

**Understanding Conserved Lands in Your Community Using the New York Protected Areas Database – Webinar Transcript**  
October 25, 2002 – 3:00-4:00pm

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00:05:11.145 --> 00:05:27.315

Okay, thanks Ingrid. So, again, good afternoon. My name is Christine Vanderlan and I am a conservation and land use specialist with the Hudson River estuary program through a partnership with Cornell University.

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00:05:28.815 --> 00:05:49.695

I want to mention an apology some, or all of the registrants for today's webinar received an email message earlier today, prompting them to join at a different time. So, I'm sorry for the confusion that may have caused. Uh, we think we figured out where that that snuck in, and it shouldn't happen for future webinars.

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00:05:50.114 --> 00:06:10.844

So, thank you all for joining us at today's webinar. the focus of today's webinar is to discuss conserved lands where to find information about lands with protected status in your community, and some ways to use this information in local planning. Before I introduce.

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00:06:10.874 --> 00:06:31.934

Our speakers, we are going to review a few webinar logistics, and I should be able to advance my slide, but it's not advancing. Let's try again. There we go. So you have a few options for connecting to the audio and if you are having difficulty with the connection through your computer.

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You can choose switch audio by clicking the 3 dots next to the red exit button at the bottom of your screen. And there you will find the options to request a callback or to call in by phone.

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If you need help, please reach out to me using the chat and if you have questions for our speakers, please use the Q and a, if Q and a is not already open on your screen, you can access that by checking, uh, clicking the 3 dots.

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00:07:10.184 --> 00:07:29.834

Next to chat in the bottom, right? Corner of your screen a few notes uh, your phone lines are muted. The webinar is being recorded and we will make that recording available. Probably, it will be available in about a week and we'll send a follow up email with the link to that recording.

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one small thing that we ask you to do for us is, at the conclusion of the webinar, a survey will pop up and if you would share your feedback with us, that is really helpful as we plan future programs. And then finally, if you are needing municipal training credit, you will have a email sent.

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You automatically confirming attendance for today's event.

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For those of you, who may be new to the series the Hudson River program is a special program at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The estuary program was established to help people enjoy, protect and revitalize the Hudson river and its Valley and we work.

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00:08:19.184 --> 00:08:40.304

Throughout the 10 counties bordering the tidal Hudson, shown on the map in green to achieve many key benefits, including a vital estuary ecosystem, clean water, healthy tributary streams, climate, adaptive communities, conserved, natural areas and informed and engaged public and.

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00:08:40.335 --> 00:08:42.794

To access for all to the Hudson River.

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Conservation and land use team within the estuary program works with municipalities and regional conservation partners who are working to conserve important habitats and natural areas through local land use

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00:09:02.955 --> 00:09:24.015

Planning and decision making and Ingrid Haeckel and I are available to provide technical assistance on a variety of conservation planning and policy projects. Our program website shown here we invite you to visit and visit again because we add information on new items frequently.

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00:09:24.044 --> 00:09:45.164

It's a clearing house for guidance and resources on conservation planning topics, and we will share the link in the chat box. Our next webinar we'll be on November 9th, titled "Planning for connected natural area: Two Hudson Valley plans" and we will be hearing.

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00:09:45.194 --> 00:10:04.574

About, uh, approaches for connectivity planning, and specifically the green corridors plan and the Taghkanic headwaters conservation plan more details will be provided. And a link to register will be provided in a follow up email after today's webinar.

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00:10:06.525 --> 00:10:27.465

Now, I'm very pleased to introduce our speakers for today. Nick Conrad is the information resources coordinator at the New York, natural heritage program, where he manages the biodiversity database, and the production of data products, and provides this information to municipalities land, trust.

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State and federal agencies, and researchers Nick received a masters in zoology from the University of New Hampshire, and has been with the heritage program for 30 years. And Ingrid Haeckel My colleague is a conservation and land specialist at the program through.

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00:10:48.645 --> 00:11:09.765

A partnership with Cornell University, and she provides education and technical assistants to municipal and regional partners to promote the conservation of important, natural areas in the Hudson Valley. Ingrid, hold, hold degrees in environmental biology and geography, and has been with the program

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00:11:09.769 --> 00:11:30.854

9 years, so now I'm going to stop sharing my slides so Nick can begin his presentation and just as I do that a quick reminder to please use the Q and a, for your questions that way if they all come through in one place, it's easier for us to make sure we don't miss.

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00:11:30.919 --> 00:11:40.394

So, we will have time for Q, and a brief period after next talk and then additional time after talk. So, Nick take it away.

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00:11:41.714 --> 00:11:46.034

Thank you, Christine, everybody hear me and see my presentation.

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00:11:49.124 --> 00:11:50.954

I see it and I hear you clearly.

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00:11:50.984 --> 00:12:08.984

All right, thank you. Thanks to Ingrid for inviting me to speak today and thanks to all of you for attending a good afternoon. I'll be presenting today, as Christine said on the New York protected areas, database, or NYPAD and after I'm done speaking, Ingrid will talk about a bit about how you can.

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Use NYPAD in municipal planning. as Christine said, I work for the New York natural heritage program. New York natural heritage is a research program of SUNY College of environmental science and forestry in Syracuse. We work under an MOU with New York state DEC and are housed at DEC's

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Central office in Albany. uh, most of you who know us know as an authoritative source of data and expertise on the locations and status of new York's rare plants and animals and on its significant natural communities and ecosystems. We also manage the invasive species database.

