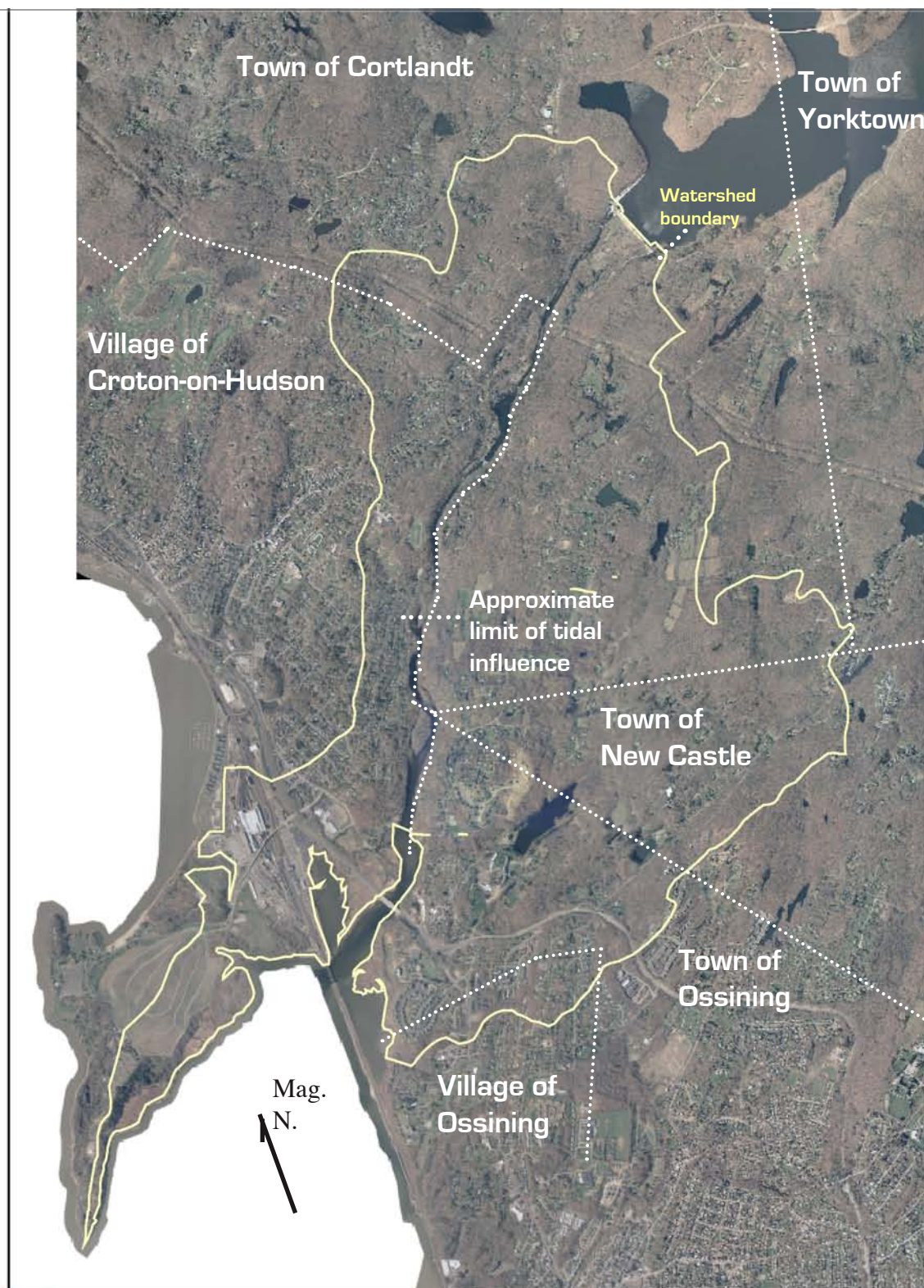


# CROTON BAY WATERSHED COMPACT

## Enclosure 1: Aerial View of the Croton River and Bay Watershed



Westchester  
gov.com

Andrew J. Spano  
County Executive

### Croton Bay Watershed

Source: Westchester County Planning Dept, Aerial Photograph 2005;

Gerard E. Mulligan, AICP, Commissioner  
Department of Planning  
432 Michaelian Office Building  
148 Martine Avenue  
White Plains, New York 10601

# CROTON BAY WATERSHED COMPACT

## Enclosure 2: Tides and River Water Level

At high tide the lower Croton River is navigable by motorized craft from the train trestle bridge at the Echo Canoe Launch up to Firemen's Island. At low tide, navigation on this lower portion of the river is usually limited to shallow draft craft, such as kayaks and canoes. Water level in the lower Croton River varies by as much as 3 to 4 feet in concert with daily Hudson River tides.

