

Our **BOLD** New Conservation Strategy Receives Key Funding

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation has awarded Scenic Hudson a \$2.3-million challenge grant for carrying out our visionary new **Hudson Valley Conservation Strategy (HVCS)**, requiring us to raise \$10 million to receive the funds.

This pioneering, science-based plan takes a building-blocks approach, pinpointing those properties whose protection will maximize land investments by achieving multiple conservation objectives:

- securing the pathways many species depend on for survival;
- increasing resilience to climate change;
- sustaining biodiversity; and
- preserving working farmland.

Moving beyond a patchwork of parcels, the HVCS identified networks of natural resources and landscapes that add up to more than the sum of their parts. After analyzing the region's most important natural resources, how they function together and assets already protected, it charts the most efficient way to conserve those places critical for helping the region withstand the impacts of a warming climate.

The grant provides Scenic Hudson \$2 million for land purchases and \$300,000 for coordination and implementation of the initiative. We're sharing the strategy with state and local governments and other conservation groups to ensure conservation investments maximize benefits. We're also reaching out to donors and government partners for help in meeting the \$10-million match requirement.

The HVCS represents the next generation of our acclaimed Saving the Land That Matters Most initiative—the guiding force of our land protection efforts over the last nine years—while also building on our groundbreaking Foodshed Conservation Plan.

"The Hudson Valley Conservation Strategy is an innovative and rigorous approach to securing a resilient, productive future for the region. It will help ensure that wildlife, nature and agriculture will continue to thrive in the face of climate change and other pressures," said Ed Henry, president of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. "We're happy to support Scenic Hudson and its many partners to advance this effort, which we hope will become a blueprint for land conservation elsewhere."



Robert Rodriguez, Jr.

This 286-acre property we conserved in Ulster County last year preserves vital habitat networks stretching from the Catskill Mountain foothills to the Hudson River.



Robert Rodriguez, Jr.
Lynda Shenkman Curtis

Our Latest Land Saves

We achieved important victories in preserving scenic lands that also provide critical habitat and offer exciting new recreational opportunities—goals of our Saving the Land That Matters Most campaign.

- In **Rockland County**, we partnered with Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc. (GSHH) to preserve 353 acres adjoining and buffering Bear Mountain and Harriman State parks. A conservation agreement on 113 acres ensures the permanent protection of scout activity areas at Camp Addisone Boyce, meaning future generations can connect with nature there. Our acquisition of 240 surrounding acres provides the potential to create public trails connecting to state parkland and offering astonishing views. A zero-interest loan from The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation facilitated the transaction.
- On Fishkill Ridge in **Dutchess County**, we protected the most visually significant inholding on its western slope (above). In addition to its visibility from the Hudson River and many public viewpoints along the waterfront, the 30-acre forested property provides a scenic buffer for trails in Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve and could enable the creation of new trails.
- And in **Albany County**, generous landowners donated eight acres essential for connecting two properties—in total encompassing nearly 260 acres—we previously conserved along the Binnen Kill, a major Hudson River tributary. The newly protected land contains a portion of the stream, a major spawning and nursery ground for imperiled fish species, including American shad.

Collaborative victories support productive family farms

Working with farm families and fellow land trusts, we secured conservation easements on agricultural lands ranked among the highest priority for protection under our Foodshed Conservation Plan. The three farms have remained in family hands for a combined 266 years.

- With the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and Orange County Land Trust, we preserved 88 acres in **Cornwall** that sustain the operations of Jones Farm, one of the last working farms in the Highlands. Popular with residents and visitors, the farm grows fruits and vegetables sold at an on-site store and hosts seasonal events that support the town's tourism economy.
- In **Pine Plains**, we partnered with the Dutchess Land Conservancy to protect 186 acres on Ronnybrook Farm, one of upstate New York's leading sustainable milk and yogurt producers. It supplies these and other dairy products to markets in the Hudson Valley, New York City and the surrounding Metropolitan Area. Both this and the Jones Farm project received funding from the state's Farmland Protection Program as well as generous private support.
- And in **Copake**, we collaborated with the Columbia Land Conservancy to protect 355 acres at Walt's Dairy. It's a founding member of Hudson Valley Fresh, a dairy cooperative whose products are sold throughout New York City and the Tri-State region, and a long-time member of Agri-Mark, a farmer-owned cooperative that owns the "Cabot" and "McCadam" brand names. Support for acquiring this easement came, in part, from the USDA's Agricultural Land Easement Program and The 1772 Foundation.

New Threat Could Undermine Our Shared Achievements



Recent accomplishments highlighted in this newsletter result from the work of Scenic Hudson's expert, passionate staff and the generosity of people like you. Thanks to this partnership, we continue making great strides in preserving the valley's scenic and agricultural treasures, creating long-distance trails and helping communities revitalize their waterfronts. Our success enhances the region's economy and residents' quality of life.

Now we face a new threat that could seriously undermine these shared achievements.

