

TOTAL FOR 2017: \$1,253,624

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2017 (ROUND 20)

TOTAL: \$595,233

AWARDS ANNOUNCED AUGUST 18, 2017

TRIBUTARY RESTORATION AND RESILIENCY

ORGANIZATION	COUNTY	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
Riverkeeper, Inc.	Multiple	\$245,233	Riverkeeper will help restore natural stream habitat for fish such as American eel and river herring whose upstream migration is impacted by dams and artificial barriers that are no longer needed or are poorly maintained. Riverkeeper will partner with DEC to reach out to the owners of dams and other stream barriers and educate the public on the benefits of converting waterbodies back to natural states.
Orange County Soil & Water Conservation District	Orange	\$350,000	This grant supports community and stakeholder outreach meetings, final project permitting, and removal of the deteriorated Brown's Pond dam on the Otter Kill Creek in the town of Hamptonburgh. The grant also includes restoration of the former stream shoreline, a site information kiosk, and educational tours. Removing the dam will eliminate the hazard to road and residential property and will reconnect at least 14.5 miles of stream habitat for American eel and many other fish and wildlife species.

AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 12, 2017

RIVER ACCESS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES

ORGANIZATION	COUNTY	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
City of Kingston	Ulster	\$45,820	The City of Kingston will create accessible pathways to existing parking and improve amenities at Kingston Point Beach in Kingston Point Park. Plans for improvements include parking lot line painting, new signage and posts for accessible parking spaces, a removable beach access route to the water's edge, beach wheelchairs, upgrades for accessible toilet rooms, and retrofits to an existing changing room stall to make it fully accessible. These improvements will provide access to swimming, fishing, and environmental interpretation for people of all abilities.
Seaport Museum New York	New York	\$50,000	Seaport Museum New York will make improvements on Pier 16 and to the historic educational vessel, Pioneer, used as a floating classroom for programs about ecology, natural history and water quality. The proposed improvements will provide safer access to the pier and vessel by the blind and visually-impaired, including installing a railing at the boarding point of the Pioneer, and an apron piece at the end of the gangway. Learning about the Hudson River Estuary will be enhanced with tactile interpretive signage, maps and multi-language tactile guidebooks.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2017 (ROUND 22)