This tidal portion of the Croton River is just under half the length of the river within the Croton Bay watershed. The watershed itself encompasses some 3,000 acres and provides drinking water to circa over 10,000 local residents.

Visitors will notice turbidity in the water in this tidal section of the river. The broth-like turbidity is proof of a healthy river, rich in nutrients that are suspended in the lightly saline water. This nutrient loading feeds the plants, insects and small crustaceans that feed small fish that feed blue crabs, heron and eagles. Ocean run fish that enter on the tide, especially in spawning season, may travel further upriver beyond the tidal section—up to the insurmountable Croton Dam. Hence, handsome trout are quite common, as are many other species.

Water level in the Croton River is also influenced by surface runoff in the watershed and the amount of tailwater that spills from the Dam that supplies drinking water to New York City and many Westchester County communities.

For tide and current data, look up the Haverstraw Bay or Ossining at one of these reliable sites: Hudson River Tourism [www.hudsonriver.com/tides.htm](http://www.hudsonriver.com/tides.htm) or Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory <http://xtide.ldeo.columbia.edu/hudson/tides/predictions.html>



Photos: [top] Croton Bay 'broth' at high tide in midsummer; [middle] a mature male blue crab; [bottom] mature females have red-tipped claws (photos: A. Wiegman)





# CROTON BAY WATERSHED COMPACT

## Enclosure 3: No Wake Zone for the Croton River

Unified protection for the entire Croton River and Bay Watershed



### No Wake Zone

The Village of Croton on Hudson has marked “SLOW—NO WAKE ZONE” for the portion of the Croton River that is navigable by motorized craft and influenced by Hudson River tides. This section of the river is indicated on the attached map.

Four new “no wake zone” floats have been installed by the Croton Police Department’s dive team at four locations in the Croton River in response to resident complaints of speeding jet skis and motor boats on the river.

The benefits of a speed restriction include protection of the shoreline from wake erosion, safety of kayakers, canoeists and swimmers, reducing disturbance to neighbors and wildlife, and limiting damage to submerged underwater vegetation.

For ease of installation and removal, Village Police Department members mixed concrete at home in five gallon containers instead of using the usual 125 pound mushroom anchors. The floats will be removed after boating and swimming season ends.

The locations are (l to r);

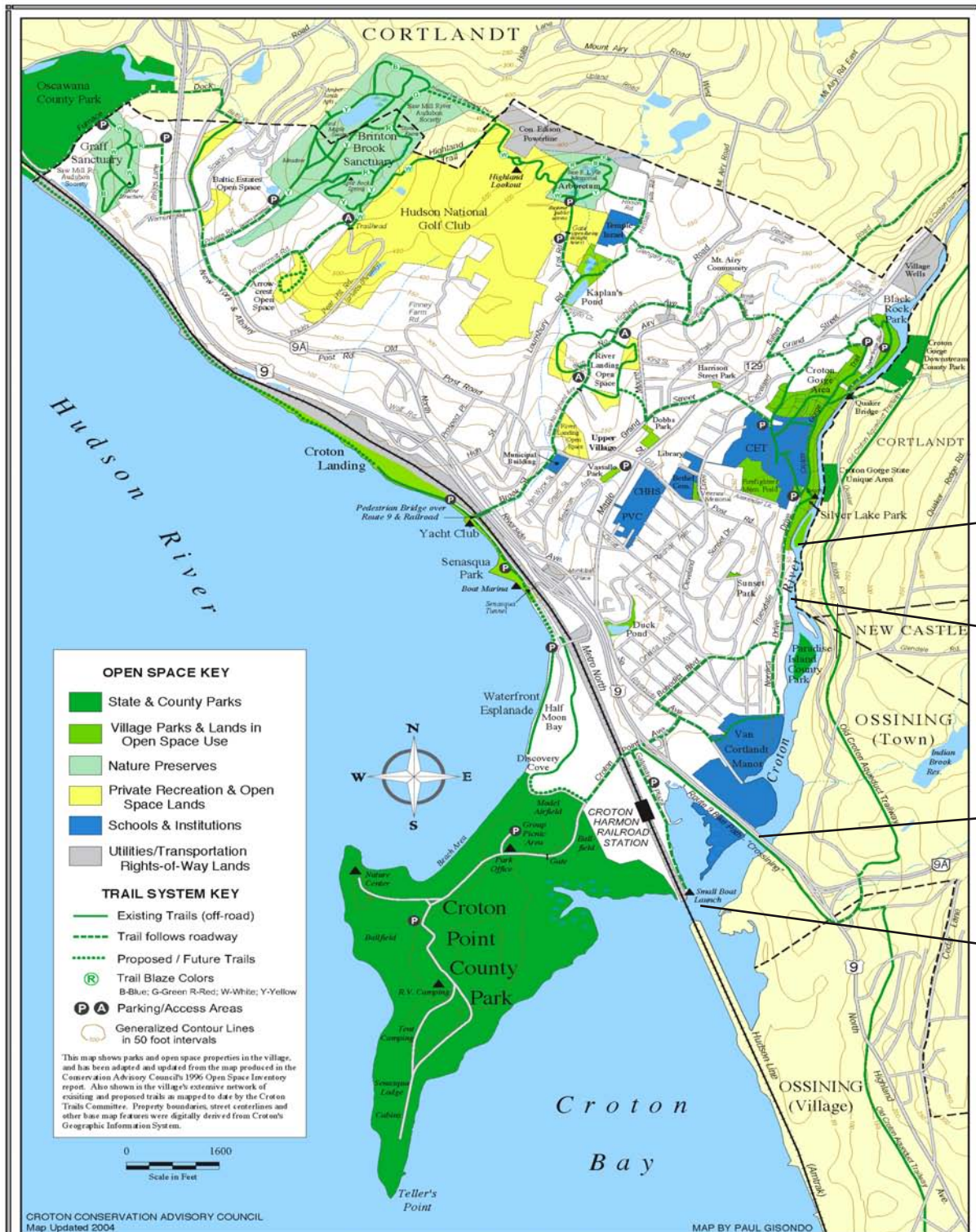
1. Just north of the Rt.9 “Crossing” bridge.
2. Across from the Van Cortlandt Manor dock.
3. The south end of Paradise Island.
4. The north end of Paradise Island (not depicted).



