

CHAPTER 6

LANDOWNER ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Landowner outreach and education are vital components of a successful trail project. Understandably, neighbors and adjacent landowners may have questions and concerns. Fortunately, in trail after trail across New York State and the nation, many landowners have become trail supporters once their concerns are addressed.

The most common areas for concern among landowners are property value, liability, vandalism, litter, privacy, access to farm fields, and safety. Experience and numerous studies have shown these issues to be more perceived problems than actual problems. Nevertheless, landowners' concerns must be taken seriously and respected.

Trails make good neighbors

Studies documenting actual experiences from around the nation and New York State demonstrate that well-planned and designed trails can be good neighbors and that living with trails can be highly rewarding. In a survey of residents along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in New York's Capital Region, the majority of adjacent landowners reported being satisfied with the trail as a neighbor.



A survey of residents along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in New York's Capital Region found that the majority of landowners are satisfied with the trail as a neighbor.

A Survey of Residents

The Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail & Its Impact on Adjoining Residential Properties

A survey of residential property owners' perspectives regarding an adjacent multi-use recreational trail's impact on their lives and property

Following is a summary of a 1998 survey, prepared by the Schenectady County Department of Planning, on adjacent landowners' views of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail, a 35-mile long multi-use trail that travels along the shores of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers through Albany and Schenectady Counties.

- 86 percent of property owners use the trail.
- 88 percent said they were satisfied or neutral about the trail as a neighbor.
- 86 percent felt that the trail increased or had no effect on their ability to sell their homes.
- 86 percent felt the trail did not pose a risk to their own or their family's safety.
- 80 percent felt that the trail improved the quality of the neighborhood or had no impact on it.

GREENWAY OFFERS LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TRAILS ON PRIVATE LANDS

The Hudson River Valley Greenway makes available liability coverage to private landowners within the 13-county Greenway Area who want to work with community trail groups and local governments to allow public access to trails on their land. The primary purpose of the insurance is to provide an immediate tool to help local trail groups increase landowner comfort and allow trail planning and implementation to move forward. Once a local municipality or land trust is ready to play a more active role, they are encouraged to adopt these trails under their own liability coverage.



Liability

In our litigious society, it's only natural for neighbors and landowners to have concerns about liability. Trail committee members can address the issue of liability by providing factual information about protection afforded by New York State law and through insurance.

Very few trail-related lawsuits have occurred in New York. The NY-NJ Trail Conference and the Fingers Lakes Trail Conference together manage over 1700 miles of trail. Neither has ever experienced a trail-related lawsuit.

Statutory Protection

New York's Recreational Use Statute (NYS General Obligations Law subsection 9-103) limits the liability of landowners who voluntarily allow access to their land for certain recreational activities. These recreational activities include the most common trail activities such as hiking, bicycle riding, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. Although no law is perfect, the Recreational Use Statute offers an important measure of protection.

The law applies to landowners whether or not they grant permission for use of their property, as long as the following two conditions exist: they do not charge a fee and do not maliciously fail to guard against hazards. If these conditions exist, the liability of landowners who allow access is no greater than landowners who post their property against trespass.

Insurance Protection

While the Recreational Use Statute provides protection from liability, nothing can prevent a suit from being brought against a landowner, even if it turns out to be groundless. Fortunately, homeowner insurance usually provides coverage to the owner if someone is injured on the property whether or not the person has permission to be there. If someone is hurt and makes a claim, the insurance company has a duty to "defend" the insured owner, which means that the company will select an attorney and handle any litigation. The concept of "residence" is usually interpreted broadly and includes surrounding grounds, other structures, and vacant land, as long as it is not actively farmed or used for timbering purposes. Landowners conducting active farming or timbering operations usually have special liability insurance.

The combination of the recreational use statute and coverages available to landowners through their own insurance policies provides a solid shield against the risk of litigation. In addition, landowners may be able to be named as "additional insured" parties on the policy of any public or private organization responsible for managing the trail.



Some enforcement agencies use officers on bicycles to patrol trails.

Safety

Trails have excellent safety records compared to other public and private places. Although neighbors are often apprehensive about trails bringing an increase in crime, four separate studies and experience since 1979 on various trails across the country concluded that landowners adjacent to trails experience negligible crime as a result of trails. A 1998 study of 372 rail-trails nationwide — together totaling more than 7,000 miles of trail and more than 45 million estimated annual users — found that trails are among the safest places in communities. As for the safety of trail users, a study of the 1800-mile Appalachian Trail found that a person was more likely to be struck by lightning than be a crime victim on the trail.

