



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Hudson River Estuary Conservation and Land Use Program Updates

October 25, 2019  
DEC Annual CAC/EMC Update Meeting

**Ingrid Haeckel**  
Conservation and Land Use Specialist  
DEC Hudson River Estuary Program/ Cornell University



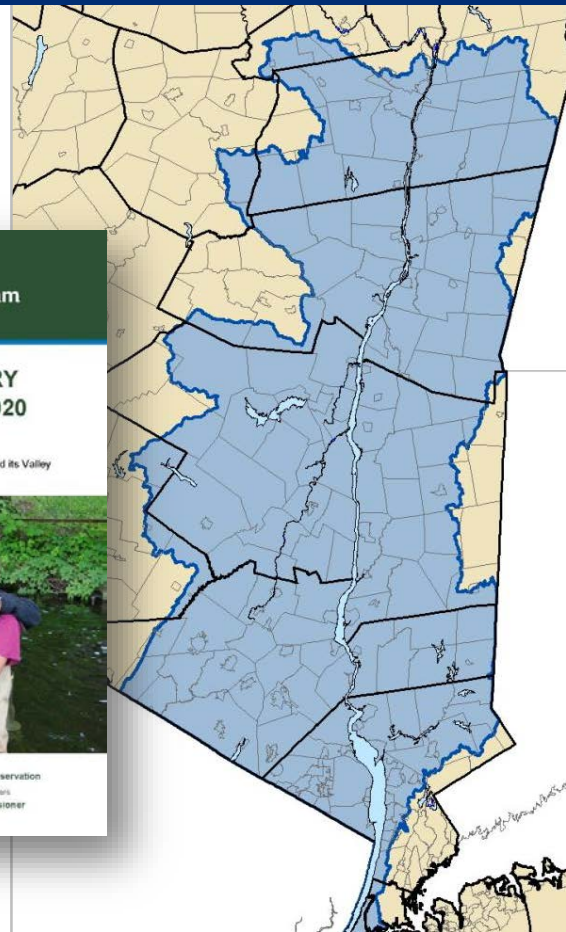
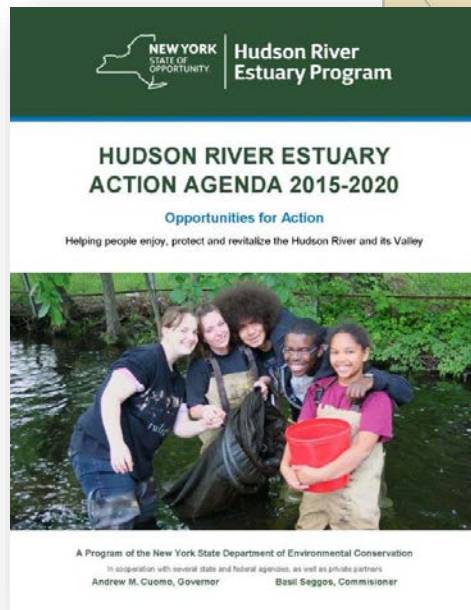
Photo by Laura Heady

# The Hudson River Estuary Program

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## Working to achieve key benefits:

- clean water
- resilient communities
- vital estuary ecosystem
- fish, wildlife, and habitat
- natural scenery
- education, access, recreation, and inspiration



# Conservation and Land Use Program

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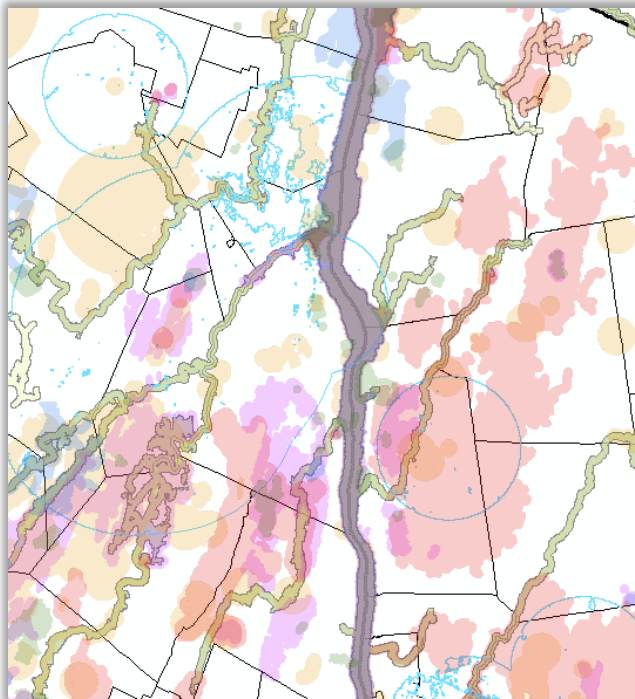
- **Data** – important natural areas and habitat
- **Training** – local conservation tools and strategies
- **Technical assistance** – natural resources inventory and conservation planning



