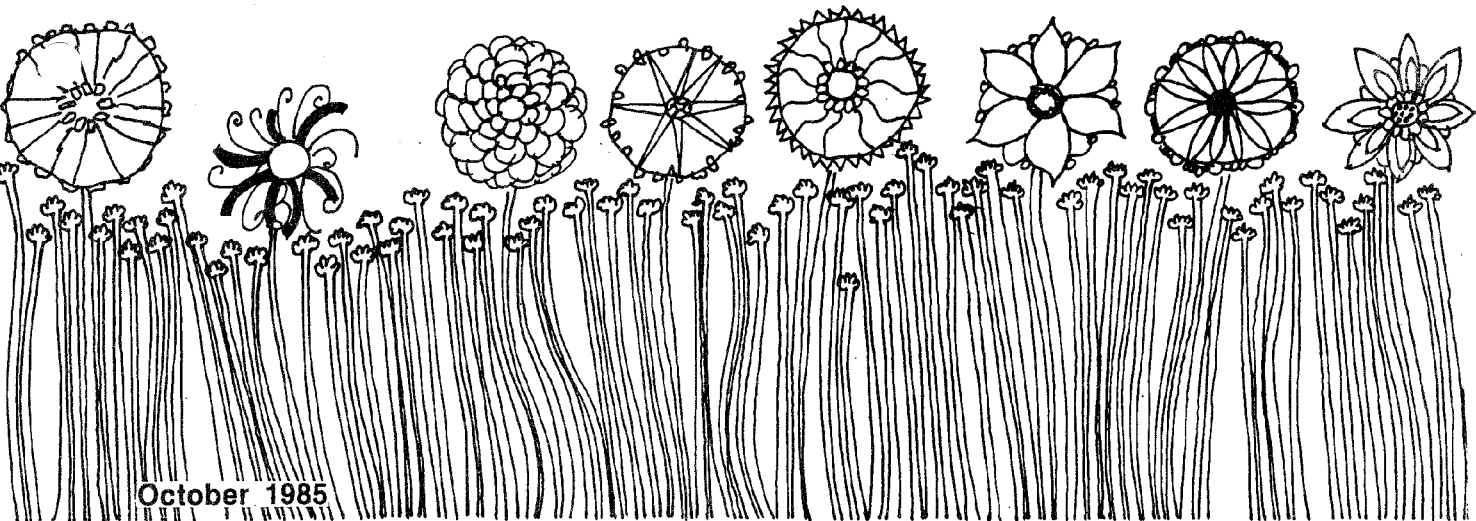


Dutchess County, New York

Natural Resources



October 1985

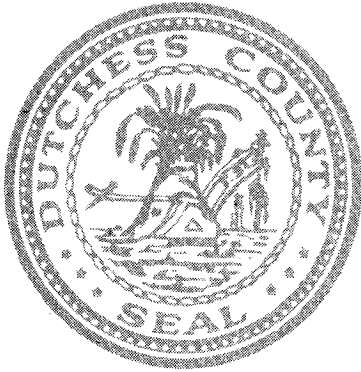
Prepared by
**Dutchess County Department of Planning
and the
Dutchess County Environmental Management Council**

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Dutchess County Department of Planning
47 Cannon Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
(914) 431-2480

Dutchess County Environmental Management Council
Farm and Home Center
PO Box 259
Millbrook, New York 12545
(914) 677-3488



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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Natural Resource Inventory Review Committee:

Eric Gillert, Chairperson

Lynn Bartlett
Norman Benson

Robert Denniston
William Jacobs

William Reiner
Charles Shaw

Dutchess County Environmental Management Council:

Norene Collier, Chairperson
Dr. Michael Rosenthal, Past Chairperson
Charles Shaw, Executive Director
Doris Mills, Secretary

Dutchess County Department of Planning:

Roger Akeley, Commissioner
Jeffrey Churchill, Deputy Commissioner

Dennis Amone
Donna Breault
Eric Gillert
Donna Hart

Helen Laube
Tracy Lee
Dorothy Leeds

Charles Murphy
Christine Squires
Holly Thomas

Dutchess County Cooperative Extension Association :

William Hogan, Executive Director

Darra Finkle
Barbara Mallen

David Mills
Sue Robertson

Joyce Sampson
Betty Stowe

Special Acknowledgements:

Leila Baroody, Researcher
Erik Kiviat, Contributing Writer
Ellen Muller, Contributing Editor

Don "The Hawk" Foster
Frank Knight

Project Directors: Eric Gillert & Charles Shaw

Principal Writer & Editor: Holly Thomas

Graphic Designer: Dennis Amone

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