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00:12:51.584 --> 00:13:12.404

Today, though, I will be speaking about another data set that natural heritage manages, the New York protected areas database in today's presentation. I'll go over the benefits and uses of protected areas data and the value of comprehensive protected area data. I'll introduce NYPAD show. You what's in the latest

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Release, NYPAD 2.0 and how you can access that information, and I'll present some plans for future work and finish up with ways you can

provide input and contribute to NYPAD. So, let's start with what do we mean by a protected area? Many efforts

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To collect protected areas data have started with a focus on biodiversity. And as a result Their criteria for a protected area was relatively narrow. They consider protected areas only to be land set aside for the preservation of biodiversity and natural habitats, or for natural ecological processes.

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And these lands had to have some form of permanent legal prohibition against the land ever being developed, or being converted from natural land cover the kinds of areas that fall under This narrow sense of protected area are often given names like wilderness or natural area or conservation land.

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or preserve, for example, everyone would agree.

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New York States, forest, preserve and other lands under, and the office of state parks qualify as protected areas these have legal status, ensuring they will never be developed and all are much of these areas preserved by diversity and natural habitat. What about lands owned by land? Trust there may

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be no legal prohibition against the land trust selling a preserve in the future in such a way that the land loses its protection, but that's such a slim possibility that everyone agrees that preserves owned by a land trust also qualify as protected any lands that fall under this narrow sense of protected area

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00:15:06.764 --> 00:15:11.144

Are a priority for including in the New York natural area's database.

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However, there are other lands that could be considered protected areas in a broader sense. Some lands provide benefit for biodiversity and include natural habitat, but they're not legally protected forever. They have varying levels of assurance as to how long There'll be no development. Other lands are managed for purposes, other than biodiversity.

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00:15:34.850 --> 00:15:55.755

Habitat such as for public recreation, like playing fields and playgrounds, and yet other lands have permanent protections against development, but their current uses agriculture or some other activity. So, for many purposes Lands dedicated to open space in general or to recreation or public use.

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Or to farmland protection, or to maintaining water supplies can and should be included as protected areas. What about areas such as military bases and cemeteries? They don't meet the common perception that protected areas, but they won't be developed. And they do provide some areas of natural

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00:16:17.149 --> 00:16:38.234

Habitat and open space, maybe they can be considered protected areas too. At least, for some purposes. Looking at all these areas that are protected in the broader sense. We'd like to include as many of them as possible in the New York protected areas database. But it will be an incremental process over several years to get them all in.

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In general, by protected areas, we mean lands or waters protected from development or designated, or functioning as conservation lands, natural areas, recreation areas, or open space. There's 2 major categories of protected areas that I'll be referring to as

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We go through the presentation: fee owned and conservation easement lands. Fee owned lands are lands directly owned by a government or a private organization. Conservation easements are like a utility easement or an access easement in that there is a land owner and a separate easement holder.

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With conservation easement however, the purpose is to preserve the conservation values of the land the owner often a private individual, but sometimes the local government still owns the land, but the development rights are held by the easement holder.

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The conservation easement a legally. Oh, and this easement holder will never exercise those development rights. The conservation easement is largely legally enforceable land protection agreement between the land owner and the easement holder wherein the landowner gives up the right to develop the land. And the easement holder is responsible

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For ensuring that the provisions of the easement are followed by the owner. Most conservation easements run with the land in perpetuity meaning forever. So that all future owners of the land are bound by the provisions of the conservation easement. Because they are legally enforceable. And in most cases, in effect forever.

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conservation easements that protect biodiversity and natural habitats. Definitely meet the narrow sense of protected area that I talked about earlier. Other easements may protect agricultural land or water supplies and can fall under the broad sense of protected area.

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I think everyone listening understands the benefits to nature and to society of protecting land, and thereby conserving habitat open space and natural landscapes. Ingrid will cover more of that in her part of the presentation. But I want to talk about how you can use data on.

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Protected lands. with protected areas, data, towns, agencies, land trust and others working to protect land can see the specific locations, and overall extent of currently protected lands they can identify gaps in the current set of conserved lands and see potential links.

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00:19:21.884 --> 00:19:23.144

To connect them.

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00:19:24.705 --> 00:19:42.375

And data on protected lands can identify where more effort and resources are needed, and where to prioritize land conservation work.

Fundamentally, we can see where land is protected now and where land could, or should be protected.

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00:19:50.865 --> 00:20:11.175

So, in addition to land protection directly and protection data and protected areas are essential to inform many other projects and planning efforts, such as sustainable land use and smart growth planning, municipal open space preservation programs, drinking water protection plans, flood mitigation and

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00:20:11.235 --> 00:20:31.185

Water management strategies, and appropriate siting for renewable energy, energy transmission and climate mitigation and resiliency projects. For all these projects in planning efforts to be effective and successful, though they need as comprehensive and as up to date protected area data as possible.

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00:20:33.284 --> 00:20:53.504

So, who has these data on protected lands? Mainly it's the managers and owners of these lands and these include state agencies, land trusts, federal land managing agencies, counties and municipalities. And in some cases, individual landowners and private companies may have protected.

