

Catskill Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

May 4, 2022 at 2:00pm

Meeting held via Zoom

Jeff Senterman welcomed all present and thanked everyone for taking part virtually. He went over a few housekeeping and technical details for the zoom meeting and urged everyone to introduce themselves through the chat function.

NYSDEC Updates: Quick updates were provided on the FPAC, the development of trail standards through an FPAC advisory subcommittee, and staffing changes in the central office. McCrea provided an overview of his work at the Catskill Park Coordinator.

Region 3 noted that there are new updated regulations for the Peekamoose Riparian Area. They also noted that there was a lot of stewardship occurring across the region this season, including the Catskill Center Stewards, SCA Stewards, the NYNJTC summit stewards, and the Catskill Mountainkeeper Stewards. The DEC is working with the Catskill Science Collaborative to look into trail registration and other data collection methods about visitors to the Park. They noted that permits to visit the Blue Hole are required as of 5/15 and runs through 9/15. Pine R. noted that she is conducting outreach across the country on informal trails. She said that the Leave No Trace Foundation is very interested in trailless peak management. Pine also noted that she'll be collecting data this season on informal trails across the Catskills, partnering with the Catskill Science Collaborative to do the same and that there will be an upcoming planning process to address informal trail impacts on trailless peaks.

Region 4 noted that the Tahawus trail crew is working in the Elm Ridge and Kaaterskill Wild Forests this season, there is an ESF intern working with DEC to conduct a backcountry asset inventory, and that SCA interns/stewards have been placed across the region.

NYCDEP: Tom D. noted the recent staffing changes including Jeff Graff as the new Section Chief for City Land Stewards, and the departure of Adam Bosch as the Communications Director. Tom noted that he is looking forward to returning to in person public outreach. The Recreational Boating Program has kicked off for the 2022

season and there is now a new process for small and mid-sized events being held on DEP property.

NYSDOT: Provided updated contact information and noted new travel corridor planning efforts. Noted that additional detail is included in the notes document they provided to the group.

Sportsmen Meeting: McCrea and Jeff reported on a meeting with a number of sporting clubs earlier in the spring. They provided an overview of the concerns that the groups brought to their attention.

Catskill Mountain Club: Noted that they have returned to in person events and are looking forward to the Catskill Lark in the Park in the fall.

Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower: Fundraising for the restoration of the Bramley Mountain Fire Tower is going well and they are hoping to begin installing the tower later this summer.

Catskill Mountainkeeper: Keeping an eye on the development proposals on Route 28.

Catskill Park Coalition: Noted budget wins this year for the Forest Preserve.

Catskill Watershed Corporation: Thanked NYSDOT for putting up the “Lost Town” signs. They noted that the brochures for this year’s recreational boating program are coming.

CRISP: Noted that a new contract has been signed between the Catskill Center and DEC for the management of the Catskills PRISM for the next five years.

Hunter Area Trails Coalition: Noted work is progressing on a bridge key to the expansion of the Kaaterskill Rail Trail.

NYNJTC: Noted volunteer opportunities in the Park.

