



Forest Conservation Easement for Land Trusts Program 2023 Grant Awards

Saratoga PLAN, Saratoga County

\$301,497 to purchase a conservation easement on a 435-acre forested property located in the towns of Greenfield and Wilton. The property is a key project in the PLAN’s initiative to protect the 40,000 Palmertown Range that is part of the southeastern corner of the Adirondack Foothills. Saratoga County is under extreme development pressure, and the Palmertown Range represents an area that is critical for the movement of wildlife, providing climate resilient habitat, and recreational opportunities. The conservation easement will allow the landowners to sustainably harvest the forested tract while ensuring that it will remain a forest and continue to provide its many benefits for future generations.

Dutchess Land Conservancy, Dutchess County

\$189,605 to purchase a conservation easement on the 71-acre Johnston Forest property, which is adjacent to the Appalachian Trail and West Mountain State Forest. The property is in a critical forested corridor that connects the northern and southern Appalachians. The forest offers great value for habitat connection and a portion of the land has been classified as “Important Foraging Area for Rare Bat” by the New York Natural Heritage Program. Protection of the land will ensure that important water sources remain safe and clean, as it contains nearly 2,000 feet of DEC Class A stream and several springs that supply local drinking water to nearby communities. Mature and undisturbed oak and hickory are the predominant trees on this forested parcel.

Western New York Land Conservancy, Cattaraugus County

\$227,474 to purchase the Perrysburg Headwater Forest conservation easement consisting of approximately 152 acres of forested area within the headwaters of the Allegheny River. The property contains both mature hemlock-northern hardwoods forest and maple basswood forests, as well as mature beech trees. The land is also a part of the Western New York Wildway, an initiative to protect protect and connect the region’s largest and most climate resilient forests to benefit people and wildlife.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Lewis County

\$181,150 to purchase a conservation easement that will protect 375 acres of forest and wetlands within the core of the Tug Hill Plateau forest – an area that is listed as a priority for protection in the New York State Open Space Plan. The Campell Conservation Easement property is surrounded by thousands of acres of protected forest owned by The Nature Conservancy, New York State, and Tug Hill Tomorrow



Land Trust. The easement will protect a beech-maple mesic forest, a marsh headwater stream, and a spruce-fir swamp, along with significant wetlands.

Adirondack Land Trust, Warren County

\$350,000 to purchase a conservation easement that will protect 500 acres of forest in the Adirondack Park. The forest is comprised of beech and sugar maples with strands of hemlock-northern hardwoods. In addition to the forest, the easement will protect 800 feet of wild shoreline along the Hudson River, 1.5 miles of streams, and significant wetlands. Additionally, the property will improve recreational opportunities and protect wildlife habitat in the Hudson River corridor, goals established in the New York State Open Space Plan.

Mohawk-Hudson Land Conservancy, Montgomery County

\$104,609 to purchase a conservation easement in the Town of Esperance that will protect 102 acres of mostly forested land. The forest contains a wide variety of species, including red pine, mature Eastern hemlock, birch, aspen, and beech trees. The land offers breeding habitat for several birds listed as “species of greatest conservation need”, including American Woodcock, American Kestrel, Eastern meadowlark, and bobolink. It also is located within a “pinch point” of climate resiliency and wildlife movement that connects the Adirondacks with the Catskills. The landowner is committed to using the property for environmental education and as a catalyst for additional future forest protection in an area under increasing development pressure for large scale solar projects.