

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Conservation Advisory Council**

A G E N D A

January 8, 2025

7:00 P.M.

HYBRID IN-PERSON (TOWN BOARD ROOM) & VIRTUAL (GOOGLE MEETS)

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. November 6, 2024
2. December 4, 2024

IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM REFERRALS

1. EAF 2025-01 Niskayuna Harbor PUD application

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Planning Project Reports
 - 2339 Troy Schenectady Road (EAF 2024-04)
 - 1356 Balltown Road preliminary subdivision approved

VII. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE

Awarded Contracts

1. GHG Emissions Inventories and Government Climate Action Plan
2. Natural Resource Inventory

Ongoing Initiatives

3. Land Preservation Tools
4. Pesticide Outreach
5. Low Mow / Biodiversity Initiatives
6. Quiet Niskayuna
7. Composting Initiative
8. Wildlife Corridors
9. Sustainability Checklist

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**Next Meeting: February 5, 2025
7pm, Town Board Room, Hybrid Format**

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
 Meeting Minutes
 November 6, 2024
 Hybrid Meeting

Members Present: Chairman Strayer
 Ellen Daviero
 Ashok Ramasubramanian (virtual)
 Georgia Bonton (virtual)
 Also Present: Laura Robertson, Planner
 Clark Henry, Asst. Planner (virtual)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Strayer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Chelsea Rattner, Jue Wang, Vicki Michela, Simran Uttukar, Richard Fontero, and Chuck Piotrowski were absent/excused

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 4, 2024

Ms. Daviero noted an unclear sentence on line 98. Ms. Robertson suggested a clearer way of communicating the sentence. Ms. Daviero noted a small error on line 145, and the lack of a period on line 178. Ms. Daviero made a recommendation to approve the minutes with the suggested changes. Mr. Ramasubramanian seconded the recommendation. All were in favor. The motion carries.

(Editor’s note: the Board was unable to approve the minutes at the beginning of the meeting due to the lack of a quorum, so the minutes were approved after item V and before item VI.)

V. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.

There was no one who wished to speak during privilege of the floor.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM REFERRALS

1. EAF 2021-07 1356 Balltown Rd – Updated Plan

Due to the initial lack of a quorum, Ms. Robertson noted that the extent to which the Board could discuss the plan was to make notes and propose changes to the former memo.

Chairman Strayer said that the Board had seen the project a while back, and summarized the important elements and updates of the plan in the past few months. Chairman Strayer said that the Town had requested that the CAC look at the project again, but that they could not take any action on it until they had a quorum.

The Board discussed their suggestions, recommendations, questions, and concerns regarding the plan using a projected image of the proposed project.

Mr. Murray-Bonton joined the meeting remotely. Ms. Robertson suggested creating a new memo for the

50 project, since the Board now had enough members to vote on it. Chairman Stayer agreed.

51
52 The Board went through the previous memo and discussed changes, comments, and questions regarding the
53 document. They discussed:

- 54 • The average density of the development in regard to the zoning code.
- 55 • The amount of open space allocated by the plan, and how much space would be left for recreational
56 space, and what space would be left for the town.
- 57 • The importance of preservation of habitats and natural spaces in any developments in the area.

58
59 The Board agreed that lowering the acceptable number of single-family homes to 14 had a positive impact
60 to the previously discussed issues in the memo.

61
62 Ms. Robertson expressed the importance of noting that the open space shown in the project was for
63 residential use and not future development.

64
65 The Board discussed the variances that were granted to the project and the importance of dark-skies lighting
66 at the development. Ms. Robertson brought up potentially suggesting amendments to the current zoning
67 code regarding lighting in the future. Chairman Strayer agreed.

68
69 Chairman Stayer made a motion to adopt the modified memo with the proposed changes and submit it to
70 the Planning Board for their consideration. Ms. Daviero seconded the motion. All were in favor. The
71 motion carried.

72

73 **VI. Discussion Items**

74 1. Planning projects

- 75 • 929 Pearse road – 2 lot subdivision

76 Chairman Strayer asked Ms. Robertson if there were any updates on the project. Ms. Robertson said that
77 both projects had been assigned a EAF number, but otherwise there was no new information provided. Ms.
78 Robertson said that 929 Pearse road was looking to add additional land to the subdivision, which was
79 unsuccessful.

80

- 81 • 1045 Palmer Ave - 2 lot Subdivision

82 Ms. Robertson noted that 1045 Palmer Ave was moving forward, but that it would be a long process with
83 many steps. She also said that she had received word that an engineering firm was hired.

84

85 **VII. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE**

86

87 **Awarded Contracts**

88 1. GHG Emissions Inventories and Government Climate Action Plan

89 Ms. Robertson said that she had had a conversation with the consultant, Jim Yienger. Mr. Yienger and Ms.
90 Robertson were planning on having the inventory plan complete for the next submittal to the climate smart
91 communities certification. Ms. Robertson added that the first submittal was rejected, likely do to the fact
92 that the task force was in flux. Now that the task force has been rolled into the CAC, Ms. Robertson
93 suspects that the submittal will no longer have such issues.

94

95 Ms. Robertson then presented the updates from Mr. Yienger: The government operations GHG inventory
96 was complete, the Town Board approved it, and it was submitted to the climate smart community
97 certification process and approved. The Board still has the opportunity to make changes if need be when
98 completing the climate action plan. For the community greenhouse gas inventory. Ms. Robertson also
99 mentioned that her and Mr. Yienger were trying to get the most accurate data possible regarding the
100 emissions coming out of Niskayuna specifically.

101
102 Ms. Robertson said the goal is to present the plan by the January 8th CAC meeting, but it will likely not be
103 ready in December.

104
105 Ms. Robertson said that in quarter 1 of 2025, the public kick-off of the government action plan is scheduled.
106 She added that Mr. Yienger still needs to go over the community greenhouse gas emissions, propose
107 suggestions for how to reduce them, and to highlight areas where they have already been successful. Ms.
108 Robertson said she would like to have a public hearing about these findings by mid-2025.

109
110 Mr. Ramasubramanian asked Ms. Robertson clarifying questions about the content of this plan.

111
112 2. Natural Resource Inventory

113 Mr. Ramasubramanian said that the final walkthrough was completed on October 19th. He added that there
114 were a few parcels through which the public should not walk that were completed by the consultant alone.

115
116 Mr. Ramasubramanian said that he was waiting for the report from Mr. Yienger on the completed parcels.
117 He also said that he was working on incorporating the NRI results into the Comprehensive Plan chapter.

118
119 Mr. Ramasubramanian and Ms. Robertson discussed the timeline for the results, and Mr. Ramasubramanian
120 confirmed that it would be consistent with the current timeline to have it completed by December 31.

121
122 Chairman Strayer asked Ms. Robertson if she had heard back from GE regarding a meeting that they had
123 had to discuss environmental initiatives. Ms. Robertson said that she had not, but that her and Mr. Henry
124 were going to meet with GE to discuss their carbon building next week and she would follow up.

125
126 Ms. Bonton asked Ms. Robertson about bringing up proposed planting by GE at the meeting next week too.
127 Ms. Robertson said that she would discuss it.

128
129 Mr. Ramasubramanian said that he does not know the reason, but the GE site has not used any pesticides in
130 the last two years. He has suggested that GE join the pesticide-free pledge especially if they are already
131 doing it.

132
133 The Board suggested setting up another meeting with GE to discuss CAC concerns in addition to the
134 meeting to discuss the building.

135
136 **Ongoing Initiatives**

137 3. Land Preservation Tools
138 4. Pesticide Outreach

139 Ms. Daviero said that she has continued to speak with people at the farmers market about pesticides.

140 5. Low Mow / Biodiversity Initiatives

141 Ms. Daviero said she spoke with Nick from Schenectady soil and water, and he said that he was going to
142 put more compost on the Blatnick Park hill, and that he would let her know when he finishes. Since the
143 seeds have arrived, Ms. Daviero said that she intends to go the next morning to see if the compost had been
144 laid.

145 6. Quiet Niskayuna

146 Ms. Robertson said that the Town had been initially rejected by NYSERDA for the request for electric
147 landscaping equipment. She did resubmit and got approved the second time. She said the equipment should
148 arrive in the next week or two.

149 7. Composting Initiative

150 Ms. Daviero said that the composting center by the Senior Center is up and running. Ms. Robertson and Ms.
151 Daviero discussed adding a composter by River's ledge, and a potential collaboration with 360 Food Scraps
152 to reduce food waste of several Niskayuna organizations.

153

154 8. Wildlife Corridors

155 Ms. Bonton discussed the black bear the coyote, and the racoon that were all seen recently in the Niskayuna
156 neighborhoods. In the case of the black bear, the Niskayuna Police were called, who ended up killing the
157 bear. Ms. Bonton suggested advertising resources that people can contact in the case of an animal concern,
158 who know how to handle a situation like that without injuring or killing the animal.

159

160 The Board stressed the importance of wildlife corridors. Especially given the increasing effects of habitat
161 destruction and climate change on the habitats of local wildlife.

162 9. Sustainability Checklist

163 Chairman Strayer asked if the night sky concern had been added to the sustainability checklist. Ms.
164 Robertson noted that it had not been, and added it.

165

166 Ms. Daviero asked for a status update on the sustainability checklist. Ms. Robertson said that all of the
167 needed information was there, and the only thing left that is needed is a cover sheet and checklist. Ms.
168 Daviero said that she would reach out to Ms. Bergami to complete the checklist.

169

170 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

171 Chairman Strayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Daviero seconded. All were in favor. The
172 meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:18 PM.

173

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present: Chairman Strayer
Ellen Daviero
Chelsea Rattner (Virtual)
Richard Fontero
Vicki Michela
Jue Wang
Chuck Piotrowski
Ashok Ramasubramanian
Simran Uttukar
Georgia Bonton (virtual)

Also Present: Laura Robertson, Planner
Clark Henry, Asst. Planner (virtual)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Strayer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

All members were present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.

Brain Sipperly spoke under section V, regarding the site plan application at EAF 2024-04 2339 Troy Schenectady Road. There was no one else who wished to speak during privilege of the floor.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM REFERRALS

1. EAF 2024-04 2339 Troy Schenectady Road – site plan application
Using a projected image of the site plan, Chairman Stayer discussed the existing site plan, and the proposed expansion, which included an additional two bays, and an increase in retail space for the convenience store.

Brian Sipperly, of Verity Engineering addressed the board regarding the site plan application. Also present was Hari Kingra, the owner and applicant for the property- Hari’s Mobile Service Center.

Mr. Sipperly discussed further details regarding the history and site plan application of the building. Mr. Sipperly also detailed the reasons why the applicant is perusing these particular adjustments to the building. He noted the current lack of zoned parking spaces, and the number of parking spaces that would be added in the proposed plan.

Mr. Sipperly iterated that the plan lacked complexity, and would require no new utility connections and would not impact traffic. He noted that the only challenges would be making sure that all of the zoning was correct, and getting approval from all the proper boards.

54 Ms. Wang asked about the current percentage of green space, and if it would decrease from what it is
55 currently at 48.7%. Mr. Sipperly said that the current green space will decrease. Although the addition will be
56 constructed on what is currently pavement, new pavement will be laid for parking. Mr. Sipperly said that the
57 percentage would remain in the 40's in the proposal.

58
59 Chairman Strayer asked about the exact areas of current green space that would be paved. Mr. Sipperly and
60 Chairman Strayer discussed the current and proposed layout using several projected images of the site. Mr.
61 Sipperly confirmed to Chairman Strayer that the number of trees removed would be few.

62
63 Chairman Strayer and Mr. Sipperly discussed the current and proposed use of the parcels adjacent to the site.
64 Mr. Ramasubramanian asked Mr. Sipperly about the history and clientele of the business. Mr. Sipperly
65 invited Mr. Kingra to the stand to answer more specific questions regarding the operation of his business.

66
67 Mr. Ramasubramanian expressed his approval of no large trees being disturbed in the plans, to which Mr.
68 Sipperly confirmed that only three small trees would be removed.

69
70 Chairman Strayer noted a concern from the Board in which after several years, or after Mr. Kingra's
71 retirement, there would be another proposed addition to the property. Mr. Sipperly and Mr. Kingra confirmed
72 to the Board that there was an understanding that this would be the final addition to the property, and that
73 they would be willing to get a deed restriction if the Board thought it necessary. Mr. Kingra noted that since
74 his residence is adjacent to the property; he would not want the site to expand any further.

75
76 Ms. Daviero asked if since the site is zoned residentially, if it could be converted into a residence. Mr.
77 Sipperly said that it would be technically possible to be converted into a residence, but it would be more
78 difficult and expensive than normal, as the utilities used by the gas station would have to be dismantled and
79 removed first. It would not be economically feasible.

80
81 Ms. Daviero clarified that she was talking about the undeveloped lot 2 next to the station, which Mr. Sipperly
82 confirmed could be developed residentially. Ms. Daviero asked if the site would be dark sky complaint. Mr.
83 Kingra said that the goal is to light the parking lot with dim lights that face away from the road towards the
84 building. Mr. Sipperly and Mr. Kingra said that they would work with the Planning Board to make sure that
85 the site will be fully complaint with the zoning code regarding the lighting of the site.

86
87 Ms. Daviero said that even if the site is compliant with the planning board, it is still important to keep night
88 lighting from being too bright. Mr. Sipperly and Mr. Kingra noted the concerns of Ms. Daviero, assuring her
89 that they would be sure to keep the brightness of the site in mind.

90
91 Chairman Strayer discussed with Mr. Sipperly and Mr. Kingra the appearance of the façade of the building
92 and the material with which the addition will be built.

93
94 Ms. Wang raised the concern that the site had no closed drainage system, and asked if stormwater drainage
95 would be addressed in a future development. Mr. Sipperly responded that the site would remain under the
96 acre threshold, as having to implement stormwater management would radically change the proposed site
97 plan. Mr. Sipperly said that he would be open to suggestions for improvement for storm water drainage at the
98 planning stage. Under the proposed plan, there will be slightly more water going into the drainage system due
99 to the increase in impervious surfaces. The Board discussed with Mr. Sipperly the Town Code regarding
100 water drainage.

101
102 Mr. Ramasubramanian asked if there had been any comments from neighbors. Mr. Sipperly said that there
103 have been a number of comments, asking that there be no change.

104
105 Ms. Robertson suggested adding landscaping buffers to the current plan in order to demonstrate consideration
106 for the neighbors. Mr. Sipperly said that he would take that into consideration, and that Mr. Kingra is very
107 aware of the input of neighbors, as he lives in the area.

108
109 Ms. Michela gave suggestions as to what environmentally friendly products could be sold in the convenience
110 store to help offset greenhouse gas impacts. She encouraged Mr. Kingra to think about this.

111
112 Chairman Strayer thanked Mr. Sipperly and Mr. Kingra for their time, and discussed with them the
113 expectations for the next meeting.

114 115 **VI. Discussion Items**

116 1. Planning projects

- 117 • 1356 Balltown road- updates

118 The recommendation made to the planning board was adopted, incorporating the conditions from the memo.

119
120 • Momentive addition- January 2025
121 Mr. Ramasubramanian asked if anything was known about the impact on forests by the Momentive
122 construction. Ms. Robertson said that she believed that no new impervious surfaces would be added, thus not
123 impacting the local greenspace. She said that there will be more information once the site plan is submitted.

124
125 Members of the Board also requested the community responses to the site plan at 2339 Troy Schenectady Rd.
126 Ms. Robertson said she would share them with the Board. The Board discussed the large number and nature
127 of the public comments regarding the site plan.

128 129 **VII. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE**

130 **Awarded Contracts**

131 1. GHG Emissions Inventories and Government Climate Action Plan

132 Ms. Robertson said that she had spoken with Mr. Yienger before Thanksgiving, but that due to vacation
133 schedules, she figured that they will not be able to speak to each other again before Christmas.

134
135 Mr. Ramasubramanian asked if Ms. Robertson could ask Mr. Yienger about the emissions that could be
136 saved via low-mow initiatives.

137 138 2. Natural Resource Inventory

139 Mr. Ramasubramanian said that Mr. Yienger had sent him an email the day before containing the finished
140 reports, and that he would send them to the members of the board the next day.

141 142 **Ongoing Initiatives**

143 3. Land Preservation Tools

144 Chairman Strayer said that he needed to get the list cleaned up, and that he would get it done and submitted
145 in time for the comprehensive plan deadline in January.

146 147 4. Pesticide Outreach

148 Ms. Daviero said that there was no news given that it is winter.

149 150 5. Low Mow / Biodiversity Initiatives

151 Ms. Daviero said that she had seen that a lot of compost had been laid, but that she wished there had been
152 more and different types of seeds. Ms. Robertson said she would order more for the Spring.

153 Ms. Daviero discussed with the board the compost that had been laid, alongside projected images.

154 155 6. Quiet Niskayuna

156 Ms. Michela said that she would like to link the website to the CAC website. Ms. Michela asked when the
157 battery-powered landscaping equipment would be implemented. Ms. Robertson said that 75% had been
158 delivered.

159 160 7. Composting Initiative

161 Nothing to report.

162 8. Wildlife Corridors

163 Ms. Robertson said there was nothing new to report, and that she just needed to meet with Ms. Bonton.

164

165 9. Sustainability Checklist

166 Ms. Robertson said that it should be double-checked, but that she thought it was basically done. She said that

167 She would send it to Hari's Automotive.

168

169 Chairman Strayer brought up that he had met with a representative of ECOS, who was looking for additional

170 Places in the Town to construct additional pollinator gardens.

171

172 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

173 The Board went over the 2025 calendar that Ms. Robertson distributed. Chairman Strayer made a motion to

174 adopt the calendar. Ms. Daviero seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.

175

176 Chairman Strayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at

177 approximately 8:23 PM.



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

AGENDA STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM NO. V.1

MEETING DATE: 1/8/2025

ITEM TITLE: DISCUSSION: EAF 2025-01 Niskayuna Harbor PUD application

PROJECT LEAD: TBD

APPLICANT: Niskayuna Harbor, LLC

SUBMITTED BY: Laura Robertson

REVIEWED BY:

- Planning Board & Zoning Commission Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Town Board
 OTHER

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution Site Plan Map Report Other:
-

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Niskayuna Harbor LLC is proposing to develop 41.26 acres next to the Rivers Ledge Apartments on Aqueduct Road into 200 condominium units. They are proposing 18.85 acres of open space, much of it wetlands.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This project is before the CAC for informational purposes only. It is currently being referred by Planning Board to the Town Board on whether or not to allow the application to be submitted.

Project Narrative

LOCATION

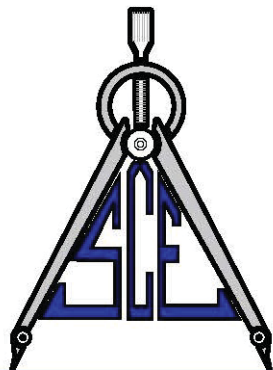
Niskayuna Harbor
Town of Niskayuna
Schenectady County
State of New York

PREPARED FOR

Niskayuna Harbor LLC
2777 Rosendale Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309

Date Prepared

December 3, 2024



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PROJECT NARRATIVE

A. Project Location

The Site is located along the north side of Aqueduct Road in the Town of Niskayuna. It is bisected by the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail and the former Erie Canal bed. Two tax map parcels are currently under the control of the applicant. The tax map parcels are known as 33-1-22.21 and 31-1-12. The properties are currently owned by Niskayuna Harbor, LLC and Richard DiSarro. The applicant for this proposal is Niskayuna Harbor LLC, 2777 Rosendale Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309. The parcels sum to 41.62 Acres +/- in size.

B. Parcel Description

The site can be generally characterized as vacant land surrounded by commercial, industrial and residential uses. Zoning adjacent to the subject parcels include the Rivers Ledge PUD, I-G General Industrial, OT/LI Office Technology and Light and LC Land Conservation. The Site is comprised of both forested upland and wetland ecotypes. There are 7.07+/- Acres of delineated federal jurisdictional wetlands on the subject parcel. The parcel slopes from Aqueduct Road to the Mohawk River which comprises the northerly property line. The Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail bisects the front portion of the parcel nearest Aqueduct Road, while the former Erie Canal bed bisects the parcel near the Mohawk River. A high pressure gas main also runs along the bike/hike trail before turning north through the parcel near the easterly property boundary.

C. Zoning and Proposed Development

The current zoning of the subject site is the PUD Zone. Discussions with the Town of Niskayuna indicate that since the PUD Old Niskayuna Harbor was not finalized, it has since expired. An expired PUD would revert to the underlying zoning of the parcel, in this case, the underlying zone was changed from I-G to R-2 as part of the development of the original PUD, therefore, the underlying zoning would be considered R-2 and not PUD as noted on the Town's official Zoning Map. Therefore, the PUD will need to be re-established. Since there are no bulk area requirements associated with a PUD, the zoning becomes site specific and based upon the site plan.

The proposed PUD development will be a mixture of various owner occupied residential units. Unlike a PDD a PUD does not require a mix of unit types, i.e. commercial etc. Pursuant to Section 220-35 of the Town of Niskayuna Town Code the following are requirements for the establishment of a PUD:

- Minimum of 50 contiguous acres; however, the Town Board may reduce this if the applicant demonstrates the character of the development meets the intent of the code.

The total area of the parcel is 41.62 Acres. However, president has been set to accept smaller lots including the Rivers Ledge PUD which is less than 30 Acres in size. Additionally, this parcel was formerly zoned as a PUD and is still represented as such on the official Town Zoning Map. Furthermore, utilizing a PUD on this parcel will allow the developer to provide ownership based residential units that will fill a void in the Town of Niskayuna housing stock. These units will be targeted towards young professionals or retiring seniors that wish to retain ownership without the maintenance responsibilities. The only other avenue to pursue these housing types in the Town of Niskayuna would be to develop the parcel under the R-3 Zoning Regulations. However, given the complexity of the property boundaries on the parcel, wetlands and river front, the required setbacks would preclude the proposed density and open space design without significant variances and potential environmental impacts. Therefore, we recommend continuing the type of development criteria associated with the neighboring PUD. The transition from transient housing to owner occupied housing will provide a good buffer to the neighboring residences along Aqueduct Road.

- Project may be owned, leased or controlled by a single person or corporation or by a group of individuals

The proposed development will be owned by Niskayuna Harbor LLC. All the roads and utilities will be maintained by the owner of the development thus providing no burden on the Town of Niskayuna. An HOA will be established for the ownership maintenance responsibilities in accordance with the criteria of the NYS Attorney General.

- A PUD shall be considered only in an R-R, R-1 and R-2 district

As stated above the underlying zoning is currently R-2.

- Permitted uses shall be determined by the following provisions:
 - Residences may be a variety of types

It is proposed to develop the parcel as all ownership based residential condominiums. The condominiums will be provided in a variety of different housing styles including 4 unit, 6 unit and 10 unit buildings

- Non residential uses may be permitted where such uses are scaled primarily to serv the residents of the PUD.

No non residential uses are proposed as part of this development.

- Land use intensity may be increased by 30% of the base zoning code

It is proposed to develop 200 residential units on the parcel. If developed under the R-2 Zone with 9,000 s.f. building lots on Town Roads approximately 160 residential unites could be constructed with a total of 208 after the 30% increase.

- Common Property

- Common property shall be available for the use and enjoyment of the owners and occupants of the buildings.

All non-building areas will be considered common areas and will be available for the use and enjoyment of the residents.

- Common property shall comprise a minimum of 30% of the PUD area. The common property can be public or private.

Forty six percent (46%) of the total area will be comprised of open space.

The residential structures will consist of varying types of units. All units will be owner occupied condominiums and no rental units are proposed. The condominium units will be constructed in four building types.

The first building type will be in 6 unit buildings located along Aqueduct Road. These structures will be designed into the sloping terrain with 2 stories along the front elevation and three stories on the rear. Garages will be constructed for each unit along both the front and rear elevation. Similar units can be found along Nott Street East in the Town of Niskayuna. There will be four of these building types totaling 24 residential units.

The second building type will be 4 unit condominium structures. The structures will have two units up and two units at ground level providing 3 window walls for each unit and one common wall. Each unit will have one or two garage spaces depending on the building design. It is proposed to construct 24 of these structures totaling 96 residential units.

The third building type will be 10 unit “big house” condominium buildings. These buildings will be two story structures will 10 units per building. The buildings will have attached garage structures for each unit. Similar building types can be found at Vly Point along Troy Schenectady Road. It is proposed to construct 9 of these building types totaling 90 units.

In total it is proposed to construct 200 owner occupied condominium units within the PUD.

An 11.20+/- Acre parcel along the river front will be deeded to the Town of Niskayuna for public parkland. Only 1.9 Acres of the 11.2 Acres of the proposed parkland have been designated as protected wetland areas. It is proposed to perform selective clearing and removal of the understory to enhance the property for the development and extension of Aqueduct Park. The potential for nature trails, boating and fishing access exists on the parcel.

It is proposed to construct approximately 4,286 l.f. of new private road through the subject parcel. Due to grades and the desire to minimize the rail trail crossings only one road will connect directly to Aqueduct Road. Based on discussions with The Office of Parks and Recreation, this crossing will require an easement similar to the easements provided for Rivers Ledge. A secondary means of ingress/egress will be provided between the parcel and Rivers Ledge to the east.

The existing soils on the parcel could be generally characterized as poorly drained silt loams. According to the SCS Soil Survey the average depth to groundwater ranges between 6" and 18" on the parcel. It also states that there is approximately 18" of overburden before encountering a restrictive fragipan layer. Based upon the soils investigations and the construction sanitary sewers, it is anticipated that all the buildings will be constructed as slab on grade.

There are approximately 7.07+/- Acres of Federal Jurisdictional Wetlands on the parcel. It is proposed to impact only 0.029 Acres of wetlands through a joint application permit with the USACOE and NYSDEC. Only 0.013 Acres are actual wetland impacts, the remaining impacts are necessary to comply with the Town of Niskayuna Town Code Chapter 180 Section 180-9 (O) which requires a 25' vegetated buffer to all non-impacted USACOE wetlands.

Potable water will be provided to the proposed residences by connecting to the existing Town of Niskayuna water main on Aqueduct Road and looping it through the parcel back out to Aqueduct Road.

Sanitary effluent generated by the proposed residences will ultimately be routed to the City of Schenectady Sewer Treatment Plant. A low pressure sanitary sewer main has been constructed along Aqueduct Road. The main was sized to accept the effluent from the proposed PUD and the owner worked with the Developers of Rivers Ledge to facilitate the construction of the low pressure sewer. The City of Schenectady has issued a letter stating that they will accept the flows from the proposed development. A copy of the letter can be found in Appendix C.

Stormwater produced on the area of proposed development including the rooftops and roadways will be treated and reduced in accordance with New York State Stormwater Design Manual (NYSSDM). Storm sewers will be constructed in each of the proposed roads. Based upon the soil types and groundwater depth, it is proposed to construct stormwater wetland basins and bio-retention basins throughout the site to manage the storm water in accordance with the NYSSDM.

D. Potential Impacts

Noise – Noise impacts produced by a residential development are typically minimal. Any noise generated upon completion of the development will be typical to ambient levels of the adjacent residential areas.

Visual – The proposed use will not have an adverse effect on the overall visual aesthetics of the area due to the mixed use character of the area. It is proposed to protect the river front aesthetics through the conveyance of the river front property for parkland.

Drainage – Stormwater produced on the area of proposed development including the rooftops and roadways will be treated and reduced in accordance with New York State Stormwater Design Manual (NYSSDM). Storm sewers will be constructed in each of the proposed roads. Based upon the soil types and groundwater depth, it is proposed to construct stormwater wetland basins and bio-retention basins throughout the site to manage the storm water in accordance with the NYSSDM.

Traffic – A traffic analysis will be performed; however significant improvements have been completed for the Rexford Bridge and Aqueduct Road/Balltown Road intersection. Any additional improvements necessary as a result of this development will be the responsibility of the developer.

Sewer – As stated above sanitary effluent generated by the proposed residences will ultimately be routed to the City of Schenectady Sewer Treatment Plant. A low pressure force main utilizing E-One grinder pumps will convey the effluent to the existing low pressure main in Aqueduct Road. The City of Schenectady Treatment plant has adequate capacity to handle the effluent for the proposed project and the owner has been assured that they will be permitted to connect; therefore, there will be no impacts.

Water – Potable water will be provided to the proposed residences by connecting to the existing Town of Niskayuna water main in Aqueduct Road and looping it through the parcel back out to Aqueduct Road. The Town of Niskayuna has adequate pressure and supply in this area to service the proposed residences and businesses without any negative impact.

Solid Waste – Solid waste generated on the site will be collected by a commercial hauler and disposed of at a permitted solid waste disposal site.

Schools – The proposed type of residential development (condominiums) typically has a low population of school aged children. In addition, the Niskayuna School District has experienced a decreasing enrollment of new students in recent years. Therefore, there is adequate capacity to in the school system for the anticipated minimal additional students. Any additional impacts will be more than offset by the increased tax base of the commercial and residential development.

SHPO – A Phase IA/IB Archeological Study will need to be completed. Any impacts identified will need to be mitigated in accordance with SHPO requirements.

Threatened and Endangered Species – A threatened and endangered species report will need to be prepared. Any impacts identified will need to be mitigated.

Wetlands – There are approximately 7.07+/- Acres of Federal Jurisdictional Wetlands on the parcel. It is proposed to impact only 0.029Acres of wetlands through a joint application permit with the USACOE and NYSDEC. Additionally, a twenty five foot buffer will be maintained around all remaining jurisdictional wetlands in accordance with the Town of Niskayuna Town Code.

E. Compliance with the Master Plan

- A maximum choice of housing environment and type, occupancy tenure (e.g. cooperatives, individual ownership, condominium and leasing), lot sizes and common facilities.

The proposed development will incorporate a mixture owner occupied housing types. The condo units will range in style from 10 unit buildings to 4 unit buildings to duplex units offering a variety of products. It is anticipated that the condominium units will be marketed between \$325,000 and \$750,000

- More useable open space and recreation areas, and if permitted as part of the project more convenience in location of accessory commercial and service uses.

It is proposed to convey 11.2 Acres of riverfront property to the Town of Niskayuna for development as a river front park. The majority of the parcel for conveyance is upland.

- A development pattern which preserves outstanding natural topography and geologic features, scenic vistas and trees and prevents the disruption of natural drainage patterns.

The site is being designed to preserve the riverfront areas for recreation uses and to preserve the scenic vistas along the river. The steeper slopes along Aqueduct Road are being utilized to provide rear access for the proposed residential units. The existing drainage patterns and wetlands will be preserved to the maximum extent practical. Clearing will be limited to that necessary for the construction of the roads, structures and required infrastructure. As stated above, additional selective clearing and understory removal will be completed on the land to be conveyed to the Town of Niskayuna for inclusion within Aqueduct Park. This will be done to improve access and ease of future development of the parklands.

- An efficient use of land resulting in smaller networks of utilities and streets.

The site has been designed to utilize the existing road frontage to the maximum extent practical.

- A development pattern in harmony with the land use intensity, transportation facilities and community facilities objectives of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The proposed plan has been designed to provide a large tract of useable riverfront parkland with connection to the Mohawk Hudson Bikeway and Aqueduct Road. It will expand the existing Aqueduct Park. This is in compliance with Comprehensive Land Use Plan's statement suggesting a "Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan" to help encourage development, preservation and recreational opportunities for the Niskayuna riverfront.

APPENDIX A

Long Environmental Assessment Form

Full Environmental Assessment Form
Part 1 - Project and Setting

Instructions for Completing Part 1

Part 1 is to be completed by the applicant or project sponsor. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification.

Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information; indicate whether missing information does not exist, or is not reasonably available to the sponsor; and, when possible, generally describe work or studies which would be necessary to update or fully develop that information.

Applicants/sponsors must complete all items in Sections A & B. In Sections C, D & E, most items contain an initial question that must be answered either “Yes” or “No”. If the answer to the initial question is “Yes”, complete the sub-questions that follow. If the answer to the initial question is “No”, proceed to the next question. Section F allows the project sponsor to identify and attach any additional information. Section G requires the name and signature of the applicant or project sponsor to verify that the information contained in Part 1 is accurate and complete.

A. Project and Applicant/Sponsor Information.

Name of Action or Project: Niskayuna Harbor PUD		
Project Location (describe, and attach a general location map): 2777 Aqueduct Road		
Brief Description of Proposed Action (include purpose or need): Resurrect the Niskayuna Harbor PUD which has expired to the underlying zone. The new PUD will include the development a 200 unit condominium community on private roads. The units will be built in a variety of housing styles. The PUD will include the conveyance 11.20 Acres of the 41.5 Acres (27% of the parcel) of riverfront land to the Town of Niskayuna for the extension of Aqueduct Park. The parkland will be bordered by the Mohawk River and a defined section of the Erie Canal.		
Name of Applicant/Sponsor: Niskayuna Harbor LLC		Telephone: 518-423-6771
		E-Mail:
Address: 2777 Rosendale Road		
City/PO: Niskayuna	State: NY	Zip Code: 12309
Project Contact (if not same as sponsor; give name and title/role): Brett Steenburgh		Telephone: 518-365-0675
		E-Mail: bsteenburghpe@gmail.com
Address: 2832 Rosendale Road		
City/PO: Niskayuna	State: NY	Zip Code: 12309
Property Owner (if not same as sponsor):		Telephone:
		E-Mail:
Address:		
City/PO:	State:	Zip Code:

B. Government Approvals

B. Government Approvals, Funding, or Sponsorship. (“Funding” includes grants, loans, tax relief, and any other forms of financial assistance.)

Government Entity	If Yes: Identify Agency and Approval(s) Required	Application Date (Actual or projected)
a. City Counsel, Town Board, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No or Village Board of Trustees	Zone Change to PUD	November 2024
b. City, Town or Village Planning Board or Commission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Site Plan	Pending
c. City, Town or Village Zoning Board of Appeals <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
d. Other local agencies <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
e. County agencies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Curb Cut Permit, Water District	Pending
f. Regional agencies <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
g. State agencies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	NYSDEC SPDES and Sewer Extension	Pending
h. Federal agencies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	USACOE Wetland Permit	
<p>i. Coastal Resources.</p> <p><i>i.</i> Is the project site within a Coastal Area, or the waterfront area of a Designated Inland Waterway? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><i>ii.</i> Is the project site located in a community with an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><i>iii.</i> Is the project site within a Coastal Erosion Hazard Area? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>		

C. Planning and Zoning

C.1. Planning and zoning actions.

Will administrative or legislative adoption, or amendment of a plan, local law, ordinance, rule or regulation be the only approval(s) which must be granted to enable the proposed action to proceed? Yes No

- If Yes, complete sections C, F and G.
- If No, proceed to question C.2 and complete all remaining sections and questions in Part 1

C.2. Adopted land use plans.

a. Do any municipally- adopted (city, town, village or county) comprehensive land use plan(s) include the site where the proposed action would be located? Yes No

If Yes, does the comprehensive plan include specific recommendations for the site where the proposed action would be located? Yes No

b. Is the site of the proposed action within any local or regional special planning district (for example: Greenway; Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA); designated State or Federal heritage area; watershed management plan; or other?) Yes No

If Yes, identify the plan(s):

NYS Heritage Areas: Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor _____

c. Is the proposed action located wholly or partially within an area listed in an adopted municipal open space plan, or an adopted municipal farmland protection plan? Yes No

If Yes, identify the plan(s):

C.3. Zoning

a. Is the site of the proposed action located in a municipality with an adopted zoning law or ordinance. Yes No
If Yes, what is the zoning classification(s) including any applicable overlay district?

b. Is the use permitted or allowed by a special or conditional use permit? Yes No

c. Is a zoning change requested as part of the proposed action? Yes No

If Yes,

i. What is the proposed new zoning for the site? PUD - Formerly adopted and expired

C.4. Existing community services.

a. In what school district is the project site located? Niskayuna

b. What police or other public protection forces serve the project site?
Town of Niskayuna

c. Which fire protection and emergency medical services serve the project site?
Niskayuna Volunteer Fire District 2

d. What parks serve the project site?
Aqueduct Park

D. Project Details

D.1. Proposed and Potential Development

a. What is the general nature of the proposed action (e.g., residential, industrial, commercial, recreational; if mixed, include all components)? Residential owner occupied

b. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action? 41.6 acres
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed? 12.5 acres
c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor? 41.6 acres

c. Is the proposed action an expansion of an existing project or use? Yes No
i. If Yes, what is the approximate percentage of the proposed expansion and identify the units (e.g., acres, miles, housing units, square feet)? % _____ Units: _____

d. Is the proposed action a subdivision, or does it include a subdivision? Yes No
If Yes,

i. Purpose or type of subdivision? (e.g., residential, industrial, commercial; if mixed, specify types)

ii. Is a cluster/conservation layout proposed? Yes No

iii. Number of lots proposed? _____

iv. Minimum and maximum proposed lot sizes? Minimum _____ Maximum _____

e. Will the proposed action be constructed in multiple phases? Yes No

i. If No, anticipated period of construction: _____ months

ii. If Yes:

- Total number of phases anticipated 3
- Anticipated commencement date of phase 1 (including demolition) 8 month 2024 year
- Anticipated completion date of final phase 12 month 2028 year

• Generally describe connections or relationships among phases, including any contingencies where progress of one phase may determine timing or duration of future phases: _____

f. Does the project include new residential uses? Yes No
 If Yes, show numbers of units proposed.

	<u>One Family</u>	<u>Two Family</u>	<u>Three Family</u>	<u>Multiple Family (four or more)</u>
Initial Phase	_____	_____	_____	24
At completion of all phases	_____	_____	_____	200

g. Does the proposed action include new non-residential construction (including expansions)? Yes No
 If Yes,

i. Total number of structures _____
 ii. Dimensions (in feet) of largest proposed structure: _____ height; _____ width; and _____ length
 iii. Approximate extent of building space to be heated or cooled: _____ square feet

h. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that will result in the impoundment of any liquids, such as creation of a water supply, reservoir, pond, lake, waste lagoon or other storage? Yes No
 If Yes,

i. Purpose of the impoundment: Storm water management
 ii. If a water impoundment, the principal source of the water: Ground water Surface water streams Other specify: _____
 iii. If other than water, identify the type of impounded/contained liquids and their source. _____
 iv. Approximate size of the proposed impoundment. Volume: _____ .5 million gallons; surface area: _____ 3 acres
 v. Dimensions of the proposed dam or impounding structure: _____ 4 height; _____ 20 length
 vi. Construction method/materials for the proposed dam or impounding structure (e.g., earth fill, rock, wood, concrete): _____

D.2. Project Operations

a. Does the proposed action include any excavation, mining, or dredging, during construction, operations, or both? Yes No
 (Not including general site preparation, grading or installation of utilities or foundations where all excavated materials will remain onsite)
 If Yes:

i. What is the purpose of the excavation or dredging? _____
 ii. How much material (including rock, earth, sediments, etc.) is proposed to be removed from the site?
 • Volume (specify tons or cubic yards): _____
 • Over what duration of time? _____
 iii. Describe nature and characteristics of materials to be excavated or dredged, and plans to use, manage or dispose of them.

 iv. Will there be onsite dewatering or processing of excavated materials? Yes No
 If yes, describe. _____

 v. What is the total area to be dredged or excavated? _____ acres
 vi. What is the maximum area to be worked at any one time? _____ acres
 vii. What would be the maximum depth of excavation or dredging? _____ feet
 viii. Will the excavation require blasting? Yes No
 ix. Summarize site reclamation goals and plan: _____
Restore disturbed areas to lawns, roads and residences

b. Would the proposed action cause or result in alteration of, increase or decrease in size of, or encroachment into any existing wetland, waterbody, shoreline, beach or adjacent area? Yes No
 If Yes:

i. Identify the wetland or waterbody which would be affected (by name, water index number, wetland map number or geographic description): USACOE Wetlands

ii. Describe how the proposed action would affect that waterbody or wetland, e.g. excavation, fill, placement of structures, or alteration of channels, banks and shorelines. Indicate extent of activities, alterations and additions in square feet or acres:
Less than 0.10 Acres of wetland disturbance proposed

iii. Will the proposed action cause or result in disturbance to bottom sediments? Yes No
 If Yes, describe: _____

iv. Will the proposed action cause or result in the destruction or removal of aquatic vegetation? Yes No
 If Yes:

- acres of aquatic vegetation proposed to be removed: _____
- expected acreage of aquatic vegetation remaining after project completion: _____
- purpose of proposed removal (e.g. beach clearing, invasive species control, boat access): _____
- proposed method of plant removal: _____
- if chemical/herbicide treatment will be used, specify product(s): _____

v. Describe any proposed reclamation/mitigation following disturbance: _____

c. Will the proposed action use, or create a new demand for water? Yes No
 If Yes:

i. Total anticipated water usage/demand per day: _____ 66,660 gallons/day

ii. Will the proposed action obtain water from an existing public water supply? Yes No
 If Yes:

- Name of district or service area: Niskayuna Water District
- Does the existing public water supply have capacity to serve the proposal? Yes No
- Is the project site in the existing district? Yes No
- Is expansion of the district needed? Yes No
- Do existing lines serve the project site? Yes No

iii. Will line extension within an existing district be necessary to supply the project? Yes No
 If Yes:

- Describe extensions or capacity expansions proposed to serve this project: _____
- Source(s) of supply for the district: _____

iv. Is a new water supply district or service area proposed to be formed to serve the project site? Yes No
 If Yes:

- Applicant/sponsor for new district: _____
- Date application submitted or anticipated: _____
- Proposed source(s) of supply for new district: _____

v. If a public water supply will not be used, describe plans to provide water supply for the project: _____

vi. If water supply will be from wells (public or private), what is the maximum pumping capacity: _____ gallons/minute.

d. Will the proposed action generate liquid wastes? Yes No
 If Yes:

i. Total anticipated liquid waste generation per day: _____ 66,600 gallons/day

ii. Nature of liquid wastes to be generated (e.g., sanitary wastewater, industrial; if combination, describe all components and approximate volumes or proportions of each): _____
Sanitary Effluent

iii. Will the proposed action use any existing public wastewater treatment facilities? Yes No
 If Yes:

- Name of wastewater treatment plant to be used: City of Schenectady Wastewater Treatment Plan
- Name of district: Niskayuna Sewer District
- Does the existing wastewater treatment plant have capacity to serve the project? Yes No
- Is the project site in the existing district? Yes No
- Is expansion of the district needed? Yes No

• Do existing sewer lines serve the project site? Yes No
 • Will a line extension within an existing district be necessary to serve the project? Yes No
 If Yes:
 • Describe extensions or capacity expansions proposed to serve this project: _____

iv. Will a new wastewater (sewage) treatment district be formed to serve the project site? Yes No
 If Yes:
 • Applicant/sponsor for new district: _____
 • Date application submitted or anticipated: _____
 • What is the receiving water for the wastewater discharge? _____

v. If public facilities will not be used, describe plans to provide wastewater treatment for the project, including specifying proposed receiving water (name and classification if surface discharge or describe subsurface disposal plans):

vi. Describe any plans or designs to capture, recycle or reuse liquid waste: _____

e. Will the proposed action disturb more than one acre and create stormwater runoff, either from new point sources (i.e. ditches, pipes, swales, curbs, gutters or other concentrated flows of stormwater) or non-point source (i.e. sheet flow) during construction or post construction? Yes No
 If Yes:
 i. How much impervious surface will the project create in relation to total size of project parcel?
 _____ Square feet or _____¹⁰ acres (impervious surface)
 _____ Square feet or _____^{41.5} acres (parcel size)
 ii. Describe types of new point sources. _____ Buildings and roadways _____

 iii. Where will the stormwater runoff be directed (i.e. on-site stormwater management facility/structures, adjacent properties, groundwater, on-site surface water or off-site surface waters)?
 _____ Onsite Stormwater Management _____

 • If to surface waters, identify receiving water bodies or wetlands: _____
 _____ Onsite Wetlands to the Mohawk River _____

 • Will stormwater runoff flow to adjacent properties? Yes No

iv. Does the proposed plan minimize impervious surfaces, use pervious materials or collect and re-use stormwater? Yes No

f. Does the proposed action include, or will it use on-site, one or more sources of air emissions, including fuel combustion, waste incineration, or other processes or operations? Yes No
 If Yes, identify:
 i. Mobile sources during project operations (e.g., heavy equipment, fleet or delivery vehicles)

 ii. Stationary sources during construction (e.g., power generation, structural heating, batch plant, crushers)

 iii. Stationary sources during operations (e.g., process emissions, large boilers, electric generation)

g. Will any air emission sources named in D.2.f (above), require a NY State Air Registration, Air Facility Permit, or Federal Clean Air Act Title IV or Title V Permit? Yes No
 If Yes:
 i. Is the project site located in an Air quality non-attainment area? (Area routinely or periodically fails to meet ambient air quality standards for all or some parts of the year) Yes No
 ii. In addition to emissions as calculated in the application, the project will generate:
 • _____ Tons/year (short tons) of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
 • _____ Tons/year (short tons) of Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)
 • _____ Tons/year (short tons) of Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
 • _____ Tons/year (short tons) of Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF₆)
 • _____ Tons/year (short tons) of Carbon Dioxide equivalent of Hydroflouorocarbons (HFCs)
 • _____ Tons/year (short tons) of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)

h. Will the proposed action generate or emit methane (including, but not limited to, sewage treatment plants, landfills, composting facilities)? Yes No

If Yes:

i. Estimate methane generation in tons/year (metric): _____

ii. Describe any methane capture, control or elimination measures included in project design (e.g., combustion to generate heat or electricity, flaring): _____

i. Will the proposed action result in the release of air pollutants from open-air operations or processes, such as quarry or landfill operations? Yes No

If Yes: Describe operations and nature of emissions (e.g., diesel exhaust, rock particulates/dust): _____

j. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels or generate substantial new demand for transportation facilities or services? Yes No

If Yes:

i. When is the peak traffic expected (Check all that apply): Morning Evening Weekend
 Randomly between hours of _____ to _____.

ii. For commercial activities only, projected number of truck trips/day and type (e.g., semi trailers and dump trucks): _____

iii. Parking spaces: Existing 6 Proposed 404 Net increase/decrease +396

iv. Does the proposed action include any shared use parking? Yes No

v. If the proposed action includes any modification of existing roads, creation of new roads or change in existing access, describe: _____

vi. Are public/private transportation service(s) or facilities available within 1/2 mile of the proposed site? Yes No

vii. Will the proposed action include access to public transportation or accommodations for use of hybrid, electric or other alternative fueled vehicles? Yes No

viii. Will the proposed action include plans for pedestrian or bicycle accommodations for connections to existing pedestrian or bicycle routes? Yes No

k. Will the proposed action (for commercial or industrial projects only) generate new or additional demand for energy? Yes No

If Yes:

i. Estimate annual electricity demand during operation of the proposed action: _____

ii. Anticipated sources/suppliers of electricity for the project (e.g., on-site combustion, on-site renewable, via grid/local utility, or other): _____

iii. Will the proposed action require a new, or an upgrade, to an existing substation? Yes No

l. Hours of operation. Answer all items which apply.

<p>i. During Construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday - Friday: <u>6am-7pm</u> • Saturday: <u>8am-5pm</u> • Sunday: <u>8am-5pm</u> • Holidays: <u>N/A</u> 	<p>ii. During Operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday - Friday: <u>N/A</u> • Saturday: <u>N/A</u> • Sunday: <u>N/A</u> • Holidays: <u>N/A</u>
--	---

m. Will the proposed action produce noise that will exceed existing ambient noise levels during construction, operation, or both? Yes No
 If yes:
 i. Provide details including sources, time of day and duration:
 Typical construction activities 6am-7pm _____

ii. Will the proposed action remove existing natural barriers that could act as a noise barrier or screen? Yes No
 Describe: _____

n. Will the proposed action have outdoor lighting? Yes No
 If yes:
 i. Describe source(s), location(s), height of fixture(s), direction/aim, and proximity to nearest occupied structures:
 Building mounted residential fixtures and residential lamp posts _____

ii. Will proposed action remove existing natural barriers that could act as a light barrier or screen? Yes No
 Describe: _____

o. Does the proposed action have the potential to produce odors for more than one hour per day? Yes No
 If Yes, describe possible sources, potential frequency and duration of odor emissions, and proximity to nearest occupied structures: _____

p. Will the proposed action include any bulk storage of petroleum (combined capacity of over 1,100 gallons) or chemical products 185 gallons in above ground storage or any amount in underground storage? Yes No
 If Yes:
 i. Product(s) to be stored _____
 ii. Volume(s) _____ per unit time _____ (e.g., month, year)
 iii. Generally, describe the proposed storage facilities: _____

q. Will the proposed action (commercial, industrial and recreational projects only) use pesticides (i.e., herbicides, insecticides) during construction or operation? Yes No
 If Yes:
 i. Describe proposed treatment(s):

ii. Will the proposed action use Integrated Pest Management Practices? Yes No

r. Will the proposed action (commercial or industrial projects only) involve or require the management or disposal of solid waste (excluding hazardous materials)? Yes No
 If Yes:
 i. Describe any solid waste(s) to be generated during construction or operation of the facility:
 • Construction: _____ tons per _____ (unit of time)
 • Operation : _____ tons per _____ (unit of time)
 ii. Describe any proposals for on-site minimization, recycling or reuse of materials to avoid disposal as solid waste:
 • Construction: _____

 • Operation: _____

iii. Proposed disposal methods/facilities for solid waste generated on-site:
 • Construction: _____

 • Operation: _____

s. Does the proposed action include construction or modification of a solid waste management facility? Yes No
 If Yes:
 i. Type of management or handling of waste proposed for the site (e.g., recycling or transfer station, composting, landfill, or other disposal activities): _____
 ii. Anticipated rate of disposal/processing:
 • _____ Tons/month, if transfer or other non-combustion/thermal treatment, or
 • _____ Tons/hour, if combustion or thermal treatment
 iii. If landfill, anticipated site life: _____ years

t. Will the proposed action at the site involve the commercial generation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste? Yes No
 If Yes:
 i. Name(s) of all hazardous wastes or constituents to be generated, handled or managed at facility: _____

 ii. Generally describe processes or activities involving hazardous wastes or constituents: _____

 iii. Specify amount to be handled or generated _____ tons/month
 iv. Describe any proposals for on-site minimization, recycling or reuse of hazardous constituents: _____

 v. Will any hazardous wastes be disposed at an existing offsite hazardous waste facility? Yes No
 If Yes: provide name and location of facility: _____

 If No: describe proposed management of any hazardous wastes which will not be sent to a hazardous waste facility:

E. Site and Setting of Proposed Action

E.1. Land uses on and surrounding the project site

a. Existing land uses.
 i. Check all uses that occur on, adjoining and near the project site.
 Urban Industrial Commercial Residential (suburban) Rural (non-farm)
 Forest Agriculture Aquatic Other (specify): _____
 ii. If mix of uses, generally describe:

 General mix of land uses, Apartments to the East, River to north, residential and industrial uses to the south and residential to the west

b. Land uses and coverytypes on the project site.

