

Real Estate Expert Alan Wood Explains Residential Acreage Value in HelloNation

What makes one parcel of land more valuable than another, even when they are the same size?

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-- What makes one parcel of land more valuable than another, even when they are the same size? According to Alan Wood of RE/MAX Plus in Pittsford, NY, the answer is found in how the land can be used, whether it is supported by utilities, and when it is brought to market. In his article in HelloNation, Wood shares expert insights on selling or buying residential acreage and explains the many factors that can shape a property's true value.

When it comes to residential acreage, zoning laws often provide the first clue

Alan Wood

about potential. These regulations establish how a piece of property can be developed, whether for a single home or a larger subdivision. Buyers and sellers who understand local zoning laws are better equipped to evaluate a parcel's potential and avoid surprises during negotiations.

Utility lines also play a major role in determining value. Land with access to public water, sewer, and electricity often commands a higher price because these services are expensive to extend. Wood explains that buyers sometimes underestimate this factor, but lenders and contractors do not. Sellers who can show clear documentation of utility connections often gain a significant advantage in discussions with potential buyers.

Market timing is another consideration that influences pricing and buyer activity. In upstate New York, demand for residential acreage typically peaks during spring and summer months, when families are most likely to make moves. Sellers who align their listing with these high-activity

periods may receive stronger offers, while buyers willing to wait until off-season months may benefit from reduced competition.

Physical characteristics of land are also critical. Road access can increase desirability, while properties lacking entry points may require legal easements that complicate financing. Land that is flat and cleared is usually easier to develop than wooded or sloped acreage, which may require costly grading. Other features such as soil quality, drainage, and flood risk can also raise or reduce a property's appeal.

Scarcity of available land in communities like Pittsford adds to these challenges. As the town works to balance growth with green space preservation, the availability of well-positioned residential acreage becomes limited. Buyers and sellers must therefore weigh long-term trends, recognizing that not all land will appreciate equally. A parcel with road frontage and utility lines is more likely to draw interest than a landlocked lot without infrastructure.

Wood emphasizes that evaluating residential acreage requires a broad perspective. Simply counting acres does not capture the real value of a property. Instead, zoning laws, utility lines, physical features, and market timing all combine to determine worth. Buyers who take time to research these aspects gain a clearer understanding of what they are purchasing. Sellers who prepare information in advance can present their property more effectively and attract stronger offers.

The goal, Wood notes, is for both parties to approach a transaction with confidence. Buyers want to know that their investment has long-term potential, while sellers want to demonstrate that their land holds clear advantages. By taking into account the legal, physical, and seasonal factors shaping value, each side can make informed decisions that align with their goals.

Alan Wood's article, <u>Selling or Buying Residential Acreage: How Land Use, Utilities, and Market</u> Timing Impact Value, highlights how zoning laws, utility lines, and market timing each influence the buying and selling process in Pittsford. His guidance in HelloNation shows that understanding these dynamics is key to achieving success in residential land transactions.

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