

Town of Tusten

Natural Resources Inventory, Open Space and Recreation Plan



Town of
Tusten
an Upper Delaware River Community

Meeting #4

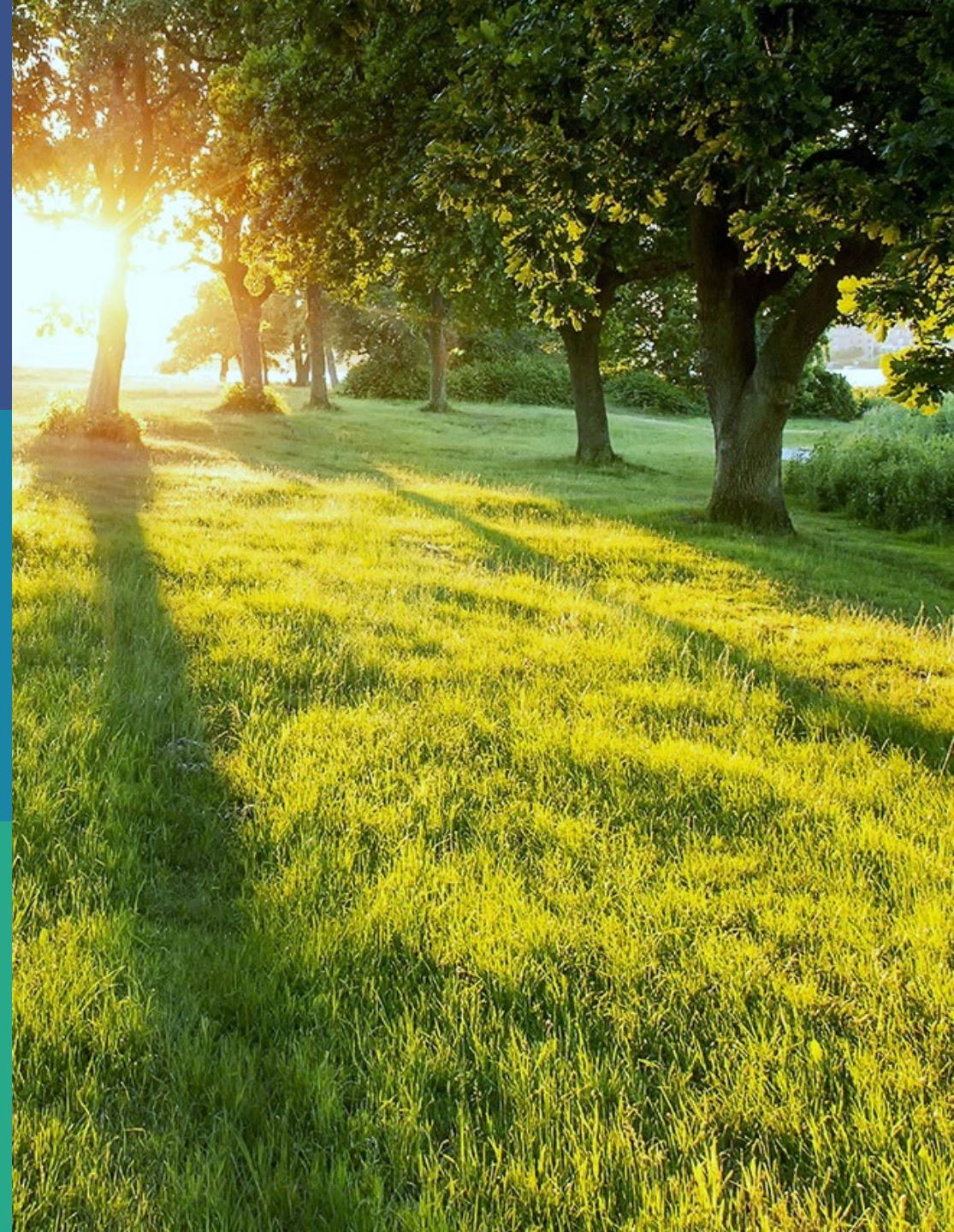
October 17, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Agenda

- 01** Welcome & Schedule Update
- 02** Public Engagement Update
- 03** Open Space Plan
- 04** Next Steps



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WELCOME & SCHEDULE UPDATE



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Anticipated Project Schedule



***CAC Meetings – Every other month**



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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



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Public Engagement

- ❖ **Community Vision Survey Update**
- ❖ **Stakeholder Groups**
- ❖ **Public Open House #2**

Public Engagement

❖ Community Visioning Survey Update

- ❖ Survey Closed September 30th
- ❖ Surveys mailed to all residents
- ❖ 101 online responses, 80 hard copy responses received
- ❖ MJ to develop Survey Summary



Town of Tusten Community Visioning Survey - 2024

The Town of Tusten is planning for the future and needs your input to create a successful plan!

The Town is identifying our natural resources such as forests, wildlife habitats, wetlands, etc. which will become our Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Building upon the NRI, the Town will then create an Open Space and Recreation Plan to ensure an appropriate balance of open space, public access and natural resources.

