### JOIN US FOR THE

## 8th Annual Hudson Valley Affordable Housing Summit

### May 15, 2025

Elisabeth Haub School of Law White Plains, NY



**Presented By:** 



### AGENDA

#### 8:45 – 9:00 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

**County Executive Ken Jenkins, Westchester County Tiffany Zezula, Esq.**, Staff Consultant, Housing Action Council and Deputy Director, Land Use Law Center

#### 9:00 – 9:50 SESSION 1: ZONING FOR HOUSING

**Devon Chodzin,** *Project Manager, National Zoning Atlas* **Jessica A. Bacher, Esq.**, *Executive Director, Land Use Law Center* 

Joseph Liberti, Founder and Director, Original Civic Research & Action, Mamaroneck High School

Anna Blanco, Original Civic Research & Action (OCRA), Mamaroneck High School Alex Gross, Original Civic Research & Action (OCRA), Mamaroneck High School Hannah Hehler, Original Civic Research & Action (OCRA), Mamaroneck High School Tyler Prozes, Original Civic Research & Action (OCRA), Mamaroneck High School

MODERATOR Peter Feroe, AICP, Vice President, Planning and Land Development, AKRF

### 9:50 – 10:40 SESSION 2: ALIGNING COMMUNITY GOALS: SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION

Rebecca G. Crimmins, Senior Vice President of Real Estate and Development, Institute for Community Living and Co-Convener, Hudson Valley Alliance of Housing and Conservation Andrew Germansky, Senior Vice President of Real Estate, Westhab, Inc Maulin Mehta, AICP, New York Director, Regional Plan Association (RPA) Samantha Pearce, VP of Sustainability, Office of Housing Preservation, New York State Homes & Community Renewal Tiffany B. Zezula, Esq., Deputy Director, Land Use Law Center

### AGENDA

#### **10:40 – 11:30 SESSION 3: AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP....IT'S BACK!**

Jessica A. Bacher, Esq., Executive Director, Land Use Law Center
Alexander Roithmayr, Government Affairs Director, Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors
Orisha Jennings-Hudgins, MPA, Director of Housing, City of New Rochelle
Christina Lazarus, Manager, Benefits, Northwell Health
James R. Wendling, Chief Operating Officer, WBP Development LLC

#### **11:30 – 12:20 SESSION 4: COMMUNITY PREFERENCING**

Michelle Cafarelli Kabat, Esq., Associate, Nixon PeabodyLLP Harry J. Kelly, Esq., Partner, Nixon PeabodyLLP

MODERATOR: Jason Labate, Esq., Partner, Goldstein Hall PLLC

Thank you to the





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### **ZONING FOR HOUSING**

### PANELISTS

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## Decoding Zoning: Westchester County

zoningatlas.org

Hudson Valley Affordable Housing Summit | May 2025



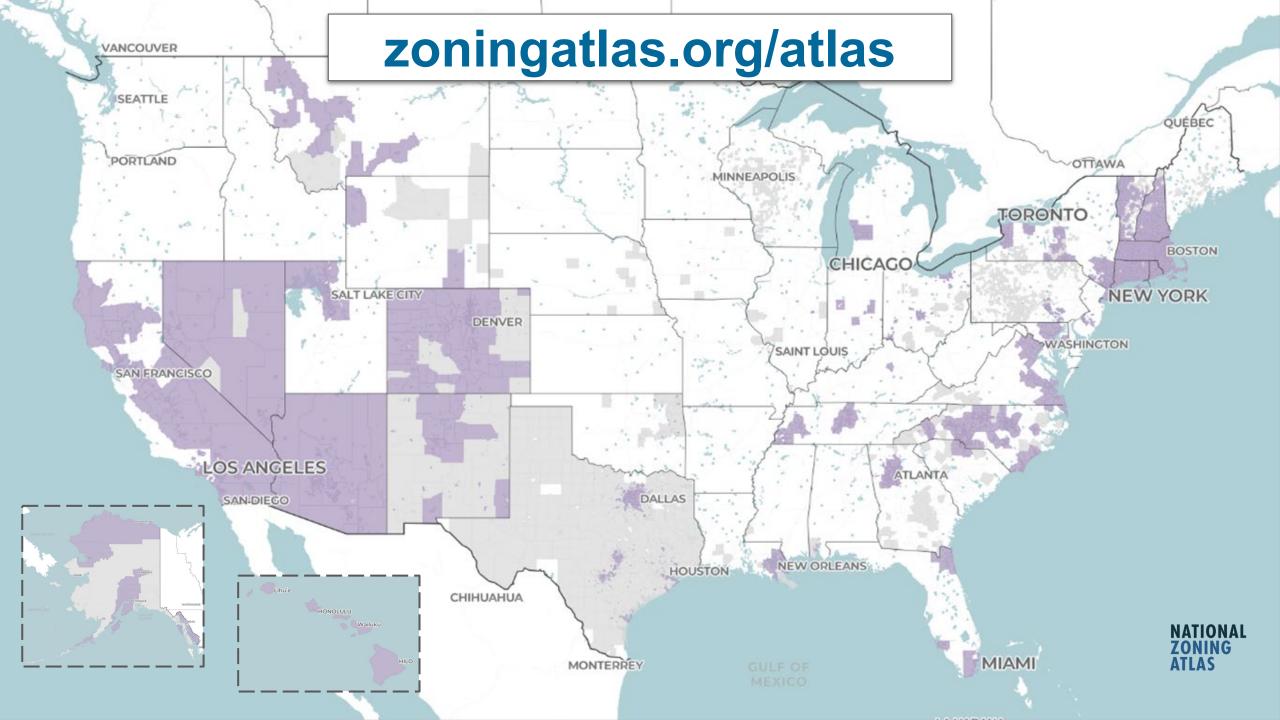
## Speaker



### **Devon Chodzin**

Project Manager National Zoning Atlas





## Contents

1. Why the NZA 2. How it's Made

3. Using the NZA 4. Decoding Westchester Zoning



# 1. Why the NZA

## Zoning is Complicated!

As you know, zoning is decentralized, opaque, and hard to understand. We hope to translate codes to provide a standardized understanding in a centralized and accessible location.



## What We Do

### Centralize

We centralize zoning code information into a one-stop shop through our online map

### **Standardize**

We standardize info to enable apples-to-apples comparisons of zoning rules

### Make Accessible

We empower advocates with information they need to change zoning for good



## 2. How it's Made

## Jurisdictions

The NZA team identifies *jurisdictions*: cities, towns, counties, villages, and other places with zoning authority for each state.

(Here are the 43 jurisdictions in Westchester County.)

Then, we figure out whether each jurisdiction has zoning.

- Ardsley
- Bedford
- Briarcliff Manor
- Bronxville
- Buchanan
- Cortlandt
- Croton-on-Hudson
- Dobbs Ferry
- Eastchester
- Elmsford
- Greenburgh
- Harrison
- Hastings-on-Hudson
- Irvington
- Larchmont
- Lewisboro
- Mamaroneck (Town)
- Mamaroneck (Village)
- Mount Kisco
- Mount Pleasant
- Mount Vernon
- New Castle
- New Rochelle

- North Castle
- North Salem
- Ossining (Town)
- Ossining (Village)
- Peekskill
- Pelham
- Pelham Manor
- Pleasantville
- Port Chester
- Pound Ridge
- Rye
- Rye Brook
- Scarsdale
- Sleepy Hollow
- Somers
- Tarrytown
- Tuckahoe
- White Plains
- Yonkers
- Yorktown

## Westchester is 100% Zoned!

### **Zoning Text**

#### Chapter 295

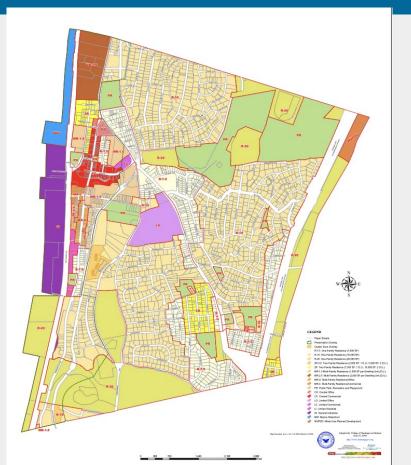
ADTICLE

#### ZONING

	ARTICLE I		ARTICLE IV
	General Provisions	Of	f-Street Parking and Loading
§ 295-1.	Intent; statutory authority;	§ 295-22.	Application.
	title.	§ 295-23.	Parking facilities dedicated to
§ 295-2.	Purposes.		Village.
§ 295-3.	Objectives.	§ 295-24.	Existing structures and uses.
§ 295-4.	Rules of construction.	§ 295-25.	Planning Board approval.
§ 295-5.	Definitions.	§ 295-26.	Location.
		§ 295-27.	Different uses on single lot.
	ARTICLE II	§ 295-28.	Parking and loading area
Establishr	nent of Districts and Schedule		screening.
		§ 295-29.	Size of parking spaces.
§ 295-6.	Enumeration of districts.	§ 295-30.	Additional standards as to siz
§ 295-7.	Zoning Map.		and location of parking space
§ 295-8.	interpretation of district boundaries.	§ 295-31.	Grades, drainage and markir of parking spaces.
§ 295-9. § 295-10.	Lots in two or more districts. Order of restrictiveness.	§ 295-32.	Internal landscaping in parki areas.
§ 295-10. § 295-11.	Schedule controlling land and	§ 295-33.	areas. Traffic circulation in parking
g 295-11.	buildings.	§ 295-33.	areas.
		§ 295-34.	Snow storage in parking area
	ARTICLE III	§ 295-35.	Commercial vehicles in parki
Regulatio	ons Applicable to All Districts		areas.
6 205 12	1	§ 295-36.	Schedule of off-street parking
§ 295-12.	Application of general regulations.		requirements.
§ 295-13.	Conformity required.	§ 295-37.	Operation and maintenance of
§ 295-13. § 295-14.	Completion of structures issued		off-street parking facilities.
8 295-14.	building permit before chapter.	§ 295-38.	Off-street loading
§ 295-15.	Conflicting standards.		requirements.
§ 295-16.	Environmental matters.		ARTICLE V
§ 295-10. § 295-17.	Accessory building attached to		Driveways and Sidewalks
§ 293-17.	main building.		Driveways and Side waiks
§ 295-18.	Building lots and open spaces.	§ 295-39.	General provisions.
§ 295-19.	Required street frontage and	§ 295-40.	Driveway grades.
3 -> 0 -> 1	access; access to sewers.	§ 295-41.	Maximum driveway size and
§ 295-20.	Required yards.		curbcuts.
§ 295-21.	Height limitations; courts.	§ 295-42.	Driveway alignment and location.
		§ 295-43.	Sight distance.

0	ARTICLE IV ff-Street Parking and Loading
2.	Application.
3.	Parking facilities dedicated to
	Village.
4.	Existing structures and uses.
5.	Planning Board approval.
6.	Location.
7.	Different uses on single lot.
8.	Parking and loading area
	screening.
9.	Size of parking spaces.
0.	Additional standards as to size
	and location of parking spaces.
1.	Grades, drainage and marking
	of parking spaces.
2.	Internal landscaping in parking areas.
3.	ui cusi
3.	Traffic circulation in parking areas.
4.	Snow storage in parking areas.
5.	Commercial vehicles in parking
	areas.
6.	Schedule of off-street parking
	requirements.
7.	Operation and maintenance of
	off-street parking facilities.
8.	Off-street loading
	requirements.
	ARTICLE V
	Driveways and Sidewalks
9.	General provisions.
0.	Driveway grades.

### **Zoning Map**



## **Zoning Districts**

The NZA then reviews the zoning text + map to identify *zoning districts* in each jurisdiction.

Here are the 12 districts in Larchmont, New York:

Name	tĻ	Туре ↑↓	Overlay ↑↓
MF, Multifamily Residence		Primarily Residential	No
R-10, One-Family Residence		Primarily Residential	No
R-12.5, One-Family Residence		Primarily Residential	No
R-15, One-Family Residence		Primarily Residential	No
R-20, One-Family Residence		Primarily Residential	No
R-30, One-Family Residence		Primarily Residential	No
R-5, One-Family Residence		Primarily Residential	No
R-50, One-Family Residence		Primarily Residential	No
R-7.5, One-Family Residence and Townhouse		Primarily Residential	No
RB, Retail Business Commercial		Mixed with Residential	No
RC, Retail Center Commercial		Mixed with Residential	No
W, Waterfront Coastal		Mixed with Residential	No

# **Zoning Districts**

Districts are categorized as one of four main types:

- Primarily Residential
- Mixed with Residential
- Nonresidential
- Overlay not Affecting Use

Name 1↓	Туре 1↓	Dverlay ↑↓
C-3T-3, Commercial-Transition	Nonresidential	No
<u>C-5, Commercial</u>	Nonresidential	No
<u>C-H(O), Commerical Hotel Overlay</u>	Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
Church	Nonresidential	No
<u>C-PD-M, Medical Use Overlay</u>	Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
<u>C-R, Commercial-Retail Overlay</u>	Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
C-R-PD, Commercial Retail Planned Development Overlay	Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
E-O-PD, Entertainment Office Planned Development Overlay	Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
M-2S, Industrial	Nonresidential	No
Mixed Use Overlay	Mixed with Residential	Yes
M-PD-2, Mixed Use Planned Development Overlay	Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
M-PD-3, Mixed Use Planned Development Overlay	Mixed with Residential	Yes
M-PD-4, Mixed Use Planned Development Overlay	Mixed with Residential	Yes
M-PD-5, Mixed Use Planned Development Overlay	Primarily Residential	Yes
One Beverly Hills Overlay Specific Plan	Mixed with Residential	Yes
Parks, Reservoirs, Government	Unzoned (GIS ONLY)	No
P-S, Public Service	Nonresidential	No
R-1, One-Family Residential	Primarily Residential	No
R-1.5, One-Family Residential	Primarily Residential	No
R-1.5X, One-Family Residential	Primarily Residential	No
R-1.5X2, One-Family Residential	Primarily Residential	No

# **Zoning Districts**

Some districts are **overlay districts**, meaning they contain additional rules that layer on top of the **base districts**.

Unless specified, overlay districts do not override the base district regulations, but rather modify or supplement them.

Name	t↓	Туре ↑↓	Overlay ↑↓
C-3T-3, Commercial-Transition		Nonresidentia	No
C-5, Commercial		Nonresidentia	No
<u>C-H(O), Commerical Hotel Overlay</u>		Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
Church		Nonresidentia	No
<u>C-PD-M, Medical Use Overlay</u>		Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
C-R, Commercial-Retail Overlay		Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
C-R-PD, Commercial Retail Planned Development Overlay		Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
E-O-PD, Entertainment Office Planned Development Overla	<u>ay</u>	Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
M-2S, Industrial		Nonresidentia	No
Mixed Use Overlay		Mixed with Residentia	Yes
M-PD-2, Mixed Use Planned Development Overlay		Overlay not Affecting Use	Yes
M-PD-3, Mixed Use Planned Development Overlay		Mixed with Residentia	Yes
M-PD-4, Mixed Use Planned Development Overlay		Mixed with Residentia	Yes
M-PD-5, Mixed Use Planned Development Overlay		Primarily Residentia	Yes
One Beverly Hills Overlay Specific Plan		Mixed with Residentia	Yes
Parks, Reservoirs, Government		Unzoned (GIS ONLY)	No
P-S, Public Service		Nonresidentia	No
R-1, One-Family Residential		Primarily Residentia	No
R-1.5, One-Family Residential		Primarily Residentia	No
R-1.5X, One-Family Residential		Primarily Residentia	No
R-1.5X2, One-Family Residential		Primarily Residentia	No

## Then the Work Begins:

### **Text Analysis**

- Obtain zoning text
- Specify a list of zoning districts •
- Extract key text datapoints following standardized methodology

