# ULSTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT #3

Periodic Review

February 20, 2025

Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board Meeting

#### New York State Agricultural District Law

- § 303-a. Agricultural districts; review. The county legislative body shall review any district created under three hundred three of this article eight years after the date of its creation and at every eight-year period thereafter.
- Last review completed in 2017
- Scheduled completion date is July 21, 2025

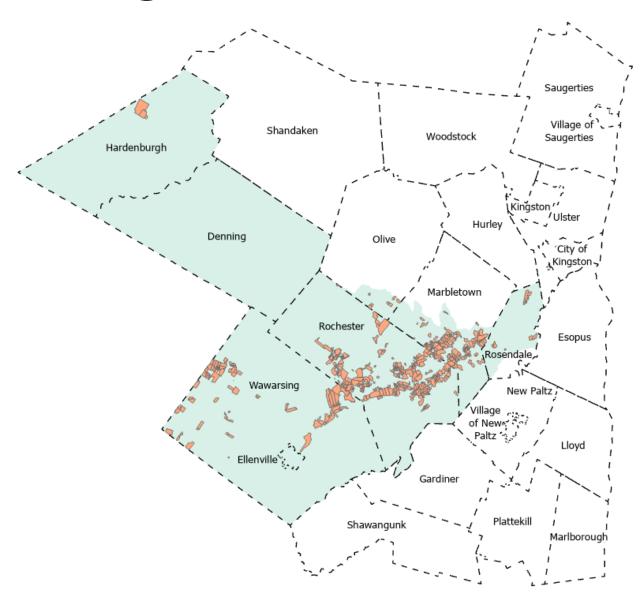
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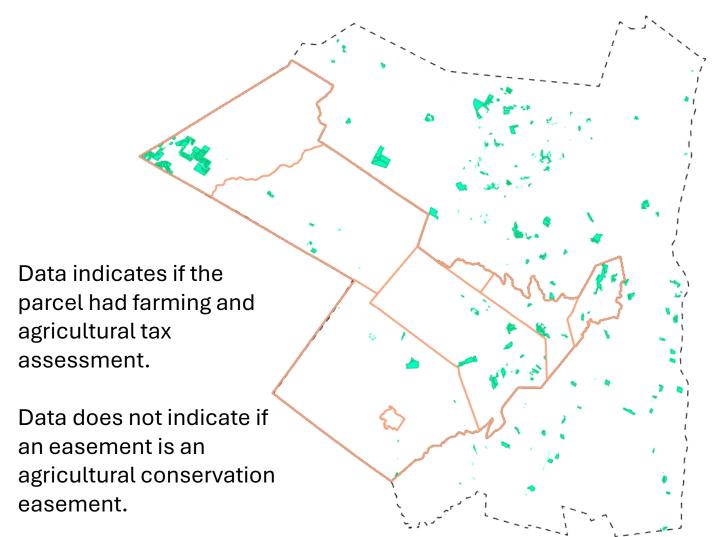
Direct the county agricultural and farmland protection board to prepare a report concerning the following:

- (1) the nature and status of farming and farm resources within such district, including the total number of acres of land and the total number of acres of land in farm operations in the district
- (2) the extent to which the district has achieved its original objectives
- (3) the extent to which county and local comprehensive plans, policies and objectives are consistent with and support the district
- (4) the degree of coordination between local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations that apply to farm operations in such district and their influence on farming; and
- (5) recommendations to continue, terminate or modify such district.

