

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 545

To establish the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers National Historical Park in
the State of New York, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 1997

Mr. McNULTY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Resources

A BILL

To establish the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers National Historical Park in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hudson and Mohawk
5 Rivers National Historical Park Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 As used in this Act—

8 (1) HUDSON-MOHAWK AREA.—The term “Hud-
9 son-Mohawk Area” means the area made up of the
10 cities of Troy, Cohoes, and Watervliet, the towns of

1 Waterford and Colonie, and the villages of Water-
2 ford and Green Island in the State of New York.

3 (2) PARK.—The term “park” means the Hud-
4 son and Mohawk Rivers National Historical Park es-
5 tablished pursuant to section 4(c).

6 (3) SITES.—The term “sites” means the Har-
7 mony Mills National Historic Site and the Kate
8 Mullaney National Historic Site established by sec-
9 tions 4 (a) and (b), respectively.

10 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior.

12 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

13 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

14 (1) The area of the confluence of the Hudson
15 and Mohawk Rivers in the State of New York expe-
16 rienced rapid growth and transformation from an
17 agrarian to an industrial area in the early 19th cen-
18 tury because of its geographic location, water power,
19 and human creative genius. It has been called the
20 “Birthplace of America’s Industrial Revolution”.

21 (2) The cities and villages that make up the
22 Hudson-Mohawk area in the 19th century were com-
23 mercial and industrial communities that linked New
24 England’s markets with other northeastern cities
25 and Europe, and spawned the collar industry, the

1 thriving iron and textile industries, and a diversified
2 economy.

3 (3) The transition from an agrarian to indus-
4 trial society within this area produced dramatically
5 different relationships between workers and employ-
6 ers and historically significant examples of the
7 Americanization of immigrant workers.

8 (4) The city of Troy was a leader nationally in
9 the development of trade unions with the Troy union
10 of iron molders being at one time the largest local
11 in America and the Trojan laundry workers organiz-
12 ing the first female union in the Nation.

13 (5) Across the Hudson River from Troy in the
14 city of Cohoes, the Harmony Mills complex, Ameri-
15 ca's largest complete cotton mill in its time, made
16 Cohoes a significant example of the company town
17 pervading almost every aspect of the life of the mill
18 workers.

19 (6) As a result of the enactment of Public Law
20 102-101 calling for a national labor theme study,
21 the Harmony Mills complex and the Kate Mullaney
22 house, home of the organizer of the first female
23 union in the Nation, were nominated for National
24 Historic Landmark status.

1 (7) This area exists today as a reservoir of his-
2 toric and cultural lands, waterways, and structures
3 revealing the wide diversity of individual and social
4 endeavor associated with the life of the American
5 worker that created a productive urban industrial
6 society.

7 (8) Collectively, the resources of this area pro-
8 vide opportunities for illustrating and interpreting
9 cultural themes of the heritage of the United States
10 and unique opportunities for education, public use
11 and enjoyment.

12 (9) The seven cities, towns, and villages making
13 up this Hudson-Mohawk area have entered into a
14 cooperative arrangement to manage their valuable
15 cultural resources, and the area has been designated
16 by the State of New York to be one of 14 urban cul-
17 tural parks to represent industrial development and
18 labor themes in the State's development.

19 (10) This area, known as the Hudson-Mohawk
20 Urban Cultural Park or RiverSpark, has been a pio-
21 neer in the development of "partnership parks"
22 where intergovernmental and public and private
23 partnerships bring about the conservation of its her-
24 itage and the attainment of goals for preservation,
25 education, recreation, and economic development.

1 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

2 (1) to preserve and interpret for the benefit, in-
3 spiration, and education of the people of the United
4 States significant places illustrative and representa-
5 tive of the legacy of the Hudson-Mohawk area work-
6 ers;

7 (2) to help maintain the integrity of setting in
8 the Hudson-Mohawk area that reveals significant
9 chapters in the story of the American worker;

10 (3) through cooperative management, to coordi-
11 nate the interpretive, preservation, and recreational
12 efforts of Federal, State, and regional entities in the
13 Hudson-Mohawk area in order to enhance opportu-
14 nities for education, public use, and enjoyment; and

15 (4) to broaden public understanding of the
16 Hudson-Mohawk area and its role in American pre-
17 history, history, and culture.

18 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF SITES AND PARK.**

19 (a) HARMONY MILLS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.—

20 There is established, as a unit of the National Park Sys-
21 tem, the Harmony Mills National Historic Site consisting
22 of a portion of the Harmony Mills complex as depicted
23 on the map entitled “_____” and dated _____.

24 (b) KATE MULLANEY HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC
25 SITE.—There is established, as a unit of the National

1 Park System, the Kate Mullaney National Historic Site
2 consisting of the home of Kate Mullaney located at 350–
3 8th Street, City of Troy, State of New York and as gen-
4 erally depicted on the map entitled “_____” and dated
5 _____.

