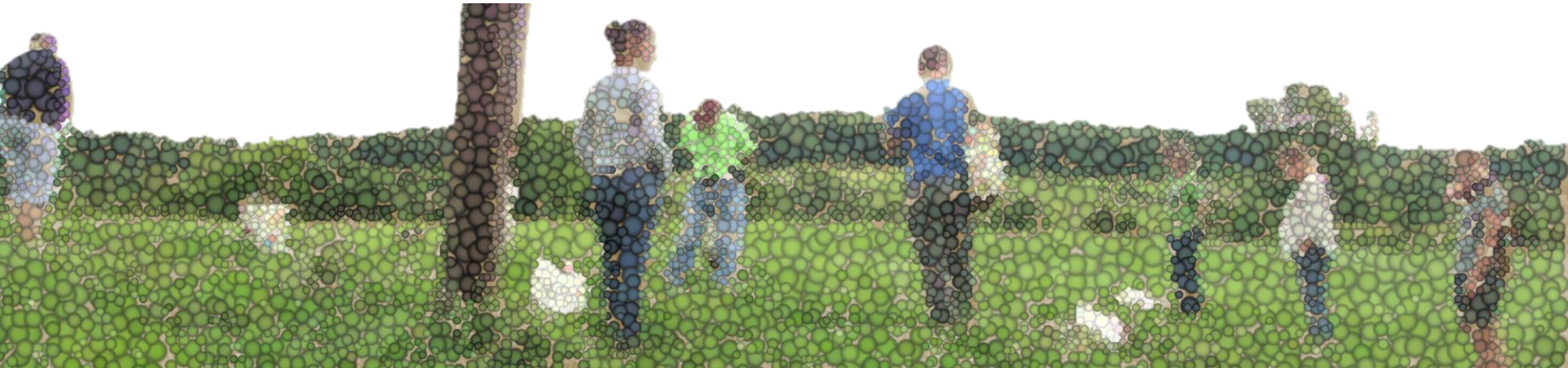
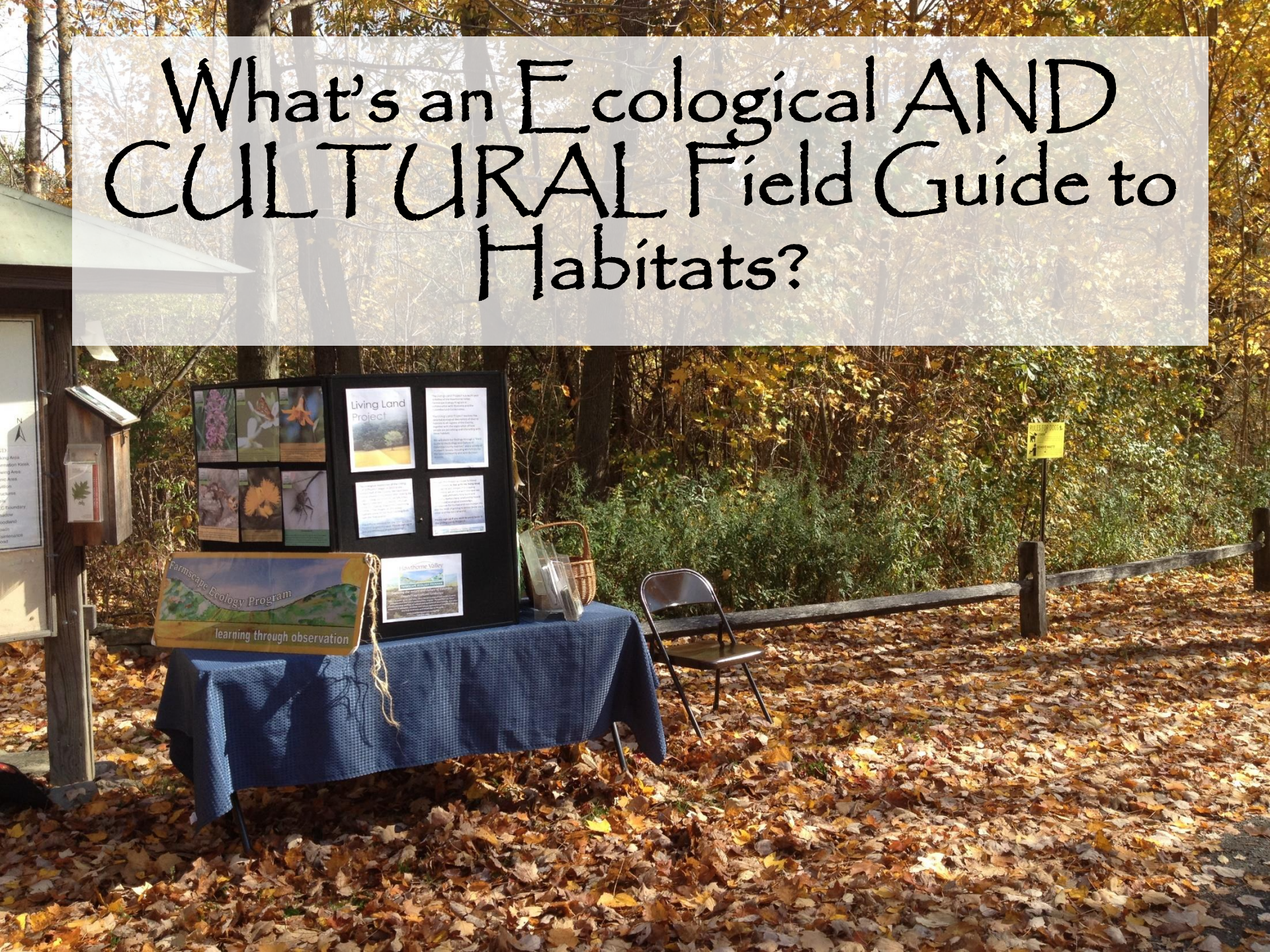


Humans & Habitats

How people see and interact with the ecological habitats around them



What's an Ecological AND CULTURAL Field Guide to Habitats?



