

Town of Poestenkill Comprehensive Plan

“Celebrating our Rural Lifestyle”

Draft
Prepared 5-1-2025



Hudson River
Valley Greenway

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE



The Town Board gratefully acknowledges the hard work of the volunteers and staff who put time into the research, writing, and updating of this Comprehensive Plan. This draft originated with the Planning Board and was advanced with graphics that were prepared by the Cornell Cooperative Extension, and was revised by an appointed Comprehensive Plan Committee, representing a diversity of interests in community life in Poestenkill.

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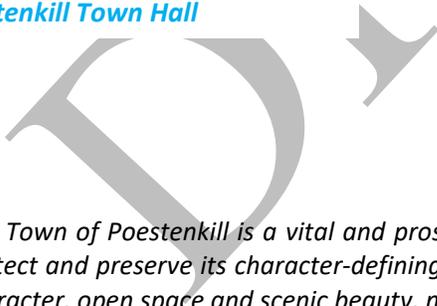
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Poestenkill Town Hall



VISION STATEMENT

The Town of Poestenkill is a vital and prosperous community. Future progress requires that the Town wisely protect and preserve its character-defining qualities; a historic and rich rural heritage; traditional small-town character, open space and scenic beauty, natural resources, diverse citizenry, and strong community schools.

In the decades ahead, the Town will enjoy a stable and varied local economy and remain a desirable place to live, raise a family, work, and retire. Poestenkill's lively hamlet—the center of community life—will be sustained by continuing to offer a mix of small locally owned businesses, stores, professional services, and community facilities. The Town will encourage residents to buy homes, improve their housing, and create suitable housing for seniors. The Town will endeavor to provide the infrastructure necessary to protect water quality and support existing commercial enterprises.

The Town of Poestenkill will strive to accommodate carefully planned new residential development, commercial enterprises and public infrastructure which fit harmoniously into the town fabric, are compatible with established neighborhoods, and are designed in a manner that conserves its important natural resources, waterways and aquifer, agricultural lands, and family farms.

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The Planning Process

The Town of Poestenkill's first Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1970. In 1996, a steering committee composed of 16 citizens began the work to update the Plan. The Committee gathered factual information to assess existing conditions and trends in Poestenkill and surrounding Towns; sought public views and input by survey and open/public meetings; defined plans for the future; and proposed implementation priorities, a timetable, and funding strategies for new aspects of the Plan.

Committee members educated themselves about comprehensive planning; talked to planners in other Towns; reviewed other Master Plans; conducted a survey of citizen interests; and collected data necessary to determine trends in such areas as population growth, education, housing development, and the local economy; and began the decision-making process and writing of the Plan. Despite all of this work, by 1999, the Comprehensive Plan Committee realized it needed a consultant to help complete the Comprehensive Plan. River Street Planning & Development was hired for this, with the approval of the Town Board.

In April 2000, the Committee organized a community meeting to share information with residents and businesses about the comprehensive planning project and to get feedback on the proposed vision and goals for the comprehensive plan. Many of the specific recommendations in this Action Plan came directly from the citizen feedback received at that meeting.

In October 2004, the process to update the Plan was once again undertaken. The Town Board asked Rensselaer County Economic Development and Planning to review and update the information in the Plan. Areas that had been overlooked previously were added, including forest lands and forestry and hard rock mining. Data from the 2000 Census which was not available until 2003, was also incorporated into the document. Several versions of the new draft Comprehensive Plans were put on the Poestenkill Library and then Town website. Two public hearings were held on September 21, 2006 and October 19, 2006. The Town Board adopted the current plan on November 16, 2006.

Initial work to update the 2006 plan began in 2019. The Planning Board and other volunteers worked diligently to refine and collect new information, including helping with the Natural Resource Inventory, which was completed in 2019.

This allowed the Planning Board to update Maps and Sections of the Plan. The Town contracted with Laberge Group in 2022 to update relevant information in the plan, and assist the Town with a new public engagement process and final plan adoption.

Much of the background community information and the maps produced are still relevant and are being used in this plan with updates as necessary. This final adoption process has included two public workshops which were held in October and December of 2024, a public survey that included almost 200 responses on a variety of topics, and two public workshops conducted by the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Town Board to ensure that the plan truly reflects the shared vision of the community.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

Under New York State law, municipalities are granted the authority and responsibility to prepare and adopt comprehensive plans. As defined in the state legislation, a comprehensive plan is a document that presents goals, objectives, guidelines, and policies for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and community development of the community. Also known as a master plan, a comprehensive plan provides guidance to Town leaders and helps to ensure that the needs of the community will be met.

It is important to understand that the action items described in the plan are not requirements. Rather, they are recommendations designed to provide focus and direction as Poestenkill moves ahead to reach its preferred future. It will be up to the local community to decide, on an ongoing basis, which initiatives they wish to implement and how they wish to proceed. Any future land use regulation must be in accordance with the principles of the Comprehensive Plan. The Town Board should carefully examine proposed land use strategies to maintain the rural character of the Town.

Organization of the Plan

The Town of Poestenkill Comprehensive Plan is made up of six sections:

- **Introduction:** This is an overview of the planning process and the organization of the Plan.
- **Public Engagement:** A Summary of the public input conducted as part of this final planning effort.
- **Community Profile:** An overview of the population, housing, economy, land use, zoning, historical and cultural resources, transportation, recreation, municipal services, and natural resources.
- **Vision, Goals and Strategies:** A section outlining the final Vision, Goals and Strategies based on the input of the Public.
- **Key Projects:** Descriptions of projects that have been identified to assist the Town with implementing the goals. These are normally projects that are eligible for additional funding.
- **Implementation Plan:** A short discussion of recommended strategies for implementing the plan, which serves as the overall framework for addressing current and future needs and changes in the Town of Poestenkill. This section is followed up with a tabular presentation of the Goals and

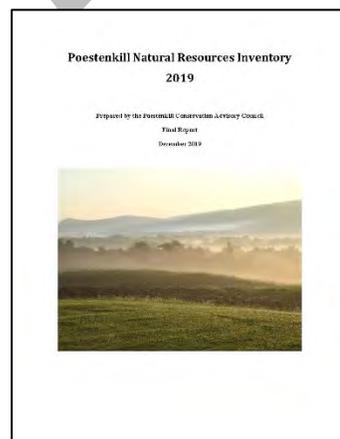
Strategies, including the stakeholders and partners to assist with implementation and, where appropriate, available grant sources for each action.

Local, County, and Regional Plans Summary

The following is a list of the officially adopted local and regional plans, presented chronologically. The adopted Comprehensive Plan for Poestenkill, which was discussed in the opening paragraph, is not included among these plans. Together these plans aid in identifying the needs and opportunities available to the Town of Poestenkill.

2019 Natural Resource Inventory (for the Town of Poestenkill)

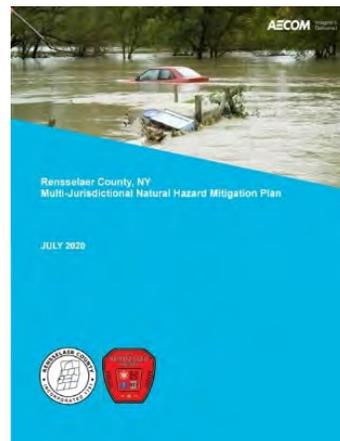
This document provides an inventory of the natural resources in the Town of Poestenkill, including but not limited to, aquifers, soils, surface water resources, habitats and land controls that would affect resources. It was prepared as a joint project between the Town, Cornell University, and the Taconic Land Trust (formally Rensselaer Land Trust) with funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program. Maps from this document were used in this Plan with the permission of the Town. **(See Appendix D.)**



2020 Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by the Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, with assistance from external consultants, in 2020. This document marks the first update of the original Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was initially adopted in 2011.

Hazard mitigation measures are proactive strategies implemented before disasters occur, aimed at reducing the future impacts of such events on the community's people and property. These measures represent recent actions taken to enhance future safety. According to FEMA guidelines, hazard mitigation plans must be updated and resubmitted for approval every five years to ensure eligibility for certain disaster funding assistance.



Keep it Growing! Rensselaer County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, 2015

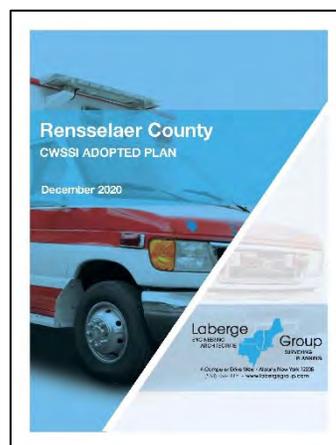
Approximately sixty years ago, farms accounted for 42 percent of Rensselaer County's land area. Today, farms make up just 20.9 percent. In 1999, Rensselaer County initiated the development of the "Keep It Growing! Rensselaer County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan." The current version of the Plan (2015) focuses on four key areas: economic development, business environment, farmland protection, and public education and outreach. "Keep It Growing!" outlines strategies that the County and municipalities can adopt to implement recommendations detailed in the Plan. These recommended actions are designed to proactively combat the loss of agricultural land in the county. Each recommendation includes guidance on the lead organization responsible for driving the change, suggested partner organizations, priority levels, and estimated timelines for implementation.



2020 Adopted County-Wide Shared Services Initiative, Rensselaer County

A County Wide Shared Services Initiative requiring County Executives to establish a shared services panel to assist with the development of shared services that could be led by Rensselaer County. The Town of Poestenkill was one of the participating Towns in this process.

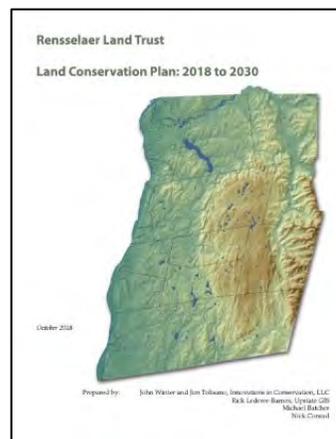
The panel included the County Executive. Leadership from each municipality within each municipality was allowed to opt into the shared services plan, which includes emergency services.



Rensselaer Land Trust Land Conservation Plan: 2018 to 2030

The Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) prepared this Land Conservation Plan (the Plan) to identify key lands in Rensselaer County for conservation and to assist and inspire the conservation efforts and land use decisions of its partner organizations and municipalities in the region. Since this document was created, the Rensselaer Land Trust and the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance have merged and renamed the organization as Hudson Taconic Lands.

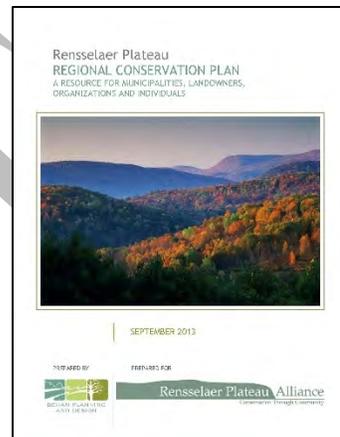
This Plan has identified key undeveloped lands in the County where the Trust will spend time, money, and energy to conserve. The sites listed,



offer the best opportunities to protect the core conservation values and quality of life in their service area – Rensselaer County and its environs – from development of sensitive areas as the economy of the Capital Region expands.

Rensselaer Plateau Regional Conservation Plan

This plan was created in 2013 by the non-profit Rensselaer Plateau Alliance to promote conservation and stewardship needs as well as highlight significant economic and community values that could apply in these area. The plan provides three separate documents that guide Municipal, Landowners and Organizations on recommended treatment for ecologically significant areas on the Rensselaer Plateau. The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance recently merged with RTL to become the Hudson Taconic Lands.



- Rural/Peace and Quiet
- People/Community
- Natural Features

Question 2: In your opinion, what are the top three issues or challenges facing the Town of Poestenkill over the next ten years?

The Top three Responses centered around the following themes:

- Increased density due to new residential development. The respondents are increasingly aware of the development pressures faced by the Town. Respondents used terms “keeping Poestenkill rural,” no development, over development, and increased traffic as concerns.
- Rising Taxes.
- Need for Emergency Services. Many respondents focused on the need for better ambulance services.

Questions 3, 4, 5: Regarding Broadband Services (Verizon, Fios or Spectrum).

Respondents were asked if they had access to Broadband Services, to which the majority replied “yes,” and noted that they were generally satisfied with the speed of connection. There were a few respondents that lacked broadband services or noted that the service was unreliable. However, the respondents did not indicate locations where service was lacking.

Question 6: If you have cellular phone service, how satisfied are you with the reliability of the connection?

Approximately 75% of the of the respondents who have cellular service indicated that they are satisfied with the reliability of their cell service connections. However, 25% stated that cell service did not meet their current needs.

Question 7: Where should the Town of Poestenkill allow utility-scale solar projects in the Town?

The responses illustrate a mix of opinions on the regulations of utility-scale solar projects. Thirty percent (30%) of respondents would allow utility-scale solar with appropriate Town regulations. Almost 18% would limit the projects to properties in agricultural districts. Thirty-five percent (35%) of the respondents chose “Other” with a general consensus that solar farms should not be allowed or are not wanted in Poestenkill.

Question 8a and 8b: Public Sewer

Question 8a asked respondents if they supported a sewer feasibility study in two strategic locations within the Town where water services are already planned. The first area, near the commercial area of Route 355/and Route 351, was supported by 36% of the respondents. The second area of concern, areas in or near the Hamlet, was supported by 27% of respondents.

The second part of the question (8b) allowed respondents to make a general comment regarding public sewers. Respondents were split with some supporting the exploration of public sewer, while others were against it based on concern that it would raise taxes.

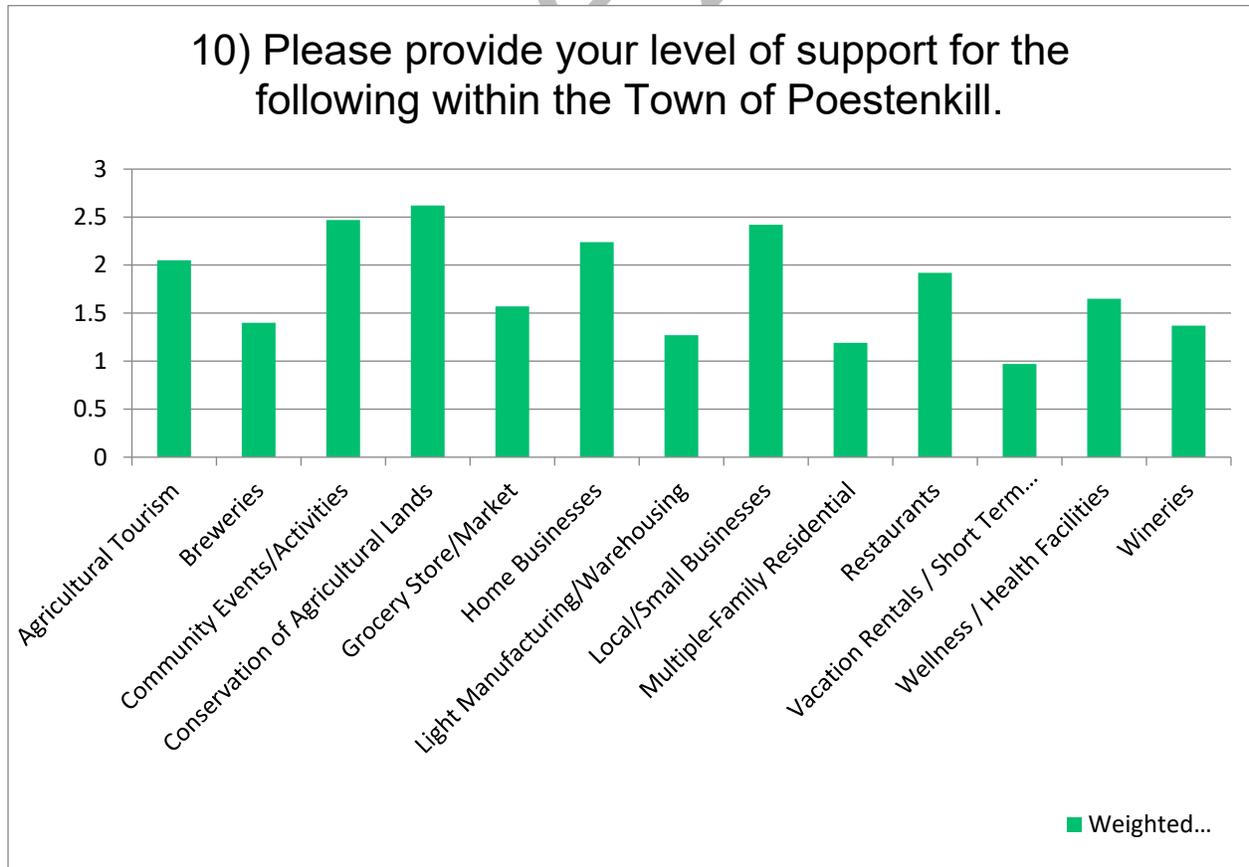
Question 9: Would you support protection of the traditional lot size, building sizes and placement within the Hamlet of Poestenkill?

The vast majority of the respondents indicated that they would support protection of the traditional lot size, building sizes and placement within the Hamlet of Poestenkill.

Question 10: Please provide your level of support for the following within the Town of Poestenkill.

Following is a graph of a variety of potential uses to be considered for the Town of Poestenkill and the level of support provided by the respondents for each use. Respondents were allowed to choose between four different choices: fully support, support, not a priority, or not needed, which were weighted from 3-0 in the graph below. The higher the bar, the higher the level of support from the respondents. The top three uses with the most support are Conservation of Agricultural Lands, Community Events/Activities, and Local/Small Business.

Table 1: Support for Business Types



Question 11: Housing: Please provide your level of support for the following housing types in the Town of Poestenkill.

A listing of types of housing in the Town of Poestenkill was presented to respondents (single-family, two-family, multiple family, and senior housing) with the instructions to indicate their level of support for each choice. Respondents were allowed to indicate their level of support for each housing choice by choosing “fully support,” “support,” “not a priority,” or “not needed.” The top three housing types supported included single-family homes, two-family dwellings, and senior housing.

Question 12: Should the Town allow single-family homeowners to have an accessory dwelling on their property (also called in-law apartment, granny flat, garage apartment, or backyard cottage)?

The Town currently permits accessory dwellings on single-family properties as a special use. Over 85% of the respondents indicated that the Town should continue to allow single-family homeowners to have an accessory dwelling on their property.

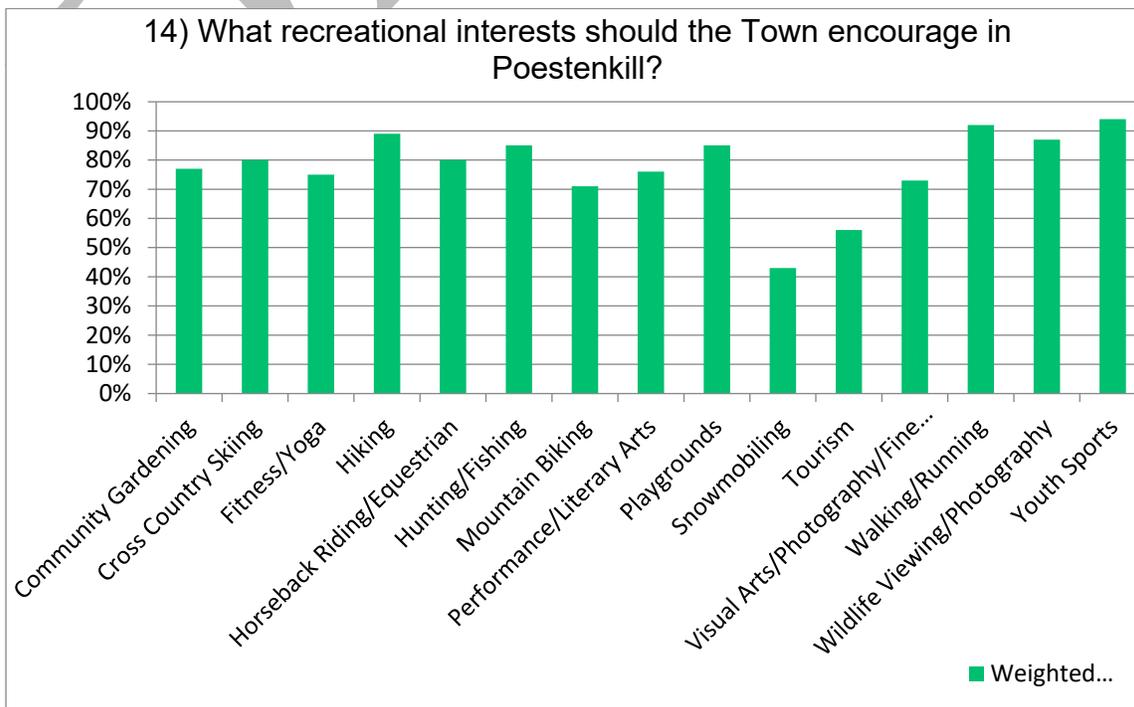
Question 13: Would you support sidewalks improvements to both create more walkability, safety, and convenience in the Hamlet?

The majority (63%) of the respondents indicated support for sidewalk improvements in the Hamlet of Poestenkill.

Question 14: What recreational interests should the Town encourage in Poestenkill?

Below is a graph of a variety of recreational activities in the Town of Poestenkill and the level of support provided by the respondents for each activity. The higher the bar the higher the level of support from the respondents. The top three activities with the most support are: Youth Sports, Walking/Running, and Hiking.

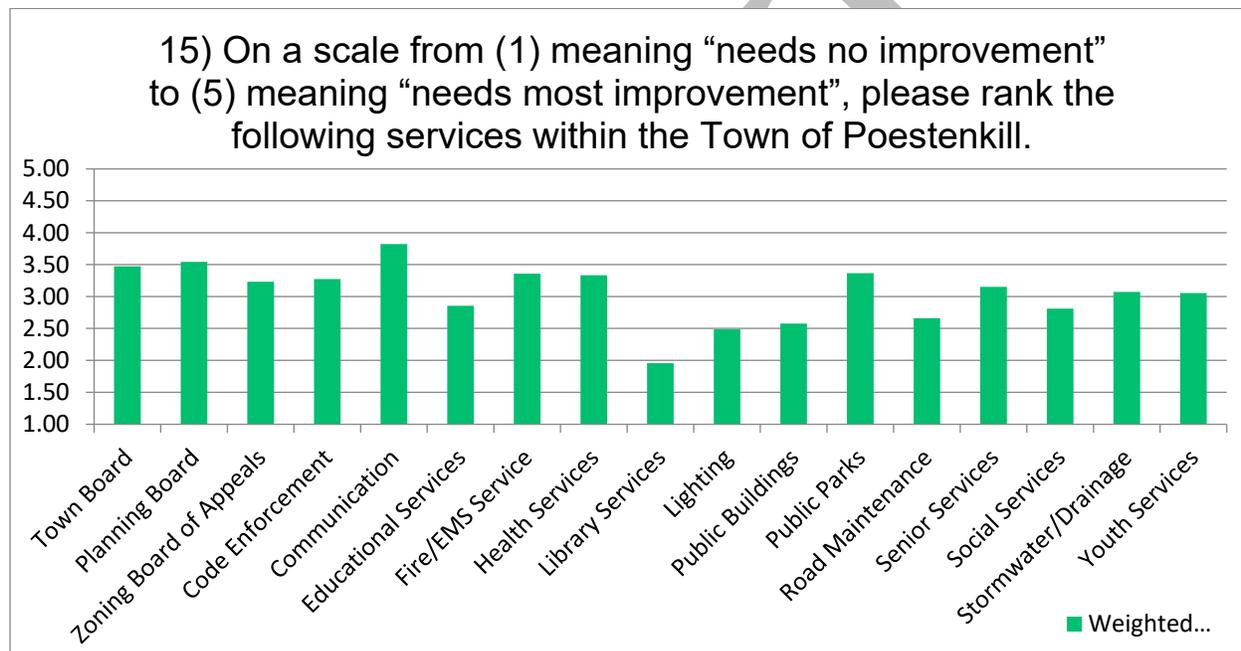
Table 2: Support for Recreational Types



Question 15: On a scale from (1) meaning “needs no improvement” to (5) meaning “needs most improvement,” please rank the following services within the Town of Poestenkill.

Communication was the top-rated area needing improvement in the Town. A summary of the responses appears in the following table.

Table 3: Areas of Needed Improvement



Question 16: Is there any plan initiative not mentioned that you think should be a priority for the Town of Poestenkill?

This question allowed the respondents to write a short comment and forty-three (43) respondents took the opportunity to answer the question. The top three Comprehensive Plan initiatives requested by the respondents would address Parks, Senior Housing, and Ambulance Services.

Question 17: How would you like the Town to communicate with you? (check all that apply).

The respondents were given a variety of choices and were allowed to indicate more than one choice, including Mailing, Email, Social Media/Facebook, Text to a Phone, or other. The top four choices for communication from the Town are via Newsletter/Mailing (67%), Email (72%), and Social Media/Facebook (45%), and Text to a Phone (30%).

Question 18: Would you like to share anything about the Town of Poestenkill that is important to you?

Respondents commented that what they like the most about Poestenkill is the small-town community. The peace and quiet of neighborhoods make it a very livable place for the residents and for families to be able to grow. Others indicated the need to keep the rural aesthetic of the community while protecting that natural environment in Poestenkill.

Demographic Profile of Respondents

Questions 19-23 of the survey asked questions on the demographic information of residents in the Town of Poestenkill:

- The majority of the respondents said that they are either a resident of the Town of Poestenkill or they own property in the Town.
- Almost 50% of the respondents have concluded that they have lived in the Town of Poestenkill for more than 20 years.
- Fourteen respondents indicated that they were owners of businesses in Poestenkill. 65% of the respondents indicated that their business was ten years old or less. The remaining respondents indicated that their businesses were over ten years old, with 15% of the respondents indicating that they had been in business in Poestenkill for more than 20 years.
- More than 40% of the respondents were between 45-65 years of age, 21% of the respondents were 35-44 years of age, and 20% were over the age of 65. Nineteen percent were between the ages of 19-34.
- Almost 45% of the respondents have also declared that there are only two people within their household, 40% of other respondents have either three or four people within their household, and a smaller percentage (6%) had five people in their household, possibly indicating households with children for these two groups. The remaining households (8%) had only one person.

Public Workshop #1

The Town of Poestenkill, Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) held a public workshop on September 16 & September 25, 2024 from 4-8 pm at the Poestenkill Fire House and the First Baptist Church of East Poestenkill. Both workshops were identical, but held in two locations to facilitate public input. The workshop was held in an “open house” format, where participants could attend at anytime and provide input displays that were set up around the room (See Appendix B for a copy of the Displays and Results). Laberge Group and members of the



Figure 2: Public Workshop #1 at Poestenkill Firehouse.

CPC were in attendance to facilitate and answer any questions. The goal was to gain insight into the community vision for Poestenkill that was created for the draft Comprehensive Plan, and identify preferences on a variety of topics that could be addressed as part of the plan. Attendees were encouraged to place their ideas and opinions on the poster boards using post-it notes and sticker dots to develop a robust representation of the community’s values, beliefs, and preferences. Approximately 75 people attended the public workshop at both locations.

The summary of the data collected on the displays are provided in the following sections.

Station 1: Pathways in Rural Areas

This display illustrated street designs to improve mobility without compromising the rural character in Poestenkill and asked participants to indicate which designs would be better suited in the Town of Poestenkill. Participants were then provided an opportunity to write an open-ended comment and leave it on the display.

Following is a table of the summarized responses:

Table 4: Pathways in Rural Areas

Rural Streets	I Like this	Comments Summary
Turning Lanes on Local Collector Roads	10 Yes	4 comments stated that adding turning lanes would increase traffic, making Poestenkill too urban and would be less safe for pedestrian. 1 comment stated that turning lanes would enhance traffic & assist with traffic flow.
Shared Use Paths or Trails	34 Yes	3 comments stated that bike trails & sidewalks would be useful and suggested that, if possible, trails be connected Empire State Trail. 3 comments stated that Trails are not required in Poestenkill, other than the State maintained bike paths.
Rural Trails	36 Yes	4 comments stated that rural trails are a good alternative to skiing/biking on remote roads. One commentor liked mountain biking trails. The need to share trails were favored in other comments.
Sidewalks	26 Yes	5 comments stated that exiting sidewalks should be fixed and Poestenkill does not need new sidewalks. Other comment included: sidewalks needed to connect to library, in the hamlet to go completely around school in the hamlet. One commenter asked the Town to legally declare a sidewalk district, and then contract the snow removal.

The majority of the participants favored the “Rural Trail” option as the first choice and shared use paths as a second choice. Sidewalks had less support. However, most of the town is rural, and the Hamlet areas

and residents only make up a small portion of the Town. It could be concluded that despite the majority of the residents living in more rural parts of the Town, sidewalks were still strongly supported within Hamlet areas. In addition, a few of the rural residents stated, if given the opportunity, they would allow an easement for multi-purpose trails on the front of their property if they were built and maintained by the Town.

Station 2: Rural Character Housing

The participants were asked which housing types could be encouraged in Poestenkill. The majority of the participants supported the large lot single-family option, with only a few people disagreeing, saying that there was no need for more of this type of development. There was less support for smaller lots, duplexes, and townhomes with three or more units. Although a few comments indicated that if allowed in appropriate places then most housing types would be acceptable and would create affordable housing options for young families, singles, and seniors. The display showed a low-density option for a senior housing community, designed with small single-family homes facing a common yard to encourage social interaction. This was strongly supported among respondents. Accessory dwelling units were also supported, but with reservations. Most people said that they would accept this as an option if impacts to the quality of life and traffic were kept to a minimum.

Table 5: Rural Character Housing

Housing	I Like this	Comments Summary
Large Lot Single Family	25	There were 3 comments stating there is no need for more housing in Poestenkill, and that this would be a bad use of land.
Small Lot Single Family	8	2- no "Keep 1 acre lot min, not hamlet", "In certain areas, ok"
Duplex Traditional Design	1	3-no, "in certain areas, ok"
Townhome (3+ units sharing walls)	3	11 comments stating: townhouse does not belong in Poestenkill, too suburban, high density – high traffic. "I don't care which kind of housing - prefer minimal builds... maybe housing with minimum acre lot size", "1 acre per house." "Encourages new resident with affordable housing option," "This makes for safe, quiet, and efficient senior housing", "Senior citizen housing, affordable housing."

Housing	I Like this	Comments Summary
Senior "Pocket Neighborhoods"	22	3- yes: "Love it," "Keep seniors in town," "Would require ambulance service" 3-no: "Does not belong here," "Not a fan," "Not a fan in this rural environment"
Accessory Dwellings	10	2-yes. "It depends on many things- but I'm for it," "depends" 2-no

Station 3: Rural Character Commercial Uses

This station highlighted different types of commercial development that could be encouraged and asked the participants which commercial uses are appropriate or needed in Poestenkill.

- One of the twelve commercial uses that was rated highest by participants was Agricultural Business (32).
- The other four highly rated commercial uses included: Home Business (25), Farm/event Restaurant (23), Co-op or Farmers Market (23) and Small Market (23).
- Three uses out of the remaining commercial uses were also liked by some participants: Skilled Trades (16), Professional Service (12), Service business (8).
- Participants strongly opposed the Outdoor Storage & Business Park uses. There was some support for Light Industrial Uses.
- Air BnB opportunities had equal support and opposition from the participants.

Station 4: Rural Character Unique Features

This station highlighted different types of features that are typical to rural communities and sought to understand if respondents wanted the Town to require protection of, create a project to obtain, or request these features be preserved during development review. Participants were asked to review these features to determine whether they were appropriate or needed in Poestenkill.

Stone walls received the best rating among all features, followed by barn/silos and historic banners which received moderate support. Signage/wayfinding, fences and coordinated lighting received some support. See a full summary in the following table:

Table 6: Rural Character Unique Features

Feature	I Like this	Feature	I Like this
Signage/Wayfinding	14	Rock Walls	29
Coordinated Lighting	16	Fences	16
Barns/Silos	24	Historic Marker/Banners	22
Should developers be encouraged to preserve or incorporate these features during site design?		21 yes	1 No, "should not be encouraged to do anything"

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Station 5: Help us Improve/Protect the Hamlets!

The participants were asked if there are any special places in hamlets of Poestenkill and East Poestenkill that need to be enhanced or protected or if there was something missing. Participants used dots labeled with a number to show these places on a map and shared their comments. Following are the summarized comments from this station.

Table 7: Help us Improve Hamlets

Destinations (Stickers)	Service/Improvements in this area	I Like this
1	Area along the Poestenkill between Plank Rd. & Legenbauer Rd. - Keep it forested.	
2	Inter State Laminates Countertop Store - Landscape the front with new plantings.	
3	Area along Poestenkill, northwest of Flint St. - Protect farmland.	1 yes dot
4	Intersection of White Church Rd. and Main St. - Improve safety at intersection for drivers and pedestrians	2 yes dots
5	West of Flint Street - Make the Hamlet zone larger towards the firehouse.	
6	Near corner of Plank Rd. & Legenbauer Rd. - Focus on the West Hamlet not East Poestenkill	
7	West of Flint Street - Leave Hamlet zoning alone.	1 yes dot
5	Agree with above (7)	
8	North & South sides of Main Street, near White Church Road (Bubie's Store & Citgo) - Encourage retail space-we need a better sense of a Town Center.	3 yes dots, 1 no dot
All	Map is difficult to see area of concern. Generally, leave zoning as is Please.	
All	Too confusing.	
2	Center of Town should be expanded along w/environmental district. This would allow for increase in needed services. No spas/green spas.	
9	Area on the west side of White Church Rd, halfway between Poestenkill & Deer Creek Rd. – Need Aquifer protection	
10	Area located northeast from Davis Drive - Protection of Poestenkill Creek is needed.	
11	Area southeast of intersection of Legenbauer Rd. & Plank Rd. – Keep rural and forested lands.	



Figure 3: Help us Improve Hamlets Map from Public Workshop #1.

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Station 6: Recreation

This display highlighted several recreational opportunities that could be encouraged in Poestenkill and asked the participants which are appropriate or needed in Poestenkill. The highest rated option were Entertainment Spaces: Pavilion (15), Picnic (10), Open Area for Events (11) and Public Natural Areas, Accessible Preserves: Trail, Walking Paths with Furnishings (16). Permanent structures received the least support (See the table below).

Table 8: Recreation Preferences

Type of Recreation	I like this	Comments
1. Entertainment Spaces		
Pavilion/Gazebo	15 dots	"We don't need."
Picnic Area	10 dots	"We have Butler Park."
Open Area for Events	11 dots	"And VFW Field."
Outdoor Performance Stage	9 dots	
2. Active Sports		
Basketball Court, Tennis Court	6 dots	"Trails for mountain biking" - plus 1 dot
Temporary Ice Rink, Skateboard Park	6 dots	"Not needed" - plus 1 agree
Pickleball Court, Bocci Courts	8 dots	"Absolutely not, liability issues"
Baseball Field	3 dots	"Near Twin Town Courts."
3. Permanent Structures		
Restrooms + Storage	2 dots	"No", "Not needed" (x 4), "No EV in the country - power outage", "Hate this idea, age 11, age 37"
Parking Lot with EV Stations	2 dots	"Absolutely not"
Improved Lighting	4 dots	
4. Play Areas		
SPLASH Pad Park	3 dots	"We already have."
Playground (5 and up)	6 dots	"We don't need any of these. There are nearby places."
Tot Playground (Under 5)	4 dots	
5. Public Natural Areas, Accessible Preserves		
Trail, Walking Paths with Furnishings	16 dots	"One of the best parts of living here."
Improved Landscaping	7 dots	"Not needed"
		"Preserve woodlands and focus on promoting native plants" - plus 2 dots, Community Garden - "Fields north of Hamlet on Rte. 351"
Community Garden	5 dots	"No, too many people unfamiliar with area. We have wildlife roaming." "Liability issues"
6. Water Activities and Access		
Boat & Kayak Launch	7 dots	"This is all at Grafton, go there.", "Not needed"
Camp Sites	2 dots	"Falls TOO many drownings!", "We need restaurants!"
Waterfront Restaurants	7 dots	"What waterfront in Town?", "Ridiculous idea, no public access to waterway."

Station 7: Places and Spaces

This display asked participants to place numbered dots on the Town map to indicate places that needed improvements, to be preserved, or if the place would be useful for any cultural events or trail connection. Respondents keyed their thoughts and ideas to a numbered sticker which they placed on a map of the Town. If there was an additional comment for the same location, other respondents could add to comment or simply place a sticker on the display to indicate agreement with the original comment.

The following responses are summarized below and correspond with the **Figure 4** following the Table.

Table 9: Places and Spaces

(Sticker No.)	Services/Improvements in this area:	I like this	Comments
1	Area east of Devan Rd., west of Snake Hill Rd. - Great wildlife viewing area - preserve	1	
1A	Area across the street diagonally southwest of the VFW Post		Support the declaration, funding, and creating of the Poestenkill Town Park here.
2	Area northeast of body of water at the end of Devan Rd. - Great wildlife viewing area - preserve Area at end of Dodge City Way, north side - Pineridge X-country ski - preserve	1	"Would be great if Pineridge XC preserve could be opened up for mountain biking" - plus 1 dot
2A	Area in the middle of White Church Rd. between Plank Rd. and Devan Rd.		Create internet service to this area.
3	Area on northside of Legenbauer Rd. across from Poestenkill Community Forest - Wildlife viewing, hiking, volunteering	1	
4	Dynamic Systems Inc. - Expand commercial area at 355	2	
5	Area south of Wynantskill Rd., near Dynamic Systems Inc. & Lawrence Road -we need more commercially zoned property	1	
5A	More commercially zoned property		
5B	More commercially zoned property		
6A	Area north side of Averill Park Rd., south of Woodland Pathway, east of Weatherwax Rd. Higher density housing		
6B	Area at northwest corner of Algonquin Beach Rd. & Averill Park Rd. - Higher density housing		
6C	Lot next to previous area, northwest side - Higher density housing		
7	Area near 426 Plank Rd. - No solar farms		"No solar farms, leave woods and open land alone" - plus 1 agree

(Sticker No.)	Services/Improvements in this area:	I like this	Comments
8	Area east of Moody Farms - Protect views; the views bring visitors to local business (farm stand)		
9	North side of Snyders Corners Rd. near intersection with Plank Rd. - Build up Town Center	2	"Build up a Town Center and Business Park"
9A	Area on north side of Plank Rd., east of Davis Dr., south of Poestenkill - 2+ acre min. per parcel to build		
10	West side of Blue Factory Rd. at intersection with North Rd. - Farm Event/Restaurant/Agritourism		
11	Area south side of Plank Rd. between Cropsey Rd. and Pineridge Cross Country Ski area - Preserve forests and limit development		
12	Area south of High Meadow Rd., west of Lynn Rd. - Limit all types of development		
13	Weatherwax Road to 351 Saddle Hill Road - move barrier		

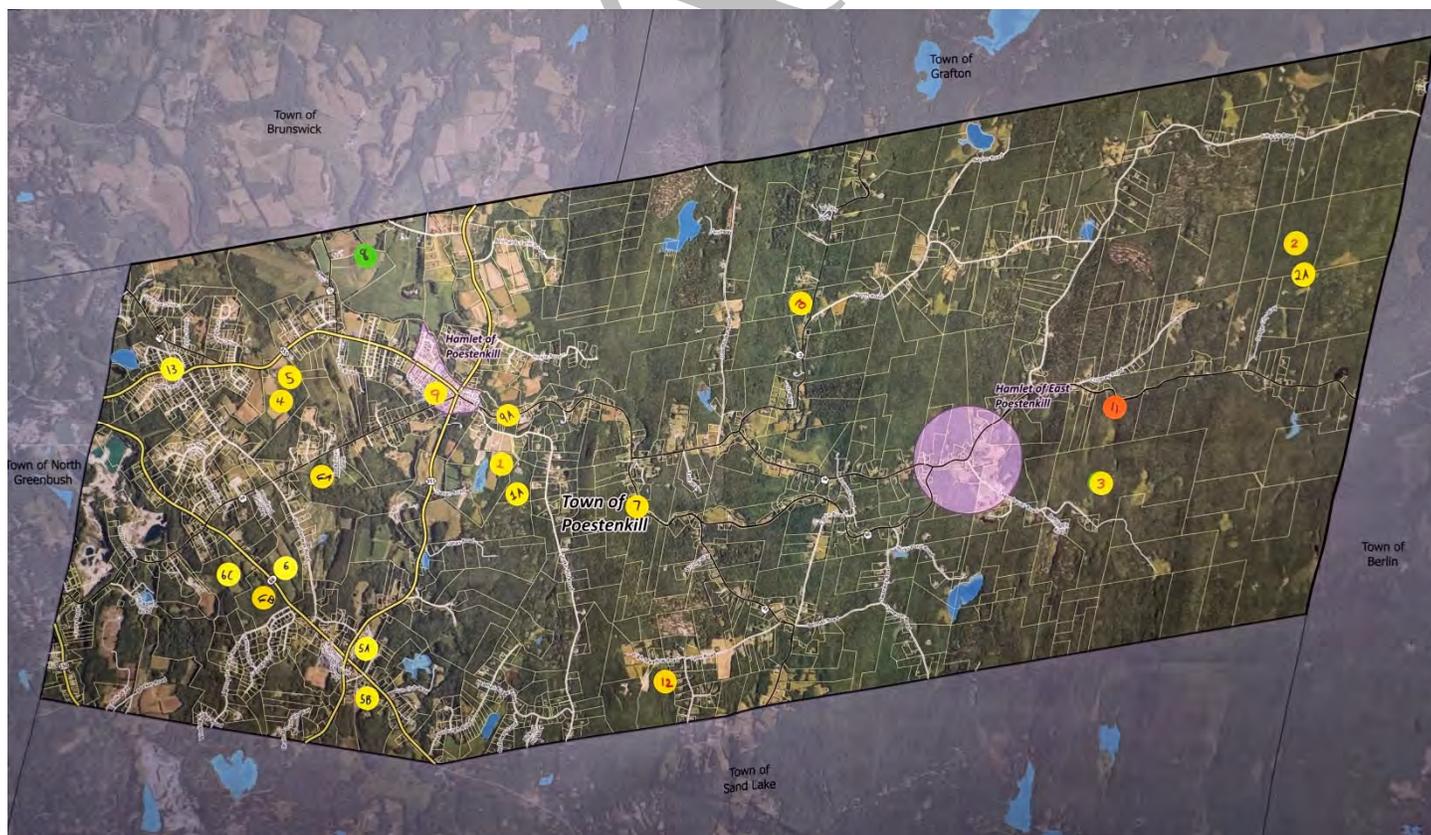


Figure 4: Places and Spaces Map.

Station 8: Evaluate the Draft Vision Statement

This station displayed the draft vision statement for the Town of Poestenkill and asked the participants whether they resonated with the vision and what were their thoughts about the same. Following are the notes/comments from the participants:

- Can we improve homes and build less?
- Forests need to be preserved.
- Excellent - It does resonate with me! Esp. Senior Housing!!
- Love it! Esp. 2nd paragraph.
- I wish the Town was a "Lively Hamlet." We need responsible development to encourage people to stay and play in our Town.
- Climate resilience and flood & storm preparation.
- Protect water - no group septic systems for clusters of housing.
- Generally great, but a suitable place for each is important to preserve Town character.
- Preserve the forested land.
- Not a lively hamlet.

Station 9: Strengths and Challenges

The final station was an open-ended station that asked participants what are Poestenkill's strengths and challenges. Following are the responses from the participants:

Strengths:

- Not a crowded place.
- A true sense of community VFW T-ball fields Town center.
- Sense of community, natural beauty.
- Natural beauty.
- Community forest.
- Barberville Falls.
- We want peace. We do not need more housing or businesses. Keep Poestenkill the way it is.
- If you need 25 acres to build it should be all usable land!
- Unmatched beauty.
- Opportunities for growth.

- RPA involvement and lands.
- Keep taxes low, projects need to be volunteer based.
- Poestenkill's population is primarily working-class people who depend less on hand outs than hands on skills. This, I think should be encouraged.
- Poestenkill Community Forest is a wonderful place. Legenbauer Rd. Go see it!
- Small town feel.
- Farmland needs to be preserved, no large development.
- Maintain rural and forested spaces.

#

Challenges:

- Walkability and pedestrian safety.
- Having too many contractors building everywhere!
- Community development in Town Center.
- We need a safe place to walk in town.
- A Town Center, i.e. village (need businesses and sidewalks).
- Little to do in town, have to leave for most things.
- Town caters too much for Quarries. They have changed the landscape causing some flooding.
- Flooding and worse storms due to climate change.
- Too much trash thrown on local streets by?
- If you move from the city to the county - you cannot bring the city with you. This is the country. Cow manure smells.
- Too many short-sighted folks getting in the way of progress.
- Keeping low taxes while preserving rural beauty.
- Add safety Barberville Falls.
- A place in town to gather as a community.
- Nuisance/noisy commercial business in residential zones .
- Be nice to have a place (or 2) to get a beer and food.
- Permit/town approval to clear cut land.
- Plan to address abandoned properties.

- Community involvement, find better ways to inform residents i.e. email/text.
- Aging population and lack of ambulance service.
- Address the problem of abandoned properties.
- We have a quaint, rural character community nestled between commercially waring towns, who, to their credit serve very well, but let us be proud of our one blinker light.
- Limited cell service in East Poestenkill.
- Attracting small businesses to the hamlet.

Public Workshop #2

The Town of Poestenkill CPC held a public workshop on December 4 and December 11, 2024 from 4-8 pm and 3-6 pm respectively at the Poestenkill Fire House and the First Baptist Church of East Poestenkill. The format and content of both workshops were the same, but were held in two separate locations to encourage broad participation in the Town. The workshops were held in an “open house” format, where participants could attend at any time and provide input on displays that were set up around the room. Laberge Group staff and members of the CPC were in attendance to facilitate dialog and answer any questions. The goal was to gain insight into the community goals and key projects, created for Poestenkill’s draft Comprehensive Plan, and identify preferences on a variety of topics that could be addressed as part of the plan. Attendees were encouraged to place their ideas and opinions on the poster boards using Post-it notes and sticker dots to develop a robust representation of the community’s recommendations and preferences. A total of 40 people (combined) attended public workshop #2 at both locations. (See Appendix C for displays and results.)



Figure 5: Public Workshop 2 at the First Baptist Church of East Poestenkill.

The summary of the data collected on the displays are provided below.

Station 1: Community Profile

The first station was informative only and displayed the community summary and demographic data to the public. The display consisted of data from the U.S. Census to characterize Poestenkill through key statistics.

Station 2: Goals & Strategies

This station consisted of four displays. The first display illustrated strategies of the first goal to foster a sense of community and asked participants to indicate how important the strategies are and if they should

be added or maintained in Hamlet. Participants were then provided an opportunity to write an open-ended comment and leave it on the display.

Tables 10 -13 summarize the responses for all four displays.

Table 10: Public Opinion on Goals and Strategies

How important is the following in Hamlet/Town of Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comments
Small Park on Town-owned Property within the Hamlet	9 dots	2 dots	2 dots	"Who pays for it? Who will use it? Cost? Location? Who maintains it?" "That is nice park." "Who maintains it? Which means more \$."
Improve Sidewalks in the Hamlet	6 dots	0 dots	2 dots	"How many people use the sidewalks and what is the scope (what/where do the sidewalks go to?)" 1 person wrote that they agreed. "Who is tasked with maintaining the sidewalk (the Town or residents?)" "Town should define a sidewalk district and then contract snow removal on a competitive bid. This would eliminate the hassle of whether the residents or Highway Dept. do this."
Community Center close to Hamlets	5 dots	2 dots	1 dot	"This sounds more like something geared for a higher income/Bethlehem area." "Support Library more as a center." "Need large enough space for the community to gather together."
Funding for Housing Rehabilitation Programs in Hamlet and for Older Historic Homes in the Town	4 dots	5 dots	1 dot	"This is a new idea to me." "Preserve history and pride in community." "This might be important if Poestenkill were a tourist destination, but it's not."

Most of the participants favored the “Small Park on Town-Owned Property within the Hamlet” option as the first choice, and “Improved Sidewalks in the Hamlet” as a second choice. In addition, a few residents stated that the Town should define a sidewalk district and contract snow removal on a competitive bid to eliminate the hassle of whether the residents or Highway Department are responsible for snow removal.

Table 11: Public Opinion on Goals and Strategies (Continued)

How important is the following in Hamlet/Town of Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comments
Ambulance Services	12 dots	3 dots	0 dots	"This is critical." + 3 agree "Kinda blew it already but given another chance, yes!"
Protecting Safe Walking Routes (Sidewalks)	4 dots	2 dots	1 dot	"Are sidewalks needed? Need study to determined frequency of use & purpose." + 2 dots
Improvement of Fire Services	3 dots	7 dots	0 dots	
Increased Availability of Transit for Medical Services	2 dots	3 dots	0 dots	"Who pays for this? Need more info."
Assessing Road for Safety	2 dots	1 dot	1 dot	
Park & Ride Near Existing Transit Opportunities	0 dots	3 dots	7 dots	

The Majority of respondents favored the “Ambulance Services,” and additional comments encouraged and referred ambulance service as a critically important to the Town of Poestenkill. “Improvement of Fire Services” and “Protecting Safe Walking Routes” were the next highly rated. “Park & Ride Near Existing Transit Opportunities” are least favored by the participants of the workshop.

Table 12: Public Opinion on Goals and Strategies (Continued)

How important is the following in Hamlet/Town of Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comments
Discourage Ongoing Sprawl of Residential Housing and Subdivisions	11 dots	1 dot	0 dots	"One idea would be to cluster housing, in order to increase green space/discourage <u>lawns.</u> " "Keep forests intact." + 1 dot
Senior Housing	7 dots	4 dots	1 dot	"In current comprehensive plan. It should continue to be a goal!" "That sounds good."
Accessory Dwelling	4 dots	2 dots	0 dots	"It would support duplexes also."

This board displayed two maps showing parcels less than one acre in Poestenkill and the scenic routes in the town. The strongest support of the participants is towards discouraging ongoing sprawl of residential housing and subdivisions. “Senior Housing” is the next highly supported idea with public comments encouraging the goal. Accessory dwelling had good public support.

Table 13: Public Opinion on Goals and Strategies (Continued)

How important is to map and protect the following in Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comments
Stream Corridor	14 dots	0 dots	0 dots	
Steep Slopes (Discourage Development on Steep Slopes)	12 dots	0 dots	0 dots	"Protect against flooding." + 1 dot
Mature Forests	11 dots	0 dots	0 dots	"Why not take limited mature trees? Conservation over Preservation." "The forest needs that because it is beautiful."

There is a strong support for protecting all three: Steep Slopes, Stream Corridor, and Mature Forests.

Station 3: Key Projects

Key projects are undertaken by the municipality for the benefit of the whole community. Sometimes projects are led by the other entities but supported by the municipality. The key projects shown in this station address needs that were identified through public participation efforts during the Poestenkill Comprehensive Plan Update.

This station had four displays which highlighted various potential projects in the Town of Poestenkill. Participants were asked which projects should be encouraged for Poestenkill. Participants were then provided an opportunity to write an open-ended comment and leave it on the display. The last display asked participants to suggest key project recommendations that were not reflected in previous displays. Following are the summarized inputs on the display:

Table 14: Support for Key Projects

Potential Key Project	Place stickers if you support the project	Place stickers if you object to the project	Comments
Zoning Law Revisions	13 dots	0 dots	"That is good." "Want only smart growth with less focus on developer profits."
Land Conservation Plan	11 dots	0 dots	
Creation of a Town Park	10 dots	0 dots	"Top 3 requested item at ARPA meetings." "Move closest ball field to farthest area and put park by road." + 1 "Yes, but needs to be thought through for the proper location for maximum use & impact for the community." "Would provide another gathering place and help people integrate into the community." "Who is responsible for maintaining? Extra Town employee cost \$." "Parks are good."
Identify Environmental Areas	9 dots	0 dots	"Aren't these already available?" "Water is good because this how we cook."
Wayfinding for Hiking & Fishing	9 dots	0 dots	"Increase access to outdoor activities locally."
Sewer Feasibility Study	5 dots	2 dots	"DEC PFOA report noted areas of Town susceptible to cross contamination from effluent." "Why?" Wondering about natural gas." "Extend sewer to higher elevation areas!" "Why is this a whole Town expense? Only if grant/state funded - good luck getting reimbursed."

Revisions to the Zoning Law received the highest support among all potential projects. The majority of the residents understood the importance of the zoning for the Town of Poestenkill, and wanted restrictions that would support the retention of important environmental and scenic areas.

The next highly rated projects were: “Land Conservation Plan” and the “Creation of a Town Park,” additionally the town park project had multiple comments and constructive suggestions. The next highly supported projects were to “Identify Environmental Areas” and to establish “Wayfinding for Hiking & Fishing.” The least favorite projects were the “Sewer Feasibility Study” and the “Create New Rural Trails.” projects.

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SECTION 3: COMMUNITY PROFILE

Regional Setting

The Rensselaer Plateau escarpment splits Poestenkill, with one half of the town rolling farmlands and the other half highland forests. The Poesten Kill, the creek from which the town and hamlet's name originates, breaches the escarpment just east of the Hamlet of Poestenkill. The Poestenkill is a major creek that provided much of the waterpower for the industrial revolution in the nearby City of Troy, as well as many of the mills that were located in Poestenkill. The creek led to much of the growth that occurred in the town after its initial settlement, as well as provides an easier path up the escarpment to the eastern part of the town and beyond. **See Map 1: Community Context Map.**

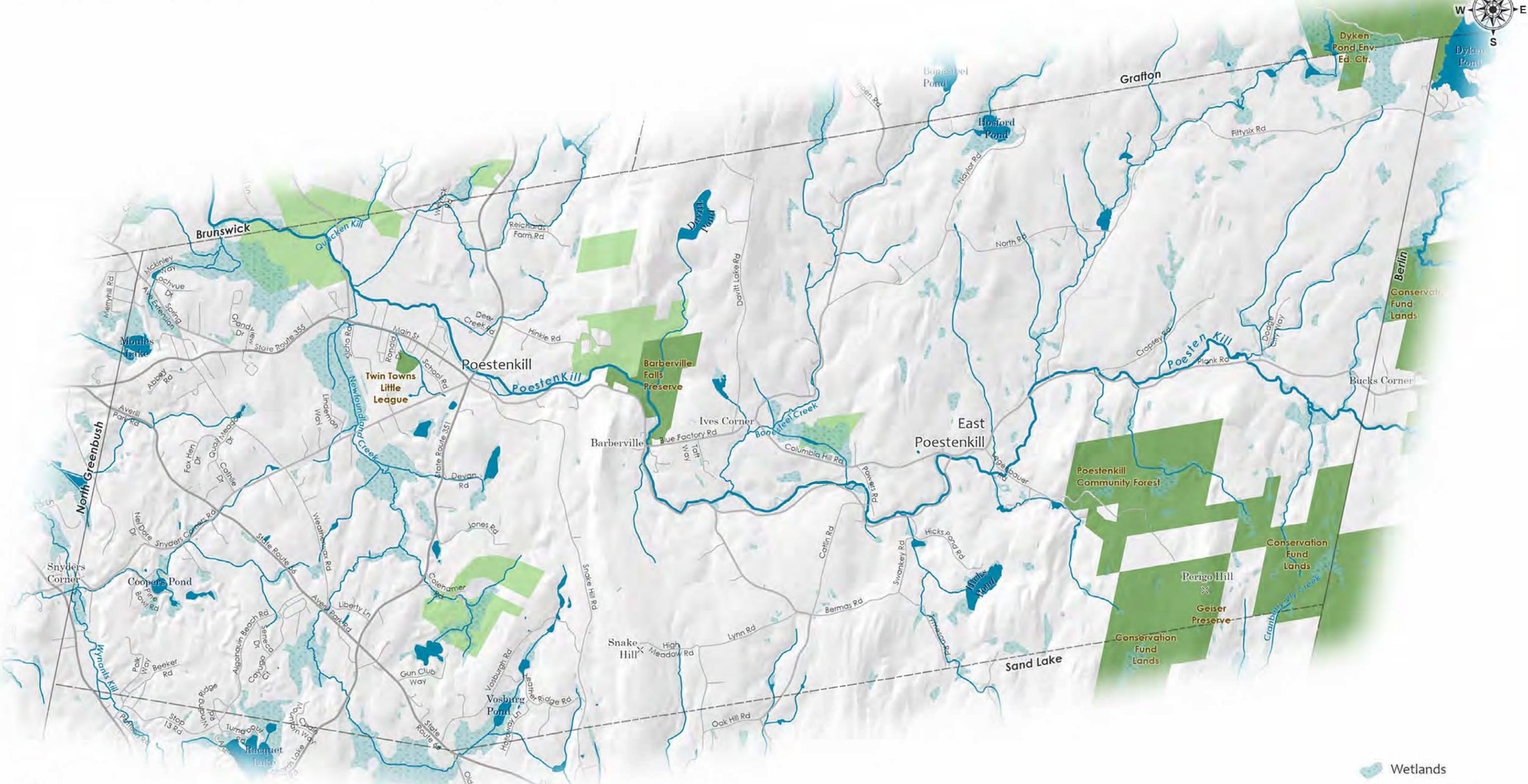
Located in the center of Rensselaer County the Town of Poestenkill shares a border on the west with the Town of North Greenbush, to the north with the Towns of Brunswick and Grafton, to the east with the Town of Berlin, and to the South with the Town of Sand Lake. The Towns of Brunswick and North Greenbush, have been experiencing growth because of their locations next to the City of Troy. Sand Lake has benefited with growth because of its position relative to Albany. The Towns Grafton and Berlin however, are predominantly rural and historically farming communities.

