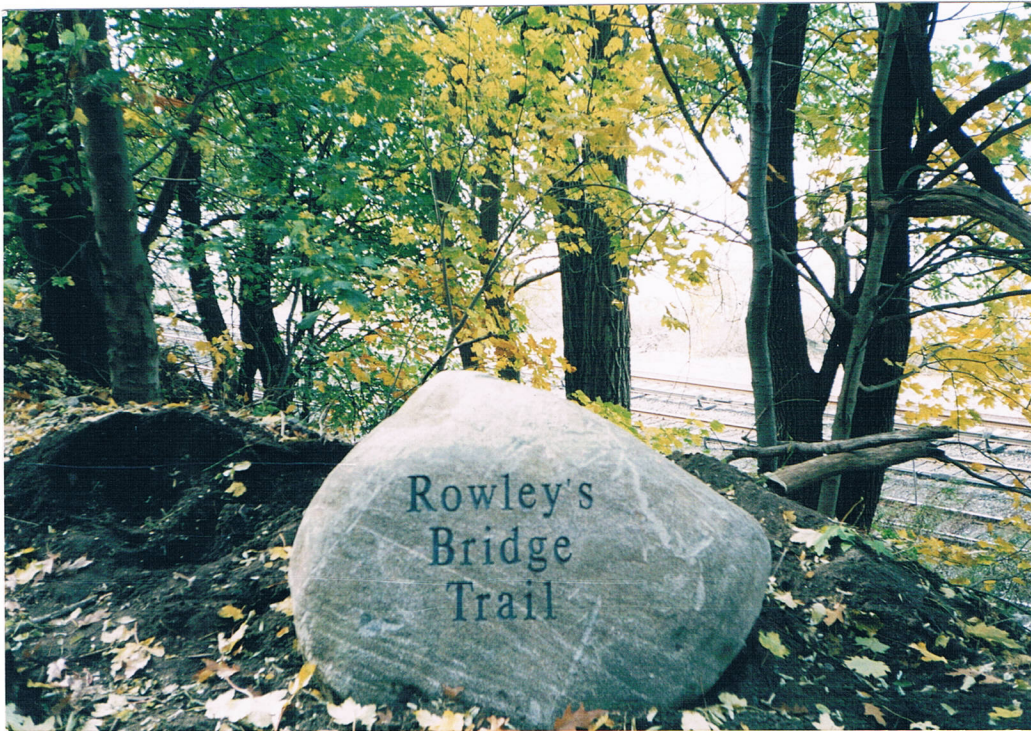


RECREATIONAL AREAS OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

A comprehensive and practical guide to natural and cultural history

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK



**Fred H. Hubbard, PhD
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PREFACE

Many changes and new improvements in recreational areas in the village have been made since Trailways, Footpaths and Parks was available in August 2003. These are listed in a table in the front of the book, beginning in October 2003 up to the present and identified and described in the text.

Users of this edition will appreciate the revision because of its new information, references to picturesque houses, historical sites, personal quotes, names of individuals associated with trail and park activities and community-oriented structures. Descriptions of areas have been factually supplemented with details on use, number and types of new equipment and facilities, layout data, names of plants replaced where some were lost, new plantings, dates of changes and names of persons and groups that provided skills and time to improve the areas.

The cover page photo shows a a two-ton boulder at the entrance to Rowley's Bridge Trail; Tom Minozzi engraved the boulder, and installed it on November 9, 2002.

The environmental approach to appreciate the 40 areas described in the guide is again recommended to obtain the greatest benefit from visiting them. Recognition of multipurpose recreational facilities of interest to physically active persons is included in a regrouping of the main areas into four categories: **TRAILWAYS AND TRAILS, FOOTPATHS, PARKS, and SPORTSFIELDS.**

In addition to this regrouping, the guide takes a sequential approach to describing the layout for trails and parks. Thus for the three major trailways in Hastings—Hillside Park and Woods, Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) and South County Trailway—and for 11 parks, descriptions follow one another as though a person would walk from one trail section or one park to another, wherever appropriate, given the distance between some parks and footpaths.

A table in Annex A gives characteristics, length, and size of areas, to help users know in advance what to expect. Annex B relates user preferences such as long or short walks, play equipment, and scenic views, to assure that expectations or interests will be fulfilled when visiting. Page numbers are listed in Annex B (as in the Table of Contents), to allow quick access to area descriptions.

Connections between areas are emphasized so those users can make choices on walking tours when an area is reasonably close to another. Two tables in Annex C list possible connections from the perspective of the OCA trailway "backbone" to Hastings trails, footpaths and parks, and from the Hastings areas to OCA.

Maps showing locations of all trails and parks and of Rowley's Bridge Trail are included in Annex E.

Annex F contains information on new areas that are planned or proposed for use and development by the village: Graham-Windham Open Space, Local Waterfront Revitalization, Kinnally Cove, and Old Marble Quarry and Quarry Lane Trail. Descriptions of two organizations which are engaged in trail and park work—Hastings Beautification Committee and Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct—are given in Annexes H and I.

A new program, Adopt-A-Trail (AATP), was initiated in 2005 to encourage volunteers to improve and maintain trails in the Hastings system. A how-to-do-it brochure was prepared to guide volunteers in their work. A description of the AATP is given in Annex G.

The village has been invited to sponsor the seventh annual Hudson River Valley Ramble, a program extending from Albany to Manhattan, featuring Rowley's Bridge Trail; the Ramble program is described in Annex J.

A list of recent plantings established in trails and parks in Hastings is given in Annex K.

SYMBOLS & ACRONYMS

Symbols Indicating Principal Characteristics	
B brooklet or river	PT picnic tables
Be benches	R ruins
C cultivated, park-like	RO rock outcrops
DW drinking water	S steep
Ex exposed rocks and roots	SP sport facilities
H historical interest	SV scenic views
L level	SW sparsely wooded
P parking	T toilets
PE play equipment	W densely wooded

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Stands for</u>	<u>First use, or more information on page</u>
AATP	Adopt-a-Trail Program	Preface, 79
DEC	Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State	2
DPW	Department of Public Works, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson	7, 30
MTA	Metropolitan Transportation Authority	2
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	77, 82
OCA	Old Croton Aqueduct	Preface, 3
RBT	Rowley's Bridge Trail	1, 30
VFW	Veterans of Foreign Wars	4, 54

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RECREATIONAL AREAS OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

INTRODUCTION

Recreational Areas of Hastings-on-Hudson is an environmental approach that gives users of the guide help in appreciating and understanding many scenic, cultural and ecologically interesting trails, footpaths and parks in the village. The guide is organized to give users a step-by-step approach for viewing and recognizing outstanding features of each of the 40 recreational areas in the village, varying from dense woods to intensively used parks, playgrounds and ballfields. Characteristics and facilities of each area are identified in detail, and changes and improvements made in many of them since August 2003 are identified.

New developments are summarized in a table below and described in the text.

RECREATIONAL EVENTS IN HASTINGS OCTOBER 2003-JUNE 2006

1. Trailways of Hastings map produced, October, 2003.
2. Graham-Windham donated and planted 16 red maples on south slope of Rowley's Brook, October, 2003.
3. Silver maple seedling planted in April, 2004 on Rowley's Bridge Trail (RBT) by Brownies of Troops 2361, 1708 and 1711; about 20 inches tall in May, 2006.
4. Ceremony celebrating acquisition of 14.25 acres of Graham-Windham land by the village, October, 2003.
5. Tom Minozzi engraved boulder—Fred and Louise Hubbard Rowley's Bridge Trail Extension—unveiled, October, 2003.
6. Grant of \$10,000 received from Westchester County for development of Rowley's Bridge Connector Trail, April, 2005.
7. Rowley's Bridge Trail incorporated into Hudson River Valley Greenway system, June, 2005.
8. Chemka pool trail waterbars and wood chips laid, September, 2005.
9. Expansion and renovation of Chemka pool, 2005-2006.
10. Landscaping of Fulton Park, 2005.
11. Removal of tires and trash, Algonquin trail, Hillside Woods, January, 2005.
12. Installation of Utility Center and donor contribution plaque on RBT, May, 2005.
13. Installation of Bruce's Bridge 2 on RBT, May, 2005.
14. Establishment of Pagello's Pteridium on RBT, May, 2005.
15. Initiation of Adopt-A-Trail Program, March, 2005.
16. First Adopt-A-Trail Program Workshop, October, 2005.
17. Installation of mailboxes on trails, 2005-2006.
18. Cleanup and renovation of Zinsser Gardens (after removal of cottonwood), April, 2006.
19. Installation of trailway name signs, 2006.
20. Wood chips laid in MacEachron park play area, 2006.
21. Establishment of Bert's reflecting pool on Rowley's Brook, March, 2006.
22. Grass seed sown on RBT east slope and planting of 400 bulbs (Aconite, grape hyacinth, chionodoxa (Glory of the snow), Scilla (squill), Crocus, November, 2005.
23. Children's play area in Reynolds Field sanded.

24. MacEachron park trees trimmed, 2006.
25. Kinnally Cove trees cleared for river view, DEC permit pending, 2006.
26. Removal of Austrian pine and replacement with a white pine, Fulton Park, April, 2006.
27. Establishment of Beth's Garden on RBT plateau by Hastings Beautification Committee, April, 2006.
28. Third donation of gravel by MTA on RBT main trail, April, 2006.
29. Celebration of Hudson River Valley Ramble, September, 2005, 2006.
30. Village Naturalist Position established by Board of Trustees, May, 2006.
31. Installation of portable toilet by MTA, RBT, May, 2006.
32. Planting of 20 Rose-of-Sharon shrubs, RBT, May, 2006.
33. Union Town ballfield upgraded, 2006.
34. Hillside Park tennis courts improved, 2006.
35. Vest Pocket (Senior Citizen) park rehabilitated, 2006.
36. Community Center work in progress, scheduled for completion, January, 2007.

The guide draws on previous works in the series on environmentally related subjects: *Trailways, Footpaths and Parks, Flora of Hastings and Birds of Hastings*.

BACKGROUND

Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, is a beautifully situated village on the eastern shore of the Hudson River, with dramatic views of the Palisades to the west, the Tappan Zee bridge to the north and the George Washington bridge and the Manhattan skyline to the south. The streets rise in tiers to the east, with mature trees and stone outcroppings that make a varied and aesthetically fascinating landscape. Small streams, some underground, flow west to the river. The 40 accessible areas in the village are open to the public for nature study, pleasant places for energetic walking, sports, sightseeing, and relaxation. These areas differ in physical layout, diversity of plant and animal life and in proximity to settled areas.

For example, Riverview Park has a basketball practice court and a children's playground on Warburton Avenue near the southern edge of the village. Its open woodsy tract has a surprising variety of vegetation, and viewpoints overlooking the scenic Hudson River and the Palisades, and is thus completely different in character and use from the wooded areas of Hillside Park or Woods with their well-used and phantom trails for school children, dog walkers, hikers and bird watchers. Rowley's Bridge Trail and Extension, south of Southside Avenue, is a semi-wild natural and planted area of trees, shrubs, vines and flowering plants, many of which were established by volunteers. In spring, it is rich in bird life, especially in April and May when migratory birds pass through along the Hudson River flyway. And Dan Rile Park, with its single wood chip footpath and Adirondack chairs, is ideal for bird watchers, pleasant walking, viewing spring flowers and as a stop for lunch.

The guide was prepared to inform anyone who wishes to enjoy the out-of-doors, easily or strenuously, and who is willing to look and listen with an appreciative eye and ear. The guide will also stimulate interest in protecting, preserving and managing the areas discussed and encourage establishment of similar places that help make Hastings "a nice place to live."

The guide recognizes diverse interests of age groups, and describes areas to satisfy almost every interest. While not an official document, village officials and others interested in the subject have encouraged preparation of the guide. Not a technical work, its data are readily supportable and may be confirmed by turning to references listed in ANNEX D.

A format laid out in SECTION 4 is generally used to describe 40 areas or sections of areas, most of which are the responsibility of the village. State and county agencies, the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, and private owners are responsible for some important areas used by the public. Responsibility for improvement and management of the areas is indicated in the text. The guide supplements *Flora of Hastings* and *Birds of Hastings*, two earlier works in this series, which may be consulted, for details on plants and birds in Hastings.

Definition of Principal Terms

No systematic categorization for names of trailways, footpaths and parks has been adopted officially in Hastings. Some areas that have several uses are lumped together as parks or, as with two multipurpose sportsfields, one is a "Field" (i.e., Reynolds Field), one is an "Estate" (Burke Estate). The following discussion explains how the terms trailway, trail, footpath, park and sportsfield are used in this guide.

Trailways is a collective term used to include all seven trails in the Hastings system, the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway (OCA), and the South County Trailway. The Hastings trails are marked by Hastings Trailway signage, and signs installed in July 2006 indicate the commonly used name, as given on the Hastings Trailway map. These include Algonquin, Hillside Park and Woods, Pulver's Woods, Ravensdale Woods, Smaller Farragut Parkway and Lefurgy Park. Other trails may be established and named in the future, as approved by the Board of Trustees and the Mayor. The term trailway is used by state and county agencies, e.g., Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway and South County Trailway. In contrast to the Hastings system, these are operated and maintained by separate agencies whereas Hastings trails are maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation and volunteers.

Trail is used to designate the commonly accepted name of a trail for purposes of personalizing and adopting them for maintenance by volunteers and users, such as Lefurgy, Zinsser or Algonquin. To draw attention to the many interesting features in the Hastings Trailway system, emphasis is put on what the trails can offer users, stimulating greater attention to their protection and management.

Footpaths identify unnamed walkways which are publicly accessible and, in most cases, owned by the village. Some of these are well-used, especially by school children, such as Pinecrest Parkway Steps to Croton Aqueduct Trailway, Jefferson Avenue Steps to Hamilton Avenue and Hook and Ladder trail from the OCA to Main Street. Some footpaths currently used by the public, such as Reynolds Field to Farlane Drive or the easement north of the Riverpointe housing development, are village-owned or maintained only in part. Footpath has also been used to designate some of the many paths or steps, some no longer in use, such as the Clinton/Stanley steps to the Old Putnam line train station or the 41 steps from Wilson Place to 141 Rosedale Avenue.

Parks in Hastings are generally marked with signs, such as Zinsser, Dan Rile and Riverview, but others, such as VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), Vestpocket, Fulton and Villard, are not posted, although they appear on maps as parks.

Sportsfields, of which there are two multipurpose fields in Hastings, Reynolds Field and the Burke Estate, is used to describe recreation areas that provide for a variety of activities, such as baseball, soccer, tennis, basketball, children's play areas and footpaths. Zinsser Park ballfield is used for baseball and practice soccer; Uniontown Park has both a softball and a Little League diamond, and a children's playground.

Although the Old Croton Aqueduct and South County (Putnam) Trailways, Shutowick property, and some parts of Reynolds Field are not in the Hastings system and are the responsibility of state or county agencies or the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, these names have, of course, been used in the guide.

An Environmental Approach to Trailways, Footpaths and Parks

The environmental approach to visiting and appreciating the areas listed is simple enough, but requires that visitors should be alert to sights and sounds, and to think about what is there, and why, and what members of the natural community do for themselves and to other members of the immediate environment. For example, the tall, red-topped grasses growing in such profusion on Southside Avenue in late summer are not only beautiful, but they hold soil in place, conserve moisture and provide food and shelter for birds and small animals. Fallen logs on the Algonquin Trail are nutrient-rich micro-environments for insects, worms and millipedes, and storehouses of food and energy for birds and amphibians. The dense vegetation on the east slope of Rowley's Bridge Trail prevents erosion, conserves moisture, is a habitat for many kinds of birds and pollinating insects, and supports a colorful flora in spring, summer and fall, while the wood chips laid on that trail form a fertile base for a seasonal variety of mushrooms.

The most important requirements for full appreciation are patience and attentiveness. Even a good observer is surprised to see a ruby-throated hummingbird in the Boulanger parking lot or an osprey gliding above Waterfront Park and the Hudson River, searching for a free lunch in September. Infrequently, after the nesting season, robins, cardinals and white-throated sparrows might be seen and heard, feeding among the low brush and trees on the north side of the A&P Fresh parking lot in October. Aside from chance encounters, patience will reward an observer with picturesque views, flashes of color and close-ups of floral diversity.

Audience

The guide is user-oriented, describing areas accessible to almost anyone: the young, energetic hiker, those inclined to more easy-going activity and, in some cases, those with limited walking ability. The guide indicates such key features as level paths, steep slopes, or rocky and root-exposed paths, scenic views, benches, play equipment for children, toilets and nearby parking areas, so users can decide for themselves areas suited to their abilities and the walks they may then wish to take. For the young or elderly, vigorous or passive, the only requirement is the desire to take advantage of the many public places in Hastings.

The time spent depends entirely on individual interests and preferences and on the ability, interest and knowledge of the visitors to see, hear and recognize what is about them. For those who do not know one tree, shrub, vine or plant from another, the guide

tells enough about what might be seen to overcome such limits in specific and identified habitats. For anyone more interested in plant and animal life, the Flora of Hastings and Birds of Hastings could be consulted. For those who know the area or wish to know more about it, the guide can supplement knowledge and increase the ability to identify what they encounter.

An environmental approach to the enjoyment of diverse habitats involves becoming part of the environment. Thus, a visitor must have some basic familiarity with the surroundings, perhaps not a detailed knowledge, but at least an ability to note similarities and differences among plant and animal life and outstanding physical characteristics. Sitting quietly at one of the picnic tables or benches in Riverview or Waterfront Park, or Rowley's Bridge Trail, for example, and looking carefully at the size and shape of trees or watching birds feed and/or wheel in the sky overhead, will bring a person in close association with the surroundings. Those listening to bird songs or calls will soon become aware of a pattern of communication, not merely a constant chatter. In spring a discussion takes place among birds seeking mates and defining nesting and areal territories against potential antagonists or rivals. Crows have a well-developed capability to communicate with one another and to respond immediately to any intrusion, even by walkers. Observe this on a visit to the east end of Reynolds Field or north of Hillside Park near Judson Avenue or at the west side of Zinsser Park above the parking lot.

References

Some background references are given to set this guide into a context of other related works. These include The Guide to The Appalachian Trail in New York and New Jersey (1972); The Day Walker, 28 Hikes in the New York Metropolitan Area (1983); The New York Walk Book (1984), which contains geological descriptions of the New York and New Jersey area; and the Walkers Guidebook, Serendipitous Outings in New York City, Including a Section for Birders (1988); the map of the Old Croton Trailway Historic State Park, a beautiful brochure focusing on the path from Yonkers to the Croton Reservoir; Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, South County Trailway Map (1999), Westchester County Department of Planning, 25 Moore Avenue, Mt. Kisco, N.Y. 10549; and "Know Your Village," prepared by the League of Women Voters (1985), which includes a description of parks and history related to Hastings. The Hastings trailway map is an especially useful document for locating recreational areas and is illustrated with symbols indicating nearby facilities and specific features useful to visitors. It is available without charge at the municipal building, library and Parks and Recreation Department. Additional references specifically supporting descriptive material in the guide are listed in ANNEX D.

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The following individuals provided help and information in preparing this guide.

Richard Miller, Secretary, Rising Star Masonic Lodge, made information available on the Adirondack chairs in Dan Rile Park; Parks and Recreation Department staff, Ray Gomes, Jean M. Schnibbe, Lisa Carmody and Kendra Garrison, made information available from records and updating developments and improvements. Brian Goodman, former Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway Historic Site Manager, found an answer to an obscure question about "number 66," off the aqueduct trail; Theodore Messer helped define the Ravensdale Trail area and identified Indian Rock; Muriel Olsson, an

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George Foster, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, provided information on the Burke Estate multipurpose sportsfields and on the berm in Reynolds Field. James Healy, Burke Estate grounds keeper, took time from laying the Burnside Drive wood chip path for a tour of the new sports facility development. Dorothy Leight, clinical supervisor, Echo Hills, provided information on work of the counseling center. Mary Ann Kingston and Bill Borowitz prepared statements on their years of experience in Zinsser Gardens, and George Nehrbauer on his in Hillside Park. Sue Smith helped locate the concrete step footpaths on the eastern side of Hastings.

Christina Griffin, AIA, and Josefa Moliere prepared the trail map logo used in illustrating the text. The map of Rowley's Bridge Trail was prepared by Adam Hart; Charlotte Fahn provided some of the photos. Michael and Sigrid Bisbee, Jacqueline Lhoumeau and Alan Pakaln, residents of Hastings, provided computer assistance; Jacqueline did the formatting and layout, with some help from the laser printer at Bill Bobenhausen's Hastings-based company Sustainable Design Collaborative. Thom Forbes reviewed and edited parts of the guide and devoted many hours to Rowley's Bridge Trail. Louise Hubbard gave countless hours of whole-hearted support and editorial assistance to this project.

SECTION 1. HOW TO USE THE GUIDE

The approach of this guide is to encourage people to visit the areas, appreciate what they see and feel, and, in general, relax and enjoy an outing in one of many pleasant and diverse trails, footpaths and parks in the village.

A SUGGESTED STRATEGY

1. Assess expectations and interests in visiting trails, footpaths or parks, e.g., walking for exercise or relaxation, scenic views, nature study, picnicking.
2. Select an area to visit from **ANNEX A** and consult the table on user interests in **ANNEX B**.
3. Study the maps found in **ANNEX E**.
4. Look in the Table of Contents for page describing area selected.
5. Read descriptions of an area selected in **SECTION 5** to determine characteristics and physical appropriateness. Select sequential or site specific approach before visiting an area.
6. Visit area and compare observations with descriptions given in the guide.
7. Repeat the process for the next excursion.

Steps suggested above may appeal to some users and not others. Those already acquainted with trails, footpaths and parks of Hastings may have their own strategy. The principal section of the guide, **SECTION 5**, can help focus attention on characteristics of an area, especially physical layout, geology, vegetation and birds, which may not be known by all users but can add to knowledge and stimulate interest in further exploration. Walkers may wish to develop their own agenda when visiting an area, using the guide as intended—to foster enjoyment and knowledge of our outdoor spaces.

SECTION 2. WHEN TO VISIT AN AREA

Seasonal changes and personal schedules will help determine the timing of a visit. The most important time is when a walker has the time. Floristic and ornithologically dramatic events in spring and fall will give indications of the season, in spring when the first robins and Baltimore orioles return or when the first crop of ubiquitous yellow-headed dandelions appear, or coltsfoot flowers bloom at the east end of Reynolds Field, behind the Department of Public Works (DPW) salt garage and on Rowley's Bridge Trail, or, in fall, when goldenrods flower seemingly everywhere, or pin oak acorns and

honey locust pods litter Main Street in September and October. But these dramatic events are not the only subjects that could catch a viewer's interest; there are many other things to see, such as ventilator tower number 18 on the Aqueduct Trailway, the handsome stone/wood structure adjacent to Pinecrest Parkway steps, or historic Birnie/Smith remains in Hillside Park, north of the Chemka pool tennis courts.

The guide is especially useful in helping an observer locate an area of possible interest, following steps in **SECTION 1**, and by reference to **ANNEX A** where characteristics are highlighted by letter symbols. If, for example, scenic views (SV) are of special interest, reference should be made to SV in **ANNEX A** and from there to the appropriate description of areas with an SV symbol. Similarly, energetic walkers could find an S for steep walks and turn to the table where the length of a trailway or footpath is given. Walkers know that the time to experience natural events or seasonal changes is any time suited to an individual's schedule and interests, whether in spring, summer, fall, or winter. Any time of day, or even at night, when migrating birds pass overhead or late summer or fall when yellow and red colors dominate among the maples, birches and oaks, provides something to see or hear. The guide contains descriptions and references that can capture the interest of almost anyone.

SECTION 3. WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Visitors to an area may have specific objectives: locating unknown plants, identifying migratory birds, enjoying scenic views or sensing solitude in a rich forest of tall trees in Hillside Park or along the Algonquin Trail. Others may simply wish to see "what's there," hoping to find something new or different to pique their interest. **ANNEX B** should then be consulted to match an area with a user's preferences.

What to look for is really a way of associating oneself with the environment and asking questions: what is this and why is that? Seeking answers about an area will enhance a viewer's ability to appreciate the differences and similarities in nature, adding to the enjoyment. Detailed descriptions of areas listed in **SECTION 5** will form a basis for this.

For example, on Rowley's Bridge Trail or in Hillside Park north of Sugar Pond in April and May, one can expect the unexpected with the variety of migratory birds that might overwhelm even an experienced birder. Or, from a bench at the Municipal Building parking lot, note how the colors on the Palisades change with the seasons or watch ring-billed gulls wheeling over the river and diving for food behind a barge or boat. What to look for at this point is self-evident. Seasonal changes will alert a visitor when to look; for example, one can try to locate a Baltimore oriole nest, a teardrop-shaped basket hanging from a tree limb of a white poplar in Fulton Park North, or sycamore in Fulton Park South, near the Five Corners intersection and the A&P Fresh, or along the Croton Aqueduct Trailway in May-June. Or greet the first robins to appear in early March at the Zinsser Park ballfield.