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00:20:53.534 --> 00:21:14.354

These managers and owners have data on their own land, but all these conservation and planning efforts would be so much easier and more efficient if users didn't have to go to each data source separately wouldn't be great if all the protected areas data for New York were available in 1 place. Well, it is in NYPAD.

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The New York protected areas database NYPAD is intended to comprehensively collect and share the cumulative land protection work of all the land trust state County, federal and municipal governments and others in New York state.

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As a powerful 1 stop resource NYPAD, not only makes all the projects I listed earlier easier with all protected areas data in 1 place. We can also assess the success and cumulative impact of all the land protection efforts and funding to date and communicate those results. For example, we can answer questions like, what.

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Percentage of your land is protected in your town.

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We can better coordinate and collaborate on protection efforts with other agencies and organizations, thereby reducing redundancy of effort and leveraging your town's own investments. with comprehensive protected areas Data We have vital metrics for tracking and evaluating the impact.

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00:22:19.124 --> 00:22:37.214

Of numerous municipal and state programs and initiatives we can answer questions Like, what's the return on our investment in funding land protection and with comprehensive protected areas data we can give the public a complete picture of conservation actions in their communities in around this state.

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So, our goal for NYPAD for the protected areas database is for it to be an authoritative, comprehensive, and current aggregated, spatial database of new York's protected and conserved lands. We want NYPAD to include conservation lands owned and managed by all agencies and organizations.

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00:23:00.644 --> 00:23:21.314

And we want the data to be obtained directly from the authoritative sources, the agencies, organizations, and towns that own, or manage these lands. These goals are all aspirational. We haven't achieved them completely, but we made good initial progress as I hope to demonstrate in a few minutes.

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A few years ago, we saw that NYPAD back then was getting out of date, and we realized that some of the parcels are based on sometimes inaccurate source data. We decided we needed to completely remake NYPAD, getting all new data and revising the database structure. This total reboot we call NYPAD 2.0.

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I'd like to acknowledge the nature conservancy and Scenic Hudson who worked with natural heritage in 2020 to get started on developing NYPAD 2.0 and starting in 2021 NYPAD 2.0 has been mainly funded by the new york state environmental protection fund administered by DEC.

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00:24:04.064 --> 00:24:25.004

with New York natural heritage, the reboot to NYPAD 2.0 requires contacting all the sources that have data and protected lands, acquiring the data, aggregating the data into 1 data set and assigning the attributes. In other words, maintaining.

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And up to date and comprehensive protected areas, day to day sure is challenging. So, because of the time and effort required, rather than wait, until we have obtained every last protected area, we decided to release NYPAD 2.0 and phases. We assembled the 1st set of protected areas

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phase 1, and each successive phase will have more and more data. phase 1 of NYPAD 2.0 was released this summer. This 1st phase contains current versions of New York state DEC in office of state park lands, obtained directly from those agencies.

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The current data set of federal lands available from the National protected areas database of the US or PAD-US, which is maintained by USGS and includes- and all federal agencies contribute their data to that

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00:25:24.254 --> 00:25:24.764

Data set.

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00:25:27.704 --> 00:25:40.394

The 1st phase of NYPAD 2.0 includes a 1st set of land trust properties representing data received by many, but not all land trusts. We haven't contacted all land trusts, but we're working on it.

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For local governments, including town cities, counties, water districts and school districts. We haven't been able yet to reach out to individual municipalities and get their data directly. So, in the interim, we mined local government lands from real property tax parcel data.

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00:26:04.274 --> 00:26:24.854

Using codes for owner type that indicate a local government, and property class codes that indicate uses such as a recreation area, public forest, conservation area, or water supply. relying on the codes and tax parcel Data isn't an ideal method.

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As it misses a number of properties, but it was a quick way to include a good number of local government lands in phase 1. there are 2 exceptions. We did obtain data directly from New York City parks, and from New York City Department of environmental protection. But the city's Department of environmental protection data isn't

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00:26:46.034 --> 00:26:50.324

Available yet, as we work out how to meet their distribution restrictions.

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00:26:53.985 --> 00:27:14.205

NYPAD 2.0 version released in June has more than 5 Million acres of fee-owned land, and more than 1.2 Million acres of lands under conservation easement. You can see from the acreage totals for fee owned and easements in these 2 left hand columns. That the state lands managed by



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00:27:14.264 --> 00:27:31.604

DEC and the office of state parks account for most of the acres protected in the state, but the contributions of nonprofit organizations, which are mostly land trusts and a local governments, are also very significant.

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00:27:34.784 --> 00:27:53.054

And the 2 columns on the right listing numbers of records numbers of records, a record is a distinct spatial feature in the NYPAD spatial database. So, depending on the source of the data, a record can represent just a single tax parcel, or it can represent a management unit made up of several parcels.

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Such as a state forest, or a land trust, preserve, the spatial data includes more than 22,000 records of fee owned protected areas and more than 3700 records of lands under conservation easement. You'll see that The local governments have the most records.

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00:28:16.784 --> 00:28:32.834

Of fee-owned lands, partly because we obtain those records from the tax parcel data. So adjacent tax parcels managed for the same purpose are separate records whereas in the state unit data, they would often be merged into 1 state forest record or other unit.

