

2014 City of Kingston Environmental Program Annual Report



Everette Hodge Center – Preparing the Summer Garden

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The Importance of the Environmental Program

Since 2005, the City of Kingston's environmental education staff has helped the City become a leader in environmental awareness and stewardship. The City's Environmental Program's mission is to:

- develop and facilitate unique programs designed to educate the public about the local environment
- focus on creating a more positive energy to solve environmental issues while saving tax payer dollars and leveraging public and private investments
- strive to make Kingston a more sustainable and healthy community through programs, capital projects, education, stewardship and environmental services

Each of these areas are detailed in the following report.

Trends in 2014

The City environmental education staff acknowledges the importance of the "green movement," which recognizes the economic advantages of smart, high performing sustainable practices, and has continued to educate Kingston citizens and visitors on this topic. Staff has observed the influence and growth of the green economy and has increasingly used that awareness to identify the importance of opportunities and the potential to improve the quality of life in Kingston.

Staff continues to develop unique and fun ways to connect youth to the outdoors at a time when prevailing lifestyles have led to a decrease in time and outside activities for all age levels.

Staff continues to refine the environmental education programs by focusing on and promoting sustainable solutions through the education of adults and children with increased program access by instituting online program registration throughout the Parks and Recreation Department, while also expanding new outdoor programming in the area of recreation, including cycling.

Recognizing its tremendous influence on many peoples' lives, the staff has embraced social media and exponentially increased their use of many forums, including Facebook, email newsletters, and a new registration website: www.kingstonparksandrec.org. Staff also reworked multiple pages and sections on www.kingston-ny.gov which was launched at the end of 2014 with new information as well as easy to find park information. Each of these has greatly expanded the reach of communication with members and visitors. Direct online reach at the close of 2014 included:

- 1,327 website members and 4,678 Kingston Parks and Recreation Facebook "Friends"
- 669 Kingston Parks and Recreation public Facebook page "Likes"
- 1261 Forsyth Nature Center public Facebook page "Likes"
- 161 Everette Hodge Community Center public page "Likes"

In 2014, the staff was successful in the development and award of various local, state and federal funds allowing the City to capitalize on the sustainability and efficiency movement. During this time, grant funding was very competitive, which allowed staff to work more cooperatively with outside agencies and not for profit organizations to continue to further the City's goals.

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Environmental Education by the Numbers

School Programs

Number of Individual Programs	109
Types of Programs	15
Number of Schools/Groups	19
Number of Classes/Teachers	74
Number of Students	2353
Transportation Revenue Generated	\$551

Supported in part by: The Ulster County Youth Bureau, Office of Children and Family Services; NYS DEC and DOS Watershed Grants; NYS DEC Recycling Grant; NYS ZBGA Grant Program



Program Highlights

A major component of the environmental education staff's jobs is to develop and deliver environmental education programming year round. This involves researching, preparing and developing curriculum, acquiring, purchasing and managing materials for programs, marketing programs, tracking data and reporting, managing volunteers, interns and staff assistants, communicating with teachers and program participants before and after programs, delivering the programs and evaluating successes and opportunities for growth and change after each program.

Throughout the school year, environmental education staff facilitates free or low cost outdoor, nature based, education programs for classes in grades preK-12. Additionally, indoor nature programs are hosted within local schools, primarily within the Kingston City School District on a weekly basis.

Field Based Programs

Hudson River Ecology
Forsyth Nature Center Discovery
Forsyth Nature Center Zoology
Kayaking 101
Maple Sugaring
Into the Forest Hikes at Hasbrouck Park

In-Class Programs

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...ReTHINK
What's a Watershed?
Winter Bird Watch

Additionally, in 2013, environmental education staff trained, tested and became certified Commercial Drivers in order to be able to provide transportation to each school as part of the program offering. Each school that opts in is able to receive van transportation for their students, to and from the field visits.

The Parks and Recreation Department effectively manages online registration and program enrollment through the web portal, Kingstonparksandrec.org. This portal allowed teachers to easily register for programming in the City parks while reducing in-office phone calls and emails, for a more stream-lined process.

Goals/Vision for 2015

- Administer evaluations to teachers to assess efficacy and demand for programs

Public Environmental Programs

Number of Programs	39
Types of Programs	23
Number of Youth Participants	354
Number of Adult Participants	342
Programming Revenue	\$336

Supported in part by: The Ulster County Youth Bureau, Office of Children and Family Services; NYS DEC and DOS Watershed Grants; NYS DEC Recycling Grant; ALCOA Foundation, NYS ZBGA Grant Program and NYS DOH Creating Healthy Places Program



Program Highlights

As part of the menu of programs that are offered as part of the Kingston Parks and Recreation's Environmental Education Programs, staff develop, create, market, deliver and evaluate a range of public nature based programs throughout the year. These programs change annually, based on program evaluation and community demand. Staff develop and manage all materials for these programs.

Public environmental programming, marketed under the "Forsyth Nature Center," includes an array of free family programs, offered at the Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston Point Park, and Hasbrouck Park and in other City Parks around Kingston. These programs include:

- A Naturalist's Passport: a 14 week family nature series in the parks
- Adult Nature Walks: a 7 month hiking series for adults and seniors in local natural areas
- Composting 101: a demonstration and lecture style waste reduction program
- Rain Harvesting: a demonstration and lecture style storm water management program
- Maple Sugaring: a demonstration and engagement family maple syrup demonstration program

The Forsyth Nature Center also promotes other events and programs including birding programs offered by the John Burroughs Natural History Society, events co-sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension including the Plant Swap and Live Well Kingston and a variety of family oriented events sponsored by the Junior League of Kingston and other Kingston organizations.

With the support of grant funding, all public programs are provided at no charge to City residents and visitors. This allows the Forsyth Nature Center to continue to welcome people of all income levels the opportunity to experience high quality, family oriented programs right here in their community.

In addition to public programs, environmental education staff also provide private programs to interested groups, for example scout group and local youth group hikes, kayaking, fishing, snowshoeing, and FNC Tours. These programs, as they are outside of the normal public registration programs, require a nominal fee.

Goals/Vision for 2015

- Increase outreach and marketing to increase program attendance
- Catalogue all environmental education materials to inventory Parks and Recreation assets

Junior Naturalist Program

Program Participants	97
Program Revenue	\$19,755

Program Highlights

The Junior Naturalist Program is a 7 week outdoor nature program for children in Grades K-8. This hands on, environmental education experience is a summer program offered daily from 9am-3pm for three 2 week sessions followed by one 1 week session. During this

program, educators facilitate environmentally themed activities, in various natural areas in and around Kingston. This program provides youth the freedom to experience the outdoors in the summer, but maintains a strong academic component which enriches the students' outdoor experiences. This program is open to both Kingston and non-Kingston residents.



