



## Hudson River Estuary Program

Helping people enjoy, protect and revitalize the Hudson River and its Valley

### What is the Hudson River Estuary Program?

The Estuary Program protects and improves the historic and scenic Hudson River watershed for all its residents. The program was created in 1987 and extends from the Troy dam to the Verrazano Narrows. Its core mission is to:

- Ensure clean water
- Protect and restore fish and wildlife habitats
- Provide recreation in and on the water
- Adapt to climate change
- Conserve the scenic landscape



### How does the program work?

The program is guided by an Action Agenda—a forward-looking plan, developed through significant community participation up and down the river. The Hudson River Estuary Program is carried out through extensive outreach, coordination with state and federal agencies, and public-private partnerships including:

- Grants and restoration projects
- Education, research, and training
- Natural resource conservation and protection
- Community planning assistance



### What are some of the program's accomplishments?

- **Dramatically improved water quality** in the Hudson River estuary;
- **Awarded more than 300 grants** to local municipalities and non-profits for education, open space, conservation, and river access ;
- **Protected more than 46,000 acres** of scenic vistas, habitats, and pastoral landscapes
- **Restored fish populations**, which drive \$7.5 million in recreation and tourism expenditures;
- **Provided river education to school children** (5,000 annually), trained teachers and developed estuary focused curriculum;
- **Trained more than 3,000 community leaders** to achieve local conservation and land use goals;
- **Revitalized community waterfronts** and enhanced parks, docks, piers, trails and boat launches in nearly every shoreline community;
- **Installed monitoring equipment that reports around-the-clock river conditions** from Albany to New York Harbor to provide more accurate forecasting of storms and pollution run-off;
- **Mapped the entire river bottom**, and documented the region's global, regional and statewide significant plants and animals for the first time;
- **Planted more than 18,000 native trees and shrubs** to improve water quality and reduce erosion;
- **Assisted communities that have taken the "Climate Smart" pledge** to adopt emission reduction strategies and prepare for the effects of storms and flooding.



# Hudson River Estuary Program Grants and Projects

