INFORMATION FOR
NATURAL RESOURCE
INVENTORY
City of Saratoga Springs, New York

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We sincerely thank Professor Marcia Kees for her guidance, encouragement and playing an instrumental role in carrying out this project.
APLN 681 Studio

MASTER OF REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

The 48-credit, two-year Master in Urban and Regional Planning (MRP) degree program at the University at Albany was established in 1982 and is fully accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board, the sole national accrediting body for planning. The MRP program is interdisciplinary, student-centered and participative, emphasizing the importance of creativity, public involvement, social justice, professional ethics, and environmental sustainability. With a strong orientation towards professional practice, an MRP provides a thorough foundation in land use planning, a range of technical skills and internship opportunities, and the opportunity to specialize in one of three specializations:

- **Environmental and Land Use Planning**
- **Community Planning**
- **Transportation Planning**

Alumni of the MRP program include university faculty, professional consultants, PhD students, and professional planners practicing in several regions of the United States and many foreign countries. Near the end of the degree program, students participate in the MRP Planning Studio, which provides them with an opportunity to work as a collaborative team, to apply the skills and knowledge obtained during their degree program to a real-world project.
FALL 2018 STUDIO PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The fall 2018 MRP Planning Studio aided Saratoga Springs and the City’s Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC), LaBella Associates, as well as local stakeholders and constituents, through their ongoing process of compiling and completing a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). The class met on scheduled dates, once a week, every Tuesday for three hours from 4:15 PM to 7:15 PM in the Arts and Sciences building on the uptown SUNY Albany Campus. The Studio also frequently devoted hours outside of the scheduled class to research and develop their deliverables for the City of Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory.

THE CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS IN CONTEXT

The City of Saratoga Springs is a one-of-a-kind place. It is distinctive in the sense that the history and name of the City is based on a unique natural resource within the city; mineral springs. Since its settlement in the early 19th century, the mineral springs have helped formed the identity of Saratoga Springs, amongst the many other special characteristics that have developed over time. In an effort to strike a balance between the urban core (which has continually been growing) and its rural setting, the City set forth a “City in the Country” vision in its 1994 and 2002 Open Space plans.

The “City in the Country” vision is an effort to maintain and work toward a harmonious relationship between its rural and urban community character. According to the 2002 Open Space Resources Plan, “Much of the most easily buildable land in the outer district has already been developed. Opportunities for protecting natural resources and conserving some of the open spaces that contribute to the unique character of Saratoga Springs are fast disappearing.” ¹

Luckily for Saratoga Springs, it is located in a state where they put precedent and importance behind the preservation of open space through the use of conservation easements. Conservation easements are a vital tool, granted by New York State enabling law, for municipalities to use to conserve open space that is considered pivotal to local community character.

The City of Saratoga Springs received grant funding through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to complete a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). The NRI

will provide a strong foundation for informed land use planning and decision making in the City of Saratoga Springs. The NRI will serve as the basis for establishing conservation priorities; for identifying parcels of interest for the City to preserve to assist in sustaining the health and vitality of Saratoga Springs; and for assembling scientific information that can be utilized for zoning revisions, updates to the Open Space Plan, and for future climate resiliency planning. The NRI can also guide the City’s understanding of land stewardship for parcels previously purchased with Open Space Bond Funds. The City’s 1994 and 2002 Open Space Plans, 2015 Comprehensive Plan, 2013 Urban and Community Forestry Master Plan, Working Plan for Historic Preservation in Saratoga Springs, and the Parks Master Plan (ongoing) support this framework.

Figure 1: Map Showing Location of the City of Saratoga Springs

Map Retrieved from https://www.bestplaces.net/city/new_york/saratoga_springs

WHAT IS A NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY?

A natural resource inventory (NRI) compiles and describes important, naturally occurring resources within a given locality (e.g., municipality, watershed, or region). Cultural resources, such as historic, scenic, and recreational resources, are often included in a Natural Resource Inventory as well.
A Natural Resource Inventory has two basic purposes:

1) To provide the building blocks for comprehensive land-use and conservation planning, and
2) To allow natural resource information to be included in local planning and zoning.

The scope of the NRI is determined by the city. At its simplest, an NRI is the compilation and description of existing natural resources data. At its most complex, it includes detailed analysis of resources or new data collected specifically for the inventory. An NRI is not a static document. As new and revised data become available, the inventory should be updated to insure its completeness and accuracy.²

**COURSE METHODOLOGY**

This Studio project consisted of two main components. In the early portion of the semester, Studio members conducted 19 stakeholder interviews and compiled a summary of common themes derived from the interviews. The methodology for the stakeholder interviews and common themes is documented in Part 2 of this report. In the latter portion of the semester, Studio members chose topics to research that supported the City’s multi-faceted NRI project. The results of the stakeholder interviews factored into the decisions on which topics should be researched. These topics are described in Part 1 of this report and include: best practice for pocket pocks, conservation easements, mineral springs, and scenic viewsheds. These topics have different aspects, so the methodology varied depending on the topic. The section about each topic describes the methodology, if one was necessary.

Tina Carton and the members of the Open Space Advisory Committee:

- provided the stakeholder names and contact information for the interviews;
- reviewed and approved the questions that the stakeholders were asked;
- approved the four individual research topics, in consultation with LaBella Associates, based on how the topics would integrate with, and support, the City’s NRI project.

² [https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/100925.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/100925.html)
Part 1:  
BEST PRACTICES FOR POCKET PARKS 

BACKGROUND INFORMATION 

The 1994 Open Space Plan for the City of Saratoga Springs, and the 2002 Updated Open Space Resources Plan, included a policy recommendation to “Encourage further development of small neighborhood parks.”³ This was noted and became one of the focal points of this report. This choice was made because, after conducting the stakeholder interviews for the Natural Resource Inventory, many stakeholder responses focused on pocket parks. To best reflect this input in the report, the term “pocket parks” is used instead of “neighborhood parks.” 

For clarification purposes, the definitions for both pocket parks and neighborhood parks are included here. These definitions are currently being used by professional park organizations. According to the National Recreation and Parks Association,⁴ a pocket park is a small outdoor space, usually no more than ¼ of an acre, usually only a few, house lots in size or smaller, most often located in an urban area surrounded by commercial buildings or houses on small lots with few places for people to gather, relax, or to enjoy the outdoors. Pocket parks are urban open spaces on a small-scale and provide a safe and inviting environment for surrounding community members. They also meet a variety of needs and functions, including small event space, play areas for children, spaces for relaxing or meeting friends or taking lunch breaks. Pocket parks are sometimes known as mini parks, parklets, or vest-pocket parks, a term that first came into use in the 1960s. As the Cultural Landscape Foundation states, neighborhood parks incorporate elements common to both small active parks and large parks. Defined less by their size, which ranges anywhere from ten or twenty acres to upwards of one hundred acres or more, these parks were built within existing neighborhoods, often taking advantage of challenging

⁴https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/f768428a39aa4035ae55b2aaff372617/pocket-parks.pdf
sites with dramatic topography or steep terrain. As in large parks, neighborhood parks incorporate such planning features as planted perimeters, established views, and, to the extent size allowed, open spaces. Similar to smaller, more active parks, they may hold numerous spaces for organized activities, such as tennis courts, golf courses, and baseball fields.

Communities can be resourceful when looking for places to create a pocket park: a vacant lot or dilapidated house, a foreclosed property, an abandoned alleyway, a rooftop, public land where roads intersect. These leftover spaces and urban eyesores are good candidates, essentially any unused space could be considered. Pocket parks occupy a wide variety of urban spaces. They are primarily developed on vacant or irregular pieces of land. For example, private developments often end up with odd parcel pieces that are not developable for the commercial or residential project. Land can be acquired through a variety of methods. In some situations, developers donate or deed these “leftovers” to the municipality to remove the square footage from their tax liability.

The local community should transform a pocket parks into a local amenity in a way that responds to local needs. These types of parks provide inviting public spaces for all people to enjoy and provide relief from busy modern life. “These open spaces create structure, splendor, and value for cities and neighborhoods” (APA, 2015). Each pocket park is unique and is designed to fit local needs and constraints.

In the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation research brief *Pocket Parks*, it states, “Pocket parks differ from neighborhood or community-scale parks in that they are not intended to serve as a destination for an entire community. They usually have specific users in mind and may provide one or more of the following benefits:

- Improve run-down areas.
- Make communities safer and more sociable.
- Reduce pollution and traffic.
- Protect and conserve local wildlife, landscape, and heritage.
- Transform otherwise underused real estate.
- Improve fitness and health.

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5 https://tclf.org/category/designed-landscape-types/public-park/neighborhood-park
• Turn residents into community decision-makers.”

Figure 2: Jefferson Market Garden, New York, NY


CASE STUDIES

This section presents two case studies to look at different approaches the City of Saratoga Springs might explore to create pocket parks in the city.

Case Study 1

Cobb County, Georgia

This first case study that was examined was from Cobb County, Georgia. This county has defined pocket parks and created a policy and a methodology for evaluating and developing pocket parks. Having a solid methodology lends credibility to the process that is being used when evaluating and developing pocket parks. One must have confidence that the policy and the results of the research are internally and externally valid to place faith in them. Moreover, political backing and community support will be more forthcoming if an accepted methodology is used.
This City of Saratoga Springs can refer to Cobb County, Georgia as an example for how they could strategize the types of methods that could be used when the City is considering the acquisition of land for pockets parks in the city. The Cobb County, Georgia pocket park policy and criteria, are described below.

**Pocket Park Policy**

I. **Purpose**
To provide a definition of and a method of evaluating and developing “pocket parks” in Cobb County, Georgia.

II. **Definition**
Pocket Parks are intended to meet the recreational needs of residents within approximately one-half mile. They are generally less than 50,000 square feet with no minimum size and vehicular parking is not provided. Pocket parks may include such elements as small-scale play equipment, public gardens, seating areas, passive open space, landscaped areas, important natural features such as creeks, trees, etc.

III. **Background**
The Cobb County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department (PRCAD) is charged with providing public facilities and lands for residents to carry out their recreational activities. The County currently has parks varying in size in all areas of the county and since its creation PRCAD has placed an emphasis on the development of community and regional sized parks. However, with the increased residential and commercial development and the diminishing amount of affordable large tracts of land, it is necessary to address neighborhood needs by providing smaller parks commonly referred to as “pocket parks.” These smaller parks are intended to supplement the larger community and regional parks to offer convenient, passive recreation opportunities.

**Criteria for Pocket Park Development**
The following list of questions was developed to determine if a specific piece of property should be considered for development into a pocket park:

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1. What is the benefit to the public from the proposed pocket park?
   a. Are there important natural features such as trees, water resources or habitat to be preserved?
   b. Are there important historic resources to be featured or preserved?
   c. Will the park provide uses for a population without alternative sites?
   d. How wide of an area will be served by the park? Will it be used by more than just a few neighbors?

2. What is the proposed use of the park? Will the park be perceived as open and inviting to the general public? Will the park be compatible with surrounding uses?

3. To what extent has the neighborhood demonstrated a commitment to assist with the park?
   a. Initial acquisition?
   b. Development, including equipment, furniture, plantings, and labor?
   c. Long term maintenance?
   d. Is a “Friend of the Park” organization proposed?

4. How available is the land for the park? (Other than the cost)
   a. Is it already in public ownership?
   b. If not in public ownership, is the owner willing to sell it?
   c. If not for sale, is the owner willing to donate it, grant a permanent easement on it, or lease it to the county? Will the park be available in perpetuity and, if not, how practical will it be to convert the park to private use at the end of that time?

5. To what degree does the proposed pocket park garner support from the neighborhood to acquire and develop the park, and is there agreement about the specific type of use? Is there a known dissenting view?
6. Is there a need for a pocket park or additional pocket parks in the geographical area of the county where the proposed site is located? Are there other public recreational amenities available in the immediate vicinity?

7. Are there sufficient maintenance resources available to maintain the park or will additional personnel/equipment be needed to maintain the pocket park?

After considering the answers to all of the above questions and a site visit, staff will make a recommendation to the Recreation Board at one of their monthly meetings. Based on feedback from the Recreation Board, staff will present the proposed park to County management and the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

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**Case Study 2**

**City of Visalia, California**

The second case study is from the City of Visalia, California. The City of Visalia has developed standards for pocket park development in terms of design and location. They have also outlined the requirements for a pocket park. The requirements are established with a basis of mutual understanding between the city and community. Having requirements and standards ensures that services and methods are appropriate for their intended use.
POCKET PARK DEVELOPMENT STANDARD

Adopted by Visalia City Council on February 7, 2005

Definition: A pocket park is the smallest park classification within the City and should be considered as a way to provide recreation or open space needs distinctive from other types of park needs such as regional, community or neighborhood parks. The primary purpose of a pocket park is to offer a small open-space/recreational venue of a more passive or intimate nature, internal to a specific residential development(s), whether single-family or multiple-family. Pocket parks are not intended to serve residents city-wide, as would a neighborhood or community park offering more formalized active play areas or sport fields or courts. Instead, pocket parks, due to their small size are intended to be more liberally sprinkled throughout the community and serve residents within or adjacent to a planned residential development. In a pocket park scheme, shade is important, as well as easy visibility from residences or other uses across adjoining streets to assure a more secure environment. Pocket parks should provide a strong emphasis on quiet, passive use, such as picnic and sitting areas, and should therefore be easily accessible by foot or bicycle and spaced much closer together than say neighborhood parks. Pocket parks may be considered as an alternative to or replacement of a neighborhood park only where providing a typical neighborhood park is impractical or not achievable.

Size: ½ to 1 acre, except where a smaller “niche” park for protection or preservation of an oak tree or other natural feature may be desirable.

Service Area: Approximately ¼ mile radius.

Population Served: Resident population of approximately 500-1000 persons.

Location/Orientation:

- Centrally located within the residential/mixed-use development and/or easily accessed by residents or workers, without the use of vehicles, generally within 5 - 10 minutes
- Frontage required on one, but preferred on two or more local streets.
- Visible from residents/businesses facing or siding, but not backing to, the park.
- Minimum street frontage of 100 feet.
• Consideration given in residential areas to use by and interests of the young children and the elderly.
• In business or commercial areas, corners or vacant lots may be desirable; unique situations involving road or railroad abandonments, or right-of-way reductions may present other opportunities.

