









# Letter from The Executive Director & Board Chair



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Over the past year, we have often reflected on nature's ability to inspire, to teach, and to heal. As we've partnered with scout troops on restoration projects or led educational hikes on our land or simply enjoyed early morning walks with our dogs on local trails, we've been reminded that nature can provide a crucial outlet for finding happiness in a world sometimes fraught with uncertainty.

These experiences are motivating and centering, a powerful reminder of how important it is to spend time outdoors in nature—looking, listening, moving, breathing, and relaxing. This is why protecting our open spaces and natural resources is at the heart of our mission and why your support and collaboration continue to have such a powerful impact on our community.

We are inspired by the many ways friends and neighbors have come together to celebrate our Highlands landscape and protect this area that we love so well. In 2021, with your support and encouragement, we:

- Managed the NY Highlands Network, working with 15 partners to accelerate the pace and inclusivity of land conservation across the Hudson Highlands.
- Expanded our flagship Granite Mountain Preserve by 7% and also reached an agreement to steward 91 acres adjacent to the Preserve through a Cooperative Management Agreement with Putnam County.
- Protected 57+ acres at the Garrison Golf Club and are working with neighbors and wider community partners to reimagine public access to this land.
- Added 40 acres of land to a parcel previously acquired along Canopus Creek—safeguarding drinking water and important wildlife habitat.
- Continued our Relearning Highlands History series to amplify untold stories of Black and Indigenous people in our region, including West Point's Buffalo Soldiers and a movement to return to traditional food system practices.
- Offered hands-on learning opportunities to youth, like summer interns from the Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill and campers from Camp Felix in Putnam Valley.

Thank you for partnering with us to protect and steward lands that serve as critical habitat for plants and animals. These places provide us with clean drinking water, fresh air, and stunning views, while also offering opportunities to learn in nature and discover new wonders. We hope to see you out on the trails soon!

Nancy Berner, *Board Chair*

Katrina Shindledecker, *Executive Director*



## IN MEMORIAM:

# Lars Kulleseid



*Lars Kulleseid has been described as a ‘force of nature.’ He has become ‘a force for nature.’*

### A Force for Nature: Lars I. Kulleseid (1935–2022)

When Lars Kulleseid died on February 17, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust lost a visionary founder, his board colleagues a great friend, and the Hudson Highlands a uniquely energetic advocate and creative defender.

By 1989, when the Land Trust was born, Lars and his family had lived in Garrison for a quarter century. As an avid hiker and cross-country skier who roamed the region’s trails most weekends, he had already internalized the threat that development posed to his community’s scenic beauty and fragile ecosystems.

The man was matched to the moment. For the next quarter century, Lars was the boots-on-the-ground “man you’d see” if you owned a threatened property or controlled a potential trail link, a vulnerable stream or a majestic view. He stitched together easements along Clove Creek, thwarted a condominium development at “Glenclyffe,” and introduced sustainable forestry practices to reduce property taxes on sizable woodlands.

As gregarious as he was determined, Lars persuaded targets to become partners; he invited them to join him on tramps—usually off-trail and uphill—across their property and that of their neighbors. Several steps out front, he explained his vision to his partner in short, over-the-shoulder bursts,

eventually arriving at a key, predetermined objective, where he would deliver a summing-up: “See!” It was not a question. And his companions generally saw.

When Lars retired from the Land Trust board a few years ago, his colleagues adopted a resolution that summed up Lars and his contribution to the work of the organization and the preservation of the Highlands this way: “Lars Kulleseid has been described as a ‘force of nature.’ He has become ‘a force for nature.’” And that is how we will remember him.





# Highlands Conservation Act Renewal & State Parks Expansion



## Highlands Conservation Act Up for Reauthorization with Increased Funding

One of the most important sources of conservation funding in our region—the federal Highlands Conservation Act (HCA)—is up for renewal, and if the Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act is passed in its current form, the HCA cap will increase from \$10M to \$20M annually. In addition, the reauthorization act would create a petition process allowing states to request, based on scientific data, for new areas to be added to the Highlands region for funding consideration. The legislation would also expand partnership opportunities in the region by allowing municipalities and counties to hold title to land protected with HCA funding.

Established in 2004, the HCA provides millions of dollars annually to the four-state Highlands region, which spans New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, covering 100+ miles of the Appalachian Trail. These funds have protected lands of importance to the viewshed and ecological corridor and have allowed the expansion of several New York State parks.

