

## Task force offers 41 recommendations for 'quality communities'

By Alison Heaphy

Governor George E. Pataki has announced the release of the Quality Communities Interagency Task Force report, which identifies 41 recommendations designed to improve the quality of life in communities throughout New York.

The report gives strong emphasis to open space, calling for in one of its recommendations "continued funding of open space protection and stewardship of locally significant open space, significant state open space and farmland protection." The report further recommends authorizing the creation of open space

districts by local communities, providing a conservation donor credit and exploring a transfer of development rights pilot program. In addition, incentives for brownfield redevelopment is highlighted as a way to "encourage development of land which is already developed and served by infrastructure."

The report covered eight themes: State leadership, interagency collaboration and assistance to local governments; using technology to distribute information, create development tools and eliminate barriers to quality development; revitalizing our downtowns; maintaining New York's leadership in open space conservation; the renewal of New York agriculture; transportation and infrastructure: the search for quality in the built environment; quality for all: strengthening the place we call home; and economic growth: sustaining a community.

David J. Miller, executive director of Audubon New York and a task force advisory committee member, said, "The Quality Communities report will provide the framework for New York's approach to smart growth issues for years to come. Audubon welcomes the report's findings and believes it will set a positive course for policy actions by the administration and the legislature."

Audubon New York has chaired the Smart Growth Working Group



John McKeith

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The governor's Quality Communities Task Force recently released its finding in this report.

for almost two years, which advocated for this task force and many of the working group's recommendations to the task force are included in the report. A full analysis of the report

will appear in the next issue of the *Audubon Advocate*.

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