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**LT. GOVERNOR MARY DONOHUE ANNOUNCES QUALITY COMMUNITIES
GRANT RECIPIENTS**

Hudson Valley receives over \$200,000 in funding

Lieutenant Governor Mary Donohue today announced \$1 million in State grants in the Hudson Valley and across New York State aimed at improving quality of life through economic development and environmental protection measures under the Quality Communities (QC) Program, administered by the Department of State.

“The Quality Communities Program is providing tools and assistance to municipalities to encourage good land use and development strategies as well as planning and cooperation across municipal lines,” said Lieutenant Governor Donohue. “We know that it is the local governments who are faced with the planning and management of growth. These grants will help communities appropriately plan their future for the betterment of their residents.”

The QC 2004-2005 Program includes \$1 million in grants for planning projects which revitalize downtowns, promote more livable neighborhoods, protect open space and critical environmental resources, and plan for future development and resource use. This is the second round of funding made available through the Quality Communities Grant Program which was recommended by the Quality Communities Interagency Task Force in 1999.

Created by Governor George Pataki, the Quality Communities Interagency Task Force, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Donohue and vice-chaired by Secretary of State Randy Daniels, has worked with State agencies, communities and organizations to study economic development and environmental preservation across the State. Their findings and recommendations were published in a 2001 document: *State and Local Governments Partnering for a Better New York*. The Task Force, now called the Quality Communities Interagency Working Group, continues to work with local governments and State agencies to implement the report recommendations and collaborate with municipalities in an effort to encourage smart growth and development.

Secretary of State Randy Daniels, whose office administers the program said, “With Governor Pataki’s support, the Quality Communities initiative was able to offer a new round of grant funding for local governments, enabling them to achieve their QC project goals. Grant programs such as this can provide important incentives to bring people together to create and implement a quality vision for their communities’ future.”

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Newburgh Mayor Nicholas Valentine said, “This grant will assist the City of Newburgh in creating a community vision and a comprehensive revitalization strategy for the backbone of the City of Newburgh's Historic District. The result will be a heightened awareness of the City's rich cultural heritage and the restoration of Newburgh as a thriving urban center.”

Fallsburgh Town Supervisor Steve Lavine said, “The Town of Fallsburg considers the O&W Rail Trail to be an excellent source of recreation. With the funds provided by this grant, we will be able to examine the feasibility of completing and expanding the existing O&W Rail Trail.”

New Paltz Supervisor Donald Wilen said, “The Town of New Paltz is proud to provide the regional leadership needed to develop plans for the preservation of open spaces of scenic, natural, recreational and historic importance. On behalf of the 11 collaborating municipalities of the Shawangunk Mountains Regional Partnership, I am delighted to receive this grant award from the Lieutenant Governor.”

Red Hook Supervisor Marirose Blum-Bump said, “This grant is very important to enhancing the quality of our community because it will fund an innovative fiscal analysis of the impact of different kinds of commercial and residential growth on school, town and village property taxes over time. The Town, School District and Village of Red Hook and Village of Tivoli will work together on this project with the assistance of outside consultants. We want the information from the study to help us promote balanced, sustainable growth and stable taxes for the long term.”

Hudson Mayor Richard Scalera said, “As a member of the Upper Hudson River Alliance, the City of Hudson is honored to have been selected as lead community applicant for the award

of the Quality Community Grant. The Upper Hudson River Alliance consisting of the City of Hudson and the Villages of Athens, Saugerties and Tivoli- four communities in four counties – will use this grant to make their communities and region the cutting edge model for partnerships as we strive to create economic development strategies utilizing our most significant natural resource, the Hudson River.”

A total of 250 applications were received and 30 grant awards were presented to communities across the State. The grants in the Hudson Valley are as follows:

The **City of Newburgh** in partnership with **Orange County** was awarded \$29,000 to develop a revitalization strategy for the historic Liberty Street - Grand Street Corridor. This process will include a strong visioning element with neighborhood stakeholders.

In Sullivan County, the **Town of Fallsburg** received \$26,000 to develop a corridor plan that will examine the feasibility of completing and expanding the existing O&W rail trail, including a possible linkage to the D&H Canal, as well as visioning for several downtowns and conservation options for a critical parcel of open space.

The **Town of New Paltz** in Ulster County received \$65,000 to develop a regional open space plan for the Northern Shawangunk Mountains and surrounding valleys. A regional partnership of eleven mid-Hudson municipalities will conduct a public visioning process and develop strategies for conserving open space resources, including biodiversity and the scenic character of the region.

In Dutchess County, the **Town of Red Hook** was awarded \$32,000 and will undertake the Red Hook Inter-Municipal Fiscal Analysis, Study, and Implementation project in partnership with the Villages of Red Hook, Tivoli and the Red Hook Central School District. The project will address the impacts of alternative growth strategies on school, town and village taxes and planning in adjacent municipalities.

The **City of Hudson** in partnership with the Villages of Athens, Saugerties, and Tivoli in Columbia County received \$49,000 to develop an Inter-Municipal Hudson River Space Economic Development Plan. The plan will include inter-municipal implementation of technology, marketing and economic development strategies for these waterfront communities.

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