

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Conservation Advisory Council**

**A G E N D A
March 5, 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

IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM REFERRALS

1. EAF 2025-02: 2 Lot subdivision 929 Pearse Road
2. EAF 2025-03: 2-Lot subdivision 2727 Balltown Road

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Planning Project Reports
 - GE Vernova Patio Upgrades River Rd and Balltown Rd
 - EAF 2025-01 Niskayuna Harbor PUD application – April
 - 2339 Troy Schenectady Road (EAF 2024-04)

VII. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE

Awarded Contracts

1. GHG Emissions Inventories and Government Climate Action Plan
2. Natural Resource Inventory (Draft Attached)

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: April 2, 2025
7pm, Town Board Room, Hybrid Format**



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

AGENDA STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM NO. V.1

MEETING DATE: 3/5/2025

ITEM TITLE: EAF 2025-02: 2-lot Subdivision 929 Pearse Road

PROJECT LEAD: Mr. Laflamme, Planning Board

APPLICANT: Roberto Squeglia

SUBMITTED BY: Laura Robertson

REVIEWED BY:

Planning Board (PB) Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Town Board
 OTHER:

ATTACHMENTS:

EAF Site Plan Map Report Other:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Roberto Squeglia submitted an Application for Sketch Plan Approval for a 2-lot subdivision of 929 Pearse Rd.

The properties lie within the R-1 Low Density Residential zoning district.

Mr. Palleschi described the changes in the Rev 3 sketch plan drawing. The Planning Office expressed concerns regarding the demolition of one existing home on a code compliant lot to facilitate the construction of two new homes on lots requiring area variances. The Planning Board and Mr. Palleschi, Mr. Squeglia's engineer, discussed comments received earlier in the meeting during Privilege of the Floor regarding the importance of storm water management design for the property.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

In the land use chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, page 108, the Plan discusses the issue of "spaghetti lots" (long and thin) created from previous farms. There is a discussion over combining some of the lots to create a road connector to Lisha Kill Road or potentially rezoning the area for minimum lot sizes of 1 acre to retain it's rural character.

On page 117, under Implementation Tasks for Object 9, #4, the plan states that the Town should "Discourage the development of keyhole lots (long and narrow) that inhibit connectivity for emergency services and to other roads within the neighborhood." The Planning Board has consistently interpreted this section of the plan as discouraging Keyhole or flag lots on Pearse and Lisha Kill Road.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A 1-page drawing entitled “Sketch Plan Lands N/F Roberto Squiglia 929 Pearse Rd.” by ABD Engineers and Surveyors dated June 26, 2024 with no subsequent revisions was included with the application.

Minimum lot dimensions for the R-1 zoning district are listed below.

Parameter	R-1 Requirement	As-Proposed Lot 1	* As Proposed Lot 2
Lot Width	100'	134.8'	55.2'
Lot Depth	125'	199'	Approx. 400'
Lot Size	18,000 SF Min	26,113 SF	51,263 SF

*Section 220-15 Lot regulations C Lot width states “The minimum lot width of any lot shall be measured along the minimum building setback line as required for the district in which it is located.

7/8/24 Planning Board (PB) meeting – Mr. Luigi Palleschi, P.E. presented the application to the Board. He explained that the existing barn shown on the drawing will be removed. The Board discussed the inherent line of sight challenges associated with deep “flag lots” that often have the front yard of the flag lot contiguous with the rear or side yards of neighboring properties. The Board requested additional vegetative buffering for privacy. They noted that the zoning code discourages irregularly shaped flag lots while also acknowledging that several currently exist on Pearse Rd. Ms. Robertson stated that she believes the existing flag lots were on lots that are considerably larger than 929 Pearse Rd. She volunteered to prepare a summary of existing flag lots near 929 Pearse Rd. Acting Chairman D’Arpino recommended a site walk to familiarize the Board with the site.

7/17/2024 The Planning Department prepared a map and summary table of the existing flag lot or similar type subdivision on Pearse Road. The map and table are attached to this agenda statement. While the frontage request may end up being average compared with similar frontage requests, in all other respects the lot is considerably smaller than the average of previous type subdivisions. The average original parcel size for the subdivisions highlighted in the attached map is 5.12 acres, this proposed lot is currently 1.5 acres. Once subdivided, the average lot size is 1.7 acres. This proposal is for a 0.6 and 1.2 acre lot, both smaller than the average. Additionally, there are no similar subdivision types near or adjacent to this lot, the closest is about 1,000 feet away and the cluster of these lots average 1228 feet away.

7/22/24 Planning Board (PB) meeting – Luigi Palleschi, P.E. attended the meeting. He stated that he provided the Planning Office with updated plans dated 7/19/24 that were submitted past the deadline to be included for the 7/22/24 meeting. He explained that he and Mr. LaFlamme performed a site walk of the property on Thursday 7/18/24. He briefly described some of the changes in the 7/19/24 plans including an angled orientation of the proposed new house accessed by a curved driveway off of Pearse Rd. to help screen it from the road and neighboring properties. The Board asked several questions about the size of the proposed house. Mr. Palleschi responded that the size of the home would be determined by the buyer. The Board also requested confirmation that the length of the driveway and location of the proposed house is acceptable with the Fire Department. Ms. Robertson commented that many

properties along Pearse Rd. have poorly draining soil and stormwater mitigation will need to be looked at very closely.

Chairman D'Arpino concluded the discussion by stating that the new site plan drawings may be shown at the next Planning Board meeting.

8/7/24 Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) – The CAC discussed the proposed subdivision. Council members noted the aforementioned portions of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan that discourage keyhole or flag lots. The Council discussed the fact that homeowners in this portion of Town typically have sought out, value and enjoy the relatively large lots and resulting buffer from neighboring properties. In most instances, despite their relatively large land area, the road frontages of lots in the project area are clearly not large enough to allow subdivision and comply with the minimum lot size dimensions required by the zoning code. Several council members stated that residents purchase lots in this area for privacy not for the potential commercial gain of future subdivisions.

Ms. Bonton stated how important backyards of lots that abut each other “back-to-back” with a shared contiguous rear property line are to wildlife in suburban areas. She stressed that they provide a continuous greenspace wildlife corridor in rather densely developed areas.

Ms. Robertson displayed the “Pearse Rd. Subdivision Summary” that was prepared by the Planning Office. The summary compares the lot dimensions of 929 Pearse Rd. to the lot dimensions of 5 existing flag lots on Pearse Rd. The summary compares original lot frontage and area as well as current lot frontage, area and distance to 929 Pearse Rd. A copy of the Pearse Rd. Subdivision Summary is included in the meeting packet.

The summary shows that the original lot area of 929 Pearse Rd. (1.5 Acres) is the smallest of the original lots and is 25% smaller than the next smallest lot (2, 2.5, 4.5, 6 & 9.98 Acres) and the proposed subdivision of 929 Pearse Rd. would result in the 4th (0.59 Acre) and 10th (1.18 Acre) smallest lots of the 16 lots (0.37, 0.41, 0.58, 0.59, 0.60, 0.80, 0.94, 1.05, 1.18, 1.20, 1.71, 2.53, 2.54, 3.47, 8.08 Acres).

8/26/24 Planning Board (PB) meeting – Mr. Palleschi presented site plan drawings dated Rev 7/19/24 to the Board. The Planning Office and Board noted the existence of stormwater challenges immediately north of the project site. They also discussed several of the comments from the 8/7/24 CAC meeting including the advantages of having back-to-back housing lots that share a contiguous back property line. Mr. Palleschi stated that the proposed house on Lot 2 is intentionally angled so that it does not directly face the back yard of Lot 1. Several members of the Board stated that they were still not in favor of Lot 2 essentially facing the backyard of Lot 1. The Planning Office stated that they would require a Town Designated Engineer (TDE) for the project.

Mr. Palleschi stated that the applicant is attempting to purchase additional land contiguous to the southern side property line of the proposed Lot 1 in an attempt to be able to create two lots of conforming width.

9/4/24 Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) meeting – The project was on the agenda however, the CAC tabled discussion until the 10/9/24 meeting because there were no new updates.

11/6/24 Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) meeting – The Planning Office provided the CAC with a brief summary of the 8/26/24 PB meeting. They stated the CAC’s comments from their 8/7/24 were discussed and the PB shared many of their concerns.

1/14/2025. Mr. Palleschi provided the Planning Office with a revised sketch plan drawing dated January 14, 2025. The revised drawing includes two proposed lots, each measuring 95’ wide. The plans include the demolition of the existing house and the future construction of two new homes on the newly created lots. The Planning Office updated the following documents relative to the new sketch plan drawing.

- The spreadsheet comparing the proposed lots for 929 Pearse Rd. with 875, 859, 845, 862 and 834 Pearse Rd.
- A new draft denial letter was created stating that the newly proposed lots each require a 5’ area variance for lot width (100’ – 95’).

The Planning Office has reviewed the project with the Town’s TDE and noted that particular attention should be made to the new NYS DEC freshwater wetlands regulations.

1/27/25 Planning Board (PB) meeting – Mr. Luigi Palleschi, P.E. described the 1/14/25 sketch plan drawing to the Board. He noted that the proposed subdivision now results in two lots each measuring 95’ wide (5’ short of the required 100’ minimum width for the R-1 zoning district). He stated that the average frontage along Pearse Rd. is 94’ however, he did not indicate which or how many properties were used for that determination. He agreed to extend an existing row of evergreen trees to provide privacy. Mr. Palleschi described the property as draining to the west and stated he will utilize onsite practices to mitigate stormwater impacts. He also agreed to do a stormwater analysis for the property.

Mr. Khan stated that he thought the 1/14/25 plan is an improvement over the previous plans. He commented that the previous plan included stormwater plans on site and he requested a stormwater management report for the new design. He also requested that contour lines be added for the entire area – 929 Pearse Rd. and the abutting lots. Mr. Millspaugh commented that he agreed that a stormwater report should be included.

Mr. Palleschi indicated the front halves of the two lots will drain towards Pearse Rd. He said his 1st choice for stormwater attenuation will be a dry well. If that is not adequate, he will use rain gardens or possibly a berm along the property line. He also informed the Board that he will need to clear the lots back to the existing barn. Mr. LaFlamme expressed concern over the amount of clearing and requested a review of the project by the Tree Council.

Ms. Robertson added that the Complete Streets Committee requested an easement be included along Pearse Rd. to facilitate a future sidewalk or multi-use path. She concluded the Board’s discussion by outlining the next steps for the project as being: sketch plan approval, application for a minor subdivision, Zoning Board of Appeals.

1/30/25 – The Planning Office received an email from Mr. Palleschi containing a Rev 3 version of the site drawing dated 1/30/25 and a street view image of the existing 929 Pearse Rd. lot when viewed from Pearse Rd. The Rev 3 drawing includes the following additions.

- A stormwater retention area is shown on Lot 1
- Contour lines are shown for 929 Pearse Rd. and the neighboring lots
 - Garage floor elevation measurements are not included

- Proposed limits of clearing are shown for Lots 1 & 2

The Board should review and discuss the 2/24/25 sketch plan drawing. The next step for the Board is to call for action on the sketch plan concept. The Board can recommend approval of the sketch plan, in which case the application would move to a minor subdivision application and the proposal would be denied based upon frontage – setting up a recommendation to the ZBA. The Board can also recommend denial of the current sketch plan and include recommendations for what they would like to see in any future submission.

2/5/2025 CAC meeting – The CAC reviewed the proposal on 929 Pearse Road. Ms. Robertson presented the new sketch plan which addressed concerns about its previous configuration as a flag lot. The proposal requires area variances due to insufficient frontage. Concerns regarding the proposed subdivision raised by the CAC included lot size, frontage requirements, drainage issues, and the precedent it sets for demolishing existing homes to build two new ones. The potential impact on the character of the neighborhood and future development on Pearse Road were discussed. The CAC requested the Planning Department determine how many lots may be affected if a precedent was set for demolishing existing homes to build two new ones. They were concerned about the long term impacts to the corridor to begin to allow this type of development.

2/24/25 Planning Board (PB) meeting – Mr. Palleschi attended the meeting and explained the revisions in his Rev 3 drawing dated 1/30/25. He noted it shows that the existing barn will be removed and evergreen trees will be planted in that location for privacy. He addressed comments that were made earlier in the meeting during Privilege of the Floor regarding the contour lines shown for 943 Pearse Rd. in the 929 Pearse Rd. Rev 3 sketch plan drawing. He agreed to revise the contour lines for 943 Pearse Rd in the Rev 3 drawing to match the as-built drawings for that address from a recent project to construct a home there.

The Board and Mr. Palleschi had a detailed discussion about the proposed subdivision. Ms. Robertson stated that the CAC is concerned with the precedent that could be established if a single-family home on a code compliant lot is demolished to facilitate the construction of two homes on lots that require area variances. The Planning Office agreed to evaluate the lots in the immediate neighborhood to determine if other lots could be similarly divided. Mr. Palleschi described several general approaches that could be used for stormwater control such as drywells. Ms. Robertson referenced the importance of stormwater management in this portion of the Town and this lot in particular.

The board concluded their discussion of the project by calling for a tentative resolution for sketch plan approval.

3/5/2025

The CAC should review the updated information to the application. A SEQR recommendation to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals is requested but may be deferred to April 2 if needed.

Neighborhood Impacts



The graphic to the left shows 12 parcels that have similar frontages with homes mostly centered on the lot, highlighted in red. It also identifies 13 additional parcels that are smaller but have frontages that exceed the minimum and could potentially be effected by redevelopment pressure in the future. In total there are +/- 90 parcels on Pearse Road, so a decision to allow continually smaller and smaller, non complaint subdivisions on the road could affect potentially 10% - 20% of the parcels on Pearse Road.



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

Planning Department

One Niskayuna Circle
Niskayuna, New York 12309
Phone: (518) 386-4530
Fax: (518) 386-4592

Application for Sketch Plan Approval – 4 Lots or Less

Applicant: Roberto Sguelgia

Address: 750 Pearse Road, Schenectady, NY 12309

Phone Number: 518-598-4814 Email: rsgueglia10@gmail.com

Owner Name (if different from applicant): _____

Address: _____

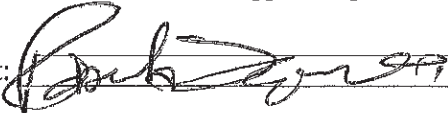
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Description / Address of Property: 929 Pearse Road, Schenectady, NY 12309

Section – Block - Lot: 61.9-2-7

Each application shall be accompanied by:

1. A digital copy, three (3) full size copies and thirteen (13) 11x17 copies of any large scale plans or maps.
2. Administrative Fees: An application for Sketch Plan Approval shall be submitted to the Planning Department at least ten (10) days prior to a regular meeting of the Planning Board. Each application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$100. Fees are payable to the *Town of Niskayuna*.
3. Consulting Fees: The cost incurred by the Town for the review of an application by the Town Engineer, consulting engineering firm or other consulting fees, in connection with a Board's review of a proposed application shall be charged to the applicant. The Board to whom the application is made shall obtain an estimate from any designated consultant of the amount sufficient to defray the cost of such services and shall collect from the applicant the estimated charges. Any portion of the estimated charges so collected, which are not expended by the Town, shall be returned to the applicant. Any such costs incurred by the Town beyond the estimated charges initially collected from the applicant, shall be collected from the applicant prior to final action upon the application.

Signature of applicant:  Date: 7/18/24

Signature of owner (if different from applicant): _____

Upon approval of Sketch Plan:

An Application for Approval of Plat Plan must be filed along with all appropriate documentation.



SITE LOCATION MAP
N.T.S.

- NOTES:**
- BOUNDARY AND PLANNING DETAILS WERE SKETCHED USING MAP REFERENCE AND GIS DATA.
 - THE LOCATION OF UNDERGROUND IMPROVEMENTS OR ENCROACHMENTS ARE NOT ALWAYS KNOWN AND OFTEN MUST BE ESTIMATED AND ALSO MIGHT NOT BE SHOWN, YET THEY MIGHT EXIST. IF ANY UNDERGROUND IMPROVEMENTS OR ENCROACHMENTS ARE SHOWN, THEIR LOCATION IS APPROXIMATE AND NO CERTIFICATION IS MADE TO THE ACCURACY OF THAT LOCATION. CALL DISAISELY NEW YORK BY DIALING 811 BEFORE ANY EXCAVATING, DIGGING, BLASTING, DRILLING, OR DRIVING.

MAP REFERENCE:
A SURVEY FOR ROBERT J. MINIHAN, TOWN OF NISKATUNA, COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY, STATE OF NEW YORK, DATED OCTOBER 5, 2006, AS PREPARED BY RAYMOND A. KOOL, PLS 47416

ZONING: R-1 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING
LOT SIZE: 18,000 SF MIN.
LOT WIDTH: 100' MIN.
LOT DEPTH: 125' MIN.
LOT COVERAGE: 25% MAX.
SETBACKS:
FRONT: 35'
SIDE: 20'
REAR: 25'

OWNER/APPLICANT:
ROBERTO SQUIGLIA
750 PEARSE ROAD
NISKATUNA, NY 12309
TAX MAP # 61.9-2-7

SKETCH PLAN
LANDS N/F
ROBERTO SQUIGLIA
STREET No. 929 PEARSE ROAD

TOWN OF NISKATUNA COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY

ABD ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS
411 Union Street
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305
518-377-0355 Fax 518-377-0379
www.abdeng.com

DATE: JULY 19, 2024 SCALE: 1" = 30' DWG: 5774-SK8 SHEET OF 1

PLANNING BOARD COMMENTS	LAP	DATE
1	1/30/25	1/30/25
2	1/30/25	1/30/25
3	1/30/25	1/30/25
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98	1/30/25	1/30/25
99	1/30/25	1/30/25
100	1/30/25	1/30/25

PROGRESS PRINT
1/30/2025

ROBERT D. DAVENPORT, P.L.S.
N.Y.S. LICENSE NO. 51060



Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 1 - Project Information

Instructions for Completing

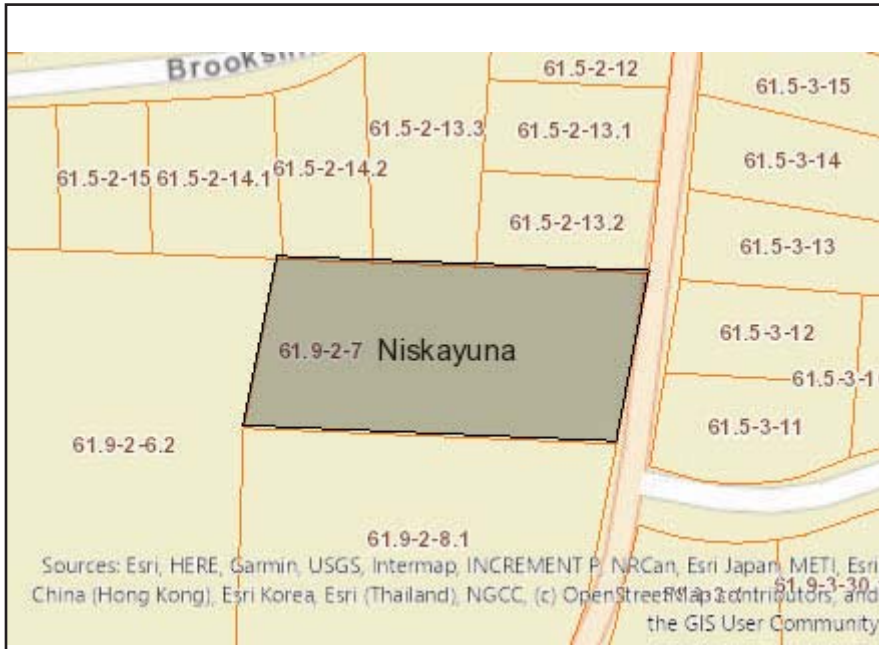
Part 1 – Project Information. The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information			
Name of Action or Project: 929 Pearse Road Subdivision			
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map): 929 Pearse Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309			
Brief Description of Proposed Action: Applicant is proposing to subdivide 929 Pearse Road into 2 lots. Existing residential home and barn to be removed. Two new single family residential homes are proposed with driveway and utility connections.			
Name of Applicant or Sponsor: Roberto Sgueglia		Telephone: 518-598-4814 E-Mail: rsgueglia10@gmail.com	
Address: 929 Pearse Road			
City/PO: Niskayuna		State: NY	Zip Code: 12309
1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2.		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency? If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval: Planning Board and Zoning Board		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action?		1.53 acres	
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed?		0.85 acres	
c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor?		1.53 acres	
4. Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action:			
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural (non-agriculture) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential (suburban) <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic <input type="checkbox"/> Other(Specify): <input type="checkbox"/> Parkland			

5. Is the proposed action,	NO	YES	N/A
a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape?	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area? If Yes, identify: _____	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	
8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels? b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action? c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action?	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements? If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies: _____ _____	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply? If No, describe method for providing potable water: _____ _____	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities? If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: _____ _____	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12. a. 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? b. 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?	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency? b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: _____ _____ _____	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

14. Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site. Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural/grasslands <input type="checkbox"/> Early mid-successional <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban		
15. Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered?	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Is the project site located in the 100-year flood plan?	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources? If Yes, a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties? b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drains)? If Yes, briefly describe: _____ _____	NO	YES
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that would result in the impoundment of water or other liquids (e.g., retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)? If Yes, explain the purpose and size of the impoundment: _____ _____	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility? If Yes, describe: _____ _____	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or completed) for hazardous waste? If Yes, describe: _____ _____	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE Applicant/sponsor/name: <u>Luigi A. Palleschi, P.E., ABD Engineers & Surveyors, LLP</u> Date: <u>February 3, 2025</u> Signature: <u><i>Luigi Palleschi</i></u> Title: <u>Professional Engineer</u>		



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.



Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area]	No
Part 1 / Question 12a [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites]	No
Part 1 / Question 12b [Archeological Sites]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 13a [Wetlands or Other Regulated Waterbodies]	Yes - Digital mapping information on local and federal wetlands and waterbodies is known to be incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal]	No
Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain]	No
Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site]	No



Thomas J. Cannizzo
Building Inspector

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA BUILDING DEPARTMENT

One Niskayuna Circle
Niskayuna, New York 12309-4381
(518) 386-4522
FAX: (518) 386-4556
building@niskayuna.org

Kenneth P. Hassett
Building Inspector

BUILDING AND ZONING PERMIT DENIAL

Address: 929 Pearse Rd.

Application Date: 7/8/24

Roberto Sgueglia
750 Pearse Rd.
Niskayuna, NY 12309
Rsgueglia10@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Sgueglia:

You are hereby notified, as required by Section 220-67 F of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Niskayuna, that your Application for Sketch Plan Approval for a 2-lot subdivision at 929 Pearse Rd. has been denied by reason of failure to comply with the provisions of Schedule I-B of the Niskayuna Zoning Code. The property is located in the R-1 Low Density Residential Zoning District.

Schedule I-B Column 3 Minimum Lot Size states a minimum lot width of one hundred feet (100 ft.). As proposed, Lot 1 and Lot 2 are both 95 ft. wide. Therefore, a 5 ft. lot width variance (100 – 95) is required for each lot.

Under the provisions of Section 220-69 the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Niskayuna you may appeal this decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals and the undersigned within 60 days.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Robertson".

Laura Robertson, Deputy Code Enforcement Officer

1/16/25

Date



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

AGENDA STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM NO. V.2

MEETING DATE: 3/5/2025

ITEM TITLE: EAF 2025-03: 2-Lot Subdivision: 2727 Balltown Road

PROJECT LEAD:

APPLICANT: Sukhdev Singh

SUBMITTED BY: Laura Robertson

REVIEWED BY:

Planning Board (PB) Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Town Board
 OTHER:

ATTACHMENTS:

EAF Site Plan Map Report Other:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Robert Davis, P.L.S. of ABD Engineers and Surveyors, LLP and agent for the property owner, submitted a sketch plan application for a 2-lot subdivision at 2727 Balltown Rd. The property lies within the R-P Residential and Professional zoning district. Single-family detached dwellings are permitted principal uses in the district.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The current (2013) Comprehensive Development Plan includes the following specific references regarding the project site / area.

Transportation (page 22)

“The Balltown Road corridor continues to be an area of concern that affects the entire Town because it is the primary north south arterial. This is ranked as the highest priority for this section and encompasses the most complex set of problems. Traffic congestion is found on nearly every major intersection from State Street to the bridge at the river throughout the day with amplified times during the morning and afternoon commutes. Limited improvements have been made over the past 10 years with the exception of the intersection at Troy Schenectady Road (Route 7) and Union Street. Continual bottlenecking of vehicles frustrates residents and commuters and could have adverse impact on potential future development. Although this committee is tasked with providing specific recommendations for improvements, the collective position is that too many issues need to be resolved by a myriad of agencies well versed in working with traffic design. Substantial upgrades to address the issues will take a major commitment from the Town and surrounding municipalities to develop a comprehensive approach. The first step is to perform a thorough analysis of the corridor which should engage the State Department of Transportation, Town Highway Department, local business located in close proximity and any other pertinent entity. Based on that study the Town should consider

what the best long-term solution is for the Balltown Road corridor and implement a course of action.”

Land Use (page 92)

“The Town has used, R-P: Residential / Professional zone along the northern section of Balltown Road. The district is devised to function as a “transition zone” between discrete commercial or industrial areas and residential neighborhoods. Within the R-P district, professional and general offices are allowed by special use permit on lots of one acre or larger. Only one access is needed unless a second address is required by the Planning Board for buildings totaling more than 20,000 square feet. Under R-P zoning, subdivision of existing large parcels along Balltown Road could create commercially developable lots. R-P zoning would promote professional office development on service roads through such subdivisions, thereby reducing the need for direct access to major arterials. A decrease in the number of access drives would help the arterial function as a regional traffic carrier.”

The Planning Department notes that the proposed 2-lot subdivision would add a new curb cut to Balltown Rd that will incrementally add to the existing congestion.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A 1-page drawing entitled, “2727 Balltown Rd., Minor Subdivision Plan, Lands Now or Formerly Sukhdev Singh” by ABD Engineers and Surveyors dated 1/10/25 with no subsequent revisions was submitted to the Planning Office on 1/3/25.

Lot Design

As proposed, the subdivision would result in two lots as shown in the table below. No variances appear to be required.

Parameter	Code Requirement	Original Lot	Lot 1	Lot 2
Lot width	80’	240.46’	80’	160.5’
Lot Depth	100’	323’	323’	216.7’
Lot Area	9,000 sq. ft.	38,830 sq. ft.	21,445 sq. ft.	17,385 sq. ft.
Lot Shape	Rectangular Preferred	Triangular	Trapezoidal	Triangular

Section 189-19 A (2) of the zoning code states: “Shapes of lots shall lend themselves to utilization of entire lots as building and yard space. Shapes such as triangles and quadrangles with small included angles are discouraged.” The lot is currently approximately a right triangle with sides measuring approx. 240.46’, 323’ and 401.88’. As proposed, the subdivision will result in a quadrangle (trapezoid) and an approximate right triangle with sides of 160.46’, 216.69’ and 269.63’.

Utilities

- Water & Sewer – a Town water and sewer exists along Balltown Rd.
 - **One (1) new connection for water & sewer is required for Lot 2**

- Storm water drainage
 - There are no stormwater pipes in the vicinity of 2727 Balltown Rd.
 - **Stormwater drainage will need to be evaluated**
- **Curb Cut / driveway – a new curb cut onto Balltown Road is required for Lot 2**

Wetlands

There are delineated wetlands on adjacent parcels but nothing appears to be delineated on these two lots. The Planning Department will need to do more research on whether or not adjacent parcels impact subdivision requirements under the new DEC rules.

1/27/25 Planning Board (PB) meeting – Luigi Palleschi, P.E. represented the applicant and presented the proposed subdivision to the Board. Mr. Palleschi noted that if the subdivision is approved both lots will be used for residential homes. Ms. Robertson stated that the Complete Streets Committee reviewed the application package and recommended a sidewalk easement along Balltown Road. The Board discussed the project and Ms. Gold volunteered to be the PB Project Lead.

The Board requested that the following information be added to the drawing and documentation package.

- Include the curb cut for the proposed new lot
- Add topo lines
- Add any wetlands in the project area to the survey drawing
- Include the 1st floor elevation for the proposed new lot
- Public Access easement along Balltown Road
- Tree Plantings along Balltown Road

1/28/25 - A revised survey drawing dated 1/28/25 was provided to the Planning Office.

It shows a proposed curb cut, rough grading and approximate elevation of the home. The First Floor Elevation (FFE) of the new building is proposed to be 6 feet higher (368 versus 362) than the adjacent home, which the Planning Department does not recommend. It shows 2 proposed trees (4 are required) and does not yet have a public access easement for a future sidewalk or side path along Balltown Road.

2/3/2025 CAC Meeting:

The CAC discussed dividing a triangular lot into two, with one being oddly shaped. While no variances are required, the Town discourages such lot configurations. They also discussed the proximity to wetlands and the potential impact on affordable housing in the area was also mentioned.

2/10/25 Planning Board (PB) meeting – Ms. Gold, Planning Board Project Lead for the project, gave an update on the project. She noted that an easement for a future sidewalk was not included on the Rev 2 1/28/25 drawing. Ms. Robertson also noted that on the Rev 2 drawing the FFE for the proposed new dwelling was approximately 6 ft. higher than the existing dwelling immediately to the north. She explained that she receives numerous complaints for another development site where a new home is approximately 4 ft. higher than the neighboring homes. After a short discussion, the Board asked the applicant to revise site plan and stormwater design so that the FFE of the proposed new home is in line with the neighboring properties. The Board concluded this portion of the meeting by requesting that the easement also be

included in the next revision of the drawing and calling for a tentative resolution for sketch plan approval for the 2/24/25 meeting.

The sketch plan was approved at the 2/24/2025 Planning Board meeting and therefore the application has progressed to a minor subdivision application. A SEQR determination must be made prior to calling for a public hearing on the proposal.

3/5/2025

The CAC should review the updated information to the application. A SEQR recommendation to the Planning Board is requested.

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 1 - Project Information

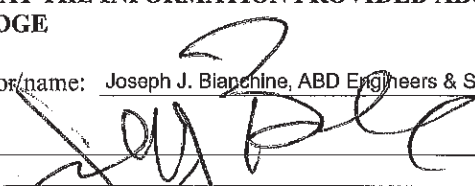
Instructions for Completing

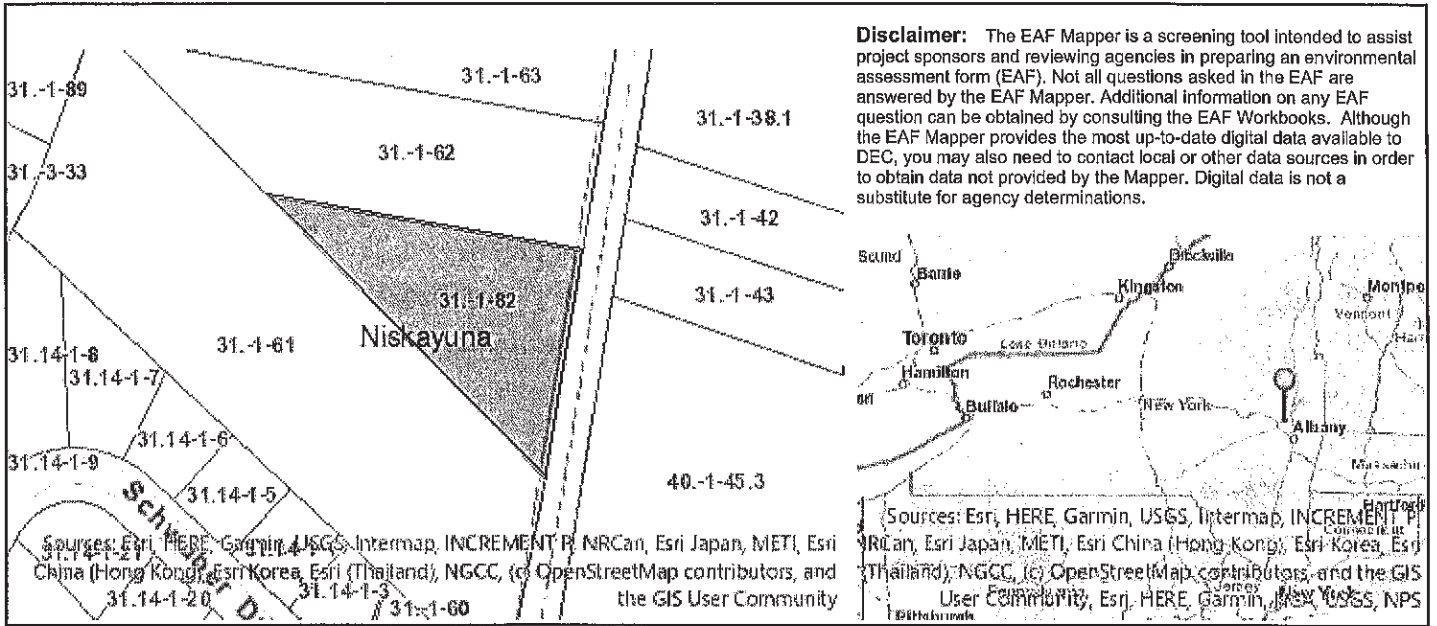
Part 1 – Project Information. The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

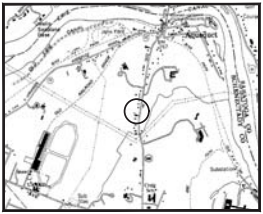
Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information			
Name of Action or Project: 2727 Balltown Road			
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map): 2727 Balltown Road			
Brief Description of Proposed Action: Subdivision of 0.89± acres into two residential parcels.			
Name of Applicant or Sponsor: Sukhdev Singh		Telephone: 518-229-4458 E-Mail: Sukhisingh56@yahoo.com	
Address: 1125 Mohawk Road			
City/PO: Niskayuna		State: NY	Zip Code: 12309
1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2.			NO <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency? If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval: Planning Board			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action? _____ 0.89 acres b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed? _____ 0 acres c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor? _____ 0.89 acres			
4. Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action:			
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural (non-agriculture) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential (suburban) <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic <input type="checkbox"/> Other(Specify): <input type="checkbox"/> Parkland			

5. Is the proposed action, a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations? b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan?	NO	YES	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape?	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area? If Yes, identify: _____	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels? b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action? c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action?	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements? If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies: _____ _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply? If No, describe method for providing potable water: _____ _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities? If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: _____ _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12. a. 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? b. 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?	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency? b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: _____ _____ _____	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

14. Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site. Check all that apply:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural/grasslands <input type="checkbox"/> Early mid-successional <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban		
15. Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered?	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Is the project site located in the 100-year flood plan?	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources?	NO	YES
If Yes,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drains)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, briefly describe: _____ _____		
18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that would result in the impoundment of water or other liquids (e.g., retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)?	NO	YES
If Yes, explain the purpose and size of the impoundment: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility?	NO	YES
If Yes, describe: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or completed) for hazardous waste?	NO	YES
If Yes, describe: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE		
Applicant/sponsor/name: <u>Joseph J. Bianchine, ABD Engineers & Surveyors, LLP</u> Date: <u>December 16, 2024</u>		
Signature: <u></u> Title: <u>Retired Engineer</u>		



Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area]	No
Part 1 / Question 12a [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites]	No
Part 1 / Question 12b [Archeological Sites]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 13a [Wetlands or Other Regulated Waterbodies]	Yes - Digital mapping information on local and federal wetlands and waterbodies is known to be incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal]	No
Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain]	No
Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site]	No



SITE LOCATION MAP
N.T.S.

SURVEY NOTES:

- BOUNDARY EVIDENCE AND PLANNING INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON WAS COMPILED FROM AN ACTUAL FIELD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY AND ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS LLP ON NOVEMBER 4, 2024 AND REFLECTS MOBILE COORDINATES EXISTING ON THAT OCCASION.
- TAX MAP DESIGNATION: 31.00 - 1 - 82.
- THE OFFSETS OR DIMENSIONS SHOWN HEREON FROM PROPERTY LINES TO BUILDINGS ARE FOR BUILDING REFERENCE AND LOCATION AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO MONUMENT THE PROPERTY LINES OR TO GUIDE THE ERECTION OF FENCES, ADDITIONAL STRUCTURES, OR ANY OTHER IMPROVEMENT.
- SUBJECT TO ALL RIGHTS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD.
- THIS SURVEY WAS PREPARED WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF AN UP-TO-DATE ABSTRACT OF TITLE OR TITLE REPORT AND IS THEREFORE SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, RESTRICTIONS OR STATE OF FACTS THAT NOT APPARENT TO CONSTITUTE OR REPRESENT ALL UTILITIES THAT MAY EXIST UPON OR ADJACENT TO THE SURVEYED PREMISES.
- ELEVATIONS BASED ON N.A.S.D. 88 DATUM.
- NORTH ORIENTATION BASED ON LIBER 1991 OF DEEDS AT PAGE 395.
- UNDERGROUND UTILITIES SHOWN HEREON ARE BASED ON UTILITY EVIDENCE NOTED AT GROUND SURFACE AND AVAILABLE RECORD DRAWINGS AND ARE SUBJECT TO FIELD VERIFICATION BY EDUCATION. UTILITIES SHOWN DO NOT PURPORT TO CONSTITUTE OR REPRESENT ALL UTILITIES THAT MAY EXIST UPON OR ADJACENT TO THE SURVEYED PREMISES.

TOWN STANDARD NOTES:

- General Notes*
- By issuance of a building permit, the Town of Niskayuna does not assume any liability for storm water damage by general approval of these plans. The owner must assume any and all liabilities for damage claimed resulting and of increased storm water flow.
 - All on-site sanitation and water supply facilities shall be designed to meet the minimum specifications of the State Department of Health.
- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Measures*
- Changes to surface waters resulting from erosion and sedimentation shall be minimized by stabilizing disturbed areas and by removing sediment from construction site discharges.
 - Insofar as practicable, existing vegetation shall be preserved.
 - Site preparation activities shall be planned to minimize the area and duration of soil disruption.
 - Permanent traffic corridors shall be established and "zones of convenience" shall be avoided.
 - Construction traffic shall not cross streams or ditches except at suitable crossing facilities, and shall not operate unnecessarily within waterways or drainage ditches.
- Maintenance of Erosion Control Measures*
- The Developer/Contractor or his/her builder shall inspect and maintain the integrity and function of all temporary erosion control measures throughout the duration of the development process. To ensure proper function, siltation barriers shall be maintained in good condition and reinforced, extended, repaired, replaced and protected from further erosion. All accumulated sediment shall be removed and contained in appropriate spill areas. Water shall be applied to newly seeded areas as needed until grass cover is well established.
- Tree Preservation Policy*
- Submission approval by the Planning Board authorizes grading and clearing within the road right-of-way and easements only. The applicant shall submit plans for individual tree grading to be approved as part of the building permit application.
 - The grading plan submitted for the building permit shall identify all trees with a diameter of 3 inches or more as measured 4 feet above the base of the trunk and indicate those that are proposed to be removed and the reason why such removal is necessary.
 - Any trees removed from a site in a manner that is not consistent with the approved grading plan for that lot shall be replaced at the expense of the developer before the issuance of the certificate of occupancy. Replacement trees shall be of a type and size satisfactory to the Town Engineer.
 - The grading plan shall be consistent with the purposes of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance. In particular, erodible materials shall not be stockpiled within the drip line of trees to be preserved.
- Grading Notes*
- The applicant shall treat the grading plan submitted for the subdivision as advisory only, and shall submit grading plans for review by the Building Inspector or a fee-for-service that are consistent with the Planning Board requirements for tree preservation.

ZONING DATA:

DISTRICT: R-1P DISTRICT (GAME OR S-2 DISTRICT FOR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE USE)

MIN. LOT AREA: 8,000 SF (1 ACRE)
 MIN. LOT WIDTH: 80 FT.
 MIN. FRONT: 30 FT.
 MIN. SIDE: 15 FT. (30 FT. TOTAL)
 MIN. REAR: 30 FT.
 MAX. PERCENT COVERAGE: 30%
 MIN. LOT DEPTH: 100 FT.

UTILITIES NOTES:

ALL SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES SHALL BE DESIGNED TO MEET THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SIGNED BY A LICENSED ENGINEER.

PLANNING BOARD CHAIRMAN	DATE
TOWN ENGINEER	DATE

OWNER/APPLICANT:

SUKHDEV SINGH
1125 MOHAWK ROAD
NISKAYUNA, N.Y. 12309

NO.	DATE	REVISION	BY	DATE
1	10/10/2025	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	ABD	
2	10/10/2025	REVISED PER TOWN COMMENTS	ABD	

2727 BALLTOWN ROAD
MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAN
LANDS NOW OR FORMERLY
SUKHDEV SINGH
STREET No. 2727 BALLTOWN ROAD (N.Y.S. RTE. 146)

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY
STATE OF NEW YORK

ABD ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS
411 Union Street Schenectady, N.Y. 12305
518-377-0315 Fax: 518-377-0379
www.abdeng.com

DATE: JANUARY 10, 2025 SCALE: 1" = 20' DWG. 5820A-SUB2 SHEET 1 OF 1



RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF NISKAYUNA DULY CALLED AND HELD ON THE 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE NISKAYUNA TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, ONE NISKAYUNA CIRCLE, IN SAID TOWN AT 7:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT VIRTUALLY OR IN PERSON:

HONORABLE: DAVID D'ARPINO, CHAIRMAN
GENGHIS KHAN
CHRIS LAFLAMME
LESLIE GOLD
NANCY STRANG
SARAH BILOFSKY
EHASUYI GOMES
ANDREW MILLSPAUGH
ALEXANDER BILLEN-CALHOUN

**FILED
TOWN OF NISKAYUNA**

FEB 24 2025

**MICHELE M MARTINELLI
TOWN CLERK**

One of the purposes of the meeting was to take action on sketch plan approval.

The meeting was duly called to order by the Chairman.

The following resolution was offered by Ms. Gold, whom moved its adoption, and seconded by Ms. Bilofsky.

WHEREAS, Robert Davis, P.L.S. of ABD Engineers and Surveyors and agent for the property owner, has made application to the Planning Board for a 2-Lot Minor Subdivision of 2727 Balltown Rd. as shown on a 1-page drawing entitled "2727 Balltown Rd., Minor Subdivision Plan, Lands Now or Formerly Sukhdev Singh" by ABD Engineers and Surveyors dated 1/10/25 with a most recent revision of Rev 2 dated 1/28/25, and

WHEREAS, the zoning classification of the property is R-P Residential and Professional and

WHEREAS, this Planning Board and Zoning Commission has discussed the requirements of Chapter 189 of the Code of the Town of Niskayuna for street improvements, drainage, sewerage, water supply, fire protection and similar aspects, as well as the availability of existing services and other pertinent information, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board referred the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) to the Niskayuna Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) for their review, and

WHEREAS this Board has carefully reviewed the proposal and by this resolution does set forth its recommendation hereon,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that this Planning Board and Zoning Commission does hereby classify this sketch plan as a minor subdivision as defined by Chapter 189 of the Code of the Town of Niskayuna; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Planning Board and Zoning Commission does hereby grant sketch plan approval for the concept subdivision drawing entitled "2727 Balltown Rd., Minor Subdivision Plan, Lands Now or Formerly Sukhdev Singh" by ABD Engineers and Surveyors dated 1/10/25 with a most recent revision of Rev 2 dated 1/28/25, with the following conditions:

1. Sketch plan approval is a conceptual review of the proposed lot division for the purposes of classification and preliminary discussion as described in the Town of Niskayuna Zoning Sections 189-6 and 189-22. The location of proposed boundary lines, infrastructure, utilities and improvements are subject to change during the environmental review, engineering, public hearing and subdivision review process.
2. The Finished Floor Elevation (FFE) of the proposed new dwelling shall be within 2 ft. of the FFE of the existing dwelling.
3. A 20 ft. wide easement shall be added to future plat drawings along Balltown Rd. to facilitate a possible future sidewalk.

Upon roll call the foregoing resolution was adopted by the following vote:

DAVID D' ARPINO, CHAIRMAN -- Aye
GENGHIS KHAN
CHRIS LAFLAMME -- Aye
LESLIE GOLD -- Aye
NANCY STRANG
SARAH BILOFSKY -- Aye
EHASUYI GOMES -- Aye
ANDREW MILLSPAUGH -- Aye
ALEXANDER BILLEN-CALHOUN -- Aye

The Chairman declared the same duly adopted.

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY



Lisha Kill in autumn

Prepared by Town of Niskayuna
Conservation Advisory Council

JANUARY 2025

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

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INTRODUCTION

Humans have lived in nature for millions of years and because of that, spending time in the natural environment is important for our physical and mental health¹. In recent years studies have endorsed this idea, showing that we are better off physically, mentally, emotionally and intellectually when we are surrounded by nature.² The quarter of a million people walking, running and biking on Niskayuna's portion of the Mohawk-Hudson Hike Bike Trail each year are proof that we in Niskayuna need and value our time with nature.³ And when asked in a survey done for the Comprehensive Development Plan what factors drew them to Niskayuna, residents responded by highlighting the Town's parks, open spaces and natural areas, walking and bike paths and tree lined neighborhoods.⁴ But Niskayuna's natural environment faces many threats including over-development, loss of farmland, loss of habitat, loss of native plants to invasive plants and diseases, declining pollinators and other wildlife, air and water pollution and warming temperatures and increased precipitation and flooding due to climate change. This Natural Resources Inventory ('NRI') can be helpful in determining how we can balance future growth with conservation of natural resources by describing the important natural resources in Niskayuna, the threats to those resources and some actions that can protect our natural resources.

New York State law authorizes Niskayuna's Conservation Advisory Council ('CAC') to develop a Natural Resources Inventory⁵ as does the Town's 2013 Comprehensive Development Plan which recommends to: complete the inventory of existing parkland, open space, and recreation infrastructure; develop a prioritized open space list of significant and high value undeveloped parcel; and target appropriate land acquisitions and improvements to meet identified recreation and open space needs⁶.

¹ The Biophilia Hypotheses. Stephen Kellert and E.O. Wilson. Island Press. 1995.

² Associations Between Nature Exposure and Health: A Review of the Evidence. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. April 30 2021. Marcia P Jimenez, DeVille, N. Elliott, E., Schiff, J., Wilt, G., Hart, E., James, P.

³ Capital District Trail User Counts, 2016. Capital District Transportation Committee.

⁴ Niskayuna Comprehensive Development Plan., 2013. Page 4.

⁵ "It shall keep an inventory of all open areas within the municipality". NY Municipal Law Sect. 239-x.

⁶ Niskayuna Comprehensive Plan. 2013. Page 53.

Once completed the NRI can be used by residents seeking to support natural resources in their yards, by landowners planning development, by Town staff, Boards, Councils and Committees as they review projects and applications, by the Town Board as it considers acquiring land and updating zoning regulations and by all residents as a nature and trail guide.

To complete this NRI, Niskayuna's CAC has formed a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) working group. In addition to holding public meetings to gather community feedback on natural resources important to the Town's residents and reviewing previous studies, the group has also conducted site walks and surveyed parkland and open space at fourteen sites in 2022 and 2024 with students, Scout groups, naturalists, Town staff, volunteers and members of the public (see Map, page xx).



Informational meeting before site walk



Informational meeting before site walk



Participants at site walks

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

In developing this Natural Resources Inventory, the CAC is guided by Niskayuna's Comprehensive Development Plan that recommends to:

- Ensure that an adequate open space and recreation system is established⁷;
- Establish a greenway system that connects of parks and open space, allows pedestrian and bicycle access, and conserves remaining natural habitats within the Town⁸;
- Target appropriate land acquisitions and improvements to meet recreation and open space needs⁹;
- Survey other communities to determine best practices for land conservation through the use of land regulation¹⁰.

Additionally, we offer these recommendations:

- Designate the Mohawk River, the Lisha Kill and the lands between Stanford Park and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve as Critical Environmental Areas. Work with the Town of Colonie and City of Schenectady to do so.
- Establish a Community Preservation Fund to raise funds to acquire easements and lands from will sellers that have been identified in this NRI.
- Add entrance signs, post boundaries, add trail markers and educational signs at: Angelina Drive, Avon Crest North, Brendan Lane, Fieldstone Drive, Imperial Forest, Morrow Avenue, River Road Park to improve hiking trails.
- Clear trails and footbridges at: Angelina Drive, Brendan Lane, Fieldstone Drive, Imperial Forest to improve hiking trails.
- Naturalize lawns and mow meadows annually at: Angelina Drive, Fieldstone Drive, Morrow Avenue, River Road Park for wildlife habitat and human health.
- Inquire about easement or fee acquisition of adjacent lands at: Avon Crest North, Brendan Lane, Fieldstone Drive, Imperial Forest, Lock 7 Road, Maple Lane (Colonie), River Road Park to ensure adequate open space for residents.

- Restore recently filled-in wetlands at: Fieldstone Drive, River Road Park to absorb stormwater and improve wildlife habitat.
- Protect wetlands and watercourses and their 100 foot buffer areas by improving Chapter 180 to cover all wetlands and watercourses rather than just protecting State wetlands as is now the case.¹¹
- Protect trees by improving Chapter 189 to require replacement of trees that have been removed and to require a permit to remove trees greater than 5 inches in diameter for all applications and permits instead of just subdivision applications as is now the case.
- Plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers across Niskayuna to add needed shade and beauty, absorb stormwater and lessen flooding risk, absorb carbon and filter water, restore the understory where deer have eliminated plants and provide habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife.
- Avoid the use of lawn fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides to protect families, pets, pollinators and the environment.
- Limit development that adds impervious surfaces that increase surface water runoff, contribute to flooding and increase water contamination. Promote low impact development and green infrastructure that retains vegetation and increases pervious surfaces and should be use in all new development.
- Retrofit stormwater pipes, drains and culverts with green infrastructure to mitigate against increased precipitation and lessen flooding risk.
- Work to protect the remaining farms in Niskayuna to keep local food sources, economic benefits, natural resource protections and scenic beauty.
- Educate homeowners, schools, businesses and institutions about naturalizing their properties with native plants to 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.

⁷ Comprehensive Plan of Development. 2013. Page 5.

⁸ Ibid. page 54.

⁹ Ibid. Page 53.

¹⁰ Ibid. Page 49.

¹¹ Mohawk River Watershed Management Plan
Regulatory Review & Analysis. 2013. Bergmann Associates.
Page 119.

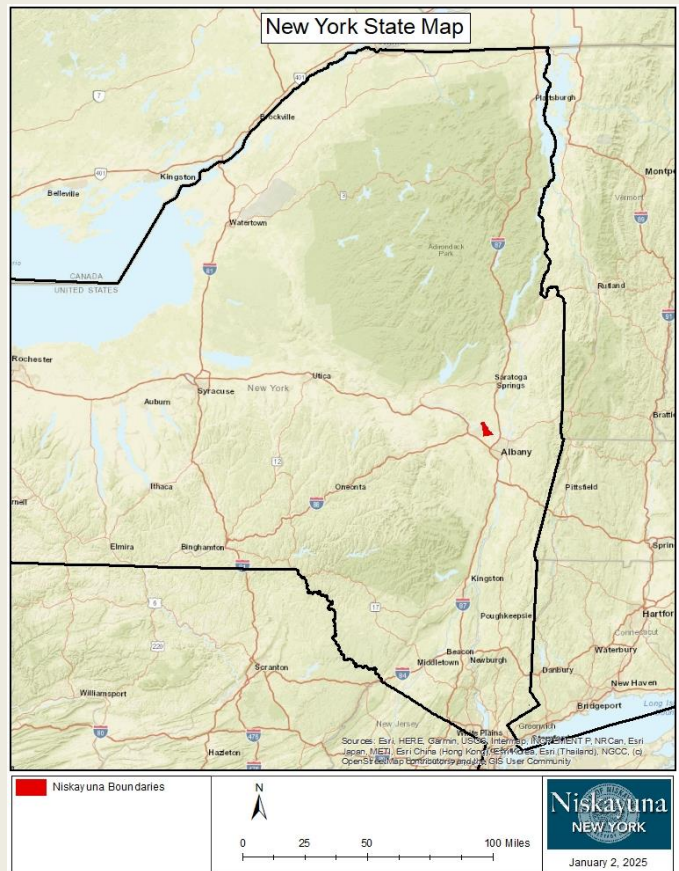
REGIONAL SETTING & HISTORY

The Town of Niskayuna is located in Schenectady County, New York between the cities of Albany and Schenectady. The earliest inhabitants were the Mohawk peoples that farmed the fertile bottomlands of the Mohawk River, which give Niskayuna its name meaning “extensive corn flats”. Fur traders and then European immigrants followed bringing diseases and conflicts. With the displacement of Native Americans, the area was settled as a farming community. Growth was spurred by the building of the Erie Canal in 1825 and the Troy-Schenectady Railroad (now the Mohawk-Hudson Hike Bike Trail) in 1843. Niskayuna grew rapidly following Schenectady’s growth with the arrival of General Electric in 1886 along with other industries.

As of 2020 Niskayuna had a population of 23,278 residents. The Town is a mixture of suburban homes and retail and industrial structures. Route 7 and Route 146 bisect the town (see Street Map page 12). Although the Town is considered to be nearly built out¹², as can be seen in the Satellite Photograph Map, page xx and the Land Cover Map page xx), it does have several areas of forested parkland including the Reist Sanctuary, Fieldstone Park and Stanford Park lands in the southwestern section; the Nature Conservancy property along the Lisha Kill in the southern section and the Mohawk-Hudson Hike Bike Trail and state lands along the Mohawk River, which runs along the eastern and northern boundaries of the Town. Many smaller neighborhood parks are scattered across the rest of Niskayuna (see Open Space & Greenway Map page 29).

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Niskayuna’s bedrock is comprised of sandstone and shale in the western portion of town and shale, mudstone and sandstone on the eastern portion (see Bedrock Map, page 14). Materials in the surficial layer can influence slope stability and the movement of groundwater and pollutants. Till is found in the surficial layer in the town’s western portion while Lacustrine silt and clay lie in the town’s eastern section (see Surficial Geology Map page 15). The western portion of town is higher in elevation at approximately 500 feet above sea level, sloping eastward to 200 to 250 feet at the Mohawk River and tributaries in the far eastern section of town (see Topographic Map page 18 and Elevation Zones Map page 17).



While dozens of soil classifications are found in Niskayuna, three soil types make up the majority of the town’s soils: Burdett-Scriba; Colonie loamy sand and Nunda channery silt loam (see Soils Map page 16). All three are considered Prime Farmland soils by the US Department of Agriculture.

The Mohawk River lies along Niskayuna’s northern and eastern boundaries. The River flows east-southeast from the Adirondack Mountains just to the north to the Hudson River to the east. The River and surrounding valleys were formed as melting water from the glacial Lake Iroquois drained in a southeast direction through the Mohawk Valley into Lake Albany, another glacial lake covering Niskayuna, the Albany Pine Barrens and lands to the east. The glacial till and lake sediment from the melting waters created the fertile farm soils in the bottomlands along the River and also formed the sand and gravel aquifers that are the main source of drinking water for residents of Niskayuna and Schenectady County (see Niskayuna Aquifer Map page 19). The aquifer system is adjacent to and underlying the Mohawk River and river water along with precipitation and runoff recharges the aquifer, with gravel acting as a drinking water filter. In order to prevent pollution of the aquifer, towns sourcing water from the aquifer have created the Intermunicipal Watershed Rules and Regulations that regulate development above and adjacent to the aquifer (see Schenectady County Aquifer Protection Zones Map page 20).

¹² Niskayuna Comprehensive Plan, p. 35; p. 42.

WATER RESOURCES

Niskayuna is located in the Mohawk River Watershed and the Mohawk River is Niskayuna's main watercourse, flowing along the eastern and northern portions of town. The Lisha Kill flows from Colonie to the south through the southeastern section of town and into the Mohawk. At least six other tributaries flow west to east, emptying into the Mohawk (see Streams & Rivers Map page xx). Water testing by NY State DEC and Riverkeeper shows that the Mohawk and Lisha Kill are considered 'stressed'. The source of Lisha Kill pollution is stormwater runoff, nutrients and sediments.¹³ Beach advisory warnings due to high levels of bacteria have been issued at various times for the Lock 7 boat launch and the Aqueduct Park rowing docks¹⁴ (see Water Quality Map page xx).

Wetlands are important to human health because they absorb and filter stormwater, preventing pollution of our drinking water and lessening flood risk. Wetlands also provide plant and wildlife habitat. Until January, 2025, NY State DEC regulated only wetlands that are 12.5 acres and larger. Beginning in 2028, state regulations will be expanded to include all wetlands larger than 7.4 acres as well as wetlands of 'unusual importance'. These large, state wetlands are found in the southern section of Niskayuna and along the Lisha Kill (see State Wetlands Map page xx). When including wetlands of all sizes, the range of wetlands expands to include most of Niskayuna, though most of these wetlands appear to have been filled in and drained for development (see Wetland Soils Map page xx). Filling of wetlands has occurred across the United States and it is estimated by the US Fish & Wildlife Service that the United States has lost over 50% of their original wetlands. Alarming the loss of wetlands appears to have accelerated over the last decade.¹⁵ To prevent further loss and to maintain the benefits that wetlands provide, Niskayuna should protect and restore their remaining wetlands.

Niskayuna's water quality is monitored by water sampling and by monitoring the number of pollution-sensitive insects found in streams. Additionally, Riverkeeper monitors water quality along the Mohawk

River at the Aqueduct Park and at Lock 7. Niskayuna's drinking water, which is drawn from the aquifer, is treated and disinfected to remove pollutants.

The Mohawk River and Lisha Kill have been assessed by DEC as 'stressed' based on the presence of several pollutants including: bacteria; dissolved solids; nitrates and other contaminants¹⁶. The causes of some of these pollutants are stormwater runoff and the removal of riparian (streamside) buffers and stream cover according to DEC. Riverkeeper issued beach advisories for the Lock 7 Boat Launch and for the Aqueduct Park rowing docks on three of the five and three of the six days sampled in 2022, respectively due to high levels of bacteria (see tables x and xx on page xx). Six watercourses in Niskayuna have been assessed by DEC based on the presence of pollution-sensitive macroinvertebrates. Results range from 'moderately impacted' to 'non impacted'¹⁷. It is interesting and encouraging to note that the water quality of the Lisha Kill improves as it flows through the Nature Conservancy's Preserve, showing that naturally vegetated stream buffers and the stream itself can get cleaner through natural filtration and aeration.

LAND COVER

With a population of 23, 278 people and land size of 15 square miles Niskayuna is considered nearly built out. The Land Cover Map, p. 25 shows the western two-thirds of Niskayuna to be developed. Development has led to the high level of impervious surface found in the western half of town (see Impervious Surface Map page xx). As mentioned, impervious surfaces contribute to storm water runoff which carries silt, sediment, heavy metals, hydrocarbons and other pollutants into Niskayuna's streams and rivers. Stormwater pollution can be lessened by following best management practices which include, among others, stabilizing streambanks and retrofitting culverts that are undersized and/or deteriorated.

Areas of natural vegetation continue to exist in many parts of Niskayuna. Two large wetland complexes south of Route 7 can be seen on the Land Cover Map, page x along with large patches of mixed forest along the eastern side of Niskayuna and the Mohawk River. These forest patches are also prominent among the wetlands south of Route 7 and along the Lisha Kill and the Mohawk River (see Tree Canopy Map page 26). Trees are especially important in highly populated areas

¹³ Lisha Kill Biological Assessment Report. Bode et al. DEC, DOW, BWAR, SBU. December 1996

¹⁴ Riverkeeper.org. <https://data.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/hudson-river/albany-rensselaer/>

¹⁵ Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States 2009 to 2019. US Fish & Wildlife Service. March, 2024. [2019 Wetlands Status and Trends Report | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.](#)

¹⁶ DECInfo Locator. <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/>

¹⁷ DECInfo Locator. <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/>

like Niskayuna because they absorb stormwater, filter water, reduce flood damage, protect streams and rivers, promote the recharge of aquifers for drinking water, reduce erosion, provide shade and cooling, improve air quality, protect plant and wildlife habitat and create opportunities for recreation while raising property values and increasing the overall quality of life for Niskayuna's residents.

WILDLIFE

Birds:

Birds are an excellent indicator of environmental health in an area since they occupy so many different niches with different habitat needs and because some are very sensitive to habitat loss and development pressure. By comparing the following birds that have specific habitat needs that have been observed in the NY Breeding Bird Atlas in Niskayuna in the most recent survey, 2000-2005, with the 1980-1985 survey, the relative change in the landscape can be analyzed.

Some birds have returned to Niskayuna. Most notably are the bald eagles now nesting in Blatnick Park along with bluebirds and bobolink and meadowlark. Bald eagles are recovering due to the banning of the pesticide DDT. Bluebirds are rebounding due to the popularity of building bluebird houses which is being done successfully at the General Electric lawns. And the grassland birds bobolink and meadowlark are nesting at the Blatnick Park landfill fields now that the town has allowed the grass to grow without being mowed. But other trends are negative. Kestrels, a grassland bird in steep decline due to pesticide poisoning, has disappeared (though it could recover at the Blatnick landfill if mowing continues to be delayed). Birds that require shrubland have also disappeared as shrub land habitat is lost due to development and succession, including towhee and blue-winged warbler. Birds requiring young trees and early successional habitat have disappeared with the loss of that habitat to development and succession including rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting and redstart. Birds requiring interior woods remain in Niskayuna with the exception of veery.

For the complete Breeding Bird Atlas lists, see Table on page 217.

2000-2005 Niskayuna Breeding Bird Atlas of birds with specific habitat needs. Species highlighted in green are birds that were not nesting in Niskayuna in 1980-1985 and have been observed in the 2000-2005 survey:

Bald eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Woodcock
Willow Flycatcher, Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Kingbird
Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo
Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow
Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Wood-Pewee
Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellowthroat
Eastern Bluebird, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow

1980-1985. Species highlighted in red had been observed in Niskayuna in the 1980-1985 survey but were not observed in the more recent 2000-2005 survey:

Red-shouldered Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk
American Woodcock
Belted Kingfisher
Willow Flycatcher, Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Kingbird, Least Flycatcher
Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Wood-Pewee, Veery
, Eastern Towhee, Blue-winged Warbler
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Redstart, Brown Thrasher
Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellowthroat, Black-and-white Warbler
Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow
Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, American Kestrel

Amphibians and reptiles are also indicators of environmental health, especially amphibians because they spend part of their life cycle in water and part of their life cycle on land. Amphibians and reptiles are particularly susceptible to pollution, habitat loss and because they move among different habitats, road collisions.

The NY Herp Atlas and iNaturalist and eBird list wood and spotted turtles, both Species of Special Concern, as breeding in parts of Niskayuna (see Wildlife of Conservation Significance Map, page 28). Wood turtle habitat includes clean streams and tributaries while spotted turtle habitat includes wetlands, upland and often vernal (seasonal) pools. Wood frogs and Jefferson salamanders have also been observed in Niskayuna; they both require vernal pools for breeding. All of these species require large, connected areas of habitat and so the only areas in Niskayuna where they have been observed are the Reist and Nature Conservancy's Preserves and the wooded wetland complexes along the MHBHT. Their presence underscores the value of these large protected areas for wildlife. But because these areas of open space are isolated from one another by roads and development, the long term outlook for the survival of these species is uncertain unless lands can be protected and connected together with greenways. Other observations of note include Northern slimy salamander, dusky salamander and hog nose snake. Box turtles are often found in regions inhabited by wood and spotted turtles. Spotted salamander are also often found in areas where Jefferson salamander breed. Neither box turtle nor spotted salamander have been observed recently in Niskayuna.

The Town of Niskayuna has approximately 694 acres of parks and open space (see List of Town Parks, Table, pages 214-217)¹⁸. The Reist and Lisha Kill Preserves total another 216 acres of open space. Combined, approximately 10% of the Town is open space. A goal of the Town is to establish a greenway system and to ensure that an adequate open space and recreations system is established.¹⁹ The 15 Minute City concept has recently become popular and establishes a goal of having public parks within a 15 minute walk of all residents of a city or town. Somewhat surprisingly for a town nearing build out, there remain many properties within Niskayuna that can be protected as parks and open space to connect people to parks. At least 25 large, wooded, privately owned parcels totaling over 500 acres in size can found throughout Niskayuna (see Open Space & Greenway Opportunities Map page xx). The Comprehensive Plan now lists three of these, the Hamlin, Bard and Burger properties as possibly warranting future protection.²⁰ Additionally, at least seven existing town parks have opportunities for the establishment and/or expansion of recreational trails (see Recommendations, page 6). With planning and funding, it is possible to protect more open space and to assemble a system of trails connecting open space into a greenway system across much of Niskayuna. The potential for at least five greenways across Niskayuna is shown on the Open Space & Greenway Opportunities Map, page 29).

Farmland is also open space and provides the additional benefit of supplying local food for residents. There is growing interest in safe, pesticide-free local food yet Niskayuna's farmland is being converted to development, most recently when the Kelts Farm across from Blatnick Park was converted to houses. As mentioned, much of Niskayuna's soils are Prime Farmland Soils and at least seven farms remain operating in Niskayuna, in addition to several nurseries and greenhouses (see Niskayuna Farms and Agricultural Districts Map page 30). The Bard and Burger Farms, highlighted for preservation in the Town's Comprehensive Plan, are particularly noteworthy, the Burger Farm for its dramatic scenery as viewed from the MHBHT and the Bard Farm for its proximity to the Elementary and Middle Schools. For the past several

¹⁸ Niskayuna Comprehensive Plan. Pages 51-52.

¹⁹ Ibid. Pages 53-54.

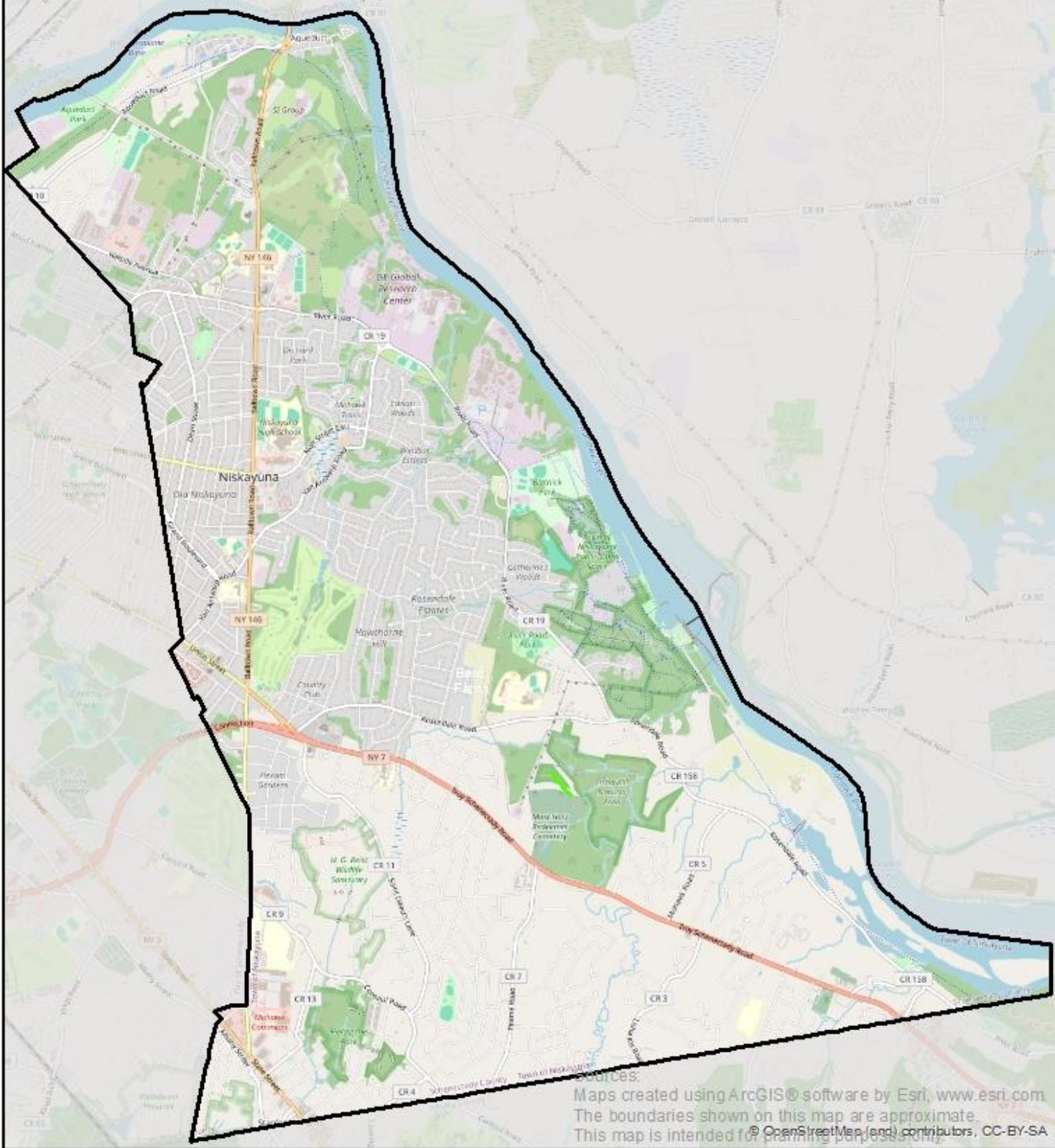
²⁰ Ibid. Page 43.

years the Town Hall has hosted a Farmers Market on Saturdays. The town owns the historic Grange Hall on Route 7 which could be restored into another location exhibiting Niskayuna's historic and present day farming industry. The Schenectady Soil and Water Conservation District staff has been working with Niskayuna's farmers on Agricultural Environmental Management to promote sustainable farming. All of these are examples of a vibrant, though threatened, agricultural industry in Niskayuna that warrants protection.


Hiking and biking have grown in popularity in recent years and Niskayuna is fortunate to have dozens of miles of hiking and biking trails (see Niskayuna Trails Map, page 31). As mentioned, the Town's Comprehensive Plan recommends expanding pedestrian and bicycle access to town parks and to the MHBT. Connections can be made from River Road Park and from the Lisha Kill Preserve to the MHBHT. With cooperation from the Town of Colonie, trails can be connected from the Maple Lane trails to open space in Colonie. Trail connections can also be forged from Stanford Park to the City of Schenectady's Woodlawn Preserve and from there all the way to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.

