

Central Catskills Collaborative

Building Community – The CCC strives to create settings that encourage a dialogue among a diversity of individuals and interest groups who share a positive attitude toward regional thinking and action in the Central Catskills. Member communities partner with a variety of organizations and individuals to host meetings on a range of corridor related topics.

- First Meeting – May 2008
- Adopted a set of recommendations
- 31 Meetings, 2008-12
- 26 Guest Speakers

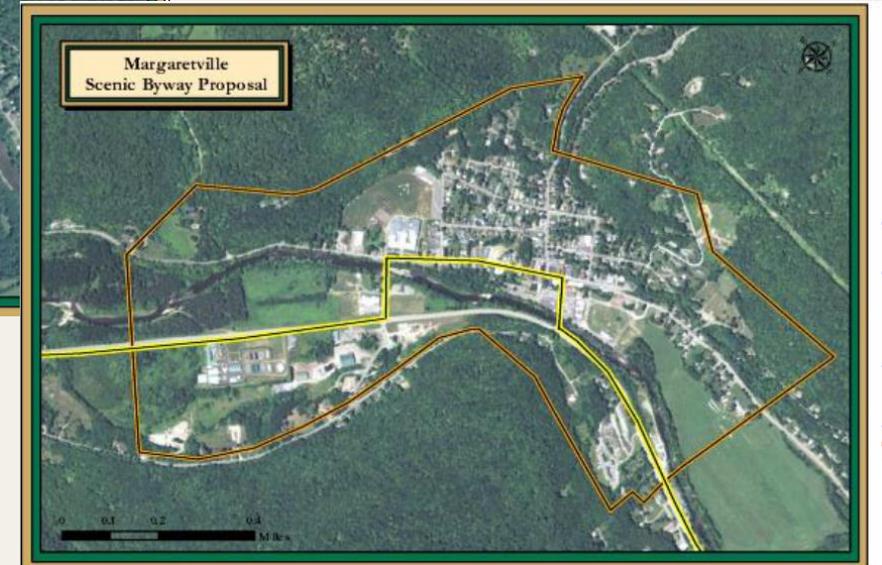
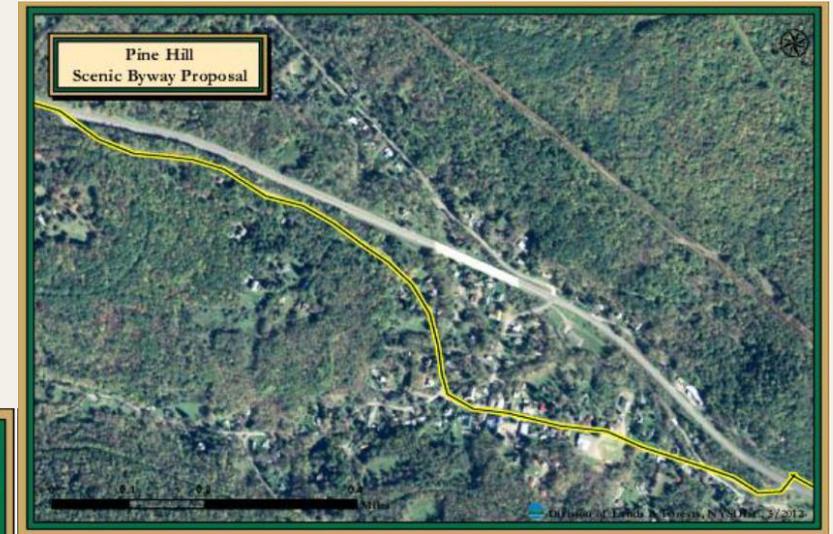
“ **WHEREAS:** These six Central Catskills municipalities share many of the region’s unique resources and can mutually benefit by exploring cooperative approaches, engaging in intermunicipal discussions and identifying collective strategies and actions that support and enhance such shared resources; ...”



January 2011

Reinforce downtown areas and support local businesses by routing the scenic byway along the main streets of Phoenicia, Pine Hill, Fleischmanns, and Margaretville.

- Although placed in CMP, did not happen. Will be added again.
- Route 28A and other proposed routes added by Hurley and Olive near Ashokan to be added (subject to DEP approval)



Improve the appearance and functionality of areas along Route 28 where there are existing concentrations of businesses, pedestrians and automobile traffic.



