

Significant Areas

Dutchess County is endowed with many significant natural areas and scenic resources. Significant natural areas are valued for their environmental importance and beauty, and include unusual geological formations such as scenic mountain ridges, steep ravines, and caves, hydrological features such as certain rivers, lakes, springs, and wetlands, and areas that support threatened or endangered species or unusually diverse plant and animal communities.

Scenic resources are panoramic vantage points, road corridors, and open space areas that offer particularly good opportunities to see and enjoy the natural features that contribute to the county's visual identity. Both significant natural areas and scenic resources enhance environmental health and the quality of life in Dutchess County.

Significant Natural Areas

Wildlife habitat, water supply protection, recreational space, and opportunities for outdoor research are among the environmental benefits that significant natural areas provide. The beauty of such areas offers a welcome contrast to the appearance and mood of urban and suburban life.

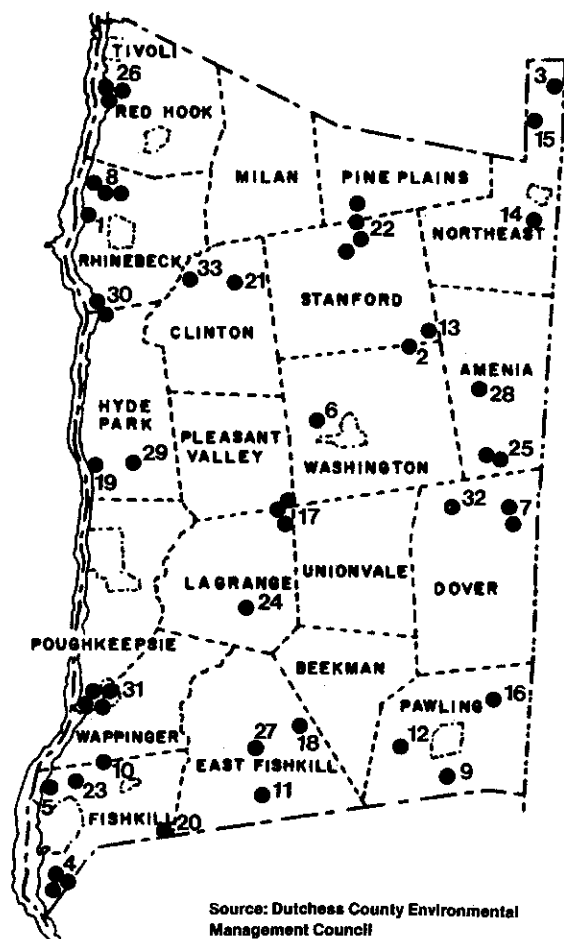


The Dutchess County Environmental Management Council (EMC) has adopted a list of 34 areas that significantly contribute to the health, diversity, and enjoyment of the county's resource base. The purpose of designating these sites as "Significant Areas" is to encourage the recognition and protection of their unique qualities. The list and a map showing the locations of the designated areas appear in Figure 8.1. Each of the areas is briefly described in the following pages. Table 8.1, which appears at the end of the description section, indicates whether the areas are publicly or privately owned.

Dutchess County's significant natural areas are not limited to those described by the EMC and listed below. Many more areas possess unusual natural characteristics and values. The list of 34 could be considerably expanded in the future.

Significant Areas of Dutchess County

1. Astor Cove
2. Bontecou Lake
3. Brace Mountain
4. Breakneck Ridge, Scofield Ridge, Hell's Hollow and North and South Mount Beacon
5. Brockway Road Woods
6. Cary Arboretum Institute of Ecosystem Studies
7. East and West Mountain Areas
8. Ferncliff Forest, Snyder Swamp, and the Mudderkill Creek
9. The Great Swamp
10. Greenfly Wetland
11. Hosner Mountain
12. Little Whaley Lake
13. Millbrook Meadow
14. Millerton Wetland
15. The Panhandle Wetlands
16. The Pawling Nature Reserve
17. Pond Gut, Rockefeller University Field Research Center and Innisfree
18. Reedy Bog
19. Roosevelt Cove and Wetland
20. Sharpe Reservation
21. Silver Lake, Mud Pond, and Long Pond
22. Stissing Mountain, Thompson Pond, Stockbriar Wetlands, and Buttercup Sanctuary
23. Stony Kill Farm and Environmental Education Center
24. Stringham Wetland Complex
25. Swift Pond and Cleaver Swamp
26. Tivoli Bays, Cruger Island, and Montgomery Place Woods
27. Townsend Swamp
28. Turkey Hollow
29. Val-Kill
30. Vandenburg Cove and ridges, Jones Island, and Suckley Cove
31. Wappinger Creek and Lake, Putnam Audubon Sanctuary, and Reese and Bowdoin Parks
32. West Mountain
33. Zipfelberg Bog
34. Clove Valley and Clove Mountain



Source: Dutchess County Environmental Management Council

Figure 8.1:

1. Astor Cove, a 25-acre tidal marsh south of the Rhinecliff Bridge, is an area of wildlife habitat that supports Hudson River fish and bird life. This largely undisturbed cove has a unique stand of wild rice and is a valuable feeding area for ducks. It lies within the Mid-Hudson Historic Shorelands Scenic District designated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
2. Bontecou Lake (Tamarack Lake) in the towns of Stanford and Washington is one of the largest lakes in Dutchess County. Measuring approximately 113 acres, it is a privately-owned, man-made lake that supports a wide variety of wildlife. This lake is well-known for sheltering large numbers of geese and ducks.
3. Brace Mountain, rising more than 2,300 feet above sea level in the town of Northeast, is the highest point in Dutchess County. The summit, which can be reached by trails beginning in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, offers outstanding views of three states, with the western view to the Catskill Mountains being particularly spectacular. The interconnecting trail system along Brace Mountain and the Taconic Ridges provides excellent hiking through several special habitats.
4. Breakneck Ridge, Scofield Ridge, Hell's Hollow, and North and South Mount Beacon make up a large ridge area bordering the Hudson River near the southern edge of Dutchess County. Well-known for spectacular views of the Hudson River and Hudson Highlands, this mountainous area supports a large variety of plant and animal life, particularly nesting birds. The area also affords unique research opportunities on rare plant and animal communities. It has been nominated for recognition as a National Natural Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior.
5. Brockway Road Woods in the town of Fishkill is a privately-owned, well-developed hardwood forest along a stream which supports a variety of uncommon plants. This area has been cited by the Nature Conservancy in its Unique Natural Areas Survey as worthy of protection.
6. The Cary Arboretum Institute of Ecosystem Studies in the town of Washington is a 2,000-acre research and educational facility owned by the New York Botanical Garden. County residents have the opportunity to attend programs and courses offered by the arboretum and to use the property in a variety of ways. Hikers and bird watchers enjoy a great diversity of plants and animals in this area.

7. East and West Mountain Areas in Dover are considered significant because of their scenic beauty and abundant wildlife. Designated as a New York State Significant Habitat, East Mountain provides habitat for species that are rare in the county and offers excellent views of the Harlem Valley. The West Mountain area contains distinctive and beautiful geological formations that provide habitat for fragile vegetation.
8. Ferncliff Forest, Snyder Swamp, and the Mudderkill Creek in the towns of Rhinebeck and Red Hook form a complex of open space areas. Ferncliff Forest, 192 acres owned by the Rotary Club of Rhinebeck that contain trails and a picnic shelter, is open to the public for recreational purposes. Adjoining Ferncliff is Snyder Swamp, a privately-owned 111-acre wetland containing hardwood trees and diverse wildlife. Snyder Swamp is the headwater for the Mudderkill Creek, which runs north through private property to enter the Hudson River in Red Hook. The mouth of the Mudderkill Creek contains unusual plant and animal species.
9. The Great Swamp in the town of Pawling (and extending into Putnam County) is over 400 acres in size. Located in the Harlem Valley, the swamp is an excellent example of a glacial valley floodplain. The Great Swamp is especially significant because of its extensive and well-developed floodplain forest and associated wildlife. The U.S. Department of Interior has nominated the swamp for designation as a National Natural Landmark.
10. Greenfly Wetland is a 185-acre area in the towns of Wappinger and Fishkill which provides flood control, groundwater protection, and wildlife habitat in a heavily populated area. Greenfly consists of marsh as well as bog areas, and provides habitat for diverse wildlife. Hikers, birdwatchers, and ice-skaters particularly enjoy this area.



11. Hosner Mountain is a rocky ridge area in East Fishkill that is partly owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior for use as the new route of the Appalachian Trail. This mountainous area provides open space, scenic beauty, and wildlife habitat on the periphery of a densely-settled area. Uncommon wildlife have been observed on Hosner Mountain.
12. Little Whaley Lake in the town of Pawling is the focal point of a 1,300-acre property owned by the Boy Scouts of America New York Metropolitan Council. Surrounded by hardwood and hemlock forest, it is a lake of pristine quality in an area undergoing considerable development, and is a potential source of drinking water.
13. Millbrook Meadow is an eight-acre wetland owned by the Millbrook School, which contains rare, threatened, or endangered plants and animals. This area has been recommended for preservation by The Nature Conservancy.
14. Millerton Wetland, a privately-owned wetland in the town of Northeast, is being considered for nomination as a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior. It has been cited as the best example of a limestone wet meadow in the northeastern United States. Consisting of herbaceous and shrub swamp communities, this unique habitat supports rare, threatened, or endangered species.
15. The Panhandle Wetlands group is a 650-acre complex of privately-owned wetlands in the town of Northeast. The area contains a series of tamarack swamps and open cattail marshes joined by a stream. Beaver ponds and limestone wet meadows provide conditions for unusual plant communities and a rich wildlife population. The Nature Conservancy has recommended this area for preservation.
16. The Pawling Nature Reserve, a 1,114-acre natural area owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy, has been nominated as a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior. The Appalachian Trail passes through the property. The reserve contains an unusually diverse group of ecological associations and includes an excellent cross section of natural habitats characteristic of eastern New York. It supports rare, threatened, or endangered species, and is of special interest due to the large number of songbird species present.