Land use or Coverytype	Current Acreage	Acreage After Project Completion	Change (Acres +/-)
• Roads, buildings, and other paved or impervious surfaces	1	10	+9
• Forested	40.5	20	-20.5
• Meadows, grasslands or brushlands (non-agricultural, including abandoned agricultural)	0	0	0
• Agricultural (includes active orchards, field, greenhouse etc.)	0	0	0
• Surface water features (lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, etc.)	3	3	0
• Wetlands (freshwater or tidal)	6.45	6.42	-.03
• Non-vegetated (bare rock, earth or fill)	0	0	0
• Other Describe: <u>Lawn</u>	0	6.51	+6.51

c. Is the project site presently used by members of the community for public recreation? Yes No
i. If Yes: explain: _____

d. Are there any facilities serving children, the elderly, people with disabilities (e.g., schools, hospitals, licensed day care centers, or group homes) within 1500 feet of the project site? Yes No
If Yes,
i. Identify Facilities:

e. Does the project site contain an existing dam? Yes No
If Yes:
i. Dimensions of the dam and impoundment:
• Dam height: _____ feet
• Dam length: _____ feet
• Surface area: _____ acres
• Volume impounded: _____ gallons OR acre-feet
ii. Dam's existing hazard classification: _____
iii. Provide date and summarize results of last inspection:

f. Has the project site ever been used as a municipal, commercial or industrial solid waste management facility, or does the project site adjoin property which is now, or was at one time, used as a solid waste management facility? Yes No
If Yes:
i. Has the facility been formally closed? Yes No
• If yes, cite sources/documentation: _____
ii. Describe the location of the project site relative to the boundaries of the solid waste management facility:

iii. Describe any development constraints due to the prior solid waste activities: _____

g. Have hazardous wastes been generated, treated and/or disposed of at the site, or does the project site adjoin property which is now or was at one time used to commercially treat, store and/or dispose of hazardous waste? Yes No
If Yes:
i. Describe waste(s) handled and waste management activities, including approximate time when activities occurred:

h. Potential contamination history. Has there been a reported spill at the proposed project site, or have any remedial actions been conducted at or adjacent to the proposed site? Yes No
If Yes:
i. Is any portion of the site listed on the NYSDEC Spills Incidents database or Environmental Site Remediation database? Check all that apply: Yes No
 Yes – Spills Incidents database Provide DEC ID number(s): _____
 Yes – Environmental Site Remediation database Provide DEC ID number(s): _____
 Neither database
ii. If site has been subject of RCRA corrective activities, describe control measures: _____
iii. Is the project within 2000 feet of any site in the NYSDEC Environmental Site Remediation database? Yes No
If yes, provide DEC ID number(s): C447050
iv. If yes to (i), (ii) or (iii) above, describe current status of site(s):
Separated from the site by the Mohawk River

v. Is the project site subject to an institutional control limiting property uses? Yes No

- If yes, DEC site ID number: _____
- Describe the type of institutional control (e.g., deed restriction or easement): _____
- Describe any use limitations: _____
- Describe any engineering controls: _____
- Will the project affect the institutional or engineering controls in place? Yes No
- Explain: _____

E.2. Natural Resources On or Near Project Site

a. What is the average depth to bedrock on the project site? _____ 4-8 feet

b. Are there bedrock outcroppings on the project site? Yes No
 If Yes, what proportion of the site is comprised of bedrock outcroppings? _____ 1 %

c. Predominant soil type(s) present on project site: Silt Loams _____ 100 %
 _____ %
 _____ %

d. What is the average depth to the water table on the project site? Average: _____ 1-6 feet

e. Drainage status of project site soils: Well Drained: _____ % of site
 Moderately Well Drained: _____ % of site
 Poorly Drained _____ 100 % of site

f. Approximate proportion of proposed action site with slopes: 0-10%: _____ % of site
 10-15%: _____ % of site
 15% or greater: _____ % of site

g. Are there any unique geologic features on the project site? Yes No
 If Yes, describe: _____

h. Surface water features.

i. Does any portion of the project site contain wetlands or other waterbodies (including streams, rivers, ponds or lakes)? Yes No

ii. Do any wetlands or other waterbodies adjoin the project site? Yes No
 If Yes to either *i* or *ii*, continue. If No, skip to E.2.i.

iii. Are any of the wetlands or waterbodies within or adjoining the project site regulated by any federal, state or local agency? Yes No

iv. For each identified regulated wetland and waterbody on the project site, provide the following information:

- Streams: Name _____ Classification _____
- Lakes or Ponds: Name _____ Classification _____
- Wetlands: Name Federal Waters, Federal Waters, Federal Waters Approximate Size 6.45
- Wetland No. (if regulated by DEC) _____

v. Are any of the above water bodies listed in the most recent compilation of NYS water quality-impaired waterbodies? Yes No
 If yes, name of impaired water body/bodies and basis for listing as impaired: _____

i. Is the project site in a designated Floodway? Yes No

j. Is the project site in the 100-year Floodplain? Yes No

k. Is the project site in the 500-year Floodplain? Yes No

l. Is the project site located over, or immediately adjoining, a primary, principal or sole source aquifer? Yes No
 If Yes:
 i. Name of aquifer: Principal Aquifer, Primary Aquifer, Sole Source Aquifer Names: Schenectady-Niskayuna SSA _____

<p>m. Identify the predominant wildlife species that occupy or use the project site:</p> <p>Deer _____ Skunk _____ Ground Hog _____</p> <p>Raccoon _____ _____ _____</p>	
<p>n. Does the project site contain a designated significant natural community? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If Yes:</p> <p>i. Describe the habitat/community (composition, function, and basis for designation): _____</p> <p>ii. Source(s) of description or evaluation: _____</p> <p>iii. Extent of community/habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently: _____ acres • Following completion of project as proposed: _____ acres • Gain or loss (indicate + or -): _____ acres 	
<p>o. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal that is listed by the federal government or NYS as endangered or threatened, or does it contain any areas identified as habitat for an endangered or threatened species? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If Yes:</p> <p>i. Species and listing (endangered or threatened): _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>p. Does the project site contain any species of plant or animal that is listed by NYS as rare, or as a species of special concern? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If Yes:</p> <p>i. Species and listing: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>q. Is the project site or adjoining area currently used for hunting, trapping, fishing or shell fishing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, give a brief description of how the proposed action may affect that use: _____</p> <p>Privately owned and posted _____</p>	
E.3. Designated Public Resources On or Near Project Site	
<p>a. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in a designated agricultural district certified pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If Yes, provide county plus district name/number: _____</p>	
<p>b. Are agricultural lands consisting of highly productive soils present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>i. If Yes: acreage(s) on project site? _____</p> <p>ii. Source(s) of soil rating(s): _____</p>	
<p>c. Does the project site contain all or part of, or is it substantially contiguous to, a registered National Natural Landmark? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If Yes:</p> <p>i. Nature of the natural landmark: <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Community <input type="checkbox"/> Geological Feature</p> <p>ii. Provide brief description of landmark, including values behind designation and approximate size/extent: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>d. Is the project site located in or does it adjoin a state listed Critical Environmental Area? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If Yes:</p> <p>i. CEA name: _____</p> <p>ii. Basis for designation: _____</p> <p>iii. Designating agency and date: _____</p>	

e. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places? If Yes: i. Nature of historic/archaeological resource: <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Site <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Building or District ii. Name: <u>New York State Barge Canal Historic District</u> iii. Brief description of attributes on which listing is based: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
f. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
g. Have additional archaeological or historic site(s) or resources been identified on the project site? If Yes: i. Describe possible resource(s): <u>New York State Barge Canal</u> ii. Basis for identification: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
h. Is the project site within five miles of any officially designated and publicly accessible federal, state, or local scenic or aesthetic resource? If Yes: i. Identify resource: _____ ii. Nature of, or basis for, designation (e.g., established highway overlook, state or local park, state historic trail or scenic byway, etc.): _____ iii. Distance between project and resource: _____ miles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
i. Is the project site located within a designated river corridor under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program 6 NYCRR 666? If Yes: i. Identify the name of the river and its designation: _____ ii. Is the activity consistent with development restrictions contained in 6NYCRR Part 666?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

F. Additional Information

Attach any additional information which may be needed to clarify your project.

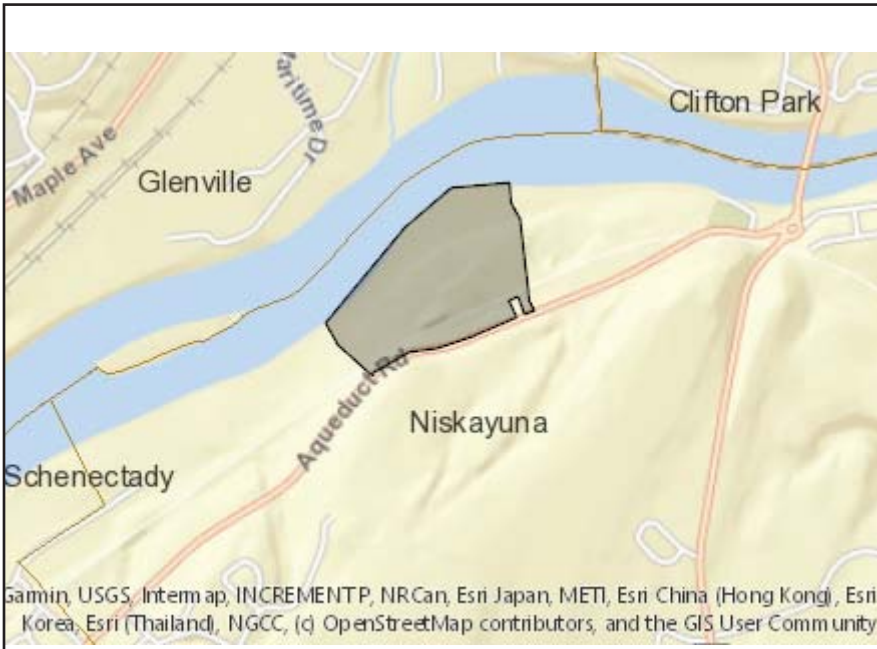
If you have identified any adverse impacts which could be associated with your proposal, please describe those impacts plus any measures which you propose to avoid or minimize them.

G. Verification

I certify that the information provided is true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant/Sponsor Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Title _____



Disclaimer: The EAF Mapper is a screening tool intended to assist project sponsors and reviewing agencies in preparing an environmental assessment form (EAF). Not all questions asked in the EAF are answered by the EAF Mapper. Additional information on any EAF question can be obtained by consulting the EAF Workbooks. Although the EAF Mapper provides the most up-to-date digital data available to DEC, you may also need to contact local or other data sources in order to obtain data not provided by the Mapper. Digital data is not a substitute for agency determinations.



B.i.i [Coastal or Waterfront Area]	No
B.i.ii [Local Waterfront Revitalization Area]	No
C.2.b. [Special Planning District]	Yes - Digital mapping data are not available for all Special Planning Districts. Refer to EAF Workbook.
C.2.b. [Special Planning District - Name]	NYS Heritage Areas: Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor
E.1.h [DEC Spills or Remediation Site - Potential Contamination History]	Digital mapping data are not available or are incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
E.1.h.i [DEC Spills or Remediation Site - Listed]	Digital mapping data are not available or are incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
E.1.h.i [DEC Spills or Remediation Site - Environmental Site Remediation Database]	Digital mapping data are not available or are incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
E.1.h.iii [Within 2,000' of DEC Remediation Site]	Yes
E.1.h.iii [Within 2,000' of DEC Remediation Site - DEC ID]	C447050
E.2.g [Unique Geologic Features]	No
E.2.h.i [Surface Water Features]	Yes
E.2.h.ii [Surface Water Features]	Yes
E.2.h.iii [Surface Water Features]	Yes - Digital mapping information on local and federal wetlands and waterbodies is known to be incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
E.2.h.iv [Surface Water Features - Wetlands Name]	Federal Waters
E.2.h.v [Impaired Water Bodies]	No
E.2.i. [Floodway]	Yes
E.2.j. [100 Year Floodplain]	Yes
E.2.k. [500 Year Floodplain]	Yes

E.2.l. [Aquifers]	Yes
E.2.l. [Aquifer Names]	Principal Aquifer, Primary Aquifer, Sole Source Aquifer Names:Schenectady-Niskayuna SSA
E.2.n. [Natural Communities]	No
E.2.o. [Endangered or Threatened Species]	No
E.2.p. [Rare Plants or Animals]	No
E.3.a. [Agricultural District]	No
E.3.c. [National Natural Landmark]	No
E.3.d [Critical Environmental Area]	No
E.3.e. [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites]	Yes - Digital mapping data for archaeological site boundaries are not available. Refer to EAF Workbook.
E.3.e.ii [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites - Name]	New York State Barge Canal Historic District
E.3.f. [Archeological Sites]	Yes
E.3.i. [Designated River Corridor]	No

APPENDIX B

Concept Plan

APPENDIX C

City of Schenectady Acceptance of Sewer Letter



DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND WASTEWATER

CITY OF SCHENECTADY

NEW YORK

ROOM 9, CITY HALL

105 Jay Street

Schenectady, New York 12305

(518) 382-5023

FAX (518) 382-5100

September 3, 2019

Mr. Brett L. Steenburgh, P.E. PLLC
2832 Rosendale Road
Niskayuna, New York 12309

RE: Aqueduct Road PUD- Sanitary Sewer Request

Dear Mr. Steenburgh:

The City of Schenectady has reviewed the Draft Engineering Report and request to accept approximately 60,990 gpd of sanitary sewage from the proposed Aqueduct Road PUD.

Based on the information provided, the proposed sewage flows will not adversely impact the operations or treatment process at the City of Schenectady's wastewater treatment plant. However, in accordance with Part II of the City's SPDES permit (6NYCRR Part 750) final acceptance will be based on regulatory approval from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 518-382-5199, ext 5403.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. LaFond".

Paul J. LaFond
Commissioner of General Services

Cc: Gary McCarthy, Mayor
Carl Falotico, Esq., Corporation Counsel
Derek Thorsland, P.E. NYSDEC Region 4
Jamie Malcolm, P.E., NYSDEC Region 4
WWTP File



December 19, 2024

Town of Niskayuna
 One Niskayuna Circle
 Niskayuna, NY 12309

Re: Niskayuna Harbor – Aqueduct Road

Attn: Laura Robertson, AICP

Dear Ms. Robertson,

This letter summarizes the assessment of the proposed crossing of the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail (MHBHT) associated with the construction of the Niskayuna Harbor PUD residential development. The proposed development is located along Aqueduct Road approximately 0.6 miles west of NYS Route 146 (Balltown Road). The parcels associated with the development total 41.26 Acres in size and has frontage on both Aqueduct Road and The Mohawk River. The majority of the parcel would be inaccessible without crossing the MHBHT at some location. In an effort to minimize impacts to the MHBHT, the developer Niskayuna Harbor LLC has obtained an easement agreement to the parcel to the east “Rivers Ledge” to provide the secondary means of ingress/egress required by the 2020 Fire Code of New York State. This assessment evaluated the following:

- An evaluation of trip generation of the vehicles crossing the MHBHT associated with the Niskayuna Harbor PUD
- A review of the exiting trail use located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project
- An evaluation of the proposed improvements necessary at the crossing

Trip Generation:

The current project is to develop 200 condominium units in the PUD. Twenty four of the units would be constructed between the MHBHT and Aqueduct Road therefore are not counted in the trip generation table below. The trip generation table below Table 1 summarizes the anticipated trip crossings for the MHBHT. The data used to develop Table 1 has been obtained from the Institute of Traffic Engineers Trip Generation Manual.

TABLE – 1 Trip Generation at Crossing

Land Use	Number of Units	AM Peak Hour (7am to 9am)				PM Peak Hour (4pm to 6pm)			
		Rate/Unit	Enter	Exit	Total	Rate/Unit	Enter	Exit	Total
Condominiums	176	0.44	15	62	77	0.52	59	32	92

Main Office:
 2832 Rosendale Road
 Niskayuna, NY 12309
 (518) 365-0675
Info@SCEngpe.com

Adirondack Office:
 PO Box 437
 Caroga Lake, NY 12032
 (518) 365-0675
Info@SCEngpe.com

Existing Trail Usage:

In a memorandum prepared by Creighton Manning dated October 2016 regarding the Rivers Ledge of Niskayuna Crossings existing Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike trail use was documented from various sources. The table below documents the usage at various crossings nearest to the project site.

Crossing	Location	2006 CDTC Study		2009 NYS Canal Corp. Study	
		Peak Weekday Time	Peak Users	Weekday Time	Peak Users
Kiwanis Park	9.0 mi. west of site	5:30 PM	46	6:30 PM	30
SCCC	4.1 mi. west of site	5:30 PM	48	6:30 PM	56
Nott Street	2.6 mi. west of site	4:30 PM	18	6:30 PM	No data
Niskayuna Train Station	7.0 mi. east of site	5:30 PM	115	6:30 PM	92

Source: Memorandum Rivers Ledge Niskayuna by Creighton Manning Dated October 6, 2016

Per the Creighton Manning Report, the trail showed fairly steady use throughout the day with a small increase during lunch time and after work. The table above shows that the more heavily used areas of the path are the furthest away from the subject parcel. It is estimated that there could be anywhere from a low of 20 users to a high of 60 users in the peak hour near the proposed Niskayuna Harbor PUD.

MHBHT Crossing:

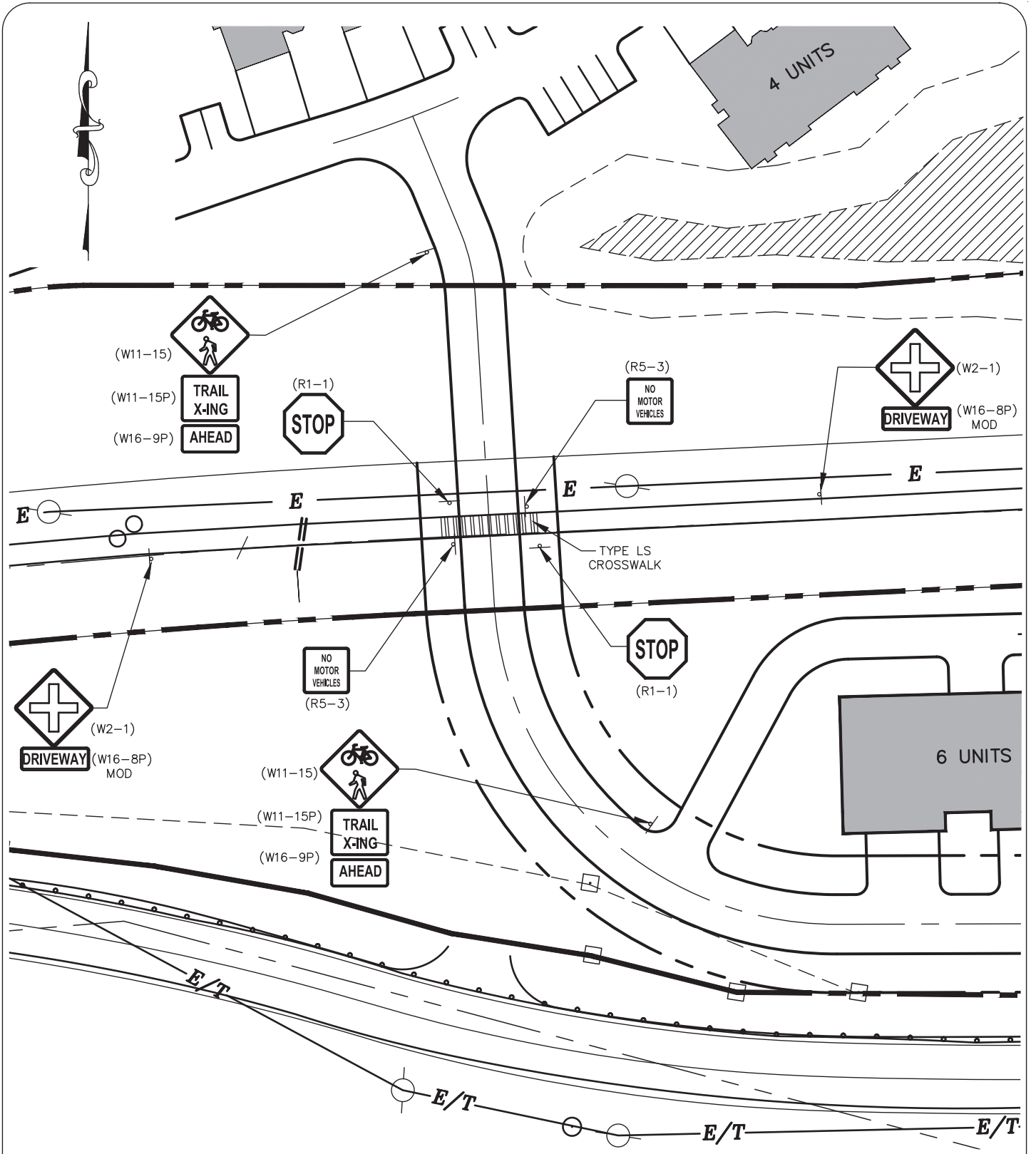
It is recommended that the vehicular crossing at the MHBHT be striped and signed as per the attached Bike Path Signing and Striping Plan. This plan is consistent with AASHTO guidelines. It should be noted that two private developments with much higher peak traffic generations cross the MHBHT approximately 2.8 miles east of subject parcel. The developments are The GE Research and Development Center with 5 crossings and Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory with 2 crossings.

Next Steps:

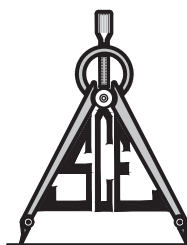
Following review and approval by New York State Parks it is requested that the project be approved to create the new vehicular crossing as per the attached detail. This will allow the portion of parcel north of the MHBHT to be accessed.

Sincerely

Brett L. Steenburgh, P.E.



BRETT L. STEENBURGH, P.E.
075458



Steenburgh
Consulting
Engineering, PLLC

Innovative Civil and Site Engineering
Address: 2832 Rosendale Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309
Phone: (518) 365-0675
Email: Brett@SCEngpe.Com

BIKE PATH SIGNING AND STRIPING PLAN NISKAYUNA HARBOR

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
SCHENECTADY STATE OF NEW YORK

DRAWN BY: BLS
CADD FILE:

CHECKED BY:
JOB NO.

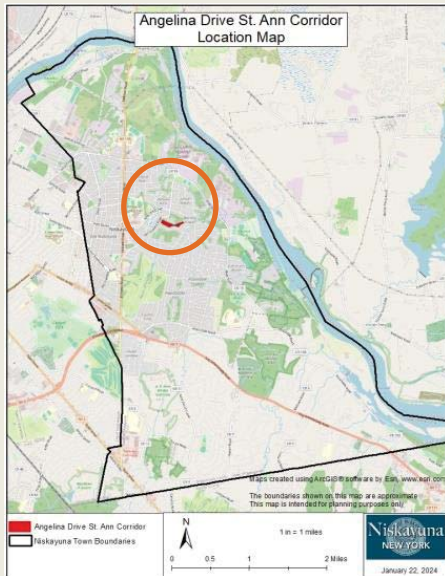
SCALE: 1"=60'

DATE:
DECEMBER 19, 2024

SHEET 1 OF 1

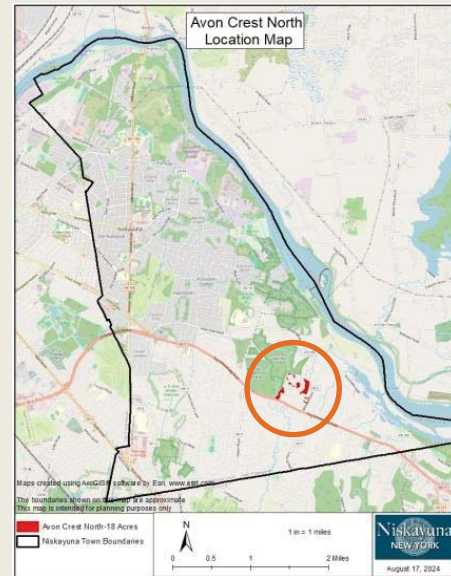
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

ANGELINA



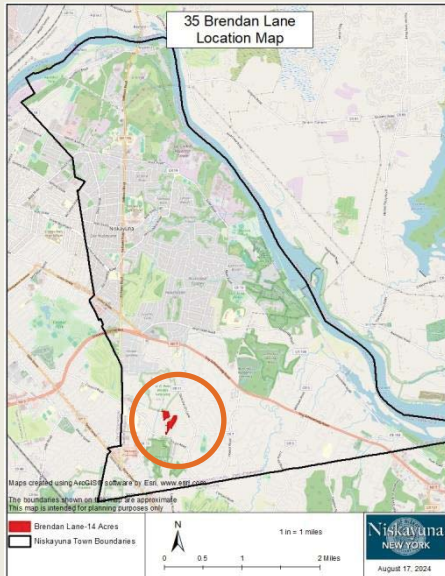
- Hiking trails begin at the entrance by a memorial stone along Antonia Drive but end in the dense shrubbery surrounding the stream. Another trail begins at the eastern end of the Park at St. Ann Drive and runs briefly through a stand of Norway Spruce but also dead-ends in shrubbery around the stream. The trails can be connected with some clearing and some board walking. The hiking trail is conveniently located and can provide educational and recreational opportunities to Niskayuna residents.
- The two entrances are not marked and signs could let residents know that the land is Town-owned and that care should be taken to not litter. Trail and educational signs can attract local residents and educate them about the Park and the nature within.
- Signs should also be placed at intervals along all the west, south and east boundaries as three homes have trespassed onto Town land by creating lawn and placing pools and equipment on Town property. Posted signs can remind neighbors that are trespassing on town property and that they need to remove equipment and cease mowing grass on parkland.
- Portions of the lawn and shrubland that is now mowed could provide space for native wildflowers.

AVON CREST NORTH



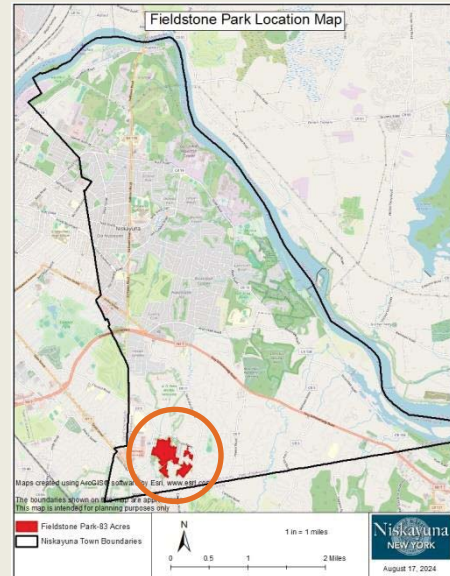
- Entrances at 2601 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7) and at 1013 Shannon Boulevard have hiking trails that lead to the trails at the adjacent Nature Conservancy property. An entrance to the northeast parcel is west of #19 County Clare Lane. None of the entrances are marked with signs or trail blazes. Especially important are the two entrances at Shannon Boulevard Route 7 that give visitors access to the Nature Conservancy's Lisha Kill Natural Area and the hiking trails there. These entrances are underutilized, perhaps because they do not have signs or trail blazes or a footbridge.
- Portions of the 98 acre Holy Redeemer Cemetery to the west can be protected with easements or fee acquisition from willing sellers in order to protect the water quality of the Lisha Kill and the scenic enjoyment of visitors to the Lisha Kill Natural Area.

BRENDAN LANE



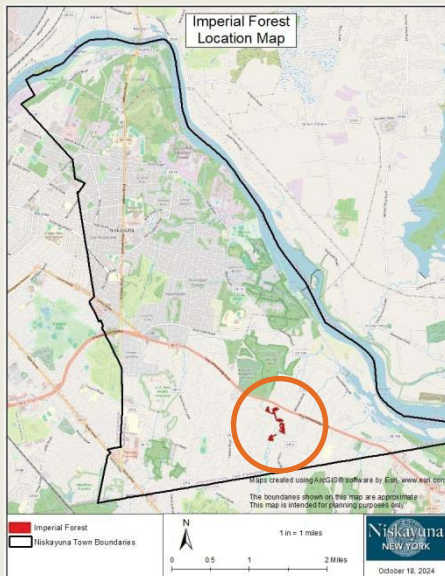
- Brendan Lane's short hiking trail connecting to the Reist Sanctuary is a gateway to the 111 acre Sanctuary for residents along Brendan Lane and elsewhere who can enjoy the recreational and educational benefits found there. The Brendan Lane trail can be improved with signs identifying the parcel as Town-owned, trail blazes and clearing of overgrown vegetation.
- The privately owned 36 acre parcel at #3405 Consaul Road adjacent to the Brendan Lane parcels and Reist Sanctuary could be an important addition to the Reist Sanctuary if a conservation easement or a fee acquisition from a willing seller could be obtained on portions of the property.

FIELDSTONE DRIVE



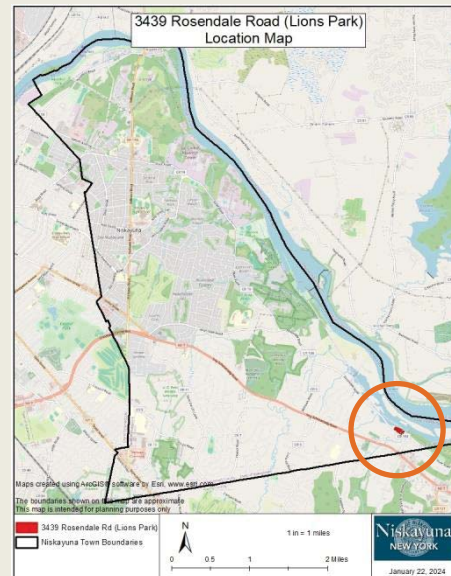
- The trail entrance from the parking lot by #187 Fieldstone is overgrown and very steep and lacks signage. This can be improved with signs identifying the Park, trail blazes, clearing of overgrown vegetation and stone steps.
- Three footbridges span the very wet areas but need pruning as they are overgrown and nearly impassable.
 - A large, mostly wooded 36 acre private parcel at #3405 Consaul Road could be a connection from the Park to the 111-acre Reist Sanctuary just to the north, but this would require that a conservation easement or a fee acquisition of the eastern portion of #3405 Consaul Road be done from a willing seller.
 - A small, one acre parcel at Consaul Road is owned by the Town and could be a connection to the Park but a stream runs through it and it is entirely wet.
 - Another connection to the Park could be at Rudge Street on Consaul Road but it has four single family homes on both sides of the narrow Street and is bounded by wetlands.
 - The meadow should be cut once every year or two to remove invasive Bradford pear trees and to keep the meadow from reverting to forest.
 - The gravel entrance to the east parcel is unnecessarily wide and gravel has been dumped into the adjacent wetland. This area can be naturalized and stabilized with native plants.
 - A neighbor just south of the south boundary has piped stormwater into the Park and this can be removed.

IMPERIAL FOREST



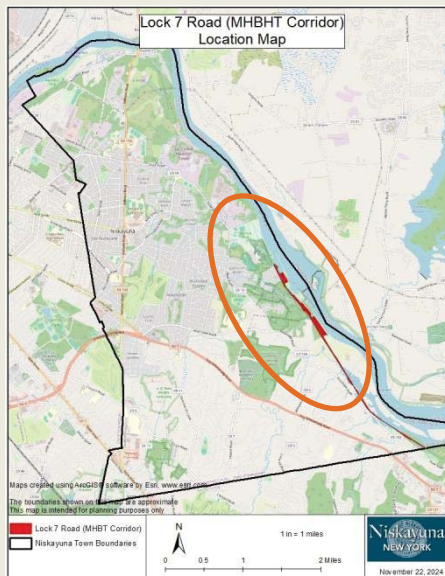
- The entrance to the parcel is not marked and signs could let residents know that the land is Town-owned and that care should be taken to not litter.
- Trail and educational signs can attract local residents and educate them about the Imperial Forest, the Lisha Kill and the nature within.
- There are no formal hiking trails but the parcel can be bushwhacked beginning at the Rose Terrace parking area and a trail loop could be created along the drier eastern edge of the parcel.
- The trail could be expanded if a conservation easement could be obtained from the 16 acre parcel to the east from a willing seller.

LIONS PARK



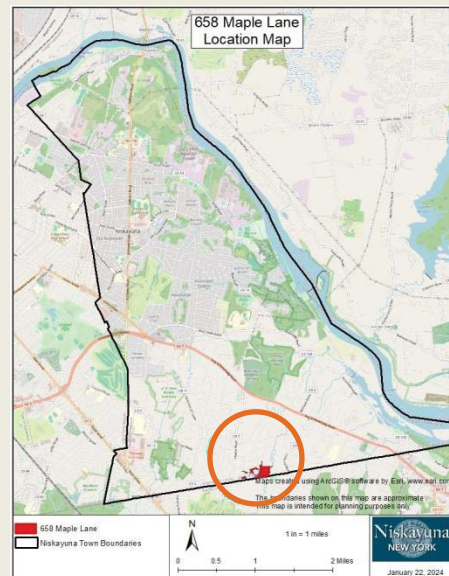
- No recommendations

LOCK 7 ROAD (MHBHT CORRIDOR)



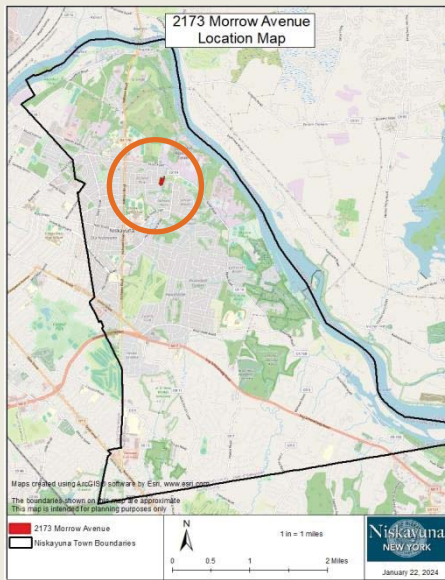
- Two parcels totaling 58 acres along the Lisha Kill just west of the MHBHT and 48 acres of farmland on the east side of the MHBHT should be protected either with conservation easements or fee acquisition from willing sellers. Protecting these parcels from development will save valuable farmland, will protect the scenic vistas of the Mohawk River from the Trail for visitors, will buffer the Lisha Kill and the Mohawk River from pollutants and will preserve valuable wildlife habitat. Since these three parcels abut New York State land, the State may be interested in helping to protect them from development.

MAPLE AVENUE



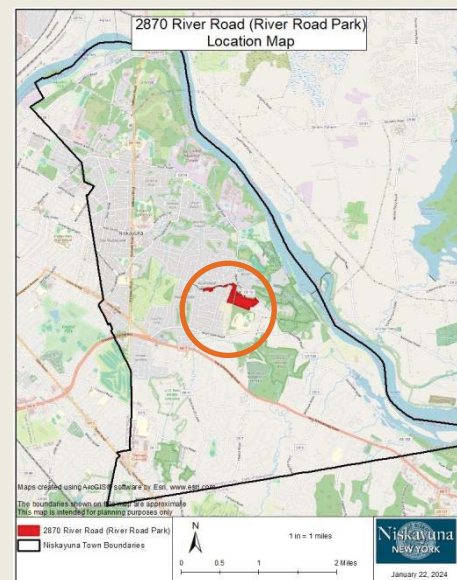
- The Maple Avenue parcels have hiking trails that adjoin an informal trail system on private land extending south into the Town of Colonie. By following the Lisha Kill corridor it may be possible in the future to create a five mile long hiking trail/greenway connecting the Mohawk River in Niskayuna to the 3,350 acre Albany Pine Bush Preserve located to the south in the towns of Colonie and Guiderland.
- Connecting Maple Lane Properties to the Albany Pine Bush may require the crossing of two private properties. The largest is a 74 acre wooded parcel located at 602 Pearse Road, Colonie. The Lisha Kill flows through this property so its protection is important to the water quality of the Lisha Kill. The Albany Pine Bush is one of the best remaining examples of an inland pine barrens ecosystem in the world and its Management Plan recommends expanding the Preserve by acquiring lands from willing sellers, so the State may be interested in helping to protect these lands from development.

MORROW AVENUE



- A short, 1,000 foot trail links Morrow Avenue to Foxhill Drive. Both entrances to the parcel are not marked and signs could let residents know that the land is Town-owned and that hiking is allowed. The hiking trail is conveniently located and can provide educational and recreational opportunities to Niskayuna residents.
- If portions of the one acre lawn can be allowed to grow and if herbicides are not used, a variety of grasses and forbs can provide beauty and added biodiversity, including habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife.

2870 RIVER ROAD (RIVER ROAD PARK)



- A one-acre vacant, privately owned parcel at the Park's north boundary and River Road, if acquired from a willing seller, could provide another entrance to the Park.
- The Park's far western section, accessible from Pine Ridge Road, has a short, 500 foot long hiking trail. The entrance is not marked and a sign could let residents know that the land is Town-owned and that care should be taken to not litter and not cause erosion- mountain bikers now use the trail which may cause silt to flow into the stream below.
- The main section of the Park has 1.5 miles of hiking trails that connect to the Rosendale and Iroquois Schools and offer views of privately owned Bard Farm. With permission it may be possible for supervised students from the two schools to walk to the farm and back. Agricultural Science and Technology Education (ASTE) programs are taught in many schools and the proximity of these two schools to active farmland may present such an opportunity, if desired by all parties.
- Farmland such as this is rapidly disappearing in the area and protecting these properties can provide locally grown food and lead to recreational and educational opportunities if conservation easements or fee acquisition can be obtained from willing sellers.
- The southern trail loop links to the Schools' properties and can provide an 'outdoor classroom' for students and teachers with educational signs.



- Mowed fields total 12 acres in size. Since these areas are heavily trafficked by adults and children care should be taken to limit the use of pesticides and fertilizers. This will also lower the Town’s cost of materials and labor.
- Planted trees are being damaged by lawn mowers and weed whackers and can be protected with low fencing.
- Planting more trees here and across Niskayuna will add needed shade and beauty and will help absorb stormwater and lessen flooding risk.
- Portions of a wetland have been filled in recently around the parking circle and pavilion. Planting of native vegetation where the wetland has been filled in will help restore this area.

- Planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers across Niskayuna will add needed shade and beauty, will help absorb stormwater and lessen flooding risk, will absorb carbon and filter water and provide habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife.
- Avoiding the use of lawn fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides is safer for families, pets, pollinators and the environment.
- Increased development adds impervious surfaces that increase surface water runoff, contribute to flooding and increase water contamination. Low impact development and green infrastructure retains vegetation and increases pervious surfaces and should be used in all new development.
- Retrofitting stormwater pipes, drains and culverts with green infrastructure will mitigate against increased precipitation and lessen flooding risk.
- Protecting and restoring wetlands of all sizes and wetland and watercourse buffers can prevent flooding and improve habitats.
- Educating homeowners, schools, businesses and institutions about naturalizing their properties with native plants can add shade, lower temperatures in summer, absorb stormwater, lessen flooding risk, absorb carbon, provide oxygen, purify water and provide wildlife habitat while adding beauty and increasing property values.
- Across Niskayuna deer have eliminated many native plants from the understory and are preventing the woods from regenerating. Planting trees and protecting seedlings and saplings with deer fencing and erecting deer enclosures will help the tree canopy recover.

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY



Prepared by Town of Niskayuna
Conservation Advisory Council

DECEMBER, 2024

This Natural Resource Inventory was prepared by:

Town of Niskayuna Conservation Advisory Council:

Trevor Darton Strayer, CAC Chairman

Chelsea Rattner

Ellen Daviero

Ashok Ramasubramanian

Richard Frontero

Vicki Michela

Georgia Murray-Bonton

Chuck Piotrowski

Jue Wang

Simran Utturkar, Youth Representative

With assistance from:

Laura Robertson, AICP, Niskayuna Town Planner

Stephen Young, Botanist

Jue Wang, Photographs

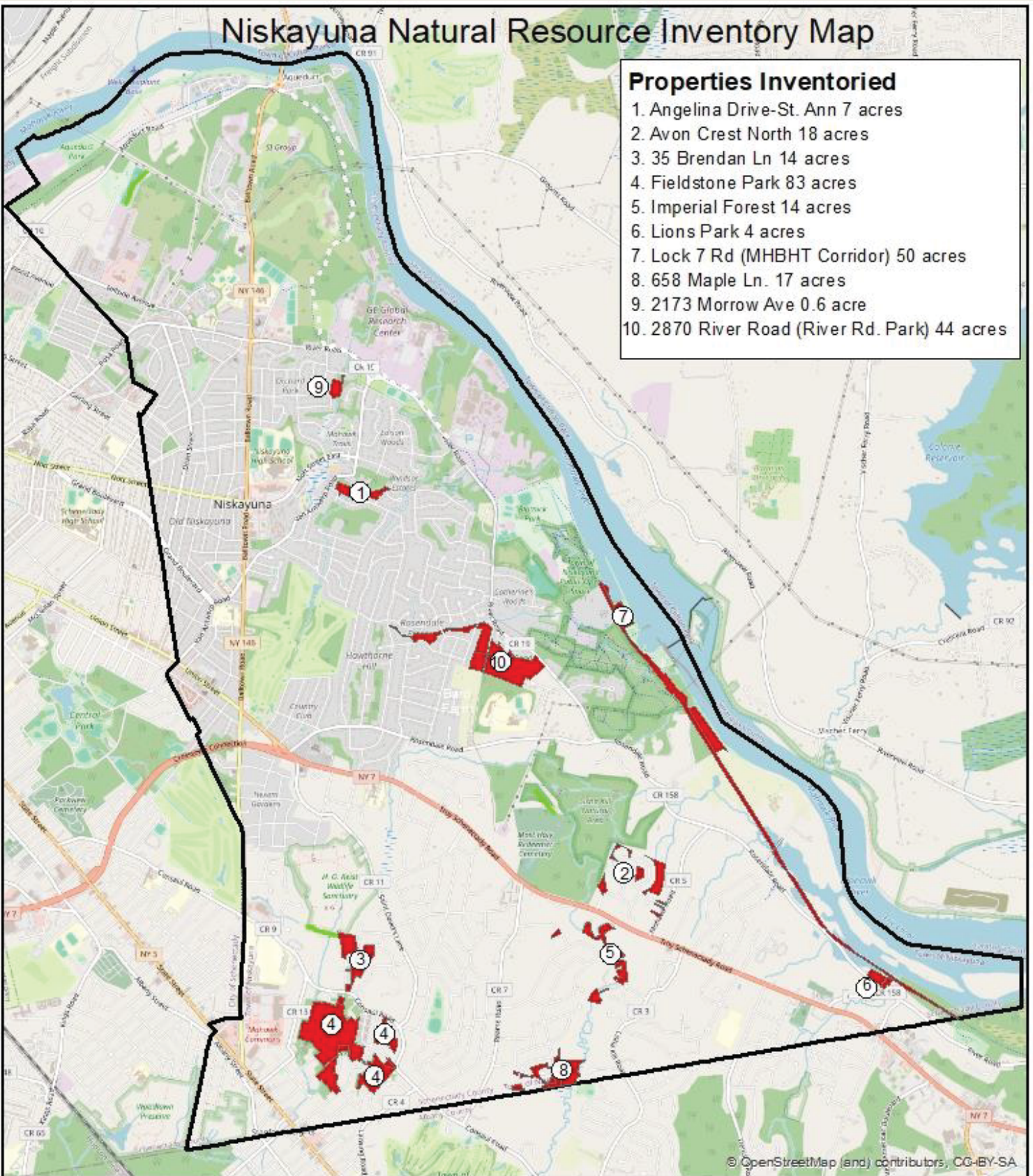
Jim Nordgren, JN Land Trust Services

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Niskayuna Natural Resource Inventory Map

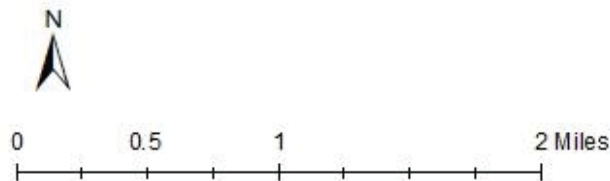
Properties Inventoried

1. Angelina Drive-St. Ann 7 acres
2. Avon Crest North 18 acres
3. 35 Brendan Ln 14 acres
4. Fieldstone Park 83 acres
5. Imperial Forest 14 acres
6. Lions Park 4 acres
7. Lock 7 Rd (MHBHT Corridor) 50 acres
8. 658 Maple Ln. 17 acres
9. 2173 Morrow Ave 0.6 acre
10. 2870 River Road (River Rd. Park) 44 acres



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-  Niskayuna Boundaries
-  Properties Inventoried



December 2, 2024

ANGELINA DRIVE-ST. ANN CORRIDOR (ANTONIO PARK) INVENTORY

October 18, 2024 Site Walk

REGIONAL SETTING:

This Town-owned Park is seven acres in size and is located in the north-central section of Niskayuna (see Location Map page xx). The Park is bounded by Antonio Drive at the southwest boundary and St. Ann Drive on the east boundary, by single family homes on Angelina Drive to the south and by an 11-acre lot to the north that has a home and a pond (see Satellite Photograph Map page xx). To the south and across Angelina Drive lies a large, nine acre lot with a home and a large, 18 acre lot that has recently been subdivided into several single family homes.

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Approximately six acres of the Park are wooded, approximately one half an acre is mowed lawn and another approximately one half acre along St. Ann Drive is shrubland (see Satellite Photograph Map page 6). Approximately 90% of the Park has wetland soils. A stream runs through the center of the Park, beginning 0.6 miles to the south at the Mohawk Golf Club and flowing northeast for 1.3 miles where it empties into the Mohawk River (see Streams & Wetlands Map page 7). Elevations are 370 feet above sea level around the stream and the center of the Park and are slightly higher in elevation at 380 feet in the west section (see Elevation Map page 10 and Topographic Map page 11). Hiking trails begin at the entrance by a memorial stone along Antonia Drive but end in the dense shrubbery surrounding the stream. Another trail begins at the eastern end of the Park at St. Ann Drive and runs briefly through a stand of Norway Spruce but also dead-ends in shrubbery around the stream. The trails can be connected with some clearing and some board walking (see Hiking Trail Map page 8). The two entrances are not marked and signs could let residents know that the land is Town-owned and that care should be taken to not litter, though little litter was seen on the site walk. Signs should also be placed at intervals along all the west, south and east boundaries as three homes have trespassed onto Town land by creating lawn and placing pools and equipment on Town property (see Environmental Features Map page 12).



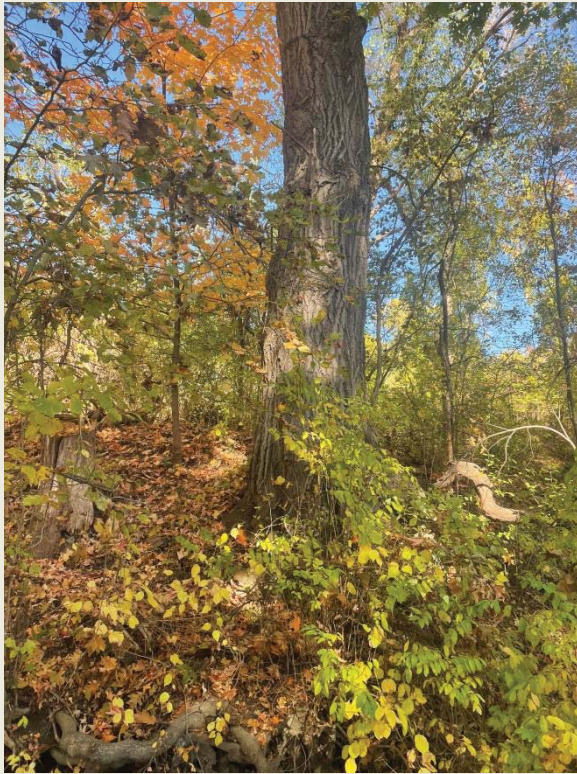
Memorial stone along Antonio Drive

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES:

The western section of the Park has lawn with wooded wetlands. The edge of the lawn has Canada goldenrod. Trees include those typically found in wetlands including large cottonwoods and medium sized elms, silver maples and red maples. Some elms are dying from Dutch elm disease. Locusts also grow here. The understory has many box elder trees and elms. The shrub layer has non-native buckthorn, European alder and honeysuckle shrubs but also many native shrubs including alder, red osier, winterberry, sumac and gray dogwood.

The stream corridor that runs throughout the Park has a large and rare butternut tree-most have succumbed to butternut canker- but perhaps some butternut may be resistant to the fungus, or may have hybridized with Japanese walnuts which are resistant. Other large trees growing along the stream include several very large black walnut, elms and mockernut hickories. The understory has ironwood, hawthorn and serviceberry trees-all native species. Nannyberry viburnum shrubs grow in the wettest areas. The ground layer has sensitive, New York and wood ferns, nettles, asters, jewelweed, forget-me-not, hooked crowfoot, snakeroot, avens and geraniums.

Just north of the stream on adjacent property several large oaks and sugar maples grow-some of which are being tapped to produce maple syrup-a reminder that this area was mostly farmland up until the 1980's (see 1982 Aerial Photograph Map page 9). Just east of the pond on the adjacent property is a large patch of non-native, invasive phragmites.



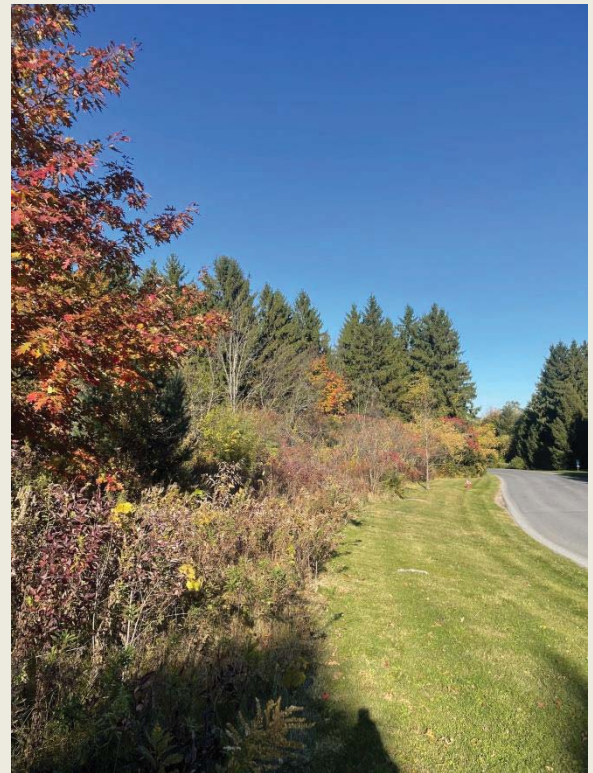
Large red oak along stream



Trail through Norway Spruce grove

The far eastern section of the Park has a grove of about 40 Norway spruce. Though non-native, Norway spruce are not invasive and they do provide cover for wildlife during the winter—a flock of migrating ruby crowned kinglets was observed here in October. A few small hemlocks also grow by the streambank.

A patch of shrubland grows along Saint Ann Drive. A variety of plants grow here including crabapple, white pine, elm and red oak saplings, sumac and grey dogwood shrubs and asters and flat-top (grass leaved), tall and Canada goldenrods.

