



BUILD IT NOW!



Build It Now!

The pages that follow contain some background information on the initiative to build a continuous Hudson River Greenway along the Riverdale shoreline including newspaper articles, a recent community board resolution and quotes from community leaders in support of the project. This magazine also contains photos of Riverdale RiverFest and promo for our 2015 Greenway events.



Experience Riverdale

A Greenway on the Horizon

Riverdale has a great many things to boast and promote as being "experience-worthy." But stop the press. It turns out it also has a waterfront vision that when realized will bring an economic windfall to the community and a priceless recreational destination for visitors and residents alike.

The idea of a continuous recreational riverfront path, extending from the Battery all the way to Albany, is not new, but it has shifted into higher gear recently. And in this debate, the Riverdale section of the Bronx is the center of the Greenway universe.

The community has turned its attention to the complex challenge of spanning the Spuyten Duyvil water gap and connecting the existing Hudson River Greenway on the Westside of Manhattan to its natural link in Yonkers, the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, in a manner that won't bust budgets, tear up bucolic side streets, trample on forever wild parkland and, oh yeah, will get a bureaucracy as intransigent as the MTA to give up an unused water front track.

But undeterred by forces as optimistic as they are influential — and as numerous as they are resourceful. The lead advocacy groups and individuals behind the effort are the Friends of the Hudson River Greenway in the Bronx and its Chair, Paul Elston and the Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corp's (KRVC) ubiquitous Executive Director, Tracy McCabe.

Over the course of 15 years, Mr. Elston has assembled a who's who of Riverdale activists, elected officials and organizations ranging from Schervier Nursing Care Center, Wave Hill, the College of Mount Saint Vincent and The Hebrew Home at Riverdale — all would see a portion of the Greenway run through their backyards — to the uber-powerful Senator Charles Schumer. One would think that with such a cast of characters that shovels would already be in the ground.

While there may be some differences of opinion on how to get it done, there is near unanimity on the premise that it must get done. And it must get done on the Riverfront. A proposal by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) that studied the feasibility of an alternate inland route floundered after significant public opposition, and the local community board has endorsed the all-waterfront route for the Greenway.

While the all-waterfront route may present more challenges and will undoubtedly

THE HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY LINK IN THE BRONX



take longer, the eventual payback to the community will be far greater. So says KRVC's Tracy McCabe: "The verdict is already in. The construction of the Greenway in Manhattan has led to an unprecedented cultural, economic and recreational renaissance on the Westside."

Local resident and Chair of the Economic Development Committee of Community Board 8, Sergio Villaverde agreed, "Ride a bike or go for a walk along the Hudson River Greenway in Manhattan on a beautiful Spring weekend and it will become plainly evident what Riverdale has to gain from the construction of our Greenway. Income, jobs, family-friendly fun and a reputation as a place where things are happening."

Yael Levy, co-chair of Riverdale Riverfest, an annual festival held on the campus of the College of Mount St. Vincent in North Riverdale to promote waterfront access, echoed that sentiment, "We are expecting 5,000 people who desperately want greater access to their river to attend this year's festival. If we build it, they will come."

Things are most definitely happening in Riverdale.

— Cliff Stanton

Riverdale

A Special Natural Area District next to the Hudson River



Leake & Watts



Hebrew Home at Riverdale



Wave Hill (Public Garden and Cultural Center)



College of Mount Saint Vincent and Sisters of Charity



Salanter Akiba Riverdale Academy Riverdale Country School Bon Secours NY/Schervier

The 315-mile Hudson River flows through eastern New York, southward past the state capital at Albany until it reaches New York City, before emptying into Upper New York Bay. It's natural beauty is inspiring and one of Riverdale's most defining features. Here's what the community is saying about the greenway and the proposed Hudson River Greenway Project.

"Our community is fortunate to have the beauty of the Hudson River in our backyard. As a steward of this majestic river, the Hebrew Home supports the Hudson River Greenway project as an opportunity to bring communities together and share the rich history and heritage of our region. We are proud to be a friend of the Hudson River Greenway project, which will help make New York become more age and environmentally friendly."

