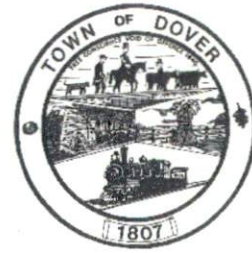
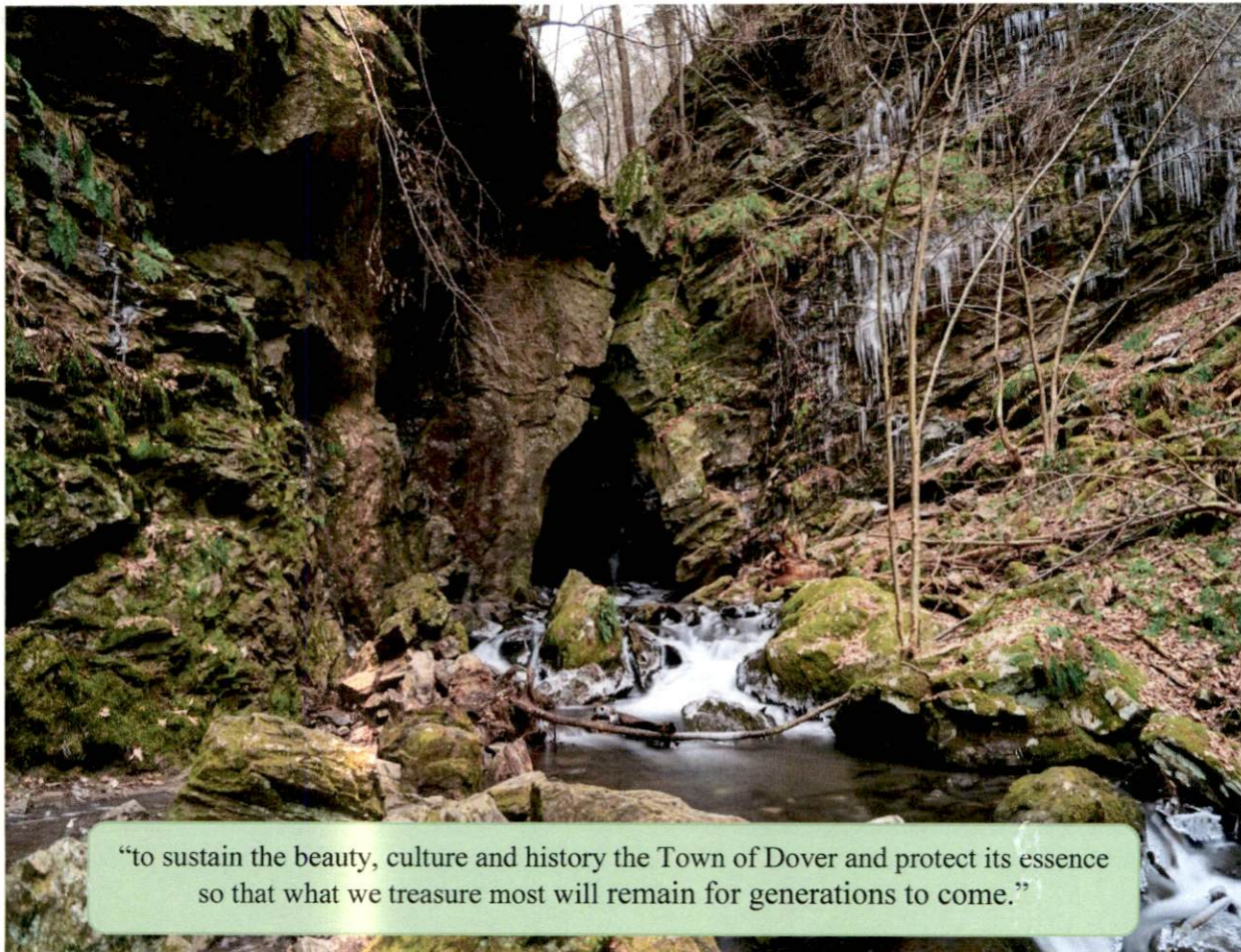




**Climate Smart
Communities**



**Sustainability Chapter of the Town of Dover
2022 Comprehensive Plan Update**



“to sustain the beauty, culture and history the Town of Dover and protect its essence so that what we treasure most will remain for generations to come.”

This chapter was funded in part by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation.



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Acknowledgments

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Glossary of Acronyms

AHMP:	All Hazards Mitigation Plan
CAC:	Conservation Advisory Council
CEC:	Clean Energy Communities
CDBG:	Community Development Block Grant
CSDTF:	Climate Smart Dover Task Force
CSC:	Climate Smart Communities
EV:	Electric vehicle
FEMA:	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG:	Greenhouse gas
HVA:	Housatonic Valley Association, Inc.
LED:	Light-emitting diode
LEED:	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LEED (ND):	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development
NYS:	New York State
NYS DEC:	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSERDA:	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
SEQR:	State Environmental Quality Review
TMR:	Ten Mile River

Executive Summary

The Town of Dover prepared this sustainability chapter as a supplement to their 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update funded in part by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. The purpose of the chapter is to educate and empower town officials to implement municipal policies, procedures and programs that advance goals of sustainable growth and help residents learn, internalize and implement more environmentally-sustainable and responsible choices and practices in their everyday lives.

The primary objectives of the chapter were: 1) to focus on protection and stewardship of Dover's natural resources; 2) demonstrate the benefits and value of sustainability in future growth and development and 3) build upon foundational knowledge and insights as stepping stones to achieve climate adaptation project goals.

Chapter development was facilitated by the Town's Conservation Advisory Council with technical assistance from WSP, Inc., an engineering and professional services firm. Following an in-depth review of the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU) adopted in December 2022, an online community survey was developed with sustainability-focused recommendations in the areas that included: 1) alternate modes of transportation; 2) promoting smart growth principles in land use policies; 3) conserve natural areas; 4) promote a healthy and safe community and 5) foster equity. Two additional sustainability focus areas of local interest, namely, local food systems and protecting water supply and quality were also included. Residents' perceptions of the terms "sustainability" and "equity" were solicited based on a literature review of social science, sustainability, public administration, environmental and psychology resources. Survey respondents ranked sustainability-focused CPU recommendations and priorities were reported in weight averages.

Sixty-four respondents completed the online survey available on the Town's website and a community-based social media site for a six-week period. Results were into a Sustainability Action Implementation Plan with tracking numbers, action items, mechanism for implementation, supporting entities, proposed timeframe and "3 E's"-(extent of action item's impact on environment, economy and equity). A concluding discussion of community engagement for the sustainability-focused action items proposed in this chapter included three innovative strategies currently in use in other NYS communities: establishing a municipal-community-based organization, "Sustainable Dover;" create the municipal position of a sustainability coordinator and help convene and create a "Sustainable Dutchess" organization to assist municipalities with sustainability-focused implementation goals.

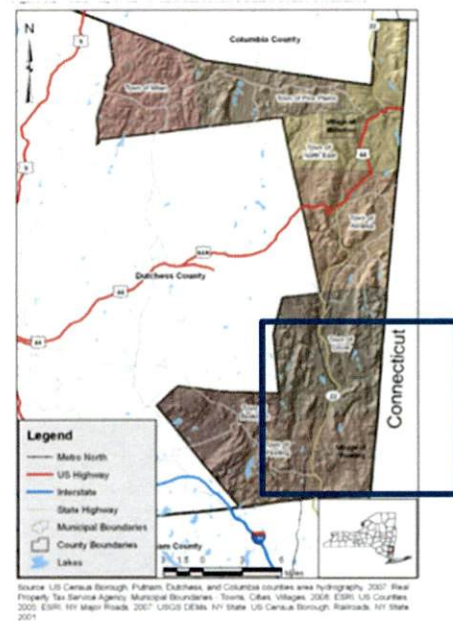
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PART 1: Introduction

The Town of Dover is located in southeastern Dutchess County, NY with a population of approximately 8,400 residents bordered by the Towns of Amenia, Pawling, Union Vale, Washington, NY and the State of Connecticut. Situated in a north-south valley of calcareous wetlands named the Harlem Valley, Dover’s development is primarily in the valley bottom and on mountainous slopes of the areas between East and West Mountains. The Ten Mile River, a tributary of the Housatonic River in Connecticut, bisects Dover and was used by early settlers for homestead farming, water mills and later for electricity generation. The Town also contains a portion of the Great Swamp, the largest wetland in NYS, and is part of the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge, a multi-state shrubland habitat for many threatened species of wildlife established in 2017.

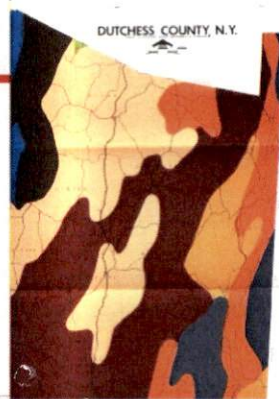


Location of the Town of Dover in Eastern Dutchess County

The confluence of Dover’s enduring natural elements enhances its natural beauty, rich biodiversity and plentiful environmental resources. Along with protecting our natural resources, it is also our desire to help ameliorate the negative impacts of climate change that motivates and underscores the development of this sustainability chapter as a supplement to the Town’s Comprehensive Plan Update.

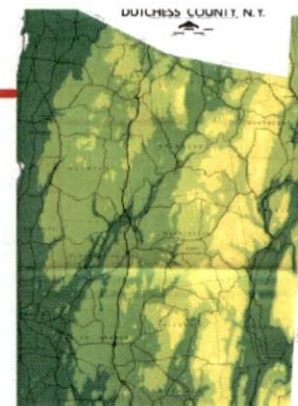
Soils

- The Town of Dover has two basic soils:
- Nellis (orange); good for farm land and gravel underbase
 - Steep Rock Outcrop (blue); natural element for mining
- For that reason, early industries included:
- Farming
 - marble mines
 - lime quarries



Elevations

- The Town of Dover has two diverse elevations: high mountains and low plains
- Dark green: valley floors and elevations up to 300 ft.
 - Yellow-green: mountain elevations from 600- 1200 ft.

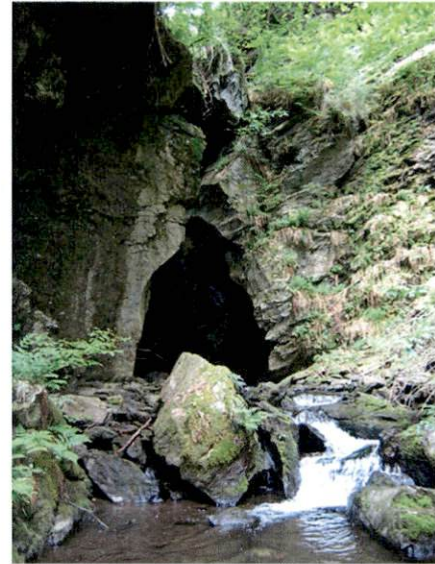


Slides from the PowerPoint Presentation, “Spaces and Faces of the Town of Dover” (2007)

Dover’s earliest settlers farmed its fertile plains and harvested natural resources of iron ore, marble, limestone and timber until the introduction of the railroad forged the town’s transition to a commerce-based economy for the next century.

In the mid to late 20th Century, gravel mining became a leading town industry. However, when some operators proposed to reclaim mined land using commercial and demolition debris in the 1990's, public outcry prompted town officials to enact a permanent moratorium on new commercial mining that is still in effect to this day.

Several community leaders who advocated for the mining moratorium went on to serve as elected officials and their ongoing efforts continued to shape increased environmental consciousness of Dover's resilient ecosystem. In 2004, Dover achieved another milestone of emerging environmental consciousness with the Town's acquisition of a privately held 58-acre parcel that became the Dover Stone Church Preserve. The parcel is situated on the Stone Church Brook with an immense metamorphic cavern and interior waterfall now permanently conserved as public open space and recreation. The regional popularity of the Preserve also helped cultivate residents' appreciation for Dover's resilient scenic beauty and pristine natural resources. Dover's natural resources are also a significant source for economic development through tourism, agriculture, hiking and seasonal recreation.



Metamorphic Rock Cavern at the Dover Stone Church Preserve

In 2014, the Town, in partnership with the Dutchess Land Conservancy, acquired adjacent parcels to the preserve and blazed three hiking trails that expanded the park to 172 acres. In 2022, a 170-acre parcel to the south of new trails, locally known as the "Seven Wells" was acquired from private ownership and added as a final component for conservation. Along with benefits of protecting these parcels that are habitats for several endangered and threatened flora and fauna, the parcels are also located on the aquifer recharge areas of the water supply for about 1000 households in the Dover Plains hamlet.



Aerial map of the lane to the caverns and three hiking trails at Dover Stone Church Preserve



Cascading waterfall on the Seven Wells Parcel

Climate Hazards in the Town of Dover

Following a series of weather-related flooding events from 2000 to 2010, the Town of Dover, in collaboration with eight neighboring municipalities, received grant funding and developed a FEMA-approved All Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP) that identified 13 natural hazards of local significance. The specific natural hazards included: extreme temperature, extreme wind, hurricane/tropical storm, lightning, nor'easter, tornado, winter storm, drought, flood, ice jam, earthquake and wildfire.

**Table 3a.1
Summary of Profiled Hazards by Jurisdiction**

Jurisdiction	Extreme Temperatures	Extreme Wind	Hurricane / Tropical Storm	Lightning	Nor'easter	Tornado	Winter Storm	Dam Failure*	Drought	Flood	Ice Jams	Earthquake	Wildfire
Amenia, Town of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Beckman, Town of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Dover, Town of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Milan, Town of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Millerton, Village of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
North East, Town of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pawling, Town of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pawling, Village of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pine Plains, Town of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Natural Hazards of local significance for the Town of Dover and neighboring communities from the 2010 Northern and Eastern Dutchess Communities AHMP

Based on the summary above, the Town of Dover shares several natural hazard vulnerabilities with its neighboring communities. Among a confluence of contributing factors is the Ten Mile River, its tributaries and watershed that traverse the Towns of Amenia, Dover, North East as well as portions of the Towns of Pine Plains and Pawling.

The 2016 Dutchess County Hazard Mitigation Plan notes, “weather in Dutchess County is significantly impacted by major storms systems...bringing ample precipitation especially during fall, winter and spring months” and “storms in winter months (include) polar air movement which brings masses of cold air southeast from Canada.”

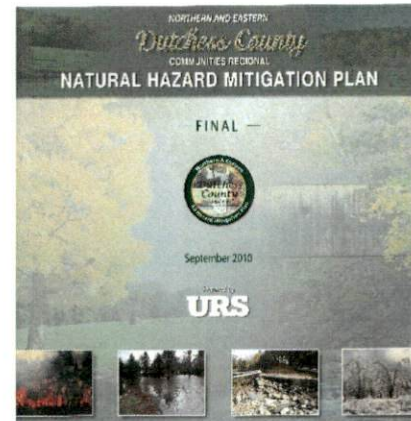
(<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Emergency-Response/Docs/Section-4-County-Profile.pdf>, p. 4-8 and p.4-9). And perhaps most succinctly in the context of hazards and climate change, Rosenweig et al (2011) is cited in the Town of Dover’s 2019 Natural Resource Inventory,

“the effects of climate change are likely to be felt more acutely in the coming years- larger and more frequent floods, higher temperatures, droughts, wildfires and severe storms, as well as some less dramatic symptoms such as increases in invasive pests, pathogens affecting humans, livestock and wildlife and depletion of native biological diversity.”

The next section presents information on specific natural hazards that the Town of Dover experienced in the past decade and some municipal actions completed to help mitigate future negative impacts.

Town of Dover Climate Hazard Profiles

In May 2011, the Northern and Eastern Dutchess County Communities Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA and subsequently adopted by the nine participating municipalities. In 2015, Dutchess County invited Dover and the other participating municipalities to join the County's update of its Hazard Mitigation Plan and follow-up data on each jurisdiction's primary climate hazards were addressed.



Section 9.7: Town of Dover

9.7 TOWN OF DOVER

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the Town of Dover.

9.7.1 Hazard Mitigation Plan Point of Contact

The following individuals have been identified as the hazard mitigation plan's primary and alternate points of contact:

Primary Point of Contact	Alternate Point of Contact
Linda S. French, Town Supervisor 136 Erie Drive in Hill Road, Dover Plains, NY 12522 845-872-6111 l.french@townofdover.org	Richard Yarn, Deputy Town Supervisor 125 East Dutchess Hill Road, Dover Plains, NY 12522 845-872-6111 R.Yarn@townofdover.org

9.7.2 Municipal Profile

The Town of Dover is located in the north-central quadrant of Dutchess County, NY. It borders the Towns of Amenia and Washington to the north, the Towns of Union Vale and Derkman to the west, the Town of Pawling to the south, and the State of Connecticut to the east. The Town contains several hamlets, including Dover Plains, South Dover, and Wingshield. The Town contains two major transportation corridors, Route 22 and Route 34. It also offers residents the option to travel by commuter rail as the Metro-North Railroad's Harlem Line has two rail stations in the Town. The Town's more vulnerable structures and critical facilities will be discussed in further detail throughout the Hazard Mitigation Plan and its annex.

The Town has a total area of 55.34 square miles, of which 55.19 square miles is land and 0.15 square miles is water. Tills Pond and Lake Well are two locally recognized small lakes in the southeast part of Town, and the Town's FIS has identified the following proximate waterways as potential sources of vulnerability for flooding – Swamp River Reach 1, Walls Brook, and the Tuntic River. Parts of the Town include steep slopes, such those along West Mountain beyond Route 22.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population of the Town of Dover was 5,699.

Growth/Development Trends

As there was no major commercial, residential, or infrastructure developments between 2010 and 2015, the following table summarizes any known or anticipated major residential/commercial developments and major infrastructure development that has been identified in the next five years within the municipality. Refer to the map in Section 9.7.3 of this annex which illustrates the hazard areas along with the location of potential new development.

Table 9.7-1: Growth and Development

Property or Development Name	Type (e.g. Res, Comm)	# of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or Parcel ID)	Known Hazard Potential	Description/Status of Development
Recent Development from 2010 to present					
None.					
Known or Anticipated Development in the Next Five (5) Years					
Clucke Valley Energy	Commercial	Natural gas-fired electricity plant	Rt. 22 Dover Plains		Permitting process. Site plan process.
Oliver Center	Residential/Commercial	Unknown	Rt. 22 Wingshield		

* Only known-specific hazard areas in vulnerability identified.

DMA 2009 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Dutchess County, New York
February 2016

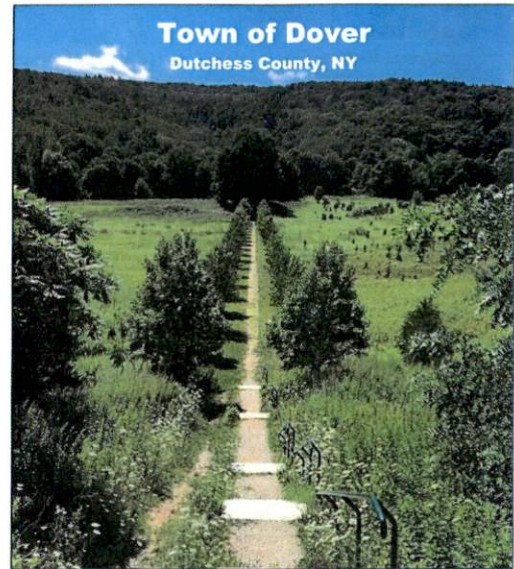
In the five years between adoption of Dover's regional plan and the County's jurisdictional annex, the Town had four significant hazard events: a severe winter snowstorm (Nor'easter) in late 2010 and three declarations of local states of emergency due to heavy rainfall and warming resulting in widespread flooding and road blockages in March 2011, from Hurricane Irene in August-September 2012 and from Hurricane Sandy in October-November 2012.

Of the 13 identified natural hazards identified in the Town's 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan, the County's 2015 jurisdictional update for Dover ranked coastal storm, drought, earthquake, flood, severe storm, winter storm and wildfire among updated potential hazard and vulnerability risks.

In 2012, the Town adopted updated FEMA floodplain/flood insurance study maps and an update to the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (<https://ecode360.com/10568218#10568218>) that identified areas of special flood hazard (by flood insurance rate map (FIRM) panel numbers as prepared by FEMA. Among recommendations proposed in the 2015 jurisdictional update, the Town purchased and installed a Town Hall generator for reduced risk to a critical facility, improved communications infrastructure to notify residents through TextMyGov and continued road infrastructure upgrades to roads with repetitive FEMA-funded restoration and repairs (Aldrich, Blackberry, Weil and McCourt Roads and others).

Town of Dover Comprehensive Plan Update

In early 2020, the Town of Dover Town Board established a Comprehensive Plan Update Committee comprised of current and former Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members, local business owners, a town dairy farmer and a town historian along with consultants funded in part by a Hudson River Greenway Communities Planning Grant. Despite meeting interruptions during the brunt of the COVID-19 Pandemic, this exemplary committee persevered and with support of the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development, the draft plan was presented at two public informational meetings and a Town Board public hearing, revised based on public feedback, evaluated for State Quality Environmental Review (SEQR) determination and adopted by the Dover Town Board in December 2022.



Comprehensive Plan Update 2022

The vision of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan (CPU) Update is:

to facilitate new and existing business development, encourage community growth that supports the health and well-being of all residents, promote and support farming and promote use and enjoyment of our unique scenic beauty and natural resources and participate in the growing outdoor recreation economy.” (2022 Town of Dover CPU, p. 6)

The 2022 CPU proposed that it was intended to be an update of the 1993 Town Master Plan that, with a 1999 amendment to enact a permanent moratorium on new mining operations, would be a “living” document to be reviewed and updated as needed, but formally reviewed at intervals of no more than fifteen years. When Dover adopted its 1993 Town Master Plan, the 1987 United Nations’ Brundtland Report defined sustainable development as **“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”** (Brundtland Report (1987), p.15).

The 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update addressed the issue of sustainable development more in term of this generic definition than specific actions of conservation ecology and environmental protection. Goals of the 2022 CPU focused on four major outcomes to achieve its vision: promote rezoning efforts; develop a town inventory; encourage community involvement and guide future growth. As a result, recommended action items of this sustainability chapter similarly reflect the CPU’s focus that well-developed policies and plans, strategies to cultivate community engagement, and zoning that is responsive to future growth will help make Dover a vibrant and thriving community.

How Local Sustainability Efforts Align with Regional and NYS Climate Protection Frameworks

Local sustainability efforts benefit from awareness of and integration with other local, state, and regional policy frameworks and provide guidance for science-based goals, objectives, and targets. Policy frameworks relevant to the Town’s sustainability efforts are summarized below.

New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

In 2019, New York State passed the nation-leading Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) to empower every New Yorker to fight climate change at home, at work and in their communities. New York’s Climate Act builds on almost a decade of climate leadership. Based on the latest climate science, the Climate Act’s targets are among the most rigorous of any major economy in the world. Every New Yorker plays a key role in protecting communities and ensuring a sustainable future. The Climate Act seeks to transform New York’s economy, create new jobs, and stimulate industry and innovation, while building more resilient communities that benefit and protect all New Yorkers.



The New York State Climate Action Council (Council) is a 22-member committee that will prepare a Scoping Plan to achieve the State’s clean energy and climate agenda. The Council also oversees the establishment of sector-specific advisory panels and working groups and works in consultation with the Climate Justice Working Group and the Environmental Justice Advisory Group. In March 2021, the Council released its Draft Scoping Plan that details opportunities related to policies, funding and programming for municipalities to achieve local clean energy and climate goals. Just as the Town has aligned key planning documents and actions with Dutchess County, the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council, and the NYSDEC Climate Smart Communities Program framework, the Town may similarly benefit by aligning its broader sustainability goals with updated guidance from the final scoping plan proposed for completion by January 1, 2023. A priority of the impending Scoping Plan will be to assist disadvantaged communities and the Town of Dover’s unofficial hamlet of Wingdale is designated <https://climate.ny.gov/resources/disadvantaged-communities-criteria/>.

The New York State DEC Office of Climate Change’s Climate Smart Certification (CSC) Program



In July 2016, the Town of Dover registered with the NYS DEC’s Office of Climate Change and initiated steps toward Climate Smart Communities certification. Following registration, the Town’s Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) established a subcommittee, the Climate Smart Dover Task Force (CSDTF), and with support from the Dover Town Board and funding assistance from a 2018 Climate Smart Communities Certification Program grants, the Town completed 128 points earned from 16 completed actions to achieve bronze-level certification in September 2020.

With the Dover Town Board’s support, the CAC/Climate Smart Task Force continues to meet monthly to discuss and implement actions and initiatives to educate and engage residents’ awareness of the impacts of climate change and encourage residents to help ameliorate the negative impacts through personal responsibility and collective action.

The development of this sustainability chapter was funded in part by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program

In November 2017, the Town of Dover participated in a NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program’s “Cost and Energy Savings for Municipalities” panel discussion hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County on a panel to share Dover’s efforts toward Climate Smart Communities certification at that time. Following completion of bronze-level CSC certification in November 2020, the Town’s CAC and CSDTF turned their interest to achieving designation as a NYSERDA Clean Energy Community.



With the encouragement and technical assistance of the Hudson Valley Regional Council and Mid-Hudson Clean Energy Communities’ (CEC) coordinators, the Town completed the following four High Impact Actions to achieve designation as a NYSERDA Clean Energy Community in November 2021:

- earned Climate Smart Communities Bronze-level certification
- upgraded all of the Town’s 283 streetlights to LED fixtures
- installed the Town’s first public electric vehicle charging station (with funding support through NYSERDA’s Charge Ready NY Program)
- completed CEC-approved Energy Code Enforcement training.

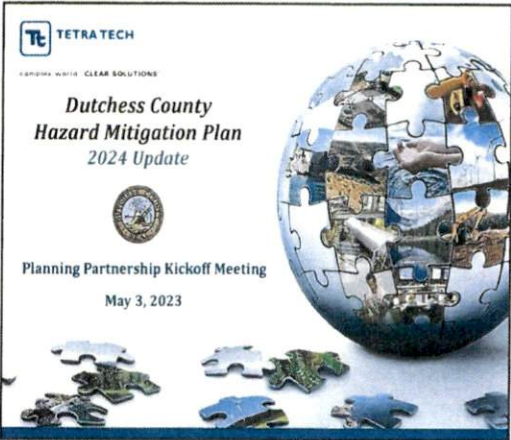
In May 2022, the Town received a \$5,000 Clean Energy Communities designation grant that was utilized toward LED upgrades of all interior light fixtures at Dover Town Hall, an action item recommended in the Town’s Government Operations Climate Action Plan, a publication also funded in part through the Town’s 2018 Climate Smart Communities Certification Program grant.

Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities Program

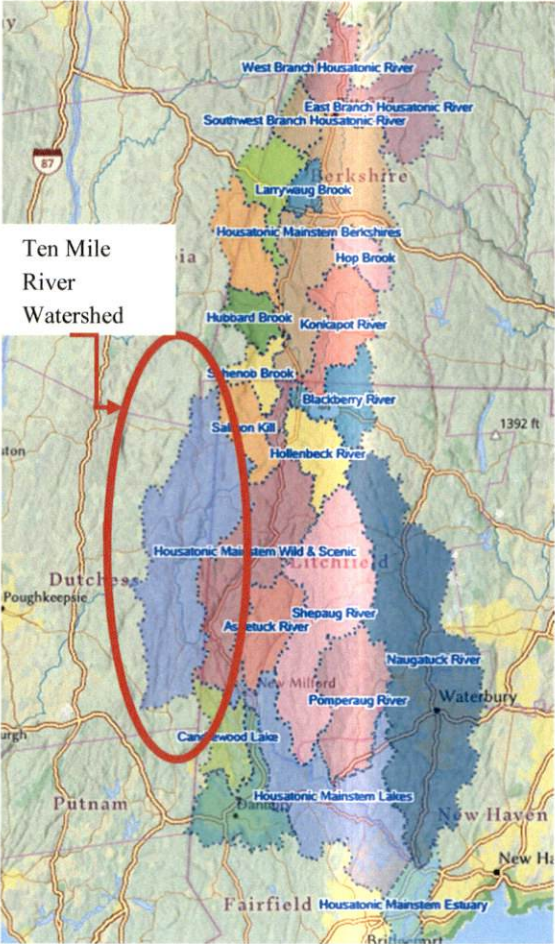
In 2019, Dutchess County Government earned Bronze-level Climate Smart Communities (CSC) designation certification and their 15-member task force continues to meet on a quarterly basis. Members of the Dutchess County CSC Task Force include government, business and nonprofit leaders from County’s Legislature and Planning and Development Department, Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Scenic Hudson, Sustainable Hudson Valley as well as Vassar College, Central Hudson Gas & Electric, interested residents

and the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council. For many years, the Town of Dover has had productive working relationships with several of these task force members on other municipal-related issues and we regularly ask their assistance and expertise as needed.

Among items discussed at the Dutchess County CSC Task Force’s June 27, 2023 meeting was the update of the County’s All Hazards Mitigation Plan of which Town of Dover is a municipal partner after the County invited all municipalities to join in developing a countywide AHMP in 2015. In March 2023, the Dover Town Supervisor attended the County AHMP Update’s kick-off meeting and the project is currently finishing Phase 2: Update of the Risk Assessment and entering Phase 3: Public Involvement and Strategy.



HVA and The Ten Mile River Collaborative



The Town of Dover is located in the Ten Mile River (TMR) Watershed, one of the 24 sub-watersheds of the Housatonic Valley, according to Housatonic Valley Association, Inc. (HVA), a tri-state nonprofit citizens’ environmental group that works to conserve water quality and supply of the Housatonic Riverbelt Greenway.

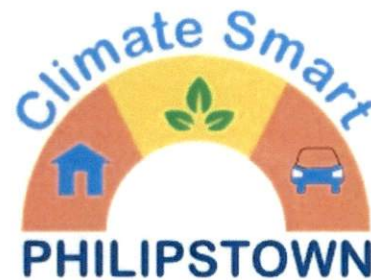
In 2014, HVA established the TMR Collaborative comprised of watershed municipalities, federal, state and regional agencies and conservation nonprofits to work together to achieve shared watershed management goals. The Town of Dover has been an active member of the Collaborative since its inception.

The Town of Dover, in collaboration with HVA, prepared a townwide road-stream crossing inventory and vulnerability study in 2019 with funding support from a NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Certification grant. From 2020 to 2023, the Collaborative developed a TMR Watershed Management Plan proposing over 30 actions in five focus areas (water quality, recreation enhancement, climate change resilience, natural heritage and agriculture and producer support). HVA’s leadership has helped forge an exemplary partnership of public, private and nonprofit efforts to protect the good quality and supply of water that most residents of the Town of Dover use and enjoy.

Guidance and Encouragement from Fellow Climate Smart Communities

When the Town of Dover initiated the process of Climate Smart Communities certification, we consulted with other CSC communities for guidance and then, in turn, we shared information about CSC certification with our neighboring communities. We are especially grateful to Julie Noble, Environmental Education and Sustainability Coordinator with the City of Kingston, NY and Roberto Muller, the former Town of Philipstown Climate Smart Communities Coordinator, for their assistance as we initiated the CSC certification process.

Once Dover registered in 2016 and began steps toward certification, neighboring communities contacted us and we met with the town officials from the Towns of Beekman, Amenia and North East to share information and insights on the CSC certification process. In 2018, the Town of Amenia and Town of North East both registered and North East achieved Bronze-level certification in 2022. We commend our neighboring Eastern Dutchess County communities for their commitment to protecting our regional natural resources and collective ecosystem for the benefit, health and well-being of our current and future generations.



International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

In 2018, Dover joined ICLEI, an international organization and global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments that support efforts to combat the negative impacts of climate change. Our annual membership continues to this day and was especially beneficial in the completion of our CSC certification action to prepare our government operations greenhouse gas emissions inventory. While we have not participated in ICLEI conferences or events to date, we receive regular updates along with member access to podcasts, research, policy briefs and webinars to stay informed about international climate change and adaptation issues.



2019 Town of Dover Climate Smart Communities Certification Grant to Develop a Sustainability Chapter as a Supplement to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update



In December 2018, the Town of Dover completed a Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory and Climate Action Plan with grant funding support from the NYS DEC Office of Climate Change's Climate Smart Communities Certification Program. The purpose of this plan was to identify primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions of government equipment and facilities and propose action items and timeline to reduce town government's carbon footprint for increased sustainability. To date, the Town has completed significant action items that include the town-wide upgrade of 283 streetlights to LED fixtures (with \$20,000 annual savings in municipal electricity costs) and LED upgrade of all Town Hall interior lighting fixtures.

We believe the development of this sustainability chapter as a supplement to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update also demonstrates our commitment to increased sustainability through projects, program and policies that achieve measurable and meaningful outcomes.

PART II: VISION, OBJECTIVES AND FINDINGS

A Vision to Develop a Sustainability Chapter as a Supplement to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update

This sustainability chapter was developed by the Town's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) and Climate Smart Dover Task Force (CSDTF) and sustainability project consultant, WSP, with oversight by the Dover Town Board and technical and funding assistance from a New York State Office of Climate Change's Climate Smart Communities Certification grant.

Building on the Comprehensive Plan Update's vision to facilitate develop and growth that supports the health and well-being of all residents, the **purpose of this Sustainability Chapter is to educate and empower town officials to develop and implement municipal policies, procedures and programs that advance goals of sustainable growth and development and to help residents learn, internalize and implement more environmentally-sustainable and responsible choices and practices their everyday lives.**

The addition of this chapter as part of the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update was informed by five sustainability focus areas presented in Pledge Element 6: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements of the New York State Climate Smart Communities Certification Program and two additional focus areas: promoting local food systems and improving water conservation and water quality.

