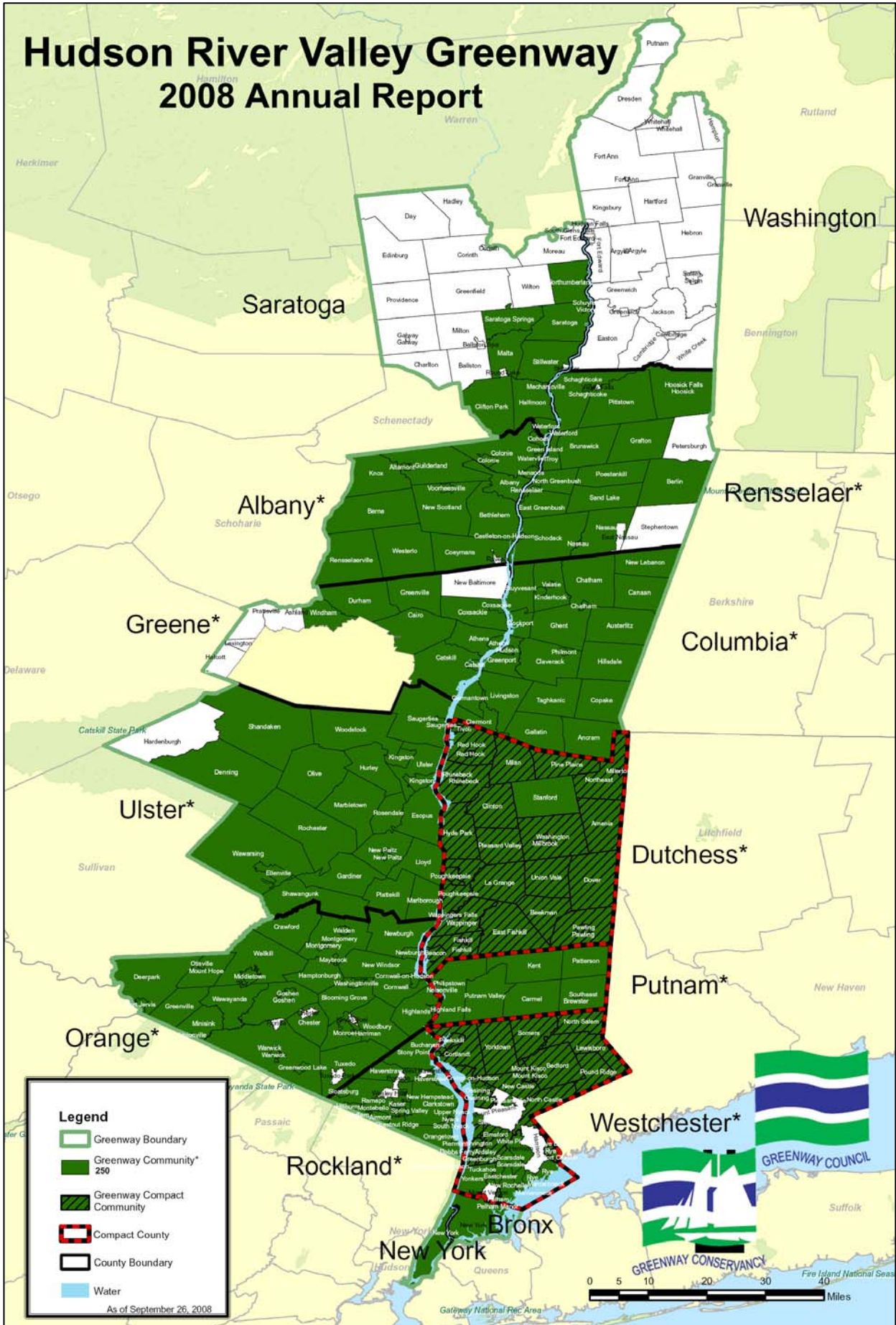


Hudson River Valley Greenway

2008 Annual Report



Hudson River Valley Greenway 2008 Annual Report

Highlights-

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

- The Greenway Council disbursed **\$191,841** in 2008, leveraging **\$415,036** in local match.
- The Greenway awarded 31 planning and Water Trail grants to communities throughout the Hudson Valley totaling **\$298,397.50**.
- The Greenway boundaries were once again expanded to include 27 additional communities in Washington County.
- Greenway Indemnity gets first test in Milan, Dutchess County

Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.

- The Greenway Trail System surpassed **700 miles** of designated trails in 2008.
- The Greenway, in partnership with the Quadricentennial Commission, the NYS Canal Corporation, The Champlain Basin Committee, and many local partners is working to create a **Quadricentennial Legacy Trail System** from the Canadian border to Manhattan. The Greenway Conservancy Board of Directors designated the Greenway Trail System as part of the “Quad Trail” at its March Board meeting.
- The Greenway has added **12.56** miles to the Land Trail, bringing the total miles of designated riverfront trails to **288.05**.
- The Hudson River Greenway Water Trail has added **5** new Water Trail sites, bringing the total number of sites up to **86**.
- With the Greenway’s expansion into Washington County, the Greenway Water Trail has been extended along the Champlain Canal to Whitehall bringing its total length up to **256** miles.

