



# The Greenway Compact

## Regional Planning in a Home Rule State

Hudson River Valley Greenway







# Context

- Home Rule
- No Coordinated State-level planning
- Limited funding for planning
- Fragmented funding/policies
- Lots of cooks, no recipe

# History of the Greenway

- **1988 “Study Law”** – State Legislature created “Hudson River Valley Greenway Council”
  - - final report called for **technical and financial assistance to help communities deal with development pressures WITHOUT impacting local Home Rule & WITHOUT regulatory control**
- **Greenway Act of 1991**

“Continue and advance the state’s commitment to the preservation, enhancement and development of the world-renowned scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources of the Hudson River Valley while continuing to emphasize economic development activities and remaining consistent with the tradition of municipal home rule.”
- **Issues: Planning, Trails & Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area**



# Planning (Compact)



- Urban trails
- Bike/Ped Planning

- Adaptive Reuse
- Natural and Historic Resource Protection

## “Integrated Approach”

# Trails



# Heritage Area



- Heritage Trails
- Dynamic Tourism Experience

# The Greenway Criteria



**Economic  
Development**



**Regional Planning**



**Heritage and  
Environmental  
Education**



**Public Access to  
the Hudson River**



**Natural and Cultural  
Resource Protection**

# Organization

Greenway Act created **2** organizations to facilitate the Greenway process

- Separate board members, representatives, and responsibilities

## **1. Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council**

- State agency
- Enhances local land use planning
- Appointments include representatives from each county
- Representation from 5 agencies, DEC, OPRHP, DOS, OGS, ESDC (Voting)
- Creates voluntary regional planning compact

## **2. Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley**

- Public benefit corporation
- Appointments established in legislation include appointments from the Council
- Representation from 5 agencies, DEC, OPRHP, DOS, OGS, ESDC (Non-Voting)
- Has subsidiary 501c3

The Council and Conservancy Co-manage the Hudson River Valley NHA

**= 48 Board Members meeting 4 times a year**

# Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail



# Greenway Trails: Land Trails

## Development of a “Greenway Trail System”

- Network along both sides of the Hudson
- “Designation” not “Ownership”

## Greenway Trails

- Contribute to regional trail network
- Community driven
- Voluntary
- Diverse Types Trails & Users
- [Website](#)



## Benefits of Trail Designation:

- Heightened local and regional recognition
- Advantage for certain New York State grants
- Advantage for Greenway Small Grants Program.
- Enhanced public visibility on state and national levels for trails and sites
- Ability to link sites and resources