Minimal activity

No sidewalks for 1.3 miles between Margaretville and Arkville

Not a historic main street but increasing commercialization (many areas not in flood plain)

Need for connection, increased pedestrian safety and better-defined access



Boiceville

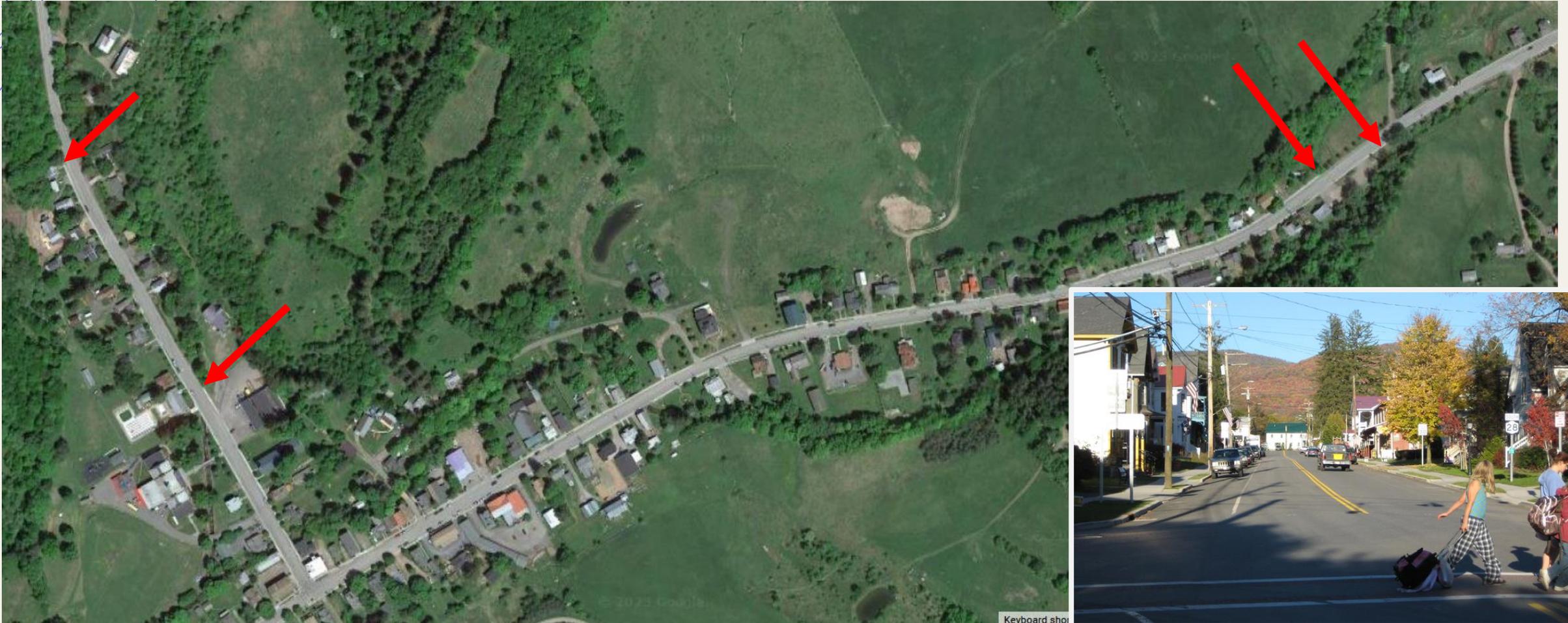
Hurley's Rte. 28
Recommendations to
be added

Extent of sidewalks on Rte. 28 in hamlet of Andes

Both sides; 1.58 miles total

Other characteristics of walkable community

- “Bulb outs” (narrows street, additional pedestrian space)
- Well-defined access/ egress
- Crosswalks



Make regional connections with other byways and other potential byways.

Two extension projects/ would add four new towns to existing nine byway municipalities

Catskills Smart Growth grant for Scenic Byway Implementation Project included formation of Joint Byway Group (CM & MC) and several meetings

Improve the interpretation of the Catskill Park and the New York City Watershed for byway travelers. This includes supporting the construction of the Catskill Interpretive Center and Water Discovery Center...



Water, Water, Everywhere

"Indeed, the water of all this Catskill region is the best in the world." CATSKILL Interpretive Center

Thousands of miles of pristine streams and rivers, replenished by up to 60 inches of precipitation annually, make the Catskills a verdant region. Native Americans fished these streams, and lumbermen floated logs to market on them. Catskill mountain creeks have watered cattle and crops, inspired artists and writers, and cooled vacationing city dwellers and their country cousins. They have also brought death and destruction in the form of periodic flash floods.

For more than 100 years, Catskill streams have also been the lifeblood of New York City. Six huge reservoirs supply more than a billion gallons of water each day to 9 million people, half the state's population. Much of the Catskill Park is included within the 1,000-square-mile Catskill-Delaware watershed which supplies New York City reservoirs. A public and private partnership is at work to protect water quality in this special area.

What is a Watershed?
It is the land over which rain and melting snow drain to a stream, lake or other body of water. We all live in a watershed, and it's up to each of us to prevent pollutants from contaminating downstream waters. To learn more and to find out how to be an active environmental steward, visit www.catskillstreams.org.