A preliminary appraisal of an area will reveal its type: is it park-like where one would expect cultivated plants and trees, such as Villard or VFW Parks, or is it a cut-over woods with young second growth trees, as found in the southern end of the Burke Estate, or south of the West Bluff Diversion of the Algonquin trail, or the rich mature

forest of tall beech and tulip trees in Hillside Park and Woods or Ravensdale Woods? A minute or two of reflection will not only orient a person to the site, but also give a good idea of what to expect and what to look for.

At the Waterfront Park or on the Rowley's Bridge Trail, what to look for becomes quite obvious in April and May when migratory birds pass through Hastings along the Hudson River flyway. Why the birds are here at this time can be associated with blossom time or emergence of insects, some from rotting humus as the ground warms up, or of earthworms on the Aqueduct Trailway when the ground thaws. What to look for may be as programmed as the seasons, given flowering schedules, migratory patterns, longer days, and nesting habits of birds.

SECTION 4. ORDER OF PRESENTATION OF DATA

This section explains how information is organized, generally in a standardized format, for each of the 40 areas described in the guide. They are listed and described in detail in **SECTION 5** in sequential segments to appeal to a walker, for example, from south to north in Hillside Park and north to south in Hillside Woods or north to south on the Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA); footpaths are grouped together even though they may be distant from one another. Parks are listed from north to south, Zinsser Park to Waterfront Park, with other parks listed in order along a walkable route. Potential connections are given for each area, wherever areas are reasonably close to one another (see **ANNEX C** for Trailway Connections). Most areas have recognizable names, such as Ravensdale or Pulver's Woods Trail, or Draper or Zinsser Park, and are so designated on maps and public documents. A few, such as the stone steps from Pinecrest Parkway to the Croton Aqueduct, the footpath from 135 Farragut to Rosedale Avenue or the Clinton /Stanley stone steps, are identified by location in the text.

SECTION 4 is designed as an informative and practical way to select a place to visit for whatever purpose a walker may wish, according to ability and interests. Some persons enjoy strenuous exercise, others like long exploratory walks, while still others may wish to sit quietly and enjoy scenic views. Careful study of the guide will enable users to gratify all, or almost all, of their wishes. See **ANNEX B** for a table relating areas to user interests.

Data in **SECTION 5** are presented in the following format.

A. Name of Trail, Footpath or Park

Names of areas are given in bold when they have been identified on existing maps or in reports submitted to the Board of Trustees and the Mayor, such as Lefurgy Park Trail or Draper Park. Areas with no specific name attached to them, such as the footpath from Farragut Avenue to Rosedale or Pinecrest Parkway Stone Steps to Aqueduct Trailway, are identified by location. Hillside Park's many unmarked and unnamed footpaths, or phantom trails, are listed under Hastings Trailway, Hillside Park and, by describing their route, for example, Chemka Pool Trail, Hillside Park Trail,

B. Brief Description of Area

One or two lines in italics briefly describe the area.

C. Location of Areas

In most instances, the location is identified by street name or by some recognizable place, e.g., Pinecrest Parkway Steps to Old Croton Aqueduct, and usually from its entrance point, such as Dan Rile Park, Ravensdale and Branford Roads, or Pulver's Woods, James Street. Since some have several entry points, Burke Estate, e.g., street names bordering this area, as Farragut Avenue, Burnside Drive and Broadway, are given. Broadway, Washington Avenue and the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway border Draper Park.

D. Origin of Name and/or Historical Context

Individuals or historically interesting events associated with the areas described in **SECTION 5** are identified. Dates connected with the names are given where appropriate. For example, the description of the South County (Putnam) Trailway is associated with the Old Putnam line of the New York Central Railroad, in operation between 1881 to 1958. Zinsser Park was the residence of Frederick Zinsser, former mayor and head of the Zinsser Chemical Company, in operation between 1897 and 1955 in Hastings, and Draper Park is named after the former owner, Dr. Henry Draper, who built an astronomical observatory there.

E. Symbols Indicating Principal Characteristics

Symbols and the characteristics describing an area are given in the table below. They will help to select an area to visit.

Symbols Indicating Principal Characteristics	
B brooklet or river	PT picnic tables
Be benches	R ruins
C cultivated, park-like	RO rock outcrops
DW drinking water	S steep
Ex exposed rocks and roots	SP sport facilities
H historical interest	SV scenic views
L level	SW sparsely wooded
P parking	T toilets
PE play equipment	W densely wooded

F. Description of Areas

The longest section of the guide varies in content with the characteristics of each area, but generally describes accessibility, physical layout such as steep or level, rock outcrops, brooklets or river, ponds or wet areas, steps, vegetation, sports facilities, trees and birds that may be seen, and so on.

G. Adjacent or Connecting Areas

Access to adjacent or connecting areas is given for each area to encourage users to extend their walks to other generally close or easily accessible places. For example, Pulver's Woods to Uniontown Park, Burke Estate to Draper Park and to the Old Croton Aqueduct, or Rowley's Bridge Trail Extension to the Old Croton Aqueduct. A special situation in Hastings is created by the OCA. Like a recreational backbone, OCA passes through the center of the village, and many of the trails, footpaths and parks in Hastings are accessible to or from it.

ANNEX C lists these connections from the perspective of the OCA and from the perspective of areas in Hastings that are reasonably accessible to the OCA.

H. Condition of Area

Notes on the condition of the area are given when appropriate, such as overgrown with brambles, eroded or littered, poor, fair or good. Assessment of conditions for trailways is based on inventories conducted in 2001 and 2006. See references listed in **ANNEX D**

SECTION 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREAS

Introduction

The 40 areas described in this guide of interest to users vary in size and shape, in character and quality. The main areas described are grouped under trailways and trails, footpaths and parks. A special category is sportsfield, of which two are described. As noted in **SECTION 4**, Trailways are presented in a sequential approach for how a user might walk them, following one another, south to north for Hillside Park, north to south for Hillside Woods, north to south for Old Croton Aqueduct, south to north for the South County Trailway. Footpaths are listed as a group, but since they are separated from one another, they are described and related to other areas, such as trails and parks near them. Parks are presented as they are located within reasonable distance of one another, in the order a walker might wish to visit them. The single public garden in Hastings is grouped under parks while the multipurpose sports facilities are listed and described separately. A table summarizing characteristics, length and size of areas is provided in **ANNEX A**.

An alternative to the sequential approach, of course, is to locate the page in the Table of Contents in which a trailway, trail, footpath or park is cited. This approach makes it easier to locate areas discussed in the guide, especially for those widely separated from one another. The sequential approach will appeal to walkers who enjoy long hikes or walk for exercise rather than those who want to explore specific separate but diverse areas. As noted in the text and **ANNEX B**, individual interests vary.

Areas Related to User Interest

Areas described will appeal to visitors in different ways. Some visitors may be interested in long walks, others may like short walks with variable scenery, while still others, those tending children, for example, may want a pleasant park with safe and well-maintained play equipment and toilets and drinking fountains nearby. Anyone who wants a quiet place to sit or picnic will want to be assured that their implicit requirements will be fulfilled. For the physically active, interest in a multipurpose sports complex that has appropriate facilities is a compelling reason to seek out such areas. To help a user select one or more of the areas listed above, and described in the text, a table is presented in **ANNEX B** relating areas to interests. The table indicates that some areas may serve several interests while others may have only a singular appeal. The guide thus can be useful to a range of preferences, and perhaps even expand a user's perceptions with increased use.

HASTINGS TRAILWAYS

The Hastings trailway system was established by the Board of Trustees in 1993. The seven trails in the system are on village-owned land and hence open to the public for recreational purposes.

What they say about Hastings Trailways:

There are so many reasons to enjoy living in Hastings it is difficult to narrow the list, but clearly the various and diverse trails are tops among my reasons. The Village trails are of various terrains, views and share the habitats with various plants and animal species. We are fortunate that our local leaders had the foresight to acquire the properties, which contain these trails of various lengths and difficulties, and grateful for the incalculable hours the volunteers spend maintaining our trail system. Diversity of the foot trails is remarkable, secluded woodland rambles, streamside trails and enjoyable walks with wonderful river views. What better way is there to relax the mind and body than a walk in the diverse, safe, accessible and environmentally sensitive trails throughout our village. **Francis A. Frobel, Village Manager**

The Hastings trailway system is a unique contribution to recreational areas in the village. The village has parks, playgrounds, tennis courts and ballfields, but the extensive trailway system offers visitors special experiences for enjoyment out-of-doors. Parks and Recreation does what it can with limited resources to preserve and maintain the system, in cooperation with the Department of Public Works and volunteers. The seven trails deserve the support of them by residents and visitors of these natural gems in the village on the Hudson. **Ray Gomes, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation**

I walk the Hastings trails almost every day. They are surprisingly diverse and offer varied habitat for many bird species. Hillside Woods in spring is alive with the fluting song of the wood thrush, and the Rowley's Bridge trail has song sparrows year round. We are fortunate to live in such close proximity to nature because of these fine paths and parks. **Jane Alexander, Commissioner, Taconic Region, Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, New York State**

*I have made some of the best friends working and walking in the woods in Hastings. What we might do better is to have ready access to tools so that our love for the woods could be translated into working together. We go to the woods daily for its community and beauty - if there was a "tool box" or a repository for garbage bags at a few of the trail heads, we might linger even longer in there together doing chores. **Walter Stugis***

*I enjoy hiking near Hillside Park and appreciate everything that has been done to preserve and maintain the woods. I think it would be a good idea for different organizations in Hastings and Westchester to join together to improve things even more. **Isabella Bannerman***

*The Hastings Trailways provide a wonderful outdoor classroom for local youth groups, including the Hastings Community Girl Scouts. Brownie Troop 2361 participated in tree plantings in honor of Arbor Day, and as such the youngsters are growing in appreciation of their natural resources. Scouts have enjoyed nature hikes, breath-taking views of the Hudson River, and the ability to work on nature-related merit badges right here within their own community. **Angela Reeve**, Troop 2361.*

*For over 70 years, I have enjoyed playing, walking and roving in these woodlands. They offer a wonderful change of pace and scenery in all kinds of weather and seasons. For years I encountered rabbits, pheasants and frogs, but never deer; today it is exactly the opposite. **George Nehrbauer***

TRAILWAYS AND TRAILS

Hillside Park Trailway

from Farlane Drive, via Sugar Pond area to Judson Avenue

Hillside Park and Woods

These two geologically and ecologically distinct areas in northeast Hastings are almost entirely wooded except for Chemka pool, parking lot and tennis courts, and Hillside School and playground. Although each has distinctive characteristics, users generally recognize them as a large, 100-acre public park.

Hillside Park

On the western side of a wooded tract, Hillside Park (49.9 acres) slopes toward the Hudson river. Streams flowing from its watershed are mostly underground, but appear as small streams or brooklets above and below Sugar Pond and Chemka Pool, south of the Community Center and on the Cropsey Foundation's landscaped grounds. The watershed above the pond is approximately 88 acres and includes wooded areas of Children's Village and residential areas of Judson Avenue and Circle Drive. Rocky slopes of Hillside Park are steep in places and mostly wooded. Geology of Hillside Park was described by Catherine Riley in an undated paper, "History, Geology and Archeology of Hillside Woods," prepared before the area become known as Hillside Park, and by Jay Fayerweather, "Geology of Hillside Park," Nature Exposition Guide, Spring, 1970. Both authors described the rock formations as metamorphosed gneiss with white bands of intruded quartz, and large glacial erratics brought into the area during the Wisconsin glacier, 10,000-13,000 years ago.

Hillside Park area was once part of tenant farms on land owned by Frederick Philipse, who acquired extensive lands from local Indian tribes in 1682. Some of the purchased land was divided into four nearly equal-sized tenant farms. One of these, the current Hillside Park, was settled by Amos Levines before 1723. This area was acquired by the village from the Jewish Mental Health Society about 1941.

The following descriptions of areas in Hillside Park include Farlane Drive to Chemka pool, tennis courts to Sugar Pond and Sugar Pond to the Judson Avenue wooded area, as one might walk them, one after the other going north. A survey of conditions in the Park in 2001 found that almost all trails were severely eroded, with rock exposures, and were classified as in poor condition. Rehabilitation of trails in the park is such an enormous task that only a few sections of the trail can be rehabilitated at one time.

Chemka Pool Trail

Farlane Drive to Chemka pool

A yellow-blazed trail ascending steeply towards Chemka pool entrance, along a well-used path through a tall white and red oak, sassafras, mockernut and tulip tree woods; rock outcrops, dead and downed tree trunks; many colorful species of birds in spring and summer

Entrance at junction of Farlane Drive, Chauncey Lane and South Drive, northeast corner of Reynolds Field. Connects with trails north of Chemka Pool and tennis courts.

Chemka Pool is named for Julius M. "Butch" Chemka, who died in 1983 age 29. Former pool director, teacher, coach, recreation commissioner, he was the son of Julius Chemka, Mayor, 1975-1981.

Ex, P, RO, S, W, (T, DW when pool is open)

Hastings Trailway and Chemka Pool Trail signs indicate where the trail starts at Farlane Drive with a sharp ascent; extensive cutting of some rotted trees occurred in January 2003. Large trunks, cut into short lengths, remained in January 2003. Substantial erosion has exposed tree roots which make useful but treacherous steps to help the walker in this beginning section. At the entrance of the trail some wood chips were laid by volunteers to reduce erosion. Eight waterbars were installed and staked to prevent erosion. They are periodically cleaned on the uphill side to assure that water is shunted to one side and kept from causing further erosion.

The trail bends to the right, past a tall white oak. On the rotted logs nearby wood thrushes have been seen, searching for insects and worms. Humans may not notice insects, but birds know these logs are a deli-delight for them and their young families. Wood thrushes have nested in these woods, and their bell-like song, to define territory or attract a mate, is one of the most beautiful sounds in nature. Robin-sized, with a cinnamon brown back and spotted white breast, this bird is an absolute thrill to see and hear. None have been heard in this area in the last three years.

Proceeding upwards (north), a walker passes mapleleaf viburnum shrubs (opposite, toothed, maple-like leaves with long gray stems, and purple fruits in fall), oaks, sugar maples, black cherry (note brown hairy underparts on the midrib), mockernut hickories (a compound leaf with one big terminal leaf and several smaller leaflets). The blue-stemmed goldenrod is common along the trail in September; this yellow-flowered plant droops and actually has bluish stems, mainly near the base. The sawn trunks of a large tree on the side of the trail make a good lunch stop and a place to watch for woodpeckers on tall dead oaks above. Off the trail about 50 feet on the right, i.e., southern side, a rock formation faces a huge downed tree, its roots vertically exposed. As one sits quietly on the rock outcrop, deer are likely to be looking at you while you look at them. Resting on these rocks in a comparatively wild area, one can appreciate the wonder of the solitude in proximity to an adjacent populated area; only the distant sounds of soccer players in Reynolds Field break the tranquility.

From the sawn logs on either side, the trail bends gently to the left past some sizable scarlet oaks before coming to a junction, one branch leading to the north (left), another sloping toward Chemka pool. The right path descends over a few round rocks into a wooded area which generally lacks the tall white and scarlet oaks seen earlier. Many young trees are evident: cherries, hickories, maples, oaks and even American beech (bright shiny, oval leaves with parallel veins that run to the toothed edges).

A walker wandering elsewhere among the several phantom trails in the area between Farlane Drive and the pool entrance may come upon paths that have been laid with wood chips; two demonstration waterbars were installed by volunteers in 2001 to show how erosion can be controlled. Waterbars are logs embedded across the path and anchored with stones or wood splints.

A tall, many-branched red oak grows about 100 feet off the trail to the left not far from the pool itself. In May, indigo buntings, scarlet tanagers and rose-breasted grosbeaks have been seen in this tree. Two black rocks on the left are exit markers for the trail. The trail continues past a tall oak on the left near a wire fence enclosing the Chemka pool, past a wading pool, waterfall, fountain and lunch area, to exit near the pool entrance.

VALLEY PLACE TRAIL

A 300-foot long wood chip trail created by Jon and Diane Klein with the assistance of Stuart Cadenhead, was established in 2005 as a curved path from Valley Place to the Chemka Pool road. The path winds through some tall oak and maple trees. it is maintained by those who established it. Near the end of this path, adjacent to the pool road, is a tall and rare black or sour gum tree whose leaves turn an attractive scarlet in fall.

CHEMKA POOL

Julius Chemka pool is a municipal swimming facility. The facility includes a large L-shaped pool (5276 sq. ft.), a training pool (1250 sq. ft.) and a spray pool (900 sq. ft.). A High Rate sand filtration system is used for all three pools. The facility was renovated in the fall of 2003 and completed in 2004. Chemka pool is used extensively by all ages from Memorial Day weekend through the second Sunday in September. The pool opens at 6 am, 10 am and 12:30 depending on the month, and closes at 8 p.m., except for special events. The pool has night lighting and remains open until 10 p.m. on certain nights.

Tennis Courts to Sugar Pond

Ex, H, P, R, RO, S, W

North of the Chemka pool parking lot and adjacent to the tennis courts, a chain barrier marks the entrance to a trail leading to Sugar Pond. Hastings Trailway and a Hillside Park Trail sign have been installed on a tall post with a blue mailbox for maps. A portable toilet has been installed near the tennis courts. Near the north end of the tennis courts a brook can be seen that is fed by Sugar Pond. The tall oaks in this densely wooded area are alive with migratory birds in spring, high up in the trees, darting to catch insects.

North toward Sugar Pond, the path goes through a densely wooded area; on the right is the brook and Hillside School, on the left a tangle of trees, such as sugar maple and tall white and red oaks and rose bushes and many types of vines. In summer interesting plants flower, such as fringed loosestrife, mugwort, asters and goldenrods. *Euonymous*

shrubs, with winged stems, turn scarlet in fall and the red-orange berries of Asiatic bittersweet add even more color. In good years, red raspberry bushes produce a bountiful crop of berries in July.

Off the path about 20 feet on the west are the ruins of the Smith greenhouse, part of the original Birnie/Smith estate and, further on, another set of ruins, those of the Smith gardener's cottage, ice house and stable.

The path, generally muddy at this point, is a place for birds to bathe and drink (walkers will find the left path the better choice). Just beyond this wet area the path divides, rising slightly toward Sugar Pond. Between the now separated paths is a rich marshy area, an exceptionally fine bird habitat through which water flows from Sugar Pond. Careful observation will reveal warblers and orioles nesting in spring among dense vegetation, which includes tall tulip trees, slippery elms and willows. A large (30 inches in diameter) and much-branched American beech grows on the right near the top of the rise leading to the dam below Sugar Pond.

On the west path, Sugar Pond appears at the top of the rise; walkers can continue along the west side of the pond (excellent bird watching here), past rocky outcrops to a fern-rich (cinnamon, Christmas, Goldie's Wood, New York, sensitive, interrupted, lady fern, for example) marshy area (extensive patches of skunk cabbage in December-January) that is somewhat difficult to walk because of mud, downed logs and dense vegetation. A special treat in May is the sight of wild azalea, or pinxter, in flower. Continuing north, a walker must cross a brook to reach the broad footpath through Hillside Park, left in the direction of Judson Avenue and past a stand of tall American beech trees. A brooklet coming from the Three Island Pond area, now a rich marsh, flows below a wooden bridge installed in 1999 as part of an Eagle Scout project.

An alternative route across the Sugar Pond dam passes dense clumps of fragrant mugwort (white on lower surface of leaf) on the right. Descending a slight slope after turning right across the dam path, another view of the rich marsh area is revealed. Here again, bird life is especially abundant and varied. The footpath levels off below the marshy area where water from Sugar Pond flows south under the path from the right and continues on the left. Dense patches of skunk cabbage flower here very early in the year. Near a dead ash tree the two footpaths join and parallel the brook back to the tennis courts; the brook reappears below the pool entrance flowing through a large culvert. The brook flows over rocks and fallen logs, an ideal place to watch birds bathe and drink.

Sugar Pond, Hillside Park

B, PT, RO, SV, W

Sugar Pond is a rich and diverse resource, an outdoor laboratory for adjacent Hillside Elementary School and a popular place for fishing in summer and ice skating in winter. The pond is a readily accessible environmental jewel open to the public in the village-owned 49 acres of densely wooded Hillside Park. It is the only year-round pond of its size and character in the village. Formerly about one acre in size, by 2002 the pond had diminished to about 0.66 acres.

Algal blooms cover nearly 100 per cent of the surface of Sugar Pond in July-September; leaves from surrounding trees drop into the pond in fall and winter and eventually sink to the bottom and decompose. Organic decomposition deprives the pond of oxygen necessary for fish to live. Algal blooms and leaf litter add an organic contribution to the pond whose substrate is augmented by inorganic sediments eroded from the watershed north of the pond. Sources of nutrients and sediments have not been identified specifically or measured, but nutrients are likely to be contained in runoff water from settled areas in Judson Avenue and Circle Drive, while sediments come from eroded paths and bare ground in Hillside Park. No data indicating the significance of the contribution of nutrient/sediments to eutrophication are available, but eutrophication is underway; the pond substrate is thickening, the vegetated north end is expanding southward, and the pond is diminishing in size.

Algal growth and substrate accumulation could be eliminated or reduced by controlling inputs of lawn fertilizers or leaky sewers or by trapping inputs with mechanical structures such as holding ponds or by erosion control measures. Periodic flushing could also remove surface detritus when blooms appear in summer or when leaves drop into the pond in fall.

Detritus removal by flushing would require mechanical manipulation of water levels and careful supervision of an appropriate regulatory schedule. The existing outlet control structure currently does not permit manipulation of water levels. The structure is, in fact, inoperable. Only a trickle of water now passes through what once was a control outlet. Even if flush-flows were possible, the outlet pipe south of the dam is too small for an adequate flush. A control structure is needed to assure water levels at a depth sufficient to support fish and other aquatic life during winter. See **ANNEX D** for reports on Sugar Pond.

Five species of aquatic plants have been found in the pond: *Elodea* (waterweed), two types of *Lemna* (duck weed), watermilfoil and water lettuce. At the southeast corner of the pond a clump of arrowheads, with their white flowers and large arrow-shaped leaves, can be seen in July.

Sugar Pond to Judson Avenue, Hillside Park

B, Ex, H, RO, S, W

A well-traveled footpath through the woods north of the pond above the wet area parallels the stream on the west. American beech trees dominate the upward slopes. A rare pileated woodpecker has been seen pecking at tall oak trees near Judson Avenue in the wooded area. This woodpecker, large as a crow, with red crest, strong stout bill and black back, makes a loud distinctive tapping in search of insects. Its oval nesting hole on a tree trunk is about 4" long and 3" wide.

The present Sugar Pond, or Duck Pond as it was called, is not the original Sugar Pond; that pond was in the ravine north of Washington Avenue and under the present Warburton Avenue Bridge. Water from this pond was used to cool hot paving blocks manufactured at the Hastings Pavement Company located on the waterfront. Water

from the pond may also have been used by Hastings Steam Sugar Refinery (or Hudson River Sugar Refinery or Hudson River Steam Sugar Refinery), which burned to the ground December 26, 1875; bricks from it were used in construction of Protection Engine Co. No. 1 on Warburton Avenue. Edie F. Hopke was one of the owners of the factory and his bluestone house still stands on Olinda Street.

North of Sugar Pond the trail is severely eroded, and waterbars, rock steps and wood chips are needed to reduce and prevent soil erosion.

At the north end of Hillside Park where the village property ends and abuts a marshy wooded area of Children's Village known as Three Islands Pond, a slow-moving stream overhung by trees and shrubs attracts black and white warblers and white-breasted nuthatches. A grey-cheeked thrush was seen feeding on the ground in May. Nearby, overhead in a tall sycamore tree, a Baltimore oriole built a nest here one year; red-winged blackbirds are common in summer. The single note of a ring-necked pheasant has been heard now and then. The trail now passes to the right, up an eroded and steep slope towards the Meadow and Hillside Woods.

Hillside Woods Trailway

Judson Avenue via Vernal Pond to the Algonquin Trail and West Bluff Diversion

Hillside Woods

Ex, H, RO, S, W

Hillside Woods was purchased from Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry, following passage of a \$3,356,000 bond issue in 1993.

Hillside Woods, 48.06 acres of forest land, is bordered on the west by Hillside Park. The two areas are artificially separated by the remains of an old stone wall which formed the property line between the Lefurgy and Birnie/Smith farms; the wall ran from what is now Edgewood Avenue north to the present Children's Village property. Sugar Pond, Hillside School, the tennis courts and Chemka pool are in Hillside Park; the Meadow, Vernal Pond, and Algonquin Trail are in Hillside Woods (see map in **ANNEX E**). The Hillside School area occupies 14 acres of Hillside Park. Exchanges of land with the Board of Education to provide a site for the school and the sale of one acre to the New Rochelle Water Company for a water tower brought the park to its present size.

Hillside Woods is generally recognized as the land east of Hillside Park and the former stone-walled property line of the Lefurgy, Birnie/Smith farms. The wall, as shown on maps (see map in **ANNEX E**), extends from Edgewood Avenue due north to Children's Village property to Judson Avenue. Hillside Woods is also south of Children's Village and extends eastward toward Saw Mill River Parkway. Including Vernal Pond and many trails, some deeply eroded, it possesses some of the most varied and interesting vegetation in the area, such as lady's slipper orchid, bayberry, wild geranium, pink azalea, jetbead, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, trout lily, wintergreen, St. Johnswort and evening primrose and, in fall, several varieties of goldenrod.

