2021-2025 Grants Awarded

New York State

Department of Environmental Conservation

Hudson River Estuary Management Program

CONTENTS

2025 River Education (Round 48)

2025 Local Stewardship Planning (Round 47)

2024 River Access (Round 46)

2024 Tributary Restoration & Resiliency (Round 45)

2024 River Education (Round 44)

2024 Local Stewardship Planning (Round 43)

2023 River Access (Round 42)

2023 River Education (Round 41)

2023 Local Stewardship Planning (Round 40)

2023 Tributary Restoration & Resiliency (Round 39)

2022 River Access (Round 38)

2022 River Education (Round 37)

2022 Local Stewardship Planning (Round 36)

2022 Tributary Restoration & Resiliency (Round 35)

2021 River Access (Round 34)

2021 River Education (Round 33)

2021 Local Stewardship Planning (Round 32)

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2025 (ROUND 48)			TOTAL: $294,533
AWARDS ANNOUNCED MARCH 20, 2026			
RIVER EDUCATION			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Columbia Greene Community College	Greene	$46,124	This project seeks to enhance training for the next generation of environmental educators while making field trips for k-12 students visiting the Hudson River Estuary more accessible. Students of CGCC will be trained by faculty and staff on how to conduct environmental awareness days, which will be aimed at teaching about the Hudson River Estuary, watershed health and water quality. The students will conduct free field trips to school districts within Columbia and Greene Counties at the college's Hudson River Environmental Field Station in Greene County.
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies	Dutchess	$100,000	Cary Institute will implement a paid summer research opportunity for twelve high school students to engage in environmental science research in the Hudson River Estuary. During the three-week program, students receive mentorship from three scientists, one teacher, and three undergraduate students. With their guidance, the high school students work in groups to investigate the ecology of water and soi in local watersheds in rural and urban landscape.
Ymca of Kingston & Ulster Co	Ulster	$48,535	Using local water bodies within the Hudson River estuary as the context for learning, youth scientists and farmers from the Kingston YMCA Farm Project will have an opportunity for year-round employment through hands-on water conservation-based projects, education, research, and community engagement. Youth will engage with river-focused professionals throughout their work, as well as participate as stakeholders in the City of Kingston's Esopus Creek Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) to demonstrate their knowledge. Culminating projects and presentations will provide broader public outreach and community engagement.
Marist University	Dutchess	$99,874	Marist University will conduct a design-based research project that studies how elementary teachers learn about climate change and data science related to the Hudson River. A two-week professional development (PD) will be held each summer that focuses on data science and climate change topics related to the Hudson River for practicing elementary teachers and preservice elementary student teachers. The project will conclude with the creation of two research-informed curricula that can be used for future study and implementation: (1) a series of teacher professional developments, and (2) a week-long, half-day summer camp. Two sets of classroom tools will result from this work: one for upper elementary students and another for elementary teachers.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2025 (ROUND 47)			TOTAL: $669,935
AWARDS ANNOUNCED MARCH 20, 2026			
LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Clarkson University	Dutchess	$75,000	Clarkson University's Beacon Institute will fully assess and interpret creek water quality data, build the strategic organizational capacity of Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance (FCWA), and increase public engagement via community and K-12 watershed programs. The project will produce a water quality report that analyzes data and makes recommendations, support a FCWA Program Coordinator who will help the group to generate a 5-Year Comprehensive Strategic Plan, and conduct a series of hands-on creek-based public and student participatory science programs.
City of Peekskill	Westchester	$75,000	The City of Peekskill will conduct an Open Space Protection Plan for the Hollow Brook Creek Watershed. The Hollow Brook Creek Watershed provides drinking water to the City of Peekskill, the Village of Buchanan, and is the back-up drinking water source for Northern Westchester Joint Waterworks. The plan will assess critical environmental areas for the protection of the water quality in the watershed and make recommendations for preservation, zoning changes, and long-term stewardship of those resources.
Ulster County	Ulster	$75,000	Ulster County Department of Environment will support the implementation of watershed management plans in the Wallkill River and the Rondout Creek - assisting the Watershed Alliances to create and advance annual strategic and/or work plans. Key areas of focus include group capacity building, coordination of education and outreach plans, implementation of riparian buffer plantings, and communication to the public regarding proper sewer system use.
Town of Bedford	Westchester	$63,150	The Town of Bedford will update its outdated Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) to serve as a local planning and project review tool, and to be used as a building block for comprehensive and long-range planning for the community. Deliverables include complete mapping of natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources (up to 35+ maps), including updating two existing regulatory maps (wetlands and aquifers), incorporation of two existing maps (significant habitats and wildlife corridors), and analysis and creation of narratives for single and inter-related topics. A story map will be created (if possible), as well as the final report, and the town government will attend a workshop on how to use the NRI.
Hudson River Watershed Alliance Inc	HRE Watershed Wide	$75,000	This project will increase the capacity, effectiveness, and resilience of watershed groups within the Hudson River estuary watershed to achieve their local clean water and healthy tributary goals. Four watershed groups will be selected to develop strategic workplans, including a deep dive to establish each group's mission, vision, and values; discuss of short-term goals and commitments; and build consensus around a clear set of actions to implement next steps that support the group's objectives. The tools and relevant lessons learned from the project will be shared, benefiting other watershed groups in the region.
Groundwork Hudson Valley	Westchester	$74,830	Groundwork Hudson Valley (GWHV) will develop a model approach to reduce the accumulation of natural and man-made debris at highly localized sites in the Saw Mill River stream channel. The project includes four phases: (1) research into the sources of debris via field surveys and GIS-based riparian inventories; (2) strategy development for two priority sites; (3) pilot management at one site with documented flood and habitat impacts; and (4) a best-practice manual and workshop for regional watershed professionals and the HREP community.
Hudson Valley Stream Conservancy	Westchester	$74,976	This project will locate specific inputs of raw sewage into the Pocantico River and along the Sleepy Hollow waterfront as a first step in improving the water quality at Sleepy Hollow Hudson River recreational access points. This will be an initial Sanitary Survey to inform public discussion regarding establishing permitted public swimming. A report will be produced detailing the precise location and bacterial concentrations of outpours into the Pocantico River and the Hudson waterfront, which will inform future mitigation engineering steps.
Dutchess County	Dutchess	$75,000	Dutchess County will provide two years of operational support to Hudson 7 to sustain its work that protects the drinking water of residents on both sides of the Hudson River. Formed in 2018, Hudson 7 represents Hyde Park, Town and Village of Rhinebeck, City and Town of Poughkeepsie, Lloyd, and Esopus. Funding will specifically support implementing the Council's DWSP2, which includes actions such as stakeholder outreach, securing future grants, and organizing meetings, public events, and training workshops.
Town of Pine Plains	Dutchess	$54,209	This project will create a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) for the Town of Pine Plains, NY. The Town will compile, describe and map important natural resources, with particular attention to Stissing Mountain, the woodlands and waterways, and unique treasures such as the calcareous bog and active farmland. The NRI will ultimately serve as a baseline to support development, preservation and enhancement of scenic, recreational and cultural resources for future generations.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2025 (ROUND 47)			TOTAL: $669,935
AWARDS ANNOUNCED MARCH 20, 2026			
LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Village of Briarcliff Manor	Westchester	$27,770	The Village of Briarcliff Manor will complete a comprehensive Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). The NRI will map and detail the Village's natural and cultural resources, serving as an essential tool for local planning, open space preservation, water quality protection, habitat assessment, and biodiversity enhancement. Funds will be used to hire consultants to conduct the NRI, update and create GIS maps, draft narratives, and develop a public-facing online GIS mapping site, and for printing services with a preference for using Westchester County shared services. Deliverables include a written report with maps and narrative descriptions and an accessible online GIS platform.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2024 (ROUND 46)			TOTAL: $223,000
AWARDS ANNOUNCED SEPTEMPBER 23, 2025			
RIVER ACCESS			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
