

# Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory

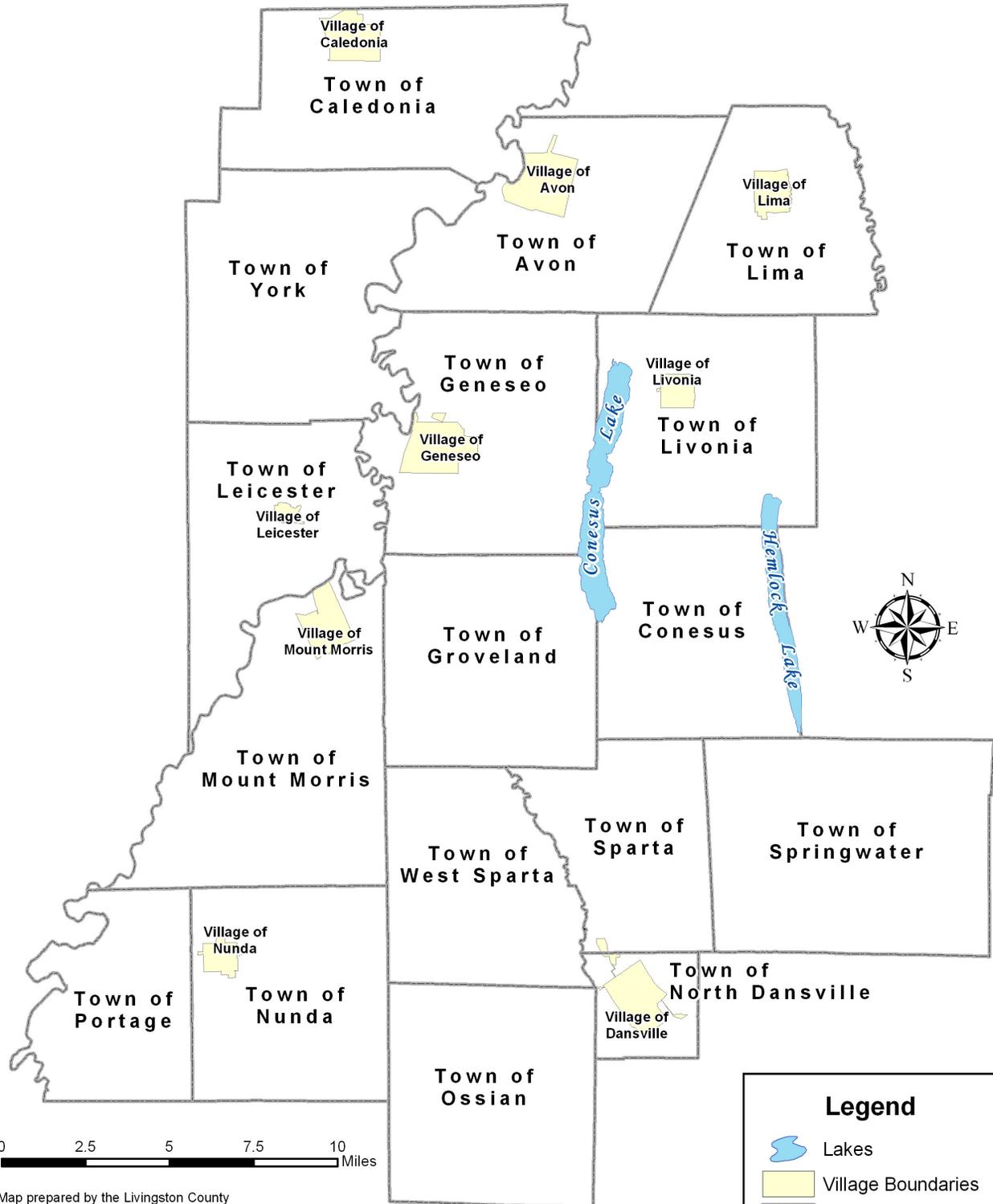


Prepared by:  
Livingston County Environmental Management Council  
&  
Livingston County Planning Department

Geneseo, New York  
May 2007



# Livingston County Municipalities



Map prepared by the Livingston County  
 Planning Department: October 2003  
 for the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory  
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## **Acknowledgements**

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Livingston County Planning Department  
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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Genesee Office  
Livingston County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Livingston County Real Property Tax Services Department

## Environmental Management Council

The Livingston County Environmental Management Council (EMC) is an appointed body that advises the County Board of Supervisors and Municipal, State and Federal Agencies on matters affecting the quality of the local environment. EMC members are county residents with a wide range of backgrounds, interests, and expertise, and include representatives from agriculture, business and industry, education, public agencies, and citizen groups. EMC members volunteer their time and expertise to evaluate environmental problems and suggest rational solutions. The work program focuses upon immediate and future environmental concerns including solid waste management, water resource management, community relations, and natural resource inventories.

The Livingston County EMC formed in 1979. The current members of the EMC are:

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The Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory is a living document that will be updated periodically. Any comments submitted to the Livingston County Planning Department will be considered for inclusion in an update of the Inventory.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) is a compilation of environmental information. It includes data on topics such as wetlands, geology, soils, slope, water resources, land use and land cover, and historic sites. It was designed to serve as a local planning and project review tool, and can be used as building block for county and regional planning and project assessment. The Livingston County Environmental Management Council (EMC) believes that this inventory will be useful to all concerned citizens and to county and local level decision makers.

The production of this inventory is in response to the mandate in the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, Section 47-0107(5-a) Powers of Council, which states that:

“The [Environmental Management] council shall develop and maintain an inventory of natural resources within the county and such other environmental information as may be appropriate. Said inventory shall include wetlands and open spaces and may include, but not be limited to factors relating to geology, soils, slope, water resources, vegetation, wildlife habitat, unique natural areas, and scenic, historic, and archaeological sites.”

The EMC appointed a Committee to begin the NRI creation process to create a better tool for county agencies and municipal boards to use when reviewing development applications and making land use decisions and policies.

### **Overview of Natural Resources in Livingston County**

Located in the western end of New York's Finger Lakes region, Livingston County has a remarkable array of natural features, charming villages, and scenic working landscapes. Livingston County offers a variety of living environments: rural, suburban, and semi-urban. The County's recreation industry depends upon natural resources. Examples of the recreational activities enjoyed by residents and visitors include lake and stream fishing, hiking, boating, cross-country skiing, golf, equine sports, road and trail bicycling, and butterfly and bird watching. These activities are supported by a large group of individual and organized outdoor enthusiasts.

The County's most prominent natural features are Conesus Lake, Hemlock Lake, and the Genesee River Valley. Conesus Lake is located in a glacial valley with moderate to steep slopes along the lakeshore. Numerous streams and rivulets flow directly into the lake. The lake is densely developed with seasonal and year-round homes along the lakeshore, and it has been used recreationally since the 19th Century. Hemlock Lake, whose shores are virtually undeveloped, is located in southeastern Livingston County. The Genesee Valley is at the center of the County's vibrant agricultural industry, which provides boundless scenic vistas. The Valley also contains the dramatic gorge at Letchworth State Park as well as well-maintained and heavily used trails, such as the Genesee Valley Greenway.

### **The Importance of Protecting Natural Resources**

An increasingly mobile society and trends in living preferences have extended the spread of urban development into Livingston County, particularly in its northern tier. The County's natural resources are under growing pressure due to the frequent conversion of open and agricultural land to residential and commercial development. The adverse impacts of development upon local natural resources include wildlife displacement, loss of recreation corridors and scenic vistas, surface and groundwater stress, and increased erosion and flooding.

Homes, factories, and highways must be built. Sensible efforts towards environmental protection require a clear recognition of this reality; sometimes trees must be cut down, wastes disposed of, and land converted. The NRI does not seek to discourage development in the County. Rather, it

advocates for well thought out development that weighs environmental impacts and considers alternatives that are less damaging to natural resources. Thoughtful planning is key to achieving sustainable development. Long-term planning can minimize the short-term exploitation of natural resources that can result when quick fixes are implemented. Planning by individual municipalities is aided by collaboration and information sharing among local, regional, and state entities.

### **The Purpose of an NRI<sup>1</sup>**

Developers and officials can use the Natural Resources Inventory to guide development in sensitive or unique areas, as well as to identify areas where conditions will impose severe limitations to the proposed development. Possible waste of both public and private funds in areas such as floodplains can be avoided when planning is resource-based. In addition, the NRI will serve as a resource when environmental impact statements are being completed for development projects. Finally, the NRI can serve as a forum for introducing a regional perspective into local decision-making processes.

The NRI is intended to assist with project reviews. It is not an end in itself, but rather the means to several other planning products. Local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances may incorporate the data presented in the NRI.

Another benefit of producing an NRI is that it engenders awareness of and appreciation for the benefits of natural resources in the local community. It is hoped that a deeper awareness and understanding of environmental processes would evolve during the production and subsequent use of the NRI.

Experience in another New York county indicates that an NRI is a valuable tool for guiding land use decisions and in building a community's "environmental IQ." Tompkins County completed an NRI in 2001. The report was distributed to all municipalities in that county, as well as to county agencies and members of the private development industry. The Tompkins County Planning Department reports that municipalities often use the data and recommendations in the NRI when conducting review of subdivisions and development proposals. The report has also been used to some extent by developers, landscape architects, property owners, and the County Health Department. Feedback from users indicates that the report is most useful because it packages a wide range of data into one document and has increased awareness of the existence and precarious nature of some of the County's natural resources. In a specific example, the Town of Ithaca reports that the NRI made them more aware of the town's natural resources and led to the institution of conservation zoning.

### **The Structure of an NRI**

Given the fact that the Tompkins County Natural Resources Inventory has been so effective, the Livingston County EMC used it as a template for this NRI. The structure of the NRI is fairly simple. The County's natural resources are divided into four categories: hydrological, land, ecological, and landscape analysis resources. Data are then presented for specific resources within each category. Data are presented in text, tabular, and map form. The source and importance of each dataset is described. Datasets were gathered from numerous sources, which are duly referenced for further research by users of the NRI.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from "Natural Resource Inventory: A Guide to the Process," published jointly by the EMCs of Ulster and Dutchess counties, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that many of the datasets are subject to change and are not intended for analysis of individual properties. These datasets are appropriate for large scale planning.

Each chapter of the NRI includes a map produced by the Livingston County Planning Department with Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS is a computer software system that overlays geographic datasets to highlight relationships. The maps graphically illustrate environmentally sensitive areas and facilitate analysis.

The NRI will be most effective when widely distributed. It will be made available to private landowners, developers, government agencies, and conservation organizations. The data and recommendations may be distributed in various ways: in hardcopy form, on the web and through public presentation to organizations, public meetings, and schools. The NRI will be periodically updated.

### **Tools for Resource Protection**

One important element of the NRI is to help the County establish priorities among various natural resources and present conservation methods. The section below describes the regulatory and non-regulatory tools commonly used to protect resources.

#### *Non-Regulatory Tools*

- The local planning process. Goals for protecting natural resources may be defined in comprehensive plans, and plans for open space, watersheds, and recreation.
- The NYS Agricultural District Program. Agricultural land is protected by establishing districts that are focused on agriculture protection.
- Educational Programs. Such programs help raise awareness of the importance of natural resources and interest in their protection. For example – Letchworth State Park hosts guided tours, and the Genesee Valley Conservancy hosts tours of lands upon which it holds conservation easements.
- Acquiring full title to tracts of land. Government agencies and conservation organizations can purchase land outright or can accept donations of land from the property owners.
- Acquiring conservation easements. Property owners may give or sell easements that protect lands by limiting the type or amount of development permitted on a property. A common example is the purchase of development rights to agricultural land.

#### *Regulatory Tools*

- Zoning and subdivision ordinances. These regulations protect the public health, safety, and general welfare:
  - Buffer requirements establish minimum distances between a development and a selected natural feature.
  - Clustering requirements place residential units on a portion of a site to protect contiguous areas of open space or unique features.
  - Performance zoning, unlike traditional zoning, determines whether a land use is permitted based on an assessment of potential impacts
  - Preservation Overlay Zones are areas where more restrictive development regulations are enforced to protect valued natural resources.
- Park dedication. Developers are required to contribute land or cash in lieu of land, to provide for the open space and recreation needs of the subdivision's residents.
- Transfer of Development Rights. Landowners in designated preservation areas may sell development rights to allow increased density in other areas of the community
- Environmental Quality Zones. Such zones require development in certain areas to meet specific thresholds for environmental impacts.

### **A Few Words on Maps**

When creating maps, information must be taken from the curved surface of the earth and represented on the flat surface of a map. The transforming of information from a three dimensional space onto a two-dimensional map is called "projection." Projection causes some distortion. In addition, data is removed from maps for legibility. Detail is also lost when map scale decreases (1:100,000 is a smaller scale than 1:24,000). The boundaries of maps become fuzzy when significantly enlarged. For example, a soil map blown up on a copier or by computer will seem to have a greater degree of accuracy than it actually possesses.

For the above reasons, Livingston County NRI maps should only be used as a general reference. Prior to formal decisions regarding particular sites, map data should be field verified. Many of the maps in the NRI show countywide data. The Livingston County Planning Department can create these maps on a town or village scale upon request by the municipality.

## WATER BODIES

### Why are Water Bodies Important?

Livingston County has numerous significant water bodies. The health of these lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams has a strong impact upon economic, ecological, and public well being. Activities dependent upon the health of water bodies include tourism, agriculture, industry, recreation, education, and development. Water bodies may also serve as drinking water sources.

Fish are at the top of the aquatic food chain and serve as an indicator of the overall quality of aquatic ecosystems. They are highly vulnerable to changes in their environment. They can be directly affected by physical and chemical changes in the water, and indirectly affected when changes in the environment impact food sources, temperature, and water clarity within their habitat.

### How are Water Bodies Regulated?

Federal and state agencies, such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), require permits for activities that might affect or disturb a water body or its banks. The NYSDEC classification of the water body determines the type of permit required. Permits range from quite general to those that are tailored to the specific site and type of activity. Examples of regulated activities include streambank maintenance, construction, flood protection and mitigation, dredging, placing of fill, and certain agricultural practices. Commercial, industrial, and certain intensive agricultural activities that discharge to a water body requires a State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit. This permit is required for a broad array of activities, including the discharge of chemical/thermal emissions, wastewater and stormwater from municipal treatment plants, industrial plants, utilities, large subdivisions, apartment complexes, and concentrated animal feeding operations.

The Region 8 office of the NYSDEC or the Buffalo District of the USACE must be contacted to obtain necessary permits and approvals. Each agency will automatically forward permit applications to the other. The applicant will be contacted if additional permits and/or paperwork are required.

### How are Water Bodies Classified?

Lakes and streams are classified according to their water quality and uses. The NYSDEC has assigned most streams within the State a letter based on their existing, or expected "best use." The most pristine streams are assigned a classification of AA. The most degraded are assigned a classification of D.

**Table 1: Stream Classification**

Class	Best Use
AA	Drinking (after chlorination)
A	Drinking (after chlorination and filtration)
B	Bathing
C (T)	Fishing (trout)
C	Fishing
D	Secondary contact recreation

Source: New York State Department of Conservation

Some of the streams in Livingston County are designated as “Protected” due to their importance as drinking water supplies or fish habitat. See the accompanying map for the locations of protected streams.

The Priority Waterbodies List (PWL) designates waters that have documented water quality impacts, impairments, or threats. The Federal Clean Water Act requires that states must consider the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) or other strategy to reduce the input of specified pollutants to the impaired water bodies. Remediation strategies should aim to restore and protect the best use of the water body. Currently, Conesus Lake is listed on the NYSDEC 303(d) List of Impaired Water bodies for dissolved oxygen issues. Hemlock Lake is designated as threatened, but is not yet listed on the 303(d) List.

### **Water Bodies in Livingston County**

Livingston County’s most prominent water bodies are Conesus Lake, Hemlock Lake, and the Genesee River. Many streams, creeks, and rivulets of various sizes, are located in the County. With the exception of a small area in the Town of Springwater, all water bodies are part of the Lake Ontario watershed. The southeaster portion of the Town of Springwater is included in the Susquehanna River Watershed.

The Genesee River flows northward, drains about 2,500 square miles in New York and Pennsylvania, and has a total length of 157 miles. The Mount Morris Dam in Livingston County marks the river’s point of topographical change. Upstream of the dam, topography is steep and rugged. Terrain north of the dam is gently rolling. Geologically, the Upper Basin is in an early stage of development, while the Lower Basin has reached a relatively mature stage with considerable meandering, a wide floodplain, and numerous oxbows. The Livingston County portion of the river’s watershed changes from predominantly forested in the south to predominantly agricultural in the north. Within Letchworth Park, the river drops from an elevation of 1,080 feet to 768 feet over three successive waterfalls. The river’s largest tributary, Canaseraga Creek, is within the County.

Hemlock Lake is located on the eastern border of Livingston County, and is one of only two Finger Lakes whose shorelines are virtually undeveloped. A small portion of this lake lies in Ontario County. The lake, at 905 feet above sea level, is seven miles long and covers 1,800 acres. Its maximum width is 0.5 miles with a maximum depth of 91 feet. Hemlock Lake is one of the water sources for the City of Rochester, in addition to Canadice Lake in Ontario County. Hemlock Lake is typically clear but suffers moderate, deepwater oxygen depletion in summer. This condition does not seriously threaten fish species but does, temporarily, confine them to a narrow layer of the water column. Fishing and boating are allowed by permit from the City of Rochester.

Conesus Lake is the most westerly of the Finger Lakes. The lake, at 818 feet above sea level, is eight miles long and covers 3,420 acres. Its maximum width is one mile with a maximum depth of 66 feet. Four public access points to the lake are maintained. Conesus Lake is a source of drinking water for the Villages of Avon and Geneseo and for the Towns of Geneseo, York and a portion of Groveland. Dissolved oxygen is adequate to support fish life throughout all seasons, except in deep water (below 35 feet) during summer. Water clarity ranges from clear to turbid. Turbidity has increased due to changes in plankton populations caused by the recent introduction of alewives. Aquatic plants are abundant in the shallows and out to a depth of about 15 feet, especially at the north and south ends. Many native fish and plant species have been displaced. In March 2003, the Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan, a collaborative effort between the County and local municipalities, was completed. The plan describes existing problems within the lake and its watershed, and recommends remediation strategies. Copies of the plan are available from the Livingston County Planning Department.

### **Resources and References**

Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters Requiring a TMDL and Consolidated Assessment. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. September 2004.

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/303dlist.pdf>

Genesee River Basin Action Strategy. Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council. 2004.

[http://www.gflrpc.org/Publications/GenRiverActionStrategy/Cover\\_Preamble.pdf](http://www.gflrpc.org/Publications/GenRiverActionStrategy/Cover_Preamble.pdf)

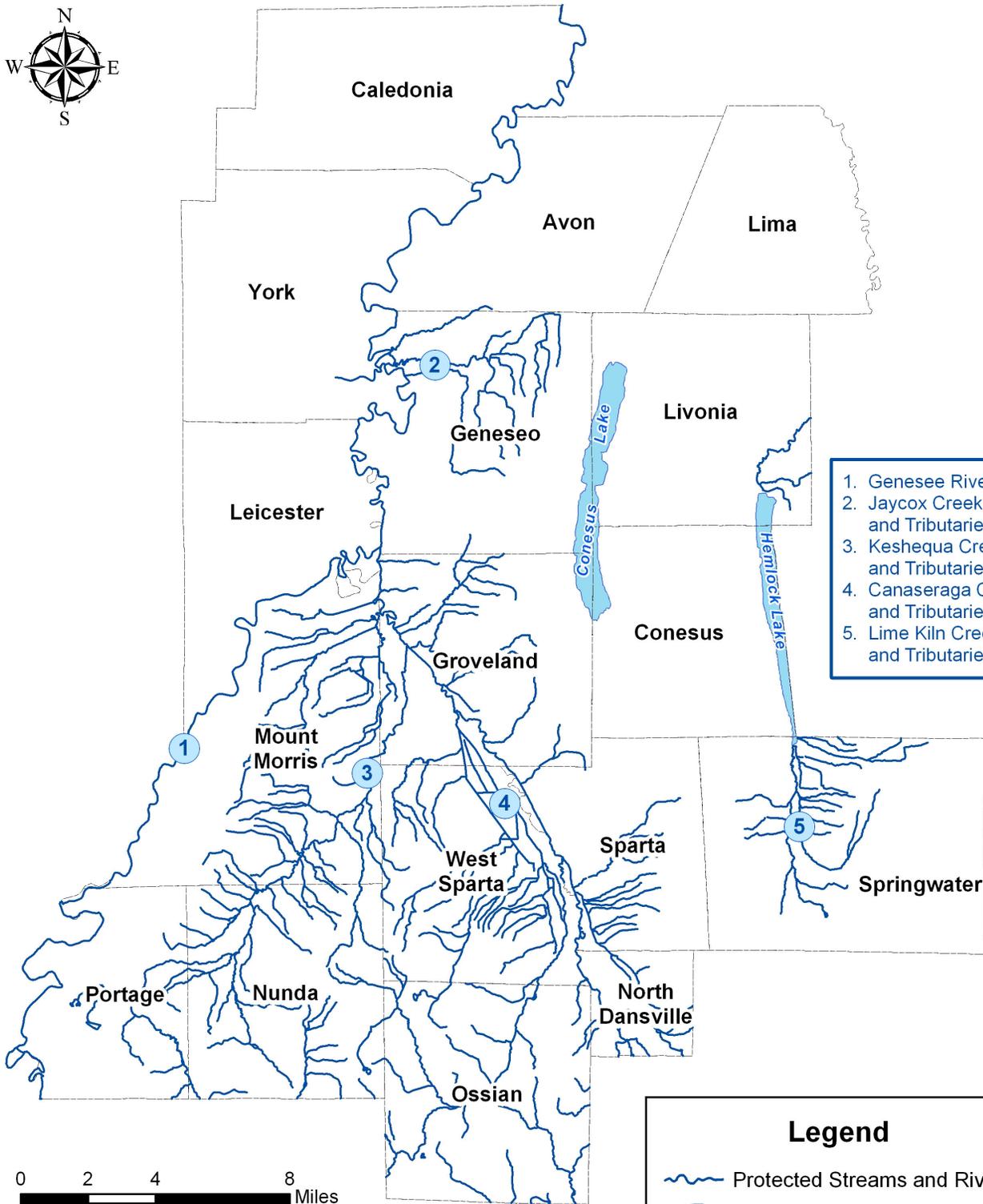
New York State's Finger Lakes. New York State Department of Conservation. 2005.