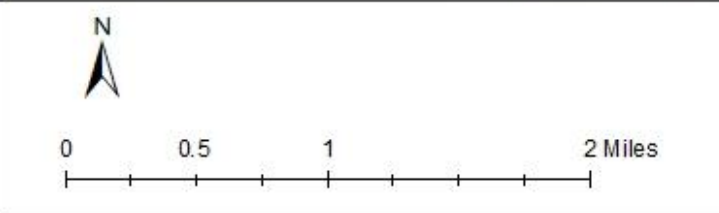
Locally active organizations like the Nature Conservancy, the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission can solicit funds from New York State that owns land along the Mohawk River and has interest in protecting the Mohawk River itself and the Albany Pine Bush, to protect open space, link preserves and trails and create the greenway system envisioned by the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Niskayuna Street Map



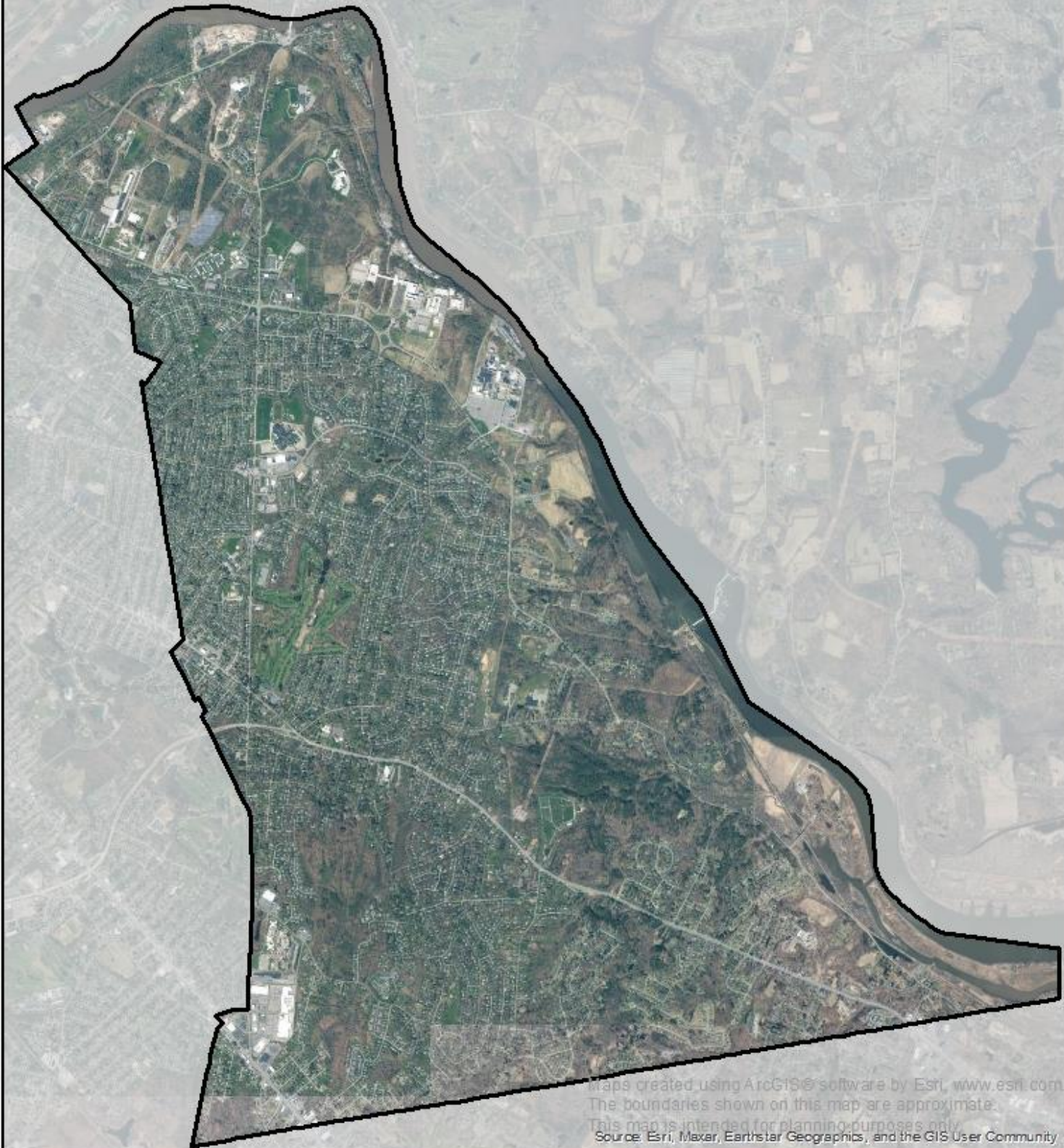
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 Niskayuna Boundaries




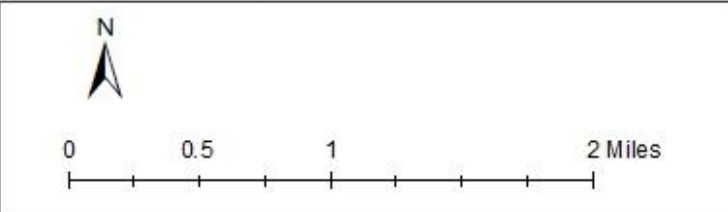
January 2, 2025

Niskayuna Satellite Photograph Map



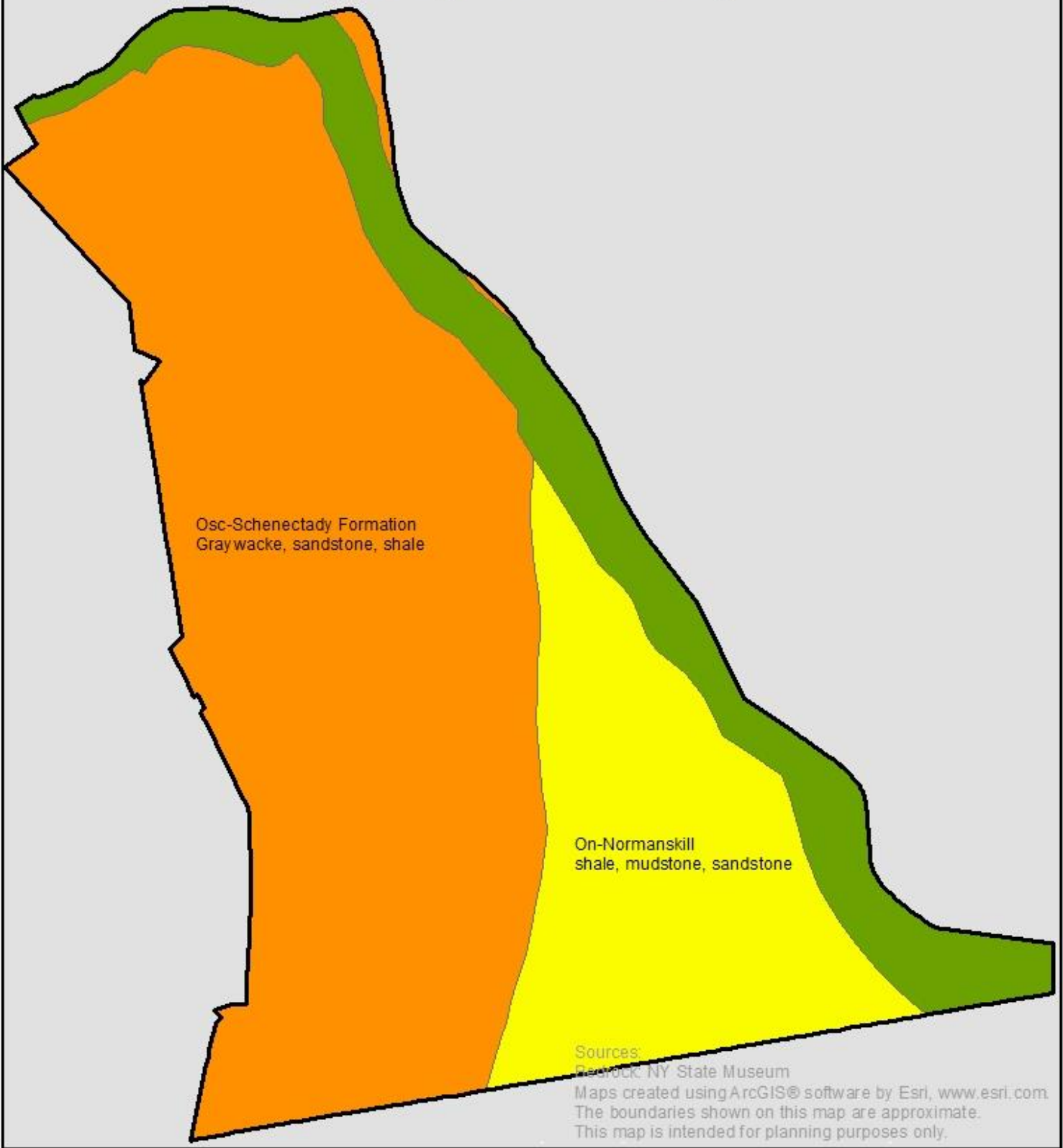
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com.
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 Niskayuna Boundaries

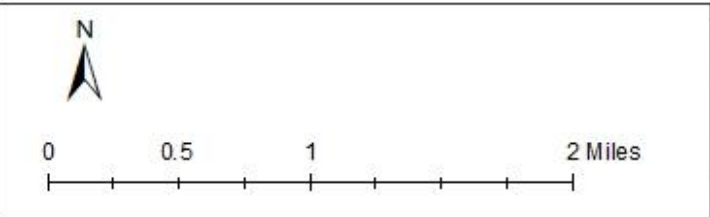


January 2, 2025

Niskayuna Bedrock Map

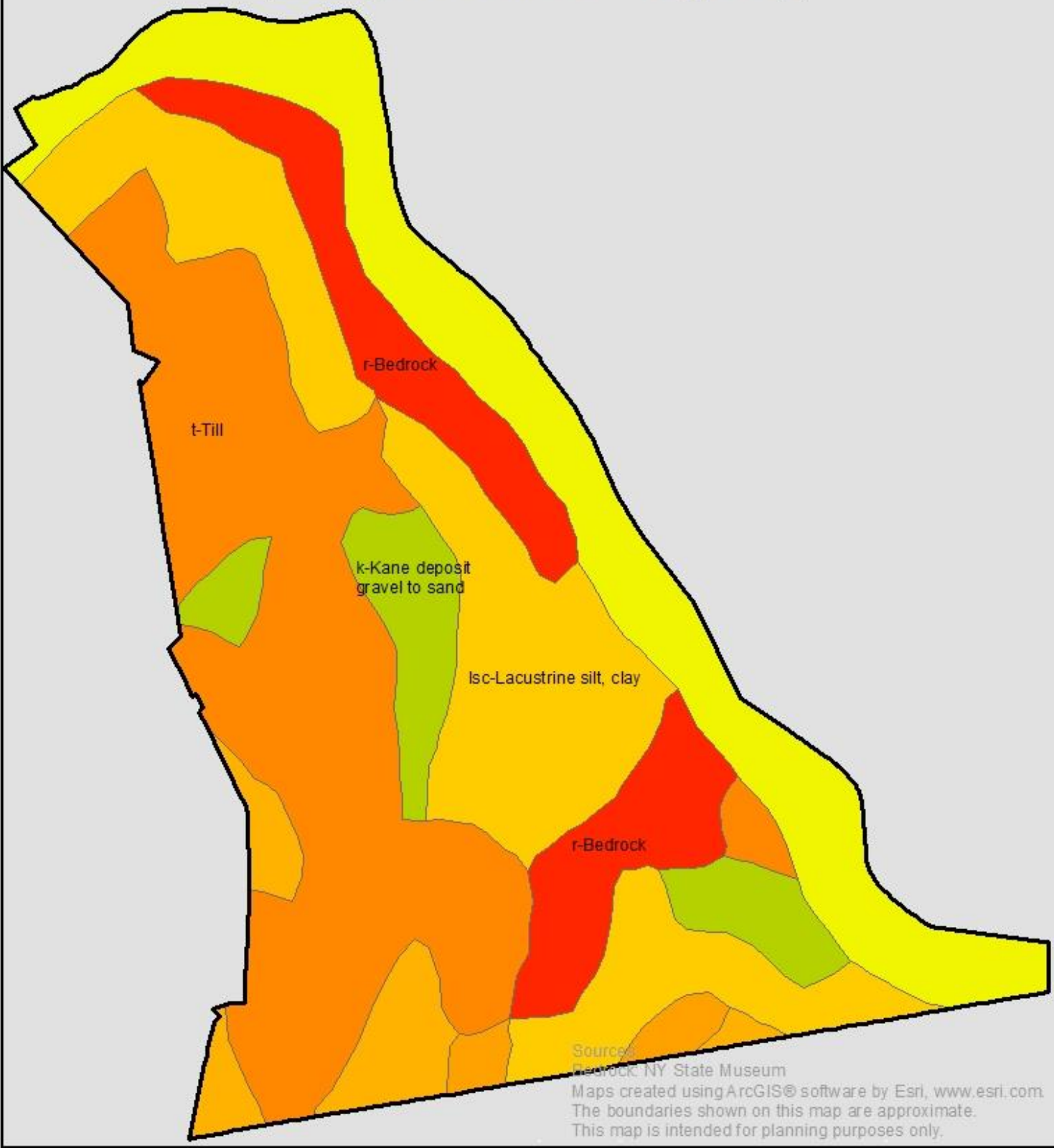


- Niskayuna Boundaries
- Schenectady Formation
- Normanskill
- Mohawk River



January 2, 2025


Niskayuna Surficial Geology Map




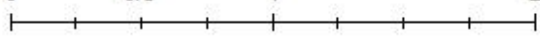
Sources:
Bedrock NY State Museum
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.

	Niskayuna Boundaries
	Till
	Kane deposits
	Bedrock
	Mohawk River

N



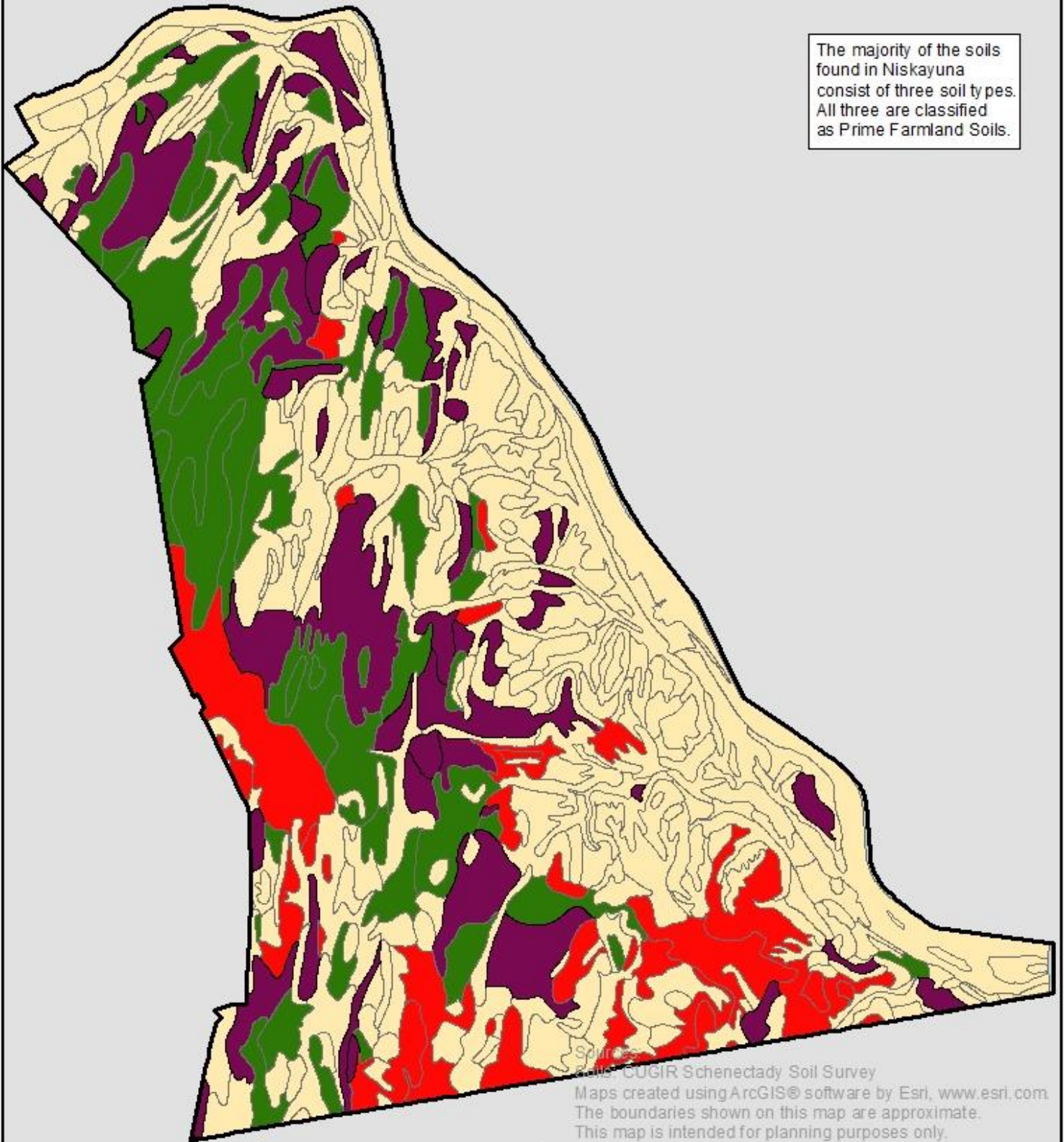
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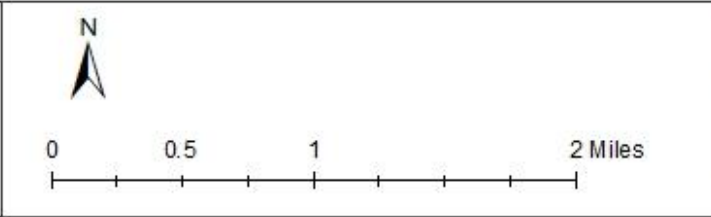
January 2, 2025

Niskayuna Soils Map

The majority of the soils found in Niskayuna consist of three soil types. All three are classified as Prime Farmland Soils.



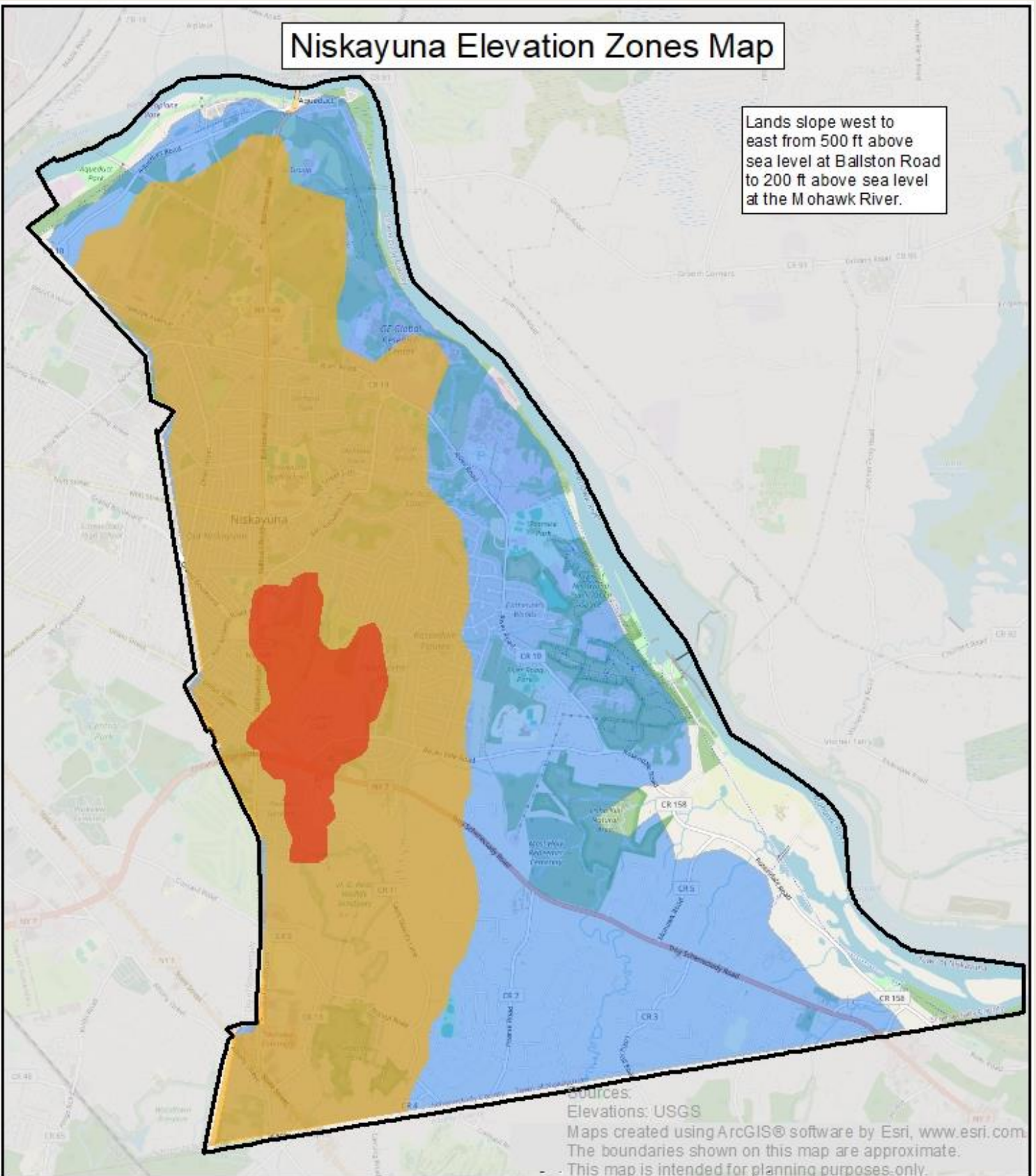
- Niskayuna Boundaries
- Burdett-Scriba soils
- Colonie loamy fine sand soils
- Nunda channery silt loam soils
- Other



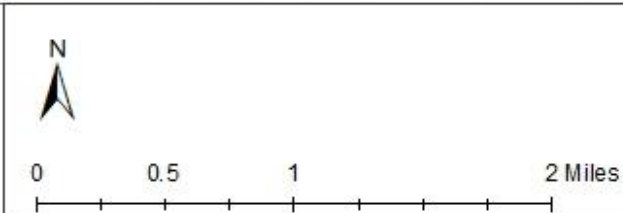
January 2, 2025

Niskayuna Elevation Zones Map

Lands slope west to east from 500 ft above sea level at Ballston Road to 200 ft above sea level at the Mohawk River.



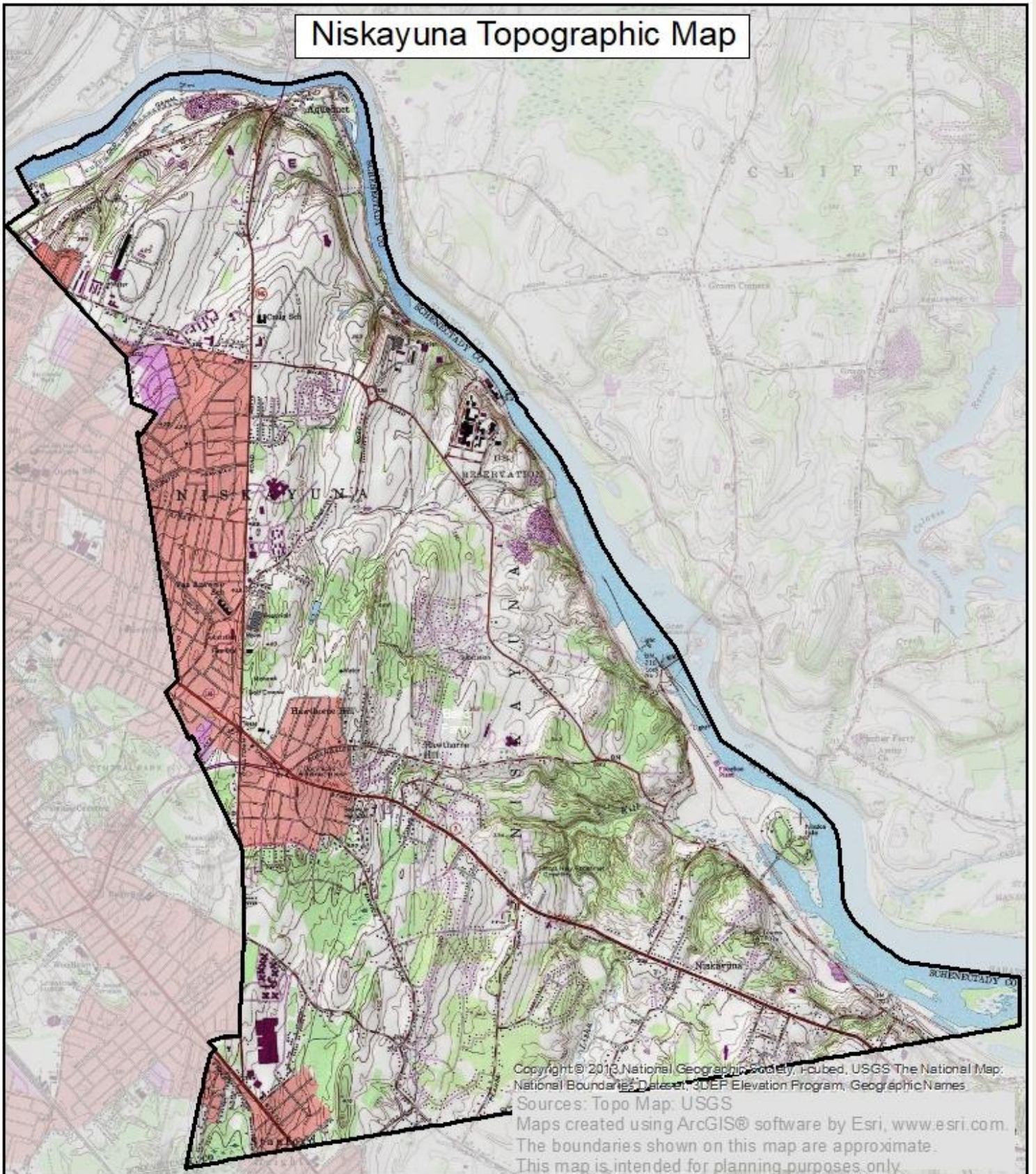
- Niskayuna Boundaries
- Elevation Zones (approximate):
- Elevation 250-350 ft above sea level
- Elevation 350-450 ft above sea level
- Elevation 450-500 ft above sea level




Niskayuna
 NEW YORK

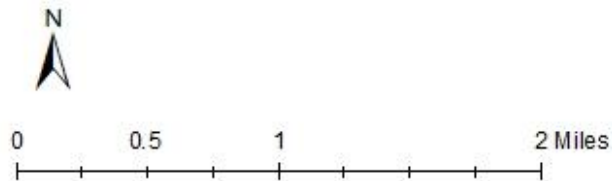
January 2, 2025

Niskayuna Topographic Map



Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, Fused, USGS The National Map, National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names
Sources: Topo Map, USGS
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.

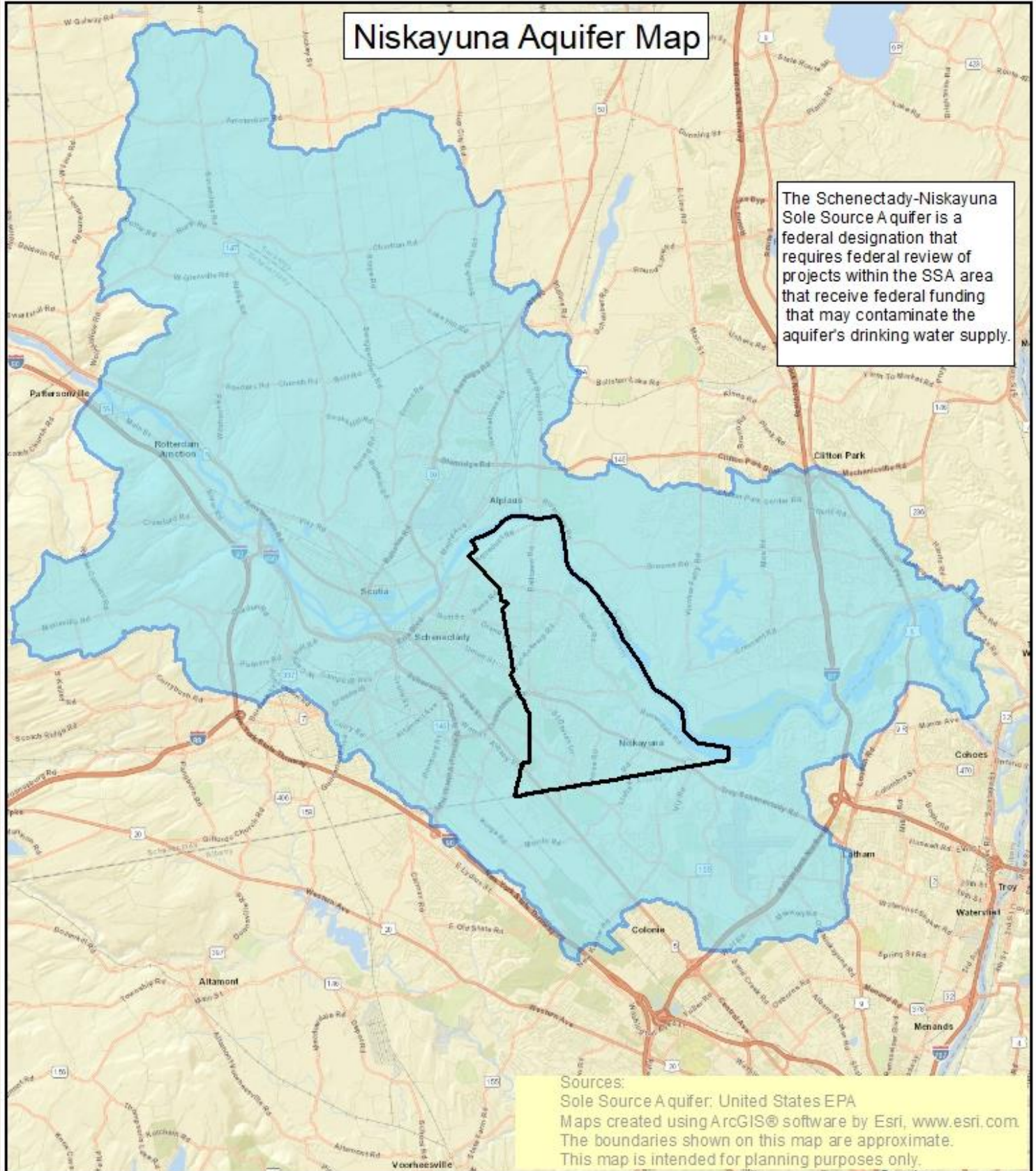
 Niskayuna Boundaries





January 2, 2025

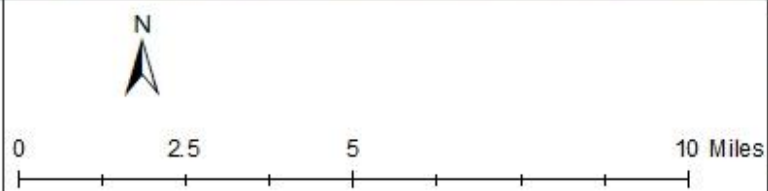
Niskayuna Aquifer Map

The Schenectady-Niskayuna Sole Source Aquifer is a federal designation that requires federal review of projects within the SSA area that receive federal funding that may contaminate the aquifer's drinking water supply.



Sources:
 Sole Source Aquifer: United States EPA
 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.

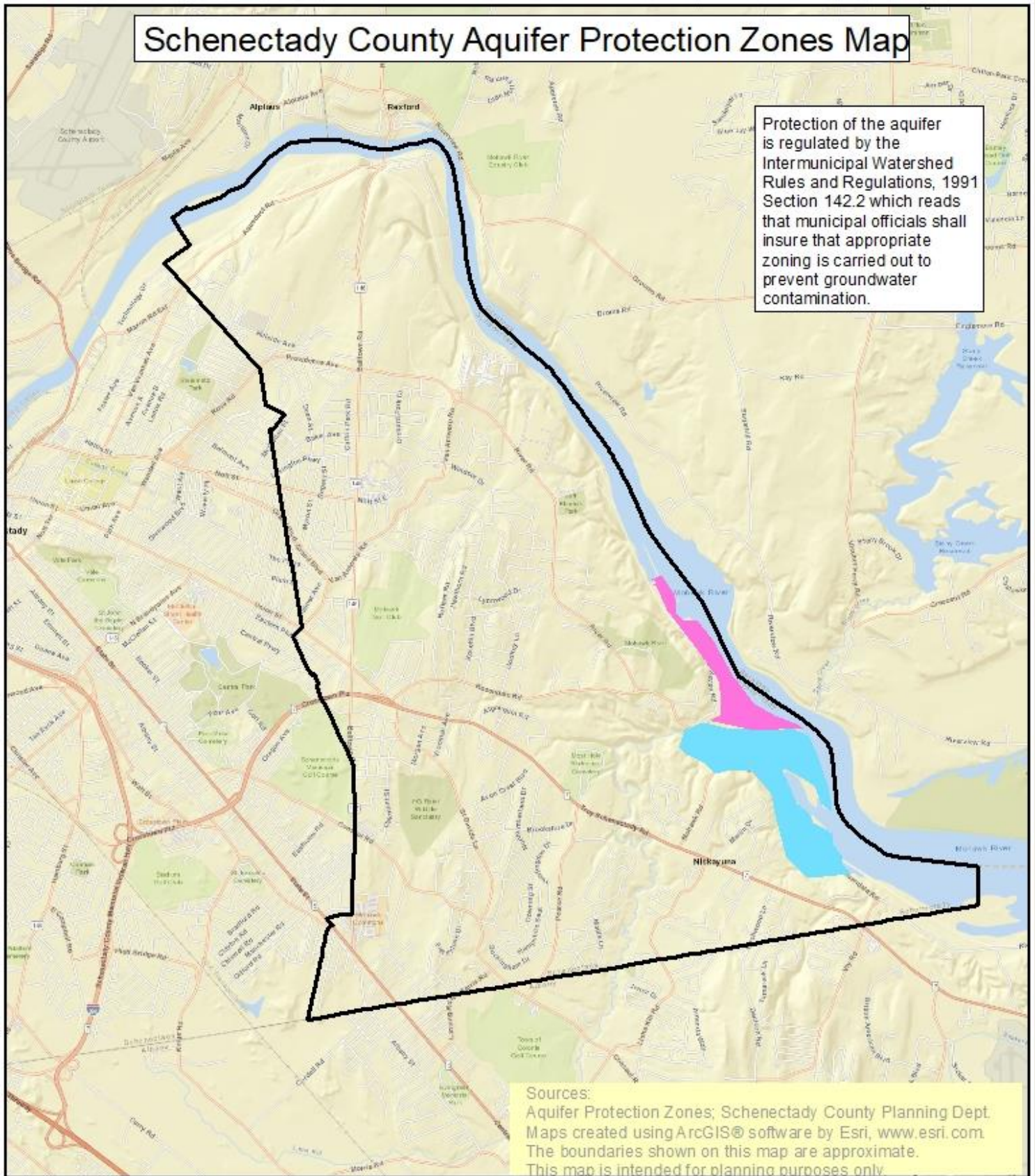
-  Niskayuna Boundaries
-  Schenectady-Niskayuna Sole Source Aquifer



January 28, 2025

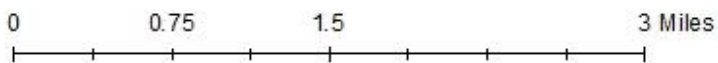
Schenectady County Aquifer Protection Zones Map

Protection of the aquifer is regulated by the Intermunicipal Watershed Rules and Regulations, 1991 Section 142.2 which reads that municipal officials shall insure that appropriate zoning is carried out to prevent groundwater contamination.



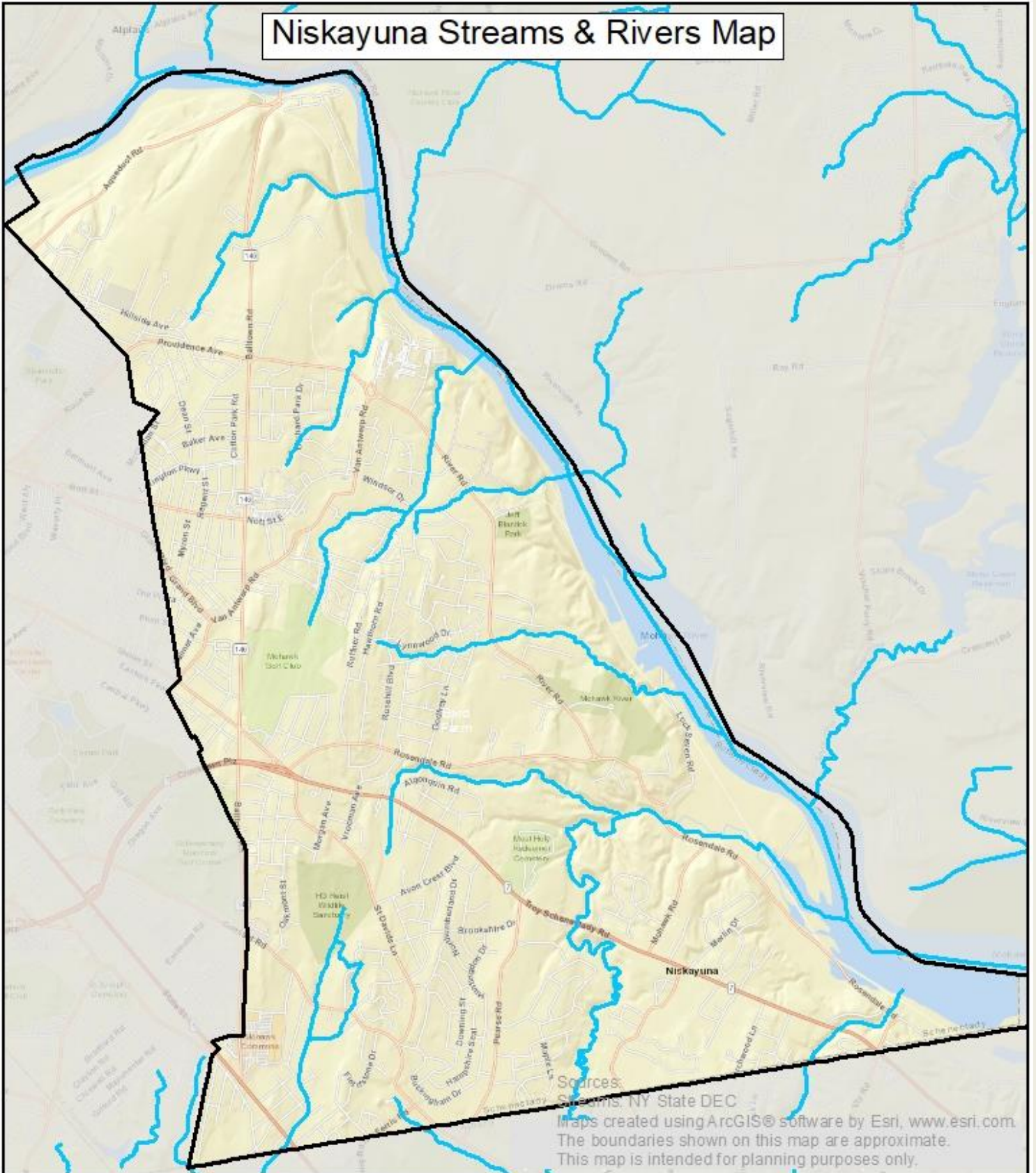
Sources:
 Aquifer Protection Zones; Schenectady County Planning Dept.
 Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
 The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
 This map is intended for planning purposes only.


-  Niskayuna Boundaries
-  Primary Recharge Area
-  Wellhead Protection Area




January 28, 2025

Niskayuna Streams & Rivers Map



 Niskayuna Boundaries

 Streams & Rivers

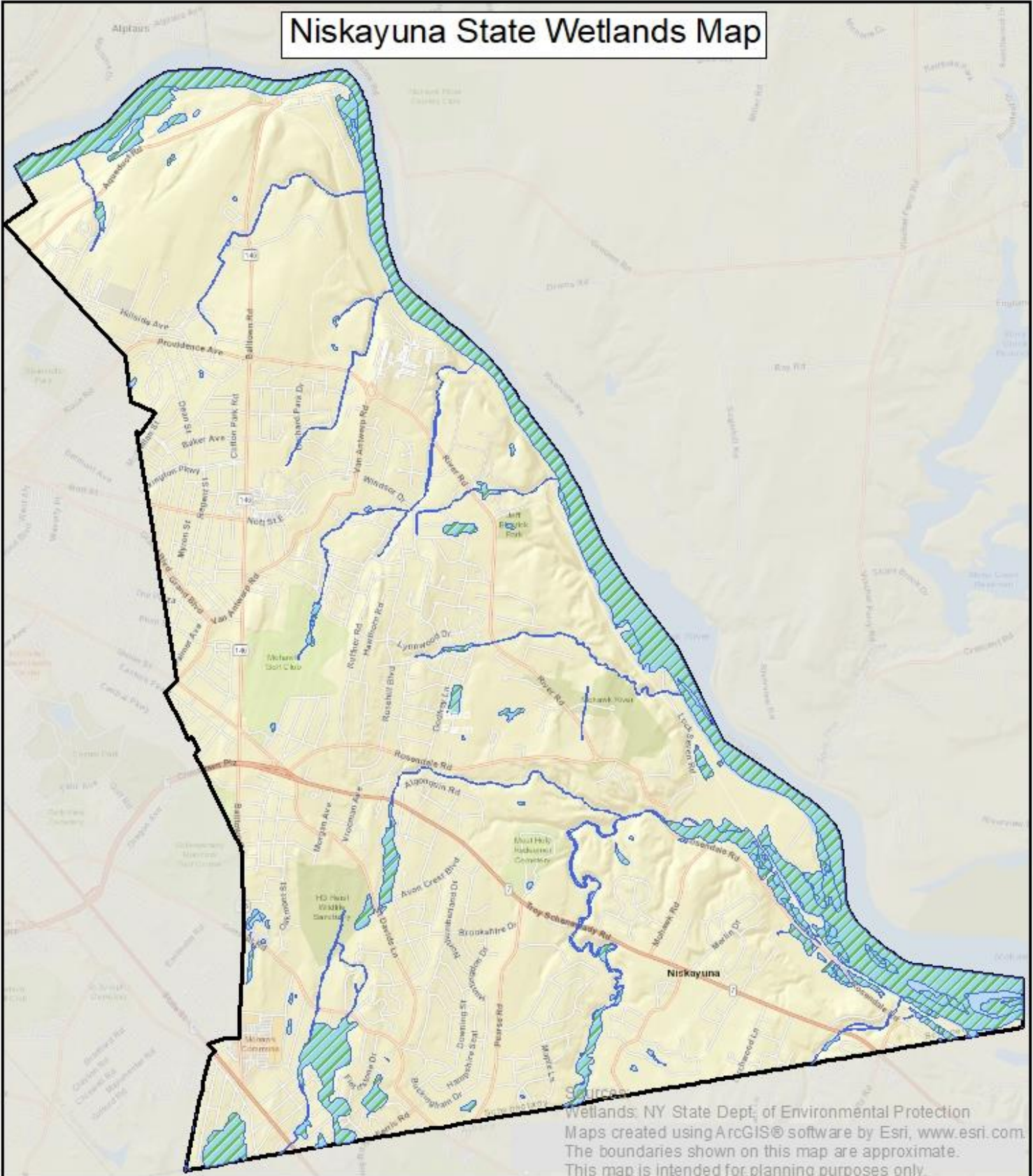


0 0.5 1 2 Miles





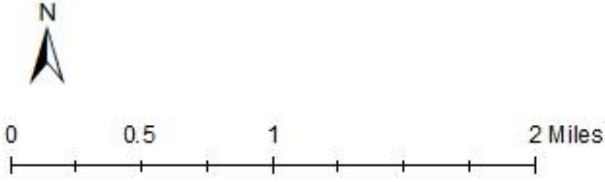
January 2, 2025

Niskayuna State Wetlands Map



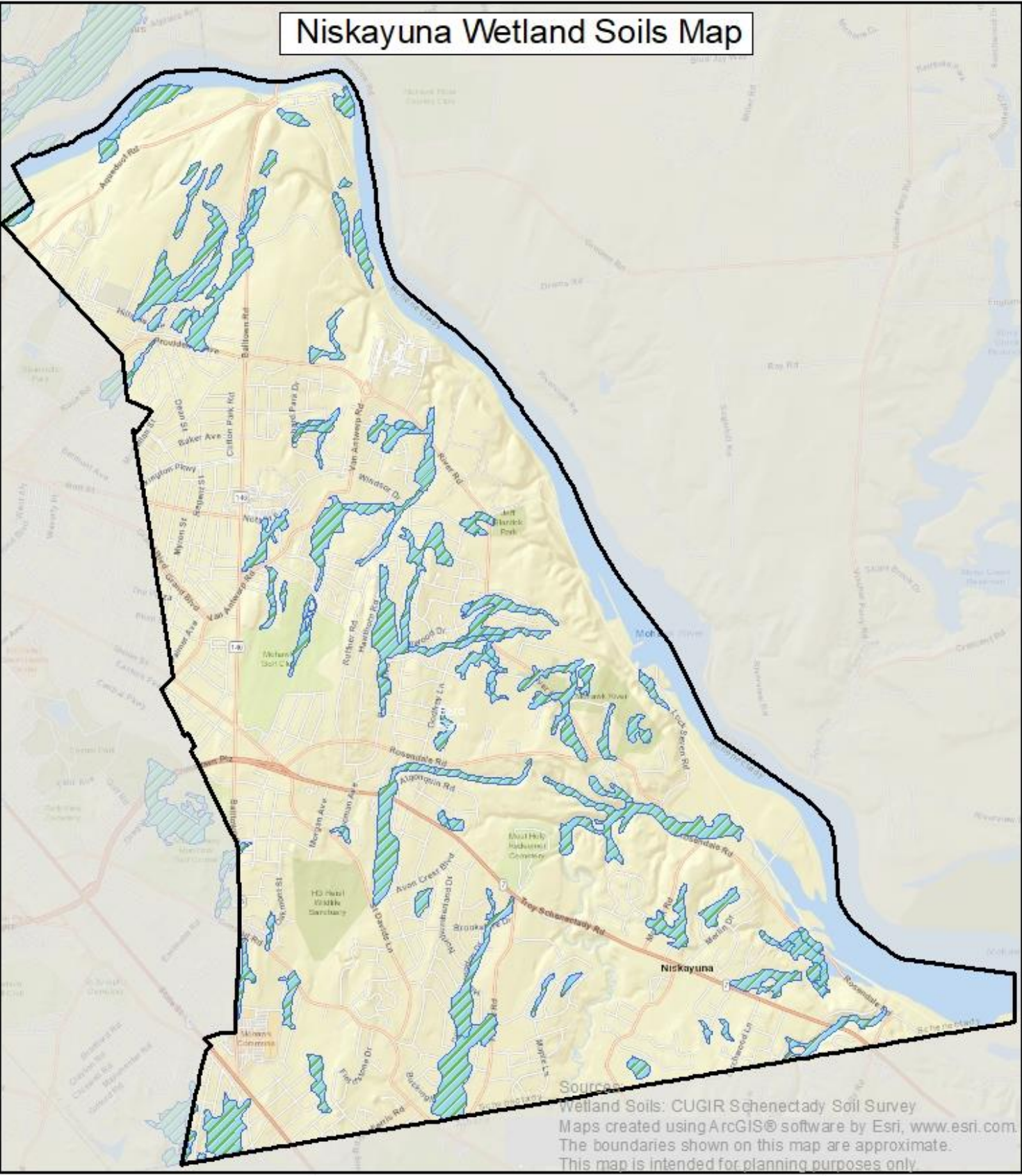
Wetlands: NY State Dept. of Environmental Protection
 Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
 The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
 This map is intended for planning purposes only.

-  Niskayuna Boundaries
-  NY State DEC Wetlands





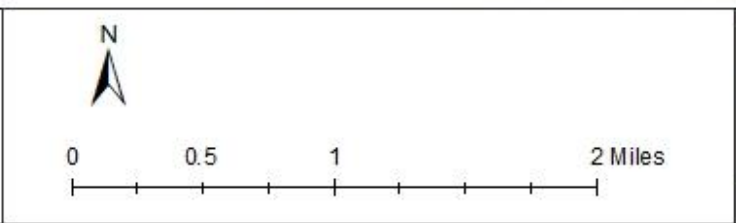

January 2, 2025

Niskayuna Wetland Soils Map



Source:
 Wetland Soils: CUGIR Schenectady Soil Survey
 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.

-  Niskayuna Boundaries
-  Wetland (hydric) Soils

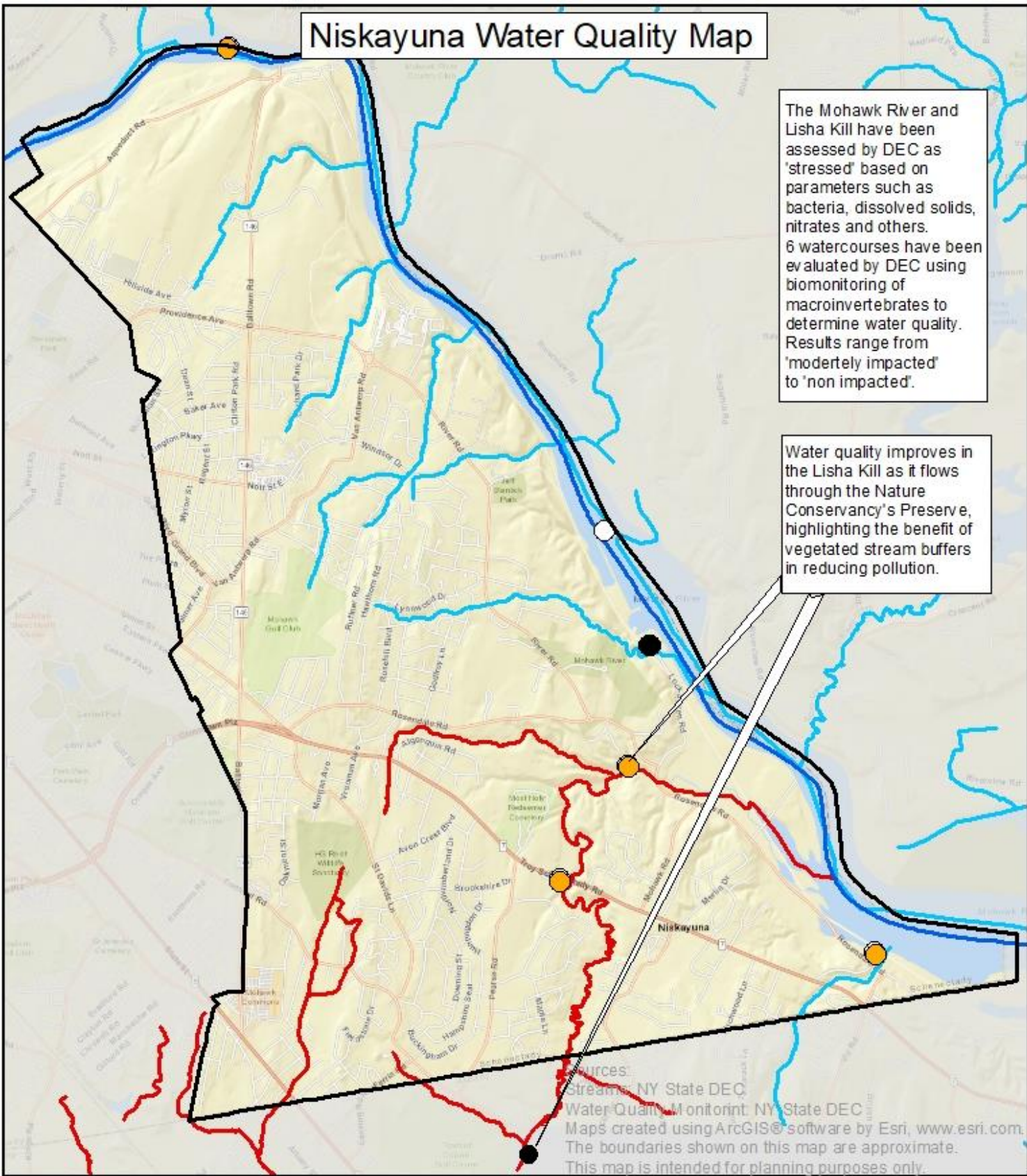



January 2, 2025

Niskayuna Water Quality Map

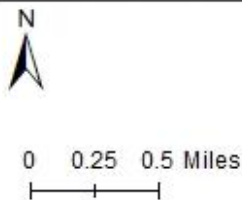
The Mohawk River and Lisha Kill have been assessed by DEC as 'stressed' based on parameters such as bacteria, dissolved solids, nitrates and others. 6 watercourses have been evaluated by DEC using biomonitoring of macroinvertebrates to determine water quality. Results range from 'moderately impacted' to 'non impacted'.

Water quality improves in the Lisha Kill as it flows through the Nature Conservancy's Preserve, highlighting the benefit of vegetated stream buffers in reducing pollution.



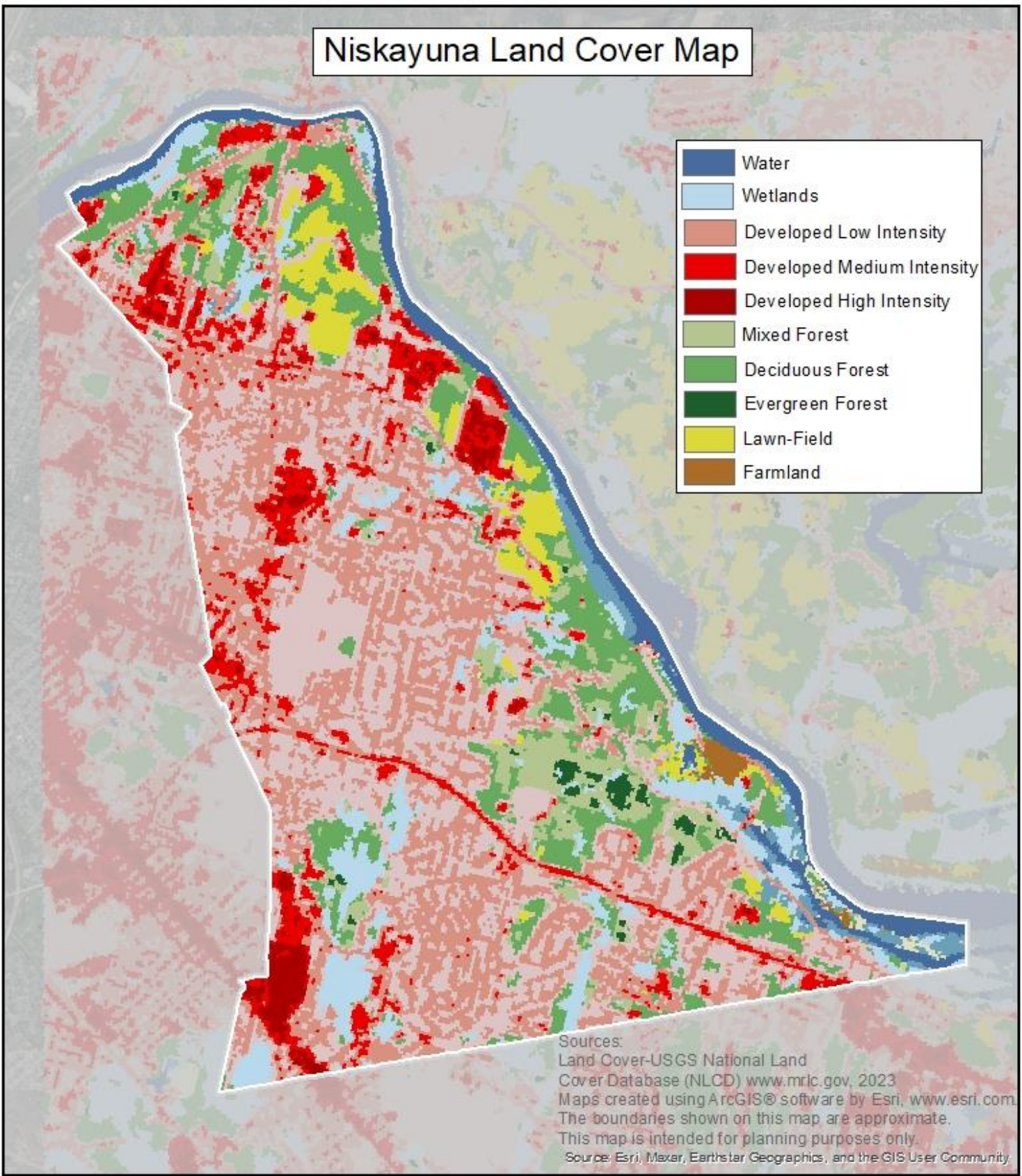
Sources:
Streams: NY State DEC
Water Quality Monitor: NY State DEC
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Niskayuna Boundaries | Biomonitoring Assessments: |
| Waterbody Inventory Assessments: | Moderately Impacted |
| Streams & Rivers Unassessed | Slightly Impacted |
| Mohawk River-Stressed Recreational & Aquatic Uses | Non Impacted |
| Lishakill & Tributaries-Stressed Aquatic Uses | |




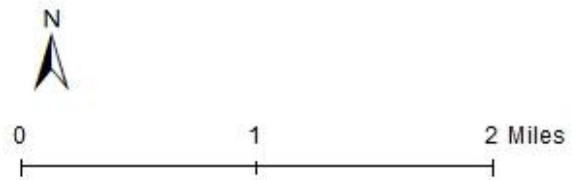
January 14, 2025

Niskayuna Land Cover Map



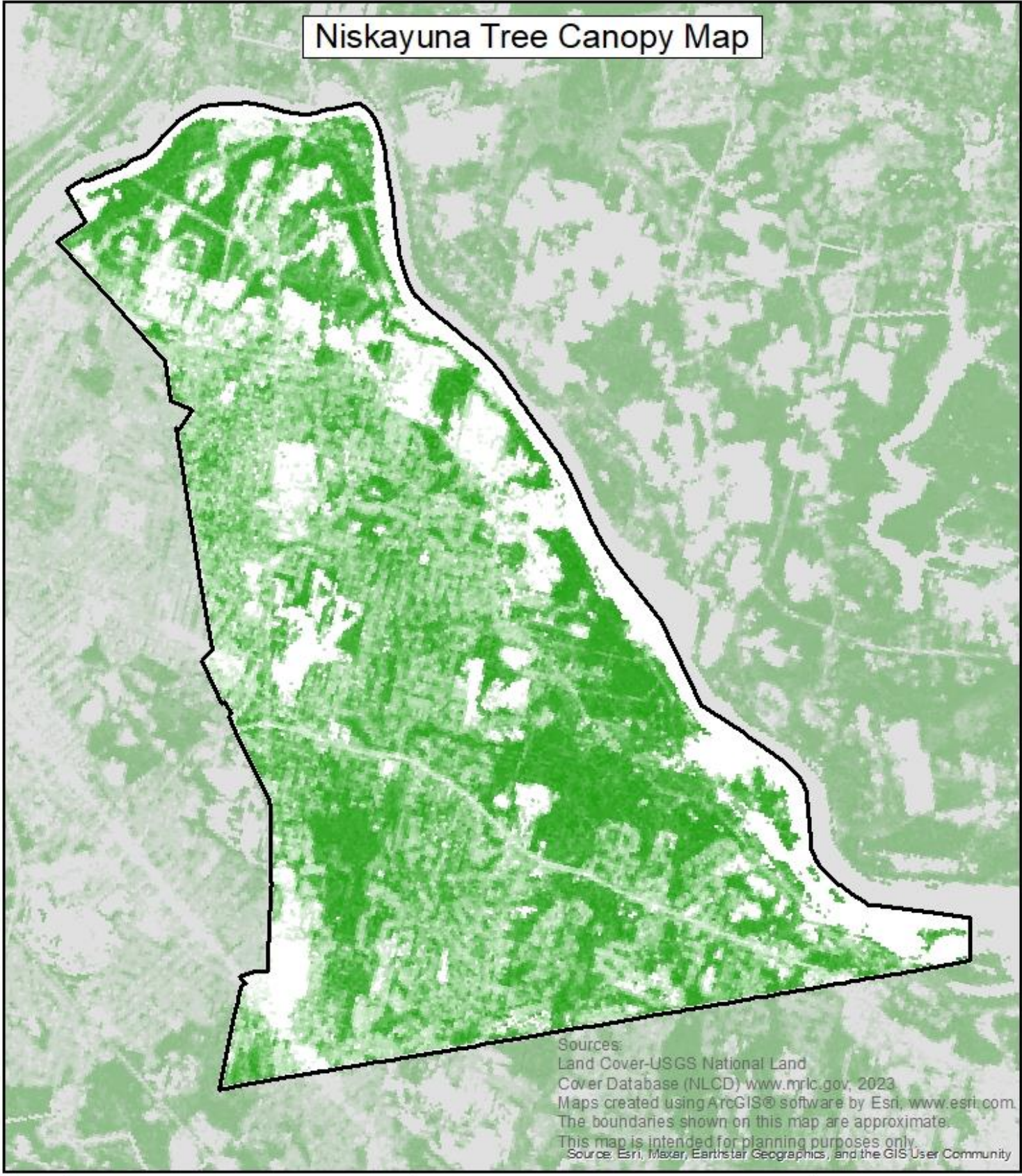
Sources:
Land Cover-USGS National Land Cover Database (NLCD) www.mrlc.gov, 2023
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com.
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community.

 Niskayuna Boundaries








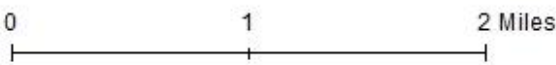
January 30, 2025

Niskayuna Tree Canopy Map



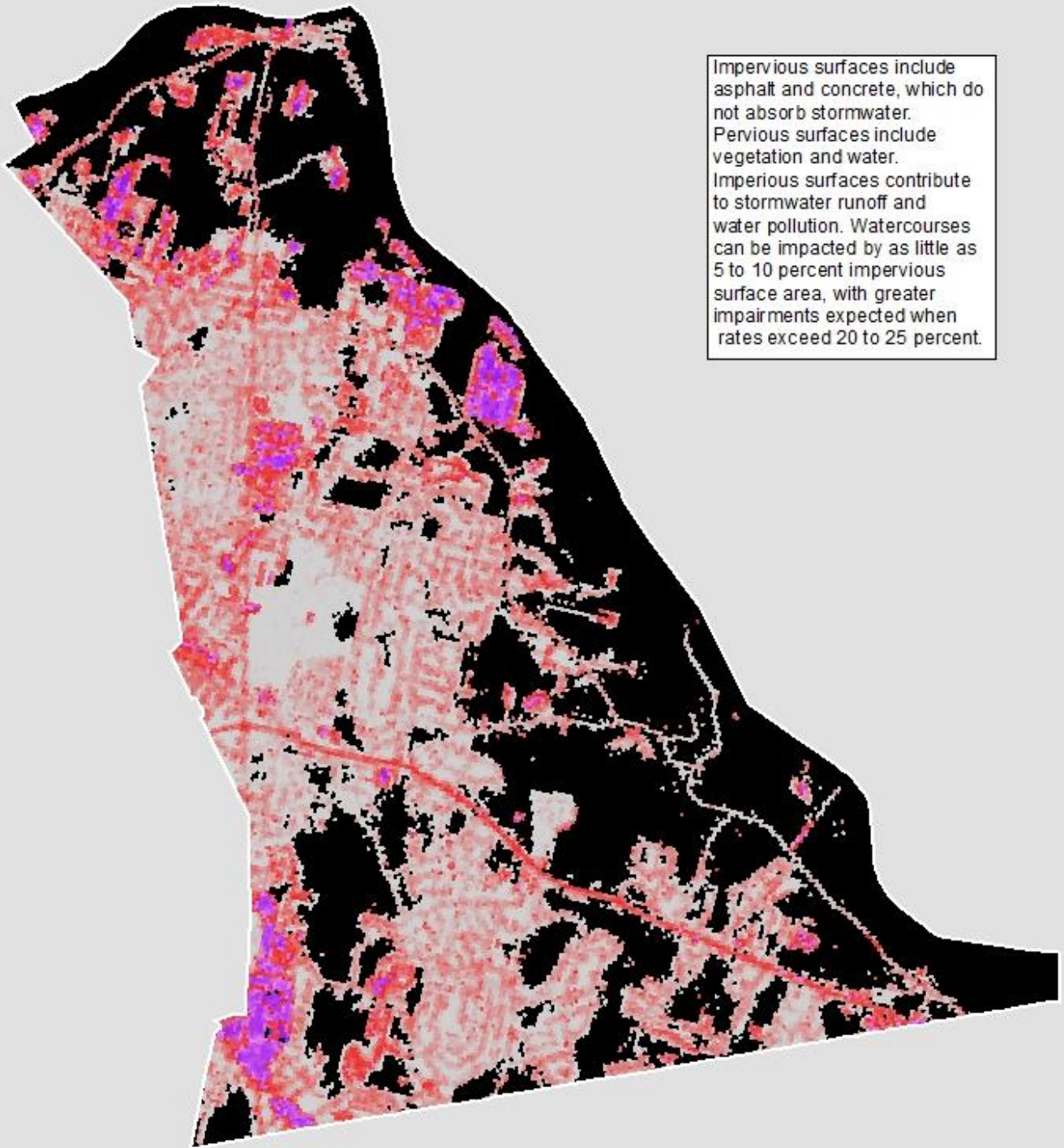
Sources:
Land Cover-USGS National Land
Cover Database (NLCD) www.mrlc.gov, 2023
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com.
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
This map is intended for planning purposes only.
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

-  Niskayuna Boundaries
-  No tree canopy
-  Light tree canopy
-  Moderate tree canopy
-  Forested



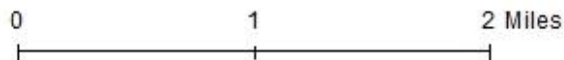
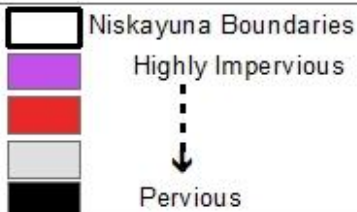
January 30, 2025

Niskayuna Impervious Surfaces Map



Impervious surfaces include asphalt and concrete, which do not absorb stormwater. Pervious surfaces include vegetation and water. Impervious surfaces contribute to stormwater runoff and water pollution. Watercourses can be impacted by as little as 5 to 10 percent impervious surface area, with greater impairments expected when rates exceed 20 to 25 percent.