Since 2006, the Junior Naturalist Program has been a successful summer program of the Parks and Recreation Department, annually engaging more than 70 youth. In 2014, enrollment in this program reached a high of 97 youth, demonstrating the built success and demand for this type of programming on a local level. This program provides a complete, affordable, educational outdoor experience for youth in the Kingston area. This year program participants were able to participate in a variety of outdoor activities including kayaking, fishing, swimming, hiking, and cycling. These programs are designed to strengthen our youth's connections to the outdoors while building respect of the Kingston Parks System.

Goals/Vision for 2015

- Evaluate registration process to be accommodating to Kingston and non-Kingston residents
- Make space and bathroom improvements at the FNC to accommodate additional programming/visitors
- Expand sponsorship program to support scholarships for the Junior Naturalist Program



Youth Bicycle Program

Program Participants	203
Programs	7



Program Highlights

With funding from the New York State Department of Health through the Creating Healthy Places Program, the Parks and Recreation Department was able to secure funding to purchase and implement bicycle related programming in 2014. This project allowed for over 200 youth to participate at each of the four summer park program locations as well as through the Junior Naturalist Program. As part of this program, volunteers from the YMCA and the Mid-Hudson Traffic Safety Institute along with Parks and Recreation staff trained summer camp counselors and other summer staff in bike safety and skills.

Staff also worked with Family of Woodstock, the YMCA and Cornell Cooperative Extension which utilized the bikes during the summer program as well as through an after-school bike club at the Everette Hodge Center. A public program was also held as part of National Night Out which allowed additional youth the opportunity to learn about biking.

In order to accommodate this program, the Department was able to purchase a mobile bike trailer, used to house and transport the new fleet of bicycles. Additionally, funding was secured to adorn the exterior of the trailer with programming logos for further marketing.

Goals/Vision for 2015

- With additional funding from DOH, additional bicycles and equipment will be added to the fleet in preparation to the 2015 season.
- Develop more capacity for staff at each summer camp to assist more directly
- Continue to grow Love Your Park Community Bike Ride



Guided Kayaking Tours

Number of Programs	19
Number of Program Participants	115
Kayak Festival Participants	300
Program Revenue	\$3,250



Program Highlights

Two different types of nature based kayaking programs are offered on weekends by Parks and Recreation Department staff member Steve Noble, (weather dependent) from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Two different locations, with two fleets of kayaks, are utilized for the Kayaking program. In 2014, the program launched weekly on Friday evenings on the Rondout and most Saturday mornings from Kingston Point Beach. The Friday night program has become one of the more popular time frames and has the largest boost for the Kingston economy. Most participants who attend the program indicate their intention to visit downtown Kingston restaurants and shops after the program, contributing directly to ecotourism. The Rondout Creek also offers a variety of natural and historic assets which creates for a unique program not found elsewhere in the valley.

Annually, the Recreation Department and Kenco Outfitters jointly host the Kingston Kayak Festival at Kingston Point Beach in June. Participation and activities have grown each year providing Kingston residents and visitors the opportunity to learn about Kayaking, Kingston's natural resources and test a variety of demonstration boats and techniques on the water. Proceeds from the event go to support the Recreation Department's growing kayak program. In 2014, good weather prevailed and allowed attendance to swell to 300 participants, both from Kingston and the surrounding areas.

Goals/Vision for 2015

- The 2015 program may reduce some Saturday programs while also moving the program later in the morning as 8:30am is not attractive to all participants.
- Equipment upgrades will continue as the Kingston Parks and Recreation Department continues to work closely with its partner, Kenco Outfitters, which co-sponsors the Kingston Kayak Festival and directs many clients to the City's guided kayaking programs.



- Staff would also like continue to develop the capacity to host a Kayak Rental Program at Kingston Point Beach or on the Rondout Creek. This program would allow for equipment rentals and basic guidance to be given to those who would like to simply rent equipment without a guide. Reservations for this service could be taken through the Parks and Recreation Department's online system and would be suitable for those who have kayaked before or joined a previous guided trip.

Forsyth Nature Center Facility and Exhibits

Total Number of Visitors	50,000+
Number of Animals	150+
Number of Animal Species	40+
Number of Gardens/Educational Areas	12



Program Highlights

The Forsyth Nature Center (FNC), a community icon since 1936, is open every day of the year, and free to all visitors. Managed and operated by full time Caretaker, Mark DeDea, this unique educational facility is one of a kind in this area and welcomes visitors from Kingston and beyond. The Forsyth Nature Center recently ranked as one of the Hudson Valley’s “Best Free Family Attractions,” by Hudson Valley Magazine.

A home to a range of native and non-native birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish, this center offers passive and active opportunities for visitors of all ages and income levels. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely stroll around the various themed gardens, engage in the interpretive signage present at each exhibit, and interact with the animal residents. As is customary in any live animal facility, there is always change over in residents and in the past year, the Forsyth Nature Center has welcomed a number of new residents including Midnight Shadow (domestic rabbit), Iggy (iguana), a ruffed grouse and a number of new turtles. Passive visits and Guided Programs take place at this facility year round. See www.forsythnaturecenter.org for more information.

In 2014, a number of facility improvements were taken on by the City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of Forsyth Nature Center. Projects included the replacement of a welded interior animal fence, the construction of a new series of small flight cages, completion of the permeable paver project including a new access ramp, renovation of an interior feed room, and energy efficiency upgrades to the interior building space. The facility also saw upgrades of two sets of side by side Refuse and Recycling Receptacles to increase waste reduction on site. Further, interpretive signage was installed on a number of exhibits to improve the visitor’s educational experience.

Additionally, the Forsyth Nature Center has become a location for spotlighting local sustainability measures. The site features real life applications of the following green infrastructure and sustainability installations:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 40 space Pervious Asphalt Parking Lot | Rain Garden |
| Permeable Paver Stone Walkway and Patio | Xeriscape Garden |
| Rainwater Harvesting via Rain Barrels | 1.2 KW Solar Array |

Goals/Vision for 2015

- Install a new composting toilet within the FNC facility for visitors
- Erect a new ground mounted solar array to help offset the site’s electricity usage

Large Scale Outreach Events

Number of Events	7
Number of Participants	3893
Number of Volunteers	389

In 2014, the City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Department’s Environmental Program, in collaboration with community partners, developed, planned, organized, and executed seven major public outreach events. Each of these events drew community members and regional visitors to the Kingston Parks System.