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/reg8/lakes/>

Listing Methodology, Draft. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. 2002.

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/303dcalm.pdf>

# Protected Streams and Rivers



1. Genesee River
2. Jaycox Creek and Tributaries
3. Keshequa Creek and Tributaries
4. Canaseraga Creek and Tributaries
5. Lime Kiln Creek and Tributaries

**Legend**

-  Protected Streams and Rivers
-  Lakes
-  Town Boundaries

0 2 4 8 Miles

Map Prepared by Livingston County Planning Department : May 2006 (rev. March 2007)  
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 Source: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

## WATERSHEDS

### **What is a Watershed?**

A watershed is the area of land that catches rain and snow, and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake, or groundwater. Watersheds contain homes, farms, forests, small towns, big cities, and every other type of land use. They cross county, state, and even international boundaries. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes; some are millions of square miles, others are just a few acres.

Each watershed is nearly always part of a larger watershed. The Conesus Lake watershed, for example, is comprised of 18 subwatersheds. The term watershed is often used interchangeably with “drainage basin.” A drainage basin is not a proper synonym for a watershed because it is actually a collection of watersheds that cover very large land expanses such as the Genesee River Basin or the Lake Ontario Drainage Basin.

### **Why are Watersheds Important?**

We all live in a watershed. Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and play. Healthy watersheds encourage a healthier environment and economy by providing water for drinking, irrigation, industry, wildlife, and recreation.

The land uses within a watershed have direct impacts upon the quality of the water resource. Problems affecting watersheds are seldom caused by any single action or land use; they are the cumulative results of many activities and natural conditions within the watershed boundaries. Because of the dynamic relationship between water and land use, water quality protection and management must consider the characteristics of the entire watershed. Likewise, responsibility for improvement rests with the entire community.

### **How are Watersheds Classified?**

All drainage basins and watersheds in the United States are classified using Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC). These eight-digit codes uniquely identify a watershed based upon four levels of classification. The first two digits of the code indicate the drainage basin’s major geographic area or water-resources region. This region contains a major river, or series of rivers. The next two digits indicate a smaller subregion, and the next two identify an even smaller accounting unit. The last two digits identify the cataloging unit, the smallest subdivision. HUC codes provide a standard for all agencies to use to identify, code, and manage watershed and drainage basin data.

### **Regulation of Watersheds**

Scientists, public officials, and citizens increasingly recognize that protection of water and other natural resources requires a thorough understanding of all activities that impact natural resources within the watershed. Few regulations of watersheds currently exist. Federal and state laws, however, look favorably on watershed and related management and long range planning. Management plans often focus upon reducing point and non-point pollution.<sup>3</sup> Reducing pollution initially is easier and more cost-effective than attempting to clean the watershed once it has been polluted.

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<sup>3</sup> “Point source” pollution can be traced to a specific location, such as a pipe or disposal site. “Non-point” sources of pollution involve large and diffuse sources of contamination, such as runoff from construction sites or agricultural lands.

## Watersheds in Livingston County

Livingston County lies predominantly within the 2,500 square mile Genesee River Basin. Groundwater flows into the Genesee River, which then flows north to Lake Ontario. A small portion of the Town of Springwater drains south to the Susquehanna River Basin and into Chesapeake Bay. Topography in Livingston County watersheds varies widely from the flats of Canaseraga Creek and the Genesee River to the steep slopes around Conesus Lake and the southern reaches of Canaseraga Creek. The faster the drainage, the more potential for flooding and increased soil erosion.

Livingston County and the Conesus Lake Watershed Council are several years into implementation of a comprehensive watershed management plan for Conesus Lake. The Conesus Lake watershed encompasses 70 square miles (41,000 acres). Seven municipalities are located wholly or partly within this watershed. It is home to approximately 10,000 people and forms part of the Genesee River Basin. The watershed is comprised of 18 subwatersheds.

The Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan includes recommendations for actions by a myriad of private and public interests, including landowners, local government, agricultural producers, highway departments, educators, and others. The plan includes structural solutions such as constructing sewer lines in areas that are not presently served with this utility. Other solutions are regulatory in nature, such as the recommendations that watershed municipalities adopt an erosion and sediment control law. Many of the recommended actions are voluntary. Implementation of the plan depends upon commitment from federal, state and local governments, natural resource and agricultural management agencies, and watershed landowners and residents.

Livingston County also participates in the Genesee River Basin Action Strategy, which is administered by the Genesee/ Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.

**Table 2: Watersheds in Livingston County**

Watershed (HUC Code)	Square Miles	Acres	Drainage Basin
Naples Creek (04140201180)	0.50	343	Canandaigua Lake
Conesus Creek (04130003020)	86.60	55,419	Genesee
Canaseraga Creek (04130002170)	229.00	147,416	Genesee
Canaseraga Creek to Oatka Creek, Excluding Beard's, Conesus and Honeoye Creeks (04130003060)	138.90	88,865	Genesee
Oatka Creek (04130003070)	9.20	3,730	Genesee
Beards Creek (04130003010)	28.30	18,134	Genesee
Wisoy Creek to Canaseraga Creek (04130002160)	36.20	23,142	Genesee
Lower Honeoye Creek (04130003050)	29.35	18,902	Genesee
Middle Honeoye Creek (04130003040)	61.60	39,404	Genesee
Upper Honeoye Creek (04130003030)	2.80	1,764	Genesee
Upper Cohocton River (02050105020)	15.00	10,005	Susquehanna
TOTAL	637.45	407,124	

**Maps and Data**

Two maps are included with this chapter. The first shows the County's major watersheds. The second shows the subwatersheds that comprise the Conesus Lake watershed. Watershed boundary data and areas are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department.

**Resources and References**

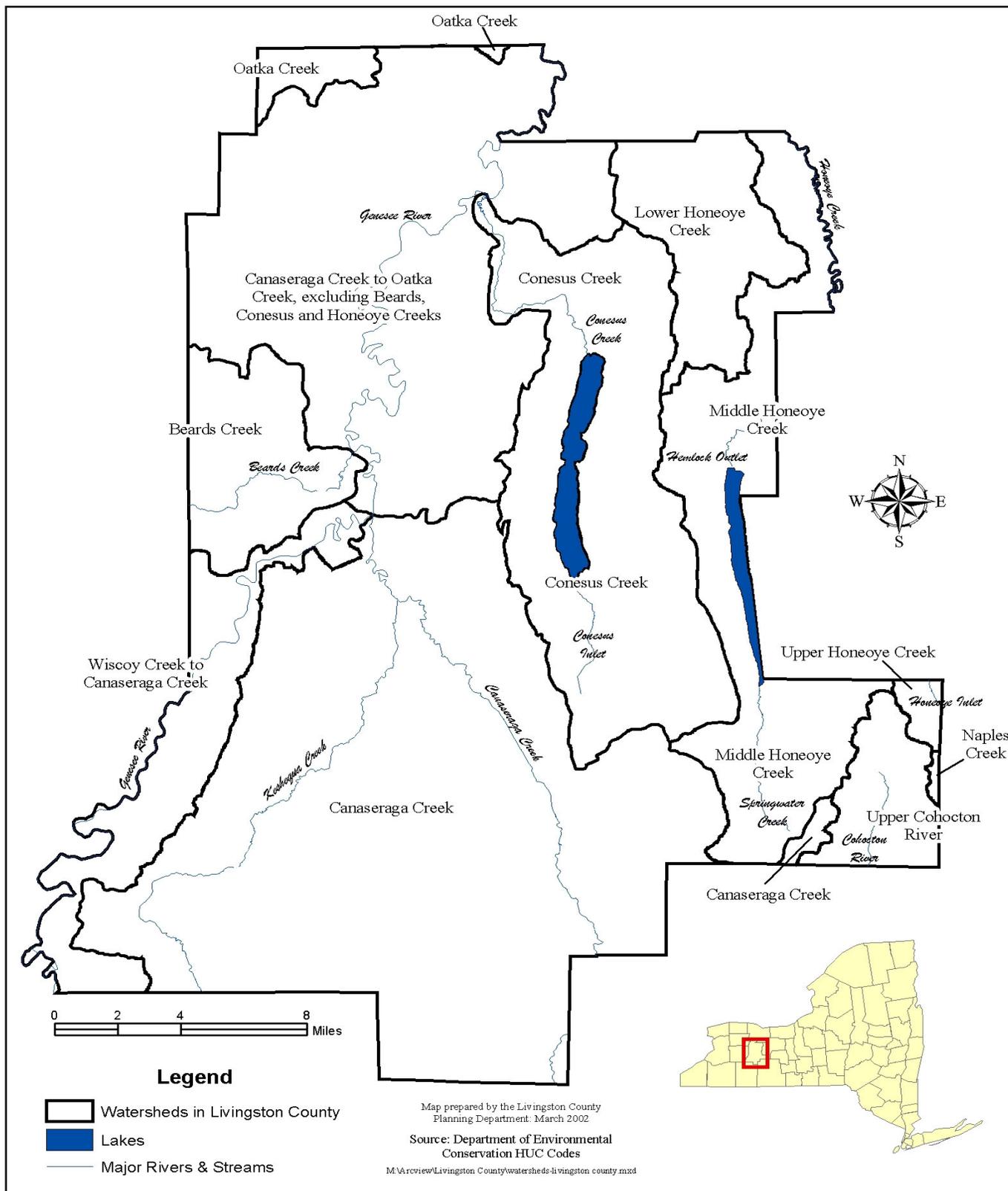
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Hydrologic Unit Codes. Digital Atlas of Idaho. January 2007. Available online:  
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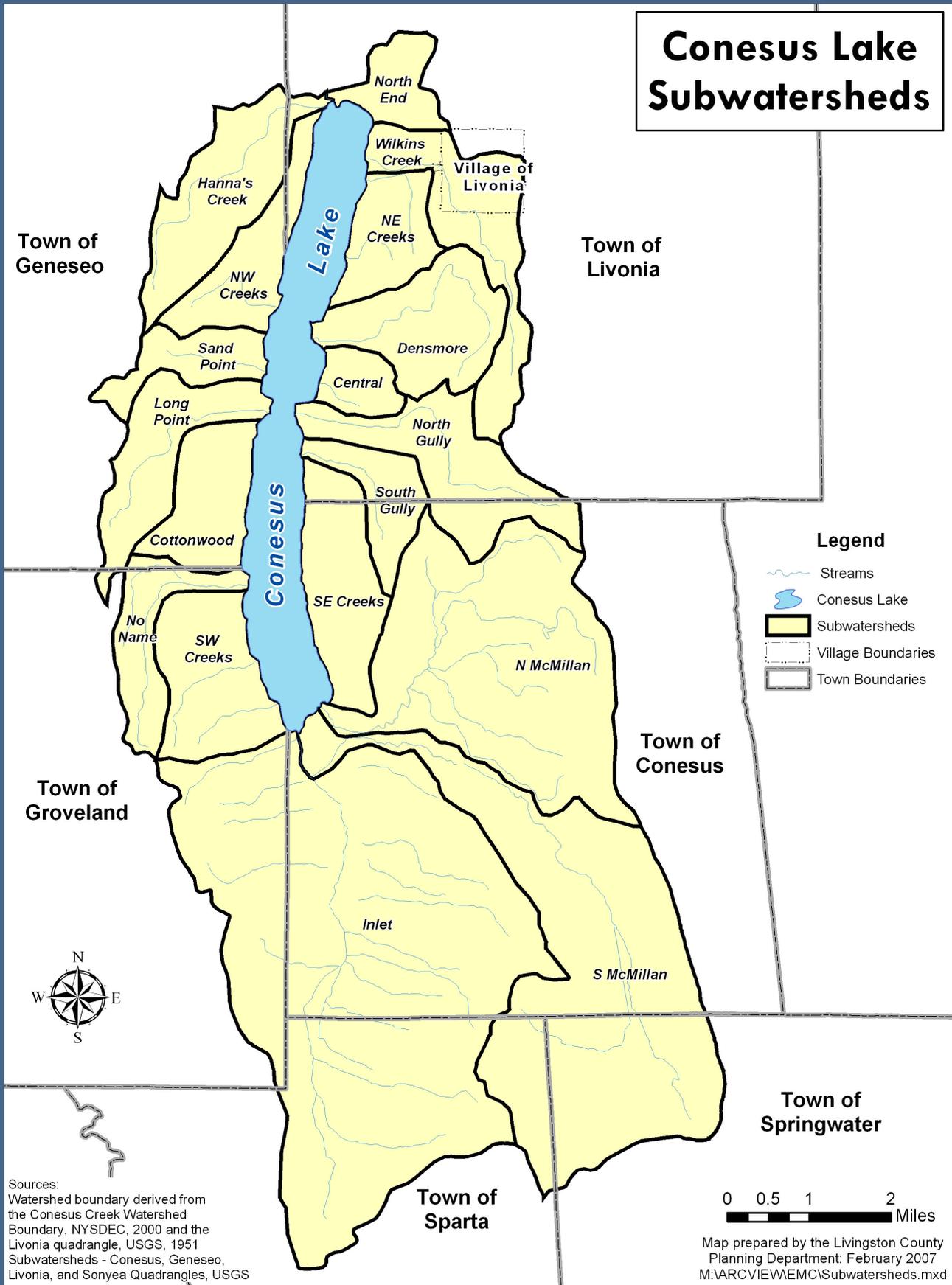
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Tompkins County Natural Resources Inventory. Tompkins County Planning Department. September 2001.

# Major Watersheds in Livingston County



# Conesus Lake Subwatersheds



Sources:  
 Watershed boundary derived from the Conesus Creek Watershed Boundary, NYSDEC, 2000 and the Livonia quadrangle, USGS, 1951  
 Subwatersheds - Conesus, Geneseo, Livonia, and Sonyea Quadrangles, USGS

Map prepared by the Livingston County Planning Department: February 2007  
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## **WETLANDS**

### **What is a Wetland?**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) defines wetlands as “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that, under normal circumstances, do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.” Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, wet meadows, and similar areas. According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), freshwater wetlands are “those areas of the land and water that support a preponderance of characteristic wetlands plants that out-compete upland plants because of the presence of wetlands hydrology (such as prolonged flooding) or hydric (wet) soils. Freshwater wetlands commonly include marshes, swamps, bogs and fens.” Some wetlands, such as swamps and marshes, are easily recognized. Others are less obvious because they are dry during part of the year.

### **Why are Wetlands Important?**

Wetlands are a vital part of the ecosystem that benefit the community in various ways by: filtering harmful toxins, nutrients, and sediment from surface and stormwater runoff; storing floodwaters and reducing the magnitude of flood events; providing recreational opportunities such as bird watching, hunting, and fishing; and providing valuable habitat for a diverse array of flora and fauna, including many rare, threatened, or endangered species.

### **How are Wetlands Regulated?**

The particularly important environment and ecological benefits of wetlands explain why they are so heavily regulated by the Army Corps of Engineers and the NYSDEC. The Army Corps issues wetland permits for the placement of fill or dredge materials and the construction of specified structures in both navigable and non-navigable waterways and wetlands. Mitigation in accordance with Army Corps regulations is required for wetlands disturbances. The permit required for activity within a wetland and the amount of mitigation required vary according to the project type and area impacted. Wetlands larger than 12.4 acres (5 hectares) are regulated by NYSDEC. A wetlands permit must be obtained from NYSDEC before any work is done within a wetland or within 100 feet of a wetland boundary.

### **How are Wetlands Classified?**

The NYSDEC classifies wetlands according to their respective functions, values, and benefits. Of the four classes of wetlands, Class I wetlands are the most valuable and are subject to the most stringent standards. The Army Corps of Engineers classifies wetlands according to their species composition. The National Wetlands Inventory was developed by analyzing aerial photos and can be used to locate wetlands that are at least one acre in size. The Army Corps should be contacted in order to verify the exact location of wetlands.

### **Wetlands in Livingston County**

Livingston County contains both NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands (as determined by the NYSDEC) and National Wetlands (as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) as shown in the following table.

**Table 3: Wetlands in Livingston County**

Town (Includes Villages)	NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands		National Wetlands	
	Acres	% Town's Total Land Area	Acres	% Town's Total Land Area
Avon	250	1.0 %	800	3.0 %
Caledonia	2,711	9.6 %	3,500	12.0 %
Conesus	922	4.0 %	983	4.0 %
Geneseo	271	0.9 %	683	2.3 %
Groveland	736	2.8 %	4,680	18.4 %
Leicester	73	0.3 %	436	2.0 %
Lima	207	1.0 %	1,110	5.4 %
Livonia	387	1.0 %	952	3.6 %
Mount Morris	38	0.1 %	2,650	8.3 %
North Dansville	0	0.0 %	105	1.7 %
Nunda	45	0.2 %	300	1.3 %
Ossian	81	0.3 %	312	1.2 %
Portage	227	1.3 %	426	2.5 %
Sparta	31	0.2 %	323	1.8 %
Springwater	778	2.3 %	1016	3.0 %
West Sparta	0	0.0 %	4,743	22.2 %
York	185	0.5 %	987	3.2 %
TOTAL	6,911	0.2 %	24,006	5.9 %

Source: NYSDEC and National Wetlands Inventory, 2006

**Maps and Data**

The following NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands and National Wetlands Inventory maps indicate the general location of wetlands in Livingston County.

Although the USACE and the NYSDEC create and periodically update wetlands maps, these maps are developed for use at a scale of 1:200,000 and are best used as an indicator that wetlands are present, and that an on-ground, site-specific investigation by a qualified wetland specialist is warranted. Many wetlands do not appear on the map, so if land appears to be wet, or has typical wetlands plants or soils, landowners should call the USACE or the NYSDEC prior to altering the land to avoid wetland destruction and possible fines.

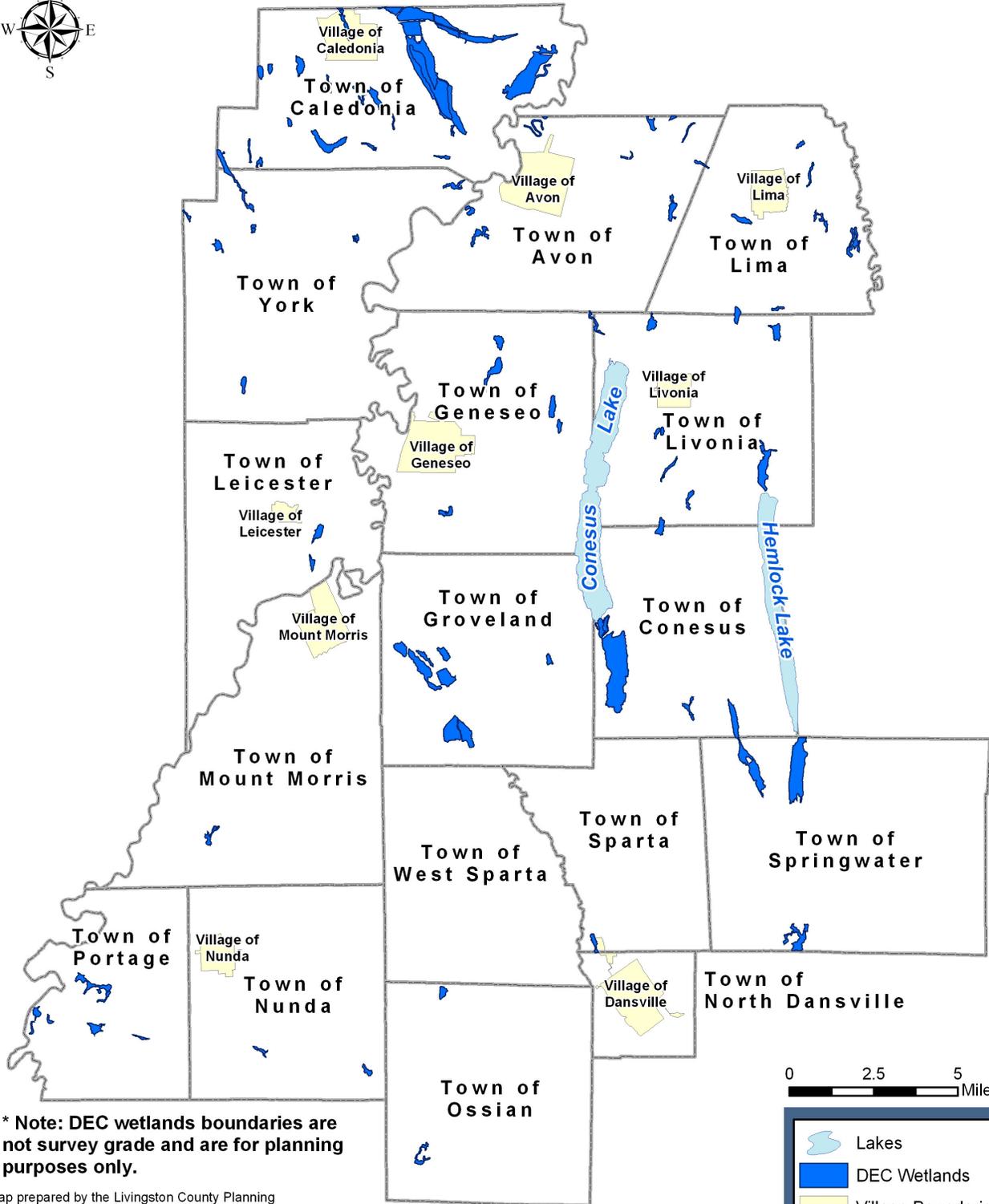
For digital and paper copies of federal and state wetlands, contact the Livingston County Planning Department or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For information about the origins of the wetlands data (metadata), contact the Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository (CUGIR).

