

Town of Tusten

Natural Resources Inventory,
Open Space and Recreation Plan



Town of
Tusten
an Upper Delaware River Community

Meeting #3

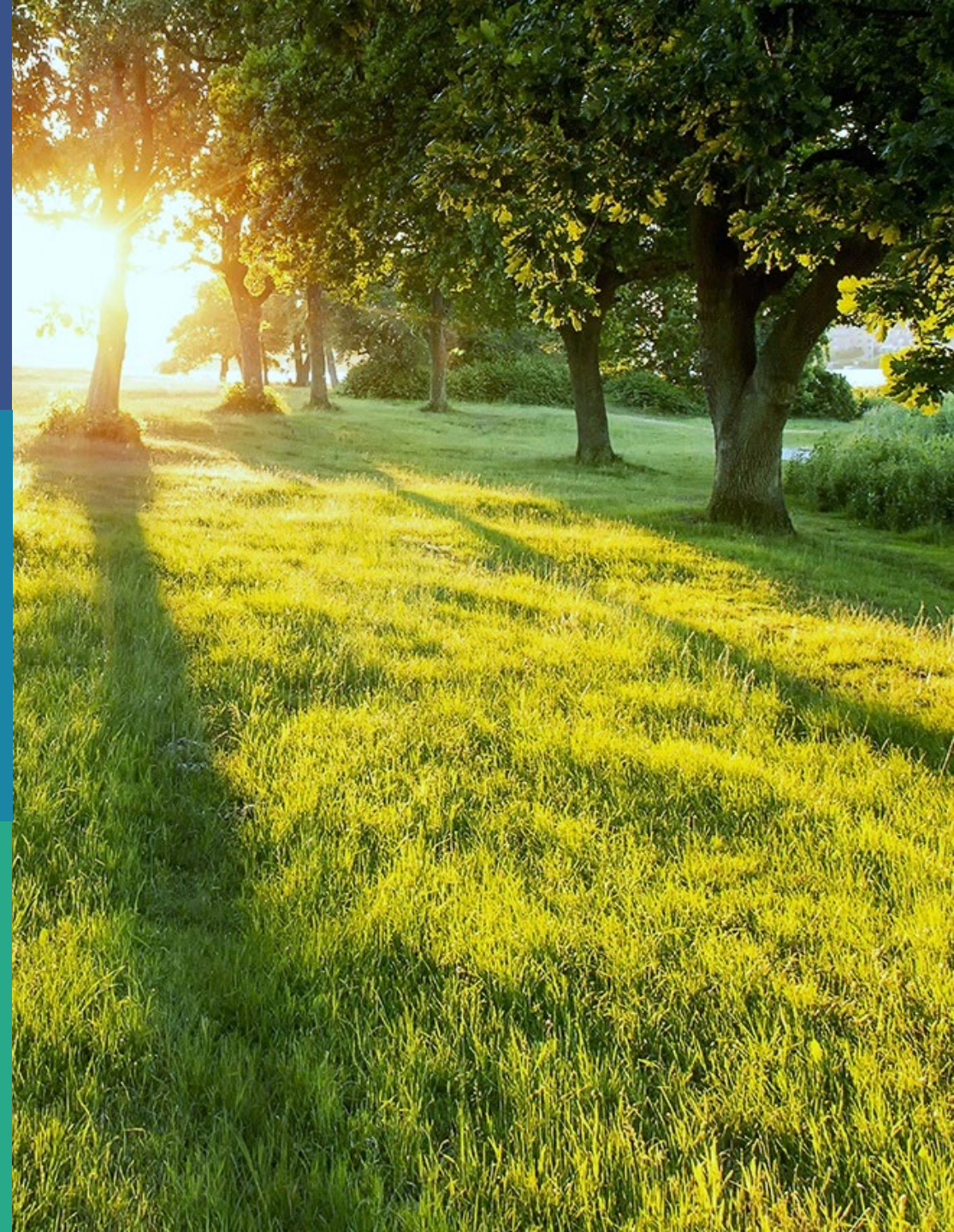
August 15, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Agenda