Despite the low risk, good management dictates that safety plans, including emergency response strategies, be incorporated in trail management plans. These plans should be in place before opening the trail to the public. In many cases, a local law enforcement authority, such as the county sheriff or local police department, will monitor the trail. In some cases, community volunteers monitor, as well as maintain, local trails. Experience has shown that involved neighbors and nearby landowners, acting as the trail's local "eyes and ears," play a key role in maintaining a safe, enjoyable trail. A good first step towards developing emergency response strategies is to hold an on-site meeting with local enforcement authorities and emergency response organizations.





Privacy and Trespassing

Trail use is a very directed, "through" activity, which means that trail users tend to stay on a trail and not loiter or enter adjacent property. In addition, trail users are usually respectful of private property and landowner privacy.

Optimally, your trail will be sited as far as possible from residences, agricultural fields, or other intensive-use areas to

minimize its impact on landowner activities. Natural barriers, topography, landscaping, and, when necessary, fencing can also buffer residences from trail users.

Education of trail users can prevent many trail problems. Trail users can be directed, through signs, printed material, and direct contact with trail stewards, to respect private property by entering at designated access points, staying on designated trails, and carrying out their litter.

FROM THE FIELD

Foe into friend

Across the nation, examples abound of former trail opponents who are now supporters. In New York, some excellent examples of this about-face can be found.

When the concept for the Genesee Valley Greenway in western New York was first being presented in town meetings along the corridor, several horse breeders were adamantly opposed to the idea. They feared that trail users would harm their horses or that their horses would harm trail users and create a huge liability problem. Their fears turned out to be unfounded.

One of the project's earliest and most vociferous opponents, Barbara Galbraith of Rodney Farms in Scottsville, N.Y., has changed her mind about the Greenway. "When talk first started on turning the old railroad bed into a walkway, we were opposed to the project. Time has passed and we have come full-circle into believing that the Greenway is an asset to the community. We constantly see hikers, bicyclists, and riders using the trail."

On the eastern end of the state, in Dutchess County, some community members also voiced strong skepticism about the Harlem Valley Rail-Trail when it was first proposed. Albert Francke, a retired attorney, was one of those to voice his concern. The Trail runs directly in front of his property for one-half mile.

"When I first heard there was going to be a trail, I was worried that people would intrude on my privacy. That fear turned out to be unfounded. I was also adamantly opposed to the trail being paved. I was wrong about that, too," says Francke. "Today, I use the trail all the time and am very happy it's so close to my home."



The NYS Horse Council can provide helpful information on developing trails suitable for horses: www.nyshc.org

CHAPTER 6

Litter and vandalism

Most trail users are respectful and considerate of private property. As outdoor enthusiasts, they are interested in preserving the natural beauty of the area and maintaining recreational access to the landscape. Many trail users are in the habit of carrying trash bags with them, for their own use and to pick up other litter; many report that lately there has been far less trash to pick up. Proper signs, maintenance, and monitoring can help promote well-kept trails.

Trails and property values

Many landowners are concerned about the impact that a trail might have on the value of their property. National studies undertaken to assess impacts of trails on property value have found that property values typically increase slightly or remain constant. For example:

- A 1993 National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program study — undertaken by Pennsylvania State University — conducted interviews with 663 property owners and 71 realtors and property appraisers along three trails. The study concludes that trail development does not have adverse effects on property values.
- A 1998 study prepared by the Schenectady County Department of Planning on the impact of the 35-mile Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail on adjoining residential properties concluded that, out of the 215 adjacent

landowners who responded to the survey, the majority believed the trail increased or had no effect on the value of their property. In addition, 86 percent of landowners felt that the trail increased or had no impact on their ability to sell their homes.

- In Minnesota, a 1997 study on adjacent property owner perceptions of a trail within the Minneapolis/St. Paul area found that the majority of respondents thought the trail would increase or not affect the resale value of their property.
- A 1997 survey of residents along the Iron Horse Trail in Contra Costa County, California found that one-third of the respondents bought their homes, in part, because of the trail. Most of the other respondents said that the trail was neither a positive nor negative factor in their decision to buy their homes.
- According to a 2001 study by Cornell University, proximity to parks and recreation is among the top five reasons people give for selecting a community to live in.