# Agricultural District #3



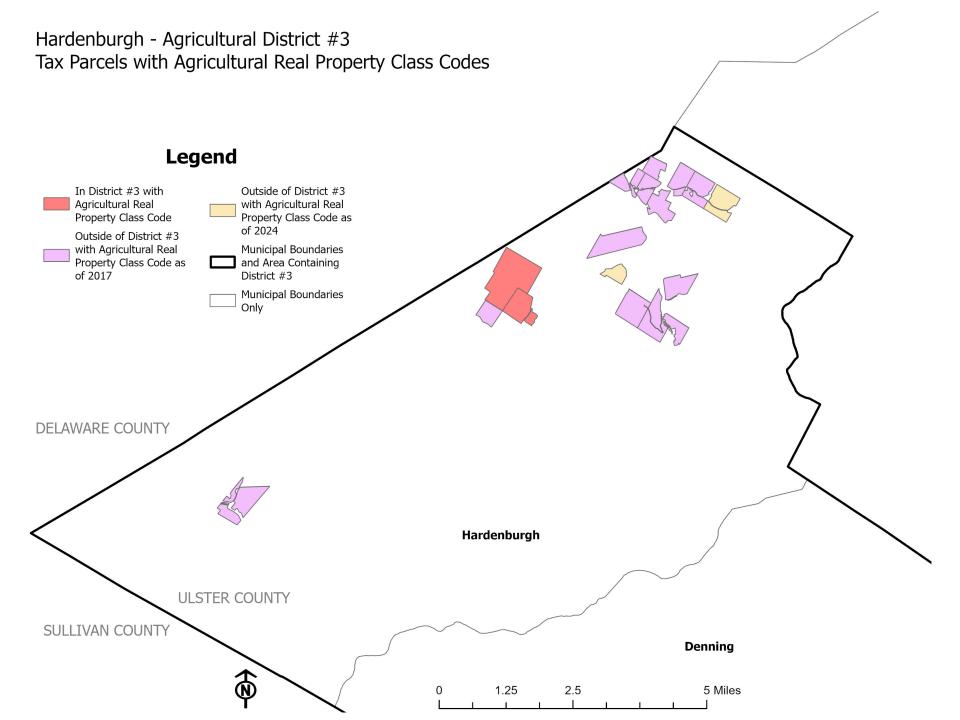
# Parcels with Conservation Easements

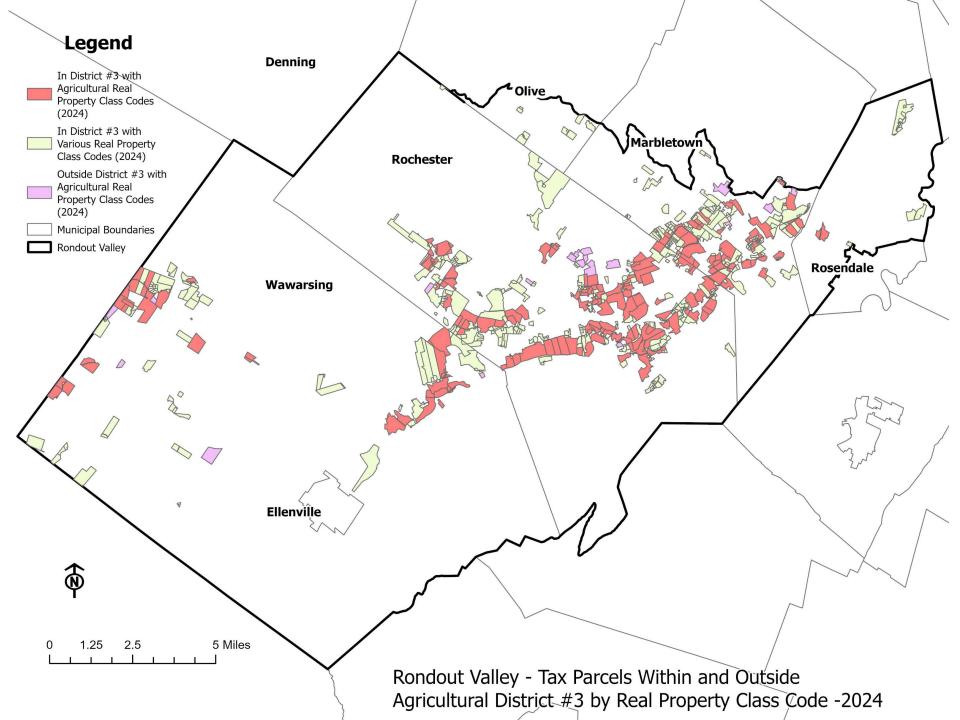


Self-reported data to NYPAD; not every conservation easement in its database.

