Clean Water Act Symposium
Connecting People to the Hudson River

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Scenic Hudson sustains and enhances the Hudson Valley’s inspirational beauty and health for generations to come.
Imagine!
Imagine!
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Imagine!
No need to imagine
50 years of Positive Change

- Preserved over 40,000 acres of irreplaceable landscapes
- Created or enhanced 65 public parks and preserves
- Transformed urban waterfronts
- Revitalized riverfront communities

BUT CHALLENGES REMAIN!

We need more Hudson River access
Challenge: Railroads still create a barrier
Challenge: Provide safe at-grade crossings

Barriers to Shoreline Access
Reduce Risk & Provide Shoreline Access

Castleton-on-Hudson
¾ acre undeveloped and inaccessible municipal waterfront park
Challenge: Repair & Reopen Historic Truss Bridges

Delano’s Footbridge at Poets’ Walk Park

FDR Crum Elbow

Former Dominican Camp

Hoyt Carriageway (visual simulation)
Challenge: Poorly planned riverfront development

- Insufficient size of public riverfront parks
- Discontinuous riverfront parks
- Gated developments
Challenge: Reindustrialization of the River

- Legacy industry that no longer requires a riverfront location
Hudson River Access Plan

- Expanding HRAP 2020 to capture riverwide access opportunities and needs
- Based on extensive public input
- Approximately 10,000 public comments
- Can be used by municipalities and NGOs to achieve their river access needs
Hudson River Access Plan

LONGVIEW PARK / BOAT HOUSE ROW

EXISTING USE & FACILITIES ON SITE
Longview Park includes a bike/walk path along the river, a fishing pier, Maria's historic Cornell boathouse, and scenic vistas.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS
A future greenway trail is planned along the riverfront that will connect south to the City of Poughkeepsie and north to Hyde Park.

PUBLIC INPUT

48 respondents already use this site, and
27 respondents would like to use this site

The most desired amenities for this site are:

"IMPORTANT river access site for Hudson River Rowing Association AND annual Dutchess Dragon Boat Races & Festival fund-raising event for Habitats for Humanity Dutchess!"

–Survey Respondent

80% would like to use this site for recreation and scenic views
60% would like to use this site for trails

RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintain existing tunnel for access to the site. Construct City of Poughkeepsie Riverfront Greenway Trail through the site to connect to One Dutchess Avenue and Fern Tor.

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Summary

- Many former riverfront industrial sites cleaned up and are now parks
  - but long stretches of shoreline still provide no access
- Railroad is still a barrier
- Can be addressed with
  - Public involvement in planning decisions
  - Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs
  - Interagency cooperation
  - Funding
What can you do?

- Celebrate our mutual successes & Enjoy our Hudson River
- Participate in local planning processes
- Ensure your community has a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Keep apprised of Scenic Hudson’s river access initiatives and take action at

https://defendthevalley.org/campaign/river-access/
Questions?
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