MORE INFORMATION FOR LANDOWNERS

Getting Involved - A Community Trail Handbook for Landowners, a joint publication of the Hudson River Valley Greenway and Parks & Trails New York, addresses a wide range of issues important to landowners about establishing trails — trail creation options, potential financial and tax benefits, liability, privacy, and compatibility with existing land uses. Contact the Greenway at 518/473-3835 or PTNY at 518/434-1583 to obtain a copy or go to the PTNY website at www.ptny.org.

How landowners can participate in trail development

Landowners interested in opening a portion of their land to public use have a number of options. These range from a simple, informal handshake to granting an easement to donating property. No two landowner situations are alike. Each landowner will have different goals and concerns regarding trail development. Often times, landowners will start with one of the less permanent options. Then, as their confidence and satisfaction with the trail grows, they may feel more comfortable about entering into a more permanent arrangement.



FROM THE FIELD

Easing into a permanent easement

John and Gloria Golden have lived along the Hudson River in Hyde Park for 28 years. They love the River and the woods along its banks. When they were approached in 1990 about allowing the Hyde Park Trail* to cross their property, they were open to the idea but had some concerns about littering and illegal use of the trail by motorized vehicles. With this in mind, they granted a right-of-way trail easement on a 1/2-mile of woods road on their property that included a two-year renewable clause.

"The flexibility in the terms of the easement allayed our concerns and allowed us to test the waters," notes John.

Eight years later, the Goldenes took steps to make the easement permanent.

"Trail users are nice, responsible people. They take good care of the trail and respect the private residences along it. I'm happy to be able to share this marvelous place with as many people as possible," says John.

The Hyde Park Trail — a 10-mile trail connecting the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt National Historic Sites and Mills Norrie State Park in the Hudson Valley — was developed and is maintained through a partnership between the Hyde Park Recreation Department, Adirondack Mountain Club, Scenic Hudson, National Park Service, Boy Scouts, Hudson Valley Railroad Society and the Winnakee Land Trust. The Goldenes' easement is held by the Winnakee Land Trust.



APPENDIX A

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES



New York State Non-Governmental Organizations

Adirondack Mountain Club

814 Goggins Road
Lake George, NY 12845
518-668-4447
adkinfo@adk.org
www.adk.org

Finger Lakes Trail Conference

6111 Visitor Center Road
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
585-658-9320
information@fingerlakestrail.org
www.fingerlakestrail.org

Canalway Trails Association of New York c/o Parks & Trails New York

29 Elk Street, 3rd Floor
Albany, NY 12207
518-434-1583
canaltrail@ptny.org
www.ptny.org

Land Trust Alliance of NYS

110 Spring Street
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-587-0774
ltane@lta.org
www.lta.org

Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference

102 New Mill Rd.
Smithtown, NY 11787
516-360-0753
ligreenbelt&juno.com
www.hike-li.com

Neighborhood Open Space Coalition

356 Seventh Avenue, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10001
212-352-9330
dave.lutz@treebranch.com
www.treebranch.com

New York Bicycling Coalition

5 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
518 436-0889
nybc@nybc.net
www.nybc.net

New York / New Jersey Trail Conference

156 Ramapo Valley Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430
201-512-9348
info@nynjtc.org
www.nynjtc.org

New York State Physical Activity Coalition

65 Niagara Square, Room 607
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-851-4052
nyspac@city-buffalo.org
www.nysphysicalactivity.org

Parks & Trails New York

29 Elk Street, 3rd Floor
Albany, NY 12207
518-434-1583
ptny@ptny.org
www.ptny.org

Scenic Hudson, Inc.

