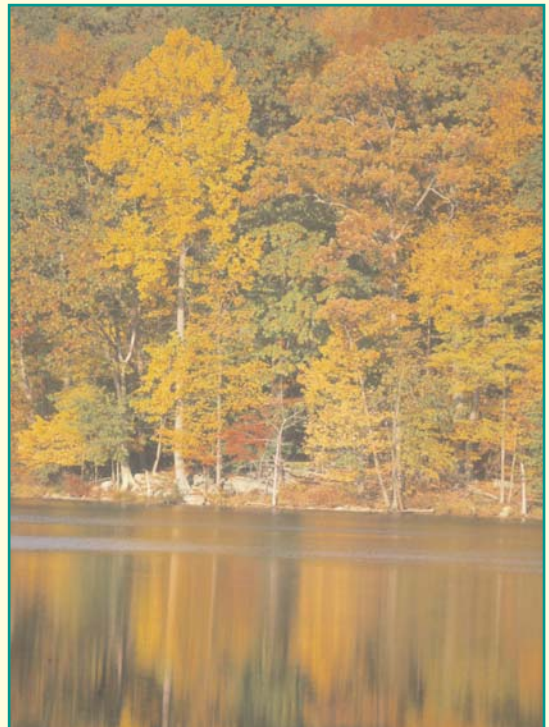
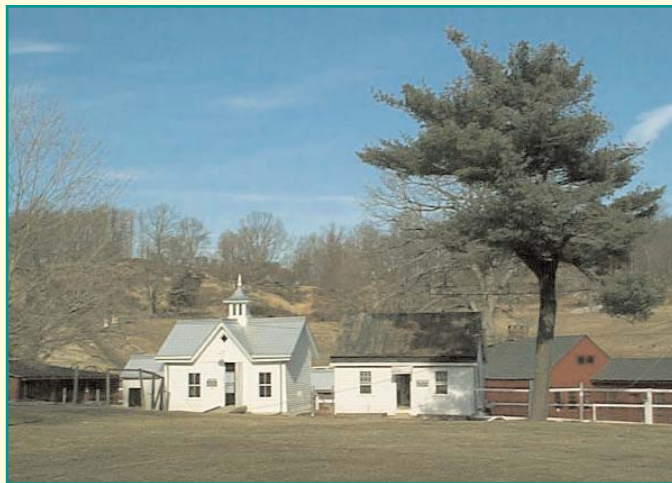


OPEN SPACE POLICIES

Westchester County Department of Planning



ANDREW J. SPANO

County Executive

Joyce M. Lannert, AICP

Commissioner of Planning

1999

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OPEN SPACE POLICIES

WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Andrew J. Spano

Westchester County Department of Planning

Joyce M. Lannert, AICP, Commissioner



www.westchestergov.com

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OPEN SPACE POLICIES

The County of Westchester has a major responsibility to preserve the quality of life in Westchester by protecting its scenic quality, environmental integrity and recreational opportunities. Land acquisition is not the sole means by which the County can achieve this goal. The County may serve as facilitator for protection/preservation actions which may be undertaken by the state, Westchester municipalities and private organizations (e.g. land trusts, foundations). The County of Westchester will be guided by the following policies in identifying lands to be acquired or otherwise protected:

Policy 1. OPEN SPACE CHARACTER

It shall be the policy of the County of Westchester to encourage preservation of open space as an important element in shaping Westchester's development pattern and in preserving its aesthetic and environmental quality.

The County's open space system has two components:

Definite Elements of Open Space—public or private lands permanently protected from development such as dedicated parkland, nature preserves, cemeteries, etc.

Areas of Open Space Character—parcels not permanently protected from development (e.g. golf courses, campuses, private schools, estates or farmland and forests) which contribute to the open space character of an area.

