

05.17.2022

RESPONSE: PUBLIC WORKSHOP – 3

To
Comprehensive
Planning Committee
(CPC)

From
Shachi Pandey,
Metropolitan Urban
Design Workshop

CC
AKRF

Re
Response to
Comments Received
during Public
Workshop – 3 on the
topics Open Space &
Recreation, and
Sustainability &
Climate Resilience

Dear Members of the CPC,

We have submitted our second draft of Chapter 6: Open Space & Recreation, and Sustainability and Climate Resilience for your review.

This second draft, responds to the community feedback received during the Orangetown Comprehensive Plan Public Workshop - 3, held on April 27, 2022. We are also attaching a summary document, which was created for review and any additional feedback from the Orangetown Environmental Committee (OEC), the Parks and Recreation Office, and any other community based organizations (CBOs) that focus on open space, sustainability, and climate resilience.

We are including the following summary for your review

Table 1: 2003 Recommendations and Implementation Status

As requested during Public Workshop - 3, this table has been created to provide an overview of 2003 Comprehensive Plan recommendations and the status of their implementation. The table lists recommendations with their intended purposes as well as associated actions and strategies. We request the CPC, OEC, Parks and Recreation Office, any other interested CBOs to please indicate the implementation status of the actions and strategies, and whether they are still relevant for the 2022 Comprehensive Plan. The column to the furthest right includes proposed actions and strategies from the 2022 Comprehensive Plan that corresponds to those of the 2003 plan. The 2022 recommendations are marked as entirely new, updated from 2003, or carried over without any changes from 2003.

In the 2003 Comprehensive Plan, recommendations relevant to Chapter 6 of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan are discussed under the section “Recreation and Open Space” which has the following subsections:

1. “Open Space and Environmental Protection”,
2. “Open Space”, and
3. “Environmental Protection”

Together, these address subjects including open space acquisition, active recreation, stormwater management, and flood mitigation. Elsewhere in the plan, another relevant subsection “Environmental Protection Regulations and Cluster Development” encompasses topics on zoning methods for environmental protection, wetland protection, and steep slope development regulations.

Most of these topics are also addressed in the 2022 Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 6: Open Space & Recreation, and Sustainability & Climate Resilience, which are split into two distinct sections. These two sections expand upon more specific strategies for flood mitigation, stormwater management, wetland and water protection, and regulating steep slope development. In addition, newly introduced recommendation

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topics include carbon emissions reduction, climate resilient landscaping and urban forestry practices, environmental stewardship programs, and specific regulatory measures for stormwater management and water quality among others.

Table 2: 2022 Comprehensive Plan Proposed Recommendations and Implementation Timeline

Table 2 outlines the 2022 Comprehensive Plan proposed recommendations, their intended purpose, associated strategies and actions, and a suggested timeline for implementation. The actions and strategies in this table have been defined in greater detail. We request the CPC, OEC, Parks and Recreation Office, and any other interested CBOs to further refine the implementation pathway by editing the suggested timeline, and adding to the list of partnership organizations and funding resources.

Based on the feedback received during the community workshops as well as the surveys, the following items were highlighted to be issues of top concern for residents, business, and Town institutions. The following chart lists the 2022 recommendations that respond to the community's recommendations.

Summary of 2022 Comprehensive Plan Recommendations for Open Space & Recreation, and Sustainability & Climate Resilience

Orangetown Residents' Top Concerns	2022 Comprehensive Plan Relevant Recommendations [included in current contract]
Sustainable infrastructure for flooding and stormwater management	(Sustainability and Climate Resilience) Establish a green infrastructure and structural retrofitting program to reduce phosphorus, nitrogen, and pathogen loading.
Creating a Climate Action Plan	(Sustainability and Climate Resilience) Establish a Climate Working Group to seek funding for and to develop a Climate Action Plan.
Protecting major water bodies including Sparkill Creek and Lake Tappan	(Sustainability and Climate Resilience) Review and update local regulations to promote resilient construction practices, manage stormwater, and reduce flooding. Improve water quality by addressing root causes of contamination, protecting wetlands and watersheds, and aiding in their environmental performance.

	<p>Establish a green infrastructure and structural retrofitting program to reduce phosphorus, nitrogen, and pathogen loading.</p>
<p>Flooding, stormwater, and water quality issues</p>	<p>(Sustainability and Climate Resilience)</p> <p>Mitigate the harmful impacts of flood events through development regulations and preventative measures, including steep slope ordinances.</p> <p>Review and update local regulations to promote resilient construction practices, manage stormwater, and reduce flooding.</p> <p>Map stormwater conveyance including drainage areas, outfalls, and discharge points for all of Orangetown's municipalities.</p> <p>Improve water quality by addressing root causes of contamination, protecting wetlands and watersheds, and aiding in their environmental performance.</p> <p>Establish a green infrastructure and structural retrofitting program to reduce phosphorus, nitrogen, and pathogen loading.</p> <p>Expand on existing stormwater public awareness programs to include a wider range of stakeholders and educational information.</p>
<p>Tree planting</p>	<p>(Open Space and Recreation)</p> <p>Consider and adopt urban forestry and landscaping best practices.</p> <p>Expand community programming and the ecological role of parks in habitat restoration.</p> <p>Educate young residents about the environmental importance of parks and promote park stewardship.</p>
<p>Open space acquisitions</p>	<p>(Open Space and Recreation)</p> <p>Work with NYS legislature to establish a preservation fund and acquire property for open space, recreation, or historic preservation.</p>

Protecting viewsheds	(Open Space and Recreation) Develop a viewshed protection ordinance.
Unmaintained natural areas in conservation easements	(Open Space and Recreation) Use cluster development and conservation easements to preserve large contiguous areas of open space and protect environmentally sensitive areas.
Access to the waterfront and open space	(Open Space and Recreation) Provide greater continuity between Orangetown's local parks and open spaces, the regional open space corridor, and waterfront areas.

