners enhance public access and permanently conserve important wildlife habitat, recreation areas, urban open space, and other resources prioritized in New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan. For 2016, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 21 Transaction Grants totaling $367,200, helping to permanently protect 1,470 acres across the state.

Photos courtesy of Finger Lakes Land Trust & Western New York Land Conservancy

Protecting New York's Precious Water Resources

New York is blessed with world class water resources. Our reservoirs supply drinking water, wildlife habitat thrives in our lakes, wetlands and estuaries, and rivers and streams support an array of recreational opportunities. New York's watersheds also support agriculture and clean power generation, while providing flood control and resilience against the effects of climate change and extreme weather.

This year, a Transaction Grant will help the Finger Lakes Land Trust preserve and create public access to a quarter-mile stretch of rare, undeveloped shoreline along Otisco Lake. Another grant will support Western New York Land Conservancy's new Stella Niagara Preserve on the Niagara River. These projects demonstrate the role land trusts play in protecting water quality and wildlife habitat while expanding opportunities for communities and visitors to explore and enjoy New York's special places.

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2016 Professional Development Grants

Professional Development grants are intended to transform an organization's professional capacity to serve and engage local communities, accelerating conservation of priority lands, enhancing public access, and creating new opportunities for collaboration. For 2016, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 6 Professional Development Grants totaling $398,000.

Photo courtesy of Westchester Land Trust

Building Community Through Stewardship

Founded in 1988, the accredited Westchester Land Trust has protected over 2,000 acres through land acquisition and conservation easements. A regional leader in conservation, the land trust currently owns and manages 29 nature preserves.

Recognizing a critical need to connect more young people and diverse local communities to nature, a Professional Development Grant will enable the land trust to hire a full-time Preserve Manager and Educator. This additional capacity will improve the stewardship and maintenance of conserved properties while enhancing opportunities for recreation, outreach and educational programs targeted toward under-served communities in Westchester County.

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2017 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Investments to build strong land trusts, enabling them to implement best practices, prepare for national accreditation, and be more effective community partners. For 2017, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 33 Capacity & Excellence Grants totaling $627,850.

Photos courtesy of Adirondack Land Trust & the Catskill Center

Strengthening Land Trusts Through Accreditation

The accreditation seal, awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, is a mark of distinction for organizations that demonstrate organizational excellence, sound transactions and lasting stewardship of the lands they conserve. Accreditation helps a land trust to say: "Invest in us. You can trust us to conserve your land forever."

The Conservation Partnership Program is positioning New York as a national leader with 30+ accredited land trusts now operating from Long Island to Erie County. This year, Capacity & Excellence Grants will enable the Adirondack Land Trust, Catskill Center, and Peconic Land Trust to prepare for first-time accreditation in 2018. Nationally, accredited land trusts have conserved 19 million acres of land for the benefit of current and future generations.

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2017 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Investments to enable innovation, community partnerships and new collaborations that connect more people to nature, increase public involvement, and accelerate the pace of strategic land protection, including resources prioritized in New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan. For 2017, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 8 Conservation Catalyst Grants totaling $266,000.

Photos courtesy of Western New York Land Conservancy

Protecting Water Resources, Enhancing Resiliency

With the recent launch of a national Land Trust Climate Initiative, the Alliance is stepping up to help land trusts plan and prepare for climate change, including an increase in extreme weather events. Protecting the functional integrity of rivers, streams, wetlands and coastal estuaries yields important benefits: cleaner water, habitat for wildlife, as well as greater resilience of local communities and critical infrastructure.

This year, Conservation Catalyst Grants will support new initiatives led by the Western New York Land Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy to engage communities, identify regional strategies to reduce vulnerability to flooding, protect ecological resilience, and support collaborative watershed protection initiatives.