The Town of Poestenkill is approximately 32.5 square miles. Much of the development in Poestenkill has taken place in the western half of the town and has been centered around the Hamlet.



Figure 6: Built in 1863 by a Dutch family. Early owners were the Cottrell Whyland families.

Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles
 Map prepared by Upstate GIS - September 2019

Creating a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) in the Town of Poestenkill is a partnership project among the Town, Rensselaer Land Trust and Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, with funding from the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program.

For Conceptual Planning Purposes Only

Data Sources - Wetlands: NYSDEC 2013, USFWS 2018; Surface Water, Rivers and Streams: USGS National Hydrography Dataset 2017; Road centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018; Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks & Preserves: RL, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, Rensselaer County Real Property.



- Wetlands
- Surface Water
- Rivers & Streams
- Parks and Preserves
- Other Protected Lands

Map 1: Community Context

Demographics

Population Characteristics

The Town of Poestenkill (Town) is primarily a rural community with a large hamlet that serves as its community center. There are also other smaller historical hamlets whose names are remembered and used as place references. The Town has a population of 4,305, according to the last U.S. Census Update.

Table 15: Population in the Town of Poestenkill from 2010-2030

	2010	2020	2023	2029 Est.
Total Population	4,467	4,491	4,303	3,998
Median Age	38.4	45.8	43.6	45.1
People 19 and-younger)	1,340	1,181	1,113	872
People between 20 -64	2,734	2,542	2,522	2,200
People 65 and older	398	768	668	926
Median Household Income	\$78,045	\$104,191	\$127,563	\$119,619
Number of Households	1,612	1,728	1,896	1,647
Average Household size	2.77	2.59	2.5	2.42

Source: American Community 5-year estimates from the U.S. Census (2023)

According to the U.S. Census, population levels rose from 2010 to 2020 and declined by 2023. This is nationwide trend, since people are having fewer children, and seniors are living longer, more productive lives. However, as shown in the latest population estimates for 2030, the number of seniors (those 65 and older) is also higher. The oldest of the baby boomers born in 1946, and will be 79 in 2025. The youngest of the baby boomer generation is 62 and technically not of retirement age. Since this is an estimate based on previous year's numbers, it is possible that some of these seniors will create more demand for services and housing choices that are suitable for aging in place. This suggests that services and housing choices that are valuable to seniors should be addressed.

The table above shows that Median household and family income is significantly greater than that of Rensselaer County (\$83,734), New York State (\$81,600) and the United States (\$80,610).

Housing

Table 16: Housing in Poestenkill (2023 American Community Survey)

Housing Statistics	As of 2023
Total Number of Dwellings	1,808
Total Single-Family Homes	1,593
Owned	1,396
Rented	197
All Others (2-family, multiple family)	215
Seasonal or Vacant	37
Average Home Value	\$275,000
Vacancy Rate	2%

Source: American Community Survey updates for 2023

Most houses are single unit, owner-occupied, built in the twentieth century. The Average Home Value is lower compared to those in New York State (\$479,976) or the United States (\$420,400). Vacancy rates of housing are low at 2%.



Figure 7: House originally built mid-1800 in East Poestenkill.

Housing Repair and Efficiency Programs

Several programs exist to help low- and moderate-income households including the elderly repair or maintain their homes. Rensselaer County Housing Resources runs a small repair program for low-income elderly homeowners. The Commission on Economic Opportunity runs a Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) for the low-income homeowners with a weatherization component in its program.

Most subdivision applications are for larger lots that can be served by private septic and wells. One obvious constrain in Poestenkill to condominiums and senior apartments is the current lack of public water and sewers.

Public Schools

Poestenkill is associated with the Averill Park Central School District (CSD), however, portions of the town are also located in the Berlin and Brittonkill-Brunswick school districts. The Averill Park CSD has two schools located within the town boundaries – the Poestenkill Elementary School in the Hamlet of Poestenkill (Hamlet) and the Algonquin Middle School located near the intersection of NY Routes 66 and 351.

Both the Averill Park and Brittonkill-Brunswick CSDs have had recent construction projects to facilitate the influx of students due to growth in their communities. It is expected that additional construction will be required to support the student influx, if recently proposed developments are built within a short time period.

School districts are required to report enrollment data by October of each year and keep statistics related to students and grades based on several factors, including student proficiency tests in several subject areas as well as High School graduation rates.¹ The enrollment in public schools is not seperated by municipality, but by school district boundaries. For 2023, Averill Park CSD had a total enrollment of 2,586 students, Brittonkill CSD had 1,047 students, and Berlin CSD had 625 students.²

Local Economy

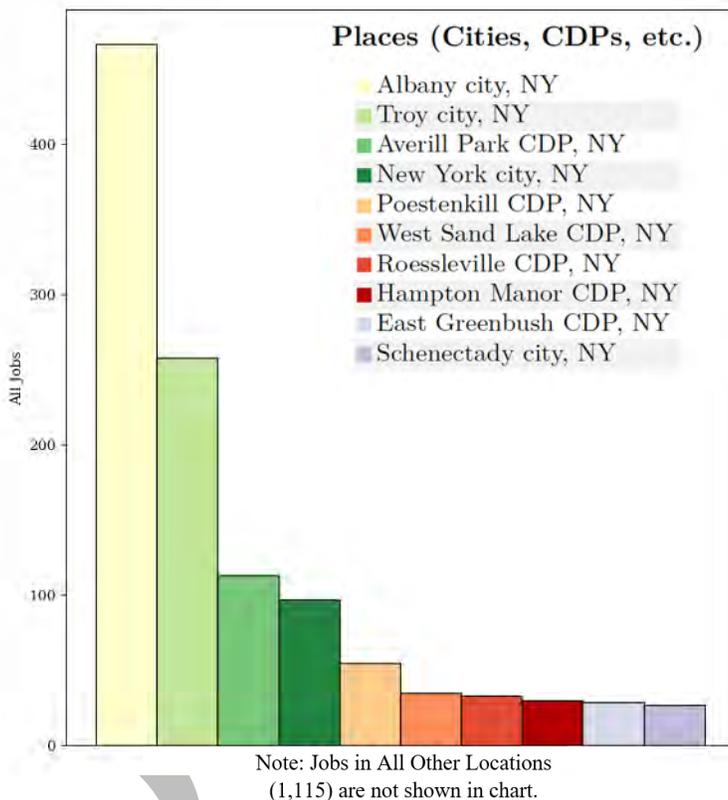
Income in the Town of Poestenkill comes from several sources. Poestenkill is a bedroom community to nearby major cities and employers. As shown in the Table below, the majority of Poestenkill residents that commute outside the town for full time jobs work in Albany and Troy. There are also workers that are employed in Sand Lake, North Greenbush and East Greenbush. Places of employment are within a 30 minute drive of most residential areas of Poestenkill and most likely represent white collar jobs. As is true

¹ For more information on school testing data please see the New York State Education Department (NYSED) website, www.data.nysed.gov.

² School Data found on NYSED website, access online on January 14, 2025 at <https://data.nysed.gov/lists.php?type=district>.

with all communities today, there is a small number of telecommuters that have moved to Poestenkill because of the benefits offered in a rural community and the ability to work-from-home.

Table 17: Employment in Poestenkill by City or Census Designated Place (CDP) in 2022



However, there are employers within Poestenkill that attract workers that do not live in Poestenkill. According to the 2023 survey, 262 workers in Poestenkill indicated that they did not live in Poestenkill. Larger employers in Poestenkill include regional manufacturing, construction, and jobs in the local school located in or near the hamlet of Poestenkill.

Poestenkill would benefit from changes in policy in the Hamlet to encourage small businesses within the Town. Current zoning has limited business types in the Hamlet and are based on the historical business uses. A review of the business uses is needed to create opportunities within the Hamlet. This would assist with creating a sense of place within the Hamlet, create destinations within a Hamlet business environment, and help to foster economic development within Poestenkill. Business types that could fit are low impact uses such as service businesses, small restaurants and cafes, and other uses that would benefit from being near the library, post office, and park uses.

Land Use & Zoning

Map 2: Existing Land Use provides a snapshot of land uses within Poestenkill. Although minor changes may have occurred with housing development, the map is representative of current land uses within Poestenkill. Vacant land is predominantly located in areas zoned residential or rural residential. Assessed property codes assigned to particular properties for land uses may not illustrate all uses on a certain property. For example, a large residential parcel may contain fields used for the production of hay or corn, but may not be owned by a farmer. Such parcels are shown as residential instead of agricultural. Agricultural parcels shown on the Existing Land Use Map only include those parcels that are registered with the Rensselaer County Agricultural District program, which offers a reduced tax rate on property used for agriculture in accordance with NYS agricultural laws. However, **Map 3: Agricultural Resources**, provides a closer look at the significance of farmland within Poestenkill and highlights soils of significance for its productivity for farming. The Town of Poestenkill is a right-to-farm community, meaning that the farming activities are protected by Town and State laws, as long as the farmer agrees to farm responsibly by minimizing ecological impacts.

A significant portion of the Town's land is used for residential purposes, including single-family homes, rural residences with acreage, multiple family homes, mobile homes and seasonal homes. Parcels assessed as residential account for 47% of the land in Poestenkill, while those assessed as agricultural comprise 3%. Agricultural uses include livestock, dairy, and other products, and land that is in productive agricultural use. Agricultural Lands that include a farmhouse or other residential uses could also be classified as residential uses.

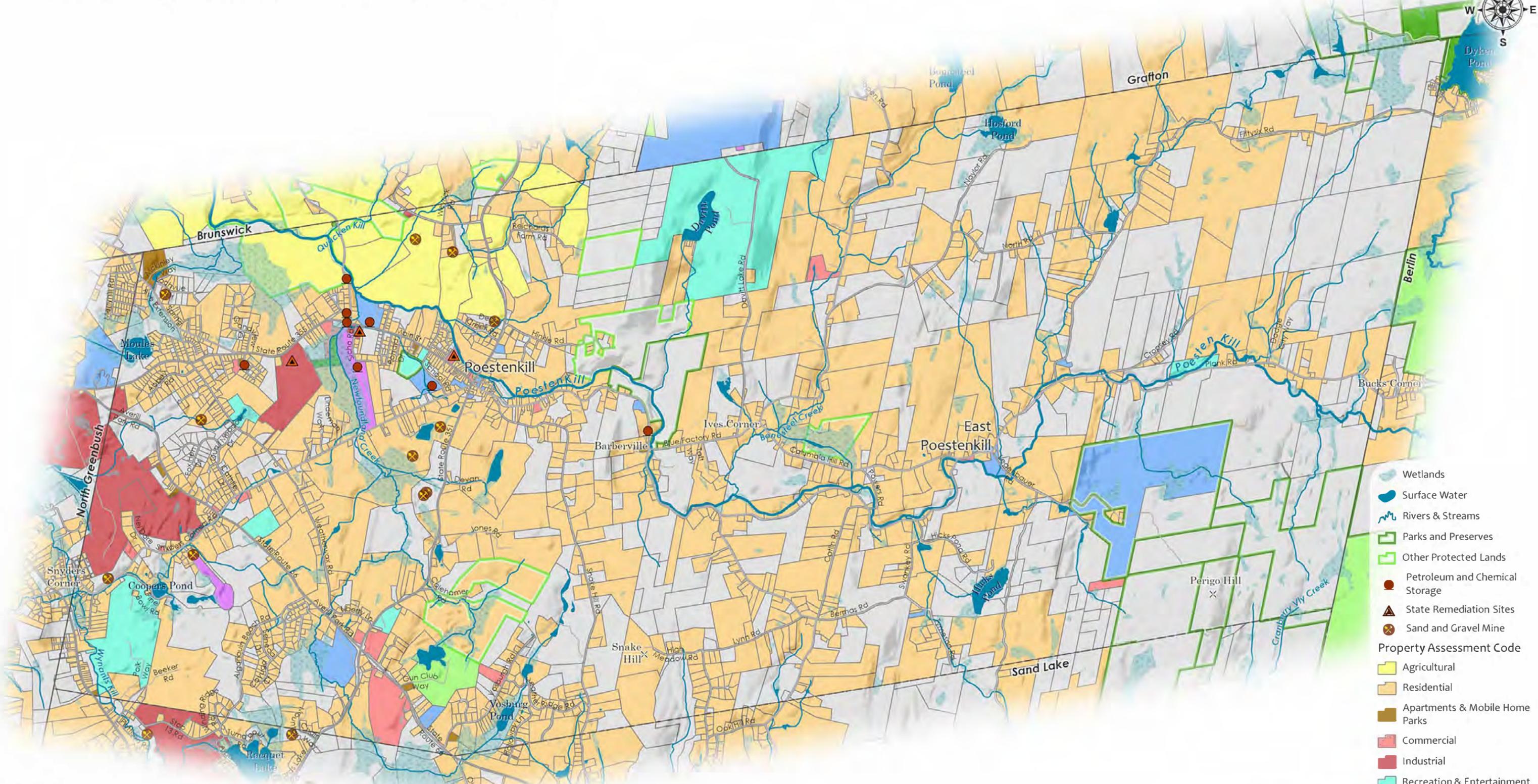
Recreational and entertainment uses including camps, camping facilities, resorts, amusement facilities, and outdoor sports activities use 3% of the land in Poestenkill. Parcels assessed as commercial include: commercial apartment properties; retail businesses; lumber yards; automotive related shops and service stations; kennels; and storage, distribution, and warehouse facilities, together account for 1% of the total acreage in the Town. Approximately 2% of the land is assessed as industrial, which for purposes of assessment, includes manufacturing and mining.

It is also important to note that areas that are classified as "Vacant Lands" have been growing, however this does not mean that the property is unused, as vacant land may include parcels that are actively farmed, but have no improvements. Agricultural designation of parcels only includes those parcels that participate in the County's Agricultural District program.

In addition, conservation land is also sometimes classified in the County's land use system as vacant, since the classification is not changed even if the ownership changes hands from private to a Public Trust or State Use. Counties also allow land owners to change unimproved property to "Vacant" to allow them to benefit from certain tax saving.

In order to justify regulations to protect and conserve lands and farmland, it would be important for the Town to create their own inventory prior to creating policies that would affect these areas.

Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



- Wetlands
- Surface Water
- Rivers & Streams
- Parks and Preserves
- Other Protected Lands
- Petroleum and Chemical Storage
- State Remediation Sites
- Sand and Gravel Mine
- Property Assessment Code**
- Agricultural
- Residential
- Apartments & Mobile Home Parks
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Recreation & Entertainment
- Community Services
- Public Services
- Private Forest
- Parks & Conserved Land
- Vacant



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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation



Hudson River Estuary Program

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Map prepared by Upstate GIS - September 2019

Creating a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) in the Town of Poestenkill is a partnership project among the Town, Rensselaer Land Trust and Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, with funding from the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program.

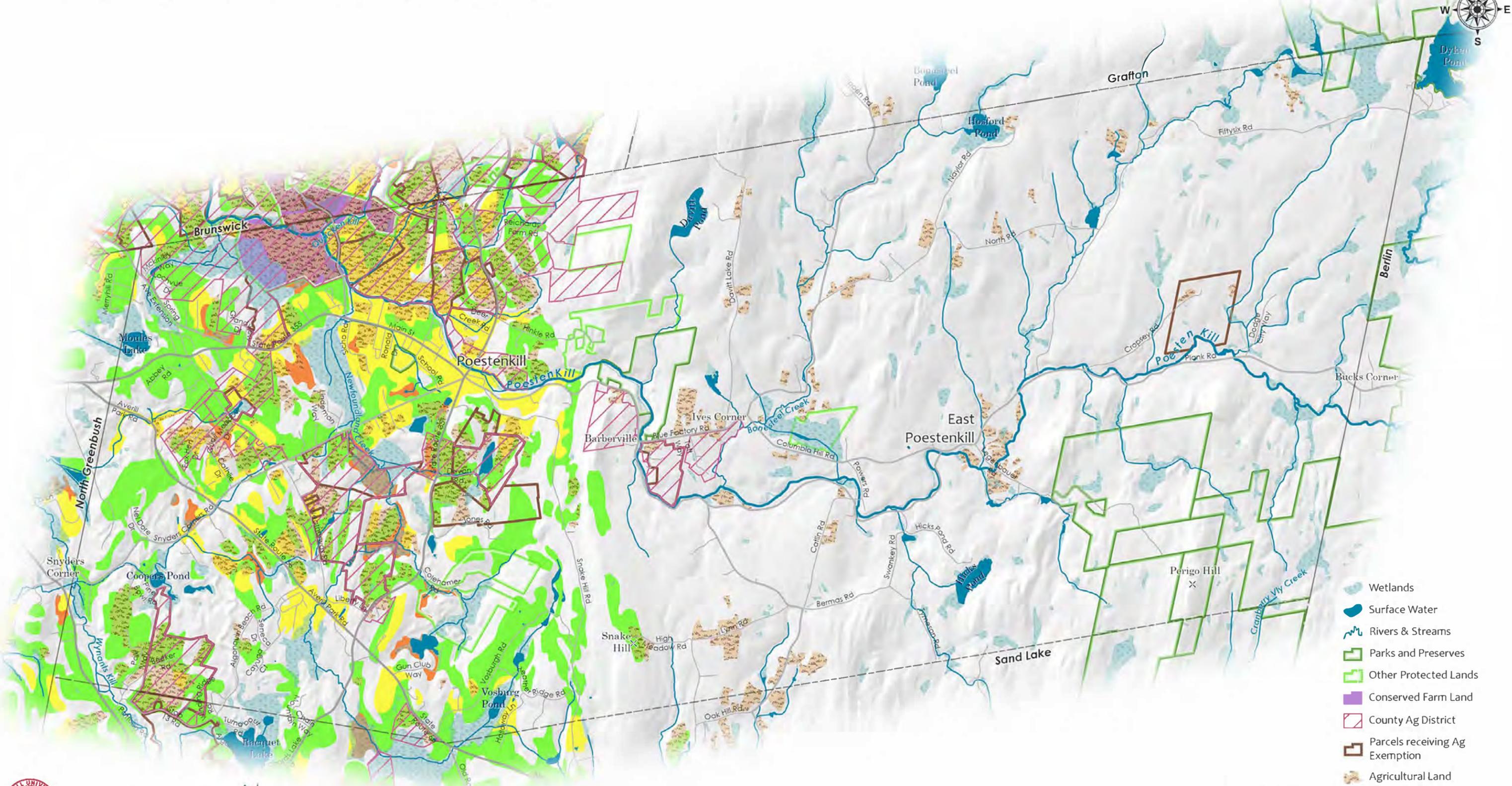
For Conceptual Planning Purposes Only

Data Sources - Land Use: Rensselaer County Real Property 2018; Remediation and Storage Sites: NYSDEC 2019; Mines: NYSDEC 2018; Wetlands: NYSDEC 2013, USFWS 2018; Surface Water, Rivers and Streams: USGS National Hydrography Dataset 2017; Road centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018; Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks & Preserves: RLT, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, Rensselaer County Real Property.



Map 2: Existing Land Use

Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



- Wetlands
- Surface Water
- Rivers & Streams
- Parks and Preserves
- Other Protected Lands
- Conserved Farm Land
- County Ag District
- Parcels receiving Ag Exemption
- Agricultural Land
- Farmland Soils**
- Prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Prime farmland if drained

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Data Sources - Ag Districts, Exemptions: Rensselaer County Real Property 2018; Farmland: Rens. Co. Conservation Plan 2018; Conserved Farmland: ASA 2019; Wetlands: NYSDEC 2013; USFWS 2018; Surface Water, Rivers and Streams: USGS National Hydrography Dataset 2017; Road centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018; Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks & Preserves: RLT, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, Rensselaer County Real Property.



Map 3: Agricultural Resources

Slightly more than one percent of the land in Poestenkill is assessed either as community services (e.g., religious, educational, and government facilities) or public services (e.g., the airport, the Town landfill) or wild, forested, parks or conservation.

Table 18 : Land Uses by Acreage

Type of Use	Total Parcels	Percentage of Acreage*	Acreage
Residential	1,629	47%	9,522.61
Agricultural	11	3%	646.41
Recreation/Entertainment	9	3%	709.49
Commercial	32	1%	178.11
Industrial	10	2%	424.16
Community Services	19	2%	472.34
Public Services	19	1%	78.11
Wild/Conservation Land	3	1%	99.19
Vacant Land	457	40%	8,194.11
Total	2,189	100%	20,324.53

Source: 20253 Tax Assessment Data. *Rounded to the nearest whole number

General Development Patterns

Development patterns in the Town of Poestenkill vary from rural, sparsely developed areas, to dense lots of less than a half-acre in the Town’s hamlet. The original pattern of development appears to have evolved around major intersections within the Town. Today, development is more concentrated at these intersections than along the secondary roads or in outlying areas. The eastern part of the Town of Poestenkill generally has less dense development and significantly more vacant land than the western part. This is not surprising, as more densely populated urban and suburban municipalities lie to the west of Poestenkill, while the eastern section of the town contains steep topography and rocky soils that makes development more difficult.

The characteristics of Poestenkill from east to west is reflected by the presence of the Rensselaer Plateau Escarpment running north/south through the Town. The differences in topography, elevations, soils, and tree cover have affected how the Town has developed and is discussed in more detail at the end of this section under the heading “Natural Resources.” In this discussion, East Postenkill land areas lie east of the escarpment, and West Poestenkill areas lie west of the escarpment. Both areas are connected by the Poesten Kill, which runs through the Town East to West.

Vacant land listed in the table above includes lands without any built structures. Some of these lands have been stripped of their development rights through transfer of development rights programs and easements purchased by various Non Profit Organizations or are outright purchases. Purchased lands are shown on **Map 1** as conservation lands and parks.

East Poestenkill

The northeastern corner of the Town of Poestenkill is the least developed section of the town. Most of the land on Blue Factory Hill, Columbia Hill, Fifty Six, and Plank Roads is rural with some small farms and is sparsely populated. There is a concentration of commercial, residential, and public and community service buildings, including a fire department building and two churches in East Poestenkill at the intersection of County Routes 40 and 44. The intersection of County Routes 44 and 79 in Ives Corners has fewer building structures; however, the area has several residences and a woodworking shop. Barberville, the third significant intersection on the eastern side of the Town, is located where County Routes 79 and 40 meet. South of CR 40 (Plank Road), the secondary roads contain single-family homes, although the area is still heavily wooded and the lots are large. The Poesten Kill winds along County Route 40 in this area.

West Poestenkill

The western section of Poestenkill is the most densely populated section of the town. The area includes several housing developments and the Hamlet of Poestenkill, which is considered the Town center. The southwestern part of the town has numerous single-family housing developments, many of which were constructed in the 1980s to the 2000s. Houses in large lot developments have been constructed along the southern borders of the Town on Vosburgh Road and Holloway Lane (Heather Ridge); a mix of small and large lot sizes exists in the residential developments on Laura Drive (Pine Meadows).

The Algonquin Middle School, a transfer station, a private fish and game club, a lumber company, and several other commercial businesses are located at or near the intersection of NY Routes 66 and 351. Fanning out from the intersection, residences are scattered along NY Routes 66 and 351 and the secondary roads. Algonquin Estates, a residential subdivision along NY Route 66 and Algonquin Beach Road is located in this area. Built in phases over a period of years, this is among the largest subdivisions in Poestenkill. The Winding Ridge subdivision is also on Algonquin Beach Road.

Around the intersection of NY Route 66 and County Route 68 (Snyders Corners Road), there are single-family homes and mobile homes as well as a drive-in movie theater and several other commercial businesses. A large gravel mine lies northwest of this intersection. Single-family homes are located to the west along Snyders Corners Road between NY Route 66 and County Route 150, and along the short segment of NY Route 150 that passes through the Town of Poestenkill.

Located at the intersection of NY Routes 351 and 355 and County Routes 40 and 68 in the north-central section of the Town, the Hamlet of Poestenkill is the most densely developed area of the township. The hamlet has a mix of commercial, residential, light-industrial, religious, and government structures, including the Town Hall, library, fire house, post office, a general store, and two churches, on lots of half an acre or less. The Rensselaer County Airport (a private facility) and two light industrial businesses are located just west of the town center on NY Route 355.

Several residential developments are located in the northwestern section of the Town. Large lot, single family homes have been constructed on Hinkle Road (Pleasant Hill) and Reichard Farm Road off NY Route 351. There is a concentration of single-family homes in the Deer Creek development on Route 351 and in Nursery Estates on NY Route 355 west of the hamlet. Skyview Drive, the Victorian Estates development

on Weatherwax Road and the Shuhart subdivision on Grandview Drive off NY Route 355 east of Weatherwax Road contain more densely developed single-family homes of differing styles, sizes, and ages.

There are several large farms along Garfield Road near the municipal border with the town of Brunswick, on NY Route 351, and on Dater Hill Road. Several older homes are also located in the Garfield Road area.

Overview of Zoning Law

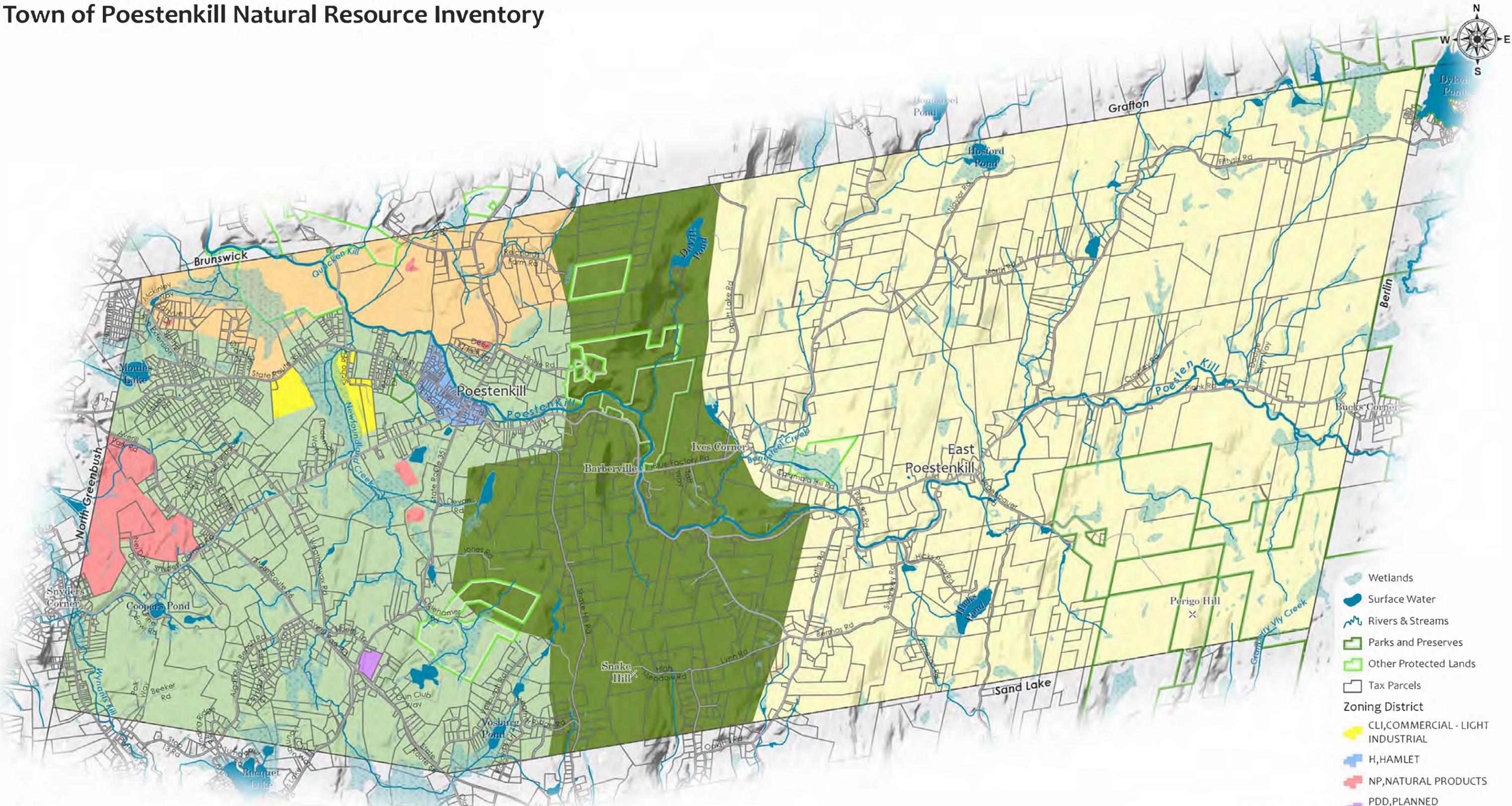
The original Zoning Law for the Town of Poestenkill was drafted as part of its first Master Plan in 1970. Significant modifications to the law were made in 1975 and again in 1985, with a few minor modifications in 1995 and 1997.

The Zoning Law includes five defined Residential Districts that differ in their density and use requirements. The Hamlet is a unique district established to accommodate mixed uses on smaller lots within the Town Center. Other established districts include Commercial/Light Industrial, and Natural Products. Provisions for future Planned Development Districts, either new or converted from existing uses, have also been incorporated. In addition to the Zoning Law, the Town has laws for flood plain management, junkyards, dumps, and subdivision reviews that guide development in Poestenkill.

Special use permit reviews and approvals and subdivision proposals come under the purview of the Planning Board. The Zoning Board of Appeals rules on variances to specified regulations and makes official interpretations of the Zoning Law. The amendment of the Zoning Law or Map is the responsibility of the Town Board. **(See Map 4: Existing Zoning).**

Zoning Districts	
R	Residential District
RA	Residential/Agricultural District
RR-1	Rural Residential 1 District
RR-2	Rural Residential 2 District
H	Hamlet District
CLI	Commercial/Light Industrial District
NP	Natural Products District
PDD	Planned Development District

Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



- Wetlands
- Surface Water
- Rivers & Streams
- Parks and Preserves
- Other Protected Lands
- Tax Parcels
- Zoning District**
- CLI, COMMERCIAL - LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
- H, HAMLET
- NP, NATURAL PRODUCTS
- PDD, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT
- R, RESIDENTIAL
- RA, RURAL AGRICULTURAL
- RR-1, RURAL RESIDENTIAL - 1
- RR-2, RURAL RESIDENTIAL - 2



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0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

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Data Sources - Zoning: Rensselaer County Planning 2010; Tax Parcels: Rensselaer County Real Property 2018; Wetlands: NYSDEC 2013, USFWS 2018; Surface Water, Rivers and Streams: USGS National Hydrography Dataset 2017; Road centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018; Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks & Preserves: RLT, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, Rensselaer County Real Property.



Map 4: Existing Zoning

Residential Use

There are five districts permitting residential uses including Residential (R); Residential/Agriculture (RA); Rural Residential 1 (RR1); Rural Residential 2 (RR2) and Hamlet (H). The RR2 District is located in the mountainous eastern portion of Poestenkill. The RR1 District is in the central part of the Town and the RA and R districts are in the western portion. The Hamlet District is in the town center. The districts differ in their area and bulk regulations; with lot areas of one acre permitted in the Residential district, two acres in the RA, RR1 and RR2 Districts, and a half-acre in the Hamlet. The RA, RR1 and RR2 have the same area and bulk regulations and differ only in their allowed uses.

Each residential district contains several defined permitted and special residential, general and commercial uses. One and two family homes are permitted in all residential use districts. Multifamily homes are only permitted in the RR1, RR2, and Hamlet Districts and may not exceed six units per structure or 20 units for multiple structures. With a special use permit, community residences and boarding/rooming housing are permitted within the residential districts, including AirBNB and similar private rentals. Community residences are not permitted in the Hamlet. Mobile homes are only permitted in the Rural Residential (RR2) district. Many of the permitted and special uses in the residential districts require site plan review -- particularly those listed under the categories of general and commercial uses.

Mixed-Use

Although the RR1 and RR2 districts allow some commercial uses by special permit, the only mixed-use district in the Town of Poestenkill is the Hamlet (H) district. The district permits commercial uses as offices, retail businesses and services, and personal services by right with site plan review. Restaurants and gasoline stations are allowed with a special use permit. Lot area is listed at half an acre. The Hamlet District is located in the traditional business center of the Town.

Commercial/Light Industrial

The Commercial/Light Industrial (CLI) District accommodates a variety of uses under the categories of general, commercial, and light industrial. Heavy industrial uses are not permitted in the Town because these uses may include the need for wastewater treatment as part of the manufacturing process. As long as uses do not require wastewater treatment for production and can use on site septic systems for domestic use for employees, such as bathrooms and kitchens, they are permitted. With the exception of agricultural uses, kennels, and home occupations, most of the permitted special uses in the Commercial/Light Industrial District require a site plan review and sketch plan. Two Commercial/Light Industrial District zoned parcels are within the Town; both are located on NY Route 355 west of the Poestenkill Hamlet. The minimum lot size for any use in the Commercial/Light Industrial District is two acres.

Natural Products

The Natural Products (NP) District is reserved for commercial excavation, including extractive operations and soil mining. A special use permit is required for all mining operations in this district except for grading, which only requires a grading permit. Other than mining, only some agricultural uses are permitted in this district. The three Natural Product District zoned areas are located in the western portion of the Town.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regulates all extractive activities, including requirements for the reclamation of mined-out acreage, through the Mined Land Reclamation Law (MLRL)³. The MLRL, which became effective in 1975, has three main policies: to provide for the wise and efficient use of natural resources and the reclamation of disturbed lands; assure the satisfaction of economic needs compatible with sound environmental practice; and foster and encourage an economically sound mining industry. The MLRL supercedes all state and local laws related to extractive mining, although local governments may regulate small mines not required to be permitted by the state.

Under the MLRL, a property owner seeking to operate a mine must apply to the DEC for a mining permit. An applicant for a Mined Land Reclamation Permit must submit completed application forms, pay a mining permit fee, and submit a completed Environmental Assessment Form, which is required for Type I actions under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The applicant is also required to provide a mined land use plan which explains in detail the proposed mining operations and reclamation activities. Permits are issued for a term of up to five years.

The Town of Poestenkill's Zoning Law has included provisions for the location of mines since 1970. In 1994, the zoning law was amended to allow applications for rezoning of areas from Residential to the Natural Products (NP) district, as long as the area to be affected encompasses less than ten acres of land. Rezoning to NP is not allowed in a Hamlet District, a wetlands area, or a designated critical environmental area within the Town. The NP zoning district is the only district in the Town of Poestenkill within which mining is a permissible use. Most of the current NP-zoned property in the Town was established prior to the 1994 amended Zoning Law.

The purpose of the Natural Products District is to protect residents by safeguarding residential and agricultural land as well as water resources and environmental features of the Town. Owners of small mines that extract less than 1,000 tons or 750 cubic yards per year must obtain a special use permit. The application for a small-scale mine must include a mining plan and reclamation plan. If approved, the special use permit is issued for a three-year period. Those extracting and removing less than 100 cubic yards per year must obtain a grading permit issued by the Code Enforcement Officer. All other mining uses must obtain a special use permit from the Town Planning Board in addition to permits required by the DEC. The Zoning Law provides a number of exceptions for general construction, farming, sewage disposal, and farm ponds.

According to §102-66 of the Town Law, the NP district is intended to apply during active mining operations. After completion of mining operations, and required reclamation is completed, or if mining

³ The state's mining jurisdiction covers any person who mines or proposes to mine from each mine site more than 1,000 tons or 750 cubic yards, whichever is less, within twelve successive calendar months.

operations cease for a one-year period, the zoning of the property must revert back to the pre-application zoning district.

Flood-Fringe Overlay District

A Flood-Fringe Overlay District (FF-O) is established in the Town Laws. The boundary of the district is delineated by the most current edition of the Federal Flood Insurance Regulatory Maps, and is limited to the Flood Hazard Zones. There is no reference to the FF-O on the map or in the Flood Damage Prevention Regulations established under Chapter 86 of the Town Law. All proposed uses within the FF-O would be considered special uses and would be subject to review by the Planning Board. The standards for uses within the District include structural design specifications and use restrictions.

Planned Development District

A Planned Development District (PDD) provides flexible land use and design regulation through the use of performance criteria to ensure developments are designed to the unique characteristics of the site. Planned Developments provide flexibility within standard zoning and subdivision requirements allowing design to accommodate alternative use area and bulk requirements. A Planned Development may be established as a New Zoning District in any location, if recommended by the Planning Board and approved by the Town Board. However, there must be a minimum of five contiguous acres of land for residential use or ten contiguous acres for commercial or light industrial uses. Permitted uses and the intensity of uses are determined on a plan-by-plan basis.

Other Land Use Provisions

The Town of Poestenkill's Zoning Law includes regulations for fences and walls. For residential uses, fences and walls cannot exceed six feet for side or rear walls and four feet if erected within 25 feet of the front of the lot-line or highway right-of-way. In the Commercial/Light Industrial District, fence and wall heights may not exceed eight feet unless along a residential boundary, where the limit is six feet.

There are additional specifications for specific sign locations. Signs are permitted if they pertain exclusively to the premises on which the sign is located; however, signs must meet certain standards. Signs that move, flash, or have lights of any kind are prohibited.

The Town's Zoning Law requires off-street parking for any new or enlarged building/structure. This also applies to any change in use of land or building. The number of spaces varies depending on use and intensity of such use. The law provides design specifications of the parking spaces.

Many of the commercial and some of the industrial establishments are located in residential zones and are "grandfathered" or have use variances. These uses may not expand unless additional variances are received. Some of these grandfathered variances include commercial and industrial establishments that are in concentrated areas such as the intersection of NY Routes 66 and 351. The Town should examine whether the area along NY Route 66 from Weatherwax Road to Vosburgh Road should be rezoned to Commercial to allow some of the existing businesses by right. These businesses include the Mess Hall restaurant, LJ Valente Lumber Mill, as well as apartment buildings across the street.

Businesses that do not affect neighboring residences could be re-zoned under a “floating” commercial zone which would have strong performance requirements and may only be allowed in certain zoning areas. The floating zone could have sunset provisions if a business closes or is inactive for a period of time.

The review and expansion of the zoning uses may assist the Town in allowing uses that were not common or in existence during the 1980s when the zoning regulations were written. Several commercial uses are lumped into “Retail business or service, not otherwise mentioned herein” that may not have been expected in Poestenkill, such as Bed and Breakfast/Inn and Agri-Tourism. Additionally, Commercial Recreation Facility may need to be split from Commercial Amusements as such uses including ski venues, beaches and water recreation, indoor soccer arenas and the like require more land and are often not found in the central business district. These can be allowed by special permit in the rural districts where such uses may be compatible.

Historic & Cultural Resources

Named for its principal stream, the Town of Poestenkill was formed from part of the Town of Sand Lake in 1848. The land on which the Town was established was once part of the colony of Rensselaerwyck, a 700,000-acre area covering most of the present-day Albany and Rensselaer counties and part of Columbia County. A patroon, or wealthy Dutch landowner, named Kilean Van Rensselaer, owned the colony. Van Rensselaer and his descendants encouraged settlement in the upper Hudson Valley by providing tenant farmers with seeds, plows, and other farm implements, as well as some livestock. In return, occupants had to pay rent to the patroon’s agent. Trappers and traders participating in the lucrative fur trade also located in the area.

The first permanent settlements in the Town were made by farmers prior to the Revolutionary War. Archelaus Lynd was given the use of 300 acres of land for two years by the Van Rensselaer. This was done for the purpose of opening up and settling this section of the manor or patroonship. Lynd made his first clearing about 1775 on White Church Road near the vicinity of the cemetery, which is today called Hillside. Years ago, the cemetery was known as the Lynd Cemetery, after Archelaus Lynd who founded it in 1762.

Other settlers who came to the area before the Revolutionary War included the Strunks, Ives, Whylands, Barringer, and Blewers families. Some pioneer families came during and immediately after the war from “over east,” which is western Massachusetts, southern Vermont, and New Hampshire. Many also emigrated to Poestenkill from Connecticut. Records show that several earlier families came up the Hudson River as far as Albany or Troy, then moved eastward into the wilderness of present-day Rensselaer County. Others followed the mountains to settle in the eastern section of Poestenkill. These small hamlets no longer exist. To the north and east of East Poestenkill are sites of Rogers Bridge, Red Rock, Oak Hill, and Four Corners. Four Corners was located on Perigo Mountain and was once populated by sturdy German settlers.

The trails that the settlers followed soon became roads that connected the growing industrial Troy with growing industrial communities in Massachusetts. These roadways also provided the routes for raw materials and food, as well as pieced materials bound for the mills. As all traffic went by foot power or

horse power, inns were developed as rest stops for weary travelers to get food, fresh horses, and the occasional bed for the night. Due to the traffic around some of these inns, additional services such as a store, competing inns, and blacksmith shops developed.

By the nineteenth century, the Town of Poestenkill had four hamlets. The principal village, situated just west of the Town’s geographical center along the Poestenkill Creek, was known as Poestenkill Village. It contained several stores and churches, a hotel, and a sawmill. East Poestenkill, the second of four hamlets, was formerly known as Columbia and contained a Methodist and a Baptist Church, two stores, an inn, and about 100 inhabitants. Barberville, a small settlement east of Hamlet of Poestenkill, boasted a tollgate, a hotel, store, shoemaker shop, and about a dozen houses. Ives Corners, the smallest of the four hamlets, was further north and east.

Poestenkill was the site of a popular mineral spring health spa until it was destroyed by flood in 1813-14. The Poestenkill Creek supplied water power for mills located along its banks, such as a grist mill, saw mill, tannery, collar shop, etc. Craft industries developed early in the nineteenth century and were replaced by piecework and support industries serving the larger manufacturing concerns, which prospered with river and rail access in Troy and Rensselaer. Agricultural products, kindling, charcoal, ferns, and berries provided cash income for residents not involved in manufacturing. As transportation improved and subsistence farming declined into the twentieth century, Poestenkill followed the natural pattern of urbanization with increased reliance on the heavily developed areas along the Hudson River. Today, the Town is primarily a bedroom community for residents working elsewhere in the Capital Region.

Sites and Buildings of Historical Significance

Table 19, below, provides examples of structures located in the Hamlet of Poestenkill that may be of historical and/or architectural significance. The list is by no means complete. It should be noted that a formal survey of Poestenkill’s historic resources has not been conducted. Additional research and documentation would be necessary to evaluate these and other potentially significant structures in the Town and determine their eligibility for National Historic Register listing and/or local protective measures.

Table 19: Buildings of Potential Historic/Architectural Significance, Poestenkill Hamlet

Site	Location	Description
Poestenkill Christian Church	721 Snyders Corners Road	This church was organized in 1850. The present building was erected in 1900 and boasts some of the most spectacular stained-glass windows in Rensselaer County.
Evangelical Lutheran Church	772 Round Top Road	This church originated when a group split off from the Lutheran congregation in West Sand Lake. A chapel was built and dedicated in 1832. By 1865, the congregation had outgrown the chapel so they demolished it, laid a new cornerstone, and constructed the present edifice.

Site	Location	Description
Bubie's General Store	4 Main Street, west of the Four Corners N.E.	Formerly the Woodbine Hotel, a place where alcoholic beverages and groceries were sold and lectures and entertainment were held.
Sagendorf Home	Plank Road and Round Top Road	Built by Lysander Clickner around 1887. The house once housed a meat market. Original horse stalls and chicken coops are still in what is now the garage.
Liberty Home	Main Street	This home was known for many years as the Barringer home. The west side of the house was once a school house; living quarters for the teacher were provided upstairs.
Daley Home	Main Street	Built in 1863 by a Dutch family. Early owners were the Cottrell Whyland families. It is a polychromed brick and slate Victorian with a cupola on the roof, unique for Poestenkill.
Lynd Home	Main Street near the firehouse	Three generations of the Holser family lived in this gracious homestead, breeding and raising Leghorn chickens and registered Holstein cattle. The house was originally part of the Lynd estate.
Tank House	Main Street (behind Lynd home)	This structure was located on the Lynd farm and was a collar factory. The third floor of the building housed a big tank that was filled with water by the windmill and used to power the sewing machines on the lower floors.
Tripi Residence	White Church Road	Believed to be the oldest surviving home in Poestenkill; probably built by Archelaus Lynd shortly after moving to the Town in the 1750s. It has three original fireplaces made of adobe clay and brick. There are remains of a beehive fireplace in the basement. It is a typical example of an early yeoman's house.
Old Parsonage	Plank Road, across from the post office	This home was built in 1860 and is pictured in many of Joseph Hidley's paintings of Poestenkill village. It was a parsonage for the Poestenkill Christian Church until 1967 when it was sold. The home had many kerosene lamps of the type used during that period. Thought to have been built by the Ives family.
Dater Home	Plank Road, across from the post office	This home was probably built by the Ives family in the mid-1800s. It was later owned by the Dater family until the 1960s. It is pictured in many of Joseph Hidley's paintings. Mr. Dater was a local businessman manufacturing shirts in "The Shop" behind his house. He was also an accomplished musician and served as Town Clerk.
Select School	Foot of Snake Hill Road	This building was once a "select school," a private, post-graduate school that operated for only a few years in the 1850s. At one time, the basement contained a bone-grinding machine operated by Jacob Veith, a butcher as well as operator of the Eagle Hotel that was located across Plank Road.

Site	Location	Description
Interstate Laminates	Main Street	In the years immediately following W.W.I, the Town’s economy was given a boost by the appearance of a “big business,” the first and only of its kind to appear in Poestenkill. The mill was a branch of the Swans Down Mills of Hudson. It was this business that first brought electricity as far as the village in 1921. This business closed in 1927 and several years later, the 7-UP bottling company moved in and employed many people.
Poestenkill Town Hall	Farm-to-Market Road or White Church Road	This property was set aside in 1788 by Stephen Van Rensselaer for a school. Five acres were taken from lands leased to Barringer, Peck and Strunk, early settlers. After the school was built, officials leased the remaining lots, and only in the late 1900s was ownership finally resolved. The original 1788 school, known as District #7 of Sand Lake, was replaced in 1823, and the old school sold for \$45.00. Yet another replacement school was built in 1848, known as District #3, or “The Village School.” The next “New School” was built in 1927. When it has ceased to be useful as a school, the building was bought by the Town and now houses the Town Offices.

Source: Linda Sagendorf, Town Historian.

Poestenkill Historical Society

In 2014, the Poestenkill Historical Society and Town Historian were given the opportunity to lease the parsonage of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. This lease now provides the Historical Society with a place to preserve historical relics, documents, photos, etc. The Heritage Center Research and Museum Center is open with limited hours or by appointment. Exhibits change on a regular basis. Now that there is storage available, items are needed for the collection or borrowed long enough to scan in hopes of building the collection.

The original Historical Society of the Town of Poestenkill was formed sometime in the 1950s. It filed with the State Education Department for official incorporation and received its charter the same year. It remained active for close to 15 years before going dormant. As the nation’s Bicentennial Celebration grew closer in the mid-1970s, the spirit of celebrating the 200th birthday of the Declaration of Independence grew more exciting and residents decided Poestenkill should start its Historical Society again. Residents enjoyed an entire year of outstanding events focused on its history. Seeking to capture some of that enthusiasm for Poestenkill’s history, a group gathered to reform the Poestenkill Historical Society and became the first town in Rensselaer County to be recognized for its efforts supporting America’s Bicentennial.



Figure 8: Residents Enjoying 4th of July Celebration.

The Poestenkill Historical Society currently meets in the Town Hall every 4th Tuesday except July and August. The Historical Society also publishes a quarterly newsletter, "The Poest Script" which is sent to all members and contains a list of special events, meeting speakers, and words from Poestenkill's past.

National and State Register of Historic Places

In many towns, an important first step in recognizing and preserving the traditional character of the community is the identification of historic resources. This is formally done through the listing of historically or architecturally significant properties on the National and State Registers of Historic Places or listing on the State Register of Historic Places. The criteria are virtually the same, properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are automatically listed on the State Register of Historic Places.

Established by an act of Congress in 1966, the National Register of Historic Places is the official list of properties significant in the history, architecture, archaeology, and culture of the United States. These are buildings, districts, sites, objects, and structures that possess "integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association" and:

- that are associated with historic events;
- that are associated with "the lives of persons significant in our past";
- that embody distinctive architectural or artistic characteristics; or
- that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Among those typically not considered eligible for the National Register are cemeteries, birthplaces or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years. Such properties may qualify, however, if they are a part of a designated historic district or if they fall within certain categories. In New York State, the State Register of Historic Places provides a parallel process for designation.

Listing on the National Register provides access to public and private sector financial incentives, including tax credits. Property owners wishing to claim the tax credits must comply with the federal certification process that includes documentation of existing conditions, architectural drawings and specifications indicating compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, and "as-built" documentation upon project completion. National Register designation generally come into play only when federal or state funding is used to finance a project. As such, it provides limited protective measures for the improvement of historic building, but does not prevent building demolition or alteration.

Despite Poestenkill's rich history, currently there are no properties in the Town listed on either the National or State Registers of Historic Places, nor has the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation formally identified any properties in the Town as eligible for listing. However, there may be properties in the Town worthy of designation on the National or State Registers, such as those noted in **Table 19**.

Archaeological Resources

According to the New York State Museum’s Prehistoric Archaeological Site File, there are several areas of prehistoric archaeological resources in the northwestern part of the Town and in the vicinity of East Poestenkill. Other areas, predominantly in the western half of the Town, have been identified as having a high or medium probability of prehistoric archaeological resources. Additional research would be necessary to determine precisely where resources exist, and what those resources are. While some information on archaeologically sensitive areas is maintained by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, this is considered restricted information, provided on a “need-to-know” basis only, to prevent vandalism and looting. If a proposed project covers a large area of disturbance, requiring a Phase I Historical and Archeological report would be a useful tool for the Planning Board to be able to assess the impact on potential archeological sites.

Over the years, some archaeological finds have been made known through an oral tradition. For example, a local resident once claimed to have found a fulsome (spear) point at a site near Weatherwax Road. If true, this artifact would date over 10,000 years. Additionally, there have been many claims of arrowhead finds that would date back 4,000 years. These have primarily been collected by local Boy Scout troops. Artifacts donated to the Town or collected by the Historical Society are presently housed at the Heritage Center Research and Museum Center. A rotating display by the Historical Society is presented in the entrance to the Town Hall. To allow the proper preservation and display of artifacts and donated historical items, a room which is air conditioned in the summer and heated in the winter has been provided for storage of items, with displays in public building such as the Town Hall and Library.

Poestenkill Public Library

Since April 2001, the Poestenkill Library has been located in a recently renovated house in the center of town. It is staffed by seven part-time employees. Community volunteers assist during special events and programming. In addition to a robust digital collection of books, ebooks, audiobooks, video, and music, the library’s physical collection contains educational tablets, and items of interest to local patrons. The library offers free Internet access through three public access computers. Poestenkill Library has 2,135 registered cardholders and library had 9, 086 individual visits in 2024 and circulated 15,698 physical items and 9,109 digital items from the Library’s online collection. The Poestenkill Library is a member of the Upper Hudson Library System, a cooperative association of twenty-nine autonomous public libraries working together to improve library service for residents of Albany and Rensselaer Counties. This allows patrons to access to over one million items located in various libraries.

Funding for the Library occurs through a number of sources, with the Town of Poestenkill providing the largest share. The Friends of Poestenkill Library sponsors fundraising events that benefit the library and special programming, including the spring and fall Market Days and the Holiday Lights Annual Appeal. Other operating expenses are from Rensselaer County, Brittonkill CSD, grants, and local contributions. As local contributions are not a reliable source of funding, the Library’s services are reduced during years that do not have successful fund-raising events.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post

The VFW Post hosts the Poestenkill Seniors, Poestenkill Business Association, Rensselaer County Conservation Alliance, and Mark 20. The VFW also sponsors the Poestenkill Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. The facility is made available to community groups for meetings and events such as blood drives and classes. The facility is also available to be rented to non-members for events.

Hollywood Drive-In

There are less than 300 drive-ins left in the United States and Poestenkill has one of them. The Hollywood Drive-In was built in 1952 and originally ran year-round. It is now open from May to October and provides entertainment for residents of Rensselaer County and surrounding areas. The entrance to the drive-in has been moved inward on the property, which has eased the traffic problem a bit. Signs to warn motorists may be useful to reduce the likelihood of accidents in this area.

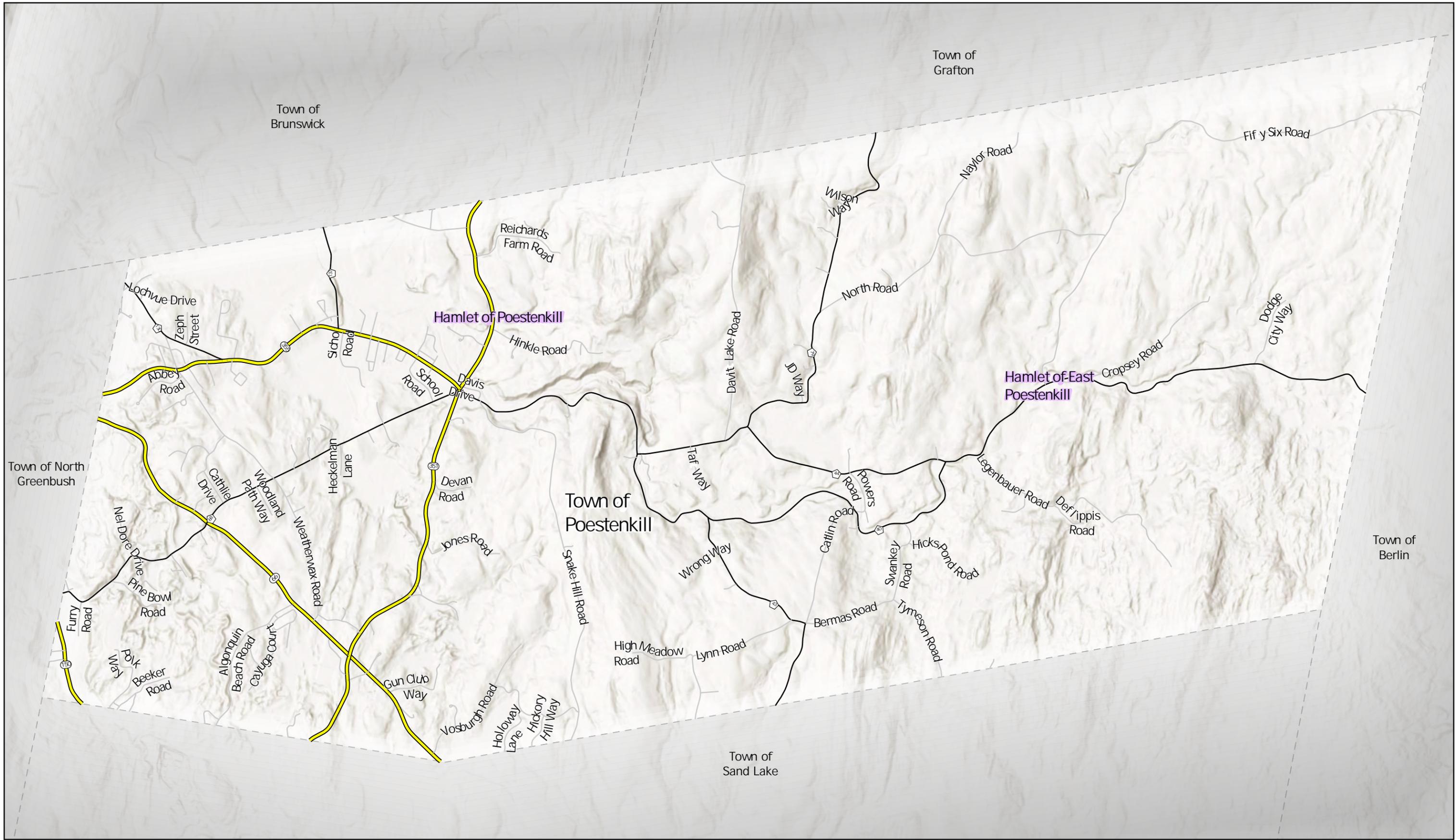
Transportation

State and County highways discussed in this section connect the Town of Poestenkill to adjoining towns and cities. **(Refer to Map 3: Transportation)**. Poestenkill does not have any interstates or railroads, but does have a small, private airport located outside of the hamlet of Poestenkill.

