

## **Chapter 7: Conclusion**

## *Conclusion*

This open space plan provides a comprehensive inventory and analysis of Gardiner's resources. It prioritizes aquifer and water resources, farmlands, and wildlife habitats based on community feedback. It also identifies other open space elements that are significant to the community, such as scenic lands, historical resources, and recreation and trail opportunities. The plan identifies a town-wide vision for conservation (Conservation Planning Areas, Chapter 3) and more detailed priority areas for strategic conservation efforts (Priority Conservation Network, Chapter 4).

The plan calls for a comprehensive implementation strategy that includes land conservation, planning for future development, and a financing strategy for these actions. It helps to establish a structural framework for such a program, and identifies short and long-term actions to follow.

Conservation of a significant portion of the Priority Conservation Network would paint a future in Gardiner that most residents would like to see. It would help to protect the town's vulnerable water resources. It would lead to conservation of significant areas of working farmlands, sustaining the local economy and protecting aquifer resources in the process. It would lead to significant conservation of the Shawangunk Ridge, closing smaller, key gaps in important areas such as the cliff and talus slopes. It would lead to balanced conservation of other important natural areas throughout town such as the grasslands, the Plattekill Gorge, and the river greenbelts. It would lead to trail connections for people, access to the town's rivers and natural areas, and expanded opportunities to capture the town's recreational and agri-tourism potential. It would help to protect scenic views of the Shawangunk Ridge, and provide a future for the town that sustains the quality of life that Gardiner's residents have grown to love.