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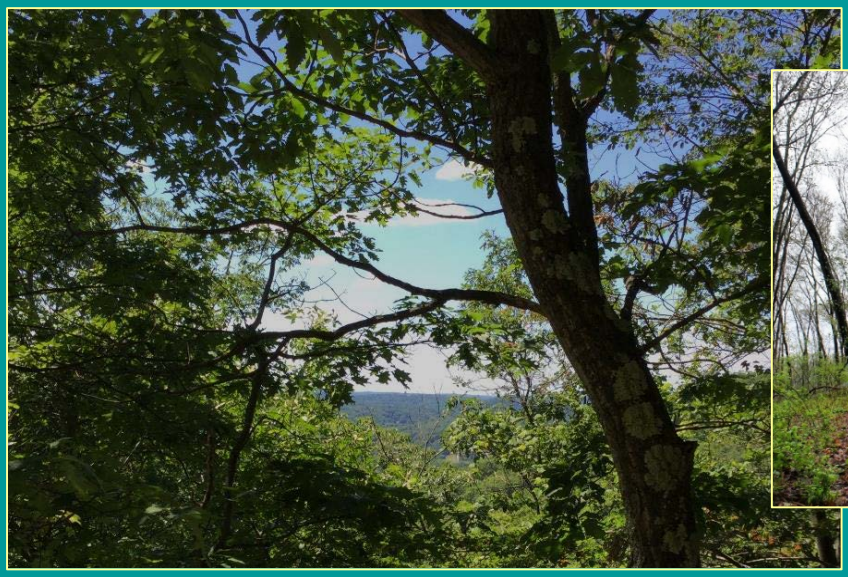
NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2017 Transaction Grants

Investments to assist landowners, communities and land trusts to partner on projects that preserve wildlife habitat, recreation areas, community gardens, and other resources prioritized in New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan. For 2017, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 21 Transaction Grants totaling $402,150, resulting in enhanced public access, miles of new trails and permanent protection of 2,757 acres across the state.



Photos courtesy of Hudson Highlands Land Trust & Putnam County Land Trust

Building Public Access for Recreation and Tourism

Outdoor recreation is essential to New York's economy. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, every year New Yorkers and visitors spend $33 billion on outdoor recreation — on gear, vehicles, trips, travel-related expenses and activities such as hiking, birding, hunting, fishing, mountain biking , and skiing. This sustains 300,000+ jobs, supports local communities, and generates billions in tax revenues.

This year, Conservation Partnership Program funding will support Hudson Highlands Land Trust's Granite Mountain project, which involves acquisition of a high-priority forest parcel (388 acres). Once completed, new public access improvements will enable Putnam Valley residents and visitors to the Hudson Highlands area to explore and enjoy this outstanding parcel.

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2017 Professional Development Grants

Professional Development grants are intended to transform an organization's professional capacity to serve and engage local communities, accelerating conservation of priority lands, enhancing public access, and creating new opportunities for collaboration. For 2017, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 7 Professional Development Grants totaling $504,000.

Photos courtesy of Finger Lakes Land Trust, Grassroots Gardens of WNY & Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy

Investing In Community Through Effective Stewardship

Permanent land conservation ensures that resources important to community well-being are available tomorrow and for generations to come. For New York's 85+ land trusts, this means a long term investment in managing and caring for over 2 million acres of land that they have conserved.

Durable stewardship, whether of community gardens or large natural areas, requires creative strategies and adequate organizational capacity. This year, Conservation Partnership Program funding will enable the Finger Lakes Land Trust, Grassroots Gardens of WNY, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy and Wallkill Valley Land Trust to advance their mission by building professional capacity for land and easement stewardship, landowner outreach and related services.

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2018 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Investments to strengthen land trusts by improving the rigor of their programs and operations. For 2018, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 18 Capacity & Excellence Grants totaling $455,300 to enable New York land trusts to implement best practices, prepare for accreditation, and deliver improved services to landowners and local communities.

Photos courtesy of Grassroots Gardens WNY & Great Swamp Conservancy

Strengthening Land Trusts Through Accreditation

Accreditation is a mark of distinction that demonstrates land trust excellence, sound transactions and lasting stewardship of the lands they conserve. The seal of accreditation helps a land trust to say: “Invest in us. You can trust us to conserve your land forever.”

New York is a national leader with over 30 accredited land trusts operating from Long Island to Erie County. This year, Capacity & Excellence Grants will support Grassroots Gardens of WNY and Great Swamp Conservancy as these organizations prepare for accreditation in 2020.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2018 Professional Development Grants

Investments to increase the resiliency of land trusts by building their professional staff capacity. Professional Development Grants grow a land trust's team to better engage communities, conserve more land, and expand local opportunities for collaboration. For 2018, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 5 Professional Development Grants totaling $432,000.

