

Town of Clifton Park, NY - Open Space Plan, 2003 and Implementation Services

Open Space Plan and Fiscal Impact Study

Behan Planning Associates, LLC worked with the town's appointed open space plan advisory committee to develop the Open Space Plan, adopted by the Town of Clifton Park Town Board.

This project included extensive public outreach and the preparation of an Open Space Vision Map. Audubon New York played a key role in supporting the planning process. Public outreach included two series of public meetings; two community surveys; and a public "hands-on" planning charrette/workshop. The first series of focus group meetings was conducted geographically throughout town early in the process to share information and to complete early brainstorming. A second series of meetings was conducted geographically throughout town to discuss draft plan concepts. A fiscal impact study was conducted to evaluate the costs of conservation and potential impacts for different levels of conservation. The town board adopted the open space plan in 2003.



The town has enjoyed a number of successes since then in acquiring additional parcels, including a 100+/-acre parcel, and lands near the Vischer Ferry Historic and Nature Preserve.

Successful Federal Grant Award

In June 2003, Behan Planning Associates prepared a grant application for an open space land acquisition project, the Dwaas Kill Natural Area on behalf of the town, through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The town was successfully awarded \$320,000 of a matching Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant in October 2004 to protect 250 acres, one of the last undeveloped open spaces in eastern Clifton Park and the region.