Access: By foot or bicycle; should not require parking. Must be ADA accessible.

Parking: None required or desired.

Minimum Development Features:

• Turf and landscape plantings to promote shade over at least 25% of area.
• Support amenities such as benches (in shade and sun), bike racks, trash receptacles.

Optional Features:

• Gazebos or similar shade structures (may substitute for some plantings).
• Small playground and/or small-scale tot-lot equipment.
• Decorative architectural features, statues or water fountains, and picnic tables (if in a residential area, should be maintained by residents).
• Minimal signage and security lighting.

Financing: If the developer desires to include a pocket park as an aesthetic or passive open space amenity within and for the benefit of the subdivision/development, then funding the costs of construction and maintenance of the pocket park will be reimbursed through the formation of a Lighting and Landscaping District for the project site.

Implementation Policies

Land to be dedicated to the City for public park purpose by map.

Developer is responsible for the design and construction of the park. Design must meet City standards for park design and pocket park features.

A landscape, irrigation, utilities, and grading plan to be submitted for City review and approval prior to start of construction.
A detail cost estimate shall be submitted with the plan. Reimbursable costs include all park improvements including sidewalks, design costs, construction management, a contingency, and overhead (including bonding) as allowed by the City Engineer. Street improvements are not reimbursable.

A separate Landscape & Lighting District will be formed to finance the park improvements. The City will finance the park development over a 20-year term through a General Fund loan. Interest on the loan will be set at the prime rate. At the conclusion of the term the District will be dissolved. The City will provide an annual Lighting and Landscape District financial report for each District.

Reimbursement for development cost shall be on an actual cost basis and should not exceed the agreed upon cost estimate. Invoices with copies of check payment are acceptable proof for reimbursement. Payment will be made 6 months after notice of completion is issued. Maintenance of the park shall be the responsibility of the developer for a six-month period after the filing of a notice of completion for the subdivision.

This concludes the case study for the City of Visalia standards for pocket parks.

**TYPICAL DESIGN FEATURES AND/OR ELEMENTS**

According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), successful pocket parks have four key qualities: they are accessible; they allow people to engage in activities; they are comfortable spaces and have a good image; and finally, they are sociable places; one where people meet each other and take people to when they come to visit. There are many ways you can achieve a pocket park that will best suit your community and/or neighborhood. The items listed below are common features and elements that are found in the majority of pocket parks. These elements and features could potentially suit the goal of creating the best pocket parks for the City of Saratoga Springs.

- **Small Size:** Pocket parks tend to between 1-3 lots in size, with a tendency to be larger on the west coast than on the east. The largest pocket park is usually no more than two acres.
• Uses/Functions: Small events, especially neighborhood events, relaxation, lunch breaks, play, both individual and group, getting in touch with the surrounding nature are the most common uses.

• Service Area: The park should be in a ¼ mile radius from the population it is serving. Following the Trust for Public Land “10-minute” walk campaign, studies have shown that few mini-park users will walk more than four blocks, and most will come from a one-to-two-block radius. The design of a pocket park should attempt to serve the needs of the immediate local community.

• Seasonal Use: Pocket parks should be appropriately sited and arranged so as to respond to the local weather, thereby encouraging use. Since the east coast has four major seasons, the park should be able to accommodate use during all seasons.

• User Needs: Accommodate as many different users as possible, according to neighborhood needs. Be careful, however, not to pack too many uses into such a small space that conflicts arise.

• Visibility: Pocket parks should be visible from the street.

• No fossil fuel maintenance: This policy will help with the preservation of natural resources and minimize operational costs.

• Universal Access: Since parking may or may not be provided, the parks should be accessible by both foot and bike and should not require the use of a car. This will encourage biking and walking along scenic view sheds/vistas, along trails, and in general.

• Population Served: Each park should serve a resident population of approximately 500 to 1000 people.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Funding is crucial for having a comprehensive network of pocket parks in a community. Most pocket parks fail because of the lack of funding. Funding is used for the maintenance and design of the park, staffing, equipment, programming, and purchasing of land, amongst other things. Often these spaces are created through a combination of public and private funding, which balances the financial burden of a pocket park. These
parks are often owned by the municipality, with a partnership agreement with a foundation or other organization to assist the community. There are several possible funding sources for the development of pocket parks. One national source is The Trust for Public Land. This is a non-profit, land conservation organization that creates parks and protects land for people, helping to ensure healthy, livable communities for generations to come⁷.

At the local level, public-private ventures, individual contributions, and philanthropic support are often sought to fund start-up and equipment costs. While some parks are financed almost entirely with private funds, many are typically financed by a combination of funding sources.

Parks & Trails New York provides a list of funding opportunities categorized as follows:

1. Government grants
2. New York State Consolidated Funding Application
3. Non-Governmental Grants
4. Other funding/assistance

The city may be able to secure these funding opportunities if the city applies and meets the criteria of said funding program. Keep in mind that funding opportunities are subject to change in terms of availability and requirements.

**CITY PARKS OUTLOOK**

The following analysis was done to illustrate how the City of Saratoga Spring compares to the park metrics provided by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Seeing how the community compares to a national applied metric may help the City of Saratoga Springs gain some perspective regarding the possible development of future parks.

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⁷ [https://www.tpl.org/about#sm.00ls9ayp1bgsebe110i2bi0z2s0kx](https://www.tpl.org/about#sm.00ls9ayp1bgsebe110i2bi0z2s0kx)
The National Recreation and Park Association provides one park metric that states the

typical park and recreation agency in a community offers one park for every 2,114 residents served.\(^8\) Data from the *City of Saratoga Springs Recreational Master Plan Findings Presentation (October 4, 2018)*,\(^9\) was used to see how the City of Saratoga Springs compares to this NRPA park metric. According to the *City of Saratoga Springs Recreational Master Plan Findings Presentation (October 4, 2018)*, the Saratoga Springs Recreation Department oversees the following park and recreation amenities:

- 8 Parks/Facilities
- 122 acres
- 104,000 sf of Indoor Recreation Space
- 21 Athletic Fields
- 13 Tennis Courts
- 7 Full and 2 Half-Court Basketball Courts
- 5 Playgrounds

This Studio Report chose to define “parks” to include only the 8 parks/facilities and the 5 playgrounds on the above list, for a total of 13 parks. While it could be argued that the other types of facilities on the above list provide open space and/or recreational amenities, they have not traditionally been defined as parks and were not included in this analysis.

**Assumptions:**
The NRPA standard = 1 park for every 2,114 residents served.
The City of Saratoga Springs has 13 parks.
The City of Saratoga Springs has a population of 27,447 residents.

**Explanation of Calculation:**
\[
\frac{27,447 \text{ (Saratoga Springs population)}}{2,114 \text{ (NRPA population)}} = 12.9 \text{ parks the city should provide based on the NRPA park metric.}
\]

**Results:**
This calculation indicates that the City of Saratoga Springs, with 13 parks, slightly exceeds the 12.9 parks that the city should provide based on the NRPA standard.

\(^8\) [https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/ParkMetrics/](https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/ParkMetrics/)
The National Recreation and Park Association uses a second park metric to assess city-wide park resources. This metric states that the typical park and recreation agency in a community should offer 10.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

To compare Saratoga Springs to this metric, data was drawn from two sources. According to The City of Saratoga Springs Request for Proposals for a Recreation Master Plan (July 25, 2017. p. 7),¹⁰ city-owned parks and facilities total approximately 116 acres, and city-leased parks total approximately 28 acres, for a combined total of 144 acres. Also, according to the City of Saratoga Springs Recreational Master Plan Findings Presentation (October 4, 2018), the City of Saratoga Springs has a population of 27,447.

Assumptions
The NRPA standard = 10.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
The City of Saratoga Springs has a population of 27,447.
The City of Saratoga Springs has city owned parks and facilities totaling 116 acres, and city-leased parks totaling 28 acres, for a combined total of 144 acres.

Calculation:

\[
\frac{10.1}{1,000} = \frac{x}{27,447}
\]

\[
1,000x/1,000 = 277,215/1,000 = 277.21\text{ acres}*
\]

Results:
This calculation indicates that the City of Saratoga Springs, should have 277.21 acres of parkland when, in fact, they have 144 acres of city-owned and city-leased parks and facilities.

*It should be noted, however, that when the Saratoga Spa State Park acreage of 2,002 acres is included in this analysis, the total park acreage in Saratoga Springs increases to 2,146. If the Saratoga Spa State Park acreage is included, then the City of Saratoga Springs exceeds the metric provided by the National Recreation and Park Association.

The map in Figure 3 depicts the City of Saratoga Springs Public Open Spaces. This map includes open spaces that allow access to the public. Some open space land and facilities were not included because they are not public. By providing a broad visual representation of where there are public open spaces in the city, this map may assist with the placement of new pocket parks.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. City consultants, LaBella Associates, are documenting vacant land in the city and this could be used as a way of identifying potential land for pocket parks. It could also be extended to include an inventory of the city’s green, park, and recreational spaces.
2. A grassroots approach, as seen in the Cobb County, Georgia case study, could be a good step for the city when developing pocket parks. The neighborhood where the pocket park will be located is a key player in the maintenance of the park. If community members are involved in the development process of a pocket park and agree to voluntarily assist in maintaining the pocket park, the burden of maintenance cost may be less to the City.

3. The city may want to establish a committee to provide input on the acquisition and development of pocket parks.

4. The city should have a system, policy and/or criteria for how to acquire, develop, and maintain land for pocket parks, as shown in the Cobb County, Georgia case study.

5. The city could align itself with The Trust for Public Land “10-minute walk” campaign. The Trust for Public Land “10-minute walk” campaign has established the ambitious goal that all people should have a quality park or green space within a 10-minute walk (or half-mile) of home. The Trust for Public Land has successfully created “National Walk to a Park Day,” which is October 10th. The Trust for Public Land’s ParkServe database\(^\text{11}\) contains detailed information about selected local park systems. This database provides the total number and location of all parks within a city’s limits, the percentage of residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park, and how that compares to a national average. In addition to reporting data for 14,000 municipalities, \(\text{www.parkserve.tpl.org}\) lets users sort information by demographic factors, such as income, ethnicity, and age. This analysis helps measure park equity and identifies ways to fix inequities.\(^\text{12}\) This participation with the “10-minute walk” campaign could be a good tool to assist in the development of pocket parks in the City of Saratoga Springs.

6. To maximize the development of pocket parks the City could institute pocket parks as a requirement for developers.

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\(^{11}\) [https://www.tpl.org/media-room/trust-public-land-announces-national-walk-park-day-will-debut-october-10#sm.0002kbp0135ycqiuvz1jwfde0mp](https://www.tpl.org/media-room/trust-public-land-announces-national-walk-park-day-will-debut-october-10#sm.0002kbp0135ycqiuvz1jwfde0mp)

\(^{12}\) [www.parkserve.tpl.org](www.parkserve.tpl.org)
New York State enabling law grants permission to local governments to adopt local laws; this includes incentive zoning, as shown below.

**NEW YORK STATE ENABLING LAW:**

§ 81-d. Incentive zoning; definitions, purposes, conditions, procedures.\(^{13}\)

Section 1. Definitions. As used in this section:

(a) "Incentives or bonuses" shall mean adjustments to the permissible population density, area, height, open space, use, or other provisions of a zoning ordinance, local law, or regulation for a specific purpose authorized by the legislative body of a city.
(b) "Community benefits or amenities" shall mean open space, housing for persons of low or moderate income, parks, elder care, day care, or other specific physical, social, or cultural amenities, or cash in lieu thereof, of benefit to the residents of the community authorized by the legislative body of a city.
(c) "Incentive zoning" shall mean the system by which specific incentives or bonuses are granted, pursuant to this section, on condition that specific physical, social, or cultural benefits or amenities would inure to the community.

Section 2- Authority and purposes.

In addition to existing powers and authorities to regulate by planning or zoning, including authorization to provide for the granting of incentives, or bonuses pursuant to other enabling law, a legislative body of a city is hereby empowered, as part of a zoning ordinance, local law or regulation, to provide for a system of zoning incentives, or bonuses, as the legislative body deems necessary and appropriate, consistent with the purposes and conditions set forth in this section. The purpose of the system of incentive or bonus zoning shall be to advance the city's specific physical, cultural and social policies in accordance with the city's comprehensive plan and in coordination with other community planning mechanisms or land use techniques. The system of zoning incentives or bonuses shall be in accordance with a locally-adopted comprehensive plan.

The City of Saratoga Springs has been proactive in adopting laws in accordance with these aspects of the New York State enabling law, which is reflected in the City of Saratoga Springs Zoning Ordinance, Section 4.3.3. The City may, however, wish to explore revising the zoning ordinance to be more inclusive of a variety of types of parkland. It may also want to broaden the language in Section 4.3.3. so that it does not only apply to subdivisions.

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City of Saratoga Springs Zoning Ordinance:  
Section 4.3.3 Permitted Incentive

“The Planning Board, upon issuance of Subdivision approval, may grant up to a 20% density bonus in addition to the maximum permitted density of the underlying district if the project establishes public recreation benefits and/or affordable housing acceptable to the Planning Board.”

Conservation Easements

The purpose of this section was to collect and inventory the conservation easements in Saratoga Springs, so all relevant information can be accessed in one location, and to provide the opportunity to conduct analysis on the existing data.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

Definitions and enabling law are provided here, to set the context and augment understanding of the use of conservation easements. The first definition is from the City of Saratoga Springs Zoning Ordinance, followed by the New York State enabling legislation as defined in Environmental Conservation Law.

“A perpetual restriction on the use of land, created in accordance with the provisions of Section 49, Title 3 of the Environmental Conservation Law or Section 247 of the General Municipal Law, for the purposes of conservation of open space, agricultural land, and natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources.”