17. Pond Gut, Rockefeller University Field Research Center, and Innisfree cover 2,221 acres owned both privately and by the state through the Taconic-Hereford Multiple Use Area. This open space complex supports a variety of wildlife, particularly nesting ducks and geese, and is designated as a New York State Significant Habitat. Well-known for its natural beauty, this area also supports substantial scientific research.
18. Reedy Bog, a six-acre wetland in the town of East Fishkill, is a limestone wet meadow that supports a variety of unusual plants and animals. Rare, threatened, or endangered species are present. This area has been recommended for preservation by The Nature Conservancy and has been designated a New York State Significant Habitat.
19. Roosevelt Cove and Wetland is a 25-acre tidal marsh, partly within the F. D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and partly privately-owned. This wetland supports a large cattail marsh and shelters a great number of waterfowl.
20. Sharpe Reservation, located in the town of Fishkill, is a 3,000-acre summer camp and environmental education facility owned by the Fresh Air Fund. Located in a heavily-populated sector of the county, the reservation includes large tracts of unspoiled forests and wetlands and three lakes. Numerous trails through the forested ridges offer dramatic vistas. Charcoal pits on the property date from before the Revolutionary War.
21. Silver Lake, Mud Pond, and Long Pond form a chain of bodies of water in the town of Clinton that represents a unique resource. Based on an unusual limestone rock formation called the Milan Window, these small lakes hydrologically influence the nearby Little Wappinger Creek and support a wide variety of wildlife. Rare species inhabit the area.



22. Stissing Mountain and Thompson Pond possess many unusual features. The mountain is geologically unique in that it is a block of one billion year-old gneiss "floating" on a younger rock layer. It rises 1,400 feet above an outwash plain and is depicted in a permanent display in the Museum of Natural History in New York City. At the base of the mountain is a glacial kettle area that has developed into Thompson Pond. The pond is owned by The Nature Conservancy and has been designated a National Natural Landmark. With associated wetland areas to the south, this area provides a varied habitat supporting diverse plant and animal communities.



23. Stony Kill Farm and Environmental Education Center is a 756-acre property in the town of Fishkill owned by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Located in a rapidly developing area, Stony Kill offers opportunities for education and recreation to county residents. A rich variety of plants and animals live in this expanse of mixed habitats.
24. Stringham Wetland Complex is a 20-acre pond and wetland area in the town of LaGrange that shelters a variety of plant life and unusual animals. It supports rare or threatened species, and The Nature Conservancy has recommended its preservation.
25. Swift Pond and Cleaver Swamp, in Amenia, are privately-owned wetlands that provide excellent habitat for a rich variety of plants and animals, including some which are not commonly found in the county.

Numerous bird species have been recorded at Swift Pond, especially during migration periods. Cleaver Swamp is a stable cattail wetland recognized as unique by The Nature Conservancy. It is adjacent to a suspected hazardous waste site listed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

26. Tivoli Bays, Cruger Island, and Montgomery Place Woods cover a 1,000 acre area in the town of Red Hook and have been widely recognized for their unique qualities and beauty. This area is within the Mid-Hudson Historic Shorelands Scenic District designated by New York State. Owned, in part, by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Tivoli Bays have been designated by the National Estuarine Sanctuary program and nominated for inclusion on the Department of the Interior National Natural Landmarks list. The bays filter pollutants from the Hudson River and offer a rich habitat for wildlife. Rare and threatened species inhabit the area. The Montgomery Place Woods, the oldest forest in the region, is a 100-acre woodland that contains important habitat for "old-growth" plant and animal species.
27. Townsend Swamp, a 177-acre wetland in the town of East Fishkill, has been recommended for preservation by The Nature Conservancy and is a New York State Significant Habitat. It contains rare, threatened, or endangered species.
28. Turkey Hollow is a steep rock ravine in the town of Amenia. The ravine and stream running through it form an unusually scenic area extending over several miles. Its cool, moist environment creates an ideal habitat for unusual plant and animal communities.
29. Val-Kill, the former property of Eleanor Roosevelt, is a 169-acre area in Hyde Park owned by the National Park Service. It has a beautiful natural setting, including the Fallkill Creek, a pond, and a wetland. The many woodland trails are open to the public.
30. Vandenburgh Cove, the surrounding ridges, Jones Island, Suckley Cove, and the nearby shallows of the Hudson River form an important tidal cove area in the town of Rhinebeck. Vandenburgh Cove, which covers approximately 125 acres, is particularly valuable as a spawning ground for fish and a feeding area for waterfowl and is in the Mid-Hudson Historic Shorelands Scenic District.

31. Wappinger Creek and Lake, Putnam Audubon Sanctuary, and Reese and Bowdoin Parks make up a group of important resources in a densely-populated portion of the county. The creek, tidal almost to the Wappinger Falls, was the site of early Indian settlements and is a breeding and feeding area for numerous species of fish and birds. The lake and parks are heavily-used, publicly owned open spaces which enhance the beauty of the area.



