

Marbletown Natural Heritage Plan

Conservation Professionals Focus Group
Wednesday, September 27, 2006, 12-2 pm
Summary Notes

Participants

Jennifer Garofalini, Mohonk Preserve
Brooke Pickering Cole, CDC
Kim Massie
Walter Levy, Rondout-Esopus Land Conservancy
Steve Rice, D&H Canal Corridor
Laura Heady, Hudsonia
Cara Lee, Biodiversity Partnership/Green Assets/TNC
Jennifer Cairo, DEP/Forestry

General Notes

1. Habitat mapping projects underway:

Hudsonia – 2 study areas:

- Western part of town, including the Vly and the Kripplebush area, up to Scarawan Rd. in the north
- Rondout Creek corridor in Marbletown (excepting High Falls area)

Biodiversity Assessment Training:

- Center of town between Rt. 209. in the east and the Vly in the west; and between the Esopus Creek in the north and Schoonmaker Rd. and Buck Rd in the south

2. Recreational efforts underway – rail-trail loop to major destinations

Group Discussion Points and Conclusions

1. Major conservation opportunities/patterns

- Esopus Creek – many large parcels along creek
- Expanding ridge conservation area
- Conservation corridor up to Ashokan Reservoir

- Rondout to Catskills Corridor
 - Catskill-Shawangunks Corridor (OSI working on Corridor to Catskills)
 - Eastern corner of town – Rosendale –Binnewater Lakes area
 - Williams Lake – ecology, recreation, water supply
2. How do we handle the lack of sufficient data?
- Make sure to incorporate data as available during plan development (such as habitat mapping projects)
 - Call for new studies/data if a specific area is thought to be important
 - Continue to seek advice of resource experts
 - Plan should ask for updates as new data become available
3. Other important areas:
- Esopus Creek – cliffs and unique areas
 - Large forest area between Rt. 231 and Atwood on Esopus creek
 - May be areas for bog turtle, marble bedrock, wet meadow habitats, fens, floodplain areas
 - Winchell’s Falls, Cathedral Gorge on Esopus (field campus in Olive)
4. Protection of floodplains becoming more of a challenge as development increases. Opportunity to integrate more floodplain protection into plan.
5. Education and promotion of forest conservation needed.
- Need to help people understand the importance of large, contiguous forests
 - Forests are not as visible to many (farms and river valleys often more visible)
 - Opportunity to work with recreation enthusiasts (hunting clubs, fishing, etc.)