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## **Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy Launches Campaign to Expand Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor**

**Guilderland, NY**—*Finally, a breakthrough!* After years of offers and counteroffers, an exciting opportunity for Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) to expand the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor is now within reach. MHLC has announced a new campaign to purchase and protect 225 acres of exceptional property within the Bozen Kill corridor in Guilderland, New York.

The property is located at the end of Bond Road, just up the hill from the Village of Altamont. It consists of two parcels on the north side of the Bozen Kill, one of 215 acres and a separate 10-acre parcel within MHLC's Bozen Kill Preserve. These parcels lie within the established, larger Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor, a swath of protected lands between the Bozen Kill Preserve and Wolf Creek Falls Preserve, one of MHLC's priority protection areas. This new acquisition will expand the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor to nearly 700 total acres, providing critical forest and wetland habitat for wildlife.

Through a partnership with neighboring landowners who purchased the 225-acre property in October 2022, MHLC has the opportunity to buy this spectacular property from the new owners and ensure it perpetual protection. **Poised to move forward with the project, MHLC has launched a campaign to raise the \$550,000 needed to purchase the property and expand the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor. With a fundraising deadline just months away, MHLC is working to inform the community about the importance of protecting this land and rally their support.**

**Mark King, Executive Director of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy**, expressed his gratitude, stating, "We are sincerely thankful to landowners Bryan and Laurie Swift, who, alongside their neighbor, took the initiative to secure the Bond Road property, granting MHLC the opportunity to acquire this land. We are also appreciative of the support from our partner organizations, Scenic Hudson and The Nature Conservancy, in this acquisition. Adding the Bond Road lands to the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor has been a long-standing aspiration for MHLC, and we are thrilled to be on the cusp of achieving success in this endeavor."

With the success of this campaign, MHLC will add the Bond Road lands to the existing Bozen Kill Preserve, increasing connectivity for people and nature and enhancing the quality of life in the community. The Bozen Kill

Preserve is one of MHLC's most popular trail systems, and MHLC is excited at the prospect of building new trails and outdoor opportunities to benefit the local communities and their health.

The property includes a diverse habitat with extensive forest, a hemlock hardwood swamp, wetlands, and old agricultural fields. Recognized in the New York State Open Space Plan as a conservation priority, the Bozen Kill corridor serves as a haven for wildlife requiring vast, protected expanses of land to complete their lifecycles.

Protection of the Bond Road property will increase water quality protection for the Bozen Kill and adjacent tributaries. Forest roots stabilize stream banks, preventing erosion in this rugged terrain and keeping waters cool and clean as they flow to the Watervliet Reservoir. Water quality protection is critically important as the Watervliet Reservoir serves more than 30,000 residents in the Town of Guilderland and City of Watervliet with water from this source.

Beyond the far-reaching environmental and health benefits, protecting this land ensures the historic rural landscapes treasured by residents will remain for generations to come. **The public is encouraged to visit MHLC's Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor web page at <http://www.mohawkhudson.org/bozen-kill> to watch a video about the project and learn more about supporting the campaign.**

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 14,000 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](http://www.mohawkhudson.org).**

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*In addition to this press release, please find the attached images:*

Map of MHLC protected lands in the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor

Woodlands of the 225-acre Bond Road property; Photo by Bryan Swift

Bond Road property in Guilderland, NY, Photo credit Tom Bessett

Aerial view of the Bond Road property, Image from Sonja Stark



The areas highlighted in green on the map on the opposite page are lands protected by MHLC along the Bozen Kill. MHLC's Wolf Creek Falls and Bozen Kill Preserves are outlined in yellow on this map. This area of protected land is referred to as the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor.





Bond Road Woodlands by Bryan Swift





Bond Road trails by Tom Bessette





Drone image of Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor by Sonja Stark, Pilot Girl Productions