

Most of DNREC's comments relate to the implementation of Dagsboro's comprehensive plan and subsequent ordinances. We welcome the opportunity to advise the town and work with it on the development of ordinances that protect natural resources and environmentally sensitive features.

Water Resources/Water Quality

General Comments

1) The Plan should make specific recommendations for reducing imperviousness. The following recommendations could be incorporated in an ordinance:

Require the use of pervious paving materials, whenever practicable, in lieu of conventional paving materials. The use of pervious paving materials is especially important for large commercial parking lot areas. Studies have shown a strong relationship between increases in impervious cover to decreases in a watershed's overall water quality. Reducing the amount of surface imperviousness through the use of pervious paving materials ("pervious pavers") in lieu of asphalt or concrete, is an example of a practical BMP that could easily be implemented to help reduce surface imperviousness.

Require an impervious surface mitigation plan for all residential and commercial development exceeding 20% imperviousness. The impervious surface mitigation plan should demonstrate that the impervious cover in excess of 20% will not impact ground water recharge, surface water hydrology, and/or water quality of the site and/or adjacent properties. If impacts to groundwater recharge, surface water hydrology will occur, the plan should then demonstrate mitigation of said impacts and/or if impacts cannot be mitigated, the site plan will be modified to reduce the impact of impervious cover. Additionally, it is further recommended the pervious paving materials be required. In commercial areas, it is strongly recommended that pervious paving materials be required for at least 50% of the total paved surface area(s).

Define how developers may calculate surface imperviousness. This ordinance should specify and require that the calculation for surface imperviousness include all of the following forms of constructed surface imperviousness: all paved surfaces (e.g., roads, sidewalks, and parking areas), rooftops, and open-water stormwater management structures. For planning purposes, the Department utilizes Technical Release 55 (TR-55), Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, June 1986 (see Table 2-2a, page 2-5).

2) The Plan should make a recommendation to protect open space via ordinance

It is strongly recommended that the Town adopt an "open-space" ordinance recommendation which specifically excludes structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as community wastewater treatment areas, open-water stormwater treatment structures and wetlands from

consideration as open space. The Department defines “open space” as those areas with public value in a predominantly natural state and undeveloped condition. Such areas may contain, but are not limited to, wildlife and native plant habitat, forest, farmland, meadows, wetlands, floodplains, shorelines, stream corridors, steep slopes, and other areas that have species or habitats of conservation concern.

Open Space may be preserved, enhanced and restored in order to maintain or improve the natural, ecological, hydrological, or geological values. An important design element to consider when incorporating Open Space in a development is to take maximum advantage of adjoining Open Space areas. This will advance the goal of an interconnected network of habitat corridors for wildlife and provide for future potential linkages.

Open Space is not:

- impervious surfaces (e.g., roads, parking lots, sidewalks, buildings)
- swimming pools or ponds that are lined or contain an impervious substrate
- stormwater management structures
- wastewater treatment systems

Types of Recreational Open Space:

- *Passive*-Passive recreation areas include only low-impact activities having little or no disturbance on natural features.
- *Active*-Active recreation areas (e.g., ball fields, playgrounds) should be placed only in Open Space areas that do not already contain natural habitat.

3) The Plan narrative did not mention the specific Federal and State wetland regulatory programs for protecting nontidal and tidal wetlands. We strongly suggest the following being added as a “stand-alone section” under the Environmental Protection section:

Regulatory protection of wetlands (tidal and nontidal) is mandated under Section 404 provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act through the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Certain other wetlands (mainly in tidal areas) are accorded additional regulatory protection under Title 7, Chapter 66 provisions of the State of Delaware’s Code.

