

## Town of York Open Space Survey Results

Evaluation Scale: (5)Very Important (4)Important (3)Neutral (2)Less Important (1) Not Important

	5	4	3	2	1
How important is it for the community to plan for the use and protection of open space?	141	64	19	7	24
<b>Importance of preserving...</b>					
Woodlands and Natural Wetlands	143	63	28	4	18
Farmlands	146	53	22	5	20
Natural habitats of wildlife and plants	147	50	33	8	14
Natural streams and watersheds	161	50	28	9	9
Scenic vista points	89	67	56	17	21
Open spaces to meet recreational needs	79	80	62	19	22
Buildings or places of historical interest/ value	92	91	41	18	14
Community entrance ways	82	84	48	23	24
How important is it to focus development and redevelopment toward core hamlet areas and to retain the outlying areas of the community in rural open space?	106	84	46	3	15
How important is it to you to develop a community park in the Town of York?	54	58	73	26	46
How important is it to you to preserve the rural character of the Town of York?	114	70	39	7	20
How important is it to you to support farming in the Town of York?	155	44	30	6	18

**Written comments from survey as received:**

**List any specific areas or resources in the community that you feel are important to protect:**

All farmland areas, wooded areas by schools and chemical plant.

Rural nature

Treed areas – I don't like to see trees cut down for more farm acreage-

The old bank

The area known as Little Italy between Retsof and Greigsville

Rt. 20 should be kept scenic + rural – explore possibility of adding to NYS scenic and historical Rts 5 + 20 corridor promotion

Farmland, Genesee River, historically significant places/homes

Freedom, personal Property Rights

York Landing

Greenway

The Town Hall The town needs to keep its hands out of things.  
Sounds like we are trying to be big government w/hands in everything  
and then government takes over & people have no say

Greenway – Lackawanna R.R. right of Way

Town Hall + Historic Society

Piffard Flats, Greenway Westerly Monistory Town Hall, YOA cemeteries  
churches

Genesee River – Tributarys – Farmland

Farmland

The field south of York Central Should be purchased, developed and  
dedicated to all men & women veterans of York

I think it is up to the person that owns the land to decide what he or she  
wants to do with it.

MORE BUSINESSES-

The river, streams, woods, vistas

## TAX PAYERS

Scenic vistas

Of great concern is the use of liquid manure as a source of contaminating our wells

-development of Orwen Arboretum/hist. Society house

-Greenway -river access -cemeteries

\*Well water, wetland water quality protected from farm run off (increase access to public water)

Farmland in and around the town of York

Fowlerville Rd: an 18 wheeler route from 36 to 39 is falling apart Need speed limit of 35 to 40 MPH; weight limits!

Farmland! As long as we keep the farms, the rest will be possible

The school, buildings that still exist that did years ago, salt mine, Local Business owners

Greenway

Greenway

Greenway

The aesthetic value of our town. We need to get rid of abandoned vehicles, dilapidated houses, vacant buildings, etc. Having pride in and preservation is fine, but when it looks horrible, why bother?

? protect from what?

York Landing – only public use

In the future with the help of present ag. Lands laws we should stop sale of strip building a long highways.

**In order to preserve open spaces and farmland, what steps do you think the Town should consider?**

More strict rules on splitting of farm land for residential purposes, too many homes are built in ag areas.

Not Building on those areas

Open spaces doesn't have to be farm land

Restrict urban sprawl; keep city people in towns/villages not in/on country/open land!

Limit Farmers on how many hedge rows they can remove

-expand greenways for hiking, biking, etc.  
-develop a farmer's market

1. Development of plan
2. Referendum.

The government stop baling them out! Tax em same as me.

None

Define the territory of open spaces and Farmlands in relationship to potential residential & commercial = industrial development.

Vote on, and adopt a town ordinance to preserve open space and Farmland. And only develop or redevelop space already zoned for commercial use.

Sliding scale density zoning – limit water lateral hookups in best ag land areas

Try to keep housing developments in concentrated areas as much as possible, rather than having the “strip effect.”

