

PART I – PROJECT INFORMATION

A. SITE DESCRIPTION

3. What is the predominant soil type(s) on project site?

Hudson Silt Loam – 34%
Udorthents – 20%
Rhinebeck – 10%

6. Is the project substantially contiguous to, or contain a building, site, or district on the State or National Registers of Historic Places?

The City of Rensselaer contains six (6) properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

- Beverwyck Manor (90NR01001)
- Patroon Agent’s House & Office (90NR01002)
- Fort Crailo (90NR01003)
- Aiken House (90NR01004)
- W.P. Irwin Bank Building (07NR05742)
- Clark-Dearstyne-Miller Inn (07NR05792)

It is not anticipated that the proposed Zoning Code Update project will result in significant adverse impacts upon any property listed or eligible for listing on the State or National Registers of Historic Places.

11. Does the project site contain any species of plant or animal life that is identified as endangered or threatened?

The New York Natural Heritage Program and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service maintain a database of State and Federally-listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species for each county located in New York State. The City has filed a request for information pertaining to threatened and endangered species with the NYSDEC-DFWMR. A preliminary review of this database and correspondence received from New York Natural Heritage listed the following plants and animals as endangered or threatened within Rensselaer County:

Endangered or Threatened Animal Species

Common Name	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
Cobra Clubtail	<i>Gomphus vastus</i>
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Alewife Floater	<i>Anodonta implicata</i>
Bog Turtle	<i>Glyptemys mublenbergii</i>
Timber Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>
Shortnose Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>
Yellow Lampmussel	<i>Lampsilis cariosa</i>

Endangered or Threatened Plant Species

Common Name	Scientific Name
Algae-like Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton confervoides</i>
American Waterwort	<i>Elatine americana</i>
Bent Sedge	<i>Carex styloflexa</i>
Bicknell's Sedge	<i>Carex bicknellii</i>
Black Sedge	<i>Carex nigra</i>
Blunt Mountain-mint	<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>
Brown Bog Sedge	<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>
Carey's Smartweed	<i>Persicaria careyi</i>
Culver's-root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>
Davis' Sedge	<i>Carex davisii</i>
Delmarva Beggar-ticks	<i>Bidens bidentoides</i>
Downy Lettuce	<i>Lactuca hirsuta</i>
Downy Wood-mint	<i>Blephilia ciliata</i>
Dragon's Mouth Orchid	<i>Arethusa bulbosa</i>
Dwarf Bulrush	<i>Lipocarpa micrantha</i>
Erect Knotweed	<i>Polygonum erectum</i>
Estuary Beggar-ticks	<i>Bidens 2yperborean var. hyperborea</i>
Fairy Wand	<i>Chamaelirium luteum</i>
Farwell's Water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum farwellii</i>
Fernald's Sedge	<i>Carex merritt-fernaldii</i>
Giant Pine-drops	<i>Pterospora andromedea</i>
Glaucous Sedge	<i>Carex glaucoidea</i>
Golden Club	<i>Orontium aquaticum</i>
Golden-seal	<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>
Green Rock-cress	<i>Boechera missouriensis</i>
Handsome Sedge	<i>Carex formosa</i>
Heartleaf Plantain	<i>Plantago cordata</i>
Hooker's Orchid	<i>Platanthera bookeri</i>
Hop Sedge	<i>Cyperus lupulinus ssp. lupulinus</i>
Large Twayblade	<i>Liparis liliifolia</i>
Leiberg's Panic Grass	<i>Dichanthelium leibergii</i>
Lesser Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia minor</i>
Longstalk Starwort	<i>Stellaria longipes</i>
Marsh Arrow-grass	<i>Triglochin palustre</i>
Michaux's Blue-eyed-grass	<i>Sisyrinchium mucronatum</i>
Midland Sedge	<i>Carex mesoborea</i>
Minute Duckweed	<i>Lemma perpusilla</i>
Mock-pennyroyal	<i>Hedeoma hispida</i>
Narrow-leaf Cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium ssp. angustifolium</i>
Navel-fruited Corn-salad	<i>Valerianella umbilicata</i>
Nodding Pogonia	<i>Triphora trianthophora</i>
Northern Bog Violet	<i>Viola nephrophylla</i>
Ohio Goldenrod	<i>Oligoneuron ohioense</i>

