



Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Awards



INVESTING IN LEADERSHIP FOR CONSERVATION COMMUNITIES

“The McHenry Award project brought me into a field that I love and pushed my career forward.”

~Ali Church

Ten years ago, the Open Space Institute created the Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Awards to foster the next generation of leaders for one of our nation’s most scenic, cultural, and historic regions.

Over a decade, the awards have helped 37 exceptional young leaders gain hands-on experience in the fields of conservation, historic preservation, the arts, and tourism – and have turned passion into impact throughout the Valley.



INTRODUCTION

Ten years ago, to acknowledge the leadership of long-standing trustee Barney McHenry, the Open Space Institute, Inc. (OSI) launched an award program to support the thoughtful pairings of young leaders with projects that would make significant contributions in the Hudson River Valley – the landscape where OSI got its start and has left one of its largest conservation legacies.

Today, the Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Awards honor Barney's passion for preserving the scenic and environmental importance of the Hudson River Valley, celebrating its vibrant historical, artistic, and cultural resources; and supporting young leaders who share his enthusiasm.

Every year, the program invites college students and their sponsoring organizations to submit applications in one of the following four categories: historic preservation, environmental conservation, tourism and the arts. Since the program's inception, nearly \$200,000 has gone to 37 recipients supporting community health and vitality in the Hudson River Valley. This retrospective showcases the influence the program has had, both on the Valley and on the winners themselves.

To mark the anniversary year, OSI has embarked on a campaign to expand the awards to include a new fifth category we are calling Healthy Communities. We look forward to seeing how this expansion can support projects connecting the broadest range of the Valley's communities to open space, healthy food, and environmental education.

In the decades to come, OSI looks forward to continuing – and expanding – its support of the next generation of environmental leaders and their innovative projects throughout the Hudson River Valley.

Sincerely,

Kim Elliman
President & CEO

BARNABAS MCHENRY

A CONSERVATION LEADER



Barney McHenry is among the Hudson Valley's foremost and successful conservationists. For the past 50 years, his leadership, vision, and persistence have secured and preserved the beauty, character, and ecological significance of New York's Hudson River Valley. During that time, he has been an advocate, a cheerleader, and, at times, a fierce agitator for the valley's incomparable landscapes, natural resources, and cultural institutions.

A founding trustee of the Open Space Institute (OSI), Barney has been an active leader of Hudson Valley organizations including: the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and Boscobel Restoration. With Barney's support and leadership, OSI has protected some of the best known and cherished lands in the Hudson River Valley, from Schunemunk State Park to Manitou Point

Preserve. Barney himself sums up our message perfectly: "We must conserve now, because if we don't do it now, we will never get the chance to do it again."

The Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Award bears Barney's name because its purpose is to imbue the next generation of environmental leaders with his hands-on approach and zeal for preserving the rich resources of the Hudson River Valley.

GRANTS PROGRAM

OSI selects applicants who demonstrate clear vision, drive, and commitment. Our aim is to empower participants to lead their projects independently and with focus. The program awards recipients \$5,000 so that they can sustain themselves and truly devote their time to their investigations. This provides students with an opportunity to explore new subjects with intensity. Host organizations are awarded a supplementary \$1,000 to cover the cost associated with taking on an intern. Finally, to ensure that the McHenry Award provides lasting opportunities for its winners, OSI maintains an outreach network to allow past winners to communicate and collaborate together.

Since the award's inception, the program has sought to address the dynamic intersection of student interest and community need. For example, the tourism category was added in 2010 in recognition of the range of projects that bolster the main goal of the award, to spread appreciation for the Hudson River Valley. Not only has this

incubated creative projects promoting sustainable tourism in the region, these projects have often highlighted the parks and lands that OSI protects, creating a seamless integration between OSI's education and land initiatives.

LOOKING FORWARD

When one reviews the breadth of McHenry awards over the past decade, one is provided with a portrait of the Hudson River Valley, its challenges, and its future. To build on the program's success, OSI monitors emerging trends and issues in the region, as well as within academic disciplines. As we look to the program's future, we see an opportunity to nurture student interest in broadening environmental benefits to communities that have often lacked access. With the addition of a new Healthy Communities category, we look forward to supporting student investigations in the arenas of neighborhood open space, healthy food and environmental education.

MCHENRY RECIPIENTS

2007

Matt Weiner

**Environmental Conservation
Mohonk Preserve**

Upgraded the Preserve's land easement monitoring system to comply with the national standards and practices of the land conservation field.