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You can see the protected lands in NYPAD, displayed on our interactive map at [www.nypad.org](http://www.nypad.org). In the dashboard as you can see here NYPAD 2.0 organizes the data

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00:28:52.364 --> 00:29:12.644

Into 3 categories, fee-owned lands, conservation easement, and proclamation boundaries. I'll explain about proclamation boundaries in a bit. And in the map's legend, the fee-owned lands are symbolized by their by their manager type whether the

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00:29:12.650 --> 00:29:33.615

Manager is a local government in red here, this includes city town and county lands, or whether it's state lands. And as you can see state lands are the most prominent protected lands in the state at this scale. this color is the non government organizations mostly

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00:29:35.084 --> 00:29:52.694

Regional agencies or districts, such as water districts, and school districts, um, and federal lands and private lands, you can navigate around the state and when you click on a feature, a window pops up.

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00:30:06.494 --> 00:30:27.374

with some basic information about the protected areas. We're currently revising the exact set of features displayed in the pop up but it will include information on owner manager name of the area if there is one and type of managed area so you can see here if I clicked on (lost my cursor) click on

82

00:30:27.404 --> 00:30:43.364

This area here, this window would pop up saying, telling you that it's the sundown wild forest and it's managed, It's designated as forest preserve and it's managed and owned by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

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00:30:45.854 --> 00:31:05.594

If You click on an easement feature, the pop up will list the easement holder, in this case, the land trust, and it will tell you the owner. But in the case where the owner is just a private individual, the owner is listed in the database only as private.

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00:31:07.184 --> 00:31:07.994

You can see here.

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On the webpage at NYPAD.org, we've included strong warnings to users that just because of property is included in the NYPAD doesn't mean it's open to the public. Protected is not the same as open. Inclusion in NYPAD does not imply permission for the public to enter that area. In fact, many lands

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00:31:31.035 --> 00:31:51.975

are not publicly accessible, so we ask users to assume that any protected area included NYPAD is closed to the public until you verify it is open by contacting the managing organization, or by consulting their Web site for information on its public access. And for other rules, regarding use of the area.

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00:31:54.944 --> 00:32:12.944

So, going back to the NYPAD mapper, let's zoom in on the Hudson Valley here. I have only the layer of fee properties turned on and again, state lands make up most of the acreage. You can see here the Catskill forest, Harriman State Park,

88

00:32:13.129 --> 00:32:15.974

And some other state parks and state forests.

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00:32:17.984 --> 00:32:38.504

But you'll see a good representation of local government lands, especially, including down here in red, in Westchester County, and nonprofit lands or land trusts. For example, this is Mohonk preserve, and of federal lands, including this orange one

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00:32:38.684 --> 00:32:59.534

Here is the Appalachian Trail corridor and this little orange one you may, or may not be able to see is the great thicket National Wildlife Refuge. So, I'll come back to that in a moment. So I'm going to turn on the proclamation layer. And because that is symbolized with a

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00:32:59.659 --> 00:33:00.434

Green color

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00:33:08.625 --> 00:33:12.465

It might be a little hard to see, but if you look here.

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00:33:14.834 --> 00:33:34.874

Try that again for you, so, turn them off. So when I turn the easement layer on. You can see a lot of parcels appear in that Catskill area right here. And there's a bunch down here too. These are all parcels with conservation easements.

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00:33:34.934 --> 00:33:43.424

And it's held by New York state DEC so next, I'll turn on the proclamation layer.

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00:33:46.305 --> 00:34:07.305

And you can see some pink areas come up and a proclamation area shows areas proclaimed in federal legislation as either dedicated to a specific purpose, such as military lands like the U. S. military academy at West point here, or areas

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00:34:07.365 --> 00:34:18.825

Approved for acquiring land for a national park or national wildlife refuge such as this area. Here we go right here. This area it was proclaimed by Congress as an

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00:34:21.465 --> 00:34:40.965

Area in which the U. S. Fish and Wildlife service is authorized to acquire land for the great ticket National Wildlife Refuge, the Fish and Wildlife Service actually doesn't own all the land within the proclamation boundary. They've only acquired that little piece that I showed before right here.

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00:34:42.615 --> 00:34:51.524

As, as part of the refuge, and as you saw that piece that's actually acquired is in the fee layer.

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00:34:55.004 --> 00:35:13.845

So, let's zoom in a little even a little further in the Hudson Valley, and we can see some lands in more detail, such as state lands, land trust lands, federal lands, such as a national historic site here quite a few local government lands, including

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00:35:15.674 --> 00:35:29.144

What looks to be like a trailway of some sort, um, at this scale you can also see a district land. This happens to be land owned by a school district.

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00:35:31.214 --> 00:35:51.674

You can see on this side of the river on the West side that this series of state lands and, uh, land trust lands forms a continuous corridor of protective land. And so you can use comprehensive protected areas data to kind of start envisioning where

102

00:35:51.704 --> 00:36:12.644

Connections can be made so, for example, looking here, you can start thinking about possibilities for creating another continuous corridor of

protected land joining the federal land here to this local government land here, and then on to this local government land, or you can think about given this in place.

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00:36:12.945 --> 00:36:21.285

Could other connections be made to some of these other local government lands that are in nearby the trail.

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00:36:25.604 --> 00:36:41.864

For those who would like to add NYPAD data to your GIS, NYPAD data can be downloaded as a geo database from NYPAD, or, the data can be added to your GIS as a web service. The links to the web service are also available from the website. In order to get the data.

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00:36:42.615 --> 00:36:43.905

We first ask you to just

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00:36:45.344 --> 00:36:49.694

To read a use agreement and to fill out a form. So we know who is using the data.

