

# **Appendix A: Maps**

## **Protected Lands**

### **Resource Maps:**

**Agricultural Resources**

**Cultural Resources**

**Natural Features**

**Important Habitats**

# Town of New Paltz Open Space Plan

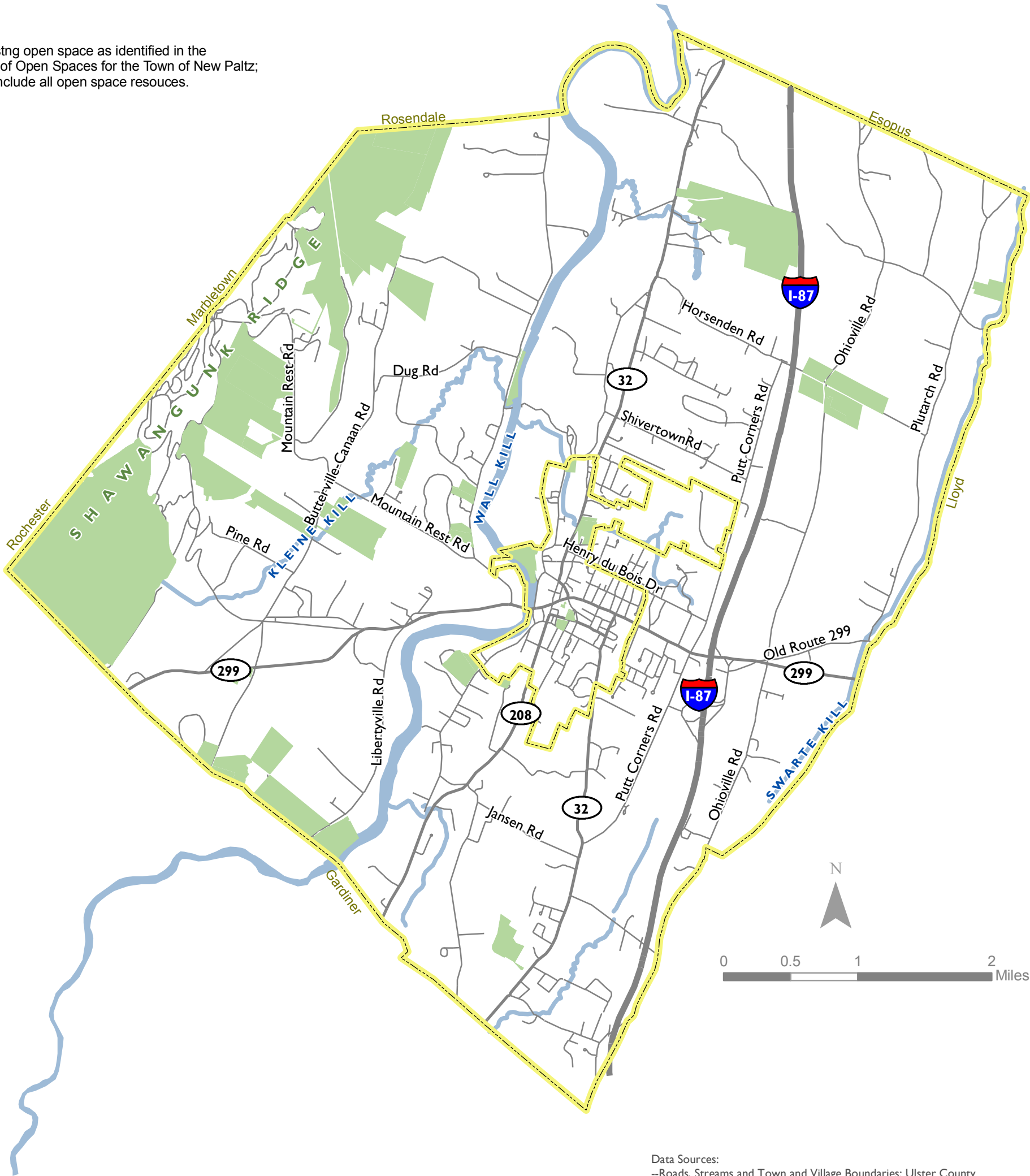


## Protected Lands

### Legend

Existing Open Space

Note: existing open space as identified in the Inventory of Open Spaces for the Town of New Paltz; may not include all open space resources.



Data Sources:  
--Roads, Streams and Town and Village Boundaries: Ulster County  
--Protected Lands: AKRF

Data intended for planning purposes only.  
February 2006

Map produced by:



Behan Planning Associates, LLC  
Planning Community Futures

# Town of New Paltz Open Space Plan



## Agricultural Resources

### Legend

Agricultural Assessment\*

Agricultural Land Use\* (Outside of Agricultural District)

