

# New York State Conservation Partnership Program

## 2012 Capacity & Excellence Grants

Investments to build strong land trusts, enabling them to implement best practices, prepare for national accreditation, and become more effective community organizers. For 2012, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 43 Capacity & Excellence Grants totaling \$646,150.



Photos: Bronx Land Trust, Lake George Land Conservancy, and Wilton Wildlife Park and Preserve

### Building the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

This year, the Conservation Partnership Program is partnering with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to help land trusts build program capacity while training our next generation of conservation leaders. Capacity Grants will enable the Bronx & Manhattan Land Trusts, Lake George Land Conservancy, and Wilton Wildlife Park and Preserve to hire seasonal interns to work on community outreach, education, and land stewardship projects.

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## 2012 Conservation Catalyst Grants

Two-year investments to forge community partnerships and new collaborations that connect people to nature, increase public involvement, and accelerate the pace of strategic land protection, including key areas prioritized in New York State's Open Space Plan. For 2012, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 10 Conservation Catalyst Grants totaling \$285,362.



Photos: Finger Lakes Land Trust  
and Otsego Land Trust

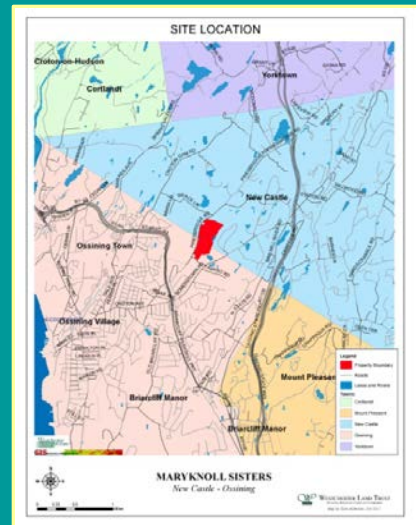
### Conserving Land and Water in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin

Conservation Catalyst Grant's will enable the Otsego Land Trust and Finger Lakes Land Trust to launch a major conservation initiative in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin. In coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York State, and local partners, the land trusts will complete a basin-wide critical areas assessment, educate landowners, and secure permanent protection of significant natural and recreational resources. Recently ranked America's most endangered river, the Susquehanna provides drinking water to six million people on its way to the Chesapeake Bay.

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## 2012 Transaction Grants

Investments to help land trusts, landowners and community partners enhance public access and permanently conserve important wildlife habitat, recreation areas, urban open space, and other resources prioritized in New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan. For 2012, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 12 Transaction Grants totaling \$165,988, and conserving 1,950 acres across the state.



Photos: The Maryknoll Sister and Westchester Land Trust

This project has great meaning for us, because it will preserve land in a densely populated suburban county and it represents our commitment to preserve and care for God's gift, planet earth which is hope to us all."

-Doreen Longres, MM, Maryknoll Sisters

### Protecting Sacred Land in Westchester County

A Transaction Grant will enable Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc., a non-profit religious organization, to partner with Westchester Land Trust. This project will result in a 42-acre conservation easement on their historic campus, which borders the Croton-to-Highlands Region Biodiversity Area. It will also advance the Maryknoll Sisters' commitment to environmental stewardship and enhance access for educational purposes. This is the first collaboration between Westchester Land Trust and a local religious institution and is a model for local efforts to protect private lands in the Hudson Valley and around the state.

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## 2012 Professional Development Grants

Two-year investments to enable local land trusts to expand programs and increase their effectiveness by hiring professional staff and enhancing services for landowners and the communities they serve. Professional Development grants have proven to be transformative in building local capacity to conserve prime farmland, wildlife habitat, and important recreational areas around the state. For 2012, the Conservation Partnership Program will award 5 Professional Development Grants totaling \$320,000.



Photos: Champlain Area Trails

### Making Connections in the Champlain Valley

A two-year Professional Development Grant will enable a recently established local land trust to leverage matching funds and create a full time position that will greatly strengthen its community outreach and communications program. Founded in 2009, Champlain Area Trails is dedicated to connecting local communities and visitors to a growing network of trails in the scenic Lake Champlain Valley, a regional priority area for President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative. Champlain Area Trails is a first-time recipient of a Conservation Partnership Program Grant.