Photos courtesy of Thousand Islands Land

Job Creation in the North Country

From the eastern shores of Lake Ontario to Lake Champlain, the North Country spans parts of seven counties and is home to the Adirondack Park and Fort Drum. The region features proud rural communities and intact natural landscapes.

This year, Professional Development grants will enable four growing North Country land trusts - Adirondack Land Trust, Indian River Lakes Conservancy, Thousand Islands Land Trust & Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust - to hire new staff, building conservation and stewardship programs and deepening their community connections.

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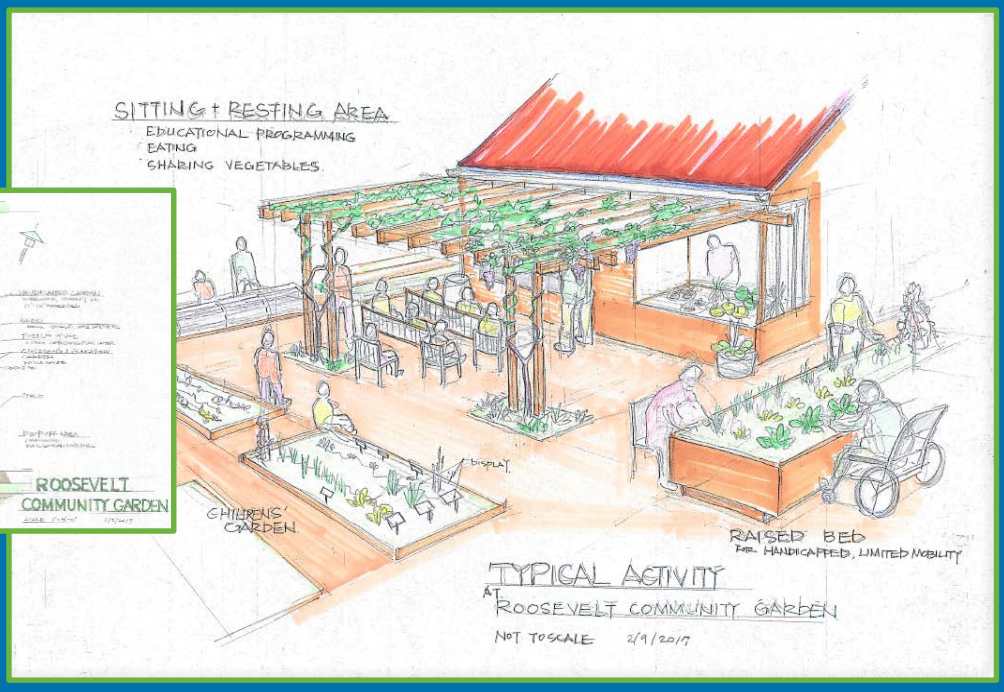
NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program 2018 Catalyst Grants

Investments in initiatives to support innovative partnerships, new technologies and collaborative strategies to make conservation more impactful and relevant to all New Yorkers. For 2018, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 14 Conservation Catalyst Grants totaling $583,500.



Photos courtesy of North Shore Land Alliance

Creating Access to Fresh, Healthy Food

To combat "food desserts" in areas with limited or no access to fresh local food, land trusts across the country are finding ways to support community gardens.

This year, a Conservation Catalyst Grant will enable the North Shore Land Alliance to expand its presence in Nassau County by transforming a vacant property into a new community garden center. The Roosevelt Garden Community Garden project will be a place for residents to learn about and grow healthy food while creating opportunities for people to gather and enjoy the outdoors.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2018 Stewardship & Resource Management Grants

Investments to improve public access and enable rigorous stewardship and management of conserved lands with the goal of protecting water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, and supporting climate resilience. For 2018, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 18 Stewardship & Resource Management Grants totaling $494,643.

Photo courtesy of Columbia Land Conservancy

Investing in Community Through Effective Stewardship

New York's land trust community is committed to a high standard of stewardship and cares for over 2 million acres of protected land across the state. The new Stewardship & Resource Management Grant is creating opportunities to strengthen this important work.

This year, a Stewardship & Resource Management Grant will enable the Columbia Land Conservancy to make improvements to its most popular public conservation area, investing in upgrades that will improve safety and public access, as well as an enhanced visitor experience.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2018 Transaction Grants

Investments to increase the rate and quality of land conservation in New York by protecting wildlife habitat, recreation areas, community gardens and other resources identified in the state Open Space Conservation Plan. For 2018, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 15 Transaction Grants totaling $329,200 resulting in enhanced public access, miles of new trails and permanent conservation of 2,203 acres.