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

- With the assistance of \$25,000 in Explore NY funding, The Heritage Area completed an interpretive guide for riders of Amtrak’s Hudson River Line called *Windows on History*.
- The Heritage Area completed Phase 1 of the restoration project on the Henry Knox Cannon Trail partnering with the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office.
- The 9th Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble included over 200 events.
- The Heritage Area partnered with the Palisades Parks Conservancy, Scenic Hudson, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area in New Jersey to symbolically relight the beacons at signal locations used by the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.
- The new and enhanced website for Teaching the Hudson Valley was unveiled with full interactive capability. www.teachingthehudsonvalley.com

Record of Accomplishments for 2008

1. Continue to Implement and Expand the Greenway Compact Program

- ✓ 14 New Greenway Communities
- ✓ 1 New Greenway Compact: *Putnam County Pathways*

2. Engage Communities in Saratoga County

- ✓ Twelve (12) of twenty eight (28) newly eligible communities in Saratoga County have become “Greenway Communities”

3. Explore the Expansion of the Greenway in Washington County

- ✓ The Hudson River Valley Greenway Area has been expanded to include all communities within Washington County. The original Greenway legislation excluded Washington County but recommended inclusion be pursued at a later date. Senator Elizabeth O’ C. Little and Assemblyman Roy McDonald, responding to local requests from communities, sponsored the legislation (S.6714/A.9698). Governor Paterson signed legislation on September 4, 2008.

4. Expand the Greenway Land Trail

- ✓ The Greenway has added **12.56** miles to the Land Trail, bringing the total miles of designated riverfront trails to **288.05**.
- ✓ The Greenway has created an interactive Greenway Trail Trailhead Mapper in Google Maps.

5. Develop Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan “Source Document”

- ✓ The Greenway is prepared to partner with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the University at Albany’s Geography and Planning Department to create a Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plan (CMP) “Source Document” as part of a larger project to develop a CMP for the Route 28 Corridor in the Catskills. The source document will be created concurrently with the Route 28 CMP.

6. Promote Heritage Tourism in the Hudson Valley through the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Program

- ✓ Hudson Fulton Champlain Quadricentennial commemoration events, with an emphasis on another signature Greenway event, the Great Hudson River Paddle. Planning has started for the expanded GHRP Planning for the expanded Paddle called the Great Champlain Hudson Sojourn, a 340-mile, 4 week kayak trip, which will begin in Lake Champlain, go across the Champlain Canal, and down the Hudson River to New York City. In addition to the 2008 Great Hudson River Paddle, planning for the 2009 celebration will continue in earnest during the next year.
- ✓ Over 128,000 people (10% of which came from outside the region) participated in the 2008 Hudson River Valley Ramble which featured over 200 events (including 64 new events)
- ✓ 59 partner heritage sites have implemented the HRVNHA passport program.
- ✓ 10 sites received “experiential tourism” training.

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- ✓ The HRVNHA is prepared to engage a web site firm to revamp the HRVNHA website www.hudsonrivervally.com into a more user friendly and interactive format to encourage increased visitation to the region
- ✓ Conservation of all 28 existing Henry Knox Cannon Trail marker is completed
- ✓ In partnership with Amtrak and I Love NY, *Windows on History* was launched in May '08 during a press conference at Penn Station.
- ✓ HRVNHA distributed over 130,000 map guides to individuals and Heritage Area partners worldwide.

7. Expand and Improve the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail

- ✓ The Greenway has added **5** new public access Hudson River Water Trail sites bringing the total number of Water Trail sites to **86**
- ✓ A total of **24** new miles were added to the Water Trail bringing the total length to **256** miles.
- ✓ **65** kayak and gear storage racks have been delivered to designated Water Trail sites throughout the region (a Quadricentennial Legacy Project)

Greenway Communities and Compact Program

Greenway Indemnity Gets First Test

The Town of Milan is the first Greenway Compact Community to be represented by the Office of the Attorney General under the Greenway Indemnity provision. The Milan Town Board passed a resolution on August 11th instructing the Supervisor to submit a letter to the Office of the Attorney General requesting representation.

The provision states, “For each such participating community there shall be indemnity from the state in the event of legal actions brought against the community or its agents that may result from the community's acquisition of land consistent with its regional plan or the adoption or implementation of any land use control including, but not limited to, a zoning law or ordinance.”

Milan’s comprehensive plan and updates to its zoning ordinance were declared null and void in a March 27th decision by State Supreme Court Justice Brands.

The indemnity provision, which originally included a sunset clause, has been extended by the State legislature several times. In 2007, the indemnity provision was extended five years and is now scheduled to sunset in 2012.

