

SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN

CONSERVATION & RECREATION STRATEGY

OCTOBER 2018



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ORGANIZATIONS PROTECTING THE SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN REGION

- Open Space Institute
- Saratoga PLAN
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- City of Saratoga Springs
- Town of Wilton
- Town of Corinth
- Town of Moreau
- Town of Greenfield
- Adirondack Mountain Club
- Audubon Society
- Friends of Moreau Lake State Park
- Saratoga Backcountry Horsemen's Association
- Saratoga Mountain Bike Club

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The Open Space Institute (OSI) protects scenic, natural, and historic landscapes to provide public enjoyment, conserve habitat and working lands, and sustain communities. Founded in 1974 to protect significant landscapes in New York State, OSI is a leader in environmental conservation, having partnered in the protection of nearly 2.2 million acres in North America, from Alabama up the spine of the Appalachians to southeastern Canada.

SARATOGA PLAN

Saratoga PLAN is dedicated to preserving the rural character, natural habitats, and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations. Saratoga PLAN helps communities create plans that balance growth with conservation to sustain the Saratoga Region as a great place to live, work, visit and farm. Since formation in 2003, Saratoga PLAN has conserved more than 7,000 acres of land to date.

SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN CONSERVATION & RECREATION STRATEGY

The Southern Palmertown Conservation & Recreation Strategy was completed in 2018 by Alta Planning + Design and Bernuth & Williamson, for OSI and Saratoga PLAN. Funding for this project came from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in

partnership with the State Department of Environmental Conservation. Additional support was provided by the Cloudsplitter Foundation.

For more information about conservation in the area, please visit www.saratogaplan.org/explore/public-preserves-trails/palmertown-conservation-area/



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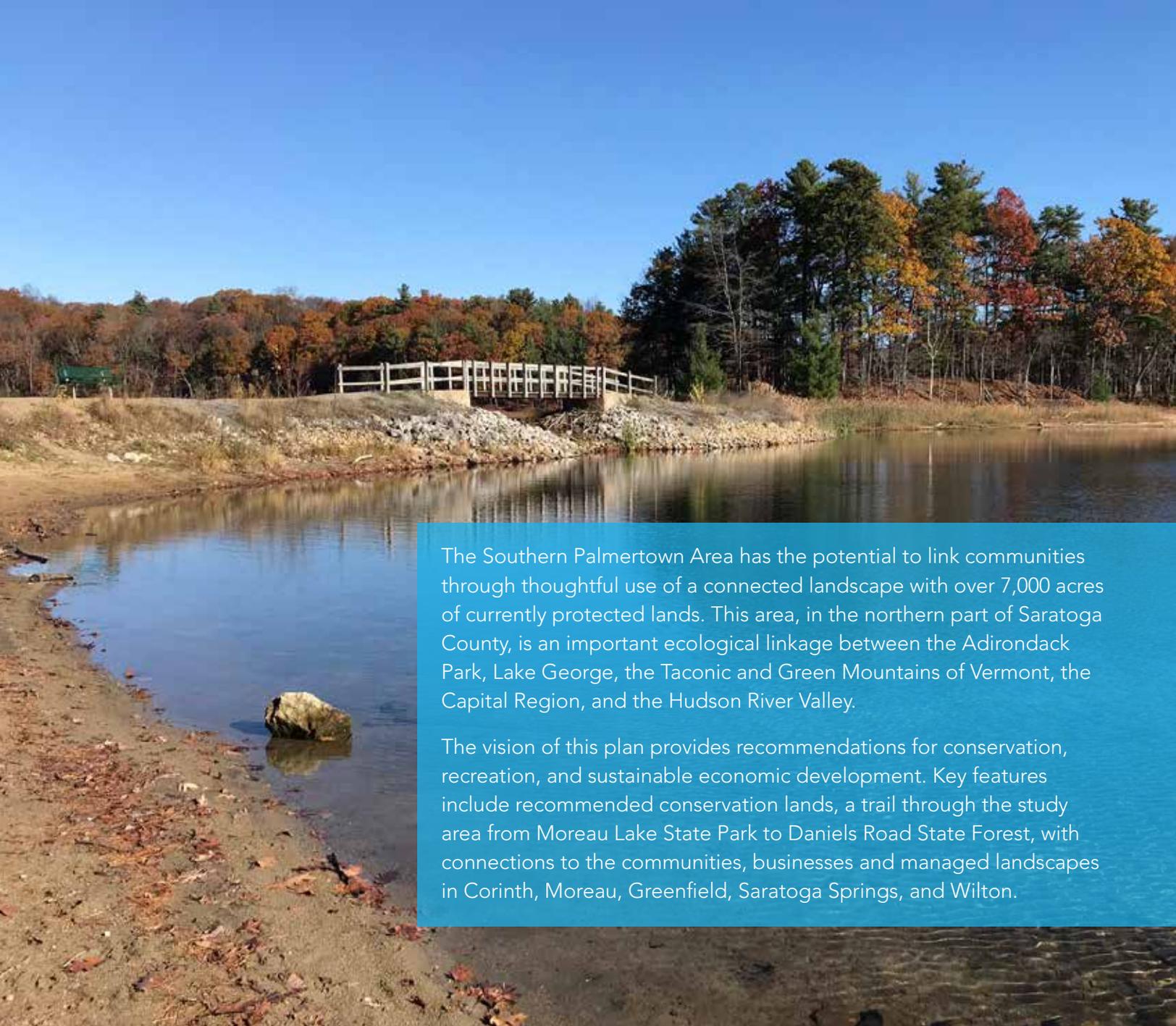
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The Southern Palmertown Area has the potential to link communities through thoughtful use of a connected landscape with over 7,000 acres of currently protected lands. This area, in the northern part of Saratoga County, is an important ecological linkage between the Adirondack Park, Lake George, the Taconic and Green Mountains of Vermont, the Capital Region, and the Hudson River Valley.

The vision of this plan provides recommendations for conservation, recreation, and sustainable economic development. Key features include recommended conservation lands, a trail through the study area from Moreau Lake State Park to Daniels Road State Forest, with connections to the communities, businesses and managed landscapes in Corinth, Moreau, Greenfield, Saratoga Springs, and Wilton.

Moreau Lake State Park

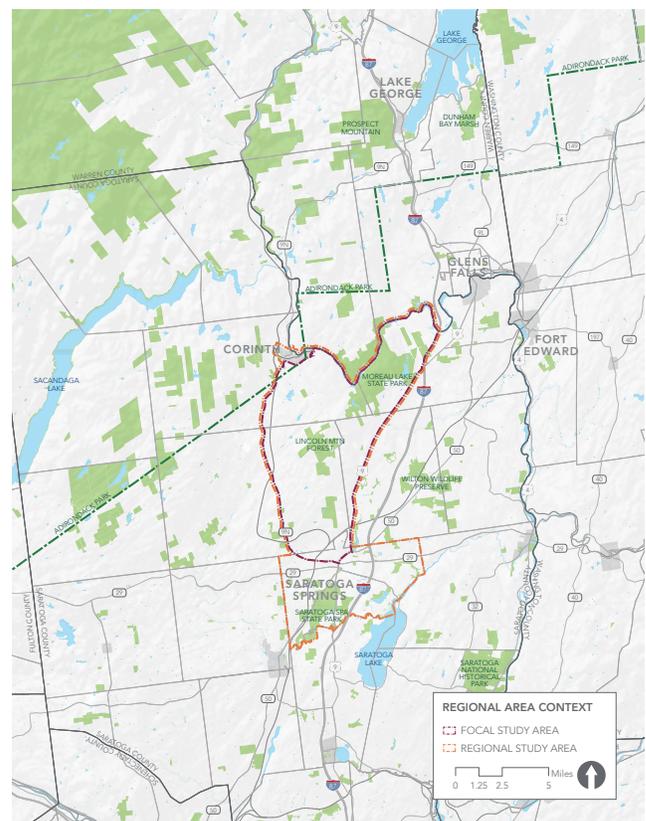
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Southern Palmertown Range is an ecologically intact landscape with extensive, unfragmented, diverse forests and wetlands. Furthermore, the area is in close proximity to growing population centers in Saratoga Springs, Glens Falls, and Wilton.

This plan suggests steps that can be taken by local communities working together with thoughtful, cooperative planning and action that will result in retention of the landscape, its environmental services, and natural resources while simultaneously stimulating compatible economic development activities. As a first step, a Guidance Committee composed of representatives from local municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and businesses should be established to oversee collaborative implementation of the recommendations contained in this Plan.

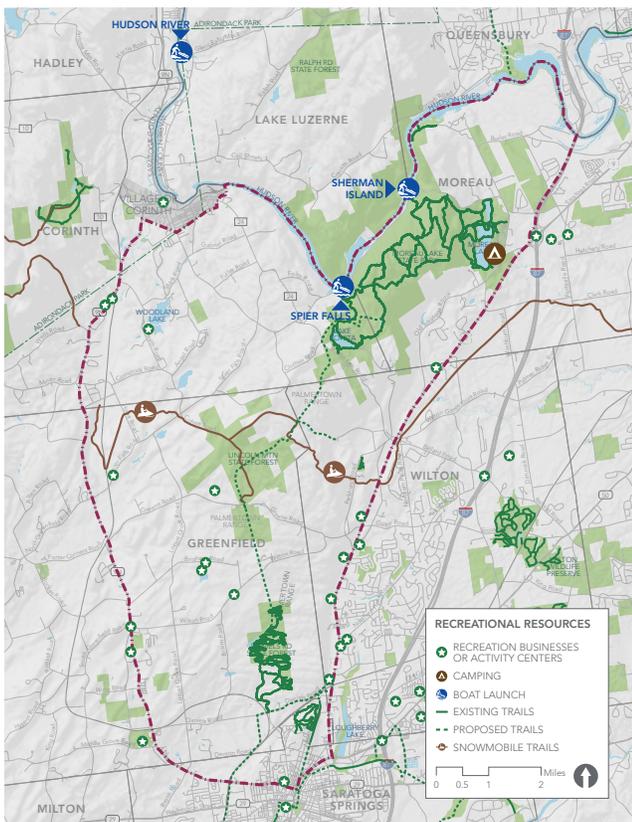
The Southern Palmertown area is located in Saratoga County and is bounded to the north by the Hudson River, to the east by Route 9, to the west by Route 9N, and to the south by Route 50 and Route 9N in Saratoga Springs. This area contains a diversity of ecological and recreational resources, and its adjacency to the Capital District and major transportation infrastructure makes it an attractive area for future development.

The Executive Summary describes the various chapters, analyses, and information included in this document. While important information and findings are highlighted in this section, more detailed background information, methodologies, results, and recommendations can be found throughout Chapters 1 through 5.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Existing Conditions Chapter provides a comprehensive look at the features within Southern Palmertown. This includes text and maps related to existing land uses, natural resources, conservation priorities, groundwater recharge, terrestrial resilience, agricultural lands and working forests, recreational resources, transportation infrastructure, conservation lands, historical and cultural resources, and key destinations. These existing conditions features are used throughout the report for various analyses and were considered when making recommendations for conservation, recreation, and economic development.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The project team used three strategies to gather input from the public: a public workshop, written surveys, and stakeholder interviews.

Public Workshop: A public workshop was held on December 13th, 2017 to present existing conditions information and solicit feedback about existing facilities and future opportunities in Southern Palmertown. There were 34 people in attendance who contributed to the consensus of the following goals:

- Conserve habitat because Southern Palmertown is a critical area for wildlife.
- Preserve open space and small compatible economic uses within the study area.
- Concentrate intensive commercial/residential uses outside of the study area and limit sprawl and large developments.
- Preserve Native American heritage and culture.

Surveys: Two surveys were conducted within the project timeline. The first survey was taken by workshop participants as well as supporters of Saratoga PLAN from December 2017 to January 2018. A total of 175 people responded to the first survey. The second survey was distributed by Saratoga PLAN and OSI in the Spring and Summer of 2018 and collected responses from 23 additional participants. Results from the second survey were consistent with the results from the first survey. Chapter 2 summarizes the results from the initial survey. An Appendix with more detailed results from both surveys was created as part of this project effort.

Stakeholder Interviews: Twelve key stakeholders were identified by Saratoga PLAN and OSI and were invited to do in-depth confidential interviews to more fully share their local knowledge about the study area and further illuminate the priorities and needs of stakeholders in the region.



Public Workshop - December 13th 2017

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider altering or augmenting the name to better resonate with local residents, noting the future need for marketing.
- Emphasize the creation of a network of connected trails, that is likely to be more easily understood and more widely supported than the concept of a comprehensive plan for a connected landscape.
- Leverage existing support for conservation and recreation, and tout the accepted benefits to local quality of life, while making the case for the impact on the local economy.
- Prioritize muscle-powered pursuits, and consider ways to accommodate different user groups, as well as different abilities, while improving access points throughout the study area.
- Ensure that vocal interests are not overrepresented, nor quiet interests underrepresented, by consulting demographic data and reaching out to others with an interest in the outdoors but no direct connection to PLAN.
- Continue to engage stakeholder groups, as well as local landowners, with a focus on going to them, rather than expecting them to come to you.
- Be prepared to lead not only the development but the implementation of the plan.



OPPORTUNITIES

The Opportunities Chapter identifies opportunities for enhancing existing conservation and recreation assets and for supporting sustainable economic development. This was accomplished using three analyses:

Conservation Priority Analysis: Using existing ecological-focused data such as water and wetlands, working landscapes, significant natural communities, the capacity for groundwater recharge, and the ability to adapt to climate change, the Conservation Priority Analysis identifies priority lands for conservation. Conserving these lands will ultimately improve the quality of life for Southern Palmertown residents. The results of this analysis revealed that future conservation efforts should focus on all hotspot areas, with an emphasis on high priority areas directly adjacent to existing conservation land, such as:

- Land adjacent to Moreau Lake State Park
- Land to the west of Lincoln Mountain State Forest
- Land along the Hudson River between the Village of Corinth and Moreau Lake State Park
- Land adjacent to the Hudson River in the northeast corner of the focal study area

Recreation Demand Analysis: Identify existing demand for recreation in Southern Palmertown and inform recommendations based on data identifying where people live, work play, shop, learn, and access transit. The results of the Recreation Demand Analysis indicates that future recommendations should create opportunities to connect high-demand recreation hotspots while avoiding priority conservation areas, ultimately creating a connected recreation network within Southern Palmertown.

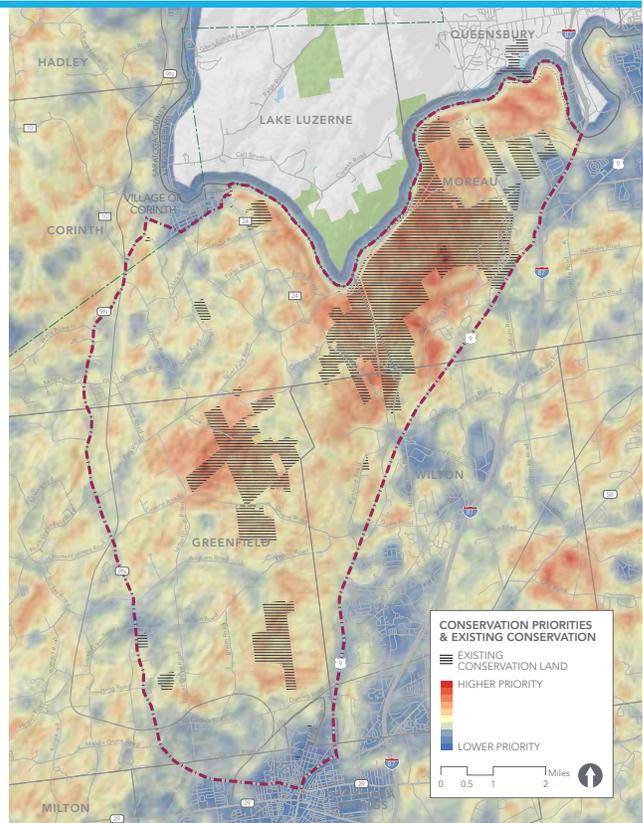
Case Studies Analysis: This section includes case studies of outdoor recreation and conservation networks and innovative economic development initiatives that leverage existing recreation and/or conservation uses. These case studies identify a range of different approaches for establishing and maintaining a connected network of recreational and conservation lands in the Southern Palmertown Area and identify discrete economic development opportunities that promote ecotourism, leverage recreational uses, and/or advance conservation priorities. Each of the seven case studies presented offer “Lessons for Southern Palmertown” which are outlined in Chapter 3.

Forest-Based Economic Activities: The Forest-Based Economic Development section lists various types of forest-based economies typical in New York State. These forest-based economies may be implemented in Southern Palmertown to boost the economic health of the area.

CONSERVATION PRIORITY ANALYSIS

Conservation Priorities:

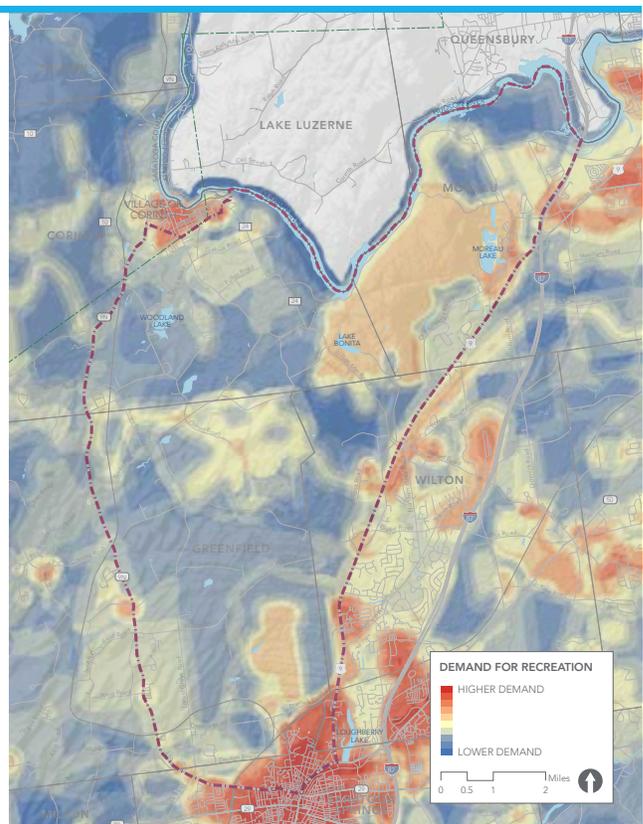
- Moreau Lake State Park (including Lake Bonita)
- Along the Hudson River
- Lincoln Mountain State Forest
- Along the east side of the Palmertown Ridge
- Along Old Saratoga Road
- Along Locust Grove Road



RECREATION DEMAND ANALYSIS

High Demand for Recreation in:

- Moreau Lake State Park (including Lake Bonita)
- Daniels Road State Forest
- Skidmore's North Woods
- City of Saratoga Springs
- Village of Corinth



LAND USE SCENARIOS

Three land use scenarios were developed that illustrate how the effects of varying degrees of land development versus conservation strategies may impact the landscape within Southern Palmertown.



SCENARIO 1: SUBURBAN SPRAWL GROWTH PATTERN

Scenario 1: The **Suburban Sprawl Growth Pattern Land Use Scenario** was created to show the effect continued suburban growth, with few conservation strategies, could have on the landscape within Southern Palmertown. This land use scenario resulted in the following changes to land use types:

- **Agricultural Land:** 90% Decrease
- **Upland Natural Habitat:** 60% Decrease
- **Low Density Developed Land:** 365% Increase
- **Densely Developed Land:** No Change



SCENARIO 2: CONSERVATION/DEVELOPMENT BALANCE

Scenario 2: The **Conservation/Development Balance Land Use Scenario** was created to show the effect of light development patterns and moderate conservation strategies on the landscape within Southern Palmertown. This land use scenario resulted in the following changes to land use types:

- **Agricultural Land:** No Change
- **Upland Natural Habitat:** 6% Decrease
- **Low Density Developed Land:** No Change
- **Densely Developed Land:** 73% Increase

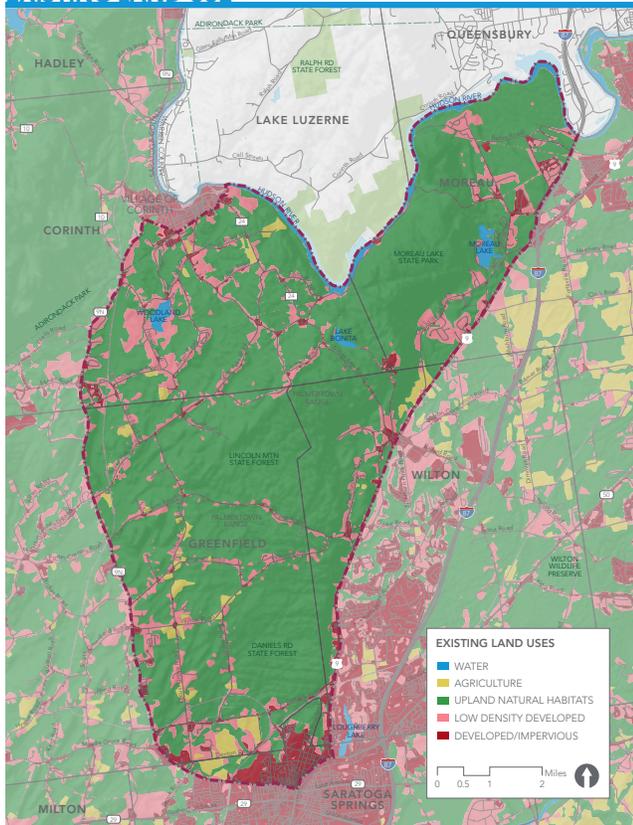


SCENARIO 3: STRONG CONSERVATION EMPHASIS

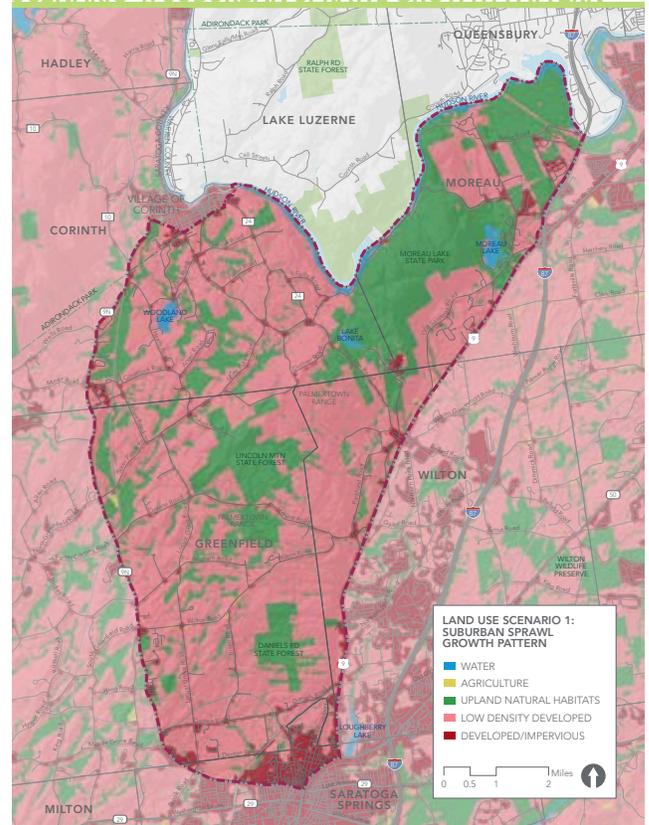
Scenario 3: The **Strong Conservation Emphasis Land Use Scenario** was created to show the effect conservation- and recreation-oriented economic development and strong conservation strategies may have on the landscape within Southern Palmertown. This land use scenario resulted in the following changes to land use types:

- **Agricultural Land:** No Change
- **Upland Natural Habitat:** No Change
- **Low Density Developed Land:** 27% Decrease
- **Densely Developed Land:** 60% Increase

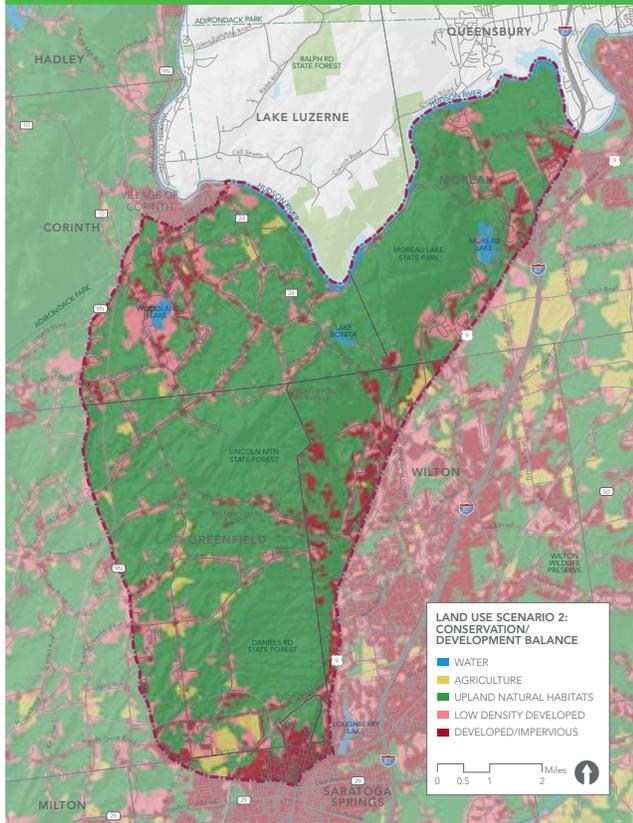
EXISTING LAND USE



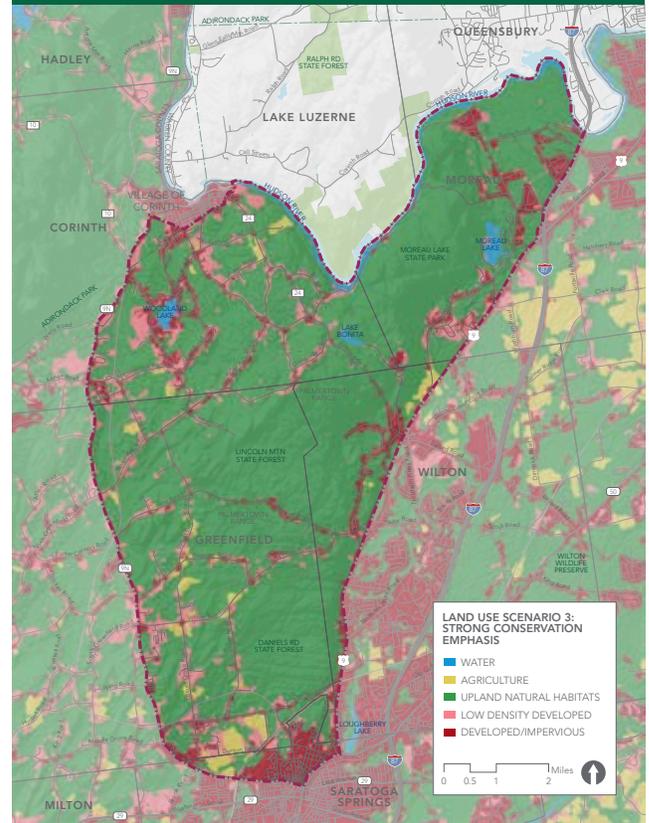
SCENARIO 1: SUBURBAN SPRAWL GROWTH PATTERN



SCENARIO 2: CONSERVATION/DEVELOPMENT BALANCE



SCENARIO 3: STRONG CONSERVATION EMPHASIS

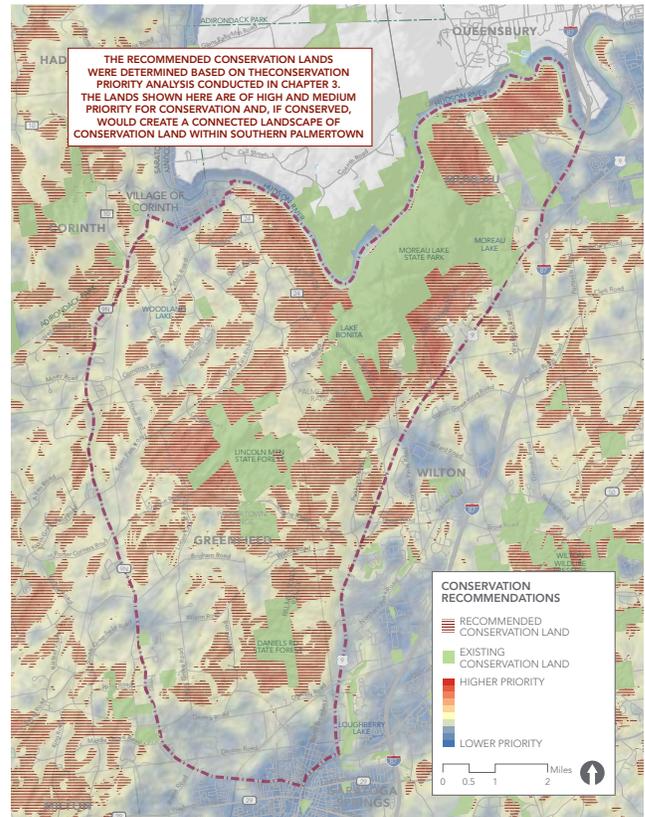


MAKING THE CONNECTION

Three recommendations sections and maps were developed to highlight specific recommendations as well as best practices and policies related to Conservation, Recreation, and Economic Development. The recommendations made for each category are as follows:

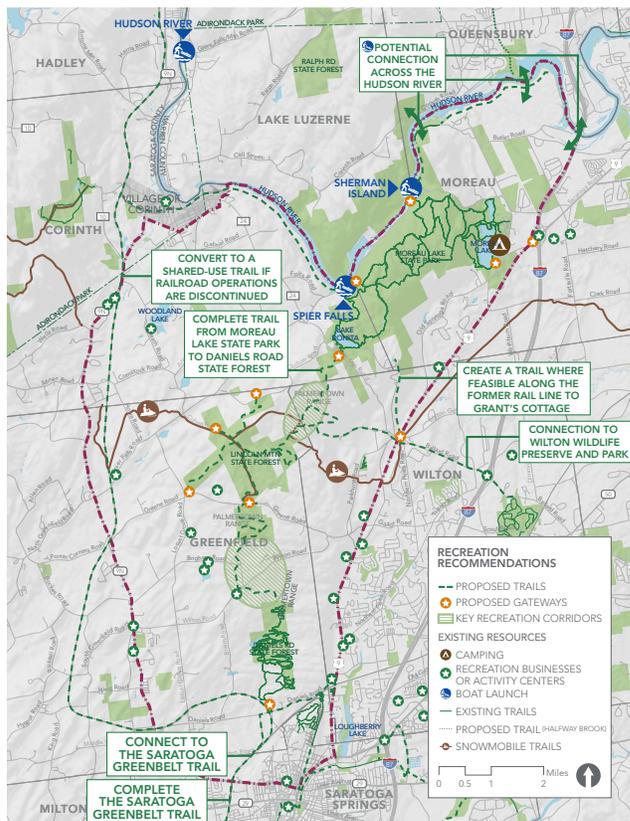
CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acquire Land or secure Conservation Easements Based on the Priorities Identified in This Plan.
- Establish and Maintain a Community Forest Within the Study Area.
- Ongoing Conservation Education, Programming, and/or Advocacy.
- Collaborate with local schools, academic institutions, and service organizations to develop a stewardship program for the local landscape.
- A graphically linked comprehensive interpretive plan should be completed to tell the story of this place.



RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS

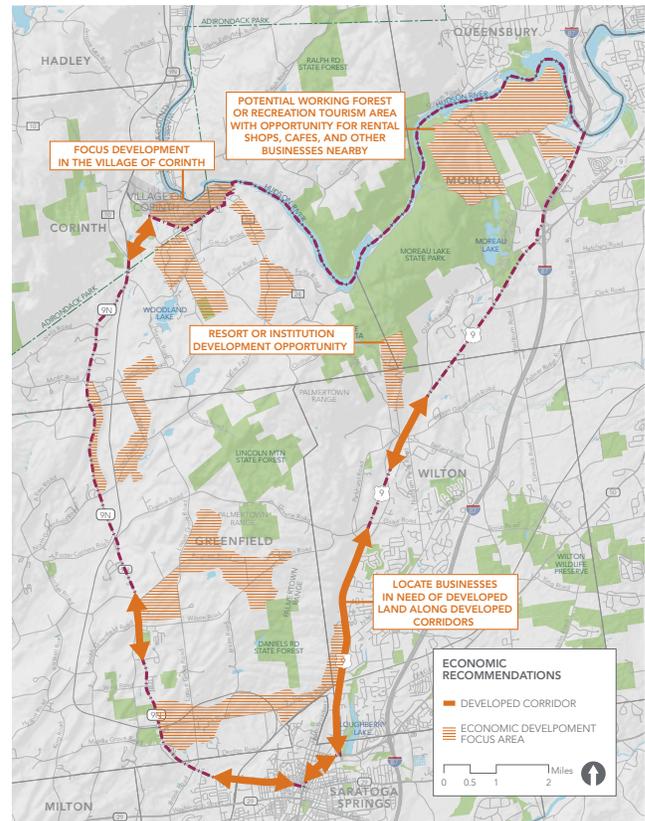
- Develop a 'Friends' organization, separate from the Southern Palmertown Guidance Committee, to support ongoing trail and outdoor recreation such as trail construction and maintenance.
- Complete land acquisitions/easements for a trail from Moreau Lake State Park to the Saratoga Greenbelt Trail, complete construction of this trail, and put a trail stewardship plan in place.
- Identify and implement facilities for specific uses to accommodate all abilities in key destinations such as Moreau Lake State Park, Daniels Road State Forest, and Lincoln Mountain State Forest as appropriate.
- Develop and Implement a comprehensive wayfinding plan for Southern Palmertown.
- Construct gateways at major recreation hubs such as Moreau Lake and Saratoga Spa State Parks and Daniels Road and Lincoln Mountain State Forests.
- Provide limited trail access with an educational or interpretive focus in Lincoln Mountain State Forest and other locations with significant conservation values.
- Complete the Saratoga Greenbelt Trail.



- Convert the Saratoga and North Creek Railway and historic trolley line to Grant's Cottage into shared-use trails.
- Provide a connection for trail users between the Town of Moreau and the Town of Queensbury.
- Maintain and enhance the scenic quality of roads within the study area for all users.

ECONOMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Engage in a branding exercise for the study area to determine an identity for the region, including a final name, graphic representation and Marketing Strategy.
- Facilitate trail-oriented development, eco-tourism, and recreation-based tourism businesses, including lodging, restaurants and cafes, rental shops, environmental education and guide services, camping, geocaching, and related businesses at appropriate locations along the trail system.
- Continue to support sustainable redevelopment of the Balmoral Hotel (Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility) and consider conservation of priority lands within the property.
- Collaborate with local tourism organizations, municipalities, and the local Chamber of Commerce to encourage visitors to utilize the area's recreation opportunities.
- Encourage and support appropriate working landscapes and forest-based economic activities such as forestry, wood and paper manufacturing, woodworking artisan products, Christmas tree harvesting, maple syrup and mushroom production, and forest recreation.



NEXT STEPS

This Plan is the beginning of a new vision for this unique area. It is clearly a place with significant conservation, recreation, and economic development potential - and realizing that vision will require new partnerships. With a shared understanding of how significant this landscape is, the region's stakeholders now have the potential to create a lasting legacy for future generations.



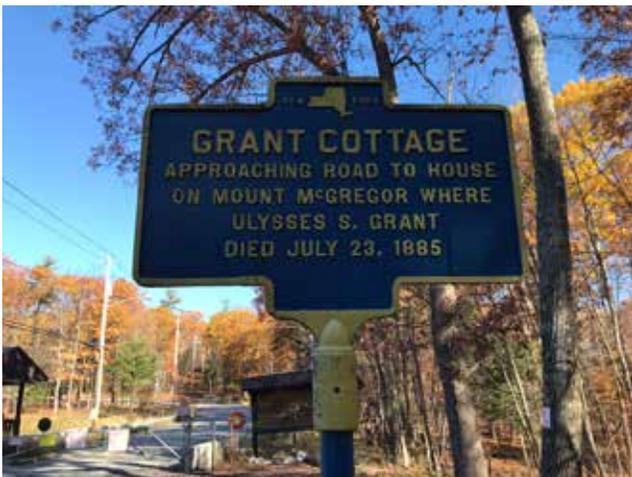
Moreau Lake State Park



Conserved Land on Greene Rd in Greenfield



Lincoln Mountain State Forest



Grant Cottage Historic Site



Lake Bonita



Moreau Lake State Park

CHAPTER 1

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Southern Palmertown Area has the potential to connect communities in a landscape with over 7,000 acres of protected lands. This area, in the northern part of Saratoga County, is an important ecological boundary between the Adirondack Park, Lake George and the Capital Region.

This chapter focuses on documenting the existing conditions of Southern Palmertown, including land uses, natural resources, recreational amenities, transportation infrastructure, and key destinations. It also

lays the groundwork for identifying future opportunities to expand conservation lands, increase the connectivity and availability of recreational activities, and promote sustainable economic development.

STUDY AREA

The Southern Palmertown study area covers approximately 40,500 acres (63.2 square miles) and includes portions of the Towns of Corinth, Greenfield, Moreau, Wilton, and the City of Saratoga Springs. The study area is defined by Route 9 to the east, Route 9N to the west, the Hudson River to the north, and Route 50 and Route 9N in Saratoga Springs to the south.

Key open spaces and recreational areas within Southern Palmertown include Moreau Lake State Park, Lincoln Mountain State Forest, Lake Bonita, and Daniels Road State Forest. The Adirondack Park boundary intersects with the northwest corner of Southern Palmertown, at the edge of the Village of Corinth.

Table 1: Southern Palmertown Town and City Characteristics

TOWN/CITY	POPULATION*	TOTAL AREA* (SQ MI)	AREA WITHIN SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN (SQ MI)
Town of Corinth	6,503	56.8	15.9
Town of Greenfield	7,791	67.4	24.9
Town of Moreau	15,058	41.6	13.7
Town of Wilton	16,561	35.8	6.9
City of Saratoga Springs	27,244	28.1	1.8

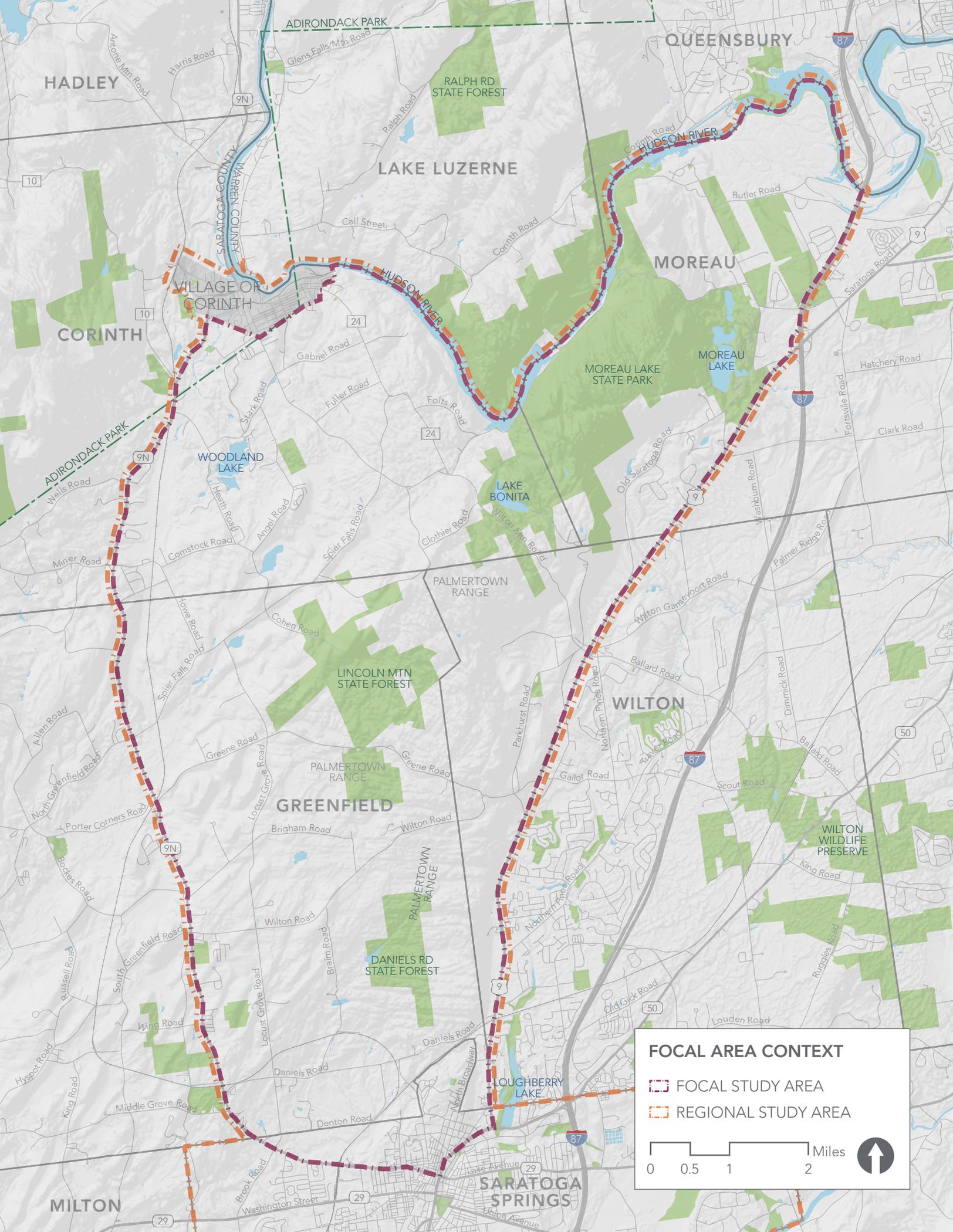
*ACS 2015 5-year, CensusReporter.org



Moreau Lake State Park



Lincoln Mountain State Forest



FOCAL AREA CONTEXT

-  FOCAL STUDY AREA
-  REGIONAL STUDY AREA

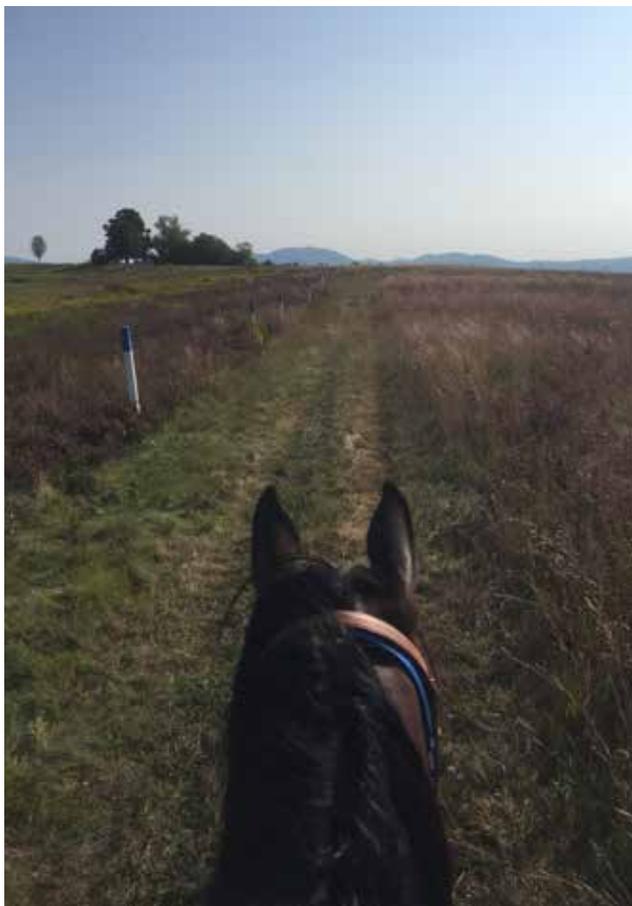


REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Southern Palmertown study area is located at the northern portion of Saratoga County. This area is approximately 35 miles north of Albany, New York State’s Capital, and 190 miles north of New York City. Key open spaces and recreational areas surrounding Southern Palmertown include the southeastern edge of the Adirondack Park, Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga National Historical Park, Wilton Wildlife Preserve, Prospect Mountain, Dunham Bay Marsh, Lake George, Sacandaga Lake, and Saratoga Lake.