Photo courtesy of Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy

Preserving Farmland and Promoting Climate Resilience

Through the Land Trust Alliance's Land and Climate Program, land trusts are stepping up efforts to incorporate climate science into their programs. Strategic conservation can play a key role in preserving natural areas that are more likely to be resilient as climate change occurs.

This year, a Transaction Grant will support the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy in conserving the 540-acre Triumpho Farm. This project advances climate resilience by helping the Conservancy add to a regional corridor of conserved lands from the southern Adirondacks to the Capital Region and Catskill Mountains.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2019 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Grants to increase the impact and sustainability of non-profit conservation organizations in New York State by developing land trust programs and building organizational capacity to implement *Land Trust Standards and Practices*.

Photo courtesy of Saratoga P.L.A.N.

Featured Project: New Technology for Expanding Horizons

Our modern world demands that individuals and organizations keep up with ever changing technology in order to stay connected and reach optimal productivity. For land trusts, technology is essential for connecting with and engaging stakeholders and for increasing organizational capacity to protect and steward conserved lands. A $27,800 Capacity & Excellence Grant will enable Saratoga P.L.A.N. to complete a comprehensive technology upgrade, including improvements to their constituent database, office systems, and stewardship systems – allowing them to be more efficient and effective in implementing their mission and goals.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2019 Professional Development Grants

Grants to create or expand permanent staff position(s) that will professionalize and strengthen land trust programs and services.

Photos courtesy of Western New York Land Conservancy

Featured Project: Expanding Farmland Protection Capacity in Western NY

From development pressure and climate change to rising land costs and decreasing product values, farmland and farming as a livelihood has never been more at risk in New York and across the country. A $100,000 Professional Development Grant will enable Western New York Land Conservancy to increase their capacity to protect and steward agricultural lands and work with current and next generation farmers to ensure that New York's farming economy continues to grow and thrive. In the past five years, the Conservancy has protected four farms totaling 562 acres. By adding a full-time Farmland Protection Specialist, they have set a goal to double this – adding at least 10 new farms and 1,000 acres over the next five years.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2019 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Grants to support collaborative projects that catalyze new partnerships and community-supported conservation, stewardship and outreach initiatives.

Photo courtesy of Columbia Land Conservancy

Featured Project: Community Science as a Catalyst for Conservation

Building the next generation of conservationists will be critical to the survival of the land trust movement and the health of our communities. A $40,000 Catalyst Grant will enable Columbia Land Conservancy to partner with the Hudson City School District to provide students an opportunity to learn through hands on experiences at the Conservancy's Greenport Conservation Area. Over the next 2+ years, students will work to track annual bird migration, identify invasive plants, monitor monarch butterflies, document bird nesting success, and understand how salamanders adapt to climate change.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2019 Stewardship & Resource Management Grants

Grants for land trusts making substantial capital investments in public access improvements and on the ground stewardship of conserved properties.

Photo courtesy of Woodstock Land Conservancy

Featured Project: Sloan Gorge Preserve Trail Improvements

Located at the base of Overlook Mountain, the Sloan Gorge Preserve is one of the Woodstock Land Conservancy's most popular fee-owned properties. Opened to the public in 2007, Sloan Gorge gives residents and visitors an opportunity to learn about the area's unique geology. Stops along the trail include a glimpse of a former bluestone quarry, a historic bridge, cliffs and gorges. A $28,000 Stewardship and Resource Management Grant will enable Woodstock Land Conservancy to make needed trail improvements to ensure visitor safety and to accommodate increased usage.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2019 Transaction Grants

Grants for new conservation easement and fee-acquisition projects that result in the strategic, permanent protection of environmentally significant lands in New York.