Table 1: 2003 Recommendations and Implementation Status

2003 Recommendations and Implementation Status			
Intended Outcome	2003 Strategies and Actions	Status of Implementation (Guiding Questions: If implemented, to what extent? If not, why not? Is it still relevant?)	2022 Actions & Strategies a) Entirely new b) Updated from 2003 c) Carried over without any changes from 2003
Recommendation 1 "Strengthen the two north-south open space corridors that already exist in Orangetown - in the Lake Tappan - Hackensack Riverway and the Clausland Mountain corridor - through acquisition of lands for open space and through zoning and land planning techniques (including clustering) that limit development on steep slopes and wetlands, and along ridge lines and water bodies. These areas should be priority locations for open space acquisition." (Comprehensive Plan 2003, II-1)			
Acquire open space to improve access and connectivity between parks and open space and protect environmentally sensitive areas.	<u>Strategy 1A</u> "OPDAC (Orangetown Park Development Advisory Committee) has proposed 10 acquisition sites and eight transitory sites where open space should be preserved through techniques other than acquisition." (Comprehensive Plan 2003, I-25) It is important to note that the inventory only includes parcels over two acres of size that were coded as vacant by the Town Assessor." (Comp Plan 2003, III-5) <u>Strategy 1A Locations</u> Protected acquisition sites <ol style="list-style-type: none">Parcel 65.16-1-1(partial), 65.15-1-11, and 65.15-2-12: 3 contiguous parcels (including Blake Property) encompassing ~40 – 50 acres off Bradley Hill Rd in Blauvelt.Parcel 74.16-1-22: Encompassing ~3.76 acres, this parcel is off Queens Court in Sparkill and overlooks Route 340 and Thorpe Village.Parcel 77.20-1-1 and 77.15-1-31: Encompassing approx. 21 acres and a portion of Sparkill Creek, these parcels are located off Oak Tree Road in Tappan.Parcel 68.11-3-39, 68.11-3-40, 68.16-1-1, and 68.12-1-14: These parcels total approx. 15 acres and border Route 304 in Pearl River and buffer residential uses near Railroad Avenue.Parcel 74.09-2-40: approx. 6 acres, this parcel is in Orangeburg and is contiguous to Independence Park.Parcel 77.11-3-4: approx. 7 acre, contains an abandoned service station, and is next to Tappan Memorial ParkParcel 77.15-3-20: approx. 2/3 acre, this parcel is adjacent to the southern terminus of the Rail Trail.Parcel 69.20-2-28 and 69.20-2-29 (western portions): approx. 12 acres in size, these parcels are located off Van Wyck Road in Blauvelt; these parcels also border an abandoned section		(OPEN SPACE & RECREATION) 2022 Recommendation/ Work with NYS legislature to establish a preservation fund and acquire property for open space, recreation, or historic preservation. Associated Actions and Strategies/ Open spaces for potential acquisition <ol style="list-style-type: none">The Hackensack River blue corridor, including open areas within the Rockland Psychiatric Center (RPC) site.The Palisades Ridge green corridor where it intersects with the Sparkill Creek watershed and open areas in the southeast portion of TownDinosaur Property between Route 303 and North Greenbush RoadHNA property in Palisades (formerly the IBM Conference Center)Gesner Avenue ParkTowt ParkOlsen CenterCentral Avenue Field

	<p>of rail line (parcel 69.20-2-76) which could be used as a rail-trail in the future</p> <p>9. Parcel 65.15-1-1: approx. 17 acres, this site is on the Orangetown/Clarkstown border and is the site where dinosaur tracks were located.</p> <p>10. Parcel 73.20-1-23: approx. 20 acres in size, and is located off Blaisdell Road in Orangeburg</p> <p>Transitory sites (III-6)</p> <p>1. Parcel 73.20-1-23: ~20 acres in size, and it located off Blaisdell Rd in Orangeburg</p> <p>2. Parcel 73.11-1-2 and others: this is the land at the Rockland Psychiatric Center, over 330 acres of which is proposed to be sold by the State</p> <p>3. Parcel 77.12-1-44 and 77.12-1-45: located off Route 340 in Sparkill, approx. 38 acres in size, contain a portion of Sparkill Creek, and are adjacent to Town-owned land to the NE and the Rail-Trail to the West</p> <p>4. Parcel 77.06-3-13 and 77.06-3-23: 2 parcels totaling over 17 acres currently owned by the German Masonic Home and includes land leased for the Town's summer camp program</p> <p>5. Parcel 69.14-1-28: approx. 104 acres, this area contains the Kaufmann Campgrounds and Manhattan Woods Golf Course, and a portion of the Naurashaun Brook</p> <p>6. Parcel 68.07-2-1 and 68.12-3-21: 2 parcels currently owned by American Home Products total almost 15 acres, and separate industrial uses from residential uses</p> <p>7. Parcel 73.10-1-4 and 73.10-1-5: located off Blue Hill Road West, this is the Mercedes site, which totals nearly 7 acres</p> <p>8. Parcel 68.20-2-4: located on Central Avenue in Pearl River, Central Avenue Field totals nearly 5 acres which is used as a community play area/open space, and is owned by the Pearl River School District</p> <p>Exhibit 18 shows all OPDAC recommendations for potential acquisition or conservation easement. (V-14)</p>		
Protect large, continuous areas open space	<p><u>Strategy 1B</u></p> <p>Encourage cluster development and flexibility in subdivision design and site planning where significant environmental features exist. (Comp Plan 2003, V-2)</p>		<p>(OPEN SPACE & RECREATION)</p> <p>2022 Recommendation/ Use cluster development and conservation easements to preserve large contiguous areas of open space and protect environmentally sensitive areas.</p>

Protect viewsheds and sensitive slopes.	<p><u>Strategy 1C</u></p> <p>Ridge line protection can limit development in areas prone to adverse visual impacts, such portions of the Clausland Mountain, including the Route 9W / Tweed Blvd area.</p>		<p>(OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION)</p> <p>2022 Recommendation/ Develop a viewshed protection ordinance.</p> <p>Goals of viewshed protection ordinance:</p> <p>1) Protecting the sight line corridors to the shorelines and ridgelines of Orangetown. 2) Restricting ridge-line development to ensure more natural views from lower reaches.</p>
Protect wetlands.	<p><u>Strategy 1D</u></p> <p>Wetlands and waterbodies should be protected by a 100-foot buffer zone that limits development. Wetlands should also be mapped, accompanied with analysis of wetland functions. Permits are required for wetland disturbance. If there is no alternative to wetland disturbance, mitigation measures can include wetlands replacement, restoration, and enhancement.</p> <p>The Town should establish a minimum area for the wetlands, waterbodies, and steep slopes under regulation. (<i>Comp plan 2003, V-3</i>)</p>		<p>(SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE)</p> <p>2022 Recommendation/ Improve water quality by addressing root causes of contamination, protecting wetlands and watersheds, and aiding in their environmental performance.</p> <p>Associated Actions and Strategies/</p> <p>1) Strictly define watercourses and whether that includes water bars, swales, and roadside ditches beyond natural streams, wetlands, or waterbodies. 2) Critical Environmental Areas need particular attention because recent high-intensity storms have resulted in increased flooding on their steep slopes. Review effectiveness of current zoning code. 3) Wetlands, streams and other water bodies should be designated as Critical Environmental Areas and registered with NY State. This should also include identified aquifer recharge zones. 4) A riparian overlay zone with special protections should be considered for some sensitive areas, including Sparkill Creek, to guide development and redevelopment. 5) With rare exception, development within the 100-year floodplain of any stream should be prohibited. 6) Appropriate buffers to development near streams (typically within 100 feet) should be implemented wherever possible. 7) Promote alternatives to the wide use of landscaping chemicals. 8) Educate residents and landscapers about the detrimental impacts of the over-use of lawn and garden chemicals. 9) Develop a Town wetlands protection ordinance that adheres to federal guidelines that regulate pesticide, fertilizer use, and pollution from run-off.</p>
Maximize continuous open space areas.	<p><u>Strategy 1E</u></p> <p>Employ innovative zoning techniques such as PUD and clustering to preserve open space. PUD zoning, a type of floating zone, would specify types of uses, the amount of open space, and the maximum density of dwelling units per acre or FAR. Clustering, or average density, reduces lot sizes and bulk control in a development without reducing overall site density and the land not used for development is considered permanent open space. (<i>Comp Plan 2003, V-4</i>)</p>		<p>(OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION)</p> <p>Action and Strategies/ Use cluster development and conservation easements to preserve large contiguous areas of open space and protect environmentally sensitive areas.</p>

Mitigate flooding.	<p><u>Strategy 1F</u></p> <p>The Town can create drainage districts for each of the Town's drainage areas (including Sparkill Creek, Hackensack Creek, Cherry Brook, Muddy Creek, and Pascack Brook) in conjunction with addressing existing flooding as well as the future effects of development. " (<i>Comp Plan 2003</i>, V-4)</p>		<p>(SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE)</p> <p>2022 Recommendation/ Mitigate the harmful impacts of flood events through development regulations and preventative measures.</p> <p>Actions and Strategies/</p> <p>1) Introduce Town ordinances to protect steep slopes and ridgelines from erosion.</p> <p>2) Develop and implement a program of native planting.</p> <p>3) Limit the addition of impervious surfaces.</p> <p>4) Identify and develop mitigation plans for areas at high risk of flooding, including making improvements to public infrastructure.</p> <p>5) Limit any new development in areas with high risk of flooding.</p>
Increase permeability and ecological performance of parking lots.	<p><u>Strategy 1F</u></p> <p>Land banking of required parking in which there are waivers of the paving of required parking, with landscaping provided on an interim basis.</p>		<p>(SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE)</p> <p>Actions and Strategies/</p> <p>1) Require use of permeable parking surfaces where possible, and remove impermeable paving from vacant lands.</p> <p>2) Consider reducing minimum parking requirements.</p> <p>3) Prioritize tree planting along large swatches of paved areas including excessively wide roads and parking lots.</p> <p>4) Land banking of required parking.</p>
Mitigate flooding.	<p><u>Strategy 1G</u></p> <p>Work with Rockland County Drainage Agency to address flooding issues. (<i>Comp Plan 2003</i>, III-8)</p>		<p>(SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE)</p> <p>2022 Recommendation/ Map Stormwater Conveyance including drainage areas, outfalls, and discharge points for all of Orangetown’s municipalities.</p> <p>Actions and Strategies/</p> <p>Expanded stormwater public education program should include awareness about the impacts of phosphorus, nitrogen, and pathogens on water bodies, and ways in which each stakeholder can take action to limit run-off and pollutants. At a minimum the education should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of stormwater discharges on water bodies. • Pollutants of concern and their sources. • Actions to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. • Hazards associated with illicit discharge and improper disposal of waste. • Ways to report illicit discharges and water quality issues.
Improve access and connectivity between parks and open space and protect environmentally sensitive areas.	<p><u>Strategy 1H</u></p> <p>Create a Sparkill Creek Greenway Path. (<i>Comp Plan 2033</i>, V-2)</p>		<p>(OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION)</p> <p>2022 Recommendation/ Provide greater continuity between Orangetown’s local parks and open spaces, the regional open space corridor, and waterfront areas.</p> <p>Potential connections could be explored at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W Erie Street's intersection with the Clarke Rail Trail • Orangeburg Rd intersections with Veteran's Field, Independence Park, Greenbush Center, and Route 303 close to Clausland Mountain Park