Specific Comments

Page 28, Environmental Protection Section: We feel that the environmental protection section should include more specifics and clarifying commentary on TMDLs. Therefore, we suggest that you eliminate the second paragraph under this section and replace with the following narrative and table:

The Town of Dagsboro is located within the greater Inland Bays drainage. Under Section 303(d) of the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), states are required to identify all impaired waters and establish total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to restore their beneficial uses (e.g., swimming, fishing, and drinking water). A TMDL defines the amount of a given pollutant that

Town of Dagsboro Comprehensive Plan

2008-12-02

Page 3 of 14

may be discharged to a water body from point, nonpoint, and natural background sources and still allows attainment or maintenance of the applicable narrative and numerical water quality standards. A TMDL is the sum of the individual Waste Load Applications (WLAs) for point sources and Load Allocations (LAs) for nonpoint sources and natural background sources of pollution. A TMDL may include a reasonable margin of safety (MOS) to account for uncertainties regarding the relationship between mass loading and resulting water quality. In simplistic terms, a TMDL matches the strength, location and timing of pollution sources within a watershed with the inherent ability of the receiving water to assimilate the pollutant without adverse impact. Moreover, reducing the pollutants to the level specified by the TMDL(s) will ensure that a water body meets the water quality criteria and goals in the State Water Quality Standards.

A Pollution Control Strategy (PCS) is an implementation strategy that identifies the actions necessary to systematically reduce the pollutant loading rate for a given water body, and meet the TMDL reduction requirements specified for that water body. A variety of site-specific best management practices (BMPs) will be the primary actions required by the PCS to reduce pollutant loadings. The pollutants specifically targeted for reduction in the Inland Bays watershed are nutrients (e.g., nitrogen and phosphorus) and bacteria. The PCS for the Inland Bays was approved on November 11, 2008, and is now a regulatory directive containing enforceable provisions.

The Town of Dagsboro is located within the greater Inland Bays drainage (high nutrient reduction area). The Inland Bays drainage is assigned a range of nutrient (e.g., nitrogen and phosphorus) and bacterial TMDL load reduction requirements that, as mentioned previously, must be met in order to meet the State Water Quality Standards (See table 1).

Inland Bays Drainage (high reduction area)	N- reduction requirements	P-reduction requirements	Bacteria-reduction requirements
Indian River Bay watershed	85%	65%	40% Fresh; 17% Marine

Table 1: TMDL Nutrient (Nitrogen and Phosphorus) and Bacteria reduction requirements for the Inland Bays (high reduction area).

Page 28, Implementation Section: The Plan should offer more specific “actionable” environmental protection strategies than currently offered. We recommend an ordinance or ordinances which would:

- a) Require all applicants to submit to the Town a copy of the development site plan showing the extent of State-regulated wetlands (as depicted by the State Wetland Regulatory Maps), and a United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approved wetlands delineation as conditional approval for any new commercial and/or residential development. Additionally,

Town of Dagsboro Comprehensive Plan

2008-12-02

Page 4 of 14

the site plan should depict all streams and ditches which are jurisdictional pursuant to the Subaqueous Act (7 Del. C., Chapter 72) as determined by DNREC.

- b) Help protect freshwater wetlands where regulatory gaps exist between federal and state jurisdictions (i.e., isolated wetlands and headwater wetlands).
- c) Require a 100-foot upland buffer width from all wetlands or water bodies (including ditches).

Based on a review of existing buffer research by Castelle et al. (Castelle, A. J., A. W. Johnson and C. Conolly. 1994. *Wetland and Stream Buffer Requirements – A Review*. J. Environ. Qual. 23: 878), an adequately-sized buffer that effectively protects wetlands and streams, in most circumstances, is about 100 feet in width. In recognition of this research and the need to protect water quality, the Watershed Assessment Section recommends that the applicant maintain/establish a minimum 100-foot upland buffer (planted in native vegetation) from the landward edge of all wetlands and water bodies (including all ditches).

- d) Exclude structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as community wastewater treatment areas, open-water stormwater treatment structures and regulated wetlands from consideration as open space.
- e) Require an impervious cover mitigation plan for all residential developments exceeding 20% imperviousness. In commercial developments, it is strongly recommended that pervious paving materials be required for at least 50% of the total paved surface area(s) where practicable.
- f) Require the calculation for surface imperviousness for all commercial and residential development to include all constructed forms of surface imperviousness, including all paved surfaces (roads, parking lots, and sidewalks), rooftops, and open-water stormwater management structures.
- g) Require the assessment of a project's TMDL nutrient loading rate through use of the Department's nutrient budget protocol. The applicant should be further required to use any combination of approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet the required TMDLs for the affected watershed(s) in question.
- h) Prohibit development on hydric soil mapping units. Proof or evidence of hydric soil mapping units should be provided through the submission of the most recent NRCS soil survey mapping of the parcel or through the submission of a field soil survey of the parcel by a licensed soil scientist.
- i) Require the applicant to use "green-technology" stormwater management in lieu of "open-water" stormwater management ponds whenever practicable.