New York State Environmental Conservation Law Section 49, Title 3

“The legislature hereby finds and declares that in order to implement the state policy of conserving, preserving and protecting its environmental assets and natural and man-made resources, the preservation of open spaces, the preservation, development and improvement of agricultural and forest lands, the preservation of areas which are significant because of their scenic or natural beauty or wetland, shoreline, geological or...

ecological, including old-growth forest, character, and the preservation of areas which are significant because of their historical, archaeological, architectural or cultural amenities, is fundamental to the maintenance, enhancement and improvement of recreational opportunities, tourism, community attractiveness, balanced economic growth and the quality of life in all areas of the state.”- ECL - ENV § 49-0301. Declaration of policy and statement of purpose\textsuperscript{16}

**New York State General Municipal Law GMU §247 – Acquisition of Open Spaces and Areas**

**2.4.a Section 1**

An “open space” or “open area” is any space or area characterized by (1) natural scenic beauty or, (2) whose existing openness, natural condition, or present state of use, if retained, would enhance the present or potential value of abutting or surrounding urban development, or would maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources. For purposes of this section natural resources shall include but not be limited to agricultural lands defined as open lands actually used in bona fide agricultural production.\textsuperscript{17}

**2.4.b Section 2**

The acquisition of interests or rights in real property for the preservation of open spaces and areas shall constitute a public purpose for which public funds may be expended or advanced, and any county, city, town or village after due notice and a public hearing may acquire, by purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise, lease or otherwise, the fee or any lesser interest, development right, easement, covenant, or other contractual right necessary to achieve the purposes of this chapter, to land within such municipality. \textsuperscript{18}

**2.4.c Section 3**

After acquisition of any such interest pursuant to this act the valuation placed on such an open space or area for purposes of real estate taxation shall take into account and be limited by the limitation on future use of the land.\textsuperscript{19}

\textsuperscript{17} Retrieved from https://codes.findlaw.com/ny/general-municipal-law/gmu-sect-247.html
\textsuperscript{18} Retrieved from https://codes.findlaw.com/ny/general-municipal-law/gmu-sect-247.html
\textsuperscript{19} Retrieved from https://codes.findlaw.com/ny/general-municipal-law/gmu-sect-247.html
2.3.d Section 4

For purposes of this section, any interest acquired pursuant to this section is hereby enforceable by and against the original parties and the successors in interest, heirs and assigns of the original parties, provided that a record of such acquisition is filed in the manner provided by section two hundred ninety-one of the real property law. Such enforceability shall not be defeated because of any subsequent adverse possession, laches, estoppel, waiver, change in character of the surrounding neighborhood or any rule of common law. 20

New York State Environmental Conservation Law: env §49-0307:
Procedures for modifying or extinguishing Conservation Easements

Section 1: Held by a Not-For-Profit

A conservation easement held by a not-for-profit conservation organization may only be modified or extinguished:
(A) As provided in the instrument creating the easement; or
(B) In a proceeding pursuant to section nineteen hundred fifty-one of the real property actions and proceedings law; or
(C) Upon the exercise of the power of eminent domain. 21

Section 2: Held by a Public Body outside Adirondack or Catskill Park

A conservation easement held by a public body outside the Adirondack park or Catskill park as defined in section 9-0101 of this chapter, may only be modified or extinguished:
(A) As provided in the instrument creating the easement;
(B) In a proceeding pursuant to section nineteen hundred fifty-one of the real property actions and proceedings law; or
(C) Upon the exercise of the power of eminent domain; or
(D) Where land subject to a conservation easement or an interest in such land is required for a major utility transmission facility which has received a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need pursuant to article seven of the public service law or is required for a major steam electric generating facility which has received a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need pursuant to article eight of the public service law, upon the filing of such certificate in a manner prescribed for recording a conveyance of real property. 22

Section 3: Held by a Public Body inside Adirondack or Catskill Park

A conservation easement held by a public body inside the Adirondack park or the Catskill park, as defined in section 9-0101 of this chapter, may be modified or extinguished:

(A) As provided in the instrument creating the easement; or
(B) Upon the exercise of the power of eminent domain; or
(C) Unless such easement is held by the state, in a proceeding pursuant to section nineteen hundred fifty-one of the real property actions and proceedings law; or
(D) Where such easement is held by the state, upon a determination by the commissioner, after a non-adjudicatory public hearing, at which the public shall be given opportunity to be heard, that the easement can no longer substantially accomplish its original purposes or any of the purposes set forth in section 49-0301 of this title. Notice of any such hearing shall be given to the public pursuant to thirty days published notice in the state register, the environmental notice bulletin and in a newspaper having general circulation in the county where the real property burdened by the easement is situated and individual notice shall be given in writing to any person who may be entitled to enforce such easement pursuant to subdivision five of section 49-0305 of this title at such address as such person shall file with the commissioner; or
(E) Where land subject to a conservation easement or an interest in such land is required for a major utility transmission facility which has received a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need pursuant to article seven of the public service law or is required for a major steam electric generating facility which has received a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need pursuant to the former article eight of the public service law, or a major electric generating facility or repowering project which has received a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need pursuant to article ten of the public service law, upon the filing of such certificate in a manner prescribed for recording a conveyance of real property pursuant to section two hundred ninety-one of the real property law or any other applicable provision of law, provided that such certificate contains a finding that the public interest in the conservation and protection of the natural resources, open spaces and scenic beauty of the Adirondack or Catskill parks has been considered.23

Section 4:

Where a conservation easement is modified or extinguished pursuant to paragraph (d) of subdivision two or paragraph (e) of subdivision three of this section, such easement shall be modified or extinguished only to the minimum extent necessary

to accommodate the facility which is the subject of the certificate of environmental compatibility and public need.\textsuperscript{24}

**Section 5:**

Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude the extinguishment or modification of a conservation easement pursuant to the applicable provisions of the federal natural gas act (15 U.S.C. §§717 – 717w).\textsuperscript{25}

**METHODOLOGY**

In order to collect and inventory all of the conservation easements for the City of Saratoga Springs, the Saratoga County Clerk’s office had to be accessed in order to research the parcels in question in the city. Saratoga County has an online database that is available to the public, following an application process and pre-authorization. After being granted access to Saratoga County’s online database, each conservation easement was then researched and logged, with all relevant information inventoried in an accessible Excel spreadsheet. This data is included in Figure 7.

**SARATOGA SPRINGS CONSERVATION EASEMENT FINDINGS**

The following data is the resulting information compiled from the Saratoga County database. Figure 4 includes a summary analysis of the conservation easements in Saratoga Springs. Figure 5 provides an excerpt from the conservation easement inventory spreadsheet depicting the two largest, and the smallest, conservation easements in Saratoga Springs. Figure 6 shows a list of the categories that are included in the conservation easement inventory spreadsheet. Figure 7 depicts the entire Conservation Easement spreadsheet itself with some information missing, highlighted in yellow, which will require further research and validation by Saratoga Springs. There is also information relating to the accessibility of the land, which could be included regarding specific details for each conservation easement, that will need further research and validation.

\textsuperscript{24} Retrieved from https://codes.findlaw.com/ny/environmental-conservation-law/env-sect-49-0307.html
Figure 4: Conservation Easement Findings

- Saratoga Springs Conservation Easements: 24
- Publicly Accessible: 11
- Privately Accessible: 13
- Total Conservation Easement Acreage: 808.45
- Saratoga Springs Acreage: 18,520
- Percent Conservation Easement Land Cover: 4.37%

Figure 5: Largest and Smallest Easements of Saratoga Springs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parcel</th>
<th>Grantee</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>% Total Easement</th>
<th>% Total City Cover</th>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pitney Meadows</td>
<td>Saratoga Springs</td>
<td>166.32</td>
<td>20.64%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>Farm</td>
<td>$1,130,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beaver Pond</td>
<td>NALT</td>
<td>154.3</td>
<td>19.15%</td>
<td>0.835%</td>
<td>Nature Space</td>
<td>$778,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Grove (Neumann)</td>
<td>Saratoga Springs</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>.253%</td>
<td>0.011%</td>
<td>Passive Recreation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

CONSERVATION EASEMENT INDEX AND INVENTORY

Figure 6: Index of Conservation Easements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parcel (pg. 27 - 34)</th>
<th>Parcel Tax ID (pg. 27)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Property Owner (pg. 28)</td>
<td>Location (pg. 29)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easement Grantee (pg. 29)</td>
<td>Note (pg. 30)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Date Filed (pg. 31)</td>
<td>Book/Page (pg. 31)</td>
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<td>Acreage (pg. 31)</td>
<td>Percent Easements (pg. 32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Total Land Cover (pg. 32)</td>
<td>Public/Private Access (pg. 33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetual/Not (pg. 33)</td>
<td>Amount (pg. 34)</td>
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<td>Property Type (pg. 34)</td>
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<td>177.-1-19.122</td>
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<td>Saratoga National Golf Club</td>
<td>179.-3-30, 79.-3-14.1</td>
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<td>Ironwood Stables</td>
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<td>Hickeys Corners</td>
<td>167.-1-70</td>
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<td>Ducas Property</td>
<td>167.-3-2.1</td>
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<td>Ruegg Property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paquet Property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regatta View</td>
<td>180.54-2-30/180.-2-59 (land abutting Fish Creek)/180.62-2-12 (land behind houses - 1.28 acres), 180.55-2-29 (Circle .42 acres)</td>
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<td>Pitney Meadows Community Farm</td>
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<td>Tomsargo Corp</td>
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<td>Ramsdill Park</td>
<td>Used for education, non-motorized, non-commercial recreation, habitat conservation, natural area and open space purposes only</td>
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<td>Rood and Riddle</td>
<td>On site plan map, wetland easement is denoted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buff Road Subdivision</td>
<td>For lands on the west side of Slade Creek, involving Lots No.? An easement will be conveyed to city of Saratoga Springs for open space upon “Demand of the city.” Easement to provide sufficient width to accommodate a multiuse trail along the west side of Slade Creek crossing Lots No.?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcel</td>
<td>Date Filed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitney Meadows Community Farm</td>
<td>12/26/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Pond</td>
<td>4/12/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saratoga National Golf Club</td>
<td>8/2/2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Ridge Subdivision</td>
<td>5/3/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floral Estates</td>
<td>9/16/2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ironwood Stables</td>
<td>8/25/1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickey's Corners</td>
<td>2/26/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ducas Property</td>
<td>1/4/1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excelsior Park</td>
<td>12/8/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernon Property</td>
<td>9/26/1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruegg Property</td>
<td>1/4/1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paquet Property</td>
<td>12/27/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regatta View</td>
<td>5/7/2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Acres</td>
<td>2/8/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosebrook Subdivision</td>
<td>12/26/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruggles Road</td>
<td>4/14/2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Pond - Karner Habitat</td>
<td>1/18/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Wind</td>
<td>12/12/2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waters Edge</td>
<td>4/17/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Lonely Boat Livery</td>
<td>8/16/2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Grove (Neumann)</td>
<td>12/17/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsdill Park</td>
<td>7/26/2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rood and Riddle</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buff Road Subdivision</td>
<td>10/25/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcel</td>
<td>% Total easements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitney Meadows Community Farm</td>
<td>20.639%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Pond</td>
<td>19.148%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saratoga National Golf Club</td>
<td>16.877%</td>
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<td>Oak Ridge Subdivision</td>
<td>8.773%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floral Estates</td>
<td>7.237%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ironwood Stables</td>
<td>5.119%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickeys Corners</td>
<td>4.106%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ducas Property</td>
<td>2.659%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excelsior Park</td>
<td>2.499%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernon Property</td>
<td>2.358%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruegg Property</td>
<td>1.216%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paquet Property</td>
<td>0.931%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regatta View</td>
<td>0.843%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Acres</td>
<td>0.773%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosebrook Subdivision</td>
<td>0.658%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruggles Road</td>
<td>0.620%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Pond - Karner Habitat</td>
<td>0.509%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Wind</td>
<td>0.490%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waters Edge</td>
<td>0.378%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Lonely Boat Livery</td>
<td>0.295%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Grove (Neumann)</td>
<td>0.253%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsdill Park</td>
<td>3.617%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rood and Riddle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buff Road Subdivision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcel</td>
<td>Public/Private Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitney Meadows Community Farm</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Pond</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saratoga National Golf Club</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Ridge Subdivision</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floral Estates</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ironwood Stables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickey's Corners</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ducas Property</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excelsior Park</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernon Property</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruegg Property</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paquet Property</strong></td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regatta View</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Acres</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosebrook Subdivision</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruggles Road</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Pond - Karner Habitat</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Wind</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waters Edge</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Lonely Boat Livery</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Grove (Neumann)</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsdill Park</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rood and Riddle</td>
<td>Private</td>
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<td>Buff Road Subdivision</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcel</td>
<td>Amount</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pitney Meadows Community Farm</td>
<td>$1,130,000.00</td>
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<td>Beaver Pond</td>
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<td>Saratoga National Golf Club</td>
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<td>Oak Ridge Subdivision</td>
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<td>Floral Estates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ironwood Stables</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hickeys Corners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ducas Property</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Excelsior Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernon Property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruegg Property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Paquet Property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regatta View</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Acres</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Rosebrook Subdivision</td>
<td>$3,250.00</td>
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<td>Ruggles Road</td>
<td>$730,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beaver Pond - Karner Habitat</td>
<td>$621,600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Wind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waters Edge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Lonely Boat Livery</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Grove (Neumann)</td>
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<td>Ramsdill Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rood and Riddle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buff Road Subdivision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCENIC VIEWSHEDS

Scenic vistas and viewsheds, in both the natural and built environments, are important to the overall quality of a community, and may be compromised, damaged or destroyed during development. Identification and protection of these assets is an important component of smart growth and scenic preservation. Scenic areas endow communities with substantial benefits, such as stable property values and tourism revenue.

Protecting scenic vistas and viewsheds from the effects of development allows a community to preserve its unique charm, build civic pride, and attract positive growth to the area.

Saratoga Springs is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty and a distinctive community character. The city recognizes its special character and is trying to identify and protect its resources in its Natural Resources Inventory and Open Space planning efforts.

Conducting a visual assessment is one of the best ways to begin to identify and list the scenic viewsheds in the city to protect them from risk of damage, and better manage future growth. Local leaders, citizens, schools, and other volunteers could be encouraged to participate in a visual assessment process to identify the city’s assets and risks. This will provide the basis for identifying and discussing the future of the treasured scenic viewsheds of Saratoga Springs.

METHODOLOGY

Scenic viewsheds are a somewhat subjective and open-ended topic. Following a literature review, the final sources for this topic and for the establishment a field assessment form were limited to two sources that had the most direct relevance to the City of Saratoga Springs.