Orange Fringed Orchid	<i>Platanthera ciliaris</i>
Ovate Spikerush	<i>Eleocharis ovata</i>
Common Name	Scientific Name
Pink Wintergreen	<i>Pyrola asarifolia ssp. asarifolia</i>
Rattlebox	<i>Crotalaria sagittalis</i>
Red Pigweed	<i>Chenopodium rubrum</i>
Reflexed Sedge	<i>Carex retroflexa</i>
Rhodora	<i>Rhododendron canadense</i>
Rough Avens	<i>Geum virginianum</i>
Schweinitz's Sedge	<i>Carex schweinitzii</i>
Side-oats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula var. curtipendula</i>
Small Yellow Ladyslipper	<i>Cypripedium parviflorum var. parviflorum</i>
Small's Knotweed	<i>Polygonum aviculare ssp. buxiforme</i>
Small-flowered Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus micranthus</i>
Smooth Bur-marigold	<i>Bidens laevis</i>
Soft Fox Sedge	<i>Carex conjuncta</i>
Southern Wood Violet	<i>Viola hirsutula</i>
Southern Yellow Flax	<i>Linum medium var. texanum</i>
Swamp Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis lanceolata</i>
Sweet Coltsfoot	<i>Petasites frigidus var. palmatus</i>
Tinged Sedge	<i>Carex tinctoria</i>
Troublesome Sedge	<i>Carex molesta</i>
Twin-leaf	<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>
Virginia Ground-cherry	<i>Physalis virginiana var. virginiana</i>
Water-marigold	<i>Bidens beckii</i>
Water-thread Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton diversifolius</i>
Weak Stellate Sedge	<i>Carex seorsa</i>
Whorled Mountain-mint	<i>Pycnanthemum verticillatum var. verticillatum</i>
Wild Sweet-william	<i>Phlox maculata ssp. maculata</i>
Yellow Giant-hyssop	<i>Agastache nepetoides</i>
Mountain Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium montanum</i>
Riverbank Quillwort	<i>Isoetes riparia</i>

It is not anticipated that the proposed Zoning Code Update project will result in significant adverse impacts upon any species on the State or Federal Lists of Threatened and Endangered Species.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

It should be noted that the action addressed in this SEQRA form does not involve a site specific project, but rather the adoption of regulations for the entire City that will direct future development in a manner that is consistent with the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. As a result, the adoption of updated zoning regulations, in and of itself, will have no direct impact on the environment. Therefore, the majority of Section B is considered Not Applicable (N/A).

Questions 12, 13, 16, 18-23

The adoption of the revised zoning code for the City of Rensselaer, in and of itself, will not result in additional subsurface liquid waste disposal, surface waste disposal, herbicides or pesticides, odors, or noise. Site-specific

impacts to these categories will be dependent upon actual development, at which time the appropriate local and State permits will need to be obtained and site-specific environmental review pursuant to SEQR will be required.