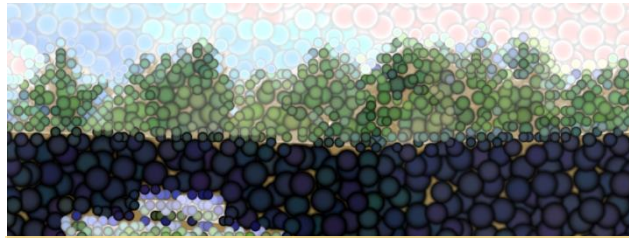
Special Places



- **Special Places Mapping Project**
- **Children's Special Places Project**
- **(Flicker Photo Project)**



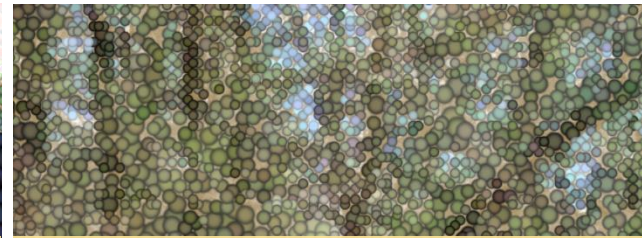
Perception of Habitats



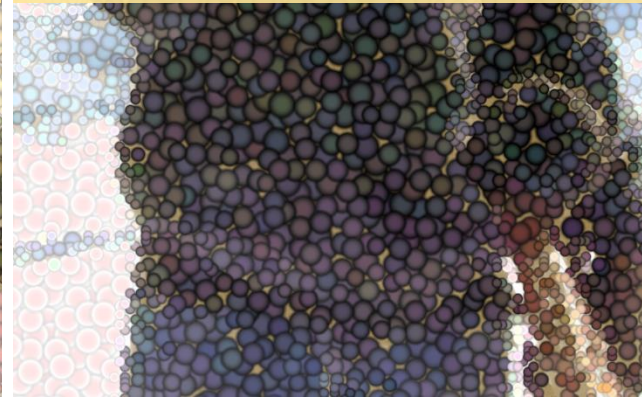
- **Photo surveys and photo scavenger hunts at Recreation Areas**
- **Walking the Living Land Focus Groups**
- **(Nature & Recreation in Historical Newspapers)**



Interactions with Habitats

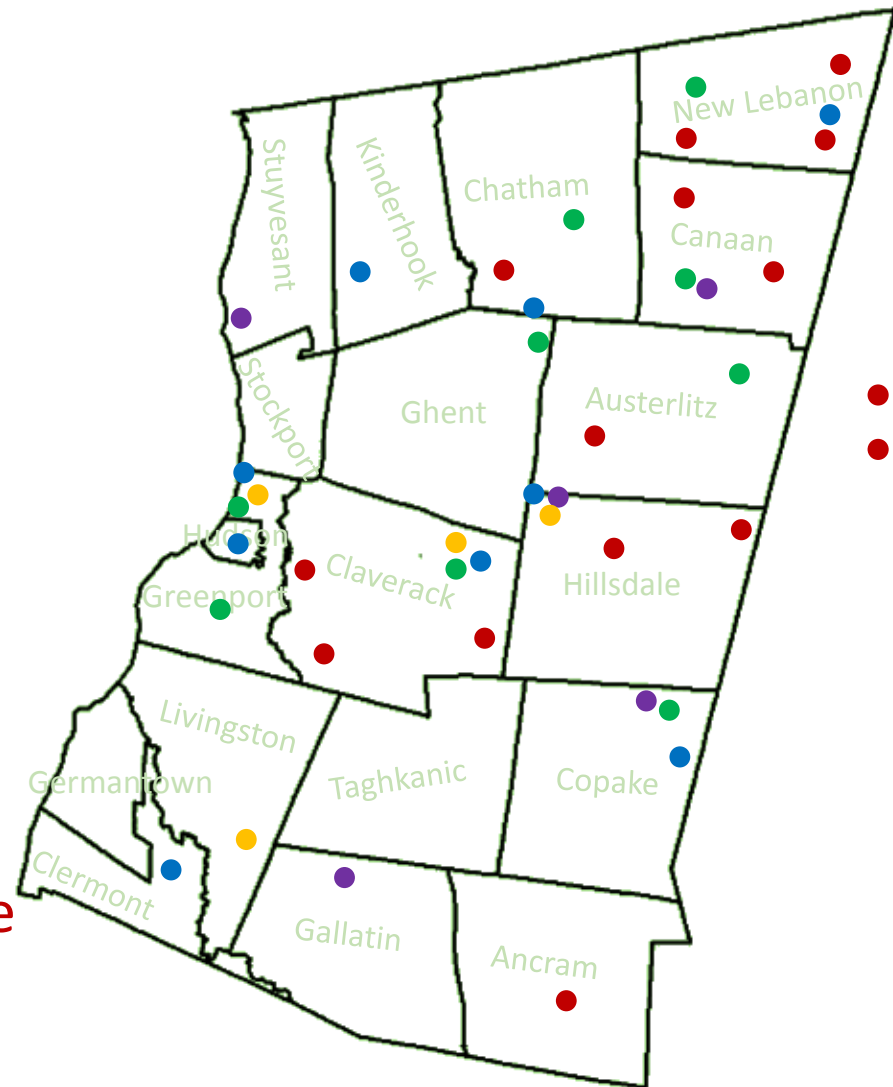


- **Views of the Working Landscape Interviews**
- **Recreation Area Surveys**
- **Special Places Mapping Project**
- **(Posted Signs: 1964 & 2004)**

