

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 26, 2023

CONTACT: Carrie Stickan, Communications and Outreach Coordinator

(518) 436-6346 / carrie@mohawkhudson.org

Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy **Protects 91 Acres in Montgomery County**

Palatine, NY— The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) is pleased to announce the completion of a conservation easement protecting the 91-acre Vosburgh Farm in the Town of Palatine in Montgomery County, New York. Unlike much of the surrounding area, which is cleared for agriculture, the Vosburgh property retains a variety of habitats, from old fields to mature forests, providing high-quality habitat for a wide variety of species. The property features rolling hills with scenic views of the Mohawk Valley and extensive woodlands that serve as an oasis for wildlife and a safe passageway for animals migrating across the landscape, particularly north to the nearby Adirondack Park. The new conservation easement ensures that the property's fields and woodlands are protected from development.

Using The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Resilient and Connected mapping data, the Vosburgh property had earned eligibility for funding through TNC's Resilient and Connected Network grant program (now called the Climate Resilience Grant Program), scoring above average for resilience and far above average for diverse habitats. In the spring of 2022, MHLC was awarded the TNC grant that provided closing costs for the conservation easement donation, protecting this important place.

"The Mohawk linkage offers an incredible opportunity for land protection, as it connects core forests between the Catskills and Adirondacks regions, enabling plants and wildlife to find additional space to move and adapt as they seek suitable habitat in the face of climate change," **said Matt Levy, Land Protection Manager with The Nature Conservancy in New York.** "Our grant program was developed to support partner land trusts like the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, who are making a meaningful impact in mitigating climate change, bolstering biodiversity and supporting communities through land protection in these critical landscapes."

Jan Vosburgh is the fifth-generation owner of the farm, which has been a part of the Vosburgh family since her great-grandfather and his brother purchased it in the 1800s. Jan Vosburgh has taken many steps to improve the property since gaining ownership in 1983. Farmers who lease the fields are held to organic standards to ensure the land's long-term health. Jan also started planting trees on the property to enhance wildlife habitat and increase the property's biodiversity. Over the years, she has planted an impressive collection of both native and specimen trees.

MHLC Associate Director Sarah Walsh was elated when walking the property. "I was so excited to see adult Ginko trees, Dawn Redwoods, Bald Cypress, and Kentucky Coffee trees," Walsh said, "it was like being in a private arboretum seeing these specimens that you only see in books or special collections." Sarah Walsh also noted that Jan's long-term land stewardship has yielded a healthy and diverse habitat with active populations of fishers, white-tailed deer, birds, and small mammals on the land.

MHLC looks forward to sharing additional updates about more farmland protection initiatives in Montgomery County in the coming months.

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) is a nonprofit conservation organization conserving and stewarding the lands and waters of the Mohawk and Hudson River Valleys for people and the environment in Albany, Schenectady, and Montgomery counties. Since its founding in 1992, the Conservancy has protected more than 13,000 acres of land, including over 2,500 acres open to the public for hiking, cross-country skiing, and other educational and recreational opportunities. To learn more, visit www.mohawkhudson.org.

###

In addition to this press release, please find the attached image:
Open land on Vosburgh Farm in Montgomery County, photo by MHLC

