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 / Meetukp Groups (Hiking mates) etc...
Save the Pine Bush
Hudsonia
School district
SUNY Albany / Other Universities
5 Rivers Limited
Mowhawk 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)