(Photos: A. Gallelli, C. Kane, L. Wiegman, [www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov) August 28, 2006)

# CROTON BAY WATERSHED COMPACT

## Croton River's No Wake Zone Map



Firemen's Island (tidal limit)



Echo Boat Launch (public access)

## PARKS, OPEN SPACE & TRAILS

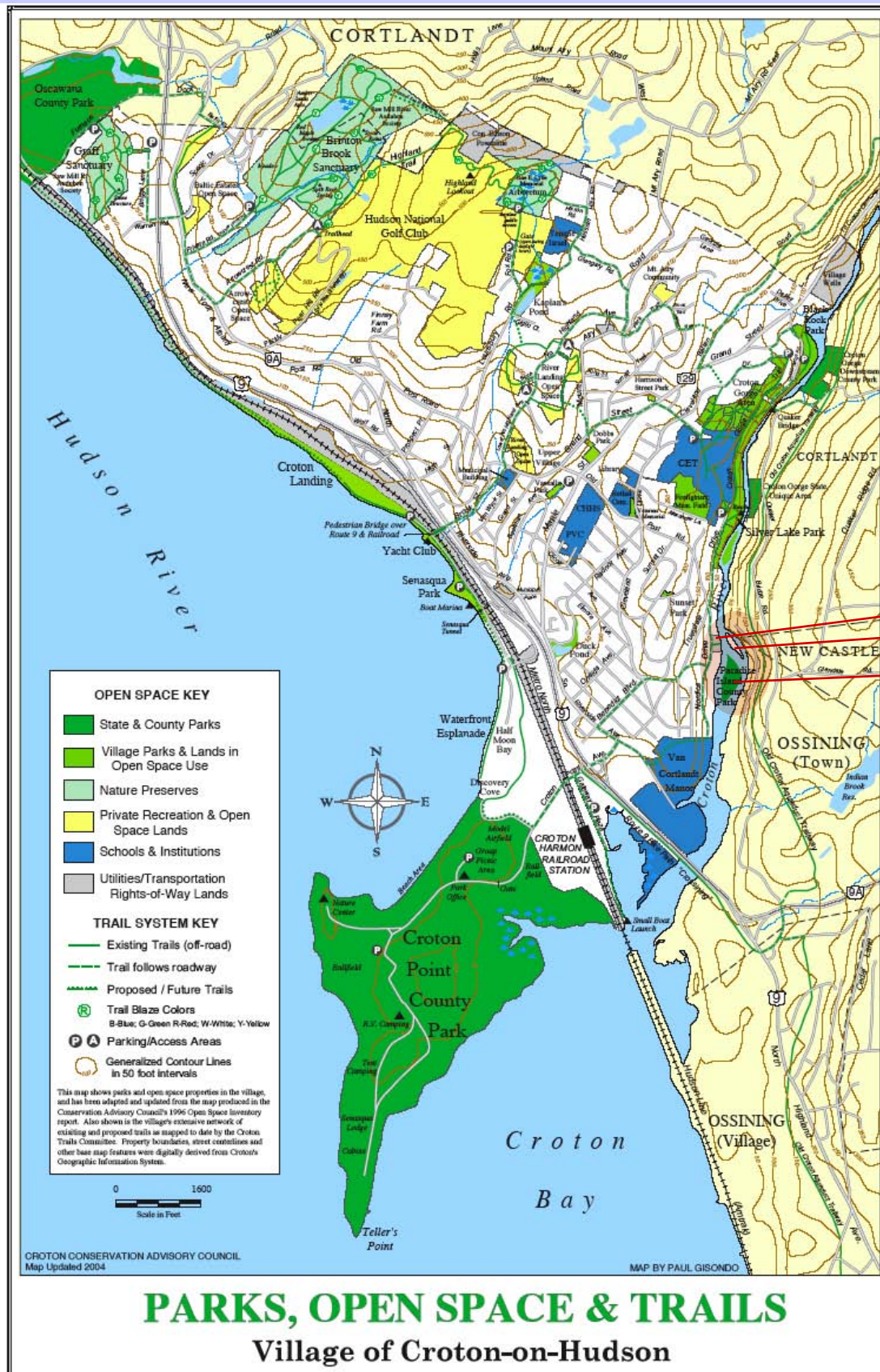
### Village of Croton-on-Hudson

Village Trail map (2004); [www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov)



# CROTON BAY WATERSHED COMPACT

## Enclosure 4: Jurisdiction Junction Jumble: Example and Map



One example of the crazy quilt of varying rules and land use policies lies within a circle of 200 feet surrounding Paradise Island, a popular destination on the river. Paradise Island is Westchester County property. Mayo's Landing, which provides the closest public access to the Island is owned by Croton. Deer Island is privately owned as are

**Mayo's Landing: Croton**  
**Deer Island: private**  
**Paradise Island: County**

the steep slopes on the eastern shore. Erosion due to over-use is most apparent on eastern shore which is governed by 3 different towns: Cortlandt, New Castle, and Ossining.



# CROTON BAY WATERSHED COMPACT

## Enclosure 5: Recent News Coverage

### The Gazette



### Uniform regulations eyed for Croton River corridor

Volume Twenty-three, Number Thirty-five

Week of August 31 through September 6, 2006

USPS Periodicals Mail #001-279

75 Cents

Officials and residents of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson and the Town of Cortlandt are expected to sit down in a couple of weeks to begin hammering out a comprehensive list of uniform rules and regulations regarding activities and conduct along the Croton River and adjoining public lands.

That was the bottom line following a two-hour meeting at Croton's Municipal Building Tuesday night at which problems along the Croton River corridor—and, frankly, an improvement that began in early July when village police began patrolling the lower end of the river—were addressed by both groups. Some 30 residents, including a couple from Ossining, attended. Also in attendance were almost as many representatives of the two municipalities as well as Westchester County and state police, and the state Department of Environmental Conservation and its Environmental Conservation Police, and the state's parks and forestry services.