With its unique public/private partnership model under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the HCA has

supported the conservation of more than 12,000 acres and leveraged federal investments more than two-fold in matching state, municipal, and private contributions. The Fund's record of success has won robust support for its reauthorization, which was introduced in both houses of Congress in March 2021. The proposed legislation has 28 co-sponsors, bipartisan buy-in, and is being championed by multiple conservation partners, such as the American Mountain Club, the Housatonic Valley Association, and NY Highlands Network members.



## ➤ Highlands Conservation Act in Action

**New York State Parks holdings expanded to include these projects in 2021, thanks in part to HCA funds:**

- **Thirty-three acres in Putnam Valley**—This parcel with extensive wetlands and upland forests filled a conservation gap between privately protected lands and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail corridor. *HHLT Collaboration: Volunteers from HHLT and the NY-NJ Trail Conference scouted this parcel to determine its importance to the Appalachian Trail corridor of protected lands. HHLT met with the landowner and introduced the Open Space Institute to the project, which closed on it in 2021.*
- **Forty-two acres in the Town of Kent**—This project added land to Wonder Lake State Park, including sensitive wetlands and wildlife habitat. *HHLT Collaboration: We partnered with Westchester Land Trust and NYS Parks on this project.*
- **One hundred and fifty acres in the Town of Putnam Valley**—This parcel is part of a large forest block that contains vernal pools, marshy wetlands, a 1,000-foot peak, and multiple Species of Greatest Conservation Need. *HHLT Collaboration: We acquired this land in 2019 and transferred this property to NYS Parks in 2021.*



# Land Acquisitions



## Protecting Land That Benefits the Hudson Highlands Community

Over these past few years, we have seen a continued, powerful shift throughout our community as more and more people find peace, purpose, and comfort on the land. To safeguard large tracts of important natural resources and meet the growing need for more accessible, protected nature, HHLT is expanding our preserves and creating new ones.

### Creating Buffers along Canopus Creek

Acquiring land for conservation can be done in many ways. It can be a single large project proactively and carefully planned out for years; it can be reactive in response to an unexpected opportunity; or it can be a slow and steady additive effort, piecing together small projects that add up over time. In late 2020, 70 acres identified as important for drinking water and wildlife habitat along Canopus Creek were up for sale at a Putnam County tax sale, and HHLT jumped at the chance to protect this land.

Why was the land so special? Not only did it protect drinking water and wildlife habitat, it also buffered a larger tract of undeveloped land, reinforcing its importance as a high priority for conservation. Following the successful completion of that first project, HHLT acquired this adjoining tract of land in late 2021—a significant portion of Cimarron Ranch—ensuring an additional 240 acres along the creek would remain free from development forever.

Going forward, we will focus on cleaning up the array of junk cars and other remnants of past use that impact the property's natural resources. HHLT staff are also working with researchers and neighbors to develop a comprehensive management plan that satisfies the community's needs while protecting plants and animals that live on this land.

### Expanding Granite Mountain Preserve

Our Granite Mountain Preserve has grown, thanks to a donation of 28 acres from the Town of Putnam Valley. The expanded area is rich in natural resources and protects drinking water resources for the City of Peekskill and Town of Cortlandt. This addition to HHLT's largest Preserve marks significant progress toward our goal to buffer this sensitive landscape by permanently conserving the undeveloped lands around Granite Mountain—protecting the Preserve's sensitive natural resources, and where possible, expanding recreational opportunities.

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***“When I was told of the expansion of the Granite Mountain Preserve, it brought a smile to my face,” said Steve Ho, who lives nearby. “The Preserve is a treasure that just keeps on giving us so much pleasure and solitude.”***

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HHLT is working with volunteers and neighbors on plans to add this land to our existing trail system, and we will also collaborate with the community on an updated management plan that meets local needs. In addition to the land we have protected directly, we are also managing and stewarding an additional 91 acres adjacent to the Preserve through a Cooperative Management Agreement with Putnam County.





## Transforming Fairways into Healthy Habitats

After six decades as a championship golf course overlooking the Hudson River, the former Garrison Golf Course is being transformed into a multi-use landscape. HHLT accepted a generous donation of 57 acres of land on the property from owner Chris Davis as part of his vision to decommission the golf course and restore its ecological benefits.