#### Agricultural District\*\*

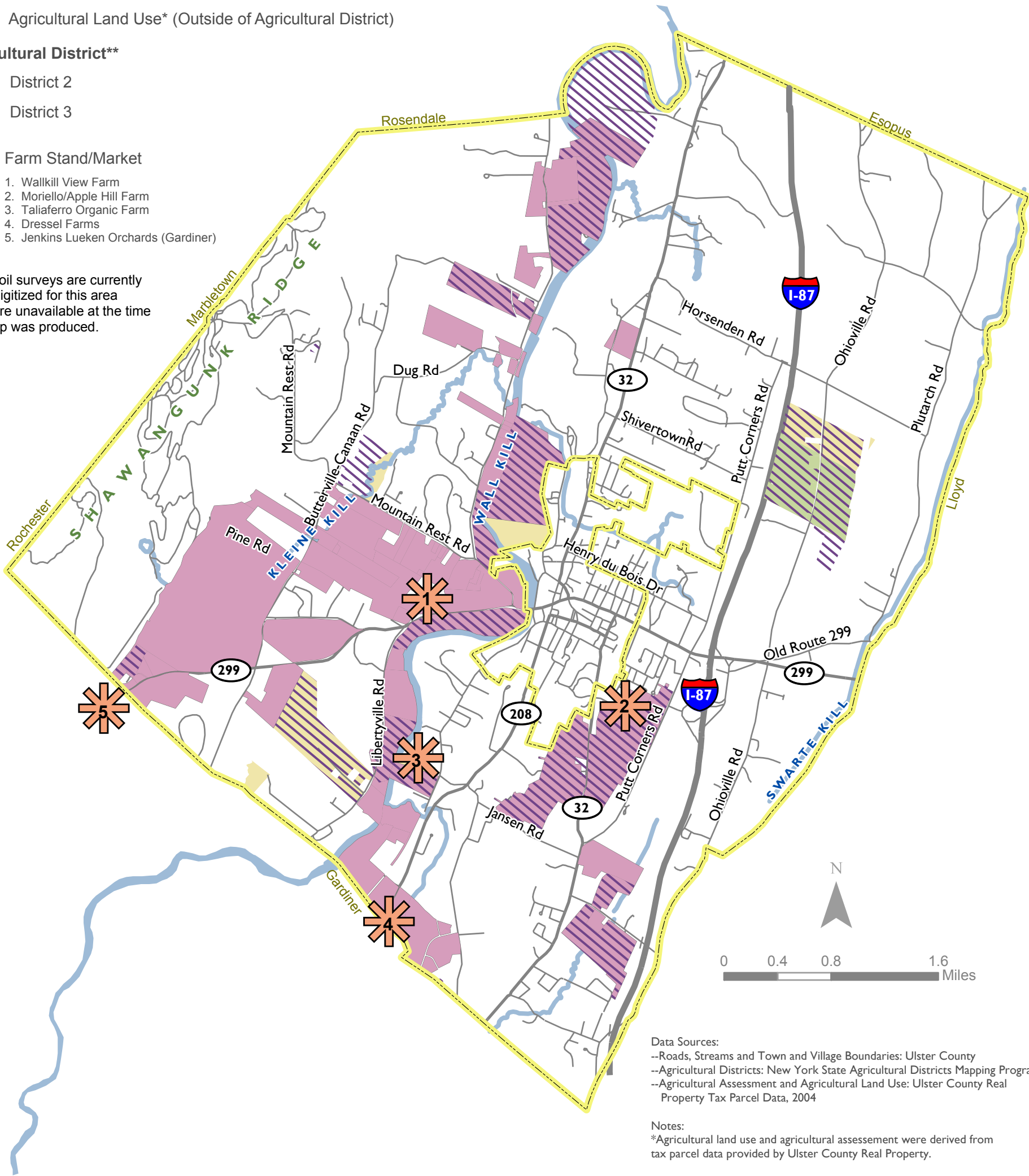
District 2

District 3

Farm Stand/Market

1. Wallkill View Farm
2. Moriello/Apple Hill Farm
3. Taliaferro Organic Farm
4. Dressel Farms
5. Jenkins Lueken Orchards (Gardiner)

Note: soil surveys are currently being digitized for this area and were unavailable at the time this map was produced.



Data Sources:  
--Roads, Streams and Town and Village Boundaries: Ulster County  
--Agricultural Districts: New York State Agricultural Districts Mapping Program  
--Agricultural Assessment and Agricultural Land Use: Ulster County Real Property Tax Parcel Data, 2004

Notes:  
\*Agricultural land use and agricultural assesment were derived from tax parcel data provided by Ulster County Real Property.

\*\*Agricultural Districts are generalized and are not meant to be a substitute for up-to-date tax parcel information; districts are updated periodically. District boundaries currently proposed - up for recertification\*\*

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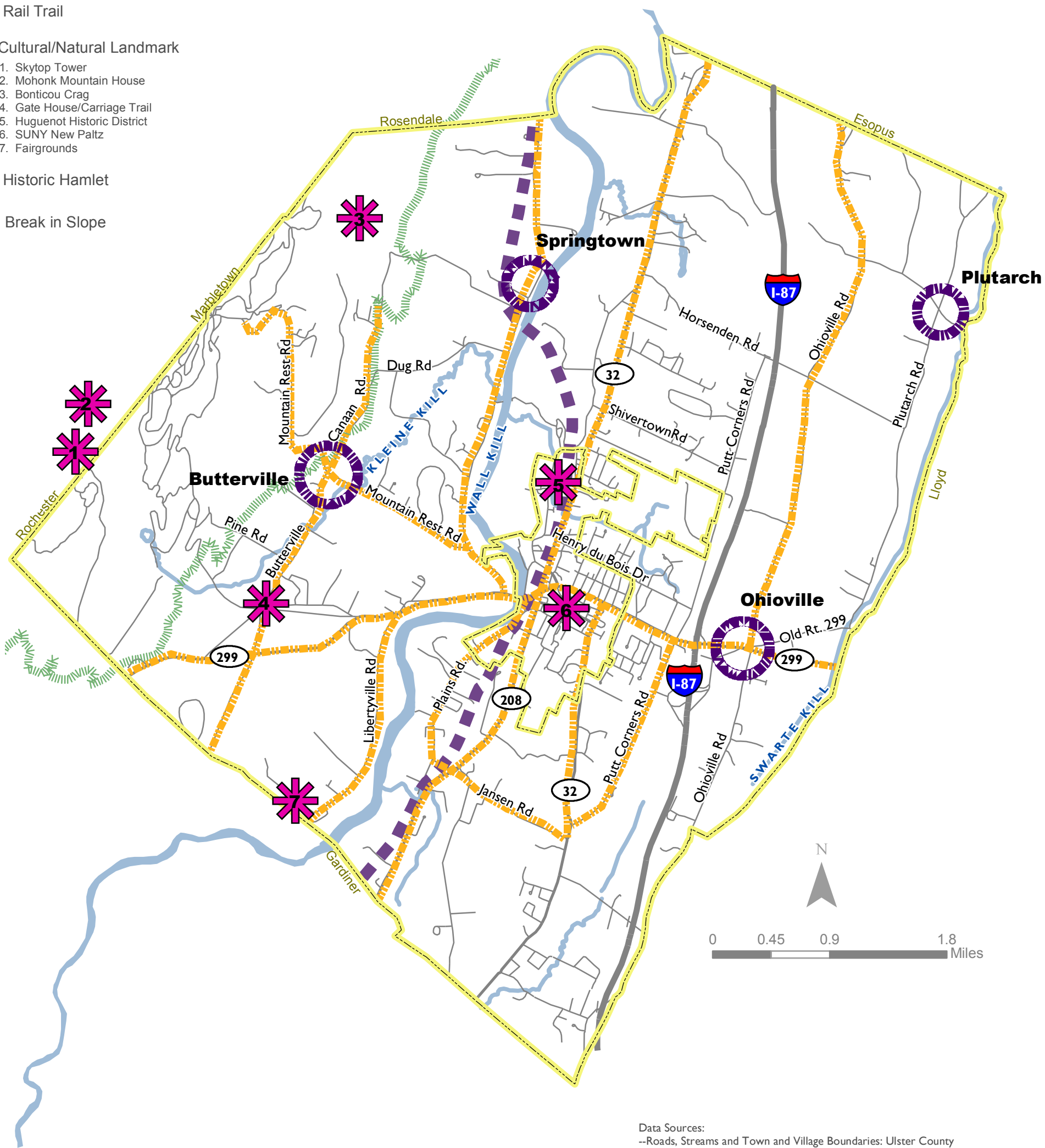
# Town of New Paltz Open Space Plan