To initiate this project, a request for proposals was prepared, issued, evaluated and eventually awarded to WSP, our sustainability consultant who assisted with development of the draft chapter. The Town's CAC/Climate Smart Dover Task Force served an invaluable role on this project of reviewing iterations of online community survey and sustainability chapter drafts.

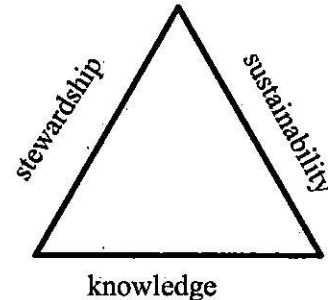
At the inception of this project, we discussed and proposed working assumptions to help guide this sustainability chapter's development process. The following assumptions were proposed as guiding principles and underlying beliefs (frames of reference) to incorporate sustainability as a touchstone of effective municipal government and community development:

- sustainability is a journey not a destination;
- evidence-informed research and data will guide the sustainability chapter's recommendations;
- the definitions of "sustainability" and "equity" will be decided with public input;
- the sustainability chapter is a supplement to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update and does not address all aspects of Town growth and development;
- the goal of the sustainability chapter should be to inform, educate and motivate residents to engage in personal and community-based efforts and initiatives that protect natural resources and ameliorate the negative impacts of climate change.

Objectives of the Sustainability Chapter

The objectives of this sustainability chapter as a possible standalone resource for future project and initiatives of the CAC/Climate Smart Dover Task Force are based on a triangular conceptual model to:

1. focus on the protection and stewardship of Dover's natural resources in future community development planning;
2. demonstrate the benefits and value of sustainability in Dover's future growth and development; and,
3. build upon foundational knowledge acquired from studies and reports and use insights as stepping stones to achieve more far-reaching climate adaptation project goals.



This sustainability chapter is an important municipal planning tool and resource for elected leaders to prioritize emergent opportunities and long-term strategies for Dover to become a more environmentally sustainable community.

Within the context of this sustainability chapter as a supplement to the Town's Comprehensive Plan, the following additional objectives were proposed to:

- articulate and present sustainability-focused recommendations embedded in the Comprehensive Plan Update for current and future municipal leaders to develop and achieve goals of improved sustainability in overall municipal operations
- seek and incorporate residents' input on priorities for sustainability-focused programs related to community growth and development

- identify and quantify the tangible, financial and community resources needed and available to assist town leaders with projects aligned with the community's vision of sustainable development
- offer guidance on ways to select projects that address equity (along with environment and economy) so project priorities include criteria that acknowledges the disproportionate effect of climate change on marginalized groups, specifically poor and minority residents
- propose ideas and initiatives for Town government to increase residents' and community awareness about environmental/ecological identity and the collective impact of personal actions and lifestyle changes to mitigate the escalating pace of climate change.

This sustainability chapter, as aligned with the adopted CPU, intends to serve as a "living" document that integrates sustainability-focused recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan Update. As a result, we recommend the chapter be updated on a periodic basis, with progress documented annually, evaluated on a one to three- year basis, and refined to align the Town's progress with achieving meaningful and measurable outcomes. This adaptable approach of formative evaluation is valuable because the Town can expect that future State mandates and voluntary incentives related to the implementation of the New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) will significantly impact both the Town's operations and the wider Dover community's actions in the foreseeable future and beyond.

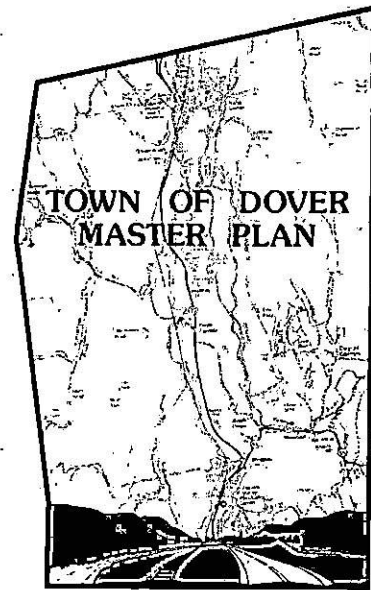
By understanding the timing and potential opportunities presented by the larger policy frameworks that affect local sustainability, a standalone chapter enables Town leadership to be more responsive to the dynamic regulatory and technological factors that continue to impact Town decision-making. This awareness is essential to identify all relevant funding and finance opportunities that could further leverage Town investments in sustainable development and to prepare the Town to assess costs and benefits associated with future rules and regulations. The Town will also endeavor to maintain and strengthen connections to local organizations such as the New York Association of Towns and Dutchess County governmental and nonprofit organizations that are likely to facilitate multi-jurisdictional actions related to sustainability.

The next section will present recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan Update related to the seven sustainability focus areas identified for inclusion in this sustainability chapter.

FINDINGS: Recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan Update in Sustainability Focus Areas

The 2022 Town of Dover Comprehensive Plan Update addressed the same eight topics that were originally examined in the 1993 Town of Dover Master Plan document (with some updated terminology where applicable):

- Community Values and Character (formerly Community Values)
- Historic Preservation
- Natural Resources
- Demographics and Economic Development (formerly Population and Economic Base)
- Housing
- Community Resources (formerly Community Facilities)
- Transportation
- Land Use and Zoning (formerly Existing Land Use).



Additionally, the following publications were cited for information, data and supporting documentation used to develop goals and action items across the eight sections of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update:

- Fall 2017 “Your Voice in the Future of Dover” Community Survey
- 2018 Route 22 Opportunity Analysis (Pace Law School Land Use Center and Kevin Dwarka, LLC)
- 2018 Town of Dover Natural Resource Inventory (Hudsonia, Ltd.)
- 2013 Technical Guidance Manual for Sustainable Neighborhoods (Pace Law School)
- Charting the Course for Tourism in Dutchess: A Research Report and Strategy Initiative Presentation
- 2020 Harlem Valley Outdoor Recreation Economic Assessment Research Study.

The next section presents findings and recommendations of the 2022 CPU in specific sections that corresponded with sustainability focus areas for the sustainability chapter. If more recent studies or reports since publication of the 2022 CPC were available, those data and findings were included in discussion.

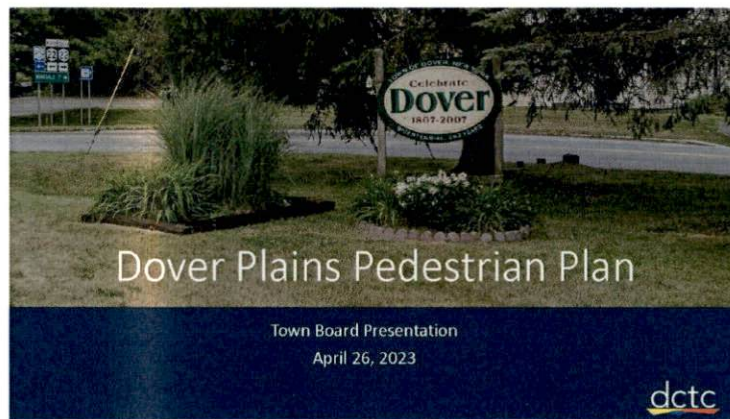
Recommendations as related to Alternative Modes of Transportation

The 2022 CPU acknowledged that private automobile would likely continue as the predominant mode of transportation in Dover into the future due to the town’s rural location and character. Moreover, the Transportation section includes (the Town) “should also look into expanding on the abundance of other forms of transportation that are present in the areas” (2022 Town of Dover CPU, p. 108).

With regard to alternate fuel/electric vehicles, a recommendation of the 2022 CPU was for the Town to focus on ensuring transportation corridors accommodate new forms of fueling and prepare for the gradual transition of existing (gasoline) stations. Improvements to pedestrian traffic and bicycle travel were also recommended “to enhance sidewalks and pedestrian infrastructure...in conjunction with road improvements. Studies were also recommended to consider installation of bicycle lanes within hamlet and residential areas.” (2022 Town of Dover CPU, p. 104).

In 2023, the Town, in collaboration with the Dutchess County Transportation Council, prepared a Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan with numerous recommendations for ADA-compliant access, pedestrian safety, way-finding signage and capital project improvements in the hamlet. A copy of the Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan is available at

https://www.doveryny.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf4341/f/news/2023_dover_plains_pedestrian_plan_.pdf



The 2018 Route 22 Corridor Economic Study prepared by the Pace Law Use Center and Kevin Dwarka LLC recommended the Town consider zoning amendments using criteria from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND). Some of the Study’s transportation-related recommendations included: preferential parking allowances for electric and hybrid vehicles within parking lots; providing bicycle parking infrastructure and facilities; promoting transit-oriented development standards in town hamlets that encourage transit use over automobiles and more public spaces that connect to sidewalks for walking (pp. 57-59). A copy of the 2018 Route 22 Corridor Opportunities Analysis is available at

https://www.doveryny.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf4341/f/uploads/2018_09_18_town_of_dover_route_2_2_corridor_economic_study.pdf

Among the recommendations in the 2022 CPU’s Transportation section, the following items related to sustainability-focused alternative modes of transportation:

- restore and expand sidewalks within the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets

- adopt zoning that requires future public and private projects include transportation options for people of all ages and abilities
- implement recommendation in the “Route 22 Corridor Opportunities Study”
- develop public use parking with the hamlet areas
- authorize ride-sharing services such as Uber, Lyft and Zipcar
- develop a network of electric vehicle-charging stations along Route 22.

These recommendations were included in the online community survey for public input in the development of this sustainability chapter.

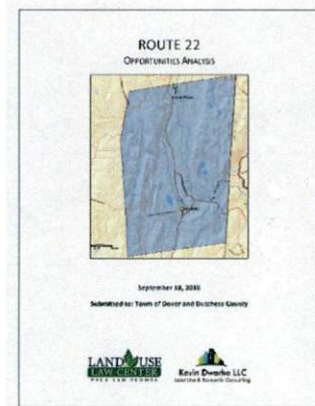
Recommendations as related to Promoting Smart Growth Principles in Land Use

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s website, **smart growth** is “a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environmental and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger and socially diverse.” (<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/about-smart-growth>).



The Town’s geographic location in the Harlem Valley of New York State, with its pristine and plentiful natural resources, shaped its early settlement and agrarian history. Today, residents continue to support the preservation of large tracts of land to help balance ongoing demands for economic development.

The 2018 Route 22 Corridor Economic Study asserted “Route 22 is ripe for open space preservation given its environmentally-sensitive areas and scenic views.” (p. 49). Striking the delicate balance of sustainability and smart growth involves open space preservation along with implementing smart growth policies that protect Dover’s natural resources, the health and well-being of its residents, and allow for residential and economic development that provides the basic supports and services needed for a community to succeed and thrive.



In the Town’s 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update’s “Land Use and Zoning” section, the overarching goal is to “create a pattern of land use to reinforce the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets, preserve the Town’s natural resources, and enhance the Town’s overall rural character while promoting appropriate areas for developing economic opportunities” (2022 CPU, p. 14).

Among a substantive list of specific land use recommendations, the following items related to sustainability-focused plans, policies and practices:

- develop a Ten Mile River recreational access plan
- prepare a Town Land Use Map that aligns with Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives
- amend the zoning code to include renewable/alternative energy uses
- revise zoning with incentives to farmers so they can maintain large tracts of land
- promote open space and agricultural soil protection including Transfer of Development Rights and Conservation Easements.
- construct central sewer systems in the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets
- develop incentives for businesses to locate in the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets
- support economic growth within hamlet areas to preserve historic character and increase viability for local storefronts
- explore viability of a walking/bike path that connects Dover Plains and Wingdale



Photograph of the Ten Mile River,
Dover Plains, NY 2018

Conserving Natural Areas

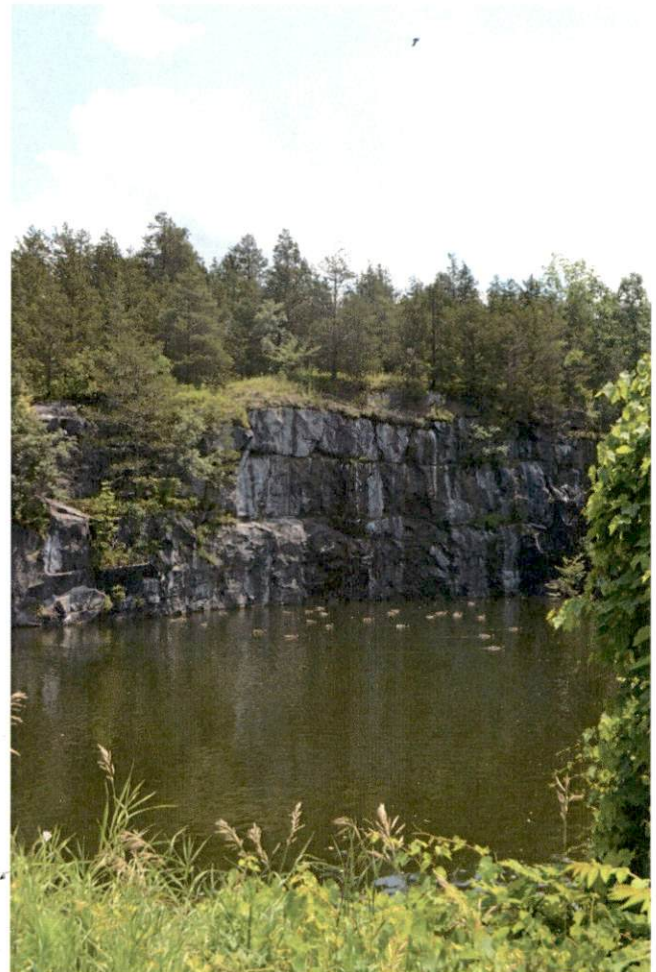
In the Land Use and Zoning section of the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update, the theme of conserving natural areas best summarized in the statement,

All development should be compatible with the natural limitations of the land. Care should be used in new developments to preserve the more rural features including forested ridges, waterbodies, wetlands, steep slopes and rock outcroppings. Other natural features and traditional agricultural farms like hedgerows, farm roads, and stone walls should be preserve or replicated where possible. (2022 CPU, p. 64.)

With the assistance of a NYS DEC Office of Climate Change's Climate Smart Communities Program grant, Dover completed a town-wide natural resource inventory (NRI) in collaboration with Hudsonia, Ltd. in 2019. The inventory discussed the threats, ideas for conservation principles and measures such as policies, procedures and legislative protections along with general and specific local conservation actions that individual landowners and the Town should take to protect and conserve natural areas. The Town's NRI proposed six elements of natural areas for conservation consideration: enduring features, water resources, biological resources, farmland, scenic resources and recreation resources. The following section will discuss the five elements and present general and specific recommendations proposed by Hudsonia, Ltd. as well as ones generated by the Town's Conservation Advisory Council.

Conserving Enduring Features

Enduring features are generically defined as physical landform characteristics such as bedrock, surficial materials, hills, valleys and areas of landscape that comprise the types of soils, foundations of habitats such as aquifers and wetlands and where applicable, constitute types of extractable resources such as marble, limestone and gravel.



Former mined quarry in Dover Plains

To help conserve Dover's enduring features in a manner that aligns with ecological and environmental sustainability, Hudsonia's primary recommendation was work with all land use applicants in advance of development to design and grant conservation easements in areas where significant habitats, aquifers, wetlands and habitat connectivity should be preserved. Other recommended measures included conferring formal conservation status on lands representing the full range of elevations in the town and on slopes and summits of East, West and Schaghticoke

mountains and protecting broad landscape connections between protected areas wherever possible. The Town's Conservation Advisory Council also recommended educating residents about the history of Dover and past over-harvesting of natural resources and enduring features to better understand the need for protection; developing an outreach and education program for large landowners to learn about the merits of conservation easements and purchase of property development rights.

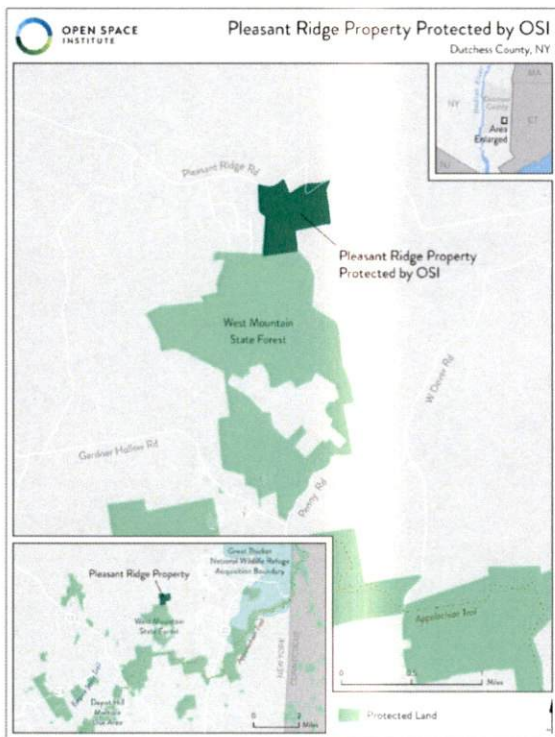
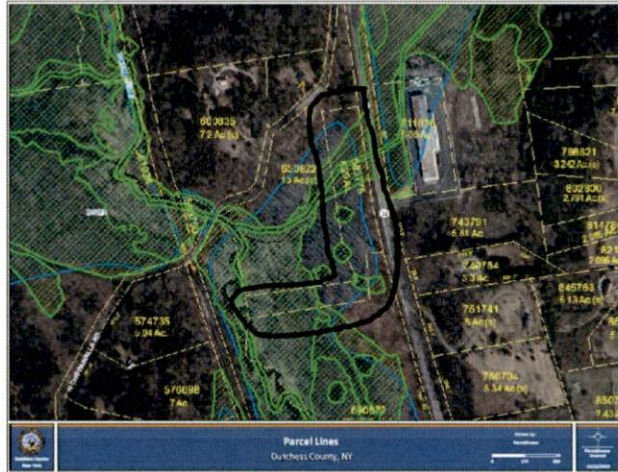
The following CPU recommendations and action items should be implemented by the Town Board in partnership with the Town's Conservation Advisory Council, and other land use boards where applicable, to institute and codify principles, policies and legislative measures that will result in more comprehensive and substantive conservation of enduring features:

- inventory existing wetlands and steep slopes and review protection ordinances
- support existing flood protection ordinances and discourage development in flood prone areas
- encourage natural resource open space and prime agricultural soil protection including Transfer of Development Rights and conservation easements.
- continue to protect primary aquifers and recharge areas
- add protections for ridgelines and scenic vistas.
- review and update the Town's Steep Slope Protection Ordinance
- encourage habitat connectivity between large tracts of land
- preserve large tracts of forested, agricultural and mountainous land while working to increase the density and use within Town Centers and
- encourage developers, owners and local community organizations to work with local conservation groups (i.e. Oblong Land Conservancy, Dutchess Land Conservancy, Friends of the Great Swamp, etc.) to continue preserving pristine habitat and local wildlife corridors.

Three recent land conservation initiatives in the Town of Dover are notable examples help illustrate successful efforts at conserving natural areas that will also promote the goal of increased sustainability:

1) the Town’s 2021 acquisition and transfer of a 6.2 acre land-locked parcel for permanent conservation and addition to the lands of the NYS Great Swamp. In partnership with the Friends of the Great Swamp (FrOGS), the Town worked with Dutchess County to take and then transfer possession of a tax-foreclosed parcel to FrOGS to improve connectivity by its addition to adjacent conserved wetlands of the Great Swamp.

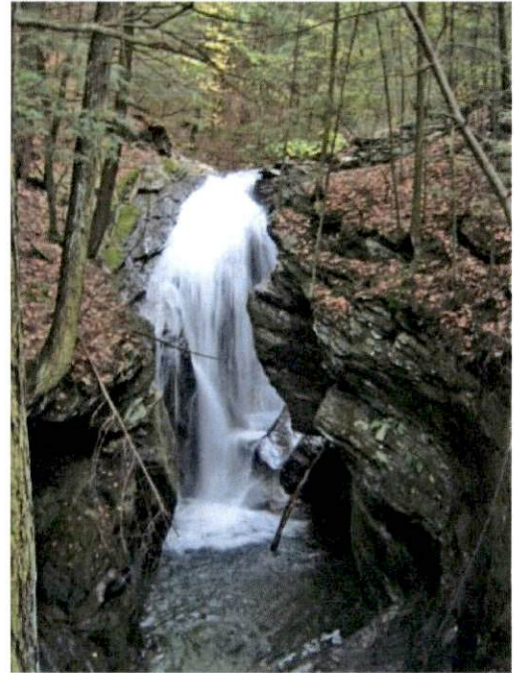
Parcel # 683775 – wetland overlay map



2) In March 2023, the Town Board submitted a letter of support for the Open Space Institute’s (OSI) acquisition of 119-acre “Pleasant Ridge” property to add to the northern section of West Mountain State Forest. The Town’s letter of support included this statement, “In recent years, the Town of Dover has come to appreciate the unique ecological and environmental benefits of conserving lands adjacent to existing parks and protected lands...this addition will protect precious habitats; support connectivity for wildlife, forests, and native and endangered species to co-exist; and help ameliorate the accelerating impact of climate change.”

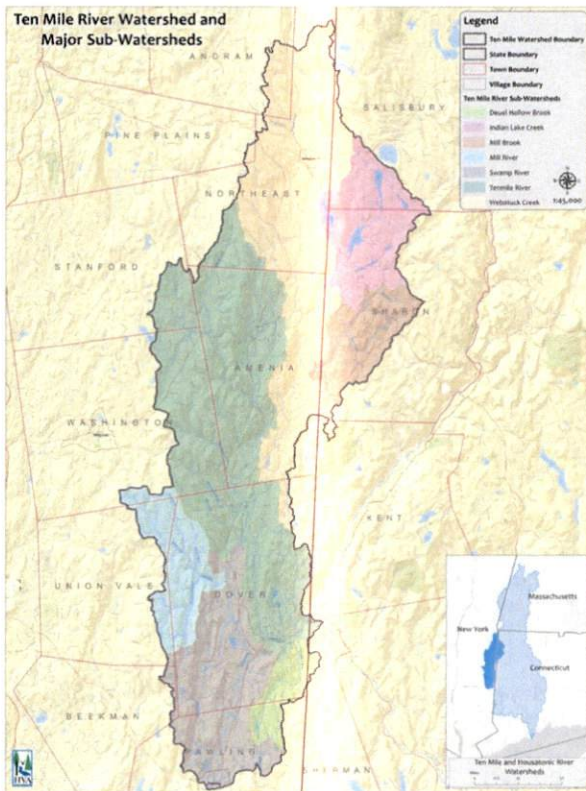
A Scenic Hudson grant provided from their Climate and Environment Justice Fund matched OSI’s philanthropic funds for the

3) In 2022, with funding support from the Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC) and Dutchess County Partnership for Manageable Growth Program, the Town acquired and was granted a conservation easement on a 163-acre parcel adjacent to the Dover Stone Church Preserve. Locally coined as the “Seven Wells” parcel, the parcel is within a conservation area of the East and West Mountains mentioned in the Town’s 1993 Open Space Plan as “contain(ing) rare and important species, are natural scenic areas, are home to wildlife communities and provide rare wilderness areas.” According to the 2022 DLC Seven Wells Baseline Documentation Report, a 33-acre portion of the property is a part of a Zone II aquifer that contributes to recharge through both overland runoff and groundwater flow. This aquifer supplies 1000 households within the



Conserving Natural Areas with Water Resources

Natural areas with water resources include watersheds, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands and even groundwater that supplies homes with private wells, farms and businesses with potable water. For nearly a decade, the Town of Dover has participated in the Ten Mile River Roundtable Collaborative, established by the tri-state nonprofit organization, Housatonic Valley Association whose mission is to protect the natural character and environmental health of the entire Housatonic Watershed for this and future generations. The Ten Mile River Watershed is a subwatershed of the Housatonic Valley extending from the Town of Northeast in Columbia County through the towns of Amenia and Dover in Dutchess Co. and on to Gaylordsville, CT where the watershed meets the Housatonic River.



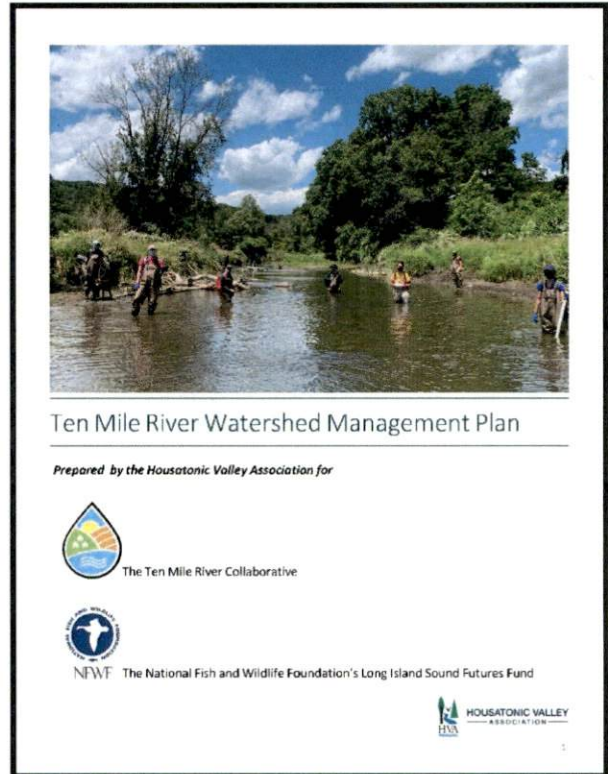
To help conserve natural areas located in and near water resources, some general measures proposed by Hudsonia in the Town's Natural Resource Inventory include:

- prohibit building new structures in flood zones and removing structures, pavement and hazardous materials from flood zones whenever possible
- regulate and monitor extractive commercial, industrial and institutional uses to ensure that water withdrawals from groundwater or surface water sources are at sustainable levels
- in areas of unconsolidated aquifers and marble bedrock, avoid siting land uses with potential for contaminating soils and water and educate landowners in these areas about the vulnerability of groundwater resources
- maintain broad buffer zones of undisturbed vegetation and soils along streams, and around wetlands, lakes and ponds.

The Town's Conservation Advisory Council also provided these specific recommendations for inclusion in the Water Resource Conservation Action Plan of the 2019 NRI:

- educate residents who live along the Ten Mile River, Swamp River and their tributaries about the benefits of riparian borders, broad buffer zones and best practices of stream stewardship
- monitor and track stream gauge data on the Swamp and Ten Mile Rivers to better understand seasonal and atypical fluctuations and inform residents about conservation measures as indicated
- contact business and homeowners in main floodplains with the town regarding restricted activities and structural requirements for the town's compliance for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- develop a drought emergency ordinance with proactive measures and incremental instructions for residents to follow in the event of short and long-term drought conditions
- expand conservation easements of parcels in the Dover Plains hamlet (i.e. Seven Wells) to protect water quality from contamination due to overdevelopment.
- prepare a Ten Mile River watershed management plan to protect water quality and monitor riverine changes over time.

Of the 2019 Natural Resource Inventory's recommendations related to actions to conserve natural areas with water resources, development of a Ten Mile River Watershed Management Plan was completed and adopted by the Dover Town Board in April 2023. In addition to measure to prevent contamination and avoid development that endangers water supply and quality, the Plan includes priority actions for each municipality to help address key focus areas of water quality, climate resilience and stream corridor management, agriculture, natural heritage and recreation enhancement and promotion. Priority actions selected by the Town of Dover included the Wells Brook Stormwater Retrofit, replacement of the Nellie Hill Bridge in Dover Plains, continued redevelopment of J. H. Ketcham Memorial Park (located on the Ten Mile River) to enhance recreational access and a riverbank stabilization and riparian buffer project in a neighborhood that borders the Ten Mile River. To date, work on the Wells Brook Stormwater Retrofit, Nellie Hill Bridge replacement and J. H. Ketcham Memorial Park riverine recreational access projects have all begun and are at varied stages of implementation.



The following CPU Natural Resource section's recommendations and action items related to conserving natural areas with water resources should be implemented as they are also aligned with priority actions and goals of the Ten Mile River Watershed Plan:

- continue to protect primary aquifers and recharge areas
- encourage limited development in the designated 100-year floodplains and creation of additional floodplains if possible
- continue to leverage participation in the Ten Mile River Watershed Coalition to increase its resources for preserving and enhancing conservation lands, particularly those that protect the watershed and
- enhance the Aquifer Overlay District to establish thresholds for groundwater withdrawal for protections from overconsumption and pollution.

Conserving Biological Resources

Protecting natural areas with habitats for flora and fauna, especially those that are endangered or threatened species, is an foundational building block for improving environmental sustainability. In the Town's Natural Resource Inventory, it is written, "The Town of Dover is famous among biologists as a hotspot for native biological diversity and especially for rare species of plants and animals. (NRI, p. 48). Unique habitats in Dover include upland forests, cool ravines, marshes, acidic bogs, kettle shrub and woodland pools, fens and marble knolls. The Ten Mile River and Swamp River are classified by trout streams by the NYS DEC and stocked annually. Some of Dover's rare plants include yellow wild-flax and green milkweed, Hidden spikemoss and false hop sedge. Among Dover's rare animals are the bog turtle, timber rattlesnake, Indiana bat and New England cottontail rabbit.

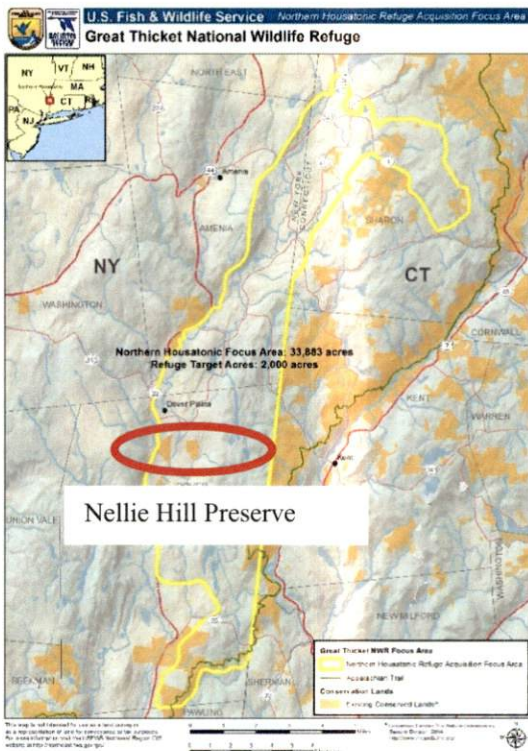
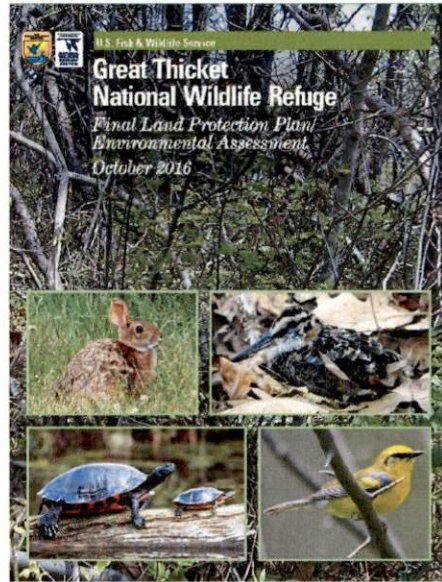
Among numerous recommendations for biological resource conservation from the Town's Natural Resource Inventory that aligned with goals with sustainability focus from the Comprehensive Plan Update were the following action items:

- educate town agencies, landowners, developers and the general public about the town's exceptional native biodiversity to heighten awareness and build support for conservation measures
- protect large habitat areas that encompass south-to-north and low-to high travelways for wildlife
- avoid fragmenting large forests and large meadows and maintain forested corridors along streams of all sizes
- discourage construction of new roads or long driveways in undeveloped areas and protect habitat complexes for species of conservation concern wherever possible.

To safeguard and enhance conservation of natural areas with biological resources that will also align with the Comprehensive Plan Update's sustainability-focused goals, the Town should prioritize the following Natural Resource action items:

- encourage habitat connectivity between large tracts of land
- develop a list of all naturally significant resources and attractions and compile them in to a comprehensible map that can be used to promote ecotourism and environmentally-based businesses and
- encourage native plantings for new development to reduce the necessity of pesticides and develop more resilient local ecosystems.

For a small municipality such as Dover, the invitation to participate in a multi-state federal land protection initiative is a generational opportunity. In 2016, the Town was invited by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help establish the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge by working with the Nature Conservancy to convey the 144-acre Nellie Hill Preserve as the first parcel of the newly established refuge in New York State. The Great Thicket Refuge will ultimately be a 15,000-acre wildlife habitat expanse that spans six states in the northeast US (Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and



The map on the left side of this page shows the lands of the new refuge’s Northern Housatonic acquisition focus area highlighted in yellow. Much of the eastern portion of Dover is located in the acquisition focus area and the location of the Nellie Hill Preserve is identified in red. Rare animals mentioned the Town’s National Resource Inventory such as New England cottontails, bog turtles, American woodcocks, prairie warblers and monarch butterflies are among the declining, threatened and endangered species that the refuge was created to protect. To learn more about the Great Thicket Refuge, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/great-thicket>

Conserving Farmland

According to Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County's 2022 Agriculture and Farms Community Profile, the Town of Dover had an 11% increase in its number of agricultural district parcels from 2008 to 2022, an increase from 163 to 181 over thirteen years. However, former dairy farming that was once the primary agricultural activity in Dover has increasingly declined and the trend toward niche farming and products has increased. An option to sustain farmland mentioned in the CPU is to offer a lodging component to existing agricultural use



Farmland scene in the Town of Dover

to promote agritourism and help fill the gap in lodging facilities in Dover that could attract visitors and provide additional revenue for local businesses.