One Civic Center Plaza, Suite 200
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-473-4440
info@scenicudson.org
www.scenicudson.org

A listing of regional and local trail groups in New York State can be found on the Parks & Trails New York web site www.ptny.org

New York State Agencies and Programs

Hudson River Valley Greenway

Capitol Station, Room 254
Albany, NY 12224
518-473-3835
hrvg@hudsongreenway.state.ny.us
www.hudsongreenway.state.ny.us

NYS Canal Corporation

Canalway Trail Program
200 Southern Blvd.
Albany, NY 12209
1-800-4CANAL4
www.canals.state.ny.us

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Office of Natural Resources and Planning
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4250
518-474-2121
www.dec.state.ny.us

NYS Department of Health

Healthy Heart Program
Riverview Center
150 Broadway
Albany, NY 12204
518-474-6683
www.health.state.ny.us

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation

State Trails Coordinator
Agency Building 1, 17th Floor
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12238
518-474-0415
www.nysparks.state.ny.us

NYS Department of State

Division of Coastal Resources/
Quality Communities
41 State Street
Albany, NY 12231-0001
518-474-6000
www.dos.state.ny.us

NYS Department of Transportation

Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12232
518-457-2100
www.dot.state.ny.us/pubtrans/bphome.html

National Non-Governmental Organizations

Active Living by Design

400 Market Street
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516
919-843-2523
info@activelivingbydesign.org
www.activelivingbydesign.org

American Hiking Society

1422 Fenwick Lane
Silver Springs, MD 20910
301-565-6704
info@AmericanHiking.org
www.americanhiking.org

American Trails

P.O. Box 491797
Redding, CA 96049-1797
(530) 547-2060
AmTrails@futureone.com
www.americantrails.org

Appalachian Mountain Club

5 Joy Street
Boston, MA 02108
617-523-0636
information@outdoors.org
www.outdoors.org

Conservation Fund - American Greenways

1800 N. Kent St.
Arlington, VA 22209-2156
703-525-6300
postmaster@conservationfund.org
www.conservationfund.org

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

1100 Seventeenth St., NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
202-974-5122
railtrails@transact.org
www.railtrails.org

Federal Agencies and Programs

National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program

New York Office
4097 Albany Post Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538
845-229-9115
karl_beard@nps.gov
http://www.nps.gov/rtrca

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee
1 Winners Circle
Albany, NY 12235
518-457-3738
www.agmkt.state.ny.us/soilwater/home.html

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

*New York District
Jacob K. Javitz Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090
212-264-0100
*Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199
716-879-4200
www.usace.army.mil

APPENDIX B

PUBLICATIONS AND ON-LINE RESOURCES

Design/Technical

Current Planning Guidelines and Design Standards Being Used by State and Local Agencies for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Case Study No. 24 of the National Bicycle and Walking Study
Federal Highway Administration, 1992.

Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Design, and Development

by Charles A. Flink and Robert M. Searns
Island Press, Washington, D.C., 1993.

Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities

AASHTO Task Force on Geometric Design
American Association of State Highway
and Transportation Officials, 1999

How Greenways Work: a Handbook on Ecology (2nd ed)

by Jonathan M. Labaree
National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance
Program and QLF/Atlantic Center for the Environment, 1992

Lightly on the Land: The Student Conservation Association Trail Building & Maintenance Manual

by Robert C. Birkby
Seattle: Student Conservation Association / The Mountaineers, 1996.

Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind – A Handbook for Trail Planners

Trails and Wildlife Task Force
Colorado State Parks / Hellmund Associates, 1998.

Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Trails

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Government Printing Office, 1996.

Trail Building and Maintenance (3rd edition)

by Robert D. Proudman and Reuben Rajala
Appalachian Mountain Club, 1996.

Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook

USDA Forest Service Technology and Development Program
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway
Administration, 2000

Trails for the Twenty-First Century – Planning, Design, and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails (2nd ed.)

by Charles A. Flink
Island Press, 2001.

Wetland Trail Design and Construction

USDA Forest Service Technology and Development Program and
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

Organizational Tools

Getting Involved – A Community Trail Handbook for Landowners

Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley &
New York Parks and Conservation Association (now Parks & Trails
New York), 2002.

How to Make Meetings Work

by Michael Doyle and David Straus
Berkeley Publishing Group, 1993

The Next Generation...The New York State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

NYS Department of Transportation, 1997.

Organizing Outdoor Volunteers

by Roger Moore, Vicki La Farge and Charles L Tracy
Appalachian Mountain Club, 1992

Benefits of Trails

Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails, and Greenway Corridors (4th ed.)

National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance
Program, 1995.

Effect of Greenways on Property Values and Public Safety

The Conservation Fund & Colorado State Parks State Trails
Program, 1995.

Evaluation of the Burke-Gilman Trail's Effect on Property Values and Crime

by Peter Lagerway
City of Seattle Engineering Department, 1987.