The Town should stay out of it.

Enforced Zoning

Don't we have zoning?

Genesee Valley Nature Preservancy → Talk to landowners re: joining up!!

What steps have been taken - People of the town should be informed

Farming, Keep them and increase them. Farming is very important to the Town and its farming for the Town.

This isn't the towns business, it is the peoples who own the lands to decide

Zone for Agricultural only!

Build housing complexes

Concentrate new homes/business in hamlet areas

Keep farms from making a mess of our roads!

Educate the community about the importance of a vibrant rural economy and how it equates to their quality of life and cost of living.

Encourage the building of senior citizen apartments and more mobil home parks.

We need industry to help with taxes, look to bring something in – make an industrial area – possible Retsof –around the RR=.R. area.

Community input → PLAN

Restrict development to one hamlet areas. Stop development along the river.

Easements – Zoning

Agriculture District – new zoning laws

Don't want to see this turn into more regulations telling me what I can and can't do with land I am paying taxes on. There are enocegs already!

Let the farmers decide

NONE

Establish aesthetic guidelines for any new building & development (see Mendon)

Cluster housing in designated areas  
Fine tune zoning to control residential & commercial development

Limiting the use of liquid manure near houses.

Look for grants  
Put this on your website as an update

Financial incentives for organic/green farming/lawn care  
Availability of mulch/recycling of yard waste @ recycle center

Raising funds for a farmland preservation program – paying farmers not to develop farmland for transmittal uses.

It may be necessary to rezone areas under consideration

I need a little more education on this topic to understand what we do now (Zoning, Etc.) What development Plans (if any) are under consideration, and what system of checks + balances are in place.

Preserve wildlife areas and private land  
Maintain parks and recreational areas

Lowering taxes on vacant land, otherwise more and more of us will be forced to subdivide

Could we have a vote, or would this backfire? Really strict zoning

(we) I don't have enough information to give an answer

We need to know what steps have already been taken

Farmers need to respect others. Debris on roads, spreading of manure on hot days unacceptable!

Discourage, or even forbid commercial construction, including housing tracts and anything more than single- family dwellings on open spaces and farmland.

Keep developers from taking the land (commercial or otherwise)

Less building

Limitations on future housing or industrial development

Not letting land be sold off to developers

Pass a law prohibiting the spreading of liquid manure.  
Provide incentives for responsible farming – such as for bio-energy production – manure to methane to electricity.

Do not allow future trailer parks or housing developments

Possible re-zoning &/or purchase  
Active ownership & responsibility for historical sites.

I think the town should consider allowing some new homes to be built here to increase tax revenue and some local businesses.

Stop the sprawl. Use existing vacant buildings and sites, remodeling them or “repurposing” them for new ventures. Examples are the vacant plaza in Retsof, vacant lots within the hamlets, unused “eyesores” that can be torn down and new structures erected (Roses Tavern in Griegsville) (Give the Wadsworth Grill credit for reusing their site after the fire.)

Right to Farm Law

What are we preserving it from? Under use, over use, pollution, housing development? The committee?

Farmers & landowners should be able to protect their own property. No Forced use or trespassing.

Ways the town can protect these two areas.

I consider agriculture an assessed and managed woodlands (gainful property) should not be vulnerable to township zoning. A county or state zoning board with “gainful property” owners reviewing gainful property improvements, commercial residential housing in such areas.

**Any additional suggestions or comments regarding the preservation of open space and farmland in the Town of York:**

\*Stop the pollution from liquid manure, etc. Being spread + sprayed excessively, which is running into streams, creeks + the river. Every one seems to turn a blind eye to this issue or doesn't seem to care. Take a LOOK.

A park with a basketball court & small playground would be very nice something like Star Park.

Agriculture is important, BUT I would think twice about buying a home or building a home here when it is manure-spreading time – Sorry!

Other Industry in the area might be more beneficial to tax base than just farm land.