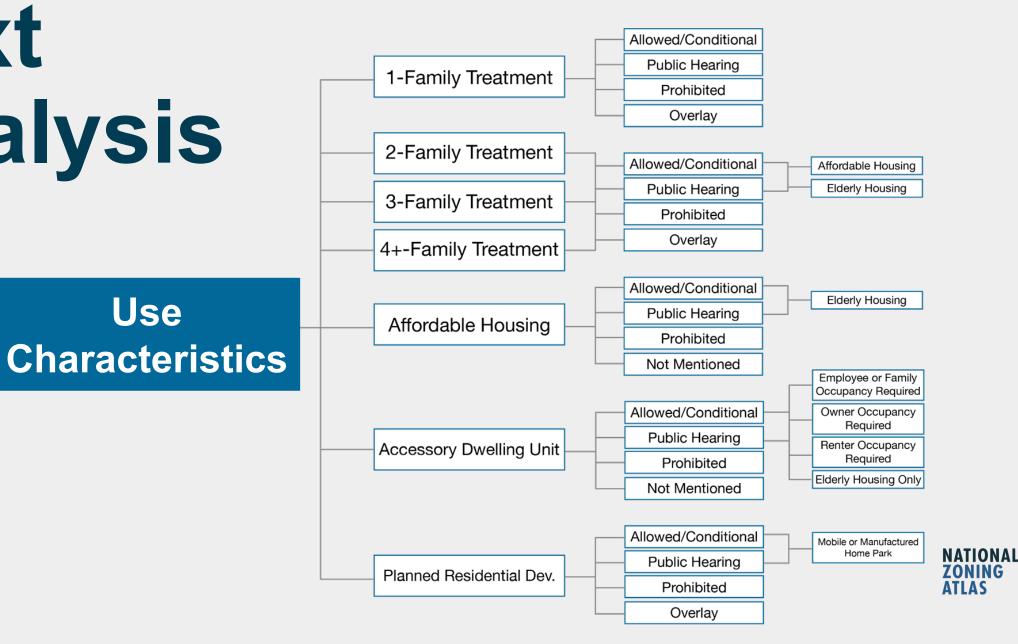
### **Geospatial Analysis**

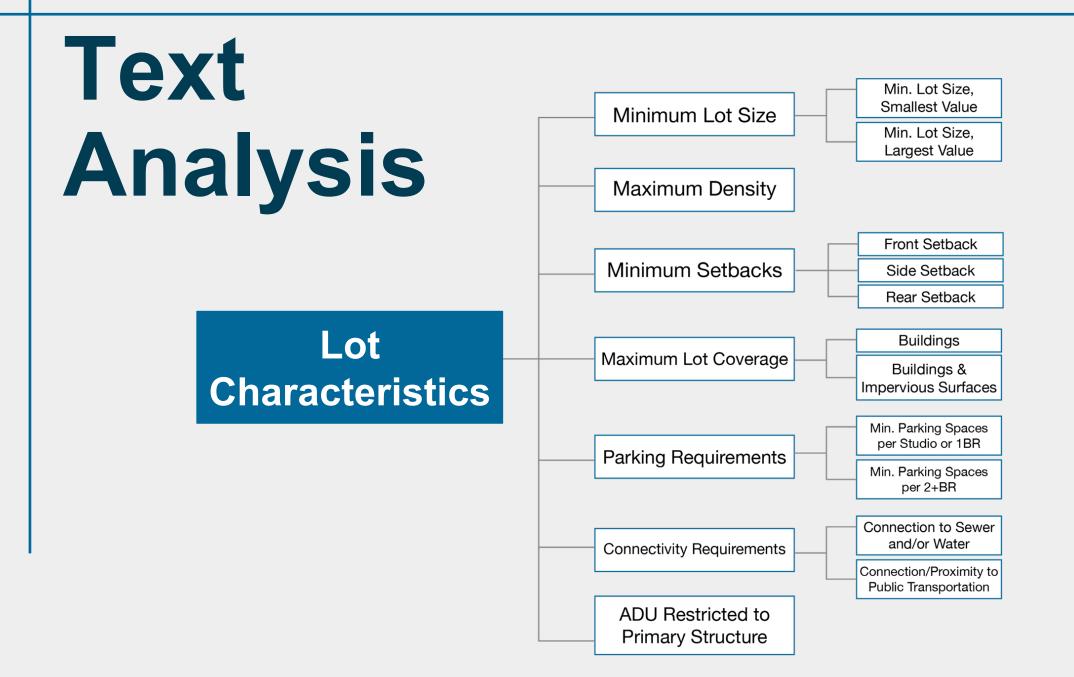
- Obtain zoning map
- Specify a list of zoning districts
- Digitize the zoning map: create or clean existing geospatial data

text & map data joined and integrated -----into NZA

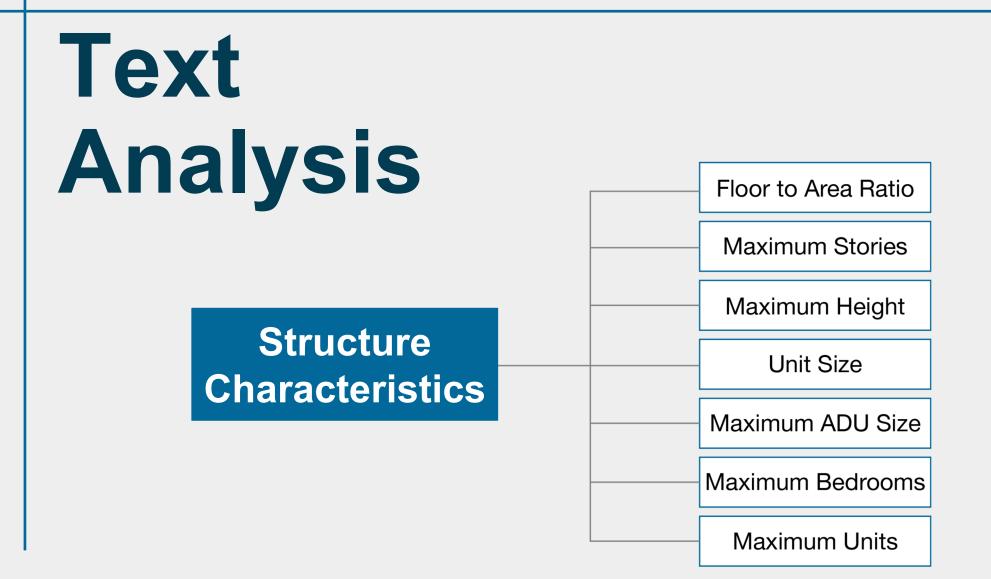
## Text Analysis

Use









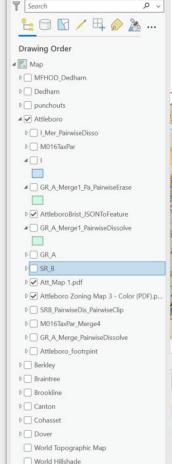


## **Geospatial Analysis**

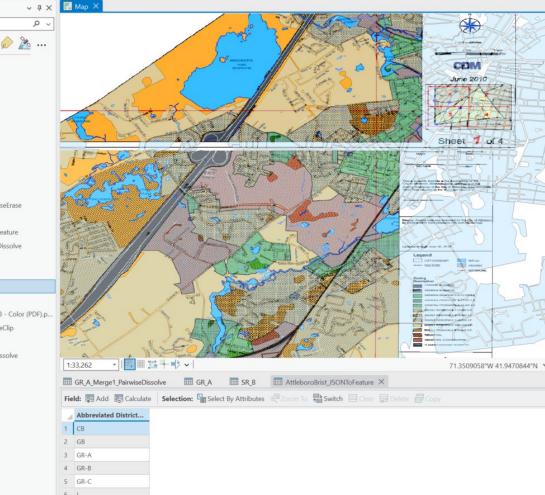
### **Obtain Zoning Data**

Get shapefiles from *jurisdictions* (state or local government)

Georeference (digitize in GIS software) + create manually from PDF map



Contents



# **Geospatial Analysis**

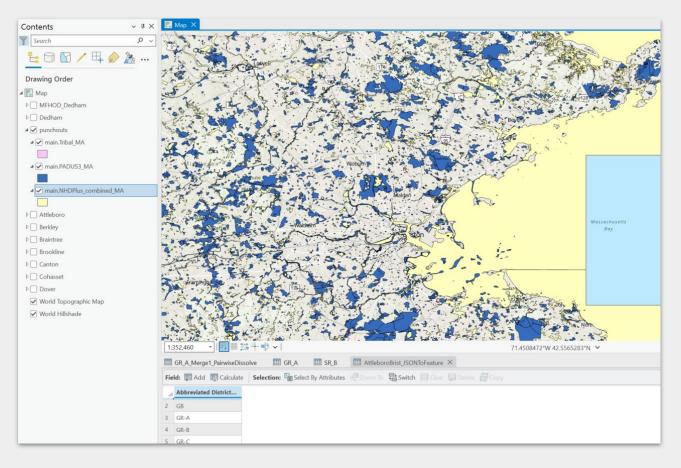
### **Standardize Data**

### "Punch Out"

- Tribal Lands
- Protected Areas Database of the United States (PADUS)
- Water
- Rights-of-way

### Clean up

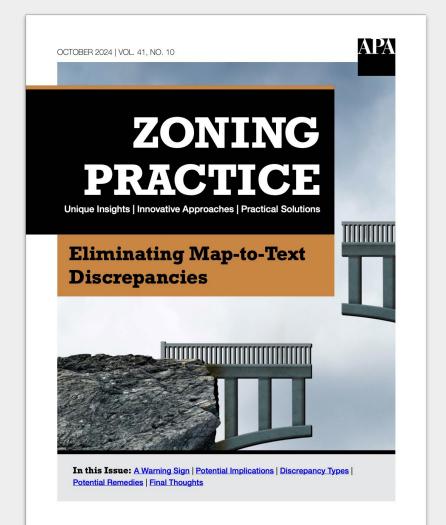
- Overlapping base districts
- Misdrawn maps
- Remove
  - outdated
  - districts
- Missing overlays
- Boundary disputes



# **Zoning's Challenges**

### **Inconsistencies Between Text and Map**

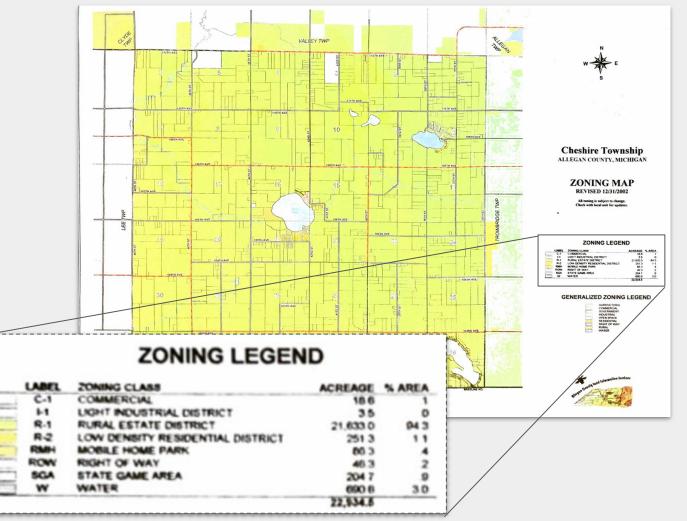
- In this analysis, 36% of sample jurisdictions had major text-to-map discrepancies.
- Example: A zoning map updated before the zoning text and vice versa.
- Example: Clerical errors in conflicting definitions within zoning texts.



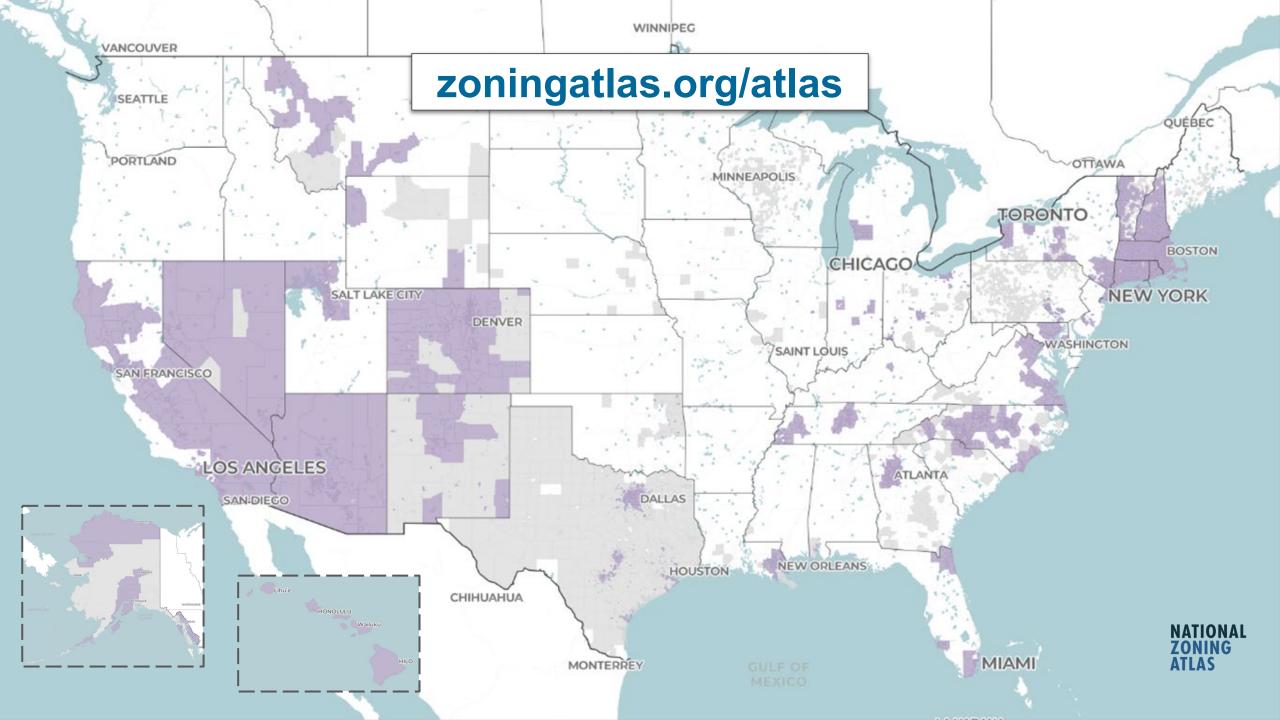
# Zoning's Challenges

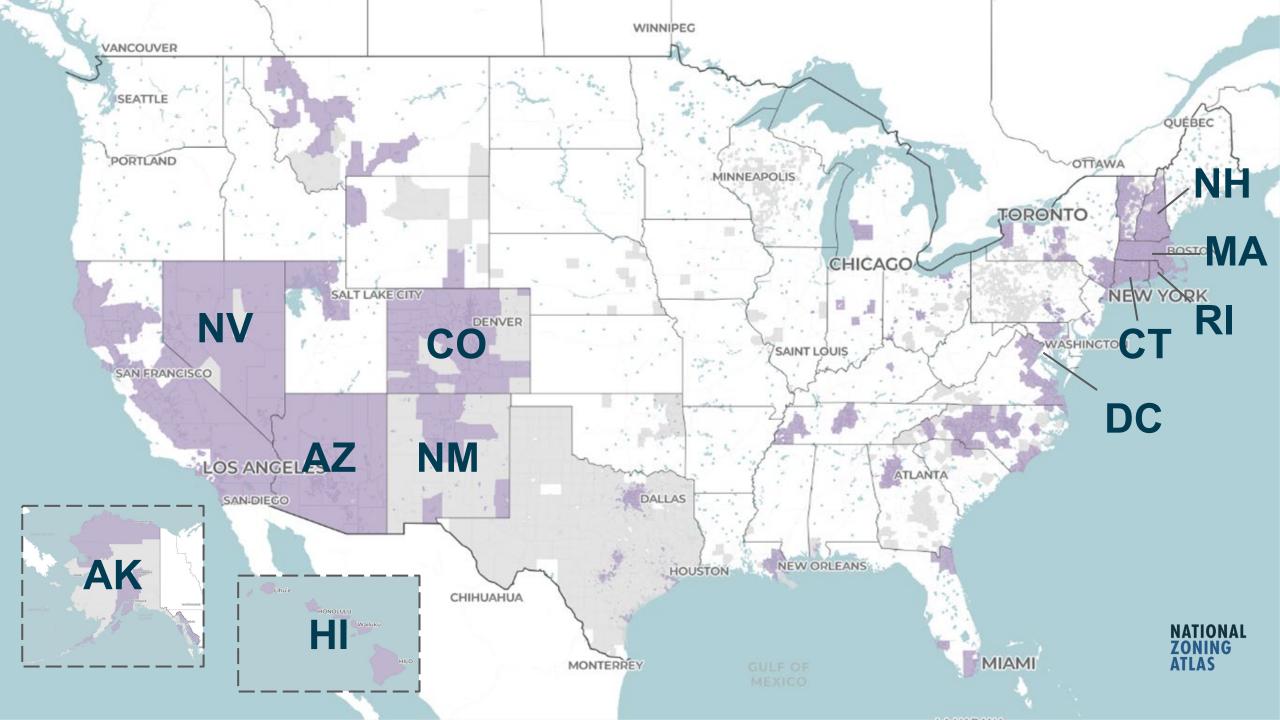
### Poor Map Design

- Some maps are almost impossible to read!
- Example: Cheshire, MI uses 3 slightly different shades of highlighter yellow.



## 3. Using the NZA





## **National Progress**

# Published Jurisdictions: 6,800+

With Zoning: **4,100+** Without Zoning: **2,600+**  Published Zoning Districts: 73,000+

Pages of Code Read: 755,000+



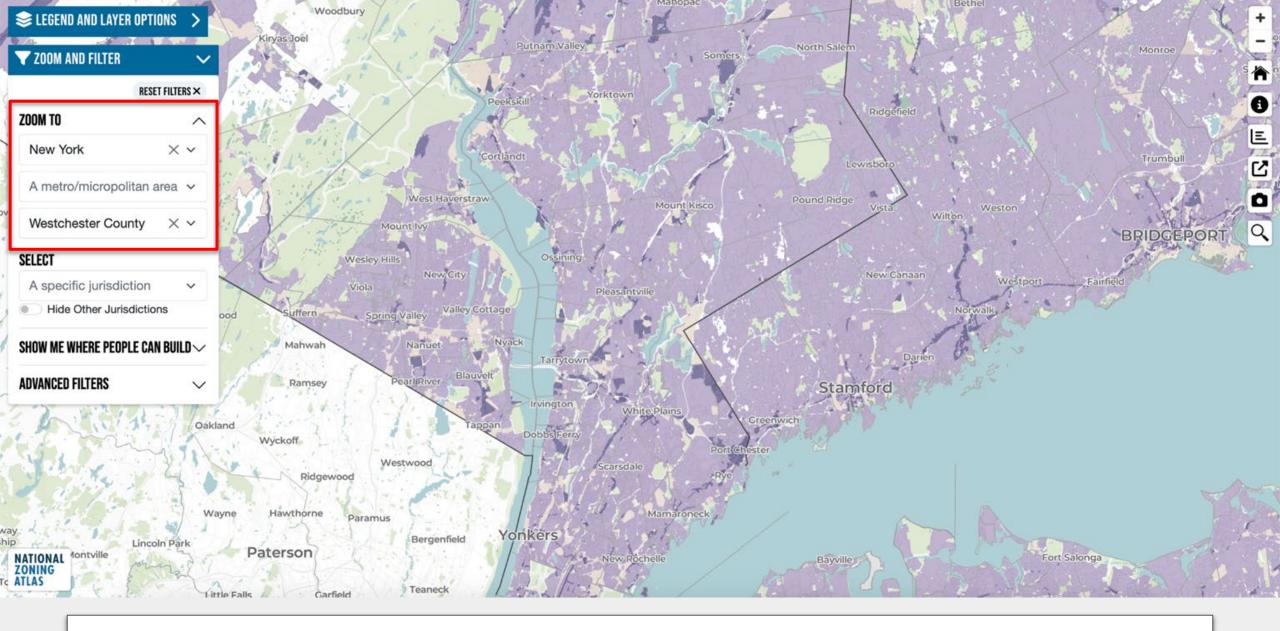
as of 5/7/25

## **National Progress**

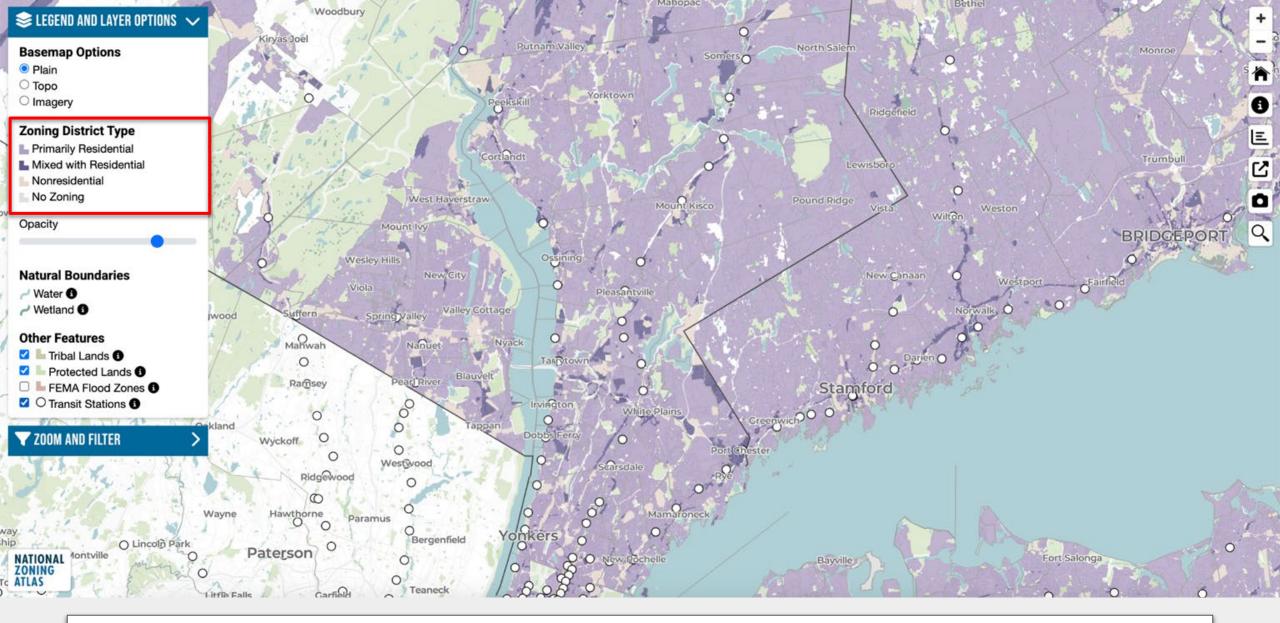
Population Covered: 149,000,000+, ~45% of US residents Acres Covered 1,100,000,000+, ~49% of total land