Croton Mayor Dr. Gregory Schmidt said the next step would be to involve officials of the towns of Ossining and, possibly, New Castle, which also border the river (though New Castle's section is only a tiny sliver along the 3.5-mile corridor).

Problems reported have ranged from trespassing on private property and having open campfires and open containers of alcoholic beverages, to graffiti, lewd and disorderly conduct, public defecation and urination, trampling of greenery that has resulted in severe erosion in some locations, littering, unsafe diving and reckless/careless boating.

"There has been a big improvement with the police boat being on the river," commented Truesdale Drive resident Ed Lucatos.

But he said that Cortlandt's attempt to aid the situation—by refreshing "no parking" signs along Quaker Bridge Road—have only resulted in an increase in persons trespassing on his and neighboring properties on the opposite (village) side of the river.

There also continue to be problems with people on the east side of river, apparently on a 22-acre piece of state-owned riverfront land, "hanging out all day," drinking, making campfires and allowing their "constant(ly) barking dogs" to run at large.

"People don't seem to have any recognition of a problem having a fire under a dry (tree) canopy," commented Mr. Lucatos of the thoughtless behavior of some.

Indeed, there aren't any laws or regulations on the books which prohibit on the state property dogs running at large, consumption of alcoholic beverages and having campfires. nor rules.

Westchester and Putnam counties last summer. This summer, the number is up to seven. Capt. Kopy said that on 12 of the past 20 or so days, plain clothes state troopers have been assigned to areas along the river in Cortlandt for at least a couple of hours a day.

Residents along Nordica and Truesdale drives in Croton are the most impacted in the village by activities taking place on or along the river, and persons attempting to get to and from it.

Richard Churney of Nordica Drive said he believes the village-owned land off Nordica used by people to get to and from the river has "always been used as a de facto park." He said it was time for village officials to decide whether it should, in fact, be formally adopted as a village park. That would allow imposition of rules in other village parks, including their being limited to village residents only (something he would prefer not happen).