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***“I know this beloved landscape is in good hands with HHLT,” said Chris Davis, owner of the golf course. “I’m inspired by the shared plans for ecological restoration and hope this land will be enjoyed by the community today and for generations to come.”***

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The property HHLT received features woodlands of mature oaks and hemlocks, vital wetlands, historic stone walls, and important wildlife habitat. Along with habitat restoration, we will work with the local community to develop a thoughtful public access plan.

Adjoining lands have been offered to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to create its first permanent home in our community. Once it takes ownership, the Festival plans to donate 17 acres to HHLT -- a woodland that not only provides a green buffer for Philips Brook, but also habitat for bats, dragonflies, and other species.

Although HHLT staff are still developing a management and public access plan, the land is open for non-motorized recreation, such as walking and birdwatching “at your own risk.” Several improvement projects are ongoing, and visitors should exercise caution while enjoying the land.

## Conserving Land to Meet Today’s Needs

Whether we are adding to our flagship Granite Mountain Preserve or reimagining landscapes with past commercial usage, our goal remains the same—to protect lands and waters that benefit our community. We are always listening to learn how we can better serve our community and we look forward to sharing more conservation successes with you soon.





# On the Land: Community Stewardship

## Community Stewardship Across the Highlands Landscape

With your help, HHLT protects and stewards the spectacular landscapes of the Hudson Highlands. Our community continually shows up in new and inspiring ways to ensure this land can be enjoyed by many generations to come. Our collaborations with other conservation organizations, schools, arts groups, neighbors, business owners, volunteers, municipalities, and government officials are crucial to ongoing stewardship of the Highlands region.





# Helping Amphibians on the “Big Night” Spring Migration



## 2021 Amphibian data:

A dedicated team of 10 volunteers and two HHLT staffers in the Hudson Highlands (Beacon, Phillipstown, and Putnam Valley) helped 327 amphibians in crossing the road in three municipalities. Sadly, many amphibians were found dead, often struck by vehicles—a clear indicator of the costs of habitat fragmentation to amphibian populations. Monitoring by volunteers, accessible culverts under the road, and temporary road closures are just a few ways we are exploring to make a difference and ensure our amphibian populations stay healthy.



**14** wood frogs

**131** peepers (+115 dead)

**45** American toads (+26 dead)

**85** pickerel frogs (+48 dead)

**5** northern leopard frogs (+1 dead)

**10** green frogs (+4 dead)

**18** spotted salamanders (+3 dead)

**7** redbacked salamanders (+5 dead)

**7** four-toed salamanders (+5 dead)

**5** eastern red newts (+2 dead)



# A Gift of 57 Acres: HHLT Writes New Chapter for Land with a Long History



In 2021, HHLT accepted a donation of 57 acres from Chris Davis that had been part of the recently decommissioned Garrison Golf Course. Davis's generous gift allows us to permanently protect forest and wetlands, while overssing critical habitat restoration on former fairways and greens.

HHLT's stewardship is the newest chapter in the history of this site, which is within the ancestral homeland of the Lenape, Munsee, and Wappinger people. In the 1700s, the property was acquired along with all of the surrounding lands by the powerful Philipse family as part of the royal Philipse Patent. The Philipse heirs leased Patent farmland to tenants for years. The Philipses supported the Crown during the American Revolution, and when the war ended, the Patent lands were stripped from the Philipse family, and eventually became Putnam County. In 1815, William Denning, a merchant, acquired most of the golf course site; he sold some of it to Henry Garrison. Over time, this farmland was worked by many of the Philipses' former tenants, including the Jaycox, Meeks, and Nelson families.

When the railroad opened here in 1849, wealthy New Yorkers started building summer estates in the Highlands with picturesque names like Brookside, Windfield, and Mountain Home. Many have been lost to fire or time, but some structures remain. Most of the Garrison golf course site, including our 57 acres, was part of Walnut Ridge, built in the 1850s by Manhattan bankers A.B. & C.W. Bean. Their estate featured two mansions, farm buildings, a windmill, and an ice pond. A.B. Bean's brick mansion stood on the current site of the golf course's clubhouse. A Brooklyn grain merchant named George Luff purchased Walnut Ridge in 1870 and doubled his mansion's size over 26 years. His nephew, Maj. George Luff Fox, inherited the estate and expanded it to 240 acres. His heir sold the estate to William "Bill" Brown in 1905.