The results of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan survey highlighted the desire for more recreation opportunities and the preservation of forest land within the Town. Building on those responses, the purpose of this survey is to identify specific needs and priorities for conservation and public recreation. By completing the survey below, the Town will be able to incorporate what is important to you in our future Open Space and Recreation Plan!

1. I am a (select all that apply):

- ☐ Full-time resident ☐ Business owner ☐ Other
☐ Seasonal resident ☐ Visitor

2. How often do you visit local and state parks or recreation areas in Tusten?

- ☐ Every day ☐ Once a month
☐ Once a week ☐ Never

3. What types of activities do you and your family engage in most often while visiting local, state, and federal parks or recreation areas in Tusten? Select all that apply.

- ☐ ATV
☐ Bicyc
☐ Birdi
☐ Cam
☐ Cros
☐ Fishi
☐ Hunt



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NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

To take this

To learn more please visit
www.TustenOpenSpaceRecreation.com

Public Engagement

❖ Community Visioning Survey Highlights (online responses)

- ❖ Majority of respondents are full-time residents
- ❖ Top 3 activities include: Walking or Hiking, Paddling, and Swimming
- ❖ 93% of respondents find open space and scenery very important



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Public Engagement

❖ Community Visioning Survey Highlights (online responses)

- ❖ Top 3 types of open space to preserve: Forests, Delaware River Riverfront, and areas around lakes and waterways (ex. Ten Mile River)
- ❖ What do you value most about natural resources and open space in Tusten?
 - ❖ Preservation of Natural Beauty and Ecosystems
 - ❖ Peace, Quiet, and Solitude
 - ❖ Accessibility and Recreational Use



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Public Engagement

- ❖ **Community Visioning Survey Highlights (online responses)**
 - ❖ 90% of respondents feel increasing public access and developing recreation opportunities is somewhat or very important. Priority areas include:
 - ❖ Areas of high scenic quality and/or views of Delaware River
 - ❖ Riverfront areas and other water bodies
 - ❖ What information would you like to see come out of the OSRP?
 - ❖ Preservation and Expansion of Open Space
 - ❖ Transparency and Public Involvement
 - ❖ Plans for Recreational Infrastructure and Activities



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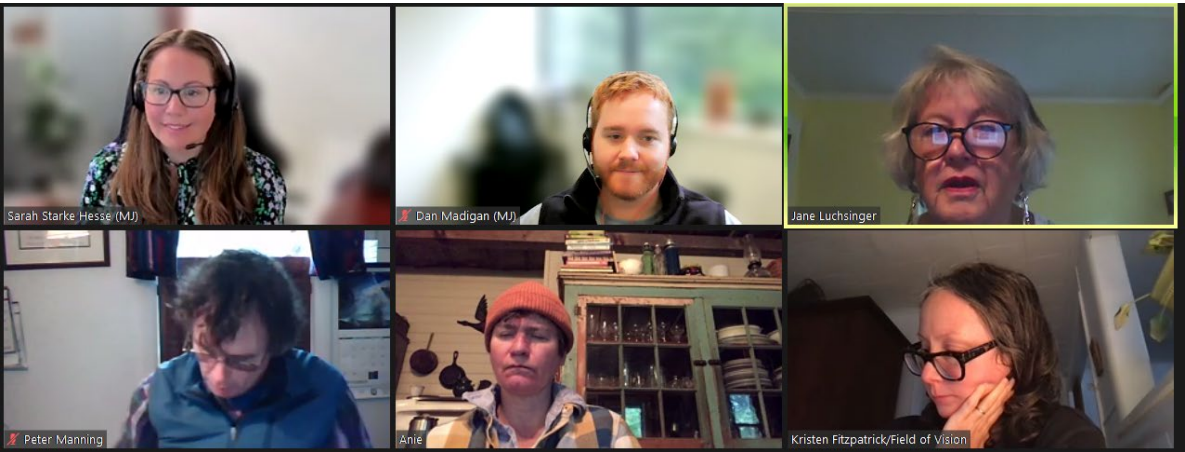
Public Engagement

- ❖ Stakeholder Group Meetings

- ❖ September 25, 2024

- ❖ Groups:

- ❖ Community Organizations & Volunteer Groups
 - ❖ Local & Regional Partners
 - ❖ Recreation
 - ❖ Sustainability



