

JUNE 2, 2017

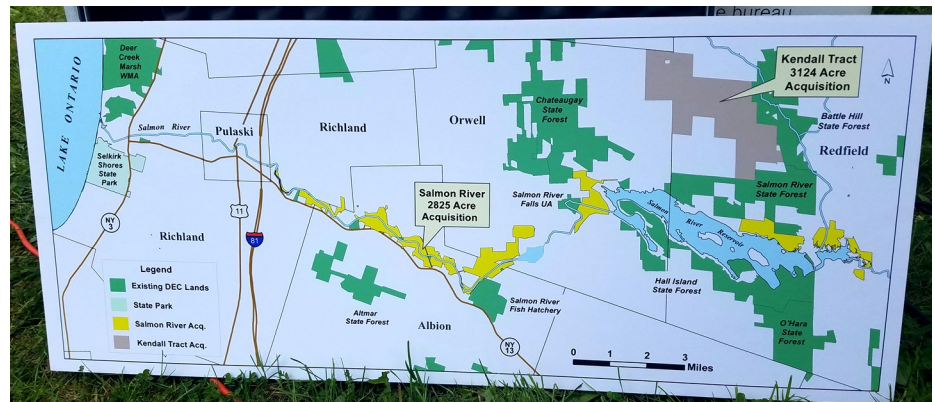
## State Announces National Grid and Kendall Tract Land Transactions

On May 24, Governor Cuomo traveled to the Salmon River Fish Hatchery in Altmar to announce two completed land transactions – the National Grid properties along the Salmon River, as well as the Kendall Tract in Redfield/Orwell. The Salmon River acquisition, which includes 2,825 acres, was part of a 2005 consent decree regarding Clean Air Act violations. To settle the case Niagara Mohawk (now National Grid) entered into an agreement to transfer land in the Salmon River area, valued at about \$3 million at the time, to NY for conservation, recreational, and education purposes. National Grid will continue to operate and maintain its electric transmission and distribution facilities located within these lands. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will propose regulations to preserve the river corridor by controlling camping, campfires, snowmobiles, and target shooting. DEC also anticipates establishing new trails along the property, constructing new parking areas, and increasing hunting and trapping opportunities on lands that will be designated state forests. DEC is developing a recreation and restoration master plan for the Salmon River lands, which will be released for public comment later this year.



Left to right: Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey, DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, Redfield Supervisor Tanya Yerdon, Governor Cuomo, Pulaski Mayor Karl Hax, Oswego Mayor Billy Barlow, Oswego County Clerk Mike Backus, Oswego County Chairman Kevin Gardner.

A priority conservation area in the state's Open Space Plan, the 3,236-acre Kendall property is located north of the Salmon River Reservoir. The Conservation Fund purchased the land in 2015 at the state's request, and by working with the Tug Hill Commission, towns of Redfield and Orwell, and the Stavemill Club, crafted a project to meet the needs of the public, the local hunting club, and the towns. DEC recently took ownership of the Kendall property using \$4,750,000 from the state's Environmental Protection Fund.



Map of newly acquired properties in the towns of Albion, Orwell, Redfield and Richland.

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The Conservation Fund created a video that explains the project and its importance to the working landscape of Tug Hill. It can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEj0dgUNO24>.

# Venerable Folks Display at State Office Building, June 5-23

The traveling exhibit featuring residents of Tug Hill will be on display at the Dulles State Office Building in Watertown starting Monday, June 5 through Friday, June 23. The exhibit was developed in 2016 by Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Tug Hill Commission, and Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY) working with artist Loretta Lepkowski. It celebrates the resilient population of the snowy Tug Hill region, the 2,100 square mile patchwork of small villages, farms, and wilderness located between Lake Ontario and the Adirondacks, known to the Iroquois as the "Lesser Wilderness."



Left to right: Loretta Lepkowski, artist; Camilla Ammirati, TAUNY; Linda Garrett, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust; Jill Breit, TAUNY; Katie Malinowski, Tug Hill Commission.

The exhibit features portraits of Tug Hill residents painted by artist Loretta Lepkowski as well as panels featuring the individuals interviewed and key aspects of life in the region, including surviving winter, and the importance of community life, and music.

