

How Can NY Grow Healthier, More Resilient Communities?

One place, one project at a time...

The City of Poughkeepsie and the upstate towns, villages and cities in the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership share more than the Hudson River as a backdrop. Led by energetic elected officials, both the “Queen City of the Hudson” and the upstate municipalities within the partnership are undergoing astonishing transformations that stretch from their shorelines to the downtown businesses and surrounding neighborhoods that form the heart of any community.

Fueled by investments from the **Environmental Protection Fund’s Waterfront Revitalization** and **Municipal Parks Programs**, Poughkeepsie is jumpstarting economic growth by creating new opportunities for people to connect with the Hudson while making the downtown more attractive to businesses catering to river-based tourism and recreation. Further up the Hudson, 31 partnership communities in Washington and Saratoga counties are utilizing the EPF to jumpstart ambitious projects that capitalize on their communities’ cultural, natural and agricultural assets to grow local economies and create new jobs.



“Transforming our waterfronts, promoting our green assets and linking protected resources to our downtowns supports a healthy, high-quality life for citizens to raise their families. It also drives a vibrant local and regional economy that is sustainable and environmentally sound.”

—Poughkeepsie Mayor Rob Rollison and Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership Chair Tom Richardson



Protecting Natural Assets Is Not a Luxury—It's Smart Economic & Environmental Planning

Municipalities can...

- Improve residents' health and reduce health-care costs associated with lack of physical activity. In Nassau and Suffolk counties, health savings from residents' park use was \$164 million.
- Intercept stormwater with street trees. NYC's street trees program intercepts 890 million gallons annually, providing a \$35-million benefit to residents and saving \$27 million in energy costs.
- Capture direct tourism employment, which has grown 17.8 percent, outpacing the overall NYS labor market.
- Share in other tourism benefits, including an estimated \$3.6 billion in state taxes and \$4.6 billion in local taxes that lower the tax burden of each NYS household by an average of \$1,133.
- Develop agriculture and related enterprises that fuel NY's economy, including forestry and related industries that generate approximately \$9 billion in economic activity annually.

**SUPPORT \$16-MILLION WATERFRONT
REVITALIZATION AND \$20-MILLION
MUNICIPAL PARKS PROGRAM IN
A \$300-MILLION EPF**

Photo at top: Mayor Rob Rolison with participants at Fall Kill Creek cleanup