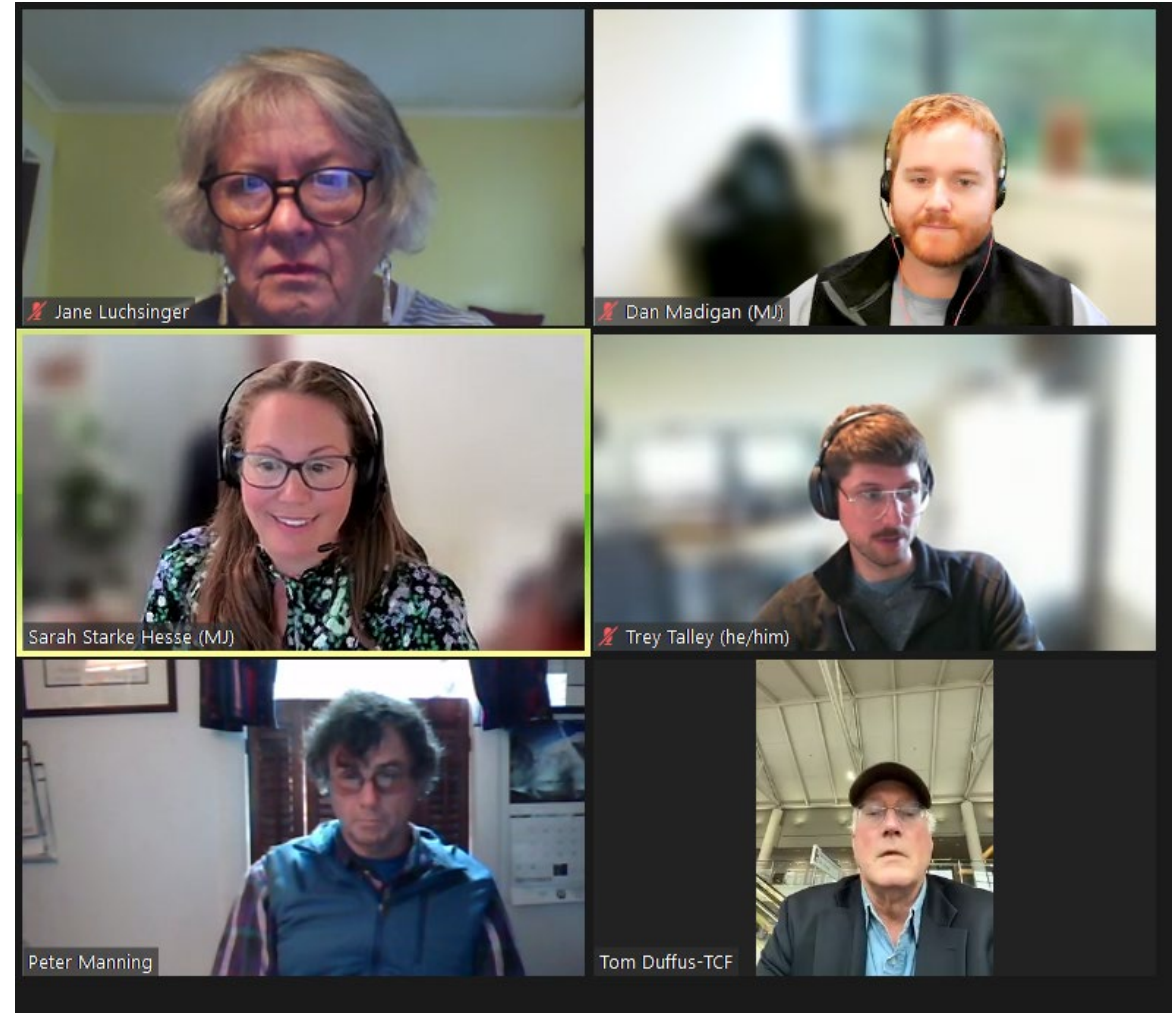
Town of Tusten
Natural Resource Inventory, Open Space and Recreation Plan
Stakeholder Meeting Schedule

Date & Time	Stakeholder Group	Zoom Meeting Information
Wednesday, September 25 9:00 – 10:00 AM	Local & Regional Partners	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81961817529?pwd=sHYzIGnRaINi6Se1XWYbbGNolbmOvA.1
Wednesday, September 25 10:30 – 11:30 AM	Community Organizations & Volunteer Groups	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89145443491?pwd=xyeaHAW9zbZDKslbIMw7IQgwRscikZ.1
Wednesday, September 25 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Environment & Sustainability	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82038390555?pwd=Os246D8V4tHgtGyUJWvxIaFoiXPiIQF.1
Wednesday, September 25 1:30 – 2:30 PM	Recreation	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88074290031?pwd=8bbbyPD47vbsCVkK7hEazdkfyfHFsN.1

Public Engagement

❖ Stakeholder Highlights

- ❖ 10 organizations participated
- ❖ Make up meeting to be scheduled with stakeholders who were unable to attend.
- ❖ Summaries prepared