State Highways

New York State operates and maintains the following roads in the Town of Poestenkill. State routes make up many of the vital links to and from other municipalities in the region.

- NY Route 66, known in Poestenkill as Averill Park Road, serves as a primary access route to the City of Troy. It links Poestenkill with the town of Sand Lake and Wynantskill in the Town of North Greenbush, and intersects with NY Route 351.
- NY Route 351 runs north-south and connects NY Route 2 in the town of Brunswick with NY Route 43, a primary access route to Albany County via Interstate 90, in the town of Sand Lake.
- NY Route 355 runs east-west through the Town of Poestenkill. It connects the Poestenkill hamlet with Wynantskill and terminates in the hamlet. It also provides access to the Rensselaer County Airport. A small portion of NY Route 150 (West Sand Lake Road) bisects the southwestern corner of the Town, linking Wynantskill with West Sand Lake.



Traffic count information for state highways is collected by the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) through the use of both permanent and portable (temporary) traffic counters. These counts are done throughout the year and vary in the number of days calculated and the number of highways that are counted each year.

County Highways

County roads make up less than one-third of the roads within the Town of Poestenkill. These roads include County Route 40 (Plank Road), CR 43 (Oak Hill Road), CR 44 (Columbia Hill Road), CR 68 (Snyders Corners Road), CR 79 (Blue Factory Road), CR 130 (Spring Avenue Extension), and CR 137 (Garfield Road). Most of the thru-roads in the eastern portion of the Town are County roads.

Traffic count information for County roads is collected by the Rensselaer County Department of Engineering and Highways. Traffic counts for County routes vary dramatically by roadway. The differences may be attributable to the number of residences and businesses along a particular road, as well as the destinations available both within and outside the Town. For example, some County routes provide access from Poestenkill to key state roadways. All county roads link Poestenkill with the Town of Brunswick just outside the City of Troy's municipal boundary, and provide residents with access to employment and shopping opportunities in Troy and other parts of the region.

Town Roads

The remaining roads in Poestenkill are classified as Town Highways. Most Town highway increases are attributable to new subdivision requirements. Town road traffic counts or volumes are generally collected only when development is proposed or a specific traffic problem has been identified.

For any private project that is proposed, it is the applicant's responsibility to mitigate traffic conflicts and ensure that the surrounding roads are not overburdened with development, whether they are State, County, or Town roads. The thresholds for a full traffic study are normally set by the Planning Board once a preliminary review of the project is undertaken. In proactively monitor dangerous and overburdened roads and intersections that require mitigation in the future, and contact the appropriate agency to assist the Town with providing safe and convenient road access for its residents.

The Town is currently working on a project to replace a culvert and a bridge that was built in 1930 on Reichard Farm Road. The design has been completed.

Scenic Roads

The 2007 Comprehensive Plan recommended that Plank Road be categorized as a locally designated Scenic Road in the Town of Poestenkill. Plank Road is currently aligned with Route 355 and Main Street through the Hamlet of Poestenkill and is also known as CR 40 after it passes through the Hamlet of Poestenkill.

Plank Road was the original connecting road between Troy and Berlin, New York, passing through the Hamlets of Poestenkill, Barberville, Ives Corner, and East Poestenkill. The road was originally known as Old Petersburg Road, then was changed to Berlin-Poestenkill Turnpike when it was widened and paved with wooden planks in 1833.⁴

Plank Road is near Barberville Falls, aligning with and crossing the Poesten Kill and it meanders through the Rensselaer Plateau until it reaches Berlin. Plank Road is an access point to ecologically important forested areas in Poestenkill on the Rensselaer Plateau, and a main access point to farms in Poestenkill.

There are a number of roads that connect SR 355/Plank Road originally built to access historic farms in western part of Poestenkill that are important to the rural setting enjoyed by residents. These include Snyders Corners, Davitt Lake, North Road, White Church, Fifty-Six and Garfield Road.

Other Modes of Transportation

Transportation for residents in the Town of Poestenkill is solely passenger vehicle as there is no public transit service and the closest passenger rail access is in the city of Rensselaer. Some limited transportation is provided through the Rensselaer County Senior Services and Veterans Services to senior citizens and veterans. The closest bus service runs to Wynantskill to the west. The Capital District Transportation Authority Route 80 bus runs from Pleasantdale/Corliss Park to Wynantskill and turns around in the Vanderheyden School, near the intersection of NY Route 66 and NY Route 355.

The Rensselaer County Airport, which is located on NY Route 355, is a private, general aviation facility primarily used to provide access to non-urban areas. It is not a commercial airport, however, and services are limited.

Walking and hiking trails are available to the public at Hudson Taconic Lands Barberville Falls Preserve and Poestenkill Community Forest. A system of mountain bike trails is also available to the public at the Poestenkill Community Forest. These trails are for recreational use, and are subject to restrictions imposed by the Non-profit.

Sidewalks were installed in the heart of the Hamlet of Poestenkill as part of the water district No. 1 construction. There are several areas where sidewalk or trail connections would provide great benefit to residents. Connections to the schools (Poestenkill Elementary and Algonquin Middle) would allow children to use playing fields.

⁴ History of Berlin NY, accessed online on February 20, 2025 on the Town of Berlin's website, <https://berlin-ny.us/index.php?content=historianhistory01>

As the western portion of the Town becomes subdivided, the Town may want to examine whether developers should plan for paths, sidewalks, or minor streets to connect between developments when they are adjacent to the Hamlet.

In addition, the Town should look for possibilities to connect the Town to available bus service routes in the future in the area of the Hamlet of Poestenkill, especially if a bus route could be extended and convenient parking could be arranged.

Infrastructure

Water

In 2021, Algonquin Middle School's water supplies were tested and found to have Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)⁵ in the drinking water supplies. A study of the origin of the pollution did not identify the source of pollution, however, it was determined that the unique geological strata in and near the Route 66 corridor in the vicinity of the middle school most likely contributed to the spread of the PFAS to drinking water sources. In response to this public health concern, The Town of Poestenkill began planning to increase the public water supply in affected areas, including areas within and surrounding the Hamlet of Poestenkill.

Poestenkill has approximately 400 homes connected to the current municipal water system. Outside of Water District 1, the Town is served by individual wells. Wells serving more than 5 dwelling units or 25 people for at least 60 days a year are considered "public water supply wells" and are required to perform testing regularly. There are eleven community wells serving seven public water supplies in the Town of Poestenkill. In 2006, a public water system (District 1) was created to provide municipal water to the Hamlet of Poestenkill along NY Route 355, Spring Avenue Extension, the majority of Snyder's Corner Road, and a portion of Wetherwax Road.

The Town is in the process of creating Water District 2 (see **Figure 9**) because of emerging contaminants in the Algonquin Middle School water supply well and that of other properties' wells in the surrounding area. The project has been awarded up to \$3.5 million in Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) grant funds, \$1,693,000 in Community Preservation Funds (CPF) grant funds, \$670,367 in Bipartisan Infrastructure Grant (BIL-EC) grant funds, and \$600,000 of assistance from Rensselaer County to fund this \$5.5 million project. This project will be designed in 2025, is scheduled for completion in 2026, and will add an additional 110 residential units to the public water supply.

⁵ PFAS are a group of chemicals that are commonly used in consumer and industrial products. These chemicals do not degrade easily and can lead to health problems, especially during fetal development and young children.

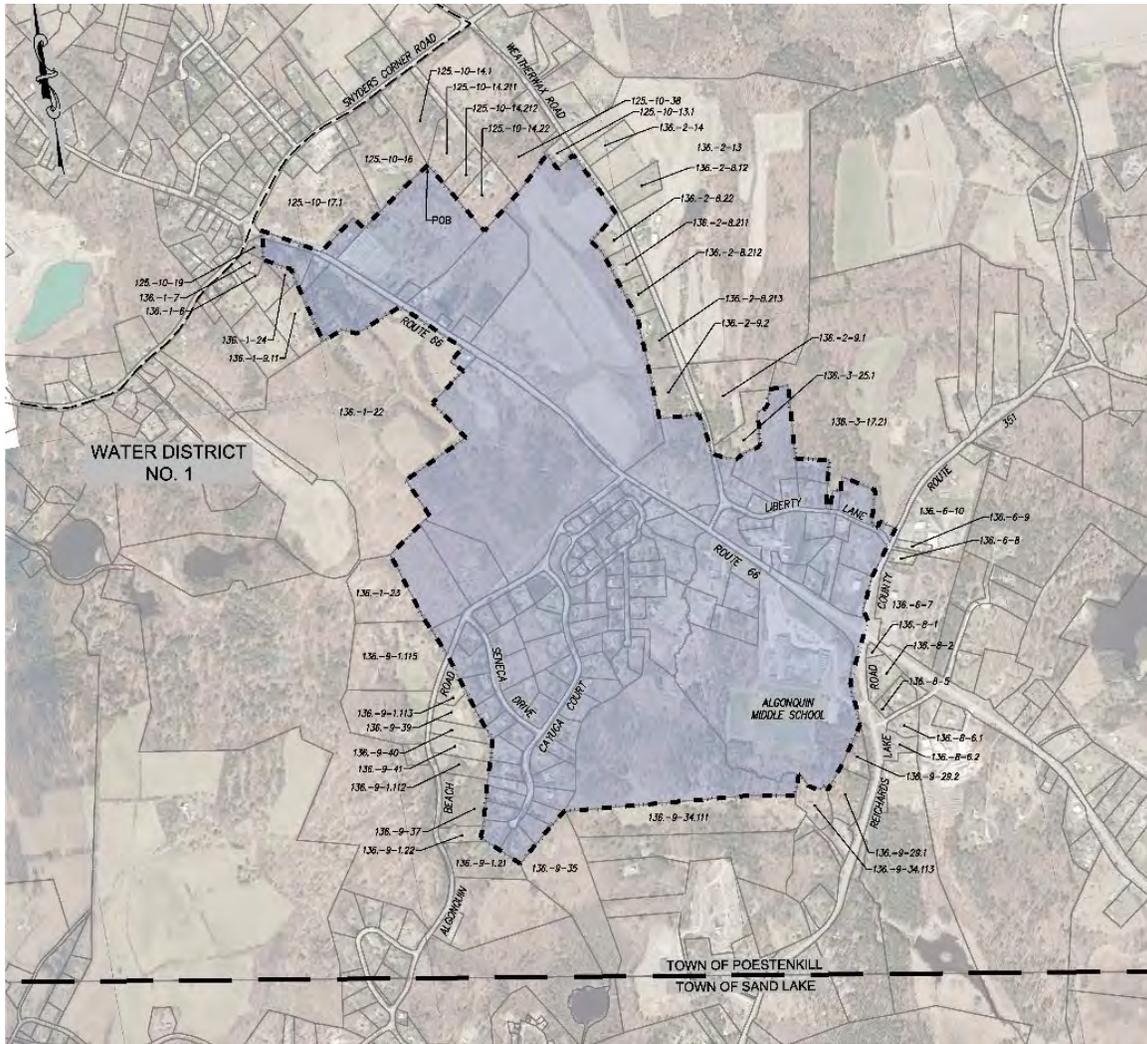


Figure 9: Phase 2 Water District Expansion Areas.

Sewer

NYSDEC has stated that the current Rensselaer County Sewer District treatment plant has limited capacity, therefore no new extensions will be permitted until the treatment plant is expanded. The sewer main that services the town of Sand Lake runs parallel to NY Route 150 and is presently the sole sewer main in the Town. A Wynantskill Sewer District sewer main runs up NY Route 355 to the North Greenbush/Poestenkill line, but no service is provided to the Town. The entire Town is dependent on on-site septic systems, typically raised-bed systems that are used throughout much of rural Rensselaer County.

Parks, Recreation and Public Spaces

Local Recreation Areas

The Town owns the Twin Town Field, located on Veterans Road, home to the area's little league program. The Town does not operate any other recreational facilities of its own, however numerous public and private facilities exist that serve Town residents. Poestenkill Elementary School (PES), for example, has a playground in the back of the school as well as a basketball court near School Road that is regularly used by residents.

Currently, PES serves as a host for the Town's summer camp program as well as other community functions. Algonquin Middle School has athletic fields that serve many organizations. The school also has a short hiking trail behind the fields.

Private Recreation Areas

Camp Rotary Scout Reservation consists of over 1250 acres in the Towns of Poestenkill and Grafton owned by the Twin Rivers Council Scouting of America. The southern section of the Reservation around Davitt Pond lies in Poestenkill. The Boy Scouts have marked trails throughout the reservation, which can be used with permission. The area is covered by extensive stands of Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest.

Pine Ridge Cross-country ski area on Plank Road in East Poestenkill offers 22 miles of groomed trails along the picturesque Poesten Kill and woodlands. It also offers ten miles of trails for snowshoeing. The trails are located in hardwood and coniferous forests and some go up to an elevation of 1746 feet with views to the east of the Taconic Range in eastern Rensselaer County and Mount Greylock in Massachusetts.

The Hendrick Hudson Fish and Game Club, located on NY Route 66, is a private club that has also served events sponsored by local organizations. The Poesten Kill offers fishing, although public access to the creek is limited.

There are natural areas owned by the Hudson Taconic Lands, a non-profit organization that buys property and easements to advance the conservation of important forested areas and/or develops them for use as passive recreation in Poestenkill. Areas that are used for passive recreation include Barberville Falls Nature Preserve, Poestenkill Community Forest, and Geiser Preserve with its summit of historic Perigo Hill; and lands that are adjacent to the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center. Conservation and Forested areas are shown on **Map 1: Community Context**.

County and State Recreation Areas

The Dyken Pond Environmental Center is owned by Rensselaer County and located in the towns of Berlin, Grafton and Poestenkill. One small parcel of about 30 acres south of Dyken Pond Road and west of Dustin Swamp is located in the northeast corner of Poestenkill. The Environmental Education Center offers a

mixture of forest habitats, wetlands, small streams, and Dyken Pond. The area is rich in animal and plant life.

The Poestenkill section of the Center was created in 1990 with the 10-acre Eischen parcel and added to in 1991 with 19 acres of the Mulson parcel. The Poestenkill section is crossed by the Long Trail and a loop trail. The trail crosses a western finger of Dustin Swamp, which is now a sedge meadow with a boardwalk. The Environmental Center holds public events regularly. The Center works with community groups that wish to use its facility and is open to the general public.

Two state parks, Cherry Plain State Park in Berlin and Grafton Lakes State Park in Grafton are within 12 miles and 17 miles of the Hamlet, respectively.



Figure 10: Poestenkill Community Forest Dedication.

Municipal & Other Services

Town Government

Like other towns in New York State, the Town of Poestenkill is governed by a Town Supervisor and a four-member Town Board. The Town provides municipal services including fire protection through a special fire district, and highway department services such as snow removal, road improvements, and maintenance. Other Town officials include two Town Justices, a Town Clerk (who also serves as tax collector), a Town Superintendent of Highways, a Tax Assessor, Water Manager and a Code Enforcement Officer. All of these offices, except for the Water Manager, Tax Assessor and Code Enforcement Officer, are elected positions. The Supervisor's and Highway Superintendent's term are two years; the Town Board members and Town Justices serve four-year terms; the Town Clerk has a two-year term; and the Town Assessor's term is six years.

The Town Board has responsibility for the general management of the Town. It must estimate and aggregate all sources of revenues and adopt a budget for the fiscal (calendar) year providing for the expenditure of such funds, has the authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the Town for public projects, amend Town Laws, and set fees for Town services and applications.

The Town of Poestenkill has a Planning Board, that was created in 1967, comprised of seven members to act in an advisory capacity on policy related to development. The Planning Board is charged with reviewing existing or proposed comprehensive plans, and Zoning Law. The Planning Board also reviews and approves subdivisions, site plans, and special permit applications. The Planning Board members are appointed by the Town Board and receive a stipend for their time in service to the Planning Board.

The Zoning Board of Appeals was created when Poestenkill adopted its first Zoning Law in 1970. The Town has created a five-member Zoning Board of Appeals for the purpose of interpreting Zoning Law and considering applications for variances from the Zoning Law. The Zoning Board members are appointed by the Town Board and receive a stipend for their time in service to the Board.

Town Facilities

The Town Hall is located in the Hamlet of Poestenkill on Davis Road. Built in 1921, the Town Hall building houses the offices of the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Assessor, Building Inspector, and Water Manager. The Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meet in the basement meeting room. The room also functions as the Town Court.

The Town Landfill, which operated from 1966 to 1989, was capped in 1992. Since that time the Town has had a year-to-year agreement with a private hauler to allow residents to take trash and recyclables to a transfer station for a fee. Private haulers can also provide pick up service for residents who do not wish to use the transfer station.

The Highway Department is currently located in the Town Garage at 108 Plank Road just east of the Hamlet of Poestenkill. They are centrally located between the Hamlet of Poestenkill and the mountainous portion of East Poestenkill. The Highway Department is responsible for maintaining 81 lane miles of Town-owned road as well as a few miles of county highways during the winter months for snow and ice operations. The highway crew plows the roads, sweeps the roads, cleans ditches, and mows the edges of town roads, and regrades 6 miles of Town-owned dirt roads every year. The highway department provides brush pickup in the spring and fall for residents.

The Highway Department operates and owns five large dump trucks, two small dump trucks, one grader, one excavator, a gradall, and one street sweeper. They also have one mowing tractor as well as some smaller pieces of equipment. The Highway Department is managed by an elected Superintendent of Highways, and staffed by six full-time employees.

Fire and Ambulance

The Town of Poestenkill is served by a single volunteer fire company, which also provides emergency medical assistance service to Town residents. Like most fire companies in this area, it provides and receives mutual aid assistance to and from other towns. This company has two stations, one near the hamlet at 182 Main Street and the other in East Poestenkill at 1027 Plank Road. The fire company believes there is a need for some expansion of the existing building near the Hamlet to accommodate the volunteers' equipment, which includes two vehicles, a rescue vehicle, a tanker, and two engines. The structure in East Poestenkill is adequate, and an engine is normally stored at this location. The Fire Company also believes that new dry hydrants are needed throughout the Town to help aid in fire protection. The Town of Poestenkill is part of the Rensselaer County Enhanced Emergency 9-1-1 system. As the public water system is expanded in Poestenkill, fire hydrants will be required in areas covered by the water district.

Currently, ambulance service is provided by a private company and the Town does not have a formal agreement with an ambulance service. If there is a medical emergency, the Fire Department deploys trained EMTs to assist until an ambulance arrives on the scene.



Figure 11: Poestenkill Fire House.

Law Enforcement

The Town of Poestenkill has no police force of its own. Rather, the Town is served by both the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department and the State Police. The closest Sheriff's Department Substation is in Troy and the nearest State Police Barracks is in Sand Lake.

Natural Resources

Much of the information in this section is from the Town of Poestenkill Natural Resources Inventory (NRI Report), a project completed by the Conservation Advisory Council in partnership with the Hudson Taconic Lands (formally Rensselaer Land Trust) and the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources; with funding from the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) Hudson River Estuary Program. This report is appended to this plan by reference and is available at the Poestenkill Town Hall. Further information about topics mentioned in this section is available in the full report (**See Appendix D**).

Physiography and Topography

Physical characteristics and natural resources have played an important role in the development of the Town of Poestenkill. Significant natural features include topography, geology, soils, water resources, and wetlands. Physiographic types, at the most basic level, are associated with the Taconic Foothills, Plateau Escarpment, and the Hemlock-Beech Zone; with the latter two associated with the Rensselaer Plateau. (see **Figure 12**). The numbers in **Figure 12** indicate the levels of biodiversity in each area, a rating system developed to describe the increasing importance of the unique combinations of natural features and habitats within each area. These are described in more detail in the NRI Report.

Figure 12 (following this narrative) can be compared to several maps in the NRI document that illustrate the environmental constraints in terms of development within Poestenkill. Although these areas all exhibit unique biodiversity attributes, development is mostly located within the Taconic Foothills, when compared to **Map 6: Steep Slopes**, and **Map 7: Large Forests**. On **Map 6: Steep Slopes**, the edge of the Rensselaer Plateau Escarpment is clearly visible just east of the Hamlet of Postenkill, and illustrates the changes in terrain to the eastern border, which has areas that are more steeply sloped surrounding the Poesten Kill and its tributaries.

The elevation on the Plateau varies roughly between 900 and 1,900 feet elevation. Flatter areas in the western section of Poestenkill have lower elevations of around 400 ft. These areas are more populous and are generally better suited for agriculture and residential neighborhoods than locations on the Plateau. The highest elevations are in the southeastern section of the Town on the Plateau in the vicinity of Perigo Hill at 1,891 ft. elevation. The western escarpment of the Rensselaer Plateau to the north and south of the Hamlet of Poestenkill (Hamlet) drops significantly in elevation from roughly 1,200 ft. to 800 ft. The higher elevations have distinctive climate, vegetation, and wildlife compared to the lower elevations in the western sections of Poestenkill. For example, American sycamore trees are found along streams in the western part of Town, but rarely on the Plateau. Conversely, Adirondack-type trees, like balsam fir and red spruce, can be found in the cooler microclimates of the Plateau.

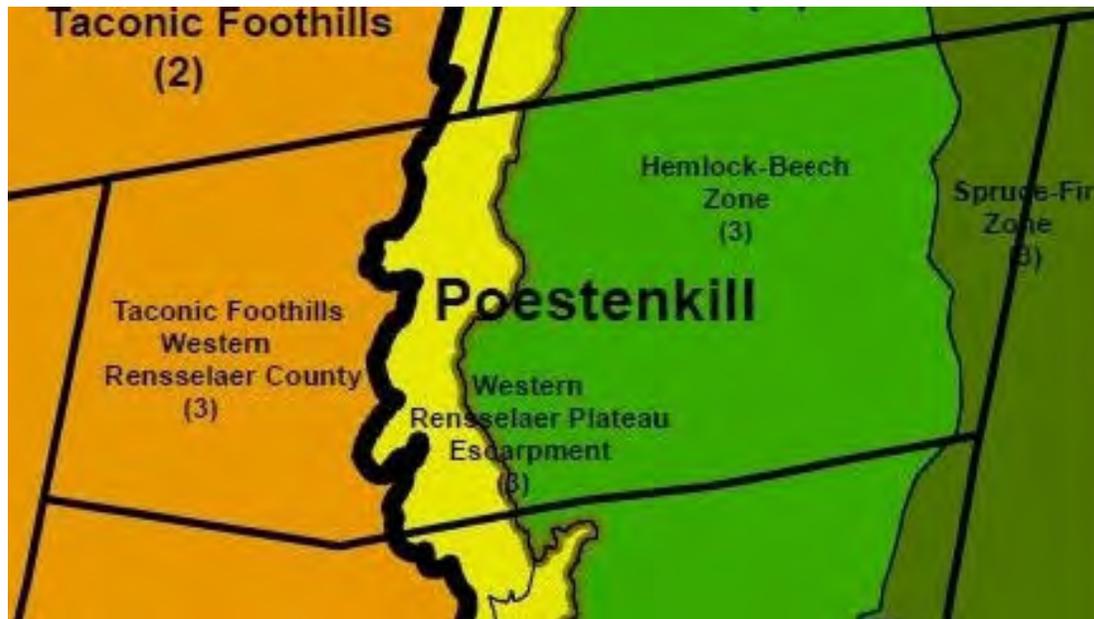
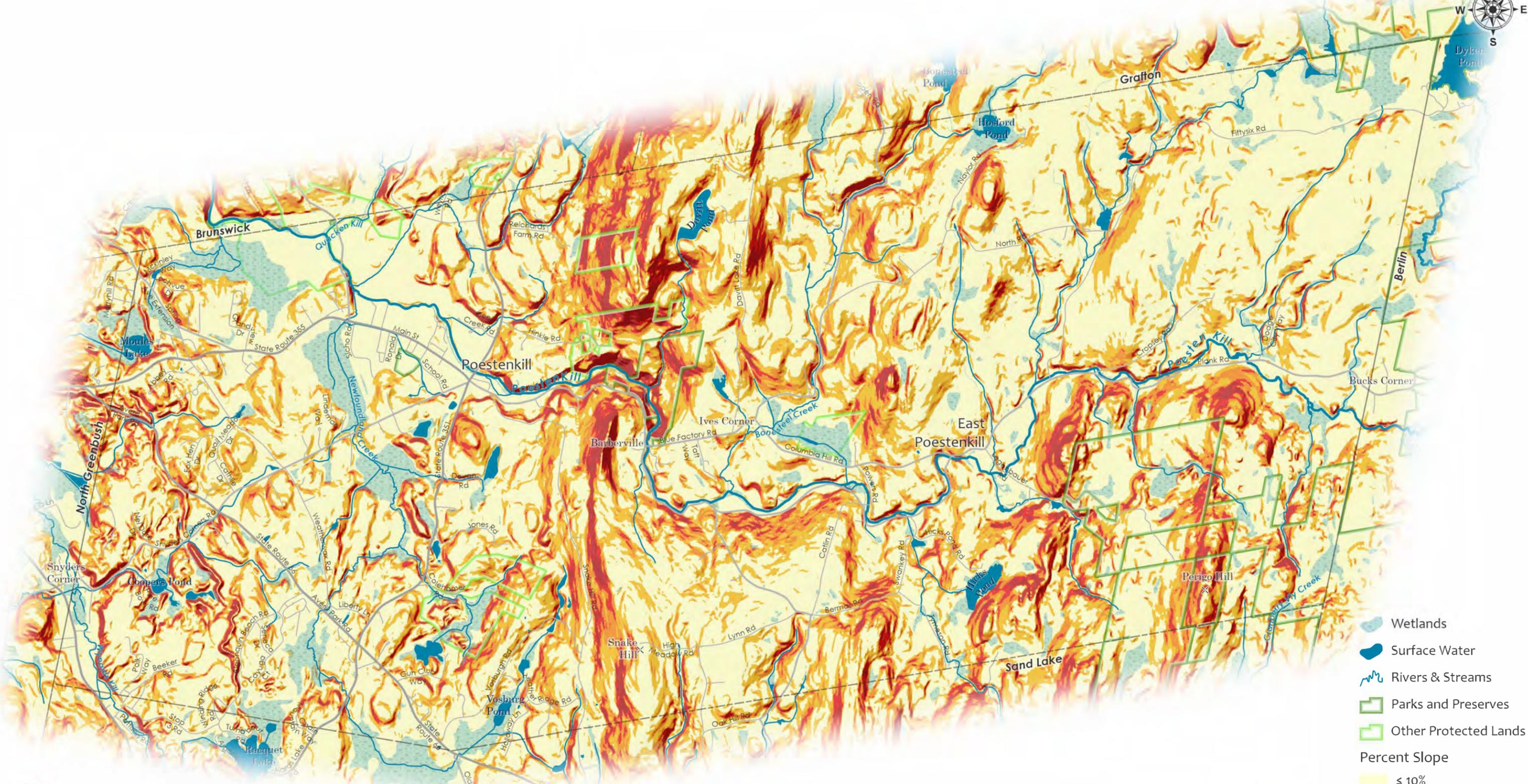


Figure 12: Physiographic Areas. Source NRI Report.

The change in forest cover is evident on **Map 7**, where forested areas become dominant nearer the eastern border, with clearing for the smaller hamlet of East Poestenkill along arterial roads. **Map 8: Land Cover** provides an overall view of the density in Poestenkill that illustrates the current development patterns, in which the natural environment played a part in creating. These development patterns are not expected to change, but as developable land becomes scarce near the cities of Troy and Albany, rural areas may be more attractive for development because of their natural beauty. Changes to the Zoning Law could enforce preservation of the important scenic resources in Poestenkill, including, but not limited to the:

- Preservation of views of the ridges, sightlines, forests, and other scenic attributes deemed worthy of preservation by the community;
- Protection of the scenic and intrinsic value of forested areas under private ownership while still allowing acceptable development scenarios that preserve the rural quality appreciated by residents. This is especially important on the Eastern Poestenkill Plateau, but can be applied to other areas in the Town, including existing agricultural areas; and
- Creation of guidelines for preservation of views from locally designated scenic roads to maintain the look and feel of the rural community.

Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



- Wetlands
 - Surface Water
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Parks and Preserves
 - Other Protected Lands
- Percent Slope
- ≤ 10%
 - 10 to 15%
 - 15 to 20%
 - 20 to 25%
 - > 25%

Cornell University

RENSELAEER LAND TRUST
CONSERVING LAND PROTECTING RESOURCES

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY

Department of Environmental Conservation

Hudson River Estuary Program

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Map prepared by Upstate GIS - September 2019

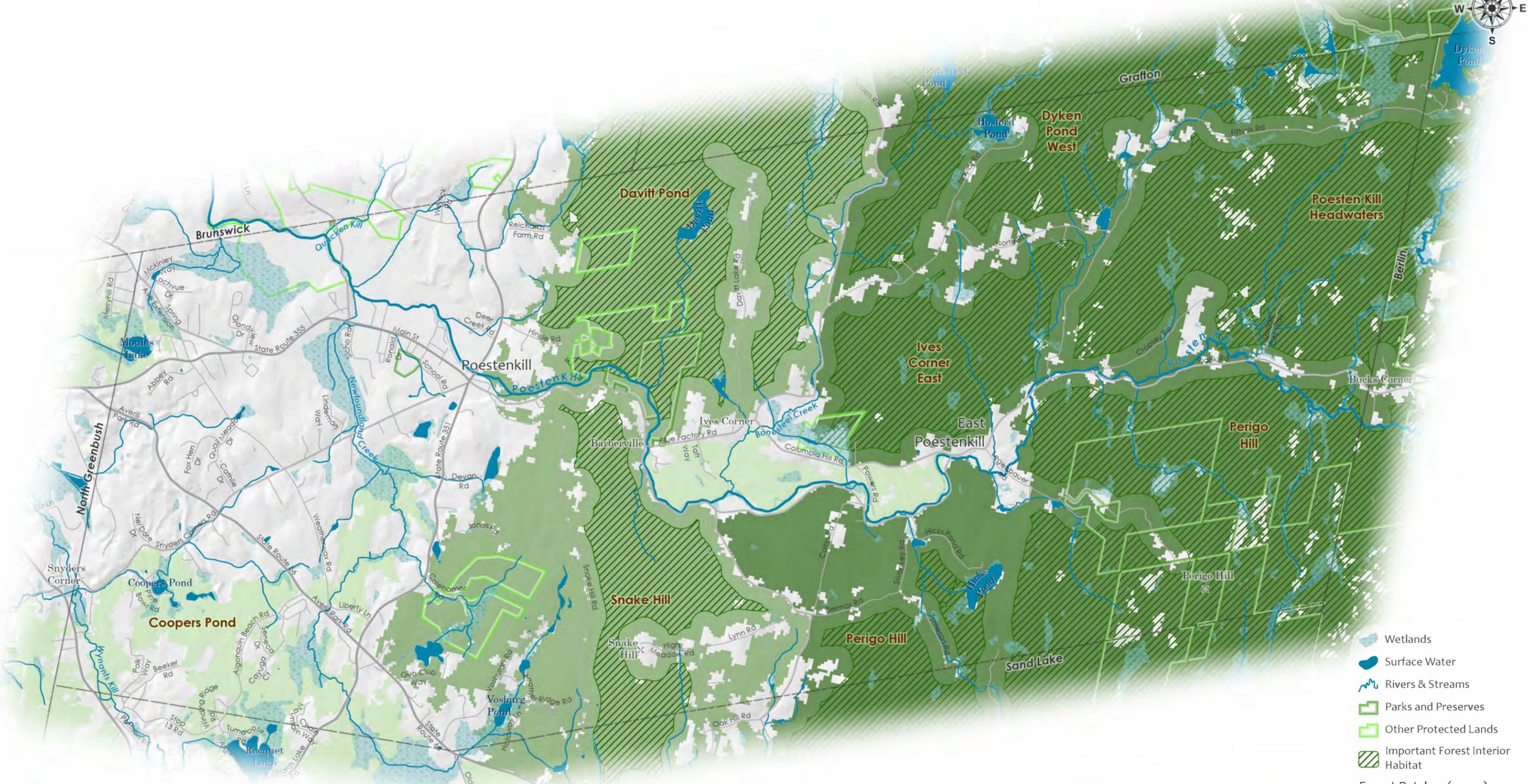
Creating a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) in the Town of Poestenkill is a partnership project among the Town, Rensselaer Land Trust and Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, with funding from the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program.

For Conceptual Planning Purposes Only

Data Sources - Slopes: derived from USGS 10m DEM 2009; Wetlands: NYSDEC 2013, USFWS 2018; Surface Water, Rivers and Streams: USGS National Hydrography Dataset 2017; Road centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018; Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks & Preserves: RLT, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, Rensselaer County Real Property.

Map 6: Steep Slopes

Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



- Wetlands
- Surface Water
- Rivers & Streams
- Parks and Preserves
- Other Protected Lands
- Important Forest Interior Habitat
- Forest Patches (acres)
 - Stepping Stone (200 - 1999)
 - Locally Significant (2000 - 5999)
 - Regionally Significant (6000 - 14999)



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RENSSELAER LAND TRUST
CONSERVING LAND PROTECTING RESOURCES



NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY

Department of Environmental Conservation

Hudson River Estuary Program

Creating a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) in the Town of Poestenkill is a partnership project among the Town, Rensselaer Land Trust and Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, with funding from the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program.

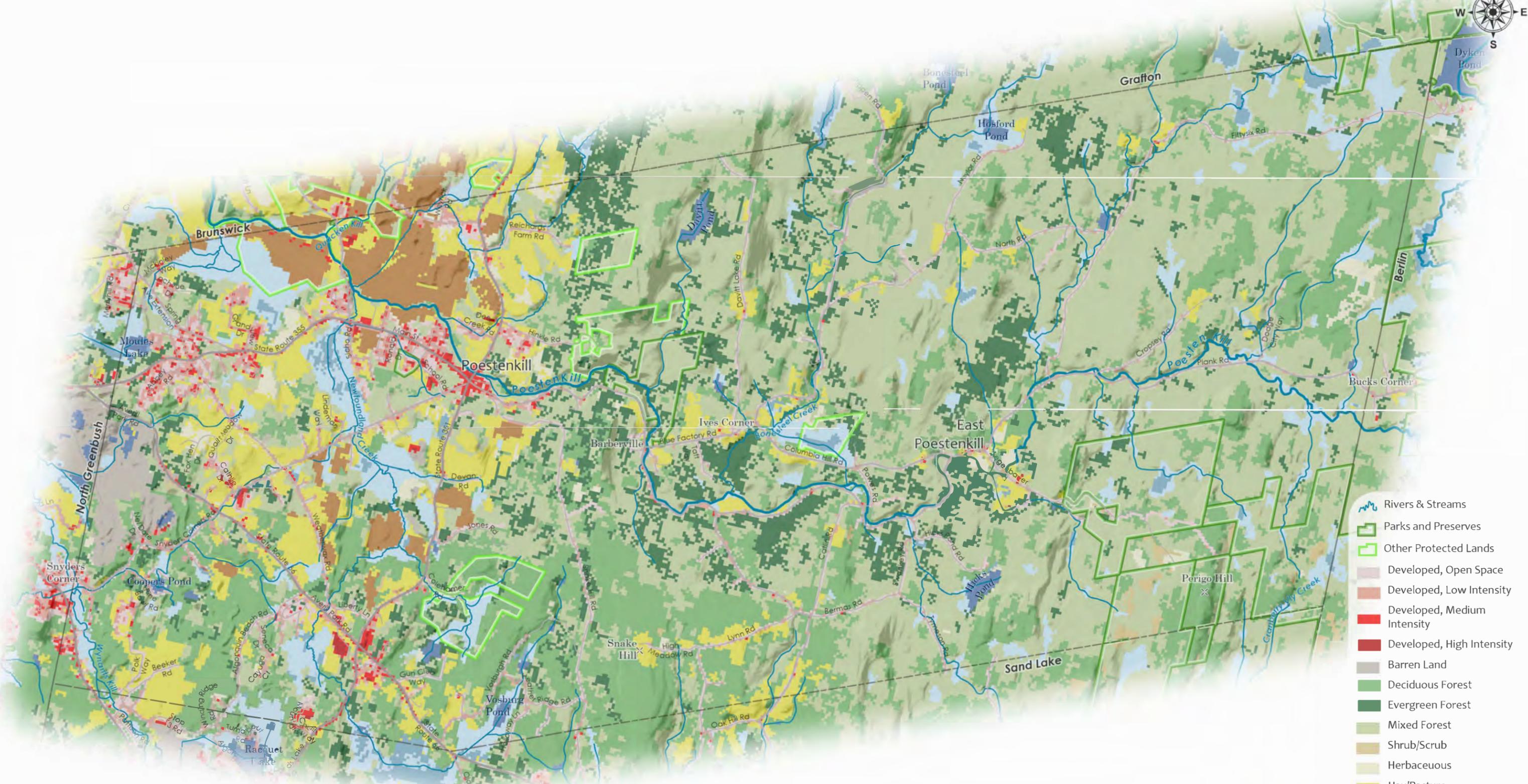
For Conceptual Planning Purposes Only

Data Sources - Large Forests: NYSDEC HREP 2010; Forest Interiors: Rens. Co. Conservation Plan 2018; Wetlands: NYSDEC 2013, USFWS 2018; Surface Water, Rivers and Streams: USGS National Hydrography Dataset 2017; Road centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018; Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks & Preserves: RLT, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, Rensselaer County Real Property.

Map 7: Large Forests



Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



- Rivers & Streams
- Parks and Preserves
- Other Protected Lands
- Developed, Open Space
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed, High Intensity
- Barren Land
- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Mixed Forest
- Shrub/Scrub
- Herbaceous
- Hay/Pasture
- Cultivated Crops
- Woody Wetlands
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
- Open Water



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RENSSELAER LAND TRUST
CONSERVING LAND PROTECTING RESOURCES



NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY

Department of Environmental Conservation

Hudson River Estuary Program

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Map prepared by Upstate GIS - September 2019

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For Conceptual Planning Purposes Only

Data Sources - Land Cover: USGS 2016; Rivers and Streams: USGS National Hydrography Dataset 2017; Road centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018; Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks & Preserves: RLT, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, Rensselaer County Real Property.

Map 8: Land Cover

Soils

Soils in Poestenkill vary with the location of the property. More detail on soil types is provided in the NRI Report.

Soils have a great influence on the natural vegetation and on the areas used for agriculture and residential development. Developers are responsible for identifying soil types in their applications, and a professional review by the Town Engineer confirms whether the sites soils support proposed construction.

Development is inherently restricted by the characteristics of soil types present in the Town of Poestenkill. Most of the major soil types in the Town have moderate to severe limitations that effect development and may not be suitable for septic systems. In most cases, it is possible to overcome or minimize these limitations through careful planning, good design, and regular maintenance, although there may be increased construction costs or limits to density.

Prime Farmland Soils

Nine of the soil types found in the Town are considered prime farmland soils by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. “Prime” farmland soils have been identified as soils that are best suited for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops. Poestenkill is a Right to Farm community, meaning that it has adopted policies upholding farm activities when land use conflicts arise, as long as the farming practices are conducted responsibly. **(See Map 3: Agricultural Resources)**

A number of “prime farmland soils” listed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service can be found in western Poestenkill. Large areas of Hamlin and Teel silt loams are found on either side of Garfield Road and the Poesten Kill. Prime soil units and symbols are:

BeB	Bernardson gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
CbA	Castile gravelly silt loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes
ChB	Chenango very gravelly loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
CkB	Chenango gravelly loam, fan, 3 to 8 percent slopes
FrA	Fredon silt loam , 0 to 4 percent slopes (where drained)
HaA	Hamlin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
PtB	Pittstown gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
RaA	Raynham silt loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes (where drained)
TeA	Teel silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes

When agricultural soils are found on properties proposed for development, two primary approaches can be used to help preserve agricultural soils. The first would be to cluster development to preserve more open space, allowing more of the prime soils to be undeveloped and placed under a conservation easement that would permit farming. Even if these areas are unused in a current development scenario, the future use of the prime soils in conservation areas would not be precluded by the proposed development, and at such time when agricultural activities become viable, agriculture could be reestablished in the conservation easement. The second method would be to create a program of purchase of development rights, which would allow additional density to be built in areas where there is

support for homes. Both options would have to be examined for viability with the Town during a review of the Zoning Law.

Ground Water

Water is perhaps the most important natural resource in the Town of Poestenkill. It helped shape the development of the land, providing water power for early industry and an ample supply for wells that supply most of the houses and businesses in the Town.

Groundwater Resources and Aquifers

The main source of potable water in Poestenkill is from wells that tap into the Poestenkill Aquifer. The Poestenkill Aquifer is located in the towns of Brunswick, North Greenbush, Poestenkill, and Sand Lake and covers 17.5 square miles. According to the Rensselaer County Water Quality Committee, approximately 89% of households in this area have wells and 47% have septic systems. The Poestenkill Aquifer is vulnerable to the effects of agricultural and urban runoff, septic effluent overflow, the leaching of priority organics from landfills, and the demands of development on the presently unknown underground water capacities.

In 1995, the Town Board contracted with Spectra Environmental Group, Inc. to conduct a surficial geological and hydrogeological study of the Town of Poestenkill. The purpose of the project was to provide reference information upon which decisions regarding natural resources and land management could be made. Based on the limited study, the consultants concluded that the natural water quality in Poestenkill was generally good. However, the report did not consider the following exceptions:

- Areas served by private wells in the vicinity of the middle school were found to have per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have been found to be harmful to the human health, especially children. To mitigate the pollutant, the Town is currently undergoing expansion of its water distribution system to be able to deliver safe water to affected residents. This condition was partially mitigated by the establishment of Water District 1, and work with the expansion of the distribution system to create Water District 2 is continuing.
- The Poestenkill Aquifer is primarily surficial gravel from 25 feet to over 40 feet thick. Wells in this area produce abundant water from this shallow gravel aquifer. However, this gravel also receives effluent from septic systems in some areas, which is a cause for concern. Along with septic effluent, several spills have polluted the aquifer, requiring the public water system found in and near the Hamlet.
- Surface precipitation may become enriched with leached mineral matter as it moves through various types of overburden and rock formations.
- In addition, surficial aquifers served by shallow wells are susceptible to contamination by human and animal wastes and by road-applied salt.
- Another area where water quality is a significant issue is around the former Town landfill, which was capped in 1992, and is located near Coopers Pond off County Route 68. The Closure Investigation Report and closure plan were completed by Clark Engineering and Surveying, P.C.,

consulting engineers hired by the Town of Poestenkill.⁶ The site investigation for the Closure Investigation Report revealed elevated levels of Trichloroethylene (TCE) and/or Cis-1, 2 Dichloroethane (DCE) in monitoring wells and residential wells in the vicinity of the landfill. The tests found the highest levels in wells directly north and west of the old landfill. This condition was abated with the installation of Water District 1.

Although potable water is supplied to the water district residents, groundwater is still a major source of water supply in Poestenkill. Contamination of this water supply comes from the infiltration of pollutants. The Poestenkill landfill is now capped to keep additional water from flowing through the waste into the groundwater.

Surface Water Resources

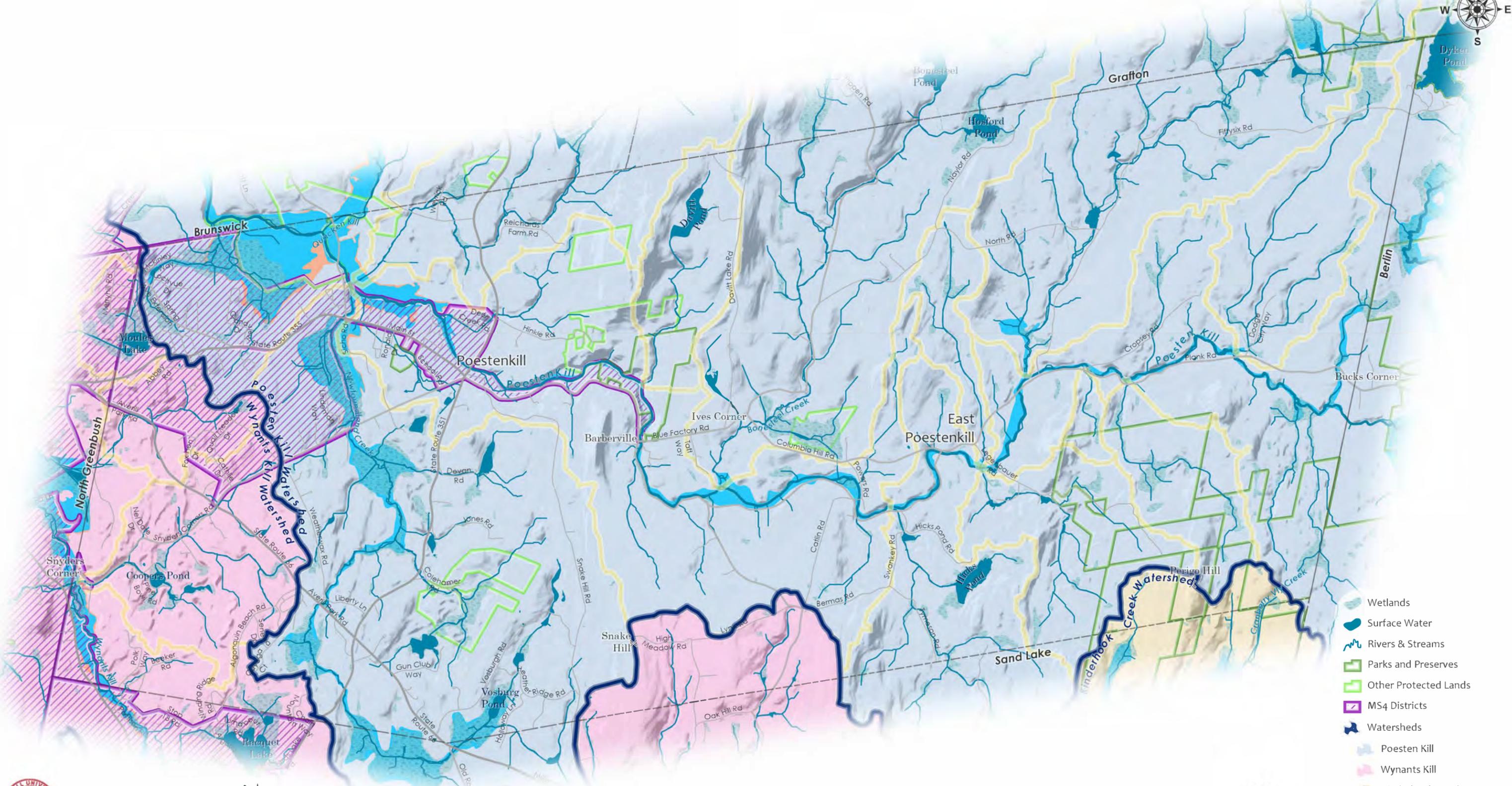
Most of the Town of Poestenkill lies within the watershed of the Poesten Kill which drains about 90 percent of its land mass. A small section of the Town in the southwestern corner lies within the Wynants Kill watershed and a very small section on the southern border lies in the Kinderhook Creek watershed. Most surface waters flow in a westerly direction from the higher elevations on the Rensselaer Plateau toward the Hudson River. The Poesten Kill watershed extends beyond the Town upstream into the towns of Berlin and Grafton. Watershed Boundaries are shown on **Map 9: Watershed and Flood Zones**.



Figure 13: Falling Water, Newfoundland Creek.

⁶ Spectra Environmental Group. Surficial Geology and Water Resources of the Town of Poestenkill, New York, November 1995, p. 31.

Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



- Wetlands
- Surface Water
- Rivers & Streams
- Parks and Preserves
- Other Protected Lands
- MS4 Districts
- Watersheds
 - Poesten Kill
 - Wynants Kill
 - Kinderhook Creek
- Sub Watershed Boundaries
- Flood Zones**
 - 1% Annual Flood Risk
 - 0.2% Annual Flood Risk

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CONSERVING LAND PROTECTING RESOURCES

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY

Department of Environmental Conservation

Hudson River Estuary Program

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Map prepared by Upstate GIS - September 2019

Creating a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) in the Town of Poestenkill is a partnership project among the Town, Rensselaer Land Trust and Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, with funding from the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program.

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Data Sources - Watersheds: USDA NRCS; Sub Watersheds: USGS Streamstats 2019; Flood Zones: FEMA 1981; MS4: NYSDEC 2019; Wetlands: NYSDEC 2013, USFWS 2018; Surface Water, Rivers and Streams: USGS National Hydrography Dataset 2017; Road centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018; Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks & Preserves: RLT, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, Rensselaer County Real Property.



Map 9: Watersheds and Flood Zones

The Poesten Kill also provides recreation in the way of trout fishing, swimming, and scenery. The Poesten Kill's headwaters rise in Dyken Pond and on Berlin Mountain in Berlin and flow for about eleven miles through the center of Town before exiting at its northwestern boundary with the Town of Brunswick. The Bonesteel and Newfoundland Creeks are tributaries of the Poesten Kill. Other streams that flow for short sections in the Town are the Wynants Kill and the Quacken Kill.

*A **watershed** is the area of land where water that is under it, or drains off of it, goes into the same stream, river, lake, or other waterbody.*

– U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Flood Hazard Areas

Floodplains are low-lying areas adjacent to streams and rivers that can become inundated during heavy precipitation or snow melt. Undeveloped floodplains provide space where streams need to expand, contract, and sometimes change course, as well as promote groundwater recharge. Furthermore, they safeguard human settlement from the damaging impacts of flood events. Floodplains are determined from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA has recently updated many flood hazard maps across the Country to reflect physical changes in floodplains, new data, and improved modeling capabilities. However, FEMA has not yet completed digital remapping for Rensselaer County. Future updates of the FEMA flood hazard maps are expected to include consideration of ongoing changes in local climate.

Flood zones estimated by FEMA to have a 1% chance or greater probability of being inundated in any given year (referred to as the "100-year flood") include floodplains along the Poesten Kill, which are especially large and downstream of Route 351 near its confluence with the Quacken Kill. Wide floodplains are also mapped along Newfoundland Creek, by the Firehouse, and the Wynants Kill near Snyders Corners. Some additional floodplain areas are mapped with a 0.2% chance or greater probability of flooding in any given year (referred to as the "500-year flood"). It is important to note that the FEMA-mapped floodplains and their statistical flooding intervals are estimations based on the data and technology available at the time of mapping. Due to many variables, such as the unpredictable nature of some kinds of floods, local drainage problems, and the variable intensity of land development in watersheds, some flood-prone areas may not appear on the maps. Nonetheless, the mapped floodplains provide a starting point for proactive conservation planning.

In Poestenkill, the 100-year floodplains are generally within 100 to 200 feet of either side of the shoreline of the waterways. In places where smaller tributary streams meet up with these waterways and where the waterways gently meander, curving back and forth in an "S-shaped" pattern, the floodplain often extends out farther.

The floodplain boundary varies in distance depending on the topography of the land. The area around Newfoundland Creek, bordering the Rensselaer County Airport, is extremely flat and therefore conducive to flooding. The same situation exists in or near the Hamlet of Poestenkill, where flat areas can be found that act as a sizable floodplain.

Another floodplain in the Town of Poestenkill exists around the Wynants Kill. The floodplain extends out from each side of the creek by approximately fifty feet. The creek cuts through the southwest corner of the Town in an area with significant slopes. These slopes help keep the floodplain along the Wynants Kill to a relatively limited narrow area.

There have been several major floods in the Town, most recently during Hurricane Irene in early August 2011. During Irene, flooding along the Poesten Kill threatened the bridge on NY Route 351 in the Hamlet after overflowing onto Plank Road in many areas upstream. The New York State Governor announced a temporary lifting of Department of Environmental Conservation restrictions (Article 15 Protection of Waters permits) on human activities that “can adversely effect, even destroy the delicate ecological balance of these important areas,” so that towns could deal with flooding emergencies during the hurricane/tropical storm. The Town of Poestenkill marshalled heavy equipment to enter the stream above the bridge. Under advisement by professional engineers, Town efforts altered the flow to prevent undercutting of buildings and the bridge at that location. In the process, the ecological integrity of the stream was compromised.



Figure 14: Significant Flooding during Hurricane Irene, August 28, 2011 (Photo by Stu Balter).

The Town of Poestenkill has been participating in the National Flood Insurance Program since September 1981 and relies on official Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) to minimize damage from flooding by regulating uses in flood hazard zones.

In compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program, the Town of Poestenkill has established Flood Damage Prevention regulations under Chapter 86 of the Town Laws. The purpose of the regulations is to

promote public health, safety, and welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flooding with provisions designed to:

- Regulate uses that are dangerous to health, safety, and property;
- Require that property vulnerable to floods are protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels and natural protective barriers involved in the accommodation of floodwaters;
- Control filling, grading, dredging and other development which could increase erosion or flood damage;
- Regulate the construction of flood barriers which might increase flood hazards to other lands; and
- Qualify for and maintain participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Under Chapter 86, construction and development in recognized flood hazard areas is regulated above and beyond the Town's Zoning Law and building code enforcement procedures. The special flood hazard areas are defined as "the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year... [or] the 'one-hundred-year floodplain'" (§86-4). Builders must obtain a development permit before starting construction or development, and adhere to a list of general and specific standards for building in special flood hazard areas. The Code Enforcement Officer is responsible for administration and enforcement by granting or denying development permit applications in accordance with the provisions of the Zoning Law.

Chapter 86 also designates floodways within the special flood hazard areas. These floodways are the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height, as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Floodways can be extremely hazardous, therefore building regulations in these areas are even more stringent.

Development can significantly increase the amount of water flowing into local streams, creeks and rivers. All proposed development is required to comply with State Regulations governing Stormwater Runoff. The Town is also required to inspect and regulate completed Stormwater Control facilities, as well as investigate and eliminate all illegal discharges to their stormwater drainage systems that the Town owns or hold easements over. The Town is working together with Rensselaer County and its fellow Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) communities to achieve their necessary goals.

In support of the goal of minimizing the impacts of flooding, the Town could investigate additional buffer requirements and plantings near areas prone to flooding when development is proposed.

