

Clifton Park Survey Results

By Carole Nemore

IN EARLY NOVEMBER 2001, the Town of Clifton Park's Open Space Committee mailed questionnaires to approximately 12,000 landowners including residents, farmers, and commercial and industrial owners. An overwhelming 25 percent responded — clearly an indication that the Town cares about how it grows and wants to protect open space for many different purposes.

The survey measured the relative importance of seven different aspects of open space protection — open space and rural character, farmland, recreational parks and playgrounds, unique natural areas and wildlife habitats, trails and bike paths, drinking water quality, and cultural resources such as historic sites.

The final question determined the level of public support for the town to invest in open space protection. Response choices ranged from "highly important," "somewhat important," "somewhat unimportant," "highly unimportant," and "undecided."

For each question, responses clearly indicated very strong public support (nearly 75 percent) for all aspects of open space protection in Clifton Park. When "highly important" and "somewhat important" responses for each question were combined and compared, the community's priorities for open space were inferred from the survey results.

HIGHEST IMPORTANCE – PROTECT DRINKING WATER QUALITY

- Securing additional land conservation in order to protect drinking water quality is important to 94% of those responding to question #6.

SECOND – CONSERVE THE RURAL CHARACTER AND OPEN SPACE RESOURCES OF THE TOWN

- An overwhelming 92 percent indicated that the conservation of rural character and open space resources is important.

THIRD – CONSERVE UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS AND WILDLIFE HABITATS

- Securing additional conservation of unique natural areas and wildlife habitats was important to 87 percent of those responding.

FOURTH – CONSERVE ADDITIONAL FARMLAND AND VIABLE AGRICULTURE

- Securing additional conservation of farmland and viable agriculture is important to 85% of those responding.

FIFTH – SECURE ACCESSIBLE TRAILS AND BIKE PATHS

- Securing accessible trail systems and bike paths is important to 77 percent of those responding.

FIFTH – CONSERVE ADDITIONAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Securing additional conservation of cultural resources such as historic sites is important to 77 percent of those responding.

SIXTH – ADD LOCAL RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

- Securing additional local recreational parks, ball fields and playgrounds is important to 72 percent of those responding.

SEVENTH – PUBLIC INVESTMENT

- The last question of the survey gauged support for the Town of Clifton Park's investing in open space projects in the future to conserve important open space resources. An overwhelming majority of 80 percent answered "yes" in support of public investment while 13 percent remained undecided. Only 7 percent indicated opposition.

Based on the survey results and all of the additional public input from the community, the Open Space Committee will draft an open space protection plan that is scheduled to be released this summer. The public will be able to comment on the draft plan at a series of public meetings to be held this summer and fall. The final draft will then be prepared in response to public comment and presented to the Town Board in late 2002 for adoption. For further information, see Audubon New York's website at <http://ny.audubon.org>.



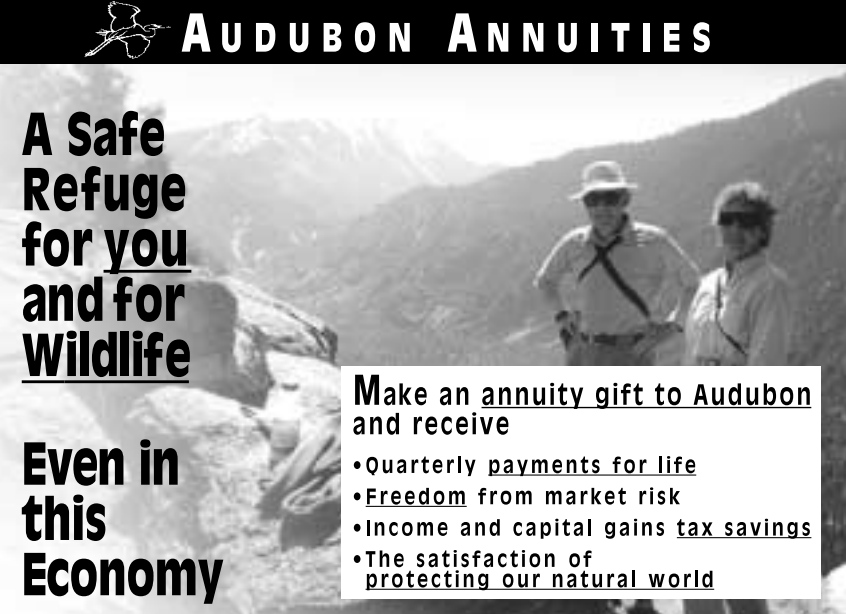
Smart Growth Conference 2001

Proceedings for the Third Annual Smart Growth Conference, April 25, 2001, Binghamton, New York. Proceedings are published by Audubon New York.

Third Annual Smart Growth Proceedings Now Available!

To order send \$10 for postage and handling to:
Audubon New York
200 Trillium Lane
Albany, NY 12203
Attn: Smart Growth Proceedings

Proceedings are also available online at: <http://ny.audubon.org>



AUDUBON ANNUITIES

A Safe Refuge for you and for Wildlife

Even in this Economy

Make an annuity gift to Audubon and receive

- Quarterly payments for life
- Freedom from market risk
- Income and capital gains tax savings
- The satisfaction of protecting our natural world

Learn how to create a safe "refuge" for yourself, birds, and other wildlife. (Minimum gift: \$10,000. Age 65 and over.)
Mail this coupon or call (518) 869-9731

ANNUITY PAYOUT RATES	
Age	Rate
70	7.2%
75	7.9%
80	8.9%
85	10.4%

Name _____ Telephone _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My Birthdate _____ Spouse's Birthdate _____

Gift Amount \$ _____ Cash Stock

Return to: Jan Hesbon, Planned Giving Officer, Audubon New York
200 Trillium Lane, Albany, NY 12203 (518) 869-9731 or jhesbon@audubon.org.