The first source, suggested by LaBella Associates, was the Scenic Resource Inventory of Tompkins County, New York. In addition, through preliminary research, four studies were identified as good examples of scenic analysis. They were the Town of Bennington,

http://tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/planning/Natural_Agriculture/TCSR%20report%20Jan%202017.pdf
Vermont Scenic Resource Inventory,27 the Portland, Oregon Scenic Resource Inventory,28 the National Park Service Visual Resource Inventory,29 and the Downeast Coastal Scenic Inventory Hancock and Washington Counties, Maine.30

Through a thorough comparison of the lists of all of these sources, the two most compatible scenic resources inventories were selected. The reasons for choosing Tompkins County were that it is in the state of New York, it has the same climatic changes as Saratoga Springs and, of particular interest, the Tompkins County study had a detailed field assessment form.

The scenic resources inventory for the city of Portland, Oregon was selected as the second source of research. The Portland scenic resource inventory had a well-established set of criteria for both scenic views and scenic viewpoints, while the Tompkins County study lacked much emphasis on viewpoints. The Portland study also had good coverage relating to urban locations, whereas the Tompkins County study lacked a focus on urban settings.

For the purposed of this report, the Portland scenic resources inventory was the primary source, while the Tompkins County scenic resource inventory was a supplementary source.

TERMS

For the purpose of understanding the entire process of creating the Scenic Resource Inventory, it is very important to understand two crucial terms that are the basis of the entire analysis.

- **Viewpoint**: The particular place that is used as a comfortable location to view the scenery or the viewshed.

- **View(s)**: The visual perspective(s) of the scenery from the viewpoint.

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27 http://www.benningtonplanningandpermits.com/includes/pdfs/SRI.pdf

28 https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/70004

29 http://blmwymomingvisual.anl.gov/docs/NPS_01_VD-SQ_Inventory_DataSheet_08-2016.pdf

30 https://www.freecoursesonline.org/onlinecourses/health/022101.pdf
IDENTIFICATION OF SCENIC VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS

In Saratoga Springs, the city could utilize several methods to identify views and viewpoints such as:

- City staff can identify and suggest potential new views and viewpoints.
- Through meetings and public events, Open Space Advisory Committee members can identify viewpoints and views.
- The public can suggest new scenic views and viewpoints.

VIEWSHED ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Based on the city of Portland Scenic Resources Inventory, the process of scenic assessments is conducted in 6 steps. For the purpose of generating the Criteria for Scenic Resource analysis for Saratoga Springs, this report focused on steps 2 and 3.

1. Map Existing Inventoried Scenic Views and Viewpoints.
2. Identify New Scenic Views and Viewpoints
   o Background information
   o Characteristics of the Viewpoint
   o Characteristics of the View
5. Viewpoint Evaluation Methodology
6. Score, Rank and Group Views and Viewpoints
FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM

The following is the field assessment form that was developed by integrating the Field Assessment Form used by the Tompkins County study with some of the important features of the Portland study and its emphasis on Viewpoint characteristics.

*Figure 8: Field Assessment Form*

**Saratoga Springs Scenic Viewsheds - Field Assessment Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenic Resource ID #: ___</th>
<th># of photos: ___</th>
<th>Address: ____________________________________________</th>
<th>Date: ____________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ownership: Private/Public</td>
<td>Season(s): ____</td>
<td>Ownership: Private/Public</td>
<td>GPS: ___________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Viewpoint Characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size: ____</th>
<th>Developed as Viewpoint: Yes/No</th>
<th>Public Transit: Yes/No</th>
<th>Parking: Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benches</td>
<td>Developed as Viewpoint: Yes/No</td>
<td>Public Transit: Yes/No</td>
<td>Parking: Yes/No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platform</td>
<td>Developed as Viewpoint: Yes/No</td>
<td>Public Transit: Yes/No</td>
<td>Parking: Yes/No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive signs</td>
<td>Developed as Viewpoint: Yes/No</td>
<td>Public Transit: Yes/No</td>
<td>Parking: Yes/No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathrooms</td>
<td>Developed as Viewpoint: Yes/No</td>
<td>Public Transit: Yes/No</td>
<td>Parking: Yes/No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>Developed as Viewpoint: Yes/No</td>
<td>Public Transit: Yes/No</td>
<td>Parking: Yes/No</td>
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</table>

**View Characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenic Quality:</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Category:</td>
<td>Panorama</td>
<td>Overlook</td>
<td>Distant View</td>
<td>Enclosed view</td>
<td>Feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Character:</td>
<td>Nat Groomed</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Forest</td>
<td>Other:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scenic Elements:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenic Elements</th>
<th>Cultural</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Vegetation</th>
<th>Landform</th>
<th>Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Barn/Silo</td>
<td>Hedgerow</td>
<td>Ridgeline</td>
<td>Lake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Neighbourhood</td>
<td>Trees</td>
<td>Hills/Rocks/cliffs</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Woods</td>
<td>Valley</td>
<td>Stream/Creek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Wetland</td>
<td>Gorge</td>
<td>Pond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scenic Composition:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fore/Mid/Background</th>
<th>Framed</th>
<th>Texture</th>
<th>Mystery</th>
<th>Vista</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Direction:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Focal Feature(s):**

**Secondary Focal Feature(s):**

**Discordant Elements in the View:**

**Management Considerations:**

**View at Risk(s):**

**Field Notes:**

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
Form Guide

**Address:** For the purpose of uniformity, write the location’s distance to the nearest Landmark(s) available on the digital map.

**Ownership:** If it’s public, try to record the name of the Agency that owns the property.

**GPS:** Write the GPS Coordinates of the Viewpoint in Degrees, Minutes and Seconds.

**Viewpoint Characteristics:**

**Size:** Record the area available at the location to view the scenery in yards.

**Viewpoint Amenities and Accessibility:** Circle all that apply.

**General Use of the viewpoint:** Based on how much people use the location for various purposes, rank the location from Low to Very high.

**Use as a Viewpoint:** Based on how much people use the particular location as a Viewpoint, rank the location from Low to Very high.

**View Characteristics:**

**Scenic Quality:** Based on total number of elements present in the view, and nature, quality and the size of the focal elements rate the scenic quality of the view.

**Scenic category:** Based on the type of the view, circle any ONE of the scenic category that fits best.

- Panorama – an expansive view; typically at least 90o of unobstructed view
- Overlook – an overview from a viewpoint where the viewer is in a superior position
- Distant View – a view of a focal element in the far background; may be a peripherally framed view (e.g., a framed view of Avenue of Pines)
- Enclosed View – a close-in, framed view (e.g., a framed view of a building or a bridge)
- Feature – a specific feature, landmark or structure

**Scenic Character:** Based on the backdrop of the location, circle any ONE that fits best to the view.

**Scenic Elements:** Based on how many elements constitute a View, circle All that apply to the view and on the bottom given space, rate the View between 0 to 4 on each category(rate as “0” if none of the elements of a category fits the view and “4” if all fit in the picture).

**Scenic Composition:** Based on the number of scenic compositions that best fit the view, Circle All that apply.

**Direction:** Based on the direction of where the View is perceived, mark the exact angle of View with one of the 4 directions of the compass given in the picture.

**Primary and Secondary Focal Feature(s):** The focal points are the components that form the landscape or setting and are foci of the view. Options that could be included are: river, stream, wetland, vegetation, mountain, hills, bridge, building, trail, road, sculpture/art, historic site, culturally significant site, and/or other. Both primary and secondary focal points should be documented.

**Discordant Elements in the View:** Discordant elements are things that interfere with the enjoyment of the view. Power-lines, street lights, overgrown vegetation, buildings, structures, fencing, disrepair, and other physical changes that negatively affect the perception of the view should be documented.

**View is at Risk:** Is the view itself at risk of being blocked? If yes, what is putting the view at risk? Would future development block the view; is vegetation becoming overgrown?

**Management Consideration:** If there is any need for the development of any amenities at the location?

**Field Observations:** Any important notes about the viewpoint and/or view should be documented.
DOCUMENT POTENTIAL VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS

Background Information of the Viewpoint

In this section of the Field Assessment Form, the background information of the particular viewpoint, along with the time of the year that is best to visit the location, should be recorded.

- **Scenic Resource ID:** A set of separate IDs should be noted for each viewpoint. A system to assign and record the ID numbers should be developed by the City.

- **Number of photos:** The total number of photos taken at the Viewpoint and View should be logged and recorded.

- **Coordinates:** The GPS coordinates should be recorded and logged.

- **Date:** Date of the field visit.

- **Address:** The viewpoint’s location or nearest intersection should be recorded.

- **Ownership:** Ownership of the viewpoint should be documented. If the city is the owner, the specific bureau that has jurisdiction should be documented. If the viewpoint is within the street right-of-way, it should be recorded as ROW.

- **Seasons:** The best seasons to visit the viewpoint.

Characteristics of the Viewpoint

The characteristics of the viewpoint analyze the tangible and intangible aspects of the viewpoints. These were well described in the City of Portland Scenic Resource Inventory and these were added to the Scenic Analysis for Saratoga Springs.

- **Size of Viewpoint:** The approximate size of the viewpoint should be noted.

- **Developed Viewpoint:** A developed viewpoint is one that was specifically developed as a point from which people could enjoy the view.
• **Viewpoint Amenities**: Whether or not the viewpoint is formally developed, there may be amenities that contribute to the viewing location.

• **Access to the Viewpoint**: Access to the viewpoint could be by street, bike lane, sidewalk, formal trail, informal trail or other (describe in notes).

• **Public Transit near Viewpoint**: If there is a public transit stop located within 2 blocks of the viewpoint.

• **Parking near Viewpoint**: If there is a public parking lot or on-street parking immediately adjacent to the viewpoint.

• **Safety of the Viewpoint**: How safe does the viewpoint feel? Is the access way visible, clear and include space to enjoy the view?

**Existing Uses of the Viewpoint**

The uses of the Viewpoint, both as a general visiting spot as well as a favorite viewpoint for people, can be documented here.

• **Amount of Use of the Viewpoint in General**: Based on the location of the viewpoint and how accessible it is, approximately how much annual use does the viewpoint get in general? This means the number of people at the site, regardless of whether or not they are taking in the view.
  
  o Amount can be recorded as low, moderate, high and very high.

• **Amount of Use of the Viewpoint as a Viewpoint**: How much use does the viewpoint get as a viewpoint? In other words, how many people are there to take in the view?
  
  o Amount can be recorded as low, moderate, high and very high.
Scenic Category of the View

- **Panorama** – An expansive view; typically, at least 90 degrees of unobstructed view.

*Figure 10: Example: Panorama View*

![Panorama View](https://www.photoflightam.com/project/future-view-real-estate-drone-photography)

Source: [https://www.photoflightam.com/project/future-view-real-estate-drone-photography](https://www.photoflightam.com/project/future-view-real-estate-drone-photography)

- **Overlook** – An overview from a viewpoint where the viewer is in a superior position

*Figure 11: Example: Overlook View*

![Overlook View](https://www.photoflightam.com/project/future-view-real-estate-drone-photography)
• **Distant View** – A view of a focal element in the far background; may be a peripherally framed view

*Figure 12: Example: Distant View*


• **Enclosed View** – A close-in, framed view (e.g., a framed view of a building or a bridge)

*Figure 13: Enclosed View – Example 1*  
*Figure 14: Enclosed View - Example 2*

• **Feature** – A specific feature, landmark or structure

*Figure 15: Example: Feature View*


**General Character of the View**

This category can be used to understand the surrounding land cover.

• **Natural** – mountains, hills, forest/woodland, meadow, open land, wetland, stream, river or a natural area park

• **Groomed Open** – golf course, ball fields, campus greens

• **Urban** – residential, commercial/office, industrial, hardscape park

• **Rural** – agricultural, residential development on lots larger than 0.5 acre

• **Forest** - The woods and protected forest lands of the city falls under this category.

• **Other** – any other items of note

**Scenic Composition**

Scenic composition helps to position and compose the various elements of a view inside a frame.
• **Viewing Direction** - The general direction of the view can be documented in the field as N, NNE, NE, ENE, E, ESE, SE, etc.

• **Viewing Distance** - The primary focal elements are in Foreground: 0 - 0.5 mile; Midground: 0.5 - 5 miles; Background: 5 - 15 miles.

• **Framed** - A composition can be described as being framed or focused with a border effect.

• **Texture** - A composition can display texture or a variety of textures by the differing appearance of the components of the view.

• **Mystery** - A composition can convey mystery by offering a sightline that does not terminate but leads the viewer to the unknown.

• **Vista** - A composition can have no clear edges and create a vista of wide-open spaces.

• **Visual Focal Points of the View** - The focal points are the components that form the landscape or setting and are foci of the view. Both primary and secondary focal points should be documented.

• **Discordant Elements in the View** - Discordant elements are things that interfere with the enjoyment of the view. Power-lines, street lights, overgrown vegetation, buildings, structures, fencing, disrepair, and other physical changes that negatively affect the perception of the view should be documented.

• **View is at Risk** – Is the view itself at risk of being blocked? If yes, what is putting the view at risk? Would future development block the view? Is vegetation becoming overgrown?

• **Field Observations** - Any other important notes about the viewpoint and/or view should be documented.
Publicly Accessible Mineral Springs - City of Saratoga Springs, New York

The unique history of the mineral springs can be traced back to at least the 1700s, if not earlier, when they were discovered by Native Americans and used for medicinal purposes such as skin care, sinuses, and other various ailments, due to the rich chemical makeup each spring possesses. Some of the most common chemical elements found throughout the mineral springs include, but are not limited to, iron, magnesium, calcium, lithium, sodium, and potassium. In 1803, Gideon Putnam came to Saratoga and tubed three of the mineral springs in the hopes of drawing more residents and visitors to the area. After completing the tubing process, it was not too long after that many people began to settle in the region, as well as visit the area looking to try the newly tapped mineral springs.

In 1870, the mineral springs became sought after by numerous private bottling companies, not for their medicinal value, but rather for the high levels of carbonated gasses many of the springs possessed, which ultimately led to more than 200 mineral springs being drilled and exploited. The success of these newly tapped springs would lead to a vast amount of tourism. In 1874, C.C. Dawson estimated that approximately “100,000 strangers were visiting the mineral springs annually, from every part of the Union, Canada, Europe, Mexico, South America and West Indies.”