32. West Mountain (see number 7.)
33. Zipfelberg Bog is a unique 20-acre bog and wetland owned by The Nature Conservancy. This protected bog is a remnant of glacial activity and contains unusual species of plants and animals.
34. Clove Valley and Clove Mountain are large, scenic open spaces in the town of Unionvale. The top of Clove Mountain, which is the highest point in the town, offers a 360-degree view of the county. New England upland flora and fauna are common on the mountain slopes. Clove Valley, along the east side of Clove Mountain, is a limestone area with several flourishing springs. The valley has been used for outdoor recreation for decades. It contains the headwaters of the Fishkill Creek, which flows through several significant wetlands and a gorge in Tymor forest on its way south.



Table 8.1 Significant Area Ownership

| Area Name and Number | Ownership |
|--|--|
| 1 Astor Cove | Private |
| 2 Bontecou Lake | Private |
| 3 Brace Mountain | Private and New York State |
| 4 Breakneck, Scofield, Hells Hollow, Mt. Beacon | Private and New York State |
| 5 Brockway Road Woods | Private |
| 6 Cary Arboretum | Private, but open to public |
| 7 East and West Mountains | Private |
| 8 Ferncliff, Snyder, Mudderkill Creek | Private, but Ferncliff is open to the public |
| 9 The Great Swamp | Private |
| 10 Greenfly Swamp | Private and Dutchess County |
| 11 Hosner Mountain | Private and U.S. Dept. of Interior |
| 12 Little Whaley Lake | Private (Boy Scouts of America) |
| 13 Millbrook Meadow | Private |
| 14 Millerton Wetland | Private |
| 15 The Panhandle Wetlands | Private |
| 16 Pawling Nature Reserve | Private, preserved (The Nature Conservancy) |
| 17 Pond-Gut, Rockefeller | Private and New York State |
| 18 Reedy Bog | Private |
| 19 Roosevelt Cove | Private and U.S. Department of Interior |
| 20 Sharpe Reservation | Private (Fresh Air Fund) |
| 21 Silver Lake, etc. | Private |
| 22 Stissing Mountain, Thompson Pond | Private, partly preserved (The Nature Conservancy and National Audubon Society) and New York State |
| 23 Stony Kill Farm | New York State |
| 24 Stringham Wetland | Private |
| 25 Swift Pond, Cleaver Swamp | Private |
| 26 Tivoli Bays | Private and New York State |
| 27 Townsend Swamp | Private |
| 28 Turkey Hollow | Private |
| 29 Val-Kill | U.S. Dept. of Interior |
| 30 Vandenburg Cove | Private |
| 31 Wappinger Creek and Lake, and Putnam Audubon Sanctuary, Reese and Bowdoin Parks | Private (partly Putnam Audubon), Dutchess County, and Town of Wappinger |
| 32 West Mountain | Private |
| 33 Zipfelberg Bog | Private, preserved (The Nature Conservancy) |
| 34 Clove Mountain and Clove Valley | Private |

Source: Dutchess County Environmental Management Council

Scenic Resources

Dutchess County has a varied landscape whose scenic mountains and valleys can be viewed from many locations. The opportunity to enjoy these views greatly enhances the daily experiences of those who live and work in or visit the county.

The Hudson River is the major landscape feature that visually unites Dutchess County with the rest of the Hudson Valley. The valley is the county's chief visual reference point, and includes several noted areas, such as the estates within the Mid-Hudson Historic Shorelands Scenic District that extends from Hyde Park into Columbia County. The Catskill Mountains to the west provide a beautiful backdrop to the river valley.

Mountains of the Hudson Highlands and the Taconic Range visually define the county's borders to the south and east. With these major features in the background, alternating patterns of uplands, lowlands, lakes, open land, farms, forests, and settlements provide beauty and visual diversity throughout the county.

The following tables list places and roads from which the county's scenic resources can be seen and appreciated. The lists include Hudson River vantage points, panoramic views along county roadways, open space areas, and scenic roads. Several of the open space areas are also included in Table 8.1 because of their significant natural values.



Table 8.2 Hudson River Vantage Points
(From South to North)

| Place Name | Municipality |
|--|---------------------|
| State Rte. 9D (South of Beacon) | Fishkill |
| Mount Beacon | Fishkill |
| Beacon Ferry Site - Riverfront Park | C. Beacon |
| Newburgh-Beacon Bridge | C. Beacon |
| Castle Point Veterans Hospital | Fishkill |
| Old Castle Point Road | Fishkill, Wappinger |
| Chelsea | Wappinger |
| Chelsea River Road | Wappinger |
| Wheeler Hill | Wappinger |
| New Hamburg | Poughkeepsie |
| Bowdoin Park | Poughkeepsie |
| Pirate Canoe Club | Poughkeepsie |
| Locust Grove | Poughkeepsie |
| Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetary | Poughkeepsie |
| Kaal Rock Park | C. Poughkeepsie |
| Mid-Hudson Bridge | C. Poughkeepsie |
| Waryas Park | C. Poughkeepsie |
| Marist College | Poughkeepsie |
| Regatta Row | Poughkeepsie |
| Mauritius Inlet - Riverpoint Road | Hyde Park |
| Culinary Institute of America | Hyde Park |
| F.D. Roosevelt National Historic Site | Hyde Park |
| Hyde Park Railroad Station | Hyde Park |
| River Road | Hyde Park |
| Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site | Hyde Park |
| Poughkeepsie Yacht Club | Hyde Park |
| Margaret Lewis Norrie State Park | Hyde Park |
| Ogden Mills - Ruth Livingston Mills State Park | Hyde Park |
| Vandensburgh Cove & Fishing Grounds Road | Rhinebeck |
| Wildersteen | Rhinebeck |
| Rhinecliff Dock | Rhinebeck |
| Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge | Red Hook |
| Barrytown | Red Hook |
| Bard College | Red Hook |
| Tivoli Bays (North and South) | Red Hook |
| Tivoli Railroad Station | V. Tivoli |
| Clermont State Park | Red Hook, Clermont |