Phyllis Morrow, another Nordica resident, said official designation of the village land along the river as a park would be the wrong thing to do—though she would just as soon see many fewer non-residents of her street on her street. Such designation, she said, would entangle the village in federal "handicapped-accessible" regulations that would incur further aesthetic damage to the area while also likely to generate even more visitors.

Village police began the boat patrols of the river in early July after meeting with many of the same residents who attended Tuesday night's meeting. While there have been problems in the past, and they have been increasing in recent years, residents of Nordica and Truesdale drives said that late spring and early summer 2006 was "the worst" in terms of the numbers of people and problem behavior.

Due to the depth of the river, the boat can only proceed about 40 percent of the way up the Croton River from where it empties into the Hudson River. That's because of the shallowness of the river.

Patrols only take place during periods of high tide, also due to depth considerations.

Life-long Croton resident and local Realtor Nancy Kennedy and her family have a home along Nordica,

*continued on page 7*

individuals involved in questionable or outright illegal activities swimming or boating over to the side of the river in Cortlandt and Ossining, which has not been routinely patrolled in past years.

State and county police can make arrests in any of the local municipal jurisdictions, but may not be versed on what specific laws are being violated, if any. Coordination of regulations relating to activities and conduct in the corridor are intended to make it easier for their enforcement.

Village officials and residents note that the Croton River has been a place of summertime enjoyment for boaters and swimming for generations. Many say they would be loathe to severely curtail such activities, though concerns remain over safety, especially with unsupervised swimming.

Ed Reilly of Truesdale noted that in the past several years, there have been a couple of serious injuries and two fatalities among swimmers. "When you have 250 people in 15- to 25-foot-deep water, and no lifeguard, this is not a good idea."

constant idling and low-speed maneuvering. The result is excessive exhaust smoke and fumes. To that extent, the chief said that a smaller engine is expected to be fitted shortly.

Clung, among other concerns, erosion of the hillside and this season's high number of visitors, commented Croton Mayor Dr. Schmidt, "It's a matter of using it [the Croton River and its corridor] so that it is not destroyed."

"Having the Croton River there is a curse and a blessing at the same time," he said. While Croton maintains a swimming area along the river, Silver Lake, it is only open to village residents and their guests.

An increasing number of visitors to other areas of the river corridor are believed to be members of Ossining's increasing Hispanic/Latino population that doesn't have access to private pools and can't afford memberships in private swim or health clubs. The situation may be alleviated when the Village of Ossining completes, possibly late this year, an \$8 million-plus renovation of its Joseph G. Caputo Community Center that will include a new indoor pool.

In the past, the appearance of Croton police on the village's side of the river would have

others can pass parked vehicles safely, and to help limit the number of visitors willing to trek down to the river. The town plans to impose a "tow-away zone" along the existing "no parking" area. Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi said that after the Town Board's public hearing to properly establish the tow-away zone, slated for September 19, the appropriate new signage, already on order, "will go up the next day."

The supervisor noted that Cortlandt has provided \$20,000 to the village this summer to help offset the cost of the new patrols, and the new 18-foot boat and trailer Croton purchased in late July for \$18,500 to help facilitate them. "This is just phase one," commented the supervisor, adding that attention to residents' concerns will not fade away. "We know there has been a tremendous amount of annoyance for you and your families."

Croton Chief of Police Dennis Coven noted that the new boat, originally outfitted with a variety of first-aid supplies as well as a defibrillator and oxygen, now also has a stretcher to accommodate evacuation of seriously injured swimmers or boaters.

If there's a problem with the boat, it's that its outboard engine is of the type that is not meant for

### Croton River corridor

*from page 1*

perched atop a cliff wall that offers a jewel of a downstream view of the Croton River. But after 11 years of escalating problems, from trespassers to persons mounting her roof to jump down into the river to, most recently, a group of four boys peering through her daughter's bedroom window, she was prepared last Memorial Day weekend to post a "for sale" sign in her yard. The only thing that stopped her, she said, was speaking with village Trustee Charles Kane (another life-long Crotonite and a resident of Truesdale) who said that momentum was in place to take affirmative action.

"In the past six weeks, it's completely changed," commented Ms. Kennedy, specifically complimenting the village boat patrol.

Still, there are lingering concerns, not the least of which is severe erosion of the hill in Cortlandt on the opposite side of the river. "In the last two or three years, healthy trees have just fallen into the river" because their root systems have been compromised, she explained.