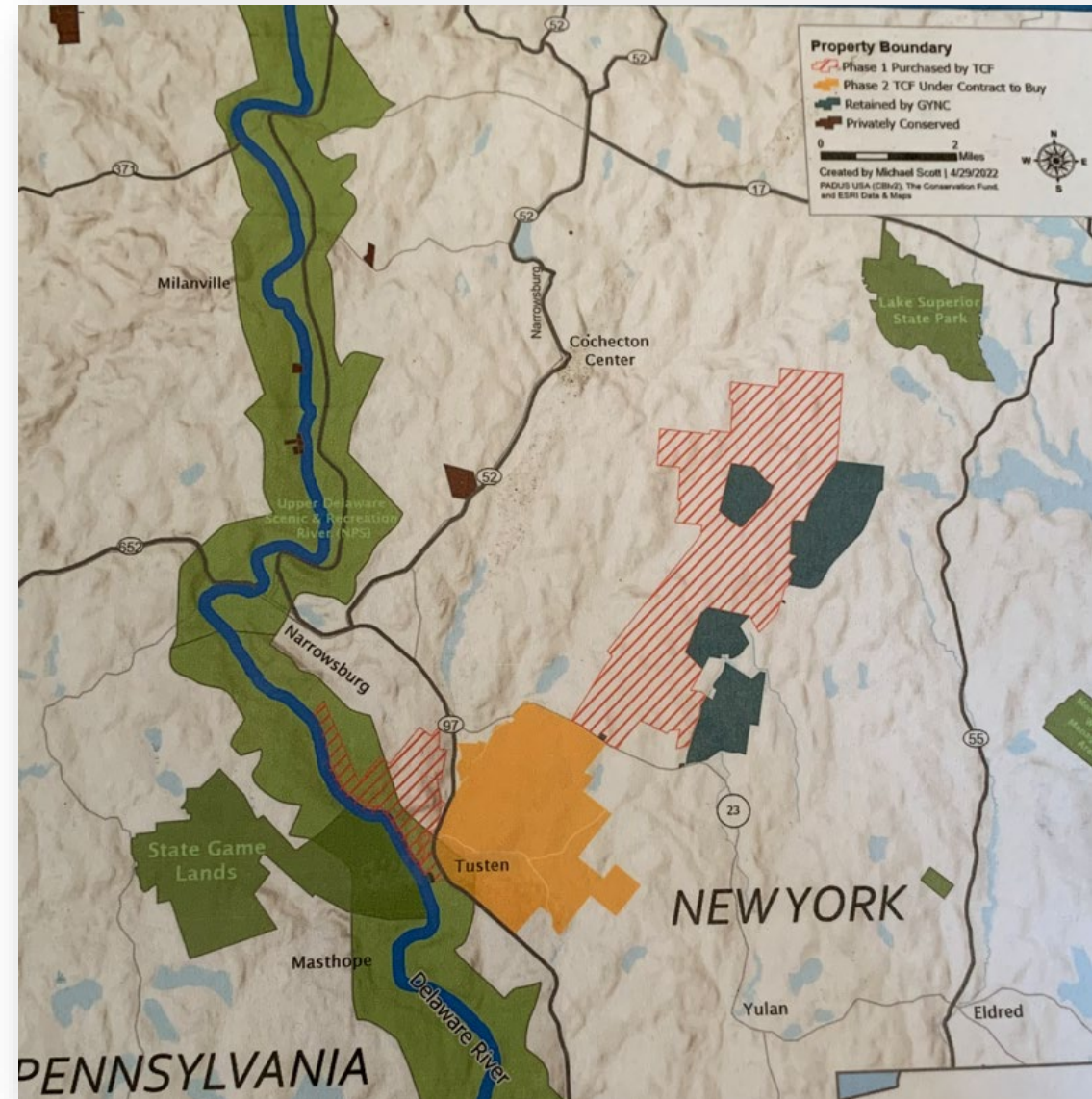


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Public Engagement

❖ Stakeholder Highlights

- ❖ Update on BSA lands
 - ❖ Phase 1 of acquisition – Area between Rte 97 and the Delaware River
 - ❖ Intention for DEC to manage land as State Forest which includes recreational uses
 - ❖ Existing public trails may be rerouted around scout camp
 - ❖ Will complete a Unit Management Plan with opp for public & Town comment