Note: This list includes the most popular or widely known vantage points.
It is not comprehensive.

Table 8.3 Scenic Vantage Points Along Major Roadways

| Roadway | Municipality |
|--|------------------------|
| <u>U.S. and State Highways</u> | |
| I-84 at Beacon-Newburgh Bridge | Beacon |
| I-84 at Scenic Turnout near Rte. 52 | E. Fishkill |
| I-84 at Hosner Mountain Rd. | E. Fishkill |
| I-84 at Cary Rd. | Fishkill |
| U.S. Rte. 44/State Rte. 55 at Mid-Hudson Bridge | Poughkeepsie |
| Taconic St. Pkwy. at Miller Hill Rd. | E. Fishkill |
| Taconic St. Pkwy. at James Baird St. Park | LaGrange |
| Taconic St. Pkwy. at Germond Rd. | Clinton |
| Taconic St. Pkwy. Scenic turnout at Pumpkin Ln. | Clinton |
| Taconic St. Pkwy. Scenic turnout at North Rd. | Milan |
| State Rte. 9 at Troopers Barracks | Rhinebeck |
| State Rte. 44 at DeLavergne Hill | Amenia |
| State Rte. 52 at Stormville Mountain | E. Fishkill |
| State Rte. 55 at Pawling Mountain | Pawling |
| State Rte. 82 north of Verbank | Washington |
| State Rte. 82 at Conklin Hill Rd. | Stanford |
| State Rte. 199 near Stark-Tator Sky Park | Red Hook |
| State Rte. 199 at Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge | Red Hook |
| <u>County Highways</u> | |
| County Rte. 5, (Smithfield Rd.) near Perotti Rd. | Northeast |
| County Rte. 10, (Sylvan Lake Rd.) at Sylvan Lake | Beekman |
| County Rte. 21, (Wingdale Rd.) at Blueberry Hill | Dover |
| County Rte. 60, (Winchell Mt. Rd.) near Ancramdale Rd. | Northeast |
| County Rte. 64, (McGhee Hill Rd.) near Charlie Hill Rd. | Northeast |
| County Rte. 66, (Quaker Hill Rd.) south of Mizzentop | Pawling |
| County Rte. 85, (Fishing Grounds Rd.) | Rhinebeck |
| County Rte. 89, (Waterbury Hill Rd.) south of Hoxie Corner | Unionvale |
| County Rte. 98, (N. Mabbettsville Rd.) north of Shunpike | Washington |
| County Rte. 103, (Annandale Rd.) | Rhinebeck, Red Hook |
| <u>Town Roads</u> | |
| High Ridge Rd. | E. Fishkill |
| All Angels Hill | Wappinger |
| Bishop Dr. | LaGrange |
| Johnny Cake Hollow Rd. | Pine Plains |
| Prospect Hill Rd. | Pine Plains |
| Schultz Hill Rd. | Pine Plains |
| Charlie Hill Rd. | Northeast |
| Deer Run-Quarry Dr. | Northeast |
| Perrotti Rd. | Northeast |

Note: This list contains a selection of roadside scenic vantage points. It is not comprehensive.

Table 8.4 Open Space Resources

| Area | Municipality |
|---|--|
| <u>Federally-owned</u> | |
| Appalachian Trail corridor | East Fishkill, Beekman Pawling, Dover |
| Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site at Val-Kill | Hyde Park |
| Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site | Hyde Park |
| Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site | Hyde Park |
| Nuclear Lake Property | Pawling, Beekman |
| <u>State-owned</u> | |
| Wassaic State Forest/Multiple Use Area | Amenia |
| Depot Hill State Forest/Multiple Use Area | Beekman |
| Hudson Highlands State Park | Fishkill |
| Stony Kill Farm and Environmental Education Center | Fishkill |
| Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills Memorial State Park & Dinsmore Golf Course | Hyde Park |
| James Baird State Park | LaGrange |
| Lafayetteville State Forest/Multiple Use Area | Milan |
| Roeliff Jansen Kill State Forest/Multiple Use Area | Milan |
| Taconic State Park | Northeast |
| Stissing Mt. State Forest/Multiple Use Area | Pine Plains, Stanford |
| Taconic - Hereford State Forest/Multiple Use Area | Pleasant Valley |
| Tivoli Bays (North and South) | Red Hook |
| Clermont State Park | Red Hook, Clermont |
| <u>County-owned</u> | |
| Fallkill Park | Hyde Park, Poughkeepsie |
| Wilcox Park | Milan |
| Bowdoin Park | Poughkeepsie |
| <u>Other-Mostly Private</u> | |
| Bog Hollow | Amenia |
| Rattlesnake Mountain | Amenia |
| Turkey Hollow | Amenia |
| Swift Pond | Amenia |
| Depot Hill | Beekman |
| Sylvan Lake | Beekman |
| Mud Pond | Clinton |
| Silver Lake | Clinton |
| West Mountain | Dover |
| East Mountain | Dover, Unionvale |
| Hosner Mountain | E. Fishkill |
| Shenandoah Mountain | E. Fishkill |

