



CITY OF PEEKSKILL

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa
Mayor

Peekskill Wins Prestigious New York State “Waterfront Rediscovery Award” For Annsville Creek Project.

*Honor is Granted In Tribute to Multi-Year, Multi-Phase Transformation
of Waterfront Property .*

Project Has Transformed Neglected, Dilapidated Area Into Exciting Resource For
Entire Community, With Nature Trails, Fishing Piers and Other Amenities.

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Contact: Mayor John Testa
914-734-4105

PEEKSKILL, NY—Not long ago, the shoreline of Peekskill’s Annsville Creek was empty and neglected. But in the space of a few years, a concerted effort driven by the City government and supported by state and federal authorities has transformed it into an exciting resource for the entire region.

In honor of that successful effort, the City of Peekskill received a rare and valuable tribute from New York State: a Governor’s Waterfront Rediscovery Award. This award was granted for an effort that began back in the 1970s, but which really gained momentum in 2002 and should be finished by the end of 2004.

840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566 (914) 734-4105

“Peekskill is lucky to have some of the most beautiful and accessible riverfront property on the Hudson,” says Mayor John Testa. “This award signals that a key portion of that riverfront will soon become more available and useful than ever before,” he says.

Annsville Creek is an inlet on Peekskill’s north side. In the 1970s, the banks of the creek were lined with dilapidated bungalows. These were demolished, and then the property remained vacant for decades. In 2002, Peekskill received a grant from the Greenway Conservancy and hired Stephan Yarabek of Hudson and Pacific Designs Inc. to create a master plan for the entire Annsville Preserve area.

Carefully designed to meet both the needs of the City and the financial realities involved in such a project, the master plan proposed a multi-phase effort that would proceed based on the availability of funds. As the projects proceeded, more and more of Annsville Creek’s shoreline would become available and access to the Hudson itself would become greater through the creation of trails, a fishing pier and other assets.

“Many different people and organizations have helped make this project a success and made it possible for us to get this award,” Mayor Testa says. Besides the Greenway Conservancy, organizations assisting in the transformation of Annsville Creek include the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Westchester County, working through CDBG grants; Metro North Railroad, the New York State Department of Transportation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Peekskill itself.

While portions of the project have already been completed, work on major segments are still underway. These efforts will include the creation of a 70-foot handicapped-accessible fishing pier.

In addition, a trail will be constructed that will lead from North Water Street to the Annsville Creek Park. Parking spaces and other facilities will also be created. “When this project is completed, people will have an entirely new way to access the wonders of the Hudson River. They will be able to witness its beauty and partake of its bounty. We are creating a resource which present and future generations will appreciate and enjoy,” Mayor Testa says.

Funding for the project has come from numerous different sources. The Greenway Conservancy has contributed \$15,000. Working together, the City of Peekskill and the Department of Environmental Conservation have put up around \$350,000. Westchester County has provided \$114,000 in CDBG funds, and the City of Peekskill has additionally expended more than \$200,000 for traffic signals, in-kind services and in other areas.

Besides acting as a park in and of itself, the Annsville Preserve will also be a link in the Waterfront Trail system that runs along the Hudson River and into the Hudson Highlands. “When this project is completed some time in 2004, it will be the pride of Peekskill, Westchester County, and New York State,” Mayor Testa says. “We have truly earned this award. I congratulate and thank our city employees and especially our Planning Department for their efforts.”

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