**Resources and References**

For questions about wetlands on active farmlands or the Wetlands Reserve Program, which makes payments to landowners for establishing wetlands easements on their agricultural property, contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Geneseo Office.

Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository (CUGIR)-  
<http://cugir.mannlib.cornell.edu>

# New York State Freshwater Wetlands

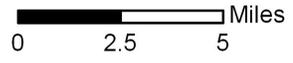


**\* Note: DEC wetlands boundaries are not survey grade and are for planning purposes only.**

Map prepared by the Livingston County Planning Department: October 2003, (rev. 4/9/2007)  
 M:\ARCVIEW\MEMC\NRI\_DECwetlands1.mxd  
 Data source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



# Federal Wetlands



	Federal Wetlands
	Village Boundaries
	Town Boundaries
	Lakes

\* Note: Federal wetlands boundaries are not survey grade and are for planning purposes only.

Map prepared by the Livingston County Planning Department: October 2004 (rev. 4/9/07)  
 for the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory  
 M:\ARCVIEW\EMC\Federal Wetlands.mxd  
 Data Source: National Wetlands Inventory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2004

## FEDERAL WETLAND RESERVES

### **What is the Wetlands Reserve Program?**

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. Landowners can establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.

WRP program objectives are:

1. To purchase conservation easements from, or enter into cost-share agreements with, willing owners of eligible land.
2. Help eligible landowners protect, restore, and enhance the original hydrology, native vegetation, and natural topography of eligible lands.
3. Restore and protect the functions and values of wetlands in the agricultural landscape.
4. Help achieve the national goal of no net loss of wetlands.
5. Improve the general environment of the country.

### **Why is the Wetlands Reserve Program Important?**

The WRP achieves solutions to local community issues related to farms, ranches, and other areas by establishing easements or long-term agreements on eligible lands. The emphasis of WRP is to protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems. Its goal is, first and foremost, to attain habitat for migratory birds and wetland dependent wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. This type of habitat needs protection and improvement of water quality, recharge of groundwater, protection and enhancement of open space, and protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation's natural heritage.

### **What are the Criteria for a Wetland Reserve?**

Enrolled lands are mostly high-risk agricultural lands located in flood prone areas and restored to wetlands. The type of wetlands being restored varies from floodplain forest, to prairie potholes, to coastal marshes.

### **Wetland Reserves in Livingston County**

As of October 2006, there are 44 Wetland Reserve Easements in Livingston County, located predominantly in the northern and eastern parts of the county.

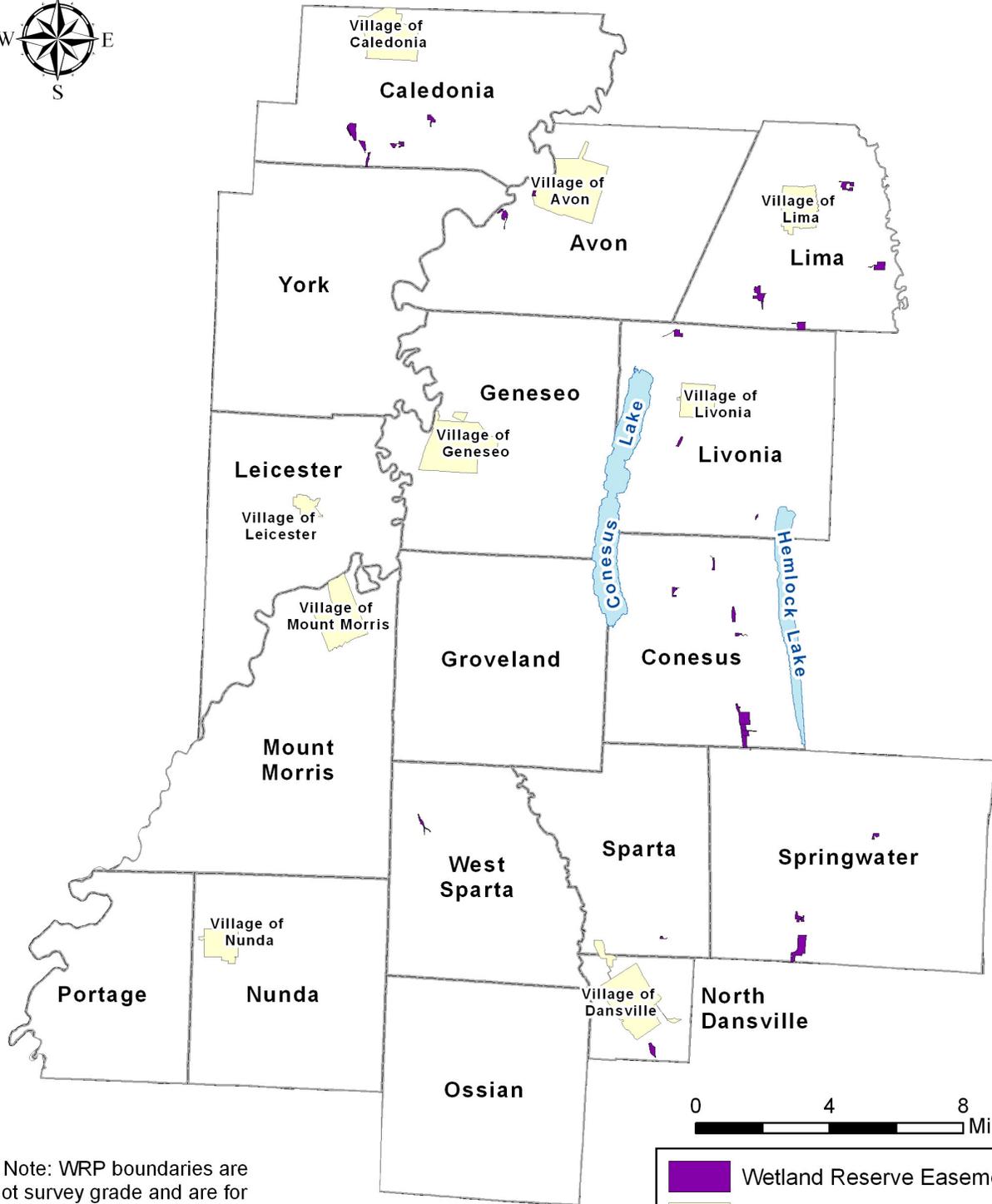
### **Maps and Data**

A map of Wetland Reserves is included in this chapter. Data and maps are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department.

### **Resources and References**

Geneseo Office of National Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

# Wetland Reserves in Livingston County



\* Note: WRP boundaries are not survey grade and are for planning purposes only.

Data Source: Natural Resource Conservation Service- Wetland Reserve Program  
 Map prepared by the Livingston County Planning Department: July 2006  
 for the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory  
 M:\Arcview\EMC\Wetland Reserve.mxd

	Wetland Reserve Easements
	Village Boundaries
	Town Boundaries
	Lakes

## **FLOOD HAZARD AREAS**

### **What are Flood Hazard Areas?**

Flood Hazard Areas are lands that are vulnerable to flooding as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA). Flood hazard areas are generally flat, low-lying areas adjacent to a river or stream that are periodically flooded by overbank flows during storm events.

### **Why are Flood Hazard Areas Important?**

Floods are a natural process that result in inundation and bank erosion. Their impact, however, may be significantly altered by human development patterns. The size, location, and amount of land areas inundated during flood events is significantly impacted by the watershed's total area of wetlands and impervious surfaces (metal roofs, parking lots, roads, etc). Loss of wetlands and expansion of impervious surface cause higher volumes and peak flows of stormwater runoff. Floods may cause damage to infrastructure, the economy, and the environment, but periodic inundation may benefit agriculture and certain plant and animal species.

### **How are Flood Hazard Areas Regulated?**

FEMA produces Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) for the entire United States. FIRMS are produced using historic, meteorological, and hydrological data plus the effects of flood control structures and land use in the watershed at the time of the survey. The FIRMs delineate 100-year (base) flood areas, which are known as Special Flood Hazard Areas. The maps may also contain the elevation of the base flood (100 year event), flood insurance risk zones, and areas subject to inundation by a 500-year flood event. All the above information may be used to establish the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) flood insurance premiums.

### **Flood Hazard Areas in Livingston County**

FEMA has produced FIRMS for every town in Livingston County. FIRMS may also delineate floodways. Floodways are defined as water body channels adjacent to floodplain areas that must be kept free of encroachments so that the 100-year flood discharge can be safely conveyed.

### **Maps and Data**

FEMA has created a digital version of the FIRMs, called Q3 Flood data, to be used for post-disaster response and recovery as well as for general planning purposes. This digital data displays 500-year flood zones, 100-year flood zones, and areas outside these flood zones for all such areas defined on the paper FIRMs. Q3 Flood data differs from the paper FIRMs in that Q3 does not include base flood elevation information necessary for engineering analysis and site design. FEMA also notes that Q3 data should not be used to identify the flood prone status of a property within 250 feet of a Special Flood Hazard Area, nor should it be used for site design, engineering, or flood insurance policy rating for properties in a Special Flood Hazard Area. All site-specific information should be taken from the paper FIRMs. A map of FEMA Floodplains in Livingston County was created using Q3 Flood data and is included at the end of this chapter.

A 100-year flood event has a one-percent chance of occurring or being exceeded during any given one-year period, a 10% chance of occurring during any 10-year period, and an 18% chance of occurring in a 20-year period, and so on.

**Table 4: Likelihood of Experiencing At Least One Flood Event.**

<b>Flood Event</b>	<b>In 1 Year</b>	<b>In 10 Years</b>	<b>In 20 Years</b>	<b>In 25 Years</b>	<b>In 30 Years</b>	<b>In 50 Years</b>	<b>In 100 Years</b>
10-year	10 %	65 %	88 %	93 %	96 %	99 %	99.99 %
25-year	4 %	34 %	56 %	64 %	71 %	87 %	98 %
50-year	2 %	18 %	33 %	40 %	45 %	64 %	87 %
100-year	1 %	10 %	18 %	22 %	26 %	39 %	63 %
500-year	0.2 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	6 %	10 %	18 %

Source: *Water Courses* Vol. 5, Spring 1998. A Newsletter from Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Department of Soil, Crop and Atmospheric Sciences, Cornell University

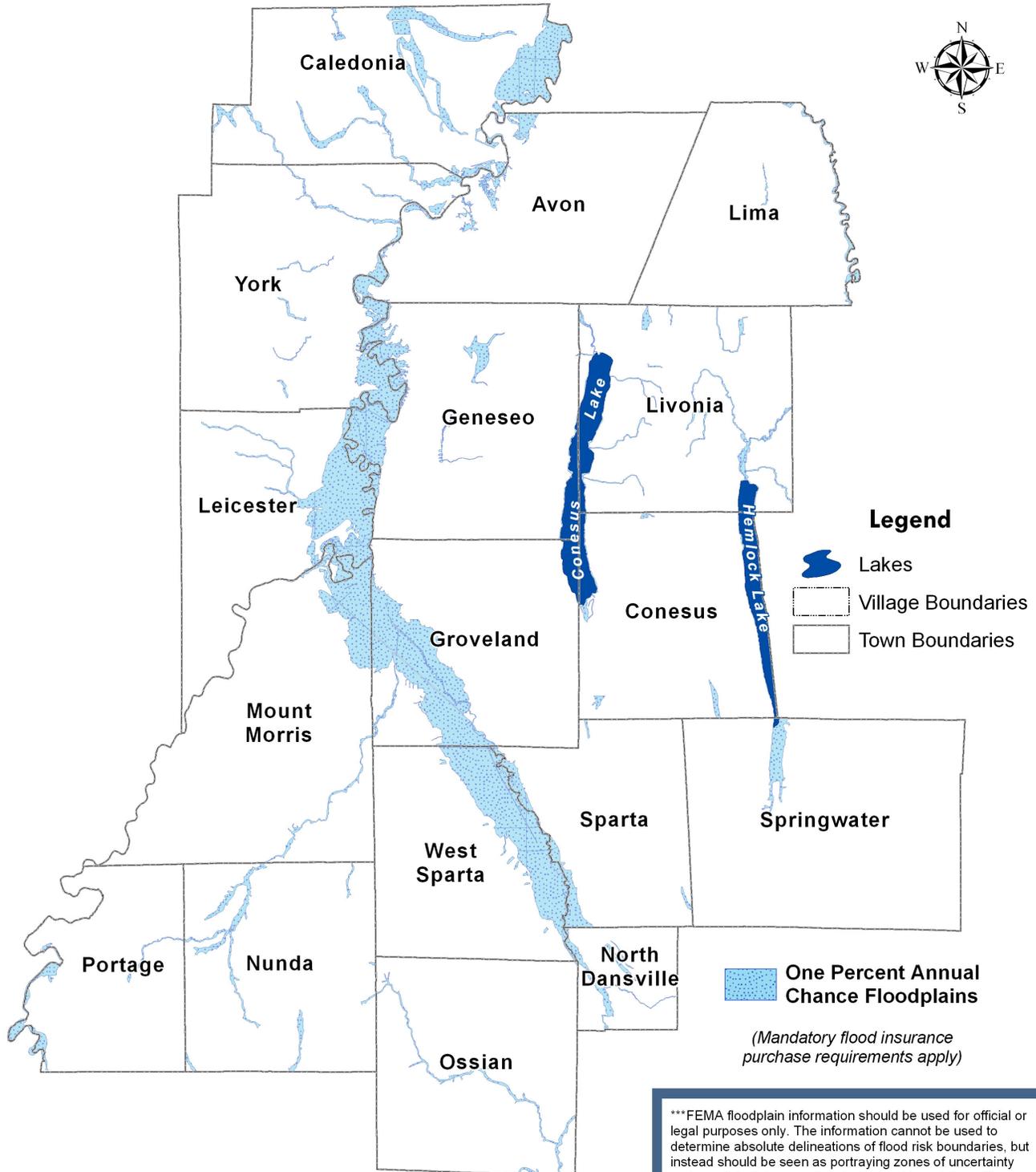
### **Resources and References**

FEMA's Map Service Center - <http://www.fema.gov/MSC/>

FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program - <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/>

FEMA's Q3 Flood Data User's Guide is available at <http://www.fema.gov/MSC/q3flooda.htm>

# FEMA Foodplains



## Legend

-  Lakes
-  Village Boundaries
-  Town Boundaries

 **One Percent Annual Chance Floodplains**

*(Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements apply)*

\*\*\*FEMA floodplain information should be used for official or legal purposes only. The information cannot be used to determine absolute delineations of flood risk boundaries, but instead should be seen as portraying zones of uncertainty and possible risks associated with flood inundation. The quality, accuracy, and reasonableness of any applications developed using this information are the sole responsibility of the end-user.

For official floodplain designations, consult the paper FIRMs located in the Livingston County Planning Department.

0 2 4 8 Miles

Map created by the Livingston County Planning Department: April 2007  
M:\Arcview\Technical Assistance\EmergencyManagement\Floodplain Maps\groveland-town floodplains.mxd

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## SLOPE AND TOPOGRAPHY

### **What are Slope and Topography?**

Slope and topography describe the relationship between the contour and grade of an area. Topography represents the relative position and elevation of a region, and slope is the percent of incline measured from one relative position to another. Topography is measured by connecting points that have the same elevation to create contours. Slope is measured by calculating the change in elevation from one point to another, and dividing that by the lateral distance between those points.

### **Why are Slope and Topography Important?**

Slope and topography should be considered in the creation of any site plan for a construction project. The consideration of slope is critical in regards to the environmental impact to and from a given project. Ensuring that slope will not be a factor in construction will help to reduce job costs, to minimize the risk of natural hazards such as flooding and landslides, and to limit the impact of the project to the natural resources such as soils, vegetation, and the water systems of the site and its surroundings.

### **Slope and Topography in Livingston County.**

At an elevation of 2,244 feet, Tabor Mark is the highest point in the County (Town of Springwater). The lowest elevation in the County is along the Genesee River basin at approximately 550 feet above sea level, as it runs north into Monroe County (Town of Caledonia).

### **Maps and Data**

In the past, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has been the purveyor of topographic maps for the County. Maps created by the USGS may be purchased at many bookstores and outfitters, as well as directly from the USGS, or they may be downloaded from their website.

Two maps are included with this chapter. The first shows countywide topographic data, and the second shows slope in the Conesus Lake Watershed.

