

CHAPTER 6: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter assesses the potential impacts of the proposed action on Open Space and land-based recreational opportunities. Open Space may be public or private and may include active and/or passive areas. This chapter will:

- provide a description of the existing conditions of open space in the Cat-Del Watershed;
- discuss future conditions without the proposed action;
- assess the impacts of the Extended LAP on Open Space and Recreation.

WEST-OF- HUDSON

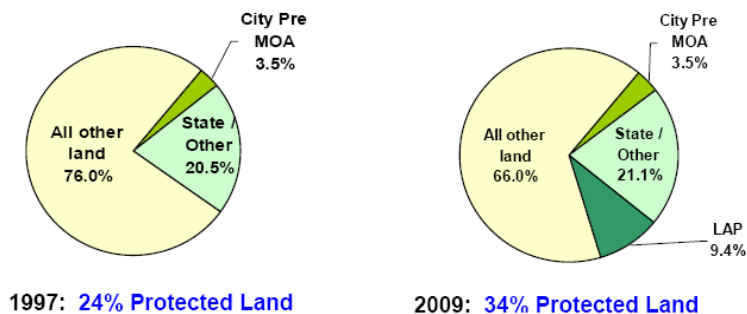
EXISTING CONDITIONS

As of July 2009, a total of 356,247 acres within the West of Hudson watershed can be considered protected lands, including:

- 204,238 acres of State-owned land, concentrated mostly in Ulster and Greene counties;
- 88,674 acres acquired by New York City in fee simple or as conservation or agricultural easements under LAP;
- 32,870 acres of land that New York City had already owned prior to the execution of the MOA, excluding reservoirs (which cover 22,542 acres); and
- 7,923 acres owned or protected by others, such as private non-profit land conservation trusts (but not including the Watershed Agricultural Council).

Excluding the reservoir acreage, together, these four categories account for about 34 percent of the land area of the West-of-Hudson watershed and 20 percent of the total land area of the 41 watershed towns (including lands both within and outside the watershed). As shown in Figure 6-1, the percentage of protected land increased from 24% to 34% in the Cat-Del system since the start of the LAP program.

Figure 6-1 Protected Land in the Cat-Del System, 1997 vs. 2009



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The status of protected watershed lands by county is provided in Table 6-1. Ulster County and Greene County have the largest percentages of watershed acres of protected lands occupying 60 percent and 41 percent respectively. In contrast, Sullivan County, Schoharie County and Delaware County have lower percentages of 35 percent, 20 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

Table 6-1: Status of protected watershed lands by county

County	Land in the watershed							Protected lands % of watershed
	Total acres	Acres in the watershed	LAP protected	State protected	Other protected	City pre-MOA	Total protected lands	
Delaware	925,400	492,487	45,350	25,796	3,812	21,634	96,592	20%
Greene	414,720	199,701	16,970	63,815	831	296	81,912	41%
Schoharie	398,080	34,613	3,769	2,569	0	459	6,797	20%
Sullivan	620,800	42,919	4,922	4,054	1,561	4,541	15,079	35%
Ulster	720,640	221,465	17,663	108,004	1,719	5,794	133,179	60%
WOH Total	3,079,680	991,185	88,674	204,238	7,923	32,723	333,558	34%

Source: NYC DEP

The protected lands listed above that are owned by entities other than the City generally allow for a wide range of recreational uses, including many of those allowed on City lands such as fishing, hiking, showshoeing, cross-country skiing, bird watching, educational programs, nature study and interpretation, and hunting (MOA section 72). Some allow more intensive uses such as horseback riding, overnight camping, boating, mountain biking, and in some cases motorized vehicles – uses that are not generally allowed on land acquired by the City (also as described in MOA section 72).

Just as there is considerable variation among watershed towns on various demographic, economic and development characteristics as described in Chapter 3, so is there with respect to the extent of protected lands. Table 6-2 lists the seven towns with the highest concentrations of protected lands, and the seven towns with the lowest. As shown in this table, most of the towns with low concentrations of protected lands are located in Delaware County. This is mostly due to the fact that the Catskill Park includes a relatively small portion of Delaware County, resulting in a much lower percentage of State land in comparison to Greene, Ulster and Sullivan.

Table 6-2: Seven towns with the lowest and seven towns with the highest concentrations of protected lands (>5% in WS)

Seven towns with lowest concentration of protected lands in the watershed

Town	County	Total acres	Acres in the watershed	Protected acres in the watershed	Protected acres % of watershed
Harpersfield	Delaware	27,069	7,076	151	2.1%
Meredith	Delaware	37,313	15,395	1,116	7.2%
Hamden	Delaware	38,310	33,517	2,942	8.8%
Walton	Delaware	62,574	55,991	5,092	9.1%
Kortright	Delaware	40,004	25,047	2,530	10.1%
Jefferson	Schoharie	27,753	2,942	300	10.2%
Delhi	Delaware	41,343	41,343	4,328	10.5%

Seven towns with highest concentration of protected lands in the watershed

Town	County	Total acres	Acres in the watershed	Protected acres in the watershed	Protected acres % of watershed
Lexington	Greene	51,274	51,274	28,678	56%
Colchester	Delaware	90,916	18,670	10,452	56%
Wawarsing	Ulster	85,857	10,607	6,030	57%
Olive	Ulster	41,735	29,252	16,928	58%
Denning	Ulster	65,430	56,447	35,866	64%
Hurley	Ulster	23,091	8,518	6,164	72%
Shandaken	Ulster	78,875	78,875	56,440	72%

Source: NYCDEP

The protected lands as a percentage of reservoir basin area are shown in Figure 6-2. Cannonsville and Pepacton Reservoir basins have the smallest percentage of protected lands, while Ashokan and Neversink have the highest.

The West of Hudson region has an abundance of existing open space, offering many opportunities for a variety of recreational activities; such as fishing, hunting, hiking, trapping, cross-country skiing, mountain biking and snowmobiling. First and foremost, the State Forest Preserve, covering over 200,000 watershed acres, provides an extensive natural area that is generally open for a number of recreational activities. This large base of open space has been augmented since 1997 by lands acquired by the City and opened for recreational use. As of October 2009 (as shown in Table 6-3), NYCDEP has opened a total of 34,684 acres of West-of-Hudson land acquired under LAP for public recreational use – about 64 percent of the acreage purchased in fee simple under the Land Acquisition Program (land under conservation easements is not generally opened for public access by their owners). This represents a 179 percent increase in the total acreage of NYCDEP-owned land in the region that is available for public recreational use since 1997.