# Hudson River Greenway Water Trail



# Greenway Trails: Water Trails

A recreational waterway with access points

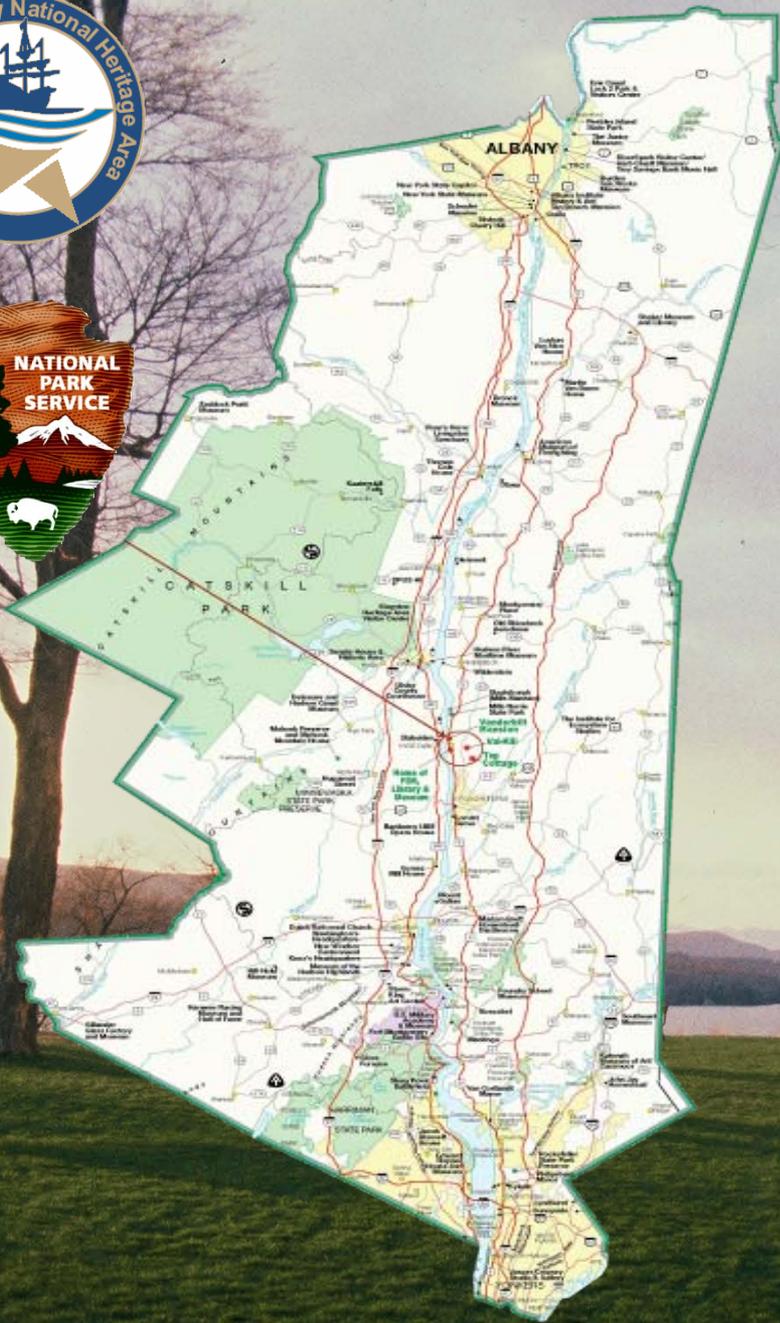


- Stretches 256 miles through the Greenway
- Nearly 100 Boat launches, campsites, access points
- Enhances interaction and access
- For the day or the whole-distance visitor
- [Website](#)

Partners include NYS OPRHP, NYSDEC,  
and County Parks Departments.







**Hudson River Valley  
National Heritage Area**



# Mission of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

*NHAs: Expand on traditional approaches to resource stewardship by supporting large-scale, community centered initiatives that seek to restore habitat, connect trails and greenways, restore historic landmarks, support economic development, and preserve and celebrate a region's unique sense of place.*



*To recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley for the benefit of the Nation.*

# Greenway Compact Regional Planning Framework

- No impact on Home Rule & no regulatory control
- Voluntary/Incentive based
- Balance environmental values and economic development
- Bottom up/ Grassroots Regionalism
- Grants
- 5 Greenway Criteria



# Greenway Myths FAQ



Does the Greenway take away our Home Rule or tell us how we can use our land?