Sacandaga Lake



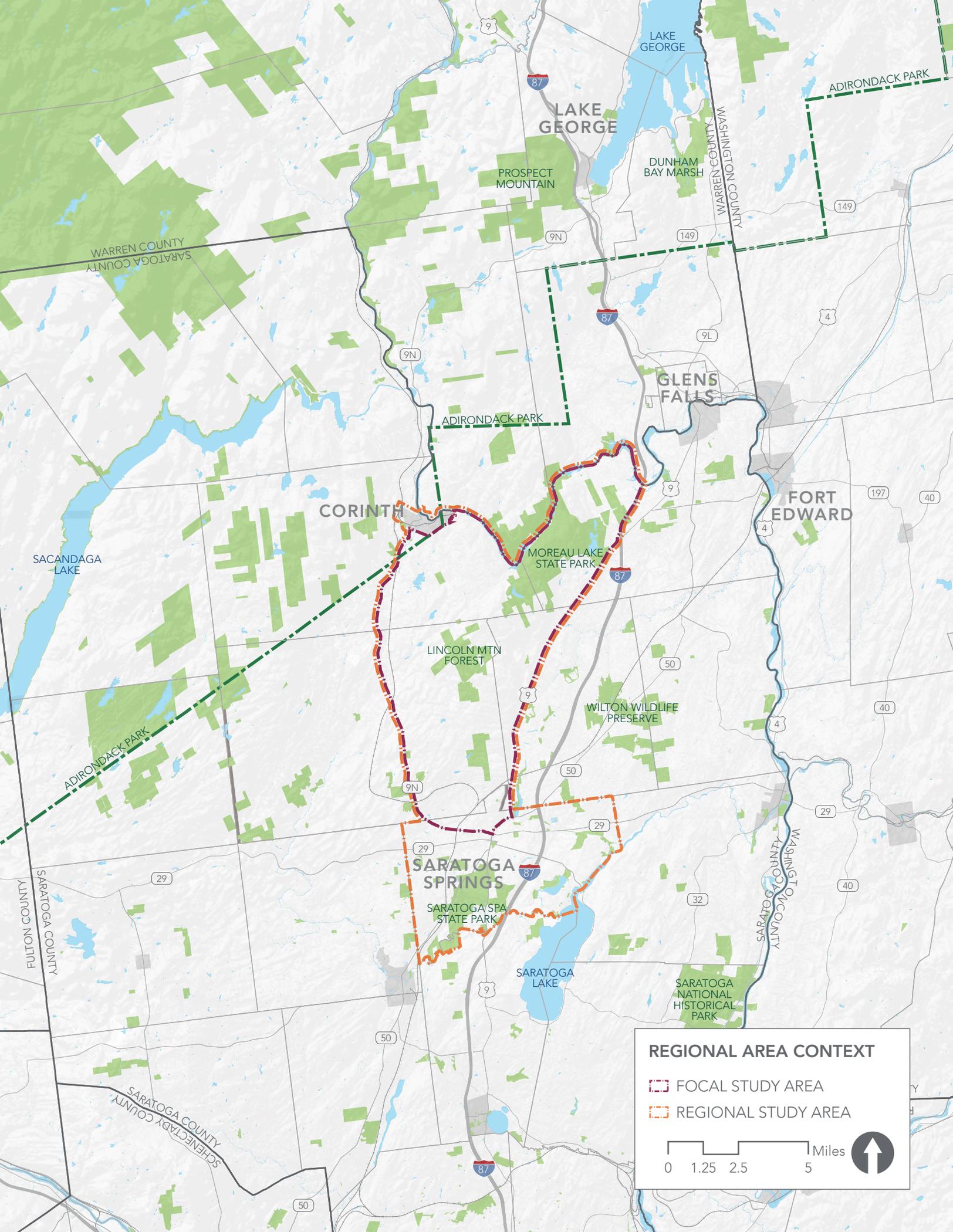
Saratoga National Historical Park



Lake George



Saratoga Spa State Park



REGIONAL AREA CONTEXT

-  FOCAL STUDY AREA
-  REGIONAL STUDY AREA



EXISTING LAND USES

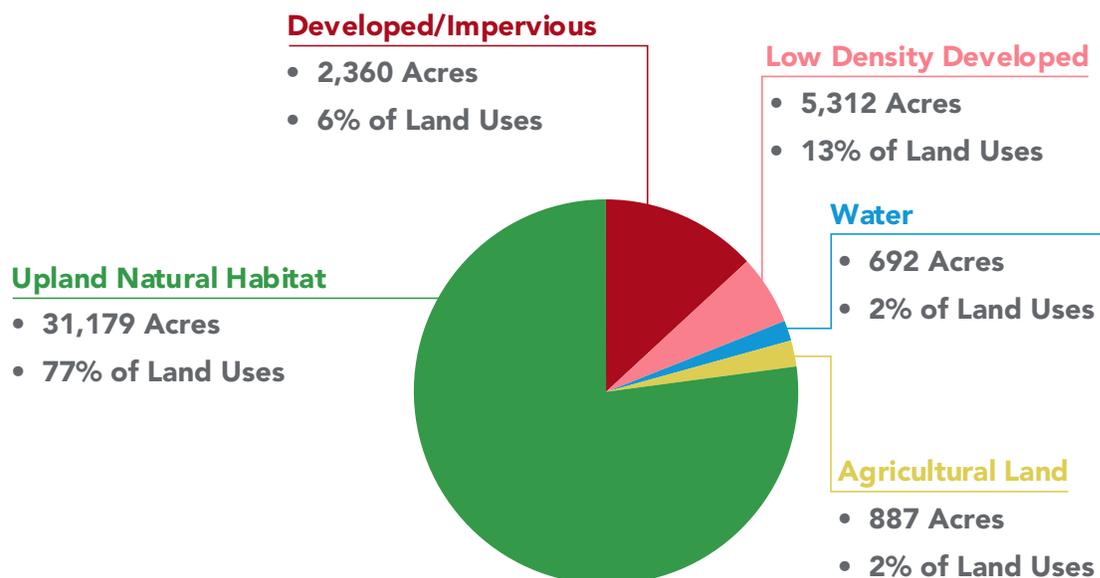
The land uses, as delineated by Saratoga PLAN, within Southern Palmertown are shown on the Existing Land Uses Map. Saratoga PLAN created this dataset using a combination of various datasets such as Agricultural Lands, Natural Habitats, and data from the 2011 National Land Cover Dataset Impervious Surface from USGS.

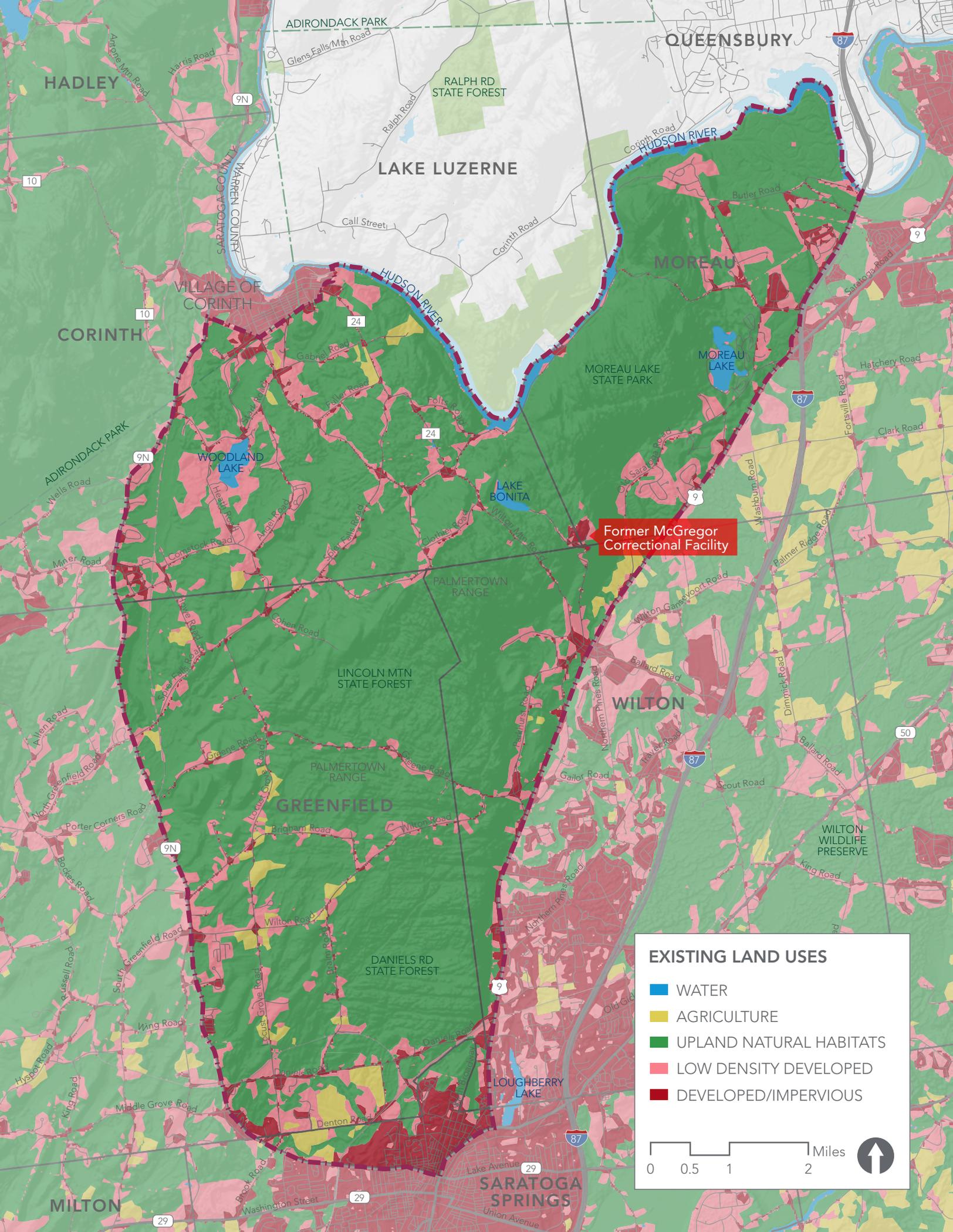
Saratoga PLAN's analysis resulted in five land use categories:

- Water
- Agricultural Land
- Upland Natural Habitat
- Low Density Developed
- Developed/Impervious

Agricultural Lands are scattered throughout the study area, with a high concentration of this particular land use along Locust Grove Road in the Town of Greenfield. Upland Natural Habitat lands are highly concentrated within known open space and recreational lands, such as Moreau Lake State Park, Lincoln Mountain State Forest, and Daniels Road State Forest. Low Density Developed land consists mainly of single family homes. Unsurprisingly this land use tends to be concentrated along roadways within the study area. A majority of the Developed/Impervious land, consisting of higher density residential and commercial developments, is located within the City of Saratoga Springs, in the southern portion of the study area, and the Town of Corinth in the northwestern portion of the study area. Additionally, a small patch of Developed/Impervious land is located in the area of the former McGregor Correctional Facility as well as along major roadways throughout Southern Palmertown.

Figure 1: Existing Land Use Distribution





EXISTING LAND USES

- WATER
- AGRICULTURE
- UPLAND NATURAL HABITATS
- LOW DENSITY DEVELOPED
- DEVELOPED/IMPERVIOUS



NATURAL RESOURCES

WETLANDS

Emergent and forested/shrub wetlands are concentrated in the western portion of the Southern Palmertown Area. Emergent wetlands include herbaceous marshes, fens, swales, and wet meadows, and forested/shrub wetlands include forested swamps and bogs.¹ It is also important to note that this area encompasses the headwaters for the Snook Kill, Kaydeross Creek, and Loughberry Lake

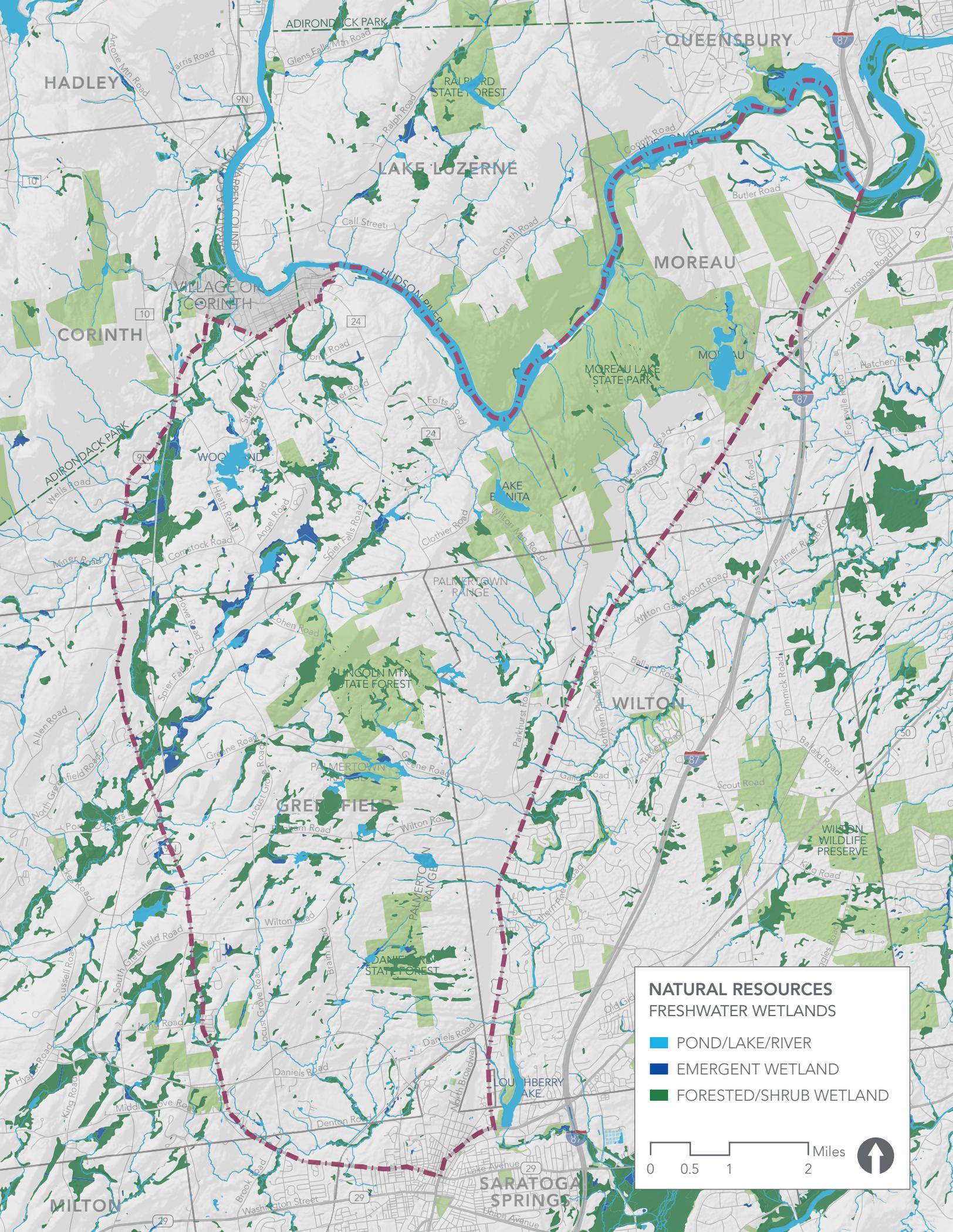
Freshwater wetlands provide important feeding, nesting, and spawning habitat for a diversity of fish and wildlife and they play a critical role in connecting upland and aquatic habitats. In addition to their habitat value, wetlands provide several other benefits, including:

- Water quality improvements by filtering out pollutants and sediments from stormwater runoff and snowmelt;
- Flood control by storing and absorbing stormwater runoff and snowmelt;
- Erosion control by slowing water velocities;
- Groundwater recharge; and,
- Scenic landscapes for open space preservation, education and research, and limited recreation.

Freshwater wetlands in New York State are regulated under The Freshwater Wetlands Act, which is administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Wetlands that are 12.4 acres (5 hectares) or larger are protected under the Act. Smaller wetlands can also be protected if they are considered of “unusual local importance.” Areas within 100-feet of a wetland are also regulated under the Act to ensure adequate protection is provided. Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Army Corps of Engineers also protects wetlands, irrespective of size.

Major rivers, lakes, ponds, and streams within the study area include: the Hudson River, Moreau Lake, Lake Bonita, Woodland Lake, Saddle Lake, Taylor Pond, Carp Pond, Heath Brook, Stony Brook, Beaver Brook, Sturdevant Creek, Kayaderossers Creek, Mud Creek, Snook Kill, Sessleman Brook, and Putnam Brook.

The location of wetlands and water features will inform conservation, recreation, and economic development recommendations within the study area.



NATURAL RESOURCES

FRESHWATER WETLANDS

- POND/LAKE/RIVER
- EMERGENT WETLAND
- FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



WATERSHEDS

There are eight watersheds that fall within the Southern Palmertown study area. Of particular importance is the Bog Meadow Brook watershed, which encompasses Loughberry Lake. Loughberry Lake is one of the five drinking water sources for the City of Saratoga Springs, and it is the only source that comes from surface water; all other drinking water sources come from groundwater well systems.²

The watershed map was created using hydrologic unit code (HUC) 12 watershed data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), as this code represents a more local sub-watershed level.³ All of the surface drainage in each watershed converges at a single outlet location.⁴ The name of each watershed indicates the outlet or receiving waterbody for each

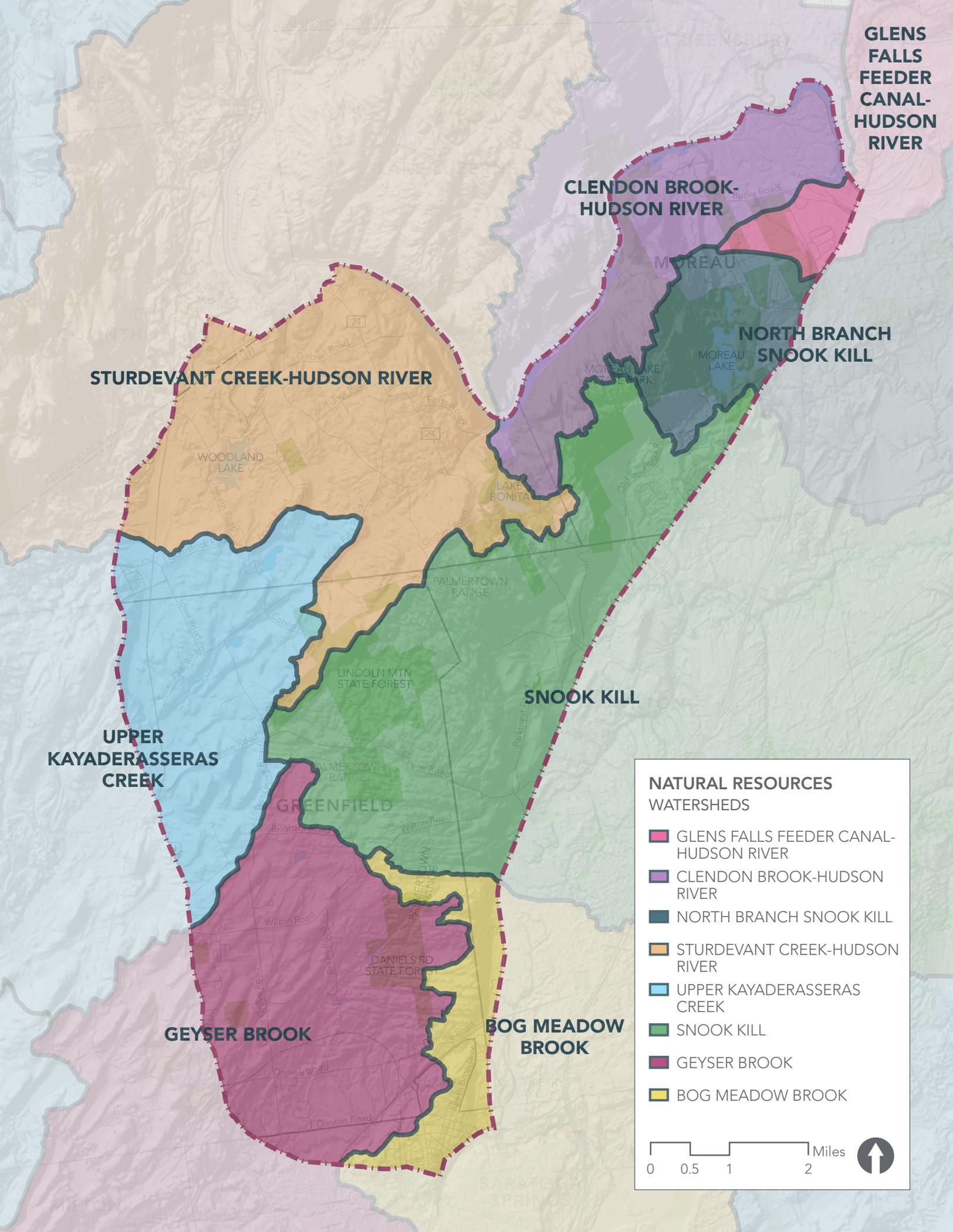
watershed. For example, all surface runoff in the Snook Kill watershed ultimately flows into the Snook Kill.

For each watershed, the USGS identifies any modifications to natural overland flow that affects the natural delineation of a watershed.⁵ The two modifications present within watersheds that overlap with the Southern Palmertown Area are:

- Artificial Waterway: “A canal, ditch, or drain used to transport surface water that alters the natural flow out of the hydrologic unit.”⁶
- No Modifications: “No modifications are present.” This category is used when no other options with the modification domain have been cited.⁷

Table 2: Southern Palmertown Watersheds

NAME	MODIFICATION
Geyser Brook	No Modifications
Bog Meadow Brook	No Modifications
Upper Kayaderasseras Creek	No Modifications
Snook Kill	Artificial Waterway (General Canal/Ditch)
Sturdevant Creek-Hudson River	No Modifications
Clendon Brook-Hudson River	Artificial Waterway (General Canal/Ditch)
North Branch Snook Kill	Artificial Waterway (General Canal/Ditch)
Glens Falls Feeder Canal-Hudson River	Artificial Waterway (General Canal/Ditch)



GLENS FALLS FEEDER CANAL-HUDSON RIVER

CLENDON BROOK-HUDSON RIVER

NORTH BRANCH SNOOK KILL

STURDEVANT CREEK-HUDSON RIVER

SNOOK KILL

UPPER KAYADERASSERAS CREEK

GEYSER BROOK

BOG MEADOW BROOK

NATURAL RESOURCES WATERSHEDS

- GLENS FALLS FEEDER CANAL-HUDSON RIVER
- CLENDON BROOK-HUDSON RIVER
- NORTH BRANCH SNOOK KILL
- STURDEVANT CREEK-HUDSON RIVER
- UPPER KAYADERASSERAS CREEK
- SNOOK KILL
- GEYSER BROOK
- BOG MEADOW BROOK

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

CONSERVATION LANDS

Data provided by Saratoga PLAN indicates areas of conservation within the Southern Palmertown study area. There are a total of 111 acres of conservation land held by Saratoga PLAN. The current land uses of these conservation properties include: parks and open space, forests, vacant land, correctional facilities, cemetery, and water-related uses. Recommendations within the study area will be sensitive to the fact that this land has been designated for conservation by Saratoga PLAN.