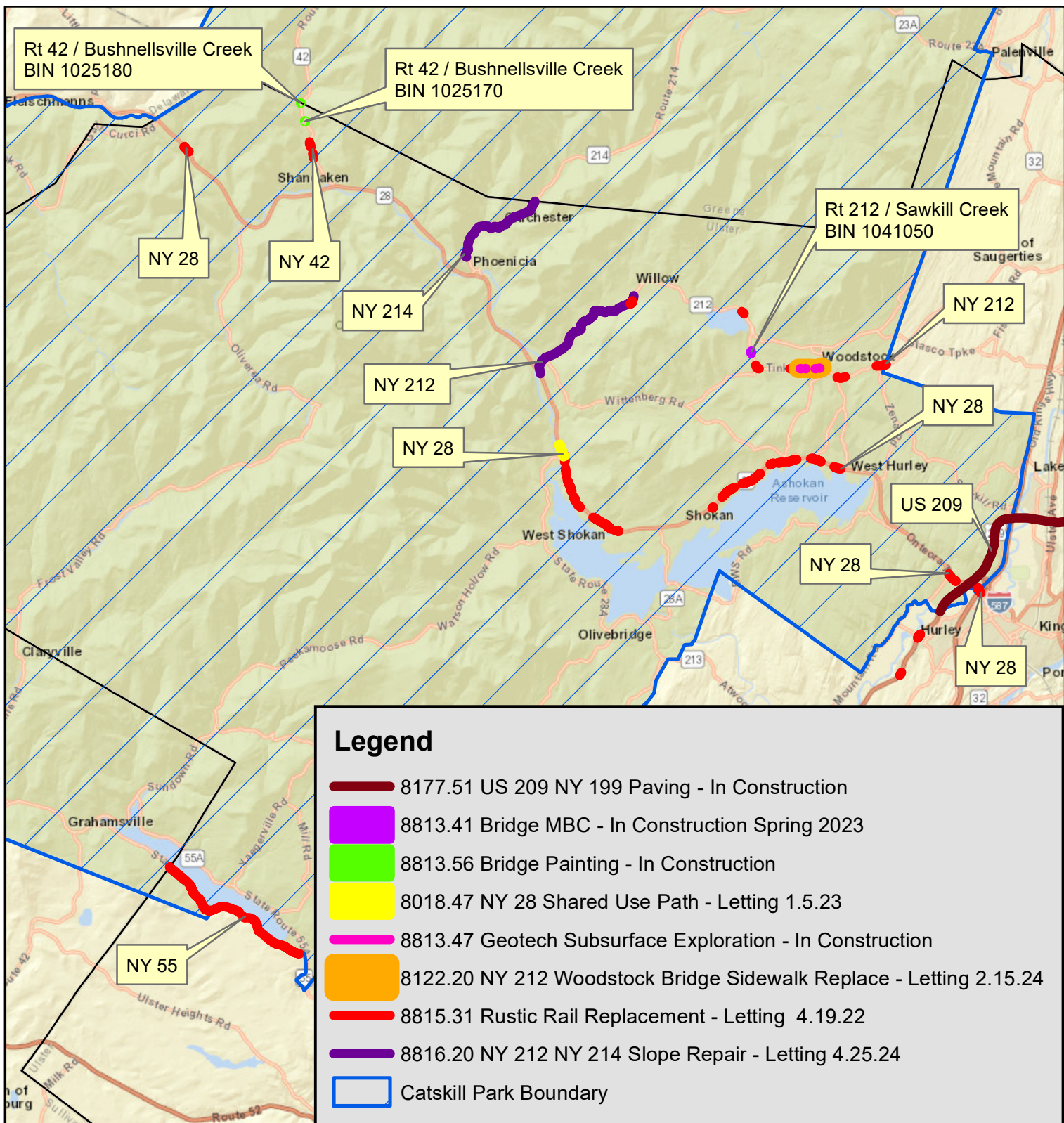
Scenic Byways: Work is being done to update the Corridor Management Plans.

Ulster County: Beginning research into what is sustainable tourism.

Woodstock Land Conservancy: Their Spring Fling is happening soon.

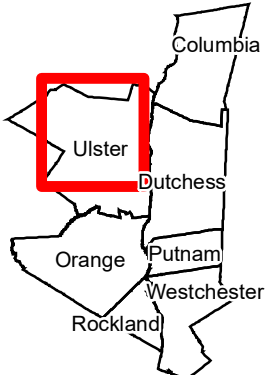
Category	Region	Contact	Project/Item Title	PIN	Summary
Projects & Activities	R8	Jason Wolfanger/ Kyle Buser	Esopus Creek Bridge		Project substantially completed by end of 2021 construction season. The contract remains open with a uncompleted work agreement until vegetation cover on exposed soils is established. Anticipating contract completion Spring/Summer of 2022. ; Jason Wolfanger has taken another position with NYS Parks - Kyle Buser is current POC.
Catskill Park Gateways		Peter Dunleavy, Alexandra von Bieberstein	Catskill Park Gateways		on hold, anticipate increasing staffing to facilitate design later in 2022 with construction to follow.
Invasives	R9	Peter Dunleavy/ Chris Colley	Invasive Species Monitoring & Control		Set up and monitor existing SLF traps and identify needs for additional traps. NYSDOT will be issuing new specifications for monitoring and control some of which may be used in the Catskill Park.
Catskill Park Gateways	R9	Kris Gilbert	906780 Rt 17 over Willowemoc & Debruce	906780	Old Catskill Park Gateway sign within project limits, on Rt 17. Sign fallen, posts still standing. We have coordinated with the DEC to install a new sign (provided by the DEC) on the existing post assembly during the project.
Wildlife Passage	R9	Kris Gilbert	906780 Rt 17 over Willowemoc & Debruce	906780	Existing wildlife passage under the bridge will be preserved.
Fish Passage	R9	Kris Gilbert	906780 Rt 17 over Willowemoc & Debruce	906780	Scour protection (grouted riprap) will include roughened bottom design for natural streambed material retention and plunge pool on the downstream side for fish habitat.
Visitor Parking & Kiosk	R9	Kris Gilbert	906780 Rt 17 over Willowemoc & Debruce	906780	Contractor may want to use parking lot during construction. Kiosk to be protected with temporary plastic fencing.
Vegetation Management	R9	Kris Gilbert	906780 Rt 17 over Willowemoc & Debruce	906780	The project will take steps to prevent the spread of invasive species, will treat some invasive species, and will install a wildflower mix for pollinator habitat post-construction, along with mowing limits markers.
Projects & Activities	R8	Jason Wolfanger / Kyle Buser	Route 209/Route 199	8177.51	Paving improvements along the Route 209/199 corridor. Let in 2021, work will be done in 2022 construction season. See catskill project location map for limits.
Projects & Activities	R8	Jason Wolfanger / Kyle Buser	Bridge Painting	8813.56	Maintenance painting of two bridges along Route 42 over the Bushnellsville Creek. Construction will continue into 2022 season. See project location map for locations.
Projects & Activities	R8	Jason Wolfanger / Kyle Buser	Geotech Subsurface Exploration	8813.47	See project location map for proposed work locations.
Projects & Activities	R8	Jason Wolfanger / Kyle Buser	Rustic Rail Replacement Contract	8815.31	Replacement of rustic cor-10 guiderail with galvanized guiderail. See project location map.
Bridges & Culverts	R1	S. Demassio	Route 23A	1810.9	Culvert in the village of Hunter