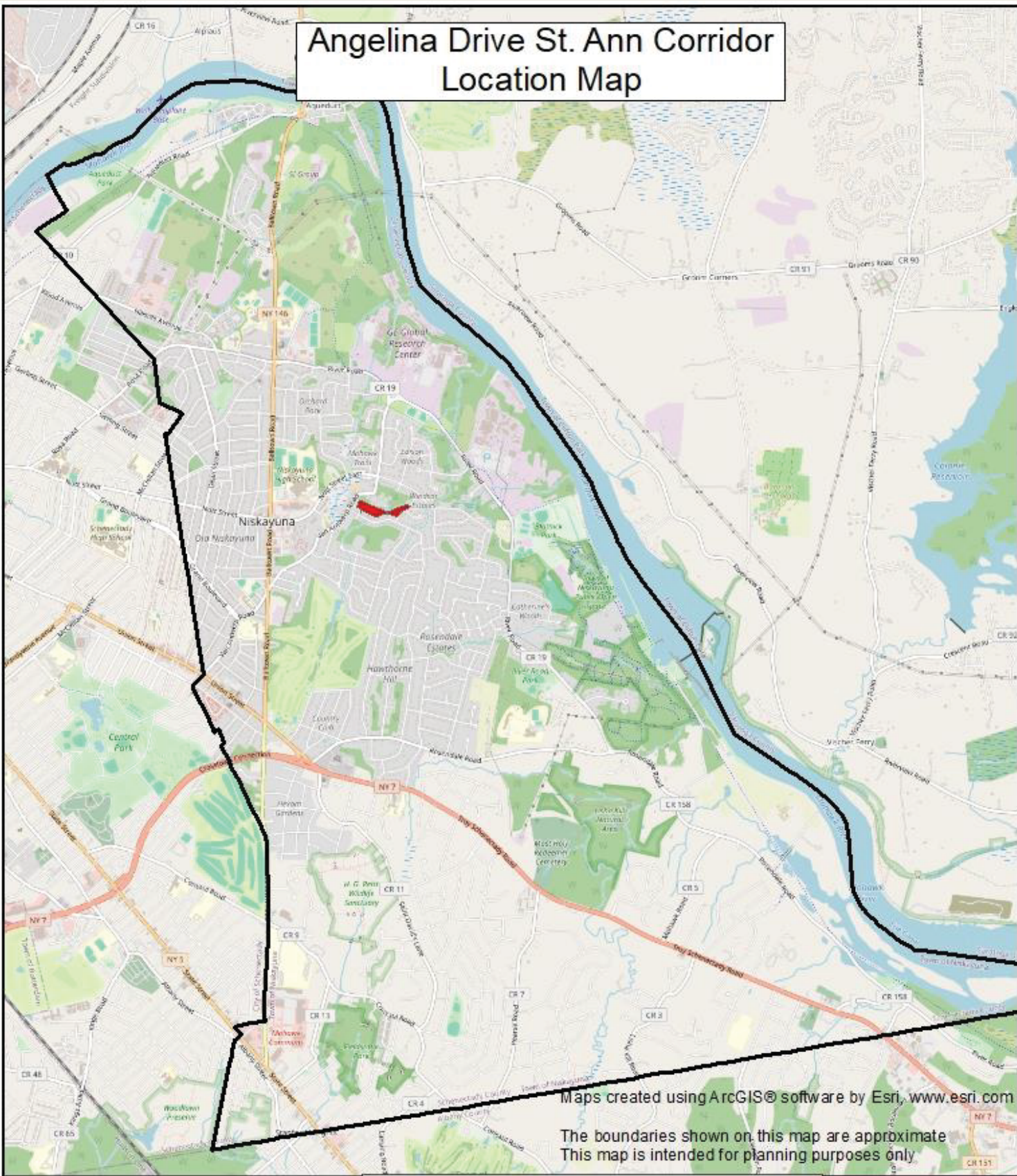


Shrubland along St. Ann Drive



CONSERVATION VALUES:

The Park's mixed deciduous and coniferous woods, shrub habitat, riparian zones and stream provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: filtration and protection of streams, groundwater recharge, storm water regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. These natural resources also provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife including the ruby-crowned kinglets observed here in October. The plants themselves allow the forest to regenerate in the future by providing seeds and shelter for native forest regeneration. The hiking trail, if completed and maintained, is conveniently located and can provide educational and recreational opportunities to Niskayuna residents. Portions of the lawn and shrubland that is now mowed could provide space for native wildflowers. Posted signs can remind neighbors that are now trespassing on town property that they need to remove equipment and cease mowing grass on parkland. Trail and educational signs can attract local residents and educate them about the Park and the nature within.

Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor Location Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries

N

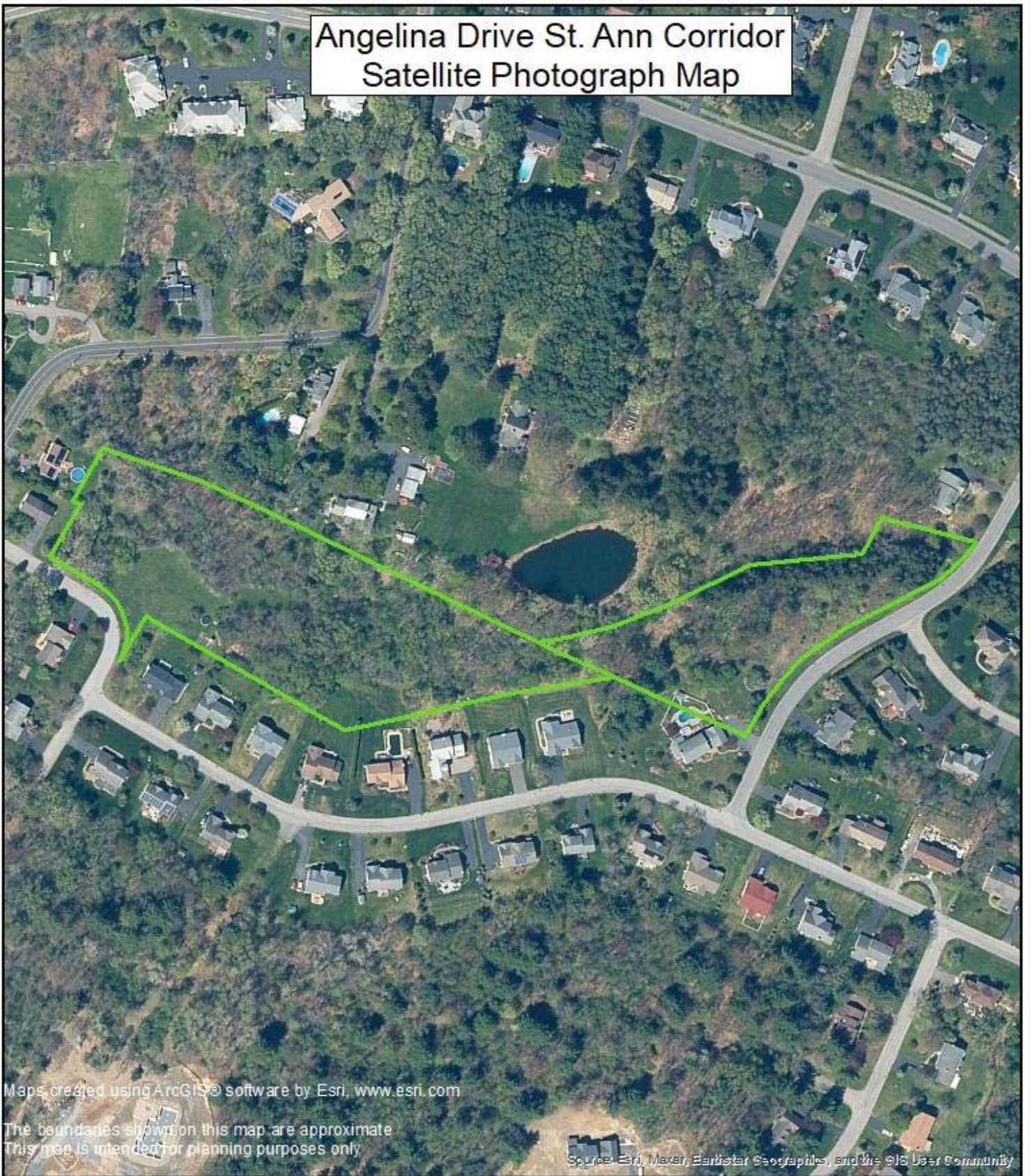
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0 0.5 1 2 Miles



January 22, 2024

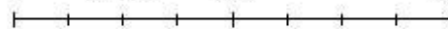
Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor Satellite Photograph Map



 Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor



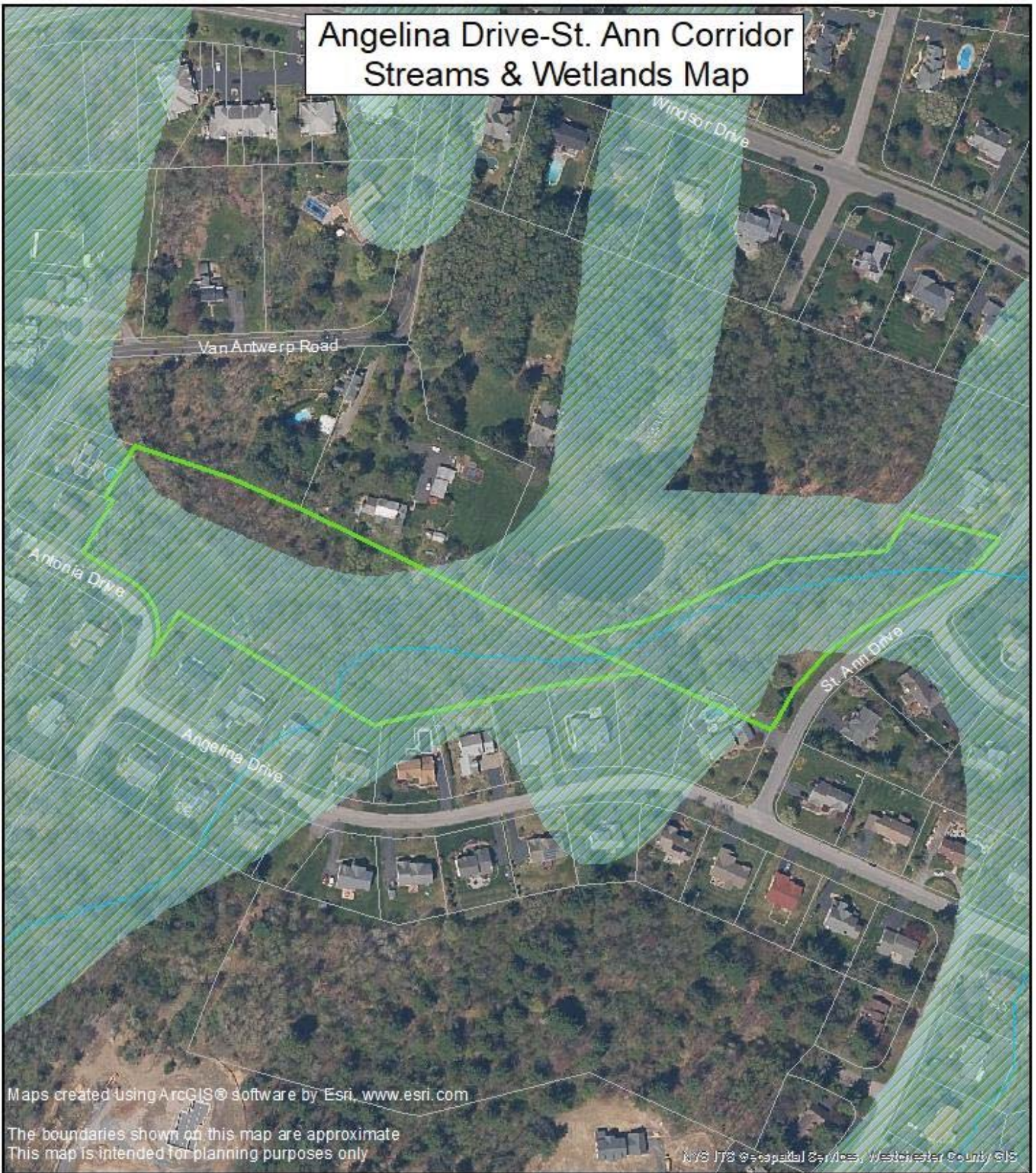
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Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024


Angelina Drive-St. Ann Corridor Streams & Wetlands Map





Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

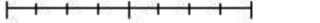
NYS ITS Geospatial Services, Westchester County GIS

 Angelina Dr.-St. Ann Corridor
7 acres

 Wetland Soils

 Streams

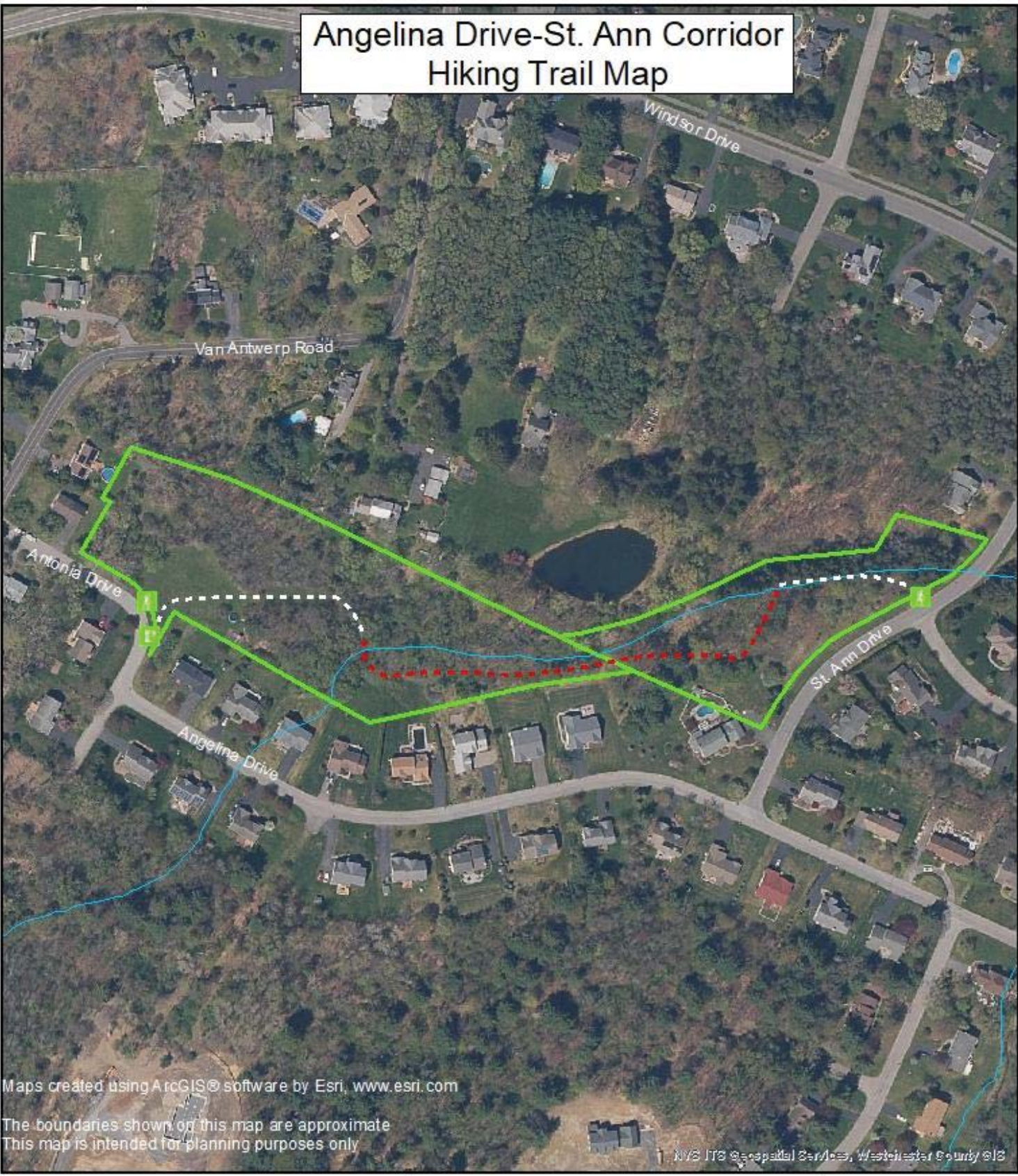


0 75 150 300 Feet




October 19, 2024

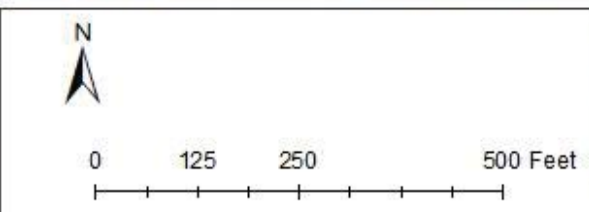
Angelina Drive-St. Ann Corridor Hiking Trail Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
 The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
 This map is intended for planning purposes only

NYS ITS Geospatial Services, Westchester County ©13

- Angelina Dr-St. Ann Corridor-7 acres
- ▲ Trail Entrance
- Trail
- Trail incomplete
- P Parking
- Streams

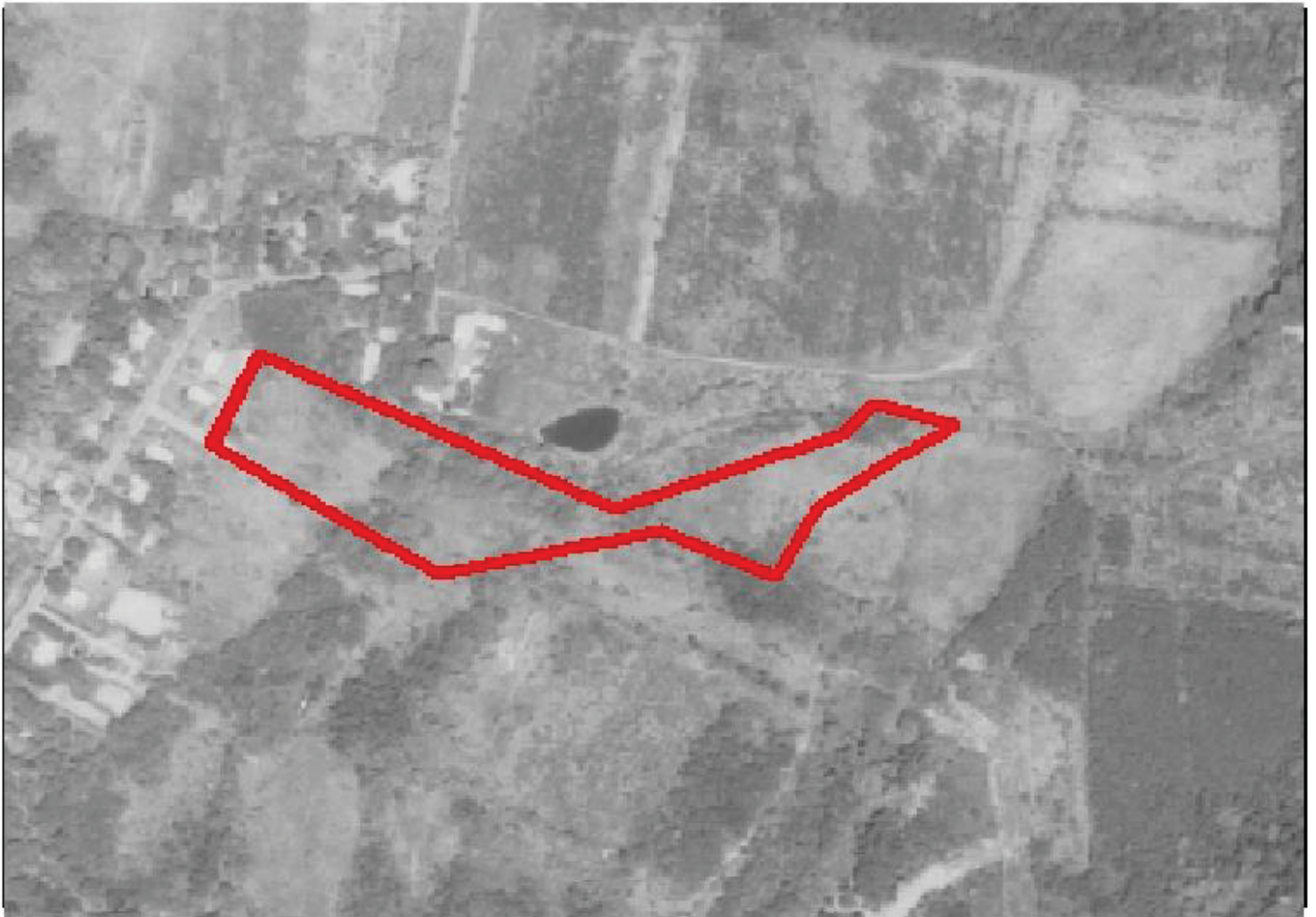




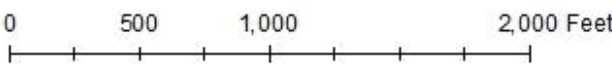



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

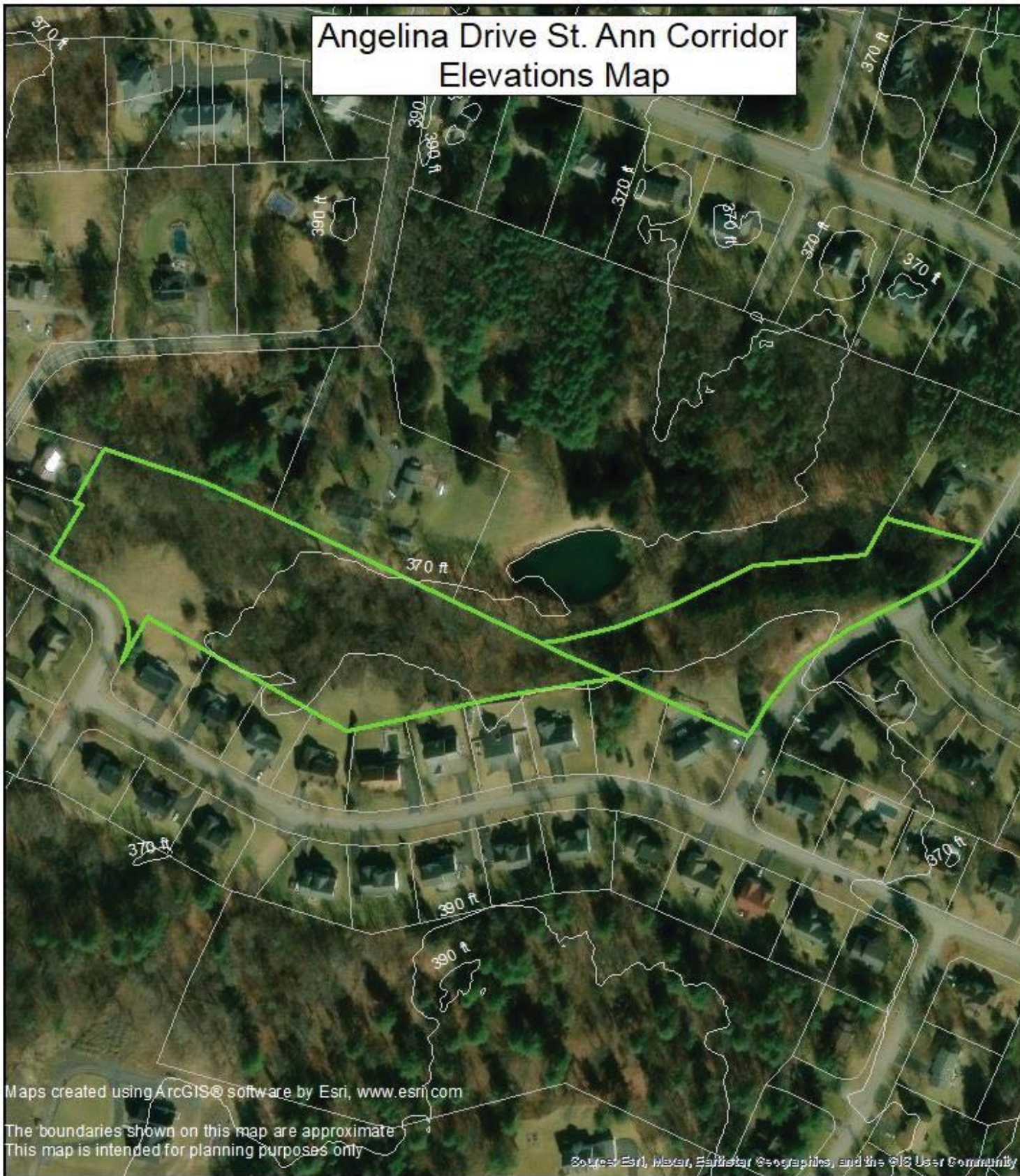
October 19, 2024

Angelina Drive-St. Ann Corridor
1982 Aerial Photograph Map



 Angelina Dr-St. Ann Corridor-7 acres	 	 October 19, 2024
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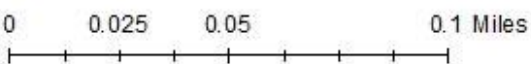

Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor Elevations Map



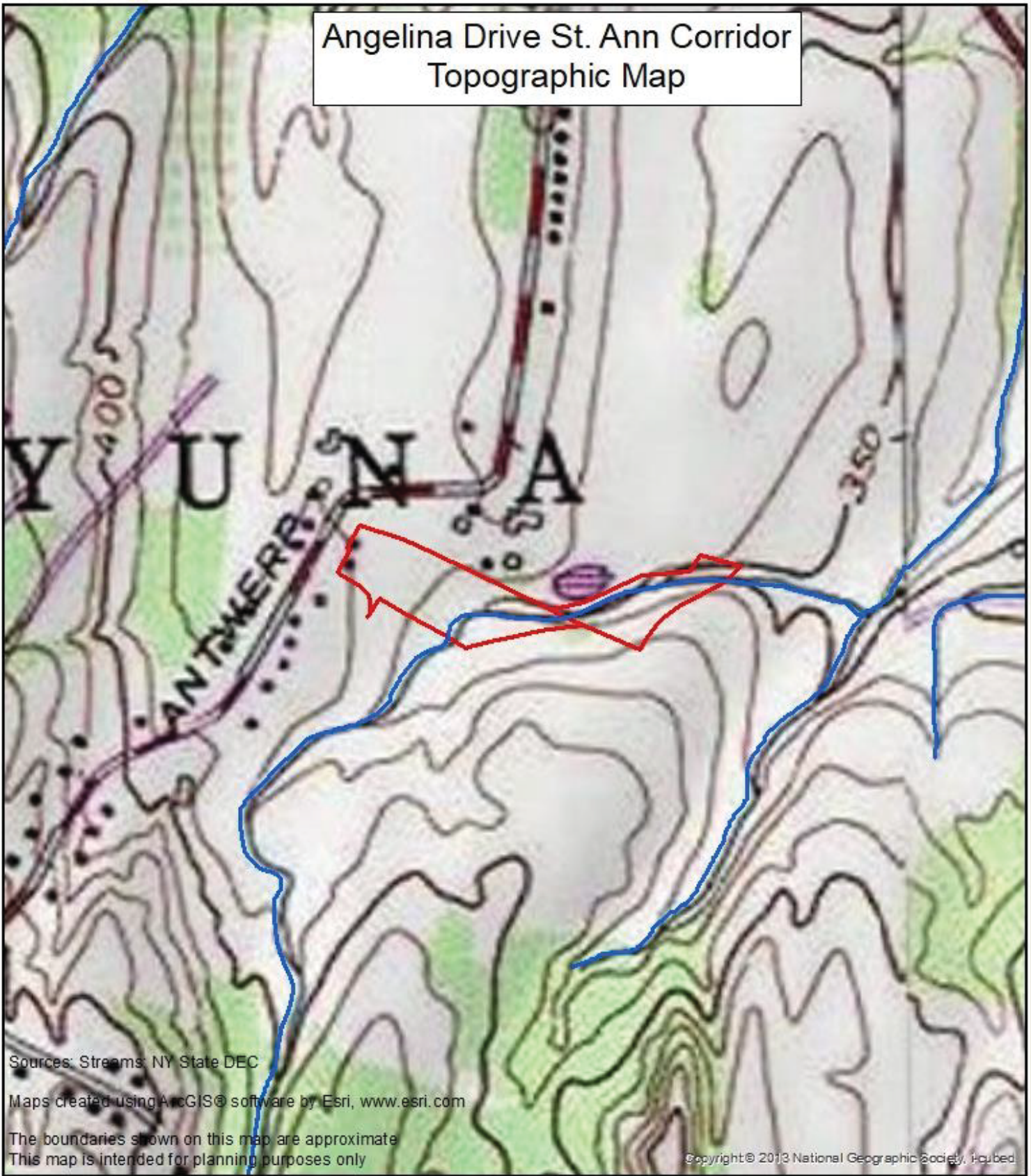
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

<p> Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor</p> <p> Elevations-10 ft. intervals</p>	<p>N</p>  	 October 19, 2024
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Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor Topographic Map



 Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor
 Streams



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



January 24, 2024

Angelina Drive-St. Ann Corridor Environmental Features Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

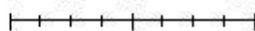
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

NYS 178 © Spatial Services, Westchester County GIS

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Angelina Dr-St. Ann Corridor
7 acres |  Shrubland |
|  Trail Entrance |  White Pines |
|  Parking-on street |  Phragmites |
|  Streams |  Large Oak & Maple |
|  Norway Spruce Plantation |  Lawn |
|  Plaque |  Neighbors Trespass |



0 75 150 300 Feet



October 19, 2024

AVON CREST NORTH INVENTORY

August 16, 2024, August 17, 2024, 2024 Site Walks

REGIONAL SETTING:

The Avon Crest North parcels are owned by the Town and lie in the southeast section of Niskayuna (see Location Map page 3). The ten separate parcels total 18 acres in size. The two, two acres in the southwest section and the one, seven acre parcel in the northeast section are the only parcels that are accessible for hiking, the others are have wetland soils. The parcels are part of an approximately 75 acre subdivision with approximately 100 single family homes (see Tax Parcel Map page 4).

The 118 acre Holy Redeemer Cemetery lies to the west and is mostly wooded and the large 114 acre Nature Conservancy's Lisha Kill Natural Area lies to the northwest. To the north three lots of 14, 18 and 19 acres each are mostly wooded. Single family homes lie to the east and south. (see Tax Parcel Map page 4).



Entrance to Town parcel on
County Clare Lane

Entrances at 2601 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7) and at 1013 Shannon Boulevard have hiking trails that lead to the trails at the adjacent Nature Conservancy property (see Hiking Trails Map page 9). An entrance to the northeast parcel is west of #19 County Clare Lane. None of the entrances are marked with signs or trail blazes. The small paved area at 2601 Troy-Schenectady Road is most likely too small and difficult to park in. Parking at 1013 Shannon Boulevard is a pull-off onto the Town parcel. There is no off-street parking at the #19 Clare Lane parcel.



Entrance to Town parcel on
Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7)

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Lisha Kill runs just west of the Avon Crest North parcels. Forests, some private and some part of the Nature Conservancy, lie to the west and north of the parcels (see Satellite Photograph Map page 5). Elevations are flat at 270 feet above sea level before dropping sharply just to the west at the Lisha Kill (see Elevations Map page 6 and Topographic Map page 7). A small tributary flows from the southwest parcel into the Lisha Kill 300 feet to the west while another stream flows from the northeast parcel north into the Lisha Kill 0.3 miles to the north (see Environmental Features Map page 8). A 0.25 mile hiking trail runs through the northeast parcel (see Hiking Trails Map page 9). Another 0.25 mile hiking trail runs from the Shannon Boulevard entrance to the Route 7 entrance. This trail connects to the Nature Conservancy's two miles of trails. None of these town trails have signs or trail blazes. A footbridge would help to cross the tributary into the Nature Conservancy's preserve.



Stream between town and Nature Conservancy properties

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES:

FORESTS:

The southwest parcel's four acres have large red oak, white pine and cottonwood trees along with hickory and black cherry in drier areas and basswood and black walnut closer to the stream. Ironwood grows in the understory; non-native, invasive honeysuckle is common. Goldenrod, Christmas, sensitive and marginal wood fern, white wood aster, silverrod and hog peanut make up the ground layer. Very large red and white oak, beech, sugar maple, white pine and hemlock grow on town property along the eastern side of the Lisha Kill. One red oak measures about four feet in diameter, a white oak about three feet in diameter and a white pine about 30 inches in diameter. The Nature Conservancy estimates that some of these large trees may be 200 years or older, which can be considered 'old growth' by some definitions. While most forests in the region are not regenerating because of deer browse, a patch of white pine seedlings is surviving here.

The seven acre parcel in the northeast section has a stream running through the center. Large cottonwoods grow at the entrance at County Clare Lane. Red maple, shagbark hickory, big tooth aspen beech and ironwood grow close to the stream bed while many medium sized red oaks grow elsewhere. A large hemlock grove grows in the center of the parcel.



Large red oak along on Town land by Lisha Kill

Many non-native, invasive plants grow close to the houses including buckthorn and honeysuckle. Stormwater runoff from nearby houses has caused erosion and scouring of the streambank, exposing the roots of trees.



White pine seedlings regenerating



Stormwater culvert discharge

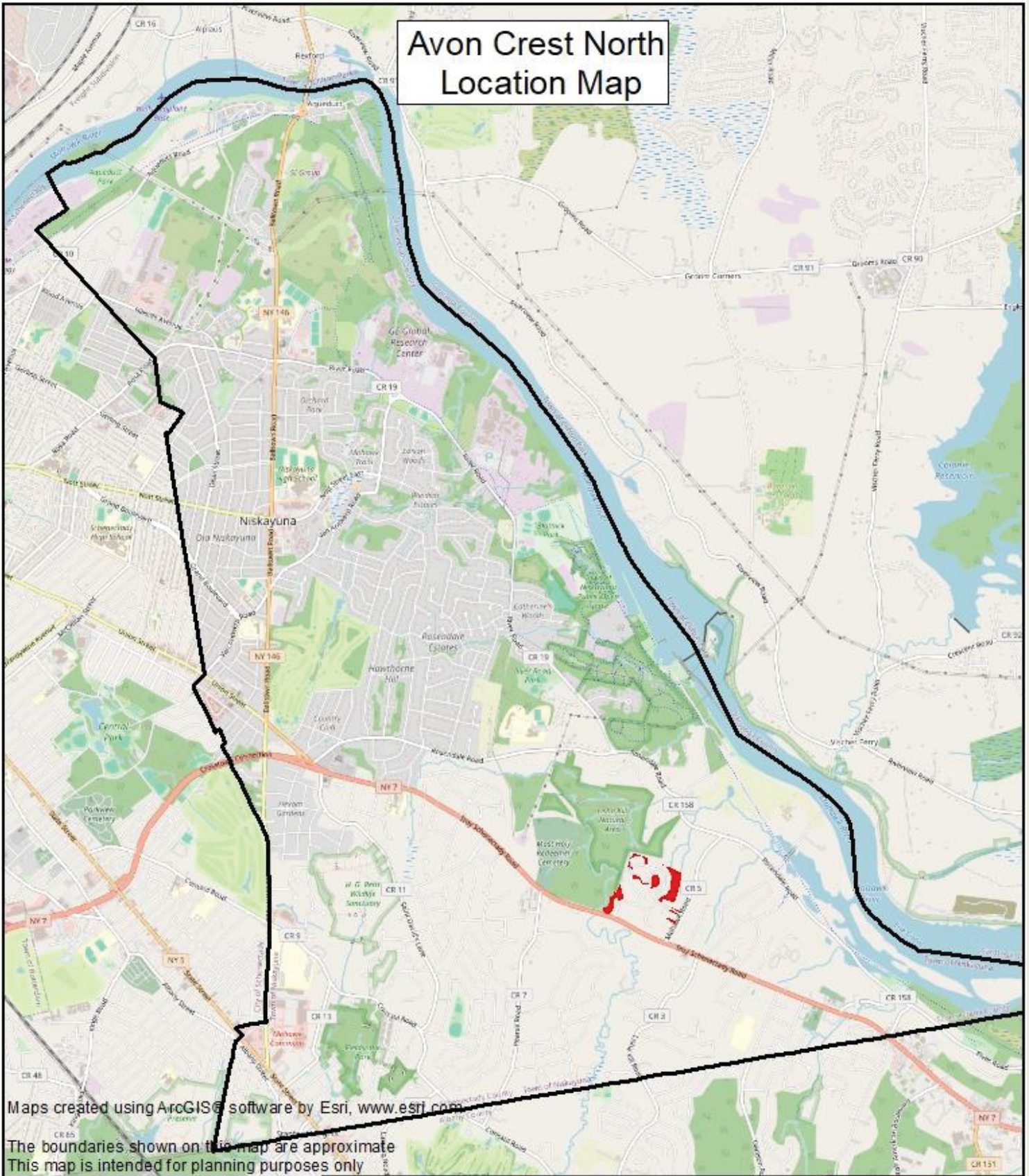


Scoured streambank and exposed roots

CONSERVATION VALUES:



The Avon Crest North parcels' trees, two streams and wetlands provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: water filtration, groundwater recharge, stormwater regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention on the steep slopes along the Mohawk River, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. The forests also provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife. The vegetation in the southwest parcel buffers the Lisha Kill. Hiking trails offer recreational and educational value for visitors. Especially important are the two entrances at Shannon Boulevard Route 7 that give visitors access to the Nature Conservancy's Lisha Kill Natural Area and the hiking trails there. These entrances are underutilized, perhaps because they do not have signs or trail blazes or a footbridge. Portions of the 98 acre Holy Redeemer Cemetery to the west can be protected with easements or fee acquisition from willing sellers in order to protect the water quality of the Lisha Kill and the scenic enjoyment of visitors to the Lisha Kill Natural Area.

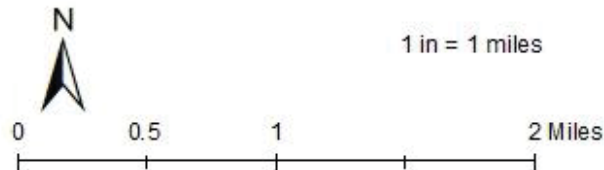
Avon Crest North Location Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  Avon Crest North-18 Acres
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



August 17, 2024

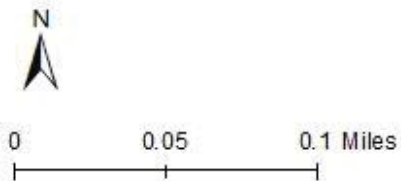
Avon Crest North Tax Parcel Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
Sources: Tax Parcels: Niskayuna Planning Dept
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Sources: Esri, Intel, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

-  Town Properties-18 Acres
-  Tax Parcels



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

August 17, 2024



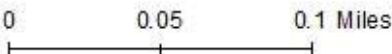

Avon Crest North Satellite Photograph Map



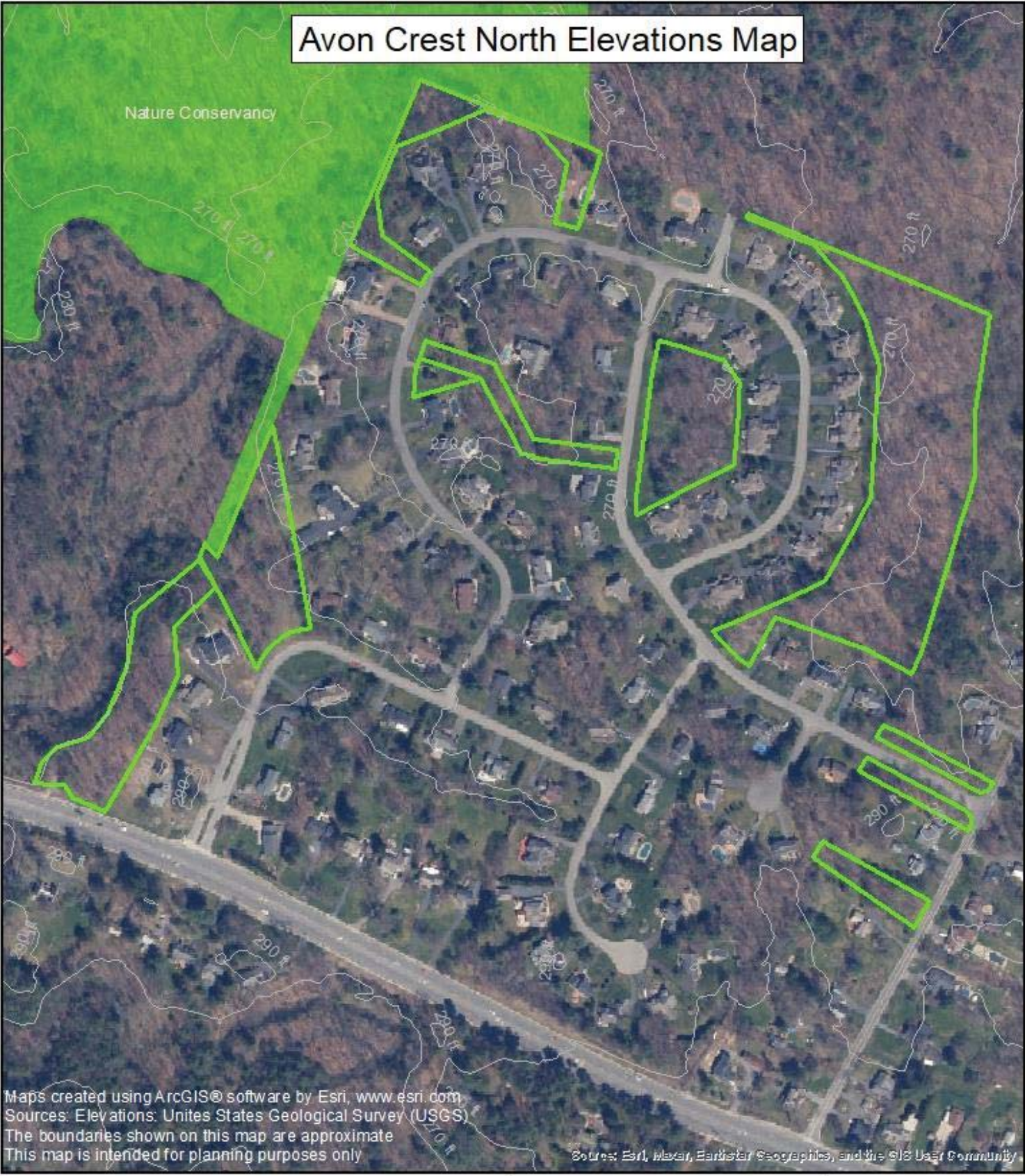
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com





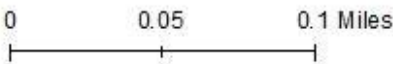

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 Town Properties-18 Acres	 	 August 17, 2024
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Avon Crest North Elevations Map




<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Properties Nature Conservancy Elevations-10 ft. intervals	 	 August 17, 2024
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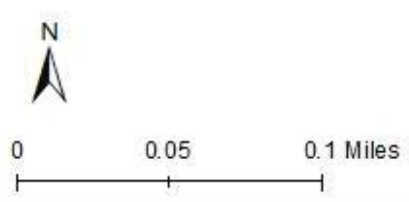
Avon Crest North Topographic Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri. www.esri.com
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.

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 Town Properties



August 17, 2024

Avon Crest North Environmental Features Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
Sources: Streams: NY State DEC
Wetland Soils: USDA Natl Coop Soil Survey
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Town Properties	Nature Conservancy
Lisha Kill & Tributaries	
Wetland Soils	
Hemlock Groves	

0 0.05 0.1 Miles

August 17, 2024

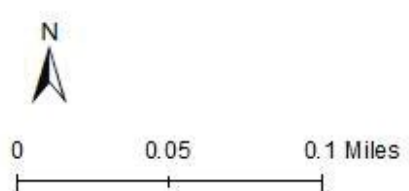
Avon Crest North Hiking Trails Map



Map created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Sources: Esri, Navar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

- Town Properties
- Trail Entrances
- Hiking Trails
- Nature Conservancy



August 17, 2024

BRENDAN LANE INVENTORY

August 16, 2024, August 17, 2024 Site Walks

REGIONAL SETTING:

The Town-owned Brendan Lane parcels are located between Reist Sanctuary and Fieldstone Park in the south-western section of Niskayuna (see Location Map Page 5). The Park is comprised of two parcels. The parcel west of Brendan Lane is three acres in size; the parcel east of Brendan Lane is 11 acres in size (see Satellite Photograph Map page 6). The west parcel has a small parking lot and trail entrance at 35 Brendan Lane that leads to Reist Sanctuary. The Brendan Lane east parcel is inaccessible due to streams and wetlands. The east parcel is surrounded by single family homes. The west parcel has single family homes to the north, east and south. To the northwest lies the 111 acre Reist Sanctuary with over two miles of hiking trails. Directly west lies a 36 acre, mostly wooded privately owned parcel (see Satellite Photograph Map page 6 and Adjacent Open Space Map page 10).

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The east parcel has wooded wetlands with a stream that runs through the center of the parcel and then flows 2.25 miles south into the Lisha Kill (see Environmental Features Map page 9). A small pond lies at the parcel's south boundary. The east parcel is flat at 390 feet above sea level (see Elevations Map page 7 and Topographic Map page 8). The west parcel's three acres are also entirely wooded with elevations rising slightly from east to west to 410 feet. The lower two acre east section is wetland while the higher one acre is dry upland. A stream flows through the center and flows into the east parcel where it eventually flows into the Lisha Kill. A short, 500 feet hiking trail in the west parcel begins at 35 Brendan Lane and then connect to the Reist Sanctuary's extensive hiking trail network (see Hiking Trails Map page 14). The Brendan Lane trail can be improved with signs identifying the parcel as town owned, trail blazes and clearing of overgrown vegetation.

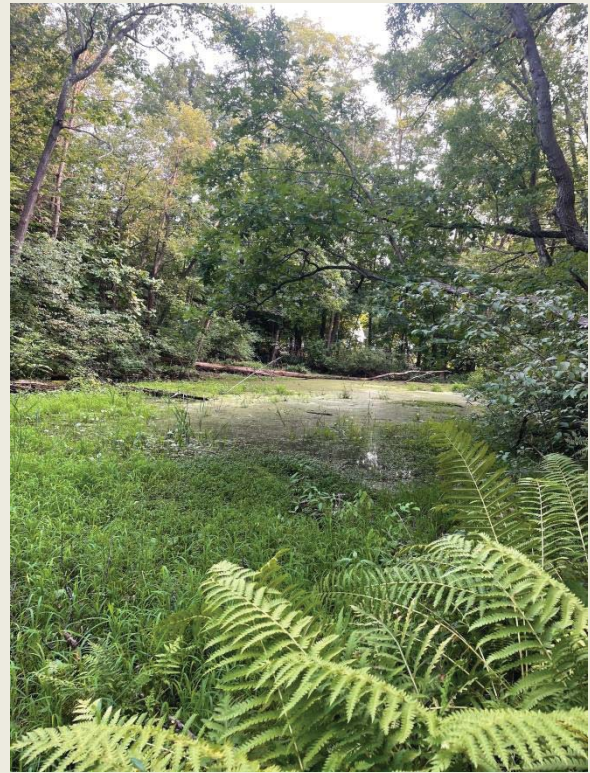


Brendan Lane trail leads to Reist Sanctuary

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES:

The east parcel's 11 acres are wooded with a small open wet meadow-pond at the south boundary. Medium size red maples and white oaks grow above an understory of white pines and hickories. The shrub layer has witch hazel and maple leaf viburnum in drier areas and high bush blueberry and nannyberry viburnum in wet areas. A variety of ferns grow here including cinnamon, New York, interrupted, royal and sensitive fern. The parcel is not accessible which is unfortunate because this landscape has a wide variety of native plants and green frogs observed here suggest that other amphibians and reptiles, along with birds and other wildlife, inhabit the parcel.

The west parcel's three acres are entirely wooded with medium to large elm, red maple, red oak and white pine trees with yellow birch in the understory and high bush blueberry, witch hazel, winterberry and silky dogwood in the shrub layers. The ground layer includes sarsaparilla, wintergreen, mayapple, avens, partridgeberry, brilliantly colored cardinal flowers and sensitive and New York ferns. A complete list of plants observed during seven surveys done by Stephen Young and others from 2000 to 2004 at the nearby Reist Sanctuary can be found on pages 12-16.



Open wet meadow and pond at east parcel

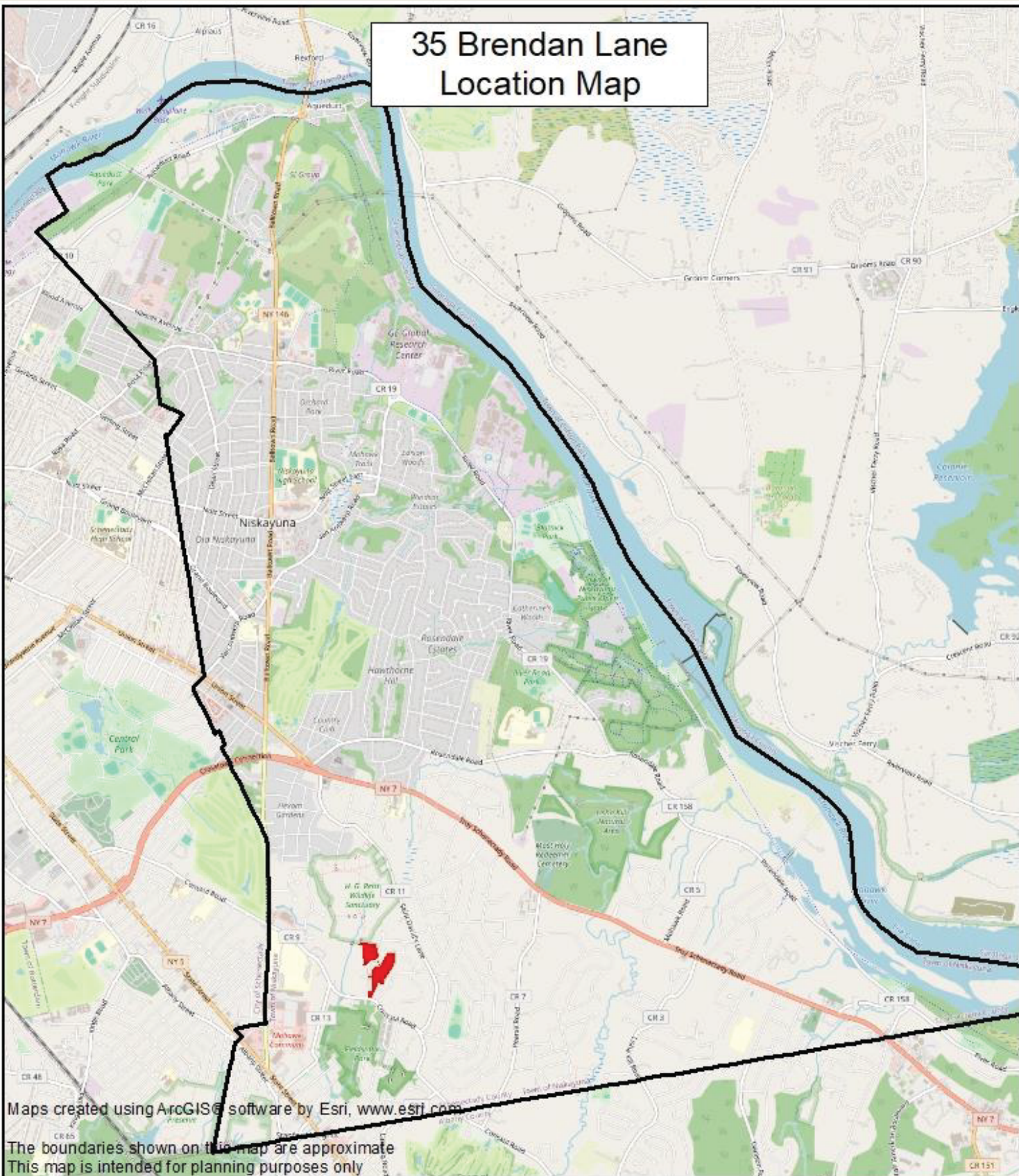


Cardinal flowers

CONSERVATION VALUES:



The Brendan Lane parcels' tributaries to the Lisha Kill, open wet meadows, ponds, wetlands, riparian areas and mixed deciduous woods provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: filtration and protection of the Lisha Kill tributaries, groundwater recharge, storm water regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. These natural resources also provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife. Brendan Lane's short hiking trail connecting to the Reist Sanctuary is a gateway to the 111 acre Sanctuary for residents along Brendan Lane and elsewhere who can enjoy the recreational and educational benefits found there. The privately owned 36 acre parcel adjacent to the Brendan Lane parcels and Reist Sanctuary could be an important addition to the Reist Sanctuary if a conservation easement or a fee acquisition from a willing seller could be obtained.