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00:36:51.855 --> 00:37:11.115

Going forward our plans for updating and adding more protective lands to NYPAD are to each year update major datasets such as those from DEC, state parks, Scenic Hudson, and the nature Conservancy. Each year we want to update the data sets from land trusts already included in NYPAD.

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00:37:12.075 --> 00:37:33.195

And each year, we'd like to acquire data from a set of land trusts we haven't acquired data from previously. So those land trust out there whose data haven't been incorporated yet into NYPAD should be hearing from us soon. Each year We'd like to acquire data directly from more directly from more counties and municipalities.

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00:37:33.794 --> 00:37:53.954

So, we can move away from mining the local government data from the real property tax data. That will mean contacting towns and counties to ask for their data. So you may be hearing from us soon. And we'd like to establish NYPAD advisory committee, made up of NYPAD users and data contributors. The advisory committee.

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00:37:55.274 --> 00:38:05.264

We provide guidance to users on data topics and questions such as which lands to include in NYPAD, and be a means for users and user communities to provide feedback to us.

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We want your feedback, because please, let us know of any errors if we've omitted any lands that you know about or if you have any questions about the data. And certainly, if you would like to contribute data, we'd love to talk to you for any of these. You can contact you can use the contact us page at NYPAD.org.

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00:38:29.115 --> 00:38:49.335

Or you can email us at [info@NYPAD.org](mailto:info@NYPAD.org) and if you are with a town or a city specific ways you can support NYPAD are to look at the NYPAD map or data and see what lands in your municipality We have mined from the tax parcel data and provide your feedback.

113

00:38:49.365 --> 00:39:10.485

what did we miss? And what did we get Right? You can provide spatial data on the parks and other protected lands Your town owns or manages. GIS format is best, but there are other options as well. And you can talk to us about sending your data anytime, or you can.

114

00:39:10.634 --> 00:39:12.704

Send us your data when we reach out to you.

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00:39:15.524 --> 00:39:35.594

So that's an introduction to NYPAD and remember [www.NYPAD.Org](http://www.NYPAD.Org) is where to go to get it and look at it. So thank you for listening. And I think we can do maybe a few minutes of questions if anybody has anything right? Now, otherwise we can do questions after.

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00:39:36.585 --> 00:39:49.455

Presentation, but feel free to contact us anytime and I do want to give a shout out to Emily Cheadle, our GIS specialist and natural heritage, Who's been the technical lead or NYPAD 2.0.

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00:39:51.105 --> 00:39:56.805

Thank you Nick. Uh, so we do have a question. 2 questions. I see. Uh, Jim asks

118

00:39:57.194 --> 00:40:17.654

About 30x30 bill that if approved by the governor, he's wondering whether it will adopt the same broad definition of protected lands as to what you are using in NYPAD. I don't know if that's something you can field a question on a bill, but if you happen to know, please go ahead.

119

00:40:17.924 --> 00:40:18.164

I don't.

120

00:40:18.194 --> 00:40:35.084

Know firsthand, but I did happen to talk to somebody to somebody recently who does more firsthand and that's still to be undecided what their definition is will be and what will be included. They have to

121

00:40:36.499 --> 00:40:47.954

Strike a balance between including enough lands to make progress on a 30 by 30 goal, but not including so many lands that being included loses some meaning. Um.

122

00:40:49.845 --> 00:40:51.105

There's.

123

00:40:52.424 --> 00:41:02.204

There will be some discussions about not only what qualifies as a conserved area for 30 by 30 but also, um.

124

00:41:03.314 --> 00:41:24.434

Using NYPAD as sort of the official repository of documenting what's included um, what counts for 30 by 30. So we can use NYPAD to even though we may include other properties that don't mat don't meet that 30 by 30 qualification. We can certainly tag the ones that do.

125

00:41:24.440 --> 00:41:38.295

As such and easily report, or make visible those that contribute to 30 by 30. so, um, so I'll be having some conversations with those people who are working closely on the State's 30 by 30.

126

00:41:39.675 --> 00:41:45.525

And just for those who may not have heard of 30 by 30, or who that, you know, little catch phrase doesn't mean.

127

00:41:45.735 --> 00:41:56.115

Anything immediately, it's basically a goal of 30% of the lands of the state being conserved by 2030. is that right?

128

00:41:58.424 --> 00:42:04.634

Yeah, and it reflects the national goal too, there's a, a national effort too.

129

00:42:05.504 --> 00:42:16.154

Thanks for that we have another question about whether the Empire State trail and those, you know, the quarters that make up that trial are included in NYPAD.

130

00:42:17.894 --> 00:42:19.394

Right now if the

131

00:42:19.454 --> 00:42:40.274

Land that the trail is on is owned by public, you know, local government or a state agency. It could very well be included. certainly portions that follow roads are not going to be included at this time. That would be a longer term.

132

00:42:40.605 --> 00:43:00.525

A lower priority, and a longer term project to, like, create a whole new category in the NYPAD to, um, to show trail corridors or corridors. But so it's kind of a, You might see it, but to get the whole thing in there will be a multi year effort.

133

00:43:03.374 --> 00:43:12.854

Thanks so looking at the time and we don't have current additional questions. I'm going to invite Ingrid to now begin her presentation. Thanks again, Nick.

134

00:43:14.564 --> 00:43:15.074

Thank you.

