

# HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM: Scenic Guidance, Training and Demonstration Project



# Project Team Introductions



**SARATOGA**  
ASSOCIATES

Landscape Architects, Architects,  
Engineers, and Planners, P.C.



- New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPPCC)
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
  - Hudson River Estuary Program
- Saratoga Associates
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF)





# Project Overview

# Project Summary

- The Hudson River Estuary Scenic Views Guidance, Training and Demonstration Project will..
  - > Provide landowners with principles and practices to help them plan for establishing and maintaining scenic views
  - > Recognize the impact of forest succession, soils, and water management approaches on the long-term scenic outcomes
  - > Advise on how to mitigate the impact of tree clearing on wildlife habitat
  - > Advise on how to maintain the historic character of the Hudson River Valley through view creation
  - > This will culminate in a handbook/planning guide, training and outreach, as well as two demonstration projects.



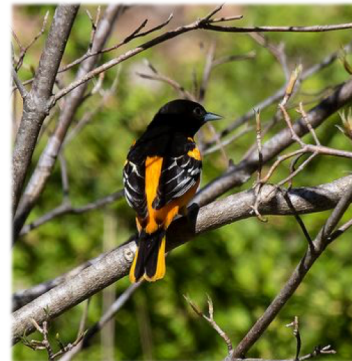
# Project Goals



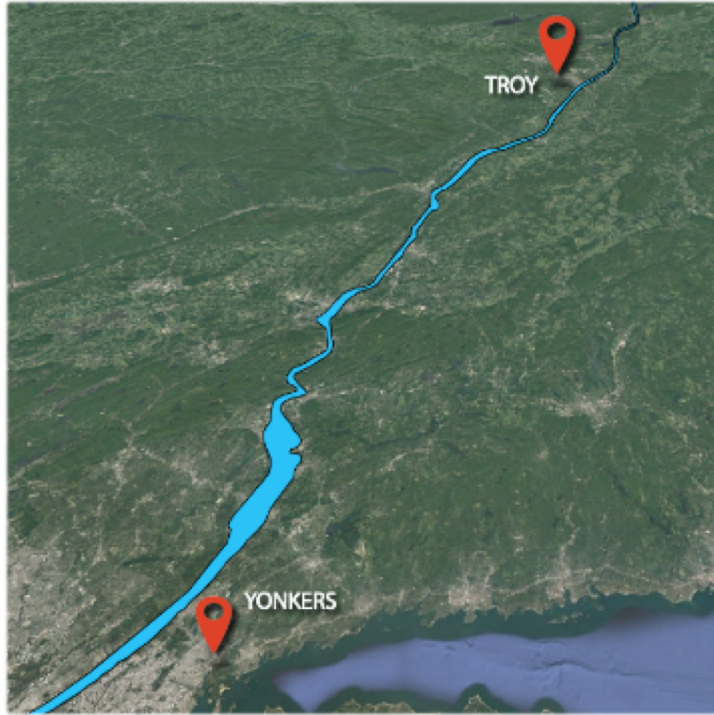


# Project Scope Items

1. Research Scenic and Environmental Considerations
2. Working Draft Scenic Vista Creation and Management Guidance Handbook
3. Demonstration Projects
4. Stakeholder Meetings and Feedback
5. Final Scenic Vista Creation and Management Guidance Handbook
6. Public Training Sessions



# Study Area



- Study area includes lands that border the east and west shore of the Hudson River
- Federal Dam in Troy, NY southward to (and including) Riverdale, NY on the east shore; NYS/NJ border on the west shore
- Approximately 140 river miles