Despite the success brought about by the mineral springs to the area, in 1908 New York State passed anti-pumping legislation and formed the Saratoga Spa Reservation, because many of the springs began to dry up from the extensive extraction process for the carbonated gasses. In 1915, Saratoga Springs was officially incorporated as a city and, over 100 years later, the remaining twenty-two publicly accessible mineral springs are a rare delicacy seen only in a few communities on

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31 Dawson, Carroll Charles. Saratoga: Its Mineral Waters, and Their Use in Preventing and Eradicating Disease, and as a Refreshing Beverage, 1874.

a global scale, making the protection and preservation of these mineral springs a central focus for the City of Saratoga Springs.

Methodology

The focus of this individual report was to collect various data pertaining to mineral springs located in Saratoga Springs. After gathering and compiling data for this report, with the addition of the work by LaBella Associates, the final product will be an interactive online database that will provide residents and tourists with an abundance of information pertaining to the mineral springs located throughout the city. With input from the Saratoga Springs Open Space Committee and LaBella Associates it was decided that the most important data to obtain for each mineral spring included:

- General Location of the Mineral Spring
- Exact GPS Points of the Mineral Spring
- Parking Availability and Approximate Distance to Each Mineral Spring
- Founding Year of each Mineral Spring
- Chemical Makeup of each Mineral Spring

The primary ways for collecting the information listed above came from researching various academic databases, scholarly articles, historical newspapers, books, maps, field observations and Trimble GeoXT GPS technology with sub-meter accuracy.

Finding information related to the mineral springs chemical makeup and founding year was done through the help of academic databases, scholarly articles, previous research-based studies, and historic newspapers, books and maps stored at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. Collecting data pertaining to the general location of the mineral spring, exact GPS points of the mineral spring, and the parking availability for each mineral spring was done by field observations and Trimble GeoXT TerraSync software technology provided by LaBella Associates. After collecting field observations and GPS points, LaBella Associates processed the data using GPS Pathfinder software. The results of the data collection on the mineral springs are listed in the following pages.
NOTE: A Freedom of Information request (FOIL) request was submitted to the New York State Department of Health in late November requesting the most recent test results of the publicly accessible mineral springs located throughout Saratoga Springs, New York. The request is pending as of the date of this report and will hopefully serve as the final piece of conclusive data as to what the chemical makeup of the mineral springs are in parts per million (PPM).
The information in the table above includes the name and general location where mineral springs are found in the City of Saratoga Springs, New York.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Name of Mineral Spring</strong></th>
<th><strong>General Location</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Seal Spring</td>
<td>Geyser Loop Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polaris Spring</td>
<td>Geyser Loop Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndell Spring</td>
<td>Geyser Loop Road/ North-South Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karista Spring</td>
<td>Geyser Loop Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayes Well Spring</td>
<td>Geyser Loop Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geyser Island Spouter</td>
<td>Geyser Loop Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orenda Springs</td>
<td>Geyser Loop Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tullulah Spring</td>
<td>Geyser Loop Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coesa Spouter</td>
<td>Coesa Pavilion- Located in Pond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Spring</td>
<td>SPAC Entrance (Located in Wall)- Hall of Springs Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathorne Spring- #3</td>
<td>East-West Road (Route 50)- Saratoga Spa State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geyser Spring</td>
<td>Joseph Bruno Pavilion- Saratoga Spa State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Seal Spring</td>
<td>Joseph Bruno Pavilion- Saratoga Spa State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress Spring</td>
<td>Congress Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Spring</td>
<td>Congress Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Park Spring</td>
<td>Congress Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peerless Spring</td>
<td>High Rock Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Spring</td>
<td>High Rock Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Rock Spring</td>
<td>High Rock Park (Capped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathorne Spring- #1</td>
<td>Corner of Putnam and Spring Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Red Spring</td>
<td>High Rock Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empire Spring</td>
<td>High Rock Avenue- The Mill (Former Van Raalte Knitting Building)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Red Spring</td>
<td>Inside Saratoga Race Course (NYRA/Thoroughbred)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat Rock Spring</td>
<td>High Rock Avenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 17: GPS Coordinates of the Mineral Springs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Mineral Spring</th>
<th>GPS- Point (X)</th>
<th>GPS- Point (Y)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Seal Spring</td>
<td>597358.440944</td>
<td>4767159.8041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polaris Spring</td>
<td>597408.847637</td>
<td>4767138.51258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndell Spring</td>
<td>597703.56982</td>
<td>4767159.13363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karista Spring</td>
<td>597335.928007</td>
<td>4767051.84826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayes Well Spring</td>
<td>597280.703099</td>
<td>4767205.303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geyser Island Spouter</td>
<td>597280.402272</td>
<td>4767246.7567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orenda Spring</td>
<td>597280.402272</td>
<td>4767479.04311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tullulah Spring</td>
<td>597409.39266</td>
<td>4767927.34557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coesa Spouter</td>
<td>596828.942942</td>
<td>4767101.19364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Spring</td>
<td>597374.696213</td>
<td>4767699.09851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathorne Spring -#3</td>
<td>596742.774523</td>
<td>4766927.34557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geyser Spring</td>
<td>597409.39266</td>
<td>4767944.8497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Seal Spring</td>
<td>597409.39266</td>
<td>4767944.8497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress Spring</td>
<td>598873.731245</td>
<td>4770207.56688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbian Spring</td>
<td>598840.096885</td>
<td>4770205.55279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Park Spring</td>
<td>598897.946992</td>
<td>4770112.89503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peerless Spring</td>
<td>599279.474107</td>
<td>4771135.77991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Spring</td>
<td>599279.474107</td>
<td>4771135.77991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Rock Spring</td>
<td>599288.931884</td>
<td>4771189.44945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathorne Spring- #1</td>
<td>598969.621306</td>
<td>4770384.47572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Red Spring</td>
<td>599611.01604</td>
<td>4771415.03446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empire Spring</td>
<td>599439.44968</td>
<td>4771292.43269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Red Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat Rock Spring</td>
<td>-73.783303</td>
<td>43.083146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The information listed in the table above provides the name of the mineral spring and the exact GPS points where each is located. This data was obtained with the help of LaBella Associates and Trimble GeoXT TerraSync GPS software.
The information listed above provides the mineral spring name, the parking availability for each mineral spring and the approximate distance to the mineral spring from the closest parking area.
Table: Founding dates of Mineral Springs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Mineral Spring</th>
<th>Approximate Founding Date</th>
<th>Sources via Bibliography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Seal Spring</td>
<td>Ca. 1915</td>
<td>Swanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polaris Spring</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndell Spring</td>
<td>Ca. 1910</td>
<td>Historical Map/Swanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karista Spring</td>
<td>Pre-1900</td>
<td>Historical Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayes Well Spring</td>
<td>Pre-1900</td>
<td>Dawson/Historical Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geyser Island Spouter</td>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Swanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orenda Spring</td>
<td>Estimated 500+ years</td>
<td>Historical Map / Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tullulah Spring</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coesa Spouter</td>
<td>Pre-1909</td>
<td>Historical Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Spring</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathorne Spring - #3</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Swanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geyser Spring</td>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Library of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Seal Spring</td>
<td>ca. 1915</td>
<td>Swanner/Dawson/Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress Spring</td>
<td>1792</td>
<td>Brochure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbian Spring</td>
<td>1805</td>
<td>Brochure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Park Spring</td>
<td>1876</td>
<td>Brochure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peerless Spring</td>
<td>ca. 1875</td>
<td>Swanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Spring</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Swanner/Dawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Rock Spring</td>
<td>1771</td>
<td>Swanner/Brochure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathorne Spring - #1</td>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Swanner/Dawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Red Spring</td>
<td>ca. 1785</td>
<td>Swanner/Dawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empire Spring</td>
<td>1793</td>
<td>Dawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Red Spring</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Swanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat Rock Spring</td>
<td>1767</td>
<td>Swanner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The information listed above provides the approximate date each mineral spring was discovered. The information was derived from historical books, newspapers and maps at the Saratoga Springs Public Library, online databases such the Library of Congress, and previous academic studies.
Areas to Monitor

During the summer months the City of Saratoga Springs is an inviting getaway for anyone looking to enjoy the many attractions offered. Between the 22 publicly accessible mineral springs, hometown spa and bath businesses, hiking trails, and the many arts, cultural and racing events, there is no shortage of options for tourists and residents to enjoy in the City of Saratoga Springs. In 2014, it was estimated that during the summer months of June to September, approximately 450,000 tourists stayed in the City of Saratoga Springs. Even though the urban core of the city is constructed in a way that promotes walkability, there are still two areas that should be monitored once the mineral springs data is released: Congress Park and High Rock Park. Both parks are considered to be part of the walkable friendly urban core, but the primary concern with both locations is the lack of available parking for those who may choose to visit the mineral springs by car. The biggest factor that may contribute to these areas becoming overburdened by vehicles is tourists who are unfamiliar with the layout of the walkable friendly city. It is not a definitive conclusion that both areas will have problems with parking in the future, but there is an understanding that there is no way to predict how and when people will choose to visit these mineral springs.

Figure 20 : Congress Park

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Part 2: Stakeholder Interviews

INTERVIEW METHODOLOGY

Studio students attended a meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee on September 11, 2018. Following discussion with those at the meeting, including the City’s consultant, LaBella Associates, it was confirmed that interviews with some key stakeholders would be helpful to the planning process for the Natural Resource Inventory. The stakeholder interview list was reviewed and finalized, and names and contact information were provided by Tina Carton.

Students asked the interviewees questions about their vision for the Natural Resource Inventory and gathered feedback and background information to help guide the process. While it was recognized that most people wear multiple “hats” in a community, the focus of each interview was on the role of the interviewee or interviewee’s organization as it pertained to the Natural Resource Inventory project in Saratoga Springs.

Working with the City of Saratoga Springs staff, students developed the following methodology for the stakeholder interview process.

- Acquired stakeholder names and contact information from Tina Carton, Administrator of Parks, Open Lands, Historic Preservation, and Sustainability for the City of Saratoga Springs.
- Developed an interview protocol to guide the administration and implementation of the interviews. These were the instructions used by the students for each interview, to ensure consistency between interviews, and thus increase the reliability of the findings. This included an informed consent confirmation.
- Developed interview questions to ask during the interview. Submitted to Tina Carton for review and approval.
• Email by Tina Carton to all stakeholders informing them of the project and that a University at Albany student would be contacting them.
• Email by students to individual stakeholders to set up interviews, explain the purpose of the interview, and the expected duration of the interview.
• Sought informed consent from interviewee (written or documented oral).
• All interviewees were asked and consented to be interviewed and some were recorded to aid in the interview summations.
• Re-explained the purpose of the interview, why the stakeholder had been chosen, the expected duration of the interview, that the interview will be made public, and that the interview may be recorded.
• When the interviewee consented, conducted the interview.
• Summarized key data immediately following the interview.
• Verified the information given in the interviews, as necessary.
• Transcribed the data.
• Analyzed all interview data.
• Read through the interview responses and looked for patterns or themes within all interview answers. Common themes were grouped and highlighted.
• Produced report for review by City.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?
Question 5. Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

Question 6. The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

Question 7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

COMMON THEMES FROM STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

1) Saratoga Springs “City in the Country” character: Stakeholders recognized the concerns expressed by residents and developers in regard to maintaining the city in the country vision. Stakeholders also mentioned the pressure of balancing the needs and wants of all parties in concert with the City’s Comprehensive Plan and other plans. Residents and visitors alike enjoy the uniqueness of the city’s lush natural resources and mix of stunning historic architecture in and around the urban core, but fear is beginning to set in that the character of the city they know, and love is in jeopardy due to over development. The city has been building at a “record pace” for over twenty years and the natural resources and green spaces remaining, along with Saratoga Springs culture and character, need to be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

2) Sustainable Water Practices: Water was a frequent topic across the interviews whether referring to the local creeks, rivers and lakes, or mentioning concerns regarding the watershed, aquifers, or Saratoga Springs’ famous mineral springs, capped and uncapped. Water is a vital natural resource and though Saratoga Springs is lucky to have plenty of it, the stakeholders were worried that more still needed to be done regarding protection and preservation efforts regarding the city’s water quality and resources. They also wanted to see the city implement more sustainable practices and storm water management techniques to combat climate change, helping to lessen the effects on the local infrastructure and environment.
3) **Native Species Preservation:** Over time, various invasive species have been brought from all over the globe into the city’s delicate natural habitat. With the help of science and technology, the city has learned of the devastating effects caused by incorporating invasive species into the environment. Native heritage trees, wildlife, and other important natural elements are in danger of being affected by invasive species, which can overtake the flora and fauna, altering the state of the natural habitat as well as the soil composition. The preservation of native species is believed to be crucial for the region to sustain a balanced ecosystem, leading to a balanced community.

4) **Neighborhood Parks:** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contains a policy to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks where feasible. Most of the stakeholders interviewed agreed that creating neighborhood parks and other civic spaces should be encouraged and made accessible, especially for children to enjoy. Some pros that were mentioned were preserving as much open space as is feasible and providing safe civic spaces. On the contrary, there were some cons mentioned such as increased taxes and attracting unwanted users. As the city continues to grow there will be a need for these kinds of spaces and before all the usable parcels are gone, it may be wise to begin planning for them.

5) **Connectivity:** A common theme brought up by the stakeholders was to have a complete and connected network of trails and sidewalks for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles offering scenic views, linking amenities, and providing safe routes. Specific corridors and pockets of pavement throughout the city are not utilized to their maximum potential due to a lack of accessibility, connectivity and safety hindering the city’s growth and potential. The interviewees agreed that a completed network of connected trails would increase the amount of time people spend and enjoy in the city, as well as the population’s overall health.