WinterFest

Goals: Get people outside, into the parks, in winter; Engage families year round; Teach people a new form of recreation; Teach environmental appreciation and stewardship regardless of outdoor conditions.

Program Highlights: Guided Snowshoe Hikes, Guided Winter Bird Walks, Hot Cocoa, S’mores Fire Pit, Children’s Winter Crafts

Support from: Friends of Forsyth Nature Center

Love Your Parks Bike Ride

Goals: Community bike ride where participants travel by bike on a 16 mile or three mile loop passing parks maintained by the Kingston Parks and Recreation Department.

Program Highlights: Family ride and Intermediate Ride for Cyclists, Food, Bike Gear Raffles

Kingston Kayak Festival

Goals: Get people out on the Hudson River; Teach people a new form of recreation; Teach River and watershed appreciation; Fundraise for programming materials.

Program Highlights: Beginner and Advanced Guided Kayak Tours, Exhibitors, Outdoor Recreation Vendors, Instructional Lessons and Clinics, Kayak/Canoe/Gear Swap Meet Auction, Food, Kayak Demos

Co-sponsored by: Kenco Outfitters

Forsyth Nature Center Fall Festival

Goals: Celebrate Fall Season; Provide family fun event to community; Fundraise for Forsyth Nature Center; Showcase assets of Forsyth Park and Nature Center

Program Highlights: Children’s Stage, Main Stage performers and musicians, Children’s Games and Crafts, Rides, Raffles, Food, Bake Sale, Vendors, Exhibitors, Live Animal Demonstrations

Co-sponsored by: Friends of Forsyth Nature Center



Kingston Clean Sweep/ Love Your Parks Day

Goals: Engage local organizations and groups in a community cleanup of the Broadway corridor and various park spaces

Program Highlights: Morning long street front clean up by civic organizations, youth groups, non-profits and citizens; Clean up and infrastructure improvements in Kingston Parks

Co-sponsored by: Friends of Historic Kingston

Green Friday

Goals: a community sustainability fair to engage the public about green living options; Showcase the FNC as a model for sustainability upgrades; Provide a thoughtful and engaging alternative or break from shopping on Black Friday

Program Highlights: Alternative Energy Vehicles, Green Infrastructure Installation Spotlights, Composting and Rain Harvesting Demonstrations, Giveaways, Winter Birding activities, Sustainability Vendors and Exhibitors

Support from: Friends of Forsyth Nature Center

GREEN
FRIDAY

Boo at the Zoo

Goals: Community Halloween Celebration, Family fun evening at the Forsyth Nature Center

Program Highlights: Children's Costume Parade, Food, S'mores Fire Pit

Support from: Friends of Forsyth Nature Center, Junior League of Kingston



Participants enjoy the warm fire at Boo at the Zoo

Community Outreach Events

In addition to departmentally sponsored events, the environmental education staff also participates in community outreach events throughout the year. In 2014, the staff participated in 6 community events. Participation included tabling, programming, and information sharing.

Ulster County's Live, Laugh Learn Conference

Staff provide an environmental sustainability seminar for seniors



Kenco's TrailFest

Staff provide environmental sustainability demonstrations; Programming and Initiative Outreach; Networking



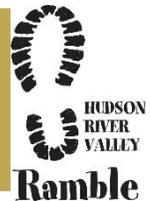
Midtown Make a Difference Day

Programming and Initiative Outreach; Networking; Event Facilitation assistance



Hudson River Valley Ramble

Guided Hudson River Kayaking Tours



Kingston Health Summit

Programming and Initiative Outreach; Networking; Green Living Demonstrations



Cool City Cafe

Sustainability Initiative Outreach; Networking



Capital Projects

The Parks and Recreation Department managed many capital improvements during 2014. Steve Noble served in a managerial role, with oversight over these projects with the assistance of other city personnel and departments.

Composting Bathroom Installations

With a mix of funding from the New York State Dormitory Authority, Office of Community Development and municipal bonding, the Parks and Recreation Department was able to purchase six solar powered, composting, waterless bathroom facilities. Four of them were installed in 2014, with the remaining to be completed in spring of 2015. The Department of Public Works greatly assisted in this effort. Bathrooms were installed at Kingston Point Beach, Block Park, Hasbrouck Park and Loughran Park. Each of these two stall buildings will meet current and future patron needs while also eliminating facility based water usage, reducing sewer flows and reducing energy costs associated with lighting.



Preparations underway at Loughran Park



New Plantings and Beach Bathroom

Rondout Neighborhood Center Heating Repair, and Oil Tank Removal and Remediation

With funding from the Office of Community Development and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, a new energy efficient boiler and gym heating system were installed at the Rondout Neighborhood Center facility. In order to accommodate this, an asbestos abatement project as well as an Oil Tank Removal Project and Cleanup were undertaken at the rear of the Rondout Neighborhood Center building.

Van Buren Street Playground Removal and Replacement Project

With funding from the Office of Community Development and the NYS Department of Health, the Kingston Parks and Recreation Department was able to remove a deteriorating existing playground structure and accessory structures from the Van Buren Street Park, a pocket park in Midtown Kingston. This was replaced with a new full size playground, swing set and fresh safety surface. Additionally, the existing fencing and gate along the park's street frontage was removed and replaced with a new fence and gate. There was a mayoral ribbon cutting for the park renovations in the fall of 2014.



Everette Hodge Center HVAC Repair and Replacement and Portico Project

In 2014, the Everette Hodge Center's malfunctioning HVAC system was replaced with a new system that provides a working air conditioning system to the Hodge Center in the warm months. This is particularly important in the heat of the summer as a full summer program for youth is hosted at the Hodge Center. Additionally, in 2014, design work was done to replace both the main entrance and rear entrance porticos on the main building. Work will be completed on this project in 2015.



Everette Hodge Center Carriage House Renovation

See page 26 for more information about this capital project.

