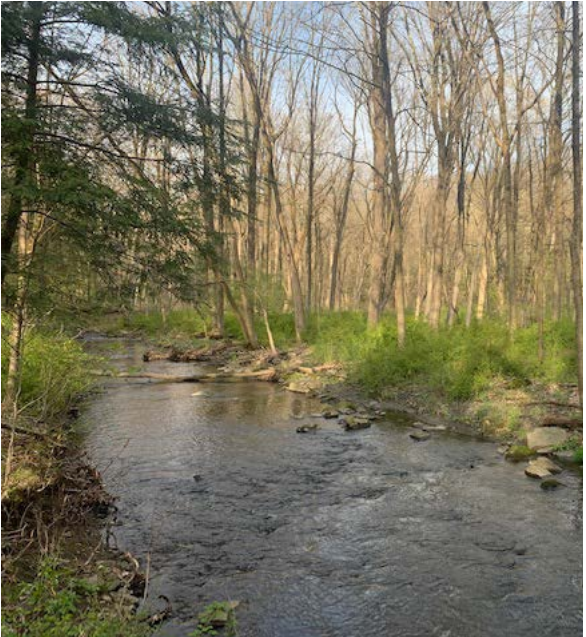

Open Space Preservation Committee

Town of Bedford

LAND CONSERVATION
AND PROTECTION



The Buxton Gorge Preserve
photo: George Bianco



Town of Bedford

425 Cherry Street
Bedford Hills, NY 10507
914 666-6530

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Town Board of the Town of Bedford enacted a local law in 2000, amending the code of the Town of Bedford, adding Chapter 85, Open Spaces and Areas, Park and Water Protection Funds Program.

This provides for the raising of funds for the purpose of acquiring property, interests or rights in real property, for the preservation of open spaces. Through this legislation, with the support of the citizens of Bedford, a fund has been established for this purpose

The Open Space Preservation Committee consists of seven members representing a cross-section of the hamlets which comprise the Town of Bedford.

It is charged with evaluating and prioritizing various parcels within the Town which may be recommended for potential acquisition as open space by the Town Board in accordance with Local Law 2-2000.

The Committee takes into consideration the comprehensive plan, protection of surface waters and aquifers, wetlands and buffers, steep slopes, key roads and vistas, recreation potential, historic and/or cultural significance, unique or prominent natural features, location, and any other criteria that the Committee considers relevant.

Our work includes identification of parcels, research, site visits, mapping, and representation of the Town at regional and local meetings for open space preservation.

For more information please [visit our page](#) on The Town of Bedford website, or email one of the committee members listed in this brochure.

PARTNERS

The Town and the Open Space Committee collaborate with the Westchester Land Trust, Westchester County, NYS DEC, the Conservation, Planning, Zoning and Wetlands Boards of the Town, as well as State and National Conservation organizations such as the Nature Conservancy. The Pace University Land Use Law Center facilitates professional conferences and enables regional open space preservation groups to share experiences and expertise.

Since the members of the Bedford Open Space Committee represent each of the hamlets in town, we regularly visit local properties of interest, and maintain contact with community members.

We have also communicated with local realtors to help identify properties that may have potential for open space preservation while in the process of sale or transfer.

PRESERVATION METHODS

Several options are available to utilize as techniques for preservation of open space in the Town. Among these are; outright purchase, conservation easements, option agreements, right of first refusal and land exchange.

Our residents have been very generous with donations of gifts and conservation easements throughout the Town, protecting and preserving valuable view sheds and natural resources.

Since our funds are limited, we have also established partnerships with other agencies and conservation organizations to maximize our ability to acquire properties of interest.

MAPPING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Our work in identifying greenways, open spaces, and view sheds has been facilitated by the use of mapping and GIS systems. We have developed town maps which detail the current preserves, vital natural resources such as wetlands and watersheds, and identified contiguous properties which may connect open spaces as well as provide critical habitat protection.

Our Open Space Preservation maps will be available on display at the Town Hall and local libraries. Community groups are encouraged to contact the Committee to arrange for a presentation of this information.

MAPPING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- Bedford contains a total area of approximately 39.3 square miles, or 25,182 acres.
- Five percent (5%) of the town is covered by water.
- Future development will continue to limit the availability of open space for preservation.



The Bedford Oak
photo: Bradford Burdick

Contacts and Additional Information

The Bedford Open Space Committee meets monthly, these meetings are public sessions, and any resident is welcome to attend.

Contact the Town Office for additional information and check your local listings in the Bedford Record-Review for meeting notices.

The seven members of the Open Space Committee represent the hamlets of Katonah, Bedford Hills and Bedford Village, and would be glad to speak with you regarding a specific property or to discuss the various methods of land preservation.

COMMITTEE

George Bianco GEOBIANCO@gmail.com
Glenn Ticehurst glenn@btlandarch.com
Rosemary Lee enviro3232@aol.com
Christine Foster wildchuck@aol.com
Diane Lewis dlewis@bedfordny.gov
Linda Corso oldfield63@aol.com
Roger Savitt rogersavitt@yahoo.com

Open Space Acquisitions

Tom Burke Preserve

Bedford Hills
7.5 acres
(private donations)
2002

Leatherman's Ridge

Bedford Hills
33.95 acres
2005

Zema Farm

Katonah
9.5 acres
2005

Vernon Hills

Bedford Village
3.3 acres
2006

Ridge Road

Katonah
17 acres
2010

Twin Lakes

Bedford
22 acres
2012

Buxton Gorge

Bedford Hills
56 acres
2019