

NEWS RELEASE

Hudson River Valley Greenway

Capitol Building, Room 254, Albany, New York 12224



Carmella R. Mantello, Executive Director, Greenway Council
Executive Director, Greenway Conservancy

Bamabas McHenry, Chairman, Greenway Council
Kevin J. Plunkett, Chairman, Greenway Conservancy

Contact: Carmella R. Mantello
(518) 473-3835

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Greenway Designates Ophir Farm Trail & Manhattanville Walking Tour

1.5 mile trail added to Greenway Trail System: Now totaling 540 miles of designated trail

(Albany, NY) Carmella R. Mantello, Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Greenway, is pleased to announce the designation of the Ophir Farm Trail and Manhattanville Walking Tour as an official segment of the Greenway Trail System.

Mantello stated, "The Greenway welcomes the Ophir Farm Trail and Manhattanville Walking Tour as the latest link of the Greenway Trail System. Through the efforts of state agencies, local municipalities, landowners and non-profit organizations, the Greenway will continue to develop an integrated trail system connecting important open spaces, natural areas, historic sites, downtowns and main streets, aiming to serve the needs of Hudson River Valley communities."

Richard Berman, the President of Manhattanville College stated, "Manhattanville College is extremely pleased to join with the Hudson River Valley Greenway in extending their public trail system. This collaborative effort illustrates the value of working together in cooperation toward a common goal. The Ophir Farm Trail on the Manhattanville College campus provides a wonderful educational and recreational opportunity that should be shared with the greater community. The self-guided walking trail offers a rich sampling of architecture by McKim, Mead and White and the landscaping originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. One of the landmarks along the trail is the breathtaking Reid Castle that was designated as a national historic landmark in 1974."

The original estate was once one of the nation's most prominent model farms, an art form and hobby pursued by affluent farmers in the 1800's. The walking tour features more than fifteen historical sites.

Designation by the Greenway is a formal recognition of the regional significance of the trail as a destination for experiencing the natural, scenic, cultural and historic resources of the Hudson River Valley. The Greenway places a priority in their grant program for the development and enhancement of designated trails. Designation recognizes that the trail is an important link in the Greenway Trail System, which will run along both sides of the Hudson River from Battery Park in the Town of Waterford, Saratoga County, to Battery Park in Manhattan. With the latest trail designations, the Greenway Trail System, including the land trail, water trail and State Bike Route 9, now totals approximately 540 miles.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway is a State agency within the Executive Department, established by the Greenway Act of 1991. It is designed to encourage Hudson River Valley communities to develop projects and initiatives related to the criteria of natural and cultural resource protection, regional and local planning, economic development, public access to the Hudson River (as well as other regional and local resources), and heritage and environmental education. It provides technical assistance and small grants for planning, capital projects, and water trail and land-based trails that reinforce the Greenway Criteria. The participation of municipalities in Greenway programs and projects is entirely voluntary and has no impact on municipal home rule. To date, there are now 222 Greenway Communities out of the 259 eligible municipalities in 13 counties within the state-designated Hudson River Valley Greenway.

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www.hudsongreenway.state.ny.us for more information on the Greenway
www.hudsonrivervalley.com for more information on the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area
www.midhudsonnews.com for the latest, up-to-date information and audio on Greenway announcements