Significant Natural Habitat Types

Stream Habitats

Shown on the following page as **Map 10: Stream Habitats**, NYSDEC has identified the full length of the Poesten Kill in the Town, as well as in its tributaries and in the Wynants Kill as trout habitat and spawning areas.

The Poesten Kill is the largest public fishing resource in the Town. Presently, NYSDEC stocks the Poesten Kill in April and May with about 3,000-4,000 brown trout in several locations in Poestenkill. Poestenkill supports a significant coldwater stream resource for the Capital District region, and NYSDEC has documented wild trout populations in Poestenkill since the 1980s.

These areas are important to maintaining habitat for known populations of native wild brook trout and other cold-water fishes in decline region-wide due to habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation. An example of loss of habitat was caused by the emergency channelization of the Poesten Kill behind the Poestenkill Fire Station in 2011. Brook trout inhabit clear, cool, well-oxygenated streams and lakes and depend on clean gravel areas for spawning. They are sensitive to increases in water temperature and sedimentation of stream habitats. Currently, there are two NYSDEC fishing sites in Poestenkill. The Poesten Kill is open to fishing at Garfield Road and from its southern banks at Barberville Falls (accessed from Plank Road) .



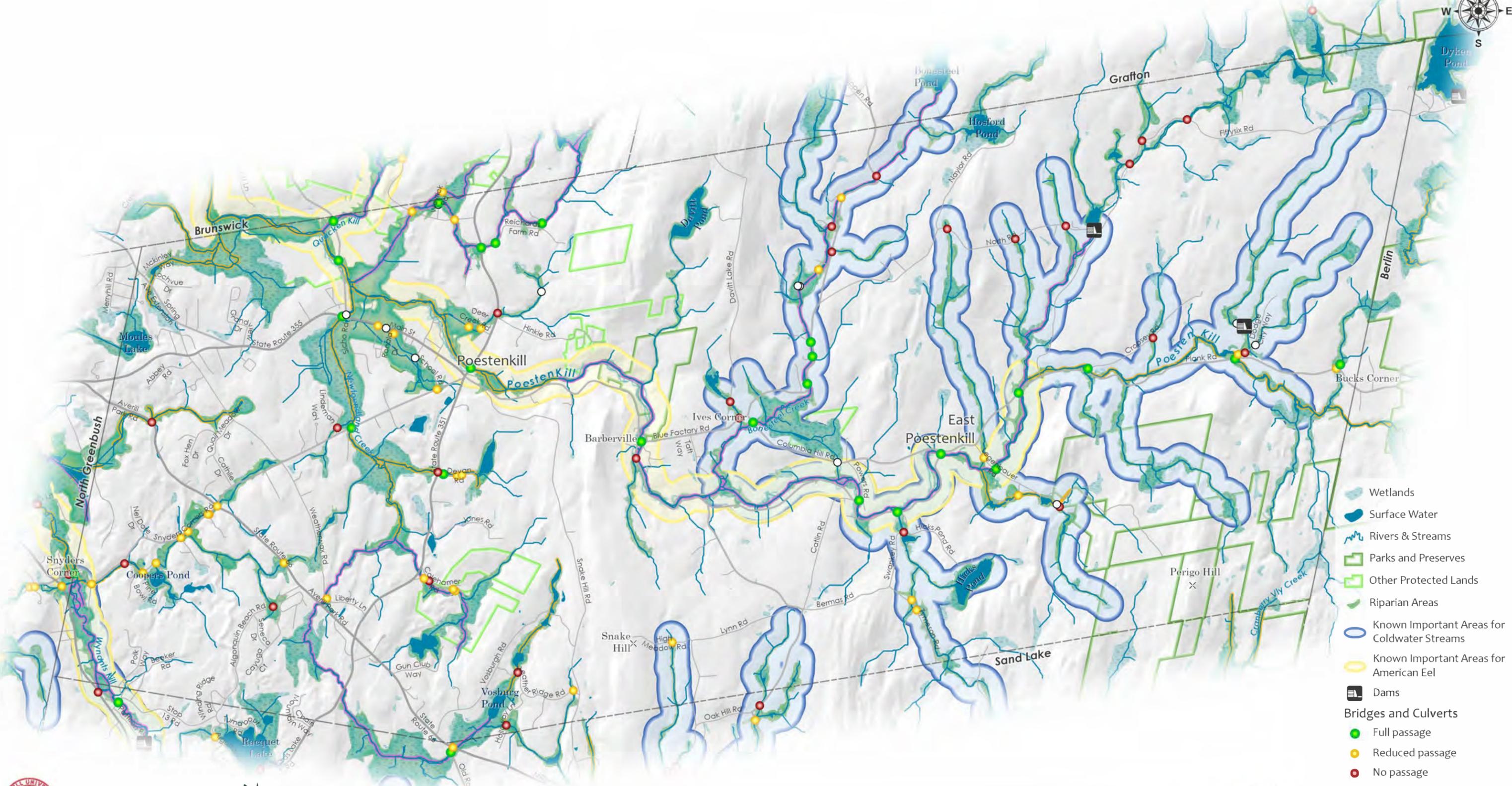
Figure 15: DEC stocking trout in Poesten Kill.

(Photo by Jim de Waal Malefyt).

Other threats include the introduction of exotic species such as smallmouth bass and non-native trout, which are better adapted to warm water temperatures. Conserving riparian stream buffers is especially important to maintaining the Town's brook trout populations.

The County and State have both declared portions of Poestenkill as Significant Biodiversity Areas. **Map 11** Illustrates biodiversity area identified by the County, and **Map 12** includes biodiversity areas identified by the State. Most of the areas are associated with the Poesten Kill and the Rensselaer Plateau and unbroken forest habitat on the eastern part of Poestenkill. More detail about these areas is described in the NRI.

Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



- Wetlands
- Surface Water
- Rivers & Streams
- Parks and Preserves
- Other Protected Lands
- Riparian Areas
- Known Important Areas for Coldwater Streams
- Known Important Areas for American Eel
- Dams
- Bridges and Culverts**
- Full passage
- Reduced passage
- No passage
- No score
- NYSDEC Standard**
- (T) Trout
- (TS) Trout Spawning
- Other Mapped Stream

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0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

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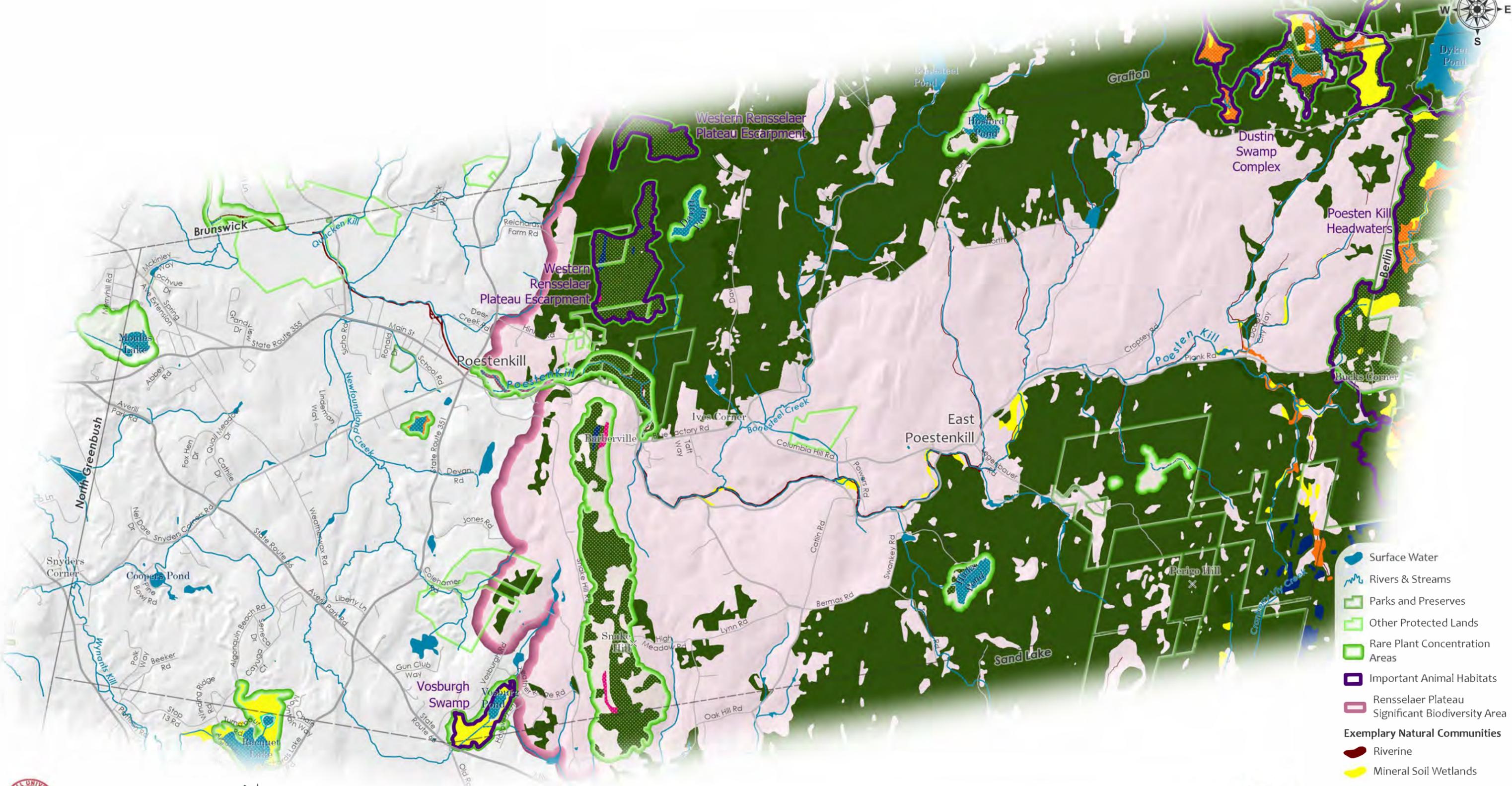
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Data Sources - Stream Habitat: NYNHP 2019; Trout Class: NYSDEC 2018; Riparian: NYNHP 2018; Dams: NYSDEC 2017 (modified 2018); Barriers: North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative 2019; Wetlands: NYSDEC 2013, USFWS 2018; Surface Water, Rivers and Streams: USGS National Hydrography Dataset 2017, StreamStats 2018; Road centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018; Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks & Preserves: RLT, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, Rensselaer County Real Property.



Map 10: Stream Habitats

Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



- Surface Water
- Rivers & Streams
- Parks and Preserves
- Other Protected Lands
- Rare Plant Concentration Areas
- Important Animal Habitats
- Rensselaer Plateau Significant Biodiversity Area
- Exemplary Natural Communities**
- Riverine
- Mineral Soil Wetlands
- Peatlands
- Lacustrine
- Open Uplands
- Barrens & Woodlands
- Forested Uplands



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0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles
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Data Sources - Important Animals, Rare Plant, Exemplary Natural Communities: Rens. Co. Conservation Plan 2018; Wetlands: NYSDEC 2013, USFWS 2018; Surface Water, Rivers and Streams: USGS National Hydrography Dataset 2017; Road centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018; Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks & Preserves: RLT, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, Rensselaer County Real Property.



For Conceptual Planning Purposes Only

Map 11: County Important Biodiversity Areas

Town of Poestenkill Natural Resource Inventory



- Wetlands
 - Surface Water
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Parks and Preserves
 - Other Protected Lands
 - Significant Natural Communities
 - Rensselaer Plateau
 - Significant Biodiversity Area
 - Important Bird Area
- NYNHP Known Important Areas for:**
- Rare Bats -Foraging Areas
 - Dragonflies
 - Coldwater Streams
 - American Eel
 - Rare Plants

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Data Sources - Natural Heritage Areas:
 NYNHP 2019; Sig. Natural Communities:
 NYNHP 2018; IBA: Audubon 2015; Plateau
 SBA: Dr. David Hunt 2013; Wetlands:
 NYSDEC 2013, USFWS 2018; Surface Water,
 Rivers and Streams: USGS National
 Hydrography Dataset 2017; Road
 centerlines: NYS GIS Program Office 2018;
 Feature location names: USGS 2018; Parks
 & Preserves: RLT, NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP,
 Rensselaer County Real Property.



Map 12: State Important Biodiversity Areas

Known Important Areas for American Eel

The migratory American eel is a federally protected endangered species. This species uses stream habitat in the Poesten Kill as far upstream as East Poestenkill and occurred historically throughout the entire main stream and many tributaries, returning to the Atlantic Ocean to spawn. Although juvenile eels can bypass certain aquatic barriers on their journey up freshwater streams, the species is in decline throughout much of its range, due to fragmentation of stream habitat by dams, culverts, and other aquatic barriers. Remarkably, the major waterfalls on the Poesten Kill are not a barrier to eel passage.

Important Aquatic Networks

The Poesten Kill, with its many tributaries and wetlands, forms the most important aquatic network in the Town. The Wynants Kill forms a much smaller aquatic network in the southwestern part of the Town. The New Foundland Creek due to its length and large associated wetlands before it flows into the Poesten Kill is also an important aquatic network. The large Newfoundland wetland adjacent to the Poestenkill airport is an important aquatic habitat for ducks, geese, and other wetland birds such as American bittern, swamp sparrow, and red-winged blackbird.

Wetlands and Vernal Pools

Mapped wetlands are regulated by the Army Corps of Engineers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, both of which provide preliminary location maps for their wetlands. In particular, vernal pools, wet meadows, and swamps are often under-represented on maps and require onsite mapping refinement by a qualified specialist. Helpful resources in identifying locations of wetland resources include the online NYSDEC Environmental Resources Mapper.⁷



Figure 16: DEC Wetland (Photo by Jim De Waal Malefyt).

All NYSDEC regulated wetlands include a 500-foot “check zone” to identify adjacent areas that might also contain DEC regulatory wetlands. New York State recently amended laws to be more inclusive of wetlands

⁷ <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/biodiversity-species-conservation/biodiversity-mapping/environmental-resource-mapper>

that are smaller than 12.4 acres, and recognize the importance of the biological communities contained in the wetlands. NYSDEC permits can extend into buffer areas of the wetlands, depending on the location.

NWI Wetlands

The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) mapping was conducted using aerial images and therefore the boundaries must be verified on the ground. The Army Corps of Engineers issues permits only when disturbance is proposed to the wetland proper.

Many smaller wetlands are not protected by Federal or State regulations. These wetlands can be more easily impacted by ditching, filling and other human disturbances. Small wetlands are often important breeding habitats for amphibians where fish are absent. Wood frogs require small isolated wetlands, often referred to as vernal pools, to breed and can often be heard calling in late winter and early Spring. Small wetlands also provide important benefits related to water purification and flood control.

Wetlands provide water recharge areas, flood relief and water treatment as well as significant wildlife habitat. Erosion fills in wetlands significantly, reducing their capabilities to retain and filter stormwater, and leads to greater floods and lower water quality. Buffer zones, whether natural or landscaped, create an area where erosion is held back and stormwater is treated.

Forest Lands

Forests greater than 200 acres in size, provide numerous benefits including wildlife habitat, clean water, climate moderation, and forest products. In general, larger forests provide higher quality habitat and greater benefits than smaller ones. The Rensselaer Plateau is characterized by remarkably intact forest cover, predominantly in private ownership. There are opportunities to support and promote forest stewardship throughout the Town, and to guide future land use in ways that maintain large forest tracts and minimize impacts to interior forest habitat.

In addition, Poestenkill has important forest interior habitat areas identified in the Rensselaer County *Land Conservation Plan*. These large forest areas are far from roads and development and are the more likely to support populations of forest-interior nesting birds and other sensitive wildlife species. All of the forest interior areas are located on the Rensselaer Plateau. More detailed information about the forests and characteristics as well as recommendations to maintain the health and viability of the forests can be found in the NRI.

Forests provide a working landscape in the Town of Poestenkill. Poorly performing forestry can lead to major erosion, silting of streams, and landslides in areas of slumping soils. Poor stream crossings of skid trails can destroy sections of streams. NYSDEC provides best

Forest fragmentation occurs as large patches of forest are divided into smaller areas, often by clearing for new roads or development. Fragmentation decreases forest habitat quality and health, disrupts wildlife movement, and facilitates the spread of invasive species. These impacts are greatest at forest edges but can extend for hundreds of feet into forest patches, often displacing sensitive species that depend on interior forest.

management practices for the forestry industry which can be used to create policy for the Town related forestry or forest management. Logging can produce a vibrant ecosystem if performed properly and carefully, and leave a stronger more resilient forest.

Other Wildlife

Commonly observed wildlife throughout the Town includes white-tailed deer, gray squirrels, turkeys and songbirds. Red-tailed hawks, woodchucks, crows and geese are more commonly seen in the mixed agricultural and residential areas in the western part of Poestenkill.

Occasional sightings of fishers, black bears, and moose in the Rensselaer Plateau suggest that wildlife, indicative of large, northern forests, may be making a comeback from the former cut-over forests of this area. Fox and coyote are common residents of the field and forest habitats. Bobcats, and bear are residents of the large forest tracts on the Rensselaer Plateau. Several moose are known to be living near the Poestenkill/Berlin boundary. A Great Blue Heron Rookery listed in the New York Natural Heritage Program has been associated with a beaver-flooded wetland near Dyken Pond.

The New York State Museum and Science Service studied small mammals at eight locations in the Town in 1953. Small mammals found in Poestenkill included Smokey Shrew, Short-Tailed Shrew, Northern Flying Squirrel, White-Footed Mouse, Deer Mouse, Northern Red-Back Mouse, Woodland Vole and Eastern Chipmunk.

Counts of winter birds in the southwestern section of the Town have been made by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club each December since about 1966 as part of their Southern Rensselaer County Bird Count (Poestenkill sector). Some winter birds commonly observed on these surveys include European Starling, Cardinal, Downy Woodpecker, Black-Capped Chickadee, American Crow, Dark-Eyed Junco, Tree Sparrow, House Sparrow, House Finch, Tufted Titmouse, and White-Breasted Nuthatch. Commonly seen raptors include the Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, and the Red-shouldered hawk. No threatened or endangered birds have been recorded, but species of special concern such as the Eastern Bluebird and Grasshopper Sparrow have been recorded in Poestenkill.

Poestenkill contains suitable habitat for both warm-water fish and cold-water fish species. Many unnamed ponds and small lakes provide warm water fisheries habitat while the Poesten Kill, Quacken Kill and Wynants Kill provide cold-water fisheries habitat. The latter also provides habitat for aquatic wildlife such as beaver, muskrat, herons, ducks, and northern water snakes and is an important source of drinking water for wildlife during summer droughts. Fish likely to be found in the Poesten Kill in the Town include Brown Trout, Brook Trout, Satinfish Shiner, Cutlips Minnow, Common Shiner, Bluntnose Dace, Longnose Dace, Creek Chub, White Sucker, Tesselated Darter and Slimy Sculpin.

In 1999, the NYSDEC conducted an Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Program. Surveys were made in Poestenkill and the following species were identified in the town: Red-Spotted Newt, Redback Salamander, Northern Spring Peeper, Gray Treefrog, bullfrog, Northern Leopard Frog, Wood Frog, Snapping Turtle, Musk Turtle, Northern Water Snake, and Garter Snake. Other observed species include the Spotted Salamander, Northern Two-Lined Salamander, Northern Dusky Salamander, and Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander.

Bears, coyotes, and moose, once hunted to oblivion in Rensselaer County, have made a comeback into the Rensselaer Plateau and rural areas.

Private Scenic and Recreational Resources

The western slope or escarpment of the Rensselaer Plateau in Poestenkill is an important scenic resource. The Rensselaer Escarpment is also an important regional landscape feature that can be seen from distant locations such as the Helderberg Escarpment in Albany County. Local roads and hilltops provide many open vistas of the Rensselaer Escarpment. Traveling northbound on NY Route 351 provides excellent views of the escarpment, especially during fall foliage season. Scenic vistas of the plateau can be seen from other roadway hilltops (e.g., Weatherwax Road) when viewed in an easterly direction.

The “Rensselaer County Land Conservation Plan” (2018) lists five areas in Poestenkill as ‘high priority scenic areas’ including: Rte 351 north of town center, western escarpment of the Rensselaer Plateau east of Reichards Farm Road, Barberville Falls, Rensselaer Plateau around Perigo Hill and north and northeast, and Dyken Pond Center.

Open panoramic views of western Poestenkill and distant views of the Catskill Mountains to the southwest and the Helderberg Hills to the west can be seen from roadways and residential properties along the western slopes of the Rensselaer Plateau. Open land such as the area south of Hinkle Road and along Snake Hill Road have been selected for residential development in part because of the panoramic views and distant scenic features which can be observed from the escarpment area. Similar views can be seen from cliffs located on the western slope of the Rensselaer Escarpment north of Hinkle Road. The growth of trees has reduced this view compared with turn-of-the-century photographs of the area. Private trails on Snake Hill also lead to scenic overlooks both to the west and towards eastern Poestenkill.

Revisions to zoning to encourage development behind ridgelines and set back from scenic resources would further the protection of these views, as well as conservation and cluster developments.

Conservation Lands

There are a number of conserved lands in Poestenkill under different ownerships (**Refer to Map 1: Community Context**). One of the largest conservation acquisitions in the Town was recently made by the Conservation Fund, which purchased the former Cowee Forest lands in southeastern Poestenkill (468 acres) and has transferred these lands to New York State as forest lands. This area also contains the Geiser Preserve (95 acres) and the nearby Poestenkill Community Forest (435 acres) both owned by the Hudson Taconic Lands (HTL).

The HTL holds a number of conservation easements on lands not open to the public in Poestenkill including the following: Common Farms (130 acres), Sluyter (105 acres), Colehamer (62 acres), and Plateau Escarpment (56 acres). The Agricultural Stewardship Association recently purchased the development rights on the 300-acre Wagner dairy farm which straddles the boundary between Poestenkill and Brunswick. The Natural Resource Conservation Service holds an easement on approximately 48 acres on Columbia Hill Road under the NRCS wetland reserve program, which restores wetlands after they have been drained for agriculture or otherwise disturbed. Moules Lake and Land, LLC owns a private preserve

conserving 57 acres of wetlands and wetland buffer on Spring Avenue Extension in northwestern Poestenkill.

The Poesten Kill is another important natural scenic feature in the local landscape. The stream as it flows off the Rensselaer Plateau creates a spectacular waterfall at the hamlet of Barberville. There are roads along most of the Poesten Kill throughout the Town, which provide many opportunities for the public to view this stream during the seasonal changes of the year. Late winter snowmelts can provide some spectacular views of this dynamic stream. The best viewing opportunities of the Poesten Kill can be seen along the corridor of Plank Road between Barberville and the last stream crossing near the border with the Town of Berlin. Pedestrian walkways on bridge crossings, such as NY Route 351 near Town Hall, also provide viewing locations of the Poesten Kill.

Climate Resiliency

Valuable ecosystem services provided by Poestenkill's landscapes include harvested products (food, timber, biomass, maple syrup), clean water and flood control, soil conservation and carbon sequestration, biodiversity support and genetic resources, recreation, and preservation of wild places and heritage sites. Ecosystems recharge groundwater supplies and reduce soil erosion by creating catchments that enhance rainwater infiltration into soils as opposed to allowing rapid runoff of stormwater into streams. The healthy vegetation of landscapes helps to stabilize and conserve soils and also sequesters carbon above ground in the standing biomass of trees and perennial plants and below ground in the form of roots and soil organic matter. The diverse flora and fauna supported by Poestenkill landscapes play a role in maintaining Earth's biological heritage, and the complex interactions among species benefit society in many ways, such as natural control of insect pests and disease. Genetic diversity will be essential for the natural adaptation of our ecosystems to environmental stresses such as high temperatures and drought that will be exacerbated by climate change. In addition, genetic diversity has potential economic value for new pharmaceuticals, or for organisms or compounds with biotechnology applications.

In the face of climate change Poestenkill residents and conservation groups are encouraged to protect land that provides plant and animal habitat amidst changing temperatures, rainfall patterns, and major weather events. Areas near the plateau escarpment and other places with higher elevation should be considered for habitat conservation. Development permitted in these areas should be examined for potential impacts on areas in need of conservation.

Climate resilient land conservation planning recognizes climate change as a threat to natural resources. Modeling for climate resilience was based on three primary attributes: geodiversity (types of natural land cover as discussed in the NRI), topographic complexity, and landscape connectedness. Sites that have both complex topography and connected land cover are places where conservation action is most likely to succeed in the long term. These areas are discussed in more detail in the NRI.

SECTION 4: VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Community Vision

The Town of Poestenkill is a vital and prosperous community. Future progress requires that the Town wisely protect and preserve its character-defining qualities; a historic and rich rural heritage; traditional small-town character, open space and scenic beauty, natural resources, diverse citizenry, and strong community schools.

In the decades ahead, the Town will enjoy a stable and varied local economy and remain a desirable place to live, raise a family, work, and retire. Poestenkill's lively hamlet—the center of community life—will be sustained by continuing to offer a mix of small locally owned businesses, stores, professional services, and community facilities. The Town will encourage adaptive reuse over new construction, and use quantified data to justify the housing needs of existing residents. The Town will endeavor to provide the infrastructure necessary to protect water quality and support existing commercial enterprises.

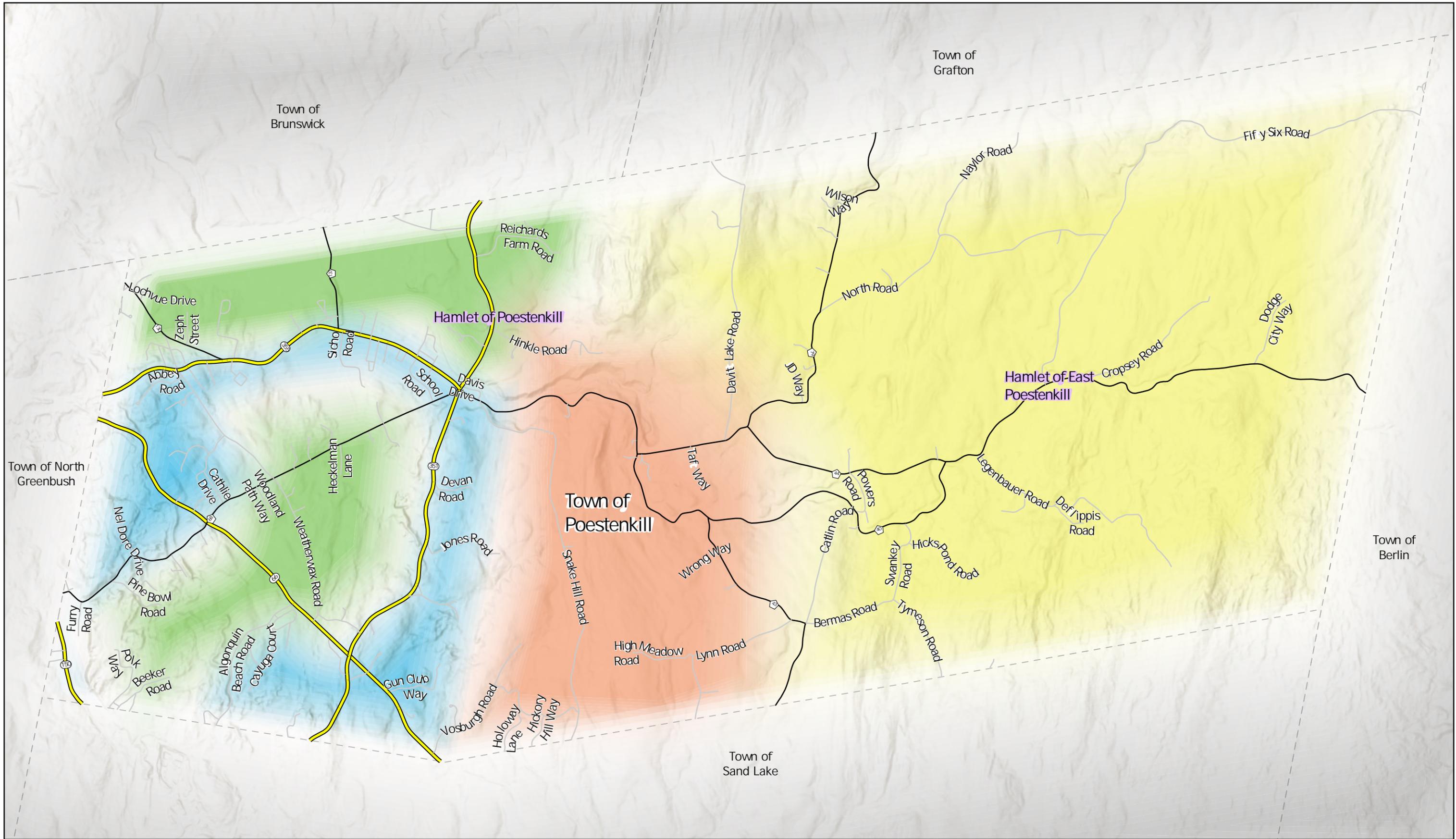
The Town of Poestenkill will strive to accommodate carefully planned new residential development, commercial enterprises, and, public infrastructure that fit harmoniously into the town fabric, are compatible with established neighborhoods, and are designed in a manner that conserves its important natural resources, waterways, and aquifer, agricultural lands, and family farms.

Future Land Use

As discussed in previous sections, future land use is guided by the natural characteristics of the land in Poestenkill, creating areas in the Taconic Plains in the western portion of Poestenkill where most development has occurred, and areas that have less development potential on the Rensselaer Plateau that are more conducive to preservation because of the unique attributes of the Forested Areas. In addition, Poestenkill has areas of historical farms and productive farming value.

This does not mean that all development should be precluded in areas of targeted preservation. Rather, policies will allow development to occur, but under controlled circumstances in order to protect the Town's rich resources, pristine ecological environment, and rural character. Therefore, areas of targeted development should be where municipal water can be provided and the Town should encourage redevelopment of existing property over new development of open space within the community. When open space is permitted for development, a new understanding of the rural character must be developed and standards should be codified so that all development occurs equitably.

Map 12: Future Land Use provides a general basis to understand the community's preferences for density and type of Land uses as follows:



- **Hamlet Density:** This area includes smaller residential parcels and commercial businesses that serve residents and provide jobs. This area is served or can be served by municipal water, and is nearest to higher density areas in North Greenbush and Troy. Development of areas should reflect character and a design aesthetic that creates a small town feel with comfortable opportunities for walking and congregating.
- **Medium Density:** Residential uses should have a rural/suburban character that provides a buffer between low density areas on the Plateau. New development in these areas should have special attention to the environmental and scenic characteristics of rural communities and preserve farmsteads and historical housing patterns. Commercial areas in this land use area tend to be larger commercial areas that have direct access to established roads in areas where buffers can be achieved between residential and commercial uses. When possible, new development should be visually softened with the use of setbacks and plantings from the public roads and rights of way. New larger commercial enterprise can be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the ecological and visual impacts can be mitigated.
- **Low Density/Conservation:** Many properties in this area have already been purchased by non-profits for preservation because of the unique qualities of the forests, or have been overlaid with conservation easements. There are a few properties in this area that remain under private ownership that are used for paid recreational uses, and private low-density housing. Conservation of the forested areas should continue to be encouraged. Housing should be very low density, and be encouraged to be set back from scenic roads and not interfere with known areas of critical habitats.
- **Agriculture:** These areas are active farms within Poestenkill, some of which have been continuously operating for several generations. The Town of Poestenkill supports the Right to Farm in the community. Supporting the right to farm includes providing assistance to farmers to make their farming business productive, including allowing business use open to the public on site. However, the Town also understands that if the existing farmer retires, then it may be necessary to sell the farm to the development community. However, the Town is committed to finding methods of preserving its historic farmsteads, which is integral to the history of the Town. A higher standard of development will apply to these areas to preserve as much of the original farm's character as possible, whether it be through conservation easements, transfer of development rights or design standards.

Guiding Principles, Goals, and Strategies

Guiding Principle: Community Character, Housing, and Community Services. The Hamlet in the Town of Poestenkill (Hamlet) has traditionally been the center of the community. It continues to be the location of such community facilities including the Public Schools, Town Hall, Post Office, and Library, as well as the location of several churches and commercial businesses. Development should reinforce the Hamlet as the central hub of community life. Areas outside the Hamlet are to remain less dense, as a way to preserve our historic farms and beautiful rural settings, and respect the privacy of the homeowners who enjoy rural living. The Town also recognizes that it is important to take leadership in the maintenance of affordable emergency services so that residents live in peace and safety.

Goal 1: The Town will continue to foster a sense of community and shared history, by focusing on the Hamlet as the center of community life by directing growth in or near the Hamlet in areas where provision of public water is feasible, and properties can be rehabilitated.

Strategies:

Continue to seek funding for housing rehabilitation programs through grants, especially in housing within the Hamlet and for older historic homes within the Town.

- 1.1 Improve sidewalks in the Hamlet of Poestenkill where connections between residential uses, services and businesses would benefit from connections.
- 1.2 Continue to support the Town Library as source of information and informal gathering place for residents.
- 1.3 Find programs to allow owners of older homes to upgrade energy efficiency whenever possible.
- 1.4 Consider creating a small park on Town-owned property within the Hamlet of Poestenkill in cooperation with the Averill Park CSD.

Goal 2: The Town will encourage the development of housing options, with emphasis on home ownership for residents at all stages of life, which will complement the rural character of the Town and not place an undue burden on the environment.

Strategies:

- 2.1 Continue to allow residents to add accessory dwelling units by special permit to their houses, provided that they can meet criteria that will protect the privacy of their neighbors, retain the visual characteristics of a low-density home, and have the ability to support needed services to the accessory unit.
- 2.2 Allow new forms of development that would provide for senior housing within areas that would enhance their quality of life, such as in or adjacent to Hamlet.

- 2.3 Consider conducting a housing study to determine gaps in residential housing in Poestenkill based on a profile of the existing residents.
- 2.4 Discourage ongoing sprawl of residential housing especially on scenic highways and near significant vistas and natural resources, that characterize our rural life.

Goal 3: The Town will foster its awareness, pride, and conservation of its history currently embodied in its written records, homes, and structures of historical significance.

Strategies:

- 3.1 Continue to support the efforts of the Historical Society to create and share Town historical artifacts and archaeological items.
- 3.2 Support the development and retention of local history.
- 3.3 Create a local historic registry that would include houses, buildings, and structures that are important to Poestenkill's history.
- 3.4 Support the creation of local signage that celebrates historical sites and events.
- 3.5 Seek guidance from the State Historic Preservation Office (through online submission) or Local Historical Society when the application includes a building over 50 years old that is proposed to be substantially modified or demolished.

Goal 4: Providing high-quality and reliable public safety is very important to the quality of life of any community. The Town encourages and supports the ongoing efforts to provide responsive expert police, emergency medical, and fire-fighting services.

Strategies:

- 4.1 Work with the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police in Brunswick to address the needs of the Town.
- 4.2 Continue to regularly evaluate its volunteer emergency medical services and fire-fighting services to ensure that they have the facilities and equipment needed to adequately and quickly respond to emergencies and still be cost-effective.
- 4.3 Work with emergency services to create an actionable list and costs of needed improvements and support efforts to apply for grants and/or support fundraising to help offset the costs of improvements, with support if consultants when necessary.
- 4.4 Examine status of emergency services to ensure that they are adequate and beneficial to Poestenkill residents.
- 4.5 Take Steps to help encourage fire, EMS, to improve services when possible.

Guiding Principle: Recreation in the Town of Poestenkill. The Town of Poestenkill has a variety of recreational opportunities including trails, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and biking on the nature preserves located in and around the Town and the two state parks within 17 miles of the Town. While there is no community park within the Town, children currently have access to playgrounds and sports fields at the Poestenkill Elementary School and Algonquin Middle School. Recreational activities should focus on finding places for our community to gather, or enjoy the beauty of our natural areas, safely and responsibly.

Goal 5: The Town will promote and expand recreational opportunities to be enjoyed by residents.

Strategies:

- 5.1 Encourage the creation and expansion of hiking and bicycling trails and fishing opportunities that are also consistent with individual private property rights.
- 5.2 Support the availability of playgrounds for children, especially if they could be provided within safe walking distance from their homes.
- 5.3 Continue support for programs and services for youth, including the summer day camp and athletics programs.
- 5.4 Establish a Town Park within easy access to all residents.
- 5.5 Allow the purchase of fishing rights access to the PoestenKill and other fishing streams by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).
- 5.6 Work with owners of existing recreational areas to mitigate traffic or other neighborhood problems caused by recreational facility use.
- 5.7 Encourage and support non-profit use of land for conservation and recreation.

Guiding Principle: Town Services. The delivery and maintenance of Town services is critical to any community. In addition, the Town plays a critical role in the development and maintenance of services, especially those that keep our residents safe and healthy. It is also the goal of the Town to help our residents be informed and to consider their opinions during the process of public input. Increasing the flow of information is important, especially when the community lacks local news outlets, and many of the community members work outside the community during the day.

Goal 6: The Town will work to maintain and ensure a clean water supply and promote the disposal of waste in a manner that protects Town water resources, the aquifer, resident health, and property values.

Strategies:

- 6.1 Develop new water protection regulations to ensure our residents' health and well-being, including but not limited to the proposed type and density of land development in areas requiring special consideration to protect drinking water and aquifers.

- 6.2 Offer information to Town residents about pollution prevention, environmental issues, and proper hazardous waste disposal.
- 6.3 Provide public water in the Hamlet area to allow healthy expansion and business uses where it is feasible.
- 6.4 Create a hydrology report for the Town of Poestenkill to identify opportunities and threats to Poestenkill's Water supply.

Goal 7: Increase communication and methods of feedback between Town residents and Town officials.

Strategies

- 7.1 Evaluate the use of constant contact or other email mail lists, texting, or outdoor signage to provide information to the Town residents.
- 7.2 Explore all options for public comments to be heard, considered, and responded to, when necessary, at critical board meetings.

Guiding Principle: Transportation. As a rural community, the majority of the Town residents are dependent upon personal transportation. In the past, some intersections have been of concern because of the high rate of accidents on roads that are owned by the County, State and Town. In addition, the Town's location in a rural setting can hinder those residents who are unable to drive to access health and other professional services because the services are not available within a short distance and there is no public transit service. As the population of Poestenkill continues to age, accessibility of services becomes more important.

Goal 8: The Town will promote better public transportation and/or access to medical and other professional services for Town residents.

Strategies:

- 8.1 Provide safe walking routes such as sidewalks in the Hamlet area.
- 8.2 Encourage the increased availability of medical and other service providers in the community, when possible.
- 8.3 Explore the creation of a volunteer ride program for disabled and elderly residents to health and other professional services.
- 8.4 Support the development of a Park and Ride lot on the western side of the Town to facilitate the use of existing public transportation services.

Goal 9: The Town should actively work with NYS DOT, Rensselaer County Highway and Sheriff Departments and the New York State Police in correcting dangerous conditions on some highway areas.

Strategies:

- 9.1 Identify intersections that have non-standard angles, grades, or other problems that obstruct views and make safe crossings or turnings difficult and may require study.
- 9.2 Identify areas where speeding and road alignments can potentially cause accidents and should be examined for lowering speed limits to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety. Timely requests for resolution of dangerous intersections and roadways should be made to the State and County.
- 9.3 Identify drainage issues along roadways and intersections that can create flooding hazards and identify the responsible party for remediation of these intersections.

Guiding Principle: Supporting Economic Development. The Town has benefited from long-standing businesses in the Town of Poestenkill, that have provided jobs, services, and goods to our residents. This includes our local farmers, who can benefit from visitors who come to our area to enjoy the beauty of Poestenkill and purchase goods. Business provides an important source of tax revenue that help to share the costs of services to our residents, and provide new jobs.

Goal 10: Support local small business development that is compatible with the existing character of the Town's rural character or farming communities.

Strategies:

- 10.1 Encourage service businesses in the Hamlet area.
- 10.2 Support the development of farmer's market by making Town property available for use.
- 10.3 Evaluate existing commercial zoning areas for potential expansion.
- 10.4 Provide a mechanism to support the retention and expansion of nonconforming use businesses within the Town with limitations that ensure compatibility with the surrounding neighborhoods.
- 10.5 Allow for professional offices to be established in all residential zones, where appropriate, by virtue of the existing special permitting process, to provide services for residents.
- 10.6 Encourage small retail commercial development within and in close proximity to the Hamlet to strengthen the Hamlet as a commercial, retail, entertainment/tourism center without sacrificing its rural small-town character.
- 10.7 Provide water infrastructure to areas intended for commercial and industrial uses where cost-efficient, and to areas of known contaminated groundwater.

- 10.8 Identify areas that could be served by the expansion of locally owned businesses by allowing conversion of historical housing.
- 10.9 Seek grant assistance and training to aid in the development and retention of local businesses.
- 10.10 Support the development of programs that encourage sustainable owner-operator farming in the Town and protect the right to farm.

Guiding Principle: Maintaining Rural Character, Conservation, and Open Space. The rural character and natural beauty of the Town of Poestenkill is treasured by our residents. Natural topography (soils, steep slopes etc.) is seen as a barrier to development in many areas of the Town because of construction challenges. However, unforeseen development demand may one day make these areas more attractive and affect the rural beauty of the Town and productivity of our existing farms. It is the intention of the Town to protect its scenic beauty and rural nature, especially when those places are important to the integrity of our water supply and support a diversity of threatened and endangered species in our Town.

Goal 11: The Town will seek to conserve natural features that are determined to be important to our community, including unmarred vistas and waterways consistent with our desire to maintain a rural character.

Strategies:

- 11.1 Evaluate development patterns with the help of the Conservation Advisory Council, in the Town of Poestenkill every five years to determine if action is necessary to maintain the natural beauty and rural character of the Town.
- 11.2 Utilize the Town's Conservation Advisory Council to continue to monitor the development patterns and determine if it is necessary to maintain open space as a means of preserving the rural quality of life and natural resources; and make recommendations to the Town Board.
- 11.3 Encourage the Conservation Advisory Council to work with the Planning Board to preservation of the natural beauty and rural character of the Town by examining whether parcels proposed for subdivision would be enhanced by conservation or cluster development, which could provide setbacks from ridgelines and buffers around wetlands and streams.
- 11.4 Review proposed expansion plans for water, and other infrastructure to help discourage future development on sensitive lands.
- 11.5 Partner with local conservation programs to protect forests, farmland, ridge views, and important ecological features by supporting conservation easements on certain properties and by informing citizens that they may sell or donate development rights.

Goal 12: The Town will identify and seek to protect critical environmental areas that are presently impacted or at significant risk of negative environmental impacts.

Strategies:

- 12.1 Map Critical Environmental Areas to require special consideration when development proposals are submitted to the Town. Critical Environmental Areas can be defined by the Town; however, it is recommended that areas defined have at least one or more of the following environmental characteristics:
- a. Steep Slopes (to be defined)
 - b. Soils having high water tables (to be defined)
 - c. Highly erodible, subject to erosion or highly acidic soils.
 - d. Land incapable of meeting percolation requirements
 - e. Lands used or currently used for landfill operations or hazardous industrial use
 - f. Stream corridors
 - g. Mature forests
 - h. Aquifer recharge and discharge areas
 - i. Wetlands and wetland transition areas
 - j. Endangered species areas
- 12.2 Protect the Poestenkill Aquifer, which is partially located in the Town and is considered vulnerable to contamination from development above, from commercial and agricultural runoff, the leaching from landfills and other threats.
- 12.3 Protect the Town's wetland communities, especially those that are uncommon to New York State and are listed in the New York Natural Heritage Program.
- 12.4 Protect water resources with a Town policy to require all federal and state-protected wetlands to be mapped before applications for subdivision or site plan review are submitted.
- 12.5 Use the State Environmental Review Process (SEQRA) process and site plan review process to protect critical environmental areas by requiring applicants to submit Part I EAF (long or short forms) through the environmental mapping services.

Goal 13: In conjunction with SEQRA, the Town will continue to look at the cumulative effects of development on water, sewage disposal, soil and scenic qualities in Poestenkill.

Strategies:

- 13.1 Evaluate development proposed to take into consideration the effect that such development will have on water resources, the environment, the rural character of the town of Poestenkill, and the surrounding communities.
- 13.2 Produce a report every five years to provide information on the impacts of development on the environment, water resources, and the rural character of the town to ensure that the Town continues to develop in a manner that is consistent with the intent of the Vision Statement of this Comprehensive Plan.
- 13.3 Utilize tools available to the Planning Board in providing information for SEQRA including the Rensselaer County Soil Survey and wetland maps. Tools available to mitigate negative effects include using conservation or cluster development to protect ridgelines, scenic areas, important farm parcels, wetlands, and flooding areas.
- 13.4 Use maps to educate residents and farmers about the importance of the Town's environmental systems and the benefits of protection of these natural resources inventory.
- 13.5 Consider amending the zoning regulations to require applicants and the Planning Board to consider impacts on Town Critical Environmental Areas, wetlands, and water resources.
- 13.6 Change site plan and subdivision review policies for submissions to ensure that NYSDEC listed and Army Corp of Engineer resources are required to be shown on maps prior to review consideration by the Planning Board.

SECTION 5: KEY PROJECTS

Key Project 1: Development of Land Conservation Plan

The Development of a land conservation plan for the Town that will help guide decisions and Town-wide policy and support future changes to the zoning law, including the appropriate use of cluster development, ridgeline protection and buffers, and shared water resources— all of which are important to residents of the Town of Poestenkill.

Key Project 2: Identify Local Critical Environmental Areas

Poestenkill has a number of natural resources that should be identified locally and used during the review process to supplement Critical Environmental Areas already identified by State and County agencies. This project would create a series of maps and local definitions of Town Critical Environmental Areas.

Key Project 3: Update Zoning Law

Poestenkill's Zoning Law focuses on minimum size requirements for lots, and the Town recognizes that new strategies are needed to protect the rural character of the Town and encourage a higher standard of new development that is responsive to the need to protect our environment and rural way of life and create opportunity for new development to fit into our community. Changes in the Zoning Law will reduce impacts on Poestenkill's environmentally sensitive areas. These changes could include provisions to:

1. Compel developers to provide more environmental details in the applications as part of the preliminary review.
2. Prohibit development in sensitive areas, such as steep slopes and wetlands, or require a high level of study to show why encroachment is necessary and how impacts on the environment will be minimized.
3. Require visual impact studies to protect important viewsheds.
4. Require buffers for sensitive environmental resources.
5. Protect and encourage retention of historic buildings and farms.
6. Encourage redevelopment or development in areas where they can be served by public water.
7. Protect the rural character of the Town.

Key Project 4: Wayfinding

An increasing number of visitors have been traveling through Poestenkill to visit parks, farms, and other natural areas to go fishing or hiking. These visitors add to the number of trips on local roads, often parking in inappropriate areas, and results in lost revenue for our local business owners when visitors are unaware of the business or use of private parking. A wayfinding plan would identify areas of interest to visitors, identify visitor parking areas, provide basic information on the use of resources in the Town, and ways to be a considerate and welcome guest.

Key Project 5: Create Paths for Information

It is important to refine a system of written and online information that is easily accessible to our residents and serves as a way to inform visitors of our local resources and businesses. The project would create a promotional website highlighting the recreational opportunities and improve local information that informs residents about the latest events, workshops, and helps to promote Poestenkill's recreational and tourism opportunities. This project would also examine ways to best inform residents of important decisions before the Town, and create new ways for residents to be heard.

Key Project 6: Improve Town Recreation

This project would result in the creation of a Town Park that would be large enough to include such facilities as a playground for children, picnicking facilities, walking paths, and other recreational facilities as appropriate. A committee of interested citizens would be required to seek out funding opportunities and partnerships with non-profits, and poll residents on the type of uses that would suit the needs of residents, and assist with decisions for final designs. Funding for trails and playgrounds may be available through the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. A Town-owned park would be designed to compliment other recreational opportunities provided through not-for-profit and for-profit groups and businesses.

Key Project 7: Agricultural Land Study

This project would result in the creation of a local inventory of agricultural land. The report would also explore ways to preserve farming homesteads, including economic incentives, purchase of development rights and zoning options that would protect the main features of the property from demolition and development and conflict from non-farm uses.

SECTION 6: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

As mentioned in the introduction, a Comprehensive Plan is the first and most important step to meaningful change in the tools that guide decisions for each community. Near the end of this chapter, an Implementation Matrix is provided that includes the Goals and Strategies discussed in **Section 4**, and recommendations for partners to assist with implementation, as well as potential grants to assist with funding.

General Implementation Recommendations

Based upon input and dialogue throughout the comprehensive planning process, the following general actions have been identified which should be undertaken by the Town:

- Adopt and use the Plan as a guide for future decisions;
- Establish a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC);
- Develop and utilize a Capital Improvements Plan;
- Continually promote cooperation and participation;
- Assess the Implementation Matrix every year;
- Continually explore additional potential funding sources and implementation techniques; and
- Update the Comprehensive Plan regularly.

The Comprehensive Plan will become the Town of Poestenkill's official policy guide for future development and implementation policies described herein. The Plan provides guidance for:

- Coordinating new growth and development in areas where they can be efficiently served by municipal service, and preserve open space;
- Promoting diversity in housing opportunities for all types of families;
- Preserving and protecting important existing natural and culture resources; and
- Establishing a strong, positive community identity that is welcoming to visitors.

To achieve the goals set-forth, it is essential that, after adoption, this Plan is used on a regular basis by Town officials, staff, boards, and committees to guide policy making, budgeting, and decision making. The Action and Implementation Matrix that follows is meant to assist with this process, as well as support the narrative in **Section 4**, which is mirrored by the Action and Implementation Matrix.

Establish a Comprehensive Planning Implementation Committee

Without a specific entity or committee charged with overseeing the implementation of a new comprehensive plan, the responsibility generally falls to the governing board and a patchwork of boards and committees with no central direction or person or persons officially responsible for measuring progress. Therefore, it is recommended that the Town establish a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC). The CPIC can include members of the existing Comprehensive Planning Committee

(CPC) and should continually be enhanced with additional members to ensure an ongoing, healthy cross-section of the Town's demographics, business owners, stakeholders, and resident needs and views. Alternatively, the CPIC can be composed of between three and four members, some of which could include chairs of the Town's other committees/boards that are discussed in more detail below under *"Adjustments to Existing Town of Poestenkill Boards and Committees."* A decision on the formal makeup of the CPIC should be made immediately upon the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

While the ultimate charge and responsibilities of the CPIC can be established by the Town Board, the CPIC should be responsible for providing overall guidance and coordination for implementing the recommendations in the Plan, particularly when they involve multiple boards, committees, and departments. In addition, the CPIC should be charged with the following:

- Develop timetables for various projects and activities recommended by the Plan, considering the recommended priorities set-forth in the Implementation Matrix.
- Provide support to, and act as the liaison between, the Town, Planning and Zoning Boards, along with Departments and Committees involved in the actual work to implement the strategies, thereby helping Town officials with their roles and responsibilities in the process as needed.
- Periodically evaluate the continued relevance of the Plan's major recommendations, advising whether the Town should consider revising them due to economic, demographic, or other changing conditions and circumstances over time.
- Provide status reports to the Town Board twice a year, (along with the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Town's numerous committees) with respect to progress in implementing the Plan strategies, and the effectiveness of actions undertaken to determine if adjustments to subsequent follow-up recommendations would be appropriate going forward.
- The CPIC will be the conduit through which any and all amendments to the Plan will be vetted, and shall have the responsibility for making formal recommendations to the Town Board.
- The CPIC will conduct a formal review of the Comprehensive Plan every five years, and recommend an approach and work plan to update the Comprehensive Plan if needed.
- The CPIC will meet internally and communicate with all active boards and committees with sufficient frequency to ensure the Comprehensive Plan remains a "living document."

Responsibility of Additional Departments

In addition to the CPIC and Boards discussed above, the Town Highway Department, Building Department, Clerk and Assessor will also be involved with assisting with implementation of relevant Comprehensive Plan recommendations as identified in the Implementation Matrix.

The Town Supervisor's Office will be responsible for tracking the status of all awarded grants, ensuring compliance with grant requirements, and submitting necessary status reports to applicable grant agencies, although some of these tasks may be assigned to others. The Supervisor's office will also be responsible for identifying future grant opportunities in coordination with other Town of Poestenkill Boards, Committees and Departments.

The Supervisor's Office and the Town Board will be the primary responsible entities for guiding the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and ensuring recommendations and projects are moving forward at the agreed upon schedule and relevant resources are provided for successful implementation.

Implementation Matrix

The Goals and Strategies from Section 4 are presented in tabular format as the Implementation Matrix. When a strategy aligns with a key project, a corresponding key project number from Section 5 is noted.

The Implementation Matrix identifies potential funding sources and possible partners for implementing each Strategy. As several abbreviations are used in the Matrix, please refer to the Abbreviations Key. Grant programs are subject to change from year to year and is provided as a guide for the CIPC to assess for suitability.

The Strategies are assigned a recommended timeline for implementation as follows:

- Short-term (S): Year 0-2
- Mid-term (M): Years 2-5
- Long-term (L): 6+ Years
- Ongoing Policy (O)

Guiding Principle: Community Character, Housing & Community Services

The Hamlet in the Town of Poestenkill has traditionally been the center of the community. It continues to be the location of such community facilities including the Public Schools, Town Hall, Post Office, and Library, as well as the location of several churches and commercial businesses. Development should reinforce the Hamlet as the central hub of community life. Areas outside the Hamlet are to remain less dense, as a way to preserve our historic farms and beautiful rural settings, and respect the privacy of the homeowners who enjoy rural living. The Town also recognizes that, it is important to take leadership in the maintenance of affordable emergency services, so that residents live in peace and safety.

GOAL 1: The Town will continue to foster a sense of community and shared history, by focusing on the Hamlet as the center of community life by directing growth in or near the Hamlet in areas where provision of public water is feasible, and properties can be rehabilitated.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding Partners	Key Project
1.1	Improve sidewalks in the Hamlet of Poestenkill where connections between residential uses, services and businesses would benefit from connections.	O	TB	NYS DOT, NYS DEC, NYS HCR	
1.2	Continue to support the Town Library as source of information and informal gathering place for residents.	O	TB	NYSL, CDLC	
1.3	Find programs to allow owners of older homes to upgrade energy efficiency whenever possible.	O	TB	NYSERDA, USDA, NYS HCR	
1.4	Consider creating a small park on Town-owned property within the Hamlet of Poestenkill in cooperation with the Averill Park CSD.	M	TB, APCSD, DASNY	NYSOPRHP, DASNY	6
GOAL 2: The Town will encourage the development of housing options, with emphasis on home ownership for residents at all stages of life, which will complement the rural character of the Town and not place an undue burden on the environment.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
2.1	Continue to allow residents to add accessory dwelling units by special permit to their houses, provided that they can meet criteria that will protect the privacy of their neighbors, retain the visual characteristics of a low-density home, and have the ability to support needed services to the accessory unit.	O	TB	NYS DOS, HRVG	3
2.2	Allow new forms of development that would provide for senior housing within areas that would enhance their quality of life, such as in or adjacent to Hamlet.	M	TB	NYS DOS, HRVG	1,3
2.3	Consider conducting a housing study to determine gaps in residential housing in Poestenkill based on a profile of the existing residents.	M	TB, RCEDP	NYS DOS, HRVG	1
2.4	Discourage ongoing sprawl of residential housing especially on scenic highways and near significant vistas and natural resources, that characterize our rural life.	M	TB, CAC	NYS DOS, HRVG	1,3

GOAL 3: The Town will foster its awareness, pride, and conservation of its history currently embodied in its written records, homes, and structures of historical significance.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
3.1	Continue to support the efforts of the Historical Society to create and share Town historical artifacts and archaeological items.	O	TB, PHS	NYSOPRHP, NPS	2
3.2	Support the development and retention of local history.	O	TB	NYSOPRHP, NYSL, MANY	2
3.3	Create a local historic registry that would include houses, buildings, and structures that are important to Poestenkill's history.	L	TB, PHS	NYSOPRHP, PLNYS	2
3.4	Support the creation of local signage that celebrates historical sites and events.	M	TB	WGPF	2,4
3.5	Seek guidance from the State Historic Preservation Office (through online submission) or Local Historical Society when the application includes a building over 50 years old that is proposed to be substantially modified or demolished.	O	PB, TB, PHS	NYSOPRHP	3
GOAL 4: Providing high-quality and reliable public safety is very important to the quality of life of any community. The Town encourages and supports the ongoing efforts to provide responsive expert police, emergency medical, and fire-fighting services.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
4.1	Work with the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police in Brunswick to address the needs of the Town.	O	TB, RCSO, NYSP		
4.2	Continue to regularly evaluate its volunteer emergency medical services and fire-fighting services to ensure that they have the facilities and equipment needed to adequately and quickly respond to emergency situations and still be cost effective.	O	PFD, TB, RCEPA, NYSAFC	NYSDHSES, FEMA	
4.3	Work with emergency services to create an actionable list and costs of needed improvements and support efforts to apply for grants and/or support fundraising to help offset the costs of improvements, with the support from other consulting firms when necessary.	O	PFD, TB, RCEPA, NYSAFC	NYSDHSES, FEMA	
4.4	Examine status of emergency services to ensure that they are adequate and beneficial to Poestenkill residents.	O	PFD, TB, RCEPA, NYSAFC	NYSDHSES, FEMA	
4.5	Take Steps to help encourage fire, EMS, to improve services when possible.	O	TB	NYSDHSES, FEMA	

Guiding Principle: Recreation in the Town of Poestenkill

The Town of Poestenkill has a variety of recreational opportunities including trails, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and biking on the nature preserves located in and around the town and the two state parks within 17 miles of the Town. While there is no community park within the Town, children currently have access to playgrounds and sports fields at the Poestenkill Elementary School and Algonquin Middle School. Recreational activities should focus on finding places for our community to gather, or enjoy the beauty of our natural areas, safely and responsibly.