Photo by Ingrid Haeckel



# biodiversity data



## NATURAL AREAS AND WILDLIFE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### A Habitat Summary Prepared for the Town of Esopus

This summary was completed in March 2016, providing information for land-use planning and decision-making as requested by the Town of Esopus. It identifies significant ecosystems in the Town, including coastal habitats, streams, forests, wetlands, and other natural areas with important biological values. This summary is based only on existing information available to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and its partners, and therefore should not be considered a complete inventory. Additional information about habitats in our region can be found in the *Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Framework* developed by the Hudson River Estuary Program (Penhollow et al. 2006) and in the *Biodiversity Assessment Manual for the Hudson River Estuary Corridor* developed by Hudsonia and published by DEC (Kiviat and Stevens 2001).

Ecosystems of the estuary watershed—wetlands, forests, stream corridors, grasslands, and shrublands—are not only habitat for abundant fish and wildlife, but also support the estuary and provide many vital benefits to human communities. These ecosystems help to keep drinking water and air clean, moderate temperature, filter pollutants, and absorb floodwaters. They also provide opportunity for outdoor recreation and education, and create the scenery and sense of place that is unique to the Hudson Valley. Local land-use planning efforts are instrumental in balancing future development with protection of these resources. By conserving sufficient habitat to support the region's astonishing diversity of plants and animals, communities can ensure that healthy, resilient ecosystems—and the benefits they provide—are available to future generations. For more information on local conservation approaches, see *Conserving Natural Areas and Wildlife in Your Community: Smart Growth Strategies for Protecting the Biological Diversity of New York's Hudson River Valley* (Strong 2008).

The Estuary Program works toward achieving key benefits:

- Clean water
- Resilient communities
- Vital estuary ecosystem
- Fish, wildlife & habitats
- Natural scenery
- Education, access, recreation, and inspiration

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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A Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

This document is a summary of the information contained in the *Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Framework* developed by the Hudson River Estuary Program (Penhollow et al. 2006) and in the *Biodiversity Assessment Manual for the Hudson River Estuary Corridor* developed by Hudsonia and published by DEC (Kiviat and Stevens 2001).

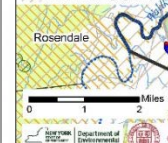
This map shows the most significant known ecological features in the Town of Esopus, Ulster County based on limited information. This map was produced as part of a habitat summary for the Town. For more information, please contact NYDEC's Hudson River Estuary Program Conservation and Land Use Specialist Ingrid Haackel at (845)256-3629 or at [ingrid.haackel@dec.ny.gov](mailto:ingrid.haackel@dec.ny.gov). <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5064.html>. Data are available for interactive viewing at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/gis/hre>

#### Legend

- Waterbody
- Stream
- Stream habitat for migratory fishes
- Significant Coastal Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Matrix forest block
- Forest linkage zone
- Significant natural communities:
- Freshwater Intertidal Shore
- Freshwater Tidal Marsh
- Dwarf Shrub Bog
- Red Maple-Hardwood Swamp
- Hemlock North Hardwood Forest
- Appalachian Oak-Hickory Forest

Known important areas for:

- rare plants
- rare animals
- rare bats (foraging areas)



