Hudson River Valley Greenway Planning Grant Program Guidelines

A. Background

The Hudson River Valley Greenway was established by New York State through the Greenway Act of 1991. Since then, the Greenway has been committed to the preservation, enhancement and development of the world-renowned scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources of the Hudson River Valley while supporting projects consistent with economic development goals and the tradition of municipal home rule.

The Greenway administers a grant program to help "Greenway Communities" and participating Greenway Compact Communities achieve these shared goals.

The five **Greenway criteria** include:

- **Natural and Cultural Resource Protection** – Protect, preserve, and enhance natural resources, including natural communities, open spaces, cultural and historic resources, scenic roads and scenic areas.
- **Regional Planning** – Working together to develop mutually beneficial regional strategies for natural and cultural resource protection, economic development, public access and heritage and environmental education.
- **Economic Development** – Encourage economic development compatible with the preservation and enhancement of natural and cultural resources including agriculture, tourism, and the revitalization of established community centers and waterfronts.
- **Public Access** – Promote increased public access to the Hudson River through the creation of riverside parks and the development of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail System.
- **Heritage and Environmental Education** – Promote awareness among residents and visitors about the Valley's natural, cultural, scenic and historic resources.

Greenway Compact

One of the major objectives of the Greenway Act is the development and implementation of a regional planning strategy known as the Greenway Compact. The Greenway Compact planning approach is one of thinking regionally as communities plan locally. It includes physical connections and linkages between communities for local and regional benefit. Additionally, it extends beyond physical linkages to encourage voluntary regional cooperation among the communities and counties of the Hudson River Valley to address issues of collective concern and promote mutually beneficial regional approaches. The Greenway Compact program facilitates a coordinated regional planning process for voluntary cooperation in support of the five Greenway Criteria.

Greenway Compact Development

The Greenway has designated the counties as the basic planning areas for the development of the Greenway Compact. Counties may initiate the development of a county-level Greenway Compact Plan, which makes recommendations and outlines best practices for incorporating Greenway principles into local land use planning. Municipalities can voluntarily choose to "opt-in" to their county's Greenway Compact Plan by incorporating its principles into their land use regulations, thereby demonstrating their commitment to the shared values embodied within the Compact Plan. Through adoption of a Greenway Compact Plan, a municipality is thereby considered a participating Greenway Compact Community, and eligible for increased Greenway project funding.

B. Grant Eligibility Guidelines

Applicants must complete projects previously awarded funds through this grant program or release those funds before being eligible to receive funding in this round. A community may hold a maximum of one Greenway Planning Grant and one Greenway Compact Grant at the same time.

Municipalities must be located within the geographic area of the Greenway in order to be eligible. The Greenway area includes all of the municipalities within these counties: Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Ulster, Washington, Westchester, municipalities in Greene County that are at least partially or entirely outside of the Catskill Park boundary; and those portions of New York and Bronx counties adjacent to the Hudson River and within the city's local waterfront revitalization program area pursuant to Executive Law Article 42. To determine if your community is a Greenway Community, please reference https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/greenway-area-map.

1. Greenway Communities Grant Eligibility Guidelines:

This grant program is open to municipalities that are within the designated Greenway area and have adopted a local board resolution to become a designated "Greenway Community." The resolution demonstrates that the community supports the **Greenway Criteria** and the voluntary process for the development of the Greenway Compact. A sample resolution is available in part F of the application.

2. Greenway Compact Communities Grant Eligibility Guidelines

Communities that have adopted an approved Greenway Compact Plan are eligible for increased grant funding and additional benefits under this program. In addition to the requirements for the Greenway Communities Grant Program, municipalities must be a participating community in a Greenway Compact Plan. To become a Greenway Compact Community, a community must pass a local law adopting an approved Greenway Compact Plan. For more information on the Greenway Compact, please visit https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/community-planningand scroll down to Greenway Compact. Additional guidelines for the Greenway Compact Grant Program are provided in part E of the application.

C. Funding and Application Guidelines

Greenway Community Grants are open to Greenway Communities. Greenway Compact Grants are open to participating Greenway Compact Communities.

Applicants will be allowed a conference period with Greenway staff up to the grant deadline. This period will allow applicants to ask staff for feedback and input on the grant project and application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Greenway prior to applying to discuss proposed projects.