Sources: CUGIR. Natl Land Cover Database
Natl Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



January 30, 2025

Wildlife of Conservation Significance

Birds of Conservation Significance observed during breeding season include:

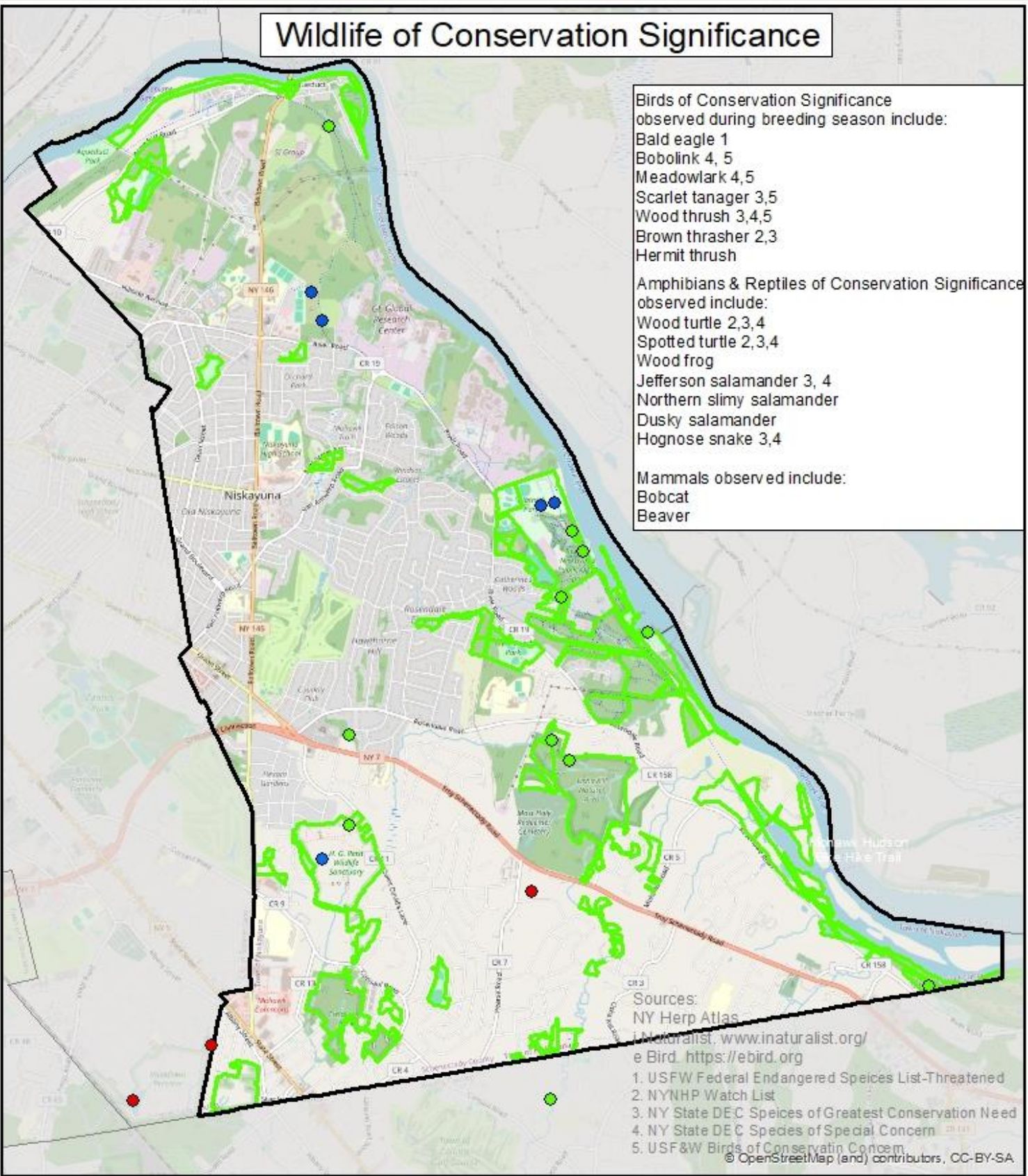
- Bald eagle 1
- Bobolink 4, 5
- Meadowlark 4,5
- Scarlet tanager 3,5
- Wood thrush 3,4,5
- Brown thrasher 2,3
- Hermit thrush

Amphibians & Reptiles of Conservation Significance observed include:

- Wood turtle 2,3,4
- Spotted turtle 2,3,4
- Wood frog
- Jefferson salamander 3, 4
- Northern slimy salamander
- Dusky salamander
- Hognose snake 3,4

Mammals observed include:

- Bobcat
- Beaver



Sources:
 NY Herp Atlas
 iNaturalist, www.inaturalist.org/
 eBird, <https://ebird.org>
 1. USFW Federal Endangered Species List-Threatened
 2. NYNHP Watch List
 3. NY State DEC Species of Greatest Conservation Need
 4. NY State DEC Species of Special Concern
 5. USF&W Birds of Conservation Concern
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Town Boundaries	Amphibians & Reptiles
Protected Open Space	Birds
	Mammals

N

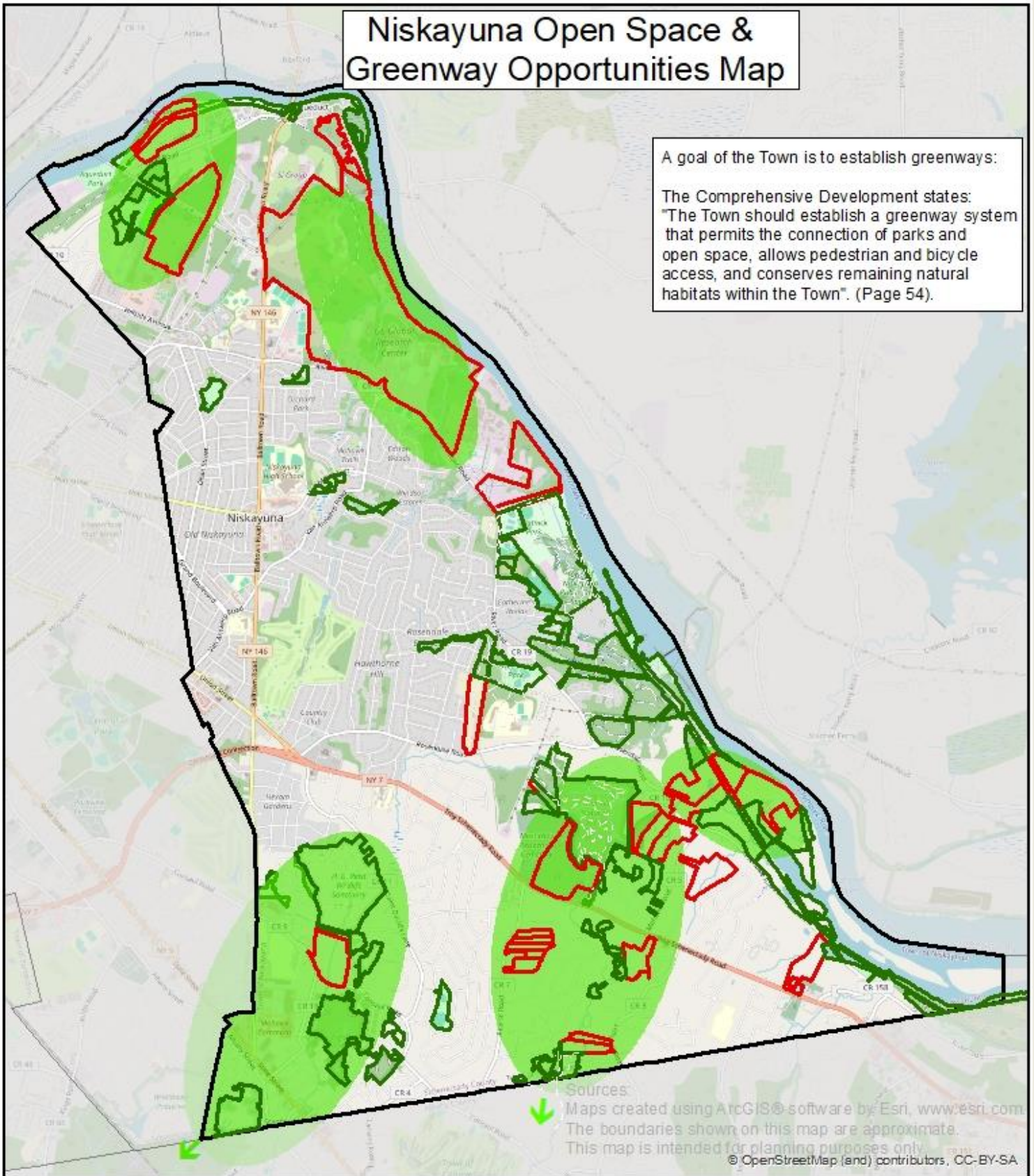
0 0.5 1 Miles

January 14, 2025

Niskayuna Open Space & Greenway Opportunities Map

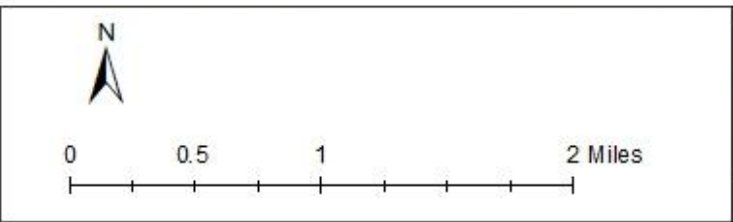
A goal of the Town is to establish greenways:

The Comprehensive Development states: "The Town should establish a greenway system that permits the connection of parks and open space, allows pedestrian and bicycle access, and conserves remaining natural habitats within the Town". (Page 54).



Sources:
 Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
 The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
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-  Town Boundaries
-  Protected Open Space
-  Unprotected Properties
-  Greenway Opportunities
-  Hiking Trails

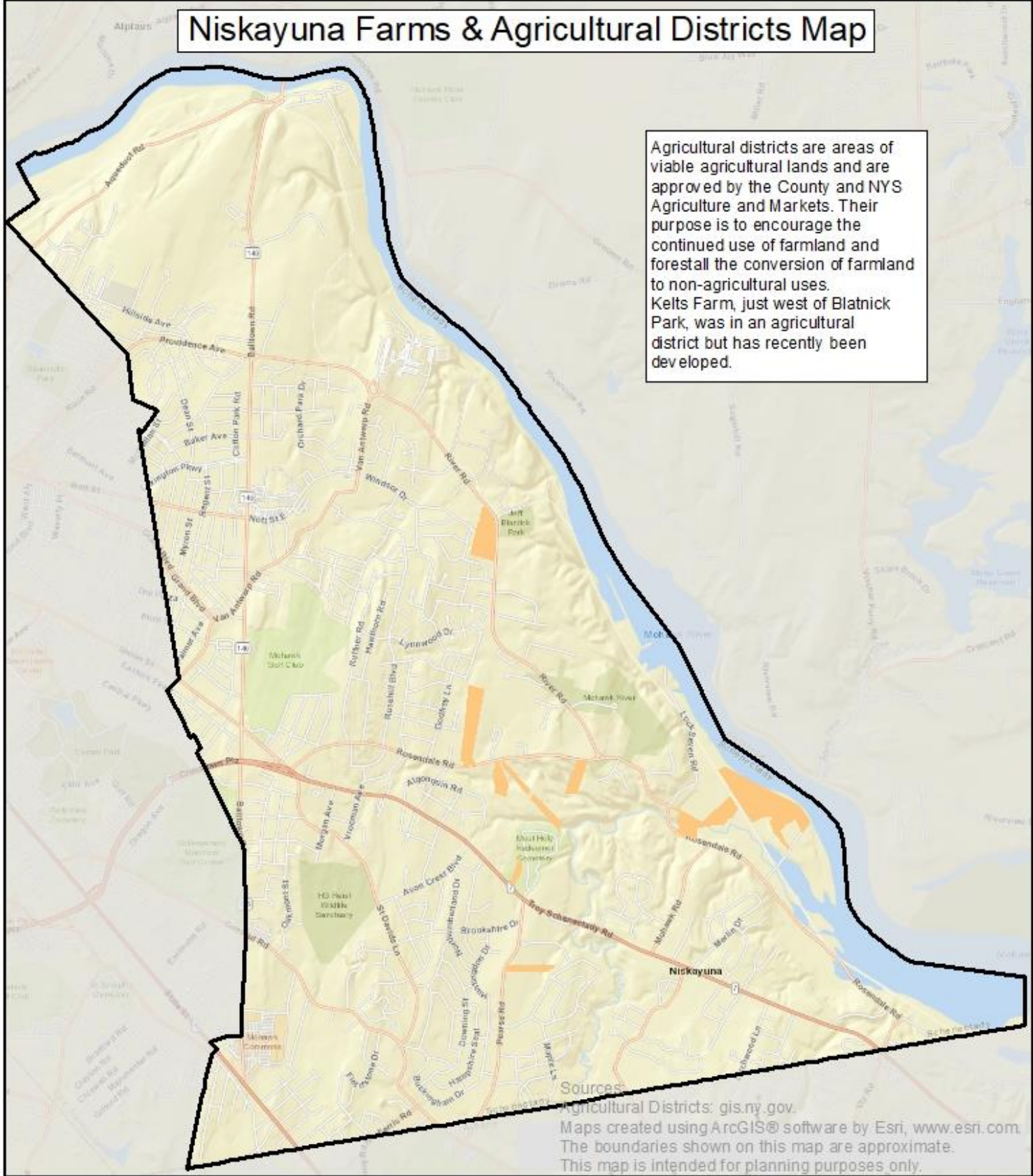


Niskayuna
 NEW YORK

January 9, 2025

Niskayuna Farms & Agricultural Districts Map

Agricultural districts are areas of viable agricultural lands and are approved by the County and NYS Agriculture and Markets. Their purpose is to encourage the continued use of farmland and forestall the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. Kelts Farm, just west of Blatnick Park, was in an agricultural district but has recently been developed.



Sources:
 Agricultural Districts: gis.ny.gov
 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.

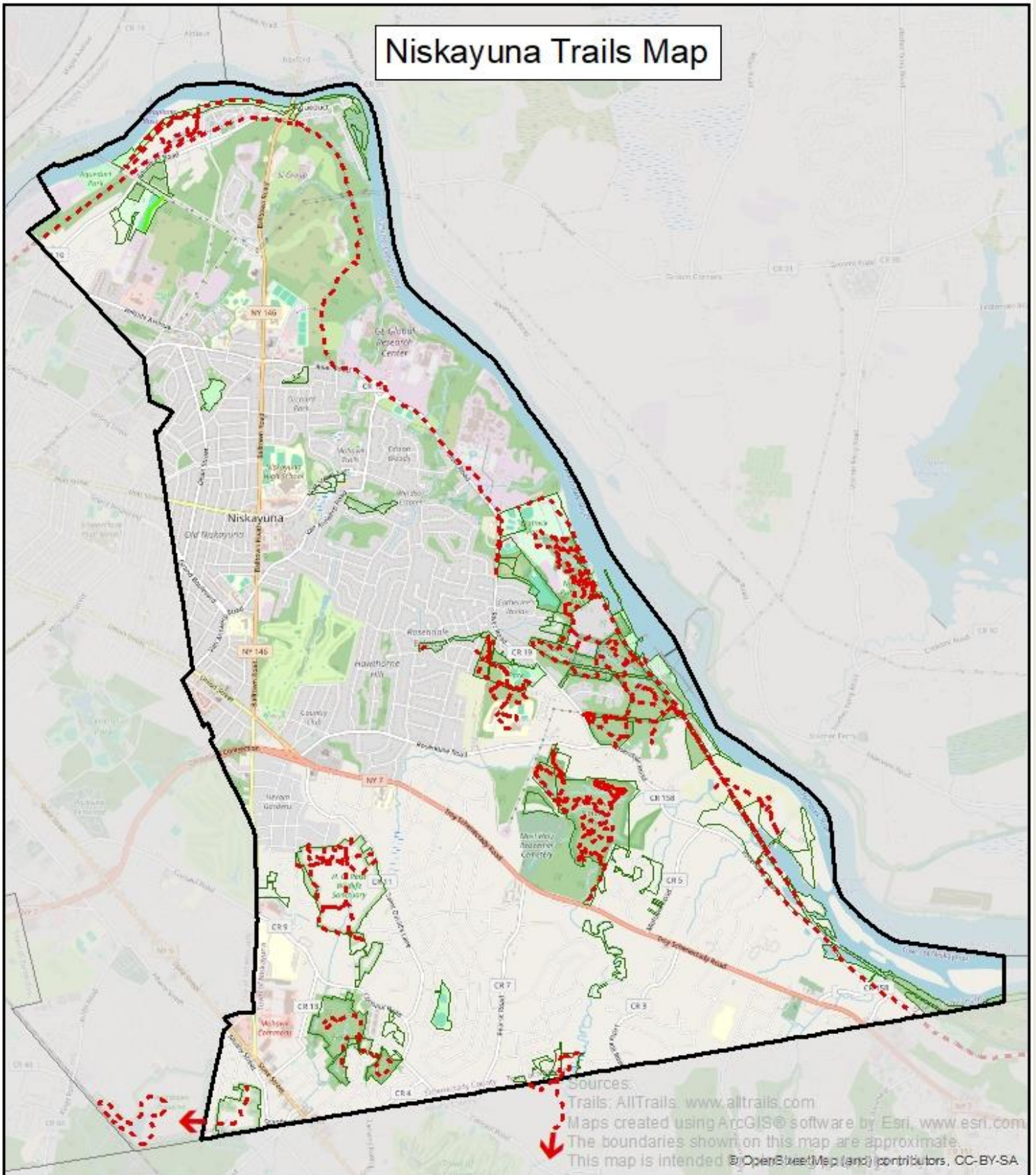
Niskayuna Boundaries
 Farms & Agricultural Districts

N




0 0.5 1 2 Miles

January 2, 2025


Niskayuna Trails Map



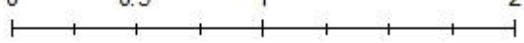
Sources:
 Trails: AllTrails, www.alltrails.com
 Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
 The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
 This map is intended to be used in conjunction with the OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA

-  Town Boundaries
-  Protected Open Space
-  Hiking Trails

N

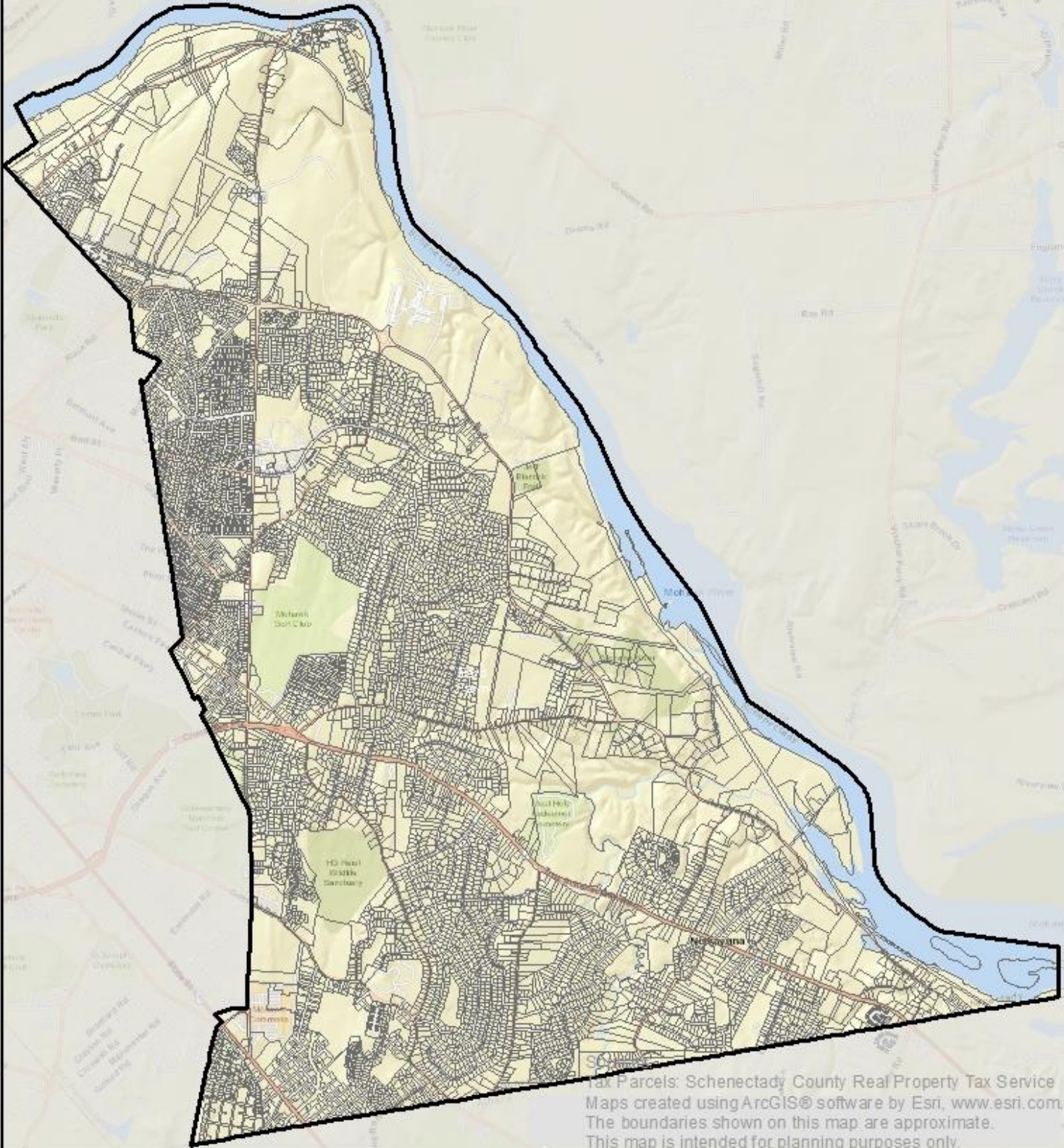


0 0.5 1 2 Miles





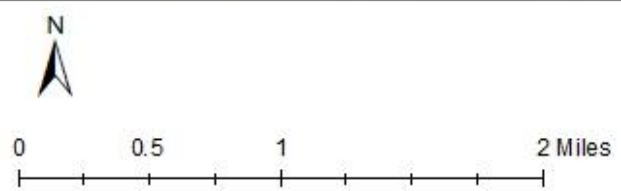

January 9, 2025

Niskayuna Tax Parcel Map



Tax Parcels: Schenectady County Real Property Tax Service
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.

-  Niskayuna Boundaries
-  Tax Parcels

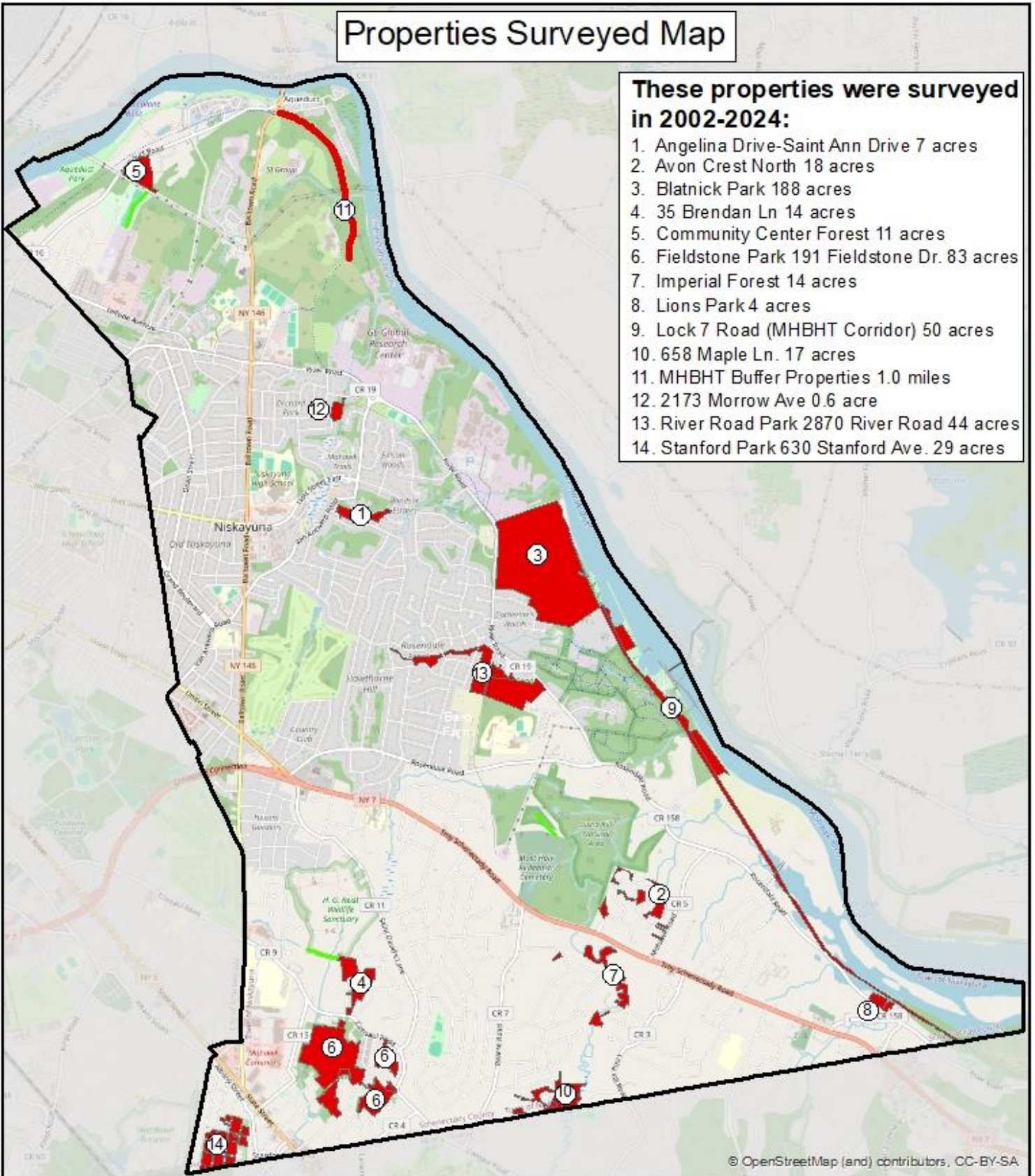


January 2, 2025



Properties Surveyed Map

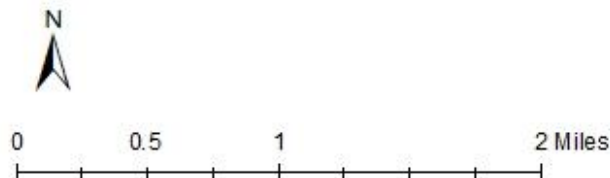
These properties were surveyed in 2002-2024:

1. Angelina Drive-Saint Ann Drive 7 acres
2. Avon Crest North 18 acres
3. Blatnick Park 188 acres
4. 35 Brendan Ln 14 acres
5. Community Center Forest 11 acres
6. Fieldstone Park 191 Fieldstone Dr. 83 acres
7. Imperial Forest 14 acres
8. Lions Park 4 acres
9. Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) 50 acres
10. 658 Maple Ln. 17 acres
11. MHBHT Buffer Properties 1.0 miles
12. 2173 Morrow Ave 0.6 acre
13. River Road Park 2870 River Road 44 acres
14. Stanford Park 630 Stanford Ave. 29 acres



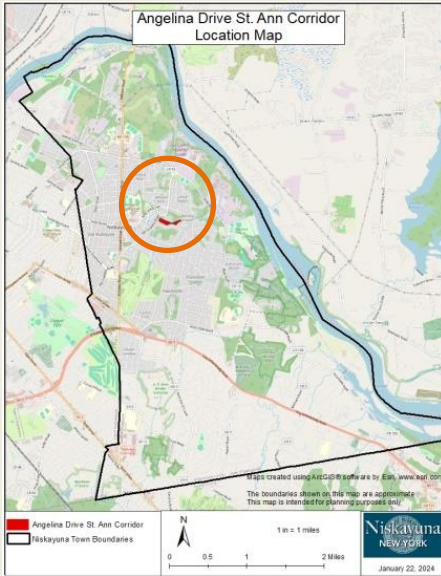
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-  Niskayuna Boundaries
-  Properties Surveyed



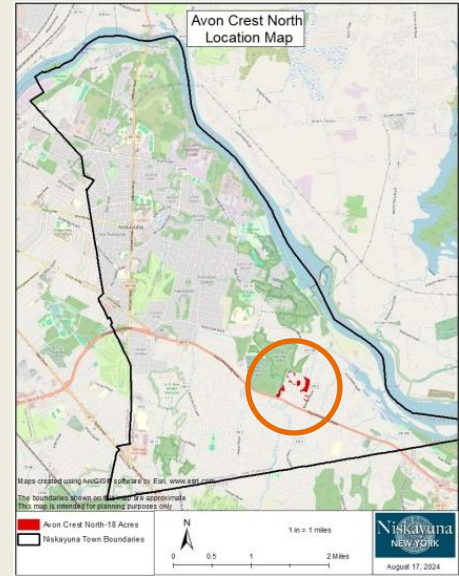
January 15, 2025

ANGELINA DRIVE



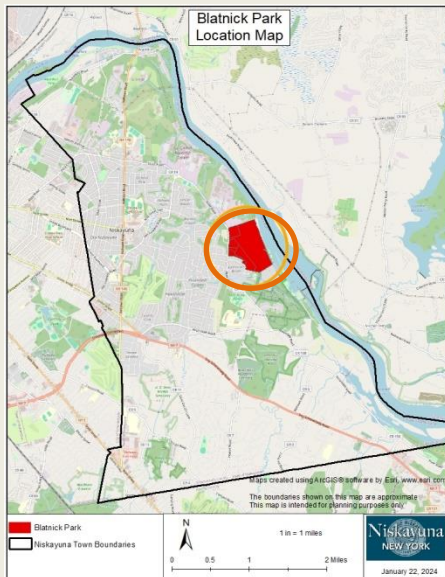
- Hiking trails begin at the entrance by a memorial stone along Antonia Drive but end in the dense shrubbery surrounding the stream. Another trail begins at the eastern end of the Park at St. Ann Drive and runs briefly through a stand of Norway Spruce but also dead-ends in shrubbery around the stream. 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



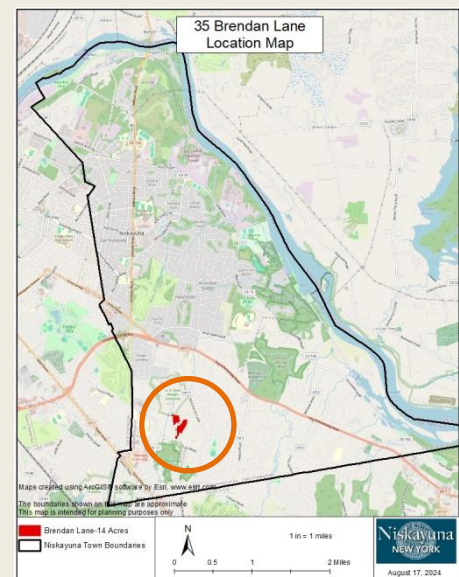
- Entrances at 2601 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7) and at 1013 Shannon Boulevard have hiking trails that lead to the trails at the adjacent Nature Conservancy property. An entrance to the northeast parcel is west of #19 County Clare Lane. None of the entrances are marked with signs or trail blazes. 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.

BLATNICK PARK



- Keep the landfill's grassland unmowed until mid-summer to allow rare grassland birds to nest. This has the support of the Town Supervisor, the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and the Schenectady County Soil and Water Conservation District.²¹
- Mow only once a year the five acre portion of the driving range field which is designated as 'Low Mow Pollinator Habitat' to benefit pollinators, wildflowers, birds and other wildlife.
- Leave undisturbed the three acre 'Bird Sanctuary' field and the smaller field surrounding the pond.
- Leave undisturbed the 'Endangered Species Critical Area' to allow bald eagles to nest.
- Leave a large portion of the pond at the Park's entrance unmowed to discourage Canada geese, filter pollution, shade the pond's water, prevent grass clippings from going into the pond and lessen algae growth.
- Leave unmowed the steep embankment at the pond's north shoreline for similar reasons.
- Encourage the Knolls Lab just to the north to mow less frequently their two large fields and put up bird houses, as GE is doing further to the north.

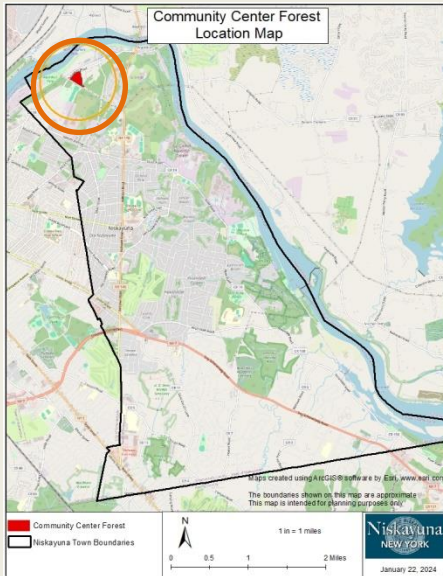
BRENDAN LANE



- 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.

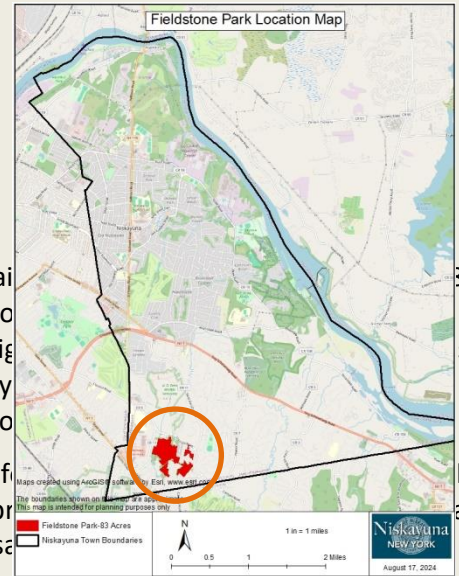
²¹ Daily Gazette, Feb 25, 2022

COMMUNITY CENTER FOREST



- Create a loop trail through the forest and around the Community Center complex across the power line with permission from Niagara Mohawk to the old railroad easement north to the Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trails, working with the Town's Complete Street members. This would meet a goal of the Town's Comprehensive Plan to "identify continuity gaps that would connect park recreational lands to the existing Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and acquire/develop public land to resolve this."²²²³

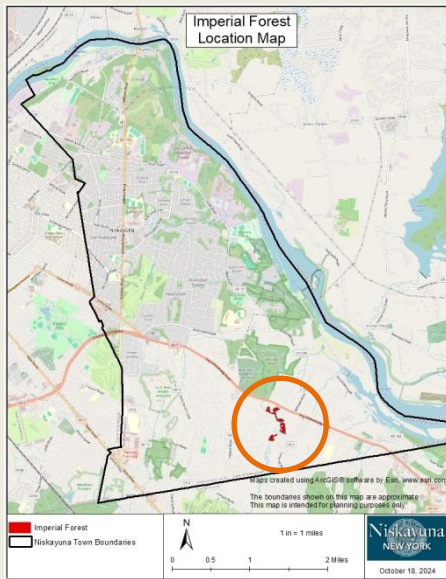
FIELDSTONE DRIVE



- The trail at Fieldstone Park lacks significant connectivity to the existing trail network. Three future trail connections need to be prioritized to improve connectivity.
- 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.

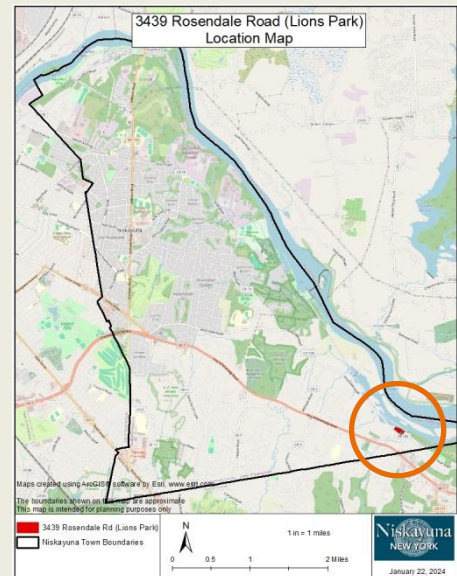
²² Town of Niskayuna Comprehensive Development Plan, 2013, p. 45

IMPERIAL FOREST



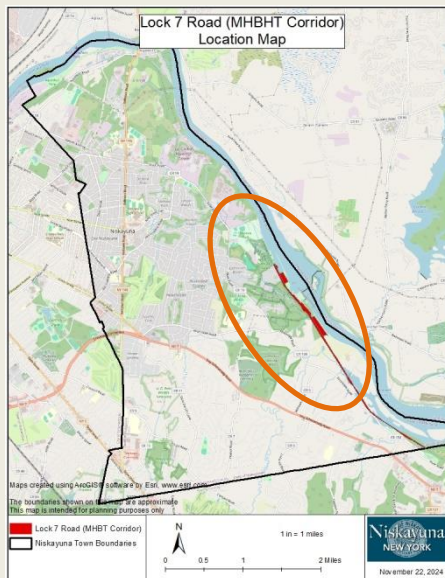
- The entrance to the parcel is not marked and signs could let residents know that the land is Town-owned and that care should be taken to not litter.
- Trail and educational signs can attract local residents and educate them about the Imperial Forest, the Lisha Kill and the nature within.
- There are 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.
- Designating the Lisha Kill as a Critical Environmental Area can protect the water quality and habitat of the Lisha Kill.

LIONS PARK



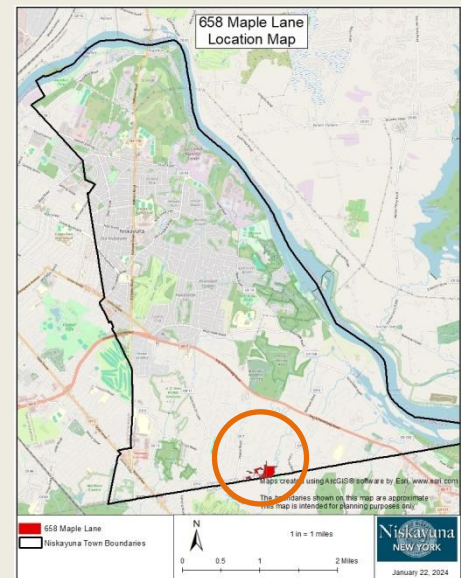
- No recommendations

LOCK 7 ROAD (MHBHT CORRIDOR)



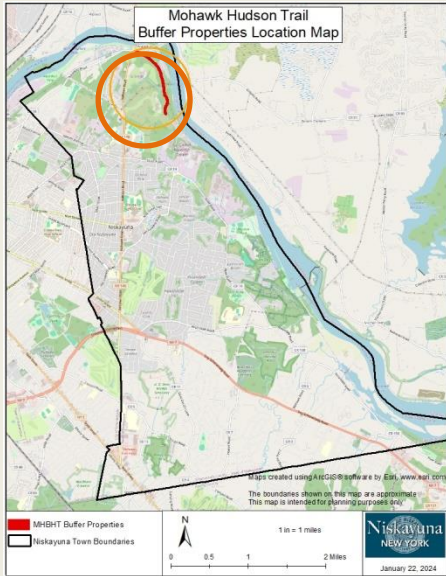
- Two parcels totaling 58 acres along the Lisha Kill just west of the MHBHT and 48 acres of farmland on the east side of the MHBHT should be protected either with conservation easements or fee acquisition from willing sellers. Protecting these parcels from development will save valuable farmland, will 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 are about New York State land, the State may be interested in helping to protect them from development.
- Niskayuna's 2009 Mohawk River Waterfront Revitalization Plan calls for the protection of the important fish and wildlife habitats found in the wetlands along the Mohawk River.
- Designating the Mohawk River as a Critical Environmental Area can protect the water quality and habitat of the River.

MAPLE AVENUE



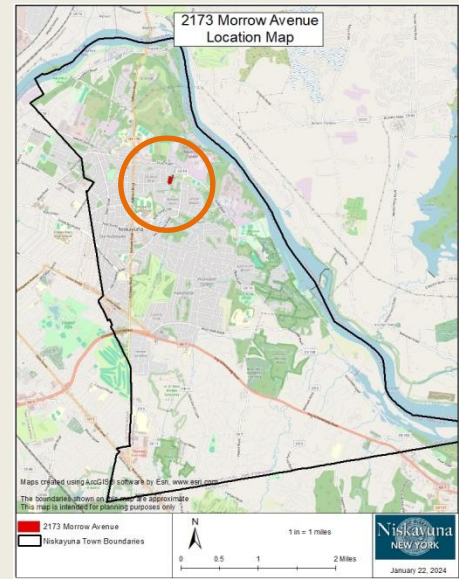
- The Maple Avenue parcels have hiking trails that adjoin an informal trail system on private land extending south into the Town of Colonie. By following the Lisha Kill corridor it may be possible in the future to create a five mile long hiking trail/greenway connecting the Mohawk River in Niskayuna to the 3,350 acre Albany Pine Bush Preserve located to the south in the towns of Colonie and Guilderland.
- 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.
- Designating the Lisha Kill as a Critical Environmental Area and working with the Town of Colonie to also declare the Lisha Kill as a Critical Environmental Area can protect the water quality and habitat of the Lisha Kill.

MOHAWK HUDSON BIKE-HIKE TRAIL CORRIDOR



- Work with adjacent large property owners, including SI Group and GE, to protect land along the MHBHT and to also allow new trailhead connections, increasing pedestrian and bicycle access while conserving natural habitats. This would meet a goal of the Town's Comprehensive Plan to "identify continuity gaps that would connect park recreational lands to the existing Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and acquire/develop public land to resolve this."²⁴
- Designating the Mohawk River as a Critical Environmental Area can protect the water quality and habitat of the River.

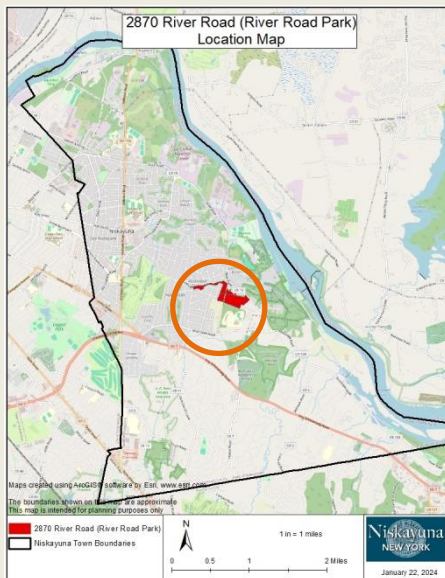
MORROW AVENUE



- 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.

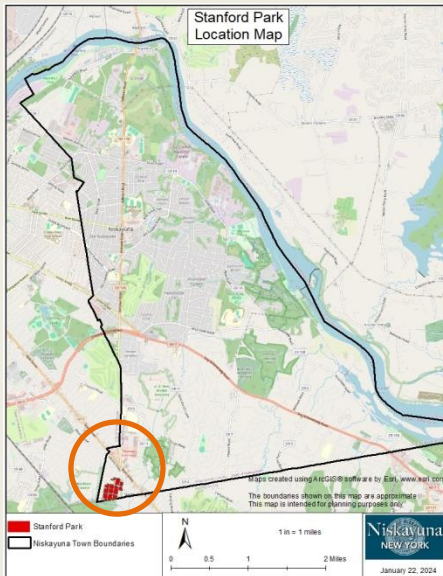
²⁴ Town of Niskayuna Comprehensive Development Plan, 2013, p. 45

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.



- Install a parking lot, kiosk, foot planks and trails and link to the Woodlawn Preserve and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve per the Niskayuna Comprehensive Plan recommendations²⁵.
- Work to protect lands between Stanford Park and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve per the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan recommendation and the NY State Open Space Conservation Plan soliciting funds from the EPA, USFW and other agencies.^{26, 27}
- Designating the lands between Stanford Park, the Woodlawn Preserve in Schenectady and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve as a Critical Environmental Area can protect the habitat of the Pine Bush ecological community.

²⁵ Niskayuna Comprehensive Development Plan. 2013. Page 41.

²⁶ Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan. 2017. Pages 56, 57.

²⁷ NY State Open Space Conservation Plan. Page 123

SURVEY DETAILS

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

October 18, 2024 Survey

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:

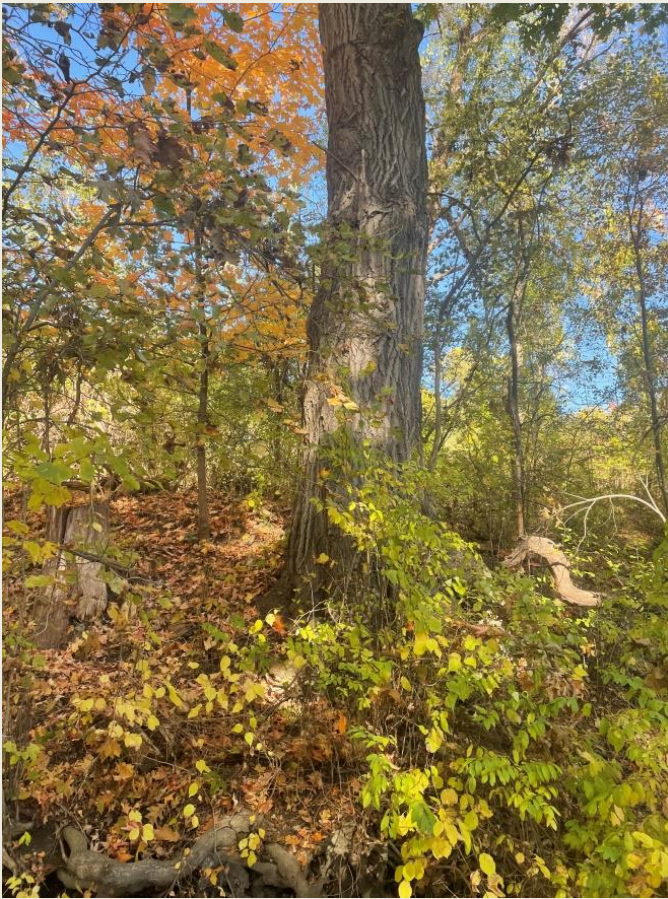
The western section of the Park has lawn with wooded wetlands. The edge of the lawn has Canada goldenrod. Trees include those typically found in wetlands including large cottonwoods and medium sized elms, silver maples and red maples. Some elms are dying from Dutch elm disease. Locusts also grow here. 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.

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.



Large red oak along stream

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.

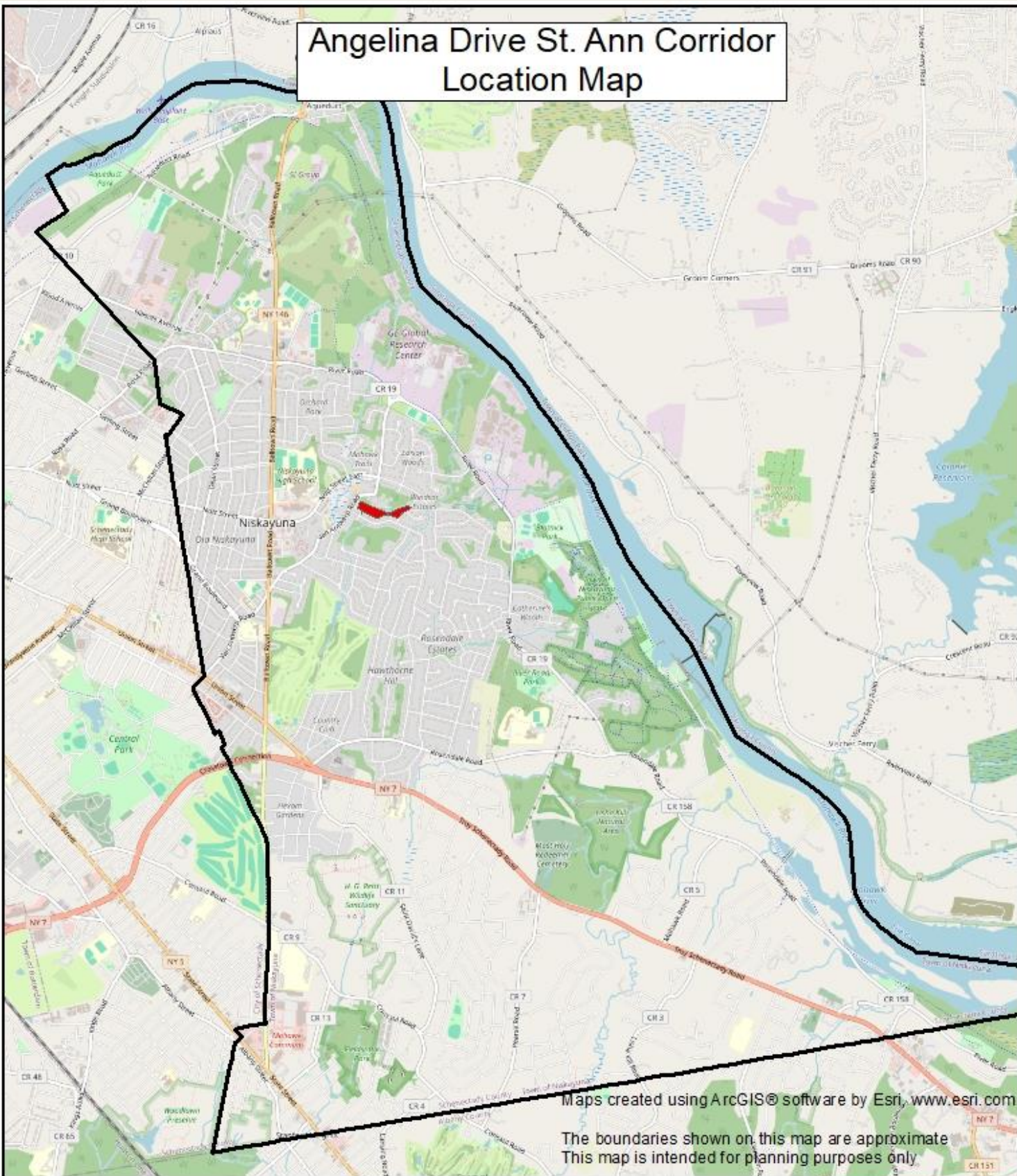


Trail through Norway Spruce grove



Shrubland along St. Ann Drive

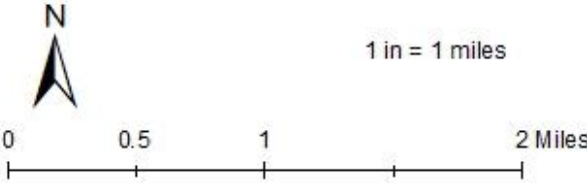
Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor Location Map



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

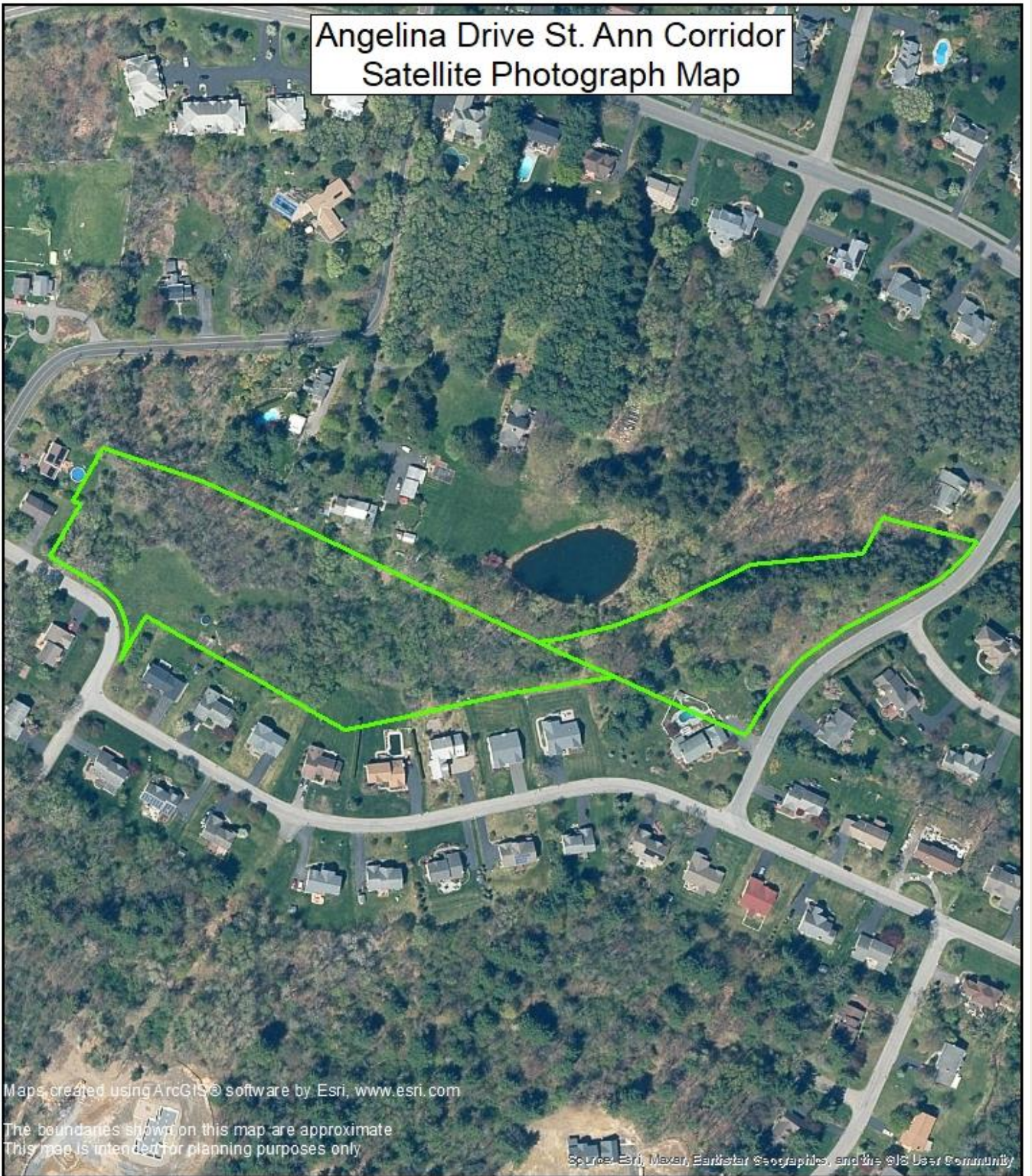
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

- Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor
- Niskayuna Town Boundaries



January 22, 2024


Angelina Drive St. Ann 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, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor

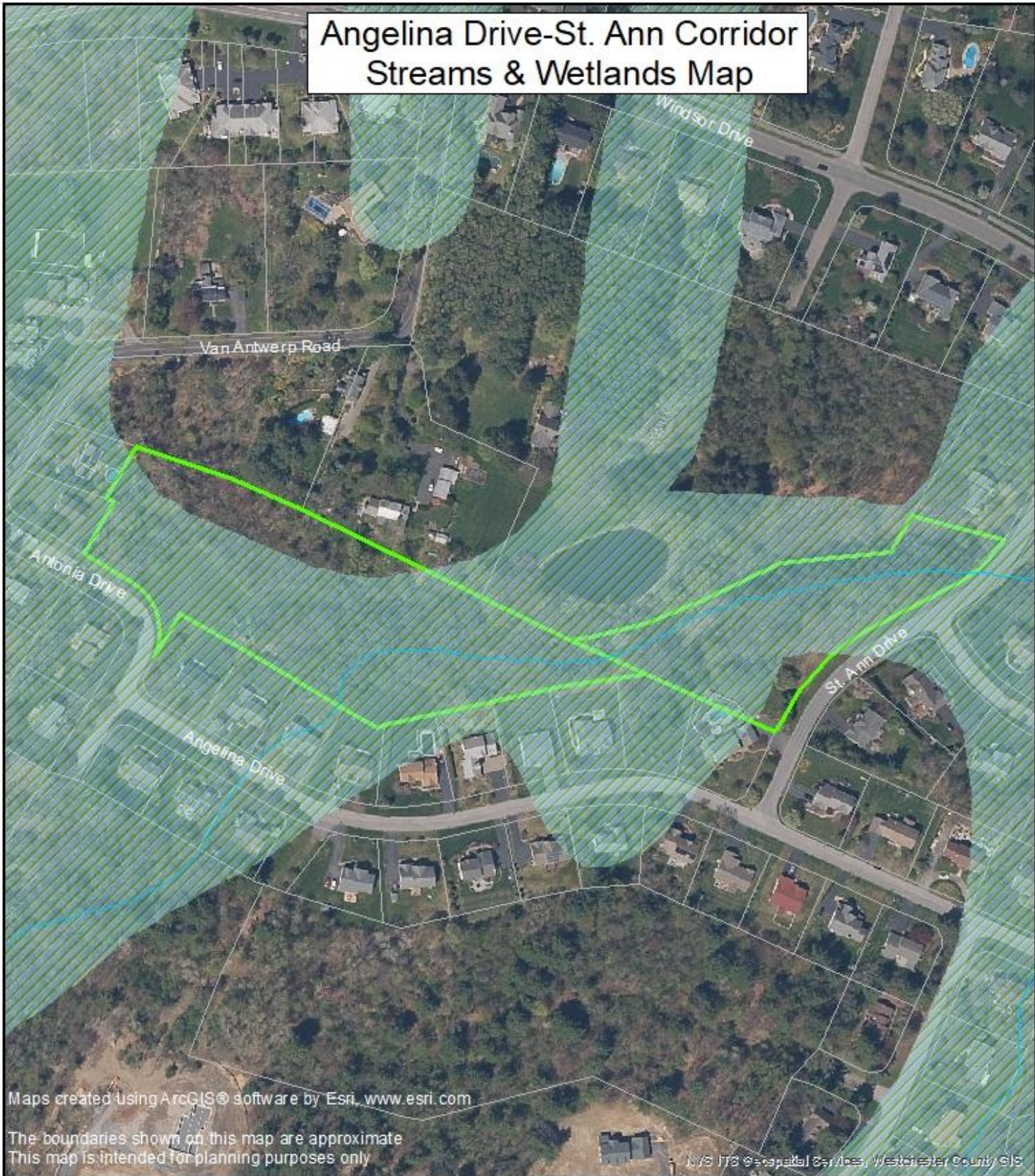


0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles



January 24, 2024

Angelina Drive-St. Ann Corridor Streams & Wetlands Map

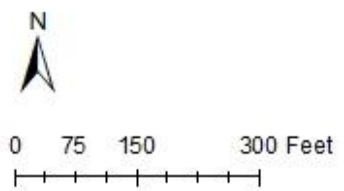


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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

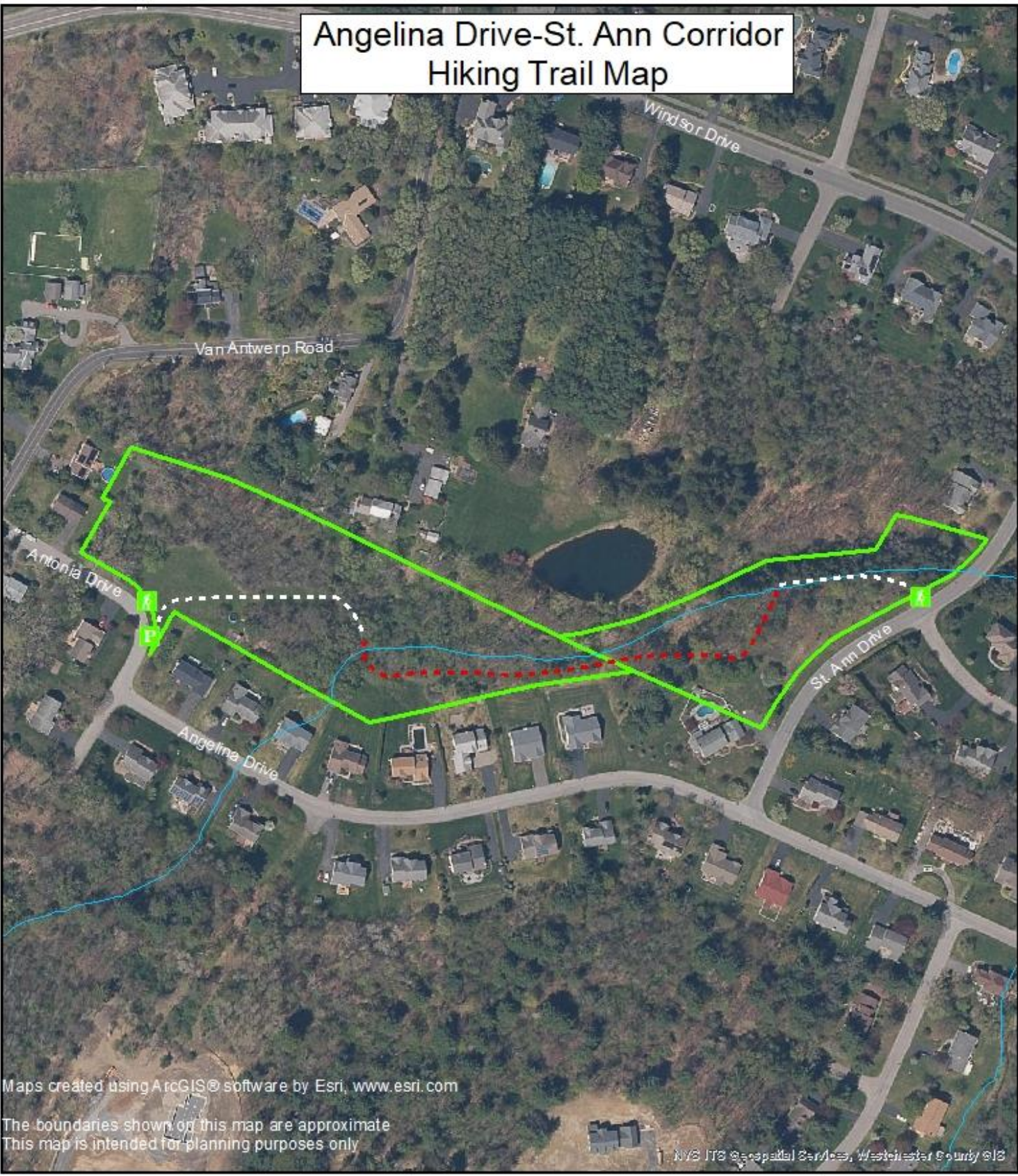
NYS IFS © Capital Services, Westchester County GIS

-  Angelina Dr-St. Ann Corridor
7 acres
-  Wetland Soils
-  Streams



October 19, 2024

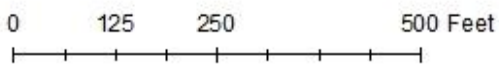
Angelina Drive-St. Ann Corridor Hiking Trail Map



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

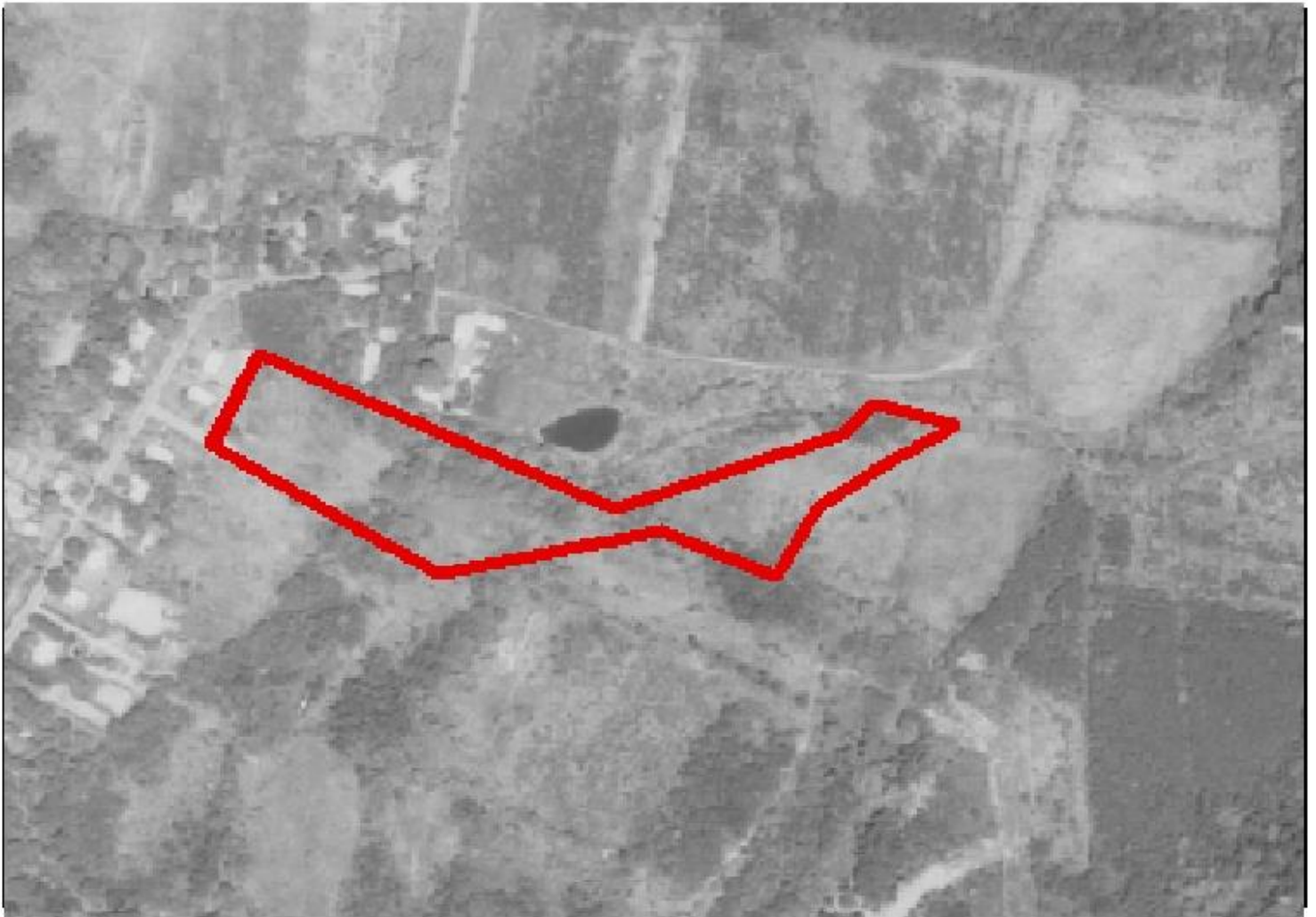
NYS ITS Geospatial Services, Westchester County ©13



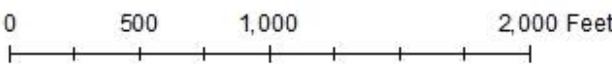

- Angelina Dr-St. Ann Corridor-7 acres
- P Parking
- ▲ Trail Entrance
- Trail
- Trail incomplete
- Streams



October 19, 2024

Angelina Drive-St. Ann Corridor
1982 Aerial Photograph Map



 Angelina Dr-St. Ann Corridor-7 acres	<p>N</p>   <p>0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet</p>	 <p>October 19, 2024</p>
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Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor Elevations Map



-  Angelina Drive St. Ann Corridor
-  Elevations-10 ft. intervals



0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles



October 19, 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

NY State 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 SURVEY

August 16, 2024, August 17, 2024, 2024 Survey

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).



County Clare Lane



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

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.

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

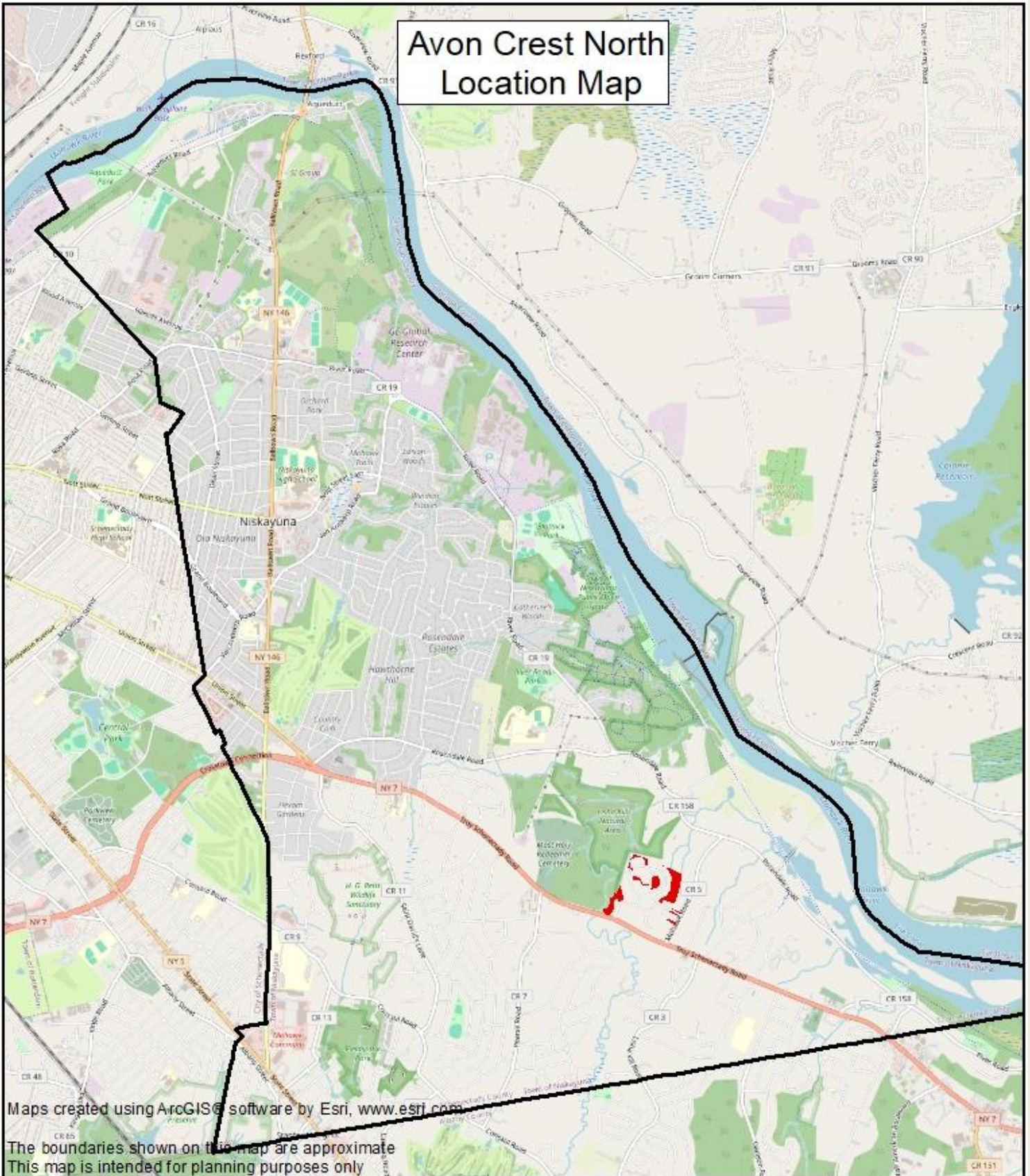


Scoured streambank and exposed roots



CONSERVATION VALUES:

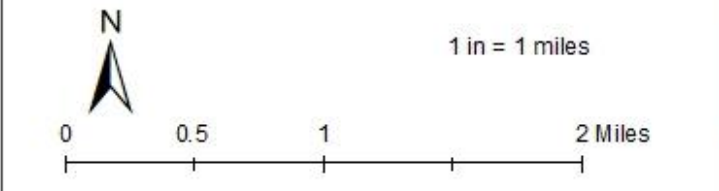
The Avon Crest North parcels' trees, two streams and wetlands provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: water filtration, groundwater recharge, stormwater regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention on the steep slopes along the Mohawk River, air pollutant and greenhouse 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

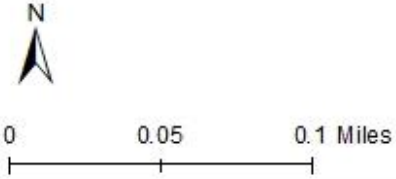


Niskayuna
NEW YORK
August 17, 2024

Avon Crest North Tax Parcel Map



-  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






0 0.05 0.1 Miles

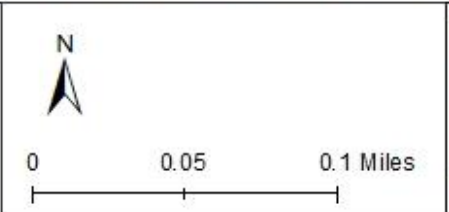


August 17, 2024

Avon Crest North Elevations Map



-  Town Properties
-  Nature Conservancy
-  Elevations-10 ft. intervals



August 17, 2024

Avon Crest North Topographic Map

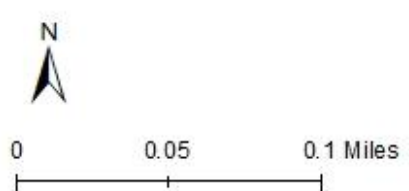


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri. www.esri.com

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	 	 August 17, 2024
Lisha Kill & Tributaries	Wetland Soils		
Hemlock Groves			

Avon Crest North Hiking Trails Map

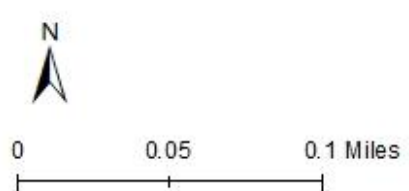


Map created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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

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

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



August 17, 2024

BLATNICK PARK SURVEY

May 14, 2022, June 19, 2022 Survey

REGIONAL SETTING:

The 188-acre Blatnick Park lies in the eastern section of Niskayuna along the Mohawk River (see Blatnick Park Location Map to right and page 33). The Park is bounded to the east by the Mohawk River, to the north by Knolls Atomic Power Lab and the Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail, to the west by River Road and to the south by several properties including: the 9-acre Town-owned Catherine Woods; a large, 28-acre privately owned parcel; the Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and another 6-acre parcel owned by the Town that runs to the Mohawk River. These southern parcels all connect to Mohawk River State Park and include hiking and biking trails connecting to the Park (see Blatnick Park Surrounding Open Space Map below and page 38).



PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Blatnick Park's active recreational facilities include ball fields, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, a driving range, a disk golf course, a dog park and restrooms. The 2016 Town Parks Master Plan recommends constructing a new community pool and community center where the disk golf field is located at a cost in 2016 of \$5.4 million. The Park also has a recycling and transfer station, storage for the Town Highway Department, a large compost area and an approximately twenty-eight-acre capped and mounded landfill (see Blatnick Park Existing Features Map below and page 39).

