

Town of Red Hook, Village of Red Hook and Village of Tivoli, NY - Open Space Plan

Open Space Plan

In 1998, Behan Planning Associates worked with the Red Hook Open Space Plan Committee to develop the community's (Town and Village of Red Hook, and the Village of Tivoli) open space plan.

Almost 80% of the Red Hook community is considered open space. The early planning stages involved educating the community on the dangers of unplanned development disrupting community character, and gathering community goals and objectives for use in maintaining the rural landscape of the Red Hook Community.



Behan Planning Associates worked in conjunction with the plan committee to conduct information workshops, and formulate a survey for local residents during the early phases of the project. The results of the workshops and survey yielded a set of goals which formed the basis for the recommendations of the open space plan. The survey, in particular, enjoyed great success with an overwhelming response in favor of a more aggressive effort by local government to preserve local character.

Once the basis for recommendations was set, a collection of existing land use information was gathered. The collection included all open space resources from scenic assets to productive farmland. Open space resources were divided into three broad categories: ecological, passive and active recreational and cultural resources. Once prioritization of the inventory phase was complete, conservation ranges were set with the intention of assuring a balance between future development and long-term protection of the rural character of the town and villages.

The Red Hook Open Space Plan recommended initiatives, implementation programs with short-term, medium-term and long-term goals, and a discussion of possible funding sources for the future. All recommendations and strategies were made with the intention of permanently protecting the Red Hook community's open space resources.

Implementation Services

Following the plan groundwork, since 1999, the community worked with partners, Dutchess Land Conservancy, Dutchess County Department of Planning, and Scenic Hudson to develop land protection projects. Since 1998, Scenic Hudson privately invested in PDR to protect 7 farms (approximately 1,000 acres). In 2003, local voters overwhelmingly supported a bond authorization vote for \$3.5 million for the purchase of development rights (coupled with an additional \$1.5 million for highway department capital investment). Approximately 83% of voters supported the bond package; a 5:1 ratio of a win.