To conserve natural areas of farmland in Dover, the Town's Natural Resource Inventory proposes the following measures for the municipality and individuals farmers:

Municipal Actions

- adopt local farm-friendly policies and programs including lowering tax assessments for active farmland and promote local market uses in restaurants and institutions such as schools
- support secondary on-farm enterprises such as sales of value-added farm goods, bed and breakfasts or agritourism through advertising and zoning revisions
- protect active farmland from non-farm development wherever possible.

Farm Actions:

- employ farming practices that conserve water, prevent soil erosion and soil loss, and build living soils.
- maintain cover crops and thatch to minimize soil loss during heavy precipitation or flood events.

To help protect and conserve natural areas of farmland, the Town should consider the above-mentioned measures as well as the following action items recommended in the Comprehensive Plan Update:

- encourage natural resource open space and prime agricultural soil protection including Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) and conservation easements
- amend bed and breakfast/lodging facilities regulations to promote tourism while protecting neighborhood character.
- revise zoning regulations to provide incentives to farmers so that they can maintain large tracts of land
- promote tourism by allowing restaurants, breweries, distilleries, wineries, outdoor recreation, etc. on large agricultural parcels under special permit.



From the Dutchess Land Conservancy 2018 Annual Report (p. 3)

In 2017, the Vincent Family, a seventh-generation Town of Dover dairy farming family, collaborated with the Dutchess Land Conservancy and the Dutchess County's Partnership for Manageable Growth program to conserve their 49-acre farm through a purchase of development rights agreement. The photographs and information above are from the 2018 Dutchess Land Conservancy Annual Report available at https://www.dutchessland.org/images/annual_reports/DLC_2018_Annual_Report.pdf.

According to Dutchess County Government, 36 farms in the county have participated in farmland conservation through purchase of development rights agreement. To learn more about the program and participating farms, please visit [https://www.dutchessny.gov/ConCalAtt/28/2018%20DLC%20PMG%20Powerpoints%20\(Roosa,%20Meili,%20Speeter\)_03062018433.pdf](https://www.dutchessny.gov/ConCalAtt/28/2018%20DLC%20PMG%20Powerpoints%20(Roosa,%20Meili,%20Speeter)_03062018433.pdf)

Conserving Scenic Resources

In the Town’s Natural Resource Inventory, the scope of scenic resources is summarized as encompassing

the forested hills, the open pastures and hayfields, the oldfields of goldenrods and asters in late summer, the rocky hillside streams and deep ravines, the meandering lowland streams, and the silent expanses of ice-covered lakes in winter. The town’s scenic beauty is the natural resource that may be most universally appreciated in the daily lives of Dover residents (p. 97).

In the Town’s 2017 Comprehensive Plan Community Survey, “Your Voice in the Future of Dover,” the town’s scenic natural beauty was the top response to the question, “What do you enjoy most about living in Dover?” Residents are fortunate to have a variety of scenic resources to enjoy and some visitors make repeated trips to sites such as Dover Stone Church to experience its seasonal pristine beauty. Among Dover’s most scenic public scenic resources are Dover Stone Church, the Ten Mile River, Nellie Hill and Roger Perry Preserves in Dover Plains; the Slocum-Mostachetti Preserve, Boyce Park, parts of the Great Swamp, Pawling Nature Reserve and West Mountain State Forest, and a segment of the Appalachian Trail in Wingdale before it enters the State of Connecticut. The map to the right is from the Natural Resource Inventory and highlights these scenic resources in light and dark green.

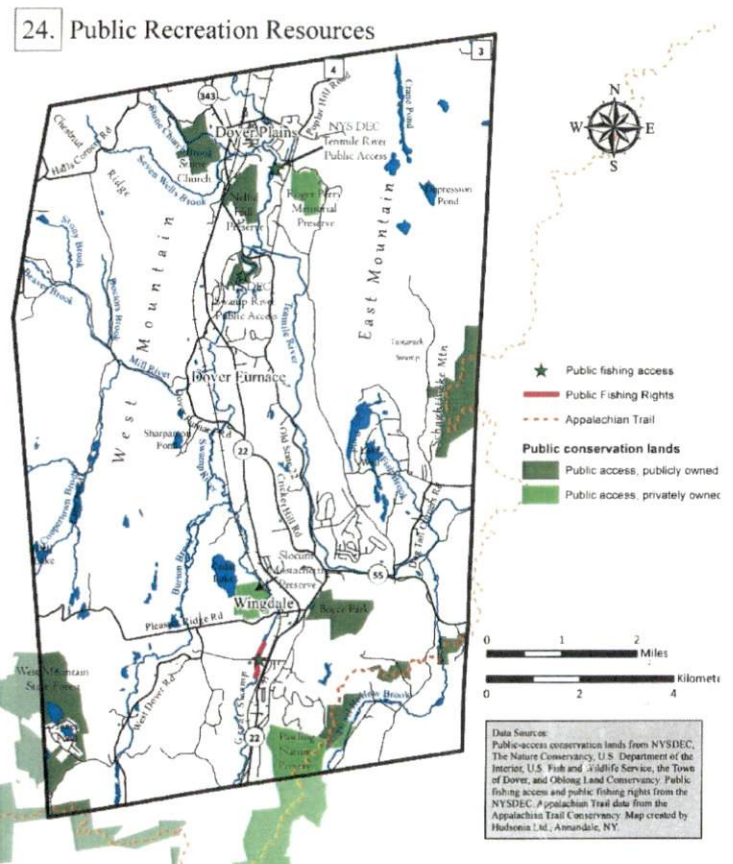
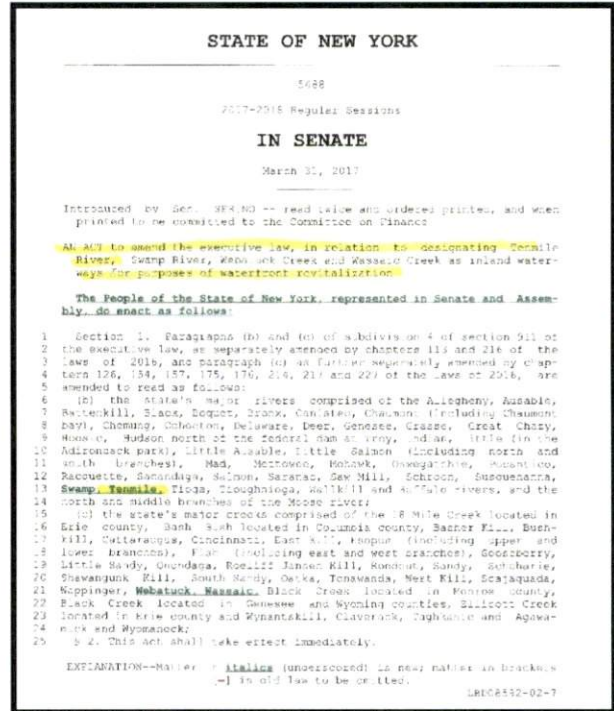


Figure 24. Public recreation resources in the Town of Dover, Dutchess County, New York. Dover Natural Resource Inventory, 2019.

Both the 2019 Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) and the 2022 Comprehensive Plan recommend preparing an inventory of naturally significant resources and attractions that can be used to promote ecotourism and environmentally-based businesses. Additionally, the NRI recommends consideration of scenic impacts in zoning code updates covering the stream corridor overlay district, steep slopes, open space development and in special permits and site plan review.

Dover has established and productive working relationships with several local open space preservation and protection organizations. The Town worked with the Dutchess Land Conservancy on acquisition of the Dover Stone Church, the Nature Conservancy on establishment of the Great Thicket Wildlife Refuge, and Friends of the Great Swamp (Swindell parcel transfer to lands of the Great Swamp) for protection of natural resources and wildlife habitats. Since 2014, the Town has participated in a multi-jurisdictional Ten Mile River Watershed Coalition led by the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) that helped achieved NYS legislative designation of the Ten Mile River as an inland waterway (signed by NYS Governor on July 25, 2017).



West Mountain State Forest



As previously mentioned, the Town also worked with HVA, the Towns of Amenia and North East as well as state, county and several nonprofit organizations on development of the Ten Mile River Watershed Management Plan that was adopted by Dover in October 2022.

In March 2023, the Town provided a letter of support for the Open Space Institute's acquisition of more than 100 acres of forestland adjacent to West Mountain State Forest in Dover.

With passage of the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, many communities, including the Town of Dover, have had inquiries regarding land use applications for commercial solar array installation projects that may potentially affect scenic viewsheds, steep slopes, open space, distant views and natural features. To afford the Town time and technical assistance to prepare comprehensive local legislation, Dover adopted a local law in April 2022 to impose a temporary town-wide moratorium on the approval and installation of freestanding or ground-mounted solar energy systems.

At this time, draft legislation regulating solar system development is being circulated and include the following siting considerations:

- the explicit town goal to protect and preserve mature forests, agricultural lands and scenic viewsheds
- previously cleared or disturbed land are preferred locations for community solar
- areas of scenic viewsheds should be avoided
- avoid lands with high ecological value, wetlands or identified critical habitats or rare plant and animal populations and
- development or operation of systems shall not have a significant adverse impact on fish, wildlife, plant species or critical habitats.

Additionally, the following provisions related to preserving scenic resources and viewsheds were included in the draft legislation:

- Tier 3 proposed energy systems shall be sited to have the least practical visual effect on the environment and visual resources and shall avoid areas of visible open space, distant views, scenic viewsheds, distinct natural features and cultural and historic resources
- systems with plantings of evergreen and deciduous plantings at a height so as to provide a visual screen of the ground-mounted system from residential uses and viewsheds and
- the screening method must provide for year-round screening and a minimum of two offset staggered rows of plantings with a minimum height of 6-feet or taller as deemed appropriate for the given conditions.

TOWN OF DOVER

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2022 IMPOSING A TEMPORARY TOWN-WIDE MORATORIUM ON THE APPROVAL AND INSTALLATION OF FREESTANDING OR GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Dover as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This local law shall be known and cited as the Town of Dover Local Law No. 1 of 2022 entitled "A Local Law Imposing a Temporary Town-Wide Moratorium on the Approval and Installation of Ground Mounted Solar Energy Systems."

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT.

- A. The Town of Dover Zoning Law contains no supplementary regulations or other provisions regulating the installation and approval of Freestanding or Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems within the Town (collectively "solar energy systems").
- B. It is in the public interest to provide for and encourage renewable energy systems and a sustainable quality of life. It is the intention of the Town Board to amend the Zoning Law to provide for regulations for the commercial approval of solar energy systems in the Town where appropriate and where approved.
- C. It is the intention of the Dover Town Board in enacting this Local Law to temporarily suspend any improvements or installations for such solar energy systems, as defined in Section 4 herein, by the imposition of a temporary moratorium on the issuance of any permits and approvals for such installations for a period of one-hundred eighty (180) day moratorium, if necessary.
- D. The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to enable the Town of Dover to adopt appropriate amendments to its Zoning Law to regulate solar energy systems within the Town.

SECTION 3. MORATORIUM PROVISIONS.

- A. The Town Board hereby finds that pending the completion of the necessary studies, meetings, hearings, environmental review and other actions necessary and incident to the proper consideration and adoption of local law amendments to the Town of Dover Zoning Law regulating the installation of solar energy systems within the Town, reasonable measures must be taken to maintain the status quo in order to protect the public interest and ensure that proper regulations of the installation and approval of solar energy systems.

To date, the Town of Dover Town Board has conducted circulation to the Town’s Planning Board and reviewed their comments as well as held a series of public hearing meetings on the draft legislation at regular and special town meetings. Following receipt of comments as required by General Municipal Law 239 circulation to the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development, the Town should consider and incorporate beneficial recommendations and adopt the local law as soon as feasible.

In January 2023, the Town of Dover Town Board established a Zoning Update Committee, comprised of residents involved with preparation of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update and a land use consultant to assist the Town with review and update of the current Zoning Law and to prepare new draft legislation in areas that have included regulating solar energy systems, cannabis retail and production operations, economic development-based code change and short term rentals. **The Town should continue to support the Zoning Update Committee, with consulting and any other needed resources, to expedite review and update of the Zoning Code including additional opportunities for protection of greenspace outside the hamlets.**

The following section will briefly discuss an emerging legislative opportunity for the Town of Dover and neighboring municipalities to be included in the federally-recognized Hudson Highlands Conservation Act that could provide conservation grants for qualified land protection projects that would protect new areas of greenspace and additional areas with scenic resources.

In 2004, Congress passed the Hudson Conservation Act (HCA) and its reauthorization in December 2022 included provisions to expand designation to new towns that include Dover and six other Eastern Dutchess County municipalities (Amenia, North East, Pine Plains, Stanford, Washington and Union Vale). A Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) FAQ entitled, “Could Your Town Be a Highlands Town?” states, “A number of towns on either side of the Hudson have the natural resource attributes the Highlands Act aims to protect, but are currently not included in the Highlands Region.” Dover’s inclusion in the lands of the Hudson Highlands Act would offer invaluable future grant opportunities to help preserve open space that includes scenic resources. With support from the HHLT, Dover adopted a resolution in May 2023 to request inclusion in the Highland Region. The Town should continue to work with HHLT to help obtain inclusion in the HCA for grant funds to preserve scenic resources.



Recommendations related to Promoting a Healthy, Safe Community

The Comprehensive Plan Update’s “Community Resources” section states the goal to “provide municipal facilities and services that will meet the residents’ common needs and improve opportunities for community activities” (2022 CPU, p. 19).

Among the CPU’s recommendations that aligned with the sustainability focus area, Promoting a Healthy and Safe Community, actions included:

- offer community garden space for residents to plant vegetables and flowers and provide shared harvest
- promote stewardship of the Dover Stone Church by training volunteers and adding signage
- offer community events on sustainability (energy efficiency, recycling and reuse, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of renewable energy sources)
- expand use of town facilities and offer new programs.



Renovated JHK Park Community Center, 2021

These recommendations were included in the online community survey for public input in the development of this sustainability chapter.

Two additional sustainability focus areas, **Promoting Local Food Systems** and **Protecting Water Quality and Promoting Water Conservation** were included in this sustainability chapter and the following sections present recommendations from the CPU in each of these areas.

Recommendations for Promoting Local Food Systems

In 2014, Dover’s only grocery store unexpectedly closed and since then residents must travel to neighboring communities for food shopping. In efforts to help fill the void, local eateries and convenience stores began to provide some fresh produce and in 2017, a Dollar General Store opened with a substantial frozen food section. In June 2023, a new small grocery opened in Dover Plains and now offers a variety of fresh produce and perishable food items to residents, particularly for senior citizens and Spanish-speaking families, who live in the Dover Plains hamlet and tend to shop on a daily basis.

According to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County’s 2022 Community Profile: Agriculture and Farms Profile, there are 183 farm parcels in Dover and 36% of the town’s land is farmed. The pie chart below provides the distribution of Dover’s agricultural production in 2022 and a copy of the full profile at <https://ccedutchess.org/agriculture/2022-town-agricultural-profiles>.

It is important first to note that this data is based on farm *parcel* data collected, and therefore does not necessarily reflect the number of actual farms. For example, one farm could have one or several parcels.

Figure 2 illustrates the relative acreage distribution of farm enterprises in the town of Dover. The largest segment (by acreage) is *Beef and Livestock*, with farm operations on 4,310 acres of property. Farm property includes all the property tax parcels owned and/or operated on by a farm operation. Actual cropped or pasture area may be less than the area of the entire farm property. *Production Agriculture* is another particularly large agricultural segment in Dover, consisting of 4,234 acres.

Specialty Crops, though not at the top of the list, has a substantial percentage in the Town of Dover, totaling 1,059 acres. Dover is home to Crown Maple (Madava Farms) - a nearly 800 acre tree farm devoted to the production of maple syrup, which falls into this category of *Specialty Crops*.

Most farms in Dutchess County are small farms, grossing less than \$10,000 in annual sales. These farms also typically make fewer capital investments. Dover is not an exception. There are more farms with annual investments in the 'Below \$10,000' category than there are in the other 5 categories (see Figure 3).

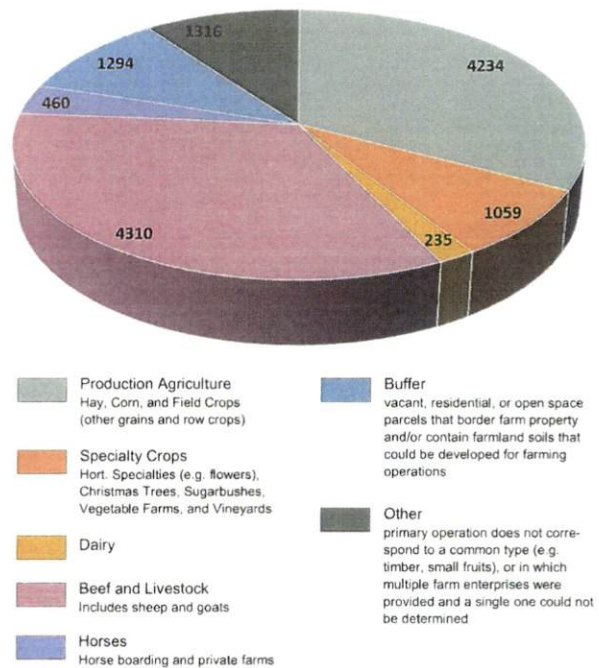


Figure 2. Acreage Distribution by Enterprise Category

2022 Town of Dover Agriculture and Farms Profile.
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, p. 2

Of all agricultural land in Dover, the largest segment of farming is beef and livestock (including sheep and goats) followed by hay, corn and field crops. The Town is also home to Crown Maple Madava Farms, an almost 800-acre tree farm that produces maple syrup.

Recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan Update that related to promoting local food systems included:

- subsidize creation of a year-round farmer’s market for local farms for public shopping and/or home delivery
- develop a food rescue program to collect and distribute gleaned (leftover) crops and store donations
- offer town-sponsored community garden plots for residents at town parks
- provide recreation program workshops and classes on healthy eating and meal preparation.



These recommendations were included in the online community survey for public input in the development of this sustainability chapter.

Recommendation for Protecting Water Supply and Water Quality Conservation

The Ten Mile River, one of New York’s major rivers, bisects the Town of Dover and as described in the 2022 Ten Mile River Watershed Plan’s Executive Summary is “home to clean, cold streams, rare species and habitats, productive farmland and healthy forests.” (p. 1). A digital copy of the watershed plan is available at



Ten Mile River Watershed Management Plan

Prepared by the Housatonic Valley Association for



The Ten Mile River Collaborative



NFWF The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Is and Sound Futures Fund



The Ten Mile River Collaborative, a group of municipalities, federal, state and regional agencies and conservation nonprofits facilitated by the nonprofit, Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), was established in 2014 with the shared vision of protecting natural resources, wildlife species and habitats, and the water supply and quality the Ten Mile River and watershed.

An early accomplishment of the Collaborative was the Ten Mile River’s designation NYS legislation as an inland waterway in 2017. In collaboration with Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Smith Environmental Laboratory and Watershed Assessment Associates, HVA conducted a Ten Mile River Water Quality Study in 2019.

The study evaluated Ten Mile River’s water temperature, pH, conductivity and dissolved oxygen and obtained level of total phosphorous, nitrate, E. Coli, nitrates and nitrites, TKN, ammonia and studied macroinvertebrate samples.

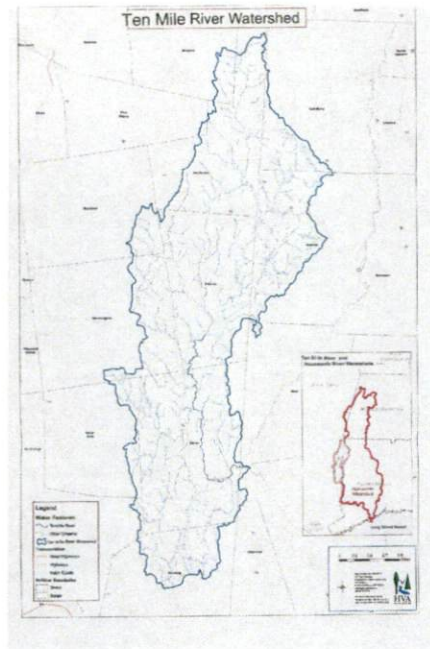
Results of the study revealed the Ten Mile River’s water quality was overall “healthy,” however there were elevated levels of nitrate concentrations in some of its creeks and brooks that warranted future monitoring. A copy of the 2019 Ten Mile River Water Quality Report is available at

https://www.doverny.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf4341/f/uploads/2019_ten_mile_river_water_quality_report.pdf.

In 2022, HVA prepared and published the Ten Mile River Watershed Management Plan in 2022 with funding support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Long Island Sound Futures Fund, the Werth Family Foundation and the Honeywell Foundation. Focus areas of the watershed management plan include water quality, recreation enhancement and promotion, climate change resilience and stream corridor management, natural heritage and agriculture and producer support. A copy of the Ten Mile River Watershed Management Plan is available at https://hvatoday.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022_07_22_TMRWBP_Final.pdf.

Recommendations in the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update that related to water supply and conservation included the following items:

- establish a Town Water Committee to develop a town-wide water protection and conservation plan
- provide free community workshops on household water conservation measures (i.e. water smart landscaping, rainwater harvesting)
- explore enrollment in the NYS DEC's Drinking Water Source Protection Program
- provide town businesses with EPA's Water Sense at Work recommendations during annual inspections.



These recommendations were included in the online community survey for public input in the development of the sustainability chapter.

Part III: Identifying Priorities for the Sustainability Chapter from Recommendations of the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update

As proposed in our NYS DEC Office of Climate Change's grant application, this sustainability chapter addresses six focus areas of sustainability related to recommendations in corresponding sections of the Town's 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The six areas included:

- **Support Alternate Modes of Transportation**
- **Promote Smart Growth Principles in Land Use**
- **Conservation of Natural Areas**
- **Promoting a Healthy and Safe Community**
- **Promoting Local Food Systems and**
- **Protecting Water Quality and Promoting Water Conservation.**

The next section will discuss the development and administration of a community online survey to obtain residents' input and priorities on sustainability-focused recommendations proposed in the Town's 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The 2023 Town of Dover “Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town of Dover’s Comprehensive Plan Update”



2023 Town of Dover “Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town’s Comprehensive Plan Update”

To obtain residents’ input on their priorities for action items for the sustainability chapter based on 2022 CPU recommendations, the Town Board conducted an online community survey using online software since the Town does not have a daily or weekly newspaper.

The online survey was available on the Town’s website and the Wingdale-Dover Plains Community Connection Facebook page, a local social media site with approximately 5,300 members at the time of the survey.

Following the CPU’s adoption in December 2022, the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)/Climate Smart Dover Task Force (CSDTF) initiated work on the draft online community survey to obtain residents’ input on priorities of sustainability-focused recommendations for development of the draft sustainability chapter. Literature reviews of social science, governmental and nonprofit online resources provided multi-faceted definitions of the terms “sustainability” and “equity.”

The goal of the online survey was to gather information about residents’ priorities regarding sustainability-focused recommendations as presented in the adopted 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update. Keeping in mind that the sustainability chapter is a supplement to the adopted CPU, it was decided that the content of the survey would consist of sustainability-focused CPU recommendations that residents would be asked to prioritize. In the event a CPU recommendation was generic and could be utilized for sustainability-focused outcome, it was included. For example, the CPU recommendation to “expand use of town facilities by local clubs and community groups” was contextualized to “offer community events related to sustainability issues (energy-efficiency, recycling and reuse, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of renewable energy sources).

The survey entitled, the 2023 Town of Dover ‘Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town’s Comprehensive Plan’ consisted of ten items. Two questions were multiple-choice design and asked respondents to select the definitions of “sustainability” and “equity” for use in the sustainability chapter. Seven questions were rating scales to rank specific recommendations from the 2022 CPU within the seven focus areas by importance from “1” as a top priority to “6” as the lowest priority. The seven focus areas proposed in the sustainability chapter include the following: 1) support alternate modes of transportation; 2) promote smart growth principles in land use policies; 3) conserve natural areas; 4) promote a health and safe community and 5) foster equity.

At CAC/Climate Smart Dover Task Force meetings in April and May 2023 the draft online survey was reviewed, refined and iterations of the draft survey were shared with the Town

Dear Town of Dover Resident,

We invite you to complete this survey to help the Town add a sustainability chapter (supplement) to our recently-adopted Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU).

The Town received a NYS DEC grant to prepare this resource that aligns Comprehensive Plan action items with the Town’s efforts to achieve NYS Climate Smart Communities Silver-Level Certification.

Your input and assistance completing this survey is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the Dover Town Clerk’s Office at (845) 832-6111 Ext. 112 or by email at townclerk@doverny.us.

Board. The draft online survey was also piloted with town employees before published for community input on the Town’s website and Dover-Wingdale Connection Facebook page from early May to mid-June 2023. Survey results were generated by the software program and reported as the total number of responses and the percentage and number of responses for the questions about the definitions of sustainability and equity. For questions that required respondents’ ranking, the results were reported as weighted averages where values closest to “1” were considered top priorities and values closer to “6” were lowest priorities.

The survey was conducted from April 17, 2023 to June 5, 2023 and 64 respondents completed the survey. A copy of the survey and summary of the results are included in the Appendix.

Selection of the Survey’s Definitions of “Sustainability” and “Equity”

To obtain residents’ perceptions of the terms “sustainability” and “equity,” two survey questions were included with definitions gleaned from brief literature reviews.

The next section briefly discusses how the definitions of sustainability and equity were selected for use in the survey.



The Definition of Sustainability Selected by Survey Respondents

Four definitions for the term “sustainability” were selected from a literature review that included the 1987 Brundtland Commission, the Town of Southampton, NY’s Sustainability Plan (a recommended plan on the NYS Climate Smart Communities website), the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Passaic County, NJ Sustainability Plan. The following definitions were proposed with the intention to offer multifaceted perspectives on the term “sustainability” for consideration:

- meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Commission, 1987)
- to sustain the beauty, culture and history (of Dover) and protect its essence so that what we treasure most will remain for generations to come (Town of Southampton, NY, 2013)
- to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in harmony to support present and future generations (US EPA, 2023)
- a systematic approach to economic responsibility and environmental stewardship to achieve efficient conservation of resources in local government operations. (Passaic County Future: Sustainability Element of the Passaic County (NJ) Master Plan, 2013)

Of the above-mentioned definitions, 38% of online survey participants selected the definition proposed in the Town of Southampton, NY’s Sustainability Plan with other definitions favored at

Sixty-four (64%) percent of online survey respondents selected the definition of “equity” cited by the American Society of Public Administration and as a result, our sustainability chapter will define “equity” as:

the fair treatment, access, opportunity and advancement of all people while striving to identify and eliminate barriers that prevent full participation of some.”



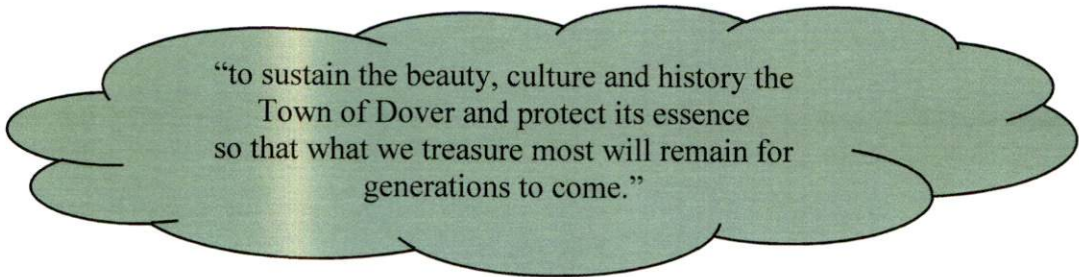
The grant project’s Work Plan for this sustainability chapter included our desire to address “equity,” along with environment and economy, as a key consideration in actions proposed for implementation. The Town of Dover has historically been regarded as an under-resourced community. For the purposes of operationalizing “equity” in this chapter, we have further defined the term through these criteria:

- an action that benefits individuals and families irrespective of age, race, income, abilities, ethnicity, educational level, country of birth or sexual orientation
- an action that is available or open to all residents at no-cost or low-cost or the cost may be subsidized to ameliorate hardship of participation due to financial reasons
- an action that promotes benefit to current and future generations and honors the contributions of Dover’s ancestors who protected and conserved its natural resources
- an action that is diversity welcoming and community-building instead of segregating residents by neighborhood, income level or family composition.

At the end of this publication, there is a Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix that consists of a complete list the names of sustainability-focused action items, tracking numbers, mechanisms for implementation, supporting entities, proposed timeframe and “3 E’s.” Each sustainability-focused action item also included a subjective assessment of the extent that each action addressed the “3 E’s:” environment, economy and equity. Using the selected definition of equity and the above-mentioned criteria, the matrix includes one, two or three *’s (stars) to help current and future Town Boards identify actions that by virtue of their benefits appear to advance the health and well-being of as many residents as possible by identifying and eliminating barriers that prevent full participation of some.

The next section presents results of survey respondents’ priorities for recommendations adopted in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan that corresponded with the following sustainability focus area: **alternative modes of transportation; smart growth principles in land use policies; conservation of natural areas; promoting a healthy and safe community; promoting use of local food systems and preserving water quality and water conservation.**

30%, 21% and 11% respectively. As a result, we employed the following definition of sustainability in the publication:



“to sustain the beauty, culture and history the
Town of Dover and protect its essence
so that what we treasure most will remain for
generations to come.”

The Definition of “Equity”

A hallmark of developing the most meaningful recommendations of a sustainability chapter includes incorporating the “Three E’s:” environment, economy and equity. Definitions of the terms “environment” and “economy” will encompass the standard definitions related to natural and human-produced resources. A review of social science and related literature provided these five diverse definitions of equity for survey respondents’ consideration:

- the intentional inclusion of everyone in society (United Way Worldwide)
- trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full and healthy lives (Annie B. Casey Foundation)
- a systematic approach to embed fairness in decision-making processes and redress inequities that serve as barriers to equal opportunity (White House Executive Order, 2021, “On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government”)
- the fair return of benefits or outcomes received in proportion to one’s inputs compared with those engaged in comparable activities (American Psychological Association)
- the fair treatment, access, opportunity and advancement of all people while striving to identify and eliminate barriers that prevent full participation of some (American Society of Public Administration).

The purpose of seeking residents' priorities related to sustainability-focused recommendations in the 2022 CPU was to identify and benchmark specific actions, projects and policies that municipal leaders can implement to achieve Dover's goal of meaningful and measureable progress toward greater sustainability.

Survey Results with Respondents' Priorities for CPU Sustainability-Focused Goals

The next section presents survey results with respondents' priorities for sustainability-focused municipal goals as articulated in the 2022 Town of Dover Comprehensive Plan Update.