BIRD CONSERVATION AREA

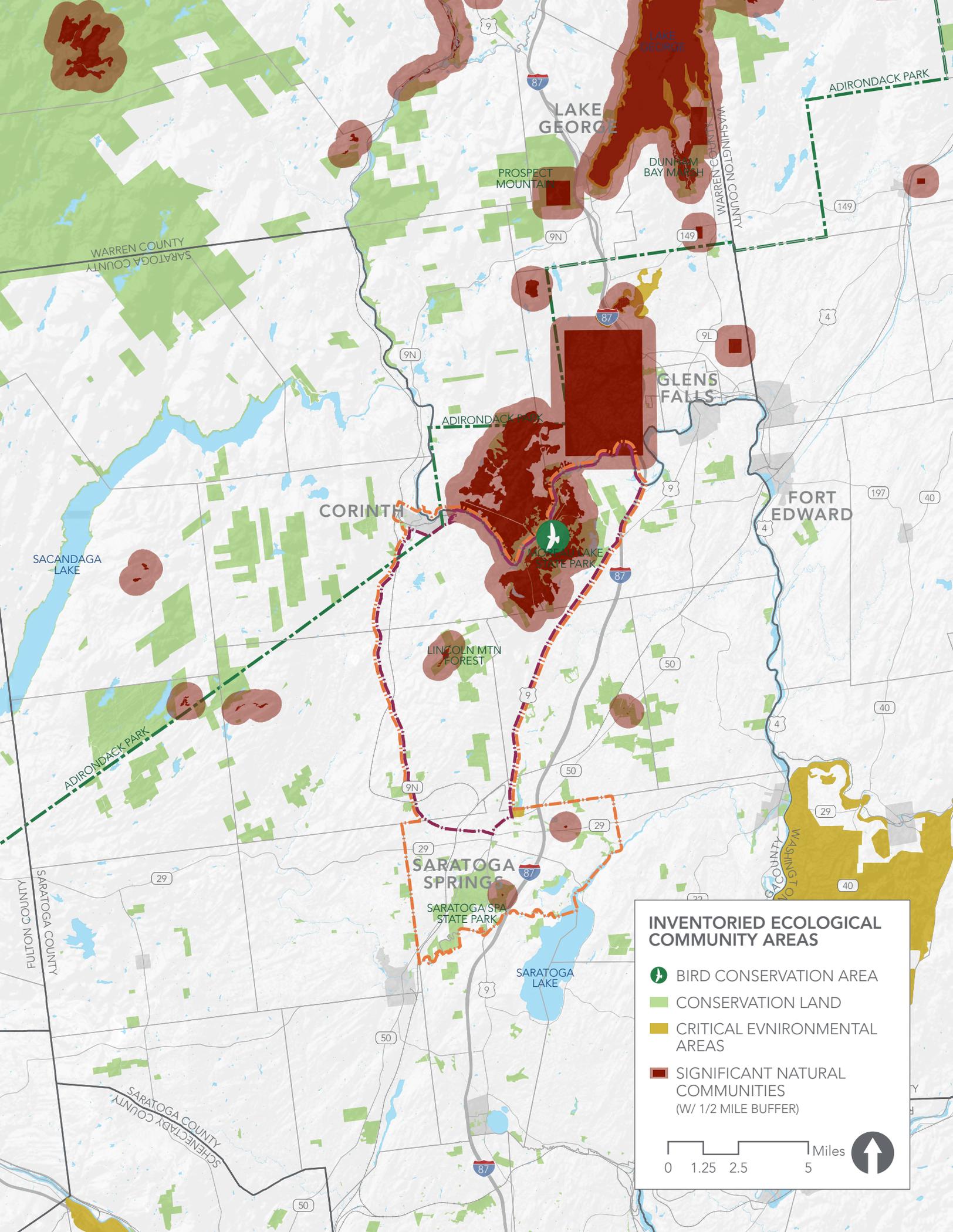
A portion of the Moreau Lake Bird Conservation Area (BCA) is within the Southern Palmertown study area. The entire BCA, including land outside the study area, is 3,368 acres. The portion within Southern Palmertown is owned and managed by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).⁸ The Moreau Lake BCA supports a diversity of birds associated with upland forest. This area supports state or federally threatened birds and species of special concern, including: bald eagles, pied-billed grebe, northern harrier, Cooper's hawk, and red-shouldered hawk.⁹ Other common breeds present in this area for breeding and migration include: wild turkey, pileated woodpecker, blue-headed vireo, pine warbler, golden-crowned kinglet, black-throated green warbler, red-breasted nuthatch, hermit thrush, and white-throated sparrow.¹⁰

CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS

For land to be designated as a Critical Environmental Area (CEA) by local or state agencies, the land must have unique characteristics with respect to one or more of the following criteria:¹¹

- a benefit or threat to human health
- a natural setting
- agricultural, social, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, or educational values
- an inherent ecological, geological or hydrological sensitivity to change that may be adversely affected by any change.

Though there are no CEAs located within Southern Palmertown, there is one CEA, representing the Loughberry Lake Watershed, directly adjacent to the study area. The Loughberry Lake Watershed is particularly important, as it is one of five sources of drinking water for the City of Saratoga Springs. Any recommendations made within and/or adjacent to the Loughberry Lake Watershed area should be sensitive of this CEA.



INVENTORIED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY AREAS

-  BIRD CONSERVATION AREA
-  CONSERVATION LAND
-  CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS
-  SIGNIFICANT NATURAL COMMUNITIES (W/ 1/2 MILE BUFFER)



SIGNIFICANT NATURAL COMMUNITIES

The Significant Natural Communities included here were identified by the State of New York on state-owned lands and may not be fully representative as additional Significant Natural Communities may be located on other, non-state owned, lands. A half-mile buffer is shown around each significant natural community as nearby lands should also be considered for conservation.

HEMLOCK-NORTHERN HARDWOOD FOREST

The Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest is a mixed forest, often consisting of the following tree species: Eastern hemlock, American beech, sugar maple, red maple, black cherry, white pine, yellow birch, black birch, red oak, and basswood.¹² These forests can typically be found on cool, mid-elevation slopes, ravines, and on the well-drained edges of swamps.¹³

The most common threats to the health of the Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest include: changes in land use, forest fragmentation, and invasive species.¹⁴ Of these, the largest threat to this type of forest are activities that cause forest fragmentation.¹⁵ Changes to the landscape, such as the construction of roads or housing developments, can inhibit the movement of various plant and animal species that thrive on connected and cohesive open spaces.¹⁶ Any future development within Southern Palmertown should be context-sensitive to the location of the Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest to mitigate the risk of forest fragmentation.

RED MAPLE-BLACKGUM SWAMP

The Red Maple-Blackgum Swamp is a hardwood swamp dominated by the red maple and blackgum species. This type of hardwood swamp is typically located within poorly drained depressions in maritime, coastal, and inland land.¹⁷

Common threats to the Red Maple-Blackgum Swamp include: development of the surrounding landscape and its associated run-off, changes to the natural habitat, and recreational overuse (both motorized and non-motorized).¹⁸ Any recommendations included in this Plan, or in the future, need to be made with the health and needs of this type of area in mind.

CALCAREOUS TALUS SLOPE WOODLAND

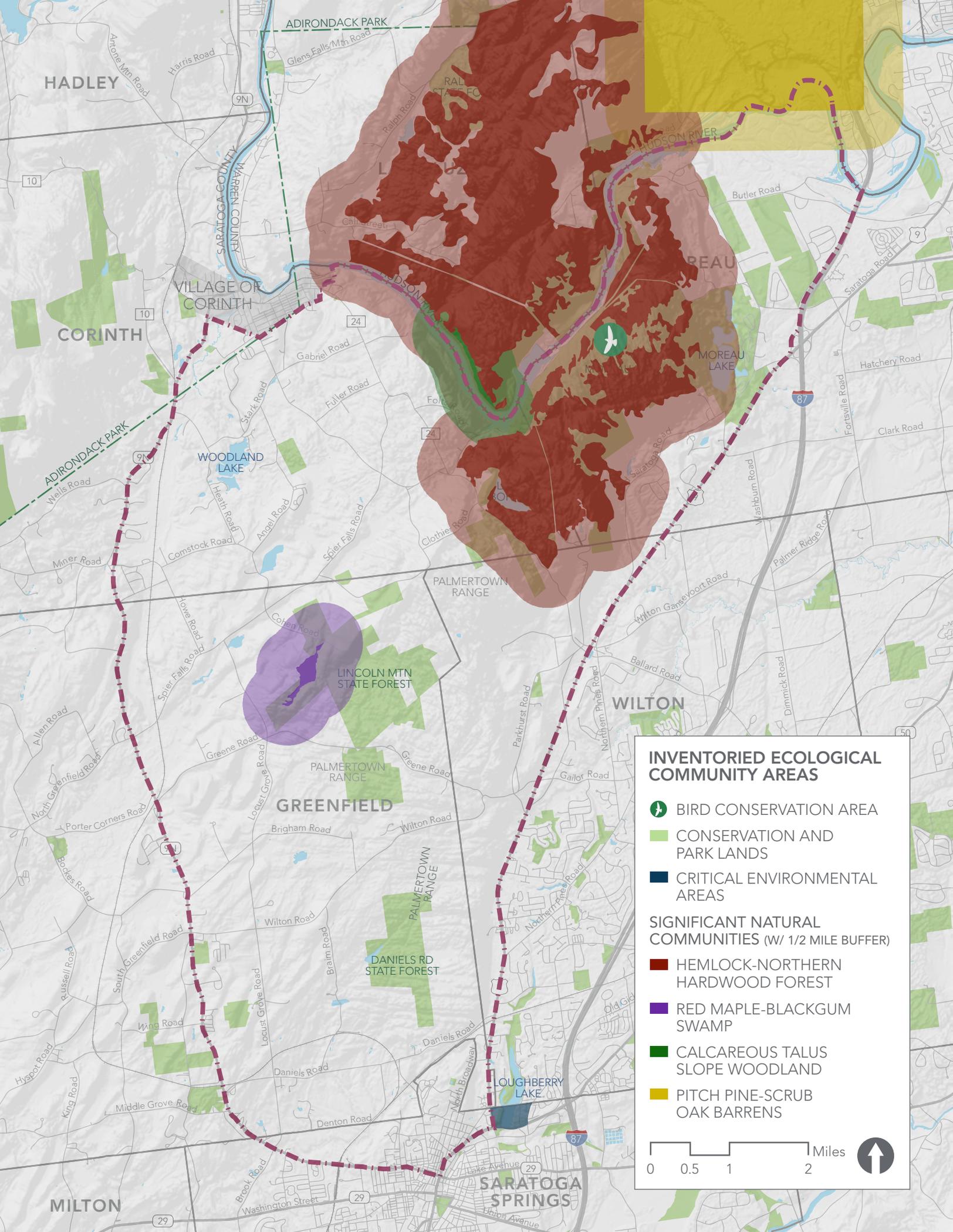
The Calcareous Talus Slope Woodland is defined as “an open or closed canopy community that occurs on talus slopes composed of calcareous bedrock such as limestone or dolomite.”¹⁹

The Calcareous Talus Slope Woodland is vulnerable to: changes in land use, forest fragmentation, invasive species, deer, fire suppression, air pollution, land development, habitat alteration, and recreational overuse (both motorized and non-motorized).²⁰ Changes in habitat and recreational overuse should be minimized, or avoided, within and surrounding these types of woodlands.²¹ As a significant natural community, this Plan will consider the needs of these woodlands when making conservation and recreational recommendations.

PITCH PINE-SCRUB OAK BARRENS

The Pitch Pine-Scrub Oak Barrens is defined as “a pine barrens community with a shrub layer dominated by scrub oaks underlain by heath species.”²² These fire-dependent communities are often located on well-drained sandy soils and consist of a thicket shrub layer that covers 60% to 80% of the pine barrens community.²³

As these areas are fire-dependent, fire suppression is the main threat to the community.²⁴ Other threats to this community include fragmentation through development, recreational overuse (both motorized and non-motorized), and changes to the natural habitat.²⁵ Development and recreational uses should be restricted within these areas to preserve the health of the pine barrens community.²⁶



INVENTORIED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY AREAS

-  BIRD CONSERVATION AREA
-  CONSERVATION AND PARK LANDS
-  CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS
- SIGNIFICANT NATURAL COMMUNITIES (W/ 1/2 MILE BUFFER)**
-  HEMLOCK-NORTHERN HARDWOOD FOREST
-  RED MAPLE-BLACKGUM SWAMP
-  CALCAREOUS TALUS SLOPE WOODLAND
-  PITCH PINE-SCRUB OAK BARRENS



GROUNDWATER RECHARGE²⁷

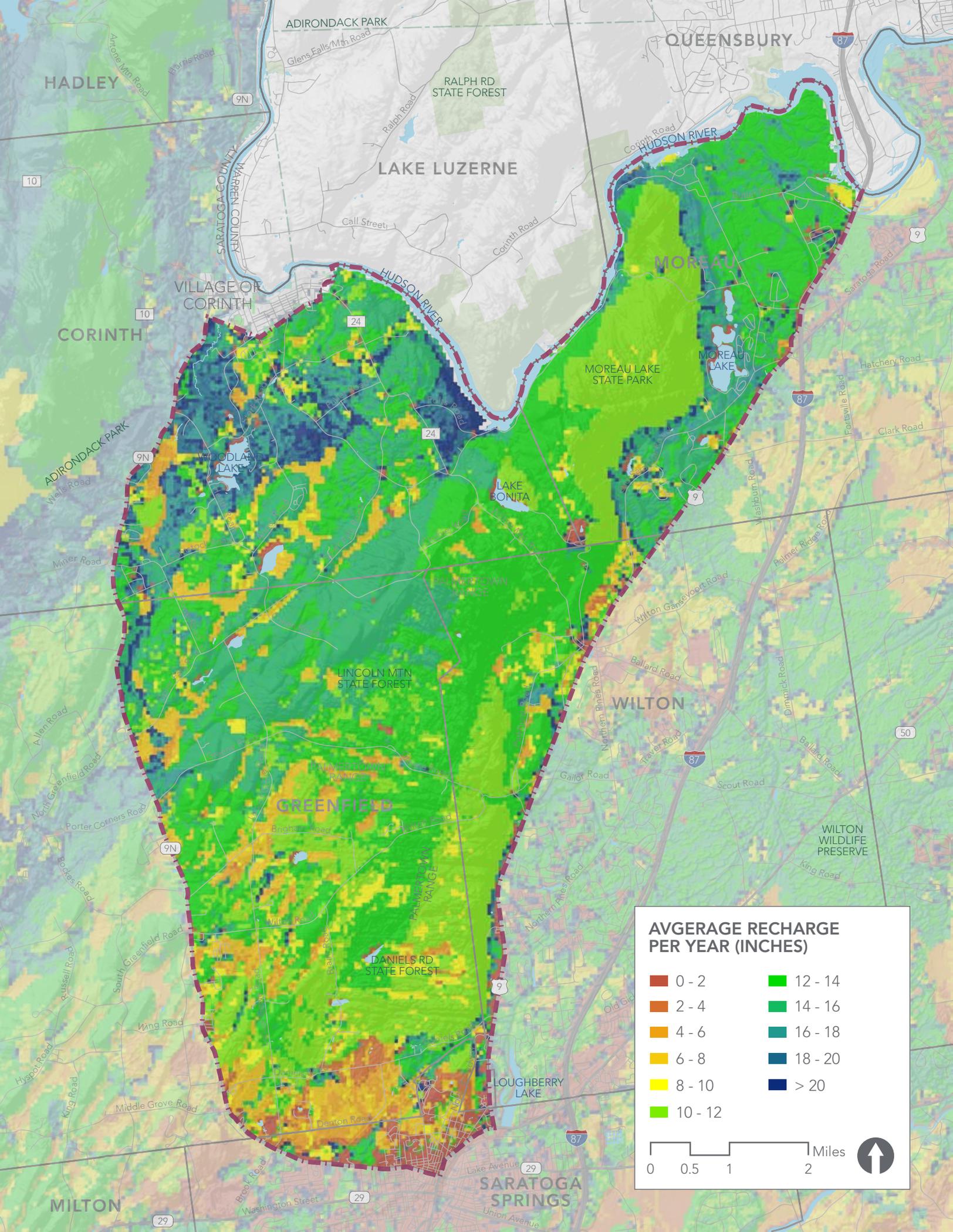
Groundwater recharge is made possible by open soils and is a key component of the hydrologic cycle. This cycle goes through the following steps:

1. Rainwater seeps into the ground.
2. Soil cleans the rainwater and replenishes aquifers.
3. Water is both extracted from the ground for use by man through public and private wells and slowly flows into lakes, streams, and wetlands providing clean water to aquatic habitats.

When open soils with high groundwater recharge are paved over, none of these essential services can be provided to people or to water-dependent species. In addition, paving increases surface runoff, ultimately polluting surrounding waters and contribute to increased flooding.

Because of its importance to human and native species, the ability of lands to recharge groundwater is vital to the health of the Southern Palmertown region. Recommendations, particularly recommendations that involve paving over natural lands, need to consider the effects of diminished groundwater recharge areas on the health of the natural landscape.

“A GIS-based soil-water balance model developed by USGS, was used to generate a map of mean annual Groundwater Recharge rates for Saratoga County. This methodology accounts for soils, direction of flow, climate information (10 years of daily climate data), and land cover. Expected recharge averages would be in the 6 -12 inches/year range, therefore areas of “high recharge” were mapped as those greater than 12 inches/year.” The Average Recharge Per Year Map shows the average groundwater recharge for the Southern Palmertown study area.



AVG RECHARGE PER YEAR (INCHES)

- 0 - 2
- 2 - 4
- 4 - 6
- 6 - 8
- 8 - 10
- 10 - 12
- 12 - 14
- 14 - 16
- 16 - 18
- 18 - 20
- > 20



TERRESTRIAL RESILIENCE²⁸

Terrestrial resilience concerns the ability of a living system to:

- Adjust to climate change.
- Moderate potential damages from disturbances (fire, flood, high winds).
- Take advantage of opportunities.
- Cope with consequences.

In summary, the terrestrial resilience of Southern Palmertown refers to the landscape's ability to adapt to change.

Saratoga PLAN used a resilience analysis developed by the Nature Conservancy to create a map showing the terrestrial resilience of Saratoga County. The Estimated Resilience Scores Map shows the estimated terrestrial resilience scores for the lands within Southern Palmertown. The scores range from Far Below Average (a low ability to adapt to changes) to Far Above Average (a high ability to adapt to changes).

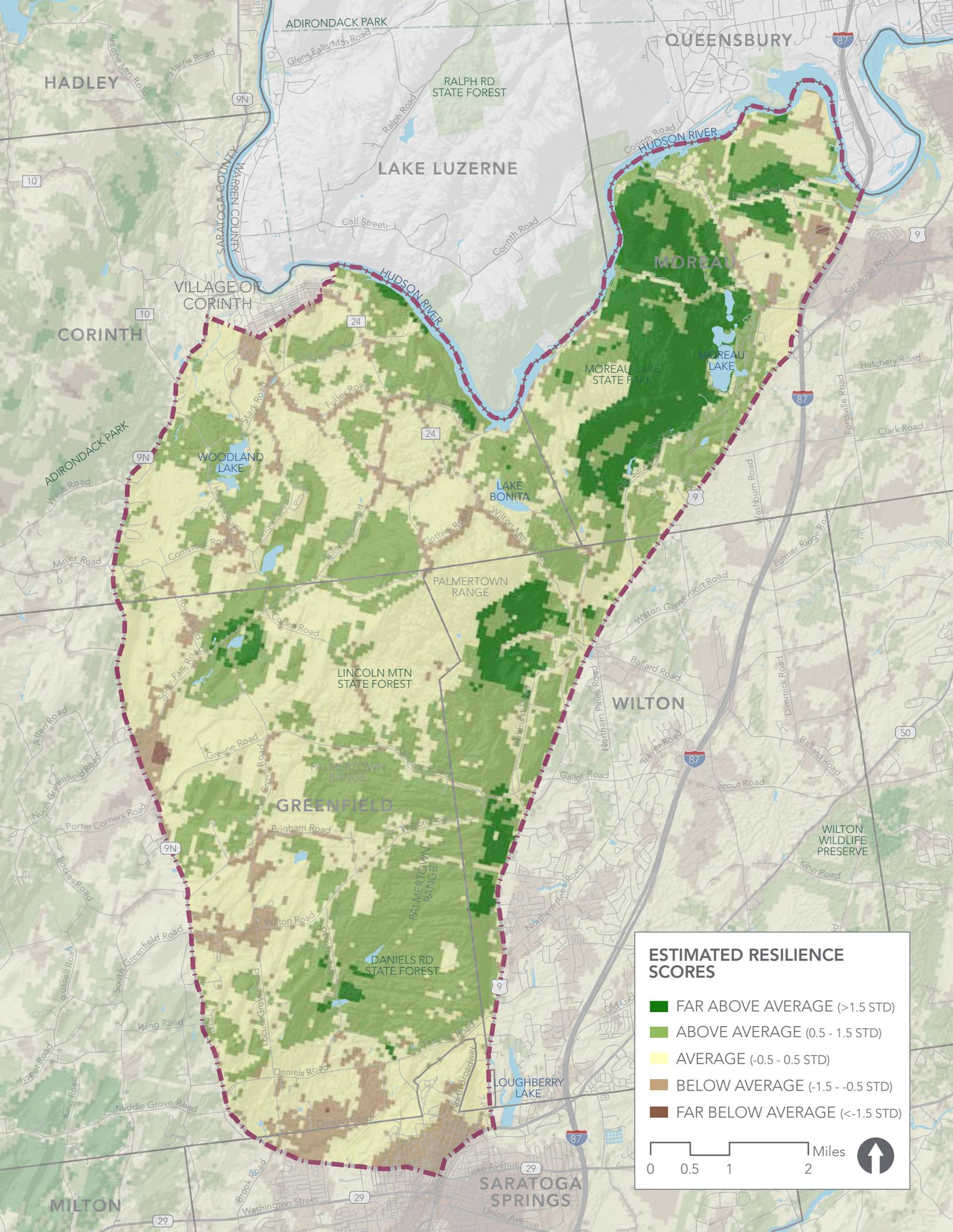
METHODOLOGY

"The Nature Conservancy's resilience analysis develops an approach to conserve biological diversity while allowing species and communities to rearrange in response to a continually changing climate and environmental factors. The most resilient examples of key geophysical settings were identified, to provide managers and scientists with a nuanced picture of the places where conservation is most likely to succeed over centuries.

The Nature Conservancy's resilience analysis had four parts. The project:

1. Mapped geophysical settings across the entire area,
2. Within each geophysical setting, located areas that have complex topography and are highly connected by natural cover,
3. Compared the identified sites with The Nature Conservancy's portfolio of important biodiversity sites,
4. Identified key linkages between sites.
5. The final products identify sites with high or low estimated resilience to climatic changes or other environmental disturbances relative to their setting."

-Saratoga PLAN: Understanding the Landscape



ESTIMATED RESILIENCE SCORES

- FAR ABOVE AVERAGE (>1.5 STD)
- ABOVE AVERAGE (0.5 - 1.5 STD)
- AVERAGE (-0.5 - 0.5 STD)
- BELOW AVERAGE (-1.5 - -0.5 STD)
- FAR BELOW AVERAGE (<-1.5 STD)



AGRICULTURAL LANDS²⁹ AND POTENTIAL WORKING FORESTS

Agricultural lands and potential working forests were combined to depict lands that are valuable for both their contribution to the natural open space landscape and their ability to contribute to the economic health of the area.