The county shall give high priority to maintaining open space elements that:

- Define and separate concentrated centers and development corridors
- Shape the direction of future land use patterns
- Provide buffers between developed communities and limit urban sprawl
- Protect unique environmental resources
- Provide space for active and passive recreation
- Protect scenic views and provide public access to the waterfront

Policy 2. RECREATION

It shall be the policy of the County of Westchester to provide opportunities for both active recreation (e.g. athletic fields, swimming, golf, etc.) and for passive recreation (e.g. hiking and nature study).

In furtherance of this policy and within its spending constraints, the County shall give priority to the acquisition and/or protection of properties that are close to concentrations of population, and properties which provide appropriate recreational opportunities not otherwise available or accessible.

Policy 3. LINKAGES

It shall be the policy of the County of Westchester to continue to provide open space linkages that form a connected system of parklands in the tradition of Westchester's major parks, parkways and regional trailway system. In furtherance of this policy and within its spending constraints, the County of Westchester shall give priority to the acquisition and/or protection of properties which:

- Create or enhance linkages or linear parks between communities, or serve as open space routes connecting state, county and municipal parks for pedestrians, bicyclists, or similar purpose.
- Connect state, county or local parks to each other.
- Allow for alternate means of transportation between centers.

Policy 4. WATERFRONT

It shall be the policy of the County of Westchester to acquire or otherwise seek to protect suitably sized properties along the Hudson River and Long Island Sound shorelines and other significant waterbodies for public access, public use and scenic enjoyment. In furtherance of this policy and within its spending constraints, the County of Westchester shall give priority to the acquisition and/or protection of properties which:

- Are located on the Hudson River and the Long Island Sound and other significant waterbodies that offer potential for public access, waterfront recreation or scenic vistas.
- Have deteriorated, substandard or incompatible development that can be reclaimed for open space or park use.
- Have unique natural features or which offer unusual recreational opportunities.
- May foster local revitalization and economic development opportunities at or near the waterfront.

Policy 5. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

It shall be the policy of the County of Westchester to facilitate the protection and preservation of properties that the county has identified as having special natural, scenic or environmental significance. In furtherance of this policy and within its spending constraints, the County of Westchester shall give priority to the acquisition and/or protection of properties which:

- Protect water quality including groundwater supplies.
- Lie along shorelines or reservoirs.
- Offer potential for reclaiming wetland and other environmentally sensitive lands that have already been altered or adversely affected.
- Are prime agricultural land.
- Provide exceptional habitats for plants, fish and wildlife species and provide critical habitat linkages.
- Can be reclaimed to provide for biodiversity or other environmental needs.