To have open spaces do you have to smell cow manure 24/7 what about plowing it under in the 24 hours like it is supposed to be or the run off into creeks and streams after snow melts or rain.

Open space is good, farming is good and Industry is good. You need a balance for a strong tax base not just farming.

A park with picnic tables, grilling, flowers would be nice, but not on the main highways.

I feel we need to use grant money for these improvements and not raise taxes.

We need to be good stewards of the land around us. Having said that, you can go overboard.

Limit area for building new homes adjacent to current village/town limits – set area for such buildings – no expansion – current homes for sale – filled first – plenty available now  
For recreation - use Greenway Trail

Have guide lines and limits to amount of odor that can leave farm property.

This has been done in other areas of the country.

Land owners know best what to do with their own land.

I'm sick of government micro managing people & their property. I don't want government to buy anymore land which takes it off the tax rolls. Also, I'm for freedom to do what you want with the land you own + pay taxes on. I think people can make their own decisions. I personally think most zoning boards have gotten out of hand so that it deters any kind of development.

Please don't waste our tax dollars on this program.

It would be nice if the North end of town –Rt.36 to Rt.20 be commercially accessible, allowing a shopping Plaza and Gas Station to exist. An American Gas Station - Kwik Fill

I don't think we need to develop any open space at this time. We do not need to build another small town park that will seldom be used. Taxes

are high enough everywhere and budgets are upside down from local to the Federal government. I think we have enough Local parks for all York residents to use. York is a wonderful, polite and small community. Our farms, open and wooded spaces provide a beautiful setting to raise my family.

Need to reconnect farmers with community – diversify ag enterprise and help develop eat fresh eat local program – work to help improve community – farmer relations by changing manure routes + smells  
Corner of 36 & 63 is a dump – trucks all over, buildings falling down + in disrepair. A new family or business wanting to move here, would take 1 look at this + decide against York. We don't have to worry about new development, this corner will take care of it for us! Also please do something about the manure. I expect to smell it because this is a farming community – but there are times you can't breathe in York or on the flats to Geneseo!

Like it or not, individual property owners will determine the character and make up of the Town of York.

I love and enjoy nature, open spaces, woodlands, streams and farmland. I highly value our rural, slow paced life style. Our local farms, homeowners and outdoorsmen seem to have done an adequate job of preserving our land resources' without the help of government. I believe that the Town of York's Open Space / Farmland Preservation Committee is well intentioned; however, they must be stopped and stopped now!

What is most important is freedom, and personal property rights. I view this as an attack on both of them. Property owners should have the right to decide what happens to their land. If I want to have my property wild and undeveloped, I have that right. If I want to develop my land, I have that right also.

Government should not be in the business of restricting property use of private citizens. Government should not be buying up private lands. Government should not be buying up development rights. Government should not be "supporting" specific land uses. Taxpayer's money should not be funding any of these agendas. Well meaning individuals should not be allowed to use the power of government to impose their wishes.

Codes, planning and zoning have already gone too far. Government has such far reaching tentacles that a person can hardly move without bumping into one. Government is not the best solution to many of our concerns. Government should be kept as small as possible. Freedom and personal property rights should be highly valued.

The most influential pressure on development is the size of government and its taxation of property. Property owners are forced to have their land produce income just to maintain ownership. Taxation forces owners to produce income, develop or sell to developers.

I believe this committee is looking into a problem that does not exist, now nor in the foreseeable future. If the taxpayers of York desire a modest town park, I would go that far, but no far sweeping policies regarding land use, ownership or development.

The Town & Zoning need to focus their attention on cleaning what is already here. No more rules on what we can do with our land.

Open space is nice if it's maintained. If you have open land take care of it. If you're not using it then look into developing it to help the community with revenue/and beauty. Too many people have land that's overgrown or used for a junk site. I'm all for farm land if it's being farmed or used for recreation to help to community.

Why after all these years of the town doing well is our town wanting to step into other peoples business with regard to their land? When it isn't broke you leave it alone but watch making sure all remains fine.

