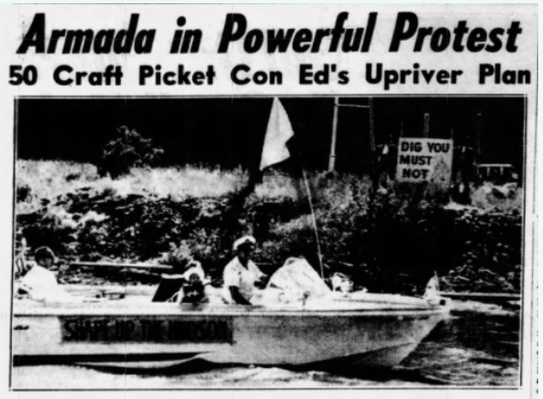
Despite this growing opposition, the Federal Power Commission granted Con Edison a license to build the Storm King plant in March 1965. Scenic Hudson responded by filing a lawsuit in the federal Circuit Court of Appeals. Despite a blackout in 1965 that affected nine northeastern states and two Canadian provinces that made Con Edisoon's argument about the necessity of the plant clear, the court ruled in favor of Scenic Hudson the following month.

They ruled that the Federal Power Commission must consider the environmental consequences before approving the plan. This was the first time a federal agency was legally required to complete an environmental review on a project. It directly influenced the creation of the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act, which requires such reviews on federally approved projects

On September 6th, 1964, a protest made national news when an armada of boats ranging in size from kayaks to an 80 foot yacht, surrounded the proposed power plant site setting off flares and blowing foghorns.



Our community did not idly wait for the FPC to complete its review. They continued to organize. In 1966, Robert Boyle identified two old federal laws that prohibited dumping in the Hudson and required half of all subsequent fines go to the group that reported the violators. The Fishermen's Association reported companies for polluting the river and used the funds they received to increase awareness. Folk singer Pete Seeger, pictured here, also helped publicize the need to preserve the Hudson River. He raised money to build a full size nineteenth century sailing sloop called the Clearwater. It launched in May of 1969 and meant to remind people of the Hudson's beauty.

Despite these efforts, the FPC's review gave the green light for the Storm King Plan in 1970. It claimed the plant "would not adversely affect . . . the natural beauty, the historical significance, or the recreational opportunities of the area" nor "adversely affect the fish resources of the Hudson River.

United in their common cause, Scenic Hudson and the Fishermen's Association continued on. Conducting studies of their own, they discovered that Con Edison had failed to consider the river's tides when calculating it's potential effect on the fish. Presented with this new evidence, the appeals court ordered further studies of the striped bass, and again put the project on hold.

Finally, in August 1979, secret negotiations began between the two sides. The mediator was Russell Train, a former head of the Environmental Protection Agency. After 16 months of bargaining, they reached a compromise, nicknamed the Peace Treaty on the Hudson. Representatives of Scenic Hudson, the Fishermen's Association, and Con Edison all signed the document. It agreed to change the nearby Indian Point nuclear power plant to reduce fish kills and to take the plant off-line during striped bass spawning season. Con Edison also established a $12 million endowment for Hudson River research that funds ongoing work by The Hudson River Foundation. In return, the agreement stipulated that Con Edison did not have to build expensive cooling towers at Indian Point.

The fight for Storm King marked the birth of grassroots environmentalism. Scenic Hudson and the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, today known as Riverkeeper, are recognized as models for how to use laws, the courts, and public opinion to fight on behalf of the natural environment. These legal cases set a precedent that enabled citizens to sue in court on the basis of environmental concerns, and the environmental, scenic and recreational qualities of a place could be protected by law. And thanks to

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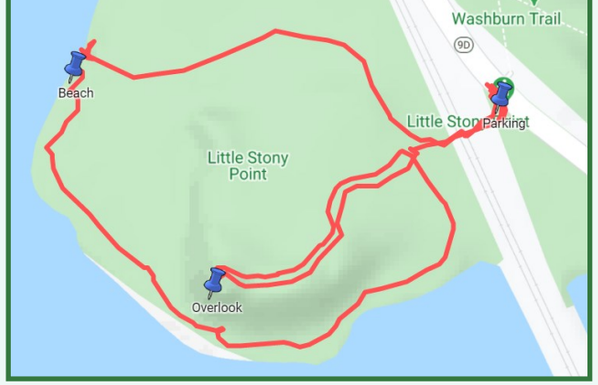
Funded in part by the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