135

00:43:17.264 --> 00:43:23.744

Yeah, thanks so much Nick, I'm trying to get this to go into presentation mode. So it look good.

136

00:43:25.964 --> 00:43:26.774

Christine, you see it.

137

00:43:26.774 --> 00:43:27.374

Yes, I can.

138

00:43:27.374 --> 00:43:27.674

I.

139

00:43:27.674 --> 00:43:28.544

Yep.

140

00:43:28.604 --> 00:43:46.844

Okay, great thanks a lot. Um, well, thanks for the great overview of NYPAD and for presenting with us again. Nick, my presentation will share some ways This information can be used in local land use planning and decision making and to start out I just want to remind you about the many

141

00:43:46.874 --> 00:44:07.994

Ways that our communities benefit from protected open spaces to emphasize why town cities and villages should consider these places of some of your most important assets. And by extension, why you should pay close attention to them in planning for future and development near these areas. protected lands preserve natural systems

142

00:44:07.999 --> 00:44:29.024

That provide vital benefits to our communities, and I'm kind of focusing more on the protected areas that have, um, that are natural. Although as Nick said, some of these are more developed parks and recreation areas, or perhaps farmland. But I think a lot of these principles apply similarly, so areas like

143

00:44:29.324 --> 00:44:50.294

Forests, wetlands, stream corridors and other natural open spaces, provide essential wildlife habitat, help provide clean air and water, control stormwater runoff and flooding, store carbon and lower temperatures during heat waves. They provide opportunities for recreation and other benefits to human health as well as contribute

144

00:44:50.325 --> 00:45:11.175

To scenic beauty and community character and many other benefits. and numerous studies have demonstrated in addition the significant economic benefits from parks and preserved open spaces. The trust for public land has compiled research from across the country, demonstrating that proximity to parks and preserves

145

00:45:11.624 --> 00:45:32.534

Increases the value of nearby residential and commercial properties and parks and open spaces are furthermore a magnet for businesses residents and tourists who are attracted to these amenities and the high quality of

life or experiences that they offer but protected lands don't exist in a vacuum. They're affected by what goes on.

146

00:45:32.599 --> 00:45:53.714

Around them, and if communities want to maintain the critical benefits they provide, they need to plan carefully to maintain their integrity. In addition municipalities can play an important role in helping to expand protected areas and promoting connections between them. This is an example from Greene county in New York where this habitat conservation area was

147

00:45:53.749 --> 00:46:08.294

Established as mitigation for warehouse development, and was part of a landscape scale habitat management plan developed to maintain viable habitat for threatened and endangered grassland birds in a very rapidly developing area.

148

00:46:11.024 --> 00:46:31.484

Protected areas face a wide variety of threats from nearby land uses and I'm going to mention just a few examples. Habitat fragmentation or isolation is one of the biggest threats to natural areas. Not just protected areas, but more broadly. imagine that this green patch of forest is surrounded by residential development.

149

00:46:31.875 --> 00:46:52.965

The darker green interior area, uh, in the patch represents the core forest habitat, at least 300 feet from that forest edge and the lighter green area, around it is subject to different edge effects. Um, so those include things like, increase sunlight and wind from the forest edge and

150

00:46:52.969 --> 00:47:13.844

Other micro-climatic differences as well as direct human impacts from nearby land use, such as polluted run off from lawns and driveways. The spread of invasive species disturbance from domestic pets and nighttime lighting just to name a few. So, if only half of this protected area is or this habitat patch.

151

00:47:14.145 --> 00:47:35.265

Is protected, for example, outlined in yellow, the value of that area would be significantly reduced if a new road or driveway were cut across the larger path patch and the adjacent habitat were to be developed. The remaining protected area here on the left will end up being

152

00:47:35.294 --> 00:47:46.484

An island of mostly edge habitat and no longer have enough suitable core habitat for supporting many sensitive wildlife species or plant species.

153

00:47:49.695 --> 00:48:10.515

Municipalities can play an important role in planning for and managing land use to avoid or minimize these types of impacts to protected areas to try to maintain their integrity and value in the long term. And two of the most important conservation principles here are to preserve large intact Natural areas wherever possible as well as buffers

154



00:48:10.519 --> 00:48:31.184

To adjacent development, and to preserve, or restore connectivity between protected areas, or between significant larger natural areas more generally. applying these principles requires looking beyond property boundaries. Many land use decisions are made on a parcel by parcel basis.  
155

00:48:31.694 --> 00:48:52.784

But if you want to avoid death by 1000 cuts, it's essential to always consider the bigger picture and evaluate site context, including whether there's a protected area that's adjacent or nearby to the property. So, Nick mentioned some ways you can use NYPAD. Um, but some ideas are to identify  
156

00:48:52.820 --> 00:49:10.545

Protected lands in or nearby the municipality and apply conservation principles to designing and permitting new development near these areas and to take steps to plan for open space protection and management in your community. And I'll walk through these in a little bit more detail.  
157

00:49:12.585 --> 00:49:33.705

NYPAD provides an excellent starting point for identifying protected lands and our program has been using it that way for years. The original version of NYPAD is Our starting point when We are working with a town on a natural resource inventory or open space plan and want to figure out where the protective areas are located. Um, needless to say, it is missing  
158

