

Subject: New submission from Community Development Combined

Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 12:39:57 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: jnytko@govsol.org

To: jnytko@govsol.org

General Information
Date of application: 01/02/2024
Organization name: Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy
Organization TIN or EIN: 14-1754157
Organization physical address: 425 Kenwood Avenue Delmar, NY 12054 United States Map It
Is the mailing address different from the physical address? No
Contact Information
Primary contact name: Mark King
Primary contact title: Executive Director
Primary contact phone: 518-436-6346
Primary contact email: mark@mohawkhudson.org
What is the preferred method of contact? Doesn't matter
Website (if available): https://www.mohawkhudson.org
Organization Info and Structure:
Is the organization a nonprofit? Yes
If nonprofit, please attach to this application proof of your organization's Tax-Exempt Status <ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-Profit-Exemption-Carroll-Signed-2020.pdf

Date of establishment:

06/19/1992

Give a brief description of your organization. Please include information on the organization's activities or mission statement (150 words or less):

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) is dedicated to conserving and stewarding lands and waters of the Mohawk and Hudson River Valleys for the benefit of people and the environment.

MHLC's conservation work protects natural resources to ensure clean water, clean air, and working landscapes for current and future generations, with an emphasis on connecting people to nature to cultivate future stewards of our environment.

Since our founding in 1992, MHLC has protected 15,241 acres of land within Albany, Schenectady and Montgomery Counties as public nature preserves and private conservation easements. MHLC is a 501(c)(3) organization and is accredited through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Provide the total number of full-time employees (if applicable):

5

Provide the total number of part-time employees (if applicable):

2

Provide the total number of volunteers (if applicable):

300

What is the organization's current annual budget?

799,000

Have you or the organization ever received any form of COVID-19 relief funds or loans specific to the negative impacts of the Pandemic?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify type and amount.

Yes, we received a Paycheck Protection Program loan for \$82,000 in 2020.

Did your organization lose revenue as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic? If yes, provide the amount of lost revenue (2020-2022)

It is difficult to determine whether or not we lost revenue as a result of COVID-19. Charitable giving was generally lower during this period, but MHLC was fortunate to receive a PPP loan which offset potential losses. Additionally, our preserves experienced a dramatic increase in visitation as people sought refuge in nature and safe outdoor activities during the lockdown period.

Project Proposal

Applicants may choose to apply for up to 2 program areas. Please select the primary program area for which you would like to apply.

Recreation and Outdoor Infrastructure

What amount of funding is being requested (Must be at least \$100,000 and should not exceed program area totals)?

100,000

Is this a new project or expansion of an existing initiative, please describe.

This project is part of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's (MHLC) ongoing initiative to expand the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor, a swath of protected lands stretching from MHLC's Bozen Kill Preserve to Wolf Creek Falls Preserve. Funding from this grant will support the acquisition of 225 acres of land within the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor, creating nearly 700 connected acres dedicated to wildlife, water quality, and public access.

Please provide an executive summary of the proposed program or project for which you are requesting funds. Include a description of the target population, as well as the goals and objectives of your proposed project (500 words or less).

After years of significant effort, MHLC has an exciting opportunity to protect 225 acres of vacant land along Bond Road in Guilderland, NY. The property lies within MHLC's Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor, a swath of protected lands between MHLC's Bozen Kill Preserve and Wolf Creek Falls Preserve. The 225-acre Bond Road property has frontage along the Bozen Kill, a significant stream within the Helderberg Mountains and a New York State Open Space Plan Regional Conservation Priority.

Through a partnership with neighboring landowners who purchased the property in October 2022, MHLC has a unique opportunity to buy this spectacular property from the new owners and protect it in perpetuity. We have set a goal to raise \$550,000 to purchase the property, make improvements, and build new trails for public access. To date, we have raised \$425,000 toward this goal and expect to close on the property in January 2024.

The Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor is identified by The Nature Conservancy as an area of high value for biological diversity and climate resiliency. The steep forested slopes and deep Bozen Kill Ravine provide space for wildlife to roam and shift in a changing climate. Resilient and connected areas are critical to ensuring clean water and habitat for wildlife and people as the climate changes. If acquired, the 225-acre Bond Road property will create a nearly 700-acre connected series of parcels conserved by MHLC.

Protection of the Bond Road property will increase water quality protection for the Bozen Kill. Forest roots hold stream banks, preventing erosion in this rugged terrain and keeping waters cool and clean as they flow to the Watervliet Reservoir. Protection of water quality 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.

Residents in the Town of Guilderland and neighboring Village of Altamont, with a combined population of approximately 38,500, would benefit from access to an expanded Bozen Kill Preserve trail system providing miles of new trails for hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and more. In an ever-developing landscape, new trails at the Bozen Kill Preserve will offer respite, recreation, and new opportunities to visitors seeking time in nature. The protection of these lands and expansion of the Bozen Kill Preserve will increase awareness for the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor, while ensuring the beauty of this corridor remains for future generations.

Please explain why this program or project is needed within the County.

