

The September Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Stamford was held on September 11, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town of Stamford Municipal Building with the following present:

Supervisor-John Kosier
Councilperson – Julie Sechrist
Councilperson – Jake Palmatier
Councilperson – Daniel Deysenroth
Councilperson – David Post
Dept Hwy – Kevin Rinehart

Also present: Liz Page, Duane Martin, Ruthanne Van Buren, Jackie Lamport, Kenneth Goepfel, Nick Carbone from the Delaware County Planning Board/Watershed and Nicholas Frandsen, Town Attorney.

The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 pm and started with the Pledge of Allegiance and special mention of 9/11.

A MOTION was made by Jake Palmatier and second by Julie Sechrist to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried.

A MOTION was made by Daniel Deysenroth and seconded by Julie Sechrist to approve the Supervisor's monthly report. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried.

A MOTION was made by Daniel Deysenroth and seconded by David Post to approve General bills Abstract No. 9 dated September 11, 2024 for A in the amount of \$2869.43 claim nos A 24120-24139 & B in the amount of \$3551.53 claim no B 2411-2412 & SL in the amount of \$69.19 claim no 2407 for a total of \$6490.15. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried.

A MOTION was made by David Post and seconded by Daniel Deysenroth to approve South Kortright Sewer District bills abstract dated September 11, 2024 in the amount of \$8296.91 for claim nos SK 2443-2446. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried.

A MOTION was made by David Post and second by Daniel Deysenroth to approve Highway Bills Abstracts dated September 11, 2024 for DA in the amount of \$3329.49 claim nos DA 2444-2444 & DB in the amount of \$37977.16 claim nos DB 2417-2419 for a total of \$41306.65. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried.

Updates from the Highway Department are that the lawn tractor has been fixed; may need some money in the budget for 3 or more bigger culvert replacements with larger culverts (near Foote Hollow, Turkey Hollow and Decker Road); need to pull permits \$40k-\$75k but it will be used for something else if they don't need that much; got the pricing on stone – not a big increase from last year and the salt comes from the County; Re-advertise the position open with the Highway department for 2 more weeks in both the Mountain Eagle and the Reporter, consider a seasonal worker if needed; In a future budget – maybe allow for the purchase of a wheeled excavator to be more efficient – maybe a grant is available.

A MOTION was made by David Post and second by Julie Sechrist to appoint John Rice to another term as part of the Assessment Review Board. He will now serve from 10/01-9/30 for a term of 5 years.

An Onward Survey was dispersed. Duane Martin and Liz Paige were already familiar with the survey and were able to do it online. It is trying to provide County-wide services in assessment and Code Enforcement. Most towns not in favor and Stamford is not in favor. One Town in without an assessor, so the County is working with them for a fee.

Nick Carbone, Delaware County Planning Board/Watershed was there to discuss further land acquisition by NYC in Delaware County. This would be a second permit from DEC to NYC to buy land outside of jurisdiction. Planning board argues that they should not buy more land in Delaware County. Our board wonders if there is any talk of raising our price per acre? We were the lowest – Each Town can renegotiate their contracts after the 20 years is up. Nick Carbone says he can get us a list of when that term expires for the Towns. Per David Post, our area has not gotten “any bang for our buck”. It seems that Stream programs can be as effective in protecting the water, rather than buying the land. Towns will have a say in where these boundaries would be. Before they were buying up large parcels and now they are looking at parcels 10 acres or less. The benefits of Water Quality Agreements would be that the landowner can enroll in 10 year agreements for an annual fee but either side could revoke at any time. NYC may be done with Conservation Easements but they continue with Agricultural Easements. Delaware County Planning Board feels that NYC has bought enough property in Delaware County. The permits expire end of next year for some things. Any questions or concerns, please call the Bridge Street office re: Streamside Acquisition Program. 607-832-5444

In regards to Short Term Rentals, nothing new to report.

