

Recommendations on Open Space Needs and Opportunities



PLANNING PROCESS



- Introduction
 - ❑ Recommendation of 2005 Comprehensive Plan
 - ❑ Farmland and Open Space Protection planning effort initiated February 2008
 - ❑ Town Board tasks DEDP with preparing Open Space Issues, Needs and Opportunities Assessment
 - ❑ Two components:
 - ❑ Open Space Protection
 - ❑ Agricultural and Farmland Protection
 - ❑ Farmland component funded with grant from NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets



PLANNING PROCESS

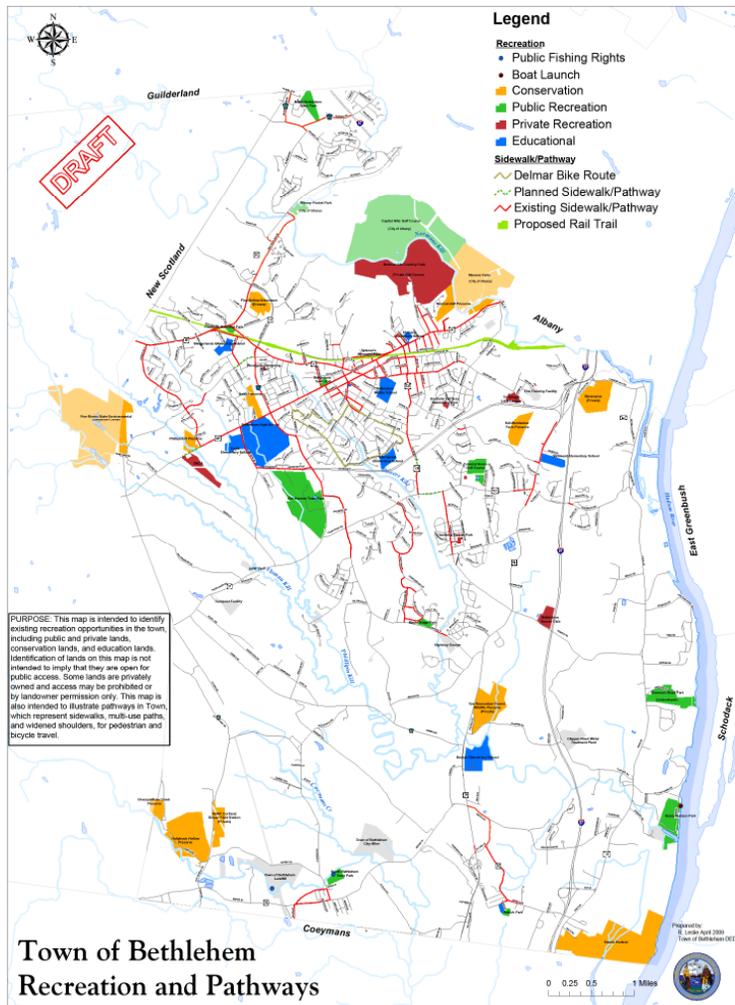


- Report Purpose
 - ❑ First phase in Town open space planning effort
 - ❑ Conduct assessment of issues, needs and opportunities
 - ❑ Establish a framework for open space planning

- Participants
 - ❑ Department of Economic Development and Planning
 - ❑ Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation
 - ❑ Behan Planning and Design
 - ❑ Town Residents