MHLC's Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor is a priority protection area and provides space for wildlife to roam in a changing climate. As our planet warms and development pressures increase, our natural spaces are under greater threat. Protection of the 225-acre Bond Road property ensures that wildlife have space to roam in a changing climate, and further protects the many species that call this region home.

Further protection of the Bozen Kill ensures clean, clear drinking water for thousands of residents of the Town of Guilderland as the stream is a primary tributary of the Watervliet Reservoir.

Protection of the Bond Road lands and expansion of the Bozen Kill Preserve trail system will increase community health and the quality of life for residents and visitors by providing additional opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation and connect with nature.

MHLC's conservation work in Albany County impacts a diverse and growing population, all of whom benefit from time spent in nature. Our constituency includes more than 10,000 donors, volunteers, and Capital Region community members. Recent data collected from sign-in sheets and trail counters estimates that our 22 preserves are visited by more than 70,000 individuals annually. We expect visitation to increase as Albany County residents seek opportunities to connect with the land and reap the health benefits of time spent in nature.

All funded activities must meet the objective of responding to the public health and negative economic impact of the pandemic. Please describe how your proposal will help address this objective and assist with recovery (250 words or less).

Everyone benefits from time in nature, and MHLC's preserve usage increased exponentially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As people experienced unprecedented stress and isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, MHLC's preserves provided safe spaces for families and loved ones to gather and recreate. The increased visitation has continued into 2023, with more people using MHLC's trails than ever before. From the physical benefits of exercise to the mental health benefits of reduced stress and anxiety, time in nature directly improves community health.

MHLC's nature preserves are open 365 days a year, from dawn to dusk, and are free to visit. The preserves are treasured community resources that provide free access to local trails, and MHLC offers free public programming throughout the year to help connect people of all ages to nature with educational and immersive experiences on the land.

If an award is made, describe how Albany County stakeholders will benefit. Where possible, please use measurable outcomes to quantify impact.

Albany County residents would benefit from access to an expanded Bozen Kill Preserve trail system through the Bond Road property. Residents in the Town of Guilderland and neighboring Village of Altamont, with a combined population of approximately 38,500, would be most closely impacted as these natural areas are easily accessible from these communities.

Further protection of the Bozen Kill ensures water quality for more than 30,000 residents in the Town of Guilderland and City of Watervliet who are dependent on the Watervliet Reservoir as a primary water source.

Sign-in sheets at the existing Bozen Kill Preserve indicate the property draws visitors from throughout the Capital District and beyond. The protection of these lands and expansion of the Bozen Kill Preserve will increase awareness for the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor, while ensuring the beauty of this corridor remains for future generations of Albany County residents.

Please describe your organization’s ability to implement the project you propose including organizational structure, staff members involved, a summary of similar initiatives you have undertaken and the date they were completed:

MHLC anticipates closing on the Bond Road property in January 2024 and opening trails to the public in July 2024. Key staff members are Mark King, Executive Director (project oversight and acquisition lead) and Marshall Lefebvre, Stewardship Coordinator (leading trail and public access development). Part-time staff members including our Seasonal Stewardship Assistant and Summer Land Interns will support the public access development of this project. Additionally, MHLC will leverage its robust network of volunteers for trail maintenance and infrastructure projects throughout 2024 and beyond.

Since 1992, MHLC has protected 15,241 acres of land through our public nature preserves and private conservation easements. In 2020, we successfully acquired the Bender Melon Farm in the Town of New Scotland with our most ambitious fundraising campaign to date, permanently protecting these lands from the increasing threat of development. Those efforts resulted in the protection of the 175-acre Bender Melon Farm and subsequent creation of the Bender Melon Farm Preserve. We have worked continuously to open public trails on the preserve and provide access to the Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail, which bisects the property. Plans for 2024 include building trails on the north side of the property and restoring the historic bridge above the Rail Trail, increasing access to nature for the thousands of Albany County residents who visit the Bender Melon Farm Preserve and utilize the Rail Trail annually.

MHLC works closely with Schenectady County and plays an important role in the creation of the newly-opened Wolf Hollow Road Pedestrian way – a former County Road that bisects an important ecological and cultural corridor in West Glensville. The Road was recently opened as a one-mile pedestrian walking path.

In partnership with Montgomery County, MHLC protected more than 1,700 acres of high-quality farmland in 2023. Conservation easements purchased with funding through the New York State Agriculture and Farm Land Protection Program provided more than two million dollars to support the continuation and expansion of local farming operations.

How will you track performance goals and define success? Include at least two key performance indicators and expected annual outcomes/impact?

The key performance indicator for this project is the protection of two parcels totaling 225-acres along Bond Road in Guilderland, New York. Project success will be measured by our ability to close on the project and open the preserve to public access in 2024. We anticipate purchasing the property in January of 2024.

We have set a goal to open the Bond Road access point and connect it to the Bozen Kill Preserve trail system in 2024 for public enjoyment. This initiative will include trail planning, trail clearing and marking, kiosk design, and parking lot planning and building. Success of this key performance indicator will be measured by our ability to meet the July 2024 opening of this trail system.

Longer-term success of this added recreational asset will be measured in the years to come as we develop trails and measure trail use through registration and trail counters.

