



2025 New York State Conservation Partnership Program
Detailed Project Summaries



| Capacity & Excellence Grants | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------|
| Organization <small>*Denotes Accredited Land Trusts</small> | Project Location | Project Summary | Grant Award |
| Beaverkill Valley Land Trust | Lew Beach, Sullivan County | Beaverkill Valley Land Trust Systems Improvement Program - Grant will enable Beaverkill Valley Land Trust to update and upgrade its systems and remedy issues with old conservation easement paperwork in preparation for accreditation. | \$20,000 |
| Chenango Greenway Conservancy | Norwich, Chenango County | Strategic Planning and Building Organizational Capacity - Grant will enable Chenango Greenway Conservancy to update their strategic plan with a focus on identifying strategies for growing the organization, building a sustainable revenue sources and implementation of Land Trust Standards and Practices in preparation for pursuing accreditation. | \$18,750 |
| Genesee Land Trust* | Greece, Monroe County | Island Cottage Woods Site Design Improvements - Grant will enable Genesee Land Trust to work with a landscape architecture firm to design a more accessible, interactive and resilient trail system at Island Cottage Woods Preserve. | \$50,000 |
| Grassland Bird Trust | Schuylerville, Saratoga County | Building Deeper Expertise on Grassland Birds and Their Habitat - Grant will enable Grassland Bird Trust to deepen their staff, board and volunteers understanding of grassland birds and the important role the Washington County Grassland habitat plays in preventing their extirpation in the Northeast. | \$24,460 |
| Green Guerillas | Manhattan, New York County | Rebuilding Momentum: Strengthening Fundraising Capacity for the Manhattan Land Trust - Grant will enable Green Guerillas to support the Manhattan Land Trust by engaging a grant writer, a fundraising consultant and a board trainer to help rebuild fundraising capacity. Activities include grant proposal development, donor outreach campaigns and a board training session on fundraising. | \$7,600 |
| Green Guerillas | The Bronx, Bronx County | Strengthening the Roots: Building Sustainable Fundraising Capacity for the Bronx Land Trust - Grant will enable Green Guerillas to fortify the Bronx Land Trust's financial sustainability and empower its board to lead effective fundraising efforts. The initiative will enhance the land trusts capacity to secure diverse funding streams. | \$7,200 |
| HL Ferguson Museum | Fishers Island, Suffolk County | Building on Goals and Strategies: A Plan to Establish Scientific Pathways for Fishers Island - Grant will enable the HL Ferguson Museum use their newly developed conservation management strategies and land trust goals to develop realistic, executable pathways for scientific research partnerships on Fishers Island. | \$35,300 |
| Hudson Highlands Land Trust* | Philipstown/ Putnam Valley, Putnam County | Getting to Know Our Winged Neighbors: Inventorying Breeding Birds in the Hudson Highlands - HHLT will continue to develop a comprehensive baseline of important natural communities, rare & indicator species across its preserves in Putnam County by partnering with the NY Natural Heritage Program on breeding bird population surveys. | \$50,000 |



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| Capacity & Excellence Grants (continued) | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Organization <small>*Denotes Accredited Land Trusts</small> | Project Location | Project Summary | Grant Award |
| Mohonk Preserve* | Gardiner, Ulster County | Sitewide Asset Improvement Plan: Phase 1 - Grant will enable Mohonk Preserve to develop a management improvement plan with schedules and estimates for repairs and upgrades for a list of 30 prioritized structures. The project is phase 1 of a broader effort to develop plans for all Preserve facilities. | \$48,000 |
| North Shore Land Alliance* | Huntington, Suffolk County | Using the Lessons of the Monarch to Engage a Community in Habitat Protection - Grant will enable North Shore Land Alliance to build a butterfly house for the monarch butterfly and use it as a tool to engage and educate community members in an effort to help secure a future for the species on Long Island. | \$23,500 |
| Pound Ridge Land Conservancy* | Pound Ridge, Westchester County | Surveying and Boundary Marking - Grant will enable Pound Ridge Land Conservancy to hire a surveyor to update boundaries at target preserves (staking, flagging, locating pins) to address ongoing encroachment concerns. | \$50,000 |
| Pound Ridge Land Conservancy* | Pound Ridge, Westchester County | Board Development and Executive Leadership Evaluation - Grant will enable Pound Ridge Land Conservancy to work with a consultant to evaluate the land trusts personnel needs, in particular the possibility of adding executive staff and develop board and staff structure, expectations, succession and recruiting processes. | \$2,000 |
| Ramapo Munsee Land Alliance | Stony Point, Rockland County | Capacity for Excellence in Land Stewardship - Grant will enable Ramapo Munsee Land Alliance to work with a fundraising consultant to identify ways to enhance donor outreach, strengthen fundraising systems and ensure financial stability, allowing the organization to more effectively implement their mission of protecting and stewarding sacred Indigenous lands. | \$25,000 |
| Saratoga PLAN* | Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County | Fee Title Management Plan & Policy Updates - Grant will allow Saratoga PLAN to update management plans and revise the organizations stewardship policy in accordance with Land Trust Standards and Practices. Updates will include considerations for climate change, invasive species management and improving accessibility of recreational areas. | \$50,000 |
| Sisters of Saint Joseph of Brentwood | Brentwood, Suffolk County | Improving Pollinator Habitats in a Community Green Space - Grant will enable the Sisters of St. Joseph to undertake multiple projects across their 212-acre campus including expanding existing native plant gardens, exploring no mowing and prescribed burn strategies to improve pollinator connectivity and species diversity and engaging and educating volunteers about invasive species removal and the importance of protecting pollinator habitat. | \$25,000 |
| Thousand Islands Land Trust* | Clayton, Jefferson County | Strategic Conservation Plan Update - Climate and Connectivity - Grant will allow Thousand Islands Land Trust to revise their outdated GIS based Strategic Conservation Plan to incorporate new conservation opportunities and challenges related to protecting and stewarding land for climate resilience. | \$37,250 |