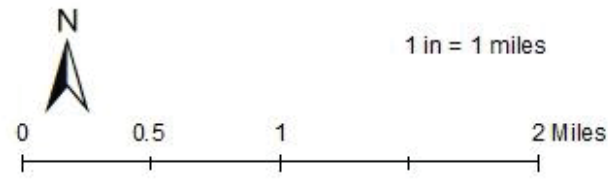
35 Brendan Lane Location Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  Brendan Lane-14 Acres
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



August 17, 2024


35 Brendan Lane Satellite Photograph Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 Town Properties-35 Brendan Lane
14 Acres

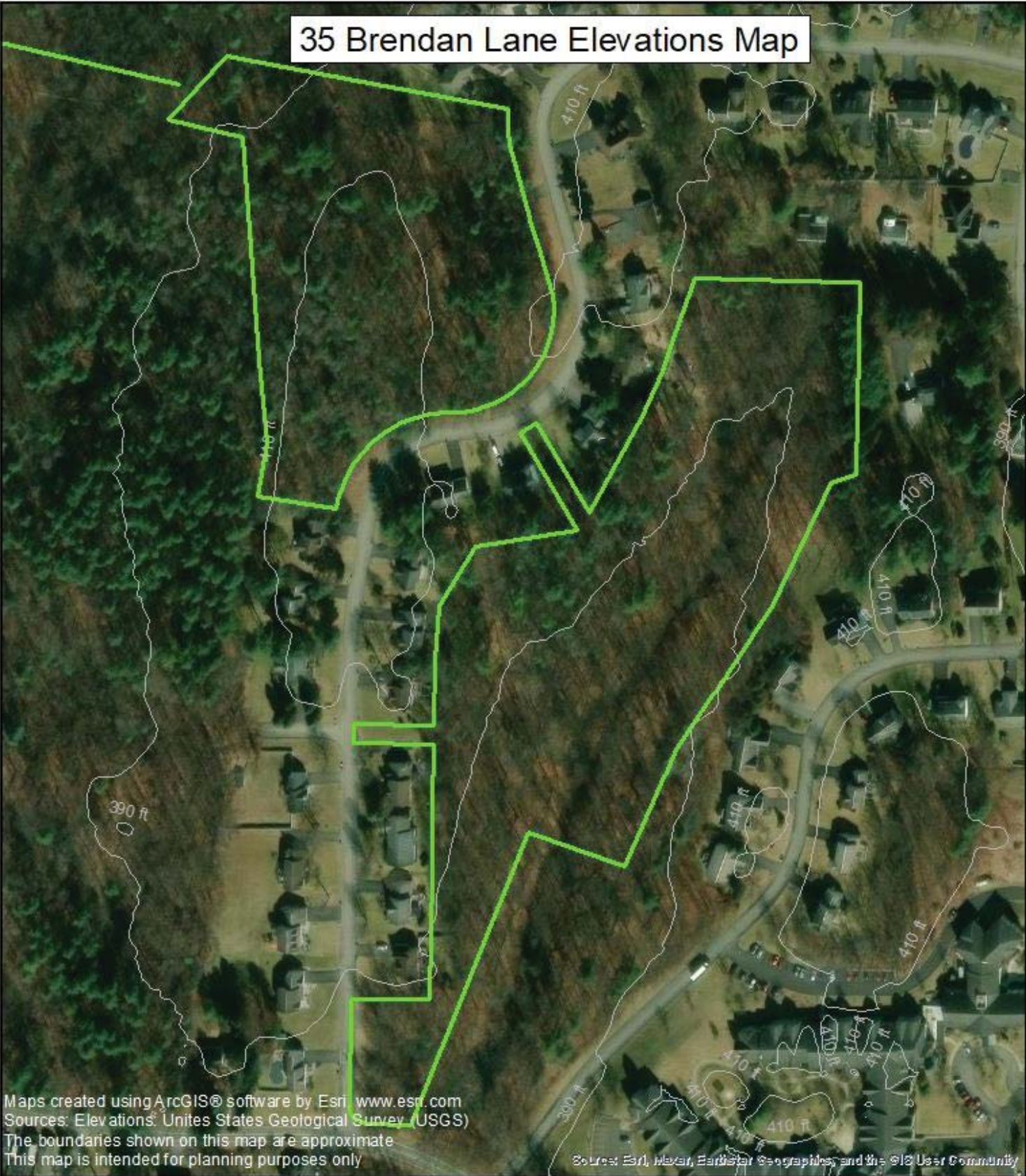



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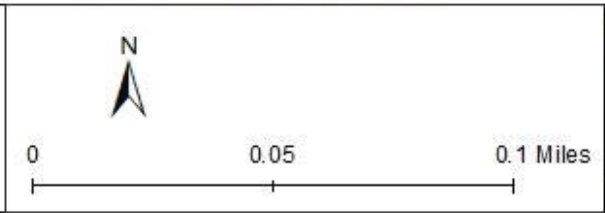
January 24, 2024

35 Brendan Lane Elevations Map



 Town Properties-35 Brendan Lane
14 Acres

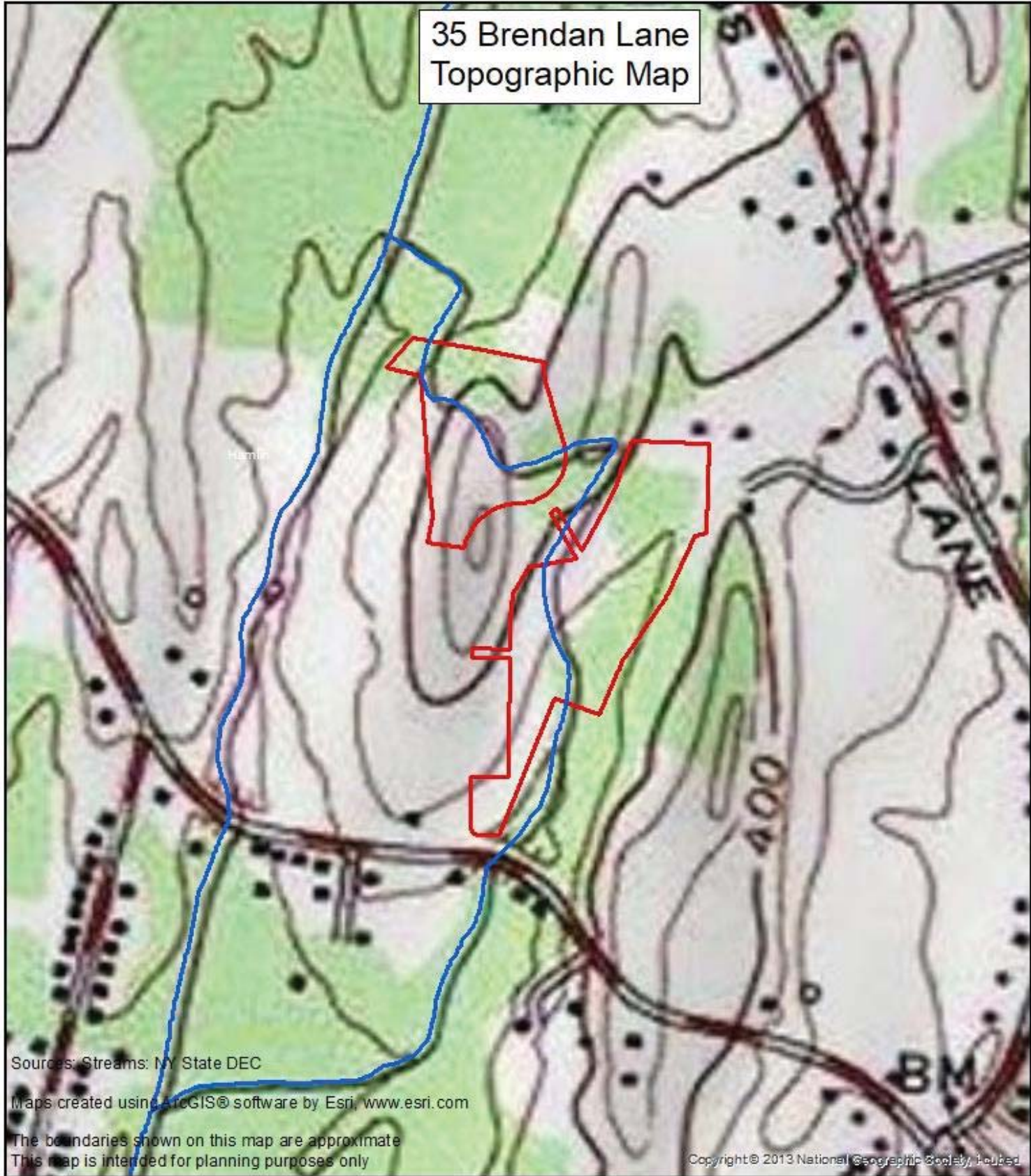
 Elevations-10 ft. intervals



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

August 17, 2024

35 Brendan Lane Topographic Map





Sources: Streams: NY State DEC

Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

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-  35 Brendan Lane
-  Streams

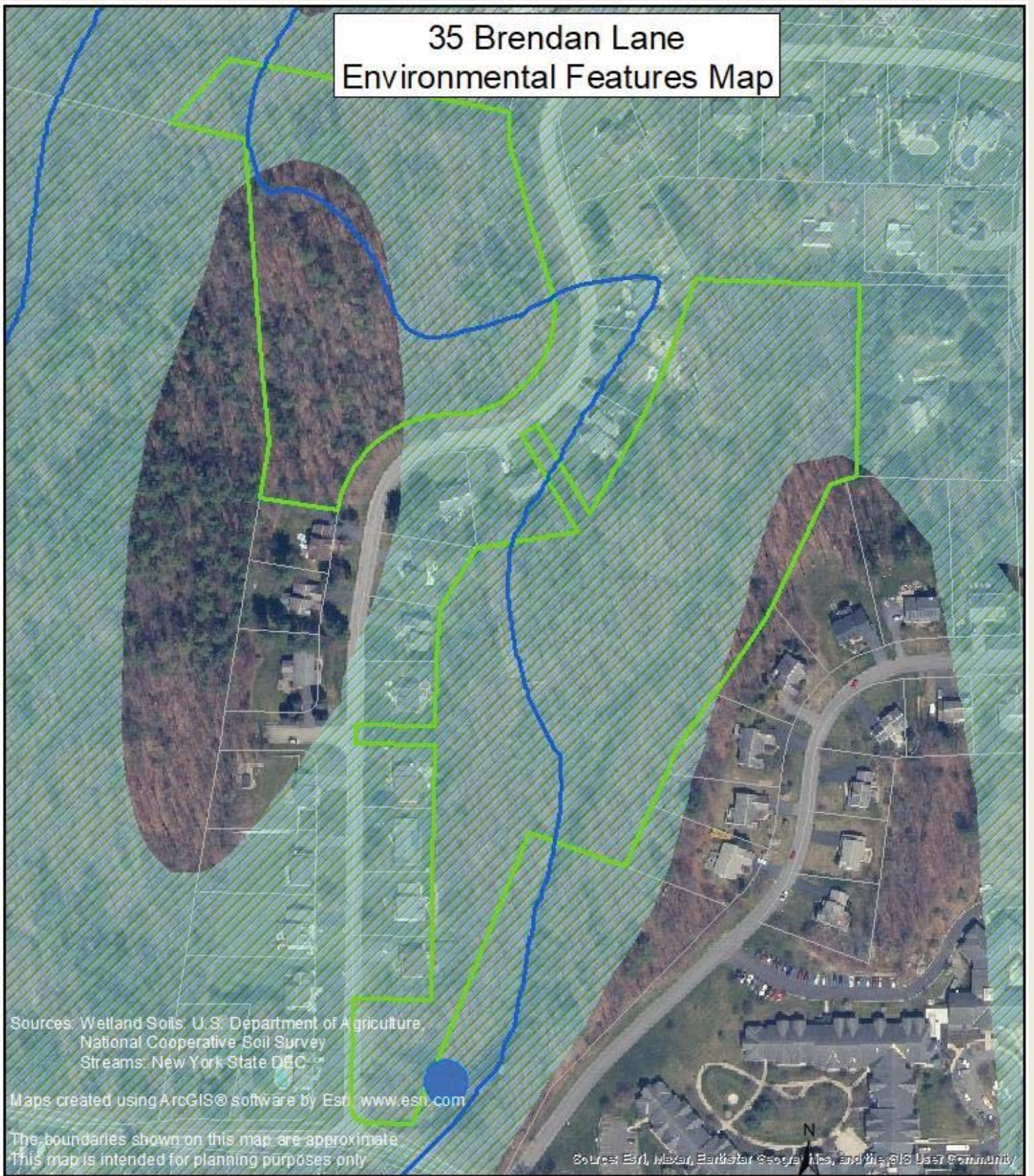


0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

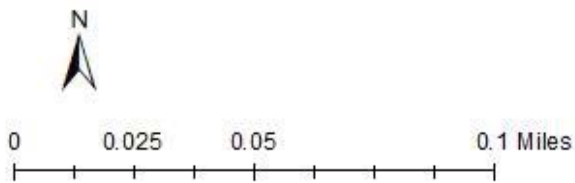


January 24, 2024

35 Brendan Lane Environmental Features Map



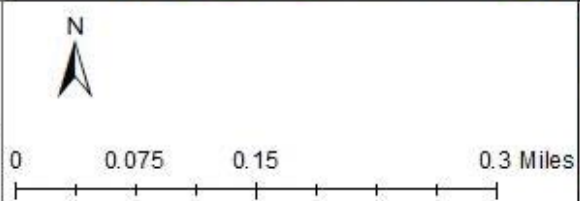
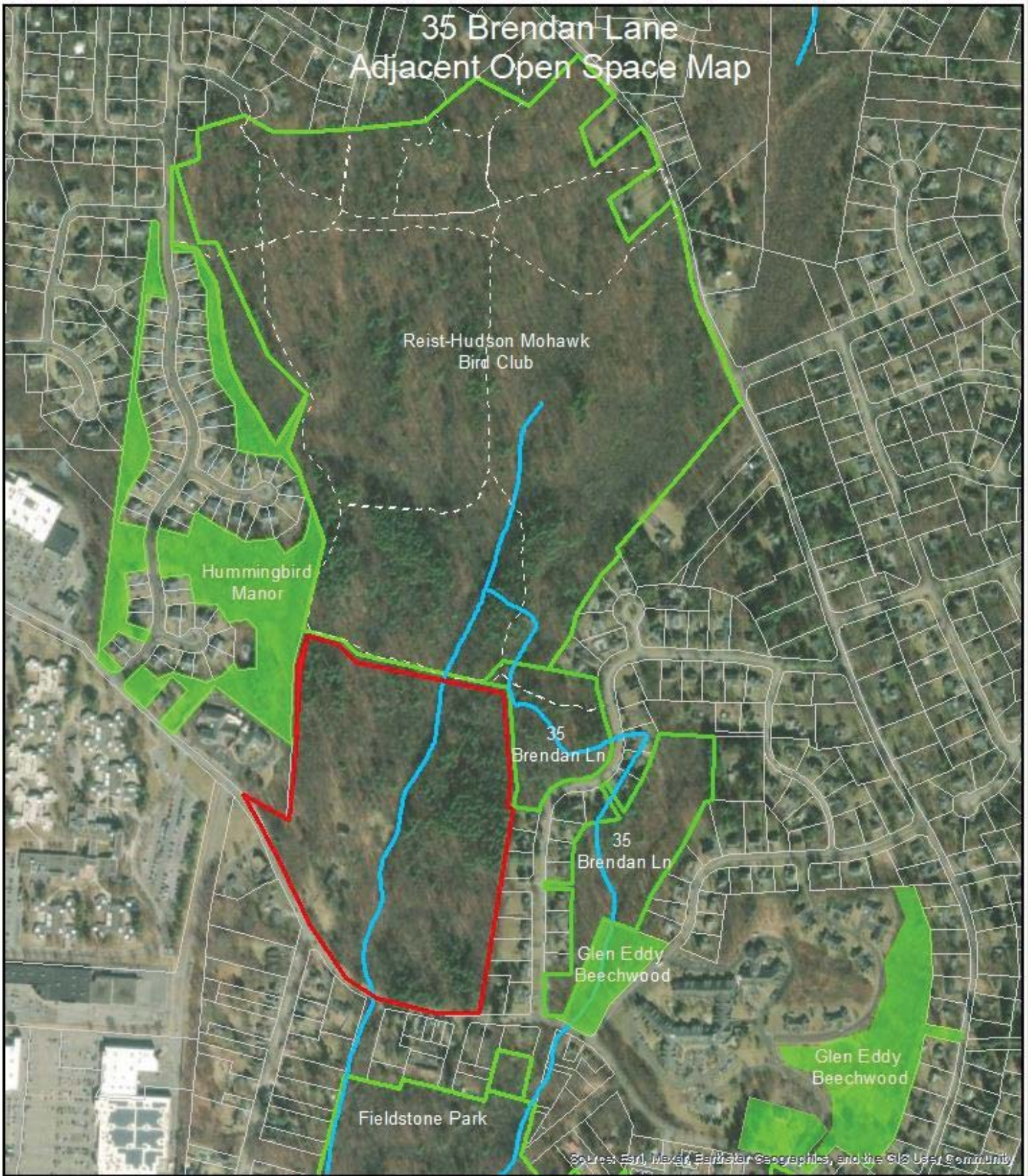
-  35 Brendan Lane
-  Streams
-  Wetland Soils
-  Pond



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

November 23, 2024

35 Brendan Lane Adjacent Open Space Map



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

November 23, 2024

35 Brendan Lane Hiking Trails Map

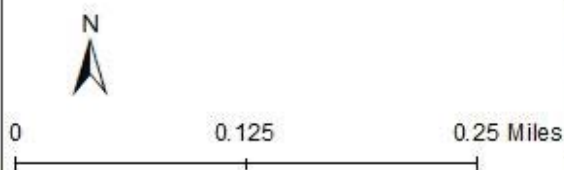


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

-  Town Properties-35 Brendan Lane
14 Acres
-  Reist Sanctuary-111 Acres
-  Trail Entrances
-  Parking
-  Hiking Trails



November 23, 2024

PLANTS OF REIST SANCTUARY & VICINITY

Identification by: Steve Young, Ruth Schottman, Ed Miller, Carl George. Species with an asterisk are non-native.

Acer negundo, Box Elder*
Acer pensylvanicum, Striped Maple
Acer platanoides, Norway Maple*
Acer rubrum, Red Maple
Acer saccharinum, Silver Maple
Acer saccharum, Sugar Maple
Actaea pachypoda, White Baneberry
Agrimonia gryposepala, Agrimony, Stickseed
Agrostis stolonifera, Creeping Bent, Carpet Bent
Ailanthus altissima, Tree-of-heaven*
Ajuga reptans, Bugle or Bugle Weed*
Alisma triviale, Water-plantain
Alliaria petiolata, Garlic Mustard*
Alnus incana var. *rugosa*, Speckled Alder
Ambrosia artemisiifolia, Common ragweed
Amelanchier arborea, Serviceberry, Shadbush
Amelanchier laevis, Serviceberry, Shadbush
Amphicarpaea bracteata, Hog-peanut
Apios americana, Ground-nut
Apocynum cannabinum, Dog Bane, Indian Hemp
Arabis glabra, Tower-mustard
Aralia nudicaulis, Wild Sarsaparilla
Arctium minus, Common Burdock*
Arisaema triphyllum, Jack-in-the-pulpit
Asarum canadense var. *canadense*, Wild Ginger
Asclepias syriaca, Common Milkweed
Aster acuminatus, Mountain- or Wood-aster
Aster cordifolium, Blue Wood Aster
Aster divaricatus, White Wood Aster
Aster lateriflorus, Calico Aster
Aster macrophyllus, Big-leaf Aster
Aster puniceus, Purple-stemmed Aster
Barbarea vulgaris, Common Winter-cress*
Berberis thunbergii, Japanese Barberry*
Betula alleghaniensis, Yellow Birch
Betula papyrifera, Paper birch
Betula populifolia, Gray Birch
Bidens tripartita, Swamp Beggar-ticks*
Bidens frondosa, Beggar-ticks,
Campanula rapunculoides, Creeping Bellflower*
Caltha palustris, Marsh-marigold
Cardamine pensylvanica, Pennsylvania Bitter Cress
Carex annectens, Sedge
Carex bebbii, Bebbi's Sedge
Carex blanda or *leptonervia*, Sedge
Carex brunnescens, Sedge
Carex bromoides, Brome-like Sedge
Carex cristatella, Sedge
Carex debilis var. *rudgei*, Sedge
Carex digitalis, Finger Sedge
Carex gracillima, Sedge
Carex gynandra, Gynandrous Sedge
Carex intumescens, Sedge

Carex laxiflora, Nodding Sedge
Carex lupulina, Sedge
Carex normalis, Sedge
Carex pensylvanica, Pennsylvania Sedge
Carex radiata, Radiate Sedge
Carex rosea, Rose-colored Sedge
Carex cf. *sparganioides*, Sedge
Carex stricta, Sedge
Carex swanii, Swan's Sedge
Carex tenera, Sedge
Carpinus caroliniana, American hornbeam
Carya cordiformis, Bitternut Hickory
Carya ovata, Shagbark Hickory
Castanea dentata, American Chestnut
Catalpa bignonioides, Catalpa*
Celastrus orbiculata, Asiatic Bittersweet *
Chelidonium majus, Greater Celandine*
Chelone glabra, Turtleheads
Chenopodium album var. *album*, Lamb's Quarters*
Chimaphila umbellata, Pipsissewa, Prince's Pine
Chrysosplenium americanum, Golden Saxifrage,
Cichorium intybus, Common Chicory, Cornflower*
Cicuta maculata, Water-hemlock
Cinna arundinacea, Wood-Reedgrass
Circaea lutetiana, Enchanter's Nightshade
Cirsium vulgare, Bull-thistle, Common Thistle*
Clematis virginiana, Virgin's Bower
Collinsonia canadensis, Horse-balm
Convallaria majalis, Lily-of-the-valley*
Conyza canadensis, Horseweed
Cornus alterniflora, Alternate-leaved Dogwood
Cornus cf. *amomum*, silky Dogwood
Cornus florida, Flowering dogwood
Cornus cf. *foemina*, Gray Dogwood
Corylus cf. *americana*, American filbert or Hazelnut
Crataegus sp., Hawthorn
Daucus carota, Wild Carrot*
Descurainia sophia, Herb Sophia, Flixweed*
Desmodium nudiflorum, Tick-trefoil
Desmodium sp., Tick-clover
Dianthus armeria, Deptford Pink
Digitaria sp., Crab Grass*
Echinocystis lobata, Wild Cucumber
Epipactis helleborine, Helleborine, Weed-orchid
Erechtites hieracifolia, Fireweed, Pilewort
Erigeron annuus, Daisy-fleabane
Euonymus europaeus, European Spindle Tree*
Eupatorium fistulosum, Trumpetweed
Eupatorium maculatum, Spotted Joe-Pye-weed
Eupatorium perfoliatum, Boneset, Thoroughwort
Eupatorium rugosum, White Snakeroot
Euphorbia cyparissias, Cypress Spurge
Euthamia graminifolia, Flat-top Goldenrod
Fagus grandifolia, American Beech
Festuca sp., Fescue
Fragaria virginiana, Virginia or Wild Strawberry
Fraxinus americana, American or White Ash
Fraxinus pensylvanica, Green or Red Ash
Galeopsis tetrahit var. *bifida*, Hemp-nettle*
Galium circaezans, Wild Licorice

Galium palustre, Ditch Bedstraw, Marsh Bedstraw
Galium sylvaticum, Scotch-mist, Baby's Breath*
Galium triflorum, Sweet-scent Bedstraw
Galium cf. woodruffii, Woodruff's Bedstraw
Gaultheria procumbens, Wintergreen
Gaylussacia baccata, Black Huckleberry
Geranium maculatum, Spotted Cranesbill
Geum canadense, White Avens
Glechoma hederacea, Ground-ivy*
Glyceria striata, Fowl-manna Grass
Hackelia virginianum, Beggar's-lice, Stickseed
Hamamelis virginiana, Witch Hazel
Helianthus tuberosus, Jerusalem Artichoke
Hemerocallis fulva, Orange Day Lily*
Hesperis matronalis, Dame's Rocket*
Hieracium sp., Hawkweed*
Hydrangea sp., White Hydrangea*
Hypericum perforatum, Common St. John's Wort*
Hypericum punctatum, St. John's Wort
Ilex verticillata, Winterberry, Black Alder
Impatiens capensis, Spotted Jewelweed
Impatiens pallida, Pale Jewelweed
Iris versicolor, Blue Iris, Poison Flag, Wild Iris.
Juglans cinerea, Butternut, White Walnut
Juncus tenuis, Slender Trail Rush
Juniperus virginiana, Red Cedar, Savin
Lactuca biennis, Blue Lettuce, Wild Lettuce
Lactuca canadensis, Wild Lettuce
Lamium galeobdolon, Yellow Archangel*
Lapsana communis, Nipplewort*
Leersia virginica, Whitegrass, Cutgrass
Leonurus cardiaca, Motherwort*
Linaria vulgaris, Butter-and-eggs, Toadflax*
Lindera benzoin, Benjamin-bush
Lobelia inflata, Indian Tobacco
Lonicera morrowi, Fly Honeysuckle*
Lonicera tatarica, Tartarian Honey Suckle*
Luzula campestris, Field-woodrush
Lycopus uniflorus, Bugleweed, Water-horehound
Lysimachia ciliata, Fringed Loosestrife
Lysimachia nummularia, Moneywort
Maianthemum canadense, Canada Mayflower
Maianthemum racemosum, False Solomon's-seal
Maianthemum stellata, Star-flower
Malus pumila, Common Apple, Paradise Apple*
Medeola virginiana, Indian Cucumber-root
Mentha x piperita, Peppermint, Bergamot Mint*
Mitchella repens, Partridge Berry
Monarda didyma, Bee-balm, Oswego Tea
Monotropa uniflora, Convulsion Root, Indian-pipe
Morus alba, White Mulberry*
Myosotis scorpioides, True Forget-me-not*
Nyssa sylvatica, Black, Sour or Tupelo-gum, Tupelo
Origanum vulgare, Marjoram, Oregano*
Ostrya virginiana, Hornbeam, Ironwood
Oxalis stricta, Lady's Sorrel
Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Virginia Creeper
Parthenocissus tricuspidata, Boston Ivy
Phlox paniculata, Perennial Phlox, Summer Phlox*
Phragmites australis, Common Reed, Reed Grass

Picea abies, Norway Spruce*
Picea glauca, White spruce
Pilea pumila, Clearweed, Coolwort, Richweed
Pinus resinosa, Red Pine
Pinus rigida, Pitch Pine
Pinus strobus, White Pine
Phytolacca americana, Pokeweed, Skoke
Plantago lanceolata, Narrow-leaf Plantain*
Plantago major, Common Plantain*
Podophyllum peltatum, May-apple, Wild Mandrake
Polygonatum pubescens, Solomons-seal
Polygonum cuspidatum, Japanese Knotweed*
Polygonum hydropiper, Smartweed, Water-pepper*
Polygonum hydropiperoides, Mild Water-pepper
Polygonum sagittatum, Arrow-leaved Tearthumb
Polygonum virginianum, Jumpseed
Populus deltoides, Cottonwood
Populus grandidentata, Big-tooth Aspen
Populus tremuloides, Quaking Aspen
Potentilla canadensis, Dwarf Cinquefoil
Potentilla simplex, Oldfield-cinquefoil
Prenanthes alba, Rattlesnake-root, White Lettuce
Prunella vulgaris, Heal-all, Self-heal, Prunella*
Prunus pensylvanica, Bird-cherry, Pin-cherry
Prunus serotina, Black Cherry
Prunus virginiana, Choke Cherry
Pyrola elliptica, Shinleaf, Wild Lily-of-the-valley
Quercus alba, White Oak
Quercus bicolor, Swamp White Oak
Quercus coccinea, Scarlet Oak
Quercus palustris, Pin Oak
Quercus prinus, Chestnut Oak
Quercus rubra, Red Oak
Quercus velutina, Black, Dyer's, Yellow-bark Oak
Ranunculus abortivus, Kidney-leaf Buttercup
Ranunculus acris, Common Buttercup*
Ranunculus recurvata, Hooked Buttercup
Rhamnus cathartica, Black Buckthorn*
Rhamnus frangula, Smooth-buckthorn*
Rhododendron cf. periclymenoides, Pinkster-flower
Rhus hirta, Staghorn Sumac
Ribes rubrum, Cherry-currant, Garden-red Currant*
Robinia pseudo-acacia, Black Locust*
Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum, Watercress*
Rosa multiflora, Multiflora Rose*
Rubus allegheniensis, Highbush Blackberry,
Rubus idaeus, Red Raspberry
Rubus occidentalis, Black-cap, Black Raspberry
Salix sp., Willow
Salix cf. fragilis, Brittle or Crack Willow
Sambucus canadensis, Elderberry
Sanguinaria canadensis, Bloodroot
Sanicula marilandica, Black Snakeroot, Sanicle
Sassafras albidum, White Sassafras
Scirpus atrovirens, Black Bulrush
Scrophularia sp., Figwort
Scutellaria galericulata, Hooded Skullcap
Scutellaria lateriflora, Mad-dog Scullcap
Sedum telephium var. purpurea, Live-forever, *
Setaria pumila Foxtail, Pigeongrass, Yellow Foxtail*

Silene latifolia, White Champion, White Cockle*
Sisymbrium officinale, Hedge-mustard*
Sisyrinchium cf. angustifolium, Bue-eyed Grass
Smilax herbaceae, Carrion-flower, Jacob's-ladder
Solanum dulcamara, Climbing Nightshade*
Solidago bicolor, Silverrod, White Goldenrod
Solidago caesia, Blue-stem Goldenrod
Solidago canadensis, Canada Goldenrod
Solidago flexicaulis, Zig-zag Goldenrod
Solidago gigantea, Late Goldenrod
Solidago juncea, Early Goldenrod
Solidago patula, Rough-leaf Goldenrod
Solidago rugosa, Rough-stem Goldenrod,
Sorbus aucuparia, European Mountain Ash*
Spiraea cf. latifolia, Canada Tea, Meadow-sweet
Symplocarpus foetidus, Skunk Cabbage
Tanacetum vulgare, Common Tansy, *
Taraxacum officinale, Common Dandelion*
Taxus sp., Japanese cf. Larch*
Thalictrum dioicum, Early Meadow Rue
Thalictrum pubescens, Tall Meadow-rue
Tilia americana, American Basswood
Toxicodendron radicans, Poison-ivy, Poison-oak
Trientalis borealis, American Star-Flower
Trifolium cf. aureum, Hop-clover, Yellow Clover*
Trifolium repens, White Clover*
Trillium erectum, Purple Trillium, Stinking Benjamin
Tsuga canadensis, Northern Hemlock
Typha latifolia, Broad-leaf Cattail, Common Cattail
Ulmus americana, American Elm, White Elm
Ulmus rubra, Red Elm, Slippery Elm
Uvularia sessilifolia, Bellwort, Wild-oats
Vaccinium angustifolium, Lowbush Blueberry
Vaccinium corymbosum, Highbush Blueberry
Veratrum viride, False Hellebore, Indian Poke
Verbascum thapsis, Common Mullein*
Verbena urticifolia, White Vervain
Veronica officinalis, Common Speedwell*
Viburnum acerifolium, Maple-leaved Viburnum
Viburnum lentago, Nannyberry, Wild Raisin
Viburnum opulus or *V. trilobum*, Highbush Cranberry
Viburnum rafinesquianum, Downy Arrowwood
Viburnum recognitum, Arrow-wood
Vinca minor, Common Periwinkle, Running Myrtle*
Viola conspersa, American Dog-violet
Viola sp., violet
Vitis aestivalis, Summer Grape
Vitis riparia, Dune-, Frost- or Riverbank-grape
Waldsteinia fragarioides, Barren or False Strawberry
Zizia aurea, Golden Alexanders
 Ferns and Allies
Athyrium filix-femina, Lady Fern
Dryopteris intermedia, Intermediate Wood Fern
Dryopteris marginalis, Wood Fern
Onoclea sensibilis, Sensitive Fern
Osmunda claytoniana, Interrupted Fern
Osmunda cinnamomea, Cinnamon Fern
Osmunda regalis, Royal Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides, Christmas Fern
Pteridium aquilinum, Bracken Fern

Thelypteris palustris, Marsh Fern
Lycopodium dendroideum, Princess Pine
Lycopodium digitatum, Running Pine
Lycopodium clavatum, Running Cedar
Equisetum arvense, Horsetail

FIELDSTONE PARK INVENTORY

August 16, 2024, August 17, 2024 Site Walk

REGIONAL SETTING:

The Town-owned Fieldstone Park is 83 acres in size and is located in the south-western section of Niskayuna (see Location Map Page 7). The Park is comprised of eight parcels. Four parcels totaling 64 acres lie on the west side of Fieldstone Drive while another four acres totaling nearly 20 acres lie on the east side of Fieldstone Drive (see Tax Parcel Map page 8). Entrances to the west parcels are found just south of #187 Fieldstone Drive and just south of #135 Fieldstone Drive. The #187 Fieldstone Drive entrance has a large parking lot. The entrance to the parcels on the east side of Fieldstone Drive is located just south of #128 Fieldstone Drive (see Hiking Trails Map page 14).



Hikers meeting at entrance and parking lot just south of #187 Fieldstone Drive



Entrance and footbridge just south of #135 Fieldstone Drive



Entrance to east parcels just south of #128 Fieldstone Drive

The Park is surrounded by single family homes on all sides (see Satellite Photograph Map page 9). A large, mostly wooded 36 acre private parcel at #3405 Consaul Road could be a connection from the Park to the 111-acre Reist Sanctuary just to the north, but this would require that a conservation easement or a fee acquisition of the eastern portion of #3405 Consaul Road be done from a willing seller (see Adjacent Open Space Map page 13). There is no direct connection between the Park and this parcel. A small, one acre parcel at Consaul Road is owned by the Town and could be a connection but a stream runs through it and it is entirely wet. Another connection could be at Rudge Street on Consaul Road but it has four single family homes on both sides of the narrow Street and is bounded by wetlands (see Adjacent Open Space map page 13).

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Park's four parcels west of Fieldstone Drive are all wooded except for an attractive three acre meadow along the eastern boundary. The meadow has goldenrod and purple loosestrife and some saplings that should be cut once every year or two to remove invasive Bradford pear trees and to keep the meadow from reverting to forest. The four parcels on the east side are also all wooded except for a one acre stormwater detention basin (see Satellite Photograph Map page 9). 75%, or 48 acres of the west parcels are classified as wetland soils and 70%, or 14 acres of the east parcels have wetland soils—the reason these areas had not been developed (see Environmental Features Map page 10). A tributary of the Lisha Kill flows through the north and west sections of the west parcels. Elevations slope from 390 feet above sea level in the drier eastern section of the west parcels down to a low point of 370 feet in the wetlands in the west section. On the east parcels, elevations also drop from 390 feet to 370 feet, west to east (see Elevations Map page 11 and Topographic Map page 12). Land is higher between the two parcels and this is where a 20-acre farm had been in operation until as recently as 2007. That area is now the site of the Lois Lane townhouses (see 2007 Aerial Photograph Map page 15).



Meadow by #135 Fieldstone Lane entrance

The Park has nearly one mile of hiking trails on the west parcels and another one-third of a mile hiking trail on the east parcel (see Hiking Trails Map page 14). The trail entrance from the parking lot by #187 Fieldstone is overgrown and very steep and lacks signage. This can be improved with signs identifying the Park, trail blazes, clearing of overgrown vegetation and stone steps. Three footbridges span the very wet areas but need pruning as they are overgrown and nearly impassable.

The eastern section of the west parcels appears to have been cleared and excavated in the past, perhaps by farmers seeking to improve drainage. Because of this disturbance, the eastern section is dominated by invasive plants including bittersweet vines, Japanese knotweed and Norway maple trees. Hikers are rewarded, however, by the mature forest in the rest of the Park. Although this western section is classified as having wetland soils, most of it is dry upland. Several large black and red oaks grow here along with white pines and sugar maples. The understory is sparse except for low bush blueberries, snakeroot, Pennsylvania sedge and New York ferns. The hiking trail is flat and wide and makes for an enjoyable walk.



Footbridges need clearing and maintenance



Circular path through large red and white oaks



Wide, flat hiking trails in west parcels

The parcels east of Fieldstone Lane include a six-acre parcel just north of Laura Lane that is inaccessible with no trails and very wet soils and a 12-acre parcel south of Laura Lane. The entrance to the 12-acre parcel is just south of #128 Fieldstone Drive. The parcel has an attractive, easy to hike gravel path that circles the parcel for one third of a mile. The path runs through the middle of a large wetland, giving visitors a chance to see wetland plants not otherwise visible. Native plants found here include blue vervain, great blue lobelia, turtlehead, fringed loosestrife and boneset (see pictures on following page). Large red and white oaks and white pines line the path.

The gravel entrance is unnecessarily wide and gravel has been dumped into the adjacent wetland. This area can be naturalized and stabilized with native plants. A neighbor just south of the south boundary has piped stormwater into the Park and this can be removed.

CONSERVATION VALUES:

Fieldstone Park's streams, wetlands, riparian area and mixed deciduous woods provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: filtration and protection of the Lisha Kill tributaries, groundwater recharge, storm water regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. These natural resources also provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife. The Park's two hiking trails provide recreational and educational opportunities for residents.



Gravel fill has washed into wetland that can be restored



Effluent from neighbor's yard

NATIVE PLANTS OF FIELDSTONE PARK:



Blue vervain



Great blue lobelia

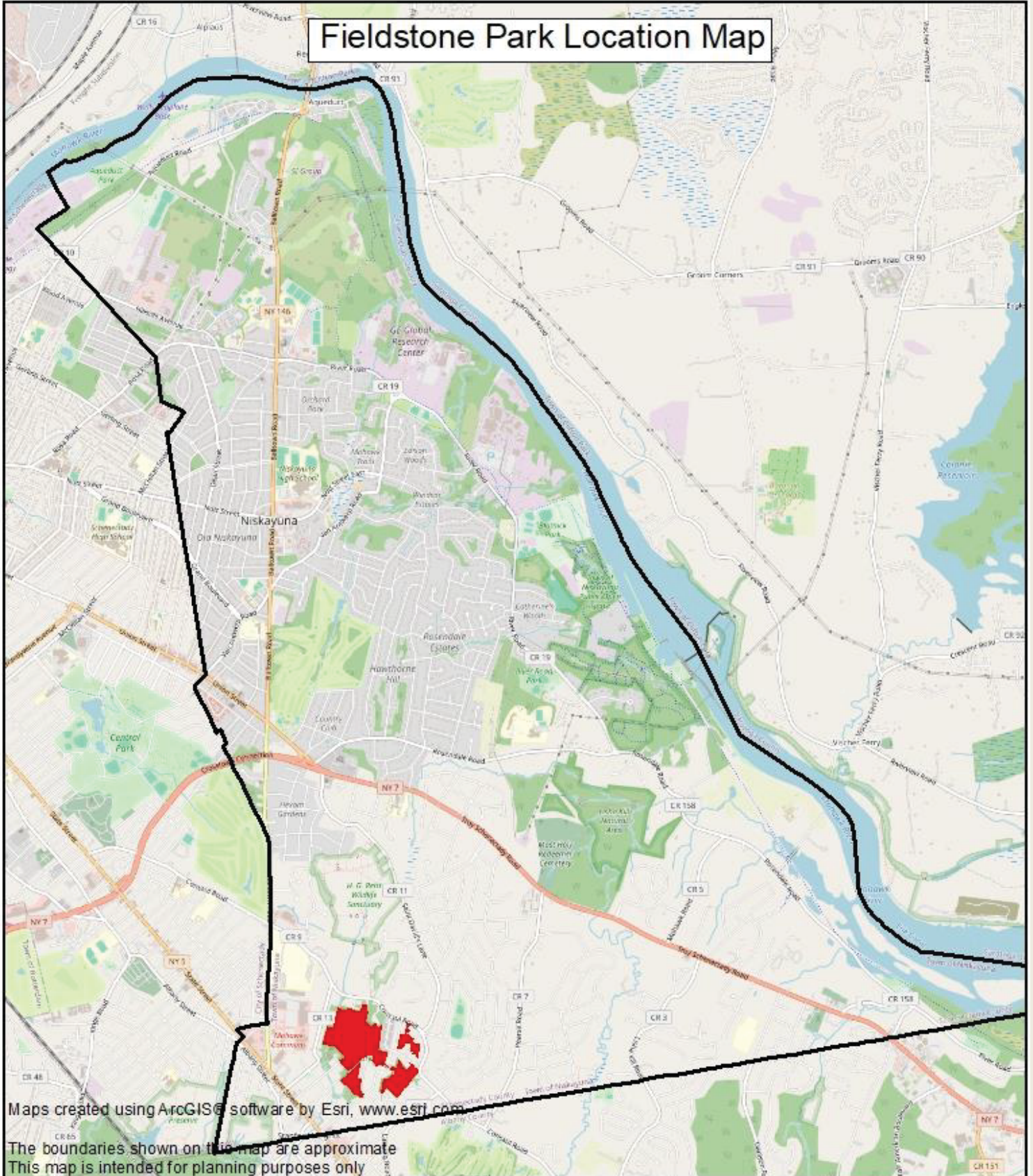


Turtlehead





Fringed loosestrife

Fieldstone Park Location Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

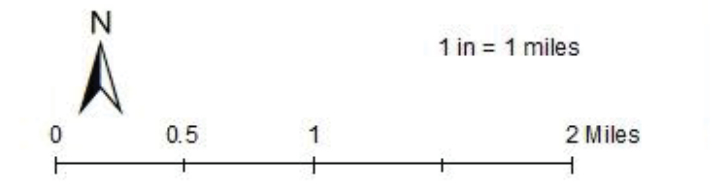
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

	Fieldstone Park-83 Acres
	Niskayuna Town Boundaries

N

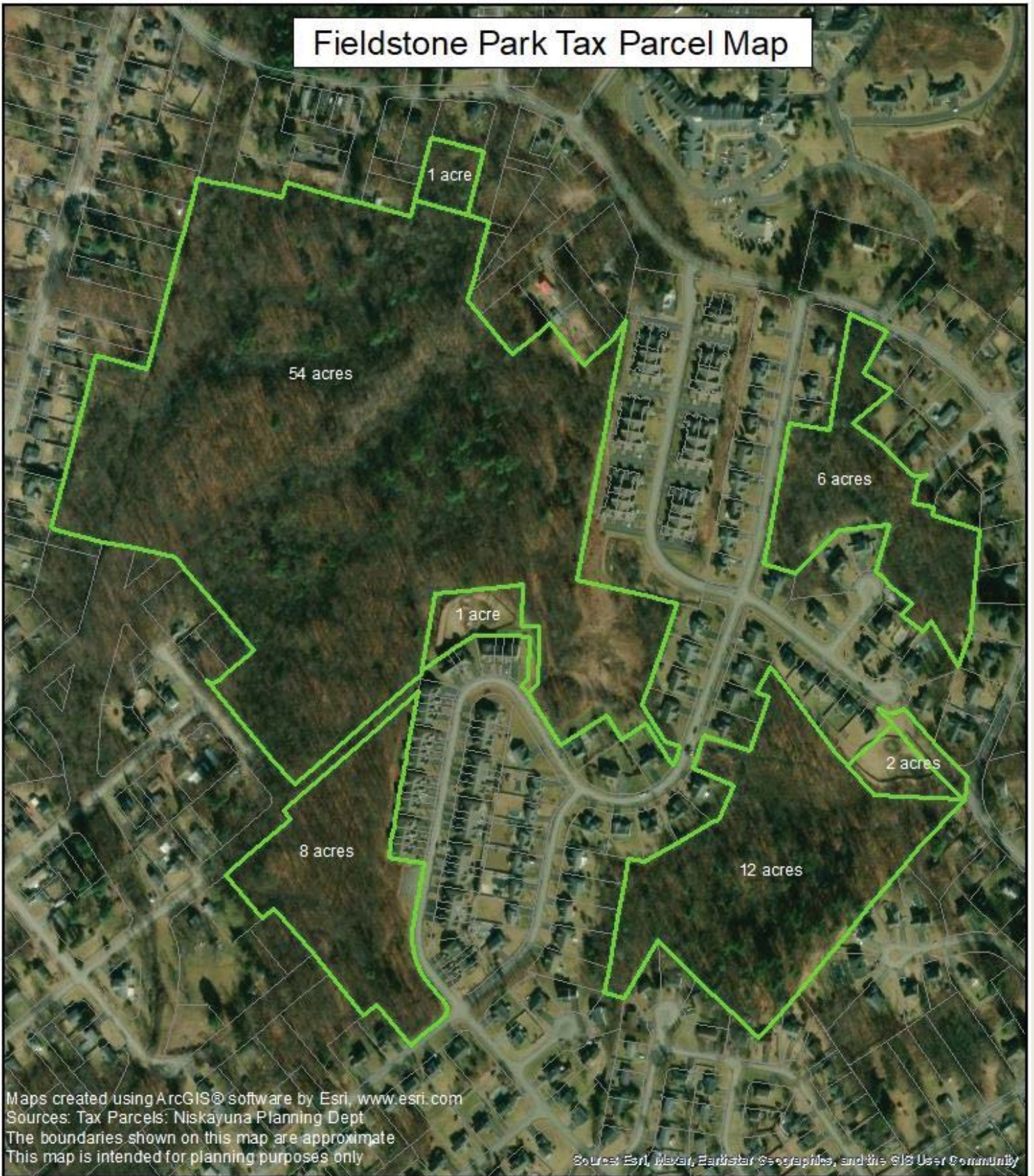
1 in = 1 miles


0 0.5 1 2 Miles




August 17, 2024

Fieldstone Park Tax Parcel Map



 Town Properties-83 Acres

 Tax Parcels

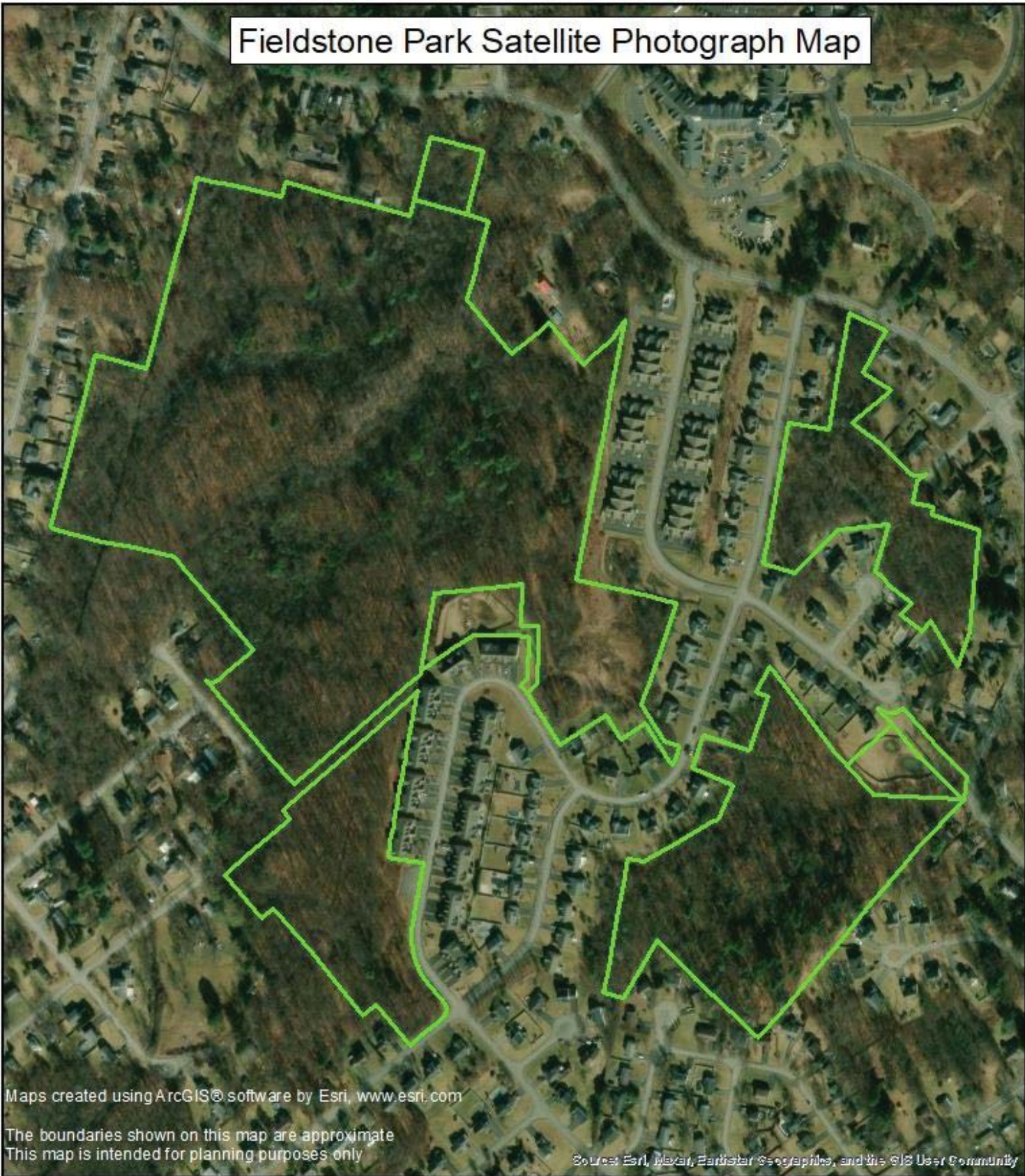


0 0.05 0.1 Miles


Niskayuna
NEW YORK

August 17, 2024

Fieldstone Park Satellite Photograph Map




Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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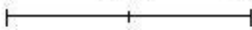
Source: Esri, DeLorme, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 Town Properties-83 Acres