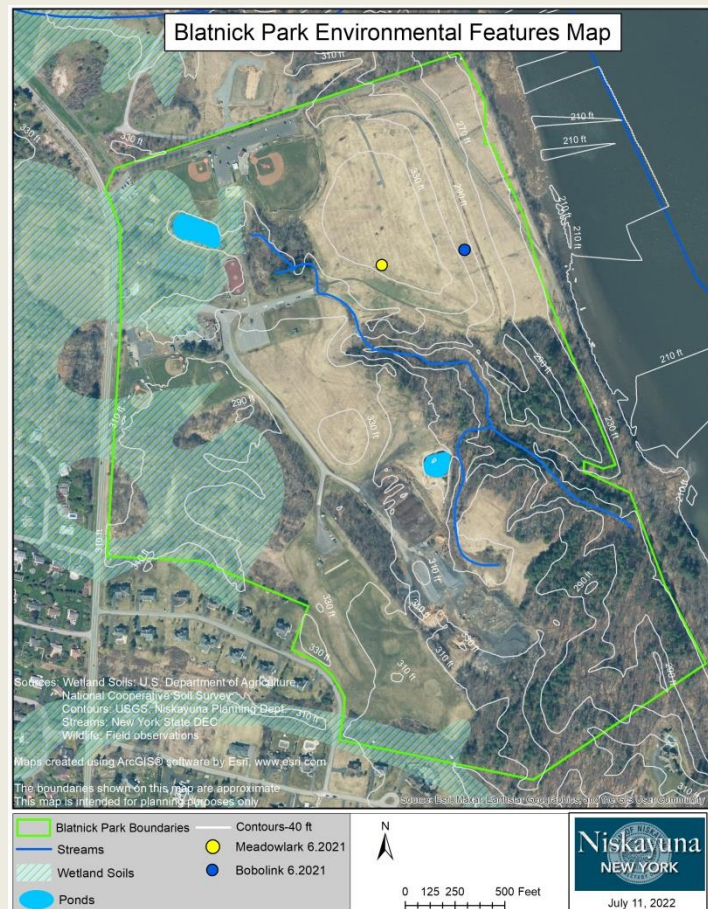
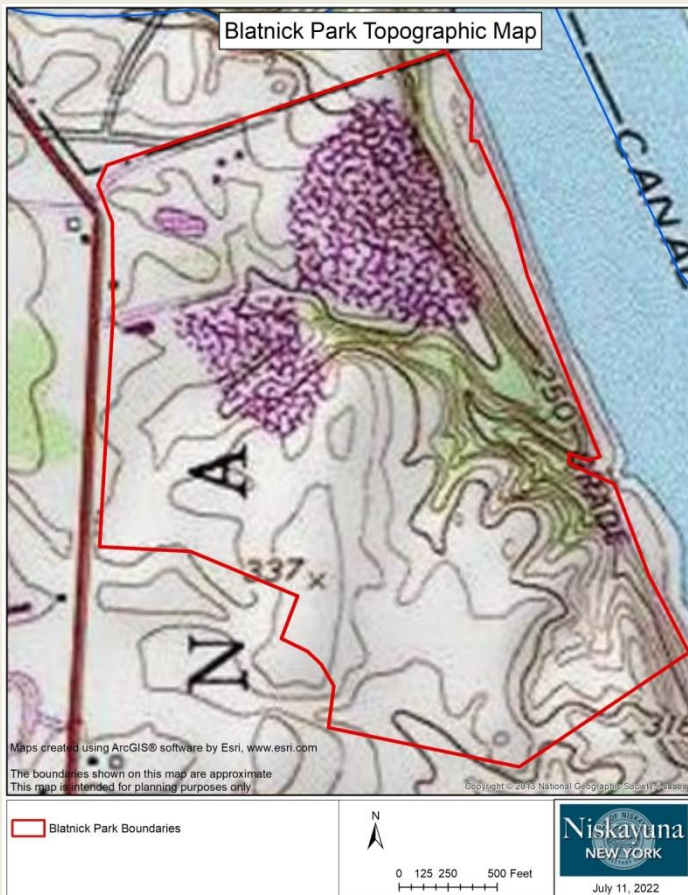
The Park has nearly three miles of hiking trails that are part of the John Brown Hiking Trail system which runs through the Park and south to the Town's Catherine Woods property and to trails at Mohawk River State Park. The Mohawk Hudson Bike -Hike Trail also runs for approximately one mile through the Park and then continuing both north and south (see Blatnick Park Satellite Photograph Map next page and page 34).

Blatnick Park Existing Features



Approximately 30% or sixty acres of the Park are wooded (see Blatnick Park Satellite Photograph Map to right and page 34). Approximately 15% of the Park's 188 acres have wetland soils, all lying in the western third of the Park where the bulk of recreational fields and courts are located (see Blatnick Park Environmental Features Map below and page 35 and Blatnick Park Environmental Features Pond Close-Up Map page 36). The 2016 Town Parks Master Plan recommends correcting drainage problems at several of the baseball fields built in these wetland soils. An unnamed stream runs through the Park from the northwest entrance southeast for approximately two-thirds of a mile through Shaker Gorge to the Mohawk River (see Blatnick Park Environmental Features Map below and page 35).

Ponds include a man-made half-acre pond at the northwest section of the Park and a smaller 0.4 acre pond in the center of the Park. The Park's elevations slope eastward to the Mohawk River from a height of 315 feet above sea level at the Park's western boundary to a low point of 210 feet at the River (see Blatnick Park Environmental Features Map previous page and page 35 and Blatnick Park Topographic Map below and page 37).



ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES:

FIELDS:

The Park has five meadows totaling approximately fifty acres or 25% of the Park. Fields include: the approximately twenty-eight acre large, capped landfill; the approximately ten acre field at the driving range; the approximately ten acre field at the disk golf course; an approximately three acre field labeled 'Bird Sanctuary' in the 2016 Town Parks Master Plan and an approximately one acre field surrounding a small pond in the center of the Park (see Blatnick Park Satellite Photograph Map page 34).

The capped landfill is unique because of its habitat for declining grassland bird species including bobolink and meadowlark, both observed there in June, 2021. The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas 2000-2005 does not include any observations of these two species in Niskayuna, meaning that their return is because of the decision to not mow the top of the landfill and instead allowing grasses to grow up until at least mid-summer after these birds have successfully nested. Keeping the landfill's grassland unmowed until mid-summer has the support of the Town Supervisor, the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and the Schenectady County Soil and Water Conservation District.²⁸ Plants growing on the capped landfill include birds foot trefoil, red clover, yellow sweet clover, common milkweed, ox-eye daisy, bedstraw and pasture grasses. Plants growing around the perimeter of the landfill include elderberry, gray-stemmed dogwood, common milkweed and whorled loosestrife--all beneficial plants.



Views of Mohawk River from trails on capped landfill

²⁸ Daily Gazette, Feb 25, 2022

The ten acre driving range field includes a five acre portion along the western half of the field designated as 'Low Mow Pollinator Habitat Initiative', part of the Conservation Advisory Council's Niskayuna Biodiversity Initiative begun in 2020 (see Low-Mow Pollinator Habitat Initiative Map to right and page 40). The Niskayuna Highway Department will continue to mow a walking path for residents through this area but the remaining area should be allowed to grow and only be mowed once a year in late fall to allow native plants, pollinators, birds and other wildlife to survive there.

The disk golf course originally only included the ten acres shown in the 2016 Town Parks Master Plan (see Blatnick Park Existing Features Map page 35). The disk golf course has expanded since then.

The three acre Bird Sanctuary field and smaller field surrounding the pond in the center of the Park provide additional habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife and should be left undisturbed.

FORESTS:

Approximately 60 acres, one third of the Park, consists of mature mixed deciduous and evergreen trees (see Blatnick Park Satellite Photograph Map page 34). A sixteen acre wooded block lies along the Park's western boundary and a larger, forty-four acre forest lies in the Park's southeastern section that continues to the banks of the Mohawk River, designated as Endangered Species Critical Area due bald eagles nesting there and should be undisturbed. Bald eagles are listed as 'threatened' in New York State.



Bald eagle nesting area along Mohawk River



BLATNICK POND AND STREAM:

The half-acre pond at the Park's entrance is man-made. The pond is surrounded by tightly mown grass. While this allows residents to view and have access to the pond, it also has resulted in a large number of Canada geese whose droppings have contributed to the pond's eutrophication (excess growth of algae due to an overabundance of nitrogen and phosphorous acting as fertilizer). Mowing also sends grass clippings which are high in nutrients into the pond, causing more algae growth. A solution to the pond's eutrophication that still allows residents to enjoy and experience the pond would be to only mow half or less of the pond's shoreline and mow walking paths among the higher vegetation. The resulting taller grass around the pond can discourage Canada geese, filter pollution and shade and cool the pond's water while providing habitat for insects, birds and other wildlife.

The pond's southern shoreline already has some natural vegetation including native cattails and Indian hemp (dogbane) which should be allowed to grow. At least sixteen native birch trees, each approximately six feet tall, have been planted along the pond's north shore on a steep embankment. Native plantings like this can be continued around other sections of the pond. A very large, thirty inch in diameter sycamore tree grows just west of the pond, along with a magnificent, triple-trunk silver maple, both providing cooling and shade for visitors.

A steep embankment along the pond's north shoreline is not being cut--probably because it is too steep to be mowed. The result is positive with winter cress, grasses and gill-over-the-ground growing naturally and providing habitat, some pollution abatement and attractive color and structure for visitors.

The outlet of the pond at the eastern edge is a wooded ravine (see Blatnick Park Environmental Features Pond Close-Up Map below and page 36). Trees growing here include medium sized black walnut, box elder and quacking aspen along with large cottonwood trees, a few large elm trees, a white pine tree and an understory of native sumac shrubs. This somewhat neglected portion of the Park provides wildlife habitat while preventing erosion and silt and sediment from flowing into the stream which flows into the nearby Mohawk River.



Pond with algae



Steep embankment where grass is allowed to grow

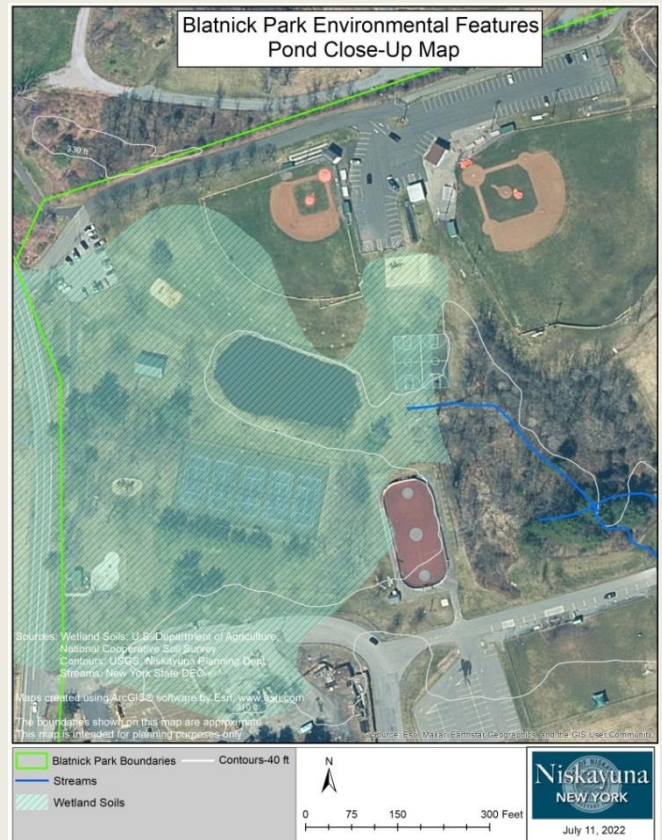
CONSERVATION VALUES:

The Park's mature forests, 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 woods at Knolls Atomic Power Lab to the north and Mohawk River State Park to the south, this forest 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.

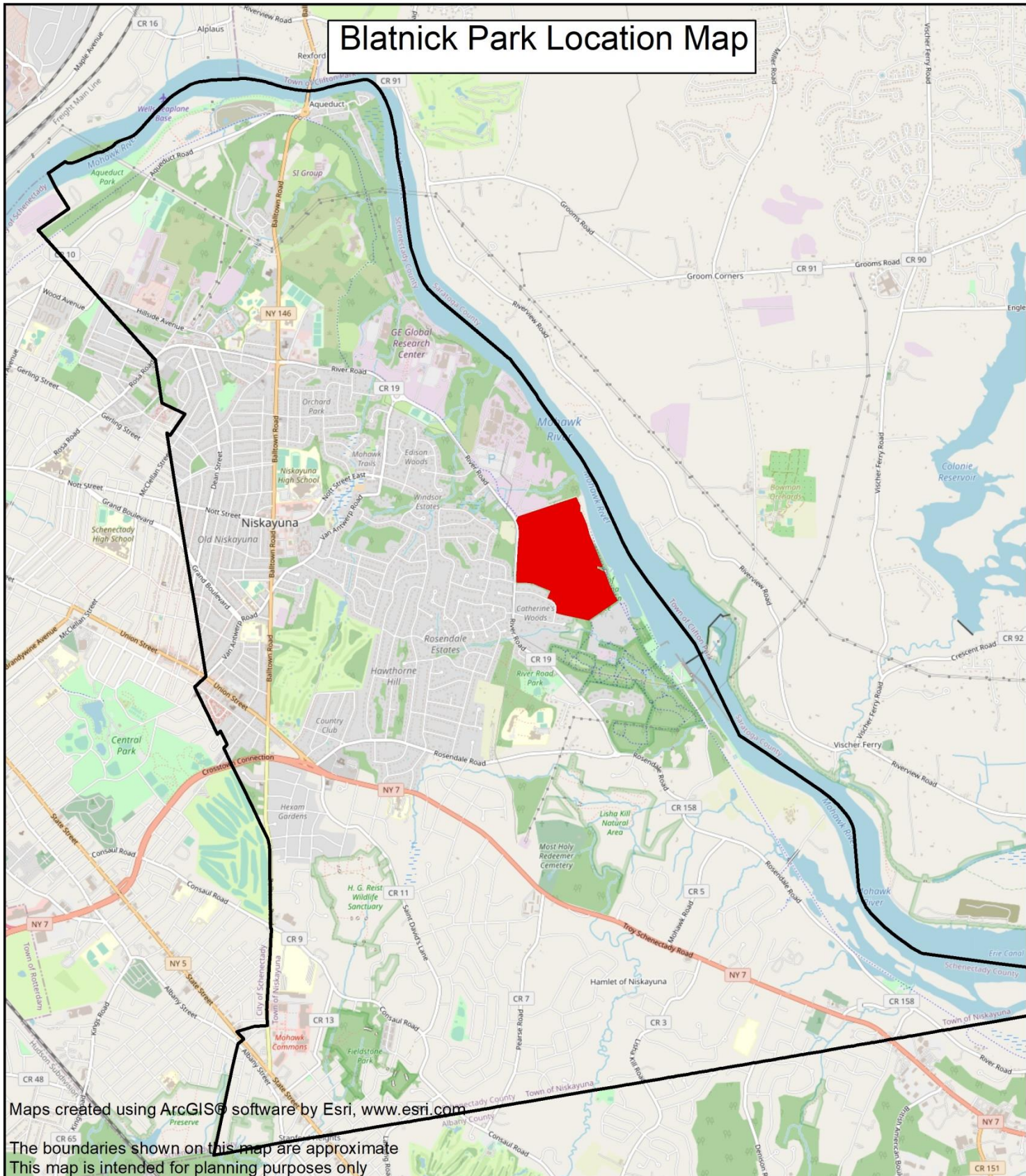
These forests have other conservation values for Niskayuna's residents and visitors including protecting the scenic views from the Mohawk River, from River Road and from the Mohawk River Bike-Hike Trail. The Park's forests also provide educational and recreational values.

Due to the loss of farmland, reforestation and development, fields are increasingly rare and many of the species that depend on this habitat are in steep decline. The Park's five fields provide critical habitat to these species of insects, birds, small mammals and other wildlife including bobolink and meadowlark mentioned above. The fields and trails also provide scenic vistas and recreational benefits for residents.

Just to the north of Blatnick Park is the Knolls Atomic Power Lab which has two large fields totaling approximately twenty-five acres in size. Currently these fields appear to be mowed regularly while the fields at General Electric just to the north are managed as meadows with less frequent mowing. Bird houses have also been put up in the fields along River Road at General Electric. By cutting their fields less frequently, the Knolls Atomic Power Lab could add to the mosaic of fields growing from Blatnick Park all the way to General Electric. This would have a positive impact on wildlife, including insect pollinators, birds and other species while adding to the scenic experience of residents passing by on the Mohawk River Bike-Hike Trail.





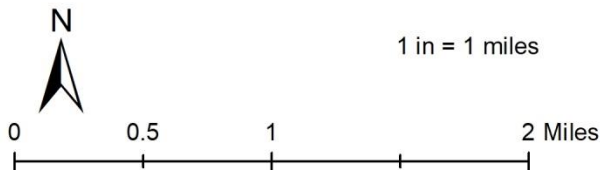
Blatnick Park Location Map



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

-  Blatnick Park
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



July 11, 2022

Blatnick Park Satellite Photograph Map



Sources: Trails: AllTrails, www.alltrails.com

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

 Blatnick Park Boundaries

 Hiking Trails

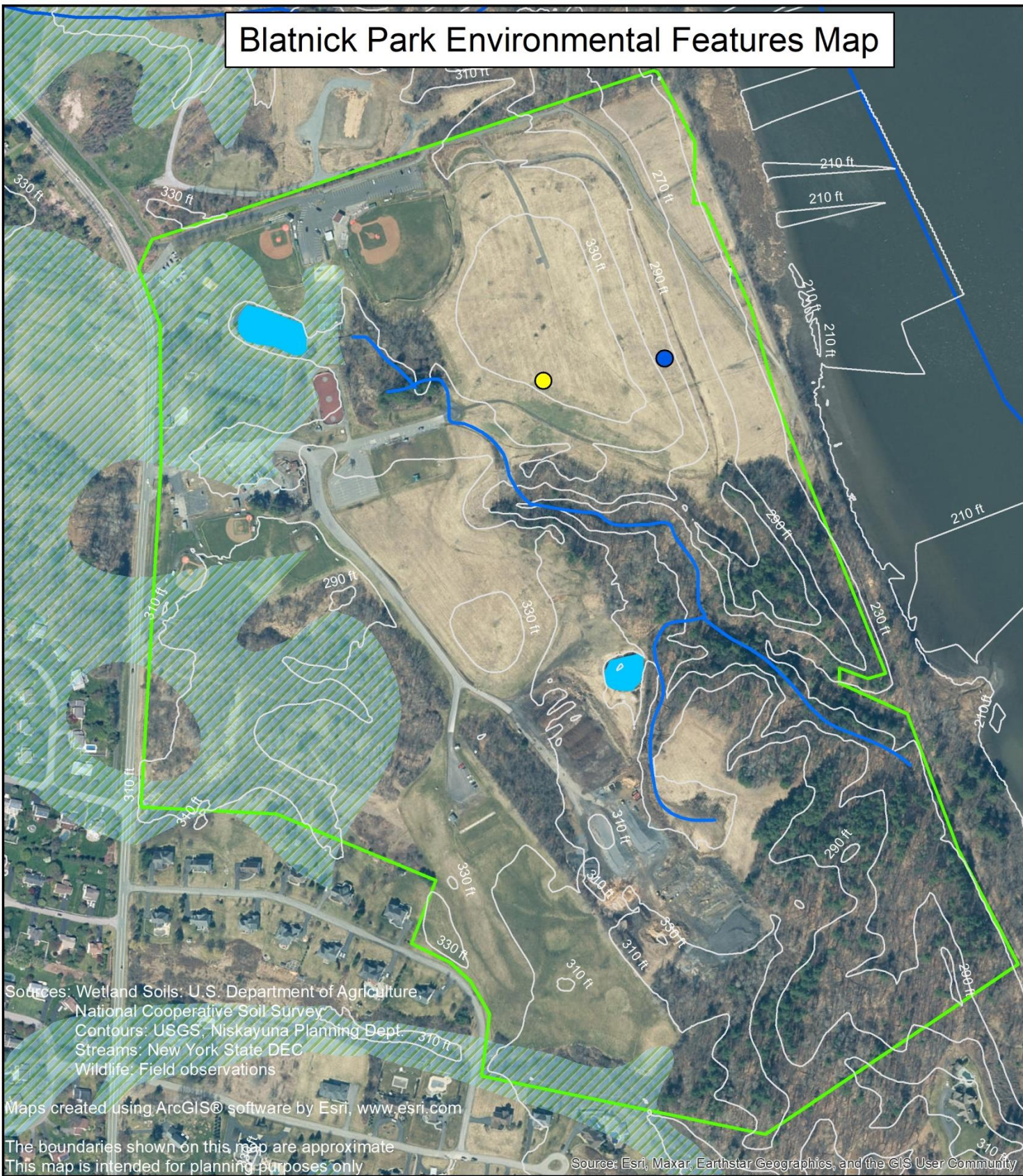


0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



July 11, 2022

Blatnick Park Environmental Features Map










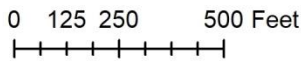

Sources: Wetland Soils: U.S. Department of Agriculture,
 National Cooperative Soil Survey
 Contours: USGS, Niskayuna Planning Dept.
 Streams: New York State DEC
 Wildlife: Field observations

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

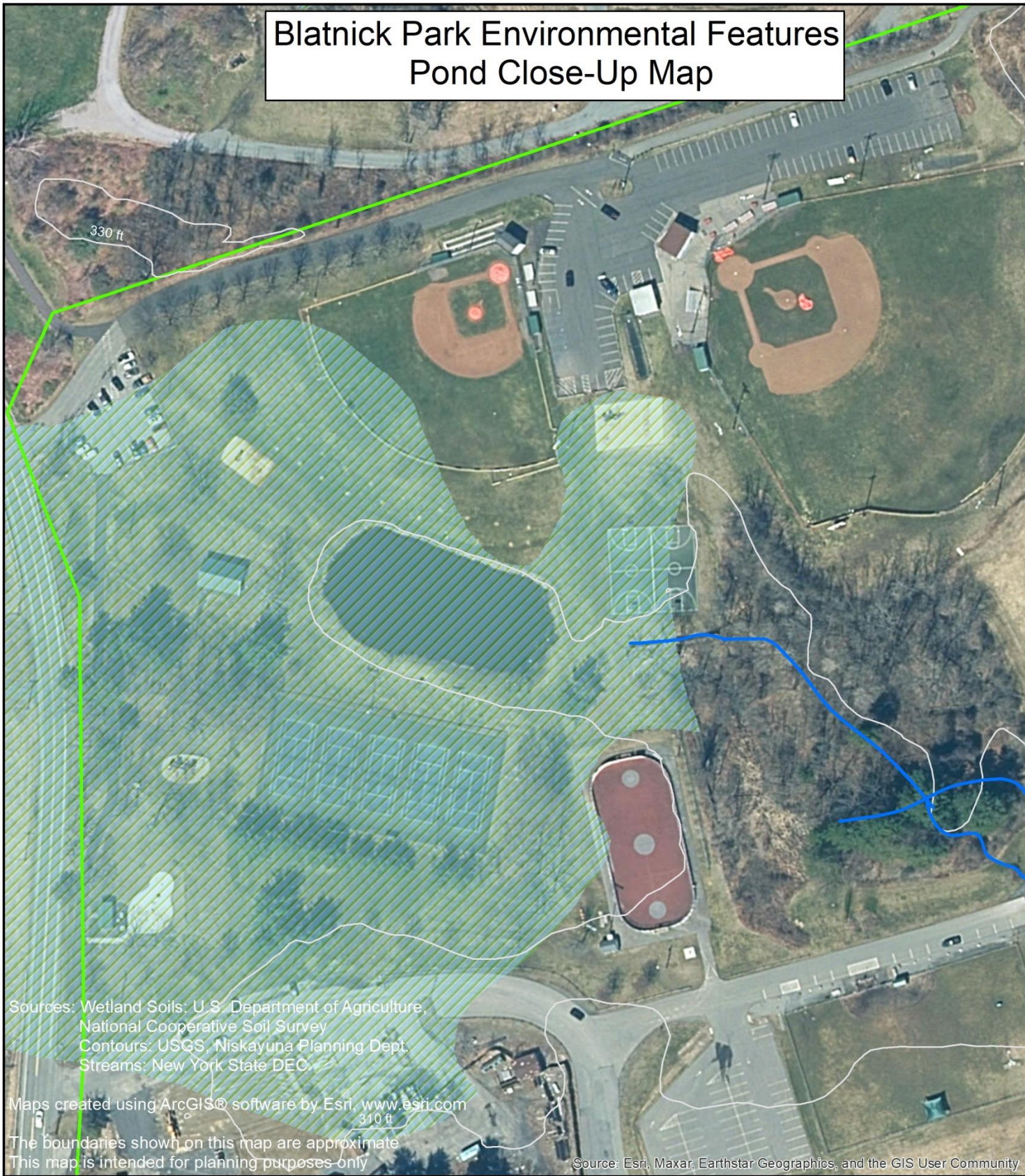
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 Blatnick Park Boundaries	 Contours-40 ft
 Streams	 Meadowlark 6.2021
 Wetland Soils	 Bobolink 6.2021
 Ponds	

July 11, 2022

Blatnick Park Environmental Features Pond Close-Up Map



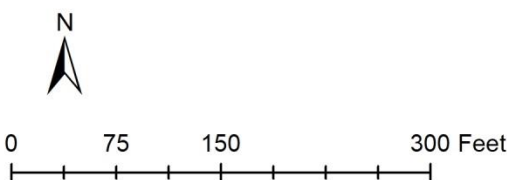
Sources: Wetland Soils: U.S. Department of Agriculture,
National Cooperative Soil Survey
Contours: USGS, Niskayuna Planning Dept.
Streams: New York State DEC

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

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

- Blatnick Park Boundaries
- Streams
- Wetland Soils
- Contours-40 ft



July 11, 2022

Blatnick Park Topographic Map



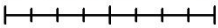
Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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

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 Blatnick Park Boundaries




0 125 250 500 Feet




July 11, 2022

Blatnick Park Surrounding Open Space Map



-  Protected Open Space
-  Unprotected Properties
-  Hike/Bike Trails

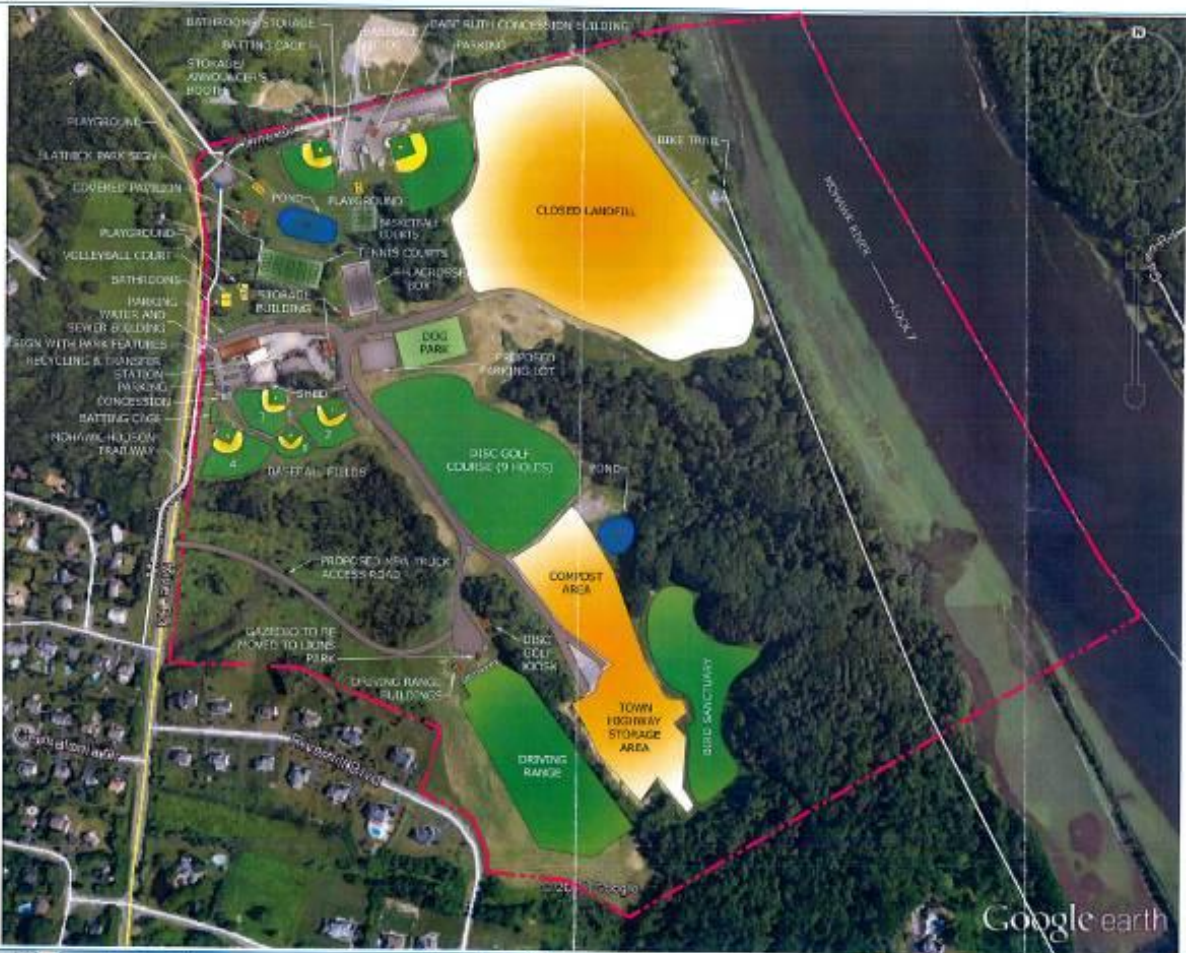


0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles



July 11, 2022

Blatnick Park Existing Features Map



NO.	DATE	REVISION	BY
00	8/1/14	ORIGNAL DRAW	ART
01	8/13/14	REVISED ISSUE	JOT
02	10/15/14	REVISED ISSUE	JOT

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TOWN OF SCHENECTADY
SCHENECTADY COUNTY

TOWN PARKS MASTER PLAN STUDY

<p>TOWN OF SCHENECTADY SCHENECTADY COUNTY</p> <p>TOWN PARKS MASTER PLAN STUDY</p>
--

<p>PROJECT TITLE:</p> <p>BLATNICK PARK EXISTING FEATURES</p>

<p>SCALE:</p> <p>AS NOTED</p> <p>FILE NO.:</p> <p>37-3403-001</p> <p>DATE:</p> <p>3/16/2014</p>	<p>SHEET NO.:</p> <p>1A</p>
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Blatnick Park Low-Mow Habitat Area Map



BRENDAN LANE SURVEY

August 16, 2024, August 17, 2024 Survey

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.

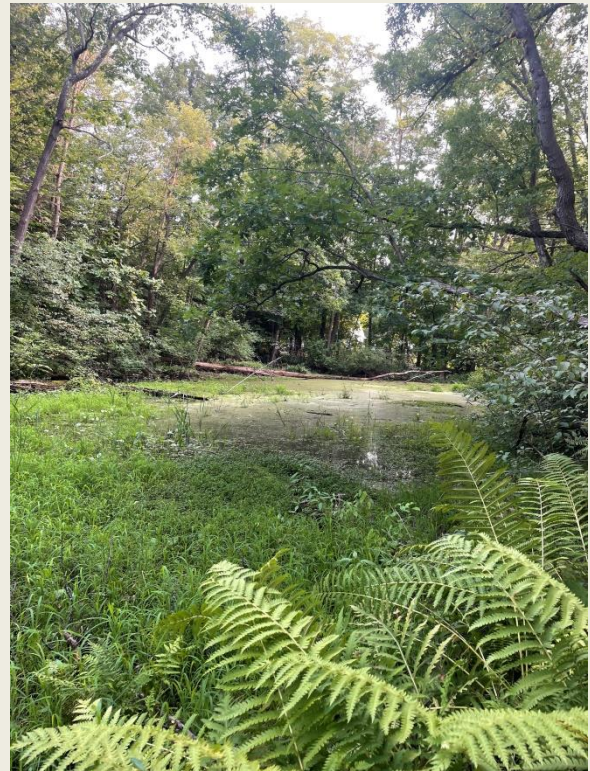


Brendan Lane trail leads to Reist Sanctuary

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

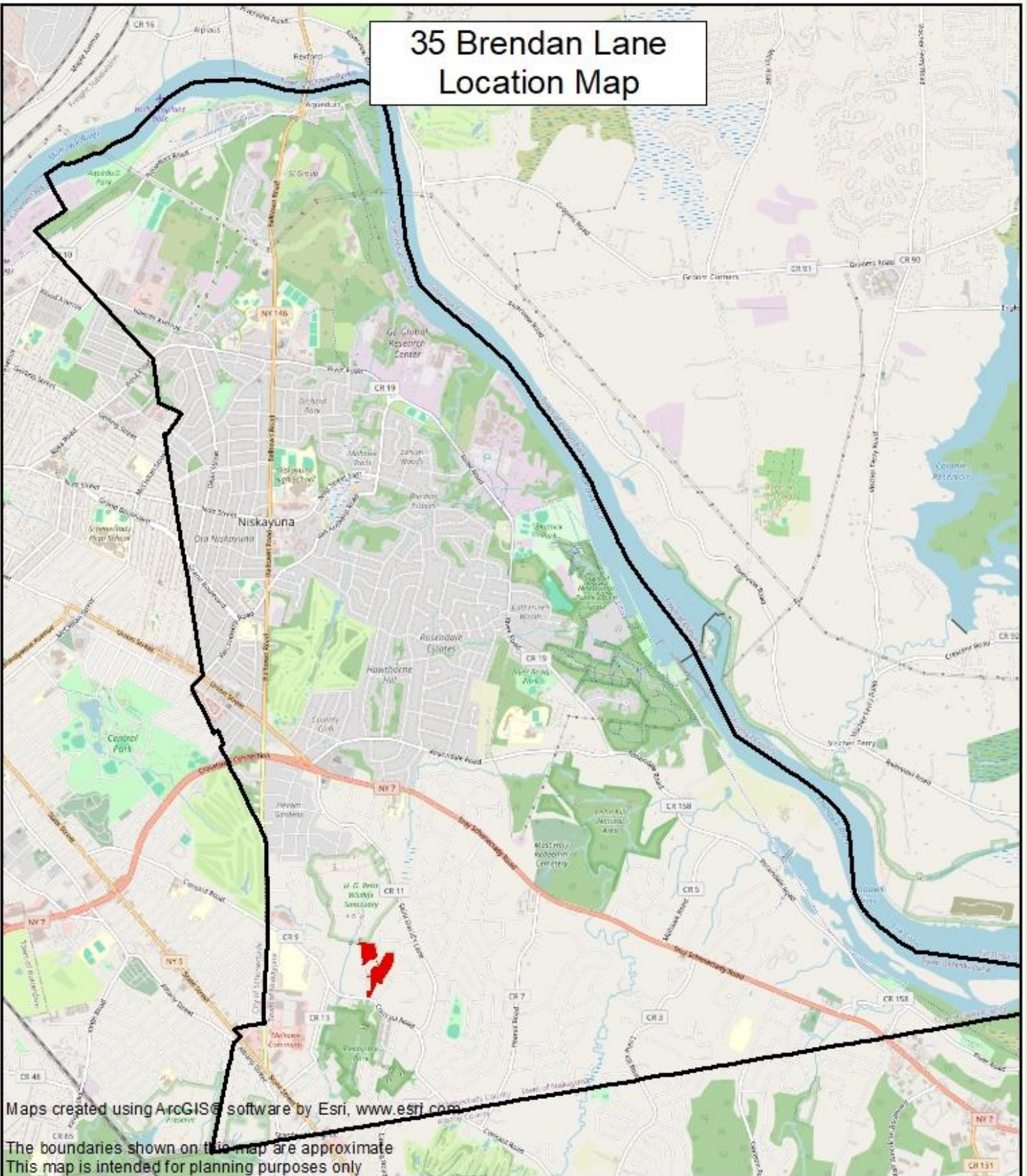


Cardinal flowers

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.

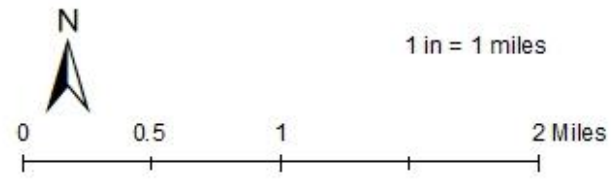
35 Brendan Lane Location Map



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

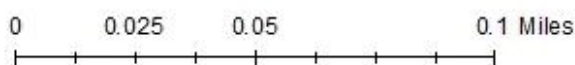


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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

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

 Town Properties-35 Brendan Lane
14 Acres




January 24, 2024


35 Brendan Lane Elevations Map




Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
Sources: Elevations: United States Geological Survey (USGS)
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

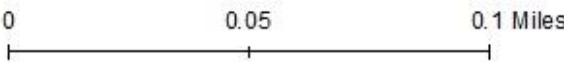
 Town Properties-35 Brendan Lane
14 Acres

 Elevations-10 ft. intervals

N



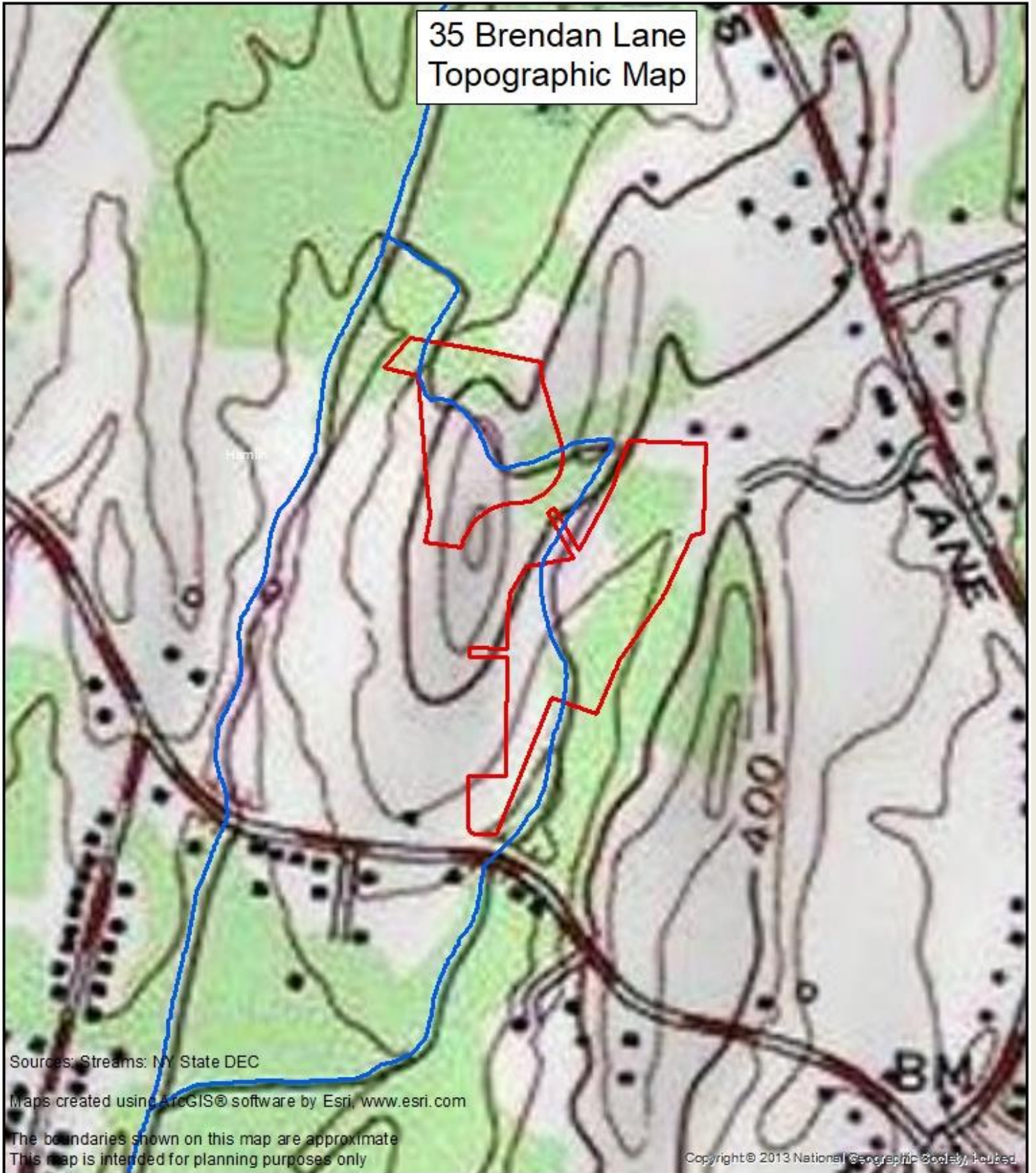
0 0.05 0.1 Miles





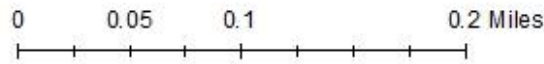
Niskayuna
NEW YORK

August 17, 2024

35 Brendan Lane Topographic Map

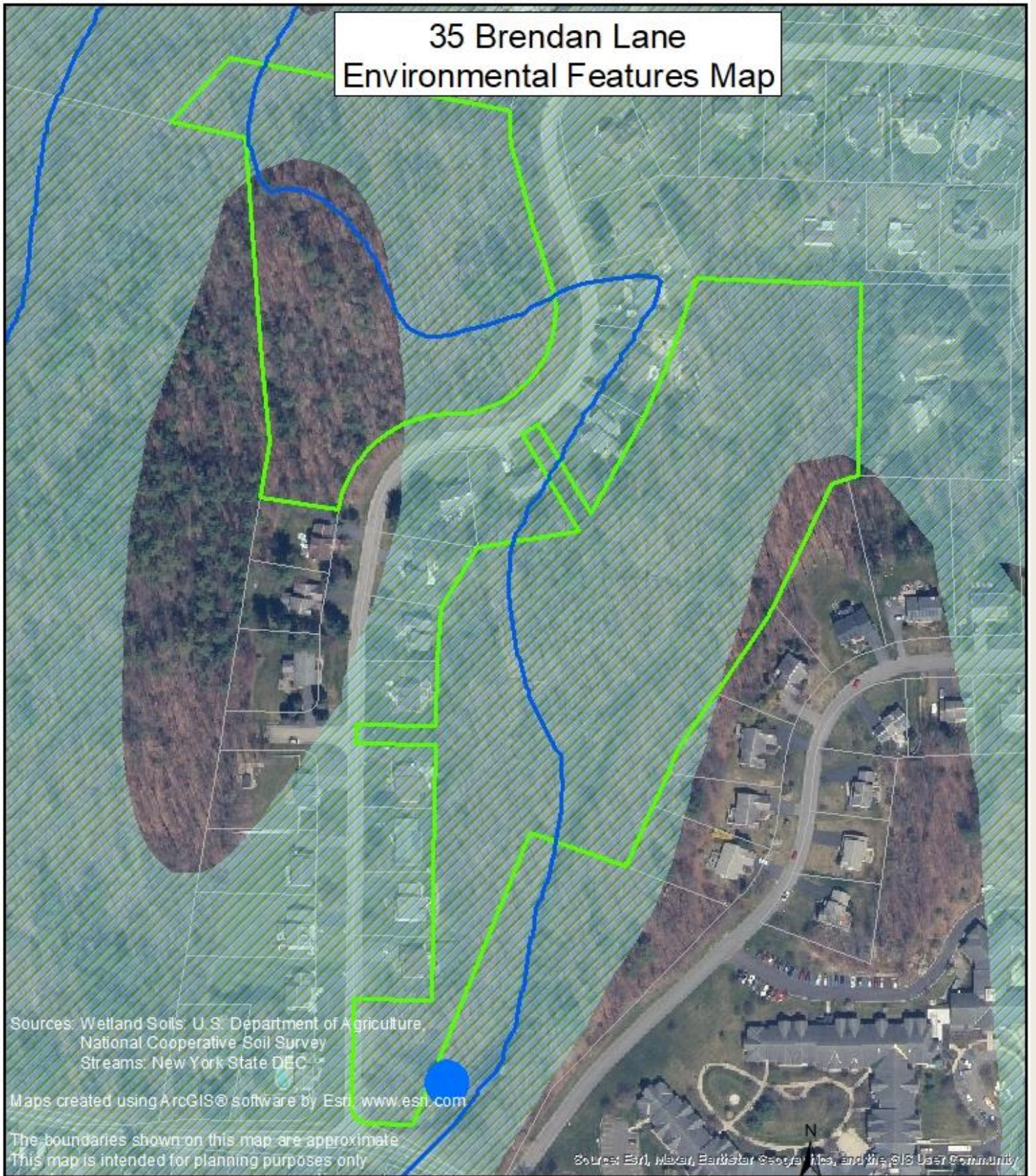


-  35 Brendan Lane
-  Streams

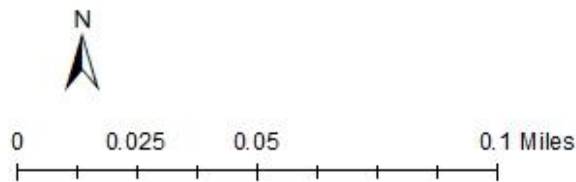


January 24, 2024

35 Brendan Lane Environmental Features Map



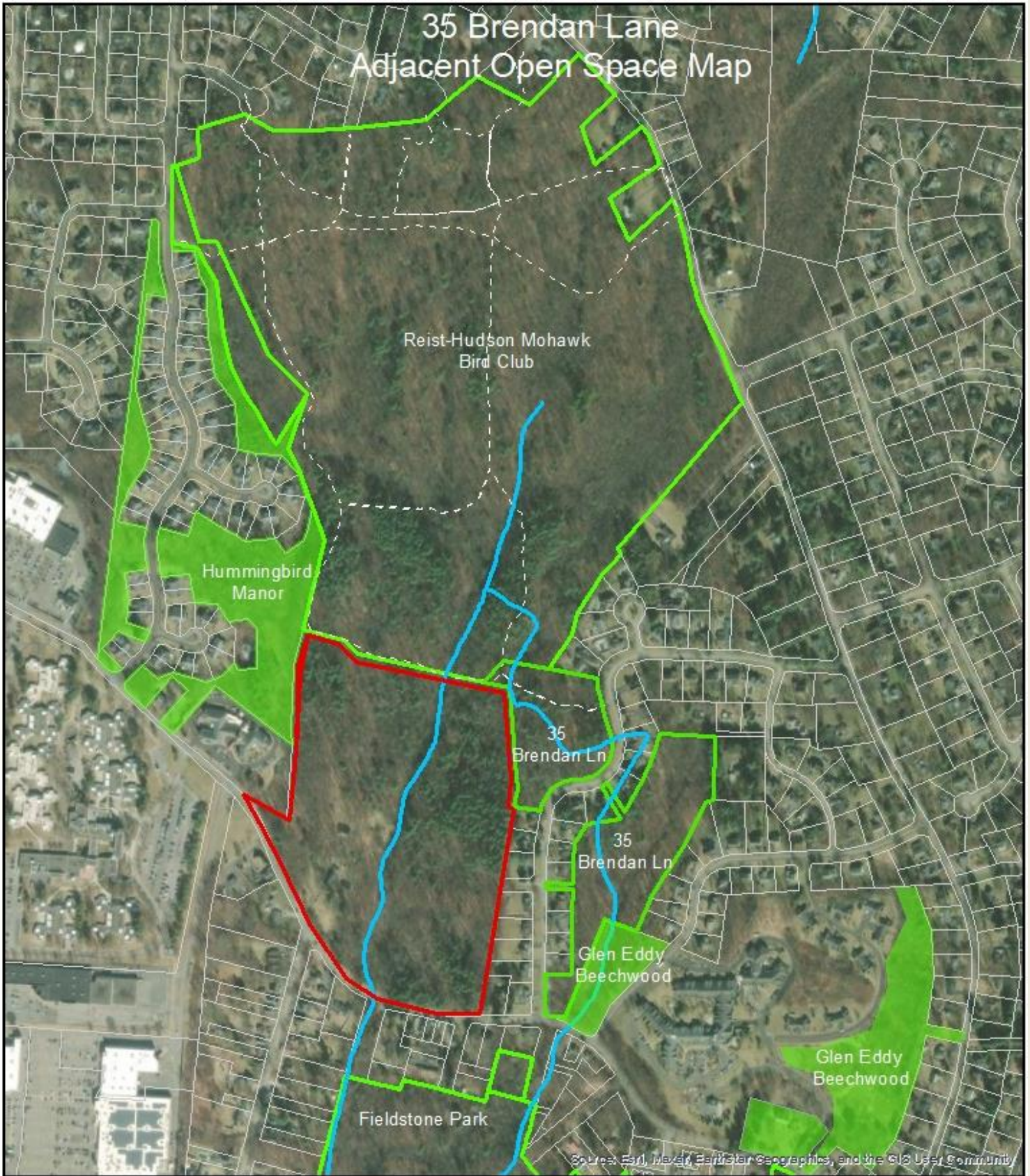
-  35 Brendan Lane
-  Streams
-  Wetland Soils
-  Pond



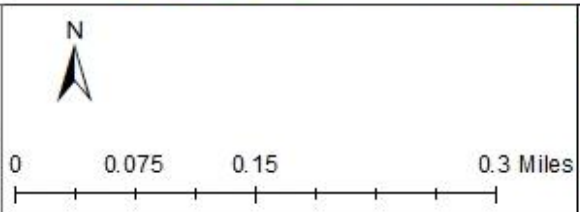
Niskayuna
NEW YORK

November 23, 2024

35 Brendan Lane Adjacent Open Space Map



- Niskayuna Boundaries
- Town Properties
- Protected Open Space (Private)
- Private Open Space Opportunities
- Trails
- Streams
- Tax Parcels



Niskayuna
NEW YORK


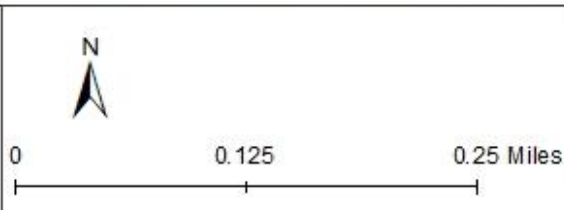
November 23, 2024

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

35 Brendan Lane Hiking Trails Map



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



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

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 racemosa, 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

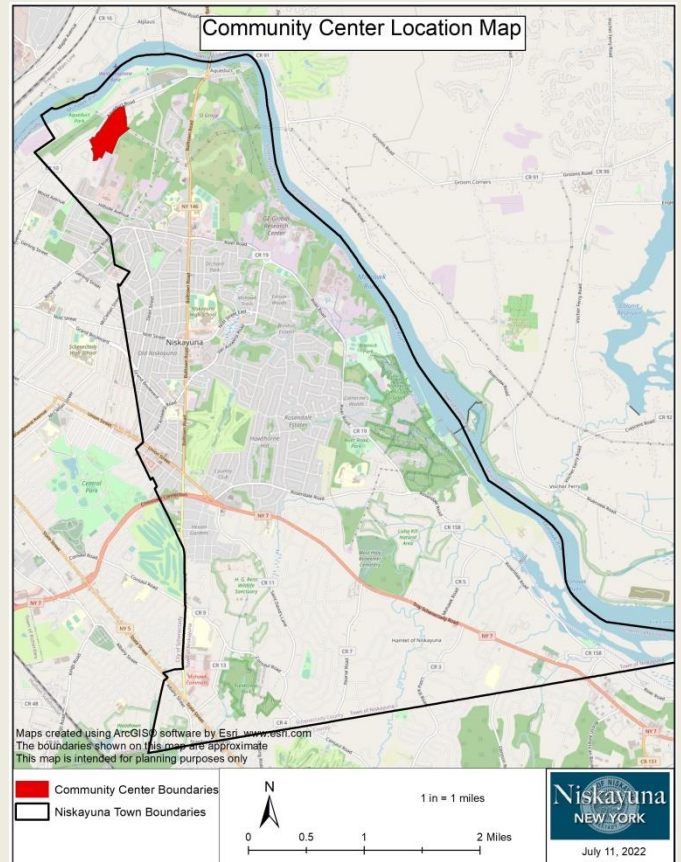
COMMUNITY CENTER FOREST SURVEY

May 14, 2022 Survey

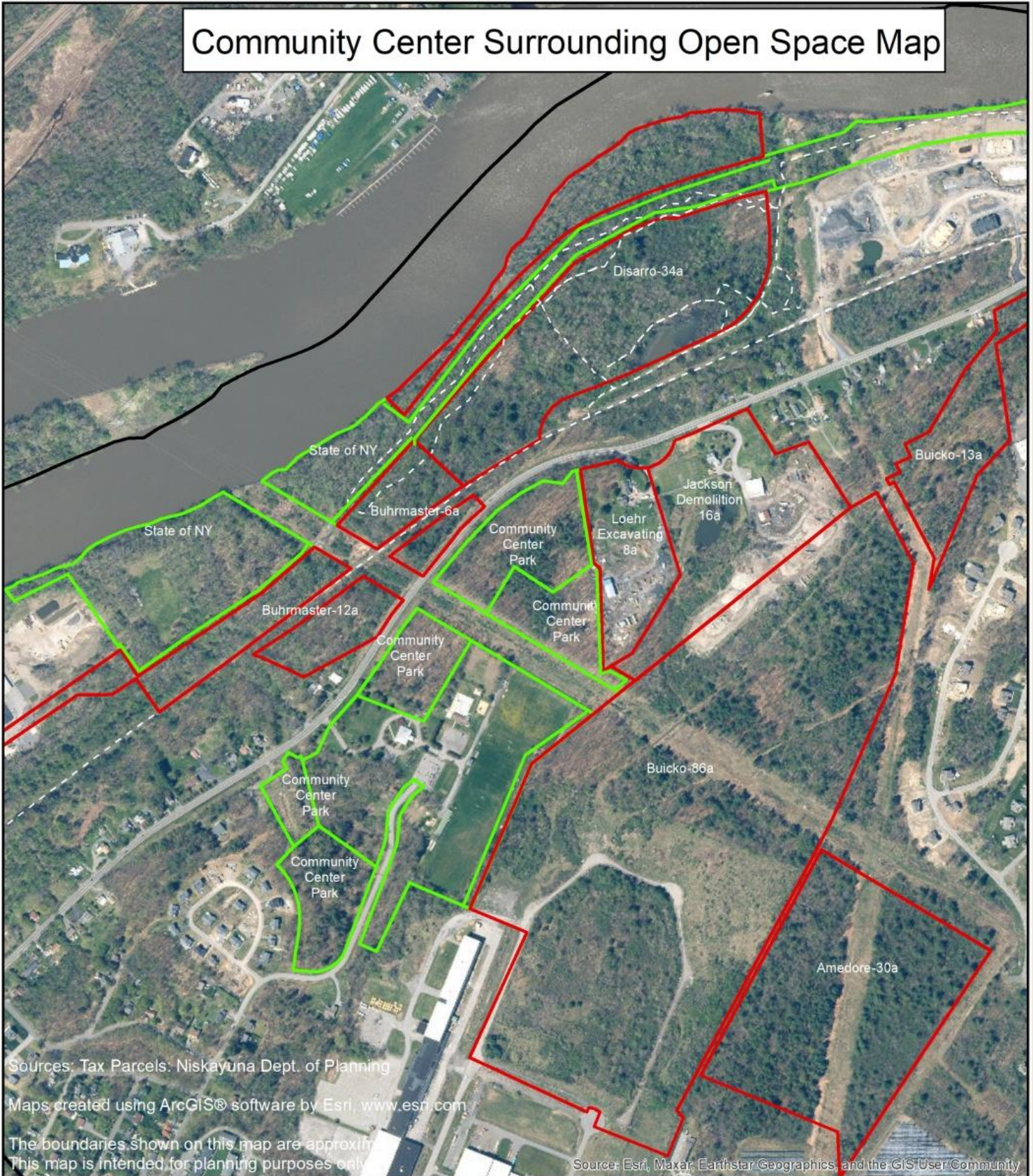
REGIONAL SETTING:

The Community Center-Recreation Center lies in the extreme northwestern section of Niskayuna (see Community Center Location Map to right and page 15). The Community Center complex includes ball fields, pavilions, playgrounds, a swimming pool, the Community/Senior Center building and other wooded areas. The 2016 Town Parks Master Plan recommends selling the building and pool and relocating the pool and building to Blatnick Park. The complex itself is part of a larger, approximately 53-acre area consisting of five Town-owned parcels. Approximately 31 of these 53 acres, or 60%, are wooded and undeveloped (see Community Center Tax Parcel Map to right and page 16).

The Center is bounded to the east, north and west by at least seven large, privately owned and undeveloped wooded parcels totaling approximately 187 acres (see Community Center Surrounding Open Space Map on the following page and page 20). Aqueduct Road runs along the Center's west boundary and beyond that further to the north and west is the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and approximately 20 acres of land owned by the NY State Canal Corporation along the Mohawk River. Along the Center's southwest boundary is a 23-home subdivision on land formerly belonging to the Town that was recently sold to a developer.



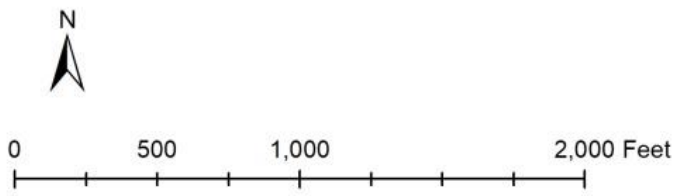
Community Center Surrounding Open Space Map



Sources: Tax Parcels: Niskayuna Dept. of Planning
 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 Boundaries
-  Town & State Land
-  Unprotected Properties
-  Existing Hiking-Biking Trails




July 11, 2022

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The 11-acre Community Center forest at the north end of the Center is flat, sloping gently from 370 feet above sea level at the east boundary to a low point of 330 feet at the west boundary. From there it slopes sharply to 290 feet at Aqueduct Road (see Community Center Forest Environmental Features Map below and page 18 and Community Center Forest Topographic Map below and page 19). The center of the forest has wetland soils and field investigations reveal a narrow wetland with what may be a vernal pool surrounded by elm trees and silky dogwood shrubs (see Community Center Forest Environmental Features Map below and page 18).

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES:

The 11-acre forest is entirely wooded with medium to large sized deciduous and evergreen trees (see Community Center Forest Satellite Photograph Map at right and page 17). The center of the forest has a white pine grove with some very large white pines that measure two feet in diameter. A hemlock grove grows along the steep slope at the far western side of the forest. The rest of the forest can be classified as an oak-hickory forest with red, chestnut and white oak trees--some large at 30 inches in diameter--along with some bitternut hickory trees. A few invasive buckthorn, burning bush and multi-flora rose shrubs grow near the power line along the southern boundary of the forest but beyond that, the forest is mature and quite diverse with very few invasive plants. Hophornbeam grows in the understory in drier areas. Native shrubs growing throughout the forest include maple leaf viburnum, low bush blueberry and silky dogwood. The ground layer consists of many native seedlings and saplings along with Pennsylvania sedge, groves of may apple, seersucker and many-flowered sedge, wood rush, rue anemone, bedstraw and wild geraniums (see Wildflowers of the Community Center photographs, page 14). In sum, this is a mature, healthy and diverse forest with few invasive plants and with adequate forest regeneration provided by the numerous native seedlings and saplings growing there now and should be protected.



CONSERVATION VALUES:

This mature and undisturbed forest and its wetlands provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: water filtration, groundwater recharge, stormwater regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention on the steep slopes above Aqueduct Road, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. This forest also provides 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, this forest 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.

This forest has other conservation values for Niskayuna's residents and visitors including protecting the scenic views from the Mohawk River, from Aqueduct Road, from the Mohawk River Bike-Hike Trail and the views for those using the Community Center's pool and athletic fields.

This forest also provides educational and recreational values. Three large developments have been or are being built in the last few years within a half mile and walking distance to the Community Center's forest. These 160 apartments and 60 single family homes are expected to create additional demand for hiking trails in the area. To meet this demand, a loop trail can be blazed through the Community Center's forest and around the Community Center complex (see Community Center Future Hiking-Biking Trails Map on following page and page 21). An existing trail now runs from the Loehr Excavation facility along the forest's east boundary into the center of the forest (it appears that some construction equipment and retaining walls from the neighboring property have extended onto the Town's property). This can be the basis of trail that begins at the Community Center and heads north and, with permission from Niagara Mohawk, owner of the power line, continues into the Community Center's forest. From there the trail can extend west to the ridge where hikers can get an expansive view westward and then back south to the power line and then connect to the Community Center, creating an attractive addition to the recreational facilities now there. This trail can then connect to additional trails in the Community Center's other four town-owned parcels, creating a trail

loop around the outside edges of the Community Center complex.

The future hiking trail can also extend east to the old railroad easement that runs north to the rotary at Aqueduct and Balltown Roads for three quarters of a mile where it joins the Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail. This would meet a goal of the Town's Comprehensive Plan of 2013 to "identify continuity gaps that would connect park recreational lands to the existing Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and acquire/develop public land to resolve this"²⁹. Permission would be needed, or an easement granted or purchased, to allow the trail to cross over to the railroad easement. The Town's Complete Street members have had discussions with adjacent landowners about such a trail easement. The mission of the Complete Streets Committee is to promote pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote healthy living.

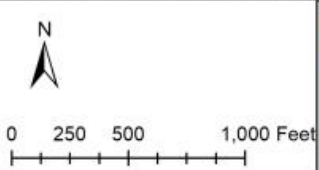


²⁹ Town of Niskayuna Comprehensive Development Plan, 2013, p. 45

Community Center Future Hiking-Biking Trails Map



- Town Boundaries
- Town & State Land
- Unprotected Properties
- Existing Hiking-Biking Trails
- Possible Hiking-Biking Trails
- Railroad Easement



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

July 11, 2022

WILDFLOWERS OF THE COMMUNITY
CENTER FOREST:

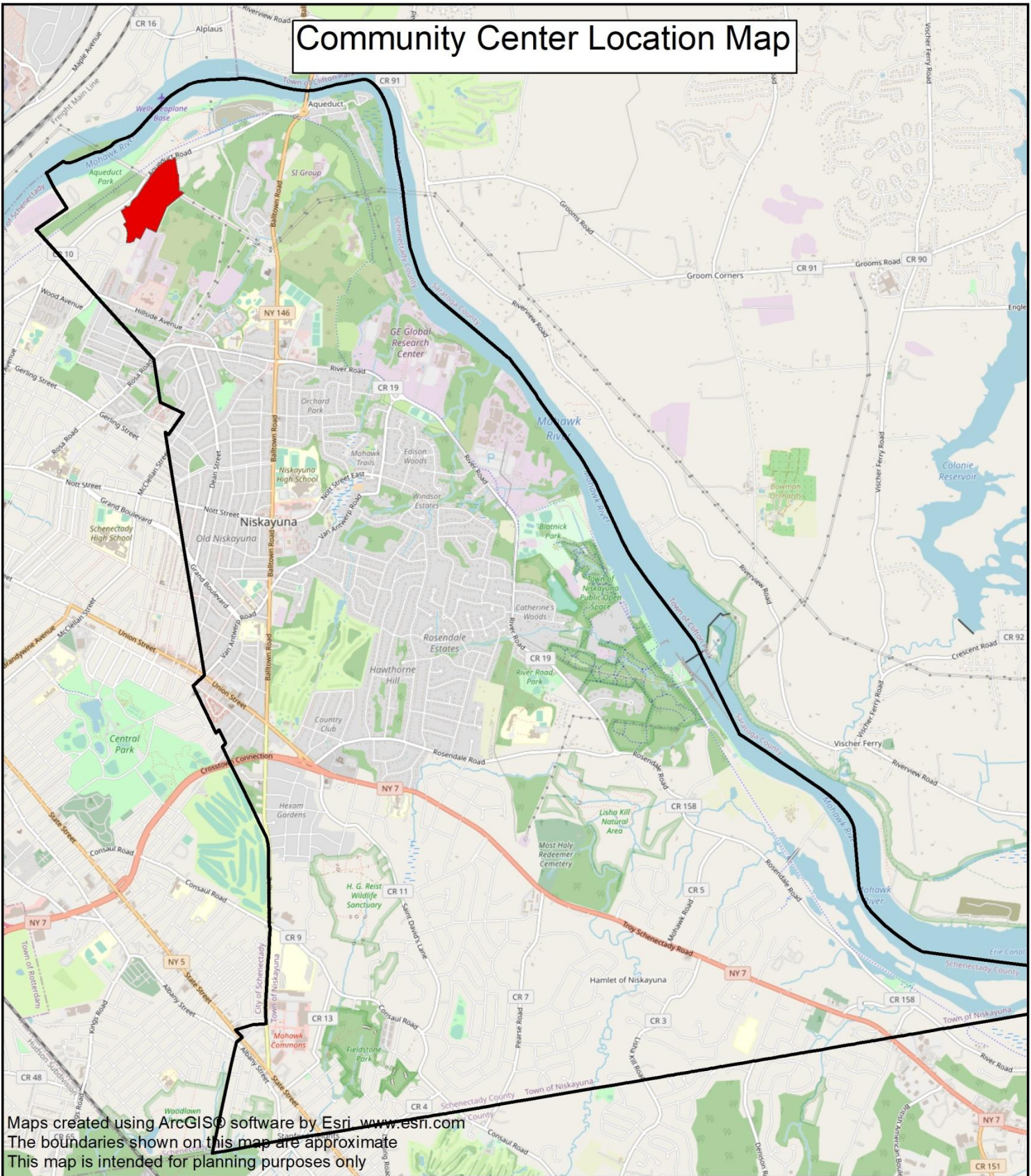


May apples on Community Center forest floor



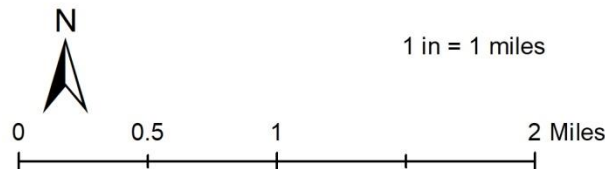
Rue anemone, a spring ephemeral wildflower

Community Center 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


- Community Center Boundaries
- Niskayuna Town Boundaries



July 11, 2022


Community Center Tax Parcel Map



 Town Land-52 Acres

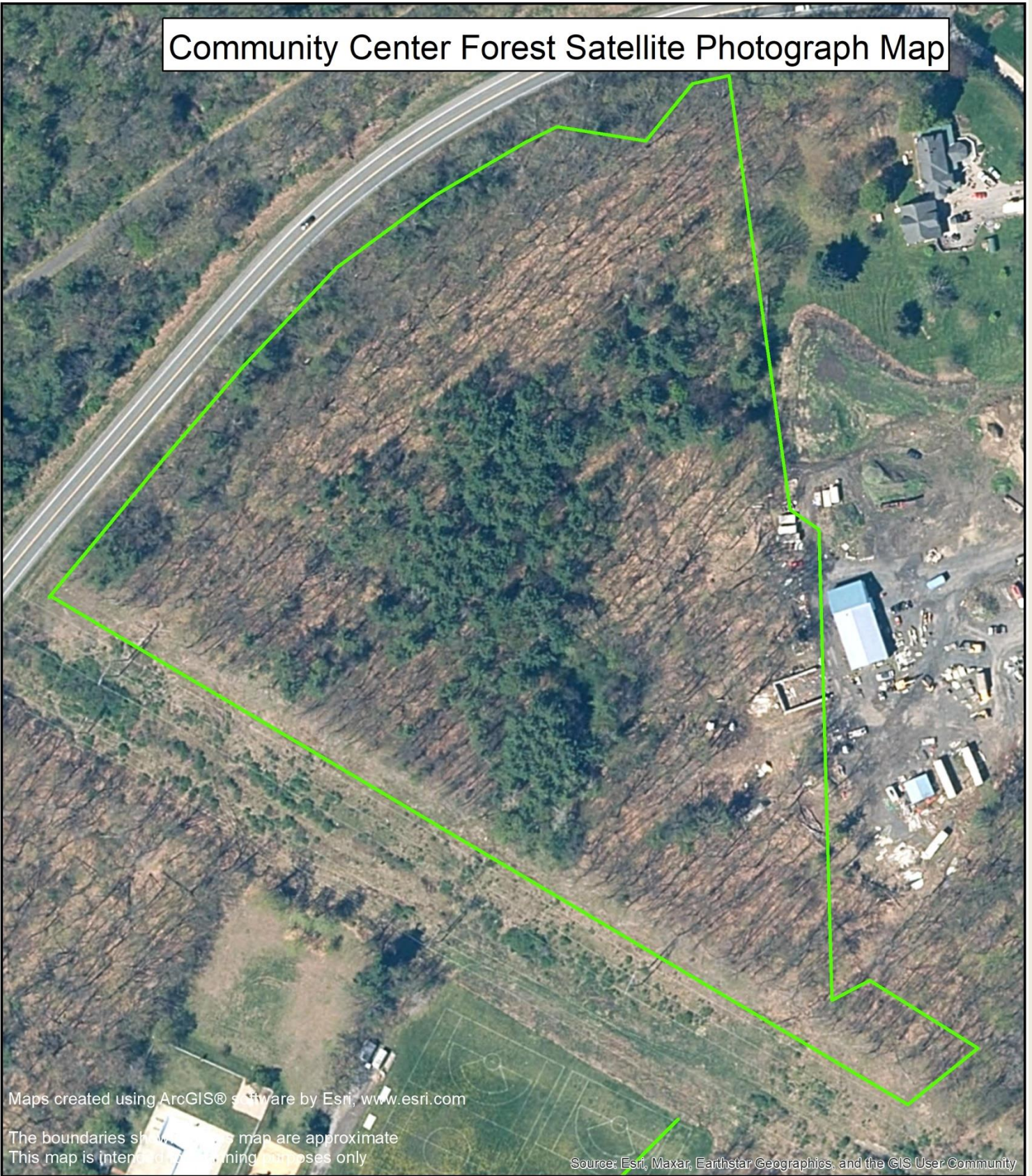


0 250 500 1,000 Feet




July 11, 2022

Community Center Forest Satellite Photograph Map



 Community Center Forest

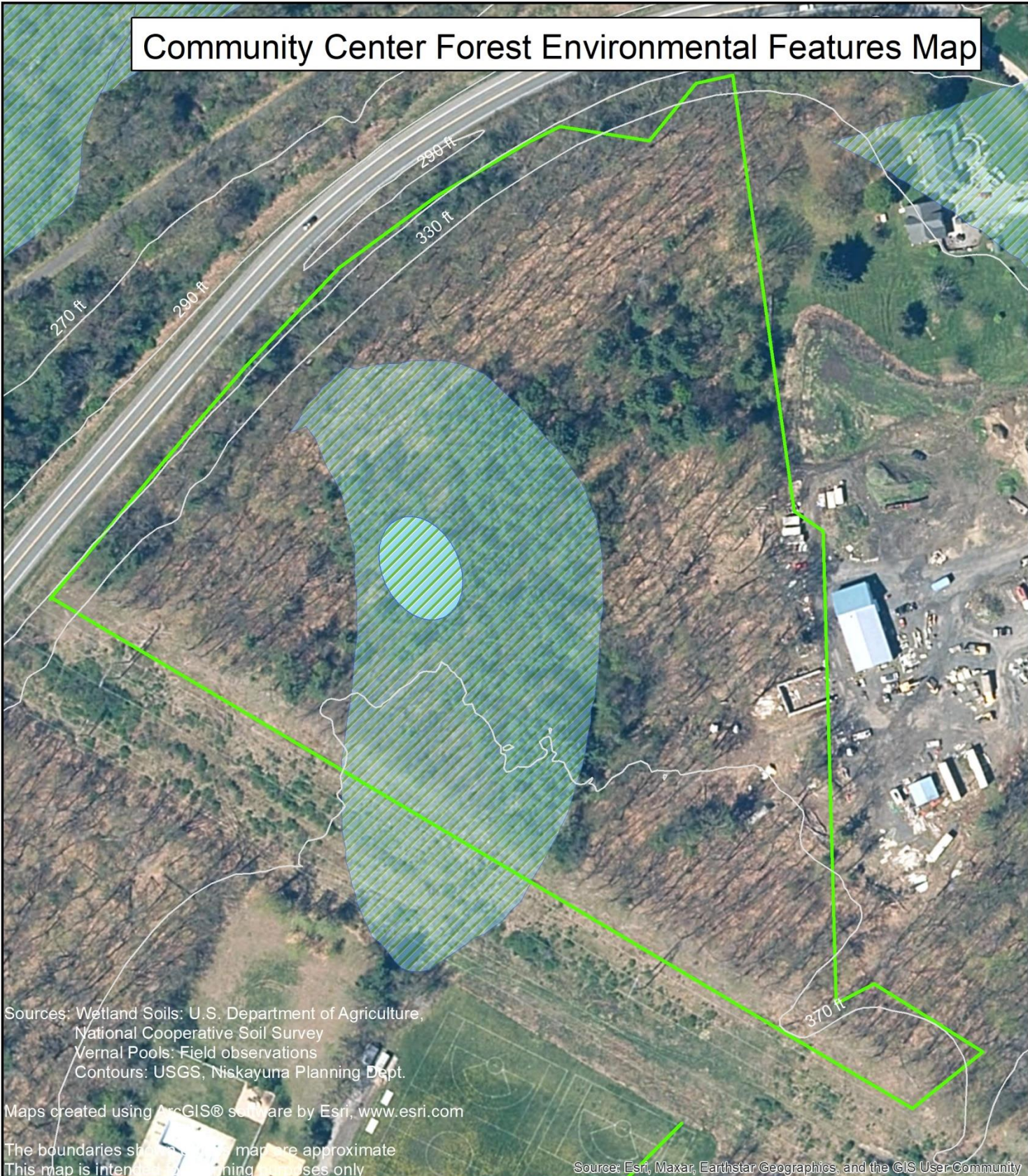


0 50 100 200 Feet




July 11, 2022

Community Center Forest Environmental Features Map



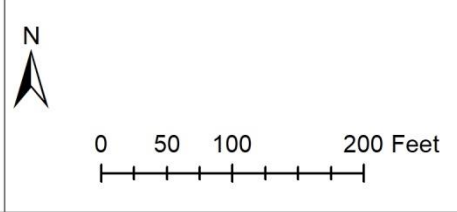
Sources: Wetland Soils: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Cooperative Soil Survey
 Vernal Pools: Field observations
 Contours: USGS, Niskayuna Planning Dept.