Policy 6. HISTORIC RESOURCES

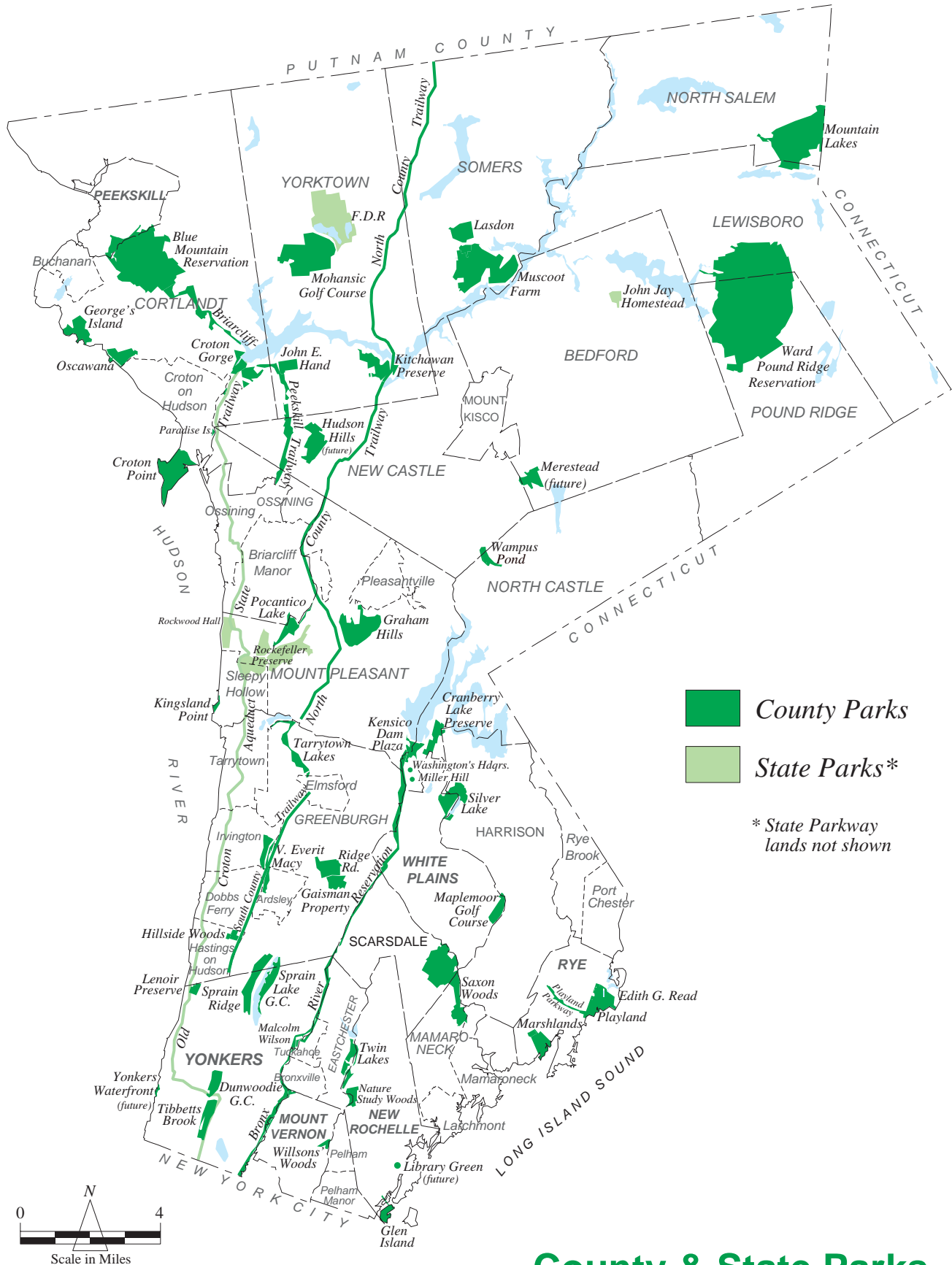
It shall be the policy of the County to facilitate the protection or preservation of properties considered to be of historic significance. In furtherance of this policy and within its spending constraints, the County of Westchester shall give priority to the acquisition and/or protection of properties which:

- Are of more than local significance and which may lose their historic significance and character if not protected.
- Are on the New York State and National Register of Historic Places or on the County Inventory of Historic Places

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Direct purchase or first option to purchase through “willing seller” relationships conducted at arms length.
2. Cooperation with federal, state, municipal and private entities on the acquisition, protection, financing, and management of parcels.
3. Facilitating the protection/preservation action(s) to be taken by New York State, by Westchester municipalities and by private organizations such as land trusts or foundations.
4. Providing technical assistance to Westchester municipalities in their efforts to protect/preserve open space and parkland. Such technical assistance may include, but is not limited to assistance with:
 - creating agricultural districts
 - deferred payment, life tenancy or leaseback agreements
 - conservation or scenic easements
 - official designation with development restrictions
 - transfer of development rights

