

New York State Conservation Partnership Program 2020 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Grants to increase the impact and sustainability of non-profit conservation organizations in New York State by developing land trust programs and building organizational capacity to implement *Land Trust Standards and Practices*.



Photo credit Brendan Wiltse for Champlain Area Trails

Featured Project: Website Development and Digital Media Enhancement

Champlain Area Trails works to provide the public with opportunities to recreate and enjoy the beauty of the Champlain Valley. To date, the land trust has developed and maintains over 40 miles of hiking and cross-country skiing trails.

A \$28,500 Capacity & Excellence Grant will help CATS build capacity to reach a wider audience with a re-designed website that will feature photos and videos of the Champlain Valley's breathtaking views and an interactive map that will allow the public to easily locate conserved lands and recreational trails.

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2020 Professional Development Grants

Grants to create or expand permanent staff position(s) that will professionalize and strengthen land trust programs and services.



Photos courtesy of Otsego Land Trust

Featured Project: Strengthening Land Management and Capacity for the Future

In the last two years, Otsego Land Trust has more than doubled the acreage of their public lands. In 2011, as part of a merger with The Cook Foundation, the land trust took over the stewardship of Brookwood Point, a 22-acre property that features historic gardens, lake access for kayaking and is a popular place for community events.

A \$48,000 Professional Development Grant will enable Otsego Land Trust to add needed capacity to manage and stewards their public lands, including Brookwood Point, by hiring a part-time Manager of Public Lands.

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2020 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Grants to support collaborative projects that catalyze new partnerships and community-supported conservation, stewardship and outreach initiatives.



Photo courtesy of Scenic Hudson Land Trust

Featured Project: Bringing a Regional Vision to Life

For the last two decades, members of the all-volunteer advocacy organization, the Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance, have envisioned the creation of a greenway that would connect the City of Newburgh with the Hudson riverfront and give residents access to state and local conserved lands outside the City.

A \$60,000 Conservation Catalyst Grant will enable Scenic Hudson, the newest member of the Watershed Alliance, to conduct a feasibility study to identify a trail route, access points, and make recommendations for transforming this former industrial corridor into a thriving recreational trail.

New York State Conservation Partnership Program 2020 Stewardship & Resource Management Grants

Grants for land trusts making substantial capital investments in public access improvements and on the ground stewardship of conserved properties.

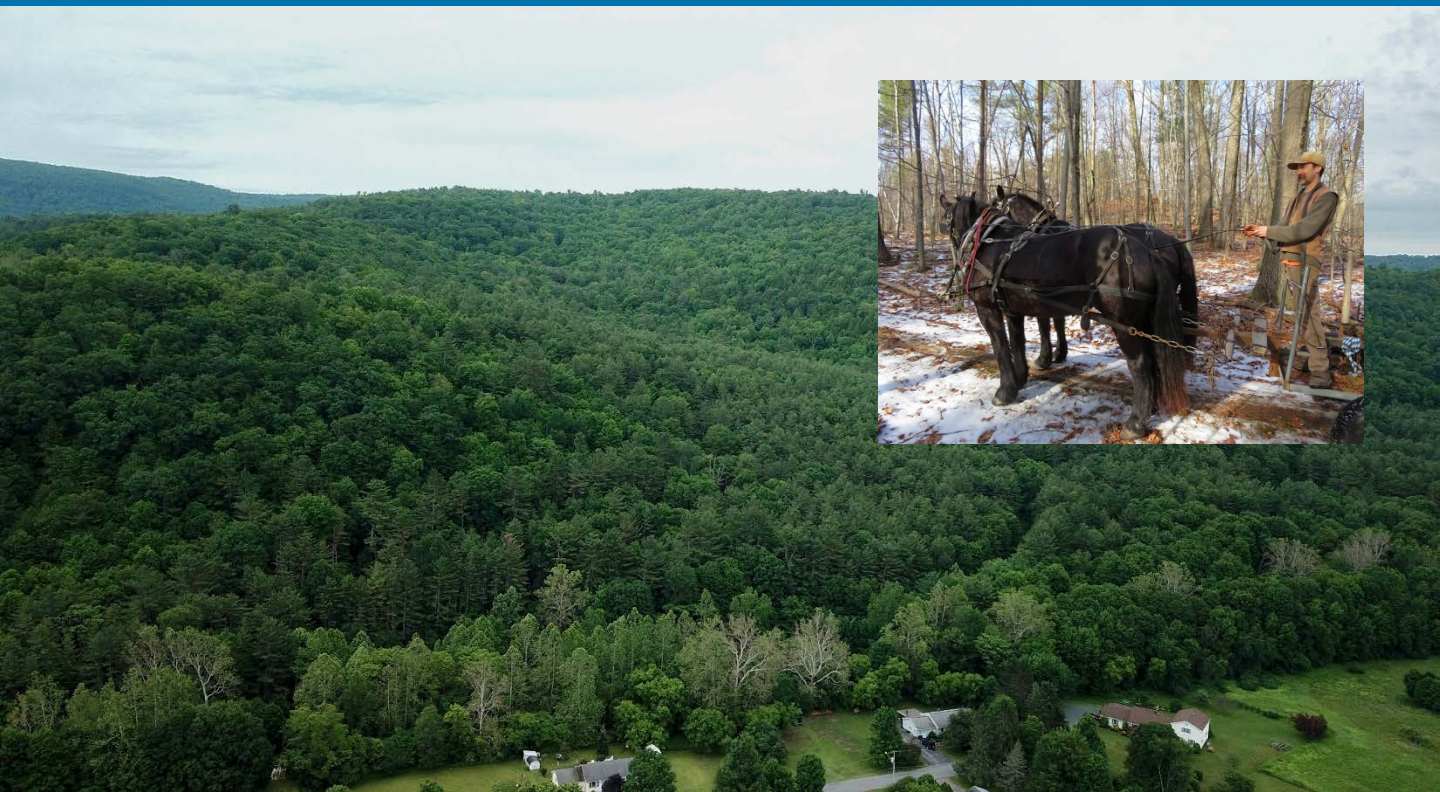


Photo courtesy of Agricultural Stewardship Association

Featured Project: Cambridge Community Forest

Founded in 1990, the Agricultural Stewardship Association has conserved more than 22,000 acres (134 properties) of working farms and forest in Washington and Rensselaer counties with conservation easements. In 2019, the land trust purchased its first fee-owned property, a 140-acre woodland parcel in the Town of Cambridge.

A \$50,000 Stewardship & Resource Management Grant will enable the land trust to make public access improvements, including the installation of a bridge, and open it up for hiking, biking, fishing and other recreational and educational opportunities.

New York State Conservation Partnership Program 2020 Transaction Grants

Grants for new conservation easement and fee-acquisition projects that result in the strategic, permanent protection of environmentally significant lands in New York.



Photo courtesy of Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

Featured Project: Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park Access Improvement

Nearly 30% of Chautauqua County is water and portions of the watershed empty all the way to the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy's mission is to help safeguard the health and beauty of the County's waterways through land protection and public education.

A \$40,000 Transaction Grant will enable the land trust to conserve a 77-acre property and establish the Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park by adding public access improvements including trails, signs and a parking area. The parcel also contains 26 acres of wetlands which help filter runoff from surrounding farms and highways, purifying the water as it enters the rest of the watershed system.