The high point in the woods is the upper edge of the watershed, with slopes descending sharply toward the Saw Mill River. Far down the slope from this high point is one of the finest and most scenic tracts in the village, the Algonquin Trail, which begins at Overlook Road and extends more than a thousand feet downslope toward the river, through some magnificent oaks, maples and tulip trees. Near the end of that trail, much of which is severely eroded, is the West Bluff Diversion.

Judson Avenue to Meadow

Ex, H, RO, S, SV, W

South and upland from this northern edge of Hillside Park, vegetation changes from American beech (smooth gray bark, broad, simply-veined leaves) and maples to oaks, clumps of sassafras, aspen, bayberry, common elderberry, common raspberry and red raspberry. Veerys feed on the footpath leading to the Meadow, and the song of the wood thrush has been heard from the trail in this area. Towhees can be heard and often seen, scratching and feeding under the cover of shrubs and vines. Blue-winged warblers nest here but are seldom seen.

Once known as the Meadow, the area has been burned and cut over and now consists of saplings, mainly sassafras. This superb example of ecological succession shows how an open area in time becomes overgrown. Among the sassafras trees are clumps of fragrant bayberry, the waxy fruits used to make candles. A very large, unnamed metamorphic stone outcrop nearby is now a social gathering place, as readily noted by the broken glass strewn about this impressive igneous rock. It could well be named "keg rock," according to a local historian.

Meadow to Vernal Pond

Ex, H, RO, SV, W

Many phantom trails in the area lead to Children's Village, Vernal Pond and/or Hillside School. The eastern-oriented trail, overgrown in summer, leads down a slope toward Vernal Pond through dense woods. The sound of towhees scratching in the underbrush and their call of "drink your tea" are frequently heard in summer.

Along the open footpath past the Meadow, a low overgrown area called Vernal Pond holds water after heavy rains. Also called Disappearing Pond, it was once presumed to be a "kettle" formed from a large block of ice remaining after the Wisconsin glacier receded. Excavations conducted by archaeologists in 1991, in connection with plans to develop Hillside Estates, indicated the pond was the swimming pool of the Talahi summer camp, abandoned in the 1950s.

Vegetation at the edges of the pond consists of pin and white oaks, tulip trees, sycamores, box elder, pussy willows, and elms. Within the pond area a thick growth of dogwoods and buttonbush shrubs is overgrown with parasitic dodder vines and honeysuckles. Robins, cowbirds, flickers, blue jays, chickadees, nuthatches, goldfinches, hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers, Baltimore orioles, black-throated green warblers, veerys, scarlet tanagers, towhees, Carolina wrens, yellow-throats, rose-

breasted grosbeaks, pewees, red-eyed and Philadelphia vireos, wood thrushes, turkey vultures, mallards, black ducks and red-tailed hawks have been seen or heard in this area exceptionally attractive to birds.

At the southeast end of Vernal Pond, a walker can scramble over rocks and through some brush to see “waterfall rock” on the east and then join the Algonquin Trail by turning south toward Edgewood Avenue, watching for yellow blazes on the left.

Algonquin Trail

An outstandingly beautiful and rich forest, composed of mature American beech, black birch, red and white oak, tulip and sugar maples; Christmas and lady ferns grow in scattered patches; wildflowers are a riot of color in spring. Massive rock outcrops on the west of the trail and steep drops toward the Saw Mill River Parkway on the east. Small brooklets cross the trail from springs; many large and rotting tree trunks are ideal places to observe the birds feeding on them.

A Hastings Trailway and an Algonquin Trail sign and a blue mailbox for maps are on a post at Overlook Road and Lincoln Avenue indicating the beginning of the trail, which may also be entered where there are similar signs at the entrance at Taft Street and Edgewood Avenue, discussed below.

The Algonquin trail allegedly was an Indian route extending from Long Island Sound to the Hudson River; although historical confirmation of this possibility has not been established, the name is popularly accepted. The original trail may have been from Long Island Sound, along the Saw Mill River through what are now Hillside Woods and the Children's Village area to Chauncey Lane and possibly west on Main Street to the Hudson River.

B, Ex, RO, S, SV, W

Proceeding on the trail south of Vernal Pond, walkers will come to a deeply eroded path that is one of the entry points to the Algonquin trail. Two other entrances in Hillside Woods exist, one from Taft Street and Edgewood Avenue, the other, the official one, from Overlook Road/Lincoln Avenue, is designated by a Hastings Trailway sign and an Algonquin Trail sign.

Six yellow blazes on a poison ivy-covered oak tree indicate the entrance. Another yellow-blazed tree (a black birch, with narrow, horizontal stripes and wintergreen-scented underbark) is on the left, just inside the entrance path. Well-blazed, the path descends to the left through an intermediate-aged woods. Sugar maples, red oaks, American beech and dogwoods are common. An interesting historical (modern history, i.e.) mark is the metal sign #545 on a dead stump on the right. A surveyor in connection with development plans placed this and 1572 others on trees in the woods in 1991 for Hillside Estates. Two large houses on the far right indicate the park boundary.

The yellow-blazed trail bends left and soon descends rather modestly. Some scattered rock outcrops are visible about 100 feet to the north. A ridge runs more or less from north to south in Hillside Woods, dividing the Hudson and Saw Mill River watersheds;

this trail is in the Saw Mill River watershed, a highly significant physiographic and hydrological place!

As the trail descends, five tall “English ivy trees” come into view; these evergreen vines grow nearly to the top of some of the trees. One yellow-blazed tree has several thick poison ivy vines, easily distinguished from the English ivy by numerous root-like tendrils clinging to the trunk. Don’t touch them! On the steep descent care must be taken to avoid a fall because of the slope, with rocks and leaves in the path. A long, rotted fallen trunk on the left, probably a tulip tree, has been cut to clear the trail, exposing annual rings that can be counted to determine the age of the tree—one ring, one year.

This trail meets the main trail coming from the right from the aforementioned entrance on Lincoln Avenue and Overlook Road. Straight ahead at the junction toward the east is an amazing example of tree adaptability—that of a red oak apparently growing right out of Fordham gneiss! This same tree-rock situation is seen when entering from Lincoln Avenue.

A Hastings Trailway sign and a Hillside Woods Trail sign have been installed at the Taft Street entrance. Here a well-worn path passes through a decrepit wire fence, with no gates, but after a short steep incline, a level path clearly indicates the way. A large low clump of yellow archangel with variegated white and green leaves and yellow flowers blooms in May, on the right. A garden escape, this nettle is botanically similar to purple dead nettle, which is found in spring along the Aqueduct Trailway near Villard Avenue, also in low clumps, but with purple flowers.

Meanwhile, back on the main trail, the Algonquin parallels a sloping ravine on the left edged by rounded rocky outcrops. A small brooklet flows down the ravine during wet periods and eventually merges with another brooklet that crosses the trail. Trees adjacent to the trail were painted with yellow blazes as a Boy Scout Troop 2 Eagle Scout project in about 1995. Tall scarlet oaks on the right grow next to smaller black birches (shiny black bark and short horizontal marks or lenticels on the trunk), with spicebushes (variably-sized leaves on the same stem and a strong lemon-like fragrance when crushed) on the left. The trail descends sharply, with some fallen tree limbs placed parallel to the path.

A fallen fungus-covered tree limb crosses the trail near this point, forcing one to stoop under it to continue, or to walk around through some low shrubs. Off to the right about 50-60 feet from the trail are two large rock outcrops, the largest with a rough appearance, the smaller, a short distance from it, with a dome-like shape.

A large (2' in diameter) yellow-blazed white oak is a clear indicator of the trail. White oaks have a rather whitish bark that is slightly furrowed to scaly, and leaves with rounded, finger-like lobes.

Bending slightly left, the trail descends under an American beech (smooth bark; shiny green leaves with parallel veins that run to sharp, marginal teeth; leaves turn yellow in fall). These trees are among the most beautiful in this mature woods. A few tree limbs placed on the sides of the trail show the way as the trail bends left past a tall red oak adjacent to a rotted stump. In front of a downed dead tree trunk (caught between two

gray birch trunks), is a patch of dark green Christmas ferns (lobes or ears at the base of each leafy segment or pinna), also found elsewhere in these woods. Christmas ferns are used in floral arrangements.

The trail slopes downward to the right, a blazed white oak on the left, and continues past a blazed black birch on the right. On the left is a low, wet area with many spicebushes. Because of rocks in the pathway some vigilance is necessary to avoid turning an ankle, but passage is not difficult. A partly rotted blazed black birch is on the right and a conspicuous clump of Christmas ferns in a low, moist area on the left.

The trail continues to descend. On the left are a number of very tall and very straight tulip trees (note faint black V's on the straight trunk), limbless for much of their height, but widely branched near the top. More Christmas ferns grow on the sides of the trail as well as mapleleaf viburnum shrubs, raspberries, and spicebushes.

A downed and rotting black birch limb on the left, covered with whitish shelf fungus, is an ideal place to stop for lunch, especially when the sun breaks through an opening in the tree canopy on the east side of these shady woods. On the right are some rock outcrops with folded layers, an example of Fordham gneiss with the high degree of banding that Catherine Riley described in her report on the geology of Hillside Woods. Some of these rocks support lichens, a fungus-algae in a symbiotic relationship. Lichens are usually roundish and greenish-white.

Still sloping downward, the trail bends to the right past a yellow-blazed, very tall, much-branched black birch on the left. Here, the first of three brooklets, flowing from west to east, passes under the trail below a corduroy bridge and emerges to the right through a stone culvert; the second brooklet, about 200 feet away, also seeps under the pathway, again passing through a stone culvert; the third brooklet, about 50 feet from the second and visible from the surface, flows over small rocks; one must step carefully to avoid slipping. This is one of the most delightful spots on the trail since the flowing water ripples down the slope toward the Saw Mill River, making a very pleasant sound. From this point north the trail begins to ascend, passing through what was once a stone wall or fence. A brooklet on the left, which joins one previously described, comes out from a dam formed by the stone wall. Behind the dam a mud flat has formed from silt washed from the wooded ravine above. At this point, views of steep bluffs on the west are best seen in winter when leaves have fallen. Scattered rocky outcrops on the slope of the plateau on the right of the trail rise abruptly in a rather extensive group.

The trail reaches this modest plateau before again descending through a cutover area, now overgrown with young saplings. On the plateau, small black birches (scratch a stem and smell wintergreen) are abundant and stumps of trees cut down years ago are signs of extensive logging. Not only was this area cut over, but also fire swept through it, as shown by black cinders at the base of some stumps. Of special interest are signs of the chestnut trees which dominated forests of northeastern North America early in the century. The brown bristly fruits, most of which have cracked open, lie on the forest floor. When fruits that have not yet split are cut open, triangular seeds are revealed, sometimes three to a fruit; these seeds are flat or concave on one side and convex on the other. Some chestnut leaves may also be found; they are large but narrow, 4-8"

long, and have incurved teeth. No mature chestnuts exist, since a blight kills the trees once a size is reached beyond the sapling stage.

Steep bluffs rising on the west are an extraordinary feature of this part of the trail, bluffs that may be 50 feet high or more. From this point north, walking becomes difficult because of loose rocks in a dry streambed and because of over-hanging brambles. A trail continuing toward the Saw Mill River Parkway to the northeast is steep, rocky, narrow, ill-defined and definitely not yellow-blazed. Unfortunately, the surrounding area here is strewn with trash and discarded tires and even an abandoned milk truck! The trail signs now become a few small orange dots on some trees.

A very interesting and different type of path may be reached by turning back in the direction of the yellow-blazed trail until two black birch trees with yellow blazes appear on the right. This is the beginning of the West Bluff Diversion of the Algonquin Trail.

A survey of Hastings Trailway conditions in October 2001 listed the Algonquin Trail as having exposed dirt paths, ruts, exposed rocks, erosion and fallen limbs on the trail. The overall condition was assessed as fair. To date, no remedial activities have been undertaken to protect or improve the trail.

Algonquin Trail, West Bluff Diversion

B, Ex, RO, S, SV, W

About 50 feet north of the third brooklet, two black, or cherry, birch trees (with smooth gray-black bark, horizontal lenticels on young trees and cracked, coarse slabs on older specimens) grow on the west side, both with yellow blazes, marking the downward slope of a diversion from the yellow-blazed Algonquin Trail. A stump of what was a very large tree is at the base of the first blazed tree. This is the beginning of the West Bluff Diversion. The trail slopes steeply downward into the ravine and high rocky outcrops ahead indicate to walkers and hikers the challenges before them. Yellow blazes mark the trail as it ascends steeply right towards the bluffs. Although part of the trail is very wet underfoot, an open brooklet is not evident.

The trail leads past a blazed and rotted tree with woodpecker holes and exposed bark and bends to the right, past a tall, 27" diameter yellow-blazed red oak, as it makes a steep climb toward yellow-blazed rocks. A handsome young buck was seen on a deer trail near here in November. Note the black rocks and the shiny mica embedded in them. After reaching a more or less level plateau above the bluffs, look toward the east for rewarding views of the ravine and of the forest below.

Many fallen and rotted trees are evident in this intermediate-aged forest. Another bluff, shrub and vine-covered and not as tall as the one just climbed, is to the west. The trail turns left, as more yellow blazes on several black birches indicate. A small brooklet crosses the trail, and deer tracks (two closely separated, ovoid pointed depressions) at its edges are an obvious sign of a watering hole.

The trail ascends steeply again, bending to the left; a sugar maple with yellow and red blazes shows the way. Now blue blazes appear on trees. Past a large fallen log, blazes

show the route ascending to the left. Both red and blue blazes are on the trees. Follow a blue arrow on a rock on the right and another blue blaze on a maple to avoid losing your way.

The trail ascends, levels off and descends; red and blue blazes appear separately or together. Buildings of Children's Village are about 500 feet to the west and the hum of vehicles can be heard from the Saw Mill River Parkway some distance away on the east, giving perspective to the history of the area.

Red and blue blazes (yellow blazes have disappeared) show the way as the trail passes through this intermediate-aged woods with considerable amounts of fallen timber; the trail eventually leads to a wide path, sloping downwards to the south. Blazes end here among scrubby oaks. On the east, about 200 feet from this path, are the remains of an old chimney, the site of a paint factory according to a local archaeologist/anthropologist, but now the site of social gatherings? The highly eroded and rocky path descends sharply. It reaches a level area and Vernal Pond, the site of Camp Talahi's swimming pool, abandoned in the 1950's. The trail may be taken to the left or right at Vernal Pond.

The left trail takes the walker to Taft Street and Edgewood Avenue, past yellow blazes on the left that lead down to the previously described Algonquin Trail. A round trip! Turning right, the trail leads north past Vernal Pond, the Meadow, the north end of Hillside Park and Judson Avenue, or south to Sugar Pond, Chemka Pool and Farlane Drive. But that would be a long walk indeed!

Lefurgy Park Trail

Fairmont Avenue north to Mt. Hope Boulevard

A short linear footpath through a wooded residential area with sharp bluffs on the west and a brooklet on the east; tall trees on both sides of trail

About 1200 feet long, the trail begins at Fairmont Avenue where a Hastings Trailway and Lefurgy Park sign have been installed, about 300 feet from the trail entrance.

Lefurgy Park was named for Isaac Lefurgy, a tax collector and wealthy landowner of Hastings with extensive holdings in the area. Lefurgy deeded property to establish the First Reformed Church in Hastings in 1850.

B, Ex, RO, W

Lefurgy Park Trail, relatively short, passes through a wooded area consisting of tall maples, oaks and tulip trees, between houses and beneath high and extensive rock outcrops on the west.

Foot-by-foot, the trail passes through one of the most fascinating areas in Hastings. It immediately captures a walker's interest because of the steep rock outcrops on the west side of the trail and the steep slopes on the east, or left side, leading to a rocky brooklet about 50 feet below, adjacent to well-maintained homes.

A low rock wall parallel to the trail separates it from recently constructed houses and extensively landscaped grounds east of the exit at Mt. Hope Boulevard. Walkers should proceed with caution because of overhanging branches and brambles at the beginning of the trail and watch for a few rocky steps and some fallen limbs while ascending the remaining distance. Brambles are fast-growing shrubs that need frequent thinning. Along the trail are some tall Norway maples (milky sap appears at the base of a leaf when removed), tall sycamores (blotchy yellow bark) and even taller tulip trees (distinctive glossy green leaves whose upper lobes appear to be truncated by a scissors). Houses are clearly visible on the upper slope among the rock outcrops and below to the east of the brooklet, which adds to the distinctive nature of an area with well-tended backyards.

In front of a shed, an open space below some Norway maples is probably the site of a former building. Here the small brooklet forms a birdbath for blue jays. A huge boulder sits atop the gneiss rock formations on the right, adding to the interest and attractiveness of the path.

A Hastings Trailway and Lefurgy Park signs have been posted at the lower end near Southgate Avenue and Fairmont Drive; just to its left (from the Fairmont Avenue entrance) is a stack of rotting logs, suggesting that some fine old trees once dominated the area.

A survey of conditions in Lefurgy Park in October 2001 listed it in poor condition because of obstructions created by nearby construction and overhanging brambles. A subsequent inspection in 2003 indicated that the trail is very much in need of brush clearing and maintenance, but generally in good condition.

Smaller Farragut Parkway Trail **Farragut Parkway east to Saw Mill River Parkway**

A short, easy trailway to and across a brook with a stone bridge; a few wooden steps off the trailway lead to Curry Road in a residential area

South side of Farragut Parkway, about 1000 feet from junction with Saw Mill River Parkway. The trail is on state-owned land.

B, L, RO

Because the Farragut Parkway trail is not easy to reach by car, access is best made by walking on Farragut Parkway from High Street to the trail entrance, about three-fourths of a mile on an uneven sidewalk and a wide, unpaved verge.

A Hastings Trailway and a Smaller Farragut sign have been installed at the entrance of the trail on Farragut Parkway. Below a tall tulip tree supporting grape and poison ivy vines is a dense mat of porcelain berry (white and turquoise berries) and more grape vines; these vines are found in great profusion in much of the area, especially on the south bank. From the sign, the path leads off to the left, in the direction of the Saw Mill River Parkway; a small stream flows on the right (south) of the trail. A large stone slab

forms a bridge over the stream which falls over some scattered rocks on its way to the Saw Mill River.

Across the bridge, the trail passes below some overhanging black cherry trees (brownish hairs on the lower side of the leaf on the mid-vein) and emerges onto an open grassy area adjacent to the Farragut Parkway. Some blue ash trees (twigs square in cross section) are scattered here and there and a sizable red maple tree (lobed leaves with numerous teeth) is on the left. The trail ends abruptly in wet ground strewn with vines and downed limbs; dense porcelain berry and grape vines cover the bank to the right.

After the stone bridge is crossed, a walker has a choice of proceeding to the left, as described above, or turning immediately to the right on a branch of the trail which lead to some railroad-tie steps partially hidden by pavement. From here, a walker can see the brook flowing from the west, meandering through dense woods that extend along the Parkway. The steps emerge at the dead end of Curry Road. At the top of the steps is a tall scarlet oak (leaves deeply cut) and an American beech (shiny leaves with coarse teeth at the end of leaf veins).

The trail is almost always in need of trash removal because of trash strewn from Farragut Parkway, but the trail itself is in good condition.

Pulver's Woods Trail

North on Green Street, James Street and High Street

A U-shaped much-used path rising abruptly from either entrance to a modest plateau; woods relatively thin and open; cutover wooded area within a 3.26-acre park; trail about 400 feet long

The entrance is easy to find at the end of James Street at the Hastings Trailway and Pulver's Woods signs. Another Hastings Trailway sign on High Street marks a path leading to the trail at James Street. Pulver's Woods may also be reached from Rose Street, off Green Street, but there is no trailway sign at that entrance.

Pulver's Woods was named for the Pulver Family. John Henry Pulver was a farmer who helped found a white dolomite marble quarry in the 1830's between what is now Draper Park and the Old Croton Aqueduct. The quarry was abandoned in 1955 and subsequently converted into a municipal dump in 1964, which was closed in 2002. For a discussion of the Quarry and its potential uses, see **ANNEX F**.

The Pulver house was located at 270 Farragut Avenue behind Green and Saunders Streets; the area was known locally as Pulver's Fields or Pulver's Woods. The woods was dedicated in 1992.

Ex, RO, S, SW

Number 6 Bee-Line bus stops on High Street one block from James Street, at the corner of an attractive-looking deli with brown and white striped awnings and black pot-bellied stoves at the entrance. The Hastings Trailway and Pulver's Woods signs are

about 1000 feet from the corner of James and High Streets. At the entrance are some ash and princess trees and a clump of honeysuckle. The trail is steep and rocky, and strewn with downed limbs; roots of some of the tall trees have been exposed by erosion. Several side trails can be taken, but the main trail leads northward in a wide bend.

Pulver's Woods is a thin scrub forest dominated by immature sugar maples. The west arm of the trail opens onto a plateau leading off to other trails. The open plateau is obviously well-used and in much need of cleanup. The area would be an interesting place to explore, and to watch for birds using the standing pools of water. A wire fence (Nash Built) near the summit of the trail runs about 10 feet to the east, posing no barrier on the trail. Off to the left, through the sparse woods, very large bluffs, reaching as high as 20 feet, might also be interesting to explore for caves, rock-loving plants and salamanders.

The trail now bends off to the right (east) and descends to Rose Street, passing many sugar maples and a few locusts, with thick, black and craggy bark. The descent is steep, rocky and eroded, with exposed tree roots, and ends near a house with a large garden and a corrugated metal shed.

A survey of Hastings Trailway conditions in October 2001 found Pulver's Woods with exposed dirt paths, exposed rocks and roots, and eroded. The trail is now yellow-blazed, and in good condition.

Ravensdale Woods Trail

Northwest from Farragut and Clunie Avenues

Ravensdale Woods Trail is relatively short, about 600 feet long, running through a mature forest of tall beech, oak, maple and tulip trees, with large and impressive rock outcrops

Hastings Trailway and Ravensdale Woods signs have been installed on Farragut Avenue, opposite Clunie Avenue, to mark the entrance to the trail in this 5.25-acre wooded area.

Ravensdale was one of five development areas built by the Homeland Company of New York, whose real estate office was on Farragut Avenue and Fenway, circa 1935. The name Ravensdale comes from Ravensdale, in County Louth, Ireland. The current Ravensdale in Hastings was part of the LeBoutellier estate. LeBoutellier was president of Best and Co., a clothing store operating in Garden City, N.Y. in 1917. The area was dedicated as parkland in 1992.

Ex, RO, S, W

The entry signs are visible under a canopy of tulip, red oak and black cherry trees. A few feet from the sign, porcelain berry, grape vines and prickly raspberry bushes hinder walkers before they can reach a clear but narrow trail. A paved driveway leading to a large white frame house on the right is separated from the trail by vines and shrubs.

Wood chips were placed at the entrance of the trail in 2001; a sign to indicate that effort was placed at the entrance, but soon demolished.

An immediate impression of Ravensdale Woods is that of relatively undisturbed tall maple, beech, tulip, sweet birch and oak trees. Other conspicuous trees include white, scarlet and chestnut oak. A large rock outcrop, 20-30 feet high, is about 150 feet to the left; smaller rock outcrops are on the right. The trail bends to the left up a short slope, past some smooth-barked tall American beech trees, with bright green leaves and parallel veins extending to teeth on the margin; buds are large, brown and pointed.

Opposite a tall red oak and a two-trunk red maple on the right are four igneous rocks, the largest of which is a splendid place for a rest, to breathe wood-scented air, lunch, and look for wood thrushes, or for scarlet tanagers high in the oaks in May. Although the trail appears to divide here, the right branch soon ends; the left branch is clearly the trail to follow.

On this left branch, note the tall red oaks (long flat strips of bark) and sugar maples, black birch (scratch a twig and smell the wintergreen scent) and black cherry (brown hairy undergrowth on the mid-veins of the lower surface of the leaf). A large patch of evergreen *Vinca* grows on both sides of the trail.

From a crest of the slope, a housing development is visible through the trees. A sizable, squarish rock (52x49x51") forms a conspicuous landmark; locals call this "Indian rock" because of a shallow hole (carved out by Indians?) in the top. A splendid place for a photo op.

On the left side of the trail the crest slopes down to a shallow wooded ravine where the woods are less dense and, according to a frequent visitor to the woods, deer commonly feed here.

The trail is overgrown with English ivy (shiny, multi-shaped leaves) which is no impediment to the walker. The trail begins to slope westward past more rock outcrops, and ends at a white garage and paved driveway at number 351 Farragut Avenue. Entrance to the Hastings Trailway can be made here, but there is no trail marker; the most dramatic and scenic entrance is from Farragut and Clunie Avenues.

The inventory of Hastings trailway conditions conducted in October 2001 found the woods with exposed dirt paths beyond the wood chips, exposed roots and rocks, eroded paths, no blazes and obstructions on the right branch, but that it was generally in good condition.

