

Westchester Land Trust
Request for Proposal: Project Kiana, Biodiversity & Habitat Assessment
December 16, 2024

Executive Summary

Westchester Land Trust seeks a proposal for a Biodiversity and Habitat Assessment on approximately 2.85 acres on the west side of the Hutchinson River Parkway in Mount Vernon, New York.

The assessments should be overseen by an individual with a bachelor's degree and two years' experience with a master's or doctoral degree in ecology or a related field (i.e., conservation biology) or five years' experience with a bachelor's degree alone. Certified Ecologist or Senior Ecologist certifications are ideal but not required. Experience may be documented via a resume or CV and may include independent studies, complex analyses, report composition, scientific publications, and presentations.

The Project Kiana area is owned by the New York State Department of Transportation and managed as excess land. The Biodiversity and Habitat Assessment is part of a larger initiative to determine if the potential exists to purchase, protect, or otherwise manage the property to restore the urban riparian forest, mitigate flooding, and/or provide meaningful community space and connections.

The NYS DOT granted Westchester Land Trust a permit to access and collect data on the project site. Compliance with the permit is required.

About Westchester Land Trust

Westchester Land Trust works together with public and private partners to preserve land in perpetuity, and to protect and enhance the natural resources in our communities.

WLT was founded in 1988 and is accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. Since 1988 we have protected more than 9,250 acres of land in Westchester and eastern Putnam Counties. We own and manage more than 1,250 acres and more than 75 miles of trails across a nature preserve network of 34 properties, much of which is free and open to the public.

Property Information

Property Description

The Project Kiana area is a highly deteriorated urban riparian forest. Little to no native understory exists, and some areas are dense with invasive species.

The property is bound to the east by the Hutchinson River Parkway, to the north by the Metro North Railroad, and residential properties on the south and west. The property includes an oxbow of the Hutchinson River.

The property is located south of Westchester County's Wilson Woods Park, which can be accessed by walking on an informal foot path along the barriers of the Hutchinson River Parkway.

Location & Parcel IDs

40.909674, -73.814436
40° 54' 35", -73° 48' 52"

165.74-4015-1
165.74-4013-41

Note: The project area is less than the two parcels.

Total Size

2.85 acres

Known Easements

Unknown.

Additional Information

The property can be accessed on foot by parking on the corner of Farrell Avenue and Beechwood Avenue, just south of the footbridge.

Deliverables

A written report containing a description of the project area:

1. Map analysis and information review (i.e., soils, geology, historic aerial photography, review of New York Natural Heritage Program records, etc.).
2. Field reconnaissance and documentation of plant communities, birds, insects, and mammals.
3. Conservation planning recommendations.

The report must include the methodologies and standing operating procedures for recording observations and abundance to comply with the Quality Assurance Project Plan.

Timeline

A prompt response to the RFP is requested.

Response

Please send your written proposal to:

Janelle Robbins, Vice President of Conservation, Westchester Land Trust
janelle@westchesterlandtrust.org

Kara Hartigan Whelan, Westchester Land Trust
kara@westchesterlandtrust.org

Attachments

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please email Janelle Robbins to receive the following:

1. Property survey, site map, and orthoimagery.
2. New York State Department of Transportation permit.
3. Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan.