NEW YORK STATE | Hudson River Estuary Program

A Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Habitats and Wildlife in the Town of North Greenbush

Photo: Bil Schaefer

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Hudson River Estuary Program/Cornell University

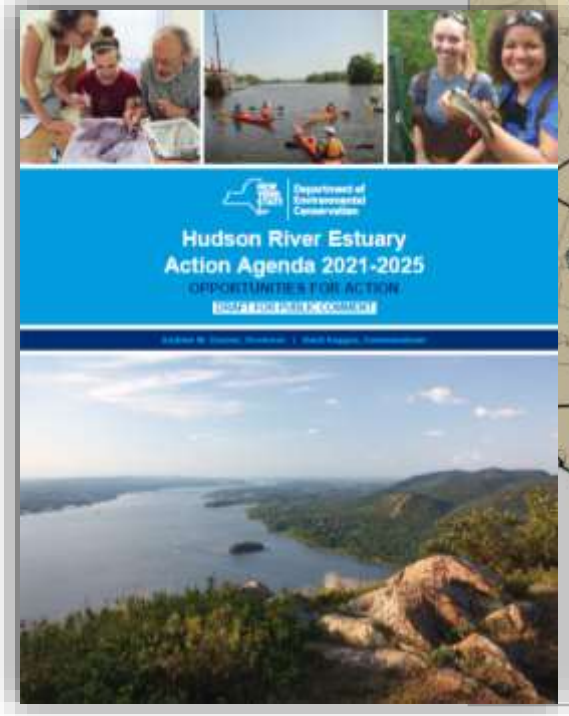
Cornell University

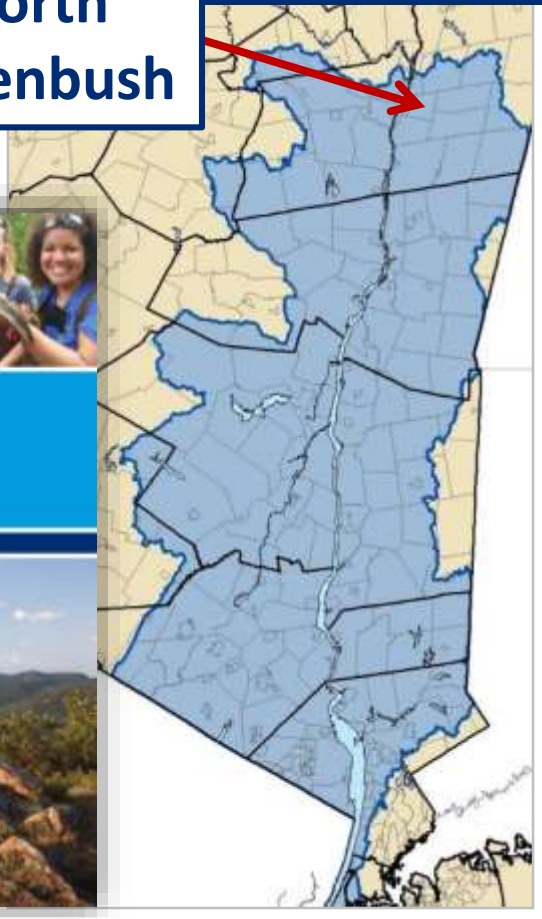
July 8, 2021

Hudson River Estuary Program

Working to achieve key benefits:

- clean water
- community resilience
- vital estuary ecosystem
- fish, wildlife, and habitat
- natural scenery
- education, access, recreation, and inspiration





Municipal training, technical assistance & grants:

- natural resource inventories
- open space plans
- watershed plans
- streamside tree plantings
- dam removal
- culvert replacement
- Hudson River access projects
- sustainable shoreline strategies
- climate adaptation planning

What's at stake?

natural areas

- water quality and quantity
- flood control
- temperature moderation
- carbon storage
- clean air
- human health
- recreation and education
- scenery
- fisheries and forest products
- pollinators

community benefits

Photo by Laura Heady

Recommended Planning Approach:

