



News from HHLT: January 2019

HHLT Awarded \$250,000 NYS Regional Economic Development Council Grant for New Conservation Project



We are proud to announce that we were recently awarded a [\\$250,000 grant](#) from the [New York State Regional Economic Development Council](#) to help finance the conservation of critical forested lands in Putnam Valley. This project will facilitate access to trails in Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park and help safeguard a wildlife corridor to other protected lands in the area. It will also provide permanent protections to the water supply of Putnam Valley and the City of Peekskill by protecting high priority lands within the Peekskill Hollow Creek watershed.

Our grant was one of only three REDC grants awarded in Putnam County. We would also like to congratulate the Town of Philipstown on the NYS grants they received for their [Climate Smart](#) and Greenhouse Gas Inventory projects.

HHLT Partners with NY-NJ Trail Conference to Bring “Breakneck Talks” to REI Soho Store



Beginning later this month, we will be bringing quarterly talks on Breakneck Ridge to the [REI Store in Soho, NYC](#), in partnership with the [NY-NJ Trail Conference](#). The quarterly talks, entitled "[Breakneck Ridge: Everything You Need to Know](#)," came out of the Leave No Trace (LNT) week at the Breakneck Ridge "hotspot" this past October. One of the LNT recommendations was to "reach Breakneck visitors before they leave home." The event is targeted at NYC residents who are considering a visit to Breakneck Ridge or the surrounding Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve so they can be better prepared before they arrive. Presenters will also share the area's incredible conservation story and what visitors can do to ensure that story continues. This first talk will be held on **Wednesday, January 30th at 7pm**. [Register here](#).

Our Land Conservation Wins in 2018



In 2018, HHLT took a lead role in **four major conservation projects**, adding another **180-acres** to

enhance local preserves, state and national parkland in our mission area:

- 70 acres buffering the Appalachian Trail in Garrison
- 40 acres added to Fahnestock State Park in northern Philipstown
- 40 acres added to our Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam Valley
- 30 acres next to Hudson Highlands State Park in Garrison

We are grateful to our land conservation partners in these efforts, including: generous landowners who wanted to conserve their properties; [New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation](#); [Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#); Town of Putnam Valley; Town of Philipstown; [Open Space Institute](#); and [Badey & Watson Surveying & Engineering](#).

HHLT Increases Focus on Natural Resources with New Staff Position

With our increasing focus on water resources, wildlife habitat, climate change impacts and the importance of connecting protected lands, **Nicole Wooten** (previously our Conservation Stewardship Manager) is transitioning to a new role as Manager of Natural Resources. In this role, Nicole will develop strategies to build corridors of protected lands for wildlife and people, ensure protection of water supplies and provide key input into our public policy, planning and outreach efforts. Congratulations, Nicole!

We are in the process of hiring a new Stewardship Coordinator to take on the tasks of monitoring our easement portfolio and streamlining our systems for property monitoring and management. We look forward to introducing our new Stewardship Coordinator in the coming months.



Granite Mountain Preserve Featured in Local Press



Following our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new access area at our Granite Mountain Preserve last November, we've received some great press coverage on the event and the expansion of the Preserve, most notably:

[Out There: Unknown Pleasures, Tracking Down Secrets of Granite Mountain](#), a feature story in *The Highlands Current*

[Land Trust Unveils New Outdoor Space in PV](#), a feature story in *The Putnam Examiner*

[New Access at Granite Mountain Preserve Is Hailed](#), a feature story in *The Putnam County News & Recorder*

For more information on the new access area and expansion, you can read our [press release here](#).

Please consider supporting our work.
HHLT is the only organization that focuses exclusively on protecting the Hudson Highlands.
Your contribution protects this iconic region for our future generations.
Thank you!

DONATE NOW



*The Hudson Highlands Land Trust protects and preserves the natural resources,
rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands.*

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