

# HISTORIC HUDSON HOOSIC RIVERS PARTNERSHIP



## **Annual Report**

**November 2023—November 2024**

*The Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership's mission is to preserve, enhance and develop the historic, agricultural, scenic, natural and recreational resources and the significant waterways within the Partnership region. Through the tradition of municipal home rule, the Partnership will foster collaborative projects with pertinent non-profit and governmental entities with an emphasis on both agricultural and open space protection, economic and tourism development, and the protection and interpretation of our natural and cultural heritage.*

**Prepared By:**

**Andrew Albert, Flatley Read, Inc.**

**Partnership Members**

*Officers*

Thomas Richardson, Chair—Supervisor, City of Mechanicville  
Ian Murray, Vice Chair—Supervisor, Town of Saratoga  
Edward Kinowski, Treasurer—Supervisor, Town of Stillwater  
Joseph Durkin, Secretary —Rensselaer Land Trust

*Board Members*

Willard H. Peck—Supervisor, Town of Northumberland  
Katherine L. Tomasi—Senate Appointee  
Cindy Wian – Hudson Crossing Park, Inc.  
Julie Stokes—Governor Appointee

*Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members*

Sean Mahar — Interim Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Randy Simons —Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Richard A. Ball —Commissioner, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

*Partnership Reserve Communities*

Town of Cambridge  
Town of Corinth  
Town of Easton  
Town of Fort Edward  
Town of Greenwich  
Town of Halfmoon  
Town of Hoosick  
Town of Moreau  
Town of Northumberland  
Town of Pittstown  
Town of Saratoga  
Town of Schaghticoke  
Town of Stillwater

Town of Waterford  
Town of White Creek  
City of Mechanicville  
Village of Cambridge  
Village of Corinth  
Village of Fort Edward  
Village of Greenwich  
Village of Hoosick Falls  
Village of Hudson Falls  
Village of Schaghticoke  
Village of Schuylerville  
Village of South Glens Falls  
Village of Stillwater  
Village of Valley Falls,  
Village of Victory  
Village of Waterford

*Partners*

Battenkill Conservancy  
Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group  
Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership  
Erie Canalway National Heritage Area  
Friends of Bennington Battlefield  
Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield  
Hoosic River Watershed Association  
Hudson River Valley Greenway  
Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc.  
New York Military Heritage Institute

New York State Military Museum  
New York State Snowmobile Association  
NYS Canal Corporation  
Open Space Institute of New York  
Prospect Hill Cemetery Association  
Rensselaer Land Trust  
Rodger's Island Heritage Development Alliance, Inc  
Saratoga National Historical Park  
Saratoga Preserving Land and Nature (P.L.A.N.)  
Siena College Center for Revolutionary Era Studies

## *Partnership History*

The Historic Saratoga – Washington on the Hudson Partnership was established in 2006 by the introduction of Article 42 into Chapter 43B of NYS Environmental Conservation law. The legislation developed a Quasi-Government entity led by state and local government entities and non-profit partners to undertake projects related to agricultural and open space protection, economic and tourism development, and the protection and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage. In 2015, the Partnership region was expanded to include communities along the upper Hudson and Hoosic River. The Partnership membership is made up of Mayors and Supervisors from thirty-two municipal entities, appointees from the Assembly, Senate, and Governor, as well as New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Since its inception, the Partnership has directly or indirectly supported grassroots projects initiated by municipal and non-profit organizations with the Reserve amounting to approximately \$11 million in community development funds. Key projects of the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership (Partnership) include:

### *Dix Bridge Restoration Project*

The 1895 Dix Bridge was closed to all traffic and flagged for demolition due to structural damage, when local efforts were led by Hudson Crossing Park to repair the bridge for use as a pedestrian crossing on the Hudson River. With the support of the Partnership, \$3.125 million in rehabilitation funding was raised to enable the Dix Bridge to re-open as a non-vehicular shared-use walkway. The Dix Bridge is a critical link between Saratoga and Washington County along the Empire State Trail.

### *Saratoga Surrender Site Project*

In 2006, The State of New York supported acquisition of the site by the Open Space Institute to purchase 16 acres of land in the Town of Saratoga, which is the location where British General John Burgoyne surrendered to American General Horatio Gates on October 17, 1777. The Friends of Saratoga Battlefield led development of visitor amenities at the site in collaboration with the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership. The site was completed and then turned over to the National Park Service in March 2021.

### *Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors Center*

The Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership's board decided in 2009 to purchase and protect the land and building owned by the Town of Saratoga which once served as its Town Hall. In 2015, the legislation forming the Partnership was amended to include § 42-0107 the power and duty "to construct or cause to have constructed necessary facilities including paths and trails, a visitor education center, and related parking areas ... " The Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors Center began construction in 2015, opened to the public in August 2022 and began its first full season of operations in Spring 2023.