## Cultural Resources

### Legend

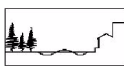
- Scenic Road
- Rail Trail
- Cultural/Natural Landmark
  1. Skytop Tower
  2. Mohonk Mountain House
  3. Bonticou Crag
  4. Gate House/Carriage Trail
  5. Huguenot Historic District
  6. SUNY New Paltz
  7. Fairgrounds
- Historic Hamlet
- Break in Slope



Data Sources:  
--Roads, Streams and Town and Village Boundaries: Ulster County  
--Break in Slope: The Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership GIS (2005)  
--All other data generated from USGS basemaps

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# Town of New Paltz

## Open Space Plan



### Natural Features

Legend

100-Year Floodplain

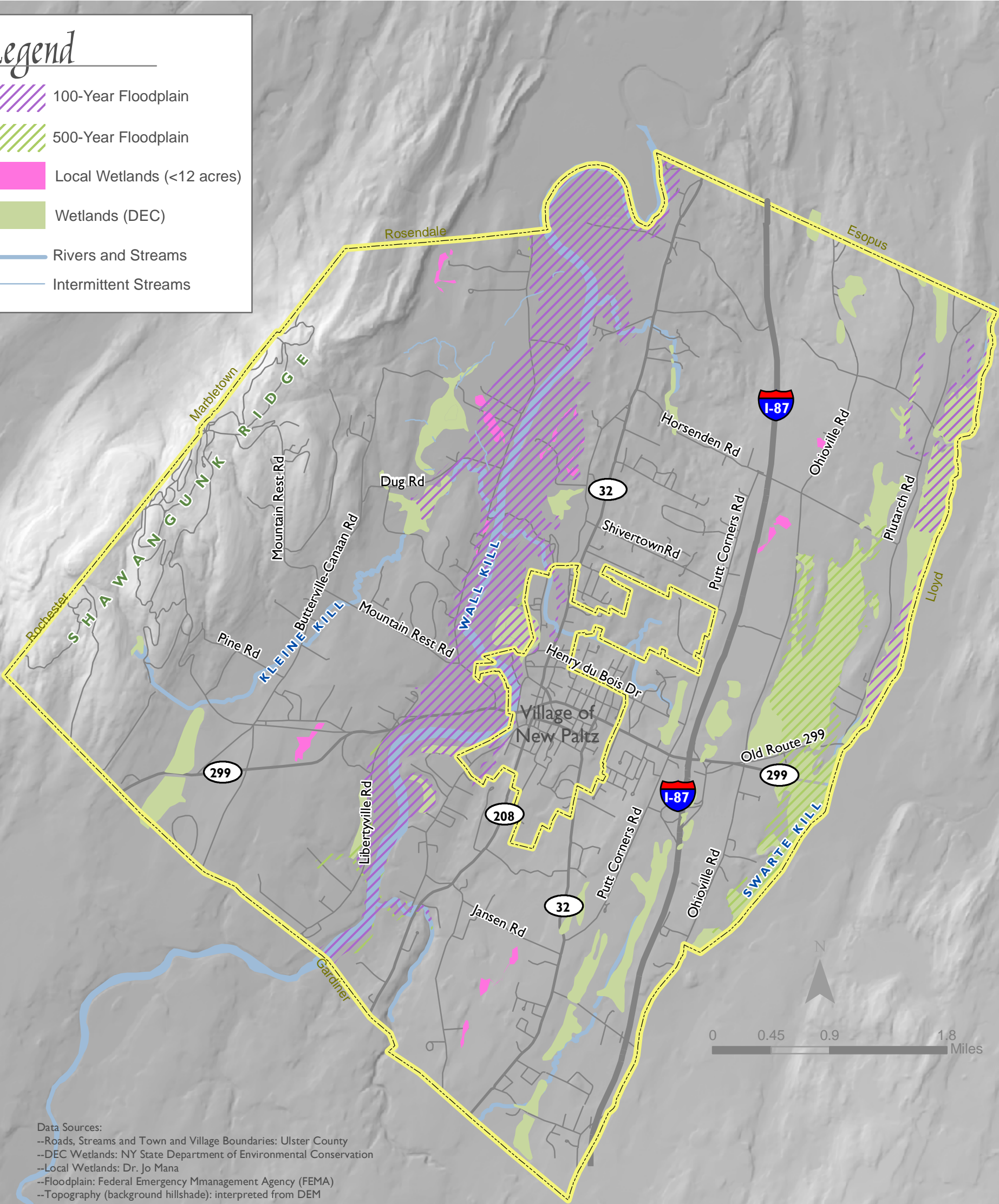
500-Year Floodplain

Local Wetlands (<12 acres)