N



0 0.05 0.1 Miles



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

August 17, 2024

Fieldstone Park Environmental Features Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
Sources: Streams: NY State DEC
Wetland Soils: USDA Natl Coop Soil Survey
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Sources: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

-  Town Properties-83 Acres
-  Streams
-  Wetland Soils



0 0.05 0.1 Miles



August 17, 2024

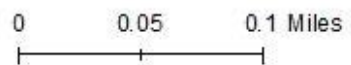
Fieldstone Park Elevations Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
Sources: Elevations: Unites States Geological Survey (USGS)
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

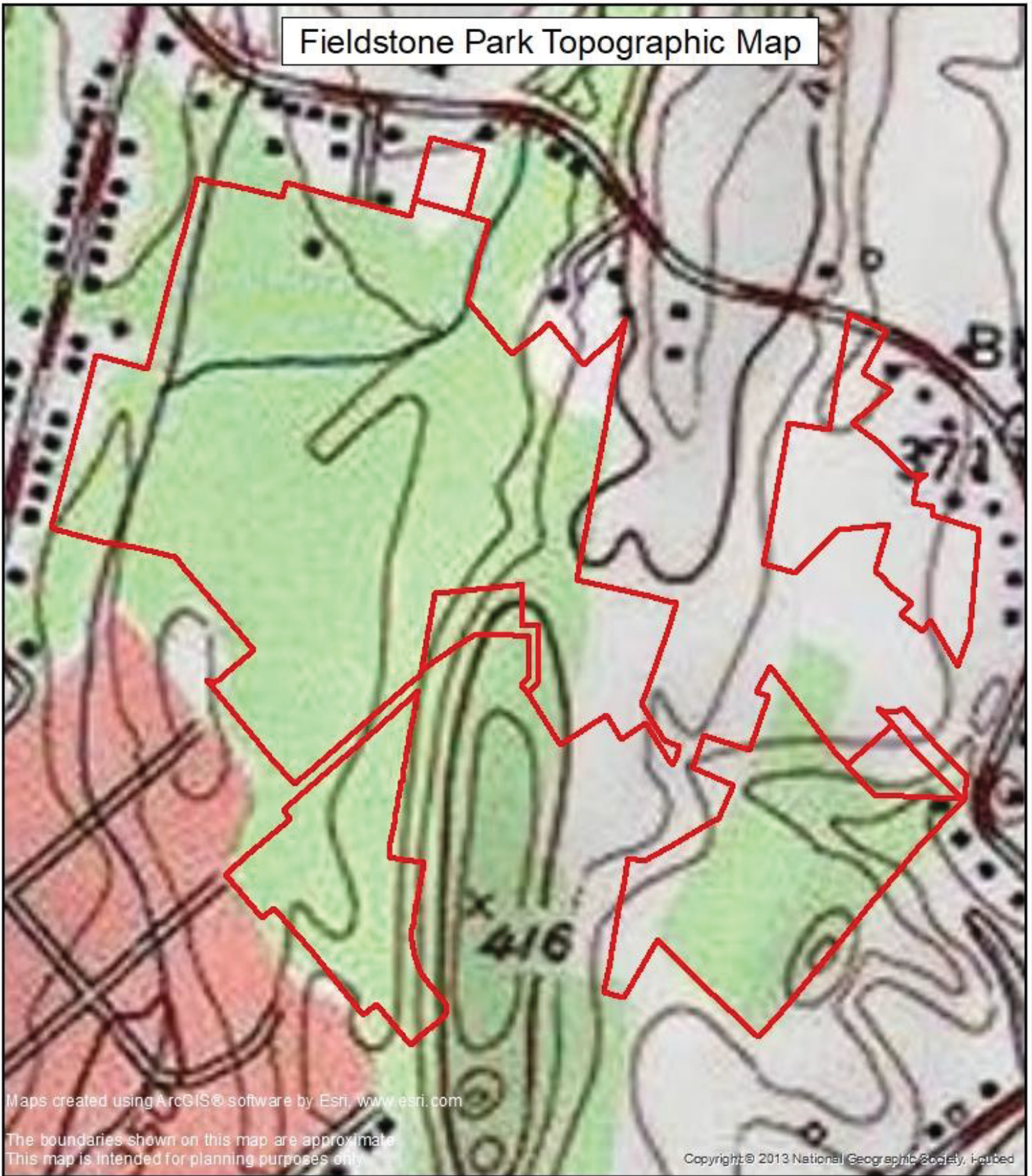
Source: Esri, Navar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

-  Town Properties-83 Acres
-  Elevations-10 ft. intervals



August 17, 2024

Fieldstone Park Topographic Map



 Town Properties



0 0.05 0.1 Miles



August 17, 2024

Fieldstone Park Adjacent Open Space Map




Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only


Sources: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

	Town Properties
	Protected Open Space
	Private Open Space Opportunities
	Possible Entrances/Connections

N

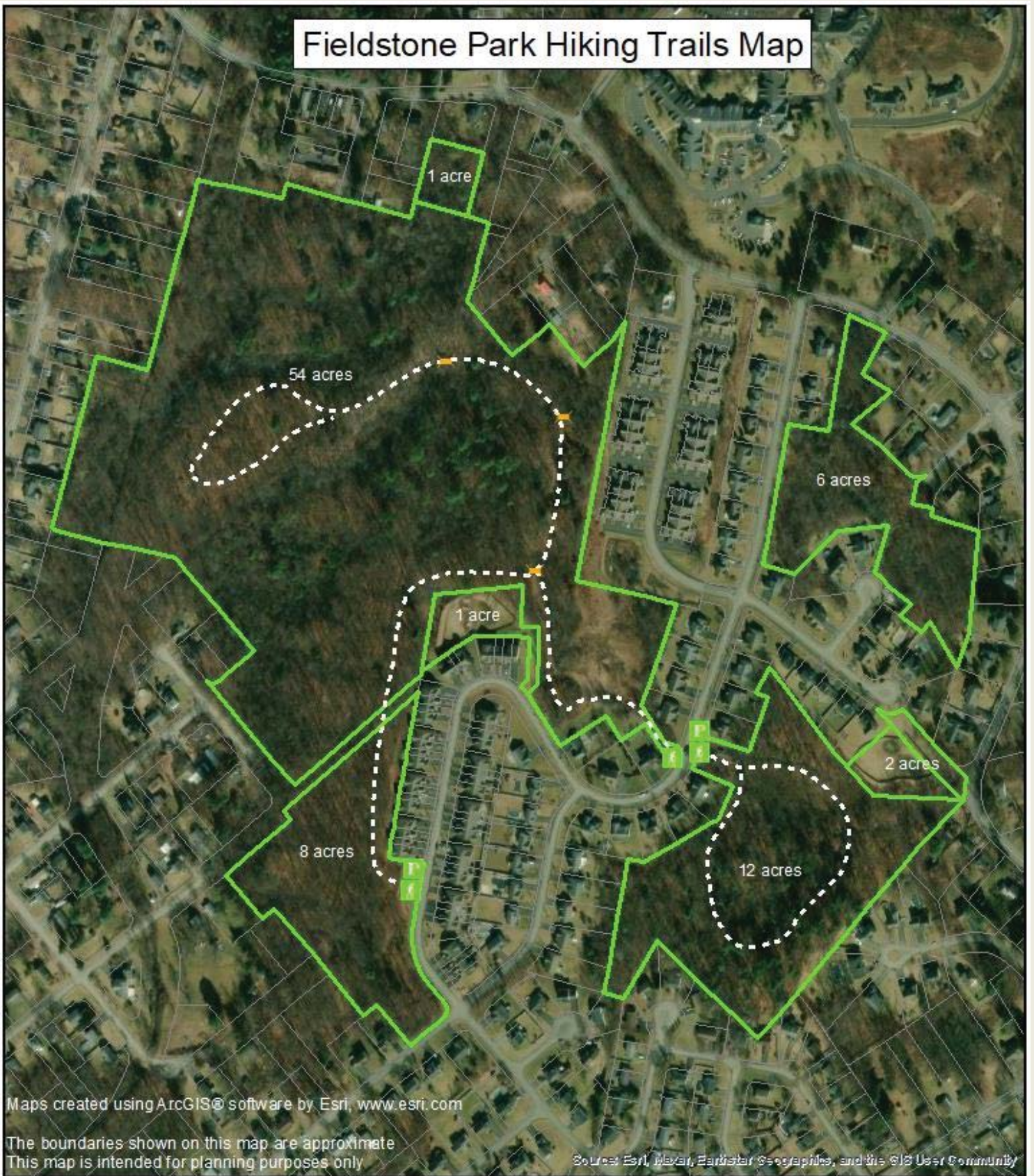


0 0.125 0.25 Miles



August 17, 2024

Fieldstone Park Hiking Trails Map




Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

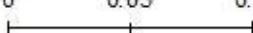
Sources: Esri, DeLorme, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

	Town Properties-83 Acres
	Trail Entrances
	Parking

N





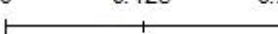


0 0.05 0.1 Miles



August 17, 2024

Fieldstone Park 2007 Aerial Photograph Map



 2024 Tax Parcels	 0 0.125 0.25 Miles 	 Niskayuna NEW YORK
 Fieldstone Park Boundaries		August 17, 2024

IMPERIAL FOREST INVENTORY

October 18, 2024 Site Walk

REGIONAL SETTING:

This Town-owned assemblage of three properties totals 14 acres in size and is made up of a four acre parcel that is accessible off Rose Terrace, a three acre parcel that is not accessible located near Victoria Court and a third, seven acre parcel that is not accessible located off Imperial Drive. Collectively these are referred to as 'Imperial Forest' (see Tax Parcel Map page 6) and are located in the south-central portion of Niskayuna (see Location Map Page 5).

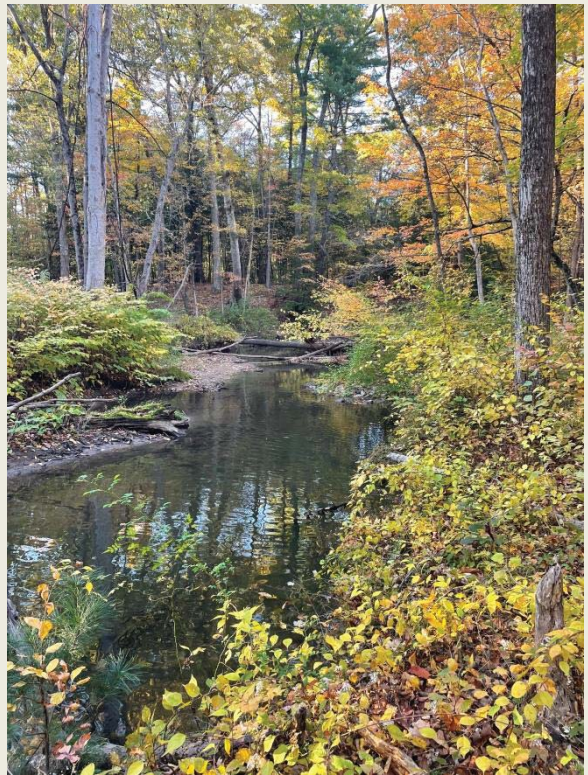
All three parcels border the Lisha Kill and so despite the fact that two are not accessible to the public, all three serve to buffer the waters of the Lisha Kill, which is classified as 'stressed' (i.e., polluted) and flows two miles northeast to the Mohawk River (see Satellite Photograph Map page 7).

The accessible parcel, tax number 61.10-2-48.2, is four acres in size (see Tax Parcel Map page 6). Parking is available at a 0.3 acre town owned pump station off Rose Terrace. There are no formal hiking trails but the parcel can be bushwhacked beginning at the Rose Terrace parking area (see Environmental Features Map page 12).

The Rose Terrace parcel is bounded to the west by the Lisha Kill and across the river by a large, 16 acre single family home. The parcel is bound to the east by the large, 16 acre Niskayuna Animal Hospital which is mostly woods and fields. To the north lie two, four and seven acre single family homes and to the south and far west lie densely developed subdivisions (see Surrounding Open Space Map page 13).

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

All four acres of the Rose Terrace parcel are wooded (see Satellite Photograph Close Up Map page 8). The western two acres are wetland and floodplains that border the Lisha Kill at 260 feet above sea level in elevation; the eastern two acres are slightly higher in elevation at 300 feet and are drier (see Streams & Wetlands Map, Elevations Map and Topographic Map pages 9, 10 and 11).



Lisha Kill

As mentioned, there are no formal trails but a trail loop could be created along the drier eastern edge of the parcel (see Environmental Features Map page 12). The trail could be expanded if a conservation easement could be obtained from the 16 acre parcel to the east which now has several open fields (see Surrounding Open Space Map page 13). The entrance to the parcel is not marked and signs could let residents know that the land is Town-owned and that care should be taken to not litter, though little litter was seen on the site walk.

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES:

The southeastern section of the Rose Terrace parcel has several large white pines and medium sized red oaks in the higher drier area by the parking lot. Descending down toward the river basswoods, sugar maples, elms, shagbark hickories and red maples dominate. Some elms are healthy but most of the ash and elms are diseased. Of interest are the groves of medium sized swamp white oaks that characterize this forest as a 'red maple- white oak swamp floodplain forest' due to the dominant canopy tree, swamp white oak, and the sandy soil.¹

Ironwood and hop hornbeam grow in the understory while invasive buckthorn, honeysuckle, barberry and multi-flora rose along with native winterberry make up the shrub layer. Ferns including sensitive, lady and marginal wood fern grow in the ground layer along with nettles, sedge, avens, iris, tussock sedge and many oak seedlings.

Further up the hillside in the northeastern section of the parcel are some very large trees including three foot diameter red oak, several two foot diameter white and black oaks and sugar maples and a huge, four foot diameter swamp white oak (see Environmental Features Map page 13).



Floodplain of Lisha Kill



4 foot swamp white oak with clipboard for perspective

¹ Ecological Communities of NY State. Reschke, C., NYNHP, 2014. P. 68



More than three dozen wood ducks were observed in October, 2023

CONSERVATION VALUES:

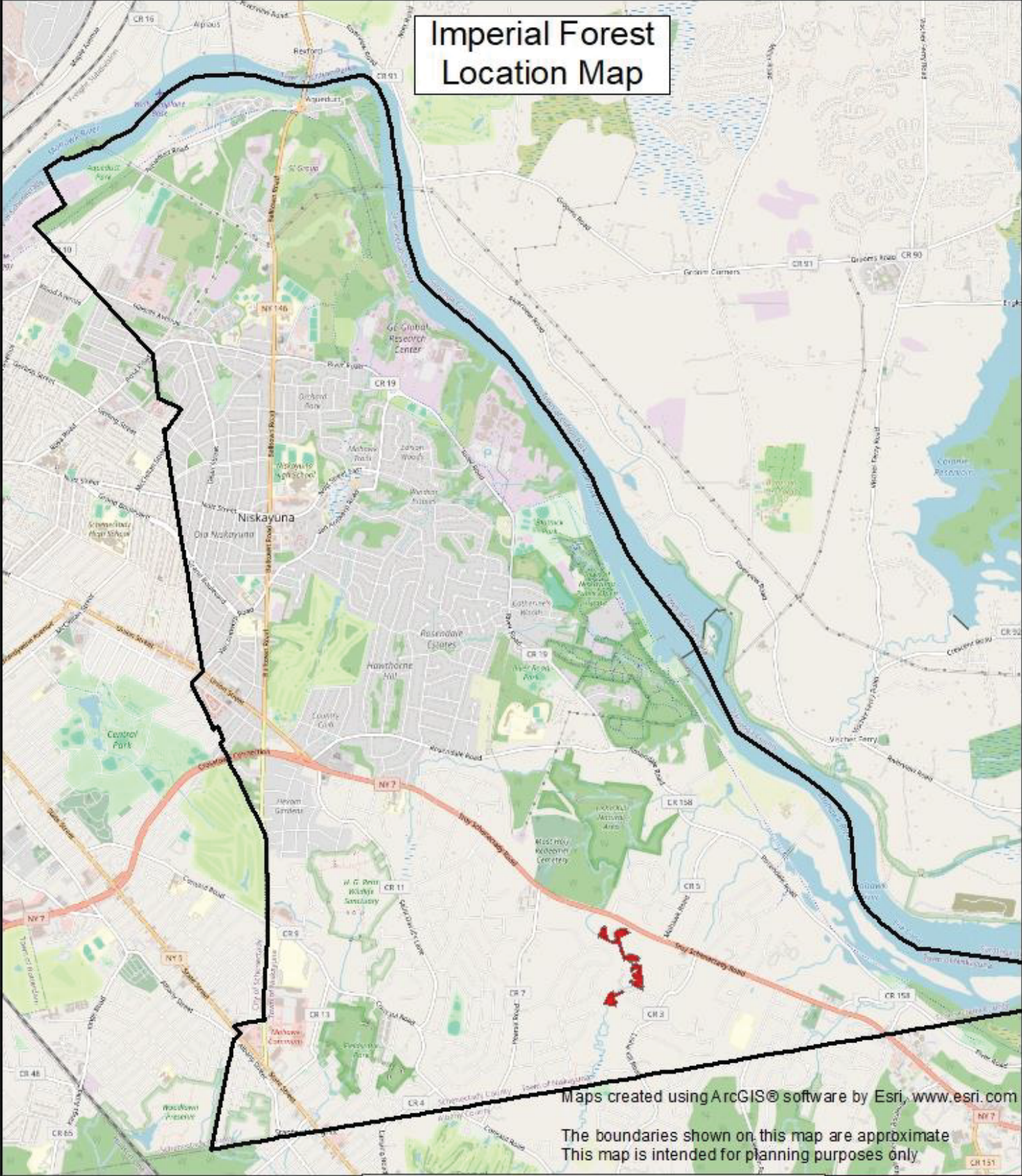
The Imperial Forest assemblage's stream, tributaries, mixed deciduous woods, wetlands, floodplain and floodplain forest provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: filtration and protection of streams, groundwater recharge, storm water regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. These natural resources also provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife. An astonishing number of migrating wood ducks—over three dozen—were observed here on October 18, 2024 indicating the value of this somewhat rare floodplain forest for breeding and migrating birds and wildlife.

The hiking trail, if completed and maintained, is conveniently located and can provide educational and recreational opportunities to Niskayuna residents. The trail could be expanded if a conservation easement could be purchased or donated on the large, 16 acre property to the east (see Surrounding Open Space Map page 13). Trail and educational signs can attract local residents and educate them about the Imperial Forest, the Lisha Kill and the nature within.





Several open fields and meadows lie adjacent to the Rose Terrace parcel

Imperial Forest Location Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  Imperial Forest
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries

N

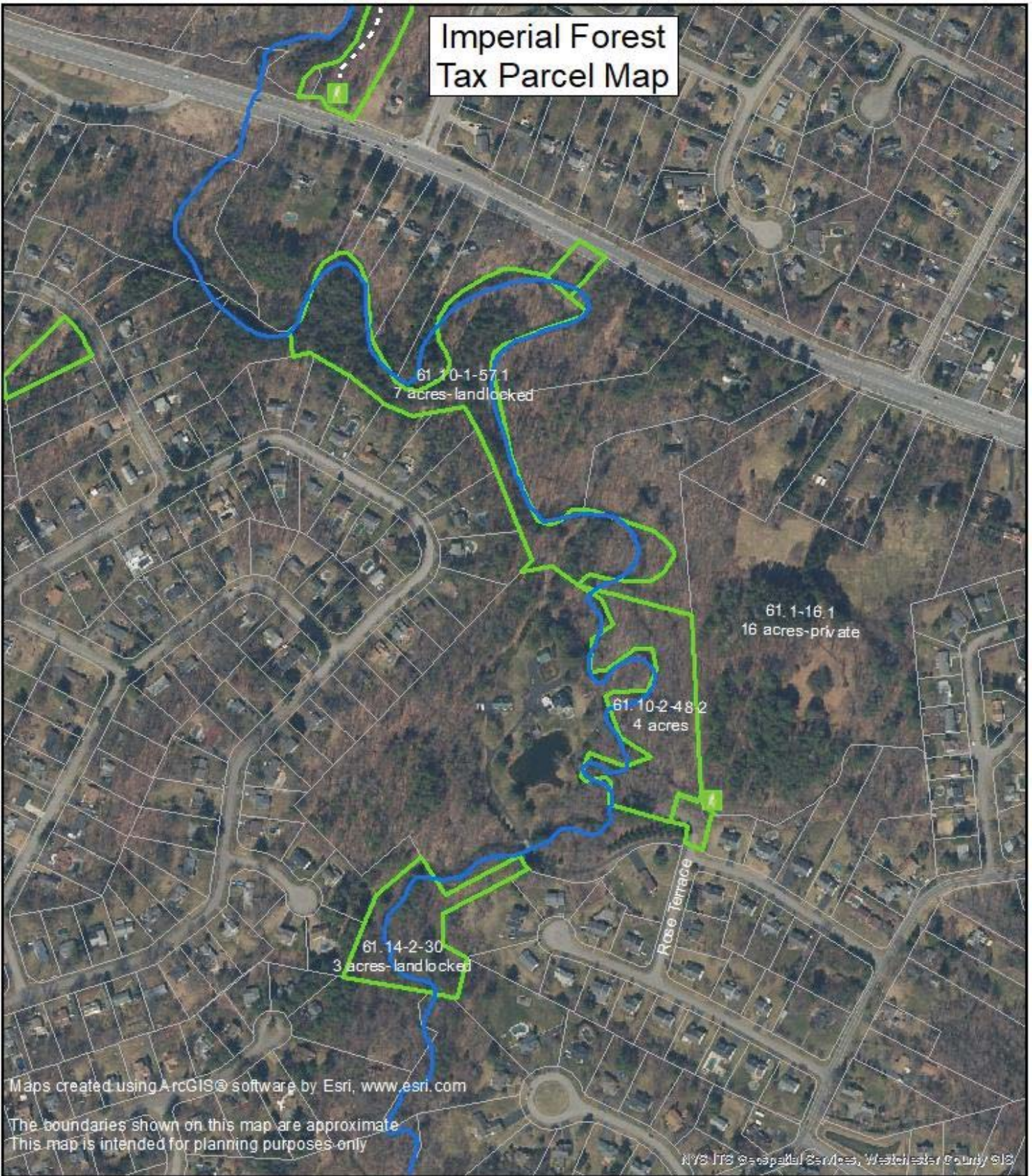
1 in = 1 miles

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



October 18, 2024




Imperial Forest Tax Parcel Map




Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only


NYS DFS Geospatial Services, Westchester County GIS

-  Town Owned Land
-  Possible Trail Entrances
-  Lish Kill

N



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



October 18, 2024





Imperial Forest Satellite Photograph Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.

NYS ITS Geospatial Services, Westchester County GIS

-  Town Owned Land
-  Accessible Town Owned Land-4 acres
-  Possible Trail Entrances
-  Lish Kill

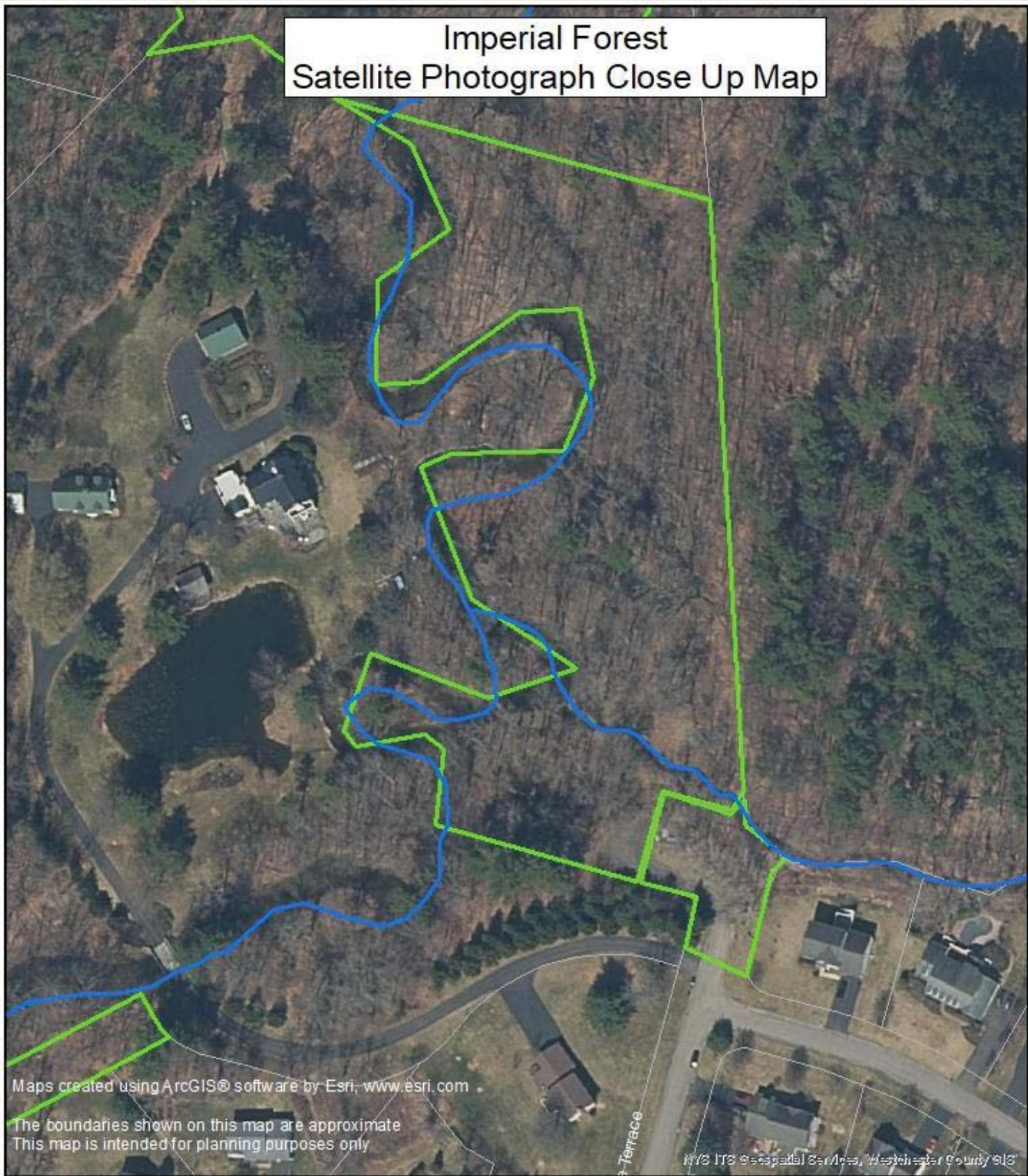


0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



October 18, 2024

Imperial Forest Satellite Photograph Close Up Map




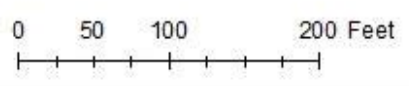
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Terrace

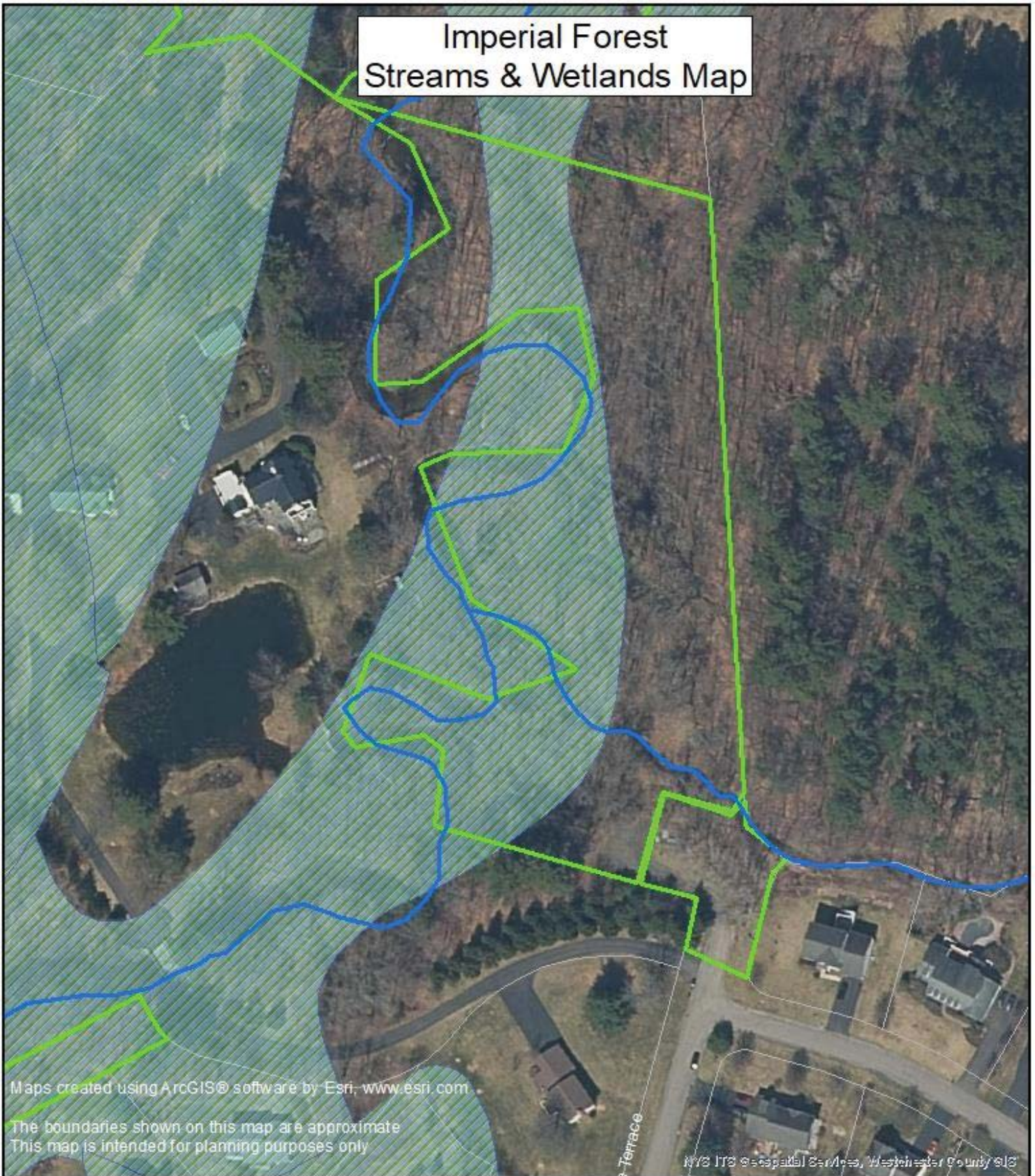
NYS ITS Geospatial Services, Westchester County GIS

-  Town Owned Land-4 acres
-  Lisha Kill & Tributaries



October 18, 2024

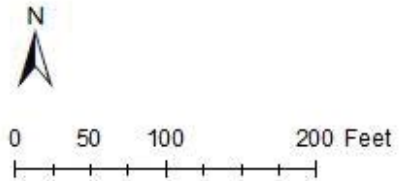
Imperial Forest Streams & Wetlands Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri. www.esri.com

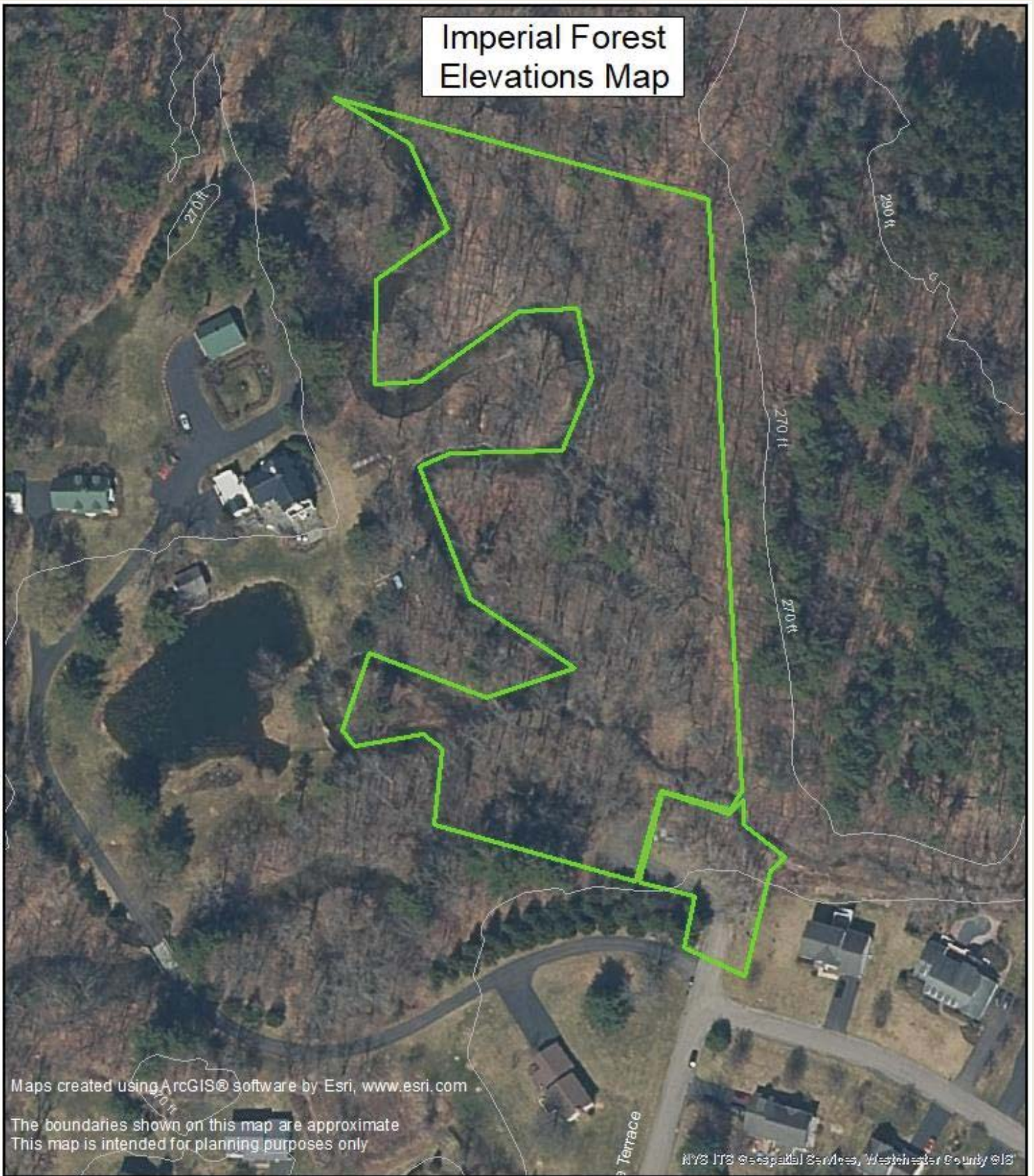
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  Town Owned Land-4 acres
-  Lish Kill & Tributaries
-  Wetland Soils



October 18, 2024



Imperial Forest Elevations Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

NYS GIS & Spatial Services, Westchester County GIS

-  Town Owned Land-4 acres
-  Elevations-10 ft intervals

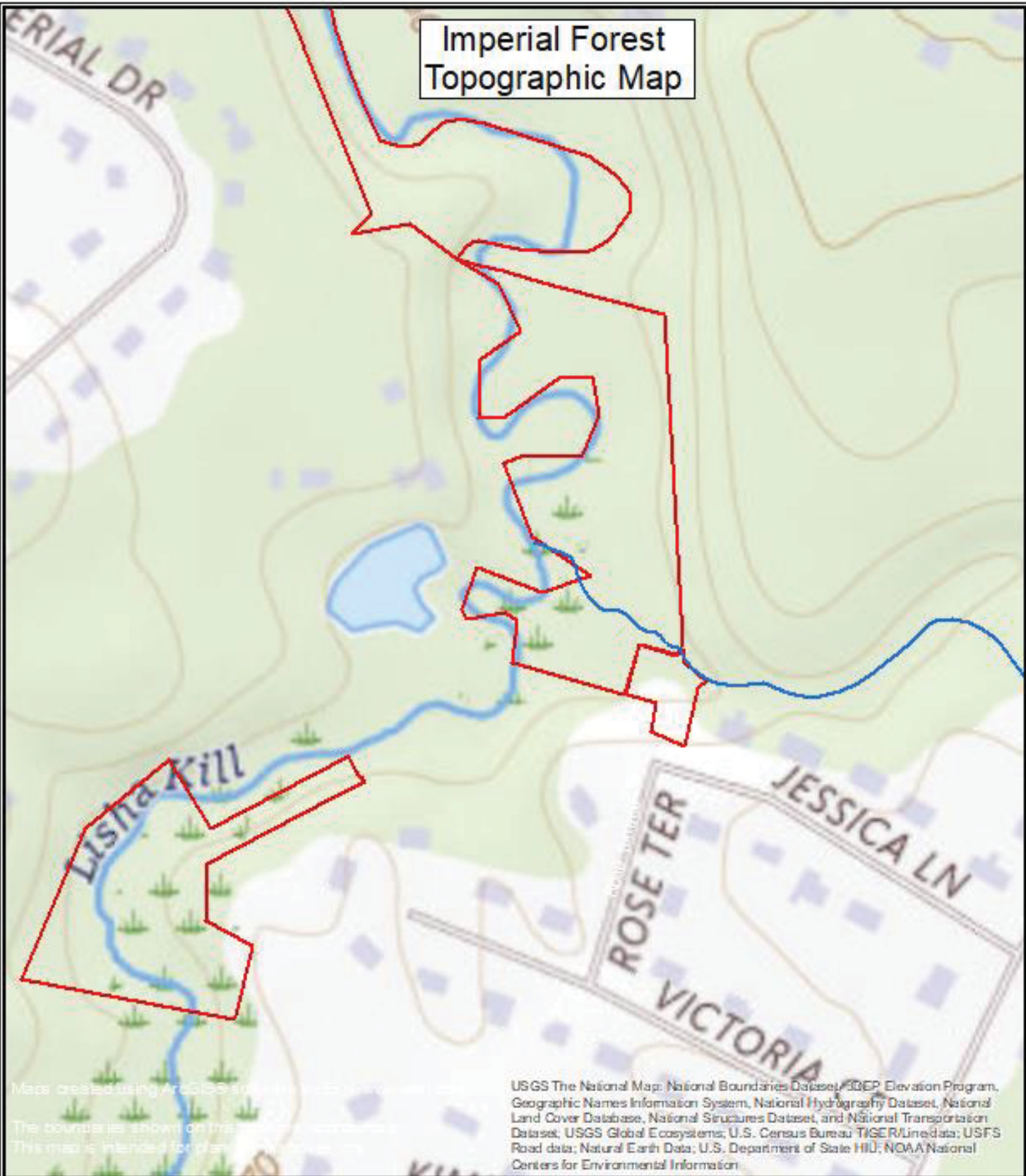


0 50 100 200 Feet



October 18, 2024


Imperial Forest Topographic Map

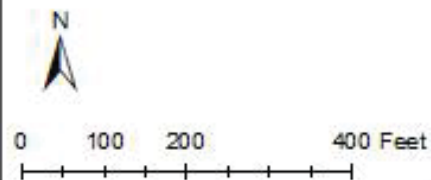


Map created using ArcGIS software by the Town of Niskayuna.

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.

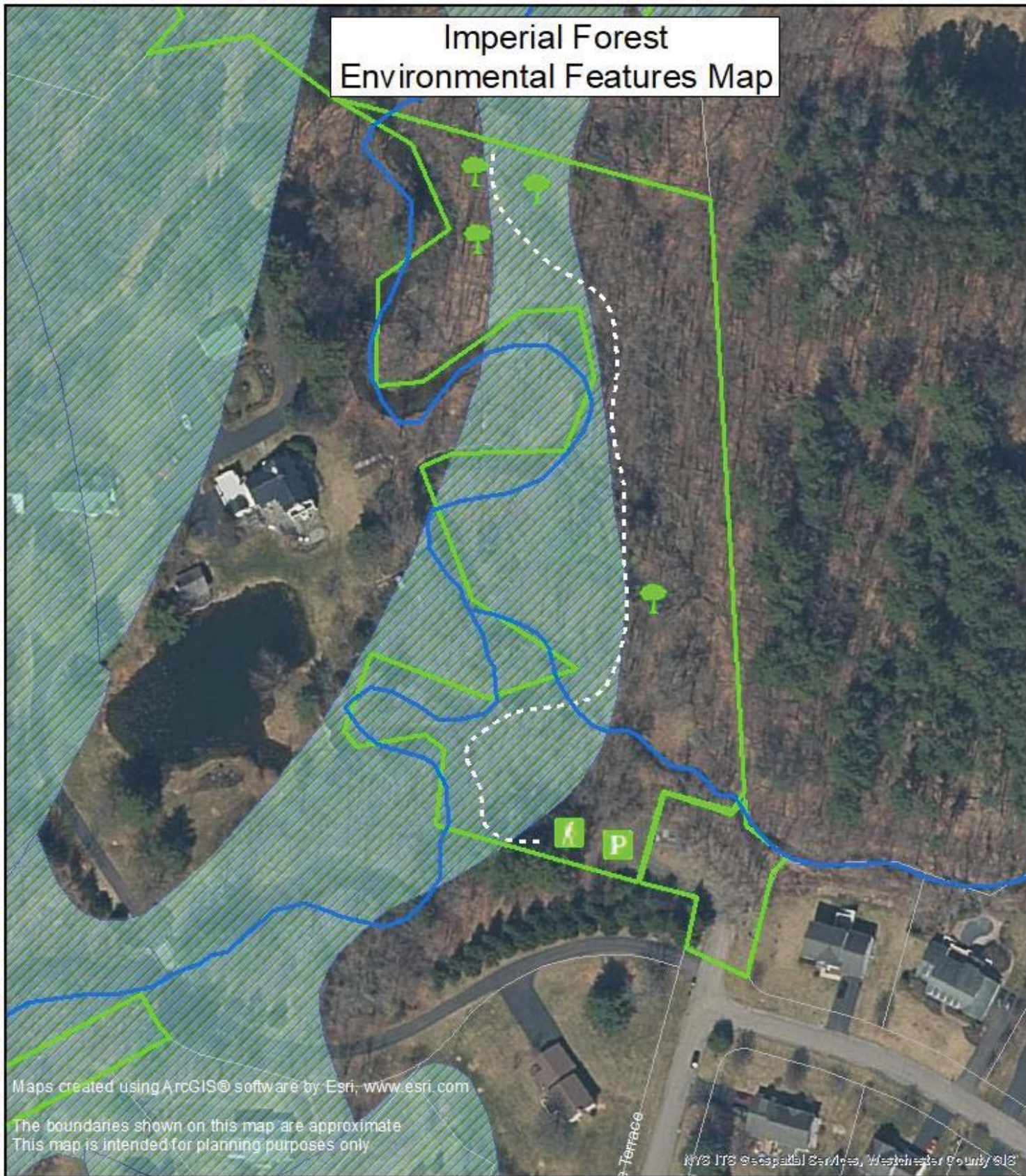
USGS The National Map; National Boundaries Dataset; SDEP Elevation Program; Geographic Names Information System; National Hydrography Dataset; National Land Cover Database; National Structures Dataset; and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State HII; NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

 Town Owned Land-4 acres



October 18, 2024








Imperial Forest Environmental Features Map

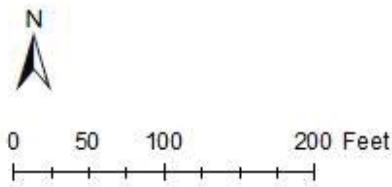


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

NYS ITS Geospatial Services, Westchester County GIS

-  Town Owned Land-4 acres
-  Significant Trees
-  Wetland Soils
-  Lish Kill & Tributaries
-  Possible Hiking Trail
-  Parking
-  Possible Trail Entrances



October 18, 2024

Imperial Forest Surrounding Open Space Map

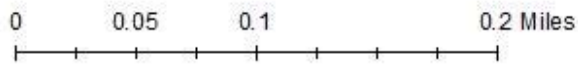


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

NYS GIS Geospatial Services, Westchester County GIS

-  Town Owned Land
-  Surrounding Open Space-Private
-  Possible Trail Entrances
-  Lish Kill



October 18, 2024

LIONS PARK INVENTORY

October 19, 2024 Site Walk

REGIONAL SETTING:

The Town-owned Lions Park is four acres in size and is located in the south-eastern section of Niskayuna along the Mohawk River (see Location Map Page 4). Entrances are found at 3439 Rosendale Road. A large, one-acre paved parking lot is located at the eastern section of the Park (see Satellite Photograph Map page 5).

The Park's wooded parcel is three acres in size and is entirely wooded except for a small, 0.3 acres of lawn in the southeast corner and a mowed strip of lawn along the shoulder of Rosendale Road. The northern 2.7 acres are wooded wetlands. The north boundary abuts a ten acre lagoon which is the terminus of the Lisha Kill and is owned by the State of New York. The lagoon is effectively part of the Mohawk River and is separated from the River by the elevated Mohawk Bike Hike Trail (MBHT) and Rosendale Road. The MBHT runs along the Park's northeastern edge. (see Satellite Photograph Map page 5 and Environmental Features Map page 6).



Lagoon fed by Lisha Kill north of the Park



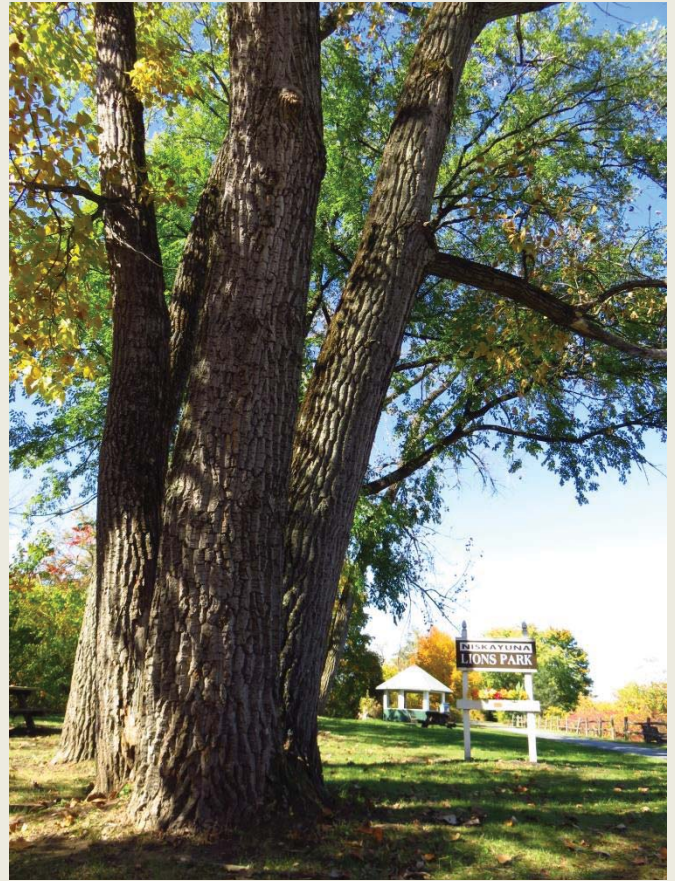
Lawn area at southeastern edge of Park

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

All but 0.3 acres of the three acre wooded section of the Park have wetland soils and are inaccessible to hikers due to the wet soils (see Environmental Features Map page 6). The Topographic Map on page 8 indicates that a stream runs from Rosendale Road east to the Mohawk River through the Park but on investigation there does not appear to be a defined stream channel but rather simply a large wetland. The one acre parking lot is paved and bordered by ten or more small to medium sized sugar maple and ash trees along with some naturally occurring box elder and locust trees. The ash trees are healthy and show no signs of emerald ash borer infestations, perhaps they are a hybrid or cultivar type of ash. Cottonwoods and elm trees dominate the edge of the tree canopy along with some medium sized catalpa trees and a few non-native, invasive ailanthus trees ('tree of heaven'). The understory has ash, sumac and mulberry trees while the shrublayer is made up of invasive, non-native honeysuckle and buckthorn. The interior of the Park is inaccessible due to the wet soil and is dense with elm, locust and ash trees (many of the ash here are dead), a few crabapple trees and non-native, invasive buckthorn and native silky dogwood in the shrublayer. A few black walnuts and elms grow along Rosendale Road. Closer to the lagoon along the north side stands a mass of non-native, invasive phragmites and non-native, invasive purple loosestrife. In the wettest area along the shoreline of the lagoon are found sensitive fern, jewelweed, grape, black berry, avens and silky dogwood.

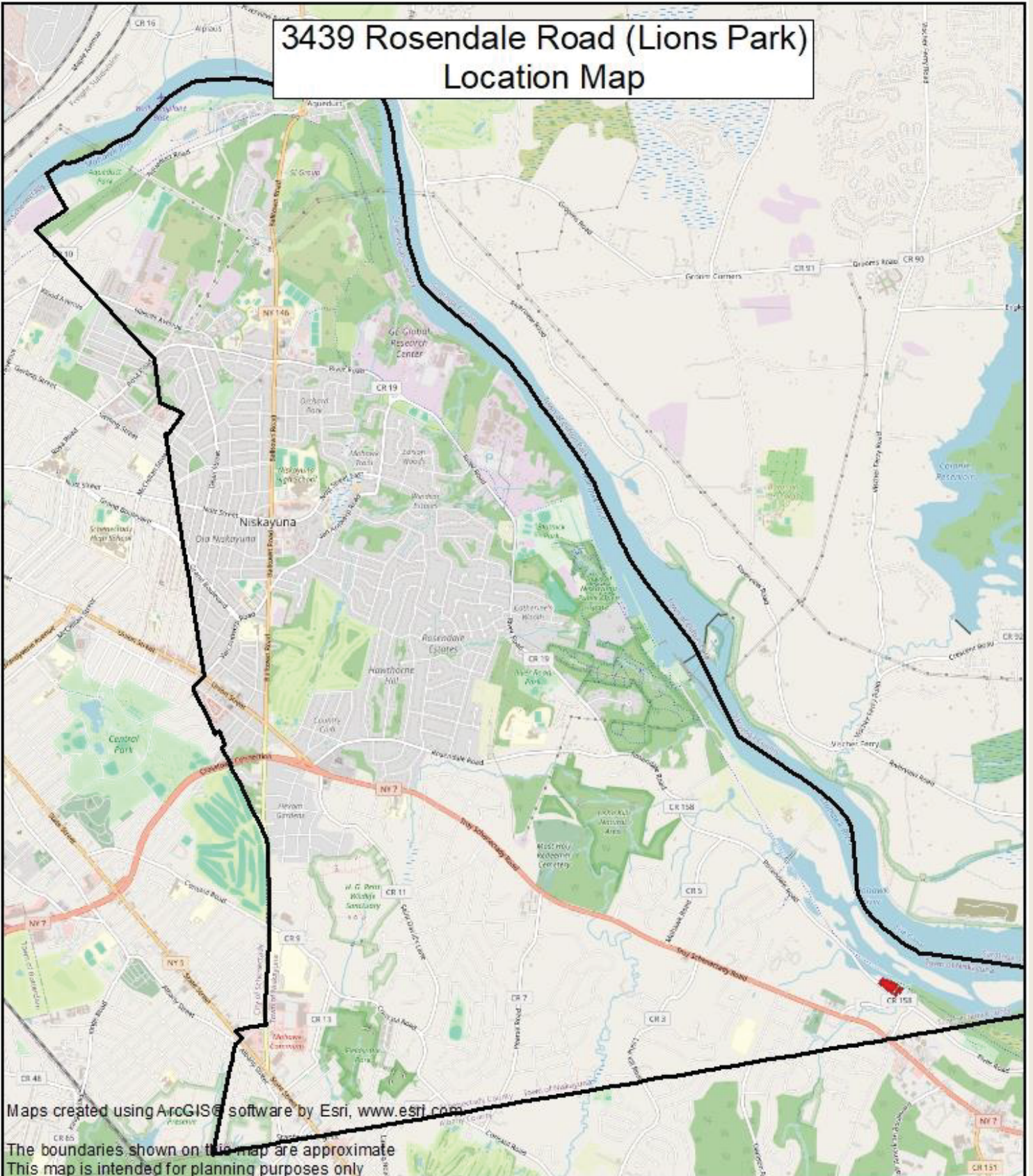
CONSERVATION VALUES:

The Lions Park's river, wetlands, riparian area and mixed deciduous woods provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: filtration and protection of the Lisha Kill and the Mohawk River, groundwater recharge, storm water regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. These natural resources also provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife. The Park provides scenic views for visitors to the MHBT and for travelers along Rosendale Road. The Park is too wet for any hiking trails.