Rowley's Bridge Trail

Southside Avenue at Zinsser Bridge

A level footpath on the main trail bordered by a variety of trees, shrubs, vines and plantings, with scenic views of the river and Palisades and access to Rowley's Brook, reflecting pools, waterfalls and Rowley's Bridge. An extension of the trail south of Rowley's Brook across a wooden bridge leads to a modest slope and a scenic view area, then to a narrow footpath through mature woods and up steep slopes, exiting at Warburton Avenue

Entrance to main trail from southern end of Southside Avenue near Zinsser Bridge (closed to vehicles). Trail extension can be reached from main trail or Warburton Avenue opposite Graham-Windham stairs and service road (see map in **ANNEX E**).

Rowley's Bridge Trail was integrated into the Hudson River Valley Greenway system in June 2005. The greenway system is a proposed set of trails, parks and scenic areas planned to extend from Albany to Manhattan. For a discussion on the origin of the trail name, see **OCA, Pinecrest Drive to Riverpointe Development**.

B, Be, H, L, P, RO, SV, SW, W

Main Trail

A village dump before the Board of Trustees declared this as the seventh trail in the Hastings system in June 2000; the trail was then littered with trash and buried garbage until, in November 2000, 80 volunteers, supported by the Department of Public Works (DPW), removed 25 loads of discarded waste. The trail is now one of the finest in the system, with wood chip paths, extensive plantings, benches, picnic tables, reflecting pools, dams, bridges, waterfalls and a red maple plantation. The trail begins at a five-car parking lot, separated by a chain barrier. A blue mailbox on the right contains trail maps, a guide and lists of flora and fauna found or seen on or near the trail. A two-ton boulder inscribed "Rowley's Bridge Trail" was placed at the entrance in November 2002. The engraving was made by Tom Minozzi.

The trail starts at the chain barrier as a gravel footpath paralleling the railroad tracks on the west. An extraordinary variety of plants and animals are found along the trail. A list of over 180 plants and animals found on the trail may be found in the blue mailbox. Many trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants were put in place, beginning April 7, 2002, when the trail was dedicated by Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr. Plantings on the eastern slope (left side)—about 50—were all donated. They include highbush cranberry, rugosa rose, silky dogwood, autumn olive, Toringo crabapple and white pine. Two sawn wood benches were placed on either side of the trail entrance, as were four cottonwood stumps further on.

Gravel donated by MTA was placed to prevent ruts caused by service vehicles. South of the MTA turnaround, the trail is covered with wood chips donated by Community Tree Service. Chips help control soil erosion, cover muddy low spots, prevent weeds from encroaching and make a pleasant cushion to walk on. Chips need to be replaced frequently. A multi-layer plateau of wood chips and mulch was created by the DPW in

2001 on the east side of the trail, about midway from the entrance. The plateau was planted in April 2002 by the Hastings Beautification Committee with highbush cranberry, silky dogwood and rugosa rose. South of the plateau, between two wooden benches and the donated tool shed, another planting was made in 2006, in honor of Beth Flanz, liaison between the Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry and Rowley's Bridge Trail. Plantings include butterfly bush, ferns and flowering plants (see list in **ANNEX K**).

Steps and a stone footpath, made of donated blue stone and igneous rock, extend the length of the 140-foot plateau. Flat stones were laid in the center of the plateau to form a patio in front of two Fearington Group benches donated by Maud's Tavern and Bert and Beth Flanz in 2002. Three rose bushes, donated by Barbara Morrow, were planted in 2006 on a mound between the benches and the tool shed. Trees and vines on the west side of the trail, fronting the plateau, were cleared for scenic views by former trustee David Walrath.

In spring, summer, fall and winter, birds find the area an ideal habitat because they are undisturbed, and find abundant food, water, and nesting places within the dense vegetation. Even experienced bird watchers can't keep up with it all! Species frequently seen at different times of the year include: yellow warbler, house wren, robin, catbird, mockingbird, Baltimore and orchard orioles, purple finch, Carolina wren, ruby-crowned kinglets, blue jay, chipping, song and white-throated sparrows, goldfinch, flicker, cardinal, red-winged blackbirds and great black-backed and ring-billed gulls. In all, 35 species have been identified during the year.

A central point for work on the trail and for resting is the Metro-North turnaround, located about midway from the entrance to the trail. In 2006, MTA donated a third truckload of gravel to fill ruts, and established a portable toilet. A picnic table, donated by the Parks and Recreation Department, is a convenient place to stop, rest and contemplate the beauties of the trail. Trash receptacles have been provided and periodically serviced by the Parks and Recreation Department. Five Osage orange trees of uncertain age and origin are a unique feature here, and even of the village. The green, grapefruit-sized fruits that fall from a female tree in November litter the ground, and can be crushed and planted to grow new trees. Male trees have stout thorns at the base of each leaf. Osage orange wood was used to make hunting bows; a good bow was worth a horse and blanket in the nineteenth century. It was planted throughout the United States as living hedges before invention of barbed wire. The abundant squirrel population thrives on them.

Formerly located in Fulton (library) Park, the wooden bench farther south on the right is a good place to sit and marvel at the splendid views to the Tappan Zee Bridge on the north and the George Washington Bridge and Manhattan on the south. The New England asters in front of the bench were donated by the Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry.

About 50 feet farther south are several reflecting pools and dams, built by Bert Flanz and Thom Forbes; they also laid stones to stabilize the banks. Nearby, waterfalls which flow when the pools are full, can be seen from a wood chip path to the right of the trail. A wooden bridge, eight feet by three feet, donated and built by Bruce Paquette, aided by Thom Forbes, extends across Rowley's Brook, and is the gateway to the trail extension. The bridge has withstood flooding, washed debris and heavy snow. A second

bridge, also built by Bruce Paquette, leads to a wood chip path for excellent views of Rowley's Stone arch bridge, past another picnic table donated by Parks and Recreation.

A row of nine flat square stones were placed in front of the first bridge by an anonymous donor. A special attraction is the American sycamore planted adjacent to the reflecting pool and bridge by Brownies of Troop 2361 on Arbor Day, April 24, 2002. That day, it was as tall as the average Brownie! At the end of 2006, it was about 20 feet tall! An ideal site. Herbaceous plants, grasses, sedges and ferns were planted on the banks of the pool by the Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry in May 2002. Twenty donated Rose-of-Sharon shrubs are growing on the sides of the gulch, an attempt to hold the banks and prevent erosion.

From the trail eastward, parallel to Rowley's Brook, the west side of Rowley's Bridge comes into view, most easily seen from the second bench in winter when leaves have fallen. Excellent bird watching here. From the bench-view area, some of the 16 red maples donated by Graham-Windham are visible on the slope west of the bridge. Evidence of a sewer line, connecting the Graham-Windham sewers with the county system, parallels Warburton Avenue; manholes of the line are clearly evident in the area.

Rowley's Bridge to the east (left) of the bench is worth a visitor's attention. A solid, beautifully-constructed stone structure built over a steep ravine, the bridge is 100 feet long, with stone balustrades 4 feet high and 2 feet thick; each balustrade has three identical stone pillars 5.5 feet high, capped by two square blocks. The bridge, with a clearance of 40 feet from the center of the arch to the concrete spillway below, was designed by Samuel L. Cooper in 1892, the same engineer who designed the Warburton Avenue Bridge, erected in 1898. Rowley's Bridge was built during the Warburton Avenue Extension program, 1893-1898, connecting Yonkers with Hastings and towns to the north. The road and bridge were rehabilitated in August 1998. An impressive stone section of the Croton Aqueduct is visible from under the bridge; a circular culvert and Gothic arch at the mid-point of the Aqueduct is best seen from the scenic view area adjacent to Rowley's Brook in winter.

An especially rewarding reason to visit the Rowley's Bridge area is to see another work in progress: Bert's reflecting pool, made by building a log and rock dam and spillway on Rowley's Brook. Another reason is to see 21 stalactites attached to the south balustrade of Rowley's Bridge. These icicle-like structures are formed by a calcium carbonate (calcite) solution that seeps from the bridge itself and gradually forms "candles" that are much smaller than those well-known in Carlsbad Caverns, but structurally the same.

Before leaving this historically and ecologically interesting area, agile visitors may wish to explore Forbes Folly, a large boulder accessible by steps installed by Thom Forbes. Climbing to the top of the rock is not easy, but views of the river and Palisades are the reward for strenuous effort.

Rowley's Bridge Trail Extension

A 700-foot extension of the main trail, south of Bruce's Bridge 1, up a modest winding slope to scenic overlook, then up a steep, heavily-wooded slope to steps and Warburton Avenue

B, Ex, S, SV, W

Across the wooden bridge, the trail winds up a modest slope toward a scenic view area where three tree stumps have been placed for resting and enjoyment of the views. David Wood trimmed mulberry and box elder tree limbs and vines and shrubs to enhance the view.

From the scenic view area the narrow trail begins to climb through densely vegetated woods; tall red oaks, mulberries and other trees make this section entirely different from the main trail. The trail here is steep and narrow, but 32 railroad ties, fastened with two-foot long steel rods, and nylon rope handrails make the climb easier.

A wood chip covered mini-park greets a walker at the end of the trail. The park has several signs, one indicating the acquisition by the village of 14.25 acres of land from Graham-Windham, another, a green post with a marker, OCA, indicates the direction to the Old Croton Aqueduct trail, and an RBT Extension sign. A large boulder, engraved by Tom Minozzi, "Fred and Louise Hubbard RBT Extension", faces Warburton Avenue. From Warburton Avenue, opposite the Graham-Windham steps and service road, a walker can reach the Old Croton Aqueduct.

The village acquired the Graham-Windham properties (see **ANNEX F**) on July 21, 2003; 4.03 of the 14.25 acres (parcel 36, East of Metro-North Tracks, South of Rowley's Brook and West of Warburton Avenue), surround the Rowley's Bridge Trail Extension. The 700-foot sinuous and steep trail from the gateway entrance at Bruce's bridge connects with the Old Croton Aqueduct, east of Warburton Avenue.

Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) Trailway

A level, linear unpaved trailway for walking, jogging, biking and cross-country skiing, passing through about two miles of residential and wooded areas in Hastings, with exceptional views of the Hudson River and Palisades

Seven segments of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway in Hastings are described, from north to south, in this section of the guide: Flower Avenue to Minturn Street, Minturn Street to Edgar's Lane, Edgar's Lane to Villard Avenue, Villard Avenue to Five Corners, Five Corners to Washington Avenue, Washington Avenue to Pinecrest Drive and Pinecrest Drive to Riverpointe Development.

The Aqueduct Trailway was built between 1837-1842, largely by Irish immigrant labor, to carry water from the Croton reservoir to New York City, which it did until 1955.

B, H, L, SV, SW, W (OCA in Hastings)

Flower Avenue to Minturn Street

Flower Avenue crosses the OCA near the northern edge of Hastings. Walking south, note a sharply-peaked roofed house well below the west side of the railway; two tall sycamore trees (whitish on the upper trunk) and a very large red oak grow in the yard north of the house. On the east side, also well below the railway, a wooded area has been cleared of a number of large oak trees; the cuttings are scattered or stacked on the slope beyond a fence close to the railway. In the dense underbrush, look for browsing deer, unconcerned about human observers.

Just before Minturn Street are the landscaped grounds of Temple Beth Shalom on 1.97 acres. On the east side of the trail is a thick patch of red and black raspberry bushes. Note the distinctive house on the east with its many porches, windows and balconies and an extensive yard which includes a shallow circular pond about 20 feet across. Common arrowhead (leaves distinctly arrow-shaped) and waterlilies grow in the rock-lined pond. A wood chip path from the house circles the pond through a colorful floral garden. A rustic wooden entrance gate just off the OCA leads to this private park. West of a wooden fence is a dense clump of productive raspberry bushes. At the southeast side of the OCA just before it crosses Minturn Street, a telephone box complex is partly hidden by low evergreen plantings.

Minturn Street to Edgar's Lane

At the southwest corner of the OCA on Minturn Street a large, thornless black locust tree, rather decrepit in its upper story, grows near the curb, one of many tall locusts in this area, formerly known as Locust Woods and probably planted long ago (see description of black locust under **Edgar's Lane to Villard Avenue** below). In April and May, the path is carpeted with pink blossoms from two large cherry trees on the west side, with five large branches growing from a sizable trunk, inside a wooden fence in the backyard of a large house; another cherry tree is immediately adjacent to the railway. A few yards south of the house, on the northeast edge of Zinsser Park ballfield, near a privet bush, are some shrub-like plants with shield-shaped leaves; nodes of these leaves are reddish, and the stems, some of which are very stout and tall, zigzag. This is the Japanese knotweed or Mexican bamboo, a member of the buckwheat family.

Beyond this clump of shrubs, the slope to the Zinsser Park ballfield makes a favorite hill for sledding in winter when snow is on the ground. The Star-of-Bethlehem blooms in May at the base of the slope. It has grass-like leaves with a whitish midrib and a green stripe on the underside of waxy petals and opens only in sunshine. The ballfield is quite large, as the numbered distances from home plate posted on the fence to the west indicate.

This section of the railway borders Zinsser Park, Zinsser Community Gardens and Zinsser footpath on the west; it passes a wooded area, and a brook flowing under the railway into Zinsser Gardens, and past some architecturally interesting limestone houses. One of the buildings was a carriage house, the other used for maintenance equipment for the Zinsser estate. Both buildings have been converted to residences (note the one with a rounded window in its upper story). Splendid views of the Palisades

and a wide range of colorful wildflowers on either side of the railway (see discussion of **Zinsser Park** later in this guide) add interest.

On the right (west) side of the railway note a tall larch tree with a rounded “pimple” on the south side of the trunk. This burl is a self-protecting excrescence that might be used for veneer when cut. Larches are evergreens that drop their bunched needles in winter; the bark is reddish and the cones persist throughout the year. On the east side of the railway behind a wooden fence stands a row of evergreen European hemlock. A large boulder on this side of the railway, just opposite the entrance to a path to Zinsser Park and Gardens, is a squirrel lunch counter where empty shells are scattered on the rock’s surface.

The park was once the estate of Dr. Frederick G. Zinsser who operated a chemical plant on the waterfront near Southside Avenue and was mayor of Hastings 1901-1912. The gardens occupy the site where Zinsser employees planted victory gardens during World War I.

The variety and number of trees, shrubs, vines and flowering plants in this ecologically complex habitat are well worth a visit. In April and May, the trail is edged by a low white cloud, the fragrant blossoms of the chervil plant, a member of the carrot family. In May and June, the white poplar on the east end of the Zinsser footpath, at the footpath entrance toward the parking lot and near metal bleachers, “snows” seeds. Buttercups, purple dead nettle, red and white clover, violets and dandelions produce flowers in a variety of colors throughout spring, summer and fall.

Edgar’s Lane to Villard Avenue

Just before crossing Edgar’s Lane, take a slight detour and descend the root-uplifted sidewalk to see five black locust trees growing between the curb and sidewalk. Trunk bark is gray and deeply furrowed, leaves are made up of smaller, oblong leaflets on a slender green stem, and fragrant white flowers appear in May.

Returning to the OCA, cross over Edgar’s Lane to see a shingled house; the backyard of the house is on Edgar’s Lane, the front on Frazer Place, a dead end street. On the right side of the railway, a few yards south of the house, near a tall sycamore, a choke cherry tree blooms in early April with white flowers in long, pendant clusters that bear fruit in summer. The older bark is gray to brown and smooth. Beyond this tree are five white pines (five needles in a bunch) at the edge of the cul-de-sac of Elm Place. The OCA from this point south to Villard Avenue is severely eroded, with exposed sugar maple roots and rocks. On the southeast corner of the OCA, just off the railway, a variety of low colorful herbaceous plants, including lesser celandine and violets, are particularly abundant in spring.

Villard Avenue to Five Corners

On the east side of the railway in a grassy patch, low colorful purple dead nettle and heal-all plants form a carpet. On the west side of a wooden fence on the corner of a well-kept house on Travis Place, a very tall sycamore tree that sheds its bark on the ground about it and on the railway. Near Bakers Lane, the yellow-flowering kerria shrub

comes into bloom in spring, as does a large yellow forsythia. From the height of the railway, an observer can watch the usually active playground in Reynolds Field, with equipment provided and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. A flat igneous stone measuring 49x31x2 inches near the middle of the railway covers an entrance to the Croton Aqueduct Tunnel. One summer, inspectors in their wet suits and miners' lights were observed ready to descend with their equipment into this tunnel under the watchful eye of former OCA trail manager, Brian Goodman. Before Five Corners a mini-woods separates walkers from this very busy intersection. An OCA sign has been installed near the end of this section of the railway.

From here a walker can connect with Hillside Park trails by crossing Chauncey Lane, to the Reynolds Field basketball court and walking up a short incline to reach the rubber-paved track. Proceed on the track eastward to the flood control berm, scramble up the south end and come to a well-used footpath to Farlane Drive, past a flowing brooklet on the right. One of Hillside Park's phantom trails across the drive leads up to Chemka pool through the woods, or one can walk east up the pool road, cross the pool/tennis court parking lot to the **Tennis Court to Sugar Pond** trail, and other trails in Hillside Park and Woods.

Five Corners to Washington Avenue

South on the OCA, across Broadway on the west side of the trail is Echo Hills Mental Health Counseling Center, operating in connection with Phelps Memorial Hospital. Adjacent to the Echo Hills fence, a dense clump of forsythia or golden bell shrubs produces many bright yellow flowers in early April. Almost without fail, the lovely liquid call of the Baltimore oriole can be heard near Five Corners (and in nearby trees at the north edge of the A&P Fresh parking lot) in May and June. And on the east is La Barranca, Hastings first apartment house, a seven-story structure built in the 1920's.

A curious cemetery of seven tombstones lies beyond the fence of Grace Episcopal Church, the gravesite of the John Cooke family. Little is known about this family, except that they farmed the area of what is now Five Corners. The first burial was in 1803, the last in 1883. The graves adjoin a house occupied for a short time by Admiral David Farragut of Civil War fame.

Just south of a small park-like woodsy plot of La Barranca is a well-worn foot path, used by students going to or from the middle and high schools, adjacent to a brooklet that leads to a tunnel under the Aqueduct. The brooklet emerges on the west side of the tunnel and joins with a stream from a 48" concrete culvert that can be seen from the south window of the Community Center. The path, described under **Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1**, under the **Footpaths** section of the guide, crosses the brooklet at the tunnel exit. A footpath up a steep slope on the west side of the Aqueduct passes through a woods with excellent views of the stone masonry of the Aqueduct on the left. The dense woods lies east of the Newington-Cropsey Foundation gallery.

Near the large apartment building, raised on pillars on the east side of the railway, grows a tall white poplar tree, its upper trunk whitish and the base black; the leaves are dark green above and white below. In May, a white "cotton" from the female flowers makes one think of a snow fall in summer.

North of Washington Avenue, on the east side of the OCA, a patch of lesser celandine blooms in March; the bright yellow flowers and shiny green leaves disappear a few weeks after blooming. On the right, a privet hedge with small white fragrant flowers and shiny oval leaves grows next to a tall, tough grass resembling bamboo. In the backyard of the house, a bird lover has placed several wren houses and bird feeders. At the north end of the yard, above a ravine sloping down to the Newington-Cropsey Foundation gallery, are tall tulip, maple, sassafras, oak, basswood, horse chestnut and hackberry trees growing in a rich woods. The snake-like vine that twists around and strangles trees is wisteria; it bears purplish-white fragrant flowers in April, and hairy pea-like pods in September.

Once reaching the eroded end of the OCA on Washington Avenue, a visitor should make a slight detour to the right of about 50-100 feet to see the remains of the famous hexagonal paving blocks manufactured by the Hastings Pavement Company, circa 1880's, of which 10 million were produced and shipped to Canada, Brazil and England, as well as throughout the United States. Some blocks still remain on Warburton Avenue near Washington Avenue and in Squirrel Alley, near Maple Lane.

Washington Avenue to Pinecrest Drive

After crossing Washington Avenue, note the stone steps on the left connecting the OCA with Draper Park. Fallen leaves of maples, oaks and sycamores make the steps and adjacent wall especially colorful in October-November. The steps were built under direction of Dr. Arthur C. Langmuire in 1935; he owned property in this area and created a park on the site of the Quarry. Just west of the trailway, on Aqueduct Lane, is the former studio and residence of sculptor Jacques Lipchitz, built in 1952 with few windows that might distract him (see **Fulton Park** discussion in guide). One of the Lipchitz sculptures, "Heaven and Earth," is located in Fulton (Library) Park.

The wire fence on the left encloses what was the site of Hastings first industry (1828-1871), a white dolomite marble quarry. Established before Hastings acquired its name, this quarry was below what is now Draper Park. The Quarry was converted to a village dump in 1964. For a discussion of the history of the Quarry and Quarry Lane and their possible future development, see **ANNEX F**.

Southwest of the rusty fence surrounding the Old Quarry, a densely wooded area is dominated by one of the tallest sycamore trees in the village, this one with a diameter of 4.3 feet. In late June dwarf horse chestnut shrubs flower, with their impressive white candelabra inflorescence. Evergreen five-leaf *Akebia* vines form dense mats on the ground and climb up trees and cover shrubs. Logs beneath the sycamore provide a convenient place for lunch and a quiet spot for watching redstarts, black and white warblers and kinglets, among other birds.

On the left bank south on the trailway, the regularly spaced wooden posts are the remains of an old fence, below the Hastings Landing residences. The posts make perches for birds, such as the grey-cheeked thrush, an uncommon bird in the area. The ventilating tower number 18 has an inscription, now difficult to read because of graffiti, with the name of the aqueduct engineer, John B. Jervis. South of the Croton Aqueduct

barrier (frequently demolished) on the east side of the railway are some stone steps, under a sugar maple and white cedar tree, that lead steeply upwards on a pleasant footpath to Pinecrest Parkway. This short footpath on village property is described below under **Pinecrest Parkway Steps to Old Croton Aqueduct.**

On the steep road down to Warburton Avenue very tall, widely branching trees attract a variety of active birds in spring, seeking insects. Remember to also watch for cars! A tall, handsome evergreen tree, an Atlas cedar from North Africa, stands by a wooden fence on the north side of the curve. Close observation reveals small horizontal holes on the trunk, indicating that a yellow-bellied sapsucker has been feeding on tree sap; thus its name.

Pinecrest Drive to Riverpointe Development

The beautiful house at 26 Pinecrest Drive was built about 1807 on land purchased by Sally Stuart Rowley on September 16, 1846 at an auction in White Plains for \$2,820. William Rowley, husband of Sally, came to Hastings in 1849 with his son David, from Columbia County, N.Y., near Hudson. The house was probably occupied by the seven members of the Rowley family until 1927, when it was sold to Thomas S. Roberts. Although the house has been remodeled several times since then, it still contains the original dumbwaiter. Three acres of vineyards of the 33 acres of land purchased by Mrs. Rowley, in the area now known as Pinecrest, were cultivated by the Rowley brothers, possibly on the grounds of a very large multi-family dwelling far off the railway on the east. Literature on the subject is confusing on the exact location of the vineyards.

Opposite 26 Pinecrest, a carefully landscaped lawn surrounds another attractive house; the house itself appears to have a window box at every window. A spectacular sight in summer!

A low, wet area on the east side of the railway south of Pinecrest turns golden in early spring when an extensive patch of lesser celandine blooms, a buttercup with heart-shaped leaves that disappear entirely after the plant flowers, not to appear again until early March of the next year.

Soon the walker will notice a very large house in well-tended grounds with a private wood chip path adjacent to Rowley's Brook. The brook and path are at the northern edge of the dense Graham-Windham woods. Rowley's Brook flows from a marshy area east of Broadway, near the North Yonkers Community Church; the upper reaches of the bifurcated brook merge behind the house to form a single stream flowing under the OCA into Rowley's Brook that eventually empties into the Hudson River.

A careful observer will note a steep footpath descending to a densely wooded area on the east side of the railway; this leads the agile to tiered stone abutments of a tunnel running under the railway. At the abutment one can see and hear Rowley's Brook, rippling over moss-covered rocks. The brook emerges below a Gothic arch on the west side of the Aqueduct. Culvert and arch are best seen from a wooden bench on the main Rowley's Bridge Trail after leaves have fallen.

Southward on the OCA, both sides of the trail are densely wooded; just before reaching the Graham-Windham service road, and also on the left across the road, grow some of the finest red raspberry bushes in the village. The service road slopes to Warburton Avenue where a connection can be made with the Rowley's Bridge Trail Extension. A post inscribed RBT was installed in 2005 to guide walkers from OCA to the RBT Extension. South of the service road some abandoned concrete steps that begin west of the Graham-Windham School property lead down to Warburton Avenue. The steps, cleaned by the school's Bengals in 2002, are very severely eroded underneath. Continuing south on the OCA, a walker will benefit from some wonderful views of the Palisades seen through vegetated but fairly open space. One soon reaches the Riverpointe housing development on the left.

At the northern edge of Riverpointe, east of the OCA, a 200-foot path leads uphill to Dudley Avenue via stone steps and gravel path, exiting near Lenoir Nature Preserve (see discussion of **Riverpointe Easement** under **Footpaths**). The easement is a cooperative arrangement with the village and the Riverpointe on the south edge of the Graham-Windham properties. One of these properties, P-4 on village maps and 2.0 acres in size, became part of the open space acquired by the village on July 21, 2003. Densely wooded, it contains some of the tallest trees in the village. P-4, inventoried in September 2001 by the village naturalist to assess its natural characteristics prior to acquisition of the property by the village, is one of the most impressive among green space areas of Hastings.