Grants

The City of Kingston environmental education staff develops, administers and implements various grant programs. In 2014, staff managed the following grants:

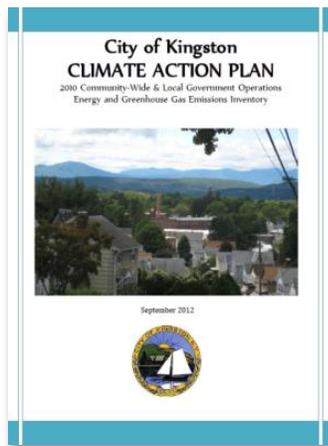
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|---|--|
| <p>1) NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, Historic Preservation – Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquarium Grant
Managing \$20,000</p> | <p>8) Community Development Block Grant-Kingston Parks and Recreation Capital Projects
Managing \$379,684</p> |
| <p>2) Ulster County Youth Bureau – NYS OCFS – School and Public Environmental Education Programs
Managing \$10,200</p> | <p>9) NYS DEC Estuary Program Combined Sewer Outfall Monitoring Grant
Managing \$50,400</p> |
| <p>3) NYS DEC Estuary Program Grant – Storm water/Green Infrastructure
Managing \$60,000</p> | <p>10) NYS DEC Estuary Program Rondout Creek Fishing Pier Grant
Managing \$30,000</p> |
| <p>4) NYS DOS Watershed Management Grant for Tidal Rondout Creek
Managing \$126,908</p> | <p>11) NYS DEC Estuary Program Everette Hodge Center Education Classroom Grant
Managing \$10,000</p> |
| <p>5) NYS DOT– Safe Routes to Schools Grant
Managing \$489,000</p> | <p>12) Hudson River Improvement Fund, Fishing Access Grant
Managing \$10,000</p> |
| <p>6) ALCOA Foundation –Rain Barrel and Porous Paver Demonstration Project
Managing \$15,000</p> | <p>13) Water Quality Improvement Fund, Parking Lot Improvement Grant
Managing \$365,831</p> |
| <p>7) Community Development Block Grant-Environmental Education Programs at Everette Hodge Community Center
Managing \$28,000</p> | <p>14) Cornell Cooperative Extension: NYS DOH - Creating Healthy Places to Work, Live and Play
Managing \$19,500</p> |

Environmental Services

Climate Smart Kingston

The mission of Climate Smart Kingston is to create and implement an action plan including comprehensive policies and programs for the City of Kingston to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance operational and energy efficiencies, reduce energy costs, support local job growth, and adapt to a changing climate while improving quality of life, saving taxpayer dollars, and promoting social justice.

The City of Kingston is a Climate Smart Community, along with 145 other communities throughout the state. The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program is a New York State initiative to help local communities reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prepare for effects of climate change and save taxpayers money. The program is designed to address 10 focus areas, or “pledge elements,” as outlined in Kingston’s CSC Pledge: [Climate Smart and Green Jobs Community Pledge](#), adopted in October 2009 by the City of Kingston’s Common Council. Kingston is actively engaged in the Department of Environmental Conservation's Climate Smart Communities Program.



Since 2009, the City of Kingston has hosted the Climate Smart and Green Jobs Task Force (now Climate Smart Kingston) which has been an advocate for citywide sustainability, energy-efficiency and quality-of-life for Kingston residents. Climate Smart Kingston, chaired by Environmental Educator Julie Noble, is an advisory body to the City government, composed of local stakeholder organizations and individuals convening about 6 times per year to strategize, plan, and implement the goals of Kingston’s Climate Action Plan.

[Final Kingston Climate Action Plan](#)
[Climate Action Plan Executive Summary](#)

In the fall of 2014, the participants of Climate Smart Kingston, along with the Mayor decided that this group and the city would be well-served by a transition from a task force to an advisory committee under the appointment of the Mayor. The Common Council agreed, resolving so in Resolution #120 of 2014 and now a new 11-member committee called the Climate Smart Kingston Commission will be established to prioritize energy and sustainability initiatives particularly as outlined in Kingston’s Climate Action Plan, to engage community stakeholders and act as a resource to support climate smart decisions.

Committee members will be appointed in early 2015. Once this process is finalized, this Commission will be convened by Julie Noble, Environmental Educator and Climate Smart Community Coordinator, for the City of Kingston, and will establish a formal meeting schedule, vision and mission, goals, and focus areas.

Managing the Climate Smart Kingston Commission commands the responsibilities of:

- Scheduling and preparing presentations and materials
- Scheduling and Facilitating meetings
- Coordinating volunteers for projects
- Gathering energy use data
- Tracking sustainability initiatives, energy and cost savings within the City
- Coordinating and maintaining greenhouse gas inventory data
- Drafting resolutions and ordinances
- Educating residents and staff on climate change and sustainability issues

In 2014, Climate Smart Kingston worked a lot on prioritization and how to focus the many recommendations of the Climate Action Plan into workable actions. The group decided on 8 major Priority Projects to work on in 2014.

	Priority Project	Major Partner	Progress in 2014
1	Renewable Energy Strategy	Sustainable Hudson Valley	<p>NYSERDA has funded Sustainable Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountainkeeper to manage “Solarize Hudson Valley”, of which Kingston will be part of a community cohort. This program will engage community leaders and consumers with workshops and speaker training, solar group purchasing campaigns, renewable energy workforce development. The Solarize Kingston Campaign will commence in spring 2015.</p> <p>Scoping for solar permitting began at the end of 2014.</p>
2	Energy Advocates Program (previously Energy Ambassador Program)	RUPCO	<p>Energy Advocate Training took place, to train advocates to go out to engage the community in energy reduction initiatives, identify champions in the community, promote home energy audits and retrofits, and share CSK initiatives.</p> <p>Energy Advocates tabled regularly at the Kingston Farmer’s Market</p> <p>A live Home Energy Audit was hosted.</p> <p>An Energy Advocate Outreach Event was held at Outdated Café.</p> <p>A 10% Challenge was established. The 10% Challenge is a call to make 100 homes more energy Efficient. Step 1: Out of the 9,844 households in the city, we need 984 of these to receive a FREE or reduced cost whole house energy assessment. Step 2: Out of those 984 assessments, make 100 of them into safer, more comfortable, and more energy efficient homes. Final goal: 984 audits, and 100 retrofits</p>