Michael Diaz

**Historic Preservation
Boscobel**

Completed a widely circulated research paper entitled, "Loyalists in the Hudson Valley."

Jenny Reisner

**Arts
Historic Hudson Valley**
Cataloged the William and Ruth Diebold Collection of Hudson River Prints.

2008

David Jakim

**Environmental Conservation
Hudsonia Ltd.**

Developed a database of ecologically significant habitats, which landowners and municipal agencies can use to protect important biodiversity resources.

Alyson Mazzone

**Historic Preservation
The Olana Partnership**
Developed an exhibition about Fredric Church's paintings of the Hudson River Valley.

Jessica Friedlander

**Arts
The Hudson River Valley
Institute and Walkway
Over the Hudson**
Produced visual and written works that illustrate the history of the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge.

KATE SOPKO: A PASSION FOR FARMING

Kate Sopko credits the McHenry Award and the Rondout Valley Growers' Association for uncovering her passion for farming and strengthening connections between communities, local farms and farmers. Sopko received the award in 2014 to produce a comprehensive profile of farming in the Rondout Valley. In unearthing the region's social, economic, environmental, and historical contributions to the Hudson River Valley, she saw the struggle of hard-working, conscientious farmers, and learned how to promote the business of local food sourcing.



During her research, Sopko spent considerable time on different farms. Conducting interviews with farmers usually required her to work right alongside them, and the more she saw and participated in the work they did, the more she found herself drawn to farming. "The experience totally inspired me to start farming in upstate

New York, and to share that experience with other people," she said.

Ever since her internship at the Rondout Valley Growers' Association, Sopko says, "My main goal is to get young people excited about where their food comes from, because through that, you really become connected to the earth and sustainability, as well as your body and health."

MEGAN MCCLELLAN: TRAILBLAZING



In 2013, Megan McClellan received a McHenry Award which helped her advance one of the highest priorities of the Woodstock Land Conservancy's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan: creation of the 40-mile Catskill Mountain Rail Trail (CMRT) in Ulster County. McClellan and the conservancy collaborated to build stakeholder support and raise funds to convert the Ulster & Delaware railroad corridor into a 300-acre green space with walking and biking trails.

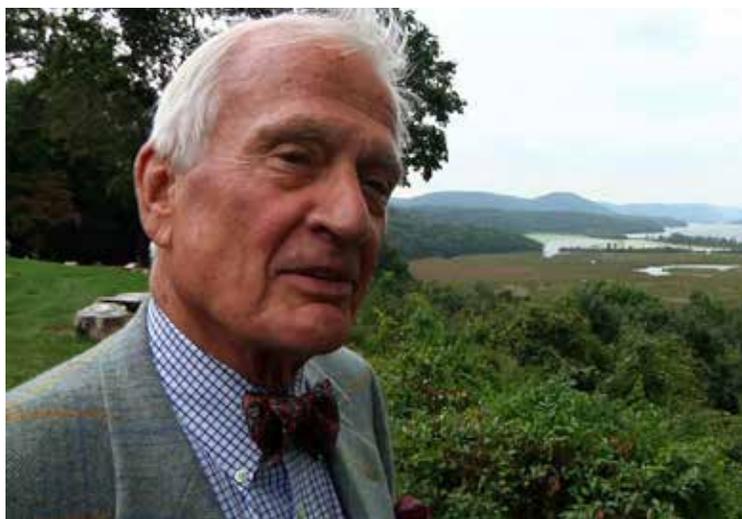
McClellan does not hesitate to describe how the McHenry Award laid the foundation for her current career. "While I was in grad school, I was married with a one-year-old, and I couldn't take any unpaid internships, so the McHenry Award really allowed me to do work I never would have been able to do," McClellan said.

While working on CMRT, she met a leader of another rail trail project, the Kingston Green Line, and she later went on to work there as a consultant. While that project required working closely with engineers on implementation, McClellan was able to "apply the advocacy and outreach skills I gained at my internship."

McClellan now works as the executive trails director at the Syracuse-Wawasee Park Foundation in Indiana. As she reflects on her career thus far, McClellan recognizes that "The McHenry Award helped to direct my professional career toward trails, and really allowed me to get a good, flexible job that I enjoy doing every day."