Riverpointe Development is so close to OCA that trail walkers may sense an intrusion, but other houses along the trail are equally close. Here, however, the development is so large that it intrudes aesthetically on the railway in spite of reasonable attempts at landscaping. Nothing is sacred!

Growing opposite Riverpointe on the west, the interesting clump of low plants could become tree-clinging vines. Known as kudzu, this vine is used to prevent gully erosion in the South; a legume, it restores nitrogen to the soil. The purplish flowers have a strong grape odor; it has three leaflets and long reddish stems. Hastings is on the northern limit of kudzu, but with global warming, it might advance north of Hastings!

South County (Putnam) Trailway

Saw Mill River Parkway and Farragut Avenue

A biking, jogging and walking trailway between Saw Mill River Parkway and the Saw Mill River Road (HWY 9A); densely vegetated scrubby woodland area supporting a wide variety of plant and bird life

Farragut Avenue and Saw Mill River Parkway, north one mile to Hastings boundary

The trailway follows the right-of-way of the Old Putnam Division of the New York Central which carried freight and passengers from the Bronx to Brewster from 1881 to 1958. The first 5.6 miles of the southern part of the trailway run from Hastings to Elmsford. The section in Hastings is approximately 1.1 mile long. Part of the proposed 30-mile trailway from the rivertowns to the Putnam County line, it is operated and maintained by the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

B, H, L, P, R, SV, W

From a small parking lot across from the railway entrance on Farragut Avenue, a walker can enter onto a paved pathway, well used by bikers, joggers and dog walkers, especially on weekends. On the west side of the railway is the heavily used Saw Mill River Parkway and, off to the right beyond a densely vegetated swath, is Highway 9A. Walkers will have to learn to ignore the continuous hum of traffic, which birds don't seem to notice. On the east of the railway flows the Saw Mill River, a highly floodable river that often causes serious problems along the parkway.

The first impression of the railway is of a tangle of trees, shrubs and vines; many of the tall trees show a symbiotic relationship in their support of colorful vines, such as poison ivy, grape, porcelain berry, Virginia creeper, honeysuckle and bittersweet. The wide green swath between the two major highways is also rich in wildflowers.

Immediately after entering the railway from Farragut Avenue, one notices a tall black cherry (with bark that looks like burned potato chips) on the right and a dead ash on the left. Vegetation includes box elder (usually five coarsely-toothed leaflets and a whitish bloom on the stems), swamp white oak (rather oblong leaves with shallow lobes), princess trees (very large, soft heart-shaped leaves), choke cherry (sharply-toothed leaves), hawthorn (with numerous small apples in October and variably-shaped leaves), sassafras (some leaves are oval, some shaped like mittens; green fragrant stem), *Ailanthus* (large feathery leaves with a strong disagreeable odor), catalpa (leaves like the princess tree, but not toothed), mulberry (more or less heart-shaped toothed leaves that are sometimes lobed), sycamore (yellow-brown, blotchy bark), sugar, silver and red maples, slippery elms (leaves rough to the touch), scarlet, white, red and black oak, willows, basswood (heart-shaped toothed leaves) and dogwoods. One of the most abundant shrubs here is the multi-flora rose, with many very sharp thorns on green stems, pink flowers in spring and summer, and red berries (hips) in fall. In October robins, blue jays, mockingbirds, woodpeckers, chickadees, song sparrows, juncos and kinglets are sure to be seen, among other birds. A red-tailed hawk, relatively uncommon, may be seen wheeling high overhead and screeching its distinctive high-pitched call. Continuing northward on the level railway, pass under the Ravensdale Road Bridge and look to the west to the magnificent tree-covered bluffs of Hillside Woods.

About 100 feet from the bridge, a small clearing on the right has a number of sawn, haphazardly piled logs suitable for sitting for some quiet bird watching in the tangle of shrubs and vines. At the edge of the paved railway, a close-up view of some mockernut trees reveals their 7-9 leaflets, the terminal one much larger than the others, with long, hairy yellow buds and tight and furrowed gray bark.

A ubiquitous shrub-like plant (actually an herbaceous buckwheat) with heart-shaped leaves, reddish stems and scaly nodes is common along the railway edges. A close look at its whitish fruits reveals an interesting triangular structure with shiny seeds inside. This is a Japanese knotweed or Mexican bamboo. An equally interesting herbaceous plant is the colorful pokeweed or inkberry which has red stems, and black berries in fall. It seems to grow in any habitat, wet or dry. Find the rather ugly mugwort



**Fulton Park South
Renovated Public Library and Municipal Building**



Kinnally Cove and MacEachron Park



Sledding from Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway to Zinsser Park ball field



An entrance to Zinsser Community Gardens across a wooden bridge



Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway, Minturn to Edgars Lane (Chervil with white blooms on right)



Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 footpath and Old Croton Aqueduct tunnel



Lee Waczek installing new Hillside Woods trail sign



Bert's Reflecting Pool and Bruce's Bridge1, RBT looking north



Algonquin Trail, Hillside Woods



**Farragut Footpath
Entrance to footpath at 135 Farrugut Avenue, extending to Rosedale Avenue**



Rowley's Bridge Trail, looking north



**Draper Park
Entrance to Draper Park from Washington Avenue near Old Croton Aqueduct
Trailway**

with its deeply lobed leaves, that are green on the surface but white below; it has a pleasant fragrance when leaves are crushed. In the wet areas of the green swath, stems of tall reed grass appear red in the fall; they are superb for soil and water protection.

A stone culvert and some relict fences are at another clearing to the right. Water passes under the railway here and helps create a wet area that should be very attractive to birds in spring. One of the few places easily accessible from the railway is east of the wooded area. Signs of the Putnam line are in the form of embedded wooden ties and some flat iron plates that once held rails in place. A sign on the left with information about the Putnam Division Railroad of the New York Central system. is well-worth reading because it puts one in historical perspective while walking the trail; with some imagination, the ruins of the Mt. Hope train station, once located here on the east side of the railway, can be reconstructed. Some remnants of the station still exist (See discussion on **Shutowick (County) Park**).

Another clearing north of the old station can be reached from the railway, although care should be exercised because of the steep bank, dense brambles and fallen trees. A single tall sycamore grows approximately in the middle of the glen. Culverts under the railway carry water to the Saw Mill River to the east, some distance away. The river appears wider now, perhaps 20 feet, and is accessible, although again down a steep bank; many large tree trunks line the river. Old telegraph poles with cross bars may be seen now and then on the right side of the railway.

Although the Hastings section of the railway ends about here, it is not marked. A green highway sign indicates that the Lawrence Street exit, Number 16, is one-half mile away, in Dobbs Ferry. As noted above, access to the green swath between the two major highways is difficult. Although there are no benches along the railway, fallen trees can provide resting places.

Shutowick (County) Park

Adjacent to Former Mt. Hope Putnam Line Train Station

H, L, R, W

The Shutowick county park property on South County (Putnam) Trailway is a small wooded parcel adjacent to the South County Trailway. This 1.3-acre, 175x63' foot park, was donated to Westchester County in 2002 by the Shutowick family, formerly of Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., who had owned the property for many years. The site of the former Mt. Hope train station of the Putnam Division (abandoned in 1955) of the New York Central Railroad, its ruins are still standing (see black and white photo below). The wooded and brushy tract is to remain undeveloped and maintained as a county park by the Westchester County Department of Parks and Recreation. It complements the adjacent South County (Putnam) Trailway and parallels the Saw Mill River Parkway.

FOOTPATHS

Seven footpaths are described in the guide. In contrast to the three major trailways of Hillside Park and Woods, the Old Croton Aqueduct and the South County (Putnam), most of these are only a few hundred feet long. Not connected to one another, they are listed as a walker might wish to visit them, from the most northern in Hastings, the Summit Drive Steps, to the southern edge of Hastings, the Riverpointe Easement off the OCA, near the Yonkers boundary.

In addition to the footpaths described in the guide, four others are noted for their historical interest. No longer used for their established purpose as walkways to the Putnam Line railroad station, they are basically concrete steps passing between domestic dwellings on the eastern edge of Hastings. These are located at Clinton Avenue to Stanley Avenue, Fairmont Avenue to Clinton Avenue, Wilson Place to Rosedale and Overlook Road to Cliff Street. They are steep and generally in good condition.

Summit Drive Steps West Toward Pleasant Avenue

A linear footpath from Summit Drive west to the junction with Buena Vista, Calumet and Pleasant Avenues consisting of three flights of concrete steps, concrete landings and a 50-foot sloped gravel path. Excellent views of the Hudson River and Palisades from Summit Drive. Riverview Manor Hose Company No. 3 is on the west of Euclid Avenue.

S, SV

Looking west from Summit Drive, the 150-foot path has a total of 57 concrete steps in three flights with landings between them, and a 50-foot sloped gravel path west of the east flight. A wooden handrail on the right (north) is a useful hold on the steep path. On the south side of the four-foot wide path is an ivy-covered stone wall, on top of which were placed jagged igneous gneiss rocks. Another stone wall on the right is about 10 feet long and also of igneous gneiss.

Private houses with backyard gardens and trees and shrubs abut both sides. The white house on the north has a semi-circular balcony added to the upper story porch, which must allow wonderful views of the Palisades. A good view of the wide Pleasant Avenue and its tree-lined edges is from the top of the stairs.

The steps were probably constructed as a passage to the village from houses on rocky slopes in the Buena Vista-Calumet area before the dawn of the two- or three-car families. The western end of the steps exits at Pleasant Avenue at a mailbox. The steps are in excellent condition.

Residents living adjacent to the steps are concerned about privacy and security, commenting on intrusions to their gardens from school children energetically making their way up these steep steps.

Although not part of this footpath, one can see the Riverview Manor Hose Company No. 3 on Euclid Avenue at the west end of Pleasant Avenue. The Hose Company was chartered February 28, 1910. A plaque notes it is one of the earliest motorized fire apparatus in Westchester County, constructed in January 1915.

Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 Footpath

Main Street to Croton Aqueduct Trailway

A narrow footpath adjacent to a brooklet, crossing it and then passing steeply upwards through a tulip tree woods to the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway

B, Ex, S, W

Although no sign indicates the beginning of this path, the entrance is easy to find near a three-foot tall cinder block structure at the south end of the fire station parking lot. Next to the block is a slippery elm with rough, oblong, pointed, toothed leaves and brown hairy stems.

A very peculiarly-shaped tulip tree on the right (west side) of the footpath is hollow on the lowest part of the trunk, exposing beetle holes and inner trunk. This hollowed part of the trunk is much larger than the healthy upper trunk. The tree is at the crest of a slope that leads to a rocky and rapidly flowing brooklet that comes through a tunnel beneath the Old Croton Aqueduct. Above the tunnel exit is a sign, NO TRESPASSING, Old Croton Trailway State Park, put there as a safety precaution. But light can be seen at the end of this tunnel!

The brooklet merges with another brooklet flowing from a 48" concrete culvert east of the Community Center. Water flowing from this culvert originates in the Sugar Pond drainage area, and comes by way of a curved pipe under Reynolds Field, Broadway, the A&P Fresh and Main Street. The confluence, and a waterfall south of the Community Center were reconstructed in 2006. Water flows westward from the confluence toward the Newington-Cropsey Foundation pond, eventually reaching the Hudson River by way of underground culverts.

From the firehouse parking lot, the narrow path leads to the tunnel noted above to eroded banks of a low stone wall above the brooklet. Water from the tunnel flows over a platform of well-placed stones laid when the aqueduct was built. Above the tunnel exit are two stone arches and above them, stone embankments, a dramatic example of the skill of Scots-Irish stone masons who built the aqueduct between 1837 and 1842. Rocks have been thrown into the stream and parts of the OCA stonework demolished, so that the original artistic stonework is in a state of slight disarray. A large rock to the left of the tunnel buttress is an excellent place to sit and watch for birds in spring, below some sweet birch trees with a fragrant evergreen odor when a stem is scratched.

Crossing the brooklet below the tunnel exit is precarious for those unsure of foot; although there are no handrails and the stones are wet and slippery, support can be obtained by holding onto the buttress. Straight and tall tulip trees, some perhaps 80 to 100 feet tall, grow southwest of the brook. Look for the glossy three-lobed leaves whose

terminal lobes are nearly straight across; in winter look for black chevrons on the limbless lower trunk.

The footpath now begins a steep ascent; walkers must watch for downed limbs and branches, rocks and poison ivy. Three locust trees (rough, cord-like bark) grow among sugar maple and basswood saplings coming in under the canopy of the shady woods. A patch of low goldenrods and white wood asters (white outer flowers and yellow-red inner flowers, and coarsely-toothed leaves) bloom in late September.

On the west (right) side of the footpath a wooded area contains tulip, maple, sassafras and oak trees. The slope westward towards the Newington-Cropsey Foundation gallery should be avoided because of the abundant growth of poison ivy, both the ground form and the thick tree-climbing vine. There is, however, a rich variety of plant life here, such as spicebush (rub the variably-shaped leaves and smell them), red maple, hackberry, black oak, horse chestnut, mapleleaf viburnum, *Euonymus* and bittersweet vines. Spotted wintergreen (variegated, toothed leathery leaves) blooms in summer and dogtooth violet (nodding yellow flowers) in April.

Looking up to the left (east) of the footpath, one can see the heads of walkers and bikers on the Aqueduct Trailway, fleetingly in summer and fall, but easily in winter. The proximity of the footpath, trailway and woods indicates how a settled community is integrated within a natural environment.

Before the last sharp ascent to the Aqueduct Trailway, a stone marker, about three feet tall and one foot square and inscribed with the number 66, is solidly placed in the ground, although leaning slightly. It indicates the width of the Old Croton Trailway at this point and, as noted by the Historic Site Manager, that the "Aqueduct property line expands from that point, heads west like an arrow with the point in the middle of the stream where it is 90' from the center of the trail."

On the right the large bifurcated honey locust tree before it was toppled by a severe wind storm; it had black bark in long flat strips, feathery leaves and racemes of greenish flowers in spring. In fall, many long, flat, reddish-brown pods appeared on the ground, to the apparent delight of mice and squirrels which ate the flat seeds, leaving a shallow depression.

Ownership of the path and its adjacent lands is divided among the village, private property owners and the State of New York, so that responsibility for its improvement or maintenance is not only divided, but also lacks attention from anyone. However, Brownies of a local troop have cleaned the path and woods and should be encouraged to do more, mindful, of course, of the existence of poison ivy in the wooded area! Where the footpath joins the Aqueduct Trailway, a walker can proceed either north or south. On the south, a house on the right provides sparrows, starlings, chickadees, blue jays and many other birds with a free lunch and bath in its backyard. One can cross Washington Avenue and climb the stone steps to Draper Park or continue south on the OCA. Or, walking north, one can reach Five Corners and Reynolds Field.

Farragut Footpath

Farragut Avenue to Rosedale Avenue

A short linear footpath of about 400 feet that is cozy and narrow, with a mix of planted trees and shrubs

The village-owned property of this footpath begins at 135-141 Farragut Avenue, between private houses facing Farragut Avenue on the west and Rosedale Avenue on the east. The Farragut Avenue entrance begins at a handsome wood rail fence (no nails!).

C, Ex, L

From Farragut Avenue the footpath is easy to walk, along a downward sloping path about 400 feet in length. On the right side of the entrance are some Japanese barberry shrubs (oval, acid-tasting leaves and sharp stem thorns) and privet hedges (oval, opposite leaves, small white fragrant flowers in June, black fruits in fall). About 20 feet from the entrance is a clump of jetbead shrubs (oval leaves, with long tips and sharp teeth; the stem is woody, white flowers are conspicuous in summer and black berry-like fruits in fall). A scrubby yew tree with two trunks grows adjacent to a private walkway leading to the backyard of #135 on the left; the yew has flat needles attached to the woody stem by a short petiole; red fruit-like cones appear in fall with a hole at their base. A conifer, like the pines, and a gymnosperm (gymno, naked; sperm, seed), the plant, a common shrub, may also be a low tree.

A cultivated hedge on the left which has become a scraggly tree-like shrub is *Andromeda* or Lily of the Valley Bush; its oblong-lanceolate toothed leaves are leathery and shiny. This woody shrub, sometimes tree size, as this one is, is normally cultivated as a hedge such as that in front of Echo Hills. Below the *Andromeda*, an evergreen holly, unlike well-known hollies that are sharply toothed, has roundish leaves that curl on the edges and is thus called box-leaved holly. A rustic stone wall on the left, about 28 inches high, is made mostly of igneous gneiss rocks, some quite large. Opposite the wall is a wooden fence about seven feet tall.

A holly tree with sharply toothed bright evergreen leaves, growing in the backyard of #135, extends out over the footpath. More tall yews are growing on the right; the lower leaves are absent, while the upper show the typical green flat needles of this evergreen. Many other low yew trees along the footpath provide an opportunity for a close look at the red cone.

A long hedge of English ivy on the lower left side of the footpath is a good example of the variability of the leaves of this vine; some are round, some nearly triangular and some have three or more lobes. All have shiny, evergreen, leathery leaves with white veins. This vine can be a pest since it can take over and perhaps smother tall trees, climbing high up to the upper limbs. A sugar maple hedge on the right is a good example of the adaptability of this tree, here more like a shrub.

Vegetation past the maple hedge is mixed, consisting, for example, of Asiatic bittersweet (rather round leaves well-spaced along the stem and with toothed margins

and pointed leaf tips; in fall, fruits of the bittersweet split open to reveal a red interior that contrasts with the orange exterior), grape and Virginia creeper (five toothed leaflets growing from a single center) vines, multiflora rose bushes (look for the wings at the base of the leaf stem), hackberry (a tree with rough, toothed leaves and an uneven leaf base) and barberry, a low common shrub with rounded leaves and sharp thorns.

Below the porch of a brown-shingled house on the left is a sizable holly tree with bright green, leathery, sharply toothed leaves, and bright red berries in October. Just before the footpath ends, a Rose-of-Sharon hedge displays hollyhock-like flowers in summer; its leaves are generally three-lobed, hairy beneath and round-toothed. The flower garden of the brown-shingled house is on the left and extends to the sidewalk at the Rosedale exit.

The path is generally in good condition and not in need of much maintenance. In fall, the path is most attractive, covered with colorful leaves.

Jefferson Avenue Steps to Hamilton Avenue and Prescott Place

Steep steps between residences, tall trees and evergreen shrubs on either side of steps and an abundance of English ivy in backyards

Entrance south of #47 on Jefferson Avenue; west on steps to Hamilton Avenue; continues west on another set of steps to Prescott Place and Rosedale Avenue

C, S, SW

A three-stone pillar of a wall on the south side of the steps on Jefferson Avenue marks the entrance to a steep set of concrete steps. After about 500 feet they reach Hamilton Avenue and another stone pillar just south of #60. The steps are between homes and yards, richly planted with ivy, junipers, and tall oak, maple and tulip trees. A tall locust tree and a much shorter Japanese maple grow at the base of the steps on Hamilton Avenue.

Reaching the end of the steps on Hamilton Avenue, a walker should turn right (north) for about 100 feet to another (much shorter) set of steps on the left with ivy-covered stone walls on either side. The wall on the left (south) appears to be quite low until a view from a few steps below reveals a dry wall about 10 feet tall. These few steps lead left to the paved Prescott Place and west to Rosedale Avenue. Of special interest is the very dense clump of tall evergreen bamboo on the right.

From here a walker can proceed left (south) on Rosedale to visit Dan Rile Park on Ravensdale Road and Branford Road, or walk right to Mt. Hope Boulevard, cross Farragut Avenue (near the high school) and enter Burke Estate, or to Reynolds Field by walking the paved path on the north side of Hillside Avenue (opposite the school playground).

Pinecrest Parkway Steps to Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway

Narrow, steep linear footpath of stone steps and dirt path about 500 feet long on existing public land between private residences; picturesque white picket fence and old wood and stone barn

Entrance is opposite number 76 on Pinecrest Parkway or from the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway, north of Pinecrest Drive

Ex, S, SV, SW

Entrance about 100 feet north of the dual road on Pinecrest Parkway at a low (38") stone wall topped by a white wooden fence. Five stone steps at upper end of bare, eroded, root-exposed path that slopes gradually west to OCA. Immediately to the left of these steps is a mulberry tree and on the right, beyond the fence, two young apple trees grow in the front yard of a house on the parkway. A tall privet hedge on the left behind a green wire fence separates the path from a private yard with a swimming pool.

The stone wall borders the path for about 50 feet on the right before turning sharply toward a charming stone building, a barn of large, colorful igneous stones, constructed years ago by skilled artisans. The upper story of the barn is wood, with a large brown door between the eaves; this door has two long, colonial-type metal hinges and a small square window in the center. The moss-covered roof has a large hole on the east side.

West of the building a wooded yard has a wide variety of interesting trees; one of the most conspicuous is a tall paper birch, its bright white trunk contrasting sharply with the dark green of white pines, holly (with red berries in November) and magnolias. Also in the yard a very large, much-branched elm tree dominates a sugar maple below.

Close to the footpath is a young princess tree (very large heart-shaped leaves and greenish stems flecked with short yellow streaks) and an *Ailanthus* with large feathery leaves that have a disagreeable odor when crushed. Branches of a tangled hawthorn tree on the left extend over the path from the swimming pool yard and, on the right, low to the ground and beneath the fence, is a patch of evergreen *Pachysandra*, a naturalized escape common in lawn plantings.

Near the end of the path, at the low, western end, are 19 irregularly shaped stone steps that descend steeply to the Aqueduct Trailway. A white cedar tree (flat evergreen branchlets, small scale-like leaves and reddish bark) and a sugar maple grow at the edge of an unpaved space used for parking. Pinecrest Drive on the left descends to Warburton Avenue, beyond a bend.

Much care must be exercised in walking this footpath, especially in fall when slippery leaves cover loose rocks and exposed roots. The white wood fence, which fortunately extends almost to the lower end of the footpath, might serve as a handhold. The footpath is in fair condition, because of erosion, bare soil, rocks and exposed roots.

From the parking area a walker can continue either north or south on the Aqueduct Trailway.

Riverpointe Easement

Old Croton Aqueduct east to Dudley Avenue

Stone steps and a gravel path about 200 feet long, bordered on the north by a rich and dense woods consisting of sugar maples, tulip, sassafras, red oak, black birch, et al., and on the south by the Riverpointe Development.

Entrance on Dudley Avenue near the northwestern edge of the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers, at the north edge of the Riverpointe Development, or from the east side of the Old Croton Aqueduct by stone steps.

S, SV, W

The easement is between four acres of Graham-Windham property (acquired by the village on July 21, 2003) on the north and Riverpointe Development on the south. The natural resources inventory conducted in September 2001 by the Hastings village naturalist found, as a partial list, 12 species of trees, five of shrubs, five of vines and ten herbaceous plants in the former Graham-Windham parcel. The tulip and oak trees in this area are some of the tallest in the village.

From the Dudley Street entrance, just north of a Riverpointe parking lot, the path begins at a narrow, mulch-covered path that leads toward the west and the OCA. A very tall and large (about 3-feet in diameter) tulip tree is on the right. A six-foot tall wooden fence on the left (south) separates the housing development from the easement. A narrow set of 26 stone steps with an iron handrail are at the end of the path, fronting on the OCA. The path was made by Ginsberg Developers who also made the steps and laid mulch.

An arrangement with the village to establish the easement provided for an indefinite period. Maintenance of the steps and footpath is the responsibility of the village. The path is in good condition. Residents of Riverpointe Development living close to the easement have expressed concerns about security and privacy, but the wooden fence at the edge of the property should reduce these concerns.

Clinton/Stanley Avenue Footpath

A number of steep steps lead from the Clinton/Stanley Avenue area east toward the abandoned Putnam railroad station. These footpaths were used by commuters in Hastings to reach the train station of the Old Putnam Division of the New York Central which operated from the Bronx to Brewster, 1881 to 1958.

One footpath was explored in 2003 as an example of these special-purpose pathways that are no longer used for their intended purpose, but nevertheless are among historically interesting and ecologically variable, although generally unmaintained, plant life in the village.

The footpath explored in the Clinton/Stanley Avenues area had two distinct sections, one of nine steps separated by a landing and another of 74 steps, with rusty handrails

on one side. A surprising variety of plant life was identified from the west (upper) end of the path to the east (lower) end. Some trees were a 20-foot tall crab apple, Norway maples, a mockernut and oaks. Holly, red raspberry, multiflora rose, yew and Euonymus were found, distributed on the sides of the path from one end to the other.

The lower end of the trail leads to the backyard of a house on Stanley Avenue. There is no connection in the yard to Stanley Avenue and no remains of a path to the train station. The remains of the train station are noted on a plaque on the South County Trailway described in this guide under Shutowick (County) Park.