— Daniel Reingold, President and CEO, The Hebrew Home at Riverdale

"Bon Secours New York — Schervier Nursing Care Center is proud to sponsor RiverFest this year. Our mission calls for us to commit ourselves to helping bring people and communities to health and wholeness. A greenway along the Hudson, serving the common good, will enhance our community by bringing people into communion with the natural beauty of the river."

— Carlos G. Beato, CEO, Bon Secours New York Health System

"The College of Mount Saint Vincent and the Sisters of Charity are very happy annually to host and participate in RiverFest. We think that a greenway along the Hudson would be a vital community asset. There are so many things to work out to make the Greenway possible, but we are delighted that work has begun."

— Charles Flynn, President, College of Mount Saint Vincent

"When you visit Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center in Riverdale,

you can't help but feel the majesty of the Hudson River as soon as you enter the grounds. Our mission is to connect people with the beauty of the natural world through our programs in art, education and horticulture. Therefore, we salute the efforts of the Hudson River Greenway project and RiverFest, and its goal to once again connect our community to the river."

— Claudia Bonn, President & Executive Director, Wave Hill

"Riverdale Country School is excited about the Greenway project. Our beautiful Lower School campus, known as the River Campus, benefits greatly from its proximity to the Hudson River, and we are sure our faculty would appreciate — and utilize — the Greenway on their commutes."

— Dominic A.A. Randolph, Head of School, Riverdale Country School

"The SAR Community is fortunate to be closely connected to the Hudson River and Riverdale Park. The school

would benefit from the river access and the connectivity that the Greenway will bring. We have supported RiverFest from the very beginning. Imagine our famous "Running with the Rabbi" class along our river."

— Jack C. Bendheim, Chair of the Board, Salanter Akiba Riverdale Academy

"Leake & Watts has been fortunate to overlook the beautiful Hudson River and the Palisades for over a century. We support the Greenway project and look forward to being able to share our vista with community at large. The Greenway Project will provide a welcome benefit to the residents of New York City and Westchester alike, bringing our communities together through the enjoyment of one of our most treasured natural resources."

— Alan Mucatel, Executive Director, Leake & Watts



**CELEBRATING THE CREATION OF THE
HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY
IN THE BRONX**

"The verdict is already in. The construction of the Greenway in Manhattan has led to an unprecedented cultural, economic and recreational renaissance of the Westside. The Bronx deserves and is ready for the same."

Tracy McCabe Shelton,
Executive Director, KRVC



The RIVERDALE PRESS

Kennedy's last prom

Despite the devolution of JFK High School, last night was a chance to celebrate, page B1.



He'll tell you a story

If you listen to audio books, chances are you've heard Robert Fass, page A2.



Vol. 65, No. 16

Thursday, June 5, 2014

The time for a riverside path is now

On Sunday, June 15, we will join thousands of local Riverdale residents and visitors from across New York for Riverfest — a celebration of the iconic Hudson River that inspired our community's name. Riverfest will feature activities for people of all ages, including a concert, children's activities and boat rides.

Though Riverfest is a great opportunity for our community to come together along our waterfront, public access to the river, more generally, is limited. Currently, the only safe and legal access to the river is through Riverdale's Metro-North station on West 254th Street.

The Riverdale Station Park features unobstructed views of the historic Hudson and the Palisades — a truly majestic sight. However, this 300-foot promenade is the extent of public access to our community's greatest natural attraction. Expanding this access would allow more local residents to enjoy the river more of the time, while providing a world-class destination for visitors — something that would undoubtedly benefit businesses in the area.

While wishing for greater access to the waterfront is one thing, setting a plan into action is another. Many community members have weighed in on this issue, and although there have been some disagree-



ments on some of the suggestions that have been put forth — and we have disagreed with some of them — there appears to be nearly universal agreement that waterfront access is desirable and would be very good for the people of Riverdale, the rest of the Bronx and beyond.

Any plan for waterfront access must be very carefully planned and must take into account the opinions of all people in the community.

We very much look forward to working with all interested parties to achieve a consensus and to achieve the long sought-after goal of access to our beautiful Hudson River. The challenges of committing to a plan — funding, construction, infrastructure concerns, timing — are all very real, but the cost of doing nothing is even greater.

