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**Mianus River Gorge Achieves Renewed Accreditation from
The Land Trust Accreditation Commission**

Bedford, NY: The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, a program promoting public trust and ensuring permanence in the conservation of American lands, announced that Mianus River Gorge is one of 12 land trusts across the United States to achieve renewed accreditation. A total of 35 land trusts achieved either initial or renewed accreditation, helping to make each land trust stronger and better able to serve its community.

Only forty miles from New York City, the Mianus River Gorge is a 1000-acre island of forest and fields in suburban Westchester and Fairfield Counties. Steeped in history, the Mianus River Gorge is the first land project of The Nature Conservancy. It is also the nation's first registered Natural History Landmark, as designated by the Federal Government in 1964.

The Mianus River is one of a number of coastal rivers that empties into Long Island Sound at Cos Cob Harbor in southwest Connecticut. From its headwaters in North Castle and Bedford, NY, to the Mianus River's endpoint at Cos Cob Harbor, the Mianus River and its tributaries, which run directly into the Samuel J. Barch Reservoir, provide safe drinking water for over 130,000 people in Greenwich, Stamford, Rye, Rye Brook, and Port Chester.

Mianus River Gorge, located in Bedford, NY, works to protect and promote appreciation of the natural heritage of the Mianus River watershed through land acquisition, conservation science, research, and education throughout the region. www.mianus.org

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, New York, inspires excellence, promotes public trust and ensures permanence in the conservation of open lands by recognizing land trust organizations that meet rigorous quality standards and that strive for continuous improvement. The Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents more than 1,100 member land trusts supported by more than 100,000 volunteers and 5 million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C. and operates several regional offices.

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