



2024 New York State Conservation Partnership Program
Detailed Project Summaries



Capacity & Excellence Grants			
Organization	Project Location	Project Summary	Grant Award
*Denotes Accredited Land Trusts			
Cazenovia Preservation Foundation*	Cazenovia, Madison County	Chittenango Creek Corridor Feasibility Study - Grant will support Cazenovia Preservation Foundations efforts to address gaps in trail connectivity by completing a study on how best to build an interconnected network of 18-miles of trail along the Chittenango Creek corridor.	\$45,000
Dutchess Land Conservancy*	Millbrook, Dutchess County	Building Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion - Grant will help Dutchess Land Conservancy continue their journey to becoming a more representative and welcoming resource in their community and beyond by working with a DEIJ trainer and consultant group.	\$50,000
Genesee Land Trust*	Rochester, Monroe County	Updating Systems for Greater Impact - Grant will enable Genesee Land Trust to upgrade outdated and inefficient technological systems in order to increase the pace of conservation, raise awareness for their work and engage more deeply with the communities they serve.	\$30,000
Grassroots Gardens WNY*	Buffalo, Erie County	Strengthening Sustainability through Volunteer Engagement and Education - Grant will enable Grassroots Gardens WNY to develop and launch a volunteer program aimed at increasing community engagement in the land trust's work and expanding the human and financial resources needed to sustain operations.	\$50,000
Green Guerillas	Manhattan, New York County	Developing Leadership and Strengthening the Manhattan Land Trust - Grant will enable Green Guerillas to work with the Manhattan Land Trust to improve the land trusts leadership skills through a training program focused on strategic recruitment, board responsibilities and communication.	\$12,000
Green Guerillas	Bronx, Bronx County	Strategic and Financial Planning at the Bronx Land Trust - Grant will enable Green Guerillas to work with The Bronx Land Trust on strategic planning, financial planning and leveraging the revenue generated from the sale of air rights to guide the Trust's future growth and sustainability.	\$33,500
Greene Land Trust*	Catskill, Greene County	New Strategic Plan for Greene Land Trust - Grant will support Greene Land Trust's work to update an expiring strategic plan as well as revise their vision, mission, goals and annual implementation plan.	\$10,000
HL Ferguson Museum	Fishers Island, Suffolk County	Developing Necessary Foundation - Grant will enable HL Ferguson Museum to develop the management plans, current conditions reports and annual monitoring programs needed to improve their strategic conservation efforts and to begin working towards accreditation.	\$30,000
HL Ferguson Museum	Fishers Island, Suffolk County	Planning for the Future through Strategic Planning - Grant will help build the capacity of the HL Ferguson Museum by supporting the development of a strategic plan, including the essential elements of strategic goals, activities to meet those goals and associated personnel and funding plans.	\$15,000
Hudson Highlands Land Trust*	Garrison, Putnam County	Building Connections and Support - Grant will enable Hudson Highlands Land Trust to implement a new communications plan, introduce a new strategic plan, mission statement and logo to build deeper connections with existing supporters, cultivate relationships with new audiences and expand development success.	\$50,000



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Capacity & Excellence Grants (continued)