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| Capacity & Excellence Grants (continued) | | | |
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| Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust* | Watertown, Jefferson County | Fund Development and Engagement Program Implementation - Grant will enable Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust to hire a contractor to begin implementation of phase 1 of their new Fund Development and Engagement Plan which aims to help the land trust become more sustainable through a series of steps including diversifying funding sources, improving outreach and communications, community engagement and more. | \$50,000 |
| Westchester Land Trust* | Bedford Hills, Westchester County | Drawing the Line: Delineating Boundaries to Protect Legacy Lands - Grant will allow Westchester Land Trust to accelerate their annual property boundary survey program as they prepare for reaccreditation and to address current boundary disputes and prevent egregious encroachments and issues in the future. | \$50,000 |
| Westchester Land Trust* | Bedford Hills, Westchester County | Embodying a Conservation Culture of Care - Westchester Land Trust will be implementing year one of a 3-year plan to ensure its work is responsive to the evolving conservation needs of all communities it serves. | \$15,000 |
| Westchester Land Trust* | Bedford Hills, Westchester County | Engaging and Empowering Landowners Through Conservation Easement Stewardship - Grant will enable Westchester Land Trust to reframe their easement stewardship work by shifting to a more collaborative approach than just annual monitoring by building stronger relationships with easement landowners.. | \$32,000 |
| TOTAL | | | \$621,060 |

| Conservation Catalyst Grants | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| Organization <small>*Denotes Accredited Land Trusts</small> | Project Location | Project Summary | Grant Award |
| Finger Lakes Land Trust* | Naples, Ontario County | Hemlock to High Tor Initiative - Grant will allow the Finger Lakes Land Trust to work with partners to launch the Hemlock to High Tor Initiative that will ensure the future protection of a 114,000-acre forested landscape extending from Hemlock Lake to the High Tor Wildlife Management Area. | \$100,000 |
| Grassroots Gardens WNY* | Buffalo, Erie County | Community Grow Program - Grant will enable Grassroots Gardens WNY to partner with Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy to launch a community grow program which will bring people from different groups together to grow native plants in community growing space, creating networks for collaboration, share resources and create additional community engagement in land stewardship. | \$47,150 |
| Mianus River Gorge* | Bedford, Westchester County | Red Flags in Green Spaces: Understanding the Risk of Tick Bite Exposure Together - Grant will bring together Mianus River Gorge, Mohonk Preserve and Nature Health Global to advance tick research, enhance bite prevention education and inform natural area management strategies that prioritize tick control. | \$71,850 |