It is important to keep government out of the mix and let the public make the decisions. We don't need new laws and restrictions. I drive through almost any Town in Western N>U. (York included) and see only a few children. When I was a youngster – we-ld play kickball or baseball in our yards. This generation would rather sit at the computer than exert any energy outside. I don't think they'll come if you build them a park – the park at YCS is seldom used – maybe you could add a picnic pavilion at the playgrounds at YCS.

York needs to have a playground for the kids. A park similar to Star Park with basketball courts would be very fun for the town kids.

The Town of York is fortunate to have the Leicester Park, Boyd Parker Monument, Conesus Lake, Silver Lake, Letchworth Park, Stony Brook Park, Greenway and Lackawanna Right of way all near by for recreational use. One area that is under used is York Central School grounds with its tennis courts, track, ball fields and playground equipment. A picnic area could be developed at minimal cost at the South east corner of the grounds. All that would be needed are a few picnic tables and a portable jon. The grounds are mowed and maintained by the school personnel and by putting it to additional uses. A park it would give us more bang for our taxpayer buck.

I think our time and money would be better spent by completing the water lines that are stopped i.e. McVean Rd. line.

I feel it is necessary to reach a balance between farmland and residential areas.

Also it would be nice if something could be done about people whose yards look like junk sites.

Would like to see small business such as grocery stores be brought in.

1. Homes could be built on Piffard Circle
2. In Piffard, Center St + North St. could be extended to River to complete the hamlet \*Clean up north side of North St. for development
3. The Retsof Mine property should be developed as commercial or industrial.
4. Clean up Frank Rose property in the Heart of Town crossroads of Rt. 63 and 36.

Given York's dependence on Conesus Lake for our H2O, all development should be based on the estimated ability of that supply to carry a population/ how many people and have we reached that limit. I realize that the answer here requires co-op among five (5) towns. What parts do the County Board of Supervisors and the Livingston County H2O Supply Authority play in the development mess? Aside from the U.S.

Government, The State + Town Governments large scale feed and dairy farmers are the largest employees in this county and should be heard as a major voice in how the town and the county land is used.

Need water lines on Linwood Road North, Linwood – NY. We don't have enough water to do wash.

The Town of York is rural, leave it that way. Too many city ordinances are not needed in this town. The Farmers need all the acres that are tillable

I think the Town of York is basically farm land. I don't think you will see the farmer sell their land off for development. Most farmers are excellent business men. In general if a farmer wants to sell his – her land and live the easy life it's up to them.

I do Not Want to preserve Farm Land in the Town of York

Bring in more business to help with taxes.

York is an attractive small town surrounded by farms and open spaces. Situated in the Genesee Valley, it still has a rural quality which is a great asset to the community. By protecting the open spaces, farmland, woodlands and wild life habitat we are not only conserving valuable natural resources, we are assuring that it will be here for future generations. I believe that York can create and sustain a rural environment and at the same time support appropriate growth and development.

- Partner with Orwen Arboretum to provide programs to community Re: importance, maintenance, creation of open spaces.
- Encourage farmers to leave a row or 2 of corn standing for pheasants/wildlife.
- Develop greenway
- Grow purchase @decreased cost of plants to attract birds bees, wildlife, etc.

I think it is very important to maintain a good balance between the existing homeowners, farmers and economic development regarding future plans for open space and farmland. It is important to preserve the community atmosphere and rural character in the Town of York.

These comments are being made relative to the Rodgers tract of land located just north of Chandler Road and just west of the Akzo salt mine property. It was formerly owned by the Hagan family. The proposed uses to which this property may be developed demonstrate the spirit of the survey to which my comments have been solicited. While admitting that my home and property stand so impacted by the development of this parcel, I never the less believe that the proposed uses are in conflict with the rural and agricultural character of our community.