Recommendation 2			
“Make certain that proposed development that is proximate to Lake Tappan and Clausland Mountain is carefully examined prior to approvals, with mitigation measures provided to protect water resources and steep terrain from uncontrolled runoff.” (Comp Plan 2003, II-1)			
Ensure that development near Lake Tappan and Clausland Mountain are carefully examined to protect water quality and mitigate uncontrolled runoff.	“When designing site plans and subdivisions on the steepest terrain, particularly the Clausland Mountain area, this Comprehensive Plan recommends that the town should not allow any development on slopes in excess of 35% unless proper mitigation measures are proposed, including all reasonable efforts to redesign the developments to avoid such slopes. Any development on slopes of 20% or greater should strive to utilize the natural terrain, thus minimizing possibilities for erosion. These thresholds are figures that have been used throughout both Rockland and Westchester Counties in order to protect steep slopes. Structures should be designed to fit into the hillside. Regrading should blend into the natural slope of the land, although the types of soils found on Clausland Mountain may warrant cuts and fills of up to 33%. Replanting should consist of indigenous vegetation, replicating the original landscaping to the extent possible. Measures to control soil erosion during construction should be required as part of the site plan or subdivision plan approval. (Comp Plan 2003, V-3)		(SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE) 2022 Recommendation/ Review and update local regulations to promote resilient construction practices, manage stormwater, and reduce flooding. Actions and Strategies/ 1) Develop guidelines for stormwater discharges from construction activities to reduce pollutants in runoff. 2) Develop guidelines to address post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment projects. 3) Require the use of bioretention, permeable paving, and/or vegetated swales instead of paved gutters for new development and redevelopment projects.
<u>Recommendation 3</u>			
“Acquire and develop sites for additional active recreation, such as soccer, baseball, swimming, and other uses, including land for use by the Town, its school districts, and local clubs and organizations, such as the Little League. In addition, acquire and develop sites for additional indoor recreation facilities. This specifically includes land at the Rockland Psychiatric Center.” (Comp Plan 2003, II-1)			
Acquire and develop open space for active recreation.	<u>Strategy Location</u> “The area to the immediate north of Veterans Memorial Highway has been recognized as an ideal park of public-private recreation site. If developed in this way, this site could act as an extension of the town’s Veterans Memorial Park, which is located directly across Orangeburg Road to the south. Additional open space farther to the north, across Old Orangeburg Road, lying between the Gaelic Fields and Lake Tappan, might also be desirable open space that could become potential parkland or recreational facilities.” (Comp Plan 2003, IV-24)		
Recommendation 4			
“Work with County and other communities (possibly including Clarkstown or Ramapo, among others), where appropriate, to secure outside funding for other acquisition of open space lands and recreation sites.” (Comp Plan 2003, II-1)			

Form regional collaborations to acquire funding for open space acquisitions.			(OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION) 2022 Recommendation/ Work with NYS legislature to establish a preservation fund and acquire property for open space, recreation, or historic preservation
Recommendation 5 “Upgrade existing park facilities and recreation programs, where necessary, to provide additional recreational opportunities for current and future populations; utilize recreation fees collected through the subdivision process, user fees, other town funds, and outside grants to support the recreation program. Improve opportunities for Town-owned indoor recreation for youth and seniors, in addition to collaboration with schools and libraries.” (Comp Plan 2003, II-1)			
Improve and increase Town parks and recreational opportunities.			(OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION) Actions and Strategies/ 1) Transform defunct public waterworks and utilities, such as the former pump station at Towt Park, into reservoir and industrial gardens.
Recommendation 6 “Preserve major portions of Rockland Psychiatric Center as open space, particularly the area to the east of Lake Tappan; secure and develop major portions of that site for active recreation, with the possible participation of private sector recreation providers.” (Comp Plan 2003, II-1)			
Collaborate with private sector recreation providers to develop parts of RPC site for active recreation.	Strategy Locations RPC site, particularly the area east of Lake Tappan.	Yes, there is a program developed with United Water that allows recreational access to Lake Tappan in the summer months on a permit basis	(OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION) 2022 Recommendation/ Repurpose defunct and obsolete infrastructure for recreational use. Actions and Strategies/ Implement the plans for a waterfront park on Lake Tappan within the 216-acres of Town-owned land at the Rockland Psychiatric Center, including walking trails, wheelchair accessible trails, and access to water for passive recreation activities.
Recommendation 7 “Improve, maintain and expand the walking and biking trails in Orangetown; provide connections between major open space areas, hamlet centers and villages; seek to have designated trails provided, such as Rail-Trail, to help reduce bicycle traffic along major roadway.” (Comp Plan 2003, II-2)			
Improve connections between open spaces and reduce bike traffic along major roadways.			(OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION) 2022 Recommendation/ Provide greater continuity between Orangetown’s local parks and open spaces, the regional open space corridor, and waterfront areas. Actions and Strategies/ Potential connections could be explored at: 1) W Erie Street's intersection with the Clarke Rail Trail 2) Orangeburg Rd intersections with Veteran's Field, Independence Park, Greenbush Center, and Route 303 close to Clausland Mountain Park 3) Introduce connections between adjacent open spaces that lack connection, such as RPC property and Veterans Field being separated by Orangeburg Rd.

