

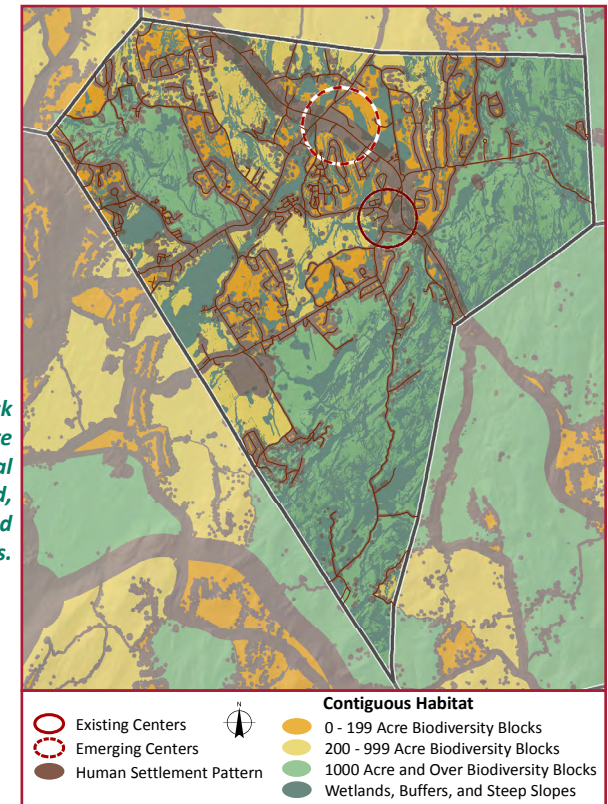
Town of Beekman

Centers: The Town last updated its [Comprehensive Plan](#) in 2007 and adopted its [Zoning Law](#) in 2001, adding later amendments to both documents. The Plan recognizes the traditional hamlet of Poughquag, but recommends focusing new development in the designated Town Center in order to preserve outlying open space areas. The population of the Town is 14,762 while the population in the Centers is 932, or 6.3% of the total. Within the Centers are 221 residential, 26 commercial, 4 business/industrial, 9 public, and 78 vacant properties, according to Real Property Tax records.

Poughquag is a historic hamlet at the center of the Town and south of Route 55. It is the home to the Town Hall and Fire Department and some recent residential development. The zoning allows a wide range of commercial and residential uses in the Poughquag Hamlet district, but the emphasis is on preserving the historic identity of one of Beekman's earliest settlements. New and renovated buildings should be designed to be compatible with the prevailing architectural character.

Beekman Town Center is an emerging mixed-use area along Route 55. The Library, Post Office, and a large Town Park with playing fields are located here. The Town Zoning Law established design standards to create over time a walkable, highly integrated center with a network of connected streets and sidewalks and a mix of residential and commercial uses. The primary goal is to transform the current strip commercial highway segment into a main street character with commercial uses brought up close to the street, multistory buildings, a variety of housing types, and central green spaces to help enhance community identity and social engagement. The intention is for new development to build a coordinated system of secondary streets, an internal block system with parking screened behind buildings, and walking connections to adjacent residential neighborhoods. In 2005, the Town adopted an Official Map, designating a basic street system for the Town Center.

Beekman's Biodiversity Block Map includes four 1,000+ acre blocks of continuous natural habitat and farmland, mostly in its eastern and southern Depot Hill sections.



Greenspaces: Beekman adopted an Open Space Plan in 2005 and funded a purchase of development rights program to protect key properties in the Town. Hudsonia also prepared a [Significant Habitats](#) report with maps. The Town has four areas of continuous greenspaces with agricultural and natural land over 1,000 acres in size. It has 113 agricultural district parcels, 2,788 acres in agricultural production, and 3,783 acres either under conservation easement or otherwise protected.

Greenway Corridors: The Town has 7,306 acres of unbuildable area. These stream corridors, State and Federal wetlands with their buffers, floodplains, and steep slopes of 20% or more act as biodiversity connectors between greenspaces. Beekman also has 66 miles of streams, 109 miles of roads, only 0.3 miles of sidewalks, and 10 miles of trails, including a section of the Appalachian Trail.