



TROY'S WASHINGTON PARK TO BE FEATURED IN THE SEVENTH ANNUAL HUDSON RIVER VALLEY RAMBLE

Thousands to "Ramble" Through 10 Counties from Albany to NYC
Visit www.hudsonrivervalley.com for a Complete Listing of Ramble Events

The Washington Park Association, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Hudson River Valley Greenway and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation are pleased to announce the ***Seventh Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble***, scheduled for September 16-17 and 23-24.

The Washington Park Association is offering a walking tour of Troy's Washington Park and select homes on September 24 from 1 to 3 pm as part of the Sixth Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble on September 16-17 and September 23-24. This year's Hudson River Valley Ramble will feature more than 150 events throughout the ten counties of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area which extends from Westchester and Rockland to the Capital Region. The Ramble is sponsored by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Hudson Valley Ramble participants will enjoy a 2-hour walking tour of Washington Park, one of only two privately owned urban ornamental parks in New York State. Laid out in 1840, the park is rimmed by elegant row houses, once the homes of the Gilded Age magnates of Troy, an industrial center in the late nineteenth century. So like the fashionable homes of the wealthy in New York City, it provided the "old New York" backdrop in Martin Scorsese's *Age of Innocence*. Conducted by Washington Park Historian Peter D. Shaver and Park Association president Lynn M. Kopka, the walking tour will give ramblers a chance to see the interiors of several historic homes. The open houses will range from gutted shells currently undergoing transformation to graciously restored homes. Peter Shaver will discuss the history of the Park and some of its noted residents throughout its 170 year history. A donation of \$10 is encouraged to benefit the capital campaign to restore the historic 1840's Belgian block pavers of Washington Place.

Covering ten counties with more than 160 events, participants will have the opportunity to explore the Hudson River Valley and Hudson River Estuary by boat and on foot through a variety of guided walking, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, and biking experiences that highlight nationally significant historical, cultural and natural resources of the Valley. Several events offer an in-depth exploration of heritage themes such as the Revolutionary War, the Hudson River School of Art, the Great Estates and the Hudson River Estuary. Last year, participation in the Ramble swelled to over 150,000 people and with a record number of events and festivals being offered again this year, we expect another great turnout!

Mary Mangione, Acting Director of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNHA) and the Hudson River Valley Greenway, expressed enthusiasm about sponsoring the seventh consecutive year of the Hudson River Valley Ramble, and stated, "The Hudson River Valley Ramble provides a great opportunity for people of all ages and ability levels to explore the landscape, trails, historic sites and communities throughout the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. With over 160 events being offered this year, there is truly something for everyone so I encourage all to participate!"

All Ramble events are led by naturalists, ecologists, geologists, historians and trained volunteers from participating groups, which include nearly 100 environmental, land conservancy, trail and historic preservation organizations, such as the Rensselaer County Historical Society, the Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway and Oakwood Cemetery. Many New York State historic sites and parks, as well as the National Park Service, also participate. Events are offered for every ability level and most are free.

For more information about the Hudson River Valley Ramble and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, please visit, www.hudsonrivervalley.com. Here you'll find a complete Ramble event listing, organized geographically by region (Lower Valley, Middle Valley, Upper Valley). Maps for each event and information on tourism, lodging and Hudson River Valley Heritage sites, make it easy to plan a Ramble excursion. The Ramble brochure is one of the most comprehensive regional recreational guides and can be used as a reference throughout the year. To request a brochure, call 1-800-453-6665, e-mail ramble@hvc.rr.com, or visit www.hudsonrivervalley.com to download a copy.