Table 8.4 Open Space Resources Cont'd.

| Area | Municipality |
|--|----------------------|
| <u>Mostly Private, cont'd.</u> | |
| Black Pond | E. Fishkill |
| Bald Hill | Fishkill |
| Honness Mountain | Fishkill |
| Mount Beacon | Fishkill |
| Sharpe Reservation | Fishkill |
| Sugarloaf Mountain | Fishkill |
| Doty Hill and Briggs Mountain | Milan |
| Old Round Top | Milan |
| Silver Mountain | Northeast |
| Taconic Highlands (Brace Mountain, Mt. Riga) | Northeast |
| Panhandle Swamp | Northeast |
| Millerton Wetland | Northeast |
| Indian Lake | Northeast |
| Great Swamp | Pawling |
| Whaley Lake | Pawling |
| Hammersly Ridge | Pawling |
| Pawling Nature Reserve | Pawling |
| Pawling Mountain | Pawling |
| Hicks Hill | Pine Plains |
| Thompson Pond | Pine Plains |
| Stissing Mountain | Pine Plains |
| Great Spring Swamp | Pleasant Valley |
| Vassar College Farm | Poughkeepsie |
| Turkey Hill | Red Hook |
| Snyder Swamp | Rhinebeck |
| Vandenburgh Cove | Rhinebeck |
| Clove Mountain | Unionvale |
| Greenfly Swamp | Wappinger, Fishkill |
| Wappinger Lake | Wappingers Falls |
| Cannoo Hills | Washington |
| Cary Arboretum | Washington |
| Plymouth Hill | Washington |
| Bontecou Lake | Washington, Stanford |

Note: The federal, state, and county properties listed are considered permanent open spaces. Those listed as "other resources" are, for the most part, owned by private citizens or organizations. Only a few of them are permanently preserved. See Significant Areas list, Table 8.1, and Table 4.2 for additional open space resources. Many lakes and ponds, agricultural lands, stream corridors, wetland complexes, parks, institutional facilities, and other private and public land holdings throughout Dutchess County provide significant open space benefits.

Scenic Roads

The Heritage Task Force for the Hudson River Valley has recommended that a list of roads in western Dutchess County, and others throughout the Hudson Valley, be designated scenic roads by the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) under the state Scenic Roads Law of 1981. Such designation would support local and regional efforts to preserve the visual, historic, and natural values of these scenic corridors, and to promote public recognition of the benefits these scenic resources provide.

The list of Dutchess County roads recommended for state designation appears in Table 8.5. It is the product of a study conducted for DEC by the Heritage Task Force, in conjunction with the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Scenic Hudson, Inc. Similar studies have been conducted in several other Hudson Valley counties.

The roads recommended for scenic road designation fall into three classes: A, B, and C. Roads nominated for class A designation are those with the highest scenic quality rating. Class B road corridors possess distinct scenic qualities and historic, cultural, and recreational amenities, but are not as significant as class A corridors. The quantities of positive and negative visual elements within a class B corridor may equal one another. Class C scenic roads primarily function as transitions or links between class A and B roads, and are of less scenic significance than either A or B. Class C corridors may, however, contain important historic, cultural, and recreational amenities.

Suggested policies and maintenance guidelines for preserving and enhancing the scenic qualities of class A, B, and C scenic roads are given in Volumes I and II of the Heritage Task Force report, entitled The Hudson Valley Scenic Roads Program, published in 1983.



