

New York State Conservation Partnership Program

2005 Grant Awards

The *New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP)*, funded through the Environmental Protection Fund and jointly administered by the Land Trust Alliance and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, advances the goals of New York's Open Space Plan by making grants to New York land trusts. The program awards grants for three purposes:

- **Transaction grants** assist with the costs of acquiring conservation easements and fee lands, and providing public access to these properties;
- **Staffing grants** help all-volunteer and small land trusts add professional staff to increase the pace, quality and sustainability of their conservation efforts;
- **Organizational development grants** help land trusts expand their conservation programs so they can protect more acres, enhance their land and easement stewardship, raise more private funding, and plan for the future of their organizations.

The process of applying for the staffing grants involves a rigorous assessment of a land trust's strengths and weaknesses and its ability to meet national standards for best practices in land conservation. All grants require a match of at least 1:1 non-state funds. Staffing grant and organizational development grant recipients receive on-going technical assistance from Land Trust Alliance staff, which helps them become stronger and more effective conservation organizations. All grant recipients benefit from Land Trust Alliance training and educational resources.

Total 2005 NYSCPP Grant Awards: \$450,000

CONSERVATION CAPACITY & EXCELLENCE GRANT AWARDS : \$90,100 (14 grants)

CONSERVATION CATALYST GRANT AWARDS : \$97,600 (7 grants)

STAFFING GRANT AWARDS : \$126,200 (4 grants)

TRANSACTION GRANT AWARDS : \$86,100 (11 grants)

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LAND TRUST GRANTEEES – \$50,000

Note: NYSCPP appropriation also includes \$50,000 for program administration.

CAPACITY AND EXCELLENCE GRANTS			
ORGANIZATION	NY OFFICE LOCATION	PROPOSAL	GRANT AWARD
Agricultural Stewardship Association	Greenwich, Washington County	To hire a qualified fundraising consultant to plan and implement a fundraising program to succeed our current program, which expires in 2006. Hire local marketing consultant and designer to assist in development of solicitation materials and marketing collateral.	\$6,700
Catskill Center for Conservation and Development	Arkville, Delaware County	To complete internal assessment and prioritization of the Catskill Center's Land Conservation Program, and to review program components and decision on future direction, followed by communication of the resulting vision.	\$2,900
Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy	Jamestown, Chautauqua County	To build upon continuing capital campaign by customizing campaign materials (video/DVD and Prospectus), and producing educational materials to reach residents and visitors of Chautauqua Institution, a non-profit educational center and community that attracts 142,000 persons each summer.	\$4,900
Delaware Highlands Conservancy - NY Office	Narrowsburg, Sullivan County	To plan and implement a capital campaign to protect culturally significant parcels in the Upper Delaware. This campaign will help preserve "The Gateway to the Upper Delaware," a federally	\$9,600

		designated scenic and recreational river.	
Esopus Creek Conservancy	Saugerties, Ulster County	To initiate facilitator-supported board management and development improvement process designed to bring ECC into compliance with Standards I and III of the Land Trusts Standards and Practices. A pre-assessment of board functions by the facilitator will be followed by a two day retreat involving Mission Statement and Strategic Plan components, continued interface by the facilitator following the meetings, and a final retreat day for committee reports and board actions. A post retreat facilitator evaluation follows, along with end-of-year board actions in compliance with Mission Statement and Strategic Plan needs.	\$7,000
Genesee Valley Conservancy	Geneseo, Livingston County	To update and enhance existing AutoCAD and GIS mapping capabilities to increase land protection in the Livingston County region of the Genesee River and expand strategic stewardship of 7,500 acres of land protected by the land trust.	\$4,200
Indian River Lakes Conservancy	Redwood, Jefferson County	To develop a strategic protection plan that will seek to address conservation priorities, human resources, fundraising and financial resource development and	\$2,400

		stewardship and partnership opportunities applicable to the land preservation program.	
Lake George Land Conservancy	Bolton Landing, Warren County	To obtain resources to provide strategic planning, fundraising, and related organizational development. The overall purpose is to enhance the likelihood of success for the LGLC's proposed comprehensive fundraising campaign in support of its mission to preserve the water quality of Lake George and the rare plants and animals within its watershed by permanently protecting natural land.	\$9,600
Ontario Bays Initiative	Chaumont, Jefferson County	To provide resources necessary to fully implement the 2003 Strategic Plan and to build state and federal partnerships to protect Wilson Bay Marsh, a nationally significant wetland habitat for migratory birds, including the NYS threatened Black Tern.	\$4,300
Open Space Preservation Trust	Shoreham, Suffolk County	To develop a strategic plan for the land trust, established in 2000, and to focus conservation efforts in two key parts of Long Island - the Town of Brookhaven pine barrens and in the watersheds of Great South Bay, a NY State designated South Shore Estuary Reserve (SSER).	\$3,900
Orange County Land Trust	Middletown, Orange	To conduct feasibility study in preparation for Orange	\$9,600