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| Conservation Catalyst Grants (continued) | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|------------------|
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| Open Space Institute | Garrison, Putnam County | Expanding Access & Leveraging Partnerships: Community-Centered Open Space Funding - The Open Space Institute in partnership with the New York Outdoor Recreation Coalition, will leverage the Open Spaces for All report and collaborate with federal, state, and local grantors to improve outdoor access for disadvantaged communities. | \$75,000 |
| Wallkill Valley Land Trust* | Gardiner, Ulster County | Connecting Families to the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail: Enhancing Engagement & Education in Gardiner - Grant will enable Wallkill Valley Land Trust to partner with the Gardiner Library to enhance family engagement on the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail by installing interactive storyboards and providing educational backpacks that families can borrow from the library to explore the outdoors. | \$17,500 |
| TOTAL | | | \$311,500 |

| Professional Development Grants | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|-------------|
| Organization <small>*Denotes Accredited Land Trusts</small> | Project Location | Project Summary | Grant Award |
| Adirondack Land Trust* | Keene, Essex County | Adirondack Conservation Operations Specialist - Grant will enable Adirondack Land Trust to bring on a full-time Conservation Operations Specialist, a new position that will help staff meet land-protection opportunities, broaden benefits of protected lands and sustain private lands—a big step toward capacity suited to the size, needs and importance of the Adirondacks. | \$80,000 |
| Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust* | Buffalo, Erie County | Building Capacity for Long Term Sustainability - Grant will enable Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust to work on sustainability by hiring a full-time Development Coordinator to work with the staff and board to strengthen land trust operations, broaden financial support and continue to build relationships with community groups and individuals in their service area. | \$100,000 |
| Cazenovia Preservation Foundation* | Cazenovia, Madison County | Development Coordinator - Grant will allow Cazenovia Preservation Foundation to hire a part-time Development Coordinator to help the staff and board grow the organization's development program to support strategic plan goals and long-term sustainability. | \$97,500 |
| Champlain Area Trails* | Westport, Essex County | Creating the First Land Conservation Manager Position for Champlain Area Trails - Grant will enable Champlain Area Trails to hire a full-time Land Conservation Manager to take on the bulk of the land trusts land protection work including monitoring conservation easements and working with landowners to convert revocable trail agreements to permanent trail easements. | \$100,000 |



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| Professional Development Grants (continued) | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts | Project Location | Project Summary | Grant Award |
| Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy* | Albany, Albany County | Land Protection Manager - Grant will enable Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy to hire a full-time Land Protection Manager to help the organization meet the growing demand for their land conservation services throughout their service area which includes Albany, Montgomery and Schenectady counties. | \$100,000 |
| Mohonk Preserve* | Gardiner, Ulster County | Human Resources Manager - Grant will enable Mohonk Preserve to hire their first Human Resources Manager. The position will be full-time and will help to professionalize and centralize this crucial role to enable leadership to devote more time and resources to core priorities of conservation. stewardship and environmental education. | \$80,000 |
| Otsego Land Trust* | Cooperstown, Otsego County | Enhancing Land Protection Capacity - Grant will allow Otsego Land Trust to expand the staff capacity for land protection and stewardship by adding a full-time Conservation Easement and Stewardship Manager. | \$98,000 |
| Teatown Lake Reservation* | Ossining, Westchester County | Land Protection Specialist to Manage Teatown Lake Reservation's Land Trust - Grant will support Teatown's hiring of a full-time Land Protection Manager, a position which will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining conservation easement and fee land boundaries and ensuring that the newly accredited land trust remains fully compliant with the expectations that come with that designation.. | \$80,000 |
| The New York Agricultural Land Trust | Elbridge, Onondaga County | Increasing Executive Director's Capacity - Grant will enable the New York Agricultural Land Trust to upgrade their Executive Director from part-time to full-time, which will give the land trust more capacity for outreach and fundraising while continuing to oversee the conservation and easement stewardship programs. | \$80,000 |
| TOTAL | | | \$815,500 |

| Stewardship & Resource Management Grants | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------|
| Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts | Project Location | Project Summary | Grant Award |
| Agricultural Stewardship Association* | Argyle, Washington County | Preparing for Public Access at the Argyle Community Forest - Grant will support the Agricultural Stewardship Associations implementation of the first phase of trail building on its newly acquired 78-acre community forest property in preparation for welcoming the public and providing a long-lasting community amenity. | \$95,000 |
| Brooklyn Queens Land Trust* | Queens/Brooklyn, Queens/Kings Counties | Strengthening Approaches to Stewardship - Grant will enable Brooklyn Queens Land Trust to begin addressing critical infrastructure needs at their gardens including water systems, property protection and hardscape repairs. | \$50,000 |