identify what you have → prioritize → plan, protect, manage

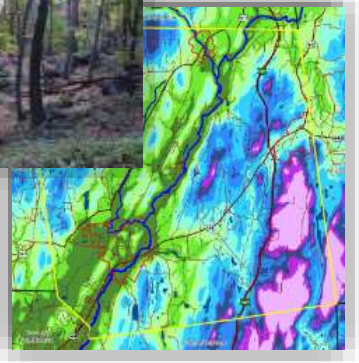
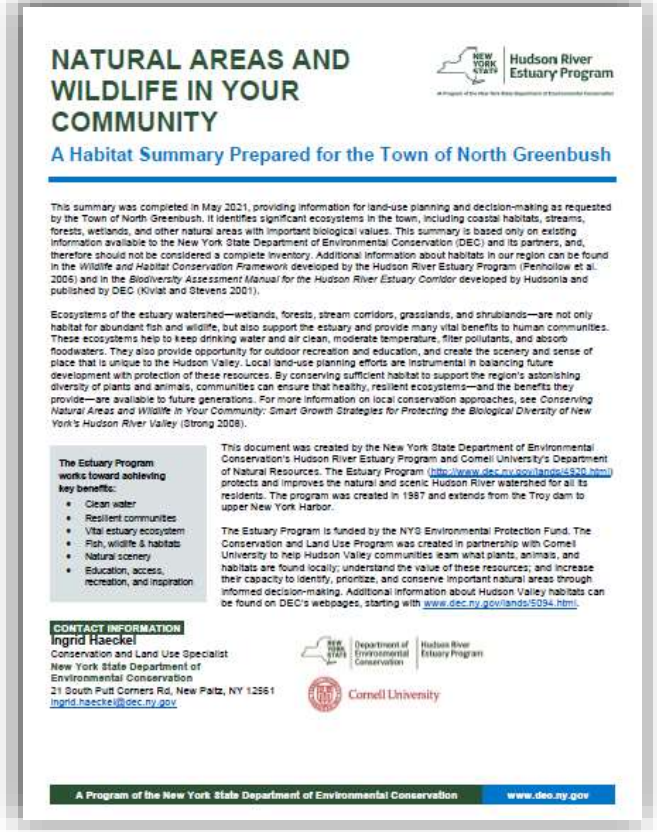


Photo by Laura Heady

What's in the Habitat Summary?

Existing data about important natural areas and wildlife with interpretation:

- Land Cover and Land Use
- Important Biodiversity Areas
- Watersheds, Streams, Flood Zones
- Wetlands and Large Forests
- Grasslands and Shrublands



NATURAL AREAS AND WILDLIFE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Hudson River Estuary Program

A Habitat Summary Prepared for the Town of North Greenbush

This summary was completed in May 2021, providing information for land-use planning and decision-making as requested by the Town of North Greenbush. It identifies significant ecosystems in the town, including coastal habitats, streams, forests, wetlands, and other natural areas with important biological values. This summary is based only on existing information available to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and its partners, and, therefore should not be considered a complete inventory. Additional information about habitats in our region can be found in the *Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Framework* developed by the Hudson River Estuary Program (Penhollow et al. 2006) and in the *Biodiversity Assessment Manual for the Hudson River Estuary Corridor* developed by Hudsonia and published by DEC (Kiviat and Stevens 2001).

Ecosystems of the estuary watershed—wetlands, forests, stream corridors, grasslands, and shrublands—are not only habitat for abundant fish and wildlife, but also support the estuary and provide many vital benefits to human communities. These ecosystems help to keep drinking water and air clean, moderate temperature, filter pollutants, and absorb floodwaters. They also provide opportunity for outdoor recreation and education, and create the scenery and sense of place that is unique to the Hudson Valley. Local land-use planning efforts are instrumental in balancing future development with protection of these resources. By conserving sufficient habitat to support the region's astonishing diversity of plants and animals, communities can ensure that healthy, resilient ecosystems—and the benefits they provide—are available to future generations. For more information on local conservation approaches, see *Conserving Natural Areas and Wildlife in Your Community: Smart Growth Strategies for Protecting the Biological Diversity of New York's Hudson River Valley* (Strong 2008).

The Estuary Program works toward achieving key benefits:

- Clean water
- Resilient communities
- Vital estuary ecosystem
- Fish, wildlife & habitats
- Natural scenery
- Education, access, recreation, and inspiration

This document was created by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources. The Estuary Program (http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html) protects and improves the natural and scenic Hudson River watershed for all its residents. The program was created in 1987 and extends from the Troy dam to upper New York Harbor.

The Estuary Program is funded by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The Conservation and Land Use Program was created in partnership with Cornell University to help Hudson Valley communities learn what plants, animals, and habitats are found locally; understand the value of these resources; and increase their capacity to identify, prioritize, and conserve important natural areas through informed decision-making. Additional information about Hudson Valley habitats can be found on DEC's webpages, starting with www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5094.html.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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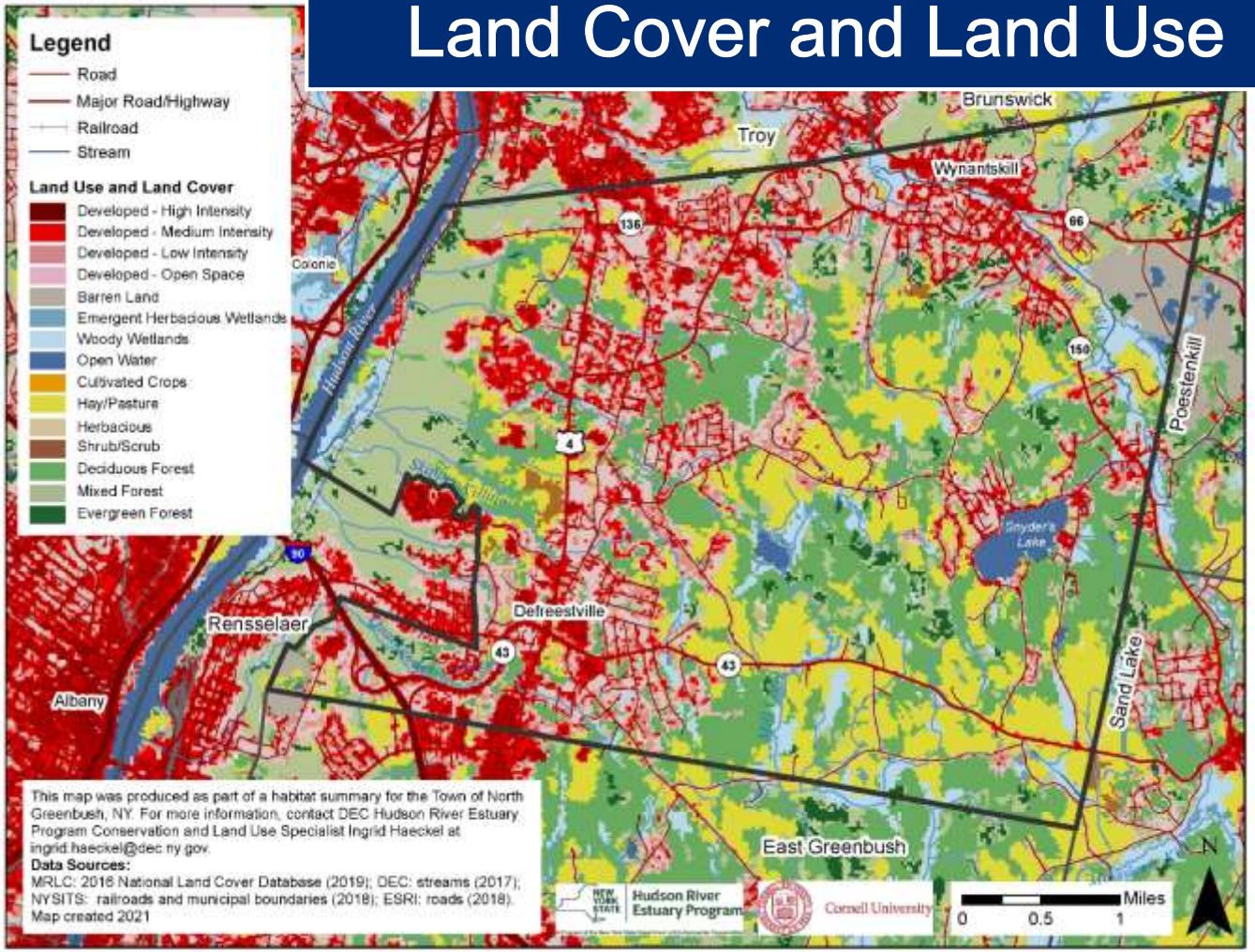
Land Cover and Land Use



North Greenbush:

