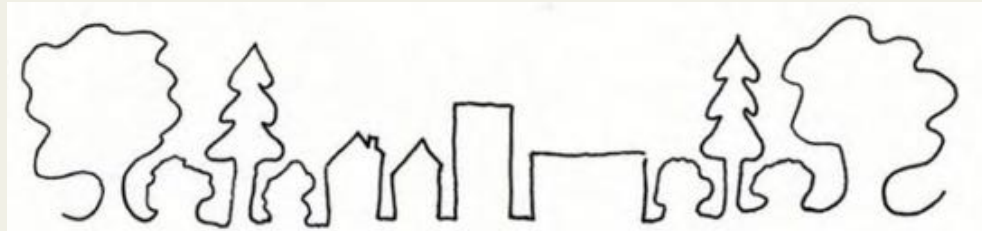# ROCKLAND P.L.U.S PLANNING LAND USE WITH STUDENTS

Visit #2

Considering Your Community & Important Planning Elements

Assess Both Your Local Community & The County

Score of 5 is highest

ROCKLAND P.L.U.S.
PLANNING LAND USE WITH STUDENTS

Score of 1 is lowest

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FORM: Team activity: to be completed in small groups in class.

Think about the village/town in which your site is located and consider its strengths and weaknesses. How can your site improve the whole community? You can use your own knowledge of the community and check the County website - https://rocklandgov.com

Rate the features of your community, scoring **Strengths** as 1 (mainly absent) to 5 (well represented). Support your number choice with a brief explanation. Once completed, brainstorm and look for ways to improve your community focusing on your lowest rankings.

Community Feature – How does your community rank in these categories?	Community Strengths Rank: From 1 - 5	Comments & Examples of Strengths & Challenges In Local Community	Rockland County Strengths Rank: From 1 - 5	Comments & Examples of Strengths & Challenges In Rockland County
Community Character: *Places of Historical Significance/ Arts/ Theatres*				
Demographic Diversity: *A mix of diverse people and cultures in the community living and working together*				
Housing/Affordability/Mix of Housing: *Condos/ Apartments/ Single Family Homes/ Options for all stages - Singles/ Families/ Retired*				
Transportation/Accessibility/Walkability: *Trains & Buses/ Complete Streets/ Sidewalks/ Safe Roads/ Bike Trails/ Safe Crosswalks/ Walking Paths connect to stores & services*				
Health & Wellness: *Healthy Food Choices/ Farmers Markets/ Exercise opportunities/ Preventive treatment/ Accessible Clinics & Hospitals / Health Education available*				
Social/Recreation: *Opportunities across ages & prices: children/teens/adults/seniors*				
Wilderness: *Undeveloped Areas/Open Space to parkland*				
Environmental Awareness, Water & Energy Conscious *Community Awareness of Stream Protection/ Water Conservation & Management/ Recycling/ Energy Conscious & Energy Savings (i.e. solar; automatic light switch off)/ Green Building requirements*				
Education & Employment *Schools available for all stages (pre-schools through college level; internships) and a range of opportunities from entry level to professional jobs.*				
Safety: *Street Lighting/ Fire and Police departments/ Residents Feel Safe in their community*				

Planning Concepts & Planning Cards

Environment Enhancing Resources

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Integrate Wildlife Habitat with Green Space

②

What is it:
• Creating a wildlife habitat such as using native wetland plants to enhance an existing wetland, or creating a small pond in your dedicated green space.
• Creating connections to existing water ways, and streams, and planting native plants with winter berries for native birds

Fast Facts:
• Helps reverse the effects of habitat loss due to development
• Helps reinstate native species where invasive ones have taken over
• Attracts pollinators critical to habitat

Community Benefits:
• Aesthetically pleasing
• Bring wildlife back to the area and enjoy the ecosystem functions they provide

Use of the Planning Cards
- The borders are color coded by category
- The front titles can be the same but the backs are different tools and include:
  - Definition
  - Fast facts
  - Benefit/cost savings
- Categories often cross reference to other categories with a small letter on the upper right by the photo.
- The upper left includes from 1 to 5 dollar signs, representing a relative cost for inclusion.

Environment Enhancing Resources

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Conservation of Trees and Plants on Property

①

What is it:
• Protecting and preserving trees and plants that are already on the property

Fast Facts:
• The trees and plants that are already located on the property are part of the ecosystem of that area and provide important benefits like carbon storage, shade, habitat, and slow water absorption

Community Benefits:
• Aesthetically pleasing
• Trees provide natural shading and can reduce the "heat-island" effect from extensive paved areas
• Trees and plants provide 'ecosystem services' such as nutrient cycling, soil preservation, and habitat for wildlife

The cards cover a range of planning topics

Pervious Pavers

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Pervious Pavers ③

What is it:
- Paving material that allows stormwater to be absorbed through its surface and put back into the ground below, rather than run-off into a storm drain system.
- Can be used to pave sidewalks, parking lots, bike paths, etc.

Fast Facts:
- Decreased run-off means decreased soil erosion and less sediments and pollution winding up in watersheds
- Increases infiltration of water

Cost Savings:
- Can soak up as much as 70% to 80% of annual rainfall.
- No need to put in detention pond or other storm management solution—more property to work with.