In addition to the footpaths and stairs described in detail in the guide, steps were identified by Nonnie Bulcer for a Hastings Historical Society project in 2005. The inventory was made by interviewing Society staff, a great deal of fieldwork and contact with residents, many of whom used the stairs as commuters. Those not described in the guide are listed below:

- Scenic Drive to Villard Avenue.
- Wilson Place to Rosedale Avenue.
- Whitman Street to Warburton Avenue, around VFW.
- Steinschneider Parking lot, "West Main St." west of Warburton Ave to railroad station.
- Lincoln Avenue to Southgate Avenue.
- Overlook Road and Lincoln Avenue to Cliff Street.
- Overlook Road to Cliff Street and Mount Hope Boulevard.
- Mt. Hope Boulevard to Mt. Hope Boulevard at hairpin curve.
- Mt. Hope Boulevard to Mt. Hope Boulevard at wider point.
- Fairmont Avenue to Clinton Avenue.
- Kent Avenue to Clinton Avenue.
- Graham-Windham to Warburton Avenue (closed).

PARKS

Six parks described in the guide are within reasonable walking distance of one another. Zinsser Park to Fulton Park to Waterfront Park, are grouped as though a walker could visit them on a single trip. The remaining three parks, Draper, Dan Rile and Uniontown, are quite separate from each other; Riverview and Vestpocket are close enough to visit on a single outing.

Zinsser Park, Community Gardens, Footpath Edgar's Lane and North Broadway

Open area ballfields (adult softball and Little League diamonds), children's play area, domestic gardens, brooklet, wide variety of plants and bird life

East of North Broadway, north of Edgar's Lane, Croton Aqueduct Trailway on the east

Dr. Frederick Zinsser was president (mayor) of Hastings, 1901-1912. He operated the Zinsser Chemical Company located on the waterfront, west of Southside Avenue; the plant was in operation from 1897-1955. Zinsser Park was acquired by the village from the Zinsser Estate in 1967. Entrance to the estate was through a gate on Broadway; two pillars of the gate remain near a sign commemorating the battle of Edgar's Lane, September 30, 1778.

B, Be, C, DW, L, P, PE, PT, SP, SW, T

The 7.3-acre Zinsser Park complex is made up of three distinct areas: the ballfield, the community gardens and the children's play area. The latter is dominated by two red oak trees about 40 inches in diameter, and bordered on one side by a mix of horse chestnuts, basswoods, ash, and oaks (between the parking lot and Broadway) and on the other by a row of sugar maples, *Ailanthus*, mulberry, slippery elm, box elder, weeping willow, sycamore, locust and black walnut, and with Virginia creeper and bittersweet vines, separating the children's play area from Zinsser Community Gardens.

The public gardens of Zinsser Park are a unique feature in the village. The garden is one and one-half acres in size. Plots are allocated by Parks and Recreation annually; the 65 variable-sized plots are so popular that there is a backlog of requests. Those who had plots in the past may keep them by registering in April; a resident seeking a plot should contact the Department after April. New plots are assigned as of May 12.

What they say about Zinsser Community Gardens.

I have gardened organically in my large plot at Zinsser every year since 1979, growing many kinds of vegetables, herbs and flowers. I spend an inordinate amount of time there because when I garden, I am at oneness with the universe. I love the community aspect of Zinsser too, the sharing of information and labor with other gardeners. **Mary Ann Kingston**

My earliest and fondest memories of Zinsser Gardens are as a young boy in the late 1940's getting water from the brook for my grandmother's victory garden. For the 30

*years I have gardened, Zinsser has been an island for me; a place where I could go to relax, to get some exercise, to forget, to remember, to socialize and to grow some of the world's best-tasting tomatoes. **Bill Borowitz***

The Garden is ecologically complex, consisting of native trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants mixed with cultivated vegetation, productive sources of food for gardeners and birds. In the center of the gardens a well and a small brooklet support interesting aquatic-dependent plants, including watercress and bulbous buttercup. In spring, chervil, a tall white-flowered member of the carrot family with fern-like leaves, replaces the much lower lesser celandine, with its brilliant yellow flowers. A tall, semi-alive cottonwood was cut down, under protest, that attracted purple finches, woodpeckers and nuthatches; in its upper limbs, a Baltimore oriole built its basket-shaped nest. Crows, robins, goldfinches, mourning doves, starlings and song sparrows were attracted to the tree. A tall sweetgum tree next to the sidewalk on Edgar's Lane produces round, brown fruits in fall that contain seeds, attracting goldfinches and house finches like bees to a clover field. Loosely enclosed by trees on all four sides, the community gardens are one of the most attractive areas to birds in Hastings.

Birds identified in and adjacent to the gardens include: robins, white-throated, white-crowned, chipping, song and house sparrows, nuthatches, chickadees, orioles, blue jays, catbirds, hummingbirds, hairy, downy and red-bellied woodpeckers, flickers, goldfinches, mourning and rock doves, starlings, purple and house finches, yellow-rumped, yellow, and black and white warblers, red-eyed vireos and cardinals.

A partially paved footpath separates Zinsser Park ballfield and Zinsser Community Gardens. It begins at the west side of the Aqueduct Trailway below a tall white poplar (black bark on the lower trunk, whitish above; the shiny green leaves are white on the lower surface. In May, this tree "snows" with a blizzard of white, feathery seeds). At the beginning of the footpath grows a craggy multi-branched mulberry. South of the metal bleachers near the footpath are raspberry bushes, porcelain berry (purple-white berries, variably-shaped leaves), poison ivy, English ivy (note rounded clumps of white flowers in summer and urn-shaped fruits in fall) and leaves that vary from lobed to oval, depending upon the age of the vine.

From the footpath are good views of the lush gardens, a fine stone wall and a variety of vegetation dominated by evergreen English ivy at both ground and tree level; the vines cling to trees, some reaching the topmost branches. The footpath is severely eroded; what remains of black paving has broken up and deep ruts have formed over the years. Walkers must be careful to avoid turning an ankle on the uneven surface and touching the poison ivy (three shiny leaflets) on either side.

A three-foot dry stone wall runs most of the length of the footpath on the right. The wall is adjacent to the former carriage road that led to the Zinsser three-story mansion, which was located on what is now the ballfield. The mansion was demolished by the village to make way for the ballfield. North of the wall is a Parks and Recreation Department equipment building with water and toilets, open during special events. On and along the wall, white wood asters appear in fall among feathery wisteria vines and a few prickly red raspberry bushes (lower surface of leaf is powdery white). The delicious berries can be picked in June-July in good growing years. The footpath continues under

sycamore maple trees (3-5 toothed and lobed leaves on long red stems) and red mulberries (shiny toothed leaves, some lobed, some not).

Adjacent to the ball park service road on the right is a tall Norway spruce tree (square needles and many longish cones that fall to the ground after they mature; its limbs droop) and, on the left, a tall red oak, the feeding/playground of an active gray squirrel family. Below the spruce tree a clump of virgin's bower, or autumn clematis vines, displays sprays of white flowers in late summer. When the clematis turns to seed, it produces distinctive, gray silky plumes (Old Man's Beard). Clematis hedges are also found elsewhere in the garden. Directly opposite the spruce tree a small box elder, among many in this area, might be mistaken for poison ivy, but it has opposite leaves made up of 3-5 coarsely-toothed leaflets and a white cast on its stems.

From the Zinsser Park parking lot, a walker may wish to visit other nearby parks. Exiting the park at Edgar's Lane, a visitor can cross Broadway to Sheldon Wagner Plaza, near Maple Lane. Although small, the park is just right for sitting on one of the benches while watching traffic go by on busy Broadway. See description of **Sheldon Wagner Plaza/Maple Lane/Squirrel Alley**

Villard Park

Villard Avenue and North Broadway

A small park with a grassy lawn, cherry trees, and a small attractive area of shrubs and plants which surround two comfortable wooden benches

Located at southeast corner of Villard Avenue and Broadway

Be, C, L, SV

Villard Park is a 0.15-acre park carefully landscaped and laid out by the Beautification Committee and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department as a mini-park. A special feature here is a plaque that reads:

**This Tree Stands in Memory of Carol D. Shryock
Dedicated by Hastings Women's Club**

Carol D. Shryock (1941-1990) was a former trustee. The tree is a red maple, and was planted by her husband.

Two wooden Fearington Group benches face each other across a green-tiled space. Behind each bench the interesting, exotic decorative plantings include two Scotch broom shrubs (evergreen, slender stems, yellow flowers in summer and flat brown pea-like pods in fall), *Eulalia* grass (a tall, long-leafed grass with rough edges and many-branched reddish heads), English holly (evergreen, leathery leaves with strong sharp teeth) and thyme plants with aromatic leaves and blue flowers growing close to the ground on the Villard Avenue side of the park.

There are five even-aged cherry trees planted in rows in the park (oval, toothed leaves turn reddish purple in fall; two glands are at the base of each leaf; young stems are reddish; the bark is smooth and marked with horizontal lenticels).

A tall 35-inch diameter thornless honey locust with black bark and small leaflets that turn yellow in the fall stands on the Broadway side of the park. This locust is one of several in the area of what was once called Locust Woods. Another locust, equal in size, but with stout thorns on the twigs and trunk, is at the corner of Travis Place and Broadway; others are across Broadway on the grounds of St. Matthew's School.

Along the south edge of the park a rather dense hedge separates the park from a private yard. The hedge consists of trees, shrubs and vines, such as sycamore and sugar maples, catalpa (Indian cigar tree, with very large, heart-shaped soft leaves), black locust (with small paired thorns), mulberry trees (variably shaped leaves with coarse teeth), privet and rose bushes, and bittersweet, honeysuckle and Virginia creeper vines.

Sheldon Wagner Plaza/Maple Lane/Squirrel Alley Warburton Avenue and North Broadway

A small passive park with benches, a few trees and decorative plantings; access to Maple Lane and flower beds of delightful diversity; a gravel road leads to Squirrel Alley, a commuter's footpath

West of Warburton Avenue and Broadway, opposite Edgar's Lane near Maple Lane

Named for R. Sheldon Wagner, mayor of Hastings, 1961-1975; special attention should be paid to the Menconi sculpture at the entrance to Squirrel Alley; and to Menconi's Tuscan house at the west end of Riverview Place.

Be, C, L

This small park is a popular place for noon-time lunchers from nearby offices. A wooden signpost at the entrance to the park, facing Broadway, gives the former mayor's name and tenure. Nearby a plaque on a mounted stone commemorates the Revolutionary War skirmish of Edgar's Lane, September 30, 1778, as does a sign across Broadway at the entrance to Zinsser Park on Edgar's Lane; this sign was rededicated at a village ceremony in 1999.

Four well-used benches occupy the south end of the park. Five sycamore trees, with their splotchy-yellow trunks, and three black oaks dominate the main vegetation here, but branching over the park, from behind wooden fences in backyards of adjacent houses, are some very fine tall sugar maples, sycamores and a rare American elm. Growing over the wooden fence are Virginia creeper, virgin's bower (*Clematis*), with abundant white flowers in late summer and, by the wooden arch leading to Maple Lane, a Rose-of-Sharon (pink hollyhock-like flowers and big buds in fall).

Through the arch to the private graveled Maple Lane one sees on the right (the north side of the lane) a very tall white pine, its five dark green needles in bundles on each

slender branch. About 20 feet off the ground, a huge trailing wisteria vine dominates this side of the lane, showing in summer its many purple flowers, with their strong fragrance and many, many busy bees. Further on, the dense hedge is a tangle of various vines, shrubs and herbaceous plants. In an attractive flower garden at 12 Maple Lane, the obedient plants may flower in summer; push a flower to the right or left and it stays that way, obediently.

A resident on Maple Avenue, with property adjacent to Maple Lane, has planted extensively on both sides of the Lane. Next to the wooden fence separating the Lane from the resident's yard is a short row of white cedars and below them, a wide variety of herbaceous plants surrounding a few curious "animals." Rhododendrons on the north side of the Lane together with many varieties of herbaceous plants make a very colorful garden during the flowering season.

At the west end of Maple Lane, two short stubby pillars mark the entrance to a privet-hedged footpath. On one of these pillars sits a weather-worn squirrel, giving this alley its name. The squirrel was sculpted by Raffaele Menconi (1877-1942), who lived in the house at the west end of Riverview Place for 37 years; he was a gifted sculptor with a national and international reputation. The alley continues across Riverview Place and ends at the private driveway of 645 Broadway, near one of the most magnificent ginkgo trees in the village.

Squirrel Alley is (or was) paved with the famous Hastings Pavement Company (1880-1936) hexagonal paving blocks. The sidewalk south of the Warburton Avenue bridge (Washington Avenue end) is also paved with these blocks. The factory, located on the waterfront, was known as the fog factory because of the pollution it generated. From Squirrel Alley, a visitor could walk south on Maple Avenue to Spring Street and then east for a visit to the VFW park on Warburton Avenue or south to Fulton Park, located in the area of the Municipal Building and public library. See description of the parks under **Fulton Park**.

VFW Park

Warburton Avenue and Spring Street

A small landscaped park used for village ceremonies and as a social gathering place; good views of the library, Fulton Park and the Palisades

The VFW building (Post 200) was named for James V. Daley who was killed in France days before the end of World War I. As the acronym indicates, the park is dedicated to veterans of foreign wars. A plaque dedicated on May 30, 1947, a memorial to veterans of World War II, is located in the center of the park. VFW post 200 is the oldest (founded 1919) in Westchester County. The building was once the studio of famed artist Carl Ludwig Brandt (1831-1925) whose life work was titled the Living Christ.

Be, C, SV

The 0.32-acre park can be entered from Warburton Avenue at Spring Street or from Whitman Street on the east. A visitor coming into the park from Warburton and Spring, past the stone walls, benches and steps, will see two redbud trees, members of the pea

family, with purplish-pink flowers in May; in summer they have bright green, heart-shaped leaves and in fall, pea-like pods. To the left of the entrance are four small hawthorn trees whose leaves turn reddish-purple in fall. On the north side of the park a very tall pin oak, with deeply-lobed leaves, turns scarlet in October; some equally tall sugar maples, with broad round crowns, are also on this side of the park.

Walking up toward Whitman Street and the VFW building one can see a large black walnut tree overhanging the park's walkway, growing in the backyard of a private house. Fruits of the walnut litter the ground in great numbers in fall; they are round and green but soon turn black. On Whitman Street, behind the building, a white ash with a diameter of 48" was cut down in 2002, allegedly because it was rotten; an inspection of the stump recorded no rot.

Near the southwest corner of the park grow four graceful trees with whitish trunks and drooping limbs. The cut-leaved birch, an ornamental tree that resembles the more common gray birch, has been planted in many areas in Hastings. This corner of the park is a favorite haven for birds, probably because it offers shelter among forsythia, cotoneaster and birches, and because scraps of food are left by patrons of the well-used park benches.

Even in October, rose bushes flower above the stone wall at the south end of the park; below them sprawls *Vinca* with its shiny leaves and blue flowers with a yellow interior. Standing taller are the evergreen cotoneasters with conspicuous reddish berries in fall. Tucked behind the trees and shrubs grows a single fir tree, in perfect Christmas tree shape, decorated by Parks and Recreation Department staff at holiday time. Along the south edge of the park, against a wire fence, are sycamore, sugar maple and mulberry trees, forsythia, and bittersweet vines, which produce orange and red berries in fall.

South of the clump of trees above the stone wall on the north side of a pathway to the Boulanger Parking lot, is a five-foot high wire fence nearly obscured in summer by a tangled mix of trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants. The wire fence connects on the east with an attractive iron fence that extends to the far end of the parking lot. A concrete wall that runs to the east side of the parking lot has an iron fence on it above many attractive plants of shrubs and vines. An igneous rock wall, about 10 feet tall, separates the plantings and wall at the north end of the parking lot. See **ANNEX K** for a list of plantings established above the wall north of Boulanger Plaza.

VFW park is a popular place for many reasons but, in spite of regular clean-up by Department of Public Works and Recreation Department staff, is too often littered with trash even though trash receptacles are well-placed.

Fulton Park

Southside Avenue, Library and Municipal Building Grounds

Three interconnected, small pleasant parks with benches and tables, excellent views of New York City's skyline, the Hudson River and the Palisades and Tappan Zee Bridge

Entrance from Southside or Maple Avenue at foot of Spring Street, adjacent to Library and Municipal Building

Fulton Park was named for Robert Fulton (1765-1815), inventor of the steamboat; his boat, the Clermont, was launched on the Hudson River in 1807. The municipal building, dedicated in 1929, was built on the former Joseph Treanor property; the library was built in 1966, and renovated and expanded in 2002. Fulton Park South was also redesigned that year and replanted.

Be, C, L, P, PT, SV, T (during library hours)

Fulton Park South

The south end of Fulton Park is reached from a curved, bluestone-paved path, leading to the entrance of the Hastings Public Library. On the left of the path is a stone pillar five feet tall, composed of igneous rock; a similar pillar, seven feet tall, is on the right. A plaque dedicated to 12 Hastings men killed in World War I and 234 who served in that war is embedded in a wall to the left of the steps to the Municipal Building. See **ANNEX K** for a list of new plantings in Fulton Park South.

On the west, past steps leading to the library entrance, a Kousa dogwood is doing quite well in spite of the Fulton Park renovation. In late May, the tree bears large white flowers, which have the interesting characteristic of growing laterally on the branches. Beneath the dogwood are low evergreen azalea shrubs.

Two heritage birch trees were planted as saplings during the renovation of Fulton Park, one on either side of the path, immediately in front of the new library extension. These deciduous trees have heart-shaped leaves doubly-toothed on the margins. Their most distinguishing characteristic is the bark, which peels, like paper; the trunk has narrow horizontal stripes. The path continues west toward a low stone wall, one foot high, rising to three feet at its center; the wall is made of igneous gneiss rock with a low black iron fence installed on the top. To the right, wooden benches are well-placed for sitting while viewing the river and Palisades.

From the path/bench area, a short walk southeast on the grassy knoll leads to an overlook with superb views of the Manhattan skyline and the George Washington bridge. The semi-circular walls are aesthetically attractive and perfect places to sit for the view. The south memorial overlook was donated by the Picone Family.

A memorial to the events of September 11, 2001, has been engraved in stone on the southernmost wall. It reads:

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
AT THIS SITE
WE COME TOGETHER
IN GRIEF AND SOLIDARITY
OUR PERSPECTIVE FOREVER CHANGED**

The inscription was written by Thom Forbes and engraved by Tom Minozzi, both Hastings residents.

Plantings adjacent to the walls include highbush cranberry, gray dogwood and the low gallberry holly, or inkberry, an evergreen shrub chosen as part of the new landscaping.

The sugar maple, three-feet in diameter, on the east side of the knoll, was on the grounds of the Joseph Treanor estate before the library was built in 1966. Decorative plantings were made in the park in 2005, consisting of 22 trees, 55 shrubs, 111 perennials and 16 vines. When exiting the park, note a white pine seedling planted on Arbor Day 2006 to replace a tall diseased Austrian pine that leaned precariously over the sidewalk on Southside Avenue.

There are several benches and a picnic table in Fulton Park South for visitors' comfort and enjoyment. A white mulberry tree on the eastern edge of the park overhanging Southside Avenue is a big favorite of birds and their young during breeding season, May through July. Up from the mulberry is a big sycamore street tree, that hosted a pair of Baltimore orioles and their three chicks in May and June of 2006. Their nest is still there, hanging over Southside Avenue – go to the telephone pole in the median, face west, look up – their small hanging nest is about a foot in on the nearest branch overhead.

Visitors to the Public Library should take advantage of the views from the small children's reading room in the library extension and from the main room looking west. Trees, shrubs and vines have been cleared to open views of Manhattan on the south and the river and Palisades on the north.

Fulton Park East

On the right side of the curved path, an igneous rock wall, about four feet high, has dense yew shrubs growing above it. Yew shrubs are evergreens with short-stemmed flat needles that grow like outstretched wings (two-ranked, botanically). In winter, red fruits of the thorny cockspur hawthorn tree are found adjacent to the base of the wall. In 2006, the hawthorn could be seen to have only a few more years of life before its interior and upper limb rot will lead to end of the tree.

Among the interesting plantings immediately in front of the library is the butterfly bush, a deciduous shrub with leaves that are white-hairy below and with purple or white flowers with an orange-eye; its name is appropriate as butterflies are attracted to its nectar. Occupying a prominent spot is a sculpture, "Between Heaven and Earth," by Jacques Lipchitz (1891-1973). His studio was built on Aqueduct Lane (see **OCA, Washington Avenue to Pinecrest Drive**).

At the southwest corner of the municipal building is a *Calleryana* pear tree; its delicate pink flowers appear in early April; a plaque indicates its dedication to Charles Aschmann (1927-1991), high school English teacher, singer, former trustee. Another pear, planted by the village manager in 1981, is immediately in front of the library and a weeping cherry, with beautiful pink flowers in spring, is off to the left, in front of the municipal building. It was planted in 1986.

Fulton Park North

To view the magnificent Palisades, one can do no better than to gaze from a bench or table toward the west from the municipal parking lot. Time and patience will reveal changes in the Hudson, the river that flows both ways; a tidal tongue becomes evident with its slight ripples on the V-shaped margins. Looking across the river at those beautiful diabase columnar rocks known as the Palisades, one can sense the changes from season to season. The most dramatic occur in spring, with the purpling of the rock face when princess (*Paulownia*) trees flower in May, and in fall when the hardwoods blaze with reds and yellows.

North of the Hastings Library Parking lot off Maple Avenue, the Farmers Market is held each Saturday, June to November. The market was founded in 1998 by donations from Friends of the Hastings Farmers Market for this non-profit community venture. Ten vendors from the Hudson River Valley sell a wide variety of regional farmed and crafted fresh foods. Visiting vendors also sell herbal bath goods, cheeses, chutney, condiments and maple syrup. The market is very popular, attracting artisanal shoppers from all over the area.

West of the library, Bill Van Wart of the Hudson River Audubon Society installed four tubular bird feeders and a flat platform in October 2005. The library provides the bird feed; Bill fills the feeders once a week and occasionally loads a feeder with bird-loving suet. An excellent location to watch birds feed (nine goldfinches were seen at one time) is from inside the library, but birds are skittish so observers must not make sudden moves. In addition to goldfinches, birds seen were purple finches, house sparrows, purple grackles, and an unusual fox sparrow in March 2006. Pigeons, robins and squirrels feed on the ground, thanks to seeds dropped by the tube feeders.

A viewer should not ignore the immediate surroundings with its variety of plant life along and behind the wire fence and down the slope toward the railroad tracks. Two benches and two picnic tables have been placed in the grassy area at this western end of the park.

A distinctive tree at the west end of the parking lot is the tall white poplar with yellowish-white upper parts and black lower trunks; the leaves are bright green above and white-hairy beneath; these trees “snow” in May with a near blizzard of falling white seeds. A Baltimore oriole nest was seen in this tree. Another fascinating specimen growing along the fence is the matrimony vine (actually a woody shrub), with purple flowers in spring and red fruits in the fall, and prickles. Oaks, maples, *Ailanthus*, beeches, sycamore maples and many vines and shrubs add interest to this park above the Hudson and across from the Palisades.

The Hudson is a working river; a variety of boats and ships pass upstream and down—barges, tankers, cruise ships, international cargo vessels, sailboats, yachts, speedboats and kayaks. Wheeling and squawking above are the resident ring-billed gulls sweeping down to find a free lunch. Occasionally an osprey or a hawk glides on the thermal high overhead. In October, during fall migration, wave after wave of blue jays have been seen to stream by along the Hudson flyway on their erratic southward flight.

MacEachron Waterfront Park

River Street

A riverfront park with magnificent views of the Hudson River and Palisades; benches, picnic tables, toilet, children's play area

The north end of River Street adjacent to eastern shore of Hudson River, Harvest On Hudson and Blu restaurants.

Named for Frances D. MacEachron, mayor of Hastings 1981-1993, the park was dedicated July 13, 1991. A bench in memory of Carol Shryock (1941-1990) is near the split rail fence at the river's edge.

Be, C, L, P, PE, PT, SV, SW, T

The 1.3 acre park is an open field directly on the eastern shore of the Hudson with some clumps of white poplar, slippery elm, box elder, black locust and mulberry trees; indigobush, with small purple flowers, and Japanese knotweed grow among the rocks on the shoreline. Waterfront Park is distinguished by its immediacy to the river and to a tidal cove (formerly Marinello Cove, renamed Kinnally Cove April 9, 2003), where mud flats are exposed twice each day.

There are two children's play structures in the park, one for children of 2-5 years, and one for children 5-12 years. The facilities, provided by Gametime of Hawthorn, N.Y., were designed following studies by the company on safe structures for the appropriate age group. Picnic tables, benches and toilets are available.

Mallards, ring-billed gulls and Canada geese are common residents in the immediate area. Black ducks and scaup occasionally appear on the water, and cormorants and gulls sit on pilings south of the cove or fly low over the river, occasionally diving below the surface. Barn swallows appear in April, wheeling in broad circles above the park and the Blu restaurant and Tower Ridge Yacht Club. A bufflehead was seen in March offshore from the club. Song sparrows feed among the rocks, and ospreys and turkey vultures fly high overhead.

Visitors to the park will find the gardens in front of the Harvest On Hudson restaurant of special interest because of the many well-tended, domestic and exotic plantings; produce from them is reportedly used by the culinary staff. Restaurant service is available in the garden.