City of Hudson	Columbia	$123,000	The City of Hudson Furgary Fishing Village Planning Project will complete final engineering design and regulatory reviews to transform the historic Furgary Fishing Village into a new accessible recreational and educational area. The City will assemble a design team to complete the final engineering design process to construct resilient new access to the tidal waters of the Hudson River and recreational pursuits near the intersection of North Front Street and Dock Street. The repurposing of this site is a critical piece in the City's efforts to improve the waterfront and the project will complement and build upon Hudson's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) funded Furgary Vision Plan.
Waterfront Alliance	Richmond	$100,000	Waterfront Alliance will lead an engineer and design team to develop a community-informed plan that will revitalize a waterfront site (777 Front Street) on Staten Island's North Shore, improving shoreline climate resilience and waterfront access. Funds will support community engagement and engineering and design work to develop a 90% design plan that is ready for permitting and construction. The project will enhance public access to the Hudson River Estuary for recreational activities such as kayaking and improve resilience to climate impacts, while also promoting environmental education and community engagement.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2024 (ROUND 45)			TOTAL: $777,682
AWARDS ANNOUNCED MAY 20, 2025			
TRIBUTARY RESTORATION & RESILIENCY			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Riverkeeper, Inc.	Orange	$210,000	Riverkeeper proposes to finalize engineering plans and permits to remove the obsolete Walsh Road Dam on the Quassaick Creek, in the Town of New Windsor, NY. Climate related impacts at Walsh Road Dam contribute to severe and nuisance flooding of adjacent public housing complexes and threaten other critical human infrastructure. Removal of this dam will a) restore a quarter mile of critical habitat for iconic Hudson River migratory species in decline and allow free access for a full 2 miles of the Quassaick Creek from its confluence with the Hudson River (once Holden Dam is removed, anticipated Fall 2025); and b) protect an environmental justice community and create resiliency around critical infrastructure. Riverkeeper will contract with Princeton Hydro to take existing 60% design plans and produce final plans and permits for removal of the dam, resulting in a shovel ready project. The project has the support of several community groups and elected officials.
Trout Unlimited, Inc.	Rensselaer	$180,823	Trout Unlimited will replace an undersized culvert barrier on Sweetmilk Creek that is a barrier to aquatic organisms, floods frequently, and is in poor condition. The Sweetmilk Creek Project will result in the reconnection of 8 miles of high-quality habitat for American eel, brook trout and other aquatic species. The Sweetmilk Creek culvert is owned and managed by the Town of Brunswick, and it is the highest priority replacement in the Town. Project designs are complete; the replacement will reduce flooding and provide the town with a cost-effective solution to local infrastructure improvements that can be completed with town staff and equipment.
Riverkeeper, Inc.	Columbia	$288,000	Van de Carrs Dam on Claverack Creek in Columbia County is a partially collapsed, 18-ft high, 230-ft long Concrete Gravity dam that was built over 100 years ago. It no longer serves any purpose and is blocking critical habitat for several migratory species. The dam also poses a hazard to the surrounding community and recreators. Riverkeeper is proposing to contract with engineers produce engineering design plans and permit applications for removal of the dam, resulting in a shovel ready project. The dam's removal will restore approximately 2 miles of critical habitat for aquatic species, and will allow free access for a full 4 miles of the Claverack and Stockport Creeks from their confluence with the Hudson River. This project will also benefit other resident fish and freshwater mussel species that have been disconnected from this tributary for 100+ years. The project has the support of several community groups and Senator Michelle Hinchey.
Trout Unlimited, Inc.	Rensselaer	$98,859	Quacken Kill Reservoir Dam Removal Feasibility/Conceptual Level Planning Project is designed to expand on the existing work of Riverkeeper (sediment sampling) to include biological monitoring, dam reconnaissance and conceptual level planning, setting the stage for dam removal and educating the landowners at Callanan Industries of the cost and design of a future project. The Quacken Kill Reservoir Dam is 200-ft long and was built over 100 years ago to divert water from the Quacken Kill into the growing City of Troy's water system, and is the first barrier to the Hudson. As new technologies emerged, the dam was abandoned and the barrier fell into obsolescence. Like most man-made dams, the Quacken Kill Dam restricts the natural flow of the tributary, degrading water quality by bisecting the creek's innate hydrologic regime and forcing the water behind it to become stagnant. The Quacken Kill Reservoir Dam also blocks access to over 4 miles of upstream habitat and over 16 miles downstream for several iconic Hudson River species, including American eel, trout, freshwater mussels, and a variety of resident native fish species, impeding them from completing their life-history patterns.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2024 (ROUND 44)			TOTAL: $291,493
AWARDS ANNOUNCED MAY 20, 2025			
RIVER EDUCATION			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Sarah Lawrence College	Westchester	$75,000	The Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB) will conduct a program engaging students from Yonkers Public Schools. Twenty students will complete a one credit summer intensive followed by paid afterschool research. Two past EELS Team graduates will be hired to mentor the students. Their research projects will focus on Hudson River Ecology and include data from seining, migratory eel monitoring, eDNA analysis, and water chemistry data. With mentorship, the students will create presentations to be shared with the community.
Mohonk Preserve	Ulster	$87,418	This project will expand the Mohonk Preserve's Hudson River Estuary watershed-based educational programming, including developing and piloting additional related curricula, lesson planning, and public programs and webinars. The Preserve will partner with multiple area public and private schools and Hudson River Sloop Clearwater to develop multi-faceted series of educational lessons including in-class sessions, field visits, and sailing trips aboard the Clearwater.
Hudson River Maritime Museum	Ulster	$20,674	The Hudson River Maritime Museum will partner with an experienced educator to create new content for its long-running Hudson River Stewards school program. The new content will combine academic learning modules to be pursued in the classroom, on-site discovery modules to be conducted at the museum and along the shoreline of Rondout Creek and the Hudson River, and experiential modules to be implemented on the water aboard the museum's solar vessel "Solaris."
Billion Oyster Project	Kings	$33,401	This project will implement a curriculum pilot program and provide professional development to a cohort of ten science teachers with approximately 280 students in Title I-funded public middle schools. The program will produce fifteen lessons for students in grades 6-12 centered around the oyster research station, a curricular resource created by Billion Oyster Project to engage students with hands-on environmental stewardship activities at the waterfront focused on a keystone species of the Hudson River Estuary.
South Street Seaport Museum	New York, Bronx, Kings	$75,000	The South Street Seaport Museum will expand its river education program, offering ten sails per year on its 1885 schooner Pioneer, aimed at low-income New York City students. Funds will support cost of the sails as well as essential repairs to the infrastructure of Pioneer, which will bolster the vessel for continued use.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2024 (ROUND 43)			TOTAL: $705,591
AWARDS ANNOUNCED MAY 20, 2025			
LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Rockland County	Rockland	$75,000	Rockland County will create a countywide Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) to visualize the County's natural assets, and design a plan with goals to address their vulnerabilities to natural and unnatural changes to the environment. The County will work with a consultant to develop a publicly accessible tool for municipal leaders and elected officials, local sustainability and environmental committees, stakeholders, students and teachers, and residents. The NRI will ultimately be incorporated into the County's Comprehensive Plan update.
Riverkeeper, Inc.	Dutchess & Ulster	$75,000	Riverkeeper will monitor water quality in the segments of the Hudson River that provide drinking water to Hudson 7 communities to inform local and regional decision making at a watershed level and support the Hudson 7's DWSP2 monitoring plan. This project will seek to determine which tributaries are contributing the most pollution to this drinking water source and the specific contaminant, and implement a protection strategy identified in the Hudson 7's source water protection plan. Riverkeeper will also develop a methodology and best practices for source water protection monitoring that can be applied by other members of the DWSP2 program, especially those reliant on surface water supplies.
Clarkson University	Dutchess & Putnam	$75,000	Clarkson's Beacon Institute will produce a Watershed Characterization for Fishkill Creek to support long-term watershed planning and stewardship. The Characterization will compile, synthesize and analyze existing and newly gathered watershed data, including: hydrology, water quality, ecology, biology, land use, aquatic connectivity, flooding, and habitats. The characterization will highlight management best practices and recommendations, and will inform production of user-friendly factsheets. Watershed management goals, attitudes, and concerns of stakeholder communities and public representatives will be reported and addressed.