10 YEARS



Barney McHenry at Boscobel



2009 Thomas Cole National Historic Site



2016 Hudson River Clearwater Sloop



2016 Prattville Arts Center

SHEENA ZHANG: SPURRED TO ACTION IN A FOOD DESERT



As a joint degree student in architecture and environmental studies, Sheena Zhang was thrilled to receive the McHenry Award in 2015. The award enabled her to create preliminary plans for a food hub in downtown Newburgh, NY, a project that would make use of her skills from both fields of study. And for Newburgh, the food hub would help revitalize downtown by providing a boost to the local economy as well as more options for fresh, local, and healthful foods.

For Zhang, receiving the McHenry Award was a major catalyst for the food hub: “I think that winning the award was validation for me and for the project. The community land bank operates off of grants and fellowships, and so having OSI’s vote of confidence and support helped push me and the project forward.”

“IF WE HADN’T BEEN SELECTED, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.”

At the end of the project, Zhang had written, designed, and produced a book summarizing her methodology and findings, with architectural renderings and plans of the proposed facility. The Newburgh Community Land Bank is using her guide to implement the food hub. Zhang landed her current job at BSKS Architects, a firm specializing in ecological and social design, in part because of her Award work.

Her role at BSKS epitomizes the goal of the award—to foster a new generation of environmental leaders.

MCHENRY RECIPIENTS

2009

Jesse Catalano
Environmental Conservation
The Bedford Garden Club

Created the Sustainable Bedford website and developed “Summit in a Box,” a guide that enables communities to hold their own environmental summits.

Matthew Shook
Historic Preservation
The Friends of the Palisades Parks Conservancy

Developed a curriculum and teacher training, and field guide for Sterling Forest’s Lakeville-Ironworks Trail.

Melissa Kay Oles
Gavilanes

Arts
Thomas Cole National Historic Site
Developed after-school programs and family education materials.

MCHEHRY RECIPIENTS

2010

Kate Ito

**Environmental Conservation
Hudson River Watershed
Alliance**

Researched how a national park designation could support the Hudson Valley's economic, environmental and social institutions

Matthew Colon

**Historic Preservation
Washington's Headquarters**

Digitized the slide collection of Washington's Headquarters Archives to preserve the collection and enhance its availability to the public

Aaron Ahlstrom

**Arts
Historic Hudson Valley**
Developed activities, lesson plans, and teaching tools to assist educators and attract young visitors to Montgomery Place.

Chelsea Sorrento

**Tourism
Mohonk Preserve**
Investigated the economic value of protected land and developed a marketing plan to showcase the advantages of protected open space for local communities

MICHAEL DIAZ: DELVING INTO REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY



Then a devoted history student at Marist College, Michael Diaz was among the first McHenry Award recipients in 2007. Using historic Boscobel as his base, Diaz researched the lives of British Loyalists in the Hudson Valley during the American Revolution.

Diaz's research focused on the social aspects of remaining a Loyalist during the war, including how family, religion, and civic duty helped define the Loyalist community. His work tied in perfectly with the goals of Barney McHenry, who is passionate about educating the public about the history of the Hudson Valley.

After his research at Boscobel, Diaz stayed in the Valley to get his Master's in Public History at SUNY Albany. "Listing my research from Boscobel, definitely helped me to get in." Afterward, he worked at the Schuyler Mansion, home of revolutionary figure (and Hamilton character) Philip Schuyler, continuing his research on the social aspects of revolutionary history.

Now, Diaz is at Temple University, working on his Ph.D. in American History. He recognizes the significant role that winning the McHenry Award nearly 10 years ago has played in his life. "Winning the McHenry Award and doing the work I did at Boscobel was absolutely the catalyst that allowed me to be here right now."

ALI CHURCH: TRANSFORMING THE NEWBURGH ARMORY

Ali Church had a vision for the vacant Armory in downtown Newburgh. Using the support of her 2011 McHenry Award, Church wrote a master plan to turn the Armory into a community center. Her plan consisted of recommendations for specific uses of the Newburgh Armory Unity Center (NAUC), including sports, classroom and office facilities, as well as logistical research on optimal energy efficiency practices, landscaping, budgeting, and land use.



"As I conducted the research, I reconnected with the Hudson Valley and concreted my love of Newburgh," said Church. Now, after all her ideas have been implemented, the NAUC is a thriving community center, and Church is an active community member.