			<p>By the numbers (by end of 2014):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of residents in the program: 157 • Number Energy Assessments Approved: 152 • Number of Assessments completed: 91 • Work approved – completed: 17
3	Energy Upgrade in Government		<p>Climate Smart Kingston members reviewed the 2007 City of Kingston Wendell Flex Tech Energy Study as well as the City of Kingston Capital Improvement Plan, while keeping in communication with the city on energy priorities within government.</p> <p>High priority was ranked as upgrading City Hall windows, coupled with improved air sealing for the building.</p> <p>LED lighting upgrades for both City Street Lights and Outdoor Lighting were scoped.</p>
4	Comprehensive Plan Language Integration		<p>Commission members, including Julie Noble as a Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee member, participated in the full planning and review process, actively and successfully integrating sustainability, energy and climate concerns and themes into the new Comprehensive Plan. This Plan will likely be adopted by the Common Council in mid-2015.</p>
5	Climate Action Tracking System		<p>CSK Chair Julie Noble participated in three Energy Tracking Webinars, including Portfolio Manager, a free web-based tracking system. A Portfolio Manager account was established for the city and work to build the profile commenced in the end of 2014.</p>
6	Marketing Strategy		<p>Communications strategies were scoped out including outreach, public engagement and relations, CSK promotion and marketing, long term messaging and Facebook administration.</p> <p>The Climate Smart Kingston web presence was scaled up on the City's newly launched website. See www.kingston-ny.gov/ClimateSmartKingston</p> <p>A Cool City Cafe was hosted, which convened local community members and organizations interested in sustainability issues and solutions for Kingston. Key strategies that were taken from that event included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Ulster Savings Bike"/"Citi-Bike" Type bike share program, have bikes at Trailways, Library • Speak at gatherings • Promote Energy Advocates, continue strong, especially at housing complexes • Have CSK as a clearinghouse for sustainability • Use whimsical messaging in communications and outreach

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize contests and incentives to engage the community in sustainability efforts • Host a “Go Green Kingston/Sustainability Festival” in Kingston • Promote recycling implementation/enforcement especially with institutions • Encourage and promote institutional Climate Smart Pledges and recognize those that have pledged • Make energy efficiency improvements to the windows in City Hall
7	Broadway Corridor Streetscape Collaboration	Economic Development Office	Climate Smart Kingston was kept abreast of developments within the Economic Development Office by regular updates. In 2014, there were no major inputs from Climate Smart Kingston into this project.
8	Sewage Treatment Plant Energy Reduction Design Collaboration	Economic Development Office	Climate Smart Kingston was kept abreast of developments within the Economic Development Office by regular updates. In 2014, there were no major inputs from Climate Smart Kingston into this project.

Kingston Named “Certified Bronze Climate Smart Community”, One of Only Two in NYS

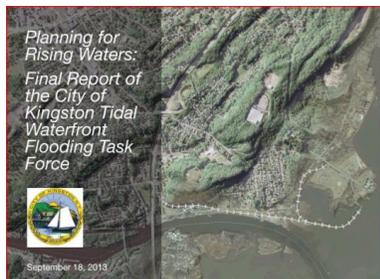


In the spring and summer of 2013, Kingston participated in the Climate Smart Communities Certification Program Pilot. As one of 8 communities throughout the state participating, Kingston was able to conduct a self-guided evaluation of our local climate actions as a means towards measuring and ranking Kingston's efforts towards sustainability among our peer communities. The CSC Certification Program is designed to support municipal efforts to meet economic, social and environmental challenges posed by climate change. Six

CSCs achieved certification during the pilot of the certification: the City of Watervliet, Albany County; the City of Albany, Albany County; the Town of Cortlandt, Westchester County; Orange County; the Village of Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County; and the **City of Kingston**. A ranking of Bronze demonstrates Kingston's commitment to and leadership in the area of sustainability.

See what Kingston has achieved, with collaborative efforts of Climate Smart Kingston and City government: [Kingston Community Sustainability Profile](#).

Waterfront Flooding Task Force



The Kingston Waterfront Flooding Task Force was appointed by Mayor Shayne Gallo in the fall of 2012, and was charged with evaluating the present and future vulnerability to flooding, storm surge and sea-level rise along the Rondout-Hudson waterfront. This group was asked to recommend strategies for a resilient waterfront and convened from December 2012 through August 2013. The group produced a final report [Planning for Rising Waters: Final Report of the City of Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding Taskforce](#) but the Task Force culminated

with the production of the report. Climate Smart Kingston, under the leadership of Julie Noble, has

continued to play a role in continuing the efforts of this Task Force, in collaboration with the City's Economic Development Office. In 2014, Julie participated in the following professional development opportunities pertaining to the waterfront:

- DEC Adaptation Planning: Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force Webinar
- FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Webinar
- Intro to Community Rating System Webinar

In the spring, Julie also co-presented the results and process of this Task Force to a group of Floodplain Managers at the Hudson River Maritime Museum.

Goals/Vision 2015

- Engage in technical assistance opportunities from the Regional Climate Smart Communities Coordinators at VHB
- Fully engage in a Solarize Campaign for Kingston
- Fully establish the new Climate Smart Kingston Commission as a partnership between the city and the community

Conservation Advisory Council Liaison to City

The City of Kingston has an advisory environmental board, the Kingston Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), like over a hundred other municipalities in NYS. This advisory board is composed of Kingston residents who volunteer to advise the Common Council, Planning Board and city staff on policy matters pertaining to the environment. The Mission of the CAC is *to ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.*

Julie Noble, Environmental Educator, serves as the Chair of this Council and in this role, acts as a liaison to the City for the Council. See www.kingston-ny.gov/kingstoncac for more information about the CAC.

In 2014, the Kingston CAC worked on a number of environmental initiatives including:

- 1) Natural Resources Inventory: survey of the natural resources in Kingston with the goal of information the planning board and decision makers on sustainable land use decisions.
- 2) 2014 Environmental Reviews: the CAC reviewed and advised on the following projects:
 - a. Hudson Landing Promenade Project Review
 - b. Urban Agriculture Zoning Project Review
 - c. Niagara Bottling Proposal
 - d. NYS Draft Open Space Conservation Plan Review
 - e. Pilgrim Pipeline Proposal Review
- 3) 2014 Public Outreach and Engagement: the CAC convened the public to inform about:
 - a. Judith Hansen, Superintendent Kingston Water Department: Niagara Water Bottling Public Meeting
 - b. Laura Heady and Gretchen Stevens: Habitat Summary and Mapping Public Presentation
- 4) 2014 Planning Board Proposal Reviews: the CAC reviewed and advised on the following:
 - a. Hudson Landing Promenade Phase 1 Improvement Plan
 - b. Input to Comprehensive Plan 2025

Recycling and Solid Waste

Increasing Recycling Rates through Single Stream Recycling

Over the three year time period of 2011-2014, over 5500 Recycling Bins were distributed to Kingston City Residents. These totes, ranging in size from 64 to 96 gallons, were provided free of charge to the majority of residential units in Kingston, thanks to support from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) Recycling Grant Program monies.

Since the establishment of the Single Stream Recycling program in Kingston in 2011, curbside recycling rates in the City of Kingston have increased 24.78% through the end of 2014. This jump in community recycling has shifted 377 tons out of the waste stream, saving the City over \$32,000, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from shipping trash. Also during this time period, waste reduction efforts have reduced trash by an additional 1,000 tons since 2011.