Improve access to waterways to increase outdoor recreation, support local businesses, and provide greater awareness of and appreciation for our stream systems and the watershed.

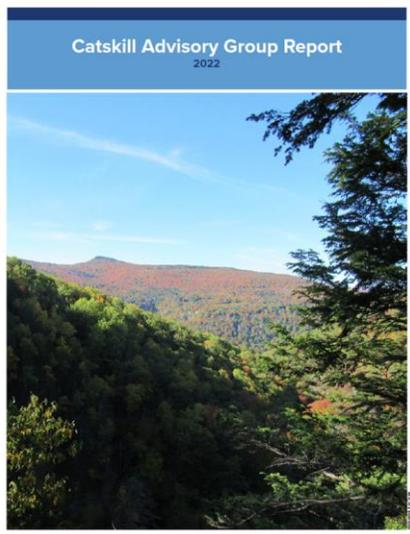
Meeting focused on Esopus Basin access point
Expansion of Reservoir Boating program
Enhanced Recreational Access Plan - East Branch
Interpretive kiosk panel



Implement a system of wayfinding signs for state resources along the byway, including hiking trailheads, public fishing areas, and campgrounds.

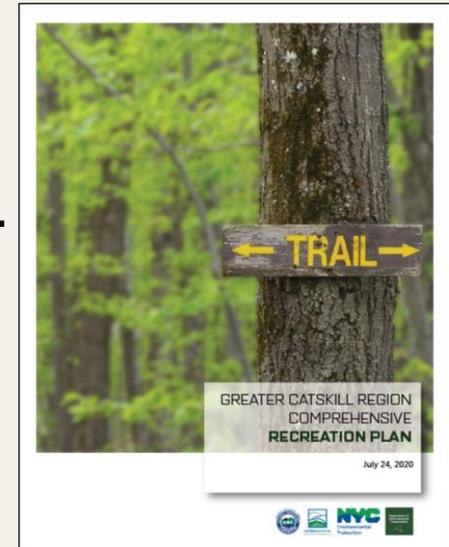
Completed. More than 100 recreational destinations signed in four counties. However, inventory database/ replacement component remains outstanding. DOT – Catskill Viewer





Pursue the established and relevant objectives of regional, corridor-wide, and local planning efforts as they relate to realizing the vision of the scenic byway...

- Greater Catskill Comprehensive Recreation Plan
- Catskill Advisory Group Final Report
- Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce's continuing efforts to promote tourism.
- Relates to regional advocacy



Strengthen the intermunicipal cooperation of the Collaborative by formalizing the group as the byway management entity; forming a partnership with an area organization; pursuing funding opportunities to implement the scenic byway corridor management plan and sustain the management entity; and by serving as a proactive example of regional collaboration.

- Route 28 Leaders Group formed @ time of designation; needs revitalization
- Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce taking the lead on forming a 501.c.3 scenic byway management entity
- (Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway, Inc. formed several years ago)



Mountain Cloves

Work in cooperation with stakeholders to support and realize greater usage of the former Ulster & Delaware Railroad corridor.

- The CMP encourages and supports connections along the corridor and works with partners to promote the corridor
- Development of the corridor is determined by stakeholders

Continue to explore partnerships with educational institutions to advance components of the corridor management plan.

- SUNY Delhi - Architecture Club; Construction Management - Design & Building; Hospitality (Byway Intern)
- SUNY ESF - Landscape Architecture



Ride the Rails and the Trails





Water Discovery Center Interpretive Trail

WDC Trail System

Goals For The Trail System

- Create educational opportunities to understand fresh water resources by
 - Making stream access for hands on interpretation and technical assistance
 - Making stream access for local schools and organizations to get involved
 - Making the work of these organizations visible to the general public
- Promote community action to protect water resources by
 - Providing opportunities for hands on interpretation and technical assistance
- Promote community connectivity by
 - Creating a pedestrian connection to Arville
 - Providing opportunities for local schools and organizations to get involved
 - Making the work of these organizations visible to the general public

Interpretive Trail Zones

Educational Zone - exhibits and displays that are focused on teaching the visitor about fresh water resources, water quality, and associated flora and fauna.

Exploratory Zone - provides opportunities for exploration through hands on interpretation, experimentation, and observation.

Recreational Zone - provides opportunities for visitors to relax and take in the landscape at their own pace.

WDC Master Plan

Design Examples

1) Parking Lot Bioswales

The parking lot is designed to reduce the movement of stormwater runoff outside and to, where possible, be captured, cleaned, and allowed to infiltrate into the soil through the use of permeable and vegetated surfaces.

2) From Mountains To Valleys

The exhibit is designed to show the change in the character of streams and riparian zones from mountain tops to valley floors.

3) Wetland Plaza

The wetland plaza is a gathering place that flows from wetland. As flow in riparian water you provide unique habitat.