Recommendation 8			
“Provide access to Lake Tappan and to the Hudson River for boating and other recreational opportunities; work with the State, local villages, and private utility companies to achieve this objective.” (Comp Plan 2003, II-2)			
Increase access to water and riparian recreational uses.	Strategy Locations Lake Tappan and Hudson River	Yes, there is a program developed with United Water that allows recreational access to Lake Tappan in the summer months on a permit basis	(OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION) Actions and Strategies/ Open space acquisitions of Towt Park, Gesner Park, and the Olsen Center.
Recommendation 9			
“Improve open space character along portions of the Town’s major roadways, particularly Route 303, possibly with both a landscaped median and with wide front yard landscape strips for developments along the right-of-way, except for the proposed hamlet centers.” (Comp Plan 2003, II-2)			
Improve visual character of the Town’s major roadways.	<u>Strategy 9A</u> Introduce extensive landscaping and buffer treatment along road frontages, along property lines where non-residential uses abut residential uses, and around and within parking lots. (Comp Plan 2003, V-7)		(OPEN SPACE & RECREATION) Actions and Strategies/ 1) Enhance the Town tree ordinance to discourage the felling of trees, to require that replacements be native and drought-resistant species, and, to extend protection to younger trees. 2) Minimize tree clearing and discouraging greenfield development. 3) Plant trees in vacant and underutilized lands. 4) Plant climate-resilient street trees for shade and aesthetics and applying for funding to make this possible. 5) Re-establish the Street Shade Tree planting program overseen by the Shade Tree Commission. 6) Educate and provide resources to residents about suitable species, planting best practices, and regulations. 7) Empower the Shade Tree Commission to oversee and recommend changes to the Town’s tree ordinance. 8) Work with the Planning Board, ACABOR, and the Commission to set standards for the landscaping plans. 9) Prioritize tree planting along large swatches of paved areas including excessively wide roads and parking lots. 10) Aggregate the bulk purchase of saplings with other municipalities in order to lower costs.
Recommendation 10			
"Provide additional landscaping and urban design treatment within the major downtown hamlet centers, particularly Pearl River; improve the visual character of Orangeburg Rd between Route 202 and the Palisades Parkway with a tree planting and design improvement program to identify this area a as a major center in Town.” (Comp Plan 2003, II-2)			
Improve visual character of roadways and proposed downtown hamlet centers to attract economic development and new residents.	<u>Strategy Locations</u> Major downtown hamlet centers such as Pearl River and Orangeburg Rd between Route 202 and the Palisades Parkway		(OPEN SPACE & RECREATION) Actions and Strategies/

			<div>1) Enhance the Town tree ordinance to discourage the felling of trees, to require that replacements be native and drought-resistant species, and, to extend protection to younger trees.</div> <div>2) Minimize tree clearing and discouraging greenfield development.</div> <div>3) Plant trees in vacant and underutilized lands.</div> <div>4) Plant climate-resilient street trees for shade and aesthetics and applying for funding to make this possible.</div> <div>5) Re-establish the Street Shade Tree planting program overseen by the Shade Tree Commission.</div> <div>6) Educate and provide resources to residents about suitable species, planting best practices, and regulations.</div> <div>7) Empower the Shade Tree Commission to oversee and recommend changes to the Town’s tree ordinance.</div> <div>8) Work with the Planning Board, ACABOR, and the Commission to set standards for the landscaping plans.</div> <div>9) Prioritize tree planting along large swatches of paved areas including excessively wide roads and parking lots.</div> <div>10) Aggregate the bulk purchase of saplings with other municipalities in order to lower costs.</div>
<div>Recommendation 11</div> <div>“Create a Conversation Advisory Council (CAC), similar to the Conversation Advisory Committee that existed in the Town in the 1970s and 1980s, that would act as an advisory group to both the Planning Board and the Town Board on a variety of environmental issues.” (Comp Plan 2003</div>			
Prioritize conservation in the Town’s future planning.		Yes, the Orangetown Environmental Committee was created.	<div>(SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE)</div> <div>2022 Recommendation/ Establish a Climate Working Group to seek funding for and to develop a Climate Action Plan.</div>

Table 2: 2022 Comprehensive Plan Proposed Recommendations and Implementation Timeline