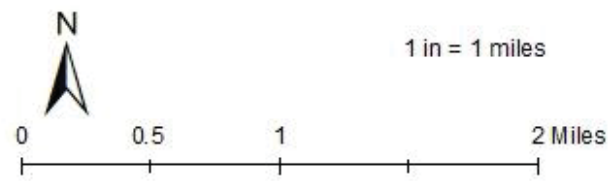
Large cottonwoods at southeastern edge of Park

3439 Rosendale Road (Lions Park) Location Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  3439 Rosendale Rd (Lions Park)
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



January 22, 2024


3439 Rosendale Road (Lions Park) Satellite Photograph Map




Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.

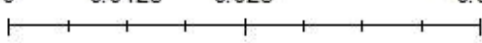
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 3439 Rosendale Road (Lions Park)

N



0 0.0125 0.025 0.05 Miles



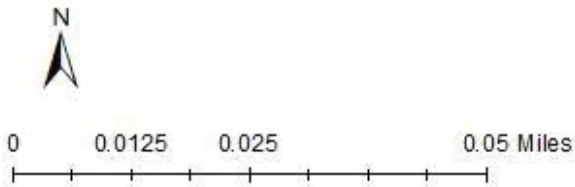
Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024

3439 Rosendale Road (Lions Park) Environmental Features Map



-  3439 Rosendale Road (Lions Park)
-  Streams
-  Wetland Soils





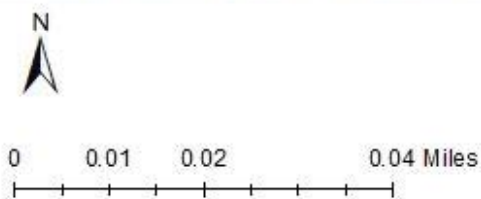
Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024

3439 Rosendale Road (Lions Park) Elevations Map



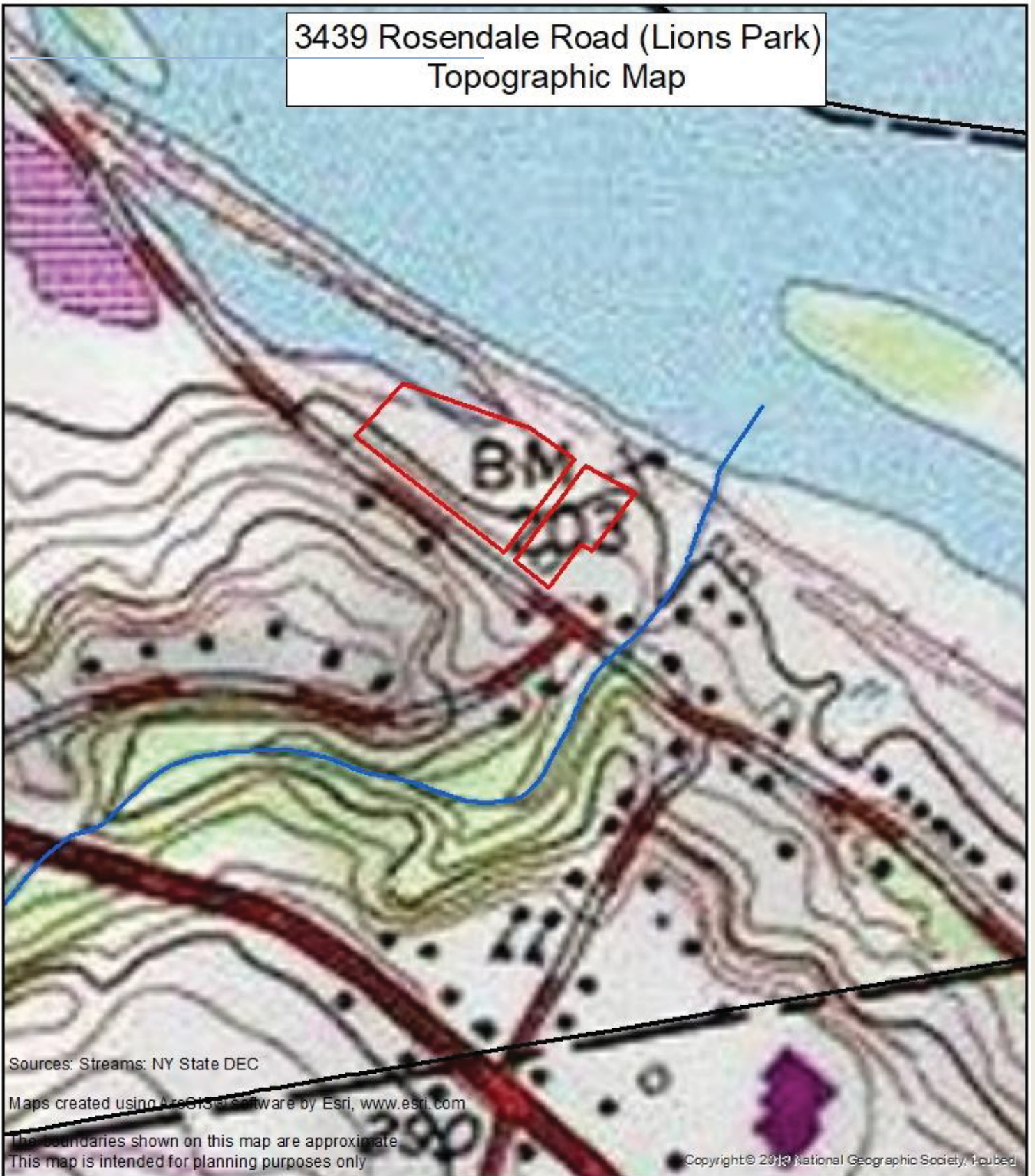
 3439 Rosendale Road (Lions Park)
 Elevations-10 ft. intervals



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024

3439 Rosendale Road (Lions Park)
Topographic Map



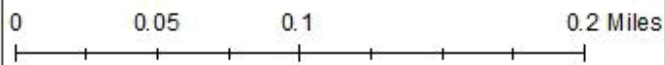
Sources: Streams: NY State DEC

Maps created using ArcGIS software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

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-  3439 Rosendale Road (Lions Park)
-  Streams
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



January 24, 2024

LOCK 7 ROAD (MHBHT CORRIDOR) INVENTORY

May 25, 2024, October 19, 2024 Site Walk along Lower MHBHT



Surveying the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail Corridor

REGIONAL SETTING:

The Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail (MHBHT) is 97-miles long and connects the Erie Canalway and Empire State Trails. In Niskayuna the Trail runs along the eastern and northern edges of town for nine miles on the railbed of the former Troy & Schenectady Railroad (see MHBHT Location Map page 11). Over a quarter of a million people use the Niskayuna portion of the Trail each year.²

This 2.7 mile section of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail (MHBHT) described below runs from Lock 7 Park on Lock 7 Road south to the Colonie town line. The northern and middle sections of Niskayuna's portion of the MHBHT Corridor were walked on May 14 2022, May 20, 2022 and June 19, 2022 and are described in the Town of Niskayuna Natural Resource Inventory, July 2022³.

Most of the Lock 7 Road section of the MHBHT is surrounded by protected open space, including eight acres owned by the Town of Niskayuna and 290 acres owned by the State of New York. The mid-section of this 2.7 mile section, however, is surrounded on both sides

of the Trail by private property (see Adjacent Open Space Map page 16). On the west side, two parcels totaling 58 acres in size include a single family home and the Lisha Kill river and surrounding wetlands. On the east side of the Trail lie 48 acres of farmland on what is termed 'Niska Isle', a peninsula that extends south and parallel to the MHBHT for approximately two miles. While the wetlands on the west side of the Trail are most likely too wet to develop, the cultivated farmland on the east side of the Trail may be developed. Protecting it from development will save valuable farmland, will protect the scenic vistas of the Mohawk River from the Trail for visitors, will buffer the Lisha Kill and the Mohawk River from pollutants and will preserve valuable wildlife habitat including bird, fish and other wildlife. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy works to protect land and views surrounding the Appalachian Trail (AT), recognizing that over-development along the AT jeopardizes the trail. Similarly, lands adjacent to the MHBHT should be considered for protection to maintain and augment the MHBHT experience for visitors.

² Capital District Trail User Counts, 2016. Capital District Transportation Committee.

³ Town of Niskayuna, NY Natural Resource Inventory. July, 2022. Pages 33-40 and pages 62-66.



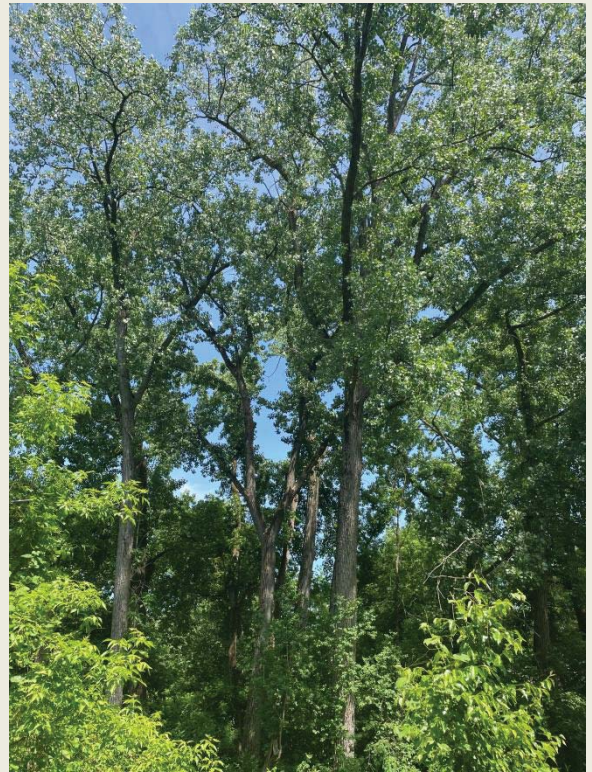
One Niskayuna's last farms lies along the MHBHT and the Mohawk River

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Lock 7 Road section of the MHBHT is surrounded by narrow sections of mixed deciduous trees of both sides (see Satellite Photograph Map page 12). Elevations are flat at 190 feet above sea level (see Elevations Map page 13 and Topographic Map page 14). Two streams flow from the west and beneath the MHBHT before entering the Mohawk River. The northern stream is unnamed; the Lisha Kill further to the south flows from the west and broadens out into a large wetland system before flowing beneath the MHBHT and into the Mohawk River. The wetlands can be considered a man-made lagoon, separated by the MHBHT landfill (see Environmental Features Map page 15).

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES: FORESTS:

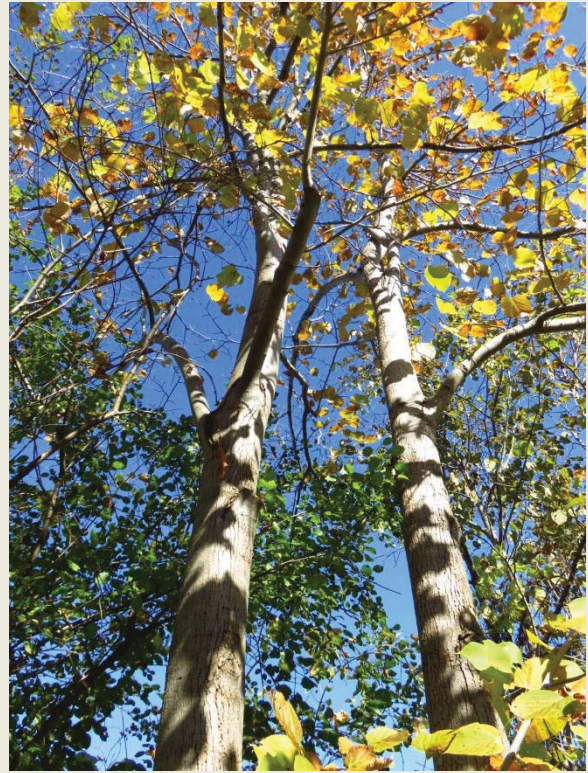
The forest along the Trail is mature with very large cottonwood, elm, big tooth aspen and silver maple trees along with red maple, Norway maple, black willow, quaking aspen, hickory, black walnut, locust, beech, sugar maple, catalpa, black and choke cherry and basswood trees. Many of the ash trees were dead due to emerald ash borer but a few, encouragingly, were still healthy and perhaps resistant. The understory has mulberry, hophornbeam, hornbeam, box elder, sumac and serviceberry. The shrub layer has silky dogwood, alternate-leaf dogwood, witch hazel, hazelnut, bladdernut as well as non-native, invasive honeysuckle, buckthorn and non-native European alder and spindle bush shrubs. The ground layer includes coltsfoot, bloodroot, sanicle (black snakeroot), wild licorice, thimbleberry (flowering raspberry), lions foot, cocklebur, Virginia waterleaf, stickseed, spotted knapweed, bedstraw, cucumber vine and a variety of ferns including sensitive, Christmas, bracken, marginal wood and maiden hair. Goldenrods include tall and Canada goldenrod (see Pictures of Shrubs and Flowers, page 8-9). Birds were common and observed birds include rose-breasted grosbeak, red start, red-eyed vireo, Baltimore oriole, great crested flycatcher, yellow warbler, downy woodpecker, swamp sparrow, rufous-sided towhee (pictured right), among others.



Large cottonwoods along MHBHT



Rufous-sided towhees require shrub habitat which is found along the MHBHT



Basswood and Sugar Maples are common along the MHBHT



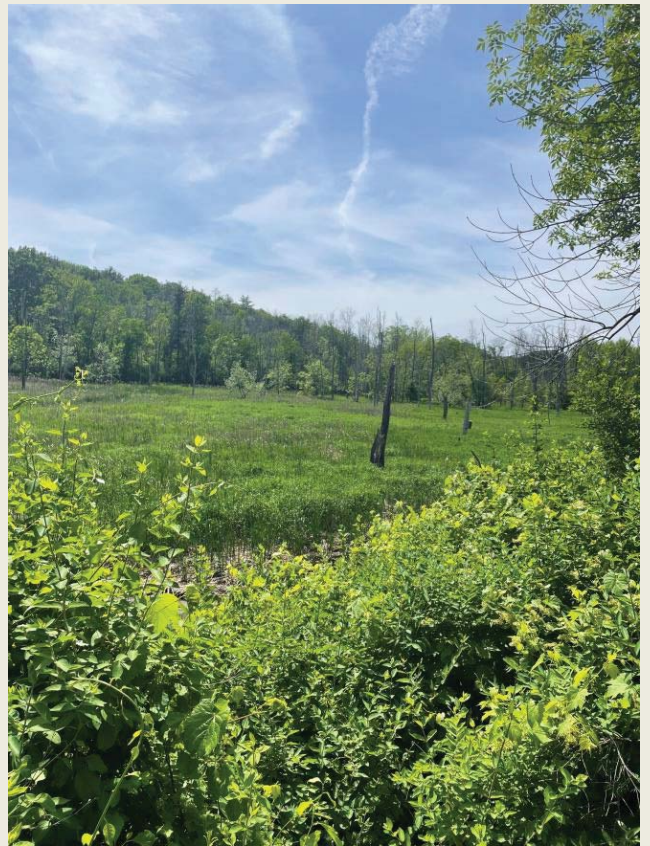
The Mohawk River is a flyway for migratory birds such as Canada geese above, as well as a nesting area for other bird species

LISHA KILL WETLANDS & LAGOON:

The Lisha Kill broadens out into wetlands and a lagoon as it reaches the landfill beneath the MHBHT. The dominant trees in these wet areas are silver maples that form groves. Dead ash trees are also common. Cattails, phragmites, woolgrass, irises, sedges and purple loosestrife are common in the ground layer. Birds observed in the wetlands and river include kingfisher, great blue heron and migratory Canada. A bald eagle nest lies just north of this section at Blatnick Park. Wood, black, pintail, and ring-necked ducks along with green winged teals have all been observed here according to eBird.⁴

The Mohawk River is a flyway for migrating birds and a nesting area for waterfowl and other bird species. It is also actively used by duck hunters.

This great variety of tree, shrub, plant and bird species along the MHBHT and surrounding wetlands and watercourses attests to the diversity of habitats and high biodiversity of the area.



Lisha Kill wetlands, west side of MHBHT



Silver maple groves along Mohawk River

⁴ [Niskayuna Railroad Station at Lions Park, Schenectady, New York, United States - eBird Hotspot](#)



Cattails and Mohawk River east of MHBHT



Niska Isle and Ferry Road bridge east of MHBHT

SHRUBS & FLOWERS ALONG THE MHBHT
CORRIDOR

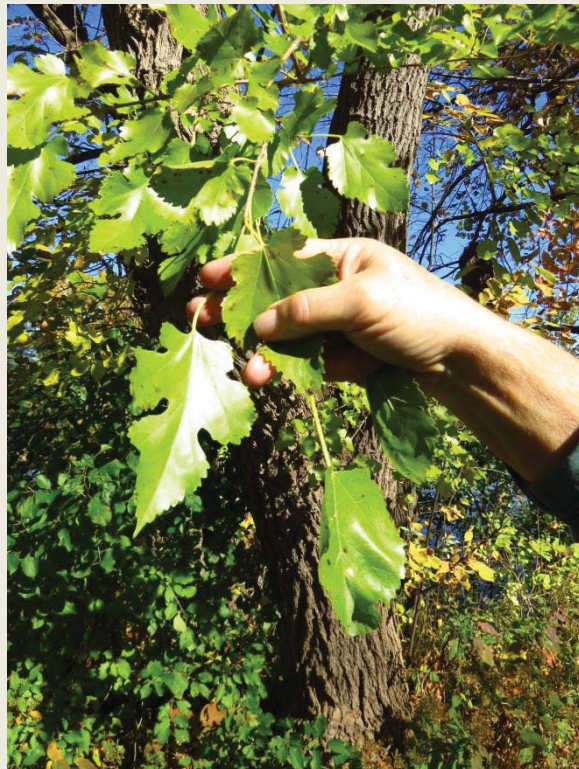
Identified with the help of botanist Steve Young



Bladdernut shrub



Hazelnut shrub



Mulberry leaf



Sensitive, marginal, Christmas and maiden hair ferns



Sanicle (Maryland black snakeroot)



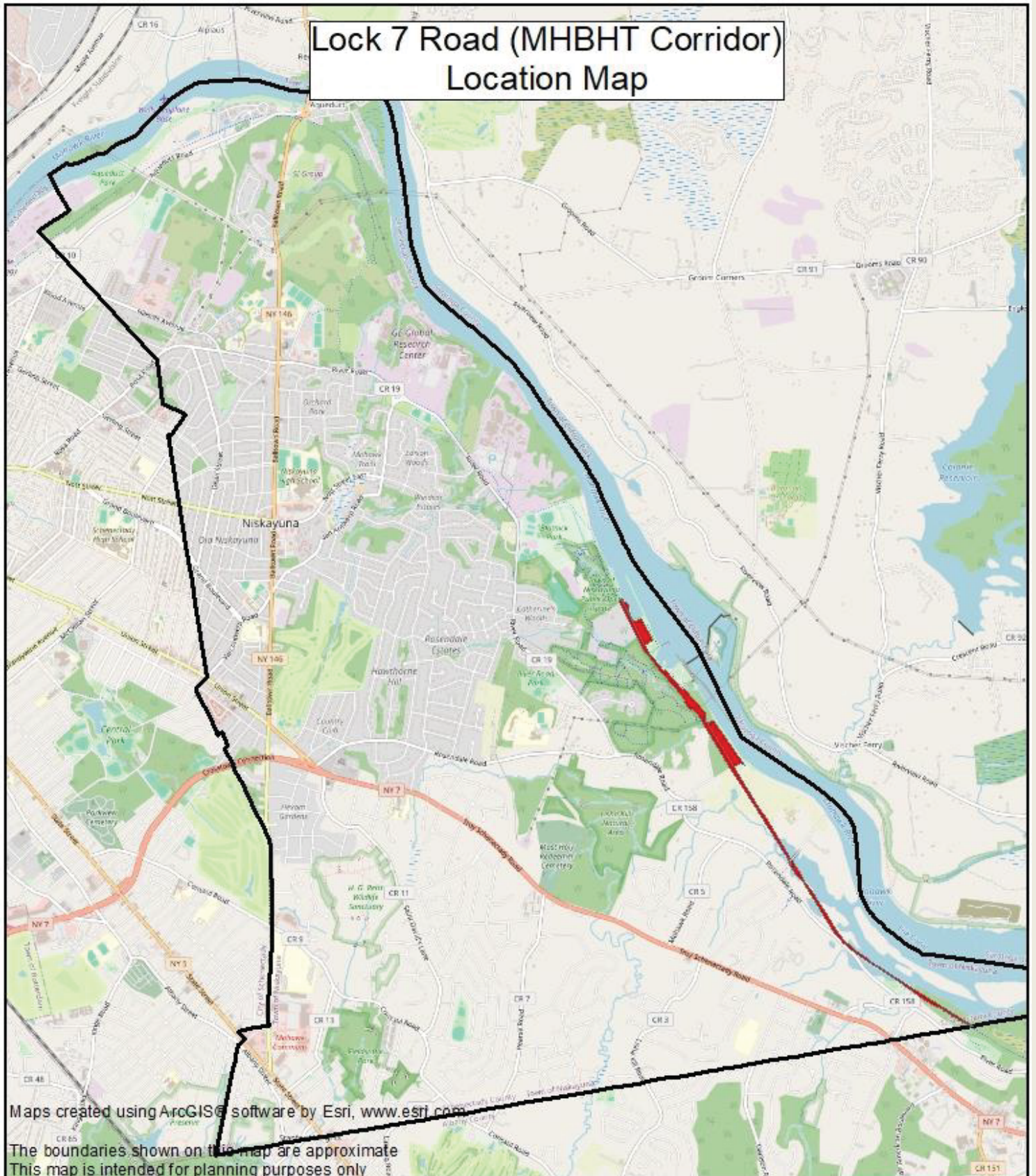
Bloodroot

CONSERVATION VALUES:

The MHBHT's forests, shrubland, streams and wetlands provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: water filtration, groundwater recharge, stormwater regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention on the steep slopes along the Mohawk River, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. The forests also provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife. Situated as it is among other contiguous blocks of undeveloped land to the north and south along the Mohawk River including Mohawk River State Park and lands owned by the Town of Niskayuna, this area provides wildlife corridors allowing wildlife and plants, to move freely in a relatively developed area. The plants themselves allow the forest to regenerate in the future by providing seeds and shelter for native forest regeneration. The Mohawk River is a flyway for migratory birds and other waterfowl as well as a nesting area.



These plants and animals have other conservation values for Niskayuna's residents and visitors including protecting the scenic views from the Mohawk River and from the Mohawk River Bike-Hike Trail. The MHBHT and it's surrounding land also provide educational and recreational values and should be protected.

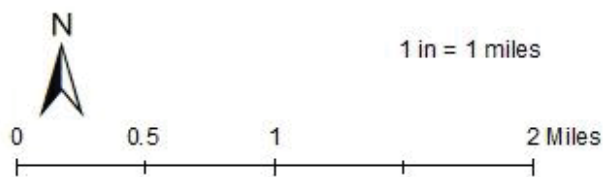
Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Location Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

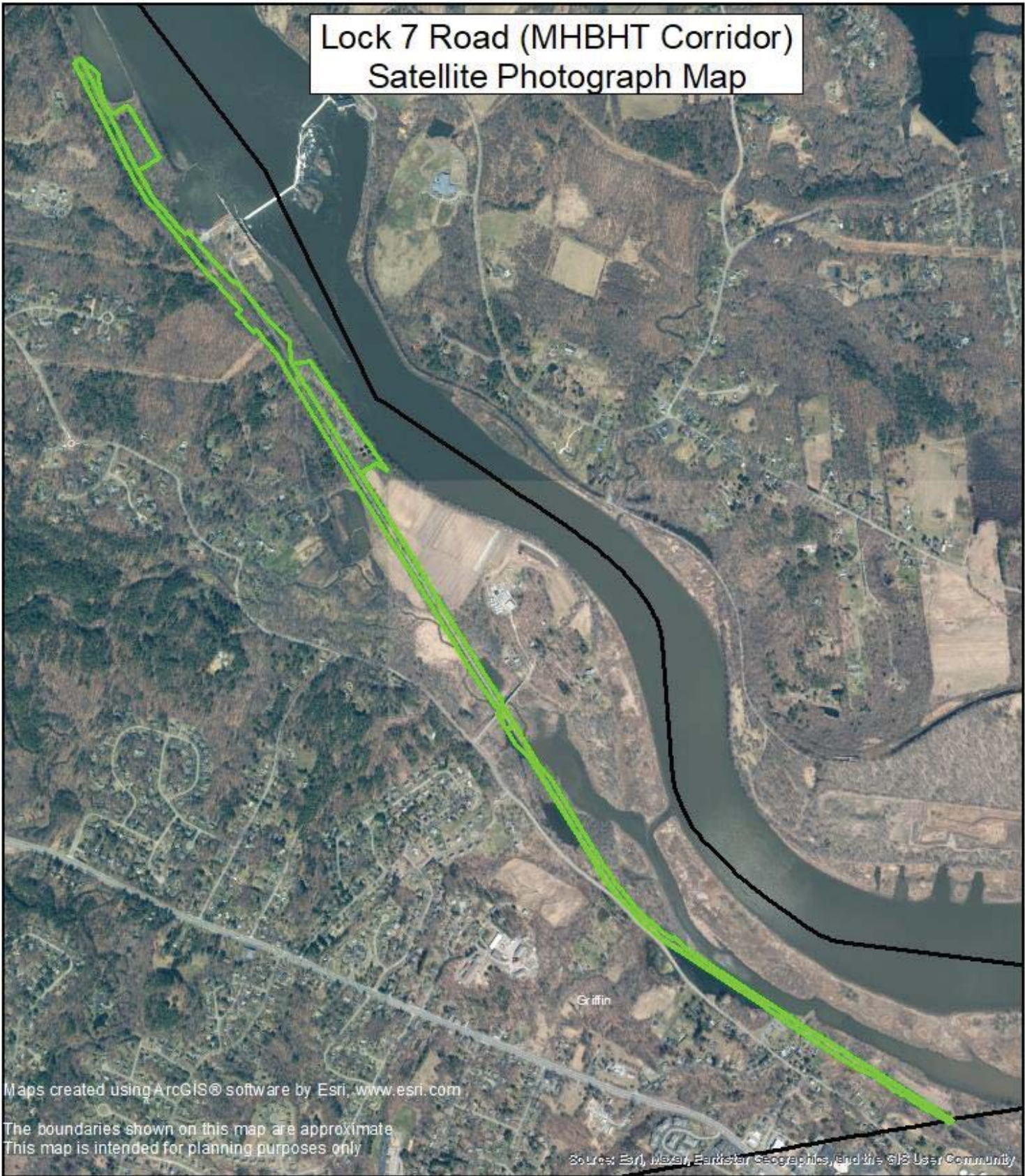
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor)
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



November 22, 2024


Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Satellite Photograph Map




Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

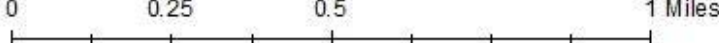
Source: Esri, DeLorme, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor)

N



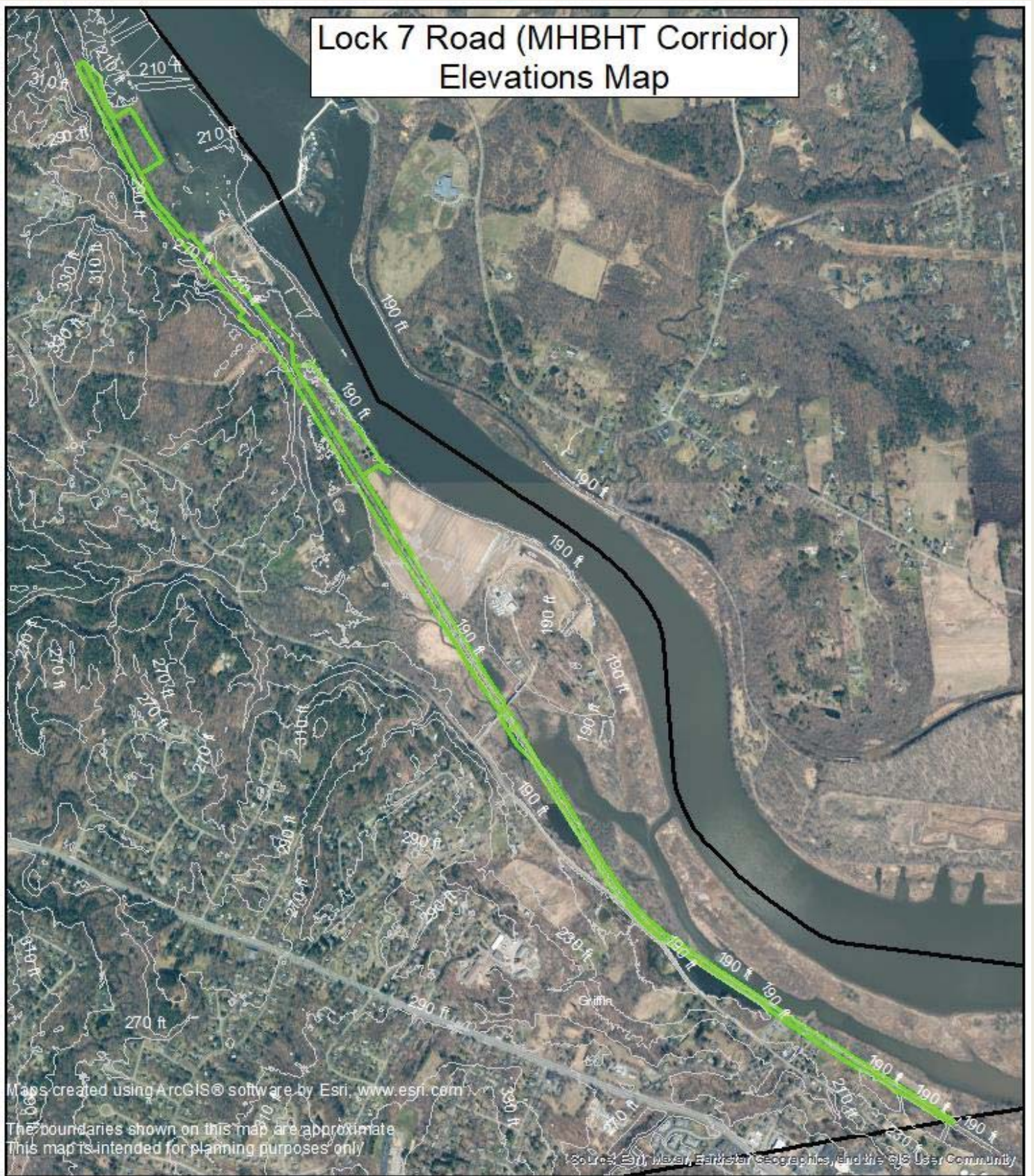
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles






Niskayuna
NEW YORK

November 22, 2024

Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Elevations Map



-  Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor)
-  Elevations-10 ft. intervals
-  Town of Niskayuna Boundaries

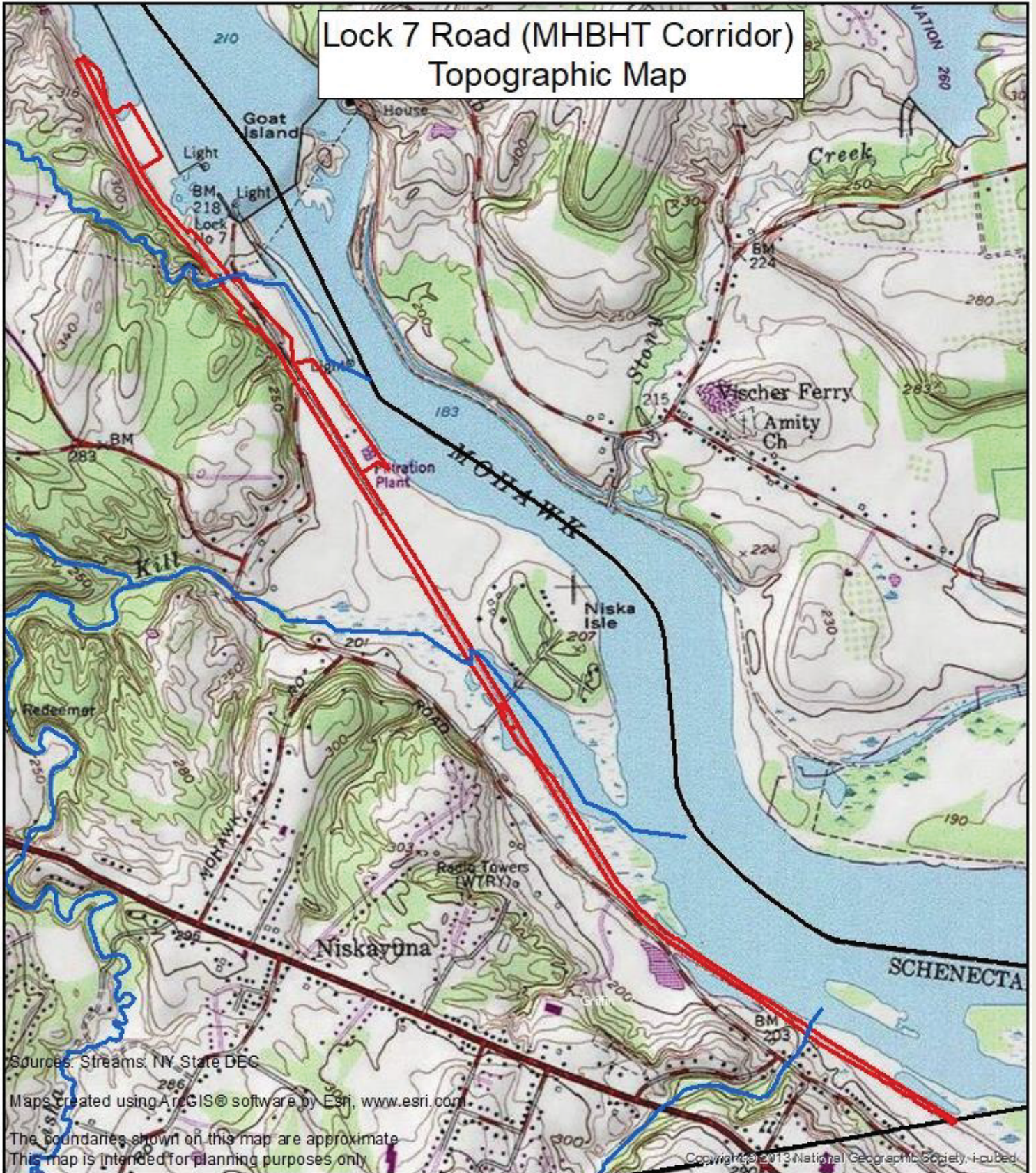


0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

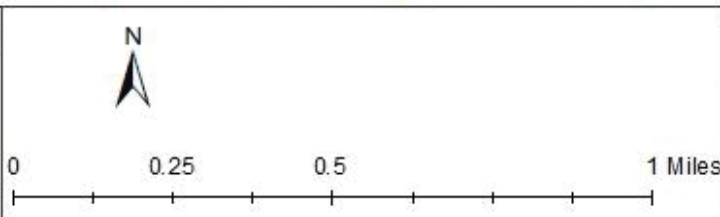


November 22, 2024

Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Topographic Map



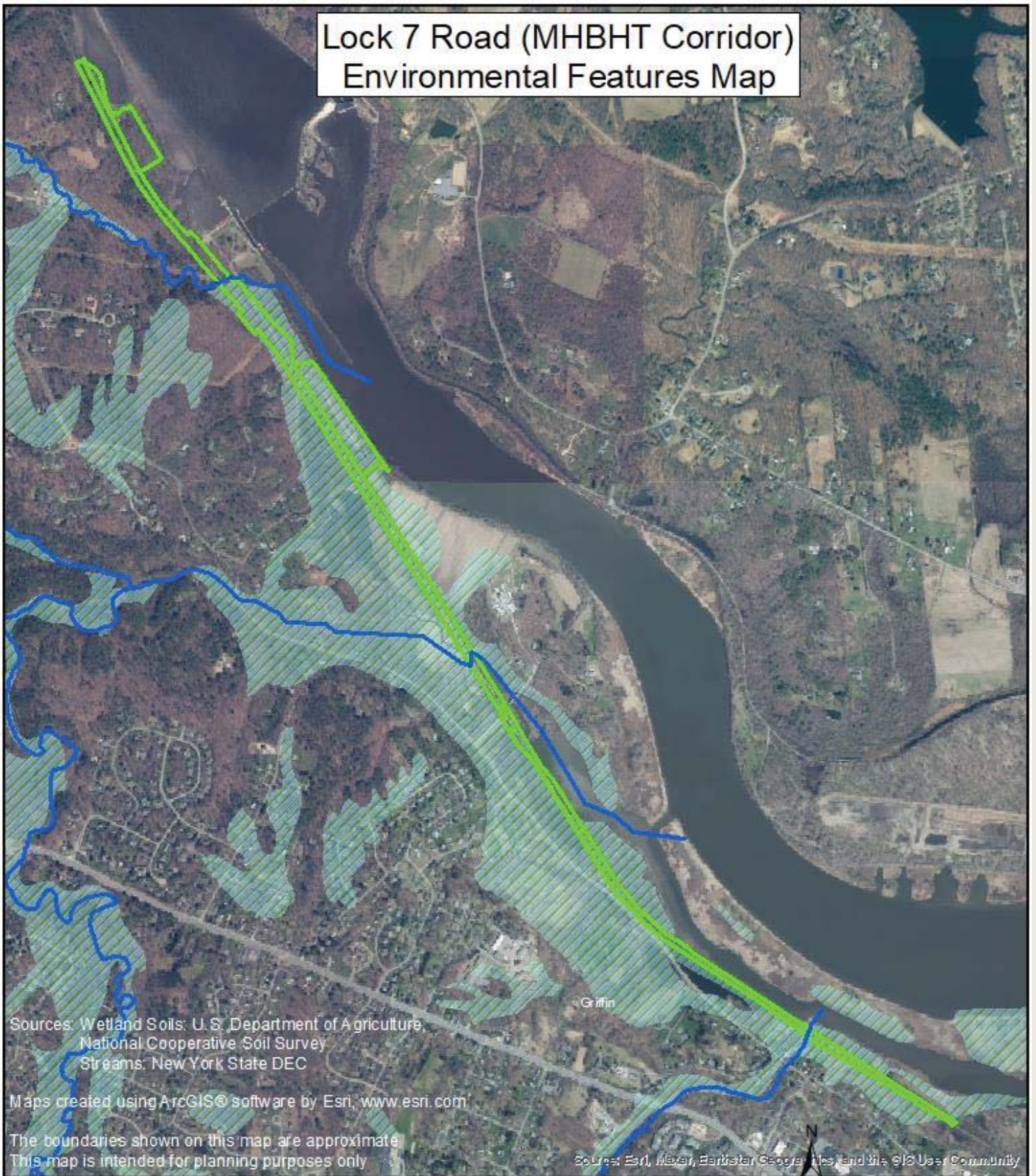
- Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor)
- Streams
- Niskayuna Town Boundaries



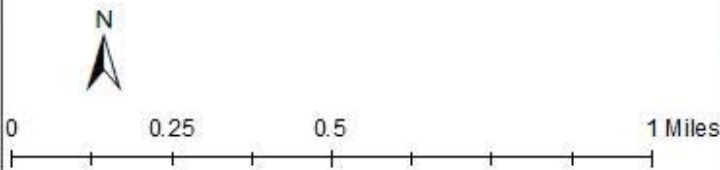
Niskayuna
NEW YORK

November 22, 2024

Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Environmental Features Map



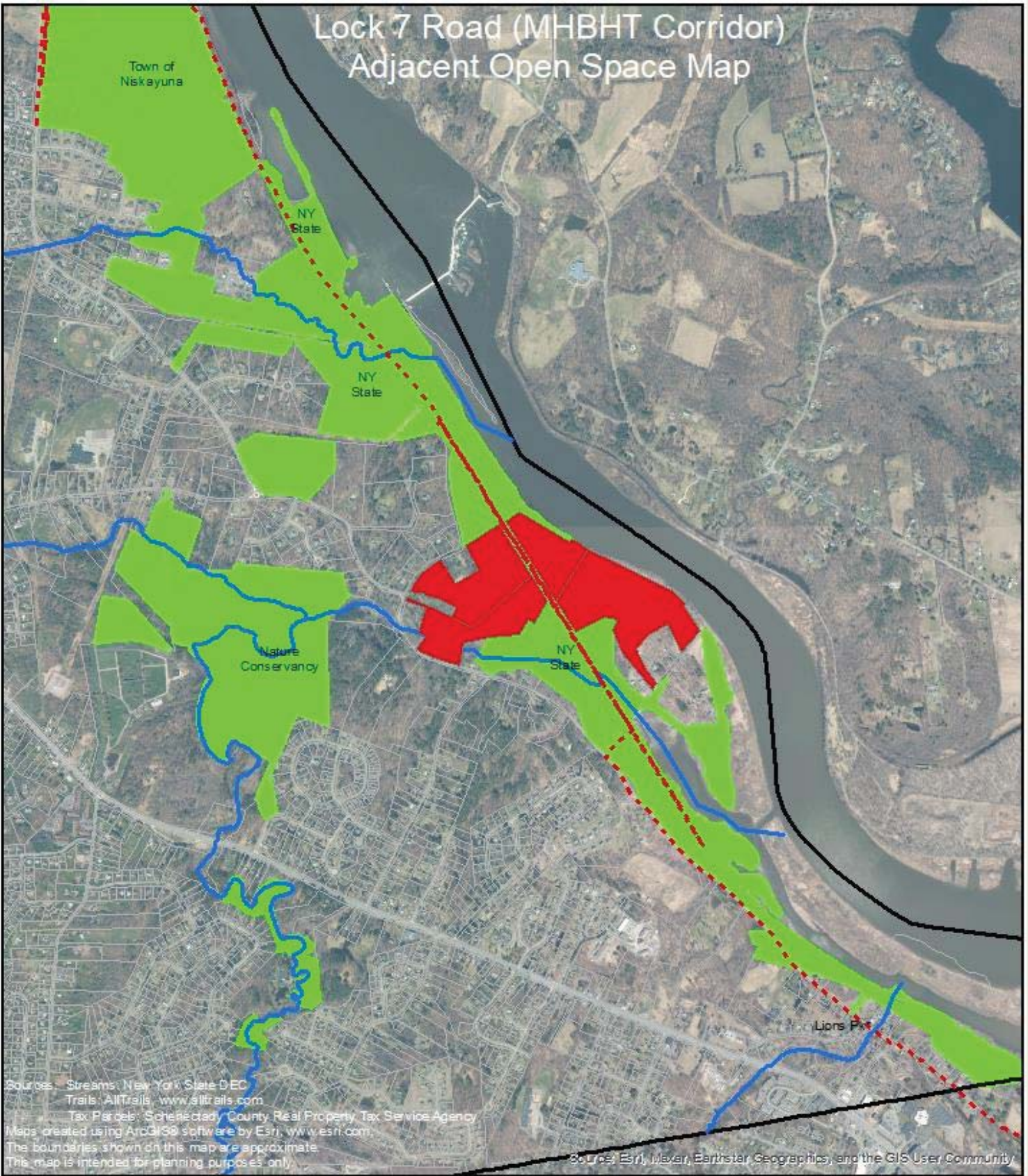
-  Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor)
-  Streams
-  Wetland Soils



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024

Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Adjacent Open Space Map



Sources: Streams: New York State DEC
Trails: AllTrails, www.alltrails.com
Tax Parcels: Schoharie County Real Property Tax Service Agency
Maps created using ArcGIS software by Esri, www.esri.com.
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
The map is intended for planning purposes only.

Sources: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Niskayuna Boundaries	Streams
Town, State & Conservation Properties	Tax Parcels
Adjacent Private Open Space	
Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail	

N

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Niskayuna
NEW YORK

November 22, 2024

MAPLE LANE INVENTORY

May 24, 25, 2024 Site Walks

REGIONAL SETTING:

The Town-owned Maple Lane Properties consist of seven lots totaling eighteen acres in size clustered around Maple Lane-Butternut Drive and Sycamore Court just east of Pearse Road. The Properties are located along the southern boundary of Niskayuna adjacent to the Town of Colonie (see Location Map page 9 and Satellite Map page 10).

The Maple Lane Properties provide a gateway to the Lisha Kill which runs seven miles from its beginning in the Albany Pine Bush, along the eastern edge of Maple Lane and ending in the Mohawk River. The Properties contain 0.35 miles of hiking trails that adjoin an informal trail system on private land extending south into the Town of Colonie (see Hiking Trails Map page 16). By following the Lisha Kill corridor it may be possible in the future to create a five mile long hiking trail/greenway connecting the Mohawk River in Niskayuna to the 3,350 acre Albany Pine Bush Preserve located to the south in the towns of Colonie and Guiderland. (see Albany Pine Bush Trail Map page 17). Connecting Maple Lane Properties to the Albany Pine Bush may require the crossing of two private properties (see Albany Pine Bush Trail Map page 17). The Albany Pine Bush is one of the best remaining examples of an inland pine barrens ecosystem in the world and is home to at least 45 wildlife species of greatest conservation need in NY State⁵. The Management Plan for Albany Pine Bush Preserve recommends expanding the Preserve by acquiring lands from willing sellers using, but not limited to, funds from the Environmental Protection Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies and programs (Land and Water Conservation Fund, Conservation and Reinvestment Act, and transportation funds), local governments, private foundations, individuals, corporations, and mitigation fees.⁶

⁵ <https://www.iloveny.com/listing/albany-pine-bush-preserve-commission/15314/>

⁶ Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan Update, 2017, p. 56, 57.



Parking and trail entrance across from Sycamore Ct.



Entrance to informal trails at south end of Butternut Drive

The Maple Lane Properties are surrounded by several privately owned parcels totaling 121 acres in size along the Lisha Kill. Three of these are current of former farms including Willow Creek Equestrian, Lansing's Farm and Van Epps former greenhouse (see Adjacent Open Space Map page 14). Farmland such as this is rapidly disappearing in the area. In addition to buffering the town land and the Lisha Kill waters, protecting these properties can provide locally grown food and lead to additional recreational opportunities.

Another large, 78 acre wooded parcel is located directly south of the Maple Lane Properties and is heavily wooded with white pine groves and medium sized elm and shagbark hickory trees. (see Adjacent Open Space Map page 14). Informal trails run through this private parcel and can, with permission, be connected to the Maple Lane trails. The Lisha Kill runs along the eastern boundary of this private parcel for 0.4 miles so its protection is important to the protection of the Lisha Kill itself.



Lisha Kill and wetlands just south of Maple Lane

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Maple Lane Properties are entirely wooded. Approximately 25% of the Property (five acres) in the eastern section are New York State DEC wetlands (see Satellite Map page 10 and Environmental Features Map page 11). Upon investigation, another four acres, including storm detention ponds, are wetlands with cattails and willow trees. These wetlands lie in the center of the Maple Lane-Butternut Drive circle and in four smaller parcels around the perimeter. Their chief function, after the neighborhood was developed with 42 single family homes, is for stormwater control. The Lisha Kill flows along the Properties' eastern boundary for 800 feet (see Environmental Features Map page 11). The Properties' elevations slope eastward to the Lisha Kill from a height of 310 feet above sea level at the western boundary to a low point of 270 feet at the eastern section along the Lisha Kill (see Elevations Map page 12 and Topographic Map page 13).



Viewing spot of Lisha Kill at end of hiking trail

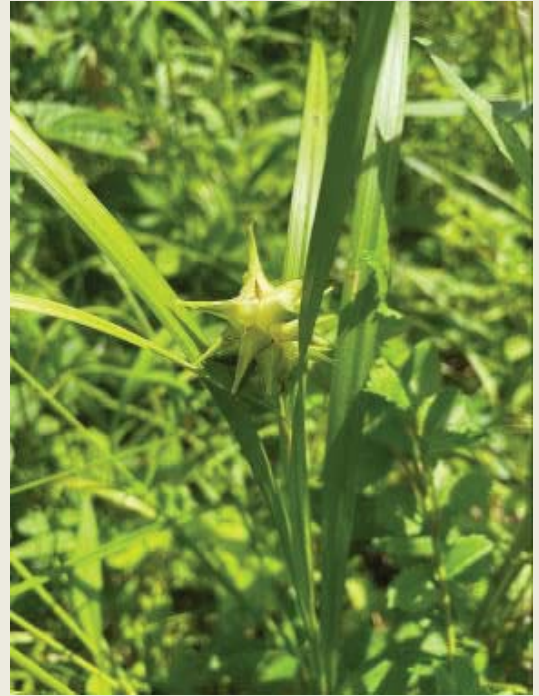
ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES:

The majority of the Maple Lane properties consists of medium to large-sized mixed deciduous and evergreen trees including black and red oak, red maple, beech, ash, aspen, basswood, shagbark hickory, white pine and several very large 36 inch in diameter cottonwood trees (see Satellite Photograph Map page 10). Some of the beech are suffering from beech leaf wilt disease; remaining ashes are dying due to emerald ash infestations.

The understory is sparse and includes beech, elm, black cherry, black birch, white pine, basswood, sassafras and shagbark hickory saplings while the shrub layer consists of hornbeam, serviceberry, maple leaf viburnum, blueberry, silky dogwood, grey dogwood, alder and invasive buckthorn, honeysuckle and European (black) alder shrubs.

A few small apple trees may be remnants of the old farm and orchard. Mature white pine groves are found just to the northeast and south of the Properties on private land.

