NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

2026 New York State Conservation Partnership Program
Detailed Project Summaries

Land Trust Alliance
Together, conserving the places you love

Capacity & Excellence Grants			
Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	**Project Location**	**Project Summary**	**Grant Award**
Battenkill Conservancy	Cambridge, Washington County	**Accreditation Readiness and Community Impact** - Grant will support Battenkill Conservancy's efforts to strengthen governance, align with *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and pursue accreditation by completing a gap analysis and developing an improvement roadmap.	$18,750.00
Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust*	Buffalo, Erie County	**Community Engagement & Stewardship Capacity Initiative** - Grant will enable Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust to expand community engagement, volunteer stewardship and environmental education across its conserved properties.	$37,500.00
Cazenovia Preservation Foundation*	Cazenovia, Madison County	**CPF Legacy Easement Risk Review & Amendment** - Grant will allow Cazenovia Preservation Foundation to conduct a risk assessment of its older easements and make changes as needed to reduce violation potential and mitigate risk for the land trust and current and future easement property owners.	$29,644.00
Central New York Land Trust*	Fayetteville, Onondaga County	**Tech Upgrades for Advancing Conservation in Central New York** - Grant will help strengthen Central New York Land Trust's organizational capacity and growth by supporting expert guidance and technology investments that improve stewardship and fundraising while engaging volunteers, supporters and the broader community.	$37,050.00
Grassland Bird Trust	Schuylerville, Saratoga County	**Organizational Reset Phase 2** - Grant will enable Grassland Bird Trust to build on previous capacity investments as the organization works to reset its direction. The land trust will develop an integrated strategic and conservation plan that reflects its evolved and mature vision and will refresh the website so it effectively communicates this vision and enhances outreach and engagement.	$30,295.00
Grassroots Gardens WNY*	Buffalo, Erie County	**Executive Leadership Transition: Building Capacity for Growing the Grassroots Gardens Land Trust** - Grant will enable Grassroots Gardens WNY to strategically implement a planned executive leadership transition and create a new strategic plan to guide a new vision for the land trust and strengthen the organization's financial and operating sustainability.	$50,000.00
HL Ferguson Museum	Fishers Island, Suffolk County	**Property Surveys to Protect Land and Advance Toward Accreditation** - Grant will enable The Henry L. Ferguson Museum to survey and mark the boundaries of 33 fee-owned properties bringing the organization further into compliance with *Land Trust Standards and Practices,* enabling the organization to address potential encroachments and strengthen stewardship work.	$17,500.00
Huyck Preserve and Biological Resource Station*	Rensselaerville, Albany County	**Expanding Conservation Engagement Through Enhanced Communications Tools** - Grant will enable the Huyck Preserve to refine visual and core identities, create a targeted communications plan and update their website and other channels to effectively engage people around the land trusts mission-driven work in conservation, education, research and recreation.	$29,200.00

Capacity & Excellence Grants (continued)			
Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	**Project Location**	**Project Summary**	**Grant Award**
Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy*	Albany, Albany County	**Ensuring Conservation Success Through Strategic and Succession Planning** - Grant will support the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy in developing a new 5-year strategic plan and a succession plan that will guide the organization into the next generation of leadership to ensure the success of its conservation mission.	$32,850
Northeastern Cave Conservancy	Schoharie, Schoharie County	**Strategic Planning Project** - Grant will enable the Northeastern Cave Conservancy to create a 5-year, facilitated, strategic plan that has a practical, actionable plan with timelines, roles and measurable outcomes matched to the organization's needs and capacity.	$26,685
Orange County Land Trust*	Thompson, Sullivan County,	**The Harlen Swamp Connectivity Assessment** - Grant will enable Orange County Land Trust to conduct a trail assessment to determine the feasibility of connecting an important 568-acre property they are working to conserve to an adjacent YMCA environmental education camp.	$50,000
Otsego Land Trust*	Cooperstown, Otsego County	**Strategic Planning for Land and Water Conservation** - Grant will enable Otsego Land Trust to update its organizational strategic plan and its strategic conservation plan to reflect evolving needs and priorities, new leadership and the five-year reaccreditation cycle.	$48,000
Saratoga PLAN*	Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County	**Saratoga PLAN Updates Conservation Plan** - Grant will enable Saratoga PLAN to update its 2015 conservation plan to include higher quality data, modern conservation goals and better align it with their strategic plan, giving the land trust the updated tools to improve the quality of their land protection.	$17,877
Westchester Land Trust*	Bedford Hills, Westchester County	**Utilizing Technology and Data to Increase Capacity** - Grant will support Westchester Land Trust's efforts to migrate to a donor database that integrates with the easement stewardship database, transfer organization files from an in-house server to a cloud-based one, and implement staff time tracking software.	$25,000
Western New York Land Conservancy*	East Aurora, Erie County	**Propelling Forward Conservation and Stewardship in Western NY through Strategic Planning** - Grant will enable Western New York Land Conservancy to develop its next strategic plan, including a capacity assessment and consultant support, to strengthen sustainability, implement *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and accelerate conservation impact.	$40,000
		TOTAL	**$490,351**