Town of Red Hook	Dutchess	$63,820	The Town of Red Hook will secure a contractor to work with its Conservation Advisory Council to conduct a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), which will gather natural resource and conservation information into a single inventory, with GIS mapping, analysis and recommendations for critical habitats in the Town. The NRI will detail the significance of natural resources to the community as well as identify existing and potential threats and provide recommendations for sustainable uses and conservation.
Town of Lloyd	Ulster	$75,000	This project will complete a Watershed Characterization and Water Quality Sampling for Black Creek. The watershed characterization will compile existing information about the watershed, describing its physical characteristics, lands, waters, and people. Themes will be illustrated by one or more maps and an accompanying summary, which will outline all relevant reports, plans, and data found, any information gaps identified, and a description the watershed characteristics along that theme and their significance in the watershed. Sampling will be conducted throughout the three stream assessment segments designated by NYSDEC for Black Creek (lower, middle, and upper).
City of Peekskill	Westchester	$38,746	This project will complete the water quality classification for source water in the Peekskill Hollow Creek watershed. Sampling and analysis will be conducted on water chemistry data, fecal-indicator bacteria, and benthic macroinvertebrate samples for waterbody assessment and WI/PWL updates for the tributary segment. This project will monitor tributaries following significant rainfall to determine which reaches contribute excess sediment. This data, in conjunction with the LENS analysis, will be used to guide potential streambank stabilization and riparian buffer plantings projects, creating a priority list for future projects to reduce the load and increase the resiliency of the Peekskill Hollow Creek.
Village of Cold Spring	Putnam	$75,000	This project will complete a climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan for the Village of Cold Spring, the Village of Nelsonville, and the Town of Philipstown, and will examine flooding issues caused by storms that overwhelm the Foundry Brook and Back Brook stream systems and aged/undersized stormwater infrastructure. The plan will be developed through substantive community engagement and will include strategies that emphasize nature-based approaches and support social equity.
Town of Shandanken	Ulster	$39,100	The Town of Shandaken will create a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), that will include existing data and other information from public and private sources on physical, biological and cultural aspects of the town, prepare a narrative describing the resources, their distribution and their significance to ecosystems and the human community. The NRI will be used for matters related to land use planning, policy-making, environmental reviews, and decision-making, and will also be useful to landowners, residents, developers, and others seeking to understand the natural landscapes of Shandaken.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2024 (ROUND 43)			TOTAL: $705,591
AWARDS ANNOUNCED MAY 20, 2025			
LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Town of Olive	Ulster	$52,184	This project will produce a comprehensive Open Space Index (OSI) and Open Space Plan (OSP) for the Town of Olive, which will be used to inform, guide, and facilitate various land-use decisions within the community, including those related to renewable energy, housing needs, development pressures, climate change, outdoor recreation, and eco-tourism. The OSP will be adopted into the Town's Comprehensive Plan, inform updates to zoning and local land use laws, and it will be integrated into the Town's annual work plan and budgeting process.
Town of Stuyvesant	Columbia	$37,371	The Town of Stuyvesant will complete a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) that will provide comprehensive, accessible information on the locations and significance of Stuyvesant's natural and cultural resources; and will allow these data to be used to guide local land use planning.
Village of Athens	Greene	$24,400	The Village of Athens will conduct a Habitat Mapping project that will identify, map, and describe ecologically significant habitats throughout the Village. The project will inform landowners, developers, and officials about the habitats of the Village and the habitat surrounding the drinking water reservoir, ecological values and significance, and ideas for conserving the places of greatest importance.
Hudson Valley Stream Conservancy	Westchester	$74,970	This project will identify sources of sewage-borne fecal indicating bacteria at the Town of Ossining's Louis Engel Waterfront Park beach and the surrounding waterfront park. Results will be used by municipalities (Village of Ossining, and/or Westchester County) to prioritize infrastructure repairs.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2023 (ROUND 42)			TOTAL: $141,350
AWARDS ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 20, 2024			
RIVER ACCESS			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Arm of the Sea Productions Inc.	Ulster	$46,350	This project will (i) install resilient electrical service to the Arm-of-the-Sea Tidewater Center, connect that service to the outdoor performance space and Program Support Center, and (ii) install an (electrically-powered) ADA-compliant lift for the Program Support Center. Resilience considerations include potential flooding, sea level rise and storm surge.
Downtown Boathouse	New York	$75,000	Downtown Boathouse will increase free and inclusive recreational access to the Hudson River by expanding popular free kayaking programs. The project will build programming scope and capacity through volunteer development and training; grow and replenish our fleet of boats - including new adaptive equipment and specialty boats to expand access to people with disabilities; and extend our calendar and broaden community engagement with our off-season pool program.
Hudson River Maritime Museum	Ulster	$20,000	The Hudson River Maritime Museum will purchase and install an ADA-compliant aluminum gangway to improve accessibility to the floating docks on the western side of the museum campus, referred to as "A-dock." The gangway will remove barriers and increase opportunities for people with mobility challenges or other disabilities to interact with the vessels that dock at the museum including heritage and special interest vessels, large seasonal cruise ships, and transient pleasure boat, and ensure that all visitors have equal chances to participate in educational programs and other on-the-water recreational activities.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2023 (ROUND 41)			TOTAL: $378,795
AWARDS ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 20, 2024			
RIVER EDUCATION			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Mid-Hudson Children's Museum	Dutchess	$37,925	This project will develop Hudson River Estuary Education Programs to be offered to school groups, grades 2-6 and the general public at the Poughkeepsie Waterfront Pavilion and in the Museum proper. Working with the Poughkeepsie school district, museum staff will develop and test a series of site-specific lessons and curricula. These new Programs will become part of the museum's core offerings to schools throughout the region, expanding capacity for school visits from 5,000 per year to more than 6,500 and offering a river education exhibit to the nearly 80,000 annual visitors to the Museum.
City Parks Foundation	Kings, Queens, New York	$100,000	This project will support City Parks Foundation's Coastal Classroom program. Coastal Classroom teaches 2nd-8th grade students, and high school/college students about NYC's waterways, from coastal ecology and human impacts on the environment to stewardship and more. This project will serve 250 students and 3 paid interns each year, offering 72 hours of academic year programming and 10 hours of summer programming.
Radix Ecological Sustainability Center	Albany	$65,625	This project will continue operation of Radix's DEC-funded solar-powered boat that will deploy and monitor artificial floating wetlands in the Hudson River in the vicinity of the South End of Albany, NY. This will result in remediating and educating about the impacts of combined sewage overflows and aquatic industrial pollution on environmental justice communities. Radix youth employees and local residents will be engaged in the construction, monitoring and care of the floating wetlands and will identify aquatic areas of frequent use.
The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York	Rockland	$75,245	This project supports summer high school interns for students in Rockland County PEJA communities to return for a second year to deepen their science connection as they work on climate change impacts on the Hudson. Students build on their estuary knowledge gained in year one to do a focused dive into climate change in year two.
Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy Inc.	Kings	$100,000	Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy is embarking on a multi-million-dollar expansion of its Environmental Education Center (Center). This project will fund the conceptualization and design of several new state-of-the-art exhibits themed around the urban ecology of the New York Harbor. The comprehensive expansion will enable the Conservancy to deepen and build upon its current offerings and expand its reach by 30,000 visitors each year, with a particular focus on creating additional pathways for participation for Title 1 schools and community groups from surrounding environmental justice areas.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2023 (ROUND 40)			TOTAL: $674,203
AWARDS ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 20, 2024			
LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Village of Ardsley	Westchester	$59,384	The Village of Ardsley will work with a consultant to complete a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Implementing the NRI in conjunction with the Village's Comprehensive Plan & Climate Smart Community directives will identify areas for plant and animal habitat improvement and areas for enhanced flood storage to facilitate resiliency. The NRI will guide ongoing redesign of the Downtown Business District, especially finding opportunities for additional green infrastructure.