### **Resources and References**

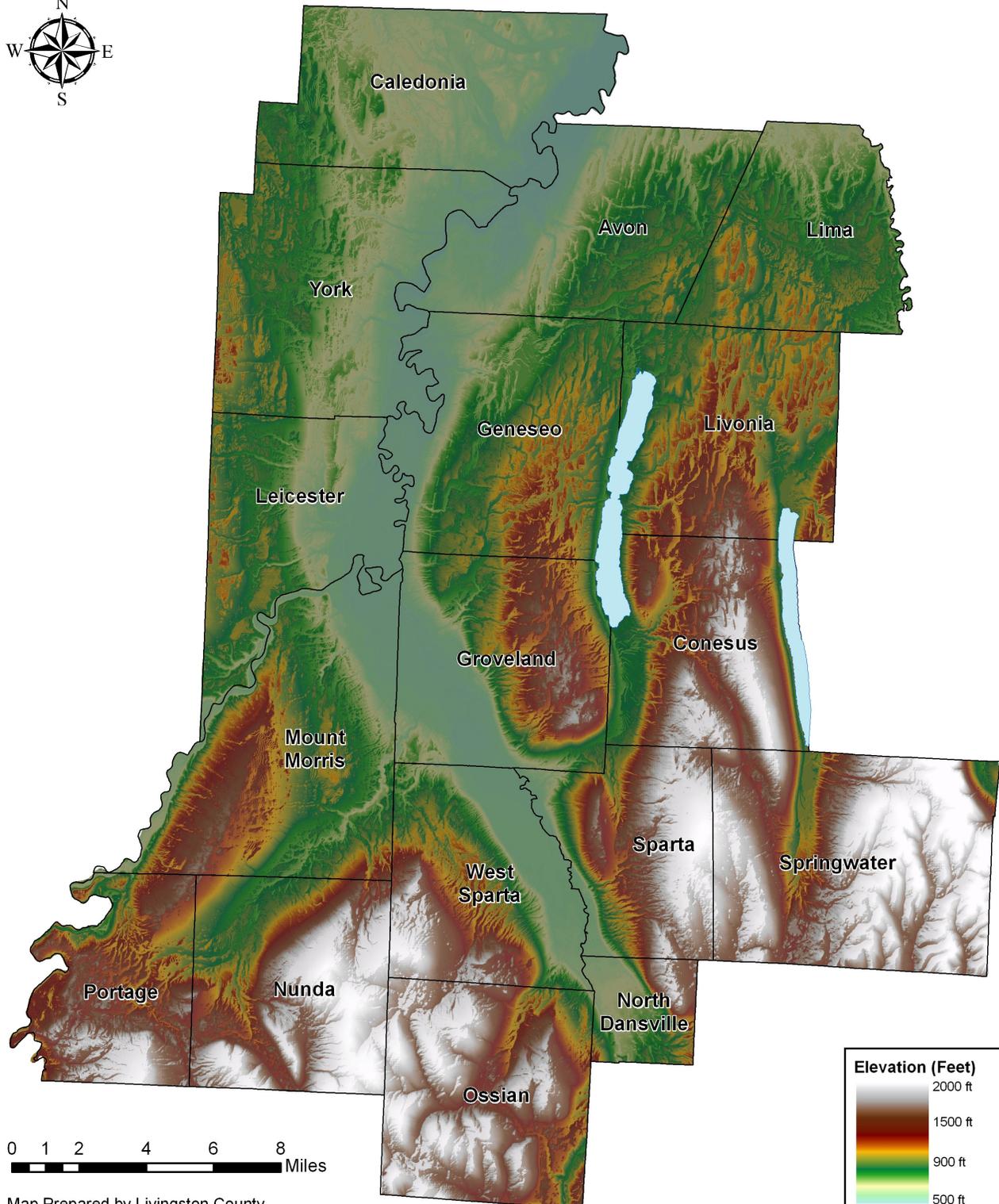
<http://www.footprintpress.com/PeakExperiences/mapand.htm>

Tompkins County Planning Department- <http://www.co.tompkins.ny.us/planning/NRI.htm>

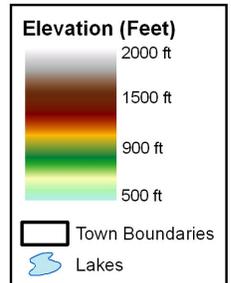
New York State Geological Survey- <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/gis.html>

United States Geological Survey- <http://mapping.usgs.gov>

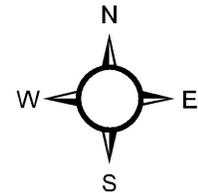
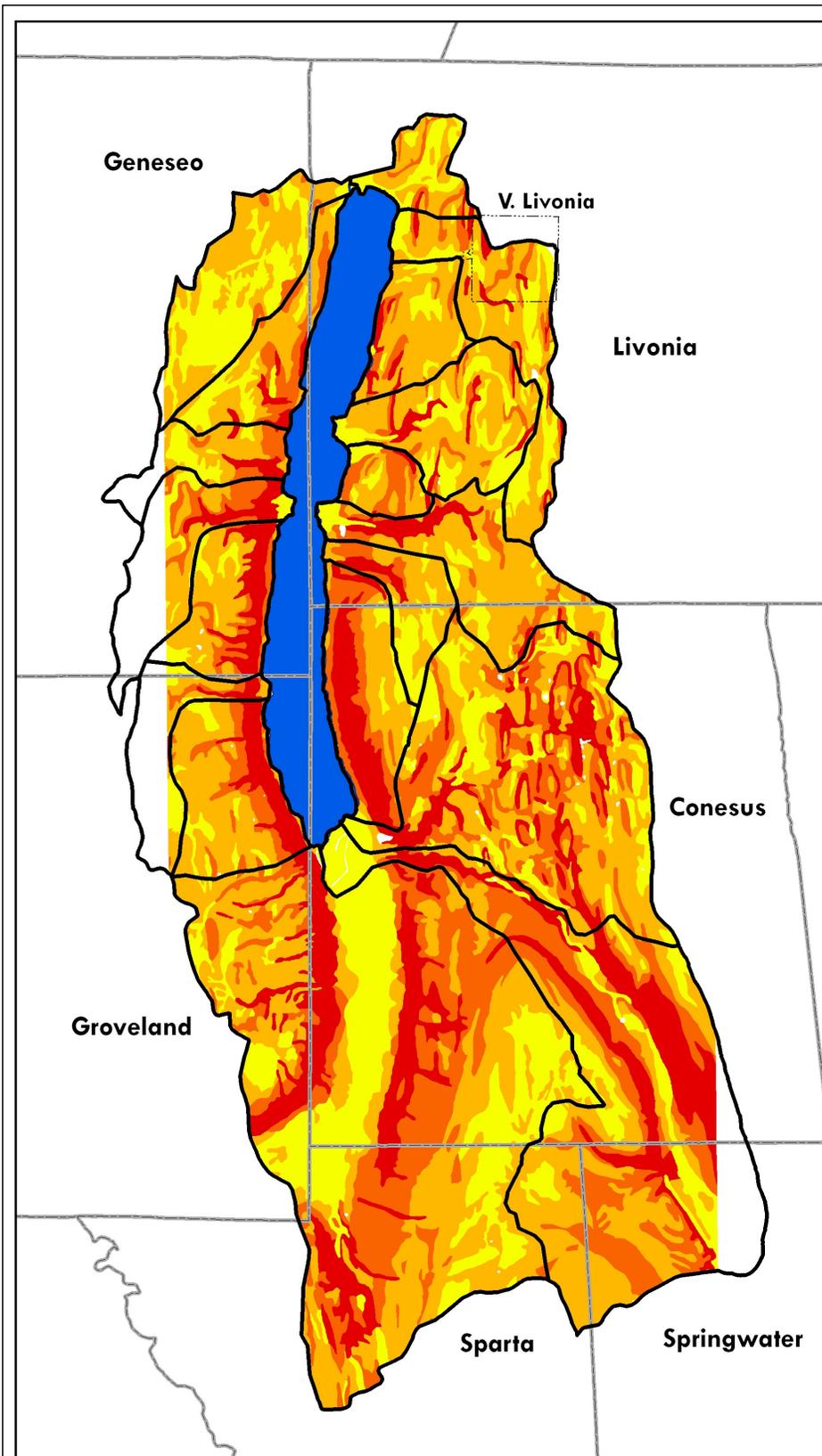
# Topography of Livingston County



Map Prepared by Livingston County  
Planning Department: March 2007  
M:\ARCVIEWEMC\Topography.mxd  
Source: NYS GIS Clearinghouse



# Conesus Lake Watershed Slope Map



## Legend

-  Village Boundaries
-  Town Boundaries
-  Subwatersheds
-  Conesus Lake

## Slopes

-  0 - 3%
-  3 - 8%
-  8 - 15%
-  >15%
-  No data

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Map prepared by the Livingston County Planning Department, May 3, 2000 (rev. 12/3/2000, 4/5/2007)  
M:/ARCVIEW/Conesus Lake Watershed/CLW\_Slopes.mxd  
Source: NRCS Conesus and Livonia Quadrant Soil Maps, 1999, digitized by Cornell University.  
Slope data from Livingston County Soil Legend, 1999.

This map was prepared for the New York Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

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## SOILS

### **What are Soils?**

Soil is a mixture of mineral particles, organic matter, water, and air. Soils are usually described in terms of their texture, e.g., sand, silt, and clay.

### **Why are Soils Important?**

Soils underpin a multitude of human activities. Engineering, water treatment, and construction of homes and roads are impacted by the nature of surface and sub-surface soils. Soils are particularly critical for agriculture. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), part of the Department of Agriculture (USDA), classifies soils according to their agricultural utility. Class I soils are productive and easy to work. Class VIII soils are not suitable for profitable production of crops, pasture or trees.

Soil maps help decision-makers identify areas suitable for future development of homes, industry, agriculture, and recreation. Planning boards, elected officials, zoning officers, and developers can avoid costly mistakes. For example, a soil map may show areas with poor drainage and may help in placing individual, on-site sewage disposal systems.

### **How are Soils Classified?**

NRCS prepares maps that illustrate soil classifications, known as “series”. The series maps show soils of common characteristics with subtypes of common physical features, general properties that affect the use of the soil, and properties that limit suitability for cultivation.

Beyond their agricultural utility, soil types are also evaluated in terms of suitability for development. Soil characteristics pertinent to development are depth to seasonal high water table, depth to bedrock, flood potential, and permeability. Depth to seasonal high water table affects both building foundations and septic system siting.

### **Soils in Livingston County**

There are a variety of soils in Livingston County. Many, especially in the Valley floors, support intensive agriculture production. Others are better suited for residential, industrial, and commercial development. Some hillside soils erode too easily to support agriculture or development. Likewise, land slope varies greatly from wide swaths of flat river bottomland to very steep hillsides that are prominent in the County’s southern and eastern regions.

### **Maps and Data**

Soils are mapped at various levels of detail. The Planning Department utilizes Soil Survey maps issued by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1956. These are general soil maps produced at a scale of 1:31,680 and are suitable for planning large areas such as multi-county regions and large drainage basins. These maps classify soils into one of ten soil associations. The Planning Department has a digital file of soils data for lands within the Conesus Lake Watershed. Included in this Chapter is a drainage map that was derived from this data.

Soils data are available from the Livingston County Planning Department and from the Geneseo Offices of the Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA NRCS.

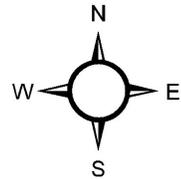
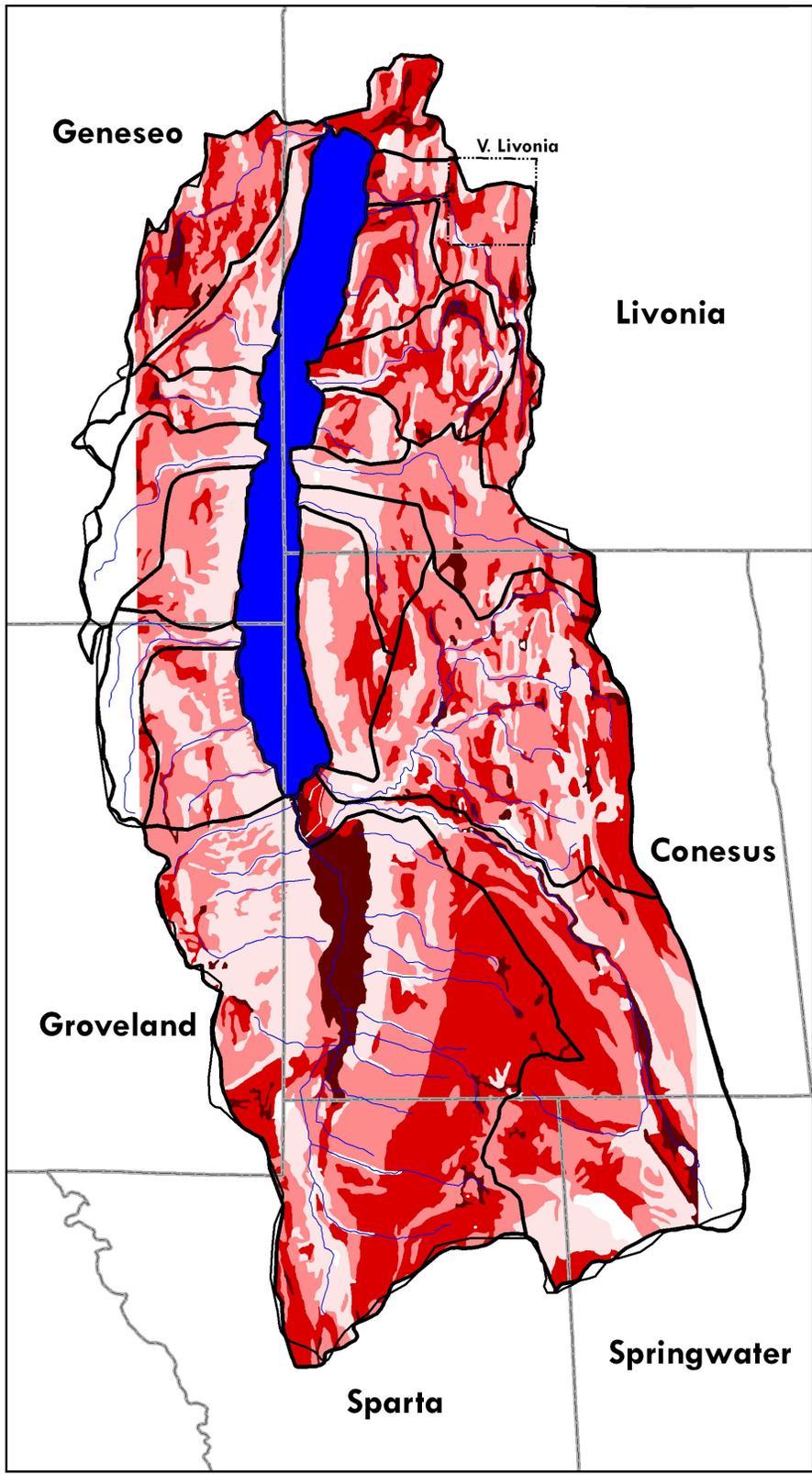
### **Resources and References**

Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District, Geneseo Office

Natural Resource Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Geneseo Office

Soil Survey Maps, United States Department of Agriculture, 1956

# Conesus Lake Watershed Drainage Map

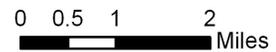


## Legend

-  Conesus Lake
-  Streams
-  Village Boundary
-  Town Boundary
-  Subwatersheds

## Drainage

-  Well/Excessively well drained
-  Moderately well drained
-  Somewhat poorly drained
-  Poorly/Very poorly drained
-  No data



Map prepared by the Livingston County Planning Department, May 2, 2000. (rev. 6/5/2000, 4/9/2007)  
 M:/Arcview/Conesus Lake Watershed/drainage.apr  
 Source: NRCS Conesus and Livonia Quadrant Soil Maps, 1999, digitized by Cornell University.

This map was prepared for the New York Department of State with funds provided under Title II of the Environmental Protection Fund.

## BEDROCK GEOLOGY

### **What is Bedrock Geology?**

Bedrock geology is a description of the basic rock formations that underlie the soils and unconsolidated materials. Bedrock sometimes protrudes through these layers or may be exposed along the side of roads and creek beds. These rocks, formed millions of years ago, are the foundation upon which the region's topography and soil rest.

### **Why is Bedrock Geology Important?**

The depth to bedrock is important because in areas where it is relatively shallow, it can impact the location, development, maintenance, and cost of public services, such as sewer and water supply systems.

### **How was Bedrock Formed?**

Approximately 450 million years ago, Livingston County was covered by a shallow inland sea. Over time, layers of sediment (sand, mud, and lime) accumulated on the sea floor. With the passage of time, the weight of new sediment above and the heat from the earth below compressed those sediments into layers of shale, limestone, and dolomite. Distinct layer formations are easily visible along the Genesee River gorge.

### **Bedrock Geology of Livingston County:**

Akron Dolostone Group - These commonly gray shale formations are only found in the Northeastern part of the Town of Caledonia. They are found at elevations of 500 to 1000 feet.

Canadaway Group - The Machias Formation is characterized by interbedded gray shales, siltstones and thin sandstones, with concentrations of thicker fine-grained sandstones that can range up to 18 feet in thickness. This formation runs through the Towns of Ossian, Nunda, Portage, and West Sparta and is found at elevations of 800 to 1200 feet.

Genesee Group - West River Shale grayish in color can be found at elevations of 50 to 1000 feet.

Hamilton Group - These blackish to bluish-gray shales run through the northern part of the County. The Skaneateles formation is most prevalent in the Towns of Avon and York along the Genesee River Valley.

Java Group - These black and dark grayish shales can be found at elevations of 100 to 700 feet.

Onondaga Limestone - Compact, dark bluish gray limestone can be found in the northern parts of Letchworth State Park and the southern half of Conesus Lake at elevations of 75 to 150 feet.

Sonyea Group - The Cashaqua shale within the County can be found at elevations of 200 to 1000 feet in elevation.

West Falls Group - These shales and siltstones are found at elevations of 400 to 950 feet in the Niagara Sheet, and 1100 to 1600 feet in the Finger Lakes Sheet.

### **Maps and Data**

Included at the end of this chapter is a map showing bedrock geology for Livingston County. Data and maps are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department.

**Resources and References**

New York State Geological Survey- <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/gis.html>

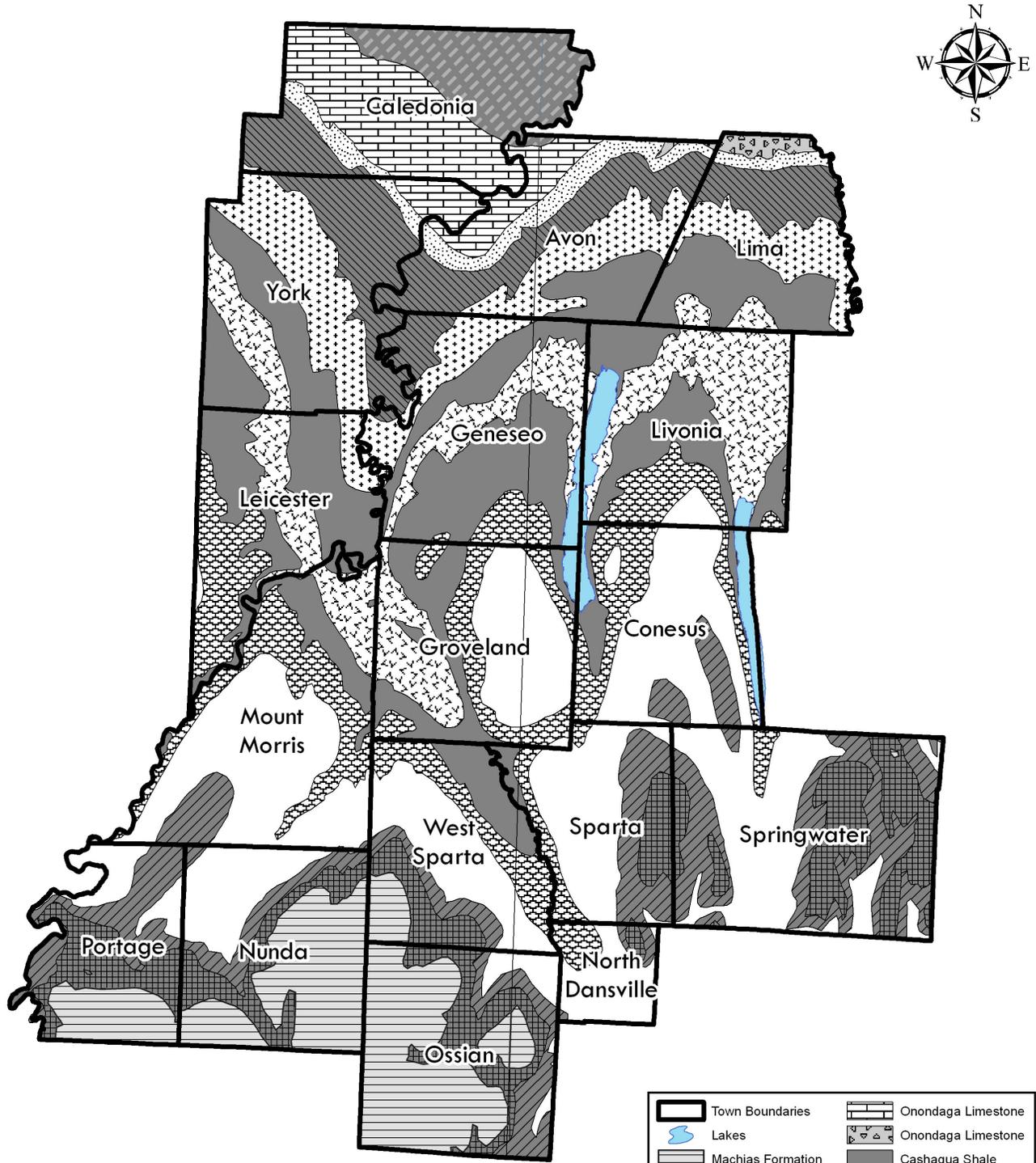
United States Geological Survey- <http://mapping.usgs.gov>

New York State Geographical Information Systems Clearinghouse- <http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/>

Town of Perinton - <http://www.perinton.org/bedrock.cfm>

New York State Museum- <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/data/bedrock.txt>

# Bedrock Geology of Livingston County



Map Prepared by Livingston County Planning Department: February 2007  
 M:/ARCVIEW/EMC/Bedrock Geology.mxd  
 Source: NYS Geological Survey, 2001

Town Boundaries	Onondaga Limestone
Lakes	Onondaga Limestone
Machias Formation	Cashaqua Shale
West River Shale	West Hill Formation
Ludlowville Formation	Nunda Formation
Marcellus Formation	Lower Beers Hill
Skaneateles Formation	Akron Dolostone
Hanover Shale	

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## SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

### **What is Surficial Geology?**

Surficial Geology is the description of the rocks and unconsolidated materials that lie between bedrock and the surface of the land. While the classification of soils refers to the organic components of these materials, surficial geology refers to the rock and mineral components of these materials.

### **Why is Surficial Geology Important?**

Surficial Geology is important because the characteristics of materials below the Earth's surface influence the feasibility of constructing buildings and roads. Surficial deposits commonly determine soil composition and therefore may affect agricultural viability.

### **Surficial Geology in Livingston County.**

There are 12 different types of surficial geology deposits in Livingston County:

Alluvial Fan consists of poorly stratified silt, sand, and boulders. These are arranged as fan-shaped accumulations at the bottom of steep slopes and are generally permeable. Thickness varies from three to 30 feet.

Dunes are fine to medium sands, well-sorted, stratified. They are generally wind-reworked lake sediments and are permeable and well drained. Thickness varies from three to 30 feet.

Kames are glacial deposits of various forms, which are called kames, eskers, kame terraces, and kame deltas. They are small, irregular hills and terraces deposited by glaciers and are typically found in valleys. These deposits are composed of coarse to fine gravels and/or sands in thickness of 30 to 100 feet.