As much as the center has helped the Newburgh community, it also has helped Church. "The project brought me into a field that I love and pushed my career forward in so many ways," Church said. With a degree in planning and preservation from the University of Pennsylvania, Church has moved on to the position of city planner for the city of Newburgh, where she regularly works in conjunction with the NAUC, the center she created. The McHenry Award allowed her to make the most of her research project: she designed the plans for the center's restoration and now, along with the rest of her community, reaps the benefits.

MCHENRY AWARD RECIPIENTS

2012

Marissa Unger
Historic Preservation
Olana

Organized a symposium to explore the concept of viewsheds in a national context, and consider how art and architecture have shaped the Hudson Valley's character.

Sarah Parks
Environmental Conservation
The Rensselaer Plateau
Alliance

Generated and analyzed GIS maps and community values for the Alliance's conservation plan.

Erin Hoagland
Tourism
Winnakee Land Trust

Developed an arboretum at the Winnakee Nature Preserve in Hyde Park to educate visitors about trees and environmental issues in Valley forests.

Meredith Clavin-Marquet
Arts

Orange County Citizens
Foundation

Digitized and cataloged more than 400 photos and letters from painter and sculptor Kurt Seligmann to record Surrealism in Orange County.

2013

Keith Shane
Environmental Conservation
NY-NJ Trail Conference

Monitored and removed invasive plants in the Palisades Interstate Park and Taconic State Park, working with the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management.

Christina Ritter
Historic Preservation
Hudson River Valley Institute

Created the Dutchess County Social Studies Toolkit for Educators for the Hudson River Valley Institute and Teaching the Hudson Valley.

Megan McClellan
Tourism
Woodstock Land Conservancy

Engaged community members, businesses, and government to create a rail trail and established the Friends of the Catskill Mountain Rail Trail Committee.

2014

Samantha Singleton
Arts

Thomas Cole National
Historic Site

Assisted with an inventory and development of archival materials relating to Thomas Cole.

Katherine Sopko
Environmental Conservation
Rondout Valley Growers'
Association

Wrote a profile of farming in the Rondout Valley and its contributions to the environmental, economic, and historic fabric of the Hudson Valley.

Ben Himmelfarb
Historic Preservation
Shaker Heritage Society

Helped develop multigenerational programs that encourage collaboration between multicultural groups and engaged the public in making Albany a history tourism destination.

Sawyer Cresap
Historic Preservation
Preservation League of NYS

Created a guidebook, with research on the harmful effects of a proposed electrical transmission line, for including endangered properties on the "Seven to Save" list.

2015

Julia Czarnecki & Marissa Porter
Environmental Conservation
Marist College

Put together a series of public seminars on leadership in sustainability.

Tashae K. Smith
Historic Preservation
Manhattanville College

Researched and presented to local and academic communities the history of enslaved and indentured African American construction workers in Newburgh.

Sheena Zhang
Historic Preservation
Newburgh Community
Land Bank

Worked toward the creation of a food hub in downtown Newburgh to bring economic development to a disinvested but primarily intact historic commercial area.

Michael Meehan
Environmental Conservation
Glynwood

Helped create a toolkit for facilitating the baseline property assessment of agricultural properties by partners in the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network.

2016

Otto Chloe
Arts

Prattville Art Center, Inc.
Provided young, rural artists with a series of multimedia, digital workshops, exploring their experiences growing up in the small towns of the northern Catskills.

Allison Montroy
Environmental Conservation
The Beacon Institute, Inc.
Worked on an interactive educational exhibit about the Hudson River that integrated real-time data, digital art, and science at the Beacon Institute's Sensor Place.

Majja Niemisto
Environmental Conservation
Hudson River Sloop
Clearwater

Conducted research for HudSONAR, which uses sonar technology to investigate the distribution of fish and plankton in the Hudson River estuary.

Nicola Pidala
Historic Preservation
Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Updated an inventory for the Philipstown Natural Resource and Open Space Protection Plan that prioritized land for conservation and protected landscapes, and natural resources.



2014: Samantha Singleton, Barney, Ben Himmelfarb, Sawyer Cresap



2013: Christina Ritter, Barney, Megan McClellan, Antonia Bowring



2015: Julia Czarnecki, Marissa Porter, Sheena Zhang, Michael Meehan, Tashae Smith



2011: Alexandra Church



2010: Kate Ito, Chelsea Sorrento, Matthew Colon, Antonia Bowring



2008: Barney, Jessica Frielander, David Jakin



2016: Allison Montroy, Nicole Pidala

MICHAEL MEEHAN: HELPING AG TAKE ROOT



Michael Meehan is the “unofficial matchmaker” of the Hudson River Valley. Recognizing the gap between eager farmers and viable, but fallow, farmland in the region, Meehan used his McHenry Award to develop a toolkit that brings together farmers and landowners for the greater good of the Valley.