Water Resource Protection Areas

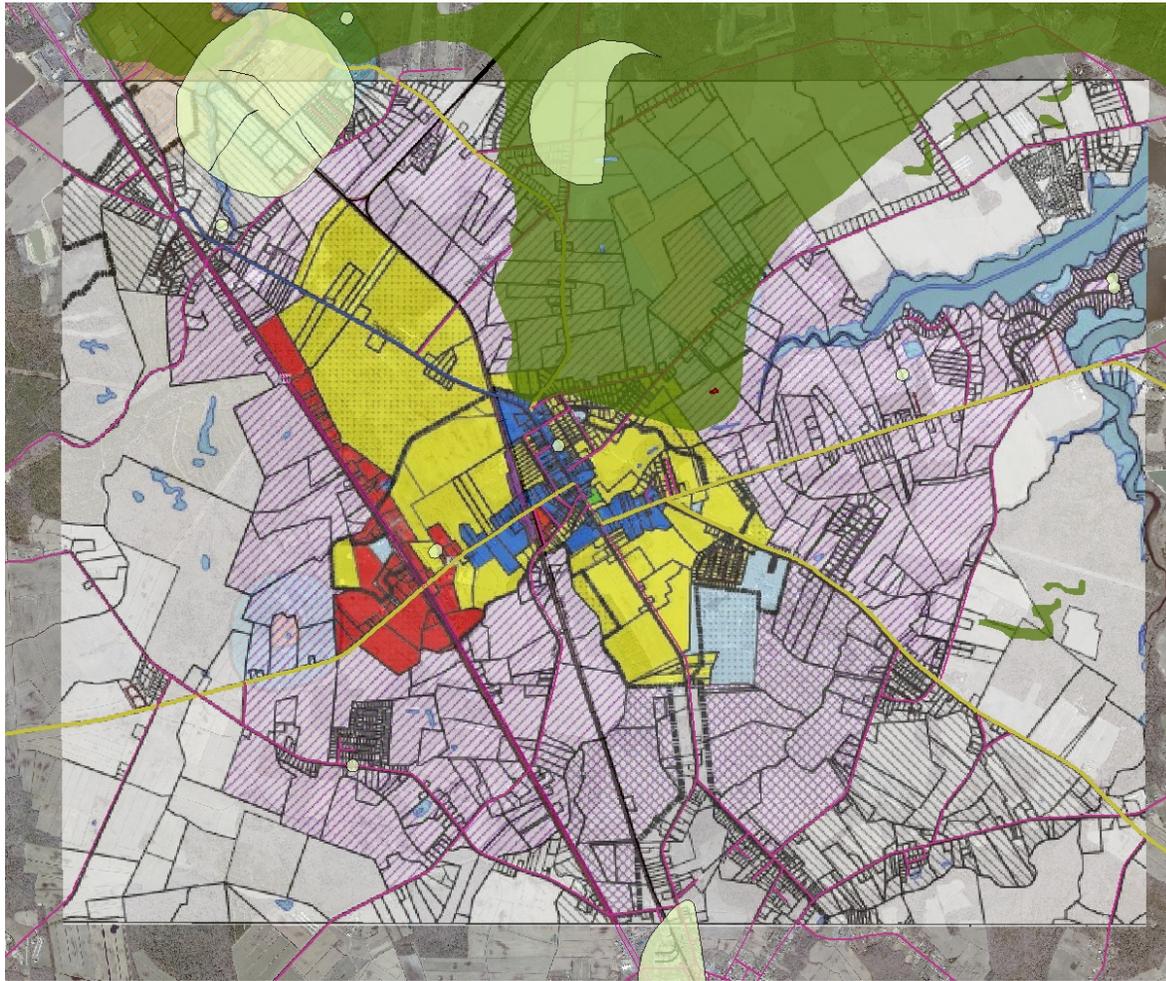
The Water Supply Section, Groundwater Protection Branch (GPB) applauds the Town's intent to develop a source water protection ordinance in preparation for the expansion of the Town's water system. The Town should include protection for excellent ground-water recharge potential as well as wellhead protection areas because there is an area of excellent recharge potential within the proposed annexation area: Map 4 Future Land Use and Annexations.