Funding was provided by the SLC Arts Council, New York State Council on the Arts, Tug Hill Commission, Iroquois Gas Community Grant Program, The John Ben Snow Foundation, Inc., and Northern New York Community Foundation.

## John Young Accessible Trail Ribbon Cutting

DEC Region 6 held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly accessible John Young Trail on Friday June 2. The trail recently underwent construction to improve accessibility for visitors with mobility issues and families with children in strollers. The trail is located within the Tug Hill State Forest at Barnes Corners and is approximately 2,000 feet long. The DEC plans to extend the trail approximately 500 feet in the future.



Representatives from the Adirondack Mountain Club Black River Chapter, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Northern Regional Center for Independent Living attend ribbon cutting at Inman Gulf.

## Two Tug Hill Commission Papers Updated

Tug Hill Commission's "**Conservation Easements**" issue paper has been reviewed and updated in consultation with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. The updated version includes new information about the federal conservation easement tax deduction.

Additionally, the commission's "**How To Appropriate Unanticipated Revenues**" technical paper has been reviewed and updated in consultation with NYS Office of the State Comptroller.

When topics arise that are of concern to many Tug Hill municipalities, commission staff develops issue or technical papers to provide information and background in a concise, organized manner. Issue papers explore more complicated topics important to the region, where technical papers describe how to do something or provide data-driven information.

Both publications, as well as over two dozen other papers on a variety of topics pertinent to Tug Hill and its local governments, are available on the commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/>. For hard copies, please contact your circuit rider or the commission office toll-free in the region, at 888-785-2380.



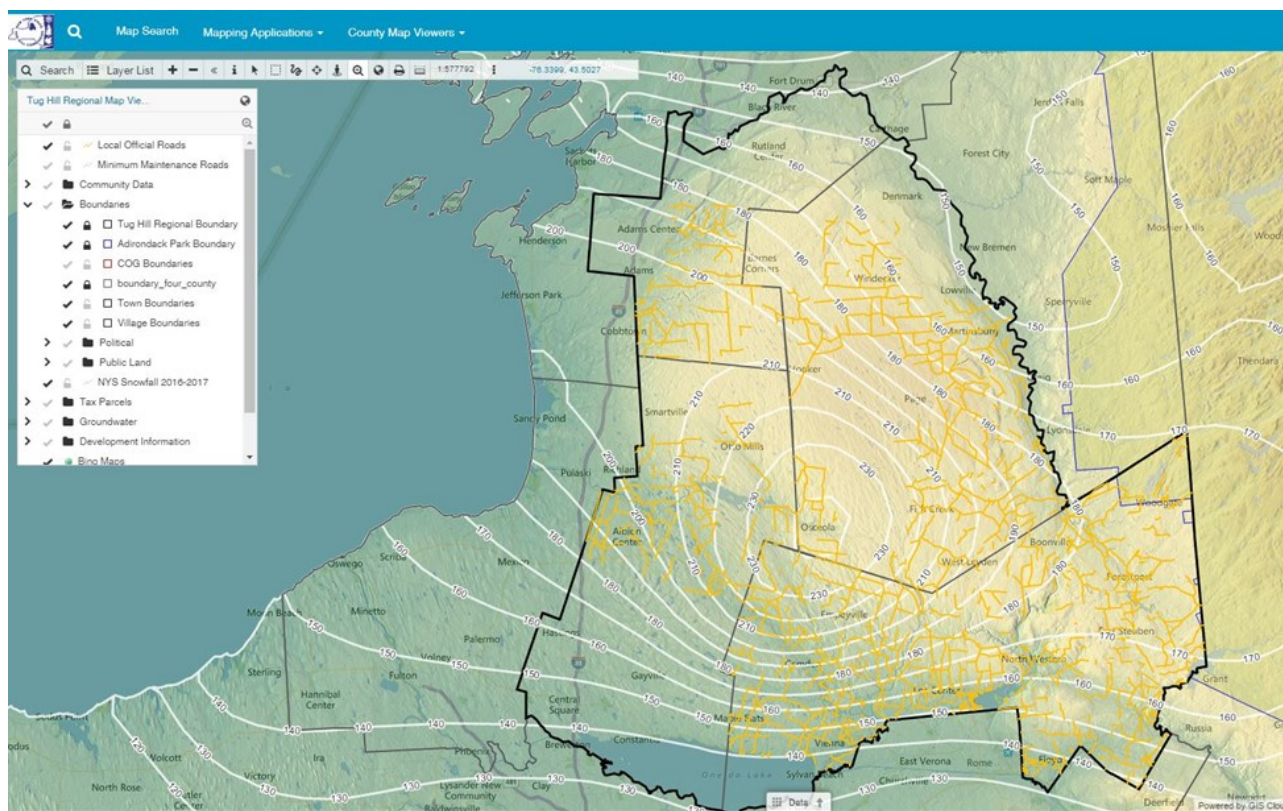
# Last Reminder for the Black River Watershed Conference