None of these projects would have been possible without Federal, State, County, and local support and the persistence of the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership Board of Directors. The organization owes particular thanks to the vision of Steve Englebright and Roy McDonald, and the continued guidance and support of Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner. Special thanks are extended to our friend, Joe Finan, who made it all happen.

## The Year in Review

With operational funding through Empire State Development, obtained with the assistance of Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, the Partnership is moving in the direction of sustainable operations of the organization and the Gateway Visitors Center. This funding not only keeps the lights on and the doors open, but it also supports the organization's mission of promoting economic and tourism development activities. Central to achieving that mission is contract administrative services provided by Flatley Read, Inc. and Hudson Crossing Park, Inc.

### **Meet the Partnership Staff:**

Andrew (Drew) Alberti is the Vice President of Flatley Read., Inc. and he serves as Operations Administrator for the Partnership. Drew has been involved with the Partnership since 2008 when he served as proxy for Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc. In 2012, he took an expanded administrative role with the organization under an agreement Lakes to Locks. That role followed him in 2017 when he joined Flatley Read, Inc., a company that was already providing grant administration and project management services for the construction of the Gateway Visitors Center. Flatley Read is responsible for organizational management and member services, including mission activities of supporting and implementing projects related to agricultural and open space protection, economic and tourism development, and the protection and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage.

Kate Morse is the Executive Director of Hudson Crossing Park., Inc. and serves as Guest Services Administrator for the Partnership. Hudson Crossing Park has been a major partner of the organization since its inception. In 2023, the Partnership entered into a collaborative agreement with Hudson Crossing Park with a purpose of bringing together local organizations and resources to promote regional tourism destinations and opportunities. As guest services administrator, Kate's duties include overseeing staff and volunteers, programming, as well as soliciting and organizing materials for public outreach. In addition, Hudson Crossing Park is responsible for providing personnel to keep the Visitors Center open to the public.

### **Gateway Visitors Center Report**

An estimated 2,100 visitors from Oct 1, 2023- October 31, 2024, with visitors from 21 states, including Alaska. We also had a few visitors from Quebec, Scotland, and Paris, France.

#### *Staffing:*

October – December 2023	Tuesday & Wednesday 10am – 1pm + Weekends from 10am - 3pm	182 hours
January – March 2024	Weekends 10am - 3pm	130 hours
April-May 2024	Tuesday & Wednesday 10am – 1pm + Weekends from 11 am - 4pm	134 hours
June – August 2024	Tuesday & Wednesday 10am – 1pm + Thursday - Sunday 11am - 4pm	368 hours
September – October 2024	Tuesday & Wednesday 10am – 1pm + Weekends from 11 am - 4pm plus additional DAR exhibition hours	150 hours

Total "regular" hours GVC was open: 964

*Programming*

16 events brought in 539 people (included in the overall visitorship) and 26 community meetings (including monthly partnership meetings).

Key events include:

4/27/24	Schuylerville High School music dept. Cabaret
6/7/24	Celtic Music Performance
6/11/24	Trail Town Community Forum
8/7/24	Lake George Music Festival Performance
8/8/24	NYS Canals Community Forum
10/3/24	EPA 5 Year Review of PCB Pollution Presentation
10/27/24	Local Haunted History Tales performance by the Schuylerville Drama Club
10/12 & 10/28	250th Siege Weekend & DAR Exhibit

*(This is not an inclusive list)*

**Gateway Visitors Center Expansion**

The Partnership entered into a Partnership agreement with Saratoga County for the purpose of utilizing the lower-level of the Gateway Visitors Center to install exhibits related to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga and for public events. As a part of the collaboration, Saratoga County will be building out the lower level, including the construction of the stairwell, bathrooms and exhibit spaces. Saratoga County has already been awarded an American Battlefield Protection Program grant for the installation of the exhibits. The agreement was executed in September 2024.

**What's Next?! - A Call for Projects**

The Gateway Visitors Center is now in a position that it can be sustainably operated with dedicated staff to oversee the day-to-day activities. With this project complete, the Partnership is exploring new opportunities to return to its core mission to preserve, enhance and develop the historic, agricultural, scenic, natural and recreational resources and the significant waterways within the Partnership region. The Partnership can offer technical assistance and support for projects with pertinent non-profit and governmental entities with an emphasis on both agricultural and open space protection, economic and tourism development, and the protection and interpretation of our natural and cultural heritage. If you have a project that needs support, please contact Drew Alberti at [admin@hudsonhoosicpartnership.org](mailto:admin@hudsonhoosicpartnership.org).

