

Appendix U:

Town of Stephentown Resource Targets and Conservation Priority Areas

The Town of Stephentown is in the southeast corner of the county. Most of the town is forested, but there are high priority agricultural areas in the NYS 22 corridor. Approximately one half of the town is within the Rensselaer Plateau, and part of the Taconic Mountains are in the east. These two regions have high priority ecological and scenic areas. Public lands in the Taconics include Taconic Ridge State Park and lands of the Conservation Fund. On the plateau, Cherry Plain State Wildlife Management Area as well as Conservation Fund lands can be found north of NYS 43. The Kinderhook Creek corridor has high priority water resource, ecological, and climate resiliency areas. In the western part of town, an extensive area of high priority water resources can be found on either side of South Road that includes Black Brook and Huff Brook. Other high priority water resource areas are East Brook and West Brook and Wyomanock Creek in the southeast corner of the town. The Wyomanock Creek corridor includes some rare wetland habitats and associated uncommon plants. On the east side of Rte 22 in some areas are hills with less acidic bedrock, unusual in the county, that support uncommon habitat and plants.

Resource Target	Conservation Priority Area
Water	Wyomanock Creek corridor
Water	Kinderhook Creek and Black River corridors
Water	East Brook and West Brook corridors
Water	Rensselaer Plateau Forest along Black Brook, Huff Brook and Pomeroy Hill
Ecological	Rensselaer Plateau, especially peatlands and spruce-fir areas
Ecological	Kinderhook Valley south of Rensselaer Plateau
Climate Resiliency	Taconic Mountains
Climate Resiliency	Southeastern escarpment of Rensselaer Plateau
Climate Resiliency	Kinderhook Creek corridor south of Gould Road
Agricultural	Kinderhook Creek corridor upstream of Black River
Agricultural	Area between East Road and Rte 22 south of Giles Road
Scenic and Ecological	Taconic Mountains
Scenic	Capital District Wildlife Management Area
Scenic	Rensselaer Plateau, particularly Turner Mountain
Scenic	South Road
Composite	Taconic Mountains
Composite	Rensselaer Plateau around Capital District Wildlife Management Area, southern escarpment, Johnson Hill, Roaring Brook
Composite	Kinderhook Creek and Black Brook corridors, and hills south of Rensselaer Plateau
Composite	Wyomanock Creek corridor

Conservation Plan for Rensselaer County Highest Priority Areas - Town of Stephentown