# Guidebook

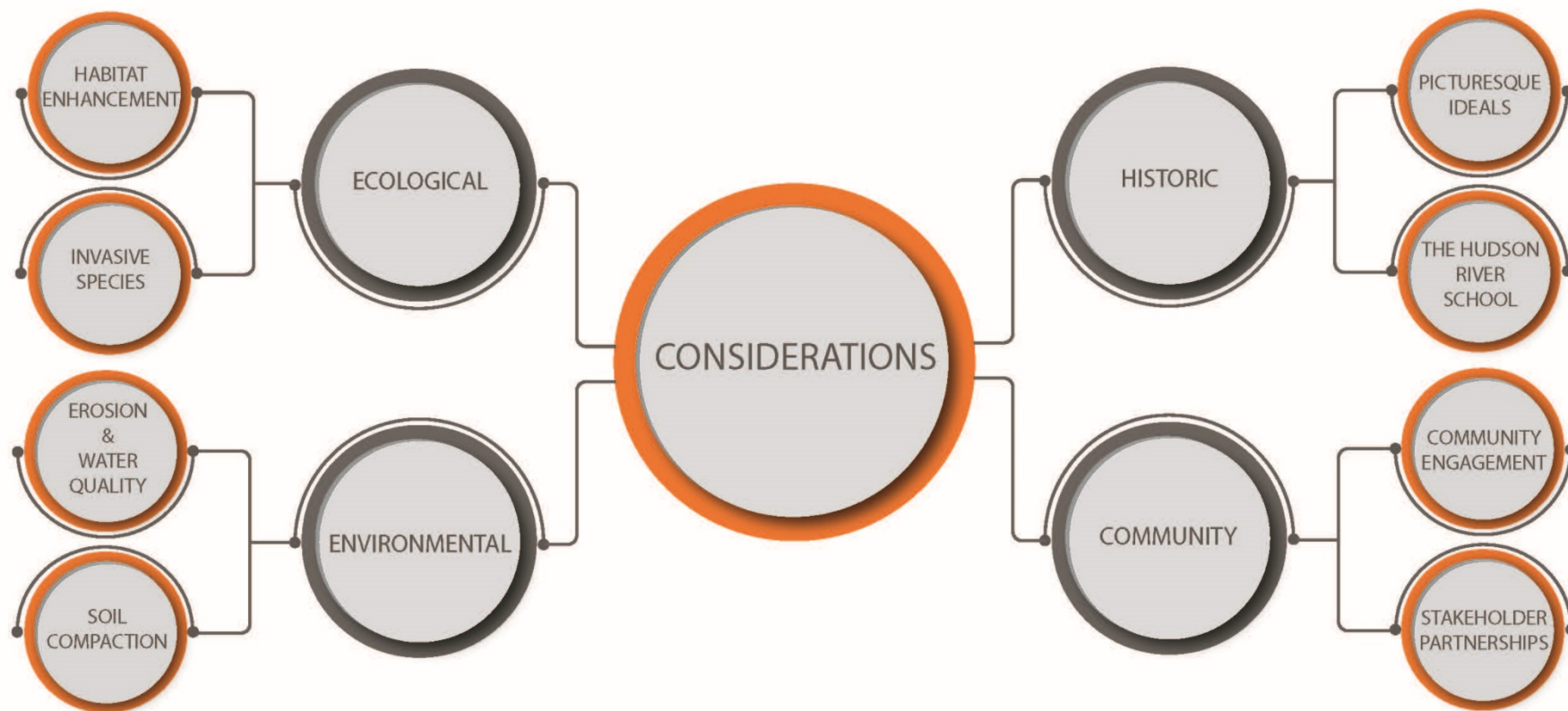


# Guiding Principles for Guidebook Creation

1. Establish best practices for view creation, maintenance
2. Establish best practices for protection and enhancement of habitat and natural areas
3. Considerations of historic Hudson River Valley ideals
4. Targeted to parks, historic sites and other large properties along the Hudson River