4) Floodplain Entry

The main connection between the educational bridge and the recreational zone is designed to draw attention to the fact that you are entering a floodplain ecosystem.

5) Stream Channel Columns

A series of columns is placed at the river's edge at the time the trail is installed. Over time as the stream channel migrates these columns will show changes that take place in the river's form.

6) Rivefront Classroom

The rivefront classroom provides direct access to the river and space for a variety of activities including education, water quality testing, fishing, birdwatching, and relaxing.

Other Design Ideas

A) Native Plant Nursery
Community workshops and volunteer opportunities that provide for research and restoration.

B) Stream Bank Treatments
Demonstrate pros and cons of typical techniques used to treat stream banks.

C) Recreation Trail
Provide opportunities for passive recreation with and learning in the local ecosystems.

D) Arville Fire District Pavilion
Provide recreational amenities to create a stronger link to Arville.

Catskills Route 28 Corridor Study
Andes, Margaretville, Middletown, Fleischmanns, Shandaken, Olive, West Hurley

USA 470 6/10, Spring 2009
Sean O'Grady

Communicate regularly with NYS DOT and DEC to implement outstanding recommendations from existing plans and work in partnership on future management and public access projects:

- A DEC Smart Growth grant was awarded 2017 to (in part):
Convene the Transportation Working Group (TWG)
on a regular basis
Advance the Guidelines for Highway Facilities within the Catskill Park >
Led to a Transportation Themed Local Government Day (presentation of Travel Corridor Viewer (for Catskill and Adirondack Parks)
- Catskill Park Advisory Council (CPAC) now convenes TWG
- Topics at TWG meetings included replacement of Catskill Park entry signs; state highway “hot spots”; corridor landscape and signage; designation of bicycle routes
- *DOT Forest Preserve Manager position currently vacant (?)



Local Government Day 2019



Transportation Working Group



Facilitate the changeover to the new Catskill Park logo signs along the byway;

- DOT has accomplished this
- Only partially implemented by local governments

Pursue improved sign management strategies and implement a system of tourist oriented directional (TOD) signs;

- Not yet undertaken
- Legislation to remove limit on number of intersections that TOD signs can be posted still “in process.”

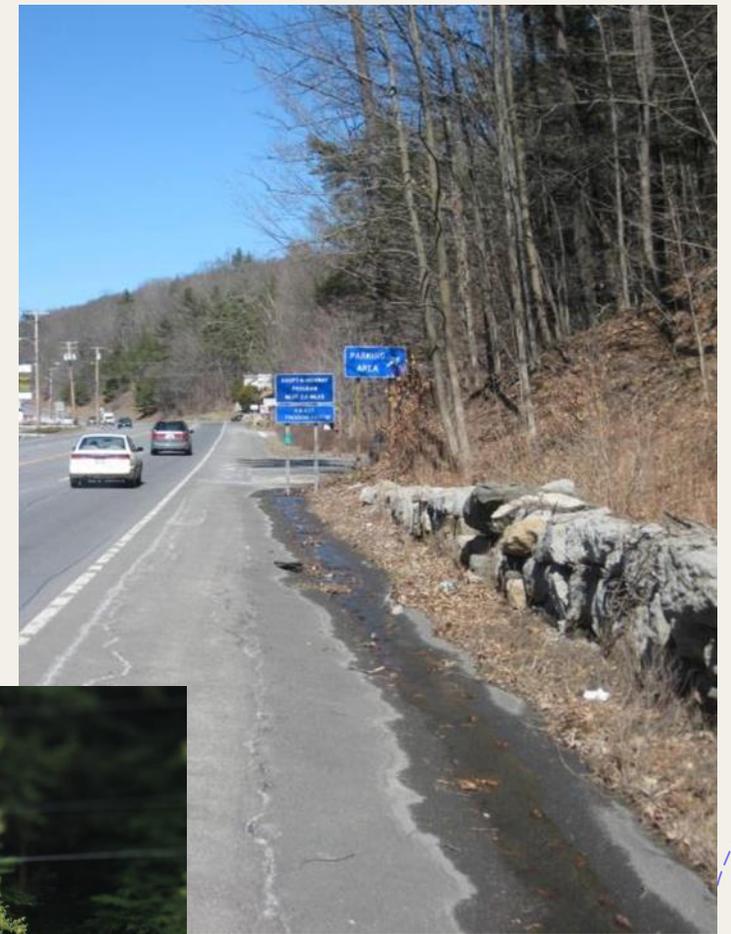


Explore improved utilization of existing turnouts and rest areas and creation of new areas as needed;

- Largely unexplored

Improve signage and markings for existing bike routes and explore the creation of new bike routes.

- Still a needed action (Rte. 28 Bike Route ends at DelCo line)
Research accomplished by MCSB with DOT, illustrates that the process of designating bike routes is pretty straightforward. Many Catskill Park/ Region state highways and local roads are very good for cycling.



