

Clearwater's Green Cities Initiative A New Model for 21st Century Cities

The postindustrial cities of the Hudson River Valley have been subject to decreasing job opportunities and the abandonment of riverfront industrial properties. This has in turn led to increases in pollution, unemployment and a significant reduction in community sense of place. In response to this need for waterfront community revitalization, Clearwater's Green Cities Initiative is promoting healthier sustainable riverfront cities in the Mid-Hudson Valley through our Green Cities Initiative. The Green Cities Initiative has three basic parts involving education, action, and planning.

Education

In response to the need for waterfront community revitalization, Clearwater's Green Cities Initiative engages urban populations to make the connection between watershed health and urban health. Our Green Cities programs are both academic and task-oriented, with the goal of organizing informational meetings that result in community-driven projects where stakeholders are brought together to address watershed and stormwater management, waterfront revitalization, pollution, environmental and climate justice, and green job creation.



Action

The Green Cities Initiative assists communities in locating funding and implementing physical improvements to create environmentally and socially healthy urban watershed areas. On the ground in Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Newburgh and Peekskill, Clearwater strives to improve the health of our river cities by laying a foundation for residents to participate in the new green economy with revitalization projects that led to green jobs and green energy production.

Planning

Many urban problems that we face today, such as post industrial brown-field sites, compromised riparian zones, and lack of public access to the Hudson River, could have been mitigated with intelligent planning. The Green Cities Initiative facilitates urban populations in taking responsibility for their own futures. We believe that it is critical for communities to understand the relationship between local and environmental

issues, and that this happens through community participation in the planning process.

An example of our Green Cities Initiative at work is the Fall Kill Creek Planning Corridor Project in Poughkeepsie, NY. Community members and professional planners have met this year to explore and develop a comprehensive plan to revitalize Fall Kill Creek, a tributary that has lost its industrial significance, along with its water quality and habitat value. As a result, plans are on the table for creating a walkable green corridor and improving community access at several points along this Hudson River tributary. By implementing landscape designs and creating riparian barriers, the project will improve aesthetic value and improve water quality. Working with the Fall Kill Watershed Committee and community partners on an ongoing basis, the Green Cities Initiative is committed to the effort to restore the Fall Kill and bridge economic development opportunities such as Walkway over the Hudson and the Middle

Main business district.

For over 40 years Clearwater has educated the people of the Hudson River Valley about the value of a clean, healthy river. Clearwater's Green Cities Initiative is actively working to restore and transform Hudson River tributaries into vibrant and healthy streams that not only improve water quality and habitat, but serve as a unifying resource for the community and a stimulus for economic development. Through our Green Cities Initiative, we believe are making a positive difference in the environmental and social health of our communities, which will ultimately help create a more sustainable Hudson River.



Help Us Build the Home Port

Clearwater and HRMM will work together to raise the funds necessary to complete the new home Port project. This is a **\$1,242,000** campaign and we need your help to reach our goal for this project.

Echoing the architecture seen along the Rondout creek, particularly the Cornell Building, the two story timber frame structure is designed by architect Allan Shope, Clearwater's board president. It is our intention that the building will be constructed by local craftsmen and volunteers in a traditional barn raising.

"I believe that the synergy of these two outstanding organizations will propel the Kingston waterfront to a position of a premiere port on the Hudson River."

Congressman Maurice Hinchey



To find out more about naming opportunities for the Kingston Home Port and about the Clearwater - Hudson River Maritime Museum partnership, please contact: **Heidi Kitlas**, Clearwater Development Director, at 845-265-8080, extension 7118, heidi@clearwater.org or **Kate Mitchell**, Hudson River Maritime Museum Executive Director, at 845.338.0071, extension 13, hmmm.katemitchell@yahoo.com



Hudson River Sloop Clearwater / Hudson River Maritime Museum

A Kingston Home Port

Maritime Museum and Boat Building Center



"Clearwater builds strong boats with kids, Hudson River Maritime Museum builds strong kids with boats; together we build a stronger community."

An Overview

Museum, Boat, Home Port

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, America's Environmental Flagship, and Hudson River Maritime Museum, the only museum in New York State dedicated to preserving the maritime history of the Hudson River, have embarked on an exciting new project that will establish a vibrant economic model for the entire Hudson River Valley.

In June 2011, Clearwater and the Hudson River Maritime Museum created an alliance to build a new home port for the sloop *Clearwater* and education center located on the Museum property, west of the existing exhibit galleries. With this partnership, the two organizations continue the renaissance on the Kingston waterfront with a facility to serve all of the Hudson River Valley.

Clearwater and the Hudson River Maritime Museum are working together to redefine the waterfront and revive it as a center for community and maritime interests, as well as an educational center and an environmental hub for the region.

"What we need to do is bring people from the water to the city. That's the way it always was, and the presence of a tall ship at the Kingston docks during the winter will provide a powerful symbol of a return to life, livelihood, and commerce coming from the river. This is the first step in a long-term plan to attract more historic vessels to the HRMM docks. Our vision is to make Kingston a river port; this is stage one. When boats come, people come."

Stephen Digilio, Hudson River Maritime Museum Board President



Economic Impact

A Maritime Resurgence on the Hudson

Already a maritime heritage destination, the Hudson River Maritime Museum attracts tourism to the region by hosting special events such as River Day, Fall Festivals, and Steamboat Days. Kingston's historic Rondout with its deep water docks is one of the best boating destinations on the Hudson River. Accessible by car, train, boat and city bus, with a local trolley running out to Kingston Point and water taxi service to the lighthouse, the area is ready for this renaissance.

The waterfront center will be a terrific addition to Kingston's lively historic district, home to museums, art galleries, restaurants, antique and gift shops, and important to Kingston's local economy as a catalyst that attracts business and visitors from New York City, truly supporting the idea of the Hudson as the "River that flows both ways."



More Than Just a Building

The two Hudson River organizations share many common objectives and goals. The two organizations will work synergistically to deliver the best of what each organization has to offer. In addition, Kingston communities and businesses, and the greater Hudson River will benefit from the joint efforts of these two fine organizations.

The sloop *Clearwater*, launched in 1969, sails the Hudson visiting ports from New York City to Albany, educating the public about our Hudson River, essential to the health and wellbeing of us all on so many levels. Yet she has never had a permanent winter home. Now we have the opportunity to continue Pete Seeger's legacy in making Kingston her home port, something *Clearwater* has never had in her over 40 years on the Hudson River.

"Our missions are synergistic; we both have the Hudson River as a central part of what we do and this new building offers solutions to solve many needs. We are very excited about the long term possibilities for both organizations, and for Kingston."

Allan Shope, Clearwater Board President, Project Architect

The 4,000-square-foot multi-purpose building will serve as a winter berth and repair shop for the sloop *Clearwater*, where the community will be invited to tour the sloop and witness a waterfront workshop in action with the crew using woodworking tools to do maintenance and make repairs to the boat. During the warmer months the Museum will use the building as a center for the community to gather for educational programs, maritime history lessons, hands-on activities, music, special events, workshops and meetings.