Bill Brown's tenure was a colorful one. Born in County Cork, Ireland, he came to New York City at age 14 with his widowed mother and promptly fell in love with boxing. Brown went on to make a small fortune as a gym owner, trainer, and fight promoter. A lifelong teetotaler, Brown also became a fitness zealot. He used \$80,000 netted in the boxing business to buy Walnut Ridge and turn it into "Bill Brown's Physical Training Farm" — a discreet spot for well-heeled men to get fit, and, sometimes, to dry out. Brown even penned a booklet called "Fitness" with testimonials from his clients (and their wives). To accommodate his thriving business, Brown expanded the main house and added facilities for tennis, swimming,



horseback riding, squash, handball, and boxing, as well as a nine-hole golf course. He likely built an earthen dam on the property to create a boating pond. In 1925, Brown added a large hospital wing — still standing today — with a glass solarium designed to increase ultraviolet rays. An Olympic-sized pool was added in 1930. Brown catered to athletes in training, celebrities, and wealthy patrons looking to "take the treatment." His guests reportedly included Babe Ruth, Johnny Weissmuller, Joe Louis, Tyrone Power, and Henry Fonda.



After Brown died in 1943, investors purchased the property, and the fitness farm continued to operate for a while. However, time, weather, and a tragic fire in the main building all took their toll on the site, and by the 1960s, it had fallen into disrepair.



The Osborn family stepped in with the idea of creating a golf course and country club on the land. Perched 800 feet above the Hudson River, this new “Garrison Country Club” offered an 18-hole course designed by Dick Wilson. Golf enthusiasts enjoyed its views of the rugged Highlands terrain and its varied topography, including woodsy, rolling hills; many elevation changes; tough tee shots over deep ravines; side hill lies; and challenging greens.

According to the *New York Post*, the “glory days” of the semi-private club were the mid-1980s when membership boomed. “It was a social club,” said Jim Dywer, the former head pro who retired in 1999. “There was one member, an international furrier, [who] brought up Madonna, Boy George. I gave golf lessons to JFK Jr. We had a lot of parties.”

The golf course and country club eventually hit hard times. The site went through successive owners, including the Urban Life Company, which sold off parcels of land along the old fourth hole to create some of the adjacent homes that you see today and rezoned the main parcel (clubhouse and parking area) to allow condominium development. In 1999, Chris Davis purchased the site to protect it from further development.

In recent years, several market factors conspired to make golf financially unsustainable, and Davis was growing increasingly concerned with the ecological impacts of maintaining the course. “Each year, we use over 1 million gallons of water for irrigation and apply fertilizers and pesticides,” he told the *Highlands Current*. “I’m determined to see all that land returned to a more natural, ecologically healthy state.” John Benjamin, a longtime resident who lives on neighboring property, has enjoyed exploring this land and delving into its

fascinating history. “I think it’s wonderful that there always seems to be a surprise around the corner that we have always taken for granted,” says Benjamin.

And while the property could be developed into a 40-room inn with a spa or subdivided and turned for homes, at the end of the 2021 season, Davis closed the 18-hole golf course. The other businesses on the site — a wedding and catering venue, a small inn, and The Valley Restaurant — remain in operation. Davis then made the 57-acre donation to HHLT and offered land to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) to create its first permanent home in the community.

HHLT looks forward to our new role in stewarding 57 acres and contributing our own chapter to that history while partnering with HVSF on the broader vision and restoration.





# New York Highlands Update & Climate Change



## HHLT and the NY Highlands Network: A Broader Impact

HHLT coordinates the NY Highlands Network (NYHN), a collaborative partnership that supports the vital task of protecting undeveloped land across the New York Highlands region. By bringing together leading conservation organizations and agencies, as well as neighbors and landowners, we are working to create “green corridors” that will help plants and wildlife survive the many threats from climate change and poorly planned development.

### ➤ What are the Highlands?

The New York Highlands are part of the federally designated Highlands Region, as defined in the U.S. Highlands Conservation Act, which recognizes its national significance. Less than 50 miles north of New York City, this region is rich in unique ecosystems and biodiversity, providing critical habitats for threatened wildlife species.



