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January 26, 2021

To Whom it may concern:

After a few meetings with "Smart Outdoor," founder Ivan Bellotto and members of his organization, there was absolutely no doubt that their project would be a tremendous asset to the Westchester North County & South County Trailways.

The scenic bike path starts from Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx to Putnam County Trailways. What impressed me was, "Smart Outdoor," vision which concentrated on the health, wellness, safety and in addition have events for the users.

Westchester County Department of Emergency Services were instrumental in developing the 911 calls for the bike trail, which in a short time were utilized for emergencies.

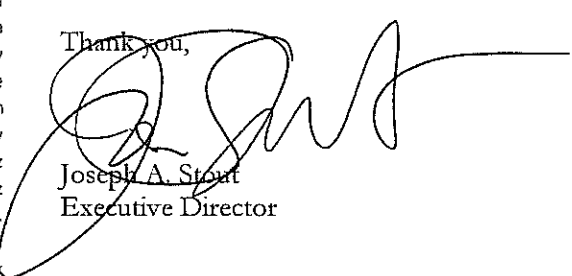
The very professional well-made county map signs and the mile markers are well received by the users and enhance the environmental aesthetics of the bike path. The sponsored signs purchased by HSS (Hospital for Special Surgery) provides revenue for the county parks with no out of pocket expenses from the county.

I have spent over 40 years in the Parks, Recreation and Conservation field, mostly in the public sector, but for the last 10 in not-for-profit advocacy. Our parks serve a critically important function during this health (Covid-19) crisis.

They are sanctuaries, healthy places where people can safely go and tend to their physical and mental well-being. Parks have the power to transform lives, to save lives, and to heal lives.

I would recommend, "Smart Outdoor," which would enhance the bike trail that extends from the Westchester North County Trailways through the bike trails of the County of Putnam.

Thank you,

  
Joseph A. Stout  
Executive Director

*Westchester Parks Foundation* is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation.

Your contribution is deductible to the extent allowable in accordance with the provisions of the 1993 Revenue Reconciliation Act regarding charitable contributions.

\*deceased