HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY
Combined meeting of
Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.,
Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council,
and
Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc.
March 12, 2025
SUNY Orange County Community College
Kaplan Hall, Great Room #101
73 1st Street
Newburgh, NY 12550
And Via Zoom
MINUTES

Attendance

Conservancy Members Present
Burke, Kevin, Conservancy Chair
Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Secretary

Conservancy Members Present by Proxy
Brown, Kristin Cole, Conservancy Member
Hinchey, Hon. Michelle, Senator
Idleman, Sara, Conservancy Member – present via Zoom
Weiss, Daniela, Conservancy Member
Williams, Jeanne, Conservancy Member

Conservancy Delegates Present
Tavarez, Elisabeth, Delegate for Senator Michelle Hinchey

Council Members Present
Carlquist, Jennifer, Putnam County Council Member
Downey, Meg, Council Chair
Elliott, Robert, Westchester County Council Member
Henry, Angela, Dutchess County Council Member
Porr, Johanna, Orange County Council Member
von der Heide, Linda, Rensselaer County Council Member

Council Members Present by Proxy
Aldrich, J. Winthrop, Council Vice Chair
Piscitelli, Anthony, New York City Council Member – present via Zoom
Schneid, Matthew, New York City Council Member – present via Zoom

Council Delegates Present
Feeney, Ryan, Delegate for Assemblymember Eachus

Joint Delegates Present
Landfried, Susan, Joint Delegate for NYS Secretary of State
Wynter, Damali, Joint Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Joint Delegates Present by Proxy
Malave, Linda, Joint Delegate for Chair, Empire State Development
MacMillan, Lance, Joint Delegate for Commissioner, Department of Transportation
McGlynn, Mark, Joint Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Office of General Services
Turturro, Kelly, Joint Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation – present via Zoom

Greenway Staff Present
Arana, Cody, Event Coordinator
Campochiaro, Beth, Trails and Community Outreach Director
Day, Shannon, Director of Operations
Jeanson, Dan, Project Director
Kitzmann, Andy Executive Director

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Chairs Kevin Burke and Meg Downey.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Burke and Chair Downey welcomed the Board and meeting attendees. The Board and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Jane Daniels, Greenway Conservancy Board Member, gave a presentation on her exploration on foot of the Hudson Valley portion of the Empire State Trail. Jane and her husband Walt walked the entirety of the trail over the course of several months and detailed their journey in photos and on social media.

Agenda Review

Chair Kevin Burke called for any comments on the agenda. No comments were made.

Minutes of December 9, 2024 Combined Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc., and Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc.

Chair Kevin Burke then asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2024 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Jane Daniels, (Jayne McLaughlin second) the minutes of the December 9, 2024 Combined Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc., and Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc. were unanimously approved.

Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.

Call to Order

Chair Kevin Burke called the Conservancy meeting to order.

Finance Policy Updates

Executive Director Andy Kitzmann reviewed changes to the Conservancy's Financial operations. The Conservancy will be utilizing an online bill paying system, Bill.com. Previously, two physical signatures from authorized signers were required for any check amounts over $5,001.00. With the switch to online bill pay, two separate online approvals of any payment amount over $5,001.00 will now be required.

Greenway Trail Designations

Beth Campochiaro reviewed the trail nominations that had been received.

Town of Moreau in Saratoga County has requested that the 1.1 mile Nolan Road Riverside Trail be designated as part of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail System.

The City of Albany in Albany County has requested that the 1.38 mile South End Connector Trail be designated as part of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail System.

Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants

Executive Director Andy Kitzmann reviewed the applications for Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants which had been recommended for funding by the Grants Committee.

The City of Albany, Albany County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $250,000 for the Tivoli Preserve Trail Enhancement.

Hudson Taconic Lands Inc, Rensselaer County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $140,000 for Building a Bridge to Connect a Long Urban Trail in the City of Troy.

The Hopewell Depot Museum , Dutchess County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $39,388 for a Drinking Fountain and Bottle Fill Station. Michael O'Brien, Hopewell Depot Museum Board Member, thanked the Greenway Board for the funding and noted that this would be an important amenity on the Empire State Trail.

Bannerman's CastleTrust Inc., Dutchess County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $20,000 for Bannerman Island Historic Trail Improvement & Accessibility 2025. Kelly Ellenwood, Director of Development for Bannerman's Castle Trust, thanked the Board for this opportunity and noted that these improvements would make the trail more accessible for visitors.