II. Map and List of County and State Parklands



County & State Parks

MAJOR OPEN SPACES

COUNTY & STATE PARKS AND PARKWAY LANDS

<u>COUNTY PARKLAND</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>MUN*</u>
1 Blue Mountain Reservation	1538.0	CTD, PKS
2 Briarcliff-Peekskill Trailway	500.0	CTD, NWC OST, YTN
3 Cranberry Lake Preserve	165.0	HAR, NOC
4 Croton Gorge Park (incl. Ottinger, Stokes Greene Parcels)	208.4	CTD
5 Croton Gorge Park (Downstream)	13.0	CTD
6 Croton Point Park	504.0	CRO
7 Dunwoodie Golf Course	126.0	YON
8 Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary	174.0	RYC
9 Gaisman Property	121.3	GRB
10 George's Island Park	204.0	CTD
11 Glen Island Park	105.0	NRO, PEM
12 Graham Hills Park	431.0	MTP
13 Hillside Woods	48.1	HAS
14 Hudson Hills (future)	150.0	NWC
15 John E. Hand Park (Bald Mountain)	112.0	YTN
16 Kensico Dam Plaza Park	98.0	MTP, NOC
17 Kingsland Point Park	18.8	SLH
18 Kitchawan Preserve	208.0	YTN
19 Lasdon Bird Sanctuary	20.0	SOM
20 Lasdon Park	206.5	SOM
21 Lenoir Preserve	40.0	HAS, YON
22 Library Green (future)	1.1	NRO
23 Malcolm Wilson Park	7.0	YON
24 Maplemoor Golf Course	140.0	HAR, WHP
25 Marshlands Conservancy (incl. Jay)	148.0	RYC
26 Merestead (future)	130.0	BED, NWC
27 Miller Hill	3.0	NOC
28 Mohansic Park & Golf Course	863.0	YTN
29 Mountain Lakes Park	1083.0	YTN
30 Muscoot Farm (incl. Rahko-Schwartz)	828.0	SOM
31 Nature Study Woods/Twin Lakes	220.0	ECH, NRO
32 North County Trailway (22.1 miles)	177.0	MTP, NWC SOM, YTN
33 Oscawana Island Park	161.0	CTD
34 Paradise Island Park	22.0	CRO
35 Playland Park	143.0	RYC
36 Pocantico Lake Park	164.0	BRM, MTP
39 Ridge Road Park	170.0	GRB
40 Saxon Woods Park & Golf Course	690.0	HAR, MTT MMV, SCD HAS
41 Silver Lake Park (incl. Dellwood)	259.0	HAR, NOC
42 South County Trailway (5.9 miles)	10.0	GRB, ELM IRV, DBF HAS
43 Sprain Lake Golf Course	130.0	GRB, YON
44 Sprain Ridge Park	278.0	YON, GRB
45 Tarrytown Lakes Park/Buttermilk Ridge	122.0	ELM, GRB TTN
46 Tibbetts Brook Park	161.0	YON
47 V. Everit Macy Park	172.0	ARD, DBF GRB, IRV
48 Wampus Pond Park	108.4	NWC, NOC
49 Ward Pound Ridge Reservation	4314.0	LEW, PDG
50 Washington's Headquarters	0.6	NOC
51 Willsons Woods Park	23.0	PEL, MTV
52 Yonkers Waterfront Park incl. Habirshaw Club (future)	6.6	YON

<u>COUNTY PARKWAY LANDS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>MUN*</u>
1 Bronx River Pkwy Reservation	797.0	See Below
2 Playland Pkwy Lands	24.0	RYC

Bronx River Parkway Reservation: BRX, ECH, GRB, MTP, MTV, NOC,
SCD TUC, WHP, YON

COUNTY PARKLAND AND PARKWAY LANDS.....16,346.8

STATE PARKLAND ACRES MUN*

1 Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	841.3	YTN
2 John Jay Homestead State Park	63.2	BED
3 Rockefeller State Park Preserve incl. Rockwood Hall Area	957.0	MTP, SLH
4 Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway (29.9 miles)	180.6	See Below

Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway: CTD, NWC, OST, OSV, MTP, SLH, TTN
IRV, DBF, HAS, YON

STATE PARKWAY LANDS ACRES MUN*

1 Bear Mountain. Pkwy Lands	262.1	CTD, PKS, YTN
2 Cross County Pkwy Lands	205.7	ECH, MTV, YON
3 Hutchinson River Pkwy Lands	697.1	See Below
4 Saw Mill River Pkwy Lands	1451.6	See Below
5 Sprain Brook Pkwy Lands	852.3	ARD, ELM, GRB
6 Taconic Pkwy Lands	1421.3	BRM, MTP, YTN

