

## CHAPTER III

# Description and Inventory of Resources

## Protected Open Space



*Thomas Bull Memorial Park*



*Sterling Forest State Park*

To determine where, what and how much open space land should be protected for future generations, this Open Space Plan first addresses the existing open space resources through a series of maps and text. The County needs to determine where the resources are located in order to identify and locate future open space needs.

The Planning Department staff, with the aid of other experts, identified existing protected open space, analyzed their significance and revealed the areas that need protection. Map 1 shows the existing land uses in conjunction with the protected open spaces. With this contrast of uses, the County can establish priorities for preservation, as well as priorities for growth.

Successful open space planning explores protected open space areas in neighboring communities and then identifies and states priorities that will expand and complement these existing areas. Map 3 shows the inventory of protected open space in the nearby Counties of Ulster, Sullivan, and Rockland in New York State; Sussex and Passaic in New Jersey; and Pike in Pennsylvania.

Map 4 shows an inventory of the categories of protected open space, both permanent and temporary. To understand the significance of areas identified on the map, the Plan defines protected open space, permanently protected open space and temporarily protected open space.

This Open Space Plan defines **protected open space** as predominantly undeveloped land that is historical, agricultural, recreational, vacant, or any combination thereof in nature and is at least temporarily protected from development. This land can be publicly or privately owned and may or may not be open to the public. Protected open space can serve multiple purposes, including agricultural, recreational, historical, scenic, or natural resource protection. Such areas can range in size and character from a small urban pocket park to large tracts of forest.

Within this category, this Plan establishes two categories of protected open space, permanently protected and temporarily protected:

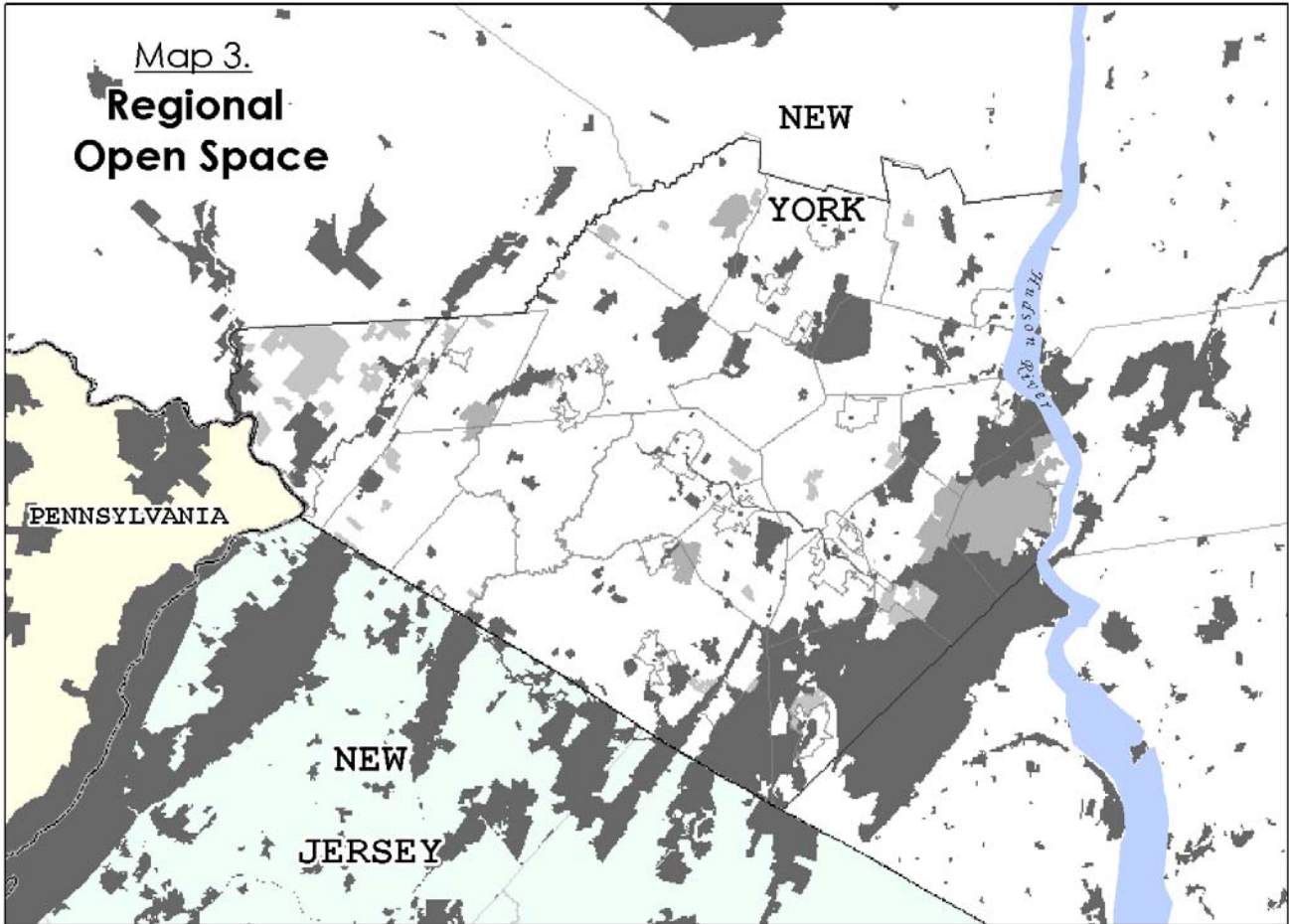
**Permanently protected open space** is guaranteed to remain undeveloped in perpetuity by virtue of: 1) its ownership by a conservation organization (such as a land trust), a government agency, or by any other entity whose mission is to protect land from development, or 2) the presence of a conservation easement upon the deed of a land parcel.

Included in this category are Federal Wildlife Refuges, Federal Parkland, National Wildlife Refuges, State Parks, State Forests, State Unique Areas, county parks, and municipal parks.

**Temporarily protected open space** cannot be developed for a certain period of time due to a contractual agreement such as a term easement.

This category includes County-owned Reservoir Lands, West Point Military Academy, and privately owned land that receives a 480[a] tax exemption by the DEC for being in the forest management program.

Temporarily protected open space is useful to inventory primarily because these lands are suitable for future permanent protection. In Orange County, temporarily protected open space makes up almost 30% of the total protected open space and 7% of the land area of the County (Map 4). If these lands were to be developed, County residents, especially those in the town of Deerpark, would most certainly notice the change in landscape.



Permanently Protected Open Space  
 Temporarily Protected Open Space



Orange County Planning Department  
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