In regards to Headwaters, they were able to get their CON for all 3 towns so we will no longer have to renew. Eventually, we can close out our account for them.

In regards to sewer, nothing new to report.

A MOTION was made by Julie Sechrist and second by Daniel Deysenroth to move into Executive Session for a personnel matter at 6:17 pm.

A MOTION was made by Julie Sechrist and second by Daniel Deysenroth to move out of Executive Session at 7:53pm.

A MOTION was made by John Kosier and seconded by Julie Sechrist to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried.

Town of Stamford	Supervisor's Report					Aug-24		
	General Townwide	General Part-Town	Highway Townwide	Highway Part-Town	SK Light	SK Walls	Sewer Dist.	
Beginning Balance:	\$ 712,643.25	\$ 82,794.44	\$ 475,738.29	\$ 272,683.09	\$ 3,964.51	\$ 2,473.24	\$ 37,896.32	
REVENUES								
Interest Earned	\$ 916.44	\$ 37.32	\$ 1,290.48	\$ 430.16			\$ 18.66	
Town Clerk Fees	\$ 20.54							
Dog Fees	\$ 22.50							
June Court Fines	\$ 807.00							
July Court Fines	\$ 359.00							
5-Permits		\$ 1,265.00						
Total Income	\$ 2,125.48	\$ 1,302.32	\$ 1,290.48	\$ 430.16			\$ 18.66	
EXPENDITURES								
Abstracts	\$ 4,645.46	\$ 3,351.53	\$ 3,436.87	\$ 102,001.48	\$ 76.92		\$ 10,506.76	
Health Insurance	\$ 3,754.84		\$ 5,332.26					
Payroll & Fringe	\$ 17,188.51	\$ 837.52		\$ 12,631.05				
Total Expenses	\$ 25,588.81	\$ 4,189.05	\$ 8,769.03	\$ 114,632.53	\$ 76.92		\$ 10,506.76	
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 689,179.92	\$ 79,907.71	\$ 468,259.74	\$ 158,480.72	\$ 3,887.59	\$ 2,473.24	\$ 27,408.22	

NYCDEP Land Acquisition

The Core Land Acquisition Program began in 1997. Prior to 1997, NYCDEP owned 34,452 acres near the reservoirs. NYSDEC owned an additional 202,000 acres in the West of Hudson (WOH) watershed. Since 1997, 154,000 acres have been purchased through acquisition and easements in the WOH. Ownership and control have risen from 24% to nearly 40 % today.

The Land Acquisition Program was established in response to the 1986 Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the 1989 Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR). This ruling required public water supplies to either be filtered or meet "filtration avoidance" criteria. A component of filtration avoidance is to own or have written agreements that allow the municipality to control human activity that can adversely impact water quality.

The City is given the right to purchase and control lands outside of its political boundaries through the NYSDEC and their Water Supply Permit (WSP), currently renamed the Water Withdrawal Permit (WWP). This permit expires in December of 2025. Current negotiations are focused on this permit.

The Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) which is issued jointly by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expires in December of 2027. This (FAD) will outline the shape and direction of NYCDEP's land acquisition program for the next ten years.

Land acquisition must follow several guidelines, they are as follows:

- **Willing Buyer/ Willing Seller**
- **Fair Market Value**
- **Solicitation guidelines must be followed**
- **Property Taxes – The City must pay property tax on all lands owned fee simple and through easement.**
- **Conservation Easement Conveyance to NYSDEC**
- **Natural Features Guidelines**

The proposed Streamside Acquisition Program (SAP)

The 2010 WSP called for the establishment of a pilot program called SAP, this program was to be initiated in the Schoharie Basin which extends into the Town of Roxbury. The SAP began purchasing land in 2017. The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development (CCC&D) is serving as a third-party agent to purchase land for the NYCDEP.