Figure 6-2: Protected Land as a Percentage of Basin Land Area

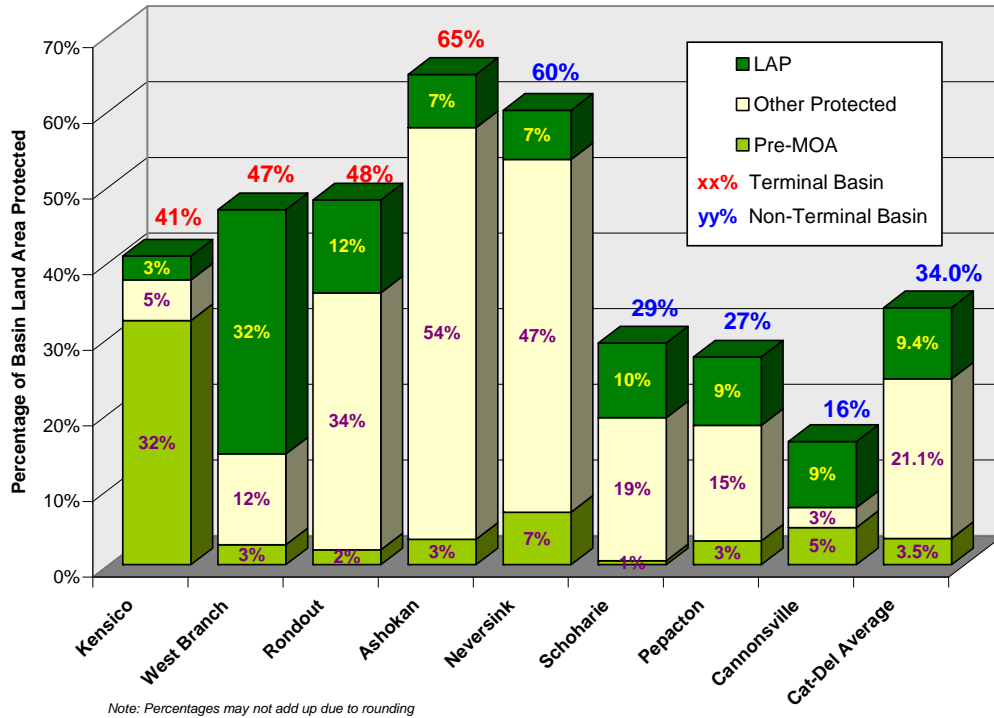


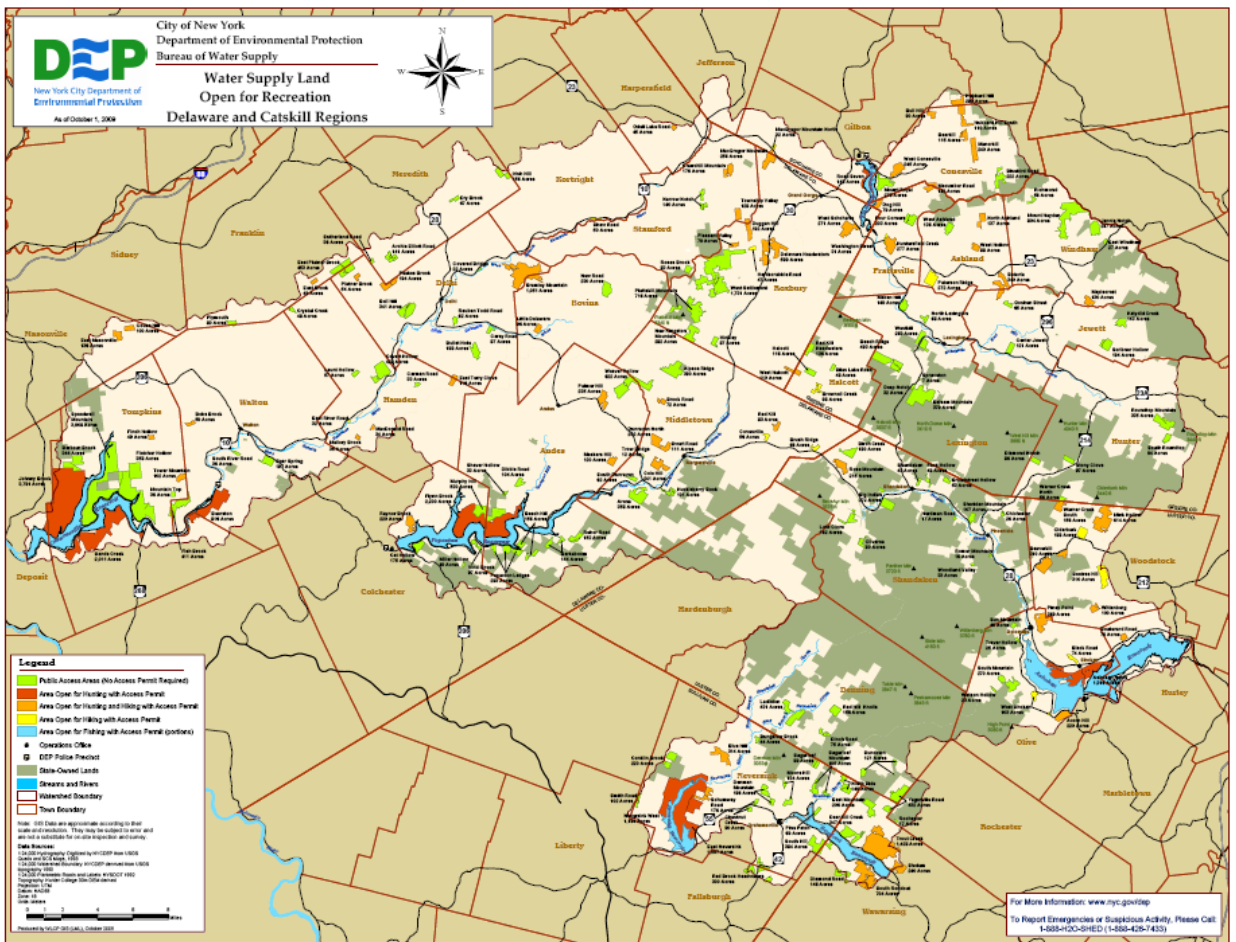
Table 6-2: Acreage open for recreational use, pre-MOA land and LAP land, as of June 30, 2009

County	Pre-MOA Acres	LAP acres	Total Acres
Delaware County	13,048	15,634	28,682
Greene County	-	7,154	7,154
Schoharie County	-	1,637	1,637
Sullivan County	3,136	2,487	5,623
Ulster County	1,535	7,772	9,307
WOH Total	17,719	34,684	52,403

Outdoor recreation is both a major industry in the West-of-Hudson watershed region, and an amenity that is of considerable value to the region’s residents and visitors. With few exceptions, properties that have been acquired by NYCDEP were generally not open for public recreational use prior to acquisition, when privately owned. Virtually all of the 34,684 acres acquired under LAP that have been opened to the public thus represent a net addition to the total acreage available in the region for public recreational use. As shown in Figure 6-3 and Table 6-4, NYCDEP allows a number of uses on LAP acquired land where consistent with water quality and public safety. Approximately 59,000 acres since 1997 have been opened for recreational

uses such as fishing, hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, bird watching, educational programs, nature study and interpretation, rifle hunting and to a lesser extent, muzzle-loading implements and trapping. Prior to 2008, NYCDEP required members of the public to hold recreational use permits; in 2008, NYCDEP expanded recreational uses of WOH lands to include Public Access Areas (PAAs) in which no NYCDEP access permits are required. The majority of WOH lands that are not adjacent to reservoirs are being converted to PAAs and this is the default designation for all newly acquired lands. Also in 2008, NYCDEP eliminated the use of the NYCDEP Hunt tag in an attempt to make it easier for the public to access NYCDEP lands.

