

Why Open Space?



Valued open space such as scenic views, forests, wetlands, streams, farmland and historic sites are widely recognized as important community assets. Why? They make a community unique, special, part of the defining fabric of a place.

Conserving these resources benefits Saugerties in many ways including economically. Land conservation can reduce taxes that additional development requires for infrastructure costs, town services and schools. Open space helps maintain the quality of surface and ground water.

Open space amenities provide quality of life benefits. Places to observe and enjoy wildlife, mountain views, parks and recreational areas enrich our lives and enhance real estate values.

What's the Plan?

- > Increase community awareness of the values and benefits of open space.
- > Increase access to open space and natural areas, where appropriate.
- > Preserve and maintain agricultural lands and support the economic viability of agriculture.

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fabric of a place.***

- > Ensure that assistance and guidance is available to landowners who wish to retain open space lands.
- > Ensure that the town's long-term vision for land use (the Comprehensive Plan) reflects a balance between open space conservation and economic development.

- > Establish a town conservation financing mechanism to preserve critical open space resources.
- > Ensure that future development projects preserve resources to the best of their ability.
- > Enable voluntary, private land conservation through the use of conservation easements.
- > Continue to develop a more accurate understanding of Saugerties' natural communities.
- > Minimize the impacts of climate change on the town's natural and agricultural resources.

What Can You Do?

Consider preserving open space on your property with a conservation easement. To learn what that is, and how you can benefit from one, go to www.landtrustalliance.org and click on conservation.

Consider volunteering for a local land trust. To find land trusts in Ulster County, go to <http://www.ulstercountylandtrusts.org>

Conservation Advisory Commission

The Town Board established the Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) by local law in 1972.

The commission consists of between five and nine volunteers appointed by the Town Board.

With community involvement, the CAC oversaw the open space planning process and the plan was adopted by the Town Board in 2010. The plan defines open space and recognizes its value not only for wildlife, but for people also. It provides an inventory of open space resources important to Saugerties.

About 2,400 acres in Saugerties are set aside as conservation land. This is about 6% of the town's land area.



The Open Space Plan
is available at Town Hall
in the Town Clerk's Office
and on the town's website.

www.saugerties.ny.us



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Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

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Saugerties Open Space Plan

Goals and Benefits