Town of Cortlandt	Westchester	$50,000	The Town of Cortlandt and Village of Croton will complete an intermunicipal natural resources inventory for both communities. The communities will retain a consultant to work with both communities Conservation Advisory Councils and municipal staff, through a public process, to inventory critical natural resources in both communities and to develop preservation and management strategies.
Pace University	Albany, Columbia, Orange, Westchester	$49,811	The Land Use Law Center will implement a community-based Land Use Leadership Alliance training (LULA) program for 5-7 municipalities that are members of the Hudson Valley Flood Resilience Network to provide climate change adaptation-focused policy, planning, and regulatory tools for shoreline resiliency and resilient communities. In collaboration with the Hudson River Watershed Alliance and NY Sea Grant, the Center will support leaders and other stakeholders in assessing hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities and amending their plans and zoning codes through the Resilience Implementation and Strategic Enhancements Local Assessment Tool to increase climate resilience, with a focus on flooding.
Town of Kent	Putnam	$40,825	Building on the soon-to-be-completed Natural Resources Inventory, the Town of Kent will complete a Town-wide Open Space Inventory and Plan. The Town is currently beginning the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan and is hoping to preemptively complete an open space plan to develop strategies to conserve and protect its natural resources.
Village of Nyack	Rockland	$17,000	This project will conduct a vulnerability assessment and create an adaptation plan for Nyack residents and businesses that will address four climate change hazards: 1) Increasing temperatures and frequency and duration of heat waves; 2) increasing intensity of extreme weather events, 3) rising sea levels and storm surge, and 4) climate change related disease. The project will entail evaluating existing research, investigating coordinating with county, town and local agencies and community stakeholders, updating plans and programs, creating a community resilience vision, and establishing a permanent body for ongoing engagement and implementation.
Columbia Land Conservancy, Inc.	Columbia	$75,000	The Columbia Land Conservancy will engage a broad coalition of community partners to prioritize strategies to advance countywide conservation efforts throughout the county. The plan will incorporate community feedback around shared resources and values to ensure that the countywide conservation vision responds to the needs of diverse communities. The plan will also consider suitable renewable energy siting as well as opportunities for the development of affordable housing.
Bard College	Orange, Ulster	$69,300	Bard College will partner with the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance, Hudson River Watershed Alliance, and Riverkeeper to develop a Watershed Characterization report and communication materials focused on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). This project will include (1) a public-facing HABs Watershed Characterization report for the Wallkill River, (2) a Wallkill River HABs Communications Toolkit for the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance to coordinate effective public communications about future HABs, and (3) a broader Water Issue Communications Framework for watershed groups or municipalities across the region to guide communications planning for HABs or other emergent and emergency conditions that affect public health.
Riverkeeper Inc	Putnam, Westchester	$59,543	This project will: (i) use DEC's Loading Estimator of Nutrient Sources (LENS) tool to estimate point and nonpoint phosphorus contributions in the Peekskill Hollow Brook watershed, (ii) interpret the results of these elements (LENS analysis, assessment data and DEC criteria/guidance values) for the City of Peekskill and other stakeholders to inform drinking water source monitoring and protection or clean water plan development, and (iii) develop and test an automation tool that uses coding to accelerate the LENS process and result, and communicate the efficacy of the results of the tool.
New York Restoration Project	New York	$47,364	NYRP will extend the Living Shoreline model northward to include and restore a 5-acre tidal mudflat on the Harlem River waterfront in Northern Manhattan's Sherman Creek Park. The project will continue ongoing stakeholder engagement with the Inwood community; develop final designs and construction drawings informed by community input; and complete the permitting and approvals process for eventual project implementation.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2023 (ROUND 40)			TOTAL: $674,203
AWARDS ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 20, 2024			
LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson	Westchester	$75,000	This project will conduct the necessary planning and preliminary design to implement drainage improvements to control flooding in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson. The new stormwater system will be designed with the capacity to convey the stormwater in an anticipated 100 year storm event of the future. The goals of the project are to increase climate resilience, reduce flood risk and protect Hudson River water quality.
Town of Hurley	Ulster	$36,800	The Town of Hurley will engage the services of a consultant to develop a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) that will set the stage for identifying areas to protect, including water resources, habitats and wildlife, and natural areas, important for climate resilience. The NRI will be used in conjunction with the 2018 Hurley Open Space Plan and an updated Comprehensive Plan to give the Town the tools needed to revise the Town Zoning Code to incorporate climate resilience and mitigation elements, improved wetland and watercourse protections, critical environmental area protection, and a tree ordinance.
Hudson River Watershed Alliance	Estuary-wide	$75,000	The Hudson River Watershed Alliance (HRWA) will create a regional guidance document to define specific key roles on watershed planning and implementation for community-based watershed groups throughout the Hudson River Estuary Watershed. An organizational development toolkit will be created to support watershed group capacity-building, with direct connections to the stronger governance structures and relationship-building needed for effective watershed planning and adoption of conservation best management practices.
Town of Lloyd	Ulster	$19,176	The Town of Lloyd will complete a connectivity plan for Illinois Mountain Park, which will serve to evaluate and conserve the natural resources which are present on site through the creation of a connectivity plan. The purpose of the resulting plan will be to provide information about the habitats, ecological communities, plants, wildlife, streams, and other natural features that can inform the development of a future conservation plan for the mountain, an objective of the 2013 Lloyd Comprehensive Plan.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2023 (ROUND 39)			TOTAL: $617,420
AWARDS ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 20, 2024			
TRIBUTARY RESTORATION & RESILIENCY			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Town of Red Hook	Dutchess	$109,000	The Town of Red Hook will replace two stream-crossings on Town-owned roads Willets Drive West (WDW) and East (WDE), as both have been identified as being in poor condition and as severe (West) and moderate (East) barriers, according to the NAACC Numeric Scoring System. Funds will support the development of an opinion of probable costs and final shovel-ready designs. The crossings will be sized to pass the 100-year storm event with a useful life of 75-years.
Riverkeeper Inc	Rensselaer	$150,000	Riverkeeper will continue working with Princeton Hydro to conduct hydrologic and hydraulic modeling on Kenwood Mill Dam on Mill Creek, and produce final engineering design plans and permit applications, resulting in a shovel ready project. The dam's removal will restore approximately 1-mile of critical habitat for American eel, and Alewife and blueback herring, and will also benefit other species that have been disconnected from this tributary for 100+ years.
Riverkeeper Inc	Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Rensselaer, Rockland	$150,000	Riverkeeper will conduct reconnaissance activities on 12 tributaries of the Hudson, targeting at least 16 priority dams whose removal will restore natural flow regimes, improve ecological connectivity, and benefit imperiled aquatic species (river herring and American eel.) Tasks will include: investigating the dams' history; identifying potential issues that may affect removal; researching dam owners and securing agreements to remove the dams; identifying permit requirements; conducting ecological evaluations of the streams; conducting sediment and fish sampling; and engaging the community to explain the benefits of dam removal, including hosting screenings of our film "One Dam at a Time."
Town of Milan	Dutchess	$93,500	The Town of Milan will replace the stream-crossing on Woody Row Road, a Town-owned roadway, as it was inventoried as a moderate barrier in poor condition, in accordance with the NAACC Numeric Scoring System. The stream is a tributary to the Wappingers Creek Watershed, a Class B stream. Funds will support the development of an opinion of probable cost and one final shovel-ready design. The crossing will be sized to safely pass the 100-year storm event and to have a minimum useful life of 75-years.