	County	County Land Trust's Strategic Plan for 2004-2008, which calls for a capital campaign for 2006-2008.	
Peconic Land Trust	Southampton, Suffolk County	To research and prepare a strategic stewardship plan to keep Quail Hill Farm financially viable in the future. Quail Hill Farm represents a model of organic, community supported agriculture and is the centerpiece of a 212 acre complex of highly scenic, protected farmland in Amagansett.	\$7,700
St. Lawrence Land Trust	Canton, St. Lawrence County	To prepare and implement Board Development Plan. A Strategic Projection Plan and a Project Planning and Design Guide will also be prepared, and the land trust's first conservation easement will be completed. These activities have three goals for the land trust, which was incorporated in 2003--to build organizational and board strength, to accelerate conservation work already begun in the Little River watershed, and to increase capacity for conservation in the St.Lawrence-northern Adirondack service area.	\$9,600
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust	Watertown, Jefferson County	To develop Major Donor Moves Plan, a Business and Corporation Membership Program, and continue to raise awareness and support of THTLT and its	\$7,700

		stewardship of 2,700 acres under conservation easement by expanding the general membership program.	
Category Total			\$90,100
CONSERVATION CATALYST GRANTS			
ORGANIZATION	NY OFFICE LOCATION	PROPOSAL	GRANT AWARD
Agricultural Stewardship Association	Greenwich, Washington County	To plan and implement a landscape-scale agricultural conservation project along 3.5 miles of the Battenkill River corridor in the vicinity of Shushan, Salem and Jackson, and other towns in Washington County, NY. The project area includes approximately 1,200 acres on 8 parcels of land, which will be protected in coordination with The Conservation Fund and the Battenkill Conservancy.	\$19,300
Hudson Highlands Land Trust	Garrison, Putnam County	To work in partnership with the Town of Philipstown and the Conway School of Landscape Design to develop a natural resource plan that will direct strategic conservation goals in the Town's new Comprehensive Plan, and to partner with the Open Space Institute and Scenic Hudson to increase protection along the Hudson River in Putnam County.	\$7,600
North Shore Land Alliance	Old Westbury, Nassau County	To design, structure and implement a county-wide land/easement acquisition program which will successfully and effectively	\$16,500

		<p>spend the proceeds from two recently passed (November, 2004) bond acts - the \$50 million Clean Water, Open Space Environmental Program and the \$30 million Save Environmental Assets Fund II bond. This grant will position the organization to provide critical guidance on local land conservation decisions and to build support in Nassau County for additional funding sources in 2006.</p>	
<p>Saratoga P.L.A.N.</p>	<p>Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County</p>	<p>To partner with Saratoga County to produce a comprehensive county-wide Green Infrastructure Plan that will identify open spaces, natural areas, trail corridors and farmland that should be protected. Importantly it will work with each community and assure that there are linkages between communities for trails, watershed protection, habitat connections and adequate recreational spaces. The Plan will build on the 1995 "Special Places Campaign" to establish Saratoga PLAN's land protection priorities and to aid towns throughout the county in planning and securing resources for conservation.</p>	<p>\$19,300</p>
<p>Thousand Islands Land Trust</p>	<p>Clayton, Jefferson County</p>	<p>To engage local communities and partner organizations in the creation of a community-based conservation plan for the Thousand Islands landscape. This project will</p>	<p>\$17,600</p>

		create a new regional approach for conservation of up to 2,000 additional acres along the St. Lawrence River and Islands and along major creeks feeding the south side of the St. Lawrence River, from the Village of Cape Vincent to Chippewa Bay.	
Wallkill Valley Land Trust, Inc.	New Paltz, Ulster County	To develop and implement three part campaign (publicity, capital, and land conservation) to preserve and protect the 350-acre Pine Hole Bog, one of the largest dwarf shrub bogs in the Hudson Valley and a priority project area in the 2002 Open Space Conservation Plan, as well as the associated Black Creek watershed and outlet.	\$7,700
Westchester Land Trust	Bedford Hills, Westchester County	To launch a two-year comprehensive effort to complete 15 new conservation easements, in addition to land purchases and land use reforms, in North Salem, Lewisboro and Pound Ridge, and nearby towns, that will protect important biodiversity in the 22,000 acre Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor.	\$9,600
Category Total			\$97,600
CONSERVATION TRANSACTION GRANTS			
ORGANIZATION	NY OFFICE LOCATION	PROPOSAL	GRANT AWARD
Agricultural Stewardship Association	Greenwich, Washington County	To cover transaction costs for easement acquisition on the Beattie Farm, a 300-acre farm containing a high percentage of prime soils	\$6,000