#### Data Sources

NYDEC Department of State, Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats (2012)  
The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (2009)  
New York Natural Heritage Program (NYPHP), Known Important Areas (2014)  
"Stream habitat for migratory fishes (2011), Significant natural communities (2014)  
NYDEC Natural Heritage Inventory (2014)  
NYDEC Office of Information Technology Services (roads, railroads, and municipal boundaries (2015)  
Map created 2019

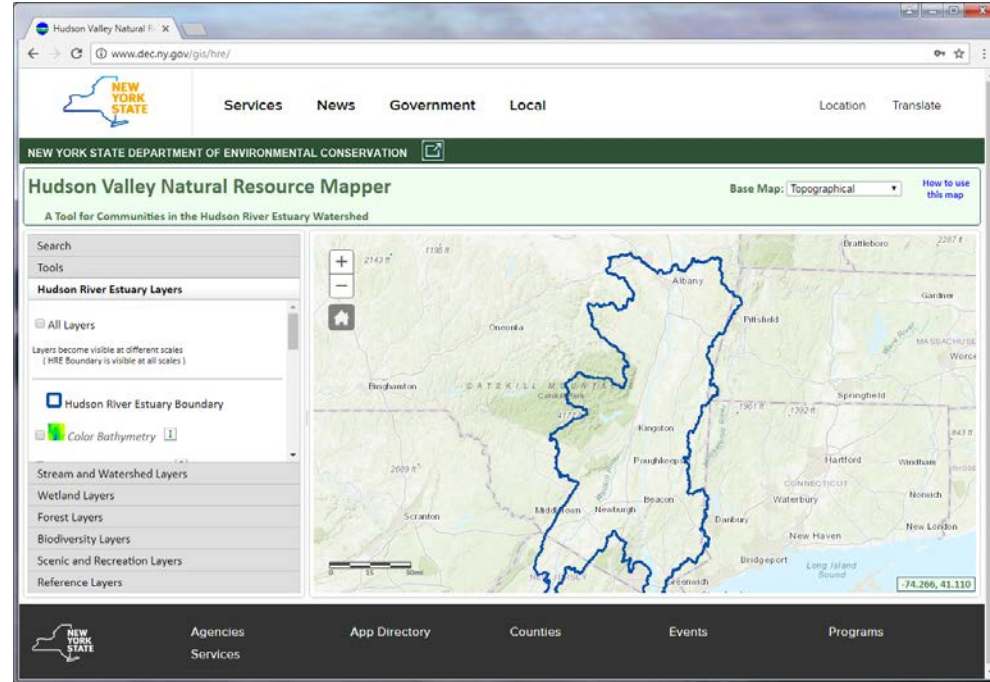
# Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper

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30+ geographic data sets:

- Estuary
- Streams and Watersheds
- Wetlands
- Forests
- Biodiversity
- Scenic and Recreation

[www.dec.ny.gov/gis/hre](http://www.dec.ny.gov/gis/hre)



workshops,  
training,  
roundtables



Top photos by N. Nardi-Cyrus and L. Heady; bottom photo by Bob Wills



# Webinar Series: Conservation and Land Use 101 <sup>7</sup>

## Monthly Topics:

CACs/CBs

Intro to Habitats

Biodiversity Conservation

SEQR/Site Plan Review

Stormwater Management

Wetlands and Streams



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## Conservation Advisory Councils and Boards

Conservation and Land Use Webinar Series  
September 25, 2019, 12:00-1:00pm

*The webinar will begin shortly.*



Ingrid Haeckel, *Conservation & Land Use Specialist*  
Hudson River Estuary Program/Cornell University

# Estuary Grants

- Stewardship Planning
- Tributary Restoration
- Hudson River Access
- River Education

