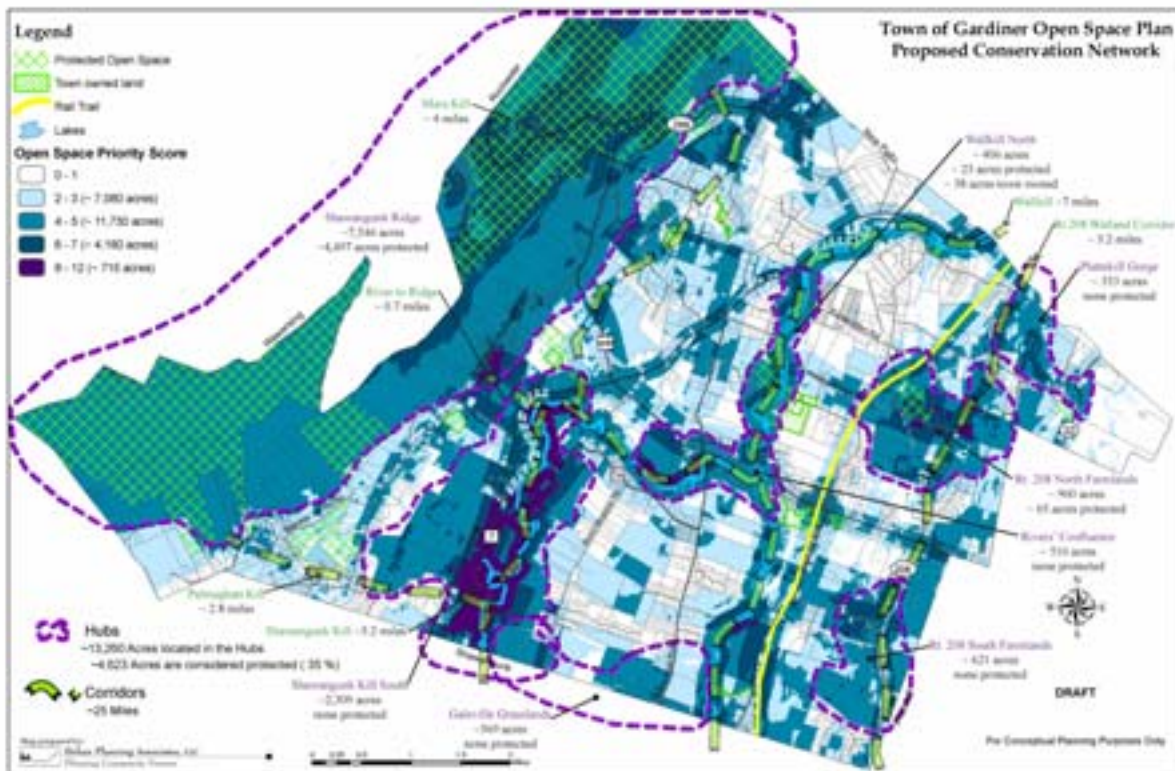


Town of Gardiner, NY – Open Space Plan *adopted January 2007*

Behan Planning Associates worked with the Town of Gardiner open space committee to identify priority open space resources and set forth a plan for their conservation. The abundance of exceptional open space resources in this town, including the cliffs and foothills of the Shawangunk Mountains as well as the scenic and fertile Shawangunk and Walkkill River Valleys, made it necessary to identify priorities.

The Town of Gardiner’s open space plan employed a complex resource rating system developed with Geographic Information System (GIS) software to identify priority areas for conservation. The priority areas were defined by overlapping resources. The resources that went into the rating system were identified through a series of public meetings and reflect community values for open space. As a result, priority areas reflect the presence of overlapping community values such as aquifers and water resources, agricultural resources, wildlife habitats, cultural resources, recreational opportunities and scenic resources.

In November 2006, Gardiner voters supported a \$1.5 million open space bond. This financial tool will help the town to leverage funds to actively pursue conservation of priority open space resources identified in the open space plan.



Gardiner’s priority conservation network is composed of larger landscape “hubs” such as clusters of scenic farmlands in the Walkkill and Shawangunk Valley and important wildlife habitat areas such as the Shawangunk Ridge and Galeville Grasslands. These hubs are connected with a series of conservation corridors such as the Shawangunk Kill and Walkkill Rivers.