



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Hudson Highlands Land Trust to
Permanently Protect 74+ Acres in the Heart of Garrison**
Portion of Garrison Golf Course to be Restored to its Natural Habitat

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Inc. (HHLT) is pleased to announce that it will accept a major donation of land from Christopher Davis. The 74+ acres, lying along Snake Hill and Philipse Brook Roads, are currently part of the 300-acre Garrison Golf Club being decommissioned later this year. HHLT will permanently protect this land and intends to oversee habitat restoration, while simultaneously working with the community to develop a thoughtful plan for public access. HHLT is also working with Mr. Davis on a conservation easement covering another part of Garrison Golf Club property—the 100-acre woodland off Snake Hill Road.

Chris Davis said about the gift: *"My goal for the Garrison Golf Club property is designed to permanently protect 300 acres at the heart of our community and put in place a program with organizations that share our love for the Hudson Highlands and will serve as vigilant stewards."*

Katrina Shindledecker, HHLT's Executive Director, added: *"This is a tremendous gift. We can't thank Chris enough for his commitment to conservation and the Hudson Valley community."*

While much of the 74+ acres had been developed as a golf course, the property includes intact forest, wetlands, and important wildlife habitat. Mr. Davis and HHLT envision an extensive restoration project that will enhance the diverse natural resources of the land and further protect Philipse Brook.

HHLT will solicit significant community and stakeholder engagement as it develops the restoration and management plans for the project. As a first step to developing these plans, HHLT will focus on learning more about the land through surveys and environmental assessments over the next several months. Once completed, HHLT will host public forums to capture input from an array of stakeholder groups.

HHLT has owned and stewarded Granite Mountain Preserve, a park preserve in Putnam Valley, for five years. In that time, the organization worked with the neighbors and the community through information-gathering surveys, public forums, and stakeholder working groups to develop a comprehensive management plan that addresses use, visitor management, and habitat needs.

Ms. Shindledecker notes: *"While this is a very different property, we envision a similar process—thoughtful and deliberate—to protect and enhance the property's conservation values while also offering public access."*

As HHLT moves forward with conserving and restoring the land entrusted to it, the organization's staff looks forward to working with Mr. Davis, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and other partners to achieve robust and permanent protection of the remaining portions of the golf course.

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. HHLT owns and manages Granite Mountain Preserve, a 400+ acre nature preserve in Putnam Valley along with approximately 100 adjoining acres owned by Putnam County. www.hhlt.org

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