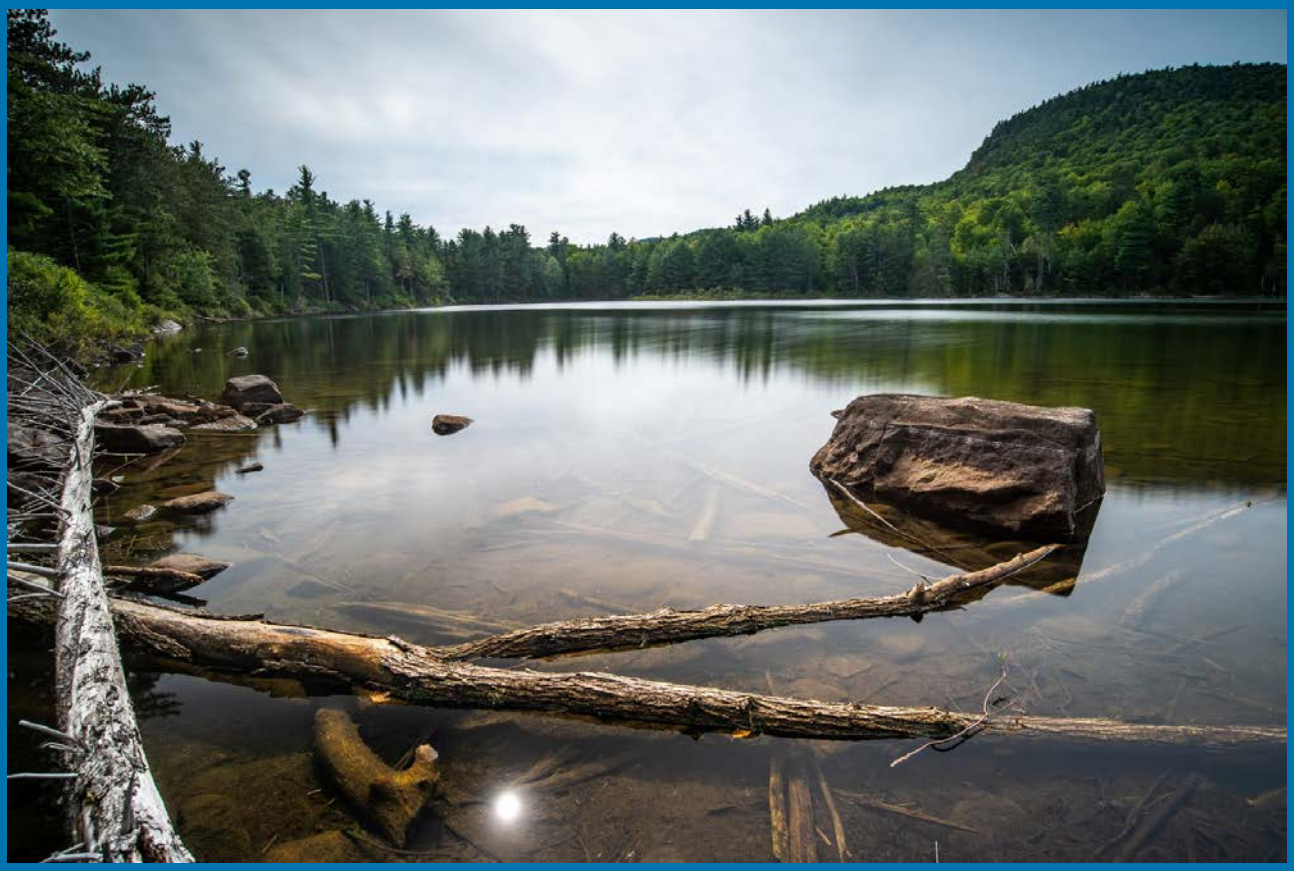

Photo Credit, Brendan Wiltse for Northeast Wilderness Trust

Featured Project: Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve

This year, a $40,000 Transaction Grant will enable Northeast Wilderness Trust (NEWT) to permanently protect the proposed 2,434-acre Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve in the eastern Adirondacks. The property is home to a range of species including bears, moose and Peregrine Falcons and features spectacular views, a mature hardwood/conifer forest, 3.5 miles of brooks and 155 acres of wetlands. Once conserved, NEWT will partner with Champlain Area Trails to build minimally invasive footpaths and trails, inviting the public to enjoy the preserve while safeguarding its natural resources.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2020 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Grants to increase the impact and sustainability of non-profit conservation organizations in New York State by developing land trust programs and building organizational capacity to implement *Land Trust Standards and Practices*.

Photo credit Brendan Wiltse for Champlain Area Trails

Featured Project: Website Development and Digital Media Enhancement

Champlain Area Trails works to provide the public with opportunities to recreate and enjoy the beauty of the Champlain Valley. To date, the land trust has developed and maintains over 40 miles of hiking and cross-country skiing trails.

