



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hudson Highlands Land Trust Expands Granite Mountain Preserve with 28-Acre Donation from Town of Putnam Valley

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Inc. (HHLT) has received a donation of 28 acres of land from the Town of Putnam Valley, which will allow for the expansion of its Granite Mountain Preserve. The donated parcel is rich in natural resources and its conservation helps protect the drinking water sources for the City of Peekskill and Town of Cortlandt. In addition to the donated property, in 2021 HHLT entered into a Cooperative Management Agreement with Putnam County to manage and steward 91 acres of land adjacent to the Preserve. Later this year, HHLT plans to assess the 28 acres along with the County land for new trail opportunities and connections. Once the assessment is complete, they will develop and implement an updated trails plan so hikers, bird-watchers, dog walkers, photographers, and others may enjoy new trails and woodland vistas.

Jacqueline Annabi, Town Supervisor, quoted author May Davis "To walk in nature is to witness a thousand miracles," then said: *"This quote is the epitome of what HHLT Granite Mountain Preserve offers the residents of Putnam Valley. We are ecstatic to have such an exceptionally valuable resource for our residents to enjoy, and having HHLT Granite Mountain Preserve secure this land guarantees the conservation of its beauty, together with the rural character of this community. This land will evermore provide a tranquil sanctuary for all our neighbors, and afford serene, nurturing experiences in nature."*

Katrina Shindledecker, HHLT's Executive Director, added: *"We're thankful for the Town of Putnam Valley's generous donation and their dedication to supporting our efforts to expand Granite Mountain Preserve, conserve wildlife habitat, and protect drinking water sources for our area."*

Steve Ho, a resident that lives near the preserve, said: *"When I was told of the expansion of the Granite Mountain Preserve, it brought a smile to my face. The Preserve is a treasure that just keeps on giving us so much pleasure and solitude. Thank you HHLT and Putnam Valley and all the dedicated volunteers who nurture this little piece of heaven on earth for us and generations to come."*

Granite Mountain Preserve was established in 2017 through the acquisition of three parcels totaling 358 acres with a vision to protect wildlife habitat and drinking water, while offering recreational opportunities for the community. The Preserve expanded to 400 acres the following year and continues to expand as undeveloped buffer land with sensitive natural resources and/or recreational opportunities becomes available.

Since its creation, HHLT has taken a community-based approach to stewarding the Preserve, working with neighbors and the local community to address use, visitor

management, and habitat needs. There have been several accessibility upgrades and improvements made in recent years, including the installation of a parking area with information kiosk, and the full blazing of the trail system. Guided hikes and volunteer opportunities are offered occasionally at the Preserve.

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, in Putnam Valley along with approximately 100 adjoining acres owned by Putnam County. www.hhlt.org

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