Greenways & Trails – Bringing Economic Benefits to New York

New York Parks and Conservation Association (now Parks & Trails
New York), 2000.

Impacts of Rail-Trails: A Study of the Users and Property Owners from Three Trails

by Roger Moore., et al
National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance
Program and Penn State University, 1992.

Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail – Its Impact on Adjoining Residential Properties

by Stephen Feeney
Schenectady County Department of Planning, 1998.

Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail - Analysis of Use, Regional Benefits & Economic Impact

by Stephen Feeney
Schenectady County Department of Planning, 1998.

Thinking Green: A Guide to the Benefits and Costs of Greenways and Trails

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 1998

Trails for All Americans

American Trails
National Park Service, 1990.

Transportation Potential and Other benefits of Off-Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Case Study No.7 of the National Bicycle and Walking Study
Federal Highway Administration, 1992.

Web Resources:

Most of the organizations in Appendix A have websites with information pertinent to trail planning. Following are a few additional websites for trail planning:

The Access Board-federal agency on accessible design

www.access-board.gov/outdoor/outdoor-rec

National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program - Community Toolbox

<http://www.nps.gov/phso/rtcatoobox/>

New York State GIS Clearinghouse

www.nysgis.state.ny.us

Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse

<http://www.trailsandgreenways.org/>

University of Minnesota Trail Planning, Construction and Maintenance bibliography and searchable database

<http://forestry.lib.umn.edu/bib/trls.phtml>

APPENDIX **C** FUNDING RESOURCES

The question of how to get your trail funded is, of course, a very important one. Funding is never easy to come by and often seems a mysterious process. However, a lack of funds is seldom the real obstacle to overcome in trail development; rather it's a lack of political will and commitment on the part of decision makers. So if your trail project repeatedly fails to get funding, it's probably a good idea to step back and build more support for it within your community.

Funding opportunities run the gamut from government and foundation grants to corporate sponsorships and buy-a-brick programs ... and everything in between. Most trails are funded with a combination of public sector, private sector and local funds.

The particulars of funding programs (deadlines, priorities, requirements) change often. Established funding programs fold and new ones emerge so stay alert to new opportunities. Always check websites or up-to-date printed material before applying. Try to talk to someone in the program. Ask as many questions as you can. The more familiar you are with the process and requirements, the more successful you will be.

Can anybody remember when the times were not hard and money was not scarce?

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Resources for Funding Information

American Trails

www.americantrails.org

Articles on many aspects of trail funding (check under resources on website).

Conservation Assistance Tools

<http://cat.sonoran.org/>

Technical and funding information for organizations working on conservation projects across the United States.

Environmental Grantmakers Association

www.ega.org

A voluntary association of foundations and giving programs concerned with the protection of the natural environment.

Foundation Center

www.fdncenter.org

A leading authority on institutional philanthropy. The Center's collection of resources is available in libraries in all 50 states in the U.S.

Grants Action News

www.assembly.state.ny.us

A monthly newsletter of the NYS Assembly that includes information on available state and federal grants, plus information on grant writing workshops. Free mail subscriptions: 1-800-356-8486.

NYS Citizens' Guide

Find answers to New York State-related questions, locate services and access those services online.

www.nysegov.com

NYS Quality Communities Clearinghouse

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/qc/home.shtml>

NYS agency support - grants, technical assistance, success stories

Parks & Trails New York

(formerly New York Parks and Conservation Association)

www.ptny.org

Information on funding sources for trails, particularly New York State programs.

Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse

www.trailsandgreenways.org

Technical assistance, information resources, and referrals to trail and greenway advocates and developers. Includes a database of funding sources for trail and greenway projects (check under technical assistance on website).

Urban Parks Institute

www.urbanparks.pps.org/topics/funding

Information sources, success stories, tips and case studies on various types of funding.

Funding Sources

Listed here are common trail funding sources divided into government and non-government sources.