Riverfest, which will be held at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, is free and open to the public. We proudly stand with our other local elected officials, community members, Riverdale residents and business owners in our shared commitment to ensuring that more of the Hudson River will also be free and open to the public.

Rep. Eliot Engel
State Sen. Jeffrey Klein
Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
Councilman Andrew Cohen

"The challenges of committing to a [Greenway] plan - funding, construction, infrastructure concerns, timing - are all very real, but the cost of doing nothing is even greater."

The RIVERDALE PRESS

Follow Inwood's path to the river

Posted 8/21/14

Our good neighbors to the south, in Inwood, may well have shown us a path out of the wilderness, and it's a riverfront path at that. More than a year ago, supporters of Hudson River access in Riverdale were heartened by an infusion of federal planning money, courtesy of Sen. Chuck Schumer, only to have their hopes dashed when the results of the well-meaning but overblown planning efforts were revealed.

The Greenway the planners proposed was, for the most part, nowhere near the river and required millions of dollars worth of major road and bridge engineering work to connect it to Manhattan. After much *Sturm und Drang* at community board meetings last spring, planners were sent back to the drawing board.

Now they have an example to follow.

An Aug. 14 article in *The New York Times*, "New Trail Along the Hudson Goes Only So Far," describes a Greenway in Inwood that not only fails to link up with the Bronx; it doesn't even link with the waterfront trail further south in Manhattan.

Nevertheless, residents are thrilled. As *The Times* put it, "It may be a path to nowhere. But in a city whose denizens rush from Point A to Point B, the surroundings make up for the lack of a destination."

Without a need for a destination, the Parks Department can begin almost immediately to greatly enlarge the tiny park near Metro-North's Riverdale Station, creating a walkway as far north as the College of Mount St. Vincent and, if a single, narrow lane is sufficient, along the railroad tracks as far south as the Spuyten Duyvil triangle.

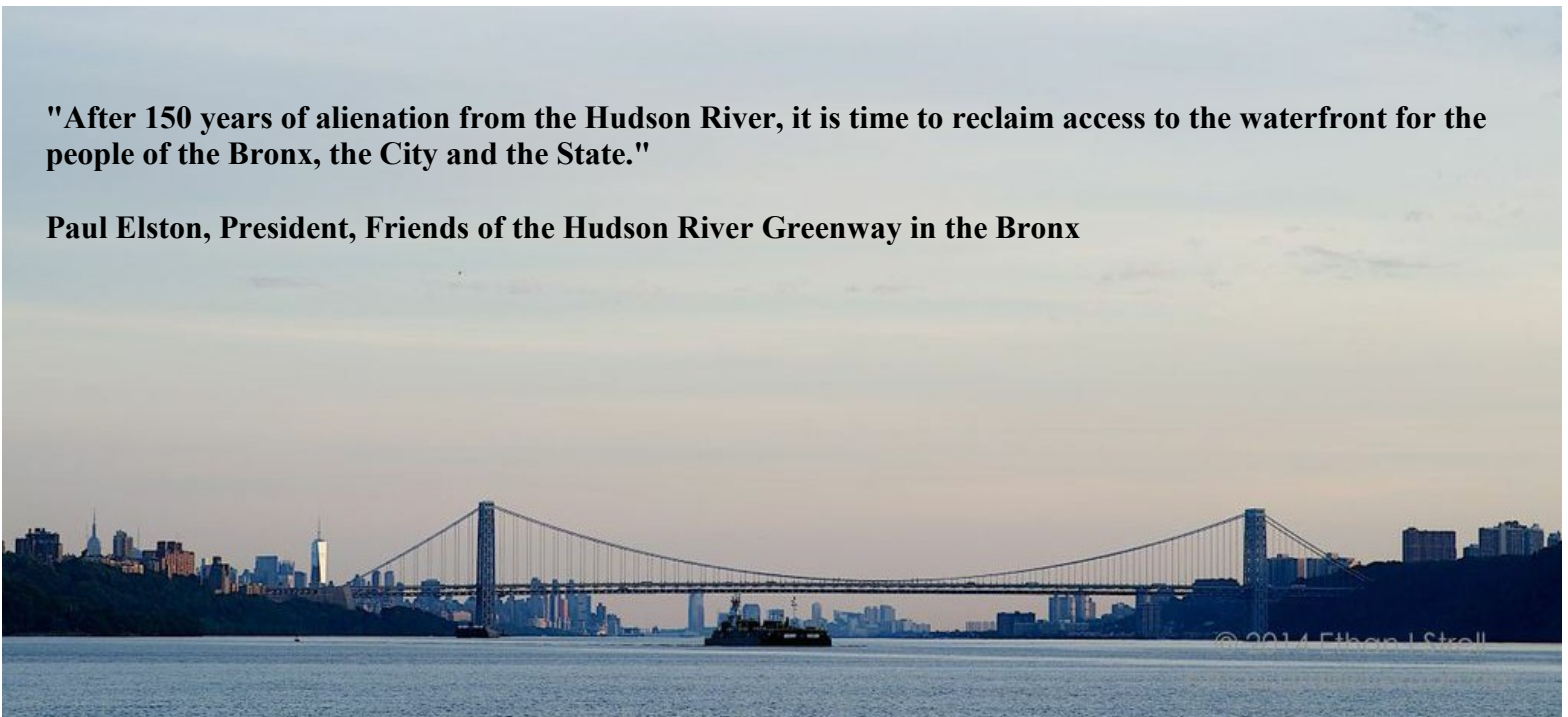
It would still be nice to have a way, down by the water, to get to Manhattan by foot or by bicycle and it would be nice if Metro-North were to share a bit of its landward real estate to make it easier to build the path, but the perfect shouldn't be the enemy of the good. Let's demand of the city that we be given the same "path to nowhere" that Inwood is now enjoying.