A $28,500 Capacity & Excellence Grant will help CATS build capacity to reach a wider audience with a re-designed website that will feature photos and videos of the Champlain Valley's breathtaking views and an interactive map that will allow the public to easily locate conserved lands and recreational trails.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2020 Professional Development Grants

Grants to create or expand permanent staff position(s) that will professionalize and strengthen land trust programs and services.

Photos courtesy of Otsego Land Trust

Featured Project: Strengthening Land Management and Capacity for the Future

In the last two years, Otsego Land Trust has more than doubled the acreage of their public lands. In 2011, as part of a merger with The Cook Foundation, the land trust took over the stewardship of Brookwood Point, a 22-acre property that features historic gardens, lake access for kayaking and is a popular place for community events.

A $48,000 Professional Development Grant will enable Otsego Land Trust to add needed capacity to manage and stewards their public lands, including Brookwood Point, by hiring a part-time Manager of Public Lands.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2020 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Grants to support collaborative projects that catalyze new partnerships and community-supported conservation, stewardship and outreach initiatives.

Photo courtesy of Scenic Hudson Land Trust

Featured Project: Bringing a Regional Vision to Life

For the last two decades, members of the all-volunteer advocacy organization, the Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance, have envisioned the creation of a greenway that would connect the City of Newburgh with the Hudson riverfront and give residents access to state and local conserved lands outside the City.

A $60,000 Conservation Catalyst Grant will enable Scenic Hudson, the newest member of the Watershed Alliance, to conduct a feasibility study to identify a trail route, access points, and make recommendations for transforming this former industrial corridor into a thriving recreational trail.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2020 Stewardship & Resource Management Grants

Grants for land trusts making substantial capital investments in public access improvements and on the ground stewardship of conserved properties.