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Conservation Catalyst Grants			
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Mohonk Preserve*	Gardiner, Ulster County	**Shawangunk Ridge/Wallkill Valley Economic Impact Study** - Grant will enable Mohonk Preserve, Open Space Institute and Wallkill Valley Land Trust to conduct an economic impact study of conserved lands in the Shawangunk Ridge, a scenic destination attracting hundreds of thousands for outdoor recreation.	$42,000.00
Niamuck Land Trust	Southampton, Suffolk County	**Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery and Land Back as Reparations** - Grant will enable Niamuck Land Trust to partner with the Sisters of St. Joseph to develop and deliver an Indigenous-led land back curriculum to help faith-based institutions understand land harms and pursue rematriation.	$50,000.00
North Shore Land Alliance*	Oyster Bay, Nassau County	**Deer in Our Midst: Education and Action** - Grant will enable North Shore Land Alliance to partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York Botanical Garden, Seatuck Environmental Association and others to host 1-2 symposia featuring experts on proper deer management.	$44,500.00
Open Space Institute Land Trust*	Orange and Rockland Counties	**Highlands West Trail Connectivity Plan Update** - Grant will enable Open Space Institute Land Trust and partners to make critical updates to the Highlands West Trail Connectivity Plan to advance current community-driven priorities and guide land protection and park/trail development in Orange and Rockland Counties over the next 5-10 years.	$100,000.00
The Nature Conservancy*	Statewide	**Building a Reforestation Coalition in New York State** - Grant will support The Nature Conservancy's efforts to bring key partners together to advance state reforestation goals, provide technical assistance, capacity building and increase interaction and support between coalition partners.	$50,000.00
The Nature Conservancy*	Statewide	**Expanding Access to Nature and Protecting Forest Health** - Grant will enable The Nature Conservancy and Kinfolk Hunting Collective to lead deer management activities and expand hunting opportunities to underrepresented communities to both support forest health and improve equitable access to nature for all people.	$50,000.00
Thousand Islands Land Trust*	Clayton, Jefferson County	**Ecological Connectivity in NY's A2A** - Grant will support Thousand Islands Land Trust's efforts to strengthen ecological connectivity in New York's A2A landscape by building collaboration among land trusts and agencies and by creating tools, maps and support needed to conserve and steward this critical wildlife corridor.	$99,500.00
Winnakee Land Trust*	Rhinebeck, Dutchess County	**Dutchess County Blanding's Turtle Conservation Partnership** - Grant will enable the Winnakee Land Trust and the Dutchess County Blanding's Turtle Partnership to acquire additional resources including a new GPS tracking system that will help with ongoing population monitoring and conservation efforts of this endangered species.	$44,900.00
		TOTAL	**$480,900**

