



# Saratoga PLAN

## preserving land and nature



CONSERVING  
FARMLAND

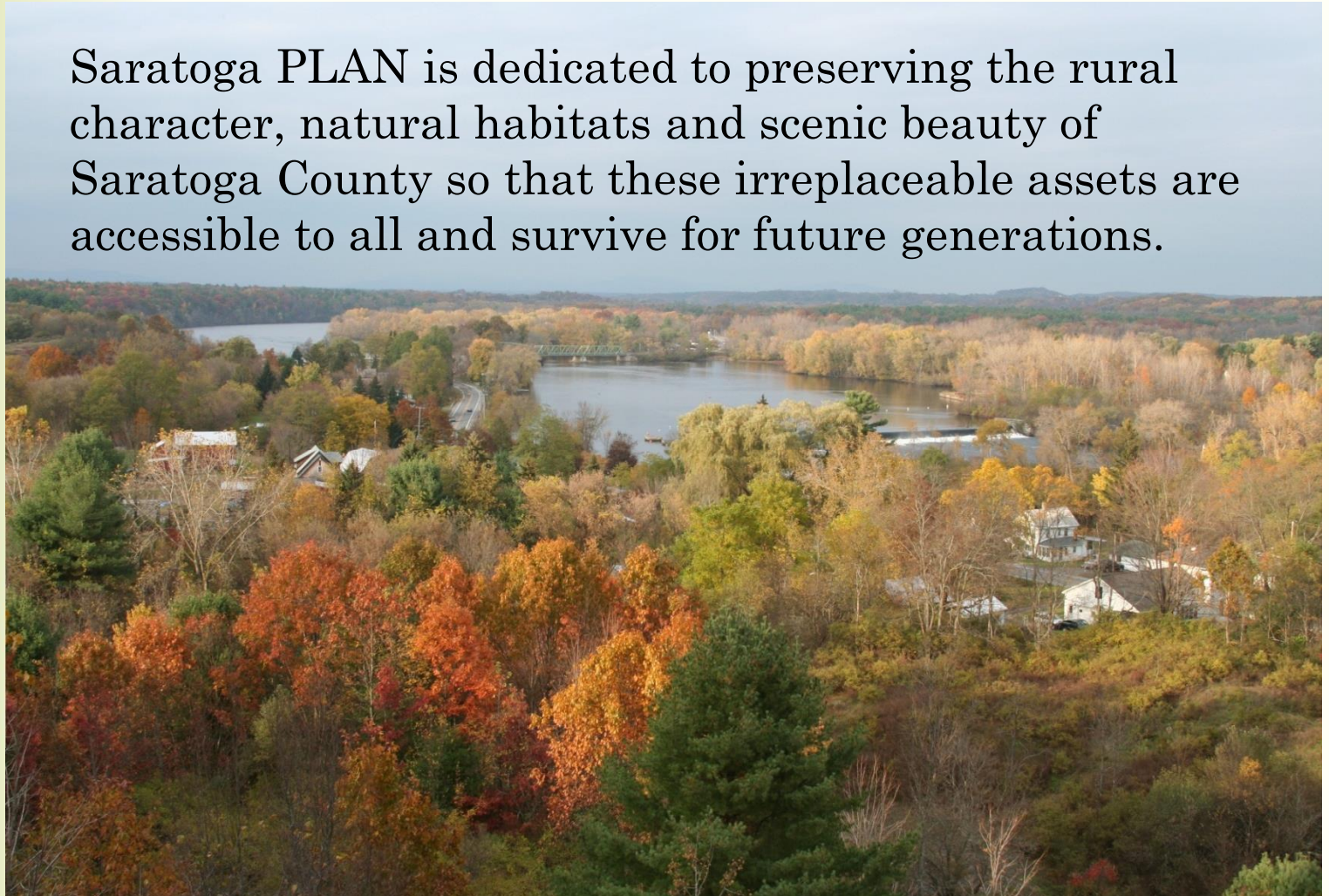


PROTECTING  
WOODS + WATERS



BUILDING  
TRAILS

Saratoga PLAN is dedicated to preserving the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations.







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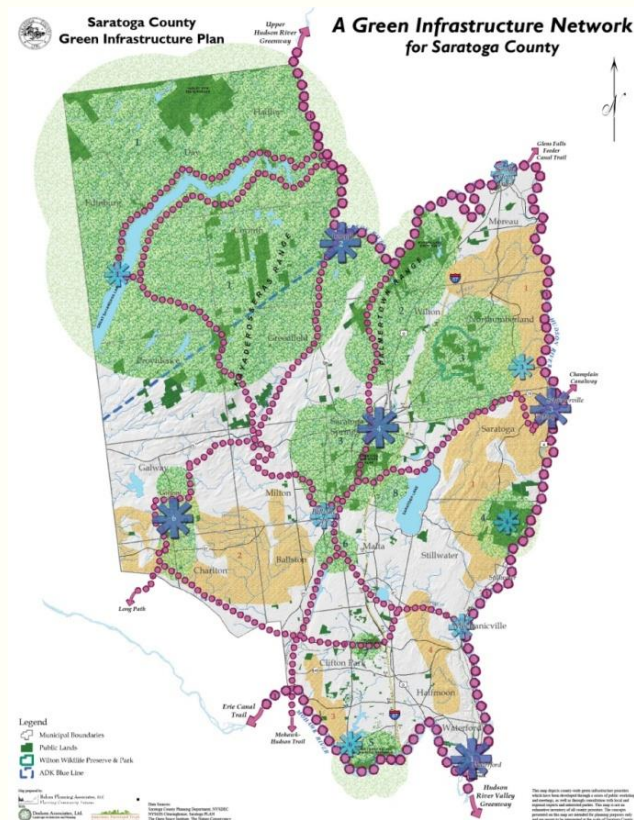
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**We are a land trust that helps landowners conserve their farmland, woodlands and natural habitats.**





**We help communities create plans that balance growth with conservation goals.**







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We connect people to nature by expanding and linking the county trails and 2,000+ acres of nature preserves for education, hiking, biking, birding, cross country skiing, kayaking, and horseback riding.



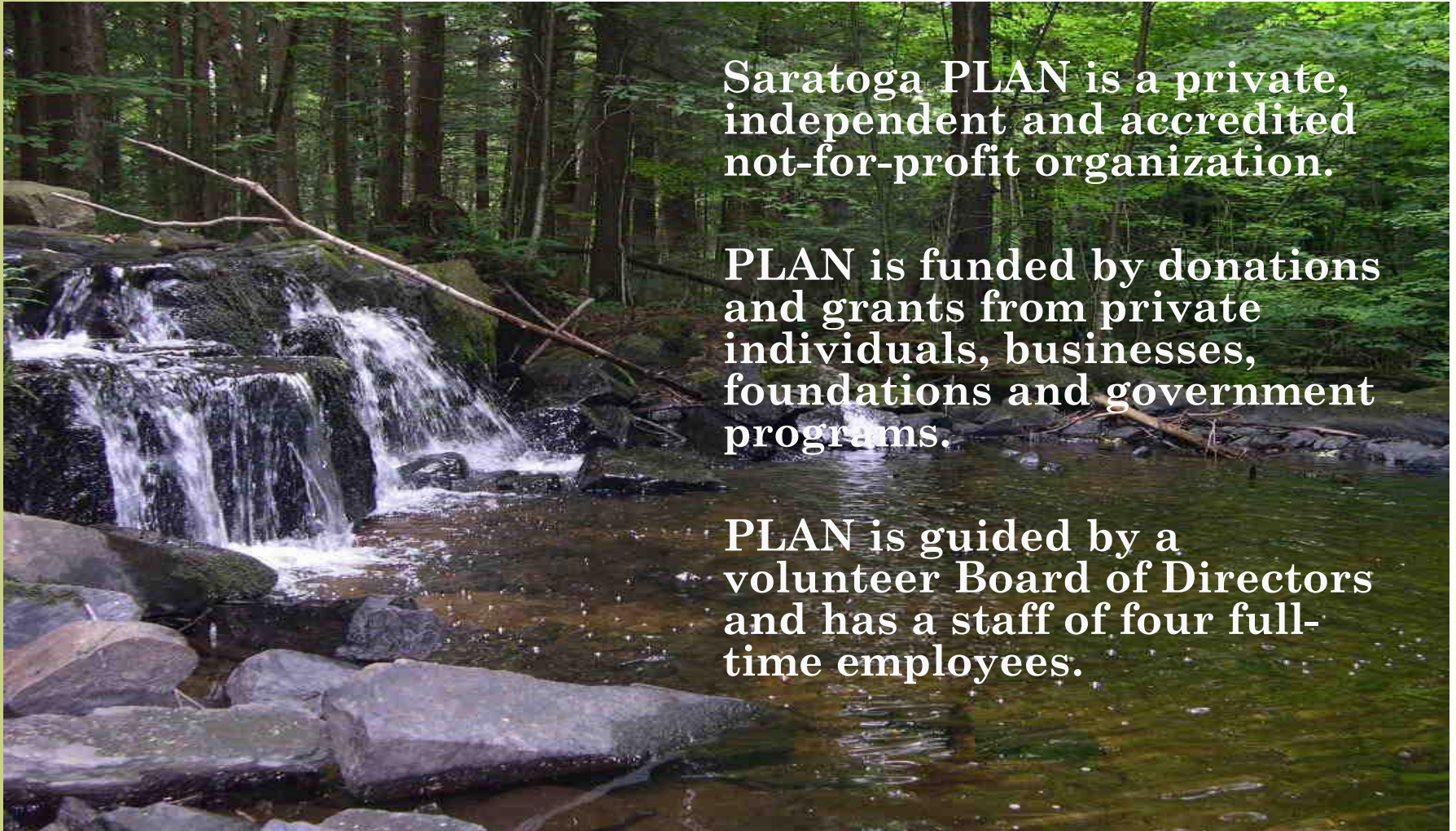




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Saratoga PLAN is a private, independent and accredited not-for-profit organization.

PLAN is funded by donations and grants from private individuals, businesses, foundations and government programs.

PLAN is guided by a volunteer Board of Directors and has a staff of four full-time employees.



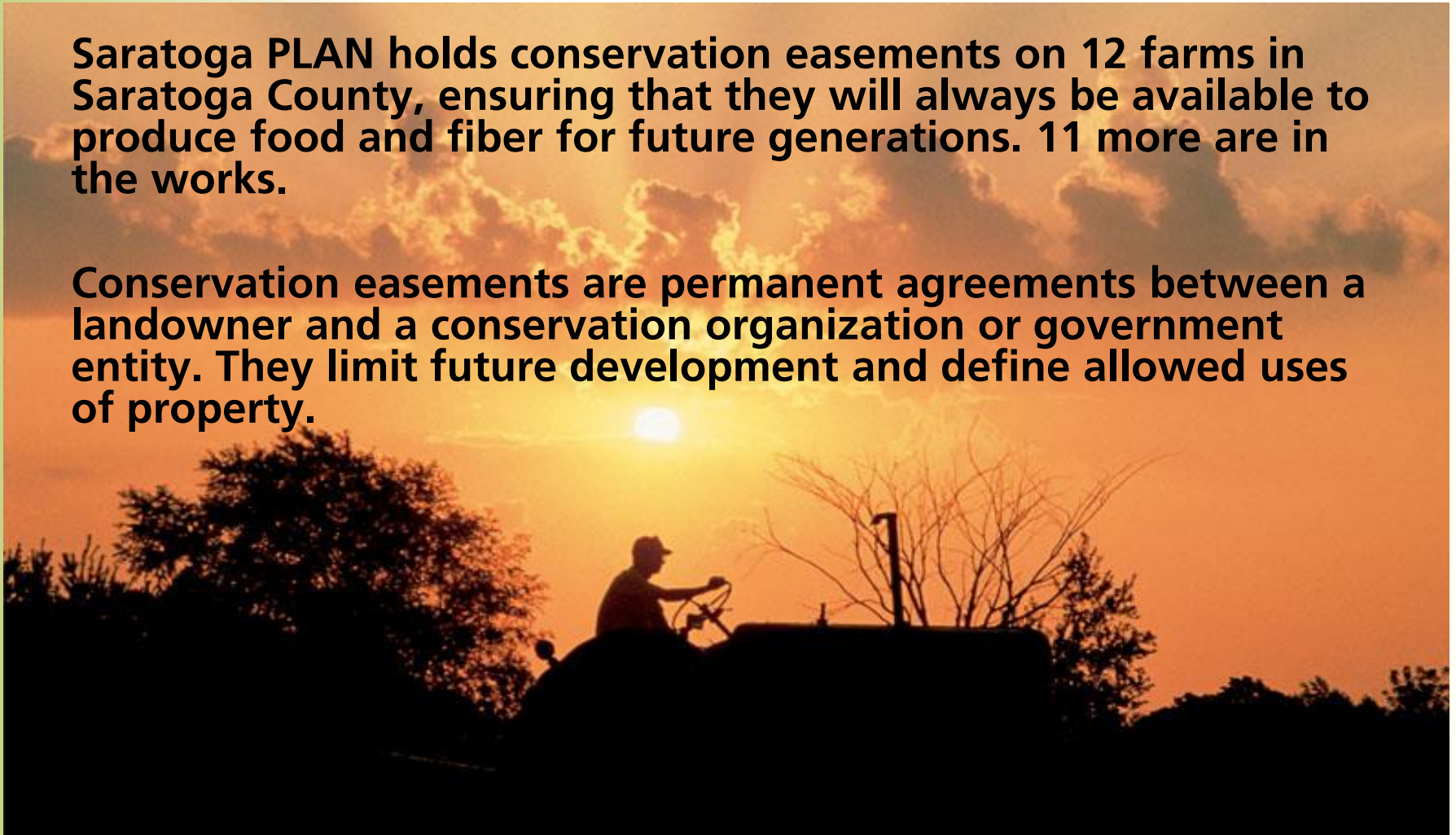
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**Saratoga PLAN holds conservation easements on 12 farms in Saratoga County, ensuring that they will always be available to produce food and fiber for future generations. 11 more are in the works.**

**Conservation easements are permanent agreements between a landowner and a conservation organization or government entity. They limit future development and define allowed uses of property.**

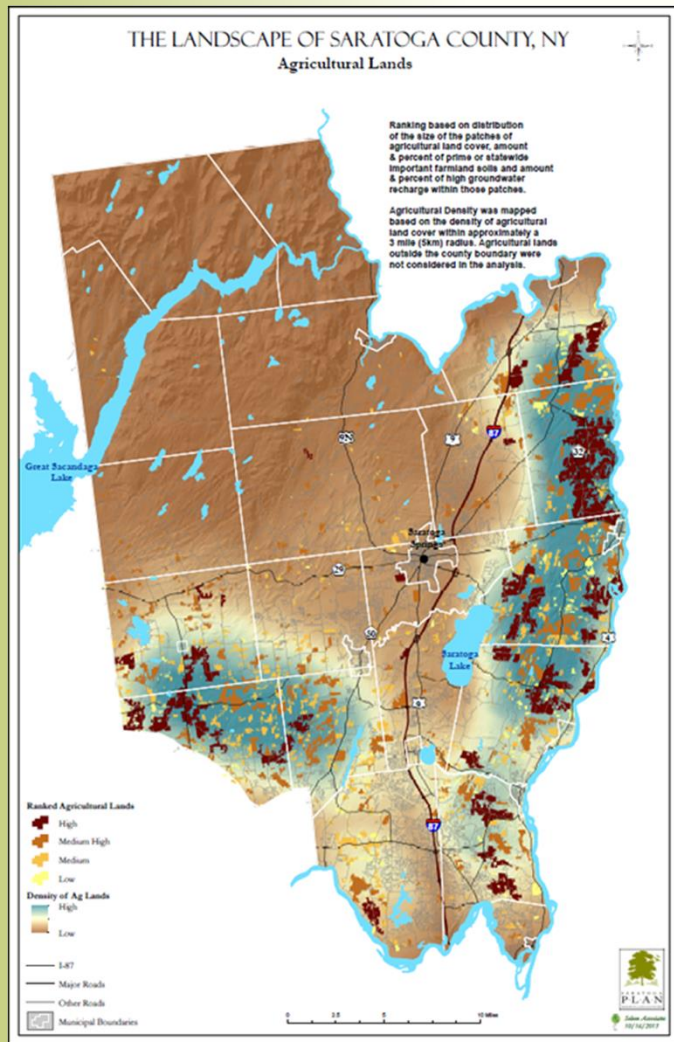






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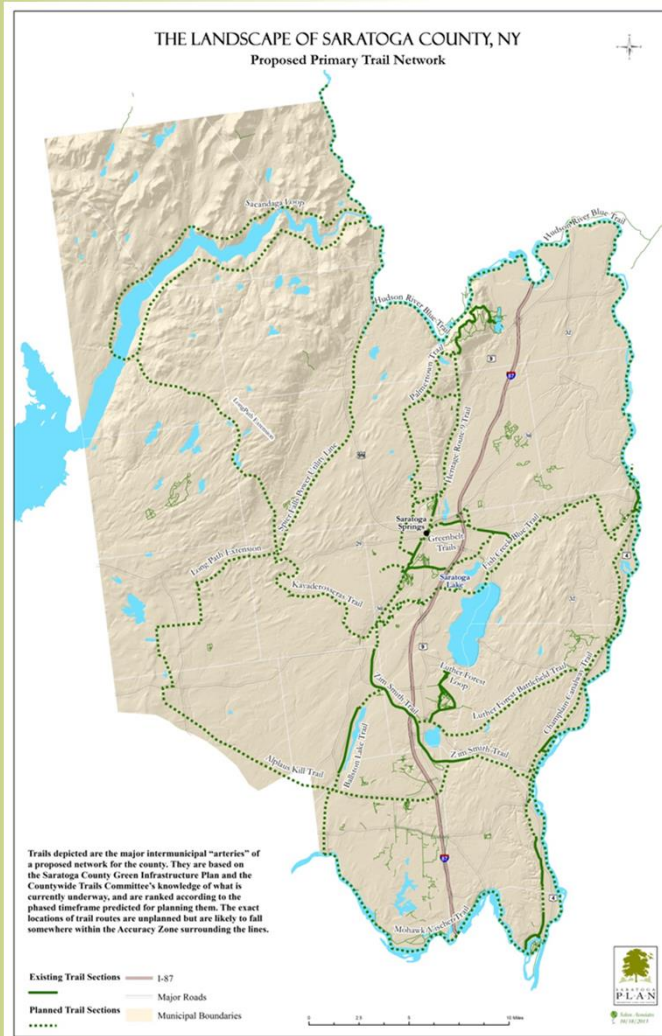


- **PLAN** resources of Saratoga County was instrumental in securing \$5.3M in state and private funds to conserve 8 more farms in 2015-2016 by purchasing their development rights.
- We also led a successful campaign to reinstate Saratoga County Farmland and Open Fund (\$250,000) and to establish a county Trails Fund (\$100,000) in 2015.



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**Saratoga PLAN**  
Trails Committee is a group composed of volunteers and municipal representatives that work together with the county Board of Supervisors and other partners to advance the county world-class network in the works!





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The Trails Committee brings together representatives of all trail user groups hikers, bicyclists, skateboarders, dog walkers, horseback riders, snowmobilers, mountain bikers...





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User groups work collaboratively, with the understanding that not every section of every trail can accommodate every use.



**Getting people outdoors and enjoying themselves is the goal!**





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The Trails Committee focuses on trail systems that extend beyond municipal boundaries and have the potential for serving as alternative transportation routes as well as providing quality recreational experiences.





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**Some of the trail initiatives currently most active in Saratoga County in 2015:**

1. Champlain Canalway Trail
2. Zim Smith Trail Extensions– from Halfmoon, east into Mechanicville, and, from Ballston Spa, north into Saratoga Springs
3. Palmertown Range Trail – connecting Moreau to Saratoga Springs
4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt Trail
5. Spruce Mountain Trail, Corinth
6. Siege Trail, Victory/Schuylerville





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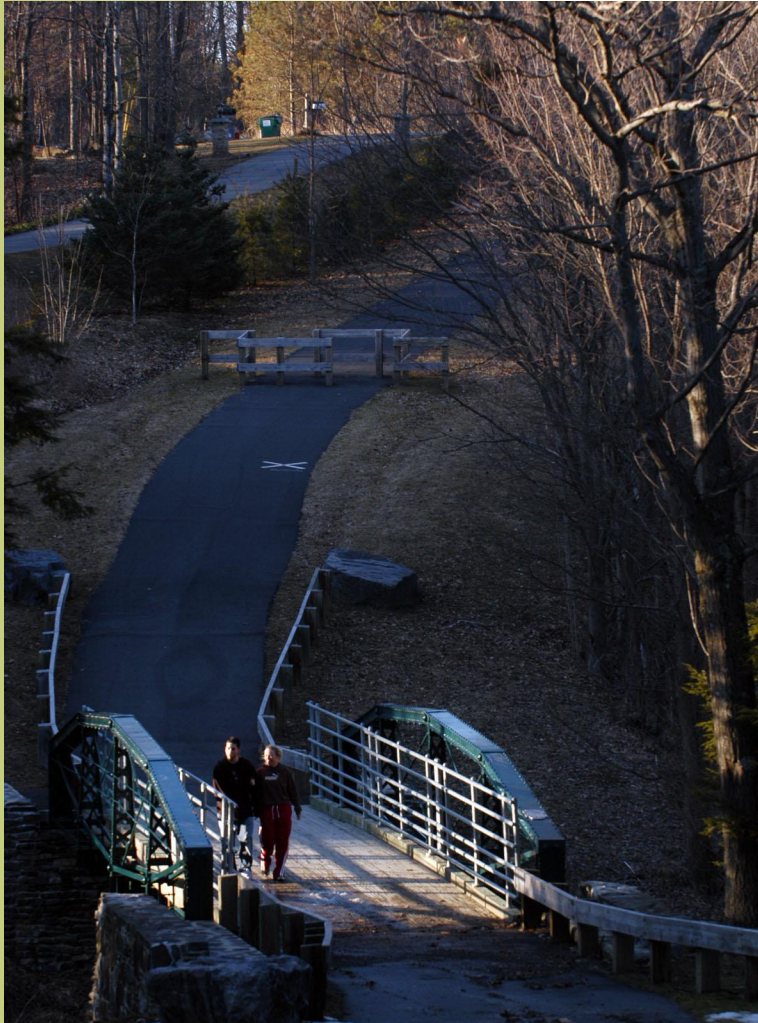
The committee meets every other month in Ballston Spa to collaborate and share information. Members work between meetings on trail planning projects. Agendas and notes from the committee meetings are posted on Saratoga PLAN



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**The National Realtors Association reports that trails are the #1 amenity sought by homebuyers in the US.**