Using the Sun

$$$

Rooftop Solar Panels and Daylighting Buildings ②

What is it:
- Solar panels on the roof allow the sun to be used for energy
- Daylighting buildings is the use of large, strategically placed widows to take advantage of the sun's light throughout the day

Fast Facts:
- Enough sunlight falls on the earth's surface every hour to meet world energy demand for an entire year.
- Daylight is beneficial to mental health

Cost Savings:
- reduce dependence on non-renewable resources for energy
- daylighting also reduces electricity bills as it gets rid of the need for lights to be on inside during the day

Transit Making Connections

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Ⓔ

Transit Connections ④

What is it:
- Bus and train routes that make transit easy for people to navigate and travel within and between towns/ the county without relying on a car
- At train stations there are also bus stops and at bus stops there is bike storage, with connections to bike lanes, and walkable sidewalks

Fast Facts:
- Overall, public transit saves the U.S. 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline annually (American Public Transit Association)

Community Benefits:
- Cleaner air/ fewer emissions from the decreased individual car usage
- Easier for community members to get to school, work, doctor's appointments, etc.

The cards 'hit the highlights' but many more benefits exist for each topic!

Vegetated Natural Areas & Green Infrastructure also:

- Provide habitat
- Reduce polluted runoff
- Clean & Cool the air
- More singing birds & plants lead to less:
  - Depression/Anxiety/Stress
- Fewer emergency asthma attacks
- Reduction in crime and violence

Green Infrastructure Local Examples

Rockland Country Country Club, Sparkill

Green Roofs

Green Infrastructure Local Example

Nyack Memorial Park, Nyack
Porous Pavement

Green Infrastructure Local Example

Bowline Point Park, Haverstraw
Rain Gardens

Green Infrastructure Local Example

Valley Cottage Library
Rain Garden, Vegetated Swales
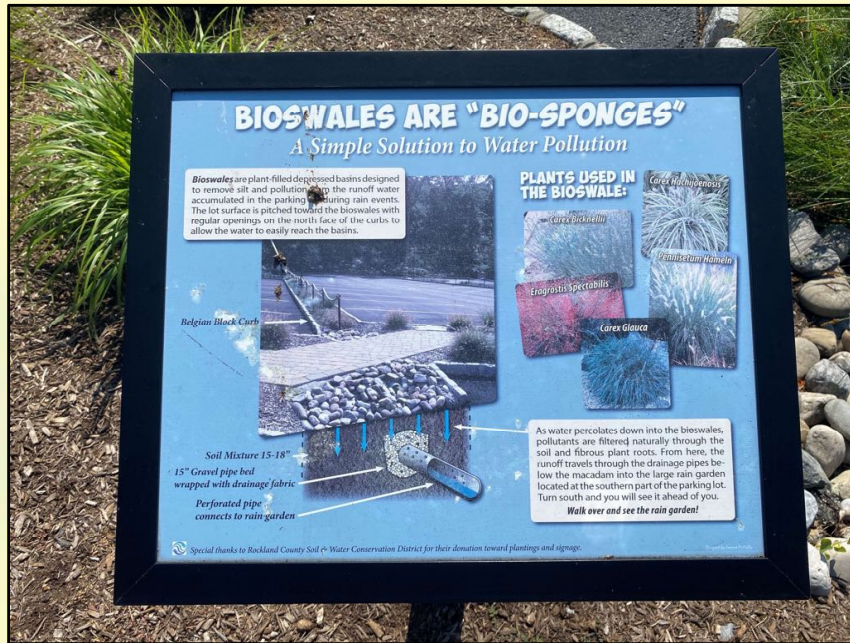
Green Infrastructure Local Example

Home for Heroes, Pearl River

Bio-Retention Area

Green Infrastructure Local Example

Tappan Zee High School
Rain Gardens, Grass Swale,
Conservation Area, Porous Pavement

Green Infrastructure Local Example

Bonus: Trees for Tribs

Trees for Tribs is a NYSDEC program that improves water quality and prevents flooding. These trees are stream buffers, another form of green infrastructure.

Children's Park in Ramapo

Green Infrastructure Additional Example

Rain Barrels

Maintaining Original Trees & Shrubs

Vegetated Islands for 'run on'

How can we plan sustainably – Creating change through innovation

http:/www.tinydiner.com

Tiny Construction

How can we plan sustainably – Creating change through innovation

Student Built Tiny Construction at Irvington H.S.

How can we plan sustainably – Creating change through innovation

Photo Google Maps

Repurposing for New Uses: The Filling Station & The Market, Rte. 9, Palisades

How can we plan sustainably – Creating change through innovation

Net Zero Design
- Reduction
- Reclamation
- Absorption
- Generation

https://building.agu.org/about-the-project/net-zero-design/

Net Zero Building, AGU Science Organization in D.C.

How can we plan sustainably – Creating change through innovation

Bus from Adelaide, Australia

(L) Bus Rapid Transit Design (R) 1ˢᵗ Solar Electric Bus

How can we plan sustainably – Creating change through innovation

Amphibious House near Marlow, River Thames, U.K.

Resting Position

Flood Event

Resilient waterfront design

Your Site Information

- Consider your site location & orientation
- What are the community/county strengths you want to build on or link to
- What are the weaknesses you identified that you can help address
- Consider the history & if there are pieces you can amplify or preserve
- S.E.E.E. the space – Social, Equitable, Economic and Environmental Strengths & Challenges