Wetlands (DEC)

Rivers and Streams

Intermittent Streams



Data Sources:  
--Roads, Streams and Town and Village Boundaries: Ulster County  
--DEC Wetlands: NY State Department of Environmental Conservation  
--Local Wetlands: Dr. Jo Mana  
--Floodplain: Federal Emergency Mmanagement Agency (FEMA)  
--Topography (background hillshade): interpreted from DEM

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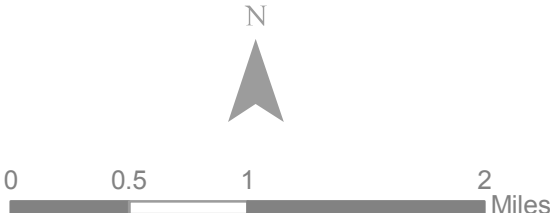
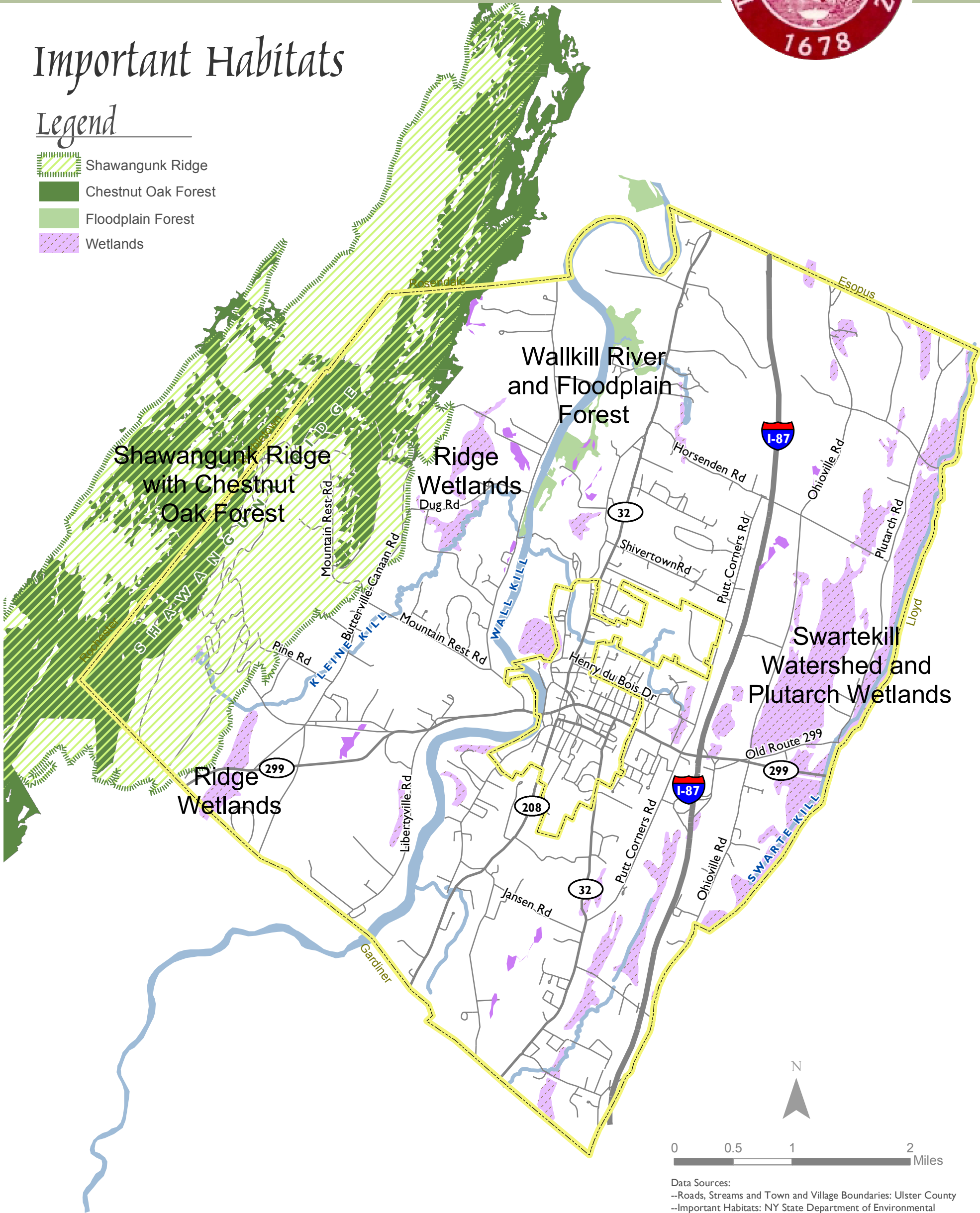
# Town of New Paltz Open Space Plan



## Important Habitats

### Legend

- Shawangunk Ridge
- Chestnut Oak Forest
- Floodplain Forest
- Wetlands



Data Sources:  
--Roads, Streams and Town and Village Boundaries: Ulster County  
--Important Habitats: NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)  
--Wetlands: DEC, Town of New Paltz

Data intended for planning purposes only.  
February 2006

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## **Appendix B: Proposed Resource Criteria and Rating System**

## **Town of New Paltz—Open Space Resource Evaluation—Initial Screening System**

For use in initial evaluation and rating of parcels for potential open space resources. Rating system may be refined/modified after initial application. More detailed, site-specific analysis may be required to further refine the evaluation of resources.