Figure 6-3: West of Hudson Recreation Areas



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**Table 6-3 : City-owned Recreation Acres in West of Hudson Watershed
Counties
Delaware County**

RECREATION AREA	TOWN	LOCATION	WMU	PUBLIC ACCESS AREA	HIKE	FISH	HUNT	TRAP	ACRES
Alpaca Ridge	Middletown	Thompson Hollow Rd.	4P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	401
Archie Elliot Road	Meredith	Archie Elliot Rd.	4O	✓	✓		✓	✓	141
Arena	Middletown	Reservoir Rd	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	382
Barbour Brook	Tompkins	Barbour Brook Rd.	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	364
Barkaboom	Andes	Barkaboom Rd	4W	✓	✓		✓	✓	140
Bear Spring	Walton	Route 206	4W	✓	✓		✓	✓	197
Beech Hill	Andes	Beech hill Rd.	4W	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	156
Beerston	Walton	Route 10	4W				✓		871
Bell Hill	Delhi	Peakes brook & Bell Hill Rd.	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	328
Betty Brook	Kortright	Betty Brook Rd.	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	105
Bloomville	Kortright	NY Route 10	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	245
Bobs Brook	Walton	Bobs Brook Rd.	4O		✓		✓		59
Bramley Mountain	Delhi	Bramley Mountain Rd.	4P	✓	✓	✓	✓		1,051
Brook Road	Middletown	Brook Rd.	4P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	70
Brush Ridge	Middletown	Koop Rd.	4R		✓				64
Bryants Brook	Andes	NY Route 28		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92
Bullet Hole	Delhi	Bullet Hole Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	198
Carey Road	Delhi	NY Route 28	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	179
Carman Road	Hamden	Carman RD.	4P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	33
Cat Hollow	Colchester	Route 30	4W	✓	✓		✓	✓	175
Churchill Mountain	Stamford	McGregor & Tower Mountain Rds.	4P		✓	✓	✓		175
Cole Hill	Middletown	Swart Rd.	4P		✓		✓		241
Couse Hill	Masonville	County Route 27	4O		✓		✓		101
Covered Bridge	Delhi	NY route 10	4P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	22
Covert Hollow	Hamden	Covert Hollow Rd.	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	428
Covesville	Middletown	Hog Mountain Rd.	4R		✓				55
Crystal Creek	Hamden	Dunk Hill Rd. & Fish Hollow	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	48
Delaware Headwaters	Roxbury	Route 30	4P		✓		✓		600
Dibble Road	Andes	Dibble Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	105
Dry Brook	Meredith	Dry Brook Rd.	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	67
Duggan Hill	Roxbury	Duggan Hill Rd.	4P		✓		✓		189
Dunraven North	Middletown	County Route 6	4P		✓	✓	✓		202
East Brook	Franklin	East Brook Rd.	4O		✓		✓		49
East Masonville	Masonville	Route 27	4O		✓		✓		136
East Platner Brook	Delhi	County Route 16	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	453
East River Road	Hamden	County Route 26	4P		✓	✓			20
East Terry Clove	Delhi	County Route 2 & East Terry Clove	4P		✓	✓	✓		108
Finch Hollow	Tompkins	Finch hollow Rd.	4O		✓		✓		49
Fish Brook	Walton	Fish Brook Rd.	4O	✓	✓		✓	✓	363
Fletcher Hollow	Tompkins	Fletcher Rd.	4O	✓	✓		✓	✓	371
Flynn Brook	Andes	NYC Road 6	4P		✓	✓	✓		2,183
Hardscrabble Road	Tompkins	Hardscrabble Rd.	4P		✓				47
Hinkley	Roxbury	Carroll hinkley Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	87
Huckleberry Brook	Middletown	Huckleberry Brook Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	101
Irish Hill	Meredith	Irish Hill Rd.	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	156
Johnny Brook	Deposit	Barbour Brook Rd.	4O		✓	✓	✓	✓	3,813
Launt Hollow	Hamden	Launt Hollow Rd.	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	85
Little Delaware	Bovina	Bob Hall Rd.	4P		✓	✓	✓		102
MacDonald Road	Hamden	MacDonald Rd.	4P		✓	✓	✓		30
Mallory Brook	Hamden	County Route 26	4P		✓	✓	✓		36
McGregor Mountain	Roxbury	NY Route 23	4P		✓		✓		255
Meekers Hill	Andes	Close Hollow Rd.	4P		✓	✓	✓		119
Miller Hollow	Colchester	Miller Hollow Rd.	4W	✓	✓		✓	✓	23
Mountain Top	Tompkins	Fish Brook Rd.	4O	✓	✓		✓	✓	36
Murphy Hill	Andes	NYC Rd. 6 & Murphy Hill Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	519
Narrow Notch	Stamford	Narrow Notch, Town Brook	4P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	140
New Kingston Mountain	Middletown	New Kingston Mountain Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	282
New Road	Bovina	New Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	231
Odell Lake Road	Harpersfield	O'Dell Lake Rd.	4O		✓	✓	✓		44
Palmer Hill	Andes	Finkle Rd. & Route 28	4P		✓		✓		234

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Delaware County (cont)

RECREATION AREA	TOWN	LOCATION	WMU	PUBLIC ACCESS AREA	HIKE	FISH	HUNT	TRAP	ACRES
Peakes Brook	Delhi	Peakes Brook & Frank Hafele Rds.	4O		✓	✓	✓		207
Pepacton Ledges	Andes	Route 30	4W	✓				✓	294
Platner Brook	Delhi	County Route 16	4O		✓	✓	✓		54
Plattekill Mountain	Roxbury	Lower Meeker Hollow Rd.	4P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	716
Pleasant Valley	Roxbury	Baumback Rd.	4P		✓		✓		78
Plymouth	Franklin	County Route 21	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80
Raynor Brook	Colchester	NYC Rd. 1	4P	✓	✓		✓		360
Red Kill	Middletown	Big Red Kill Rd.	4R		✓	✓	✓		82
Rehor Road	Andes	Barkaboom and Rehor Rds.	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	145
Reuben Todd Road	Delhi	Reuben Todd Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	124
Roses Brook	Stamford	Roses Brook Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	83
Sally's Alley	Roxbury	Route 36, Sally's Alley	4R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	257
Sands Creek	Tompkins	NYC Road 6	4W			✓	✓	✓	1,956
Shaver Hollow	Andes	Shaver Hollow Rd.	4P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	33
Shaw Road	Kortright	NY Route 10	4P		✓	✓			52
South Dunraven	Middletown	Ben Meeker Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	62
South River Road	Walton	South River Rd.	4W	✓	✓		✓	✓	37
Speedwell Mountain	Tompkins	Route 10	4O	✓	✓		✓	✓	3,706
Spring Valley	Meredith	Waterman Rd.	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	35
Sutherland Road	Meredith	Peakes Brook Rd.	4O	✓	✓		✓	✓	36
Swart Road	Middletown	Swart Rd.	4P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	160
Tower Mountain	Tompkins	Fish Brook Rd.	4O		✓		✓		107
Town Brook	Stamford	Town Brook Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	30
Township Valley	Stamford	Davis Rd.	4P		✓		✓		127
Trow Bridge	Middletown	Sutherland Rd.	4P		✓	✓			12
Vinci Brook	Colchester	NY Route 30	4W	✓	✓		✓	✓	85
Weaver Hollow	Andes	Weaver Hollow Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	627
West Halcott	Halcott	Red Kill Rd.	4R		✓	✓	✓		108
West Platner Brook	Delhi	Platner Brook rd.	4O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80
West Schoharie	Roxbury	William Lutz Rd.	4R		✓		✓		322
West Settlement	Roxbury	Roses Brook, Burroughs Memorial	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	1,710