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

-  Community Center Forest
-  Wetland Soils
-  Wetland/Vernal Pool
-  Contours-40 ft




July 11, 2022


Community Center Forest Topographic Map


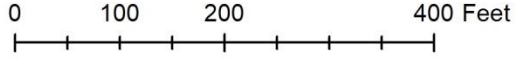



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
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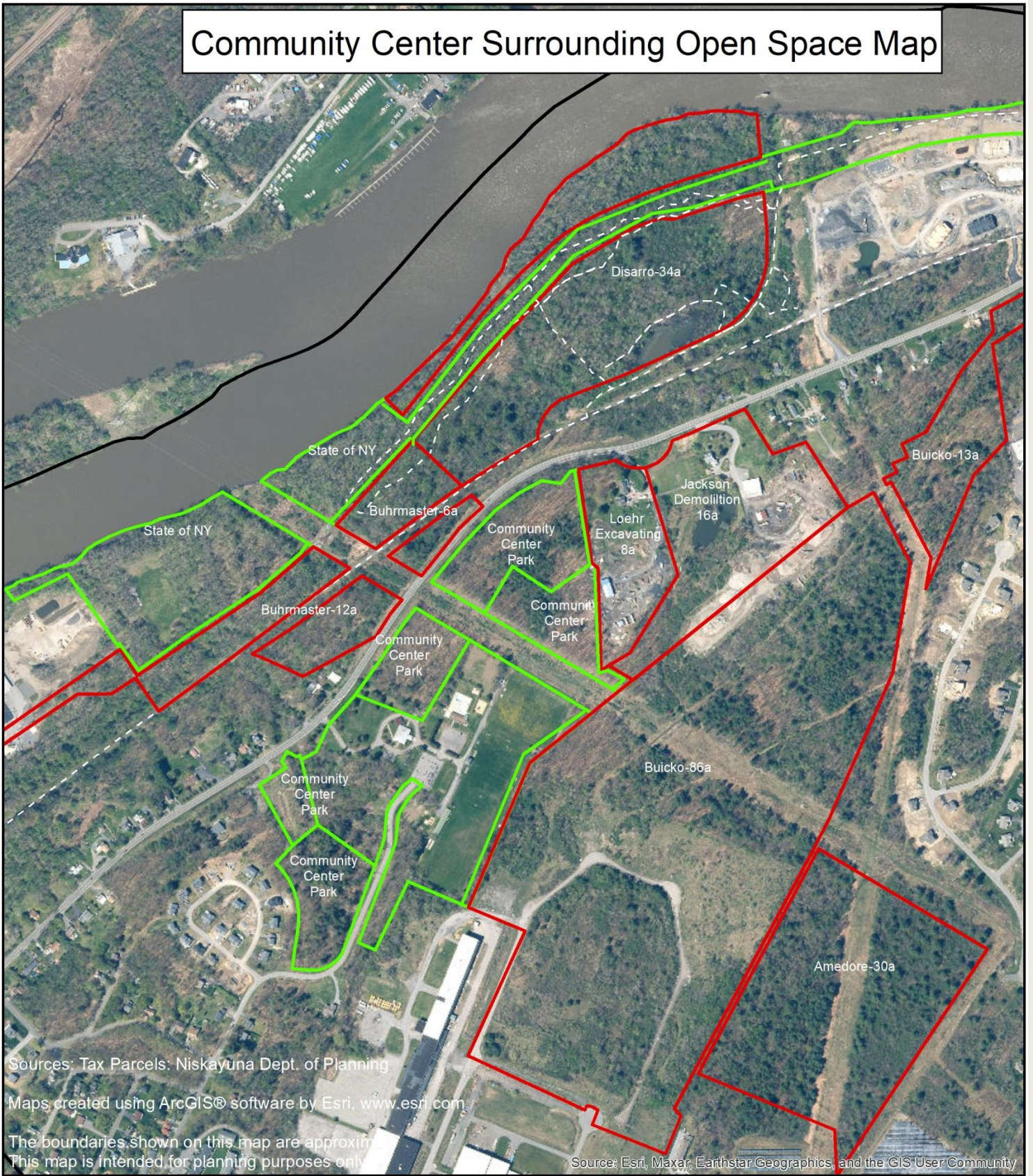
Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

 Community Center Forest

N

0 100 200 400 Feet



Niskayuna
NEW YORK
July 11, 2022

Community Center Surrounding Open Space Map



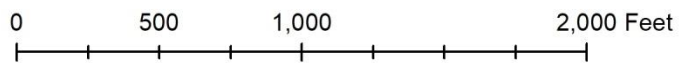
Sources: Tax Parcels: Niskayuna Dept. of Planning

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

The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
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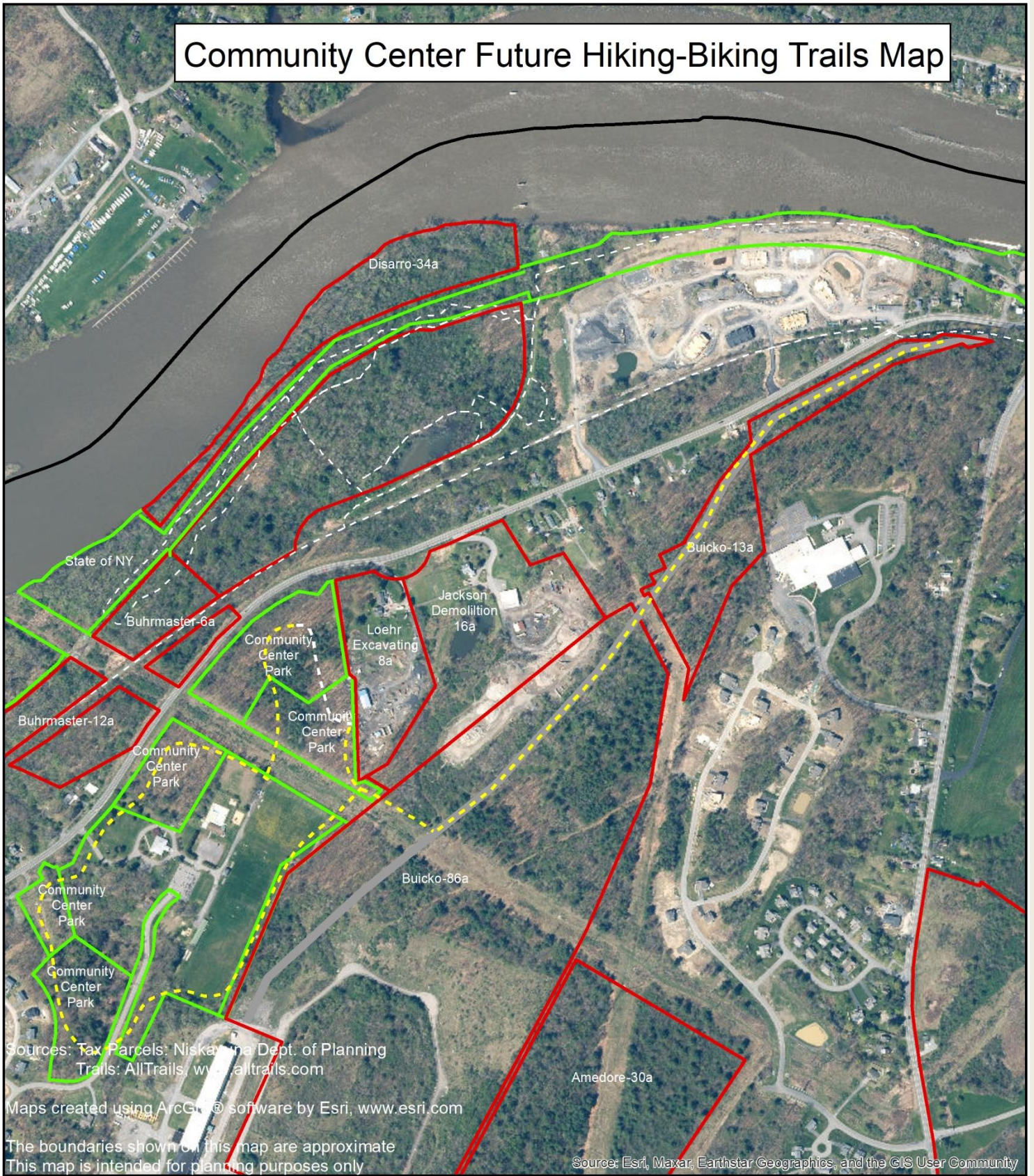
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

- Town Boundaries
- Town & State Land
- Unprotected Properties
- Existing Hiking-Biking Trails



July 11, 2022

Community Center Future Hiking-Biking Trails Map



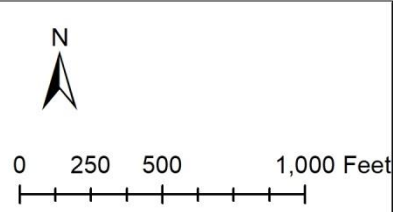
Sources: Tax Parcels: Niskayuna Dept. of Planning
Trails: AllTrails, www.alltrails.com

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 Boundaries
- Town & State Land
- Unprotected Properties
- Existing Hiking-Biking Trails
- Possible Hiking-Biking Trails
- Railroad Easement



July 11, 2022

FIELDSTONE PARK SURVEY

August 16, 2024, August 17, 2024 Survey

REGIONAL SETTING:

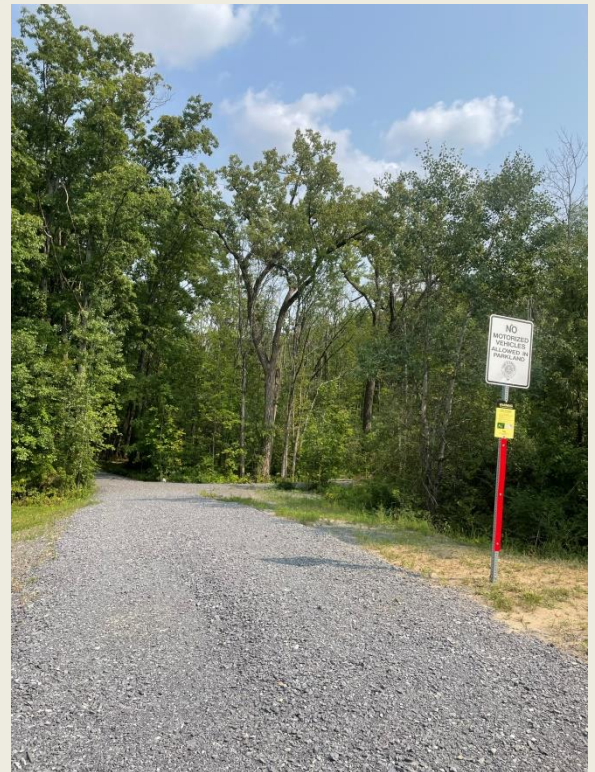
The Town-owned Fieldstone Park is 83 acres in size and is located in the south-western section of Niskayuna (see Location Map Page 7). The Park is comprised of eight parcels. Four parcels totaling 64 acres lie on the west side of Fieldstone Drive while another four acres totaling nearly 20 acres lie 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.

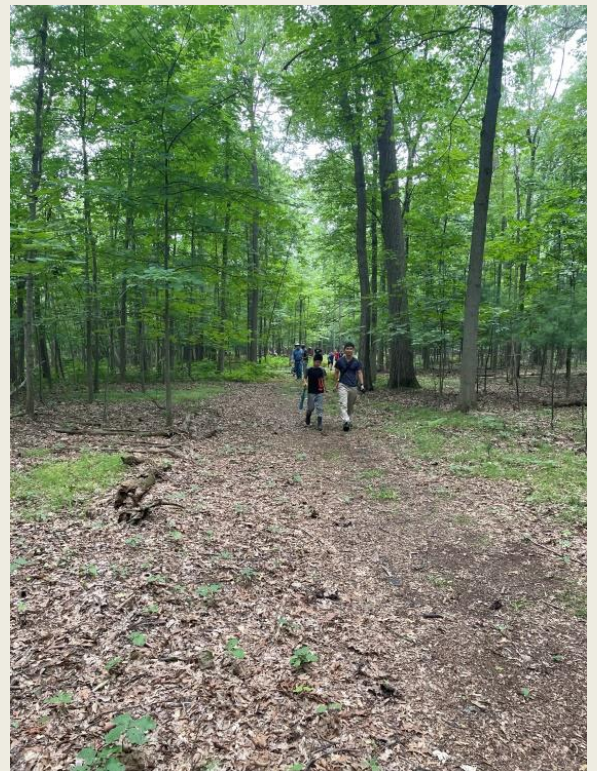
The eastern section of the west parcels appears to have been cleared and excavated in the past, perhaps by farmers seeking to improve drainage. Because of this disturbance, the eastern section is dominated by invasive plants including bittersweet vines, Japanese knotweed and Norway maple trees. Hikers 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

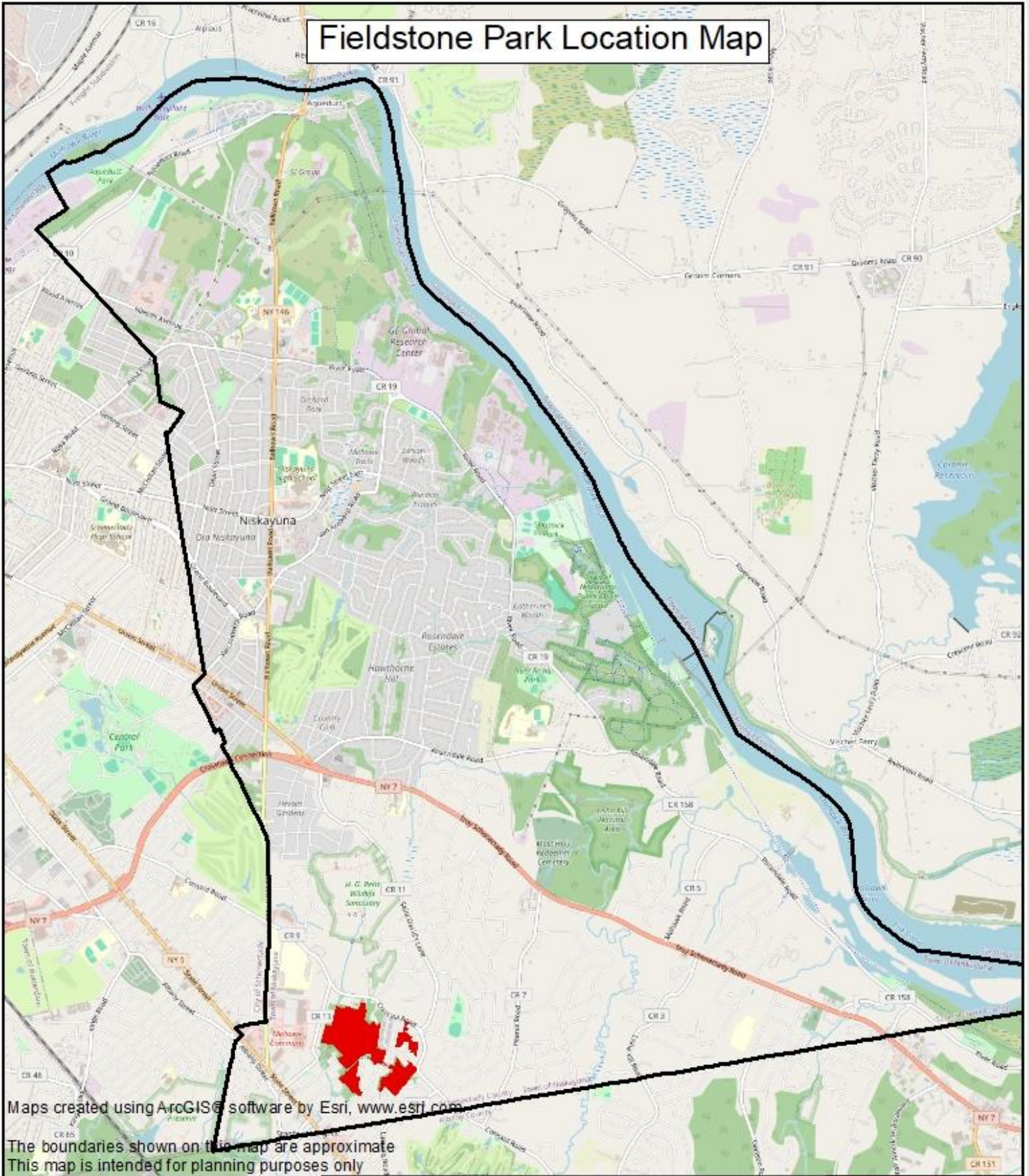




Turtlehead

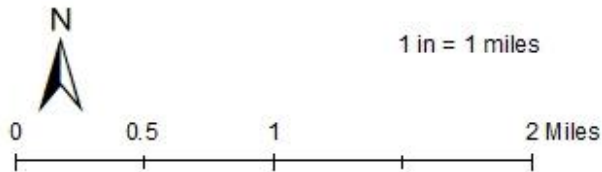


Fringed loosestrife

Fieldstone Park Location Map



-  Fieldstone Park-83 Acres
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



August 17, 2024

Fieldstone Park Tax Parcel Map



-  Town Properties-83 Acres
-  Tax Parcels



0 0.05 0.1 Miles



August 17, 2024


Fieldstone 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

 Town Properties-83 Acres

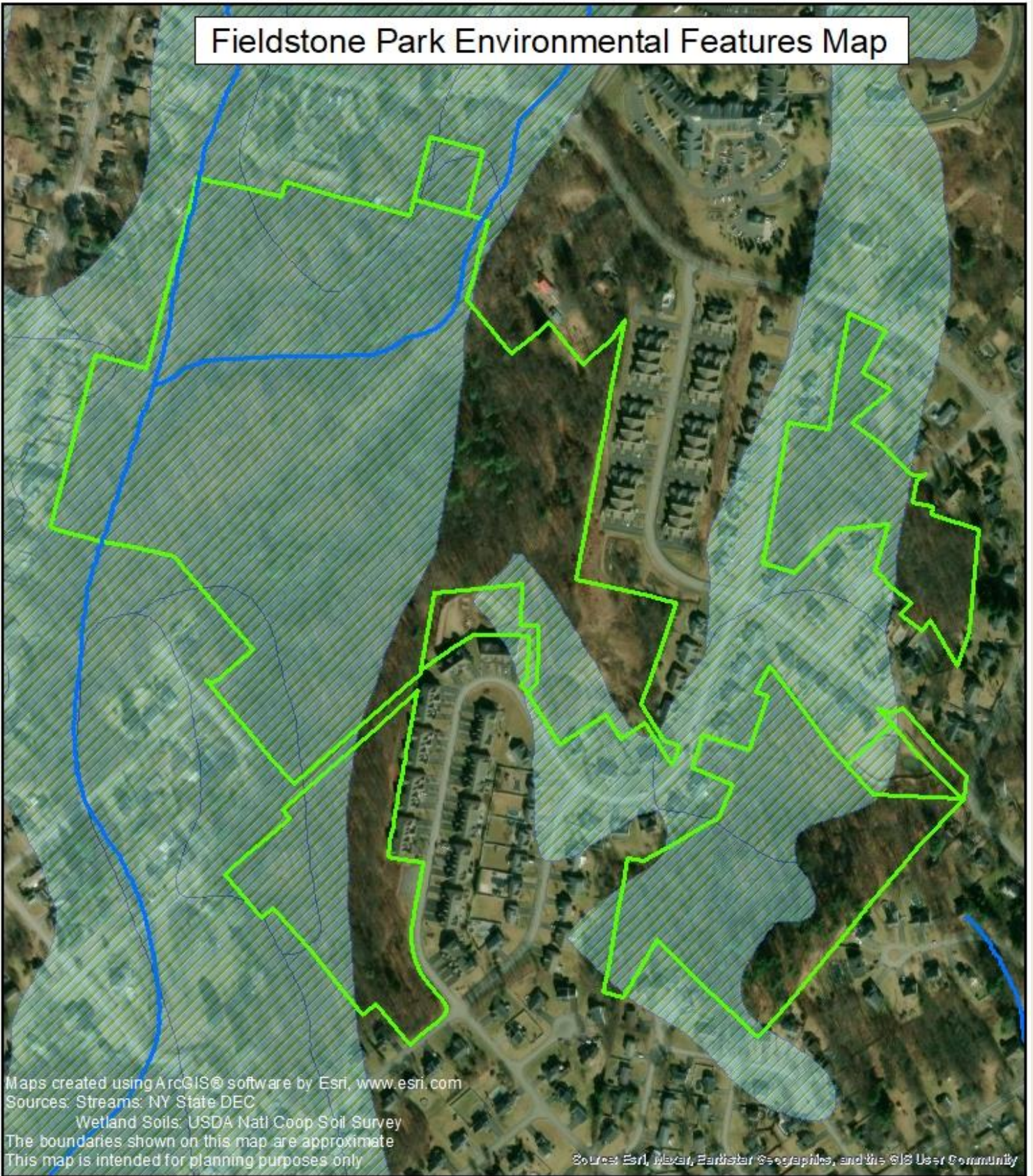


0 0.05 0.1 Miles



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

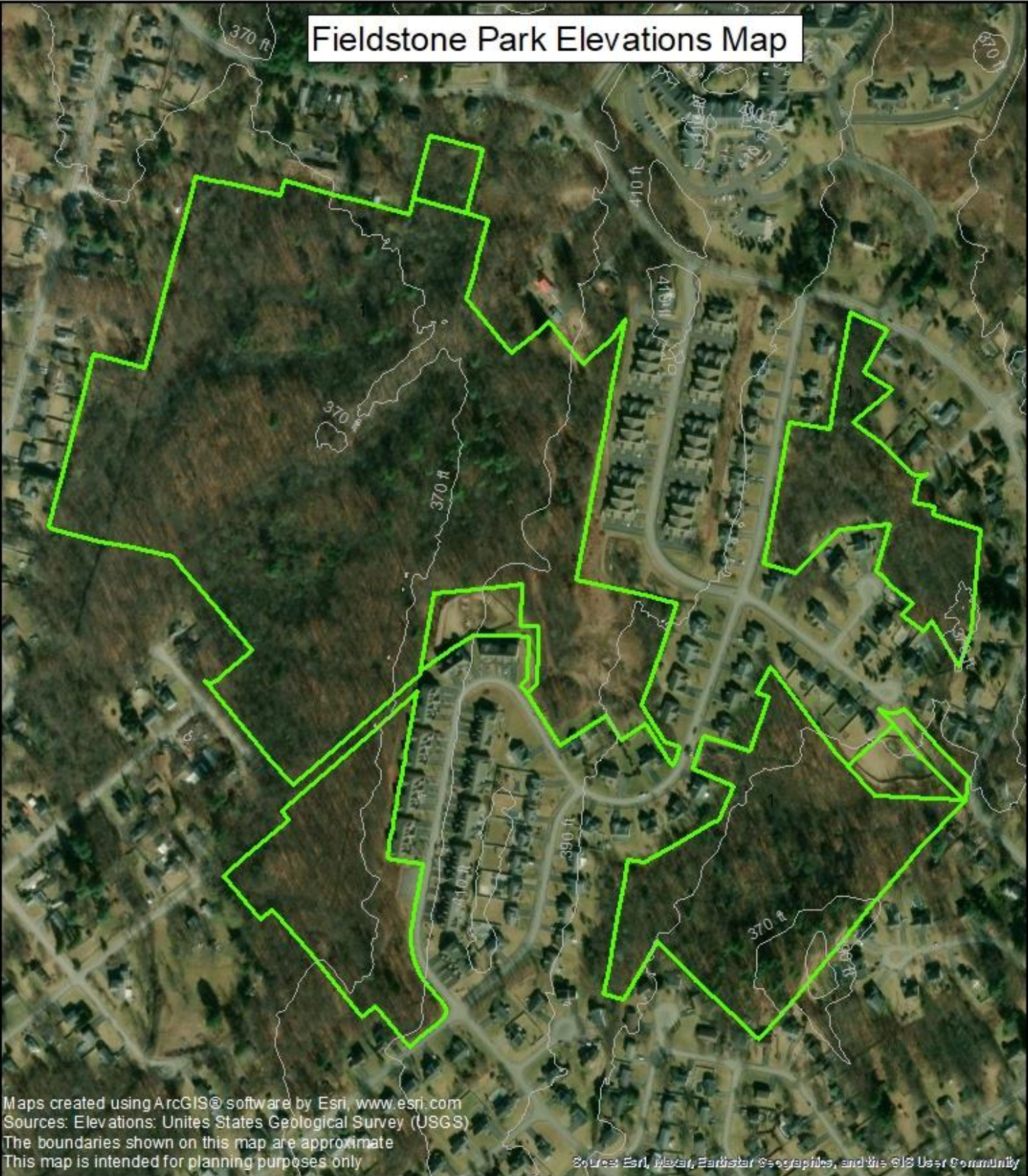


0 0.05 0.1 Miles





August 17, 2024


Fieldstone Park Elevations Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
Sources: Elevations: United States Geological Survey (USGS)
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

 Elevations-10 ft. intervals

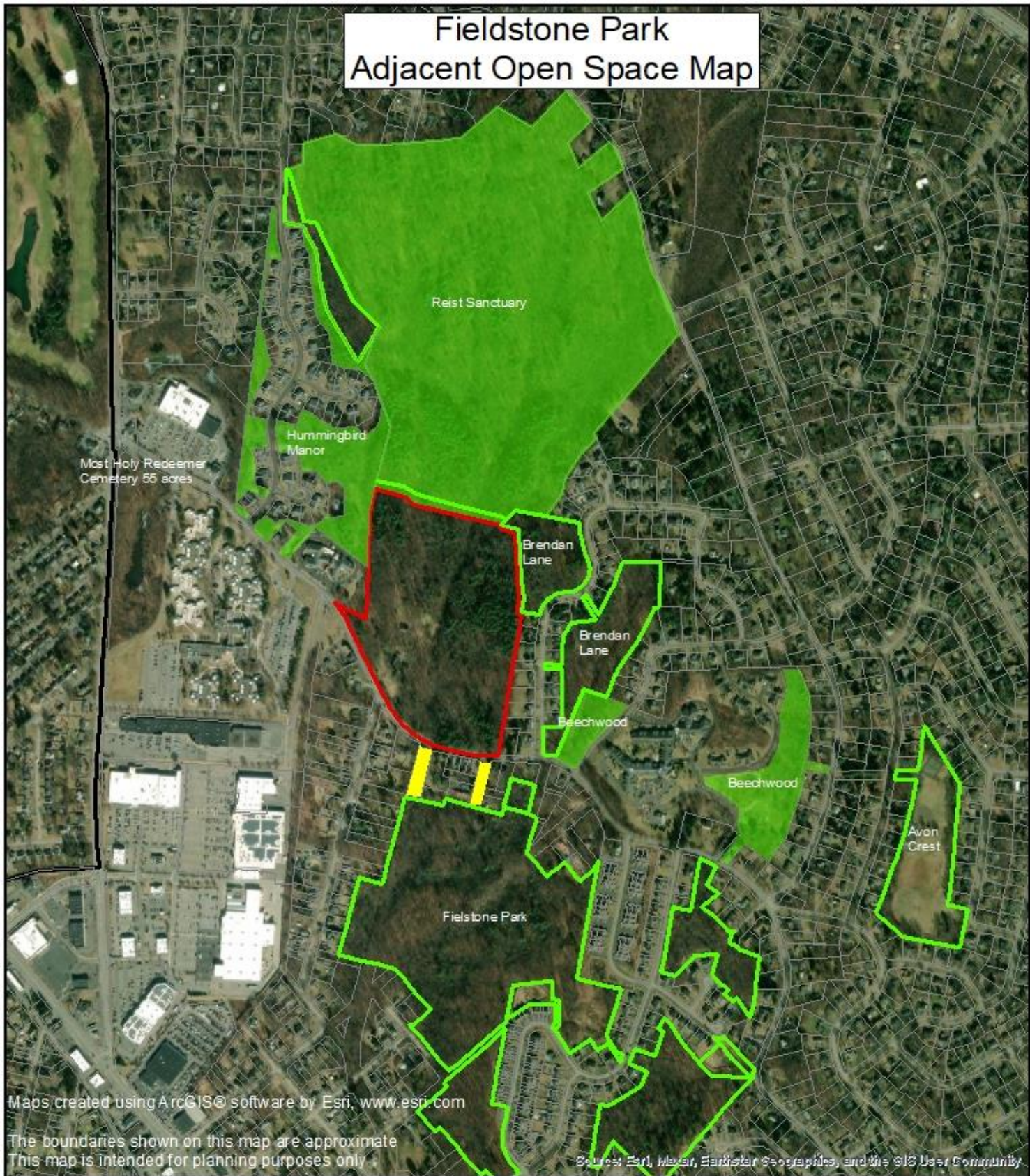


0 0.05 0.1 Miles



August 17, 2024

Fieldstone Park Adjacent Open Space Map



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

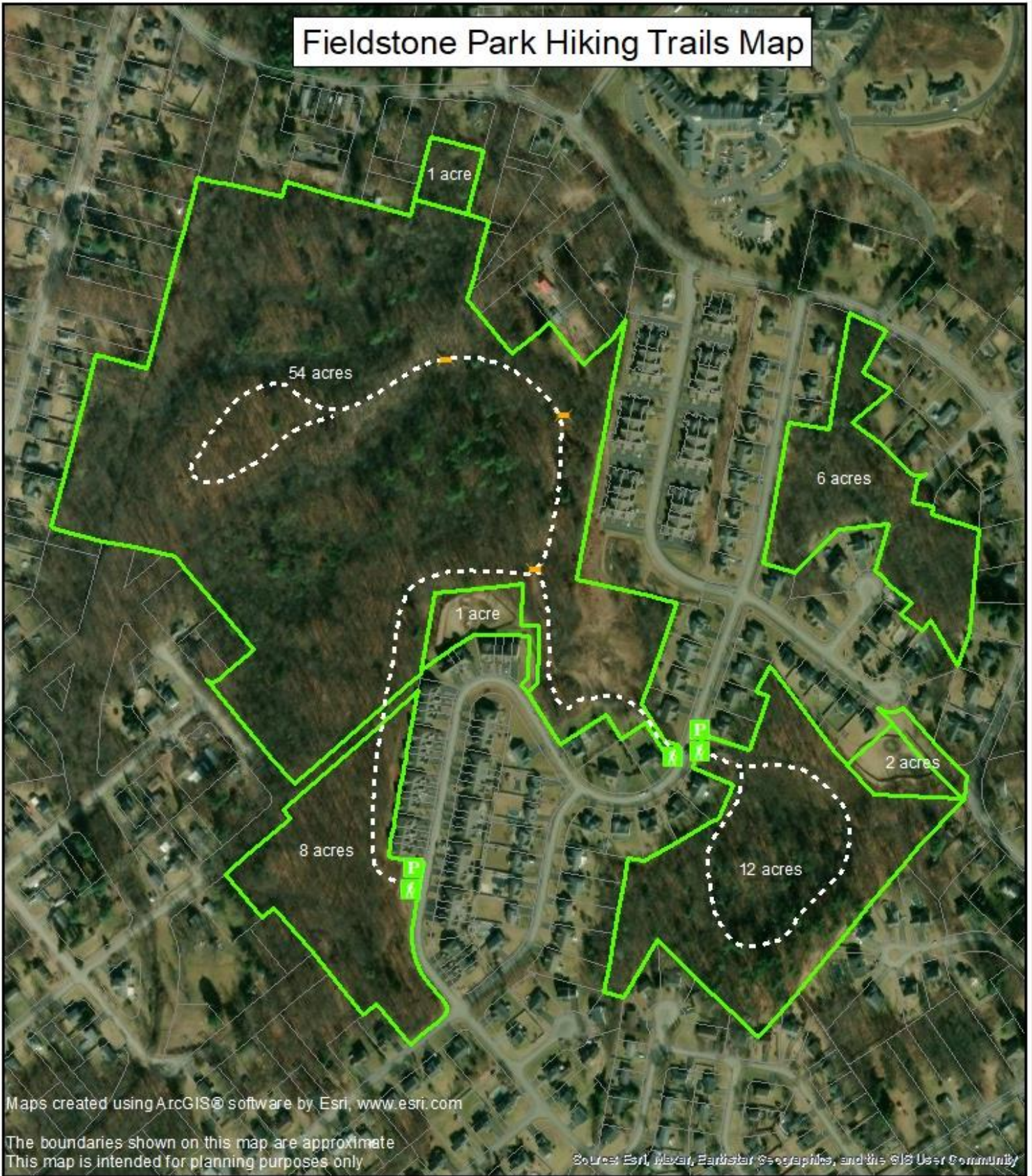


0 0.125 0.25 Miles



August 17, 2024

Fieldstone Park Hiking Trails Map



-  Town Properties-83 Acres
-  Trail Entrances
-  Parking





0 0.05 0.1 Miles



August 17, 2024

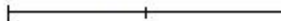
Fieldstone Park 2007 Aerial Photograph Map



-  2024 Tax Parcels
-  Fieldstone Park Boundaries



0 0.125 0.25 Miles



August 17, 2024

IMPERIAL FOREST SURVEY

October 18, 2024 Survey

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.³⁰

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



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

³⁰ Ecological Communities of NY State. Reschke, C., NYNHP, 2014. P. 68

CONSERVATION VALUES:

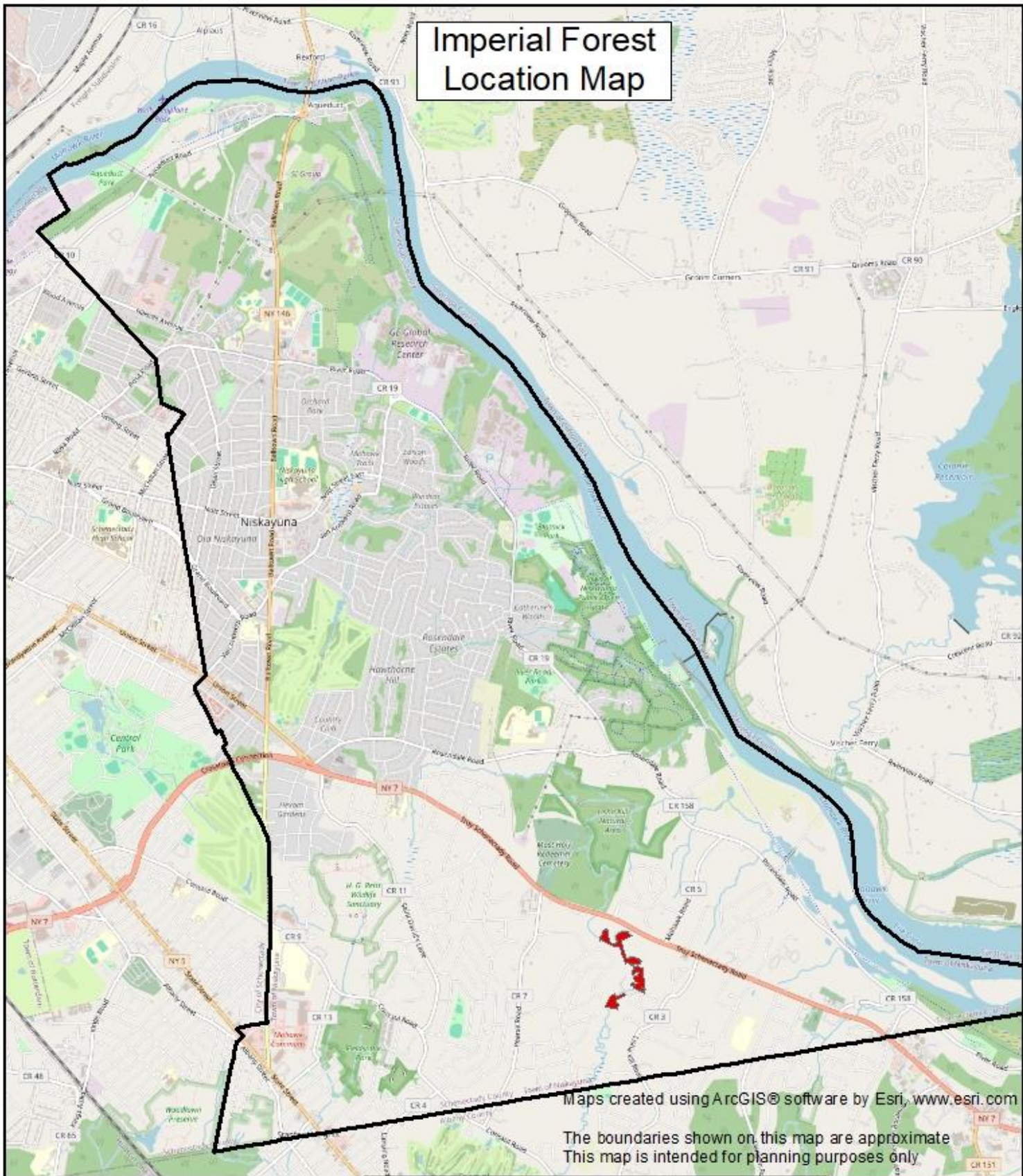
The Imperial Forest assemblage's stream, tributaries, mixed deciduous woods, wetlands, floodplain and floodplain forest provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: filtration and protection of streams, groundwater recharge, storm water regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention, 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.





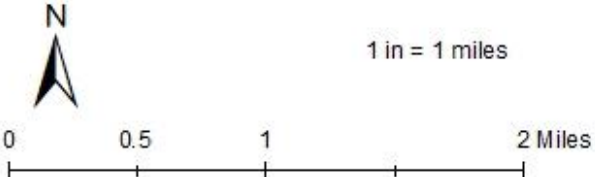
Several open fields and meadows lie adjacent to the Rose Terrace parcel

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



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

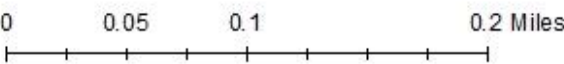
NYS JTS Municipal Services, Westchester County GIS

-  Town Owned Land
-  Possible Trail Entrances
-  Lish Kill

N

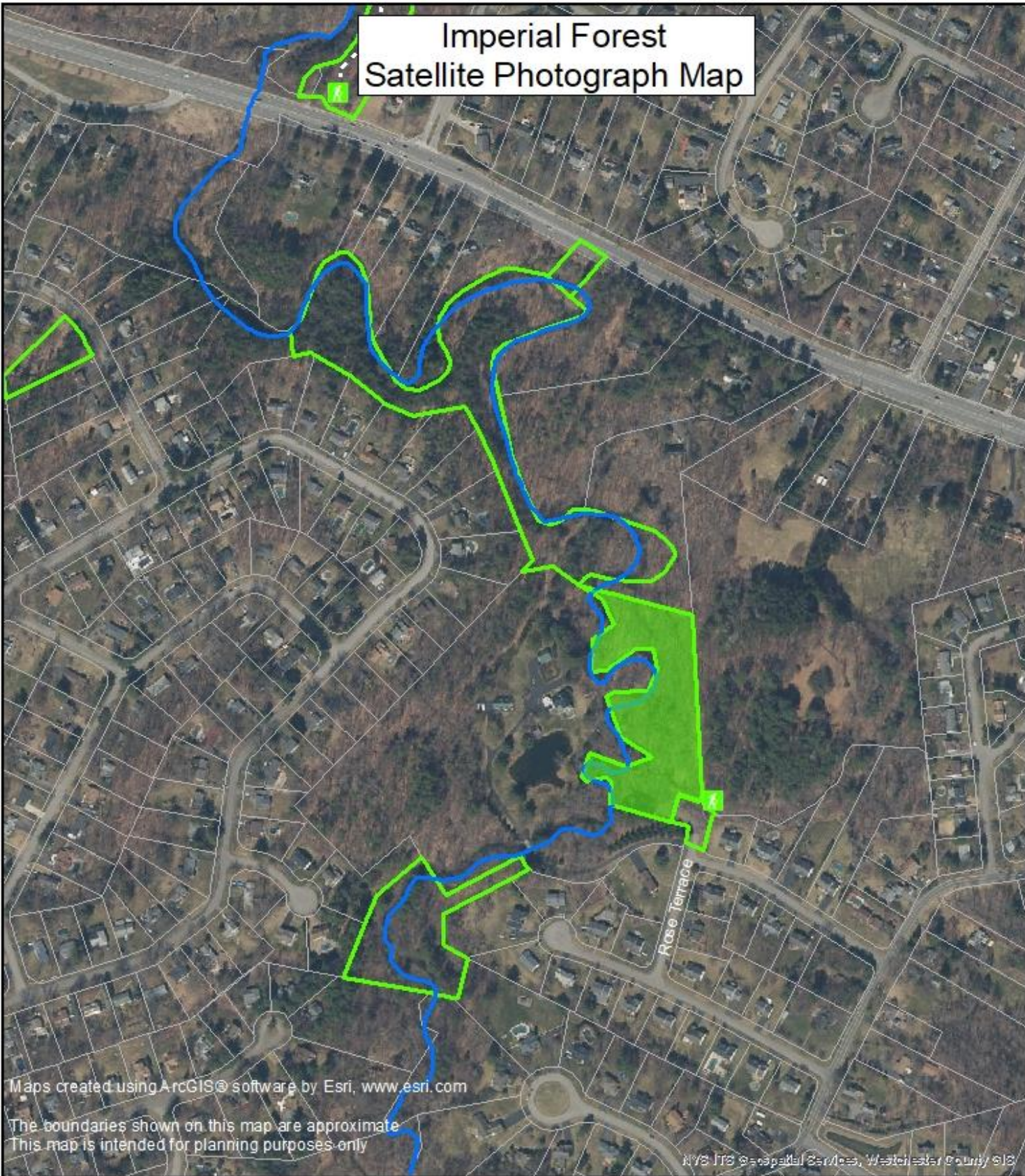


0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



October 18, 2024



Imperial Forest Satellite Photograph Map

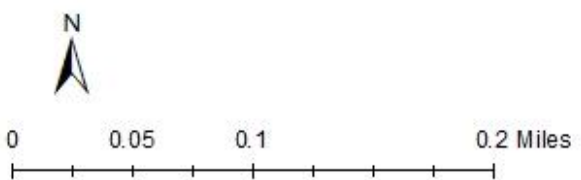


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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

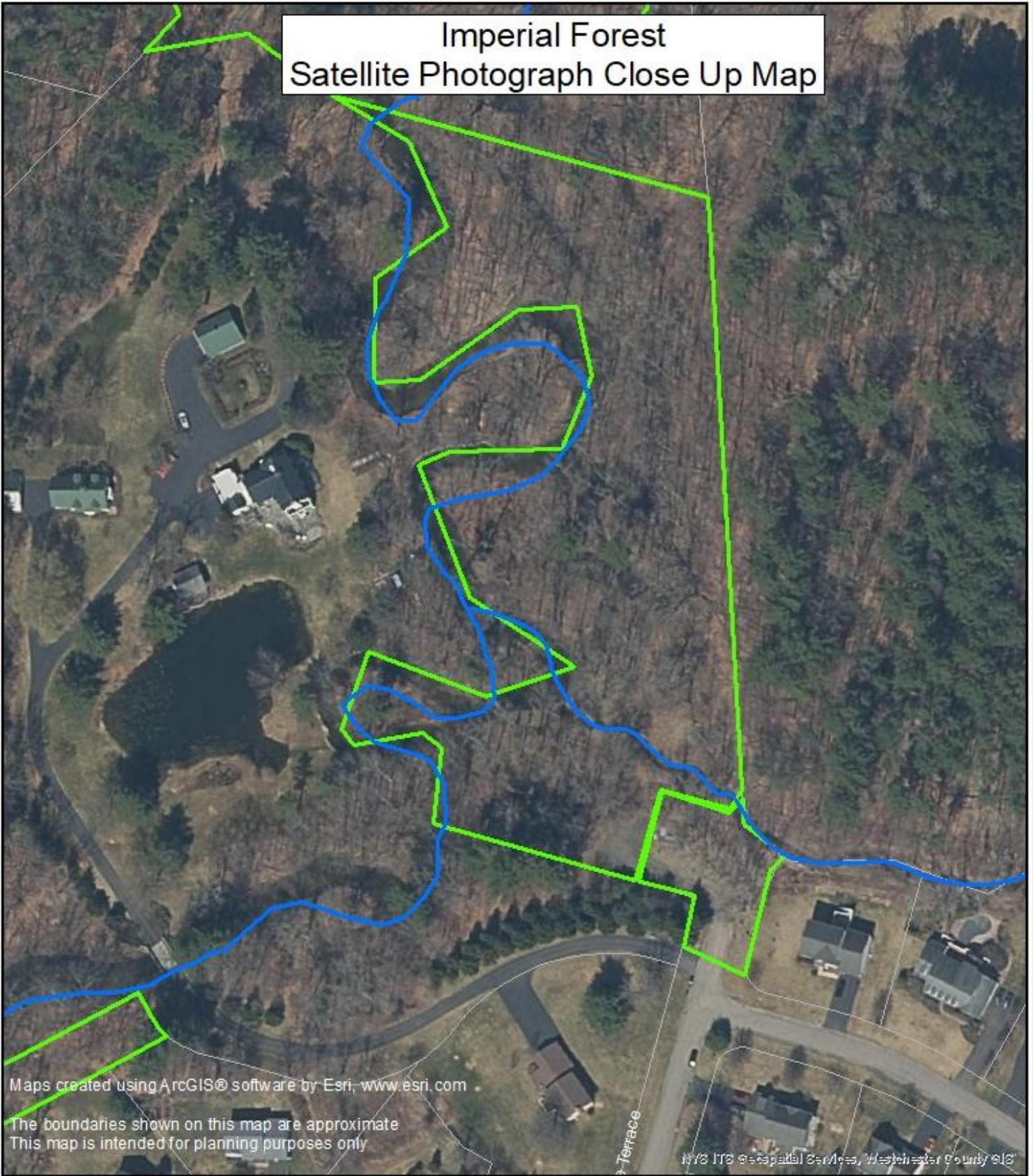
NYS ITS Geospatial Services, Westchester County GIS


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




October 18, 2024

Imperial Forest Satellite Photograph Close Up Map

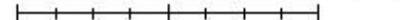


 Town Owned Land-4 acres

 Lisha Kill & Tributaries

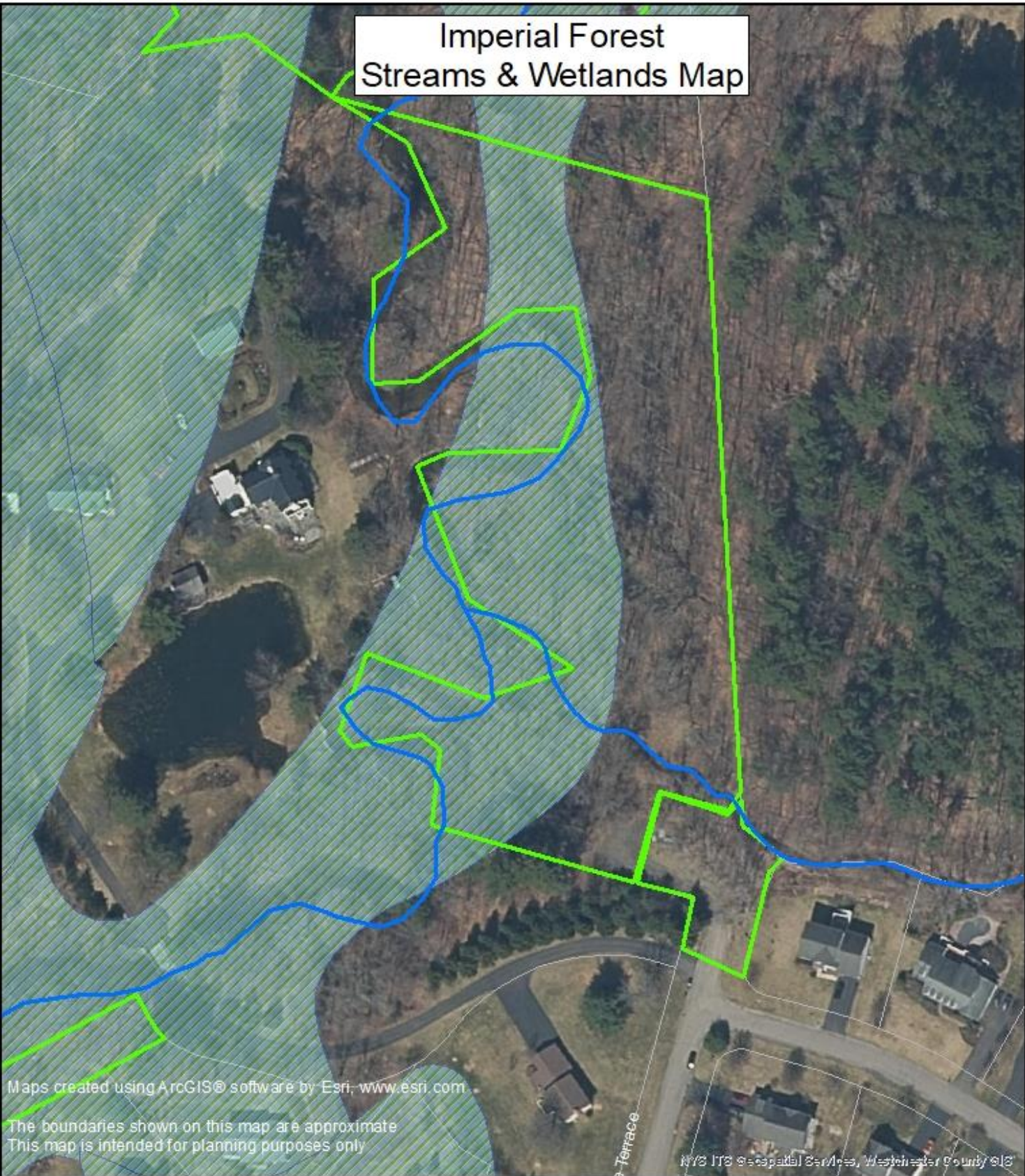


0 50 100 200 Feet

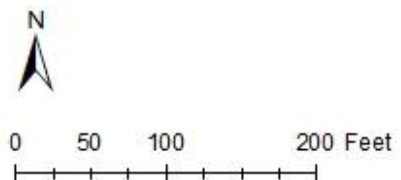


October 18, 2024

Imperial Forest Streams & Wetlands Map

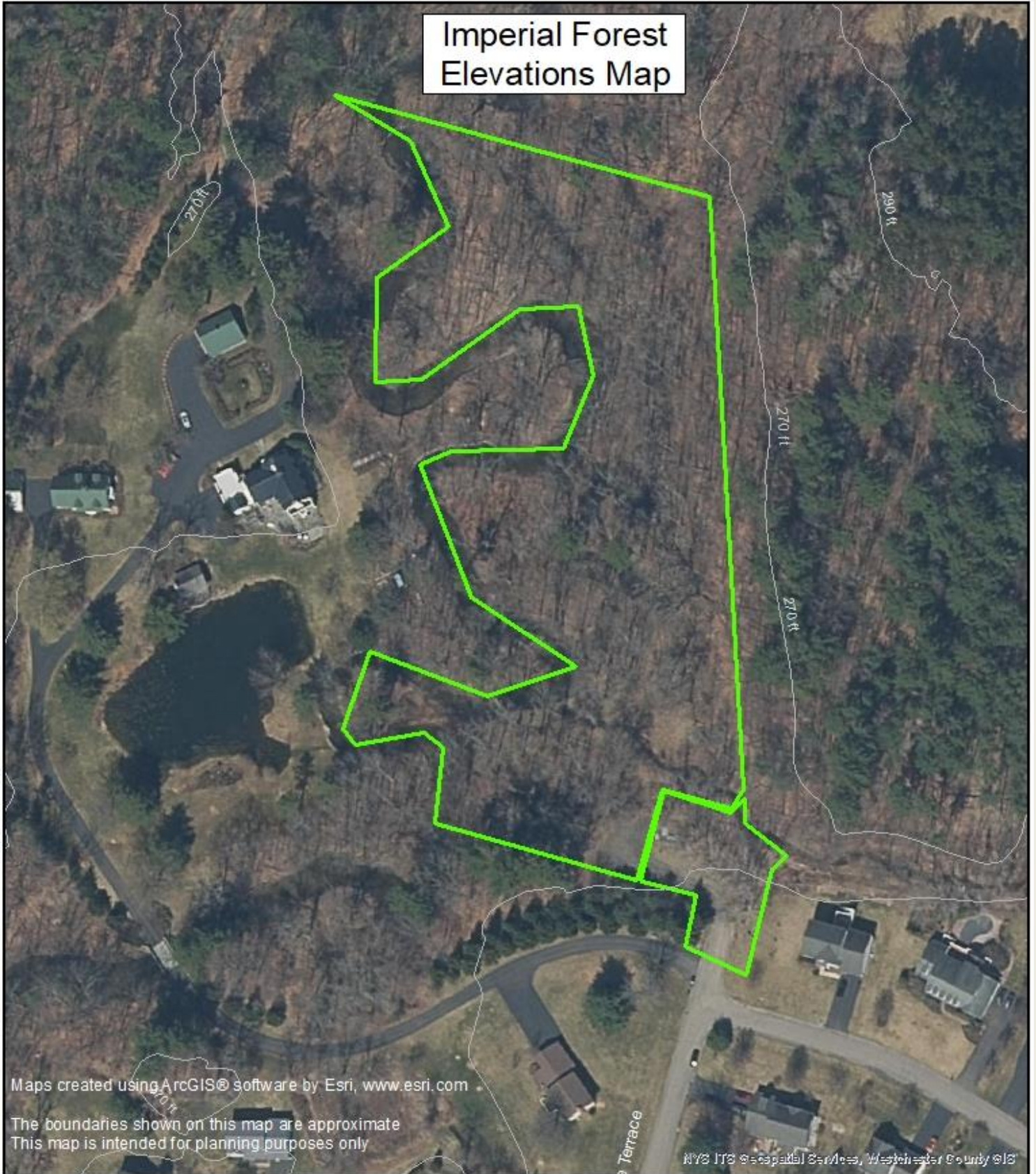


-  Town Owned Land-4 acres
-  Lish Kill & Tributaries
-  Wetland Soils



October 18, 2024



Imperial Forest Elevations Map

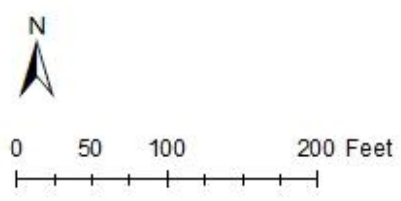


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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

NYC ITS Geospatial Services, Westchester County GIS

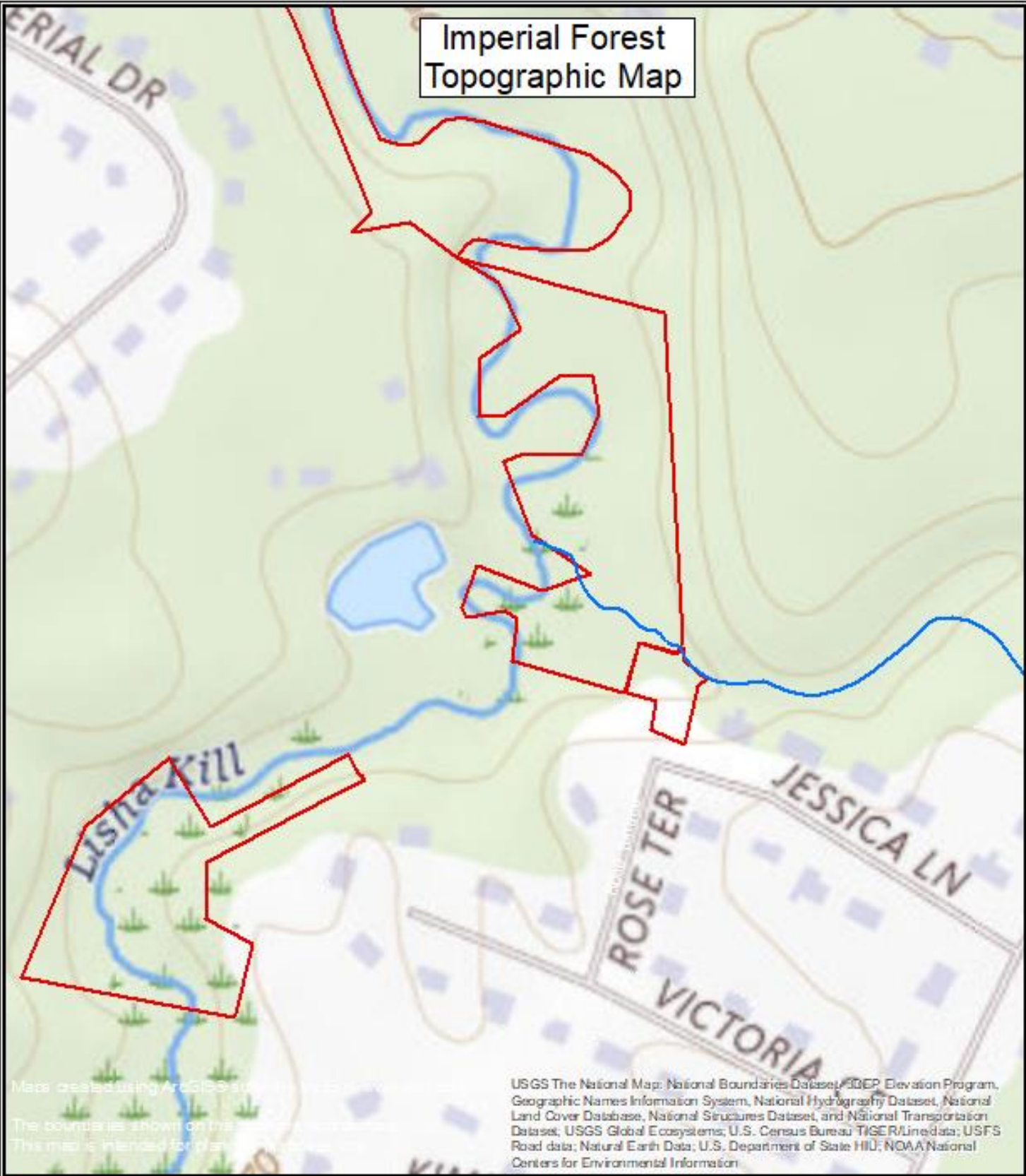
-  Town Owned Land-4 acres
-  Elevations-10 ft intervals




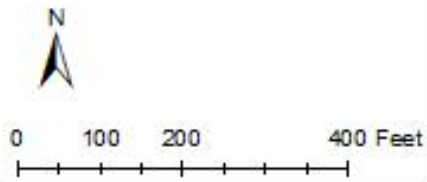
Niskayuna
NEW YORK

October 18, 2024

Imperial Forest Topographic Map

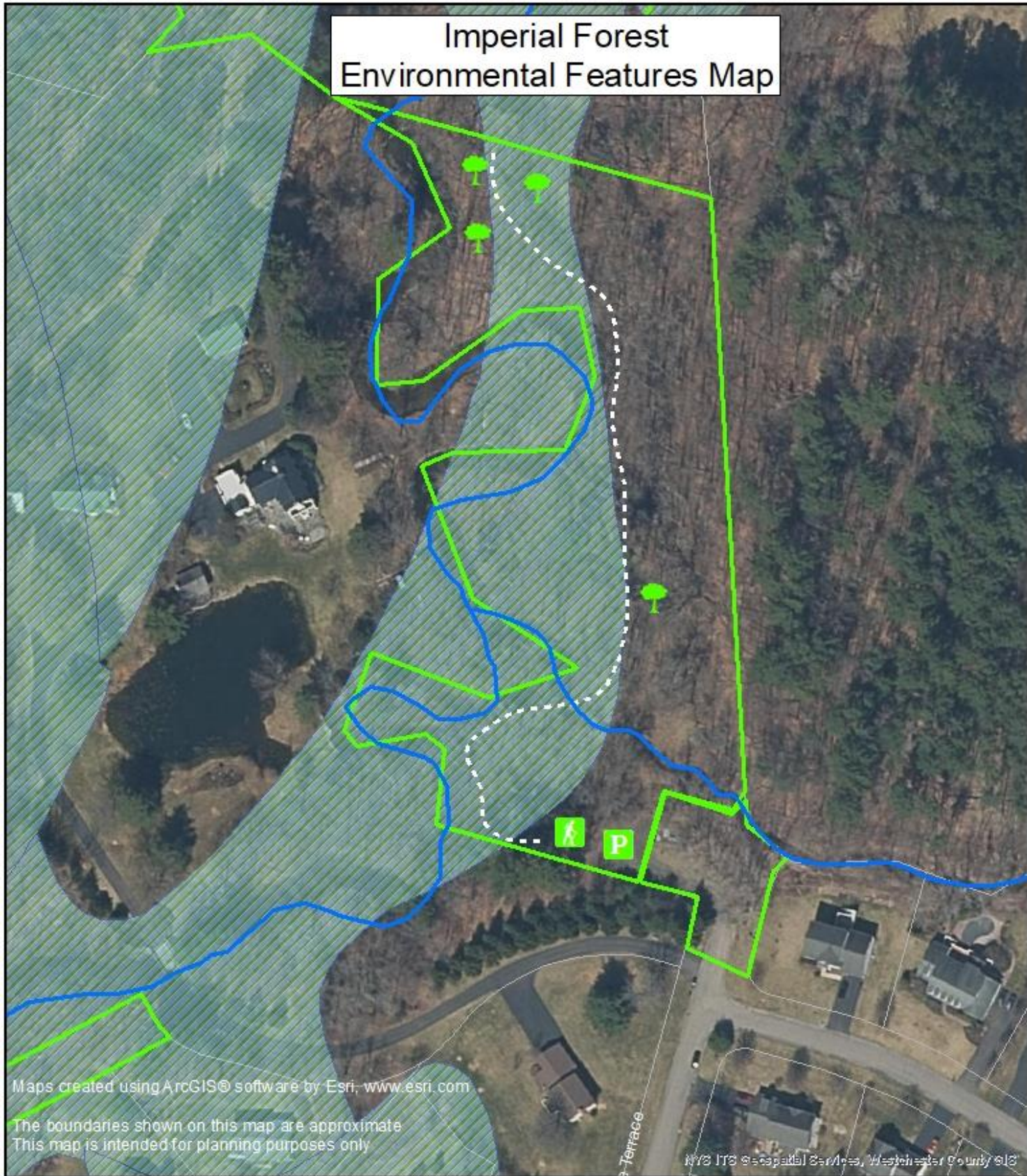


 Town Owned Land-4 acres



October 18, 2024

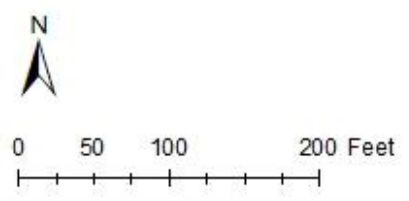
Imperial Forest Environmental Features Map



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

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



October 18, 2024

Imperial Forest Surrounding Open Space Map

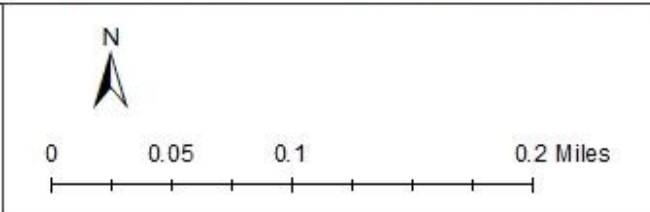


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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

NYS GIS Geospatial Services, Westchester County ©18

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



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

October 18, 2024

LIONS PARK SURVEY

October 19, 2024 Survey

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



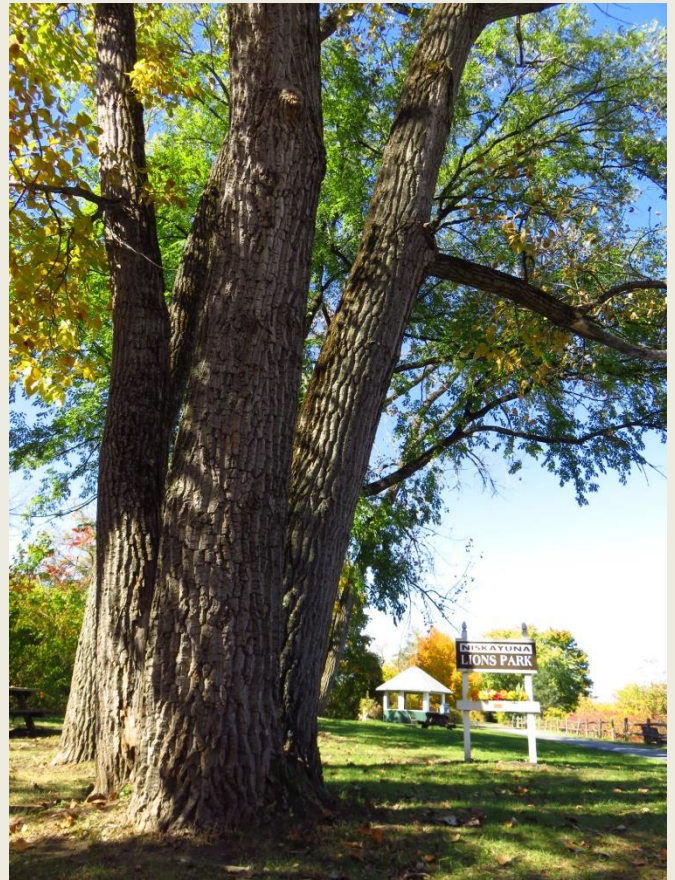
Lawn area at southeastern edge of Park

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.