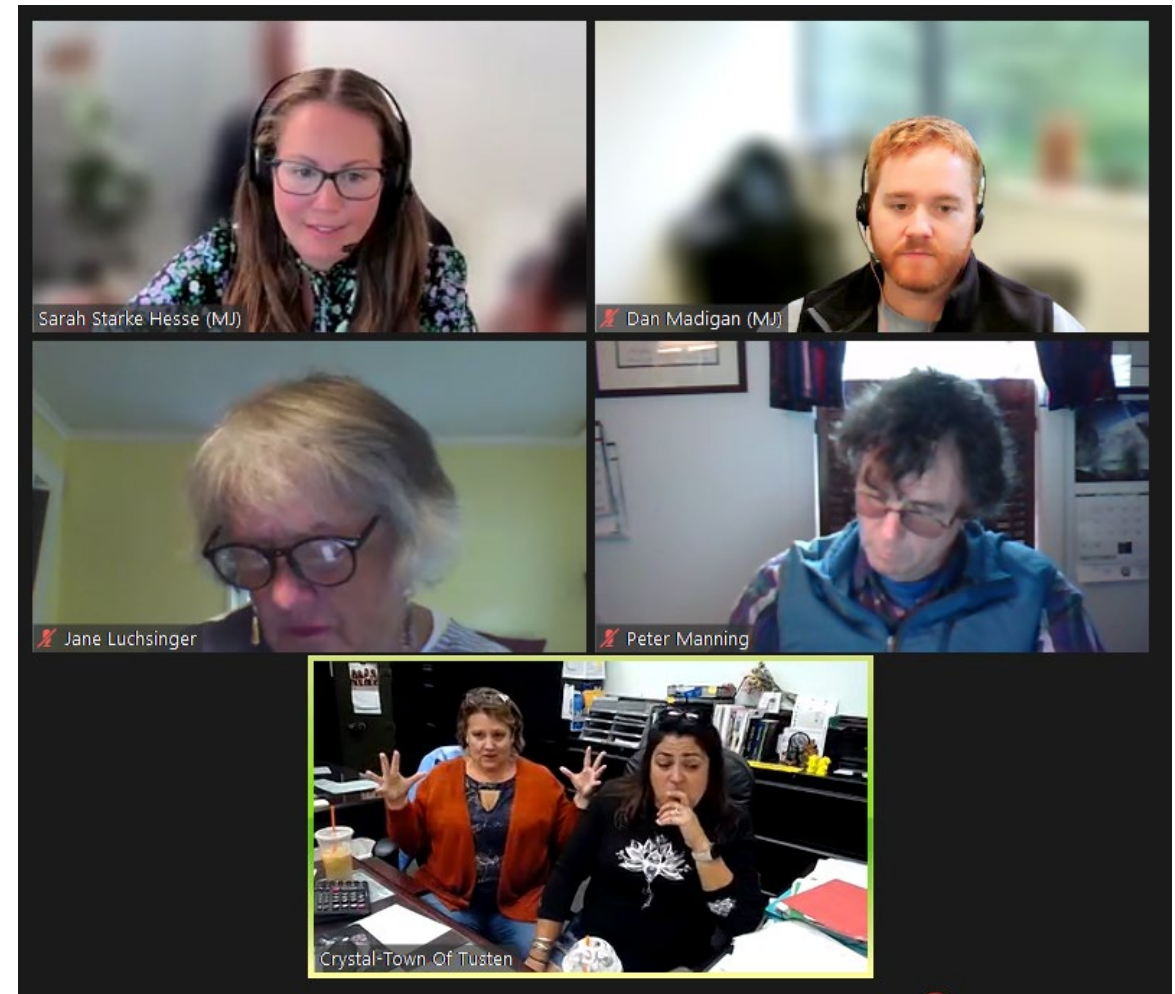


Source: Conservation Fund

Public Engagement

❖ Stakeholder Highlights (cont'd)

- ❖ Volunteer groups, Job Corp as future partners for trail maintenance.
- ❖ Fireman's field, river walk as potential opportunities
- ❖ Need for outreach and environmental education for visitors, youth
- ❖ Need for additional youth rec



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Public Engagement

❖ Public Workshop #2

- ❖ In Person Open House
- ❖ Town Hall
- ❖ December 4, 2024
- ❖ 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- ❖ Introduce Open Space Plan
- ❖ Interactive exercise to gather feedback on Open Space & Recreation Goals, Priorities
- ❖ MJ to prepare publicity materials



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN



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Open Space & Recreation Plan

- ❖ Outline
- ❖ Identifying Priorities
- ❖ Mapping Exercise

Outline

- ❖ **Common components of an Open Space & Recreation Plan:**
 - ❖ Community Overview and Vision
 - ❖ Local & Regional Planning
 - ❖ Existing Open Space & Recreation Assets
 - ❖ NRI Highlights
 - ❖ Process & Public Engagement
 - ❖ **Open Space & Recreation Priorities**
 - ❖ Implementation Actions & Voluntary Tools



Identifying Priorities

- ❖ **What are Open Space & Recreation Priorities?**
- ❖ Can be broad (protect stream corridors) or specific (improvements to a specific park)
- ❖ Can be short term (expand a trail) or long term (work with NYSDEC during transfer of former BSA lands).
- ❖ Can be future connections



Identifying Priorities

- ❖ **How can Open Space & Recreation Priorities be Identified?**
- ❖ Town & CAC Input (local knowledge)
- ❖ Public Input (survey, stakeholder & public meetings)
- ❖ GIS based Mapping Tool – The Conservation Analysis Tool



Identifying Priorities

- ❖ **Conservation Analysis Tool (“Mapping Tool”) Overview:**
 - ❖ GIS-based mapping tool (model)
 - ❖ Objectively identifies priorities for open space by overlapping important resources
 - ❖ Can be used as a resource by the Town and landowners for future planning and conservation efforts



Identifying Priorities

❖ Mapping Tool Inputs:

- ❖ Land area to evaluate (Town)
- ❖ Conservation Criteria/Data Layers
 - ❖ Resources identified through the NRI such as wetlands, habitats, wetlands, forests, existing parks, trails, etc.