GOAL 5: The Town will promote and expanded recreational opportunities to be enjoyed by residents.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
5.1	Encourage the creation and expansion of hiking and bicycling trails and fishing opportunities that are also consistent with individual private property rights.	O	TB, PB, CAC	NYSOPRHP, HRVG,	6
5.2	Support the availability of playgrounds for children, especially if they could be provided within safe walking distance from their homes.	O	TB, APCSD	NYSOPRHP, DASNY	6
5.3	Continue support for programs and services for youth, including the summer day camp and athletics programs.	O	TB, RCDFY		6
5.4	Establish a Town Park within easy access to all residents.	L	TB, PB	NYSOPRHP	6
5.5	Allow the purchase of fishing rights access to the Poesten Kill and other fishing streams by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).	O	TB, CAC, NYSDEC	LTA, HTL, NYSDEC	
5.6	Work with owners of existing recreational areas to mitigate traffic or other neighborhood problems caused by recreational facility use.	O	TB, PB		6
5.7	Encourage and support non-profit use of land for conservation and recreation.	O	TB, CAC, PB	LTA, HTL	1,6

Guiding Principle: Town Services

The delivery and maintenance of Town services is critical to any community. In addition, the Town plays a critical role in the development and maintenance of services, especially those that keep our residents safe and healthy. It is also the goal of the Town to help our residents be informed and to consider their opinions during the process of public input. Increasing the flow of information is important, especially when the community lacks local news outlets, and many of the community members work outside the community during the day.

GOAL 6: The Town will work to maintain and ensure a clean water supply and promote the disposal of waste in a manner that protects Town water resources, the aquifer, resident health, and property values.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
6.1	Develop new water protection regulations to ensure our residents' health and well-being, including but not limited to proposed type and density of land development in areas requiring special consideration to protect drinking water and aquifers.	M	TB, CAC	NYSDOS, HRVG	3
6.2	Offer information to Town residents about pollution prevention, environmental issues, and proper hazardous waste disposal.	M	TB, CAC, NYSDEC		1
6.3	Provide public water in the hamlet area to allow healthy expansion and business uses where it is feasible.	M	TB	NYSEFC	
6.4	Create a hydrology report for the Town of Poestenkill to identify opportunities and threats to Poestenkill's water supply.	M	CAC	NYSEFC	

GOAL 7: Increase communication and methods of feedback between Town residents and Town officials.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
7.1	Evaluate the use of Constant Contact or other mail lists, texting or outdoor signage to provide residents with information.	S	TB		
7.2	Explore all options for public comments to be heard, considered, and responded to, when necessary, at critical board meetings.	S	TB		
<p>Guiding Principle: Transportation</p> <p>As a rural community, the majority of the Town residents are dependent upon personal transportation. In the past, some intersections have been of concern because of the high rate of accidents on roads that are owned by the County, State and Town. In addition, the Town’s location in a rural setting can hinder those residents who are unable to drive to access health and other professional services because the services are not available within a short distance and there is no public transit service. As the population of Poestenkill continues to age, accessibility of services becomes more important.</p>					
GOAL 8: The Town will promote better public transportation and/or access to medical and other professional services for town residents.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding Partners	Key Project
8.1	Provide safe walking routes such as sidewalks in the hamlet area.	M	TB, PB	NYSDOT	6
8.2	Encourage the increased availability of medical and other service providers in the community, when possible.	S	TB, RCDOA		
8.3	Support the creation of a volunteer ride program for disabled and elderly residents to health and other professional services.	S	TB, RCDOA		
8.4	Support the development of a park and ride lot in the western side of the town to facilitate the use of existing public transportation services.	M	TB, PB	NYSDOT	
GOAL 9: The Town should actively work with NYS DOT, Rensselaer County Highway and Sheriff Departments and the New York State Police in correcting dangerous conditions on some highway areas.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
9.1	Identify intersections that have non-standard angles, grades, or other problems that obstruct views and make safe crossings or turnings difficult and may require study.	O	TB, FD, NYSDOT, RCHD	NYSDOT	
9.2	Identify areas where speeding and road alignments can potentially cause accidents and should be examined for lowering speed limits to improved vehicle and pedestrian safety. Timely requests for resolution of dangerous intersections and roadways should be made to the State and County.	O	TB, HD, PB, NYSDOT, RCHD		
9.3	Identify drainage issues along roadways and intersections that can create flooding hazards and identify the responsible party for remediation of these intersections.	O	TB, PB, HD, NYSDOT, RCHD	NYSOT, NYSDEC	

The Town has benefited from long-standing businesses in the Town of Poestenkill, that have provided jobs, services, and goods to our residents. This includes our local farmers, who can benefit from visitors who come to our area to enjoy the beauty of Poestenkill and purchase goods. Business provides an important source of tax revenue that help to share the costs of services to our residents, and provide new jobs.

GOAL 10: Support local small business development that is compatible with the existing character of the Town’s rural character or farming communities.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
10.1	Encourage service businesses in the hamlet area.	O	TB, RCC, RCEDP, CRC	ESD, DASNY	
10.2	Support the development of farmer’s market by making Town property available for use.	O	TB	USDA, DASNY	5
10.3	Evaluate existing commercial zoning areas for potential expansion.	O	TB, PB	NYSDOS, DASNY	3
10.4	Provide a mechanism to support the retention and expansion of nonconforming use businesses within the Town with limitations that ensure compatibility with the surrounding neighborhoods.	M	TB, PB	NYSDOS, HRVG	1,3
10.5	Allow for professional offices to be established in all residential zones, where appropriate, by virtue of the existing special permitting process, to provide services for residents.	M	TB, PB	NYSDOS, HRVG	1,3
10.6	Encourage small retail commercial development within and in close proximity to the hamlet to strengthen the hamlet as a commercial, retail, entertainment/tourism center without sacrificing its rural small-town character.	M	TB, PB	NYSDOS, DASNY, ESD, NYSHCR, NYSERDA	1,3
10.7	Provide water infrastructure to areas intended for commercial and industrial uses where cost-efficient, and to areas of known contaminated groundwater.	M	TB, PB, CAC	NYSEFC, EPA, USDA	3
10.8	Identify areas that could be served by the expansion of locally owned businesses by allowing conversion of historical housing.	M	TB, PB, CAC	NYSDOS, HRVG	3
10.9	Seek grant assistance and training to aid in the development and retention of local businesses.	S	TB, RCC, RCEDP, CRC	DASNY, ESD	
10.10	Support the development of programs that encourage sustainable owner-operator farming in the town and protect the right to farm.	O	NYA&M, RCDAM	USDA, CCE, ESD	1,3

The rural character and natural beauty of the town of Poestenkill is treasured by our residents. Natural topography (soils, steep slopes etc.) is seen as a barrier to development in many areas of the town because of construction challenges. However, unforeseen development demand may one day make these areas more attractive and affect the rural beauty of the Town and productivity of our existing farms. It is the intention of the Town to protect its scenic beauty and rural nature, especially when those places are important to the integrity of our water supply and support a diversity of threatened and endangered species in our Town.

GOAL 11: The Town will seek to conserve natural features that are determined to be important to our community, including unmarred vistas and waterways consistent with our desire to maintain a rural character.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
11.1	Evaluate development patterns with the help of the Conservation Advisory Council in the Town of Poestenkill every five years to determine if action is necessary to maintain the natural beauty and rural character of the town.	M	TB, CAC, PB	LTA, HTL, HRVG	1,3,7
11.2	Utilize the Town's Conservation Advisory Council to continue to monitor development patterns and determine if it is necessary to maintain open space as a means of preserving the rural quality of life and natural resources and provide recommendations to the Town Board.	M	TB, CAC	HRVG, LTA, HTL	1,2,3
11.3	Encourage the Conservation Advisory Council to work with the Planning Board to preserve the natural beauty and rural character of the town by examining if parcels proposed for subdivision would be enhanced by conservation or cluster development, which could provide setbacks from ridgelines and buffers around wetlands and streams.	M	TB, CAC, PB	NYSDOS, HRVG, LTA, HTL	1,3
11.4	Review proposed expansion plans for water and other infrastructure to help discourage future development on sensitive lands.	M	TB, CAC, PB	LTA, HTL	1,2,3
11.5	Partner with local conservation programs to protect forests, farmland, ridge views, and important ecological features by supporting conservation easements on certain properties and by informing citizens that they may sell or donate development rights.	M	TB, CAC	LTA,HTL	1, 7

GOAL 12: The Town will identify and seek to protect critical environmental areas that are presently impacted or at significant risk of negative environmental impacts.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
12.1	<p>Map Critical Environmental Areas to require special consideration when development proposals are submitted to the Town. Critical Environmental Areas can be defined by the Town; however, it is recommended that areas defined have at least one or more of the following environmental characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Steep Slopes (to be defined) b. Soils having high water tables (to be defined) c. Highly erodible, subject to erosion or highly acidic soils d. Land incapable of meeting percolation requirements e. Lands use or currently used for landfill operations or hazardous industrial use f. Stream corridors g. Mature forests h. Aquifer recharge and discharge areas i. Wetlands and wetland transition areas j. Endangered species areas 	M	CAC, TB, PB	NYSDOS, HRVG	1,2,3
12.2	Protect the Poestenkill Aquifer, which is partially located in the town and is considered vulnerable to contamination from development above, from commercial and agricultural run-off, the leaching from landfills and other threats.	M	CAC, TB	NYSDOS, HRVG	1,2,3
12.3	Protect the town wetland communities, especially those that are uncommon to New York State and are listed in the New York Natural Heritage Program.	O	CAC, TB, PB, NYSDEC	NYSDOS, HRVG	1,2,3
12.4	Protect water resources with a Town policy to require all federal and state protected wetlands to be mapped before applications for subdivision or site plan review are submitted.	S	TB, PB, CAC, NYSDEC	NYSDOS, HRVG	3
12.5	Use the SEQR process and site plan review process to protect environmental areas by requiring applicants to submit Part I EAF (long or short forms) through the environmental mapping services.	S	TB, PB, CAC, NYSDEC	NYSDOS, HRVG	3

GOAL 13: In conjunction with SEQR, the Town will continue to look at the cumulative effects of development on water, sewage disposal, soil and scenic qualities in Poestenkill.		Timeline	Partners	Potential Funding	Key Project
13.1	Evaluate development proposed to take into consideration the effect that such development will have on water resources, the environment, the rural character of the town of Poestenkill, and the surrounding communities.	S	PB, CAC, TB	NYSDOS, HRVG	1,2,3
13.2	Produce a report every five years to provide information on the impacts of development on the environment, water resources, and the rural character of the town to ensure that the Town continues to develop in a manner that is consistent with the intent of the Vision Statement of this Comprehensive Plan.	M	CAC	HTL, CTA	1
13.3	Utilize tools available to the Planning Board in providing information for SEQR include the Rensselaer County Soil Survey and wetland maps. Tools available to mitigate negative effects include using conservation or cluster development to protect ridgelines, scenic areas, important farm parcels, wetlands and flooding areas.	M	PB, CAC, TB, RCEDP	NYSDOS, HRVG	1,3,7
13.4	Use maps to educate residents and farmers about the importance of the Town's environmental systems and the benefits of protection of these natural resources inventory.	S	CAC, NYDEC		2
13.5	Consider amending the zoning regulations to require applicants and the Planning Board to consider impacts on Town Critical Environmental Areas, wetlands, and water resources.	M	TB, CAC, PB	NYSDOS, HRVG	3
13.6	Change site plan and subdivision review policies for submissions to ensure that NYS DEC listed and Army Corp of Engineer resources are required to be shown on maps prior to review consideration by the Planning Board.	S	TB, CAC, PB	NYSDOS, HRVG	3

Abbreviations:

BOLD = Indicates Lead Board/Agency to undertake implementation.

- Averill Park Central School District
- CCE: Cornell Cooperative Extension
- CDLC: Capital District Library Council
 - Regional Collections Grants
- CRC: Capital Region Chamber
- DASNY: Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
 - Economic Development Grants
- DHS: US Department of Homeland Security
- EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
 - STAG: State and Tribal Assistance Grant
- ESD: Empire State Development
 - MNY: Market New York Program
 - RNY: Restore New York Program
 - SPFSP: Strategic Planning and Feasibility Studies Program
- FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - AFG – Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
 - FMA – Flood Mitigation Assistance
 - HMGP – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- HRVG: Hudson River Valley Greenway
- HTL: Hudson Taconic Lands
- HUD: US Housing and Urban Development
- LTA: Land Trust Alliance
- MANY: Museum Association of New York
- NPS: National Park Service
 - SAT: Save America’s Treasures
- NYA&M: New York Agriculture and Markets
- NYNHP: New York Natural Heritage Program
- NYSAFC: New York State Association of Fire Chiefs
- NYSCA: New York State Council on the Arts
 - ACF: Arts and Cultural Facilities Improvement Program
 - ACI: Arts and Culture Initiatives
 - CDGAC: Capital Design Grants for Arts and Culture
- NYSDEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 - CSC: Climate Smart Communities
 - UCFP: Urban and Community Forestry Grant
 - WQIP: Water Quality Improvement Program
- NYSDHSES: New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
 - V-Fire: Volunteer Fire Infrastructure and Response Grant
- NYSDOH: New York State Department of Health
- NYSDOS: New York State Department of State
 - SGCPZ: Smart Growth Community Planning and Zoning
- NYSDOT: New York State Department of Transportation
 - CHIPS: Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program

- TAP: Transportation Alternatives Program
- NYSED: New York State Education Department
- NYSEFC: Environmental Facilities Corporation
 - DWSRF: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
 - EPG: Engineering Planning Grant
 - GIGP: Green Innovation Grant Program
 - WIIA: Water Infrastructure Improvement Act
- NYSERDA: New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
- NYSHCR: New York State Homes and Community Renewal
 - HEAP: Home Energy Assistance Program
 - NYMS: New York Main Street
- NYSL: New York State Library
 - CLSA: Central Library Services Aid
 - COG: Coordinated Outreach Grants
 - CPG: Conservation/Preservation Grants
 - SALC: State Aid for Library Construction
- NYSOPRHP: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 - EPF: Environmental Protection Fund
 - MPR: Municipal Parks and Recreation
 - NYBRICKS: New York Building Recreation Infrastructure for Communities, Kids and Seniors
 - PTNY: Parks and Trails New York
- NYSP: New York State Police
- PLNYS: Preservation League of New York State
 - PNY: Preserve New York Grant
- Rensselaer County
 - RCC: Rensselaer County Chamber of Commerce
 - RCDA Rensselaer County Department for Aging
 - RCDAM: Rensselaer County Department of Agriculture and Markets
 - RCDFY: Rensselaer County Department for Youth
 - RCEDP: Rensselaer County Economic Development and Planning
 - RCEPA: Rensselaer County Emergency Preparedness Assessment
 - RCHD: Rensselaer County Highway Department
 - RCSO: Rensselaer County Sheriff Office
- Town of Poestenkill
 - AO: Town of Poestenkill Assessor's Office
 - BZ: Town of Poestenkill Building and Zoning
 - CAC: Town of Poestenkill Conservation Advisory Council
 - CPIC: Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee
 - PB: Town of Poestenkill Planning Board
 - PFD: Poestenkill Fire Department
 - PHD: Poestenkill Highway Department
 - PHS: Poestenkill Historical Society
 - TB: Town of Poestenkill Town Board
 - ZBA: Town of Poestenkill Zoning Board of Appeals
- USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
 - Housing Assistance Grants

- Rural Development Loan and Grant Assistance
- USDAFS: United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
 - UCFP: Urban and Community Forestry Program
- WGPf: William G. Pomeroy Foundation
 - NYSHMGP: New York State Historic Marker Grant Program



Town of Poestenkill

Comprehensive Plan

APPENDICES

March 28, 2025

Contents

Appendix A: Survey and Results

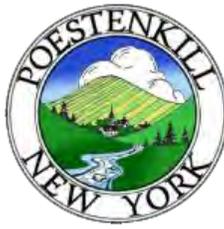
Appendix B: Public Engagement Workshop 1 Displays and Results

Appendix C: Public Engagement Workshop 2 Displays and Results

Appendix D: Natural Resource Inventory (for Poestenkill)

APPENDIX A:

Public Survey and Results



Town of Poestenkill Community Survey

2024 Poestenkill Comprehensive Plan Update

The Town is preparing an update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. This Plan will create a community vision, identify long-range planning needs, and guide local land use policies. Your input is important to shape the Town's future and prioritize public investment in the Town of Poestenkill.

Please Return Paper Copies to:

Poestenkill Town Hall
Comprehensive Plan Committee
Thomas Russell, Supervisor
38 Davis Dr, Poestenkill, NY 12140

Electronic Copies:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Poestenkill>



Each section has easy to follow directions on how to fill in the responses. This survey is anonymous.

Question 1. In your opinion, list 3 things that you like best about living in or visiting the Town of Poestenkill?

Question 2. In your opinion, what are the top 3 issues or challenges facing the Town of Poestenkill over the next 10 years?

Question 3: Do you have Broadband Service (e.g. Verizon, Fios or Spectrum)?

Yes No

Question 4: If you have broadband service, how satisfied are you with the speed and reliability of the connection (bandwidth)?

- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied – meets our needs
- Somewhat satisfied – does not meet our current needs
- Very dissatisfied – does not meet our minimum needs
- No Opinion

Question 5: If you do not have broadband services, what are the reasons?

- Not available in my area of Town
- Choose not to have the service
- Unable to afford the service
- Service is too unreliable

Question 6: If you have cellular phone service, how satisfied are you with the reliability of the connection?

- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied – meets our needs
- Somewhat satisfied – does not meet our current needs
- Very dissatisfied – does not meet our minimum needs
- No Opinion

Question 7: Where should the Town of Poestenkill allow utility-scale solar projects in the Town?

- Allow throughout the Town in accordance with Town regulations
- Limit utility-scale solar to properties in the New York State Agricultural District
- No Opinion
- Other

Question 8: Public Sewer

8a) Would you be in support studying the feasibility of a Public Sewer infrastructure within strategic locations of the Town?

- Yes, near the commercial area of Route 355 / Route 351
- Yes, for properties in or near the Hamlets
- Neither of the above
- Other

8b) Do you have any other comments on potential public sewer systems in Poestenkill?

Question 9: Would you support protection of the traditional lot size, building sizes and placement within the Hamlets of Poestenkill?

- Yes
- No

Question 10: Please provide your level of support for the following within the Town of Poestenkill.

	Fully Support	Support	Not a Priority	Not Needed
Agricultural Tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Breweries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Events/Activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation of Agricultural Lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grocery Store/Market	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home Businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Light Manufacturing/Warehousing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Local/Small Businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multiple-Family Residential	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restaurants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vacation Rentals / Short Term Rentals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wellness / Health Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wineries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Is there a type of development or business not mentioned on the list above that is needed?

Question 11: Housing: Please provide your level of support for the following housing types in the Town of Poestenkill.

	Fully Support	Support	Not a Priority	Not Needed
Single Family Homes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Two-Family Dwellings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Houses (3-6 dwellings)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Apartments (3-6 dwellings)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Condominiums	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rental Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work Force Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 12: Should the Town allow single-family home owners to have an accessory dwelling on their property (also called in-law apartment, granny flat, garage apartment, backyard cottage)?

Yes No Not Sure

Comment 13: Would you support sidewalks improvements to both create more walkability, safety, and convenience in the Hamlets?

Yes
 No

Question 14: What recreational interests should the Town encourage in Poestenkill?

	Yes	No
Community Gardening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross Country Skiing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fitness/Yoga	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hiking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback Riding/Equestrian	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting/Fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mountain Biking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Performance Arts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowmobiling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visual Arts/Photography/Fine Arts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking/Running	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Viewing/Photography	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other:		

Question 15: On a scale from (1) meaning “needs no improvement” to (5) meaning “needs most improvement”, please rank the following services within the Town of Poestenkill.

	No Improvement (1)	Slight Improvement (2)	Neutral/Not Sure (3)	Moderate Improvement (4)	Most Improvement (5)
Town Board	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning Board	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zoning Board of Appeals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Code Enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire/EMS Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Library Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Road Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stormwater/Drainage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (specify below)					

Question 16: Is there any plan initiative not mentioned that you think should be a priority for the Town of Poestenkill?

Question 17: How would you like the Town to communicate with you (check all that apply).

- Newsletter/ Mailing
- Email
- Social Media/Facebook
- Texting to Phone
- Other

Question 18: Would you like to share anything about the Town of Poestenkill that is important to you?

Want More Information?

Send your contact information to:

pzclerk@poestenkillny.com

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

While these questions are optional, we encourage you to answer this section, as it will help us better understand survey responses and target improvements to our Town. All survey results are anonymous.

Question 19. What is your relationship to the Town of Poestenkill? Check all that apply

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Town Resident | <input type="radio"/> Employed In Poestenkill | <input type="radio"/> Part Time Resident |
| <input type="radio"/> Hamlet Resident | <input type="radio"/> Student | <input type="radio"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Property Owner | <input type="radio"/> Business Owner | |

Question 20. How long have you been a resident of the Town of Poestenkill or Hamlets in the town?

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 Year | <input type="radio"/> 5-10 Years | <input type="radio"/> Greater than 20 Years |
| <input type="radio"/> 1-5 Years | <input type="radio"/> 10-20 Years | <input type="radio"/> Not a-Resident |

Questions 21: If you are a business owner, how long have you owned a business in the Town Poestenkill?

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 Year | <input type="radio"/> 5-10 Years | <input type="radio"/> Greater than 20 Years |
| <input type="radio"/> 1-5 Years | <input type="radio"/> 10-20 Years | |

Question 22: What is your age group?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 19 | <input type="radio"/> Between 35 and 44 | <input type="radio"/> 65+ |
| <input type="radio"/> Between 20 – 34 | <input type="radio"/> 45-64 | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to answer |

Question 23: How many people live in your household?

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 6+ |

Q1 1) In your opinion, list 3 things that you like best about living in or visiting the Town of Poestenkill?

Answered: 103 Skipped: 24

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1)	100.00%	103
2)	94.17%	97
3)	81.55%	84

#	1)	DATE
1	Space	10/10/2024 4:48 PM
2	Nature	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
3	Friendly people	10/10/2024 9:46 AM
4	Quiet	10/9/2024 7:12 PM
5	small town community	10/9/2024 1:02 PM
6	The size of the village	10/9/2024 12:09 PM
7	Sense of community	10/8/2024 9:33 PM
8	the rural landscape and beautiful hill views	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
9	Quiet, small feel	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
10	The small town feeling	10/7/2024 5:39 PM
11	rural feeling	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
12	The natural beauty	10/7/2024 12:15 PM
13	Close to busy areas	10/1/2024 4:53 PM
14	Rural	9/30/2024 10:43 PM
15	Rural character	9/30/2024 10:12 PM
16	Excellent highway dept.	9/29/2024 8:28 PM
17	Natural beauty with wildlife, the streams and plateau	9/27/2024 9:41 AM
18	The rural feeling	9/27/2024 9:33 AM
19	Visiting Town Hall - Friendly staff	9/27/2024 9:27 AM
20	Quiet living	9/27/2024 9:24 AM
21	Peace and not to busy	9/27/2024 9:20 AM
22	Rural community, nature, not commercial	9/27/2024 9:15 AM
23	It's beautiful...	9/26/2024 9:27 PM
24	Rural Character	9/26/2024 2:50 PM
25	Small community	9/23/2024 5:50 PM
26	rural	9/22/2024 11:58 AM
27	Poestenkill Library	9/19/2024 9:28 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

28	The rural character/forested landscape	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
29	RURAL	9/19/2024 3:51 PM
30	Close to library	9/19/2024 1:37 PM
31	Small communities	9/19/2024 9:47 AM
32	It is quiet	9/18/2024 10:52 PM
33	My own space	9/18/2024 10:51 PM
34	Small town feel	9/18/2024 6:27 PM
35	Rural	9/18/2024 6:24 PM
36	Everything	9/18/2024 6:12 PM
37	Rural	9/16/2024 5:35 PM
38	Rural	9/16/2024 2:47 PM
39	The towns people	9/13/2024 5:55 AM
40	Privacy- house not on top of each other	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
41	Lots of rural space	9/12/2024 10:09 AM
42	Rennselaer Plateau	9/10/2024 4:53 PM
43	beautiful physical setting	9/10/2024 9:07 AM
44	Most people in the community are great except those on the board that chose to target people	9/8/2024 6:38 PM
45	Quiet & Charming	9/8/2024 8:25 AM
46	Natural beauty/open, undeveloped spaces	9/7/2024 5:42 PM
47	The library	9/6/2024 7:23 PM
48	Beauty of nature and green spaces	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
49	The people	9/6/2024 3:28 PM
50	Quiet	9/6/2024 3:03 PM
51	houses a further apart	9/6/2024 2:06 PM
52	Library and library services	9/6/2024 9:55 AM
53	Lots of undeveloped land, rolling hills, beautiful.	9/5/2024 9:50 PM
54	Trees/forest	9/5/2024 8:55 PM
55	Quiet	9/5/2024 7:48 PM
56	Small town feel	9/5/2024 7:41 PM
57	It's in the country	9/5/2024 5:35 PM
58	Close to everything you need	9/5/2024 4:57 PM
59	Taxes	9/5/2024 1:31 PM
60	Rural charm	9/5/2024 10:38 AM
61	Views	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
62	Small town feel	9/5/2024 7:21 AM
63	Small town feel	9/5/2024 7:13 AM
64	Quiet	9/5/2024 5:34 AM
65	Quiet	9/5/2024 5:01 AM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

66	Rural lifestyle	9/5/2024 12:12 AM
67	Beautiful country side	9/4/2024 10:55 PM
68	Small town feeling still	9/4/2024 2:55 PM
69	Peaceful	9/4/2024 1:40 PM
70	Still a farming town/vegetable stands	9/3/2024 2:21 PM
71	Not over developed	9/3/2024 11:39 AM
72	Schools	9/3/2024 10:11 AM
73	forest	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
74	The green space	9/2/2024 2:10 PM
75	Landscape	9/1/2024 10:01 PM
76	Rural	9/1/2024 7:54 PM
77	The proximity to nature	9/1/2024 2:39 PM
78	rural living	9/1/2024 12:13 PM
79	Quiet	9/1/2024 8:43 AM
80	Safe and welcoming community.	9/1/2024 8:41 AM
81	Quiet	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
82	Quiet	8/31/2024 9:02 PM
83	The peaceful and quiet setting	8/31/2024 9:01 PM
84	Quiet, peaceful community	8/31/2024 5:53 PM
85	Barberville Falls	8/29/2024 6:29 AM
86	Public Library	8/28/2024 5:02 PM
87	Nature	8/28/2024 12:36 PM
88	Peace and quiet	8/27/2024 10:20 PM
89	Small town feel	8/26/2024 5:25 PM
90	Quiet	8/25/2024 10:45 PM
91	Library and it's events	8/24/2024 10:07 PM
92	Natural beauty and access to nature	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
93	Natural beauty	8/24/2024 9:26 PM
94	Library	8/24/2024 12:20 PM
95	Peace and quiet	8/24/2024 11:54 AM
96	Rural setting	8/24/2024 11:41 AM
97	Usually quiet	8/24/2024 10:56 AM
98	Quiet	8/24/2024 8:42 AM
99	The green spaces like The Community Forest	8/24/2024 8:36 AM
100	Scenic views	8/24/2024 7:24 AM
101	Small town energy	8/24/2024 1:04 AM
102	Rural	8/24/2024 12:52 AM
103	The peacefulness	8/22/2024 12:52 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

#	2)	DATE
1	Good Neighbors	10/10/2024 4:48 PM
2	Small town values	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
3	In the country but access (easy) to stores/services	10/10/2024 9:46 AM
4	Rural	10/9/2024 7:12 PM
5	no hustle and bustle of the city	10/9/2024 1:02 PM
6	Scenic beauty	10/8/2024 9:33 PM
7	the neighborly feel	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
8	Lots of greenery and natural space	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
9	Rural and quiet	10/7/2024 5:39 PM
10	views and wild areas	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
11	The sense of community	10/7/2024 12:15 PM
12	Scenic hiking and walking trails	10/1/2024 4:53 PM
13	Fairly close to amenities	9/30/2024 10:43 PM
14	Roads are taken care of	9/30/2024 10:12 PM
15	Good neighbors	9/29/2024 8:28 PM
16	Convenience to grocery stores, banks, drugstore, etc.	9/27/2024 9:41 AM
17	The quiet life	9/27/2024 9:33 AM
18	Seeing wild life	9/27/2024 9:24 AM
19	Small town	9/27/2024 9:20 AM
20	Some wonderful residents.	9/26/2024 9:27 PM
21	Independent	9/26/2024 2:50 PM
22	Land but close together	9/23/2024 5:50 PM
23	quiet	9/22/2024 11:58 AM
24	Community Forest / RPA lands	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
25	RPA properties, especially the Community Forest	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
26	QUIET	9/19/2024 3:51 PM
27	Foliage	9/19/2024 9:47 AM
28	It is quaint	9/18/2024 10:52 PM
29	Surrounding nature	9/18/2024 10:51 PM
30	Agriculture community	9/18/2024 6:27 PM
31	Friendly	9/18/2024 6:24 PM
32	Quiet	9/18/2024 6:12 PM
33	Fairly quiet	9/16/2024 5:35 PM
34	Peaceful	9/16/2024 2:47 PM
35	The rule character	9/13/2024 5:55 AM
36	Rural character of area	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
37	Small community	9/12/2024 10:09 AM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

38	rural views	9/10/2024 4:53 PM
39	friendly helpful people and sense of community	9/10/2024 9:07 AM
40	Volunteer fire department is great	9/8/2024 6:38 PM
41	You feel safe	9/8/2024 8:25 AM
42	Walkable village	9/7/2024 5:42 PM
43	Right to farm	9/6/2024 7:23 PM
44	Small town environment, no big box stuff	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
45	The quaint, small town vibe	9/6/2024 3:28 PM
46	Safe	9/6/2024 3:03 PM
47	lots of open spaces to view and visit	9/6/2024 2:06 PM
48	Beauty of geography - the Falls	9/6/2024 9:55 AM
49	Friendly community, close knit and supportive.	9/5/2024 9:50 PM
50	Wildlife	9/5/2024 8:55 PM
51	Close proximity to what I need	9/5/2024 7:48 PM
52	Minimal traffic	9/5/2024 7:41 PM
53	It's not in the city	9/5/2024 5:35 PM
54	Being away from the craziness of larger areas	9/5/2024 4:57 PM
55	Location	9/5/2024 1:31 PM
56	Poestenkill Elementary	9/5/2024 10:38 AM
57	Trails	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
58	Close to Albany	9/5/2024 7:21 AM
59	Quiet	9/5/2024 7:13 AM
60	Its pretty stress free	9/5/2024 5:34 AM
61	Hometown feel	9/5/2024 5:01 AM
62	Great neighbors	9/5/2024 12:12 AM
63	Small peaceful community	9/4/2024 10:55 PM
64	Farmland still present	9/4/2024 2:55 PM
65	Neighborly	9/4/2024 1:40 PM
66	Small and longtime family residents	9/3/2024 2:21 PM
67	Real estate	9/3/2024 10:11 AM
68	Barbersville Falls	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
69	Our neighbors	9/2/2024 2:10 PM
70	Library	9/1/2024 10:01 PM
71	Quiet	9/1/2024 7:54 PM
72	Poestenkill Elementary	9/1/2024 2:39 PM
73	no real commercial development	9/1/2024 12:13 PM
74	Safe	9/1/2024 8:43 AM
75	Close to city and amenities.	9/1/2024 8:41 AM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

76	Clean	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
77	Houses are built on large lots	8/31/2024 9:02 PM
78	The nature and views and space from other	8/31/2024 9:01 PM
79	Country living but close to necessitates	8/31/2024 5:53 PM
80	Local convenience stores	8/29/2024 6:29 AM
81	Peace & Quiet	8/28/2024 5:02 PM
82	Population Density	8/28/2024 12:36 PM
83	Right to farm	8/27/2024 10:20 PM
84	School district/ elementary school	8/26/2024 5:25 PM
85	Nature	8/25/2024 10:45 PM
86	Nearby hiking	8/24/2024 10:07 PM
87	How non commercial it is	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
88	Small community	8/24/2024 9:26 PM
89	Farmers market	8/24/2024 12:20 PM
90	No traffic	8/24/2024 11:54 AM
91	Lots of trees	8/24/2024 10:56 AM
92	Beauty	8/24/2024 8:42 AM
93	The quiet nature of the town.	8/24/2024 8:36 AM
94	The library	8/24/2024 7:24 AM
95	No major businesses	8/24/2024 1:04 AM
96	Quiet	8/24/2024 12:52 AM
97	Small community	8/22/2024 12:52 PM
#	3)	DATE
1	Privacy	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
2	Non commercial	10/9/2024 7:12 PM
3	PEACEFUL	10/9/2024 1:02 PM
4	Peace and tranquility	10/8/2024 9:33 PM
5	the amount of wildlife in and around the town	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
6	Close to everything but still feels far away	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
7	Still being close enough to Troy/Albany	10/7/2024 5:39 PM
8	close enough to ammenties	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
9	The wonderful library	10/7/2024 12:15 PM
10	Taxes aren't outrageous	10/1/2024 4:53 PM
11	AP school district was great while my children were growing up	9/27/2024 9:41 AM
12	Lack of development	9/27/2024 9:33 AM
13	Small community living	9/27/2024 9:24 AM
14	The forest and waterfall preserves.	9/26/2024 9:27 PM
15	Open area	9/26/2024 2:50 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

16	treed	9/22/2024 11:58 AM
17	Authentic rural character	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
18	The library	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
19	Felling safe	9/19/2024 9:47 AM
20	No large/commercial businesses	9/18/2024 6:27 PM
21	Close to many things	9/18/2024 6:24 PM
22	Nice town	9/18/2024 6:12 PM
23	Small business owners	9/16/2024 5:35 PM
24	Scenery	9/16/2024 2:47 PM
25	The scenery	9/13/2024 5:55 AM
26	Proximity to necessities	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
27	Schools	9/12/2024 10:09 AM
28	close to urban amenities	9/10/2024 4:53 PM
29	health benefits of quiet and good water & air and access to public trails and parks	9/10/2024 9:07 AM
30	Old Country Living	9/8/2024 6:38 PM
31	You are able to walk around town	9/8/2024 8:25 AM
32	Caring community	9/7/2024 5:42 PM
33	Town staff	9/6/2024 7:23 PM
34	Great services for small community	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
35	My family has lived here for over 100 years	9/6/2024 3:28 PM
36	Clean	9/6/2024 3:03 PM
37	lower taxes	9/6/2024 2:06 PM
38	Helpfulness of residents	9/6/2024 9:55 AM
39	Nearby grocery store/stewarts/cumberland farms	9/5/2024 9:50 PM
40	Still close to urban area for work	9/5/2024 8:55 PM
41	undeveloped	9/5/2024 7:48 PM
42	Green space; not every inch is developed with residential or commercial property	9/5/2024 7:41 PM
43	City water	9/5/2024 1:31 PM
44	People who care	9/5/2024 10:38 AM
45	Space	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
46	Not over built	9/5/2024 7:21 AM
47	Rural-not built up	9/5/2024 7:13 AM
48	Its still a small town	9/5/2024 5:34 AM
49	Good neighbors	9/5/2024 5:01 AM
50	low-key, relaxed town	9/5/2024 12:12 AM
51	proximity to work	9/4/2024 10:55 PM
52	Family	9/4/2024 2:55 PM
53	Ease of services	9/4/2024 1:40 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

54	Most homes are on a reasonable size piece of property still	9/3/2024 2:21 PM
55	Open spaces	9/3/2024 10:11 AM
56	quiet	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
57	Convenience to local cities	9/2/2024 2:10 PM
58	Community	9/1/2024 10:01 PM
59	Neighbors	9/1/2024 7:54 PM
60	My neighbors	9/1/2024 2:39 PM
61	a clean environment	9/1/2024 12:13 PM
62	Convenient to other amenities	9/1/2024 8:43 AM
63	Great elementary school.	9/1/2024 8:41 AM
64	People are generally friendly	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
65	Nature and views	8/31/2024 9:02 PM
66	The friendly people	8/31/2024 9:01 PM
67	Excellent highway department keeps our hilly community clear and safe	8/31/2024 5:53 PM
68	Proximity to Troy	8/29/2024 6:29 AM
69	Nature Preservation	8/28/2024 5:02 PM
70	Strong community	8/28/2024 12:36 PM
71	Cordial neighbors	8/27/2024 10:20 PM
72	Large home lots	8/26/2024 5:25 PM
73	My own space	8/25/2024 10:45 PM
74	Proximity to Troy/Albany/other Albany suburbs	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
75	Proximity to Troy and Albany	8/24/2024 9:26 PM
76	Hiking	8/24/2024 12:20 PM
77	Spacious	8/24/2024 11:54 AM
78	Not much traffic	8/24/2024 10:56 AM
79	Sounds of nature	8/24/2024 8:42 AM
80	My neighbors	8/24/2024 8:36 AM
81	Close knit community	8/24/2024 7:24 AM
82	Quiet	8/24/2024 1:04 AM
83	People seem nice	8/24/2024 12:52 AM
84	The location	8/22/2024 12:52 PM

Q2 2) In your opinion, what are the top 3 issues or challenges facing the Town of Poestenkill over the next 10 years?

Answered: 105 Skipped: 22

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1)	100.00%	105
2)	94.29%	99
3)	78.10%	82

#	1)	DATE
1	Lack of affordable housing	10/10/2024 4:48 PM
2	Avoiding over-development	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
3	Speed limits	10/10/2024 9:46 AM
4	new people coming in trying to change Poestenkill	10/9/2024 1:02 PM
5	The amount of building of homes that drive up property taxes	10/9/2024 12:09 PM
6	Balance modernization with small town feeling	10/8/2024 9:33 PM
7	planning carefully for development	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
8	Financial issues	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
9	Unwanted development	10/7/2024 5:39 PM
10	controlling building	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
11	Lack of affordable senior housing	10/7/2024 12:15 PM
12	Upgrading infrastructure	10/1/2024 4:53 PM
13	Keeping Poestenkill quiet and quaint	9/30/2024 10:43 PM
14	Growth of properly developed land	9/30/2024 10:12 PM
15	Over developement	9/29/2024 8:28 PM
16	Dirt bikes, quads,on road	9/28/2024 12:22 PM
17	Need for senior housing	9/27/2024 9:41 AM
18	Keeping taxes affordable	9/27/2024 9:33 AM
19	Growth	9/27/2024 9:27 AM
20	Over building	9/27/2024 9:24 AM
21	To keep out all these contractors that want to make money and don't care about us at all.	9/27/2024 9:20 AM
22	Budget, affordability of Town services for the community keeping roads clear of trees, debris, long grass, allowing to be more walkable and safe!	9/27/2024 9:15 AM
23	People holding back growth.	9/26/2024 9:27 PM
24	People trying to cram cluster housing and large projects	9/26/2024 2:50 PM
25	Traffic in town/loud	9/25/2024 11:07 AM
26	People complaining about issues but not stepping up to the plate to be part of a committee or board	9/23/2024 5:50 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

27	planning ahead for flooding downstream (Coopers Pond needs to have submerged vegetation removed so its impounding effect keeps downstream places from being flooded. It's filling fast...horse farm runoff ? Climate change is here.	9/22/2024 11:58 AM
28	Climate change	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
29	Smart development- making sure people have places to live while protecting the natural environment	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
30	SAFE WATER	9/19/2024 3:51 PM
31	traffic	9/19/2024 1:37 PM
32	Financial planning for town	9/19/2024 9:47 AM
33	Fiscal irresponsibility	9/18/2024 10:52 PM
34	Refusal to change with the time	9/18/2024 10:51 PM
35	Need sidewalks	9/18/2024 6:27 PM
36	Taxes	9/18/2024 6:24 PM
37	None	9/18/2024 6:12 PM
38	Stop nepotism	9/18/2024 6:00 PM
39	School taxes	9/16/2024 5:35 PM
40	My school taxes keep going up	9/16/2024 2:47 PM
41	The lack of community space	9/13/2024 5:55 AM
42	Abandoned/unoccupied properties	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
43	Schools underfunded	9/12/2024 10:09 AM
44	conserving open space	9/10/2024 4:53 PM
45	protecting air, water, and relative quiet	9/10/2024 9:07 AM
46	Our political leads	9/8/2024 6:38 PM
47	Unpaved roads	9/8/2024 8:25 AM
48	Responsible growth that prioritizes rural character	9/7/2024 5:42 PM
49	Public water/drinking water	9/6/2024 7:23 PM
50	Maintaining services without large tax increases	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
51	No tax bases to offset	9/6/2024 3:28 PM
52	Over development	9/6/2024 3:03 PM
53	keeping clean water in aquifers	9/6/2024 2:06 PM
54	Senior housing	9/6/2024 9:55 AM
55	Ensuring developments don't overtake the beautiful open land.	9/5/2024 9:50 PM
56	Increased traffic	9/5/2024 8:55 PM
57	Developments	9/5/2024 7:48 PM
58	Zombie properties	9/5/2024 7:41 PM
59	Taxes	9/5/2024 5:35 PM
60	Lack of senior housing if we'd like to stay in Poestenkill as we age.	9/5/2024 4:57 PM
61	Gas lines	9/5/2024 1:31 PM
62	Transfer station upgrade and need to be bid out	9/5/2024 10:38 AM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

63	Public water for Grandview Dr residents	9/5/2024 9:12 AM
64	Taxes	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
65	Lack of safe walk spaces or biking	9/5/2024 7:21 AM
66	Effective leadership	9/5/2024 7:13 AM
67	A lot of evasive vines	9/5/2024 5:34 AM
68	Taxes raising	9/5/2024 5:01 AM
69	taxes	9/5/2024 12:12 AM
70	Lack of local business	9/4/2024 10:55 PM
71	New people new problems	9/4/2024 2:55 PM
72	EMS Support/Ambulance	9/4/2024 1:40 PM
73	No senior housing	9/3/2024 2:21 PM
74	Development Residential/Business	9/3/2024 11:39 AM
75	Increasing small business	9/3/2024 10:11 AM
76	restraining Steve Valente	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
77	Managed development	9/2/2024 2:10 PM
78	Governance	9/1/2024 10:01 PM
79	Too many subdivisions	9/1/2024 7:54 PM
80	Climate changes effects on our waterways and forests.	9/1/2024 2:39 PM
81	development pressures	9/1/2024 12:13 PM
82	Need sewer	9/1/2024 8:43 AM
83	Sewer system	9/1/2024 8:41 AM
84	Limited/no sidewalks for main street down to firehouse	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
85	School budgets	8/31/2024 9:01 PM
86	Idiotic electric school bus mandate	8/31/2024 5:53 PM
87	MAGA	8/29/2024 6:29 AM
88	Power Grid Support	8/28/2024 5:02 PM
89	Housing Developers	8/28/2024 12:36 PM
90	Danger of PFAs in water	8/27/2024 10:20 PM
91	Emergency services	8/26/2024 5:25 PM
92	Climate change- flooding specifically	8/25/2024 10:45 PM
93	Town water for residents	8/24/2024 10:07 PM
94	Smart growth and development	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
95	Sustainable business and tax base development	8/24/2024 9:26 PM
96	Need of playground	8/24/2024 12:20 PM
97	Taxes	8/24/2024 11:54 AM
98	Transfer station	8/24/2024 11:41 AM
99	Making sure folks in the country have good access to WiFi and cell service	8/24/2024 10:56 AM
100	Over Development	8/24/2024 8:42 AM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

101	The water quality issue	8/24/2024 8:36 AM
102	Safe roads and intersections for pedestrians and cyclists	8/24/2024 7:24 AM
103	Population growth	8/24/2024 1:04 AM
104	The selling off of land for housing will make it congested	8/24/2024 12:52 AM
105	Keeping families in town	8/22/2024 12:52 PM
#	2)	DATE
1	Lack of diversity	10/10/2024 4:48 PM
2	Resisting the urge to legislate constantly & interfering w/property owners use of private land	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
3	Finances	10/10/2024 9:46 AM
4	more homes being built taking the land	10/9/2024 1:02 PM
5	There is no senior housing for people can no longer afford their homes and property because the rise of taxes	10/9/2024 12:09 PM
6	Pressure from large scale gravel companies	10/8/2024 9:33 PM
7	developing in a way that leaves the town affordable for children of residents	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
8	Transparency issues	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
9	infrastructure associated with added housing and businesses	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
10	Lack of recreational oppprtunities	10/7/2024 12:15 PM
11	Overbuilding	10/1/2024 4:53 PM
12	Nuisance businesses	9/30/2024 10:43 PM
13	Housing developments are well planned out	9/30/2024 10:12 PM
14	Lack of law enforcement	9/29/2024 8:28 PM
15	Ambulance	9/28/2024 12:22 PM
16	Speed limit through 355 needs to be lowered (through village)	9/27/2024 9:41 AM
17	Ambulance service	9/27/2024 9:33 AM
18	Medical response	9/27/2024 9:27 AM
19	Changing lot sizes so apartments can be built	9/27/2024 9:24 AM
20	No more housing, townhouses, condos, etc.	9/27/2024 9:20 AM
21	Tax hikes.	9/26/2024 9:27 PM
22	Diminishing farms and business	9/26/2024 2:50 PM
23	Truck traffic	9/25/2024 11:07 AM
24	Resources/services for residents- town park, senior housing, community space	9/23/2024 5:50 PM
25	keeping Poestenkill rural...not crowded or gravel pitted all over the place	9/22/2024 11:58 AM
26	Land conservation / smart development	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
27	Creating spaces for the community to come together	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
28	SAFE ROADS	9/19/2024 3:51 PM
29	Noise, noise, noise	9/19/2024 1:37 PM
30	Road conditions	9/19/2024 9:47 AM
31	Progress for the sake of progress	9/18/2024 10:52 PM
32	Close-minded residents	9/18/2024 10:51 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

33	Need walking trails	9/18/2024 6:27 PM
34	Industrial growth	9/18/2024 6:24 PM
35	None	9/18/2024 6:12 PM
36	Suburban sprawl	9/16/2024 5:35 PM
37	Keeping taxes low but paying for maintenance of town	9/16/2024 2:47 PM
38	Lack of businesses or professional buildings in the town	9/13/2024 5:55 AM
39	Lack of ambulance service	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
40	Power outage from storms	9/12/2024 10:09 AM
41	sewer service to at least part of town	9/10/2024 4:53 PM
42	supporting good housing for all residents including seniors & renters	9/10/2024 9:07 AM
43	Poor decisions being made	9/8/2024 6:38 PM
44	unable to get internet	9/8/2024 8:25 AM
45	Prudent financial management	9/7/2024 5:42 PM
46	School funding	9/6/2024 7:23 PM
47	Securing a dependable ambulance service	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
48	Too many new builds	9/6/2024 3:28 PM
49	Govt pressure for affordable housing	9/6/2024 3:03 PM
50	building a town owned park	9/6/2024 2:06 PM
51	Enhance commercial district	9/6/2024 9:55 AM
52	Keeping taxes and cost of living manageable for working families.	9/5/2024 9:50 PM
53	Increased demand for emergency services	9/5/2024 8:55 PM
54	Infrastructure	9/5/2024 7:48 PM
55	Wireless cell & internet service	9/5/2024 5:35 PM
56	Sewer	9/5/2024 1:31 PM
57	Sewer	9/5/2024 10:38 AM
58	Storms	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
59	High Taxes	9/5/2024 7:21 AM
60	Increasing support for Fire/EMS Service	9/5/2024 7:13 AM
61	Over development	9/5/2024 5:34 AM
62	Town Politics	9/5/2024 5:01 AM
63	dangerous traffic lights	9/5/2024 12:12 AM
64	over development	9/4/2024 10:55 PM
65	Solar farms	9/4/2024 2:55 PM
66	Protection of properties from developments	9/4/2024 1:40 PM
67	No parks/town activities	9/3/2024 2:21 PM
68	Services - Ambulance and Vol Fire Dept	9/3/2024 11:39 AM
69	Need for town park	9/3/2024 10:11 AM
70	development	9/2/2024 8:29 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

71	Safe water	9/2/2024 2:10 PM
72	Climate change	9/1/2024 10:01 PM
73	Improving town government	9/1/2024 7:54 PM
74	Expanding on community resources to improve access to food.	9/1/2024 2:39 PM
75	clean drinking water	9/1/2024 12:13 PM
76	Need natural gas	9/1/2024 8:43 AM
77	Managing growth	9/1/2024 8:41 AM
78	No public park with stroller/wheel chair accessible trails	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
79	Lack of childcare for the area	8/31/2024 9:01 PM
80	Rising school taxes	8/31/2024 5:53 PM
81	Lack of volunteers for fire department	8/29/2024 6:29 AM
82	Nature Preservation/Logging	8/28/2024 5:02 PM
83	Lack of new businesses	8/28/2024 12:36 PM
84	Increase in cut through traffic not obeying traffic laws	8/27/2024 10:20 PM
85	Water	8/26/2024 5:25 PM
86	Tax base	8/25/2024 10:45 PM
87	Senior housing community	8/24/2024 10:07 PM
88	We still have no ambulance!!	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
89	Housing affordability	8/24/2024 9:26 PM
90	Need of my community spaces for young families	8/24/2024 12:20 PM
91	Infrastructure	8/24/2024 11:54 AM
92	Ambulance service	8/24/2024 11:41 AM
93	Illegal garbage dumping	8/24/2024 10:56 AM
94	Over Devepment	8/24/2024 8:42 AM
95	Responsible development	8/24/2024 8:36 AM
96	Lack of town infrastructure (community spaces, emergency services, etc)	8/24/2024 7:24 AM
97	Road infrastructure	8/24/2024 1:04 AM
98	The rise of Taxes	8/24/2024 12:52 AM
99	Sustaining businesses	8/22/2024 12:52 PM
#	3)	DATE
1	Understanding that residents live here because they choose small town life	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
2	Taxes	10/10/2024 9:46 AM
3	finding kind and honest people working for Poestenkill	10/9/2024 1:02 PM
4	An aging community and lack of ambulance service	10/8/2024 9:33 PM
5	maintaining enough green space to protect wildlife	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
6	Communication issues	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
7	animal shelter for Rennselaer Cty	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
8	Lack of retail or restaurants	10/7/2024 12:15 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

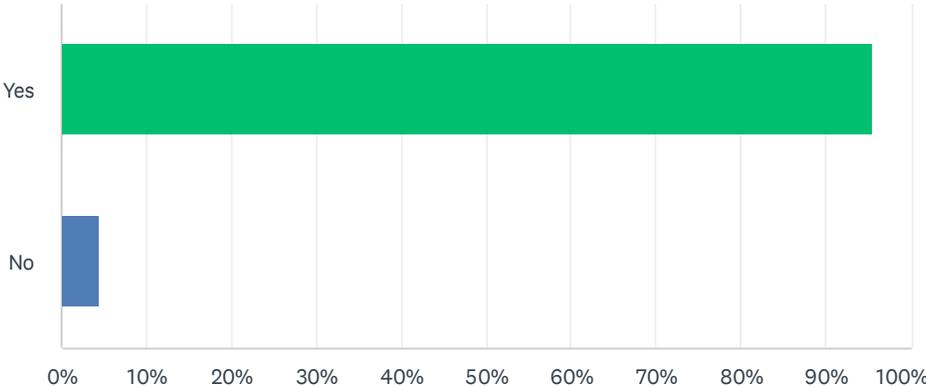
9	Getting services (such as widespread internet and emergency medical services (aka ambulance) to the residents)	9/30/2024 10:43 PM
10	Unregistered off road vehicles driven on the road.	9/29/2024 8:28 PM
11	Dog license check and crack down lease law	9/28/2024 12:22 PM
12	More walking trails, not on mail highways	9/27/2024 9:41 AM
13	Community services	9/27/2024 9:33 AM
14	A small group of residents changing laws that fit their needs	9/27/2024 9:24 AM
15	Ambulance service should be local.	9/26/2024 9:27 PM
16	School tax rate	9/26/2024 2:50 PM
17	Board/employees stuck in ways of doing business and not open to change or reality of times	9/23/2024 5:50 PM
18	No more houses or businesses on the flood plain.	9/22/2024 11:58 AM
19	Community events	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
20	Conserving important ecosystems	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
21	Run down properties	9/19/2024 1:37 PM
22	Power outages from trees	9/19/2024 9:47 AM
23	Aging population and above factors will lead to less families and the town will suffer	9/18/2024 10:51 PM
24	Need to keep town affordable but developers down	9/18/2024 6:27 PM
25	Fear of change	9/18/2024 6:24 PM
26	None	9/18/2024 6:12 PM
27	Increased traffic	9/16/2024 5:35 PM
28	Losing rural atmosphere and over building	9/16/2024 2:47 PM
29	Taxes	9/13/2024 5:55 AM
30	Lack of knowledge or adherence to town rules and codes.	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
31	Emergency services	9/12/2024 10:09 AM
32	commercial tax base	9/10/2024 4:53 PM
33	supporting opportunities for residents to earn living locally - small businesses, home businesses	9/10/2024 9:07 AM
34	Keeping it Country	9/8/2024 6:38 PM
35	High taxes	9/8/2024 8:25 AM
36	Carefully and fully investing ARPA funds for long-term benefits	9/7/2024 5:42 PM
37	Housing for all families, especially seniors	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
38	Small government that isn't effective	9/6/2024 3:28 PM
39	Taxes	9/6/2024 3:03 PM
40	locating commercial areas	9/6/2024 2:06 PM
41	Ambulance services	9/6/2024 9:55 AM
42	Power outages	9/5/2024 9:50 PM
43	Storm damage/flooding	9/5/2024 8:55 PM
44	Public Spaces	9/5/2024 7:48 PM
45	Drug and alcohol abuse	9/5/2024 5:35 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

46	Verizon fios	9/5/2024 1:31 PM
47	Water	9/5/2024 10:38 AM
48	Development	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
49	Over built	9/5/2024 7:21 AM
50	Creating a Sewer District	9/5/2024 7:13 AM
51	lack of resources for seniors	9/5/2024 12:12 AM
52	loss of farmland	9/4/2024 10:55 PM
53	Tax base	9/4/2024 2:55 PM
54	Protection of properties from solar farms	9/4/2024 1:40 PM
55	Need more small type businesses	9/3/2024 2:21 PM
56	Infrastructure- Sewer/Water/Roads	9/3/2024 11:39 AM
57	Improve access to creek	9/3/2024 10:11 AM
58	pollution starting with PFOA	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
59	Land conservation	9/2/2024 2:10 PM
60	Respectful disagreement	9/1/2024 10:01 PM
61	Income disparity	9/1/2024 7:54 PM
62	Development of housing that meets the needs of the community.	9/1/2024 2:39 PM
63	lack of diversity among our residents	9/1/2024 12:13 PM
64	Keep development to a minimum	9/1/2024 8:43 AM
65	We need safe roads for walking and biking. People drive too fast.	9/1/2024 8:41 AM
66	Drainage not properly fixed with pipes down Main St and side roads and solution is to ruin everyone's front yards	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
67	Parochialism of Town Board	8/29/2024 6:29 AM
68	Cell Service	8/28/2024 5:02 PM
69	Maintaining tax base	8/28/2024 12:36 PM
70	Climate change affecting weather patterns in an area with flooding history	8/27/2024 10:20 PM
71	Tax base	8/26/2024 5:25 PM
72	Infrastructure maintenance	8/25/2024 10:45 PM
73	Traffic	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
74	Impact of climate change on natural surroundings	8/24/2024 9:26 PM
75	Creative ideas for young families to do things in town rather than go to other towns to do things	8/24/2024 12:20 PM
76	Road maintenance	8/24/2024 11:54 AM
77	Nepotism/cronyism	8/24/2024 11:41 AM
78	Over Development	8/24/2024 8:42 AM
79	Building a better sense of community	8/24/2024 8:36 AM
80	Divisive politics	8/24/2024 7:24 AM
81	Taxes	8/24/2024 12:52 AM
82	Keeping the small town vibe while trying to thrive	8/22/2024 12:52 PM

Q3 3) Do you have Broadband Service (e.g. Verizon, Fios or Spectrum)?

