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Port Jervis Whitewater Park Gains County Support

Goshen – Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana and Planning Commissioner David Church announced that the County has awarded a \$10,000 Community Planning Grant to the City of Port Jervis in support of a proposed whitewater kayaking park on the Delaware River in the City of Port Jervis. The funds will be used to complete a planning and engineering feasibility study of this ecotourism proposal.

“Momentum is gaining toward this excellent project that will use active recreation along the Delaware River to create economic vitality for this city,” noted County Executive Diana. “I applaud the work of Port Jervis Mayor Potter, the City Council, and the Whitewater Park committee and hope this grant leverages action to make the project a reality,” Mr. Diana added. “I appreciate the efforts of County Legislator Dennis Simmons and Planning Commissioner David Church for moving this important project forward.”

The Delaware River Valley is home to some of the best and most popular water-based recreation in America. Building on this success, local activists lead by Adam Hubbard (an accomplished whitewater kayaker and local teacher), and Hector Munoz-Baras, (a local architect) along with support from the Tri-State Chamber of Commerce, have engaged in education, fund-raising, and technical research toward design, construction, and operation of a whitewater park along the banks of the Delaware River on city parkland in Port Jervis.

With reliable, year-round river water flow and a long tradition of kayaking, canoeing, and rafting, Port Jervis hopes to attract thousands of additional whitewater enthusiasts to enjoy river features specifically designed to enhance the natural setting of the Delaware River. Economic impact analysis by the Orange County Planning Department suggests that these assets, along with the unique benefits of this park, could yield meaningful economic benefits for Port Jervis and the surrounding area. The park will be available for use nearly year-round and will have eight to 10 features, making it the only one of its kind in the New York to Philadelphia region.

Progress of the Port-Jervis-Whitewater Park initiative can be followed on Facebook.

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