Meehan saw first-hand the value and utility of his toolkit after an editorial he wrote about the project was published in the Poughkeepsie Journal. The parents of one of his friends read the piece by chance, and now they are exploring how their land can be put into production.

“This coincidence told me that there really are people who want this product and just don’t know enough about it,” he noted. Although seeing the market for the toolkit has been extremely rewarding for Meehan, its development affected him personally, too.

“My background has been in farming, but going back to grad school, my focus was on higher-level policy issues affecting farmers, so this project really helped me connect the dots between those two ideas,” Meehan said.

Meehan’s McHenry experience exposed him to the “vast opportunity in the Hudson Valley for political advocacy and building a movement of people who want change or certain protection.” The next step for Meehan has been launching a budding nonprofit food policy project, Acre Policy, under the umbrella of services provided by Citizen Action, OSI’s fiscal sponsorship program. Meehan will receive regular support from Citizen Action to get up and running, carrying his interest in helping the agriculture industry from the beginning of his McHenry project through his future career.



MCHENRY RECIPIENTS

2011

Alexandra Church Historic Restoration Newburgh Armory Unity Center

Completed a preliminary master plan for developing and implementing programs at the Newburgh Armory.

Cornelia Harris Environmental Conservation Cary Institute

Through a series of after-school workshops, led a summer program that trained students from Poughkeepsie schools to become stewards of the Hudson River.

Sara Kendall Arts

free103point9 Radio

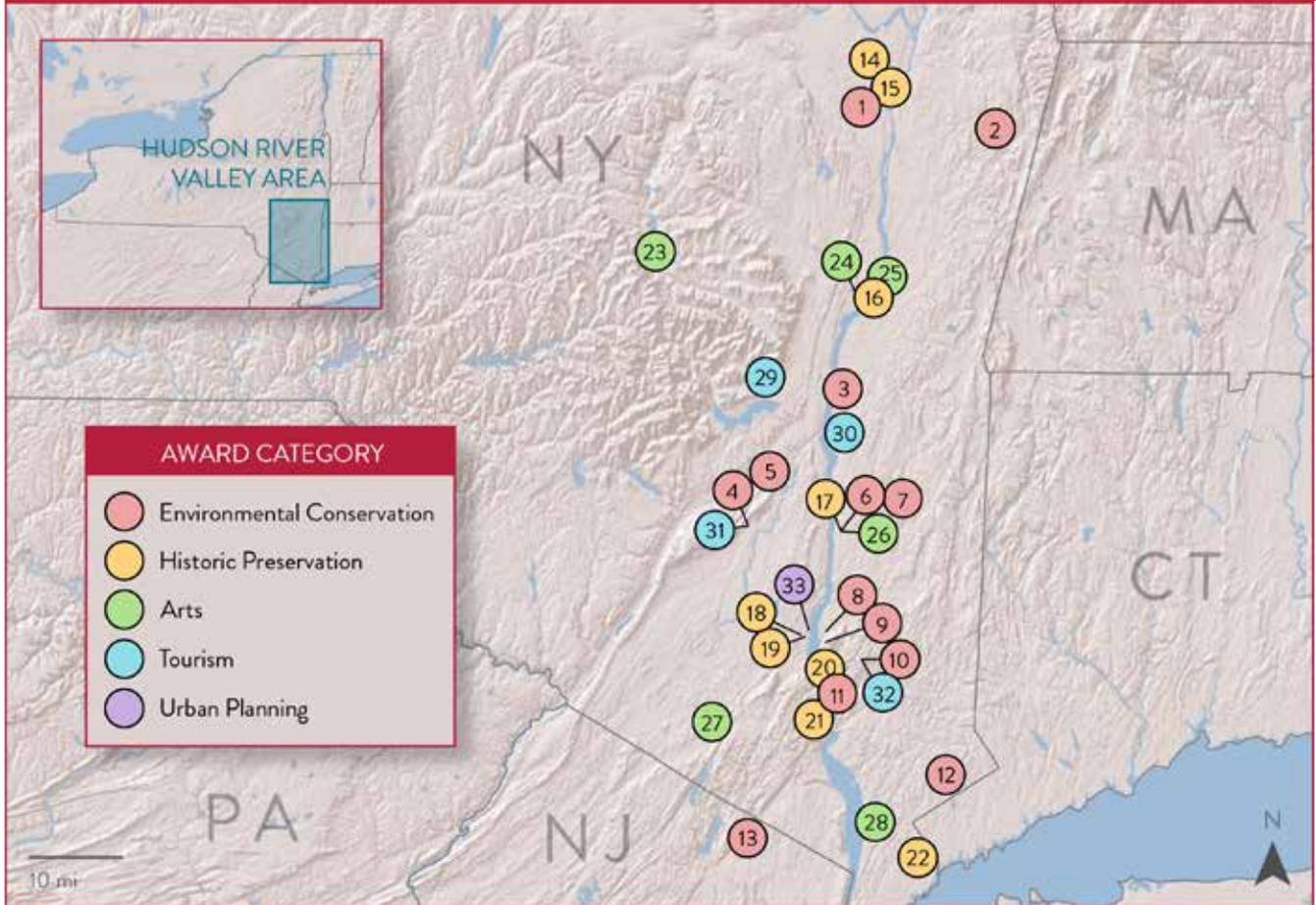
Produced special exhibitions, led media training, and developed a news blog and local calendar for the community-run media project in Greene and Columbia counties.