Cortlandt's "refreshing" of "no parking" signs along narrow Quaker Bridge Road is intended to both help assure that emergency vehicles and



# CROTON BAY WATERSHED COMPACT

## Enclosure 5: Recent News Coverage

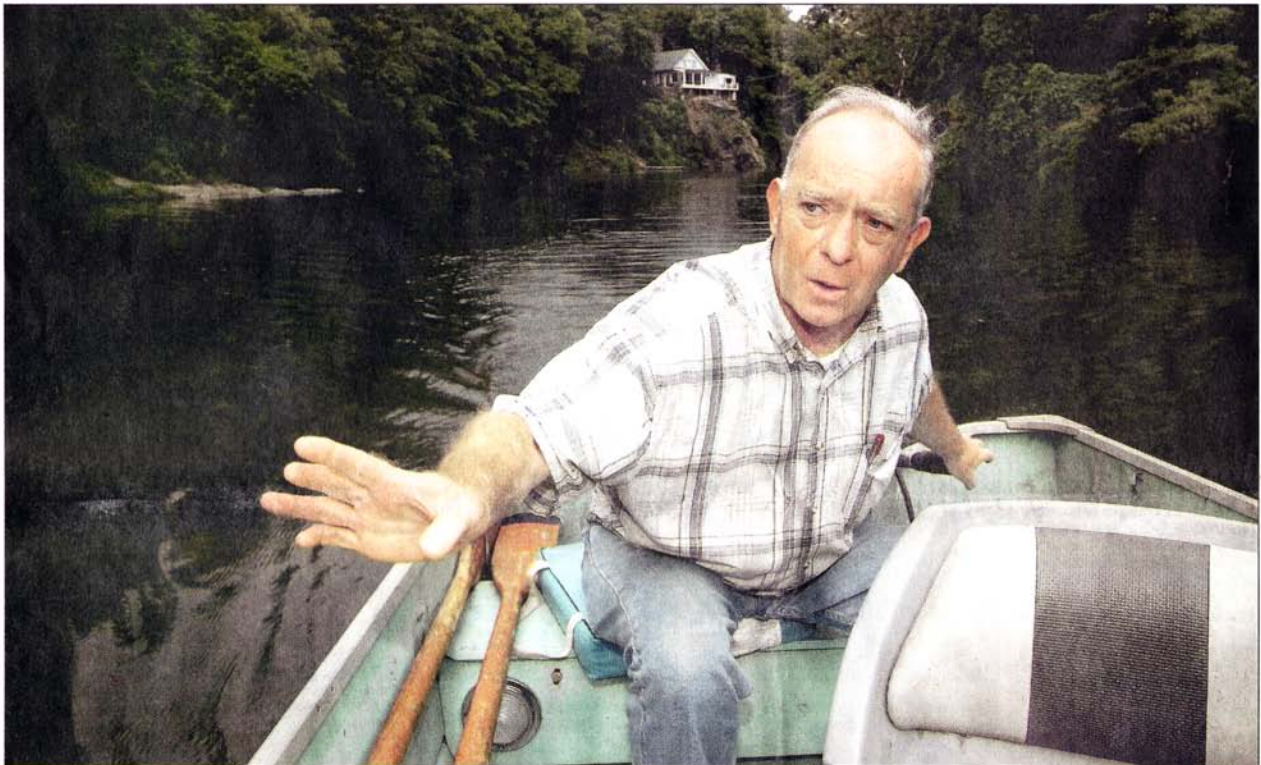
The Journal News | Monday, September 18, 2006

WPX

Commun

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTING STORIED WATERS

## Rescuing the Croton River



Photos by Matthew Brown/The Journal News

Charles Kane of Croton-on-Hudson tours a section of the Croton River. Kane is a leader in the movement to create a Croton River Compact among neighboring communities that would improve the long-term health of the river's ecosystem.

### Village trustee leads push to save hidden and historic paradise

Robert Marchant  
The Journal News

**CROTON-ON-HUDSON**  
**T**he Croton River has always been a popular destination. There's wildlife of every description drawn to its waters, as well as the swimmers, boaters, anglers and pleasure-seekers who flock to the wooded gorge along its banks.

It may just be a little too popular for its own good.

Today the river and its estuary are under increasing pressure from the thousands of feet that trample through the vegetation, and its fragile ecosystem is also vulnerable to the demands of the regional housing market. A movement to conserve the river through increased law enforcement, as well as a more stringent and consistent approach toward

land-use policy along its banks, is taking shape.

About 30 people and government officials have begun the process, meeting at Croton's Village Hall last month.

"It seems to be unique — so much beauty, so close to our backyard," said Charles Kane, a leader in the regional movement to create a Croton River Compact among neighboring communities that would improve the long-term health of the river's ecosystem.

Kane, a member of the Croton village Board of Trustees, has spent much of his life in and around the river, where he once caught a 20-pound striped bass and dined on its blue crab (a practice he does not now recommend).

"In the springtime, we'd have herring runs so thick we could pick them right out of the water with our hands," he recalled. "I grew up here, and I want to preserve it for future generations."