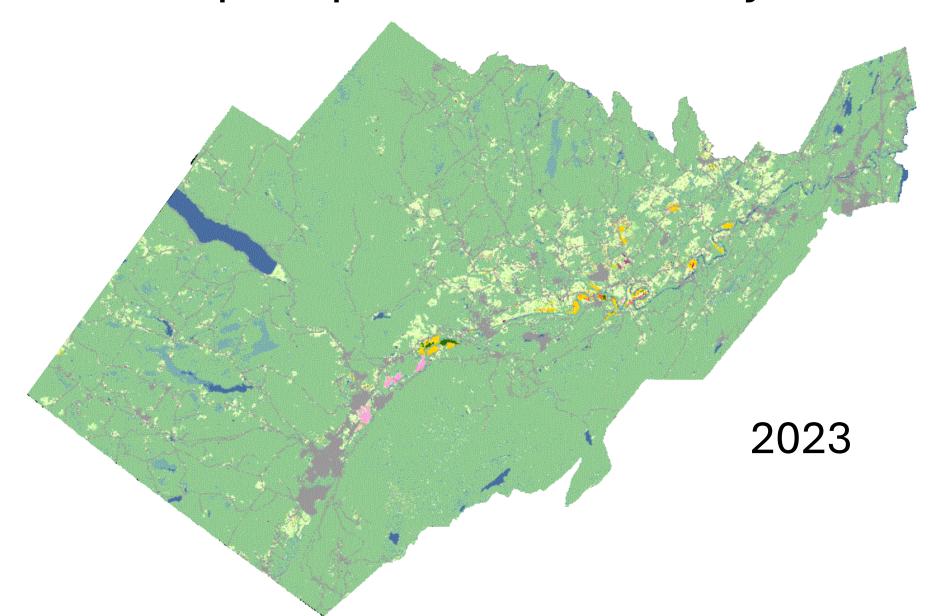
#### **Conditions**

- Land cover is stable (generally).
- 16,911.16 acres (tax parcels in district)
- 7,382.06 acres in farm operations
  - Using real property classification codes
  - Farming appears to extend beyond these tax parcels
- More parcels and parcel acreage with agricultural real property class codes
- CropScape shows around 12,000 acres of cropland in 2022 and 2023
  - Up from around 10,000 in 2017
- Residential subdivision activity not to the degree seen in other parts of Ulster County





# CropScape - Rondout Valley



## Crops

- Data captures differences in what's planted during a given year
- Corn production (2017, 2022, 2023)
- Oats (2023)
  - Cover crop
- 2023 had the largest land area detected for pumpkins
- Misc Vegs & Fruit (2022)
- Sorghum (2022)
- Fallow/Idle Cropland (2017, 2022, 2023)

## Grass/Pasture – Catch-All Category

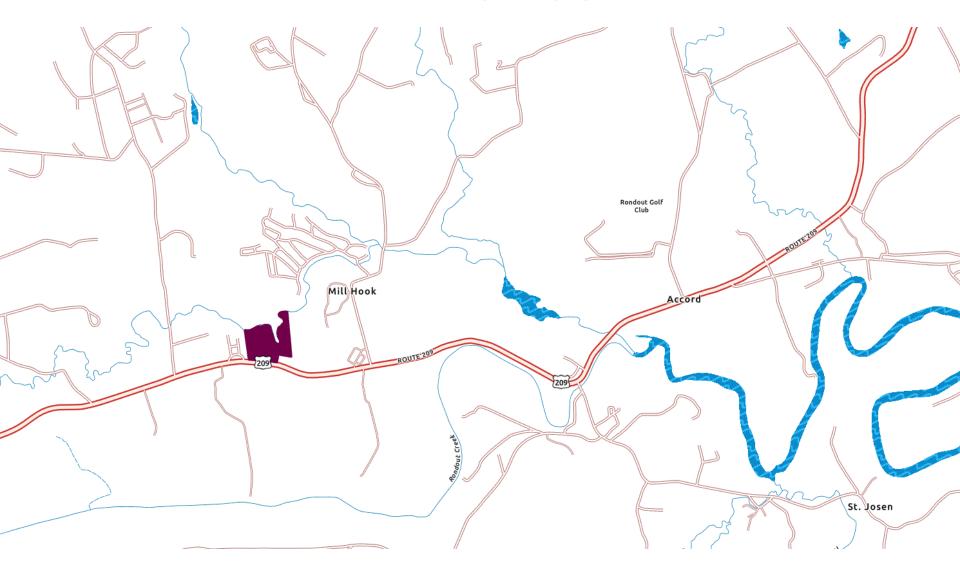
- CropScape category named Grass/Pasture (code 176) collapses the following historical Cropland Data Layer categories: Pasture/Grass (code 62), Grassland Herbaceous (code 171), and Pasture/Hay (code 181).
- Pasture
- Hay
- Grassland Herbaceous
  - Non-tilled
  - Hay, Pasture, or Rangeland
  - Lawns not categorized as open space within a developed area
  - Grassland Herbaceous has
    - actively farmed land
    - viable for farmland but not farmed
- Grassland/Pasture incorporates other farmland
- ¾ of 2023 acreage