		located on the White Creek.	
Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy	Jamestown, Chautauqua County	To acquire 27 acres of Chautauqua Lake Outlet wetlands and conserve 160 feet of waterfront, including expenses associated with environmental investigation and construction of an interpretive kiosk for public education.	\$7,200
Columbia Land Conservancy - Taconic Ridge acquisition	Chatham, Columbia County	To purchase a 93-acre forested parcel of land in the Taconic Ridge/Harlem Valley Region that is visible from the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and other protected lands, to be used as a public conservation area.	\$9,600
Genesee Land Trust	Rochester, Monroe County	To cover expenses related to the purchase of 5 acres of critical migratory bird habitat adjacent to Braddock Bay with a small Lake Ontario beach frontage, adjacent to DEC owned land and near migratory bird banding research station.	\$5,000
Hudson Highlands Land Trust	Garrison, Putnam County	To cover costs associated with the pending donation of a 19-acre parcel of undisturbed land to the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. The property, adjacent to NYS-owned parkland, will eventually be added to the Hudson Highlands State Park.	\$6,500
North Shore Land Alliance	Old Westbury, Nassau County	To cover expenses related to protection of a threatened, high conservation value property. The 6-acre property sits between a	\$9,600

		house that may be sold for development and an environmentally sensitive pond area which is slated to be purchased for passive parkland.	
Northeast Wilderness Trust-NY Office	Essex, Essex County	To purchase and preserve the 108-acre Northwest Boquet Mountain Property, which is a vital piece in the protection of the Boquet Mountain Matrix and Split Rock Wildway.	\$9,600
Orange County Land Trust	Middletown, Orange County	To cover expenses associated with the purchase of a 44-acre easement on the Shawangunk Ridge in Orange County.	\$9,600
Teatown Lake Reservation, Inc.	Ossining, Westchester County	To cover transaction costs associated with donation and transfer of an easement on 17 acres of property that is key connection between Teatown's Back 40 Trail and Westchester County's Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail and also contains ~8 acres of a NYS-DEC Class 2 wetland.	\$9,600
The Nature Conservancy, Central & Western New York Chapter	Rochester, Monroe County	To cover costs associated with the protection of strategic parcels comprising 164 acres in the Honeoye Inlet area of the Western Finger Lakes region. The Camp Muller tract is important to maintaining the ecological integrity of the Honeoye Inlet region, as the property nearly connects the newly designated Honeoye Inlet Wildlife Management Area to Harriet Hollister Spencer State Park. The	\$9,500

		eastern side of the tract borders the inlet to Honeoye Lake, which contains one of the largest silver maple-ash swamps in New York. The tract was formerly owned and managed by the Boy Scouts of America.	
Thousand Islands Land Trust	Clayton, Jefferson County	To cover costs related to managing and improving baseline documentation for a 31-acre conservation easement at a time when the organization is preparing for significant expansion of its activity in purchased conservation easements.	\$3,900
Category Total			\$86,100

STAFFING GRANTS

ORGANIZATION	NY OFFICE LOCATION	PROPOSAL	GRANT AWARD
Albany County Land Conservancy	Slingerlands, Albany County	To enable 13 year old Capital Region land trust with 800 acres under fee ownership and 300 acres under conservation easement to hire first full time executive director, who will be responsible for program management and development, outreach, fundraising and coordination of board activities, committees, and volunteers.	\$38,000
Finger Lakes Land Trust	Ithaca, Tompkins County	To enable 16 year old regional land trust with 3,251 acres under fee ownership and 3,856 acres under conservation easement in Finger Lakes region to hire first land protection specialist to	\$28,500

		<p>expand conservation and stewardship capacity. Additional resources will enable improvements in project tracking, landowner and community relations, and protection of priority conservation target areas within the Cayuga and Skaneateles Lake watersheds.</p>	
Otsego Land Trust	Cooperstown, Otsego County	<p>To enable 18 year old regional land trust with 3,614 acres under conservation easement in Upper Susquehanna River watershed region to hire part-time executive assistant to build conservation capacity and aggressively implement Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices.</p>	\$24,000
Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy	Troy, Rensselaer County	<p>To enable 17 year old Rensselaer County land trust with 149 acres under fee ownership and 243 acres under conservation easement to hire first full time executive director and part-time assistant to build capacity for farmland and open space protection, community outreach, and development of sustainable funding base to maintain stable organizational foundation for land conservation, management and development, outreach, fundraising and coordination of board activities, committees, and volunteers.</p>	\$35,700

		Category Total	\$126,200
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