There's still time to register for the Seventh Annual Black River Watershed Conference, but please get your registration forms in ASAP. **Registrations are due June 5!** Please go to <http://www.tughill.org/2017/05/05/register-now-for-the-seventh-annual-black-river-watershed-conference/> for registration information or call the commission to have a form sent to you.

# Vienna Beginning Work on Zoning Update

The Vienna Planning Board is embarking on a project to amend the town's zoning law. The new and improved law is intended to better implement Vienna's 2007 Master Plan. Among the changes will be better guidelines for recreational camping vehicles, storage facilities and other commercial uses. The draft updates will eventually be sent to the Oneida County Planning Board for 239-m review before final adoption by the town board.

## Adopted Local Official Roads Available Online



The adoption of official road maps in the Tug Hill Region is a project started several years ago. It began in the NOCCOG area and since has spread to all areas of the region. The focus is to accurately map town roads, and assist communities in adopting an official road map.

Through the use of GPS and GIS, the commission has been able to help 28 towns in the region achieve the adoption of their official roads. With over 1200 miles of roads officially adopted, the commission is continuing to help other towns go through the process.

The commission has recently made this information available to others through the Tug Hill online map viewer. Official road data can be viewed in the Tug Hill Commission public map portal ([www.tughill.giscloud.com](http://www.tughill.giscloud.com)), or alternatively viewed by navigating to the "Mapping Applications" dropdown, and then clicking on "Local Official Roads".

# June 8 Webinar on the Community Risk and Resiliency Act and Reducing Flood Risk in NYS

On Thursday, June 8 from 10:30 a.m. - noon, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is holding a webinar to explain the Community Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRRA), enacted in 2014.

Webinar speakers will discuss resources for reducing flood risk that are under development as part of CRRRA implementation. Webinar participants will learn about the CRRRA guidance on flood risk management, and using natural and nature-based features, like sustainable shorelines, to reduce flood risk. Speakers will also describe a set of model local laws that municipalities can consider adopting to increase their resiliency in the face of climate change.

If interested, email or call the Office of Climate Change at [climatechange@dec.ny.gov](mailto:climatechange@dec.ny.gov) or 518-402-8448 and provide your name and community affiliation.

## Land Use Training Workshop June 8

The Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program is offering a land use training workshop on June 8, 2017 at Mohawk Valley Community College, Information Technology Building, Schafer Theater from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

- SEQR basics: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Intermunicipal planning: 7:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Cost is \$10 payable to Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program. Registration deadline is June 1st. Registration forms are available on the commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/2017/04/26/land-use-training-workshop/>.

For more information call 315-798-5710 or email [landuseconference@ocgov.net](mailto:landuseconference@ocgov.net).

## Contact Us

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

## "Real Life" Social Media Marketing Training June 14, Lowville

Jefferson Community College is hosting a "Real Life" Social Media Marketing Training on June 14 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Lewis County Cooperative Extension office in Lowville. Designed for small businesses and organizations, the seminar will give an overview of the most popular social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter and More. The class will discuss practical examples, growing the audience, engagement, advertising options, navigation, and links/resources to use after the class.

Limited seats are available. Call 315-782-9262 for more information, and register at <https://socialmedialowville.eventbrite.com>.