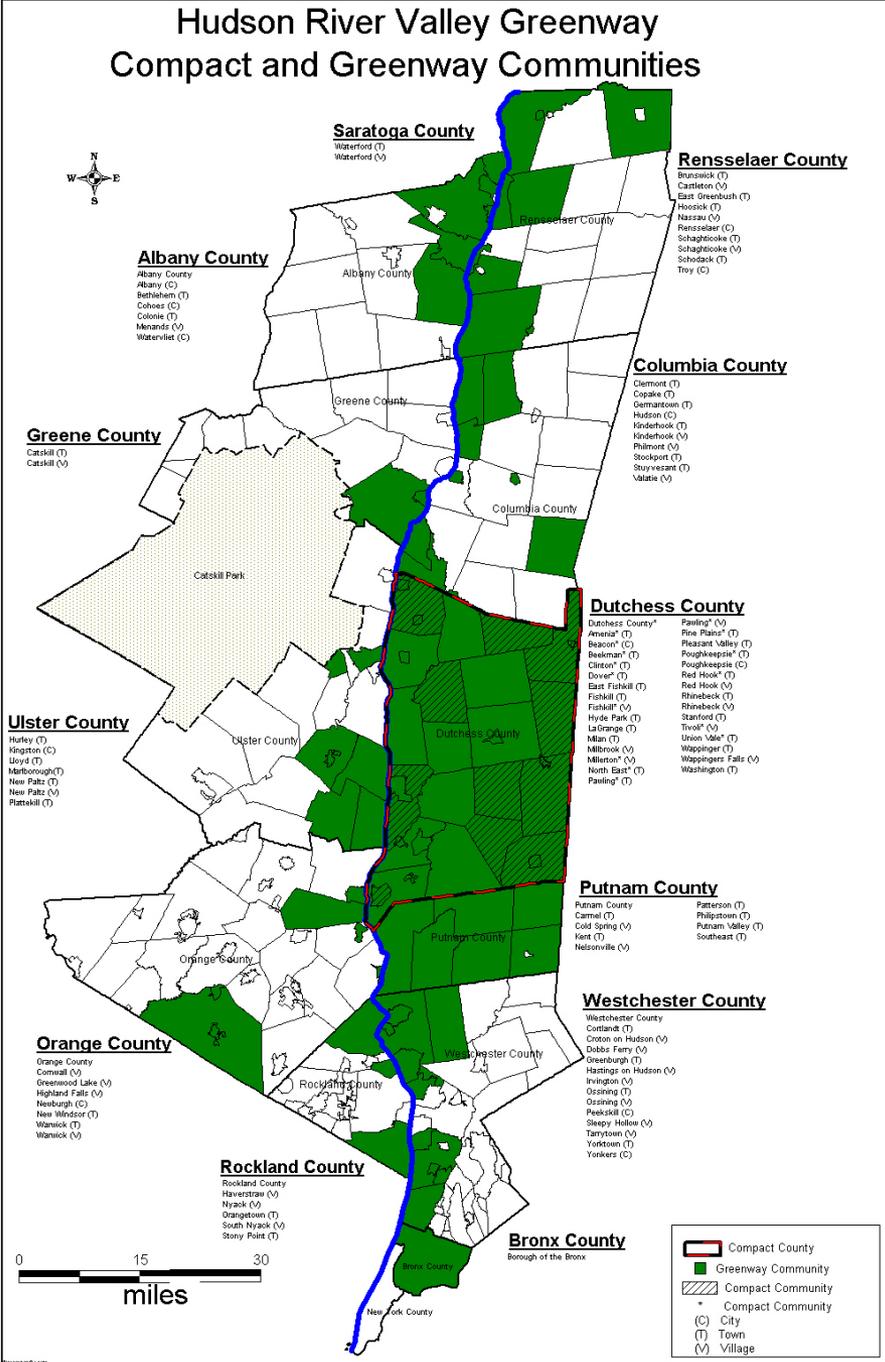
Does the Greenway restrict hunting and fishing?

Will the Greenway build a trail across my property without my permission?

# Greenway Compact (Step 1)

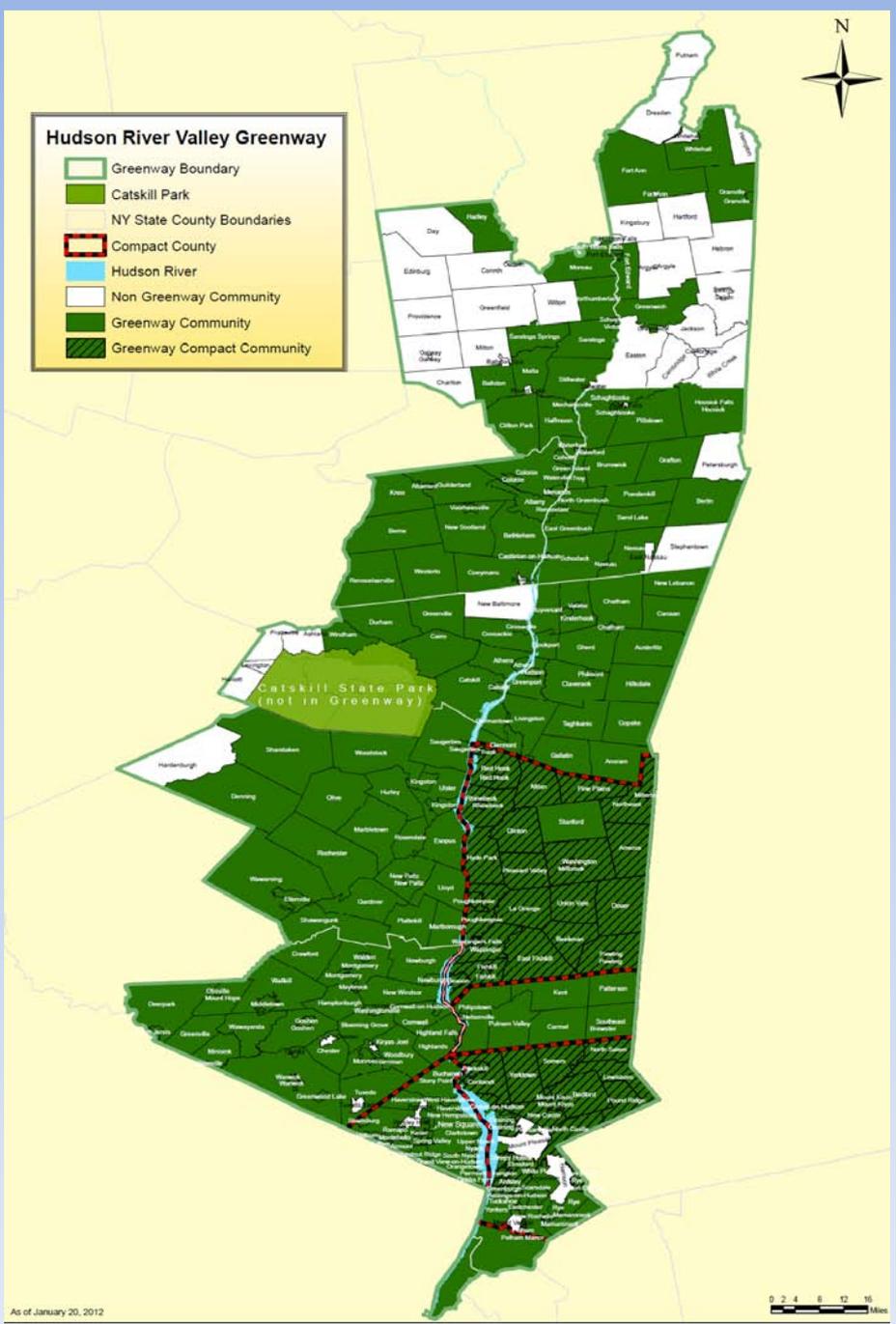
- Buy in- “Greenway Communities” Program
  - Incentives- Grants/Technical Assistance
  - Communities pass resolution supporting criteria and voluntary process for the development of a Compact
- Grant projects relate to criteria (~\$800,000 to UC)
  - Examples: comp plans, zoning biodiversity assessments, training, DEIS, open space plans
  - Flexible program
  - 120 comp plans and zoning updates funded