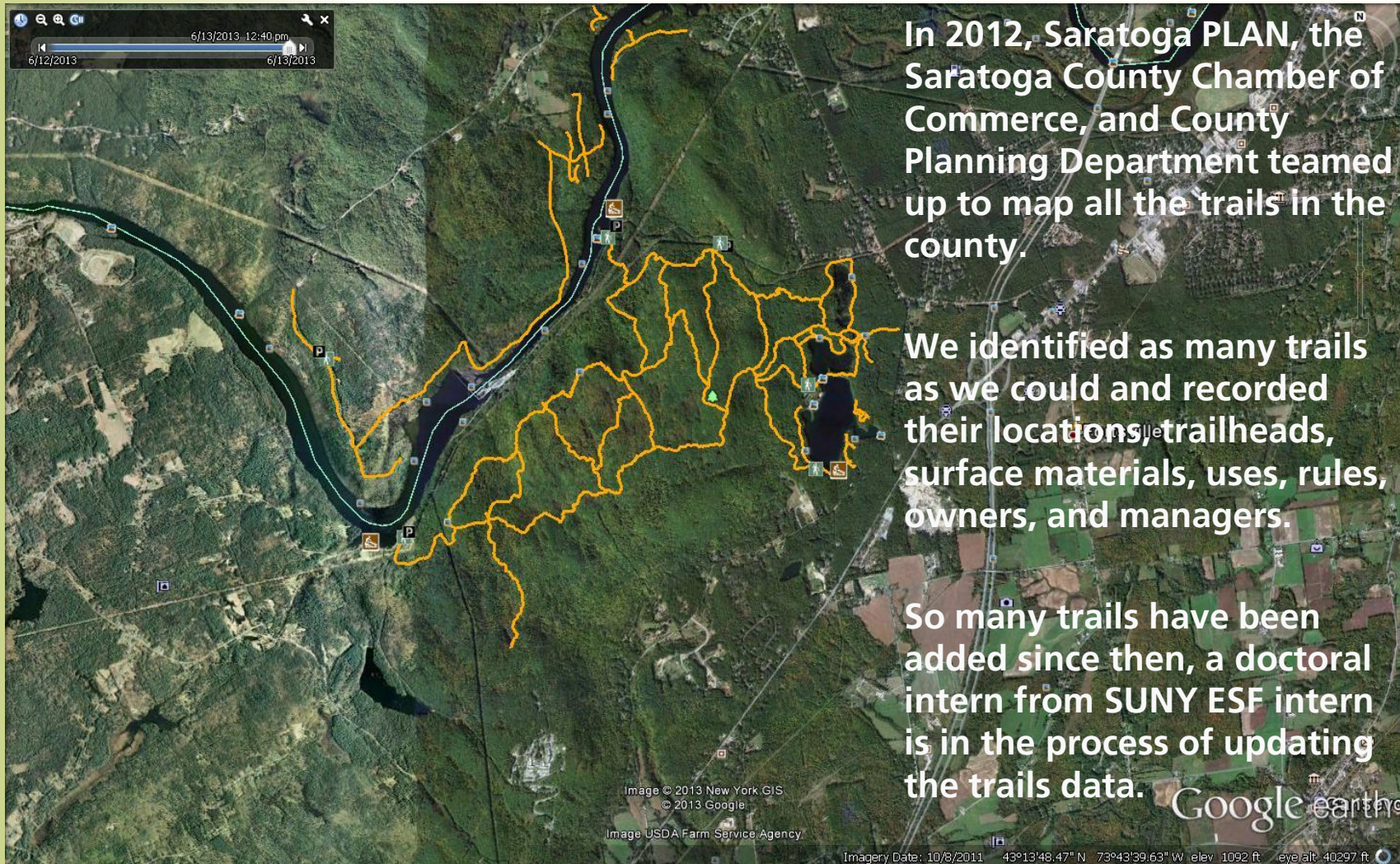
**Property values for identical homes increases with proximity to trails.**





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In 2012, Saratoga PLAN, the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, and County Planning Department teamed up to map all the trails in the county.

We identified as many trails as we could and recorded their locations, trailheads, surface materials, uses, rules, owners, and managers.

So many trails have been added since then, a doctoral intern from SUNY ESF intern is in the process of updating the trails data.

Google Earth

Image © 2013 New York GIS  
© 2013 Google  
Image USDA Farm Service Agency

Imagery Date: 10/8/2011 43°13'48.47" N 73°43'39.63" W elev. 1092 ft eye alt. 40297 ft





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Connecting people to nature and promoting good health are increasingly important in an age of sedentary and indoor lifestyles. Trails are a great way for people to get exercise, reduce stress, and enjoy nature.





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PLAN is blessed with 200 talented and dedicated volunteers who steward its portfolio of 4,400 acres of nature preserves.

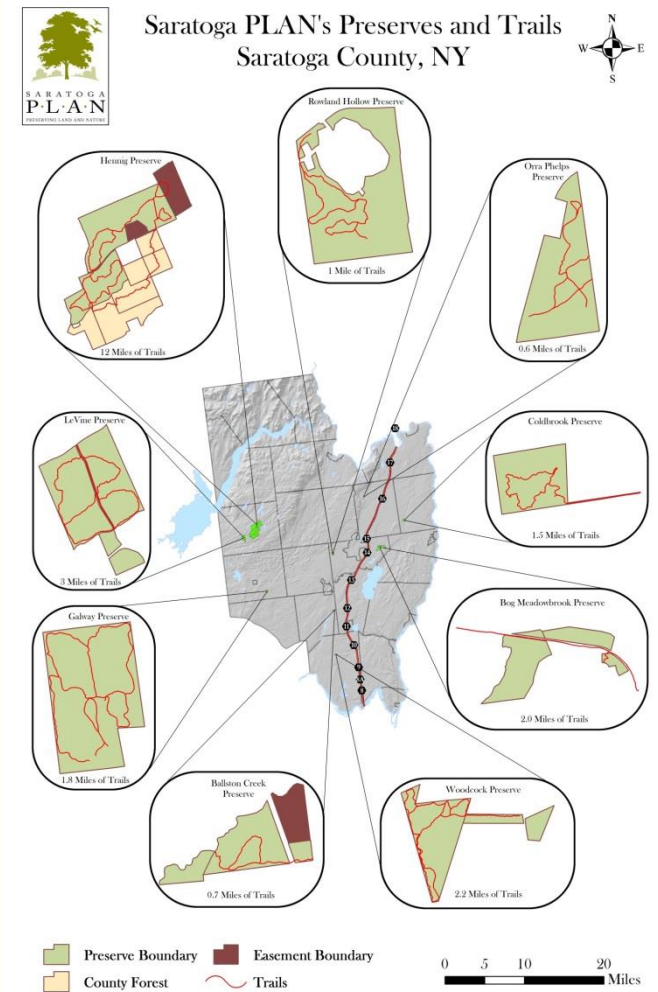




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Over the past 10 years, PLAN has opened trails on 11 of its properties for public access. Volunteers have built and maintain ~24 miles of trails in natural areas.







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**Building and maintaining trails is hard work. More volunteers are always welcome to join the ranks!**





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Saratoga PLAN offers a full roster of fun and educational hikes, bike rides, photography sessions, bird walks, tree studies, amphibian searches, fairy house building, and paddles throughout the year. Sign up online if you want to receive notices of upcoming events.