Kame Moraines are glacial deposits of various sizes from boulders to sand deposited at an active ice margin during glacial retreat. Locally they may be laden with calcareous cement. These are found in thickness of 30 to 100 feet.

Lacustrine Delta consists of coarse to fine gravel and sand, stratified, generally well-sorted, and deposited at a lake shoreline. Thickness varies from nine to 45 feet.

Lacustrine Sands are well sorted (particles are of similar size) and stratified sand deposits that settled out when lakes were formed by the melting glaciers. Deposits found today range from six to 60 feet in thickness.

Lacustrine Silts are generally laminated silt and clay, deposited in lakes formed during the melting of the glaciers. They are high in calcite, have low permeability, and form potentially unstable land. These are found in variable thickness of up to 160 feet.

Outwash Sand and Gravel are coarse to fine gravel mixed with sand. Location is restricted to valley bottoms and stream terrace. These deposits are of variable thickness of five to 65 feet.

Recent Alluvium consists of recent deposits that range from fine sand to gravel and are generally confined to floodplains within a valley. They may be subject to frequent flooding and, in larger valleys, may be overlain by silt. Deposits range from three to 30 feet in thickness.

Swamp Deposits are peat-muck, organic silt and sand in poorly drained areas. Unoxidized, it commonly overlies marl and lake silt, resulting in potential land instability. Thickness is six to 60 feet.

Till deposits are poorly sorted (particles of varying sizes) material of variable texture such as clay, silt-clay, or boulder clay that was deposited beneath the glacial ice. Permeability of these deposits varies with the amount of compaction. Thickness varies from three to 160 feet.

Till Moraine is much like till, but has a more variable sorting, and is generally more permeable than till. Deposits of till moraine were typically set down adjacent to glacial ice. Thickness varies from 30 to 100 feet.

### **Maps and Data**

Included at the end of this chapter is a map showing surficial geology for Livingston County. Data and maps are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department.

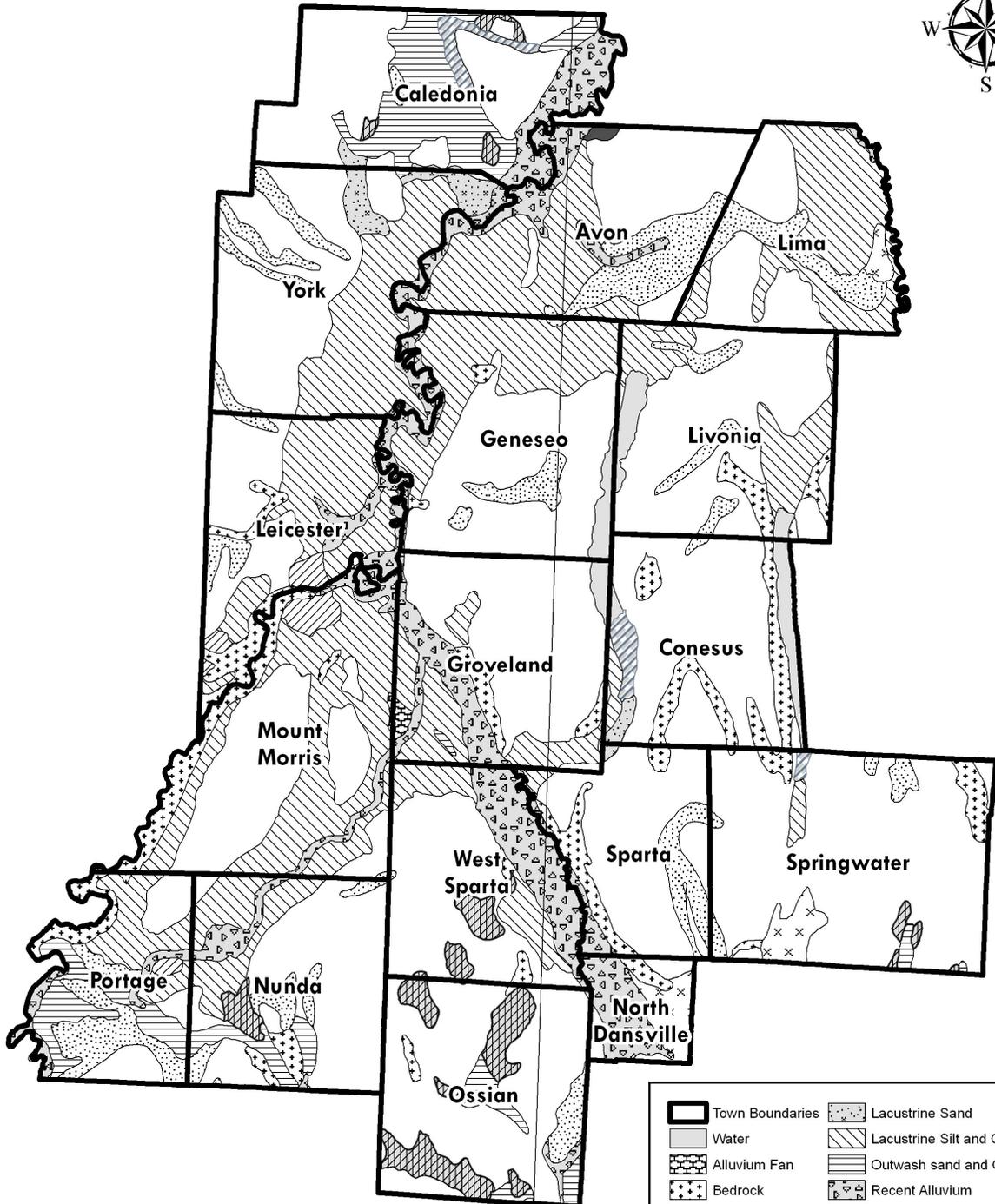
### **Resources and References**

Saint Lawrence University Geology Club- <http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/letch1.html>

Rochester Academy of Sciences- <http://www.rasny.org/fossil/NYGeoHistory.htm>

New York State Education Department- [http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/data/surficial\\_alpha.html](http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/data/surficial_alpha.html)

# Surficial Geology of Livingston County



Map Prepared by Livingston County Planning Department: February 2007  
 M:\ARCVIEWEMCS\Surficial GeologyB&W.mxd  
 Source: NYS Geological Survey, 2001

Town Boundaries	Lacustrine Sand
Water	Lacustrine Silt and Clay
Alluvium Fan	Outwash sand and Gravel
Bedrock	Recent Alluvium
Dunes	Swamp Deposits
Kame Deposits	Till
Kame Moraine	Till Moraine
Lacustrine Delta	

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## **NEW YORK STATE PARKS, FORESTS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS**

### **What are New York State Parks?**

State Parks are managed by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. State parks are primarily for recreation and tourism and generally contain notable natural or historic resources. They are available for use by all citizens. Permitted uses vary from park to park and include hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, camping, and snowmobile and horseback riding.

### **New York State Parks in Livingston County**

Livingston County contains one of the most magnificent parks in the eastern United States. Letchworth State Park is renowned as the "Grand Canyon of the East." The Genesee River rushes through the gorge over three major waterfalls between cliffs as high as 600 feet. The park also contains diverse, lush forests and 66 miles of trails. The park is located in the Towns of Leicester, Mount Morris, and Portage. A portion of the park also lies in Wyoming County. Facilities at the park include the Glen Iris Inn, cabins, well-developed campgrounds, a Conference Center, and swimming pools. Permitted uses in Letchworth Park include hiking, horseback riding, biking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing. Letchworth offers nature, history, and performing arts programs, guided walks and tours, a summer lecture series, whitewater rafting, kayaking, and hot air ballooning.

### **What are New York State Forests?**

State Forests are managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Division of Forests and Lands. Forests are commonly utilized recreationally but are also managed for water quality, timber, and wildlife protection. They are available for use by all citizens. Permitted uses vary from forest to forest and include hunting, fishing, biking, camping, snowmobiling, and horseback riding.

### **New York State Forests in Livingston County**

Livingston County contains three state forests, all of which are located in the southern portion of the County, in sparsely populated areas. Due to continuing tree harvest, the age of treed stands in these forests varies from clear-cut, to saplings, to second growth, to mature growth. The diversity of habitat supports a wide variety of animal species. No trail maps exist for the forests, but logging roads are accessible. Livingston County's three state forests are used by skiers, snowmobilers, birdwatchers, and hikers.

Sonyea State Forest is located in three townships: Groveland, West Sparta, and Mount Morris. The Genesee Valley Greenway and Keshequa Creek, a sizeable tributary of the Genesee River, run through it. Sonyea State Forest also contains a historic cemetery. Sonyea is lower in elevation than the other state forests in the County and contains primarily deciduous, rather than coniferous, trees. Canaseraga State Forest and Ossian State Forest are both located in the Town of Ossian. As upland forests, they contain mostly coniferous trees. The Canaseraga and Ossian State Forests are remote from any densely populated residential areas.

### **What are New York State Wildlife Management Areas?**

State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Division of Fish and Wildlife. They are managed for protection of specific plant and animal species and are available for use by all citizens. Permitted uses vary between WMA's and include hunting, fishing, biking, camping, snowmobiling, and horseback riding.

### **New York State Wildlife Management Areas in Livingston County**

Livingston County contains two WMAs: Rattlesnake Hill State Wildlife Management Area and Conesus Inlet Fish and Wildlife Management Area. Rattlesnake Hill State Wildlife Management Area contains 5,100 acres and is situated eight miles west of the Village of Dansville.

Approximately two-thirds of the Rattlesnake Hill WMA is in the Towns of Ossian and Nunda. The remainder lies in northern Allegany County. This WMA contains a variety of upland habitats, such as mature woodland, overgrown fields, conifer plantations, old growth apple orchards, and open meadows. Conesus Inlet Fish and Wildlife Management Area contains approximately 1,100 acres in the Town of Conesus. This WMA is located at the southern end of Conesus Lake in a flat valley plain with steep sloping hills to its east and west. It is actively managed to maintain spawning habitat in the inlet for northern pike and walleye, nesting and rearing for waterfowl in the marsh, and upland habitat along the edges. Several parking lots and two scenic overlooks offer excellent access and opportunities to observe wildlife.

### **Why are State Lands Important?**

State parks, forests, and wildlife management areas protect important lands from development and uses that may damage their natural features. They provide recreational and cultural opportunities while protecting watershed quality and key plant and animal species and habitats. Logging in state forests is monitored to ensure that trees of varying sizes and ages remain for posterity. The focus of logging activities in WMA's is to manage habitat and provide a diversity of vegetation types and wildlife species. State lands add economic value to localities by enhancing tourism and recreation, providing educational opportunities, and supporting the timber industry.

Open space amenities add value to local economies, generate tourism, and improve the quality of life for residents. State lands also support long term planning objectives. Although municipal governments do not have direct control of these lands, they may be incorporated into plans for greenways, biological corridors, recreational trails, and other amenities.

### **Maps and Data**

A map of state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas is included in this chapter. Data and maps are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department.

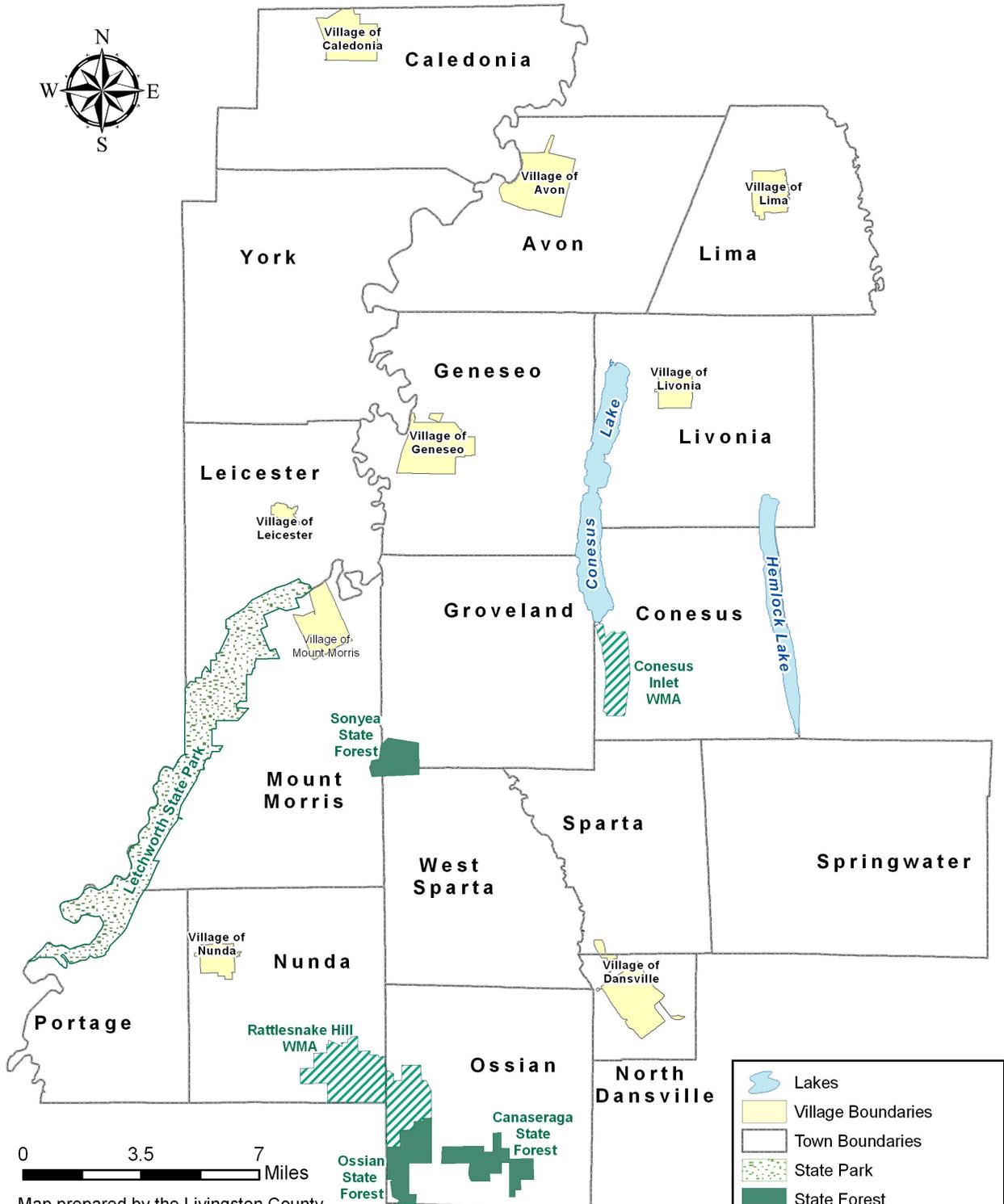
### **Resources and References**

Information about New York State Wildlife Management areas is available online at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/reg8/wma>

Information about New York State Forests is available online at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/>

Information about New York State Parks is available online at: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/>

# State Parks, Forests and Wildlife Management Areas



0 3.5 7 Miles

Map prepared by the Livingston County Planning Department: December 2004  
 M:\ARCVIEWEMC\State Lands.mxd  
 Source: NYS GIS Clearinghouse

	Lakes
	Village Boundaries
	Town Boundaries
	State Park
	State Forest
	State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

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## IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

### What are Important Bird Areas?

In 1996, The National Audubon Society, along with the American Bird Conservancy, initiated the Important Bird Area (IBA) Program in New York State to identify and conserve the most important places for birds. The designation of an IBA requires that the site meet specific criteria. The site must satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- Support a population of species that is endangered, threatened, or of special concern.
- Contain assemblages of species characteristic of a representative rare, threatened, or unique habitat.
- Long-term avian research or monitoring occurs at the site.

### Why are Important Bird Areas Important?

The IBA Program identifies the most important sites at which to implement conservation efforts to ensure the protection of all bird species in that habitat. Many species of birds have unique habitat needs that are fulfilled by the qualities enacted by an IBA designation. The IBA Program also informs communities and promotes participation through voluntarism in their conservation efforts.

### Important Bird Areas in Livingston County

Hemlock Lake supports numerous species of birds (at least 126 different species). Fourteen state protected birds make their home in this community, including a pair of the direct descendants of the last “wild” Bald Eagle nest in New York State. A Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has been completed annually in the area for the last 45 years. In addition, a breeding bird census was done on the CBC circle for five years and regular Breeding Bird Survey routes run through the area.

Letchworth State Park. The forests and grasslands of the park support an exceptionally diverse breeding area for over 25 different species of warblers, songbirds, and many state-listed species. The park is also home to one of the few sites in Western New York with breeding Yellow-Breasted Chats. The area also boasts of one of the largest winter roosts of Turkey Vultures in the state.

Nations Road Grassland supports a healthy number of Great Blue Herons in migration (160 in 1995). The area is an exceptional grassland and oak-savanna habitat with a diverse community of breeding and wintering birds.

### Maps and Data

A map showing Important Bird Areas in Livingston County can be found on page 52. Data and maps are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department.

### Resources and References

National Audubon Society- <http://www.audubon.org/>

New York State Audubon Society- <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ny/ny/>

American Bird Conservancy- <http://www.abcbirds.org/>

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## **NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS AND NEW YORK STATE SCENIC RIVERS**

### **National Natural Landmarks**

#### **What is a National Natural Landmark?**

A National Natural Landmark is a nationally significant natural area that has been designated by the Secretary of the Interior. Specific criteria that are taken into account when determining this designation are as follows: terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; geological features, exposures, and landforms that record active geological processes or portions of earth history; and fossil evidence of biological evolution.

#### **Why are National Natural Landmarks Important?**

Besides fostering the basic program goals of natural heritage protection and advancing science and education, some National Natural Landmarks (NNLs) are the best remaining examples of a type of feature in the country and sometimes in the world. Such natural resources are irreplaceable.

#### **National Natural Landmarks in Livingston County**

There is only one NNL in Livingston County at this time. Fall Brook Gorge has been designated on the basis that it is one of America's finest exposures of Upper and Middle Devonian age strata, and significant fossil remains are found at this site.

### **New York State Scenic Rivers**

#### **What are New York State Scenic Rivers?**

Scenic rivers are generally free of diversions or impoundments with limited road access. These river areas are essentially primitive and undeveloped or are used for agriculture, forest management, and other dispersed human activities, which do not in themselves substantially constrain public use and enjoyment of these rivers and their environment. Management of scenic river areas will be directed to preserving and restoring their natural scenic qualities.

#### **Why are New York State Scenic Rivers Important?**

Under Article 15, Title 27 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law, entitled the New York State Wild, Scenic and Recreational River System Act, the Genesee River in Letchworth State Park was granted designation as a Scenic River. The purpose of this act in regards to the Genesee River is to preserve and restore its natural scenic qualities.

#### **New York State Scenic Rivers in Livingston County**

The Genesee River within the confines of Letchworth State Park was designated by New York State to be a Scenic River. Extending from the Portage Railroad Bridge North to Route 36 in Mount Morris, it is the only water body in Livingston County with this designation.

#### **Maps and Data**

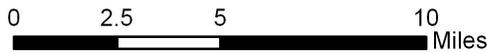
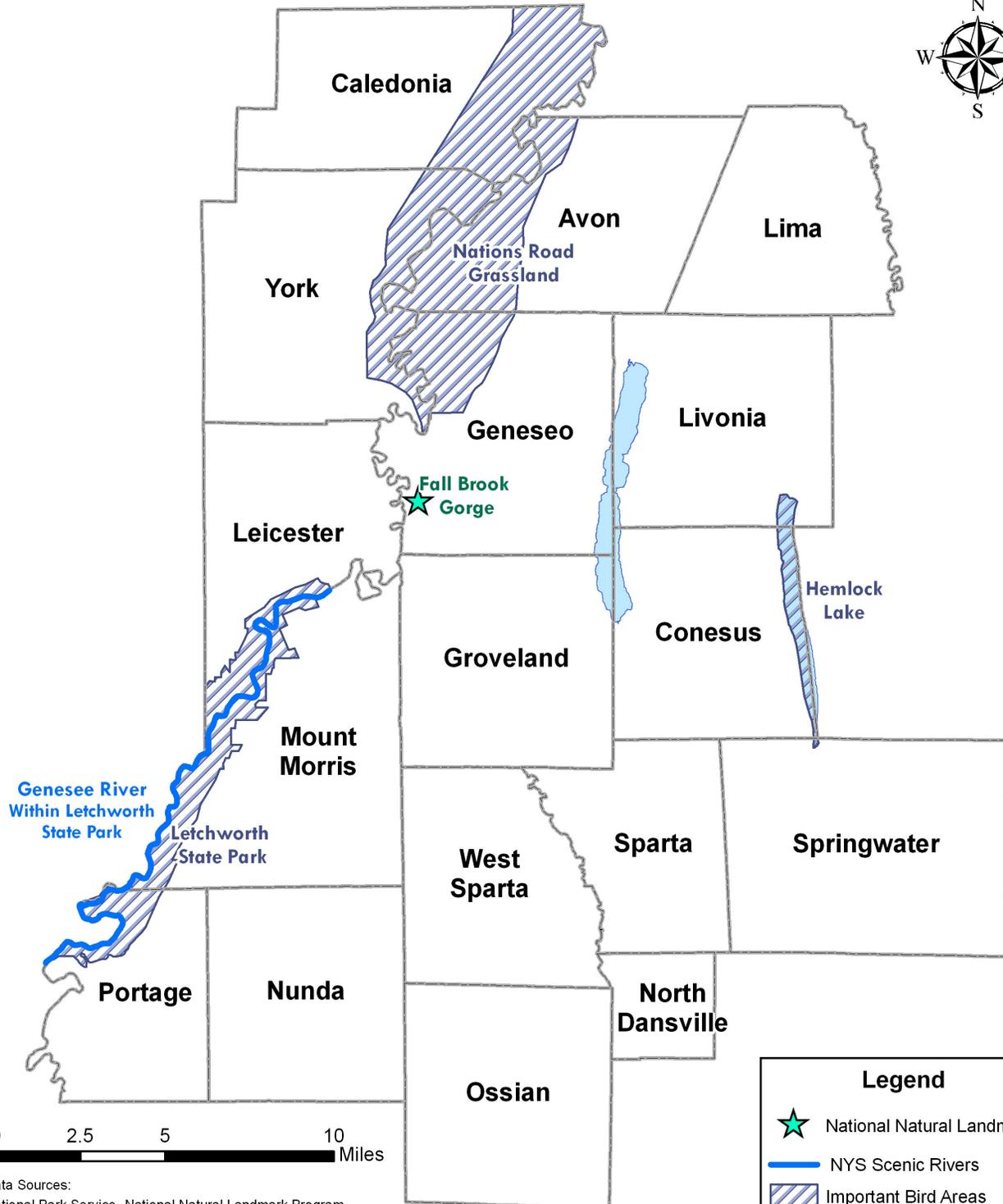
Included at the end of this chapter is a map portraying National Natural Landmarks, New York State Scenic Rivers, and Important Bird Areas. Data and maps are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department.

