



The East Coast Greenway in New York State

The East Coast Greenway is taking shape! Winding some 3,000 miles through cities, towns, and countryside between Calais, Maine, and Key West, Florida, it offers a journey of discovery for bicyclists, walkers, and other non-motorized travelers. The project is spearheaded by the East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA), a nonprofit based in Wakefield, Rhode Island, with field staff in each of its four regions. The Alliance seeks to provide users with a continuous, comfortable, and safe pathway. Traversing parks and parkways and where necessary using low-volume roads and sidewalks, the Greenway serves local and regional users as well as through-riders. Its “current travel route” completes the route on an interim basis. Free route maps, cue sheets, and guides are available at www.greenway.org.

The Greenway through New York State will link with segments in Connecticut and New Jersey. Some 42-miles long, it will follow two separate routes through Westchester County, the Bronx, and Manhattan. Both routes converge in downtown Manhattan and utilize ferry or PATH service across the Hudson River. For information, visit www.greenway.org/gw-ny.htm.

The New York Committee works for in-state improvements to the existing interim route and completion of off-road portions. It welcomes participation at its meetings and events, and in its organizational and advocacy efforts.

Please add me to the NY Committee’s e-news list to receive announcements and periodic Bulletins. I’ll send my e-mail address to eastcoastgreenwayNY@gmail.com.

I want to become active with the New York Committee. I’ll send my interests and skills to eastcoastgreenwayNY@gmail.com.

I want to join or donate to the ECGA. See www.greenway.org or call 401-789-4625. Annual membership dues are: \$25 for student, \$40 for individual, and \$60 for family, with other options available. One may join or donate on-line, or by check or credit card.

I want to make a donation to benefit the New York Committee for the ECG.

\$1,000 Major Donor \$500 Patron \$250 Supporter Other \$ _____ Amt encl _____

Name _____

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Checks are to be made payable to “ECGA” and mailed with this form to East Coast Greenway Alliance, 27 North Road, Wakefield RI 02879. (If for the benefit of the New York-ECG, so indicate and state amount in the memo line.) The ECGA is a 501©(3) non-profit organization.

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Since February 2007, the NY Committee for the East Coast Greenway has:

- Established the eastern and western East Coast Greenway routing through New York State;
- Organized a letter-writing campaign and met with Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey to support Westchester County's application for federal funding to develop a 4-mile pathway on Westchester Avenue, a critical east-west link between existing trails;
- Organized a statewide ECGA summit bringing together key greenway and biking/walking agencies. This event cemented the New York Committee as a major advocacy group in the region;
- Introduced the Greenway in visits to all Members of Congress through whose districts the route runs;
- Received commitments to install way-finding signs along the Greenway in the Bronx: by NYC DOT for on-road portions and by the NYC Parks Department for pathways in parks;
- Designated New York Waterway ferry services to link the New York routes with the New Jersey Greenway; and
- Helped develop a NYC Weekend Trip Planner, with six itineraries for biking and walking the Greenway in Manhattan and the Bronx.

What is next for the NY Committee:

- Develop support for the Hutchinson River Parkway Trail to connect Westchester Avenue with the planned Merritt Parkway Greenway in Connecticut;
- Develop support for completing the off-road routes in Westchester County along the Bronx River and adding a Westchester Avenue link;
- Help organize a Bike Summit in Westchester County to promote networking among key agencies, officials, and civic activists and organizations;
- Post East Coast Greenway signs along the route in Manhattan; erect informational kiosks;
- Encourage NYC agencies to further improve some dangerous intersections and below-par stretches, and to close gaps along the routes in the Bronx and Manhattan;
- Build awareness and use of the Greenway through advocacy, presentations to civic groups and at information tables, communications, and sponsorship of events;
- Raise funds to support regional and local staff and activities; build organizational capacity; and
- Host meetings of the ECGA Trail Council and Board of Trustees in 2009.

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