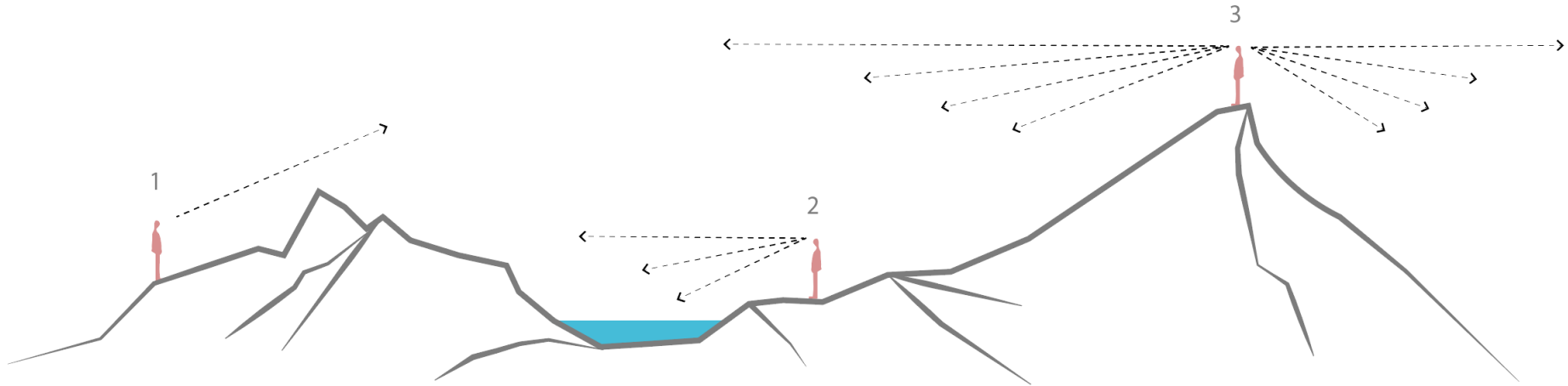


# Guidebook Considerations



## Observer Positions

Observer Position refers to the stationing of an “observer” in relation to surrounding visible landscape features as well as the observer’s location relative to elevation. There are three primary positions an observer may find themselves in: (1) Observer Inferior, (2) Observer Normal, (3) Observer Superior. These positions are indicated by the adjacent diagrams.



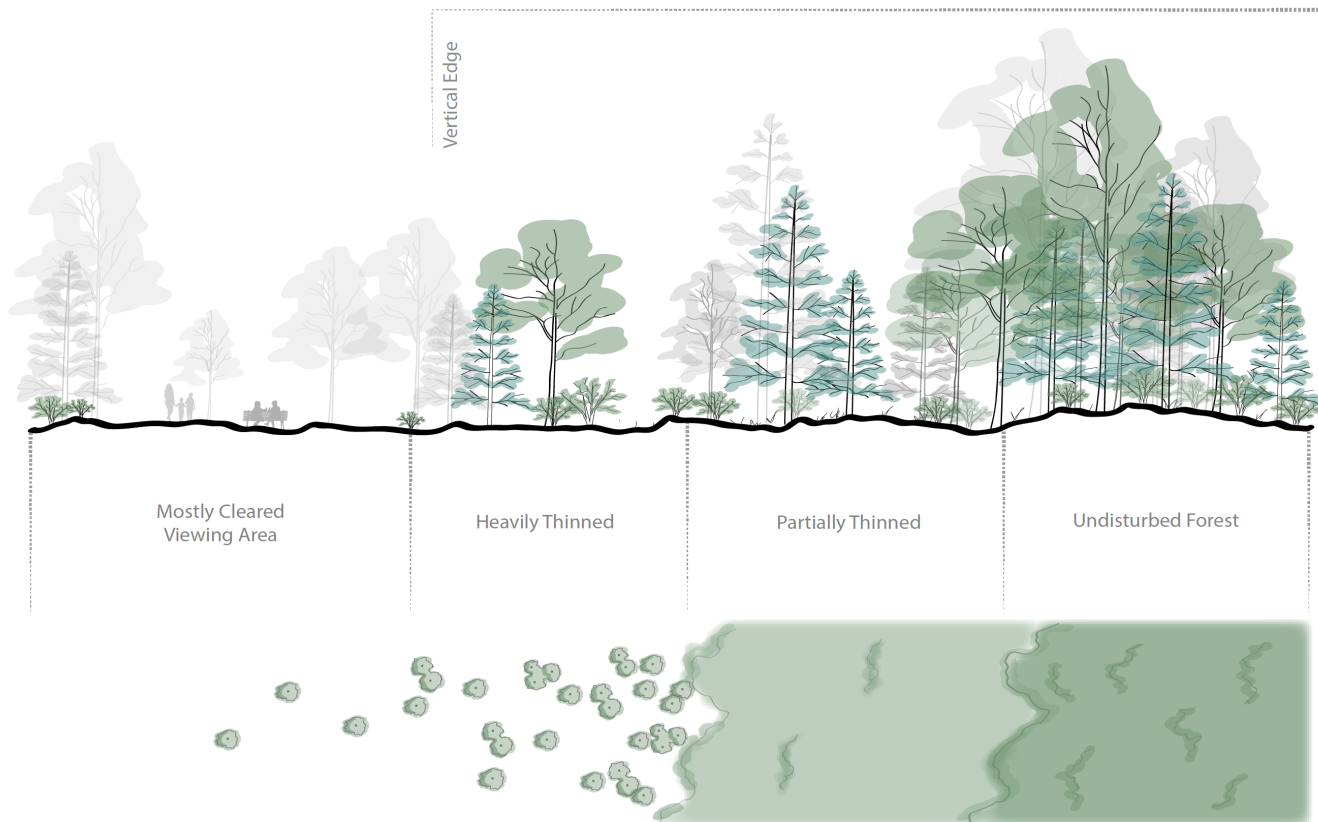


# Guidebook Sample

## Feathering:

This is a technique used in view creation that allows for a gradual, natural visual transition from undisturbed areas to the areas cleared for views.