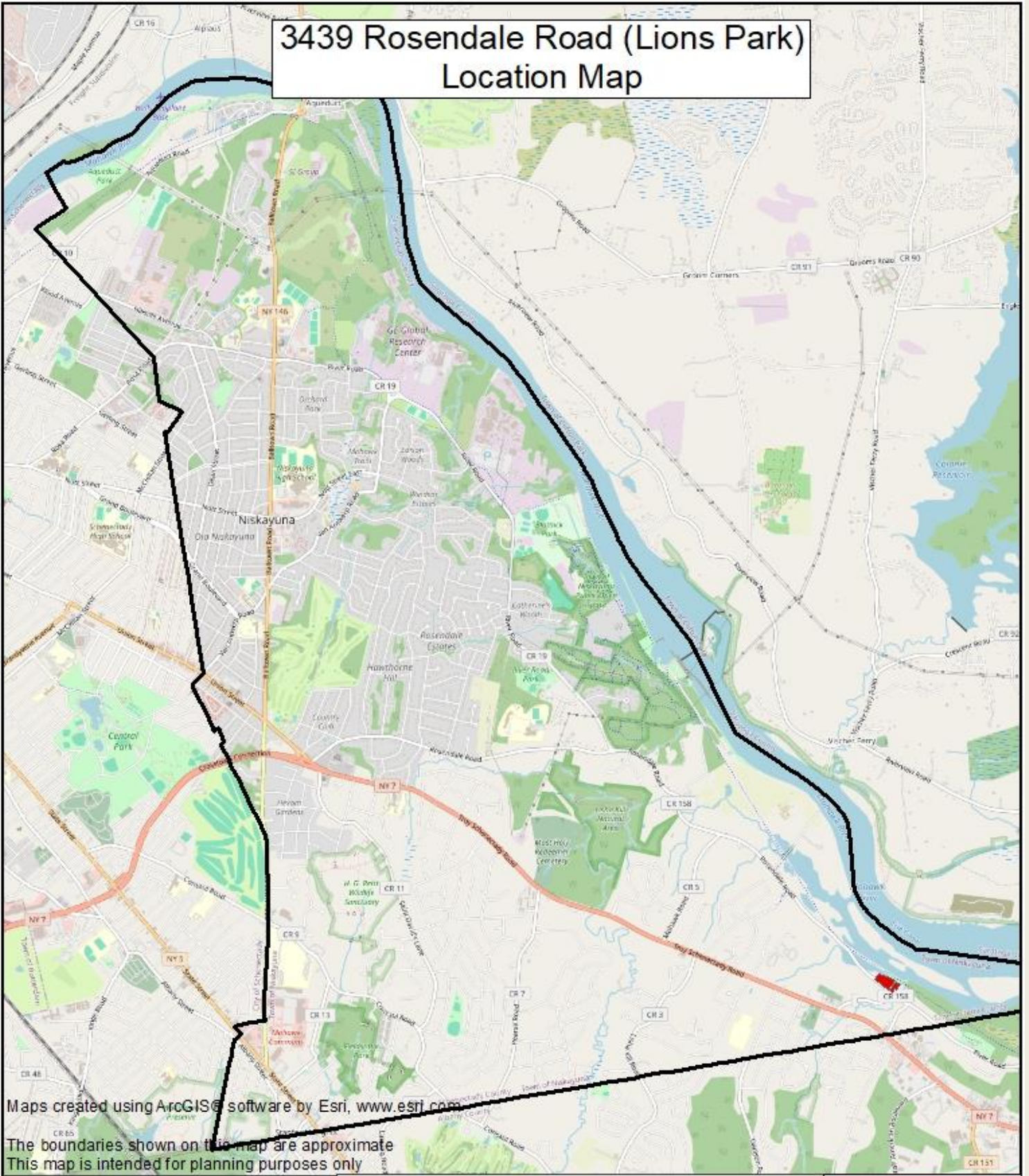
CONSERVATION VALUES:

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

N

1 in = 1 miles

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



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)



0 0.0125 0.025 0.05 Miles

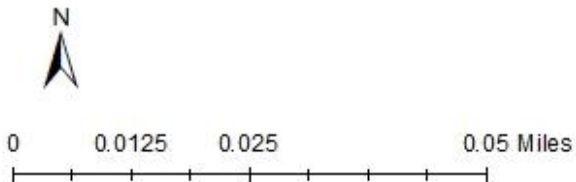


January 24, 2024

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

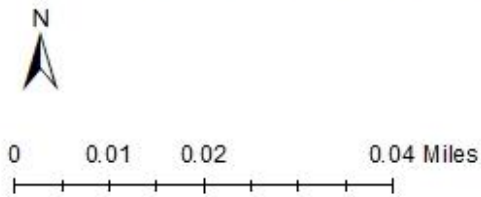


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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

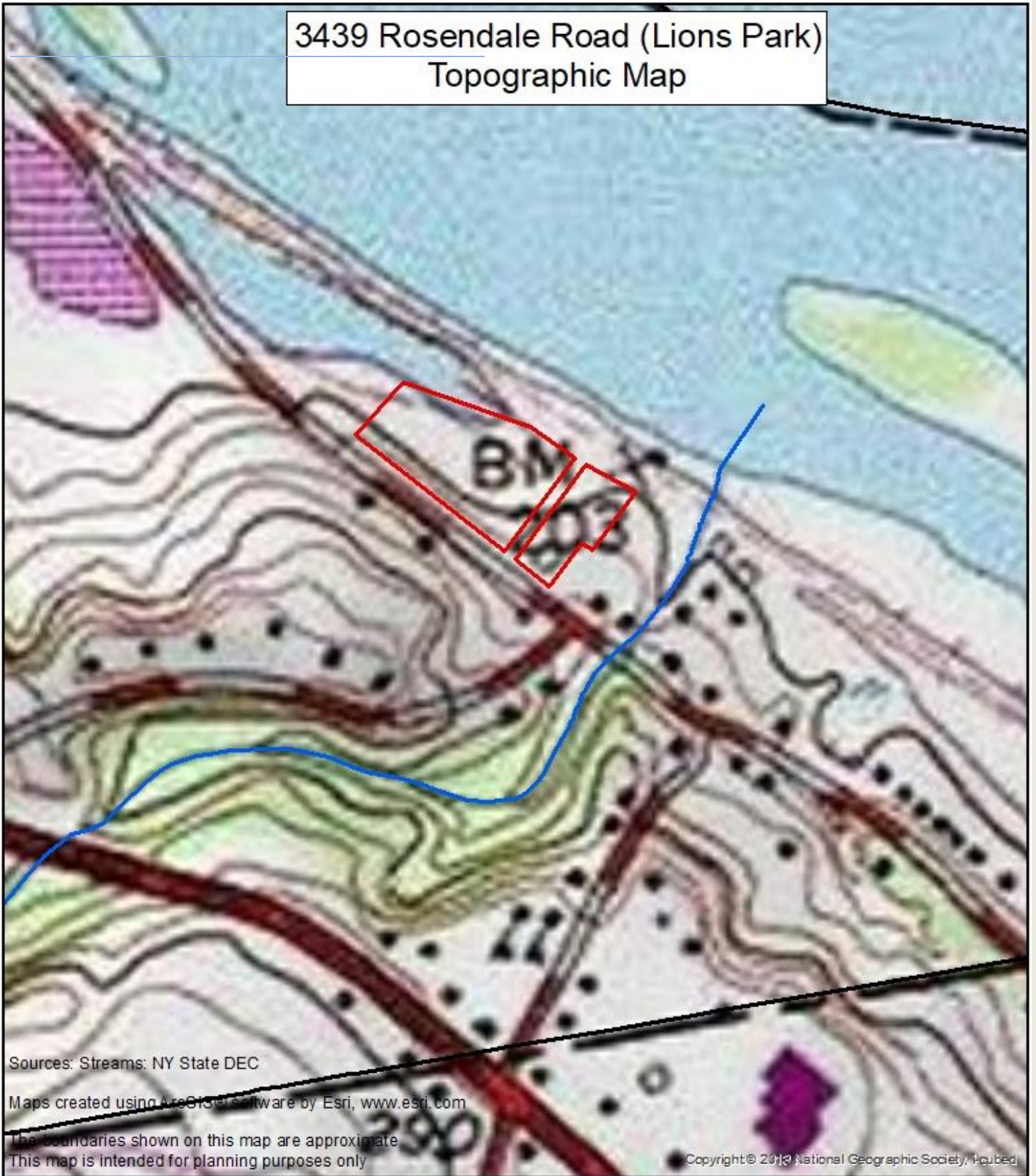
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

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



January 24, 2024

3439 Rosendale Road (Lions Park)
Topographic Map



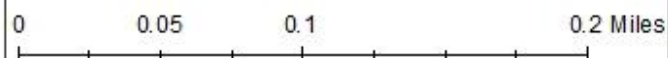
Sources: Streams: NY State DEC

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) SURVEY

May 25, 2024, October 19, 2024 Survey



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 rail bed 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.³¹

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 2022³².

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.

³¹ Capital District Trail User Counts, 2016. Capital District Transportation Committee.

³² 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:

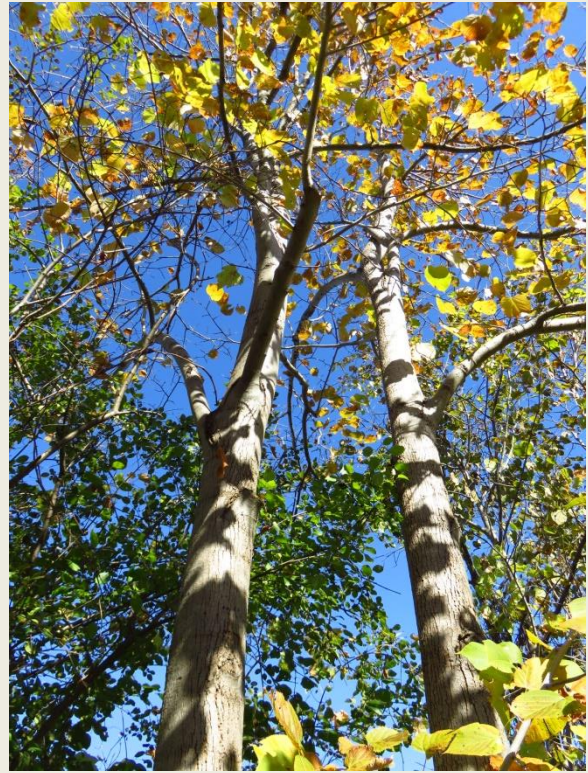
The forest along the Trail is mature with very large cottonwood, elm, big tooth aspen and silver maple trees along with red maple, Norway maple, black willow, quaking aspen, hickory, black walnut, locust, beech, sugar maple, catalpa, black and choke cherry and basswood trees. Many of the ash trees were 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:

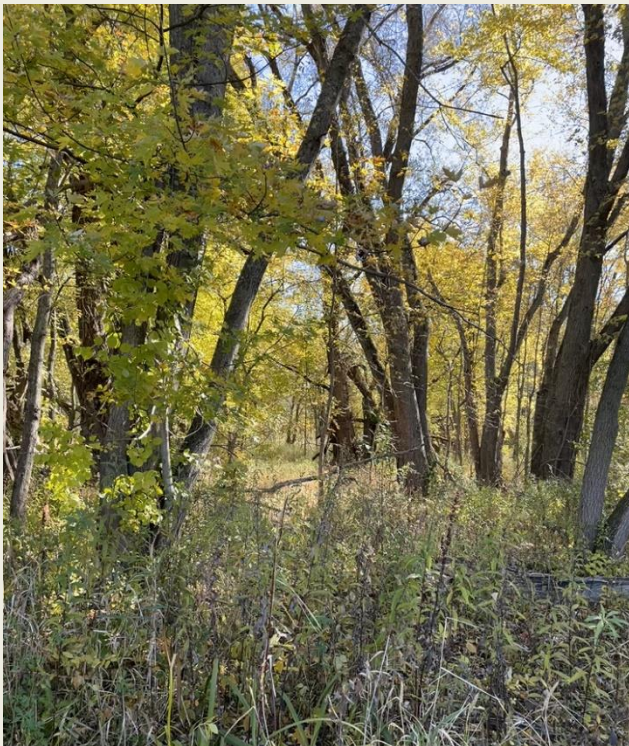
The Lisha Kill broadens out into wetlands and a lagoon as it reaches the landfill beneath the MHBHT. The dominant trees in these wet areas are silver maples that form groves. Dead ash trees are also common. Cattails, phragmites, woolgrass, irises, sedges and purple loosestrife are common in the ground 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.³³

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

³³ [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)



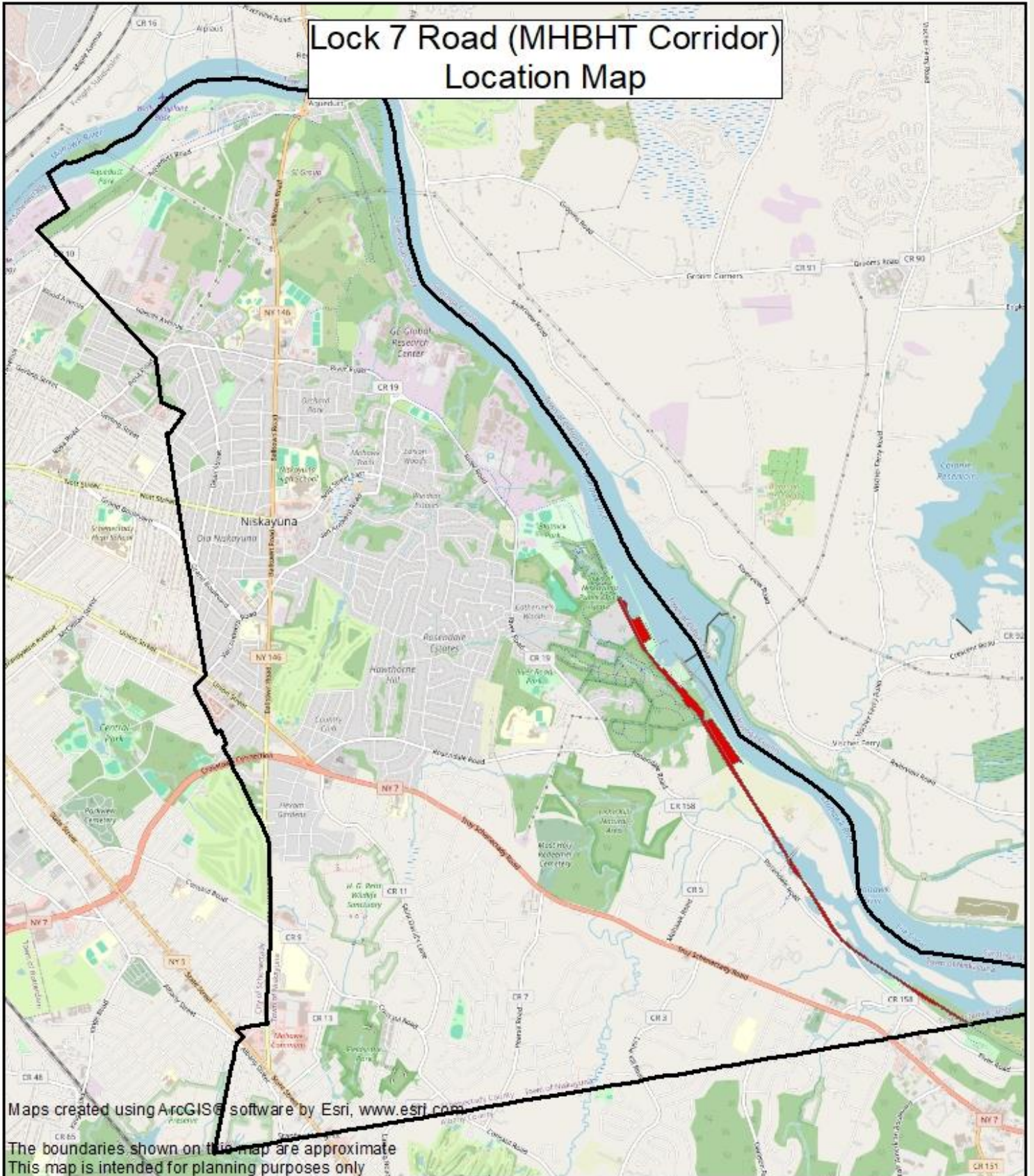
Bloodroot

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.

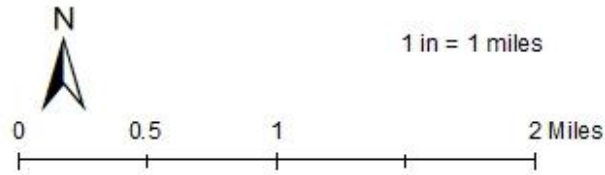
Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Location Map



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

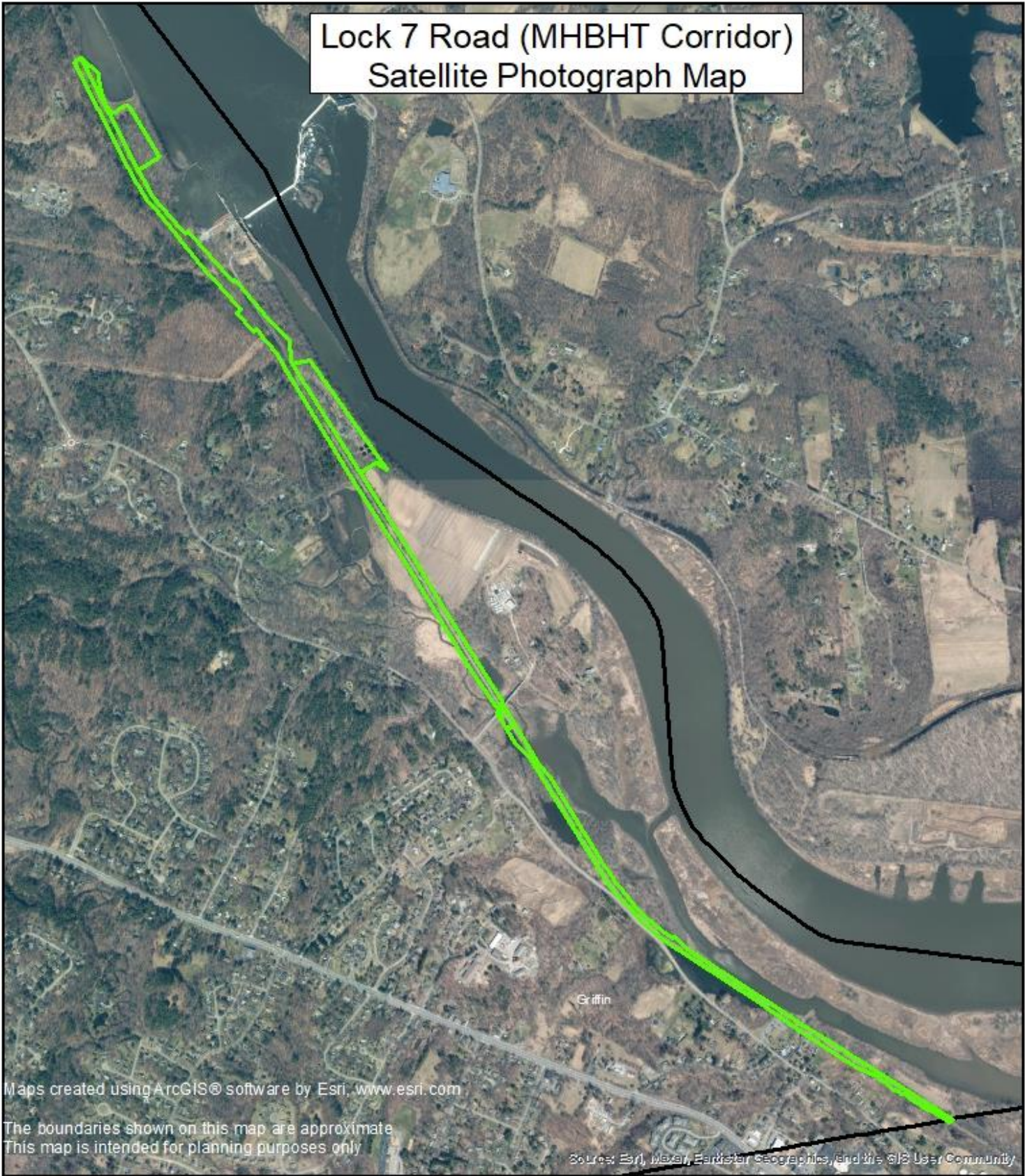
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  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

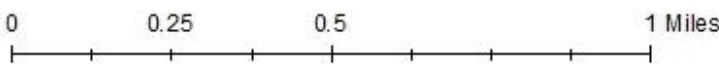
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

 Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor)

N



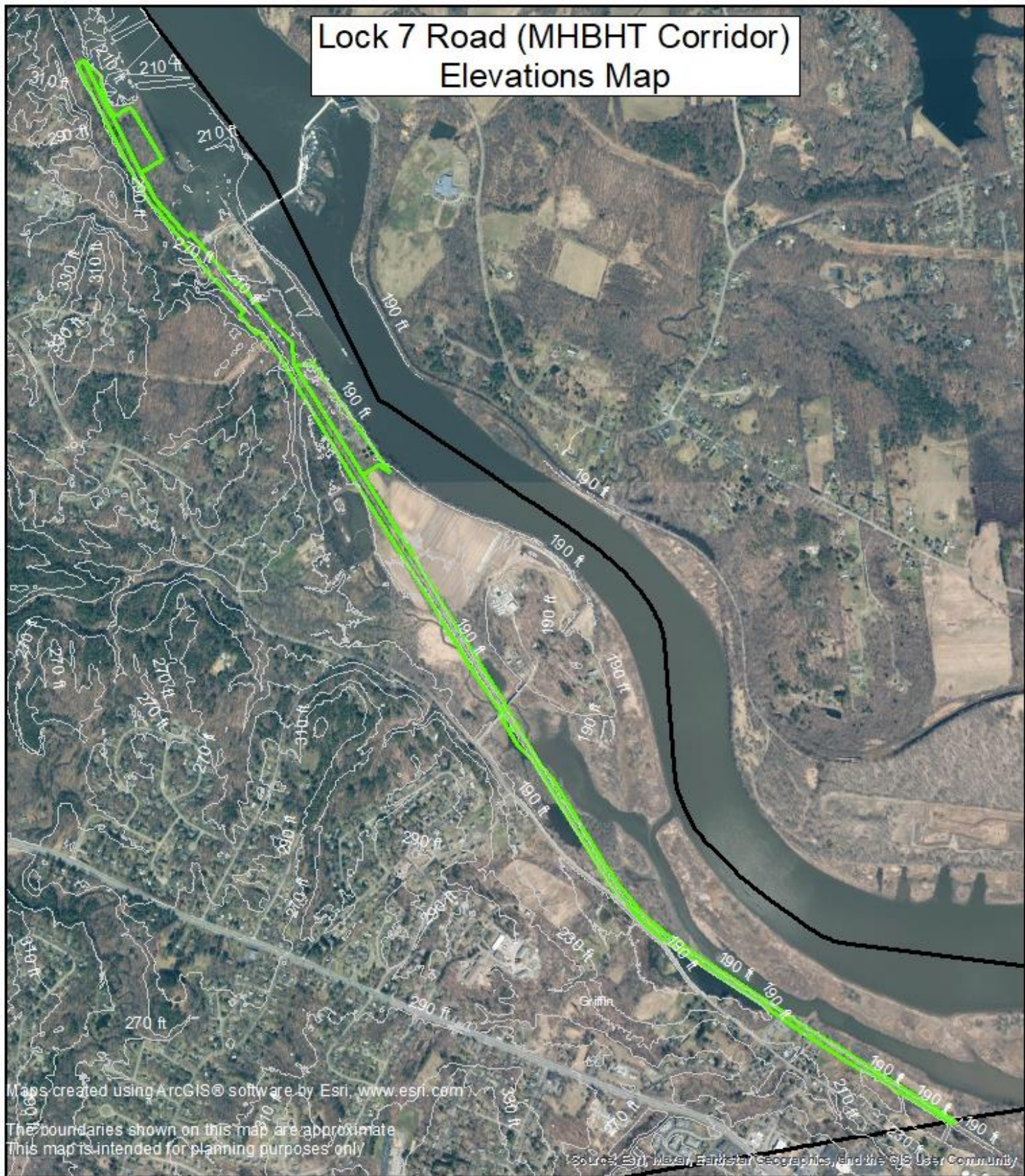
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles






Niskayuna
NEW YORK

November 22, 2024

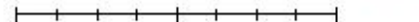
Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Elevations Map



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

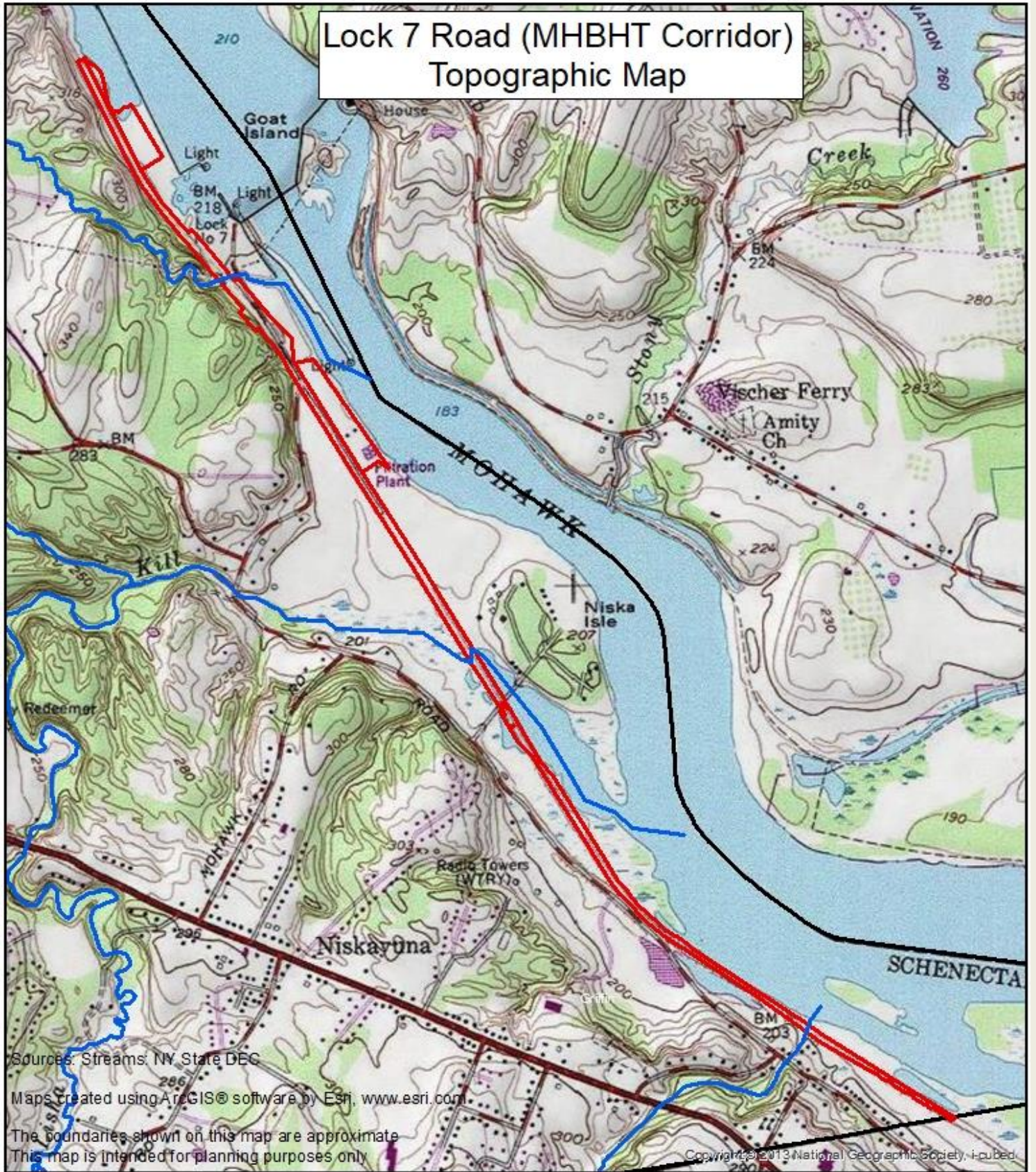


0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

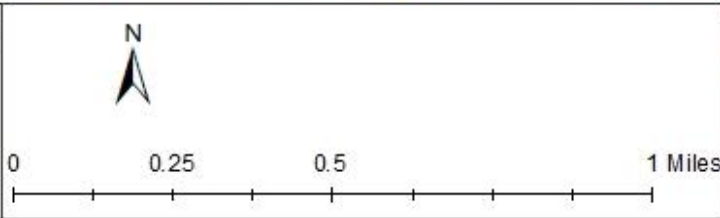


November 22, 2024

Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Topographic Map



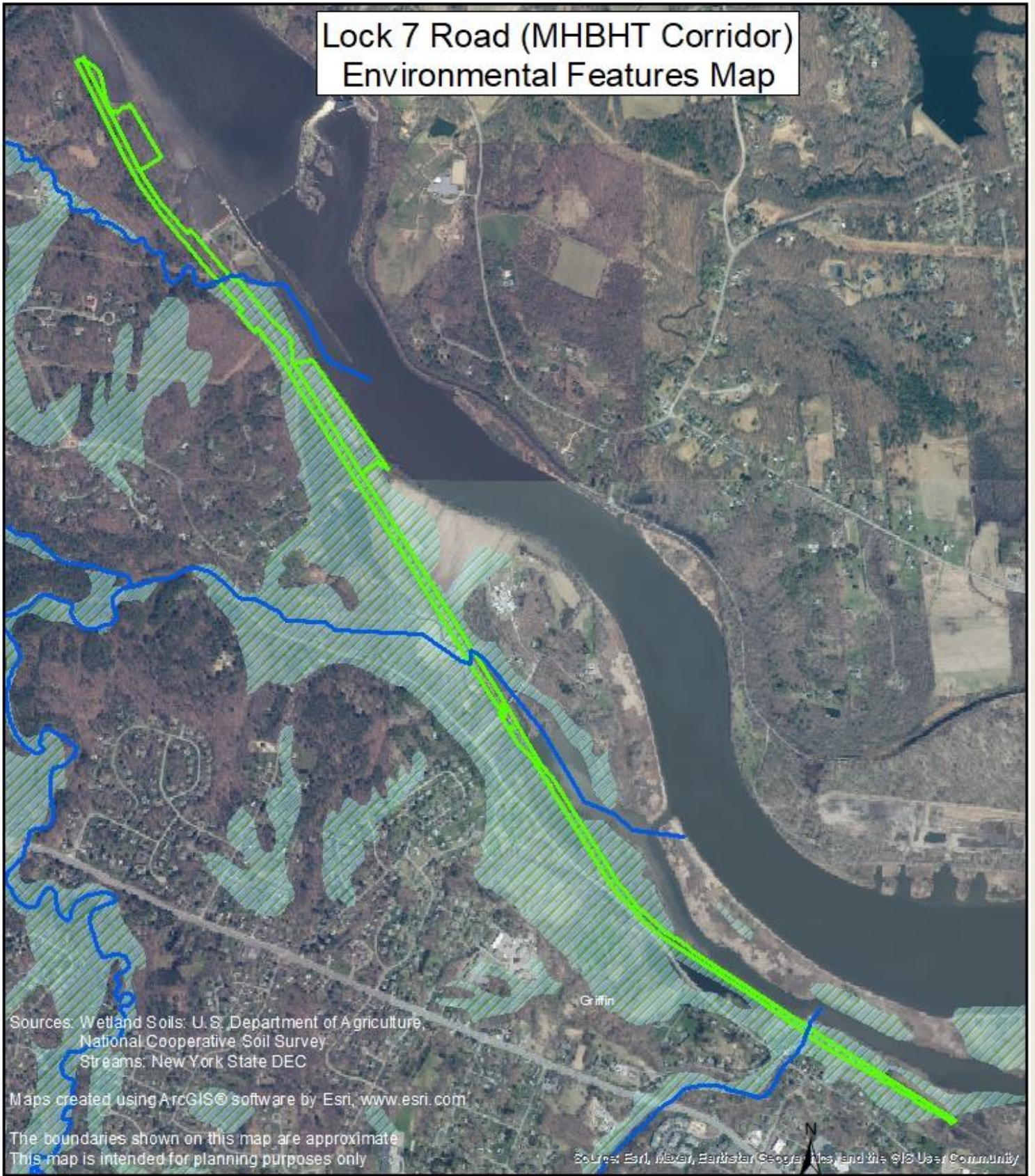
- Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor)
- Streams
- Niskayuna Town Boundaries



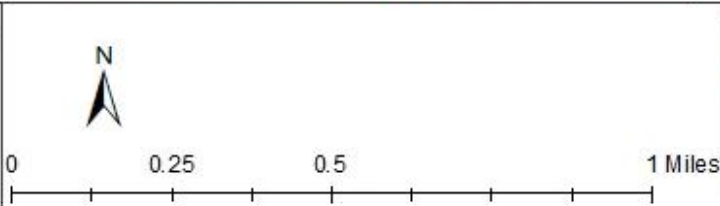
Niskayuna
NEW YORK

November 22, 2024

Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Environmental Features Map



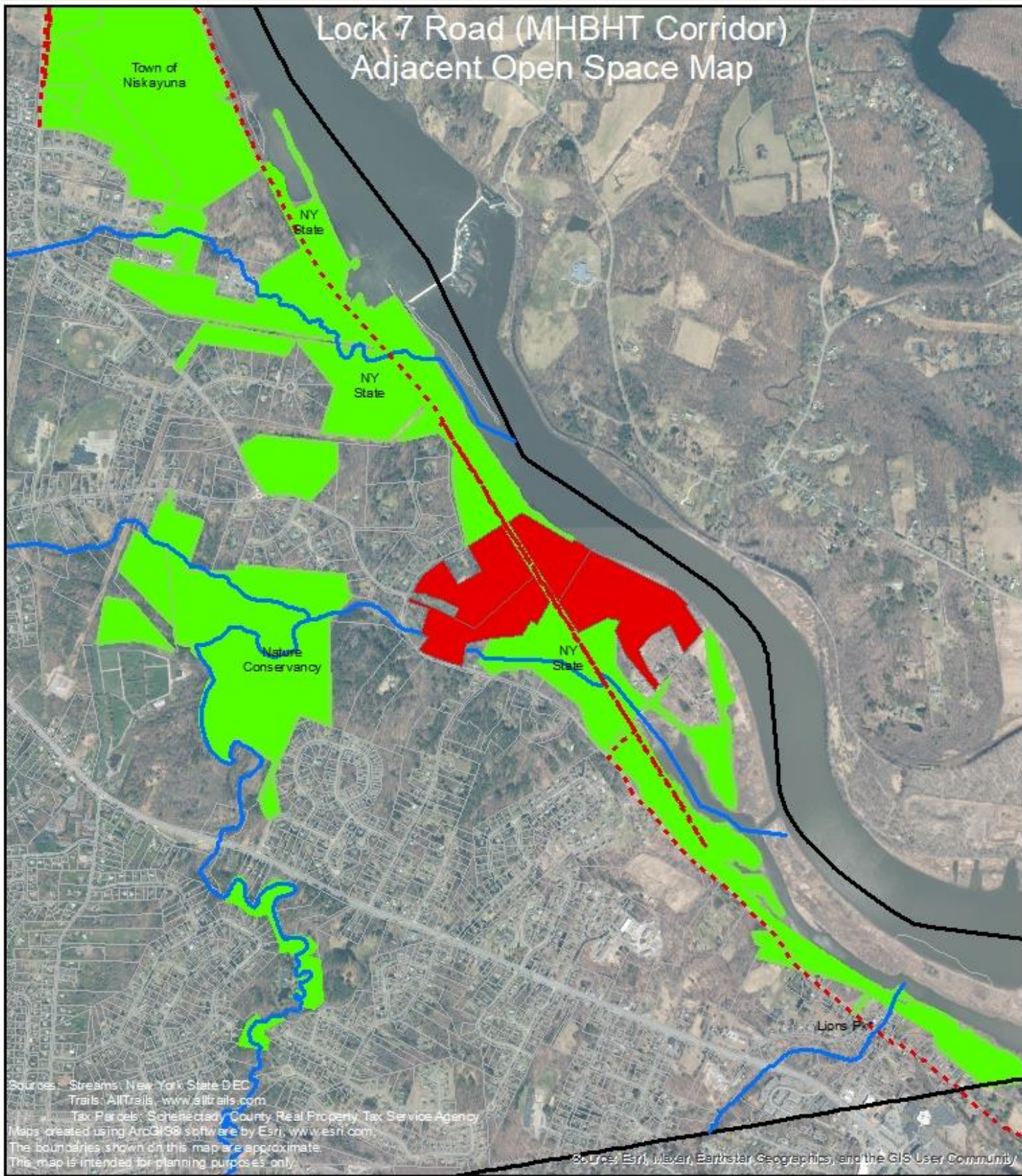
-  Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor)
-  Streams
-  Wetland Soils



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024

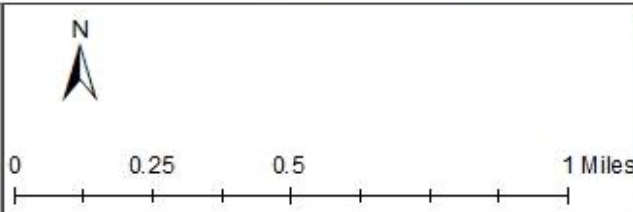
Lock 7 Road (MHBHT Corridor) Adjacent Open Space Map



Sources: Streams: New York State DEC
 Trails: AllTrails - www.alltrails.com
 Tax Parcels: Schenectady County Real Property Tax Service Agency
 Maps created using ArcGIS99 software by Esri, www.esri.com
 The boundaries shown on this map are approximate.
 The map is intended for planning purposes only.

Source: 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





Niskayuna
NEW YORK

November 22, 2024

MAPLE LANE SURVEY

May 24, 25, 2024 Survey

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 Guilderland. (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 State³⁴. 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.³⁵



Parking and trail entrance across from Sycamore Ct.



Entrance to informal trails at south end of Butternut Drive

³⁴ <https://www.iloveny.com/listing/albany-pine-bush-preserve-commission/15314/>

³⁵ Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan Update, 2017, p. 56, 57.

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



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

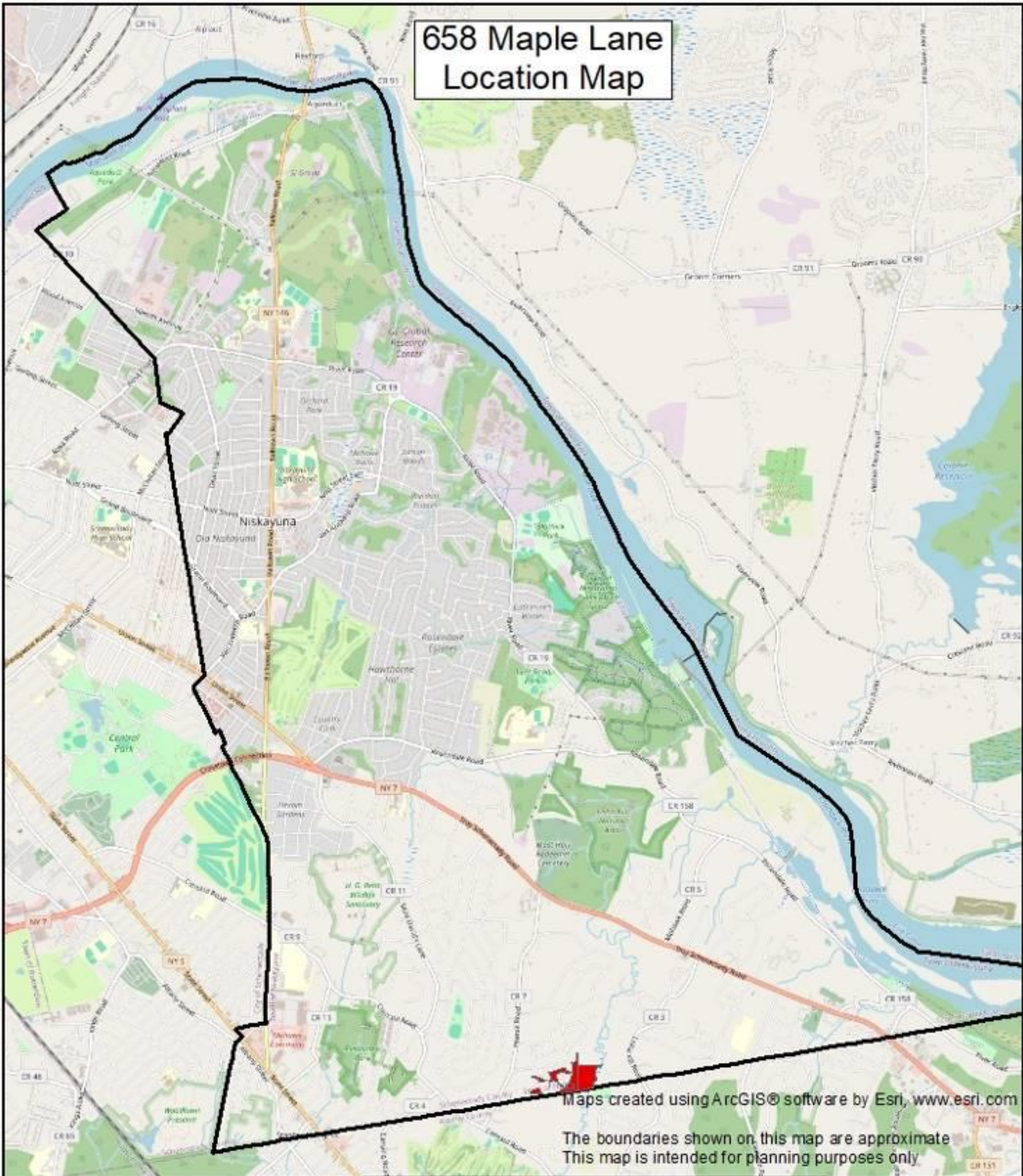
While areas that have been disturbed during home construction are dominated by invasive plants including phragmites, honeysuckle, European alder, autumn olive, multi-flora rose and buckthorn, interior areas are quite natural with mature trees and shrubs. The formal trail provides recreational opportunities 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.

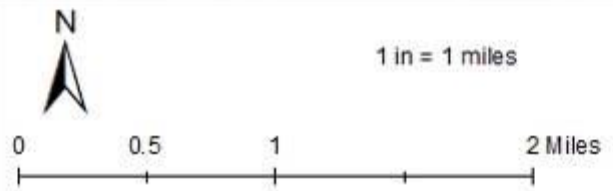
These woods and trails have other conservation values for Niskayuna's residents and visitors including protecting the scenic views of the Lisha Kill and providing educational and recreational opportunities.

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

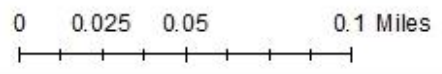


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri. www.esri.com

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

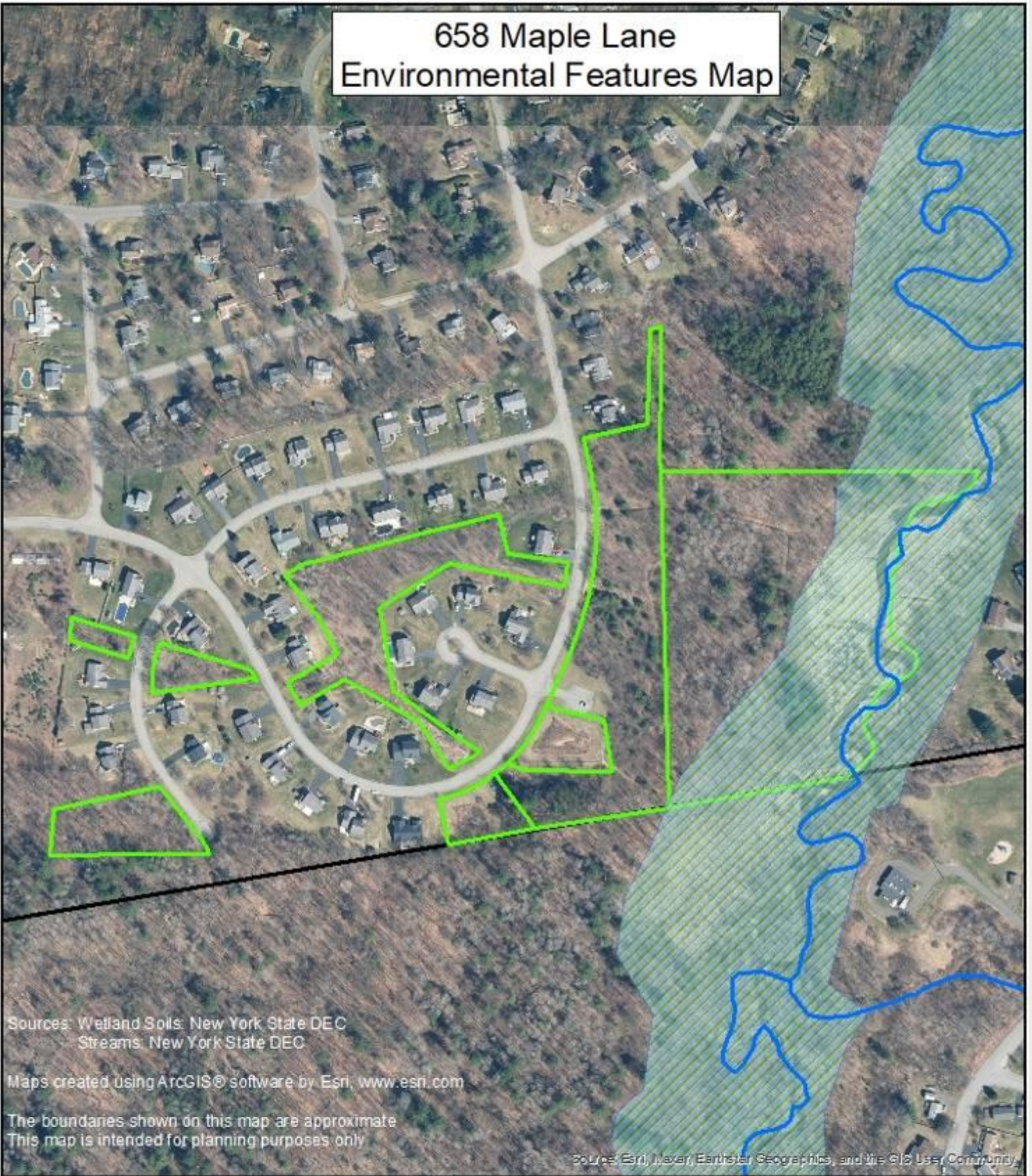
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

-  658 Maple Lane
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



January 24, 2024

658 Maple Lane Environmental Features Map



Sources: Wetland Soils: New York State DEC
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

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

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

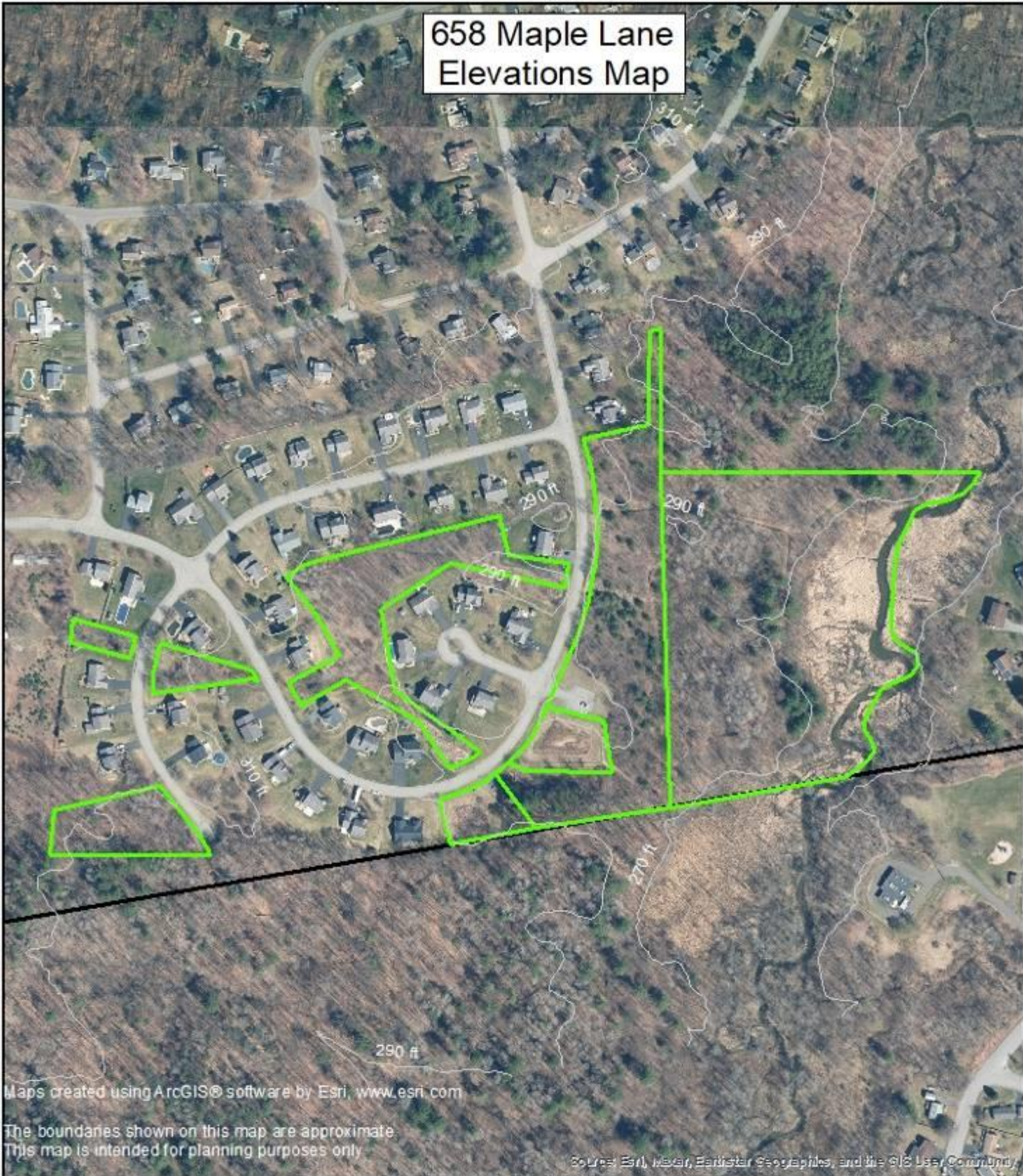


0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles



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.

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


 658 Maple Lane

 Elevations-10 ft. intervals

N



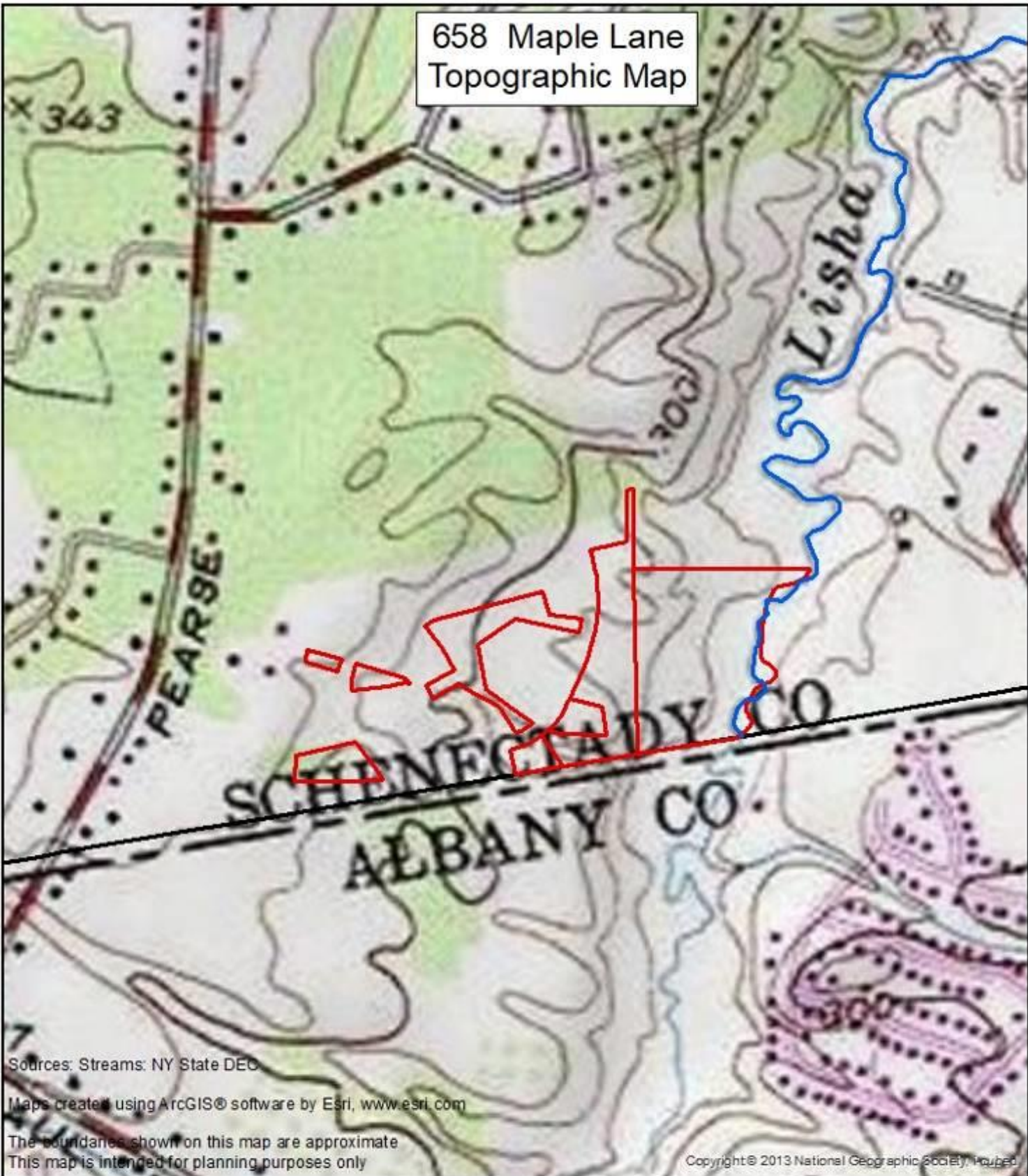
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Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024

658 Maple 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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-  658 Maple Lane
-  Streams
-  Naikayuna Town Boundaries

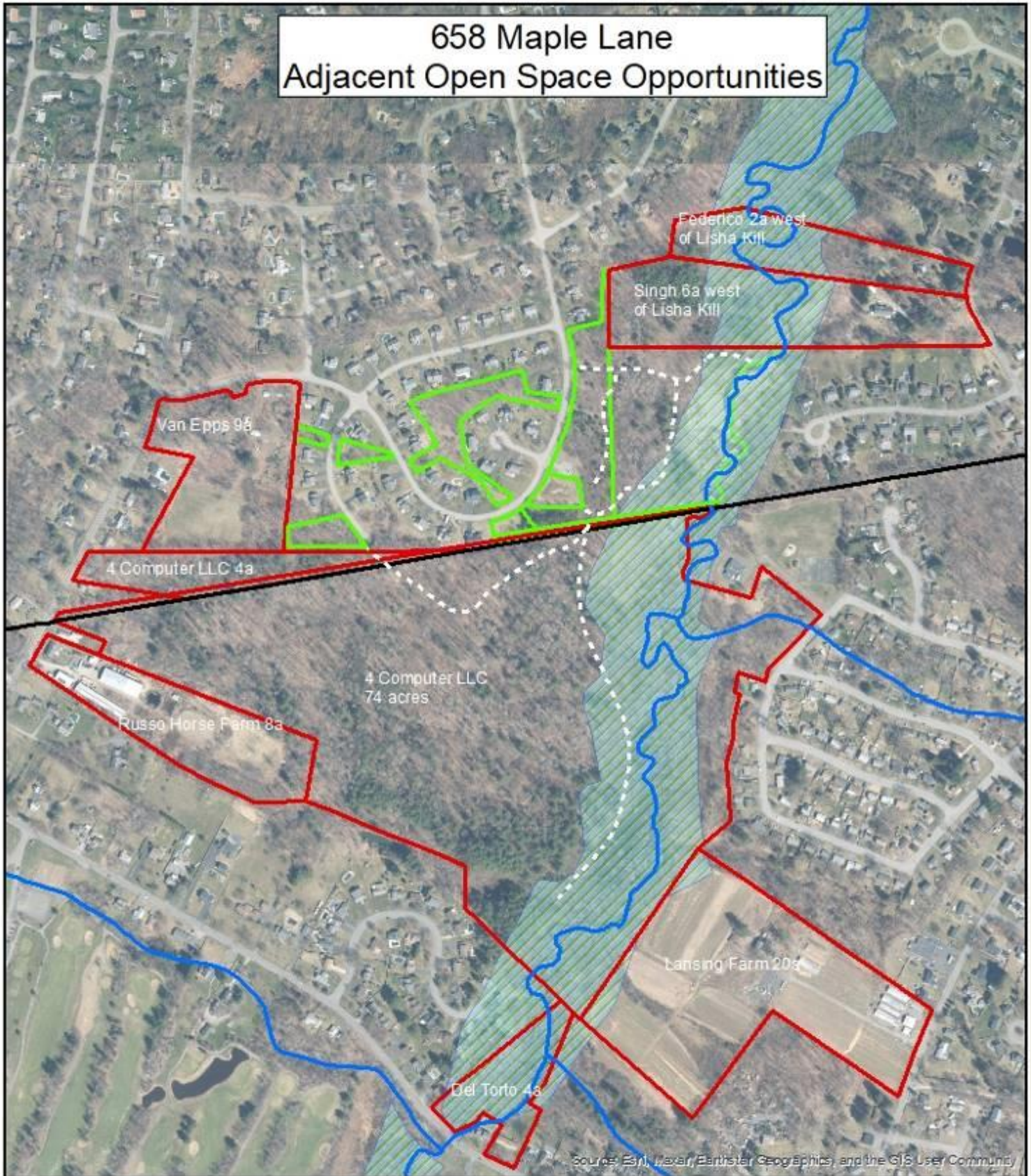


0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



January 24, 2024

658 Maple Lane Adjacent Open Space Opportunities



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

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

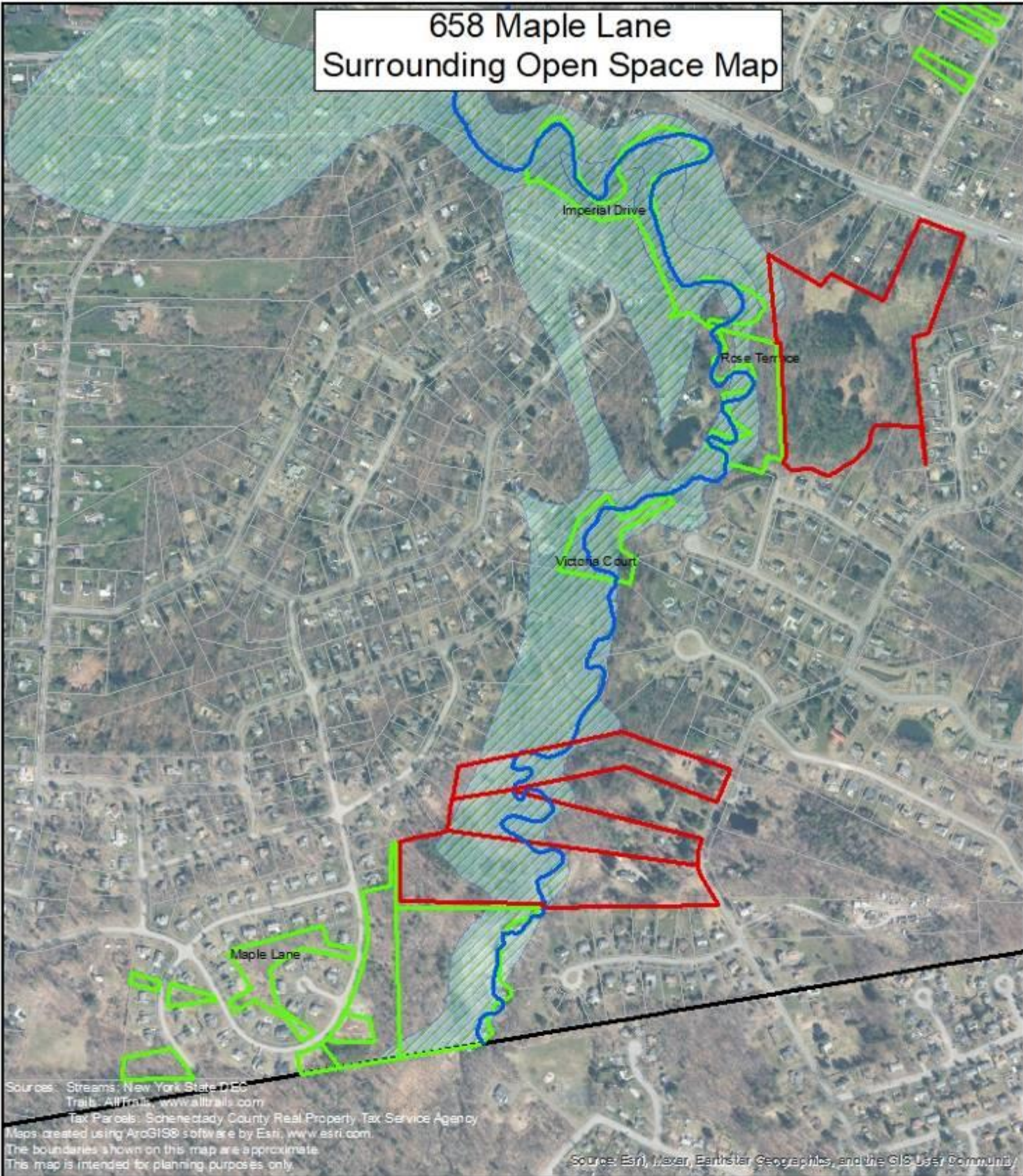


0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

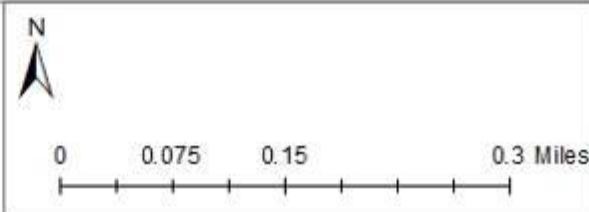


June 23, 2024

658 Maple Lane Surrounding Open Space Map



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

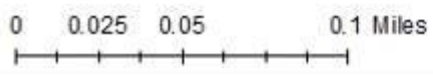


February 12, 2024

658 Maple Lane Trail Map

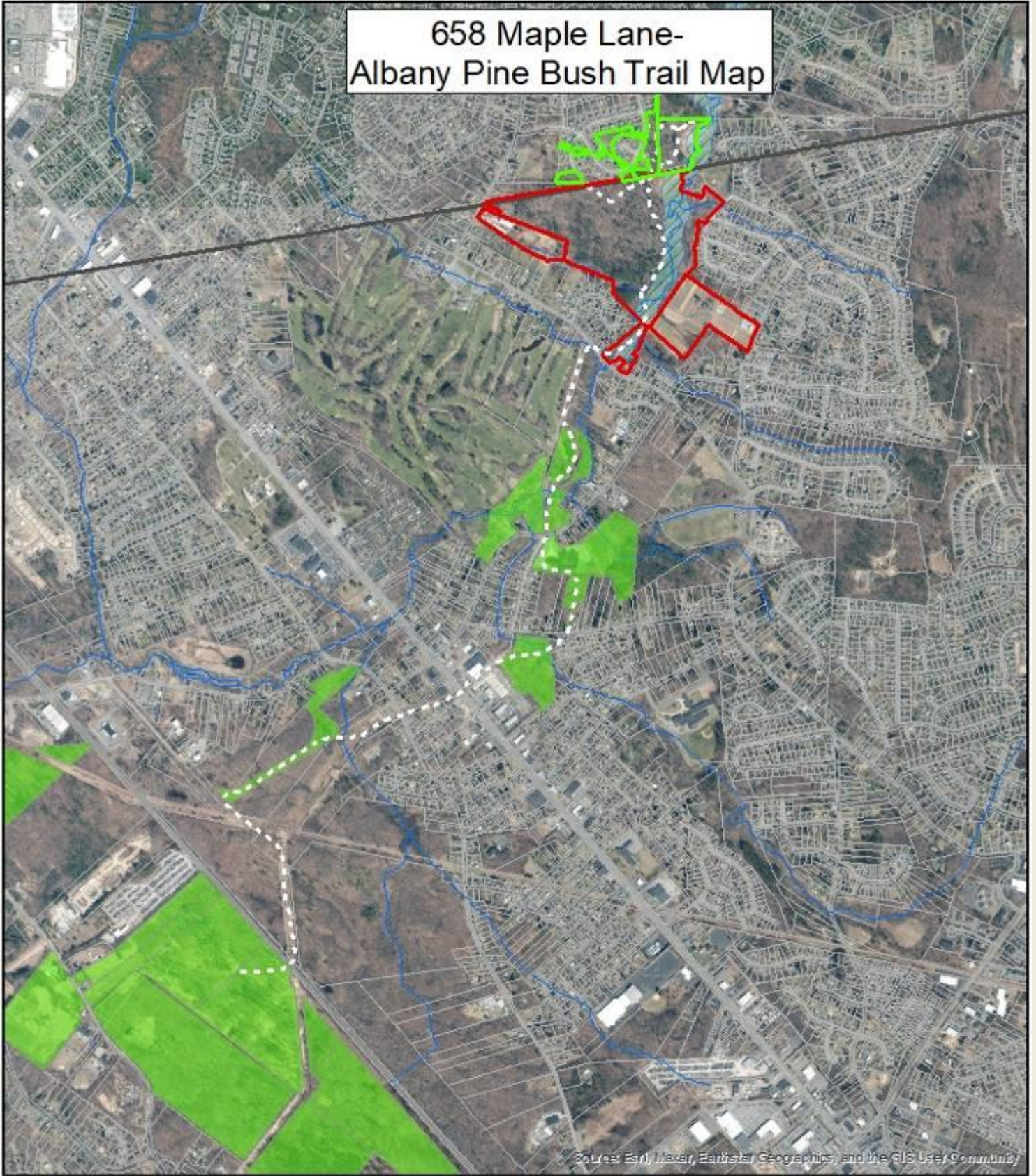


- 658 Maple Lane
- Niskayuna Town Boundaries
- Parking
- Hiking Trails
- Scenic Lookout









January 24, 2024

658 Maple Lane- Albany Pine Bush Trail Map



Sources: 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



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



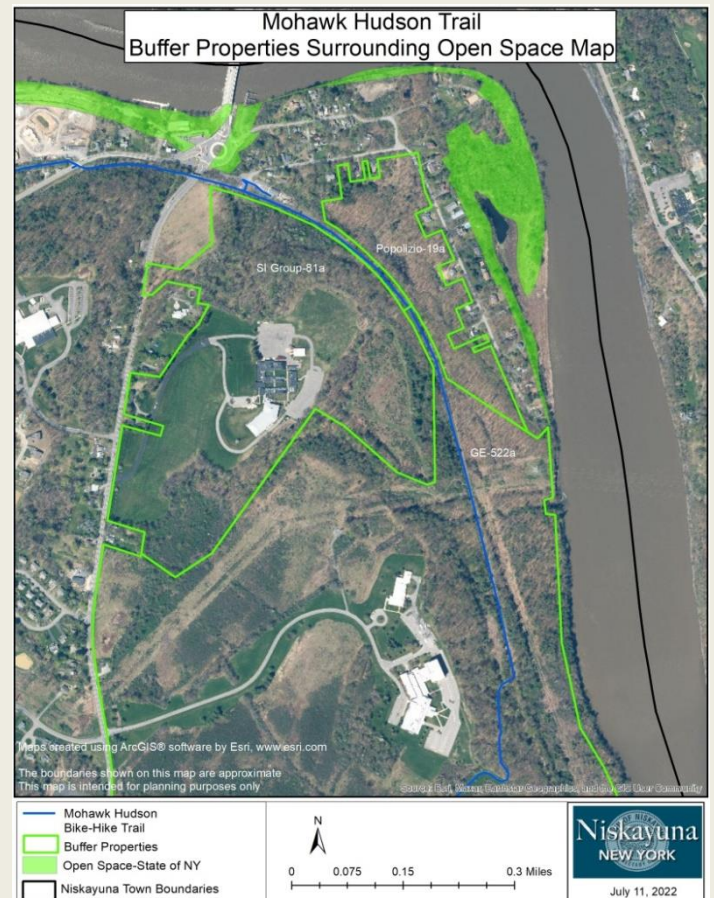
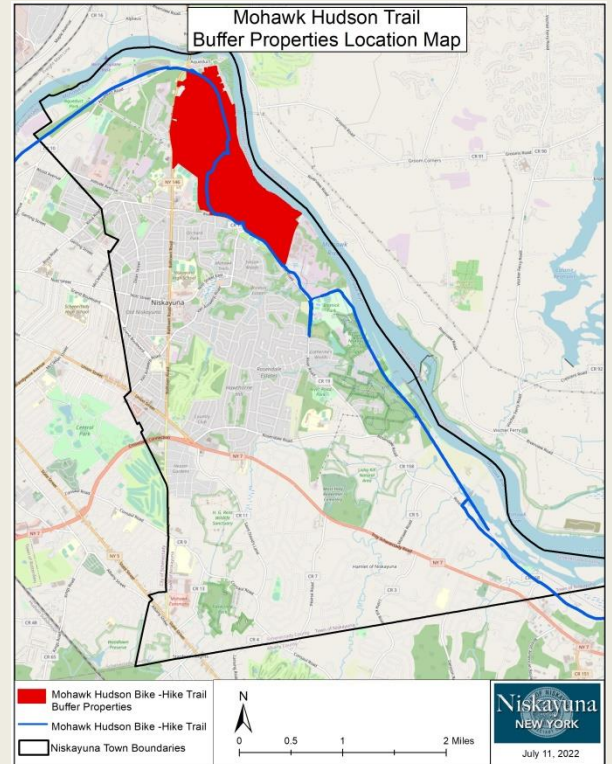
June 22, 2024

MOHAWK HUDSON BIKE-HIKE TRAIL CORRIDOR SURVEY

May 14, 2022 Survey

The northeastern section of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail (MHBHT) runs between three large, wooded properties that are vulnerable to development (see Mohawk Trail Buffer Properties Location Map to right and page 62 and Mohawk Trail Buffer Properties Surrounding Open Space Map below and page 66). Protecting lands adjacent to the MHBHT can buffer the Trail, allowing hikers and bikers to continue to experience the wonder and beauty of nature along the Trail, including mature woods, wetlands, streams and waterfalls as well as views of the Mohawk River. Protecting adjacent land can also allow new trailhead connections to the MHBHT, increasing pedestrian and bicycle access while conserving natural habitats within the Town. This would meet a goal of the Town's Comprehensive Plan to "identify continuity gaps that would connect park recreational lands to the existing Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and acquire/develop public land to resolve this."³⁶

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. It is worth noting that the Lisha Kill Preserve is heavily over-used and shows signs of wear. The need for additional wooded open space is strong in Niskayuna.