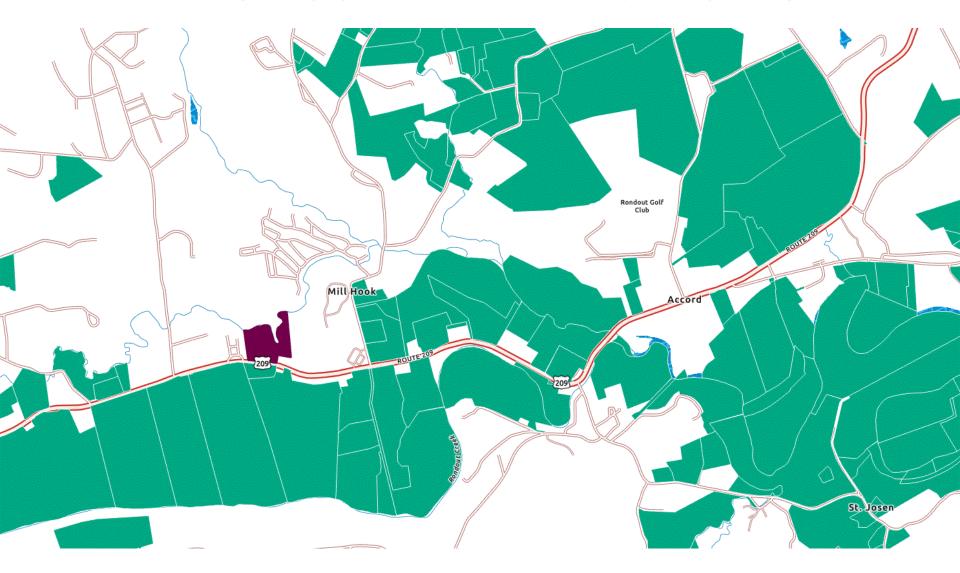




## Route 209



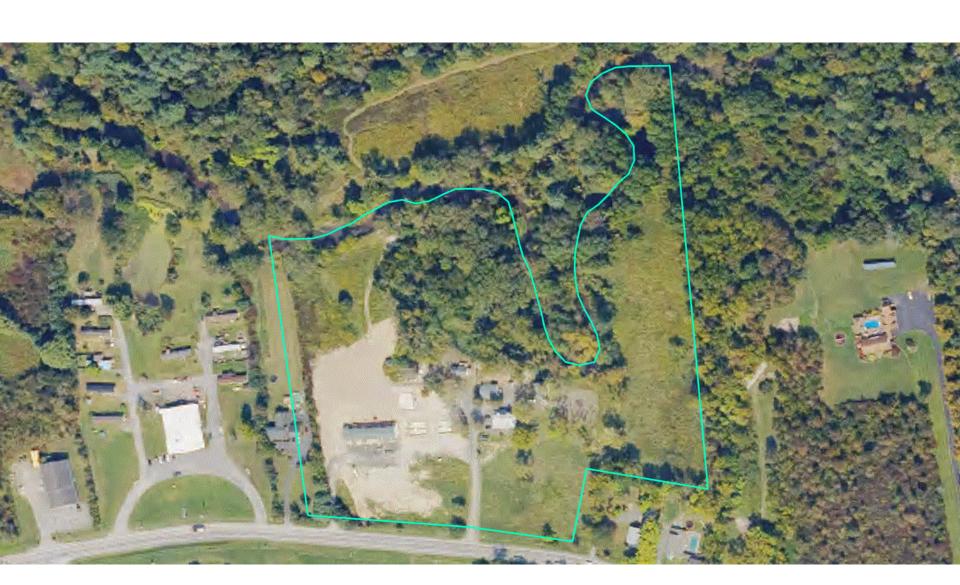
### Route 209 with District Parcels



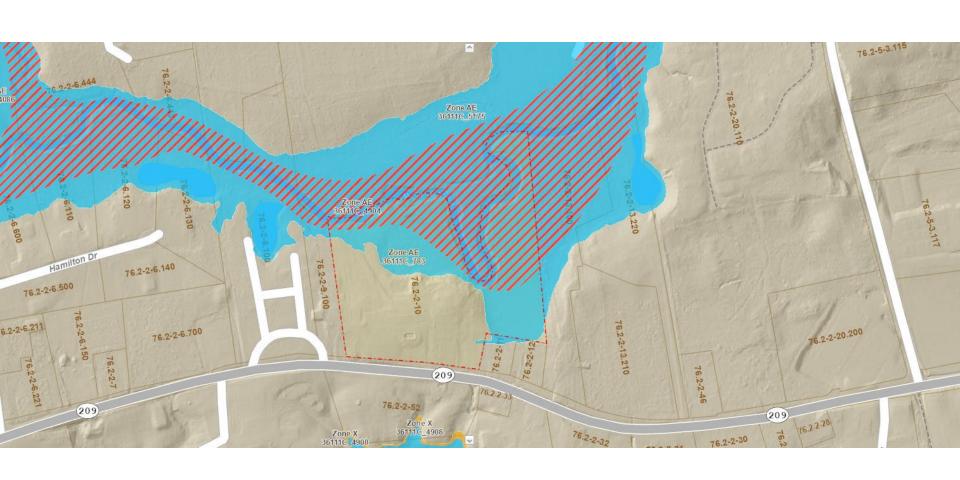