Cornell Cooperative Extensions Association of Putnam County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $21,800 for the Fred Dill Wildlife Sanctuary Trail Planning and Assessment.

The Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $250,000 for the Lake Awosting Carriage Road Reconstruction, Ulster County.

The NY-NJ Trail Conference is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $6,455 for Anthony's Nose Trail Rehabilitation 2025 in Putnam County. Jane Daniels abstained from the vote on the grant for the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

The Fort Montgomery Battle Site Association, Orange County, is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $30,705 for Reconnecting the Twin Forts of the Hudson.

Chair Kevin Burke called for a motion on the trail designations and the Conservancy trail grants. On a motion from Cindy Lanzetta, (Jane Daniels second), the trail designations and Conservancy trail grants were unanimously approved.

Strategic Planning Update

Andy Kitzmann updated the Board on the Strategic Planning initiative. Through an extensive RFP and interview process, the Strategic Planning Committee had selected 1:1 Consulting. Mr. Kitzmann noted that the focus of the June Board Meeting would be strategic planning and the progress made by the consultants to date.

AHET Paving Update

Cody Arana updated the Board on the paving project for additional segments of the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail and the progress to date.

Trail Program Presentation

Beth Campochiaro gave a presentation on the Greenway Trail Program and Conservancy Trail Grant Program. Her presentation is appended to and a part of these minutes.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

Call to Order

Chair Meg Downey called the Council meeting to order.

Greenway Communities Program Updates

Dan Jeanson gave an update on the Greenway Communities Program. Mr. Jeanson noted the dissolution of the Village of South Nyack in 2023, which is in line the Greenway's goal to promote municipal cooperation. He also addressed the Greenway's desire to promote Compact Planning in Ulster County. The Greenway has also expanded its mailing list for grant announcements to include county planning and recreation depts.

Conference Updates

Cody Arana gave a summary of the Greenway's participation in the Association of Towns Conference and the NY Conference of Mayors.

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNHA)

Call to Order

Chairs Meg Downey and Kevin Burke called the National Heritage Area (NHA) meeting to order.

HRVNHA Heritage Development Grants

Executive Director Andy Kitzmann reviewed the applications to the HRVNHA Heritage Development Grant program which had been recommended for funding by the Grants Committee.

The Albany County Historical Association, Albany County, is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $3,500 for Road to Revolution: 1775 and Beyond – Ten Broeck Mansion Special Tours, Exhibits and Museum Partnerships.

The Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany County, is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $7,500 for Hudson River Heritage: Augmenting the Hudson River School: Landscape Paintings from the Albany Institute.

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, Albany County, is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $1,440 for Exploring Indigenous Connections to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.

The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, Dutchess County, is seeking $7,500 Rhythm of Nature: African Drum and Garden Education for Middle Schoolers project. The Committee recommends funding in the amount of $5,000.

The Sing Sing Prison Museum, Westchester County, is seeking funding in the amount of $7,500 for the Marketing “Sink or Sing: A Walking Tour About Crime, Punishment, Labor and Hudson River Region”. The Committee recommends funding in the amount of $5,000. Bob Elliott abstained on the voted for the Sing Sing Prison Museum grant.

The Thomas Cole National Historic House, Columbia County, is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $7,500 for Cole 200 Anniversary at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. Jennifer Greim, Director of Advancement & External Affairs at Thomas Cole NHS, thanked the Board for their consideration of their grant.

Chair Meg Downey called for a vote on the Heritage Development Grants. On a motion from Kevin Burke (Sarah Olson second), the Heritage Development Grants were unanimously approved.

Congressional Visit Update

Chair Meg Downey gave an update on the visits to Hudson Valley Congressional Members that she and Executive Director Andy Kitzmann had made in February. Chair Downey noted that they had had a rewarding experience with many positive responses of support for the MHDHRVNHA. On this trip, they were also able to meet with the NYS delegation of Governor Hochul’s office.

Executive Director’s Report

Andy Kitzmann gave his Executive Director’s report. Mr. Kitzmann noted that a Governor’s initiative for 2025 is to seek to reopen closed Hudson River Beaches.

Mr. Kitzmann also noted that the Conservancy is now working with Wojeski Accounting to organize its finances, utilizing online platforms Quickbooks and Bill.com to track and make payments.

