

Fall 2011


Revitalizing the Esopus/Delaware Region of the Central Catskills

A Regional Economic Development Strategy for the Towns of Andes, Middletown, Roxbury, Olive and Shandaken & Villages of Margaretville and Fleischmanns

- The project is a collaboration between the municipalities, the MARK Project, and the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, with funding received from the New York State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Community Planning & Environmental Associates, and E.M. Pemrick & Co. are consulting firms that have been retained to assist in the development of this strategy.
- Its purpose is to prepare a regional economic revitalization plan to capitalize on the natural, scenic, agricultural and recreational assets of the East Branch of the Delaware River, the Esopus Creek and its tributaries and associated lands.
- The project will result in an action plan for sustainable economic development that promotes village, hamlet and Main Street revitalization and enhanced access to waterways while protecting significant scenic and natural resources. At the same time, it recognizes that these resources are vital to both economic prosperity and the quality of life.
- This strategy will **not** reinvent the wheel but rather, will synthesize the knowledge and creativity learned from a decade or more of excellent planning in the region. It will build on past planning efforts and on current and ongoing projects such as the Route 28 Scenic Byway nomination, the Gateway Communities Initiative, and the Central Catskills Chamber's tourism and stream access projects.
- The revitalization strategy will weave together, in one place, the data, maps, vision, goals, and creative actions from past and current plans, studies, and efforts. Because this strategy reflects community consensus generated over many years through other independent planning efforts, and confirmed through new public input, it will increase the region's ability to market and promote itself to attract appropriate development that respects the rich cultural and natural characteristics found here.
- To date, the planning process has completed:
 - A review of previous plans and studies and compilation of common threads found over the years and in the various communities,
 - Surveys of local businesses and second homeowners,
 - Development of a regional profile that includes an inventory and analysis of resources, discussion of trends, and local conditions (e.g. recreational resources, historic sites, demographic trends) along with supportive maps, and
 - Development of a regional economic and market analysis.
- Our next step is to facilitate a public participation process early in 2012 that will reaffirm the direction economic development should take and identify and analyze key issues and opportunities.
- Upon completion of the public input, we will develop an action plan of realistic and doable short and long-term action steps to be implemented, and convey the results to the municipalities and various stakeholders.

For More Information, Contact:

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