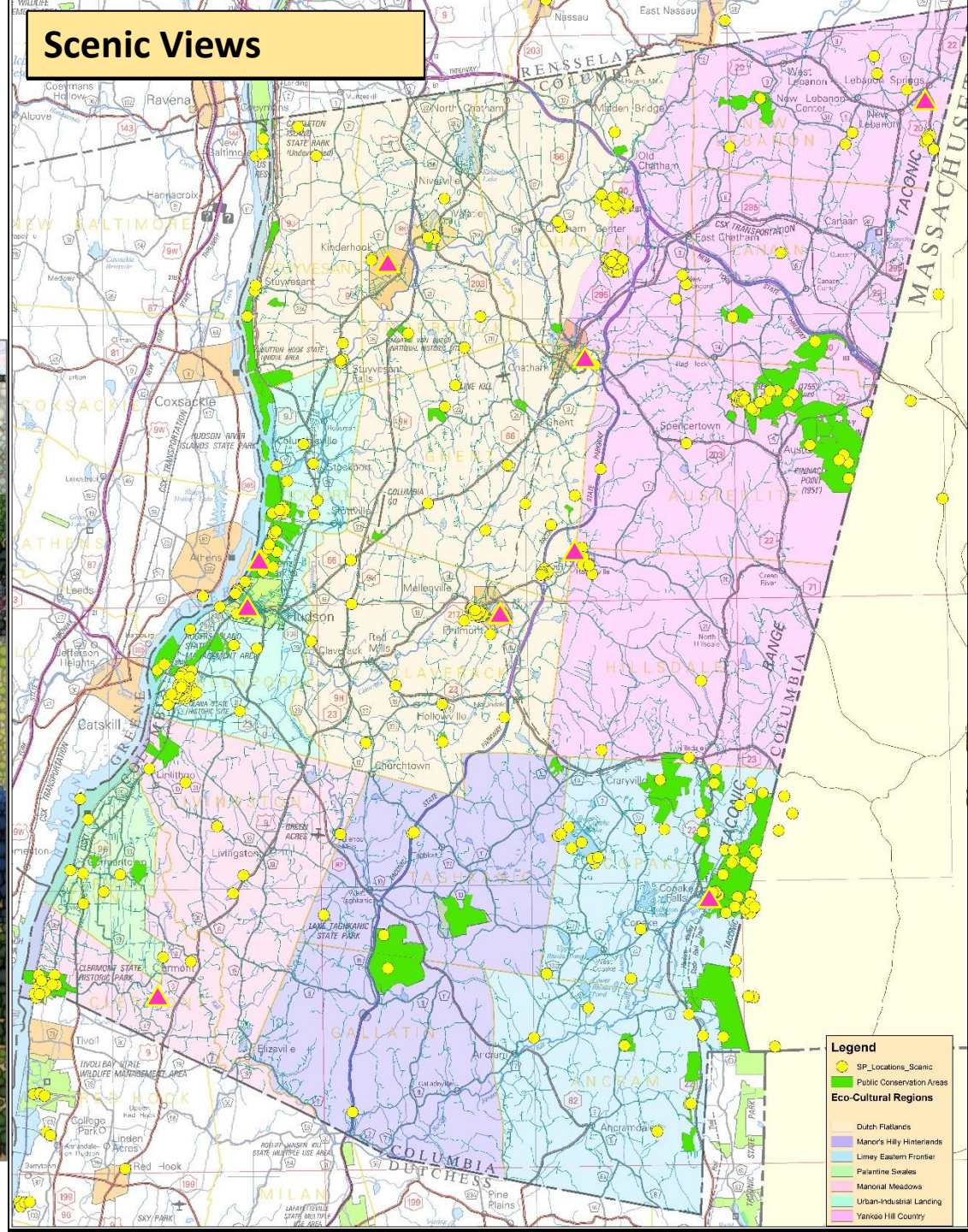


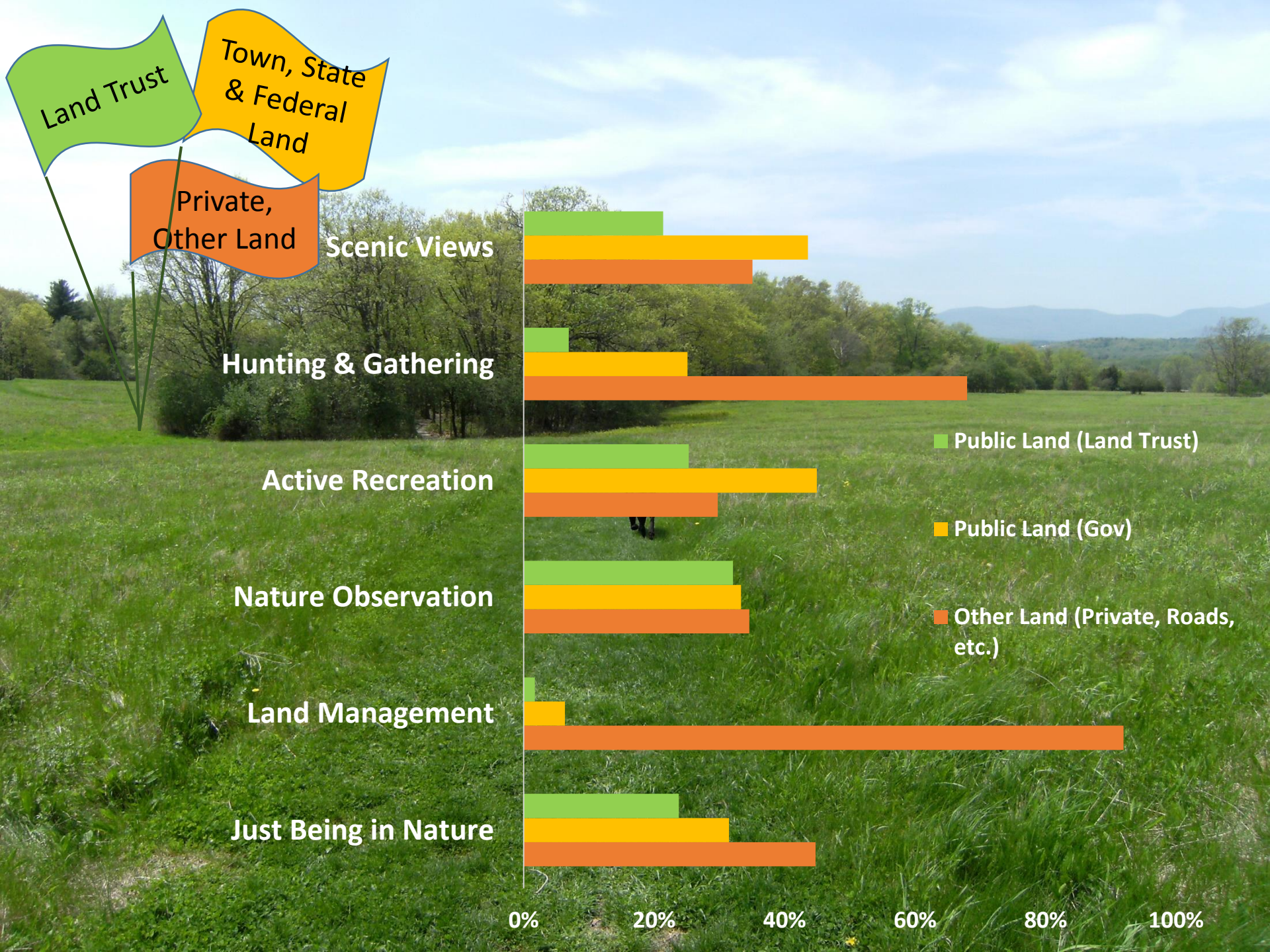
970 People Throughout the County

- Special Places Mapping Project (409)
- Children's Special Places Project (93)
- Surveys at Recreation Areas (416)
- Walking the Living Land Outings (37)
- Views of the Working Landscape Interviews (15)