Priorities to Support Alternative Modes of Transportation

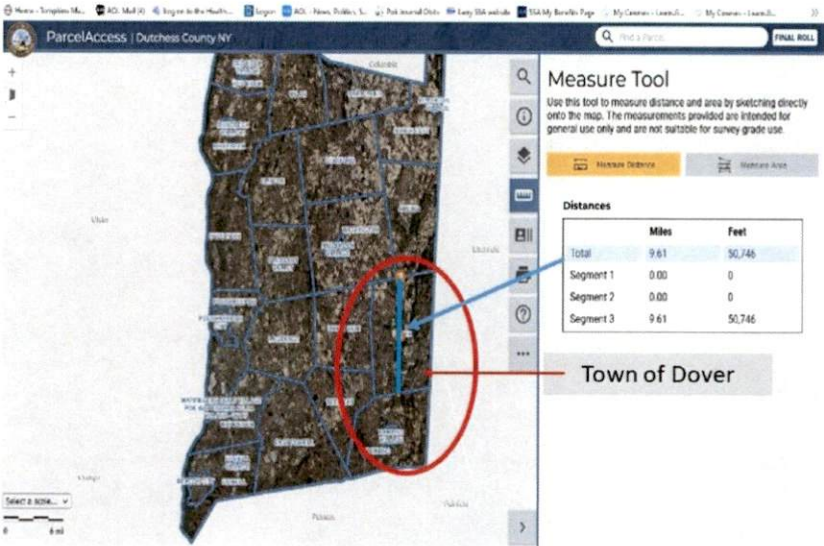
The 2022 CPU included a "Transportation" section with 15 recommended action items of which six items corresponded to alternative modes of transportation. The online community survey included all six items and respondents ranked priorities for implementation from top to lowest interest. The following list presents the six items in order of respondents' priorities and a corresponding weighted averages closest to "1" is considered a higher priority:

Priority	Item	Weighted Average
1	Restore and expand sidewalks within the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets	2.28
2	Adopt zoning that requires future public and private projects include transportation options for people of all ages and abilities	3.00
3	Include transportation options for people of all ages and abilities	
4	Implement recommendation in the "Route 22 Opportunities (economic development)	3.03
5	Develop public use parking with the hamlet areas	3.62
6	Authorize ride-sharing services such as Uber, Lyft and Zipcar	3.81
7	Develop a network of electric vehicle-charging stations along Route 22.	4.82

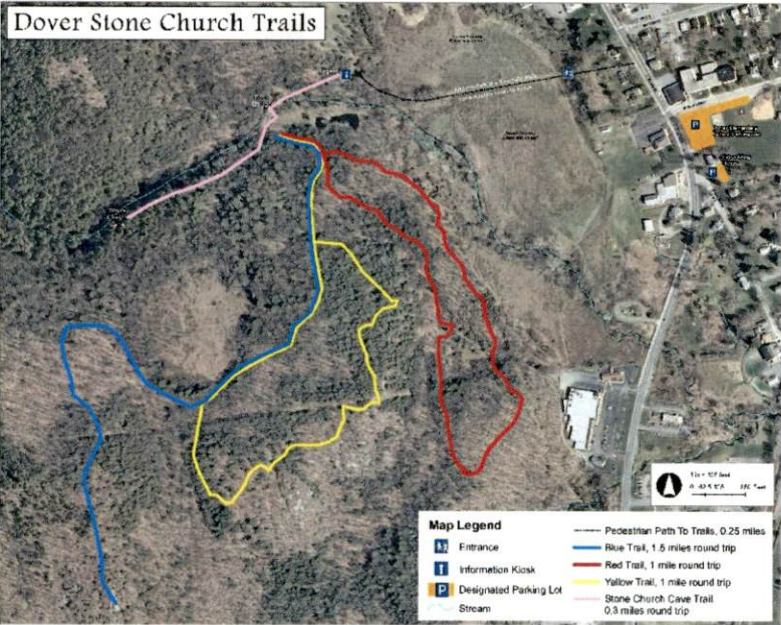
Strategies to Promote Bicycles, Pedestrians, Public Transit and Electric Vehicles

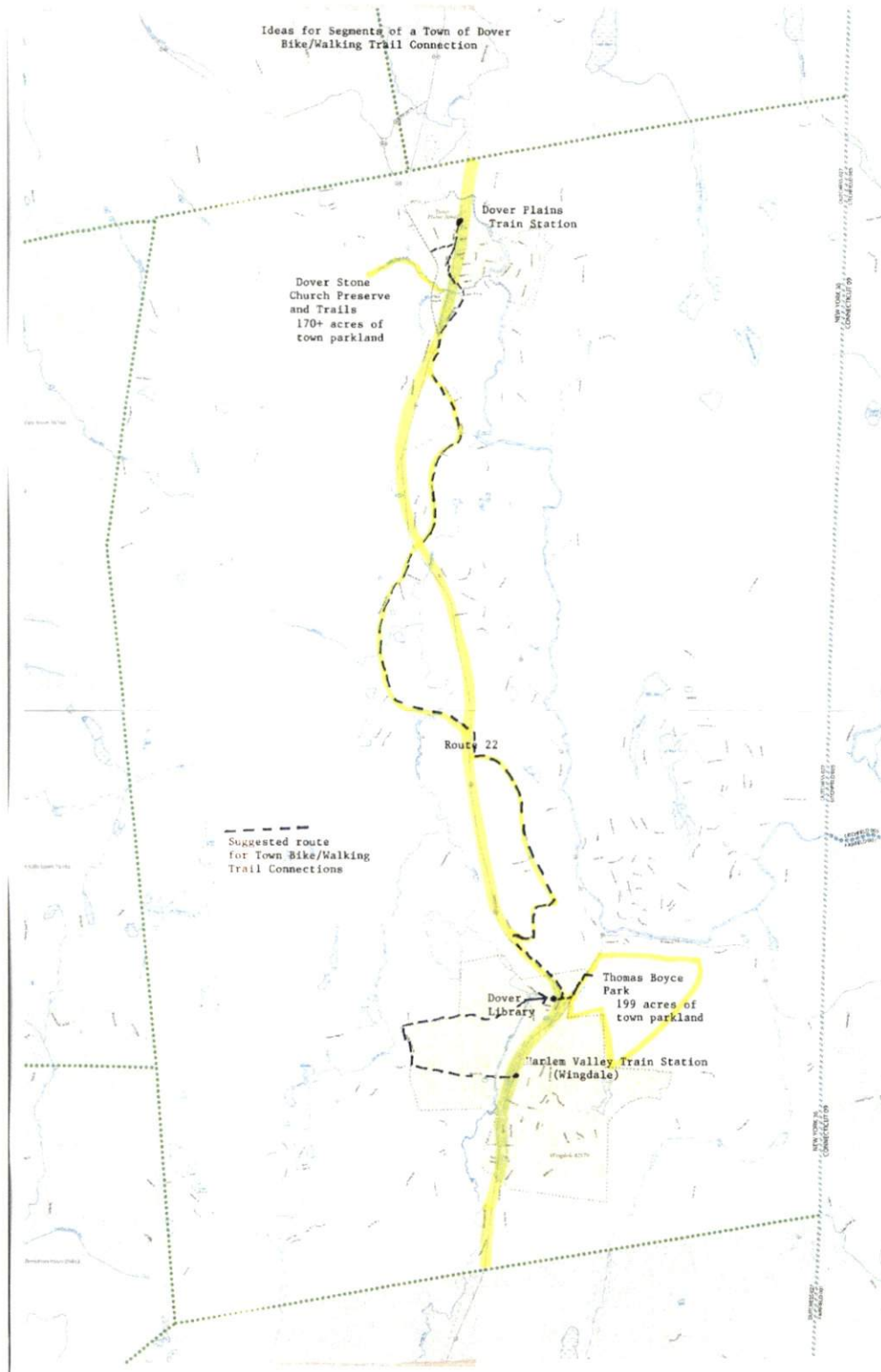
According to Dutchess County's Parcel Access website, Dover spans a distance of approximately ten miles from its southern border at the Town of Pawling to its town line with the Town of Amenia.

NYS Route 22 bisects the Town and serves as its primary transportation north-south arterial, however due to the 55-mph speed limit except through the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets, bicycle travel along this route is generally limited to serious cycling athletes. In the Dover Plains hamlet, the Town’s Dover Stone Church Preserve provides three miles of walking/nature trails that are a popular regional tourist attraction.



An innovative recommendation of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan Update is to **explore the viability of a walking/bike path to connect the hamlets of Dover Plains and Wingdale**. While the most direct path for a bicycle/walking route connecting the hamlets would be along Route 22, there are less-traveled and scenic town roads that traverse the highway that could be striped with bike and walking lanes. A community task force of interested residents, town officials and county transportation planners could help confirm town roads that traverse Route 22 where segments of bike and walking lanes could be created. In the Wingdale hamlet, a bike and walking trail could begin at the Wingdale (Harlem Valley) train station or the (town-owned) Dover Library on Route 22 and connect to Thomas Boyce Park where there is sufficient public parkland to develop series of bike and walking trails around the nearly 200-acre town park. On the next page, a map of Dover with ideas for possible segments of a bicycle/walking path connecting the hamlets of Dover Plains and Wingdale is presented.







Bicycle Safety Training

In May 2023, the Town of Dover, in collaboration with the Dover Lions Club, Dover Union Free School District and Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board (DCTSB) conducted a “Bike Rodeo” (bicycle safety training) for children and students. Dover Lions distributed grant-funded (free) bike helmets, assisted with helmet and bike fittings and assisted children with practicing bike safety skills at eight skill stations. Twenty-five children participated in the event and Dover Lions have agreed to conduct a 2nd Bike Rodeo in 2024.

Information on the DCTSB Bike Safety Rodeo is available at

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Traffic-Safety/Docs/bicyclesafetyrodeoguide.pdf>.

Promoting Public Transit through the Northeast Dutchess Transit Service

Years ago, Dover’s faith-based communities provided volunteer-sponsored transportation for the elderly and homebound to medical appointments, food shopping and scheduled appointments. In the early 2000s when the need for informal transportation exceeded the number of available volunteers, the Town of Dover initiated weekly bus service for residents through the Dutchess County LOOP Bus System. By 2008, steadily increasing demand for transportation services for homebound and senior citizen residents throughout Eastern Dutchess County prompted Dover and neighboring elected officials to seek assistance from a local community foundation for a regional transportation service solution.



In 2010, the Foundation for Community Health (FCH) sponsored a regional transportation needs assessment study that resulted in the creation of Northeast Dutchess Transit, funded in part by the FCH, the North East Community Center, federal transportation grants and annual contributions from five Eastern Dutchess County communities (Armenia, Dover, North East, Washington and Pine Plains). The services continues to this day and provides transportation services for 150+ area seniors, homebound and disabled residents for a nominal fee.



In recent years, Dover’s population of Spanish-speaking individuals and families has increased, many of whom lack transportation to shopping, medical appointments and other household needs. To assist Spanish-speaking residents with improved access with public transit, the Town of Dover should consider working with First Student Transportation, Dover’s School District transportation provider, to offer scheduled bus transportation services to larger retailers,

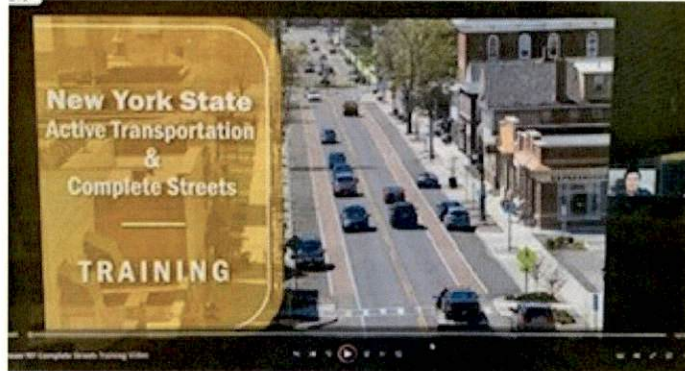
supermarkets and medical services (possibly subsidized with grant funding and especially on weekends).

Implement “Complete Streets” Policies as a Process and Approach for Access and Safety

Among recommendations in the Transportation section of Dover’s Comprehensive Plan Update is “adopting a Complete Streets policy so that future public and private projects consider the transportation needs for people of all ages and abilities using all forms of transportation” (p. 22). During development of the

Dover Plains Pedestrian Plan (DPPP) adopted in April 2023, members of the DPPP Taskforce participated in a Complete Streets Training facilitated by Urban Cycling Solutions.

The free webinar training, supported by grants provided by NYSERDA and the NYS Dept. of Health, took place



on April 28, 2022 and covered the definitions of Complete Streets and Active Transportation, integrated transportation systems, establishing a policy framework, implementing Complete Streets and evaluating success. A weblink to the April 28, 2022 video training is available at https://www.dropbox.com/s/09rhunec9t7oktp/Dover%20Complete%20Streets%20Training%20MOV%20version_0.mov?dl=0.

According to Smart Growth America (www.smartgrowthamerica.org), Complete Streets policy “specifies how a community will plan, design and maintain streets so they are safe for all users of all ages and abilities.” On the NYS Climate Smart Communities Certification Program website, Pledge Element 5: Complete Streets Policy is listed in the category of implementing climate-smart land use. Among communities that have implemented Complete Streets Policy, such as the City of Kingston, NY, the following tasks involved:

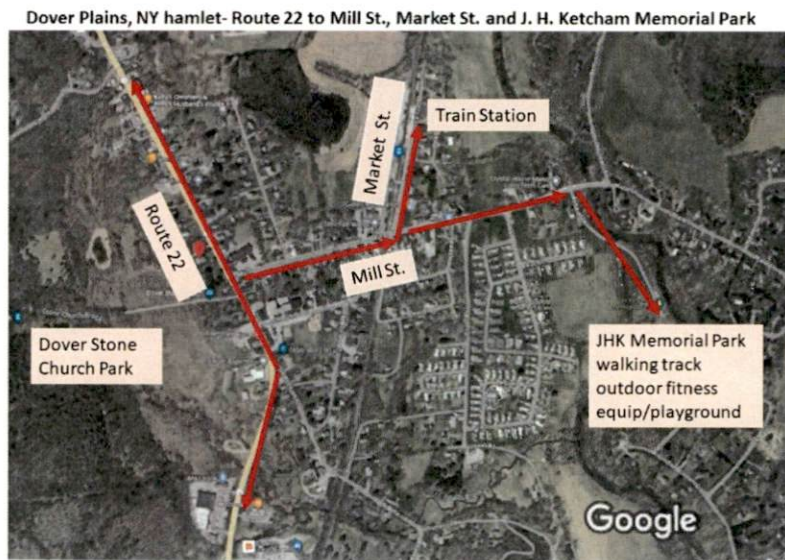
- adopt a resolution with a clear and binding commitment to apply Complete Streets approach, principles and elements in transportation and decision-making processes
- the intention to consider the safe and convenient access and mobility on the road network by current and projected users of all ages and abilities including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit users
- specifies equity as a motivation and benefit of pursuing Complete Streets policy
- include potential design features with exemptions only when adverse impact on public safety or cost would be disproportionate to the needs (as well as factors upon which

determination should be made, such as land use context, projected traffic volumes, population density and level of community support).

- include additional steps necessary for full implementation and measures to assess performance and
- include the process of creating a more detailed complete streets implementation plan including a timeframe for plan completion. <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/74>.

In 2010, the City of Kingston, NY adopted a Complete Streets Policy Framework that could be a model for Dover to investigate and emulate wherever applicable/ (https://kingston-ny.gov/filestorage/8463/10432/10434/Common_Council_Authorizing_Resolution-CSAC_11-9-2010.pdf). The adopted resolution established a Complete Streets Advisory Council of voting members that represented diverse constituencies including the Conservation Advisory Council, Planning Board, Tree Commission, Historic Landmarks, Public Works, Human Rights Commission, the business community, local nonprofit organization and non-voting municipal officials that included the City Planning, City Engineer, Dept. of Public Works Director, Recreation Director and two Aldermen. An example of their successful implementation is Kingston's Franklin Street Complete Streets Project, a revitalization project that connects two well-traveled thoroughfares in the city funded from the NYS DEC's Climate Smart Communities Grant Program.

A similar revitalization project in the Dover Plains hamlet along Route 22 business district and from the intersection of Route 22 and Mill St. to the Dover Plains train station and to the Town's J. H. Ketcham Memorial Park would be an ideal opportunity and could involve residents, business owners, town officials and public transportation agencies (NYS DOT and Metro North/MTA).



In the Wingdale hamlet, a project to upgrade pedestrian and bicyclist access between the Dover Library, the Town’s Thomas Boyce Park and Wingdale Elementary School would offer safe passage between these neighboring sites that currently lack sidewalks, bicycle lanes, crosswalks and traffic-calming measures to encourage walkability.

Wingdale, NY hamlet- Dover Library, Thomas Boyce Park and Wingdale Elementary School



Respondents’ Priorities to Incorporate Smart Growth Principles in Land Use Policies

According to the United States’ Environmental Protection Agency website, the term “smart growth” is defined as

“a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse.” (Retrieved July 7, 2023 at <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/about-smart-growth>)



In the 2022 CPU’s section on Land Use and Zoning, the overarching goal of the action items proposed includes a focus on “craft(ing) new policies to improve the future prospects of agriculture and outdoor recreation thriving in the Town.” (2022 CPU, p. 14). The online community survey included five items related to incorporating smart growth principles in land use policies and respondents ranked priorities for implementation from top to lowest priorities.

The following list presents the five items in order of respondents' priorities and the corresponding weighted average for each item:

Priority	Item	Weighted Average
1	Revise zoning with incentives to farmers so they can maintain large tracts of land	2.37
2	Promote open space and agricultural soil protection including Transfer of Development rights and Conservation Easements	2.53
3	Develop a Ten Mile River Recreational Access Plan	2.88
4	Prepare a Town Land Use Map that aligns with Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives	3.19
5	Amend zoning code to include renewable/alternative energy uses.	3.64

Respondents' Zoning-related Recommendations that Aligned with Sustainability Goals

Additionally, the CPU presented recommendations for zoning-related goals to stimulate local economic development. The online survey included five recommendations for hamlet-related zoning and respondents ranked priorities for implementation from top to lowest priorities. The following list presents the five items in order of survey respondents' priorities and the corresponding weighted averages for each item:

Priority	Item	Weighted Average
1	Develop incentives for businesses to locate in the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets	2.15
2	Support economic growth within the hamlet areas to preserve historic character and increase viability for local storefronts	2.83
3	Infill vacant retail and residential buildings in hamlets and along Route 22	2.84
4	Explore the viability of a walking/bike path that connects the hamlets of Dover Plains and Wingdale	3.02
5	Construct central sewer systems in Dover Plains and Wingdale.	3.93

Respondents' Priorities for Conservation of Natural Areas

The CPU presented five recommendations that aligned with potential action items related to conservation of natural areas. The following list presents the five items in order of respondents' priorities and the corresponding weighted averages for each item:

Priority	Item	Weighted Average
1	Provide access to the Ten Mile and Swamp Rivers and promote them as attractions for residents and tourists	2.34
2	Continue to protect primary aquifers and recharge areas	2.41
3	Add protections for ridgelines and scenic vistas	2.98
4	Prepare a list of naturally significant resources and attractions into a comprehensive map for ecotourism and environmentally-based businesses	3.27
5	Review and update the Town's steep slope protection ordinance	3.86

Priorities for Promoting a Healthy and Safe Community

In the CPU's chapter on Community Resources, there were five recommendations related to events and programs that are or could be developed to meet sustainability-related goals. The following list presents the five items in order of respondents' priorities and the corresponding weighted averages for each item:

Priority	Item	Weighted Average
1	Expand use of town facilities and offers new programs	2.46
2	Promote stewardship of the Dover Stone Church by training volunteers and adding signage	2.76
3	Develop marketing strategies to advertise community resources and infrastructure	3.11
4	Offer community garden space for residents to plant vegetables and flowers and provide shared harvest	3.20
5	Offer community events on sustainability (energy efficiency, recycling and reuse, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of renewable energy sources).	3.35

While the Comprehensive Plan Update did not specifically examine protecting local food systems and preserving water quality and water conservation, it was decided to include these areas in the online community survey based on suggested inclusion in the Sustainability Element in the Climate Smart Communities' Certification online resource, "PE 6Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements" (<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/66>)

The following list of action items that aligned with sustainability-focused municipal initiatives and programs related to promoting local food systems and protecting water supply and quality. Survey respondents were invited to indicate their interest on CPU food system and water-related recommendations. The percentage of survey respondents interested in each CPU recommended action item follows.

Priorities for Promoting Use of Local Food Systems

Priority	Item	Respondents Interested
1	Subsidize creation of a year-round farmer's market for local farm for public shopping and/or home delivery	80%
2	Provide recreation program workshops and classes on healthy eating and meal preparation	48%
3	Develop a food rescue program to collect and distribute gleaned (leftover) crops and store donations	40%
4	Offer town-sponsored community garden plots for residents at town parks.	37%

Preserving Water Quality and Water Conservation

Priority	Item	Respondents Interested
1	Explore enrollment in the NYS DEC's Drinking Water Source Protection Program	55%
2	Establish a Town Water Committee to develop a town-wide water protection and conservation plan	54%
3	Provide town businesses with EPA's Water Sense at Work Recommendations during annual inspections	41%
4	Provide free community workshops on household water conservation measures (i.e. water smart landscaping, rainwater harvesting).	34%

The survey results provided the foundational data for development of the Town's sustainability chapter's Implementation Plan. Additionally, based on recent municipal-focused incentive programs offered through the Hudson Valley Regional Council and NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities, we also suggest the following action items:

- municipal purchase of a zero-emissions vehicle and applying for grant programs to subsidize installation of public EV charging station to promote residents' interest and participation
- community solar campaigns for Dover or an intermunicipal community solar campaign to reduce municipal energy costs and help low-to-moderate income households reduce their electricity costs through solar subscriptions
- municipal-local business partnerships to promote the economic and environmental benefits of eco-tourism and working with county tourism and exploring grant opportunities through the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- municipal outreach and education through print, social media and public events to increase personal and household awareness about ways to improve household energy efficiency, increase efforts at recycling and reuse, reducing GHG emissions, participating in renewable energy initiatives and utilizing local food systems.

PART IV SUSTAINABILITY ACTION ITEM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

To develop a sustainability action item implementation plan, we created tables of action items based on the results of the community online survey and organized by the following criteria:

- a sustainability action item tracking number for identification and follow-up purposes
- the focus area specifically addressed by the action item
- name of the action item
- mechanism for implementation (primary person/group responsible for outcomes)
- proposed timeframe (based on municipal experience with projects of similar nature)
- supporting entities (prospective partners to assist the primary person/group responsible)
- "3E's" (subjective evaluation if the action item could help address one to three areas of environment, economy and equity)

These criteria were applied based on a review of the Southampton 400+ Sustainability Element: Addendum to the Town of Southampton Comprehensive Plan (2013) and their application of the incorporating the impact of action items to benefit the environment, economy and foster equity.

The Appendix provides a printed copy of an Excel spreadsheet of the Sustainability Action Item Implementation Matrix with the complete list of recommended sustainability-focused actions. The spreadsheet will also be maintained in digital version to afford expanding the spreadsheet with additional columns for information related to implementation milestones.

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Alternative Modes of Transportation (AMT)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
AMT-01	Transportation	Restore and expand sidewalks in town hamlets	Town Board	1-3 yrs.	Town Highway Dutchess County CDBG grants	Environment Economy Equity
AMT-02	Transportation	Zoning to include future projects including transportation options for people of all ages and abilities	Town Board	1 yr.	Town Board Planning Board NYS DOT	Economy Equity
AMT-03	Transportation	Implement (some) recommendations of the Route 22 Corridor Opportunities Analysis	Town Board Planning Board Building Inspector Code Enforcement Officer	1 yr.	Town business owners Real estate agents Dutchess Co. Municipal Investment Grant funds	Economy
AMT-04	Transportation	Develop public use parking within hamlet areas	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Hamlet business and land owners	Economy Equity
AMT-05	Transportation	Authorize ride-sharing services such as Uber, Lyft and Zipcar	Town Board	1 yr.	Uber, Lyft and Zipcar Town residents	Economy Equity
AMT-06	Transportation	Develop a network of electric vehicle-charging stations along Route 22	Town Board	1-3 yrs.	Charge Ready NY grant Town businesses Town properties	Environment Economy

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
AMT-07	Transportation	Explore the viability of a walking/bike path to connect the hamlets of Dover Plains and Wingdale	Town Board	1-3 yrs.	Town Highway Dutchess County CDBG grants	Environment Economy Equity
AMT-08	Transportation	Continue to offer free community-based children's bike safety trainings	Town Board	1 yr.	Dover Lions Club	Economy Equity
AMT-09	Transportation	Continue to promote Public Transit through Northeast Dutchess Transit Service	Town Board	1 yr.	Senior and Disabled Residents North East Dutchess Transit Service	Economy
AMT-10	Transportation	Implement Complete Streets Policies	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Hamlet businesses and land owners Residents	Economy Equity
AMT- 11	Transportation	Upgrade pedestrian and bicycle access in the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets	Town Board	1 yr.	Town Highway Dept. NYS Dept., of Transportation Hamlet businesses and land owners Metro North Railroad	Economy Equity

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Smart Growth in Land Use Policies (SG)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
SG-01	Smart Growth	Incentives to farmers to maintain large tracts of land	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Local farmers	Environment Equity
SG-02	Smart Growth	Transfer of Development Rights and Conservation Easements	Town Board	2-3 yrs.	Interested land owners	Environment Equity
SG-03	Smart Growth	Develop Ten Mile River recreational access plan	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Housatonic Valley Association Conservation Advisory Council	Environment Equity
SG-04	Smart Growth	Develop town land use map with CPU goals and objectives	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment
SG-05	Smart Growth	Amend Zoning Code to include renewable and alternative energy uses	Town Board	2-4 years	Conservation Advisory Council Planning Board	Environment

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Smart Growth in Zoning related Land Use Policies (SG_Z)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
SG_Z-01	Smart Growth	Develop incentives for businesses to locate in Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Planning Board Dutchess County (DC) Industrial Dev. Agency DC Tourism Existing and Interested Businesses	Economy Environment Equity
SG_Z-02	Smart Growth	Support economic growth within the hamlet areas to preserve historic character and increase viability for local storefronts	Town Board Planning Board (serves as architectural review board)	1-2 yrs.	Planning Board Town Historical Society Existing and Interested Businesses	Economy
SG_Z-03	Smart Growth	Infill vacant retail and residential building in hamlets and along Route 22	Planning Board Real Estate Agents and Developers	2-4 yrs.	Hamlet land owners Existing and Interested Business	Economy
SG_Z-04	Smart Growth	Explore the viability of a walking/bike path that connects hamlets of Dover Plains and Wingdale	Town Board Certain land owners	4+ yrs.	Business and land owners	Environment Economy Equity
SG_Z-05	Smart Growth	Construct central sewers in Dover Plains and Wingdale	Town Board	4+ years	DC Water and Wastewater Authority	Environment
SG_Z-06	Conserving Natural Areas	Preserve large tracts of forested, agricultural and mountainous land while working to increase the density and use within the Town Centers (hamlets)	Town Board	1-3 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Equity

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-01	Conserving Natural Areas	Inventory existing wetlands and steep slopes and review protection ordinances	Town Board	1 year	Planning Board CAC	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-02	Conserving Natural Areas	Support existing flood protection ordinances and discourage development in flood-prone areas	Town Board	1-3 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Equity
CNA-03	Conserving Natural Areas	Encourage natural resource open space and prime agricultural soil protection and Transfer of Development Rights/conservation easements	Town Board	1-2 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Equity
CNA-04	Conserving Natural Areas	Add protections for ridgelines and scenic vistas	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-05	Conserving Natural Areas	Review and update the Town's steep slope protection ordinance	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-06	Conserving Natural Areas	Encourage habitat connectivity between large tracts of land	Town Board	1 year	Town Recreation Dept. DC Tourism NYS DEC	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-07	Conserving Natural Areas	Preserve large tracts of forested, agricultural and mountainous land while working to increase the density and use within the Town Centers (hamlets)	Town Board	1-3 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Equity
CNA-08	Conserving Natural Areas	Encourage developers, owners and local community organizations to work with conservation groups to continue preserving pristine habitat and local wildlife corridors	Town Board	1-2 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Equity
CNA-09	Conserving Natural Areas	Prohibit building new structures in flood zones and remove structures whenever possible	Town Board	4+ years	Planning Board	Environment

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-10	Conserving Natural Areas	Regulate extractive commercial, industrial and institutional uses to ensure that water withdrawals from groundwater or surface water resources are at sustainable levels	Town Board	1-3 years	Planning Board	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-11	Conserving Natural Areas	Avoid siting land uses with potential for contaminating soils and water and educate landowners in these areas about the vulnerability of groundwater resources	Town Board	1-3 years	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment Equity
CNA-12	Conserving Natural Areas	Maintain broad buffer zones of undisturbed vegetation and soils along streams and around wetlands, lakes and ponds	Town Board	1-2 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Equity
CNA-13	Conserving Natural Areas	Educate residents who live along the Ten Mile River, Swamp River and tributaries about riparian borders, buffer zones and stream stewardship	Town Board	1 yrs.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-14	Conserving Natural Areas	Monitor and track stream gauge data on the Swamp and Ten Mile Rivers to better understand seasonal and atypical fluctuations and inform residents about conservation measures	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-15	Conserving Natural Areas	Contact business and homeowners in floodplains regarding restricted activities and structural requirements for participation in the NFIP Program	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment Equity
CNA-16	Conserving Natural Areas	Develop a drought emergency ordinance with proactive measures and incremental instructions for residents to follow in the event of short and long-term drought conditions	Town Board	1-2 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Equity
CNA-17	Conserving Natural Areas	Expand conservation easement of parcels in the Dover Plains (i.e., Seven Wells) to protect water quality from contamination due to overdevelopment	Town Board	1 yrs.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-18	Conserving Natural Areas	Continue to protect primary aquifers and recharge areas	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-19	Conserving Natural Areas	Encourage limited development in the 100-year floodplains and creation of additional floodplains if possible	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment Equity
CNA-20	Conserving Natural Areas	Continue to leverage participation in the Ten Mile River Watershed Coalition to increase resources for preserving and enhancing conservation lands, particularly those that protect the watershed	Town Board	1-2 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Equity
CNA-21	Conserving Natural Areas	Enhance the aquifer overlay district to establish thresholds for groundwater withdrawal for protections from overconsumption and pollution	Town Board	1 yrs.	Planning Board Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation Agency	Environment

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-22	Conserving Natural Areas	Educate town agencies, landowners, developers and the general public about Dover's exceptional native biodiversity to heighten awareness and building support for conservation measures	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-23	Conserving Natural Areas	Protect large habitat areas that encompass south-to-north and low-to-high travelways for wildlife	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment Equity
CNA-24	Conserving Natural Areas	Avoid fragmenting large forests and large meadows and maintain forested corridors along streams of all sizes	Town Board	1-2 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Equity
CNA-25	Conserving Natural Areas	Discourage construction of new roads or long driveways in undeveloped areas and protect habitat complexes for species of conservation concern wherever possible	Town Board	1 yrs.	Planning Board Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation Agency	Environment

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-26	Conserving Natural Areas	Encourage habitat connectivity between large tracts of land	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council Land owners	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-27	Conserving Natural Areas	Develop a list of all naturally significant resources and attractions and compile them into a comprehensive map that can be used to promote ecotourism and environmentally- based businesses	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council	Environment Equity
CNA-28	Conserving Natural Areas	Encourage native plantings for new development to reduce the necessity of pesticides and develop more resilient local ecosystems	Town Board	1-2 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess Land Conservancy Housatonic Valley Association	Environment Equity
CNA-29	Conserving Natural Areas	Adopt local farm-friendly policies and programs including lowering tax assessment for active farmland and promote local market uses in restaurants and institutions such as schools	Town Board	1 yrs.	Conservation Advisory Council Local restaurants Schools	Environment Economy

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-30	Conserving Natural Areas	Support secondary on-farm enterprises such as sales of value-added farm good, bed and breakfasts or agritourism through advertising and zoning revisions	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council Land owners	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-31	Conserving Natural Areas	Protect active farmland from non-farm development wherever possible	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council Land owners	Environment Equity
CNA-32	Conserving Natural Areas	Employ farming practices that conserve water, prevent soil erosion and soil loss, and build living soils	Town Board	1-2 years	Conservation Advisory Council Dutchess County Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation Agency	Environment Equity
CNA-33	Conserving Natural Areas	Maintain cover copes and thatch to minimize soil loss during heavy precipitation or flood events	Town Board	1 yrs.	Farmers Dutchess County Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation Agency	Environment Economy

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-34	Conserving Natural Areas	Encourage natural resource open space and prime agricultural soil protection including Transfer of Development Rights and Conservation Easements	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council Land owners Dutchess Land Conservancy	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-35	Conserving Natural Areas	Amend Bed and Breakfast lodging facilities regulations to promote tourism while protecting neighborhood character	Town Board	1 yr.	Planning Board Land owners	Environment Equity
CNA-36	Conserving Natural Areas	Revise zoning regulations to provide incentives to farmers so that they can maintain large tracts of land	Town Board	1-2 years	Dutchess County Cornell Cooperative Extension Farmers Dutchess Land Conservancy	Environment Equity
CNA-37	Conserving Natural Areas	Promote tourism by allowing restaurants, breweries distilleries, wineries, outdoor recreation, etc. on large agricultural parcels under special permit	Town Board	1 yrs.	Farmers Dutchess County Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation Agency	Environment Economy

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-38	Conserving Natural Areas	Set explicit goal for solar development to protect and preserve mature forests, agricultural lands and scenic viewsheds	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Conservation Advisory Council Land owners Planning Board Solar Developers	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-39	Conserving Natural Areas	Consider previously cleared or disturbed as preferred locations for community solar	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Planning Board Land owners Solar Developers	Environment Equity
CNA-40	Conserving Natural Areas	Avoid scenic viewsheds and lands with high ecological value, wetlands or identified critical habitats or rare plant/animals populations for solar development	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Planning Board Land owners Solar Developers	Environment Equity
CNA-41	Conserving Natural Areas	Development or operation of systems shall not have a significant adverse impact on fish, wildlife, plant species or critical habitats	Town Board	1 yrs.	Solar Developers Land owners	Environment Economy

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Conserving Natural Areas (CNA)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CNA-42	Conserving Natural Areas	Tier 3 solar energy systems should be sited to have the least practical visual effect and visual resources and avoid areas of visible open space, distant views, scenic viewsheds, distinct natural features and cultural and historic resources	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Conservation Advisory Council Land owners Planning Board Solar Developers Town of Dover Historical Society	Environment Economy Equity
CNA-43	Conserving Natural Areas	Systems with plantings of evergreen and deciduous plantings at heights so as to provide a visual screen of ground-mounted systems from residential uses and viewsheds	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Planning Board Land owners Solar Developers	Environment Equity
CNA-44	Conserving Natural Areas	Screening methods for solar development provide year-round screening and a minimum of two offset staggered rows of plantings with a minimum of 6-feet or taller as deemed appropriate for the given conditions.	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Planning Board Land owners Solar Developers	Environment Equity
CNA-45	Conserving Natural Areas	Continue to support the Zoning Update Committee to expedite review and update of the Zoning Code including additional opportunities for protection of greenspace outside the hamlets	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Zoning Update Committee	Environment

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Promote a Healthy and Safe Community (PHSC)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
PHSC-01	Promote Healthy and Safe Community	Expand use of town facilities and offer new (sustainability-focused) programs	Town Board Recreation Department Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	1 yr.	Local farms and agri-businesses DC Tourism Cornell Coop. Ext.- DC Sustainable Putnam	Equity
PHSC-02	Promote Healthy and Safe Community	Promote stewardship of the Dover Stone Church by training volunteers and adding signage	Town Board Recreation Department Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	1 yr.	Dutchess Land Conservancy Local schools Residents	Equity
PHSC-03	Promote Healthy and Safe Community	Develop marketing strategies to advertise community resources and infrastructure	Town Board Recreation Department Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	1 yr.	Dutchess Tourism Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	Environment Equity Economy
PHSC-04	Promote Healthy and Safe Community	Offer community garden space for residents to plant vegetables and flowers and share harvest	Town Board Recreation Department Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	1 yr.	Local farms and agri-business Local Schools Residents	Equity Environment Economy
PHSC-05	Promote Healthy and Safe Community	Offer community events on sustainability	Town Board Recreation Department Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	1 yr.	Local farms and agri-business Local Schools Cornell Coop. Ext.- DC Sustainable Putnam	Equity Environment

