Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Management Plan

In 1996, Congress designated the Hudson River Valley a National Heritage Area, encompassing ten counties, four million acres and over two and a half million people. The legislation establishing this designation required the management entities -- the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc. and the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council -- to submit a management plan to the Secretary of the Interior by November 2001. The management plan is required to present recommendations for the area's conservation, promotion, management, interpretation, and funding of resources of natural, cultural, historic, recreational and scenic significance.

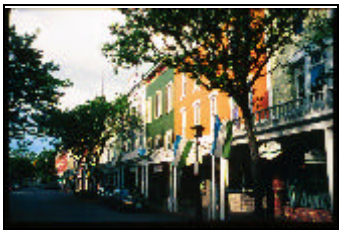
As lead consultants chosen to coordinate and develop the management plan, ***Behan Planning Associates***, along with three sub-consultants, established a work plan and defined management objectives based upon both guiding legislation, and a completed inventory and analysis of the region's resources. Roundtable-technical input sessions and a series of public participation workshops were held around the valley. Throughout the planning process, our project team has worked in close collaboration with the management entities, and a nominated steering committee for the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

An interpretive plan establishing broad themes to foster public awareness of the area's unique resources was also developed, and incorporated into the management plan, along with three initiatives to guide implementation. The three initiatives are:

- Cooperative Conservation and Stewardship,
- Sustainable Development, and
- Resource Interpretation.

The last initiative was prepared as part of the interpretive plan by one of the team members. The plan, entitled: "*Partnership for the Valley: A Management and Interpretive Plan for the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area*", will serve to foster regional partnerships in the stewardship of this nationally significant region.

The historic sites of the Hudson River Valley, like Olana, bear witness to the vision for cooperative conservation and stewardship.



The community development and "Main Street" revitalization seed program, part of the sustainable development initiative, will foster private investment in the community centers of the Hudson River Valley.

The resource interpretation initiative will develop programs which will tell the stories that connect people, places, artifacts, and events in history, cultural, art and nature.