

**AWARDS ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 20, 2018**

**LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING**

ORGANIZATION	COUNTY	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
Riverkeeper Inc	Ulster; Orange	\$50,000	Riverkeeper will work with the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance to advance two elements of a nine-element (9E) watershed management plan for the Wallkill River: Identifying & Quantifying Pollution Sources and Outreach to Stakeholders. New water quality data from 2017 and 2018 will be summarized and reported, and a targeted outreach program will be conducted to educate and engage stakeholders, with an emphasis on MS4-regulated municipalities. The goal is to ultimately restore water quality in the Wallkill River, which is impacted by fecal contamination and excess nutrients, negatively impacting safe recreation and tourism, as well as farm irrigation and drinking source water protection.
The Research Foundation of CUNY obo Hunter College	Westchester	\$47,255	RFCUNY will partner with Westchester County, Westchester Land Trust, and Sustainable Westchester to develop the tools necessary to add canopy cover to enhance watershed resiliency for health and climate adaptation. The project will include (1) the development of high spatial resolution maps of current and recent changes in land use and land cover, (2) assessments of the success of community tree planting programs, (3) producing maps highlighting priority areas for forest conservation and afforestation efforts, and (4) producing guidance for others to replicate this for other areas.
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation	Richmond	\$50,000	NYC Parks will create conceptual designs and plans for green infrastructure on twelve high priority parkland sites located within the Harlem River Watershed and the North Shore of Staten Island. Locations for the concept plans will be representative of the diverse landscape conditions encountered in both watersheds, and specific sites will be selected based on land cover, terrain, and feasibility of implementation. The concept plans will focus on reducing CSOs and improving stormwater and flood management, while providing additional greenspace. Ultimately, the plans will be used to inform future green infrastructure design work and to secure construction funding.
Village of Piermont	Rockland; Ulster; Greene	\$49,285	The Village of Piermont, Village of Catskill, and the City of Kingston will lead this project to foster waterfront flood resilience actions along the Hudson River through expanding a collaborative network of leading waterfront communities. Three meetings will be held, each including a demonstrative site tour focusing on flood resilience implementation actions, and a workshop-style meeting addressing additional topics of particular relevance for planning to adapt land uses and decision-making in ways that increase waterfront resilience.
Pace University	Albany	\$36,649	The Land Use Law Center at Pace University will implement a community-based Land Use Leadership Alliance training (LULA) program for Albany County, with the aim of fostering the development of sustainable communities and providing targeted policy, planning, and regulatory tools for natural resource and open space protection, watershed planning and shoreline resiliency. This training will develop land use leadership capacity within the watershed areas to support community leaders and other stakeholders in assessing and amending their land use plans and zoning codes to increase community resiliency, natural resources, and open space protections to create healthier watersheds.
Orange County Water Authority	Orange	\$20,000	Orange County Water Authority, with partners Riverkeeper and Orange County Planning Department, will complete and implement a strategic plan building a sustainable and diverse coalition to support research, monitoring, education and long-term protection of the Newburgh Area source water watershed. Outreach and collaboration will provide a means for interested parties to become informed and active in protection of the water supply. Local government and agency representatives, business and property owners, and others will be invited to join the initiative with state, county and regional agencies serving as key advisors. This project will fill a gap in agency and organizational activities highlighted by the recent water supply crisis, and will implement the forthcoming Source Water Protection Plan.
City of Albany	Albany	\$42,000	This project will conduct a study along the Hudson River to identify shoreline stabilization opportunities and create potential projects that will allow for the riverfront to be better optimized and accessed by the community while protecting the unique habitat. Upon conclusion of the study, the contracted firm will develop a report that determines the condition of the shoreline, evaluates shoreline alternatives, recommends potential shoreline stabilization systems and the potential costs.
Trout Unlimited, Inc.	Columbia	\$49,855	Trout Unlimited will develop the Town of Taghkanic 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 within the Town. The outcome of the RSCR will be a prioritized list of road stream crossings, designs for 2-3 priority replacement structures and road stream crossing inventory document.

**HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2018 (ROUND 25)**

**TOTAL: \$342,764**

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**RIVER EDUCATION**

ORGANIZATION	COUNTY	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
Hudson River Maritime Museum	Ulster	\$40,000	The Hudson River Maritime Museum will integrate information about climate change and its impacts on the Hudson River Estuary throughout the museum’s exhibits and its campus. The project will include (1) the integration of climate change information into the museum’s existing exhibits, (2) significant updates to the “Changing River” semi-permanent exhibit about Hudson River ecology and environmental history, shifting its focus to climate change and its impacts on the Hudson River Estuary, (3) the installation of outdoor interpretive signage throughout the museum campus and along Rondout Creek that focuses on the impacts of climate change, including past flooding, future sea level rise and flood projections, and (4) the creation of an audio tour to accompany the outdoor interpretive signage.
Sarah Lawrence College	Westchester	\$35,841	Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB) runs a robust field trip program for nearly 5,000 students every year, to experience hands-on education on the shores of the Hudson River in Yonkers. Only about 15% of these trips, however, are conducted with high school students. This project will address that gap by nearly doubling the number of high school students at CURB each year, as well as solidifying long-standing relationships with local high schools in Yonkers and NYC, and improving, refining, and disseminating curriculum and educational videos developed by CURB staff. CURB staff will also work with local high school students and teachers to develop realistic independent research projects revolving around the Hudson River estuary, and improve and create relevant curriculum products to support and promote estuarine literacy.
Columbia Land Conservancy, Inc.	Columbia	\$39,984	Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) will enhance public awareness of the Hudson River Estuary by working with local partners to deliver place-based education programming about the estuary at the Greenport Conservation Area. The site will be used as a learning laboratory, offering lessons focused on riparian buffer zones, wetlands, and the species that live in these areas, as well as understanding activities that can have positive and negative impacts on these environments. Students will engage in hands-on activities such as invasive species removal, and “Estuary Explorer” backpack kits will be made available for free check-out at the Hudson Library. CLC will also install interpretive signage about the natural resources of the estuary at Greenport, expanding the potential audience served by this program
Outstanding Renewal Enterprises, Inc.	New York	\$10,000	The Lower East Side Ecology Center will conduct public, family-oriented fishing clinics, with a goal to reach an estimated 300 participants. This grant will provide funds for fishing gear, materials and supplies for the clinics, as well as signage, printing and interpretive educational materials.
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater	Ulster & Orange	\$37,700	The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater’s “River Climate Change Curriculum Project” will create a model curriculum and piloting programs for teachers and students in the cities of Newburgh and Kingston. The project will reach an estimated 100 teachers and 450 students, who will participate in pilot programs using a new climate change curriculum tied to specific community resiliency plans that can easily be adapted to river cities throughout the Hudson Valley. To enhance the climate change curriculum and encourage wider use, an interactive online toolkit will be created on Clearwater’s website that offers a Virtual Sail up the Hudson River to gather climate change data.
The River Project, Inc.	New York	\$39,295	The River Project will develop curriculum for its field trip, in-classroom, and professional development training programs to educate students and teachers within its growing network of NYC schools and organizations, and through existing partnerships with the NYC Department of Education. Lessons will utilize the marine science field station on Pier 40, and the surrounding estuarine ecosystem. Curriculum will be aligned to federal and state learning standards and will be accessible to a wide range of learners.
National Audubon Society Inc	Putnam	\$12,950	The National Audubon Society will improve or replace equipment and teaching tools necessary for safe and effective programs and experiences about the natural history and conservation of the Hudson River Estuary available to local schools, the visiting public, and undergraduate interns and researchers. The organization’s equipment and overall facility in Constitution Marsh are heavily used, and degrade over time. Updating these resources will contribute to the effort to expand and strengthen education work.
Seaport Museum New York	New York	\$30,000	South Street Seaport Museum will replace the centerboard trunk of the educational vessel "Pioneer" and continue to operate the vessel as a floating classroom in the 2019 sailing season. Pioneer is the Museum’s main floating classroom, providing estuary education programs for schools throughout the NY Metro Area, including The New York Institute for Special Education. The Pioneer’s current centerboard trunk is 50 years old, has run its useful course, and needs to be replaced. It is expected that this repair will allow the Pioneer to operate for many years to come.