- 01** Welcome & Schedule Update
- 02** Natural Resources Inventory
- 03** Public Engagement Update
- 04** Open Space Plan
- 05** Next Steps



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WELCOME & SCHEDULE UPDATE



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Anticipated Project Schedule



*CAC Meetings – Every other month



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NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

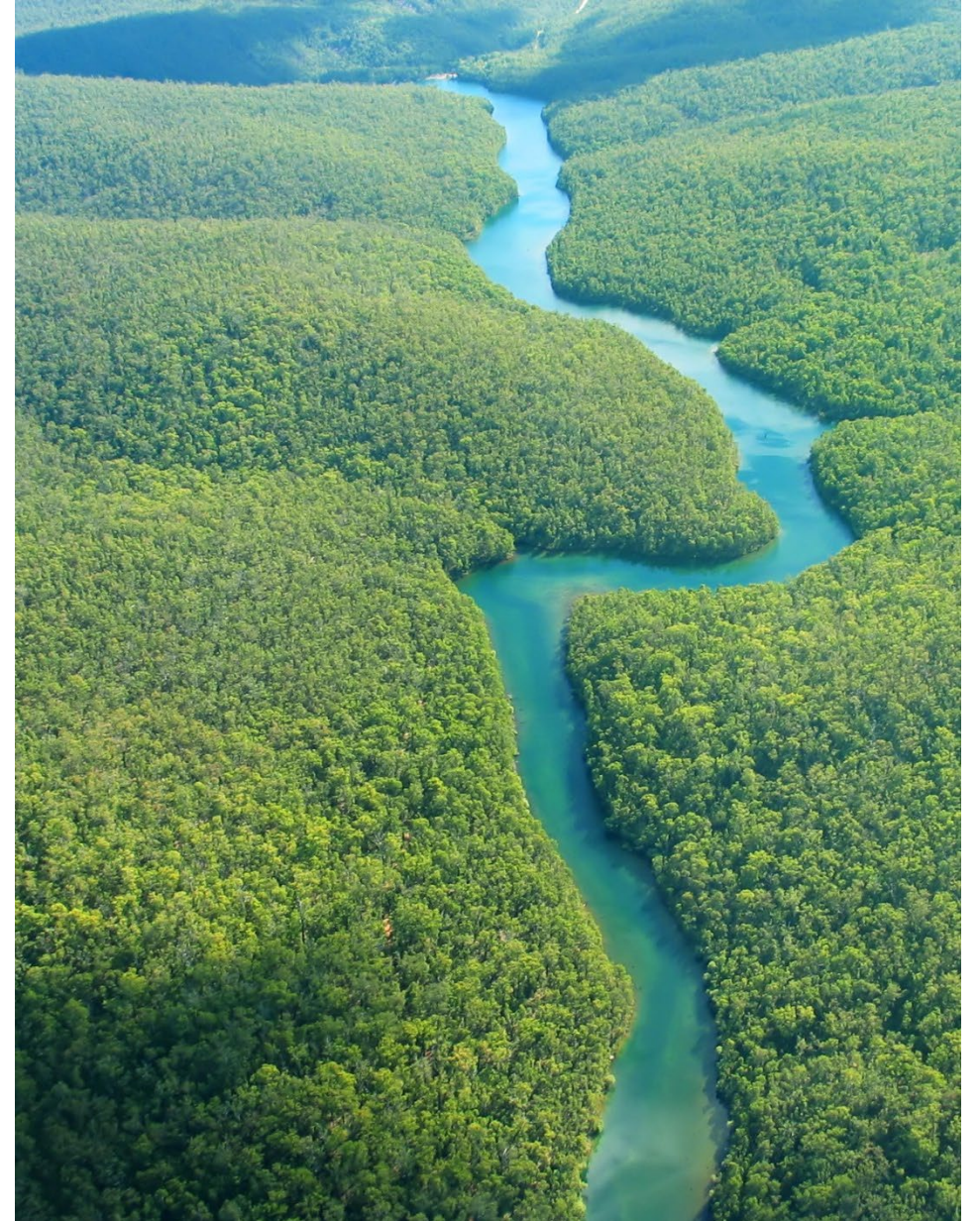


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NRI Update

- ❖ **Additional mapping completed**
- ❖ **Narrative in progress**
- ❖ **Target Draft Fall 2024**
- ❖ **Draft maps to project website**