TOTAL: \$562,571

AWARDS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 12, 2017

LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING

ORGANIZATION	COUNTY	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
City Parks Foundation	Richmond	\$50,000	City Parks Foundation and the Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) will create a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) to support conservation and data-driven resource management of Staten Island's North Shore. The NRI will include 132 acres of natural area, and will identify opportunities for conservation and stewardship of wetland and upland forest habitat. Given local development pressures and recent acquisitions, this data will be important for resource managers at the NAC and NYC Parks to better advocate for conservation of natural resources and healthy ecosystems, and work with landscape designers to design recreational spaces that are sensitive to and compatible with the condition of the natural areas.
Bard College	Dutchess	\$48,720	Bard College will work with the Saw Kill Watershed Community (SKWC) to capitalize on long-standing community involvement to improve awareness of the Saw Kill watershed's social and economic value, including connections between land use and stream/watershed conditions. This project will recommend and implement long-term planning that will help preserve the watershed and resolve issues that threaten it. To achieve the objective, the SKWC will strengthen its leadership and structure, expand its membership, and build a regional component by reaching out to neighboring watershed community groups.
Pace University	Ulster & Orange	\$27,541	Collaborating with Wallkill River Watershed Alliance, Pace University will implement a community-based Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) training program for communities within the NYS portion of the Wallkill Watershed. The LULA program will foster development of sustainable communities and provide targeted policy, planning, and regulatory tools for natural resource and shoreline resiliency by developing land use leadership capacity. Training combines lectures, case studies, and interactive sessions in which participants learn about local environmental laws, resiliency in planning, inter-municipal approaches to watershed protection, citizen engagement, consensus building in a community, and how to cultivate public participation.
Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Inc.	Orange	\$49,348	Hudson Highlands Land Trust will partner with Orange County Land Trust to assist the Towns of Blooming Grove and Cornwall and the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson in creating Open Space Inventories (OSIs) for each municipality. The OSIs will feature maps of open spaces important to each community for protection, including narratives explaining why each area is significant. The OSIs will help address development pressures and water source demands locally, as well as collaboratively across municipal borders.
Upper Hudson Northern Catskill Natural Resource Trust	Greene	\$35,080	Upper Hudson Northern Catskill Natural Resource Trust will work with Hudsonia and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties to complete a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for Greene County to help guide conservation work county-wide. The NRI will provide useful data to inform and prioritize projects that will be most beneficial in terms of protecting sensitive habitats, increasing resiliency, and improving the overall health of the watershed within Greene County.
Town of Hillsdale	Columbia	\$24,160	The Town of Hillsdale will work with a consultant to create a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for the Town. The NRI will be designed for use by the Planning Board, Town Board, Conservation Advisory Council, and other town entities engaged in matters related to land use planning, policy-making, environmental reviews, and decision-making, and will also be useful to landowners, residents, developers, and others seeking to understand the natural landscapes of Hillsdale.
Orange County Water Authority	Orange	\$29,079	Orange County Water Authority will renovate a stream monitoring network on the Moodna Creek, including installation of five (5) new monitoring locations and upgrades to one existing station. The network will build on data collected by prior stream bio-monitoring programs, and will measure electrical conductivity (salt), thermal stress (temperature), as well as water depth, to track suspected changes in specific conductance across the watershed. The data collected will help to better understand flow levels in the head water locations of the creek, and will be used to study flooding in the watershed.
Trout Unlimited, Inc.	Columbia	\$37,606	Trout Unlimited, Inc. will develop the Town of Ancram Road Stream Crossing Replacement Plan (RSCR), which will serve as a guide for future culvert replacements, reconnecting high quality aquatic habitat and improving community flood resiliency and road infrastructure condition with the Town. The project will produce a prioritization matrix that considers infrastructure and ecosystem vulnerability, a complete prioritized list of road stream crossings, designs for 2-3 priority replacement structures, and inclusion of the RSCR in the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties	Columbia & Greene	\$23,063	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties will develop a Watershed Management Plan for the Catskill Creek Watershed through engagement with and education of stakeholders, including municipalities, organizations and community members. The plan will provide guidelines for decision-making regarding future watershed projects, and will address protecting high quality streams, improving water quality, increasing flood resiliency, restoring habitat, prioritizing sites for riparian buffer protection or restoration, and understanding of quantities of water needed for stream habitat and water supplies.
Groundwork Hudson Valley	Westchester	\$48,768	Groundwork Hudson Valley and the Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB) will re-energize the Saw Mill River Coalition as a watershed alliance, promoting municipal and community partnerships and renewing restoration goals. The project will catalog current information about the Saw Mill River and compile it in a "state-of-the-watershed" report. Communities will be engaged to review the report, promote best practices, share knowledge, and set new goals that also incorporate climate resiliency, smart growth, and environmental justice. A 5-year Action Plan will be produced that will establish implementation steps for key partners going forward.
Village of Ravena	Albany	\$40,000	The Village of Ravena will investigate the use of green infrastructure to manage stormwater and relieve pressure on the undersized stormwater system, and reduce the occurrence of stormwater entering the sanitary system. A consultant will assess municipally-owned facilities and will identify strategic locations for opportunities for green infrastructure. Green infrastructure may provide relief to allow for storm flows to be handled through the storm system, alleviating flow into the system and reducing flooding events.
Hudson River Watershed Alliance	Multiple	\$50,000	The Hudson River Watershed Alliance will build the capacity, effectiveness and sustainability of watershed groups and regional watershed protection efforts in the Hudson River Watershed. Existing capacity building and educational efforts will be strengthened through conducting a needs assessment with strategic vision, preparing guidance materials with success stories, and launching a coordinated communications and marketing strategy. Existing and emerging watershed groups will be engaged, locally and at a regional level, which will result in a network of watershed groups and alliances that are more effective at protecting streams and tributaries, watersheds and water resources in the region.
City of Middletown	Orange	\$50,000	The City of Middletown will work with a consultant to produce a Source Water Protection Plan that will provide a framework to ensure delivery of safe drinking water to the City of Middletown. Management strategies will be developed through a risk/benefit assessment, which will identify areas of concern and a preliminary list of Best Management Practices (BMPs). An implementation plan will identify short-term and long-term projects for the City to consider for the protection of its source water.
The Nature Conservancy	Multiple	\$49,206	The Nature Conservancy will work closely with Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Estuary Program Staff and Scenic Hudson to engage up to ten communities along the Hudson River and/or its tributaries in community climate risk assessments. The Community Resilience Building framework will guide a structured dialogue with community-selected staff, volunteer committee members, and prominent community leaders to begin assessing the community's resilience to climate change. Customized, one-day workshops will be held to help communities recognize their areas of risk and vulnerabilities, and identify risk reduction activities.