Annual Report

November 2025—November 2026

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 nonprofit and governmental entities with an emphasis on agricultural and open space protection, economic and tourism development, and the protection and interpretation of our natural and cultural heritage.

Prepared By:

Andrew Alberti, Flatley Read, Inc.

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Partnership Members

Officers

Thomas Richardson, Chair—City of Mechanicville	**Ian Murray, Vice Chair—Town of Saratoga**
Edward Kinowski, Treasurer—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

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
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 Kingsbury
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

Agricultural Stewardship Association
American Farmland Trust
Battenkill Conservancy
Friends of the Champlain Canalway Trail
Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership
Erie Canalway National Heritage Area
Friends of Bennington Battlefield
Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield
Hudson Crossing Park
Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area
Hoosic River Watershed Association
Hudson River Valley Greenway
Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc.
Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission
Open Space Institute
Natural Heritage Trust
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
Saratoga National Historical Park
Saratoga Preserving Land and Nature (P.L.A.N.)
Siena College Center for Revolutionary Era Studies
Washington County Historical Association

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The Year in Review

With support from Empire State Development, secured through the assistance of Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership focused on preparing the region for the 2027 commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the 1777 Saratoga Campaign. This work brought together heritage tourism, visitor services and regional initiatives to help communities throughout the Reserve benefit from the anniversary and the attention it will bring to the region.

At the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors Center, Saratoga County advanced construction of the lower-level exhibits while Hudson Crossing Park maintained staffing, volunteer coordination, programming and day-to-day visitor services. Coordination with Saratoga County supported public access during construction. The lower level welcomed visitors during a soft opening on Siege Weekend in October, marking an important step toward the grand opening scheduled for May 2027. Recorded visitation reached 1,890, while twelve programs and events reported combined attendance of 537.

Beyond the Visitors Center, the Partnership continued advancing the Hoosic River Access Initiative with the Hoosic River Watershed Association. Resolutions from the Town of Hoosick and Village of Hoosick Falls, together with Senator Ashby's letter of support, strengthened the foundation for broader community participation and pursuit of funding for an access study. The Partnership also continued assisting the Friends of the Champlain Canalway Trail, formerly the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group, with organizational development and shared resources.

One-time contributions totaling $65,000 helped address cash-flow pressures associated with reimbursement-based grant funding. Support included $15,000 from the Town of Northumberland, $10,000 from the Town of Saratoga, $5,000 from the Town of Stillwater, $15,000 from Saratoga County and a $20,000 unrestricted private donation. These contributions are not assumed to recur in the proposed operating budget. The operating account balance was $36,437.72 as of November 4, 2026, although that balance does not represent uncommitted surplus or amounts pending reimbursement from ESD.

Looking toward 2027, the Partnership's priorities include preparing for the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga with the lower level's May grand opening and coordinating staffing, volunteer support, operating hours and programming with Hudson Crossing Park and Saratoga County. The proposed operating budget increases HCP's allocation to $72,000 to strengthen guest services and staffing while retaining support for programming. The Board also supported combining Partnership and Visitors Center information on a new Squarespace website, with HCP and Flatley Read coordinating its development. This work is intended to help residents and visitors find information about the Center and anniversary activities. Through these preparations, the Partnership aims to support a coordinated visitor experience during the 250th anniversary of the 1777 Saratoga Campaign and strengthen the Center's role as a gateway to the region beyond 2027.

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Ongoing Regional Initiatives

Hoosic River Access and Stewardship Initiative

The Partnership continues to work with the Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) to advance a coordinated approach to public access and stewardship along the Hoosic River in New York State. During the reporting year, the Town of Hoosick and Village of Hoosick Falls adopted resolutions supporting the initiative, and Senator Ashby provided a letter of support. These commitments provide a foundation for expanding participation and pursuing funding for an access study.

The proposed study would inventory existing and potential access points for paddling, fishing and riverside recreation; assess connections to trails and downtowns; and identify opportunities for accessible facilities, wayfinding and heritage interpretation. The broader framework addresses water quality, habitat protection, floodplain resilience and long-term intermunicipal coordination.

Next steps are continued outreach to river communities and legislative representatives, development of regional support, and pursuit of study funding. Once funded, the initiative would advance toward consultant selection and a community-informed plan identifying priorities, responsibilities and potential implementation funding.

Friends of the Champlain Canalway Trail

The Partnership continued technical assistance to the Friends of the Champlain Canalway Trail, formerly the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group. In coordination with Parks & Trails New York, this work focused on organizational capacity, clarifying how the Friends can support individual communities, and advancing trail access, connectivity and economic opportunities throughout the Reserve.

An initial accomplishment was recovering access to the Friends' Google account, enabling Google Drive to serve as the platform for a planned repository of feasibility studies, project designs and grant applications. The repository has not yet been created. Next steps include convening the organizational meeting, clarifying priorities and responsibilities, and developing shared resources to support future projects.