Government

NYS Department of Transportation (DOT)

1220 Washington Avenue, Building 4, Albany, NY 12232,
(518) 457-6195, www.dot.state.ny.us (look under programs)

Transportation Enhancements Program Projects must meet one of 12 eligible activities. Provision of facilities for bicycles and pedestrians and preservation of abandoned railway corridors, including conversion and use for bicycle and pedestrian trails, are among the eligible activities. State agencies, authorities, and municipalities are eligible. This is a reimbursement program that requires 20% local match; some in-kind services can be used as match. The program is administered in NYS through Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and, in areas outside of MPO regions, through regional DOT offices. Dozens of trail projects in NYS have received funding under the Enhancements Program. Continuation of this program is contingent upon its inclusion within the next federal transportation legislation (Transportation Efficiency Act-TEA), which is expected to be re-authorized in 2004. Source of funds: Federal Highway Administration. NYS Enhancements Program Coordinator: 518-457-4835. General information: www.enhancements.org.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program A program to reduce congestion on local streets and improve air quality. Funds are available to urban communities designated as “non-attainment” areas for air quality, meaning the air is more polluted than federal standards allow. A reimbursement program requiring a 20% local match. Several significant trail projects in NYS have been funded under the CMAQ program. Funding comes from the TEA program. General information: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaq/

Scenic Byways Program This component of TEA legislation is designed to protect and enhance designated scenic roads. Money is available for cultural and historic resource protection and tourism information signage. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities can be developed in conjunction with scenic roadway projects and some states have developed trails in conjunction with this initiative. General information: www.byways.org

Coordinated NYS grant programs — OPRHP, DOS, HRVG

Several state agencies administer grant programs, under which trails can be funded, that use funds from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). These agencies - the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the NYS Department of State (DOS), and the Hudson River Valley Greenway (HRVG) - coordinate their applications and timetables. The coordinated annual call for proposals usually comes in the spring, with deadlines in the summer. The agencies work together to give applicants information regarding program eligibility, program requirements, and application procedures and usually hold a series of public information meetings in the spring.

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

Bureau of Grant Management, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building One, 16th Floor, Albany, NY 12238, (518) 474-0427,
www.nysparks.com/grants

Recreational Trails Program funds the acquisition, development and maintenance of trails. State and local governments, non-profits, corporations, and individuals may apply. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$100,000 and a 20% local match is required. 30% of funds must go to motorized trails, 30% to non-motorized trails, balance for mixed-use trails. The deadline is irregular. Source of funds: Federal Highway Administration.

Parks Matching Grants Program funds the acquisition, development and improvement of parks, historic properties and Heritage Area Systems (EPF) and acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities (LWCF). Municipalities and non-profits with ownership interest may apply. The funding cap changes annually (in 2004-\$350,000) A 100% local match is required. The call for proposals usually occurs in the spring. Source of funds: Environmental Protection Fund-EPF, Land and Water Conservation Fund-LWCF.

Hudson River Valley Greenway (HRVG)

Capitol Station, Room 254, Albany, NY 12224, (518) 473-3835.
<http://www.hudsongreenway.state.ny.us>

Administers grant programs that offer financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit organizations within the legislatively-designated Greenway Area (see website for area). Intended to provide seed funding and planning dollars for community projects in the early stages or to complement other sources of funding. Grant programs are administered on a reimbursement basis and a local match of at least 50% of the project cost is required, with in-kind services or a cash match permitted. Call for proposals usually in the spring.

Greenway Conservancy small grants: An annual, competitive program for all communities and non-profit organizations in the Greenway Area. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Greenway Community grants: For communities in the Greenway area that have passed a resolution supporting the Greenway Criteria. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and are awarded on a rolling basis.

Greenway Compact grants: For communities that adopt and implement a regional compact. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and are awarded on a rolling basis

APPENDIX C

NYS Department of State (DOS)

Division of Coastal Resources and Waterfront Revitalization, 41 State St., Albany, NY 12231-0001, (518) 473-3942, www.dos.state.ny.us/cstl/epfba2.html

Waterfront rediscovery; coastal education and tourism programs; preparation or implementation of Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs (LWRP) or components of LWRP programs. Municipalities located on New York's coastal waters (including tidal rivers) or on designated inland waterways (see DOS website for listing of eligible waterways) are eligible. Grants of up to \$500,000, with a required 100% local match. The call for proposals is usually in the spring. Source of funds: Environmental Protection Fund.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)

New York State Metropolitan Planning Organizations Coalition, www.nysmpos.org

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) — the quasi-governmental entities charged with planning, programming and coordination of federal highway and transit investments in urban areas with populations over 50,000 — have regional programs that can fund trails. NYS has 13 MPO's. Contact the MPO in your area for more information.