Project start date:

11/01/2022

Project End date:

07/31/2024

Please provide key project milestones inclusive of the anticipated timelines and descriptions

Milestone	Anticipated Timeline	Task Description
Property acquisition	January 2024	Purchase the property from current landowners
Enhancements for public access	February - May 2024	Parking lot permitting and construction. Permitting and clean-up of abandoned structures. Trail planning and construction, including linkage to Bozen Kill Preserve. Stewardship planning for parking lot and preserve access.
Trail opening	July 2024	Bond Road trail opening and celebration

At the top of this page is a downloadable project budget. Please download the budget form and upload it here.

- [Bond-Road-ARPA-Project-Budget-2023.pdf](#)

Use this space to provide a narrative supporting and clarify anything from the proposed project budget above. In addition, if "Other Funds" or "Other Uses" are included above, please specify the source(s) below.

"Other Forms of Revenue" include an estimated in-kind value of \$25,000 for work to be performed by the Town of Guilderland to clean up the site in advance of our public opening date (July 2024).

"Other Costs" include our full project budget:
Acquisition Costs - \$370,000
Site Cleanup - \$50,000
Parking Lot & Site Improvements - \$35,000
Bozen Kill Fund - \$70,000

Explain why ARPA funds are needed to complete the proposed program/project. Would the proposal be possible without ARPA assistance? Describe how your proposal would be impacted if you are awarded a smaller grant than requested?

Funding from Albany County's ARPA program would help MHLC complete our \$550,000 fundraising campaign and ensure that we meet the goals of making site improvements and creating public access for our July 2024 opening date. Successful completion of the campaign will also allow us to acquire an important 25-acre inholding within the preserve that will improve access and limit the potential for incompatible uses within the preserve.

ARPA funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. Please describe how your project will be sustained if it will continue beyond this date.

While the Bond Road project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2026, our protection work within the Bozen Kill Conservation Corridor will continue as we seek opportunities to expand the protected acreage of the corridor for the benefit of people and the environment.

List any project partners/subrecipients:

Town of Guilderland

Please list any matching funds:

The Nature Conservancy - \$50,000
Scenic Hudson - \$150,000
Fields Pond Foundation - \$15,000
Weill Foundation - \$15,000
W.G. Broughton Foundation - \$20,000

Tax Information or Additional Information

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2019

- [2019-990-wout-Char-500.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2020

- [2020-Federal-990-Mohawk-Hudson-Land-Conservancy-Clt.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2021

- [990-US_4059_2021_Government-Tax-Return_Mohawk-Hudson-Land-Conservancy.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2022

- [990-US_2022_Client-Tax-Return_Mohawk-Hudson-Land-Conservancy.pdf](#)

Please upload IRS Form W-9

- [W9-2023-signed.pdf](#)

(OPTIONAL) please feel free to upload anything which you feel would strengthen your application.

- [Bozen-Kill-Conservation-Corridor-Campaign-Booklet_reduced.pdf](#)

Risk Assessment:

Has the organization adopted and/or implemented policies relating to: records retention, conflict of interest, code of ethics, and/or nondiscrimination policies

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

We have a Conflict of Interest Policy and Records Retention Policy (note: all critical records are stored digitally in the cloud, with backups stored at an off-site location and physical copies filed in our office). We do not have a single Code of Ethics Policy but rather a variety of policies including our Sexual Harassment Policy, Whistleblower Policy, and our Personnel Manual, which defines our discrimination policy and ethical standards.

Is the organization properly insured?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify the types of insurance held and the limits:

General Liability Insurance - \$2,000,000; Umbrella Liability - \$1,000,000; Directors & Officers Insurance - \$1,000,000; Automobile Liability Insurance - \$1,000,000; Workers Comp - \$500,000

Does the organization have a financial management system?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

We use Raiser's Edge to manage fundraising, and we use Quickbooks as our general accounting system. We also employ a staff Bookkeeper and accounting contractor. A professional audit is performed annually.

Has there been any change in your organization's key staffing positions in the last 2 years?

No

Has the organization previously done work for the Federal government (i.e. Is the entity experienced in managing Federal funds)?

No

Certifications

Acknowledgment 1

I Have Read and Understand the U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (see below link)
U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds:
<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>

Acknowledgment 2

Should the County Allocate ARPA Funds, I am Able to and Pledge to Adhere to ALL Compliance and Reporting Requirements of the U.S. Treasury as it relates to any State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Acknowledgment 3

I Understand the County Will Contact me if/when Additional Information is Needed and that Information will be Promptly Provided to the County to Support Reporting Requirements

Acknowledgment 4

If for Any Reason I am Unable to Comply with the U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Requirements I will Immediately Notify the County in writing by email or letter

Acknowledgment 5

All Information Submitted in this Application is True & Accurate

Electronic Signature Agreement

I agree

By checking the "I agree" box, you agree and acknowledge that 1) your application will not be signed in the sense of a traditional paper document, 2) by signing in this alternate manner, you authorize your electronic signature to be valid and binding upon you to the same force and effect as a handwritten signature, and 3) you may still be required to provide a traditional signature at a later date.

Type name

Mark King