Recent and upcoming workshops that Greenway and NHA staff have attended include the Greater Hudson Heritage Workshop with the NYS Museum and the Preservation League of NYS.

New Business

Chair Meg Downey asked for any new business from meeting attendees.

Future Meetings

The next Joint Board meeting is scheduled for:

- Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Adjourn

Chair Meg Downey called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion from Bob Elliott (G. Angela Henry second), the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Campochiaro
Meeting Secretary

The Hudson River Valley Greenway Trails Program

Beth Campochiaro, Trails and Community Outreach Director

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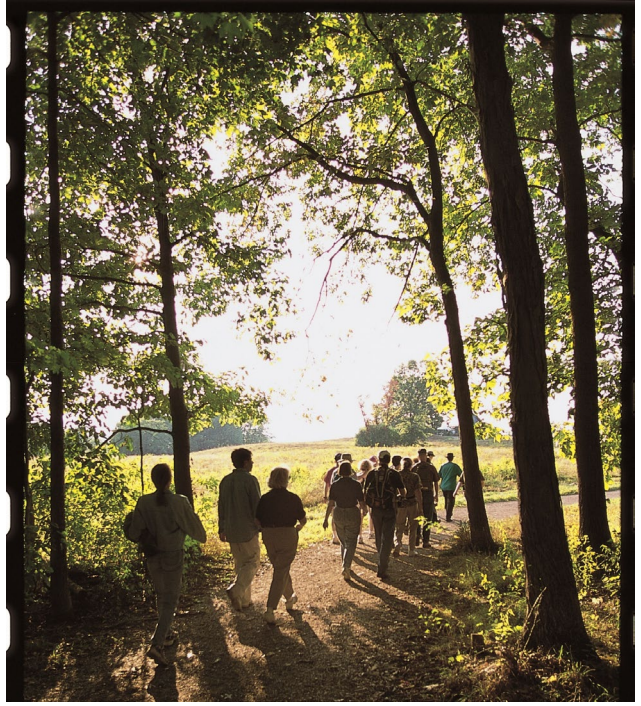
Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area



The Greenway Trail

- The Greenway Act calls for a trail with “physical or visual access” to the Hudson River
- The Greenway Trail System includes:
  - More than 300 miles of Land Trail
  - Hudson Valley portion of the EST
  - Hudson River Greenway Water Trail: 256 miles, 116 sites
  - State Bike Route 9: 147.00 miles
- Trails are designated as part of the Greenway System, but ownership and management is maintained locally
- Trail Grants fund projects to further the trail program

How Greenway Grant Funding Works

- Matching 1:1 Grants
- Match can be cash or in-kind
- Trail, Community, and Compact grants may not be matched with other State funds
- In-kind:
  - Staff time
  - Volunteer hours (IndependentSector.Org /or professional rate)
  - Non-monetary contributions – donated materials or services
- Grant writing costs and fixed operations costs (salaries, rent, etc.) are not eligible for grant funding
- Grants are paid on a REIMBURSEMENT basis

Trail Grant Categories

- **Construction**: Projects to construct trail segments/water trail sites or trail links that further the goals of the Greenway Trail Program.

- **Design**: Projects to complete feasibility studies, design or plan trail segments/water trail sites or trail links

- **Rehabilitation/Improvement**: Projects, including trail amenities and signage, to improve trails/trail segments/water trail sites

- **Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction**: Projects to repair trail damage from catastrophic events such as flooding