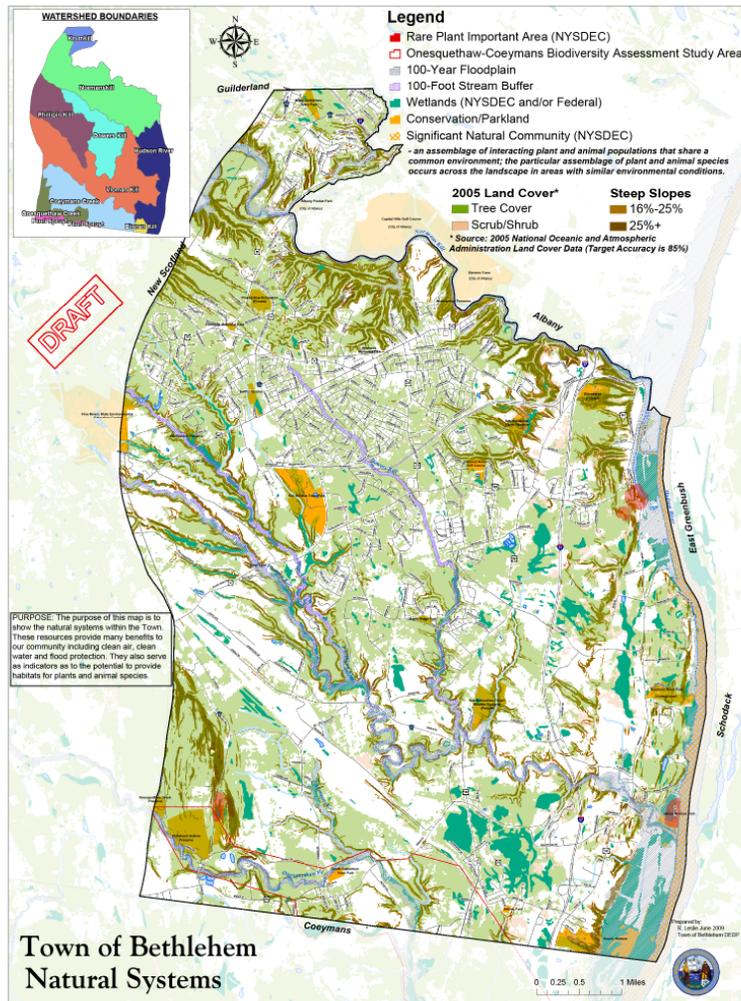
BETHLEHEM OPEN SPACE RESOURCES



- Recreation and Pathways
 - ❑ Public and Private Recreation
 - ❑ Conservation Lands
 - ❑ Education Lands
 - ❑ Pathways
 - ✦ Sidewalk
 - ✦ Shared-use path
 - ✦ Bicycle Lane
 - ✦ Striped/widened shoulder



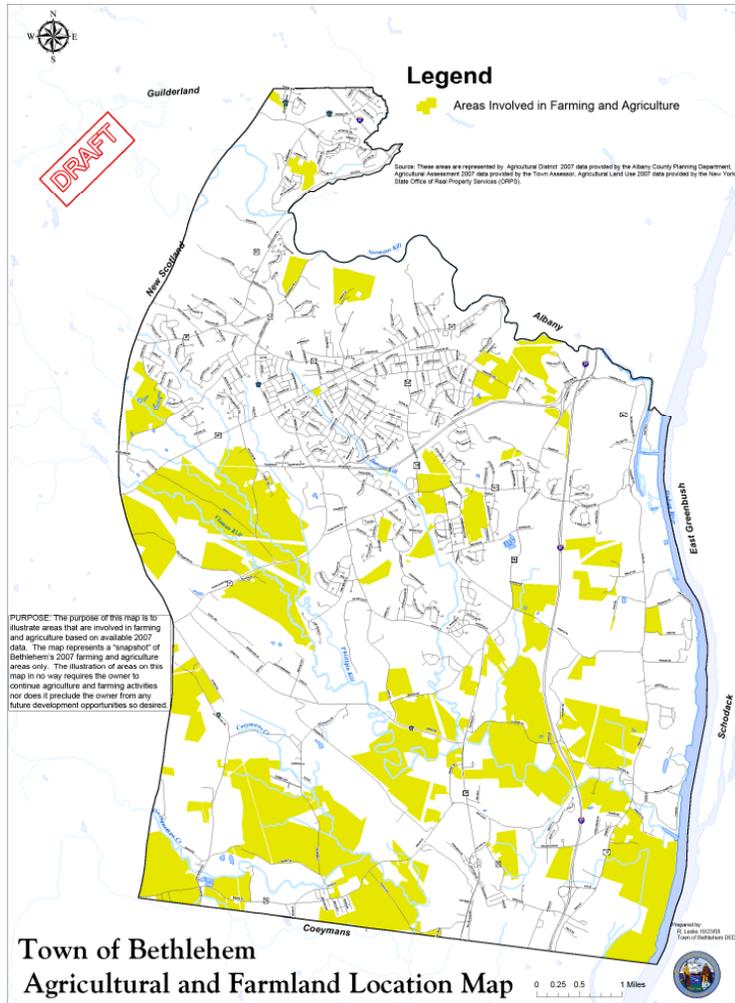
BETHLEHEM OPEN SPACE RESOURCES



- Natural Systems
 - Forest Cover
 - Wetlands
 - Surface water
 - Floodplains
 - Topography