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Promoting Local Food Systems (PLFS)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
PLFS-01	Promote Local Food Systems	Subsidize creation of a year-round farmers' market of local farms for public shopping and/or home delivery	Town Board Recreation Department Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	1 yr.	Local farms and agri-businesses DC Tourism Cornell Coop. Ext.- DC Sustainable Putnam	Environment Economy Equity
PLFS-02	Promote Local Food Systems	Provide recreation program workshops and classes on healthy eating and meal preparation	Town Board Recreation Department Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	1 yr.	Cornell Coop. Ext.- DC (Nutrition Outreach for under-resourced individuals and families Local farms Local hospital	Equity
PLFS-03	Promote Local Food Systems	Develop a food rescue program to collect and distribute gleaned (leftover) crops and store donations	Town Board Recreation Department Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	1 yr.	Local farms and agri-businesses Local delis and groceries Family support organizations Dover Lions Club Local churches	Equity
PLFS-04	Promote Local Food Systems	Offer town-sponsored community garden plots for residents at town parks	Town Board Recreation Department Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	1 – 2 yrs.	Local farms and agri-businesses Local Schools Family support organizations	Economy Equity

Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Preserving Water Quality and Water Conservation (PWQC)

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
PWQC-01	Promote Water Quality and Conservation	Explore enrollment in the NYS DEC's Drinking Water Source Protection Program	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	Environment
PWQC-02	Promote Water Quality and Conservation	Establish a Town Water Committee to develop a town-wide water protection and conservation plan	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force Private water companies DC Soil and Water Conservation Agency	Environment Equity
PWQC-03	Promote Water Quality and Conservation	Provide town businesses with EPA's Water Sense at Work recommendations during annual building inspections	Town Board Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer	1 yr.	Town businesses and landlords Private water companies DC Soil and Water Conservation Agency	Environment Equity
PWQC-04	Promote Water Quality and Conservation	Provide free community workshops on household water conservation measures (i.e. water smart landscaping, rainwater harvesting)	Town Board	1 yr.	Recreation Department Conservation Advisory Council/ /Climate Smart Dover Task Force	Environment Equity

**Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Proposed Action Items from the Town of Dover
Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP), NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Certification (CSCC)
Program and NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program (CEC) - Page 1 of 3**

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
GOCAP-01	Promote smart growth principles in land use policies	Smart Growth Policies	Town Board	2-3 yrs.	Planning Board Zoning consultants	Environment
GOCAP-02	Promote a healthy and safe community	Update the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to address changing conditions and add strategies to local plans and projects	Town Board	1 yr.	Dutchess Co. Dept. of Emergency Response	Environment
GOCAP-03	Promote a healthy and safe community Foster equity	Develop and implement a Town heat and cooling emergency plan	Town Board	1 yr.	Professional consultant	Environment Equity
GOCAP-04	Promote a healthy and safe community	Adopt a Complete Streets Policy	Town Board	1 yr.	Interested residents Town staff Town Highway Dept.	Environment Equity
GOCAP-05	Alternative Modes of Transportation	Purchase electric vehicle for official Town business use	Town Board	1 yr.	NYS DEC Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle Rebate Program	Environment

**Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Proposed Action Items from the Town of Dover
Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP), NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Certification (CSCC)
Program and NYSEERDA Clean Energy Communities Program (CEC) - Page 2 of 3**

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CSCC-01	Water Conservation and Quality	Install water-efficient fixtures in government buildings	Town Board	1 -2 yrs.	Town staff Plumbers	Environment
CSCC-02	Promoting Local Food Systems	Create and promote local farmers' markets	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Local farmers and producers Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force Local nonprofits	Environment Economy Equity
CSCC-03	Promote smart growth principles in land use policies	Unified Solar Permit	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Town Building Dept. Interested business and residents	Environment Economy
CSCC-04	Conserving natural areas	Zoning for Protection of Natural Areas	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force Zoning consultants	Environment
CSCC-05	Water Quality and Conservation	Water-smart landscaping workshops and procedures at town parks	Town Board	1 yr.	Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	Environment

**Sustainability Implementation Plan Matrix: Proposed Action Items from the Town of Dover
Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP), Climate Smart Communities Certification (CSCC) Program
and Clean Energy Communities Program (CEC) - Page 3 of 3**

Tracking No.	Focus Area	Action	Mechanism for Implementation	Proposed Timeframe	Supporting Entities	Meeting the 3 E's
CEC-01	Alternative Modes of Transportation	Alternative fuel infrastructure- EV charging station at Town Hall	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	EV charging station vendors NYSERDA Charge Ready NY Program	Environment
CEC-02	Promote a healthy and safe community	Cooling and heating centers	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Town staff	Environment Equity
CEC-03	Promote a healthy and safe community	Expand town facilities and infrastructure for biking and walking	Town Board	2-3 yrs.	Town staff Interested residents Town landowners	Environment Equity
CEC-04	Foster equity	Community campaign for subscriptions to community solar (utility bill discount and targeted at low to moderate-income families	Town Board	1-2 yrs.	Town staff Community solar vendors Interested residents Conservation Advisory Council/Climate Smart Dover Task Force	Environment Economy Equity

Fostering Equity for Dover's Community Sustainability

In "Advancing Social Equity as an Integral Dimension of Sustainability in Local Communities, authors Svara, Watt and Takai (2015) contend that social equity, coined "equity" in terms of the triple bottom line of the three "E's" of sustainability often receives the least attention yet is the linchpin of a viable government's sustainability program:

communities may have programs that protect the natural environment, reduce energy use and address other aspects of sustainability, but without programs to promote social equity, they are not strengthening their social foundation for long-term viability" (p. 140).

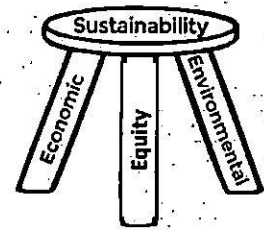


Within the context of sustainability, the authors also contend efforts toward social equity include expanding opportunities and promoting equal access to public services and service quality, ensuring procedural fairness and striving for equal opportunity in areas such as education, health and employment, and redressing how burdens and benefits of different policy actions are distributed in a community. To better understand the activities that might identify a "high equity government," they conducted a 2010 national survey of 8,569 governments (with a 25% response rate of 2,176 participants) with questions about 109 sustainability activities. This survey revealed less than one-third of the responding governments practiced activities that directly addressed social equity issues such providing affordable housing options for seniors, people with disabilities and homeless people; improving access to technology for those without connection; offering after-school and preschool education and weatherization/energy-reduction programs targeted to assist low and fixed-income residents.

The authors proposed the following general recommendations for communities to foster equity in transportation, education and recreation, housing, food and environmental exposures:

- transportation and providing community facilities for residents to receive social services, medical, health and wellness, educational and recreational programs
- funding for preschool and after-school programs and providing access or access to subsidies to technology for people without connection to the internet
- farmers markets and support development of community gardens
- revitalization programs for affordable and senior housing
- municipal ordinances and actions to safeguard air and water quality
- measures and reports on community quality of life indicators such as education, cultural diversity and social well-being.

In terms of the three-legged stool model of community sustainability, the authors conclude, “if the social equity leg is missing, the stool will fall over” (p.160). The goal of this “Fostering Equity for Community Sustainability” section is to identify policies and actions for the Town of Dover to construct its “stool of sustainability” that will serve as an aspirational “step stool of community sustainability” for current town residents and for generations to come.



In the 2014 Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) report, “Equity in Sustainability,” Angela Park frames deliberation about equity with the question, “Equity for whom?” She argues local governments often identify constituencies most impacted by community decision-making and whose life outcomes are disproportionately affected by structures in society as people of color, poor and low-income residents, youth, the elderly, recently arrived immigrants, individuals with limited English proficiency and people with disabilities and homeless people (p.4). Moreover, a 2013 survey of USDN members elaborated four interconnected frameworks of equity: procedural, distributional, structural and transgenerational. The article recommended that local governments integrate the four components within procedures and policies of their own sustainability steering committees. In brief, the four components of fostering social equity in sustainability included:

Procedural Equity- engagement and representation in the development and implementation of sustainability programs that is inclusive, accessible and authentic

Distributional Equity- fair distribution of benefits and burdens across all segments of a community, prioritizing those with highest need

Structural Equity- decisions made with accountability and recognition that subordinated groups in society are routinely at a chronic and cumulative disadvantage

Transgenerational Equity- decisions have generational impacts and do not result in unfair burdens on future generations.

Balancing the demands and needs of environment and economy is often an unquestioned assumption in discussing sustainability. Yet, making the case for including social equity as integral to community sustainability is perhaps better made by example than persuasion. According to the USDN report, a community’s decision to change the scheduling of streetlight repairs in Seattle, Washington from “upon request” to a regular basis resulted in the decrease of streetlight outages in poor neighborhoods that correlated with perceptions of increased safety. For communities that seek to improve sustainability, “jurisdictions that are able to move beyond perceiving equity initiatives as social welfare, charity or goodwill are finding the capacity to address community well-being more systemically” (Park, p.6).

For Dover, the first step to fostering equity through implementing this sustainability chapter should be through creating a sustainability advisory committee that consists of individuals committed to the following equity principles:

- authentic engagement of all who are impacted by government decisions
- inclusive processes for members to co-create the community's future
- attention and intention to dismantle policies that exacerbate existing disparities on race, income, gender, age or physical ability
- responsibility to hold the current generation of decision makers accountable for their actions rather than inflicting the consequences on future generations and
- awareness of history and systemic factors that create cumulative advantage or disadvantage for groups in society.

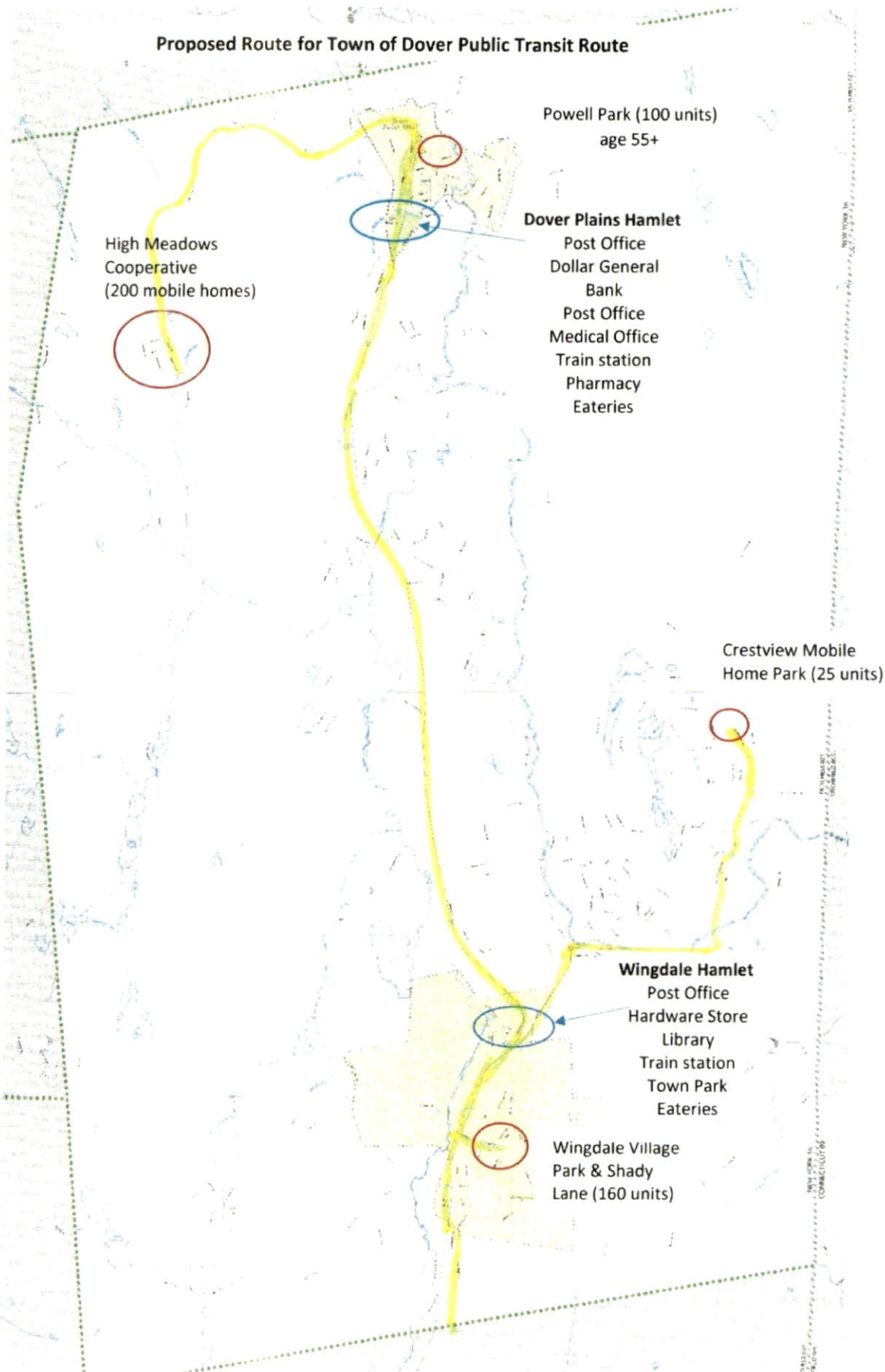
The next sections explore and propose policies, practices and programs for Dover to foster social equity in community sustainability in the areas of transportation, community education and recreation, housing, food and environmental exposures.

Strategies to Foster Equity in Transportation for Community Sustainability

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town provided a weekly meal delivery program (Town of Dover Cares) to 50 homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities without transportation that revealed a sobering glimpse into the hardships of life experienced by many Dover residents. The Town of Dover Cares Program provided meals to residents who live in three mobile home parks and who could still benefit from transportation assistance for food shopping, medical appointments and attending to basic household needs. A recommendation for transportation improvement in the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update was to “expand the availability of public transportation such as the Town’s contractual agreement with Northeast Transit (Dial-A-Ride) transportation or a similar service” (CPU, p. 22).

A recommendation to foster greater equity for Dover residents without transportation and who reside in mobile home parks should be to design and implement a regularly scheduled town-sponsored and subsidized public transit program to local and regional supermarkets, medical providers and retail department stores. The Town has two public transportation providers, First Student Transportation and JTR Bus Transportation that offer passenger mini-vans, 23-passenger buses and alternative vehicles for special needs and provide service routes within Dover for shopping and to other communities with medical providers, hospitals, large retailers and connections with train service. A map of Dover on the next page presents information on proposed locations of residents with transportation needs and a potential route for scheduled public transportation to assist them with rides to shopping, medical providers and local retailers.

Proposed Route for Town of Dover Public Transit Route



High Meadows
Cooperative
(200 mobile homes)

Powell Park (100 units)
age 55+

Dover Plains Hamlet

- Post Office
- Dollar General
- Bank
- Post Office
- Medical Office
- Train station
- Pharmacy
- Eateries

Crestview Mobile
Home Park (25 units)

Wingdale Hamlet

- Post Office
- Hardware Store
- Library
- Train station
- Town Park
- Eateries

Wingdale Village
Park & Shady
Lane (160 units)

The Town should also continue its collaboration with the intermunicipal Northeast Dutchess Transit (Dial-A-Ride) provided by the North East Community Center for seniors, person with disabilities and individuals who need transportation to food, pharmacy and other supply outlets. If implementing a town-sponsored public transit route was not feasible through a public transit provider, the Town should approach the North East Community Center and its neighboring Eastern Dutchess communities to discuss purchasing an additional bus/multi-passenger van for additional scheduled public transit service on weekdays and weekends for each of the participating communities.



Strategies to Foster Equity in Community Education and Recreation

The development of this sustainability chapter has been both an enlightenment and education itself in cultivating our deeper understanding and appreciation for community sustainability. In the 2014 article “Equity in Sustainability,” the authors emphasize the importance of integrating equity into both framing and communication about sustainability:

Cities signal their commitment to equity both by how they introduce the concept of sustainability to residents and in their ongoing reinforcement and framing. Because sustainability is perceived as synonymous with “green,” environmental and ecological issues, cities must be proactive in reframing the term to embrace broader social, economic, public health and safety issues. (p. 12)

The Town of Dover should take a central role in educating residents, local educators and students about the scope and breadth of sustainability as opportunities for community building, civic engagement and improving overall public health and wellbeing. The following recommendations as highlighted in “Advancing Social Equity as an Integral Dimension of Sustainability in Local Communities (Svara et al, 2015) should be incorporated within the tenets of community educational initiatives so that activities integrate social equity with as much thoughtful attention as environment and economy:

- inequality and social exclusion undermine the long-term viability of communities
- inclusive citizen engagement plays a critical role in improving the quality of public projects, improving relationships between the public and city government, and increasing the overall quality of life for community residents
- formal and informal networks of service providers and stakeholders are needed to advance social equity goals because of their complexity and cross-sectoral nature

Advancing Social Equity as an Integral Dimension of Sustainability in Local Communities

James Svara
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Tanya Watt
Arizona State University
Katherine Takai
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Abstract

Sustainability has been viewed as a commitment to protection of the environment, responsible economic growth, and promotion of equity—the well-known “triple E’s.” The third “E,” however, is not as well understood or prioritized as the other two. This article considers what equity means as a dimension of sustainability and examines what local governments are doing to advance social equity. Reviewing the results of a national survey in 2010 made it evident that most cities and counties are doing little related to equity. A follow-up survey was conducted involving two groups of governments identified in that survey—one group was active in social equity and a second was active in sustainability overall but was doing little related to equity. The results reveal the widespread differences between the goals and agendas pursued by the two groups of governments. From the survey respondents, nine governments with broad-ranging activities to promote equity were identified to be the subjects of case studies. Engaging citizens, cooperation between cities and counties, partnerships with nonprofit organizations, and recognition of the value of diversity were qualities shared by the governments in the case studies. Building on and expanding the theme of the livable cities initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Department of Transportation, the research indicates that sustainability results efforts to improve the livability of communities in the present and to build the social, environmental, and economic viability of communities for the long term.

- clearly articulating the importance of social equity in local government mobilizes support and resources
- using a holistic approach to serving the needs of the most marginalized groups in a community is critical to achieving social equity
- sustainability activities are dispersed throughout a number of departments in high-equity communities
- local governments can advance objectives by demonstration and information
- targeted outreach and assistance are required to involve low-income households in energy conservation projects to help extend the benefits of reduced utility bills to persons in need
- support from elected leadership for sustainability and social equity initiatives is crucial for long-term commitment necessary to achieve positive results. In the absence of such leadership, resources may be reallocated and diminish the positive impact sustainability programs might otherwise achieve.

The next section will discuss and present recommendations for the Town of Dover to foster social equity through community education and recreation offerings.

Fostering Equity through Community Education

Similar to many Dutchess County municipalities, Dover's municipal departments and boards tend to work in organizational silos with limited interaction with each other. Educating residents about opportunities and benefits of sustainability requires collaboration not only within municipal departments, but also with key community stakeholders including administrators and teachers of the Dover Union Free School District, Dutchess County Health Department, nonprofit land conservation organizations, the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission, area hospitals and healthcare providers, town businesses, local family support agencies and community foundations. As previously mentioned, the Dover Town Board must participate in a leadership capacity to ensure initiatives have adequate financial resources and prioritization for success. The following recommendations are presented as opportunities for Dover to help foster social equity in educating the community about sustainability:

- develop a program collaboration between Dover's Conservation Advisory Council, local family support agencies, community foundations and the Town's Recreation Program to offer free workshops to residents and assistance securing household energy audits, weatherization, nutrition assistance, community solar subscriptions, internet affordable connectivity programs and other cost-savings programs
- coordinate establishment of a community/student health and wellness center at Dover Middle/High School in cooperation with the hospital, local medical providers and County

behavioral health staff to conduct screenings, provide Mental Health First Aide training and involve community foundations to assist with programs and funding

- utilize the Town’s website and cable TV channel to provide information and educate residents about the value of social equity as integral to community sustainability with technical assistance on message content from the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission
- facilitate a municipal-business partnership with family support agencies to circulate information on employment opportunities to prioritize assisting local job seekers
- work with community foundations and family support agencies to obtain grant funding to expand bilingual family support services for new/immigrant Dover residents and families and prepare and disseminate community sustainability educational materials in Spanish
- pursue new open space acquisition and conservation easements with land conservation organizations as opportunities to educate residents about environmental sustainability
- municipal leaders should develop annual sustainability goals and/or implement a sustainability progress assessment tool that includes measures that address social equity.

Fostering Equity through Town Recreation

Town recreation programs offer unique opportunities for community-building where residents can revise and transform underlying assumptions that reinforce perceptions rooted in social inequity. In “Equity in Sustainability” (Park, 2014), cites a city planning director who remarked, “Equity is about fairness, offsetting privilege and being able to provide additional support to people who are inherently at a disadvantage” (p.35). While it has always been Dover’s intention to offer recreation programs that are affordable, accessible and available to residents of all ages and abilities, there are additional measures and efforts the Town can take to foster equity. For many Dover residents and families, financial and travel constraints prevent them from affording popular entertainment venues. Each summer, there are approximately 100 local children who attend the Town’s eight-week summer day camp.

July 3rd - August 11th

Fees are due at time of registration for each session or week.

Camp Hours:
 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Full Day
 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM - Half Day

Come All Summer or a Week at a Time!!
 Boys and Girls, ages 5 - 17
 Session 1 Dates - July 3 - July 14
 Session 2 Dates - July 17 - July 28
 Session 3 Dates - July 31 - August 11

Fun in the Sun
 Recreation Swimming
 Slip-N-Slides
 Sports, Arts & Crafts, Tie Dye, Socialization
 Games and Group Activities
 Special Days which include:
 Lake Compoona, Puppet People, Roller Skating, Bowling, Watermelon Day, Themed Days and so much more!

Day Camp Full Day Fees
 1st Child - \$200.00
 2nd Child - \$280.00
 3rd Child - \$280.00

Day Camp Half Day Fees
 1st Child - \$150.00
 2nd Child - \$175.00
 3rd Child - \$150.00

Weekly Full Day Camp Fees
 1st Child - \$170.00
 2nd Child - \$190.00
 3rd Child - \$150.00

Weekly Half Day Camp Fees
 1st Child - \$110.00
 2nd Child - \$130.00
 3rd Child - \$90.00

Please Call the Recreation Office at 845-632-9144, for any questions.
 Dover Day Camp is Located at Boyce Park in Wingdale

One-time Registration Fee: \$40.00 per child
 Before Care - 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM - \$45.00 per child per week
 After Care - 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - \$45.00 per child per week

The Town has two public parks: the 10-acre J. H. Ketcham Park in Dover Plains and almost 200-acre Thomas Boyce Park in Wingdale. In 2020, J. H. Ketcham Park was renovated with community development block grant funding assistance and offers a ¼-mile walking track with outdoor fitness equipment, children’s playground with new sensory and inclusive play equipment, community meeting space with adjoining open-air pavilion, regulation baseball field and pollinator garden with swings. Thomas Boyce Park in Wingdale offers basketball, tennis and pickleball courts, soccer fields, large children’s playground and baseball fields. For evening and winter program offerings, the Town rents space at Dover schools.



Aerial view of Boyce Park, Wingdale

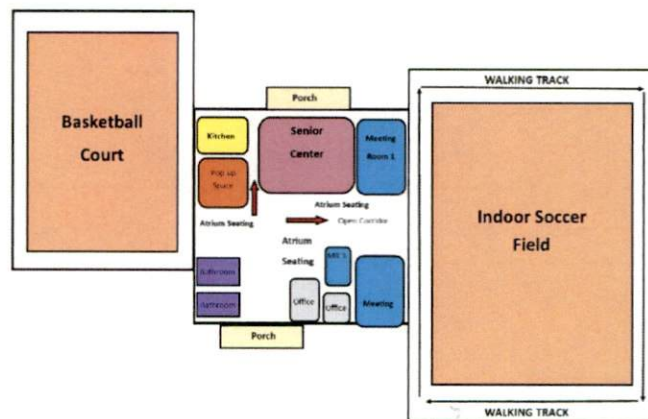
The following recommendations are additional opportunities for Dover to help foster social equity through town recreation:



J. H. Ketcham Park Community Center

- while the Town offers annual scholarships for some children to attend summer day camp, it does not offer sliding-scale fees for other recreation programs. The Town should assist families with incremental discounts on fees especially for popular children’s team sports such as baseball and soccer.

- The Town Board has proposed to build a new recreation center at Boyce Park and received modest community development funding toward construction. Town officials should continue to pursue building a multi-purpose recreation center to expand and increase year-round free and intergenerational programs for residents of all ages.



Layout of proposed new Boyce Park recreation center



2023 Dover Community Day

- the Town hosts an annual Dover Community Day that is free for residents, local businesses and nonprofits organizations to meet, interact and help instill and promote community spirit and pride. The Town should consider offering additional free community-building events throughout the year to celebrate residents' culture, food, music, history, art and other aspects of shared experience to foster cultural competence.
- the new Town recreation center should provide sliding-scale fee programs for seniors, children and teens; afterschool and preschool offerings; computer technology mini-courses; area for a local farmers' market, community food pantry and information/resource center for new residents and those in situational need.
- to increase participation in the Senior Recreation Program, the Town should consider providing bus transportation to assist seniors without vehicles or who would prefer not to drive to weekly meetings due to weather or personal choice.

Dover Recreation

SENIOR PROGRAM

AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL

OPEN TO
COMMUNITY
RESIDENTS
55 &
OLDER

WHAT WE OFFER:

- MEET NEW FRIENDS
- EXERCISE CLASSES
- PAINTING CLASSES
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- CARDS, GAMES, CORNHOLE
- SENIOR PICNICS
- HOLIDAY & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

MONDAY'S

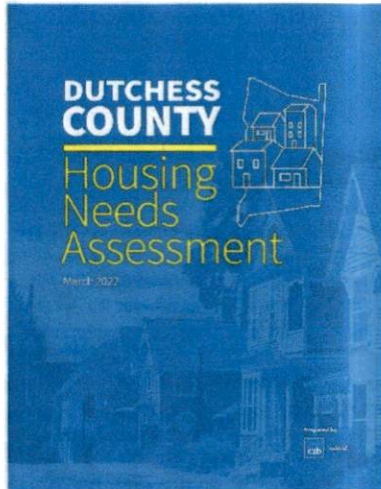
9:30 - 10:30 LINE DANCING
11:00 - 12:00 EXERCISE CLASS
10:30 - 2:30 SOCIAL/GAMES

THURSDAY'S

9:30 - 10:30 SENIOR FITNESS
10:30 - 2:30 SOCIAL/GAMES
SOUP DAY'S - NOVEMBER - MARCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US AT (845) 832-9168 OR VISIT WWW.DOVERRECREATION.COM

Strategies to Foster Equity in Housing and Food Systems



In 2022, Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development conducted a countywide housing needs assessment and Town of Dover Supervisor Richard Yeno and Town Clerk Katie Palmer-House served on the Project Steering Committee. The needs assessment revealed the following confluence of factors that have contributed to countywide housing disparities and needs in Dutchess County: 1) increasing number of households with residents over age 65; 2) lagging incomes of renters over the past two decades; 3) increasing percentages of renters who spend more than 30% of their monthly income on housing; 4) low inventory and low vacancy rates of housing and 5) growth in higher-income households with limited housing choices creating competition for the same housing as lower-income households. However, the most salient finding of that

consistent with Dover's housing challenges was the gap in housing access for renter households with annual incomes less than \$50,000. For despite the Town of Dover QuickFacts 2022 census data of a town-wide median household income of \$77,317 (compared to Dutchess County's 2022 median household income of \$87,112), median income data for the unofficial hamlets of Dover Plains and Wingdale were \$43,125 and \$48,790, respectively. The data show that for Dover residents who are renters, their housing challenges are significant and they are among the most cost-burdened county residents generally spending more than 30% of their incomes on housing. A copy of the 2022 Dutchess County Housing Needs Assessment Report is available at <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/docs/DCHousingNeedsAssessment-FINAL-PrinterFriendly.pdf>.

The needs assessment report also conducted a gap analysis to measure the difference between the number of units in a given price range and the number of households for whom the price range was affordable. The following findings revealed gaps for homeowners and renters that are consistent with housing challenges experienced by many Dover residents:

- there is a deficit of owner units affordable to households earning less than \$50,000 (i.e., low-income seniors who have paid off their houses so their home values are mismatched for their incomes). Dover has a significant number of residents who meet this criterion.
- there is a deficit of rental units for those with household incomes at or above \$75,000 (and since the Town of Dover's 2022 household median income was \$77,317 it suggests a percentage of Dover residents also experience this housing challenge.
- there is a surplus of units affordable to those with income ranges of \$35,000- \$74,999 (residents on the lower side of this income range may be "renting up" for housing paying more than they can afford and those on the higher range are "renting down" which result in stronger demand for these units and increased rents costs over time.

The goal of the housing needs assessment was to develop data-driven strategies to answer the question: “How can Dutchess County help communities “catch up with existing housing needs?” In terms of addressing county-wide housing needs, the primary conclusion was the need to add/catch-up the gap of 2,155 additional household “interventions” (whether new housing, housing vouchers, rent-controlled units and/or subsidized housing) with the goal of 108 housing interventions per year (over the next 20-year period) to catch-up and meet future housing needs. An important secondary conclusion was that rapid growth in households with residents over age 65 will require senior housing interventions on a larger scale than in the past. And the third conclusion was that regardless of the form of interventions, a focus on housing for residents making less than \$50,000 per year was recommended.

PART 1: Market Conditions and Affordability

KEY TAKEAWAYS

What do these findings suggest about “catching up” with existing housing needs?



Ownership Market

The need to add and build more affordable housing is significant. The need to add and build more affordable housing is significant. The need to add and build more affordable housing is significant.



Rental Market

The vast majority of renter households with incomes below \$50,000 are cost burdened as of 2019 and gap analysis indicates a shortage of 2,155 rental units affordable to these households.

PART 3: A Strategy for Action

Establish goals to address housing needs, cont'd.

Community	Average number of interventions per year	2019 income below \$50,000
Poughkeepsie City	16	309
Beacon	5	105
Beekmantown	3	62
Fishkill	3	171
East Fishkill	2	148
Wappinger	20	603
Dover	3	62
Powling	3	62
Union Vale	1	36
Hyde Park	7	142
La Grange	5	100
Pleasant Valley	3	65
Poughkeepsie Town	13	258
Clinton	1	22
Wiley	1	17
Stamford	1	35
Washington	2	37
Red Hook	4	80
Minerva	4	72
Amelia	3	31
North East	1	25
Pine Plains	1	20
COUNTY-WIDE GOAL	108	2,155

To reach the goal of 2,155 housing interventions over the next 20 years, the report proposed a “fair share” approach to allocate an average number of housing interventions for each Dutchess County community of which Dover was slated to receive three interventions per year. A list with the number of housing interventions allocated to other communities is included on this page. Additionally, it was proposed that Dutchess County establish a County Housing Trust Fund with \$2 million per year to assist with projects such as new and upgraded infrastructure for mixed-income housing developments, land acquisition, subsidies to new construction and rehabilitation projects and funding for affordable housing programs spearheaded by municipalities or nonprofit agencies. Housing Trust Fund resources were also proposed to assist owners of duplexes, triplexes and small multi-family units with upgrades to improve housing quality and affordability for households with the lowest incomes.

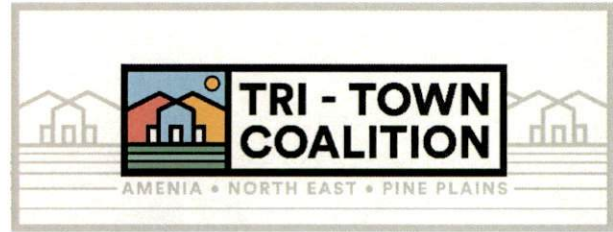
The Town of Dover should cultivate a stronger working partnership with Dutchess County Planning to assure eligible residents receive its three annual housing intervention allocations over the next 20 years. The following list presents additional recommendations to promote equity in housing for Dover residents:

- continue to offer and update Town of Dover legislation for real property tax exemptions for senior citizens, low-income disabled individuals, veterans and volunteer firefighter and emergency service providers at income levels comparable to neighboring communities. In Oct. 2023, the Dover Town Board amended Chapter 131 of the Dover Town Code with increased income limits for property tax exemption eligibility for seniors and low-income disabled individuals. In 2024, the Town Board anticipates amending (increasing) income limits for the veterans' property tax exemption and adopting legislation to establish an exemption for volunteer firefighters and emergency service workers.
- establish partnerships with housing-related organizations such as Rebuilding Together Dutchess County and assist residents in need of large-scale home repairs with applications to the agency's "Rebuilding Day Program" and to the "Handyman Repair Program" for small-scale repairs and the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services for information about eviction prevention, emergency rental assistance and homelessness preventive services.
- provide print and online information on the Town's website about services available through Dutchess County's Section 8 Housing Choice Program and first-time homebuyer education as well as emergency and transitional house programs through Hudson River Housing, Inc. and housing advocacy services for people with disabilities through Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc.
- provide and post Rebuilding Together's "Safe At Home" safety checklist for residents to identify and repair potential fall hazards and accessibility issues in their homes
- provide information and schedule Town-sponsored informational meetings with assistance agencies for residents to enroll in household-related cost-saving programs such as weatherization, Heat Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP), EmPower+, Weatherization Program, community solar subscriptions, internet affordable connectivity programs
- develop and adopt inclusionary zoning and affordable house ordinances to incentivize affordable and workforce housing units as part of market-rate rental developments
- develop and adopt town legislation to require a registry for foreclosed and abandoned (Zombie) properties in order to prevent blight and corrosive effects on the neighborhoods and promote steps to implement final dispositions (i.e., sale, repair, maintenance, expedited foreclosure). Information on registry best practices is available at https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/help_for_homeowners/vacant_property.