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



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Public Engagement

- ❖ **Public Open House #1**
- ❖ **Community Visioning Survey Update**
- ❖ **Stakeholder Groups**

Public Engagement

❖ Public Workshop #1

- ❖ August 1, 2024, at Town Hall
- ❖ 25+ Attendees
- ❖ Brief presentation & Q&A
- ❖ Presented Draft NRI Mapping
- ❖ Interactive Mapping Exercise
- ❖ Open Space Visioning



Public Workshop Highlights

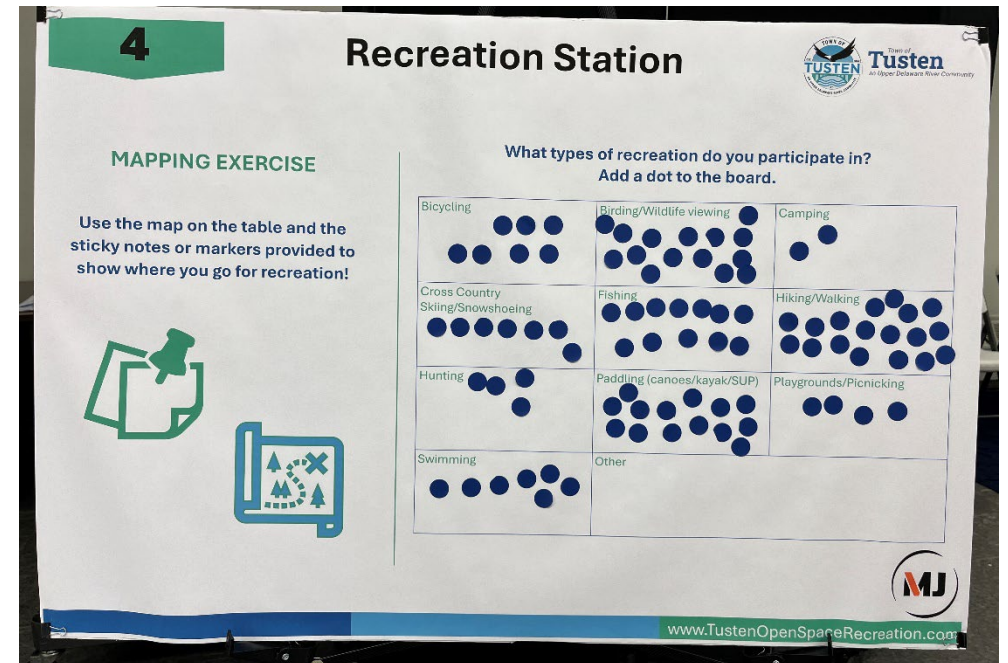
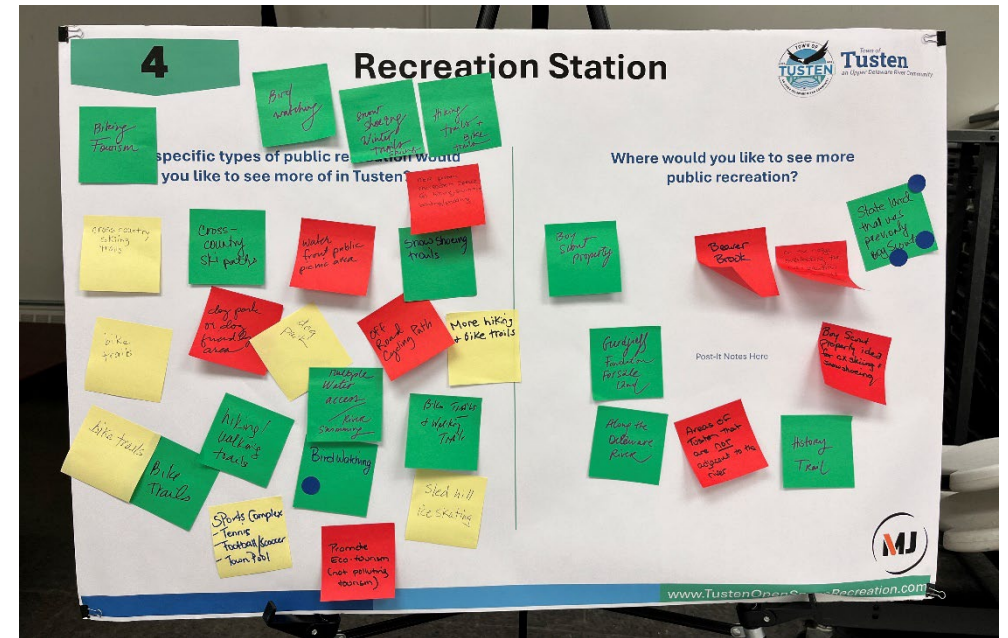
- ❖ **Open Space Visioning - Themes**
 - ❖ Ensuring clean water and air quality
 - ❖ Protection and preservation of open spaces, wildlife habitats and ecosystems
 - ❖ Avoid development in flood zones and respecting wetlands and animal habitats
 - ❖ Providing recreational opportunities



