

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 22, 2006

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES \$8.3 MILLION FOR PEEKSKILL WATERFRONT

Funds Will Support Creation of New Local Parks, a Riverfront Walkway, and Additional Public Access to Connect Peekskill to the Hudson River

Governor George E. Pataki today announced a commitment of \$8.3 million to assist in the redevelopment of the city's Hudson River waterfront area, which will transform an underutilized industrial area into a vibrant public attraction.

"Communities along the Hudson River recognize the vast potential of this historic waterway, and I am pleased to support the City of Peekskill as it moves forward with an exciting vision for its waterfront area," Governor Pataki said. "Creating additional waterfront access and developing venues along the shoreline – including two pedestrian bridges, a riverview walkway, and a public rooftop park on a new 500-car parking garage - will help to connect people with the river, and provide additional opportunities to enjoy this magnificent resource.

"I commend Mayor Testa and all the State and local officials, organizations, and residents who have been a part of this planning process," the Governor added. "We are proud to partner with the city in this effort, and provide assistance to help you achieve your waterfront vision and enhance the quality of life here in the Hudson Valley."

Senator Vincent Leibell said, "I am pleased to have the city of Peekskill in my district, and I applaud Governor Pataki, Mayor Testa and the members of the City Council for their efforts in this revitalization. This funding for Peekskill's waterfront projects will greatly enhance the entire surrounding areas in the city. I know the residents and business communities of Peekskill are excited to have this redevelopment occur in their historic home."

Assemblywoman Sandra Galef said, "The Peekskill waterfront is a tremendous asset to our community. This money will allow the public to have better access to the majestic Hudson River, providing more opportunities to enjoy this natural resource and fully realize its economic and recreational potential."

Peekskill Mayor John Testa said, "This funding will ensure the quality of this important project for our community. We can realize our commitment to creating new public spaces, the restoration of historic structures, and making

our waterfront area the destination place along the Hudson. We thank Governor Pataki for his continued support and shared vision for Peekskill.”

The city’s Waterfront Redevelopment Plan was developed by the city to promote the reorientation of an underutilized area into a mixed use neighborhood with various water-enhanced uses.

The \$8.3 million will be used for the following projects:

- A new Lincoln Plaza at the base of Central Ave. to the west of Water St. – \$1,135,000

The plaza will serve as a focal point for the revitalized waterfront area. The plaza and public gathering space, adjacent to the Lincoln Depot Museum at Peekskill Landing Park, will include a fountain, reflecting pools, benches, and other amenities, as well as retail planned at the northern end.

- A “Riverview Walk” pedestrian promenade – \$675,000

The new ten foot-wide promenade will connect the recently-completed Annsville Trail to Lincoln Plaza, and will include decorative pavers, special lighting, and extensive landscaping.

- Construction of pedestrian bridges to Peekskill Landing Park – \$1,475,000 (2 projects)

The Southern Pedestrian Bridge, which will connect the new, public Lincoln Plaza and Lincoln Depot Museum to Peekskill Landing Park. This bridge will include an elevator and will be accessible to individuals with disabilities. (\$950,000)

The Northern Pedestrian Bridge, which will connect the new Main Street Arrival Park with the northern end of Peekskill Landing Park. (\$525,000)

- Construction of a 500-car commuter parking garage with rooftop park – \$985,000

The new parking garage will be built into the hill facing the Peekskill Train Station to minimize the visual impact. The roof will be level with South Street, allowing this area to be used as a public space.

- Refurbishment of the Centennial Firehouse – \$1,000,000

This turn-of-the-century brick firehouse will undergo a complete restoration for adaptive reuse. Originally slated for demolition, this

structure, which was involved in the response effort for the famous Peekskill Fleischman's fire, will be physically moved.

- Public Park on the corner of Hudson and Water Streets – \$975,000

This new "Piazza" was originally envisioned as a pocket park, but will be expanded to a larger public park with special paving details, crosswalks, a fountain, lighting, benches, and landscaping.

- Relocation of Water Street north of Dains Lumber Company – \$1,200,000

In response to public comments on the city's Waterfront Redevelopment Plan, the street will be relocated to run along the railroad tracks, providing an uninterrupted water view for pedestrians walking along North Water Street.

- Railroad Fencing and Visual Mitigation Measures – \$510,000

This project will feature decorative fencing, landscaping, and other activities on the east side of the railroad tracks along the entire redevelopment project area to visually buffer the railroad from park areas and enhance pedestrian safety.

- Main Street Arrival Park – \$345,000

This small, public open space will provide a visual focal point for pedestrians and traffic arriving via Main Street. The park, located at the base of Main Street, will be at the site of the Northern Pedestrian Bridge, with the west side of the Water Street Riverview Walk passing through the area.

Since 1995, New York State has provided more than \$370 million for the restoration, cleanup and protection of the Hudson River Estuary. These program investments have improved the health of the waterway, protected critical habitats, and increased recreational access to this treasured area. ###