Greene County

RECREATION AREA	TOWN	LOCATION	WMU	PUBLIC ACCESS AREA	HIKE	FISH	HUNT	TRAP	ACRES
Balsam Mountain	Lexington	Spruceton Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	708
Batavia	Ashland	NY Route 23 & County Route 17	4R		✓	✓	✓		338
Beech Ridge	Lexington	Beech Ridge Rd.	4R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	487
Brownell Creek	Halcott	Kaftas & West Settlement Rd.	4R		✓	✓			98
Center Jewett	Jewett	NY Rte. 23a	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	121
Deep Notch	Lexington	NY Rte. 42	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	32
Diamond Notch	Hunter	Diamond Notch Rd.	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	86
Dog Hill	Prattsville	Gilboa Rd.	4R		✓		✓		81
East Windham	Windham	NY Route 23	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	27
Four Corners	Prattsville	County Rte. 11 & Albert Slater Rd.	4R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	203
Halcott	Halcott	West Settlement Rd.	4R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	116
Huntersfield Creek	Prattsville	County Route 10& Stanley Slater Rd.	4R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	277
Jennie Notch	Windham	Jennie Notch Rd.	4R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	246
Katydid Creek	Jewett	Shad Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	143
Maben Hill	Lexington	NY Rte. 23a	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	149
Macumber Road	Conesville	Macumber Rd.	4R		✓		✓		142
Maplecrest	Windham	Route 40	3A		✓		✓		125
Mount Hayden	Windham	Bagley & Narvoo Rds.	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	815
North Ashland	Ashland	County Route 10	4R		✓	✓	✓		136
North Lexington	Lexington	Off Rte. 23c	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	69
Patterson Ridge	Ashland	NY Route 23	4R		✓	✓			273
Red Kill Headwaters	Halcott	Travis Faulkner Rd.	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	137
Richmond	Windham	County Rte. 10	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	56
Roundtop Mountain	Hunter	Gillespie Rd.	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	331
Scribner Hollow	Jewett	Scribner Hollow Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	194
Silas Lake Road	Halcott	Travis Faulkner Rd.	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	49
South Roundtop	Hunter	Platte Clove Rd.	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	95
Spruceton	Lexington	NY Route 42	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Stony Clove	Hunter	NY Route 214	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	98
Warner Creek North	Hunter	Silver Hollow Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	56
West Ashland	Ashland	West Settlement Rd.	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	136
West Hollow	Ashland	Sutton Hollow Rd.	4R		✓		✓		85
Westkill	Lexington	NY Route 42	4R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	263

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Schoharie County

RECREATION AREA	TOWN	LOCATION	WMU *	PUBLIC ACCESS AREA	HIKE	FISH	HUNT	TRAP	ACRES
Bearkill	Conesville	Bearkill Rd.	4G		✓		✓		110
Bluebird Road	Conesville	South Mountain & Bluebird Rds.	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	222
Bull Hill	Conesville	Bull Hill Rd.	4G		✓	✓	✓		92
Hubbard Hill	Gilboa	East Conesville Rd.	4G		✓		✓		290
Hubbard Hill South	Conesville	Hubbard & Bearkill Rds.	4G		✓		✓		110
Manorkill	Conesville	Potter Mountain Rd.	4G		✓		✓		240
McGregor Mountain North	Gilboa	NY Route 23	4P		✓	✓			32
Mount Royal	Conesville	NY Rte. 990v & Pangsburn Rd.	4R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	279
Pangman Road	Conesville	Pangman Rd.	4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	175
Road Seven	Gilboa	NYC Road 7	4R			✓	✓		148
Washington Street	Prattsville	NY Rte. 10	4R		✓	✓			31
West Conesville	Conesville	Bull Hill Rd.	4G		✓		✓		240
Windy Ridge	Gilboa	South Gilboa Rd.	4P	✓	✓		✓	✓	42

Sullivan County

RECREATION AREA	TOWN	LOCATION	WMU *	PUBLIC ACCESS AREA	HIKE	FISH	HUNT	TRAP	ACRES
Blue Hill	Neversink	Blue Hill & Hunter Rds.	3A		✓	✓	✓		296
Bungalow Brook	Neversink	Bungalo Brook Rd.	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	38
Chestnut Creek	Neversink	Ny Rt.55	3H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90
Conklin Brook	Neversink	Woodard Rd.	3H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	213
Denman Mountain	Neversink	Denman Mountain Road	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	186
East Neversink	Neversink	Rt.55 and Shields Rd.	3H			✓	✓		1,597
Moore Hill	Neversink	Moore Hill Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	125
North Side	Neversink	Northside and Co. Hwy 153	3C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	230
Pine Patch	Neversink	Rt.55A	3C	✓	✓		✓	✓	69
Red Brook Headwaters	Neversink	NY Route 42 and Hayden Rd.	3H	✓	✓		✓	✓	369
Schumway Road	Neversink	Schumway Rd.	3H		✓		✓		176
Smith Road	Neversink	Smith Rd.	3H	✓	✓		✓	✓	103
South Hill	Neversink	NY Route 55	3H	✓	✓		✓	✓	385
Sugarloaf	Neversink	Sugarloaf Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	93
Sugarloaf Mountain	Neversink	Viscomi Rd.	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	195
West Neversink	Neversink	Aden Hill Rd.	3H			✓	✓		1,194

Ulster County

RECREATION AREA	TOWN	LOCATION	WMU *	PUBLIC ACCESS AREA	HIKE	FISH	HUNT	TRAP	ACRES
Acorn Hill	Olive	NYC Route 28a	3C		✓		✓		220
Ashokan North	Olive	NY Route 28 & Reservoir Rd.	3C			✓	✓		1,316
Beaverkill	Woodstock	Route 212	3A		✓	✓	✓		422
Beetree Hill	Woodstock	Baker Rd.	3A		✓				319
Big Indian Cluster	Shandaken	NY Route 28 & County Route 47	3A, 4R	✓	✓		✓	✓	256
Birch Creek	Shandaken	Lower Birch Creek Rd.	4R	✓	✓	✓		✓	181
Black Road	Olive	Black Rd.	3A		✓	✓			81
Boulevard Road	Hurley	Boulevard Rd.	3C		✓	✓	✓		76
Broadstreet Hollow	Shandaken	Broadstreet Hollow Rd.	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	58
Chichester	Shandaken	Silver Hollow Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓		✓	26
Deer Kill Creek	Wawarsing	Off Rte. 55a	3C	✓	✓		✓	✓	347
Diamond Road	Wawarsing	Diamond & Brown Rds.	3H	✓	✓		✓	✓	146
Dinch Road	Denning	Dinch Rd.	3A		✓				75
East Mountain	Wawarsing	Mancuso & Lackawack Rds.	3C	✓	✓		✓	✓	238
Herdman Road	Shandaken	Herdman Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓		✓	18
Ladleton	Denning	Denning Rd.	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	431
Lost Clove	Shandaken	Lost Clove Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓		✓	162
Mink Hollow	Woodstock	Mink Hollow Rd.	3A		✓	✓	✓		623
Olderbark	Woodstock	NY Route 212	3A		✓				186
Oliveria	Shandaken	Oliveria Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	79
Peck Hollow	Shandaken	Peck Hollow Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	48
Piney Point Road	Olive	Piney Point Rd.	3C		✓		✓		370
Red Hill Knolls	Denning	Red Hill Knolls Rd.	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	157
Rochester	Rochester	Mill rd.	3C	✓	✓		✓	✓	17
Romer Mountain	Shandaken	NY Route 28	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	15
Rose Mountain	Shandaken	Birch Creek & St. Katherine Extension	4R		✓		✓		213
Shandaken	Shandaken	High Street	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	43
Sheridan Mountain	Shandaken	NY Route 28 & County Route 47	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	108
Sholam	Wawarsing	Sholam Rd.	3C		✓		✓		240
South Mountain	Olive	High Point Mountain	3C	✓	✓		✓	✓	285
South Rondout	Wawarsing	Route 55 & Sherman Rd.	3H		✓		✓		708
Sun Mountain	Olive	Traver Hollow Rd.	3A	✓	✓		✓	✓	46
Sundown	Denning	Sundown/Greenville Rd.	3C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	116
Traver Hollow	Olive	NYC Route 28a	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	25
Trout Creek	Wawarsing	Route 55a & Sholam Rds.	3C		✓	✓	✓		1,429
Watson Hollow	Olive	Private rd. #3	3C	✓	✓		✓	✓	23
Warner Creek South	Woodstock	Silver Hollow Rd.	3A		✓		✓		156
West Shokan	Olive	NYC Route 28a	3C		✓				102
Wittenberg	Woodstock	Wittenberg Rd.	3C		✓	✓	✓		280
Woodland Valley	Shandaken	Woodland Valley Rd.	3A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19
Yagerville	Denning	Yagerville & Mill Rds.	3C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	467