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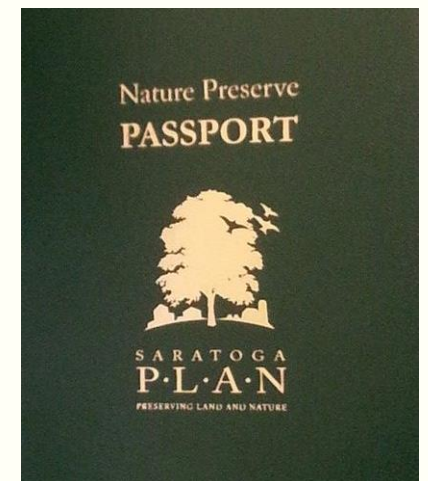
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Preserve Passports offer kids (of all ages) a fun way to explore our preserves.

After successfully following clues to find a stamp for five pages in their Passports, nature sleuths can get a free PLAN t-shirt (all sizes available).





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In 2013, Saratoga PLAN analyzed the landscape of Saratoga County and created a series of 21 maps in order to:

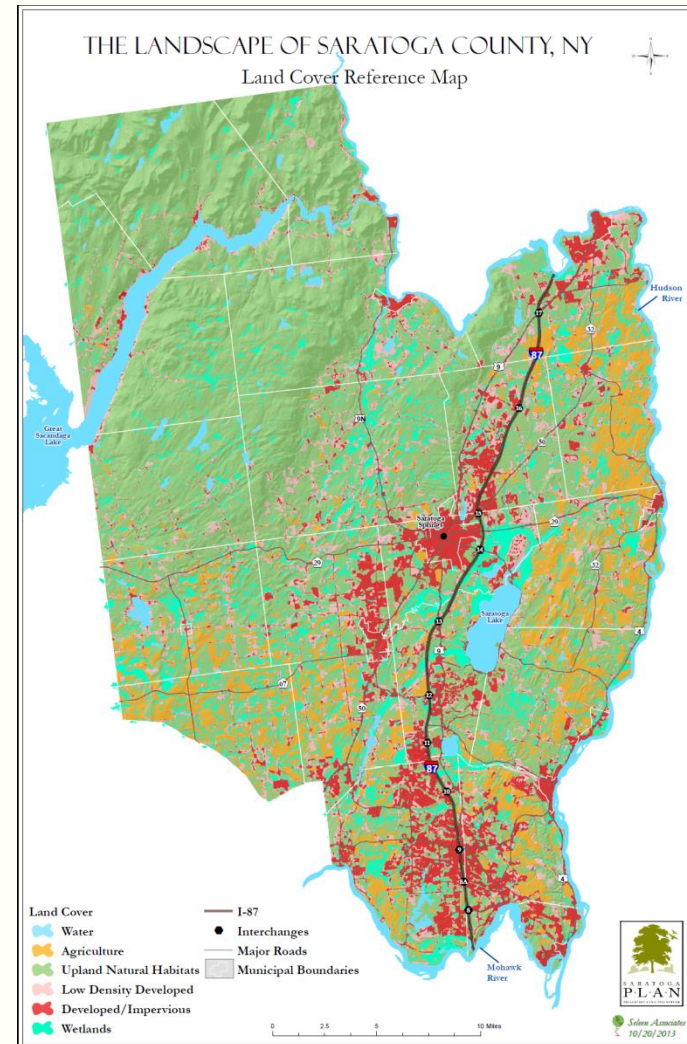
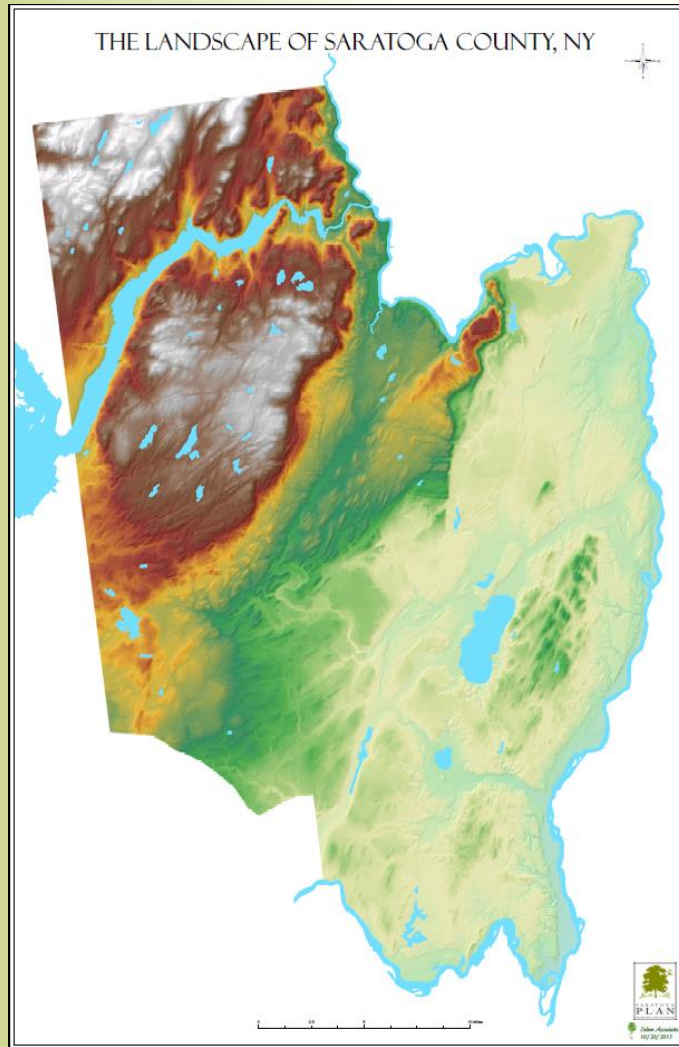
- better understand the diversity, distribution and characteristics of the landscape of Saratoga County;
- help property owners understand their land values and its context;
- evaluate conservation opportunities and investments;
- guide our outreach and educational programs and services;
- make this information widely available to partners, local governments, planners, developers, educators, students, businesses, and other conservation organizations. All maps are downloadable from PLAN





