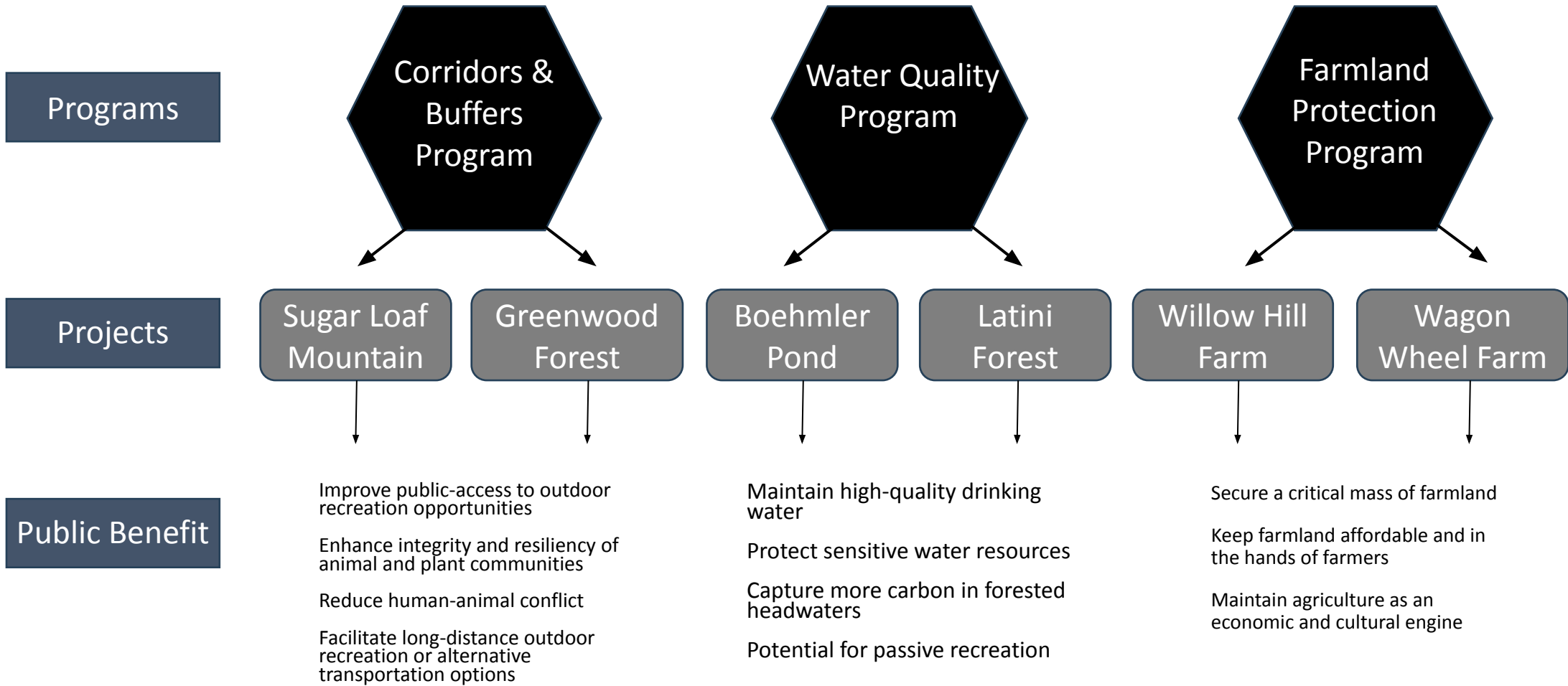


OCLT's Land Conservation Programs



OCLT Land Conservation Program

Example: Water Quality Improvement Program in partnership with the City of Port Jervis, NYS Department Of Environmental Conservation, and the Open Space Institute

Community Benefit:

- Acquire forested land to maintain water quality and recharge in the City's immediate drinking source watershed
- Cluster multiple projects to protect a large contiguous forest with sensitive water resources and significant biodiversity
- Connect miles of new trails into the Port Jervis Watershed Park which has an existing 48 miles of hiking and biking trails



Prioritizing Conservation

Using a wide range of scientific datasets combined through area-specific parameters, we are able to assess and identify land with high conservation value. The information layers shown on the right are among those project criteria that guide OCLT's decision making process.

The tallying up of this data provides a quantitative birds-eye-view of potential projects that adapts our conservation strategy to the county-wide level. From that prioritized view point, we can scale down to the local level by empowering landowners with the tools to help us conserve land vital to the communities who depend on them.

Public input is critical to identifying the special and unique qualities of land that may be difficult to assess through these datasets. Please contribute your local knowledge to strategic conservation plans such as the Neversink Watershed Management Plan.