* Quality Deer Management Area, no buck harvest on certain days, antler size regulation in effect

** Deer hunting Only
no small game or Bear
Hunting allowed here

FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED ACTION

There are a number of State and local plans to preserve open space and promote recreation into the future including plans formulated by New York State, Greene County, and Ulster County.

New York State Open Space Conservation Plan

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) issued the “New York State Open Space Conservation Plan (“Open Space Plan”) in 2009, which detailed the importance of open space and strategies to promote land conservation by New York State and others. Regional Advisory committees were set up to provide recommendations on the implementation of the Open Space Conservation Plan.

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The New York City West of Hudson watershed lies within Regions 3 and 4.¹ The Open Space Plan recommends that conservation efforts in Region 3 by the State and others should focus on the following areas located in the NYC Watershed, among others outside the Watershed:

Catskill River Corridor:

On a daily basis, thousands of people use major travel corridors such as Rt. 28, Rt. 212, Rt. 214, Rt. 23, Rt. 23A, Rt. 42 Rt. 30, Rt. 10, Rt. 17 (future Interstate 86), and Rt. 97 to access numerous Catskill communities and popular recreation destinations. Because these major travel corridors generally follow major river corridors, they provide visitors with a startling first impression of the Catskill/Delaware region as a vital riverine habitat. Some of these river corridors are not only particularly important as fisheries resources, but they are also exceptional recreational resources that provide immeasurably to the region's nature-based economy. Unfortunately, many sections of these river and road corridors are experiencing an increase in development which has resulted in severely damaging flood incidents, some of which have proven fatal. Land protection priority should be given to parcels that protect riparian buffer land, preserve or restore flood plain areas, protect scenic areas and vistas along principle road corridors and on visible ridgelines, protect flood prone areas and enhance public access and recreational opportunities. Conservation focus areas include:

- Delaware River Branches - The region encompassing the Delaware River corridor is identified in the Open Space Plan as a Major Greenway and Recreationway in Regions 3, 4 and 7, and the entire Delaware River corridor from Hancock (Delaware County) to Cherry Island (Orange County) is designated as a National Scenic and Recreational River. The East and West Branches of the Delaware River, are exceptional cold-water fisheries, with the Main stem Delaware also being critical as a waterway open to fish migrating to and from the ocean. These rivers also offer numerous recreational opportunities, such as fishing, canoeing, rafting, and eagle watching, which bring in many visitors and boost the regional economy. These rivers and their watersheds are also critical biological resources, from both aquatic and terrestrial standpoints, with many rare, unique, threatened, and endangered species living in this area, including the bald eagle, timber rattlesnake, American shad, and several plant species. The East and West Branches of the Delaware River are part of the New York City Water Supply System, which is the nation's largest unfiltered municipal water supply, and protection of these watersheds is critical for the continuation of a clean drinking water supply for millions of people. Currently only a tiny percentage of land along the Delaware River Branches and Main-stem corridors is permanently protected, especially that area outside and downstream of the New York City Watershed. viewshed on large contiguous vacant parcels held by private hunt clubs through conservation easement acquisitions.
- Route 28 Corridor - New York State Route 28 is the primary road corridor through the central Catskill high peaks region, connecting population centers and major interstates in metropolitan Kingston and Oneonta. Because of this already existing transportation infrastructure, it is well suited for sustainable small-scale economic development to draw visitors, support local businesses and preserve the natural environment. This area provides

¹ DEC Region 3 includes the Counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester. Region 4 includes the Counties of Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Schoharie.

an opportunity to simultaneously protect land and promote growth in the Catskills using an outdoor recreation-based tourism that focuses on land preservation and controlled recreational use of public natural areas. Environmentally sound economic development initiatives here are very sustainable. It is a potential State Scenic Byway and includes eastern and western gateways to the Catskill Park. Priority areas along this route are known as Gateway Properties, lands adjacent to, and visible from, the easternmost five or six miles of Rt. 28, and include, but are not limited to:

- Ticeteneyck Mt./Tonshi Mt./Kenozia Lake - The first highly visible, mountainous, open space area along Rt. 28 in Ulster County; no State land has been acquired to date in this area. Large private land-holdings make significant acquisitions possible;
- Catskill Interpretive Center Area - Opportunity to connect the proposed Ulster County Interpretive Center Site with existing Forest Preserve lands situated on Mt. Tobias. Acquisition of key parcels along Rt. 28 and Wittenberg Rd. will protect the views of mountains, forests, and meadows from the proposed Visitor Center.
- Meade Hill/Fleischmann Mountain - A large, highly visible, completely unprotected mountain ridge immediately adjacent to Rt. 28 in the Town of Middletown; critical to the continuity of mountain habitat and vistas between Dry Brook Ridge and the Belleayre Mountain Ski Area.

Catskill Unfragmented Forest

The region encompassing the Catskill Mountains is identified in the Open Space Plan as a Major Resource Area in Regions 3 and 4. The Catskill Park, which is a mosaic of State Forest Preserve lands and private property, comprises a large, central part of this region. Large, unfragmented areas of forest land in the Catskill high peaks area are excellent candidates for addition to the Forest Preserve. Priorities for acquisition within the greater Catskill Mountain/Delaware River Region should focus on securing sensitive, unprotected high elevation areas and alpine communities; protecting expanses of un-fragmented forests; connecting protected areas, particularly in the valleys between high elevations; protecting reverence habitat and riparian buffer land; preserving areas demonstrating high biological diversity; preserving significant cultural and scenic resources; and improving access and recreational opportunities on public land. Special consideration should also be given to protecting and providing access to the Region's water resources, including specific attention to protecting the watershed supplying New York City's public drinking water. Region 3 conservation efforts should focus on the following sites:

- Balsam, Graham and Doubletop Mountains/Dry Brook Valley - Several large tracts including the summits of the last three Catskill peaks over 3500' in elevation still in private ownership lie adjacent to the Big Indian Wilderness. These lands provide habitat for a distinctive assemblage of bird species, especially those that prefer subalpine coniferous forests, as well as at least one known federally threatened plant species. They play a critical role in the wilderness character of the area. Lying within New York City's watershed, they contribute clean drinking water to both the Catskill and Delaware systems. Dry Brook is also an excellent trout stream.