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Hudson Highlands Land Trust*	Philipstown, Putnam County	Getting to Know Our Wild Neighbors - Grant will enable Hudson Highlands Land Trust to conduct a crucial biological inventory to inform the management and restoration of over 850 acres in the New York Highlands – a wild, scenic, and highly accessible region in New York’s Hudson Valley.	\$50,000
Indian River Lakes Conservancy*	Redwood, Jefferson County	For the Love of the Lakes - Grant will enable Indian River Lakes Conservancy to engage lakes communities through a survey to determine their needs, and through ensuing discussions, create new ideas and opportunities for advancing land and water quality conservation in the Indian River Lakes region.	\$43,848
Lake George Land Conservancy*	Bolton Landing, Warren County	Streamlining Land Conservation through Technological Infrastructure - Grant will enable the Lake George Land Conservancy to streamline the efficiency of its land and donor stewardship through technology solutions that will extend the impact of personnel to ensure continued adherence to Standards & Practices and accreditation requirements.	\$27,600
Mohonk Preserve*	Gardiner, Ulster County	Increasing Ranger Rescue Program Capacity - Grant will support Mohonk Preserve's significant expansion of their Mountain Rescue Program through equipment upgrades, specialized rescue and medical training and a public awareness campaign promoting climber safety and conservation.	\$47,000
Pound Ridge Land Conservancy*	Pound Ridge, Westchester County	Strengthening Communications, Outreach, and Board Engagement - Grant will enable Pound Ridge Land Conservancy to bring on a consultant to help the land trust improve communications, outreach, and engagement with their local community.	\$30,000
Saratoga PLAN*	Stillwater, Saratoga County	Community Engagement on the Future of Snake Hill - Grant will support a public engagement process to determine the future of Snake Hill, an iconic 30-acre property located on Saratoga Lake, that has become Saratoga PLAN’s newest fee-owned property.	\$50,000
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust*	Watertown, Jefferson County	Fund Development and Engagement Plan - Grant will enable Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust to work with a consultant to create a new fund development and engagement plan prior to hiring a full-time fundraising staff person in 2025.	\$41,440
Westchester Land Trust*	Bedford Hills, Westchester County	Improving Accessibility & Inclusion Pilot Program - Grant will enable Westchester Land Trust to continue their efforts to provide more inclusive public access to nature by providing funding to research current accessibility requirements and create a system for assessing and communicating trail accessibility so all users can make informed decisions about visiting their preserves.	\$14,468
Western New York Land Conservancy*	East Aurora, Erie County	Centering Equity in the Foundation of the Western New York Land Conservancy - Grant will enable Western New York Land Conservancy to systematically review their policies through an equity lens, ensuring that equity is consistently embedded in their work, as well as strengthen their Equity Committee and continue internal learning.	\$32,000
Winnakee Land Trust*	Rhinebeck, Dutchess County	Land Conservation Database - Grant will enable Winnakee Land Trust to upgrade their land conservation database to better assist staff with data storage, monitoring and reporting.	\$3,900
		TOTAL	\$665,756



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Conservation Catalyst Grants			
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Open Space Institute*	New York, New York County	Optimizing New York State Forest Carbon through Land Protection - Grant will enable the Open Space Institute to work with land trusts across New York to better understand their critical role in implementing NY's Climate Action Plan by building awareness and knowledge.	\$82,000
Pitney Meadows Community Farm	Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County	Explore to Learn at Pitney Meadows Community Farm - Grant will enable Pitney Meadows Community Farm to partner with Ndakinna Education Center and Cornell Cooperative Extension to deliver a conservation engagement program designed to provide hands-on education in natural habitats, Indigenous lifeways and agricultural stewardship.	\$85,240
Teatown Lake Reservation	Ossining, Westchester County	Municipal Climate Action Plan Program - Grant will enable Teatown Lake Reservation to implement a Municipal Climate Action Plan Program to teach local municipal leaders best practices and state-of-the-art solutions for addressing environmental issues and accelerating climate mitigation and adaptation efforts in their communities.	\$46,980
The Nature Conservancy*	Keene Valley, Essex County	Co-Developing a Cultural Provisioning Network to Increase Indigenous Access to Ancestral Lands - Grant will enable The Nature Conservancy and partners to develop a Cultural Provisioning Network to facilitate Indigenous access to lands TNC owns and manages, providing a model for lands trusts and private landowners to build bridges between Indigenous Nations and communities in their ancestral lands.	\$82,000
The Nature Conservancy*	Rochester, Monroe County	Lake Ontario Regional Sediment Transport and Equitable Shoreline Management - Grant will support the implementation of a landowner and stakeholder outreach project to identify what drives decision-making and evaluate conservation methodologies to find equitable strategies to reduce shoreline hardening and increase shoreline resilience.	\$50,000
Wallkill Valley Land Trust*	New Paltz, Ulster County	Development of a Land Management Plan for the Nyquist-Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary - Grant will enable the Wallkill Valley Land Trust to engage key stakeholders and specialists in a process to establish a phased land management plan that will highlight the protection of important habitats while providing thoughtful public access for the Nyquist-Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary.	\$40,000
		TOTAL	\$386,220