Recycling and Composting Education

City environmental education staff offers a series of recycling programs throughout the year to educate both the general public as well as school children to the benefits of recycling. Each school year, staff works in each elementary school that serves City of Kingston students to provide informative and age appropriate recycling programs. Additionally, a series of public composting education workshops are held each year. These workshops educate Kingston residents on how to reduce their trash output through food and yard waste diversion. Additionally, the process of composting generates free natural fertilizer for in- and at-home use, reducing the need for synthetic chemical landscape applications. Furthermore, increased waste diversion saves taxpayer dollars in tipping fees averted.

Funding from the ALCOA Foundation also provided funding for an additional composting program and two recycling units at the Forsyth Nature Center, which were installed in 2014.

Goals/Vision for 2015

- Increase home and commercial composting, and the development of an online composting registry to track and quantify the amount of food waste being diverted city-wide
- Explore residential and small commercial compost pickup with addition of Yard Waste Bin
- Increase recycling rates, awareness and understanding of recycling rules/regulations city-wide
- Increase numbers and visibility of Public Recycling Receptacles
- Improve recycling compliance and awareness at City Offices and Events



Storm water, Green Infrastructure, & Watershed Programs

Green Infrastructure improvements are a method of storm water management that ensures environmental sustainability. Green infrastructure (GI) practices manage storm water runoff while maintaining or restoring natural hydrology. Green infrastructure consists of practices such as rain gardens, bio-retention areas, green roofs, porous pavement and cisterns.



Porous Pavers at Forsyth Nature Center

In 2014, the Friends of Forsyth Nature Center (FFNC) finished a capital improvement project within the FNC to replace existing deteriorating asphalt with porous pavers on the main pathway around the facility. While reducing the impact of storm water runoff on the environment, this project improves the appearance and functionality of the walkway, while also maintaining handicapped accessibility at the Nature Center. The facility has been open to the community for more than 75 years and attracts approximately 50,000 visitors annually and thus the walkway itself to be utilized as a teaching tool. This project was supported by the FFNC, ALCOA Foundation and many others who donated to the project.



Participants at the 2014 Boo at the Zoo utilize the new path

Annual Reporting and Storm Water Outfall Mapping

Environmental education staff annually assists the Engineering Department with the completion of the City of Kingston Annual Storm Water Report, measuring the City's adherence to the Municipal Storm Water Regulations (MS4) also documenting any illicit discharges into the storm water system. Additionally, environmental education staff assisted with the annual storm water outfall monitoring requirements, in which staff visit and inspect each identified storm water outfall within the City.

Geographic Information Systems “GIS” Program

In 2012, the City of Kingston acquired a license for a Geographic Information System (GIS) software package that has allowed Kingston to continue to develop its geospatial mapping and data gathering programs. Environmental education staff has training in GIS and work to connect it with various City departments in numerous applications.

ALCOA Rain Barrel Program

With funding from the ALCOA Foundation, the environmental education staff developed a program to distribute rain barrels to Kingston area households to measure the amount of storm water collected and diverted each week by participating households. This program commenced in 2011 with additional programming through 2014. Rain Barrel education (storm water diversion) programs were also held in 2014 as part of the Department’s Green Friday Program.

NYS Department of State – Rondout Creek Watershed Management Plan

In 2011, the City of Kingston was awarded a \$126,000 grant to develop a watershed management plan for the tidal Rondout Creek, encompassing the City of Kingston, Town of Ulster, and the Town of Esopus. Milone and MacBroom, Inc. was awarded the contract to write the Watershed Management Plan. In 2014, the advisory group met to support the process, public meetings were held for input and a Watershed Characterization Report was drafted. Work will continue into 2015.

NYS DEC – Urban Storm water Grant

In 2011, the City of Kingston was awarded a \$60,000 Hudson River Estuary Program Grant to develop an Urban Storm Water GIS Mapping Program, as well as an educational program focusing on green infrastructure and urban runoff. Through this program, environmental education staff has 1) generated a GIS System for the City of Kingston with detailed Sewershed Maps, 2) conducted non-point source pollution programming for students and residents both on and off the water, 3) posted educational storm water management information on the City Website and 4) developed a mobile phone based tool (Kingston Report It!) to track watershed related issues.



Goals/Vision for 2015

- Improve access to the Esopus Creek (no current access in the City limits), Hudson River and Rondout Creek in the City of Kingston
- Continue to educate the public on complex, environmental problems related to our local watersheds
- Continue to build community partnerships and represent the interests of the City in various working groups, grant projects and state level initiatives
- Continue work on Tidal Rondout Creek Watershed Management Plan for Kingston, Ulster and Esopus
- Work with the City’s Office of Economic Development and Strategic Partnerships to further implement Tidal Waterfront Flooding Taskforce recommendations
- Increase City-wide storm water diversion through Green Infrastructure and Rain Barrel Education Programs

- Train additional City staff on use of GIS Equipment and continue to incorporate GIS technology into other City departments and systems
- Continue to ensure City staff research alternative storm water methods when faced with City infrastructure improvements and private development proposals

Community Service and Clean Ups

Kingston Clean Sweep

Working with the Friends of Historic Kingston, environmental education staff was able to bring together 200 volunteers to collect nearly a ton of litter and large quantities of yard waste and debris from the Broadway Corridor as part of the Clean Sweep program in 2014. The Friends of Historic Kingston partnered with over a dozen different community groups and local school children utilizing the Forsyth Nature Center's online program registration form to register volunteers for a variety of clean up locations. Additionally, staff led efforts to organize a cleanup at Kingston Point Beach and Hasbrouck Park, where volunteers collected debris from the shorelines and wetlands around Kingston Point and the forested areas. Over two-dozen volunteers assisted in the park cleanup effort in 2014.



Beach Planting



On October 25, 2014, the Kingston Parks and Recreation Department, working in conjunction with UlsterCorps and Volunteer New York! installed a large landscaped area, measuring over 50' long to protect Kingston Point Beach from increased coastal flooding and the impacts of climate change. This project incorporated native plants designed to hold soil, increase native wildlife habitat and beautify the area. Over 20 volunteers participated in the planting.



City of Kingston's Everett Hodge Midtown Community Center

Since September of 2012, the Kingston Parks and Recreation has assumed management responsibility of the Everett Hodge Midtown Community Center. With the support of Community Development Block Grant funding from the City of Kingston Office of Community Development, staff has been able to increase programming opportunities while also providing a wide range of services in collaboration with not for profit partner, Kingston Cares/Family of Woodstock.