Table 8.5 Roads Nominated for Scenic Road Designation
Dutchess County, New York

| Roadway Section | Municipality |
|---|--|
| <u>Class A Road Corridors</u> | |
| Bear Mountain-Beacon Highway, NY Route 9D | Fishkill |
| Roads within the "Mid-Hudson Historic Shorelands Scenic District" | |
| NY Rte. 9 - Co. Rte. 41 to South Mill Rd. | Hyde Park, Rhinebeck |
| Old Post Rd. | Hyde Park |
| South Mill Rd. - NY Rte. 9 to Morton Rd. | Rhinebeck |
| Morton Rd. - South Mill Rd. to Rhinecliff Rd. | Rhinebeck |
| Rhinecliff Rd. - Morton Rd. to River Rd. | Rhinebeck |
| River Rd/Annandale Rd.- Morton Rd. to NY Rte. 9G | Rhinebeck, Red Hook |
| NY Rte. 9 - South Mill Rd to Old Post Rd. | Rhinebeck |
| Astor Dr. - River Rd. to Old Post Rd. | Rhinebeck |
| Mt. Rutsen Rd. - River Rd. to Old Post Rd. | Rhinebeck |
| Hook Rd. - River Rd. to Old Post Rd. | Rhinebeck |
| NY Rte. 9G - Old Post Rd. to Columbia Co. Line | Rhinebeck, Red Hook |
| Kidd Lane - NY Rte. 9G to Tivoli Landing Rd. | Red Hook |
| Woods Rd. - Tivoli Landing Rd. to Columbia Co. Line | Red Hook |
| Santage Rd. - Woods Rd. to Stony Brook St. | Red Hook |
| Stony Brook St. - Santage Rd. to NY Rte. 9G | Red Hook |
| Tivoli Landing Rd. - Kidd Ln. to Woods Rd. | Red Hook |
| NY Rte. 199 NY Rte. - 9G to Ulster Co. Line | Red Hook |
| Barrytown & Station Roads - River Rd. to Hamlet of Barrytown Rd. | Red Hook |
| Co. Rte. 78 - NY Rte. 9G to Tivoli Landing | Red Hook |
| Kelly Rd. - Whalesback Rd. to River Rd. | Red Hook |
| Newburgh-Beacon Bridge | C. Beacon |
| Mid-Hudson Bridge | C. Poughkeepsie |
| Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge | Rhinebeck |
| <u>Class B Road Corridors</u> | |
| NY Rte. 9D - City of Beacon Line to NY Rte. 9 | Fishkill, Wappinger, Wappingers Falls |
| NY Rte. 9 - Hyde Park/Poughkeepsie Town line to Co. Rte. 41 | Hyde Park |
| Pitcher Lane | Red Hook |
| Rockefeller Lane | Red Hook |
| Whalesback Lane | Red Hook |
| Co. Rte. 78 | Red Hook |
| Co. Rte. 79 | Red Hook |
| Co. Rte. 80 | Red Hook |
| <u>Class C Road Corridors</u> | |
| NY Rte. 9D | C. Beacon |
| NY Rte. 9 - southern C. Poughkeepsie line to Hyde Park line | C. Poughkeepsie, T. Poughkeepsie |

Source: The Heritage Task Force for the Hudson River Valley, The Hudson Valley Scenic Roads Program, 1983

As shown in Table 8.5, many of the Dutchess County roads recommended for scenic roads designation are within the Mid-Hudson Historic Shorelands Scenic District. This district is a 25-mile long area on the east shore of the Hudson River. It extends from just south of West Market and Dock Streets in Hyde Park, to just north of the Germantown Landing Road on Route 9G in Columbia County. The eastern boundary runs parallel to Route 9G from this crossroad south to Weys Corners; from there it follows Route 9 south to West Market Street in Hyde Park. The centerline of the Hudson River forms the western boundary of the district.

The Mid-Hudson Historic Shorelands Scenic District is the first scenic district designated under Article 49 of the Environmental Conservation Law. It encompasses close to 40 riverfront estates, extensive public parklands, farms, hundreds of structures of historic significance, and numerous streams, ravines, bluffs, wetlands, and other important natural features. A variety of techniques and recommendations for preserving the unique benefits that these cultural and natural features provide are set forth in the Mid-Hudson Historic Shorelands Scenic District Management Plan, which was prepared for DEC by the Hudson River Shorelands Task Force in 1983. Suggested protection measures include revisions to local zoning regulations and roadway management practices, local promotional efforts designed to enhance public awareness of what the district can offer both residents and tourists, methods for encouraging increased implementation of local waterfront revitalization programs and access to the Hudson River, and other techniques for enhancing community identity, design, and enjoyment.



Resource Management Implications

Dutchess County's population has doubled in the past 35 years, and is still growing. It is expected to reach 320,000 by the year 2000. To accommodate this growth, open land is being converted to roads, homesites, industrial centers, government facilities, and commercial uses at the rate of 1,800 acres per year. This rate of development is exerting increasing pressure on many of the county's scenic resources and significant natural areas, pressures that could destroy or degrade their environmental quality. To protect the county's natural heritage, the benefits that these resources provide must be recognized and preserved.

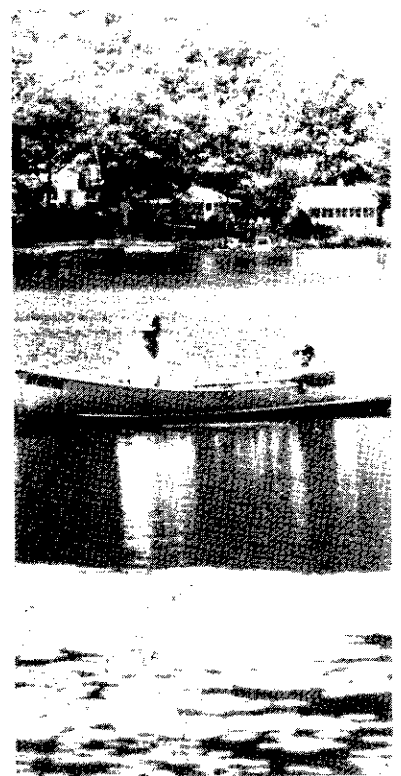
Significant Natural Areas

The significant natural areas inventoried by the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council deserve special consideration by state and local governments and landowners. Many of these areas are unique and irreplaceable elements of the county's landscape.