- **This program eliminates the minimum size for purchase. Parcels of 10 acres or less can be purchased.**
- **SAP parcels are not allowed to be purchased in hamlets or villages unless authorized via municipal resolution.**
- **8 million dollars has been appropriated for this program.**
- **Sap will be expanded to all of the WOH watershed.**

stakeholders recommend wholesale expansion of the SAP throughout the WOH watershed, while some communities have proposed alternative buffer protection programs that reserve acquisitions for mostly undevelopable parcels, contingent upon community support.

One of the ongoing stakeholder workgroups is actively exploring issues related to the expansion of the SAP outside of the Schoharie basin. DEP will continue to dedicate significant resources to both the SAP and NYCFFBO and remains committed to support the continuation of both programs as part of this 2023-2033 Long-Term Plan.

Among other challenges, local subdivision processes can make it difficult to acquire those portions of streamside parcels that are most valuable to water quality, which advances the goal to leave potentially developable lands for future community expansion. In the context of the collaborative discussions during 2020-2021 that resulted in the adoption of new SAP incentives, the Coalition of Watershed Towns helped develop a model amendment for local subdivision ordinances to ease the process of subdivision design, review and approval to facilitate acquisitions targeted at riparian land.

The ongoing workgroup discussions, along with potential changes to local subdivision laws, are factors that will affect this Long-Term Plan.

4. Current Status of Programs

Since DEP's publication of the 2012-2022 Long Term Land Acquisition Plan, roughly 65,000 acres have been protected by core LAP and its partners, bringing total lands protected since 1997 to nearly 154,000 acres based on closed purchase contracts (Table 1). With an additional 34,452 acres owned by the City around reservoirs, almost 190,000 acres of watershed land are currently under some form of City ownership or control, not including land protected by the State and others; this represents a tremendous change in the watershed landscape since 1997.

Table 1. Summary of all LAP projects closed as of December 31, 2022.

	Contracts (#)	Contracts (% total)	Acres (#)	Acres (% total)	Cost (\$M)	Cost (% total)
DEP Fee Simple	1,361	75.2%	96,185	62.6%	\$367.9	75.1%
DEP CEs	170	9.4%	25,933	16.9%	\$72.2	14.7%
WAC Farm CEs	157	8.7%	28,229	18.4%	\$41.5	8.5%
WAC Forest CEs	9	0.5%	2,982	1.9%	\$2.9	0.6%
SAP	26	1.4%	227	0.1%	\$1.5	0.3%
FEMA FBO	64	3.5%	74	0.1%	\$0.5	0.1%
NYCFFBO	22	1.2%	47	0.0%	\$3.5	0.7%
Totals	1,809	100.0%	153,677	100.0%	\$489.9	100.0%

With roughly 40% of the entire Catskill/Delaware watershed now considered protected, DEP does not anticipate that future acquisition levels will continue at the same pace or scale as historical levels. For example, when viewing the accomplishments of the LAP each year based on the execution of purchase contracts, more recent trends indicate that acquisition overall is greatly reduced, with partner programs comprising a larger proportion of deals compared to core LAP. Figure 3 depicts the number of executed contracts annually by core LAP and each partner

Lands Controlled in Delaware County, NY - NYCDEP Fee Simple Purchase, NYCDEP CE, WAC Farm CE, WAC Forest CE - 2016 - 2021

Year	Fee Simple	NYCDEP - CE	WAC Farm CE	WAC Forest CE
2016	1,075.94 ac.	638.96 ac.	1,151.11 ac.	0 ac.
2017	2,353.70	992.30	1,403.51	0
2018	1,015.90	0	416.93	2,033.35
2019	1,493.61	147.85	1,162.04	2,065.64
2020	1,304.51	0	0	248.35
2021	967.50	0	346.47	0
Totals	8,211.16 ac.	1,779.11 ac.	4,480.06 ac.	4,347.34 ac.
	1,368.52 ac. per year/ avg.	296.5 ac. per year / avg.	746 ac. per year / avg.	724.55 ac. per year avg.