Legend: 2003 CARRY OVER Actions and Strategies

Subsection	2022 Recommendations	Intended Outcome	Actions and Strategies	Timeline (S/M/L) S= 1 year, M = up to 5 years, L = up to 10 years	Funding Sources and Partnerships
Sustainability & Climate Resilience	Establish a Climate Working Group to seek funding for and to develop a Climate Action Plan.	Create a timeline of actionable goals to make Orangetown more climate resilient.	At a minimum, the Climate Action Plan would lay out a road map and targets for limiting community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, switching 100% of Town's energy supply to renewable sources, providing green transportation alternatives as tenable and convenient mode for mobility, defining climate mitigation, environmental stewardship and sustainability, reducing our vulnerability to climate impacts, enhancing quality of life and livability of neighborhoods, boosting opportunities for climate-smart businesses and job creation, and improving public health and equity for all community members. Climate Action Plan action items can include: 1) Creating a realistic timeline for strategies and projects in the Plan 2) Establishing metric for tracking success and measuring the efficacy of strategies. 3) Forming regional collaborations for all major infrastructure projects. 4) Pursuing higher certifications for the NYS Climate Smart Community program and the NYSERDA Clean Energy Community program.	S	Town Board Orangetown Environmental Committee NYSERDA
	Expand on existing public awareness programs to include a wider range of stakeholders and educational information.	Engage community members and stakeholders to be active proponents of good stormwater management practices.	Expanded stormwater public education program should include awareness about the impacts of phosphorus, nitrogen, and pathogens on water bodies, and ways in which each stakeholder can take action to limit run-off and pollutants. At a minimum the education should include: 1) Impacts of stormwater discharges on waterbodies. 2) Pollutants of concern and their sources. 3) Actions to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. 4) Hazards associated with illicit discharge and improper disposal of waste. 5) Ways to report illicit discharges and water quality issues.	S	Town Board Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance Rockland County Stormwater Consortium
	Map Stormwater Conveyance including drainage areas, outfalls, and discharge points for all of Orangetown’s municipalities.	Build a robust database to inform and build more incisive stormwater management strategies.	1) Develop a GIS-based stormwater network geodatabase that enables improved stormwater analysis and data-driven management strategies 2) Update the geodatabase as new infrastructure is and when inaccuracies in existing data require correction	S	Town Board Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance Rockland County Stormwater Consortium

	Improve water quality by addressing root causes of contamination, protecting wetlands and watersheds, and aiding in their environmental performance.	Improve water quality.	<div>1) Implement regulations for general Groundwater Protection Zones delineated by Rockland County Department of Health.</div> <div>2) Strictly define watercourses and whether that includes water bars, swales, and roadside ditches beyond natural streams, wetlands, or waterbodies.</div> <div>3) Establish watercourse buffer zones and set their widths based on parameters such as bank stabilization, nitrogen and phosphorus retention, erosion prevention, wildlife habitat preservation, and flood mitigation.</div> <div>4) Set zoning standards that regulate watercourse alteration, new and expansion of preexisting structures, preservation and increase of vegetation, public recreation, roadway construction, utility structures, and landscaping practices within buffer zones.</div> <div>5) Introduce watercourse overlay districts that set primary and secondary buffer zones as well as prohibiting activity near rivers, perennial watercourses, and intermittent watercourse.</div> <div>6) Critical Environmental Areas need particular attention because recent high-intensity storms have resulted in increased flooding on their steep slopes. Review effectiveness of current zoning code.</div> <div>7) Wetlands, streams and other waterbodies should be designated as Critical Environmental Areas and registered with NY State. This should also include identified aquifer recharge zones.</div> <div>8) A riparian overlay zone with special protections should be considered for some sensitive areas, including Sparkill Creek, to guide development and redevelopment.</div> <div>9) With rare exception, development within the 100-year floodplain of any stream should be prohibited.</div> <div>10) Appropriate buffers to development near streams (typically within 100 feet) should be implemented wherever possible.</div> <div>11) Promote alternatives to the wide use of landscaping chemicals.</div> <div>12) Educate residents and landscapers about the detrimental impacts of the over-use of lawn and garden chemicals.</div> <div>13) Call on the Palisades Interstate Parkway and NY State Thruway Authority to minimize the use of road salt on these highways.</div> <div>14) Enact a local law prohibiting pet waste on municipal properties and prohibiting goose feeding.</div>	M	Planning Board, with assistance from Town Board and OBZPAE
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			<p>15) Develop a Town wetlands protection ordinance that adheres to federal guidelines that regulate pesticide, fertilizer use, and pollution from run-off.</p> <p>16) Undertake a study to determine key areas in the Town requiring water protections.</p>		
	Review and update local regulations to promote resilient construction practices, manage stormwater, and reduce flooding.	Manage stormwater and reduce flooding.	<p>This regulatory update should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Guidelines for stormwater discharges from construction activities to reduce pollutants in runoff. 2) Guidelines to address post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment projects. 3) Requiring the use of bioretention, permeable paving, and/or vegetated swales instead of paved gutters for new development and redevelopment projects. 	S	Planning Board, with assistance from Office of Building, Zoning, Planning, Administration, and Enforcement (OBZPAE)
	Establish a green infrastructure and structural retrofitting program to reduce phosphorus, nitrogen and pathogen loading.	Filter and absorb surface runoff via environmentally sensitive methods.	<p>Green infrastructure (GI) systems employ plant and soil systems to infiltrate, evapotranspire, and reuse stormwater at the location where it falls. The range of GI approaches include: green roofs, tree trenches, rain gardens, vegetated swales, pocket wetlands, infiltration planters, vegetated median strips, reforestation, and protection and enhancement of riparian buffers and floodplains. The Town can take several measures to introduce GI and manage surface runoffs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Require use of permeable parking surfaces where possible, and remove impermeable paving from vacant lands. 2) Include GI Practices in street design specifications. 3) Establish a GI Grant Program. 4) Educate and encourage property owners to capture stormwater before it reaches the sidewalks. 5) Consider reducing minimum parking requirements. 6) Require all new subdivisions to include stormwater treatment for new roads in accordance with NYS requirements. 7) Consider setting limits to impervious surfaces on any lot. 8) Develop requirements for runoff from sidewalks and streets in urban areas to be directed into below grade drainage systems/practices. 9) Wherever possible, grade sidewalks and roadways to drain onto landscaped areas rather than onto the street. 	S	Planning Board
	Mitigate the harmful impacts of flood events through development regulations and preventative measures.	Flood mitigation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduce Town ordinances to protect steep slopes and ridgelines from erosion. 2) Develop and implement a program of native planting. 3) Limit the addition of impervious surfaces. 	M	Town Board and Planning Board