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Professional Development Grants			
Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	**Project Location**	**Project Summary**	**Grant Award**
Dutchess Land Conservancy*	Millbrook, Dutchess County	**Senior Land Projects Manager** - Grant will enable Dutchess Land Conservancy to expand their conservation team by adding a full-time senior land projects manager. This new position will play a vital role in advancing strategic plan goals to accelerate and enhance land protection efforts. It will also allow the organization to more proactively protect high-priority, strategically important conservation lands before they are converted to development.	$100,000.00
Genesee Valley Conservancy*	Geneseo, Livingston County	**Director of Communication** - Grant will enable Genesee Valley Conservancy to hire a full-time director of communication. This new position will be the land trust's first dedicated communications position in the organization's 35-year history and represents a critical need at this time.	$100,000.00
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust*	Watertown, Jefferson County	**Strengthening Administrative and Financial Capacity** - Grant will enable Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust to transition a part-time administrative role into a full-time manager of administration and finance. Increasing this position to full-time will allow the land trust to operate with clarity and efficiency at a time when stability, accuracy and responsiveness are essential.	$72,000.00
		TOTAL	**$272,000**

Stewardship & Resource Management Grants			
Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	**Project Location**	**Project Summary**	**Grant Award**
Agricultural Stewardship* Association	White Creek, Washington County	**Expanding Trails and Access at the Cambridge Community Forest** - Grant will enable Agricultural Stewardship Association to hire a trail builder to construct 1.8 miles of hiking trails that will complete the main trail network at the Cambridge Community Forest and increase recreational and educational opportunities on site.	$83,000.00
Beaverkill Valley Land Trust	Rockland, Sullivan County	**Beech Mt Forest Preserve Deer Enclosure Initiative** - Grant will support Beaverkill Valley Land Trust's efforts to enable the regeneration of native plant and tree species on a three-acre portion of the Beech Mt Forest Preserve using deer protection in response to Emerald Ash Borer.	$24,510.00
Columbia Land Conservancy*	Chatham, Columbia County	**Improving Access and Increasing Community Engagement** - Grant will enable Columbia Land Conservancy to work with contractors and volunteers to improve visitor experience at the Ooms Preserve through a trail improvement and a habitat restoration project, increasing accessibility to one of Chatham's most beloved properties.	$35,000.00
Everwild Land Trust*	Ashville, Chautauqua County	**Creating an Accessible Nature Preserve in Chautauqua County** - Grant will enable Everwild Land Trust to build a universal public access trail and amenities on the Loomis Goose Creek Preserve including an ADA-compliant trail system, paved parking, improved wayfinding, accessible overlook areas and audio interpretive.	$99,212.00

Stewardship & Resource Management Grants (continued)			
Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	**Project Location**	**Project Summary**	**Grant Award**
Genesee Land Trust*	Greece, Monroe County	**Creating an Ambassador Nature Preserve at Island Cottage Woods-Phase One** - Grant will enable Genesee Land Trust to work with contractors and construction companies to develop Island Cottage Woods into an Ambassador Nature Preserve with accessible trails, interpretive signage and benches.	$100,000.00
Hudson Highlands Land Trust*	Putnam Valley, Putnam County	**Health & Safety Improvements: Phase 1** - Grant will allow Hudson Highlands Land Trust to begin making improvements to a 138-acre addition to its preserve in Putnam County. Work will include debris/structure removal, Environmental Site Assessments and the development of a restoration and remediation plan to guide ecological recovery and public access.	$25,000.00
Hudson Highlands Land Trust*	Garrison, Putnam County	**Enhancing Public Safety, Access & Education Across Multiple Preserves** - Grant will enable Hudson Highlands Land Trust to work with partners to create and build signage and maps to create comprehensive wayfinding and interpretive signage across four preserves, improving public access, safety and the overall visitor experience.	$60,000.00
Kingston Land Trust*	Kingston, Ulster County	**The Salamander Trail Project** - Grant will support the completion of the final leg of a multi-year trail building collaboration between Kingston Land Trust and the Northeast Cave Conservancy on adjoining properties in the city of Kingston.	$50,000.00
Lake George Land Conservancy*	Lake George, Warren County	**Signage to Improve User Experience** - Grant will enable Lake George Land Conservancy to design and install signage for a new hiking and mountain biking preserve at the 317-acre McPhillips Preserve at French Mountain, which was permanently protected through a partnership between the land trust and the towns of Lake George and Queensbury.	$34,000.00
Mianus River Gorge*	Bedford, Westchester County	**Developing a New Strategic Management System for Invasive Species Management** - Grant will allow Mianus River Gorge to work on restoring the east-facing slopes after surveying and mapping invasives, removing detrimental invasives and building a long-term stewardship strategy that is replicable and sustainable.	$58,192.00
Mohonk Preserve*	Gardiner, Ulster County	**Restoring Undercliff Carriage Road at West Trapps** - Grant will enable Mohonk Preserve to restore 2.5 miles of Undercliff Carriage Road, a highly visible multi-use pathway that is the Preserve's most popular trail, offers stunning scenic views and provides access to West Trapps, a world-class rock climbing location.	$50,000.00
OBI Land Trust	Brownville, Jefferson County	**Discover Downybrook Phase Four** - Grant will support OBI Land Trust's continuing efforts to improve portions of the Downybrook Preserve. Phase four work will include improving habitat for grassland birds through invasive species control including brush hog work, tree and stone clearing. Grant funds will also be used for trail improvement by removing and replacing and old boardwalk.	$31,088.00