Vegetation Management	R1	S. Demassio	Mowing	Mow Shoulders and ROW 2-4 times a year for ROW control and site distance concerns
Vegetation Management	R1	S. Demassio	Herbicide	Spray Espanage and Viewpoint for vegetation control along Guidereail
Park Branding	R1	C. Denison	Sign Maintenance	Reflectivity studies for sign replacement
Training	R1	A. Becker	Herbicide Training	Spring training for Herbicide applicators and technicians - refresher course



Legend

- 8177.51 US 209 NY 199 Paving - In Construction
- 8813.41 Bridge MBC - In Construction Spring 2023
- 8813.56 Bridge Painting - In Construction
- 8018.47 NY 28 Shared Use Path - Letting 1.5.23
- 8813.47 Geotech Subsurface Exploration - In Construction
- 8122.20 NY 212 Woodstock Bridge Sidewalk Replace - Letting 2.15.24
- 8815.31 Rustic Rail Replacement - Letting 4.19.22
- 8816.20 NY 212 NY 214 Slope Repair - Letting 4.25.24
- Catskill Park Boundary



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Various Projects w/in Catskill Park
Various Municipalities
Ulster County

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REGION 8

PIN	DATE	FIGURE
Various	2/3/2022	1

Greene County Trail projects May 2022

HUNTER AREA TRAIL network

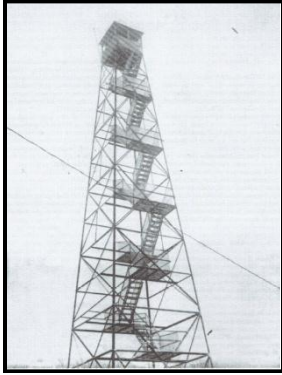
- Phase 5 Hunter Branch Rail Trail from Clove Road to Ski Bowl Road/Dolan's Lake – 90 ft. prefabricated truss bridge will be installed July-August 2022 over Clove Creek. Work began clearing and chipping trees. Few footbridges will be put in this summer to avoid wet areas. Long range vision is to upgrade trail to ADA specifications in the spirit of [Camp Jened](#) which is on the trail.
- KRT1 (Mountain Top Historical Property to Laurel House Rd) needs resurfacing in some sections.
- KRT3: MTHS to Huckleberry Trail in Tannersville.
 - Grant used to hire consultant to develop design and construction permits for the “connector piece”, which is extending sidewalks in Haines Falls west through former Villa Maria property (north side of 23A). Meetings with DOT, landowner and town developed trail alignment through property, cost estimates to build connector multi use path on private property and within DOT right of way. Very short but complicated section of the trail network.
 - Trail easements executed, trail created on DEP property and initial trail clearing on Cortina Mountain Estates property (three footbridges, chipping and weed whacking thanks to DEC Smart Growth grant). More funding is needed to complete what's been started.
- KRT4 – parties in option to buy two parcels with rail bed. Town passed resolution allowing property owner to be considered for streamside acquisition to support rail trail project. This would require an extensive pedestrian bridge over the Schoharie creek.