On an hourlong boat ride up the river, Kane can point out many of

Please see RIVER, 2B

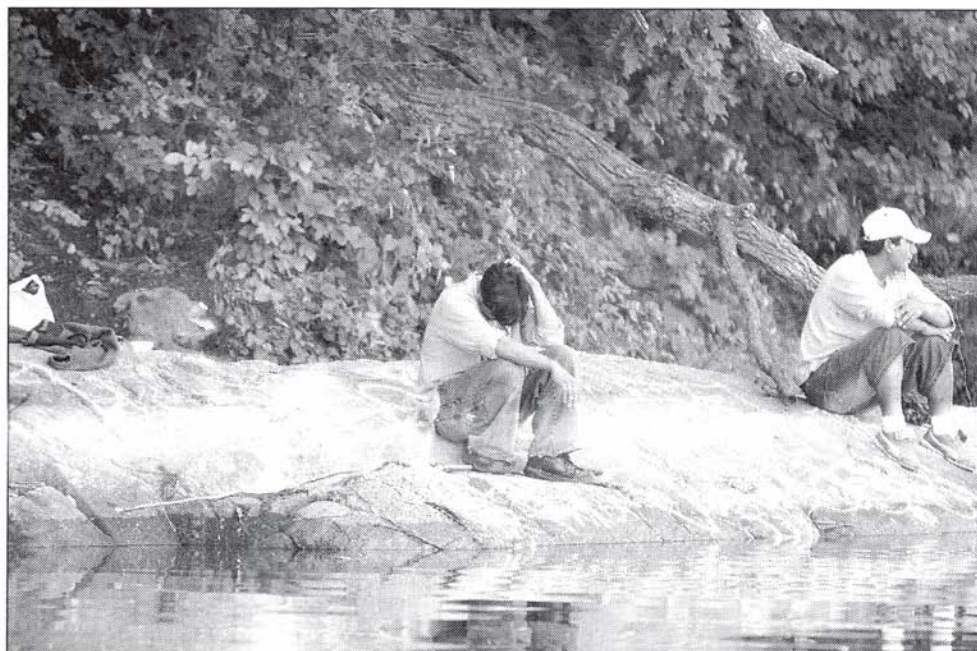


Kane, a member of the Croton-on-Hudson Board of Trustees, said he has witnessed trespassers jumping from the roof of this house into a section of the river.



# CROTON BAY WATERSHED COMPACT

## Enclosure 5: Recent News Coverage



Matthew Brown/The Journal News

Fishermen sit on a rock covered in graffiti along the Croton River. Charles Kane, a member of the Croton-on-Hudson Board of Trustees, is working to create a conservation group to protect the river's ecosystem.

## Croton River rescue in works

**RIVER, from 1B**

the historical highlights along its banks: the ruins of an old Colonial mill, the place where the first silver-screen Tarzan, Elmo Lincoln, thumped his chest for a silent-movie shoot in 1912, and where competing speakeasies served up illegal hooch to the locals during Prohibition.

During the short ride, a kingfisher, a red-tailed hawk, herons and mergansers all made appearances.

But Kane can also point out plenty of places along the river that spell trouble for its long-term health.

There are a half-dozen patches along the river's edge where erosion caused by foot traffic sends mud and silt into the river. Pointing to a rocky outcropping, Kane noted, "I once counted 18 people on this cliff — a conga line of people waiting to jump in." There are piles of litter in some sections, graffiti scrawled on rocks at others. Pointing to the upland slopes of the river, Kane noted that much of the land along the river is in private hands, including several large estates, and it is conceivable that, in years to come, dozens or even hundreds of new homes and condominiums could be built in close

proximity to the river.

"We need to raise the standards for environmental review," Kane said. "We have agreed to have consistent zoning, law and enforcement and land-use policy on both sides of the river."

Kane wants to see environmental and land-use studies on the river (which could cost tens of thousands of dollars), followed by new environmental, zoning and law enforcement restrictions applied equally along the 3-mile corridor that runs from the Croton Dam to the Hudson River.

Kane and other village officials are looking to cooperate with leaders from the village and town of Ossining and the town of New Castle to come up with consistent environmental and zoning standards along the river. The town of Cortlandt has already been working on the project, providing funding for a new boat now in use by the Croton Police Department.

Kane said the village of Croton was likely to provide the lion's share of police patrols that have already begun to lessen the lawless behavior that flared up during the summer, but the alliance between communities would ensure the river's long-term health.

A river environmentalist, John

Cronin, noted that municipal government is almost always on the front lines of environmental preservation, and the more cooperation at the local level, the better the outcome.

"I think the future of the environment relies on alliances, such as those between municipal governments," said Cronin, a long-time environmental advocate for the Hudson River. "The problems of the Croton River are the problems of daily life — runoff, sewage, pesticides, erosion — and those issues are best addressed on the local level."