Derrick Mead Tourism Glynwood

Mapped orchards and composed profiles of orchardists and cider makers for the Hudson Valley Cider Route project.

Glynwood Farm (Brett Cole)

MCHENRY AWARDS SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

- ① Hudson River Watershed Alliance
Delmar, NY
- ② The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance
Averill Park, NY
- ③ Hudsonia, Ltd.
Annandale, NY
- ④ Mohonk Preserve
Gardiner, NY
- ⑤ Rondout Valley Growers' Association
Cottkill, NY
- ⑥ Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
- ⑦ Cary Institute
Millbrook, NY
- ⑧ The Beacon Institute, Inc.
Beacon, NY
- ⑨ Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Beacon, NY

- ⑩ Glynwood
Cold Spring, NY
- ⑪ Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Garrison, NY
- ⑫ The Bedford Garden Club
Bedford, NY
- ⑬ NY-NJ Trail Conference
Mahwah, NJ

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- ⑭ Shaker Heritage Society
Albany, NY
- ⑮ Preservation League of NYS
Albany, NY
- ⑯ Olana Partnership
Hudson, NY
- ⑰ Hudson River Valley Institute
Poughkeepsie, NY
- ⑱ Newburgh Armory Unity Center
Newburgh, NY
- ⑲ Washington's Headquarters
Newburgh, NY

- ⑳ Boscobel Restoration, Inc.
Cold Spring, NY
- ㉑ Palisades Parks Conservancy
Bear Mountain, NY
- ㉒ Manhattanville College
Purchase, NY

ARTS

- ㉓ Prattville Art Project, Inc.
Prattville, NY
- ㉔ Thomas Cole National Historic Site
Catskill, NY
- ㉕ free103point9 Radio
Hudson, NY
- ㉖ Hudson River Valley Institute, and Walkway Over the Hudson
Poughkeepsie, NY
- ㉗ Orange County Citizens Foundation
Sugar Loaf, NY
- ㉘ Historic Hudson Valley
Tarrytown, NY

TOURISM

- ㉙ Woodstock Land Conservancy
Woodstock, NY
- ㉚ Winnakee Land Trust
Rhinebeck, NY
- ㉛ Mohonk Preserve
Gardiner, NY
- ㉜ Glynwood
Cold Spring, NY

URBAN PLANNING

- ㉝ Newburgh Community Land Bank
Newburgh, NY



ABOUT THE OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

OSI protects scenic, natural and historic landscapes to provide public enjoyment, conserve habitat and working lands and sustain communities. Founded in 1974 to protect significant landscapes in New York State, OSI has been a partner in the protection of more than 2.2 million acres in North America.

OSI has been working in the Hudson River Valley for more than 40 years. In the Mid-Hudson River Valley OSI has protected almost 3,500 acres of land, including more than 1,200 acres in and around the Helderberg Escarpment, and 1,500 acres in the vicinity of the Saratoga National Battlefield Park. OSI has protected 15,000 acres, including a significant expansion of the Minnewaska State Park Preserve, one of New York's largest state parks, and conserved more than 28,000 acres in the Lower Hudson River Valley, working in partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the State of New York to create the 17,000-acre Sterling Forest State Park.



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