#### **Resources and References**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation- <http://www.dec.state.ny.us.html>

National Park Service- <http://www.nature.nps.gov/nnl.cfm>

# Important Bird Areas, National Natural Landmarks and New York State Scenic Rivers



Legend	
	National Natural Landmark
	NYS Scenic Rivers
	Important Bird Areas
	Lakes
	Town Boundaries

Data Sources:  
 National Park Service- National Natural Landmark Program  
 New York State Audubon Society  
 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
 Map Prepared by Livingston County Planning Department: April 2006  
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## SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL PLACES

### **What are Significant Historical Places?**

In order to be considered as a Significant Historical Place, the location must meet the criteria set forth by the National Register for Historic Places. Any site that can be counted as “old” (usually 50 years or older) is a possible candidate for listing. However, it must also have some kind of significance in the history of Livingston County. Here are the four criteria from the National Register of Historic Places as they pertain to Livingston County:

Criteria A: Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of Livingston County or any of its individual towns or villages. Former industries, stagecoach stops, churches, and schools are examples of possible significant sites.

Criteria B: Properties that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, such as General James S. Wadsworth or Clara Barton.

Criteria C: Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, properties that represent the work of a master, properties that possess high artistic values, or properties that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Criteria D: Properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield information about the history of Livingston County. Examples include used or abandoned sites without structures, such as former mines and abandoned cemeteries.

In addition to satisfying at least one criterion, the property should retain enough elements of integrity, or its historic fabric and character, to be worth listing as a historic site. Elements of integrity include the integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. Typically, a property need not possess all seven integrity factors, but at least meet more than one.

### **Why is it Important to Identify Historical Places?**

Historic places give us an insight into the historical heritage of Livingston County. Owners of such places can be encouraged to preserve or even restore them to their original condition.

### **Who is Responsible for Classifying Sites as Significantly Historic?**

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation decides for the State of New York and for the state’s listings on the national level. When the department decides that a site is historically significant, the owner is notified and if he or she agrees to the listing or designation of that site, then it becomes part of the National Register of Historic Places.

### **How Can Someone Check the Status of a Particular Site That Has Been Nominated for The National Register?**

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation has an inventory of about 2,300 sites that are or have been under consideration for the National Register. This inventory can be found on the Department’s website at <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/>. In that website take the following steps:

1. In the list of Department resources on the left side of the home page, click on "Online Resources."
2. You will then go to SPHINX, the search engine for these resources. After clicking through two pages of explanations, you will be given a password to be used by members of the public.
3. Click on the icon for the inventory and enter the password.
4. You will then be given four modules to choose from. Click on the one called Project Review (the only one open to the public). This will give you a form in which you can enter a description of the site you want to know about.
5. If you have trouble, go back to the SPHINX page and get a copy of the directions for using this site.

Sites are labeled as I (individually eligible), D (eligible historic district), L (already listed in the National Register), N (ineligible properties), and U (evaluated but determination not yet assigned). There are also sites with no labels, which means they have not yet been evaluated.

The status of a site is the only information available to the public. The full documentation for the sites is available only to authorized users.

### **Are Archeological Sites Considered Historic Places?**

Livingston County has several archeological sites included in the National Register and many more under consideration. However, the documentation for such places, including their location, is not public information. The restriction helps to protect the sites from unauthorized exploitation.

### **What Other Kinds of Historic Places are Included in The National Register?**

Such places are either historic districts or individual sites. These districts and individual sites can be viewed on the website of the National Register of Historic Places ([www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/NY/Livingston/state.html](http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/NY/Livingston/state.html)).

### **Are There Lists of Local Historic Places That Have Not Been Nominated for The National Register?**

There is no official countywide list for Livingston County. However, some individual towns and villages have published such lists, which can be obtained from the town or village historians or historical societies. The Livingston County Environmental Management Council, publisher of this Natural Resources Inventory, plans to compile materials for each town and village on its sites in the National Register, the state's inventory of nominated sites, and local lists of historic sites. The Council would also like to allow owners of the sites to nominate their own places for inclusion in a local inventory. However, this plan has yet to be put into action.

### **What are the Historic Districts and Individual Sites in Livingston County that Appear in The National Register of Historic Places?**

The National Register's list expands as new sites are listed. As of March 2007, the following districts and individual sites appeared in a search of the National Register. The data listed is the result of the conducted search. There may be additional sites that have since been added or may not have appeared at the time of the search.

#### **Historic Districts**

Geneseo Historic District  
(Main Street Historic District added 1977, expanded 1985, designated National Historic Landmark 1991)  
Roughly bounded by NY 39, Temple Hill Cemetery, South Street and Main Street, Geneseo  
5500 acres, 340 buildings, 3 objects

Hemlock Fairground (added 2000)  
East Avenue, Hemlock  
356 acres, 5 buildings, 1 object

Lima Village Historic District (added 1987)  
1881-1885 & 1818-1870 Rochester Street

Lima Presbyterian Church  
7304-7312 & 7303-7315 East Main Street

Linwood, also known as Gratwick Estate (added 1997)  
1912 York Road, York  
80 acres, 25 buildings, 1 object

Murray Street Historic District (added 1996)  
33-47 & 32-46 Murray Street, Mount Morris  
40 acres, 22 buildings, 3 objects

South Main Street Historic District (added 1996)  
123-129 & 124-158 South Main Street, Mount Morris  
120 acres, 40 buildings

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Junction of State and Stanley Streets, Mount Morris  
12 acres, 2 buildings

State and Eagle Streets Historic District (added 1996)  
(Includes St. John's Episcopal Church, above)  
16-34 & 15-39 State Street and  
6-12 Eagle Street, Mount Morris  
90 acres, 17 buildings, 1 structure

### Individual Sites

Alverson-Copeland House (added 1989)  
1612 Rochester Street, Lima

Avon Inn (added 1991)  
55 East Main Street, Avon

Barber-Mulligan Farm (added 1980)  
5403 Barber Road, Avon

Barnard Cobblestone House (added 1989)  
7192 West Main Street, Lima

Black and White Farm Barn (added 1988)  
7420 Dansville-Mt Morris Road, Sonyea

Bristol House (added 1989)  
1950 Lake Avenue, Lima

Caledonia House Hotel (added 2001)  
Also known as the Masonic Temple  
3141 State Street, Caledonia

Cargill House (added 1989)  
1839 Rochester Street, Lima

Clark Farm Complex (added 1989)  
7646 East Main Road, Lima

Clark-Keith House (added 1998)  
3092 Main Street, Caledonia

Claud No. 1 Archeological Site (added 1973)  
Also known as UB 1205  
Address Restricted, Groveland

Conesus Amusement Hall (added 2005)  
Also known as Conesus Town Hall  
6210 South Livonia Road, Conesus

Dansville Library (added 1977)  
200 Main Street, Dansville

Dayton House (added 1989)  
7180 West Main Street, Lima

DePuy, William, House (1989)  
1825 Genesee Street, Lima

Draper House (added 1989)  
1764 Rochester Street, Lima

Edgerley (added 1980)  
9303 Creek Road, Oakland

First Methodist Episcopal Church of Avon  
(added 2005)  
Also known as Avon United Methodist Church  
130 Genesee Street, Avon

First Presbyterian Church of Avon  
5605 Avon-Lima Road, East Avon

First Presbyterian Church of Tuscarora  
(added 2004)  
8082 Main Street, Tuscarora  
(Town of Mount Morris)

Ganoung Cobblestone Farmhouse (added 1989)  
2798 Poplar Hill Road, Lima

Genesee Wesleyan Seminary and Genesee  
College Hall (added 1976)  
College Street, Lima

Godfrey House and Barn Complex (added 1989)  
1325 Rochester Road, Lima

Harden House (added 1989)  
7343 East Main Street, Lima

Harmon, William, House (added 1989)  
1847 Genesee Street, Lima

Hartman, William, Farmstead (added 2000)  
9296 NY 63 North, Dansville

Hillcrest (added 1980)  
7242 West Main Street, Lima

Homestead, The (added 1974)  
NY 39 and U.S. 20A, Genesee

House and No. 13 Grove Street (added 1999)  
13 Grove Street, Mount Morris

House at No. 176 South Main Street  
(added 1999)  
176 South Main Street, Mount Morris

House at No. 30 Murray Street (added 1999)  
30 Murray Street, Mount Morris

House at No. 48 Grove Street (added 1999)  
48 Grove Street, Mount Morris

House at No. 8 State Street (added 1999)  
8 State Street, Mount Morris

\* Kellerman Log Cabin (added 2006)  
6074 South Livonia Road, Conesus

Kellogg, J. Francis, House (added 2003)  
255 Genesee Street, Avon

Kemp, R. P., No. 1 Site (added 1977)  
Also known as UB 1063  
Address restricted, West Sparta

Leech-Lloyd Farmhouse and Barn Complex  
(added 1989)  
1537 York Street, Lima

Livonia Baptist Church (added 1977)  
Also known as Livonia Congregational Church;  
Livonia United Church of Christ  
9 High Street, Livonia

Markham Cobblestone Farmhouse and Barn  
Complex (added 1989)  
6857 Heath-Markham Road, Lima

Martin Farm Complex (added 1989)  
1301 Bragg Street, Lima

Mills, Gen. William A., House (added 1978)  
14 Main Street, Mount Morris

Morgan Cobblestone Farmhouse (added 1989)  
6870 West Main Road, Lima

Moses, Ogilvie, Farmhouse (added 1989)  
2150 Clay Street, Lima

Moses, Zebulon, Farm Complex (added 1989)  
2770 Clay Road, Lima

National Hotel (added 2004)  
Also known as National Exchange  
2927 Main Street, Cuylerville

New Family Theater (added 1997)  
102 Main Street, Mount Morris

North Bloomfield School (added 1981)  
7840 Martin Road, North Bloomfield

\* Payne Cobblestone House (added 2006)  
5813 Federal Road, Conesus

Peck, J. Franklin, House (added 1989)  
7347 East Main Street, Lima

Peck, Thomas, Farmhouse (added 1989)  
7955 East Main Road, Lima

Pioneer Farm (added 1970)  
Also known as McCurdy House  
South of Dansville on NY 36, Dansville

School No. 6 (added 1989)  
6679 Jenks Road, Lima

\* Sliker Cobblestone House (added 2007)  
6050 Sliker Hill Road, Conesus

Smith, Dr. Justin, House (added 1989)  
7137 West Main Street, Lima

Spencer House (added 1989)  
7372 East Main Street, Lima

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Jct. of State and Stanley Streets, Mount Morris

St. Rose Roman Catholic Church Complex  
(added 1988)  
Lake Avenue, Lima

Stanley House (added 1989)  
7364 East Main Street, Lima

Tram site (added 1999)  
Address Restricted, Livonia

US Post Office-Dansville (added 1988)  
Also known as Dansville Post Office  
100 Main Street, Dansville

Union Block (added 2000)  
38-42 State Street, Nunda

Vary, William L., House (added 1989)  
7378 East Main Street, Lima

Wadsworth Fort Site (added 1975)  
Also known as UB 1089; Cda 11-4;  
Brimmer's Sweet Brier Farm Site  
Address Restricted, Geneseo

Warner, Asahel, House (added 1989)  
7136 West Main Street, Lima

Warner, Matthew, House (added 1989)  
7449 East Main Street, Lima

Westerly (added 1974)  
Chandler Road, Piffard

Williamsburg Cemetery (added 2002)  
Abel Road, Hampton Corners, Groveland

*\* Historical sites marked with an asterisk were added after the latest update of the National Register website and were provided by the Livingston County Historian.*

## Maps and Data

A map of The National Register of Historic Places in Livingston County is included at the end of this chapter. Data and maps are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department.

## Resources and References

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation –  
<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/>

As of 2007, the contact information for local historians is:

### Livingston County Historian

Amie Alden  
5 Murray Hill Drive  
Mount Morris, NY 14510  
(585) 243-7955

### Town of Avon

Maureen Kingston  
27 Genesee Street  
Avon, NY 14414  
(585) 226-2425 ext. 15

### Town of Caledonia

Eileen LaFave  
3109 Main Street  
Caledonia, NY 14423  
(585) 538-4927

### Town of Conesus

Janet Woods  
6210 South Livonia Road  
Conesus, NY 14435  
(585) 346-2273

### Town of Geneseo

David Parish  
5 Crossett Road  
Geneseo, NY 14454  
(585) 243-3457

### Town of Groveland

Larry Turner  
6732 Groveland Hill Road  
Groveland, NY 14462  
(585) 243-3784

### Town of Leicester

Tom Roffe  
132 Main Street,  
P.O. Box 197  
Leicester, NY 14481  
(585) 382-3234

### Town of Lima

Joyce Rapp  
7411 College Street  
Lima, NY 14485  
(585) 624-4116

### Town of Livonia

Dorothy Wilkins  
35 Commercial Street  
P.O. Box 43  
Livonia, NY 14487  
(585) 346-5586

### Town of Mount Morris

Nicholas Loverde  
55 Murray Street  
Mount Morris, NY 14510  
(585) 658-3665

### Town of North Dansville

Quentin Masolotte  
3 Greenmount Avenue  
Dansville, NY 14437  
(585) 335-6587

### Town of Nunda

Valerie Griffing  
P.O. Box 382  
Nunda, NY 14517  
(585) 335-9607

### Town of Ossian

Rhea Walker  
1181 McNinch Road  
Dansville, NY 14437  
(585) 335-5312

### Town of Portage

Mary Ransom  
1283 Thompson Road  
Hunt, NY 14846  
(585) 468-2627

### Town of Sparta

Mary Jo Marks  
P.O. Box 378  
Dansville, NY 14437  
(585) 335-6323

### Town of Springwater

Havilah Toland  
8022 South Main Street  
Springwater, NY 14560  
(585) 669-2127

### Town of West Sparta

Dave Palmer  
5093 Coffee Hill Road  
Dansville, NY 14437  
(585) 335-6305

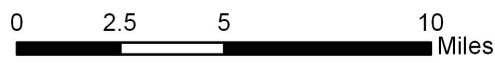
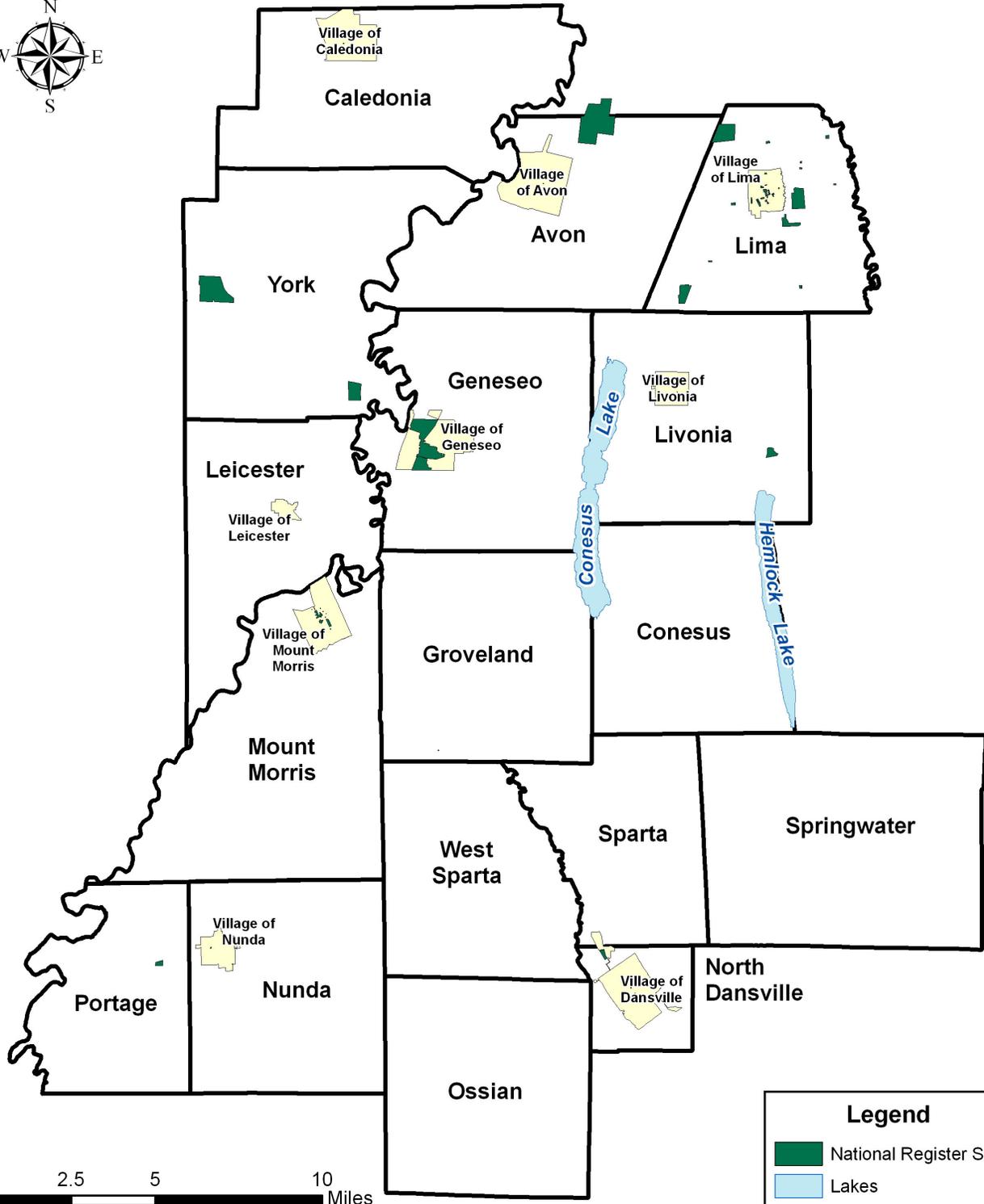
### Town of York

Stephen Gates  
4130 Main Street  
P.O. Box 35  
Piffard, NY 14533  
(585) 243-3680

### Davies Nagel

3558 Main Street  
Piffard, NY 14533  
(585) 243-3409

# National Register of Historic Places in Livingston County



Legend	
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:darkgreen;"></span>	National Register Site
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; background-color:lightblue;"></span>	Lakes
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; border:1px solid yellow;"></span>	Village Boundaries
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:10px; border:2px solid black;"></span>	Town Boundaries

Map Prepared by Livingston County Planning Department: June 2006  
 M:\ARCVIEW\EMC\Historicsites.mxd  
 Source: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation: 2003

## LAND TRUST PRESERVES AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

### What are Land Trusts?

Land Trusts are not-for-profit organizations working for open space protection. Examples of preservation techniques include conservation easements, land purchase, and land donation. In Livingston County, conservation easements are the most commonly used technique.

Conservation easements are legal documents in which landowners agree to permanently refrain from certain uses of their property in order to preserve the environmental integrity of the land. A conservation easement typically reduces the number of future residential structures allowed on the property as well as other activities that impact the environmental integrity of the land. The property owner retains the right to live on, farm, or sell the property, but the easement remains with the deed.

### Why are Land Trust Preserves and Conservation Easements Important?

Land Trust Preserves protect sensitive lands from uses that may damage their natural features. Important habitats, plant and animal species, watersheds, and water quality are protected. Preserves also provide recreational and educational opportunities and add local economic value by enhancing tourism and increasing land values. While municipal governments do not have direct control of these lands, they may be able to use them in planning efforts to create greenways, biological corridors, and recreational trails.

