



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 3, 2019

Contact: Ashley Rauch

845-424-3358 x4

ashley.rauch@hhlt.org

Community Forum about Granite Mountain Preserve

Scheduled for September 29th from 1 – 3pm

Land Trust Seeks Public Input on Putnam Valley Nature Preserve

In 2017, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) permanently conserved Granite Mountain in the heart of Putnam Valley, creating a new community resource that protects vital wildlife habitat and drinking water, while serving as a recreational opportunity for the community. Since then, HHLT has been working on several improvements to make the Preserve more accessible to the public, including constructing a new parking / access area and upgrading the existing trail system. Hiking trails will soon be fully blazed and detailed trail maps are anticipated to be available this upcoming fall.

Now that the Preserve will soon be fully accessible to the public, HHLT has scheduled a Community Forum on **Sunday, September 29th from 1 to 3pm** at the **Putnam Valley Free Library** (30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley) for Putnam Valley residents to help shape the future of the Preserve. Residents and interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend the Forum to learn more about what has been accomplished in the last two years and share their ideas about public access, recreational amenities and natural resources at the Preserve. Attendees will also hear about various opportunities to join guided hikes and get involved with ongoing stewardship.

Reservations are requested, but walk-ins are also welcome. Please RSVP at outreach@hhlt.org or 845-424-3358 x4.

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

ABOUT GRANITE MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Granite Mountain is located within the watershed of the Peekskill Hollow Brook, part of both the City of Peekskill and Town of Cortlandt drinking water systems. It provides important habitat for wildlife, and was listed in the 2007 Town of Putnam Valley Comprehensive Plan as being “of significant interest to the community.” Granite Mountain is also an important part of the Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Area, identified by both New York State and the US Forest Service as a conservation priority.

#