Huntersfield Creek Falls Trail, Prattville

- DEP amended LUP to accommodate old woods' road as part of the trail. Kiosk under development, signs being ordered for installation this summer. Small footbridge installed in 2021.
- Vision for phase 2 to connect to trails on the neighboring Pratt Rock property

Bonnie's Trails, Lexington

- DEP issued LUP for this trail system on city property sponsored by local hiking club and town. Residents working on signage. Trails meander through open fields and wooded areas on former woods' roads. Ideal for cross country with enough snow! and leisurely walks. Trail named in memory of respected resident who died prematurely in 2019.



**Friends of
Bramley Mountain
Fire Tower, Inc.**
PO Box 63
Delhi, NY 13753



April 29, 2022

Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower Report

We have been awarded two grants for \$25,000 each, one from the Delaware County Economic Development office and one from Delaware County Board of Supervisors from the American Rescue plan funds that were dedicated for tourism promotion. The CWC has agreed to guarantee the \$30,000 take town cost in the very unlikely event the tower would need to be removed, so we are very close to having the project fully funded.

We are hopeful that we can restore and reconstruct the tower this August. There are still a lot open items but we are working to get these all in place as soon as possible.

Recognition of the significant historic, economic and health impacts of the project on local and regional Catskills communities is evidenced by these two grants and the CWC guarantee. The excitement generated by the Catskills fire towers is evidence of what the restored fire tower will bring to the region – we look forward to being part of the Catskill Fire Tower Challenge in the future.



Catskill Center for Conservation and Development

Catskill Park Advisory Committee Update For May 4, 2022 Meeting

Catskill Stewards Program: The Catskill Stewards Program is gearing up for a busy 2022 season. Full time stewards and one full time Ridgerunner will work closely with DEC to ensure the continued protection of the Peekamoose Blue Hole, Kaaterskill Falls, Platte Clove Preserve, and the Devil's Path. The stewards greet each visitor, rid these areas of litter, rehabilitate illegal campsites, protect stream quality, and educate visitors to encourage self-reliance and minimum impact recreation.

The Catskill Center has [produced a video highlighting the work of the Catskill Stewards](#).

We expect to work closely with Catskill Mountainkeeper on training and other stewards activities across the Catskill Park.

Catskill Park Coalition: The Catskill Center and Catskill Mountainkeeper, as co-chairs of the Catskill Park Coalition celebrated historic wins in the NYS budget this year. Budget wins for the Catskills and Forest Preserve include:

- Catskills Visitor Center funding
- Catskill Science Collaborative funding
- Cornell University funding for HWA lab
- Belleayre Ski Center funding
- Forest Preserve funding in the amount of \$8m for both the Catskills and Adirondacks.

Catskills Great Outdoor Expo: The Outdoor Expo returns this year with an outdoor event at the Catskills Visitor Center! We're currently seeking vendors to attend. Learn more and reserve a table at <https://catskillcenter.org/outdoorexpo>.

Summer Gathering: Join us for the annual [Summer Gathering](#) Friday, June 10, 2022, at the Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey Catskills Visitor Center from 5 pm - 8 pm. This event is an opportunity for Catskills visitors, residents, and newcomers alike to come together for a fun-filled evening with food, music, games, and a bonfire. From

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, we will host a panel discussion entitled “State of the Catskills” featuring stewards of the environment, economy, and culture in the Catskills. RSVP appreciated but not required. Please email info@catskillcenter.org to RSVP



Catskills Visitor Center Catskill Park Advisory Committee Report

The Catskills Visitor Center building fully reopened to the public on September 3. The new indoor interpretive exhibits have been well received. The Catskill Center and our contractor, Partners & Partners, are completing final installations and fine tuning. The building is open every day 9:30-4pm, except for Tuesdays when the building is closed.

Visitation has been steady and fall/ winter numbers have been equal to pre-COVID numbers.

In June, the CVC will be hosting a combined [Outdoors Day/Catskills Great Outdoor Expo on June 11th](#) in an outdoor setting. Invitations to vendors will be forthcoming soon.

Catskill Park Trail Information and Conditions are posted weekly at:
<https://catskillsvisitorcenter.org/hiking-and-camping/trail-conditions/>