Greenway Communities and Compact Grant Program

Through an aid-to-localities community grant program, the Greenway encourages economic development that is compatible with the preservation and enhancement of natural and cultural resources with emphasis on agriculture, tourism and the revitalization of existing community centers and waterfronts.

In 2008, the Greenway disbursed over **\$191,841** in funding for smart growth and economic development projects throughout the Hudson River Valley leveraging **\$415,036** in local match.

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Greenway Communities and Compact Grant Program Disbursements 2008

County	Community	Grant Award	Total Spent	Spent in 2008	Amount of Match	Project
Albany	Town of Rensselaerville	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	Updates to Comprehensive land use plan, zoning law, and subdivision regulations
Columbia	Town of Clermont	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,799.00	Clermont Hamlet Area Plan
Columbia	Town of Ghent	\$7,500.00	\$6,750.00	\$6,750.00	\$13,010.11	Developing a Comprehensive Plan
Columbia	Town of Hillsdale	\$1,500.00	\$1,233.00	\$267.00	\$320.92	GIS Development
Columbia	City of Hudson w/ UPRA	\$15,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	UHRA Sub-Regional Integration
Columbia	Town of Taghkanic	\$7,500.00	\$6,750.00	\$6,750.00	\$19,910.00	Developing a Comprehensive Plan
Dutchess	City of Beacon	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	Comprehensive Plan education and Outreach
Dutchess	Town of Poughkeepsie	\$42,500.00	\$36,325.00	\$6,175.00	\$18,310.00	COMPACT: Update Master Plan
Greene	Town of Cairo	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$11,407.00	Complete Comp Plan
Greene	HRWA/ New Baltimore	\$30,000.00	\$14,917.99	\$8,721.86	\$10,000.00	WATER TRAIL- VanSchaack Campsite
Orange	Town of Crawford	\$6,840.00	\$6,362.91	\$6,362.91	\$6,362.91	W/ WALDEN-farmers mkt pg
Orange	City of Newburgh	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,754.00	Master Plan
Orange	Village of Walden	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,134.00	Passenger Rail Feasibility Study
Orange	Town of Wallkill	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$32,500.00	Update Comp Plan
Putnam	Village of Cold Spring	\$7,500.00	\$5,296.73	\$4,327.57	\$4,327.57	Developing a Comprehensive Plan
Putnam	Town of Philipstown	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,543.00	Developing a Comprehensive Plan
Putnam	Town of Putnam Valley	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$32,351.00	Developing zoning and subdivision amendments
Rensselaer	Town of Berlin	\$5,000.00	\$1,133.59	\$1,133.59	\$2,612.00	Developing a Comprehensive Plan
Rensselaer	Town of Nassau	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$43,474.00	Developing a Comprehensive Plan
Rockland	Town of Haverstraw	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$35,762.00	Pavilion for Bowline Point
Rockland	Rockland County	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	Brochure Development
Rockland	Village of South Nyack	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	WATER TRAIL- Gesner Ave
Ulster	Town of Gardiner	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$46,000.00	Biodiversity Assessment
Ulster	Town of Lloyd	\$7,500.00	\$4,528.47	\$740.17	\$740.17	Water trail/ Land trail conn
Ulster	Marbletown, w/Rosen	\$8,750.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$13,376.00	w/ Rosendale-Rondout Creek
Ulster	Town of Saugerties	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$13,784.00	Revise zoning-waterfront overlay
Westchester	Town of Cortlandt	\$15,000.00	\$10,113.19	\$10,113.19	\$10,113.00	COMPACT - Oscawana Island/McAndrews Parcel bio-diversity study
Westchester	Village of Dobbs Ferry	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$21,445.00	Revise land use regs/zoning
Total Paid in 2008				\$191,841.29	\$415,035.68	

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Greenway Awards \$237,367.50 in Planning Grants in 2008

Regional Planning:

Town of Kinderhook, Columbia County (\$10,000)

Comprehensive Planning: Grant will aid in the review, modification, and updating of the Town's comprehensive plan which was adopted in August 2000. It will include 3 levels of action from ongoing, to short term, to long term.

Town of Amenia, Dutchess County (\$7,500)

Comprehensive Planning: Grant will aid in funding for a rail trail extension. This work would include preparation of drawings for a sustainable rail trail extension, including delineation of wetlands, topographical surveys, identifying and applying for permits, providing cost estimates, in addition to coordinating activities with Metro-North.

City of Beacon, Dutchess County (\$10,000)

Master Planning for University Settlement Camp: The City will undertake a participatory master planning process involving city officials, key stakeholders, potential partners and the public in order to determine the most appropriate use for the former University Settlement Camp, a scenic, 50-acre property in the City with direct public access to an extensive network of recreational trails and open space resources.

Town of Beekman, Dutchess County (\$6,000)

Zoning Update: Grant will aid in funding for a zoning and land use regulation update. The Town is undertaking a zoning ordinance update to ensure that the Town's zoning ordinance and its subdivision land code requirements are consistent with the principles in the revised comp plan.