6) **Use of Data:** One of the most important themes discussed throughout the interview process was how the data from the NRI would be used. The stakeholders mentioned that the public and private sectors would need access to some kind of user-friendly map or online inventory. Schools and teachers would want access for educational and recreation purposes, while developers and planning boards alike would use the information as a decision-making tool. The information provided by the NRI, whether for public or private use, is relevant and critical to anyone and needs to be accessible by everyone.
STAKEHOLDER AFFILIATION

Figure 21: Nineteen Interviewee Positions
## INTERVIEWEES

*Figure 22: Interviewee Description*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Title/Role</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Bosshart</td>
<td>Non-Profit Employee</td>
<td>Executive Director of Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alane Ball Chinian</td>
<td>NYS Employee</td>
<td>Saratoga Spa State Park Regional Director</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Denny</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Saratoga Springs Open Space Advisory Committee, Chair</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamie Ehinger</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Saratoga Springs Design Review Commission, Chair</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Flick</td>
<td>City Employee</td>
<td>Saratoga Springs Senior Engineering Technician</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Glaser</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Saratoga Capital District Regional State Park Commission</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hirliman</td>
<td>City Employee</td>
<td>Saratoga Springs Administrative Director of Recreation</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Lashomb</td>
<td>City Employee</td>
<td>Saratoga Springs Arborist</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Mahaney, PhD</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Manager of Sustainable Saratoga</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Maynard</td>
<td>City Employee</td>
<td>City Principle Planner</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title/Role</td>
<td>Organization/Position</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Meyer</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>City of Saratoga Springs Green Belt Trail</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Neils</td>
<td>Non-Profit Employee</td>
<td>Saratoga County Cornell University Cooperative Extension Inter-Municipal Storm Water Management Program Manager</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Petronis</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Northern Director of Open Space Institute</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levi Rogers</td>
<td>Private-Sector Employee</td>
<td>Skidmore College Director of Sustainability Programs and Assessment</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Samuell</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Sustainable Saratoga</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Steer</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>City of Saratoga Springs Zoning Board of Appeals</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Torpey</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Saratoga Springs Planning Board, Chair</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Trabka</td>
<td>Non-Profit Employee</td>
<td>Director of Saratoga PLAN</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Veitch</td>
<td>Elected Official</td>
<td>Saratoga County Supervisor</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Ms. Bosshart is the Executive Director of the Non-Profit Organization “Saratoga Preservation Foundation.”
- She holds a bachelor’s degree in History, and a master’s degree in Historic Preservation Planning.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Ms. Bosshart’s interest in natural resource management is focused around architectural, cultural, and landscape resources.
- She thinks that diverse resources should be preserved starting with the parks such as Congress Park, High Rock, Spa State Park etc.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Ms. Bosshart noted that the City of Saratoga Springs has over 1200, structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- She thinks that all buildings more than 50 years old should be surveyed to determine if they are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?
• Ms. Bosshart thinks it would be best used for community planning, managing and preserving Saratoga Springs natural resources, and available open spaces.
• She also feels it can be used as a tool to inform the Saratoga Springs community on future development.

**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?
• Ms. Bosshart thinks that the encroachment and development of new buildings may be a concern going forward, fearing it may begin to take away from the vast array of historical architecture throughout the Saratoga Springs community.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?
• Ms. Bosshart doesn’t feel neighborhood parks are a necessity but would be a nice amenity for some areas.
• She does note that instead of neighborhood parks the available land could be used for biking and walking trails.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?
• Ms. Bosshart feels she covered everything in the previous questions.
Interviewee: Alane Ball Chinian
Interviewee Organization, Title: Saratoga Spa State Park, Regional Director
Date: September 26, 2018
Time: 1:00 P.M.
Interview Type: Phone
Interviewer: Ian Barr

Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Ms. Chinian is neither a city staff member nor a volunteer since she works for Saratoga Spa State Park as their Regional Director.
- She also works for the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.
- She has professionally worked in the city since 1998, involved in land-use planning, non-profits and local trusts.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Ms. Chinian and New York State manage quite a bit of land with the goal of protecting their natural resources.
- She believes a system of connecting green and open spaces are vital to the state’s network of parks, trails and historic preservation efforts.
- She notes that whatever happens outside the boundaries of Saratoga Springs effects everything happening inside of the city boundary.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Ms. Chinian specifically mentions including overlapping properties attached to the green belt trail system to create a more fluid and cohesive network.
- She mentions protecting the local Kalikocki parcel located in Saratoga Spa State Park.
• She also notes wetland protection of all sizes in Saratoga Spa State Park including geysers, creeks, lakes and the natural springs as the Eastern plateau affects a lot of buffer zone wetlands as water trickles down toward the city.

**Question 4.** How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

• Ms. Chinian would like to see a data layer available for everyone to be able to use.
• The State Parks could use this information for better park management in Saratoga Springs.
• This information could help prioritize acquisition and protection efforts in the region, guiding the evaluation process of projects by the city and county.
• Unique to Saratoga Springs is the value of protecting the Skidmore Woods in the city and its other green spaces around the area.

**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

• Ms. Chinian is concerned about the over population in the city.
• She’s also worried about the local Karner Blue butterfly habitats that are in danger.
• She wants to see Spring Run Valley restored if possible as well as “The Gut” (A valley water network coming from the Eastern Plateau into Congress Park).

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

• Ms. Chinian believes small neighborhood parks are an important goal to reach.
• She believes having access to any green space as the city further develops will be a good asset for the city.
• Besides general and standard park features she mentions that parks and green spaces should not require fossil fuels like those found in mowers to maintain the park’s image and character.
Question 7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Ms. Chinian would like to add that an increased effort toward storm water management treatment is vital. Particularly MS4 (Municipal Separate Sewer Storm System) in the city has disconnect and flooding issues, with a need to upgrade the system for greener stormwater practices.
Interviewees Name: *Tom Denny*
Interviewees Organization, Title: Open Space Advisory Committee, Chair
Date: September 25, 2018
Time: 12:00 P.M.
Interview Type: Phone
Interviewer: Ian Barr

**Question 1.** Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Mr. Denny is a volunteer acting as an appointed committee member.
- He’s lived in Saratoga Springs since 1982 and is a retired professor from Skidmore since 2010.
- Mr. Denny is active with the City’s Sustainable Saratoga initiative as well as the comprehensive plan review committee.
- He currently acts as the chair of the open space advisory committee.

**Question 2.** What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Mr. Denny has an interest in good planning habits as a concerned citizen while protecting Saratoga Springs’s, city in the country vision.
- He also has a passion for environmental sustainability and hopes the Natural Resource Inventory will be used to best preserve the future wellbeing of the city.
- He wants to see the open space plan revised with the updated information from the Natural Resource Inventory.

**Question 3.** What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Denny believes that there is a general roadmap to follow when completing a professional Natural Resource Inventory to coincide with what LaBella is offering to complete.
- He also wants to see the Natural Resource Inventory involved in the preservation of the greenbelt.
• He specifically wants to see Saratoga Springs follow other initiatives across the nation, preserving the city’s dark skies (light pollution) out in the country setting.

**Question 4.** How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

• Mr. Denny wants to see the Natural Resource Inventory used for revisions to the open space plan from 2002 with a closer look at the city’s natural resources.
• He also wants to see this information utilized in the city’s continued effort fighting climate change.

**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

• Mr. Denny believes the City of Saratoga Springs is facing development pressure, especially in the greenbelt as micro single-family homes turn into macro-sized developments with larger land footprints decreasing available and open space.
• He is also worried about the quantity of impervious pavement effecting stormwater management as well as the increase in light pollution effecting the City’s dark skies.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

• Mr. Denny believes that small neighborhood parks are vital to the City of Saratoga Springs.
• This is an important goal for him. As the City becomes more urbanized, there is less open and green spaces available for accessible recreation.
• Mr. Denny would like to see the local planning board require an open space standard with new developments.
• He believes that trees are vital to any successful small neighborhood parks with plenty of seats and shade. Also play facilities are important along with anything promoting passive recreation and use.
Question 7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Mr. Deny felt everything was covered in the previous questions.
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?
• Ms. Ehinger is a volunteer to the City of Saratoga Springs serving as the Chair of the Design review Commission.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?
• Ms. Ehinger has numerous responsibilities as Chair of the Design Review Commission, but a primary focus is to maintain the city’s structures as well as ensure that the historic character found throughout the City of Saratoga Springs stays intact for years to come.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?
• Ms. Ehinger feels that all the capped or uncapped springs in the city, parks, and other various parts of Saratoga Springs should be included in the Natural Resource Inventory.
• She also feels that Yaddo Gardens deserves special attention in the natural resource inventory, as well as Columbus Park and Congress Park because of their native pine trees as well as the monuments that exist throughout the areas.

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?
• Ms. Ehinger feels that the Natural Resource Inventory should be used to highlight the city as a national treasure in terms of a historical perspective.
**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

- There are not any concerns that came to mind for Ms. Ehinger.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

- Yes, this is an important goal for Ms. Ehinger as she feels it can contribute to the aesthetics of the city, recreational activity, and provide a better quality of life for the community residents.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Ms. Ehinger added that places like North Broadway have invasive trees and a great deal of consideration should be given to the idea of removing them and planting trees native to the area.
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Mr. Flick originally started working for the City of Saratoga Springs in 2003 on issues such as waste water prevention.
- Mr. Flick is currently the Senior Engineering Technician for the City Saratoga Springs.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Mr. Flick thinks having an accurate inventory of the natural resources in Saratoga Springs will allow the City to better identify areas in need of greater protection.
- He also feels that development in the city may have a negative effect on existing natural resources such as increased traffic and various forms of pollution.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Flick would like to see protected natural areas, pollution prevention, green space, and all water resources included in the Natural Resource Inventory.

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

- Mr. Flick would like this to serve as a foundational launching pad for future decisions on development.
- He also feels it will be a valuable tool for the planning department when making revisions to the community comprehensive plan or future zoning changes.
Question 5. Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Flick believes maintaining a good balance between development and green space is always a concern for the future- but feels the planning staff has done and will continue doing a great job in creating that proper balance.

Question 6. The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

- This is an important goal for Mr. Flick moving forward, but he says that it really comes down to finding the right location and the availability of the land.
- Mr. Flick does feels that the development of neighborhood parks is dependent on the area; if it were located within the city it would make sense to create a park with multiple uses, but if developed on the outskirts of Saratoga Springs then a conservation type park may be more appropriate.

Question 7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Mr. Flick felt everything was covered in the previous questions.
Interviewee Name: Barbara Glaser
Interviewee Organization, Title: Saratoga-Capital District Regional State Park Commission
Date: September 28, 2018
Time: 3:00 P.M.
Interview Type: Phone
Interviewer: Ian Barr

Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- As a volunteer Ms. Glaser founded the original Open Space Project 20+ years ago. As the chair she developed the City’s first open space plan (called for by the City’s Comprehensive Plan).
- Her office coordinated The Land Preservation Bond Act in 2002 for Saratoga Springs providing $5 million at that time for Saratoga Springs open space.
- Originally known as Saratoga Springs open space project, later merged with the board of land conservancy to form Saratoga PLAN which acts as an independent non-for-profit civic partner with the city. Currently an emeritus now (serving term as an honorary board member). She also serves on the board of Pitney Meadows Community Farm.
- She currently is an appointed member of the Saratoga-Capital District Regional State Park Commission.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Ms. Glaser has had a long-term interest in open space preservation in Saratoga Springs as well as the Adirondacks.

Question 3. What do you think should be in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Ms. Glaser believes the Natural Resource Inventory should be focused around green space preservation and conservation of the local natural resources.
• She wants the Natural Resource Inventory to revisit the gateway entrances into the city. Specifically, she mentions South Broadway as it becomes more at risk of development pressure. As you go outside of the city towards Greenfield, sections need to be examined to maintain its welcoming entranceway as well as park and trails integration.

• Ms. Glaser wants the Natural Resource Inventory to check the local water quality of all-natural springs (One is near a contaminated site just off a major roadway (federal cleanup site).

• She wants to see the local heritage trees identified and preserved.

• Continue and connect dead end trails to the other trails before a possibility for connection is lost.

**Question 4.** How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

• Ms. Glaser wants to see the Natural Resource Inventory used to protect the local forests as well as the ability for the city to include pocket park protection.

• She also wants to use it to see animal habitats preserved, specifically the local Karner Blue butterflies and bees.

• Ms. Glaser wants to see the properties across from the State Park preserved as well as other lands surrounding state park lands.

• She wants the city to identify future potential recreation fields as the current fields near the track that are owned by the harness track (What happens to the available recreational fields if the track goes out of business?).

• She believes Congress Park needs a natural resource plan as more development comes in and the city takes on the risk of over development in order to preserve its character.

• She also wants to continue the tree planting program efforts.

• Ms. Glaser would like to see a drafted plan which could then be a basis for easements or acquisitions to be funded by the Land Preservation Bond Act and/or other kinds of partnerships, to update and add these things to another revised open space plan.

• She would like to see this Natural Resource Inventory become the framework for the City of Saratoga Springs to create a parks department with a dedicated budget.
**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

- Ms. Glaser believes the local watershed near the edge of the city (Exit 15) is vulnerable and that all lands surrounding it should be preserved.
- She notes the city’s efforts to create and implement its Climate Resiliency Plan in its effort to combat climate change.
- Ms. Glaser mentions that Saratoga Springs needs to monitor its drinking water and protect its wetlands, and animal habitats.
- She also believes the city should look into creating policy for chemical lawn care as it creates dangerous human and habitat conditions with runoff occurring into the local watersheds.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

- Ms. Glaser does believe small neighborhood parks are vital to the city of Saratoga Springs. She notes that every child needs accessible parks for recreation.
- She believes dog parks are becoming more and more necessary as the dog population grows and they help to keep the city clean.
- She would like to see heritage trees included in the pocket parks as well as saving all the springs and bath houses.
- She believes walkability to parks is essential with benches and shade.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Ms. Glaser felt everything was covered in the previous questions.
Interviewees Name: John Hirliman
Interviewee Organization, Title: City of Saratoga Springs Administrative Director of Recreation
Date: October 1st, 2018
Time: 3:30 P.M.
Interview Type: Phone
Interviewer(s): Jared Sayles

Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Mr. Hirliman is the Administrative Director of Recreation for the City of Saratoga Springs.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Mr. Hirliman has a great deal of interest in identifying new ways of protecting and managing the available resources throughout Saratoga Springs and hopes that the Natural Resource Inventory will help support the planning staff in many fashions.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Hirliman would like to see numerous resources included in the Natural Resource Inventory, some of which include open space, natural areas, streams, rivers, spring beds, forestry, wetlands, and the variety of species that inhabit these areas.

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

- Mr. Hirliman would like to see the Natural Resource Inventory adopted into the existing comprehensive plan.
- He also feels that it can be used to make decisions regarding what areas should be protected throughout Saratoga Springs as well as what impacts commercial or residential development may have on Saratoga’s resources.