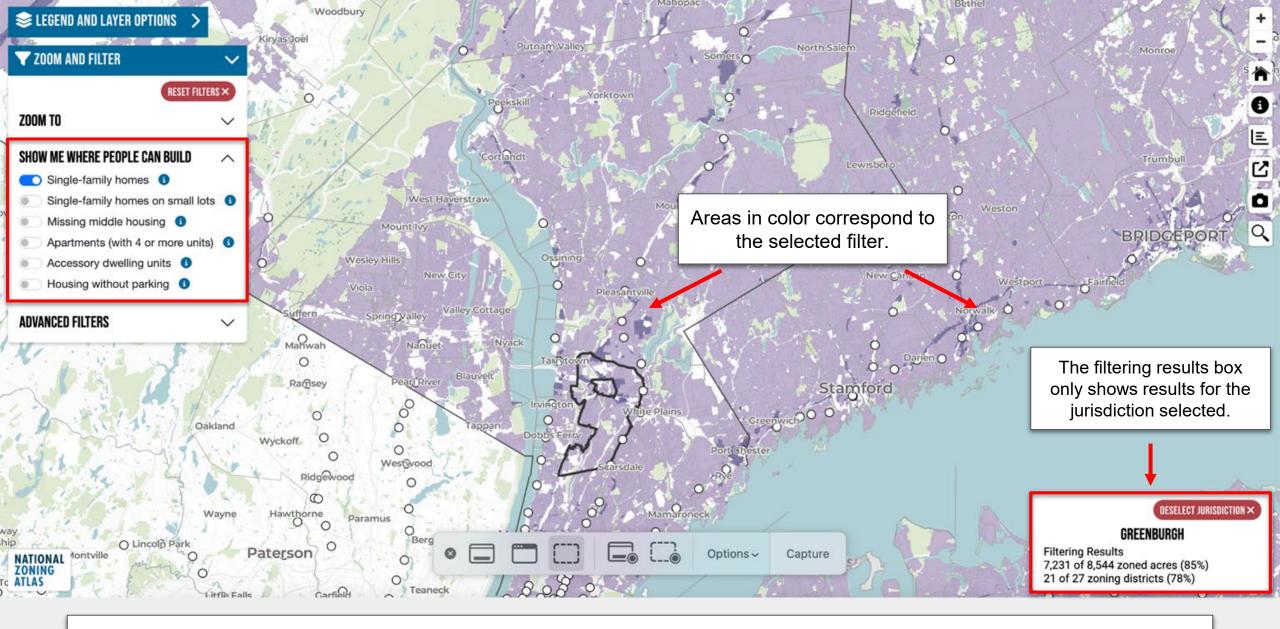
## 4. Decoding Zoning in Westchester County



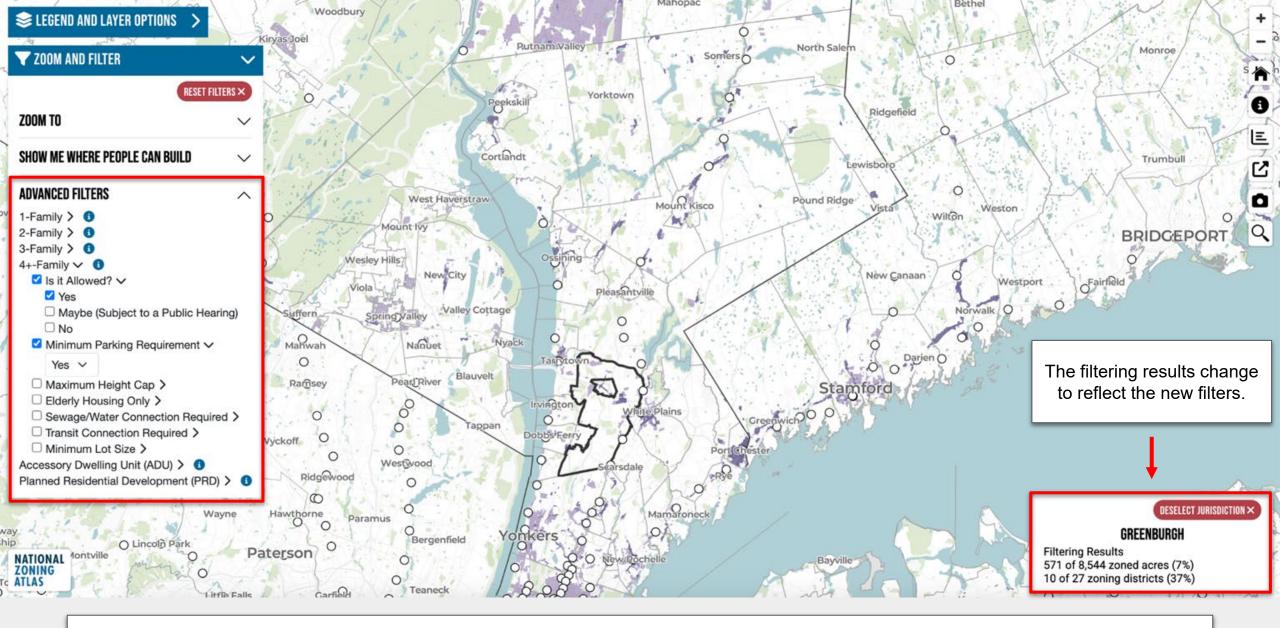
 $\rightarrow$  Use the **Zoom To** filters to select a state and county. The map will zoom to that area.



→ At this scale the legend updates to show Zoning District Type, where medium purple areas are Primarily Residential, dark purple areas are Mixed with Residential, and tan areas are Nonresidential. (White areas are unzoned—these are typically rights-of-way, like roads.)



- → Use the **Show Me Where People Can Build** toggles for quick filtering.
- → The Filtering Results Box shows the % of zoned acres and districts satisfying selected filters.



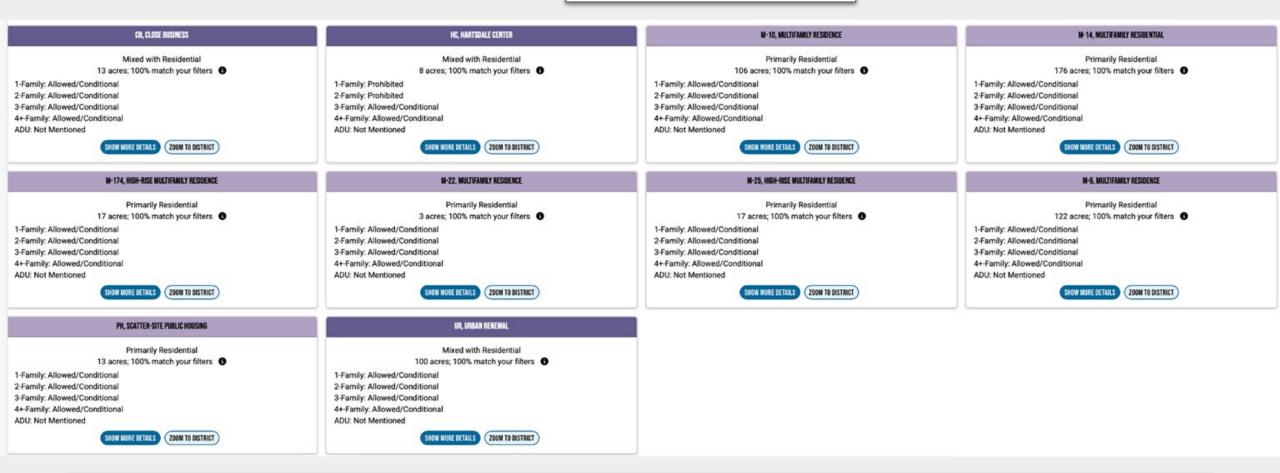
→ Use Advanced Filters for detailed options like whether residential zones require public hearings, allow accessory units, are part of a Planned Residential Development, or have minimum lot sizes.

#### JURISDICTION SNAPSHOT 🕑 COUNTY SNAPSHOT 🖸 METRO AND MICROPOLITAN AREA SNAPSHOT 🖸

#### CARDS OF ZONING DISTRICTS IN SELECTED AREA FOR CHOSEN JURISDICTION

Showing 10 out of 27 zoning districts in Greenburgh

The districts that appear in the grid meet the criteria of the filters selected on the map.



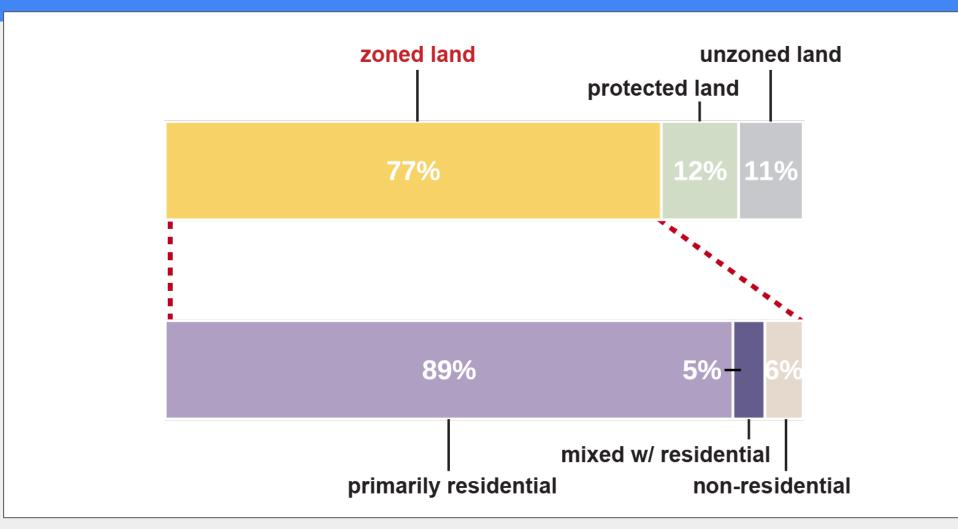
- → Scroll below the map to see a grid of "cards" for each of the districts represented on the map.
- → Click Show More Details for a detailed summary of the district's use, lot, and structure characteristics.

# How Does all of Westchester Zone?

Online and here, we have a "Zoning Snapshot" that illuminates key characteristics.

