



Hudson River Valley Greenway



- Greenway Act of 1991: Legislatively created to continue and advance the state's commitment to the preservation, enhancement and development of the world-renowned scenic, natural, historic, cultural and **recreational resources** of the Hudson River Valley while continuing to emphasize economic development activities and remaining consistent with the tradition of municipal home rule
- Greenway Criteria: (1) Regional Planning; (2) Economic Development; (3) Natural & Cultural Resource Protection; (4) Heritage & Environmental Education; (5) **Public Access**
- 324 Municipalities in 14 Counties – 265 Greenway Communities
- Programs: Planning – **Trails (Hudson River Greenway Land & Water Trails)** – National Heritage Area



Photo courtesy Don Yackel



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What is a Water Trail?

A **recreational waterway** between specific points, made up of **access, day use,** and **camping sites** or other overnight accommodations for the boating public. The **Hudson River Greenway Water Trail** is composed of 94 sites and covers 256 miles from the Town of Hadley in Saratoga County and the Village of Whitehall in Washington County south to Battery Park in Manhattan.





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What is a Blueway?

America's Great Outdoors defines a **Blueway** as a designated community-scale portion of river recognized as a destination for fishing, boating, wildlife watching, and other recreation, which should get special attention for restoration and access.





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Water Trails and Blueways Features Comparison

Feature	Water Trail	Blueway
Water Body	River, Lake, Ocean, Canal	River
Scope/Area	Multi-community, multi-day, long distance travel	Single community Single destination?
Activities	Boating, camping, other recreational opportunities including hiking, wildlife observation, nature exploration, historic site visits, other recreational opportunities	Fishing, boating, wildlife watching, swimming, other recreation





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What are the different types of Water Trails?

PUBLIC: Open to all members of the public without restrictions. There may be fees to use facilities. Often managed by government entities. Examples: Hudson River Greenway Water Trail, NYS Canalway Water Trail.

PRIVATE: Open to members only, usually there is a cost to membership. There may be fees to use facilities. Often managed by non-profit entities. Examples: Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail, Maine Island Trail.





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How do you encourage folks to come and stay?




- Provide **access** to waterways
- Provide **overnight accommodations** including hotels/B&B's that cater to boaters with storage and shuttles
- Make **users feel welcomed** (retail and hospitality industries)
- Provide **Infrastructure**: informational kiosks, signs, and storage racks



Hudson River Greenway Water Trail



Part of the
Quadracentennial Legacy Trail System



EXPLORE NY
HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY



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Promotional Events

2001-2010

Annual 11-day, 145-mile
paddle - Albany to NYC

Highlight Hudson River as
a recreation and tourism
resource

Community festivals in
riverfront communities



Purpose: to celebrate
and promote the
Hudson River
Greenway Water Trail
and the riverside
communities of the
Hudson Valley

Purpose: to provide our
guests with the
“vacation of a lifetime”





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Promotional Events



Photo courtesy Rick Cronk



Purpose: to promote and celebrate the HRVG Trail System and the HRV National Heritage Area

Annual event over 3-4 weekends in September

200+ hikes, bike tours, walks, paddles, and festivals

Celebrates historic, cultural, and natural resources

Partnership with the NYS DEC Estuary program; 100s of local partners



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Benefits of Water Trails

Economic Benefits: Maine Island Trail \$2.1 million/year (2011), eastern North Carolina \$103.9 million/year (2002), in New York City nearly 200,000 have participated in the Downtown Boathouse's free kayaking program between 1995-2009.

Business's Supported: On the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail there are at least 8 outfitters making a living solely as a result of guiding on, and making retail sales to users of, the Hudson River. At least 25 other outdoor recreation based businesses in three states draw customers from HRGWT users (human powered)

Health Benefits: Weight loss, stress relief, strength gain, improved confidence from learning new skills, injury rehabilitation

It's FUN!





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Photo courtesy Bill Cusick