Question 5. Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?
• Mr. Hirliman thinks that the availability of open green space throughout the city is a growing problem and should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory.

Question 6. The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?
• This is absolutely a major goal for Mr. Hirliman going forward.
• He feels that when development ensues it puts a strain on existing infrastructure and resources, and they need to continue to create a good balance between the built and natural environment.

Question 7. Is there anything else you would like to add?
• Mr. Hirliman felt everything was covered in the previous questions.
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Mr. Lashomb is the City Arborist of City of Saratoga Springs as well as the Supervisor for the Department of Public Works.
- Essentially, Mr. Lashomb manages and protects numerous species of trees found throughout various parks and right of ways in the City of Saratoga Springs, whether it be by providing maintenance to mitigate possible hazards to residents or ensuring whether the community has an abundance of healthy living trees.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Mr. Lashomb went to school for environmental studies and has worked in fields dealing with forestry and conservation starting this position.
- He is a strong advocate of sustaining the City of Saratoga Springs natural resources and continues to help by identifying new ways in which the community can protect them.
- Mr. Lashomb also thinks that being a part of a community such as Saratoga Springs has allowed him to grow a greater appreciation towards protecting the City’s natural resources and hopes to continue identifying new ways of protecting them into the future.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Lashomb feels as if everything is being covered in the Natural Resource Inventory that he would include.
• He is provided with a small inventory of what trees exist throughout the community but thinks the Natural Resource Inventory would be of great use for seeing all possible tree species the City has.

**Question 4.** How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

• Mr. Lashomb notes that he has not been in his position with the City very long, so he doesn’t necessarily know the best way the Natural Resource Inventory could be used in the future but does point out that being used as a planning document to ensure that the City of Saratoga Springs continues to identify areas in need of protection may be a good use.

**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

• Mr. Lashomb does not have any concerns come right to mind but does feel the planning department has done a phenomenal job in making sure that everything is engineered in an environmentally focused way.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

• Mr. Lashomb does feel parks are important because once they are established, they are also protected.
• He also notes that more neighborhood parks could contribute a plethora of benefits to the community.
• He does feel that with every large development, there should be space set aside for small community parks in return.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?

• Mr. Lashomb is thrilled to see the results that the Natural Resource Inventory will provide, and thinks it’s exciting the city has taken the initiative to organize such an extensive process.
• He includes that it’s tough to plan anything without knowing what you have and including the results into current technology and mapping software could be a game changer for the planning staff moving forward.
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Ms. Mahaney is the manager of Sustainable Saratoga, which is a non-profit organization based in Saratoga Springs.
- For 10 years the organizations goal has been in promoting sustainable practices, protecting natural resources through education, advocacy, and encouraging individuals to make choices that are informed on sustainability issues.
- Some focal points have been on the urban forest, zero waste issues, alternative energy and energy conservation, and housing and urban planning.
- As a non-profit, the organization is not officially affiliated with the City of Saratoga Springs.
- The organization is independent, receiving funding primarily from donation but they also receive grants.
- The organization consist of a board of directors which the course and keeps the organization organized, part-time staff including a communications consultant, and volunteers.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Ms. Mahaney stated, “As an organization, we are very excited to have the Natural Resource Inventory be done, it fits with our mission perfectly.”
- The NRI is science based, not political, not motivated by any particular interest.
- The NRI will provided information on the City of Saratoga Springs natural resources and how they work and relate with one another.
- The NRI will give the City data and facts that will help them make the most informed decisions they can to protect the natural resources, along with a great
deal of teeth to the decisions they make in terms of zoning changes, development, purchasing of land, etc.

**Question 3.** What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Everything!
- Some of the most important parts that should be included are; knowing what we have, the quality of what we have, the inclusion of water whether it be drinking, recreational, or wetlands, the protection and security.
- Water security is going to be the most important issue of the next few generations, and climate change.

**Question 4.** How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

- The NRI will be giving the city officials the ability to understand, prioritize, and justify decisions to protect our natural resources.
- The NRI “gives the environment a seat at the table” when decisions are being made.

**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

- Ms. Mahaney thinks that the wetlands, beyond what are already regulated by the state and federal government, should be mapped to the extent practical.
- Wetlands perform such an important role in our ecosystem, particularly in our water quality and flood control.
- Understanding what we have and where we have it will help us keep it functioning to the maximum extent the city can.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

- Pocket parks are great.
• They serve a variety of purposes.
• Ms. Mahaney likes that neighborhood parks are not a part of the concrete jungle.
• A Pocket park breaks up the landscape, provides ecosystem services, allows water flow.
• There should be some for recreational use and there should be some that are just left natural
• Should be thoughtfully designed for utilization and appreciation.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?
• Because its science based and gives legitimacy to be accepted by people.
• It’s a fantastic tool that should be accessible to everyone.
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Ms. Maynard is the City of Saratoga Springs principle planner.
- She’s been in that position for 8 years.
- Staff to the planning board.
- Resident of Saratoga Springs.
- Graduated from the Master in Regional Planning program at the University of Albany.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Ms. Maynard is interested in the collection and assimilation of good data in the NRI. This data could inform what might become new policy guidance and/or regulations.
- The NRI could help with the City of Saratoga Springs “City in the Country” vision, which is looking to protect natural resources in balance with development.
- It may help us look at rising challenges over time such as climate change, storms, flood plains, and capacity for storm water.
- It will help us take a hard look at our open space conservations goals.
- An NRI could help prioritize future land purchases or conservation easements that the City may make or agreed to accept.
- Active city in terms of development.
- Post-recession the city has seen a surge in diversity of development projects.
- Focus on redevelopments, new neighborhoods, greenbelt area
Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Ms. Maynard mentioned several components that should be include in the NRI including:
  - Endangered species and important habitats.
  - Matured forest.
  - Types of ecological resource the city has.
  - Checking in on overlaying, where the city has seen development taking place and where the changes are taking place.
  - Change in land cover.
  - Water resources, quality, and security.

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

- Ms. Maynard listed potential uses for the NRI:
  - To inform conservation subdivision regulations.
  - To inform future planning efforts and processes.
  - To help look at things more comprehensively.
  - Fulfilling the balancing of natural resources as developments are happening.
  - Storm water management.
  - To look at our impaired streams.
  - To help look at the impacts development may cause and mitigate them.

Question 5. Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

- Are we allowing for the natural processes of aquifer locations and recharge areas to occur?
- Development patterns, permeability.
- Amount of development.
- Future growth.
- Are the protections we have in place now adequate for our natural resources?
**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

- Yes! The pocket park concept is very key.
- Having a diversity of passive recreation or view sheds in an urban environment is key.
- Pocket parks can offer a relief from the urban setting.
- They can also reflect the city’s culture and help provide important public gathering space.
- Having public civic places encourages people to mix and get to know their community.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Documentation of where the springs are located.
- Students could give projections as to where the city might be heading with help from the Natural Resource Inventory
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Mr. Meyers primary affiliation with the City of Saratoga Springs is serving as a volunteer for the “Saratoga Green Belt Trail.”

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Mr. Meyers feels making the entire community more sustainable through the inclusion of more open spaces best describes his interest in resource management for Saratoga Springs.
- He would also like to see more areas within the city allow easier bicycle and pedestrian access so that residents can better utilize and appreciate the natural resources Saratoga Springs has to offer.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Meyers would like to see what natural resources the city has, available open spaces, and the existing hiking and bicycling resources the city has in place.
- He would also like to see how certain areas of Saratoga Springs connect with one another.

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

- Mr. Meyers would like to see it incorporated into adopted plans which can furthermore be used for funding opportunities.
**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Meyers has general concerns about growth and development pressures the city faces and the strain it may have on natural resources.
- He also feels tourist pressure during the summer months can strain hiking trail infrastructure and expansions should be considered moving forward.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

- This is an important goal for Mr. Meyers, and he thinks the City of Saratoga Springs can use the natural resource inventory to create one cohesive park strategy.
- Mr. Meyers also feels that land management is important to consider when implementing these parks and if they will be serving many users verse a small number of users.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Mr. Meyers felt everything was covered in the previous questions.
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Blue Neils is the Saratoga County Cornell University Cooperative Extension Inter-municipal Storm water Management Program Manager.
- He helps the city of Saratoga Springs, along with 18 other local governments in Saratoga County, comply with their Special Clean Water Act Phase 2 storm water discharge permits. Professionally and academically his background is in forestry and resource management.
- He also has a general background in construction and government policies and natural resources management.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Mr. Neil’s predominate area of concern is water quality, in particular water surface quality as it is impacted by urban run-off from the city.
- Watershed management has to include broad tools and policy that balance the desire for community growth and development, while maintaining open space, green infrastructure, and the human environment.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Open space in the form of undeveloped land should be included; and water resources such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and wetlands, as well as flood plains.
• It should look at urban forest such as, street trees and residual trees leftover from the development of individual parcels.

• Habitat assessments should be included for any listed species that is on the endangered species list. Also, unique biome or bio types that are within the city.

**Question 4.** How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

• Inventories such as the NRI should be decision making tools that city officials, planning board, zoning board, design review committee, and City Council can use to help inform or prioritize their decision making or perhaps policies and actions in the future.

• It should be used not just for individual decision making but also long-term planning.

• It will give a baseline for everyone to work from so that everyone is working off the same set of facts.

**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

• For the city, surface water quality and water shed management, this means taking a hard look at the remaining open water bodies they have, the remaining streams that have not been encapsulated or anything else and start to consider the impacts the city might have on them.

• The city needs to make sure that older developments are up to today’s standards in regard to regulations and policies, just as we would for new developments.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

• Mr. Neils concern with pocket parks is that there is a tendency of placing an overabundance of faith that they meet open space requirements and that they have to be a built or constructed environment and he tends to not agree with that.

• Sometimes the best pocket parks are ones with nothing in it, they are simply there.
They may suit no other purpose but just existing as open space within the neighborhood.

Pocket parks can be an important goal.

You can use these parks to connect people with their environment.

Pocket parks should connect back to local natural resources.

They can help give people a meaningful sense of place and enable them to take greater ownership of the community, not just their own home parcel.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?

* Mr. Neils believed he covered everything in the questions above.
Interviewee Name: Katie Petronis  
Interviewee Organization, Title: Former Chair of Saratoga PLAN Countywide Trails Committee  
October 9, 2018  
Time: 2:30 P.M.  
Interview type: Phone Interview  
Interviewer: Karthik Soundara Rajan

**Question 1.** Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Ms. Petronis is neither a volunteer nor a staff member as she works for a nonprofit organization that works in partnership with the city of Saratoga Springs municipality and the regional land trust.

**Question 2.** What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Ms. Petronis has professional associations in conservation and protection of natural resources throughout Saratoga Springs and she lives in the city.

**Question 3.** What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Ms. Petronis wants to see resources such as watersheds, waterbodies, land, natural habitats, and climate resilience as a mapping resource prioritized and included in the Natural Resource Inventory.

**Question 4.** How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

- Ms. Petronis suggested that it be used for development planning, educational purposes, and as a tour guide.

**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

- One concern Ms. Petronis has is the rapid rate of development and its possible unintended consequences on the community’s natural resources.
Question 6. The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

- Ms. Petronis thinks that neighborhood parks should absolutely be included in the city of Saratoga Springs because it improves the community by providing a better quality of walkability and connectivity with various parts of the city, which can furthermore be used to help planners as a guide for the right kind of park development.
- Ms. Petronis also feels that having a green space would be primarily important and the amenities could be secondary.

Question 7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Ms. Petronis thinks she has covered everything in the previous questions.
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Mr. Rogers is the Director of Sustainability Programs and Assessment at Skidmore College.
- He also serves as a volunteer board member for Sustainable Saratoga and has helped contribute to the advancement of various city projects, one being the “Saratoga Green Belt Trail.”

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Mr. Rogers thinks natural resources and open-space can ultimately provide a sense of community connection and intrinsic value for the residents of Saratoga Springs.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Rogers would like to see greater community connectivity by identifying and protecting natural corridors and large swaths of land within the urban boundaries of the City.
- By identifying corridors and large swaths of land he feels that the City of Saratoga Springs could then make improvements to connect these areas and increase accessibility to more residents and areas throughout the urban core.
- Mr. Rogers feels that if Saratoga Springs can responsibly improve access to more natural resources around the city, the community can then build a greater appreciation and understanding as to how we can better protect them in the future.

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?
• Mr. Rogers would like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used for future zoning and development decisions.

• Using the Natural Resource Inventory for educational purposes whether it be for the community or nearby schools such as Skidmore College is another way Mr. Rogers would like to see it used.

• He also thinks it’s important that everyone has access to the Natural Resource Inventory once it is completed.

**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

• Mr. Rogers main concern is with the pace at which current and future development is occurring in Saratoga Springs.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

• Developing more small neighborhood parks is an important goal for Mr. Rogers.

• He feels that the components of newly developed neighborhood parks should be defined by their location.

• Mr. Rogers thinks the message of these parks (recreation/scenic/wildlife) as well as accessibility are two important components that need to be considered when developing small neighborhood parks in the future.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?

• Mr. Rogers was curious to know if the Natural Resource Inventory could be applied to the “Climate Smart Communities” pledge commitment.
Interviewees Name: *Steve Samuell*
Interviewee Organization, Title: Sustainable Saratoga Volunteer
Date: September 26th, 2018
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Interview Type: Phone
Interviewer(s): Jared Sayles

**Question 1.** Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Mr. Samuell currently serves as a volunteer board member for “Sustainable Saratoga.”
- He has been a resident of the City of Saratoga Springs since 1991.

**Question 2.** What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Mr. Samuell’s interests in the natural resource management includes documenting available open space within and around the City of Saratoga Springs.
- He also feels that by identifying what wildlife and natural resources can be found within Saratoga Springs will allow the city planners and community members to develop and expand on ways to protect them in the future.

**Question 3.** What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Samuell would like the natural resource inventory to expand beyond the city of Saratoga Springs to help provide a better sense of what protected areas or possible concerns may exist beyond the municipal boundaries.