00:49:33.709 --> 00:49:54.824

Some of the local protected areas, probably in your community. So, if you haven't already cataloged existing open space or protected lands through a project like that, it would be a great exercise for the local conservation advisory council, or open space committee to undertake. some examples of protected areas That may be  
159

00:49:54.884 --> 00:50:16.004

Missing from NYPAD include municipally held conservation easement or lands dedicated to conservation, conservation deed restrictions, and lands or conservation easement owned by smaller land trusts. in addition to creating some kind of basic list and map of these properties, You may want to document  
160

00:50:16.034 --> 00:50:37.154

Who holds and monitors the local easements. and once this information is compiled, it can be more readily incorporated to local inventories and plans including the municipal comprehensive plan. This is an example of the preserved land map from the town of Gardiner's natural resources inventory, which I assisted with.  
161

00:50:37.964 --> 00:50:58.184

The town's open space commission had carefully put together information, but they didn't have a formal map and they didn't have the capacity to create this. So we worked together to locate the tax parcels and cross check all of their records with other information From the parcel data and

162

00:50:58.335 --> 00:51:19.455

Pull together this map of over 100 parcels with some kind of protection status. The town happens to own several properties dedicated to conservation, and also holds multiple conservation easements that have been acquired over time through subdivisions. One of the challenges we discovered in creating the map is that the town lacked data for the

163  
00:51:19.484 --> 00:51:40.604

Boundaries of the conservation easements, which often only cover a portion of the property. So they don't extend to the full tax parcel boundary. Gardiner has enough easements that it would be very time consuming to try to go back and digitize each of these but going forward. The open space commission is recommending that the town.

164

00:51:40.610 --> 00:51:47.055

Require GIS files for new easements so that they can be added to this preserved land map and used in local planning.

165

00:51:50.025 --> 00:51:54.705

Once local protected areas have been catalogued it's possible

166

00:51:54.734 --> 00:52:15.374

To incorporate them into local planning and project review, for example, consideration of adjacent or nearby protected areas can be incorporated into site resource analyses, conducted during environmental reviews of proposed development. Ideally, considering potential impacts to these resources at the earliest stages of project planning.

167

00:52:16.005 --> 00:52:37.005

Local planning boards may also consider recommending protection of natural buffer areas adjacent to protected lands, depending on the proposed development, and the resources that might be affected. So, I'm going to run through some examples of buffer width based on literature, but the buffer should be based on particular conservation goals and resources on

168

00:52:37.604 --> 00:52:58.124

the site, so let's say that a housing development is proposed adjacent to a forested nature preserve, and the planning board wants to recommend a natural buffer to avoid, or limit impacts to the protected area ecosystem. These are examples from a document published by the environmental law Institute, uh, that did a literature review of.

169

00:52:58.484 --> 00:53:19.304

Scientific research, they found that 50 feet may be sufficient to buffer for abiotic types of edge effects. Like, you know, the light and wind effects that I mentioned. Well, 150 feet may be sufficient to buffer impacts to small mammal populations.

170

00:53:19.309 --> 00:53:40.244

A buffer of 215 feet might be necessary to limit disturbance to sensitive plants while limiting influence on bird densities might require a 600

foot buffer. note That site specific conditions will determine the actual buffer widths that might be necessary to serve these

171

00:53:40.934 --> 00:53:52.454

Purposes at any location, but these values give you an idea of the approximate width, uh, necessary to have a functional buffer based on research.

172

00:53:54.854 --> 00:54:15.704

Many communities have zoning regulations for cluster or conservation subdivision design, which typically utilizes a conservation analysis to identify the highest priority resource areas on a site and then uses that information to inform protection of open space during the site design process. The conservation design process can

173

00:54:15.764 --> 00:54:36.824

prioritize preserving large natural areas and habitat corridors that are contiguous or connected to existing protected lands while simultaneously providing a buffer to the new development. So I'm going to walk through an example of that from a subdivision that was developed in the capital district. This is a, was the proposed site.

174

00:54:36.885 --> 00:54:58.005

It was a 106 acre property in the Town of Guilderland located in the Albany pine Bush area. It was adjacent to a town owned parcel here outlined in green. That was at the same time being redeveloped as a town park with recreation fields. So, the Albany pine Bush is a really rare.

175

00:54:58.364 --> 00:55:19.154

Fire-dependent inland pine barrens ecosystem that supports many rare plant and animal species and natural communities and the state legislature established the Albany pine Bush preserve commission back in the late 1980s to oversee conservation and management of this unique area. Um, and they play a role in, in reviewing development, proposed in this.

176

00:55:19.514 --> 00:55:40.304

Area, um, and they're guided by a management plan that is periodically updated and this is a map showing the preserve vision from the 2002 management plan, showing fully protected lands in black, parcels recommended for full protection in green, and parcels that were recommended for open space or partial protection in blue.