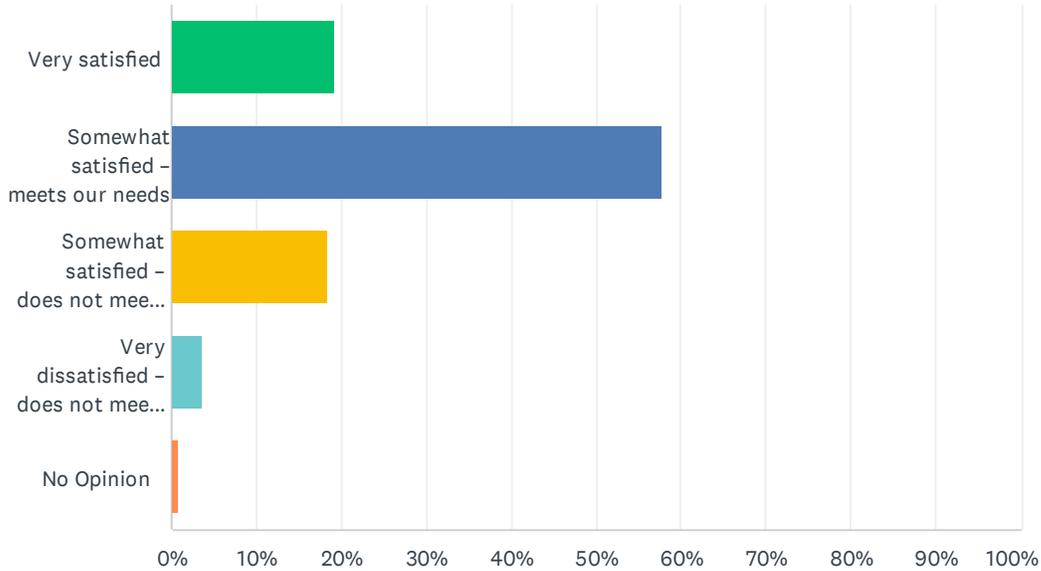
Answered: 114 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.61%	109
No	4.39%	5
TOTAL		114

Q4 4) If you have broadband service, how satisfied are you with the speed and reliability of the connection (bandwidth)?

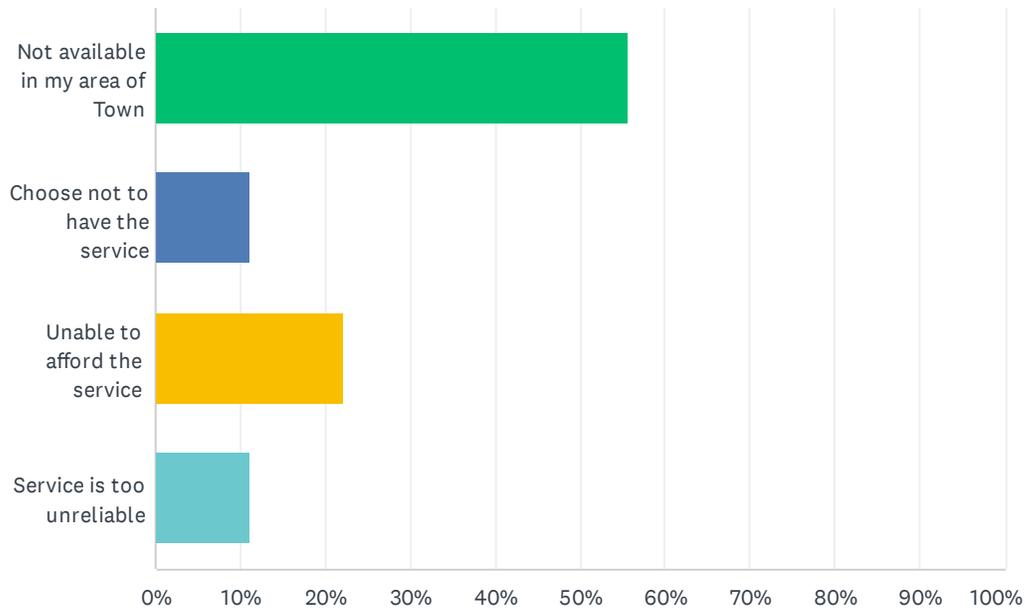
Answered: 109 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	19.27%	21
Somewhat satisfied – meets our needs	57.80%	63
Somewhat satisfied – does not meet our current needs	18.35%	20
Very dissatisfied – does not meet our minimum needs	3.67%	4
No Opinion	0.92%	1
TOTAL		109

Q5 5) If you do not have broadband services, what are the reasons?

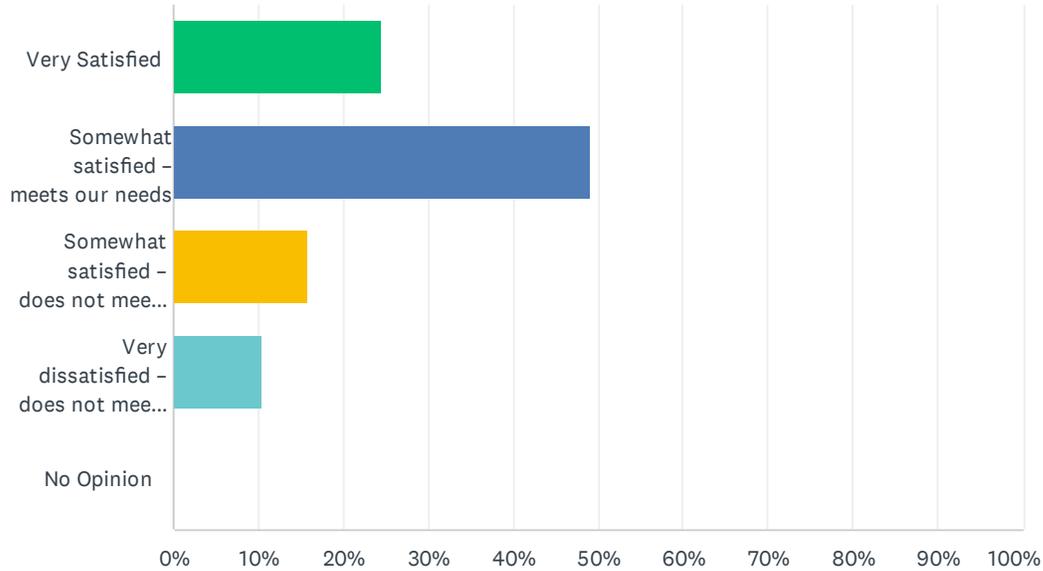
Answered: 9 Skipped: 118



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not available in my area of Town	55.56%	5
Choose not to have the service	11.11%	1
Unable to afford the service	22.22%	2
Service is too unreliable	11.11%	1
TOTAL		9

Q6 6) If you have cellular phone service, how satisfied are you with the reliability of the connection?

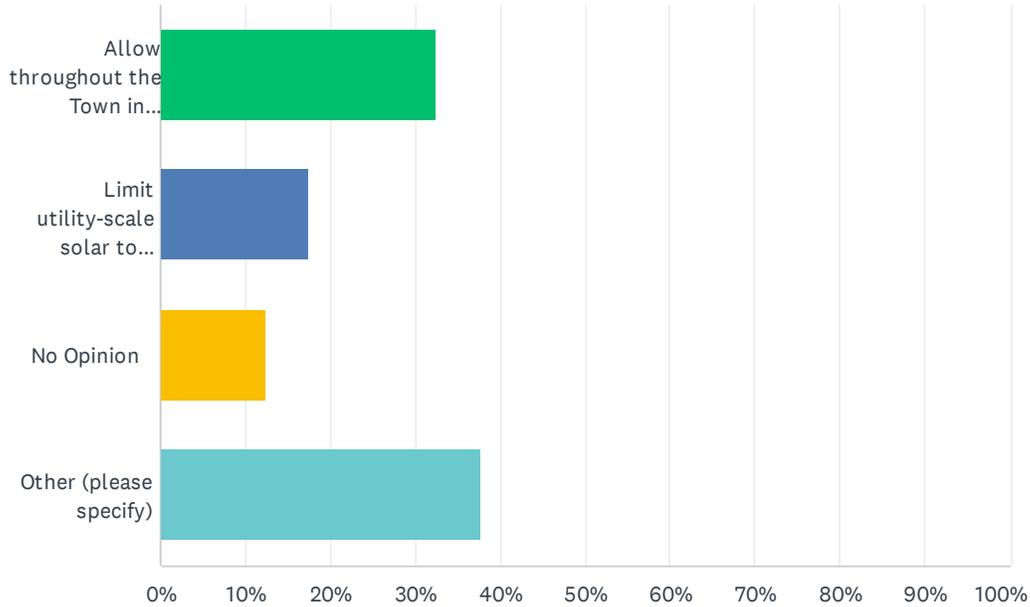
Answered: 114 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Satisfied	24.56%	28
Somewhat satisfied – meets our needs	49.12%	56
Somewhat satisfied – does not meet our current needs	15.79%	18
Very dissatisfied – does not meet our minimum needs	10.53%	12
No Opinion	0.00%	0
TOTAL		114

Q7 7) Where should the Town of Poestenkill allow utility-scale solar projects in the Town?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Allow throughout the Town in accordance with Town regulations	32.46%	37
Limit utility-scale solar to properties in the New York State Agricultural District	17.54%	20
No Opinion	12.28%	14
Other (please specify)	37.72%	43
TOTAL		114

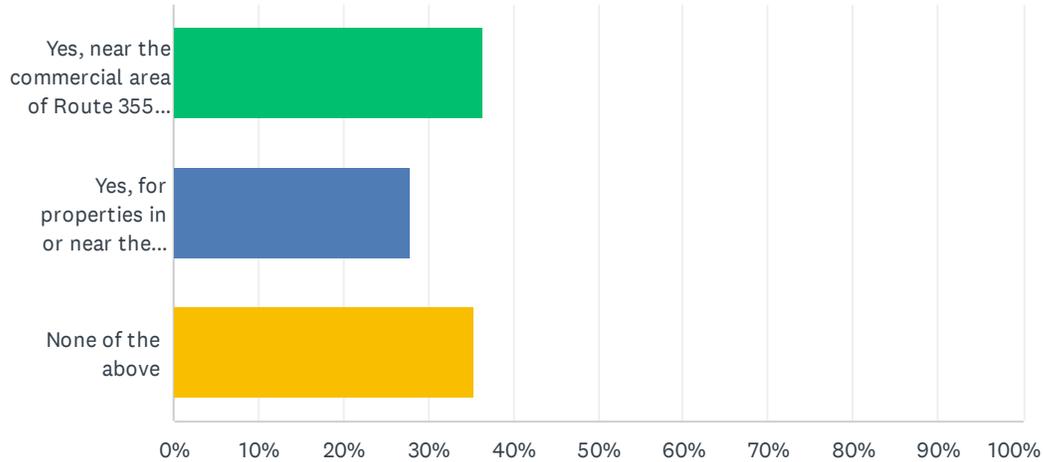
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Where economically feasible	10/10/2024 4:48 PM
2	Do not allow	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
3	Shouldn't allow any solar . It ruins farm land and doesn't benefit residential homeowners in a lower utility bill	10/9/2024 7:12 PM
4	Determine the best place for it to go but must sllow	10/8/2024 9:33 PM
5	need more info to be able to consider this	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
6	Don't do them anywhere	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
7	residential allowed per code; solar farms should be multi-purpose whether to cover parking areas, grazing animals, controlled native plant habitats, etc.	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
8	I don't want these anywhere	10/1/2024 4:53 PM
9	I do not want solar fields	9/30/2024 10:43 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

10	Absolutely no way! Who wrote this question???	9/30/2024 10:12 PM
11	Oppose , not a good investment.	9/29/2024 8:28 PM
12	Eye sore	9/28/2024 12:22 PM
13	Only where it cannot be seen from passers by	9/27/2024 9:33 AM
14	Not on land used for agriculture/placed on land not suitable for crops	9/27/2024 9:27 AM
15	We do not need large scale solar panels	9/27/2024 9:20 AM
16	Parking lots, cover vehicles and have solar. Roof tops of Town owned building. Large scale - sure this is a great idea. Like the benefit of solar but not giving up the rural community.	9/27/2024 9:15 AM
17	Do not allow	9/26/2024 2:50 PM
18	Out West farmers have stopped all crops for solar, causing shortages and higher food prices	9/26/2024 9:10 AM
19	No solar farms	9/18/2024 6:27 PM
20	None	9/18/2024 6:12 PM
21	Don't allow it	9/18/2024 6:00 PM
22	What is utility scale solar?	9/16/2024 6:27 PM
23	Parking lots, NOT rural/wooded lands	9/16/2024 5:35 PM
24	Don't take down woods or use farmland for such projects.	9/16/2024 2:47 PM
25	Where it is most effective without destroying natural landscapes and beauty.	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
26	No solar projects	9/6/2024 3:03 PM
27	out of view	9/6/2024 2:06 PM
28	Solar power is a great concept but using fields is a waste of land. Solar should only be on existing buildings/structures.	9/5/2024 9:50 PM
29	I don't know enough about it.	9/5/2024 8:55 PM
30	Not allow large scale solar at all; it is not a long term solution; there is short term gains and hype for it	9/5/2024 7:41 PM
31	No thank you! Farms are for food and sustainability. Create a structure over school parking lots or demolish abandoned businesses or over brown fields	9/5/2024 7:13 AM
32	possibly already paved areas as the technology develops	9/4/2024 10:55 PM
33	Not at all	9/4/2024 2:55 PM
34	No where	9/3/2024 2:21 PM
35	Nowhere that can be seen from the road and ruin the country views	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
36	We do NOT need solar projects. Unreliable waste of recourses	8/31/2024 5:53 PM
37	In areas that would not negatively impact home value	8/27/2024 10:20 PM
38	Anywhere and everywhere and you should subsidize anyone who wants to install on their property	8/25/2024 10:45 PM
39	I don't know enough about this to weigh in. I'd like more info please.	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
40	Anywhere reasonable	8/24/2024 11:41 AM
41	Don't know what is meant by " utility scale"	8/24/2024 8:42 AM
42	No deforestation for solar panels	8/24/2024 7:24 AM
43	We should not allow this	8/24/2024 1:04 AM

Q8 Public Sewer8a) Would you be in support studying the feasibility of a Public Sewer infrastructure within strategic locations of the Town?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 34



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, near the commercial area of Route 355 / Route 351	36.56%	34
Yes, for properties in or near the Hamlets	27.96%	26
None of the above	35.48%	33
TOTAL		93

#	OTHER	DATE
1	Maybe	10/10/2024 4:48 PM
2	Yes - study benefit to entire town, not select areas	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
3	Would not apply to our home	10/10/2024 9:46 AM
4	would need more information	10/9/2024 1:02 PM
5	as in #7. This is something I have never considered. It's probably a good idea for the Village, but more info is important.	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
6	The rainwater drainage in our neighborhood is unmanageable for the town, how on earth could the town manage public sewer??	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
7	Not a priority	10/7/2024 5:39 PM
8	In areas mentioned above, especially where population is denser and close to waterways	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
9	Both commercial and residential	10/1/2024 4:53 PM
10	Why would this be needed	9/30/2024 10:43 PM
11	Why? Is there a need?	9/30/2024 10:12 PM
12	Absolutely not	9/26/2024 2:50 PM
13	Not knowledgeable enough	9/22/2024 11:58 AM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

14	Not necessary. You can't handle drainage, imagine how you'd handle sewers.	9/18/2024 6:00 PM
15	This won't Keep taxes lower	9/16/2024 5:35 PM
16	I believe in keeping Poestenkill more rural the costs of upkeep and service may burden the small population of tax payers	9/16/2024 2:47 PM
17	Was looked into before. Not enough interest in it.	9/13/2024 5:55 AM
18	In as many areas as possible.	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
19	Yes, if costs and scale of public benefit is sensible.	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
20	Likely no but would need more information regarding if homes would be required to participate, cost, etc	9/5/2024 9:50 PM
21	Yes. In favor of it on Snyders Corner Rd (near rt 150)	9/5/2024 7:41 PM
22	Either all town residents or none, unless those without do not have their taxes affected	9/5/2024 9:12 AM
23	Not if it will raise taxes for people who don't want it. Move to a city.	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
24	Continuing to waste town resources on projects that only benefit a minority of residents makes no sense	8/31/2024 5:53 PM
25	Indifferent	8/28/2024 12:36 PM
26	I'm good with any of these. We get our water from city of Troy and are very happy with it	8/24/2024 12:20 PM
27	Both	8/24/2024 10:56 AM
28	Why?	8/24/2024 8:42 AM
29	Also yes for residential areas.	8/24/2024 8:36 AM

Q9 8b) Do you have any other comments on potential public sewer systems in Poestenkill?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 79

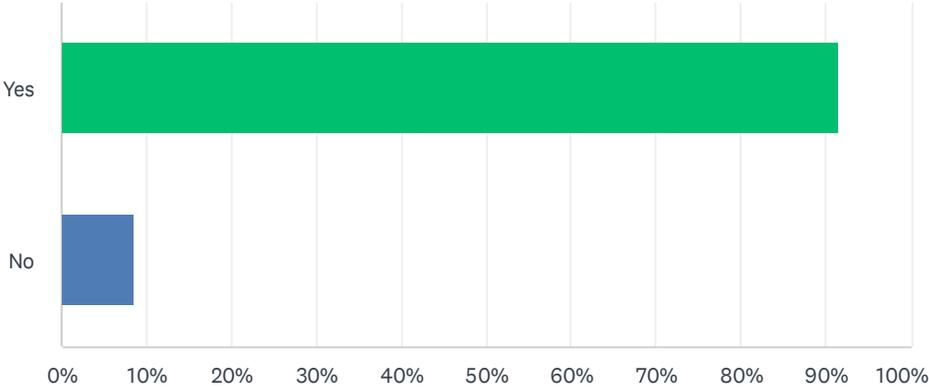
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Would need more info; Same for #9, I don't know what the current traditional lot sizes are Same for #11, IDK what workforce housing means	10/10/2024 4:48 PM
2	No	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
3	If you start having sewer and water the area then will start being over developed. The cost to homeowners to have it installed to there home is expensive also it would increase homeowners taxes which are high as it is and people on fixed incomes just cannot afford these charges.	10/9/2024 12:09 PM
4	It is something that should be studied.	10/8/2024 9:33 PM
5	Prioritize the current drainage issues before adding to the list of responsibilities	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
6	I don't feel that is a priority as Poestenkill is rural and there are no big corporations. We want to preserve the small town rural community feeling.	10/7/2024 5:39 PM
7	We should work on moving forward with this sooner than later.	10/1/2024 4:53 PM
8	For what purpose? Are the septic systems not working properly?	9/30/2024 10:12 PM
9	Whole town or not at all.	9/29/2024 8:28 PM
10	Would love to have public sewer	9/28/2024 12:22 PM
11	Somehow, if sewer is installed. The costs should be underwritten by the state to defer the cost to residents	9/27/2024 9:33 AM
12	Do not need it. Would like to see natural gas before sewer system	9/27/2024 9:24 AM
13	Algonquin Estates. Any new developments. All main roads.	9/27/2024 9:15 AM
14	Sewer will be the end of our rural character.	9/26/2024 2:50 PM
15	I would love the sewer system to reach the more rural, higher-elevation areas of Poestenkill in order to do away with the considerable difficulties of maintaining a septic system in the area's rocky soil.	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
16	Our thin, rocky clay soil often gives us drainage problems with our septic system. We live near the east hamlet, so I'm not sure how feasible it would be, but a public system would give a lot of peace of mind.	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
17	Likely not feasible	9/18/2024 6:27 PM
18	No	9/18/2024 6:24 PM
19	Don't do it. Don't waste our money on something you can't handle.	9/18/2024 6:00 PM
20	I support sewer feasibility studies where it is necessary. I'm not sure of your definition of hamlets.	9/16/2024 6:27 PM
21	East Poestenkill taxes shouldn't pay for a sewer district that they will never see	9/13/2024 8:19 PM
22	A long term plan to extend service throughout Poestenkill would be preferable.	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
23	Limit to areas of higher density development and commercial district.	9/10/2024 4:53 PM
24	Not needed in areas that are able to have a full sewer system.	9/8/2024 6:38 PM
25	How widespread? Is there financial assistance from other sources? What are long term costs to maintain? How long is it feasible this could happen?	9/6/2024 3:35 PM

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26	Public sewer cost lots of money increases development density	9/6/2024 3:03 PM
27	Sewer would not apply to me	9/5/2024 10:45 PM
28	I'm on Spring Ave Ext and would like public sewer.	9/5/2024 8:55 PM
29	N/A to me	9/5/2024 5:35 PM
30	Do we really need it?	9/5/2024 4:57 PM
31	Need to be done in neighborhoods	9/5/2024 10:38 AM
32	We can't afford a tax increase.	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
33	I don't want my taxes to go up	9/5/2024 7:21 AM
34	Not a fan of	9/5/2024 5:01 AM
35	Don't do it	9/4/2024 2:55 PM
36	Those who get it need to pay the entire capital infrastructure cost	9/1/2024 7:54 PM
37	it may lead to sprawl	9/1/2024 12:13 PM
38	This is a must. We have water coming in but none going out	9/1/2024 8:43 AM
39	What happened to the extra money collected from taxes for the water? Why aren't there proper drainage pipes for people's property, but we are talking public sewers.	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
40	Water runoff in New developments are an issue	8/31/2024 9:02 PM
41	Public sewer could help with water run off	8/31/2024 9:01 PM
42	Indifferent as I don't see it being feasible in the rural areas of East Poestenkill	8/28/2024 5:02 PM
43	Indifferent; if it is a strong need/if septic systems are failing, it should be reviewed.	8/28/2024 12:36 PM
44	I'd need more information to weigh in further. My concern is that it could make way for larger scale building.	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
45	Is it free? If not, stop adding to our tax burden	8/24/2024 11:41 AM
46	I would prefer public sewer over septic	8/24/2024 10:56 AM
47	Comment for question #9. What is a "traditional lot size"	8/24/2024 8:42 AM
48	As long as it doesn't raise my taxes I'm fine	8/24/2024 12:52 AM

Q10 9) Would you support protection of the traditional lot size, building sizes and placement within the Hamlets of Poestenkill?

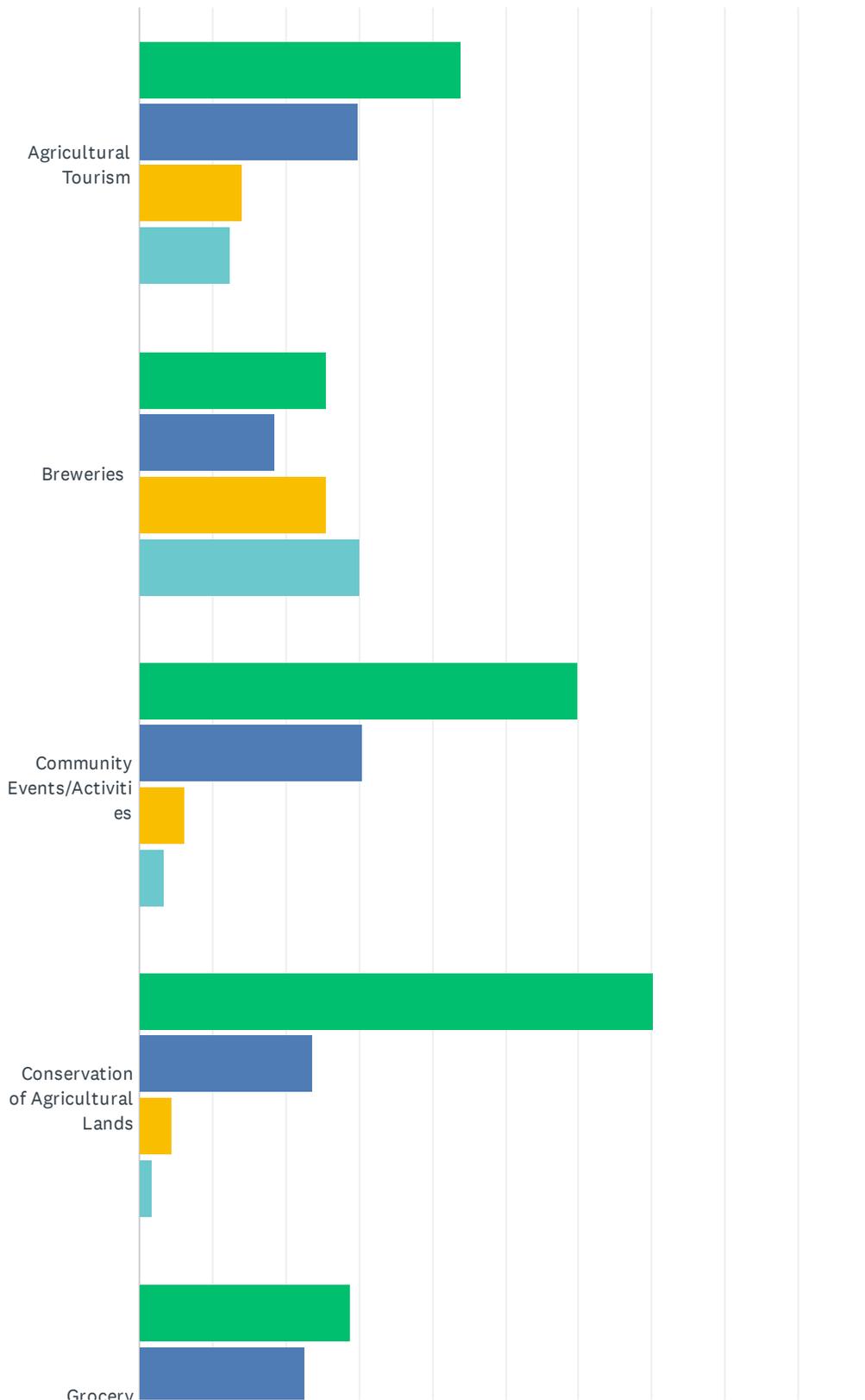
Answered: 93 Skipped: 34



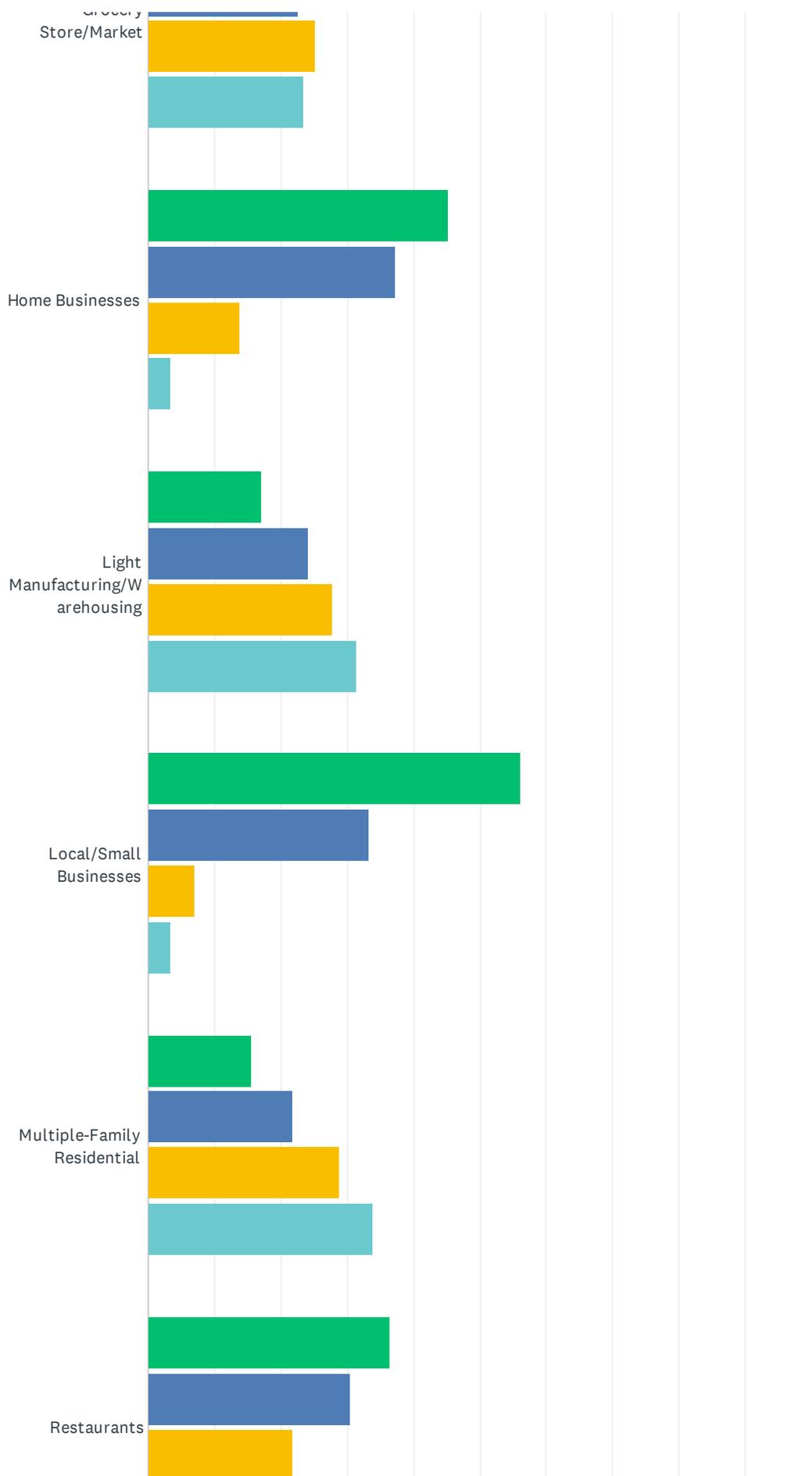
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	91.40%	85
No	8.60%	8
TOTAL		93

Q11 10) Please provide your level of support for the following within the Town of Poestenkill.

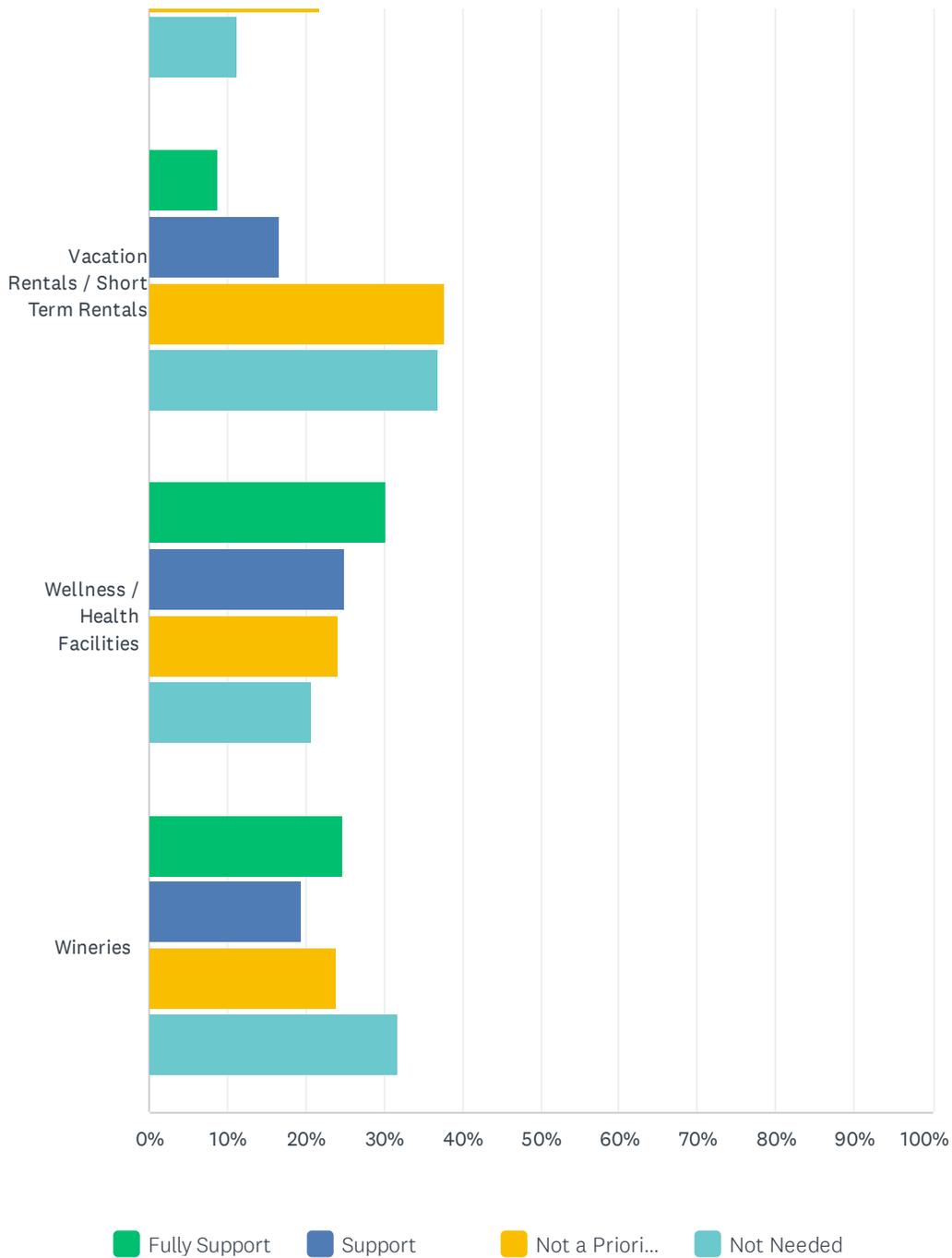
Answered: 116 Skipped: 11



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	FULLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	NOT A PRIORITY	NOT NEEDED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Agricultural Tourism	43.86% 50	29.82% 34	14.04% 16	12.28% 14	114	2.05
Breweries	25.66% 29	18.58% 21	25.66% 29	30.09% 34	113	1.40
Community Events/Activities	60.00% 69	30.43% 35	6.09% 7	3.48% 4	115	2.47
Conservation of Agricultural Lands	70.18% 80	23.68% 27	4.39% 5	1.75% 2	114	2.62
Grocery Store/Market	28.70% 33	22.61% 26	25.22% 29	23.48% 27	115	1.57
Home Businesses	45.22% 52	37.39% 43	13.91% 16	3.48% 4	115	2.24
Light Manufacturing/Warehousing	16.96% 19	24.11% 27	27.68% 31	31.25% 35	112	1.27
Local/Small Businesses	56.14% 64	33.33% 38	7.02% 8	3.51% 4	114	2.42
Multiple-Family Residential	15.65% 18	21.74% 25	28.70% 33	33.91% 39	115	1.19
Restaurants	36.52% 42	30.43% 35	21.74% 25	11.30% 13	115	1.92
Vacation Rentals / Short Term Rentals	8.77% 10	16.67% 19	37.72% 43	36.84% 42	114	0.97
Wellness / Health Facilities	30.17% 35	25.00% 29	24.14% 28	20.69% 24	116	1.65
Wineries	24.78% 28	19.47% 22	23.89% 27	31.86% 36	113	1.37

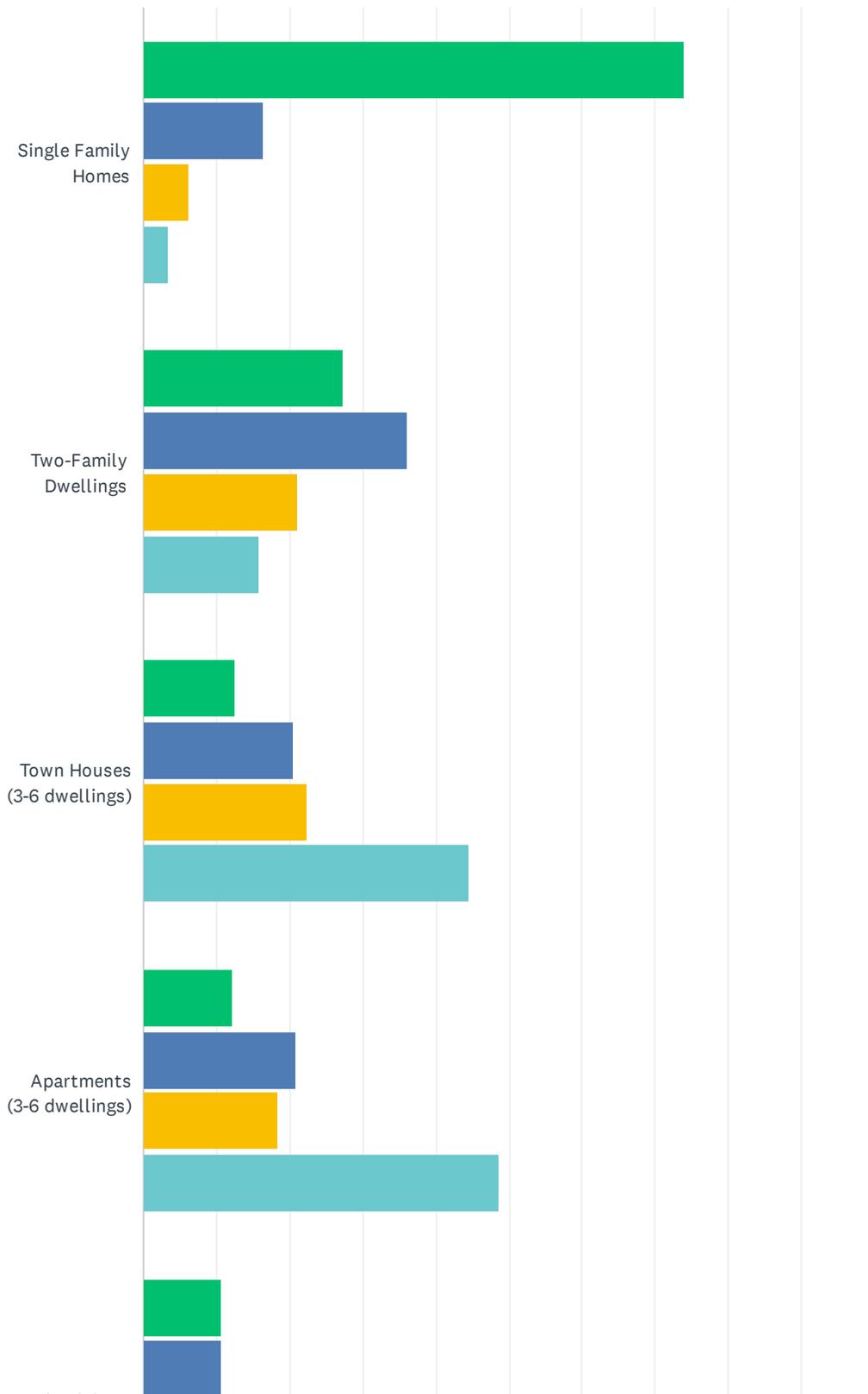
#	IS THERE A TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT OR BUSINESS NOT MENTIONED ON THE LIST ABOVE THAT IS NEEDED?	DATE
1	No	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
2	Stop developing, the beauty of poestenkill is the small, quiet atmosphere where you can get away from all of the businesses, apartments, etc.	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
3	No	10/7/2024 5:39 PM
4	Gym/exercise facilities	10/7/2024 12:15 PM
5	No. Keep it rural.	9/30/2024 10:12 PM
6	Fine people who disobey the laws	9/28/2024 12:22 PM
7	Do not need anymore businesses	9/27/2024 9:20 AM
8	Town Park	9/26/2024 9:27 PM
9	Artist-friendly spaces to work	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
10	Outdoor recreation - biking, hiking, walking trails	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
11	Don't bring more rentals here and attract renters. Keep them out. We don't need development. Leave our town small.	9/18/2024 6:00 PM
12	Pharmacy and Doctor	9/16/2024 6:27 PM
13	Support local farms	9/16/2024 5:35 PM

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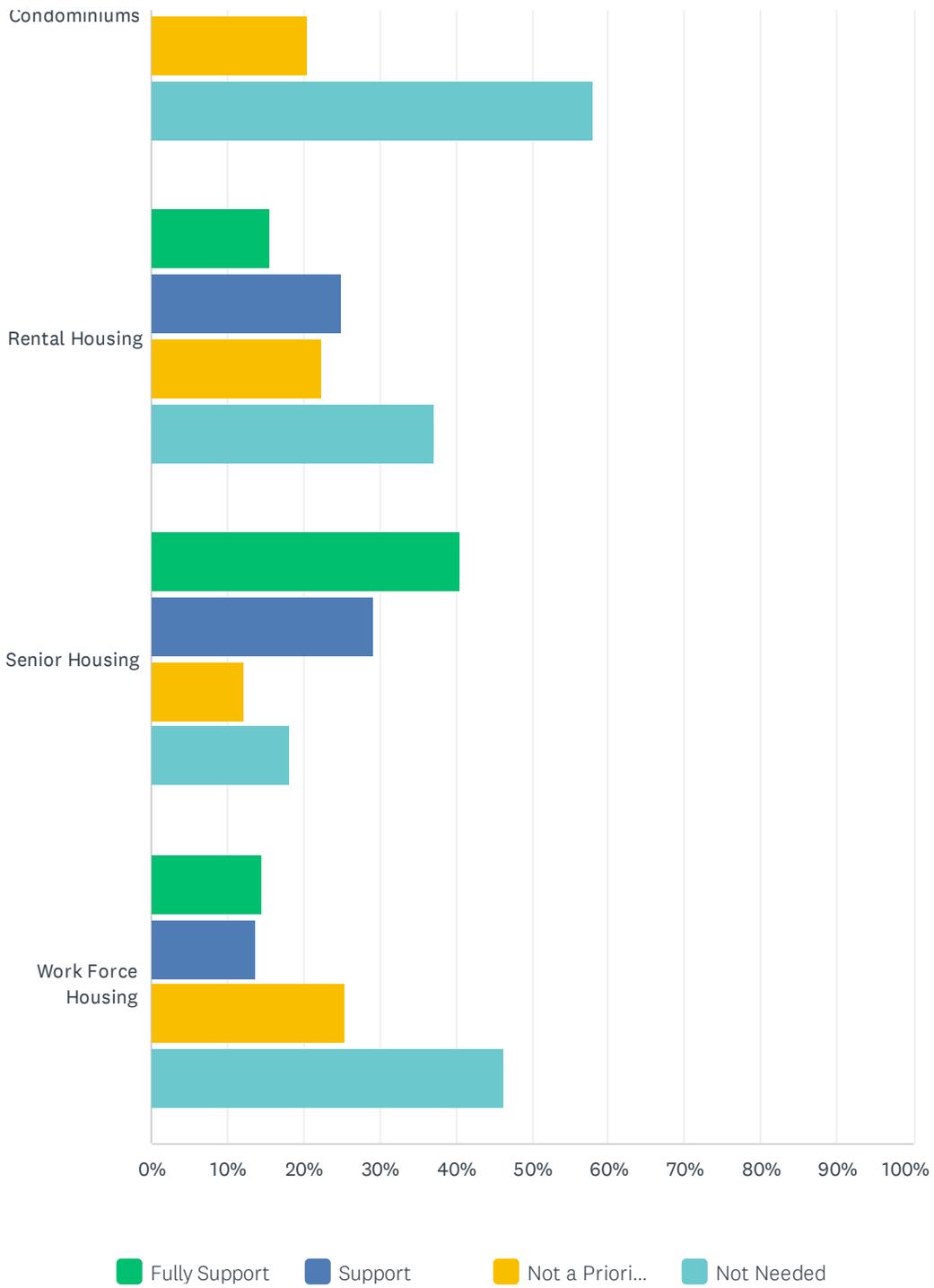
14	Cannabis dispensaries	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
15	Urgent care or some sort of healthcare service	9/12/2024 10:09 AM
16	town park with music performance space	9/7/2024 5:42 PM
17	Alternative education, gymnasium/athletic facilities, gym	9/5/2024 5:35 PM
18	Public lands	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
19	Less is better - open land land is why most people move here	9/5/2024 7:13 AM
20	No	9/5/2024 5:34 AM
21	childcare / senior care	9/4/2024 10:55 PM
22	Senior housing	9/3/2024 2:21 PM
23	sustainable	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
24	Senior housing	9/1/2024 10:01 PM
25	Community gardens	9/1/2024 2:39 PM
26	senior housign and affordable apartments	9/1/2024 12:13 PM
27	I would like to see more child care options and child friendly activities and business	8/31/2024 9:01 PM
28	Parks and sidewalks	8/24/2024 7:24 AM
29	No	8/24/2024 1:04 AM
30	Technology and youth related	8/24/2024 12:52 AM

Q12 11) Housing: Please provide your level of support for the following housing types in the Town of Poestenkill.

Answered: 116 Skipped: 11



Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

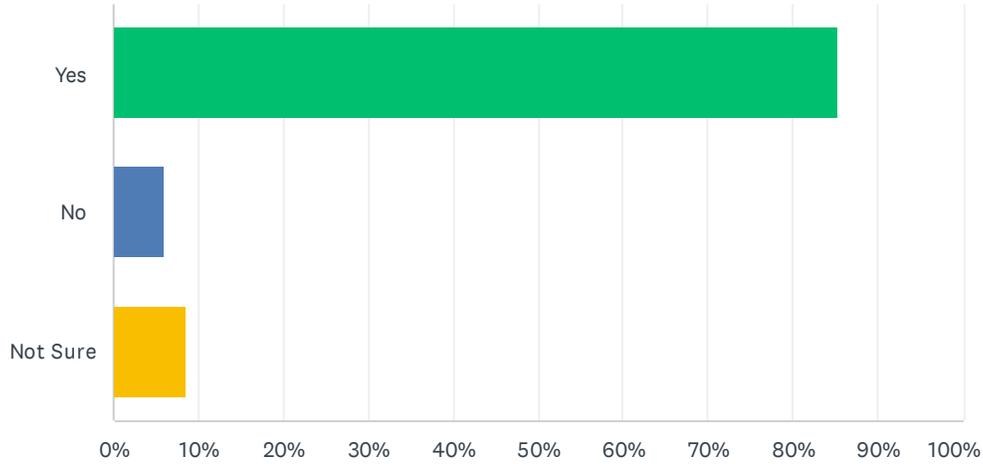


Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

	FULLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	NOT A PRIORITY	NOT NEEDED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Single Family Homes	73.91% 85	16.52% 19	6.09% 7	3.48% 4	115	2.61
Two-Family Dwellings	27.19% 31	35.96% 41	21.05% 24	15.79% 18	114	1.75
Town Houses (3-6 dwellings)	12.50% 14	20.54% 23	22.32% 25	44.64% 50	112	1.01
Apartments (3-6 dwellings)	12.17% 14	20.87% 24	18.26% 21	48.70% 56	115	0.97
Condominiums	10.71% 12	10.71% 12	20.54% 23	58.04% 65	112	0.74
Rental Housing	15.52% 18	25.00% 29	22.41% 26	37.07% 43	116	1.19
Senior Housing	40.52% 47	29.31% 34	12.07% 14	18.10% 21	116	1.92
Work Force Housing	14.55% 16	13.64% 15	25.45% 28	46.36% 51	110	0.96

Q13 12) Should the Town allow single-family home owners to have an accessory dwelling on their property (also called in-law apartment, granny flat, garage apartment, backyard cottage)?

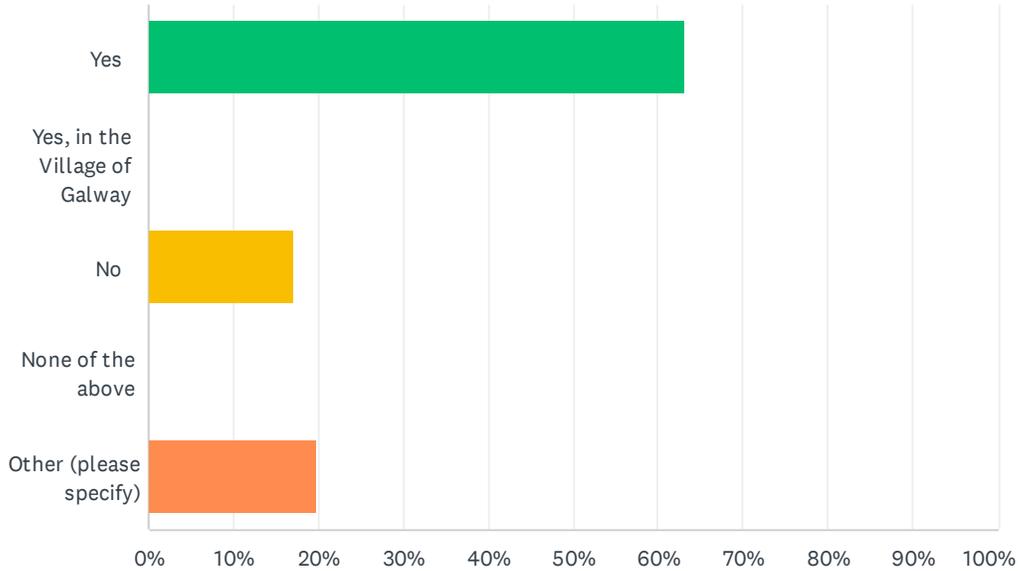
Answered: 116 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	85.34%	99
No	6.03%	7
Not Sure	8.62%	10
TOTAL		116

Q14 13) Would you support sidewalks improvements to both create more walkability, safety, and convenience in the Hamlets?