Identifying Priorities

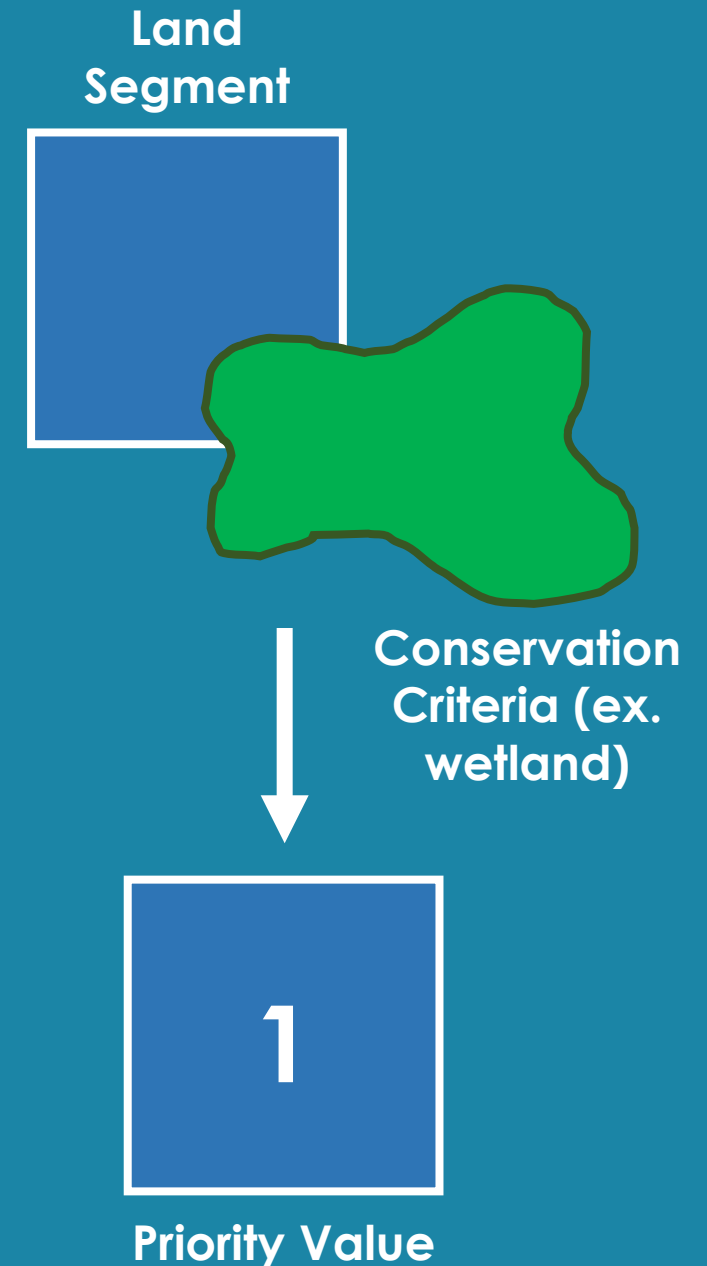
- ❖ **Example Criteria/Data Layers:**
 - ❖ Wetlands
 - ❖ Flood Zones
 - ❖ Wildlife Habitats
 - ❖ Existing Parks & Conserved Lands
 - ❖ Forests
 - ❖ Potential Stream or Lake Access



Identifying Priorities

❖ Mapping Tool Process:

- ❖ Tests each land segment against a criteria (natural resource)
- ❖ Sums up all criteria met
- ❖ Determines Conservation Value – i.e. – **How many important resources are present in this area**