## Planning for Green Corridors

Last year, HHLT worked with NYHN partners and local communities to complete the Green Corridors Plan for the Eastern Highlands region of New York. This plan provides information and tools to keep wildlife and people healthy by protecting connected swaths of land and water in our region. It includes maps of important connective corridors, along with strategies for safeguarding those areas and the funding needed to make conservation happen.

### ➤ What is a green corridor?

Green corridors are open spaces that connect parklands and waterways. By connecting habitats, green corridors allow plants, wildlife, and humans to move across the landscape, which promotes strong and healthy ecological communities. Wildlife can move through green corridors every day for food, seasonally to stay warm, and over their lifetimes to find mates and new homes. Roadbuilding and development fragments habitat, making movement unsafe for creatures great and small. Increasing habitat fragmentation, along with the pressures of climate change, are creating an urgent need to strengthen connectivity in the Highlands region. That's why HHLT and the NY Highlands Network created the Green Corridors Plan. Visit our website [hhlt.org](http://hhlt.org) to view it or download a copy.

The Green Corridors Plan was funded in part by a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. This complements an existing plan for connecting the Western New York Highlands region, created by partner organizations: [www.openspaceinstitute.org/research/highlandswestplan](http://www.openspaceinstitute.org/research/highlandswestplan)



## Sharing Information Across the Network

We recently completed the Project Tracker, a tool that allows NYHN partners to communicate efficiently and effectively about ongoing land protection projects. It includes three elements—a map, database, and communications platform—that are linked and updated in real time so partners can see a visual representation of each high-priority project, detailed supporting information, and any recent change.

## Testing Remote Tech

HHLT and the NYHN are continuing to test the latest remote technologies, such as satellite and aerial imagery, so we can quickly assess changes to the landscape and act on urgent matters. These tech improvements help us fulfill our commitment to the stewardship of our conserved lands forever.



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## 10 Ways We Are Fighting Climate Change

There is no magic solution to fixing climate change, but there are many things we can do to help mitigate the negative effects felt by our communities. Here are a few examples of what we are doing at HHLT with your support:

- 1 Protecting carbon-rich land from development so it can continue to store carbon and keep it out of the atmosphere.
  - 2 Supporting sustainable municipal planning, such as working with municipalities to identify lands that are most and least appropriate for development.
  - 3 Stewarding land in perpetuity
  - 4 Managing a hunting program on our Granite Mountain Preserve that reduces deer overgrazing of future forests.
  - 5 Supporting/encouraging walkable towns and communities.
  - 6 Raising awareness about issues such as the lack of trees in low-income urban areas and its disproportionate harm to frontline communities that bear the brunt of climate change effects, and working with partners to support projects that can mitigate that harm.
  - 7 Protecting forests that filter clean drinking water. Extensive filtering of water is much more energy-intensive than keeping it clean naturally.
  - 8 Analyzing the impact of proposed high-intensity infrastructure projects, like the proposed Danskammer Power Plant, and speaking up for renewable energy alternatives.
  - 9 Protecting the biodiversity that keeps our ecosystems intact, thriving, and sequestering carbon.
  - 10 Being careful in the office to turn lights off, print double-sided, carpool when possible, and enact other energy-saving measures.
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# Making Discoveries on the Land



## Learning on the Land

Last summer, we were fortunate to have two Land Management interns join the HHLT team—Adriana Buller and Katie Cassidy. Adriana and Katie joined us as part of a joint internship with The Fresh Air Fund (FAF), the Vassar Ecological Preserve, and the Environmental Monitoring Management Alliance (EMMA) via Fordham University's Calder Center. The interns split their time between HHLT's Granite Mountain Preserve and FAF's 2,000-acre Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill. At Granite Mountain, interns worked on the beech leaf disease survey project, mapping this invasive threat to help inform HHLT staff and City University of New York researchers working to understand the spread of the disease. Adriana and Katie also hosted a roadside invasive species workshop with the maintenance team at Sharpe Reservation to share information that can be incorporated into the invasive species management plan there.

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***"The experiences I had during this internship were helpful in gaining the confidence and skills needed to pursue a career in this field."***

—Adriana Buller, 2021 Land Management Intern

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HHLT is proud to congratulate Katie Cassidy on her new position as a field scientist with the EA Engineering Science and Technology group in Syracuse, where she is conducting investigation and remediation work on groundwater, surface water, and soil.