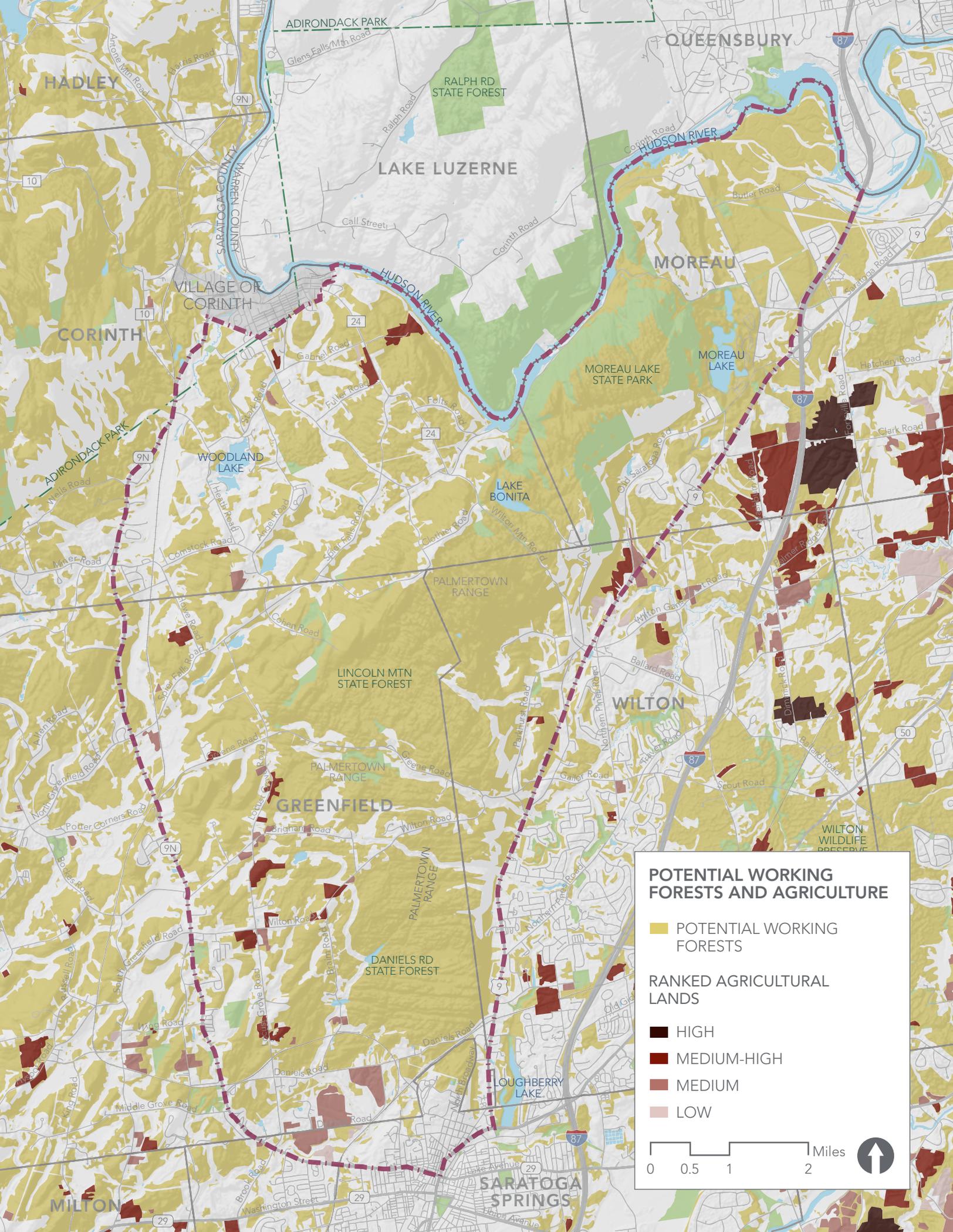
Saratoga PLAN ranked existing agricultural lands based on two criteria:

1. Prime or statewide significant farmland soil (amount and percent).
2. High groundwater recharge (amount and percent).

Saratoga PLAN also created a GIS dataset of potential working forests within Southern Palmertown. These working forests, depending on land ownership preferences and forest characteristics, could be used for forest-based economic activities in the future.



Horse farm in Greenfield



POTENTIAL WORKING FORESTS AND AGRICULTURE

 POTENTIAL WORKING FORESTS

RANKED AGRICULTURAL LANDS

-  HIGH
-  MEDIUM-HIGH
-  MEDIUM
-  LOW



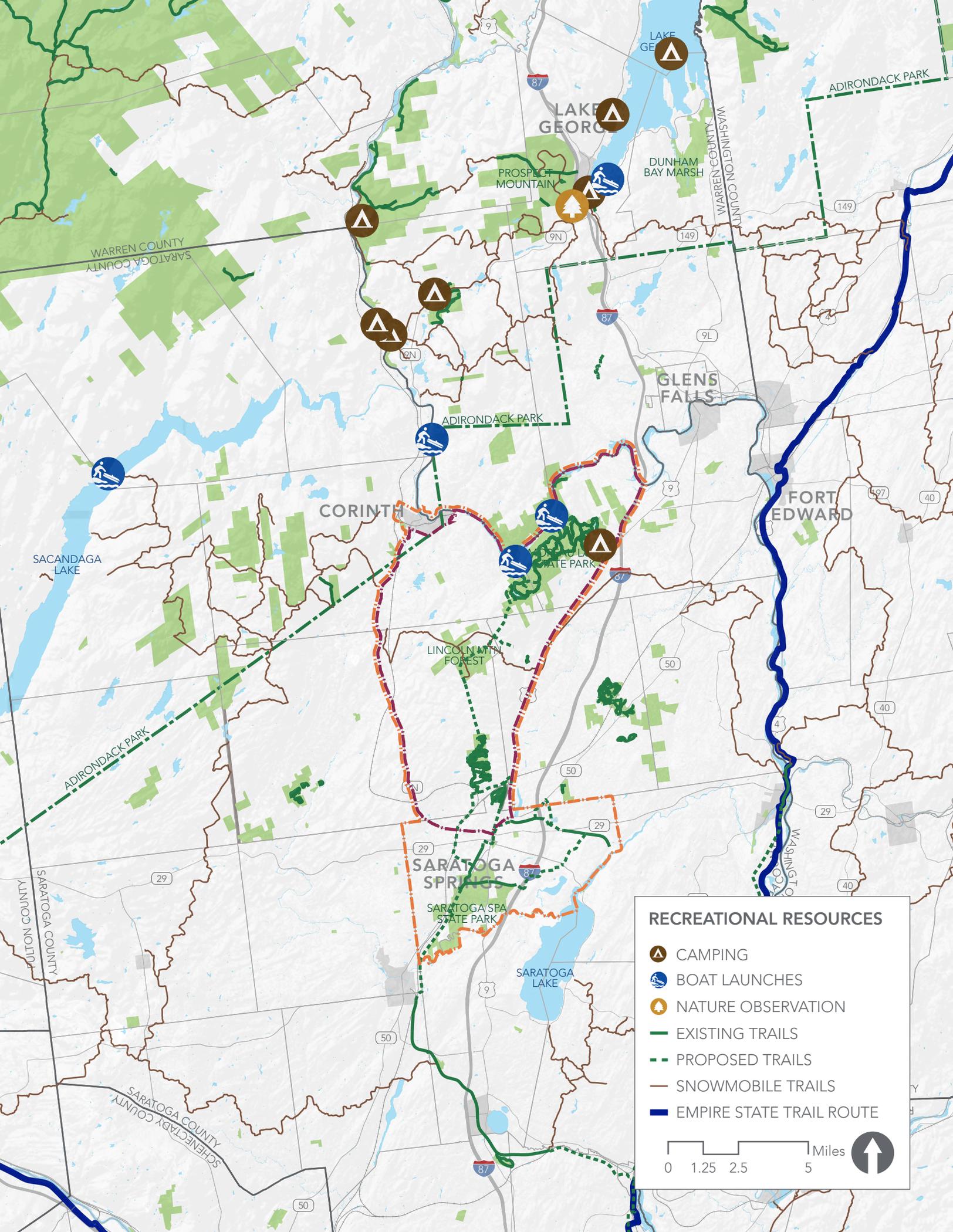
RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

REGIONAL RECREATION

There are many recreational resources both within the Southern Palmertown study area and the surrounding region. There are existing trails for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, equestrian use, and snowmobiles throughout the region. In addition to these existing trails, there are plans to complete additional trails throughout the area, including the Palmertown Ridge Trail, the Saratoga Greenbelt, and a trail system within the Town of Queensbury. In addition to these planned trails, the future Empire State Trail runs along the Hudson River to the east of Southern Palmertown. This is a 750-mile trail route running north-south from New York City to the Canadian border and east-west from Albany to Buffalo.

There are numerous campgrounds and campsites north of the study area, especially in the area of Lake George. There are boat launches offering water recreation opportunities located along County Road 24/Spier Falls Road, as well as DEC-maintained boat launches just a short drive from Southern Palmertown at Sacandaga Lake, the Hudson River, and Lake George. Additionally, Prospect Mountain offers hiking trails and an accessible road to an outlook for scenic views of the surrounding landscape.





RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

- CAMPING
- BOAT LAUNCHES
- NATURE OBSERVATION
- EXISTING TRAILS
- PROPOSED TRAILS
- SNOWMOBILE TRAILS
- EMPIRE STATE TRAIL ROUTE



STUDY AREA RECREATION

Existing trails and trail systems within the study area include: Moreau Lake State Park Trails, Daniels Road State Forest Trails, the North Woods Trails at Skidmore College, and sections of the Saratoga Greenbelt.

There are also planned trails within Southern Palmertown. The planned Palmertown Ridge Trail will connect trail users from the Moreau Lake State Park trails to the North Woods trails at Skidmore College. Additionally, there are plans to close gaps within the Saratoga Greenbelt, ultimately creating a connected trail loop within the City of Saratoga Springs. Implementation of these planned trails will help create a cohesive and connected trail network throughout Southern Palmertown, as well as create connections to key destinations within and surrounding the study area.



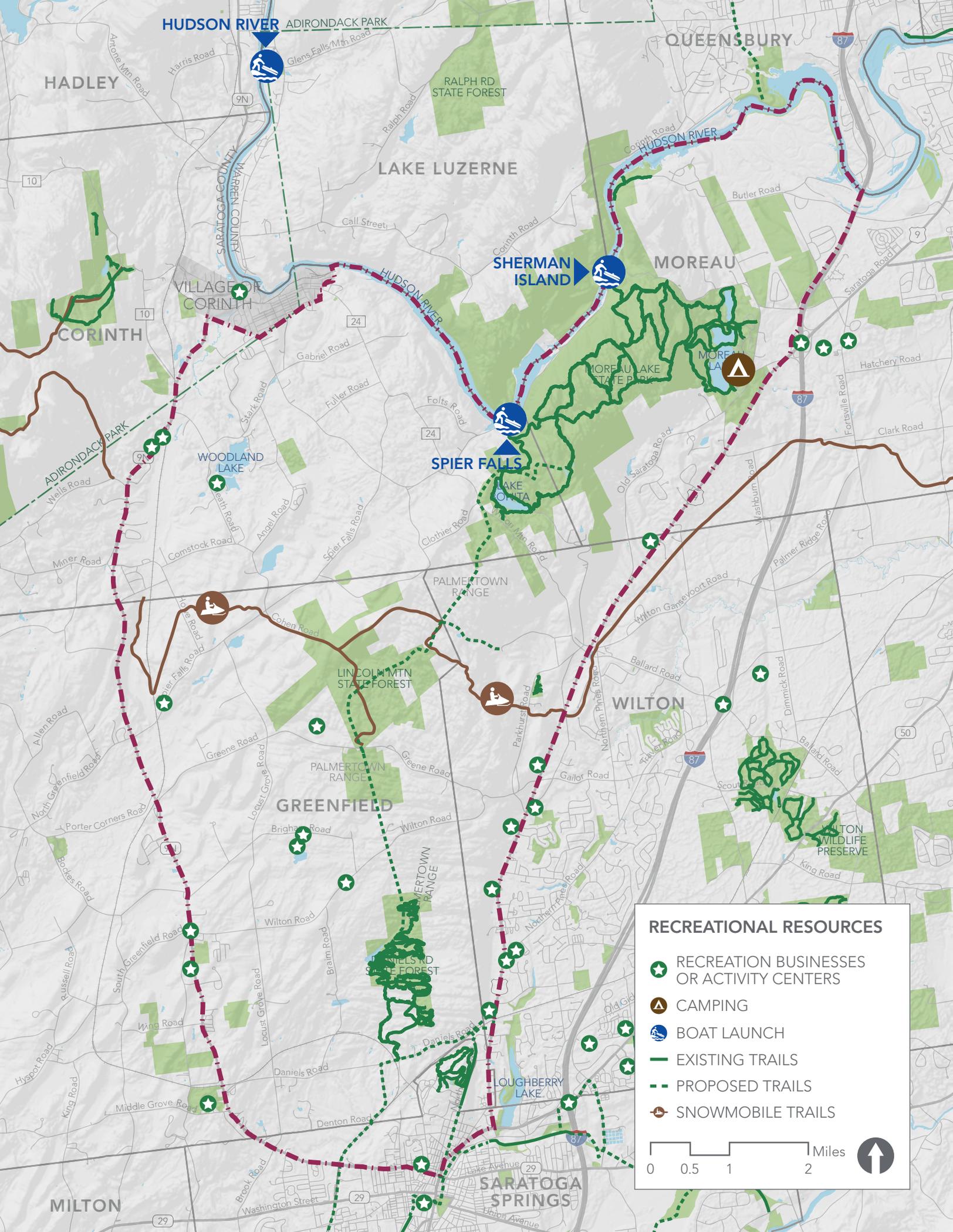
Moreau Lake State Park Trails



Proposed Spur Trail to Palmertown Ridge from Woodard Road



Lake Bonita Trails



HUDSON RIVER ADIRONDACK PARK

QUEENSBURY

HADLEY

RALPH RD STATE FOREST

LAKE LUZERNE

MOREAU

SHERMAN ISLAND

VILLAGE OF CORINTH

CORINTH

SPIER FALLS

MOREAU LAKE STATE PARK

WOODLAND LAKE

ADIRONDACK PARK

PALMERTOWN RANGE

WILTON

LINCOLN MTN STATE FOREST

GREENFIELD

PALMERTOWN RANGE

WILTON WILDLIFE PRESERVE

LINCOLN MTN STATE FOREST

LOUGHBERRY LAKE

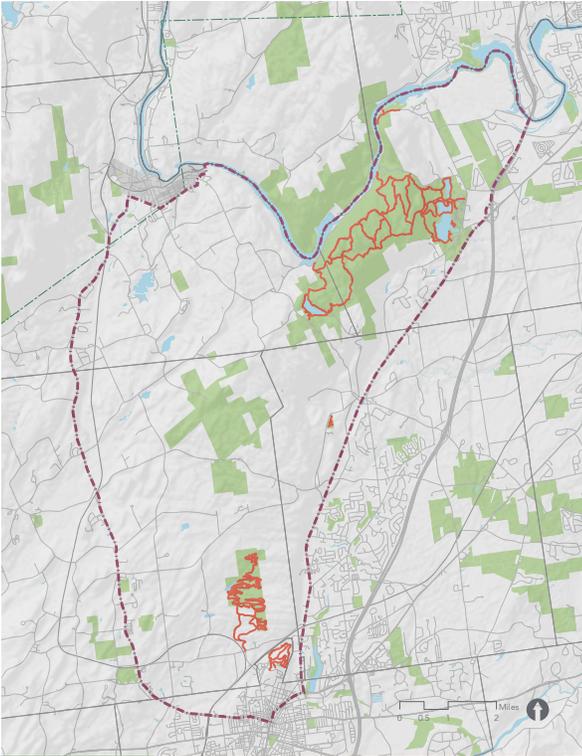
MILTON

SARATOGA SPRINGS

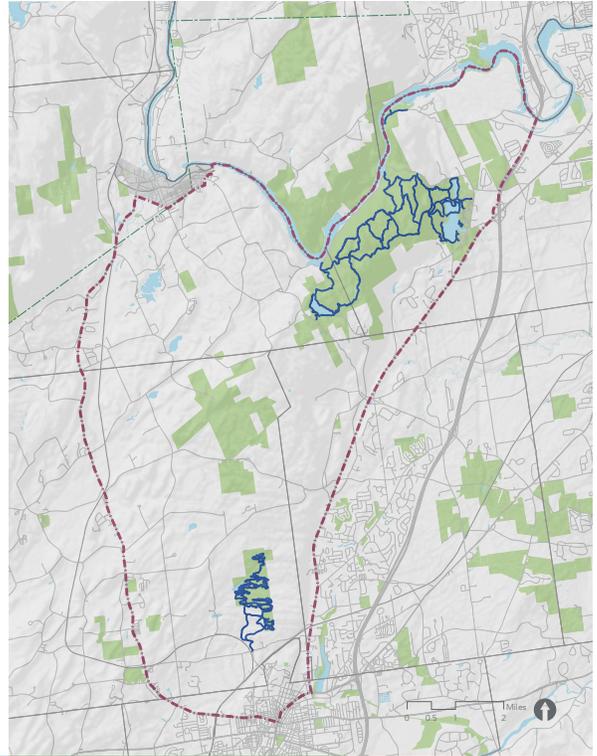
RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

-  RECREATION BUSINESSES OR ACTIVITY CENTERS
-  CAMPING
-  BOAT LAUNCH
-  EXISTING TRAILS
-  PROPOSED TRAILS
-  SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

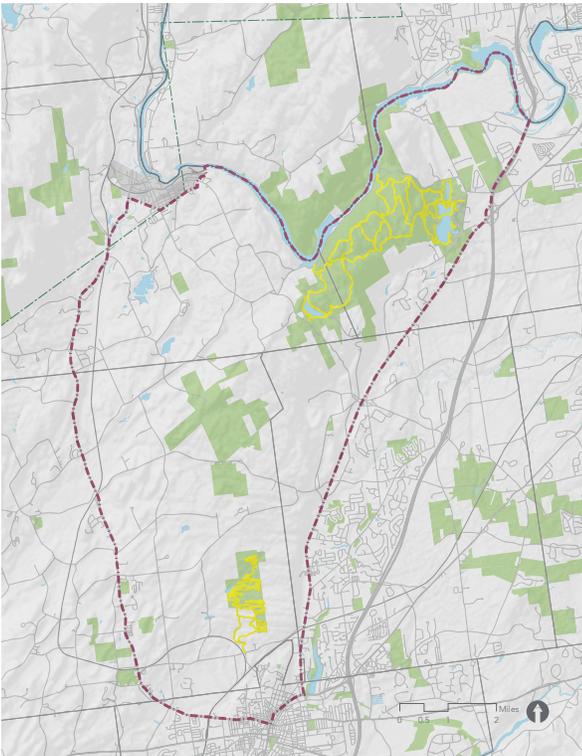




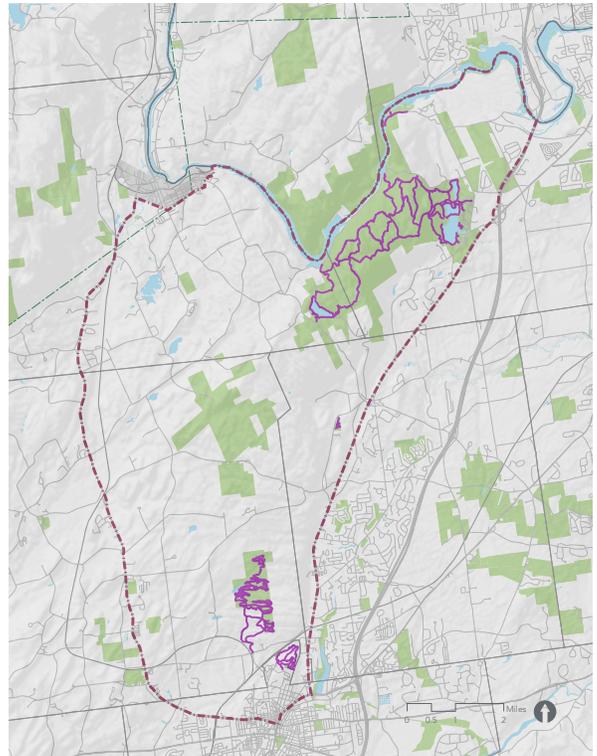
HIKING



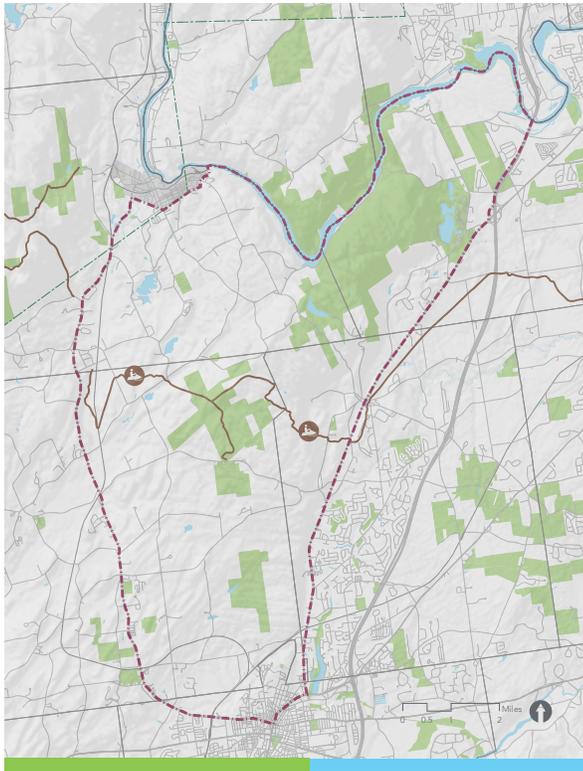
MOUNTAIN BIKING



EQUESTRIAN



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING/
SNOWSHOEING



SNOWMOBILING

Within the Southern Palmertown Focal Study Area, there are a total of:

- 48.2 Miles of Hiking Trails
- 44.1 Miles of Biking Trails
- 43.3 Miles of Equestrian Trails
- 47.9 Miles of Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing Trails
- 10.5 Miles of Snowmobile Trails

Table 3 shows a breakdown of the existing trail mileage by trail use type allowed within specific trail systems.

Table 3: Mileage of Existing Southern Palmertown Trails and Uses

TRAIL SYSTEM	HIKING	MOUNTAIN BIKING	EQUESTRIAN	CROSS-COUNTRY SKI/SNOWSHOE	SNOWMOBILING
Daniels Rd State Forest	15.6 MI	15.6 MI	15.6 MI	15.6 MI	0.0 MI
Moreau Lake State Park	28.5 MI	28.5 MI	27.8 MI	28.5 MI	0.0 MI
Orra Phelps Nature Preserve	0.6 MI	0.0 MI	0.0 MI	0.6 MI	0.0 MI
Skidmore Trail Network	3.5 MI	0.0 MI	0.0 MI	3.5 MI	0.0 MI
Other	0.0 MI	0.0 MI	0.0 MI	0.0 MI	10.5 MI
TOTAL	48.2 MI	44.1 MI	43.4 MI	47.9 MI	10.5 MI

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Major roadways in the region include Interstate 87, also known as the Northway, Route 9, Route 9N, Route 50, and Route 29. It is likely visitors to Southern Palmertown will end up traveling along one of these major roadways if they plan to access the area by vehicle.

There are numerous public transportation options within the region including the Albany International Airport, bus service through the CDTA, and Amtrak train service. There are eight CDTA bus routes within the region (Routes 76, 450, 451, 452, 475, 540, 840, and 875) providing service between Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls. Additionally, CDTA provides service within Saratoga, Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer Counties. There are four passenger train stations

in the region. These stations are located in Saratoga Springs, Fort Edward, Hadley, and Thurman. Amtrak's Adirondack route travels from New York City to Montreal, providing passenger service to the Saratoga Springs and Fort Edward stations along the route.

