



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 6, 2019

Contact: Ashley Rauch

845-424-3358 x4

[ashley.rauch@hhl.org](mailto:ashley.rauch@hhl.org)

## **HHLT Achieves National Recognition**

*Demonstrates Strong Commitment to Earning Public Trust  
and Maintaining Conservation Excellence*

Since 1989, Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) has protected open spaces for the people of Philipstown, Putnam Valley, Cornwall and Highlands. Today HHLT announced it has renewed its land trust accreditation, proving once again that, as part of a network of over 400 accredited land trusts across the nation, it is committed to professional excellence and to maintaining the public's trust in its conservation work.

“Renewing our accreditation shows HHLT’s ongoing commitment to permanent land conservation in the Hudson Highlands,” said **Katrina Shindlecker, HHLT’s Director of Conservation**. “We are a stronger organization for having gone through the rigorous accreditation renewal process. This means special places—like Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam Valley—will be protected forever, making the Highlands an even greater place now and for future generations.”

HHLT provided extensive documentation and was subject to a comprehensive third-party evaluation prior to achieving this distinction. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded renewed accreditation, signifying its confidence that HHLT’s lands will be protected forever. Accredited land trusts now steward nearly 20 million acres across the country.

HHLT was one of the first 39 land trusts in the United States to receive Land Trust Alliance accreditation in 2008. HHLT now owns 577 acres outright and holds 92 conservation easements, permanently preserving more than 3,000 acres of land from development. HHLT also partners with other conservation organizations and state agencies to facilitate the permanent protection of thousands more acres.

“It is exciting to recognize HHLT’s continued commitment to national standards by renewing this national mark of distinction,” said **Tammara Van Ryn, Executive Director of the Commission**. “Donors and partners can trust the more than 400 accredited land trusts across the country are united behind strong standards and have demonstrated sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance and lasting stewardship.”

HHLT is one of 1,363 land trusts across the United States, according to the Land Trust Alliance’s most recent National Land Trust Census. A complete list of accredited land trusts and more information about the accreditation process and benefits can be found at [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org).

### **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](http://www.hhlt.org)

### **ABOUT THE LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION**

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission inspires excellence, promotes public trust and ensures permanence in the conservation of open lands by recognizing organizations that meet rigorous quality standards and strive for continuous improvement. The Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts. [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org)

### **ABOUT THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE**

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents 1,000 member land trusts supported by more than 200,000 volunteers and 4.6 million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C., and operates several regional offices.

The Alliance’s leadership serves the entire land trust community—our work in the nation’s capital represents the policy priorities of land conservationists from every state; our education programs improve and empower land trusts from Maine to Alaska; and our comprehensive vision for the future of land conservation includes new partners, new programs and new priorities. [www.landtrustalliance.org](http://www.landtrustalliance.org)

# # #