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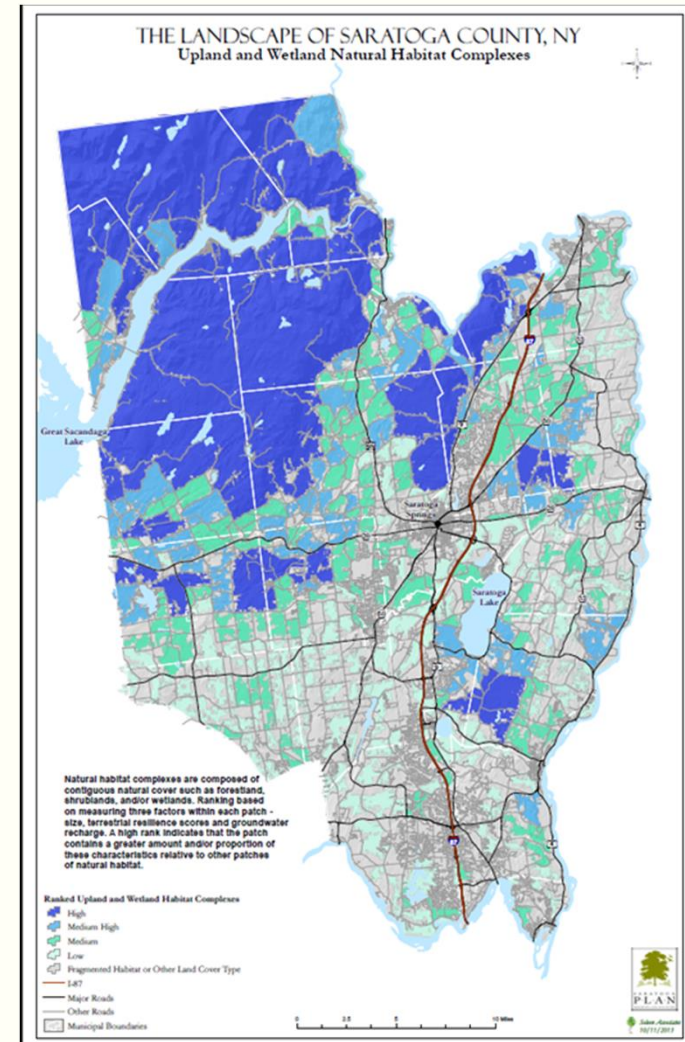
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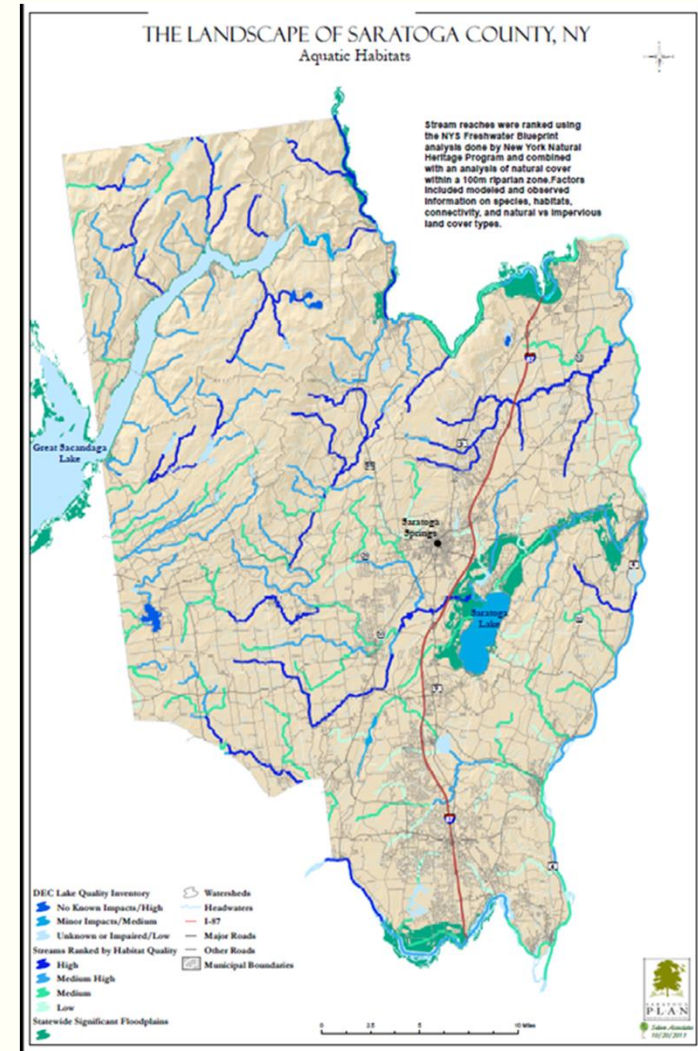
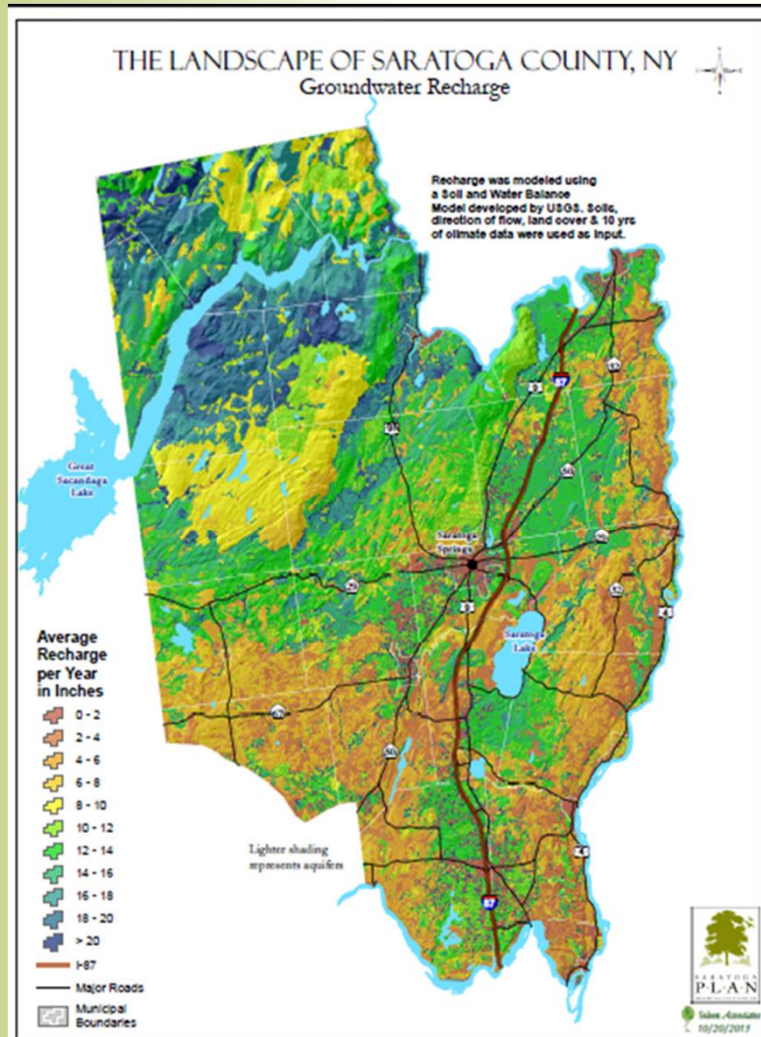