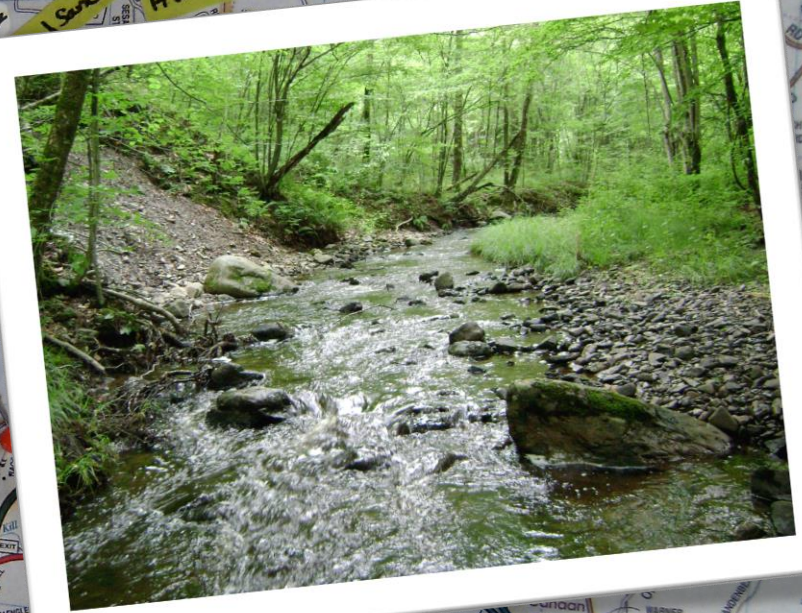
Special Places Mapping Project





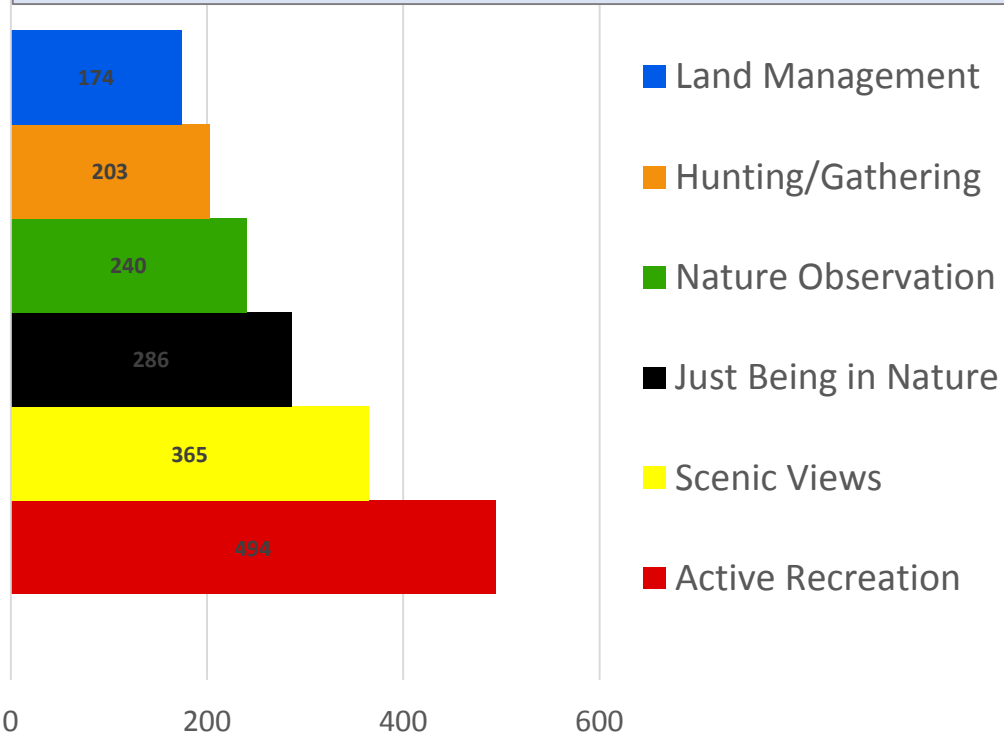
Favorite Places

1. Taconic State Park (137)
2. Olana (108)
3. Ooms (88)
4. Beebe (74)
5. High Falls (65)
6. Lake Taghkanic (56)
7. Greenport (56)
8. Clermont (31)
9. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary (29)
10. Hand Hollow (28)



Special Places Mapping Project: Types of Land Use

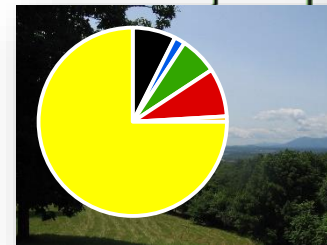
Average travel distance from home to special place:
3.7 miles (Powell) to 12.3 miles (Olana)



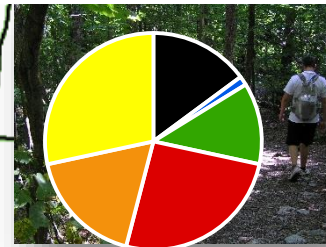
Ooms (88)



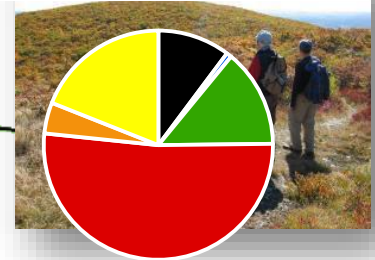
Olana (108)