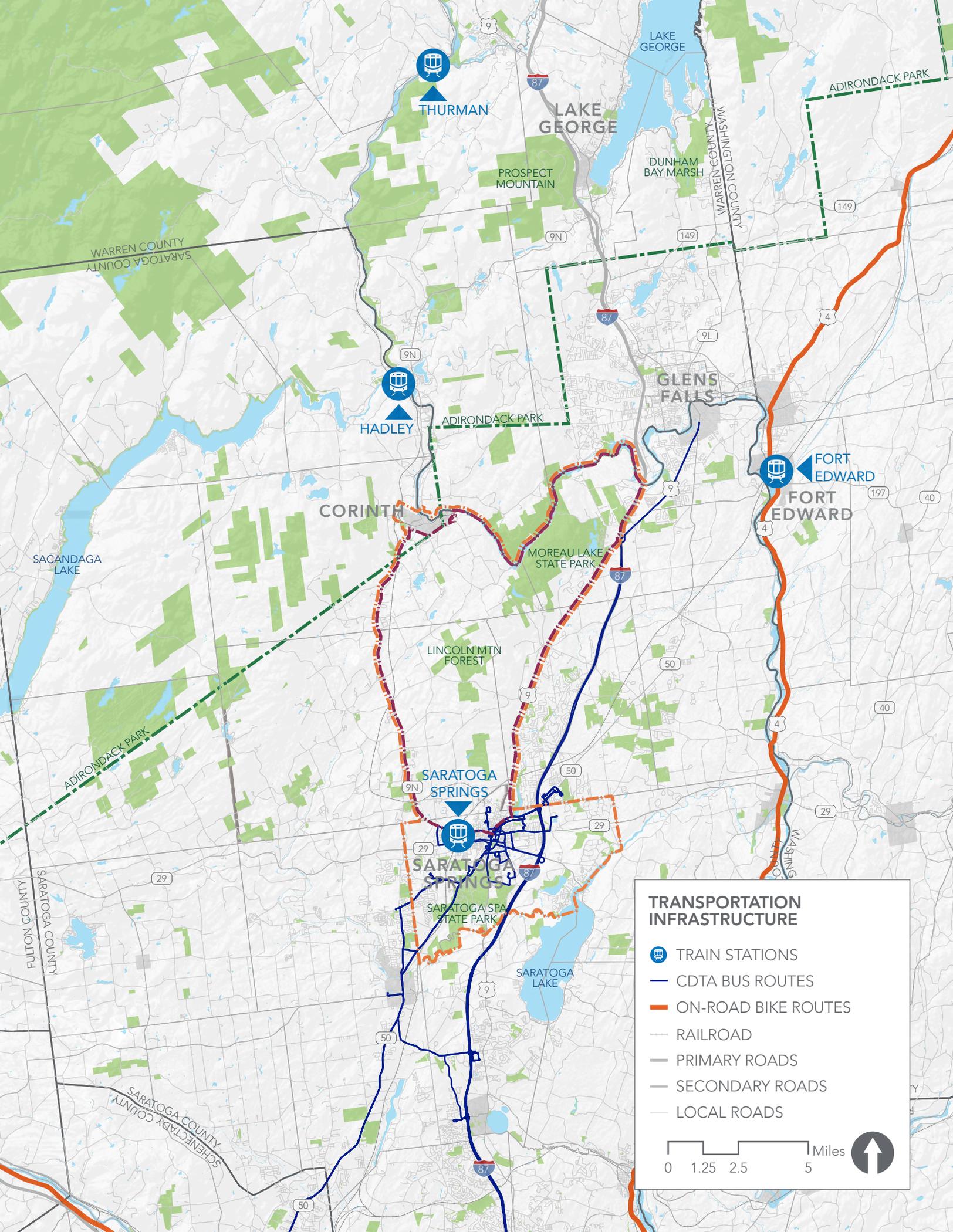
The Saratoga Springs, Hadley, and Thurman train stations have been serviced by the Saratoga and North Creek Railway. This railway has provided specialty tours to North Creek in the Adirondacks Thursday through Sunday during the spring, summer and fall seasons³⁰ and a holiday-themed excursion during the month of December.³¹ Service on this line has been recently reduced, and there have been concerns raised about the future of this corridor.



Saratoga Springs Train Station



CDTA Bus Shelter - Broadway, Saratoga Springs



TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

-  TRAIN STATIONS
-  CDTA BUS ROUTES
-  ON-ROAD BIKE ROUTES
-  RAILROAD
-  PRIMARY ROADS
-  SECONDARY ROADS
-  LOCAL ROADS



CONSERVATION LAND OWNERSHIP

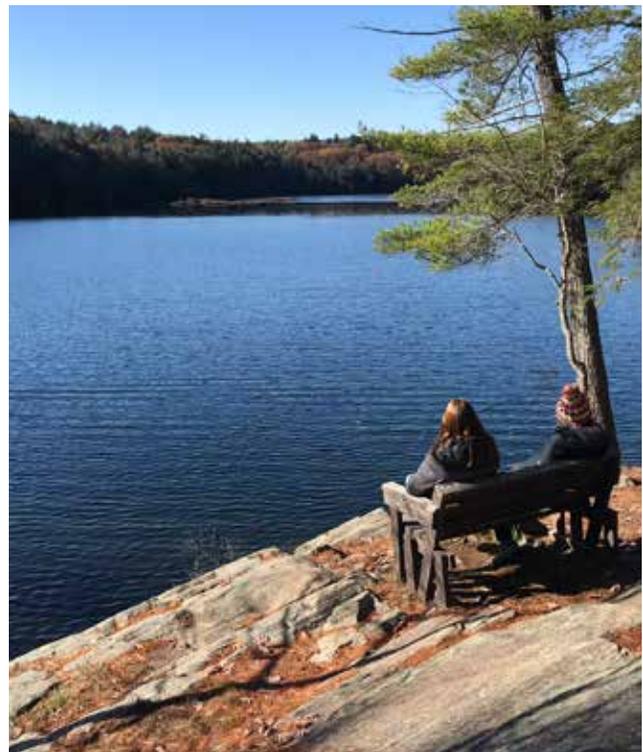
Conserved areas in Southern Palmetown include lands owned by the State of New York, Saratoga County, local cities, towns, and villages, non-profit groups (e.g., Saratoga PLAN, Open Space Institute, the Nature Conservancy), and private landowners and companies. There are just over 7,900 acres of conservation land within the study area. The map and supplemental table shows the ownership distribution of conservation land in the study area. The current land uses of these conservation properties include: parks and open space, forests, vacant land, previous correctional facilities, cemetery, and water-related uses. All recommendations within the study area will be sensitive to the unique characteristics of each conservation area.

Table 4: Conservation Land Ownership

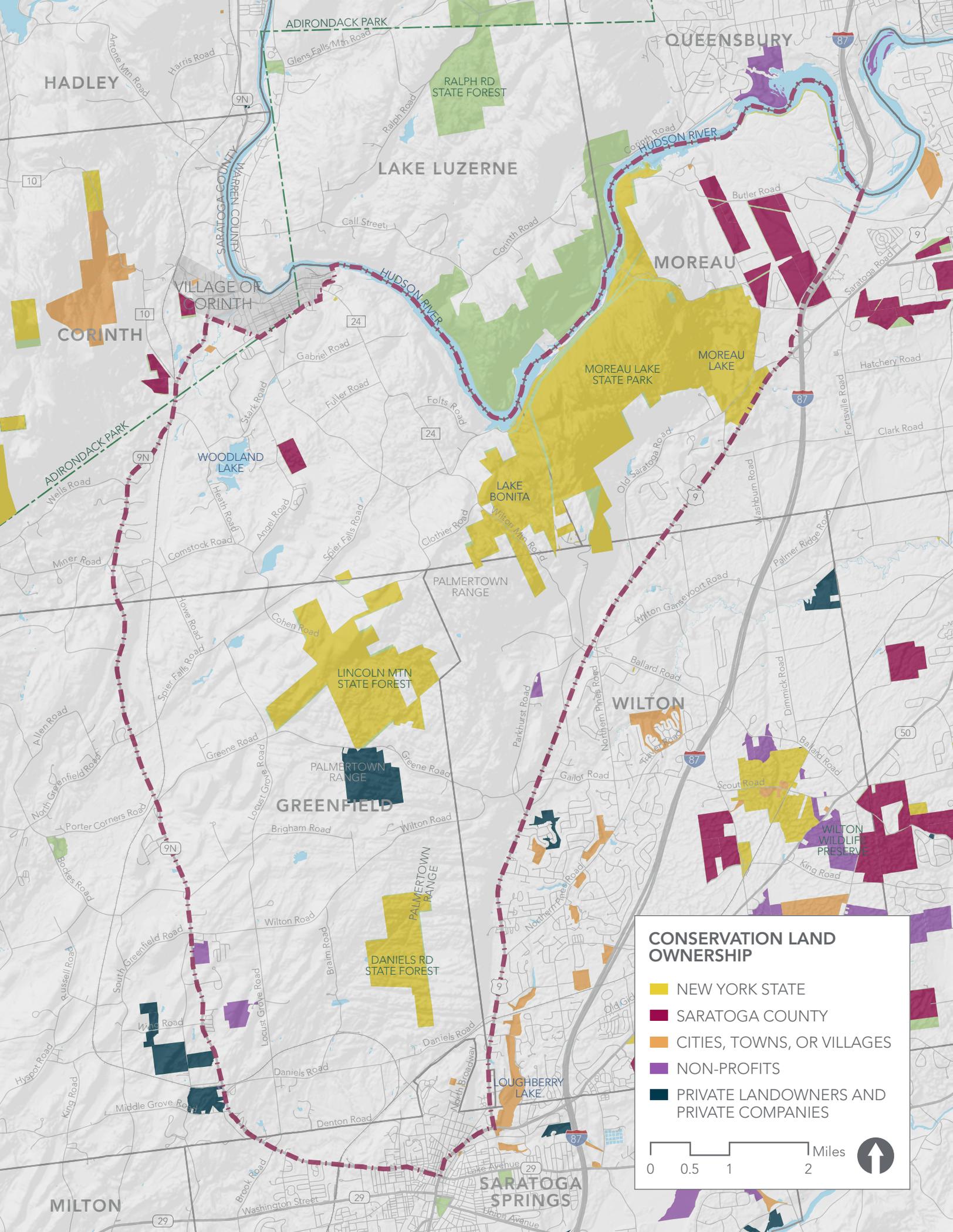
OWNERSHIP	ACRES
New York State - OPRHP	2,954
New York State - Other	2,567
Saratoga County	452
Cities, Towns or Villages	89
Non-Profits	621
Private Landowners/Companies	1,221
TOTAL	7,904



Lincoln Mountain State Forest



Lake Bonita



CONSERVATION LAND OWNERSHIP

- NEW YORK STATE
- SARATOGA COUNTY
- CITIES, TOWNS, OR VILLAGES
- NON-PROFITS
- PRIVATE LANDOWNERS AND PRIVATE COMPANIES



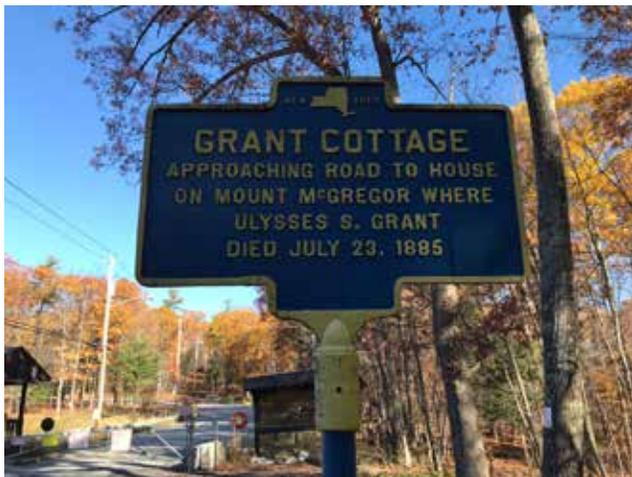
HISTORICAL/CULTURAL RESOURCES

The historical and cultural resources within the study area include State Heritage Areas and a State Historic Site. These areas are designated as part of the Heritage Area System, a partnership between the state and local municipalities, which was created to preserve and develop, where appropriate, areas that are of special significance to the State of New York's history and future.³² The two State Heritage Areas within Southern Palmetown are the Mohawk Valley Heritage Area and the Saratoga Springs Urban Heritage Area.

Grant Cottage is a New York State Historic Site located within the Southern Palmetown study area. Grant Cottage was established as a State Historic Site in 1957 and is owned by the State of New York and operated by The Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage.³³ It was here, in the

mid-1880s, where President and General Ulysses S. Grant spent his final days.³⁴ Today, visitors can tour the cottage, preserved as it was during Grant's stay, and take advantage of scenic views of the Hudson Valley, Adirondacks, Catskills, and Green Mountains.³⁵

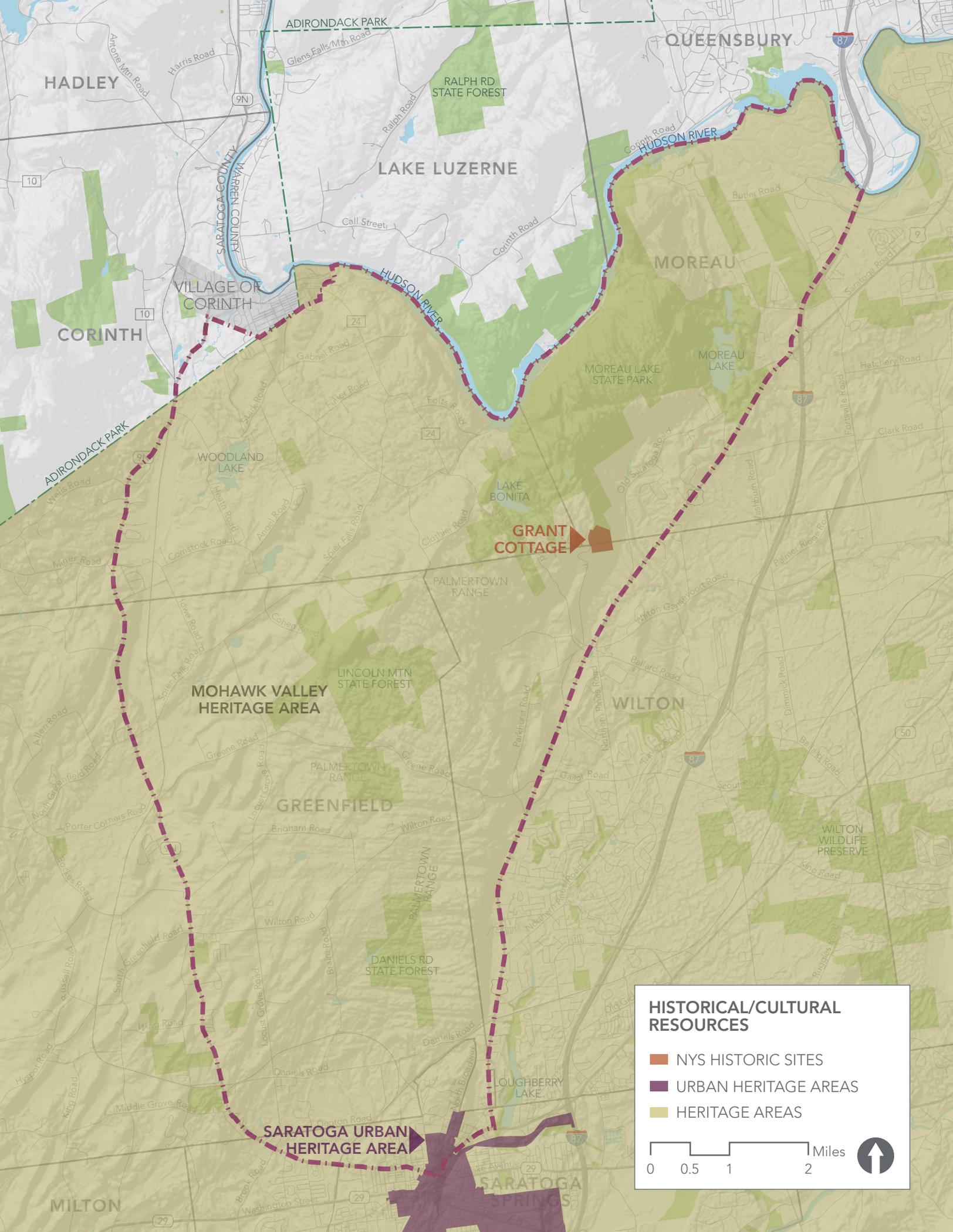
Additionally, there are a number of significant Native American sites within the study area, an important item to consider when making conservation, recreation, and economic recommendations.



Grant Cottage Historic Site



Downtown Saratoga Springs



HISTORICAL/CULTURAL RESOURCES

- NYS HISTORIC SITES
- URBAN HERITAGE AREAS
- HERITAGE AREAS



KEY DESTINATIONS

There are many key destinations within and surrounding Southern Palmertown. These destinations include recreational opportunities for all four seasons of the year, vacation and tourist destinations, historic sites, and educational facilities. The vast resources and destinations in this area can help draw visitors to the region to enjoy all that Southern Palmertown has to offer.

Key destinations in the study area and surrounding region include recreational destinations, educational facilities, historic sites, downtowns, and businesses.



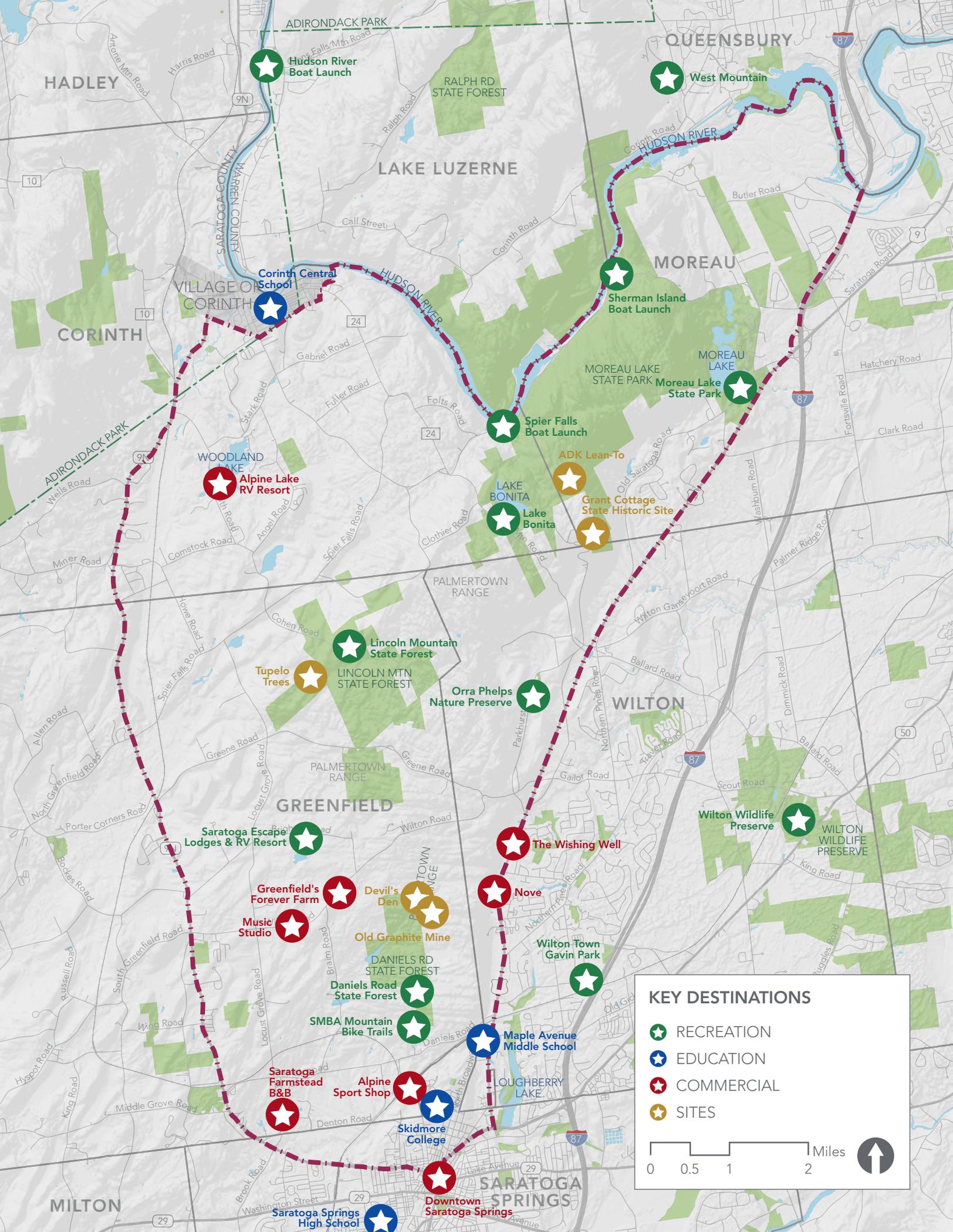
Alpine Sport Shop



Saratoga Farmstead Bed & Breakfast



Skidmore College



KEY DESTINATIONS

- ★ RECREATION
- ★ EDUCATION
- ★ COMMERCIAL
- ★ SITES

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

★ Hudson River Boat Launch

★ West Mountain

★ Corinth Central School

★ Sherman Island Boat Launch

★ Alpine Lake RV Resort

★ Spier Falls Boat Launch

★ Lake Bonita

★ ADK Lean-To

★ Grant Cottage State Historic Site

★ Lincoln Mountain State Forest

★ Tupelo Trees

★ Orra Phelps Nature Preserve

★ Saratoga Escape Lodges & RV Resort

★ The Wishing Well

★ Greenfield's Forever Farm

★ Devil's Den

★ Nove

★ Music Studio

★ Old Graphite Mine

★ Daniels Rd State Forest

★ SMBA Mountain Bike Trails

★ Saratoga Farmstead B&B

★ Alpine Sport Shop

★ Maple Avenue Middle School

★ Skidmore College

★ Downtown Saratoga Springs

★ Saratoga Springs High School



December 13th, 2017 Public Workshop - Greenfield Community Center

CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

To gather input from the public, the project team used a three-pronged approach:



Host an initial public workshop, presenting information and soliciting feedback



Survey workshop participants, as well as supporters of Saratoga PLAN



Conduct confidential interviews with land owners and managers, public officials and interest group leaders

Key findings from the community engagement efforts are:

- Most participants are not very familiar with the name, “Palmertown”
- The area is one best suited to conservation and recreation, with unanimous support from interviewees
- There is strong support for the creation of a network of connected trails
- Participants overwhelmingly favor muscle-powered over motor-powered activities, as well as indicate a need to accommodate different types of trail users
- These stakeholders are not very keen on hunting or snowmobiling, expressing mixed, and often very strong views on the appropriateness of including those activities
- Participants are most interested in enhancing their quality of life
- A nonprofit organization or public-private partnership is best suited to lead implementation of the plan



PUBLIC WORKSHOP

A public workshop was held at the Town of Greenfield Community Center on the evening of December 13th, 2017. A total of 34 people were in attendance. The public workshop started with a presentation introducing the project and describing the existing conditions throughout the study area. Following the presentation, attendees were invited to stay for an interactive session to share local knowledge of existing resources and identify future opportunities for recreation, conservation, and economic development in the region. The information collected during the public workshop was summarized into the following goals, needs, constraints, and opportunities.

