



# at a glance SCENIC HUDSON



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## A 60+ year legacy

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[Scenic Hudson](#) was founded in 1963 when six community members came together to stop a massive power plant from defacing the iconic Storm King Mountain. The legal victory, known as the “Scenic Hudson Decision,” is considered the birth of America’s modern grassroots environmental movement.

Over the last six decades, the organization has continuously innovated to [advance its mission](#): to sustain and enhance the Hudson Valley’s inspirational beauty and health for generations to come. This includes conserving ecologically important lands and the family farms that feed our region, and creating parks, trails, and preserves adapted to changing weather patterns so they can continue to connect communities with nature. In total, Scenic Hudson has protected 53,000+ acres of land, including 150+ farms, and created [45+ parks](#) across the Hudson Valley.

All along, Scenic Hudson has been a champion of clean air and water, while working to ensure that all people have a voice in government decisions affecting the environment.



## Collaborating in River Cities

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Known for protecting irreplaceable landscapes and farmland, Scenic Hudson’s work also has a tremendous impact in the region’s urban areas. The organization recognizes that a sustainable, healthy, and livable Hudson Valley must include [flourishing cities](#) — with nature at the heart of it all.

Scenic Hudson’s River Cities program currently focuses on Kingston, Newburgh, and Poughkeepsie. The organization teams up with residents and partners to plan for and build park infrastructure that is rooted in community well-being. Scenic Hudson is working in cutting-edge ways to make sure that wildlife can thrive in these cities as well.





## Investing at home

As part of its work on urban conservation, Scenic Hudson has made meaningful investments in its [home city of Poughkeepsie](#):



• In 2009, Scenic Hudson celebrated with partners the grand opening of [Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park](#) after providing major support for the project, which turned an out-of-service railroad bridge into the world's longest elevated pedestrian bridge.

• In 2019, Scenic Hudson negotiated and funded the acquisition of the former rail corridor that is now Dutchess County's [Marcus J. Molinaro Northside Line](#), a pedestrian and bicycle path across the city.

• In 2021, the organization began the first phase of [Pershing Community Farm](#) (next to Pershing Avenue Park) with local residents growing their own food and flowers in community beds, and a growing operation that now feeds hundreds of local families.

• In 2023, the revitalized [Malcolm X Park](#) re-opened at a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by Poughkeepsie's mayor after Scenic Hudson and partners led an extensive community design process.

The Fall Kill Creek has always been at the heart of Scenic Hudson's work in Poughkeepsie. Since 2018, the organization has convened the Fall Kill Watershed Coalition, a local group of community members, scientists, academics, activists, and government officials dedicated to improving the health and stewardship of this Hudson River tributary. With partners, Scenic Hudson is also advancing an urban design and conservation strategy that will boost public creek access and [create places for people to experience nature](#), while making the area more resilient to extreme flooding and heat.



# SCENIC HUDSON'S NORTHSIDE HUB AT 58 PARKER AVE.

## Continuing the legacy

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The Northside Hub is the latest milestone in Scenic Hudson's 60+ year track record in the Hudson Valley and continues its investment in Poughkeepsie.

Five years ago, one of the first things that the half-a-million annual visitors saw when they visited Walkway Over the Hudson was a dirt lot and a large dilapidated building. But as with the abandoned railroad bridge that became the Walkway, Scenic Hudson saw its potential.

## Focusing on community

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The Northside Hub is far more than Scenic Hudson staff offices: it responds to community expressed needs for safe and inviting spaces to gather, collaborate, and enjoy the outdoors in a neighborhood plagued by a legacy of red-lining and disinvestment.

It returns an abandoned site to active use and creates versatile community resources, including open green spaces, event spaces, and office spaces for local organizations and business.



## Restoring a piece of history

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The Northside Hub celebrates Poughkeepsie's history by physically telling the story of industry along the rail lines and creek. It restored the former Standard Gage factory and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Standard Gage Company employed hundreds of Poughkeepsie residents and played a key role in making technologies for the Army and Navy during World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the factory in 1943 and gave it an award for Excellence in Production.

## Healing a brownfield

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The Northside Hub revitalized a site that was polluted and inaccessible, turning a brownfield into a greenfield. Scenic Hudson cleaned up the contaminated soil and groundwater through New York State's Brownfield Cleanup Program.

The project continues Scenic Hudson's tradition of [transforming former industrial sites](#) to reconnect communities with nature. Scenic Hudson Park at Irvington — which opened on a former contaminated industrial waterfront in 2001 — was the first brownfield property to be cleaned up under the Brownfield provision of the state's 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.

# SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION:

## NOTABLE FEATURES

Scenic Hudson's Northside Hub is completely solar powered and produces more energy than it consumes through its innovative, sustainable design, embodying the organization's environmental mission.

### Key features include:

**'Trickle vents':** This innovative system uses vents at perimeter windows to draw in fresh air without extensive ductwork or fans. For the first time in the United States, the system is being used to both heat and cool the building at up to twice the rate of a typical system. It also allows people inside to smell rain, hear creek sounds, and sense seasonal changes.

**Solar canopies:** Beautiful timber canopies support solar panels over the northern parking lot. Rather than using an off-the-shelf steel solution, the project included research and design for the canopy system, which is made from low-embodied-carbon glulam timber. These canopies, together with rooftop solar, produce more than enough energy to power the entire site.

**Historic touches:** The building's original large window openings, which were dramatically downsized during the 1980s, were restored for daylight and cross ventilation. The historic brick façade was insulated from the interior for energy efficiency and indoor comfort.

**Terraced park:** Scenic Hudson turned a paved brownfield area into a terraced park with a central lawn, pavilion, and native plantings. Arcing pathways guide visitors through the park, following the former rail lines into the factory site.

**Green roof:** The building's rooftop was reinforced to support a shallow green roof and terrace, with views overlooking the Fall Kill Creek. Plantings include sedum and tall regional grasses, which contribute to the storm water management of the overall site.

**Shared parking with EV charging:** 54 parking spaces are available under the solar canopies, including four electric vehicle charging stations. On the weekends, these spaces are open to the community and Walkway Over the Hudson visitors.

### About the Community Event Space

Starting in January 2026, Scenic Hudson's Northside Hub will be available for community use, including meetings, events, workshops, and educational activities.

If you're interested in using these community spaces, please contact Scenic Hudson's Northside Hub Program Coordinator David Wong: [dwong@scenichudson.org](mailto:dwong@scenichudson.org).