**Question 4.** How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

- Mr. Samuell would like to see it used for community education and engagement by allowing residents to better understand what natural resources are available in Saratoga Springs and how the community can better protect them in the future.
- Mr. Samuell would also like to see it used as a tool for future planning considerations such as development decisions and potentially using it to meet future density requirements within the City of Saratoga Springs.
**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Samuell feels that the effects of future and current development on the City of Saratoga Springs is a concern that should be documented.
- He thinks that understanding future and current development will allow City officials and planners to create an equilibrium between preserving land and open space within the city while allowing gradual development to ensue.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

- The development of small neighborhood parks is an important goal for Mr. Samuell.
- Mr. Samuell would like to see greater community connectivity by creating easier access for residents with the inclusion of new and older neighborhood parks.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Mr. Samuell felt everything was covered in the questions above.
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Ms. Steer is a volunteer whose been a city resident since 2000.
- In 2015 she was appointed to the zoning board of appeals.
- She’s been involved in the city’s politics as a member of the democratic committee.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Ms. Steer wants to be able to keep the large water system network clean.
- She wants infrastructure issues that arise with development being tackled ethically and correctly.
- She wants to incentivize affordable housing options for mixed-use or the local workforce in relation to development (if not there will long term consequences).
- Ms. Steer wants to avoid more sprawl and look into changing the zoning of land ordinances to combat developer pressures.
- She believes accessible recreation space is lacking for children specifically.
- She also thinks there is a lack of true vision and direction due to government set up and functionality which creates issues. In the near future, it will become even harder to function well as the city grows and an uprising of NIMBYISM principles takes effect.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Ms. Steer is concerned with Saratoga Lake as well as the water source/quality from Loughberry Lake and the surrounding impactful infrastructure.
• She wants to see The North Woods specifically looked at as well as an inclusion of bike lanes in line with the completion of the trails network to the greenbelt.

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?
• Ms. Steer believes the Natural Resource Inventory will be helpful for all land use boards, as well as by the City Council when drafting legislation.
• She also believes the Natural Resource Inventory will help guide the SEQRA review process for applicants.

Question 5. Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?
• Ms. Steer is concerned with the city’s drinking water quality, recreational use of lakes and flooding or other climate change related issues.

Question 6. The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?
• Ms. Steer does believe small neighborhood parks are important. She lives downtown and sees a necessity for a passive recreation space. For example, down the street from her home is a Skidmore apartment which has a gravel lot that would be perfect for a small park, with the consent other community members.
• She doesn’t have strong feelings toward specific features in the parks but is more interested in accessible recreation for children with plenty of benches and greenspace for leisure and play.

Question 7. Is there anything else you would like to add?
• Ms. Steer believes strongly that the local zoning really needs to be addressed in relation to the Natural Resource Inventory’s compatibility with new development arising
Interviewees Name: Mark Torpey
Interviewees Organization, Title: Saratoga Springs Planning Board, Chair
Date: September 24, 2018
Time: 1:00 P.M.
Interview Type: In-Person
Interviewer: Brianna Francis

Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Mr. Torpey is Chair of the City Planning Board.
- He is an official officer of the city, but it is a volunteer position.
- The Planning Board deals with many land use tools including special use permits and site plan review.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Preserving the City of Saratoga Springs “city and the country vision.”
- Concentrate development in the inner part of the city
- Preserving the Greenbelt
- Gathering adequate information on climate control and biodiversity

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- The greenbelt.
- Wetlands and wetlands buffers.
- A visual map of all types of easements.
- An analysis that shows how the natural resources interact with one another.
- Look at what other cities have done in terms of “best practices.”

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

- Formally when the planning board makes decisions.
- The NRI could help during negotiations with developers.
Question 5. Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

- City could face a loss of character.
- The increase in housing prices.
- The inner core bleeding out into greenbelt.
- Loss of rural residential area.
- NRI could help address natural resource preservation issues.

Question 6. The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

- Mr. Torpey believes the city has “no appetite for pocket parks.”
- The City’s budget is too tight to support more parks.
- If the land is owned publicly, it is not taxable and would be a financial burden to the City.
- Could be added as a requirement for developers to provide civic space.
- Residents are concerned that it will attract the homeless population.
- Code Blue facilities for the homeless population are controversial.

Question 7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

- There should be a tutorial on the NRI and what it can do.
- Can be used in a practical sense to make decisions.
- Tool could help monetize the value of open space.
Interviewees Name: Maria Trabka  
Interviewee Organization, Title: Executive Director for Saratoga PLAN  
Date: October 5th, 2018  
Time: 3:30 P.M.  
Interview Type: Phone  
Interviewer(s): Jared Sayles

**Question 1.** Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Ms. Trabka is the Executive Director of Saratoga PLAN.  
- Saratoga PLAN is a non-profit organization that works closely with Saratoga County on their mission to preserve the rural character and natural habitats of the community.

**Question 2.** What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Ms. Trabka’s interest in resource management is to assist in any way to help Saratoga Springs create quality open spaces that the community can utilize.  
- Ms. Trabka feels that conservation of available open space is a key component in making this happen.

**Question 3.** What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Ms. Trabka would like to see a lot of the Saratoga Springs natural resource inventory centered around water resources such as surface water, aquifers, streams, and drinking water and how the city may go about better protecting these resources moving forward.  
- Ms. Trabka would also like to see flora and fauna life considered in the natural resource inventory, native and invasive species, and how we can better protect the habitats in which they live in.

**Question 4.** How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

- Ms. Trabka would like to see the natural resource inventory used for future conservation planning as well as open space acquisition.
**Question 5.** Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?

- Ms. Trabka feels Saratoga Springs may face concerns regarding inadequate drinking water in the future.
- Ms. Trabka also notes that the replenishment of our urban forests could also be a future concern, and in return the City should aim to continually plant and replace native trees.

**Question 6.** The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?

- This is certainly an important goal for Ms. Trabka, she feels that neighborhood parks would be a great addition, but how they are constructed should be based off what that neighborhood wants or feels should be included in said parks.

**Question 7.** Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Ms. Trabka felt everything was covered in the previous questions.
Question 1. Could you please describe your background and association with the City of Saratoga Springs? Are you a city staff member or do you volunteer with the City?

- Mr. Veitch currently sits on the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors.
- Before taking the role of County Supervisor, Mr. Veitch was the former chairman of the Saratoga Springs open space advisory committee.

Question 2. What best describes your interest in natural resource management in Saratoga Springs?

- Mr. Veitch feels that making sure the community understands how sensitive our natural resources are to development and pollution throughout the City of Saratoga Springs is important for us to do.
- He also feels the Natural Resource Inventory will be very useful for the city in many ways, some of which include benefiting the City Council, residents, as well as the planning and zoning departments when it comes to making decisions about where development should be occurring in our city.

Question 3. What do you think should be included in the Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory?

- Mr. Veitch thinks the Natural Resource Inventory should be broad, but also specific to some degree by including open space resources, trails, hydrology, native species, geography and geology.
- Mr. Veitch also noted that looking deeper into the natural springs scattered throughout Saratoga may be beneficial in identifying how many springs there are and how many of the springs are capped or uncapped.

Question 4. How would you like to see the Natural Resource Inventory used?

- Mr. Veitch would like to see it used as planning document for the city.
• He thinks it can be used in important decisions regarding the development of housing, infrastructure, and natural resources in the City such as parks, trails, and recreation.
• He does feel it would also be useful for residents in the community to be aware of what the data in the Natural Resource Inventory states about our existing resources.

Question 5. Does Saratoga Springs face any concerns that should be documented in the Natural Resource Inventory?
• Mr. Veitch feels one big concern for the City of Saratoga Springs is the lack of open space/shrinking open spaces throughout the city.
• He also notes that there are a few developments being built on the western part of the city and feels there needs to be more consideration for the natural resources in those development sites.

Question 6. The 2002 Saratoga Springs Open Space Plan contained a policy recommendation to encourage the development of small neighborhood parks. Is this an important goal for you? Why or why not? What should be included in such parks?
• This is an important goal for Mr. Veitch and thinks that smaller open spaces for people who would walk to the city can stop and have rest in certain areas.
• He feels that if the community doesn’t have a break from the intensity of development it will be a mistake that many other urban areas have made over the years.
• He also thinks it may be nearing the point where the City of Saratoga Springs should outright purchase available land and development rights to expand on the easements and protected areas they already have.

Question 7. Is there anything else you would like to add?
• Mr. Veitch feels most material was covered but does note that knowing the ecology of the city is important moving forward.
Annotated Bibliography

Pocket Parks

https://www.planning.org/pas/reports/report229/
This report explores the potential of vest parks through the experience of four major cities: New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington. The report discussed specific programs and their financing, staffing, and implementation, but it should be understood that the report is not based on firsthand knowledge, but on information, and in part opinion, relayed to American Society of Planning Officials by the sponsors and participants in these projects.

http://depts.washington.edu/open2100/pdf/2_OpenSpaceTypes/Open_Space_Types/pocket_parks.pdf
This article by Alison Blake has examples of pocket parks from around the country. On page 5, there is a list of patterns, or characteristics, the author noted about pocket parks. One of the more interesting was the tendency for pocket parks to be well-suited for year-round use because park builders take the microclimate into account when building the park.

The purpose of the Open Space plan update was to augment and update the 1994 Open Space Plan. The plan provided the community with a detailed description of the remaining open space resources (e.g., agricultural lands, rural roadways, wooded areas, etc.) that require stewardship. It demonstrated how these resources relate to one another, and how they can be linked to create a network of open spaces surrounding the urban core and recommended appropriate actions that the City, the Open Space Project, and others should take to implement the vision of the plan.

As of the date of this report, the City of Saratoga Springs is in the process of writing a Recreation Master Plan for the city. This power point, presented on October 4, 2018 by the City’s consultants, provided data about the city’s parks and recreation facilities which was used in this report. This data should be cross-referenced and verified when the City’s final Recreation Master Plan is published.
City of Saratoga Springs Request for Proposal to hire consultants to prepare a Recreation Plan for the city.

http://kronkosky.org/Research/Foundation-Research/Research-Briefs
This research brief conducted an in-depth analysis on pocket parks, providing insight on funding, design, maintenance, and case studies.

https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/f768428a39aa4035ae55b2aaff372617/pocket-parks.pdf
This Issue Brief from the National Recreation and Park Association is a detailed how-to manual for building a pocket park. The Brief states that the four main qualities for a successful pocket park are accessibility, space for people to engage in activities, a comfortable area with a good image, and a sociable place. On page 2, there is a detailed step-by-step guide for building a pocket park.

https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/ParkMetrics/
The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks, recreation and conservation. The website of this organization provides a variety of different tools and metrics which municipalities can use and apply locally to assist in the goal of creating and operating parks and recreational facilities.

https://www.ptny.org/our-work/support/funding-opportunities
The website of Parks & Trails New York lists funding sources such as federal and state grant programs, private foundations, and corporate assistance programs. Along with funding types, they also provide background information, requirements, and availability of each funding opportunity.

http://www.tpl.org/about/ and
https://www.tpl.org/10minutewalk#sm.0001hcoqxi8racxgszp1vrxfxefq
The TPL mission is to create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Every park, playground, and public space is an open invitation to explore, wonder, discover, and play. TPL has been connecting communities to the outdoors—and to each other—since 1972. Currently, TPL, along with other organizations, is sponsoring a campaign to encourage a 10-minute walk to a park from every home in America.
The city’s zoning ordinance is a law enforced by Saratoga Springs in order to regulate land use. There is currently a new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) being written that will look to build on the current zoning ordinance with standards for design, climate resiliency and a streamlined review and approval process, among other revisions.

**Conservation Easements**


This New York State law enables local municipalities to implement and enforce conservation, preservation and protection efforts for sensitive land, with many stipulations attached.


This New York State 5-part law explains the procedure on how to remove or revise a conservation easement.


This New York State 4-part law defines open space, how land can be acquired, how that land’s taxation can be affected, as well as when it becomes enforceable.

**Scenic Viewshed Analysis**

Following extensive research, the two studies considered as the best examples for a Saratoga Springs scenic viewshed analysis were:

https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/70004

http://tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/planning/Natural_Agriculture/TCSR%20report%20Jan%202017.pdf
Other scenic viewshed studies considered as good examples included the following reports:

http://www.benningtonplanningandpermits.com/includes/pdfs/SRI.pdf


http://blmwyomingvisual.anl.gov/docs/NPS_01_VD-SQ_Inventory_Datasheet_08-2016.pdf

Mineral Springs

“A Brief History and Tasting Tour of the Famous Waters of Saratoga.” Saratoga Springs Heritage Area Visitor Center. Saratoga Springs, NY. 
This brochure, provided by the Saratoga Springs Heritage Area, helped verify some of the mineral spring founding dates, history, and medicinal uses.

This source was primarily used to get a better understanding of when certain mineral springs were founded, but not necessarily tubed, for public use. The book also provided an early water analysis of the first springs, how they were used medicinally, and which springs were thought to be the most important to the city’s future success.

Dawson, Carroll Charles. Saratoga: Its Mineral Waters, and Their Use in Preventing and Eradicating Disease, and as a Refreshing Beverage, 1874. 
This book provided an historical overview of when mineral springs were drilled in what is now Saratoga Spa State Park. It also provided context as to how many people approximately visited these mineral springs, where tourists were coming from, and why businesses valued these mineral springs in the 1870s.

Useful as a general historical overview of Saratoga Springs, New York.


Saratoga Spa State Park: Mineral Springs Guide. New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. New York State Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation brochure that provided some overview on the founding dates of mineral springs and their chemical makeup in terms of radicals. Also served as a guide in finding locations of the mineral springs located in Saratoga Spa State Park for LaBella Associates to obtain exact GPS coordinates.

Saratoga Mineral Springs Map. 1909. Saratoga Springs Public Library. Historic map that plotted the location of the earliest mineral springs throughout Saratoga Springs, New York. Since many of the mineral springs do not have a definitive founding date, this map, along with other sources, were used to estimate the founding year of some of the mineral springs.


findings. However, the study was important throughout various stages of the report, giving hindsight on the chemical makeup up of certain mineral springs at a point in time.

**Department of Health - FOIL Request - Publicly Accessible Mineral Springs.**
A Freedom of Information request (FOIL) request was submitted to the New York State Department of Health in late November requesting the most recent test results of the publicly accessible mineral springs located throughout Saratoga Springs, New York. The request is pending as of the date of this report but will hopefully serve as the final piece of conclusive data as to what the chemical makeup of the mineral springs are in parts per million (PPM).