Stewardship

Conduct a comprehensive inventory and analysis of land use tools in the seven municipalities along the byway

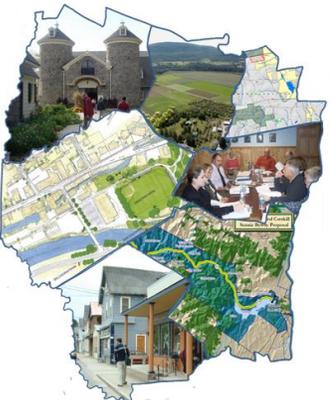
Has not been done.

With byway partners, coordinate public events and land use training sessions on byway related topics such as context sensitive design, access management, design guidelines, and site plan review.

Catskills oriented land use training program begun at Catskill Center; only a handful of events were conducted.

Consider the establishment of non-regulatory NYS Route 28 Development Guidelines.

Has not been taken up.



Municipal Tools
for
Ridgeline
Protection

Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
June 8, 2011



GATEWAY TO THE SHAWANGUNKS:
MAINTAINING A SCENIC ROAD CORRIDOR

A Design Guidebook for the Protection and
Management of a Special Landscape

1997

MOHONK PRESERVE, INC.

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK

State of the Arts
NYS CA

FRIENDS OF THE SHAWANGUNKS

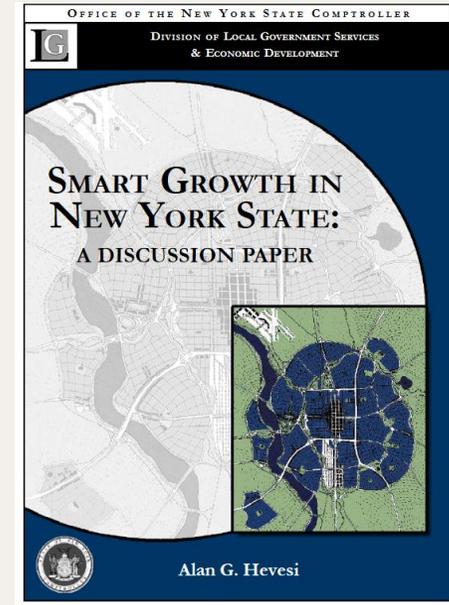
Stewardship

Encouraging Growth in Hamlets and Villages.

Many downtowns/ main streets along the byway corridor have active chambers of commerce, business associations. Growth in outlying areas has not been significant.

Conduct locally driven viewshed inventories and analyses.

Has not been done.



Corneel Verlaan



Hudson River School Art Trail

Tourism Development and Marketing & Promotion

- Create a Scenic Byway Website ✓
- Create a Scenic Byway Brochure ✓
- Integrate the scenic byway within county tourism marketing plans and develop travel “packages” and messaging for byway attractions. ✓
- Promote common (and diverse) themes along the byway to help support longer and repeated visits by travelers. ✓
- Increase the online presence of the byway among the websites of the two counties and the Collaborative and take advantage of emerging phone technologies. ✓
- Advance byway promotion efforts beyond the two counties to include the other two counties (Greene and Sullivan) in the designated Catskill Region tourism promotion area. ✓
- Use the Bobcat logo of the byway to develop new marketing strategies and integrate it with other regional brands. ✓
- Hold and Coordinate Corridor-Wide Events throughout the Year. ✓
- Create a Scenic Byway Driving Tour ✓
- Pursue funding opportunities to implement the scenic byway CMP... ✓



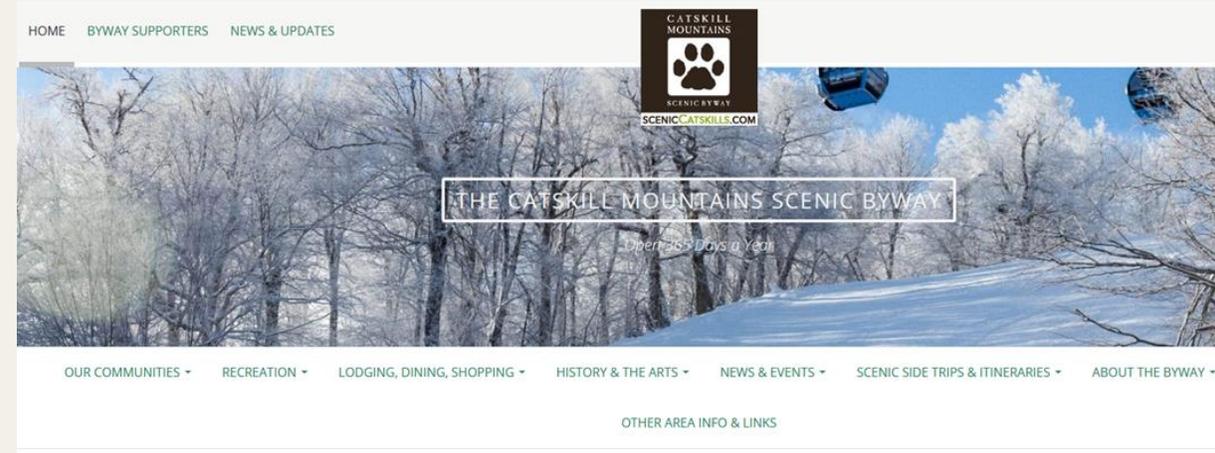
Tourism Development and Marketing & Promotion

Empire State Development (ESD) I Love NY Grant – matched by MARK Project

- Byway Website Design and Launch, Brochure, Digital Map, Promotional Materials (Stickers, Posters, Ads)
- Seed money to support events in each town. (Shandaken Day; Andes Community Day; Margaretville Cauliflower Festival; Fleischman's Maple Festival (now Memorial Day Parade); Olive Community Day

Smart Growth Grant – included marketing components

- Printed ads in regional pubs
- Support for SUNY Delhi Intern
- Promotional video
- Local Gov't Day support
- Expansion of audio tour suite
- Promotional travel packages



Catskill Mountain Region
GUIDE
 Enjoy Fall in the Catskills

NOVEMBER 2022
 COMPLIMENTARY
 catskillregionguide.com

With a special section
Route 28: The Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway

Attractions • Arts • Dining • Lodging
 Real Estate • Services • Shopping ... and more!

Greetings from
The Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway
 on Route

Escape
BREATHE WIN!
 Catskill MOUNTAIN REGION
GETAWAY GIVEAWAY!

5 CHANCES TO Win

5 Giveaway Prize Packages! Each Includes:

- Fun Activity
- Cozy Lodgings
- A Delicious Meal
- A Special Gift

Outdoor Experience
 Farms, Food & Fun
 Relax Along the Rails
 Gondola Getaway
 Quilting Retreat

Enter ONLINE for a chance to win these packages!
 Learn How
COME SEE US at a Getaway Event for a chance to win this package!

2019 CATSKILL MOUNTAINS SCENIC BYWAY SIGNATURE EVENT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
 Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce
 PO Box 605, Margaretville, NY 12455
 Web: www.centralcatskills.com
 Phone: 845-586-3300 Fax: 845-586-3161
 Follow us on on Facebook.

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SHOP MAIN STREETS & HAVE A DAY OF HOLIDAY FUN.
SHOP LOCAL
 Travel along the
CATSKILL MOUNTAINS SCENIC BYWAY
 in the CENTRAL CATSKILLS

To PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE
 the **CATSKILL VISITORS CENTER** is the place to begin.
 then gather to enjoy our **RESTAURANTS** with friends and...

- Find CATSKILL specific items
- Discover UNIQUE gifts
- Get gourmet CHOCOLATES & specialty foods
- Select Hand-Crafted ARTS

HOLIDAY PARADE MARGARETVILLE SAT. NOV. 26 ScenicCatskills.com CentralCatskills.com

DO NOT MOW
POLLINATORS WELCOME

CATSKILL MOUNTAINS

 SCENIC BYWAY

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Your PATH Through the Central Catskills
EXPLORE NEXT DOOR!
 CATSKILL MOUNTAINS SCENIC BYWAY Adventure:

Fun & Recreation

Open 365 days a year.
 DISCOVER THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS SCENIC BYWAY.

EXPLORE scenic views, and charming towns and villages — each unique with something special to offer. There's also the thrill of an adrenaline-pumping activity. Whether you're looking for a quiet escape or a heart-pounding adventure, you'll find it all here. The Scenic Byway is a beautiful and diverse landscape that offers a unique experience for everyone.

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW to begin. Get the AUDIO TOURS!

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EXPLORE NEXT DOOR!
 Shopping, Dining, Lodging & MORE

Discover places to eat, stay, shop, and more...
 ... ALL JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

Learn the CENTRAL CATSKILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE by your VISITORS' RESOURCE

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Your CATSKILL PARK Adventure Begins Here
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 For QUICK START Planning:

Helpful staff plus everything you need...

...to find just what you need through the beautiful Catskill Mountains

THE CATSKILLS VISITOR CENTER is the OFFICIAL VISITOR CENTER of the CATSKILL PARK

Experience the spirit of the Catskills at the heart of the park. The CATSKILL VISITOR CENTER is the perfect place to start your adventure. Our staff is ready to help you plan your trip, and our exhibits will give you a deeper understanding of the Catskills. Whether you're a local or a visitor, you'll find something to love here.

SCAN THIS QR CODE to begin your adventure!

THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS SCENIC BYWAY

Major influences since designation of Catskill Mountains (& Mountain Cloves) Scenic Byway

More regional cooperation and dialogue

- Catskill Mountain Scenic Byway designated
- Joint Scenic Byway Group meetings begin and continue
- Transportation Working Group formalized and meets regularly
- CPAC forms – Byways report



Joint Scenic Byway Group

Significant shift from attracting visitors to being overwhelmed

- Existing hotspots, i.e. Peekamoose Blue Hole, Kaat Clove, see improvements for accommodating more capacity but increase in use can outpace ability to accommodate visitors properly
- Pandemic significantly alters the levels of influx of people
- More resources needed to address the fast-moving change

What are the roles of scenic byways and their management groups in addressing these changes?



“Blue Hole” (NYSDEC)

New Recommendations (Proposed)

- Explore the byway's role in helping to implement regional solutions to impacts associated with increases in the number of visitors.
- Through increased cooperation with the Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway's management, continue to integrate recreational, cultural, historical, natural, and economic resources within in a comprehensive approach that assists with dispersion of visitors, builds awareness of regional significance and protection, and sustains the Catskill Park's attractiveness, consistent with the emergence of use-management strategies.
- Continue to cultivate the strengthened partnerships between the Catskill Park byway organizations, NYS DEC and DOT, regional stakeholders, and local governments. Ensure ongoing communication through regular meetings, coordination on byway improvements and other byway projects, and the pursuit of actions that implement the goals and recommendations of this and complementary plans.

Explore Scenic Byway Coordinator for both Scenic Byways

Addressing Billboards

- Transition to a system of TOD signs
- Amortization and Enforcement
- No Billboards allowed in Catskill Park (existing billboards grandfathered since @ 1971)

More advocacy

More local gov't involvement

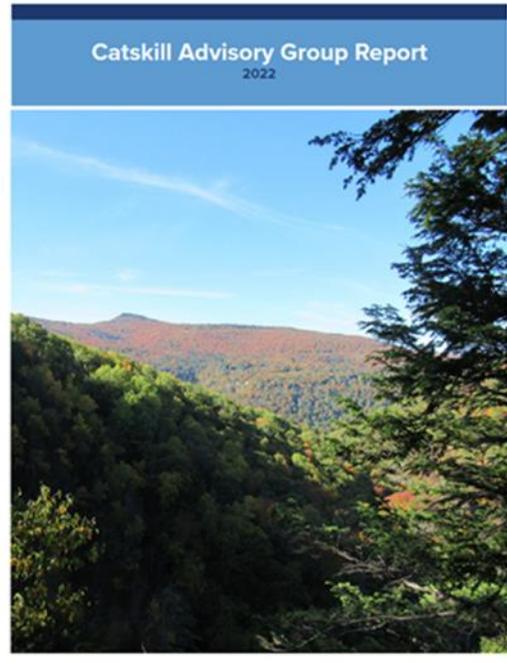
Continue to explore creation

“Dispersal”



Catskill Advisory Group – Final Report

(Select Excerpts)

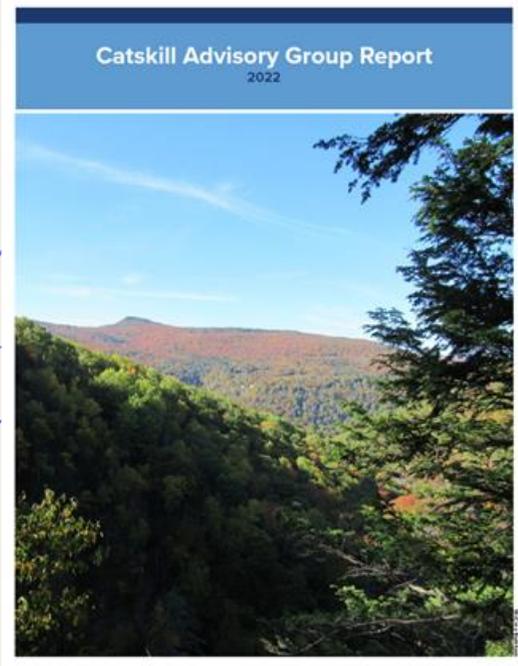


The advisory group will collaboratively provide advice to DEC on how to balance critical issues associated with increased public use in the Catskill Park in order to protect the area's natural resources for future generations.

Through its research, the CAG learned that successful parks respond to intensive use with intensive management.

That starts by managing the Catskill Park through a whole-park approach. For too long, the Catskills have been managed as a patchwork of lands and waters that belonged to different towns, counties, and DEC/Department of Transportation (DOT) regions. This splintered approach weakened its management, left the park ill-prepared to respond to growing visitation, and prevented the park from receiving the levels of investment that it direly needed.