* Acreage values provided by NYCDEP annually to Delaware County Planning Department

Exhibit A. Catskill/Delaware Watershed Priority Areas

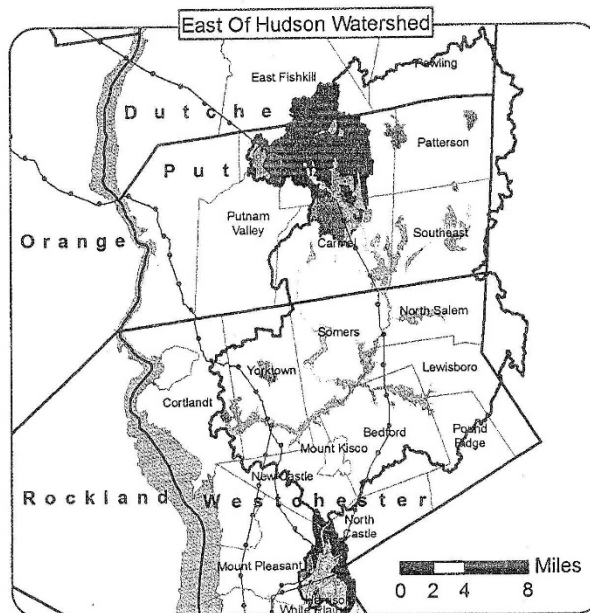
