July 29, 2014

For Immediate Release
Contact: Tom Gabriel, Development Director
914-234-6992 ext 18
tom@westchesterlandtrust.org

Westchester Land Trust Receives $25,000 Grant from Westchester Community Foundation

Westchester Land Trust (WLT) recently received a $25,000 grant from the Westchester Community Foundation’s (WCF) H.P. Kraft Memorial Fund. This grant was awarded in support of the organization’s efforts to improve 35 acres of wetland habitat along the Long Island Sound in Mamaroneck, NY.

“The Westchester Land Trust is dedicated to protecting and caring for the local environment -- from the Long Island Sound and the Hudson River to Putnam County, with many locations in between,” said Lori J. Ensinger, WLT President. “We are delighted that one of the area’s most engaged foundations recognized our efforts and decided to partner with us to improve this wetland habitat in Southern Westchester.”

WLT’s efforts to improve the 35-acre Otter Creek Preserve will include clearing trails and the entrances, fixing the boardwalk, updating educational signage, and much more. All of this will benefit the Mamaroneck community as well as the surrounding area. Besides the passive recreation opportunities afforded by hiking and walking open space in the densely-populated Southern Westchester, wetlands are one of the most threatened ecosystems in the United States according to the National Wildlife Federation. According to the EPA website, communities benefit in a multitude of ways from ecosystems including: nutrient regulation, water supply, soil and sediment regulation, vital habitat for migratory birds, fish and mammals, and of course, as a critical flooding buffer during significant storms. “WLT’s work at Otter Creek will complement the Foundation’s support of other efforts to restore the Long Island Sound ecosystems and increase public access to its shores,” said Catherine Marsh, Executive Director of WCF.

Founded in 1988, WLT recently celebrated 25 years of working with public and private partners to preserve land in perpetuity, and to protect and enhance the natural resources in Westchester and eastern Putnam County. WLT’s conservation efforts impact the long term health of these communities through protection of watershed areas, air quality, and food supply. In total, WLT has preserved more than 8,000 acres of open space including approximately 660 acres of preserves owned by the organization.

WCF’s mission is to develop and manage philanthropic resources, and to distribute them in a way responsive to donor interest and community needs. The Foundation actively promotes charitable giving on behalf of the area’s nonprofit organizations. WCF is a division of The New York Community Trust, one of the largest community foundations in the country with assets of approximately $2.4 billion.

Photo Tagline (L-R): Lee Roberts, WCF Board Member; Catherine Marsh, WCF Executive Director; Lori J. Ensinger, WLT President; and Susan Henry, WLT Board Member.