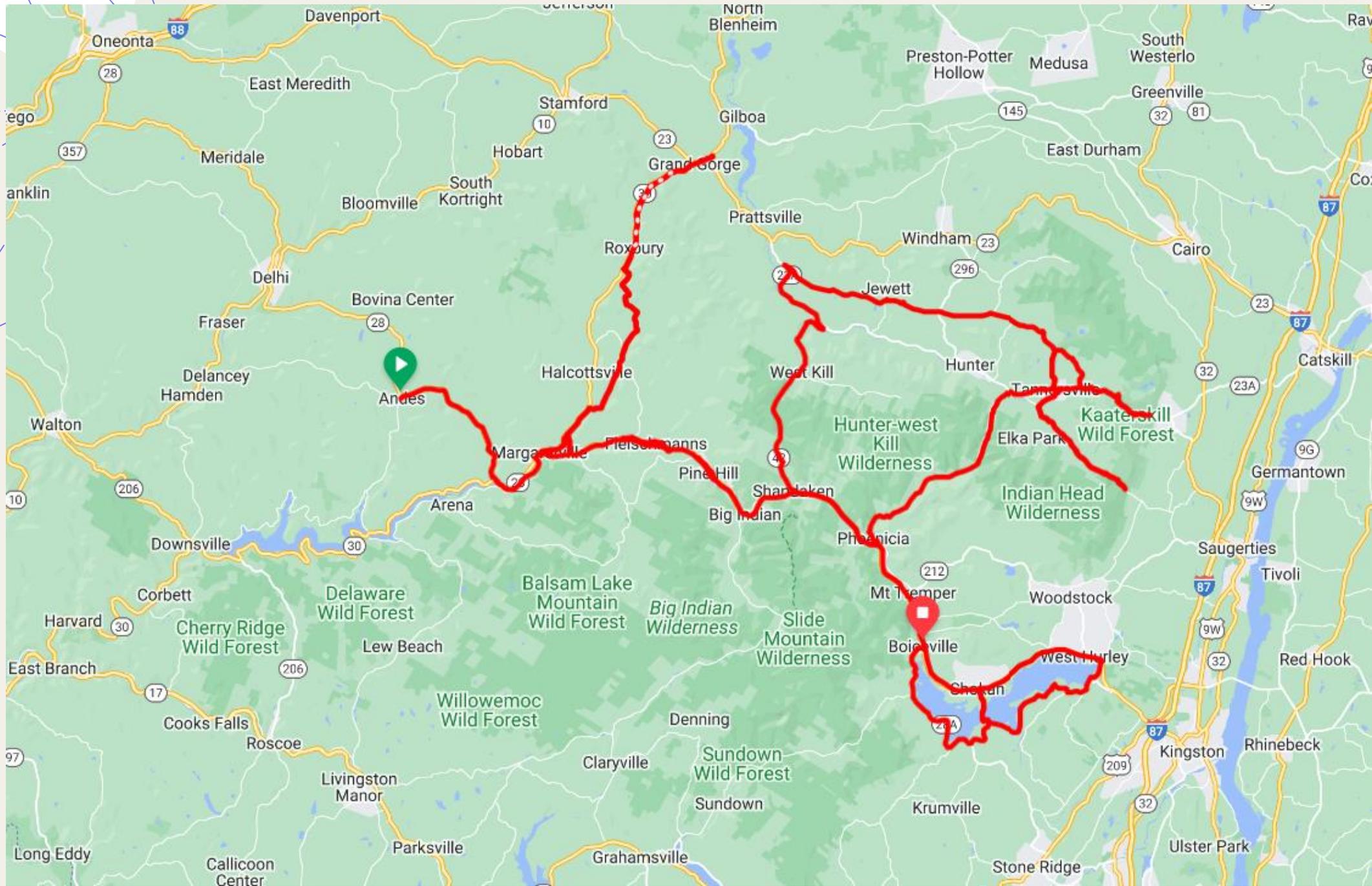
With more than 12 million people visiting the Catskills each year, it is past time that New York begin to manage the Catskill Park as a whole park instead of a patchwork of lands that stretch across invisible boundaries that are unseen to its visitors.



Suggestions included ways to increase the New York State Department of Transportation's participation in the Catskill Park, utilizing Scenic Byways as a way to communicate with the public, improving road signage, establishing hiker and visitor shuttles (specifically for Route 23A in Kaaterskill Clove), and increasing county bus service in the Park.

The Catskill Park Advisory Committee is a forum through which local governments and organizations provide assistance, advice, and guidance to DEC, NYCDEP, and other land managers. While there has been some local government participation in the advisory committee, the group does not yet have broad representation from governments throughout the park. It should aim to recruit more participation through outreach or adjusting the schedule of its meetings; and

The CAG should establish a working group that will conduct outreach to local governments following the publication of its final report, to share its findings and recommendations.



Scenic Byways

- Catalyst for intermunicipal cooperation
- Advances a regional voice
- Facilitate ways to balance increased popularity in region with preserving the sense of place

