



Town of New Paltz

Neil Bettez, Town Supervisor

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November 18, 2016

Glenn D. Hoagland, Executive Director
Mohonk Preserve
PO Box 715
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Glenn:

The Town Board of the Town of New Paltz is pleased to express support for Mohonk Preserve's funding application to the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, administered by the Land Trust Alliance, for their *Fields Conservation and Stewardship Project*. This 18-month initiative will result in a monitoring and conservation plan for 440 acres of grasslands and old agricultural fields throughout the Preserve.

The plan will identify priority areas for conservation and restoration, outline long-term monitoring strategies by scientific staff, and develop a Citizen Science-based monitoring plan under the supervision of the Preserve's staff scientists, partners, and research associates. The monitoring program findings will help the Preserve to determine the most successful practices for managing grassland habitats to encourage population growth and health of multiple pollinators, including various species of bees, butterflies, moths, bats, and birds, including several NYS Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). The project will also benefit the Preserve's 16,000 members and 165,000 visitors through enhanced land stewardship and conservation efforts leading to healthier natural environments, and through increased learning opportunities resulting from heightened citizen science, educational programming, and outreach activities.

We applaud the Preserve's practice of using science to inform their land stewardship decisions and feel that this approach is a successful model that can be adapted by many other land trusts statewide. The project's inclusion of citizen science, collaborative workshops with land trust peers, and the proposed public awareness program, will all help to extend the impact of the project work to the public sphere, furthering the Land Trust Alliance's stated "community conservation" goals.

The Mohonk Preserve provides immeasurable value to our community as a whole, and we are glad to offer support to the continuation of its good works. For these reasons, we are honored to provide this letter of support for this project.

Sincerely,

Neil Bettez, Supervisor

On behalf of the Town Board