Greenway Communities can undertake a variety of projects under this program that are consistent with the Greenway criteria or advance the Greenway compact. The following list of projects is intended to provide only general guidance for applicants:

- **Open Space Inventory/Preservation:** Open space inventories, comprehensive open space, development of conservation easement programs, transfer of development rights ordinances
- **Natural Resource Inventory/Preservation:** Natural resource inventories and management plans, critical environmental area designations, natural resource protection ordinances, viewshed analysis, scenic impact review guidelines, scenic road protection, development of scenic easement programs
- **Recreational/Trail:** Trail planning, construction, wayfinding, interpretive signage
- **Other (Including Cultural Resource and Economic Development):** Tourism, agriculture protection plans and techniques, main street and waterfront revitalization plans and implementation techniques, cultural resource inventories, historic preservation plans/ordinances
- **Comprehensive/Master Planning:** Comprehensive plans, master plans, area plans, zoning and subdivision ordinances, site plans

Community Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRA)

The Community Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRA) of 2014, along with the Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act prohibits New York State agencies from approving, undertaking, supporting, or funding public infrastructure projects unless the projects are consistent with mitigation of future physical risk from sea-level rise, storm surges, and flooding. Your participation in this grant program is pursuant to this requirement and you acknowledge that if your project is one that seeks to build physical infrastructure it will be consistent with the criteria listed. Full information on the CRRA can be found at https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/102559.html.

Funding Range: Requests for Greenway funds typically range from $5,000-$10,000. Intermunicipal collaboration planning projects that involve two or more municipalities will be considered for funding above $10,000. Compact Communities will also be considered for funding above $10,000.

Previous Funding: Applicants must complete existing Greenway Communities or Greenway Compact Grant projects or rescind funds previously awarded before being eligible to receive new funding through this grant program. Greenway Compact Community applicants may have one Greenway Communities grant and one Greenway Compact grant at the same time.

Match Requirement: This is a matching funds program requiring “dollar for dollar” match of funds awarded. Greenway grant assistance toward the cost of the projects shall not exceed 50% of the approved project's cost. All match, including in-kind services, must be made after the grant is awarded and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed by the grantee and the Greenway. Federal funds are eligible to be used as match, state funds are not.

Eligible Local Match shall include:

- Contractual and professional consulting services
- Equipment, supplies, and materials
- Construction costs
- Land acquisition
- In-Kind services and volunteer labor

After the grant award is made, the Greenway shall not be responsible for cost-sharing any increases in the total cost of the project. Federal funds are eligible to be used as match, state funds are not. Local match may be provided as cash, in-kind services or other non-monetary contributions such as donations of goods and services.

Eligible Expenses for Reimbursement include:

- Contractual and professional consulting services
- Equipment, supplies, and materials
- Construction costs

Documentation: Local Match and Eligible Expenses for Reimbursement must be documented. Itemized bills and/or receipts and proof of payment (municipal vouchers, cancelled checks, etc.) are required when submitting Claims for Payments. Signed statements of value can be submitted for donated goods and services to be used for Local Match. In-kind labor can be documented on the Match Documentation Worksheet available on our website.

Payment: Greenway grant funds are provided on a reimbursement basis; advance funds are not provided. Successful applicants must document project expenditures, the required match, and submit a New York State Claim for Payment form to receive funds. If a project involves the development of a plan or similar product, final payment of funding will not be made until the plan is completed in final form and adopted by the governing body of the relevant municipality. The Greenway cannot reimburse for any work undertaken prior to the grant award date or after the contract term. Please reference the Claim for Payment page on our website for instructions and match worksheets.

Timetable: A work program for each phase of funding, with projected costs and an estimated timeline for completion, must be submitted and approved by the Greenway Council Board prior to the awarding of any grant funding. Once the grant is awarded, a project agreement (including a budget, performance timeline and scope of work) will be formalized between the Greenway and the applicant.

Acknowledgement: All final reports, images, signs, maps or other final products are required to note the financial contribution of the Greenway, and the Greenway logo shall be displayed on all final products. The logo will be provided upon request. Drafts of any displays, signs, or publications must be submitted to the Greenway before final production.

D. Evaluation Guidelines:

This is a competitive grant program. Applications will be rated on the following:

1. How well the projects help advance the Greenway Criteria
2. How well the projects advance the Greenway Compact (if applicable)
3. Innovation and Transferability: Higher ranking projects will be innovative and applicable elsewhere
4. Intermunicipal projects will rate higher than single-community projects
5. Amount of grant award contingent on funding availability and may be less than requested

Additional Guidelines for the Greenway Compact Grant Program

The Greenway Act of 1991 provides certain incentives for communities that adopt and implement the Greenway Compact, including a 5% preference in certain state grants ranking systems. In order to provide an additional major incentive for the development and implementation of the county or regional Compact strategy, Greenway Compact Communities are eligible to receive more than $10,000 in matching grant funds.

Compact Development and Local Adoption Projects: Counties, individually or cooperatively, can apply for expenses related to Greenway Compact Plan development or adoption by cities, towns and villages. Projects may include multiple phases. Funding for the final sub-phase of the work program will be fully disbursed upon completion of the county or regional Compact document, approval and/or adoption by the county legislature and chief executive officer, and final acceptance by the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council.

Compact Implementation Projects: Compact implementation project funding may be utilized for planning efforts or site-specific projects that are identified in or consistent with the approved county or regional Compact Plan. Specific references must be cited.