## Model Municipal Resolution of Support

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT**

Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership & Hoosic River Watershed Association
Hoosic River Access Initiative

WHEREAS, the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership (HHHRP) was established by Article 42 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law to promote the preservation, enhancement, and development of the historic, agricultural, scenic, natural, and recreational resources within the Hudson–Hoosic region; and

WHEREAS, the Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study, stewardship, and enhancement of the Hoosic River watershed within New York, Massachusetts, and Vermont; and

WHEREAS, the HHHRP and HooRWA have identified a shared goal of improving and/or increasing public access to the Hoosic River in New York State to promote environmental stewardship, recreation, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, both organizations have convened municipal, county, and state representatives to collaborate on a comprehensive assessment of existing and potential access sites and to explore opportunities for coordinated planning and implementation; and

WHEREAS, the [Municipality Name] recognizes the significant recreational, environmental, and economic value of the Hoosic River and supports regional cooperation to enhance access and stewardship of this important natural resource;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the [Town/Village/County] of [Name] hereby expresses its support for the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership and Hoosic River Watershed Association initiative to improve access to the Hoosic River; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [Town/Village/County Board] authorizes participation by [Designated Municipal Representative or Staff Member] in meetings and collaborative efforts associated with this initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the [Town/Village/County] encourages continued coordination among regional partners to identify funding opportunities and to implement projects that enhance the accessibility, recreational use, and environmental quality of the Hoosic River.

Adopted this ___ day of _____, 2025
By the [Town/Village/County] Board of [Name]

# Hoosic River Access & Stewardship Planning Initiative

*A Collaborative Effort of the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership and the Hoosic River Watershed Association*

## Project Overview

The Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership (HHHRP) and the Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) are partnering to develop a comprehensive, community-based plan to improve water quality, public access, ecological health, and recreational opportunities along the Hoosic River in New York State.

The initiative builds on the shared interests of municipalities, counties, and nonprofit partners in protecting the river's natural resources while promoting sustainable recreation and economic vitality. The Hoosic River flows through Rensselaer and Washington connecting rural communities, historic villages, and working landscapes.

Although the Hoosic River is a vital regional resource, it faces ongoing challenges such as limited access, aging infrastructure, nonpoint source pollution, invasive species, and fragmented intermunicipal coordination. This project will create a strategic framework for addressing these issues collaboratively through a unified regional plan and long-term implementation strategy.

## Goals

• **Expand and Enhance Public Access:** Inventory and assess existing and potential access points for paddling, fishing, and riverside recreation; improve connectivity between access sites, trails, and nearby downtowns; incorporate universal design principles and consistent wayfinding.

• **Foster Recreation, Heritage, and Economic Vitality:** Strengthen the river's role as a focus for nature-based tourism and community identity; integrate cultural, historic, and environmental interpretation; highlight public health and economic benefits of clean water and outdoor access.

• **Restore and Sustain Ecological Integrity:** Identify opportunities for habitat restoration, fish passage improvements, and invasive species management; protect and expand riparian and floodplain ecosystems for biodiversity and climate resilience.

• **Promote Intermunicipal Coordination and Resilience:** Develop a governance and management framework for long-term collaboration; align local, county, and regional policies to support consistent stewardship practices; embed data transparency and shared metrics for tracking progress and outcomes.

## Strategic Framework and Next Steps

### Coalition Building and Capacity Alignment

- Formalize participation from municipalities, counties, and nonprofit partners.
- Establish an intermunicipal steering committee with representation from each participating entity.

### Funding and Resource Mobilization

- Conduct a funding readiness assessment and prepare a regional funding strategy.
- Secure financial commitments or letters of support from participating municipalities.
- Submit coordinated funding requests to support plan development.

### Comprehensive Plan Development

- Following funding approval, HHHRP (on behalf of the coalition) will issue an RFP to retain a qualified consultant team.
- Plan components include a watershed-scale barrier and opportunity assessment; data-driven mapping and analysis; community and stakeholder engagement; and an implementation matrix with measurable actions, responsible parties, and potential funding pathways.

### Implementation Readiness and Early Action

- Identify early-win projects that demonstrate progress (e.g., access upgrades, signage, invasive species removal).
- Align recommendations with municipal and county plans and hazard mitigation strategies.
- Establish project partnerships to prepare funding applications and permitting packages.

### Long-Term Implementation and Evaluation

- Advance priority projects through design, permitting, and construction as resources allow.
- Monitor outcomes using shared metrics (water quality, habitat health, recreation usage, equity indicators).

## Work Plan

| Phase | Focus Area | Key Activities / Deliverables | Lead / Partners |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Coalition Building & Organization | Build a unified regional network for coordinated planning. | Outreach to all Hoosic River municipalities; adoption of municipal resolutions of support; formation of intermunicipal steering committee; project charter and communication plan. | HHHRP, HooRWA, Municipal & County Partners |
| 2. Funding & Resource Mobilization | Identify and secure funding for plan development and future implementation. | Funding strategy and eligibility matrix; match coordination; applications for planning/implementation support; engagement with state, federal, and foundation partners. | HHHRP, Steering Committee |
| 3. Plan Development (via RFP) | Develop a data-driven, community-informed regional plan. | Issue RFP and select qualified consultant; resource inventory, GIS analysis, field assessments; engagement workshops; draft and final plan with implementation framework. | Consultant, HHHRP, HooRWA, Municipalities |
| 4. Implementation Readiness & Early Actions | Build momentum through near-term projects and partnerships. | Identify and scope high-visibility/low-cost projects; align with planning documents; permitting/funding readiness; public communication tools. | HHHRP, Municipalities, County & Nonprofit Partners |
| 5. Long-Term Implementation & Evaluation | Deliver tangible environmental, recreational, and | Implement priority projects (access improvements, water | HHHRP, Municipalities, County Agencies, |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | economic outcomes. | quality restoration, invasive species management); shared monitoring metrics; stewardship programs; periodic performance reports. | NGOs |

## Project Lead & Contact

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