NYS Assembly and Senate

www.assembly.state.ny.us, www.senate.state.ny.us

New York State Assembly Members and Senators have money available for local projects - commonly referred to as "member items." Contact your local representative at the beginning of the legislative session in January.

NYS Council on the Arts (NYSCA)

175 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014, 212-627-4455, www.nysca.org

Offers funding through its Architecture, Planning, and Design program that emphasizes projects that address planning and community design, open space planning, streetscapes, transportation linkages, and design of public spaces. Non-profits must register by March 1; application due April 1.

Governor's Office for Small Cities (GOSC)

Agency Building 4, 6th Floor, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223, 518-474-2057. www.nysmallcities.com

Grants for economic development and improving community facilities and services are available to towns and villages having a population under 50,000, and counties with an un-incorporated population of under 200,000. Grants are given out on continuous year-round basis until funds run out. Source of funds: Housing and Urban Development-HUD Community Development Block Grants.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4250, (518) 402-9401, www.dec.state.ny.us

DEC oversees acquisition of significant open space lands included in the official NYS Open Space Plan, revised every five years (last revision 2002). No application process exists. Contact your regional DEC office to get information about your regional open space committee, which is the route to get your trail corridor included in the Open Space Plan.

NYS Department of Health (DOH)

Healthy Heart Program, 150 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Albany, NY 12204, (518) 474-6683, www.health.state.ny.us

The Healthy Heart Program periodically issues requests for proposals that relate to trail development and promotion.

Local Government Revenue Sources

Property taxes, local improvement plans and districts, impact fees, bond referendums.

Non-Government

American Greenways Kodak Awards

The Conservation Fund, 1800 North Kent Street, Suite 1120, Arlington, VA 22209, (703) 525-6300, www.conservationfund.org/conservation/amgreen

Local greenway planning, design or development grants given primarily to local, regional, statewide non-profits, although public agencies may also apply. Funding up to \$2,500 but usually between \$500 and \$1500. Deadline: June.



American Hiking Society

1422 Fenwick Lane, Silver Springs, MD 20910, (301) 565-6704, www.americanbiking.org

National Trails Endowment for building, improving, protecting trails or increasing the constituency for a specific trail project (focus is on hiking trails). Non-profits may apply for up to \$10,000. November deadline

Trails for Tomorrow provides \$500 in cash and goods worth up to \$2,000 for outstanding National Trails Day events that put trails at the forefront of communities.

Bikes Belong Coalition

1368 Beacon Street, Suite 102, Brookline, MA 02446-2800, (617) 734-2800, www.bikesbelong.org

Sponsored by members of the American bicycle industry. Development of bicycle facilities, especially projects that could be funded under TEA programs. Local non-profits, agencies, and citizens may apply. Funding up to \$10,000. Grants awarded on a rolling basis.

Community Foundations

Often overlooked as a source of funding, Community Foundations frequently provide funds for organizational capacity building activities. Contact your local community foundation to find out what types of programs it funds. **Community Foundations in New York:**

Adirondack Community Trust	Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation
Central New York Community Foundation	Northern New York Community Foundation
Chautauqua Region Community Foundation	Rochester Area Community Foundation
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo	The Community Foundation for South Central New York
Community Foundation for the Capital Region	The Community Foundation of Dutchess County
Community Foundation of Orange County	The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties
Community Foundation of Tompkins County	The Community Foundation of the Elmira-Corning Area
Long Island Community Foundation	The Glens Falls Foundation.
New York Community Trust	

Conservation Alliance Grants

Patagonia, 259 W. Santa Clara Street, Ventura CA 93001, www.conservationalliance.com

A group of 62 outdoor businesses support this program for the protection of wild and natural areas where outdoor enthusiasts recreate. Non-profits (must be sponsored by a member company - EMS, Patagonia, Timberland, etc.) may apply. Grants range from \$15,000 to \$50,000. Deadlines: January and August.

Furthermore...

518 Warren Street, P.O. Box 667, Hudson, NY 12534, (518) 828-8900, www.furthermore.org

Funding up to \$15,000 for publications, including maps, guides, pamphlets. Conservation a key interest. Non-profits or public agencies in partnership with a non-profit may apply. Deadlines: March and September.