LITTLE STONY POINT

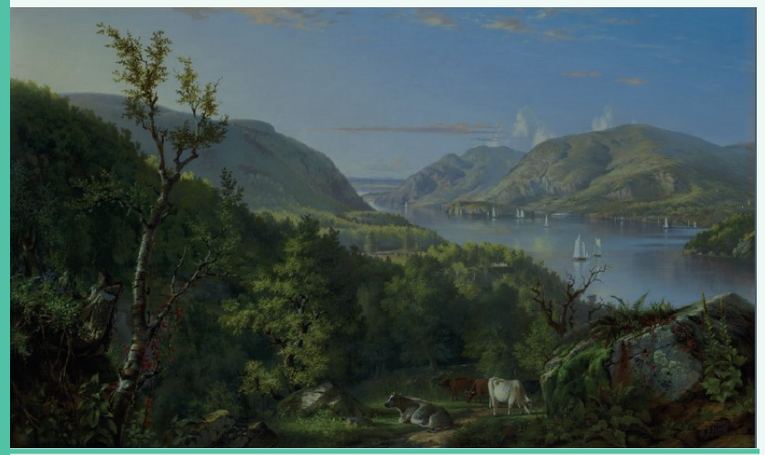
A History Hike

Presented by the Putnam History Museum

845-265-4010
63 Chestnut St
Cold Spring, NY 10516
www.putnamhistorymuseum.org



Welcome to PHM's Little Stony Point History Hike. This trail is a loop that begins at the parking lot, takes you TKTKTK and then brings you back. At the Entrance, Overlook, and Beach there will be a bit of historical context provided for



Left: Hudson River School painting by John Ferguson Weir (1841–1926), View of the Highlands from West Point, 1862. New-York Historical Society, Robert L. Stuart Collection.

Start: Parking

In the 19th century, the Hudson was one of America's top tourist destinations and a hub of early industrial activity. The artist Thomas Cole was one of these early tourists who loved the scenery so much that he settled down and began painting the landscape. Soon other artists adapted his style and subject of painting. This group of artists is known as the Hudson River School, and is considered the first unique American artistic style.

But there were threats on the horizon. The logging of the Adirondacks led to treeless soil that rainfall carried into the Hudson. This process was making the Hudson shallower, impacting the health of the river, and its use as a commercial waterway. These dual threats led to action, such as lawmakers ending commercial logging on state land in the Adirondacks.

2. Quarry Vista

As you come to a stop at the overlook, you are standing on Little Stony Point. Like much of the Hudson Highlands, it has been sought after for both its natural beauty, and commercial potential.

Closeup of 1930s quarry

LSP was subject to quarrying by the Hudson River Stone Company in the late 1930s, the remnants of which you can see on the rockface here. They halted this project after a few years, but the land was threatened in 1967, when the Georgia Pacific Company purchased it as a site for a manufacturing plant. The Hudson River Valley Commission intervened.

Established by Governor Nelson Rockefeller 2 years earlier, the group reviewed all construction projects within one mile of the river. It successfully blocked the planned plant and incorporated Little Stony Point into the Hudson Highlands State Park that opened in 1970, and in which we are now standing. These events were happening around the same time as the fight to Save Storm King, which you'll learn more about when you reach the beach.

3. The Beach

As you come to the beach, you will see Storm King Mountain rising 1,355 ft above you, the highest peak in the Highlands. Like Little Stony Point, it retains its beauty today because of the combined efforts of concerned citizens and government to preserve the Highlands' natural landscape.

A growing population and economic prosperity after World War II fueled an increase demand for electricity in the Hudson Valley and New York City areas. Con Edison opened Indian Point Nuclear power plant in September 1962. The following year, the company applied to the Federal Power Commission for a license to build a hydroelectric power plant on Storm King Mountain near Cornwall.

The plan proposed digging a 2 mile long tunnel from the river to the top of the mountain. This tunnel would pump 6 million gallons of river water a day to a reservoir behind Storm King. The water would then be discharged back into the river through electric generating turbines in the tunnel. Large buildings would have to be constructed at the base of the mountain, and sections of it blasted away.

Opposition to the new powerplant came from two distinct, but united groups. Hudson Valley Residents, including Walter Boadman, Leo Rothschild, and Historian Carl Cramer, formed the Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference in 1963, better known today as Scenic Hudson.

The second group were local fishermen, who relied on the river for their livelihood and witnessed the thousands of dead striped bass appearing in the water near the newly opened Indian Point plant. Scenic Hudson Member Robert Boyle publicized their discovery in Sports Illustrated Magazine. He noted that fish eggs and young fish could be sucked into Indian Point's intake pipe and killed, while mature fish were drawn to the warm water from the discharge pipe and then trapped under its dock. The proposed Storm King plant would use the same pipe system, putting the Hudson's ecosystem at even greater risk.

Above: Fishermen on the Hudson

Below: Proposed Power plant