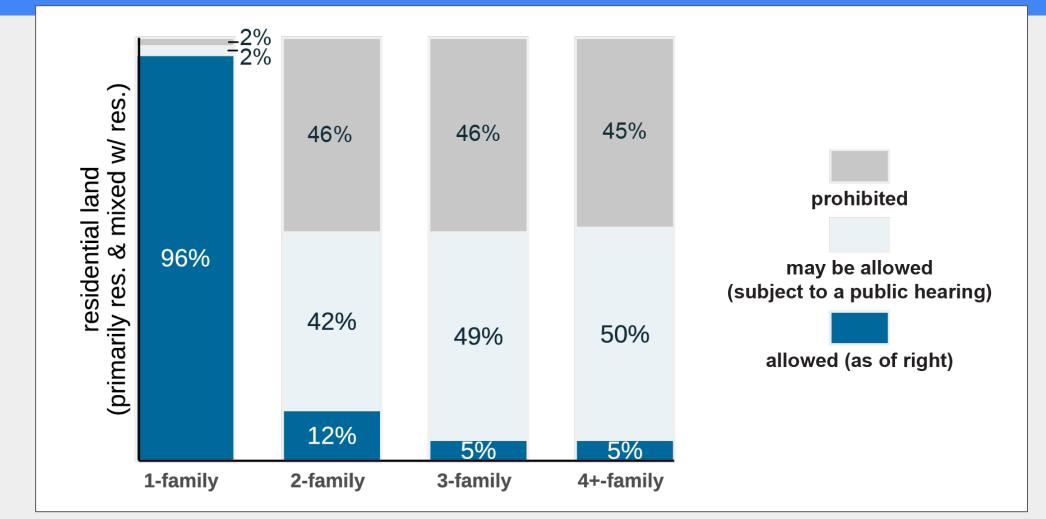


# Land & Zoning Categories



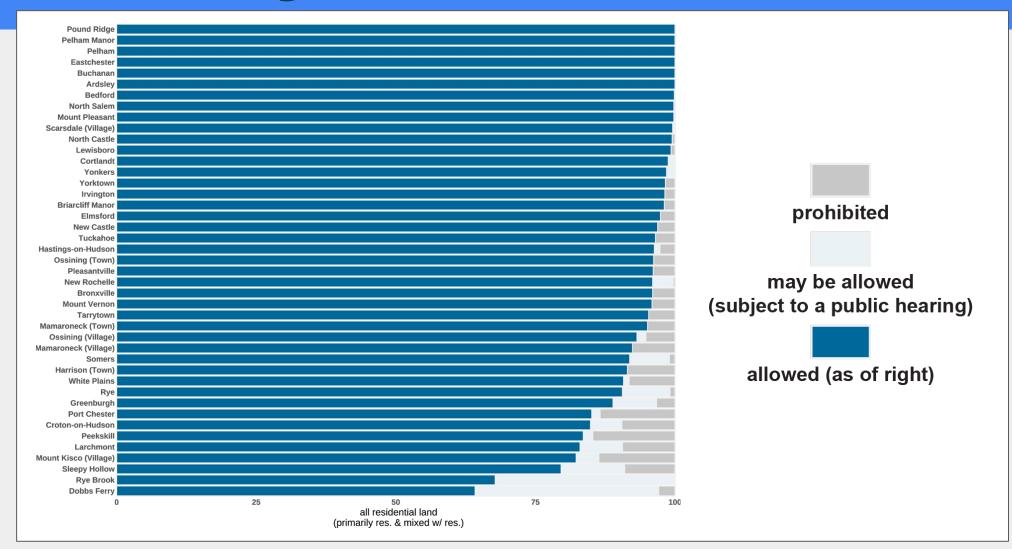
NATIONAL ZONING

## **Unit Allowances**



NATIONAL ZONING

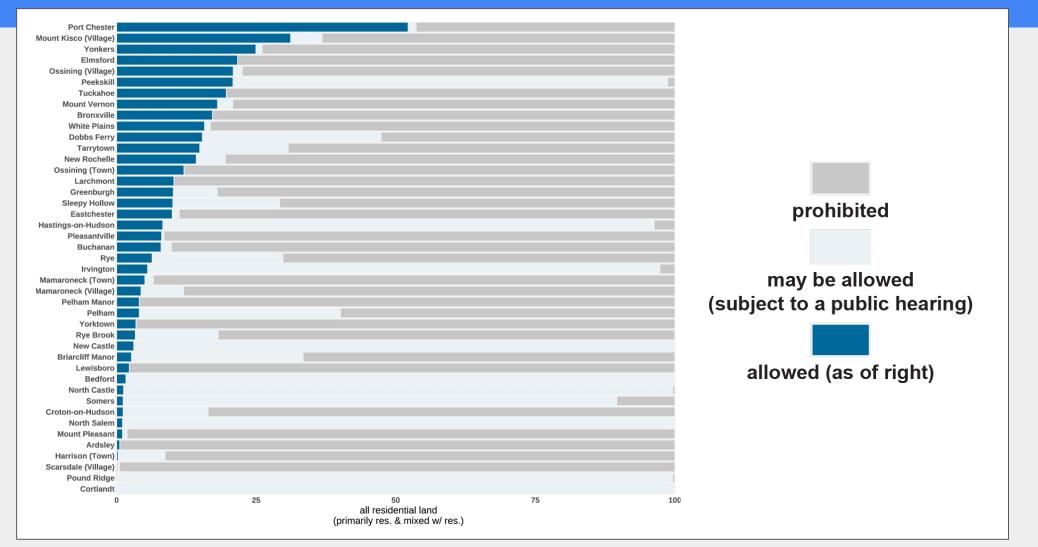
## **1-Family Unit Allowances**



NATIONAL

ZONING

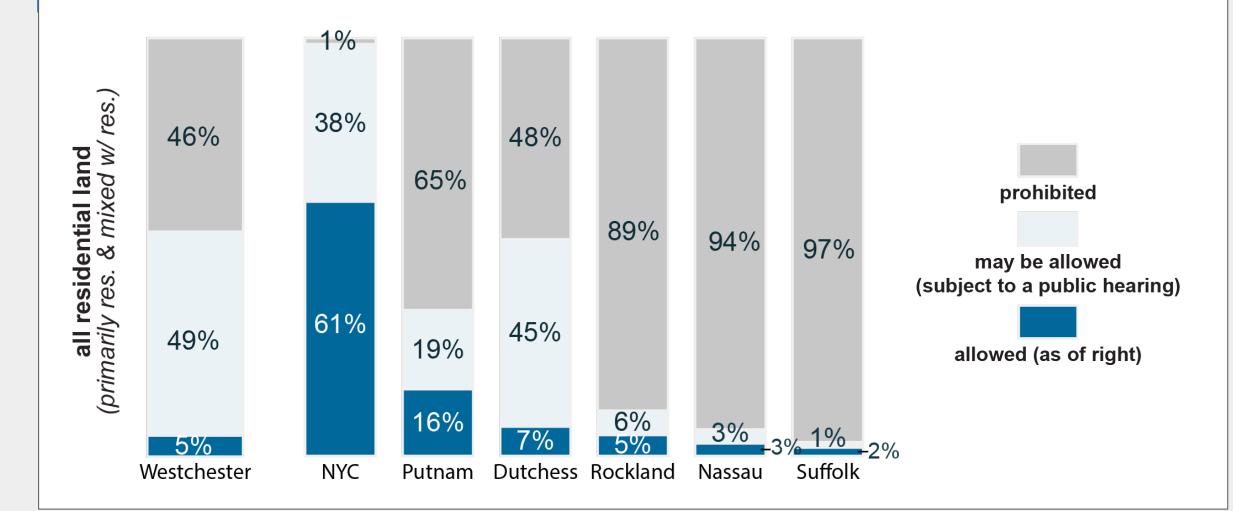
# **4+-Family Unit Allowances**



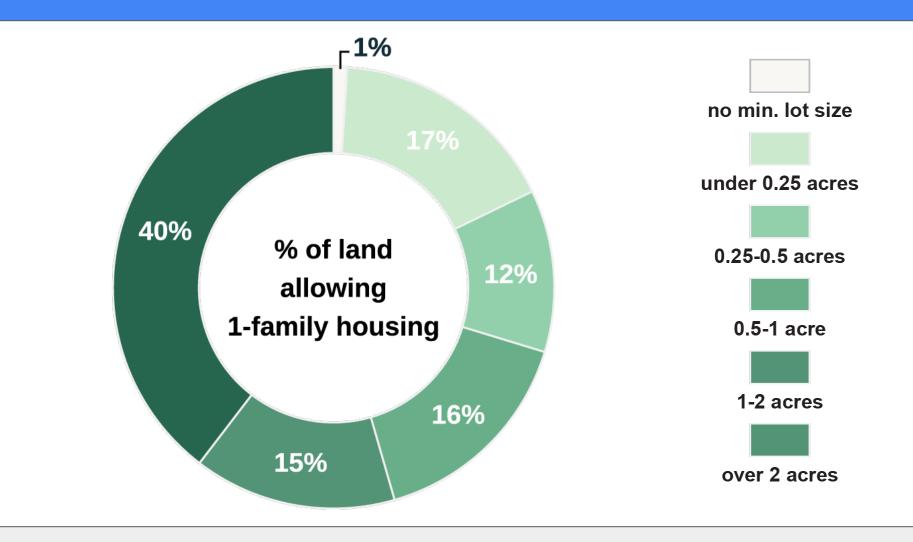
NATIONAL

ZONING

## **Regional 4-Fam Unit Allowances**

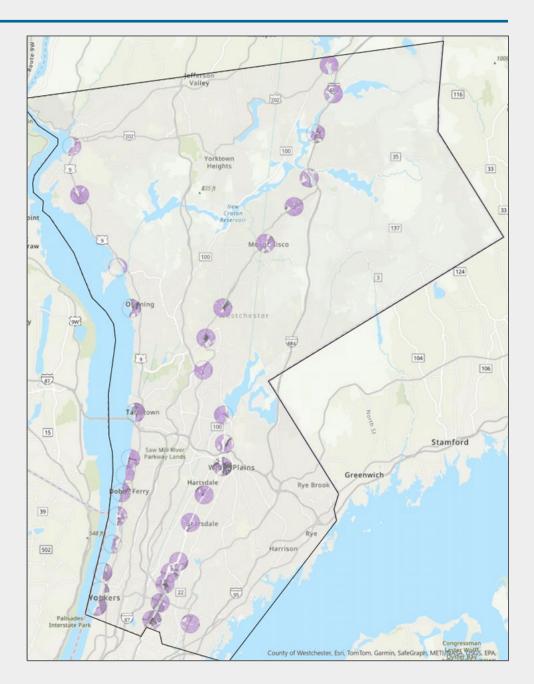


## **Minimum Lot Sizes**

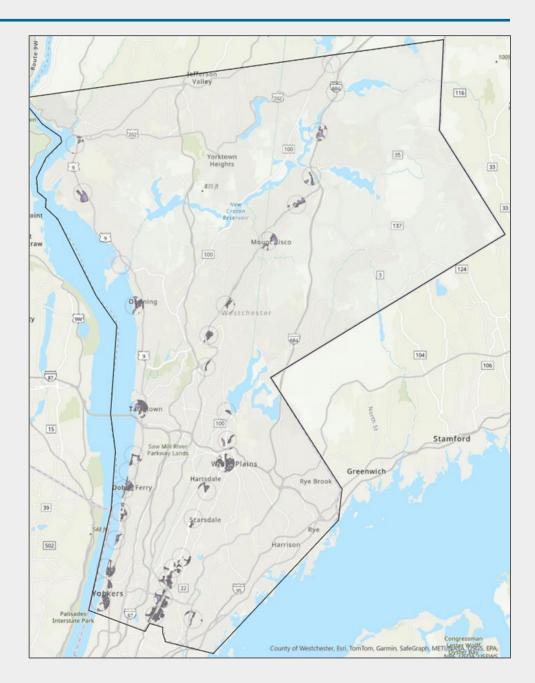




1-Family Zoning in Proximity to Transit Stations



## 4+-Family Zoning in Proximity to Transit Stations



# **Create A Zoning Snapshot**

## zoningatlas.org/snapshots

A Zoning Snapshot is a visual, statistical summary of any jurisdiction, county, or metro/micropolitan area published to the NZA.



## JURISDICTION

(filter by state, optional)					
(select a jurisdiction)					

## COUNTY

(filter by state, optional)
(select a county)

westchester

 $\sim$ 

 $\sim$ 

Westchester County, New York

## METRO/MICROPOLITAN

## AREA

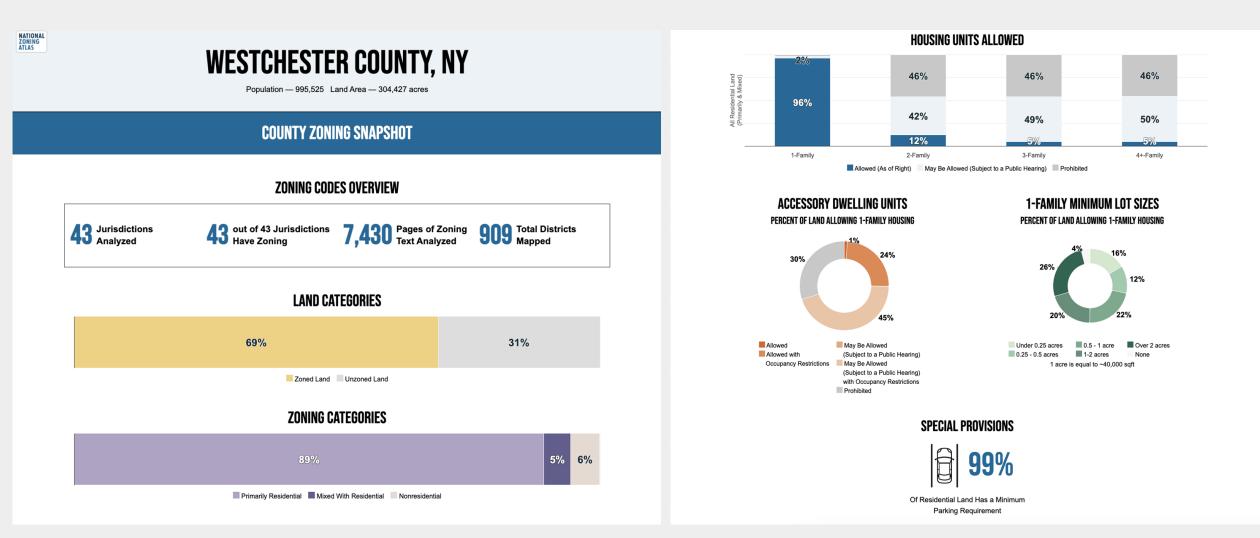
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(select a metro/micropolitan area)



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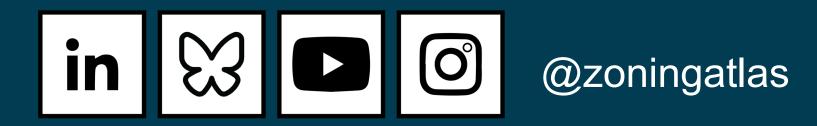
# Use the NZA & Share What you Find!



zoningatlas.org



info@zoningatlas.org





## **ZONING FOR HOUSING**

### PANELISTS

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Moderator: Peter Feroe, AICP, Vice President, Planning and Land Development, AKRF





## ALIGNING COMMUNITY GOALS: HOUSING SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION

## **PANELISTS**

Maulin Mehta, AICP, New York Director, Regional Plan Association

Andrew Germansky, Senior Vice President of Real Estate, Westhab, Inc

**Samantha Pearce**, VP of Sustainability, Office of Housing Preservation, New York State Homes & Community Renewal

**Rebecca G. Crimmins**, Senior Vice President of Real Estate and Development, Institute for Community Living and Co-Convener, Hudson Valley Alliance of Housing and Conservation

Tiffany B. Zezula, Esq., Deputy Director, Land Use Law Center



### Zoning to Create Resilient Homes for All





NEW YORK ZONING ATLAS



May 15, 2025 Hudson Valley Affordable Housing Summit

Maulin Mehta, New York Director

### Zoning Capacity Represents 84% of Future Housing Needs

The practical zoned capacity under current regulations is about 94,800 DUs, **approximately 84% of the total housing that will be needed** by year 2040 in Westchester County.

Practical zoning development capacity needs to increase by a factor of 1.2 in order to accommodate current and prospect needs, including those related to flooding (deficit ratio).

Subregion	County	Incremental Needs by 2040 (DUs)	Zoning Capacity (DUs)	Net Deficit (DUs)	Deficit Ratio
Long Island	Nassau	138,159	57,969	-80,190	2.4
	Suffolk	118,684	44,283	-74,401	2.7
Hudson Valley	Westchester	112,712	94,811	-17,901	1.2
	Kings	277,074	100,687	-176,386	2.8
	Queens	243,324	82,447	-160,877	3.0
New York City	New York	176,406	89,900	-86,506	2.0
	Bronx	172,242	97,269	-74,973	1.8
	Richmond	26,184	16,273	-9,911	1.6
Total		1,264,784	583,638	-681,146	2.2

The analysis considers the incremental housing stock unlocked by the adopted reforms from "City of Yes Housing Opportunity." Regional Plan Association based on National Zoning Atlas (Long Island and Westchester), New York City Department of City Planning (MapPluto 2023), City of Yes Final Environmental Assessment Statement (CEQR # 24DCP033Y), 2020 Decennial Census, American Communities Survey Table DP04 2023 1-Year, New York Panel Climate Change (NPCC), FEMA Hazus Flood Loss, Urban Footprint Base Canvas, and RPA Gateway and the Post-Covid Economy (2022).

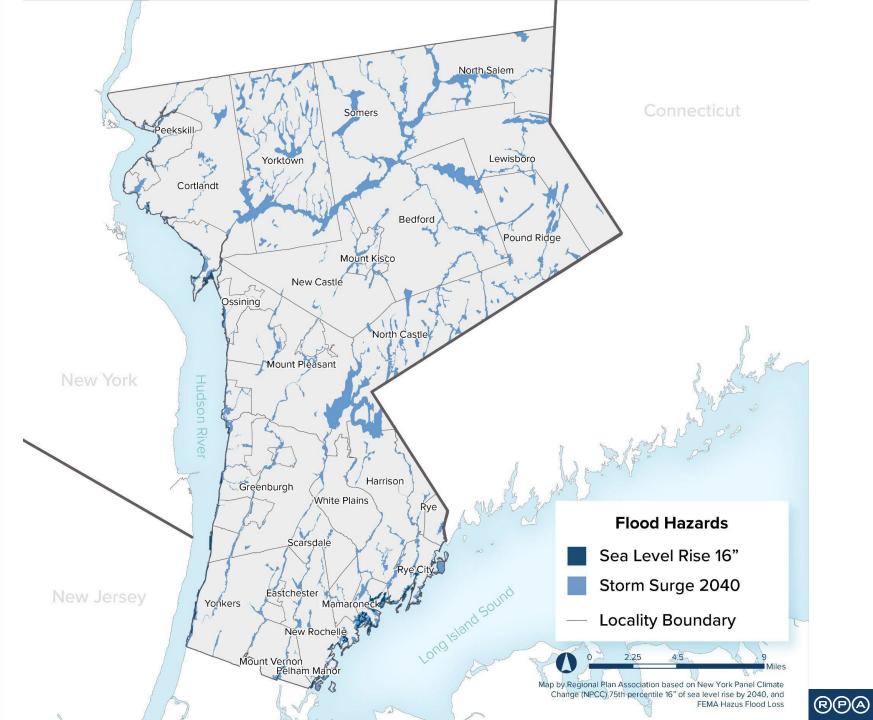




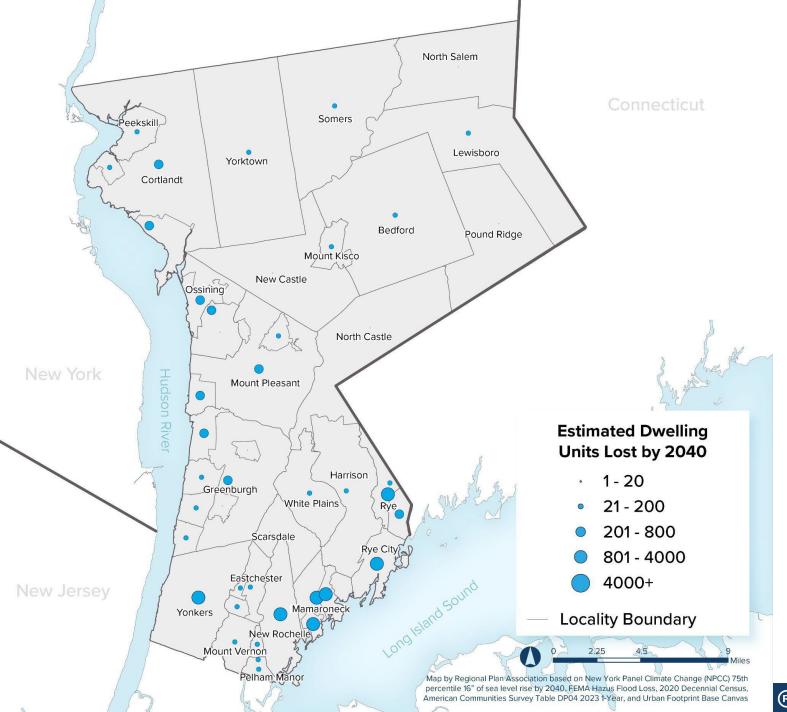
### Flood Hazards by Year 2040

Sea-Level Rise and Storm-related flooding (coastal and riverine)

4.3% of residential land - 4,100 acres

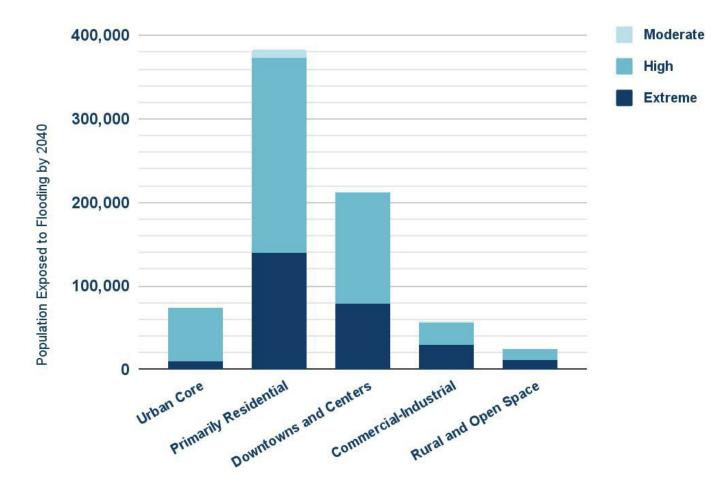


84% of localities in Westchester are at risk of losing at least 20 units of housing to flooding



## 750k People Exposed to Flooding by 2040

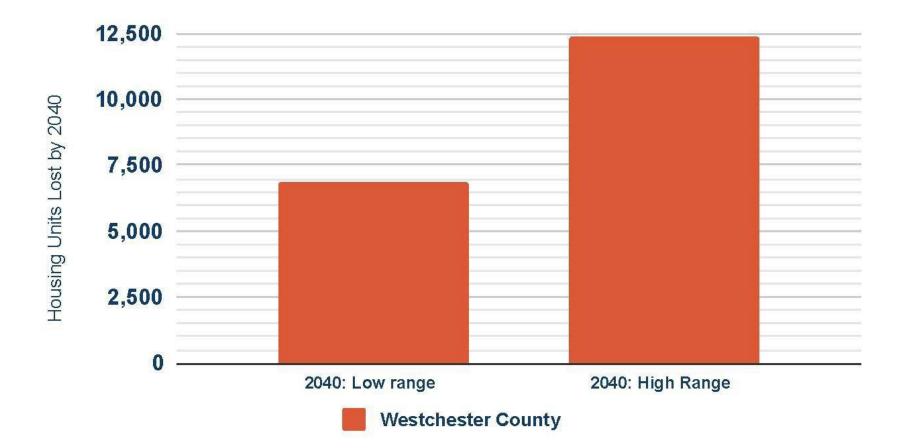
#### Population Exposed to Future Flooding by Land Use Typology



Degree of exposure based on the amount of surface area impacted by future flooding: (i) Extreme, more than 70%; (ii) High, between 50% and 70%; and (iii) Moderate, less than 50%. Analysis based on the New York Panel Climate Change (NPCC) and RPA "Gateway and Post Covid Economy" (scenario A).