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*Tom Foster  
Foster Sheep Farm  
Town of Northumberland*

### Services and Resources for Landowners:

- Free, confidential consultations on conservation options
- Land analyses and maps
- Fact sheets, educational programs
- Write, administer, and manage grants and fundraise for eligible properties
- Manage conservation easement transactions
- Accept and care for donated significant natural areas for public benefits
- Convene and coordinate advocacy for funding program and landowner incentives such as tax abatement





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### Services and Resources for Communities:

- Community planning for protecting farmland, woodlands, wildlife habitats, trail systems, waters
- Provide maps, studies, fact sheets, and educational programs
- Convene and coordinate volunteer action committees for stewardship, smart growth, trail planning, conservation funding
- Help developers and planning boards with site planning
- Write and administer grants and manage projects
- Serve as town
- Ownership and stewardship of lands and trails for public benefit
- Serve as administer and
- Reduce need for infrastructure and burden of municipal services
- Maintain land base for economic development related to agriculture, forestry, tourism,

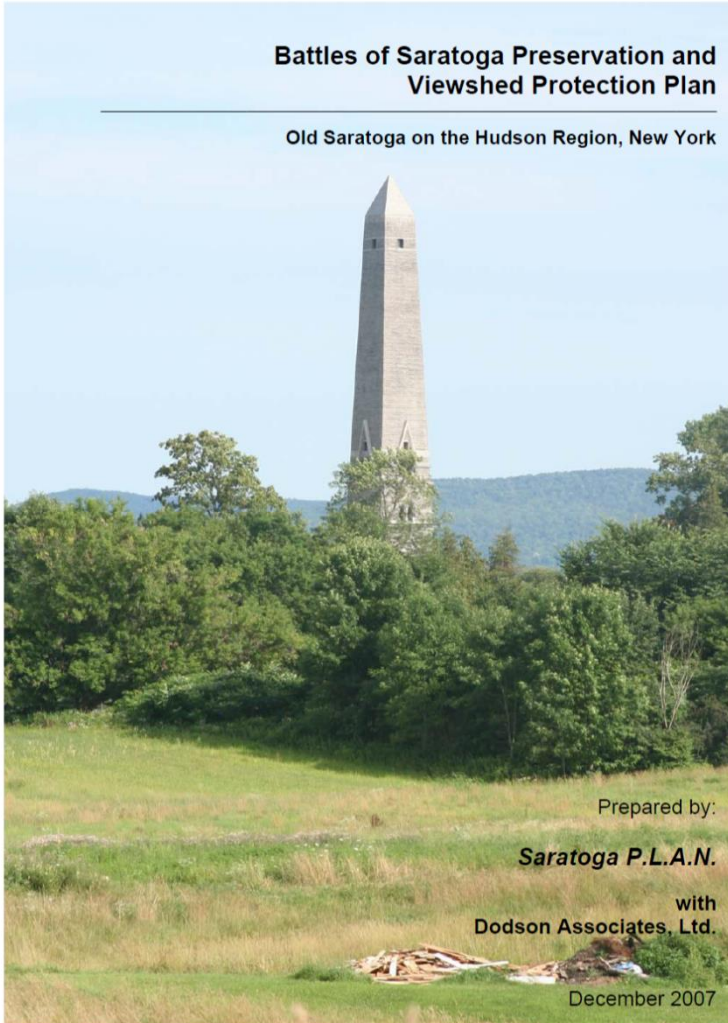


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### Battles of Saratoga Preservation and Viewshed Protection Plan

Old Saratoga on the Hudson Region, New York



Prepared by:

**Saratoga P.L.A.N.**

with  
Dodson Associates, Ltd.

December 2007

Saratoga PLAN has been instrumental in creating the **Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership**, an effective public-private collaborative effort to *“preserve, enhance and develop the historic, agricultural, scenic, natural and recreational resources of the Partnership region.”*

The Partnership, composed of federal, state, county, municipal, and private entities, is capitalizing on the rich history of the Saratoga Battlefield and Hudson and Hoosic valleys and heritage tourism as an economic driver.

The role of PLAN and other land trusts is to preserve the historic landscape context for an authentic visitor experience.





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### Services and Resources for the Public:

- Pure air, clean waters
- Replenish groundwater reserves
- Wildlife habitat
- Improved public health
- Pubic outdoor places
- Local, secure food supply
- Places to fish, hunt, hike, cross-country ski, snowmobile, paddle
- Community plans for protecting farmland, woodlands, wildlife habitats, trail systems, waters
- Maps, analyses, studies, fact sheets and educational programs
- Volunteer action committees
- Keep property taxes low and property values high
- Maintain Saratoga County as a great place to live, work and visit!





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**THANK YOU!**





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FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
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