Consider how the construction of low income housing and industrial development in this parcel will compromise not only this “rural and agricultural character”, but also places a burden on the existing infrastructure, i.e. roads, bridges, drainage etc. Thirty-three years ago my wife and I purchased our home and property because of its location in a semi-rural environment with the view of fields and crops across from our front door – now owned by the Rodgers people. Should their planned development of this parcel come to fruition, this will all change. A road into this subdivision will be directly across the street from our home. This will mean traffic 24/7 turning into and out of this property especially if the intended low income housing is built in this particular locale. The traffic on this section of Chandler Road is bad enough (speed) without the added consequences of further development as noted.

Such a parcel might be better utilized for “open space” as noted in your survey so as to preserve the “rural and agricultural character” that

we all cherish in our community. A more acceptable alternative use for this property might be for a Town park or “green space”; the benefits of which, I believe, would precipitate little debate including from myself. You reference economic, social and environmental benefits all of which the proposed Rodgers tract impact directly. A process of review with these factors under considerations is something that the Zoning Board of Appeals has failed to adequately take under advisement in consideration of the Rodgers proposed development plans for participation in this property. Again, this speaks to the spirit of your letter and the request for participation in this survey. It raises the prospect for a formal, considered review process of the utilization of open space in this community.

This may be a little “off topic” but I’ve been wondering if York/Livingston County could participate in some initiatives that might leverage the Business of Agriculture in New Ways:

- \* On-Line Farmers Market                      Eligible for
- \* Urban Community Gardens                      (State Funding?)
- \* Fresh air exchanges                              Educational/experiential
- \* Farmers Cooperative
- \* Locally Grown Specialty produce for area restaurants in other words, is there a way to use marketing and new technologies to expand the reach of our Farmers into new markets and venues? The healthier their businesses the better stewards they become of our shared resources.

Minimize logging and other methods of destroying woodlands and streams.

Incentives to keep land open and free from more housing  
Building moratorium  
Incentives, Incentives, Incentives!!!!

I grew up in the suburbs of San Francisco. My husband grew up in Brooklyn. We really love living in this part of the country, and we could not imagine liking either the suburbs or a city!  
Thanks for sending this questionnaire!

The open space/Farmland preservation committee should work closely with the planning Board + Zoning laws, as we need to control the demise of open space/farmland. We also need to keep an open mind to development in the right location.

The Town of York needs a park for the kids to suit kids of all ages. Park should be located in an area where it's centrally located for kids of our school district. Swings, track for bikes and runners. Swings, baseball + kickball fields and basketball courts. Benches flower gardens, a pavilion for rent to public. This is needed!

We surely don't need a community park. The few that would use it won't justify the cost.

Some people do forget that there are other hamlets in the Town of York other than York itself.

This is evidenced by the signs on Rts. 63 + 36, stating:

“Welcome to York” instead of Town of York, like other Town signs (Caldedonia, Leicester etc. Pavilion, Mt. Morris etc.)

I only have 5 acres but I'd love to see it as a wild life refuge. Now it's partly grown up to trees and brush and partly mowed.

When my family moved to York a major part of the reason was because of the rural-ness and openness of the area. Most people I know who live here like the same things. I think it is important to keep those features as viable alternatives to more gentrified or developed areas.

I think a community park would be a nice addition for future growth to the area.

I am not falling for this crap from the farmers who are trying to protect their own business interests under the guise of open space preservation. These huge dairy farms are agri-industries and destroy the quality of life for Town of York residents with their liquid manure spreading and unbridled use of chemicals on croplands. When I moved to the Town of York 25 years ago these mammoth farms did not exist, and they should be reigned in now. I would like to see passage of laws prohibiting the spread of liquid manure – that would do more to preserve the quality of life and environment than anything else.

I don't see open space as the problem in this town. We have a school that is deteriorating both in reputation and in structure. We have homes that won't sell because they are dilapidated. We face a tax increase, we have small businesses struggling, and we have town officials who are uncooperative. I feel this is the wrong problem to be addressing. Nobody wants to live here, obviously because there are nice homes that have been for sale for months and years. If somebody wants to take a small space to build a home here, I welcome their tax money, we have plenty of space. However, I don't welcome a business like Wal-Mart, but they would never want to come here anyway.