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Professional Development Grants			
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Brooklyn Queens Land Trust	Brooklyn, Kings County	Adding a Part-Time Executive Director - Grant will enable Brooklyn Queens Land Trust to hire a part-time Executive Director to assume oversight of the day-to-day operations of the land trust and to lead the implementation of the organizations mission and strategic vision.	\$100,000
Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust*	Buffalo, Erie County	Building Capacity and Leadership - Grant will enable Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust to hire a full-time Executive Director to lead this unique and fast growing organization as it embarks on the next phase of stewardship and long-term sustainability.	\$100,000
Central New York Land Trust*	Manlius, Onondaga County	Developing Pathways Toward Sustainability - Grant will enable Central New York Land Trust to hire a full-time Development Manager to work with the staff and board to create and implement a multi-pronged development strategy to ensure continued growth and positive trajectory for the organization.	\$100,000
Genesee Land Trust*	Rochester, Monroe County	Land Protection Specialist - Grant will enable Genesee Land Trust to hire a full-time Land Protection Specialist to support a more proactive approach to protecting high priority conservation lands through both fee-simple and conservation easement transactions.	\$100,000
Grassland Bird Trust	Schuylerville, Washington County	Advancing the Conservation of Critical Grassland Bird Habitat - Grant will enable Grassland Bird Trust to hire a full-time Stewardship & Outreach Manager to take over the stewardship of the land trusts conserved lands and to work with the board to increase communications and programming that will help garner more interest in protecting grassland bird habitat.	\$100,000
Huyck Preserve and Biological Resource Station*	Rensselaerville, Albany County	Hiring a Seasonal Ranger to Expand Preserve Interpretation and Stewardship - Grant will enable the Huyck Preserve to create a permanent, Seasonal Ranger position to serve as an important point of contact with the community, promoting responsible recreation and enhancing understanding and stewardship of Preserve resources.	\$56,475
Mianus River Gorge*	Bedford, Westchester County	Director of Development - Grant will enable Mianus River Gorge to hire a full-time Director of Development to enhance the capacity of the organization by adding a skilled fundraiser for donor cultivation, expansion of major gifts and planned giving.	\$100,000
Thousand Islands Land Trust*	Clayton, Jefferson County	Establishing a Conservation Lands Manager Position - Grant will enable the Thousand Islands Land Trust to hire a full-time Conservation Lands Manager to provide much-needed stewardship capacity by assisting with easement monitoring and enforcement while also taking on the land trusts many land restoration and mitigation programs.	\$90,000
TOTAL			\$746,475



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Stewardship & Resource Management Grants