Answered: 111 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	63.06%	70
Yes, in the Village of Galway	0.00%	0
No	17.12%	19
None of the above	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	19.82%	22
TOTAL		111

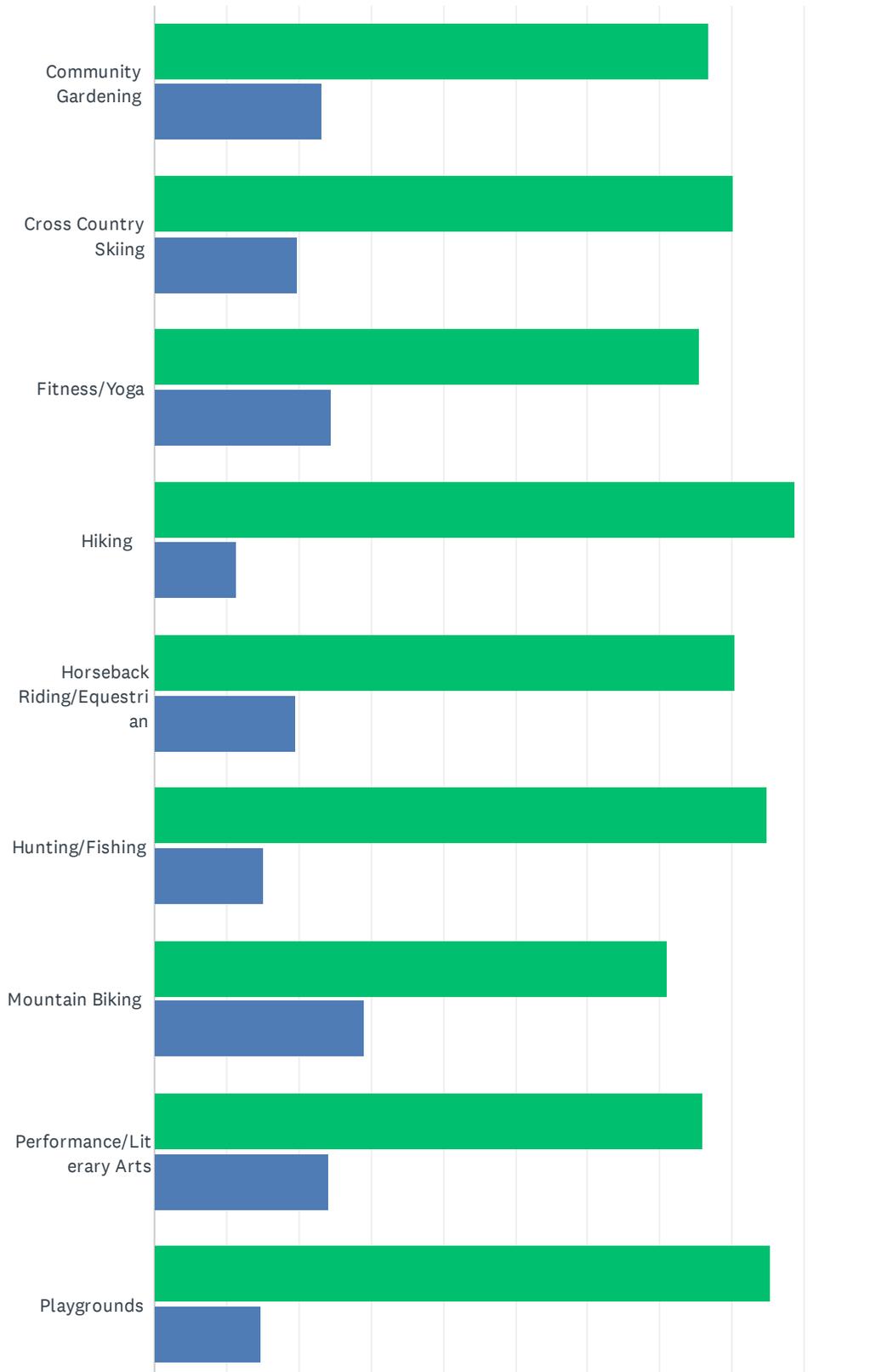
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Yes.... You keep dropping the speed limits on the side roads so you may as well add sidewalks	10/1/2024 4:53 PM
2	Not needed	9/27/2024 9:20 AM
3	During all seasons	9/23/2024 5:50 PM
4	And plowed in winter	9/19/2024 1:37 PM
5	Only to maintain current sidewalks	9/16/2024 5:35 PM
6	In more densely population sections I would support if residents see a need.	9/16/2024 2:47 PM
7	Maybe	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
8	If it can be done without increase in taxes	9/5/2024 9:50 PM
9	should extend beyond the hamlet	9/5/2024 7:48 PM

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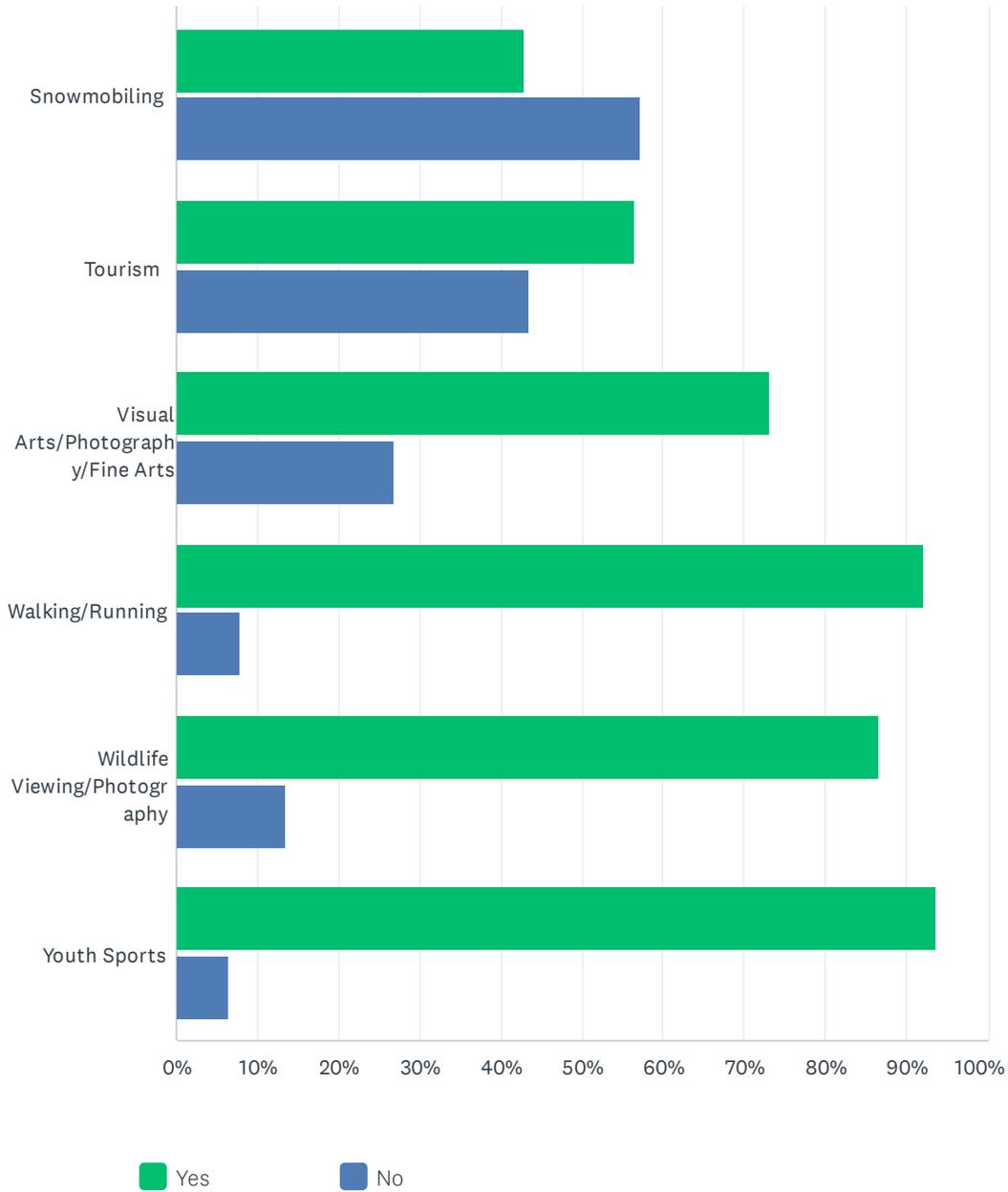
10	N/A	9/5/2024 5:35 PM
11	What town park? Galway ?	9/3/2024 10:11 AM
12	Sidewalks are nice but don't understand the sites listed	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
13	Only if capital costs paid for in special districts	9/1/2024 7:54 PM
14	Along 355	9/1/2024 8:43 AM
15	Connecting the village down to the firehouse	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
16	Indifferent	8/28/2024 5:02 PM
17	Yes on main causeways for safety reasons	8/27/2024 10:20 PM
18	Why is one of the possible answers about Galway? I'm very confused.	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
19	Sidewalks everywhere!	8/24/2024 10:56 AM
20	Something wrong with these answers! Galway? Town park?	8/24/2024 8:42 AM
21	Where is Galway? I would like to check the first and third options, but I'm unable to choose both.	8/24/2024 8:36 AM
22	All of the above. The intersection at 355/351 needs to be safe to access the library, the school, the market, local neighborhoods. Etc.	8/24/2024 7:24 AM

Q15 14) What recreational interests should the Town encourage in Poestenkill?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 13



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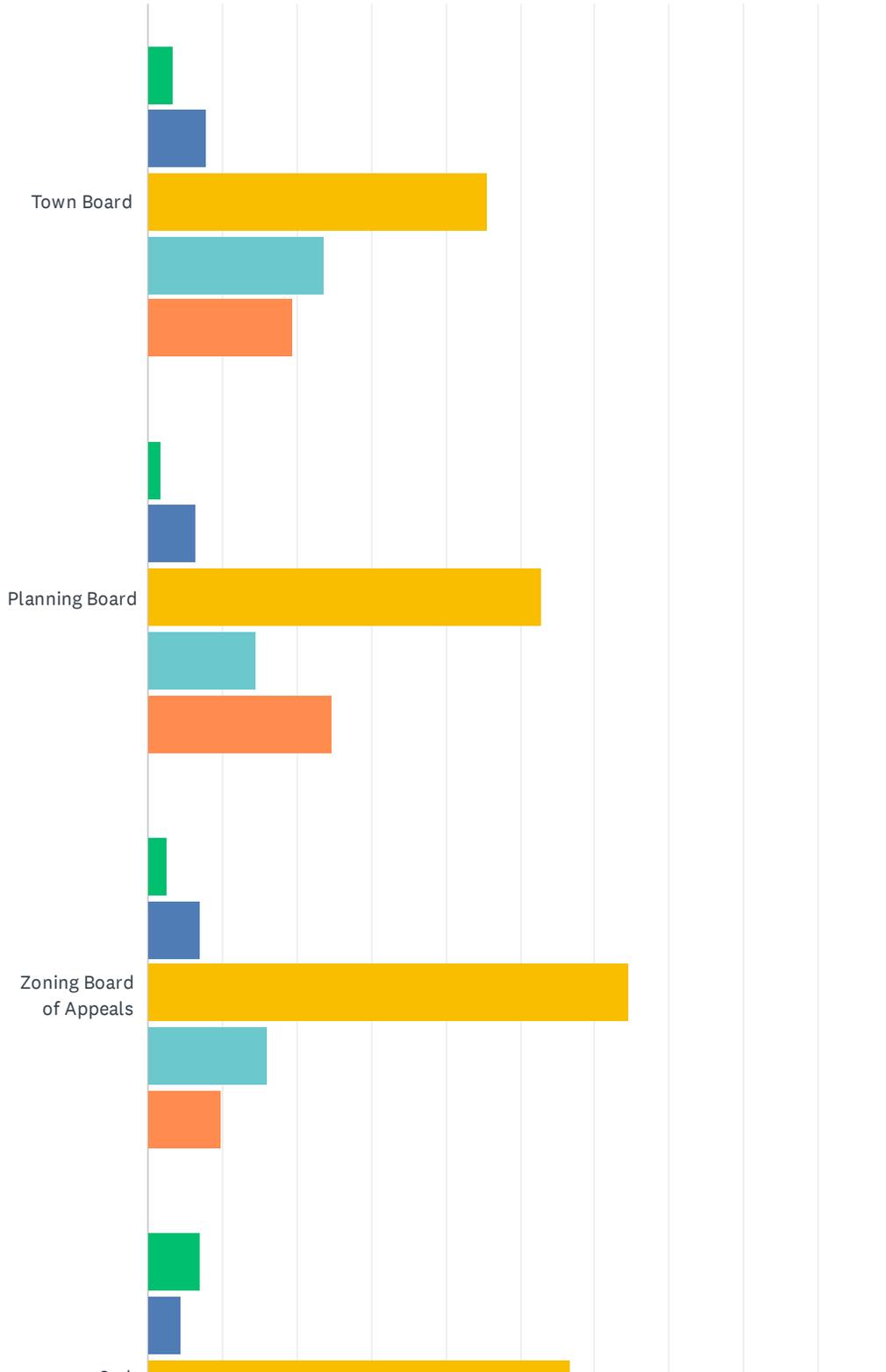
Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

	YES	NO	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Community Gardening	76.79% 86	23.21% 26	112	0.77
Cross Country Skiing	80.18% 89	19.82% 22	111	0.80
Fitness/Yoga	75.47% 80	24.53% 26	106	0.75
Hiking	88.60% 101	11.40% 13	114	0.89
Horseback Riding/Equestrian	80.37% 86	19.63% 21	107	0.80
Hunting/Fishing	84.82% 95	15.18% 17	112	0.85
Mountain Biking	70.91% 78	29.09% 32	110	0.71
Performance/Literary Arts	75.93% 82	24.07% 26	108	0.76
Playgrounds	85.32% 93	14.68% 16	109	0.85
Snowmobiling	42.86% 45	57.14% 60	105	0.43
Tourism	56.48% 61	43.52% 47	108	0.56
Visual Arts/Photography/Fine Arts	73.15% 79	26.85% 29	108	0.73
Walking/Running	92.04% 104	7.96% 9	113	0.92
Wildlife Viewing/Photography	86.61% 97	13.39% 15	112	0.87
Youth Sports	93.58% 102	6.42% 7	109	0.94

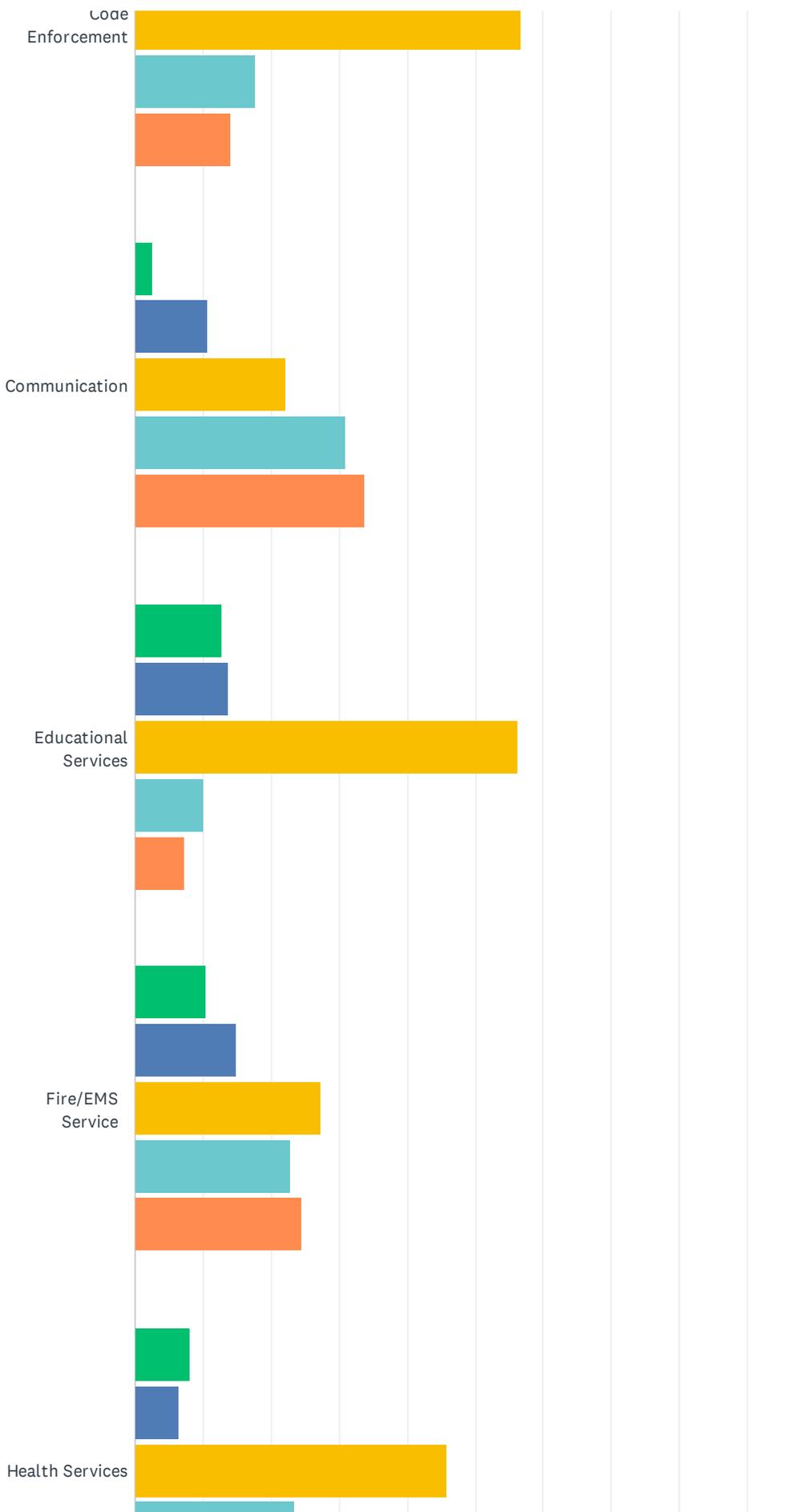
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	dirtbike/atv/side by side riding	10/9/2024 1:02 PM
2	What makes the county beautiful are the vistas, open land, woods, waterways	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
3	All should be encouraged but the town overseeing is different	9/23/2024 5:50 PM
4	Leave our town small	9/18/2024 6:00 PM
5	We already have good access to all of the above. I have NO interest in attracting tourists to our area. I like that we have plenty of nature to enjoy and sports/activities nearby.	9/5/2024 9:50 PM
6	No more RPA areas and more restricted rules for current RPA areas	9/5/2024 5:35 PM
7	fishing ok, hunting ok in certain areas East Poestenkill	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
8	Poestenkill needs a community day!	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
9	We need more playgrounds! Especially for young kids. The school playground is old and outdated	8/31/2024 9:01 PM
10	We have such little of any of these things, they would all be good.	8/24/2024 7:24 AM

Q16 15) On a scale from (1) meaning “needs no improvement” to (5) meaning “needs most improvement”, please rank the following services within the Town of Poestenkill.

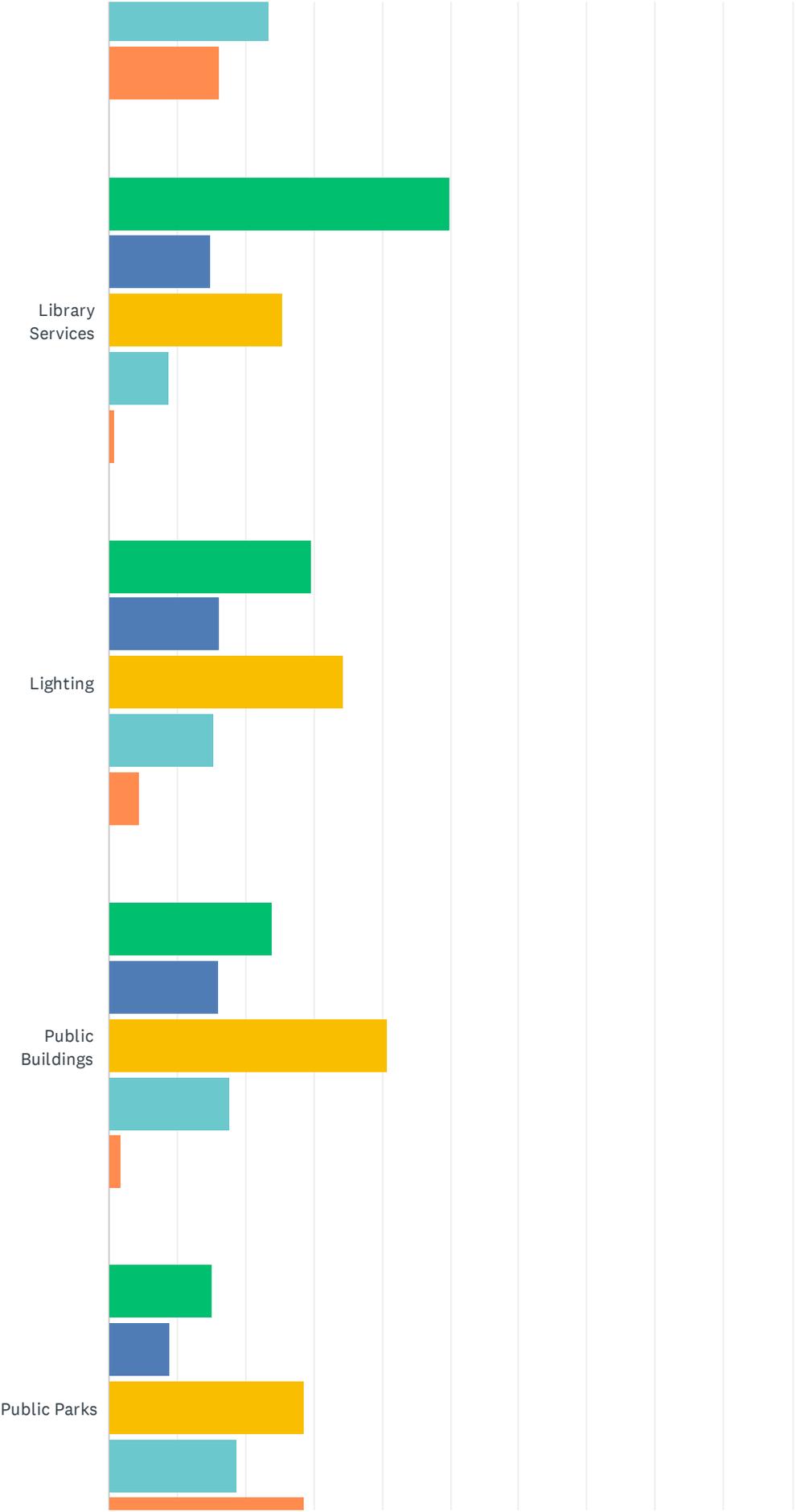
Answered: 126 Skipped: 1



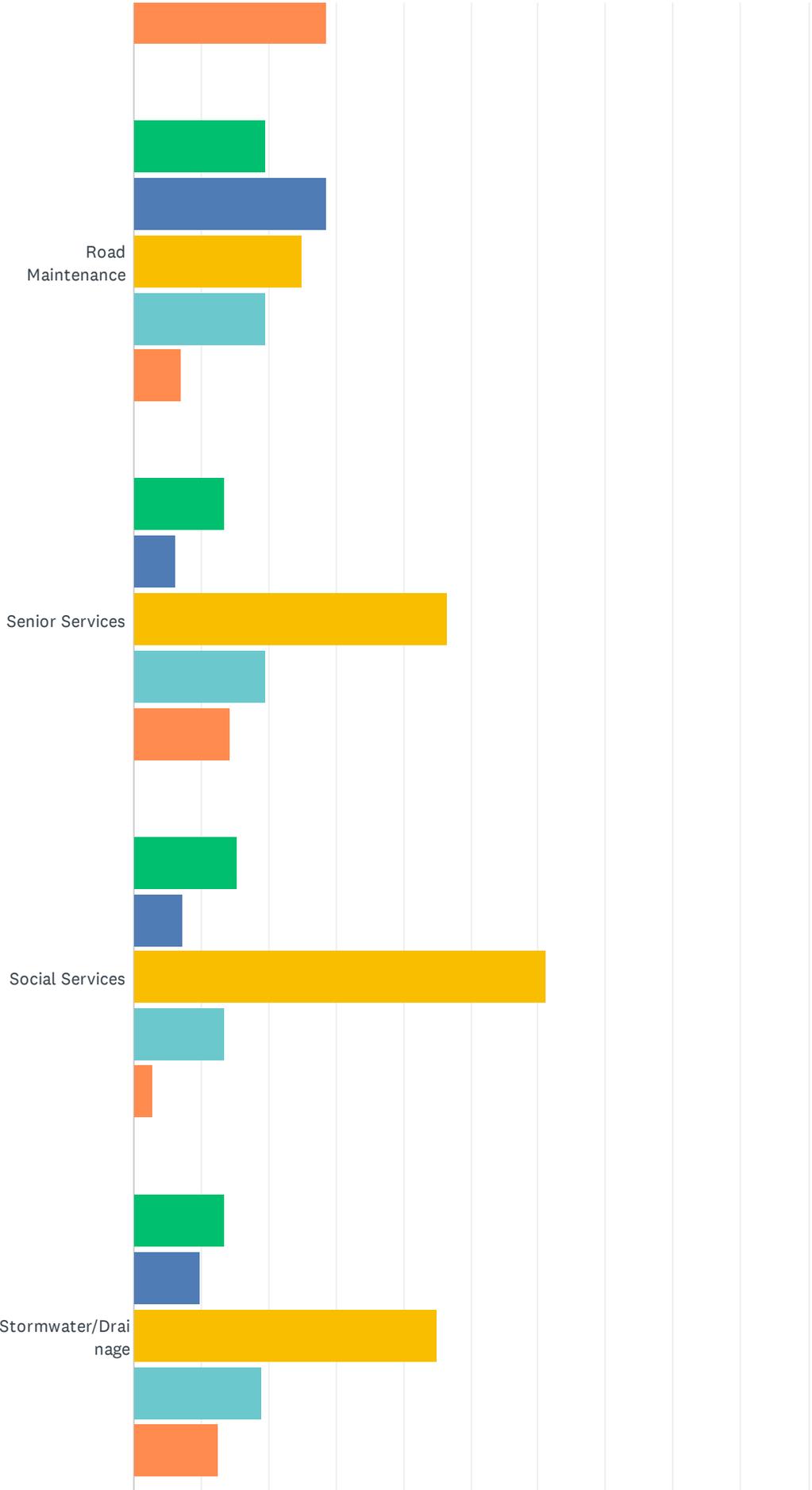
Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update



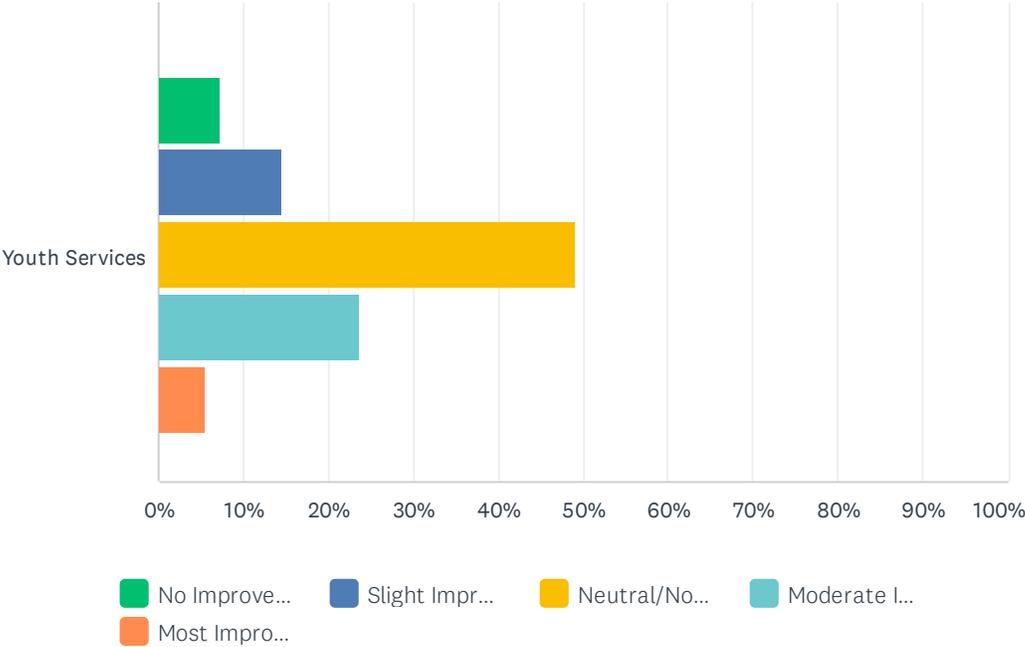
Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update



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	NO IMPROVEMENT (1)	SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT (2)	NEUTRAL/NOT SURE (3)	MODERATE IMPROVEMENT(4)	MOST IMPROVEMENT (5)	TOTAL
Town Board	3.51% 4	7.89% 9	45.61% 52	23.68% 27	19.30% 22	114
Planning Board	1.60% 2	6.40% 8	52.80% 66	14.40% 18	24.80% 31	125
Zoning Board of Appeals	2.65% 3	7.08% 8	64.60% 73	15.93% 18	9.73% 11	113
Code Enforcement	7.08% 8	4.42% 5	56.64% 64	17.70% 20	14.16% 16	113
Communication	2.65% 3	10.62% 12	22.12% 25	30.97% 35	33.63% 38	113
Educational Services	12.73% 14	13.64% 15	56.36% 62	10.00% 11	7.27% 8	110
Fire/EMS Service	10.53% 12	14.91% 17	27.19% 31	22.81% 26	24.56% 28	114
Health Services	8.11% 9	6.31% 7	45.95% 51	23.42% 26	16.22% 18	111
Library Services	50.00% 57	14.91% 17	25.44% 29	8.77% 10	0.88% 1	114
Lighting	29.73% 33	16.22% 18	34.23% 38	15.32% 17	4.50% 5	111
Public Buildings	23.89% 27	15.93% 18	40.71% 46	17.70% 20	1.77% 2	113
Public Parks	15.18% 17	8.93% 10	28.57% 32	18.75% 21	28.57% 32	112
Road Maintenance	19.64% 22	28.57% 32	25.00% 28	19.64% 22	7.14% 8	112
Senior Services	13.39% 15	6.25% 7	46.43% 52	19.64% 22	14.29% 16	112
Social Services	15.32% 17	7.21% 8	61.26% 68	13.51% 15	2.70% 3	111
Stormwater/Drainage	13.51% 15	9.91% 11	45.05% 50	18.92% 21	12.61% 14	111
Youth Services	7.27% 8	14.55% 16	49.09% 54	23.64% 26	5.45% 6	110

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Ambulance got voted down years ago. People had a choice then. Quit bringing it up. Town did a lousy job letting people know about the vote.	9/27/2024 9:41 AM
2	Remove biased lumberjack cosplayer Steve Valente from Planning Board	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
3	Stop wasting money on unnecessary things.	9/18/2024 6:00 PM
4	Roads and drainage are terrible. Get rid of nepotism in the town.	9/18/2024 5:52 PM
5	The fire EMS category should be two separate categories.	9/13/2024 5:55 AM
6	Improve notifications and alerts for town/local meetings and issues. Perhaps as simple as an email distribution system or subscription service to notify citizens of agendas, meetings, events, road closures etc..	9/12/2024 10:26 AM

7	Listen to residents	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
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Q17 16) Is there any plan initiative not mentioned that you think should be a priority for the Town of Poestenkill?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 84

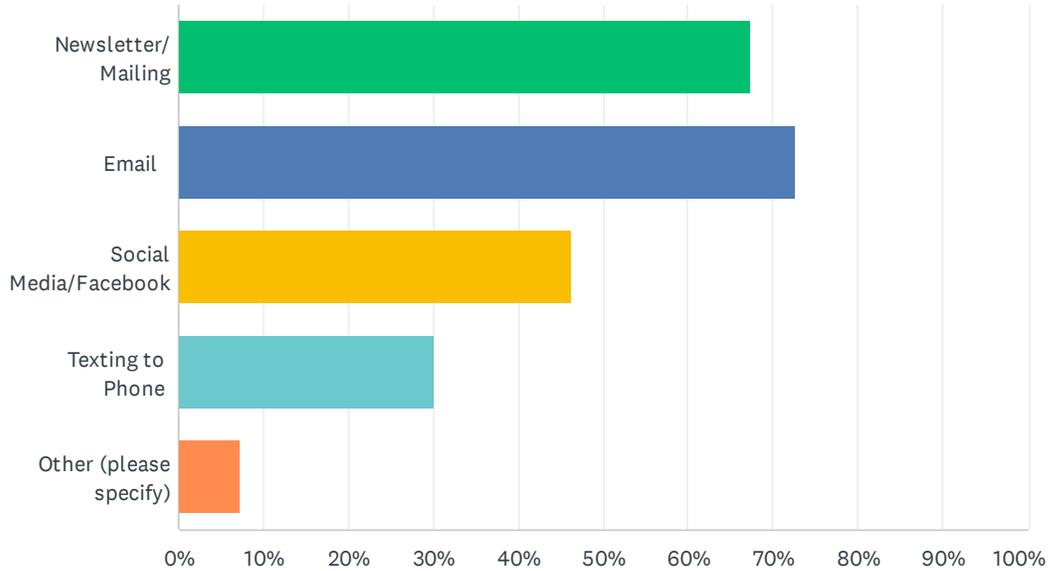
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Planning should be minimal. This is rural life. We do not need endless laws & rules - there are plenty of other over-planned towns to live in for that.	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
2	Town Park	10/10/2024 9:46 AM
3	public water on snyders corner rd between weatherwax and the school	10/9/2024 1:02 PM
4	since there is no other space for this comment - question #9 should have had a "not sure" option. Also, at the ARPA listening meetings, many people were in favor of a town park. The former supervisor promised to look into that. What's going on with it?	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
5	Reduce the required acreage for chickens, include playground and/or splash pad in proposed town park	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
6	re senior housing: on the idea boards at the fire house, I like the idea of smaller units/small villiage feel with sidewalks; not a large building/facility.	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
7	Town park/gathering place	10/7/2024 12:15 PM
8	Avoid large solar fields	10/1/2024 4:53 PM
9	Crack down on dirt bikes on roads	9/28/2024 12:22 PM
10	Senior housing is desperately needed. Many seniors grew up in Poestenkill and want to stay here, not in East Greenbush!	9/27/2024 9:41 AM
11	Ambulance is necessary and should have been a separate line item	9/27/2024 9:33 AM
12	No questions about mining!	9/27/2024 9:27 AM
13	The priority is keeping our beautiful town rural!	9/27/2024 9:20 AM
14	Somewhere residents can dump leaves and sticks when needed. Also, public recycle center	9/26/2024 9:10 AM
15	Get Coopers Pond cleaned out so it functions better to impound water.	9/22/2024 11:58 AM
16	Land conservation	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
17	Have commercially zoned business keep the property up. Specifically 11 main st. It's a dump and noisy at most hours	9/19/2024 1:37 PM
18	Splash pad for kids	9/18/2024 6:00 PM
19	Stop hiring family members	9/18/2024 5:52 PM
20	Increase fiscal transparency and actively communicate with property owners/ tax payers	9/16/2024 6:27 PM
21	Ambulance service	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
22	Outdoor recreation tourism	9/10/2024 4:53 PM
23	Town website needs improvement. It should be a reliable source of up to date information and easily navigated.	9/10/2024 9:07 AM
24	Clean slate with all board members.	9/8/2024 6:38 PM
25	No, just ambulance service as #1.	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
26	School playgrounds should be available for public use. The WSL school playground appears gated off which is not acceptable. There is no need to add additional playground spaces if these areas are accessible and improved.	9/5/2024 9:50 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

27	Public water down Grandview Dr	9/5/2024 9:12 AM
28	Climate Change Mitigation	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
29	No Senior Housing and no to youth sports complexes. Small rec Park is fine.	9/5/2024 7:13 AM
30	No	9/5/2024 5:01 AM
31	Community Choice Aggregation, protection of town aquifer, promotion of renewable energy such as wind, protection of Poestenkill Creek from Development	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
32	verizon phone service is terrible. too many dropped calls and verizon lies about the problems.	9/1/2024 12:13 PM
33	Natural gas	9/1/2024 8:43 AM
34	Lower speed limit on Main St. to 35mph - seems too fast through there	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
35	I think that we need more public parks or splash pads so we don't have to go to the other side of the river for the kids to have fun	8/31/2024 9:01 PM
36	We need the Town Park.	8/29/2024 6:29 AM
37	Improved cell towers for rural areas of town	8/28/2024 5:02 PM
38	Senior housing and accessory dwellings	8/27/2024 10:20 PM
39	Ambulance service!	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
40	Playground and attracting young families to our beautiful area! There has been a lot of new neighborhoods the last couple of years with new families and all of our neighbors in new developments go other places for kids activities. Let's bring some things here 😊!	8/24/2024 12:20 PM
41	Equity of access for folks living in more in the more rural areas	8/24/2024 10:56 AM
42	I would like the town to have more of an established town center. I think that would build more of a sense of community which the town is lacking.	8/24/2024 8:36 AM
43	Reduce speed limits to 30mph. Add shoulder to roads for biking. Public park on the creek. Approve RPA permit.	8/24/2024 7:24 AM

Q18 17) How would you like the Town to communicate with you (check all that apply)

Answered: 110 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Newsletter/ Mailing	67.27%	74
Email	72.73%	80
Social Media/Facebook	46.36%	51
Texting to Phone	30.00%	33
Other (please specify)	7.27%	8
Total Respondents: 110		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	The Town makes little to no effort to communicate. Instead of more committees & plans, focus on making residents aware of what is being done.	10/10/2024 10:30 AM
2	we need a sign outside Town Hall. Also, expecting people to get information from Facebook ignores a large section of town residents who do not do Facebook or WOULD NEVER EXPECT TO GET GOVERNMENTAL INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL MEDIA And I have NEVER before today been asked for my email to get town updates. Which is why we need a sign!!	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
3	The Advertiser seemed to be the only way to get info out. Website doesn't always have UTD info.	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
4	Local advertiser	9/19/2024 9:47 AM
5	I believe there needs to be multiple ways to communicate to residences with ample notice. Whether it be on a giant board by the firehouse or multiple locations for residents.	9/16/2024 2:47 PM
6	Website	9/1/2024 10:01 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

7	Town website	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
8	Honestly, anything would be an upgrade over what we currently have. It's nearly impossible to learn anything about what is happening in the town.	8/24/2024 9:28 PM

Q19 18) Would you like to share anything about the Town of Poestenkill that is important to you?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 91

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Keeping this town small and country like is very important	10/9/2024 1:02 PM
2	It's very important to protect our farmers - without them we lose our rural character and become another bedroom community like East Greenbush.	10/8/2024 7:28 PM
3	Keep our town small and quiet. Do not try bringing in businesses or housing facilities. Residents will leave if you bring in the exact things we moved here to get away from.	10/7/2024 6:15 PM
4	Cows not Condos. We do not need any senior housing in Poestenkill. This is not the town for it. This is a rural small town community with single family homes and should stay that way.	10/7/2024 5:39 PM
5	There has been considerable new home building near me over the last [few to 20] years. I'm concerned with road speeds, pedestrian safety, leaving room for wild animals (corridors), lot sizes (don't want them to decrease), police patrol (seems lax, especially for speeders)	10/7/2024 3:43 PM
6	Small dog park/Town park. If they would be used.	9/27/2024 9:41 AM
7	We need to maintain the integrity of a small Town while also not leaving out the possibility of slight growth. We have lived here for thirty good years and would like to continue living here	9/27/2024 9:33 AM
8	Keeping taxes as low as possible. Not turning Poestenkill into another North Greenbush with building on every available space.	9/27/2024 9:24 AM
9	Please stop letting all these contractors to build on every inch of land! Keep Poestenkill rural. We want peace and quiet.	9/27/2024 9:20 AM
10	We need to protect our natural resources, ecosystems, and forested lands.	9/19/2024 9:28 PM
11	It's has gonna incredibly bad with truck traffic. Jake brakes are awe full and dog barking is out of control.	9/19/2024 1:37 PM
12	Universal Pre-K	9/19/2024 9:47 AM
13	I used to think Poestenkill was a great place, but there is growing racism and really gross intolerance for neighbors. The town is doing nothing currently to strengthen community bonds, and the Town Board is making this all worse by allowing (and even worsening) this rhetoric to continue. It's really disappointing.	9/18/2024 10:51 PM
14	Don't allow the highway department to do these cob job paving jobs. Water flows the wrong way, driveways are messed up from not removing old asphalt, and drainage is always clogged. Fire them and start fresh.	9/18/2024 6:00 PM
15	Allow chickens for eggs without an acre limit. Groceries are too expensive	9/18/2024 5:52 PM
16	Being able to afford farming in this town with the right to farm	9/16/2024 5:35 PM
17	Poestenkill does a very good job at making it impossible to start a new business	9/13/2024 8:19 PM
18	Maintaining small town character and promoting awareness and togetherness is important, especially during these divisive times.	9/12/2024 10:26 AM
19	I think the board needs to be more open to what is going on. There is plans that have been approved or asked about that the board denies and then it's found in writing.	9/8/2024 6:38 PM
20	This town is a beautiful, convenient small town jewel. We need to maintain it's green beauty, keep the great services going but plan for improved rental and senior housing that doesn't spoil it's inherent charm and strengths.	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
21	I love the small town feel of Poestenkill. There are many sports, activities, groups that are	9/5/2024 9:50 PM

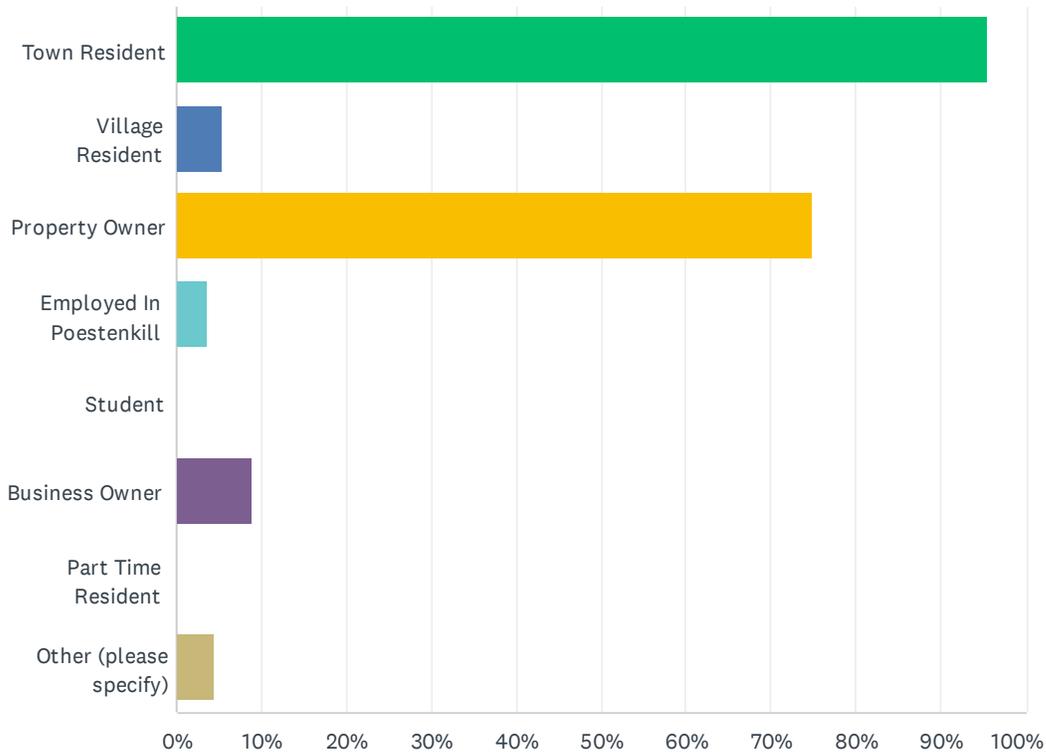
Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

very accessible to our youth and offer great programs including the library, sky high center, averill park youth soccer, the town summer camp, stride fitness (to name only a few). I love that we have a nearby grocery store, gas stations, bank, and excellent non-chain restaurants including Mess Hall, Towne Tavern, Lakeview, Crossroads, and Gipfel (again to name only a few). We even have our local Youngs Pharmacy, and our local Tremonts hardware store. Not to mention numerous small business owners who operate within our community such as mechanics, sand lake merchant, manufacturing/supply such as Valente Lumber, Legenbauer, Interstate Laminates. Businesses are the heartbeat of our town and surrounding community. They bring life and prosperity to our town and are made up of good people who support their neighbors and community. A well rounded town such as ours promotes a sense of community and prosperity. Growth is not about spending more money or taxing the people but about recognizing the strengths that exist and encouraging their growth while promoting a neighborly-ness among residents. Creating partnership and promoting this sense of community while supporting and respecting individual property owners rights and taxes is where the perfect balance lies.

22	Don't make everything so political, do the right thing. It's for everyone, not just some!	9/5/2024 4:57 PM
23	Would like mail with dates/times of all town meeting/events. Follow on Facebook but usually don't see anything in news feed until after board meeting/etc have occurred	9/5/2024 9:12 AM
24	Climate Change Mitigation	9/5/2024 8:10 AM
25	Stop allowing over building of open farm land. We don't need more \$500k cookie cutter houses. We need more farms and forests and open spaces. Keep Poestenkill simple - that's why we moved here away from built up towns	9/5/2024 7:13 AM
26	Please don't let us become wynantsill or west sand lake.	9/5/2024 5:34 AM
27	I chose Poestenkill over Averill Park because I like the more rural, friendly feel. I like the emphasis on nature and natural resources. If that changed I'd most likely move elsewhere.	9/5/2024 12:12 AM
28	country quality	9/4/2024 10:55 PM
29	more diversity, less antagonism from groups like Business Association, less racism	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
30	it is a wonderful community that should prioritize environmental protection and welcoming more people of color and diverse communities. Logging on private land is noisy and unregulated. Need to educate people more about recycling requirements.	9/1/2024 12:13 PM
31	We love Poestenkill and have been residents for a few years now. We enjoy the quiet and small town feel. Sidewalks connecting the firehouse down to Main St would be great, especially with a potential park. Community events or an annual Poestenkill Day at the firehouse would be nice.	8/31/2024 9:03 PM
32	I have young kids and want more public parks, splash pads and a bigger library.	8/31/2024 9:01 PM
33	I think the commercial area of Poestenkill at the intersection of 355/351 should be leaned into to create more of a "Village" feel. Add coffee shops, cafes, community gathering spaces that aren't a church or town hall.	8/28/2024 12:36 PM
34	Peace and quiet and right to farm life. This is what attracts younger home buyers to this area as the older generation moves on. Having housing options to keep our older generation as close to home as possible.	8/27/2024 10:20 PM
35	It's confounding to me that people want to build senior housing with no ambulance service. Who often has a medical emergency? Seniors! Let's not put the cart before the horse.	8/24/2024 9:28 PM
36	No band stand/gathering near the little league fields!	8/24/2024 10:56 AM

Q20 19) What is your relationship to the Town of Poestenkill? Check all that apply

Answered: 111 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Town Resident	95.50%	106
Village Resident	5.41%	6
Property Owner	74.77%	83
Employed In Poestenkill	3.60%	4
Student	0.00%	0
Business Owner	9.01%	10
Part Time Resident	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	4.50%	5
Total Respondents: 111		

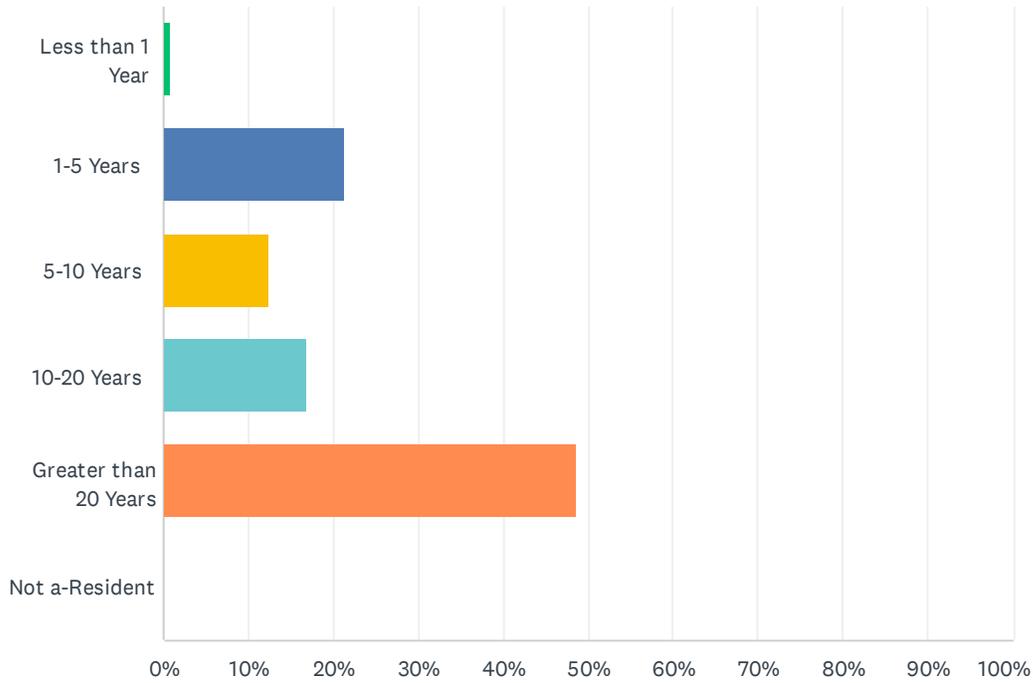
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Galway?	9/3/2024 10:11 AM
2	Former Town Board member	9/2/2024 8:29 PM
3	Again with Galway? Did no one proofread this survey? Did you just rip it off from Galway??	8/24/2024 9:28 PM

Town of Poestenkill Community Survey 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

4	Galway???	8/24/2024 8:42 AM
5	Are these references to Galway an error?	8/24/2024 8:36 AM

Q21 20) How long have you been a resident of the Town of Poestenkill or Hamlets in the town?

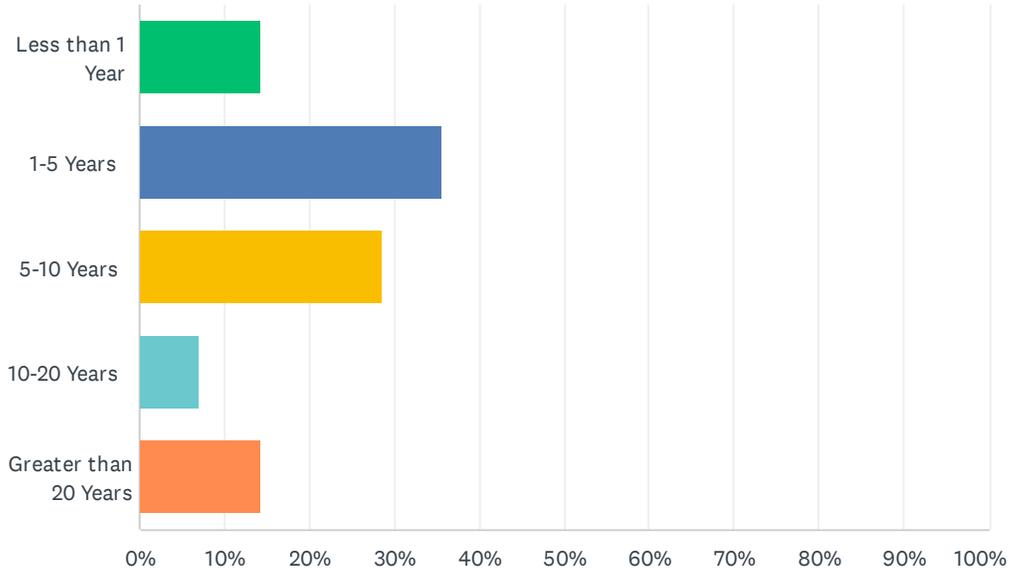
Answered: 113 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than 1 Year	0.88% 1
1-5 Years	21.24% 24
5-10 Years	12.39% 14
10-20 Years	16.81% 19
Greater than 20 Years	48.67% 55
Not a-Resident	0.00% 0
TOTAL	113

Q22 21) If you are a business owner, how long have you owned a business in the Town Poestenkill?

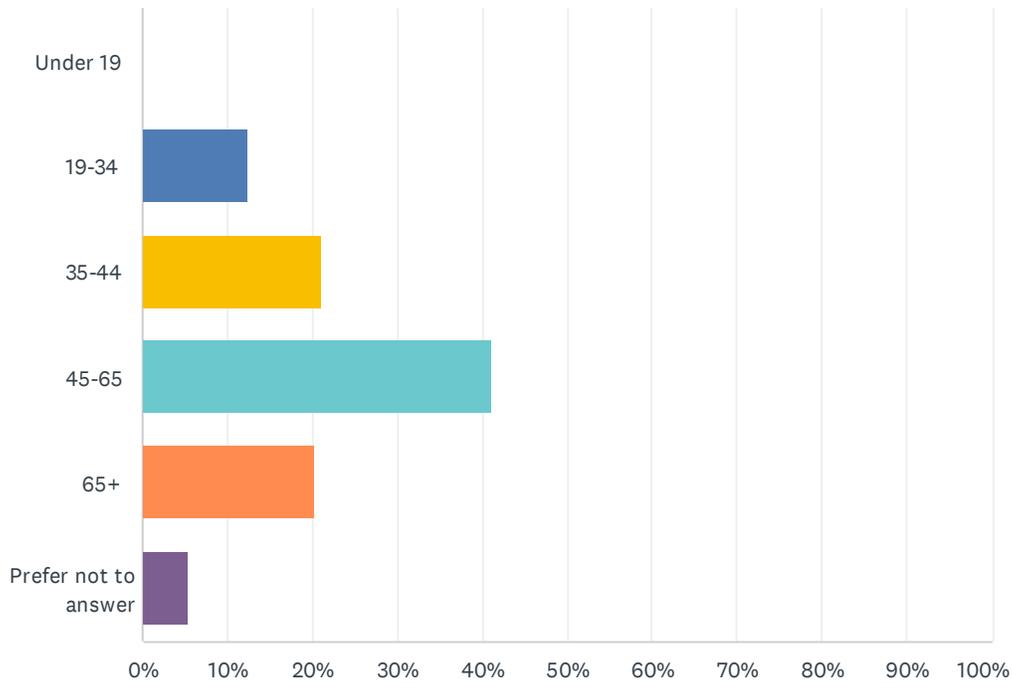
Answered: 14 Skipped: 113



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 Year	14.29%	2
1-5 Years	35.71%	5
5-10 Years	28.57%	4
10-20 Years	7.14%	1
Greater than 20 Years	14.29%	2
TOTAL		14

Q23 22) What is your age group?

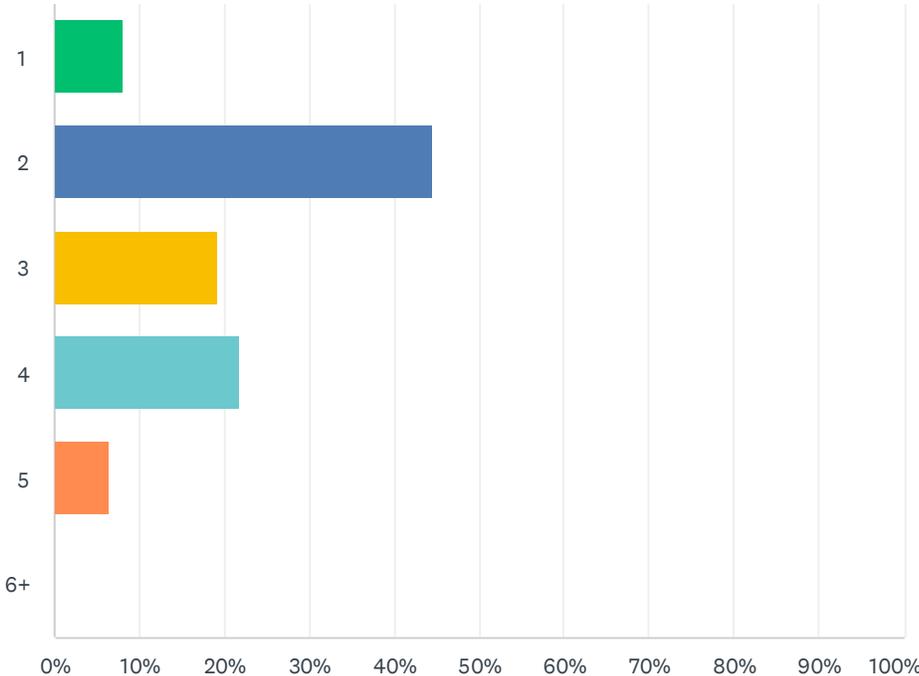
Answered: 114 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 19	0.00%	0
19-34	12.28%	14
35-44	21.05%	24
45-65	41.23%	47
65+	20.18%	23
Prefer not to answer	5.26%	6
TOTAL		114

Q24 23) How many people live in your household?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	8.18%	9
2	44.55%	49
3	19.09%	21
4	21.82%	24
5	6.36%	7
6+	0.00%	0
TOTAL		110

APPENDIX B:

Public Engagement Workshop #1

Displays and Results

Facebook Promotion for Workshop #1

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
OPEN HOUSE



SEPTEMBER 18
4 - 8 PM
at the FIREHOUSE

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
OPEN HOUSE



SEPTEMBER 25 4 - 8 PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF EAST POESTENKILL

Town of Poestenkill Comprehensive Plan Update

The Town of Poestenkill is updating its Comprehensive Plan to help establish both a vision and an implementation plan to make Poestenkill a better place to ***live, work, and play.***



JOIN US TO HELP SHAPE POESTENKILL'S FUTURE

PUBLIC VISIONING OPEN HOUSE WORKSHOPS

Open House 1: Wednesday, September 18th 2024 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Firehouse, 182 Main Street | Poestenkill, NY 12140

Open House 2: Wednesday, September 25th 2024 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
First Baptist Church of East Poestenkill, 12 Legenbauer Road | Averill Park, NY 12018

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!

Please join us for a Community Open House to share your ideas about the future of the Town of Poestenkill. This community event will guide policy and land use decisions for years to come!

DURING THIS WORKSHOP:

- Share your vision for Poestenkill.
- Comment on Map displays.
- Identify the strengths, opportunities, and challenges facing Poestenkill.
- Discuss resource needs and priorities.

<https://www.poestenkillny.com/town-comprehensive-plan>



Tom Russell, Supervisor
Town of Poestenkill
518-283-5100 ext. 104
TRussell@poestenkillny.com

Susan E. Roth, AICP, Laberge Group
Senior Planner
518 458 7122 Ext 149
SRoth@labergegroup.com

Community Survey!

SCAN ME! PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY HERE:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Poestenkill>

Paper copies at Town Hall.

YOUR IDEAS WILL HELP SHAPE THE TOWN OF POESTENKILL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS!

Station 1: Pathways in Rural Areas

Enhancing Mobility Safety and Enjoyment

The below images illustrate ways streets can be designed to improve mobility, without compromising the rural character in Poestenkill. Tell us if these designs would be useful in Poestenkill. Feel free to add a comment telling us where in Town these designs would be most appropriate or needed!

Rural Streets	I like this	Comments
<p>Turning Lanes on Local Collector Roads (Photo Simulated Below)</p> 		
<p>Shared Use Paths or Trails</p>  		
<p>Rural Trails</p>  		
<p>Sidewalks</p>  		

Station 2: Rural Character

Housing

The below images highlight different housing types that could be encouraged in Poestenkill. Let us know which are appropriate or needed in Poestenkill. Feel free to tell us in the comments where in Poestenkill these should be encouraged.

Housing	I like this	Comments	Housing	I like this	Comments
<p>Large lot single family</p> 			<p>Townhome (3+ units sharing walls)</p> 		
<p>Small Lot Single Family</p> 			<p>Senior "Pocket Neighborhoods"</p> 		
<p>Duplex Traditional Design</p> 			<p>Accessory Dwellings</p> 		

Station 3: Rural Character

Commercial Uses

The below images highlight different types of commercial development that could be encouraged. Let us know which are appropriate or needed in Poestenkill. Feel free to tell us in the comments where in Poestenkill these should be encouraged.