Feathering also creates enhanced habitat conditions, welcoming successional plant species which bring with it new, vital ecologies.



## Feathering Continued...

The feathering width, or the feathered edge should be equal to, or slightly greater than the viewing area.





# Demonstration Projects



# Demonstration Project Goals

- Demonstration Projects
  - > Identify two (2) demonstration project sites
    - > Seek volunteer public/not-for-profit properties for implementation
    - > Preferably a planned view creation initiative
  - > Develop site specific clearing and management plan
    - > Solicit contractor bids and initiate demonstration project under supervision of a landscape architect or arborist
    - > Document results as a case study for assessment to inform Final Scenic Vista Creation and management guidance Handbook



# Applicable Properties for Demonstration Sites

- Parklands
- Historic Sites
- Nature Preserves
- Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Scenic Trails
- Conservation Lands



# Considered Demonstration Sites

## The Willows at Brandow Point (Athens, NY)

Greene Land Trust

- > Vista view creation opportunity
  - > May inform guidebook on viewer superior views
- > Recently restored historic home on property
- > Created views could be visible from the road.
- > Site would benefit from tree thinning and meadow creation
- > The site is managed regularly



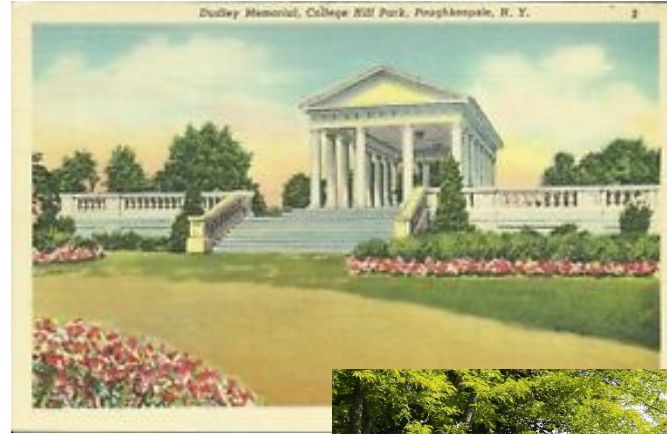


# Considered Demonstration Sites

## College Hill Park (Poughkeepsie)

City of Poughkeepsie

- > Recently received Greenway Grant for other site rehabilitation projects
- > The Park was originally designed by Calvert Vaux and A.J. Downing
- > Will open views of both the Hudson Highlands and the Catskills
- > Views of the River may be possible from the pavilion
- > The site is managed regularly



# Considered Demonstration Sites

## Hoyt House “The Point” at Mills Norrie State Park (Staatsburg, NY)

OPRHP

- > Multiple view creation opportunities
  - > Will inform guidebook about keyhole view creation
- > Historic home designed by Calvert Vaux
- > Existing documentation of historic views
- > View restoration could spur funds towards other property rehabilitation projects
- > Views will create destination points for existing trails within Mills Norrie State Park
  - > Trails are heavily used by both locals and tourists



# Considered Demonstration Sites

## Greenport Conservation Area (Hudson, NY)

Columbia Land Conservancy

- > The site could offer an opportunity for keyhole view creation
- > Site is currently well managed and maintained
- > Offers views of rare ecologies (Freshwater Natural Marshes and Freshwater Intertidal Mudflats)
- > Mostly mixed forest and meadow
- > Could be a potential site for public outreach/education sessions





# Considered Demonstration Sites

## Blithewood at Bard College (Redhook, NY)

Bard College

- > Historic home, landscape design by A. J. Downing
- > Will inform guidebook regarding view creation on sites with erodible soils
- > Existing documentation of historic view
- > Centrally located within study area
- > Site is used heavily by locals, students and tourists





Thank You!