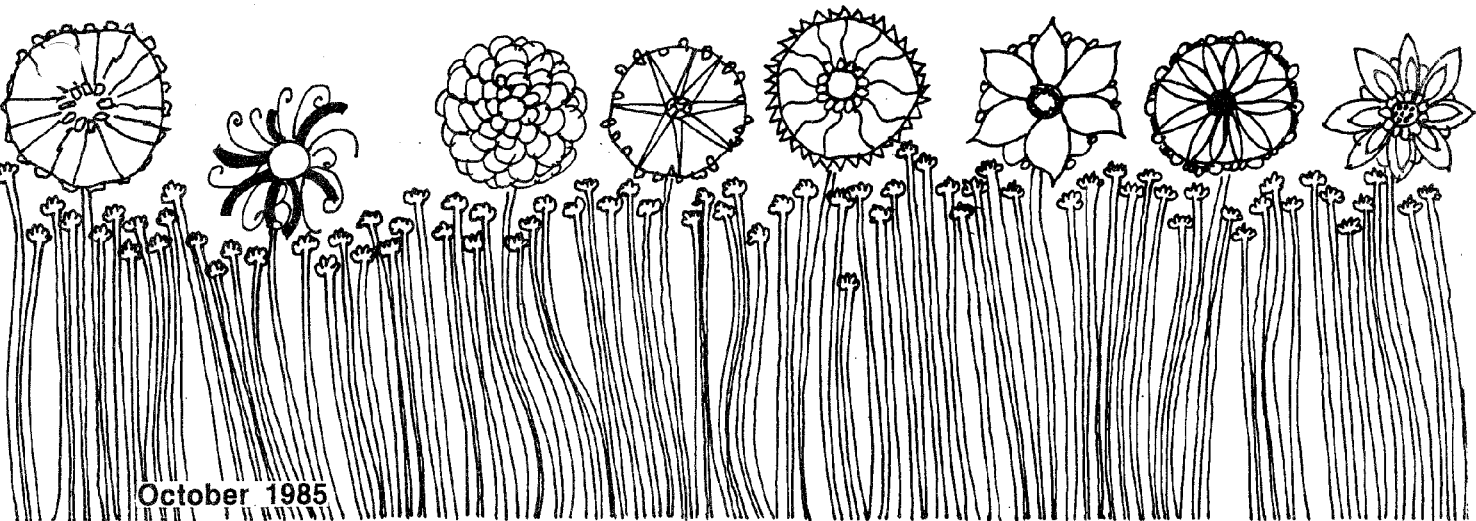


Dutchess County, New York

# Natural Resources



October 1985

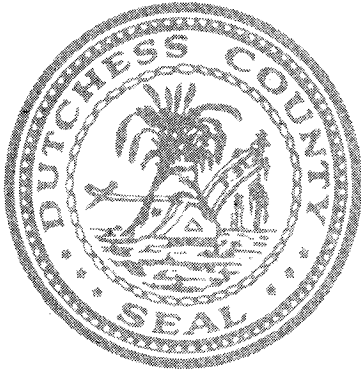
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## **To Readers of this Natural Resource Inventory**

Dutchess County is growing. Each year its population increases by more than 2,200 people and eighteen hundred acres of forests and farmlands are converted to shopping centers, industrial parks and home sites. Such growth has brought an unprecedented era of prosperity to the county. Growth has not, however, been without costs. Some of our important natural resources have been lost to development. Significant wetlands have been filled, homes have been constructed in areas that flood and ground water resources have been abused. Remedies for such problems have been costly-far more costly than prevention.

Many of the environmental problems associated with growth in Dutchess County have resulted from a lack of information about the county's natural resources. We cannot act in an environmentally responsible way without knowledge of natural systems and how they are affected by land use activities. In response, we have placed the highest priority on the development of this Natural Resource Inventory as a means of reducing this information gap. The inventory is intended to provide decisionmakers with the resources needed to make sound economic and environmental decisions thereby protecting and enhancing the county's environment.

We will continue to encourage growth in Dutchess County. We believe a healthy environment is a necessary condition for continued economic growth. We urge you to work with us in a way that will secure our rich natural heritage for those generations to come.

Douglas A. McHoul  
*Chairman, County Legislature*

Lucille P. Pattison  
*County Executive*

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