

The Greenway Compact Program

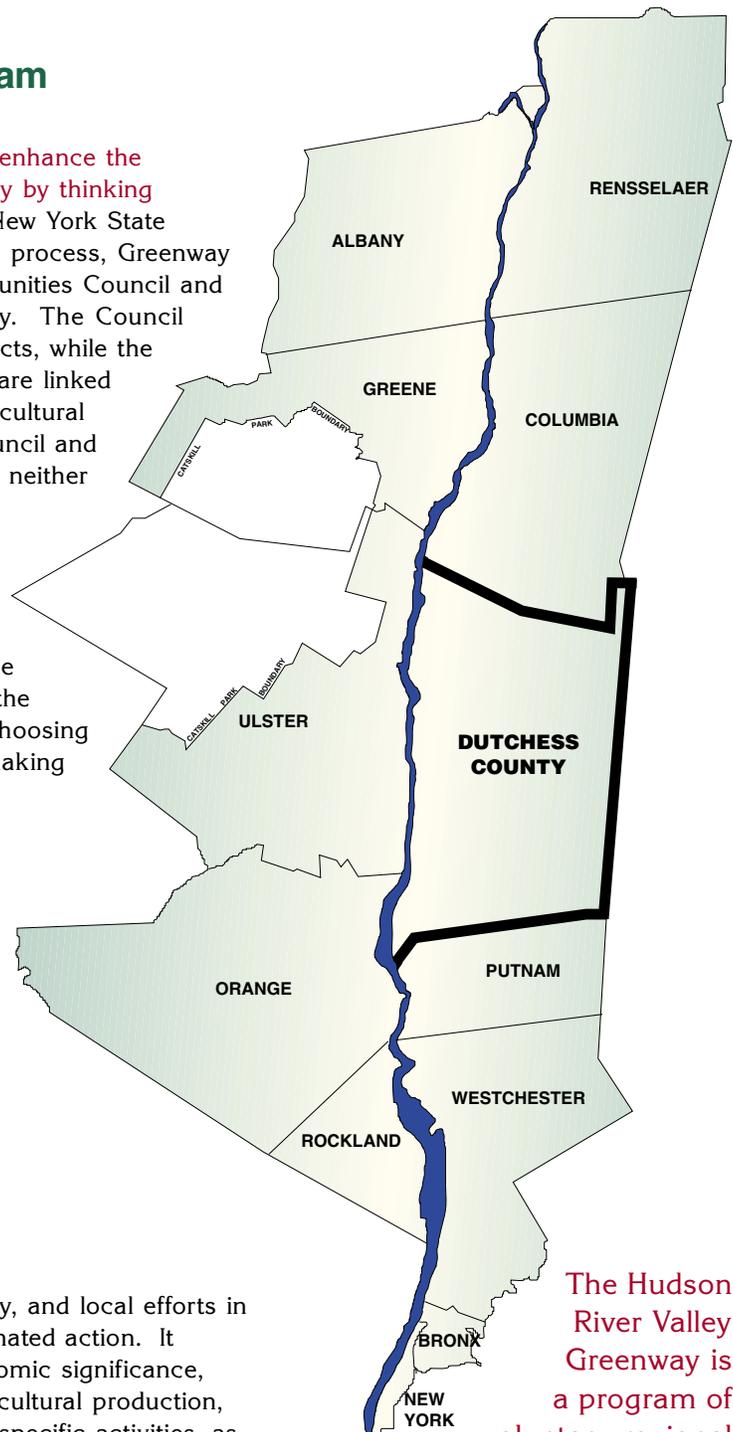
The Hudson River Valley Greenway is designed to enhance the character and economy of the Hudson River Valley by thinking regionally and acting locally. Authorized by the New York State Legislature in 1991 after an intensive valley-wide public process, Greenway programs are jointly organized by the Greenway Communities Council and the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley. The Council works directly with communities on local planning projects, while the Conservancy helps to implement specific projects that are linked by the Hudson River Valley Trail system, as well as agricultural initiatives and a regional tourism strategy. Both the Council and Conservancy provide grants for Greenway projects and neither has any regulatory authority.

Joining the Greenway is voluntary. Communities can join the Greenway individually (all 30 Dutchess County municipalities have already agreed to this initial level of participation) or as part of a broader countywide Compact Program that offers additional incentives and the benefits of intermunicipal coordination. Municipalities choosing to participate do not forfeit any of their local decision-making powers.

Contents of the compact agreements are locally determined, but the Greenway legislation identifies five primary goals:

1. Natural and cultural resource protection;
2. Economic development, including tourism, agriculture and urban redevelopment;
3. Public access;
4. Regional planning; and
5. Heritage and environmental education

The Greenway Compact Program organizes state, county, and local efforts in an ongoing commitment toward cooperation and coordinated action. It encourages certain types of projects with regional economic significance, such as Main Street and waterfront redevelopment, agricultural production, trail connections, scenic road improvements, and other specific activities, as well as providing policies and guidelines to help each community carry out Greenway goals. Two important objectives specifically listed in the Greenway legislation are identifying developments of regional impact and areas of regional concern, such as necessary public facilities and infrastructure. The Greenway Compact is meant to promote a regional vision, yet still offer practical advice to help make the critical choices we have to make every day.



The Hudson River Valley Greenway is a program of voluntary regional cooperation for 13 counties bordering the Hudson River, including all of Dutchess County.