Beebe State Forest (74)



Taconic State Park (137)



Children's Special Places Project

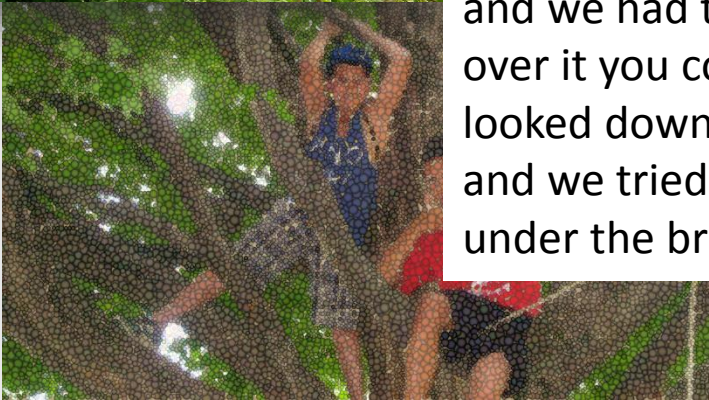


**Livingston, Claverack and Greenport Recreation Programs plus
Hawthorne Valley Kids Can Cook Program**

Special Places Photographs



This is the big frog we spotted. We were taking pictures of the woods and we heard a frog and we were looking for it and saw it over there because we were taking pictures of the trail and we had the flash on and it flashed over it you could see the eyes! We looked down and there was the frog and we tried to catch it but it hopped under the bridge.



Special Places Drawings

Trees: 37%



**Roads: Natural
32%**



Water:

Sun:



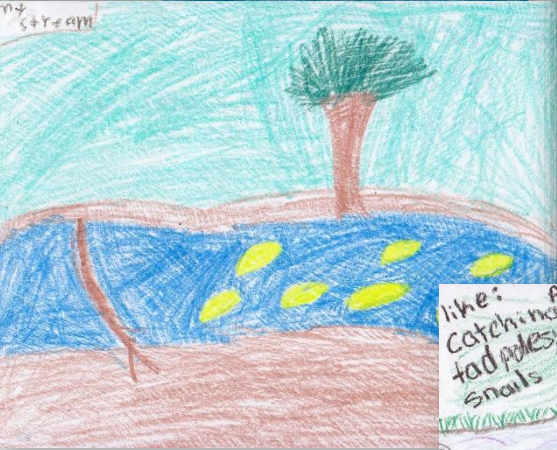
Buildings:



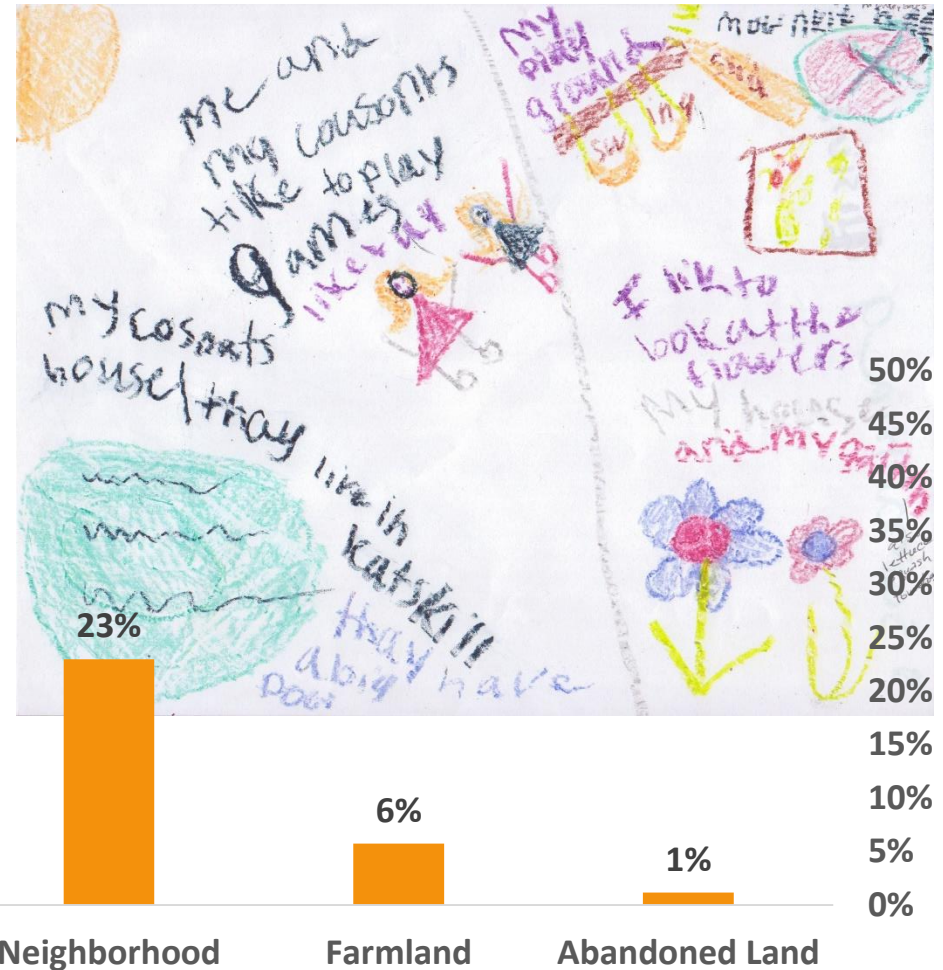
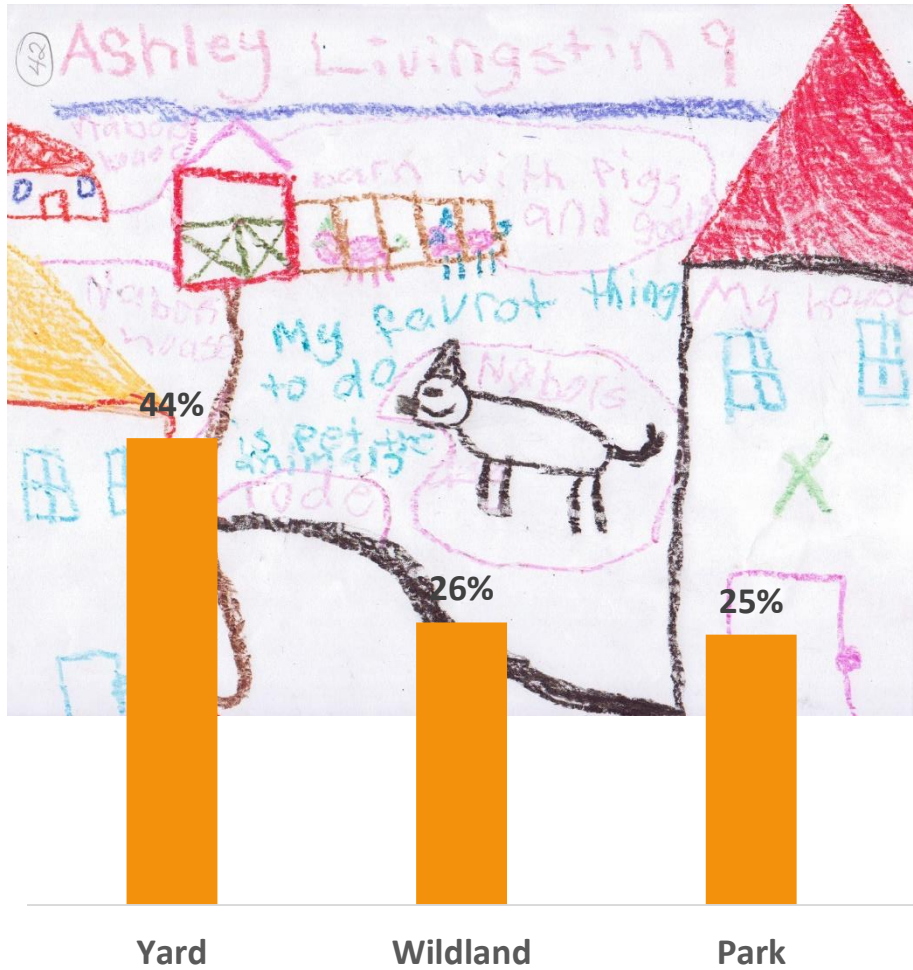
Pools: 28%