Trail Grant Eligibility

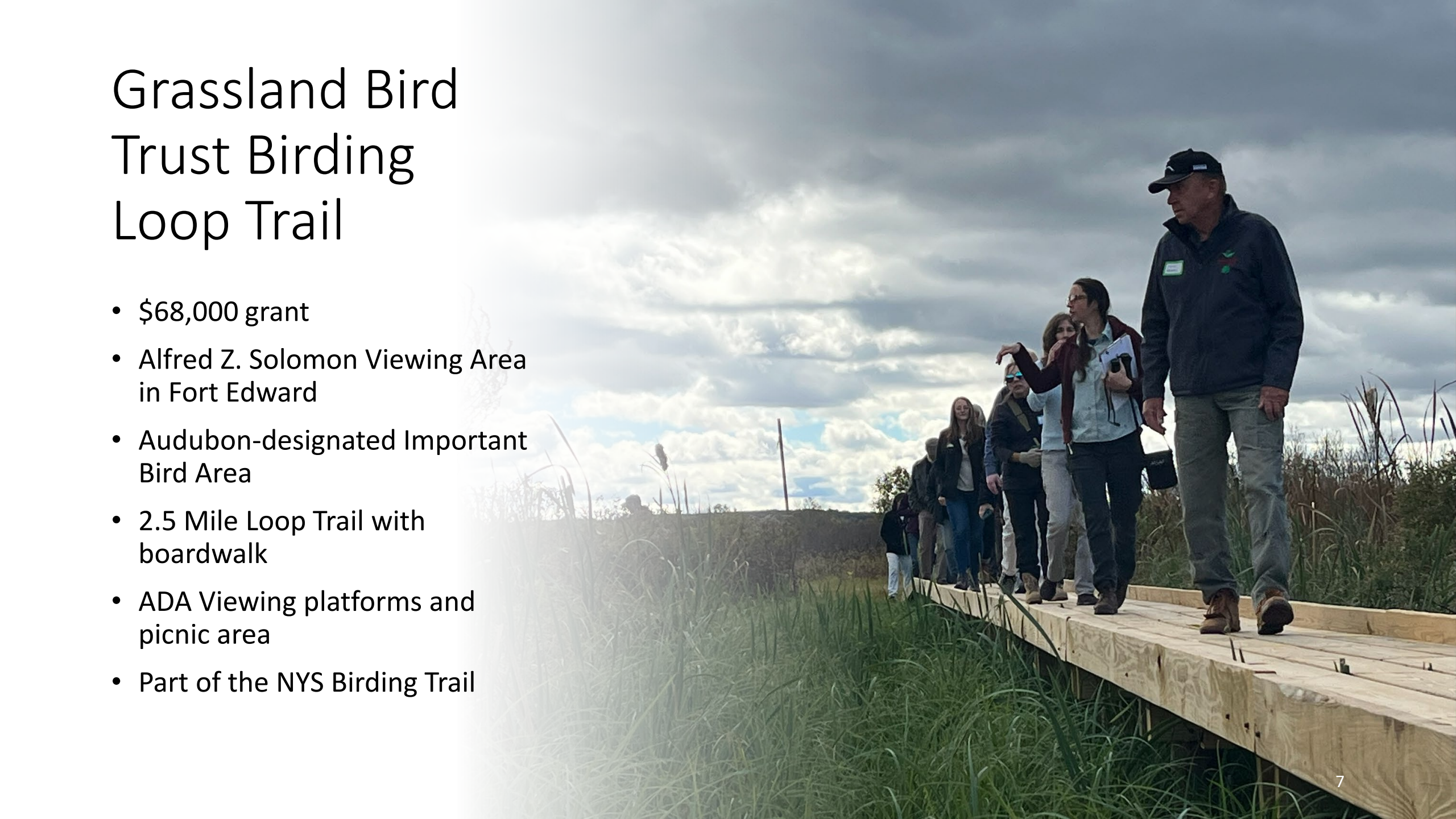
- Municipalities and not-for-profit organizations from within the Greenway area
- Must complete previously awarded Greenway Trail Grants before applying for new funding
- Water Trail Grants:
  - Launch, campsite and day use site owners located along the Hudson River and Champlain Canal, within the designated Greenway Area
- A signed resolution from the applicant organization's governing board is required
- Trails and Water Trail Sites will be required to request designation as part of the Greenway Trail System

Trail Grant Funding Range

- Trail Grants
  - Trail Construction: Up to $250,000
  - Trail Design or planning: Up to $75,000
  - Trail Rehabilitation or Improvement: Up to $100,000
  - Natural Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction: Up to $250,000

Grassland Bird Trust Birding Loop Trail

- $68,000 grant
- Alfred Z. Solomon Viewing Area in Fort Edward
- Audubon-designated Important Bird Area
- 2.5 Mile Loop Trail with boardwalk
- ADA Viewing platforms and picnic area
- Part of the NYS Birding Trail



For Technical Assistance

Greenway Staff are available for consultation prior to submission

Email: grants@hudsongreenway.ny.gov

Call: (518) 473-3835

On the web

Greenway Planning & Trail Grants: www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/grants-funding

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Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area