

---

# FRIENDS OF CLIFTON PARK OPEN SPACE

---

www.cpopenspace.org

April, 2016

---

*Come Help Us Celebrate 20 Years!*

*Town Open Space Day: May 14th 2016*

**FRIENDS will have a booth at Grooms Tavern**

Our town has a fortunate tradition of talented people interested in using their interests and passions for the benefit of all citizens. We see it in our volunteer fire companies, professionals on our boards, volunteers dedicated to our history, our parks, plant life, the stewardship of our landscapes....just to name a few.

FRIENDS likes to think of ourselves as part of that tradition. Formed 20 years ago, our original group has evolved but our passion and enthusiasm for our goals has not changed. Please join us for the Town's Annual Open Space Celebration on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> for walks, workshops, awards and presentations. There will be giveaways, goodies and information galore! See you then!



## Town Committee Presents 10-Year Open Space Action Plan

**Plan presented by David Miller, Chair of the Open Space, Trails & Riverfront Committee to Town Board April 18th**

According to the Committee's document, "A decade ago Clifton Park adopted an innovative and bold Open Space Plan for the future economic, social and environmental health and prosperity of the Town. Since that time the Town has accomplished a tremendous amount of progress.

Yet as one reads the Open Space Plan that was publically created over a decade ago, one can clearly see that our work is not done. The time has come to continue this vital work and build upon our successes.

These priority categories with tools and projects to be secured over the next 5-10 years will truly complete the vision:

### THE WESTERN "GREEN C"

1. Acquisition and Easement Tools
  - Ashdown Road parcel
  - 65 acre meadow south of Garnsey Park
  - Lands east & south of Eagle Crest Golf Course
  - Smaller parcels that provide greenway corridors and protect stream corridors
  - Farms and working landscapes with permanent farm easements
2. Zoning and Planning Tools
  - Eagle Crest Golf course proposed development plan
  - Future proposals for B-5 Corporate commerce Zone
  - Rolling Meadows development

### MOHAWK RIVER CORRIDOR & HISTORIC HAMLETS:

- Access & trail improvements to the 41 acres
- Enhance Access to Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve
- Permanently protect the 1,000 acres of the Stony Creek Reservoir
- Enhance links to river at more sites in collaboration with Erie Canalway Heritage corridor & Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway programs.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Frank Berlin, President

James Ruhl, Vice President

Susan Burton, Vice President

Margaret Catellier, Treasurer

Ray Seymour, Secretary

**CONCLUSION:**

The vision outlined for Clifton Park’s Open Spaces will be treasured by all residents of the Town and a gift to future generations. The vision is within our reach and we can complete this work with investments towards the most comprehensive community open space program in the region. This type of proactive thinking and strategic planning will pay dividends for many years to come.

Coupled with these priority categories and projects comes with it a recommendation to create a Stewardship Fund in the Town budget. This fund would annually assist with the maintenance and natural trail needs of all the Town’s preserves. While providing access and improvements for preserves such as DwaasKill, North Woods, Kinns Park and other sites in the Town, the fund would also support amenities to help connect residents and visitors alike to these outdoor experiences.

Imagine all of the sites in the Green C permanently protected and interconnected with a Trail System.

Imagine farms no longer threatened by development and economic hardships and linked through collaborative commerce.

Imagine a Mohawk River and Erie Canal era heritage with increased access and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors bringing economic activity and benefits to the town.

Imagine enhanced park and nature access for residents within the existing eastern settled areas of town, for use and accessibility in their daily lives.

This vision can become a reality with willing sellers, negotiated easements and the right investments at the right time. The Vision for Clifton Park’s Open Spaces is within our reach and now is the time for action.”

**EASTERN CLIFTON PARK: CONNECTING NATURE TO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS:**

1. Support strategic projects that help achieve:
  - Enhanced connections of neighborhoods & schools to park, nature preserves & local and regional destinations
  - Implement new trail connections & trailhead improvements
  - Enhance facilities & trails at existing parks & preserves to ensure high-quality & safe public access for recreational opportunities
2. Specific Enhancement Projects at our Preserves & Parks
  - Improved parking-DwaasKill Nature Preserve
  - DwaasKill connections to Kinns Road Park
  - Improved parking-North Woods Nature Preserve
  - Natural areas accessible to more neighborhoods
  - On-going sidewalks & trails connecting neighborhoods to key destinations.

**AGRICULTURE: OUR FARMLAND HERITAGE & HISTORIC CHARACTER**

1. Target 300-600 acres of farmlands
2. Enhancements of Historic Grooms Tavern, Blacksmith Shop & Other Historic Sites

**FRIENDS OF CLIFTON PARK OPEN SPACE** would like your **financial help** in sustaining our research and outreach efforts. If you would like to help in this way, please detach, complete and mail the form below with your check made out to: **FCPOS, P.O. Box 821, Clifton Park, New York 12065**

**--Or--Go to our website: [www.cpopenspace.org](http://www.cpopenspace.org) and make a contribution directly from there.**

*Thank you very much for your support!*

Yes, I want to help Friends of Clifton Park Open Space in their work to preserve the “Park” in Clifton Park

I would like to contribute: \$10    \$20     \$30     \$40     \$50     \$75     \$100

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: Friends of Clifton Park Open Space—or—FCPOS**

*Friends of Clifton Park Open Space is a 501C3 corporation and Contributions are fully deductible as a charitable donation*