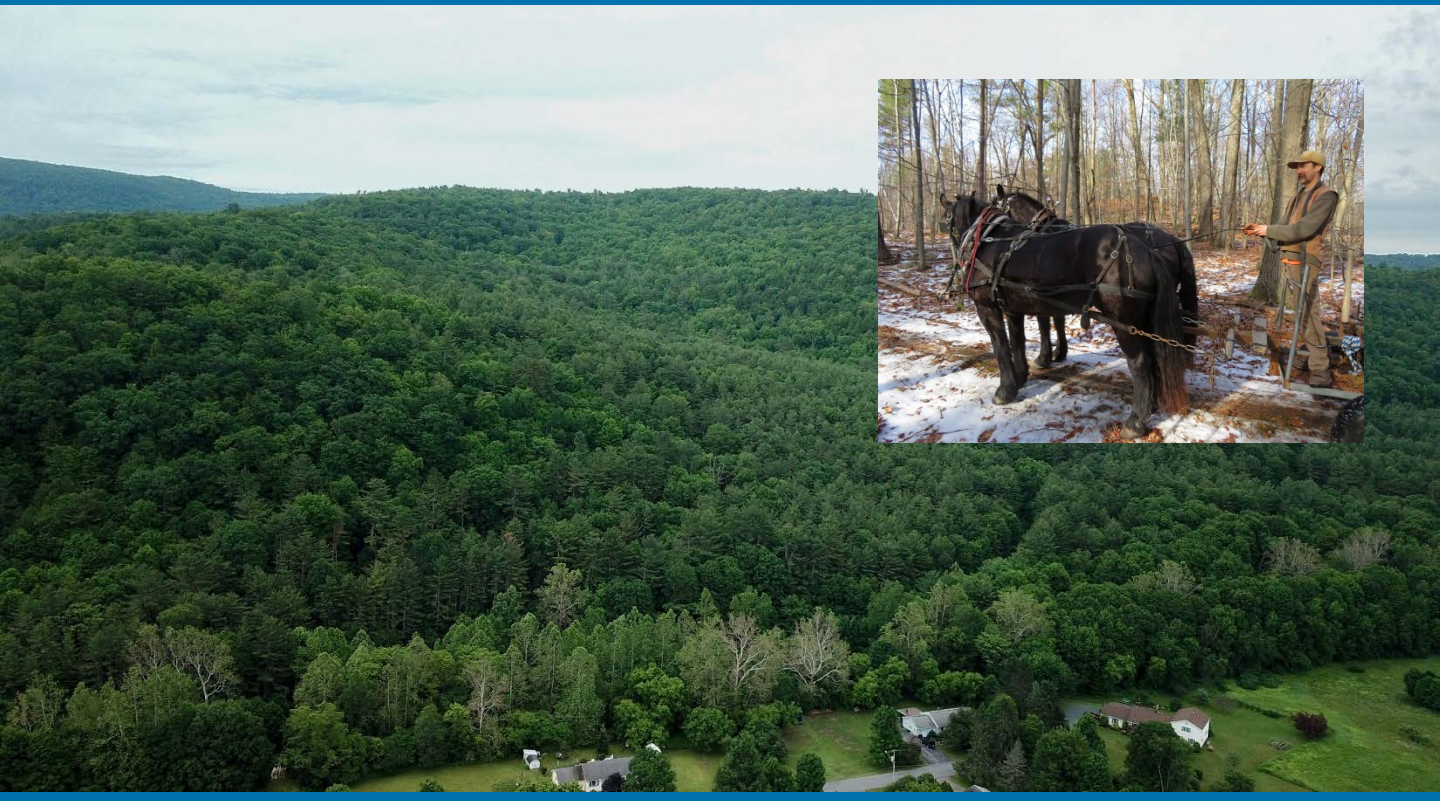

Photo courtesy of Agricultural Stewardship Association

Featured Project: Cambridge Community Forest

Founded in 1990, the Agricultural Stewardship Association has conserved more than 22,000 acres (134 properties) of working farms and forest in Washington and Rensselaer counties with conservation easements. In 2019, the land trust purchased its first fee-owned property, a 140-acre woodland parcel in the Town of Cambridge.

A $50,000 Stewardship & Resource Management Grant will enable the land trust to make public access improvements, including the installation of a bridge, and open it up for hiking, biking, fishing and other recreational and educational opportunities.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2020 Transaction Grants

Grants for new conservation easement and fee-acquisition projects that result in the strategic, permanent protection of environmentally significant lands in New York.

Photo courtesy of Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

Featured Project: Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park Access Improvement

Nearly 30% of Chautauqua County is water and portions of the watershed empty all the way to the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy's mission is to help safeguard the health and beauty of the County's waterways through land protection and public education.

A $40,000 Transaction Grant will enable the land trust to conserve a 77-acre property and establish the Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park by adding public access improvements including trails, signs and a parking area. The parcel also contains 26 acres of wetlands which help filter runoff from surrounding farms and highways, purifying the water as it enters the rest of the watershed system.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2022 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Provide funding to help land trusts build and sustain organizational capacity and programming through the implementation of *Land Trust Standards and Practices.*

Photo courtesy of Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust

Engaging the Community in Education, Restoration and Preservation

Since 2012, the Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust has enhanced and preserved important shoreline properties along Western New York's waterways, with a focus on the environmental remediation of potentially contaminated waterfront lands. A $30,000 Capacity and Excellence Grant will enable the land trust to launch a community-based planning process for the restoration and preservation of the Houghton Park Conservation Area, a waterfront greenspace on the Buffalo River.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2022 Professional Development Grants

Provide funding for land trusts looking to professionalize and strengthen programs and services by adding permanent staff.

Photo courtesy of Mianus River Gorge

Featured Project: Mianus River Gorge Preserve Steward

Established in 1953, Mianus River Gorge protects and manages over 1,100 acres of land in the Mianus River Watershed, providing habitat for wildlife and opportunities for visitors to connect with nature. An $80,000 Professional Development Grant will allow Mianus River Gorge to add a full-time Preserve Manager, providing them with greater capacity to control and remove invasive species, conduct trail maintenance, monitor forest pests, and execute research and education programs at the preserve.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2022 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Provide funding to support collaborative projects that catalyze new partnerships and community-supported conservation, stewardship and outreach initiatives.

Photo courtesy of Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Featured Project: Implementation of Seagrass Management Recommendations Around Fishers Island

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum protects Fishers Island's natural resources and serves as an institution of learning about the Island's history. In 2017, the Museum formed a coalition to protect the Island's seagrass meadows, a marine habitat that provides essential ecosystem services including the sequestration of carbon. A $35,000 Conservation Catalyst Grant will enable the Coalition to focus on community education, outreach and monitoring to achieve voluntary compliance with recommendations from their seagrass management plan.