Stop the confusion. I am asked to respond to this survey from the Town of York but Mr. Rose puts an article in the Penny Saver saying it (survey) doesn't represent the Town of York. Let's get together.

Maintain some space between the hamlets and big industry to provide a residential ambience. You have a huge new dairy complex in people's back yards on the NE corner of Rt. 36 and Craig Rd.

The infrastructure (sewers, water, roads) exist in some hamlets. To reduce building new infrastructure, use the lots and spaces where it exists. This is also a cost savings because you don't have as much to maintain.

I think planned development is very important, especially with new housing builds. I support building close to existing town/hamlet centers, as opposed to housing sprawl that cuts up open spaces + wild life habitat.

When setting up a right to Farm Law work with Ag & Markets to make sure it works with existing zoning laws already in effect.

I grew up in York, but have not lived in New York since graduating from Business School in 1982. We still own a small piece of property on Tuttle Road, however. York meant a great deal to my parents especially my father, Al Parnell. Thank you for your work on behalf of this treasure.

Is it true what Frank Rose Jr. wrote in the Speak out section of the Mount Morris shopper?

I fail to see why York needs a committee to study the preservation of open spaces and farmland.

Farmland is privately owned and preserved by the owners who continue to use it to grow crops or raise livestock. *Unless the town seeks to control the selling of farmland for residential use.*

As for open spaces we already have several to use in to area. Letchworth Park is very close(as long as the state keeps it open). And provides recreational areas, expansive places to hike and explore, a health trail system, and multiple scenic vista points. I also believe it holds a stream, natural wildlife and plants. The Greenway Trail system runs through Fowlerville, Piffard, and Wadsworth. This is a great trail to hike and explore. There is also another trail that follows an old railroad bed. (I'm not sure of the name). This runs through Greigsville, York, and towards Linwood (I believe). I know the snowmobiles use it quite often. It is also open to hiking.

My point is that we already have open space in the area for public use. When I have time to use these areas I usually think that people in the area underutilize them. Often my family and I see only a few other

people using these areas. I don't think we need to create more places for public use when the ones we have are underutilized.

Creating open spaces for recreational needs is not very important to me either. York has a small playground behind the fire hall. And Starr Park in Leicester is only a short drive. York Central School provided playing fields for many types of sports for the children to use. Quite frankly after working, running my kids to the school for their sports and clubs, and maintaining my house I'm done for the day. I rarely have time to enjoy what the community already has and may not likely to use another park or join a recreational adult sports team.

Do I want another park, recreation area, or other area with the purpose of attracting more people to live here? NO. Not unless they aren't going to complain that "the fresh country air smells" like cow manure and that there are no shopping malls. I would prefer that those people refrain from living in York.

Should York preserve woodlands, wetlands, wildlife, plants, streams, and watersheds? It depends on what the actual agenda is of the committee. Are you trying to maintain balance between the number of people that live here and the resources that are used. Or to go on privately owned land and then dictate what the land can be used for.

I know NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management already has policies to protect streams and watersheds.

As far as woodlands, wetlands, wildlife, and plants does York already have a plan? I'm not seeing a lack of woods, wildlife, or plants in the area. *This is why I ask what is the agenda of the committee?* Do I want to see the entire woods cut down for farmland? NO. *But I also worry about a committee that will dictate what a homeowner can do on their own land.*

The General Public want control of our property and are forcing the posting of all Property.

Very Against Public Intrusion on private land.

We need open and protected land for the wildlife.

We may need areas near by to provide "safe" areas for exercise and renewal. Parks fill this need but are a luxury in a rural area. We need to support our states efforts to have clean energy such as windmills on private property "where room exists".

I have reservations how the present acceptable zoning practices in New York State are going to preserve farmland and wooded areas. The above suggestion above is not unique. This is the practice the State of Iowa and other mid western states follow for their zoning practices. I have been a land developer and construction manager, the latter in several states and can provide a wealth of information. I'm familiar with zoning in New Hampshire, Iowa, Utah and California.