Village of Millbrook, Dutchess County (\$10,000)

Comprehensive Planning: Grant will aid in funding for a comprehensive plan update.

Village of Tivoli, Dutchess County (\$7,500)

Compact Planning: Grant will aid in funding for conforming the updated comprehensive master plan with the existing zoning regulations. Analysis of the existing zoning law will also take place.

Town of Union Vale, Dutchess County (\$12,500)

Zoning Update: Grant will aid in funding for an amendment to the 2002 zoning law needed to facilitate the creation of a new Town center.

Village of Wappingers Falls, Dutchess County (\$10,000)

Compact Planning: Grant will aid in funding for revisions to the Village's zoning regulations in order to reflect the comprehensive plan and Greenway connections. It will also address landscaping, parking standards and design standards.

Town of Washington, Dutchess County (\$10,000)

Comprehensive Planning: Grant will aid in funding for an update to the Town's master plan which was adopted in 1987 and amended in 1989. The master plan committee will

Hudson River Valley Greenway 2008 Annual Report

determine if the master plan goals are still the objectives of the community and whether it should set new targets.

Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County (\$5,000)

Zoning Update: Grant will aid in funding for a new zoning law to keep procedures and regulations in line with current practices.

City of Kingston/Town of Ulster, Ulster County (\$15,000)

Comprehensive Planning: Grant will aid in funding for the Washington Avenue gateway corridor development standards. The document will provide a set of standards to guide the redevelopment of these properties to insure good planning, attractive design, and good intermunicipal coordination.

Town of New Paltz, Ulster County (\$7,500)

Comprehensive Planning: The Town of New Paltz is soliciting proposals from qualified planning firms to provide consultant services for updating the 1995 Town Comprehensive Plan. The current Town comp plan does not address or does not adequately address current and future needs of the Town. Once a new Town comp plan is adopted, it will become the foundation and guidance with which the Town will amend its zoning.

Village of Port Chester, Westchester County (\$10,000)

Comprehensive Planning: Grant will aid in funding for a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance update. The updated plan will address housing needs, affordability, and the Village's changing economy, as well as provide recommendations to revitalize commercial corridors, the waterfront, and protect essential resources.

Village of Rye Brook, Westchester County (\$15,000)

Comprehensive Planning: The Village of Rye Brook Comprehensive Plan will involve outreach to Westchester County and surrounding municipalities, and Greenwich, CT.

Economic Development:

Village of Chestnut Ridge/Village of Pomona, Rockland County (\$20,000)

Farming Study: Grant will aid in funding for a "keep farming initiative". The purpose of this farm related project is to address change in ways that conserve local agriculture and natural resources, while strengthening economic well-being.

Town of East Fishkill, Dutchess County (\$7,500)

Streetscape Improvements: Grant will aid in funding for a hamlet planner to implement streetscape improvements. This will include planting of continuous rows of trees along route 82 in Hopewell Junction.

Town of Montgomery, Orange County (\$15,000)

Economic Planning: Grant will aid in funding for an economic development plan. The Town of Montgomery, Villages of Maybrook, Montgomery, and Walden have joined together on this collaborative project to produce a local economic development plan containing strategies to promote growth.

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City of Mechanicville, Saratoga County (\$5,000)

Gateway Signage: Grant will aid in funding for a downtown and gateway signage project. The signage will serve to encourage tourism, local economic development and exploration of the community.

Town of Gardiner, Ulster County (\$5,000)

Streetscape Improvements: Grant will aid in funding for streetscape improvements. These improvements will include sidewalks, drainage, lighting, landscaping, and street furniture. Greenway funds will be used to hire a landscape design firm.

Natural and Cultural Resource Protection:

Town of Copake, Columbia County (\$2,512.50)

Ground Water Study: Grant will aid in funding for a ground water protection study and plan. Groundwater supplies all drinking water in Copake and contributes significant water to local wetlands, streams, and ponds. This plan will help understand the nature and occurrence of groundwater resources. It will also involve the development of strategies to preserve the groundwater resources and drinking water supplies.

Town of Hillsdale, Columbia County (\$3,855)

Aquifer Study: Grant will aid in funding for an aquifer study. The Town will retain a hydrogeologist with the New York Rural Water Association to conduct a preliminary aquifer study and develop a groundwater protection plan for the Town.

Village of Red Hook, Dutchess County (\$7,500)

Green Space Planning: Grant will aid in funding for a Village "Green Space". The Village will purchase vacant land and create a small mini-park located near the Village center. They will add several amenities such as benches to provide residents a green sanctuary. They will also be moving the Chamber of Commerce Information booth to this location. This project is part of the Village's Centers and Greenspaces Plan.

Town of Saratoga, Saratoga County (\$5,000)

Cultural Resource Survey: Grant will aid in funding for a cultural resource survey at the new Town park. The project will unlock the potential for important archeological findings to share with the public on the site and permit the construction of the park to move forward.