Gateway Visitors Center expansion

Saratoga County's development of the lower level of the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors Center reached a milestone with a soft opening during Siege Weekend in October 2026. The opening welcomed visitors into the new space ahead of the grand opening scheduled for May 2027.

The expansion strengthens the Center's role in interpreting the Battles of Saratoga and supporting heritage tourism during the 250th anniversary commemoration. The Partnership will continue coordinating with Saratoga County and HCP on facility operations, visitor services and programming in preparation for the grand opening.

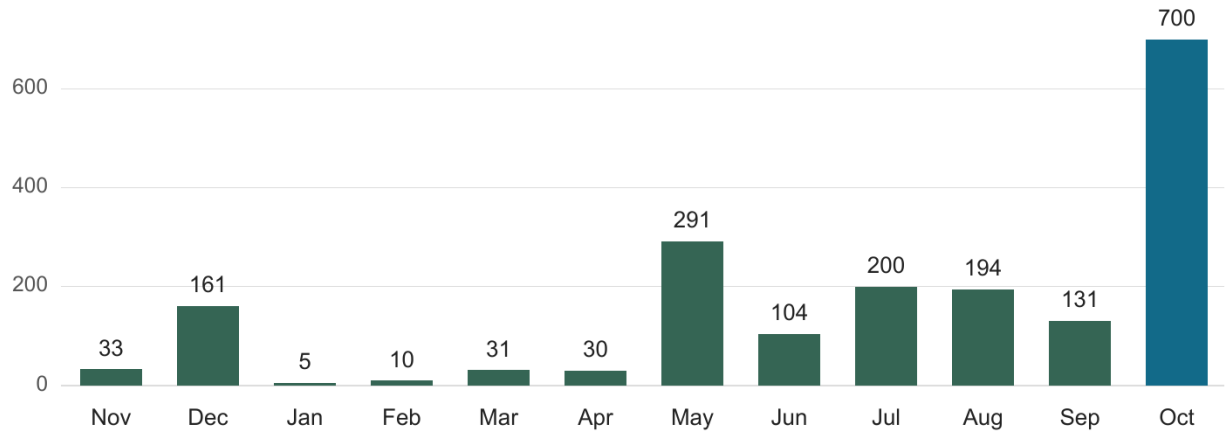
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Gateway Visitors Center Report

The Center recorded 1,890 visitors from November 2025 through October 2026, averaging approximately 158 per month. Reported origins included 24 states, the United Kingdom and Montreal. November 2026 counts were not yet complete when the visitor report was prepared.

Monthly visitors

1,890 visitors | November 2025–October 2026



Adapted from Kate Morse's visitorship presentation, November 2026.

Seasonal patterns

October was the busiest month, with 700 recorded visitors. May through September accounted for another 920 visitors. Together, these six months represented approximately 86 percent of recorded visitation. December's 161 visitors also demonstrated the importance of winter programming, including community caroling.

Visitor reach

Recorded out-of-state origins were Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Origin information was not available for every month.

Visitor counts and event attendance are reported separately. They have not been added into a combined attendance figure because overlap has not been established.

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Programming and Looking Ahead

Twelve programs and events reported attendance totaling 537. Activities served residents, travelers, youth groups and regional organizations, with heritage interpretation and community gatherings extending the Center's use beyond routine visitor services.

Date	Program or event	Attendance
Dec. 15, 2025	Community caroling	100
Feb. 26, 2026	Susan B. Anthony event	30
Apr. 14, 2026	Ben Frank Slept Here	35
July 10, 2026	Kids on the Canals	40
July 17, 2026	Camp Northwoods tour	60
Sept. 14, 2026	Riverkeeper Riversweep training	12
Oct. 10–11, 2026	Siege Weekend speakers and trolley tours	150
Oct. 14, 2026	Henry Knox talk	35
Oct. 21, 2026	DAR meeting and tour	30
Oct. 25, 2026	Lantern making	25
Nov. 8, 2026	Susan Meyer author presentation	10
Nov. 14, 2026	Fort Hardy workshop	10
	Total	537



Community caroling at the Gateway Visitors Center, December 15, 2025. Photo provided by Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park.

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Looking ahead

The May 2027 grand opening and the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga will place additional emphasis on coordinated visitor services, staffing and programming. The proposed budget increases HCP support while retaining resources for routine building operations and regional member services.

The Partnership will continue seeking support for the Hoosic River access study and helping the Friends of the Champlain Canalway Trail organize shared information and priorities. These efforts reflect the Partnership's continuing role in connecting communities and supporting locally led projects across the region.

Programming and operating hours will be coordinated with HCP and Saratoga County within available funding. Additional anniversary activities or expanded services beyond the base operating plan would require identification of appropriate funding.



Kids on the Canals presentation, July 10, 2026. Photo provided by Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park.

Meet the Partnership Staff:

Andrew (Drew) Alberti, Vice President of Flatley Read, Inc., serves as Operations Administrator. Kate Morse, Executive Director of Hudson Crossing Park, Inc., serves as Guest Services Administrator.