We are grateful to the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) for helping to fund this internship program through New York State's Environmental Protection Fund, as administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

## Creating a Virtual Heritage Trail: Q+A with Margot Mathieu



A native of Charlotte, NC, consulting historian **Margot Mathieu** earned a bachelor's degree in history at Marist College in the Hudson Valley, and her master's at McGill University in

Montreal. Her graduate research focused on colonialism and legal/rhetorical language used by the Cherokee National Council to advocate for their nationhood in the face of removal from ancestral lands at the beginning of the 19th century. Margot currently resides in Montreal with her husband and their three-legged cat, Ian.

### Q1 What exactly is a virtual Heritage Trail?

A virtual Heritage Trail is an entirely digital historical experience. In the case of the one we are currently developing; it is an historical story told through sites across Putnam, southern Dutchess, and northern Westchester counties that focuses on the ways that colonization and the slave trade have shaped how people living in the Hudson Valley have related to and conceived of the land on which they lived. Essentially, we want to present a very large narrative to visitors through the stories of specific places and individuals from Hudson Valley history and examine how that has shaped the contemporary communities and the land itself.







**Q2 What got you excited about working with HHLT on this project?**

I lived in the Hudson Valley for over five years when I was just becoming an adult. The landscape of the valley was so influential to who I am now. It is also a place of incredibly rich and diverse history that has shaped the culture and conception of the United States as a whole. I couldn't pass up a chance to dive into this narrative and learn more about this area that has shaped North American history. The Heritage Trail project has given me the opportunity to read, speak with, and work with many amazing local historians who are doing incredible work. I am learning so much through my role in this project.



Abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher: His Peekskill home was a station on the Underground Railroad.

**Q3 In 2021, you completed Phase 1 of the Heritage Trail project. What did you focus on?**

In 2021, we did research—teasing out what resources and knowledge were available for this project. This involved digging into the historiography of the region and understanding who the historical actors were that we were going to focus on, and how these stories linked together and influenced each other.

**Q4 Looking back on your work, were there any surprises or discoveries? What was the most interesting thing you learned?**

The more I read, the more I realize that life in any period has been complicated and scary and uncertain. I am inspired, though. I think there is so much to be learned from the way that historical figures have questioned systems and ideas of the past. I'm thinking specifically of Daniel Nimham [*a prominent member of the Wappinger tribe that lived in the Hudson Valley in the late 18th century*]. Everyone we are looking at in the Heritage Trail pushed back against a prescribed role in some way. I think one of the most important things we can learn from historical study is that we have the power to make change, even if it's only in our immediate community. Resisting something unjust is never energy wasted.

**Q5 What's the next step? What's ahead in 2022?**

Right now, we are doing technological research to figure out how exactly this project can be implemented online, as well as diving deeper into the sources that we identified in Phase 1. One of the fascinating things about historical research is that there is always more to learn, more questions to be asked. A digital project like this is wonderful because it is accessible to anyone with an internet connection, and also because it can grow and evolve as the research expands.



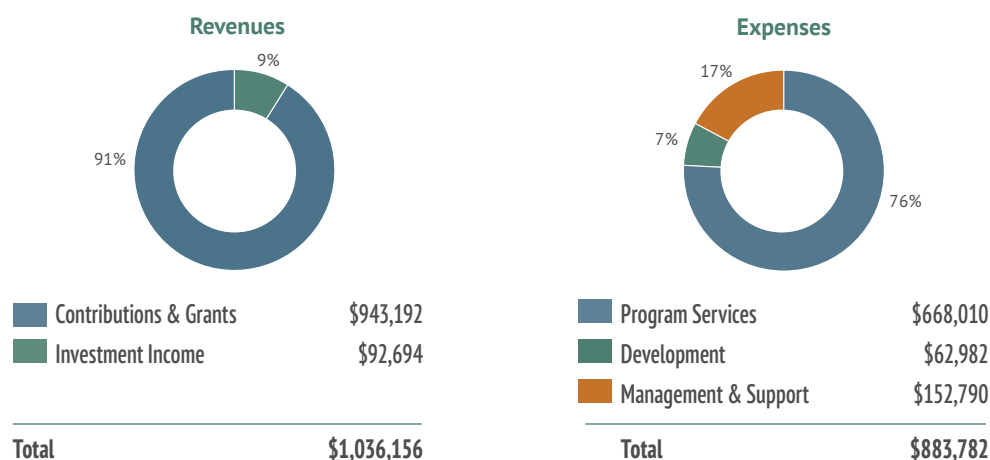
# 2021 Financial Report and Future Outlook

