



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HHLT Awarded Two State Grants for Conservation Projects

Grants to Support Water Resource Protection in Philipstown/Cold Spring and Public Access Improvements at Granite Mountain Preserve

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) was recently awarded two New York State Conservation Partnership Program grants totaling \$78,000. A grant of \$38,000 was made for land use planning for clean water in Philipstown and Cold Spring. The other \$40,000 grant is for trail restorations at Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam Valley.

Philipstown and Cold Spring Clean Water Project: The clean water grant will enable HHLT to develop a land use strategy and management plan to protect water resources across Philipstown, including the watershed for the Cold Spring/Nelsonville water supply. This project will identify land with the highest conservation value for drinking water, create water protection coalitions for each priority water source and engage the community in recommended land use strategies.

The clean water project will complement and enhance the groundwater study update recently approved by the Town of Philipstown board. The two projects combined will greatly enhance our local understanding of current and potential threats to our water supplies, as well as jump-start actions to ensure a future supply of clean water.

Putnam Valley's Granite Mountain Preserve: The Granite Mountain grant will fund public access improvements and improve the trail network on HHLT's 358-acre Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam Valley. This project will ensure visitor safety and greatly enhance the visitor experience.

"All of our Town residents as well as visitors to our area look forward to these improvements," said Sam Oliverio, Putnam Valley Town Supervisor. "Already many of our

school age children and their parents have begun exploring this magnificent mountain and all that nature has to share.”

HHLT acquired Granite Mountain Preserve in 2017 and partnered with the Department of Geography and Engineering at West Point Military Academy to map the Preserve’s existing trail system. Through this work, several recommendations emerged to safeguard existing biological diversity and improve the lands’ ecosystem services by formalizing and rehabilitating the trail network. The Preserve was also recently designated a Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail System.

The grant program, which is a partnership between the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Land Trust Alliance, recently awarded \$2.3 million in funding to 51 nonprofit land trusts across the state to advance land conservation, economic development, farmland protection, community conservation, and recreation and tourism.

ABOUT HHLT

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a community-based, accredited, non-profit conservation organization with a mission to protect and preserve the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands. www.hhlt.org

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