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is considering the adoption of regulations that would establish anchorage grounds for commercial vessels along the Hudson River—up to 10 sites with 43 berths located between Yonkers, Westchester County, and Kingston, Ulster County. Scenic Hudson fully understands the importance of providing “safe harbors” for shipping during storms and heavy fog, as well as the need for eliminating crew fatigue. However, it is totally unacceptable for companies to use these anchorages to warehouse barges filled with crude oil.

Proposal jeopardizes environment, economy

Adding to the risk our river and waterfronts already face from crude oil transported by train in poorly designed railcars, these offshore “parking lots” could endanger the environment, prime habitats and essential drinking-water resources.

At the same time, the noise and air-quality impacts of the anchorages could hinder ongoing economic development projects along community waterfronts. They also could imperil the region's scenic splendor—imagine hiking to the top of a mountain only to gaze down upon a pileup of barges—as well as access to the river and the safety of those engaged in paddling, sailing and motorboating.

As it stands, this plan would be disastrous—which is why so many environmental groups and public officials have joined Scenic Hudson in opposing it. We look forward to working with the USCG on a “win-win” solution that would improve the safety of crews working on the Hudson while ensuring the river remains a recreational and economic resource for all.

As always, I'm so grateful for all you do.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ned Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Ned Sullivan, President

PCBs UPDATE

Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan joined state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos to challenge claims by General Electric and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that dredging of Hudson River PCBs has been sufficient to meet the project's environmental and public health goals. DEC's position, long advocated by Scenic Hudson, unified the agency with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—its fellow trustees tasked with restoring the Hudson River following the PCB cleanup. The DEC points to extensive remaining contamination that will compromise the river's recovery, and it calls on the EPA to ensure its ongoing five-year review undertakes “a comprehensive, independent and objective analysis of all available data.”

Scenic Hudson Public Policy Analyst Althea Mullarkey has been appointed to the EPA review committee and is pushing for further cleanup. Join her call for action: Contact EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy (202 564 4700 or mccarthy.gina@epa.gov) and urge her to require GE to conduct two additional seasons of dredging—setting the stage for the cleanup's natural resource restoration phase.



Unveiling the Fjord Trail's First Amenity

Scenic Hudson and our partners spearheading creation of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail gathered at Long Dock Park on July 26 to unveil the first sign in a comprehensive branding and wayfinding system for the project, which will provide a safe, off-road recreational route between Beacon, Dutchess County, and Cold Spring, Putnam County. The first completed trail amenity, the sign will help users navigate the seven-mile-long route and facilitate exploration of attractions in Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve as well as downtown Beacon and Cold Spring. More signs will be installed as trail construction progresses.

Film Touts Poughkeepsie's Waterfront Assets

Scenic Hudson sponsored creation of *Poughkeepsie, Connected*, an uplifting short film produced by teens in the Spark Media Project that illustrates how strengthening links between the city's riverfront parks and Main Street will boost economic revitalization. It's intended to give city youth a better understanding of waterfront planning efforts while encouraging city residents and officials to support completion of Poughkeepsie's riverfront Greenway.

To view: www.vimeo.com/173813696.



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SCENIC HUDSON
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SAVING THE LAND THAT MATTERS MOST

Engaging Autumn Outings

Join us for fun, free and informative events in our parks.

More info: www.scenichudson.org/events.

Farmland Cycling Tour

Poets' Walk Park, Red Hook (Dutchess County)

Saturday, Sept. 17 • 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Energize on fresh donuts and apples from local farms, then pedal through rolling countryside on a 10-, 25- or 45-mile ride, passing farms Scenic Hudson helped protect. Return to a fabulous lunch. Register early: This event (limited to 250 riders) fills up quickly.



Poetry at Poets' Walk

Poets' Walk Park, Red Hook (Dutchess County)

Wednesday, Sept. 14 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of our flagship park by hiking its trails while making stops to read poetry inspired by the Hudson Valley's natural splendor. We'll have verses to share—or bring your own.

Free Guided History Tour

West Point Foundry Preserve, Cold Spring (Putnam County)

Saturday, Oct. 1 • 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Explore the ironworks that sparked America's Industrial Revolution and helped win the Civil War.

Pumpkins in the Park

Scenic Hudson's Long Dock Park, Beacon (Dutchess County)

Friday, Oct. 28 • 6-8 p.m.

Show off your pumpkin-carving artistry and see Long Dock Park ablaze with jack-o'-lanterns. Pumpkins will be available for carving Monday, Oct. 24, through Thursday, Oct. 27. Friday night they'll be lit and displayed throughout the park.

NEW LEAF PAPER® EcoAudit™

Scenic Hudson, Inc. saved the following resources by using 800 pounds of New Leaf Ingenuity, made of 100% post-consumer recycled fiber, designated Ancient Forest Friendly™ and manufactured with electricity that is offset with Green-e® certified renewable energy certificates. Calculation based on research by Environmental Defense Fund and other members of the Paper Task Force.

10 TREES
4,487 GAL WATER
4 MILLION ENERGY BTUS
300 LBS SOLID WASTE
827 LBS GREENHOUSE GAS