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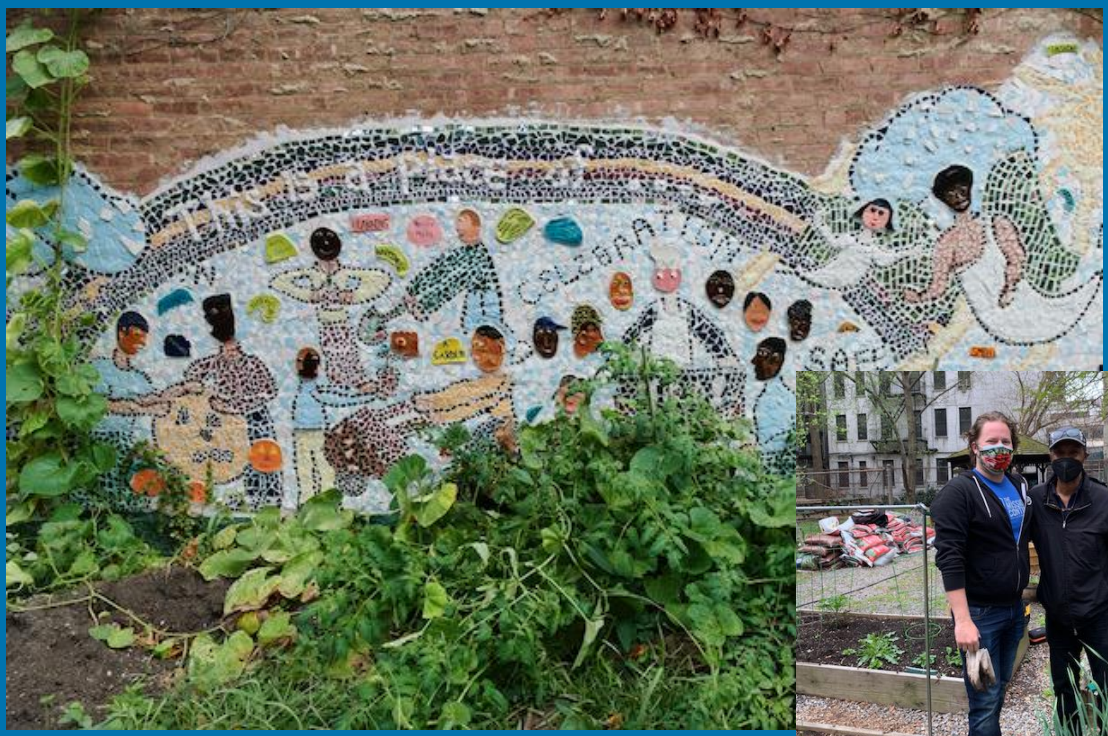
NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program 2022 Stewardship & Resource Management Grants

Provide funding for land trusts to make substantial capital investments in public access improvements and on the ground stewardship of conserved properties.



Photos courtesy of Bronx and Manhattan Land Trusts

Featured Projects: Creating Safe Spaces with Manhattan Land Trust and Improving Public Access and Infrastructure with Bronx Land Trust

For nearly 50 years, Green Guerillas has helped turn vacant lots in New York City into community gardens. These gardens provide New Yorkers with a place to gather, learn, grow food, and connect back to the land. With a total of $45,802 in Stewardship and Resource Management Grants, Green Guerillas will be able to improve the accessibility and safety of community gardens at the Manhattan and Bronx Land Trusts, allowing the gardens to continue to grow and thrive.

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NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Conservation Partnership Program
2022 Transaction Grants

Provide funding for new conservation easement and fee-acquisition projects that result in the strategic, permanent protection of environmentally significant lands.

Photo courtesy of Finger Lakes Land Trust

Featured Project: Skaneateles Highlands Protection Project

The Finger Lakes Land Trust protects the waters, lands, and wildlife of the Finger Lakes region and manages over 45 nature preserves that are open to the public.

A $32,000 Transaction Grant will enable the land trust to conserve 103 acres that will link two preserves surrounding Skaneateles Lake and secure a conservation corridor that stretches over 2 miles. The acquisition of this land furthers efforts to create a greenbelt around Skaneateles Lake and protects the source of unfiltered drinking water for the city of Syracuse.

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