

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

This plan has provided an inventory and analysis of the open space resources in the Town of LaGrange. It has prioritized those resources based on both the community's values (farms, water resources, and wildlife habitats) and ecological and scientific data. The priorities that have emerged are depicted in the open space vision map. The vision is one that preserves whole landscapes and systems in LaGrange.

Maintaining the resources depicted in the open space vision would ensure that there is a future for agriculture in LaGrange. It would help to maintain drinking water quality. It would preserve forest, wetland, and upland habitats and connections for wildlife. It would also provide parks, access and trail connections for LaGrange residents to enjoy the open space lands. It would preserve scenic resources, views, and the character of the town's rural roads. It would ensure that these resources that are appreciated by LaGrange residents, old and new, will continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

Implementing the open space vision can also lead to substantial fiscal benefits for the town. Conservation of the town's farmlands and open lands helps to maintain the town's fiscal balance. If these lands were instead developed with homes, it might cost the town taxpayers more to provide the homes with roads, schools, and other services.

Implementing the open space vision is a long-term endeavor. It is a "green" infrastructure project, and will require the same level of leadership, planning, investment and community support that produced the town's roads, developments, and other "gray" infrastructure. This plan and the process that created it is just the beginning of the endeavor, but the results will last forever.