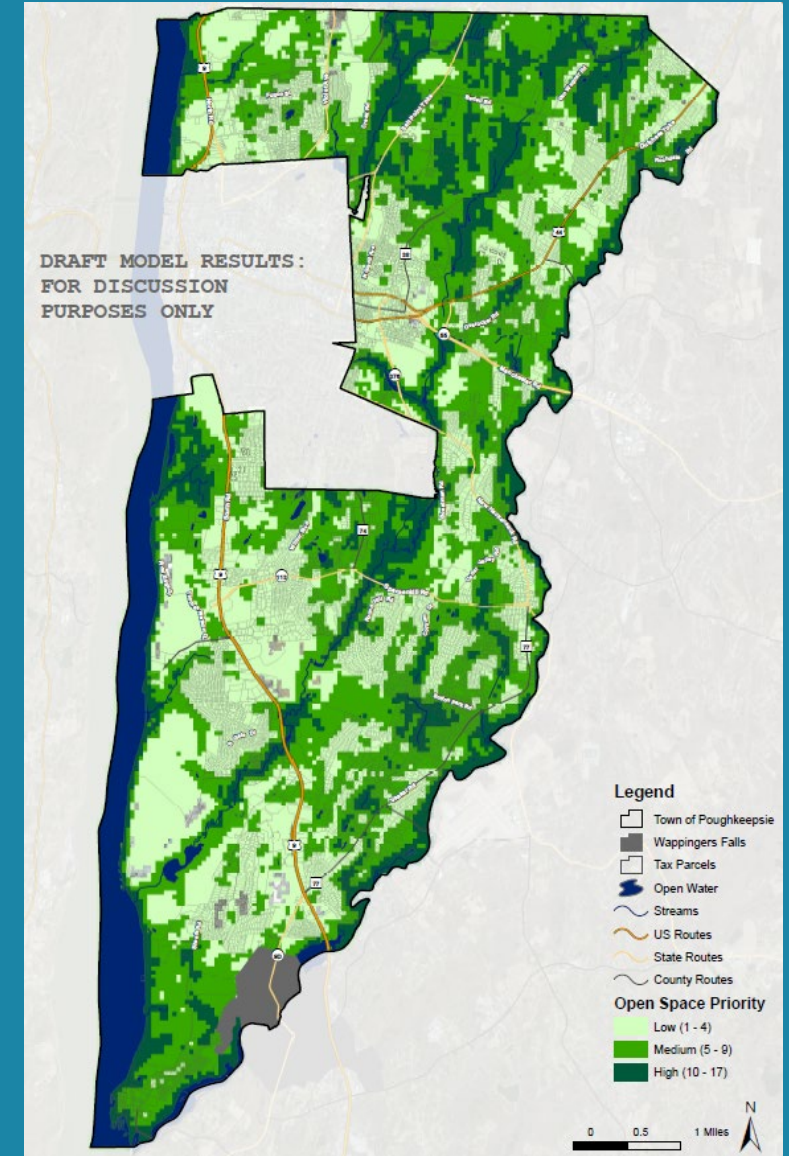


Identifying Priorities

❖ Mapping Tool Results:

- ❖ Static map that can inform the Town and landowners of important natural resources
- ❖ Can identify potential areas for future recreation or voluntary conservation (ex. conservation subdivisions, voluntary easement, etc.)

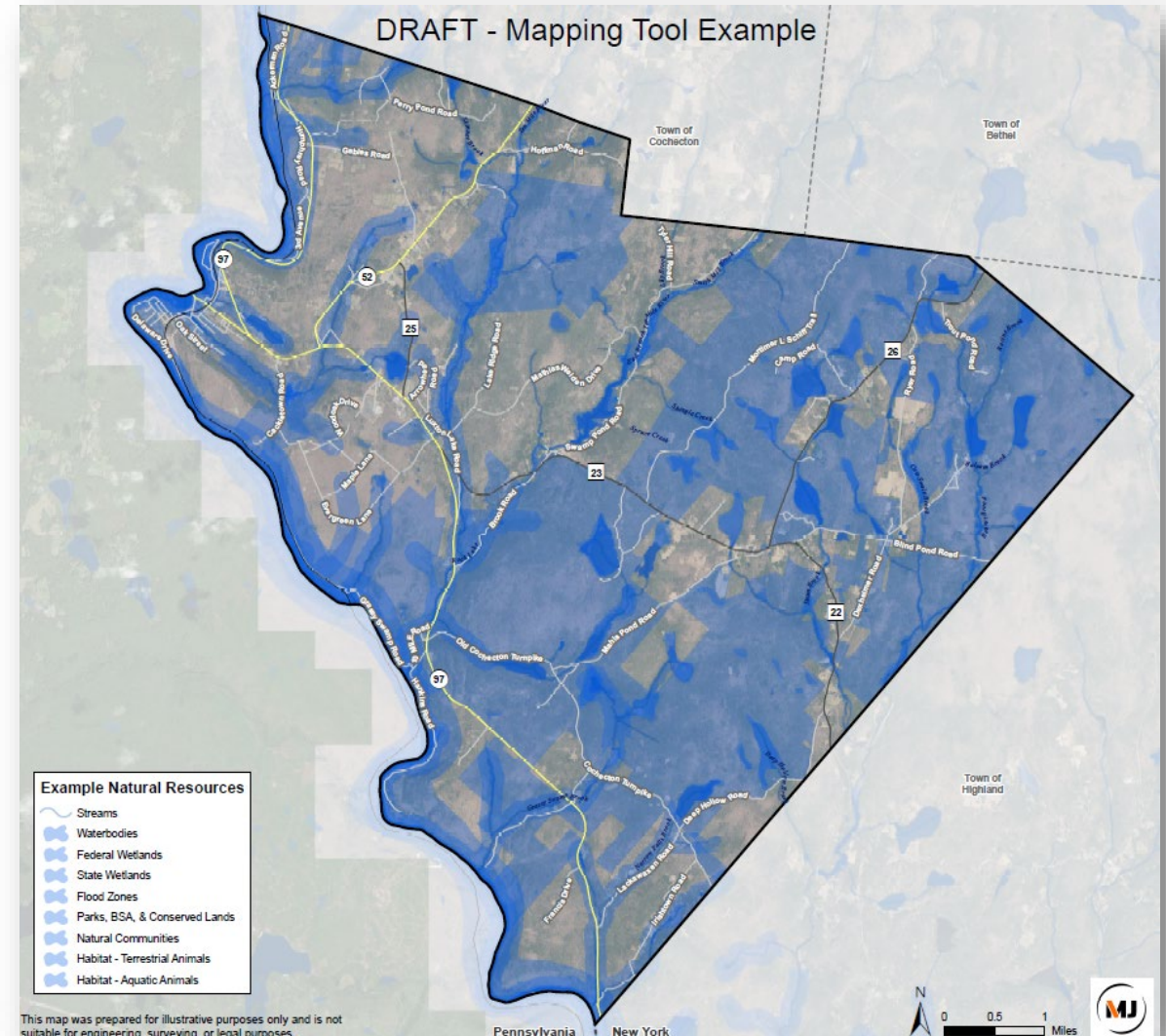
Example result from the Town of Poughkeepsie