³⁶ Town of Niskayuna Comprehensive Development Plan, 2013, p. 45

REGIONAL SETTING:

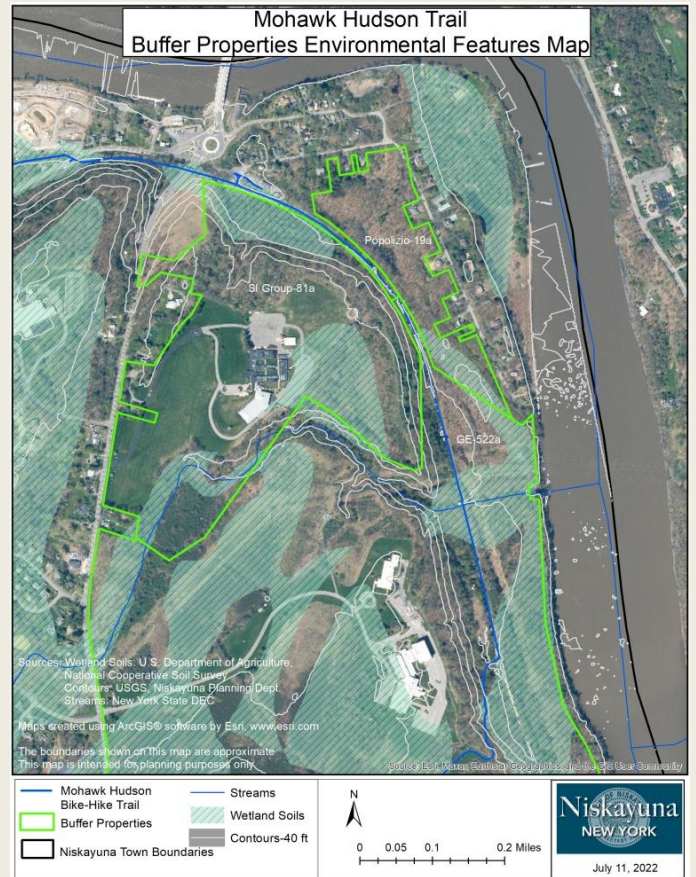
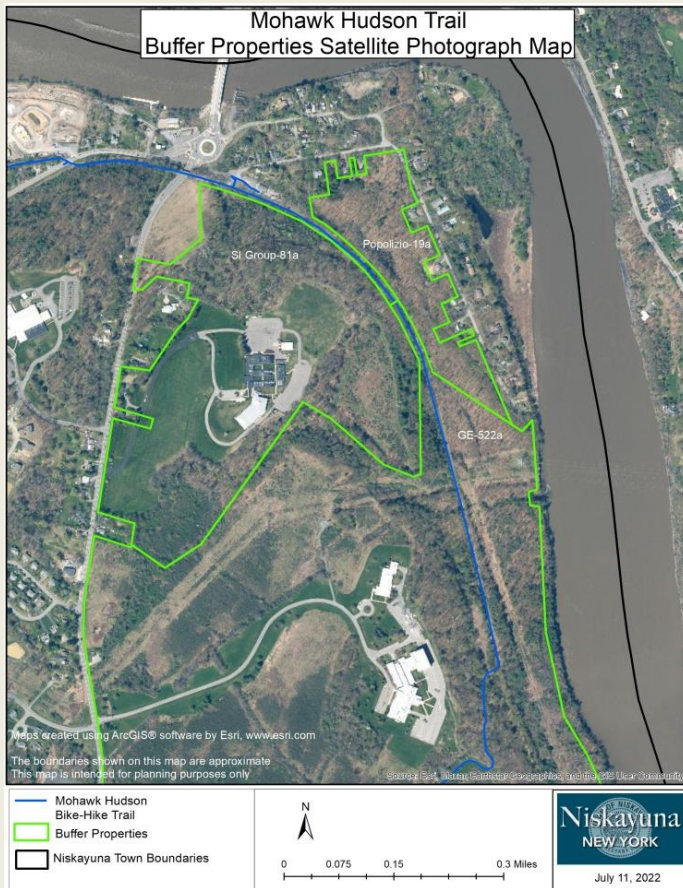
The Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail (MHBHT) is 97-miles long and connects the Erie Canalway and Empire State Trails. Over a quarter of a million people use the Niskayuna portion of the Trail each year. The Trail runs along the eastern and northern edges of Niskayuna on the railed of the former Troy & Schenectady Railroad (see Mohawk Trail Buffer Properties Location Map previous page and page 62). The northeastern section of the MHBHT runs between three large, wooded properties: the 522-acre GE property on both sides of the Trail, the 81-acre SI Group property that lies on the west side of the Trail and the 19-acre Popolizio property that lies on the east side of the Trail (see Mohawk Trail Buffer Properties Surrounding Open Space Map previous page and page 66). The SI Group has over thirty acres of forest abutting the Trail, GE has over 150 acres of forest and fields abutting the trail and the Mohawk River and the Popolizio property has nineteen acres of forest, streams and wetlands abutting the trail (see Mohawk Trail Buffer Properties Satellite Photograph Map previous page and page 63).

Many companies across the country are shifting their operations from 'corporate campus' locations that were popular in the late 20th century and moving offices back to more urban areas. As this is occurring, vacant corporate campuses are finding new uses as mixed-use commercial-residential complexes, as educational institutions, as affordable housing and other uses. Niskayuna has several such corporate campuses and the Town may want to consider options in the future for such properties if ownership shifts. The campuses have some of the largest remaining natural, wooded areas in Niskayuna and protecting these natural resources should be considered and is consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Trail is surrounded by mature forest of both sides (see Mohawk Trail Buffer Properties Satellite Photograph Map previous page and page 63). Two streams flow from the steep slopes on the western side of the Trail, another stream flows along the Trail's eastern edge. The streams flow into large wetlands on the eastern side of the Trail before entering the Mohawk River (see Mohawk Trail Buffer Properties Environmental Features Map to right and page 64). The western side of the Trail has steep slopes that drop from a height of 330 feet above sea level to 270 feet at the Trail itself. The eastern portion of the Trail is flatter and slopes another 30 feet to 230 feet above sea level at the Mohawk River (see Mohawk Trail Buffer Properties Environmental Features Map previous page and page 64).

The Trail is located in a geographic region know as the Schenectady Formation. Bedrock along the Trail consists of shale rock. Shale is exposed in several places along the Trail and where the streams have eroded it, the shale has created dramatic ravines and waterfalls where these streams meet the Mohawk River. These waterfalls are on private property but if opened to the public and properly signed with warnings and fencing, they could be attractive destinations for people hiking and biking on the Trail.



Shale-filled ravine

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES:

FORESTS:

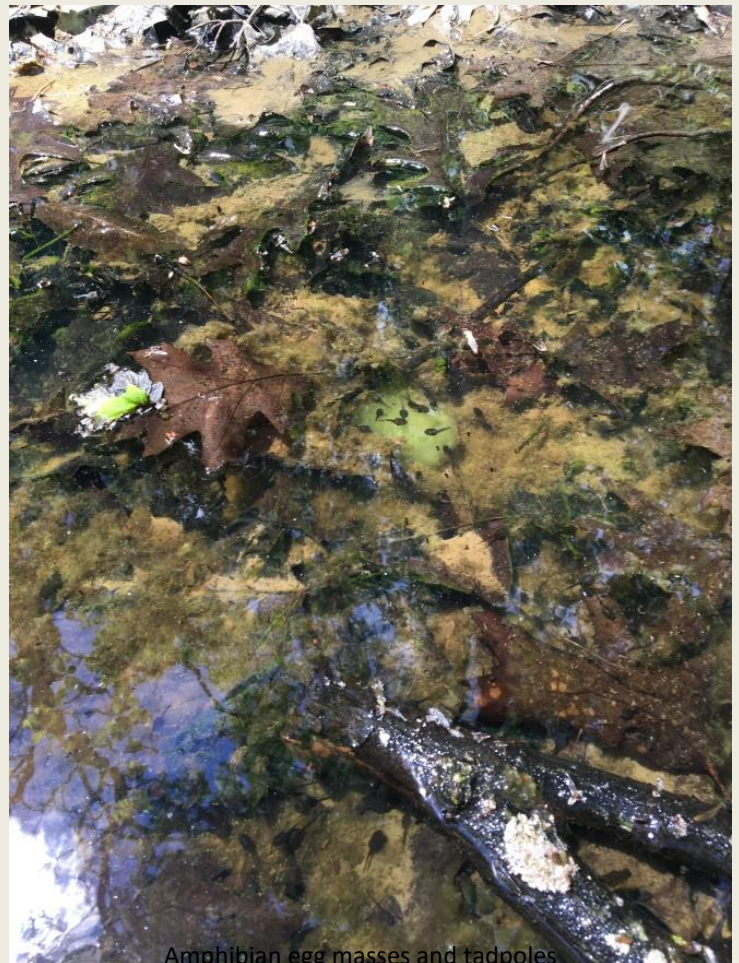
The forest along the Trail is mature with large white oaks, red oaks and hickories. The understory has bladdernut, serviceberry, hophornbeam and striped maple trees while the shrub layer has witch hazel and low bush blueberry shrubs. The ground layer includes a remarkable variety of native plants including: yellow stem violet, wood sedge, moonseed vine, anise root, miterwort, trout lily, trillium, Canada mayflower, sarsaparilla, golden Alexander, May apple, coltsfoot, Virginia waterleaf, Christmas fern and polypody. The great variety of plant species found here is due in part to the spoils which, judging by the plant species, are high pH, low acidity soils which are not typical of northeastern forests. High pH soils are also more hospitable to a range of insects, amphibians and other wildlife. The Trail's high biodiversity is also due to the fact that it has been undisturbed for many years and has very invasive plants.

Birds were abundant in terms of numbers and species and include red start, scarlet tanager, pee-wee and red eyed vireo in wooded areas and great crested flycatcher and chestnut sided warblers along the power lines. Amphibian egg masses, probably green frog eggs, along with tadpoles and river dace were found in the streams and ditches alongside the Trail.

CONSERVATION VALUES:

The Trail's mature forests, 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 to the south, this forest 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.

These forests 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 Trail's forests also provide educational and recreational values and should be protected.



Amphibian egg masses and tadpoles

MHBHT WILDFLOWERS:



Virginia waterleaf

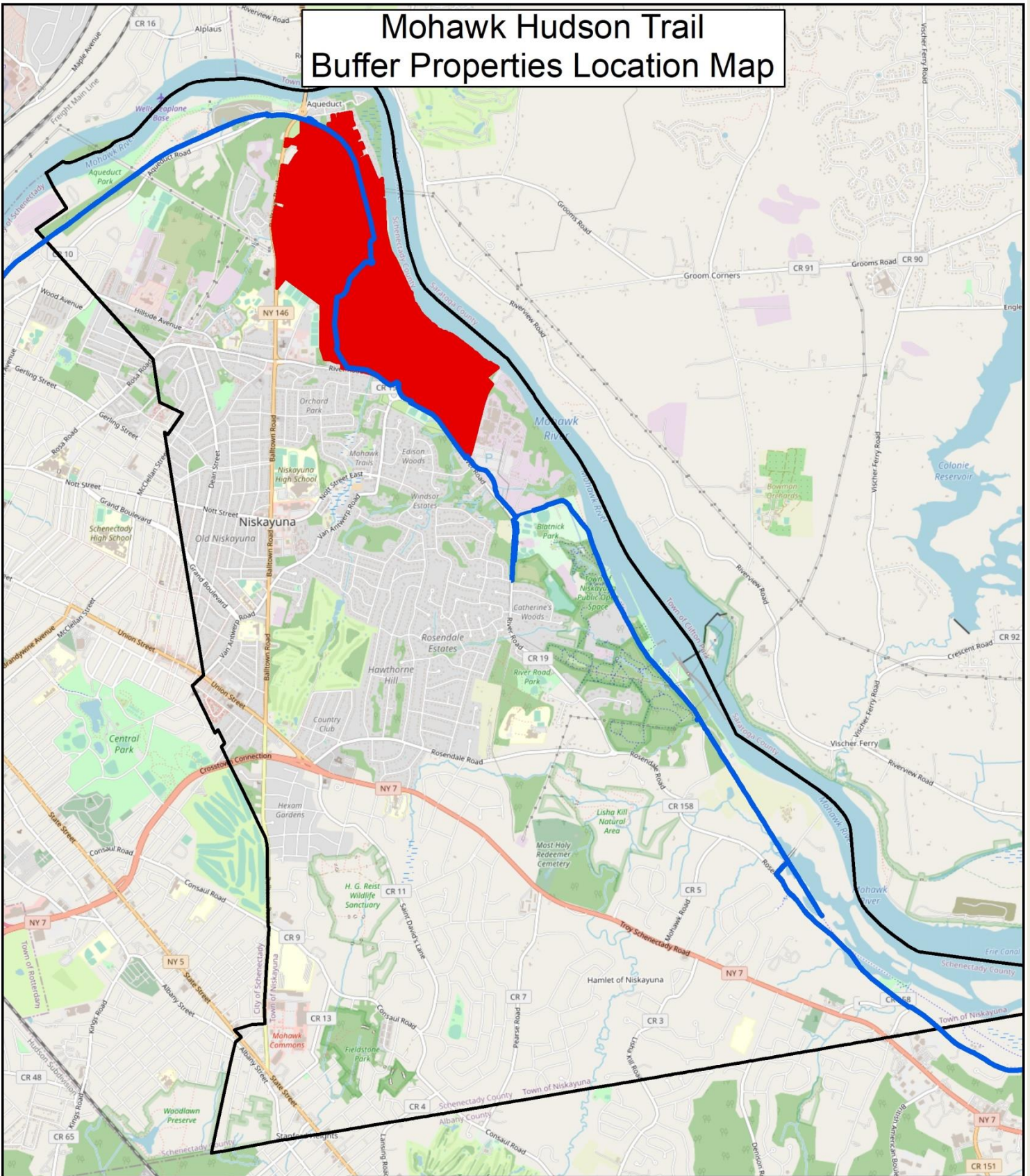


Golden Alexander

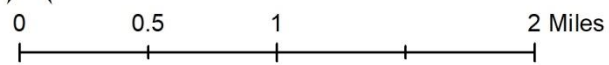


Miterwort

Mohawk Hudson Trail Buffer Properties Location Map



- Mohawk Hudson Bike -Hike Trail Buffer Properties
- Mohawk Hudson Bike -Hike Trail
- Niskayuna Town Boundaries



July 11, 2022




Mohawk Hudson Trail Buffer Properties Satellite Photograph Map

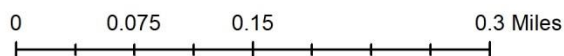


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This map is intended for planning purposes only

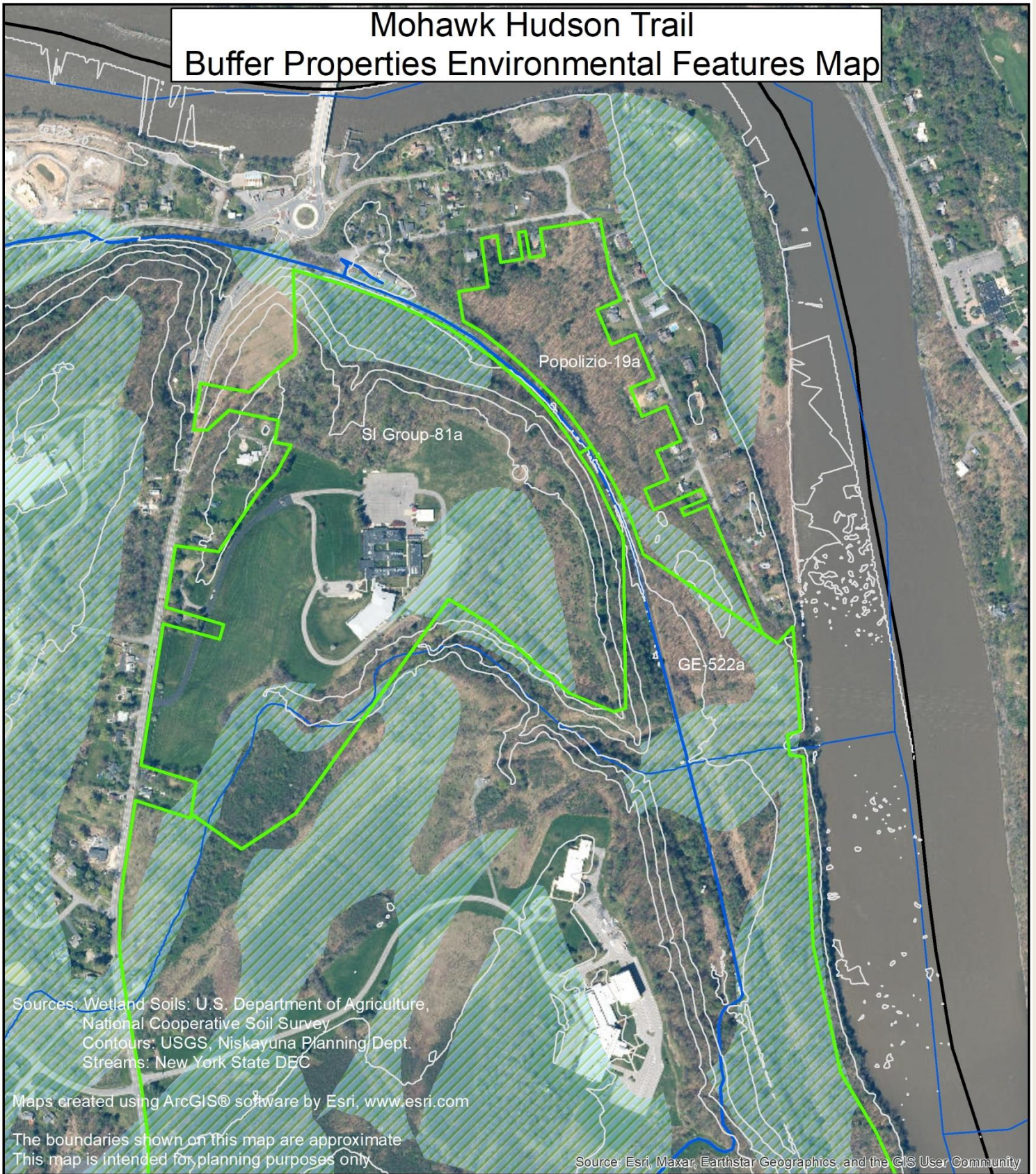
Source: Esri, Maxar, EarthStar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

-  Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail
-  Buffer Properties
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



July 11, 2022

Mohawk Hudson Trail Buffer Properties Environmental Features Map



Sources: Wetland Soils: U.S. Department of Agriculture,
National Cooperative Soil Survey
Contours: USGS, Niskayuna Planning Dept.
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

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

- Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail
- Buffer Properties
- Niskayuna Town Boundaries
- Streams
- Wetland Soils
- Contours-40 ft

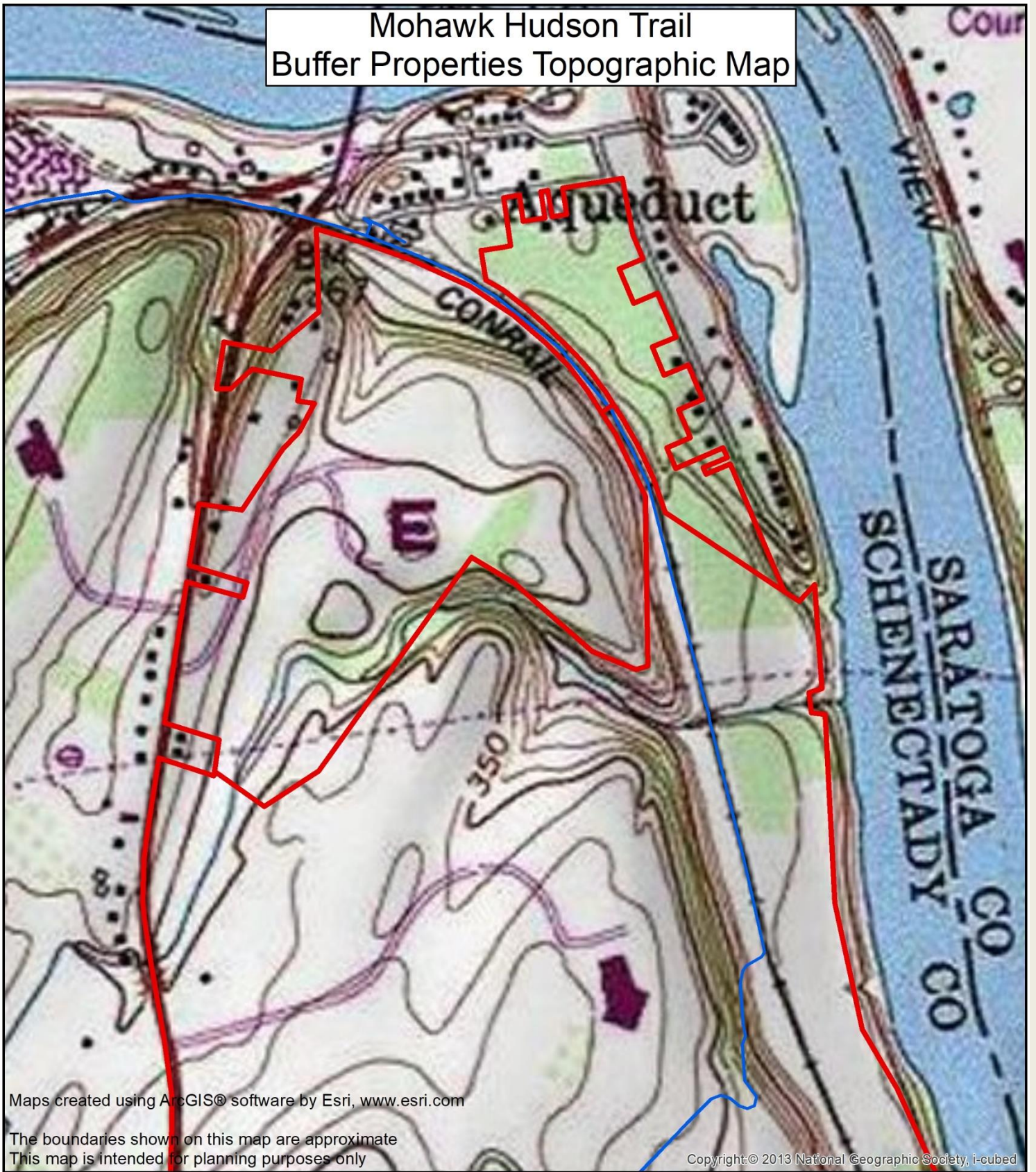


0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



July 11, 2022




Mohawk Hudson Trail Buffer Properties 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

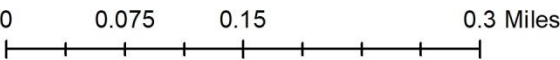
Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

-  Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail
-  Buffer Properties
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries

N



0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

July 11, 2022

Mohawk Hudson Trail Buffer Properties Surrounding Open Space Map

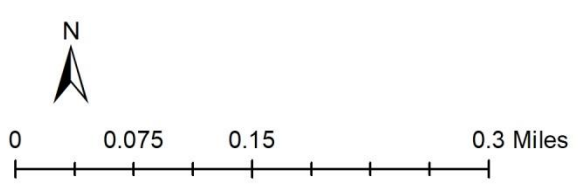


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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

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

- Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail
- Buffer Properties
- Open Space-State of NY
- Niskayuna Town Boundaries



July 11, 2022

MORROW AVENUE SURVEY

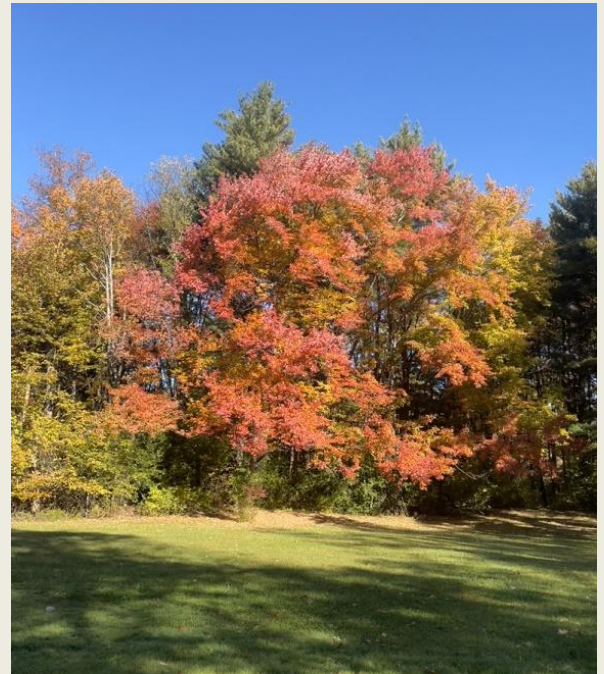
October 19, 2024 Survey

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.

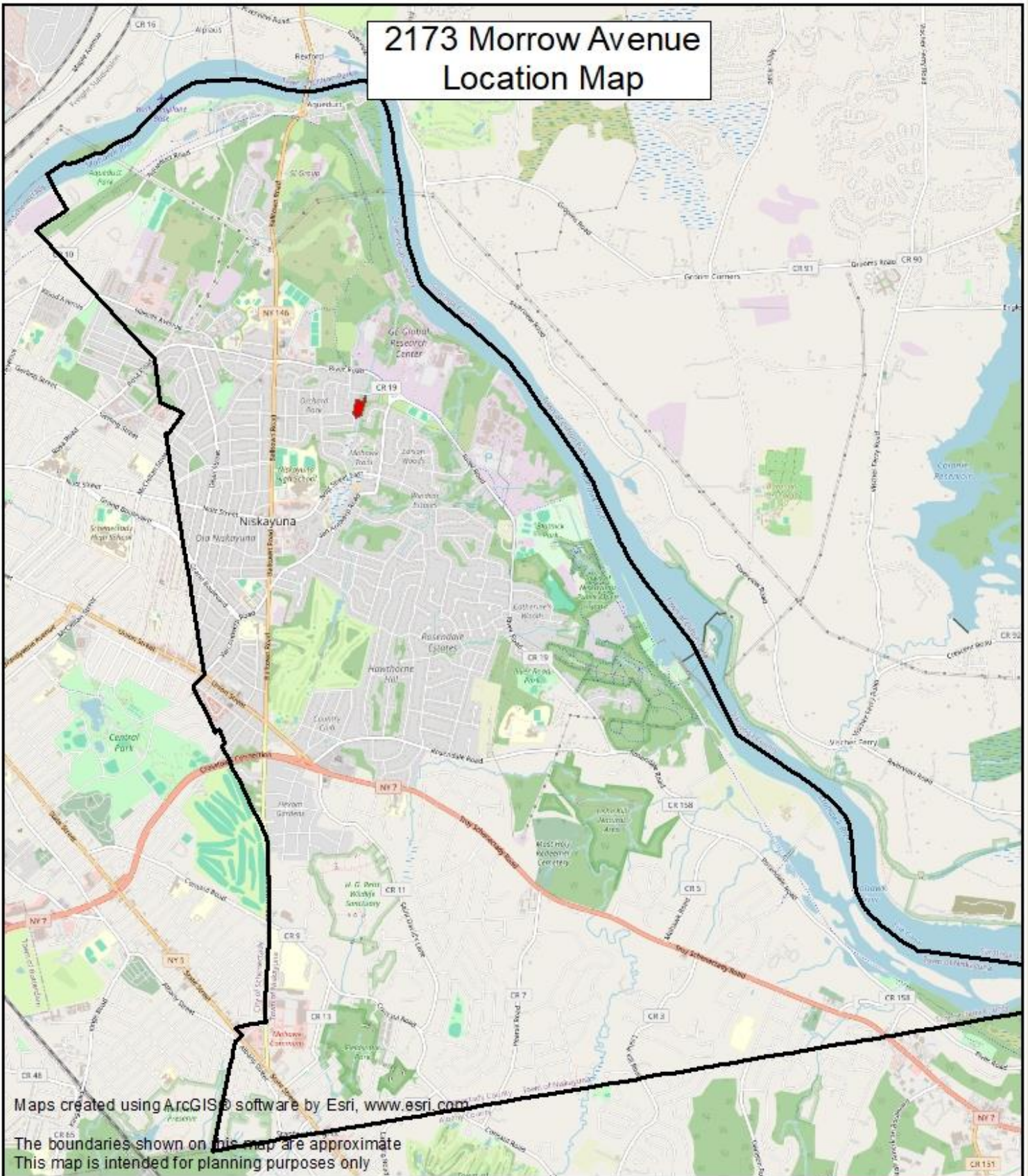


White pine grove





Stream and riparian area

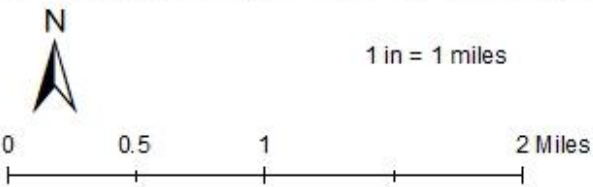
2173 Morrow Avenue Location Map



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

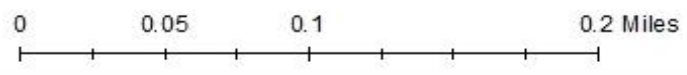


January 22, 2024

2173 Morrow Avenue
1952 Aerial Photograph Map

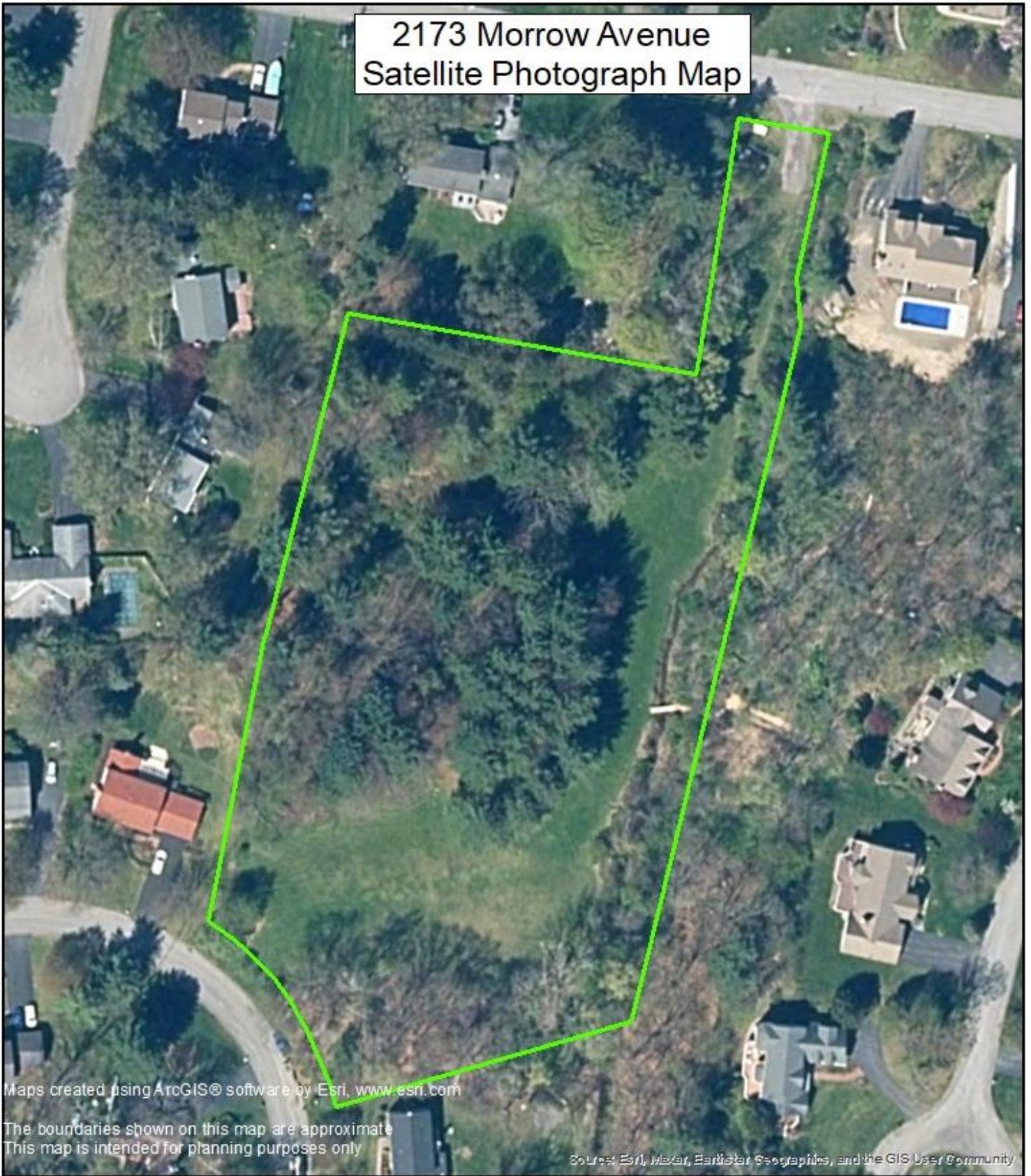


 2173 Morrow Avenue



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



0 0.0125 0.025 0.05 Miles

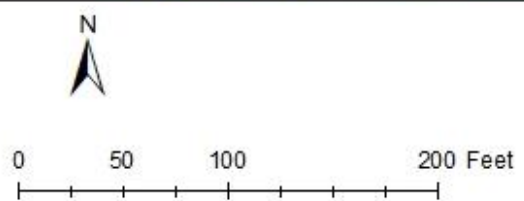


January 24, 2024

2173 Morrow Avenue Environmental Features Map

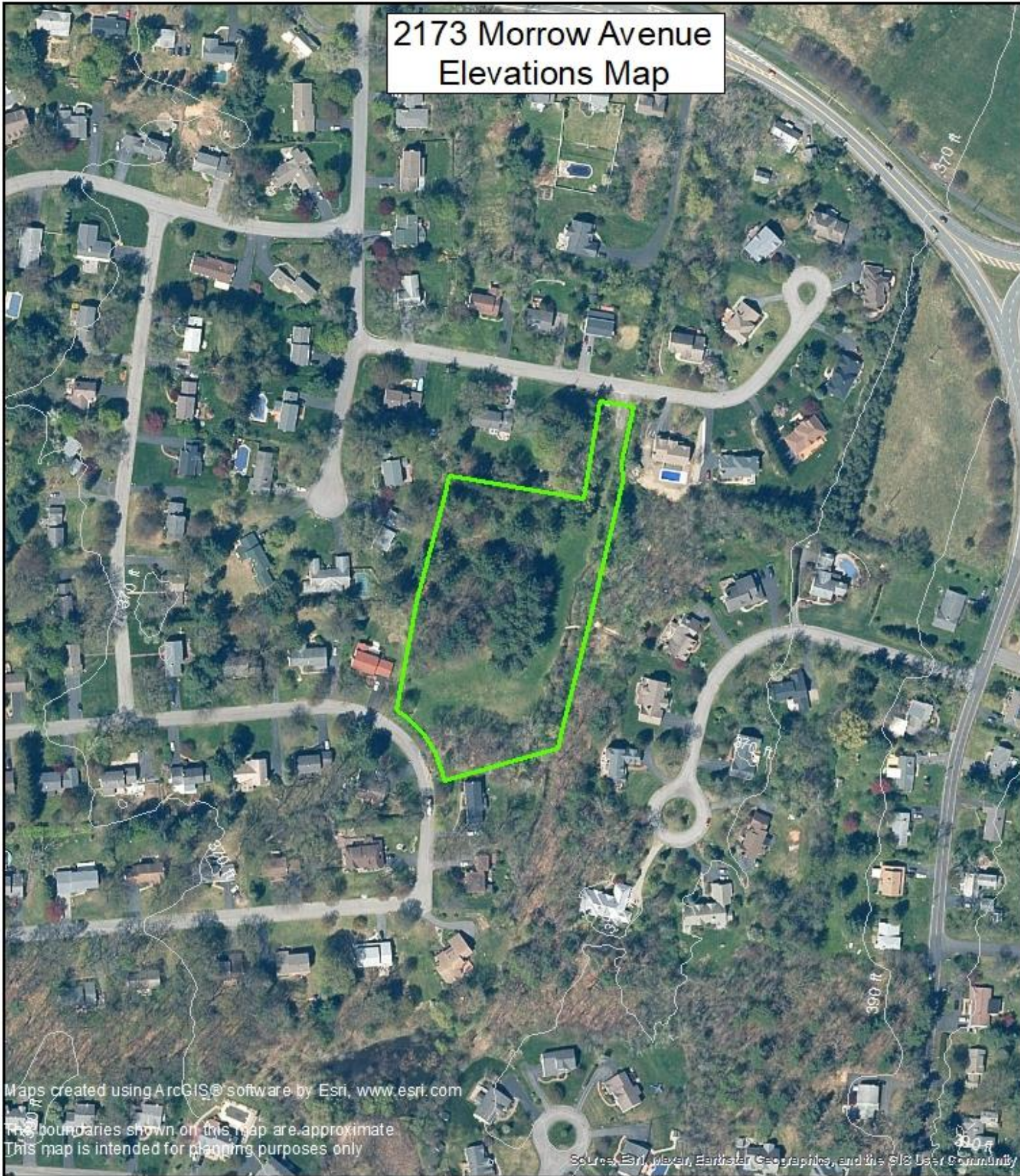


-  2173 Morrow Avenue
-  White Pine Grove
-  Wetland Soils
-  Lawn
-  Streams



October 19, 2024


2173 Morrow Avenue 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, DeLorme, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

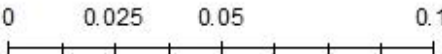
 2173 Morrow Avenue

 Elevations-10 ft. intervals

N



0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024

2173 Morrow Avenue
Topographic Map





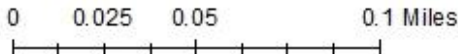
Sources: Streams: NY State DEC

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

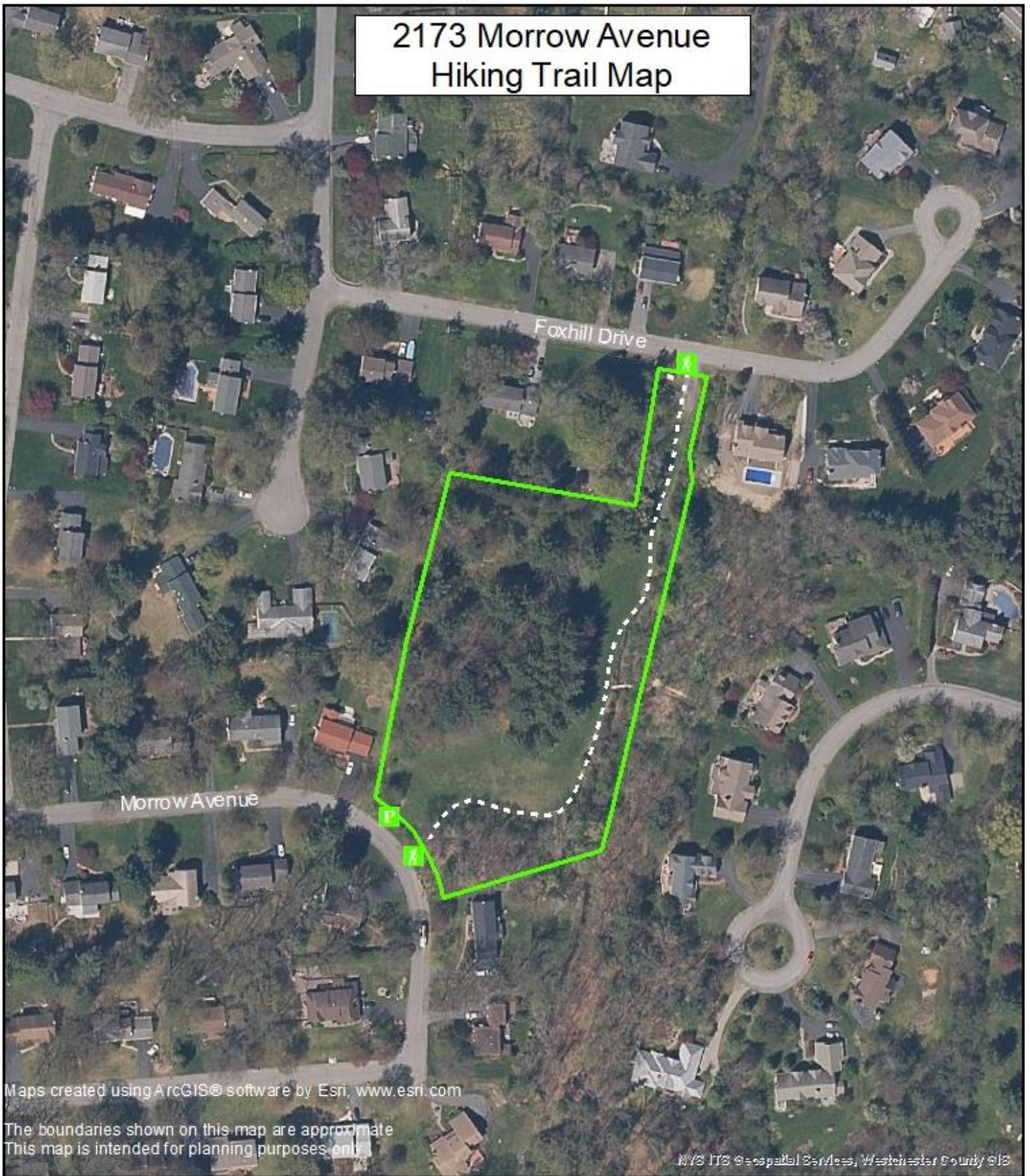
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


-  2173 Morrow Avenue
-  Streams

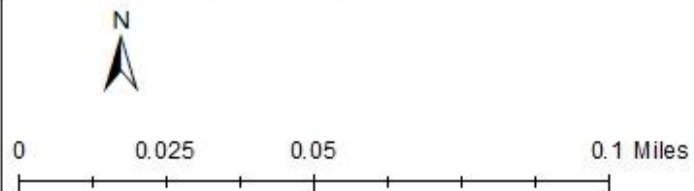


January 24, 2024

2173 Morrow Avenue Hiking Trail Map



-  2173 Morrow Avenue
-  Trail Entrance
-  Parking



October 19, 2024

2870 RIVER ROAD (RIVER ROAD PARK) SURVEY

May 24, 25, 2024 Survey

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

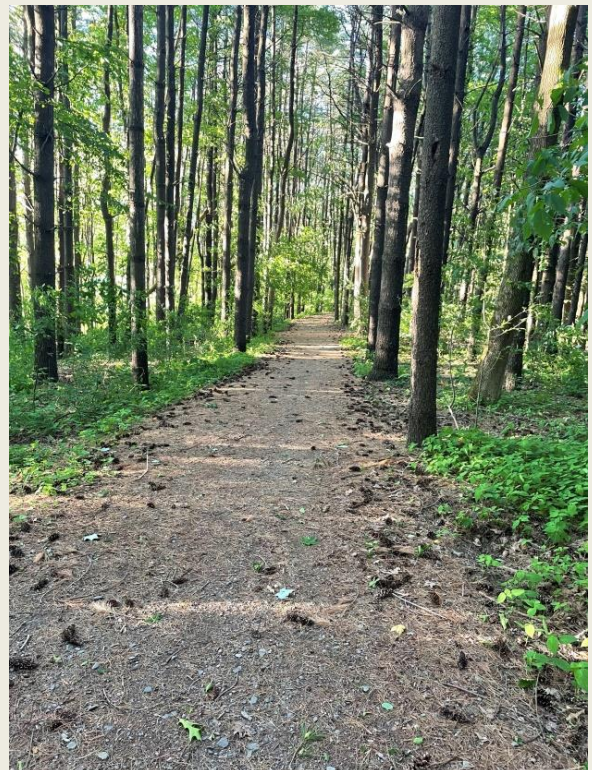
PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

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.

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.

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



Mayapples, cinnamon ferns in wetland along Pine Ridge Road

Large oaks and hemlocks along hiking trail

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.



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 land³⁷ and this power line corridor is a good candidate for that type of management.



Golden alexander wildflowers in wetlands

³⁷ 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.

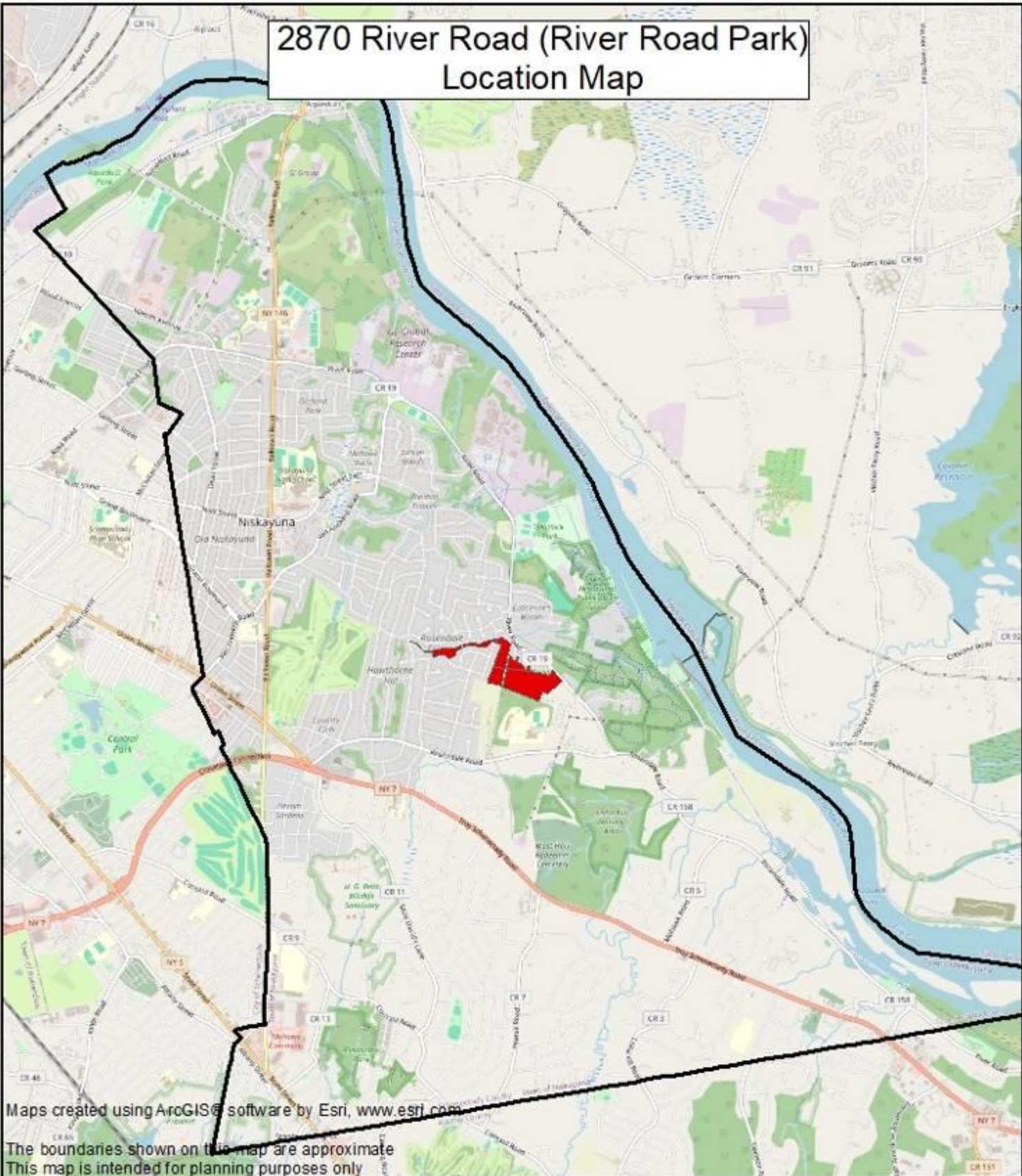
CONSERVATION VALUES:

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.





Fill next to edge of wetland

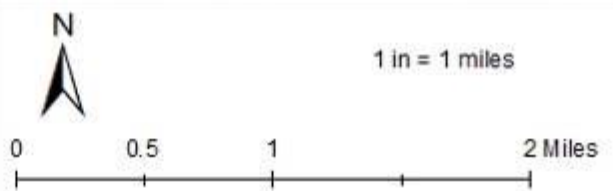
2870 River Road (River Road Park) Location Map



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

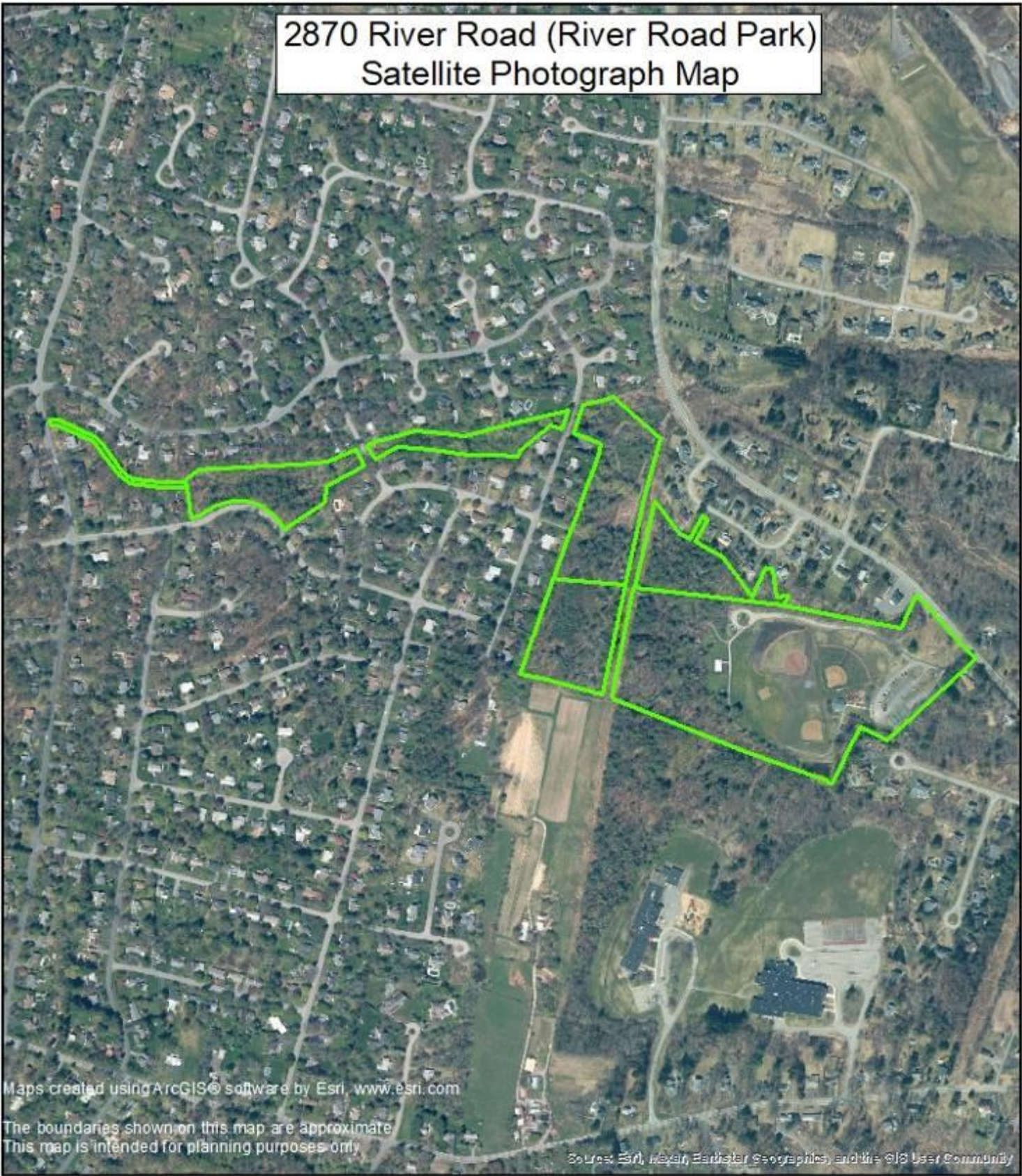
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  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.

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

 2870 River Road (River Road Park)

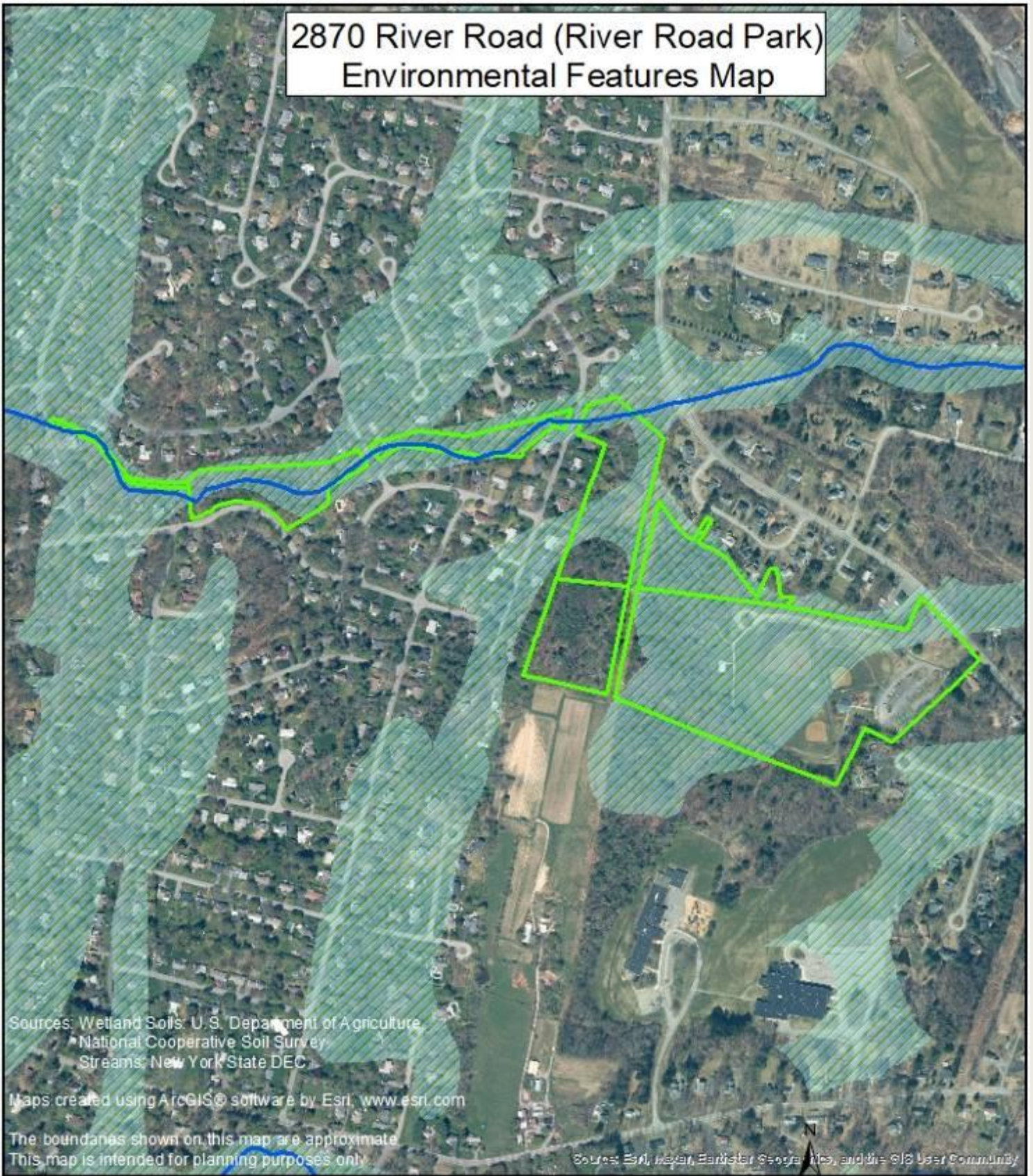



0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles





January 24, 2024

2870 River Road (River Road Park) Environmental Features Map




 2870 River Road (River Road Park)

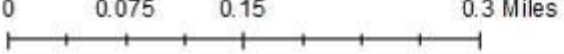
 Streams

 Wetland Soils

N



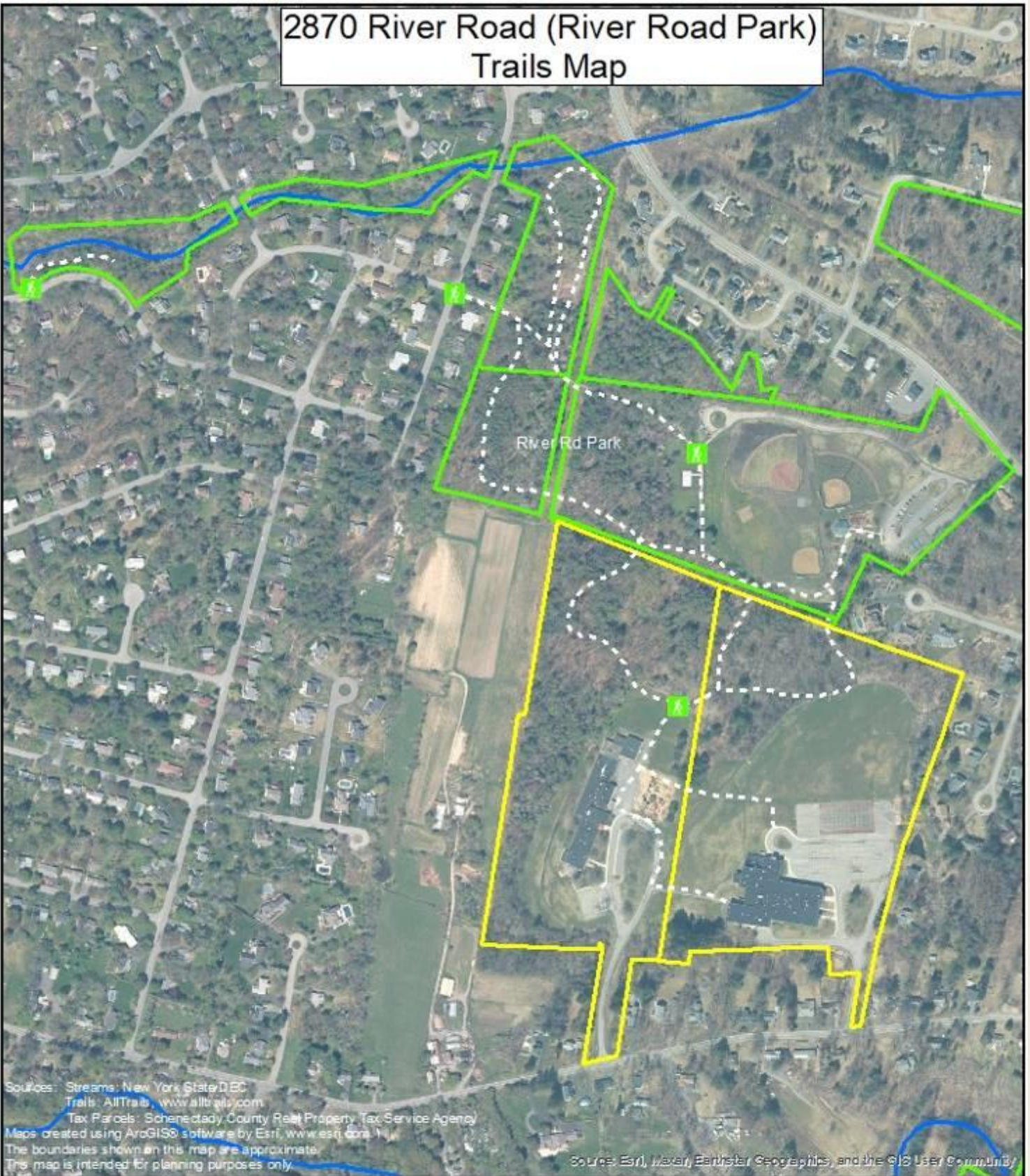
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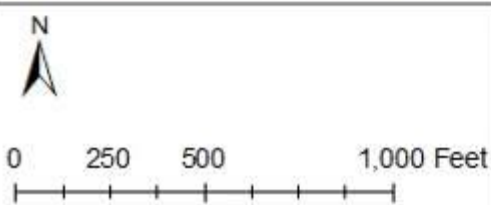
Niskayuna
NEW YORK

January 24, 2024

2870 River Road (River Road Park) Trails Map



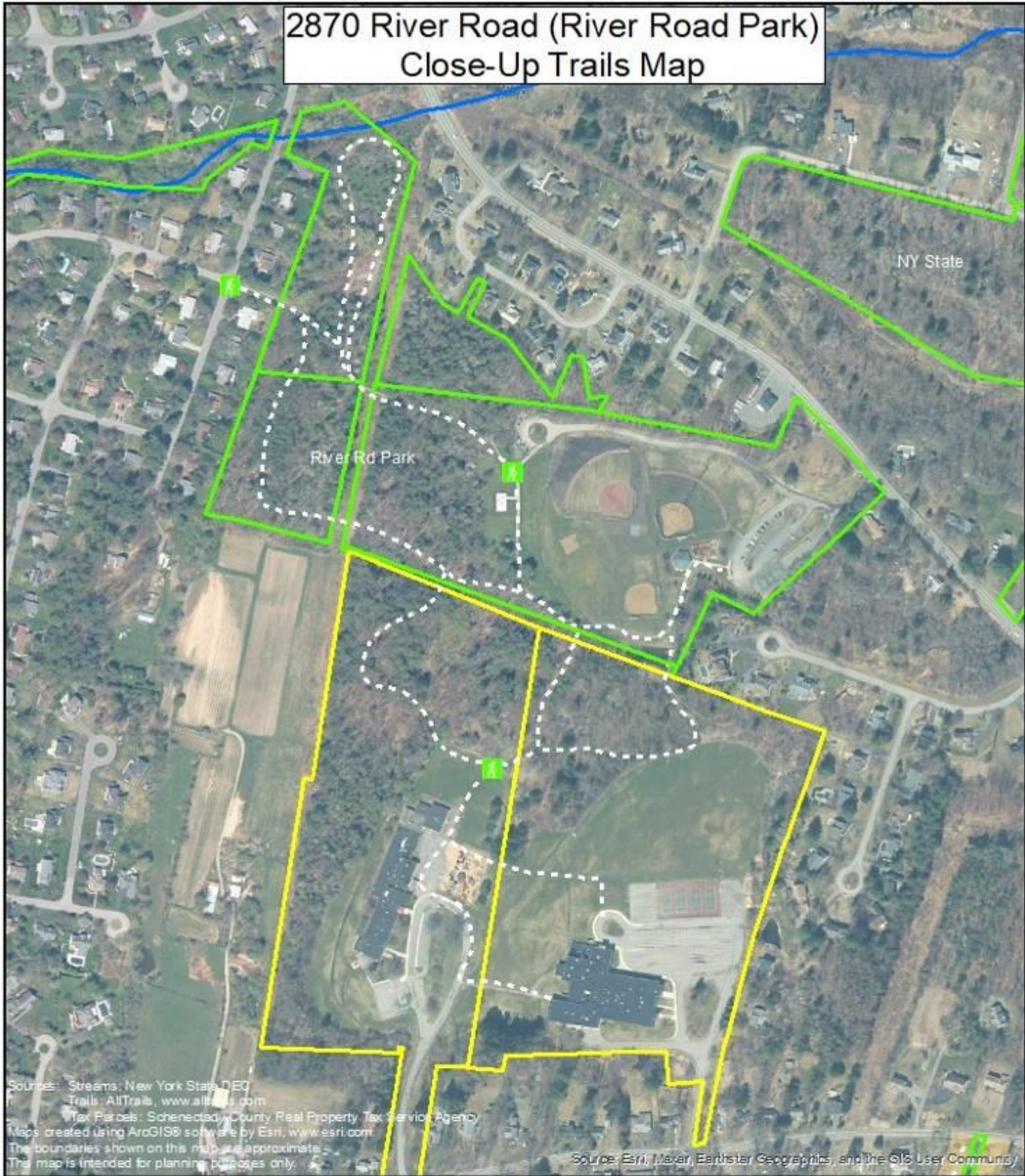
- Niskayuna Boundaries
- Town, State & Conservation Properties
- Streams
- Schools
- Trails
- 🚶 Trail Entrance



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

June 25, 2024

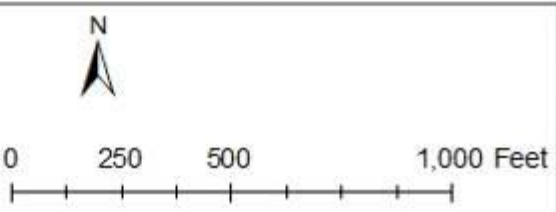
2870 River Road (River Road Park) Close-Up Trails Map



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.

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

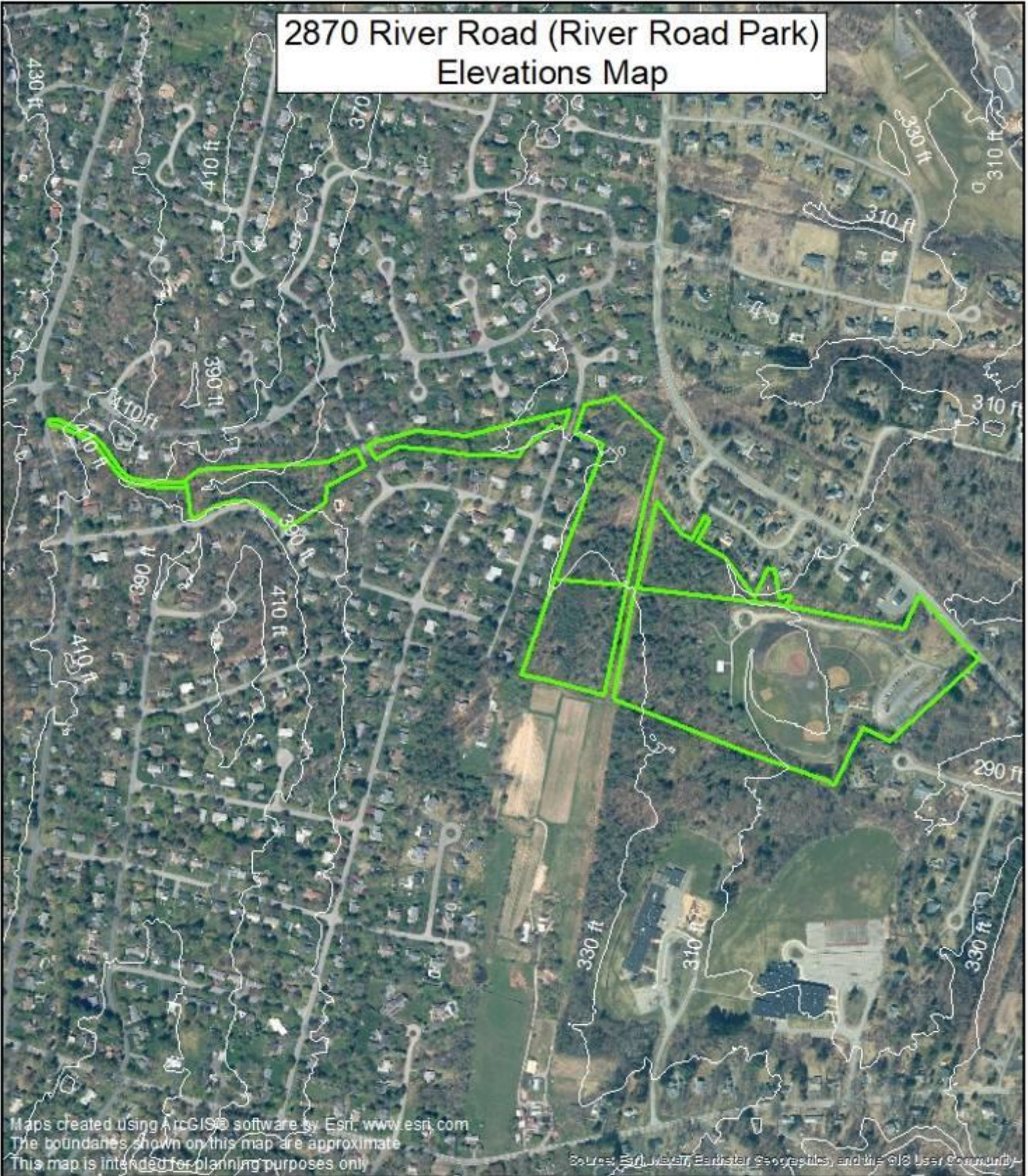
- Niskayuna Boundaries
- Town, State & Conservation Properties
- Streams
- Schools
- Trails
- A Trail Entrance



Niskayuna
NEW YORK



June 25, 2024

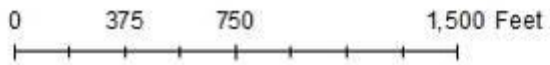
2870 River Road (River Road Park) Elevations Map



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.

