

Press Release

For immediate release

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Winnakee to Expand Land Protection Program

Rhinebeck, NY--The Winnakee Land Trust will expand its land conservation program, thanks to a \$30,000 grant. The Trust is a recipient of a Professional Development Grant from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, a joint program of the Land Trust Alliance and the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The grant is part of \$450,000 given to land conservancy groups across the state, funded through the state's Environmental Protection Fund. The grant will enable the Winnakee Land Trust administration to work full time, expanding Winnakee's land conservation program.

"It's been a very busy year for us," says Michael Hagerty, the Trust's executive director. "We're presently reviewing six or seven proposed easements, altogether about 1,000 acres, and continue to monitoring our more than 1,200 acres under easement. We just cut the ribbon on the Winnakee's new trail through the riverfront Unification Theological Seminary property in Barrytown, which is a very important addition to the Greenway Trail system. This grant will enable us to go forward with a full-time staff and achieve all that needs to be done."

The Winnakee Land Trust, a member-supported not-for-profit, is now in its 17th year of protecting open space and historic and agricultural resources in northern Dutchess, including the towns and villages of Clinton, Hyde Park, Rhinebeck, Red Hook, Milan, and Tivoli.