# technical assistance



Photos by L. Heady



# Inventory and Planning Projects

## Natural Resources Inventories

### **In progress:**

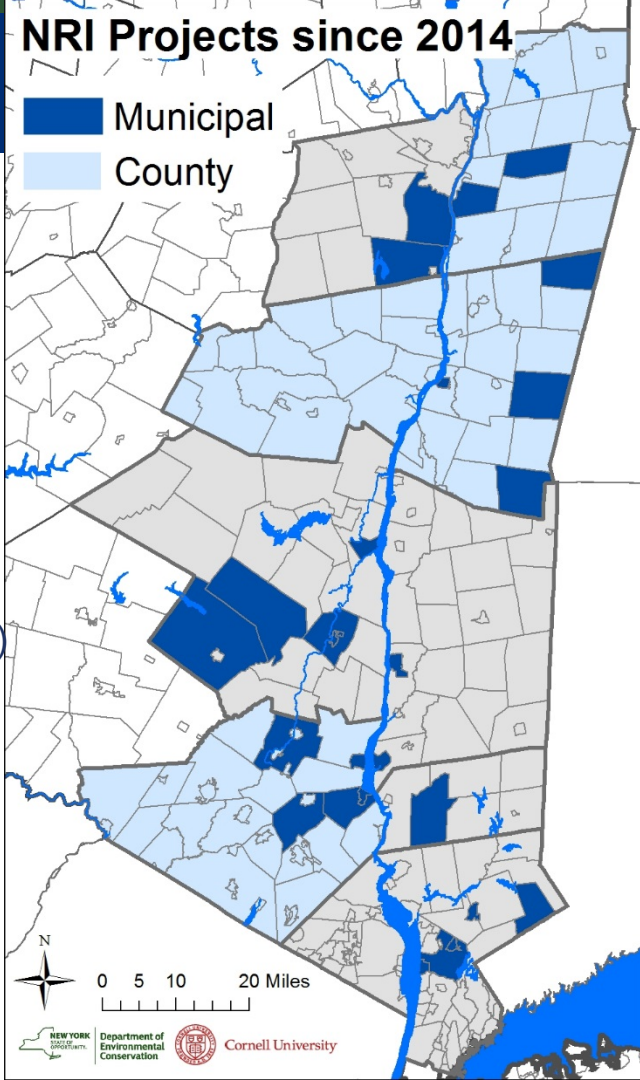
Beacon  
Blooming Grove →  
Cornwall, Town →  
Cornwall, Village →  
Hillsdale  
Montgomery  
Mount Pleasant  
Newburgh, City  
Orange County  
Peekskill  
Pleasantville  
Poestenkill  
Sleepy Hollow

### **Complete:**

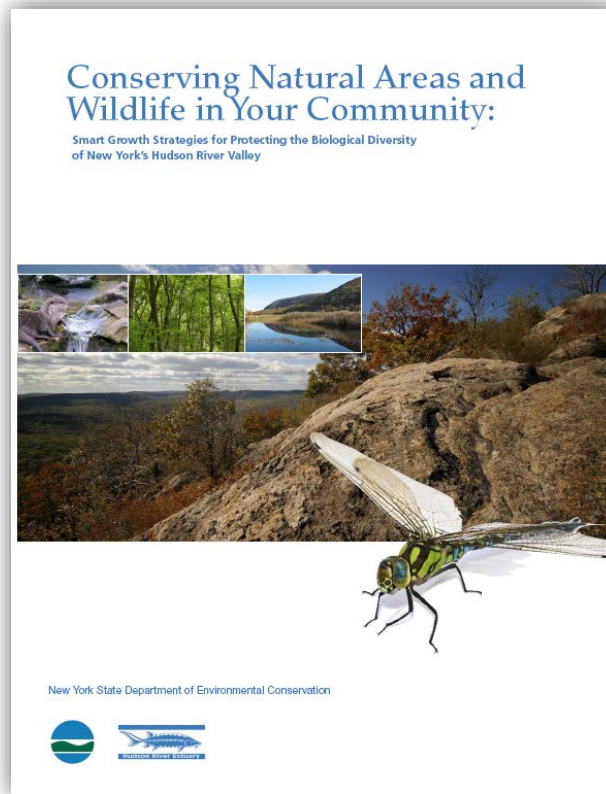
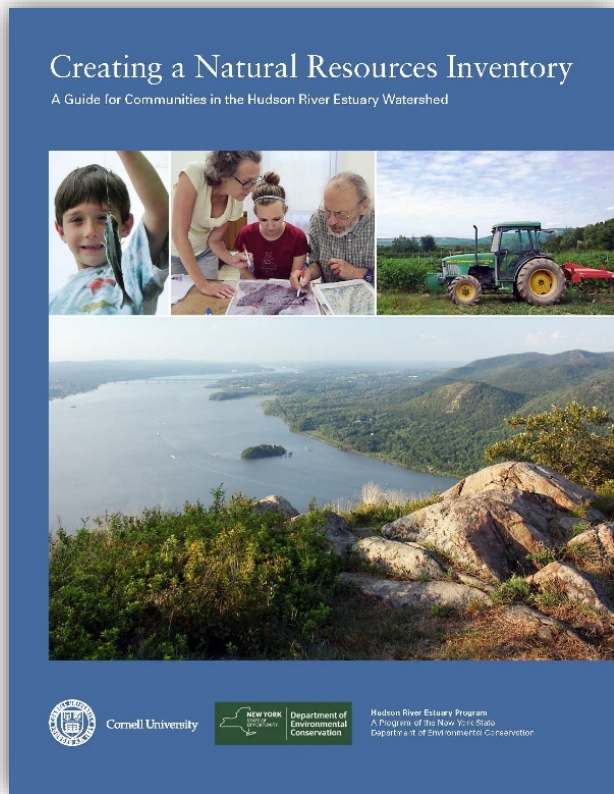
Coeymans  
Columbia County  
East Greenbush  
Greene County  
Hudson  
Kingston →  
Mount Kisco  
Poughkeepsie  
Pound Ridge  
Putnam Valley  
Rochester →  
Wawarsing →