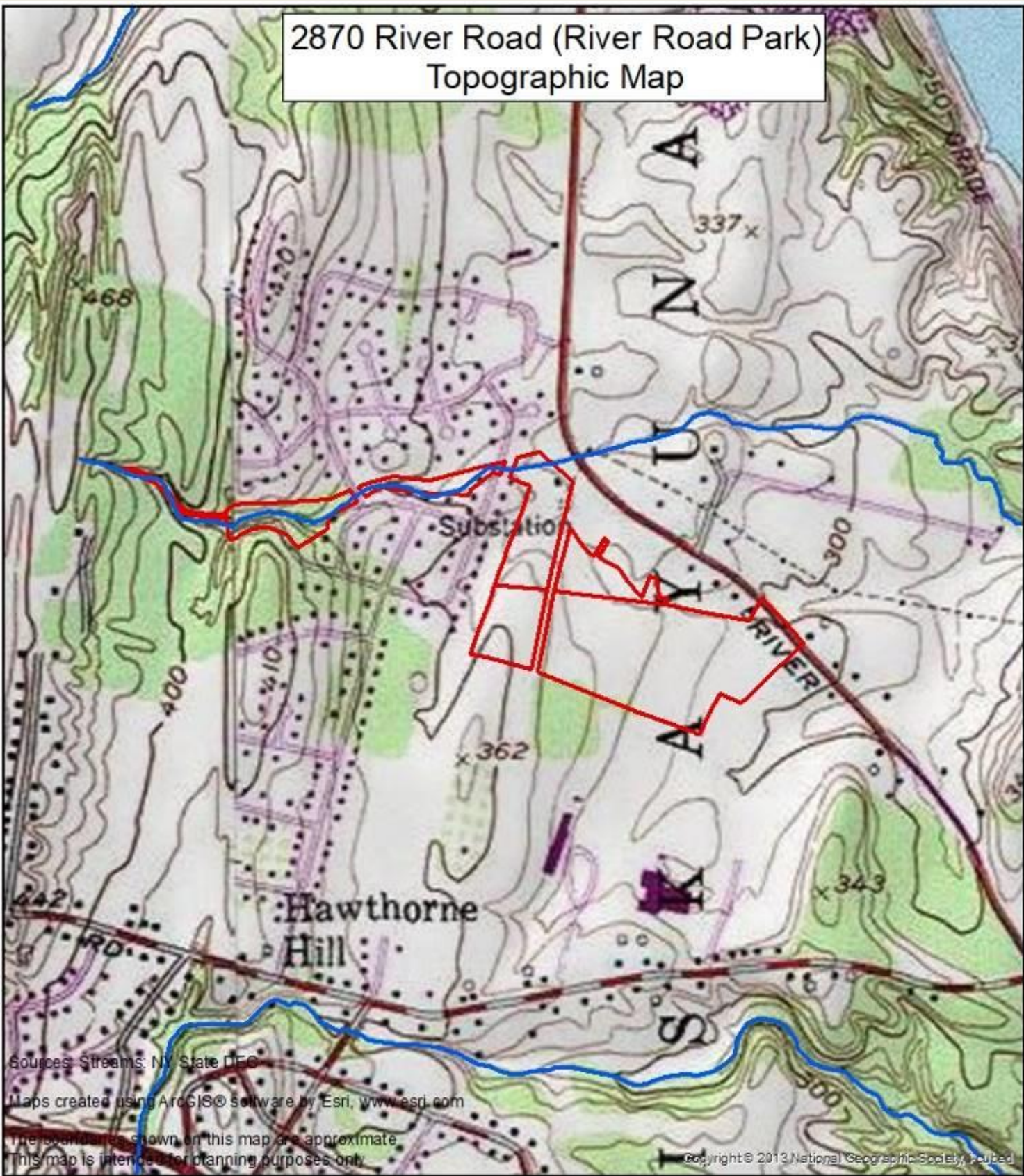
Sources: Esri, NAVSAT, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



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



July 2, 2024

2870 River Road (River Road Park) Topographic Map

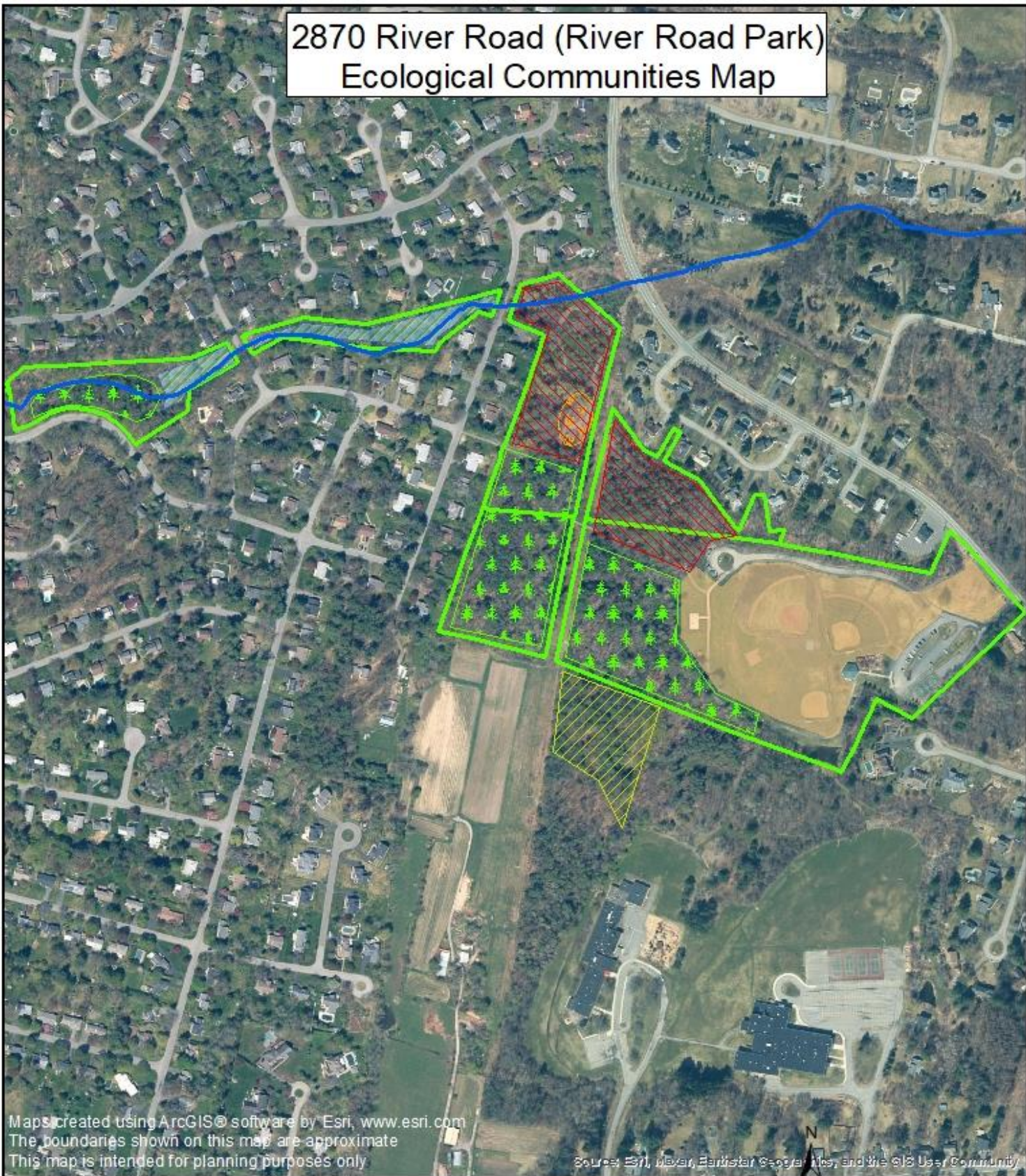


 2870 River Road (River Road Park)
 Streams







NEW YORK
January 24, 2024

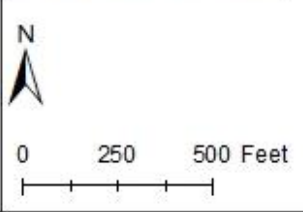
2870 River Road (River Road Park) Ecological Communities Map



Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com
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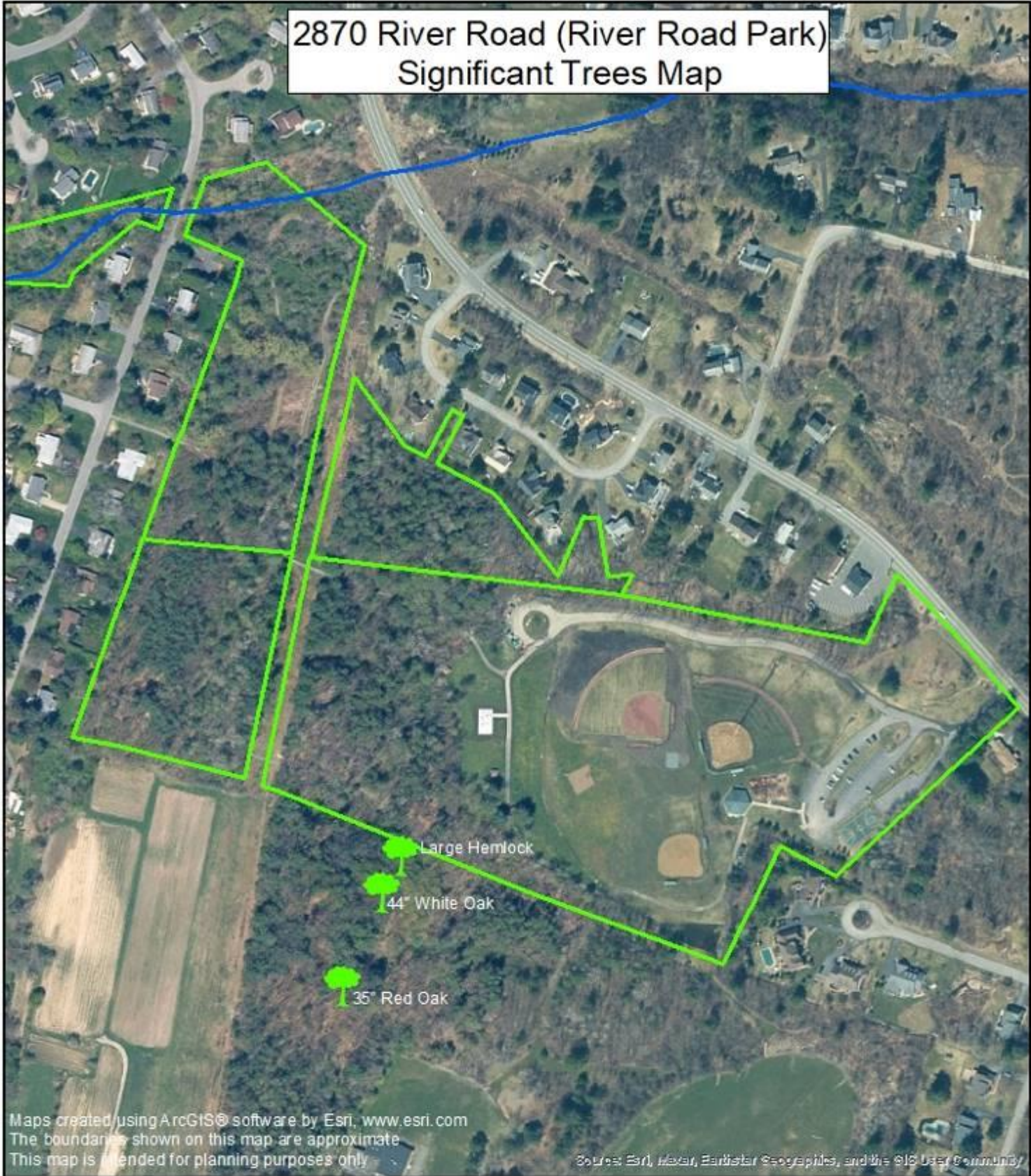
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geospatial, and the GIS User Community

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




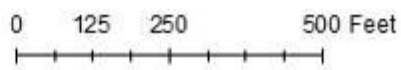
July 1, 2024

2870 River Road (River Road Park) Significant Trees Map



 2870 River Road (River Road Park)

 Significant Trees



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 ArcGIS99 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

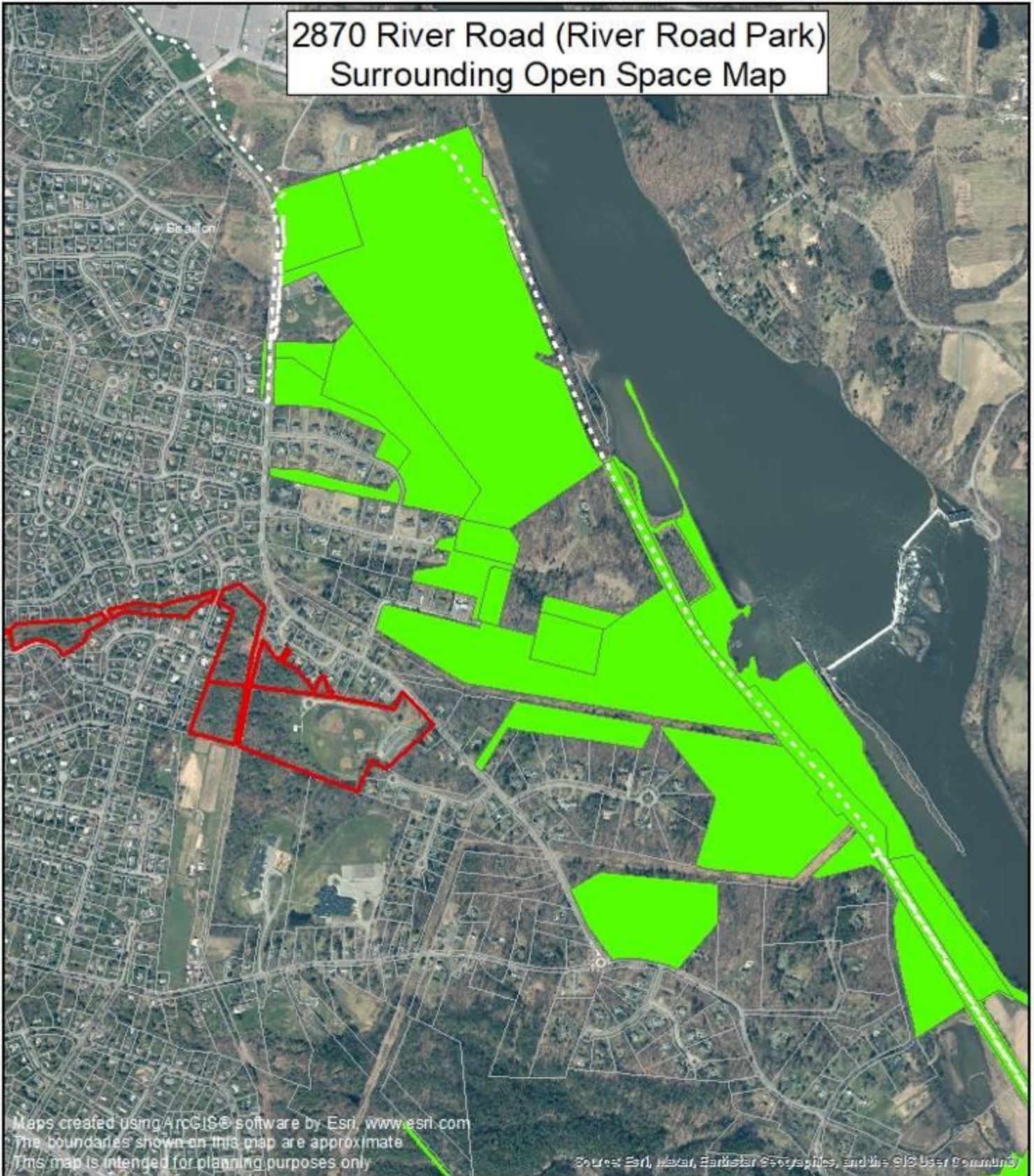


0 250 500 1,000 Feet

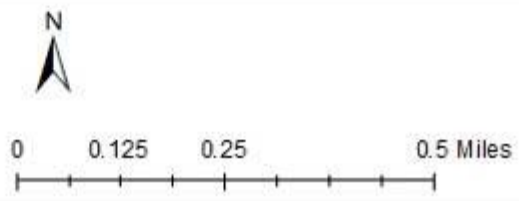


June 25, 2024

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

STANFORD PARK SURVEY

May 14, 2022 Survey

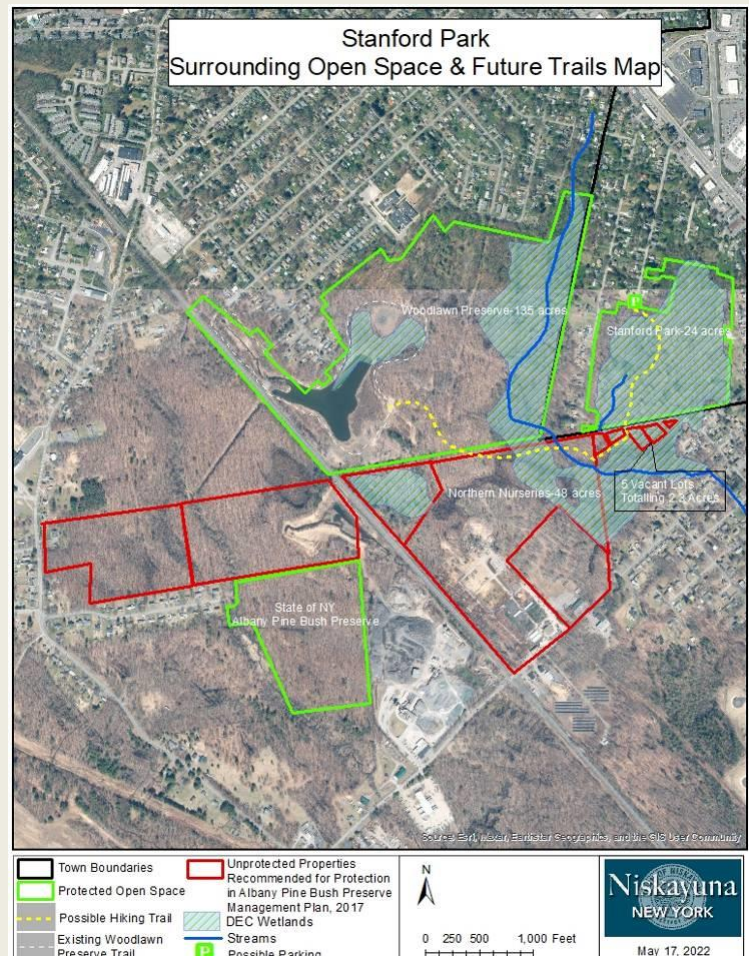
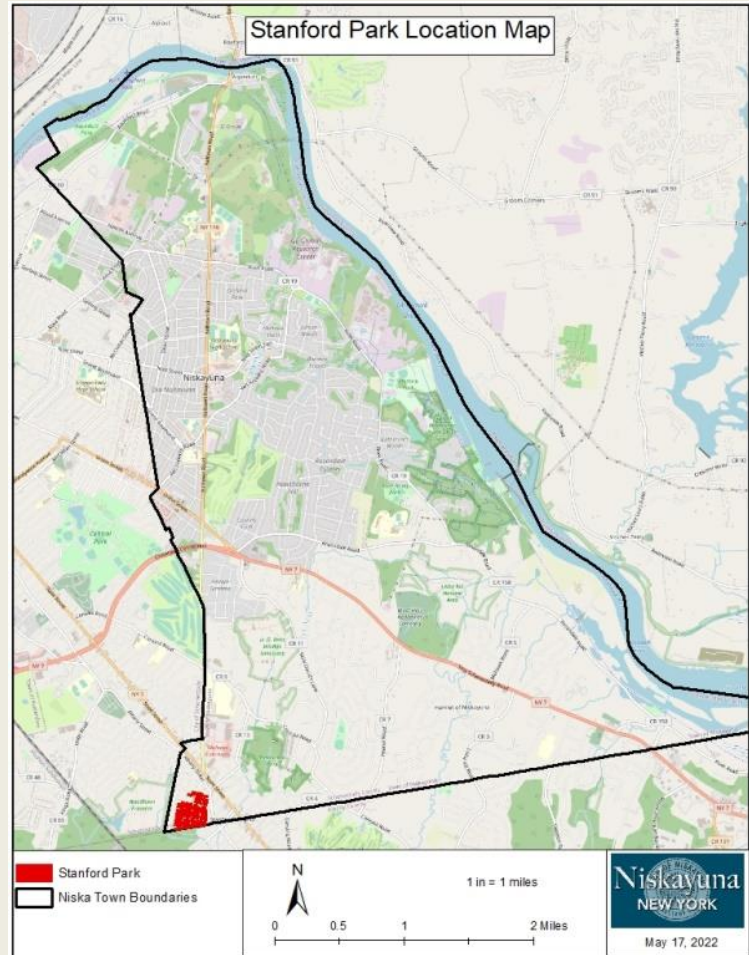
REGIONAL SETTING:

The 24-acre Stanford Park lies in the extreme southwestern section of Niskayuna (see Stanford Park Location Map to right and page 48). Access and parking is at the south end of Stanford Avenue. The Park is surrounded by single family homes to the north, east and west. The Park is bordered at the south in the Town of Colonie by several small vacant residential lots, most of which are in a New York State DEC wetland and most likely will never be built (see Stanford Park Surrounding Open Space & Future Trails Map to right and page 52).

The Park is adjacent at the southwest corner to 48 acres owned and operated by Northern Nurseries. To the west in the Town of Schenectady and separated by a row of single family homes is the 135-acre Woodlawn Preserve (see Stanford Park Surrounding Open Space & Future Trails Map to right and page 52).

In 2009 Schenectady County deeded these 24 acres adjacent to the 170-acre Woodlawn Pine Barrens-Wetlands Complex to the Town of Niskayuna. According to the Town of Niskayuna Comprehensive Plan, "This land transfer was considered an important step in linking the Woodlawn Preserve and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. It provides a potential passive intermunicipal recreation opportunity. Currently there is limited access to this property and Niskayuna should consider the installation of a small parking lot and entrance kiosk at the end of Stanford Avenue. In addition, connecting trails from this location to the existing trail system in the Woodlawn Preserve should be a priority."³⁸

The Woodlawn Pine Barrens-Wetland Complex is identified as a Priority Conservation Project in the 2016 NY State Open Space Conservation Plan. According to the Plan, "The area also supports several important wetlands forming a unique complex of pine barrens and wetland habitats. Its attributes have been recognized as complementary to the Pine Bush Preserve and protection worthy. Owners of public lands in this area are encouraged to cooperate with state and other agencies to protect this habitat. Recent local efforts have included creation of the 135-acre Woodlawn Preserve and 24 acres of parkland (Stanford Park) in the Town of Niskayuna"³⁹.



³⁸ Comprehensive Development Plan, Town of Niskayuna, 2013, p. 41

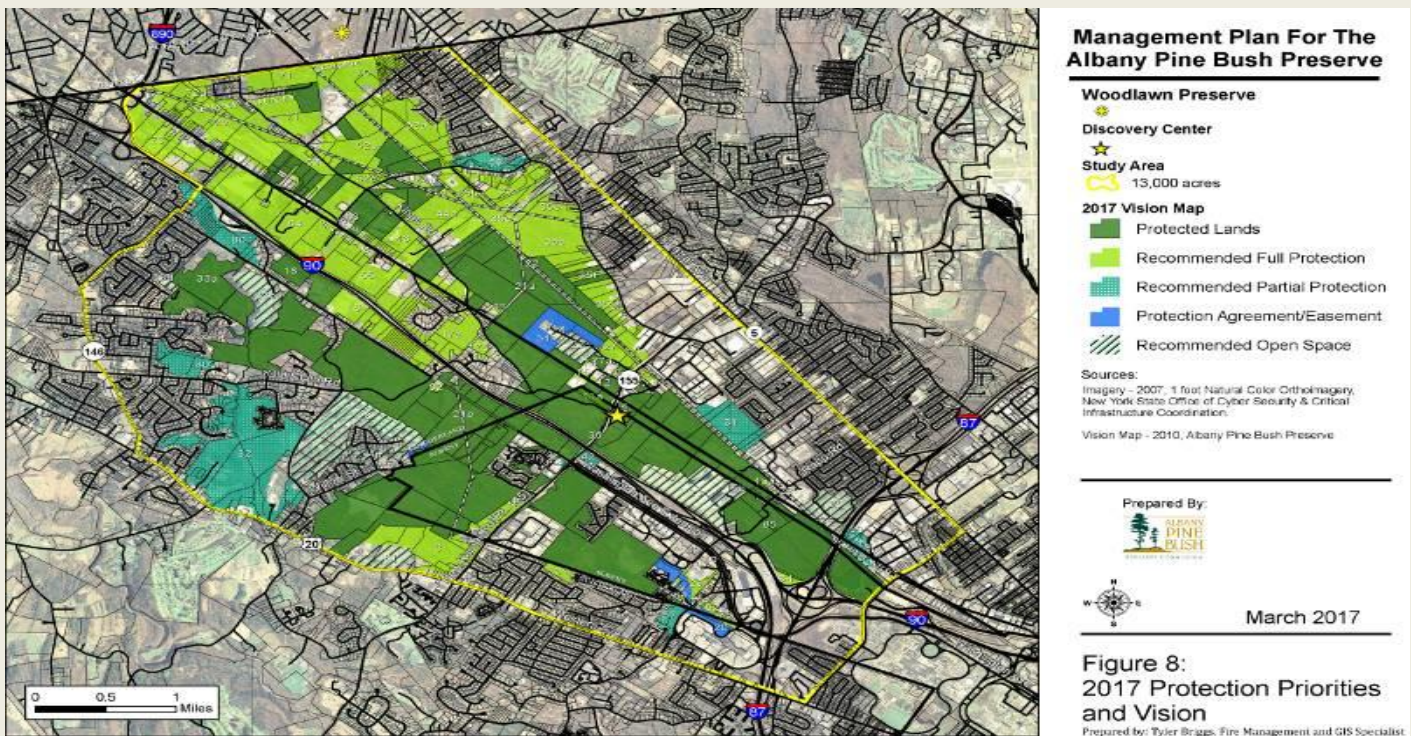
³⁹ 2016 NYS Open Space Conservation Plan, p. 123

AA Stanford Park is currently isolated from other nearby protected land. The Management Plan for Albany Pine Bush Preserve, 2017, recommends 'Full Protection' for the unprotected lands north of Cordell Road-adjacent to Stanford Park-which total approximately 87 acres.⁴⁰ (see Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan Map next page and page 54 and Stanford Park Surrounding Open Space & Future Trails Map page 52). The Plan recommends 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.⁴¹ Protection of this land would facilitate trails and wildlife and plant corridors and connections from Stanford Park to the Woodlawn Preserve and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.

PHYSICAL & NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The majority of the Park is classified as a DEC wetland, part of a larger 76-acre DEC wetland that extends into the Woodlawn Preserve just to the west (see Stanford Park Environmental Features Map below and page 10 and Stanford Park Topographic Map below and page 51). The Park's wetlands contain tributaries that are the headwaters of the Lisha Kill stream which flows northeast for over five miles into the Mohawk River. The Park is flat, sloping gently from 360 feet above sea level at the north boundary to a low point of 340 feet at the south boundary.

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan Map

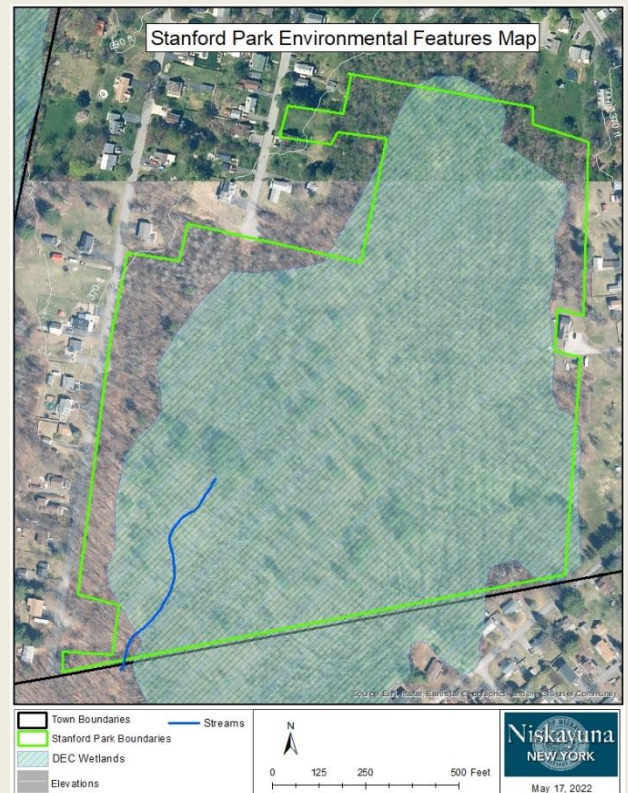


⁴⁰ Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan Update, 2017, p. 56, 57.

⁴¹ Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan Update, 2017, p. 68

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES:

The Park is entirely wooded (see Stanford Park Satellite Photograph Map to right and page 49). Higher, drier areas of the park are dominated by medium to large oak and white pine trees. Swamp white oaks, red oaks and black oaks are 12 inches to 18 inches in diameter and approximately 75 years old. Some red oaks are much larger with diameters of up to three feet. White pine grow in several groves across the Park with some as large as 30 inches in diameter. Other trees include medium sized red maples and smaller elms in wet areas along with quacking aspen and a few large hemlock trees in drier areas. The understory has flowering dogwoods, gray birch and serviceberry in sunlit openings and ironwood and hophornbeam in shadier areas. Shrubs include invasive buckthorn near the Park's entrance and native blueberry, winterberry, witch hazel and maple leaf viburnum further into the Park. Sensitive fern dominates the ground layer in the wet areas of the Park along with tussock and brome sedges, skunk cabbage, horsetail, jewelweed and marsh marigold. Drier areas have sweet vernal grass, partridgeberry, wood rush, New York and intermediate fern, wild geranium, Canada mayflower, trillium, lion's foot and cinquefoil.

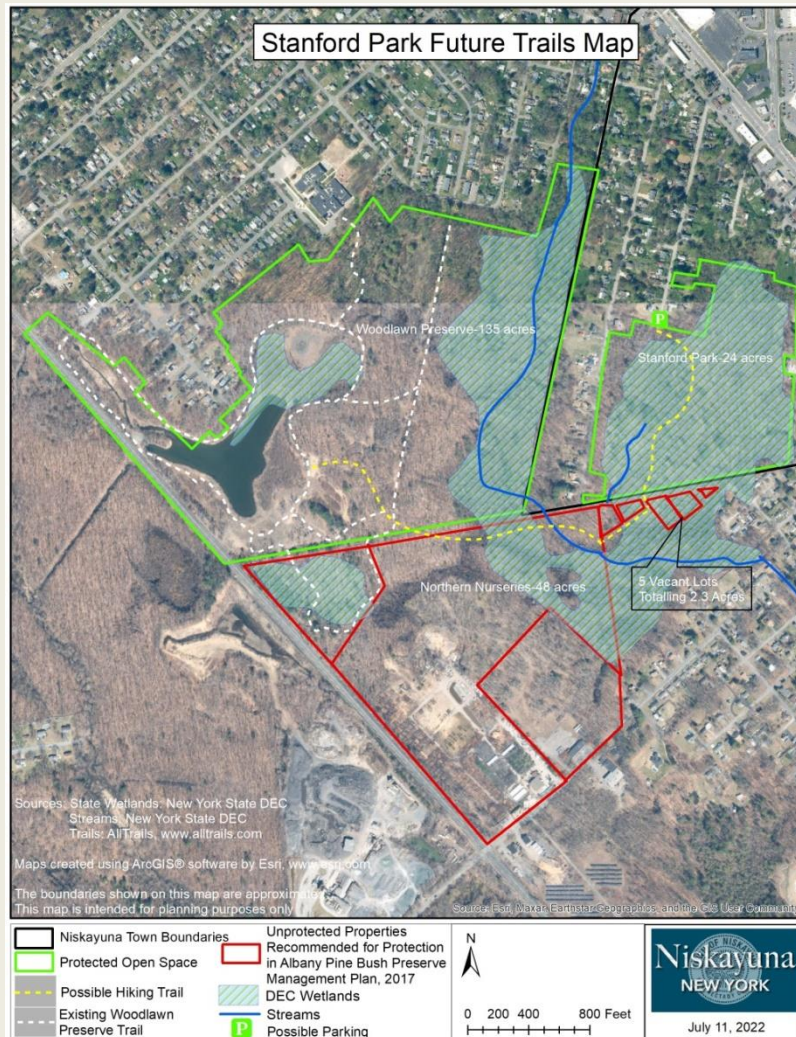


CONSERVATION VALUES:

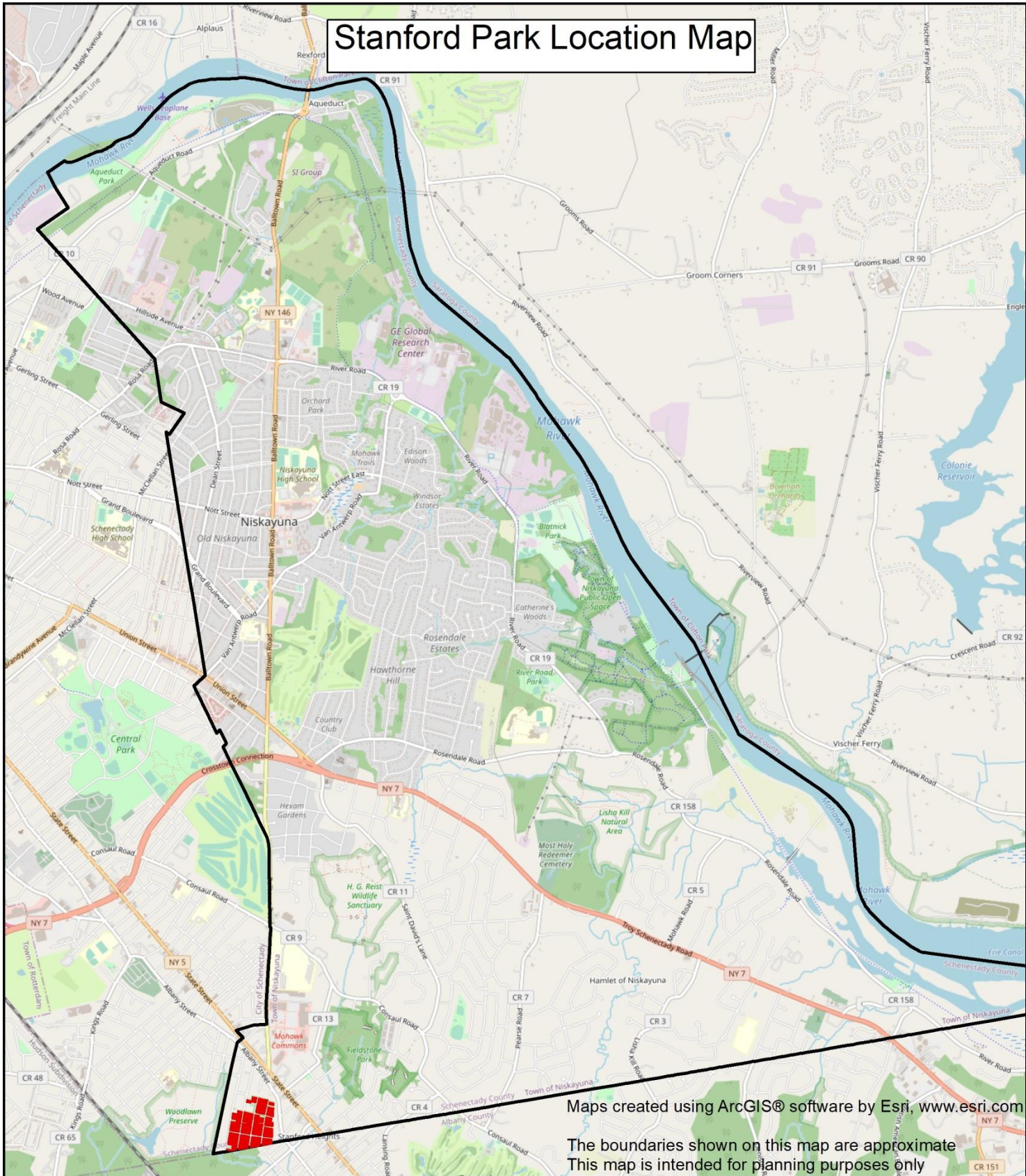
This mature and undisturbed forest and its extensive wetlands provide a myriad of ecosystem services including: water filtration, groundwater recharge, stormwater regulation, drought moderation, flood control, erosion prevention, air pollutant and greenhouse gas absorption, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, temperature modulation through shading and cooling and nutrient cycling. The plants themselves allow the forest to regenerate in the future by providing seeds and shelter for native forest regeneration.

The Park and the surrounding woods and wetlands provide habitat for other plants, insects and pollinators and wildlife including migratory and nesting birds including food, cover, roosting, nesting and stop-over sites for migratory birds and other wildlife. Birds observed on May 14 2022 include wood thrush, great crested flycatcher, common yellowthroat and rose breasted grosbeak. Reports of bear in nearby Woodlawn Preserve indicate that bear use this Park as well. Observations of bobcat a bit further to the north indicate that bobcat also use this area, along with other types of wildlife. As buffer land to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, this area serves to protect the habitat for the rare and federally endangered Karner blue butterfly.

The Park has recreational and educational values for Niskayuna residents and other visitors as well. Informal trails, perhaps deer trails, run from the north entrance into the wetlands. It may be possible to establish hiking trails in the Park, as recommended in the Town's Comprehensive Plan and mentioned above, that then connect to the four miles of hiking trails just to the west at Woodlawn Park. This can be done by crossing through the paper roads located between the small vacant parcels just to the south of the Park. From there, with permission from Northern Nurseries, a trail can run west to Woodlawn Preserve (see Stanford Park Future Trails Map on following page and page 53). If the private parcels located just to the south are protected, as recommended in the New York State Conservation Plan and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan and as discussed above, then more extensive trails can be established connecting Stanford Park to the Woodlawn Preserve--where habitat for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly is being restored--and to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, where Karner blue butterflies live and breed.





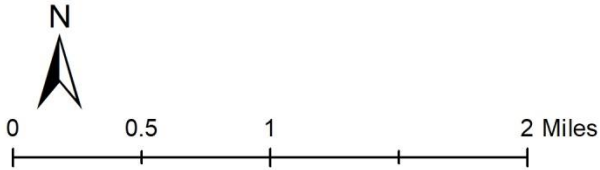
Stanford Park Location Map



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

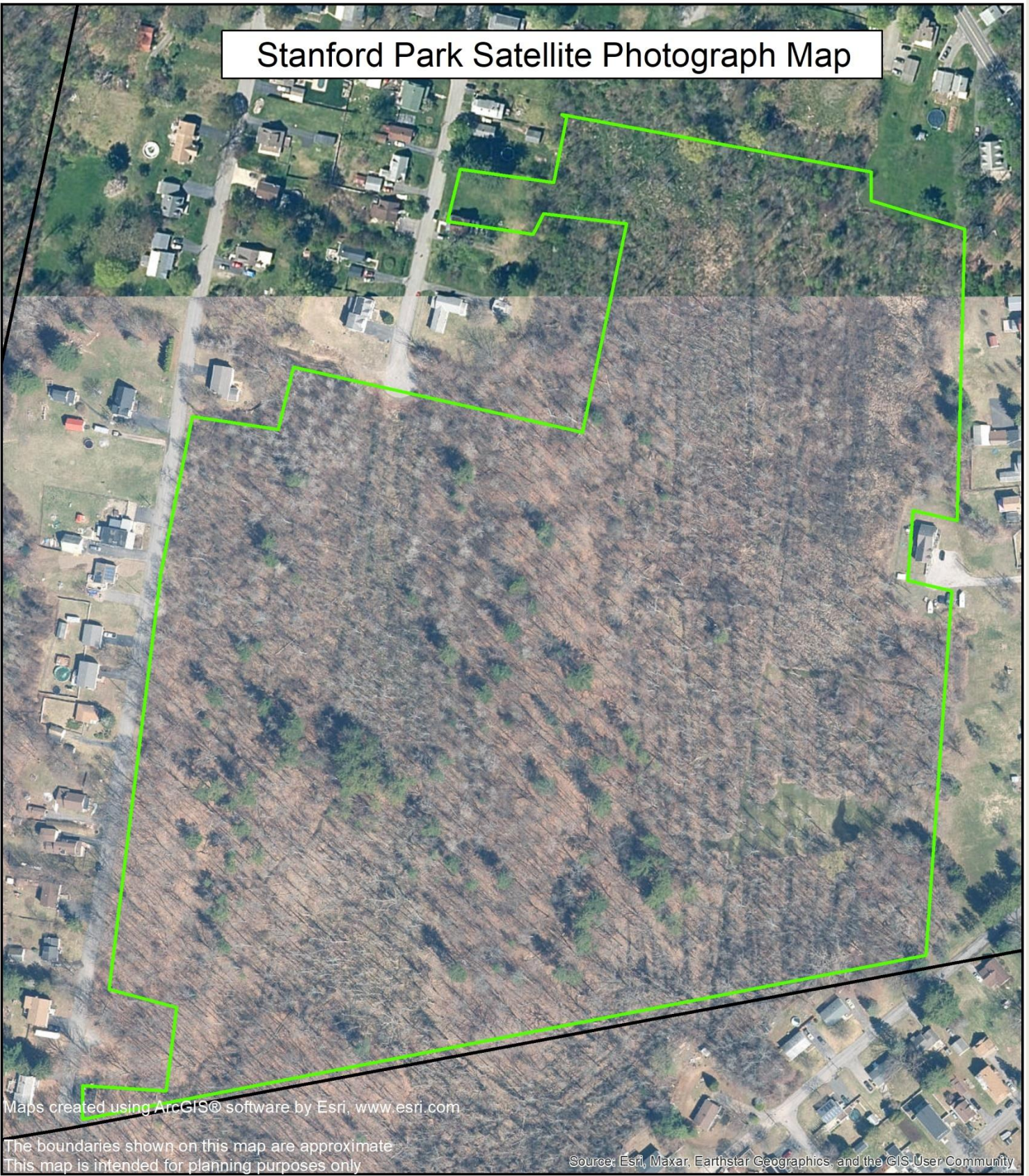
The boundaries shown on this map are approximate
This map is intended for planning purposes only

-  Stanford Park Boundaries
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries



July 11, 2022



Stanford Park Satellite Photograph Map

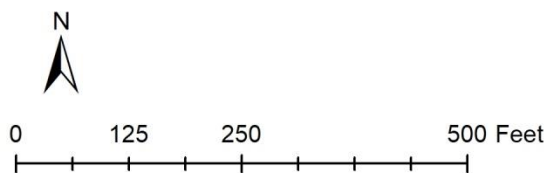


Maps created using ArcGIS® software by Esri, www.esri.com

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



-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries
-  Stanford Park Boundaries

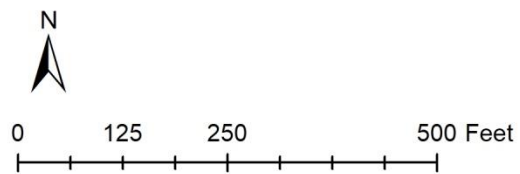


July 11, 2022

Stanford Park Topographic Map



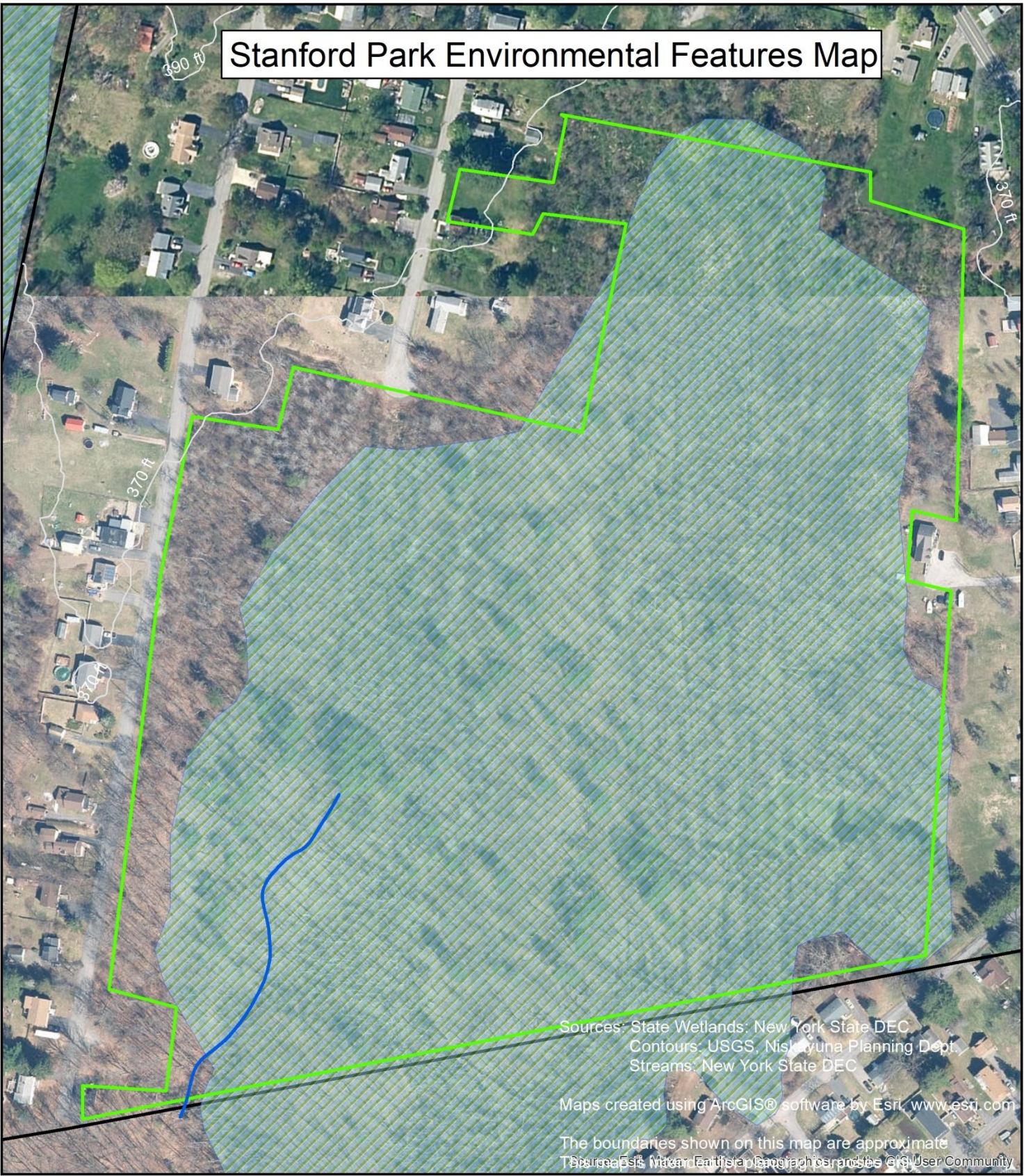
-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries
-  Stanford Park Boundaries



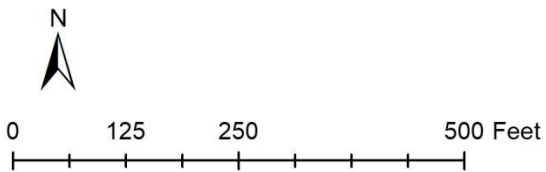
Niskayuna
NEW YORK

July 11, 2022

Stanford Park Environmental Features Map

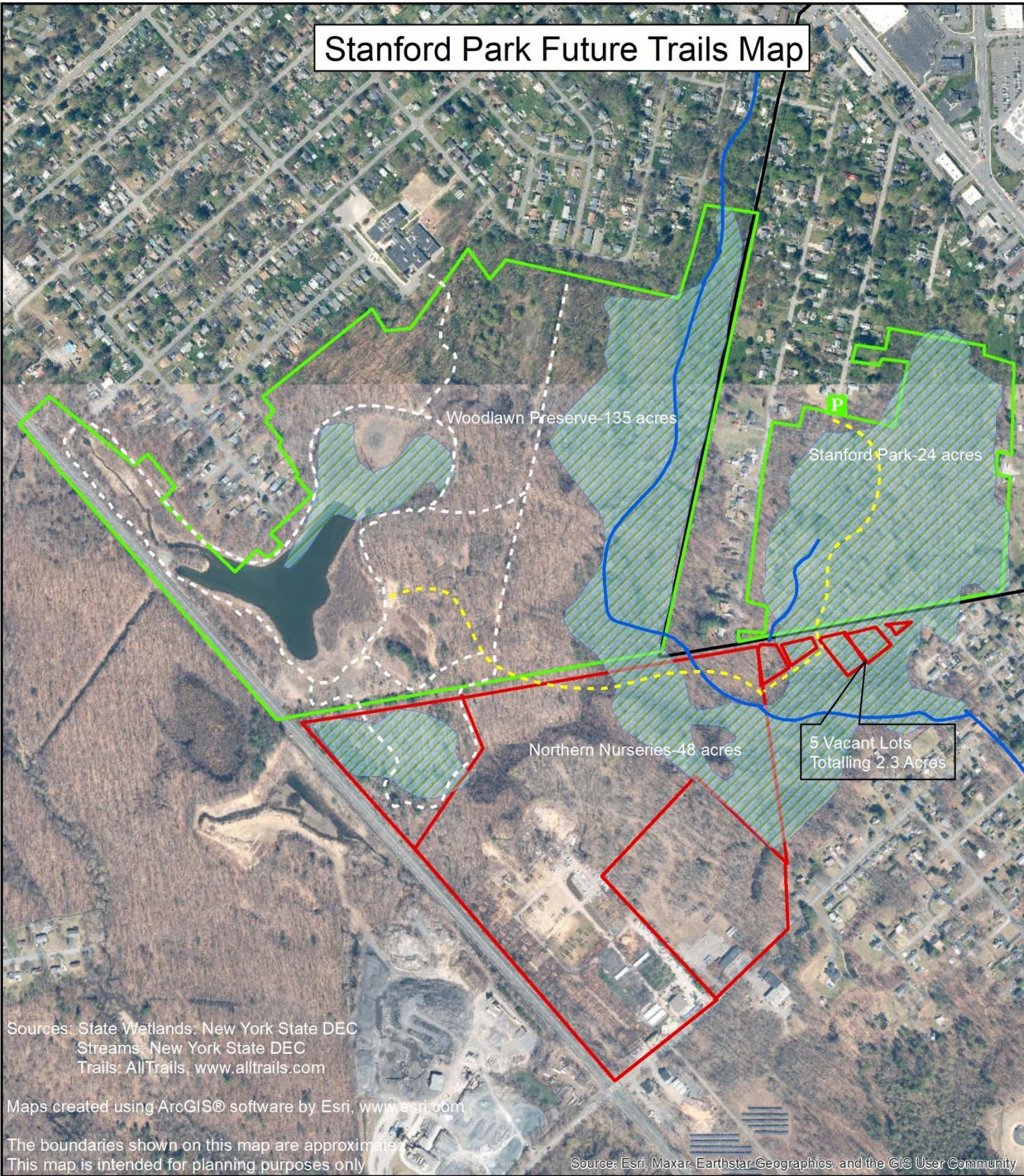


-  Niskayuna Town Boundaries
-  Stanford Park Boundaries
-  DEC Wetlands
-  Contours-40 ft
-  Streams

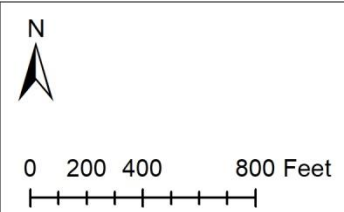


July 11, 2022

Stanford Park Future Trails Map



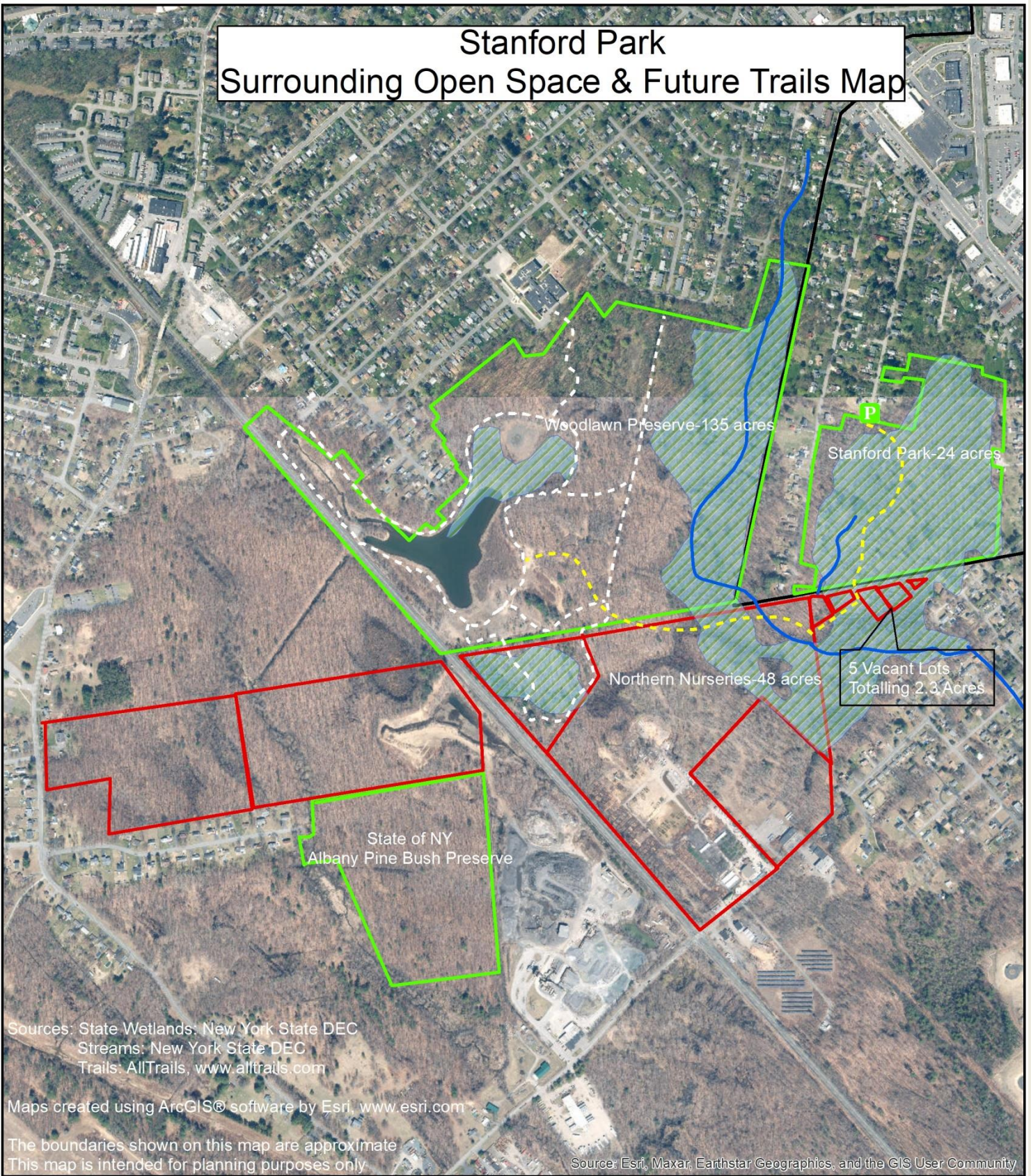
- Niskayuna Town Boundaries
- Protected Open Space
- Possible Hiking Trail
- Existing Woodlawn Preserve Trail
- Unprotected Properties Recommended for Protection in Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan, 2017
- DEC Wetlands
- Streams
- P Possible Parking



Niskayuna
NEW YORK

July 11, 2022

Stanford Park Surrounding Open Space & Future Trails Map



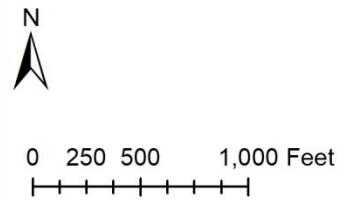
Sources: State Wetlands: New York State DEC
Streams: New York State DEC
Trails: AllTrails, www.alltrails.com

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

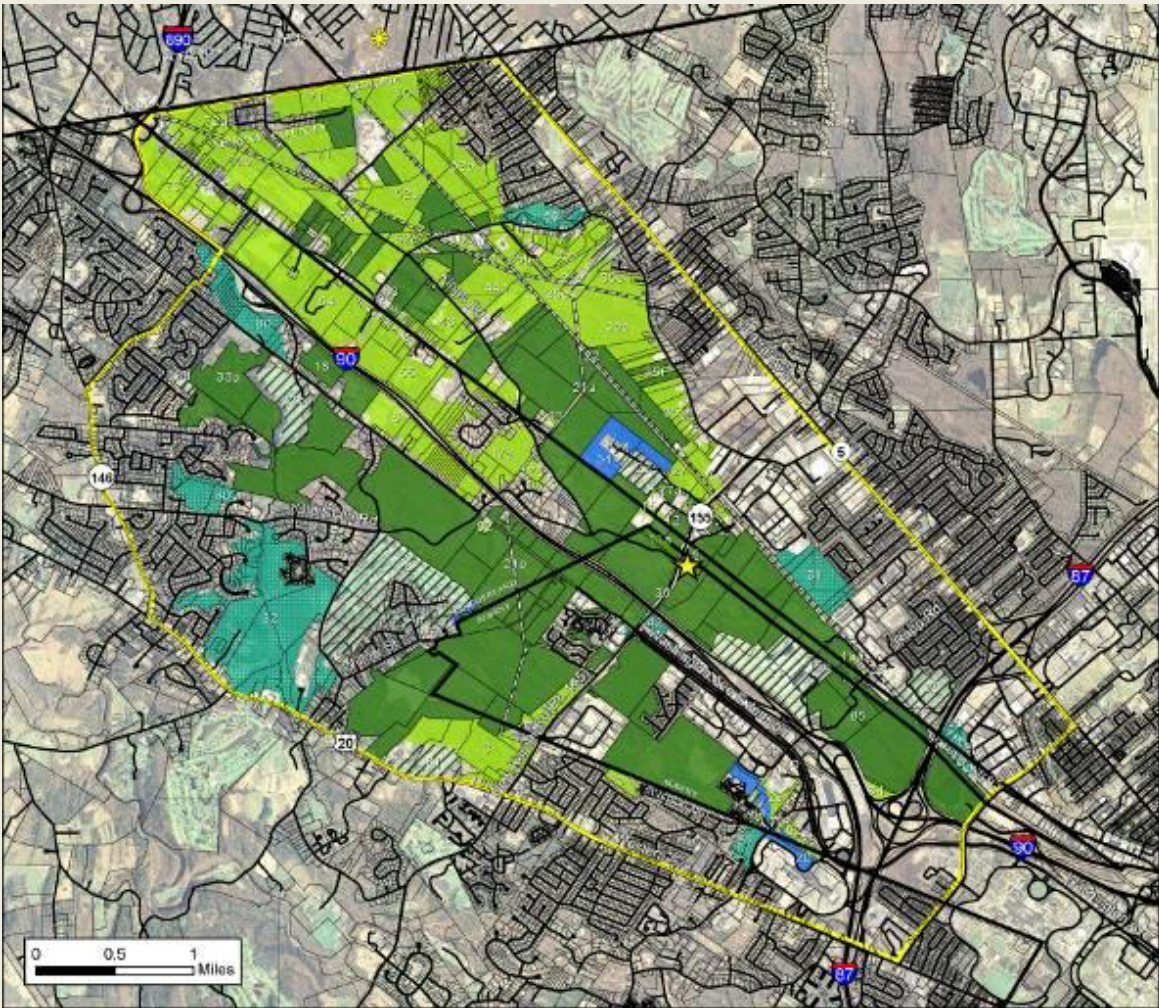
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Niskayuna Town Boundaries | Unprotected Properties Recommended for Protection in Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan, 2017 |
| Protected Open Space | DEC Wetlands |
| Possible Hiking Trail | Streams |
| Existing Woodlawn Preserve Trail | Possible Parking |



July 11, 2022

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan Map



Management Plan For The Albany Pine Bush Preserve

Woodlawn Preserve

- Discovery Center

- Study Area
13,000 acres

2017 Vision Map

- Protected Lands
- Recommended Full Protection
- Recommended Partial Protection
- Protection Agreement/Easement
- Recommended Open Space

Sources:
Imagery - 2007, 1 foot Natural Color Orthoimagery,
New York State Office of Cyber Security & Critical
Infrastructure Coordination.

Vision Map - 2010, Albany Pine Bush Preserve

Prepared By:

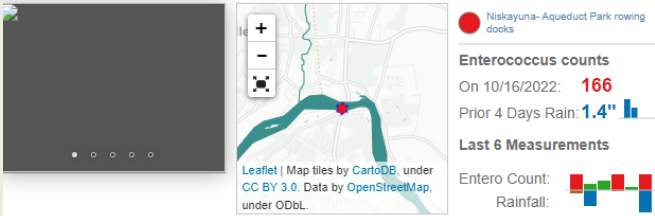


March 2017

Figure 8:
**2017 Protection Priorities
and Vision**
Prepared by: Tyler Briggs, Fire Management and GIS Specialist

Water Quality > Tributary and Waterfront Data > Mohawk River >

Niskayuna- Aqueduct Park rowing docks



▼ Entero/Rainfall Table ▸ Entero/Rainfall Plot

Enterococcus Count (fecal indicator) and Rainfall
45 Samples taken

Sample Date	Enterococcus Count	Quality	Rain, day of (in)		3 Days Prior		4 Days
			Prior Day	2 Days Prior	Prior Rain	Total Rain	
10/16/2022	166	Beach Advisory	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.9	1.4
09/18/2022	3	Acceptable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
08/21/2022	163	Beach Advisory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
07/10/2022	18	Acceptable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
06/11/2022	7	Acceptable	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	1.0
05/24/2022	135	Beach Advisory	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
10/24/2021	47	Acceptable	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
09/26/2021	2420	Beach Advisory	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.9	2.8
08/29/2021	378	Beach	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

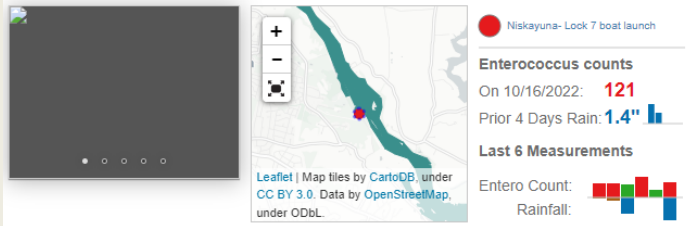
Water Quality*

- Acceptable (0-60)
- Beach Advisory (61+)

Enterococcus is an EPA-approved fecal contamination indicator.
Samples taken by citizen scientists and processed at laboratories that aren't directly affiliated with Diverkeeper

Water Quality > Tributary and Waterfront Data > Mohawk River >

Niskayuna- Lock 7 boat launch



▼ Entero/Rainfall Table ▸ Entero/Rainfall Plot

Enterococcus Count (fecal indicator) and Rainfall
44 Samples taken

Sample Date	Enterococcus Count	Quality	Rain, day of (in)		3 Days Prior		4 Days
			Prior Day	2 Days Prior	Prior Rain	Total Rain	
10/16/2022	121	Beach Advisory	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.9	1.4
09/18/2022	11	Acceptable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
07/10/2022	649	Beach Advisory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
06/11/2022	50	Acceptable	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	1.0
05/24/2022	92	Beach Advisory	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
10/24/2021	73	Beach Advisory	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
09/26/2021	613	Beach Advisory	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.9	2.8
08/29/2021	365	Beach Advisory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Water Quality*

- Acceptable (0-60)
- Beach Advisory (61+)

Enterococcus is an EPA-approved fecal contamination indicator.
Samples taken by citizen scientists and processed at laboratories that aren't directly affiliated with Diverkeeper

Table 3 – Public Parks, Open Space and Private Recreation Facilities Chart

Public Parks, Open Space and Public Park District Recreation Facilities			
NAME	PUBLIC / PRIVATE	ACRES	COMMENTS
River Road Park	Public	28.50	Located on River Road, developed by the Town with matching funds from an EQBA grant. Active recreation site.
Blatnick Park	Public	18.94	Located on River Road just east of KAPL which includes the skate board park; active recreation site.
Avon Crest Park	Public	11.70	Located off Westmoreland Dr. in the heart of Avon Crest subdivision; active recreation site.
Mohawk-Hudson Bikeway	Public	70.80	A continuous 9-mile stretch of intercounty bike-hike trail located along the Mohawk River. Includes ancillary park and recreation area at Lock 7.
Railroad Station Park	Public	3.00	Adjacent to Mohawk-Hudson Bikeway off Rosendale Road; car top boat launch area.
Aqueduct Park	Public	33.06	Located within the Old Erie Barge Canal right-of-way west of Balltown Road; includes the Aqueduct Rowing Club facility and complemented by the much smaller Kiwanis Park just east of the Rexford Bridge.
Town of Niskayuna Recreation Center	Public	35.25	Located on Aqueduct Road. The center also houses the Town pool
Soccer Fields	Public	23.25	Located off Balltown Road just north of Craig Elementary School.
Becker Street Play Lot	Public	0.33	Located at the intersection of Central Avenue and Becker Street.
Niskayuna Driving Range	Public	12.00	Located on River Road just east of Blatnick Park
Memorial Park	Public	0.11	Located at the intersection of Balltown Road and Van Antwerp Road.
Fieldstone Park	Public	72.00	Walking trails located in Fieldstone Estates neighborhood.
Dean St. Park	Public Park District	9.20	Private park for residents in the Dean Street area. 350+/- members. Amenities include open fields, water, playground, ballpark, & tennis courts.
Baker Woods	Public Park District	2.70	Woodland and open space on Baker Avenue.
Boulevard Medians	Public	NA	Grass strips & tree plantings along Grand Boulevard, Lexington Parkway & Dorwaldt Parkway.
Monica Heights Park	Public	0.60	Open space & trees classified as wetlands along John Paul Court.

Rosendale Estates – Parkland Areas	Public	5.70	Stream & open space spanning through Rosendale Estates.
Antonia Park (Windsor Estates)	Public	7.05	Neighborhood park stretching from Van Antwerp Road to St. Ann Drive
Kimberly Court	Public	8.00	Neighborhood park along Lisha Kill at the Town's south border
Floral Acres	Public	4.00	Neighborhood park adjacent to Kimberly Court, has access to the Lishakill
Applewood Estates	Public	3.97	Parkland adjacent to the Lishakill
Oakmont	Public	7.99	Most of the acreage is in a conservation easement because of wetlands.
Hummingbird Manor	Public	4.08	The parkland is adjacent to the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club.
River Hills	Public	2.60	Located on River Road.
Orchard Park – open space	Public	8.10	Open space associated with average density development
Avon Crest North – open space	Public	13.19	Open space associated with average density development and adjacent to the Nature Conservancy lands.
River Hills – open space	Public	6.80	Open space associated with average density development
River Hills Parkland	Public	20.00	Open space associated with average density development
Hummingbird Manor – open space	Public	15.87	Open space associated with average density development (adjacent to Reist Preserve)
Floral Acres – open space	Public	3.78	Open space associated with average density development
Wetlands Nature Walk	Public	4.13	Located behind the Town Library on Nott Street East. The walkway takes you out into the wetlands from the library
Catherine Woods	Public	3.41	Located at the end of the cul-de-sac.
Stanford Park	Public	36.63	Forest land located at the end of Stanford Ave. adjacent to the Woodlawn Preserve This parkland as well as the the135 ac woodland preserve is part of the Albany Pine Bush
Former Niskayuna Landfill	Public	110.00	Open space.
Mohawk River State Park	Public	107.00	Formally the Schenectady Museum Preserve purchased by New York State in 2006.
Total		693.74	

Privately Held Recreation Areas			
NAME	PUBLIC / PRIVATE	ACRES	COMMENTS
Mohawk Golf Club	Private	190.00	Private golf and tennis facility at Union Street and Balltown Road.
Jewish Community Center	Private	26.00	Multipurpose center including outdoor pool and day camp for members. Located north of River Road on Balltown Road
Schenectady Curling Club	Private	1.80	Private club for area curlers; located on Balltown Road.
H.G. Reist Preserve	Private	108.00	Owned by Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, located between St. David's Lane and Consaul Road.
Lishakill Preserve	Public	108.00	Owned by the Nature Conservancy; The land contains an old growth forest.
Conservation Easement adjacent to H.G. Reist Preserve	Private	NA	Easement between H.G. Reist sanctuary and private property.
Total		433.80	

Niskayuna Central Schools & Private Schools			
NAME	PUBLIC	ACRES	COMMENTS
Craig Elementary School	Public	15.00	
Niskayuna High School	Public	49.60	Playing fields are not public.
Rosendale Elementary School	Public	24.70	
Iroquois Middle School	Public	25.30	
Van Antwerp Middle School	Public	8.70	
Hillside Elementary School	Public	8.90	
Birchwood Elementary School	Public	23.90	
Total		156.10	

Summary of all Lands		
NAME	ACRES	% of town total (9024ac)
Town of Niskayuna Neighborhood Parks and Subdivision Open Space	693.74	7.6%
Private Recreation	433.80	4.9%
Niskayuna Central Schools & Private Schools Property	156.10	1.7%
Total	1,283.64	

NYS Breeding Bird Atlas

Block 5874D

2000-2005

List of Species Breeding in Atlas Block 5874D

Common Name	Scientific Name	Behavior Code	Date	NY Legal Status
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	X1	5/19/2004	Game Species
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	X1	4/28/2004	Game Species
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	X1	6/3/2003	Special Concern
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	FL	7/26/2004	Protected-Special Concern
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	X1	5/18/2004	Protected
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	X1	6/24/2004	Protected
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	FL	6/27/2002	Protected
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	D2	3/26/2004	Game Species
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	D2	7/9/2004	Unprotected
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	D2	5/10/2004	Protected
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	D2	5/10/2004	Protected

Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	X1	6/24/2002	Protected
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	S2	7/20/2004	Protected
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	X1	8/7/2004	Protected
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	X1	6/24/2002	Protected
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	X1	6/25/2004	Protected
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	T2	6/27/2002	Protected
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	T2	6/3/2003	Protected
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	NY	6/17/2004	Protected
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	T2	6/25/2004	Protected
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	T2	6/24/2002	Protected
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	S2	6/7/2004	Protected
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	X1	6/7/2004	Protected
American	<i>Corvus</i>	FY	5/29/20	Game

Crow	<i>brachyrhynch hos</i>		04	Species
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	NY	6/11/20 02	Protected
Northern Rough- winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidoptery x serripennis</i>	P2	5/27/20 04	Protected
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	ON	6/24/20 02	Protected
Black- capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	NY	6/9/200 3	Protected
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	X1	7/19/20 04	Protected
White- breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	X1	8/19/20 04	Protected
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	NY	6/19/20 03	Protected
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	NY	6/11/20 02	Protected
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	T2	6/24/20 02	Protected
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	FL	8/7/200 4	Protected
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	FY	6/24/20 02	Protected
Northern Mockingbi rd	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	X1	6/25/20 04	Protected
European	<i>Sturnus</i>	FL	6/24/20	Unprotect

Starling	<i>vulgaris</i>		02	ed
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	S2	7/23/20 04	Protected
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	T2	6/24/20 02	Protected
Chestnut- sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	T2	6/24/20 02	Protected
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	X1	6/9/200 4	Protected
Common Yellowthro at	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	T2	6/3/200 3	Protected
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	FL	7/8/200 4	Protected
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	X1	4/26/20 04	Protected
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichens is</i>	T2	6/27/20 02	Protected
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	T2	6/24/20 02	Protected
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	X1	6/2/200 4	Protected
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	FL	8/7/200 4	Protected
Red- winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	T2	6/24/20 02	Protected
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	FY	6/24/20 02	Protected
Baltimore	<i>Icterus</i>	X1	5/21/20	Protected

Oriole	<i>galbula</i>		04	
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	D2	5/10/2004	Protected
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	NY	8/3/2004	Protected
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	NY	6/9/2003	<u>Unprotect</u> <u>ed</u>

ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES

The following provide helpful information regarding Niskayuna and the region:

Albany Pine Bush Commission, Joel Hecht
Stewardship Director
Audubon New York
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve, Janet
Chen, Chair
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, John Hershey,
Ron Harrower, Roy Thornton
Mohawk River Basin Program
Hudson River Estuary Program
Hudsonia
Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy
Nature Conservancy
NY Natural Heritage Program
NY State Department of Agriculture &
Markets, Farmland Protection
NY State Department of Environmental
Conservation
NY State Amphibian & Reptile Atlas, Steve
Young, Al Breisch
Riverkeeper
Schenectady County Department of Economic
Development & Planning
Schenectady Soil and Water Conservation
District

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Planning:

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New York State Species of Greatest
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Elevations: United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Farms: NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Inland Wetlands: National Wetlands Inventory, USF&W

Land Cover-USGS National Land Cover Database

Satellite Image:
gis.ny.gov/webservices/index.cfm

Significant Natural Communities: NY Natural Heritage Program

State Wetlands: NY State DEC

Streams: NY State DEC

Tax Parcels: Schenectady County Real Property Tax Service Agency

Trails: AllTrails, www.alltrails.com

Wetland Soils: U.S.D.A. National Cooperative Soil Survey

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