Roles of Environmental Education staff at this center include:

- Management of Day to Day Operations
- Facility Upkeep and Upgrades Management
- Co-Facilitation of After School Drop In Program
- Oversight of Parks and Recreation Staff and Volunteers on site
- Coordination of Programming Partners
- Facilitation of weekly Nature Club
- Off site group excursions and programming
- Purchasing, acquisition and management of programming materials, including live animals
- Management of auxiliary building renovations and contractors

In 2014, 105 youth enrolled in the free after school drop in program and have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of indoor and outdoor educational and recreational experiences, many of which focus on environmental issues.

The Everett Hodge Center After School Program is a well-attended partnership of local community organizations providing services and opportunities for youth in a local community center. These partnerships are a prime example of how not for profits and government can work together to create a positive program for Kingston's most at risk youth. Partners include: Read and Write, Family of Woodstock/Kingston Cares, YMCA, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, and Church Communities.

Youth Opportunities

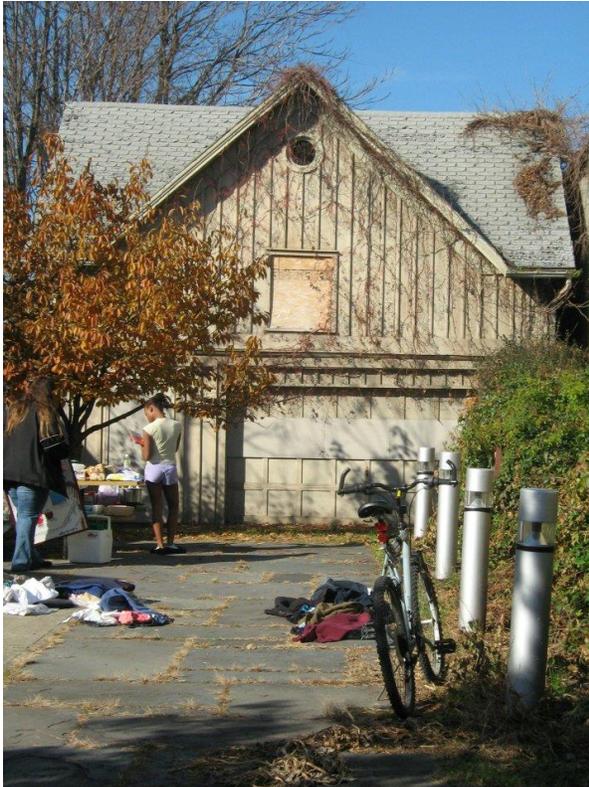
- Academic Enrichment
- Nutritional Snack
- Outdoor Recreation
- Animal Care and Husbandry
- Arts and Crafts Programs
- Bike Club
- Spanish Club
- Chess Club
- Monthly Family Dinners
- Cooking classes and Demos
- Career Exploration
- Job Readiness
- Environmental Education
- Off-site Field Trips

Hodge Center Carriage House Renovation

In 2014, staff worked to bring Youth Build, a program oriented toward youth interested in receiving their high school diploma while learning building trades, to begin renovation work on the Carriage House at the Everett Hodge Center. This unique 1850's era building will be utilized as an educational multi-use space to continue to expand programming at the Everett Hodge Center.

This work was funded by the Office of Community Development. Youth Build spent three months working on the project. Additional assistance by Youth Build or others would be solicited in 2015.

Before



In Progress



Goals/Visions for 2015

- Complete the renovations for the Hodge Center Carriage House
- Develop a plan to utilize the space and expand programming on site
- Seek long term funding mechanisms to support the After School Program
- Develop and implement a landscape plan for beautification, habitat enhancement and which incorporates green infrastructure techniques
- Install a living or hard fence or gate at the entrance to the Hodge Center Parking lot
- Continue to build partnerships to support the youth and families that utilize the Hodge Center

Cornell Cooperative Extension Partnerships

LiveWell Kingston

Since 2010, the City of Kingston has been in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic in Kingston through environmental and policy change, particularly as part of a project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation which has



transitioned to a City of Kingston supported healthy eating and active living coalition: Live Well Kingston.

This coalition, which is supported by the City of Kingston Mayor and coordinated by Cornell Cooperative Extension, looks to bring focused energy to healthy eating and active living strategies that can make a lasting change in the Kingston community and to bring together groups and organizations working to make that happen. Steve Noble takes an active role on the leadership team and the Parks and Recreation Department chairs the Play Well Focus Area. See LiveWellKingston.org for more information.

Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play

Since 2011, the City of Kingston has partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, through a grant from the New York State Department of Health: Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play (CHP), in a collaborative effort to reduce the occurrence of type 2 diabetes in Kingston.

The CHP initiative is structured to effectuate policy, environmental and systems changes designed to improve the health and fitness of Ulster County residents. The underlying approach runs counter to traditional education methods, which attempt to persuade individuals to adopt personal lifestyle changes. For many people, such changes can be difficult to achieve because of lack of access to healthy foods and recreational opportunities and thus have been less effective in slowing the rate of obesity. The CHP initiative attempts to improve outcomes by enhancing access and implementing preventive health measures in local neighborhoods and communities, such as:

- Developing and launching community initiatives to get residents to walk and bike more within safe streetscape environments;
- Supporting the proliferation of community gardens;
- Making it easier for residents to use parks via improved signage and online resources;
- Increasing healthy snacking and physical activity and decreasing screen time for youth in day and after school care centers;
- Working with restaurants and eateries to step-up efforts in posting nutrition information;
- Launching mobile farmers markets to reach communities with less access to fresh produce;
- Launching a county-wide media campaign focused on healthier food choices and portion sizes on restaurant menus, including greater access to nutritional information;
- Working with the media to educate residents about obesity and Type 2 diabetes prevention;
- Engaging county and community leadership to actively engage in and advocate for the project.

The target areas for this initiative have been the communities of Ellenville, Phoenicia, and the City of Kingston, in which successful practices are expected to be rolled out to other municipalities throughout Ulster County in successive years. The Co-lead agencies for this initiative are Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County and the Ulster County Department of Health. Key partners include the Community Heart Health Coalition of Ulster County, City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Department, Kingston Land Trust, Gilmour Planning and Healthy Kingston for Kids.