Hudson River Improvement Fund

40 West 20th St, New York, NY 10011, (212) 924-8290, www.hudsonriver.org

For capital construction, development or improvement. Priority categories: public access, education facilities, habitat protection as pertains to Hudson River. Non-profits and governmental bodies are eligible. Grants are between \$5,000 and \$20,000; in-kind services and matching funds encouraged. Deadlines: March and October.

Powerbar's Direct Impact on Rivers and Trails (DIRT)

2150 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710, www.powerbar.com

A grant program primarily for non-profits to protect, preserve and restore recreational lands and waterways. Funding between \$1,000-\$5,000 with an early June deadline.

ABOUT PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK & THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY

Parks & Trails New York

Parks & Trails New York (formerly New York Parks and Conservation Association) is a statewide non-profit membership organization that works to expand, protect and promote a network of parks, trails and open spaces throughout the state for all to use and enjoy.

The organization's role in making this network a reality is to guide the development of local, grassroots groups and to foster partnerships amongst trail and park stakeholders. To promote a statewide network, Parks & Trails New York published a poster, *Building Community Trails Across New York*; developed an on-line trail resource, *Trail Finder Maps*; promotes the economic benefits of trails through its publication, *Greenways and Trails – Bringing Economic Benefits to New York*; published a handbook, in partnership with the Hudson River Valley Greenway, for landowners considering allowing public access to trails on their land, entitled *Getting Involved: A Community Trail Handbook for Landowners*; and organizes a biennial statewide greenways and trails conference.

As part of a statewide effort to improve the health of New York's citizens, in 2003 Parks & Trails New York began a five-year program to help localities develop more "active community environments" through the creation of shared-use trails. With support from the NYS Department of Health, Parks & Trails New York presents public workshops, provides technical assistance, and helps build the vision, constituencies and local support that are so critical to the long-term success of trail projects.

As a partner in the Canalway Trail Partnership, Parks & Trails New York is working with the New York State Canal Corporation to create a continuous 524-mile trail along New York State's historic canal system. Since 1998, Parks & Trails New York has annually organized *Cycling the Erie Canal*, a 500-person cross-state bicycle trip along the Erie Canal to promote completion of the Canalway Trail and bicycle & heritage tourism.

Hudson River Valley Greenway

The Hudson River Valley possesses world-renowned resources. To recognize this and to help Hudson Valley communities become better places to live and work, the New York State Legislature passed landmark legislation in 1991 establishing the Hudson River Valley Greenway.

The goals of the Greenway legislation are to protect and enhance the region's unique heritage, increase awareness and appreciation of its resources, and enhance the sustainability of local economies. The legislation also aims to promote a broader identity for the Hudson River Valley's communities and resources by encouraging municipal cooperation and tourism development on a regional level. To help promote and establish a linked identity among communities and their resources, the Greenway legislation calls for the designation and development of a regional network of trails — the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail system.

The Greenway also administers the Hudson River Valley Greenway Water Trail Program, a joint venture between the Greenway and the Hudson River Water Trail Association. In April 2001, Governor Pataki appropriated \$1 million to the Greenway for development of the Water Trail. The 158-mile Water Trail begins on the shores of Waterford, Saratoga County, and extends to the shoreline of New York City. It will provide access points at least every ten miles along both shores of the Hudson River, and include campsites to help promote multi-day excursions and connections to the land-based Greenway Trail.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway Program, administered jointly by the Greenway Communities Council and the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, works with a broad range of public and private partners through its Planning, Trails and Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area programs. The Planning Program works with local communities to help balance environmental protection and economic development needs, incorporating the Governor's Quality Communities principles. The Trails Program is working on land-based and water-based trails in the Hudson River Valley region, fostering connections between open spaces, heritage sites and downtown "main streets" to enhance public access, regional tourism and agricultural protection and promotion. The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, a federal program administered by the Greenway, promotes regional tourism based upon the Valley's role in the development of the Nation.



Photos courtesy of:

Cayuga Waterfront Trail
Clough Harbor & Associates LLP
Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway
Harlem Valley Rail-Trail Association
Hudson River Valley Greenway
Neighborhood Open Space Coalition
NYS Canal Corporation
NYS Horse Council
NY-NJ Trail Conference
NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
Parks & Trails New York
Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
Ontario Pathways
Quad Design
Schenectady County
Village of Sleepy Hollow



Getting Started...

A Guide to Planning Trails in New York State

A joint publication of:

Parks & Trails New York

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