177

00:55:41.084 --> 00:56:01.454

The proposed subdivision site was, in fact, the number 8 priority for full protection under this plan, and the preserve working with the nature Conservancy had attempted to purchase this property, but were unsuccessful. The map illustrates how the proposed subdivision site is connected to the larger pine Bush preserve and it's a good example of how a map of protected

178

00:56:01.484 --> 00:56:22.604

Open space lands can provide important context in reviewing a development project. The developer originally proposed a cluster design with 75 lots

on approximately 40 acres on this site, With 66 acres proposed as preserved open space. Um, they worked with the Guilderland planning board

179  
00:56:22.695 --> 00:56:43.755

And the Pine Bush commission through the EIS process to revise the plan and protect ecological resources that were identified in the pine Bush management plan, and they reached this final layout shown on the right with 45 lots on 24 acres and 82 acres of open space. That was then dedicated to the town for

180

00:56:43.759 --> 00:57:04.874

Conservation, so, this shows, the development today, which is nearly completely built, and the open space conservation lands that were dedicated to the town. the town then dedicated its management rights to the pine Bush preserve commission in addition to management I believe of about 70 acres of natural

181

00:57:04.994 --> 00:57:25.904

Open space on the neighboring park parcel. This project helped the commission achieve targets for increase land protection and acreage for habitat management in the pine Bush preserve while also providing education and recreation opportunities to the public. So, this last map just shows.

182

00:57:26.264 --> 00:57:38.684

The most recent Pine Bush preserve management plan, showing how the subdivision's protected open space has expanded the protected areas of the preserve up here.

183

00:57:41.534 --> 00:58:01.214

So, I think, you know, obviously most towns don't have a pine Bush preserve commission operating in them, but nevertheless, it illustrates the value and importance of open space planning and communities can undertake this process on their own and working with other organizations like local.

184

00:58:01.454 --> 00:58:22.454

Trusts. the bottom line is communities need to create a vision and a strategy for land conservation and management to achieve successful outcomes Like this. A 1st step is to develop an open space inventory or plan or similar conservation plan that identifies the community's priorities for conservation. And part of this process, usually.

185

00:58:22.484 --> 00:58:43.604

Involves evaluating how existing protected lands are meeting the community's goals and where the gaps are, this is an example of the open space vision map from the city of Kingston open space plan and it establishes ambitious targets for new parks trails, protected areas, community gardens and other things.

186

00:58:43.610 --> 00:58:53.715

Including identifying a park desert in the middle of the city here. That's an area that's a priority for future protection efforts.

187

00:58:54.735 --> 00:58:58.995

Ingrid, I just want to say that we're about 5 minutes from 4 o'clock.  
188

00:58:59.115 --> 00:59:00.015

Yeah, I'm finishing up.

189

00:59:00.915 --> 00:59:01.875

Okay, great.

190

00:59:02.805 --> 00:59:04.755

So, lastly.

191

00:59:04.784 --> 00:59:25.904

I want to note that in addition to the NYPAD map viewer that Nick showed, you can access NYPAD through the Hudson Valley natural resource mapper, which is our great mapping tool. It is located under reference layers. We're in the process of adding those new layers. The NYPAD 2.0 update.

192

00:59:26.564 --> 00:59:42.404

So, please check back soon. Hopefully in the next week or 2, we'll finally have those new layers up here and, uh, with that, thanks again, for joining us for today's webinar and Nick, and I are happy to answer any additional questions you have.

193

00:59:49.214 --> 00:59:51.554

Great Thank you. Ingrid.

194

00:59:52.934 --> 01:00:13.814

I don't see questions in the chat right now, or Q and a, I mean, so please, if you have, we have a few more minutes before, uh, we need to conclude. So use the Q a, to submit your questions for Ingrid or Nick.

Um, I was wondering it was such a beautiful photo of the bird, right?

195

01:00:13.874 --> 01:00:23.174

On Top of the signpost at the green county habitat conservation area. Um, how did they manage to get that bird to just, you know, land there for the photo.

196

01:00:26.024 --> 01:00:26.714

Good question.

197

01:00:28.934 --> 01:00:29.474

Okay.

198

01:00:35.534 --> 01:00:51.584

Oh, uh, there was a question I see about what was the source for those buffer sizes and that's a a publication called conservation thresholds for land use planners from the environmental law Institute. Um, that's a great publication.

199

01:00:52.694 --> 01:01:10.154

You know, it's, that publication is, I think, almost 2 decades old now and so there's probably more recent information, but from other references I've seen, I think those buffer widths have held up over time.

200

01:01:19.035 --> 01:01:23.055

Is that something we will be able to provide a link to in the follow up email?

201

01:01:23.775 --> 01:01:26.865

I see it. Rich Schiafo actually shared that link. Thank you.

202

01:01:31.215 --> 01:01:44.265

Yeah, and we can share that we will be following up with link to the recording and slides for anyone who wants to check back and, uh, the other references. So we can share that link in our follow up as well.

203

01:01:49.245 --> 01:01:49.545

Hey.

204

01:01:51.225 --> 01:01:53.445

Oh, um.

205

01:01:56.114 --> 01:02:16.514

If there are no other questions we can end a minute early. And again, there is a brief survey that should pop up. I apologize for any technical difficulties. Webex seems to have updated their platform again and they updated.

206

01:02:16.544 --> 01:02:35.804

The webinar interface, and we think that may have affected the experience for some people and we had to update the way that we set up the program. So, hopefully, we'll be set for next month's webinar and hopefully nobody had too difficult of a time getting in with us today.

207

01:02:37.784 --> 01:02:44.444

So, thank you again, Nick for your great presentation and for everyone for joining us.

208

01:02:44.564 --> 01:02:45.554

thank you

209

01:02:45.554 --> 01:02:48.854

Afternoon thanks.

210

01:02:49.814 --> 01:02:50.264

Bye.

211

01:02:51.824 --> 01:02:53.534

Bye bye. Bye have a good day.