

your valley



Robert Rodriguez, Jr.

Your Tax Dollars Should Support What You Care About

Clean water, vibrant waterfronts, farm-fresh food—all leading benefits from Scenic Hudson's work. Let's keep up the momentum. You can help ensure the next state budget has funding that allows us to reach new heights.

More below about what you can do. But first some details.

Doing more to protect family farms, create local parks

Gov. Cuomo has again proposed \$300 million, the highest amount ever, for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). The fund is the state's chief means for conserving family farms and other natural assets. A robust EPF helps Scenic Hudson and allies strengthen local farms and supply healthy food to the valley, New York City and diverse urban neighborhoods.

Good news, but there's a hitch. The governor's proposal supports the Hudson River Estuary Program but leaves a shortfall. This would mean it can't do as much to make the Hudson clean, or provide new places for people to experience the river. The proposal also cuts funding to conserve open space—so fewer natural areas could get protected and fewer local parks created to uplift communities.



Vickie Muller



Get it right with clean water and an exciting statewide trail

Gov. Cuomo's budget sustains essential funding to help fix run-down water/wastewater infrastructure and to protect key water sources. These grants mean a lot. A recent one sparked our collaboration with Orange County and the Orange County Land Trust to begin conserving lands around a lake that 28,000 Newburgh residents depend on for water to drink, cook and bathe.

Finally, a funding jump for the Hudson River Valley Greenway will allow it to complete the Empire State Trail from New York City to Buffalo. The trail would be a huge victory for connecting communities and visitors with the region's stunning natural beauty. Scenic Hudson and partners are creating trail systems, including the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail and John Burroughs Black Creek Trail, which will be linked to the Empire State Trail.

BE FOR YOUR VALLEY—TAKE ACTION TODAY

I know you love the Hudson Valley. The state budget must help make it even greater. Please tell your state legislators you're counting on them to keep the \$300-million EPF, increase funding for the Estuary Program and restore investments for open space.

Not sure who to contact?

Find out here: www.scenichudson.org/officialfinder.

As always, I applaud you for all you do.



Ned Sullivan, President

Hitting the Ground Running in 2018

Green spaces and conserved farms help make people feel great and boost local economies. Here are eight recent strides we've taken across the valley.

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1 Getting people outside, into fresh air

The 24 acres of woods and wetlands we recently protected in New Baltimore, Greene County, are surrounded by 148 acres we previously conserved. And the property is a short walk from 76-acre Scenic Hudson's Long View Park (left). The New Baltimore Conservancy, our partner in creating the park, plans to extend trails. Visitors will one day be able to hike from the Hudson River's shore, through fields and forest to a ridgetop where they'll enjoy seasonal views of the Berkshires.

2 A new place for outdoor fun

With the Open Space Institute, we donated 11 acres of land to the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, to create a new park. The town's long-term plans for the property (currently undeveloped fields) include a youth soccer/play area and a community garden. It also will be a great place to savor the land's natural beauty and marvel at views of Castle Rock, an impressive stone mansion.



3 Food, fresh from the farm

We partnered with the Stickle family to protect 73-acre Potts Farm in Red Hook, Dutchess County. Owners of most of this land since the mid-1800s, the Stickle family sell fresh fruits and vegetables from a farm stand that draws locals and visitors. Travelers on Route 9G can look across the scenic property to magnificent views of the Catskills. We couldn't have done it without partners, including the Dutchess Land Conservancy, Town of Red Hook and the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets.

DLC



4 Building community

At our Presidents' Day Winterfest at Crystal Lake in Newburgh, 80 children and adults enjoyed a scavenger hunt, lessons in winter survival skills and a guided hike to the top of our Snake Hill property. Many locals visited the lake for the first time and recognized its potential to provide much-needed outdoor recreation in the city. Thanks to the City of Newburgh, Blacc Vanilla Café, Peoples Bicycle, Mountain Tops Outfitters and Wild Earth for helping us create the good times.





5 Making it easier to enjoy our parks

So even more people can experience the spectacular views from Mount Beacon's summit, we'll soon construct trailhead improvements. We're doubling the parking spaces at Mount Beacon Park and creating a new link to public transit that will encourage hikers to arrive via bus from the nearby Metro-North station.

6 Forging a bright energy future

We're fighting climate change by helping make the Hudson Valley a leader in clean energy. Our new guide for developing renewable energy is all about maximizing community benefits—mitigating climate change, providing affordable power, creating new jobs, preserving farmland and iconic views.

We're co-hosting a March 27 symposium to share strategies with stakeholders throughout the region. Register now:

www.scenichudson.org/renewables.



7 Helping citizens have an impact

The Hudson River needs a more comprehensive cleanup of toxic PCBs that make its fish unsafe to eat and stifle local economic opportunities. Wow—hundreds of people recently responded to our call and sent personal appeals to EPA official Pete Lopez, urging him to compel polluter General Electric to do more to repair the mess it created. Shortly after, Mr. Lopez announced his agency will take a deeper look at PCB contamination in the upper and lower Hudson.

8 Preventing a disaster on the Hudson

How big a threat do wildlife, drinking-water supplies and downtown waterfronts face from an oil spill? To answer that, we've commissioned the first-ever Hudson River Oil Spill Risk Assessment. Via cutting-edge modeling, it will evaluate the impacts of spills on the river's water and wetlands as well as communities along it. The goal: to inform future policy priorities and investments on the Hudson.



Your Adventure Awaits

You deserve a pick-me-up. Head to a Scenic Hudson park. Take a deep breath. Work up a sweat. Feel inspired. Spark your sense of fascination. Sound good? What are you waiting for?

And for something completely different, visit a park you've never explored. Our world of discovery is close by and waiting for you at www.scenichudson.org/parks.



John Halpern

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land ■ parks ■ advocacy

Spring into Action

Show Nature Some Love— Earth Day Cleanup

*Crystal Lake, Newburgh
(Orange County)*

Saturday, April 21 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Show your love for Mother Earth by helping us continue restoration of this long-ignored natural treasure that's making a remarkable comeback as a community asset.

History Comes Alive

*West Point Foundry Preserve,
Cold Spring (Putnam County)*
**Saturday, May 5 and June 16
10-11:30 a.m.**

Explore the ironworks that sparked America's Industrial Revolution and helped win the Civil War—and enjoy a rare glimpse inside the foundry's 1865 office building.

Connect with the region's natural beauty and history by joining us for these free events. More info and to register: www.scenichudson.org/events

Helping Out Feels Great

Volunteers are happier and less stressed. Lend a hand in keeping our parks healthy and inviting for people and wildlife. Activities range from planting trees to removing invasive species.

*Poets' Walk Park, Red Hook
(Dutchess County)*

Saturday, April 28 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

*Esopus Meadows Preserve,
Esopus (Ulster County)*

Saturday, May 19 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

*Falling Waters Preserve,
Glasco (Ulster County)*

Saturday, June 2 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