## Up to 12,400 units lost to flooding by 2040

#### Housing Flood Loss Estimates by Subregion in 2040



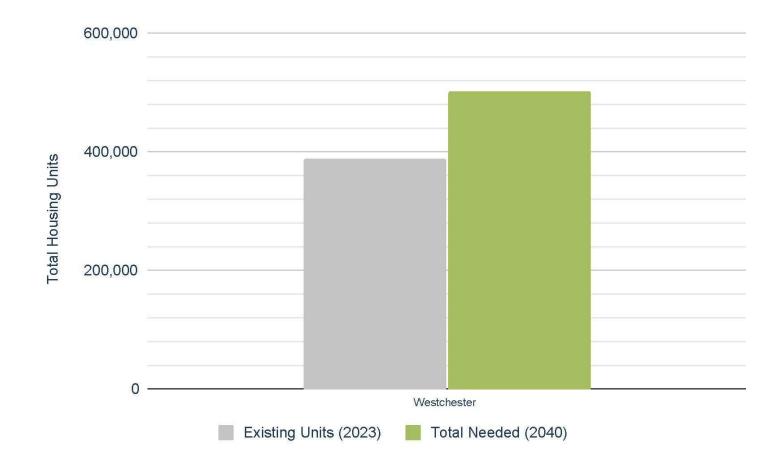
Estimates do not factor resiliency projects under consideration or with future completion dates. RPA analysis based on New York Panel Climate Change (NPCC), FEMA Hazus Flood Loss, 2020Decennial Census, and American Communities Survey Table DP04 2023 1-Year

## **Housing Needs**



## 112,700 New Housing Units Needed by 2040

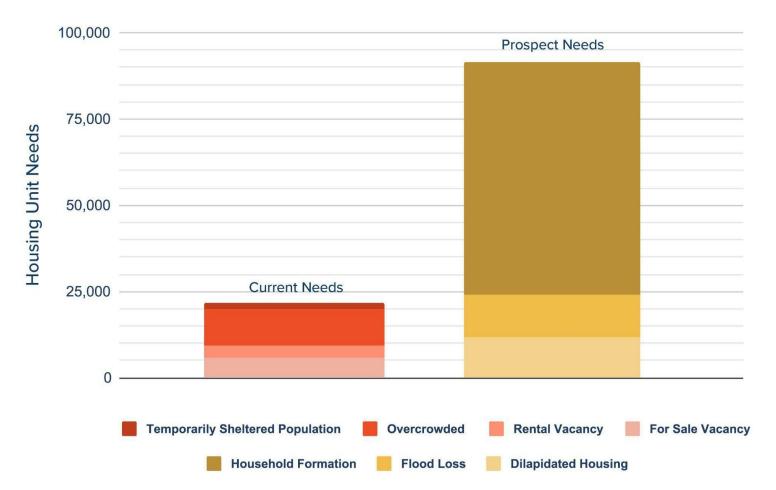
#### Housing Units: Existing 2023 vs Neededby 2040



RPA analysis based on 2020 Decennial Census, American Communities Survey Table DP04 2023 1-Year, New York Panel Climate Change (NPCC), FEMA Hazus Flood Loss, RPA Gateway and the Post-Covid Economy (2022), and McKinsey Co. Affordability Squeeze (2024).

## **Current and Prospective Needs**

#### **Current and Prospective Housing Units Needed by Category**

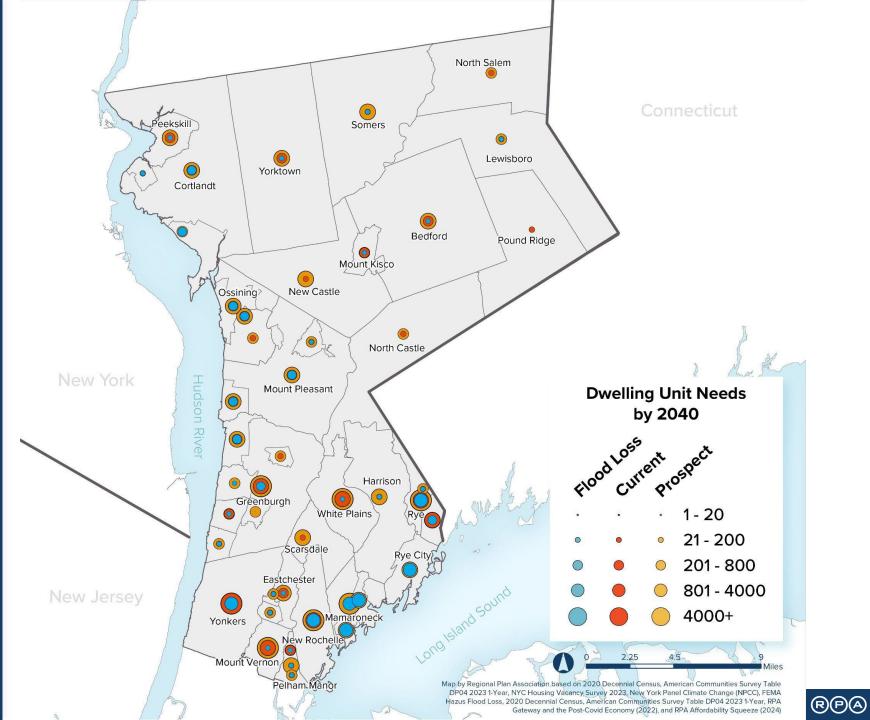


RPA Current Needs analysis of 2020 Decennial Census, ACS Table DP04 2023 1-Year, and NYC Housing Vacancy Survey 2023. RPA Prospective Needs analysis of ACS Table DP04 2023 1-Year, New York Panel Climate Change (NPCC), FEMA Hazus Flood Loss, and McKinsey Co. Affordability Squeeze (2024).

### Total Needs (2040)

Current: 21.4k DUs (19%) Prospect Flood: 12.4k DUs (11%) Other Prospect: 78.9k DUs (70%)

<u>Total:</u> 112,700 DUs

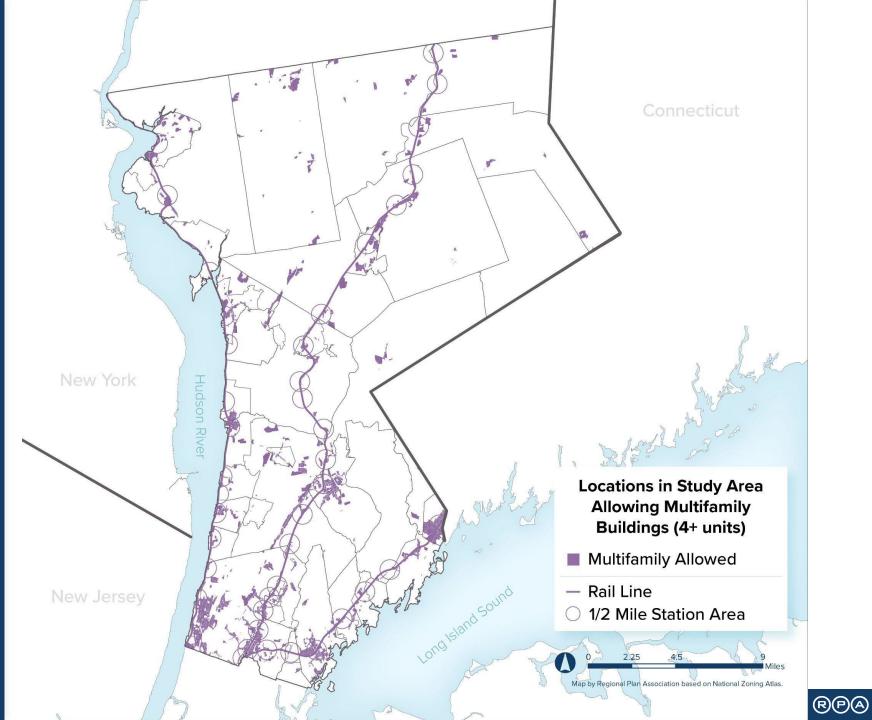


## **Zoning Capacity & Deficit**

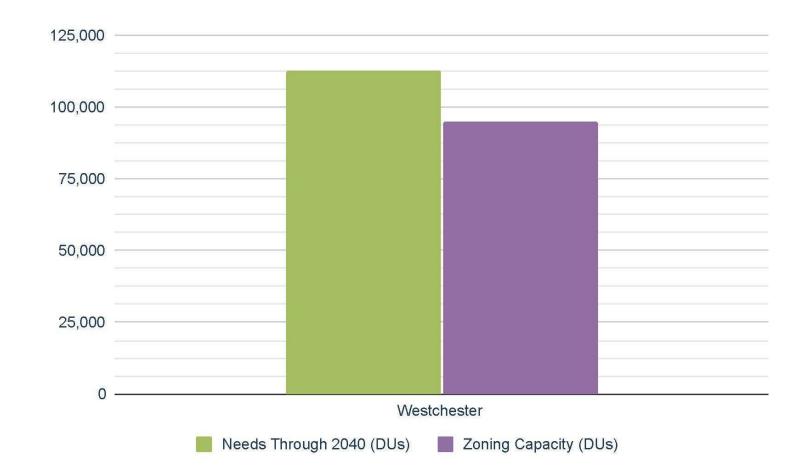


### Zoning Districts Allowing 4+ Units

Only 45% percent of residential zoning districts allowing 4+ DUs as-of-right



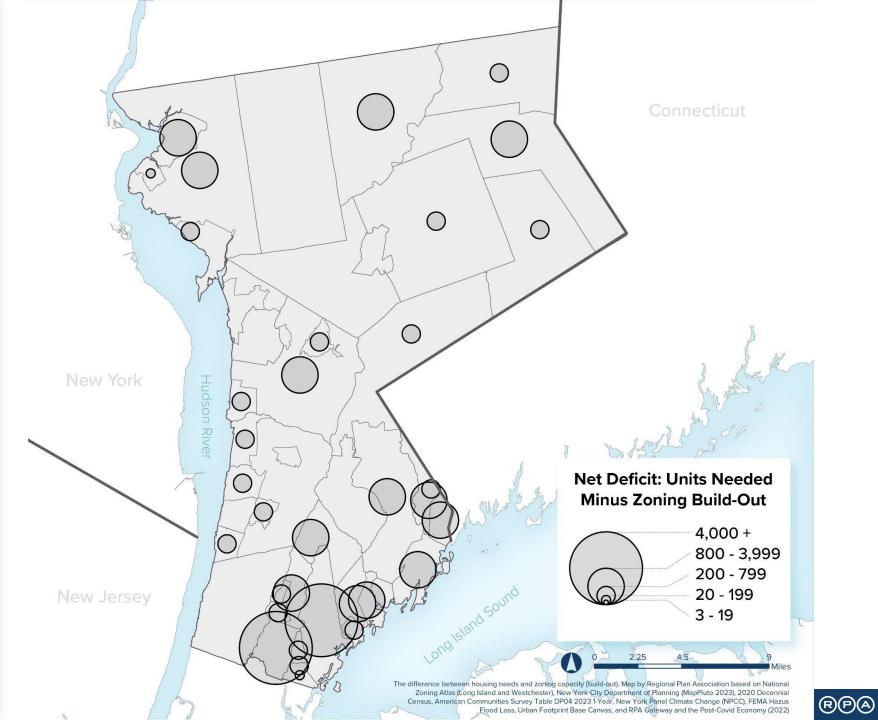
## **Deficit: Units Needed vs Zoning Capacity**



RPA analysis based on National Zoning Atlas (Long Island and Westchester), New York City Department of City Planning (MapPluto 2023), City of Yes Final Environmental Assessment Statement (CEQR # 24DCP033Y), 2020 Decennial Census, American Communities Survey Table DP04 2023 1-Year, New York Panel Climate Change (NPCC), FEMA Hazus Flood Loss, Urban Footprint Base Canvas, and RPA Gateway and the Post-Covid Economy (2022)

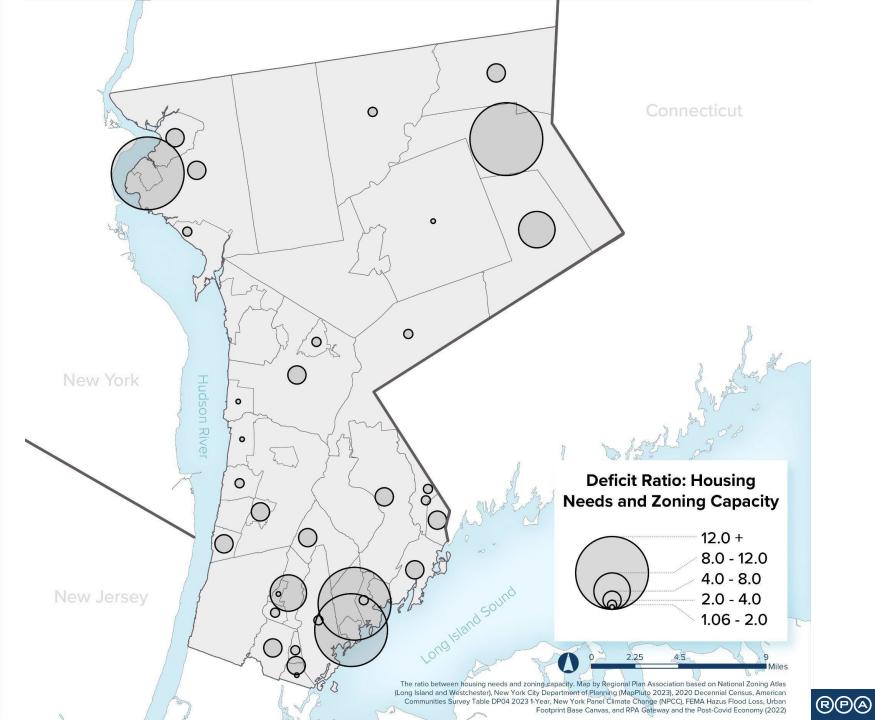
### Net Deficit 18,000 units

Housing needs - zoning build-out



### **Deficit Ratio 1.2**

Housing needs divided by zoned capacity



### Zoning Capacity Represents 84% of Future Housing Needs

Westchester's practical zoned capacity under current regulations is about 94,800 DUs, **approximately 84% of the total housing that will be needed** by year 2040.

Practical zoning development capacity needs to increase by a factor of 1.2 in order to accommodate current and prospect needs, including those related to flooding (deficit ratio).

Subregion	County	Incremental Needs by 2040 (DUs)	Zoning Capacity (DUs)	Net Deficit (DUs)	Deficit Ratio
Long Island	Nassau	138,159	57,969	-80,190	2.4
Long Island	Suffolk	118,684	44,283	-74,401	2.7
Hudson Valley	Westchester	112,712	94,811	-17,901	1.2
	Kings	277,074	100,687	-176,386	2.8
	Queens	243,324	82,447	-160,877	3.0
New York City	New York	176,406	89,900	-86,506	2.0
	Bronx	172,242	97,269	-74,973	1.8
	Richmond	26,184	16,273	-9,911	1.6
Total		1,264,784	583,638	-681,146	2.2

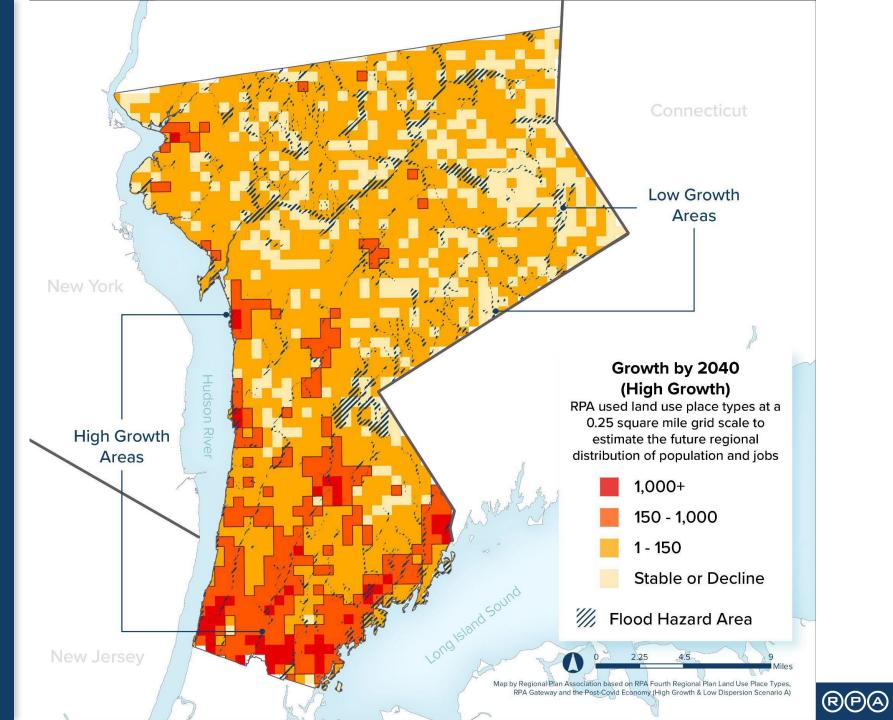
RPA analysis based on National Zoning Atlas (Long Island and Westchester), New York City Department of City Planning (MapPluto 2023), City of Yes Final Environmental Assessment Statement (CEQR # 24DCP033Y), 2020 Decennial Census, American Communities Survey Table DP04 2023 1-Year, New York Panel Climate Change (NPCC), FEMA Hazus Flood Loss, Urban Footprint Base Canvas, and RPA Gateway and the Post-Covid Economy (2022)