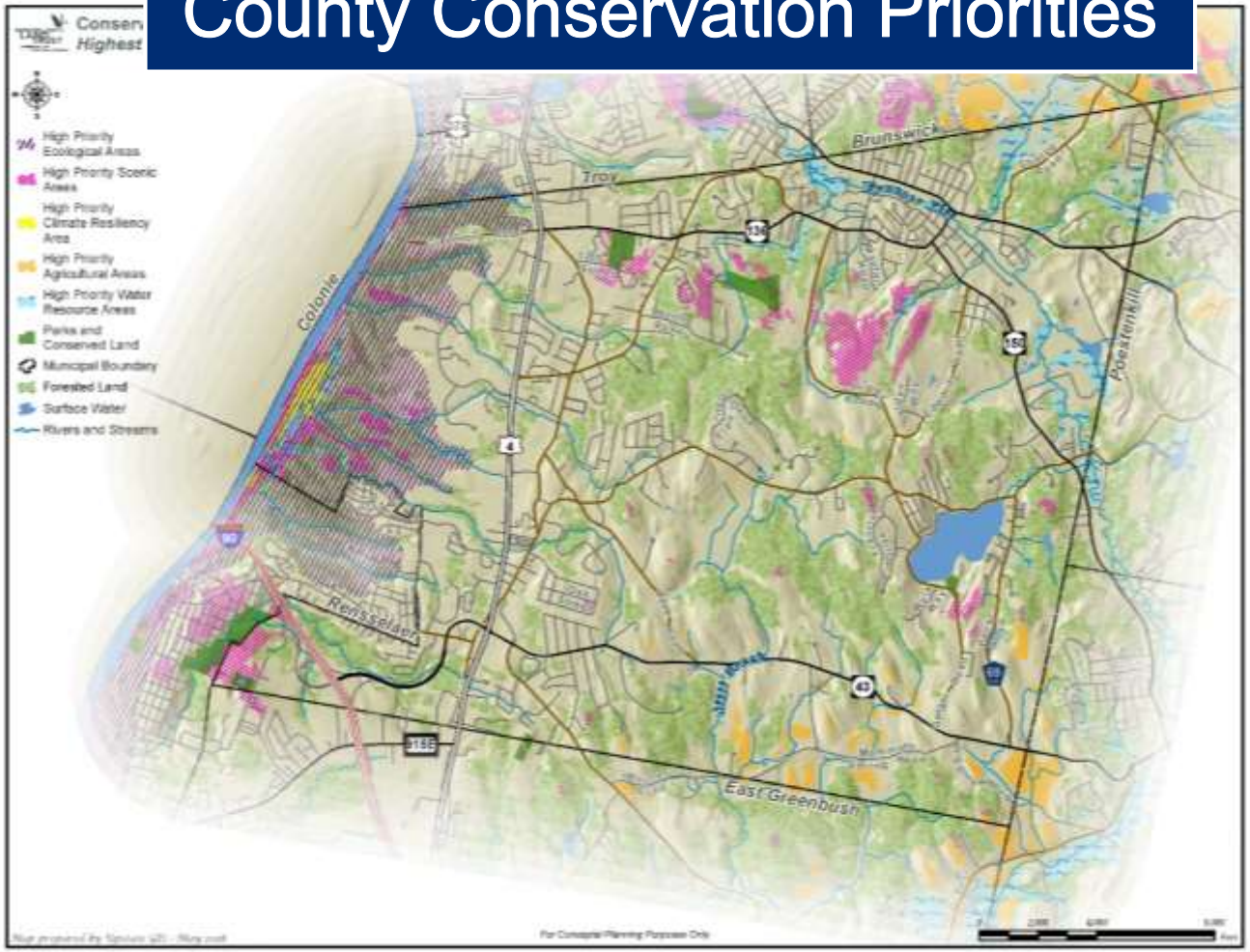
18.9 mi^2

36% developed

42% forest

18% agricultural/ open land

County Conservation Priorities

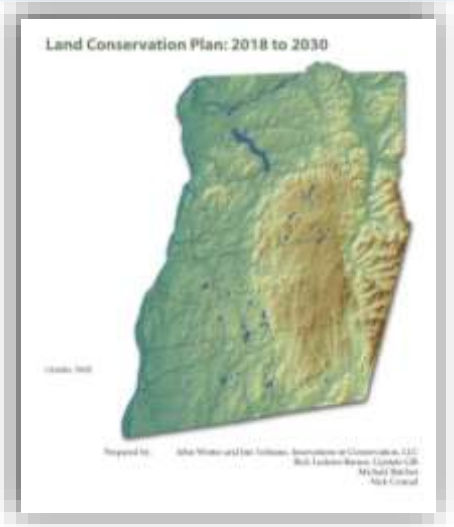


Priority Natural Areas:

