



Advisory Committee on Open Space (ACOS)

Advising Town Board on Open Space

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Info@yorktownopenspace.org

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Webmaster@yorktownopenspace.org

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The Advisory Committee on Open Space (ACOS) assists and advises the Town Board and the Planning Board in carrying out the goals of the Town Comprehensive Plan and functions as the Town's open space ombudsmen.

The ACOS will:

- Develop an Open Space Preservation Plan which identifies and prioritizes critical areas or patterns of open space which should be protected and extended.
- Develop specific open space opportunities that are necessary to fulfill this Plan.
- Recommend strategies and actions to the Town Board and the Planning Board which will further the Plan.
- Enhance community awareness concerning the protection and extension of open space.

Economic Benefits of Land Conservation

Submitted by Webmaster on Mon, 2007-04-09 02:20.

Trust for Public Land

- White paper
- Economic Benefits of Parks http://www.tpl.org/tier2_cl.cfm?folder_id=725

Conservation Easements

Submitted by Webmaster on Mon, 2007-02-19 01:26.

Pennsylvania conservation easement documents

- [Conservation Easements written by the Heritage Conservancy](#)
- [Conservation Easements written by PA Land Trust Association](#)

Biodiversity

Submitted by Webmaster on Sun, 2006-01-01 01:30.

The rich tapestry of genes, species, ecosystems, and their interactions are collectively referred to as biological diversity, shortened to biodiversity.

Several studies of the biodiversity of Yorktown have been done recently.

- The [Metropolitan Conservation Alliance](#) (A program of the Wildlife Conservation Society) produced a technical paper (#7) on the Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan which covers the towns of Cortlandt, New Castle, Putnam Valley and Yorktown in 2004.
- A group from Cortlandt and Yorktown participated in the [Hudsonia Biodiversity Study](#) program in 2003.

The ACOS considers the biodiversity of properties (and their neighbors) to be an important consideration in ranking properties for inclusion on priority lists for acquisition. Those areas which have been studied and found to be significant by the experts are given a maximum biodiversity score. Others might gather some recognition for smaller features that are not landscape

scale, such as a small population of a single important species or adjacency to one of the recognized areas that were not covered because of access issues for study.

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Pace Land Use Law Center

Submitted by Webmaster on Wed, 2005-12-21 16:29.

The Pace Land Use Law Center is a useful resource for the committee.

- [Website](#)
- [Gaining Ground Newsletter](#) - Send an email to landuse@law.pace.edu with the text "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" in the subject line or body of your message.
- Breaking Ground: Planning and Building in Priority Growth Districts (attached)

Public Meetings

Submitted by Webmaster on Fri, 2005-12-16 23:19.

Public meetings to talk about Open Space issue occur at least three or four times a year. This page keeps a list of those meeting.

| Date/Time/Place | Meeting |
|--|---|
| January 21, 2006, 2-4pm, Cortlandt Town Hall | Our Extraordinary Backyards |

Sample Land Use Maps

Submitted by Webmaster on Tue, 2005-12-13 19:59.

Here are some sample land use maps with Section/Block/Lot numbers on it (not very readable on small properties. This map has a few known problems. The oversize (splittable) lots have not been recomputed for the new zoning (dark rose color). The orange hashed properties have no ORPS code so someone has to figure out what they are. The rose colored properties should be our main focus as those are vacant. All the gray shades are developed. All the green shades have some level of protection.

I did all of Phyllis's pieces at two scales (names marked se and sw). I think the zoning has not changed in this area so that the oversize pieces should be correct.

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Property rating forms

Submitted by Webmaster on Tue, 2005-12-13 18:49.

- [Yorktown Open Space Evaluation Form](#)
- [Yorktown Open Space Land Evaluation Survey](#)

Thanks for passing the \$5,000,000 Open Space Bond Authorization

Submitted by Webmaster on Wed, 2005-11-16 13:44.

The ACOS will now focus on prioritizing properties for possible purchase. We have already established a set of [criteria](#) to use in ranking the properties. We will select properties distributed over the whole town and over the functions that they serve. We are open to suggestions about

changes in these criteria.

The committee actively solicits suggestions from residents as you know best what is available near your house and its value to you. Most land purchases are opportunistic and depend on availability of willing sellers. You may know of these long before they hit the planning board with a development plan, which is where we generally find out about them. Add your suggestions to the [Forum](#) or talk to one of the [committee members](#) or e-mail info@yorktownopenspace.org.

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Open Space Criteria

Submitted by Webmaster on Wed, 2005-10-12 02:33.

Open Space Criteria

- Feel of Open Space (Subjective: more "open" than its surroundings, e.g. a picnic table in a garden in a commercial area) and Scenic Quality (The view from the outside looking into the property) - are used where appropriate.
- Recreational Value - Possibilities for active or passive recreation (may be no value).
- Wetlands - Parcels with wetlands that qualify for Yorktown wetland ordinance protection.
- Connectivity to other open space - Adjacent to other open space, via trail or biotic corridor .
- Physical Features and Constraints - Steep slopes, streams, lakes, open views.
- **Biodiversity** - All parcels within the identified high biodiversity value areas.

Location Dependent

Priorities are dependent on population density. We take zoning to be equivalent to population density. Those areas zoned for 1 acre or less are high density. The rest are low density. All commercial zoning and age restricted zoning is high density. Already protected lands are not considered either high or low for these purposes. Here is a [simplified zoning map](#) (Draft) using the post [Comprehensive Plan zones](#) where commercial is shown in pink, age restricted in yellow, and residential in green. The light green is 1 acre or less and the darker green is larger properties. More details of properties can be found using block and lot number or street addresses [here](#). The full draft zoning map is [here](#), where properties with multiple zones are shown in a unique color, see legend.

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