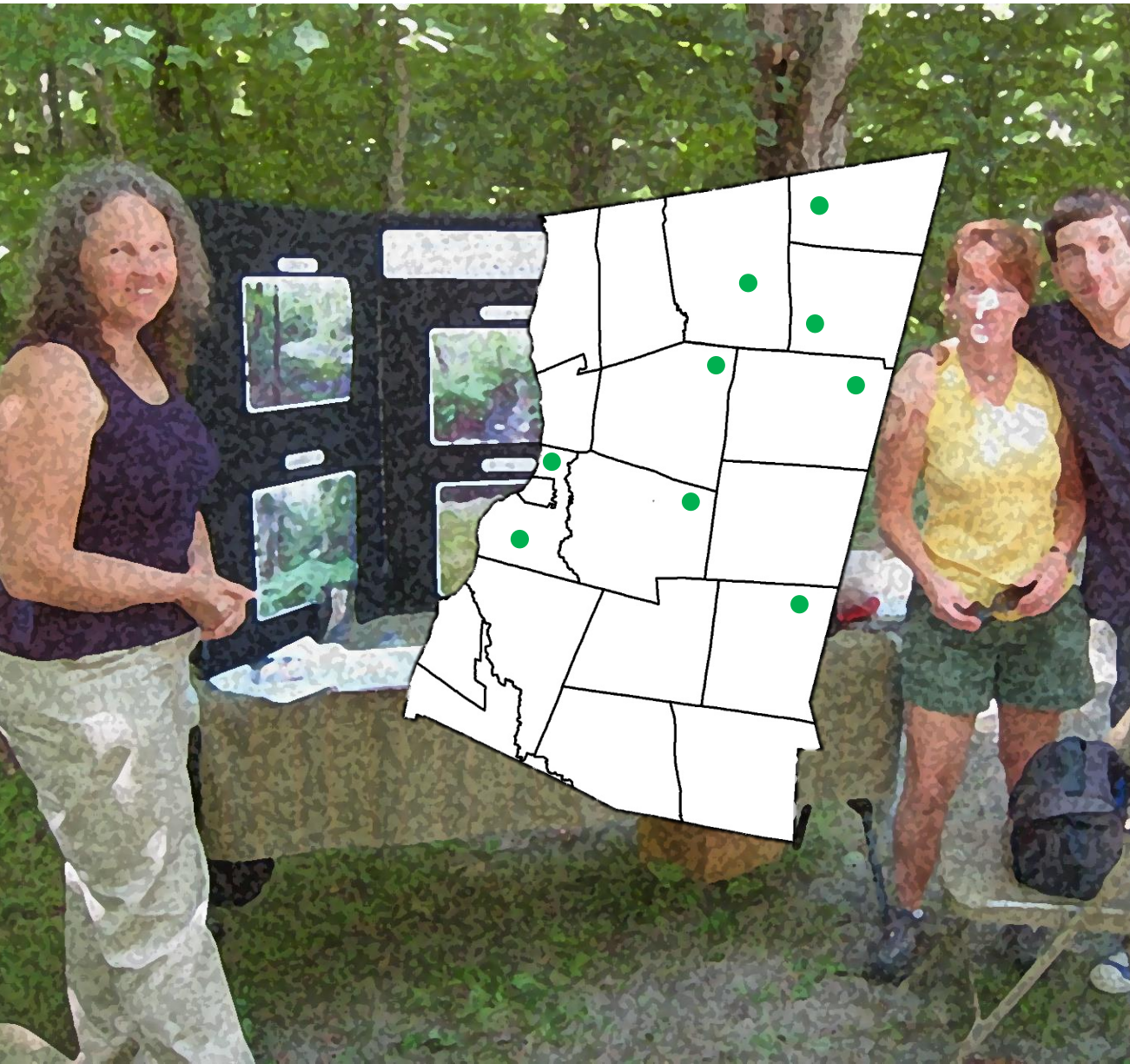
Natural Water vs. Swimming Pools



Close to Home



Recreation Area Photo Surveys

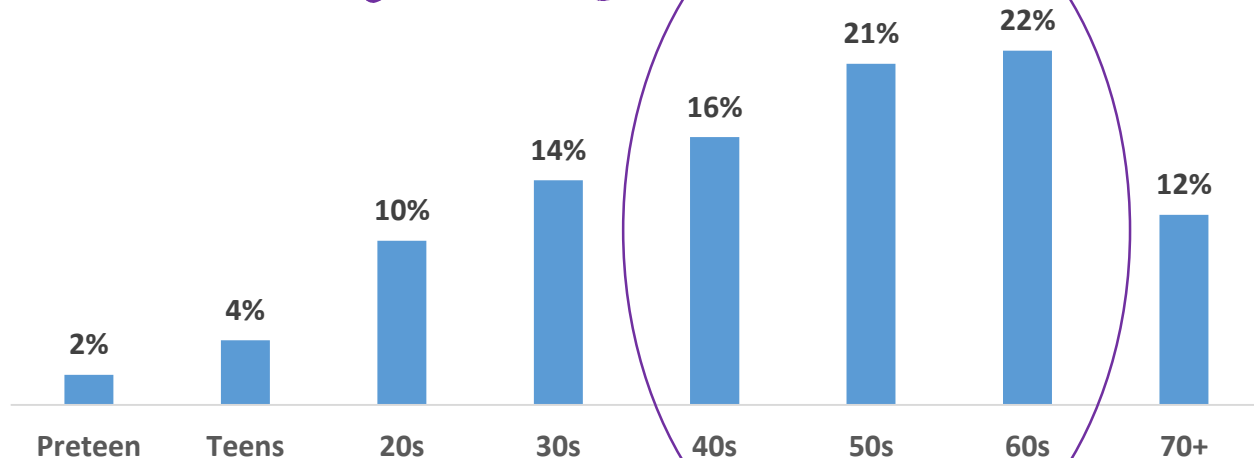


1. Beebe State Forest (Austerlitz)
2. Borden's Pond (Ghent)
3. Greenport Conservation Area (Greenport)
4. Hand Hollow Conservation Area (New Lebanon)
5. High Falls Conservation Area (Claverack)
6. Olana State Historic Site (Greenport)
7. Ooms Conservation Area (Chatham)
8. Roeliff Jansen Park (Copake)
9. Schor Conservation Area (Canaan)

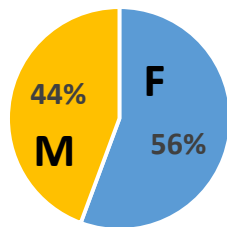
Who did we talk to?

