Dutchess County Soil and Water District

LESAs as a tool for:

County Wide Resource Planning
  • Agricultural Lands
  • Habitat
  • Water Resources

Farmland Protection
  • Modified Selection Criteria

Community Assistance
  • Farmland Protection
  • Resource Issues

Ecosystem Based Management
  • Site Selection
  • Program Delivery
Dutchess County

514,600 Acres of Dutchess County
160,000 Acres of Ag Land
283,030 Acres of Woodland
Population of 292,000
Prime Farmland Soils 63,932 Acres*
Statewide Importance Soils 192,923 Acres
DUTCHESS COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL AREAS

1. Panhandle Prime Soils Area: Town of North East
2. Dutchess Dairy Heartland: Towns of North East and Amenia
3. Smithfield Valley: Town of Amenia
4. Oblong Valley Prime Soils Area: Town of Amenia
5. Pine Plains Prime Soils Area: Town of Pine Plains
6. Salt Point Prime Soils Area: Towns of Pleasant Valley and Clinton
7. Red Hook Breadbasket Area: Town of Red Hook
8. Sprout Creek
9. Clove Valley
10. Great Swamp, Pawling
7. Red Hook Breadbasket Area: Town of Red Hook
Prime and Statewide Important Soils (Class I - IV)
Dairy, beef, crops, fruit, and intensive vegetable operations
Highly scenic views from State, County, and Town roads
Popular Agri-tourism attractions
Headwaters of Stony Creek, White Clay Kill, Tivoli Bays

8. Sprout Creek
Tree Farms
Dairy, Apples, Vegetables

9. Clave Valley
Beef, Sheep, Horses
Extensive wildlife habitat

10. Great Swamp: Pawling
Scenic Vistas
Designated Wetlands
Horses
Vegetables

Source: Soil & Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County, DC Department of Planning and Development

In 1991, portions of seven areas were included in a list of Land Acquisition Project recommendations compiled for the New York State Open Space Plan.

North East: Panhandle Prime Soils Area 1,131 acres
North East/Amenia: Dutchess Dairy Heartland 7,223 acres
Amenia/Smithfield Valley 807 acres
Amenia: Oblong Valley 1,277 acres
Pine Plains: Pine Plains Prime Soil Area 2,757 acres
Pleasant Valley/Clinton: Salt Point Prime Soils 845 acres
Red Hook: Red Hook Breadbasket Area 3,096 acres

Total Acreage 17,136 acres

Source: Dutchess Land Trust
Land use 1979 Vs. 1994 for the Wappinger Watershed

1979 Land-Use Data

Agriculture
Forest
Residential
Other

Data Source: USGS

1994 Land-Use Data

Agriculture
Forest
Residential
Other

Data Source: DCEMC
Salt Point Prime Soils Area
Changing Landscapes

Salt Point Prime Soils
8. Sprout Creek
2. Dutchess Dairy Heartland
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Smith’s
Community Assistance Route 22 Corridor Town of Northeast
Route 22
Scenic/Agriculture Corridor Panhandle
Town of North East

- Prime Soils
- Statewide Important Soils
- Ag District Parcels
- Tax Parcels
2. Dutchess Dairy Heartland
Route 22 Scenic/Agriculture Corridor
SOUTHERN CORRIDOR

AERIAL PHOTO

AG DISTRICTS
Southern Corridor

- Prime Soils
- Statewide Important Soils
  - Ag District Parcels
  - Tax Parcels
Mission

To support communities, public officials, Districts in their efforts to protect local soil and water resources from unplanned municipal landuse impacts.

Community Conservation Assistance Toolkit (CCAT)
Challenge

Degradation of natural resources resulting from landuse development

– Degraded drinking water quality
– Erosion
– Stormwater runoff
– Habitat fragmentation
Challenge (Cont’d)

Although strides have been made to be more conscious of natural resources in planning, negative effects continue to arise as a result of ineffective *systems* planning.
Ecosystems provide us with a wide range of benefits and services that make our lives possible.

The degradation of the environment negatively impacts ecosystems’ ability to provide these services.

In turn, the health and wellbeing of communities and individuals is compromised.
Ecosystem Based Management (EBM)

New York State’s new initiative to integrate knowledge amongst sectors to better coordinate planning and improve the health of local ecosystems.

EBM focuses on how natural systems are impacted by human activities, and vice versa.
Ecosystem Based Management
Resource Planning
EBM Goals

• Lead to decisions based on a holistic understanding of ecosystems
• Place-based management
• Be adaptive and responsive to change
• Foster cooperation and coordination among sectors
EBM in Action

Given that most land use decisions are made at the local level, it is appropriate that change be pursued at a local scale.

*Soil and Water Conservation Districts* are positioned to play a pivotal role in assisting communities to implement EBM at the local level.
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