



County of Rockland
Office of County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef

NEWS RELEASE

Date: January 20, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GREENWAY APPROVES ROCKLAND COUNTY COMPACT STRATEGY

(Hyde Park, NY) The Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council approved Rockland County's Greenway Compact strategy at its board meeting in Hyde Park on Wednesday. Often referred to as "grass roots regional planning," Greenway Compacts are locally directed voluntary regional planning documents that serve as guidance for municipalities to incorporate the balanced "Greenway Criteria" and a regional perspective in local planning and land use decisions. Rockland joins Dutchess, Westchester and Putnam counties in the Greenway Compact. Ulster and Orange Counties are both developing Greenway Compacts and should be soon to follow.

The Greenway's Compact framework provides the communities in the Hudson River Valley the tools they need to protect what they value and grow in ways beneficial to both the individual community and the region as a whole. The five intersecting criteria that guide the Greenway's effort are: regional planning; economic development; public access; natural and cultural resource protection; and heritage and environmental education.

"I applaud Rockland County for taking this important step toward shaping the regional vision for its part of the Hudson River Valley. The Greenway Compact program is a true example of grassroots regional planning," said Mark Castiglione, Acting Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Greenway. "Providing the tools and options that are consistent with the balanced approach of the Greenway, Compacts provide municipalities with guidelines that enable them to not only tackle local planning issues, but also to more effectively address the many planning issues that transcend municipal boundaries."

Rockland County's recently completed comprehensive plan, Rockland Tomorrow<<http://www.rccompplan.com/>>, will serve as the Greenway Compact Plan for the county. The plan represents Rockland's vision for the future by balancing growth with good planning principles and the protection of natural resources. The development process recognizes a variety of resources, plans and concepts that are already in place. Rockland County's Compact will provide planning assistance and guidance to its municipalities, businesses and civic leaders in an effort to strengthen local and regional economies, protect the unique natural and cultural resources, and work to ensure sustainability.

"Rockland County has long-shared the Greenway's planning approach of thinking regionally as communities plan locally," said Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef. "We are grateful to the Hudson River Valley Greenway Council for providing a grant to help create this Plan, and we look forward to working with our Greenway partners throughout the region and within Rockland to carry out the Plan's goals."

The Greenway Compact Program encourages the development of coordinated county by county land use planning. The goal of the Greenway is for all of the fourteen counties and 316 communities within the legislatively defined Greenway area to develop regional Greenway Compacts. The Greenway Compact process strikes a balance between regional coordination and the traditional home rule powers that New York State communities enjoy. While participation in the Greenway Compact is voluntary, it provides the mechanism for communities to share common values and inter-municipal cooperation.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway is a unique state-sponsored program established by the Greenway Act of 1991. Presently, 253 out of the 316 eligible municipalities within the Greenway area have become Greenway Communities. The Greenway is designed to encourage Hudson River Valley communities to develop projects and initiatives related to the criteria of natural and cultural resource protection, regional and local planning, economic development, public access to the Hudson River (as well as other regional and local resources), and heritage and environmental education. It provides technical assistance and small grants for planning, capital projects, and water trail and land-based trails that reinforce the Greenway Criteria. In keeping with the New York tradition of home rule, the Greenway program has no regulatory authority. The participation of municipalities in Greenway programs and projects is entirely voluntary.

Visit <http://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Planning/Compact.aspx> for more information on the Greenway Compact Program