Stewardship & Resource Management Grants (continued)			
Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	**Project Location**	**Project Summary**	**Grant Award**
Pound Ridge Land Conservancy*	Pound Ridge, Westchester County	**Revitalizing Preserves for Enhanced Community Engagement** - Grant will enable Pound Ridge Land Conservancy to replace dated trail maps and trail signage with more accessible maps and trail markers as well as remove and replace a deteriorating kiosk at Carolin's Grove Preserve.	$34,000.00
Saratoga PLAN*	Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County	**Branding Preserves for Community Visibility and Connection** - Grant will support Saratoga PLAN's efforts to improve the organization's recognition within the community by addressing the lack of consistent branding of signs and kiosks across their 13 public locations.	$20,462.00
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust*	Evans Mills, Jefferson County	**David S. Smith Public Conservation Area - Public Access and Education** - Grant will enable Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust to improve safe public access at the David Smith PCA by constructing a gravel driveway and parking area, a community pavilion, and completing engineering design for an accessible trail system.	$18,000.00
Woodstock Land Conservancy*	Saugerties, Ulster County	**New Trail to Access Wetland Habitat and Existing Trail Improvements** - Grant will enable Woodstock Land Conservancy to continue making public access improvements to the 54-acre Israel Wittman Sanctuary acquired by the land trust in 2024 by adding a new one-mile trail to the existing five-mile trail network that will provide access to the wetlands while conducting drainage work on existing sections of trail.	$57,700.00
		TOTAL	**$780,164**

Transaction Grants			
Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	**Project Location**	**Project Summary**	**Grant Award**
Adirondack Land Trust*	Brighton, Franklin County	**VIC Forestlands Conservation Easement** - Grant supports Adirondack Land Trust;s recent acquisition of a conservation easement that now protects 2,800 acres of forests and waters, comprising a living forestry and ecology laboratory and a Visitor Interpretive Center hosting 25 miles of trails for hiking, birdwatching, snowshoeing, skiing and enjoying nature.	$75,000.00
Catskill Center for Conservation and Development*	Hunter, Greene County	**Platte Clove Preserve Addition and Improvements** - Grant will enable The Catskill Center to acquire a 4-acre property that, while small, is a strategic inholding to their flagship Platte Clove Preserve. Improvements planned for the addition include securing the slopes down to Plattekill Creek and adding a proper trailhead and modest parking lot to resolve public safety concerns.	$40,104.00