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ORGANIZATION	COUNTY	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
Downtown Boathouse	New York	\$30,000	This project will increase public recreational access to and understanding of the Hudson River Estuary by growing the capacity of the free kayaking programs operated by the Downtown Boathouse. The grant will secure additional equipment, expanding the amount and type of equipment that is available at popular launch sites, including adaptive kayaking equipment and training courses. The availability of this equipment will increase the number of people who are able to experience the estuary via free kayaking, and will make it more accessible to seniors and people of all abilities.
The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York	Rockland	\$39,244	This project focuses on developing new interior displays, with accompanying educational content, to provide community outreach, teacher workshops and school programs at the Lamont Hudson River Field Station on Piermont Pier. Working with the community, a combination of physical and digital resources will be developed to support teaching some of the many 'stories' that created the Hudson of today. Centered around a 3D model of local terrain and river bottom, the stories will include a focus on the region, and will build on emerging Hudson stories like climate change, contaminants, invasives and microplastics. Each story will include science and social science and a 'what can you do' piece.
Poughkeepsie Highland Railroad Bridge Co. Inc.	Dutchess & Ulster	\$27,750	This project will update and enhance environmental and ecological information about the Hudson River Estuary, the Fall Kill Creek, and the surrounding region provided on the Walkway Over the Hudson, both virtually (mobile audio tours, TravelStorys) and physically (signage). The information will be provided in a highly accessible way, including translation into multiple languages, and will engage a wide-demographic of park visitors on an annual basis (590,000 in 2017).

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**RIVER ACCESS**

ORGANIZATION	COUNTY	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
Village of Castleton-on-Hudson	Rensselaer	\$50,000	This project will complete planning for public access to the Hudson River at Riverfront Park, a Village-owned parcel on the east bank of the Hudson in the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson. Since 1994, when the grade level crossing at Scott Avenue and Main Street was closed, there has been no public access to the Hudson River in the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson, despite the Hudson being "navigable-in-law," and that every other community on the Hudson River has public access to the shore. At present, a fence and locked gates block access across the railroad tracks to the park. This project will make Riverfront Park a shovel-ready project, including construction plans, preparation of permits, public engagement forums, and negotiation with Amtrak/CSX/NYS DOT to "Open the Gate."
Town of New Windsor	Orange	\$25,500	This project will complete planning, design and permitting of a fishing pier in Plum Point Park, a 6.8-acre town park located along the Hudson River. This will be the first fishing access owned by the Town of New Windsor, providing the public with a much sought after resource. By building a fishing pier in a public park, all residents of (and visitors to) New Windsor will have access to this experience, providing the basis for a new population to appreciate and treasure the Hudson Valley's ecology.
Arm of the Sea Productions Inc.	Ulster	\$39,580	This project will specify, plan for, permit and construct two structures needed to support public access, recreation, and programming at Arm-of-the-Sea's emerging Tidewater Center in Saugerties, NY. The first structure, a 14' x 24' Operational Support Center, will house central utilities, provide staff meeting area, and equipment storage. The second structure --- a large awning --- will be designed, fabricated and installed to cover a 45' X 40' Events Space. This space will host a variety of public presentations related to the Hudson River Estuary. Together, these facilities will enable Arm-of-the-Sea to open a brand new entry point for accessing and appreciating the Hudson River Estuary.
Town of Esopus	Ulster	\$50,000	The Town of Esopus and Scenic Hudson will prepare the Esopus Riverfront Access and Connections Study to evaluate opportunities for new and enhanced access to the Hudson River and Rondout Creek. A key focus of the study will be to reinforce connections along the Esopus shoreline to regional water-based networks, including the Hudson River Valley Greenway Water Trail and the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail, as well as land-based connections to inland recreational locations in the Town of Esopus. The Plan will also examine long-term resiliency to sea-level rise and flooding at existing and proposed public access sites. A robust public/community outreach process will confirm the need and desirability of amenities. Based upon the inventory/analysis; public and stakeholder input and project team coordination, priority projects will be identified, conceptualized, and analyzed for permitting requirements and approvals in preparation for the next stage of shovel-ready implementation.
Cortlandt Community Rowing Association	Westchester	\$50,000	The Cortlandt Community Rowing Association will outline the requirements for a properly functioning boathouse, and develop a plan to replace the existing interior supporting structures, and replace with a less intrusive structure. This project will provide adaptive reuse of existing structures, from former seaplane hangars, to a boathouse for rowing shells. Shells are up to 60 feet long, and must now be "threaded" carefully around interior steel rod supports, creating the possibility of damage to the boats and injury to the crew. By replacing the current interior supports, and providing doors to open on the end of the building, the project will make the existing structures more useful and safer to use with no alteration to their current footprint.