# Hudson River Valley Greenway Compact and Greenway Communities



2000

107 “Greenway Communities”



# 2012

## 269 “Greenway Communities

263 Eligible Municipalities in 1991

+ 6 2006 Boundary Expansion  
(Ulster County portion of Catskill Park)

+28 2007 Boundary Expansion  
(Remainder of Saratoga County)

+27 2008 Boundary Expansion  
(Washington County)

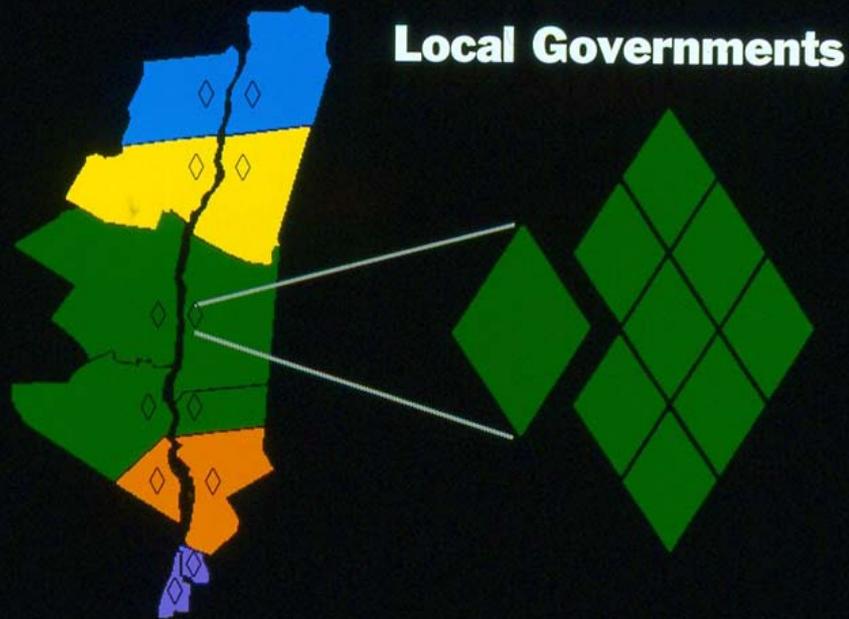
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= 324 Eligible Municipalities  
(in 14 Counties)

# Greenway Compact (Step 2)

- Regional planning compact created at the County-level in collaboration with communities
- Communities add compact into local zoning and subdivision regs
- Communities update plans, zoning to reflect principles outlined in the regional compact
- *No community has withdrawn from the Communities program or the Compact*

# Greenway Compact



**a.  
Local  
Governments  
Districts**

**HUDSON RIVER COMPACT**

**a.  
Local  
Governments**

**b.  
Council**

**c.  
Conservancy**

**HUDSON RIVER COMPACT**



# Greenway Compact (Step 2)

## The Greenway Compact

- is entirely voluntary;
- respects home rule; and
- relies on incentives and guidelines, not any state or county requirements.

