

**Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council
Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park
2001 Special Project Award**

Schuyler Flatts is the 17th to early 20th century homestead farm of the famous Albany Schuyler family, including the family's New World progenitor and first Albany Mayor Philip Peterse and Revolutionary War General Philip Schuyler. In the 1970's preliminary archeological investigations were done because of a planned sewer construction. Digs uncovered significant Native American and Colonial artifacts. "Schuyler Flatts," an area of approximately 100 acres, was listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places. The Town of Colonie purchased 2.5 acres of the property and Albany County purchased 9.5 acres, which it later transferred to the Town. In 1981 the site of the Schuyler House was designated a National Historic Landmark. With funds provided by a Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act request (\$375,000) and a grant of \$10,000 provided by the Hudson River Greenway, plans were made for the park design and construction was begun in 2001.

The Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council has overseen the development of this project. The park plan highlights and focuses on four areas that include: the Schuyler homestead, the Erie Canal, the Little River . . . a natural area including wetlands and a tidal stream, and an area dedicated to Native American history. The initial program suggests uses that are generally passive in nature and ones that will support and complement education and interpretation. Identification of the property and public access to the site will be provided. Within the site support facilities including parking, trails, directional and interpretive signs and facilities will be developed for the public's use. The trail and interpretive stations will become the organizing features of the site. In addition to the historic and cultural elements of the site, the natural environmental systems are recognized for interpretation and appreciation. The trails and overlooks are proposed to circumscribe the site and include opportunities for the discovery of natural habitats, bird watching and other wildlife viewing. In support of these activities, the program will include naturalization and buffering of the property boundary through planting in certain key areas. The Park will be available for public use and enjoyment in the spring of 2002.