Hudson Valley Stream Conservancy	Westchester	$114,920	The Sprout Brook Dam is the first barrier to fish migration up from the Hudson River tide, and is fully approved by federal and state agencies for removal. This project will complete the dam removal and stream restoration and restore continuity to the stream for migrating fish and eels. The funds will support the contracting of a specialized construction firm for ecological dam removal and restoration and for the contracting of the engineering firm that developed the removal and restoration plan to supervise the construction and implementation.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2022 (ROUND 38)			TOTAL: $156,389
AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 13, 2022			
RIVER ACCESS			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Friends of Hudson River Park, Inc.	New York	$30,348	Hudson River Park recognizes the need to include stakeholders in the planning and implementation of best practices and safety on the Park's floating docks. The Safe Access Community Project will consult the Park's four non-motorized boathouses and boating groups associated with their operations as part of the development of signage and safe access protocols for the docks. By involving stakeholders in planning and development, improving dock stability to provide resilience against flooding, installing signage that will increase visitors' awareness of the safety precautions to be taken when accessing boats and the estuary; and educating the general public about safe river access and boating safety, the Project will provide Park visitors with increased access to the Park's boating opportunities and natural environment. Funds from DEC will be used to organize focus groups and planning sessions, purchase signage, ladders, railings and safety rings, and pay for assembly.
New York Outrigger, Inc.	New York	$60,800	New York Outrigger will enhance equitable river access for paddlers of all abilities through NYC's only free and low-cost education program for outrigger canoe and stand-up paddleboard. New York Outrigger is committed to ensuring a safe paddling experience for paddlers with disabilities including people who are blind or visually impaired and hopes to increase participation in the NYO/Makapo adaptive paddling program. This project will fund adaptive equipment including launching and docking assistive equipment, lightweight outrigger canoes, wide-base stand up paddleboards, custom paddles for adaptive athletes, water rescue equipment, and training for coaches and volunteers. Our public paddling programs will increase the number of individuals served and number of repeat engagements from 450 individuals and 3000 engagements in 2022, to 500 individuals and 3333 engagements in 2023, to 550 individuals and 3667 engagements in 2024, and to 600 individuals and 4000 engagements in 2025.
Waterfront Alliance, Inc.	Richmond and Bronx	$65,241	To secure equitable waterfront access for all, unused publicly owned waterfronts need to be retrofitted for recreation through policies that prioritize direct water access, nature-based solutions and processes that ensure underserved communities have a voice in the decision-making process. Through previous research, Waterfront Alliance has identified two sites in underserved communities in the Hudson River Estuary boundaries that present substantial opportunities for quality open space and waterfront access. The first is in the North Shore of Staten Island and the second is the Lincoln Avenue Street End in the Bronx. Funding will support staff time and an engineer/architect, who will help envision capital improvements to each site, create concept drawings, and help to make a stronger case for investments with City agencies. The project will provide new waterfront access to 90,000 residents of the Port Morris section of the Bronx and 160,000 residents of North Shore of Staten Island.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2022 (ROUND 37)			TOTAL: $618,650
AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 13, 2022			
RIVER EDUCATION			
ORGANIZATION	COUNTY	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
Billion Oyster Project, Inc.	New York City wide	$75,000	Billion Oyster Project will design, equip and activate a newly renovated building on Governors Island as a premier facility to educate students, teachers, families, tourists and NYC residents about New York Harbor and the Hudson River estuary. We will take occupancy of the space in early 2023, and the facility will open in the spring. The 1st floor of the building will house the "Billion Oyster Project Harbor Education Center," a gallery space to display a public education exhibit; a classroom to educate visiting school and camp groups; a training center for NYC public school teachers and community scientists; and a gathering place to hold informative panel discussions and skill-building workshops. We expect the Harbor Education Center to serve at least 5,000 public visitors, 150 teachers, 950 students and campers, and 800 community scientists, volunteers and other community stakeholders in 2023, and that these numbers will grow over time as the programming develops and expands.
Randall's Island Park Alliance	NYC	$75,000	Randall's Island Park Alliance (RIPA), a non-profit park steward in New York City, will enhance its current research and internship program, Park-as-Lab by providing stipends for students from local neighborhoods to conduct environmental research at Randall's Island. In New York City, environmental internships are rare and paid ones even more so, causing many students to settle for unpaid positions in order to gain experience in the field. However, the unpaid nature of these internships prevents many from entering the environmental field, especially in neighborhoods like those around RIPA, where over 50% of people are in or near poverty. As such, this funding will create stipends for interns from RIPA's local community to conduct environmental research of their own, from project design to data collection to presentation. This research will take place in Randall's Island's 22 acres of restored natural areas which include two salt marshes, seining beaches, and over 4 miles of shoreline.
Friends of Hudson River Park, Inc.	New York	$45,791	The Estuary Learning Center will be a classroom and interactive high-tech gallery providing interactive estuary education programs to educate about the Park's 400-acre Sanctuary and inspire the next generation of River stewards. The Center will draw a diverse group of local residents and visitors from across the region and the nation and advance the Park's STEM science and public education programs. The Center will also be a vital resource for advancing and sharing original research and primary data collected within the park's waters, which is conducted by the Park's River Project staff. This program will also provide critical green-job training and access to careers in the environmental field to students from local universities, high schools and neighborhood community centers. Funding will be used to create an initial curriculum and interpretives that maximize available classroom space.
Arm of the Sea Productions Inc.	Ulster	$54,467	For this project, Arm-of-the-Sea is partnering with Saugerties Lighthouse Conservancy to offer environmental education about the Hudson River Estuary at their locations in Saugerties, NY. In 2023, they will participate in "A Day in the Life of the Hudson River" and start offering workshop sessions using a newly built watershed model. In 2024, they will incorporate other environmental science activities into events and performances at Arm-of-the-Sea Tidewater Center. And in 2025, they will launch The Tidewater STEAM Experience Camp. Funds will be used for personnel costs, equipment, a storage shed and transportation. The project leverages Arm-of-the-Sea's 40 years of experience delivering Hudson River Estuary education through touring performances of masked theater, school residencies and community workshops.
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies	Dutchess	$75,000	MH-YES engages high school students with limited environmental science experience, from underserved communities, and groups traditionally underrepresented in STEM, to build their knowledge, skills, motivation, and confidence to pursue environmental science. This 3-week paid research experience lessens barriers to access to environmental science. Students show measurable gains in scientific skills such as performing field research, collaborative social skills, and analyzing data. In collaboration with mentors, students conduct research to understand the ecology of water and soil in the Hudson River Estuary - specifically at local creeks in Millbrook and Poughkeepsie. MH-YES partners with regional organizations, such as Scenic Hudson and the Hudson River Watershed Alliance, to develop professional networks for students and enhance science communication skills.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2022 (ROUND 37)			TOTAL: $618,650
AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 13, 2022			
RIVER EDUCATION			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Sarah Lawrence College	Westchester	$70,000	Rising TIDES (Training Innovative and Diverse Environmental Scientists) – EELS Team (Evaluating Estuary Lateral Species) is an immersive Hudson River Ecology education and research program. Twenty Yonkers Public School High School students will complete a 1-credit summer intensive followed by paid afterschool education and research during the academic year. Their research projects will focus on Hudson River Ecology and include data from seining, migratory eel monitoring, eDNA analysis, and use of water chemistry data from HRECOS. With mentorship from staff and Sarah Lawrence students they will create presentations to be shared with the community. In addition to their science training lessons will include green career options, communications training, and resume assistance.
The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York	Rockland	$74,969	The 'Building A Pathway' project will expand on our existing summer Next Gen internship program by providing more extensive opportunities for students from Rockland PEJA communities to develop Hudson River science research projects. Working from our Field Station in Piermont students will work together in peer and near peer teams to develop research projects along a range of field-based topics that could include sampling for microplastic abundance and classification, the impact of the pier on local estuary processes, the role of oysters in this brackish stretch of the Hudson, eDNA sampling and project expansion, fish diversity and abundance, plankton studies, biodiversity assessments and more. Projects will be designed and developed collaboratively by the student teams. Data will be shared through community events, poster presentations at Lamont, with local partner programs, at their local schools, and through our Field Station informal science events.