### Land Trusts in Livingston County

The Genesee Valley Conservancy (GVC) is the most active land trust in Livingston County. It focuses on the Genesee River watershed, but also has holdings outside the valley. As of 2006, GVC protected over 8,200 acres of diverse habitat: high quality farmland, woodlands, wetlands, and scenic areas. Two other land trusts, the Finger Lakes Land Trust and the Genesee Land Trust, are also active in Livingston County.

### Land Trust Preserves and Conservation Easements in Livingston County

The Genesee Valley Conservancy owns numerous conservation easements. These are concentrated in the Genesee Valley in the Towns of Geneseo and Avon and are not open to the public. GVC also owns 40 acres of the former Hagan Farm, which is located in the Village of Geneseo. This parcel is open to the public.

The Genesee Land Trust owns an easement on a 23-acre parcel in the Town of Caledonia. This parcel is open to the public.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust owns an easement on a 78-acre parcel in the Town of Livonia and a 453-acre parcel in the Town of Springwater. These parcels are not open to the public.

### Maps and Data

A map of Land Trust Preserves in Livingston County is included in this chapter. Data and maps are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department. For information about land trust preserves please refer to the contact information below.

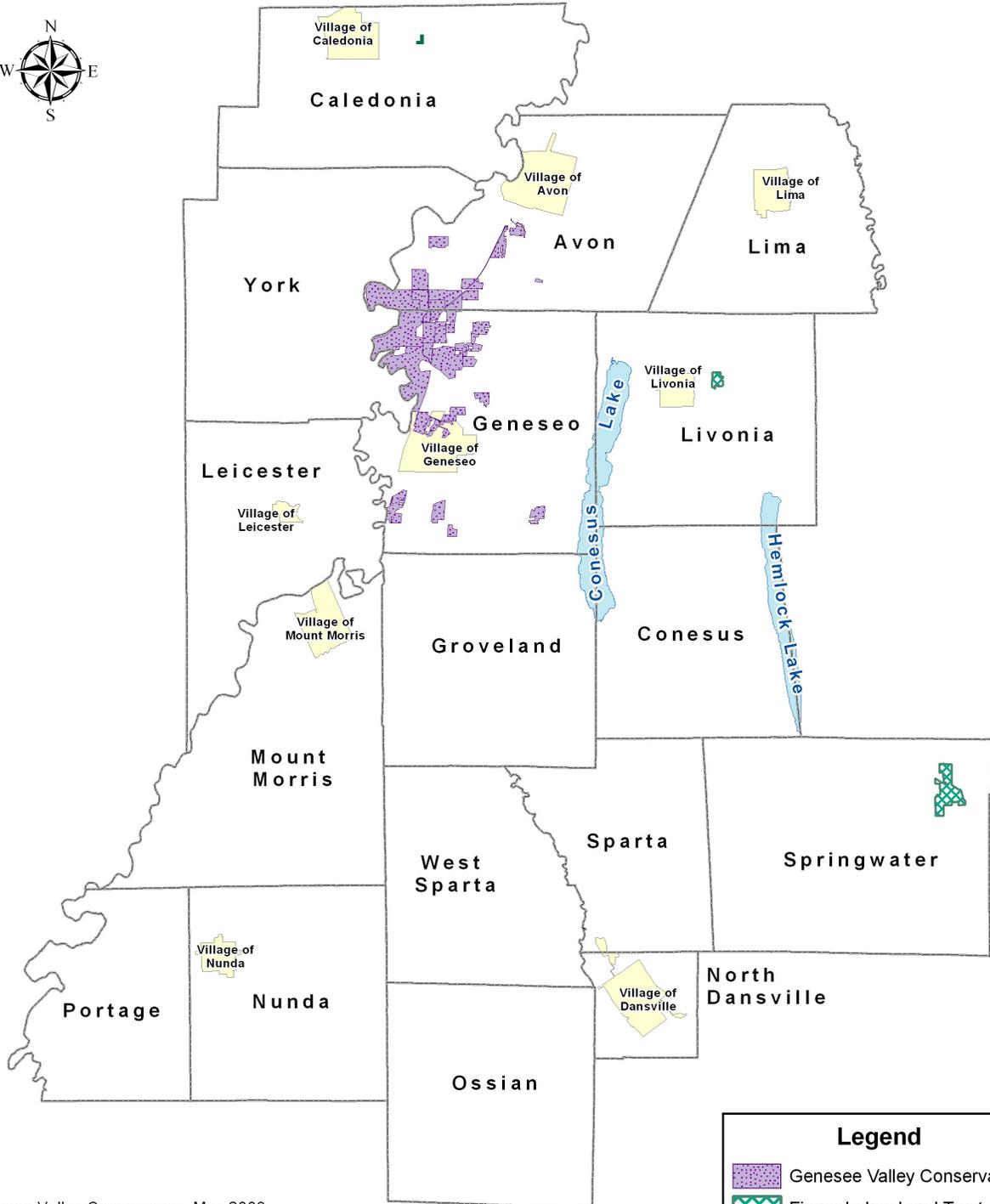
### Resources and References

Finger Lakes Land Trust: <http://www.flit.org/> 202 East Court Street, Ithaca, NY 14850; Phone: 607-275-9487

Genesee Land Trust: <http://www.geneseelandtrust.org/> 500 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607; Phone: 585-256-2130

Genesee Valley Conservancy: <http://www.geneseevalleyconservancy.org/> P.O. Box 73, One Main Street, Geneseo, NY 14454; Phone: (585) 243-2190; Fax: (585) 243-2194

# Land Trust Preserves



**Legend**

-  Genesee Valley Conservancy
-  Finger Lakes Land Trust
-  Genesee Land Trust
-  Town Boundaries
-  Village Boundaries
-  Lakes

Genesee Valley Conservancy, May 2003  
 Finger Lakes Land Trust, June 2005  
 Genesee Land Trust, June 2005

Map prepared by the Livingston County Planning Department  
 for the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory  
 June 2005 (Revised June 2006)

M:\Arcview\EMC\Conservancy Lands.mxd



## RECREATION IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

### Town and Village Parks

#### **Why are Town and Village Parks Important?**

Town and village parks provide communities with focal points for recreation, events, and leisure. Providing communities with such locations for enjoyment can add to the overall quality of life within the community.

#### **Parks in Livingston County**

There are 27 town and village parks located in Livingston County. Town and village parks are owned and maintained by the municipality in which they are located.

**Table 5: Town and Village Parks in Livingston County**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Village of Avon	Avon Driving Park	Spring Street West of Route 39
Village of Avon	Avon Village Square	Route 5 and 20
Village of Avon	Case Memorial Park	Reed Street and High Street
Village of Caledonia	Hamilton Park	North Street and Church Street
Village of Caledonia	J.W. Jones Fireman's Park	Route 36 North of Graney Road
Village of Caledonia	Tennant Park	Pioneer Street
Village of Caledonia	Washburn Park	Iroquois Road and Park Place
Town of Conesus	Ricky Greene Memorial Park	Route 15 South of McGinty Road
Village of Dansville	Babcock Park	Morey Ave. and North Clay Street
Village of Dansville	Church Park	Church Street and West Liberty Street
Village of Dansville	Central Park	Church Street and Bank Street
Village of Dansville	Williams Park	Washington Street and Red Jacket Street
Town of Geneseo	Long Point Town Park	Long Point Road and West Lake Road
Village of Geneseo	Geneseo Village Square Park	Main Street and South Street
Village of Geneseo	Highland Park	Highland Road and Oak Street
Town of Leicester	Boyd-Parker Town Park	Route 20A and 39
Village of Leicester	Leicester Village Square Park	Main Street and South Parkway
Village of Leicester	Starr Park	Route 36 North of Main Street
Village of Lima	Mark Tubbs Memorial Park	Zeigler Drive
Town of Livonia	Hemlock Lake Park	Rix Hill road West of Route 15A
Town of Livonia	Vitale Town Park	Route 20A and 15
Village of Livonia	Bowen Memorial Park	Bowen Parkway
Village of Livonia	Livonia Community Park	Route 15 and 20A
Village of Mount Morris	Francis Bellamy Memorial Park	Lackawanna Ave. and Mill Street
Village of Mount Morris	Livingston County Al Lorenz Park	Murray Hill Drive and Grove Street
Village of Nunda	Nunda Kiwanis Park*	Portage Street West of Route 408
Village of Nunda	Village Park	East Street and North Church Street

\* (Owned and Maintained by the Nunda Kiwanis Club)

## **Golf Courses in Livingston County**

### **Why are Golf Courses Important?**

The most obvious benefit of a golf course is that it provides a venue for Livingston County residents to enjoy a game of golf. Physical activity, such as playing a game of golf, is an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Golf courses also encourage the preservation of open space and scenic views.

### **Golf Courses in Livingston County**

The golf courses within Livingston County are all open to the public and most offer tournament packages for group outings. Most of the courses also have facilities on site for banquet or casual dining services as well. There are 12 golf courses in Livingston County:

**Table 6: Golf Courses in Livingston County**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Golf Course</b>	<b>Address</b>
Town of Avon	Farview Golf Course	2419 Avon-Geneseo Rd, Avon, NY 14414
Village of Caledonia	Caledonia Country Club	303 Park Place, Caledonia, NY 14423
Town of Conesus	Conesus Golf Club	1 Pine Alley, Conesus, NY 14435
Village of Dansville	Brae Burn Country Club	Red Jacket, Dansville, NY 14437
Town of Geneseo	Livingston Country Club	Lakeville Rd/Rte 20A, Geneseo, New York 14454
Town of Leicester	Beards Creek Golf Course	2261 Pine Tavern Rd, Leicester, NY 14481
Town of Lima	Island Oaks Golf Course	7470 Chase Rd, Lima, New York 14485
Town of Lima	Lima Country Club	2681 Plank Rd, Lima, New York 14485
Town of Livonia	Old Hickory Golf Course	6655 Big Tree Rd, Livonia, NY 14487
Town of Mount Morris	Keshequa Golf Course	Route 36, Sonyea, NY 14510
Town of Nunda	Triple Creek Golf Course	8793 Route 408, Nunda, NY 14517
Town of Nunda	Woodlynn Golf Course	8780 Route 408, Nunda, NY 14517

## **Boat Launches in Livingston County**

### **Why are Boat Launches Important?**

Boat launches provide access for the general public to Conesus Lake, the Genesee River, and Hemlock Lake. Boat launches make it possible for everyone to enjoy the resources they would otherwise not have access to.

### **Boat Launches in Livingston County**

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, there are six public boat launches in Livingston County. The Hemlock Lake Boat Launch is a hard surface ramp and Conesus Lake Boat Launch in Livonia is a concrete ramp. These sites afford float-off and float-on launching for most trailered boats. The other four boat launches are hand launches, meaning there is no trailer capacity. Boats must be hand carried to the water.

**Table 7: Public Boat Launches in Livingston County**

Water	Town	Location	Type	Parking
Conesus Inlet	Conesus	At south end of Conesus Lake, off West Lake Rd (Rte. 256)	Hand launch	40 cars
Conesus Lake	Livonia	East Lake Road and Decker Road	Concrete ramp	45 cars and trailers plus 25 cars
Conesus Lake	Pebble Beach	On Pebble Beach Road, 1/4 mile south of Route 20A	Hand launch	120 cars
Genesee River	Avon	On Routes 5 & 20 in Village of Avon.	Hand launch	6 cars
Genesee River	York	West River Road at York Landing	Hand Launch	Roadside Parking
Hemlock Lake	Livonia	Northeast corner of Lake off East Lake Road.	Hard surface ramp	Parallel parking on shoulder of East Lake Road.

**Trails in Livingston County****Why are Trails Important?**

Trails in Livingston County provide a location for residents to walk, hike, snowshoe, ski, snowmobile, horseback ride, and otherwise enjoy nature. Some of these trails are located along the Genesee River, increasing access and recreational use of the river. Also, many of these trails are located along abandoned canal towpaths and rail beds. The trails provide a way for residents to view artifacts of local history. These trails not only benefit the human residents of Livingston County, but also maintain habitat linkages and protect natural resources.

**Trails in Livingston County**

Genesee Valley Greenway (GVG) There are numerous hiking and snowmobile trails throughout Livingston County. The two largest trails are the GVG and the Finger Lakes Trail. The GVG spans over 90 miles in total, running through the counties of Monroe, Livingston, Wyoming, Allegany, and Cattaraugus. There are currently 52 miles open to the public, and 38 miles are in development. Thirty-four miles of GVG open trails are located within Livingston County.

Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) The main FLT is 562.9 miles long. There also are five branch trails and fourteen loop trails that extend from the main FLT. These branch and loop trails currently total 236 miles. Within Livingston County, the FLT runs from Mount Morris to Portage via Letchworth State Park, just over 25 miles. The Letchworth branch trail connects to the main FLT, which runs through the Towns of Nunda and Portage. The Letchworth branch is 10 miles in length.

Hemlock Lake Trails There are 8 different trails considered to be part of the Hemlock Lake Trail System. Three are located on the north end of the lake in the Towns of Conesus and Livonia and the other five are located on the south end in the Town of Springwater. The combined length of the Hemlock Lake Trails is over 10 miles.

**Maps and Data**

At the end of this chapter is the Livingston County Recreation Map showing town and village parks, boat launches, golf courses, and trails. Data and maps are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department.

**Resources and References**

Caledonia Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club Website - <http://www.caledoniatrailblazers.com>

Finger Lakes Trail Website - <http://www.fingerlakestrail.org/>

Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway - <http://www.fogvg.org/>

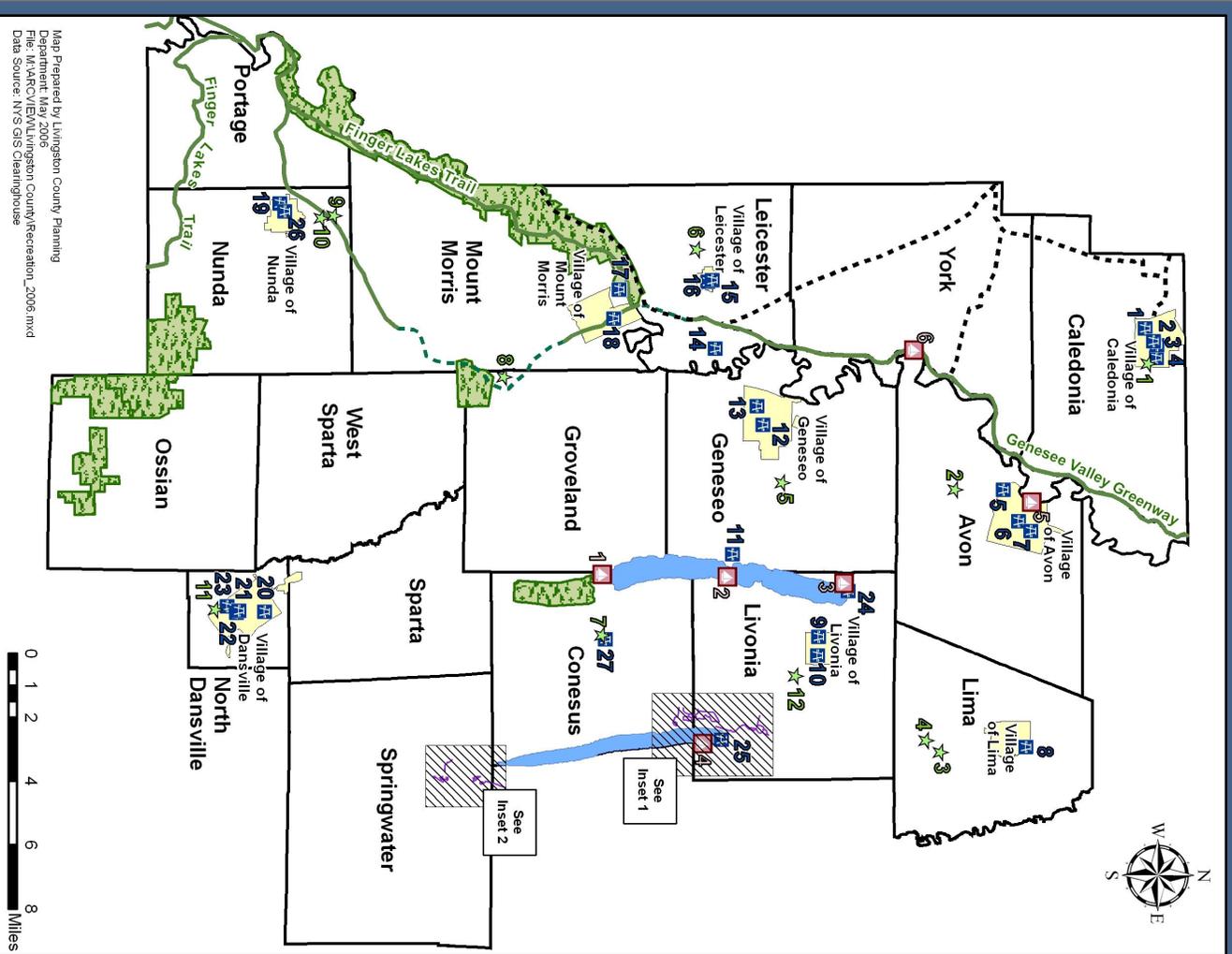
Finger Lakes West (Livingston County) - <http://www.fingerlakeswest.com/maphiking.html>

Livingston County - <http://www.co.livingston.state.ny.us/home.htm>

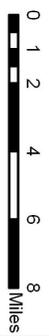
New York Golf Courses - <http://www.golfable.com/golfcourses/counties/NY>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/>

# Livingston County Recreation Map 2006

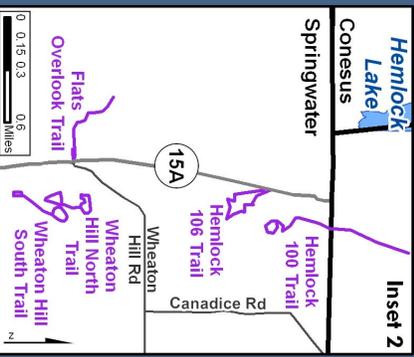
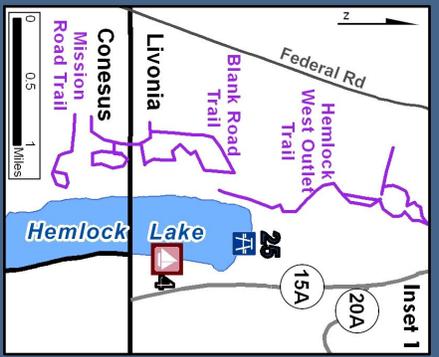


Map Prepared by Livingston County Planning Department, May 2006  
 File: I:\ARCVIEW\Livingston County\Recreation\_2006.mxd  
 Data Source: NYS GIS Clearinghouse



**Legend**

- ☆ Golf Courses
- ⊠ Town/Village Parks
- ▣ Public Boat Launches
- State Highway
- Greenway/Trails
- Trails Under Development
- Hemlock Lake Trail
- Snowmobile Trail
- Lakes
- State Land
- Village Boundaries
- Town Boundaries



- Golf Courses**
- 1) Caledonia Country Club
  - 2) Farview Golf Course
  - 3) Island Oaks Golf Course
  - 4) Lima Country Club
  - 5) Livingston Country Club
  - 6) Beards Creek Golf Course
  - 7) Conesus Golf Club
  - 8) Keshquaga Golf Course
  - 9) Triple Creek Golf Course
  - 10) Woodlynn Golf Course
  - 11) Brae Burn Country Club
  - 12) Old Hickory Golf Course

- Town and Village Parks**
- 1) J.W. Jones Fireman's Park
  - 2) Tennant Park
  - 3) Hamilton Park
  - 4) Washburn Park
  - 5) Avon Driving Park
  - 6) Avon Village Square
  - 7) Case Memorial Park
  - 8) Mark Tudor Memorial Park
  - 9) Livonia Memorial Park
  - 10) Bowen Memorial Park
  - 11) Long Point Town Park
  - 12) Highland Park
  - 13) Genesee Village Square Park
  - 14) Boyd-Parker Town Park
  - 15) Starr Park
  - 16) Leicester Village Square Park
  - 17) Livingston County Al Lorenz Park
  - 18) Francis Bellamy Memorial Park
  - 19) Nunda Kiwanis Park
  - 20) Babcock Park
  - 21) Church Park
  - 22) Central Park
  - 23) Williams Park
  - 24) Vitale Town Park
  - 25) Hemlock Lake Park
  - 26) Village Park
  - 27) Ricky Greene Memorial Park

- Public Boat Launches**
- 1) Conesus Fishing Access Site
  - 2) Conesus Lake Boat Launch
  - 3) Pebble Beach Fishing Access Site
  - 4) Hemlock Lake Boat Launch-North
  - 5) Avon Boat Launch
  - 6) York Boat Launch

**New York State**

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## PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

### What is a Public Hunting Area?

Public hunting areas are state owned forests, parks and wildlife management areas that are open to the public for hunting and trapping during the appropriate season. Hunting and trapping are permitted in Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and state forests except as specifically restricted by posted notice. In some instances, written permission or permits are required to use state areas. These are available from NYSDEC Regional Offices during normal business hours.

