

2025 Climate Resilience Grant Program Project Descriptions

Land Acquisitions

Cazenovia Preservation Foundation: Fee acquisition of 388 acres adjoining Stoney Pond State Forest in Madison County in Central New York. The property features wetlands, mature hardwood forests, open fields which can be managed for meadow-nesting bird habitat, nearly 4,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Eatonbrook Reservoir, and two historical barns. Once acquired, Cazenovia Preserve Foundation will allow public access for recreation, education and nature study.

Hudson Taconic Lands: Fee acquisition of 162-acre addition to an established Community Forests on the Rensselaer Plateau. The acquisition will enhance educational programming and outings for youth and adults. The Albert Family Community Forest integrates community participation and seeks to maximize recreational use for all demographics, including an ADA wheelchair-accessible and sensory trail.

Otsego Land Trust: 242-acre Conservation Easement of mature forests on a major tributary to the Mohawk River in Herkimer County. The tract exhibits above average landscape resilience, diversity, and local connectedness and adjoins other protected conservation lands. With this project, Otsego Land Trust is expanding their service area into a part of New York that is not currently covered by any land trusts, laying the groundwork for new conservation efforts between the Mohawk Valley and the Adirondack State Park.

Mohonk Preserve: 175-acre fee acquisition in Ulster County that includes Humpo Marsh, a hotspot for birds and wildlife, and has over 1.2 miles of frontage the scenic corridor between New Paltz and the Shawangunk Ridge.

The Village of Mamaroneck's Committee for the Environment: Fee acquisition of one or more residential parcels on the edge of the Mamaroneck River to complete a 3-mile Greenway along the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers. The project will aims to restore floodplain function, implementing green infrastructure to capture stormwater, and providing public access to greenspaces in flood-prone, underserved neighborhoods.

Western New York Land Conservancy: Fee acquisition of 276 acres to establish the Black Creek Preserve in Allegany County, New York. The property features 3,753 feet of Black Creek, a drinking water source for the Village of Angelica. Black Creek Preserve will provide numerous community benefits including drinking water source protection, increased outdoor recreation opportunities, and other ecosystem services such as flood resilience and carbon sequestration.

Planning and Capacity Projects

Beaverkill Valley Conservancy is building their capacity and establishing programs for landowner education and partnerships with local stakeholder groups. A small conservation organization in the western Catskills, the Beaverkill Valley Conservancy is run by a volunteer board with the help of a small number of consultants. Along with the recent new hire of an Administrative Manager, the grant will help them take a more proactive approach to their work that includes developing and implementing educational programming for the local community about climate-friendly land stewardship and to engage in more active partnerships with local organizations, schools, and government offices.

The Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust is a unique urban land trust that stewards parcels along Western New York waterways with potential contamination. Their grant will allow them to expand their community engagement with bio-blitzes, cleanup events, a speaker series and a community tree planting event. Grant funding will also be used for professional development for new staff.

The Hudson River Watershed Alliance, in partnership with New York Sea Grant and Pace University Land Use Law Center, will support municipalities in the Hudson Valley to improve local flood resilience through the Hudson Valley Flood Resilience Network. This project includes a multi-day land use training and completed Resilience Implementation and Strategic Enhancement (RISE) assessments for 3-4 local governments to refine local laws that will improve flood resilience. The project will also support municipalities that are members of the Network through a series of programs that promote flood resilience more broadly, including a training on building trust to improve community engagement, a webinar to share municipal success stories, and an in-person meeting and field trip to support peer learning.