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| Stewardship & Resource Management Grants | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------|
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| Columbia Land Conservancy* | Philmont, Columbia County | Building Community through Habitat Restoration and Trail Enhancements - Grant will enable Columbia Land Conservancy to engage contractors and volunteers to enhance the trail network and overlook area at High Falls through habitat restoration and trail improvements, creating more accessible access to enjoy the highest waterfall in Columbia County | \$88,750 |
| Friends of the Great Swamp | Dover, Dutchess County | Management of Calcareous Fen Habitat and its Rare Species - Grant will enable Friends of the Great Swamp to continue the work they started with a 2020 CPP grant to improve bog turtle habitat through the removal of phragmites and control of purple loosestrife by expanding the project area and focusing on the overall management of the fen habitat. | \$58,000 |
| Genesee Land Trust* | Ontario, Wayne County | Creating Ambassador Nature Preserves at Deer Creek Woods - Grant will enable Genesee Land Trust to contract with trail builders to develop Ambassador Nature Preserves in Ontario, NY with accessible trails, interpretive signage, benches and enabling deeper connections of people to nature. | \$50,000 |
| Genesee Valley Conservancy* | Avon/Geneseo, Livingston County, Wayland, Steuben County | Launching an Invasive Species Strike Team - Grant will enable Genesee Valley Conservancy to recruit, train and equip qualified personnel to target and remove invasive species that threaten the goals of fee lands according to prioritization inventories. | \$50,700 |
| Lake George Land Conservancy* | Lake George, Warren County | Sustainable Public Access Improvements at the Wiawaka Uplands - Grant will allow Lake George Land Conservancy to construct sustainable parking and trail upgrades to provide public access to the historic Wiawaka Uplands Property in Lake George, which the land trust protected with a conservation easement in 2024. | \$100,000 |
| Mianus River Gorge* | Bedford, Westchester County | Gateway to the Gorge - Phase II - Grant will support the second phase of Mianus River Gorges' "Gateway to the Gorge" restoration project which will include new graphic panels in the map shelter and bird observatory, adding to the Phase I improvements to the woodland habitat, trail and parking area. | \$21,600 |
| New City Parks | Peekskill, Westchester County | Improving Outdoor Access in Peekskill - Grant will enable New City Parks to make public access improvements including trails, trailheads, kiosks and signs to the 176-acre Depew Park and work with the community and City of Peekskill to build a team of volunteer stewards. | \$75,000 |
| Peconic Land Trust* | Cutchogue, Suffolk County | Farms for the Future Initiative Expansion - Grant will enable Peconic Land Trust to develop a new farm with agricultural infrastructure as part of their long-standing Farms for the Future Initiative. Infrastructure will include a deer fence, irrigation well/system and barn repairs. Once complete, the farm will be ready to be leased and farmed effectively. | \$100,000 |



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| Stewardship & Resource Management Grants (continued) | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|------------------|
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| Teatown Lake Reservation* | Ossining, Westchester County | Cliffdale Farm Meadow Restoration - Grant will enable Teatown Lake Reservation to establish an adaptive management plan for the ecologically significant yet degrading meadows at Cliffdale Farm Meadow, with the goal of restoring habitat function and improving overall health and biodiversity. | \$50,000 |
| The Nature Conservancy* | Tupper Lake, Franklin County | Replacing Critical Infrastructure at Spring Pond Bog - Grant will enable The Nature Conservancy to replace a washed out culvert with a new bridge at Spring Pond Bog Preserve, connecting at least 6 miles of brook trout habitat and allowing the Preserve to be reopened to the public. | \$55,000 |
| Thousand Islands Land Trust* | Cape Vincent, Jefferson County | Tibbetts Point Preserve Recreational Enhancement Grant - TILT's recent expansion of its Tibbetts Point Preserve has safeguarded an ecological gem. The proposal seek to bring compatible recreational opportunities and access enhancements to the Preserve, garnering environmental awareness and public buy-in. | \$77,890 |
| TOTAL | | | \$871,940 |

| Transaction Grants | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Organization <small>*Denotes Accredited Land Trusts</small> | Project Location | Project Summary | Grant Award |
| Delaware Highlands Conservancy* | Thompson, Sullivan County | Rose Valley Forest II Conservation Easement - Grant funds will enable Delaware Highlands Conservancy to permanently protect 18-acres of forest and wetlands directly abutting the Conservancy's existing 25.6-acre Rose Valley Forest Conservation Easement in the Town of Thompson, Sullivan County. | \$24,300 |
| Delaware Highlands Conservancy* | Fallsburg, Sullivan County | D'Auria Conservation Easement - Grant funds will assist Delaware Highlands Conservancy with the permanent protection of 152-acres of farmland, forest and riparian areas in the Town of Fallsburg, Sullivan County. | \$24,300 |
| Dutchess Land Conservancy* | Millbrook, Dutchess County | Bennett Park - Grant will reimburse Dutchess Land Conservancy for costs incurred from the purchase of development rights for Bennett Park, a 34-acre , historically significant property that is in the process of being transformed into an accessible, outdoor space for local residents and visitors to enjoy. | \$18,920 |
| Hudson Highlands Land Trust* | Putnam Valley, Putnam County | Expanding Canopus Creek Preserve - Grant will reimburse Hudson Highlands Land Trust for costs associated with the acquisition of the last unprotected 138-acres of Cimarron Ranch, a high conservation value property adjoining the land trusts 315-acre Canopus Creek Preserve, creating 450 contiguous acres of woods & wetlands, and enhancing public access to the preserve. | \$75,000 |