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Identify and develop mitigation plans for areas at high risk of flooding, including making improvements to public infrastructure. 5) Limit any new development in areas with high risk of flooding. 		
	Reduce carbon emissions and promote healthier air quality.	Reduce carbon emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Create regulations to limit air pollution coming from light industrial zoned areas. 2) Set clear targets and provide timeline and guidelines for reducing carbon emissions. 3) Limit truck traffic and deliveries during peak hours by incentivizing businesses to choose off-hour deliveries. 4) Reroute truck traffic from residential areas and schools to major highways and roads. 5) Create connected, safe and walkable communities with generous pedestrian infrastructure (sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian lights, landscaping), and public transportation (bus stops and shelters) on Rt 303 and throughout Orangetown. 6) Relocate commuter parking to existing developed areas with safe, sheltered bus stops to encourage the use of public transportation. 7) Encourage the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in public areas. 8) Beginning with schools and businesses, advertise and enforce efforts to limit the use of engine idling within the Town. 9) Ban the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers. 	M	Planning Board
	Limit the use of fossil fuels as a source of energy supply and incentivize the use of green building technologies for new development projects and retrofits.	Reduce carbon emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assess energy usage / demand by land use, type of building, new development, and redevelopment. 2) Retrofit municipal buildings for high energy efficiency and switch 100% of energy supply to renewable sources. Incentivize businesses and institutional buildings to do the same. 3) Build on the success of the Town's Community Choice Aggregation Program and provide incentives for green energy such as fast-tracked approvals and tax incentives. 4) Fully participate in the Rockland Community Power CCA program by adopting the 100% New York-sourced renewable electricity option as the default supply for residents and small businesses. 5) Explore alternatives to the aging electrical grid infrastructure which has limited ability to take advantage of advanced technologies. These alternatives should promote micro-grid Community-Distributed Generation of electricity such as through Community Solar installations, to protect critical infrastructure and lower the stress on the existing utility infrastructure. 	M	Planning Board

			6) Encourage building performance code certifications such as Energy Star and/or LEED for new construction. 7) Require the use of green building technologies for heating and cooling for all new construction and redevelopments. 8) Continue to enforce the recently adopted NYStretch Code for development, and improve the energy efficiency of building systems including heating, cooling, and lighting.		
	Rigorously enforce Town Code section 4.27 to limit light pollution.	Limit light pollution	1) Strictly enforce Town code section 4.27 by limiting light pollution in building applications through the Architecture and Community Appearance Board of Review (ACABOR) board. 2) Promote awareness around the negative impacts of light pollution and educate the public about methods to tackle and reduce it.	S	
Open Space & Recreation	Work with NYS legislature to establish a preservation fund and acquire property for open space, recreation, or historic preservation.	Acquire open space.	The Town should consider the following for acquisition and preservation: 1) The Hackensack River blue corridor, including open areas within the Rockland Psychiatric Center (RPC) site. 2) The Palisades Ridge green corridor where it intersects with the Sparkill Creek watershed and open areas in the southeast portion of Town 3) Dinosaur Property between Route 303 and North Greenbush Road 4) HNA property in Palisades (formerly the IBM Conference Center) 5) Gesner Avenue Park 6) Towt Park 7) Olsen Center 8) Central Avenue Field	M	Town Board
	Use cluster development and conservation easements to preserve large contiguous areas of open space and protect environmentally sensitive areas.	Protect open space and natural areas.	<i>Cluster development</i> groups residential buildings together on a site, thus saving the remaining land area for common open space, conservation, agriculture, and recreation. <i>A conservation easement</i> is an agreement by the landowner to sell the land's development rights to a non-profit organization that agrees to never use those rights, thereby preserving and conserving the land as open space.	M	Town Board
	Develop a viewshed protection ordinance.	Protect viewsheds to scenic vistas and the waterfront.	Viewshed protection is a significant aspect of ridgeline and open space management. A viewshed ordinance for Orangetown would protect sight line corridors to shorelines and ridgeline, as well as restricting ridge line development to ensure natural views from lower reaches. The following	M	Planning Board

			<p>items can be included in the viewshed protection ordinance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Introduce overlay zoning in all villages and hamlets adjacent to the Hudson River, which places additional restrictions on existing zoned areas to control ridgeline development, density, grading, and vegetation.2) Enforce existing viewshed overlay zoning that is currently poorly enforced.3) Limit building heights based on proximity to viewsheds.4) Designate view corridors, which are planned openings in the built environment that5) Require viewshed analysis for ridgeline development and acquire ridgeline lands for preservation.		
	Repurpose defunct and obsolete infrastructure for recreational use.	Transform obsolete infrastructure into a recreational resource for users through cost-effective and environmentally beneficial methods.	<p>Key actions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Encourage conversion of inactive rail lines into rail trail facilities to develop a network connecting with trails in adjacent municipalities.2) Implement the plans for a waterfront park on Lake Tappan within the 216-acres of Town-owned land at the Rockland Psychiatric Center, including walking paths, wheelchair accessible trails, and access to water for passive recreation activities.3) Repurpose safe materials from RPC demolition in other open space projects within and beyond the RPC site.4) Remediate open field brownfield sites that are associated with obsolete infrastructure, such as Orangetown Shopping Center, RPC Core Area, and the Orangeburg Pipe site, to become parks.5) Transform defunct public waterworks and utilities, such as the former pump station at Towt Park, into reservoir and industrial gardens.	M	Town Board Planning Board Parks and Recreation Office Highway Department
	Expand community programming and the ecological role of parks in habitat restoration.	Encourage residence to play active roles in promoting the ecological performance of Orangetown’s parks and open spaces	<p>In addition to providing space for recreation, parks can function as important habitats for native flora and fauna, migratory birds, pollinators such as bees and butterflies, provide food for animals and birds, recharge our aquifers with cleaner water, and play a role in carbon sequestration. For parks to play a more significant role in creating habitats and improving their hydrological performance they can be planted as meadows, natural vegetated buffers, and natural fields. The Town should develop an inventory of locations that might lend themselves for transformation.</p> <p>Potential programs and organizations that can be established include:</p>	M	Parks and Recreation Office