### In Public Hunting Areas it is unlawful to:

- Travel off-road using any motorized vehicles (motorcycles, snowmobiles, trail bikes, motor scooters, mopeds, all terrain vehicles, etc.), except as specifically allowed by a permit or posted notice.
- Damage vegetation, including trees, or remove anything from state land.
- Place nails or other hardware into trees.
- Build permanent structures, such as tree stands, platforms, and blinds.
- Erect, use, or maintain a building or structure.
- Store personal property.
- Deposit or leave any litter or rubbish.

### Why are Public Hunting Areas Important?

Public hunting areas provide the community with designated locations where they can hunt and trap.

### Public Hunting Areas in Livingston County.

Conesus Inlet: Game includes waterfowl, deer, pheasants, ruffed grouse, squirrels, and cottontail rabbits. Muskrat, mink, raccoon, and gray and red fox provide most of the trapping opportunities.

Letchworth State Park: The area is inhabited by a variety of game species and is open to public hunting. White-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, gray squirrel, cottontail rabbit, and woodcock are found on the area. An occasional snowshoe hare may be observed adjacent to thick creek-bottom brush or conifer plantation habitats. A number of small marsh units have been developed and provide limited hunting for waterfowl. Some of the area's fur bearing species such as mink, beaver, and raccoon may be occasionally viewed at these marsh units.

Canaseraga, Ossian and Sonyea State Forests and Rattlesnake Hill WMA: All four locations are public lands accessible by hunters. It is not recommended to visit these sites during deer hunting season (late November into early December). Additionally, all four sites are popular wild turkey hunting sites (all of May and early November). All four locations have a fair amount of small game hunting, for example, rabbit, and ruffed grouse.

### Maps and Data

The areas designated as public hunting areas are shown on the map on the following page. Data and maps are available in both paper and digital format from the Livingston County Planning Department.

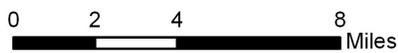
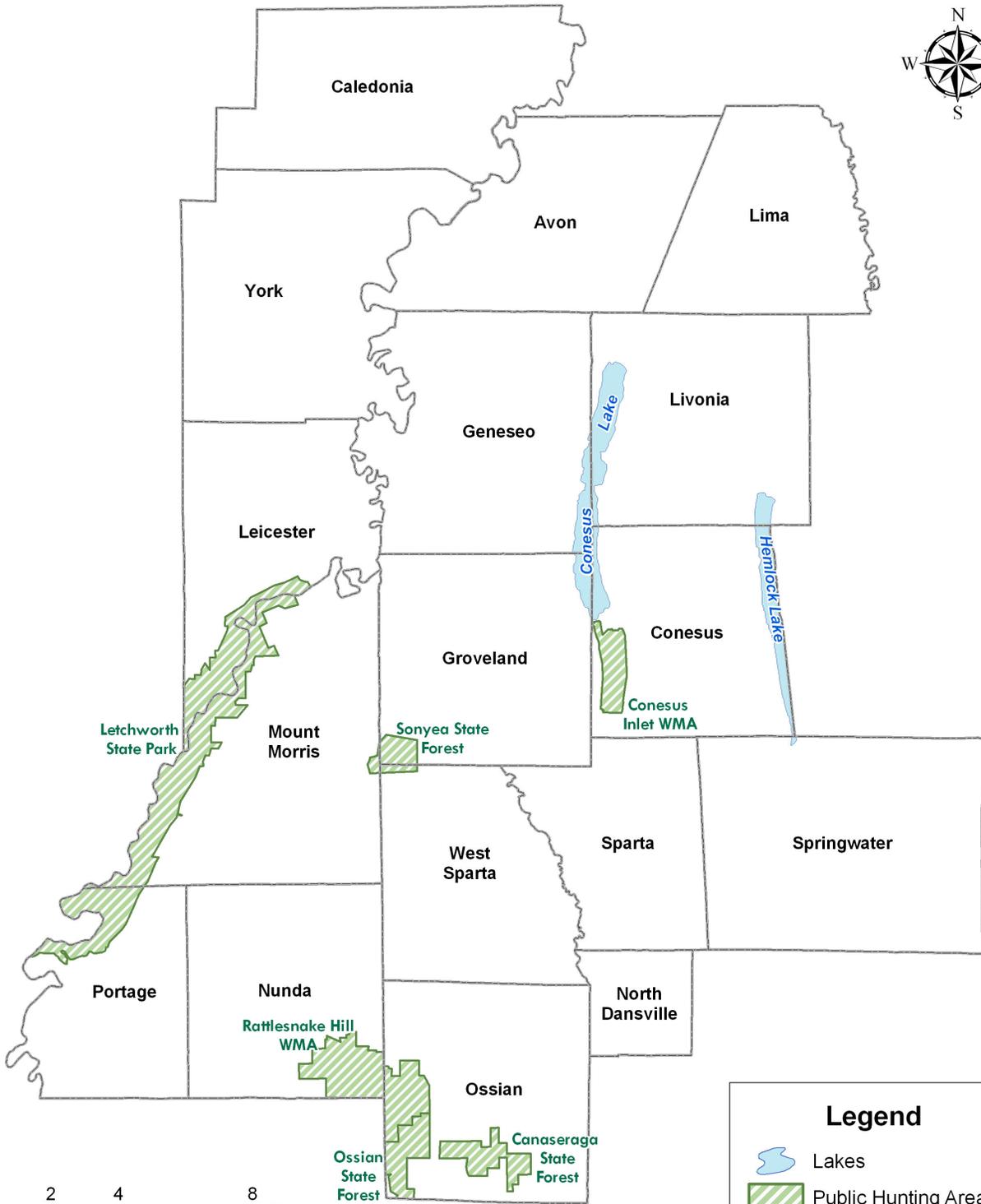
### Resources and References

Birding Western New York- <http://home.eznet.net/~kfox/wny/sites/rtlsnake.htm#canaseraga>

New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation- <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation-  
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwמר/wildlife/worhunt.html>

# Public Hunting Areas in Livingston County



**Legend**

- Lakes
- Public Hunting Areas
- Town Boundaries

Map Prepared by Livingston County Planning Department : May 2006  
 M:\ARCVIEW\MEMC\Public Hunting.mxd  
 Source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

## DIGITAL ORTHOGRAPHIC QUARTER QUADRANGLES (DOQQ)

### **What are Digital Orthographic Quarter Quadrangles?**

Digital Orthography is vertical aerial imagery that has had all distortions caused by ground elevation changes and camera distortions removed through computer processing. The output (an “orthophoto”) is placed in a digital format that can be used with computer applications. A single DOQQ merges numerous digital orthophotos at a scale of 1:12,000. This scale is equal to one quarter of a 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle.

### **Why are Digital Orthographic Quarter Quadrangles Important?**

DOQQs provide an excellent record of what covers the land and how it is used at the time the images are taken. A digital orthophoto combines the rich information content of an aerial photo with the accuracy and spatial registration of a map. Unlike simple aerial photos, orthophotos are geographically referenced and can be displayed with other GIS datasets such as water bodies, roads, and tax parcels.

The geographically referenced data in DOQQs permits accurate measurements and analysis of particular features, such as forests and water bodies. DOQQs are used extensively in site development review and in environmental impact assessments for watershed analysis, timber management, and coastal/wetland management.

### **Digital Orthographic Quarter Quadrangles in Livingston County**

The Planning Department is a repository of two types of DOQQs. The highest resolution orthophotos are natural color with 1-foot resolution. These are available only for the Villages of Geneseo and Dansville. Most of Livingston County is captured in black and white orthophotos with 2-foot resolution.

The NYS Statewide Digital Orthoimagery Program produces digital orthoimages of approximately a quarter of New York State’s surface each year. The Planning Department uses the most recent DOQQs from 2005.

### **Maps and Data**

The Livingston County Planning Department is not permitted to distribute DOQQs that show “sensitive areas.” For paper or digital DOQQ images of non-sensitive Livingston County areas, contact the Planning Department. To download DOQQs from the web visit the New York State GIS Clearinghouse at <http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/>.

For purposes of illustration, a map containing DOQQ data is included with this chapter. A map of the Village of Geneseo employs 1-foot resolution imagery.

### **Resources and References**

New York State GIS Clearinghouse, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233  
<http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/>.

# Geneseo Digital Orthographic Image

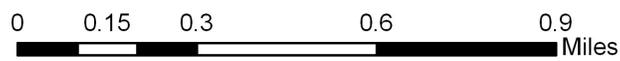


Image Date: April 2005

Source: NYS GIS Clearinghouse  
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Map Prepared by Livingston County Planning Department: May 2006



## LAND USE AND LAND COVER

### What are Land Use and Land Cover?

Land use refers to the built landscape—land that has been altered for a specific purpose, such as residential, commercial, or industrial use. Land cover refers to land that has not been altered or has natural vegetation, such as forest, grass, brush, or some other natural surfaces such as rock or sand.

### Why are Land Use and Land Cover Important?

Current and historical land use/land cover information enables communities to identify land use patterns and aids in decisions concerning proposed land use changes, development suitability, and comprehensive planning. The data provide a static picture and a benchmark useful in future analyses.

### Land Use and Land Cover in Livingston County

The Livingston County Planning Department has two land use/land cover datasets. A combined land use/land cover dataset was provided to the Livingston County Planning Department by the Genesee/Finger Lake Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC). This file was produced from digitizing off of year 2002 1-foot resolution DOQQs and utilizes a standard two-level classification system. It was developed specifically for use in a Sediment Transport Model for the Genesee River Basin but covers the entire county. It is not survey grade data and is applicable for general planning purposes only.

The Livingston County Real Property Tax Service (RPTS) provides a digitally referenced land use file of all Livingston County tax parcels. The RPTS file is the most accurate and up to date record of the County's land use. It is suitable for planning efforts that require information about specific parcels or groups of parcels. It is important to note, however, that RPTS data may not exactly represent land use or land cover on a particular parcel. Discrepancies are caused by limitations imposed by a database, which classifies parcels according to their principal use. For example, land use is classified as residential if there is a single dwelling on a large wooded parcel.

**Table 8: Land Use in Livingston County**

Major Category (RPTS Property Class #)	Land Area (Acres)	%
Agricultural (100-199)	211,764	54.0 %
Residential (200-299)	91,752	23.4 %
Vacant (300-399)	51,104	13.0 %
Commercial (400-499)	3,124	0.8 %
Recreation/Entertainment (500-599)	7,241	1.8 %
Community Services (600-699)	3,620	0.9 %
Industrial (700-799)	2,310	0.6 %
Public Services (800-899)	4,866	1.2 %
Wild, Forested, Conservation/Public Lands (900-999)	15,540	4.0 %
Unclassified	1,004	0.3 %
TOTAL	392,324	100.0 %

Source: Livingston County Real Property Tax Services, 2006

**Maps and Data**

Please contact the Livingston County Real Property Tax Services Office, at the address and phone number listed below, for digital tax map data. For illustration purposes, two maps are included with this chapter. The first employs digital tax parcel data and illustrates the land use in the Village of Caledonia. The second employs land use data and shows areas of deciduous forest cover in Livingston County.

**Resources and References**

Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, 50 West Main Street, Rochester, NY 14614;  
<http://www.gflrpc.org/>

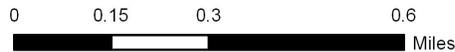
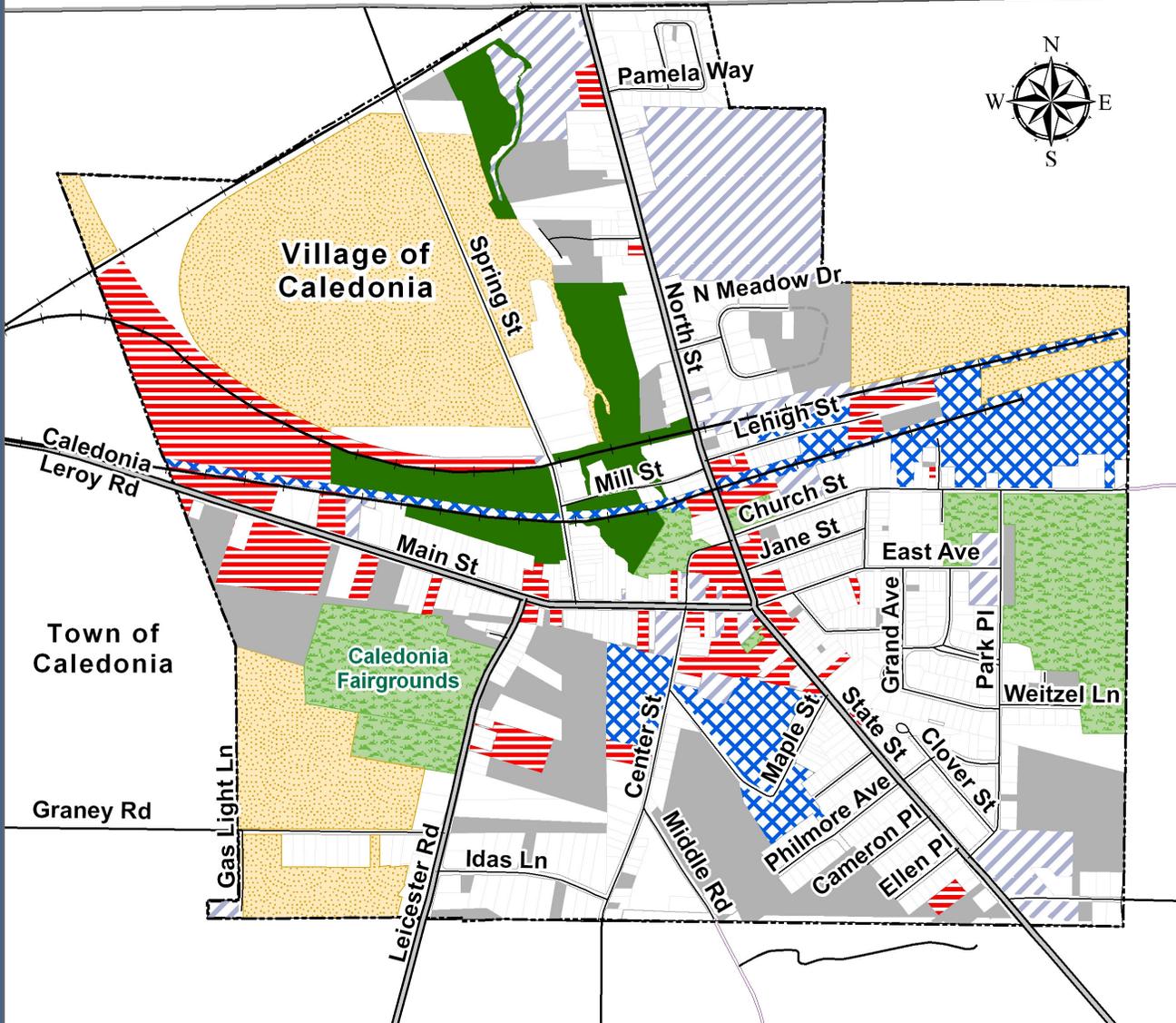
New York State Real Property Tax Services, 2004 - <http://www.orps.state.ny.us/>

Livingston County Real Property Tax Services Department  
Livingston County Government Center  
6 Court Street, Room 207  
Geneseo, NY 14454  
Phone: (585) 243-7192  
Fax: (585) 243-7189

# Village of Caledonia Land Use

MONROE COUNTY

Town of Wheatland



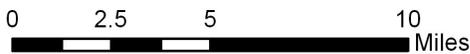
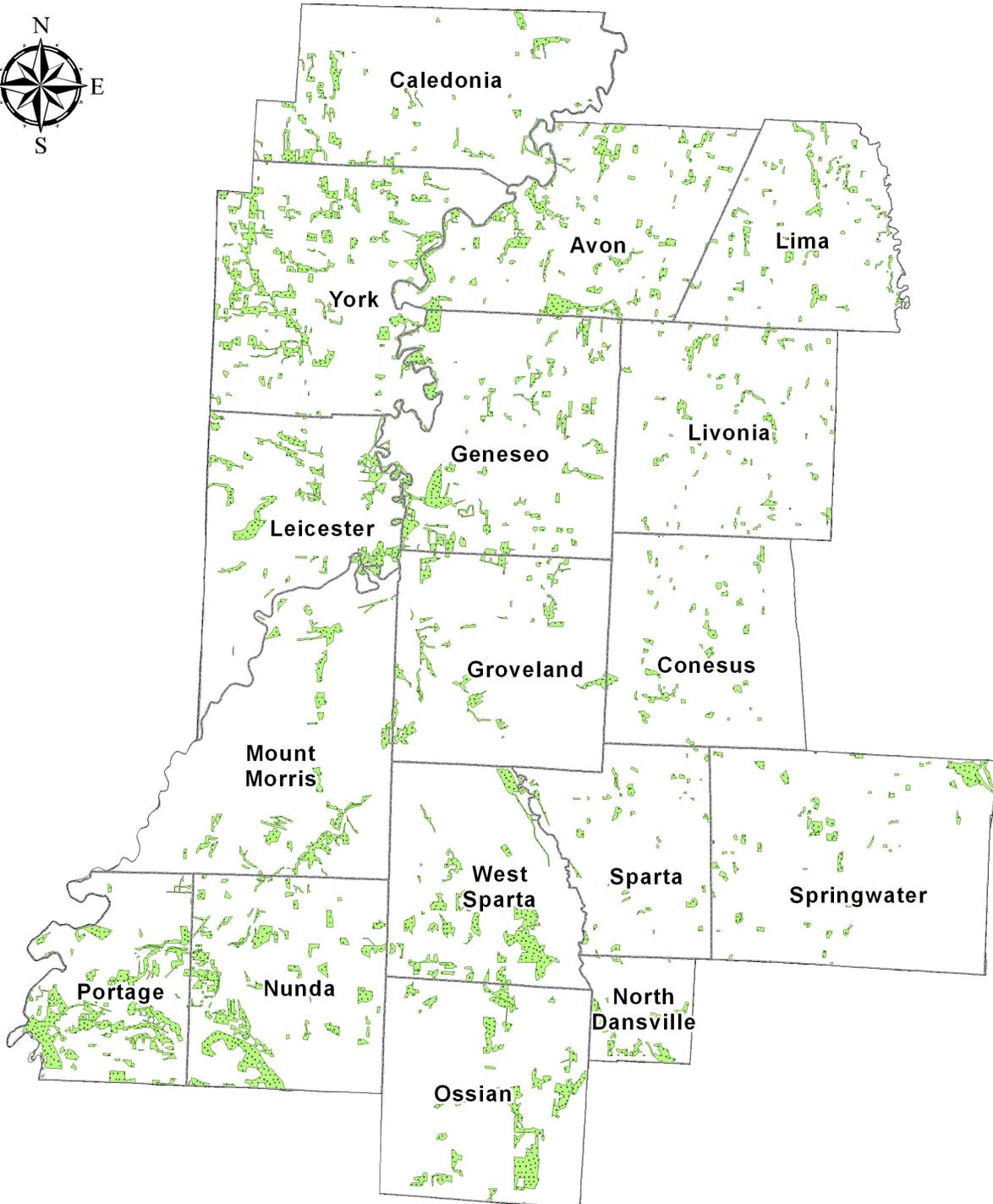
	Village Boundaries		Town Road
	Town Boundaries		Village Road
	Expressway		Seasonal Road
	State Highway		Railroad
	County Highway		

Land Use			
	Agricultural		Recreational
	Residential		Community & Public Services
	Vacant Land		Industrial
	Commercial		Wild, Forested, Conservation Land

Source: Livingston County Real Property Tax Services, 2006  
M:\ARCVIEWEMC\caledonia-village\_landuse.mxd

Map Prepared by Livingston County Planning Department: February 2007

# Deciduous Forest Cover in Livingston County



Data source: Genesee/ Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, 1998  
M:\ARCVIEWEMC\Deciduous forest cover\_countywide.mxd  
Map prepared by Livingston County Planning Department, March 2007

***Data is not survey grade  
and is intended for general  
planning purposes only.***

## Legend

-  Town Boundaries
-  Deciduous Forest Land

## CONCLUSION

The Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory is available to all private landowners, developers, government agencies, and conservation organizations. The data will be available in hard copy form and can also be found on the web at [www.livingstoncounty.us/emc.htm](http://www.livingstoncounty.us/emc.htm).

The Livingston County Planning Department would be pleased to offer a public presentation of the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory to any Town, Village, school, group, or organization. To request a presentation or a hard copy of the NRI, please contact:

Livingston County Planning Department  
Livingston County Government Center  
6 Court Street, Room 305  
Geneseo, NY 14454-1043  
Telephone: (585) 243-7550  
Fax: (585) 243-7566

Due to the dynamic quality of natural resources, the information contained in the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory will be subject to change. The Natural Resources Inventory will be updated periodically. These updates will be made available in hard copy, on the Internet, as well as through public presentation.