Public Workshop Highlights

❖ Recreation - Common Themes

- ❖ Development of trails and paths for different activities
- ❖ Waterfront and water-based recreation
- ❖ Utilizing lands such as Boy Scout property for recreation and nature-based activities



Public Engagement

❖ Community Visioning Survey Update

- ❖ Online and hard copy formats
- ❖ 5 Responses so far –Closes September 15
- ❖ Publicity – website, social media, Committee, project cards, mailing
- ❖ MJ preparing flyer & press release
- ❖ Spread the word!

Town of Tusten Community Visioning Survey - 2024

The Town of Tusten is planning for the future and needs your input to create a successful plan!

The Town is identifying our natural resources such as forests, wildlife habitats, wetlands, etc. which will become our Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Building upon the NRI, the Town will then create an Open Space and Recreation Plan to ensure an appropriate balance of open space, public access and natural resources.

The results of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan survey highlighted the desire for more recreation opportunities and the preservation of forest land within the Town. Building on those responses, the purpose of this survey is to identify specific needs and priorities for conservation and public recreation. By completing the survey below, the Town will be able to incorporate what is important to you in our future Open Space and Recreation Plan!

1. I am a (select all that apply):

- Full-time resident Business owner Other
 Seasonal resident Visitor

2. How often do you visit local and state parks or recreation areas in Tusten?

- Every day Once a month
 Once a week Never

3. What types of activities do you and your family engage in most often while visiting local, state, and federal parks or recreation areas in Tusten? Select all that apply.

- ATV
 Bicy
 Birdi
 Cam
 Cros
 Fishi
 Hunt



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NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