## Open Space Inventories and Conservation Plans

Bethlehem (COMPLETE)  
Blooming Grove (COMPLETE)  
Cornwall, Town  
Cornwall, Village  
Kingston (COMPLETE)  
New Lebanon (COMPLETE)  
Rensselaer County (COMPLETE)  
Rochester (COMPLETE)  
Wawarsing (COMPLETE)



<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5094.html>



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## **Upcoming webinar:**

Biodiversity Conservation

Speaker: Gretchen Stevens

Wed., Nov. 20, 12-1pm

## **Hands-on mapper trainings:**

Oct 30 – Goshen

Nov 12 – Ossining

Dec 5 – East Greenbush

## **Inventories to Action:**

Nov 9 – Castleton

1-day workshop focused on applications of a completed natural resources inventory or open space plan



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# Thank you! Questions?

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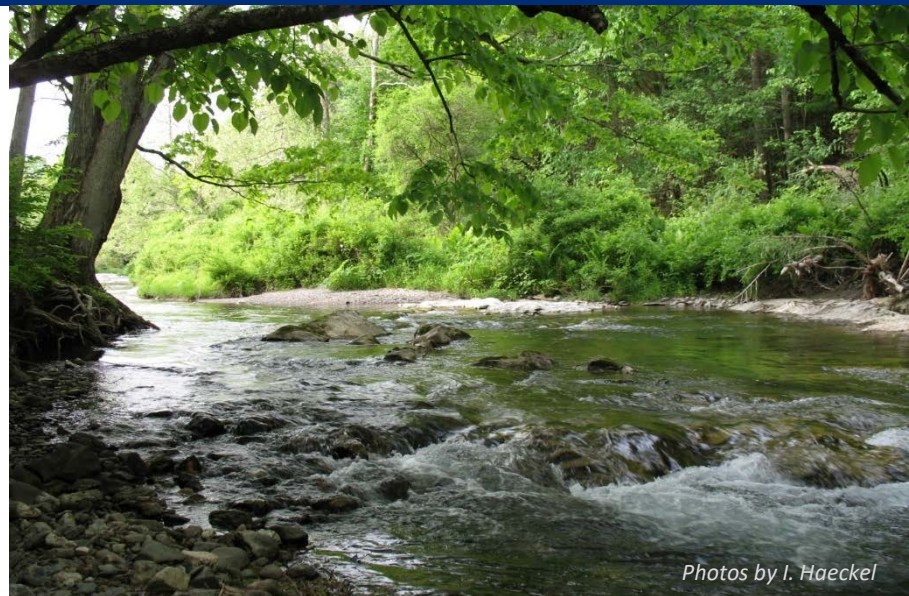
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*Photos by I. Haeckel*

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5094.html>



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