The ground layer in most of the area is very moist and contains wetland dwelling ferns such as sensitive, marsh and cinnamon fern along with forget-me-not, boneset, nettles, and Jack-in-the-pulpit plants. Botanist Steve Young identified many species of sedges along the Lisha Kill including: bur, fox, fringe, lurid, bladder, squarrose, graceful, crested, greater straw and blunt broom sedge along with dark green bulrush. Cattails were common along the Lisha Kill itself. It can be assumed that this wide variety of diverse sedges and rushes continues up and down the Lisha Kill corridor.



Bur sedge



Niskayuna Natural Resources Inventory
Fringe, blunt broom and bur sedge



Fox sedge

In the wettest areas skunk cabbage and creeping Jenny dominate. In wet, disturbed areas along the gravel trail, which may be above a water line, phragmites has invaded. In upland areas common milkweed, mayapple, barren strawberry, dame's rocket, agrimony, avens, Virginia creeper, Solomon's seal, virgin's bower, cinquefoil, tick-trefoil, wild geranium, meadow anemone, jumpseed, coltsfoot and Pennsylvania sedge are common.



Meadow anemone



Mayapples



Wild geranium in flower



Maple leaf viburnum in flower

Botanist Steve Young also pointed out that deer have eliminated many native plants from the understory and are preventing the woods from regenerating by eating tree seedlings. Deer damage such as this is common across the region and also results in the loss of related organisms including insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals as well as fungi. Deer overpopulation also results in an increase in invasive plants that deer do not eat such as multi-flora rose, barberry, honeysuckle, burning bush, autumn olive, knotweed, mugwort, stilt grass and other non-native plants, altering the ecology of the forests.

Birds observed include wood duck, Baltimore oriole and red-winged blackbirds in the open marsh areas along the Lisha Kill, goldfinch in shrubby areas and great crested flycatcher and ovenbird deeper into the forest just south of the Properties. Yellow-bellied sapsucker holes have been drilled into a black birch tree.



Yellow-bellied sapsucker holes

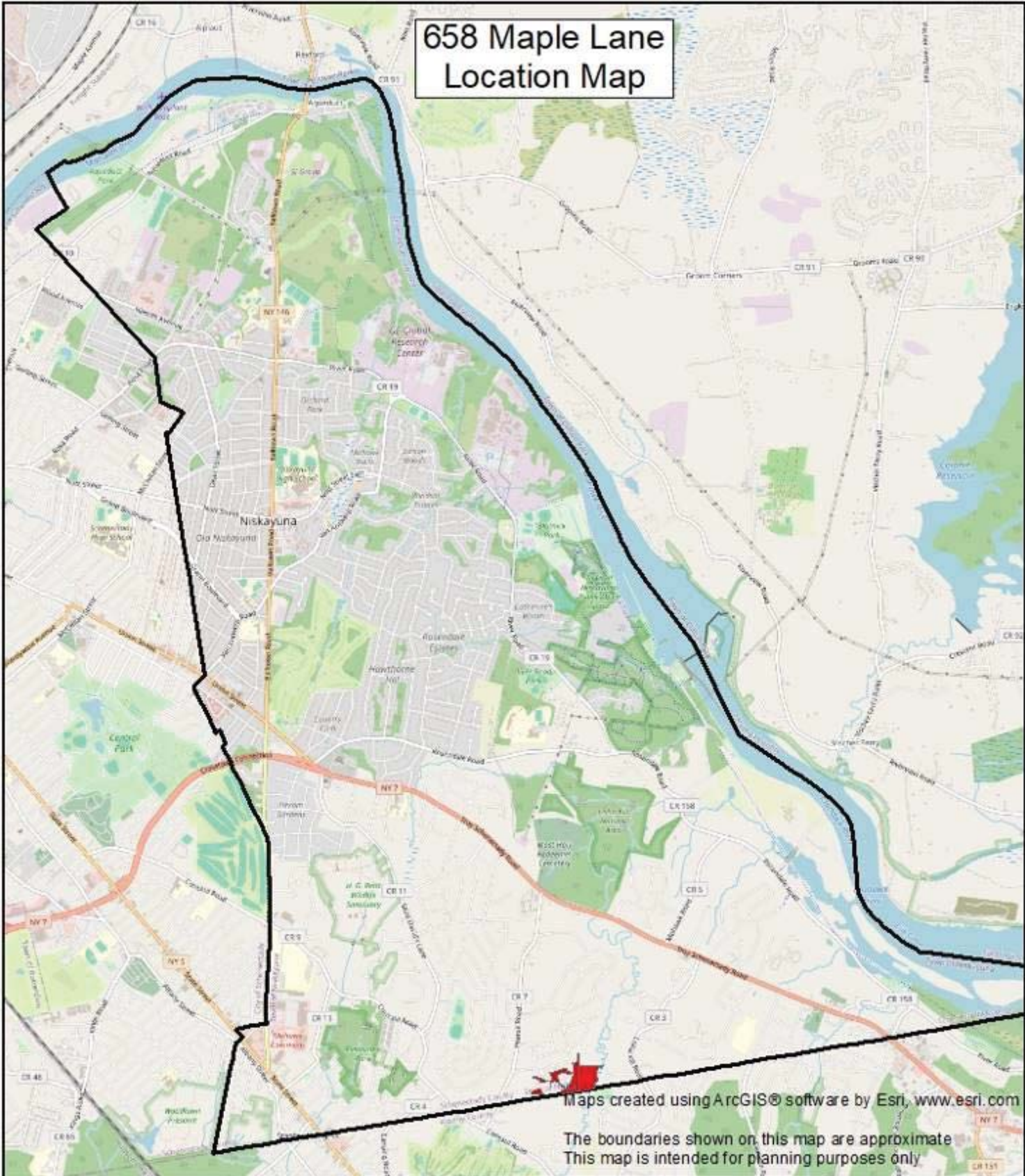
While areas that have been disturbed during home construction are dominated by invasive plants including phragmites, honeysuckle, European alder, autumn olive, multi-flora rose and buckthorn, interior areas are quite natural with mature trees and shrubs. The formal trail provides recreational opportunities in a densely populated neighborhood and the portion of the trail that ends with an open view of the Lisha Kill and marsh is especially attractive (see Trail Map page 16). Trail signs and benches could add to the attractiveness of this Property. If private property to the south and northeast along the Lisha Kill can be protected this small park can be a destination for residents in both Niskayuna and Colonie (see Adjacent Open Space Opportunities Map page 14, Surrounding Open Space Map page 15, Albany Pine Bush Trail Map page 17).

CONSERVATION VALUES:

The Maple Lane properties' mature forests, shrublands, riparian zones, streams and wetlands provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: filtration and protection of the Lisha Kill waters, groundwater recharge, stormwater regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. They also provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife. Situated as it is along the Lisha Kill corridor, these woods provide wildlife corridors allowing wildlife and plants, to move freely in a relatively developed area. The plants themselves allow the forest to regenerate in the future by providing seeds and shelter for native forest regeneration.



These woods and trails have other conservation values for Niskayuna's residents and visitors including protecting the scenic views of the Lisha Kill and providing educational and recreational opportunities.

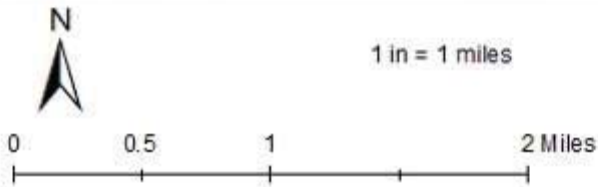
658 Maple Lane Location Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  658 Maple Lane
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



January 22, 2024

658 Maple Lane Satellite Photograph Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri. www.esri.com


The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

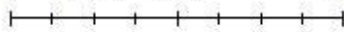
 658 Maple Lane

 Niskayuna Town Boundaries

N



0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles




January 24, 2024

658 Maple Lane Environmental Features Map




-  658 Maple Lane
-  Lisha Kill
-  NY State DEC Wetlands
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries

N



0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

June 25, 2024




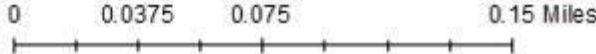

658 Maple Lane Elevations Map



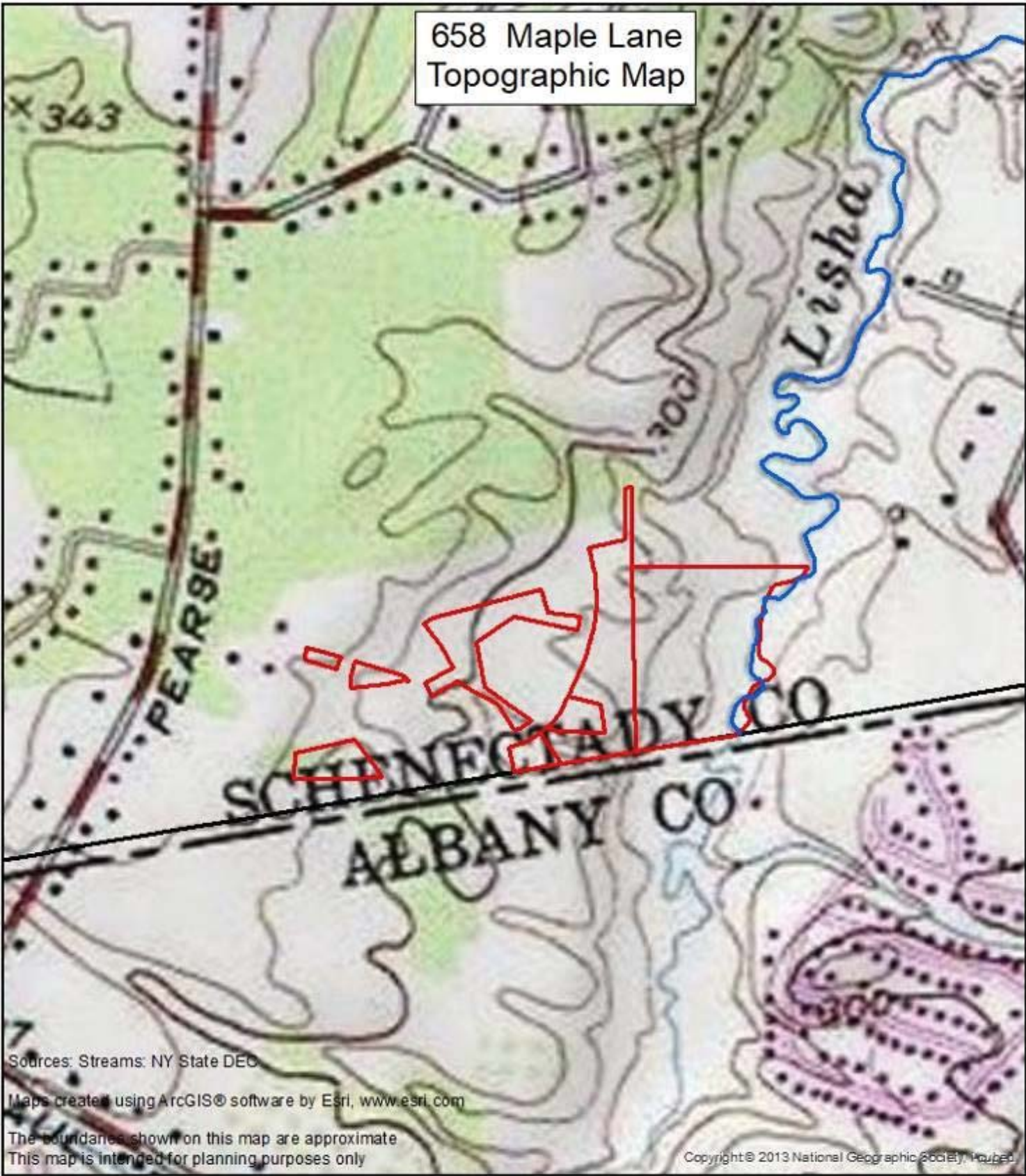
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com




The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

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<p> 658 Maple Lane</p> <p> Elevations-10 ft. intervals</p>	<p>N</p>   <p>0 0.0375 0.075 0.15 Miles</p>	 <p>January 24, 2024</p>
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658 Maple Lane
Topographic Map




-  658 Maple Lane
-  Streams
-  Naikayuna Town Boundaries

N



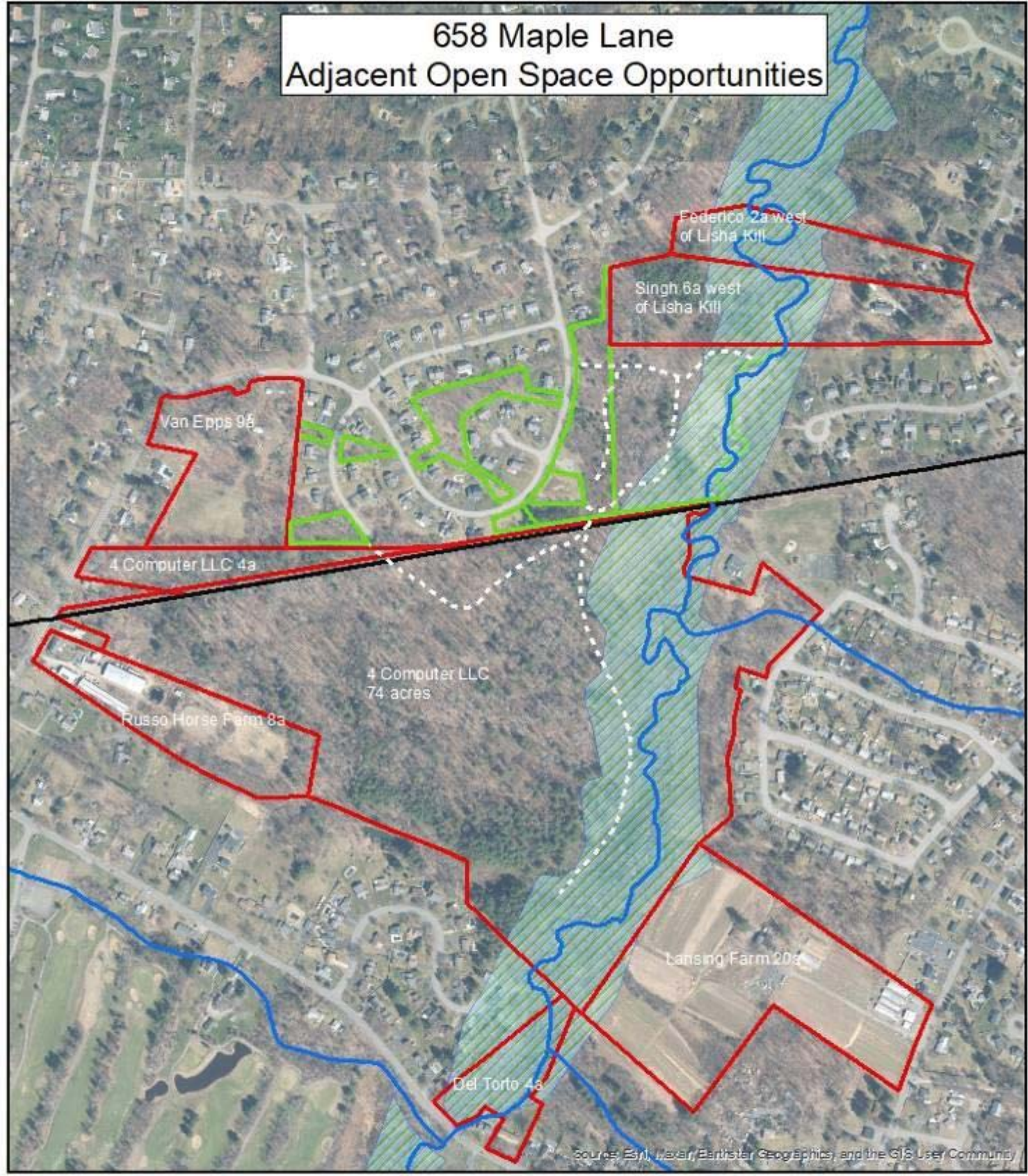
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Niskayuna
NEW YORK


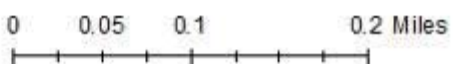
January 24, 2024

658 Maple Lane Adjacent Open Space Opportunities



 Niskayuna-Colonie Boundaries	 Lisha Kill
 Town Open Space	
 Private Open Space Opportunities	
 Trails	

N

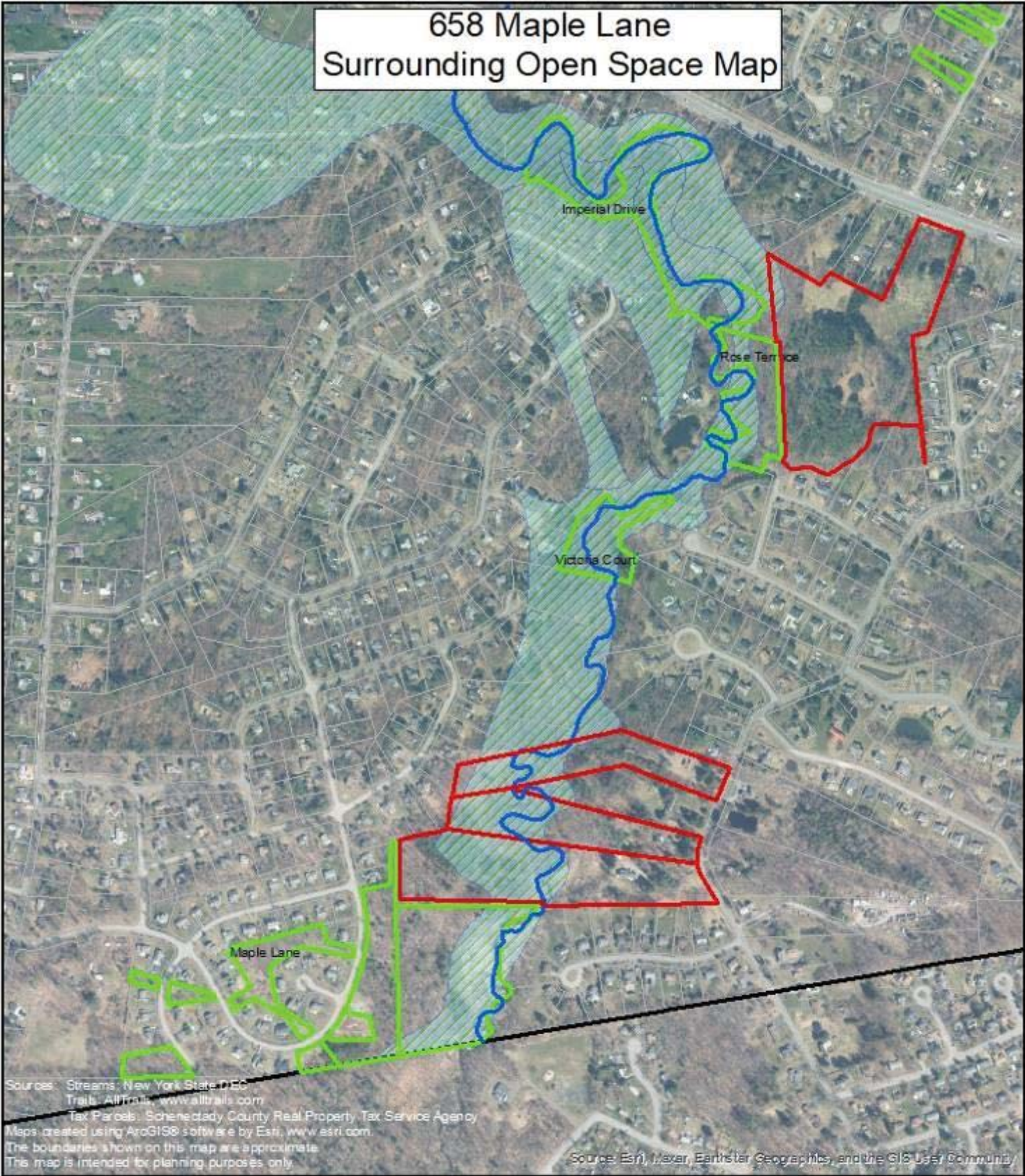
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Niskayuna
NEW YORK

June 23, 2024

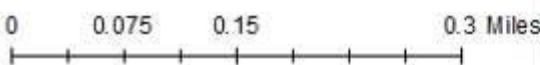
658 Maple Lane Surrounding Open Space Map



Sources: Streams: New York State DEC
 Trails: AllTrails, www.alltrails.com
 Tax Parcels: Schenectady County Real Property Tax Service Agency
 Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
 The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
 This map is intended for planning purposes only.

Source: Esri, DeLorme, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

-  Niskayuna Boundaries
-  Town Open Space
-  Private Open Space Opportunities
-  Wetland Soils
-  Lisha Kill



February 12, 2024

658 Maple Lane Trail Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

Sources: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

-  658 Maple Lane
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries
-  Parking
-  Hiking Trails
-  Scenic Lookout

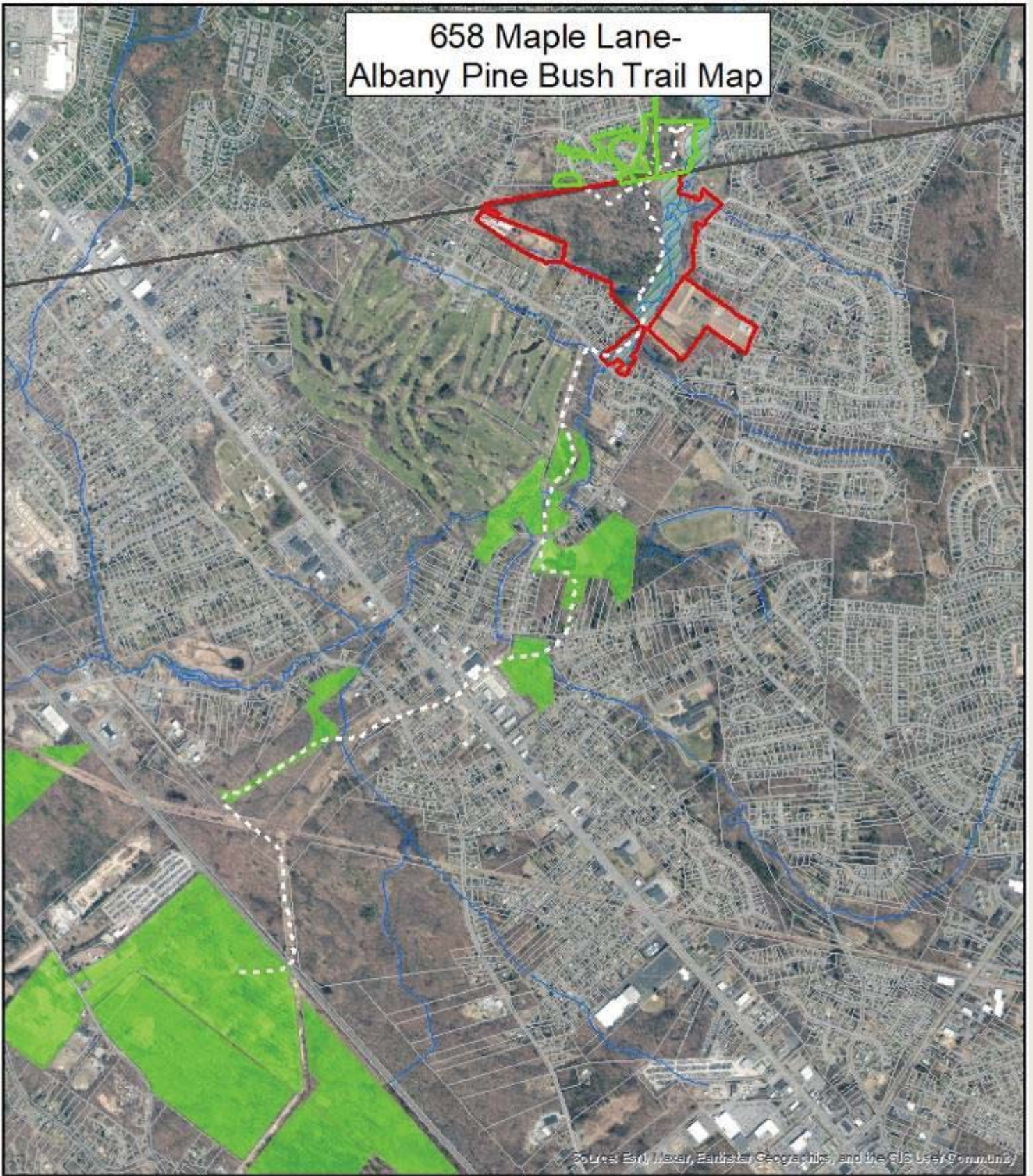


0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles



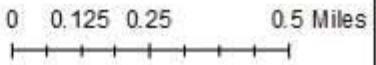
January 24, 2024

658 Maple Lane- Albany Pine Bush Trail Map



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

- 658 Maple Lane Town Open Space
- State, TNC, Colonie Open Space
- Private Connecting Properties
- Niskayuna-Colonie Town Boundaries
- Lisah Kill
- Future Trail



June 22, 2024

MORROW AVENUE INVENTORY

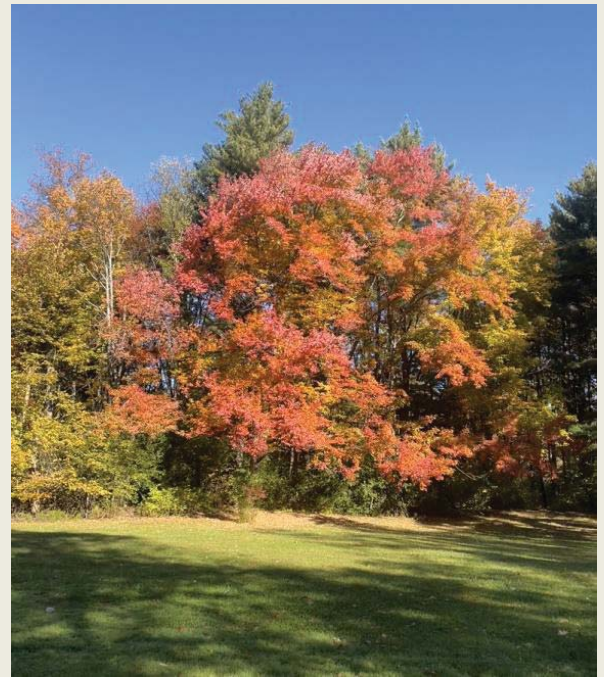
October 19, 2024 Site Walk

REGIONAL SETTING:

The Town-owned Morrow Avenue property is 3.7 acres in size and is located in the north-central section of Niskayuna (see Location Map Page 4). Entrances are found at the southern boundary at 2173 Morrow Avenue and at the northern boundary at Foxhill Drive; parking is on street along Morrow Avenue. The parcel has approximately one acre of lawn, one acre of stream and riparian area and one acre of trees (see Satellite Photograph Map page 6 and Environmental Features Map page 7). A stream runs along the eastern boundary. The stream begins 0.5 miles to the south at the Niskayuna High School, runs through the property and flows another 0.8 miles northeast to the Mohawk River. The majority of the property has wetlands soils (see Environmental Features Map page 7). The surrounding landscape is slightly higher in elevation at 370 feet above sea level than the property which is at approximately 360 feet in elevation (see Elevation Map page 8 and Topographic Map page 9). A hiking trail runs from Morrow Avenue to Foxhill Drive (see Hiking Trail Map page 10). The property is surrounded on all sides by single family homes on lots ranging from 0.4 to 0.6 acres. The land had previous been part of a large orchard, hence the name of the adjacent road, 'Orchard Drive' (see 1952 Aerial Photograph Map page 5). The entrances to the parcel are not marked and signs could let residents know that the land is Town-owned and that hiking is allowed.



Hiking trail



Lawn and trees at entrance

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

All 3.7 acres of the property have soils classified as wetland soils, perhaps a reason this property had not been developed (see Environmental Features Map page 7). The stream that begins at the Niskayuna High School and flows into the Mohawk River runs along the entire eastern boundary of the property. The stream embankment, also termed a riparian area, has red osier and silky dogwood shrubs, non-native honeysuckle shrubs and sumac. The canopy has many different species of medium sized trees including: red maple, black and weeping willow, black walnut, shagbark hickory, red oak, cottonwood, elm and ash. Jewelweed and phragmites grow close to the water.

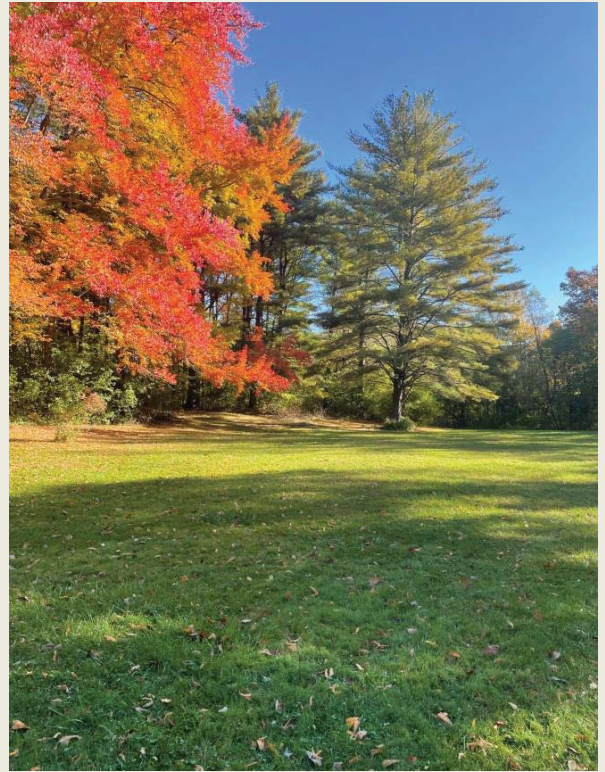
A grove of approximately 20 white pine grows alongside the hiking trail close to the southern entrance to the property.

The remaining area consists of lawn and woods. The woods also have a variety of tree species including: medium sized red oak, elm, red maple, black cherry, Norway spruce and red cedar. The understory has mulberry, box elder, ash and serviceberry trees. The majority of the shrub layer consists of non-native shrubs including: buckthorn, autumn olive and honeysuckle. Native grey dogwood shrubs also grow here.

The one acre of lawn has typical non-native lawn grasses including bluegrass, fescue and rye. If only the narrow hiking trail is regularly mown and if herbicides are not used, portions of this lawn can be allowed to grow into a natural looking meadow which would add interesting variety for visitors while increasing biodiversity for pollinators and other insects, birds and other wildlife.

CONSERVATION VALUES:

The Morrow Avenue property's stream, riparian area, conifers and mixed deciduous woods provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: filtration and protection of streams and the Mohawk River, groundwater recharge, storm water regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. These natural resources also provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife. The hiking trail is conveniently located and can provide educational and recreational opportunities to Niskayuna residents. Trail and educational signs can attract local residents and educate them about the nature within. If portions of lawn can be allowed to grow and if herbicides are not used, a variety of grasses and forbs can provide beauty and added biodiversity.

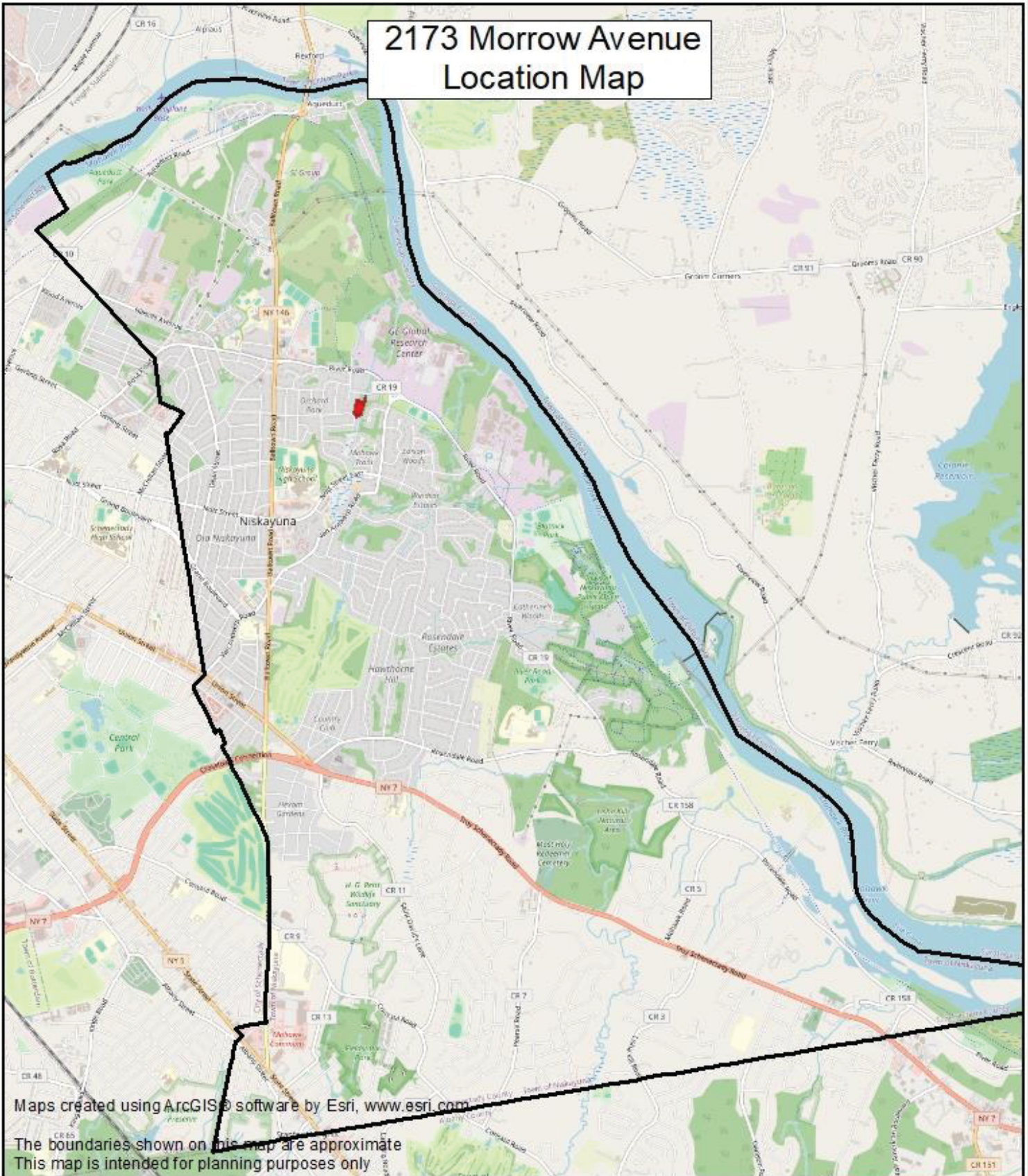


White pine grove





Stream and riparian area

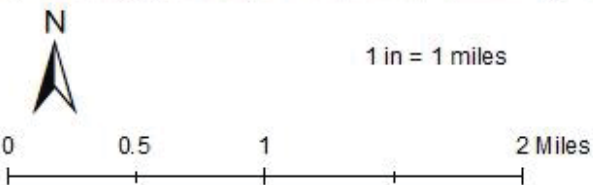
2173 Morrow Avenue Location Map



Maps created using ArcGIS software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only


-  2173 Morrow Avenue
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries

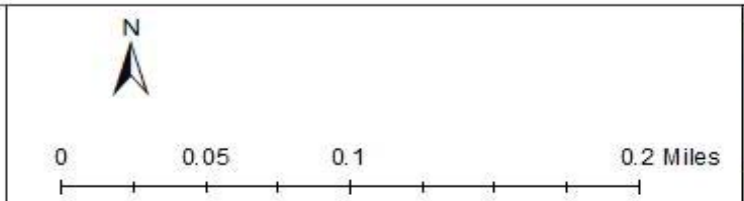


January 22, 2024

2173 Morrow Avenue
1952 Aerial Photograph Map



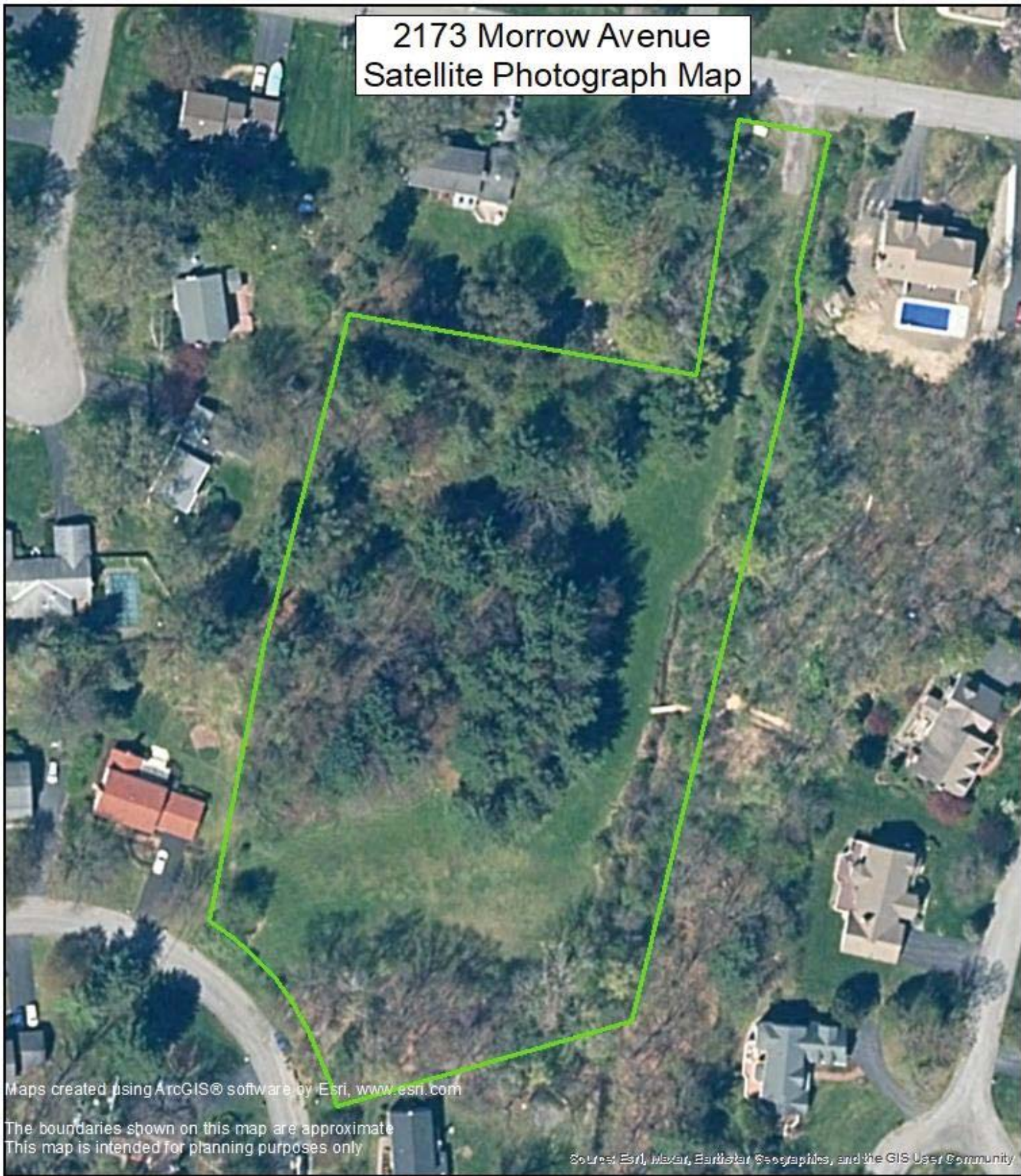
 2173 Morrow Avenue



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024


2173 Morrow Avenue Satellite Photograph Map




Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only


Sources: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 2173 Morrow Avenue

N



0 0.0125 0.025 0.05 Miles



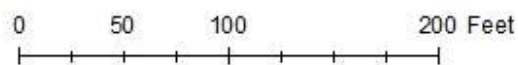
Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024

2173 Morrow Avenue Environmental Features Map

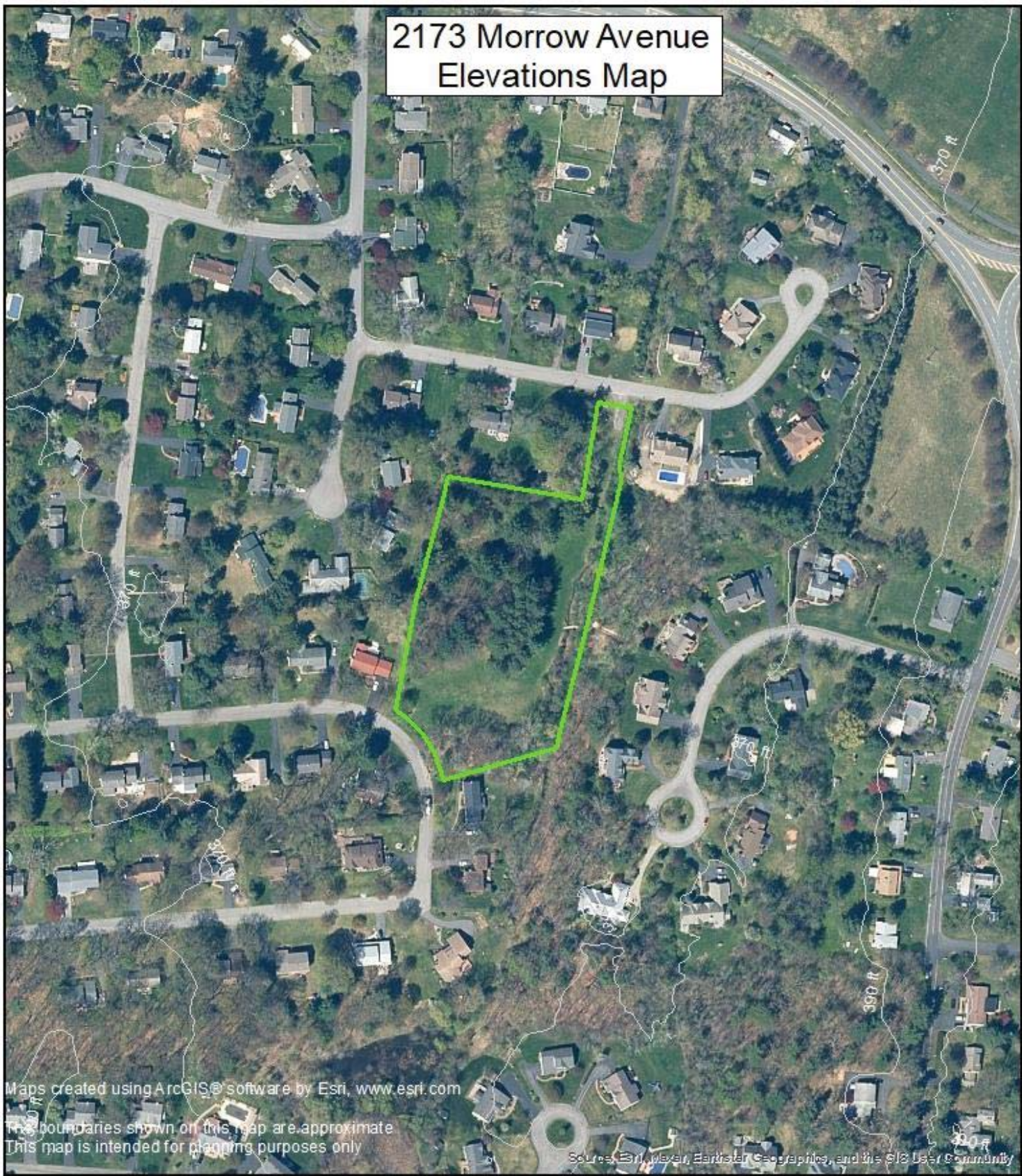




- 2173 Morrow Avenue
- Lawn
- White Pine Grove
- Streams
- Wetland Soils

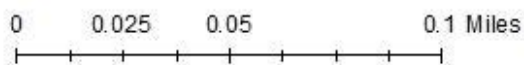


October 19, 2024

2173 Morrow Avenue Elevations Map

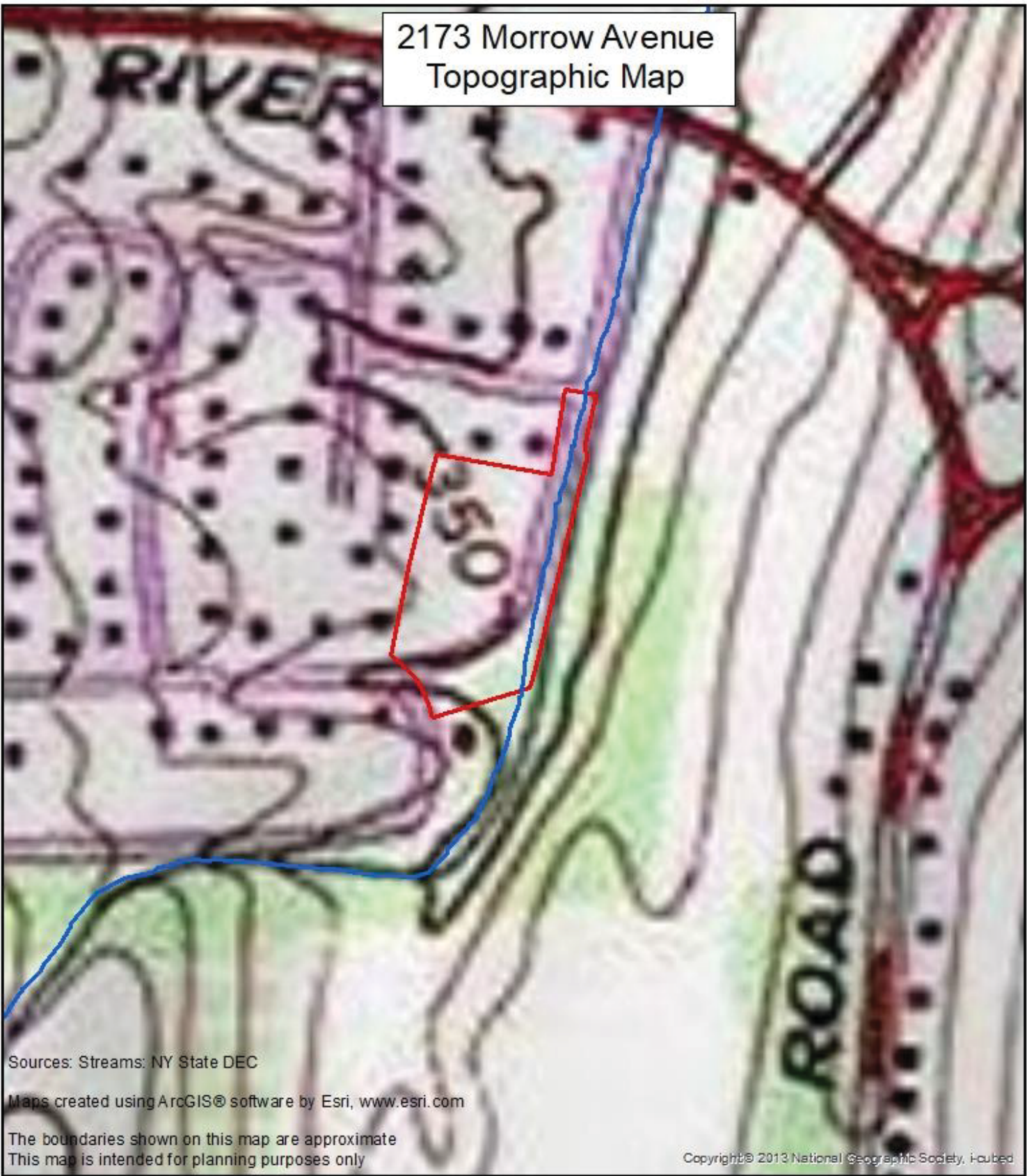


-  2173 Morrow Avenue
-  Elevations-10 ft. intervals



January 24, 2024

2173 Morrow Avenue Topographic Map





Sources: Streams: NY State DEC

Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com


The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

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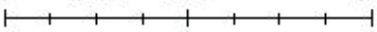
 2173 Morrow Avenue

 Streams

N



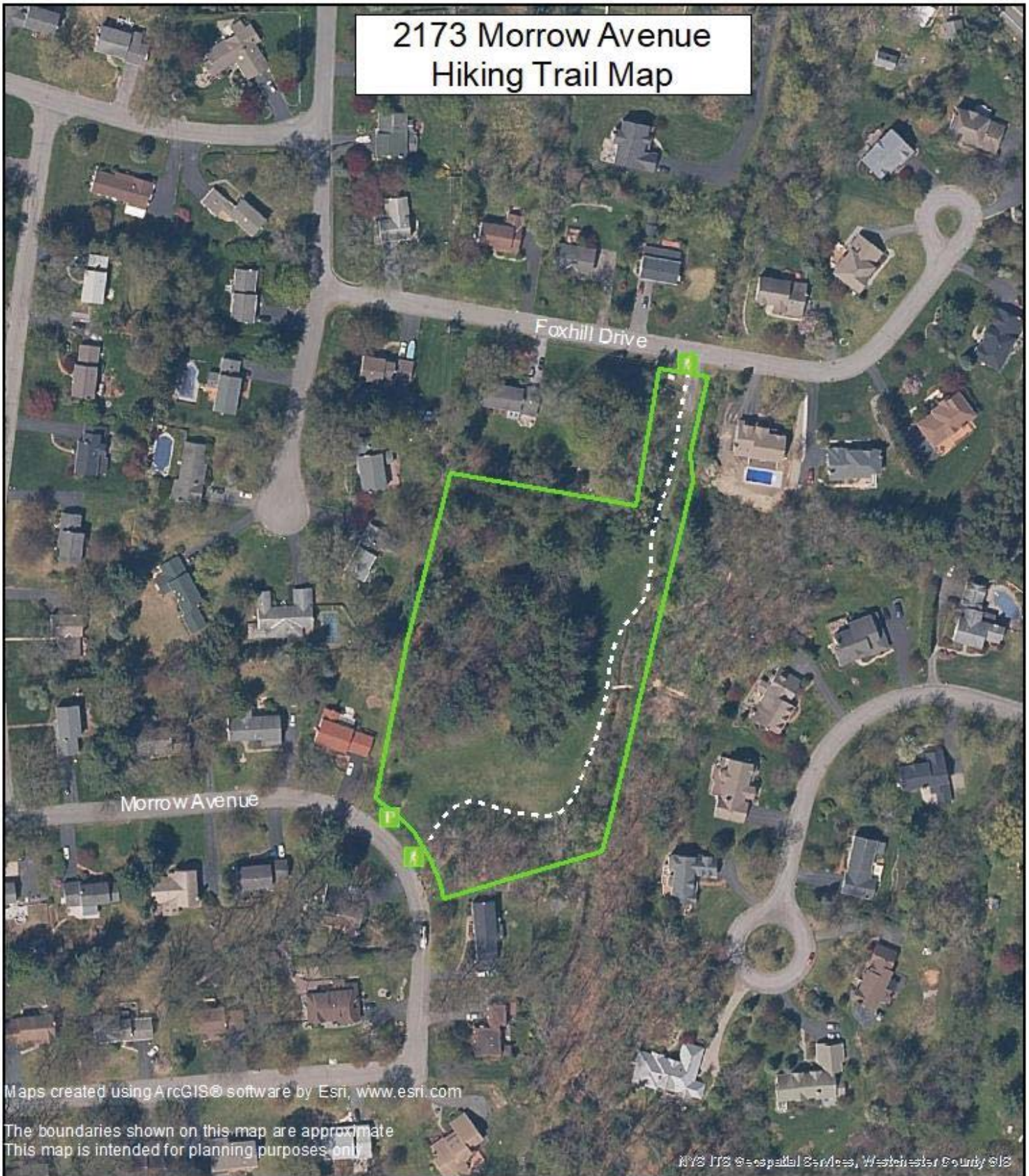
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Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024




2173 Morrow Avenue Hiking Trail Map

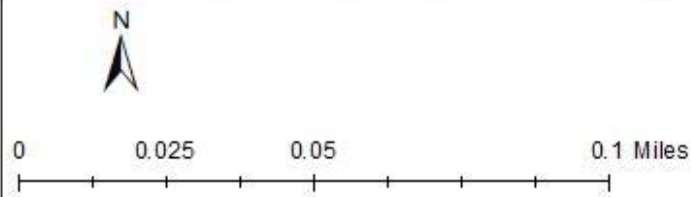


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

NYS ITS Geospatial Services, Westchester County GIS

-  2173 Morrow Avenue
-  Trail Entrance
-  Parking



October 19, 2024

2870 RIVER ROAD (RIVER ROAD PARK) INVENTORY

May 24, 25, 2024 Site Walks

REGIONAL SETTING:

The Town-owned River Road Park consist of seven lots totaling 44 acres in size on River Road in the center of Niskayuna (see Location Map page 9). The Park is surrounded by single-family homes to the north, east and west (see Satellite Photograph Map page 10). A one-acre vacant, privately owned parcel at the Park's north boundary and River Road has wetland soils and portions of the Mohawk River tributary. This could, if acquired, could provide another entrance to the Park (see Adjacent Open Space Map page 18). Directly to the south lies the 22-acre Bard Farm and two schools: Rosendale Elementary School and Iroquois Middle School which total 50 acres in size and are connected to the Park by hiking trails (see Adjacent Open Space Map page 18 and Hiking Trails Map page 13). Single-family homes lie just to the east. East of the home and approximately 400 feet from the Park lie a series of open space parcels owned by the Town of Niskayuna and the State of New York totaling approximately 500 acres along the Mohawk River and the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Trail (see Surrounding Open Space Map page 19).