GPB encourages the Town to use *the Draft Model Ordinance for Smaller Municipalities of Kent and Sussex Counties, Source Water Protection Area Ordinance* to develop their ordinance. The publication can be found at,

http://www.wr.udel.edu/swaphome/Publications/SWPOrdinances/FinalDraftModelOrdinance_KnS_041408.pdf

The Town states on page 28 of the Plan that "two private water supply wells are found within the Town boundaries". These are Public Water Supply systems. One system has two wells. Both these systems have interconnected to Dagsboro Public Water System. All three wells need to be properly abandoned by a State of Delaware Licensed well driller who must submit an abandonment report to DNREC Well Permitting Section.

Map of the Town of Dagsboro, DE (PLUS 2008-12-02) Map 4. Future land Uses and Annexations submitted as provided by applicant in the application is shown overlain DNREC source water protection areas.



Legend

 Wellhead Protection Areas

 Excellent Ground-Water Recharge Potential Area

Water Supply

The Town of Dagsboro proposes annexation of 900 acres on the north side of the Town, consisting mostly of residential areas. In addition, there is a large proposed annexation zoned for institutional development.

The Draft Update includes the following assessment of the adequacy of current water supply:

Water supply in the Town most likely will not keep up with the demand based on approved subdivisions and potential new development. The Town is currently receiving 81 percent of the agreed upon water allocation from the Town of Millsboro. This averages out to potentially 73 additional homes being built within the Town before the agreement with Millsboro has exceeded its agreed upon quantity. With the addition of Savannah Square Shopping Center, Clayton Crossing Business Park and the permitted commercial uses in these buildings, it is possible the amount of water available for additional homes will be much less.

The proposed 900 acres of new annexation represents an increase in area of 87%, and presumably represents an equivalent increase in water demand. There is currently less than 19% available new water. The Comprehensive Plan Update includes no plan for identifying new water supplies, only a recommendation that there should be a plan. Thus, the planning for water supply is lagging far behind the planning for new development. Given the current difficulties in the Town of Millsboro (the source of Dagsboro's water), it is critical that the water supply locations be identified before the development plans consume all the available space in the Town. Each water supply location needs to be free from contaminant sources, and its aquifers need to be evaluated for capacity and water quality. There has been general public dissatisfaction with the use of confined aquifer wells in Millsboro since the contaminant plume was found to be affecting the shallow wells. If the confined aquifer (Manokin aquifer) is to be used, a treatment process must be implemented to overcome the taste and odor issues associated with it. After the identification of water supply areas and selection of the aquifer to be used, the Town's source water ordinance requires that zoning around the water sources be adjusted to protect the resource.

Sediment, Stormwater, and Drainage

Page 12, Future Land Use and Annexation

- Existing tax ditch rights-of-way should be protected from development encroachment to allow for routine maintenance and periodic reconstruction. Routine maintenance primarily consists of mowing ditch bank vegetation and the removal of small blockages. Periodic tax ditch reconstruction involves the removal of sediment from the ditch bottom to reestablish the original design grade. The removed sediment, referred to as spoil, is typically disposed of by spreading within the tax ditch right-of-way. The placement of

permanent obstructions within tax ditch rights-of-way is prohibited. Any change to the location of the tax ditch, or the existing tax ditch rights-of-way, will require a change to the tax ditch court order.

- With the exception of Tax Ditches, the Town should pursue drainage easements along waterways, ditches, and storm drains where currently there is none. This would give the town the ability to hire contractors to remove blockages without the time consuming task of the State obtaining permission to trespass on the property to survey.

Page 16, Recommendations, Addition of Recommendation #6

- The Drainage Program recommends each parcel have a tax ditch right-of-way review conducted on the parcel prior to annexation by the Town. Please contact our Georgetown office at (302) 855-1930 to request a review tax ditch rights-of-way on a parcel. When a development project involves a tax ditch, or tax ditch right-of-way, include the Drainage Program in the pre-application meeting with the Sussex Conservation District to discuss drainage, stormwater management, tax ditch maintenance, and the release of stormwater into the tax ditch.