Dutchess County

A final recommendation is to investigate and join efforts of neighboring Eastern Dutchess communities (Amenia, North East and Pine Plains) that have established a partnership with Hudson River Housing to advocate for economic development and housing that serves current and future needs. An article about the organization is available at <https://ruralintelligence.com/community/sponsored-dutchess-countys-tri-town-coalition-proves-affordable-housing-is-a-rural-issue-too>.



Strategies to Promote Equity in Food Systems

According to Policy Link’s Equitable Food Systems Resource Guide, an equitable food system creates a new paradigm in which all- including those most vulnerable and those living in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color- can fully participate, prosper and benefit. It is a system that, from farm to table, from processing to disposal, ensures economic opportunity; high-quality jobs, affordable and culturally appropriate food; and environmental sustainability.

(Policy Link, <https://www.policylink.org/food-systems/equitable-food-systems-resource-guide>.)

The Policy Link’s Resource Guide proposes five key sectors of an equitable food system:

- 1) **Production:** farms, ranches, fisheries that use natural resources, capital, labor and other inputs to cultivate food
- 2) **Processing:** farms and factories that transform agricultural good into food product for consumption
- 3) **Distribution:** aggregators and shippers that transport food products
- 4) **Retail:** stores and direct-to-consumer retailers that transact final sale of products
- 5) **Recovery, Recycling and Waste:** companies, municipalities and nonprofits organizations that handle remainder, discarded, expired and unused food from numerous end points along the supply chain.

5 Key Sectors of an Equitable Food System



Dover’s early history as an agrarian community likely incorporated all five key sectors of an equitable food system before it transitioned to an economy focused on harvesting and export of natural resources (marble, limestone) and later, as the host site of a large state-operated inpatient hospital and a major town employer. From 2008 to 2022 in Dover, there was an 11% increase in the number of agricultural district parcels with beef and livestock as the largest segment of farming by acreage followed by production agriculture (hay, corn and field crops (Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, Dover Community Profile: Agriculture and Farm, 2022). Over the past decade, two Dover farms have transitioned to specialty crops including the 50-acre Soukup Farms and nearly 800-acre Madava Farms at Crown Maple that produce maple syrup.



Photo by Meghan Lane
Soukup Farms Thrives Through Three Generations of Ingenuity

In 2014, the Town’s only supermarket closed and efforts to date to recruit a new grocery store have not been successful. In the 2017 Town’s community survey titled “Your Voice in the Future of Dover,” 95% of the 355 respondents desired a new grocery store. To help fill the gap, some dairy and livestock farms, local delis and convenience stores offer fresh produce and a small grocery store with fresh food items has opened in Dover Plains. Outreach to some big box retailers has revealed that Dover is situated within the population radius catchment areas of other well-established retail stores. While Dover may not strictly meet the geographic criterion of a “food desert,” the Food Empowerment Project cites, “other factors such as racism, cost of living, people being time poor and cash poor, cultural appropriateness of available foods, and the ability of people to grow their own foods” suggest an emerging food insecurity taxonomy of terms such as food oppression and food apartheid. (Food Empowerment Project, <https://foodispower.org/access-health/food-deserts/>)

Promoting equity in food systems for community sustainability involves identifying meaningful and measurable ways that Dover residents, particularly those who are most vulnerable, can participate and benefit from improved policies and practices in each of the five key food system sectors. The next section will present recommendations for each of the five sectors.



Equity in Production: In a conversation about the challenges that Dover residents experience purchasing fresh food locally, this apt comment was overheard: “Sure, you can buy everything you need to make a healthy meal in Dover...you just have to be willing to visit five stores to buy all the ingredients.” The following are additional recommendations to help better connect Dover residents with local food producers:

- the Town should build, lease or through in-kind donation, secure dedicated year-round indoor space for local and regional food producers to offer a well-curated variety of fresh and affordable food to Dover residents (focused on providing access to fresh healthy foods and facilitating use of supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits)

Random Harvest, in Craryville, NY about 35 miles from Dover, is a worker-owned market, café and community space with food and goods from over 100 local producers. The store offers seasonal produce, pasture-raised meats, local cheese, pantry and craft gives free groceries. They also donate free food to area residents.



- the Town should support nonprofit organizations and local producers to apply for grants and foundation funding to implement new and expanded food security services such as fresh food deliveries to senior residents, homebound individuals, people with disabilities families in financial distress and without transportation
- the Town should facilitate partnerships between local producers and Dover schools to teach students about food production, to augment school lunches and snacks with locally-grown foods and help educate parents about the economic and environmental benefits of purchasing locally-produced food
- continue the Town's collaboration with Stonewood Farm to provide fresh produce to the Dover Senior Recreation Program participants during the summer months.



Town of Dover Senior Recreation Program receives summer produce from Stonewood Farm

Equity in Food Processing for Community Sustainability: Today, Dover's farms are primarily family-owned and operated compared to decades ago when farmland was leased for crops and harvested by migrant workers. The Town does not currently have any food processing

factories. However, if an existing farm or leased farmland transitions to employ seasonal farm or migrant workers, the Town should regularly inspect operations and facilities to insure safe and functional working conditions for all farm workers.

Equity in Food Distribution for Community Sustainability: While distribution as a key sector of an equitable food system is ostensibly related to the transport of food products from producers or wholesalers to retailers, “distribution” might also be considered entities and organizations including community-based agencies, faith-based organizations and food assistance programs that assist individuals and families with ongoing, periodic or seasonal challenges of food insecurity.

To help food assistance program and agencies with local distribution efforts, the Town of Dover’s Highway Department workers has transported monthly allocations of food provisions from regional food banks for local food pantries for the past 20 years. Without the assistance of the Town’s vehicle and driver each month, local food assistance programs coordinated by volunteer staff that serve 100+ families per month, would not be able to obtain and transport fresh and frozen food to their sites for distribution.



The following are additional recommendations for the Town to promote equity in food distribution:

- assist local food assistance agencies by posting and publicizing information about their programs including providing information in other languages spoken by residents
- sponsor periodic food drive/food donation events and help publicize and procure donations of the types of food items that are often in need or requested most by food assistance program participants
- facilitate transport and distribution of fresh and rescued food from local producers and help deliver to local food pantries or distribute at a convenient accessible town location
- allocate space in town parks for a community garden and provide initial resources (i.e., help with tilling plots, access to water) for residents to plant and tend them



BACKPACK PROGRAM

- support efforts (food drive, grant application assistance) to continue the Dover School District’s “Backpack Program” started in 2013 that provides a package for 100+ elementary and middle students with food staples every Friday
- establish a community partnership with local healthcare providers, area hospitals, farms and producers and local helping agencies to develop a “Food as Medicine” program and assist with publicizing information, host informational meetings and support grant applications.

Equity in Food Retail for Community Sustainability

The loss of the town's supermarket in Dover in 2014 has continued to have a lingering social and community toll on residents' perceptions even to this day. Research from the Brookings Institution (2013) found the loss of a grocery and the general proliferation of chains such as dollar stores, often suggest to investors and developers that a community is struggling or lacks a clientele that would make investing profitable (<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/what-the-lack-of-premium-grocery-stores-says-about-disinvestment-in-black-neighborhoods/>). However, the authors also argue the tendency to frame the problem as primarily an issue of food access may be an oversimplification and generalization and more a symptom of social inequity, structural racism and supermarket redlining (the disinclination of building stores in inner cities and impoverished communities). Moreover, other Brookings research on food access mapping has disputed the assumption that individuals prefer to shop at the food retailer closest to their home (<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/beyond-food-deserts-america-needs-a-new-approach-to-mapping-food-insecurity/>).

The simple solution might seem for town government, perhaps with county economic development resources and assistance, to simply find and incentivize the establishment of a new supermarket in Dover. The following recommendations are also presented to help town leaders transform the issue of equity in food retail from a presenting problem to an opportunity for Dover and its residents to consider a paradigm shift in thought and actions needed to create a 21st Century food security system truly rooted in overcoming structural societal barriers to food access:

- consult with the Pace University Land Use Law Center (that has worked with Dover on various land use-related studies and projects for decades) and request their assistance in developing and implementing a town-sponsored, equity-focused food access mapping study. (<https://law.pace.edu/landuse>)
- contact Vassar College's Political Science Department or Marist College's Public Administration Master's Degree Program and invite a professor and college class to work on an equity-focused food access mapping study or ask a graduate student to assist the town with this study for a Master's Degree capstone project or thesis.
- apply for a grant to Dutchess County, an area health-related or regional community foundation for funding to hire a consultant to conduct a food access mapping study and develop community-based strategies to educate and engage residents and businesses in addressing societal barrier to food access.
- convene a taskforce of elected officials, residents, businesses, local farmers/producers and nonprofit food assistance program to study the issue and develop the logistics of data collection for a food access mapping study through a short-term paid college student internship (whose field of study includes coursework in majors such as public administration, health sciences, communication and/or research).



If a supermarket or food retailer expresses interest in establishing a grocery business in Dover, town officials should take time, care and attention to develop a relationship that can discuss and acknowledge the importance of social equity and help facilitate partnerships between the prospective new business and established local producers. Shifting the paradigm of “food access” to “fostering equity through access to food” will not only change and improve people’s lives; it change and improve the caregiving capacity of our community. And hopefully lead to new paradigm shifts that help imprint the lesson we already know in our hearts- that “when you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; when you teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

Equity in Food Recovery, Recycling and Reducing Waste in Community Sustainability

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines sustainable management of food as “an approach that seeks to reduce wasted food and its associated impacts over the entire life cycle, starting with the use of natural resources, manufacturing, sales, consumption and ending with decisions on recovery.” (EPA (2023) Sustainable Management of Food. (<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/sustainable-management-food-basics>))

Dutchess County Government offers the purchase of compost bin/aerator unit on their Department of Solid Waste Management website at (<https://dutchessny.gov/DutchessCountyOnlinePurchases/WasteManagement/PurchaseCompostBins>).



According to the EPA, the following terms are used to describe food that has value as a resource to help address climate change, environmental justice, help businesses and consumers save money, reduce greenhouse gases and provide access to food for those who do not have enough to eat:

- **Wasted Food-** food that is not used for its intended purpose and can refer to both excess food and food waste
- **Excess Food** (or surplus food)- food that is donated to feed people
- **Food Waste-** food not ultimately consumed that is discarded or recycled, spoiled food or food parts that are inedible.
- **Food Loss-** unused product from the agricultural sector such as unharvested crops.

The United States Department of Agriculture offers grants to municipalities to develop, plan and implement composting and food waste reduction plans (<https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/coop-agreements>).

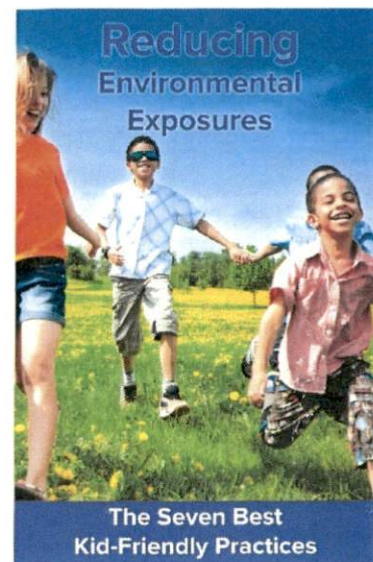
The Town of Dover, in partnership with the Town’s Conservation Advisory Council, could implement the following recommendations to foster equity in community-based food recovery, recycling and reducing food waste:

- inform and educate residents and business about the terminology of sustainable food management and benefits for those in need, the community, natural environment and the planet.
- host free public meetings and workshops to promote composting, reducing food waste, nutrition classes focused on reducing food waste, tending home and community gardens and encourage residents to participate in local community-supported agriculture.
- cultivate partnerships with environmental organizations, farms and entities that may be interested in offering composting and assisting residents with food rescue programs.
- adopt municipal legislation and purchasing policies that promotes sustainable management of food (State Senator Michelle Hinchey’s Good Food Purchasing Program <https://www.chronogram.com/river-newsroom/rethinking-how-new-york-buys-food-18194542>) and
- collaborate with local food-serving businesses, schools and nonprofit agencies and offer municipal resources to implement a community-based food rescue programs.

Fostering Equity in Reducing Exposures to Environmental Toxins

According to the website, EcoWatch, environmental toxins (with enough concentration) can expose people to cancer, cardiovascular, endocrine and respiratory illness and lead to chronic illness (Leonard, L. Ecowatch. (2022) Environmental Toxins 101: Everything You Need to Know, www.ecowatch.com). The article elaborates on these facts about environmental toxins:

- toxins are not just human-made; they can occur naturally in the environment like arsenic, lead, mercury, radon, formaldehyde, benzene and cadmium
- other sources of natural toxins are found in mushrooms, venom and microscopic algae
- not all levels of toxin exposure are harmful and are dependent on the route of exposure, rate, duration, frequency, total dose and type of hazard



- accumulation of toxins that end up in the body is called “body burden”
- marginalized communities are disproportionately affected by environmental toxins
- environmental toxins can occur in the air, in water and food and in households
- a key driver of disproportionate exposure to environmental toxins is structural racism.

Some examples of environmental toxins that affect air quality include particulate matter, ozone, dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), BPAs and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs). Environmental toxins in households may include volatile organic compounds found in paints, cleaners, sprays, personal care products, air fresheners, pesticides, new furniture and floor. Heavy metals such as aluminum, lead, cadmium and mercury can be found in rugs, carpets, pots and pans, beauty products and old paint residue. Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) may be found in electronics, plastics, textiles and building materials.

The New York State Department of Health’s 2018 publication, “Reducing Environmental Exposures: The Seven Best Kid-Friendly Practices” recommends the following ways to reduce general exposure to environmental toxins:

- 1) reduce exposure to chemical by keeping them out of your surrounds whenever possible.
- 2) make conscious choices to choose products with less toxic alternatives where possible; choose not to use certain products (such as air fresheners, deodorizers, candles, hair spray and eating fish that are less contaminated).
- 3) ventilate a home when using chemicals or other contaminants.
- 4) wash hands, fruits, vegetables, toys and home surfaces to reduce chemical exposures
- 5) keep children from getting near products that contain hazardous substances while the product is in use or storage.
- 6) look for potential sources of environmental toxins in and around the home and fix any problems before they start.
- 7) parents should talk with their pediatrician about a child’s potential radiation exposure from computed tomography procedures and

- 8) pregnant women should talk with their physicians about some environmental exposures that are of special concern during pregnancy.

While this list of best practices focuses on reducing risks of environmental toxins exposures for children, these ideas are equally applicable to other social groups including individuals who are age 65 and older, those with chronic health issues, families that live in homes and apartments that were painted before 1978 (when lead paint was banned from residential use). Since research has also found that people who live in marginalized communities are at disproportionate risk, these practices are also important for communities to share and advocate on behalf of individuals and families who are economically-disadvantaged, who experience discrimination related to race, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, physical ability or language.

The Town of Dover can help promote equity in reducing exposures to environmental toxins by:

- identifying, preparing and providing public information and communicating with at-risk individuals and families about the dangers of environmental toxins through municipal resources including the Town’s website, cable TV channel, printed brochures, public meetings and sharing resources with local family support organizations
- notifying county, state and federal authorities about potential environmental polluters
- empowering town officials with building and code enforcement responsibilities to be vigilant in prohibiting the use of products that pose environmental risks in land use projects as well as commercial and residents construction projects
- encouraging residents to arrange for professional environmental tests of water, air and soil if they suspect the presence of toxins in their homes or businesses
- assisting residents and their families from historically and socially marginalized groups in the community to work with county and state health departments if they suspect their homes or apartments have environmental toxins or their health issues may have possible linkage to a harmful environmental-based exposure
- promoting using “green” and non-toxic products for household needs in place of cleaners, personal care products, plastics and building materials that may put residents and families at potential risk for toxin-related exposures.



PART VI: Strategies for Community Engagement

What is Community Engagement?

According to the National Institutes of Health, “community engagement” is

the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of people. It is a powerful vehicle for bringing about environmental and behavioral changes that will improve the health of the community and its members.

<https://www.nih.gov/health-information/nih-clinical-research-trials-you/community-engagement>

Through the years, Town of Dover residents have periodically organized to raise awareness about important community and environment-related issues: over the past decades, organizations such as Dover Residents United against Mining (DRUMs), the Coalition for the Responsible Growth of Dover. In recent years, Solutions for a Better Dover have all garnered grassroots involvement on development-related issues that were of timely public interest. Implementation of action items outlined in this sustainability will require establishing a strong municipal-community partnership to help achieve meaningful outcomes of environmental and behavioral changes that not only connect Dover residents across diverse demographic characteristics, but also across time to future generations. While Town of Dover Town Board is vested with official responsibility and leadership to implement this sustainability chapter, community engagement will be the linchpin of the Town’s ability to achieve goals that, as articulated in the chapter’s definition of sustainability will “protect its (Dover’s) essence so that what we treasure most will remain for years to come.”

Before presenting specific ways that Dover can emulate ideas other communities have utilized to engage residents toward achieving sustainability goals, a brief discussion of the term, “ecological identity” follows. We will begin with a short discussion about the underlying purpose of cultivating community engagement for insights about effective ways to foster and fortify it.

In *Ecology and Identity*, Richard Borden (1986) asserts the

study of ecology leads to changes in identity and psychological perspective, and can provide the foundations for an ‘ecological identity’- a reframing of a person’s point of view which restructures values, reorganizes perceptions and alters the individual’s self-directed, social and environmentally-directed actions.

How might cultivating residents’ ecological identity promote stronger community engagement? In contrast to conducting community outreach to raise awareness and educate about action of greater environmental sustainability, many of the action items identified for implementation in this chapter require ongoing efforts (and opportunities for reflection) by municipal leaders and residents for long-term success. For example, the proposed sustainability

action item, "Develop a food rescue program to collect and distribute gleaned (leftover) crops and store donations" in the sustainability focus area of "Promote Local Food Systems" is a worthy example to demonstrate the connection between ecological identity, community engagement and meaningful environmentally-directed actions. This next section will briefly discuss how cognitive reframing of some tacit assumptions about leftover food from "waste" to a "sustainability resource" could offer a building block of self-knowledge in cultivating one's ecological identity.

Reframing, in short, is a mental or cognitive process of consciously adjusting one's mindset to one less engrained in a standard repertoire of responses and more inclusive of the broader scope and breathe of an event or situation. To some, a useful analogy is "seeing the glass half-full rather than half-empty." In terms of our example, "leftovers" is a term that commonly refers to food considered waste, "scraps," excess or undesirable portions of a meal, recipe or crop harvest. In order to promote community engagement about developing a food rescue program to collect and distribute gleaned (leftover) crops and store donations, helping residents reframe their perception of leftovers from a negative connotation to a more positive one can help begin the process of cultivating ecological identity. Reframing one's perceptions of experiences and events in non-threatening life situations may help reinforce future tendencies to use reframing as a coping skill that with time and continued use, may generalize to life skill and frame of reference.

Reframing, which is a learning process more often observable on a personal or interactional level, is essentially a microcosm of how community engagement can help municipal leaders and residents collectively cultivate an ecological identity that will moves the Town of Dover community toward meaningful and long-term goals of sustainability. The following section explores some strategies from other NYS communities to promote community engagement that are recommended for the Town of Dover to consider.

Strategies to Achieve Municipal Sustainability Goals

To date, the Town of Dover's Conservation Advisory Council has played an invaluable role in launching the Climate Smart Dover Task Force and assisting municipal leaders with oversight and benchmarking of action items that have achieved laudable milestones of NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities bronze-level certification and NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities designation. However, for the Town of Dover to implement more advanced-level actions items proposed in this sustainability chapter, it will require more concentrated focus of a dedicated group, staff person or regional organization to design, develop and coordinate events, projects and programs that will lead to measurable outcomes of increased sustainability. The following community engagement recommendations of establishing a stand-alone community-based Climate Smart Dover Task Force, instituting a municipal position of Sustainability Coordinator, and facilitating the creation of a Sustainable Dutchess organization will follow.

To date, the Town of Dover's Conservation Advisory Council has played an invaluable role in launching the Climate Smart Dover Task Force and assisting municipal leaders with oversight and benchmarking of action items that have achieved laudable milestones of NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities bronze-level certification and NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities designation. However, for the Town of Dover to implement more advanced-level actions items

proposed in this sustainability chapter, it will require more concentrated focus of a dedicated group, staff person or regional organization to design, develop and coordinate events, projects and programs that will lead to measurable outcomes of increased sustainability. The following community engagement recommendations are presented for consideration: 1) establish a municipal-community sustainability-focused organization, Sustainable Dover; 2) establish a municipal position of Town of Dover sustainability coordinator; and 3) Help convene and create a countywide "Sustainable Dutchess" organization.

Establish a Municipal-Community Sustainability-Focused Organization: "Sustainable Dover"

Conservation Advisory Councils (CAC) are often the committees that initially help municipalities register, select and implement action items toward the goal of achieving Climate Smart Communities (CSC) certification. In 2016, the Town of Dover's CAC helped town officials register for the CSC Certification Program and assisted with preparing a NYS Consolidated Funding Application to complete four CSC priority action items (a natural resource inventory, town-wide road-stream crossing inventory, a Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan, and Climate Resiliency Planning Checklist). In 2017, the Town received a \$40,000 CSC Certification grant and established the Climate Smart Dover Task Force, a corollary organization with the same membership. Over the next four years, the CAC/Climate Smart Dover Task Force met monthly and with support of town officials and grant-funded consultants, the Town completed 128 action item points and earned bronze-level CSC certification points in September 2020. The preparation of this sustainability chapter is a project funded in part by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

It is our recommendation that the Town of Dover consider establishing a new municipal-community partnership organization focused on setting and achieving annual goals of action items presented in this sustainability chapter. Town of Dover Government should play a leadership role in creating, hosting and supporting the new organization's goals with dedicated annual funding and in-kind municipal support with clerical and municipal-related assistance. Potential members of the new organization may include, but not be limited to:

- a town board member to serve as liaison to the organization and provide regular updates at Town Board meetings
- Conservation Advisory Council and Climate Smart Dover Task Force member
- local farmers or producers
- interested town residents and those who have interest in environmental protection
- town business owners
- an environmental science teacher
- high school students
- representative(s) from county or regional environmental protection agencies
- Dutchess County soil and water conservation staff person
- Dutchess County Transportation Council staff person
- member of a local community service organization

- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County staff person
- Town of Dover staff person to assist with clerical and municipal-related assistance.

The City of Ithaca established “Sustainable Ithaca” and in 2014, the City and Town of Ithaca hired a shared sustainability coordinator. Among their efforts is the Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative, an award-winning climate action and clean energy coalition comprised of community leaders and activists from the education, business, local government and nonprofits sectors (<https://www.tccpi.org/>).

The Town of Southampton 400+ Sustainability Element, published in 2013, has long been the model and inspiration for the Town of Dover’s initial interest in sustainability in particular, their focus on the importance of community education and literacy and “triple bottom line” of the approach to sustainable development that looks at each action from the standpoint of economic, social (equity) and environmental benefits.

On the NYS Climate Smart Communities website’s list of CSC certification actions (<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/#close>) Pledge Element 6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements provides links to additional resources and best practices that include the City of Albany, Town of Cortlandt and Buffalo.

Create a Municipal Position of Town of Dover Sustainability Coordinator

Another recommendation to help advance implementation of the goals of this sustainability chapter is to create the municipal position of town sustainability coordinator. A visionary example of this position is currently implemented in the City of Kingston, NY (<https://kingston.ny.gov/Sustainability>). In 2005, Kingston established a municipal Sustainability Department with goals to educate the public about the local environment, coordinate sustainability projects among and between municipal departments and help solve environmental issues while saving taxpayer dollars and leveraging public and private investments. The initial investment in a part-time sustainability coordinator position would also afford the opportunity for Dover to find, prepare and submit county, state and federal grants for sustainability-related projects that could be environmentally beneficial and cost-saving for both the municipality and residents. With support of a town sustainability coordinator, the Town could apply for grant opportunities to assist with these action items proposed in Sustainability Implementation Plan:

- additional NYS Climate Smart Communities certification grants and NYSERDA Clean Energy Community funds for completion of High Impact Actions
- infrastructure grants for restoration and expansion of town sidewalks to improve walkability of town hamlets
- recreation and parkland funds to improve access to the Ten Mile River for fishing access and local tourism
- Hudson River Valley Greenway grants for smart growth planning and environmental education
- local foundations for children’s and community-based environmental education
- county and state economic development funds to create a year-round farmers’ market

- NYS DEC Zero Emission Vehicle (governmental) purchase rebates and infrastructure grants
- NYSERDA Charge Ready NY EV charging station rebates
- community solar campaigns that target low-to-moderate income residents
- community development block grants to improve town emergency facilities (i.e., heating and cooling centers).

A town sustainability coordinator could also share responsibility with elected town leaders for facilitating the Sustainable Dover organization to involve residents in planning and decision-making on the development of annual sustainability project goals. The City of Kingston has demonstrated the tremendous potential that employing a sustainability coordinator (and department) can make in achieving goals that could advance Dover’s goal of measurable and meaning improvements to local sustainability by years.

Help Convene and Create a “Sustainable Dutchess” Organization

Within the broader NYS “Climate Smart” ecosystem, visionary nonprofit organizations such as Sustainable Hudson Valley, Sustainable Westchester and Sustainable Putnam are leading the way to teach and help municipalities implement innovative programs to advance local sustainability goals. At the August 16, 2023 Hudson Valley Regional Council’s (HVRC) “Community Campaign Update Webinar, guest speakers included Dr. Melissa Everett, Executive Director of Sustainable Hudson Valley and a representative from Sustainable Putnam shared their knowledge and expertise along with resources provided by HVRC Clean Energy Communities Coordinators. In Dutchess County, Cornell Cooperative Extension has been an informal leader in their role to support municipal Conservation Advisory Councils and Environmental Management Councils by convening annual meetings assisting county residents with information and enrollment in energy assistance programs.

A third recommendation to advance Dover’s sustainability goals is to help facilitate the creation of a “Sustainable Dover” nonprofit organization by convening fellow municipal officials, Dutchess County government and environmentally-driven nonprofit leaders and interested community members to collaborate in supporting municipalities with sustainability goals. Websites for Sustainable Westchester (<https://sustainablewestchester.org/>) and Sustainable Putnam (<https://sustainableputnam.org/>) provide valuable information on their missions, programs, events and resources that could be replicated or customized for implementation in Dutchess County. Currently in Dutchess, there are five registered Climate Smart Communities (CSC) villages (Millbrook, Millerton, Red Hook, Tivoli and Wappingers Falls, eight registered townships (Amenia, LaGrange, Pawling, Pine Plains, Rhinebeck, Stanford, Wappingers and Washington), one Bronze-level CSC certified village (Village of Rhinebeck), five Bronze-level CSC certified communities (Dover, Hyde Park, North East, Red Hook and Union Vale) and Silver-level CSC certified city (City of Beacon). Among benefits that a Sustainable Dutchess organization could offer through online, print and interactive web-based resources, this organization could also help Dover and other communities design and implement these advanced-level sustainability-focused initiatives:

- assist registered CSC communities to achieve Bronze-level certification
- collaborate on Clean Energy Communities community solar campaigns
- piggyback contracts on municipal ZEV vehicle purchases and rebates
- share resources on upgrading municipal streetlight districts to LED fixtures
- provide technical assistance to fellow municipalities about energy benchmarking
- co-sponsor county-Hosted NYSEERDA Clean Energy Communities campaigns.

The Town of Dover has much to be proud of through the dedicated efforts of its Town Board and staff, the Town of Dover Conservation Advisory Council and Climate Smart Dover Task Force, and achievement of Bronze-level Climate Smart Communities certification and Clean Energy Communities designation. The preparation of this sustainability chapter as a supplement to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update is also an important milestone demonstrating the Town's commitment to our residents' charge "to sustain the beauty, culture and history of Dover and protect its essence so that what we treasure most will remain for generations to come."

In the Epilogue of "Ecological Identity: Becoming a Reflective Environmentalist," Mitchell Thomashow concludes a masterful book-length discussion of ecological voice, evolution, citizenship, healing and identity with the enigmatic statement: "Ecological identity is a way of saying grace." From that space of gratitude, we conclude with these heartfelt words of thanks:

- we extend our sincere appreciation to the NYS DEC's Office of Climate Change and Climate Program Analysts Oliver Riley and Myra Fedyniak for their technical assistance and administration of this grant project to develop a sustainability chapter, funded in part by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- with heartfelt thanks to the Town of Dover's Conservation Advisory Council and Climate Smart Dover Task Force members: Evan van Hook, Debra Kaufman, Gregory Mendenhall, Janet Pickering and Tamar Roman for their dedication to the environmental and ecological health and well-being of Dover and its residents today and for generations to come
- with immense gratitude to the Town of Dover's Comprehensive Plan Update Committee for their time and commitment in preparing the Update from which this sustainability chapter's action items were derived and
- with humble gratitude to all Dover residents for the privilege to serve you as town leaders and stewards of this scenic and resilient townscape that we know and love as the Town of Dover.

"There is no place like home."

L. Frank Baum, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

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Appendix

Attachment 1

**“Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the
Town of Dover’s Comprehensive Plan Update” Online Community Survey**

Attachment 2

**“Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the
Town of Dover’s Comprehensive Plan Update Survey Results
(SurveyMonkey Report)**

Attachment 3

**Excel Spreadsheet of the Town of Dover Sustainability
Action Items Implementation Matrix**

Appendix 1



2023 Town of Dover "Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update"

Dear Town of Dover Resident,

We invite you to complete this survey to help the Town add a sustainability chapter (supplement) to our recently-adopted Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU).

The Town received a NYS DEC grant to prepare this resource that aligns Comprehensive Plan action items with the Town's efforts to achieve NYS Climate Smart Communities Silver-Level Certification.

Your input and assistance completing this survey is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the Dover Town Clerk's Office at (845) 832-6111 Ext. 112 or by email at townclerk@dovernj.us.

1. Please read the definitions of **sustainability** listed below and select one definition you feel the Town of Dover should use to define the term in the Sustainability Chapter.

- meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- to sustain the beauty, culture and history of Dover and protect its essence so that what we treasure most will remain for generations to come
- to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in harmony to support present and future generations
- a systematic approach to economic responsibility and environmental stewardship to achieve efficient conservation of resources in local government operations

3. Please read the Comprehensive Plan Update's **land use goals** listed below and then rank them by importance with "1" as a top priority and ending with "5" as the lowest priority

	1	2	3	4	5
develop a Ten Mile River River recreational access plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
prepare a Town Land Use Map that aligns with Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
amend zoning code to include renewable/alternative energy uses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
revise zoning with incentives to farmers so they can maintain large tracts of land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote open space and agricultural soil protection including Transfer of Development Rights and Conservation Easements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Please read the **hamlet-related land use zoning recommendations** and rank their importance to you using "1" as most important to town positive growth to "5" as least important.

	1	2	3	4	5
construct central sewer systems in Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
develop incentives for businesses to locate in the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
support economic growth within hamlet areas to preserve historic character and increase viability for local storefronts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
infill vacant retail and residential buildings in hamlets and along Route 22	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
explore viability of a walking/bike path that connects Dover Plains and Wingdale	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Please read the Comprehensive Plan Update's **conservation of natural resources goals** listed below and then rank them by importance with "1" as top priority and ending with "5" as lowest priority

	1	2	3	4	5
provide access to the Ten Mile and Swamp Rivers and promote them as attractions for residents and tourists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
add protections for ridgelines and scenic vistas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
review and update the Town's steep slope protection ordinance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
prepare a list of naturally significant resources and attractions into a comprehensive map for ecotourism and environmentally-based businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
continue to protect primary aquifers and recharge areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Please rank the **community resources** goals listed below with "1" as a top priority and ending with to "6" as the lowest priority.

	1	2	3	4	5
offer community garden space for residents to plant vegetables and flowers and provide shared harvest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote stewardship of the Dover Stone Church by training volunteers and adding signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
offer community events on sustainability (energy efficiency, recycling and reuse, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of renewable energy sources)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
develop marketing strategies to advertise community resources and infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
expand use town facilities and offer new programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Please read all the definitions of "**Equity**" listed below and then select one that the Town should use to define equity in Sustainability Chapter.

- Equity is the intentional inclusion of everyone in society.
- Equity is trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full and healthy lives.
- Equity is a systematic approach to embed fairness in decision-making processes and redress inequities that serve as barriers to equal opportunity.
- Equity is the fair return of benefits or outcomes received in proportion to one's inputs compared with those engaged in a comparable activities.
- Equity is fair treatment, access, opportunity and advancement of all people while striving to identify and eliminate barriers that prevent full participation of some.

8. Read the following ideas and choose any to all that you think Dover should explore to **promote our local food systems?**

- subsidize creation of a year-round farmer's market for local farms for public shopping and/or home delivery
- develop a food rescue program to collect and distribute gleaned (leftover) crops and store donations
- offer town-sponsored community garden plots for residents at town parks
- provide recreation program workshops and classes on healthy eating and meal preparation

9. Read the water conservation options below and select any to all that you think Dover should explore to **protect water quality and promote water conservation?**

- establish a Town Water Committee to develop a town-wide water protection and conservation plan
- provide free community workshops on household water conservation measures (i.e., water smart landscaping, rainwater harvesting)
- explore enrollment in the NYS DEC's Drinking Water Source Protection Program
- provide town businesses with EPA's Water Sense at Work recommendations during annual inspections

10. If you would like to review and provide feedback on the Town's draft Sustainability Chapter, please include your name and email address in the textbox below. Thank you!