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### **Property location in relation to open space vision map**

Select one of the following places that best describes the location of the property pursuant to the resource character areas as defined on the “open space vision map:”

- ☐ Protection of the Shawangunk Ridge
- ☐ Wallkill River Greenbelt
- ☐ Butternut-Canaan Forested Foothills
- ☐ Open Farmlands: Orchards, Farms & Ridgeviews
- ☐ North Woods & Eastern Wetlands
- ☐ Greenways & Connections
- ☐ Scenic Landscapes: Rural, Historic, Traditional Character

## **1. Project Viability**

### **Landowner and Project Readiness—up to 35 points**

(Note: May be determined after initial screening process for parcels is complete.)

- ☐ Landowner offers donation or bargain sale of property/easement for conservation – 10 points, or;
- ☐ Landowner signs letter of intent to conserve property for open space conservation – 8 points, or;
- ☐ Landowner documents high interest in open space conservation for property – 6 points, or
- ☐ Grant funding opportunity immediately available for project – 10 points
- ☐ Future conservation of property is in imminent threat of being lost – 6 points
- ☐ Strong expression of community support for project – 5 points
- ☐ Project sponsored by partner conservation organization (e.g., land trust) – 4 points

## **2. Natural Resources and Working Landscapes**

### **Water Resources – up to 40 points**

- ☐ Frontage on Wallkill minimum of 1000 or more feet - 15 points, or;
- ☐ Frontage on Wallkill between 500 and 1,000 feet - 10 points, or;
- ☐ Frontage on Wallkill between 100 and 500 feet – 8 points
- ☐ Frontage on permanent stream (minimum of 200 feet)-- 6 points
- ☐ Large frontage on permanent stream (more than 1,000 feet)—4 additional points
- ☐ Large pond (more than 3 acres) - 10 points, or;
- ☐ Small pond (between ¼ and 3 acres) - 5 points
- ☐ Large, state-regulated wetland present 5 points; or
- ☐ Significant area (more than 20 percent) of site within FEMA 100-year floodplain and/or federal or local wetlands present - 3 points

### **Biodiversity /Ecological Resources – up to 25 points**

- ☐ Provides large, unfragmented natural habitat (parcel greater than 60 acres and is part of adjacent unfragmented forest/natural area exceeding 400 acres total ) – 20 points, or;
- ☐ Provides for wildlife corridors/edge habitat – 10 points
- ☐ Documented habitat of special concern species, rare species habitat – 10 points, or;



- \_\_\_Known fragile or unique ecological community – 8 points
- \_\_\_Unique/important geological features present (cliffs, esker, bog, etc.) - 5 points

### **Active Farmlands and Orchards – up to 50 points**

Note: parcel must be predominantly in agricultural land use (per published data sources/observation)

- \_\_\_Parcel includes a Century Farm (farm in operation by the same family for more than 100 years) – 10 points
- \_\_\_Agricultural exemption or within agricultural district (or to be included upon district revision) – 10 points
- \_\_\_70 % or more prime farmland soils or soils of statewide importance – 10 points, or;
- \_\_\_50 % or more prime farmland soils or soils of statewide importance – 7 points
- \_\_\_Parcel size 60 or more acres – 10 points, or;
- \_\_\_Parcel size 40 or more acres – 6 points, or;
- \_\_\_Parcel size 20 or more acres – 4 points, or;
- \_\_\_Parcel size less than 20 acres – 3 points
- \_\_\_Part of farmland “core” (adjacent to another parcel in agricultural production) – 5 points
- \_\_\_Community ties and/or visibility (CSA, farm stand, or similar) – 5 points

### **Steep Slopes and Hillsides – up to 35 points**

- \_\_\_Within Shawangunk Ridge protection area (defined by “break in slope”) -- 15 points
- \_\_\_Adjacent (contiguous to) Shawangunk Ridge protection area -- 7 points
- Visibility (no more than 2 of the following)
  - \_\_\_parcel located above x-foot USGS elevation – 10 Points
  - \_\_\_parcel located on state highway -- 10 points, or;
  - \_\_\_parcel located on county highway – 8 points, or;
  - \_\_\_parcel located on town road – 6 points

### **Woodlands and Forests – up to 25 points**

- \_\_\_Significant forest cover (70 percent or more) – 10 points, or;
- \_\_\_Sizeable forest cover (50 percent or more) – 6 points
- \_\_\_Significant area of contiguous forest lands (60 or more acres) – 10 points, or;
- \_\_\_Large area of contiguous forest lands (40 or more acres) – 6 points, or;
- \_\_\_Sizeable area of contiguous forest lands (20 or more acres) – 4 points
- \_\_\_Enrolled in forest use tax exemption – 5 points

## **3. Cultural Resources, Trails and Community Connections**

### **Scenic Roadways, Viewsheds and Landscapes – up to 35 points**

- \_\_\_Viewshed – parcel provides significant view to or from Shawangunk Mts. – 10 points
- \_\_\_Parcel has more than 1000 feet of frontage along scenic roadways (Rt. 299, Rt. 208, Mtn. Rest Rd., Butterville-Cannan Road, Springtown Road, Huguenot St., Shivertown Rd., Ohioville Rd., Plutarch Rd., Plains Rd.)-- 15 points, or;
- \_\_\_Parcel has more than 800 feet of frontage along scenic roadways – 12 points, or;
- \_\_\_Parcel has more than 600 feet of frontage along scenic roadways – 8 points, or;
- \_\_\_Parcel has more than 400 feet of frontage along scenic roadways – 6 points, or;
- \_\_\_Identified scenic vistas (per AKRF inventory maps) – 6 points

