



## **Annual Report**

**November 2024—November 2025**

*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*

Katherine L. Tomasi—Senate Appointee  
Cindy Wian – Hudson Crossing Park, Inc.  
Julie Stokes—Governor Appointee

*Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members*

Amanda Lefton — Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Kathy Moser —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 support from Empire State Development—secured with the assistance of Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner—the Partnership is continuing to operate the Gateway Visitors Center and refocusing on its core mission of advancing economic and tourism development throughout the Reserve. Significant improvements are underway at the Visitors Center: Saratoga County is completing the lower-level build-out, redesigning the surrounding grounds, and installing new exhibits interpreting the 1777 Saratoga Campaign. At the same time, the Board of Directors intends to place stronger emphasis on promoting regional projects that engage all communities within the region.

### **Regional Projects**

*Champlain Canalway Trail* – The Partnership has been assisting the Friends of the Champlain Canalway trail by providing guidance on how their group can support the effort to build a contiguous trail between Waterford and Whitehall. On behalf of the Partnership, Drew Alberti provides support in gap identification and analysis, identifying means and methods for enhanced trail wayfinding, and generally working group to build organizational capacity.

*Hoosic River Watershed* –The Partnership and the Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) are collaborating to develop a comprehensive, community-based plan to improve water quality, public access, ecological health, and recreational opportunities along the Hoosic River in New York State. The initiative builds on the shared interests of municipalities, counties, and nonprofit partners in protecting the river’s natural resources while promoting sustainable recreation and economic vitality. This project will create a strategic, science-based framework for addressing these issues collaboratively through a unified regional plan and long-term implementation strategy.

### **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 rear parking lot was paved in September and interior construction began in October 2025.

### **Gateway Visitors Center Report**

1,629 guests visited the Gateway Visitors Center from Oct 1, 2024- October 31, 2025, with visitors from 18 states. We also had a few visitors from Scotland. These numbers are based ONLY on those who signed the guest book and actual visitors are actually much higher. Based on the data collected by Parks & Trails New York and best-practice extrapolation methodology, PTNY estimates that the trail in Schuylerville just north of the Visitor Center sees approximately 31,000 trail user visits per year, with an average of 113 visits per day during the summer.

Month	Total Visitors	Furthest Traveled
Oct	287	South Dakota, Virginia, Mass
Nov	81	
Dec	19	Scotland
Jan	CLOSED	
Feb	11	
Mar	20	Myrtle Beach
Apr	20	Germany
May	76	VA, MA, NJ, VT
Jun	130	AZ, CA, FL, MA, SC, NH
Jul	124	WI, NC, CA, FL, TX, VA
Aug	179	PA, MD, NC, CT, MA, FL
Sep	62	FL, CA
Oct	130	CA, CT, IL, WV, GA, OR, NJ
Year Total	1629	

### *Programming*

10 featured events brought in 490 people (not included in the overall visitorship) and 26 community meetings (including monthly partnership meetings). The Solomon Northup reenactment (performed by Greenwich resident Clifford Oliver Mealey) event and the Caroling (November and December, respectively) were both key events. However, the highlight of the year was the Saratoga Siege Weekend, which was moved from Saratoga NHP to Fort Hardy Park due to the government shutdown. This event saw thousands of visitors descend on the Visitors Center and Fort Hardy Park.

Key events include:

Date	Event	# of Attendees
2-Oct	Superfund Presentation	35
26-Oct	Ghost stories	50
14-Nov	Drumming with Earth Beat	40
7-Nov	Girl Scout Ceremony	20
16-Dec	Caroling	116
20-Jan	Babysitter Training	25
24-Feb	Solomon Northup	90
9-Mar	Red Spruce	40
29-Mar	Creatures of the Night	44
3-May	Canalway Trail Mayors/Supervisors Meeting	30

*(This is not an inclusive list)*

## **Looking Ahead**

The coming year promises to be one of the most significant in the Partnership's recent history. With construction well underway, Saratoga County is expected to complete the build-out of the Saratoga Revolutionary Experience at the Gateway Visitors Center in 2026. This transformational project will activate the lower level and exterior grounds with immersive, professionally designed exhibits interpreting the Battles of Saratoga and the broader story of the American Revolution's turning point. Once open, the Gateway Visitors Center will serve as a regional hub for 250th anniversary programming, offering a dynamic space for educational events, heritage tourism, and community engagement throughout the commemorative period.

The extraordinary success of the Saratoga Siege Weekend—which was relocated to the Visitors Center and Fort Hardy Park during the federal government shutdown—demonstrated the site's growing role as a destination for large-scale heritage tourism events. The Partnership anticipates building on this momentum in the year ahead, working with Saratoga County, local communities, and regional partners to support high-quality programming at the Gateway Visitors Center during the anniversary year.

