



NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Andy Beers  
Acting Commissioner

David A. Paterson  
Governor

December 6, 2010

Donald McCord  
Senior Planner  
Chautauqua County Division of Planning  
200 Harrison Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701

RE: Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area Management Plan

OPRHP is in receipt of the Management Plan for the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area, which was received by this Office on September 8, 2010. Pursuant to Title G, Article 35 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law (PRHPL), the agency has reviewed the plan and finds that it is consistent with the principles set forth in the enabling law. In particular, the agency finds that the plan will further the goals of resource protection and the provision of educational, recreational, preservation, economic and cultural benefits for the public at large. **The Management Plan is hereby approved.** With this approval, all requirements have been met for designation of the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt as a New York State Heritage Area.

Those municipalities that have been included as part of the submission to OPRHP are considered to be the designated Heritage Area boundary and define the heritage area as a whole. These include all or a portion of the Towns of Ripley, Westfield, Portland, Chautauqua, Pomfret, Dunkirk, Sheridan and Hanover and the Villages of Westfield, Brocton, Fredonia, Silver Creek, Forestville, and the City of Dunkirk. Those municipalities that choose not to participate are not included in the Heritage Area boundary. The PRHPL statute describes how the management plan and the boundaries of a heritage area may be amended so that any municipality that wishes to be added to the heritage area boundary in the future may do so, if done in accordance with the law. This process has also been summarized on pages 59-60 of your plan.

Management Plan approval establishes eligibility for acquisition, development and programming assistance from the state. Currently, OPRHP awards Heritage Area System grants as part of the Environmental Protection Fund program. Municipalities and non-profit organizations within the Heritage Area boundary should be notified of the availability of this funding and their eligibility to apply under this program.

Only those municipalities as noted in your submission and recognized in this letter will be considered eligible applicants for funding through the New York State Heritage Area Program. Municipalities may become eligible and be added to this list if they follow the process outlined in the attached "*Guidelines for Management Plan Amendments.*" Eligibility of non-profit organizations to apply for Heritage Area grants will be dependent on the location of the project; such projects by non-profits must be located in the designated Heritage Area boundary.

While the Management Plan was under review, the agency received comments from the NYS Department of State supporting approval of the plan. DOS stated: "The Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area Management Plan was prepared with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (EPF LWRP) through the Department of State, Office of Coastal, Local Government and Community Sustainability. As the agency overseeing the management of the awarded grants, the Office of Coastal, Local Government and Community Sustainability congratulates all of the communities and organizations participating in the preparation of this plan. We would also like to mention the leadership shown by the Town of Westfield and the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association, Inc., which made possible, in less than a year, the preparation of the Heritage Area Management Plan. We look forward to assisting OPRHP and the involved communities in the implementation of this management plan."

We recommend that the final management plan be made available on a web site of your choice so that it may be viewed by your residents and the public at large.

We commend Chautauqua County, the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association Inc., the consultants, and the people of all of the participating towns and villages on a job well done. Congratulations as you move forward with implementation of the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area Management Plan.

Sincerely,



Andy Beers  
Acting Commissioner

- c: Andrew Dufresne, Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area Liaison  
Steven Englebright, Member, NYS Assembly; Chair, NYS Heritage Areas  
Advisory Council  
Stephen Ridler, NYS Department of State, Bureau of Local and Regional Programs,  
Office of Coastal, Local Government and Community Sustainability  
Ruth Pierpont, NYS OPRHP  
Marcia Kees, NYS OPRHP