\_\_\_Aesthetics (protects or enhances visual quality to abutting sensitive receptor—e.g., larger residential neighborhood (more than 12 homes) – 4 points

### **Historic and Cultural Resources – up to 35 points**

\_\_\_Parcel is part of national register historic district – 10 points

\_\_\_Historic district or building on parcel – 10 points

\_\_\_Parcel is in or abutting village boundary – 8 points

\_\_\_Parcel comprises significant portion of cultural landscape districts (per current study defining districts) and/or in or immediately abutting historic rural hamlets: Ohioville, Springtown, Plutarch – 7 points

### **Community Connections – up to 35 points**

\_\_\_Parcel abuts/can provide expanded connections to Wallkill River Rail Trail – 10 points

\_\_\_Provides trail connections from the village “heart of town” to natural resources – 8 points, or;

\_\_\_Provides new/expanded trail connections in country side (i.e., not in village or direct to rail trail) – 6 points

\_\_\_Potential for active or passive recreation use of parcel – 10 points

\_\_\_Property provides environmental/cultural/historical education opportunities – 4 points

\_\_\_Economic development opportunities (eg. agritourism, etc.) – 3 points

### **Project Significance - up to 25 points**

\_\_\_Project/related abutting ownership includes parcels totaling more than 200 acres - 10 points

\_\_\_Parcel identified for conservation in state or regional plan – 8 points

\_\_\_Contributes to diversity of types of landscapes (historic, working landscapes, forest preserves, parklands, etc.) and experiences (recreational, educational, etc.) – 7 points

## **Appendix C: Community Open Space Survey Results**

# Town of New Paltz Open Space Committee

## Open Space Plan Community Survey Results

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1600 surveys mailed; 556 responded = 35% responded

NOTE: Some surveys were returned with no questions answered; in this case nothing was entered and they were calculated as “null”. Any other survey where items were left blank or questions were unanswered, those items were considered “null”.

All percentages are calculated on total surveys returned (556)).

Property values coded by Open Space Committee prior to mailing:

H = High 152 = 27%

M = Medium 244 = 44%

L = Low 122 = 22%

Null 38 = 7%

The null value here is a result of those surveys where the code was not readable, not present, or blacked out.

### SURVEY QUESTIONS:

Q1. Municipality where you live:

T = Town 396 = 71%

V = Village 119 = 21%

O = Other 19 = 3%

Null 22 = 4%

Q2. How long have you lived.....

A = 1-5 years 90 = 16%

B = 5-10 years 72 = 13%

C = 10+ years 375 = 67%

Null 19 = 3%

Q5. ...concentrate growth in, or near village.....preserve open space in outlying areas....

Y = Yes 366 = 66%

N = No 103 = 19%

X = No Opinion 54 = 10%

Null 33 = 6%

Q6. ...help retain agricultural activity...

Y = Yes 458 = 82%

N = No 46 = 8%

X = No Opinion 29 = 5%

Null 23 = 4%

Q8. ...pursue innovative strategies to protect open space?

Y = Yes 430 = 77%

N = No 55 = 10%

X = No Opinion 34 = 6%

Null 37 = 7%



Q9. ...pursue protecting open space as an “investment”...

Y = Yes	426 = 77%
N = No	62 = 11%
X = No Opinion	36 = 6%
Null	32 = 6%

Q10. ...what level of tax increase would you accept...

A = None	166 = 30%
B = \$10-50	106 = 19%
C = \$50-100	106 = 19%
D = \$100-200	63 = 11%
E = \$200-300	64 = 12%
Null	51 = 9%

Additional Comments:

P = generally Positive regarding open space	100 = 18%
N = generally Negative regarding open space	11 = 2%
NR = Comment not relevant to open space	151 = 27%
Null = No additional comment	294 = 53%

The following are general topics of concern in the additional comments that were not relevant to open space; includes the number of comments on that subject and % based on total not relevant (NR) responses (151):

Taxes too high: 72 = 48%

Need light industrial/commercial development to create tax base & ease tax burden: 14 = 9%

Address traffic problems: 13 = 9%

Need department store: 11 = 7%

Poorly designed survey (biased, loaded questions, slanted): 9 = 6%

For senior citizens: affordable housing; tax breaks; senior center: 5 = 3%

Receiving few services for taxes: 5 = 3%

No health insurance for supervisor's position: 5 = 3%

Consider building moratorium: 4 = 3%

NOTE: These were the topics MOST mentioned.

# New Paltz Open Space Survey

## Summary of Results

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**Why did we do a survey?** In 2003 The New Paltz Open Space Committee decided that it would be helpful to conduct a survey to measure community interest in open space protection. The survey was intended to tell us what types of resources were most important to people and whether people in New Paltz would be willing to support expenditures to protect open space resources. In addition, the survey was intended to gauge interest in where growth should occur.

**How did we do it?** In April 2004, the New Paltz Open Space Committee mailed a survey to 1600 sample households of the town and village of New Paltz. An attempt was made to obtain responses from households in a range of property values. 1600 surveys were mailed to a random sample of New Paltz property owners and renters. A newspaper survey was provided but the responses were counted separately. 556 people responded to the mailed survey – a response rate of 35%.

**What did we learn?** The survey indicated that:

- 77% said the town and village should actively pursue protecting open space as a strategy to keep New Paltz fiscally healthy and affordable;
- 66% supported concentrating development in or near the village center of New Paltz, and preserving open space in outlying areas;
- an overwhelming number (82%) supported policies to retain agricultural activity in our community;
- Over 2/3 of respondents (67%) favored some level of a tax increase to support open space protection;
- Of those who would accept a tax increase for open space, 2/3<sup>rd</sup> supported a range of \$10 - \$100 per year. Another third supported a range of \$100 - \$300.
- over ¾ of the people believed the community should pursue innovative strategies to protect open space.