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Financial Summary

2025 Financial Summary
January 1–December 31, 2025

Beginning balance	**$6,413.51**
ESD reimbursements	$131,747.14
Municipal and county contributions	$0.00
Unrestricted private donation	$0.00
Total receipts	**$131,747.14**
Total funds including beginning balance	**$138,160.65**
Administration	$41,150.00
GVC management and programming	$69,565.00
Office supplies	$106.00
Electric and gas	$2,337.34
Water	$899.00
Insurance	$4,866.68
Building repair and maintenance services	$11,601.69
Telephone and internet	$2,219.79
Bank fees	$61.05
Total payments	**$132,806.55**
Ending balance	**$5,354.10**

2026 Financial Summary
January 1–November 4, 2026 (YTD)

Beginning balance	**$5,354.10**
ESD reimbursements	$104,112.85
Municipal and county contributions	$45,000.00
Unrestricted private donation	$20,000.00
Total receipts	**$169,112.85**
Total funds including beginning balance	**$174,466.95**
Administration	$30,775.00
GVC management and programming	$88,333.98
Office supplies	$0.00
Electric and gas	$2,894.80
Water	$1,172.00
Insurance	$0.00
Building repair and maintenance services	$12,901.42
Telephone and internet	$1,922.03
Bank fees	$30.00
Total payments	**$138,029.23**
Ending balance	**$36,437.72**

General Operating Account. Calendar year 2025 and calendar year 2026 through November 4. Figures reflect receipts and payments recorded in the operations ledger; payments may relate to services delivered in earlier periods.

For comparability, building repair and maintenance services include repairs, cleaning, grounds/property maintenance, pest control and waste collection. The 2026 total comprises cleaning $4,200; property maintenance $7,200; pest control $950; and waste collection $551.42.

All $65,000 of municipal, county and private contributions were one-time receipts.

Flatley Read's Q3 2026 services remained unbilled at report preparation and are excluded from recorded payments. HCP payments include prior service periods. The insurance policy covering 2026 cost $4,866.68 and was paid in December 2025; no insurance payment appears in the 2026 ledger through November 4.

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Proposed Operational Budget FY2026–27

Category	Expense	Detail	Total
Partnership Operations	Administration / Member Services	Flatley Read—organization management and service to membership	45,000.00
	Meetings and Supplies	Printings, mailings, office supplies and bank fees	550.00
Gateway Visitors Center			
Professional Services	Guest Services Consultant	HCP staffing, guest services and volunteer coordination	57,000.00
	Janitorial	Cleaning services	5,600.00
Building	Electric / Gas	Utility	3,600.00
	Telephone / Internet	Utility	2,200.00
	Water	Utility	1,300.00
	Maintenance / Contingency	Pest control $1,200; building repair and contingency $2,800	4,000.00
	Building Supplies	Cleaning supplies, bathroom supplies, salt / sand, etc.	1,000.00
	Waste Management	Garbage collection	750.00
	Landscaping / Snow Removal	Seasonal services	8,500.00
Insurance	Property / General Liability	Operational insurance	5,500.00
Programming	HCP Programming	Events, activities and programming administration	15,000.00
	Total		**150,000.00**

The proposed annual operating budget remains $150,000, funded by the annual Empire State Development grant. It assumes no recurring municipal, county or private contributions. The budget is proposed for Board consideration and is not a statement of actual expenses or grant reimbursements received.

HCP's combined allocation increases from $63,000 to $72,000, a $9,000 increase of approximately 14.3 percent. The increase supports guest services administration, staffing and volunteer coordination. Programming remains at $15,000. Flatley Read's allocation remains $45,000.

The increase is balanced primarily through lower allowances for repairs and contingency, insurance, and grounds maintenance. Utilities are adjusted upward to reflect recorded spending. The maintenance allowance includes approximately $1,200 for pest control and $2,800 for repairs and contingency.

The insurance allowance covers the quoted $5,402.19 renewal for January 1, 2027 through January 1, 2028. Staffing levels, seasonal hours and anniversary activities must remain aligned with the funded operating plan and coordination with Saratoga County.

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2026 HHHRP BOARD ACTIONS

The following summarizes substantive actions recorded in the meeting minutes through October 26, 2026. Routine approval of minutes and adjournments is excluded. Formal motions are distinguished from other recorded decisions.

Formal motion

April 27, 2026 — ESD Grant Disbursement Agreement. The Board unanimously authorized the agreement required to receive funding appropriated in the State's 2025–2026 fiscal year. Motion by Julie Stokes; second by Cindy Wian.

Other recorded board decisions

April 27, 2026 — Website consolidation. The Board approved the concept of combining existing Partnership and Gateway Visitors Center information on a new Squarespace website, with HCP and Flatley Read coordinating the work.

August 31, 2026 — HCP agreement coordination. The Board directed further coordination between Kate Morse and Saratoga County Historian Lauren Roberts concerning facility and programming responsibilities, followed by Executive Committee review to finalize the HCP agreement for signing.

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