For the Kingston Parks and Recreation Department, this project is managed by Steve Noble and some of the projects that have been completed to date include:



- 1) replacement of park signage in all Kingston parks;
- 2) development of improved online access to the Park System including Kingstonparksandrec.org and the online registration gateway;
- 3) improved marketing of additional programs to get people to use the Kingston Park system;
- 4) creation of a new bilingual park brochure, program, guide and interactive mapping tool;
- 5) development of a Recreation Department online facility and program reservation form;
- 6) development, with Gilmour Planning, and subsequent adoption by the Kingston Common Council, of a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan;
- 7) Creation of a mobile bike education and recreation program;
- 8) installation of new park benches and bike racks;
- 9) improved playground equipment; and
- 10) additional program promotional material.

Goals/Vision for 2015

- Improve Park Trail Signage
- Install three new trail kiosks at Hasbrouck and Forsyth Park
- Install new playground hoops at the Rondout and Hodge Center along with relining at other court locations
- Distribute additional promotional materials and increase advertising
- Continue advancements in getting more people outdoors



Professional Development

Environmental Education staff regularly attends meetings, workshops and conferences annually to further professional development and to keep updated on regionally and locally relevant environmental issues. Staff also participates in various environmentally related committees, both locally and regionally.

2014 Conferences

- NYS Conference on the Environment: Binghamton, NY (Steve and Julie)

2014 Webinars/Workshops

- DEC Adaptation Planning: Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force Webinar (Julie)
- FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Webinar (Julie)
- Placemaking in a Changing Climate Workshop (Julie)
- Intro to Community Rating System Webinar (Julie)
- Floodplain manager Waterfront Flooding Task Force Presentation (Julie)
- DEC Hudson River Estuary Program Action Agenda Resiliency Stakeholders Meeting (Julie)
- Energy Advocate event: Outdated Café (Julie)
- NY Sun PV Trainers Network Webinar (Julie)
- Portfolio Manager 101 Webinar (Julie)
- Portfolio Manager 201 Webinar (Julie)
- Climate Smart Communities and Cornell Cooperative Extension Webinar (Julie)
- NYS Streamlined Solar Permit Webinar (Julie)
- EPA Tracking Sustainability Projects Webinar (Julie)
- City Sourced 2014 Update Webinar (Steve)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service Grant Preparation Webinar (Steve)
- Bringing Back Broadway Workshop (Steve and Julie)
- DEC Climate Change Office: LED Street Lighting Webinar (Steve and Julie)

2014 Trainings/Certifications

- CDL Recertification and Review (physical, written and road) (Steve and Julie)
- Hudson River Estuary Program Accessibility Training (Steve)

2014 Boards/Committees

- Climate Smart Kingston (Julie, Chair)
- Kingston Conservation Advisory Council (Julie, Chair)
- Friends of Forsyth Nature Center (Julie)
- Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (Julie)
- Live Well Kingston (Steve) & Play Well Focus Team (Steve, Chair)
- Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play Committee (Steve)
- Ulster County Environmental Management Council (Steve, Chair)
- Kingston Land Trust (Steve, Vice Chair)
- Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee (Steve)
- NYS Association of Conservation Commissions (Steve and Julie, Secretary)
- John Burrough's Natural History Society (Mark, President)
- Kingston Tree Commission (Mark)

Kingston Environmental Program Press

Date	Title	Format
8-Jan	Winterfest Promo	Kingston Now-Jimmy Buff
9-Jan	Forsyth Nature Center hosts WinterFest at two Kingston locations	Kingston Times: Kids' Almanac
January	Learn How to Snowshoe at WinterFest	Kingston Life Magazine-article, photos
11-Jan	Rain Doesn't Stop WinterFest	YNN
14-Jan	Pet Project	Daily Freeman-photo
19-Jan	Kingston seeks grant to reduce sewage spills into city waterways	Daily Freeman Article
20-Jan	It's not the Alps, but it's home	Daily Freeman, article, photos
20-Jan	Grant may cut sewage spills	Daily Freeman-article
23-Jan	Kingston parking lot work is aim of \$365K NY grant app	Daily Freeman-article
13-Feb	My Heart Feels Happy	Kingston Times-article w/photo
25-Feb	Sappy and Sweet	Daily Freeman-photo
5-Mar	City Gets \$30,000 in grants for City Fishing Dock	Daily Freeman Article
28-Mar	City lands \$50,000 for sewage overflow meters	Daily Freeman Article
3-Apr	Aldermen OK \$15,000 study of proposed street-lighting plan	Daily Freeman Article
3-Apr	The council's agenda	Kingston Times article
10-Apr	Current Trends	Kingston Times-article
17-Apr	Treasure Hunt	Daily Freeman-photo
23-Apr	City gets 'bronze' designation from state climate program	Daily Freeman-article
25-Apr	Kingston Land Trust, other area groups win land protection grants	Daily Freeman-article
27-Apr	City Exploration: Love Your Park Community Bike Ride offers a chance to enjoy parks, scenery	Daily Freeman article, photo, video
12-May	Ecology Lesson	Daily Freeman-photo
5-May	Kingston Conservation Advisory Council to sponsor new habitat report and map presentation	Daily Freeman-article
5-May	Good Scouts	Daily Freeman-photo
6-May	Presentation on new habitat report and map	Daily Freeman-article
14-May	Kingston has new summary of natural habitats	Mid-Hudson News Network
15-May	City has summary of natural habitats	Daily Freeman-article, photo
17-May	Future Scientist	Daily Freeman-photo
1-May	Whatever Floats Your Boat	Kingston Life Magazine-article, photos
4-Jun	New app will allow residents to file quality-of-life complaints	Daily Freeman-article
5-Jun	Unusual Ecosystems	Kingston Times-article
6-Jun	Kingston's new smartphone app aims to speed response to problems reported by public	Daily Freeman-article, photo, video
19-Jun	Parade of Paddles	Kingston Times-photo

23-Jun	Atmosphere festive for ninth annual Make a Difference Day	Daily Freeman-article, photo, video
25-Jun	Cool City Café public event in Kingston July 16	Daily Freeman-article
21-Jul	Back to Nature	Daily Freeman-photo
30-Aug	Kingston installs meters that will alert officials, public to sewage spills	Daily Freeman-article
9-Oct	Sunday festival at Forsyth Park in Kingston benefits nature center	Daily Freeman-article, photo
25-Oct	Boo at the Zoo	Daily Freeman-photo
December	Parks and Recreation Celebrates its 6th Annual WinterFest at Hasbrouck Park	Kenco Outdoor News-article
4-Dec	Garden Spot: Urban Ag Project Getting Help to Grow	Kingston Times-article, photo

Program and Facility Staff

Julie Noble – Environmental Educator

Steve Noble – Environmental Program Operations Specialist

Mark DeDea – Forsyth Nature Center Caretaker

Kevin Gilfeather, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Department

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