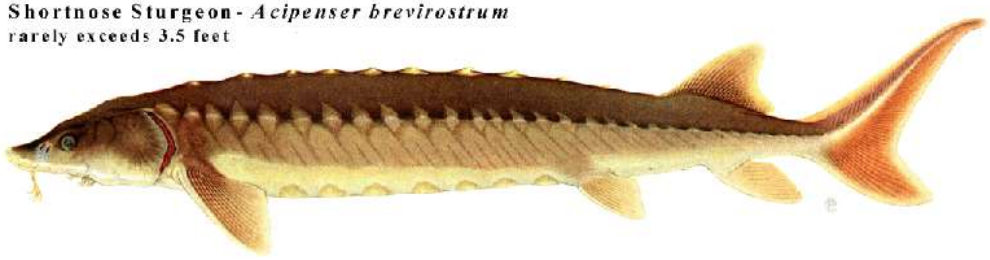
Hudson River coastal zone and ravines

Wynants Kill corridor

Northeast streams and wetlands



Hudson River Coastal Habitat



All other images/photos: NYSDEC

freshwater tidal marsh

Photo by Emilie Hauser

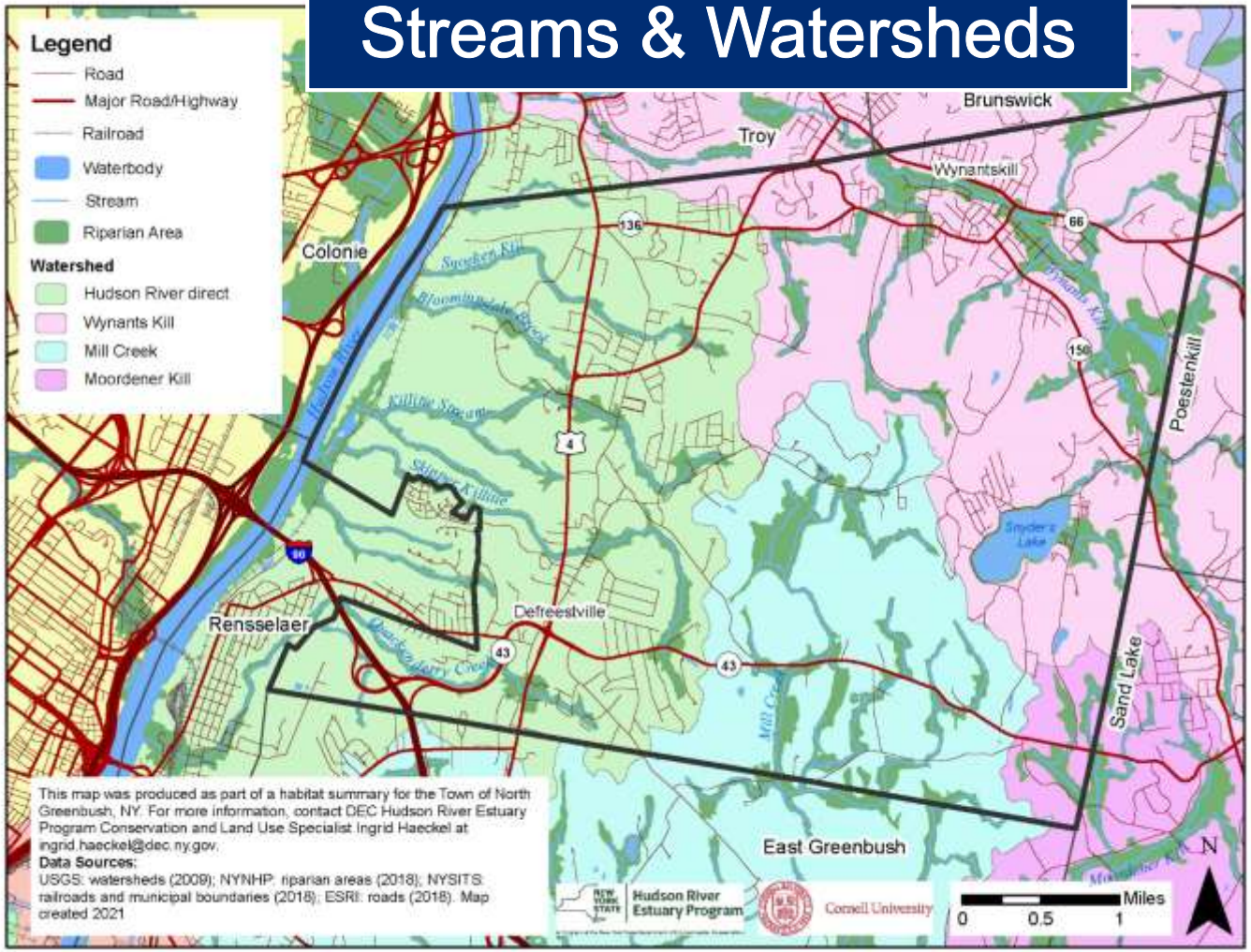
Map turtle

Photo by Wayne van Devender

freshwater tidal swamp

Photo by Carly Voight

Streams & Watersheds



Stream buffers:

