

# 2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN



MOHAWK HUDSON  
LAND CONSERVANCY

Our mission is to conserve and steward lands and waters of the Mohawk and Hudson River Valleys for the benefit of people and the environment.



# Our MISSION:

Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy’s mission is to conserve and steward lands and waters of the Mohawk and Hudson River Valleys for the benefit of people and the environment.

# We BELIEVE:

## Our Values

- We deeply respect the native plants and animals, woods and waters that grace the lands we protect.
- We value all people’s rights to clean air, water, and access to nature in their communities.
- We recognize that the cultural heritage of the Mohawk and Hudson River Valleys spans thousands of years, and we acknowledge that this area is the traditional land of the Mohawk and Mohican peoples.
- We believe in science-based conservation and the need to address climate change through the protection of resilient and connected areas.
- We work with willing landowners and the public to ensure their lands are protected forever for the benefit of current and future generations.
- We believe in providing education and opportunities to deeply connect with nature and to foster stewardship of the land.
- We operate as a sound, transparent organization that abides by Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices and ensures ethical land protection.
- We believe in treating our employees, landowners, volunteers, and partners with dignity and respect.

# Our VISION

As MHLC looks ahead to expanding our impact, our vision is:

- Connecting communities with nature
- Linking lands between the Catskills and the Adirondacks
- Preserving and restoring healthy natural environments







# PRESERVATION

*Goal 1:* Strategically increase conservation and preservation efforts in the Mohawk and Hudson River Valleys.

**Strategy #1:**

Establish MHLC as a leader in protecting the Catskills to Adirondacks Corridor.

**Strategy #2:**

Connect people to nature through volunteer opportunities and shared experiences.

**Strategy #3:**

Increase our educational programming to cultivate advocates for the environment.

**Strategy #4:**

Assess current land protection priorities to align with MHLC vision and value statements.

# STEWARDSHIP

*Goal 2:* Practice and promote effective land stewardship to increase public awareness of biodiversity, climate change, and conservation.

**Strategy #1:**

Assess the stewardship capacity of the organization as it relates to acquisitions and land management.

**Strategy #2:**

Build and nurture relationships with our volunteer-base and supporters through the stewardship of our preserves.

**Strategy #3:**

Actively manage our properties to address biodiversity, climate change, and conservation.

**Strategy #4:**

Broaden stewardship responsibilities to identify and address external threats to our properties.



Photos opposite page: Yellow swallowtail by Dieter Gehring. | Pictured above: Many volunteers pitch in at a Bender Melon Farm Preserve work day.



# ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY & RELATIONSHIPS

*Goal 3:* Enhance organizational capacity through meaningful partnerships to ensure continuity, growth, and excellence.

- Strategy #1:**  
Work with federal, state and local governments to develop and increase our collective ability to conserve lands.
- Strategy #2:**  
Engage with other organizations with shared goals and interests to identify and enhance conservation and preservation objectives.
- Strategy #3:**  
Work towards a geographically balanced conservation portfolio across our service area with an emphasis on Schenectady and Montgomery counties.

- Strategy #4:**  
Evaluate our capacity to design and develop a capital campaign for the Bender Melon Farm Preserve focused on the potential for land use education and outreach.
- Strategy #5:**  
Develop creative ways to cultivate new relationships to increase funding capacity.
- Strategy #6:**  
Invest in infrastructure to provide staff and Board with the proper tools to implement our mission.

Photos, left to right: View from the overlook at Bennett Hill Preserve. | Participants of MHLC's Full Moon Hike head to a clearing at Switzkill Farm to wait for the moon to rise. Families enjoyed searching for gnomes at the preserves during MHLC's Summer Hike-a-thon Scavenger Hunt.



# INTEGRITY & EQUITY

*Goal 4:* Actively commit to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- Strategy #1:**  
Review all organizational policies and business practices to ensure they meet the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Strategy #2:**  
Partner with experts to educate the Board, staff and volunteers on ways to embody diversity, equity, and inclusion in the organization.
- Strategy #3:**  
Broaden our reach to understand community needs and develop connections among diverse communities, our preserves, and nature.







## 2022 BOARD, ADVISORS, STAFF

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### STAFF

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Outreach Coordinator*

Tara Tornello  
*Development and  
Community Engagement Director*

Sarah Walsh  
*Conservation Director*



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