Transaction Grants (continued)			
Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	**Project Location**	**Project Summary**	**Grant Award**
Champlain Area Trails*	Essex, Jefferson County	**Twin Valleys Outdoor Education Center Public Access and Land Protection** - Grant will enable Champlain Area Trails to complete the process of opening over eight miles of trails for public recreation. This impressive 650 acres of wild forest was purchased by CATS in 2025 and a forever-wild easement was granted to Northeast Wilderness Trust the same year.	$75,000.00
Grassroots Gardens WNY*	Buffalo, Erie County	**Mulberry and Friends Community Garden Acquisition** - Grant will enable Grassroots Gardens WNY to develop a stewardship/management plan and make public access improvements to the recently acquired Mulberry and Friends Community Garden. The garden is located in a historic black neighborhood with deep roots in urban agriculture and community power.	$6,861.00
Greene Land Trust*	Athens, Greene County	**Recovery of Transaction and Site Opening Costs for Potic Creek Preserve** - Grant will enable Greene Land Trust to recoup costs associated with the acquisition and site development of a 221-acre property that features a biodiverse, wooded riparian corridor.	$53,709.00
Hudson Taconic Lands*	Berlin, Rensselaer County	**Berlin Community Forest Learning Landscape** - Grant will enable Hudson Taconic Lands to recover costs associated with the recent purchase of a 448-acre property that, in partnership with the Berlin Central Schools, will be turned into a Learning Landscapes outdoor classroom.	$75,000.00
Hudson Taconic Lands*	Pittstown, Rensselaer County	**Otter Creek Community Forest** - Grant will support the permanent protection of the 99-acre Otter Creek Community Forest that boasts a half mile of Otter Creek, an important trout stream and tributary of the Tomhannock Reservoir, and the drinking water source for the city of Troy and surrounding area.	$20,000.00
Kingston Land Trust*	Kingston, Ulster County	**Land In Black Hands Farm Land Base** - Grant will support the protection of 54-acres of farmland in the city of Kingston that will be transformed into an agricultural center fostering African and Indigenous traditional farming methods and practices.	$25,000.00
Lake George Land Conservancy*	Whitehall, Washington County	**Spruce Mountain Addition** - Grant will enable the Lake George Land Conservancy to acquire the 158-acre Spruce Mountain Addition, which adjoins a New York state forest preserve identified as a climate resilient site in an important wildlife corridor.	$40,742.00
Peconic Land Trust*	Southold, Suffolk County	**Manassah-Kerester Acquisition** - Grant will provide indirect transaction cost support to Peconic Land Trust for the protection of 13.85-acres of Manassah-Kerester waterfront on Peconic Bay. The addition of these lands expands a network of more than 150 conserved acres that protects habitat and water quality.	$51,480.00
Teatown Lake Reservation*	Croton-on-Hudson, Westchester County	**Po Kim Acquisition** - Grant will reimburse Teatown for costs associated with a recently purchased 21.5-acre property directly adjacent to Teatown's 1,000-acre nature preserve resulting in the protection of critical forests and wetlands in Westchester County.	$62,000.00

Transaction Grants (continued)			
Organization *Denotes Accredited Land Trusts	**Project Location**	**Project Summary**	**Grant Award**
Wallkill Valley Land Trust*	Rosendale, Ulster County	**Shawangunk Conglomerate Ltd Conservation Easement** - Grant will enable the Wallkill Valley Land Trust to permanently protect the 108-acre Shawangunk Conglomerate Ltd land with a conservation easement. The property features acres of ecologically significant land on the Shawangunk Ridge and safeguards cliffs, forests, wetlands and scenic views in one of Ulster County's most iconic landscapes.	$16,689.00
Westchester Land Trust*	Southeast, Putnam County	**Protecting the Lodestone Preserve** - Grant will support Westchester Land Trust's efforts to permanently protect a 200-acre forested property that safeguards drinking water for more than nine million people, while providing critical habitat for endangered and at-risk species, including the northern long-eared bat.	$75,000.00
Western New York Land Conservancy*	Coldspring, Cattaraugus County	**Protecting the Allegany Wildlands Expansion** - Grant will enable Western New York Land Conservancy to permanently protect the 192-acre Allegany Wildlands Expansion property in Coldspring, Cattaraugus County, New York, more than doubling the size of the adjacent Janet Gallogly Allegany Wildlands.	$60,000.00
		TOTAL	**$676,585**

Summary of 2026 Conservation Partnership Program Grant Awards		
Grant Category	***Grant Funding***	***# of Grants***
Capacity & Excellence Grants	$490,351	15
Conservation Catalyst Grants	$480,900	8
Professional Development Grants	$272,000	3
Stewardship & Resource Management Grants	$780,164	16
Transaction Grants [4,997acres]	$676,585	14
TOTAL	**$2,700,000**	**56**