

2/7/13 Tivoli Lake Preserve Public Meeting Workshop: VISIONING EXERCISE

1) STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES

- What **Strengths** does the preserve have that you think should be retained?
- Do you currently use the preserve, and if so, how?
- What **Challenges** currently exist in Tivoli Lake Preserve?
- What barriers exist to you utilizing and enjoying the Preserve?
- What are issues that need to be addressed?

2) OPPORTUNITIES

- What **Opportunities** do you believe exist with the Preserve?
- What **Uses** or **Amenities** would you like to see?

3) PARTNERSHIPS

- What are some potential **Partners** or important relationships that need to be cultivated to accomplish the community's vision of the Preserve?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS BY PARTICIPANTS

Strengths of Tivoli Lake Preserve

Natural beauty
Contrast to all other parks
Lakes / impressive water
Perfect location
2nd largest urban preserve in NYS
Largest park space
Quiet location
Net fishing
Varied terrain, ecosystems, habitats (ie: forests, wetlands, lakes, etc.)
Rich history
Proximity to schools
Accessibility to urban community

Challenges at Tivoli Lake Preserve

Lack of funding / maintenance and costs
Flooding undermines sewer Department mains
Stormwater runoff and refuse from nearby properties
Washington Park draws people away... because Tivoli doesn't offer the same opportunities
Overcoming negative perception
Railroad tracks (ie: safety)
Handicap accessibility
Industrial creep along Preserve boundary
Safety of soil / water quality
Lack of marketing
Intimidating when you are by yourself
No visible information posted at Preserve (ie: signage, trail maps & markers)

No visible safety assurances (ie: rangers, workers, tourists, etc.)... being alone in the Preserve, makes you feel threatened.

Opportunities

Rain gardens / community gardens (some already exist at the Green Tech HS)

Mountain bike trails

Multi-use trails

Link for regional bike rail

Job training

Shared classroom opportunities

Potential acquisition of land / expansion of park... North of RR tracks

Urban classroom

Sports fields in flat areas

Camping sites

Create events/activities (ie: full moon walks, labyrinth, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, music events, festivals, tours/nature talks)

Green infrastructure

Organize a local association (ie: "Friends" of Tivoli...)

Take advantage of High School volunteers for scheduled events and maintenance (eg: urban classroom)

Education facility / environmental center (ie: Wild Center...)

Bike trails / greenway connections

Potential Partners

Freihoffers

Other Corporations in Capital District that have a green theme / conservation interest

Corporate Woods

Patroon Creek Blvd Corporate Offices

Town of Colonie

Tonko

Stakeholders for Hudson River

Historic Albany

Parks & Rec / Parks & Trails

Scenic Hudson

LL Bean / EMS / ADK / Meetup Groups (Hiking mates) etc...

Save the Pine Bush

Hudsonia

School district

SUNY Albany / Other Universities

5 Rivers Limited

Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy

Heywood Burns Group

City / County (Water / DOH) / NYS (DEC / DOT / DOH)

CSX / Amtrack

Green Tech HS

Residents

Other Ideas

Research on Perceptions

Plan for future infrastructure needs (ie: urban classroom)

Biodiversity study (Hudsonia)