Financial Summary

2023 Financial Summary  
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$16,749.82</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Saratoga County Chamber - Tree Removal	\$2,741.85
Other Income	\$40.00
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$2,781.85</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administration	0.00
Office Management - Supplies	0.00
National Grid	-1,550.37
Schuylerville/Victory Board of Water Management	-713.70
Insurance	-849.43
Building Repair/Construction/Maintenance	-11,062.91
Spectrum	-\$845.71
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>-15,022.12</b>
<b>End of Year Balance</b>	<b>\$4,509.55</b>

2024 Financial Summary  
January 1, 2024 – November 14, 2024 (YTD)

<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$4,509.55</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Municipal Contributions	\$50,000.00
ESD Grant	\$67,790.01
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$122,299.56</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administration	-30,000.00
GVC Management and Programming	-\$54,440.00
Office Management - Supplies	0.00
National Grid	-1,772.22
Schuylerville/Victory Board of Water Management	-870.00
Insurance	0.00
Building Repair/Construction/Maintenance	-21,687.80
Spectrum	-\$1,520.64
Bank Fees	-15.00
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>-110,305.66</b>
<b>End of Period Balance</b>	<b>\$11,993.90</b>

Operational Budget			
	Expense	Detail	Total
	Administration/Member Services Consultant	Management of HHHRP Organization and service to membership	30,500.00
	Meetings and Supplies	Printings, mailings, and other office supplies	500.00
Gateway Visitors Center Budget			
Category	Expense	Detail	Total
Professional Services			
	Guest Services Consultant	Visitors Center Staffing and Volunteer Coordination	58,000.00
	Janitorial	Cleaning Services	5,000.00
Building			
	Electric/Gas	Utility	3,000.00
	Telephone/Internet	Utility	2,000.00
	Water	Utility	3,500.00
	Maintenance/Contingency	Emergency systems, and building repair contingency fund	15,000.00
	Building Supplies	Cleaning supplies, bathroom tissue, soap, sanitizer, salt/sand etc	2,500.00
	Waste Management	Garbage	500.00
	Landscaping/Snow Removal	Seasonal Services	6,500.00
Insurance			
	Property Insurance	Operational Cost	8,000.00
MISC			
	Programming	Events and other activities	15,000.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>150,000.00</b>

## 2024 HHHRP APPROVED MOTIONS

These are only 'action items', do not include Secretary's minutes, Financial Report or meeting adjournment.

As of 11/12/2024

January Board Meeting Motion 2024-1. Motion was made to accept Ms. Idleman's resignation made by Ed Kinowski, seconded by Cindy Wian. Motion approved by the Board

January Board Meeting Motion 2024-2. Cindy Wian made the motion, seconded by Julie Stokes, to confirm approval of the updated draft and authorize the Executive Committee to enter into an agreement with HCP. Motion approved.

February Board Meeting Motion 2024 – 3. To authorize proceeding with the Porch Rain Diversion project and expend up to \$2,600 for contracting services. Motion made by Ed Kinowski, second by Julie Stokes and approved by the Board.

February Board Meeting MOTION 2024 – 4. Motion to authorize the Executive Committee to review and examine the possibility of completing the Ground Floor project and delegate to the Executive Committee the authority to make necessary decisions regarding; 1. Obtaining a means/source of short-term financing of expenses, 2. Obtaining bids for project components and awarding contracts in accordance with the Partnership Procurement Policy, 3. Assuring that the costs of completing the Ground Floor can be reimbursed from Empire State Development grants awarded to the Partnership. Motion made by Julie Stokes, second by Cindy Wian and approved by the Board.

May Board Meeting MOTION 2024-5. Motion made by Ed Kinowski, seconded by Cindy Wian authorizing Dave R to proceed with the Hose bibs, the water bottle refill and the porch bike racks at a total cost not to exceed \$4,000, motion passed unanimous.

June Board Meeting Motion 2024-6. Motion by Ed Kinowski, seconded by Kay Tomasi authorizing payment of \$7,000 to Brookside Nursery, \$5,000 from the Tom Woods Fund and \$2,000 from general operations. Motion was approved unanimously.

June Board Meeting Motion 2024-7. Motion by Ed Kinowski, second by Kay Tomasi authorizing an agreement to allow the Town of Saratoga to install outdoor lights, alarms and related improvements to the GVC, unanimously approved.

June Board Meeting Motion 2024-8. Motion by Joe Durkin, seconded by Ed Kinowski confirming retroactively providing the MOU to Saratoga County.

August Board Meeting Motion 2024-9. Motion by Julie Stokes, seconded by Ed Knowski authorizing the Collaboration Agreement with delegation of authority to the Executive Committee to make modifications that do not change the substance of the agreement, unanimously approved.

September Board Meeting Motion 2024-10. Motion by Julie Stokes, seconded by Kay T to amend and modify the Procurement Policy to authorize the Treasurer to make expenses up to



\$3,000, motion unanimously approved.

September Board Meeting Motion 2024-11. Motion by Julie Stokes, seconded by Ed K authorizing the Executive Committee to prepare and enter into a contract with Dave Roberts for Mr. Roberts to represent the Partnership in the review of the County's plans and Occupancy Area buildout and other building modifications of the GVC along with providing assistance in the maintenance of the GVC, motion approved unanimously.

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