Filter nutrients and sediment

Reduce erosion

Shade and shelter for fish

Cool water temps

Wildlife corridors

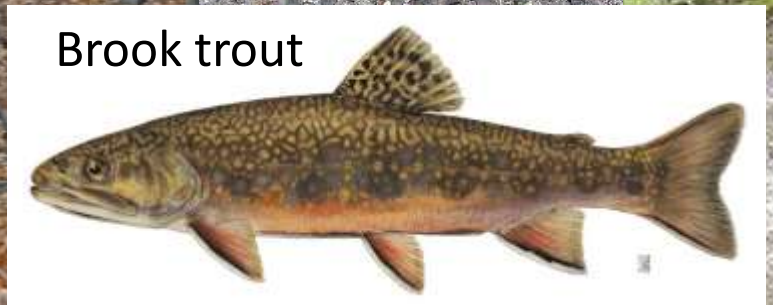
Photo : Walking Man 24 7 blog

Cobra clubtail

Photo: Diana Terry Hibbits

Wood turtle

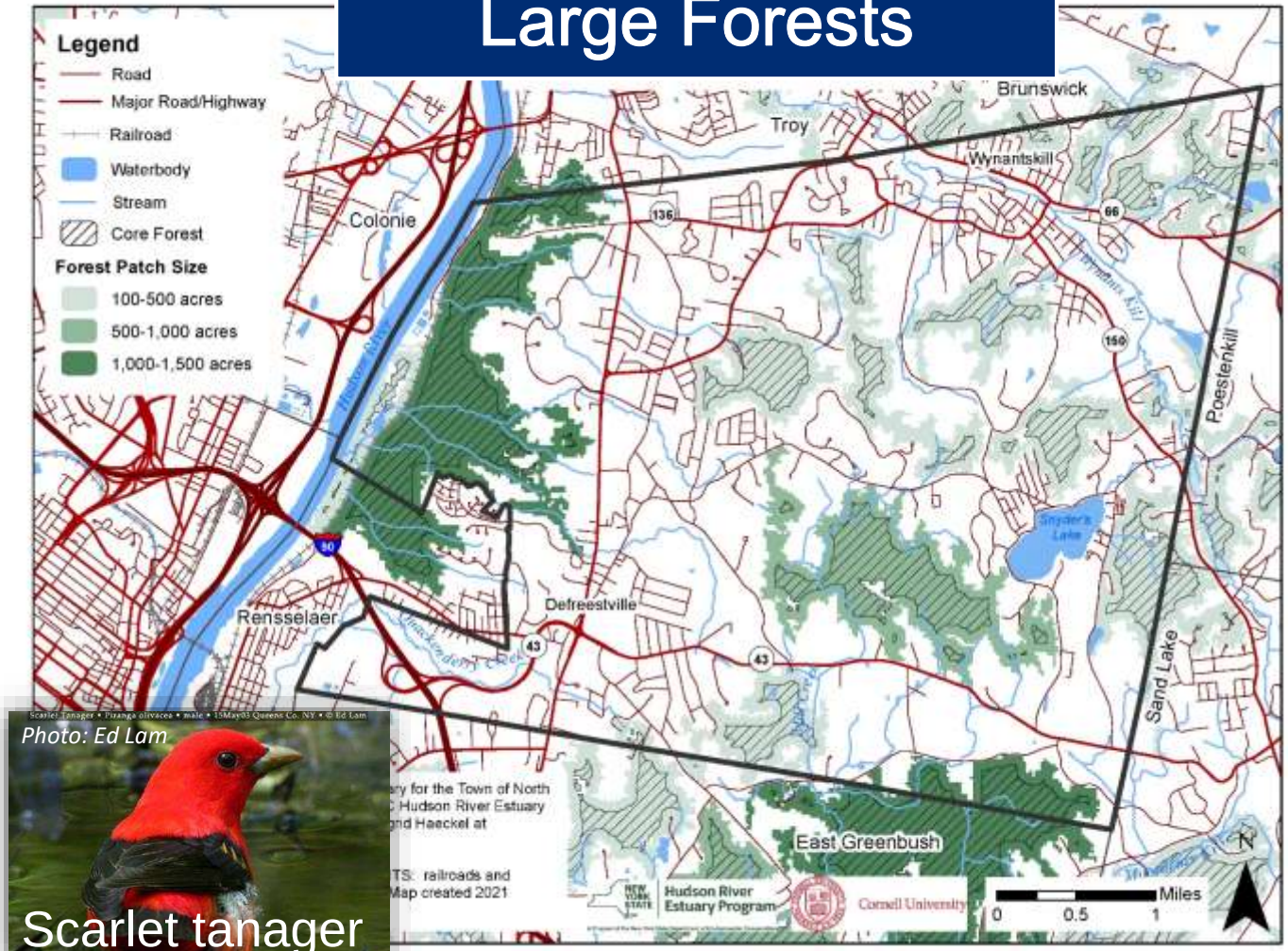