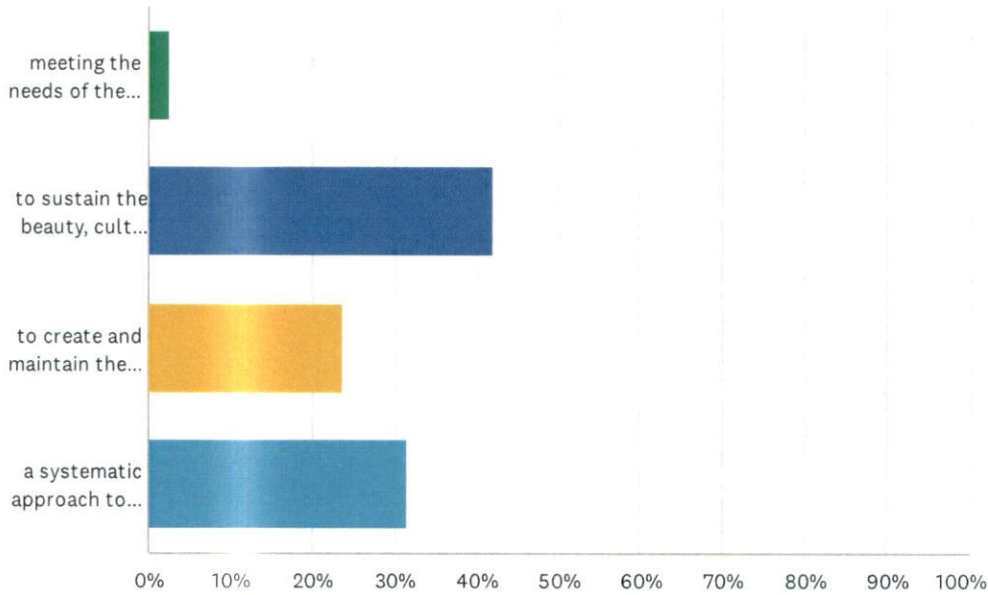
11. **This project has been funded in part by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.**

Appendix 2

2023 Town of Dover "Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update"

Q1 Please read the definitions of sustainability listed below and select one definition you feel the Town of Dover should use to define the term in the Sustainability Chapter.

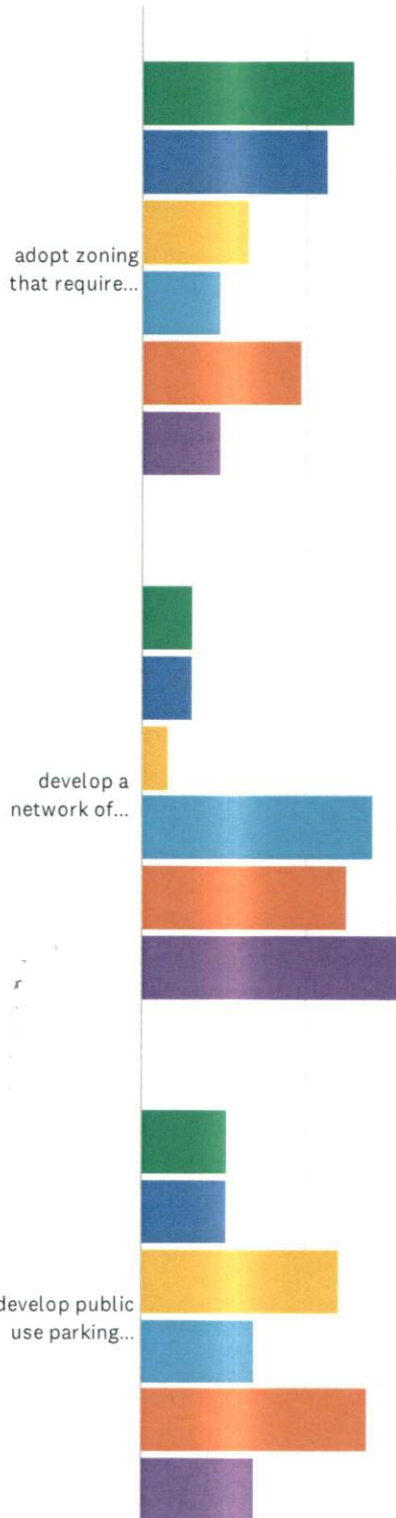
Answered: 38 Skipped: 0



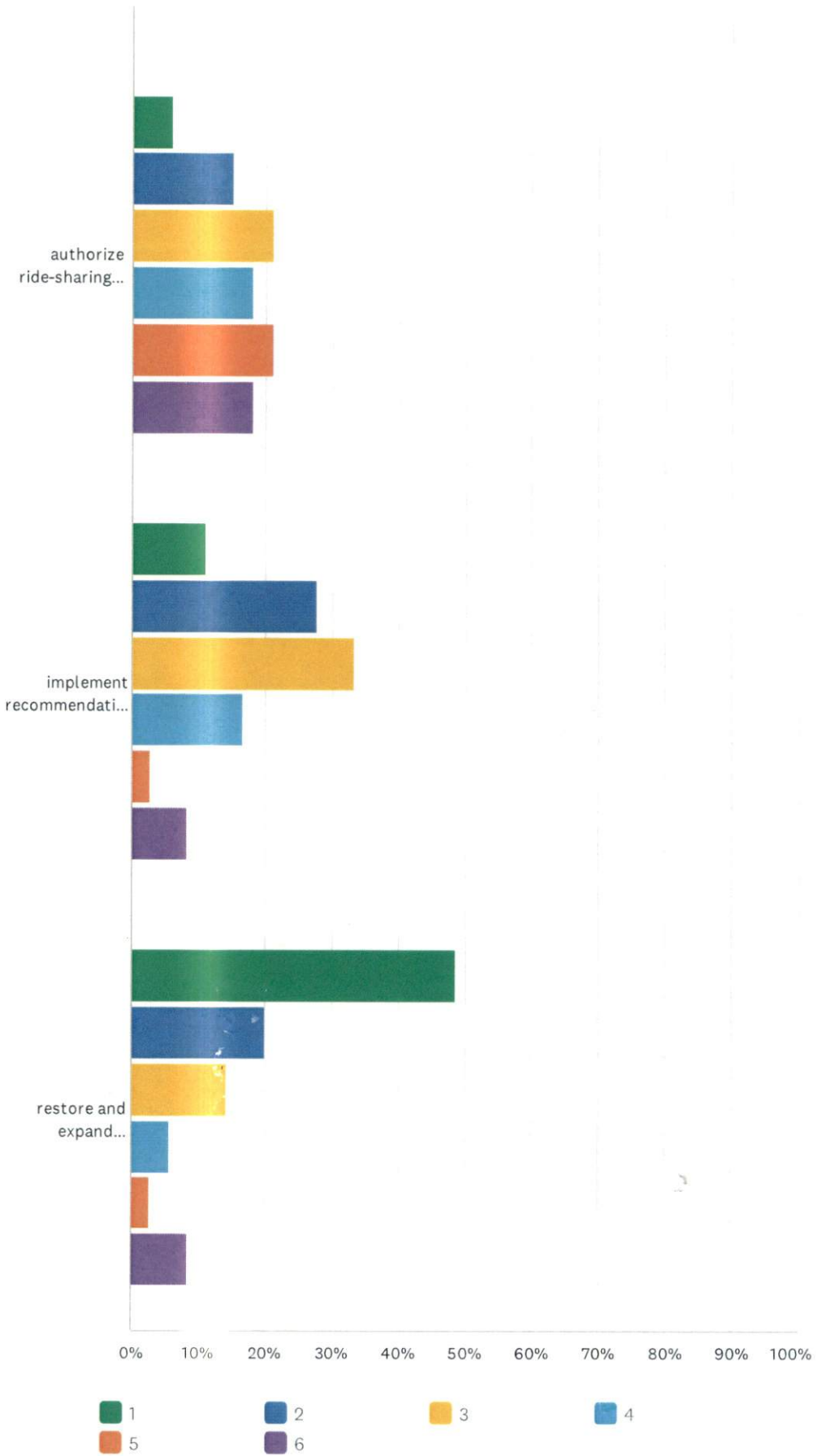
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs	2.63% 1
to sustain the beauty, culture and history of Dover and protect its essence so that what we treasure most will remain for generations to come	42.11% 16
to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in harmony to support present and future generations	23.68% 9
a systematic approach to economic responsibility and environmental stewardship to achieve efficient conservation of resources in local government operations	31.58% 12
TOTAL	38

Q2 Please read all the Comprehensive Plan Update transportation goals listed below and then rank them by importance with "1" as top priority and ending with "6" as lowest priority.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 0



2023 Town of Dover "Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update"

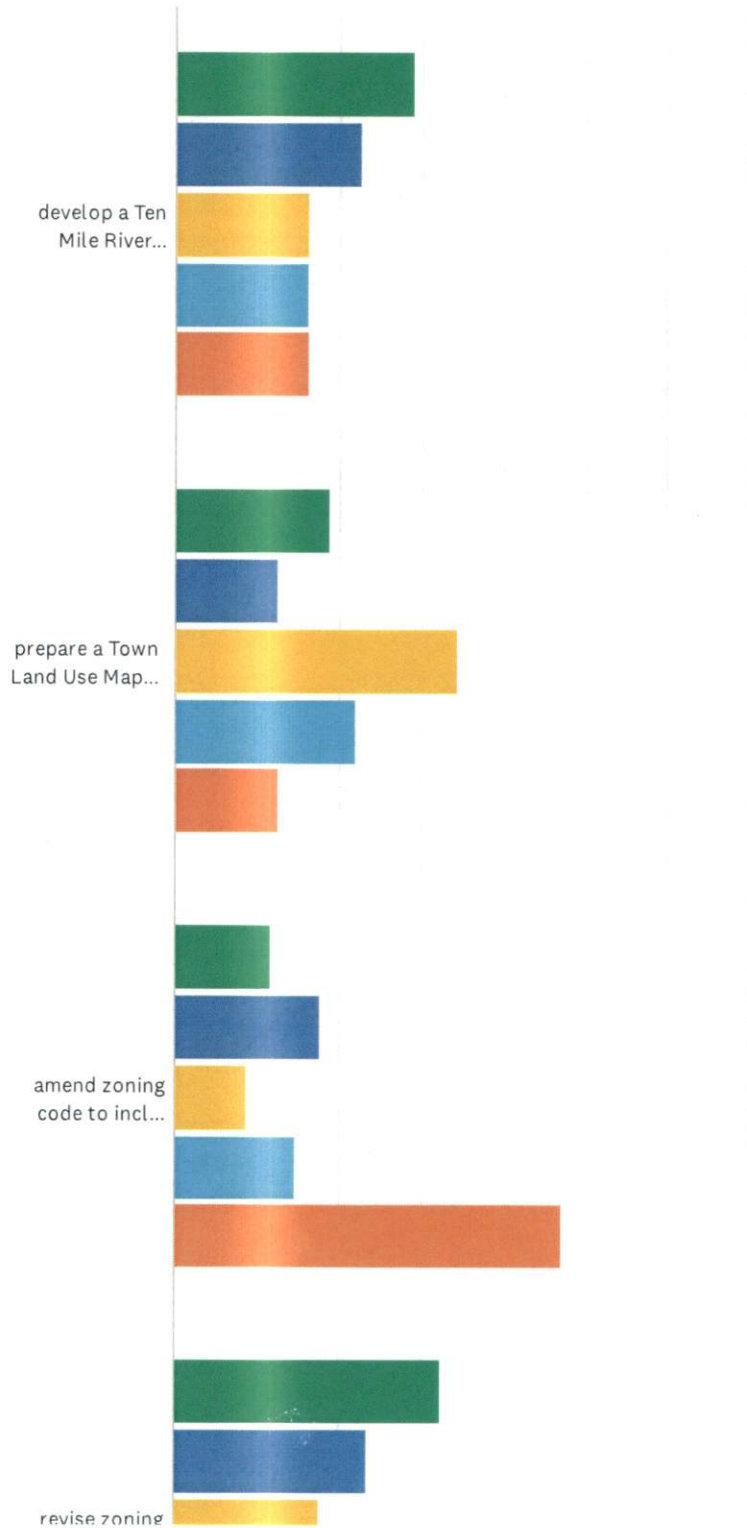


2023 Town of Dover "Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update"

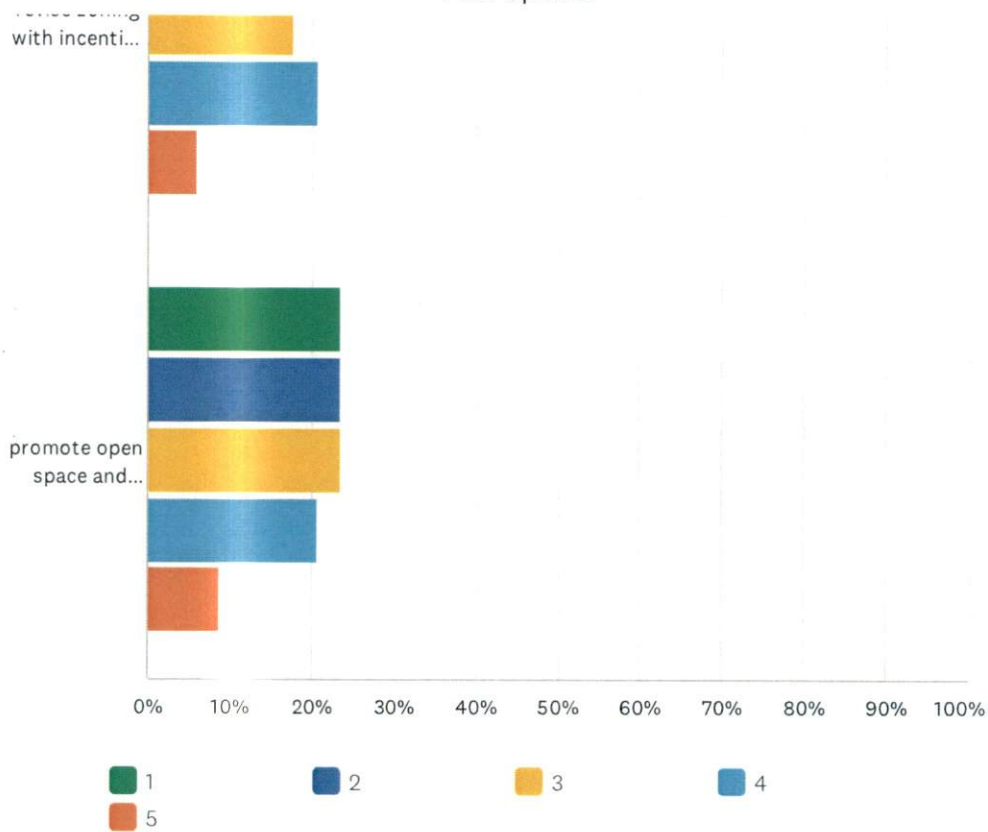
	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
adopt zoning that requires future public and private projects include transportation options for people of all ages and abilities	25.81% 8	22.58% 7	12.90% 4	9.68% 3	19.35% 6	9.68% 3	31	3.03
develop a network of electric vehicle-charging stations along Route 22	6.25% 2	6.25% 2	3.13% 1	28.13% 9	25.00% 8	31.25% 10	32	4.53
develop public use parking within the hamlet areas	10.34% 3	10.34% 3	24.14% 7	13.79% 4	27.59% 8	13.79% 4	29	3.79
authorize ride-sharing services such as Uber, Lyft and Zipcar	6.06% 2	15.15% 5	21.21% 7	18.18% 6	21.21% 7	18.18% 6	33	3.88
implement recommendations in the "Route 22 Opportunities Study" (economic development plan)	11.11% 4	27.78% 10	33.33% 12	16.67% 6	2.78% 1	8.33% 3	36	2.97
restore and expand sidewalks within the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets	48.57% 17	20.00% 7	14.29% 5	5.71% 2	2.86% 1	8.57% 3	35	2.20

Q3 Please read the Comprehensive Plan Update's land use goals listed below and then rank them by importance with "1" as a top priority and ending with "5" as the lowest priority

Answered: 38 Skipped: 0



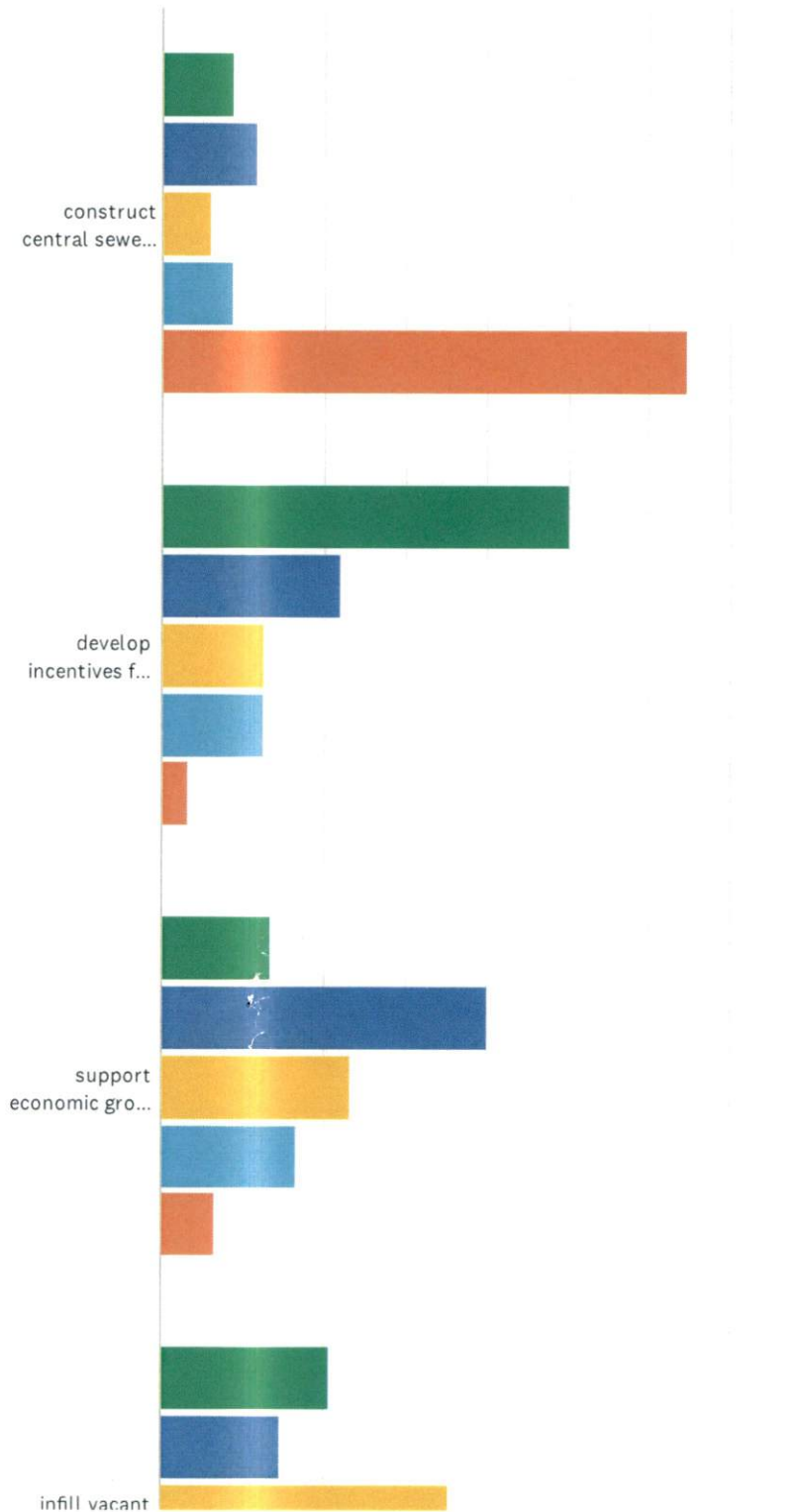
2023 Town of Dover "Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update"



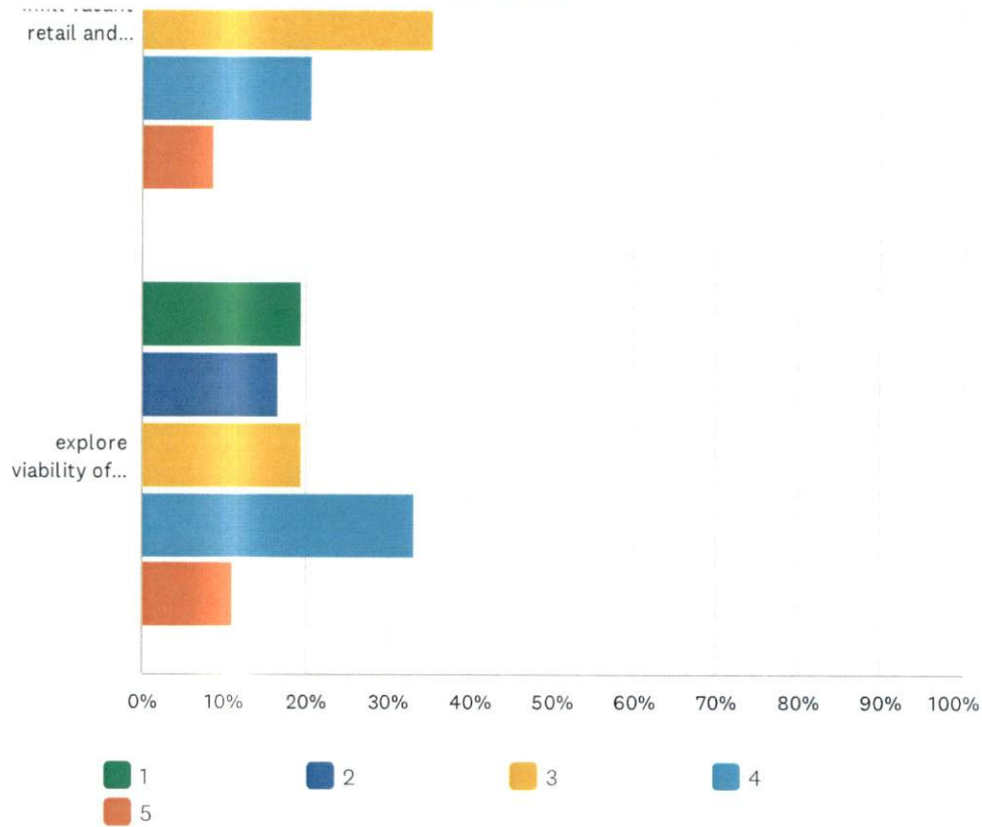
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
develop a Ten Mile River River recreational access plan	29.03% 9	22.58% 7	16.13% 5	16.13% 5	16.13% 5	31	2.68
prepare a Town Land Use Map that aligns with Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives	18.75% 6	12.50% 4	34.38% 11	21.88% 7	12.50% 4	32	2.97
amend zoning code to include renewable/alternative energy uses	11.76% 4	17.65% 6	8.82% 3	14.71% 5	47.06% 16	34	3.68
revise zoning with incentives to farmers so they can maintain large tracts of land	32.35% 11	23.53% 8	17.65% 6	20.59% 7	5.88% 2	34	2.44
promote open space and agricultural soil protection including Transfer of Development Rights and Conservation Easements	23.53% 8	23.53% 8	23.53% 8	20.59% 7	8.82% 3	34	2.68

Q4 Please read the hamlet-related land use zoning recommendations and rank their importance to you using "1" as most important to town positive growth to "5" as least important.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 0



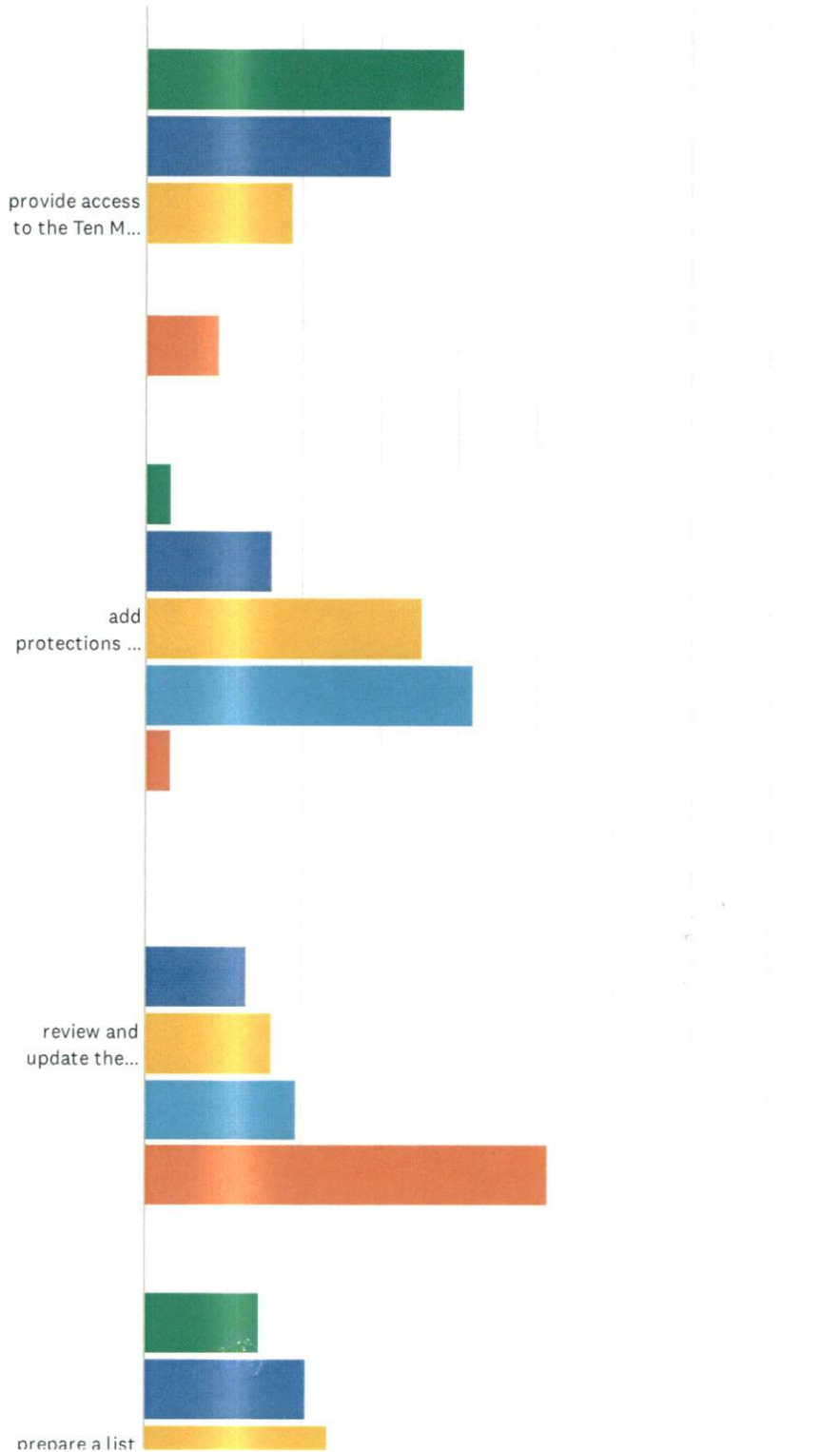
2023 Town of Dover "Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update"



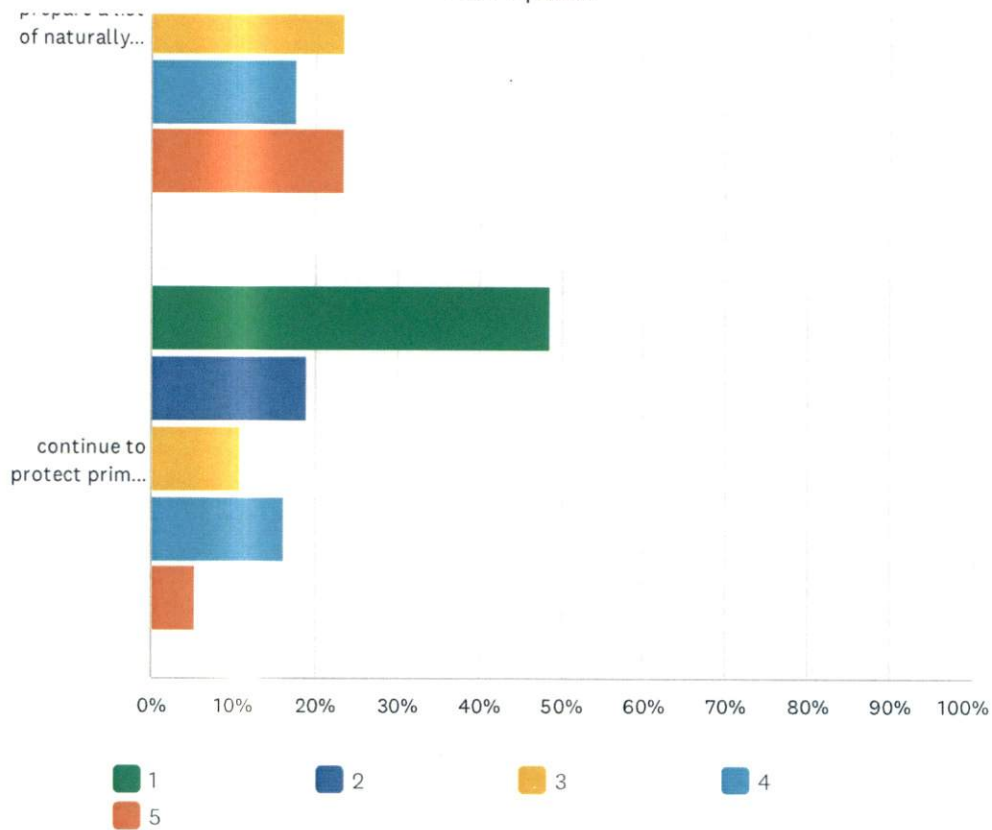
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
construct central sewer systems in Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets	8.82% 3	11.76% 4	5.88% 2	8.82% 3	64.71% 22	34	4.09
develop incentives for businesses to locate in the Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets	50.00% 16	21.88% 7	12.50% 4	12.50% 4	3.13% 1	32	1.97
support economic growth within hamlet areas to preserve historic character and increase viability for local storefronts	13.33% 4	40.00% 12	23.33% 7	16.67% 5	6.67% 2	30	2.63
infill vacant retail and residential buildings in hamlets and along Route 22	20.59% 7	14.71% 5	35.29% 12	20.59% 7	8.82% 3	34	2.82
explore viability of a walking/bike path that connects Dover Plains and Wingdale	19.44% 7	16.67% 6	19.44% 7	33.33% 12	11.11% 4	36	3.00

Q5 Please read the Comprehensive Plan Update's conservation of natural resources goals listed below and then rank them by importance with "1" as top priority and ending with "5" as lowest priority

Answered: 38 Skipped: 0



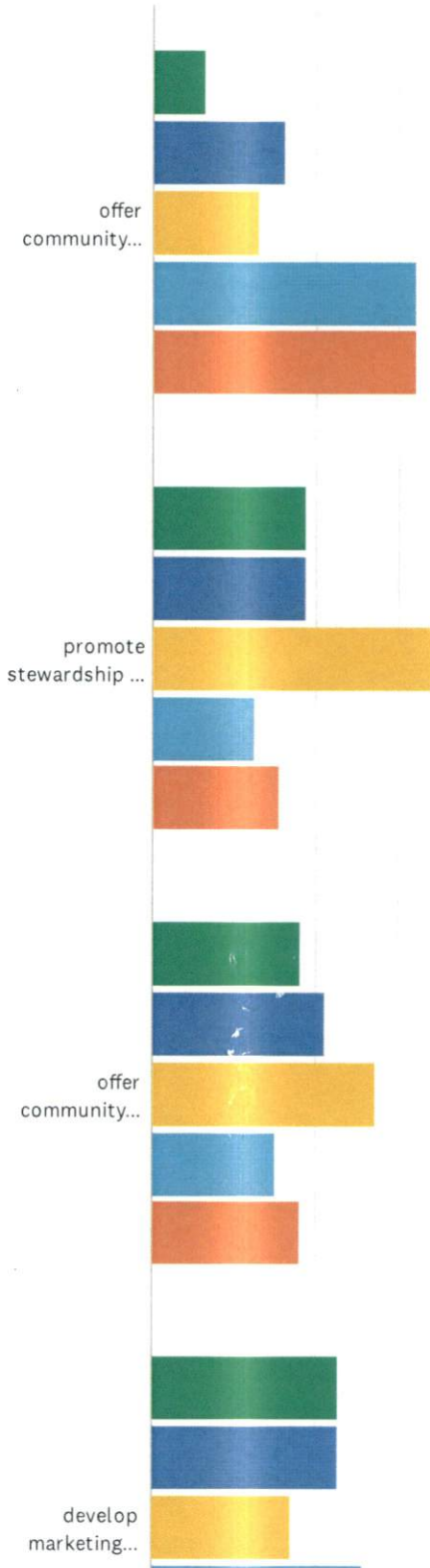
2023 Town of Dover "Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update"



