

Press Release

For immediate release

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Winnakee Land Trust to host the first Dutchess County Regional Trails Conference – Saturday, April 21, 2012

On Saturday, April 21, 2012, Winnakee Land Trust will host the first Dutchess County Regional Trails Conference at the incomparable, historic Cornell Boathouse at Marist College. With support from the Hudson Valley Greenway, Winnakee is bringing together all towns, villages and diverse trails groups from across the county to share resources, learn from each other, and envision connections that will create a truly regional trails system that will benefit both Dutchess County and the Hudson Valley. In addition to providing recreational opportunities and improving health, trail systems can significantly boost local economies through the visitors that they attract to the area.

The Hudson Valley is emerging as a national destination for recreational trail users, with rail trails, riverfront trails, the Walkway Over the Hudson, and growing access to waterways. “The Hudson River Valley Greenway’s long-term vision for a connected trails system from New York to Albany is within reach,” say Lucy Hayden, Executive Director of Winnakee Land Trust. “Both Ulster County and Columbia County held countywide trails conferences in 2011, so Dutchess County’s conference is very timely. Indeed, the conference will be just the beginning of an exciting regional conversation.”

Partners with Winnakee in planning the conference are: Dutchess County Dept of Planning and Development, Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association, Hudson River Valley Greenway, National Park Service, and Parks & Trails NY . The conference will be open to all. A detailed agenda will be available closer to the date.

Aside from its work protecting farmland and open space in northern Dutchess, Winnakee Land Trust has been working with local communities to establish public-access trails for nearly 20 years. Winnakee Land Trust is accredited by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission. For more information on the trails conference or to get involved, please contact Lisa Wilson, Director of Development, Winnakee Land Trust, at (845) 876-4123 or info@winnakeeland.org or visit www.winnakeeland.org.

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