Town of Saugerties, Ulster County (\$10,000)

GEIS Planning: Grant will aid in funding for a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for the 464 acres and 56 parcels in the Kings Highway Water and Sewer District along Kings Highway. The project will examine existing conditions and the potential environmental and social impact of business development along the Kings Highway Corridor, and will propose necessary mitigation actions to minimize negative impacts. This investment will streamline the development review process.

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Heritage and Environmental Education:

City of Newburgh, Orange County (\$5,000)

GIS Development: Grant will aid in funding for up-to-date planning tools for the East End Historic District inventory. It will also help fund an architectural program intern to help with the recording of data and research. The final product will be a database that will interact with the City's GIS, incorporating the original data and photographs along with new data and photographs, and an educational Power Point presentation on the East End Historic District significance and inventory.

Public Access:

Village of Ossining, Westchester County (\$15,000)

Waterfront Planning: Village seeks to create a Waterfront Recreational Resource Plan to identify ways to promote water-related uses on their 3 miles of HR waterfront. The plan will outline strategies to increase public access, catalog existing recreational assets, and engage stakeholders to determine demand for enhancements and present various scenarios for upgrades.

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

NHA Funding

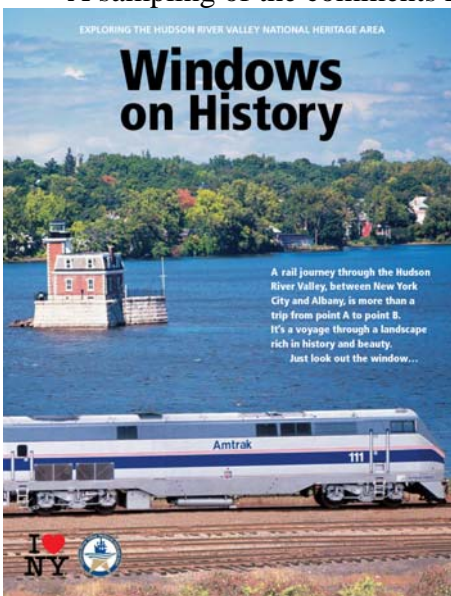
On August 28th 2008, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area received a letter from the Secretary of the Interior approving the **extension of funding eligibility** for the Heritage Area through 2012. The original extension request had been submitted October 2007, with supplemental material provided March 2008. As of October 21, 2008, the FY 2007/2008 appropriation has yet to be released.

9th Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble

The 9th annual Hudson River Valley Ramble featured an all-time record of 202 events from Saratoga County and the Capital Region to New York City during the weekends of September 13th through 14th, September 20th through 21st, and September 27th through 28th. The Ramble is sponsored annually by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNHA), the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program. For the first time, this year's Ramble included a number of events in Saratoga County. Despite inclement weather on the final weekend of the Ramble, a record number of participants (estimated at **128,500**) came out to enjoy everything the Hudson Valley has to offer.



A sampling of the comments received from Ramblers:



"I would just like to say that the Ramble is a great program and I look forward to it every year. My 12 year old son Max, 5 year old daughter Ava & wife Tammy participate on all six days." Joel Epstein, Bardonia, NY

"This was an excellent event! [The] leader was well prepared and interesting, and knowledgeable."

Windows on History: Exploring the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

In May 2008, the HRVNHA unveiled its latest guide "Windows on History: Exploring the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area." The guide was produced in partnership with *New York by Rail* and *I Love NY* and is located in New York By Rail magazines on Amtrak trains and Amtrak

Stations throughout the east coast. Through narratives, historic depictions, and photos taken

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from the perspective of passengers on the train, the guide educates rail passengers traveling through the Hudson River Valley about the resources they are actually seeing outside their windows which include listed and eligible National Register properties. In addition, this guide provides information about the surrounding communities and historic sites located nearby as well as an account of transportation history in the region.

Henry Knox Cannon Trail Phase I Restoration Completed

With guidance and assistance from the National Park Service, the HRVNHA, completed Phase 1 of a project to conserve and restore the New York State Knox Cannon Trail monuments which had been installed in 1926. Each monument is comprised of an AuSable mottled grey granite plinth upon which is mounted a bronze bas relief. When the monuments were assessed by the National Park Service, it was found that the bronze tablets exhibited varying degrees of wear and the surrounding environment had weathered the granite plinths with a dark coating.

Phase 1 efforts included the conservation of the bronze plaques and the cleaning of the granite stone plinths. The success of the project depended on working with a diverse cross-section of partners. As this project progressed, the HRVNHA engaged numerous partners including: The National Park Service; the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation; the New York State Department of Transportation; Heritage New York; local historians; and Michael Bare of the South Boston Citizens' Association Evacuation Day Heritage Committee. Phase 2 of this initiative will include the replacement of missing markers within New York State.



