

ELLA March Workshop

Identifying and Designating
Critical Environmental Areas



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Agenda

- 9:40 – 10:00 – Intro and ELLA Update
- 10:00 – 10:30 – CEAs: what they are and what they do
- 10:00 – 10:15 – Break
- 10:15 – 10:45 – How the Estuary Program can help
- 10:45 – 11:00 – Break
- 11:00 – 11:30 – Designating CEAs in Hyde Park
- 11:30 – 12:00 – Questions and Wrap-up



ELLA Update

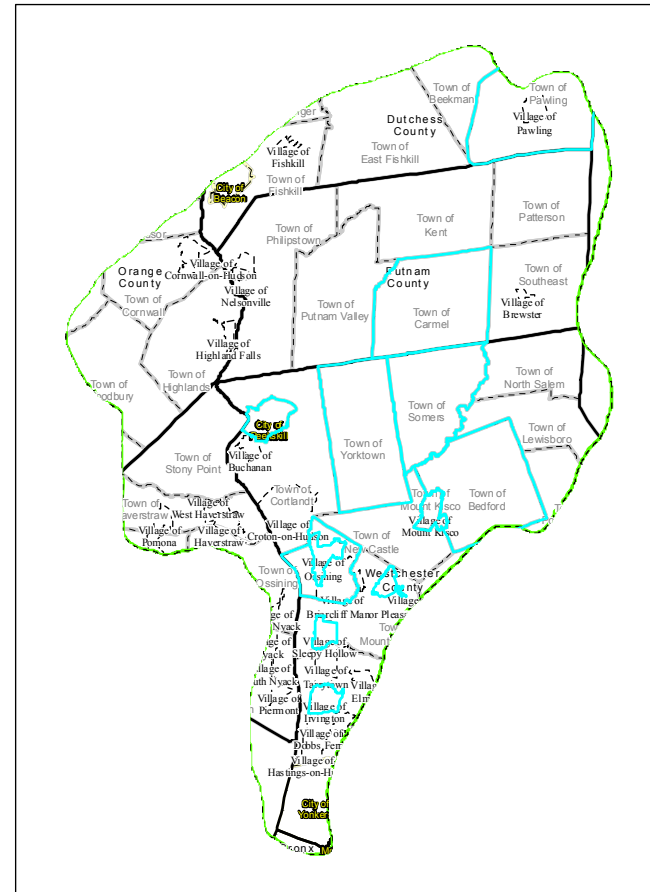
- Fred's Leaving
- Membership
 - 103 members down from 140 in 2008
 - Reaching out to new members, Planning Boards, Town Boards



Stream Conservation Project

- 12 Municipalities participating:
 - Village and Town of Ossining, Pleasantville, Sleepy Hollow, Bedford, Somers, Yorktown, Pawling, Carmel, Irvington, Mt. Kisco, Peekskill
- Projects include: buffer restorations, educational signage, watershed planning, and water quality testing

ELLA Stream Conservation Program



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ELLA Survey

- 28 members took survey



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1. Please rank the following topics as to your level of interest and/or likelihood of attending a workshop.




	High	Moderate	Low	None	Rating Average	Response Count
Managing deer in a suburban setting	42.9% (12)	39.3% (11)	14.3% (4)	3.6% (1)	1.79	28
Green Infrastructure techniques for stormwater management	55.6% (15)	25.9% (7)	18.5% (5)	0.0% (0)	1.63	27
How to develop and use a Geographic Information System (GIS)	30.8% (8)	42.3% (11)	26.9% (7)	0.0% (0)	1.96	26
How to assess water quality	50.0% (14)	35.7% (10)	14.3% (4)	0.0% (0)	1.64	28
How to assess forest health	39.3% (11)	39.3% (11)	21.4% (6)	0.0% (0)	1.82	28
How to develop effective educational materials for the public	42.9% (12)	35.7% (10)	21.4% (6)	0.0% (0)	1.79	28
Local natural history identification (birds, plants, reptiles, etc.)	46.4% (13)	32.1% (9)	21.4% (6)	0.0% (0)	1.75	28
How to identify and designate Critical Environmental Areas (CEA) in your town	46.4% (13)	32.1% (9)	21.4% (6)	0.0% (0)	1.75	28
How to conduct an open space inventory	42.9% (12)	28.6% (8)	17.9% (5)	10.7% (3)	1.96	28
				Other (please specify)		6
				answered question		28
				skipped question		0