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| Hudson Taconic Lands* | Berlin, Rensselaer County | Bentley's Cave Preserve - Grant will reimburse Hudson Taconic Lands for costs associated with the recent acquisition of the 90-acre Bentley's Cave Preserve and allow them to partner with the Northeastern Cave Conservancy on managing the property and making public access improvements. | \$18,245 |
| Hudson Taconic Lands* | Castleton-On-Hudson, Rensselaer County | Papscanee Island Preserve Expansion - Grant will enable Hudson Taconic Lands to partner with the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe to acquire and clean-up a 10-acre parcel which will be added to the Papscanee Island Nature Preserve which was donated back to the Tribe in 2021 by the Open Space Institute. | \$75,000 |
| Lake George Land Conservancy* | Putnam, Washington County | Sucker Brook to Anthony's Nose Connector - Grant will reimburse Lake George Land Conservancy for costs associated with a recently purchased 86-acre property that connects other land trust preserves, resulting in a 1,620 acre tract of contiguously protected land in a vital area of the Lake George watershed. | \$31,660 |
| Mianus River Gorge* | Bedford, Westchester County | Insolia Property Donation - Grant will enable Mianus River Gorge to cover costs associated with accepting the donation of a 3-acre parcel will be added to the preserve. | \$7,549 |
| Northeast Wilderness Trust* | Star Lake, St. Lawrence County | Little River Wilderness Preserve - Grant will enable Northeast Wilderness Trust will acquire and conserve as forever-wild the 257-acre Little River Wilderness Preserve, a property with vast and ecologically sensitive wetlands adjacent to the 107,230-acre Five Ponds Wilderness which is part of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. | \$14,438 |
| Orange County Land Trust* | Deerpark/ Forestburgh, Orange/Sullivan Counties | Buyske Easement - Grant will enable Orange County Land Trust to acquire a conservation easement on a 134-acre property that will conserve headwaters of the Neversink River, protect diverse and resilient ecosystems and contribute to regional conservation efforts and climate resiliency. | \$20,505 |
| Orange County Land Trust* | Warwick, Orange County | Gibraltar Rock Community Forest - Grant will enable Orange County Land Trust, as part of a community-driven efforts, to open the 136-acre Gibraltar Rock Community Forest for public access and connect it to a larger trail network. | \$50,300 |
| Otsego Land Trust* | Davenport, Delaware County | Stack Property Easement - Grant will reimburse Otsego Land Trust for costs associated with the acquisition of a conservation easement on 96-acres of farm and forestland, which will enhance the Upper Susquehanna watershed and serve as a model conservation strategy for neighboring landowners. | \$22,200 |



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| Transaction Grants (continued) | | | |
|--|---|---|------------------|
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| Western New York Land Conservancy* | Towns of Portland and Stockton, Chautauqua County | Protecting the Floating Fen - Grant will reimburse Western New York Land Conservancy for costs associated with the acquisition of the 225-acre Floating Fen property, a rare wetland and forest complex in Chautauqua County. Acquired in 2023, the preserve will become publicly accessible with the opening of a trail system in 2025. | \$44,583 |
| Winnakee Land Trust* | Stanford, Dutchess County | Acquisition of Snake Hill - Grant will reimburse Winnakee Land Trust for transaction costs associated with the acquisition of Snake Hill, a 101-acre property of woodlands and wetlands adjacent to Winnakee Land Trust's Dutchess Gables property. | \$28,000 |
| | | TOTAL | \$455,000 |

| Summary of 2025 Conservation Partnership Program Grant Awards | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| Grant Category | Grant Funding | # of Grants |
| Capacity & Excellence Grants | \$621,060 | 20 |
| Conservation Catalyst Grants | \$311,500 | 5 |
| Professional Development Grants | \$815,500 | 9 |
| Stewardship & Resource Management Grants | \$871,940 | 13 |
| Transaction Grants [1,486 acres] | \$455,000 | 14 |
| TOTAL | \$3,075,000 | 61 |