

Poughkeepsie's Natural Resources Inventory



A natural resource Inventory (NRI) gathers information about the habitats and nature that we have in the city of Poughkeepsie, as well as sites of cultural value, to make more informed land-use decisions.

We may live in an urban setting, but aspects of nature still exist in Poughkeepsie. These range from the Hudson River and the trees that line our streets to the culturally significant recreation and historic sites in the city. The document—comprised of maps, tables, and a report—describes Poughkeepsie's resources in detail, and can be used for well-informed land-use planning and decision making. NRIs also help to identify conservation strategies and priorities, such as zoning updates, open space protection, or the need for more in depth studies, like a wildlife assessment.

What goes into an NRI?

There is already a lot of information out there on natural resources that can be compiled and made into maps. This information on geology and soils, water resources, habitats and wildlife, climate, cultural resources, and land use can be used to start making the NRI. When that information is lacking, more detailed studies can be done. For example, the Poughkeepsie NRI will assess the decline in ash trees in the city caused by a beetle called the emerald ash borer. It will propose management strategies to help compensate for the loss.

What can the NRI do?

Municipal officials, county planning agencies, community and watershed groups, developers, and residents will have the results to make informed decisions and better understand the wonderful natural resources of Poughkeepsie.



Volunteers working in the pollinator garden at College Hill Park. These gardens are an example of one of Poughkeepsie's many natural resources.