## Grant Funding for Conservation Projects

All of HHLT's work is made possible by your individual gifts and grants from project partners. Our special thanks to our community of donors and the following institutional funders who helped move specific conservation projects forward in 2021:

Appalachian Trail Conservancy and their Landscape Partnership's Wild East Action Fund; Cornell Douglas Foundation; Cornell University; The Hyde and Watson Foundation; John J. and Frank Sparacio Foundation; Land Trust Alliance National; Land Trust Alliance New York State Conservation Partnership Program; Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management; The Malcolm Gordon Charitable Fund; The Nature Conservancy; The Network for Landscape Conservation's Catalyst Fund; New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; and the Open Space Institute.

A comprehensive list of HHLT supporters in 2021 is included in our Annual Report PDF, available on our website at [hhlt.org](https://www.hhlt.org)



### NOTE:

In fiscal 2021, HHLT maintained board restricted financial assets consist of approximately \$10.5M. The purposes of the board restricted funds are to underwrite the cost of monitoring and enforcing HHLT's conservation easements and manage our preserves; to support the annual operating costs of the stewardship and land conservation activities of the Land Trust; and, to pay for land acquisition and land conservation projects. During the year ended September 30, 2021, the board restricted financial asset's investment outflows fund totaled almost \$225,000 and was used to finance real estate transactions and maintain/improve existing properties.

	9/30/2020	9/30/2021
Cash and Money Market	\$1,663,211	\$1,976,823
Public Securities	\$6,114,366	\$9,104,176
Land and Other	\$2,748,914	\$2,189,715*
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$10,526,491</b>	<b>\$13,270,714</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,095,553</b>	<b>\$660,721</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$9,430,938</b>	<b>\$12,609,993</b>

### Footnotes:

A. Cash and money market funds consist of \$0.5 million in operating reserves and \$1.2 million for pending real estate acquisitions.

B. Public securities are within our Highlands Steward Fund, dedicated to stewarding conserved lands in perpetuity and for land acquisitions.

C. FY 21 Land assets consist of our Granite Mountain Preserve and buffers to state and national parkland (financed by \$1 million in debt). This amount also includes Notes Receivable of \$0.35 million for loans made to partner land trusts to finance acquisition of priority lands.

\* In FY2021, HHLT conveyed 149 acres of land to NYS Parks as an addition to Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park.



# HHLT by the Numbers (2021)



**420**  
volunteer hours



**57** volunteers on the land



**48** volunteers helping remotely



**8** interns trained in land management



**28** kids got hands-on learning experiences



**20** NYNJTC trail stewards trained in Natural Resources



**16** hunters, who contributed **128** hunting hours, **3** deer harvested



**4,300+** wildlife photos taken

**56** fee monitoring visits across **515 acres** of HHLT-owned fee land



**2** NY Highlands Network all-partner meetings hosted, with **24** and **30** attendees; **16** partner organizations and agencies engaged



**327** amphibians helped cross the road with a fantastic volunteer and staff team

**2** new partnerships: Felix Organization, Lenape Center agencies engaged

THE FELIX ORGANIZATION



**1** rare plant population discovered as well as multiple animal Species of Special Concern and Species of Greatest Conservation Needs





## Hudson Highlands Land Trust

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### STAFF

<b>Katrina Shindledecker</b> <i>Executive Director</i>	<b>Mona Smith</b> <i>Institutional Funding Manager</i>	<b>Brooke Lyndaker</b> <i>Conservation Projects Manager</i>	<b>Stephanie Sanchez</b> <i>Events &amp; Outreach Coordinator</i>
<b>Edward (Ted) Warren</b> <i>Public Policy Coordinator</i>	<b>Carmela Buono</b> <i>Preserve Manager &amp; Ecological Restoration Specialist</i>	<b>Cory Tiger</b> <i>Conservation Easement Manager</i>	<b>Jonathan Leitner</b> <i>Operations Coordinator</i>

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rsidentitydesign.com

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MJ Martin  
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Julia Rogers  
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[hhlt.org](http://hhlt.org)

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a community-based, accredited land conservation organization devoted to protecting and preserving the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands.



The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1989 under Section 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of New York.