A Croton resident who lives near the river, Joel Gingold, said he thought the time had come to make the changes that have been proposed — and dropped — for the past three decades. The difficulty will be to find a balance between keeping the river accessible to the public while ensuring its future health, he said.

"There seems to be the momentum to do something," said Gingold, a retired engineer. "We've got to come up with something everyone can live with."

Reach Robert Marchant at [rmarchan@lohud.com](mailto:rmarchan@lohud.com) or 914-666-6578.



# CROTON BAY WATERSHED COMPACT

## Enclosure 5: Recent News Coverage

# Opinion

Serving the Lower Hudson Valley since 1850

6B

**The Journal News** | Saturday, September 23, 2006

### OUR VIEWS

## Weekend wrap-up

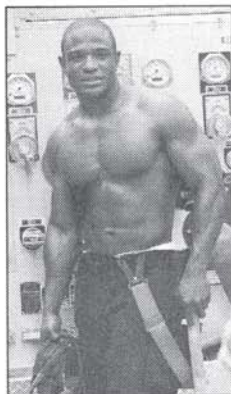
### Work together for a cleaner river

It is rare to see municipal officials reach across their borders and cooperate with one another on planning and zoning issues. More often, local leaders shout "home rule" and dig their heels in when considering, say, a proposal for a shopping center that could increase the traffic on the town next door's roads. That's why we applaud the efforts of Charles Kane, a Croton-on-Hudson village trustee, who wants to enlist the support of neighboring Ossining, New Castle and Town of Cortlandt in developing a plan to preserve the Croton River.

Kane is concerned about the three-mile stretch of the river from the Croton Dam to the Hudson River. He recently told staff writer Robert Marchant that runoff into the river from development as well as from footpaths that are eroded from overuse — that stretch of the river is a popular place for teens to swim, congregate and sometimes trash — muddies the water and strains the river's fragile ecosystem. Without proper planning, Kane cautions, the river will only become more degraded.

Kane is on the right path. While he's at it, he might want to also call on the towns in northern Westchester and Putnam County that the Croton River meanders through before entering the Croton Reservoir. What happens on the banks of the East Branch and West Branch of the Croton River in those communities flows downstream, after all, and affects the health of the river, too.

tims of domestic violence by pooling their resources. Now domestic violence agencies such as the Northern Westchester Shelter, local governments and police departments will help support the newly formed Ossining & Briarcliff Manor Partnership for Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.



Carucha L. Meuse/The Journal News  
Mount Vernon firefighter Sean Russell poses for the calendar Sept. 5.

Co-chairing the partnership are Ossining town Police Chief Ken Donato, who said he witnessed domestic violence in his own family growing up, and Sylvia Escala, Ossining manager for Family Ties of Westchester. "Every day I have to see the impact of domestic violence on our community, on our families and, most of all, on our children," Escala said. "Let's work together to solve this problem."

A good start would be for victims to call the Northern Westchester Shelter hotline at 914-238-2800, or toll free at 888-438-8700. May the partnership become a model for other communities.

### MVFD will show some skin

New York City's bravest have nothing on the Mount Vernon Fire Department. The MVFD will have its own 2007 calendar, featuring 14 firefighters in little more than glistening muscles and suspenders. "We hope it will be successful here," said Fire Chief Al Everett.

If the shots at [LoHud.com/firefighters](http://LoHud.com/firefighters)



# Let



# CROTON BAY WATERSHED COMPACT

## Enclosure 6: The Croton River as vital Hudson-to-Highlands Connection

The big idea is to connect work on the Croton Bay watershed (in the red oval below) to the management plans for upland biodiversity to the east and the Hudson estuary work to the west. Umbrella protections for both Croton Bay watershed and the Croton Reservoir watershed will help keep the Croton River and Indian Brook as healthy as possible—as a drinking water supply for nearly 20,000 residents and as a vital wildlife corridor and habitat connecting the Hudson to the Highlands.

To read the Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan, visit the Wildlife Conservation Society's website ([www.wcs.org/media/file/CHBP\\_lo-res.pdf](http://www.wcs.org/media/file/CHBP_lo-res.pdf)). This report is a blueprint for the biotic corridor studies underway upstream in Pound Ridge, Lewsiboro and North Salem available at the WCS website ([www.wcs.org/media/file/MCA-WCS-EWBC-Report.pdf](http://www.wcs.org/media/file/MCA-WCS-EWBC-Report.pdf)). New York State Biodiversity Project has a brand new clearinghouse for flora and fauna of the Highland corridors ([www.nybiodiversity.org](http://www.nybiodiversity.org)).



Image Source: Google Earth (earth.google.com)