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- Peekamoose Gorge - An approximately 3300-acre tract of land in Ulster County surrounded on all sides by Forest Preserve; very rugged and remote with numerous seasonal waterfalls. Rondout Creek drains this property and is a significant trout stream and an important contributor to the New York City drinking water supply. Property harbors at least one known federally listed endangered species.
- Frost Valley - Large forested tracts in the east and west valleys protect the source waters of the Neversink River and merge the two highest quality forest blocks in the High Allegheny Plateau. Protection of these tracts will prevent impacts to the Neversink River, reduce potential for forest fragmentation and improve access between the Big Indian Wilderness, the Slide Mountain Wilderness and the Sundown Wild Forest.
- West Shokan / Sampsonville Area Lands - Opportunities to expand the Forest Preserve holdings on the eastern side of the Slide Mountain Wilderness in Ulster County should be explored; including areas around Maltby Hollow, and Hanover, South, High Point, and Mombaccus Mountains.

Region 4 conservation efforts should focus on the following sites:

- Bearpen / Vly / Roundtop Mountains – Substantial progress has been made to protect the higher elevations of Bearpen, Roundtop, and Vly Mountains; however, additional acquisition is needed on the lower elevations of these mountains.
- Catskill Escarpment North & Windham High Peak - Includes the dramatic landscape between the Hudson River Valley and the Catskill peaks; principal concerns are protection of significant scenic vistas and ecologically unique areas; enhancement of recreational opportunities and improved public access; and consolidation of State holdings.
- Rusk Mountain Wild Forest - This very popular recreation area lacks sufficient access, especially in the Spruceton Valley, and additional protection and access is needed in the western portion of the Wild Forest.
- Hunter West Kill Wilderness - Consolidation, improved access, and preservation of wilderness character are the primary concerns.
- Catskill Mountain Heritage Trail - Includes significant historic sites and scenic views from the John Burroughs Homestead, Burroughs Memorial site, and Woodchuck Lodge near Roxbury on Route 30, continuing easterly along the Route 23 and 23A corridors, and extending to the Thomas Cole House in the Village of Catskill. Very few acres of the original Burroughs Homestead are permanently protected, and there is a critical need to protect the pastoral setting surrounding Woodchuck Lodge and the Burroughs Memorial site.

Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District

Greene County's Soil and Water Conservation District published *The Mountaintop Community Recreation, Cultural Resources & Scenic Quality Strategy* (January 2009) "to identify and prioritize opportunities for improving recreational, cultural and scenic resources that could benefit the Mountaintop communities' tourism industry," covering nine municipalities located in

the Mountaintop region of Greene County, New York in the northern Catskill Forest Preserve and includes the towns of Ashland, Halcott, Hunter, Jewett, Lexington, Prattsville, and Windham, and the villages of Hunter and Tannersville. The plan seeks to improve outdoor recreational activities by focusing on projects that involve:

- Developing multi- use trails conducive for families and casual walkers,
- Working with NYCDEP to create complementary trails on city-owned property,
- Improving access to streams, and
- Creating bicycling lane designations &/or widening shoulders for bicycle riders.

Ulster County

Ulster County's *Open Space Plan* was released in December of 2007 to provide a "framework for coordinated management and protection of natural resources" in the County. The plan identifies and prioritizes both natural resource areas that should be protected, and "priority growth areas" where future development should be concentrated to take advantage of existing infrastructure, zoning and population density.

In the Future Without the Proposed Action, there will be ongoing efforts to preserve and protect open space and provide recreational opportunities in the watershed region, although at levels and a pace below those expected under a Future With the Proposed Action.

FUTURE WITH THE PROPOSED ACTION

Through the Extended LAP, NYCDEP would preserve additional open space in the watershed region as well as associated scenic vistas and natural resources. With respect to active open space and recreational use, NYCDEP would continue under the Extended LAP to open up lands acquired for public access and increase recreational uses, where consistent with public safety and water quality. As noted in the Existing Conditions section, 64 percent of the land acquired in fee simple under LAP is now open for recreational uses. NYCDEP anticipates that a similar or greater percentage of lands acquired in the Extended LAP would likely be opened up to recreation in the future.

Recreational use of City lands is governed by the "NYCDEP Rules for the Recreational Use of Water Supply Lands and Waters" with the latest version dated November 29, 2010 (Recreational Use Rules). There are several types of recreation allowed on NYCDEP lands and the type allowed is largely a function of where the land is located. NYCDEP allows fishing from shore, fishing from boats, casual walking and hiking, boating, cross country skiing, small and big game hunting, and trapping (on PAAs).

Under the Recreational Use Rules, some LAP lands are designated for 'entry by permit.' That is, recreation users must have a valid NYCDEP Access Permit. Here, lands may be designated for one or more uses (i.e. hiking only, hunting and hiking) depending on several factors. Those who want to keep a boat on any of the NYCDEP the reservoirs for fishing, a valid NYCDEP Boat Tag is also required. Additionally, the Recreational Use Rules have a designation for Public Access Areas (PAAs) in which hiking, hunting, fishing and trapping are allowed without the

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need for a NYCDEP Access Permit. The majority of WOH lands now acquired are open as PAAs. NYCDEP is also in the process of converting many “entry by permit” or “no trespassing” properties into PAAs. In 2010, NYCDEP is opening a bow-hunting only property along the southern shore of the Ashokan Reservoir. This is a narrow strip of land that does not lend itself to gun-hunting. In 2009, NYCDEP also began the Cannonsville Reservoir Boating Pilot Program in which non-motorized vessels (kayaks, canoes, etc.) are allowed, and users do not have to be fishing. Approximately half of the reservoir was open for this project in 2009. During 2010, NYCDEP expanded the pilot area to include the western portion of the reservoir.

NYCDEP has also issued revocable land use permits to entities such as municipalities and non-profit groups for uses such as snowmobile trails and ball fields in special situations.

Increasing the acreage that is open for public recreational use would benefit the region’s communities in several ways.

- Recreational uses are highly valued by residents of watershed communities. In a survey of Delaware County residents conducted in 2009, access to both land and waterways for hiking, fishing and other recreational uses was rated as being either “very important” or “important” by a large majority of respondents; and hunting was rated similarly by a somewhat smaller majority.² Table 6-5 summarizes respondents’ answers to questions about hunting, fishing, hiking and access to waterways.
- A wide range of research over the past decade has highlighted the importance of opportunities for active outdoor recreation as one of the factors shaping young adults’ decisions on where to live and work.³
- Expanding opportunities for active outdoor recreation can also strengthen the economy of watershed communities by attracting both short-term visitors and second-home buyers, building on what is already one of the region’s greatest strengths. Recreation and other tourism-related businesses, including hotels and restaurants, accounted for approximately 13 percent of all employment in the watershed region in 2008.