One way to show your support, and have fun doing it, would be to come to the Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation's Greenway Gala on the campus of the Hebrew Home for the Aged on Sunday, Oct. 19.

In addition to a lively dinner party, KRVC is offering hot air balloon rides which promise to offer spectacular bird's eye views of the Palisades in all their fall foliage. Don't miss out.

"After 150 years of alienation from the Hudson River, it is time to reclaim access to the waterfront for the people of the Bronx, the City and the State."

Paul Elston, President, Friends of the Hudson River Greenway in the Bronx



Bronx Community Board 8 Resolution (Passed June 10, 2014)

WHEREAS, residents of Bronx Community Board 8 support a Hudson River Greenway extending from Spuyten Duyvil to Yonkers, providing runners, walkers, people with disabilities, cyclists and others an enjoyable riverfront experience with a superb view of the Palisades, as well as access to the Greenway to the north and the Greenway to the south, so that a continuous Greenway runs from Manhattan to Westchester;

WHEREAS, residents of Bronx Community Board 8 have advocated locating the Greenway route along the Hudson River in the 1998 report of the Bronx Advisory Committee to the Hudson River Valley Greenway;

WHEREAS, the 2003 197-a Plan of Bronx Community Board 8 supports a Greenway along the Hudson River and enhanced riverfront access for the community;

WHEREAS, local elected officials support a Hudson River Greenway and riverfront access for the community;

WHEREAS, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), with funding provided in part by Senator Charles Schumer, presented to the Parks & Recreation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 and most recently to a joint meeting of that committee and the Traffic & Transportation Committee, a conceptual study of a proposed Hudson River Greenway route connecting the Manhattan and Westchester portions of the Greenway, which includes a short-term inland route from the Henry Hudson Bridge to the city line at Riverdale Avenue and a long-term waterfront route from the Henry Hudson Bridge to Yonkers along the Hudson River;

WHEREAS, Metro-North has identified stabilization and bolstering of the embankment that protects the shoreline from flooding on its tracks as priorities on the Hudson Line through Riverdale;

WHEREAS, Metro-North has represented that Track 6 of the Hudson Line through Riverdale is necessary for its operations, the stabilization and bolstering of the embankment on the shoreline and to accommodate anticipated growth in ridership in present routes and possible Penn Station access on the Hudson Line in the future;

THEREFORE, Be it Resolved that:

This resolution supersedes the May 2012 resolution of Bronx Community Board 8 regarding the Hudson River Greenway.

Bronx Community Board 8 supports an all-river Hudson River Greenway.