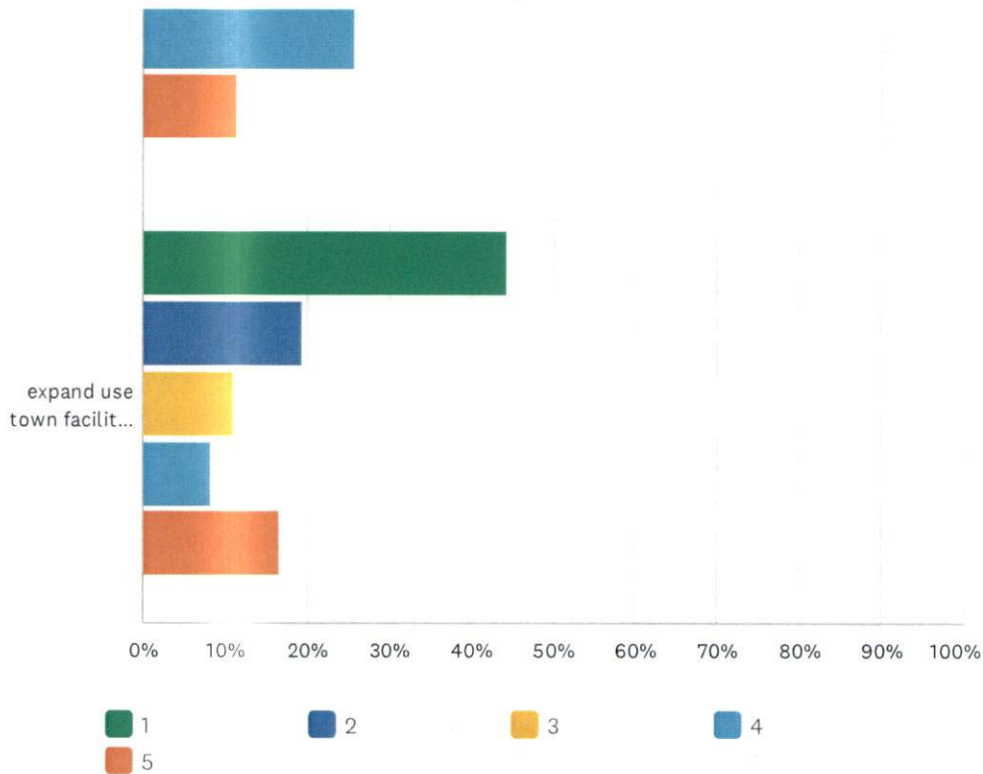
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
provide access to the Ten Mile and Swamp Rivers and promote them as attractions for residents and tourists	40.63% 13	31.25% 10	18.75% 6	0.00% 0	9.38% 3	32	2.06
add protections for ridgelines and scenic vistas	3.23% 1	16.13% 5	35.48% 11	41.94% 13	3.23% 1	31	3.26
review and update the Town's steep slope protection ordinance	0.00% 0	12.90% 4	16.13% 5	19.35% 6	51.61% 16	31	4.10
prepare a list of naturally significant resources and attractions into a comprehensive map for ecotourism and environmentally-based businesses	14.71% 5	20.59% 7	23.53% 8	17.65% 6	23.53% 8	34	3.15
continue to protect primary aquifers and recharge areas	48.65% 18	18.92% 7	10.81% 4	16.22% 6	5.41% 2	37	2.11

Q6 Please rank the community resources goals listed below with "1" as a top priority and ending with to "6" as the lowest priority.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 0



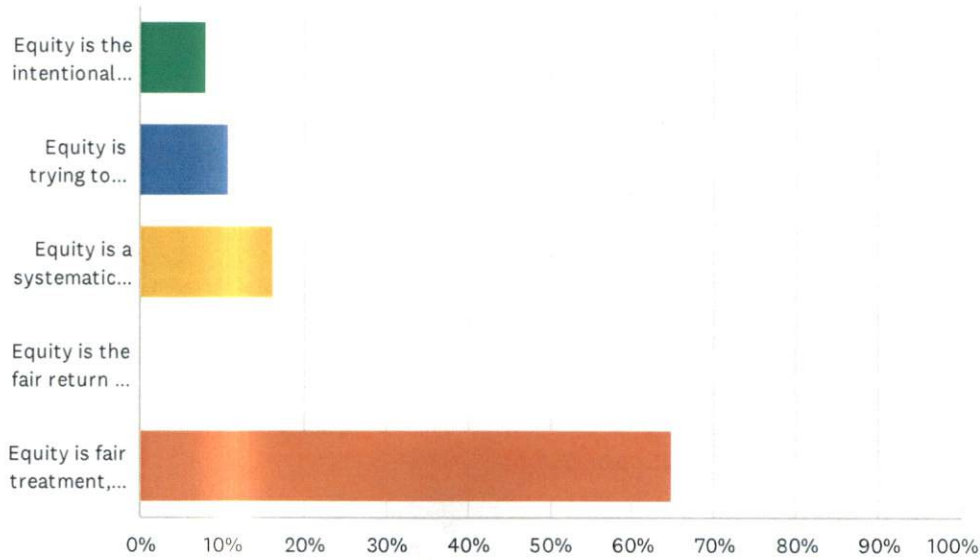
2023 Town of Dover "Your Valued Input on a Sustainability Chapter to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update"



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
offer community garden space for residents to plant vegetables and flowers and provide shared harvest	6.45% 2	16.13% 5	12.90% 4	32.26% 10	32.26% 10	31	3.68
promote stewardship of the Dover Stone Church by training volunteers and adding signage	18.75% 6	18.75% 6	34.38% 11	12.50% 4	15.63% 5	32	2.88
offer community events on sustainability (energy efficiency, recycling and reuse, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of renewable energy sources)	18.18% 6	21.21% 7	27.27% 9	15.15% 5	18.18% 6	33	2.94
develop marketing strategies to advertise community resources and infrastructure	22.86% 8	22.86% 8	17.14% 6	25.71% 9	11.43% 4	35	2.80
expand use town facilities and offer new programs	44.44% 16	19.44% 7	11.11% 4	8.33% 3	16.67% 6	36	2.33

Q7 Please read all the definitions of "Equity" listed below and then select one that the Town should use to define equity in Sustainability Chapter.

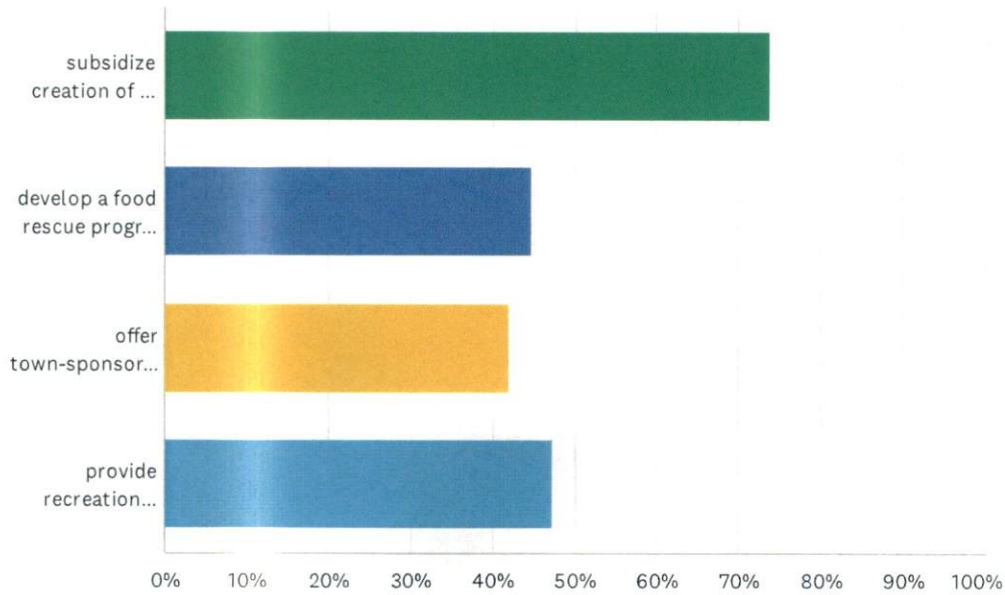
Answered: 37 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Equity is the intentional inclusion of everyone in society.	8.11% 3
Equity is trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full and healthy lives.	10.81% 4
Equity is a systematic approach to embed fairness in decision-making processes and redress inequities that serve as barriers to equal opportunity.	16.22% 6
Equity is the fair return of benefits or outcomes received in proportion to one's inputs compared with those engaged in a comparable activities.	0.00% 0
Equity is fair treatment, access, opportunity and advancement of all people while striving to identify and eliminate barriers that prevent full participation of some.	64.86% 24
TOTAL	37

Q8 Read the following ideas and choose any to all that you think Dover should explore to promote our local food systems?

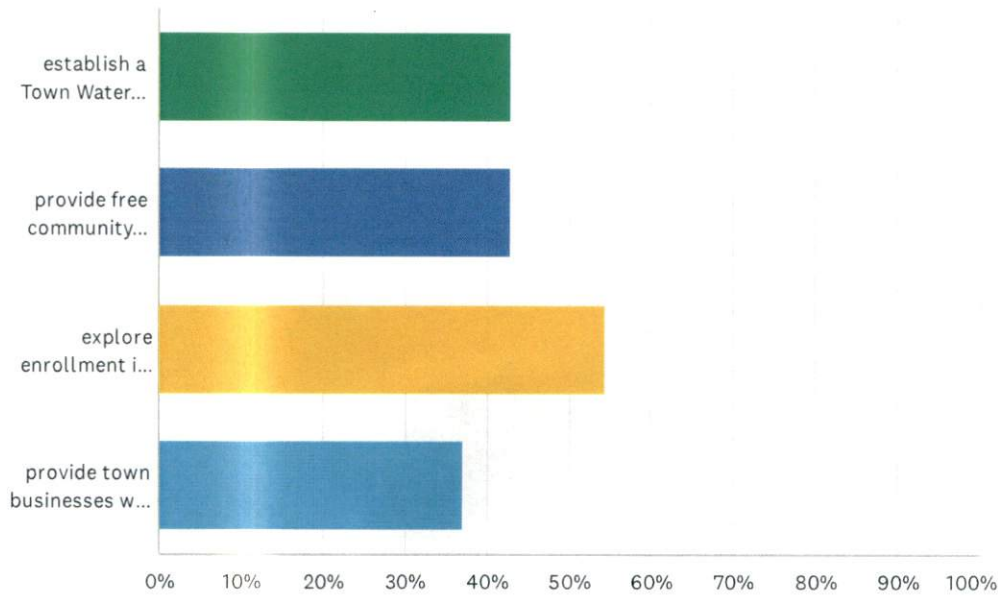
Answered: 38 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
subsidize creation of a year-round farmer's market for local farms for public shopping and/or home delivery	73.68% 28
develop a food rescue program to collect and distribute gleaned (leftover) crops and store donations	44.74% 17
offer town-sponsored community garden plots for residents at town parks	42.11% 16
provide recreation program workshops and classes on healthy eating and meal preparation	47.37% 18
Total Respondents: 38	

Q9 Read the water conservation options below and select any to all that you think Dover should explore to protect water quality and promote water conservation?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
establish a Town Water Committee to develop a town-wide water protection and conservation plan	42.86% 15
provide free community workshops on household water conservation measures (i.e., water smart landscaping, rainwater harvesting)	42.86% 15
explore enrollment in the NYS DEC's Drinking Water Source Protection Program	54.29% 19
provide town businesses with EPA's Water Sense at Work recommendations during annual inspections	37.14% 13
Total Respondents: 35	

Q10 If you would like to review and provide feedback on the Town's draft Sustainability Chapter, please include your name and email address in the textbox below. Thank you!

Answered: 2 Skipped: 36

Q11 This project has been funded in part by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Answered: 1 Skipped: 37

Tracking No./Priority	Sustainability Focus Area	Action Item	Mechanism for Implementation	Supporting Entities	Proposed Timeframe	3 E's
AMT-01	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Restore and expand sidewalks in town hamlets	Town Board	Town Highway/CDBG grants	1-3 yr.	***
AMT-02	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Zoning to include transportation options for people of all ages and abilities	Town Board	Town Board/Highway/NYS DOT	1 yr.	**
AMT-03	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Implement Route 22 Corridor Opportunities Analysis	Town Board	Town business owners, Planning Board, Dutchess County Planning	1 yr.	*
AMT-04	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Develop public use parking within hamlet areas	Town Board	Hamlet businesses and Land Owners	1-2 yrs.	**
AMT-05	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Authorize ride-sharing services Uber, Lyft and Zipcar	Town Board	Uber, Lyft and Zipcar, Town Residents	1 yr.	**
AMT-06	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Develop a network of electric vehicle-charging stations along Route 22	Town Board	Charge Ready NY grants, Town Businesses	1-3 yrs.	**
AMT-07	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Explore viability of walking/bike path to connect DP and Wingdale hamlets	Town Board	Highway, DC Planning Dept. CDBG grants	1-3 yrs.	***
AMT-08	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Continue to offer free children's bike safety trainings	Town Board	Dover Lions Club, Schools, Parents	1 yr.	**
AMT-09	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Continue to promote public transit through Northeast Dutchess Transit Service	Town Board	Residents, NE Dutchess Transit Program	1 yr.	*
AMT-10	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Implement Complete Streets Policies	Town Board	Businesses, Landowners, Residents	1-2 yrs.	**
AMT-11	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Upgrade pedestrian and bicycle access in DP and Wingdale hamlets	Town Board	Highway, NYSDOT, Metro North Railroad, hamlet businesses	1 yr.	**
SG-01	Smart Growth	Incentives to farmers to maintain large tracts of land	Town Board	Local Farmers	1-2 yrs.	**
SG-02	Smart Growth	Transfer of Development Rights and Conservation Easements	Town Board	Interested Land Owners	2-3 yrs.	*
SG-03	Smart Growth	Develop Ten Mile River recreational access plan	Town Board	Housatonic Valley Association, Town Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)	1-2 yrs.	**
SG-04	Smart Growth	Develop town land use map with CPU goals and objectives	Town Board	Conservation Advisory Council, Planning Board	1-2 yrs.	**
SG-05	Smart Growth	Amend zoning code to include renewable/alternative energy uses	Town Board	Conservation Advisory Council	2-4 yrs.	**
SG_Z-01	Smart Growth	Incentives for locating businesses in hamlets	Town Board	DC Industrial Development, DC Tourism, Historical Society, Businesses	1-2 yrs.	***
SG_Z-02	Smart Growth	Preserve historic character and increase viability for local storefronts	Town Board	Town Historical Society, Town Businesses	1-2 yrs.	*
SG_Z-03	Smart Growth	Infill vacant retail in hamlets and Route 22	Town Board	Hamlet Land Owners	2-4 yrs.	*
SG_Z-04	Smart Growth	Explore walking/bike path that connects hamlets	Town Board	Businesses and Land Owners	4+ yrs.	***
SG_Z-05	Smart Growth	Construct central sewers in Dover Plains and Wingdale	Town Board	DC Water and Wastewater, Local Businesses and Hamlet Residents	4+ years	*
SG_Z-06	Smart Growth	Preserve large tracts of forested, ag or mountainous land while increasing hamlet density and use	Town Board	CAC, Dutchess Land Conservancy, Housatonic Valley Association (HVA)	1-3 yrs.	**
CNA-01	Conserve Natural Areas	Promote Ten Mile and Swamp Rivers as attractions for tourism	Town Board	NYS DEC, Trouts Unlimited, Dutchess County Tourism	1-2 yrs.	**
CNA-02	Conserve Natural Areas	Protect primary aquifers and recharge areas	Town Board	Dutchess Land Conservancy, Dutchess Co. Soil and Water Conservation	2-4 yrs.	*
CNA-03	Conserve Natural Areas	Protect ridgelines and scenic vistas	Town Board	Planning Board, Conservation Advisory Council	1-2 yrs.	*
CNA-04	Conserve Natural Areas	List of significant natural resources for ecotourism and eco-businesses	Town Board	Conservation Advisory Council	1-2 yrs.	***
CNA-05	Conserve Natural Areas	Review/update steep slope protection ordinance	Town Board	Planning Board	1-2 yrs.	*
CNA-06	Conserve Natural Areas	Encourage habitat connectivity between large tracts of land	Town Board	Dutchess Land Conservancy, DC Planning	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-07	Conserve Natural Areas	Preserve large tracts of forested, ag or mountainous land while increasing hamlet density and use	Town Board	Dutchess Land Conservancy, DC Planning	1- 4+ yrs.	**
CNA-08	Conserve Natural Areas	Encourage developers, owners, others to work w/ conservation groups to preserve habitats/corridors	Town Board	Dutchess Land Conservancy, DC Planning	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-09	Conserve Natural Areas	Prohibit building new structures in flood zones and remove structures whenever possible	Town Board	Planning Board, Land Owners	1-4+ yrs.	*
CNA-10	Conserve Natural Areas	Regulate extractive uses to ensure water withdrawals are at sustainable levels	Town Board	Planning Board	1- 3 yrs.	*
CNA-11	Conserve Natural Areas	Avoid siting land uses with potential for contaminating soils/water and educate residents	Town Board	CAC, Dutchess Land Conservancy, HVA	1-3 yrs.	**
CNA-12	Conserve Natural Areas	Maintain broad buffer zones along streams and around wetlands, lakes and ponds	Town Board	CAC, Dutchess Land Conservancy, HVA	1 yr.	**
CNA-13	Conserve Natural Areas	Educate residents residing near TMR and Swamp Rivers about riparian borders and stream stewardship	Town Board	CAC, Dutchess Land Conservancy, HVA	1 yr.	*
CNA-14	Conserve Natural Areas	Monitor and track stream gauge data on TMR and Swamp Rivers	Town Board	CAC, Dutchess Land Conservancy, HVA	1 yr.	*
CNA-15	Conserve Natural Areas	Contact business and homeowners in floodplains regarding requirements for NFIP Program	Town Board	CAC	1 yr.	*
CNA-16	Conserve Natural Areas	Develop a drought emergency ordinance in event of short or long-term drought conditions	Town Board	CAC, DC Dept. of Emergency Response	1 yr.	**
CNA-17	Conserve Natural Areas	Expand conservation easement of parcels in DP to protect water quality from overdevelopment	Town Board	Dutchess Land Conservancy, HVA	1-2 yrs.	**
CNA-18	Conserve Natural Areas	Continue to protect primary aquifers and recharge areas	Town Board	CAC, Planning Board	1-4+ yrs.	*
CNA-19	Conserve Natural Areas	Encourage limited development in the 100-yr. floodplain and create additional floodplains if possible	Town Board	CAC, Planning Board	1-4+ yrs.	*
CNA-20	Conserve Natural Areas	Continue to leverage TMR Watershed Coalition for protection of watershed	Town Board	TMR Coalition	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-21	Conserve Natural Areas	Enhance aquifer overlap with groundwater withdrawal protections from overconsumption and pollution	Town Board	CAC, Planning Board	2 yrs.	**
CNA-22	Conserve Natural Areas	Educate residents, developers, public about Dover's exceptional biodiversity and build conservation support	Town Board	CAC	1 yr.	**
CNA-23	Conserve Natural Areas	Protect large habitat areas that encompass south-to-north and low-to-high wildlife travel ways	Town Board	CAC, NYS DEC	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-24	Conserve Natural Areas	Avoid fragmenting large forests and meadows and maintain corridors along streams	Town Board	CAC, Dutchess Land Conservancy, HVA	1-4+ yrs.	*
CNA-25	Conserve Natural Areas	Discourage construction of new roads or long driveways in undeveloped areas for species conservation	Town Board	Highway Dept., CAC	1-4+ yrs.	*
CNA-26	Conserve Natural Areas	Encourage habitat connectivity between large tracts of land	Town Board	CAC, Residents, DC Planning	1-4+ yrs.	*
CNA-27	Conserve Natural Areas	Develop list of naturally significant resources into comprehensive map for ecotourism and eco-businesses	Town Board	CAC, Businesses, Residents	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-28	Conserve Natural Areas	Encourage native plantings; reduce pesticides and develop resilient local ecosystems	Town Board	CAC, Dutchess Land Conservancy, HVA	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-29	Conserve Natural Areas	Adopt local farm-friendly policies including lowered assessments for active farmland and promote local uses	Town Board	CAC, Farmers, Residents	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-30	Conserve Natural Areas	Support secondary on-farm enterprises, bed and breakfasts through zoning revisions and advertising	Town Board	Farmers, CAC, Planning Board	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-31	Conserve Natural Areas	Protect active farmland from non-farm development wherever possible	Town Board	Farmers, CAC, Planning Board	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-32	Conserve Natural Areas	Employ farming practices that conserve water, prevent soil erosion and loss and building living soils	Town Board	CAC, Cornell Coop. Ext., DC Soil & Water Conservation	1-4+ yrs.	***
CNA-33	Conserve Natural Areas	Maintain cover crops and thatch to minimize soil loss during heavy precipitation or flood events	Town Board	Farmers, Cornell Coop. Ext., DC Soil & Water	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-34	Conserve Natural Areas	Encourage natural resource/open space protection of prime agricultural soils including Conservation Easements and Transfer of Development Rights	Town Board	Farmers, Dutchess Land Conservancy, DC Planning	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-35	Conserve Natural Areas	Amend bed and breakfast regulations to promote tourism while protecting neighborhood character	Town Board	Businesses, Residents	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-36	Conserve Natural Areas	Revise zoning regulations to provide incentives to farmers to maintain large tracts of land	Town Board	Farmers, Planning Board	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-37	Conserve Natural Areas	Promote tourism by allowing restaurants, breweries, wineries on ag parcels under special permit	Town Board	Planning Board, Farmers, Businesses	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-38	Conserve Natural Areas	Set explicit goals for solar development to protect/preserve mature forests, agricultural land and scenic viewsheds	Town Board	Planning Board, Solar Developers	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-39	Conserve Natural Areas	Consider previously cleared or disturbed locations as preferred for solar development	Town Board	Planning Board, Solar Developers	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-40	Conserve Natural Areas	Avoid scenic viewsheds and land w/ high ecological value for solar development	Town Board	Planning Board, Solar Developers	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-41	Conserve Natural Areas	Development or operations of solar systems should not have adverse impact on critical species or habitats	Town Board	Planning Board, Solar Developers	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-42	Conserve Natural Areas	Tier 3 solar energy system to be sited with least visual impact and avoid scenic, historic, cultural resources	Town Board	Planning Board, Solar Developers	1-4+ yrs.	**

CNA-43	Conserve Natural Areas	Planting of evergreen/deciduous plantings should screen ground-mounted systems from residences/viewsheds	Town Board	Planning Board, Solar Developers	1-4+ yrs.	**
CNA-44	Conserve Natural Areas	Screening for solar must provide yr.-round, staggered plantings a minimum of 6 ft. or taller	Town Board	Planning Board, Solar Developers	1-4+ yrs.	*
CNA-45	Conserve Natural Areas	Continue to support the Zoning Update Committee to expedite review and update of Zoning Code	Town Board	Zoning Update Committee	1-2 yrs.	**
PHSC-01	Healthy Safe Community	Expand use of town facilities and offer new (sustainability) programs	Town Board	Town Rec. Dept., CAC	1-2 yrs.	***
PHSC-02	Healthy Safe Community	Promote stewards of Dover Stone Church and volunteer training	Town Board	Conservation Advisory Council	1-2 yrs.	***
PHSC-03	Healthy Safe Community	Marketing strategies for community resources and infrastructure	Town Board	Dutchess Tourism	1-2 yrs.	*
PHSC-04	Healthy Safe Community	Community events on sustainability topics	Town Board	Conservation Advisory Council	1-2 yrs.	***
PHSC-05	Healthy Safe Community	Community garden space for residents and shared harvest	Town Board	Conservation Advisory Council	1-2 yrs.	***
PLFS-01	Promote Local Food	Year-round farmers' market for public shopping and home delivery	Town Board	Local Farmers	1-2 yrs.	***
PLFS-02	Promote Local Food	Recreation programs and classes on healthy eating and meal prep	Town Board	Recreation Dept.	1-2 yrs.	***
PLFS-03	Promote Local Food	Food rescue program for local gleaned crops and store donations	Town Board	Local farmers and Grocers	1-2 yrs.	***
PLFS-04	Promote Local Food	Community garden space at town parks	Town Board	Residents	1-2 yrs.	***
PWQC-01	Protect Water	Enroll in NYS DEC's Water Source Protection Program	Town Board	Residents	1 yr.	***
PWQC-02	Protect Water	Establish Town Water Committee for protection and conservation	Town Board	Residents	1-2 yrs.	***
PWQC-03	Protect Water	Disseminate EPA Water Sense information at annual inspections	Town Board	Building Dept.	1 yr.	***
PWQC-04	Protect Water	Free community workshops on water conservation	Town Board	Town Recreation Dept.	1 yr.	***
GOCAP-01	Smart Growth	Smart Growth Policies	Town Board	Planning Board	2-3 yrs.	*
GOCAP-02	Healthy Safe Community	Update Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan	Town Board	DC Dept. of Emergency Response	1 yr.	*
GOCAP-03	Healthy Safe Community	Develop and implement town heating and cooling emergency plan	Town Board	Professional Consultants	1 yr.	**
GOCAP-04	Healthy Safe Community	Adopt a Complete Streets Policy	Town Board	Town Highway, Residents	1 yr.	**
GOCAP-05	Transportation	Purchase electric vehicle for official town use	Town Board	NYS DEC ZEV Rebate Program	1 yr.	**
CSCC-01	Protect Water	Install water-efficient fixtures in government buildings	Town Board	Town Staff, Plumbers	1 yr.	*
CSCC-02	Promote Local Food	Create and promote local farmers' market	Town Board	Local farmers, CAC, Nonprofit organizations	1-2 yrs.	***
CSCC-03	Conserve Natural Areas	Unified Solar Permit Application	Town Board	Building Dept., Interested residents	1-2 yrs.	*
CSCC-04	Protect Water	Water-smart landscaping workshops and procedures at town parks	Town Board	Town Staff, Plumbers	1 yr.	**
CEC-01	Transportation	Alternative fuel infrastructure- EV charging station at Town Hall	Town Board	Charge Ready NY Program, Clean Energy Communities Program, CSC program	1 yr.	*
CEC-02	Healthy Safe Community	Establish Town Cooling and Heating Centers	Town Board	Clean Energy Communities Program	1 yr.	***
CEC-03	Healthy Safe Community	County-hosted trainings to stimulate clean energy development	Town Board	Clean Energy Communities Program	1 yr.	***
CEC-04	Healthy Safe Community	Community campaign for community solar for low-to-moderate income families	Town Board	Clean Energy Communities Program	1 yr.	***
FE-Transportation	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Expand availability of Northeast Transit (Dial-A-Ride) transportation or a similar service	Town Board	North East Community Center, Dutchess Co. Planning	1-3 yrs.	**
FE-Transportation	Alt. Modes of Transportation	Implement a town-subsidized public transit program to supermarkets, medical providers and retail department stores	Town Board	North East Community Center, Dutchess Co. Planning	1-5 yrs.	**
FE-Comm. Ed-01	Healthy Safe Community	Free community workshops on energy audits, weatherization, nutrition, community solar, internet affordability programs	Town Board	Recreation Dept., CAC, Social Services agencies	1 yr.	**
FE-Comm. Ed-02	Healthy Safe Community	Establish community/student health and wellness center at Dover School; provide mental health first aide public courses	Town Board	School District, Social Services Agencies, Residents	1-5+ yrs.	**
FE-Comm. Ed-03	Healthy Safe Community	Utilize Town's website and channel TV to educate residents about social equity issues	Town Board	DC Human Rights Commission, Social Service agencies	1-2 yrs.	*
FE-Comm. Ed-04	Healthy Safe Community	Facilitate municipal-business partnership with family support agencies for local job seekers	Town Board	Dept. of Labor, residents, Social Service agencies	1-3 yrs.	**
FE-Comm. Ed-05	Healthy Safe Community	Expand bilingual family support services and disseminate sustainability education materials in Spanish language	Town Board	Residents, Social Service agencies	1-3 yrs.	**
FE-Comm. Ed-06	Healthy Safe Community	Pursue acquisition/conservation of land and educate residents as means to educate about environmental sustainability	Town Board	Dutchess Land Conservancy, HVA	1-5+ yrs.	**
FE-Comm. Ed-07	Healthy Safe Community	Develop annual sustainability goals and assessment tools that include measuring impact on social equity	Town Board	CAC, Residents, Businesses	1-3 yrs.	***
FE-Recreation-01	Healthy Safe Community	Offer sliding scale recreation programs for families in need with incremental discounts	Town Board	Recreation Dept., Residents,	1-2 yrs.	**
FE-Recreation-02	Healthy Safe Community	Build new recreation center to expand and offer year-round programs and intergenerational programs	Town Board	Recreation Dept., Residents, Recreation Instructors and Volunteers	1-2 yrs.	**
FE-Recreation-03	Healthy Safe Community	Offer additional free community-building events throughout year to celebrate culture, food, music, history and arts	Town Board	Recreation Dept., Residents, Community Groups	1-2 yrs.	**
FE-Recreation-04	Healthy Safe Community	Offer community resources at new community center (i.e., computer access, food pantry, mtg. space for social service providers	Town Board	Recreation Dept., Residents, Social Service Providers, Community Organizations	1-2 yrs.	**
FE-Food-01	Healthy Safe Community	Implement a year-round space for food producers/farmer's market that accepts SNAP benefits	Town Board	Local Producers, Residents, Business	1-3 yrs.	***
FE-Food-02	Healthy Safe Community	Facilitate partnerships with schools and local producers for school lunches and snacks	Town Board	Local Producers, Schools	1-3 yrs.	**
FE-Food-03	Healthy Safe Community	Continue collaboration of Senior Recreation Program with Stonewood Farm for donated fresh produce	Town Board	Stonewood Farm, Recreation Program, Residents, Ten Mile Farm Foundation	1 yr.	***
FE-Food-04	Healthy Safe Community	Post and publicize information about food assistance programs in other languages spoken by residents	Town Board	Social Service Agencies, Language Translators	1 yr.	**
FE-Food-05	Healthy Safe Community	Sponsor periodic food drives/food donation events for residents and families in need	Town Board	Residents, Business	1 yr.	**
FE-Food-06	Healthy Safe Community	Help transport and distribute rescued/recovered food from local producers to food pantries or other distributions	Town Board	Local Producers, Residents, Businesses	1 yr.	**
FE-Food-07	Healthy Safe Community	Allocate town park space for community gardens and help provide initial resources for planting	Town Board	Residents, Businesses	1 yr.	**
FE-Food-08	Healthy Safe Community	Consult with Pace Land Use Center to develop town-sponsored, equity-focused food access mapping study	Town Board	Pace Law Land Use Center, Residents	1-3 yrs.	**
FE-Food-09	Healthy Safe Community	Work with Vassar/Marist College to create equity-focused food access mapping study	Town Board	Vassar/Marist College Professors and Students, Residents	1-3 yrs.	**
FE-Food-10	Healthy Safe Community	Submit grant for food access mapping study to educate and address societal barriers to food access	Town Board	Dutchess County, Community Foundations, Social Service Agencies	1-3 yrs.	**
FE-Food-11	Healthy Safe Community	Convene local taskforce to study and develop strategic plan to conduct a food access mapping study	Town Board	Local colleges, Social Services agencies, Community Foundations	1-3 yrs.	**
FE-Food-12	Healthy Safe Community	Educate about sustainable food management and impacts/benefits for community, environment and planet	Town Board	Residents, Sustainability Consultants, Educators, Business	1-3 yrs.	**
FE-Food-13	Healthy Safe Community	Host free public workshops on composting, reducing food waste, nutrition classes and community-supported agriculture	Town Board	Residents, Sustainability Consultants, Town Recreation Dept., Businesses	1-3 yrs.	***
FE-Food-14	Healthy Safe Community	Partner with businesses to develop food rescue/recovery program	Town Board	Residents, Local Producers, Businesses	1-3 yrs.	**
FE-Food-15	Healthy Safe Community	Assist with municipal resources needed to provide a community-based food rescue program	Town Board	Residents, Local Producers, Businesses	1-3 yrs.	**
FE- Housing-01	Healthy Safe Community	Continue and expand real property tax exemption offerings for vulnerable populations (i.e., senior, low-income disabled)	Town Board	Residents	1-3 yrs.	**
FE- Housing-02	Healthy Safe Community	Partner with Rebuilding Together and DC Social Services to help residents w/ home repairs and homelessness prevention	Town Board	Residents, Rebuilding Together, DC Social Services	1-2 yrs.	**
FE- Housing-03	Healthy Safe Community	Provide information on Section 8 Housing Choice Program and other housing assistance programs for vulnerable residents	Town Board	Residents, Nonprofit Housing Assistance Organizations	1-2 yrs.	**
FE- Housing-04	Healthy Safe Community	Provide information on "Safe At Home" safety precautions for seniors to avoid home-based hazards and accessibility issues	Town Board	Residents, Rebuilding Together, DC Social Services	1-2 yrs.	**
FE- Housing-05	Healthy Safe Community	Adopt inclusionary zoning housing ordinances to incentivize affordable and workplace housing developments	Town Board	Residents, Planning Board, Landlords,	1-3 yrs.	**
FE- Housing-06	Healthy Safe Community	Adopt legislation to require a registry for foreclosed and abandoned properties to prevent corrosive effects on community	Town Board	Residents, Mortgage Companies, Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer	1-2 yrs.	*
FE-RETET-01	Healthy Safe Community	Provide public information about environmental toxins through town website, TV and social media	Town Board	Residents	1 yr.	**
FE-RETET-02	Healthy Safe Community	Empower town officials to be vigilant in prohibiting use of products that pose environmental risks in land use, commercial and residents projects	Town Board	Bldg. Dept., Code Enforcement, Residents, Information Resources	1 yr.	**
FE-RETET-03	Healthy Safe Community	Encourage residents to arrange for professional water, air, soil tests if they suspect the presence of toxins in their homes/businesses	Town Board	Residents, Professional Testing Agencies	1 yr.	**
FE-RETET-04	Healthy Safe Community	Assist marginalized residents to work with county and state agencies if they suspect environmental toxins or health issues related to environmental exposure	Town Board	Residents, County and State Agencies	1 yr.	**
FE-RETET-05	Healthy Safe Community	Promote using green and non-toxic products for household needs in place of materials that may put residents and families at potential risk for toxin-related exposures	Town Board	Residents, Informational Resources, Green and Non-toxic Product Manufacturers	1 yr.	**