Natural Areas Conservancy, Inc.	New York	$73,923	The Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) proposes developing an intensive environmental science research project for City University of New York (CUNY) students from diverse backgrounds. Paid student interns will work extensively in the field, alongside NAC staff scientists, to conduct research on the condition of natural area forests in Northern Manhattan. This project will advance students' understanding of the ecosystem of the HRE and data first collected by the NAC during its Citywide Ecological Assessment in 2013-2014, providing updated information on forest conditions in the lower Hudson River Estuary (HRE). Interns will summarize and present their findings to the local community and practitioners, focusing on the trends and trajectories of forest health and what's needed to protect the ecological health of the HRE.
Groundwork Hudson Valley	Westchester	$74,500	In this project, Groundwork will expand and formalize its youth research initiatives at the Science Barge to provide up to 15+ high school students from Yonkers with a year-long highly structured, supportive, and flexible paid fellowship experience over a two-year implementation period. The main goal is to take advantage of the Barge’s innovative environmental systems and its stunning location on the Hudson River to inspire students to design, manage, and lead their own scientifically rigorous research projects. The work will focus on ways to improve the environmental quality of the estuary and the communities around it in alignment with Fellows own academic interests. First year Fellows will mentor the second-year cohort with staff. Work will be presented annually on the Barge or at the Riverfront Library, and STEM careers will be fostered with local and federal partners. The budget covers staff and fellow salaries along with travel and research materials.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2022 (ROUND 36)			TOTAL: $330,393
AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 13, 2022			
LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Riverkeeper Inc	Westchester and Putnam	$50,000	Riverkeeper is proposing to work with the City of Peekskill to monitor and assess water quality in Peekskill Hollow Creek, a regionally significant drinking water supply for more than 100,000 people, as called for in the City's draft Drinking Water Source Protection Plan (DWSP2). The Creek's assessment data is greater than 10 years old. The project would utilize a DEC-reviewed Quality Assurance Project Plan to gather ELAP lab-certified data in order to provide baseline data useful to DEC for updating its Priority Waterbody List / Waterbody Inventory, and useful for Peekskill in developing long-term monitoring strategies to protect this critical drinking water source.
Pace University	Dutchess and Putnam	$37,085	The Land Use Law Center at Pace University's School of Law seeks to implement a community-based LULA program for the Fishkill Creek watershed within Dutchess and Putnam County, with the aim of fostering the development of sustainable communities and providing targeted policy, planning, and regulatory tools for natural resource and open space protection, watershed planning and shoreline resiliency. Local land use planning and regulation offer a significant opportunity to create more resilient communities. Therefore, in collaboration with the Hudson River Watershed Alliance, the Center will develop land use leadership capacity within the watershed areas to support community leaders and other stakeholders in assessing and amending their plans and zoning codes to increase community resiliency, natural resources, and open space protections for healthier watersheds.
Town of Stanford	Dutchess	$20,406	The goal of this project is to develop a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for the Town of Stanford. Stanford does not currently have a NRI, but it will soon adopt an updated Comprehensive Plan that proposes new conservation measures. These conservation actions require the basic information and maps of natural resources that a NRI would provide. The project will be led by the Stanford Conservation Advisory Commission, with assistance from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County and Hudsonia, Inc. The funds will primarily be used to support contracts to these partners to provide GIS analysis, mapping, and analysis of critical habitats in the Town. The NRI will also help Stanford achieve its goal of becoming a NY State Climate Smart Community.
City of Newburgh	Orange	$50,000	Goal of the NRI is to collect, visualize, and interpret the city's natural resources to provide a basis for sustainability and resiliency to be fully incorporated into Newburgh's long-term Master Plan & local & regional project review process. NRI investigations will include identification of open spaces, unmarked wetlands, biomes, and biodiversity areas, former streams that have been rerouted or covered over & may be candidates for daylighting, community gardens, beehives, and identification of opportunities for protection, enhancement, and/or restoration. The funds will support consultation on technical writing, analyses of maps/data, public engagement, & production of the Draft NRI. We will engage a cultural resource specialist to assist with interpreting historical maps, identifying cultural resources, and creating demographic maps to provide context on the distribution of ethnic populations, neighborhood growth, and relations to the presence of brownfields and their creation.
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Inc.	Rensselaer	$23,002	In 2019 the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA) completed a the Poesten Kill Watershed and Flood Mitigation Assessment (supported by an HREP grant) with the aim of identifying ways in which damage to infrastructure and personal property from future flooding events could be mitigated. The most cost effective and innovative idea developed, that will address the urgent need to make municipal stormwater infrastructure at risk of flooding more resilient, is to detain flood runoff from major precipitation events on existing wetlands in the upper watershed of the Poesten Kill. This pilot project will be completed on a 7-acre wetland in Poestenkill in preparation for construction. The performance of the pilot project will be used to implement the flood water detention concept throughout the watershed helping to protect downstream infrastructure. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate the feasibility of the wetland detention concept, and collect performance data for use in designing full scale installations in the wetlands of the upper watershed.
Village of Ossining	Westchester	$50,000	The project will create a resiliency vision and strategies for environmental sustainability for the waterfront north of Louis Engel and Gourdine Parks, which is projected to be impacted by sea-level rise and increased flooding over the next three decades. Qualified consultants will work with Village officials, private property owners and other stakeholders to recommend targeted climate-adaptations. Public-private partnerships will be developed. Extension of the RiverWalk promenade will also be planned to enhance connectivity and public access to the Hudson River. The project will promote the protection of Ossining's waterfront and advance environmental sustainability through resilience to inundation and increased flooding.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2022 (ROUND 36)			TOTAL: $330,393
AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 13, 2022			
LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Groundwork Hudson Valley	Westchester	$49,900	In this project, GWHV's Saw Mill River Coalition (SMRC) initiative will engage watershed stakeholders in a two-year process to proactively plan for future climate risks in the SMR. In the first phase, based on input from governmental agencies and community groups, sites in the SMR will be identified where flooding is pervasive and is likely to get worse over time due to a nexus with other small creeks and the built environment. The expertise of the Urban Systems Lab (USL) at the New School will be used to provide an overview of flooding issues in the watershed and to characterize the highest risk sites based on climate predictions. A pilot effort was completed last year by USL along the SMR in Southwest Yonkers and would be extended to upstream sites to proactively develop flood resilience plans. Partners include the watershed towns, Westchester County, stewardship groups, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
Hudson River Watershed Alliance	Watershed-Wide	$50,000	HRWA will create a regionally-applicable guidance document on developing a watershed characterization, the first step in developing a watershed management plan. The project will use the watershed planning framework established by the NYS DOS and NYS DEC, adding up-to-date information on data sources, the planning process, and best practices. The guidance document will accelerate the adoption of watershed characterizations in the Hudson River Estuary watershed, one of the goals of the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2021–2025, by providing much needed structure and support for community-based watershed groups. HRWA will also provide outreach and technical assistance to watershed groups to support local planning and overcome barriers, helping groups to identify priorities for plans and projects.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2022 (ROUND 35)			TOTAL: $318,042
AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 13, 2022			