Bronx Community Board 8 rejects the NYMTC proposal to widen streets to their un-built width, remove trees, reduce traffic and/or parking lanes on local streets, construct a cantilever mixed-use attachment to the Henry Hudson Bridge and build mixed-use bicycle paths, ramps or bridges through Riverdale Park.

That engineering and other feasibility studies be performed by the appropriate agencies along the length of the proposed Greenway in Riverdale to determine the best location for an all-river Greenway located west of the Metro-North tracks with the goals of minimizing costs of construction and operation without inhibiting and, if possible, enhancing Metro-North's stabilization and bolstering of the riverfront embankment.

That NYMTC engage Metro-North to discuss modifications to the NYMTC proposal based on Metro-North's plans for stabilizing and bolstering the riverfront.

That engineering and other feasibility studies be performed by the appropriate agencies to evaluate the connection of the Hudson River Greenway from Manhattan to the Bronx across the Harlem River at Spuyten Duyvil, via the Amtrak swing bridge or on a new purpose-built swing bridge.

That initial access to the Greenway be implemented by using either the existing bridge to cross the Metro-North tracks at West 254th Street or the Riverdale train station overpass and that the first segment of the Greenway be constructed on the west side of the Metro-North tracks from West 254th Street to Yonkers while other access points to the Greenway are investigated.

That until a Spuyten Duyvil Greenway connection can be implemented, a traffic study be performed in cooperation with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to assess whether traffic lanes on the lower level of the Henry Hudson Bridge can be reconfigured to create a larger pedestrian and bicycle pathway across the bridge.

That our elected officials assist in obtaining funding for the feasibility studies and in addressing any concerns about the Greenway raised by Amtrak and the MTA.

That further consideration of an all-river Greenway route should continue under the auspices of Bronx Community Board 8 in cooperation with local residents, community groups, elected officials, government agencies, the affected rail companies and any other stakeholders.



The RIVERDALE PRESS

Pedal power

The annual Tour de Bronx offers a unique perspective on the borough. Page B1.



N. Riverdale Block Party

It's North Riverdale's turn to celebrate in the street with fun for the whole family. Section C.

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Thursday, October 30, 2014

\$1.00



Photos by Ethan Strell

A whale of a gala

THE WINTER GARDEN at the Hebrew Home for the Aged hosted a gala KRVC dinner benefiting the Greenway on Oct 19. KRVC marked the occasion by welcoming Cliff Stanton back as lead organizer for Riverdale RiverFest 2015 and as KRVC's Greenway Coordinator. Awards were presented to state Sen. Jeff Klein, US Sen. Chuck Shumer, Rep. Eliot Engel, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Councilmember Andrew Cohen, Community Board 8's Dan Padernacht, Bob Bender and Robert Fanuzzi, College of Mount St. Vincent President Charles Flynn and Yael Levy, founder of Riverfest. Tributes were presented to recently deceased former KRVC director Janet Golovner. In top photo, attendees enjoy the proceedings. In bottom left photo, Tracy Shelton addresses the crowd. Jeff Klein, bottom right photo, was thrilled to be honored.



Photos by Ethan Strell

Greenway gala

HIGH WINDS cancelled the planned balloon rides at the Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation's Greenway Gala on Oct. 19 on the grounds of the Hebrew Home for the Aged, but couldn't dampen the spirits of attendees. Clockwise from top, Cliff Stanton speaks with state Sen. Jeff Klein and Rep. Eliot Engel, Farrah Rubin, Linda Manning, KRVC's Entertainment Consultant with Tracy McCabe Shelton, Executive Director. KRVC's Development Director, with Ayelet Yoless and District Leader Randi Martos.

RiverFest 

Celebrate the River
in Riverdale!

Sunday, June 14, 2015
12 noon—6 pm
College of Mount Saint Vincent
6301 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471

RIVERDALE

Volunteer!

Contact cliffkrvc@gmail.com to sign up and learn more about our great opportunities to get involved and help Build It Now!



Gala 

**R
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Sunday
October 18, 2015
6-9pm

Hebrew Home at Riverdale
Solarium & Winter Garden
5901 Palisade Avenue,
Riverdale, NY 10471