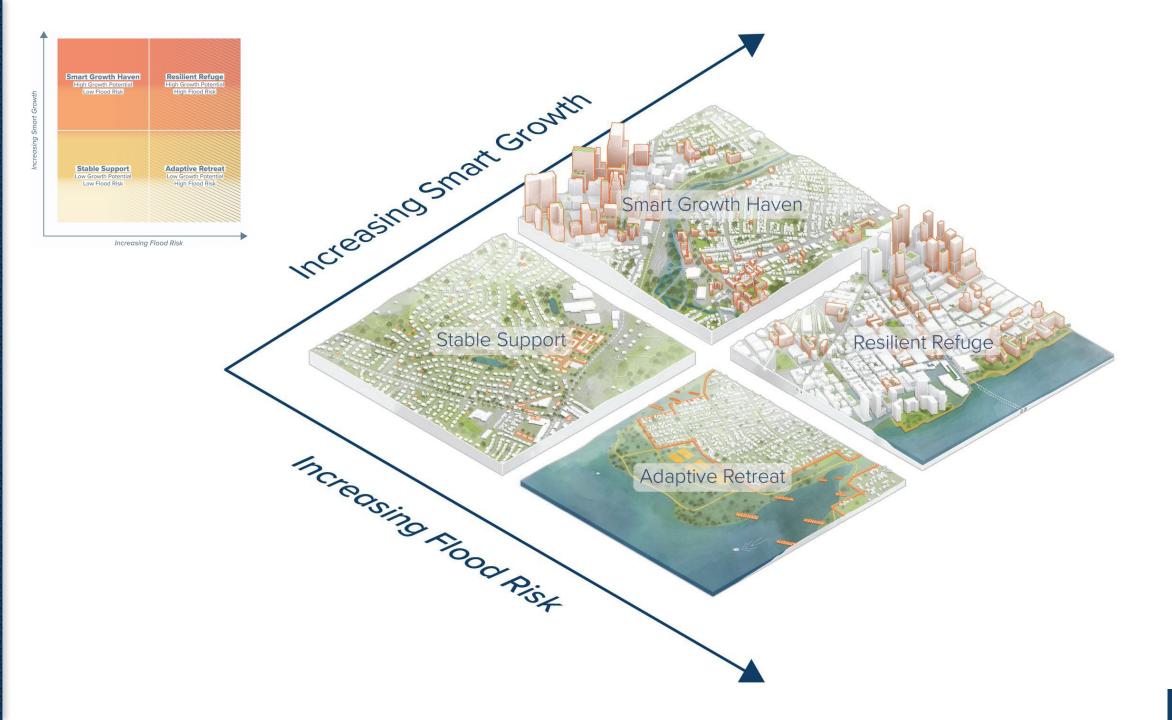
## **Recommendations** Growth & Risk Profiles



## Growth and Flood Hazards by 2040

Scenario A: High Growth & Low Dispersion





RPA

# Thank You

maulin@rpa.org |Read the full "Averting Crisis" report at rpa.org





40+ Years of Building Communities. Changing Lives.



## Building Communities + Changing Lives Affordable Housing Development Services & Support

# Community Development Impact



## Westhab, Inc.

#### Building Communities. Changing Lives.

- Largest non-profit developer of affordable housing and provider of related community development services in Westchester
- Built, rehabbed, or financed almost 1,700 units of affordable, supportive, and transitional housing with a total investment of over \$575 Million
- Portfolio includes workforce and affordable housing, supportive housing, and serviceenriched housing programs for seniors, young adults, veterans, and people with disabilities
- Comprehensive service model which provides community-based employment programs, youth centers, and social services, among other programming
- Social service programs include job training and job placement programs as well as 8 out-ofschool-time youth programs delivering services to more than 1,650 homeless and at-risk youth annually



### Westhab Experience

#### Recently Completed Affordable Housing Developments

	Summit on Hudson 76 Locust Ave, Yonkers, NY		Dayspring Commons & Community Center 227 Elm Street, Yonkers, NY		Ludlow Commons 7 Ludlow Street, Yonkers, NY
•	6-story, 101,142 SF residential building over a two-level parking garage including 84 parking spaces	•	6-story, 69,000 SF residential building over a two-level parking garage including approx. 55 parking spaces	•	8-story, 62,793 SF residential building over surface and on- grade parking including approx. 37 parking spaces
•	113 units of multifamily affordable and supportive housing restricted to 60% of AMI and lower	•	63 units of multifamily affordable and supportive housing restricted to 50% of AMI and lower	•	71 units of affordable senior housing restricted to 50% of AMI and lower
•	Total development costs of \$55.3 million	•	Total development costs of \$40.4 million	•	Total Development Cost of \$26.7 million
•	Completed Summer 2024	•	Completed 2021	•	Completed 2017
•	Recipient of Buildings of Excellence Award for Green Design	•	Full service community center	•	LEED Gold Certified



### Westhab Experience

#### Affordable Housing Developments – In-construction or in the pipeline

_					
	La Olazul 1940 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY		30 West 30 West Street, Village of Haverstraw		2134 Coyle 2134 Coyle Street, Brooklyn, NY
•	13-story, 98,000 SF residential building	•	4-story, 139,000 SF residential building over a two-level parking garage including approx. 136 parking spaces	•	7-story, 124,000 SF residential building. 26,000 SF for building services and programming. 10 parking spaces.
•	115 units of multifamily affordable and supportive housing restricted to 60% of AMI and lower	•	81 units of multifamily affordable housing restricted to 60% of AMI and lower	•	175 transitional housing units for families
•	Total development costs of \$81 million	•	Total development costs of \$50 million	•	Total Development Cost of \$124 million
•	Completion anticipated 2026	•	Financing anticipated 2025	•	Completion anticipated 2027
•	Recipient of Future Housing Initiative Award and Passive House Certification	•	Partnership with the Village of Haverstraw in Rockland County	•	Non-Profit Shelter (Purpose Built) with debt service payments and shelter operations paid through a NYC DHS contract.





## Public / Private Partnership

Partnerships to Create Housing Tailored to Each Community's Needs

- Conceptual development
  - Community needs assessments
  - Targeted affordability programs
  - Design intent (i.e. no. of units, parking needs, building height, community features, etc.)
- Open and transparent land disposition and real estate tax agreement negotiations
  - Pros and cons of conveyance vs. long term ground leases
  - Options for shared public/community parking
- Entitlements and SEQRA Strategies
  - Collaboration on zoning that supports the community's needs
- Community engagement
  - Data collection and analysis
  - Public hearings and community presentations
  - Tech strategies to facilitate communication





## Design

#### Contextual Design that Incorporates Green Space and Tenant Amenities

- Design and construction
  - Luxury quality housing at affordable rents
  - Thoughtful and contextual design, reflecting and complementing the surrounding neighborhood
  - High quality and durable materials
  - Financeable
- Green Space and Tenant Amenities
  - Landscaped courtyards and/or penthouse or rooftop amenity spaces
  - Multipurpose amenity spaces
  - On-site laundry
  - Free high speed wi-fi access
  - Bicycle storage
  - On-site parking

## **Sustainability**

#### Green Building Strategies

- Passive House design to reduce energy consumption
- Robust building envelopes that include high levels of continuous insulation and high-performance triple-pane windows
- Building systems that are 100% electric
- Large solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays to offset building energy use
- ENERGY STAR certified appliances, ultra high efficiency LED light fixtures, and water-saving low-flow plumbing fixtures
- EV charging stations for a minimum of 5% of all parking spaces
- Elective emergency generators for backup power and resiliency
- Feasibility analysis for geothermal (ground source) heating/cooling systems.
- Integration of smart technologies and networked building systems that maximize energy efficiency





Andrew Germansky 914 419 4863 Andrew.Germansky@Westhab.org www.Westhab.org



# Sustainability Unit Office of Housing Preservation

Samantha Pearce, VP Sustainability New York State Homes & Community Renewal

MAY 26, 2025

## **NYS Homes and Community Renewal**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) is the State's affordable housing agency, with a mission to build, preserve, and protect affordable housing and increase homeownership throughout New York State.

#### **ABOUT HCR**

HCR develops, preserves and protects affordable housing and invests in economically vibrant communities. We work with many private, public and nonprofit partners to create safe, healthy and affordable housing opportunities for all New Yorkers.

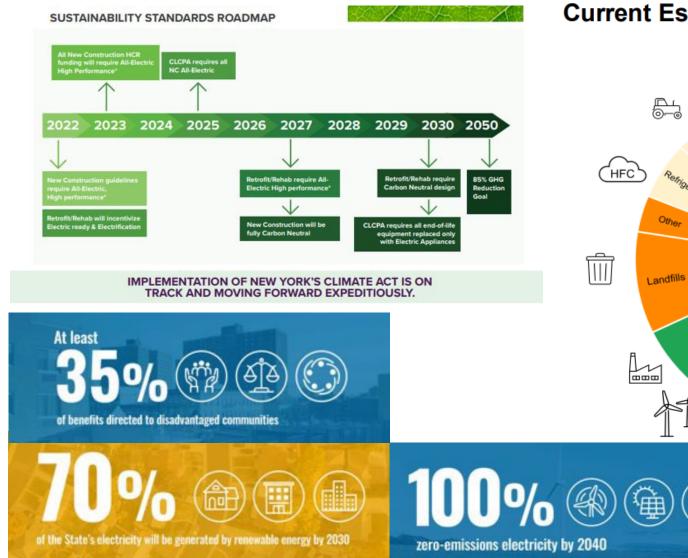
HCR is charged with carrying out Governor Hochul's new \$25 billion, five-year, comprehensive housing plan to increase housing supply by creating or preserving 100,000 affordable homes across New York including 10,000 with support services for vulnerable populations, plus the electrification of an additional 50,000 homes.



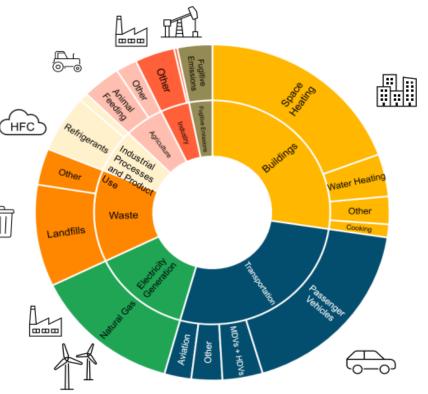


TOIVIES AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL OF

## Policy for Sustainability in Housing



#### **Current Estimated GHG Emissions by Sector**



HOMES AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL 88

## **Sustainability Guidelines**



#### HCR **SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINES: NEW CONSTRUCTION**

HCR.NY.GOV 2023

NEW YORK Homes and **Community Renewal** 

Kathy Hochul, Governor RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner/CEO **APPLICATION** Continued

#### CONSTRUCTION TYPES

The following construction types relate solely to the application of these Guidelines and shall not be used to define project requirements or scopes outside of the criteria defined in these Guidelines.

INTRODUCTION

- · New Construction: Ground-up construction of a new building or buildings.
- · Adaptive Reuse Rehabilitation: A substantial renovation that occurs in a building or space that undergoes a change of use to Residential occupancy, as defined by the applicable building code.
- · Substantial Rehabilitation: A renovation where the majority of the interior walls, finishes, systems and MEP infrastructure are demolished and a new scope of work is constructed within the existing building shell. These projects are also sometimes referred to as "gut" rehabilitations.
- Moderate Rehabilitation Level 1: A renovation where the dwelling unit demising walls, most interior walls and MEP infrastructure remain, and the new scope of work is built within the existing dwelling unit compartment. This type of rehabilitation often includes replacement of fixtures, finishes and equipment (FF&E) and roofing. It may include window replacement, siding replacement and additional roofing scopes.
- Moderate Rehabilitation Level 2: A renovation where the dwelling unit demising walls and most of the interior walls remain. This type of rehabilitation includes many of the scoping items of a Level 1 Moderate Rehabilitation, but also includes replacement of mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) infrastructure and equipment, either in part or in full.

#### STRUCTURE **SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINE REQUIREMENTS**

NEW CONSTRUCTION









Section 1: Core Sustainability Requirements

Section 2: Section 3: Building Performance Requirements

Additional Sustainability Requirements

Each section addresses a specific set of goals or standards that HCR has established as a baseline for all New Construction Projects to meet. These are referred to as Baseline Requirements. Each section also contains a number of Stretch Goals which all development teams are encouraged to meet, as they set the precedent for future baseline standards.

#### TERMINOLOGY: BASELINE REQUIREMENTS AND STRETCH GOALS

BASELINE REQUIREMENTS	STRETCH GOALS		
Baseline Requirements outline mandatory criteria that are required on every project.	Stretch Goals are <b>not mandatory</b> , but projects should consider all Stretch Goals outlined in this document unless meeting those goals proves to be cost prohibitive to the project. Stretch standards can be met in whole or in part, meaning a developer can chose to achieve some Stretch Goals in one section but not another. Competitive projects can receive additional points for achieving some or all of the stretch standards as outlined in the applicable RFP.		

Sustainability Design Booklet: New Construction | www.hcr.ny.gov

John P.

Sustainability Design Booklet: New Con

HOMES AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL 89

## Sustainability Unit Programs

#### **Clean Energy Initiative**



Fund multifamily projects that are refinancing with the Housing Agency to upgrade and/or replace existing fossil fuel burning appliances with energy efficient heating systems and reduce energy burden. \$100M through end of 2025 – awarded \$70M to date

#### **Climate Friendly Homes Fund**



Provides funding to small multifamily properties during mid-cycle operations to replace failing or inefficient fossil fuel systems with all-electric systems. Can be used as standalone funding or combined with other incentives. \$250M through March 2027

#### Weatherization Assistance Program



Federally funded program, Department of Energy, to provide single family and multifamily homes and apartments within unit and building envelope upgrades to reduce the cost of utilities for the occupants. Can fund lighting, appliances and insulation, as an example ~\$70M annually, serving ~6,500 units/year



#### Solar For All: Solar program

Federally funded program, Environmental Protection Agency, to install solar arrays in housing across the country and ensure direct benefits to LMI households. Planning to launch Summer 2025

# Room Enough for Both: Planning for Affordable Housing and Conservation Together With Climate as the common denominator





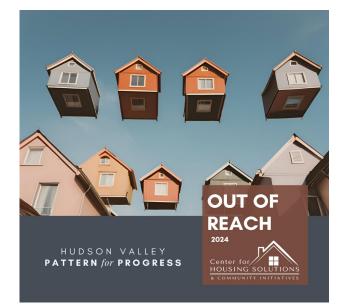
## **Organizing Principle**

Healthy communities need abundant, affordable housing *and* protected land for clean water, food production, and climate resilience...

*But* too often they're seen as mutually exclusive or opposed.



## THE HUDSON VALLEY IS INCREASINGLY UNAFFORDABLE, FRAGMENTED AND VULNERABLE.







### Skyrocketing housing

costs

Scattered development fragmenting landscape **Climate impacts** 

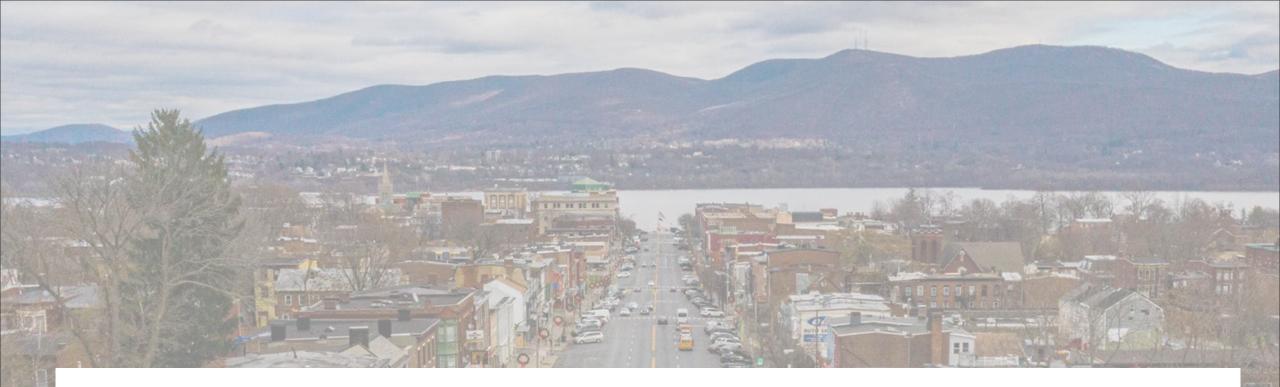
### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING & CONSERVATION SECTORS SHARE VALUES**

education conservation community preserving hudson resources healthy people lives lar economic partnership working natural affordable farmland character local thrive habitat strengthen rural ities building commun homes forests qualified development organization families sustainable businesses area river organizations

*Land trusts:* committed to climate resilience and community-centered conservation

Affordable housing: as climatesmart and land use- efficient as development gets

Word cloud based on participating organizations' missions



### **OUR SHARED VISION:**

NAME OF A DESCRIPTION O

-

We are banding together to take a holistic approach to these complex and urgent problems, and to have a larger-scale impact.

*Our Vision:* The Hudson Valley is a sustainable and inclusive home to an economically and racially diverse community. Our work helps the region develop a holistic, equitable and proactive approach to housing, climate change, and land conservation.

**Tony Cenicola/The New York Times** 

## Where We're Going

- Collaborative Projects
- Policy Solutions
- Municipal Engagement
- Communicating Differently

Recommendations for Housing and Conservation Planning Hudson Valley Alliance for Housing & Conservation February 2025



Healthy and vibrant communities need a range of housing options that can be affordable for people of all income levels, and protected land that supports clean water, food production, climate resilience, and outdoor recreation. An integrated approach to simultaneously planning for housing and open space can help communities achieve a balance between growth and protection of resources now and into the future.