Organization <small>*Denotes Accredited Land Trusts</small>	Project Location	Project Summary	Grant Award
Adirondack Land Trust*	Harrietstown, Franklin County	Accessible Adirondack Trail Infrastructure at Glenview Preserve - Grant will enable Adirondack Land Trust to add parking for a new network of accessible trails that wind through a variety of habitats and provide a wildland experience for people of all mobilities.	\$100,000
Columbia Land Conservancy*	Chatham, Columbia County	Pilot Habitat Management Projects Designed to Inspire and Engage - Grant will enable Columbia Land Conservancy to pilot several management practices that will showcase stewardship practices that enhance forest habitat, improve water quality, manage invasive species and restore resilient habitat for rare and endangered species.	\$80,000
Finger Lakes Land Trust*	Dryden, Tompkins County	Providing Enhanced Accessibility at the Roy H. Park Preserve - Grant will enable Finger Lakes Land Trust to make improvements to their Roy H. Park Preserve in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act to allow for accessibility by wheelchair users.	\$100,000
Lewisboro Land Trust	Goldens Bridge, Westchester County	Hidden Pond Restoration - Grant will support Lewisboro Land Trusts efforts to restore biodiversity to Hidden Pond through habitat restoration which will support insects, birds and other wildlife while improving the user experience and fostering community engagement in stewardship.	\$18,000
Mianus River Gorge*	Bedford, Westchester County	Restoring the “Gateway to the Gorge” - Grant will enable Mianus River Gorge to restore the health of a woodland habitat, re-introduce native wildflower species that were historically present and convert an unused loop trail into a self-guided interpretive trail to enhance a visitor’s experience.	\$23,593
Mohonk Preserve*	New Paltz, Ulster County	Brook Farm Conservation Center Site Preparation - Grant will enable Mohonk Preserve to rehabilitate a historic farm located in a scenic landscape and trail network to become their Center for Conservation Programs.	\$100,000
North Shore Land Alliance*	Oyster Bay, Nassau County	Composting, Education and Native Plant Communities on Suburban Long Island - Grant will enable North Shore Land Alliance to launch a compost program and implement four planting projects to educate Long Islanders about how they can reduce waste while also improving wildlife habitat.	\$19,700
North Shore Land Alliance*	Cold Spring Harbor, Suffolk County	Wawapek Native Plant Education Center - Grant will support North Shore Land Alliance's efforts to create a native plant education center in the historic greenhouse complex and caretaker's cottage at their Wawapek Preserve in Cold Spring Harbor.	\$73,680
Northeastern Cave Conservancy	Knox, Albany County	Knox Access Trail - Grant will enable the Northeastern Cave Conservancy to work with a professional trail crew and volunteers to create safer cave access by removing and replacing deteriorated stairs at the cave entrance.	\$10,000
OBI Land Trust	Brownville, Jefferson County	Discover Downybrook Phase Three: Wayfinding and Mapping - Grant will enable OBI Land Trust to engage professional engineering services to prepare and install new trail maps, markers and trailhead signage.	\$12,550



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Stewardship & Resource Management Grants (continued)

Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	Project Location	Project Summary	Grant Award
Otsego Land Trust*	Cooperstown, Otsego County	Brookwood Point North Side Access and Improvement Project - Grant will support Otsego Land Trusts work to provide additional recreational opportunities at their flagship public property on Otsego Lake with a new accessible trail on the north side of the property, an accessible paddling launch and a storage area for boats.	\$100,000
Pound Ridge Land Conservancy*	Locust Valley, Nassau County	Grant will enable Pound Ridge Land Conservancy to improve visitor safety by removing hazardous trees along trails, around kiosks and in other frequently used areas in our preserves.	\$68,000
Westchester Land Trust*	Lattingtown, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County	Grant will enable Westchester Land Trust to improve parking at their flagship preserve which is currently insufficiently designed to accommodate the community's need for access, especially with increased visitor ship post- pandemic.	\$29,500
Winnakee Land Trust*	Newcomb, Essex County	Grant will allow Winnakee Land Trust to create a public access point including a driveway, parking area, fencing, signs and a kiosk at the their newly acquired 222-acre preserve which will be used for recreation, education and conservation programs.	\$33,600
Woodstock Land Conservancy*	Riverhead, Suffolk County	Grant will support Woodstock Land Conservancy's efforts to prep a new 32-acre preserve for public access by adding a parking area, trail and interpretive signs.	\$62,770
		TOTAL	\$831,393



