



Forest Conservation Easements for Land Trusts 2024 Grant Awards

Genesee Valley Conservancy, Livingston County: \$199,950 to purchase a 129-acre conservation easement on property located within the Finger Lakes Plateau Forest Legacy Area and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative area. The new easement will provide a buffer to the nearby Hemlock-Canadice State Forest and Hemlock Lake, a primary water supply for the City of Rochester and the Towns of Livonia, Henrietta, and Rush. The area contains forests that are diverse in species composition, age, and structure, and support bird species of Special Concern including the golden-winged warbler and American woodcock.

Dutchess Land Conservancy, Dutchess County: \$350,000 to purchase a 260-acre conservation easement on property located within the Taconic Ridge/Harlem Valley, which was identified in the NYS Open Space Plan as a priority for protection. The property, comprised of upland conifer and hardwood forests, will add to more than 1,100 contiguous acres of adjacent protected land and provide important habitat for the threatened timber rattlesnake and endangered Indiana bat.

Cazenovia Preservation Foundation, Inc, Madison County: \$350,000 to purchase a 467-acre conservation easement on forested land adjacent to the State's Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area. The property was identified as a conservation target in the organizations recent Strategic Land Conservation Plan and will be conserved for sustainable forestry, recreational hunting, and habitat protection. The large size of this easement ensures substantive climate resilient forest characteristics and habitat connectivity benefits for future generations.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Herkimer County: \$139,250 to purchase a 190-acre conservation easement on land adjacent to the Hinckley State Forest and included in the West Canada Creek area, which was identified by the land trust as a priority conservation area. In an area increasingly threatened by sand and gravel mining impacts, the conservation easement will promote sustainable forestry, help mitigate the impacts of climate change, preserve the area's biodiversity, and protect important habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species.



Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Oswego County: \$222,550 to purchase a 268-acre conservation easement on property located adjacent to the Stave Mill State Forest. The forest is dominated by northern hardwood species and contains areas of old growth forest designated as “Important Habitat Area Significant Natural Communities” by the Town of Boylston. The property includes areas along Pine Creek recognized by the New York State Natural Heritage Program as containing a significantly rare, largely undisturbed hemlock-hardwood swamp, which is also designated as a Special Area by the Town of Boylston under the Special Areas and Tug Hill Reserve Act.