2. Indicate your level of preference for the day/time format of workshops.					
	High	Moderate	Low	Rating Average	Response Count
Weekday full day (9-5 pm)	14.8% (4)	29.6% (8)	55.6% (15)	2.41	27
Weekday half-day early (9 am -1 pm)	37.0% (10)	18.5% (5)	44.4% (12)	2.07	27
Weekday half-day late (1-5 pm)	33.3% (9)	25.9% (7)	40.7% (11)	2.07	27
Weekday early evening (6-8 pm)	35.7% (10)	32.1% (9)	32.1% (9)	1.96	28
Weekday late evening (7-9 pm)	17.9% (5)	32.1% (9)	50.0% (14)	2.32	28
Weekend full day (9-5 pm)	26.9% (7)	26.9% (7)	46.2% (12)	2.19	26
Weekend half-day early (9 am -1 pm)	29.6% (8)	40.7% (11)	29.6% (8)	2.00	27
Weekend half-day late (1-5 pm)	42.3% (11)	26.9% (7)	30.8% (8)	1.88	26
Other (please specify)					3
answered question					28
skipped question					0

Most preferred:
 Weeknights from 6-8 pm
 Weekends from 1-5 pm

Webinars were also recommended

Most preferred Teatown,
 but there was support for other venues

3. Where would you like workshops to held?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Teatown		40.7%	11
Different venues throughout the region		29.6%	8
Doesn't matter		29.6%	8
Other (please specify)			5
answered question			27
skipped question			1

Critical Environmental Areas

- What are they?
- What do they do?
- What is the process?
- What parties are involved?
- Will it cost \$?
- How can I get help?



What is a CEA?

- A Critical Environmental Area is a ***specific geographic area*** designated by a state or local agency, having exceptional or unique environmental characteristics.
- To be designated a CEA an area must meet/provide one of the following criteria:
 - A benefit or threat to human health
 - A natural setting
 - Agricultural, social, cultural, historic, recreation, or educational value
 - An inherent ecological, geological or hydrological sensitivity to change that may be adversely affected by any change

What do they Do?

- CEA designation does not impose any formal regulations on a property
- For any Type I or unlisted actions in SEQR, the lead agency must consider impacts to the CEA when making its determination of significance. (Section 617.7 of SEQR)
 - CEA identified on Environmental Assessment Form (EAF)

Who is Involved in the Process?

- Town Board must ultimately designate the CEAs
- Planning Board or other stakeholders may have advice on candidate areas
- Town Attorney will need to prepare resolutions/information for submittal to DEC

Steps to Designating a CEA

1. Talk to Town Board and see if they are interested
2. Identify candidate areas



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Identifying Candidate Areas

- Get a handle of the environmental resources in your community
 - Are rare species of significant communities present?
 - Are there large tracts of undeveloped land?
 - Groundwater recharge areas/water supply
 - Biotic corridors
 - Aesthetic or scenic areas
- Ask Town Board and other stakeholders for suggestions on other possible areas
 - Consistency with other town reg's

Steps to Designating a CEA

1. Talk to Town Board and see if they are interested
2. Identify candidate areas
3. Prepare map of CEA and written justification
4. Meet with Town Board (workshop) and select final areas for designation
5. Town Board will then set public hearing
6. Hold Public Hearing
7. Revise CEAs if necessary, finalize map and justification
 - List of affected properties
8. Prepare resolution for designation (Town Attorney)
9. Submit final map and justification to appropriate agencies (Town Attorney)



Filing the Paperwork

- Notification that an area has been designated as a CEA must include a map at an appropriate scale to readily locate the boundaries of the CEA, the written justification supporting the designation, and proof of public hearing and, must be filed with:
 - (i) the commissioner;
 - (ii) the appropriate regional office of the department; and
 - (iii) any other agency regularly involved in undertaking, funding or approving actions in the municipality in which the area has been designated.
- This CEA designation shall take effect 30 days after filing with the commissioner. Each designation of a CEA must be published in the ENB by the department and the department will serve as a clearinghouse for information on CEAs.

What Will it Cost?

- Not much (just time!)
 - Data and most resources are free
- The Town Attorney
 - The more you can prepare the less this will be



Where to Get Information

- GIS data
 - Westchester County, Teatown
- Rare Species and Significant natural Communities
 - Estuary Program, NY Natural Heritage Program
- Aerial photographs
 - Google Earth
- ELLA website!
 - E-Tool Kit (<http://www.ellahh.net/resourcelibrary/toolkit.php>)
- Any existing ecological studies
 - Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan
 - Hudsonia Habitat Mapping
- Overlay data to identify areas of town that contain rare species, significant communities, wetland complexes, or large tracts of open space.



Where to Get Help

- Teatown!
- Hudson River Estuary Program
- Local Land Trusts

CEAs in the HHH

- Westchester:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/25161.html>

- Putnam:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/25141.html>



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