Approximately 30 acres of the Park are wooded with hiking trails while 14 acres have ball fields and parking (see Satellite Photograph Map page 10 and Environmental Features Map page 11). The Park's far western section is only accessible from Pine Ridge Road where a short, approximately 500 foot long hiking trail runs along the stream (see Hiking Trails Map page 13). The entrance is not marked and a sign could let residents know that the land is Town-owned and that care should be taken to not litter and not cause erosion- mountain bikers now use the trail which may cause silt to flow into the stream below.



Pine Ridge Road trail along stream



View of farm from River Road Park trails

The main section of the Park has 1.5 miles of hiking trails that connect to the Rosendale and Iroquois Schools and offer views of privately owned Bard Farm (see Hiking Trails Maps page 12 and 13). With permission it may be possible for supervised students from the two schools to walk to the farm and back. Farmland such as this is rapidly disappearing in the area and protecting these properties can provide locally grown food and lead to recreational and educational opportunities while providing farmers with additional income. Agricultural Science and Technology Education (ASTE) programs are taught in many schools and the proximity of these two schools to active farmland may present such an opportunity, if desired by all parties.

The southern trail loop continues onto the schools' properties where very large, mature hemlock and oak trees—several of which are three to nearly four-feet in diameter—grow and can provide another 'outdoor classroom' for students and teachers.



Children 'measuring' large red oak along hiking trail

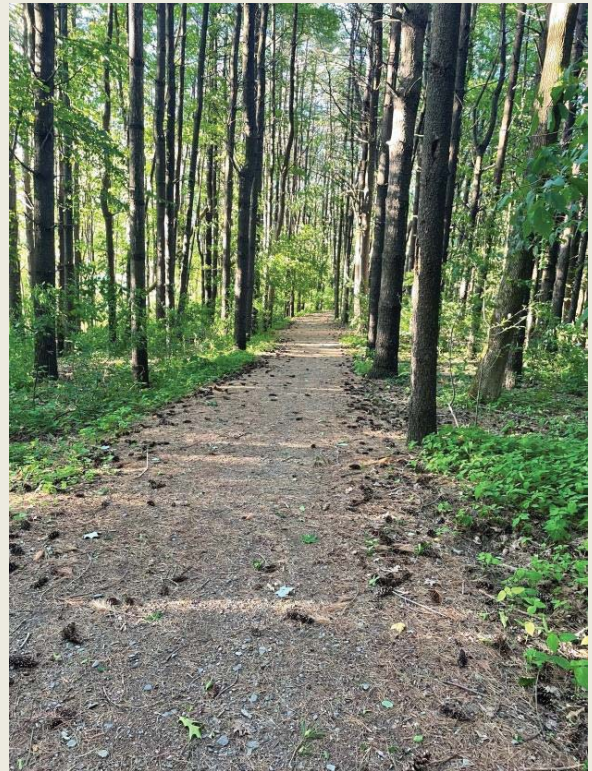
PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

30 of the Park's 44 acres are wooded. These woods connect to another 19 acres of heavily wooded school property directly to the south. Approximately 75% of the Park's 44 acres of soils are classified as wetland soils (see Environmental Features Map page 11). A tributary of the Mohawk River runs across the Park's northern section for 3,000 feet and flows another 1.75 miles to the Mohawk River (see Environmental Features Map page 11). The Park's elevations slope fairly sharply from 410 feet at the far western boundary to 300 feet at the eastern boundary (see Elevations Map page 14 and Topographic Map page 15).

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES:

HEMLOCK-WHITE PINE GROVE-15 acres:

Large, 24 inch in diameter hemlock, white pine and red oak trees grow on three acres of steep stream embankments along Pine Ridge Road at the Park's far western section (see Ecological Communities Map page 16). Serviceberry and hop hornbeam make up the understory with maple leaf viburnum growing in the shrub layer and Christmas fern in the ground layer.



White pine canopy along hiking trail

Another hemlock-white pine grove is spread over approximately 12 acres in the Park's higher and drier southern section (see Ecological Communities Map page 16). White pines are medium sized at 15 to 20 inches in diameter and make a beautiful canopy for the hiking trail. Large hemlocks, some 30 inches in diameter, also grow here but several are infested with wooly adelgid, an aphid that kills hemlock trees unless treated with appropriate herbicides. White and red oak trees grow among the pines and hemlock trees. Several very large, 35 inch and 44 inch in diameter oaks and a 30 inch in diameter hemlocks grow just across the Park's boundary at the Rosendale Elementary School (see Significant Trees page 17). This is not to suggest other trees are not significant but to point out that while the Park's trees have some degree of protection since they are owned and managed by the town as parkland, there may not be similar protection for these trees on the schools' properties. Educational signs on these specimen trees located along the trail would inform students, teachers and adults of their importance. Witch hazel, blueberry and maple leaf viburnum grow in the shrub layer in this drier environment along with mayapple, New York fern, enchanter's nightshade, golden alexanders and in, wet areas, jewelweed and skunk cabbage.

RED MAPLE HARDWOOD SWAMP-10 acres:

In the Park's far western section, the stream drops in elevation and widens out into a wetland with red maple, aspen and yellow birch trees and witch hazel shrubs (see Ecological Communities Map page 16). The wetland has skunk cabbage along with jewelweed, marsh, cinnamon and lady fern and mayapples.

A much larger red maple swamp is found in the northern ten acres of the Park's main section (see Ecological Communities Map page 16). The topography is lower in elevation and the soils are wet. Medium sized red maple, aspen, elm and a few white pines make up the canopy while red maple, ash and elm grow in the understory. Several large cottonwoods also grow in this moist soil along with a few non-native amur maples. Five or six large, non-native weeping willows have spread into the Park from neighboring landscapes along Hempstead Road. Shrubs found here include arrow-wood viburnum and silky dogwood along with invasive honeysuckle, multi-flora rose and buckthorn. Sensitive fern, jumpseed, geranium, mayapple and buttercups are common in the ground layer.



Large oaks and hemlocks along hiking trail



Mayapples, cinnamon ferns in wetland along Pine Ridge Road

POWER LINE-2 acres:

A power line runs through the center of the Park and has blueberry and silky dogwood shrubs, goldenrod and common milkweed plants and several types of grasses along with non-native, invasive multi-flora rose and honeysuckle shrubs (see Satellite Photograph Map page 10). In some areas, dense patches of invasive phragmites grow under the power line and extend west into the rest of the Park.

Although man-made, this shrub habitat is increasingly rare and is preferred by several species of birds including common yellowthroat which were observed here. Because power lines are less frequently mowed, beneficial herbs such as goldenrod and milkweed can grow, providing critical habitat for pollinators including monarch butterflies and other insects whose populations are also in steep decline. In recent years, many utility companies have shifted to a more selective use of herbicides to control vegetation beneath power lines using a technique called Integrative Vegetation Management (IVM). IVM uses manually applied, selective herbicides to prevent large trees from resprouting and interfering with power lines while allowing beneficial understory trees and shrubs to grow including dogwood, crabapple, pussy willow, hawthorn and hackberry trees and serviceberry, spicebush, winterberry and blueberry shrubs. In New York state, about half of the over 10,000 miles of high voltage power lines are managed as shrub land⁷ and this power line corridor is a good candidate for that type of management.



Golden alexander wildflowers in wetlands

⁷ New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Sterling Forest kiosk

RIPARIAN CORRIDOR-4 acres:

The tributary flowing through the northern sections of the Park is a riparian corridor, a transition zone between the stream, wetlands and dry upland areas. The soils, plants and trees here protect the water quality of the stream and the Mohawk River into which it flows by controlling erosion and by absorbing and filtering stormwater and other pollutants. The continuous ribbon of riparian habitat along this tributary also provides wildlife habitat and travel and migration corridors in an otherwise densely developed landscape. Because of this, disturbance to the natural vegetative cover should be limited.



Hemlocks shading and protecting streambank along Pine Ridge Road



Digging and mounding of earth in riparian corridor can cause erosion and pollution of stream

In all of these communities, deer have eliminated many native plants from the understory and are preventing the woods from regenerating by eating tree seedlings. Deer damage such as this is common across the region and also results in the loss of related organisms including insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals as well as fungi. Deer overpopulation also results in an increase in invasive plants that deer do not eat such as multi-flora rose, barberry, honeysuckle, burning bush, autumn olive, knotweed, mugwort, stilt grass and other non-native plants, altering the ecology of the forests.

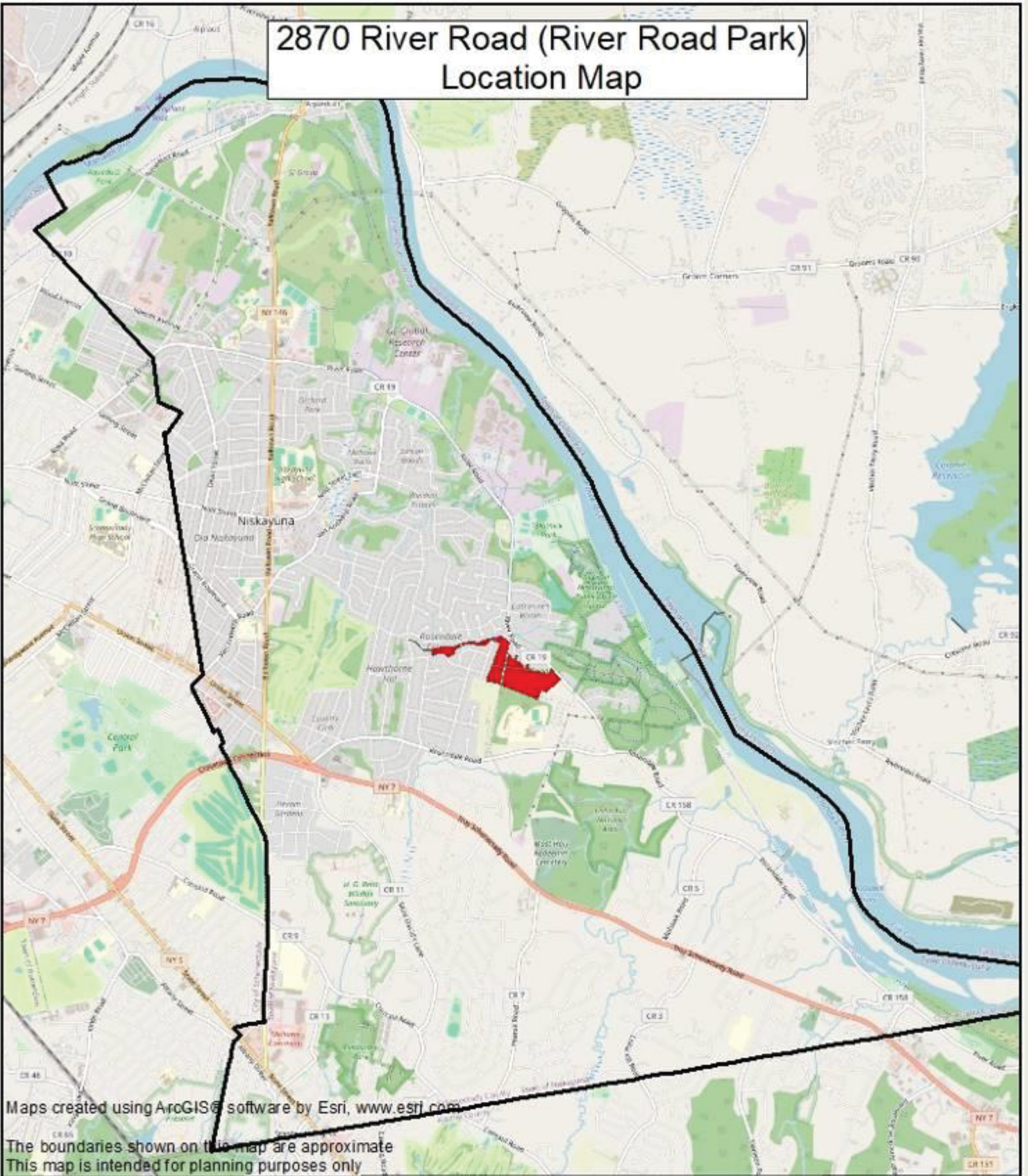
BALLFIELDS-PAVILLION-12 acres:

Managed landscapes include ballfields, mowed fields and pavilions that total 12 acres in size. Since these areas are heavily trafficked by adults and children care should be taken to limit the use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides. Fertilizer use should also be kept to a minimum to prevent nitrogen and phosphorus from running off into the adjacent streams. This will also lower the town's cost of materials and labor. Several attractive trees have been planted here but their bark has been slightly damaged by lawn mowers and weed whackers which could kill the trees. By protecting vulnerable trees with mulch and low fencing, this can be prevented. Planting more trees will add needed shade for people using this sun-exposed area. Portions of a wetland have been filled in recently around the parking circle and pavilion. Planting of native vegetation where the wetland has been filled in will help restore this area.

CONSERVATION VALUES:

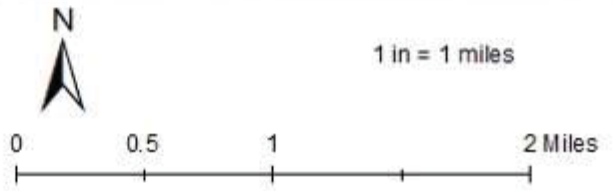
The River Road Park's mature deciduous and coniferous woods, shrub habitat, riparian zones, streams and wetlands provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: filtration and protection of streams, groundwater recharge, storm water regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. These natural resources also provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife. The plants themselves allow the forest to regenerate in the future by providing seeds and shelter for native forest regeneration. These woods also provide wildlife corridors allowing wildlife and plants to move freely in a densely developed area to the more than 500 acres of protected open space and the Mohawk River located just to the east of the Park. These conveniently located, attractive hiking trails provide educational and recreational opportunities to Niskayuna residents by connecting the Park to the adjacent schools and farmland.

2870 River Road (River Road Park) Location Map



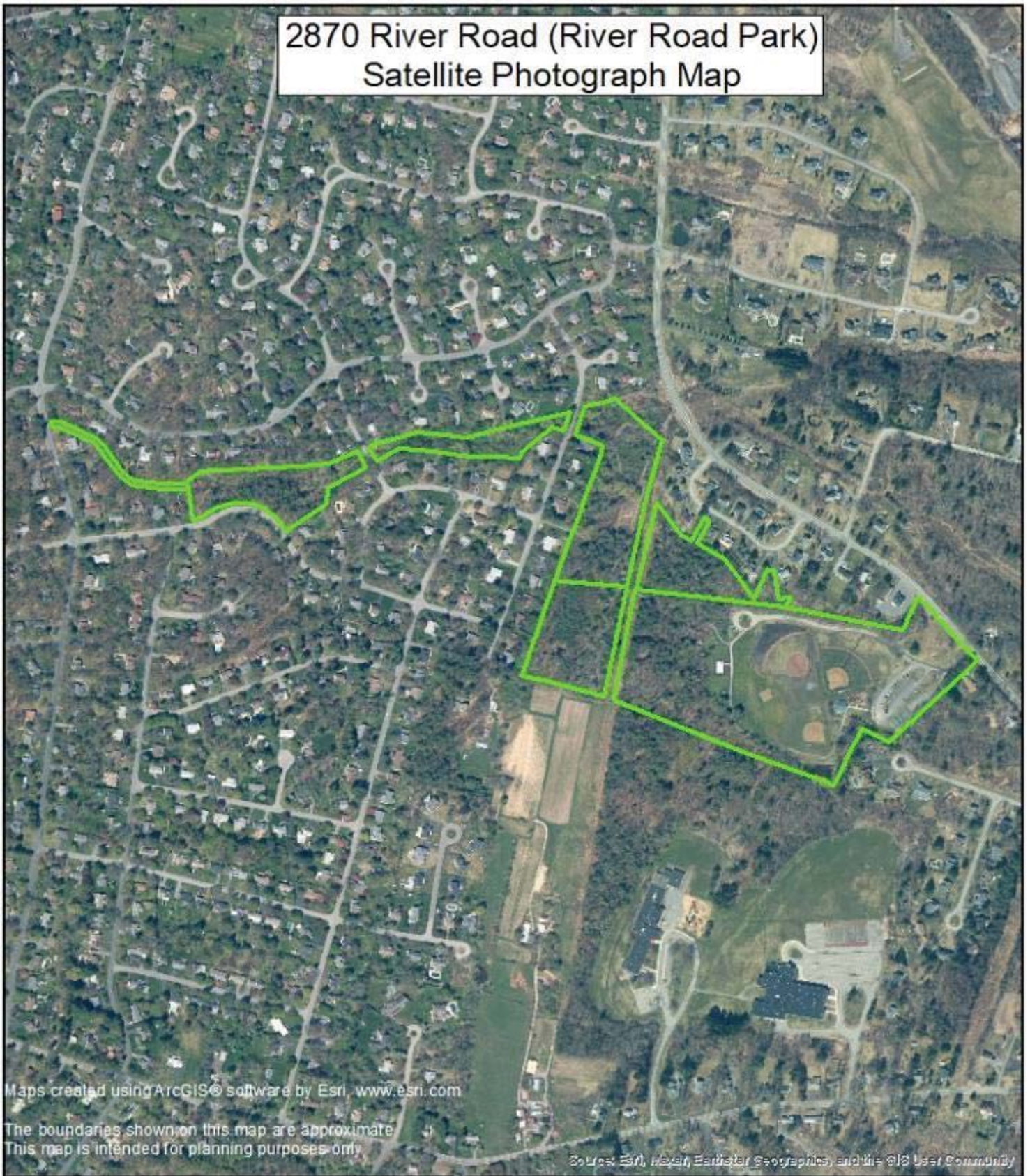
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  2870 River Road (River Road Park)
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



January 22, 2024


2870 River Road (River Road Park) Satellite Photograph Map




Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.


Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 2870 River Road (River Road Park)

N



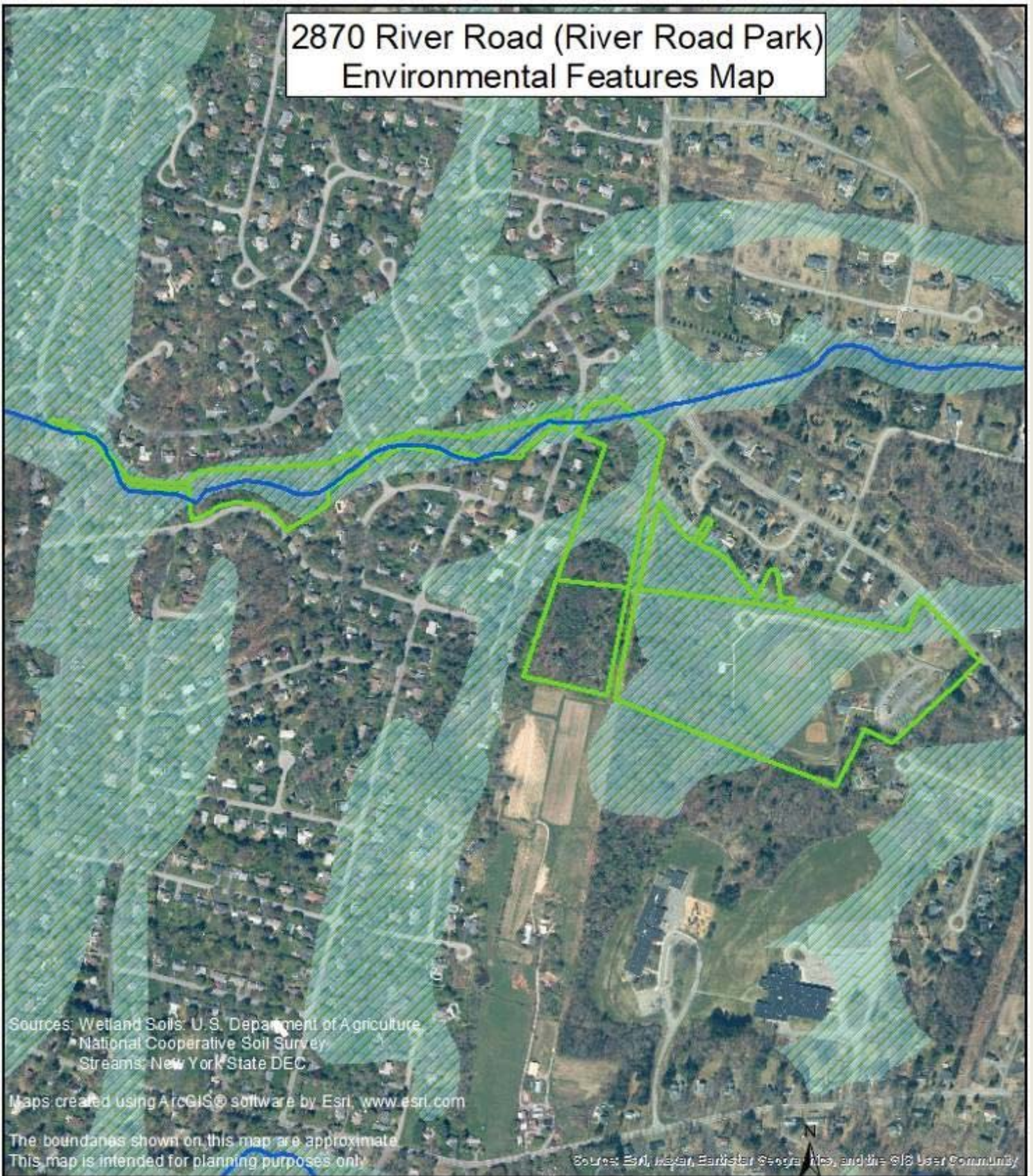
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles




Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024

2870 River Road (River Road Park) Environmental Features Map






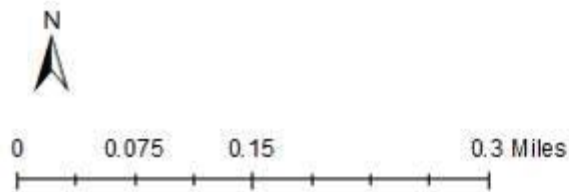
Sources: Wetland Soils: U.S. Department of Agriculture,
National Cooperative Soil Survey
Streams: New York State DEC

Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.

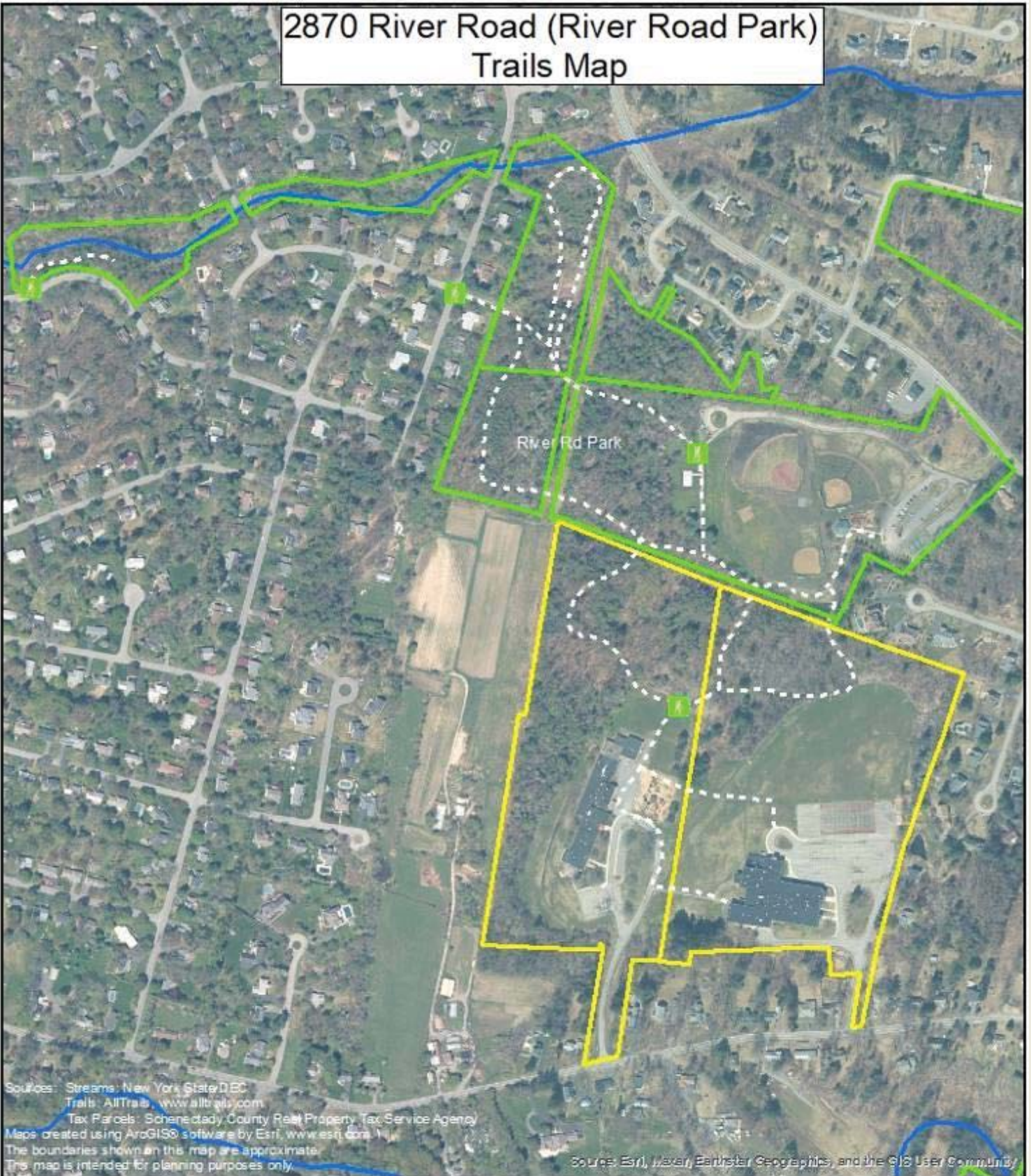
Sources: Esri, DeLorme, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

-  2870 River Road (River Road Park)
-  Streams
-  Wetland Soils



January 24, 2024

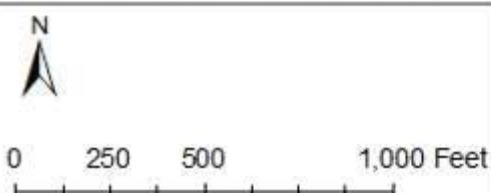
2870 River Road (River Road Park) Trails Map



Sources: Streams: New York State DEC
 Trails: AllTrails, www.alltrails.com
 Tax Parcels: Schenectady County Real Property Tax Service Agency
 Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
 The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
 The map is intended for planning purposes only.

Sources: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

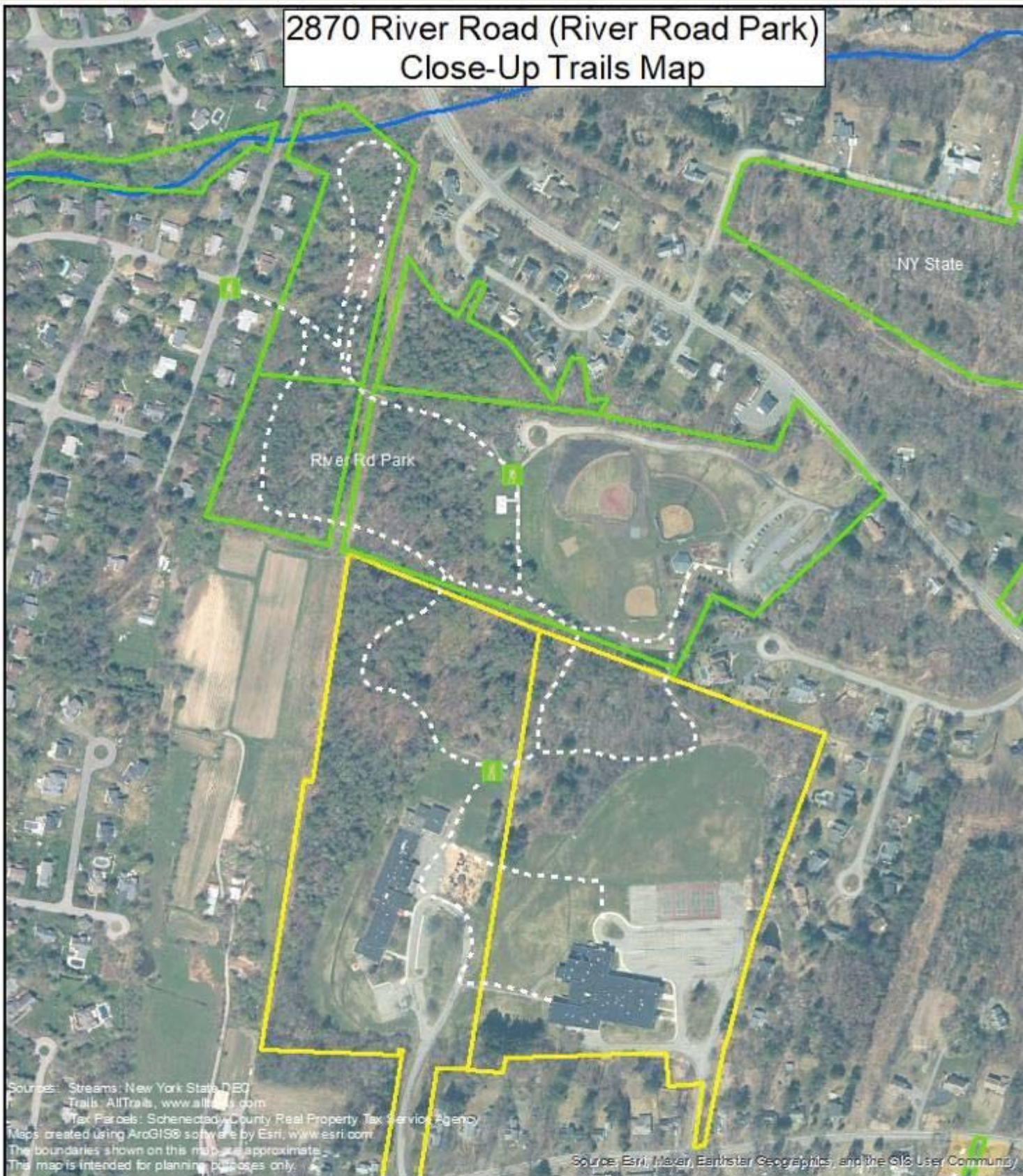
- Niskayuna Boundaries
- Town, State & Conservation Properties
- Streams
- Schools
- Trails
- H Trail Entrance



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

June 25, 2024

2870 River Road (River Road Park) Close-Up Trails Map



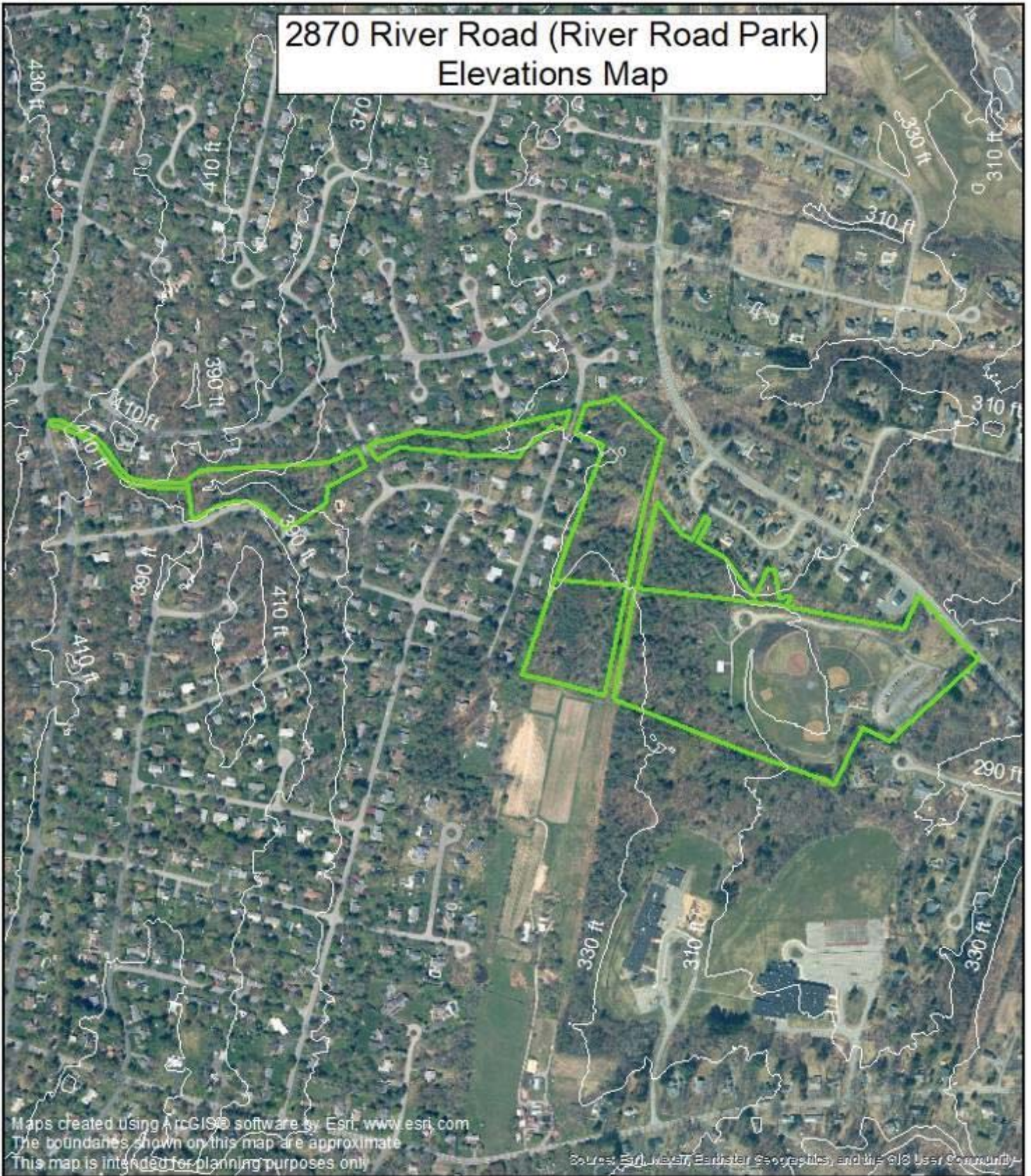
Niskayuna Boundaries	Trails
Town, State & Conservation Properties	Trail Entrance
Streams	
Schools	

N

0 250 500 1,000 Feet



June 25, 2024

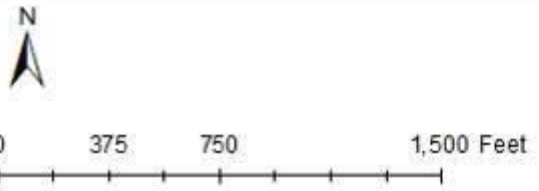
2870 River Road (River Road Park) Elevations Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri. www.esri.com
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.

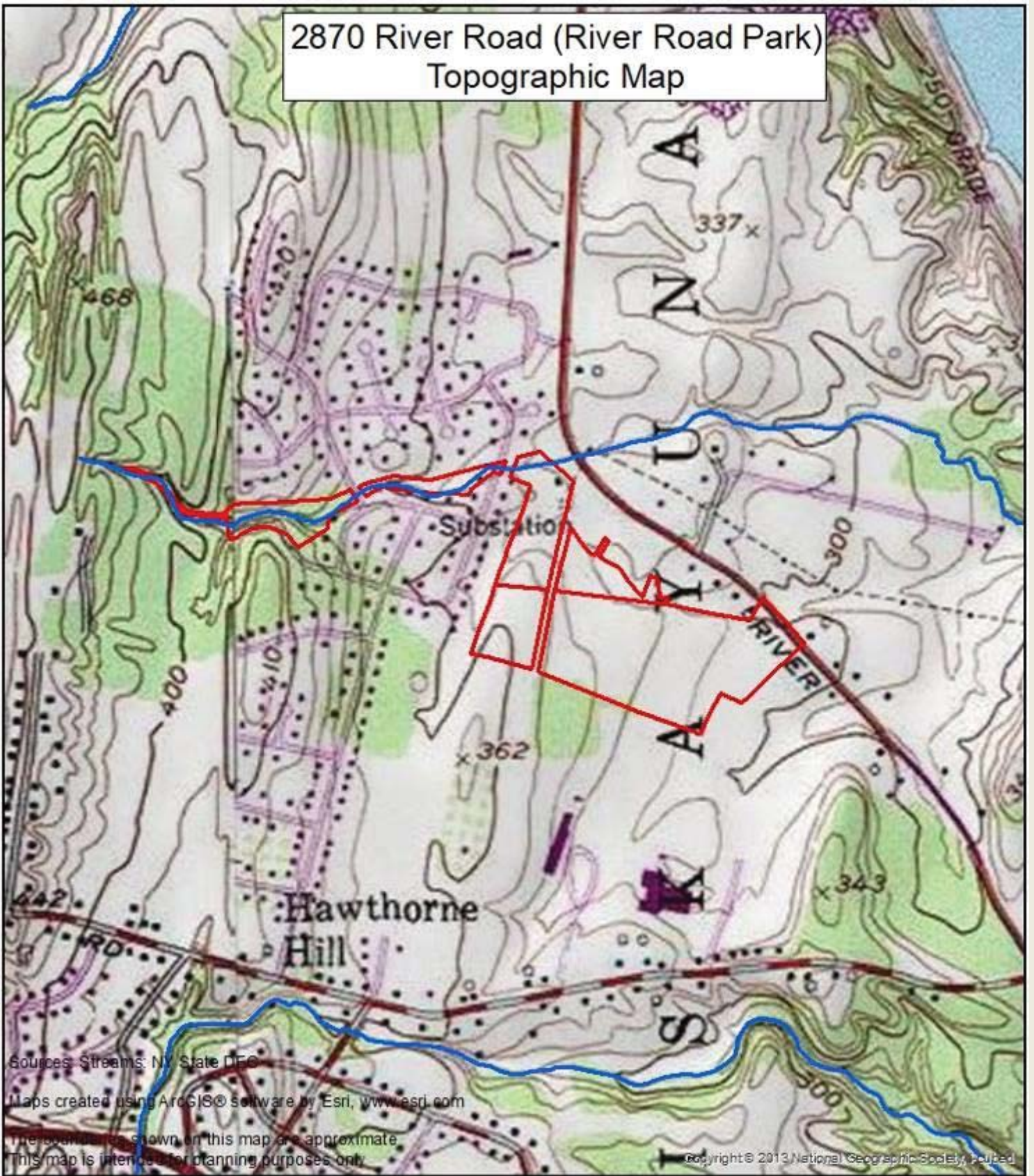
Sources: Esri, Navstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 2870 River Road (River Road Park)
 Elevations-10 ft. intervals



July 2, 2024

2870 River Road (River Road Park) Topographic Map





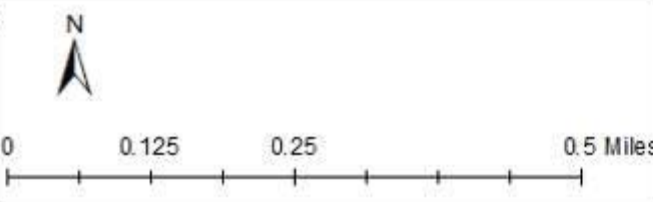
Sources: Streams: NY State DEC

Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

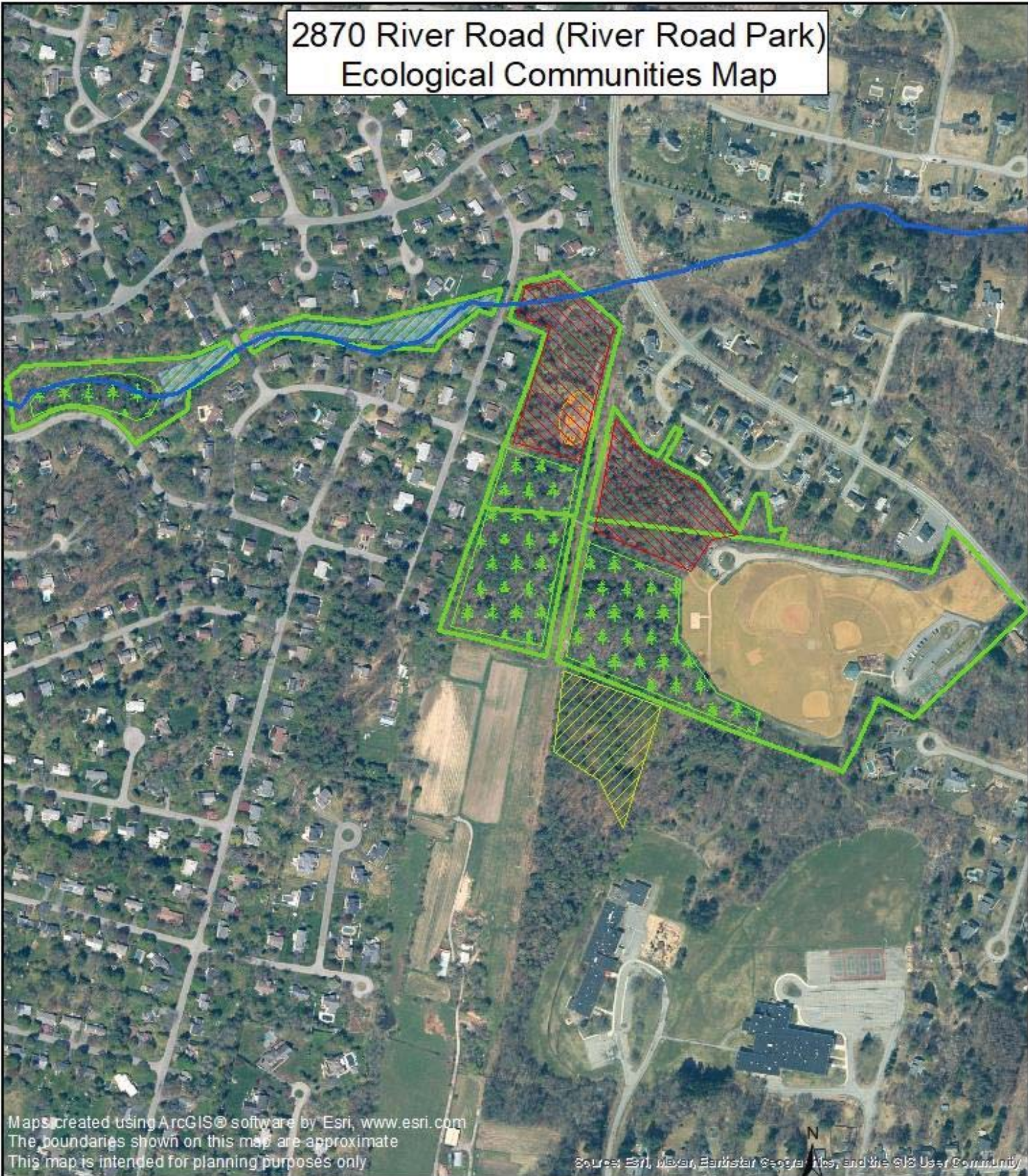
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-  2870 River Road (River Road Park)
-  Streams



January 24, 2024

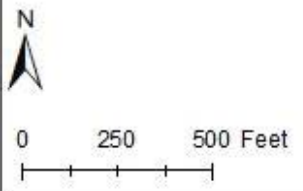
2870 River Road (River Road Park) Ecological Communities Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
 The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
 This map is intended for planning purposes only

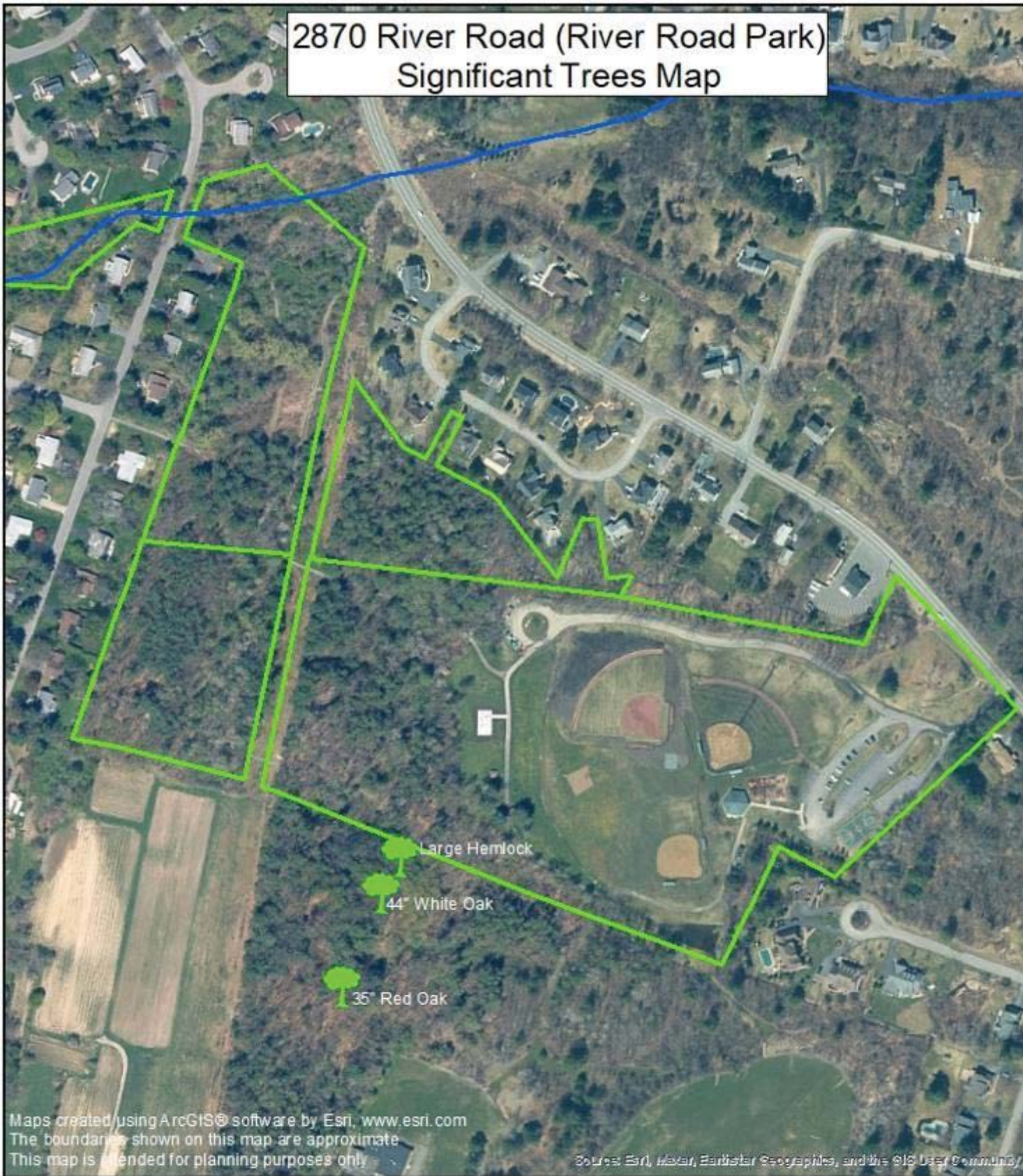
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 2870 River Road (River Road Park)	 Ballfields-Pavilion
 Hemlock-White Pine Grove	 Streams
 Red Maple-Hardwood Swamp	 Wetlands
 Oak-Hickory Stand	 Phragmites




July 1, 2024


2870 River Road (River Road Park) Significant Trees Map



 2870 River Road (River Road Park)

 Significant Trees



0 125 250 500 Feet




July 1, 2024

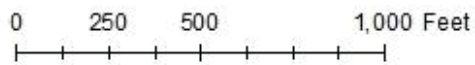
2870 River Road (River Road Park) Adjacent Open Space Map



Sources: Streams: New York State DEC
 Trails: AllTrails: www.alltrails.com
 Tax Parcels: Schenectady County Real Property Tax Service Agency
 Maps created using ArcGIS9.3 software by Esri: www.esri.com
 The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
 This map is intended for planning purposes only.

Sources: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

- Niskayuna Boundaries
- Town, State & Conservation Properties
- Private Open Space Opportunities
- Trails
- Streams
- Schools
- Tax Parcels

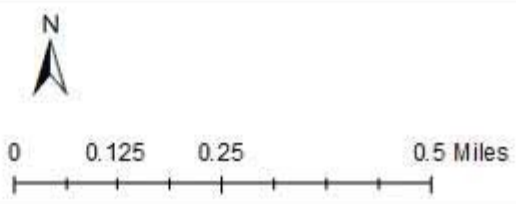


June 25, 2024

2870 River Road (River Road Park) Surrounding Open Space Map



-  2870 River Road (River Road Park)
-  Town & State Open Space
-  Mohawk-Hudson-Bike Hike Trail
-  Tax Parcels



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

July 1, 2024