416 Visitors to Recreation Areas

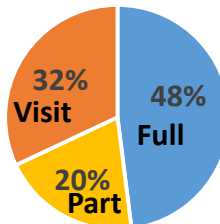
Mostly middle-aged folks



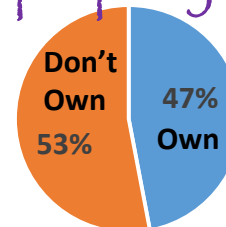
Slightly more females



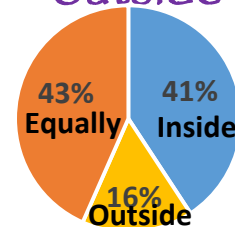
A little less than 1/2 full-time residents



A little more than 1/2 don't own property



Only 16% spend the majority of their day outside

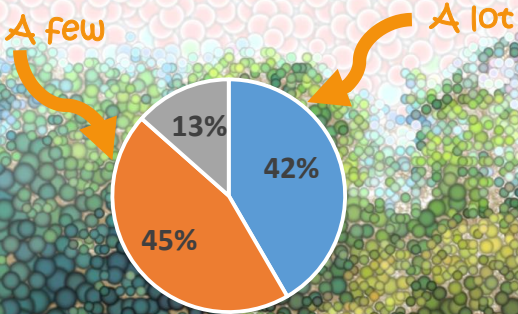


How do they interact with recreation areas?

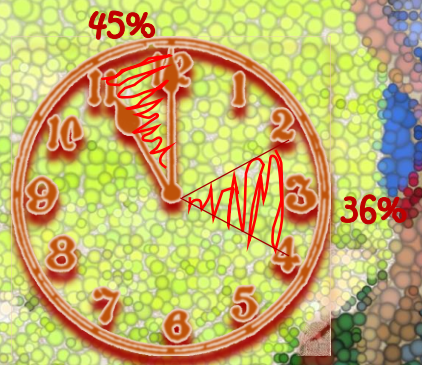
They like to hike and walk dogs!

They visit multiple recreation areas

areas?