Page 21, Stormwater Management

- Be advised the Sediment and Stormwater Program is currently undergoing revisions to the sediment and stormwater regulations. It is unclear at this time when the new regulations will be promulgated.
- The Division of Soil and Water Conservation is requesting that the Town incorporate a requirement for a stormwater and drainage review into the Town's preapproval requirements for new development requests. Proposed development projects should hold a pre-application meeting with the delegated agency, the Sussex Conservation District, to discuss stormwater and drainage prior to the town reviewing and/or approving plans or issuing building permits. The Sediment and Stormwater Program is set to begin requiring a pre-application meeting for all proposed land disturbing activities that require a detailed Sediment & Stormwater Plan within the coming year. These meetings are structured to assist developers in the design process and for early notification of approval requirements. In order to schedule a pre-application meeting, the applicant must forward a completed Stormwater Impact Study (SIS) to the appropriate Delegated Agency. Please contact Elaine Webb with the DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program if you have any questions regarding this new process. Please note that this process does not replace the State's PLUS process. The SIS Findings report will also be provided through that process.
- The Division has been seeing more small construction projects without an approved Sediment and Stormwater Plan. Sediment and Stormwater Regulations require a Sediment and Stormwater Plan for land disturbing activity 5,000 square feet or greater.

Land disturbing activity may be more than the building footprint. Land disturbing activity means a land change or construction activity for residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional land use which may result in soil erosion from water or wind or movement of sediments or pollutants into State waters or onto lands in the State, or which may result in accelerated stormwater runoff, including but not limited to clearing, grading, excavating, transporting, and filling land. This seems to occur more often in Sussex County. As the Town of Dagsboro updates any land use or subdivision codes, the Sediment and Stormwater Program requests the town make a note of the Sediment and Stormwater requirements on any construction - related project application checklists, etc.

- Lines and grades: If the Town does not have a lines and grades requirement for new construction, the Division recommends this be considered to help resolve drainage issues arising from new construction during and post construction. County/municipal building inspectors would be able to use approved lines and grades requirement to field verify prior to issuance of Certificate of Occupancy or building permit, as appropriate.
- Explore the feasibility of stormwater utility to fund upgrades to existing stormwater infrastructure. Upgrades to the stormwater system may reduce pollutant loads and help reach the established total maximum daily load for nitrogen, phosphorus, and bacteria. Reach out to the Sussex Conservation District, Sussex County and the Delaware Clean Water Advisory Council as partners in funding stormwater retrofits.

Page 23, Recommendation #3

- Explore the use of drainage ways and other open space set aside for drainage maintenance for bicycle and pedestrian interconnections in new developments. For developments on waterways that are of sufficient size to kayak consider an unimproved launch area in the recreation open space plan. This would allow more residents to access the waterways, in a non-mechanized manor, while keeping the cost of operations and maintenance down.

Page 30, Recommendation #3

- The Drainage Program recommends including wetlands setbacks as part of the ordinances to protect environmental resources. Wetlands should be protected by a setback of un-subdivided open space surrounding them. No portion of any building lot should be within the setback. During prolonged wet periods, the area within the wetland setback may become too wet for normal residential use. Designation as open space will aid in the prevention of decks, sheds, fences, kennels, and backyards being placed within the setback thereby reducing nuisance drainage complaints.
- Streams, tax ditches, and private ditches will require periodic reconstruction at intervals dependent upon the sedimentation load from upstream. Periodic reconstruction involves the removal of sediment from the ditch bottom to establish or reestablish a design grade.

The removed sediment, referred to as spoil, is typically disposed of by spreading or piling alongside the ditch. On a Tax Ditch, this is done within the tax ditch right-of-way, which is why Tax Ditch rights-of-way need to be unobstructed. On private ditches, a Drainage Management Plan, working in conjunction with the sediment and stormwater plan, would include a maintenance plan for drainage conveyances, include points of access for maintenance equipment, and designate spoil disposal areas.