**Additional thoughts:** Our survey came out in April, the cruelest month for questions about tax increases. Despite that, the majority of respondents supported expenditures for open space protection. The survey was intended to explore this question, and generated many write-in responds that gave us lots of material to consider as we develop recommendations regarding open space planning. The survey assumed that open space is an important component of our community – the purpose was to assess the level of support for this assumption. People felt most strongly about protecting our nature preserves, scenic resources, agricultural lands, wildlife habitat and water resources.

People took time to respond thoughtfully and with depth of knowledge and eloquence about our community. We want to thank people for taking time to share their thoughts about the qualities that make New Paltz special.

## Comments from Open Space Survey:

### Positive –

- Protecting the wetlands protects wildlife habitats, water resources and scenic vistas. Then environmental and historic character of New Paltz is threatened by commercial and residential developers who invest in urban sprawl, against the interest of local residents.
- The Shawangunk Ridge and the open meadowland below it must be preserved as is; it is the heart of New Paltz.
- Wetlands need to be preserved; they are essential to a healthy environment.
- If the scenic vistas and nature preserves are not maintained the entire feel of the town is lost. It would be the beginning of “anywhere USA” and strips of commercialism.
- Wetlands are valuable biodiverse resources and support all and many forms of life with water quality, habitat enrichments and flood controls. They need (above all) protection.
- The charm of New Paltz is/was its, “country” atmosphere. Traffic, sub-divisions, commercialism detract from its appeal. Open space is paramount to preserving our community.
- Without working farms the impetus becomes commercial & residential development, thereby degrading the landscape, village life, and the overall quality of life in and around New Paltz.
- Open space provides relief from congestion. One type of open space is visual where you can see the landscape in its natural form. The other type of open space is a preserve or park or other open, unrestricted area where you can physically enjoy the openness.
- The preserves offer a true “escape route”, 2<sup>nd</sup> they are first-rate.
- Trees help to purify the air, are beautiful and provide wood, which has many uses. If the farms, which are very fertile, are taken over by developments, they can never be reclaimed. Around the world millions of people would be glad to have the water resources we have.
- I think the access to hiking areas and natural settings is a great appeal to New Paltz. Areas of wildlife, bucolic and pastoral settings and majestic views of this area are what I grew up seeing and wish to continue to live around.
- Having the space for people to recreate and unwind is very important. The Minn and Mohonk areas are an inherent treasure that we should always protect at any cost.
- Open space is very soothing in our stressful lives. It’s important to strive for a balance between development, enhancing the well-being of the residents, and retaining the natural character of the land.
- Open space is important for the environment and for people. Some compromises and innovative strategies are necessary so that environmentalist fundamentalists & fanatics can be made to understand how & where New Paltz can provide a better quality of life. It cannot remain “forever wild”, unless people move out of New Paltz. We need to be reasonable & sensitive & intelligent about all decisions at this point and consider the best use for all available land.

## **Negative –**

- The town should follow the Constitution instead of their personal opinions.
- Service is awful - not worth what we pay in taxes. This is a slanted survey – complete nonsense. Ask the right question – you’ll get the answer you want.
- Regarding threats (Q4): New Paltz representatives who have personal agendas and not the public’s greater good in mind.
- I believe our taxes are insane compared to other states, and there should be no reasons for further increases in the foreseeable future.
- We need affordable housing – not subsidized housing or 5 acre zoning. 5-acre zoning and high taxes have destroyed our agricultural and farming. The Ag activities you are talking about are a shadow of what was once here.

I am sick of people who live on postage stamp lots in the village trespassing on my land. I am sick of being taxed for the potential development of my land. I am sick of protecting the land then being denied the ability to use it myself in a responsible way by people who just moved here. I am angry that my children & my parents cannot afford to live here and I can’t even add on to my own house for them to live with me in an apartment. I am angry that New Paltz chases away business services we need like clothing stores and department stores. If you want “open space” then buy it! Don’t tax me out of it.

- People that have lived here their entire life must sell and move because taxes have become unbearable. Our entire town has changed drastically because of the influx of new/more wealthy people. We have an abundance of open space for people to use.
- I believe the most expensive open space we have is between the ears of our elected officials.
- RE: Tax increase to purchase/protect open space. Won’t the recent high assessments help to produce additional funds? If we keep the rate the same and school taxes in control, we should have extra funds.
- You have made it abundantly clear why the founding fathers allowed only landowners to vote. You’ve structured the survey questions to support your view and are then going to use the results as justification for your direction. You make vague statements like “should we implement strategies” and then expect a yes or no answer. What are these strategies, what do you allude to when you say, “if it could be demonstrated...”?
- Let’s work with what we have before we spend what we do not have!
- You are taxing us out of the area, so what if it is a nice place to live, if you cannot afford the taxes what good is it. We need businesses to increase the tax revenue not more houses and schools.



**Appendix D: Biodiversity  
Summary – Memo dated 4-22-05,  
provided by New York State  
Department of Environmental  
Conservation**

April 22, 2005

To: Melissa Barry and Jennifer Viggiani, Behan Planning Associates, LLC  
From: Karen Strong and Sarah Shute, NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program  
Re: Important Habitat for New Paltz Open Space Plan

The following is a summary of natural resources and important habitats in the town of New Paltz. Data from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, US Geological Survey, New York State Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, and the New York Natural Heritage Program was used to identify these areas. After examining the information, four main areas of ecological importance emerge: The Wallkill River and associated riparian areas, wetlands near the Shawangunk Ridge, The Black Creek Swartekill Watersheds, and the Shawangunk Ridge. These areas may be useful for open space planning in the Town of New Paltz.

