

# City of Saratoga Springs, NY– Open Space Planning and Land Acquisition Implementation - *Ongoing*

## *Fiscal Impact Study*

Behan Planning Associates, LLC developed and ran a fiscal model and then prepared results of findings in a report to the city council in 2001 on the fiscal impacts of financing an open space program, “Fiscal Analysis of Alternative Development Scenarios, City of Saratoga Springs: Final Report, December 28, 2001.”

## *Open Space Plan*

Behan Planning Associates, LLC and another firm co-prepared the “City of Saratoga Springs Open Space Vision: An Update to the 1994 Open Space Plan,” completed in 2002, on behalf of the Saratoga Springs Open Space Project.

In 2002, voters approved the city’s spending up to \$5 million on its “Environmental, Parks and Open Areas Protection Program” by a nearly 3:1 margin.

## *Implementation Services – CONTINUING*

The firm has been retained since November 2003 to assist the City of Saratoga Springs City Council and the City of Saratoga Springs Community Land Preservation Committee in acquiring lands with a budget of \$5 million for its Environmental, Parks and Open Areas Protection Program.

For this work, our firm conducts landowner outreach, coordinates real estate appraisals, prepares letters of interest, drafts purchase and sale contracts in consultation with the city attorney, and performs preliminary land use planning, coordination with city staff and an appointed advisory committee. We meet with the city council to review appraisals and recommendations for projects.

## *Accomplishments*

The city has successfully purchased four properties, the most recent a 4 acre parcel on Saratoga Lake. This recent purchase has allowed for the only public access to Saratoga Lake for the city’s residents. Work continues on outreach to landowners and to develop other potential conservation projects cooperatively with landowners, Saratoga P.L.A.N., and other conservation organizations and local organizations.

