



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HHLT Hosts Annual Community Forum: *The Taste of Sprawl***  
*Forum to Focus on Regional Water Issues*

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) will host its fourteenth annual Community Forum on **Sunday, April 15, between 11am and 3pm at the Highlands Country Club** (955 Route 9D, Garrison). The forum—***The Taste of Sprawl: A Water Discussion***—will focus on how land-use decisions impact our drinking water supplies. We will explore steps to secure this essential resource.

Hudson Highlands communities have had their share of recent water issues: a state of emergency in Newburgh, a building moratorium in Beacon, and supplies tapped by another village from Cornwall. Philipstown is refreshing its decade old groundwater study and Cold Spring's water is complicated by old dams and adjacent roads. These issues and more will be covered at this year's forum.

The event will kick off with a 90-minute panel discussion—***Safe Drinking Water: An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure***—which will highlight proactive versus reactive approaches to protecting drinking water supplies. The morning panel, moderated by **Carla Castillo** of the Hudson Valley Regional Council and Chair of the Cornwall Conservation Advisory Council, will feature panelists including **Elisa Chae** of the Cornell Water Resources Institute and NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program; **Paul Gallay**, President of Riverkeeper; **Russell Urban Mead** of The Chazen Companies; and **Peter Smith** of the Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance. Attendees will be invited to submit questions and participate in the discussion.

Two 45-minute breakout sessions will follow the morning panel and lunch. Afternoon breakout sessions will focus on local case studies in Newburgh, Beacon and Philipstown.

Breakout session leaders include **Peter Smith; Matt Decker** of the Orange County Land Trust; **Karen Doyle** of HHLT; volunteer **Catherine Thompson; Lee Kyriacou** of the Beacon City Council; and **Asher Pacht** of the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries and Beacon Conservation Advisory Committee. Attendees will have the opportunity to brainstorm with these experts on water issues raised during the panel discussion.

The forum is open to the public and free of charge (with a \$10 suggested donation), but advance registration is required as space is limited. A complimentary lunch is included. Visit [hhl.org/forum](http://hhl.org/forum) or [hhlforum2018.eventbrite.com](http://hhlforum2018.eventbrite.com) for more information and to register.

### **ABOUT HHLT**

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a community-based, accredited, non-profit organization with a mission to protect and preserve the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands. HHLT offers free workshops and forums that bring land conservation issues to the forefront of public dialogue. Please visit [www.hhl.org](http://www.hhl.org) or call 845-424-3358 for more information.

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