In some cases, significant areas can tolerate the increased public use that could result from promotional efforts. Several significant areas, however, particularly those which support endangered or threatened species, could be severely damaged by increased use. Greater use inevitably brings changes and disturbances that can drive sensitive species away or destroy their habitat. It may, therefore, be counterproductive to draw attention to the most unusual and sensitive features of significant areas. Concerned citizens and landowners should instead be encouraged to explore more subtle means of ensuring that the natural values of these areas are appropriately recognized and preserved.

Most of the significant natural areas listed in Table 8.1 are privately owned. Access to them is, in most cases, restricted. Nevertheless, everyone benefits from the role these areas play in maintaining environmental diversity and from the scenic qualities they offer, even from a distance. Increased public access to privately-owned significant areas should be encouraged only when the landowner is clearly willing to assume the responsibility that such public use entails, and when public access will not threaten the significant natural features of the site.

Many publicly-owned significant natural areas also contain fragile natural communities that can be damaged by overuse. A balance must be achieved between promoting public recognition and enjoyment of these areas and protecting their environmental quality.



Scenic Resources

Dutchess County's scenic resources contribute greatly to the quality of the visual environment, as well as to the tourism industry that plays a growing role in the county economy. Views of rural valleys, the Hudson River, and the mountains to the south, east, and west enhance the beauty and diversity of the landscape. The variety of these vistas adds to the enjoyment of residents and visitors, and defines the physical self-image of communities throughout the county. Smaller-scale scenic resources, such as tree-lined roads, waterfalls, streams, wetlands, lakes, farm lands, historic hamlets and structures, well-landscaped grounds, and parks also contribute to community identity and enjoyment.

The visual impacts of development have immediate and profound effects on the quality of life. Despite these effects, however, decision makers are often reluctant to make judgements on aesthetic issues. As a result, unnecessary damage to scenic resources is frequently permitted or overlooked, causing the entire visual character of a community or area to deteriorate over time.

To reverse this tendency, strong community support is needed for preserving scenic resources and enhancing the visual environment through careful and comprehensive land use management. Every effort should be made to increase public awareness of the environmental and cultural significance of scenic resources, and of the means that can be used to protect them.

Open Space Preservation

Dutchess County's open space resources support diverse vegetation and wildlife communities, agricultural activities, outdoor recreation, and forest uses, and help store and replenish critical surface and groundwater supplies. They give much of Dutchess County its beauty and rural character. In urban and suburban communities, open spaces such as stream corridors and parks also help define community and neighborhood boundaries, serve as common meeting places and buffers between land uses, and offer relief from congestion and noise.

The supply of open space is diminishing as the county population grows and more and more land is developed. Numerous open spaces with valuable scenic, natural, or agricultural qualities have been converted to residential, commercial, or industrial uses. In many cases these uses would have been more appropriately located on less sensitive sites, or could have been better designed to protect more natural features of the land.





Several mechanisms for preserving open space should be examined by local and county governments, concerned citizens, and interest groups. Among them are the following:

- conservation easements which, through deed restrictions, remove or limit the development potential of portions of property that have the greatest scenic or agricultural values or environmental sensitivity;
- transfer of development rights, whereby an owner of land in a designated open space district can transfer the right to develop that land to a parcel in another district where permitted by local law;
- agriculture preservation methods, such as agricultural zoning agricultural districting, and farmland assessments;
- land trusts, involving organizations that acquire and hold land for permanent preservation or release it with easements to ensure that it will be developed within site-specific management guidelines;
- floodplain, wetland, and aquifer protection regulations that prohibit the inappropriate use of critical natural areas;
- cluster development techniques, which concentrate building on specific portions of a property so that the remaining land is left undisturbed or used as recreation space;
- imaginative site designs that recognize how developments will benefit from the protection of natural amenities.

All of these techniques and others should be reviewed carefully for their potential contributions to conserving the best open space in Dutchess County.

Scenic Roads

Considerable effort has gone into evaluating the scenic qualities of roads within the Mid-Hudson Historic Shorelands Scenic District. Roads farther south in the county that offer views of the Hudson River, or which serve as important links between scenic areas, have also been evaluated. The Heritage Task Force for the Hudson River Valley has recommended that these roads be designated scenic roads by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and has developed extensive recommendations concerning how the scenic qualities of these roads corridors can be maintained by local governments and landowners. The use of land use control techniques, road maintenance guidelines, and public education programs that help implement the Task Force recommendations should be encouraged.

All of the roads evaluated by the Heritage Task Force are visually tied to the Hudson River. Elsewhere in Dutchess County are many road corridors equally deserving of recognition, which visually relate to the Harlem Valley, the Catskills, the Hudson Highlands, the rolling terrain of the county's agricultural lands, or other landscape features. Local efforts to inventory and preserve these scenic amenities can help maintain a balanced appreciation of the beauty the entire county has to offer.