The following are a few recommendations from the Hudson Valley Alliance for Housing & Conservation, developed for local communities.

A. Find ways for housing and open space planners and advocates to regularly collaborate:

- Include people with affordable housing expertise on conservation-related boards and committees, and likewise incorporate conservation expertise into housing-related boards and committees.
- Share available data and reports, and engage stakeholders to talk about your community's housing and conservation needs and opportunities.
- Create a collaborative community-supported plan that integrates open space and housing priority areas, with an accompanying map when feasible. Update, combine and/or modify existing open space and/or community preservation plans as appropriate.





## **AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP...IT'S BACK**

## **PANELISTS**

Jessica A. Bacher, Esq., Executive Director, Land Use Law Center Alexander Roithmayr, Government Affairs Director, Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors

James R. Wendling, Chief Operating Officer, WBP Development LLC Orisha Jennings-Hudgins, MPA, Director of Housing, City of New Rochelle Christina Lazarus, Manager, Benefits, Northwell Health

# REGIONAL MARKET UPDATES April 2025



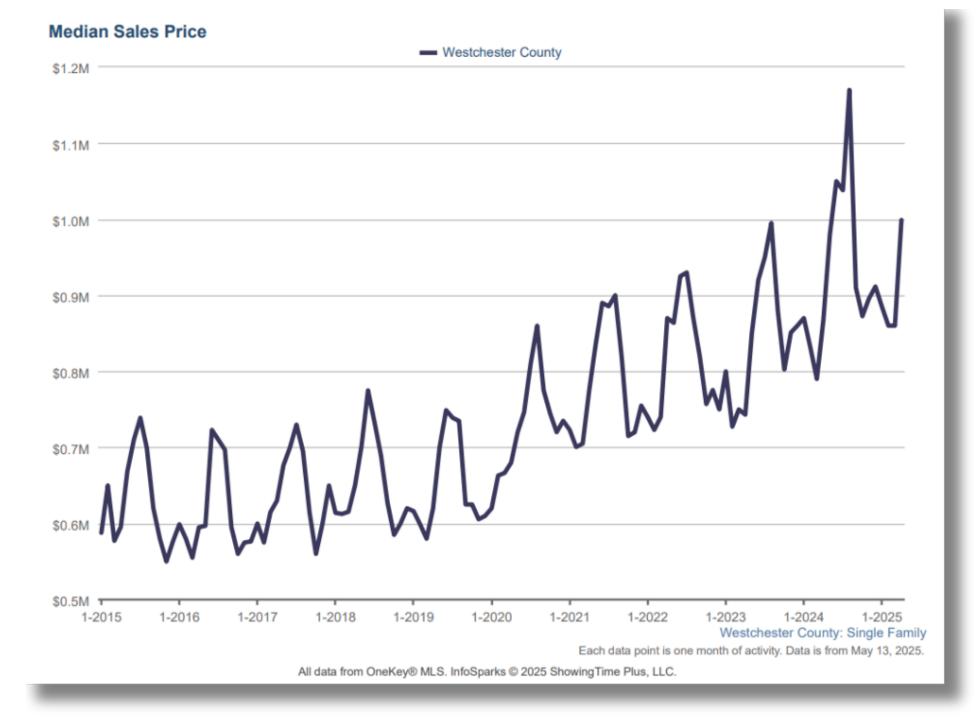
## **About Hudson Gateway Association of REALTORS®**

- Serving 13,000 Members in NYC, Westchester,
   Orange, Putnam and Rockland Counties
- HGAR empowers members to grow their businesses and succeed in their communities by focusing on Advocacy, Professionalism,

and Engagement

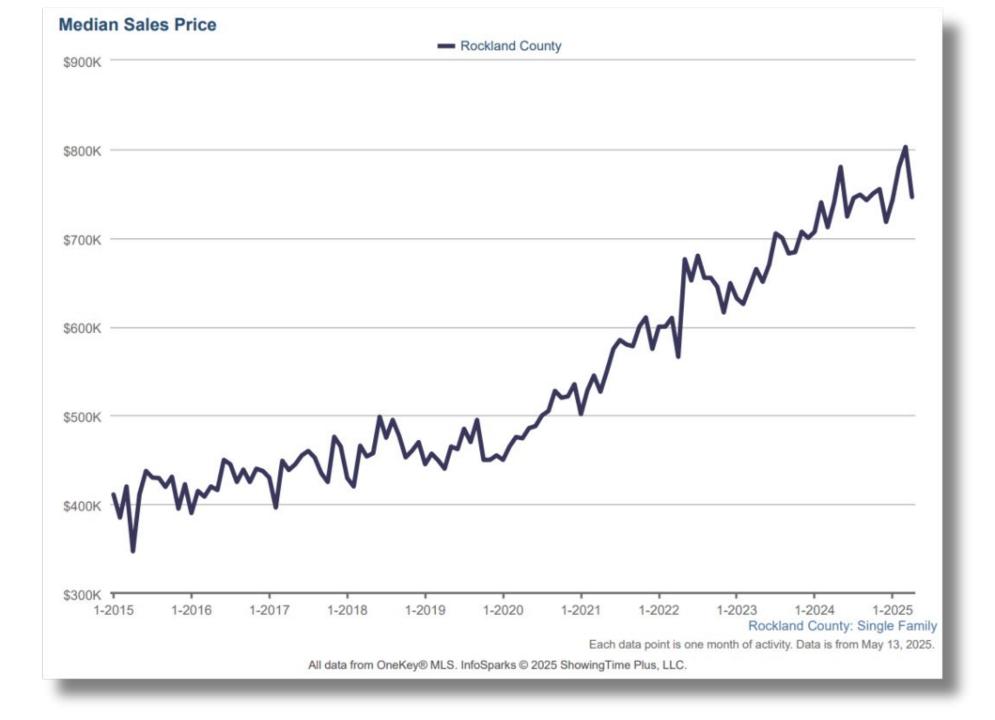


## AFFORDABILITY



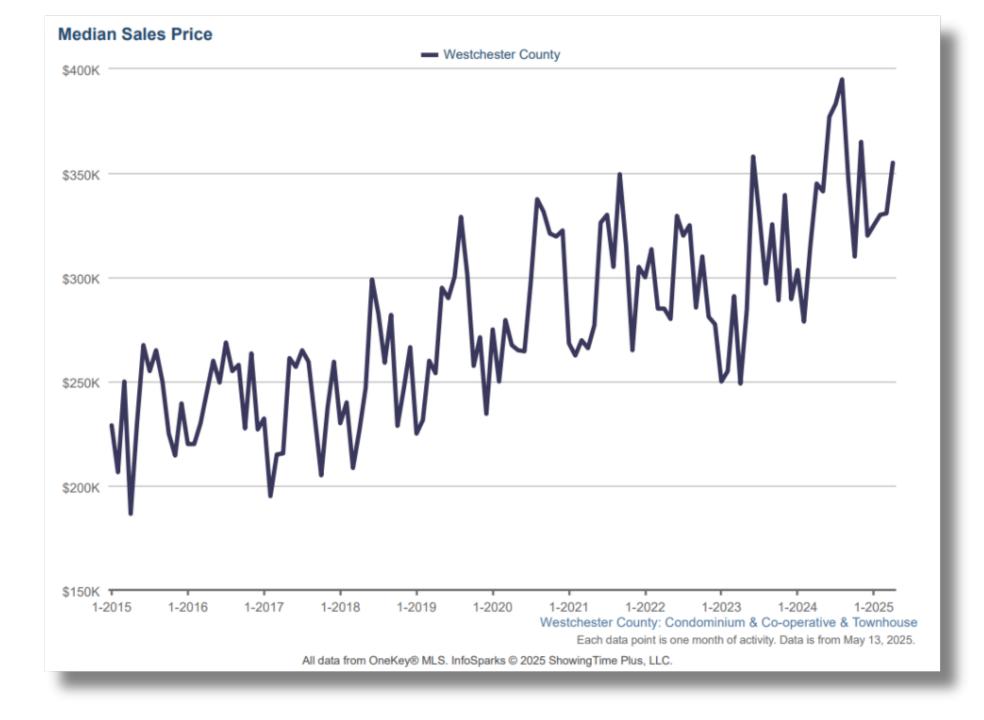
### WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY: SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

- January 2015: Median Sales Price, **\$587,750**
- April 2025: Median Sales Price, **\$999,000**
- An increase of **51%** from 2015 to 2025



### **ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY: SINGLE FAMILY HOMES**

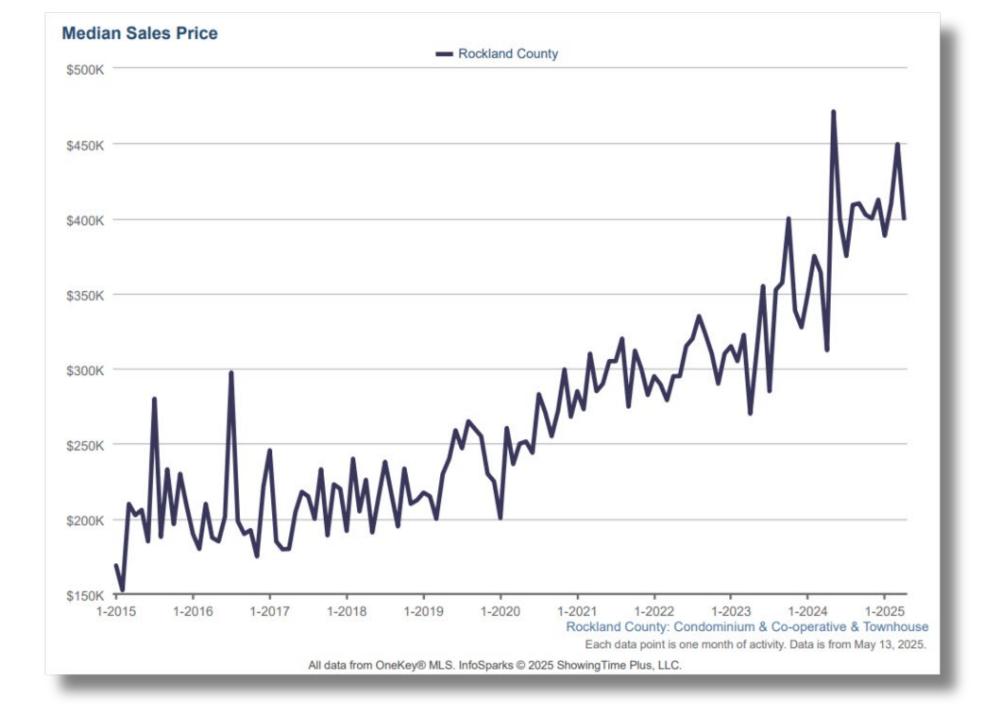
- January 2015: Median Sales Price, **\$411,000**
- April 2025: Median Sales Price, **\$746,000**
- An increase of **58%** from 2015 to 2025



### **ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY: MULTI- FAMILY HOMES**

### (CO-OP/CONDO/TOWNHOUSE)

- January 2015: Median Sales Price, \$229,000
- April 2025: Median Sales Price, \$355,000
- An increase of **43%** from 2015 to 2025

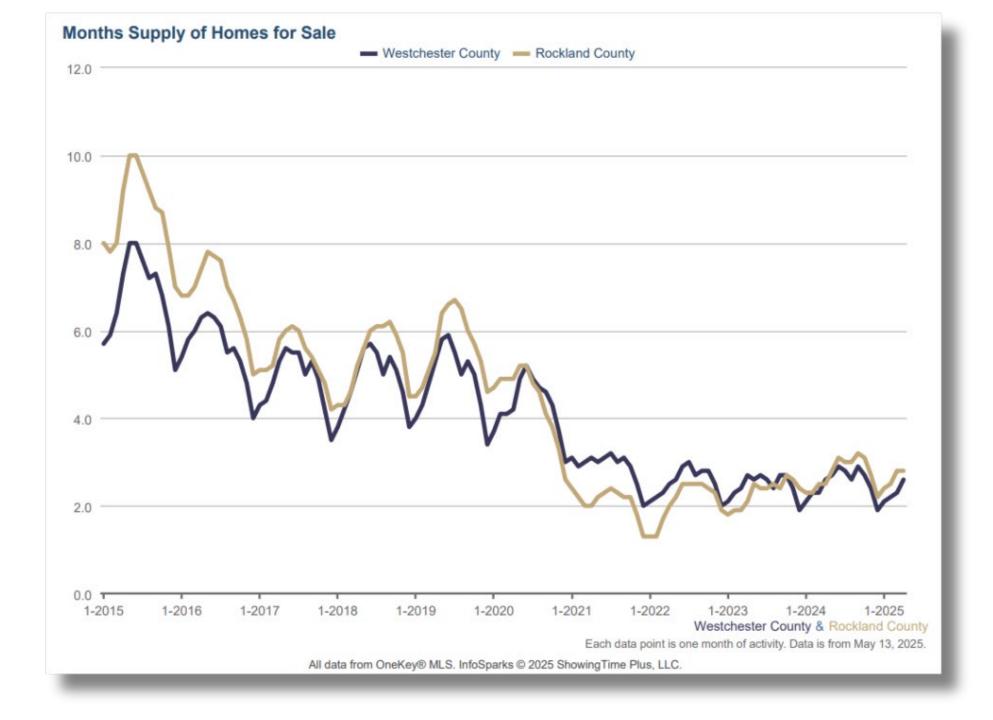


### **ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY: MULTI- FAMILY HOMES**

### (CO-OP/CONDO/TOWNHOUSE)

- January 2015: Median Sales Price, \$169,000
- April 2025: Median Sales Price, \$400,000
- An increase of **81%** from 2015 to 2025

# INVENTORY



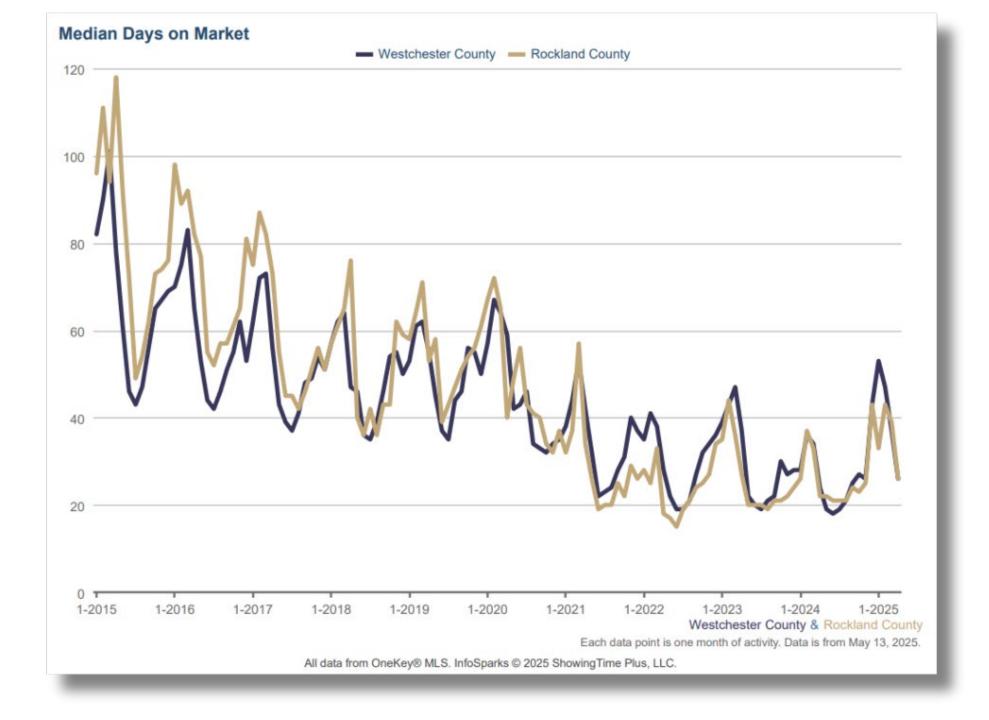
## Months of Supply

### **ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY**

- January 2015: 8 Months of Supply
- April 2025: **2.8 Months** of Supply
- A decrease of **65%** from 2015 to 2025

### WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY

- January 2015: **5.7 Months** of Supply
- April 2025: 2.6 Months of Supply
- A decrease of **54%** from 2015 to 2025



## **Days on Market**

### **ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY**

- January 2015: 96 Days on Market
- April 2025: 26 Days on Market
- A decrease of **73%** from 2015 to 2025

### WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY

- January 2015: 82 Days on Market
- May 2025: 26 Days on Market
- A decrease of **68%** from 2015 to 2025

Alexander Roithmayr Government Affairs Director Alexander.Roithmayr@hgar.com





# AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP



#### NYS HCR AHOP

- To create and encourage affordable homeownership projects
  - New construction (single family, town homes, multi-family and adaptive re-use)
  - Conversion of regulated rental projects reaching the end of their affordability period
- <u>Sale Prices</u> set at 80% or 100% AMI
- <u>Eligible Household</u> income up to 100% AMI, 120% AMI (**band often overlooked**)
- <u>Subsidy Amount</u>- up to \$150,000 per unit for 100% AMI / \$200,000 for 80% AMI units
- <u>Affordability Period</u> 30-years (unless another source requires a longer period)
- <u>Marketing</u> widespread marketing then hold a Lottery

Household	Factors				
			<u>120%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>80%</u>
VLI 1 perse	70%	Studio	142,800	119,000	95,200
VLI 2 perse	80%	1 Bedroom	163,200	136,000	108,800
VLI 3 perse	90%	2 Bedroom	183,600	153,000	122,400
VLI 4 perse	100%	3 Bedroom	204,000	170,000	136,000



#### Why it's Hard:

Costs aren't less than Market Rate:

- Acquisition
- Construction
- Soft costs
- Interest rates
- Operate / manage
- Taxes (if taxes are too high SPs will be too low and the deal won't pencil)
- Amenity package should be similar to a market rate development
- Relatively tight band of eligible buyers (HCR adds 20% band to create a wider band)

Additional assistance is needed to help make a development viable:

- Westchester County New Homes Land Acquisition
- Affordable Housing subsidy and / or Down Payment Assistance help from municipality
- PILOT

Unit Distribution Summa	ry						Average	Average		
				Average			Monthly	Annual	33% of AMI	Actual
Unit		Net Rent		Sales	Monthly	Annual	Condo	Condo	on Housing	on Housing
Туре	Units	SF Total	Sellout	Prices	<b>RE Taxes</b>	<b>RE Taxes</b>	Dues	Dues	Annually	Monthly
1 Bedroom	24 units	18,240 SF	\$7,978,302	\$332,429	\$427	\$5,127	\$464	\$5,564	\$35,904	\$2,992
2 Bedroom	36 units	33,512 SF	\$12,957,060	\$359,918	\$523	\$6,279	\$568	\$6,815	\$40,392	\$3,366
3 Bedroom	8 units	9,440 SF	\$2,982,212	\$372,776	\$664	\$7,968	\$720	\$8,639	\$44,880	\$3,740

Sale Prices are based on 33% of Gross Income spent on Housing (above assumes Sale Prices set at 80% AMI):

- 1. Taxes
- 2. Common Charges
- 3. 33% of Income less Taxes less Common Charges equals amount remaining for monthly Mortgage payment



6 Cottage White Plains, NY

40 Affordable Condos



99 Church White Plains, NY

68 Affordable Condos



455 Main St

New Rochelle, NY

126 Units (in partnership w/ L+M Development Partners)







CTY OF NEW ROCHELLE DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE ASSISTANCE ORIENTATION FOR FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS

May 15, 2025 – PACE UNIVERSITY

8th Annual Hudson Valley Affordable Housing Summit



# Program Overview

**Presented by: Orisha Jennings-Hudgins** City of New Rochelle Director of Housing The **City of New Rochelle (CNR**) presents an opportunity for residents to become first-time homebuyers through its **First-Time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Program (NR DPAP)** in their City. To participate in this program, individuals need to meet specific qualifications, with funding sourced from both local and federal resources. Specifically, the program is funded through the City's HOME program overseen by the **United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**, alongside the **New Rochelle's Affordable Housing Fund.** 

- Eligible applicants can receive assistance of up to **19%** of the purchase price of a single-family home, contingent upon the homebuyer's qualifications. This funding aims to support the down payment for a new home, with the resident responsible for the remaining **1%**.
- CNR working with Westchester Residential Opportunities (WRO), Inc., the program's administrator, which has partnered with six (6) approved mortgage lenders to facilitate the NR DPAP. For qualified applicants, they offer **additional incentives**, including assistance with **closing costs** and **supplementary down payment funding**.
- Since its inception, the program has successfully assisted eight (8) families in purchasing their first homes, with two (2) potential closings expected shortly.
- **10+ residents currently** looking for homes in New Rochelle.