Tom Podnar, of McKay Lodge Conservation Laboratory, conserves Knox Marker plaques

Patriots Weekend Commemorations

Three Patriots Weekend events took place in 2008 to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Revolutionary War. On April 19th, the HRVNHA commemorated the anniversary of General George Washington's Cessation of Hostilities Proclamation at the New Windsor Cantonment in Veil's Gate. On May 3rd, the HRVNHA commemorated the anniversary of the meeting between General George Washington and British General Guy Carleton. The event took place aboard the Clearwater and at the DeWint House in Tappan. Over the weekend of August 23rd through the 24th, the HRVNHA marked the anniversary of the Mustering out of the Commander in Chief's Guard at Constitution Island. Each of these commemorations included reenactments, tactical exercises, drills, and encampments.

Commemoration of British Evacuation

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In November 2008, a Xenon light display commemorated the 225th anniversary of the evacuation of the United States of America by British troops. The Palisades Parks Conservancy, in collaboration with the HRVNHA, Scenic Hudson, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and Palisades Interstate Park Commission, partnered with the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area in New Jersey to symbolically relight the beacons at signal locations used by the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The lighting progression started in Princeton, New Jersey and stretched 108 miles to Beacon, New York.

Teaching the Hudson Valley Website

In November 2008 the HRVNHA unveiled the new website for Teaching the Hudson Valley at www.TeachingTheHudsonValley.org. The new interactive website features an extensive library of over 125 place-based Hudson Valley lesson plans and activities. In addition to the lesson plans already online, users can post new lesson plans or activities, search by grade and subject, and use an interactive map to look for plans at nearby sites of interest. The commitment to place-based education is incorporated into the new tagline for Teaching the Hudson Valley, "Explore a place. Discover your world." The HRVNHA estimates thousands of students will benefit from this free resource.

Schools Awarded \$59,470 Through Teaching the Hudson Valley Grant Program

Teaching the Hudson Valley makes annual grants of up to \$10,000 each to public and private schools in the region. The grants are available for projects designed to familiarize students at local school with significant places in the Valley. Working collaboratively with sites of cultural, historic, or natural importance, educators produce place-based lessons that complement core curriculum. Educators in Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Ulster, and Westchester counties may apply in collaboration with at least one public heritage site. These sites must be open to the public and have missions that promote the interpretation or preservation of the Valley's culture, ecosystem, or history. Funding and management for Teaching the Hudson Valley comes through a partnership between the HRVNHA and the National Park Service, with assistance from the Hudson River Valley Greenway, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program, and the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College.

This year, \$59,470 in grant funding through Teaching the Hudson Valley was dispersed as follows:

- **Beacon Elementary Schools, Dutchess County, \$10,000**
Sites & Partners: Mount Gulian Historic Site
Title or Theme: "I See Freedom," social studies, English/language arts, music, and art
Students: 270 fifth graders
- **Vail Farm Elementary School, Dutchess County, \$8,400**
Sites & Partners: Locust Grove: Samuel Morse Historic Site
Title or Theme: "Competing for a Place in the Sun: Adaptation and Biodiversity," science and social studies
Students: Year 1 – 25 fourth graders; Future use – Locust Grove estimates 600 students annually

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- **North Rockland High School and Fieldstone Secondary School**, Rockland County, **\$10,000**
Sites & Partners: Rockland County Historical Society and Museum
Title or Theme: “Bridges to the Past, Links to the Future,” social studies, English, technology
Students: 1,000 students in grades 8 through 12
- **Troy City Elementary School #12**, Rensselaer County, **\$10,000**
Sites & Partners: Rensselaer County Historical Society
Title or Theme: “Touching Troy, Teaching Troy,” science, social studies, English, and math
Students: Year 1 – 75 fourth graders, Year 2 – 140 fourth graders
- **Rensselaer Middle School, Rensselaer City School District**, Albany County, **\$10,000**
Sites & Partners: Half Moon replica ship and the New Netherland Museum
Title or Theme: “Preparing for the Future by Experiencing the Past,” social studies, English, and math
Students: 224 students in grades 6 through 8
- **South Junior High School, Newburgh City Schools**, Ulster County, **\$1,100**
Sites & Partners: Clearwater at Esopus Meadow Point
Title or Theme: “Tideline Discovery Program,” living environment, Regents’ biology
Students: 45 ninth graders
- **Troy City Schools**, Rensselaer County, **\$10,000**
Sites & Partners: Kate Mullany House National Historic Site
Title or Theme: “Don’t Iron While the Strike is Hot! The Legacy of Kate Mullany,” social studies and English / language arts
Students: 140 students in fourth, eighth, and eleventh grades

Trails and Public Access

Land Trail

Total miles added in 2008: **25.71 miles**
Total mileage as of 1/1/09: **288.05 miles**

Greenway Conservancy Small Grants:

Funding secured through member items provided by Senator Stephen Saland

The Conservancy Small Grants program offers funding for trail planning and design, construction and rehabilitation, education and interpretation. This year thirteen projects throughout the Hudson River Valley were chosen to receive matching grant awards from the Greenway. Emphasis was placed on trail projects that seek to implement the goals of the Draft Greenway Trail Vision Plan, particularly the construction of new segments of the Greenway Trail to connect existing portions, and improvements to currently designated Greenway Trails.