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Adopt a Park/Greenway program for local trails such as the Esposito Trail. 2) Town land conservancy. 3) Tree trust in collaboration with the Shade Tree Commission. 4) Citizen science programs for ecological monitoring in collaboration with Hudson River Estuary. 5) The Parks and Recreation Office can partner with their County and State counterparts to create more connected community park programs throughout all parks located within Orangetown. 6) Community programming such as farm beds, community gardens, and nature centers in partnership with schools and on their open space and recreational facilities. 		
	Educate young residents about environmental importance of parks and promote park stewardship.	Encourage young residents to play active roles in engaging with and advocating for Orangetown's parks and open spaces	<p>The Parks and Recreation Office, in collaboration with the Orangetown Environmental Committee, can institute a local park and environmental stewardship program for youths and students that focuses on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Environmental education covering nature conservation, hiking trail maintenance, mapping storm drains, plant and wildlife management, cleaning up streams, citizen science, and participate in conservation projects throughout Orangetown as well as the region. 2) Engaging student volunteering and service efforts to create impactful open space and natural resource improvement projects. 3) Increasing engagement with different forms of recreation and catalyze enhancement projects for sports activities in parks, including baseball, golf, playgrounds, swimming, and hiking, etc. 	M	Parks and Recreation Office Town Board Orangetown Environmental Committee
	Develop sustainable best practices for park maintenance, use of materials, and water efficiency.	Increase climate resilience of trees and vegetation in Orangetown parks and open spaces and minimize environmental footprint of suburban landscaping practices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prohibit motorized vehicles in parks. 2) Limit bicycles on trails where their use could cause damage. 3) Eliminate park litter. 4) Limit use of artificial turf on playing fields. These cause athletic injuries, increase field temperatures, produce inhalable particles that contain undesirable compounds including per-fluorinated chemicals (PFAS, PFOA). 5) Select construction to minimize environmental impact, have a long service life, be reused and repurposed when possible, improve ground permeability, and increase pavement surface albedo for reducing heat absorption. 6) Use synthetic turf judiciously, only when its benefits are maximized with consideration to flooding and stormwater management consequences. 	S	Parks and Recreation Office

			<p>7) Improve water efficiency by utilizing low-impact irrigation systems, creating absorbent landscapes, protecting and restoring natural hydrology, and introducing GI as part of park infrastructure.</p> <p>8) Soil management should maximize compost use (instead of chemical fertilizers), minimize soil disturbance, and prioritize rejuvenation of existing soils before importing new soils.</p> <p>9) Planting and vegetation strategies can take on an ecological approach with diversified plant species.</p> <p>10) The Town can partner with the private sector and local community to assist with park maintenance.</p>		
	Consider and adopt urban forest and landscaping best practices.	Increase climate resilience of trees and vegetation beyond parks and open spaces and minimize environmental footprint of suburban landscaping practices.	<p>Actions and initiatives can include:</p> <p>1) Enhancing the Town tree ordinance to discourage the felling of trees, to require that replacements be native and drought-resistant species, and, to extend protection to younger trees.</p> <p>2) Minimizing tree clearing and discouraging greenfield development.</p> <p>3) Planting trees in vacant and underutilized lands.</p> <p>4) Planting climate-resilient street trees for shade and aesthetics and applying for funding to make this possible.</p> <p>5) Re-establishing the Street Shade Tree planting program overseen by the Shade Tree Commission.</p> <p>6) Educating and providing resources to residents about suitable species, planting best practices, and regulations.</p> <p>7) Empowering the Shade Tree Commission to oversee and recommend changes to the Town’s tree ordinance.</p> <p>8) Working with the Planning Board, ACABOR, and the Commission to set standards for the landscaping plans.</p> <p>9) Prioritizing tree planting along large swatches of paved areas including excessively wide roads and parking lots.</p> <p>10) Aggregating the bulk purchase of saplings with other municipalities in order to lower costs.</p> <p>11) Land banking of required parking,</p> <p>12) Transition to impermeable paving for required parking and provide landscaping on a regular basis.</p>	S	<p>Planning Board, with input from Parks and Recreation Office</p> <p>Shade Tree Commission</p> <p>ACABOR</p>
	Provide greater continuity between Orangetown’s local parks and open spaces, the regional open space corridor, and waterfront areas.	Increase user access to Orangetown’s open spaces and waterfronts.	<p>Potential connections could be explored at:</p> <p>1) W Erie Street's intersection with the Clarke Rail Trail</p> <p>2) Orangeburg Rd intersections with Veteran's Field, Independence Park, Greenbush Center, and Route 303 close to Clausland Mountain Park</p>	M	Parks and Recreation Department, with assistance from Highway Department

			3) Introduce connections between adjacent open spaces that lack connection, such as RPC property and Veterans Field being separated by Orangeburg Rd.		
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