

## 9<sup>th</sup> Lecture

# Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty, and Critical Environmental Areas

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# Introduction

- Maintaining the **memorable and unique landscape features** of our communities just makes sense.
- Unfortunately, **valuable natural and agricultural areas** are some of the most affected by poor planning and automobile-focused development.



# Definitions

- **Open spaces**
- **Green spaces**
- **Preserve open spaces**
- **Preserve farmlands**
- **Critical Environment Areas  
CEA**
- **Working lands**



# What is Open Space/Green Space?

- **Open space** is any open piece of land that is undeveloped (has no buildings or other built structures) and is accessible to the public.
- Open space can include:
- **Green space** (land that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation). Green space includes parks, community gardens, and cemeteries.
- **Schoolyards**
- **Playgrounds**
- **Public seating areas**
- **Public plazas**
- **Vacant lots**



**Schoolyards**



**Green space**



**Playgrounds**



**Vacant lots**



**Public plazas**



**Public seating areas**

# Open space

## ➤ Open space / Benefites

1. It provides recreational areas for residents
2. helps to enhance the beauty and environmental quality of neighborhoods.

## ➤ Open spaces and Environmental issues

➤ , the way parks are managed can have good or bad environmental impacts,

- A) Pesticide runoff,
- B) Siltation from overused hiking and logging trails,
- C) Destruction of habitat.





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Fountain in Forsyth Park, Savannah, Georgia.





## ➤ **Open space reserve**

- (also called **open space preserve**, **open space reservation**, and **green space**)
- It is an area of protected or conserved land or water on which development is forever set aside.



# Farmland preservation

- Farmland preservation is a joint effort by :
  1. non-governmental organizations
  2. local governments to set aside and protect examples of a region's farmland for
    - the use,
    - education,
    - enjoyment of future generations.



# What are "Critical Environmental Areas"? "

- A Critical Environmental Area (CEA) is a geographic area with exceptional or unique character with respect to one or more of the following:
  1. A benefit or threat to human health.
  2. A natural location such as fish and wildlife habitat, forest and vegetation, open space, and areas of important aesthetic or attractive quality
  3. Agricultural, social, cultural, historic, archeological, recreational, or educational values.
  4. An inherent ecological, geological, or hydrological sensitivity that may be unfavorably affected by any change.



The Town of Wawarsing in Ulster County , New York designated the Catskill-Shawangunk **Greenway Corridor CEA** to bring attention to a **critical ecological corridor** providing regional habitat connectivity between the Catskill Mountains and the Shawangunk Ridge. The corridor had previously been recognized as a high priority for conservation in the 2018 Town Open Space Plan and the 2016 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan .



The Town of Pine Plains in Dutchess County , New York designated **Stissing Mountain CEA** to raise and formalize awareness of this important ecosystem. Stissing Mountain is also a defining natural landmark and viewshed for Pine Plains that contains sensitive steep slopes and protects drinking water supplies

# Working lands

- ▶ **Working lands** means lands used for farming, grazing, or the production of forest.
- ▶ **Working lands** are the rangelands, farms and forestlands used to support livelihoods. Their value, however, extends beyond a dollar amount.
- ▶ Working lands are also recognized as homes to wildlife, areas that protect open space, and landscapes that provide local people with a sense of place.



**Working Lands**  
CONSERVATION



WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

# Importance of Preserving Open spaces

► there are many good reasons to preserve such areas:

1. **Open spaces** are critical for recreation and have a positive impact on public health through active living.
2. **Conserving land and soil** that is useful for agriculture is necessary not only to sustain future access to healthy food also to maintain our culture and a way of life that many find meaningful.
3. **Preserving environmental features** such as streams, wetlands, grasslands and woodlands is essential for clean air and water and necessary for maintaining varied and healthy populations of fish and wildlife.



# Importance of Preserving Open spaces

4. As much as we may use and value these areas, preserving them is **a large challenge requiring considerable community will and dedication**, especially where there is **development pressure and high land values.**

5. Yet the effort to preserve the land we've inherited is essential **to ensure that future generations have a high quality of life and access to the beauty and meaning found in nature.**

# Contribution of Preserving Open spaces to Smart growth

❖ Open space supports smart growth goals by:

1. strengthening local economies,
2. preserving critical environmental areas,
3. providing recreational opportunities,
4. and guiding new growth into existing communities.
5. preservation of open space can have a deep impact on a community's quality of life.
6. therefore a region's economic prosperity.





Thank You

Any Questions?

