

New York State Open Space Conservation [Plan](#)

Thank you to the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) for calling attention to the 2009 draft New York State Open Space Conservation [Plan](#).

According to MWA, this draft updates a strategy for preserving natural areas around the state. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation developed the plan. MWA in an email QCC received notes the plan encourages volunteerism and emphasizes the importance of forward-thinking local land-use and zoning regulations.

The plan recommends the passage of the Bigger, Better Bottle Bill, with unclaimed deposits - currently kept by distributors and bottlers - turned over to the Environmental Protection Fund. CIVIC2030 supports this initiative.

The draft also recommends "broader use of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to finance state and local land acquisition involving watershed protection." This is consistent with CIVIC2030 and QCC advocacy to protect our watershed and hold down escalating water (and sewer) rates.

According to the DEC website, the [plan](#) will be presented to Governor Paterson later this year.

Click [here](#) to review the plan.

Send comments to:
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Public comment is accepted through 4:45 p.m., February 27, 2009.