TRIBUTARY RESTORATION & RESILIENCY			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Riverkeeper Inc	Rensselaer	$150,000	Kenwood Mill Dam on Mill Creek (ID:226-1334) is a 6-ft high, 50-ft long Concrete Gravity, Low Hazard dam. It no longer serves any purpose and is blocking over 1 mile of critical habitat for river herring and American eel: 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Riverkeeper proposes to conduct preliminary engineering design and planning to remove this first barrier to the Hudson. We have already performed initial reconnaissance at the site. Due to the dam's urban location and adjacent infrastructure that adds to the complexity of the project, we are proposing a phased planning process. In this 1st phase, we will hire an engineering firm to conduct a site assessment, professional survey, and structural engineering evaluation, and produce preliminary engineering design plans.
Walter Hoving Home, Inc	Putnam	$100,000	The project will remove a dam and restore an approximately 800-foot reach of the Philips Brook in Garrison, New York, a Class B stream that drains to the Hudson River Estuary. The project goals include removing a 10-foot-high concrete and masonry dam, three weirs, and portions of masonry walls for the purposes of a) restoring aquatic organism passage and stream habitat, b) improving flood resilience, and c) creating opportunities for community education and enjoyment. The structures, while historical, are falling under disrepair and greatly diminish the flood capacity and habitat quality of the stream. Grant funding will be applied toward design and permitting, resulting in stamped engineering plans, permits, and construction documents.
Riverkeeper Inc	Orange/Westchester	$68,042	Riverkeeper will continue exploring the feasibility of removing other dams along streams where we have already removed dams - further opening up these tributaries for imperiled aquatic species. We will conduct reconnaissance activities on three priority dams on Furnace Brook in Westchester County and Quassaick Creek in Orange County, whose removals will restore natural flow regimes, improve ecological connectivity, and benefit river herring and American eel - 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Tasks will include: investigating the dams' history; identifying potential issues that may affect removal; researching dam owners; conducting ecological. evaluations of the streams; identifying target species; creating partnerships and communicating with stakeholders; engaging the community to explain the benefits of dam removal; and hosting film screenings.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2021 (ROUND 34)			TOTAL: $269,716
AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 26, 2021			
RIVER ACCESS			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Yonkers Paddling & Rowing Club	Westchester	$45,800	Working with community organizations, Yonkers Paddling & Rowling Club will continue its Hudson River Riders program that provides river access for the public, with a focus on underprivileged youth. The Hudson River Riders program recruits and trains young people to become the next generation of paddlers and environmental stewards, and this grant will allow for expansion of the program.
Town of Marlborough	Ulster	$40,000	This project will plan and deploy an accessible kayak launch to serve regional residents and visitors in the Town of Marlborough. Project deliverables include the launch, access ramp, accessible pathway to designated handicapped parking, and signage.
Downtown Boathouse	New York	$40,000	Downtown Boathouse will increase the type of equipment available at popular launch sites to expand the free kayaking programs and the population served to reach more underserved communities. This includes equipment and training suitable for youth and adaptive paddling programs, broadening the groups of people who are able to experience the estuary via free kayaking and making it more accessible to people of all ages and abilities.
City of Kingston	Ulster	$50,000	The City of Kingston will remove the existing deteriorated and unsafe public kayak dock on the Rondout Creek, complete a plan and design of a new kayak launch system, and construct and install the new dock with full handicapped accessibility.
Village of Catskill	Greene	$50,000	The Village of Catskill will repair and improve access at the existing boat launch at Dutchman's Landing Park to make the boat ramp and docks safer, more secure, better accessible to persons with disabilities, and to protect against erosion and flooding. Funds will be used for planning and design, purchase of equipment, installation and construction costs, as well as site restoration.
Pratt Institute	Lower Estuary Wide	$43,916	Pratt Institute will develop a single gateway to comprehensive, up-to-date information encouraging New Yorkers to get onto the Hudson River. The product will be a mobile-friendly, interactive website that will enable easier access to sites, programs and activities in Hudson Estuary waters south of the Mario Cuomo Bridge.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2021 (ROUND 33)			TOTAL: $419,383
AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 26, 2021			
RIVER EDUCATION			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Columbia Land Conservancy, Inc.	Columbia	$37,655	The Columbia Land Conservancy will create virtual and place-based experiences highlighting the Hudson River Estuary and its watershed. Project deliverables include ten virtual tours in the TravelStorys app, installing watershed-themed artwork on the Access for All trail, and retrofitting an aging gazebo overlooking the Hudson at the Greenport Conservation Area.
Rensselaer Land Trust, Inc.	Rensselaer	$27,975	Rensselaer Land Trust will create new lesson plans about sustainable fishing methods, test their efficacy, and provide participants with a sense of stewardship of habitat and species restoration. The project will feature components of traditional fishing methods, habitats, and species restoration efforts on the Hudson River.
The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York	Rockland	$39,088	This project will support student experiences learning about the estuary. Students will engage the community, collect qualitative data from residents, that will be annotated and developed into stories and shared learning experiences (videos, events, etc.) to build unity and understanding across cultures and communities. These products will be used to develop supporting curriculum for MS/HS students to support duplicating this type of project in other communities.
Friends of Hudson River Park	New York	$38,188	Friends of Hudson River Park will purchase and deploy a ROV (WasteShark) designed to collect floating debris in the water while simultaneously gathering geospatial and water quality information. The data will be used to help identify in-river plastic hot spots and improve the Park's efforts to remove plastic from the River. The WasteShark will also allow for a regular floatable removal program from the River, expanding the Park's shoreline cleanups by adding in-water plastic removal opportunities.
Radix Ecological Sustainability Center	Albany	$40,000	Radix Ecological Sustainability Center will construct a solar-powered watercraft for education about the Hudson River in the vicinity of the South End of Albany, NY for Radix youth employees and local residents to learn about aquatic areas of frequent use and concern.
Arm of the Sea Productions Inc.	Ulster	$31,639	This project will specify, permit, purchase and install a large awning structure for Hudson River programs at the Arm-of-the-Sea Tidewater Center in Saugerties, NY. It will also support the development of programming for the new program awning space.
Sarah Lawrence College	Westchester	$40,000	The Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak and the Child Development Institute will develop, test, and publish curriculum for "Teaching the Environment: Discovering Urban Landscapes and Watersheds." This intensive one-week professional development program for K-12 teachers will cover topics in sustainability with an expressed and intentional lens on the river and watershed, from source to tap to outflow. The resulting curriculum will be published and made available at no charge on the college's web site.
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Inc	Dutchess	$40,000	Hudson River Sloop Clearwater will enhance the existing web-based Fish Key tool by adding new video resources related to Hudson River fish and adding links to other websites like the Hudson River Estuary Program's Virtual River website, making the Key a portal to a range of river education resources.
Media Alliance, Inc.	Rensselaer	$40,000	This project will furnish a computer lab in Media Alliance's new NATURE Lab Urban Environmental Education Center, located in North Central Troy. The computer equipment will expand the scope of the work in the lab, supporting education and research of the estuary, and connecting youth and environmental organizations along the Hudson. The facility will also provide disadvantaged youth access to resources such as computers and internet for learning about the estuary and surrounding ecosystem.
Groundwork Hudson Valley	Westchester	$32,997	Groundwork Hudson Valley will improve, deliver, and assess a new standards-based curriculum about the Saw Mill River daylighting projects in downtown Yonkers for K to12th grade students across the river's watershed, with a specific emphasis on students from Southwest Yonkers.
River Pool at Beacon, Inc.	Dutchess	$12,500	This project will make upgrades to the floating river pool structure at the River Pool at Beacon, including upgrades to pool seats, walkway and entry points, educational materials, and new signage. These improvements will ensure continuing opportunities for visitors to get into the Hudson River, and to learn about the currents, tides, and river life.
Waterfront Alliance, Inc.	New York, Richmond, Kings	$39,341	Residency curriculum. The Residency will develop and add specific agendas, coordinating steps, and an implementation guide that will enable teachers to work together on estuary education and easily seek partnerships. Funding will also support a pilot residency program in the schools with four classes each over eight weeks, taking place in environmental justice communities in northern Manhattan, Brooklyn,

