Poughkeepsie

Area: 5.7 sq miles
Zip code: 12601-12604
Population: 30,847 (2012, +3.3% since 2000)
Approximate coordinates: 41°42’N 73°55’W
County: Dutchess

This tour has six stops over 2.7 miles.

This tour can be taken by car or on foot. There are walking and driving directions at each stop.

Find directions to the next stop at the end of the previous one.
1. MIDDLE MAIN: WHITE CHERRY ROSE REDEVELOPMENT
531 Main Street

The Middle Main Initiative is a project of Hudson River Housing, an organization dedicated to building strong communities through housing. The initiative launched in 2008 with a comprehensive plan to develop a vibrant neighborhood “just a little off center” on Poughkeepsie’s Main Street.

A key component of the project is the White Cherry Rose Redevelopment, a three-block hub designed to support connections to the nearby Fall Kill Creek, local food systems, job training, property rehabilitation, and green space. The Underwear Factory, the three story, 22,000 square foot building on Cherry Street, will be the center of the hub. A cafe and community kitchen is planned for the ground floor, with open co-working spaces as well as live-work lofts and studio apartments on the upper floors.

Audio Elizabeth Celaya is the Director of Organizational Development at Hudson River Housing.

Recorded on March 7, 2014.

Next Stop 453 Main Street
1. Head northwest on Main St toward N Cherry St
Destination will be on the right

Walking directions
See above

2. MIDDLE MAIN: PAT’S KITCHEN
453 Main Street

Housing is more than just a room and a bed—it is also inclusive of all the things that go on around a resident, and all the dynamics that impact housing stability. In the 1960s, an urban renewal plan reorganized downtown Poughkeepsie as an island, with arterial highways dividing the neighborhood from the rest of the city. Today, it is a high turn-over rental community with few informal gathering spaces. In its support of local businesses and community exchange, Hudson River Housing’s Middle Main Initiative aims to transform Main Street into a neighborhood of choice, rather than last resort.

Audio Karen Lugg, Omar Garibay, Suzanne Horn, and Joe Hutchinson were at the March Middle Main Meet-Up at Pat’s Kitchen.

Recorded on March 7, 2014.

Next Stop 93 Market Street
1. Head west on Main St toward N Hamilton St
2. Turn right onto N Hamilton St
3. Turn left onto East-West Arterial
4. Turn left onto Church St/East-West Arterial
5. Take the 1st right onto Market St
Destination will be on the left

Walking directions
1. Head west on Main St toward N Hamilton St
2. Turn left onto Academy St
3. Turn right onto Church St/East-West Arterial
4. Turn left onto Market St
Destination will be on the left
3. ADRIANCE LIBRARY
93 Market Street

The Adriance Memorial Library is a meeting and study place that provides community access to resources: media collections, computer literacy, writing and art workshops, book clubs, work space, and informational meetings. It is the oldest tax-supported library in the state and the third oldest in the US.


Recorded on March 2, 2014.

Next Stop 123 Mansion Street
1. Head northeast on Market St toward Noxon St
2. Continue onto Civic Center Plaza
3. Turn right onto Mansion St
Destination will be on the left

Walking directions
See above

4. FALL KILL CREEK: MALCOLM X PARK
123 Mansion Street

Indiscrete Flows / Common Currents was a series of events organized in the fall of 2013 designed to support community engagement with the Fall Kill Creek watershed as a dynamic part of Poughkeepsie’s human and non-human ecosystems. The project was a collaboration between students at SUNY New Paltz, the design and consultation collective spurse, students from the Poughkeepsie High School, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, and Children’s Media Project, with support from New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation.

In addition to a series of conversations between these participants, the project had two major components:

Art education students at SUNY New Paltz created a series of rain barrels, each painted with scenes of the human and non-human histories of Poughkeepsie. They were showcased in town and given to Poughkeepsie residents and businesses, supporting rainwater re-use and guerrilla gardening in downtown Poughkeepsie.

In conjunction with the annual event “A Day in the Life of the Hudson River,” students from art and science classes at Poughkeepsie High School joined SUNY New Paltz MFA students and members of spurse on a day-long foraging trip along the creek. Along the way, while identifying and collecting edible plants, students posted moss graffiti and wheat paste posters along the creek, recording personal memories and future-oriented wishes for the landscape. At the end of the foraging trip, MFA students launched a 100 gallon ice sculpture into the Hudson River, visualizing the amount of water used daily, on average, by residents of Poughkeepsie. Finally, participants prepared and ate a meal together using the plants foraged from the Fall Kill Creek. The day was documented and produced as a short video by participants of the Children’s Media Project.

In addition to these events, participants produced an urban foraging cookbook and a Fall Kill ecology guide.

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Indiscrete Flows / Common Currents proposes the Fall Kill Creek as a site of woven cultural and ecological systems, a public commons to be claimed by area residents, and a place for play and inquiry.

Audio Matthew Friday is an educator, transdisciplinary artist, and currently the graduate coordinator of the art department at SUNY New Paltz. He is a member of the international research and consultation collective spurse.

Recorded on February 4, 2014.

Next Stop 101 North Water Street
1. Head west on Mansion St toward Garden St
2. Turn left onto Columbus Dr
3. Turn right onto Main St
4. Turn right onto N Water St
Destination will be near the Children’s Museum, where the creek meets the Hudson River

Walking directions
1. Head west on Mansion St toward Garden St
2. Turn left onto N Bridge St
3. Turn right onto Mill St
4. Slight left onto Dongan Pl
5. Turn left onto Davies Pl
6. Turn right onto Detective John Falcone Memorial Ave
7. Cross railroad tracks over bridge
8. Turn right on N. Water Street
Destination will be near the Children’s Museum, where the creek meets the Hudson River

Alternatively: Follow the creek until you reach the Hudson River.

6. WARYAS PARK
Main Street at the Hudson River (1 Main Street)

Children’s Media Project (CMP) educates area youth on how and why media messages are created, and provides the tools that empower youth to create their own. Through video making, graphic design, radio broadcast, podcasting, and zine production, teens engage with the processes and products of media art. CMP has been in Poughkeepsie since 1994.

Media Magic is an after school program of CMP that teaches advanced media skills and literacy. Participating students receive a stipend and work experience.

In the spring of 2012, Media Magic participants produced a web series. In the sixth episode, they discussed what storefronts say about a community and took a field trip to Waryas Park on the Hudson River.

Audio Dondre Sanders, Giovanni Ford, Felipe Benitez, Christina Neno (educator), Ryan Sullivan (educator), Sarah Glassberg, Mike Mulat (educator), Charles Smith, Shaquille Scott, Je’Von Grey, Mary Ellen Iatropoulos (educator)

Originally published on YouTube on May 17, 2012.

5. FALL KILL CREEK: UPPER LANDING PARK
75 North Water Street

(See above.)

Next Stop 1 Main Street
1. Head south on N Water St (back the way you came)
2. Turn right onto Main St
3. Turn right to stay on Main St
Destination will be on the right

Walking directions
1. Head south on N Water St (back the way you came)
Destination will be on the right