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Transaction Grants			
Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	Project Location	Project Summary	Grant Award
Agricultural Stewardship Association*	Argyle, Washington County	Argyle Community Forest - Grant will assist the Agricultural Stewardship Association with transaction costs related to the acquisition of the organizations second community forest, an 80-acre wooded property located in a town that currently lacks any publicly accessible lands for hiking and wildlife watching.	\$30,016
Agricultural Stewardship Association*	White Creek, Washington County	Healy-Briggs Farm - Grant will help the Agricultural Stewardship Association cover a portion of the transaction costs associated with the donated conservation easement on 151-acres the landowner wants to keep available for future farmers and which is currently being leased to a local dairy farm.	\$15,153
Agricultural Stewardship Association*	Salem, Washington County	Sky Parlor Farm - Grant will help the Agricultural Stewardship Association cover a portion of the transaction costs associated with the donated conservation easement on a 480-acre, multi-generational family farm.	\$5,419
Ducks Unlimited*	Savannah, Wayne County	Advancing the Montezuma Wetlands Complex Partnership Transactions - Grant will assist Ducks Unlimited with transactional costs related to the permanent protection of 4 high priority parcels (358-acres) within the Montezuma Wetlands Complex.	\$52,558
Dutchess Land Conservancy*	Red Hook, Dutchess County	Cookingham Conservation Easements - Grant will support the permanent protection of the 169-acre Cookingham Farm through an innovative buy-protect-sell transaction done in collaboration with the Town of Red Hook, Scenic Hudson Land Trust and the Dutchess Land Conservancy.	\$11,106
Indian River Lakes Conservancy*	Macomb, St. Lawrence County	Ferrone Woods Preserve - Grant will reimburse the Indian River Lakes Conservancy for transaction costs associated with the newly acquired 100-acre Ferrone Woods property and provide resources for the land trust to complete a baseline study and management plan.	\$11,178
Indian River Lakes Conservancy*	Theresa, Jefferson County	Red Lake Preserve - Grant will reimburse the Indian River Lakes Conservancy for transactional costs associated with the newly acquired 113-acre Red Lake Preserve property and support the development of the Red Lake Preserve management plan.	\$9,200
Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy*	Guilderland, Albany County	Expanding the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor - Grant will provide support for transactional costs associated with the acquisition of 225-acres of land adjacent to Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's Bozen Kill Preserve, within the larger Bozen Kill Corridor, creating nearly 700 connected acres dedicated to wildlife, water quality and public access.	\$28,385
Northeast Wilderness Trust*	Moriah, Essex County	Moriah Wilderness Preserve - Grant will assist Northeast Wilderness Trust with transactional costs related to the acquisition of the Moriah Wilderness Preserve, a 1,775-acre property which will enhance habitat connections between the Champlain Valley and the interior of the Adirondack Park.	\$75,000
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance*	Grafton, Rensselaer County	Boehme Legacy Forest - Grant will enable Rensselaer Plateau Alliance to install infrastructure that will allow visitors to enjoy the recently acquired 106-acre Boehme Legacy Forest and reach the spectacular views from the summit of Bunker Hill.	\$75,000



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Transaction Grants (continued)			
Organization <small>*Denotes Accredited Land Trusts</small>	Project Location	Project Summary	Grant Award
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance*	Grafton, Rensselaer County	David M. Hunt Preserve - Grant will enable Rensselaer Plateau Alliance to install a parking area and trails in anticipation of opening the 206-acre David M. Hunt Preserve, which features unique rock formations and old growth trees to the public.	\$22,367
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance*	Grafton, Rensselaer County	Raven's Retreat - Grant will reimburse the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance for costs associated with the recent acquisition of the 91-acre Raven's Retreat, a likely future connector between the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center and Grafton Lakes State Park.	\$8,881
The Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York	West Seneca, Erie County	Protecting Three Sanctuaries for Rare Species in Western New York - Grant will enable The Nature Sanctuary Society to complete the acquisition of two new preserves and expand one current preserve, a total of 62-acres, for the protection of rare species and habitats in Western New York.	\$7,929
Thousand Islands Land Trust*	Alexandria Bay, Jefferson County	Crooked Creek Preserve Headwaters Conservation Initiative - Grant will reimburse the Thousand Islands Land Trust for transaction costs associated with the recent fee-simple purchase of 224-acres at the headwaters of its Crooked Creek Preserve.	\$43,385
Westchester Land Trust*	Patterson, Putnam County	Little Pond Preserve - Grant will support Westchester Land Trusts efforts to de-develop and restore 174-acres within a federally and state recognized conservation corridor before transferring the property to New York State.	\$49,579
TOTAL			\$445,156

Summary of 2024 Conservation Partnership Program Grant Awards		
Grant Category	Grant Funding	# of Grants
Capacity & Excellence Grants	\$665,756	20
Conservation Catalyst Grants	\$386,220	6
Professional Development Grants	\$746,475	8
Stewardship & Resource Management Grants	\$831,393	15
Transaction Grants [4,314 acres]	\$445,156	15
TOTAL	\$3,075,000	64