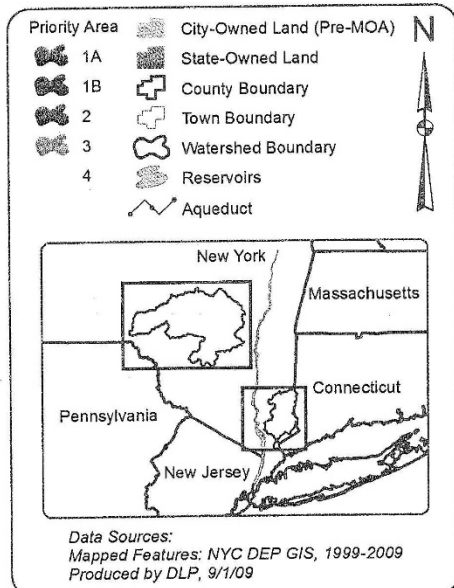
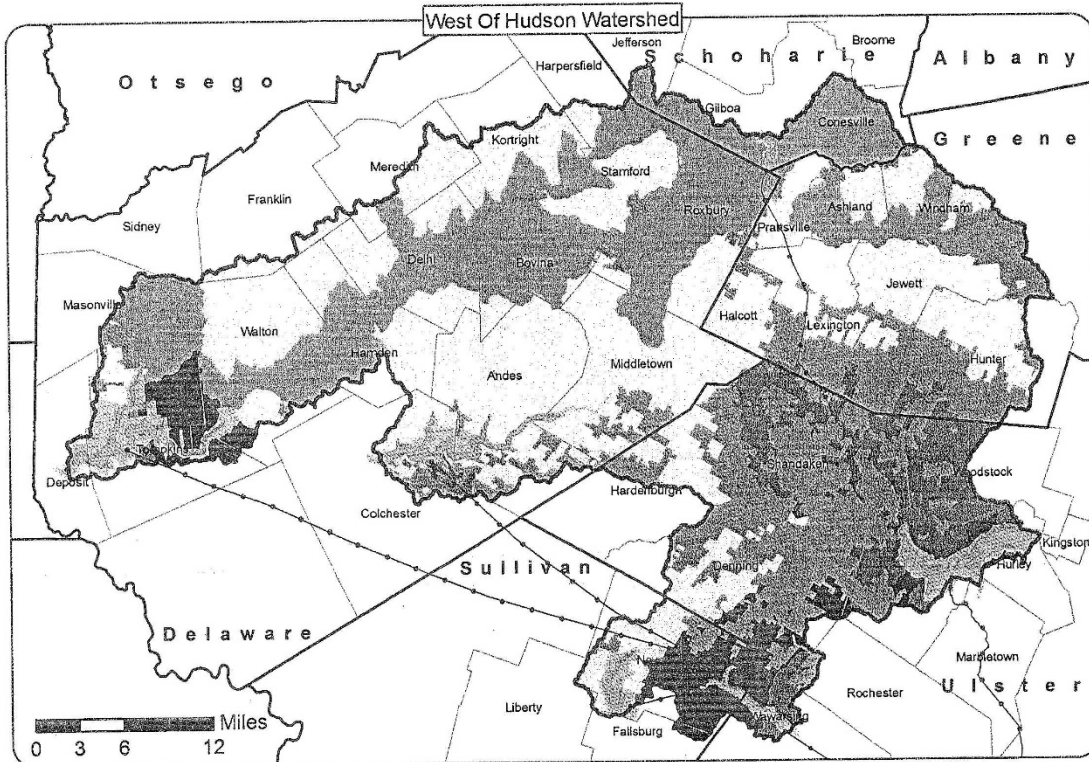
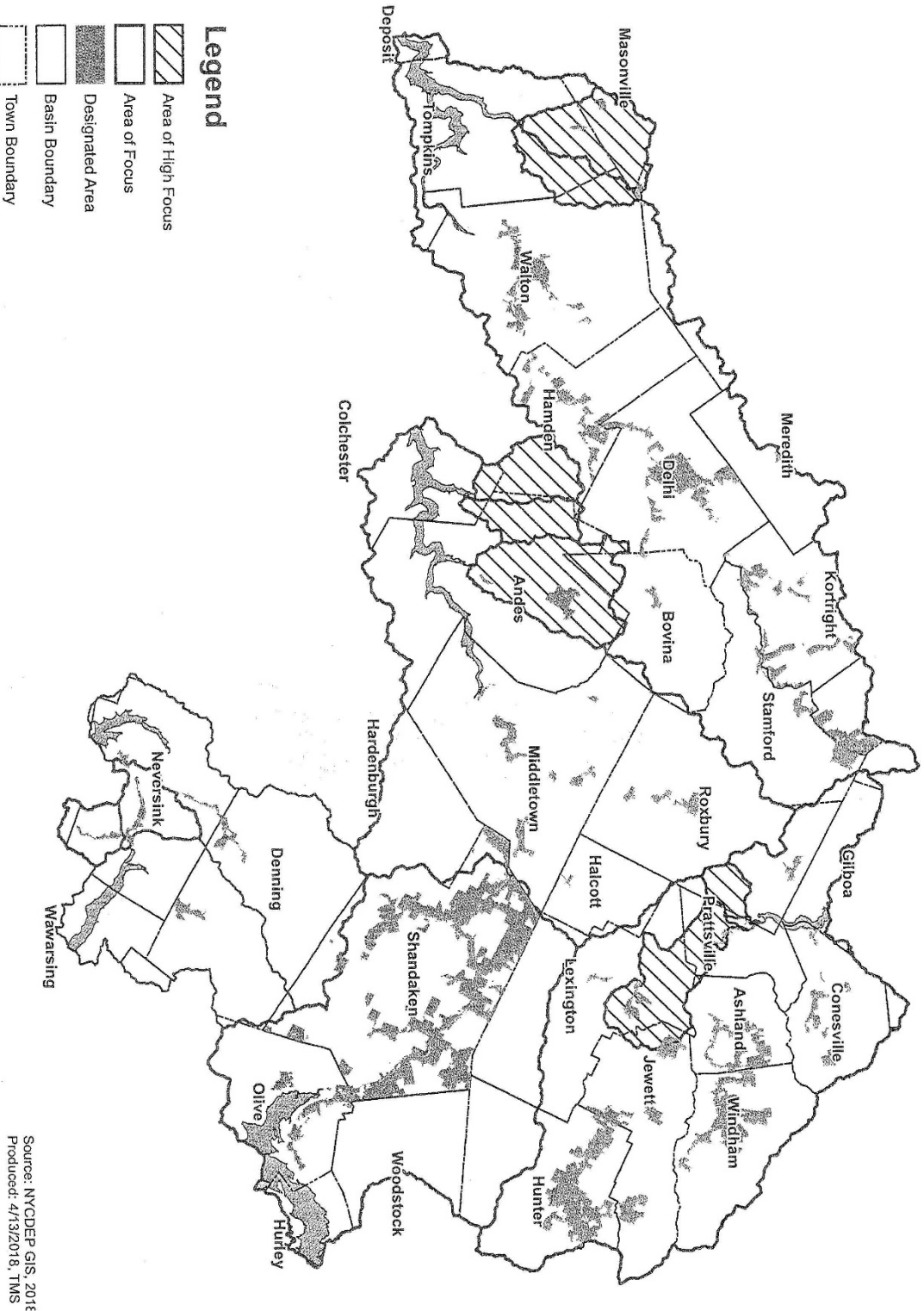
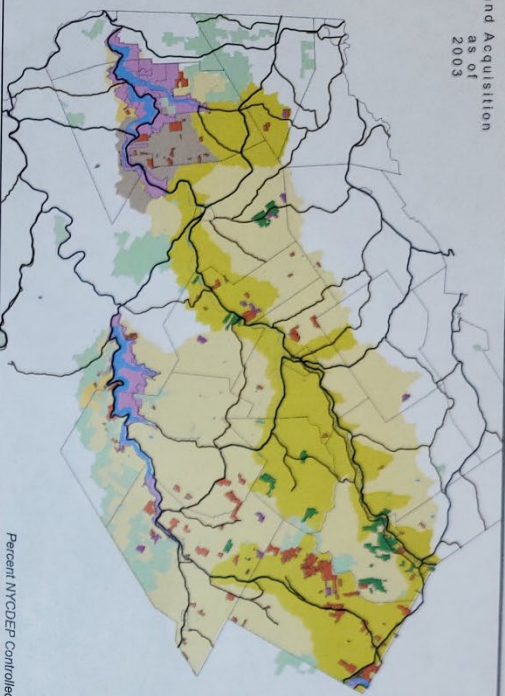