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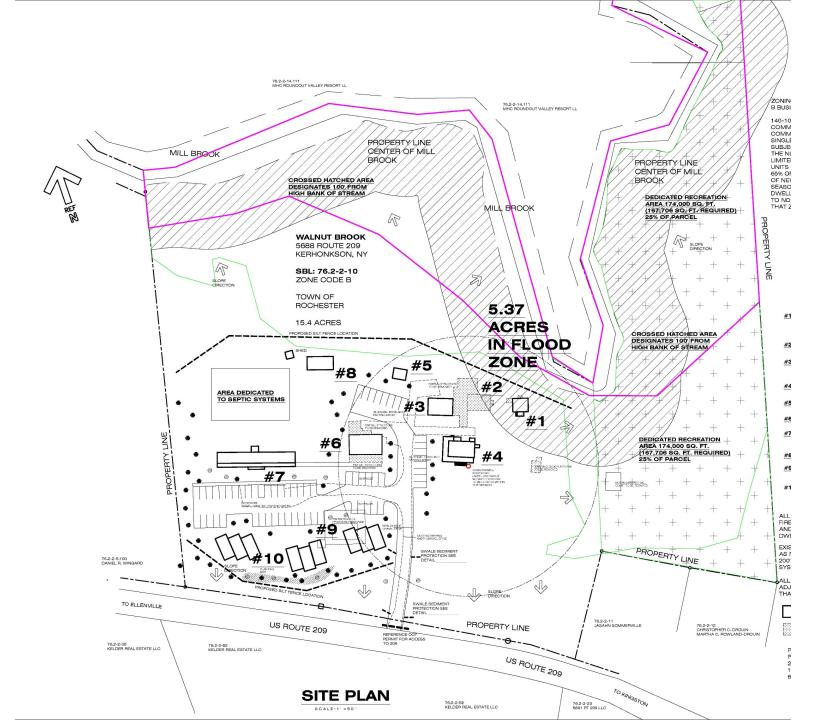


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# Floodway





# 2025 Photo



# 2025 Photo



## 2019 Photo



#### **RECOMMENDATION?**