Most stay for 1 or 2 hours



The vast majority arrive in cars & 1/3 travel more than 10 miles

About 3/4 go with other people

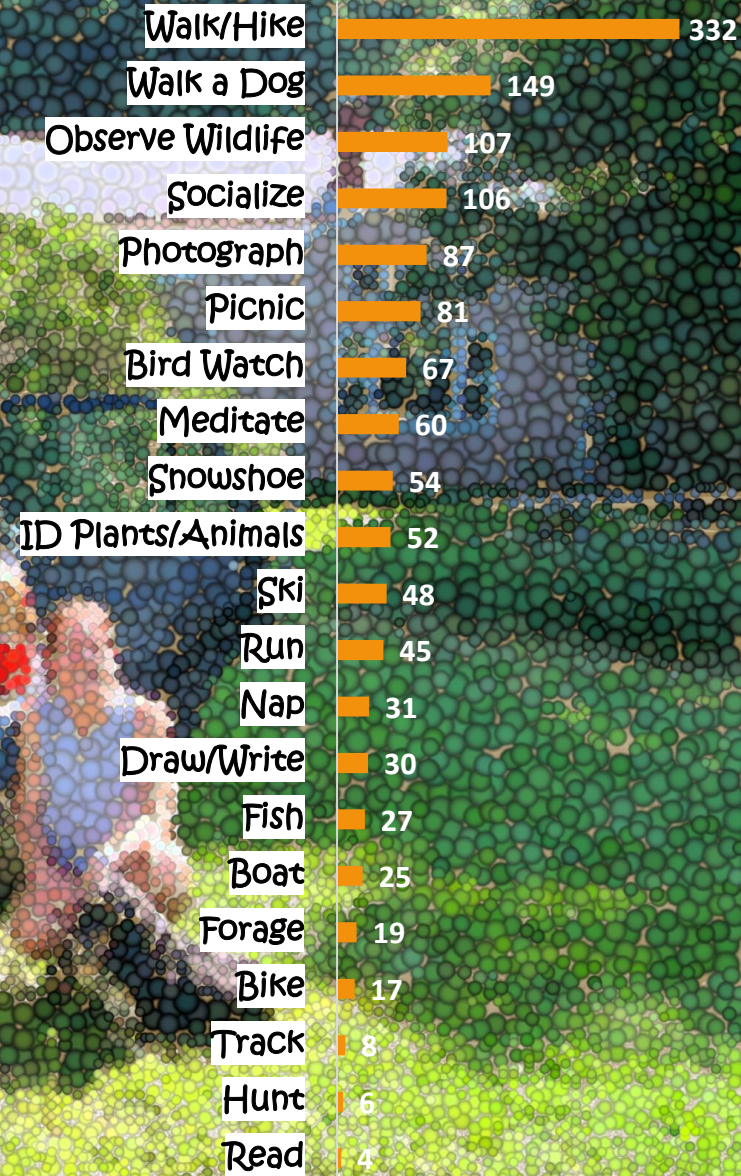


Photo Scavenger Hunt



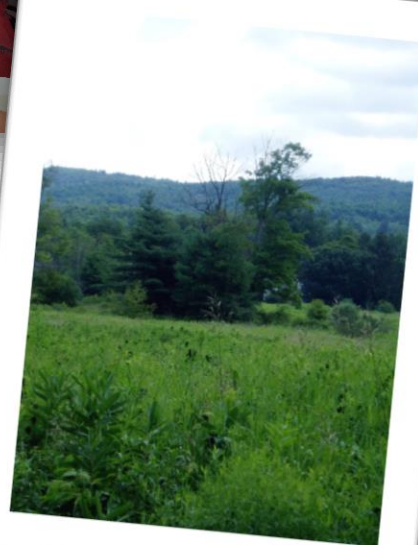
*A place that you
find unique or
unusual...*



*A place that you think is
particularly rich in native
plants & animals...*



*A place you
particularly like...*



*A place that you
find representative
of the Columbia
County landscape*



*A place you
don't
particularly
like*

Recreation Area Photo Surveys



Description

Perception Ratings:

- Like/Dislike
- Inviting/Uninviting
- Tidy/Untidy
- Peaceful/Unpeaceful
- Familiar/Unfamiliar

Value Ratings

- Recreational
- Ecological
- Aesthetic

Activities

Species

Risks

Winners & Losers

Like/Dislike



Rocky Stream

Inviting/Uninviting



Rocky Stream

Tidy/Untidy



Hay Field



Clay Bluff



Clay Bluff



Swamp Forest

Winners & Losers

Peaceful/Unpeaceful



Rocky Stream

Familiar/Unfamiliar



Hemlock Forest



Clay Bluff



Swamp Forest

Winners & Losers

Recreational Value



Hemlock Forest

Aesthetic Value



Rocky Stream

Ecological Value



Rocky Stream



Clay Bluff



Clay Bluff



Clay Bluff

Winners & Losers

Activities



Oak Hickory Forest

Species



Swamp Forest

Risks



Swamp Forest



Clay Bluff



Clay Bluff



Pasture

What influences what we see? ...what habitats we like most?

How much time we
spend outdoors?

	Spend 50% or more time outside	Spend less than 50% of time outside
Hay Field	4.30	4.67
Shrubland	3.84	3.43
Clay Bluffs	2.96	2.57

Where we grew up?

	Rural	Urban or Suburban
Swamp Forest	4.63	3.60
Floodplain Forest	4.77	4.11
Wet Meadow	3.38	4.48

Walking the Living Land Outings

5 Groups, 5 Places, 13 Habitats

1. Black Locust Forest
2. Floodplain Forest
3. Hay Field
4. Hemlock Forest
5. Little Bluestem Meadow
6. Mixed Pine Forest
7. Oak Hickory Forest
8. Old Field
9. Pasture
10. Upland Shrubland
11. Sugar Maple Forest
12. Swamp Forest
13. Wet Meadow

1. Photo Survey



2. Sensory Attunement



3. Gathering Objects



4. Botanical Portraits



5. Written Reflections & Discussion



Botanical Portraits: Four Fields



Botanical Portraits: Two Perspectives



In-Depth Perspectives

So how about that swamp forest...

A group of people are standing in a swampy forest. The ground is covered in dense, low-lying green vegetation, possibly mosses and ferns. The background shows tall, thin trees, likely cypresses, with their characteristic buttresses. The scene is dappled with sunlight and shadow, creating a magical atmosphere. Several people are visible, some looking at the ground and others looking towards the camera. They are dressed in casual outdoor clothing.

To me it's the most magical-feeling of the spaces.

I feel like it's a very whimsical space...I feel the most drawn.

I enjoyed that area very much. The great variety. The tall trees. And also the variety on the ground. I was surprised that we had so few bugs. I guess that's because of the dryness. But I expected swarms of mosquitoes and whatnot.

Seemed to be beautiful, further way from traffic streams and coolness more interesting plants – more native – mosses and tussock sedge very appealing, beautiful ferns.

Views of the Working Landscape



Hunter



Forager



Forester



A Working Perspective on Habitats

“Turkeys don’t like tall grass,” explained one hunter as we talked about fields. For game birds like pheasants, however, tall vegetation is ideal, according to a hunter who actively manages his fields for such birds. “I only cut the fields once a year, because you have to let stuff grow. The birds need cover – they want a roof over their head. If it’s just a grass field, in the first minor snow storm, all of the cover is knocked flat and hunting is over.”

A photograph of a lush, green forest. The scene is filled with numerous tall, slender trees, their trunks varying in shades of brown and grey. The canopy is thick with vibrant green leaves, creating a dappled light effect on the forest floor. The undergrowth is dense and green, with various plants and ferns visible. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

Questions?

How do you see and experience the
habitats around you?