Mapping Tool in Action- CAC Exercise

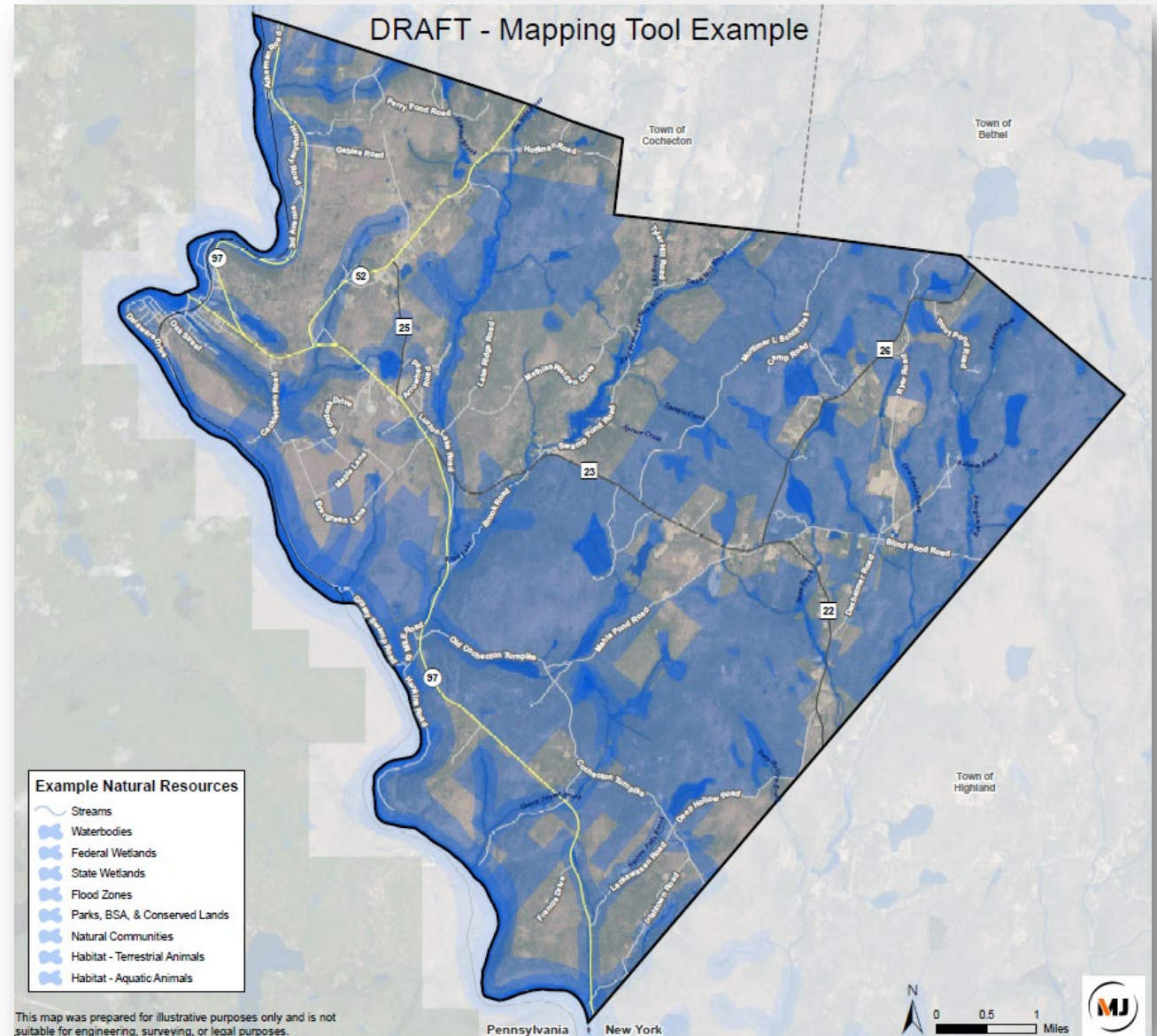
❖ Example Mapping Tool

- ❖ Includes:
 - ❖ Habitats
 - ❖ Water Resources (wetlands, flood zones, streams, lakes)
 - ❖ Existing parks, Conserved Lands, Forest Management Lands



Mapping Exercise

- ❖ What surprised you?
- ❖ What are some important areas that aren't identified here?
- ❖ Key connections?
- ❖ Areas for open space/preservation?
- ❖ Areas for water access/rec?



NEXT STEPS



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Next Steps

- ❖ CAC to provide feedback on mapping exercise
- ❖ Mapping Tool Development
- ❖ Public Meeting #2 – Dec 4
- ❖ Next CAC Meeting – Dec 12



Thank you