Page 33, Short term recommendation

- The Drainage Program recommends existing drainage ways be incorporated into open space plan. However, a maintenance plan needs to be in place should blockages from storm debris, beaver, or other sources occur. The Town should identify existing open channels within the Town boundary, along with potential annexation sites, as these channels may require maintenance in the future. Most of the channels have trees and wetlands adjacent to the channel and the riparian area, providing a multitude of benefits for water quality and wildlife. There must be a balance between preserving the riparian area and having the capability to access the channel to perform maintenance. By identifying such areas now, future development would incorporate the areas into community open space thereby preserving the riparian area while allowing for channel maintenance access.

Page 34, Mid/Long term Recommendation

- The Drainage Program applauds the effort for the Town to achieve the Tree City U.S.A. status and supports the town ordinances protecting greenery and forested tracks of land. Please be mindful when planting native vegetation along drainage conveyances and consider how future drainage maintenance will be performed. Key components to achieve this recommendation are :
 - Consider future drainage maintenance before planting riparian areas. Planted trees and shrubs should be native species, spaced to allow for a small backhoe or excavator to work through when trees are at maturity. Tree and shrub planting in this manner will provide a shading effect, promoting water quality while allowing future drainage maintenance.
 - Do not plant trees closer than 5 feet of the top of the bank to avoid future blockages within the channel from tree roots.
 - Plant the balance of the area, as well as stream and ditch banks, with herbaceous vegetation to aid in the reduction of sediment and nutrients entering into water conveyance.

- Grasses, forbs and sedges planted within these buffers should be native species, selected for their height, ease of maintenance, erosion control, and nutrient uptake capabilities.

Habitat Protection

2-3. Future Land Use and Annexation, Annexation (Short-term Growth Area): On page 14, the Town is proposing to annex approximately 782 acres: 560 acres for residential use, 155 acres for commercial use and 67 acres for institutional use.

1) We recommend the Town also set aside some of the proposed annexed acreage as preserved open space.

Area of Concern (Long-term Growth), page 14: The Town outlines a request to have some degree of input or control over land use and development activities in those areas outside of Town boundaries that have the potential to impact the Town. They plan to coordinate with Sussex County on these issues and to notify and coordinate with the county if the town becomes aware of development activity in the Area of Concern.

2) We recommend the Town also consider coordinating with State Agencies, such as DNREC, to ensure that projects are environmentally sensitive. If not, a project could go forward without the benefit of state agency input, which includes input from scientists that could aide in efforts to ensure environmentally sensitive development.

3) We highly recommend that the Town require developers, or applicants of development projects, to contact the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife to determine if their project activities will impact a State-rare or federally listed species. In some cases, a site visit may be requested in order to provide the necessary information. The Town should then consider requiring implementation of recommendations provided by the NHESP before approving site plans.

Contact information:

Environmental Review Coordinator
Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
DNREC-Division of Fish and Wildlife
4876 Hay Point Landing Rd
Smyrna, DE 19977
(302) 653-2880

4) We recommend the Town refer to the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan (DEWAP) when making land-use decisions. DEWAP is a comprehensive strategy for conserving the full array of native wildlife and habitats, common and uncommon, as vital components of the State's natural

Town of Dagsboro Comprehensive Plan

2008-12-02

Page 12 of 14

resources. This document can be viewed via our program website at <http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/nhp>. This document also contains a list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGN) as well as species-habitat associations.

2-4b. Public Safety and Community Services, Parks, Recreation and Open Space: On Page 23, recommendation #5 states *'Amend the zoning code to require new developments to preserve open space and environmentally significant features.'*

5) The Town should require new developments to create plans that maintain habitat connections to minimize impacts to wildlife across the landscape.

Open space within developed areas often serves as a travel pathway or corridor for wildlife between areas of fragmented habitat. Wildlife corridors support the survival of many species by providing sources of food and water, providing protective cover from predators, shelter from harsh weather, and reconnecting isolated populations. These corridors can help reduce the negative effects of habitat fragmentation by allowing dispersal of individuals between patches of remaining habitat.

6) Applicants of development projects should contact the NHESP (as described above) in order to determine what environmentally significant features occur on site as it relates to wildlife habitat and rare species occurrences.

