

City of Newburgh CATs Meeting  
(Community Action Team)  
26 January 2012  
7PM  
Armory Unity Center, Newburgh NY

## Environment/Conservation Committee

Present: Verne Bell, John Gebhards, William Kaplan, Peter Smith

Objective: to introduce environmental and conservation awareness into the City of Newburgh's agenda.

### General Discussion:

#### Target opportunity areas

The impact of climate change

Opportunities for "green" jobs.

Integration of open space into the daily life of the City

A Regional Environmental Conference in the City of Newburgh

The relationship of environmental considerations to every other team's work.

Conservation Advisory Committees

### Target Areas:

#### Area 1. Quassaick Creek:

Winds around the city and forms its boundary on the south and west.

Provides opportunities for recreation, natural habitat restoration, urban forestry, walking trails, tourism; linkage to the Hudson Waterfront.

Inter-relates to Beautification activities, neighborhood enhancement.

Much of the land along the creek is publicly owned: South High, Chestnut Street School; Lake Street Houses; Harrison's Pond properties.

Enhancement Creek Corridor would increase property values and the tax base in neighborhoods adjacent to it.

Opportunities for green storm water mitigation practices. (Cerone Place for example) to reduce storm water infiltration into the waste water treatment facility.

Opportunity for job creation.

Build on information previously developed by Marcie Denker and others for the Quassaick Creek Estuary Preserve Coalition

Connect with neighborhood block groups, beautification groups and clean-up groups to plant trees and clean up the riparian areas.

Aside: Oklahoma City created an artificial canal to reinvigorate its downtown. It is a success. (NPR story of Jan 2012.)

#### Area 2. Waterfront

Impact of climate change and rising sea level on the Hudson Riverfront, a key component of the City's regional appeal.

How to mitigate the impact of flooding from anticipated higher tides due to climate change on the Hudson River and estuaries.

#### Area 3. Downing Park

Opportunities for landscape maintenance and restoration

Urban forestry and the care of the historic trees and soils

Horticulture: the restoration of the greenhouse complex.

Opportunity for composting facility

#### Area 4. Streets

Care and management of street trees and plantings

Opportunities to develop strategies using green infrastructure techniques to mitigate storm water infiltration into the waste water treatment facility, such as permeable paving in parking lanes and rain gardens.

Build on previously designed Greenway Trails: The Trail of Two Cities, linking Newburgh and Beacon, and the Frederick Douglass Trail that traced the route of the procession celebrating passage of the 16th (?) amendment to the Constitution following the Civil War. Signage.

#### Area 5. Land Use for Recreational Purposes

Support new Scenic Hudson waterfront Park

Park at former Consolidated Iron Site

Pocket Parks in neighborhoods

Leroy Place corners

Dog Parks

#### Area 6. Community Gardens

encourage composting

Encourage self-sustaining gardens in every neighborhood.

Utilize the Quassaick Creek Corridor for this purpose

#### Area 7. Crystal Lake, Miller's Pond and Snake Hill

Opportunity for conservation based development in accordance with the City's Comprehensive Master Plan, adopted by Council.

Develop recreational trail to connect City owned land to Scenic Hudson Park on Snake Hill.

#### Area 8. Drinking Watershed lands surrounding Washington Lake and Brown's Pond

Opportunity to development a management plan for the watershed in conjunction with the neighboring municipalities and entities that affect it.

Develop "green" bio-filtration practices to naturally treat runoff entering the reservoirs.

Reforest the watershed.

Consider appropriate, fee based, recreational uses for the two reservoirs.