## Greenway Compact Incentives

- Greater Intermunicipal cooperation
- Eligible for more Greenway grants
- 5% advantage other State Grants
- Indemnity from lawsuits?
- State Agency Coordination
- Streamlined Environmental Review ?



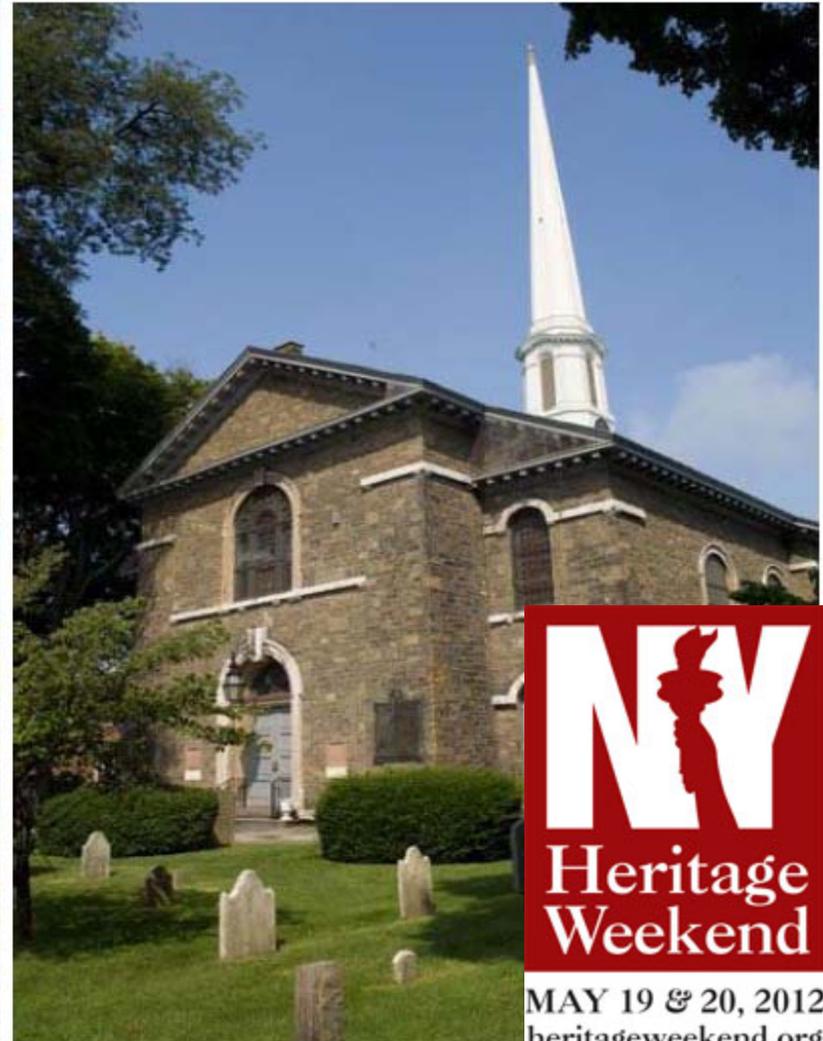
# Greenway Compact

- ❑ Compact = Guidance: Guidance is to be considered together with other factors, not imposed inflexibly or in isolation.
- ❑ Compact = Options: design options, implementation options, steps from vision to reality.
- ❑ Compact = Cooperation: More than a set of principles, guidelines and goals, it is a unifying force linking with other local, regional and state plans.
- ❑ Greenway Compact: What do you want it to be?

2ND ANNUAL

# New York Heritage Weekend

MAY 2011



MAY 19 & 20, 2012  
[heritageweekend.org](http://heritageweekend.org)

Clockwise from top left: Schuyler Mansion; Old Dutch Church of Kingston; Olana State Historic Site.

## *Online:*

**Hudson River Valley Greenway:**  
*[www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov](http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov)*

**Hudson River Valley NHA:**  
*[www.hudsonrivervalley.com](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com)*

 *Also on Facebook*

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