Photo: Ingrid Haeckel



Brook trout

Photo : Sand Lake

Large Forests



In forest patches less than 5 acres, risk of human exposure to Lyme disease was almost 5 times greater than in larger forested areas.

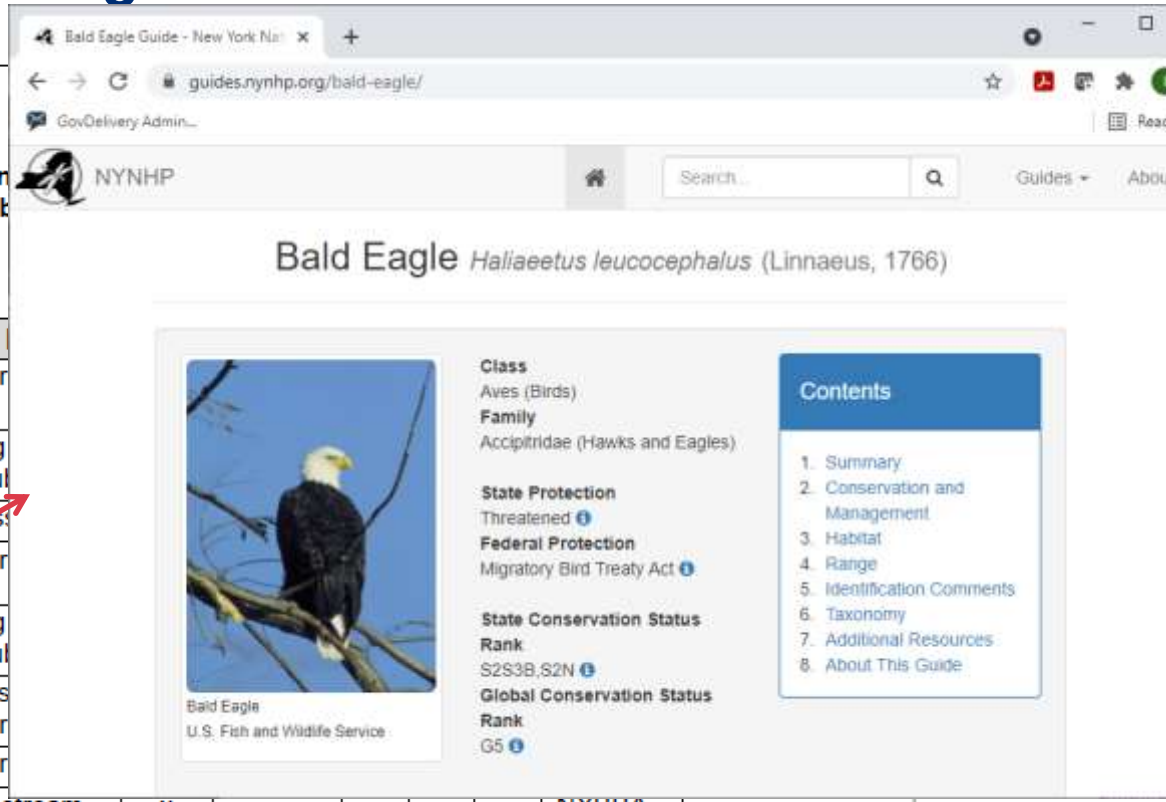
(Allan et al., 2003)