### **The New York Natural Heritage Program**

The New York Natural Heritage Program is a joint program of the Nature Conservancy and NYS DEC. They are also part of a continent-wide network of natural heritage programs called NatureServe. NY Natural Heritage works throughout New York State to identify rare plants and animals as well as significant ecological communities, which might be rare or of exceptionally high quality when compared to other examples in the state. Inventory by Heritage biologists is ongoing statewide. For more information about this program, visit [www.nynhp.org](http://www.nynhp.org).

### **The New York Reptile and Amphibian Atlas**

The New York Reptile and Amphibian Atlas was a statewide survey conducted from 1990-1999. The Atlas project relied on volunteers to submit records of reptiles and amphibians. Species information was included in descriptions of other areas where it added information about habitat quality. For more information about the Atlas, visit <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/herp/index.html>.

### **Important Habitats in the Town of New Paltz**

#### The Wallkill River (and associated riparian areas)

The 87-mile long Wallkill River begins as a spring-fed lake in Sussex County, New Jersey. From there, the Wallkill River flows north through Orange and Ulster Counties, meets the Rondout Creek in Rosendale and empties into the Hudson River Estuary at Kingston.

The river itself is an important natural feature in New Paltz, but the health and quality of the river depends on the condition of the area bordering the river. These adjacent lands, riparian areas, provide important benefits to a variety of plants and animals, as well as

humans. Riparian areas provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna; they stabilize stream banks thereby preventing erosion and siltation; they improve water quality by serving as a natural filtration system; they absorb excess water during times of melting and high precipitation to reduce the risk of flooding; and they afford us with recreational opportunities and scenic vistas. It is important for the lands along a river's corridor to remain natural and intact wherever possible so that the system can continue to function properly and provide those services we rely on.

In the northern part of New Paltz, along the banks of the Wallkill is a high quality floodplain forest. Although the overall area of this forest is relatively small, there are two core areas of the floodplain (with adjacent abandoned farmland and secondary growth forest) that can serve to regenerate and restore the forest if protected (New York Natural Heritage Program 2005).

The Wallkill Valley Task Force in Ulster County worked with one of DEC's partners, Hudsonia, Ltd., to look for potentially significant sites along the Wallkill River. Contact Laura Heady at Hudsonia (845/758-0600) for a report and more information.

#### Ridge Wetlands

A linear series of wetlands exists at the eastern base of the Shawangunk Ridge. Wetlands in New York State that are greater than 12.4 acres are regulated in by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Although an associated buffer of 100 feet is included in the regulations, linkages between wetlands are often not considered. Protecting open space in the lands between these wetlands can create an important corridor for wildlife.

Records from the New York State Reptile and Amphibian Atlas indicate a diversity of herpetofauna in this area. Species documented from this location the wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*), eastern box turtle (*Terrapene c. carolina*), spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), and spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), most of the them, NYS species of special concern. All of these species indicate high-quality, connected habitats. The spotted turtle is found in unpolluted waters, and similar to the other aforementioned species, requires both wetland and adjacent upland habitat throughout its life. The presence of the Jefferson and spotted salamanders indicate the presence of high quality vernal pools.

#### Black Creek Swartekill Watersheds

The Black Creek and Swartekill Basins lie on the eastern edge of New Paltz and extend into the Towns of Lloyd and Esopus and contain a 1300 acre wetland complex. Only the Swarte Kill watershed is in New Paltz.

This area hosts a number of amphibian species requiring high quality, intact habitats. Three species of mole salamanders were documented in the northeast corner of the town; The spotted, Jefferson, and marbled (*Ambystoma opacum*) salamanders, along with the wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*), are species that are dependent on vernal pools for breeding and adjacent uplands for foraging and over-wintering. Other records in the NYS Reptile and Amphibian Atlas for this area are the four-toed salamander (*Hemidactylum*

*scutatum*) and northern slimy salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*). Both require moist upland forest with plentiful protective cover, such as decaying logs, leaf-litter, and moss. Also found in the area was the red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber ruber*), which requires clean, cool running water..

Wetlands in the Black Creek Watershed also contain the state endangered northern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*). Although there are no known occurrences of the cricket frog within New Paltz, the New York Natural Heritage Program has identified areas within the town that are important to the health of known populations in the neighboring Town of Lloyd.

#### The Shawangunk Ridge

The Shawangunk Ridge is a unique geologic feature that runs along the western edge of New Paltz, extending through New Jersey and into Pennsylvania. This area harbors a great diversity of rare plants and animals, as well as a number of very high quality ecological communities, and the globally-rare dwarf pitch pine forest. As a linear, forested ridge it is also considered an important wildlife corridor.

The New York Natural Heritage Program database shows that the predominant ecological community on the portion of the Shawangunk Ridge within New Paltz is a high quality chestnut oak forest. A majority of this area is owned by the Mohonk Preserve, however, some of the forest lies outside of the Preserve boundary.

The Green Assets Program has mapped natural communities in New Paltz from the Wallkill River west to the Ridge. The Program has created maps and offers technical assistance in using the maps. Contact Cara Lee, Shawangunk Ridge Coordinator at The Nature Conservancy at (845)255-9051 for further information.

#### Other Sources of Information

One of DEC's partners, the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance (MCA, a program of the Wildlife Conservation Society at the Bronx Zoo) has been surveying sites for wildlife in New Paltz. MCA has not yet completed the surveys and therefore has not yet analyzed the data, which will help to identify significant habitat areas or corridors. The Wildlife Conservation Society's Metropolitan Conservation Alliance office has moved to 25 Prospect Street, Suite 205, Ridgefield, CT 06877, 203/894-1863.