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This annual program has offered technical and financial assistance to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations since 1995 and has provided over \$1 million in funding for trail projects throughout the Hudson Valley.

This year, the Greenway awarded \$59,000 through the Conservancy Small Grants program for the following projects:

- **Town and Village of Wappinger, Wappinger Greenway Trail (\$8,000)**
The Wappinger Greenway Trail consists of 10.7 miles of interconnected trails throughout the Town and Village of Wappinger and the Town of Poughkeepsie. The funding for this grant will extend this trail approximately five miles, connect with existing networks and heritage sites in the Town of Fishkill, and create another Greenway Water Trail access point at Chelsea water front.
- **Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, Discovery Quest Trail (\$2,500)**
Funds will be used to provide funding for the purchase of a new or used compact tractor for mowing to help with the trail maintenance
- **New York Forest Owners Association, Inc., Hudson River Birding Trail Forest Habitats Interpretive Kiosks (\$5,500)**
Funds will be used to write, design and fabricate 4 interpretive panels for the Hudson River Birding Trail Kiosks: 2 in Dutchess County and 2 in Orange County
- **Town of Philipstown, Hudson/Fjord Alternative C Analysis (\$5,000)**
To build upon the results of the Hudson/Fjord Bike/Hike Trail Capital Improvements Feasibility Study and determine the feasibility and costs associated with the third alternative proposed as a result of this study.
- **Town of East Greenbush, Albany-Hudson Electric Trail Grant (\$10,000)**
Funds will be used to pursue selecting and hiring a consultant to prepare a feasibility study of transforming an abandoned rail line into a recreational trail.
- **Town of Half Moon, Historic Champlain Canal Trailhead Parking (\$5,000)**
Funds will be used to construct trailhead parking for approximately 10 cars on the Historic Champlain Canal Trail. The trailhead parking is at an important juncture between the Canal Trail and the Town's Hudson River Waterfront Park.
- **Town of Shandaken, Pine Hill Recreation Trail (\$5,000)**
Funds will be used to create the Pine Hill Recreation Trail, with a long term vision of users being able to park their cars in town or at the park and walk skate, run or bike between the two state recreation facilities (Belleayre Ski Center and NYSDEC's Pine Hill Lake Day Use Area).
- **Town of Rochester, Rochester Rail Trail Enhancement (\$5,000)**
Funds will be used for maintenance of the rail trail, purchase and installation of wayfinding signs, and creation of a rail trail map and photos on the town website.

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- **Mohonk Preserve, Inc., Northern Shawangunk Ridge Trail Connection Planning (\$5,000)** In light of planned acquisition of the Giant's Ledges parcel and existence of options for access at the extreme northern terminus of the Shawangunk Mtn. range, the Preserve will use the funds to work with communities across the region to plan for the best strategies to connect its lands with the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, the O&W Rail Corridor, and D&H Canal Trail in ways that are consistent with the Preserve's Land Management Plan.
- **Town of Cortlandt, Town of Cortlandt Trail Booklet (\$2,500)**
The town will use an intern with graphic design experience, supplemented with town staff assistance from the Town's Planning Dept, and Open Space Monitor to design a trails booklet highlighting the Town's many trails, most importantly the Town of Cortlandt Shoreline trail, a designated section of Greenway trail.
- **City of Newburgh, Quassaick Creek Estuary Biodiversity Fourth Grade Coloring Book (\$2,000)** Funds will be used to develop a Quadricentennial Quassaick Creek Estuary Biodiversity coloring book.
- **Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Take-a-Hike! Program (\$1,000)**
Funds will be used to develop a trail/map brochure for the Take-a-Hike program.
- **Town of Lewisboro Conservation Advisory Council, Old Field Preserve Trail Bridge (\$2,500)** Funds will be used for the construction of a bridge along the Old Field Preserve Trail.

Hudson River Water Trail

New public access sites:	5
Total sites as of 1/1/09:	86
New miles added in 2008:	24
Total mileage as of 1/1/09:	256

The five new public access sites designated in 2008:

- Bob Shepard Highland Landing Park
(Town of Lloyd, Ulster County);
- Madison Street Boat Launch
(City of Troy, Rensselaer County);
- NYS Canal Corporation's Champlain Canal Lock C1
(Town of Halfmoon, Saratoga County);
- Mechanicville City Dock,
(City of Mechanicville, Saratoga County);
- Louis Engel Waterfront Park
(Town of Ossining, Westchester County)

This year, \$63,530 in Hudson River Greenway Water Trail Grants was awarded as follows:

- **Hudson River Maritime Museum, City of Kingston, Ulster County (\$10,000)**

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To develop an access dock on the Rondout Creek suitable for use by kayaks, canoes and rowing shells;

- **City of Kingston, Ulster County (\$5,000)**
In support of its efforts to expand the City's recreational kayaking program through the installation of an additional kayak storage facility;
- **Town of Lloyd, Ulster County (\$30,850)**
To complete the kayak launch at Bob Shepard Highland Landing Park;
- **City of Mechanicville (\$13,000)**
In support of its efforts to create a kayak launch site;
- **Rockland County Sheriff (\$4,680)**
In support of its efforts to create a Marine Kayak Unit.