Rare species table and guidance

Many hyperlinks throughout text and tables

Common Name	Scientific Name	Gen Hab
Acadian Flycatcher	*Empidonax virescens*	for
American Goldfinch	*Spinus tristis*	young shrul
American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*	gras
American Redstart	*Setophaga ruticilla*	for
American Woodcock	*Scolopax minor*	young shrul
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	lake, s for
Baltimore Oriole	*Icterus galbula*	for
Belted Kingfisher	*Megaceryle alcyon*	lake, stream

x						NYBBA



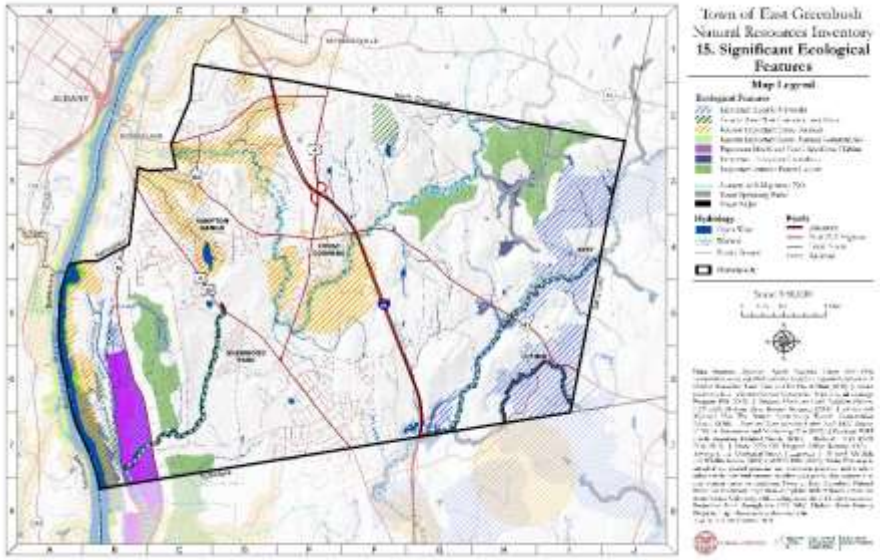
Conservation Principles

- Maintain large intact natural areas
- Preserve *broad* natural corridors
- Maintain or restore broad buffer zones of natural vegetation around sensitive resources
- Minimize impervious surfaces
- Encourage new development near existing centers or in least sensitive areas.

Photo: Laura Heady

Dutchess County Greenway Guide

Next Step: Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)



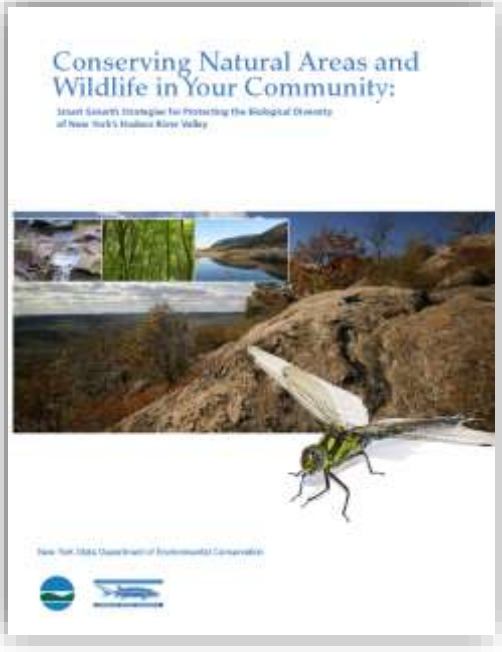
NRI Uses:

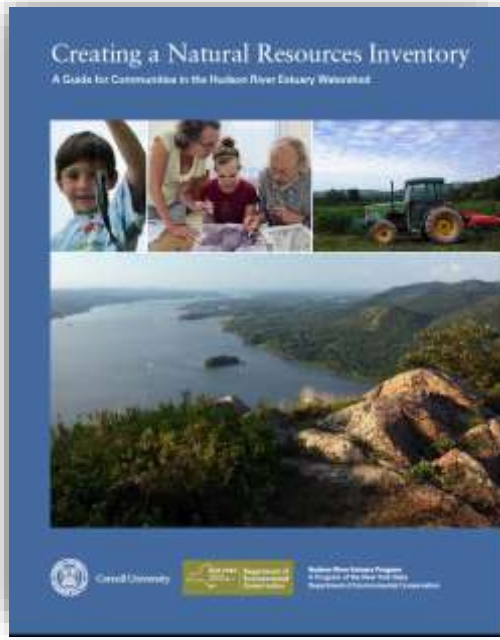
- educate landowners and developers
- reference for land use planning and decision-making
- foundation for comprehensive plan and zoning updates

Where can I get more information?

Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper

Publications





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Thank you! Questions?

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