C. ZONING AND PLANNING INFORMATION

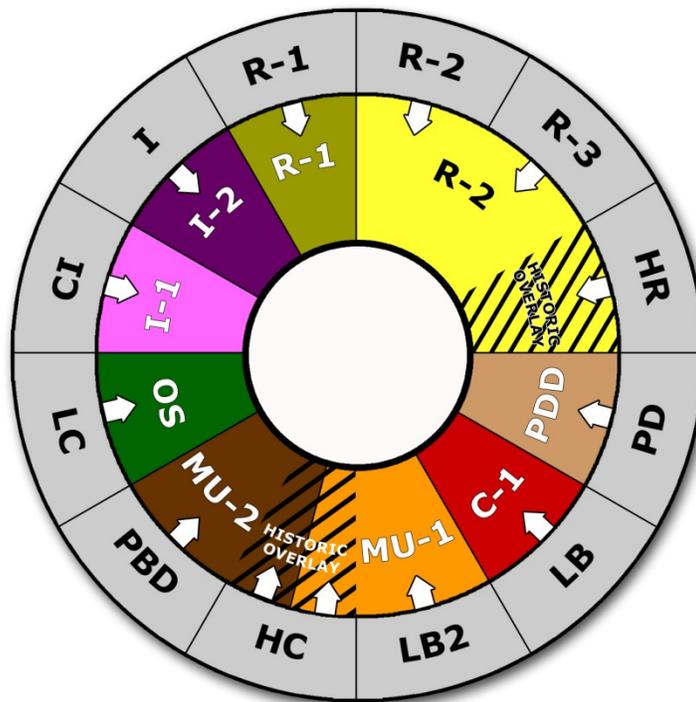
2. What is the zoning classification(s) of the site?

The City of Rensselaer currently has 13 zoning designations that include residential, commercial, industrial and public land uses, as well as multiple planned development districts.

Questions 4-6.

The City of Rensselaer currently has 13 zoning designations to accommodate development within the City limits. The zoning update proposes to establish 9 districts and one overlay district within the city to address residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and recreational land uses. The boundaries of the existing zoning designations do not exactly align with the proposed zoning districts but the overall character of the community remains consistent. One of the most significant changes is the incorporation of mixed use districts with associated design guidelines in lieu of traditional commercial districts.

The figure below is a generalization of the existing and proposed zoning designations for the City of Rensselaer. Existing zoning districts are shown on the outside of the wheel. Proposed districts and rezoning are indicated by the interior circle of the wheel.



PART II – PROJECT IMPACTS AND THEIR MAGNITUDE

1. Will the Proposed Action result in a physical change to the project site?

The adoption of the zoning code is not anticipated to result in any immediate changes in land use within the City of Rensselaer. As land uses change or residential, commercial, or industrial development occurs, however, minor changes in development patterns may be expected to occur. Such changes are expected to occur in conformity with the 2006 Comprehensive Plan, since the zoning code update is intended to implement the Future Land Use Plan included in the Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use Plan prepared for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program update (2012). The proposed zoning designations aim to direct land uses to areas that are most appropriate in the city for such development.

Questions 2-4, 7-18:

The adoption of the zoning code, as an action in and of itself, will not result in any direct impacts to the variety of resources addressed in these questions. Future development, in accordance with these new zoning regulations, may have impacts, but they will be subject to their own environmental review at the time of their respective applications. Therefore, these questions are considered to be Not Applicable.

Questions 5-6: Groundwater quantity/ quality, drainage flow, patterns and surface water runoff.

The revised zoning code contains provisions to prevent soil erosion, sedimentation and slope failure due to removal of vegetation, dredging, filling, damming or channelization, as well as to protect surface water from potential contaminants in storm water runoff. Furthermore, the zoning code sets forth regulations for development on steep slopes and encourages techniques to reduce impervious surface coverage (i.e. shared parking options), all of which will serve to protect groundwater resources in the future.

19. Will Proposed Action affect the character of the existing community?

The 2006 Comprehensive Plan adopted by the City of Rensselaer sets forth goals, objectives, policies and recommendations that are aimed to achieve the vision of the Rensselaer community. In conformance with New York State City Law, Rensselaer seeks to update its zoning code to reflect the vision, goals, objectives and recommendations expressed in the Comprehensive Plan, as well as the City's pending Local Waterfront Revitalization Program update. No significant adverse impacts to the character of the existing community are anticipated as a result of adopting the proposed updates to the zoning code.