GOALS

- Conserve habitat because Palmertown is a critical area for wildlife
- Preserve open space and small compatible economic uses within the study area
- Concentrate intensive commercial/residential uses outside of the study area and limit sprawl and large developments
- Preserve Native American heritage and culture

NEEDS

- Mountain bike trails that serve beginner and intermediate riders (most trails in study area only serve experienced/expert riders)
- Camping along Palmertown Range
- Additional and improved parking and trailheads; specifically, significant improvements to Daniels Road State Forest entrance
- Local waterway protection
- Address ATV use and the economic contributions ATV users could bring to the area, if permitted
- Connect the snowmobile trail from the Greenfield Town line to Wells Road in Corinth
- Loop trails rather than out and back trails

CONSTRAINTS

- Rail line between Skidmore College and Daniels Road is a barrier to connectivity between the North Woods and Daniels Road trail systems
- National Grid power line bisects county lands to the northeast of Moreau Lake State Park, creating fragmented open space and disconnected trails



**PUBLIC
WORKSHOP
ATTENDEES**



Interactive Sessions

Public workshop attendees were invited to participate in an interactive session to share their local knowledge about the region.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Lincoln Mountain State Forest is a major opportunity for trail development, including loop trails for hikers, equine trails, and mountain bike trails for various skill levels
- Logging roads/old abandoned roads provide access to adjacent communities and between open space areas
- Rail line between Saratoga and Corinth (and farther north) could be transformed into a rail trail or a rail with trail and serve as a multimodal regional connector
- Development of a rail trail that connects the Zim Smith Trail to Wilton and north
- Expand conservation lands
- Connections to the proposed Big Boom Trail and Lake George
- Connections to Hudson Point Trail
- Boat launch in the northeast corner of the study area
- Conversion of McGregor Correctional Facility to an economic generator
- Economic development that focuses on recreation and ecotourism
- Shuttle from Corinth to hiking, biking, and tourist destinations
- Native American cultural interpretive/ educational center



SURVEY

A survey was created to gather information and insights from the public. Designed to take just 5 minutes on either a computer or mobile device, the survey asked respondents to indicate their current interests and preferences in relation to the study area. The survey also posed questions to gather thoughts on how best to proceed in the future.

Alta Planning + Design distributed the survey as part of the workshop, and Saratoga PLAN sent the link to its network of contacts through two email blasts. Additionally, an article about the project with reference to the survey was published in a local newspaper, The Saratogian. In total, there were 175 survey responses, including 27 workshop attendees, 131 from the survey link provided by PLAN and 17 from the article in The Saratogian. In sum, the survey generated a solid, albeit self-selecting, sample of interested individuals, with a very consistent response overall.

A more detailed description of all survey questions and responses can be found in the appendix.

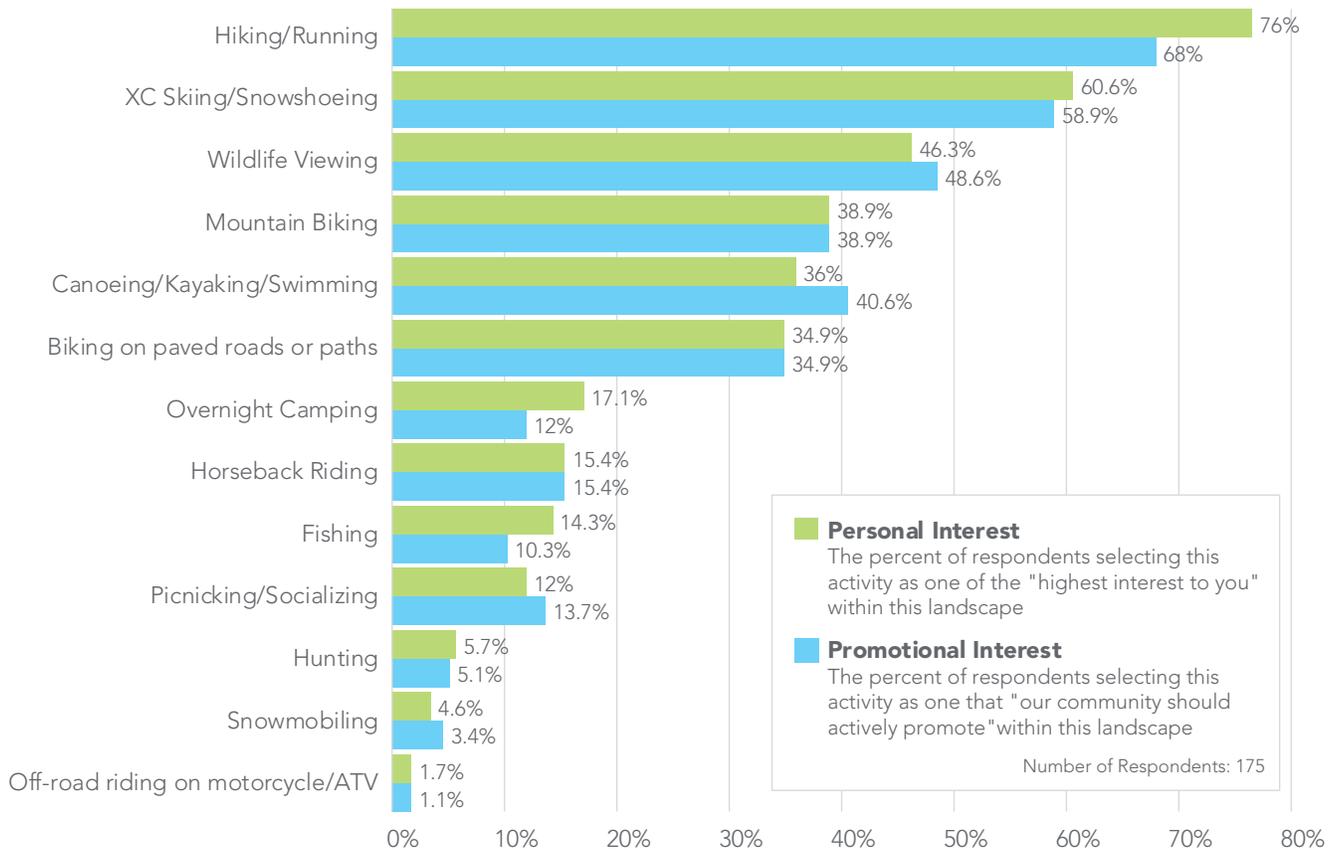
KEY FINDINGS

- Survey respondents expressed a **strong interest in the future of the area**, but do not yet see it as a connected landscape nor using the chosen name, “Palmertown.”
- Survey respondents had the **highest interest in conservation and recreation**, with relatively lower interests in economic development.
- Survey respondents had a **strong preference for trail-based and muscle-powered pursuits** over motorized activities, with some suggestion of a self-interested response for promotion of the same activity. See the “Existing and Future Recreational Activity Preferences” graphic on the adjacent page.
- Survey respondents **prefer an implementation approach led by a nonprofit organization or a public-private partnership**.
- Survey respondents consider the planning process to be very helpful, if not essential for the area, and approximately **half of all survey respondents would like to receive updates** regarding the project.



**SURVEY
RESPONSES**

Existing and Future Recreational Activity Preferences



"...KEEP AS MUCH AS YOU CAN NATURAL AND PROTECT ALL NATURAL RESOURCES..."

"...THE TOWN HAS BEEN CHANGED SO MUCH BY DEVELOPMENT...PLEASE PROTECT OPEN SPACE SO PEOPLE HAVE A PLACE TO ENJOY NATURE IN ITS NATURAL STATE..."

"...THIS AREA IS SO IMPORTANT AND KNOWING THERE IS EFFORT TO CONSERVE IT WITH FORETHOUGHT IS WONDERFUL..."

"... ALLOW FOR CONSERVATION AND RECREATIONAL BENEFIT WHICH WILL IN TURN ATTRACT MORE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH..."

Quotes from Survey Respondents



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Twelve key stakeholders were identified by Saratoga PLAN and OSI and were invited to do an in-depth interview to more fully share their local knowledge about the study area and further illuminate the priorities and needs of stakeholders in the region. To encourage candor, Alta Planning + Design conducted these 15-30 minute conversations in confidence.

More information about the interviews, including an extensive set of quotes, can be found in the appendix.

Those interviewed included interested group leaders, land owners and managers, and public officials from the following organizations:

- Town of Greenfield
- Town of Moreau
- Town of Wilton
- Moreau Lake State Park
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
- Private Landowners (2)
- Saratoga Back Country Horsemen Of New York
- Saratoga Mountain Bike Association
- Skidmore College
- Snook Kill Hunt Club
- Southern Adirondack Chapter of the Audubon Society



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

KEY FINDINGS

- Interviewees were **more familiar with the concept of a connected landscape and the chosen name (Palmertown)** than survey respondents. They often associated the connected landscape with a ridgeline trail and traced the “Palmertown” name back to Saratoga PLAN.
- Interviewees were united in their **emphasis on conservation and recreation**, but **rarely connected those concepts with economic opportunity**.
- Interviewees were **eco-oriented when asked about activities other than parks and trails**, with a few adding that **land owners may still want to keep their options open** to other development or sale opportunities.
- Interviewees also **emphasized trail-based and muscle-powered pursuits, with most speaking in terms of multi-use trails and community interests**. Some expressed **mixed views on hunting, guns, and snowmobiles**. Some also flagged a need for **better access points to recreation opportunities** throughout the study area.
- Interviewees were more likely than survey respondents to stress an **implementation approach led by a nonprofit organization**. Some questioned the public sector’s willingness or ability to engage in implementation of the Plan recommendations.
- Interviewees also **see the need for, and value in, a planning process** and would like the planning team to share information or engage interviewees as advisors.

“...RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND WOULD BE BENEFICIAL (WITH) CONTINUED PROTECTION SO PEOPLE CAN CONTINUE TO ENJOY AND GAIN KNOWLEDGE...”

“...MULTI-USE TRAILS ALLOWING FOR HIKERS, BIKERS, EQUESTRIANS, CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, JOGGING, RIVER ACCESS...”

“...ON THE WHOLE I’D LIKE THERE TO BE LESS DEVELOPMENT... AVOID SUBURBAN, RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT...”

“...AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL...”

Quotes from Stakeholder Interviews

SUMMARY

An analysis of the responses, questions, and comments submitted during the three public engagement strategies resulted in the following key findings and recommendations.

KEY FINDINGS

- These stakeholders are **not very familiar with the name, "Palmertown,"** even with the provided prompts, with some interviewees adding that it does not resonate with them, or raises more questions than answers.
- These stakeholders **agree that the area is one best suited to conservation and recreation,** with unanimous support from interviewees, many adding that they previously had heard of linking the lands with a ridgeline trail.
- These stakeholders **strongly support the creation of a network of connected trails,** but some interviewees expressed confusion or concern about a more comprehensive plan for a connected landscape.
- These stakeholders **overwhelmingly favor muscle-powered over motor-powered activities,** with interviewees also seeing a need to accommodate different types of trail users and provide better access points.
- These stakeholders are **not very keen on hunting or snowmobiling,** while interviewees nonetheless expressed mixed, and often very strong views on the appropriateness of including those activities.



December 13th, 2017 Public Workshop

- These stakeholders are **most interested in enhancing their quality of life,** with interviewees indicating that they are more interested, but often unconvinced, about the potential for economic impact.
- These stakeholders **want a nonprofit organization or public-private partnership to lead implementation of the plan,** while some interviewees caution that the public role should be, or is likely to be, limited.

PUBLING ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider **altering or augmenting the name to better resonate with local residents**, noting nonetheless the future need for marketing.
- Emphasize the **creation of a network of connected trails**, as that is likely to be more easily understood and more widely supported than the concept of a comprehensive plan for a connected landscape.
- **Recognize the existing support for conservation and recreation**, and tout the **accepted benefits to local quality of life**, while **making the case for the impact on the local economy**.
- **Prioritize muscle-powered pursuits, and consider ways to accommodate different user groups, as well as different abilities**, while improving access points throughout the study area.
- Ensure that vocal interests are not overrepresented, nor quiet interests underrepresented, by **consulting demographic data and reaching out to others with an interest in the outdoors** but no direct connection to PLAN.
- Continue to **engage stakeholder groups, as well as local landowners**, with a focus on going to them, rather than expecting them to come to you.
- Be prepared to **lead not only the development but the implementation of the plan**.



NEXT STEPS

Moving forward, this document and future planning efforts will work to incorporate the key findings and recommendations resulting from the public engagement strategies. Ongoing community engagement strategies should be a high priority to ensure the outcomes and implementation of this Plan align with community needs and desires.

Additionally, this effort could benefit from an advisory committee to ensure the planning process is well integrated with other related efforts and to guide the implementation of the plan. The committee should be composed of stakeholders representing land owners/managers, special interest groups, and political leaders.



(1) Moreau Lake State Park, (2) Mohonk Preserve, (3) Lichens at Lake Bonita

CHAPTER 3

OPPORTUNITIES

The purpose of the Opportunities Chapter is to identify opportunities for enhancing existing conservation and recreation assets and for supporting sustainable economic development. This was accomplished using three analyses:

- Conservation Priority Analysis
- Recreation Demand Analysis
- Case Studies Analysis
- Forest-Based Economic Activities

A **Conservation Priority Analysis** was conducted to determine priorities for land conservation in and adjacent to the focal study area based on the location of existing ecologically significant resources and strong, functioning ecological services in the area. The results from this analysis will be used to make conservation recommendations within Southern Palmertown.

A **Recreation Demand Analysis** was conducted for the Southern Palmertown focal study area and adjacent land. This analysis examined the existing concentration of and demand for recreational resources in and adjacent to the focal study area. The results from this analysis will be used to make recreational recommendations within Southern Palmertown.

An **analysis of case studies** will help inform recommendations for sustainable economic development and market opportunities for recreation, ecotourism, and natural resource-based industries in Southern Palmertown. The case studies include:

- Mohonk Preserve (NY)
- Kingdom Trails (VT)
- Champlain Area Trails (NY)
- Taconic Crest Trail (MA/NY/VT)
- North Carolina Museum of Art (NC)
- McMenamins Edgefield (OR)
- 13 Mile Woods Community Forest (NH)

A summary of **Forest-Based Economic Activities** gives examples of potential activities that could take place in the forests within Southern Palmertown.

CONSERVATION PRIORITY ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION

To quantify and visualize the need for conservation land within the study area, the planning team employed a Conservation Priority Analysis. This section summarizes the methods and findings of the analysis for Southern Palmertown.

This analysis is an objective, data-driven process that estimates the cumulative need representative of ecological features warranting the need for land conservation. These features include water and wetlands, working landscapes, significant natural communities, the capacity for groundwater recharge, and terrestrial resilience. The resulting Composite Prioritization for Conservation Map summarizes the geographic distribution of the need for conservation throughout the Southern Palmertown study area. The results of the analysis will be used to help inform and prioritize conservation recommendations.

METHODOLOGY

The Conservation Priority Analysis model provides a general estimation of conservation priorities by analyzing spatial data representative of ecologically sensitive natural features and the spatial distribution of ecological services in the study area. In the model, the need for conservation is influenced by water and wetlands, working landscapes, significant natural communities, the capacity for groundwater recharge, and terrestrial resilience. The resulting analyses highlights ecologically sensitive areas which may benefit from conservation based upon the model inputs.

PURPOSE

Identify priority lands for conservation, ultimately improving the quality of life for Southern Palmertown residents



Lichens at Lake Bonita

MODEL INPUTS

WATER & WETLANDS

This represents all water bodies and wetlands in the region along with 100-foot buffers around each feature. Conserving wetlands is important due to their many benefits including: improvements to water quality as well as flood and erosion control. Buffers are included since the DEC regulates land within 100 feet of designated water and wetland features.

WORKING LANDSCAPE

This category represents working landscapes, defined by agricultural lands and potential working forests, in the focal study area and the surrounding region provided by Saratoga PLAN.

SIGNIFICANT NATURAL COMMUNITIES

In addition to all significant natural communities (as designated by the DEC), this category includes a half-mile buffer around each significant natural communities feature. The two main categories of significant natural communities within the study area are: Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest and Red-Maple Blackgum Swamp.

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Groundwater Recharge values are included in the Conservation Priority Analysis. This is an important factor to include in this analysis as it directly relates to both the soil and water quality in Southern Palmertown. The number of inches was used to prioritize the capacity for Groundwater Recharge in the region. Therefore, land with a higher average number of inches will be a higher conservation priority than land with lower levels of Groundwater Recharge.

TERRESTRIAL RESILIENCE

This dataset highlights sensitive ecological features, including the ability of the landscape to adjust to climate change or other environmental factors. The Terrestrial Resilience score was used to prioritize conservation in the region. Therefore, land with higher Terrestrial Resilience scores are higher conservation priorities than land with lower scores. This portion of the analysis shows the importance of the Palmertown Area as a linkage between the Green Mountains in Vermont and the Adirondack Mountains in New York.

Table 4: Source of Conservation Priority Analysis Inputs

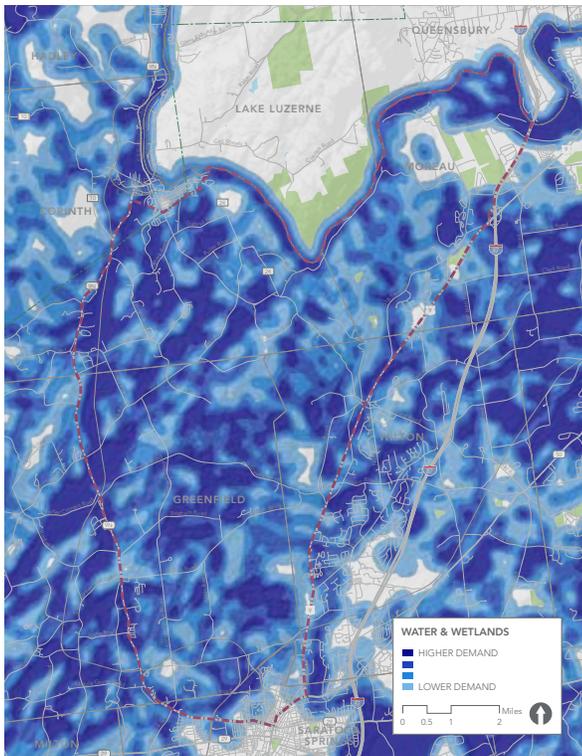
DATA INPUT	SOURCE
Water & Wetlands	NYS DEC, NYS GIS Clearinghouse
Working Landscape	Saratoga PLAN, OSI
Significant Natural Communities	NYS DEC, NYS GIS Clearinghouse
Groundwater Recharge	Saratoga PLAN, OSI
Terrestrial Resilience	Saratoga PLAN, OSI



Conserved Land on Greene Rd in Greenfield

MODEL INPUTS

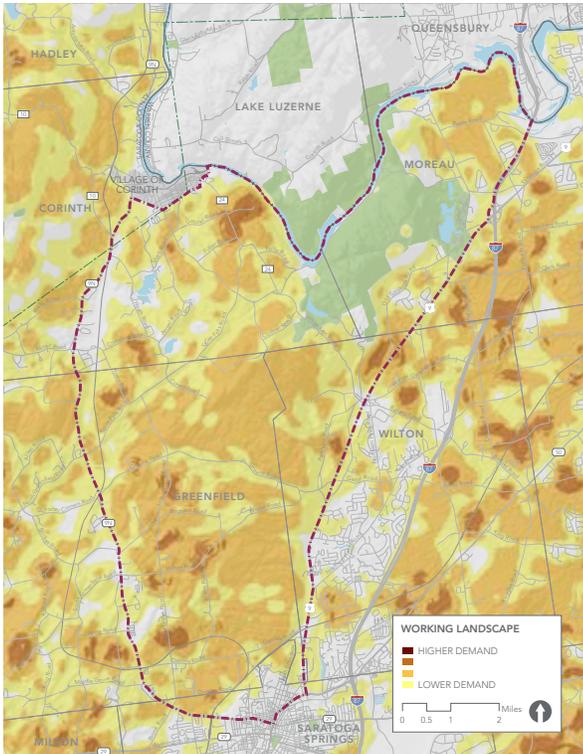
The following maps display the concentration of the individual inputs used to develop the Composite Prioritization for Conservation Map. These maps illustrate how the model supports a holistic profile of factors to identify high-need conservation areas in Southern Palmertown.



WATER & WETLANDS

WATER & WETLANDS

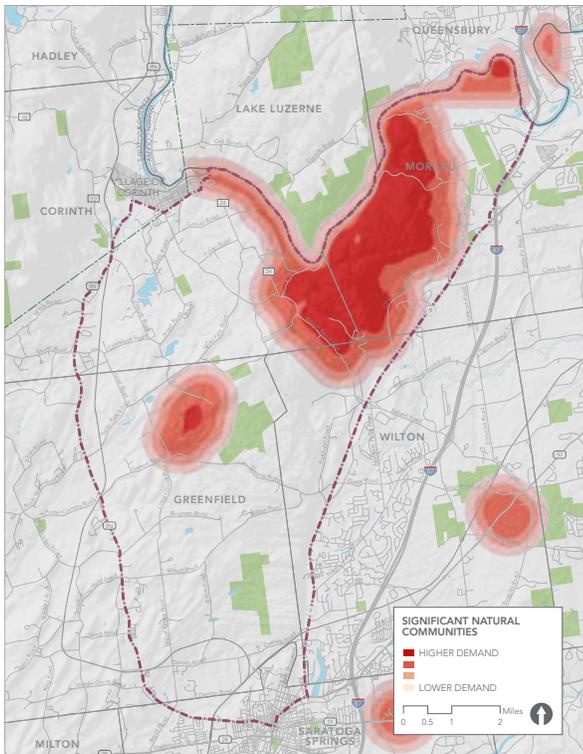
This portion of the analysis creates a heat map depicting where water and wetland features are located within the study area and surrounding region. The accompanying map shows that water and wetland features, along with their 100-foot buffers, cover a large majority of the Southern Palmertown. High density areas can be found throughout the study area. The final Composite Prioritization for Conservation Map will consider these densities when determining the final high-priority conservation areas.



WORKING LANDSCAPE

WORKING LANDSCAPE

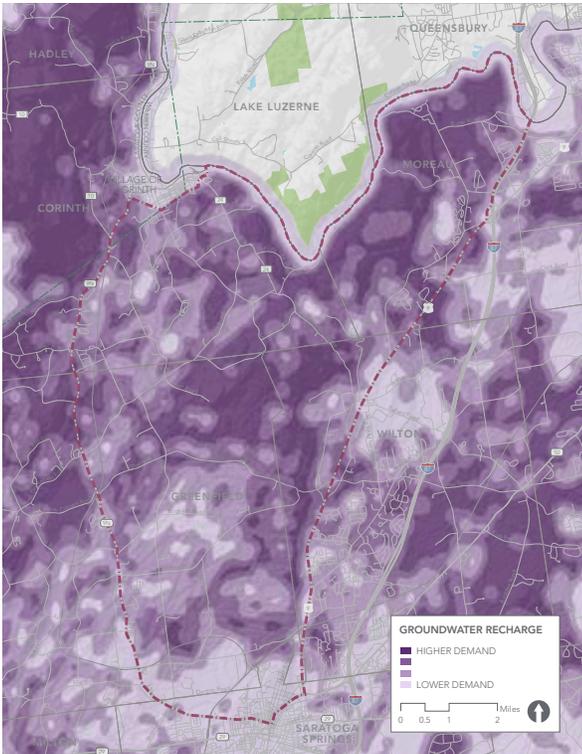
This analysis results in a heat map showing conservation priority locations for Working Landscapes within Southern Palmertown and the surrounding region. The highest-priority Working Landscapes in the study area can be found along Locust Grove Road, Wilton Road, and Howe Road in the Town of Greenfield, on Old Saratoga Road in the Town of Wilton, and Gabriel Road and County Route 24 in the Town of Corinth.