Hutchinson River Parkway: ECH, HAR, MTV, NRO, PEL, PEM, RYB
SCD, WHP

Saw Mill River Parkway: BED, DBF, ELM, GRB, HAS, IRV, MTK
MTP, NWC, PLV, YON

STATE PARKLAND AND PARKWAY LANDS.....6,932.2

*Municipal Abbreviations :

<u>CITIES</u>	<u>VILLAGES</u>
MTV Mount Vernon	ARD Ardsley
NRO New Rochelle	BRM Briarcliff Manor
PKS Peekskill	BRX Bronxville
RYC Rye	BUC Buchanan
WHP White Plains	CRO Croton-on-Hudson
YON Yonkers	DBF Dobbs Ferry
	ELM Elmsford
	HAS Hastings-on-Hudson
<u>TOWNS</u>	IRV Irvington
BED Bedford	LAR Larchmont
CTD Cortlandt	MMV Mamaroneck
ECH Eastchester	MTK Mount Kisco
GRB Greenburgh	PEL Pelham
HAR Harrison	PEM Pelham Manor
LEW Lewisboro	PLV Pleasantville
MMT Mamaroneck	POC Port Chester
MTP Mount Pleasant	RYB Rye Brook
NWC New Castle	SCD Scarsdale
NOC North Castle	SLH Sleepy Hollow
OST Ossining	TTN Tarrytown
PDG Pound Ridge	TUC Tuckahoe
SOM Somers	
YTN Yorktown	

Westchester County Department of Planning – Updated March, 2000

Resolution
Westchester County Planning Board
Proposed Open Space Policies
August, 1998

Whereas, the Westchester County Charter directs the County Planning Board to "formulate and recommend development policies ...with the object of achieving a physical development of the county that will be orderly, harmonious, economically sound and of attractive appearance" and that "Such policies shall relate among other things to land use...parks, recreation areas, and other open space"; and

Whereas, in 1996 the Westchester County Planning Board adopted **Patterns, the Land and the People**, a long range land use plan to guide the overall pattern of development in Westchester County; and

Whereas, the County's open space system, along with centers and corridors, was identified in **Patterns** as one of the three major building blocks of Westchester's development; and

Whereas, the County's Open Space Plan was adopted in 1976 and does not take account of land use, environmental and demographic changes since that time; and

Whereas, the acquisition and preservation of open space for passive and active recreation and the conservation of the County's natural resources is critical to ensuring a balanced pattern of growth and high quality of life for all residents; and

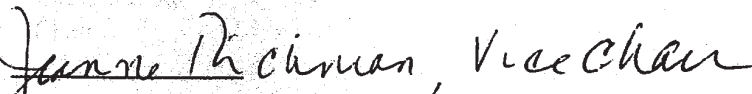
Whereas, County Executive Spano has made a commitment to the protection of the open space system through capital funding, partnerships with other government entities or non-profit entities or other means; and

Whereas, the County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the County Parks Board have just completed a master plan for the management and development of park and recreation facilities; and

Whereas the County Planning Board, in recognition of the above and, in an effort to provide a framework to guide the County's open space planning has reviewed the County's 1976 Open Space Plan in the context of current land use, environmental and other open space concerns; and

Whereas, the County Planning has developed draft 1998 policies that reinforce the policies of **Patterns** and reflects current and future land use and environmental conditions and concerns in Westchester County;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Westchester County Planning Board adopts the draft 1998 **Open Space Policies** and, subject to the review and comments of the County Parks Board on these policies, recommends that it be forwarded to County Executive Spano for consideration as the County's plan to guide open space protection into the 21st century.

 *Francis B. McKenna, Vice Chair*

Francis B. McKenna
Chair

Westchester County Department of Planning
August 4, 1998



ANDREW J. SPANO
County Executive

Joyce M. Lannert, AICP
Commissioner of Planning