Hudson River Greenway Water Trail Kayak Storage Rack Program

Kayak storage racks for the Water Trail are designed to allow the paddler to safely and temporarily lock up their boat and gear so they may explore a community, shop on Main Street, eat at a restaurant, resupply during a multi-day trip, or explore a land trail. Each rack can store two kayaks. To date, 51 of 65 kayak racks have been delivered to communities. Deployment of the racks is expected next spring.



Kayak racks have been delivered to the managers for the following sites (number of racks is in parenthesis):

Mechanicville Town Dock (2), Peebles Island State Park (2), Schodack Islands State Park (2), Cossackie NYS Boat (2), Athens NYS Boat (2), Troy Motorboat and Canoe Club (2), Rensselaer Forbes Avenue Boat (2), Albany Municipal Boat (2), Coeymans NYS Boat (2), Van Schaack Campsite at Bronck Island (2), Athens Fourth Street Slip (2), RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary (2), Malden-on-Hudson Boat (2), Glasco Mini Park (2), Tivoli North Bay WMA (2), Turkey Point State Forest
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(2),Kowawese Unique Area (2),Kingston Point Beach (1),T.R. Gallo Park (2),Hudson River Maritime Museum (2),Highland Landing Park (2),DeLaval Site Boat (2),Reese Park & Boat Ramp (2),Annsville Preserve (2),Riverfront Green Park (2)

Looking Ahead to 2009

Greenway Organizing Quadricentennial Events

The 2009 Champlain-Hudson Valleys' Ramble

The Greenway continues to work to organize the month-long **Champlain-Hudson Valleys' Ramble** in celebration of the Hudson Fulton Champlain Quadricentennial. The Greenway organized and run event is a chance to explore by foot, boat, or bike the natural and culture resources of the Champlain and Hudson basins. This event will be one of three signature events of the Quadricentennial organized by the Greenway. In addition to the over 100 partner organizations and event sponsors we work with in the Hudson River Valley, we'll be working closely with the Champlain Basin Program to engage partners in the Champlain Valley for the event.

The 2009 Great Champlain-Hudson Sojourn

The 2009 event will be called The **Great Champlain-Hudson Sojourn** and will cover 320 miles beginning in Rouse's Point on northern Lake Champlain and proceeding through the Champlain Canal and down the Hudson River to Manhattan. In addition to the partners that have worked with us during the Great Hudson River Paddle, Scott Keller, Sojourn Lead Guide and Greenway Trails and Special Projects Director, has reached out to the following partners: **VERMONT:** Vermont Department of Tourism, Vermont, Parks and Recreation, City of Burlington Parks Department, Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce **NEW YORK:** Village of Rouse's Point, Crown Point State Historic Site, Towns of Hague and Bolton, Roger's Island Visitor Center, Village of Schuylerville, Champlain Basin Program. Throughout the year, Scott will be working to secure private side partners and outfitters to participate in festival events at key locations along the route.

Quadricentennial Legacy Trail

The Quadricentennial Legacy Trail System (QLTS) will be comprised of multiple trail types, including, but not limited to, walking, biking and water trails. In New York the QLTS will extend from the Canadian border south to New York City and encompass trails within the entire region. As with the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail, the QLTS will work only with willing owners and managers of trails. Designation as a component of the QLTS is meant as recognition of an outstanding trail that deserves this special acknowledgement.

The Greenway is assisting with the coordination of this project, assembling a working group of representatives from all interested parties, and leading the way for other organizations to become involved. The Greenway has designed trail markers that incorporate the Quadricentennial logo and the Greenway Water Trail and Land Trail logos, to be used at Greenway water trail sites and trail heads. Other organizations may adapt these signs to

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incorporate their own logos. The Greenway Boards have resolved that both current and future segments of the Greenway Trail will be designated as part of the QLTS. The Greenway will also be the primary entity responsible for creating future segments of the QLTS within the Hudson Valley.

Heritage Area Website to be Revamped

Since its launch in early 2004, the website for the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area has been successful in its mission of providing education and heritage tourism information with respect to the nationally significant resources of the region. As the Heritage Area program has evolved, minor changes to the website have taken place (most recently, the addition of a Ramble Microsite). With this in mind, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Management Committee will take a comprehensive look at the strengths of the website and enhancing those strengths while improving website efficiency. In preparation for this initiative, the Heritage Area has reached out to Heritage Site Directors asking for their assistance to review site information and provide input about the strengths and weaknesses of the current website.

Notes