# Income Eligibility And Resident Qualifications



The <b>2025 Income</b> <b>Guidelines</b> stipulate that the maximum allowed gross annual household income	Но
for applicants must not	
exceed <b>80% of the area</b> median annual household	
<b>income</b> , as determined by	
the <b>Department of Housing</b>	
and Urban Development (HUD). The specific amounts	
are as follows:	

Household Size	Maximum Allowable Income	Minimum Annual Income
1	\$95,200	\$40,000
2	\$108,800	\$40,000
3	\$122,400	\$40,000
4	\$136,000	\$40,000
5	\$146,900	\$40,000
6	\$157,750	\$40,000

- You MUST be a New Rochelle Resident. (minimum of 12 months permanent residency)
- □ Must be a First-Time Homebuyer.
- Must purchase a single family home, COOP or Condo in the City of New Rochelle.
- □ Have **<u>sufficient financial resources</u>** and <u>credit</u> to qualify for a mortgage.
- Have a documented minimum annual income of at least **\$40,000.00.**
- Be a **Low-to-Moderate Income** Household.

# Program Status

### **Critical Issues Identified:**

- Financial Preparedness
- Availability of Qualifying Properties

### In Response, New Rochelle Has:

- Launched the Financial Capability Academy (FCA), a complimentary program offering four classes designed to assist residents in improving their financial skills to afford housing in existing and new housing developments or to achieve homeownership. Classes are available in English and Spanish.
  - Scheduled classes for **2025** are underway with the final set of classes will start in **December 2025** and conclude in the **first quarter of 2026**.
  - Classes are available in **English** and **Spanish**.
- Investigating ways to support property owners in managing necessary repairs to sell or rent their properties to City's residents.



## Northwell Health - Housing Program



### **About Northwell Health**

Currently New York's largest private employer and health care provider.

Officially joined together with Nuvance Health to form a new integrated regional health system that will enhance care for communities across greater New York and Connecticut, serving a population of more than 13 million.

- 22,000 nurses and 13,500 providers at 28 hospitals, more than 1,050 ambulatory care and 73 urgent care locations.
- More than 104,000 employees caring for millions of individuals and their families who share our neighborhoods and communities.

Northwell believes that caring for your overall well-being is key to a happier and healthier you.



### **Housing Benefit**

The Long Island Housing Partnership (LIHP) has been a valued community partner for Northwell Health. Through this partnership, we can offer a down payment assistance program with rehabilitative funds. LIHP secure other grants from federal, state and local sources that help the employee, by matching the employer contribution.

Due to continued growth outside Long Island, Northwell Health has been looking to expand its partnership with LIHP in Westchester and Staten Island.



- LIHP was established over 37 years ago and is a not-forprofit organization whose mission is to provide housing opportunities for those persons who, through the ordinary, unaided operation of the marketplace, would be unable to afford decent and safe homes.
- This mission is accomplished through development, technical assistance, community lending, education and advocacy.

### **Housing Benefit**

2006	<ul> <li>Program inception:</li> <li>✓ 20 employees per year - \$3,000</li> </ul>
2008	<ul> <li>A recruitment tool/program expansion:</li> <li>✓ 20 employees per year - \$10,000 nurses, \$5,000 non-nurses</li> </ul>
2016	<ul> <li>Let's help more employees!</li> <li>✓ 40 employees a year - \$5,000</li> </ul>

Eligibility requirements:

- Minimum one-year of employment
- Full and part-time employees (working .5 or greater)
- Not a current homeowner, or a homeowner at the time of application
- Interested in housing in Nassau or Suffolk counties (housing includes houses, condos and co-ops)
- Employee must be able to secure a mortgage if accepted into the program
- Meet income requirements established by The Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - For example, 2024 maximum income requirement for a household of 1 in the first category was \$86,200



### **Employee is referred to the Long Island Housing Partnership**



- LIHP evaluates financial information and other criteria by reviewing W-2 Statement and past Income Tax Returns
- If the employee is approved, they are required to attend two meetings with LIHP:
  - Financial meeting to determine if they are eligible for a mortgage
  - Information meeting discussing Grant allocation
- Employee then actively looks for a home
  - Employees who cannot find their desired home will rollover as eligible in the next year
- When employee finds a home through the program, LIHP notifies Northwell to process payment to employee for closing.



### **Example of the benefit**

Northwell Funds \$5,000 for the down payment or closing costs.

#### County funds:

\$25,000 Nassau, \$12,000-Suffolk, Town of Babylon, Town of Brookhaven, or Town of Islip

- 10 year lien on property-Nassau
- 5 year lien on property- Suffolk

#### NYSAHC funds:

(\$40,000: (\$14,000 for down payment, \$24,000 for rehab, \$2,000 program delivery fee)

• 10 year lien on property

#### \$70,000 benefit in Nassau/\$57,000 in Suffolk!

Maximum purchase price: Nassau County: \$608,000 Suffolk County: \$551,000





# Thank you

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Northwell Health<sup>\*\*</sup>





# **COMMUNITY PREFERENCING**

## **PANELISTS**

Michelle Cafarelli Kabat, Esq., Associate, Nixon Peabody LLP Harry J. Kelly, Esq., Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP

Moderator: Jason Labate, Esq., Partner, Goldstein Hall PLLC

133

## FAIR HOUSING: IMPACTS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY PREFERENCES

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Michelle Cafarelli Kabat, Esq., Associate, Nixon Peabody LLP

Moderator: Jason Labate, Esq., Partner, GoldsteinHall PLLC

## **134 PART I: FAIR HOUSING LAW—OVERVIEW**

#### **Sources of Fair Housing Law:**

#### Federal Law:

- Fair Housing Act (FHAct)
- Title VI of 1964 Civil Rights Act
- Section 504 of 1973 Rehabilitation Act
- Americans With Disabilities Act

#### State and Local Law:

- New York State Human Rights Law (NYSHRL)
- New York City Human Rights Law (NYCHRL)
- Westchester County Fair Housing Law (WCFHL)

#### Fair Housing Act (42 USC §§ 3601 et seq)(FHAct):

- Adopted in 1968 in response to assassination of MLK JR
- Who is protected?
  - Race
  - Religion
  - Color
  - National origin
  - Sex
  - Familial status (legally-recognized relation to minor child)
  - Handicap (or disability)

#### What actions are prohibited (42 USC § 3604)?

- Refusing to sell or rent housing.
- Refusing to negotiate for housing.
- Making housing unavailable.
- Discrimination against any person in the terms, conditions or privileges of sale or rental.
- Discrimination in the provision of services or facilities.
- Making or publishing statements or advertisements concerning sale or rental of housing, that indicates a preference with respect to protected classes.
- Falsely representing to a person that a dwelling is not available.

#### **Enforcement Under FHAct:**

- Administrative Actions: Private actions/HUD-initiated actions
  - HUD administrative complaints (I-year SOL)
    - Conciliation/investigation mechanisms
    - If HUD determines causes exists to support claim, action goes to HUD ALJ or to federal district court
- **Private actions**: US district court litigation (2-year SOL)
- Justice Department Actions
  - "Pattern and Practice"

#### **Protected Classes under State/Local Laws:**

- New York State Human Rights Law
  - Age
  - Sex
  - Sexual orientation
  - Gender identity or expression
  - Military status
  - Domestic violence victim status
  - Arrest records and past criminal convictions
  - Citizenship and immigration status
  - Lawful Source of Income

#### New York City Human Rights Law

- Additional protected classes in housing:
  - Criminal record
  - Lawful occupation
  - Lawful source of income
  - The presence of children (compare to familial status)
  - Status as a victim of domestic violence, stalking, and sex offenses

#### Westchester Human Rights Law

- Also more expansive than FHAct:
  - Race/Color
  - National Origin
  - Alienage/Citizenship
  - Disability
  - Source of Income (including HCV/Section 8)
  - Religion
  - Marital Status and Familial Status (including pregnancy or anyone securing custody of a child under the age of 18)
  - Military Status
  - Age
  - Gender/Gender Identity/Gender Expression
  - Sexual Orientation
  - Status as a Victim of Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse, or Stalking

#### **Theories of liability:**

- Courts recognize two theories of liability under the FHAct:
  - **Disparate Treatment:** Intentional action to treat persons in a protected class differently from the general population
  - **Disparate Impact:** Facially-neutral action/policy/practice that has a harsher impact on protected classes than on the general population

#### **Proving Disparate Treatment cases**

- Where there is direct evidence of discrimination (written or verbal statements indicating an intent to discriminate), proof is straightforward
  - Evidence of discriminatory action and a statement indicating discriminatory intent towards a protected class will prove a violation
  - Needless to say, direct evidence of discriminatory intent is less common today.

#### **Disparate Impact – Why is it relevant?**

- Disparate impact liability has potentially broad reach because it scrutinizes action that is not, on its face, discriminatory
  - Is DI a way to punish intentional liability that is carefully masked by neutral policies?
  - Or is it meant to counter entirely well-meaning action that has an inadvertently harsher impact on protected classes
  - DI is useful for plaintiffs, because no need to show intent

#### **HUD Disparate Impact Rule**

- In 2011 days after SCOTUS accepted cert on first DI case HUD announced disparate impact rulemaking
  - Attempt to deflect SCOTUS action?
- In 2013, HUD adopted new regulations (24 CFR §100.500) establishing rules to establish disparate impact liability in Fair Housing Act cases:
  - <u>Definition</u>: A practice has a discriminatory effect where it actually or predictably results in a disparate impact on a group of persons or creates, increases, reinforces, or perpetuates segregated housing patterns because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.

#### HUD DI Regulation:

- I. The Plaintiff (or charging party) must make a prima facie showing of either a disparate impact or a segregative effect.
- 2. If the discriminatory effect is shown, the burden of proof shifts to the respondent to show "challenged practice is necessary to achieve one or more substantial, nondiscriminatory interest of respondent."
- 3. If the respondent satisfies the burden, then the charging party/plaintiff may still establish liability by proving that these interests could be served by another practice that has a less discriminatory effect.
- 2025: Trump administration limits use of disparate impact

### FAIR HOUSING LAW OVERVIEW

#### **2015** Inclusive Communities Project Decision

- US Supreme Court affirms use of disparate impact analysis as part of Fair Housing Act
- Imposes "safeguards" to prevent "abusive" DI cases and improper second-guessing of otherwise legitimate decisions, including
  - Showing "robust causal connection" between challenged practice and resulting discrimination
  - Focus on "artificial, arbitrary, and unnecessary" rules/practices

### 147 FAIR HOUSING LAW—OVERVIEW

- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Regulation
  - FHAct originally required federal agencies to promote goals of fair housing ("affirmatively furthering")
  - Later laws imposed duty to affirmatively further fair housing on HUD grantees
  - HUD required grantees to prepare "analysis of impediments" to fair housing
  - Consensus: insufficient HUD guidance, data cherrypicking by grantees possible, limited oversight/enforcement by HUD
  - Westchester County Litigation: Local government opposition to extending affordable housing in suburbs
  - 2025: Trump administration rolls back AFFH rules to 1994 posture

**Zoning v. Community Preferences Case Law** 

- Zoning more established case law
- Community Preferences case law less established

### 149 PART II: COURT TREATMENT OF PREFERENCES IN HOUSING

#### Seminal Disparate Impact Case: U.S. v. City of Black Jack, Missouri (E.D. Mo. 1974)

- Zoning Ordinance prohibiting construction of any new multi-family housing units
- DOJ brought case on theory that ordinance was racially discriminatory and violated Fair Housing Act
- City offered justifications including concerns about property values, traffic congestion, and preserving character of the community

#### U.S. v. City of Black Jack, Missouri (cont'd)

- Disparate Treatment Analysis
  - The District Court analyzed whether ordinance was enacted with discriminatory intent, concluded evidence was insufficient
- Disparate Impact Analysis
  - Prima Facie Case Plaintiff demonstrated a statistical disparity—City of Black Jack was 99% White, a marked contrast to composition of other parts of the St. Louis area.

#### U.S. v. City of Black Jack, Missouri (cont'd)

 Takeaway: The court considered whether the zoning ordinance had a discriminatory effect, regardless of the city's intent. The court found that the ordinance disproportionately affected African American families, who were more likely to need low-income housing.

2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Treatment of Disparate Impact: Mhany Management v. County of Nassau (2nd Cir. 2016)

- County scrapped plan to rezone and make way for development of multifamily housing.
- MHANY Management, Inc., a non-profit affordable housing developer and manager, brought case against the County in ED of NY alleging discriminatory housing practices that violated Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Mhany Management v. County of Nassau (2nd Cir. 2016) (cont'd)

- How did the courts look at this issue?
  - District Court
  - 2nd Circuit Appellate Court
  - District Court (upon remand)

#### What are examples of preferences in housing?

- Local-Resident/Community Housing Preferences
- Veteran-Based Housing Preferences
- Workforce Housing Preferences
- Artist-Based Housing Preferences

**Policy objectives of Community Preferences** 

- Protect Local Residents
- Overcome NIMBYism
- Maintain neighborhood stability

**Do Community Preferences Reinforce Segregation?** 

# The NYC Cases: Winfield v. City of New York/ Noel v. City of New York

- City of New York has longstanding policy established set-asides for up to 50% of the units in new affordable housing developments for residents of the neighborhoods in which those units were developed
- Plaintiffs alleged that the City's Community Preference policy (CP) for affordable housing had a discriminatory effect, causing a disparate impact on the basis of race and perpetuating segregation.

The NYC Cases: Winfield v. City of New York/ Noel v. City of New York (cont'd)

- Procedural History: How did the court analyze this issue under a Disparate Impact theory?
  - Motion to Dismiss (Memo opinion and order)
  - Cross Motion for Summary Judgment (Order)

Court's evaluation under New York City Human Rights Law (NYCHRL)

- The court found that the plaintiffs had sufficiently pleaded their NYCHRL claims, as the allegations of disparate impact and disparate treatment under the FHA were also applicable to the NYCHRL claims.
- But it denied the Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment pursuant to the same reasoning as on the FHAct claims.

# The NYC Cases: Winfield v. City of New York/ Noel v. City of New York (cont'd)

- Settlement Terms
  - Reduction of 50% set-aside to 20% this past April, and then to 15% beginning May 1, 2029.
  - Preference will only be applicable to the first occupancy of a unit and will not apply to developments where the sole obligation for affordable housing is the NYC 421-a partial tax exemption program and developments resulting from the purchase and land-purchase and leaseback program unless otherwise required by New York State law.

#### **San Francisco Community Preference (2015)**

- SF adopted similar district-based preference that prioritized 40% of units for nearby residents.
- HUD raised concerns that the policy could perpetuate segregation.
- HUD approved alternative proposal wherein SF residents with an elevated risk of displacement could gain priority for 40% of units.
- Takeaways

#### **Other Community/Resident Preference Cases in New York**

- Vargas v. Town of Smithtown (E.D.N.Y. 2009) (Section 8 Housing Vouchers)
- U.S. v. Town of Oyster Bay (E.D.N.Y. 2014) (Affordable Housing Units)
- Fair Housing Justice Center, Inc., et al v Town of Bedford et al (2017) (Middle Income Housing Units)

- Key Takeaways
  - No safe harbors regarding geographic scope or percentage of set-aside units
  - Courts will consider "full historical context"
  - Policymakers must assess impact on protected classes, and if there is any, and consider less discriminatory alternatives

### 163 MITIGATING DISPARATE IMPACT/OTHER MODELS?

If no safe harbor, what other policies can be implemented to promote development of affordable housing?





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