Environmental Protection: On page 29 a tree protection ordinance is explained and recommendation #5 states that tree and woodland ordinances will be enforced to preserve greenery in Town.

7) We recommend the Town also consider implementing its tree protection ordinances for parcels that are within the proposed annexation area and within the 'Area of Concern' if these parcels are annexed into the town in the future.

8) Especially important is the forested buffer area that occurs along Pepper Creek and is within the Area of Concern. If these parcels are annexed, the Town should require that the existing forested buffer be maintained. Among the many benefits of maintaining trees along the shore is the use of these trees by Bald Eagle for nesting, foraging and roosting.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

The Town of Dagsboro currently has one public park facility: Katie Helm Park, located off of Main Street in between Canal Street and Swamp Road and two school sites (the new and old high school) that provide recreational opportunities.

The Division of Parks and Recreation provides matching grant assistance through the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund (DTF) to local governments for land acquisition and

Town of Dagsboro Comprehensive Plan

2008-12-02

Page 13 of 14

for park development. Lands that have received DTF assistance are publicly accessible lands that must remain as open space for conservation or recreation purposes in perpetuity. Both Katie Helm Park and the old High School complex have received funding through the DTF program. For more information regarding Katie Helm Park, or on the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund, please contact: Robert Ehemann @302.739.9235

In May and June of 2008, the Division of Parks and Recreation conducted a telephone survey of Delaware residents to gather information on outdoor recreation patterns and preferences as well as other information on their landscape perception. These findings will be the foundation of the 2009-2011 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) providing guidance for investments in needed outdoor recreation facilities.

Ninety-one percent of residents living in eastern Sussex County indicated that outdoor recreation was very or somewhat important to them. Based on the public opinion survey, the most needed outdoor recreation facilities in western Sussex County include: walking/jogging paths, bicycle paths, public swimming areas, public fishing access, open space/passive recreation, picnic areas, playgrounds, and hiking trails. Moderate facility needs include: boating access, public campgrounds, baseball/softball fields, horseshoe pits, basketball courts and tennis courts. Because of the importance of outdoor recreation in eastern Sussex County, the Town of Dagsboro should work to incorporate some of these opportunities in the development of their comprehensive plan. For more information on the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or the public opinion telephone survey, please contact: Kendall Sommers @ 302.739.9235.

Recommendations:

The Town of Dagsboro should work to pursue the plans for the Katie Helm Park. Top priorities should include parking and connecting the park to residential developments.

The Town of Dagsboro should consider creating an open space ordinance that would require all new developments to set aside land for parks and open space.

Under/Aboveground Storage Tanks

Should any underground storage tanks or petroleum contaminated soil be discovered by any person during construction, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control-Tank Management Branch (DNREC-TMB) at (302) 395-2500 and the DNREC Emergency Response Hotline at (800) 662-8802 must be notified within 24 hours.

In addition, should any contamination be encountered, PVC pipe materials would have to be replaced with ductile steel and nitrile rubber gaskets in the contaminated areas.

If any aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) less than 12,500 gallons are installed, they must be registered with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Tank

Management Branch (DNREC-TMB). If any ASTs greater than 12,500 gallons are installed they are subject to installation approval by the DNREC-TMB.

Site Investigation and Restoration

DNREC's Site Investigation and Restoration Branch (SIRB) encourages the development of Brownfields and can provide assistance when investigating and remediating Brownfield sites. Note that the town of Dagsboro is connected to Millsboro's municipal water system. Millsboro has had high levels of TCE in the drinking water and is currently undergoing treatment for the contaminated water. The town of Dagsboro had low readings of TCE in the drinking water, and with treatment, TCE is no longer a threat to the residents of Dagsboro.

If any future development occurs on sites with previous manufacturing, industrial, or agricultural use, SIRB recommends that a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment be conducted prior to development, due to the potential for a release of hazardous substances. If a release or imminent threat of a release of hazardous substances is discovered during the course of future development (e.g., contaminated water or soil); construction activities should be discontinued immediately, and DNREC should be notified at the 24-hour emergency number (800-662-8802). In addition, SIRB should be contacted as soon as possible at 302-395-2600 for further instructions.