BETHLEHEM OPEN SPACE RESOURCES



- Agriculture and Farmland
 - Agricultural Districts
 - Agricultural Assessment
 - NYS ORPS Parcel Data



PLANNING PROCESS



- Key Points
 - Voluntary participation
 - Willing landowners

- Key Definition
 - Willing Landowner – a property owner who voluntarily decides to participate in a program related to open space protection or preservation and/or one who gives approval for his/her property to be included in the implementation of such a program or to have action taken thereon.



RECOMMENDATIONS



Four Major Actions

- Open Space in Development
- Connections to Nature and Other Places
- Land Conservation
- Open Space Financing



RECOMMENDATIONS – SHORT TERM

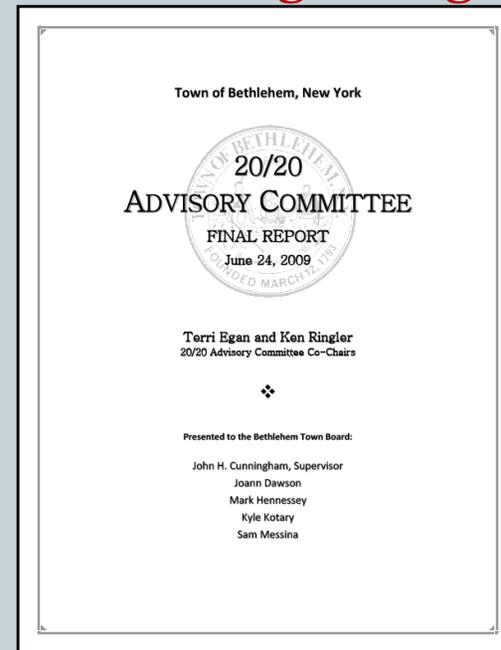


- Pathways Committee
 - ▣ PaTHs 4 Bethlehem (Pathways to Hamlets, Homes, and Healthy Hearts)
- Develop Land Feature Criteria to Rate Preservation Opportunities
- Survey Residents



RECOMMENDATIONS – SHORT TERM

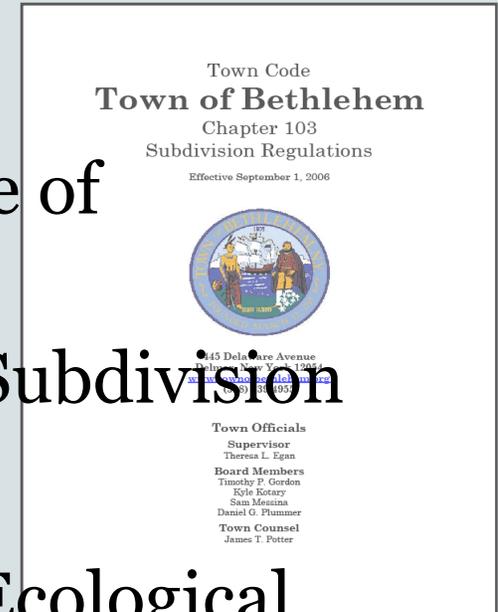
- Strengthen Town Code
 - ❑ Consult Town Police Department
 - ❑ Explore ways to provide assistance with property encroachment
 - ❑ Prepare informational brochures and articles regarding trespassing and encroachment
- Consider Open Space Benefits of Tax Sharing



RECOMMENDATIONS – MEDIUM TERM



- Develop Amenity Zoning for Open Space
- Research and Explore the Development of a Term Conservation Easement Program
- Explore the Development of a Purchase of Development Rights Program
- Update Town Code and Conservation Subdivision Regulations
- Prioritize Study Areas and Document Ecological Resources



RECOMMENDATIONS – LONG TERM



- Consider Developing a Community Gardens Program
- Sponsor/Support a Landowner Forum
- Explore the Development of an Open Space Education series
- Enhanced Tree Planting Along Public Rights-of-Way



RECOMMENDATIONS - ONGOING



- Consider Green with Grey
 - Leverage Town Investment



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