In addition to its value as an amenity for full- and part-time residents, the opening of land acquired under the Extended LAP for recreational use can also benefit the region by attracting visitors from outside the West-of-Hudson watershed region. In 2005, according to data provided by NYCDEP, about 36,500 people who lived outside the watershed counties held permits for public recreational use of NYCDEP’s watershed properties. Since about 90 percent of all NYCDEP properties open for recreational use are located west of the Hudson, it was assumed that the West-of-Hudson watershed region draws a similar percentage of non-local visitor traffic – about 32,850 people. While these visitors provide business and jobs for the watershed (see

² AEL Associates, *Concern about the New York City Land Acquisition Program in Delaware County Communities: Summary of the 2009 Telephone Survey Results*, September 2, 2009, page 22.

³ For example, see Richard Florida, *Rise of the Creative Class: And How It's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday Life*.

Chapter 3, *Socioeconomic Conditions*), the greatest benefit of expanded public access to City-owned land is likely to be the value that local full- and part-time residents derive from recreational use of these properties.

Table 6-4: Summary of responses to recreation questions in the 2009 Delaware County telephone survey

Recreation Issue	Percent of respondents
Access to land for fishing	71.6 %
Very important	32.9 %
Important	38.7 %
Access to land for hunting	61.3 %
Very important	32.1 %
Important	29.2 %
Access to local waterways	78.6 %
Very important	39.1 %
Important	39.5 %
Access to land for hiking and walking	76.8 %
Very important	30.4 %
Important	46.4 %

The Extended LAP is consistent with the 2009 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan and with the land conservation priorities recommended by the Regional Advisory committees. The solicitation and prioritization strategies to be employed by the Extended LAP both coincide with and provide further support to the priorities in the State Plan. As a practical matter, this means that some of the properties identified by the State may be acquired by the City. In addition, the City will likely acquire additional properties that either adjoin State priority sites (providing increase recreational opportunities and possibly enhancing access to State lands) or otherwise enhance recreational opportunities in the watershed region to compliment the State’s goals. As stated in the Plan:

“New York City Watershed Lands: New York City expects to continue acquisition efforts under the 1997 Watershed Agreement (signed by local communities, counties, and the State) and the 1997 Water Supply Permit issued by DEC, and in accordance with a comprehensive water quality-based watershed protection plan. It is recommended that the State work with the City to identify and protect high priority sites with the Region that are not being pursued by or protected under City acquisition programs. In particular the State should focus acquisition efforts on lands that (1) have potential for development, forestry, or fisheries and are (2) relatively large and/or (3) link areas already protected by private or public entities and/or (4) allow for improved long term

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management of land and water resources. All such work by the State should naturally conform to established criteria for protection under the State Open Space Conservation Plan.⁴

Preservation of open space through the Extended LAP would also be consistent with the ecological and social benefits of land protection outlined in the Open Space Plan:

- Freshwater and tidal wetlands filter and process polluted water.
- Forested areas remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby mitigating the threat of global warming; trees and parks in urban settings reduce noise, lower temperatures in the summer, reduce the consumption of nonrenewable fossil fuels for residential and commercial cooling and heating, and trap pollutants in the atmosphere.
- Forests are a primary source of clean water; the Adirondacks and Catskills are the sources of several of the state's major river systems.
- The Catskills also contain much of New York City's reservoirs critical to the needs of millions of New Yorkers.

In conclusion, the Extended LAP in the West-of-Hudson watershed is expected to benefit open space and recreation in the watershed. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the proposed action would have a significant adverse impact on open space and recreation.

EAST-OF- HUDSON

EXISTING CONDITIONS

As of July 2009, a total of 64,136 acres within the East-of-Hudson watershed can be considered protected lands, including:

- 4,997 acres of State-owned land,;
- 10,954 acres acquired by New York City in fee simple or as conservation or agricultural easements under LAP;
- 20,231 acres of land that New York City had already owned prior to the execution of the MOA, as well as reservoirs covering 11,200 acres; and
- 16,754 acres owned or protected by others, such as private non-profit land conservation trusts.

On EOH lands, NYCDEP allows: fishing from shore, fishing from boats, hiking and small and big game hunting. City-owned lands open for recreation EOH are allowed by "entry by permit," that is, recreation users must have a valid NYCDEP Access Permit. Lands may be designated for one or more uses (i.e. hiking only, hunting and hiking) depending on several factors. Those who want to keep a boat on any of the NYCDEP reservoirs for fishing must also have a valid NYCDEP Boat Tag.

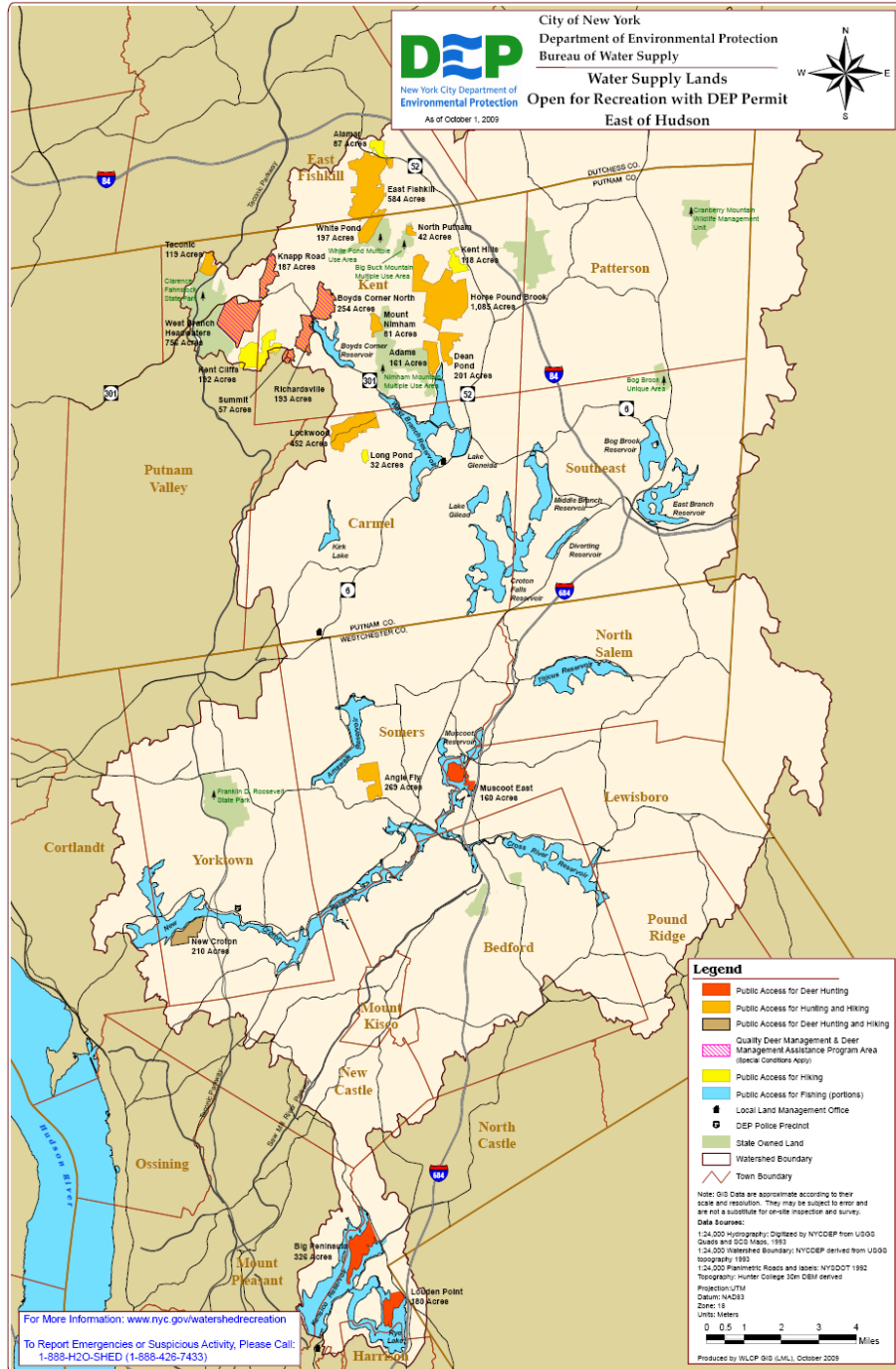
⁴ 2009 NYS Open Space Plan.

