

Hunter College - CUNY  
Department of Geography  
Nature of New York State

**Exercise 15: Open Space Conservation**  
**Extra Credit Option**

Due by no later than the time of the Final Exam.

**PURPOSE:** This exercise looks at actions taken by NYS within your counties to preserve and protect open space under the guidelines of its Open Space Conservation Plan which was first authorized in 1992. This exercise complements Optional Exercise 16 Wildlife Management.

Visit the current 2016 NYS *Open Space Conservation Plan*. Search the report for information about sites and activities within your three counties. Consult the "Priority Conservation Projects" locator map on page 76 of the 2016 report for locations within your counties. Read about the projects on the pages that follow each map.

- Read about the **Open Space Conservation Report** at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/98720.html>.
- The **11-page** Summary without regional and county specifics is at: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/ospsummary.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/ospsummary.pdf).
- The **313-page 2016 Open Space Conservation Plan** is at: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/osp2016final1.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/osp2016final1.pdf).

Do not press the print button unless you really want a 313-page paper copy!!

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. **Locate your three counties within the 9 DEC regions. Make a list of county names and regions.**
2. **Consult the Priority Conservation Projects section of the 2016 Plan.** See the detailed index at the beginning of the report for page numbers.
3. **Using just the 2016 document as a guide, describe the essence of the recommendations made by the Regional Advisory Committee for your areas within the parameters of the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan for the next five years.**
4. **Provide details about the Priority Projects in chart format.**
  - a. There is a map of all project locations on **page 76**.
  - b. Starting on **page 79** with Region 1 there is a list describing the priority projects by region. Multi-region projects start on **page 1**.
  - c. Read the regional descriptions then summarize the need to protect and preserve open space within each of your three regions.
  - d. List the Priority Conservation Projects for each county noted by the report. Include map number, name of project and a brief description of the project. If no area has been set aside, note that on your list. (**Remember to check the multi-region list starting on p.152.**)