



JOHN G. TESTA, *Mayor*

CITY OF PEEKSKILL

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PEEKSKILL RECEIVES \$50,000 BROWNFIELDS GRANT FROM NYS DEC Bond Funds Designated for Investigation of Peekskill Landing Site

Mayor John G. Testa is pleased to announce that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has awarded the City of Peekskill a \$50,400 grant for the investigation of contamination at the Peekskill Landing Site on the Hudson River. This is the first step in the remediation and redevelopment of a parcel adjacent to the Riverfront Green Park. The grant is being provided under the 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.

“The investigation of the Peekskill Landing Site is an important project for the community, allowing the city to preserve additional parkland and expand the use of public green space along the Hudson River,” stated DEC Commissioner Erin M. Crotty. “Governor Pataki is strongly committed to helping communities across New York transform brownfield properties into productive parcels, and the State is providing valuable assistance through the Bond Act to help them revitalize these vacant sites,” the Commissioner added.

Peekskill Mayor John G. Testa said, “Our City’s outstanding waterfront park is regularly used by thousands of adults and children. Peekskill was already ahead of the curve in reclaiming and improving its Hudson River shoreline but now we can look forward to the exciting prospect of implementing the Peekskill Landing expansion that will extend public access to our riverfront northward and make our beautiful park better and larger. The City’s productive partnership with Scenic Hudson and New York State enables us to move our vision forward to enhance public utilization and enjoyment of our scenic and historic setting along the Hudson River.”

In 1998, the City entered into a co-ownership agreement with the Scenic Hudson Land Trust to jointly purchase the 3.7-acre site on North Water Street, which borders the Hudson River. The city will use funding from the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act to investigate the site, including on-site sampling of sediment, soil, and groundwater, and off-site sediment sampling. After the investigation is complete, alternatives will be evaluated to clean up the site. The City plans to extend their Riverfront Green Park on this site along with other mixed-use components. Some preliminary suggestions have been a restaurant, tourism center, and maritime related uses. A Public Outreach Specialist will help the City gain valuable public input for the development of the site.

Over the years, the site has housed a stove works operation, a coal and lumber yard, a stone crushing operation, and the Tallix Art Foundry operation. In 1998, the City of Peekskill performed an Environmental Site Assessment, which included the installation of groundwater monitoring wells and test pits to sample the soil. The sampling revealed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals in both soil and groundwater.

The City of Peekskill is eligible for state assistance through the Environmental Restoration (Brownfields) Program, which is funded by the 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act. The \$50,400 grant provides 75 percent of the eligible costs for the investigation, with the city funding the balance of the costs.

The Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act, proposed by Governor Pataki and approved by voters in November 1996, authorizes \$1.75 billion for important environmental programs. The Bond Act included \$200 million for grants to municipalities for costs associated with the investigation and cleanup of brownfields. Brownfields are abandoned or underused properties where real or perceived environmental contamination hinders the potential for redevelopment.

Governor Pataki previously committed \$26 million in Bond Act funding for more than 100 investigation and cleanup projects at brownfield sites throughout the state. Other applications are under review by DEC and additional grants are anticipated in the near future.

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