

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information contact
Susan Siegel
bookhunterpress@verizon.net
(914) 245-2661



Yorktown Trail Town Committee Receives Grant for Sylvan Glen Park Preserve

The Yorktown Trail Town Committee has received a \$5,000 National Heritage Area grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway to document the history of the abandoned Mohegan Quarry at the Sylvan Glen Park Preserve with interpretive signs, vintage photographs and online resources.

A major employer in Yorktown from the late 19th century through the 1930's, the special honey colored granite from the quarry was used in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City and the approaches to the George Washington and Bronx Whitestone Bridges. Although the quarry ceased operating in the mid-1940, remnants of its operation are scattered in the Park.

The project will include two large "gateway" signs, one at each entrance to the Park, that will identify the self-guided Quarry Trail and the location of the other signs along the trail and a series of smaller interpretive signs strategically located along the Quarry Trail that will describe the various stages in the quarrying operation.

One of Yorktown's hidden treasures, the 343 acre Sylvan Glen Park Preserve includes six miles of hiking and mountain biking trails and is home to the town's Dog Park. By adding a new educational/historic component to the Park's existing recreational amenities, the project will promote economic development by encouraging new visitors to Yorktown.

As the Greenway grant will only cover a portion of the project's cost, the Yorktown Trail Town Committee will be seeking supplementary donations from community organizations and individuals.

As part of its research into the quarry's history, the Committee is attempting to locate descendants of the people who worked at the quarry and who may be able to shed light on the quarry's operations.

Created in 2014, the Yorktown Trail Town Committee is a 501c (3) not-for-profit volunteer organization whose dual mission is to leverage the town's extensive network of foot and bike trails to promote economic development while at the same time providing greater recreational, health and social benefits to the town's residents and visitors.

To date, the Committee's completed projects have included the construction of the Mohansic Trailway that links the North County Trail to the trails in FDR State Park, the installation of wayfinding signs on local roads designed to help motorists and cyclists find the access to many of the town's parks, the distribution of 10,000 maps of the Yorktown Heights business hamlet adjacent to the North County Trail and the installation of two large "Welcome to Yorktown" signs on the Trail that feature the map.

More information about the Yorktown Trail Town Committee is available at www.yorktowntrailtown.com or by emailing yorktowntrailtown@gmail.com.