Exhibit B. West of Hudson Watershed Areas of Focus and Areas of High Focus



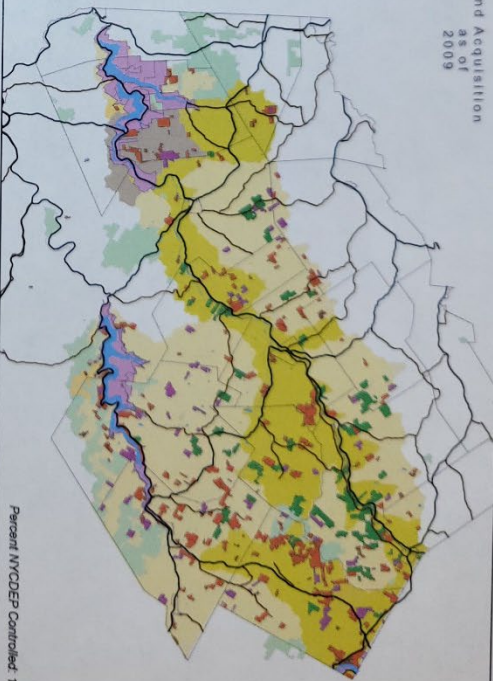
Source: NYCDEP GIS, 2013
 Produced: 4/13/2018, TMS