Commercial Uses	Comments/ I like this	Commercial Uses	Comments/ I like this	Commercial Uses	Comments
Agricultural Business 		Skilled Trades 		Air BnB opportunities 	
Farm Event/ Restaurant 		Home Business 		Light Industrial 	
Small Market 		Professional Service 		Small Scale Retail 	
Coop or Farmers Market 		Outdoor Storage/Sales 		Business Park 	

Station 4: Rural Character

Unique Features

Poestenkill's history, scenery, and built environment all contribute to its unique sense of place. Enhancing and preserving these features will also help to preserve Poestenkill's rural character. Let us know which are appropriate or needed in Poestenkill. Feel free to tell us in the comments where in Poestenkill these should be encouraged.

Feature	I like this	Comments	Feature	I like this	Comments
Signage/Wayfinding 			Stone Walls 		
Coordinated Lighting 			Fences 		
Barns/Silos 			Historic Markers/Banners 		
Should developers be encouraged to preserve or incorporate these features during site design?			YES	NO	

Station 6: Recreation in Poestenkill

Place a sticker for the amenities you would like to see and tell us where would be a good place for them.

Amenities	Place Stickers	Amenities	Place Stickers
1. ENTERTAINMENT SPACES		2. ACTIVE SPORTS	
Pavilion, Gazebo		Basketball Court, Tennis Court	
Picnic Area		Temporary Ice Rink, Skateboard Park,	
Open Area For Events		Pickleball Court, Bocci Courts	
Outdoor Performance Stage		Baseball Field	
3. PERMANENT STRUCTURES		4. PLAY AREAS	
Restrooms + Storage		SPLASH Pad PARK	
Parking Lot With EV Stations		Playground (5 And Up)	
Improved Lighting		Tot Playground (Under 5)	
5. Public Natural Areas, Accessible Preserves		6. Water Activities and Access	
Trail, Walking Paths with Furnishing		Boat & Kayak Launch	
Improved Landscaping		Camp Sites	
Community Garden		Waterfront Restaurants	

Station 8: Evaluate the Draft Vision Statement

Below is the Draft Vision Statement for Poestenkill. Does this statement resonate with you? Tell us what you think: What do you like about it, what changes do you think need to be made?

The Town of Poestenkill is a vital and prosperous community that is rural by choice. Future progress requires that the Town wisely protect and preserve its rich rural heritage and assets: traditional small town character, open space and scenic beauty, natural resources, diverse citizenry and strong community schools.

In the decades ahead, the Town will enjoy a stable and varied local economy and remain a desirable place to live, raise a family, work and retire. Poestenkill's lively hamlet - the center of community life - will be sustained, offering a growing mix of small locally-owned businesses, stores, professional services and community facilities. The Town will encourage residents to buy homes, improve their housing, and create suitable housing for seniors. The Town will endeavor to provide the infrastructure necessary to protect water quality and support existing commercial enterprises.

The Town of Poestenkill endeavors to accommodate carefully planned new residential development, commercial enterprises and public infrastructure which fit harmoniously into the town fabric, are compatible with established neighborhoods, and are designed in a manner that conserves its important natural resources, waterways and aquifer, agricultural lands and family farms.

Use a post it to put your thoughts here.

Station 9: Strengths and Challenges

What are Poestenkill's Strengths and Challenges?
Please use a Post it to tell us in a few words.

Community Strengths

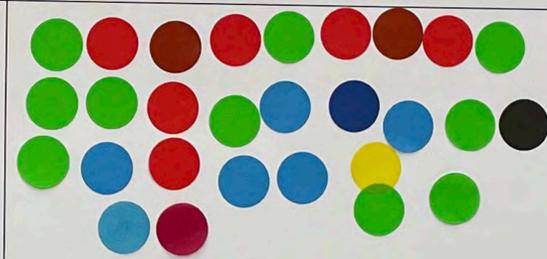
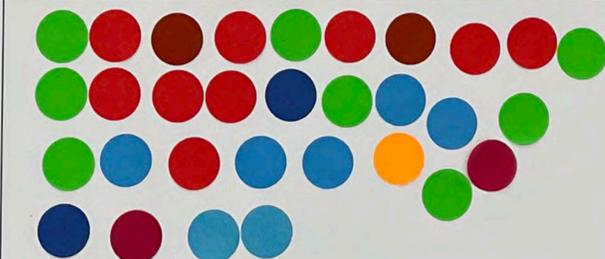
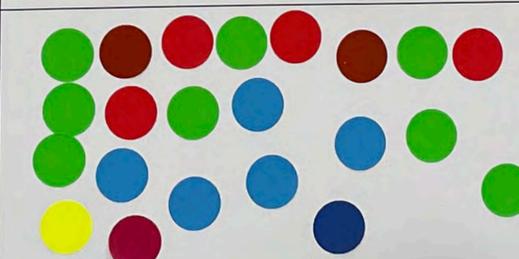
Community Challenges

Place Post it Here

Station 1: Pathways in Rural Areas

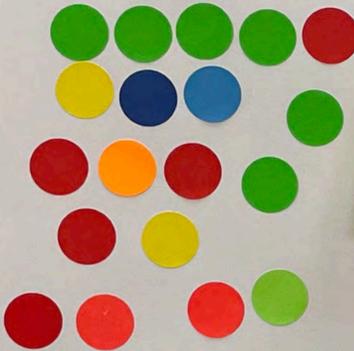
Enhancing Mobility Safety and Enjoyment

The below images illustrate ways streets can be designed to improve mobility, without compromising the rural character in Poestenkill. Tell us if these designs would be useful in Poestenkill. Feel free to add a comment telling us where in Town these designs would be most appropriate or needed!

Rural Streets		I like this	Comments
Turning Lanes on Local Collector Roads (Photo Simulated Below) 		<p>Too urban! Do not like!</p> <p>Trucks Increasing regardless if we like it or not + faster border</p> <p>Enhances Traffic Safety and assists with traffic flow.</p> <p>Widening roads lower traffic to drive faster = less safe for pedestrians</p> <p>To much like city do not want x2</p>	
Shared Use Paths or Trails  		<p>Would A BIKE CONNECT TO EMPIRE TRAIL</p> <p>Weather- Bike trail/ walking side walk</p> <p>NO Multi Lane R/Rs In poestenkill</p> <p>Use State Bike Path</p>	
Rural Trails  		<p>Good alternative to walking/biking on remote roads</p> <p>Rural Trails that can be shared.</p> <p>maintain biking trails</p>	
Sidewalks  		<p>Side walk are Great - But ones we have now - are not kept up Need needs to be taken care of x2</p> <p>We do not need anymore sidewalks Just fix the ones we have x2</p> <p>we Side Village complete around the School to village.</p> <p>To LIBRARY yes for sure</p> <p>No New Sidewalk fix what we have and replace street lights when they go out</p> <p>MAIN STREET 2.45 mile Needs repair</p>	

Station 2: Rural Character Housing

The below images highlight different housing types that could be encouraged in Poestenkill. Let us know which are appropriate or needed in Poestenkill. Feel free to tell us in the comments where in Poestenkill these should be encouraged.

Housing	I like this	Comments	Housing	I like this
<p>Large lot single family</p> 		<p>Bad use of land</p> <p>We do not need anymore housing in Poestenkill</p> 	<p>Townhome (3+ units sharing walls)</p> 	
<p>Small Lot Single Family</p> 		<p>IN r/hr hamlet! "agree"</p> <p>Do not like this at all</p> <p>Keep 1 acre lot MIN not hamlet</p> 	<p>Senior "Pocket Neighborhoods"</p> 	
<p>Duplex Traditional Design</p> 		<p>IN CERTAIN AREAS OK</p> <p>Doesn't belong here</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>Accessory Dwellings</p> 	

I don't care which kind of housing - prefer minimal builds... maybe housing w/ minimum size

This is the country NOT suburbs

1 Acre per house. No need to change that for the Kronous

Too Suburbs

NO

NO

No Cluster Duplex

Keep Seniors in town!

Keep in Special Areas Better than Townhomes

Not AFAP

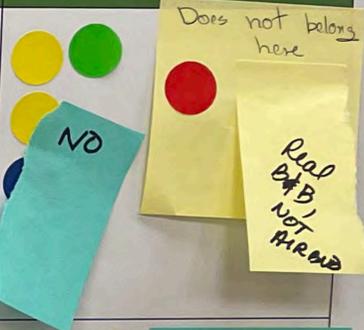
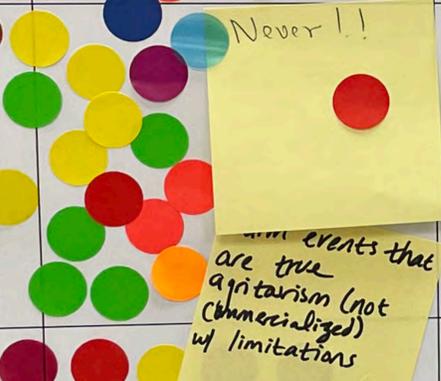
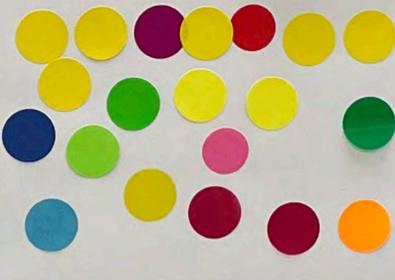
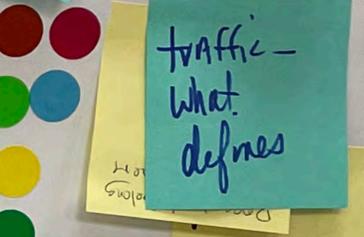
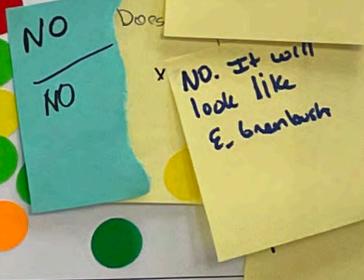
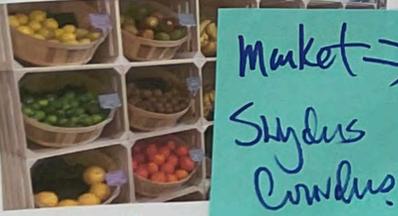
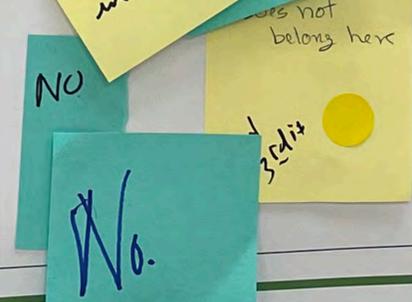
it depends on many things - but I'm for them

NO

Station 3: Rural Character

Commercial Uses

The below images highlight different types of commercial development that could be encouraged. Let us know which are appropriate or needed in Poestenkill. Feel free to tell us in the comments where in Poestenkill these should be encouraged.

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Agricultural Business 		Skilled Trades 		Home BnB opportunities 	
Farm Event/ Restaurant 		Home Business 		Light Industrial 	
Small Market 		Professional Service 		Small Scale Retail 	
Coop or Farmers Market 		Outdoor Storage/Sales 		Business Park 	

Limited Entertainment in all of area not just here you is dead here

MORE LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
No chains
a go

WOULD LOVE MORE LOCAL SHOPS (NO CHAINS, DOLLAR GENERAL ETC)

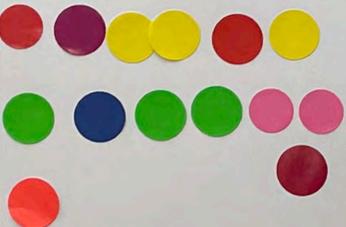
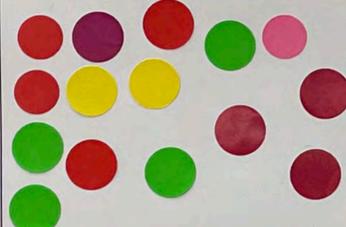
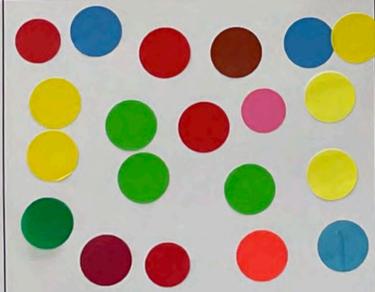
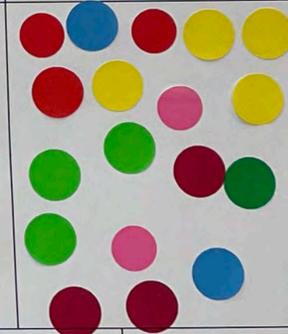
Market -> Skybus Cowbus

No.

Station 4: Rural Character

Unique Features

Poestenkill's history, scenery, and built environment all contribute to its unique sense of place. Enhancing and preserving these features will also help to preserve Poestenkill's rural character. Let us know which are appropriate or needed in Poestenkill. Feel free to tell us in the comments where in Poestenkill these should be encouraged.

Feature	I like this	Comments	Feature	I like this	Comments
Signage/Wayfinding 		<p>NO - historic markers</p> <p>NO</p>	Stone Walls 		<p>Real Stone</p> <p>No manufactured retaining walls</p> <p>if existing</p>
Coordinated Lighting 		<p>needed for end of trail</p> <p>biking / dog walking</p> <p>walking on side of road w/ no sidewalk</p>	Fences 		<p>Needed!</p> <p>If fence looks historic and appealing like in photo. (not chainlink)</p>
Barns/Silos 			Historic Markers/Banners 		<p>Helps appreciate history of town</p> <p>Not Needed</p>
Should developers be encouraged to preserve or incorporate these features during site design?			YES		NO

Station 6: Recreation in Poestenkill

Place a sticker for the amenities you would like to see and tell us where would be a good place for them.

Amenities	Place Stickers	Amenities	Place Stickers
1. ENTERTAINMENT SPACES		2. ACTIVE SPORTS	
Pavilion, Gazebo		Basketball Court, Tennis Court	
Picnic Area		Temporary Ice Rink, Skateboard Park,	
Open Area For Events		Pickleball Court, Bocci Courts	
Outdoor Performance Stage		Baseball Field	
3. PERMANENT STRUCTURES		4. PLAY AREAS	
Restrooms + Storage		SPLASH Pad PARK	
Parking Lot With EV Stations		Playground (5 And Up)	
Improved Lighting		Tot Playground (Under 5)	
5. Public Natural Areas, Accessible Preserves		6. Water Activities and Access	
Trail, Walking Paths with Furnishing		Boat & Kayak Launch	
Improved Landscaping		Camp Sites	
Community Garden		Waterfront Restaurants	

We don't need

Not Needed
Ditto
Trails for Mountain Biking

NO
Not needed
not needed

one of the best parts of living here

in the country - power outage

We already have

NOT Needed
- Preserve woodlands
- focus on promoting native plants

This is all @ grafted so there.

Not Needed
need restaurants!
what waterfront on town?

Falls TOO many Drownings!

Station 7: Places and Spaces

Place a dot on the map, and tell us about the location: Is it in need of improvement, is it a place that should be preserved? Is this a good place for a cultural, art or music event? Is there a place where you would like a trail connection? Tell us why.

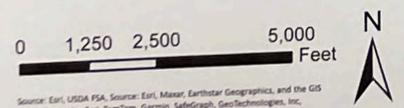
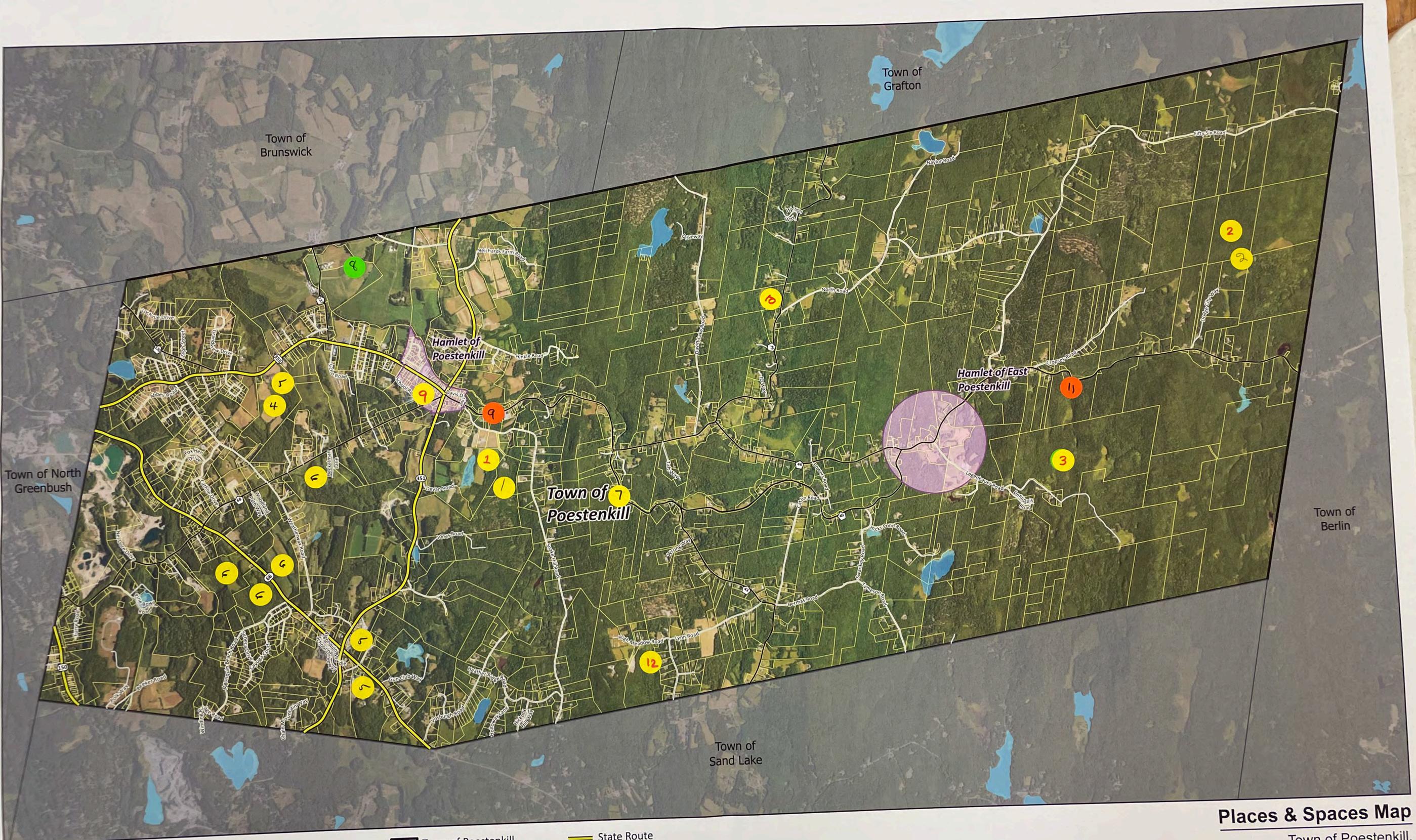
Sticker No.	Please place a dot on the map and tell us why.	Sticker No.	Please place a dot on the map and tell us why.
1	Great wildlife viewing area. - preserve *		
2	Pineridge X country ski - preserve *		
3	wildlife viewing, HIKING, VOLUNTEERING *		
4	Expand commercial area @ OSI yes		YES
5	Add more commercially zoned property		YES
6	Higher density housing yes		NO
7	No Solar farms		
8	Protect viewshed; the views bring visitors to local business (farm stands)		
9	Build up town center yes		YES
10	FARM EVENT / RESTAURANT / AGRITOURISM		
11	Preserve forests and limit developments		
12	Limit all types of development		
orange 9	2+ Acre min per parcel to build		
#10	Weathermax Rd → 351 - Saddlehill - Rd - more Barren		

No Solar Farms
Leave Woods
and open land
alone.

Ditto!

Would be great if
Pineridge Xc
preserve could
be opened up
for mountain
biking.

Build
up a
town center
+ Business Park
to preserve



Source: Esri, USDA, FEMA, Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS

- Town of Poestenkill
- Surrounding Municipalities
- Hamlets in Poestenkill
- Water Bodies
- State Route
- County Roads
- Streets

Places & Spaces Map
 Town of Poestenkill,
 Rensselaer County, New York

E-MAIL: [unreadable]

Station 8: Evaluate the Draft Vision Statement

Below is the Draft Vision Statement for Poestenkill. Does this statement resonate with you? Tell us what you think: What do you like about it, what changes do you think need to be made?

The Town of Poestenkill is a vital and prosperous community that is rural by choice. Future progress requires that the Town wisely protect and preserve its rich rural heritage and assets: traditional small town character, open space and scenic beauty, natural resources, diverse citizenry and strong community schools.

In the decades ahead, the Town will enjoy a stable and varied local economy and remain a desirable place to live, raise a family, work and retire. Poestenkill's lively hamlet - the center of community life - will be sustained, offering a growing mix of small locally-owned businesses, stores, professional services and community facilities. The Town will encourage residents to buy homes, improve their housing, and create suitable housing for seniors. The Town will endeavor to provide the infrastructure necessary to protect water quality and support existing commercial enterprises.

The Town of Poestenkill endeavors to accommodate carefully planned new residential development, commercial enterprises and public infrastructure which fit harmoniously into the town fabric, are compatible with established neighborhoods, and are designed in a manner that conserves its important natural resources, waterways and aquifer, agricultural lands and family farms.

Use a post it to put your thoughts here.

Can we improve homes and build less?

← agree & forest need to be preserved

Excellent - It does resonate w/ me! Esp. Sr. Housing!!

LOVE IT!
ESP 2nd Paragraph

I wish the town was a "lively hamlet". We need responsible development to encourage people to stay and play in our town.

Climate resilience
+
Flood + Storm Prep

protect water - no group septic systems for clusters of housing

Generally great. But, A suitable place for each is important to preserve town character.

Preserve the forested land

Station 9: Strengths and Challenges

What are Poestenkill's Strengths and Challenges?
Please use a Post it to tell us in a few words.

Community Strengths

Place Post it Here

Not a crowded Place - *

We want peace. We do not need more housing, or businesses. Keep Poestenkill the way it is!

If you need 25 acres to build it should be all usable land!

Place Post it Here

Barbersville Falls *

UNMATCHED BEAUTY!

A TRUE SENSE OF COMMUNITY VFW + BALL FIELDS TOWN CENTER

Community Forest

Opportunities for growth

Sense of Community

Natural Beauty

It's the country

RPA Inadvertent + lands

Place Post it Here

Community Challenges

Walkability + Pedestrian Safety

Having too many contractors building everywhere!

A PLACE IN TOWN TO GATHER AS A COMMUNITY. ✓

Add Safety Barbersville Falls

Noisy commercial business in residential zones

Community dev. in town center

We need safe place to walk in town

BEING able to have a place (or two) to get a beer and / Food

Keeping low taxes while preserving rural beauty

Too many short sighted folks getting in the way of progress

Flooding + worse storms due to climate change

A TOWN CENTER, i.e. VILLAGE (need business + sidewalks)

If you move from the city to the country - you can't bring the city with you this is the country. you move over.

Town centers too much for Quorries. They have changed the landscape causing some flooding

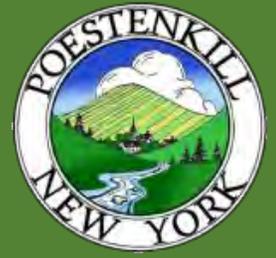
Too much trash thrown on local streets by?

Little to do in town - Have to leave for most things

Place Post it Here

APPENDIX C:
Public Engagement Workshop #3
Displays and Results

Town of Poestenkill Comprehensive Plan Update



Public Workshop #2: Evaluating Goals and Key Projects



JOIN US!

We need your input to refine these important planning strategies to meet the needs of your community!

DURING THIS WORKSHOP:

- Review Community Profile Data.
- Comment on Goals & Strategies.
- Review Key Projects

Drop-in and leave your input anytime at one of these Open House Locations

Wednesday, December 4th 2024, 4-8 p.m.
Poestenkill Firehouse, 182 Main Street
Poestenkill, NY 12140

Wednesday, December 11th 2024, 3-7 p.m.
First Baptist Church of East Poestenkill,
12 Legenbauer Road, Averill Park, NY 12018

Tom Russell, Supervisor
Town of Poestenkill
518-283-5100 ext. 104
TRussell@poestenkillny.com

\Susan E. Roth, AICP, Laberge Group
Senior Planner
518 458 7122 Ext 149
SRoth@labergegroup.com

SCAN ME!



For More Information: Visit
<https://www.poestenkillny.com/town-comprehensive-plan>



Station 1: Community Profile

Community Demographics

COMMUNITY SUMMARY

Poestenkill, NY
Geography: County Subdivision

4,210	-0.80%	2.51	16.4	\$45.8	\$107,477	\$278,854	\$367,979	19.9%	61.1%	18.9%
Population Total	Population Growth	Average HH Size	Diversity Index	Median Age	Median HH Income	Median Home Value	Median Net Worth	Age <18	Age 18-64	Age 65+

EMPLOYMENT



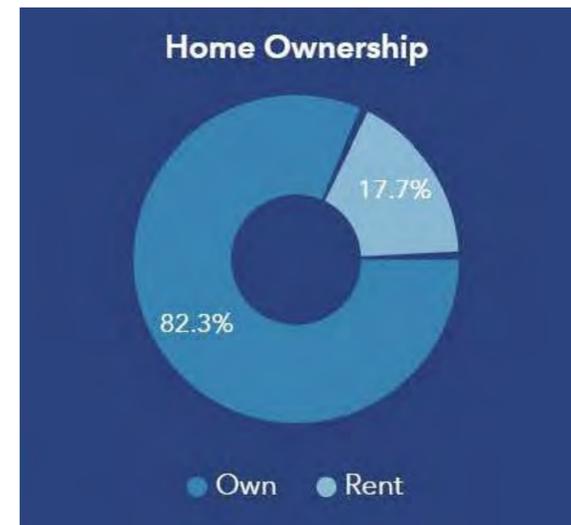
8.9%
Services



21.0%
Blue Collar



70.1%
White Collar



Income and Poverty
Median Household Income
\$120,302
S1901 | 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Housing
Total Housing Units
1,808
H1 | 2020 Decennial Census

Race and Ethnicity
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
95
P9 | 2020 Decennial Census

Education
Bachelor's Degree or Higher
37.8%
S1501 | 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Health
Without Health Care Coverage
3.0%
S2701 | 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Populations and People
Total Population
4,322
P1 | 2020 Decennial Census

Employment
Employment Rate
68.3%
DP03 | 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Families and Living Arrangements
Total Households
1,559
DP02 | 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Station 2: Goals and Strategies

Goal 4 (Strategy 2), Goal 8 (Strategy 1,2 & 4)

How important is the following in Town of Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comment
Ambulance Services 				
Improvement of Fire Department 				
Assessing Road for Safety 				
Protecting Safe Walking Routes (Sidewalks) 				
Increase Availability of Transit for Medical Services. 				
Park & Ride Near Existing Transit Opportunities. 				

Station 2: Goals and Strategies

Goal 1 (Strategy 1,2,5 & 6)

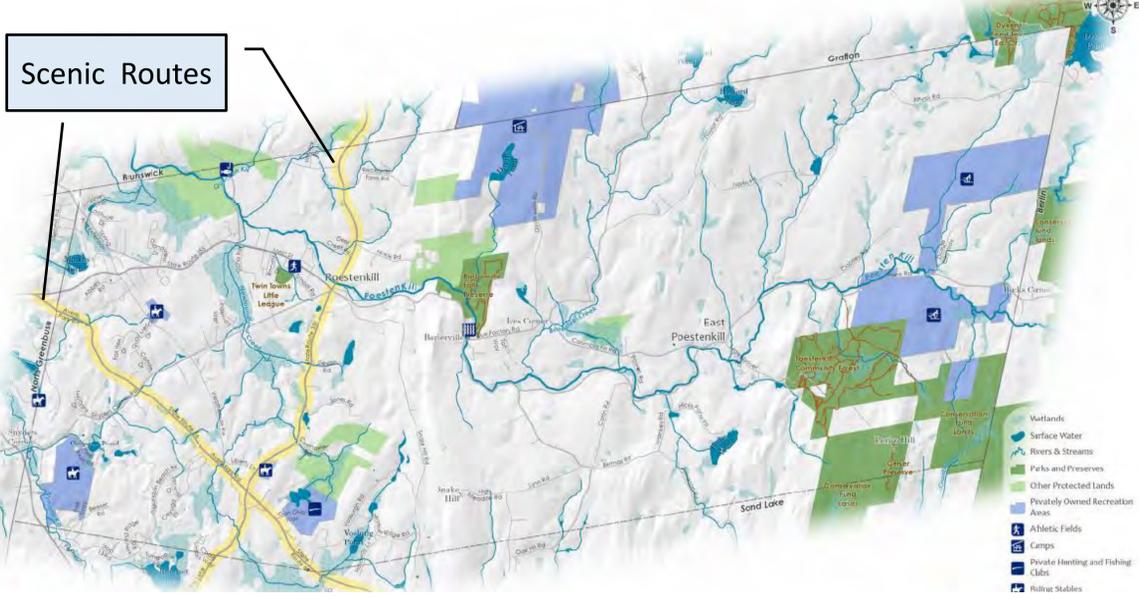
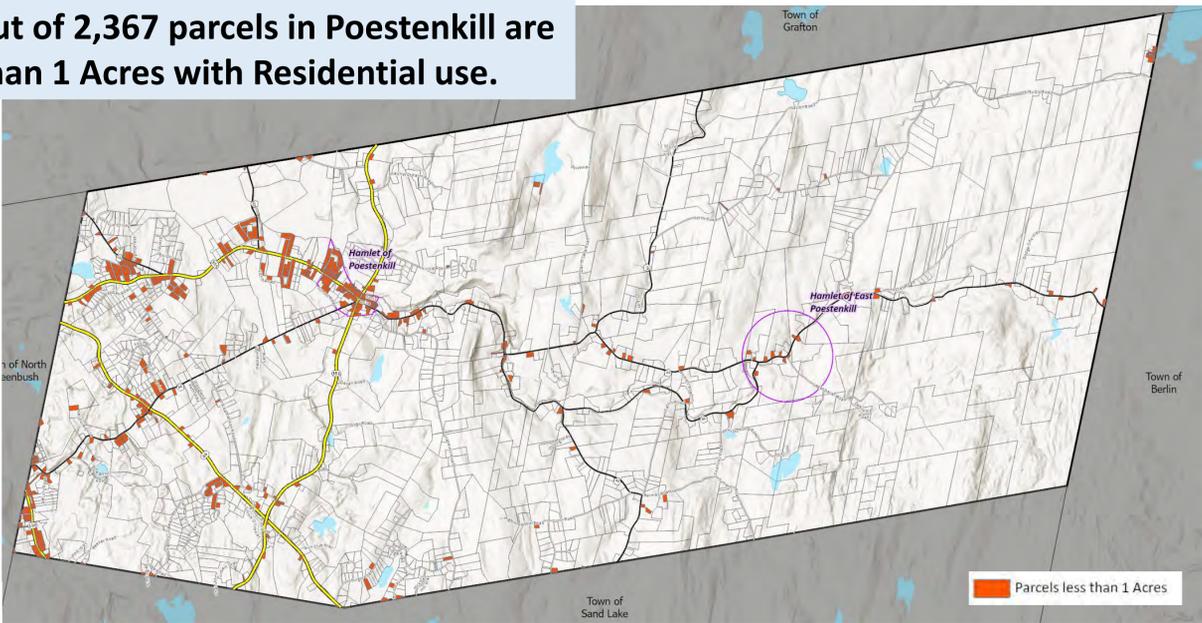
How important is the following in Hamlet/Town of Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comment
<p>Funding for Housing Rehabilitation Programs in Hamlet and for Older Historic Homes in the Town.</p> 				
<p>Improve Sidewalks in the Hamlet.</p>  				
<p>Community Center Close to Hamlets.</p> 				
<p>Small Park on Town-owned Property Within the Hamlet.</p> 				

Station 2: Goals and Strategies

Goal 2 (Strategy 1,2 & 4)

How important is the following in Hamlet/Town of Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comment
<p>Accessory Dwelling</p>  <p>Attached ADU Detached ADU</p>				
<p>Senior Housing</p> 				
<p>Discourage Ongoing Sprawl of Residential Housing and Subdivisions.</p> 				

526 out of 2,367 parcels in Poestenkill are less than 1 Acres with Residential use.

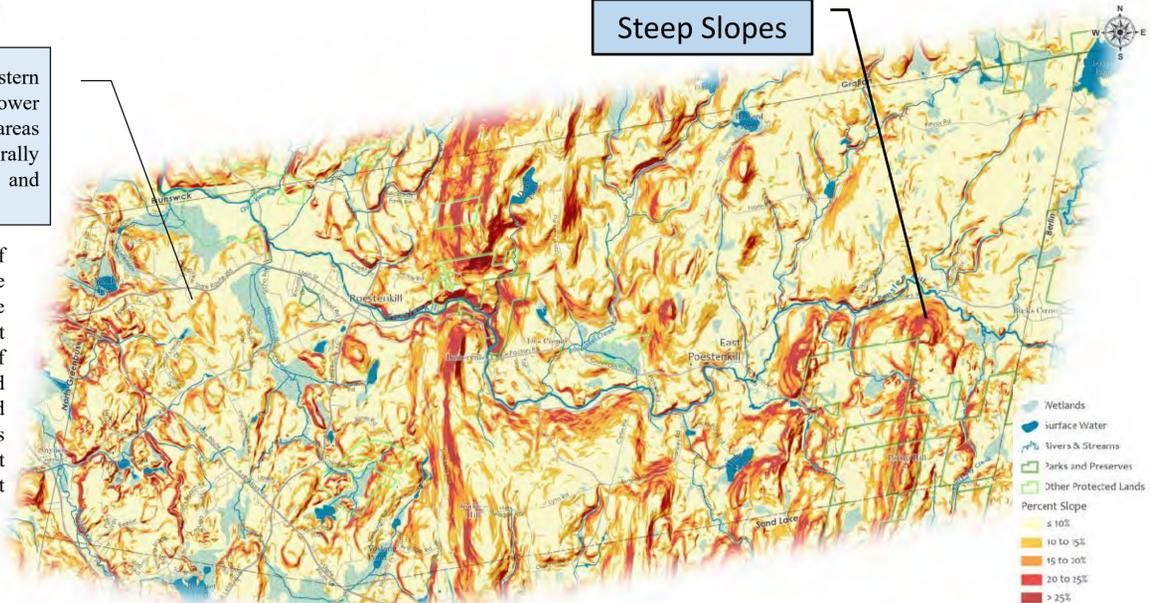


Station 2: Goals and Strategies

How important is to map and protect the the following in Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comment
<p>Steep Slopes (Discourage Development on Steep Slopes)</p> 				
<p>Stream Corridors</p> 				
<p>Mature Forests</p> 				

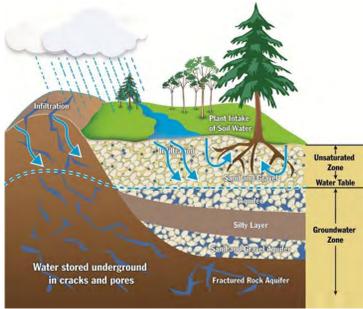
There are flatter areas in the western section of Poestenkill with lower elevations around 400 ft. These areas are more populous and are generally better suited for agriculture and residential.

The steepest slopes in the Town of Poestenkill are situated along the western escarpment of the Rensselaer Plateau to the northeast and southeast of the hamlet of Poestenkill. Slopes here can exceed 25 %. Because of the varied topography on the Plateau, slopes can vary from less than 10 percent to over 25 % and can limit residential development.



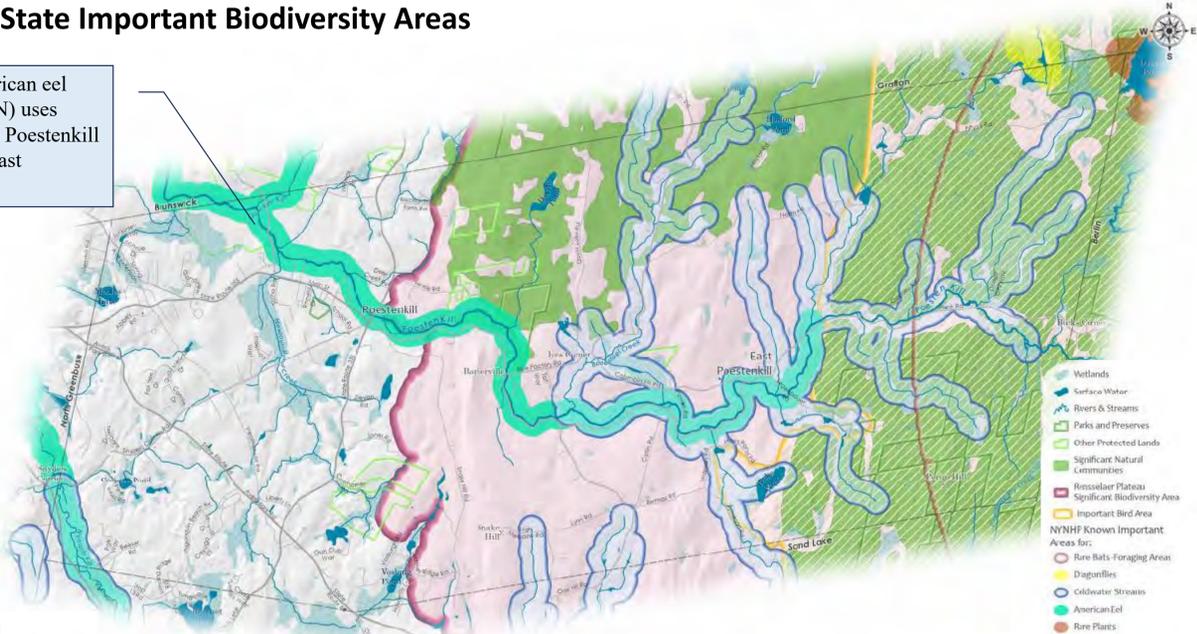
The Poestenkill Community Forest (PCF) is open to the public and provides for recreational trails for Plateau residents and visitors, serves as a demonstration area of best management practices for forest stewardship, and is a venue for a variety of other educational programs for adults and children.

Station 2: Goals and Strategies

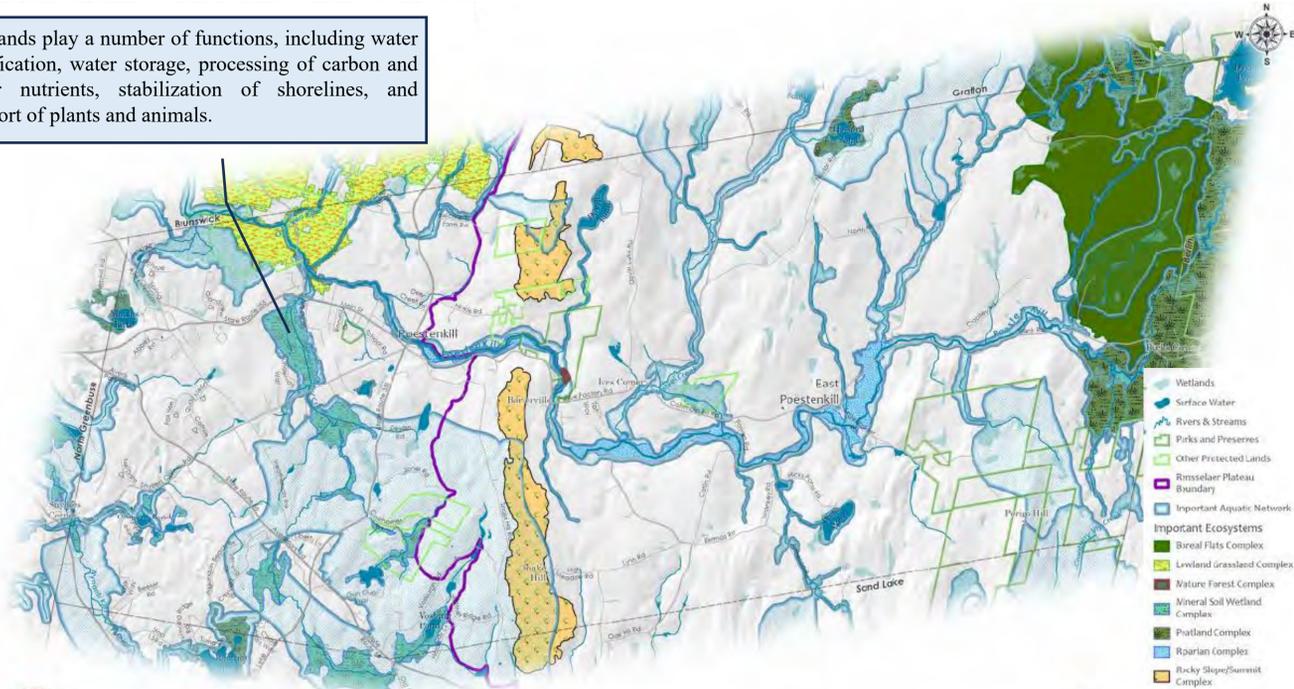
How important is to map and protect the the following in Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comment
<p>Wetlands and Wetland Transition Areas</p> 				
<p>Endangered Species Areas</p> 				
<p>Aquifer Recharge and Discharge Areas</p> 				

State Important Biodiversity Areas

The migratory American eel (High Priority SGCN) uses stream habitat in the Poestenkill as far upstream as East Poestenkill.

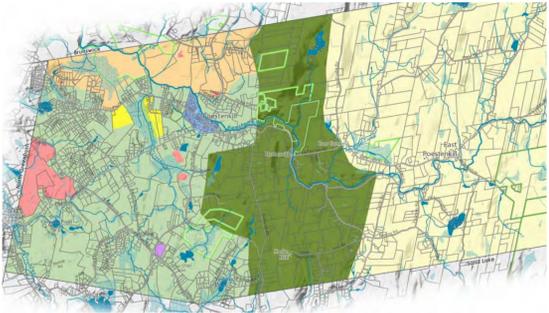


Wetlands play a number of functions, including water purification, water storage, processing of carbon and other nutrients, stabilization of shorelines, and support of plants and animals.



Station 3: Key Projects

Key projects are undertaken by the municipality for the benefit of the whole community and are funded by grants. Sometime project are led by the other entities but supported by the municipality. The key projects shown on the following tables address needs that were identified through public participation in Poestenkill Comprehensive Plan Update.

Potential Key Project	Place stickers if you support the project	Place stickers if you object to the project	Comments
<p>Zoning Code Consider changes to the zoning code to reduce impacts on Poestenkill’s environmentally sensitive areas. These changes could include provisions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compel developers to provide more environmental details in the applications as part of preliminary review. • Prohibit development in sensitive areas, such as steep slopes and wetlands, or require a high level of study to show why encroachment is necessary and will have minimal impact on the environment. • Require visual impact studies. 			
<p>Land Conservation Plan Development of a land conservation plan for the Town that will guide decisions and Town-wide policy and support future changes to the zoning code, including the appropriate use of cluster development, ridgeline protection and buffers around shared water resources that are important to residents of the Town of Poestenkill.</p>			

Station 3: Key Projects

Name of the projects	Place stickers if you support the project	Place stickers if you object to the project	Comments
<p>Identify Environmental Areas Identify and create a series of maps that show environmental areas worthy of protection during site plan and subdivision review.</p> 			
<p>Wayfinding for Hiking & Fishing Wayfinding for hiking, fishing, other trails and public parking at major intersections and on roadsides near trailheads.</p> 			

Station 3: Key Projects

Potential Key Project	Place stickers if you support the project	Place stickers if you object to the project	Comments
<p>Creation of a Town Park The Park could be a facility for free recreation, playground, walking trails, picnicking and gathering. Amenities of the park would be subject to public input.</p> 			
<p>Sewer Feasibility Study This study would examine the feasibility of creating a sewer system in areas served by public water.</p> 			
<p>Create new rural trails: The project would create a new trails along Town rights of ways or be supported by the Town on conserved land.</p> 			

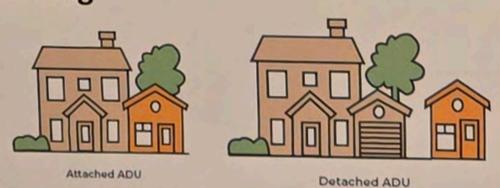
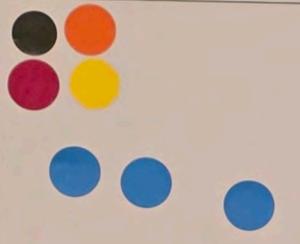
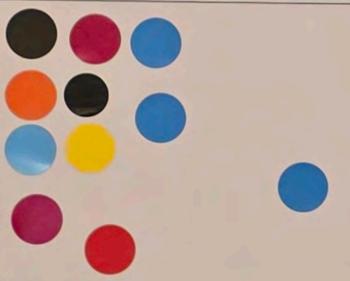
Station 2: Goals and Strategies

Goal 1 (Strategy 1,2,5 & 6)

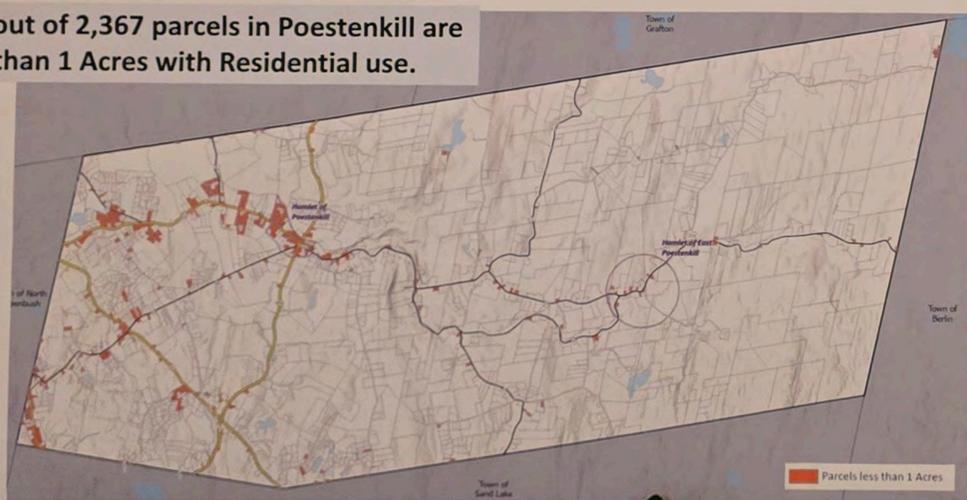
How important is the following in Hamlet/Town of Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comment
<p>Funding for Housing Rehabilitation Programs in Hamlet and for Older Historic Homes in the Town.</p> 	<p>● (Red) ● (Green) ● (Yellow)</p>	<p>● (Orange) ● (Green) ● (Orange) ● (Yellow) ● (Yellow)</p>	<p>● (Black)</p>	<p>this is a new idea to me</p> <p>Preserve history and pride in community</p> <p>This might be important if Poestenkill were a tourist destination, but it's not.</p>
<p>Improve Sidewalks in the Hamlet.</p> 	<p>● (Orange) ● (Blue) ● (Orange) ● (Black) ● (Yellow) ● (Orange)</p>		<p>● (Black) ● (Black)</p>	<p>How many people use the sidewalks? what is the scope (what/where do the sidewalks go to?)</p> <p>who is tasked with maintaining the sidewalk? (The town or the residents)</p> <p>Town should have a sidewalk and the snow removal competition</p> <p>This would eliminate the hassle of whether the residents or Highway Dept do this</p>
<p>Community Center Close to Hamlets.</p> 	<p>● (Orange) ● (Blue) ● (Red) ● (Yellow) ● (Yellow)</p>	<p>● (Yellow) ● (Green)</p>	<p>● (Orange)</p>	<p>This sounds more like something geared for a higher income / Bethlehem area</p> <p>Support Library more as a center</p> <p>Need a little space for community to come together</p>
<p>Small Park on Town-owned Property Within the Hamlet.</p> 	<p>● (Orange) ● (Yellow) ● (Yellow) ● (Orange) ● (Red) ● (Blue) ● (Black) ● (Red)</p>	<p>● (Black) ● (Yellow)</p>	<p>● (Green) ● (Orange)</p>	<p>Who pays for it? who will use it? Cost? Location? Who maintains it?</p> <p>THAT IS THE PAR K.</p> <p>Who maintains it? which means more \$</p>

Station 2: Goals and Strategies

Goal 2 (Strategy 1,2 & 4)

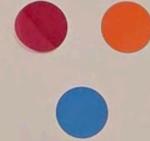
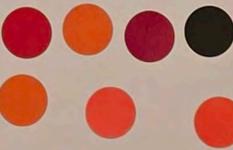
How important is the following in Hamlet/Town of Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comment
Accessory Dwelling 				<p>I would support duplexes also</p>
Senior Housing 				<p>IN CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A GOAL!</p> <p>+ THAT SOUNDS GOOD</p>
Discourage Ongoing Sprawl of Residential Housing and Subdivisions. 				<p>one idea would be to cluster housing, in order to increase green space/discourage low</p> <p>Keep forests intact</p>

526 out of 2,367 parcels in Poestenkill are less than 1 Acres with Residential use.



Station 2: Goals and Strategies

Goal 4 (Strategy 2), Goal 8 (Strategy 1,2 & 4)

How important is the following in Town of Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comment
Ambulance Services 				<p>THIS IS CRITICAL! - Ditto! - Yes! Ditto</p> <p>Kinda knew it already, but if given another chance, Yes!</p>
Improvement of Fire Department 				
Assessing Road for Safety 				
Protecting Safe Walking Routes (Sidewalks) 				<p>Are sidewalks needed? Need study to determine frequency of use & purpose.</p>
Increase Availability of Transit for Medical Services. 				<p>Who pays for this? Need more info.</p>
Park & Ride Near Existing Transit Opportunities. 				

How important is the following in the Town of Poestenkill?

Wetlands and Wetland Transition Areas

Endangered Species

Aquifer Recharge and Discharge Areas

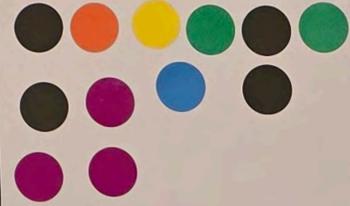
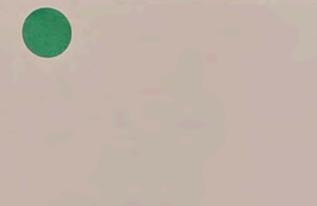
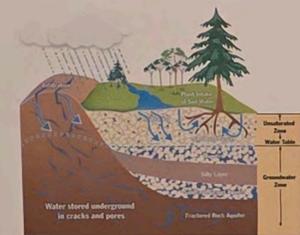
State Importation

The migratory American eel (High Priority SGCN) uses stream habitat in the Poestenkill as far upstream as East Poestenkill.



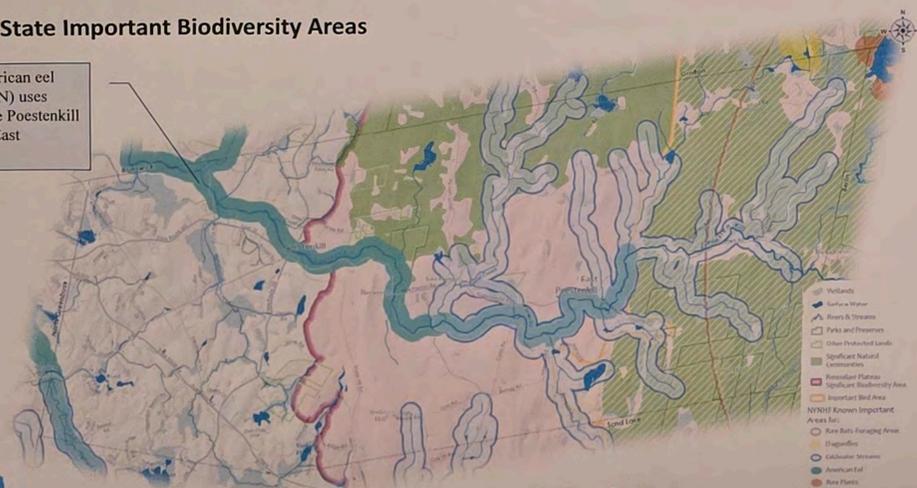
Station 2: Goals and Strategies

Goal 12 (Strategy 1)

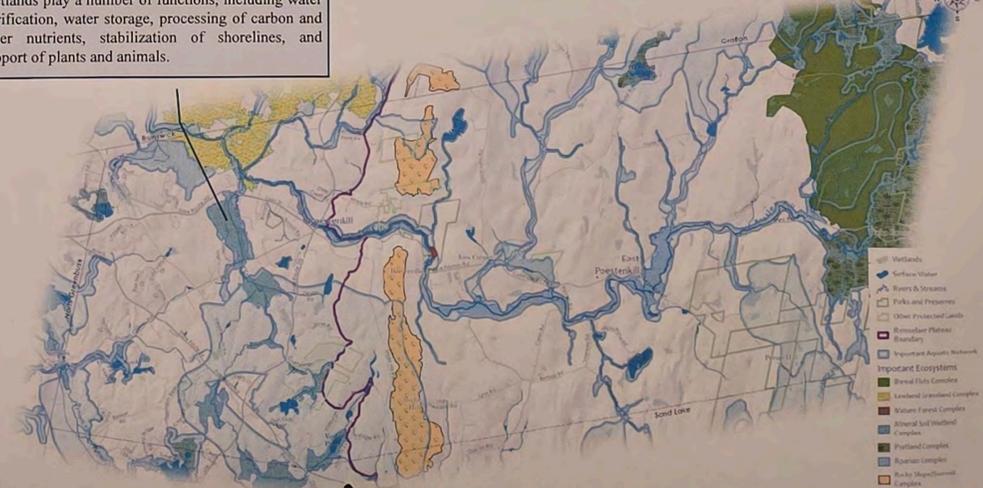
How important is to map and protect the the following in Poestenkill?	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Comment
Wetlands and Wetland Transition Areas 				<p>Helps filter pollution and supports wildlife</p> <p>It needs that</p>
Endangered Species Areas 				
Aquifer Recharge and Discharge Areas 				<p>with the drought this fall, this becomes more important since so many of us have wells</p> <p>Does this take flooding of properties down stream into account</p>

State Important Biodiversity Areas

The migratory American eel (High Priority SGCN) uses stream habitat in the Poestenkill as far upstream as East Poestenkill.



Wetlands play a number of functions, including water purification, water storage, processing of carbon and other nutrients, stabilization of shorelines, and support of plants and animals.



Station 3: Key Projects

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<p>Land Conservation Plan Development of a land conservation plan for the Town that will guide decisions and Town-wide policy and support future changes to the zoning code, including the appropriate use of cluster development, ridgeline protection and buffers around shared water resources that are important to residents of the Town of Poestenkill.</p>			

Name of the projects

Identify Environmental Areas

Identify and create a series of maps that show environmental worthy of protection during site plan and subdivision review.

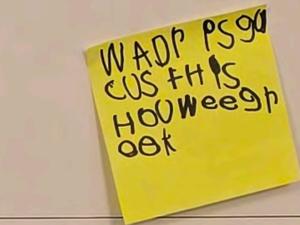
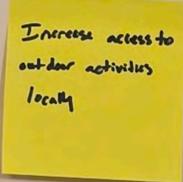


Wayfinding for Hiking & Fishing

Wayfinding for hiking, fishing, other trails and public parking at intersections and on roadsides near trailheads.



Station 3: Key Projects

Name of the projects	Place stickers if you support the project	Place stickers if you object to the project	Comments
<p>Identify Environmental Areas Identify and create a series of maps that show environmental areas worthy of protection during site plan and subdivision review.</p> 			<p>even 4 these already available</p> 
<p>Wayfinding for Hiking & Fishing Wayfinding for hiking, fishing, other trails and public parking at major intersections and on roadsides near trailheads.</p> 			

Potential

Creation of a
The Park could
trails, picnicking
subject to public



Sewer Feasibility
This study would ex
creating a sewer sys
by public water.

Create new rural t
along Town rights of
land.



APPENDIX D:
Natural Resource Survey
(for Poestenkill)

This document is located at Town Hall and is appended by reference.