6 (c) HUDSON AND MOHAWK RIVERS NATIONAL HIS-
7 TORICAL PARK.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—At such time as the
9 Secretary determines that sufficient lands, improve-
10 ments, and interests in lands and improvements
11 have been acquired, or at such time as the Secretary
12 has entered into cooperative agreements satisfying
13 the interpretive, preservation, and historical objec-
14 tives of this Act, the Secretary may establish the
15 Hudson and Mohawk Rivers National Historical
16 Park in the State of New York by publication in the
17 Federal Register of notice of the establishment and
18 a detailed description or map setting forth the lands
19 and improvements included in the park.

20 (2) INCLUDED LANDS.—The park shall consist
21 of the sites established by subsections (a) and (b).

22 (3) MAPS.—The maps referred to in this sec-
23 tion shall be on file and available for public inspec-
24 tion in appropriate offices of the National Park
25 Service, Department of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY**
2 **AND SERVICES.**

3 (a) REAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary may acquire
4 the sites and such lands and improvements as are nec-
5 essary for the management and operation of the sites.

6 (b) PERSONAL PROPERTY.—For the purposes of the
7 park, the Secretary may acquire historic objects and arti-
8 facts and other personal property associated with and ap-
9 propriate for the interpretation of the park.

10 (c) OTHER PROPERTY, FUNDS, AND SERVICES.—For
11 the purpose of carrying out this Act, the Secretary may
12 accept donated funds, property, and services and enter
13 into cooperative agreements with the Office of Parks,
14 Recreation and Historic Preservation of the State of New
15 York, the Department of Environmental Conservation of
16 the State of New York, and other appropriate State, coun-
17 ty, and local entities and individuals, including the Hud-
18 son-Mohawk Urban Cultural Park Commission, the Hud-
19 son-Mohawk Industrial Gateway, the Hudson River Valley
20 Greenway Council, and other private museums and insti-
21 tutions.

22 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION OF PARK.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer
24 the park in accordance with this Act and all laws generally
25 applicable to national historic sites, including the Acts en-
26 titled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and

1 for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1916 (16
2 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and “An Act to provide for the preserva-
3 tion of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and an-
4 tiquities of national significance, and for other purposes”,
5 approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

6 (b) PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION.—In ad-
7 ministering the park, the Secretary shall preserve and in-
8 terpret the site and preserve and perpetuate knowledge
9 and understanding of the park’s natural and cultural re-
10 sources.

11 (c) IN GENERAL.—

12 (1) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To further
13 the purposes of this Act, the Secretary may consult
14 with and enter into cooperative agreements with the
15 State of New York and other public and private en-
16 tities. Each agreement shall facilitate the develop-
17 ment, presentation, and funding of exhibits and pro-
18 grams and other appropriate activities related to the
19 preservation, development, and use of the park, and
20 encourage an appreciation of the story and tradi-
21 tions inspired by the workers of the Hudson-Mohawk
22 area.

23 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Through agree-
24 ments, the Secretary may provide technical assist-
25 ance to cooperating entities described in paragraph

1 (1) for the marking, interpretation, restoration,
2 preservation, or interpretation of any property listed
3 in section 4.

4 (3) INTERPRETATION AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-
5 retary may enter into additional cooperative agree-
6 ments to plan and coordinate the interpretation of
7 the cultural and natural history of the Hudson River
8 Valley region, which provides the context for relating
9 the story of the workers of the Hudson-Mohawk
10 area.

11 (d) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of
13 the second fiscal year that begins after the establish-
14 ment of the park, the Secretary shall submit to the
15 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
16 Senate and the Committee on Resources of the
17 House of Representatives a general management
18 plan for the sites and the park.

19 (2) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the plan,
20 the Secretary, acting through the Director of the
21 National Park Service, shall consult with advisors
22 (including representatives of cooperating entities de-
23 scribed in subsection (c), representatives of local and
24 municipal interests, nationally recognized historians,

1 scholars, and other experts) concerning the interpre-
2 tation, preservation, and visitations of, and other is-
3 sues pertaining to the park and other sites of related
4 historical or scenic significance in the Hudson-Mo-
5 hawk area.

6 (3) STATUTORY AUTHORITIES.—The plan shall
7 be prepared in accordance with this subsection and
8 section 12(b) of the Act entitled “An Act to improve
9 the administration of the national park system by
10 the Secretary of the Interior, and to clarify the au-
11 thorities applicable to the system, and for other pur-
12 poses”, approved August 18, 1970 (16 U.S.C. 1a–
13 7), and other applicable law.

14 (4) CONTENTS.—The plan shall include—

15 (A) recommendations and cost estimates
16 for the identification, marking, interpretation,
17 and preservation of properties associated with
18 the workers of the Hudson-Mohawk area to be
19 carried out through cooperative agreements and
20 other means considered appropriate and prac-
21 ticable;

22 (B) recommendations on ways to broaden
23 public understanding of the Hudson-Mohawk
24 and its role in American prehistory, history,
25 and culture; and

- 1 (C) recommendations on ways to foster rel-
- 2 evant public education, resources preservation,
- 3 and appropriate levels of regional tourism.