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2021 (ROUND 32)			TOTAL: $887,081
AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 26, 2021			
LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Town of New Scotland	Albany	$50,000	This project will comprehensively inventory, map, and describe natural resources in New Scotland, convey that information in both a written report and GIS StoryMap summary, and then use that information to create a town-wide open space plan. The information, along with public input, will help establish policies, programs, regulations, and other methods in the open space plan to protect those valuable resources.
City of Rensselaer	Rensselaer	$50,000	An Open Space and Recreation Plan will be developed with the goal to create a more resilient community and a more sustainable City of Rensselaer. The project will examine existing open and recreational spaces to assess potential for conservation-centric improvements to each space and to also identify linkages between them. The plan will help identify future conservation projects and determine priorities for open spaces.
NYC Dept of Parks & Recreation	Richmond	$50,000	NYC Department of Parks & Recreation will develop designs for a stormwater green infrastructure (a rain garden) within Snug Harbor Park on the north shore of Staten Island to manage untreated stormwater runoff that discharge directly into Harbor Brook. Once implemented, the rain garden would help reduce flooding, improve instream and riparian habitat along Harbor Brook, and filter sediment and contaminants, thereby reducing the pollutant load to the Kill Van Kull.
Town of New Castle	Westchester	$36,033	The Town of New Castle will complete a high-level Natural Resources Inventory, which will include a detailed analysis and report of the current state of the Town's natural resources and any recommendations for conservation and/or mitigation due to human activity and/or climate change.
Natural Areas Conservancy, Inc.	New York	$50,000	The Natural Areas Conservancy will develop a forest management and community stewardship plan for the 102 acres of natural forests in Highbridge Park in northern Manhattan. Existing data and inventories will be analyzed, priorities for conservation will be developed, and the community will be engaged in the process (including volunteer opportunities).
Town of Kent	Putnam	$49,960	The Town of Kent will conduct a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and prepare a Biodiversity Inventory, which will be included in the NRI. The NRI will detail the significance of the resources to the community as well as identify existing and potential threats and provide recommendations for sustainable uses and conservation. The inventory will augment the NRI and provide information on the region's range of species for future reference and scientific study.
Town of Milan	Dutchess	$44,010	The Town of Milan will work with Hudsonia to create a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for the Town. The NRI will be designed for use by the Milan Planning Board and other town agencies engaged in matters related to land use planning, policy-making, and environmental reviews, and will also be useful to landowners, residents, developers, and others seeking to understand the natural landscapes of Milan.
Town of Mount Pleasant	Westchester	$17,440	This project will complete a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) and wetland mapping project for the Town of Mt. Pleasant. The completed NRI with be a reference document for use by Town agencies, landowners and other seeking information about Mt. Pleasant's natural resources and landscapes and will provide guidance for land use planning, land development and conservation.
Town of Bedford	Westchester	$30,981	The Town of Bedford will engage a contractor to produce a Conservation Overlay Ordinance and map, and draft Wildlife Corridors Overlay District legislation to be proposed for addition to existing zoning ordinances.
Pace University	Westchester	$46,612	The current state of the Pocantico River Watershed will be assessed through the compilation of existing information and the collection of new data. The assessment will characterize the current knowledge base of the watershed, identify gaps, document impairments, and provide recommendations for its conservation. In addition to a final assessment report, the data will be presented on an ESRI Story Map.
City of Kingston	Ulster	$50,000	A Community Preservation Plan will be created for the City of Kingston. The plan will be drawn from existing plans and inventories of natural and historic resources, as well as other sources of GIS data. The creation of the plan will serve as a necessary resource to establish a Community Protection Fund which would support the conservation of important City assets.
Town of Poughkeepsie	Dutchess	$50,000	The Town of Poughkeepsie will conduct a study of flooding in New Hamburg, which is within Zone AE of the 100-year floodplain along the Hudson River. The project will include an analysis of the floodplain, in-field surveying, and work on the design of possible alternate solutions to mitigate the flooding.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2021 (ROUND 32)			TOTAL: $887,081
AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 26, 2021			
LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING			
ORGANIZATION	**COUNTY**	**AWARD**	**DESCRIPTION**
Ulster County	Ulster	$46,554	Ulster County will develop a County-wide natural resources inventory and integrate it into a cloud-based mapping portal and accompanying municipal toolkit. Key community stakeholders will be engaged, and the resources created will enable decision-makers at every level to identify and prioritize natural resources, provide the opportunity to incorporate these into land-use planning, and create a framework to which maps, datasets, and other resources will be added in the future.
Village of Highland Falls	Orange	$12,000	This project will develop a site master plan for lands owned by Scenic Hudson for the future development of the land for public use and education and the conservation of its natural resources. A Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment will be completed to inform the future site master plan. The plan will guide the responsible siting of appropriate infrastructure as determined by the need for parking areas and trails, and provide robust information for natural history interpretation.
New York Restoration Project	New York	$49,984	This project will evaluate the impact of the Living Shoreline initiative at Sherman Creek Park by assessing improvement to ecosystem function and the extent to which the project is rebuilding habitat and the shoreline to strengthen the shoreline conditions against flooding. Specifically, the monitoring and evaluation study will examine how the living shoreline impacts biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and nitrogen cycling as well as improvements in sedimentation and the presence of wildlife.
Riverkeeper Inc	Estuary Wide	$50,000	Riverkeeper will complete a regional-scale vulnerability assessment to better define climate-related vulnerabilities to waterbodies within municipal boundaries. Activities include conducting a scoping process to ensure stakeholder input; conducting a scientific literature review; convening experts to conduct an analysis; and creating a report with infographics. This assessment will help communities identify local waterways as assets, and identify risks to water quality, water quantity and aquatic species.
Hudson River Watershed Alliance	Greene, Sullivan, Ulster	$39,183	implement a community-based Land Use Leadership Alliance training (LULA) program for the Rondout and Esopus Creek watersheds, with the aim of fostering the development of sustainable communities and providing targeted policy, planning, and regulatory tools for natural resource and open space protection, watershed planning and shoreline resiliency. This training will develop land use leadership capacity within the watershed areas to support community leaders and other stakeholders in assessing
Consensus Building Institute, Inc	Estuary Wide	$49,990	This project will deliver a strategic plan for the Hudson River Flood Resilience Network (FRN), along with regional guidance documents on flooding. Goals include sustaining operation of the Network into the future, expanding Network participation as a result of increased outreach and communications, and increasing community sharing and learning of approaches that will lead to action and increase waterfront resilience.
Dutchess County Dept of Planning & Development	Dutchess	$49,496	Dutchess County will update its decade-old NRI to better describe the current state of the county's natural resources and the potential threats facing them. The project will: 1) update the NRI document itself, 2) develop a public-facing web-based platform to host a mapping application and data portal for use by the county's constituent municipalities, and 3) provide outreach to local decision-makers on how to use these tools.
Trout Unlimited, Inc.	Rensselaer	$49,838	Trout Unlimited will develop the Town of Stephentown Road Stream Crossing Replacement Plan (RSCRP), which will serve as a guide for future culvert replacements, reconnecting high quality aquatic habitat and improving community flood resiliency and road infrastructure condition within the Town. The outcome of the RSCRP will be a prioritized list of road stream crossings, designs for 2-3 priority replacement structures and road stream crossing inventory document and web-based application.
Village of Piermont	Rockland	$15,000	The Plan will identify climate adaptation strategies and policies to decrease vulnerability and provide guidelines for promoting economic and cultural sustainability for the village, including relocation out of the flood zone. The project will focus on developing recommendations for code, zoning and land use revisions to mitigate the impact of climate change and sea level rise, protect historic and scenic resources and identify incentives for sustainable and renewable development.