At the same time, the Board of Directors is looking forward to strengthening the Partnership's core mission of supporting collaborative regional initiatives across the Hudson-Hoosic corridor. In the coming year, the Partnership will continue its work with the Friends of the Champlain Canalway Trail, assisting with gap identification, wayfinding strategies, and capacity-building for a unified, contiguous trail from Waterford to Whitehall. Likewise, the Partnership will deepen its collaboration with the Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) to advance a strategic, community-driven framework for improving water quality, access, ecological health, and recreation along the Hoosic River in New York.

Together, these projects reflect the Partnership's commitment to fostering a shared regional identity grounded in natural resources, cultural heritage, and sustainable recreation. As the 250th anniversary approaches and new opportunities emerge, the coming year will position the Partnership to play an essential role in shaping the region's future—honoring its history, promoting its assets, and strengthening the connections among the communities it serves.

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

Andrew (Drew) Alberti is the Vice President of Flatley Read., Inc. and he serves as Operations Administrator for the Partnership.

Kate Morse is the Executive Director of Hudson Crossing Park., Inc. and serves as Guest Services Administrator for the Partnership

Financial Summary

2024 Financial Summary  
January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

<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	-102.00
National Grid	-1,923.96
Schuylerville/Victory Board of Water Management	-1,160.00
Insurance	-4,866.68
Building Repair/Construction/Maintenance	-21,687.80
Spectrum	-\$1,690.61
Bank Fees	-15.00
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>-115,886.05</b>
<b>End of Period Balance</b>	<b>\$6,413.51</b>

2025 Financial Summary  
January 1, 2025 – November 6, 2025 (YTD)

<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$6,413.51</b>
<b>Income</b>	
-	
Municipal Contributions	\$0.00
ESD Grant	\$82,209.99
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$88,623.50</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administration	\$26,150.00
	-
GVC Management and Programming	\$44,565.00
Office Management - Supplies	\$0.00
National Grid	-\$2,168.70
Schuylerville/Victory Board of Water Management	-\$899.00
Insurance	\$0.00
Building Repair/Construction/Maintenance	-\$6,464.23
Spectrum	-\$2,024.80
Bank Fees	-\$30.00
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>-82,301.73</b>
<b>End of Period Balance</b>	<b>\$6,321.77</b>

<b>Operational Budget FY25-26</b>			
	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Total</b>
	Administration/Member Services Consultant	Management of HHHRP Organization and service to membership	45,000.00
	Meetings and Supplies	Printings, mailings, and other office supplies	650.00
<b>Gateway Visitors Center Budget</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Total</b>
Professional Services			
	Guest Services Consultant	Visitors Center Staffing and Volunteer Coordination	48,000.00
	Janitorial	Cleaning Services	5,600.00
Building			
	Electric/Gas	Utility	3,000.00
	Telephone/Internet	Utility	2,000.00
	Water	Utility	1,000.00
	Maintenance/Contingency	Emergency systems, and building repair contingency fund	10,000.00
	Building Supplies	Cleaning supplies, bathroom tissue, soap, sanitizer, salt/sand etc	1,000.00
	Waste Management	Garbage	750.00
	Landscaping/Snow Removal	Seasonal Services	10,000.00
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>

## 2025 HHHRP APPROVED MOTIONS

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

As of 11/13/2025

January Board Meeting Motion 2025-1. Motion made by Julie Stokes, seconded by Cindy Wian to authorize entering into the 2025 Empire State Development Grant Disbursement Agreement required to receive grant funds; motion approved unanimously.

January Board Meeting Motion 2025-2. Motion made by Julie Stokes, seconded by Kay Tomasi to authorize renewing the GVC Agreement with Hudson Crossing Park with delegation to Executive Committee to modify/update and renewing the Administration Agreement with Flatley Read with delegation to Executive Committee to modify/update; motion approved unanimously.

February Board Meeting Motion 2025-3. Motion made by Cindy Wian, second by Tom Richardson for HHHRP to provide a letter of support to assist Hudson Crossing Park in obtaining funds for its handicap/adaptive kayak launch; approved unanimously.

March Board Meeting Motion 2025-4. Motion made by Cindy W, second by Julie S approving a resolution to proceed authorizing HHHRP to assist the local Champlain Canal Trail working group in preparing an application to obtain a grant from the Canal Corporation to finance a wayfinding project of signs and similar infrastructure related to the Champlain Canal Trail; approved unanimous.

March Board Meeting Motion 2025-5. Motion made by Julie Stokes, second by Cindy Wian authorizing HHHRP providing a letter of support for Village of Schuylerville in connection with trail improvement projects initiative; approved unanimous.

August Board Meeting Motion 2025 – 6. Motion made by made by Julie Stokes and seconded by Ed Kinowski to approve the conceptual graphic rendering plans for the GVC lower floor, including the stair connection presented, by the County with a delegation of authority to the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson to jointly approve any final plans which do not substantially change the plans presented at the meeting; motion approved unanimously.