

**Town of LaGrange
Conservation Advisory Council
Wappinger Creek Greenway Trail
2005 Action Award**

Wappinger Creek is an important New York State Hudson River Estuary which flows through the Town of LaGrange. The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) initiated a project in the early nineties to preserve the creek bank as an open space and a walking nature trail for recreational use. Members of the CAC approached the landowners with the idea for the project, stressing the value for the community; approached Boy Scout groups about the potential for Eagle Scout projects; and ultimately supervised the trail's construction with the approval of the Town Board.

Both the town Parks and Recreation Department and Highway Department helped with removing trash that had been dumped near the creek and clearing vegetation. The Town Planning Department helped with the legal aspects of the many property easements. Two different boy scout troops built parts of the trail and the bridge.

Money from the Iroquois Pipeline settlement was used to cover costs for the first part of the trail and bridge. Other contributors were Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation and Trout Unlimited.

The walking nature trail is a scenic 2.25 miles open to the public, both local residents and visitors. The project is an example of successful collaboration of land owners, boy scouts, town government and the private sector under the leadership and supervision of the Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council. The project took more than a decade to complete and was able to proceed with continuity in spite of changes in the town board and five chairs of the CAC during that time.

For further information contact Dr. Maung S. Htoo, Conservation Advisory Council Chairman, at 10 Rabbit Trail Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, e-mail at mhtoo@aol.com.