Draper Park

Broadway and Washington Avenue

A quiet village park used for family and group outings, picnicking, dog walking; edged by a variety of trees and shrubs not found elsewhere in Hastings

Old Broadway on the east and Washington Avenue on the north and adjacent to the Old Marble Quarry and Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway on the west

Draper Park is the site of a former observatory built in the 1860's by Henry Draper, whose father, John William Draper (1811-1882), first photographed the human face in 1838, and the moon in 1840 from the roof of the New York University building in Washington Square. The Observatory is now the home of the Hastings Historical Society. The property, acquired by the village in May 1989 from the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, was dedicated July 13, 1991.

Be, C, L, PT, SV, SW, T

Notable features of the 9.9-acre village park are two large fields, one on the south and one on the north, separated by a slender row of oaks, cherries, larches, a single nannyberry and some dogwoods. A wooded area dominated by sugar and Norway maples, red oaks and cherry trees bound the large open and well-used upper (southern) field on the west.

The south edge of the large open field is bordered by a fence line and a variety of trees, shrubs and vines, consisting of red oaks, sugar maples, sassafras, box elder, locust, *Ailanthus*, black cherry, honeysuckles, grape vines and multiflora rose bushes, which form an edge from which flickers and robins come to feed in the open field. Two bluebird nesting boxes were placed in the park by the Hudson Valley Audubon Society in 2003 with hopes for avian occupants.

An observer can stand at the southwest end of this large field beneath a battered white pine and look down into the ravine of the 5.5 acre Old Marble Quarry (see discussion in the guide on the quarry under **OCA, Washington Avenue to Pinecrest Drive and ANNEX F, Old Marble Quarry and Quarry Lane**), and watch hawks looking for prey below, or red-bellied woodpeckers and flickers in the trees on the opposite side of the ravine.

Extensive and unsupervised tree and brush cutting on the west end of the park has disfigured that area; the tops of tall white pines were lopped and red raspberry bushes eradicated; large piles of wood chips from these cuttings have covered some of the raspberry bushes.

On the north or lower end, a rather open field slopes toward Washington Avenue, with scattered oaks, junipers, hackberry, pin oak, dogwood (with much poison ivy on them), catalpa, box elder, black and choke cherry, white pine and black birch; along the Washington Avenue edge are hemlock, mulberry and some exotic temple trees, among other trees and shrubs already noted. The field is a favorite feeding ground for song sparrows, juncos, starlings, flickers and robins.

At the east end of Draper Park a wooden fence separates the main park from the Hastings Historical Society grounds; adjacent to it is a parking lot and one-way exit road to Washington Avenue. Next to the west side of the 240 foot-long exit road and scattered further west into the park, is a small plantation of 20 young trees and shrubs: six oaks, four sugar maples, five shadbush and five dogwoods. The plantation was established in February 2001 as a result of negotiation between the village Tree Preservation Board and the Kera Developers who replaced trees cut when constructing a housing development project in the Rosedale/Southgate area. Since sufficient space

was not available at the rocky Rosedale/Southgate site, the Board agreed that suitable trees could be planted at a single location in a tree deficient-area. The Draper Park area satisfied those conditions. The plantation suffered during the drought of 2001 and maintenance of the trees was at first undertaken on an *ad hoc* basis by local residents; later DPW brought in its watering tank, on a needs basis. The plantation appears to be surviving but requires regular maintenance, an undefined responsibility.

Two Cornelian cherry trees north of the Society's cottage produce yellow flowers in April-May. An impressive variety of trees east of the cottage includes white pines, hickories, and a single sourwood. Birds seen in this area include blue jays, flickers, robins, downy and red-bellied woodpeckers, juncos, song sparrows, cardinals, ruby-crowned kinglets, chickadees, nuthatches, starlings, crows, grackles, and a rare pileated woodpecker.

A new trail, created in April 2003, begins at the west end of the south field and runs through dense woods to the OCA on a sloping, sinuous path. On the left (south) side of the trail entrance is a concrete picnic table and, on the right, a truncated white pine. About 50 feet from the entrance is a very tall pin oak, about three feet in diameter. This second growth woods contains an interesting variety of plant life, including patches of the yellow-flowered trout lily, or dog-toothed violet.

Another pleasant and easy route is by way of the stone steps northwest of the park built by Andrew and Richard Ryan and associates about 1935, under direction of Dr. Arthur G. Langmuir who, at that time, owned property in this area. The steps lead to Washington Avenue and the Old Croton Aqueduct. To the south on the OCA, a walker will pass a dilapidated wire fence that restricts access to the former municipal dump. For a discussion of the Old Quarry and possible beneficial uses of this historic site, see **ANNEX F, Old Marble Quarry and Quarry Lane.**

Crossing north over Washington Avenue, the upper end of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 Footpath may be reached from the Aqueduct Trailway. To the east, across Broadway, is the Burke Estate.

Dan Rile Memorial Park

Ravensdale Road and Branford Road

Dan Rile Park has a short, easy footpath with a few rocky gneiss outcrops and a gently sloping stream bed; wide variety of flora and an abundance of birdlife.

Entrance at Ravensdale Road and Branford Road on the north, exiting on Fenwick Road on the south

Formerly known as Ravensdale Woods, the 1.17 acre park was renamed to honor Dan Rile (1913-1991), well-known teacher, local naturalist and Boy Scout leader of Troop 2, and was dedicated in May 1990. Six rustic Adirondack twig chairs donated by the Masonic Rising Star Lodge were dedicated September 27, 1997 and placed at intervals along the footpath. Unfortunately, some of the chairs have been vandalized and not repaired.

B, Be, Ex, L, RO, SW

A large sugar maple and red oak stand at the entrance on Branford Road. Although the woods are dominated by sugar maples, many other trees grow here, some very large, for example, black or sweet birch, sycamore, tulip, sugar and sycamore maple, sassafras, *Ailanthus*, American beech and white oak. A yellow birch, with yellow scaly bark and an ironwood, with muscular-appearing bark, two uncommon trees in Hastings, can be seen in the park.

Volunteers spread wood chips from one end of the park to the other in 2005 and 2006. Many multiflora rose bushes grow here with a few honeysuckle and spicebushes. Curiously, a devil's walking stick or Hercules club shrub, with many prickles on the stem, was found here, one of the very few in Hastings. There is much poison ivy, Asiatic bittersweet and tall ragweed. In spring, the low areas are covered with a blanket of yellow lesser celandine flowers. Flocks of white-breasted nuthatches were seen in late September, feeding on the ground and in trees, stocking up on nourishment to continue their southward migration. The low wet area and dense vegetation in Dan Rile Park is excellent for bird watching in spring.

Several connections to other walking areas are easily accessible from Dan Rile Park. On Farragut Avenue, a visit can be made to Ravensdale Woods, where Hastings Trailway and Ravensdale Woods signs have been installed opposite Clunie Avenue, or walk or drive to High Street to visit Uniontown Park at Rose Street, or to James Street and Pulver's Woods where Hastings Trailway and Pulver's Woods signs indicate an entrance.

Uniontown Park

Rose Street

A popular softball field, with a mix of trees and shrubs on three sides; a short footpath along the northeast side of the field above a steep drop-off toward Farragut Parkway; heavily-used children's playground

Uniontown Park, a 4.5-acre park at the south end of Rose Street off High Street, is enhanced by the adjoining 2.18 acres of Town lands adjacent to Farragut Parkway, which were dedicated as parkland in 1992.

The true origin of the name Uniontown is unknown. It was the winter home of the Weckquaesgeek Indian tribe, first-known residents of the area. Workers at the Old Marble Quarry lived in Uniontown. An account in the archives of the Hastings Historical Society by Maury Allen in the Journal News for February 12, 1999 suggests that Uniontown was the encampment site of the 40th New York Infantry serving in the Civil War under the command of General Phillip Kearney. The site was converted to a park by the Parks and Recreation Department in 1962.

DW, Ex, L, P, PE, RO, SP, SW, T, W

The Uniontown Hose Company No. 2 is located near the entrance on the west. A paved parking lot and a brown utility building are separated from the park proper by a wire

fence. On the left are a well-equipped play area and a portable toilet; drinking fountains are available. Children's play equipment in the park, as with play facilities in the other parks, is inspected during weekly maintenance, and assessed for adequacy and replacement once each year. Play equipment is about ten years old, while facilities in the other parks (Waterfront and Zinsser) are three to five years old.

A walkway leads to the softball field, used daily during the season; up to 26 teams are registered to play. A Little League diamond is located in the park. The west side of the grassy field is bordered by modest-sized trees and shrubs: maples, black cherries, sassafras, *Ailanthus*, and honeysuckle, grape, and porcelain berry vines, and multiflora rose bushes. Beyond this thin line of trees are some low rock outcrops.

Behind home plate, below private dwellings, a small basketball court is separated from the softball field by a wire fence; the green bleachers are a pleasant place to sit and rest while looking over the grassy field and tall trees of the park and neighborhood.

East of the bleachers a clump of woods is dominated by *Ailanthus* trees and five-leaf *Akebia* vines, raspberry bushes, oaks and cherry trees. A dead, many-branched tree, supporting poison ivy, is a good place to look for woodpeckers from the comfort of the bleachers. North of this tree, a footpath leads to the right past a black cherry tree on the left, and under a crabapple tree, located on a ridge above a steep drop-off on the right. Numerous rock outcrops are found in these open woods. The path ascends steadily, parallel to the softball field on the left or west, reaching a modest plateau before dropping quickly at a wire fence, a shed, more outcrops and, on the right, a low stone wall.

The path divides; the right branch ending above steep drop-offs while the left branch continues past the shed and emerges at the children's play area, under maples, a tall black cherry and abundant wild grape vines. Two picnic tables placed here make a pleasant place to sit and rest below the tall overhanging trees. A hedge on the north side of the play area consists of several types of vines, such as bittersweet (orange-red berries in October), porcelain berry (white-blue berries and variably shaped leaves), Virginia creeper and poison ivy.

Villagers will find this out-of-the way park a pleasant, safe and relaxing place to visit, and children will enjoy the play area.

From Uniontown Park, a walker can reach Pulver's Woods a few blocks away at the end of James Street.

Vestpocket Park

South Warburton Avenue

A small and simple passive park of 0.13 acres with benches and tables among trees and shrubs

Warburton Avenue, between street numbers 414 and 406, south of Division Street

Vestpocket Park was the site of Harvey's Castle, a cottage constructed by George Harvey, an artist, master builder and friend of Washington Irving. Harvey bought 20 acres of land in the 1830's that included the marble quarry southwest of what is now Draper Park. The cottage was built in the 1840's with dolomite marble from the quarry.

B, C, H, L, PT

Two openings in a black iron fence fronting Warburton Avenue mark the entrance to Vestpocket Park. A clump of English ivy, porcelain berry, grape vines, honeysuckle and juniper covers the wall on the left.

A new and striking addition to the park is the tall wooden "stockade" fence erected at the back of the park, extending for most of the width of the park. In its center, a modest but attractive sign indicates that the village received this under the Land and Water Conservation Fund as a cooperative project for outdoor recreation by the National Park Service and New York State Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation. The wooded area east of the fence was cleaned up in 2006 after some trees fell on the fence, a considerable improvement of benefit to the park.

Noticeable features of the park are the tables and benches. Five of six tables are designed for playing checkers; the sixth is large and round, and surrounded by wooden benches. In the front of the park (on the south or right) are two small trees, a littleleaf linden and a *Calleryana* pear. At the top of the steps to a modestly-raised upper level is a pleasant paved and brick walkway with side railings, and along the walkway are forsythia shrubs whose yellow flowers appear in spring.

The south wall of the park, adjacent to an apartment building (number 406), is covered with English ivy (shiny evergreen leaves), porcelain berry (purple-white berries in fall), and Virginia creeper vines (five leaflets growing from a central point; they turn red in fall). A single American beech tree grows in an open square among red tiles; it has a round crown, smooth bark and bright green leaves in summer that turn bright yellow in fall. Two semi-circular benches face each other on opposite sides of the beech. Benches on the far side (south) surround the large round cement table noted above.

In spite of its location on busy Warburton Avenue, Vestpocket Park is quiet and private, and apparently not much used. It is kept clean and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department but is in need of rehabilitation and maintenance. Opposite the park, Antoinette's Patisserie, 417 Warburton Avenue, is a pleasant shop in which to enjoy coffee and pastry.

Riverview Park

South Warburton Avenue

Riverview Park is divided into a basketball practice court and a children's playground/picnic area. The respective parts of the park are separated by a wire fence on all sides and a fence between the basketball court and lower park; the upper park is entered through a gate on Warburton while the lower park is entered by walking down seven steps to reach the lower level; tranquil (traffic on Warburton excepted); good place to bring children, have a picnic lunch and relax

West side of Warburton Avenue at south end of Hastings near Village boundary, overlooking Hudson River

Be, C, L, PE, PT, SP, SV, SW, T

Although only 0.78 acres in size, the park has a wide variety of plant and bird life, especially during spring and fall migration in the Hudson River flyway. At the entrance to the park on Warburton are three tall locust trees, red mulberries, holly, yew and three sycamore stumps. Along a wire fence on the west side of the park grow sugar maples and more locust trees that are festooned with poison ivy.

On the right of the seven steps to the picnic/play area is a tangle of shrubs and vines and many struggling sycamore maples, grape vines, red raspberries (a few) and much poison ivy. On the lower level area of the park, below the seven steps, are picnic tables, two benches, two teeter-totters and sandboxes. The north bench, largely hidden from view, is a quiet place from which to observe birds high in trees above. Along the south fence of the park are sizable white oaks and sugar maples; a large oak on the east side of the park was toppled during a wind storm and then cut into sections. On the fence row are Virginia creeper vines (five leaflets from a central point), wisteria vines (purple flowers in summer), *Ailanthus* (rank-smelling leaf), bittersweet (red/orange berries in late summer), and porcelain berry (white, then purple berries). This vine has a fascinating scientific name, *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, referring to a vine with short attachments to the berry.

When trees are leafless, there are good views of the Palisades and river. The DPW garage is below the park on Southside Avenue and a ravine on the south separates the park from the adjacent affordable housing project.

SPORTSFIELDS

Burke Estate

Farragut Avenue, Burnside Drive and South Broadway

Multipurpose recreational areas owned and maintained by the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District. Burke Estate has two main playing fields, woods, pathways, a spring, wet meadows and an attractive brooklet

Farragut Avenue on the east to Old Broadway on the west and Burnside Drive on the south

A 21-acre estate called Burkeley Crest, former home of Billie Burke (1886-1970), actress (Wizard of Oz), and Florenz Ziegfeld (1867-1932), producer (Ziegfield Follies) and their daughter Patricia, from 1916 until the early 1930's. A small zoo was maintained on the estate.

B, Be, C, DW, H, L, P, SP, SW

At the upper (east) end of the estate, the open playing field of seven acres is used by the school district as a multipurpose sports facility. The existing fields are used daily by the school district and on weekends by the village. Hastings residents also enjoy the grounds in a variety of outdoor activities and events, including public concerts.

In 2002, the School District authorized construction of a state-of-the-art, multipurpose field west of the existing soccer/baseball field. Construction of this new area was completed in April 2003. Two major sports facilities were established in this renovated area, a regulation ballfield and a very large soccer field; the renovated field is 350 x350 feet. No drinking fountains or toilets. Trees cut to make way for the landfill were replaced by over 50 trees, such as red maple, sugar maple, horse chestnut, American beech, red and pin oak and some deer-resistant shrubs such as bayberry, grapeholly (evergreens) and white *Erklanthus* (member of the heath family).

At the north end of the soccer field, on a bank above the 47-car parking lot, grows an ancient plant, a type of horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), that may not occur in any other site in Hastings. The scrubby woods on the south edge of the estate is still intact. White-tailed deer in this area are so acclimated to humans and disturbances that they were active observers during construction of the ballfields, according to the superintendent of buildings and grounds of the school district.

In spite of the transformation on the west side of school district property, the side near Broadway appears undamaged. A small brooklet near Burnside Drive arises from a bubbling spring, the clear water making a perfect environment for floating patches of star duckweed, an unusual aquatic plant with nearly microscopic flowers; a sharp eye can see the 3-5 veins on the lower surface of the leaves. Wood ducks have been seen in the brooklet. The slope provides excellent sledding in a snowy winter.

The brooklet flows north over several waterfalls before disappearing under Broadway and emerging in a ravine north of Washington Avenue, flowing under Broadway and

eventually under the OCA and through the tunnel south of Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1. The brooklet feeds a wet area on the south side of the entrance where willows, cattails and *Phragmites* grass grow. A large and uncommon balsam poplar has fallen in the wet area. It has triangular shaped leaves and sticky terminal buds with a very pleasant fragrance. On the north side a tangle of vines climbs over fallen willow trees among bulbous buttercup and touch-me-not.

Between the respective stone culverts and waterfalls, bird watchers should look carefully in the low wet area known as the “duck pond” near Broadway for wood ducks and mallards dabbling in the water, and for phoebes darting from overhanging limbs to catch insects above the pussy willow-lined brooklet, and for Carolina wrens moving quickly about in the shrubby tangles. Cardinals, nuthatches, chickadees, red-winged blackbirds and downy woodpeckers are present at almost any time of day in spring and summer.

A wood chip path beginning at Burnside Drive (a black and white sign here says “Pathway to High-Middle School”) was extended and improved in March 2003 for the safety of school children going to and from the schools; it parallels a decrepit, ivy-covered stone fence and runs north for about 1000 feet up a modest slope past Hopke Avenue to the upper open field. Maples, basswoods, oaks, pink-flowered Tartarian honeysuckles and yellow-flowered forsythia shrubs line the path.

Walking west from the estate, across Broadway, a connection can be made with Draper Park and the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway. A sign indicating entrance to the Hastings Historical Society will guide a walker to Draper Park, then west to Washington Avenue, via stone steps to the Trailway.

Reynolds Field

Chauncey Lane

Reynolds Field, 7.5 acres in size and the property of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, has seven main features of interest: four tennis courts, a basketball court, children's play area, track and playing field, a flood control berm, a wet detention area and a village-owned footpath parallel to a flowing brooklet

Five Corners at Main Street, Broadway and Chauncey Lane, east to Farlane Drive

The field is named after Thomas F. Reynolds, who was president (1912-1916 and 1921-1927), then mayor of Hastings (1927-1932) when the title was changed.

B, Be, DW, L, P, PE, PT, SP, SW, T

Reynolds Field is an interesting complex of a multipurpose sports area (baseball, football, basketball, soccer, exercise areas, track, tennis), a flood control berm and associated wooded water-detention pond, bird habitat, a brooklet and a semi-paved footpath east of the berm leading to Farlane Drive and Chemka pool.

The field is one of the most popular recreation areas in the village. There is scarcely a day when no one is on the track, tennis courts or in the children's play area. Parks and

Recreation is responsible for maintenance of the portable toilet and the play area at the west end of the field; it provides play equipment supplied by Gametime of Hawthorn, N.Y., based on recommendations of an *ad hoc* group of residents. Equipment is inventoried twice per year to assess needs for new additions or replacements, and inspected on a weekly basis in summer during grounds maintenance. Specifications for the equipment are federally regulated, and equipment was installed by certified play equipment contractors. Most recent installations were a sandbox, a simulated seesaw, and other play equipment in 2000. The tennis courts are maintained by the school district.

Tall sycamore trees above the basketball court attract a variety of birds, among them a nesting Baltimore oriole. Early in the morning ring-billed gulls, starlings, crows and robins feed in the open field in flocks. In the southeast corner of the track, near metal bleachers, yellow-flowered coltsfoot grows on dirt piles, flowering in mid-April. This dandelion-like flower soon disappears but its coltsfoot-like leaves, white on the undersurface, persist throughout much of the summer. Some Star-of-Bethlehem plants bloom on the slope of concrete benches on the north side of the field; the green petals have white margins.

A flood control berm was built by the school board in 2001, 30 feet east of the track, to control floods; Reynolds Field was severely disrupted after a flood caused by Hurricane Floyd. The berm, designed to control a 10-year flood from the 166-acre watershed above the structure, was built with a \$86,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to a height that would not allow flood waters to reach adjacent private property. A 36-inch culvert at the foot of the berm, and a rock spillway on the south end allows overflows for floods greater than the 10-year flood.

The footpath from Reynolds Field to Farlane Drive can be reached by ascending a steep path at the south end of the berm. Such passage is probably not beneficial to maintenance of the berm but, since the path is village property, exclusion of walkers may not be possible.

Behind the berm a detention basin holds water during high flows. The area is usually wet from seepage of the brooklet, seen on the right when walking towards Farlane Drive and Chemka Pool on a partially-paved path. A number of tall cottonwoods, locusts, sycamores and maples are interspersed with multiflora rose bushes, Japanese knotweed and honeysuckle vines. Some dead and rotting trees attract woodpeckers and nuthatches. Robins, purple grackles, starlings, red-winged blackbirds, chickadees, and a pair of mallards have been seen here and, one year, a northern water-thrush fed in the shallow water.

Japanese knotweeds dominate the low vegetation. On the left of the path that emerges onto Farlane Drive, tall oaks, sugar maples and tulip trees form a small copse. School students, who often leave their trash behind, frequently use logs paralleling the path as benches. A rubber tire and rope installed at one side of the brooklet makes a popular swing for local youth.

ANNEX A. CHARACTERISTICS, LENGTH, SIZE

Area Described in Text	Characteristics	Length	Acres
Hillside Park, Farlane Drive to Chemka Pool	Ex,P,RO,S,W,(T,DW).	500	49.9
Hillside Park, Tennis Courts to Sugar Pond	Ex,H,P,R,RO,S,W,	800	
Hillside Park, Sugar Pond	B,PT,RO,SV,W,		0.66
Hillside Park, Sugar Pond to Judson Avenue	B,Ex,H,RO,S,W	800	
Hillside Woods, Judson Avenue to Meadow	Ex,H,RO,S,SV,W	1,000	48
Hillside Woods, Meadow to Vernal Pond	Ex,H,RO,SV,W	500	
Hillside Woods, Algonquin Trail	B,Ex,RO,S,SV,W	3,600 (total)	
Hillside Woods, West Bluff Diversion	B,Ex,RO,W,SV,W		
Lefurgy Park Trail	B,Ex,RO,W	1,200	2.5
Smaller Farragut Parkway Trail	B,L,RO	500	1.0
Pulver's Woods Trail	Ex,RO,S,SW	400	3.26
Ravensdale Woods Trail	Ex,RO,S,W	400	5.25
Rowley's Bridge Trail	B,Be,H,L,RO,S,SV,SW,W	2,300	6.0
OCA, Flower Avenue to Minturn	B,H,L,SV,SW,W	2.1 mi.	15.8
OCA, Minturn Street to Edgar's Lane		--	
OCA, Edgar's Lane to Villard Avenue		--	
OCA, Villard Avenue to Five Corners		--	
OCA, Five Corners to Washington Avenue		--	
OCA, Washington Avenue to Pinecrest Drive		--	
OCA, Pinecrest Drive to Riverpointe Development		--	
South County (Putnam) Trailway	B,H,L,P,R,SV,W	1.1 Mi.	13.6
South County Trailway, Shutowick Park	H,L,R,W	175x63'	1.3
Summit Drive Steps	S,SV	150 ft	
Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, Footpath	B,Ex,S,W	300	
Farragut Footpath	C,Ex,L	400	
Jefferson Avenue Steps	C,S,SW	500	
Pinecrest Parkway Steps	Ex,S,SV,SW	500	
Riverpointe Easement	S,SV,W	200	
Clinton/Stanley Avenue Footpath	H,S		
Zinsser Park, Gardens, Footpath	B,Be,C,DW,L,P,PE,PT,SP,SW,T		7.3
Villard Park	Be,C,L,SV		0.5
Sheldon Wagner Plaza	Be,C,L		0.25
VFW Park	Be,C,SV		0.32
Fulton Park, South, East, North	Be,C,L,P,PT,SV,T		1.5
MacEachron Waterfront Park	Be,C,L,P,PE,PT,SV,T		1.3
Draper Park	Be,C,L,PT,SV,SW,T		10.0
Dan Rile Memorial Park	B,Be,Ex,L,RO,SW	500	1.17
Uniontown Park	DW,Ex,L,P,PE,T,RO,SP,SW,T		4.5
Vestpocket Park	B,C,H,L,PT		0.13
Riverview Park	Be,C,L,PE,SP,SW,T		0.75
Burke Estate	B,Be,C,DW,H,L,P,SP,SW		21
Reynolds Field	B,Be,L,P,PE,PT,SP,SW,	1500	7.5
All lengths approximate			

Symbols Indicating Principal Characteristics

B brooklet or river	PT picnic tables
Be benches	R ruins
C cultivated, park-like	RO rock outcrops
DW drinking water	S steep
Ex exposed rocks and roots	SP sport facilities
H historical interest	SV scenic views
L level	SW sparsely wooded
P parking	T toilets
PE play equipment	W densely wooded

