



CITY OF PEEKSKILL  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa  
Mayor



## **Peekskill Pays Tribute to Volunteers Who Helped Create Its Magnificent Riverfront Green Park.**

*701 Waterfront and Uplands Committee Invested Countless Hours in Securing Citizen Input, Debating Issues, Set City on Path to Riverfront Green.*

Unveiling of Tribute Plaque Will Take Place Saturday, Nov. 24, 2007, Near Entrance to Riverfront Green.

### ***For Immediate Release***

**Wednesday, November 21, 2007**  
**Contact: Mayor John Testa**  
**914-734-4105**

PEEKSKILL, NY—In an important tribute to the vital role volunteers have played in creating the spectacular Riverfront Green Park memorial plaque will be unveiled Saturday, Nov. 24 at 11:00 am.

Placed near the Park's entrance, this plaque is part of a sign that stands almost seven feet tall. It honors the 701 Waterfront and Uplands Study Citizens' Advisory Committee, a group that met in the 1970s and helped shape the future of the city for generations to come.

**--more--**

## ***Riverfront Honors, Page 2***

Riverfront Green is one of the largest and most accessible waterfront parks on the entire Hudson River. Where in many communities getting to the River is a difficult task, the Green is quickly and easily accessible. Where the amount of space offered to residents in most Hudson River communities is limited, the Riverfront Green provides nine acres of space.

“The 1970s were a challenging time for Peekskill, but this group of residents made great choices that have given our city one of the best parks on the Hudson River. Their vision was the critical beginning to the major revitalization we are able to do today. It is important we recognize and thank them for what they gave us” says Mayor John Testa.

Certainly Riverfront Green itself didn't have to happen. Waterfront property is a valuable commodity, especially with the spectacular views the Riverfront Green presents of Peekskill Bay and Dunderberg Mountain.

***--more--***

### ***Riverfront Honors, Page 3***

Pressure to intensively develop the site in the 1970s was intense, and there were serious proposals to completely fill up Peekskill Bay, the lovely body of water that fronts the green.

Instead, after extensive research and community surveys, the 701 Committee chose to strongly recommend that the Riverfront Green be set aside as parkland. Since then the Green has become one of the City's most utilized recreational resources. Besides providing a splendid place to walk, fly a kite, or simply enjoy the magnificent views, the Green also hosts major events from the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display to Peekskill Celebration to the Road Knights car show.

Though it is a small city taking up only four square miles of space, Peekskill has more park acreage per capita than almost any place in Westchester County. The city itself has 15 different parks. Yet even in a city with so many parks, with its unmatched views and wide open expanse, Riverfront Green is special, and citizen input played an essential role in its creation.

***--more--***

### ***Riverfront Honors, Page 3***

Members of the 701 Committee during the crucial 1974-1977 period were Robert J. Barthelmes, Richard K. Corbin, Alan Covert, Joseph DiCola, Norman B. Elling, Gerald Eustace, Daniel R. Grishkowski, John G. Hines, Dorothy H. Leslie, John Leslie, James Maloy, Kay Moshier, Joseph F. Owens, John J. Pataki, Richard Schmitt, Louise M. Smith and Roger O. Sparling.

Text on the plaque reads: "The City of Peekskill recognizes the 30th anniversary of the '701 Waterfront and Uplands Citizens' Advisory Committee' for their efforts, vision, and study to transform Peekskill's waterfront. Their foresight helped to create the riverfront we enjoy today and inspired the plans for tomorrow's waterfront."

Citizen involvement has also played a prominent role in Peekskill's current riverfront project, which is taking place east of the railroad tracks that border the Riverfront Green. Dozens of meetings large and small have been held with hundreds of residents to discuss the design and implementation of t vast project.

***--more--***

***Riverfront Honors, Page 5***

Once completed, it will transform parking lots and empty space into gleaming new neighborhoods.

For more information, call Mayor John Testa at 914-734-4105.

-END-