To take this

To learn more please visit
www.TustenOpenSpaceRecreation.com

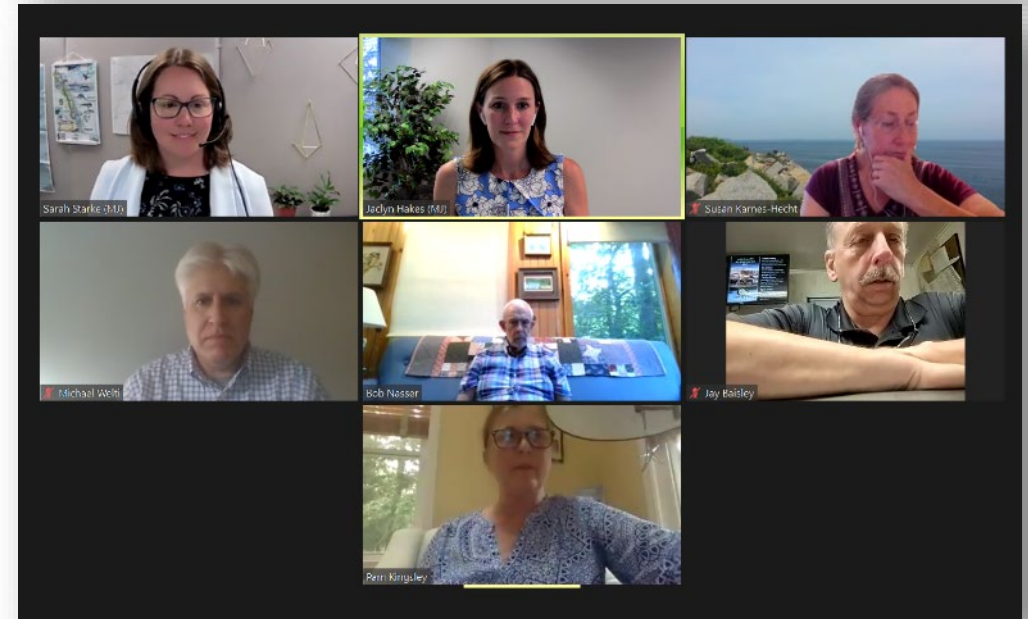


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Public Engagement

❖ Stakeholder Groups

- ❖ Small Group Discussions
- ❖ Virtual via Zoom
- ❖ Tentatively September 2024
- ❖ CAC input on Stakeholders
- ❖ Potential Stakeholder Groups:
 - ❖ Local & Regional Partners
 - ❖ Environment & Sustainability
 - ❖ Community Groups
 - ❖ Recreation



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Public Engagement

❖ Potential Stakeholders

- ❖ NPS
- ❖ Upper Delaware Council
- ❖ Delaware Highlands Conservancy
- ❖ Conservation Fund
- ❖ NYSDEC
- ❖ Tusten Youth Commission
- ❖ Parks & Public Spaces Committee
- ❖ Community groups?
- ❖ Other?



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OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN



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Open Space & Recreation Plan

- ❖ Overview & Benefits
- ❖ Comprehensive Plan Goals
- ❖ Visioning Session

Overview

- ❖ Establishes vision for Town-wide network of open spaces & recreation
- ❖ Identifies priorities and specific resource protection
- ❖ Based on existing conditions identified in NRI, Town, CAC and public input
- ❖ Recommends tools to achieve vision



What is Open Space?

- ❖ New York State defines open space as land “which is not intensively developed for residential, commercial, industrial or institutional use. Open space can be **publicly or privately owned**. It includes agricultural and **forest land**, undeveloped coastal and estuarine lands, **undeveloped scenic lands**, **public parks** and preserves. It also includes **water bodies** such as lakes and bays. What land is defined as open space depends in part on its surroundings. A vacant lot or a small marsh can be open space in a big city. A narrow corridor or pathway for walking or bicycling is open space even though it is surrounded by developed areas.”



Benefits of Open Space

- ❖ Natural systems services - Clean water/air, temperature cooling, forestry, flood reduction
- ❖ Wildlife habitat, biodiversity
- ❖ Public health - water quality, air quality, scenic beauty, recreation
- ❖ Community character - forests, farmland, diversity in landscape, recreation opportunities, quality of life
- ❖ Decreased wildlife/human conflicts

Comprehensive Plan Goals related to Open Space

"Balance protection of the Town's water quality, open spaces, and animal and plant habitats with encouraging economic activities that help conserve the Town's scenic and rural character."

"Work to create new opportunities for public access to lands and waters to increase recreational and educational options for residents and visitors."

Town of Tusten



Comprehensive Plan
May 2021

Visioning Session

- ❖ Develop a vision statement for the Open Space & Recreation Plan
- ❖ Additional input
 - ❖ Public Open House
 - ❖ Survey
 - ❖ Stakeholder Groups



Visioning Session

What is your vision for the future of open space and recreation within the Town of Tusten?

Visioning Session

What natural resources do you see as the biggest priorities in Tusten? (i.e. habitat, water courses, active recreation, open lands, forests, etc.)

NEXT STEPS



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Next Steps

- ❖ Continue Development of NRI
- ❖ Community Vision Survey –
Closes September 15
- ❖ Stakeholder Group Meetings –
TBD September 2024
- ❖ Next CAC Meeting October 17,
2024 at 1:00PM Via Zoom



Thank you