ANNEX B. USER PREFERENCE TABLE

	Trails	Footpaths	Children's Playground	Garden	Sports	Scenic Views	Benches	Picnic Table	Natural	PAGE
Hillside Park, Farlane Drive to Chemka Pool	X					X			X	15
Hillside Park, Tennis Courts to Sugar Pond	X					X			X	17
Hillside Park, Sugar Pond		X				X		X	X	18
Hillside Park, Sugar Pond to Judson Avenue	X					X			X	19
Hillside Woods, Judson Avenue to Meadow	X					X			X	21
Hillside Woods, Meadow to Vernal Pond		X				X			X	21
Hillside Woods, Algonquin Trail	X					X			X	22
Hillside Woods, West Bluff Diversion	X					X			X	25
Lefurgy Park Trail		X				X			X	26
Smaller Farragut Parkway Trail		X								27
Pulver's Woods Trail		X							X	28
Ravensdale Woods Trail		X				X			X	29
Rowley's Bridge Trail	X					X	X	X	X	31
OCA, Flower Avenue to Minturn		X								35
OCA, Minturn Street to Edgar's Lane		X								35
OCA, Edgar's Lane to Villard Avenue		X								36
OCA, Villard Avenue to Five Corners		X								36
OCA, Five Corners to Washington Avenue		X								37
OCA, Washington Avenue to Pinecrest Drive		X				X				38
OCA, Pinecrest Drive to Riverpointe Develop	X					X				39
South County (Putnam) Trailway	X									40
South County Trailway, Shutowick Park		X								42
Summit Drive Steps		X				X				44
Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, Footpath		X				X			X	45
Farragut Footpath		X								47
Jefferson Avenue Steps		X				X				48
Pinecrest Parkway Steps		X				X				49
Riverpointe Easement		X				X			X	50
Clinton/Stanley Avenue Footpath		X							X	
Zinsser Park, Gardens, Footpath		X	X	X	X	X	X			52
Villard Park							X			54
Sheldon Wagner Plaza							X			55
VFW Park							X			56
Fulton Park, South, East, North		X				X	X	X		58
MacEachron Waterfront Park		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	61
Draper Park		X				X		X		62
Dan Rile Memorial Park		X					X			64
Uniontown Park		X	X		X	X		X		64
Vestpocket Park		X					X	X		66
Riverview Park		X	X			X	X	X		67
Burke Estate		X			X	X				68
Reynolds Field		X	X		X		X	X		69

ANNEX C TRAILWAY CONNECTIONS

OCA* and Hastings TFP**

Minturn Street to Edgar's Lane
 Zinsser Park ballfield
 Zinsser Park footpath to Zinsser Park children's play area
 Sheldon Wagner Plaza, Maple Lane and Squirrel Alley
 Villard Park
 VFW Park
 Fulton Park
 Waterfront Park
 Villard Avenue to Five Corners
 Reynolds Field to Hillside Park and Woods
 Five Corners to Washington Avenue
 Hook and Ladder Co. 1 footpath
 Washington Avenue to Pinecrest Drive
 Draper Park
 Quarry Lane
 Pinecrest Drive to Riverpointe Development
 Rowley's Bridge Trail
 Riverpointe Easement and Lenoir Nature Preserve

Hastings TFP** to OCA*

Zinsser Park
 Minturn Street to Edgar's Lane
 Reynolds Field
 Villard Avenue to Five Corners
 Hook and Ladder No. 1
 Five Corners to Washington Avenue
 Draper Park
 Washington Avenue to Pinecrest Drive
 Quarry Lane
 Washington Avenue to Pinecrest Drive
 Rowley's Bridge Trail
 Pinecrest Drive to Riverpointe
 Riverpointe Easement
 Pinecrest Drive to Riverpointe

- *OCA, Old Croton Aqueduct, **TFP, Trailways, Footpaths and Parks

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ANNEX E. MAPS
HASTINGS TRAILWAY AND PARKS MAP



LEGEND

	Trails		Business District
	Trails-Difficult Terrain		Private Institution
	South County Trailway		Public Green Space
	Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA)		School Property
	Stairs		State or/County Land
	Streams		

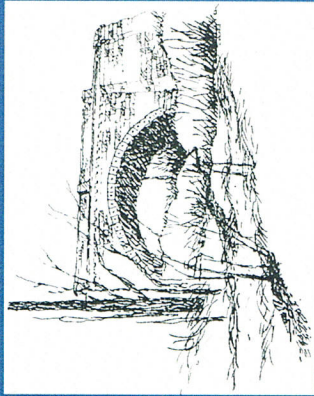
SYMBOLS:

	accessibility
	ball field
	bicycle path
	building
	community garden
	marina
	marshland
	parking
	picnic tables
	playgrounds
	police/municipal building
	library
	rock formation
	rollerblading
	skateboard park
	tennis courts
	track/jogging

Sites of Historical Interest

- 1 Zinsser Park-Red Oaks, Oldest Trees in Hastings
- 2 Zinsser Park-Battle of Edgars Lane, 1778
- 3 Hamilton Street Quarry
- 4 High Street-Hastings Prototype House, 1936
- 5 Draper Park-Hastings Historical Society
- 6 Marble Quarry, first Hastings Industry, 1828

Rowley's Bridge



sketch by Christina Griffin

ROWLEY'S BRIDGE / OCA TRAILWAY

- 1 Entrance (Southside Avenue)
- 2 Plateau-Hastings Beautification Committee
- 3 MTA Turnaround/scenic viewing
- 4 Viewing
- 5 View of Rowley's Bridge
- 6 Pinetum I
- 7 OCA (Old Croton Aqueduct) culvert
- 8 Footbridge/reflecting pool
- 9 Pinetum II
- 10 Tree stumps/scenic viewing
- 11 Trail access to Warburton Avenue and OCA

Rowley's brook and bridge are named after the Rowley family, who settled in the Pinecrest area of Hastings in 1846. They were gentleman farmers who cultivated grapevines for their vineyard.

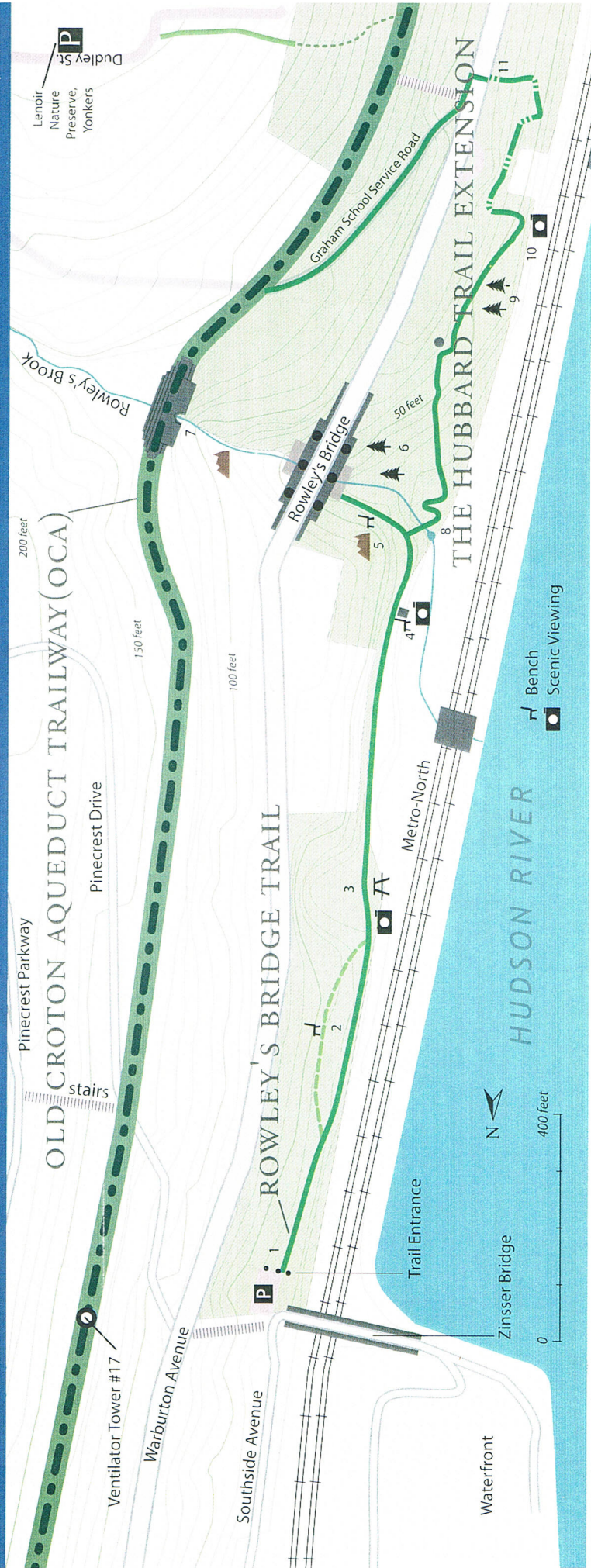
The 100-foot stone arch masonry bridge was designed in 1892 by Samuel L. Cooper and was an integral part of the Warburton Avenue Extension Program, linking Yonkers with Hastings between 1893-98.

For a complete map of the OCA, call 693-5259.

OCA culvert above Rowley's Brook



© Frederick Charles/
Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct



ANNEX F. PLANS FOR NEW AREAS

Graham-Windham Open Space

At a ceremony in Waterfront Park on April 13, 2001, Governor George Pataki announced a state award of \$335,000 to the village. The grant was used to help purchase 14.25 acres of open space in Hastings that was owned by the Graham-Windham School. Total cost of the land to be acquired is \$670,000, the appraised value. The village and Westchester County supported acquisition by providing the balance.

At the request of the village planner, a natural resources inventory was made of the four plots that make up the 14.25 acres. A report was prepared, "Natural Resources Inventory Report, Graham-Windham Properties," and submitted to the Board of Trustees and Village Manager in September 2001. The report is available at the Hastings Public Library and Village Manager's Office. A summary of the report is reproduced below.

An inventory was conducted of the natural and related resources of 14.25 acres of Graham-Windham properties in Hastings-on-Hudson for the purpose of cataloging background information in support of acquisition of these properties by the village. Assistance in conducting the inventory was provided by the village planner, the staffs of Graham-Windham School, North Yonkers Community Church and Andrus on Hudson Home, and by private parcel owners in the Rowley's Brook watershed, whose property is relevant to the inventory but not part of the 14.25 acres.

The parcels slope gradually from the Graham-Windham campus westward to the Croton Aqueduct and Warburton Avenue and then descend sharply to the Metro-North tracks and the Hudson River.

Each parcel was visited and its vegetation recorded in a common format. The parcels differ in size and shape and in types of vegetation. Three of the parcels, P. 36, P.37 and P. 4, are densely wooded oak-maple forest, with some occasional but very large trees, such as tulip, sycamore, sassafras, black birch, mulberry and chestnut oak.

On each side of Warburton Avenue and of the Croton Aqueduct, this nearly uninterrupted greenspace is unique in an otherwise suburban built-up area. It is an environmental safety zone for watershed protection of the Croton Aqueduct Trailway, Warburton Avenue, MTA tracks and the Hudson River. None of these areas is threatened now because of the extensive vegetation in the Rowley's Brook watershed and because property owners in the watershed have no new development plans, except for the Andrus on Hudson Home which would have little impact on the vegetated watershed. Some stream bank erosion is evident in a few places in the watershed.

The parcels are in an environment where Hastings residents and others from nearby communities could enjoy an accessible, nearly pristine green buffer with magnificent views of the Hudson River and Palisades in an area rich in history and cultural amenities. The village officially acquired the property July 21, 2003.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP)

A proposed waterfront plan was prepared by hundreds of individuals—Hastings residents, architects, planners and urban designers—for revitalizing a derelict waterfront in Hastings. The LWRP and the LWRP Community Planning Forum produced a plan for a mixed-use waterfront that would offer recreational opportunities, open space and cultural attractions and a mix of housing and commercial uses.

Of special interest to users of this guide is the possible connection to the waterfront from Main Street by way of a widened and improved pedestrian street, a new pedestrian bridge connection with the Quarry Lane to the waterfront and an esplanade lining the waterfront for walking, biking, picnicking and enjoying the river. Potential rehabilitation of Zinsser Bridge and increased traffic may also concern users of Rowley's Bridge Trail.

A map by the Regional Planning Association, Community Waterfront plan was prepared and is available at the village planning department, http://hastingsgov.org/waterfront_plan.htm

Kinnally Cove

Formerly known as Waterfront Cove and Marinello Cove before it was purchased by the village in March 2002 for \$225,000 and renamed in honor of mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr., who played a key role in negotiations to acquire the property. It is located south of MacEachron Waterfront Park on River Street, opposite the train station. When developed, it will be an extension of the park.

Plans for development of the cove were prepared in cooperation with the village planning director, McLaran Engineering Group and the NYSDEC in 2006; plans call for protection of the benthic-subsurface strata. NYSDEC proposed that a breakwater be erected as a "Wave Deflector" to mitigate wakes caused by passing vessels and that a fixed land ramp be established in lieu of a floating pier so that people using a six to eight-foot ramp would be able to access it from the water at all times. The proposal suggested that a permit to begin construction in the fall could be issued and work undertaken by the end of the year.

Other improvements will be needed, involving cleanup up of the south end between the tidal wet area and an unpaved road north of the tennis court "bubble".

Access to the cove would reward visitors with good views of the tidal inlet and surrounding area. Since the cove is a dynamic tidal environment, it provides two types of habitat per day for aquatic-oriented birds—those feeding from the surface when the tide is in and those feeding in mud flats when the tide is out. Adjacent to the cove, sitting on pilings in the river, cormorants, ring-billed gulls and great black-backed gulls are common in summer. Occasionally, an osprey may be seen above the river, wheeling overhead looking for a free lunch of fish.

The cove could provide much needed access to the river for small boat launching and for observing wildlife. The Village undertook a planning study of the cove and adjacent park and tennis club with the help of a \$5,000 grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway Small Grants Program.

A tidal marshland habitat will be created, probably at the south edge of the cove. Funds to develop Kinnally Cove are in total amounts of \$175,000 to be received as grants from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Department

of Environmental Conservation, Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Hudson River Improvement Fund. Full development is expected to take several years.

Old Marble Quarry and Quarry Lane

The Hastings Quarry, circa 1828, and the Quarry Lane are interrelated parts of the first industry in what is now known as Hastings-on-Hudson. An article by Mary Allison in the May 1985 issue of the Hastings Historian describes the history of this industry.

In 1828 the land and area around the quarry was owned by Van Burgh Livingston, who sold it to George Harvey, a painter and friend of Washington Irving. Harvey leased the quarry in 1835 to Elisha Bloomer, who worked the quarry and built the inclined railway to carry unfinished dolomite marble limestone to docks on the river for dressing and subsequent shipment by sailboat to New York and other places, for construction of what was known as the "best Westchester marble." The quarry ceased operations in 1871.

The quarry was five and one half acres in size, 900 feet long and 150 feet deep from the top of the eastern cliff. It had a long and deep pond, which supplied water through 50 pipes to the Anaconda Cable and Wire Company. That operation ceased in 1955.

In the 1930's the quarry was purchased by Dr. Arthur Langmuir, a chemist and master photographer. Thousands of his photos are cataloged in the Hastings Historical Society archives. Dr. Langmuir converted the quarry into a park with a pond, gardens, gravel paths and benches. He offered the park to the village, which turned him down, probably because of liability and cost of maintenance.

In 1964, the quarry was established by the village as a dump, in view of limited sites elsewhere and the growing amounts of refuse. In 1977, the Village Conservation Commission recommended that the quarry be converted into a park when its refuse capacity was reached. The quarry is now closed for that purpose.

Quarry Lane, the site of the inclined railway, may be reached from the Aqueduct Trail, about 200 feet south of Washington Avenue. An easier access is from Marble Terrace, where the tunnel under the Aqueduct may be seen on the east simply by leaning over a six-foot wall. Built before the Aqueduct, the inclined railway right of way was 575 feet long and 15 feet wide, and ran under the bridge on the Aqueduct and under Warburton Avenue. It also must have run through a tunnel underneath the New York Central rail tracks to reach the docks. Neither the inclined railway tracks nor the New York Central tunnel can be found today.

Several uses for the abandoned quarry have been suggested, such as a park, planted forest, nature preserve, nursery, ballfield and public gardens. The potential quarry lane could serve as another trail in the Hastings system, extending from the quarry to Southside Avenue and connecting with waterfront or Greenway Trails and Rowley's Bridge Trail.

Developing a footpath east of the OCA leading to the bridge entrance could create access to the lane. Refuse removal would be required in the area east of the bridge/tunnel entrance below the former site of the municipal dump.

The potential trail needs to be cleaned up, especially under the Croton Aqueduct Bridge entrance and under the Warburton Avenue Bridge (the latter appears to be a storage-warehouse for local residents), cleared of some vegetation and prepared as a walking path. The State of New York has awarded the village \$75,000 for this purpose.

The Lane was deeded to the village in 2006.

ANNEX G

ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM (AATP)

The village initiated an Adopt-A-Trail Program (AATP) in March 2005 to maintain and rehabilitate trails. The program was initially designed in response to concerns about the long-term survivability of the railway system and because of inadequate numbers of personnel who could work as groups on a scheduled basis. Volunteers, working as individuals or in groups, respond to these concerns and fill manpower gaps of overstressed resources in the village recreational infrastructure by selecting a trail or section of a trail that is readily accessible or has special interests or appealing characteristics.

Under the AATP, volunteers may assume responsibility for rehabilitation and maintenance of a trail or section of a trail and determine when and how they wish to work, according to their own schedule and capabilities. Maintaining the quality of trails to avoid potential deterioration and loss of valuable recreational resources is a compelling reason for implementing the Adopt-A-Trail program.

A Guide for Trailway Rehabilitation and Maintenance was prepared to help volunteers who may not have been engaged previously in rehabilitation and maintenance work and those who have some experience and wish to improve their efforts. The guide suggests specific activity volunteers may pursue. Activities are grouped into three categories: Elementary Rehabilitation and Maintenance, Mid-level Activities and Heavy-duty Construction which volunteers supervise. Each category implicitly accounts for age, capabilities and experience of volunteers. The guide is illustrated with photos showing examples of rehabilitation and maintenance practices that have been used in the Hastings railway system.

ANNEX H

HASTINGS BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

With only a small number of volunteers, the Committee plays a very significant and visible role in making “Hastings a neat place to live.”

Evidence of Committee work may be seen on almost every street corner, and places between, in downtown Hastings, such as 14 planted barrels, 70 hanging flower pots, numerous window box plantings and seasonal decorations on pots and in village offices. In addition to these mini-projects, members of the informal committee have taken on larger-scale projects, such as plantings at the Community Center, VFW, American Legion, Chemka Pool, library and municipal building, Wagner Plaza, entrance to Zinsser Park, Villard Park, village entry signs, Rowley’s Bridge Trail, and it recognizes Arbor Day with tree plantings.

All this is done by a limited number of volunteers, some quite elderly, but still skilled and active. There were 12 regular members in 2001.

The Committee had its organizational meeting in the village hall October 22, 1990. Sue Smith and Beth Flanz were founding leaders at the request of Mayor Frances MacEachron. Previously, the Hastings Women’s Club had taken care of this responsibility. At that meeting the Committee established its objectives as

- Produce a map of public areas in Hastings
- Organize cleanup campaigns
- Accept responsibility for weeding, pruning and cleaning up public areas
- Place greens in specific locations for the holiday season

The above indicates how Committee work has expanded to the currently visible state—no insignificant achievement for a small group of active volunteers.

One secret to the Committee’s success is the creative organization and imaginative thinking of its leaders, who hold regular but informal planning sessions to coordinate and map out seasonal or annual projects and responsibilities of its members. They participate in field trips, flower shows and workshops, visit floral sites and attend selected programs of group interest, at their own expense.

One innovative approach of their work is the “adopt a barrel” or “adopt a spot” concept for individuals to work on their own, at their own pace, and according to personal skills. This unique approach encourages responsibility and enhances feelings of personal accomplishment.

Some financial support for Committee work is provided by the village and private organizations, but the main source of support is from member contributions.

The main problem of the Committee is to recruit volunteers. More help is always needed. Anyone wishing to work is invited to help, not necessarily to “join up” (there is no formal organization), but to do whatever they can, on their own time, drawing on their respective skills and interests.

For information about Committee work and how to become involved, contact Sue Smith, 478-1456, e-mail Suesmith99@aol.com.

ANNEX I

FRIENDS OF THE OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT

The Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct (FOCA) is a non-profit volunteer organization formed to protect and preserve the Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) of the Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park. The 26.2 mile-long aqueduct was built in 1837-1842 to transmit clean drinking water to New York City from the Croton Reservoir in Westchester County. A portion of the OCA transects Hastings-on-Hudson from Flower Avenue to the Yonkers boundary for a distance of about 2 miles. FOCA works to raise public awareness of the Aqueduct and Trailway and to secure resources that will enable this historic greenway to remain unspoiled in perpetuity.

FOCA members help maintain the Trailway by removing trash and monitoring its conditions and by means of a newsletter. They alert the public to any possible disturbances that may be harmful to protection and upkeep of the Trailway. They conduct educational workshops and guided tours, such as one conducted in Hastings on October 29, 2000, from Five Corners in Hastings to the Graham-Windham School area.

FOCA encourages the public to use the trailway for recreational purposes, such as hiking, cross-country skiing, bird and nature appreciation. (See text in the guide, **Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) Flower Avenue South to Riverpointe Development**). From the OCA in Hastings, the Trailway serves as a launching pad in Zinsser Park for sledding when snow is on the ground, an extremely popular activity in winter.

FOCA helps to maintain this environment for public use and in turn welcomes cooperation and assistance from the village and residents in doing so. Hastings has the largest number of dues-paying members of FOCA, 150 total.

In Hastings recently, FOCA has initiated public effort to eliminate the unsightly and smelly conditions in the Hastings municipal dump, the site of the former marble quarry, and to reduce drainage from the dump onto the Aqueduct by distributing alertness-flyers and organizing local residents to form improvement committees. The committees, now organized, successfully petitioned the Hastings Board of Trustees to close the dump. FOCA and the committees are working now to clean up the dump and turn it into a multipurpose outdoor facility.

FOCA schedules educational walks on the OCA; more walks have been scheduled in the year 2003 than any other year. Hastings can help FOCA by promoting linkages from the OCA to other trails in Hastings, such as the Rowley Bridge Trail from the aqueduct to Warburton Avenue via the Graham-Windham service road.

FOCA welcomes volunteers to enjoy associating with its members and to help with its work. To join FOCA, send request forms to the Old Croton Aqueduct Overseers House, 15 Walnut Street, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. 10522; contact Mavis Cain, President, 693 0529 or call the Friend's Office at the Trailer in Dobbs Ferry, 693 4117. Membership fee is \$10; members receive the FOCA newsletter.

ANNEX J

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY RAMBLE

The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson was invited to participate in the seventh annual Hudson River Valley Ramble, September 16, 2006. The Hudson River Valley Ramble is sponsored by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Hudson River Valley Greenway with assistance from the Hudson River Estuary Program, NYSDEC.

Sponsors requested that Rowley's Bridge Trail be the site in Hastings for the event. The Ramble will begin at 10:00 am at the entrance to Rowley's Bridge Trail at the south end of Southside Avenue in Hastings, located approximately three-fourths of a mile south of the Hastings train station.

Maps, guides and a photo display showing the trail's development history will be available at the welcome table. Tour guides from Hastings will lead "Ramblers" along the 2300 foot trail, up a steep slope ending at Warburton Avenue, opposite the Graham-Windham service road. Lunch will be served to Ramblers, courtesy Atlantic Richfield Company and Maud's Tavern.

Rambles feature walks, hikes, kayaking, biking and cultural events and showcase the scenic, natural, historic and cultural riches found throughout the 10 counties of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area that extends from Westchester and Rockland counties to the Capital Region, and along the 153-mile length of the Hudson River Estuary.

The program offers events for every ability level, including many that are family-friendly. Many events are also free. For a program guide, call (800) 453-6665 or visit www.hudsonvalleyramble.com

ANNEX K
LIST OF PLANTS RECENTLY INSTALLED IN PARKS AND TRAILS

Fulton (Library) Park South

Trees and Shrubs

Highbush cranberry
 Gray dogwood
 Low gallery holly
 White pine
 Yew
 Azalia
 Sugar maple
 Heritage birch

Boulanger Plaza (VFW Park)

Shrubs

Rosy glow barberry
 Buddleia
 Caryopteris dark knight
 Weeping black Atlantic cedar
 Annabelle hydrangea
 Ilex crenata
 Henrys garnet
 Dwarf garden juniper
 Kerria japonica
 Taxus hicksii
 Knockout rose
 Red meidland rose
 Spirea nipponica

Vines

Mme Galen trumpet vine
Clematis
 Rosa golden showers
 Blaze rose
 Ivy
Iberis sempervirens

Beth's Garden, Rowley's Bridge Trail

**Trees, Shrubs, Flowering Plants,
 Ferns**

2 Japanese maples
 4 Winterberry (*Ilex verticilla*)
 1 butterfly bush
 wild ginger
Lamium
 Violets
 Lilly of the valley
 Japanese painted ferns
 Bleeding heart
 Sweet woodruff
 3 rose bushes

East Slope Plantings

Aconite
 Grape hyacinth
 Glory of the snow (*Chionodoxa*)
 Crocus
 Scilla (Squill)