Chapter 6: Open Space and Recreation

As mentioned above, NYCDEP issues revocable land use permits to entities such as municipalities and non-profit groups. NYCDEP issues land use permits to allow recreational uses of its lands. For example, NYCDEP issued permits to Teatown Reservation and Putnam County to construct and maintain hiking trails on City land.

A map showing the City land open for public recreation is provided in Figure 6-4.

Figure 6-4: City-owned East of Hudson Recreation Areas



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Table 6-5: Recreation Areas in East of Hudson Watershed Counties

Dutchess County									
RECREATION AREA	TOWN	LOCATION	WMU *	PUBLIC ACCESS	HIKE	FISH	HUNT	TRAP	ACRES
East Fishkill	East Fishkill	NY Rte 52 & Leetown Rd.	3N		✓	✓	✓		807

Westchester County									
RECREATION AREA	TOWN	LOCATION	WMU *	PUBLIC ACCESS AREA	HIKE	FISH	HUNT	TRAP	ACRES
Angle Fly	Somers	NY Route 35	3S		✓		✓		269
Big Peninsula	North Castle	King Street	3S			✓	✓		327
Louden Point	North Castle	Route 120	3S			✓	✓		180
Muscot East	Lewisboro	Old Bedford Rd.	3S			✓	✓		160
New Croton**	Yorktown	Croton Dam Rd.	3S		✓		✓		208

* Quality Deer Management Area, no buck harvest on certain days, antler size regulation in effect

** Deer hunting Only
no small game or Bear
Hunting allowed here

FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED ACTION

There are a number of State and local plans to preserve open space and promote recreation in the East-of-Hudson watershed region.

New York State Open Space and Conservation Plan

The NYS Open Space Conservation Plan, as described above, outlines several priority areas in the East of Hudson Watershed. It mentions that roughly 70 percent of NYC's East-of-Hudson reservoir system overlaps with, and has been identified by the USDA Forest Service as part of, a Highlands Conservation Focal Area.

Highlands East of Hudson River

Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Area – The Towns of Putnam Valley in Putnam County, and Cortlandt, Yorktown, and New Castle in Westchester County have been recognized for their high biodiversity value by the Wildlife Conservation Society/Metropolitan Conservation Alliance (MCA). MCA’s biodiversity plan, published in 2004, delineates those areas it determined are suitable for development and those areas that contain species vulnerable to habitat fragmentation and should be a priority for acquisition. This area of the East of Hudson watershed has also been identified by the Forest Service as a Highlands Conservation Focal Area.

Northern Putnam Greenway - Extending from the Taconic Ridge on the east to the Hudson River on the west, this proposed greenway is critical to maintaining the ecological integrity of the Highlands Region and to protecting the rural character of one of New York’s fastest growing counties. Acquisitions in this area of Putnam County would provide important linkages for passive recreation and wildlife corridors, preservation of scenic viewsheds, and protection of critical water supplies. Representative parcels include those areas that would link and are adjacent to Cialola County Park, Cranberry Mountain, the Great Swamp, Ice Pond, Wonder Lake State Park, Big Buck, White Pond, Horse Pound Brook, Ninham Mountain, Lockwood Pond, California Hill, and Fahnestock/Hudson Highlands State Parks.

Great Swamp

The largest and highest quality red maple hardwood swamp in southern New York is located in the Towns of Pawling and Dover, Dutchess County and the Towns of Patterson and Southeast, Putnam County. Much of the Great Swamp is within the Croton River Basin and flows directly into the East Branch Reservoir, a New York City reservoir part of the Croton Watershed. It contains critical habitat for bird and aquatic species—nine of which are rare, protects and purifies the water supply for millions of New York residents, is an aquifer recharge area, reduces flooding, and provides outstanding educational and recreational opportunities. This vital and fragile natural resource needs to be safeguarded from further development and associated runoff. In order to protect the unique habitat of the Great Swamp, the diverse range of wildlife it supports, its scenic value, and its critical function of water purification, not only the inholdings but also the surrounding uplands need to be conserved. Large parts of the Great Swamp's 63,000-acre watershed have been identified by the Forest Service as a Highlands Conservation Focal Area.

The Town of Kent

The Town of Kent has identified the preservation of open space – for its scenic beauty, active recreation, and environmental quality – as a goal of its land use planning. As stated in its 2002 Croton Plan, Kent "contains many forested areas as well as lakes, reservoirs and streams, a number of which provide excellent outdoor recreational opportunities, such as fishing, hiking, camping, and hunting. The scenic beauty of much of the landscape, as well as the outdoor recreational opportunities and rural character of the Town, might well be perceived as some of its best and most important assets."⁵

The Town of Carmel

The Town of Carmel 2002 Croton Plan states as a goal the "need to protect watercourses, wetlands, steeply sloped lands and an integrated open space system" and the need to make additional land available for public recreation.⁶

Town of East Fishkill

As in Carmel and Kent, the Town of East Fishkill has developed specific plans and policies in order to preserve open space and limit residential growth. As the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the East Fishkill Comprehensive Plan and Code Amendments puts it:

The 2002 Comprehensive Plan seeks to guide the Town's development over the next ten years. It suggests ways to reduce the rate of new residential construction, to encourage the

⁵ Town of Kent Croton Plan, 2002. p. IV-12.

⁶ Town of Carmel Croton Watershed Plan, 2002. p. 1-52.

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*preservation of open space and greenways, to protect environmentally sensitive areas, and to lower the potential population build-out of the Town.*⁷

In a 2003 survey of residents of Putnam Valley administered in the development of the comprehensive plan, residents support the preservation of open space and limiting residential development: 71 percent of respondents agreed with the statement "Putnam Valley needs to protect more open space." 68 percent of respondents agreed with the statement.

FUTURE WITH THE PROPOSED ACTION

Although the Extended LAP East-of- Hudson is not expected to substantially change the amount of protected open space in the watershed, any land purchased would preserve open space in a largely developed area and its associated scenic vistas and natural resources. With respect to active open space and recreational use, NYCDEP would continue under the Extended LAP to open lands acquired for public access and increase recreational uses, where consistent with public safety and water quality.

In conclusion, the Extended LAP in the East-of-Hudson watershed is expected to benefit open space and recreation in the watershed. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the proposed action would have a significant or adverse impact on open space and recreation.

⁷ Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement, East Fishkill Comprehensive Plan And Related Code Amendments, 2002. pg. 1.