Land Acquisition
as of
2003



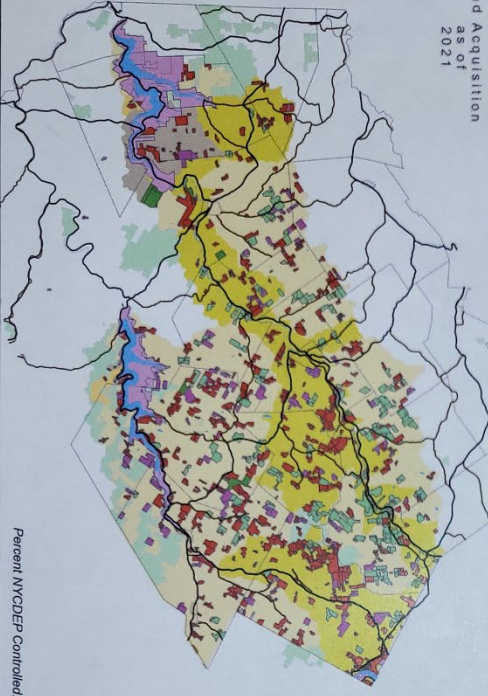
Percent NYCDEP Controlled: 10.6 %

Land Acquisition
as of
2009



Percent NYCDEP Controlled: 16.2 %

Land Acquisition
as of
2021



Percent NYCDEP Controlled: 23.4 %

NYC Land Acquisition Progression from 1997 to 2024

Legend

- County Routes
- State Routes
- Municipalities
- NYS Lands
- Conservation Easements
- Agricultural Easements
- NYCDEP Lands
- Reservoirs
- Pre-MOA Lands
- Plenty Areas
- 1A
- 1B
- 2
- 3
- 4

Land Acquisition (Acreages)

-1998: 40	-2010: 3,440
-1999: 439	-2011: 2,842
-2000: 1,112	-2012: 2,049
-2001: 978	-2013: 2,589
-2002: 4,114	-2014: 2,607
-2003: 2,561	-2015: 1,612
-2004: 2,664	-2016: 1,856
-2005: 1,226	-2017: 1,059
-2006: 1,226	-2018: 1,483
-2007: 1,460	-2019: 1,483
-2008: 2,706	-2020: 1,335
-2009: 1,725	-2021: 967

* 2021 average calculated up to July 2021

Easements (Acreages)

-2001: 772	-2011: 2,892
-2002: 1,659	-2012: 2,841
-2003: 559	-2013: 1,070
-2004: 4,218	-2014: 104
-2005: 2,408	-2015: 944
-2006: 6,348	-2016: 942
-2007: 5,259	-2017: 2,255
-2008: 2,259	-2018: 2,259
-2009: 3,856	-2019: 3,375
-2008: 3,763	-2020: 427
	-2021: 346

Land Controlled in NYC Watershed

Percentages

- Land controlled by NYCDEP in the Watershed (Pre- & NYC Easements)
- 2006: 64,368 (72.8%)
- 2024: 117,792 (23.4%)

Land controlled by NYS in the Watershed

- 2012: 25,594 (5.0%)

Acreages in the NYC Watershed

- County Acreage: 938,831
- County for Water Basin: 288,717
- County for Water Basin: 197,756
- Population Basin: 16,343
- Ashokan Basin: 149

Average by Classification

- Easements: 39,094
- Pre-MOA: 33,041
- NYS Land: 25,564

Total Land Controlled: 143,153 (28.4%)

NOTES

Created from August 13, 2024. All measurements are in acres. Data is based on the most recent available data. Land Acquisition Progression from 1997 to 2024. Land Acquired by the City of New York, Department of Environmental Protection, 2024. Map created by the City of New York, Department of Environmental Protection, 2024.

WE, the undersigned members of the Town Board of the Town of Stamford, Delaware County, New York, do hereby certify that we have examined the minutes of the previous meeting and found them to be correct and accurate as recorded.

Supervisor _____

Councilperson _____

Councilperson _____

Councilperson _____

Councilperson _____

Attest _____

Town Clerk