SIGNIFICANT NATURAL COMMUNITIES

SIGNIFICANT NATURAL COMMUNITIES

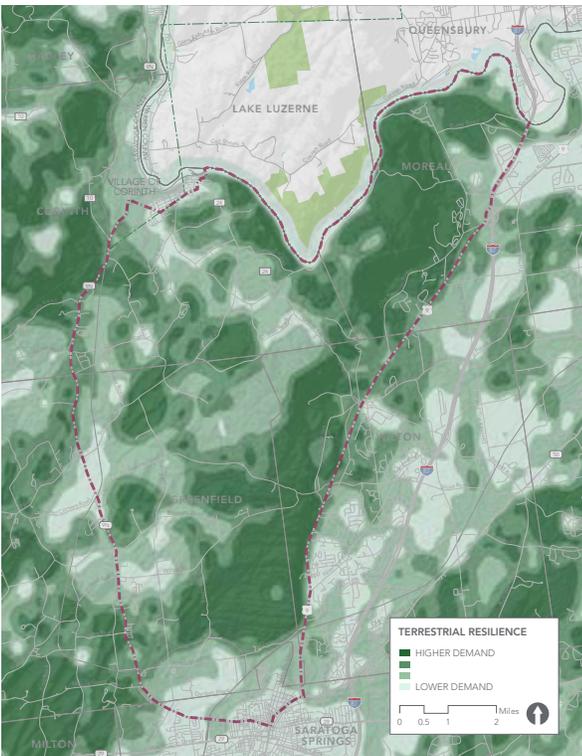
An analysis of current significant natural communities, as designated by the DEC, is included in the Composite Prioritization for Conservation. This analysis reveals a high concentration of significant natural communities in Moreau Lake State Park (Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest) and near Lincoln Mountain State Forest (Red Maple-Blackgum Swamp).



GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

The heat map to the left shows the need for conservation based on the number of inches of Groundwater Recharge. In this category, the higher the number of average inches of Groundwater Recharge, the higher the need for conservation. According to this analysis, the highest priority locations for Groundwater Recharge tend to overlap with existing open spaces, such as Moreau Lake State Park and Lincoln Mountain State Forest.



TERRESTRIAL RESILIENCE

TERRESTRIAL RESILIENCE

The heat map to the left shows the need for conservation based on the Terrestrial Resilience scores. Terrestrial resilience refers to the study area's ability to adapt to change. In this category, the higher the Terrestrial Resilience score, the higher the need for conservation. This analysis reveals the Palmertown Ridge, connecting Moreau Lake State Park, Lincoln Mountain State Forest, and Daniels Road State Forest, is an area in need of conservation based on Terrestrial Resilience scores. Additional areas of high conservation are along the Hudson River in the Towns of Moreau and Corinth as well as scattered near the border of the Towns of Corinth and Greenfield. This analysis also indicates the area's importance as a connection between the Green Mountains and the Adirondack Mountains.

COMPOSITE PRIORITIZATION FOR CONSERVATION MAP

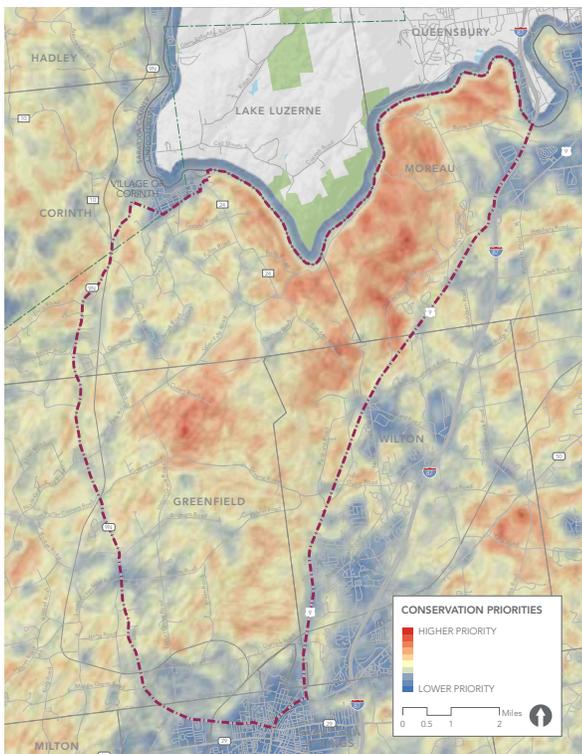
The Conservation Priority Analysis' scoring method is a function of density and proximity. Areas that have more features, and features that are closer together, have higher scores. Low feature density areas, and areas where features are further apart, receive lower scores. Composite Prioritization is calculated by summing all five categories: Water & Wetlands, Agricultural Land, Significant Natural Communities, Groundwater Recharge, and Terrestrial Resilience. All categories are given the same weight in the Composite Prioritization for Conservation Map.

The analysis reveals high-interest areas for conservation exist throughout the study area, yet some areas reveal a higher need for conservation than others. Areas with higher concentrations are located adjacent to Moreau

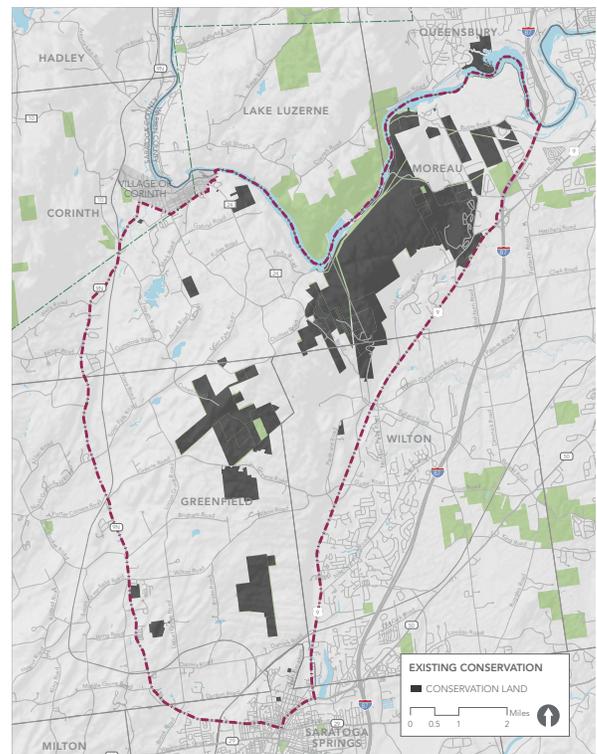
Lake State Park, Lincoln Mountain State Forest, and the Hudson River. Additionally, there are higher need areas located along the Palmertown Ridge traveling from Moreau Lake State Park to Lincoln Mountain State Forest to Daniels Road State Forest.

Future conservation efforts should reference this analysis to both determine areas of high interest for conservation as well as areas which would connect existing conservation land within Southern Palmertown. Addressing these conservation needs will ultimately result in an ecologically healthy and connected landscape.

The next spread includes Key Findings and Recommendations as well as a Map showing the Composite Prioritization for Conservation with the Existing Conservation Land Overlay.



CONSERVATION PRIORITIES



EXISTING CONSERVATION

KEY FINDINGS

Conservation Priorities:

- **Moreau Lake State Park**
- **Lake Bonita**
- **Along the Hudson River**
- **Lincoln Mountain State Forest**
- **Along the east side of the Palmertown Ridge**
- **Along Old Saratoga Road**
- **Along Locust Grove Road**

RECOMMENDATIONS

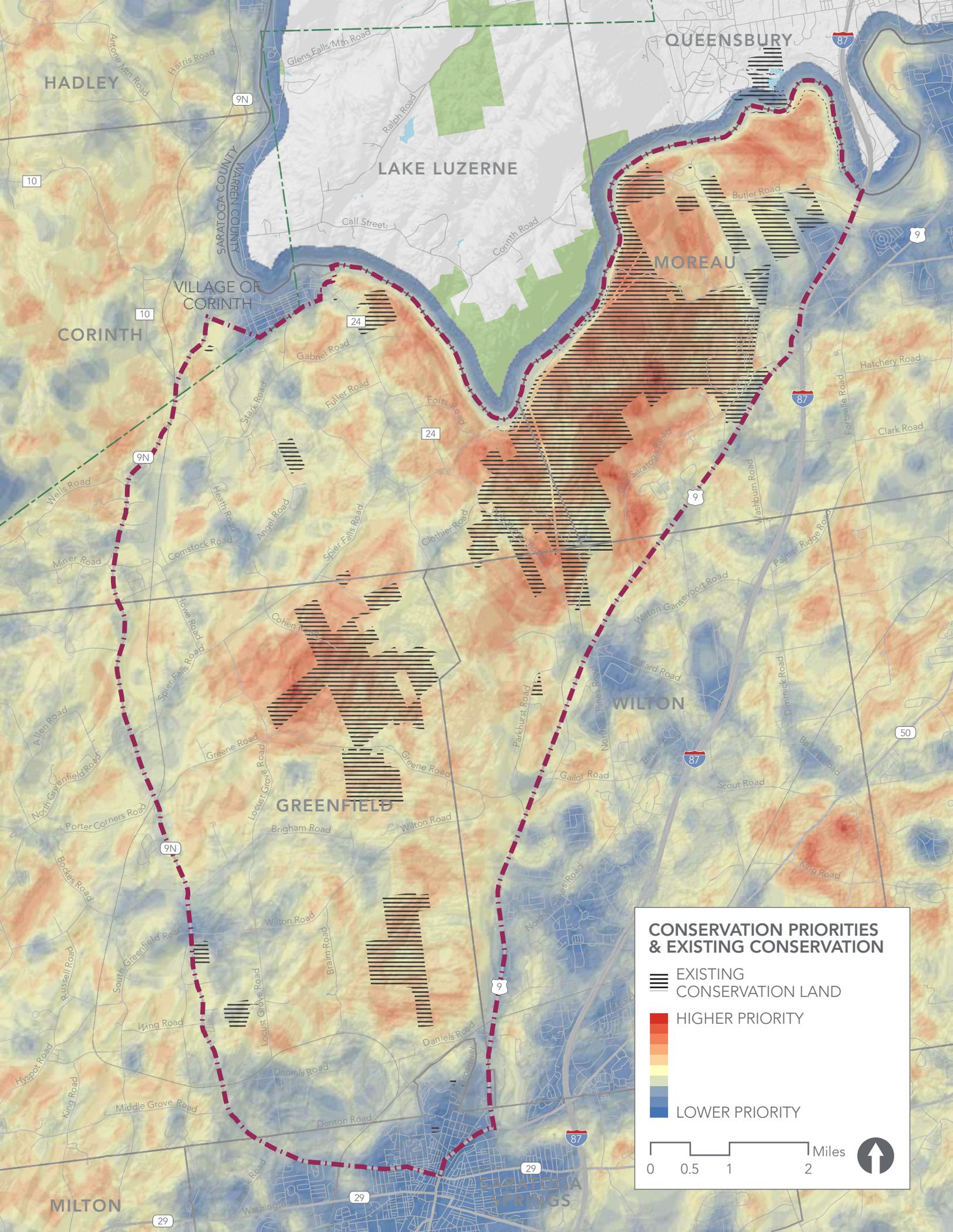
Future conservation efforts should focus on all hotspot areas, with an emphasis on high priority areas directly adjacent to existing conservation land, such as:

- **Land adjacent to Moreau Lake State Park**
- **Land to the west of Lincoln Mountain State Forest**
- **Land along the Hudson River between the Village of Corinth and Moreau Lake State Park**
- **Land adjacent to the Hudson River in the northeast corner of the focal study area**

This will create a connected conservation network within Southern Palmertown, ultimately improving the quality of life for residents by:

- **Maintaining the landscape's ability to adapt to climate change**
- **Preserving open space for compatible recreational opportunities and outdoor education programs**
- **Maintaining water quality and natural habitats**

*All recreational opportunities should be located away from high priority conservation opportunities unless they are extremely low impact and compatible with protection of the resources.

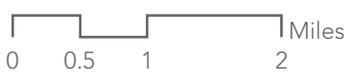


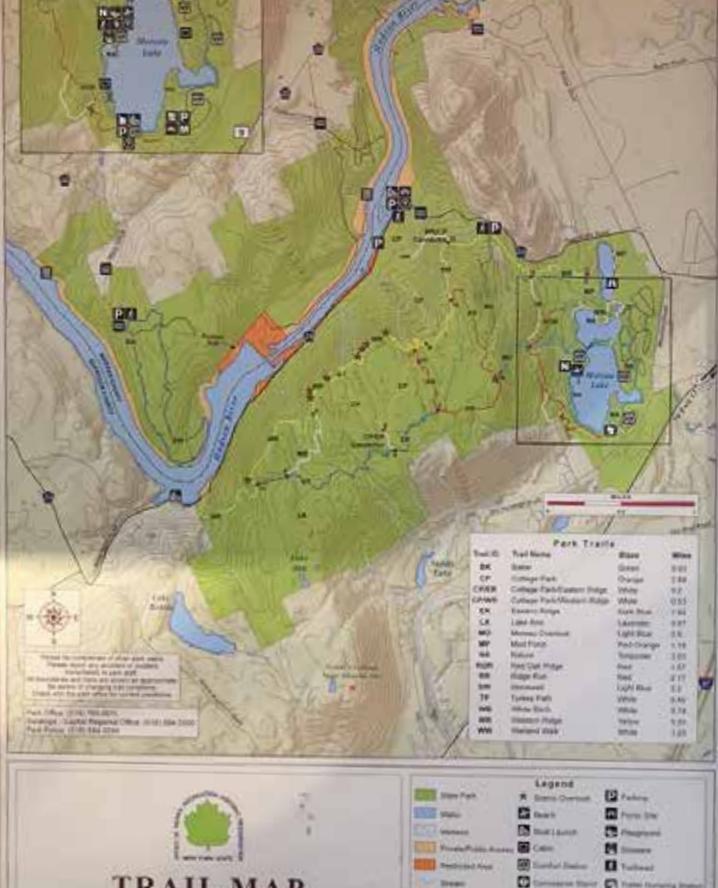
CONSERVATION PRIORITIES & EXISTING CONSERVATION

EXISTING CONSERVATION LAND

HIGHER PRIORITY

LOWER PRIORITY





Trail Maps - Moreau Lake State Park

RECREATION DEMAND ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION

To quantify and visualize demand for recreational activities within the study area, the planning team employed a Recreation Demand Analysis. This section summarizes the methods and findings of the analysis for Southern Palmertown.

The demand analysis is an objective, data-driven process that estimates the cumulative demand for recreation depending on where people live, work, play, shop, learn, and access transit. This is accomplished by quantifying factors that generate bicycle and pedestrian movement. The resulting Composite Demand Map for Recreation summarizes the geographic distribution of recreational demand throughout the Southern Palmertown study area. The results of the analysis will be used to help inform and prioritize recommendations.

METHODOLOGY

The Recreation Demand Analysis model provides a general understanding of expected recreational activity by analyzing spatial data representative of origins and destinations in the study area. In the model, recreational demand is influenced by where people live, work, play, shop, learn, and access transit. The resulting analyses shows where people are likely to walk and bike based upon the demand model inputs.

PURPOSE

Identify existing demand for recreation in Southern Palmertown and inform recommendations, ultimately improving the quality of life for residents

DATA INPUTS

WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

These locations represent potential trip origin locations. More trips can be made in areas with higher population density if conditions are right.

WHERE PEOPLE WORK

This category represents trip ends for people working in the Southern Palmertown focal study area, regardless of residency. Depending on the type of job, employment can act as a trip attractor (i.e., retail stores or cafes), trip generator (i.e., office parks and office buildings), or both.

WHERE PEOPLE PLAY

This category is a combination of recreation land use types and destinations such as parks, trails, and other land open to public recreation.

WHERE PEOPLE SHOP

This category represents the location of commercial locations in Southern Palmertown. In addition to being locations of employment, these locations also serve as trip ends for people, regardless of residency.

WHERE PEOPLE LEARN

This category shows the locations of all educational facilities within the region. Including preschools, elementary, middle, and high schools, and college campuses.

WHERE PEOPLE ACCESS TRANSIT

This category includes CDTA bus stops as well as train stations within the region.

Table 4: Source of Recreation Demand Analysis Inputs

DATA INPUT	SOURCE	NOTES
Live - Population Density	2010 Census	Computed at the block level
Work - Employment Density	2010 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamic (LEHD), Work-Area Characteristics	Computed at the block level
Play - Existing Parks and Trails Facilities	Saratoga PLAN, OSI, NYS GIS Clearinghouse	Existing state, regional, and local parks and trails
Shop - Commercial Density	2010 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamic (LEHD), Work-Area Characteristics	Computed at the block level
Learn - School Locations	Saratoga PLAN	Public and private preschools, elementary, middle, and high schools, and colleges
Move - Transit Stop Locations	CDTA, NYS GIS Clearinghouse	Bus stops and train stations



Housing along Route 9 in Wilton
Example of where people live



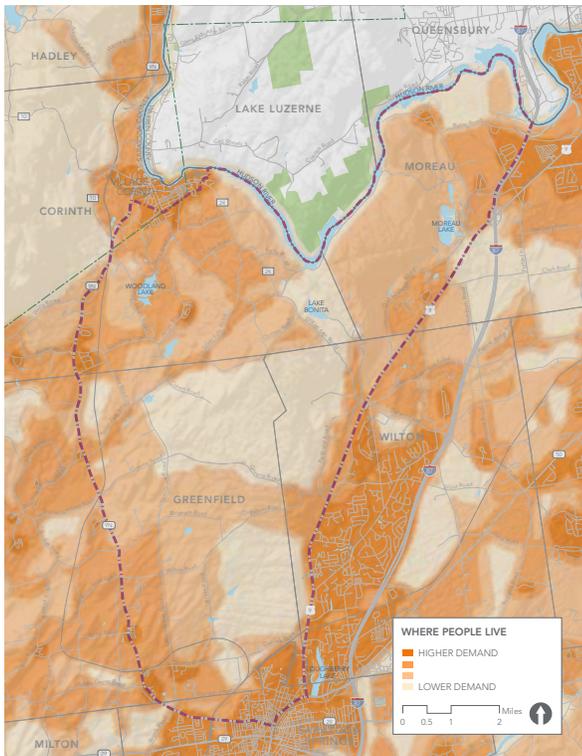
Downtown Saratoga Springs
Example of where people work



Moreau Lake State Park
Example of where people play

DEMAND MODEL INPUTS

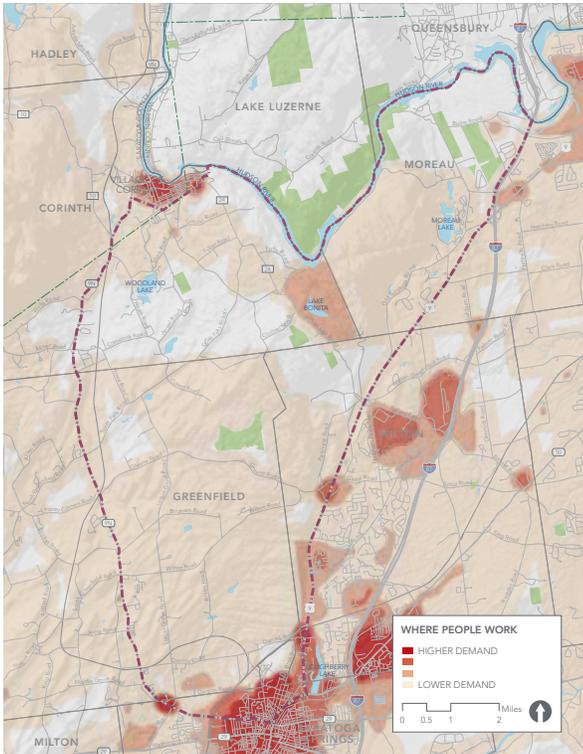
The following maps display the concentration of the individual inputs used to develop the Composite Demand for Recreation Map. These maps illustrate how the demand model supports a holistic profile of factors to identify high-demand areas in Southern Palmertown.



LIVE

WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

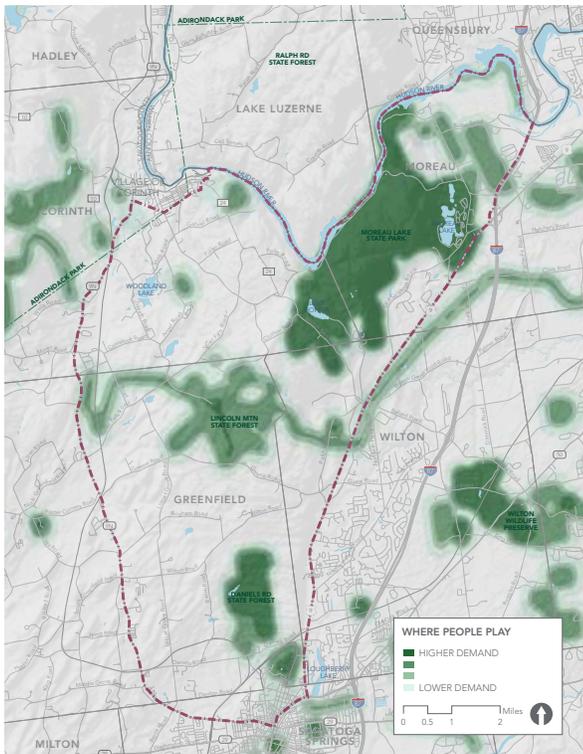
The “Live” portion of the demand analysis creates a heat map depicting where people live within the study area and surrounding region and assumes the demand for recreational opportunities increases as populations densify. The accompanying map indicates higher population densities in the City of Saratoga Springs, the Village of Corinth, the Town of Wilton, and the northeast edge of the study area within the Town of Moreau. Other areas of dense population can be found along the roads bounding Southern Palmertown on the east and west, Route 9 and Route 9N, respectively.



WORK

WHERE PEOPLE WORK

An analysis of where people work helps determine potential destinations for pedestrians and bicyclists, ultimately contributing to the composite demand for active transportation opportunities in the region. This can also help indicate the need for hiking or biking opportunities during a lunch hour or after work around common work locations. While there is low demand throughout the study area generated by the “Work” portion of this analysis, job opportunities in the region tend to be concentrated outside of the study area in the City of Saratoga Springs, the Village of Corinth, and specific sections in the Town of Wilton, such as the shopping plazas and along Ballard Road.



PLAY

WHERE PEOPLE PLAY

An analysis of existing recreational and open space opportunities is a crucial component of the composite demand for recreation within Southern Palmetown. The “Play” portion of the analysis includes public parks, hiking, biking, equestrian, and snowmobile trails, and other open spaces within the region. Unsurprisingly, this portion of the demand analysis reveals a high concentration of existing recreation facilities in Moreau Lake State Park, Daniels Road State Forest, and Lincoln Mountain State Forest. Additional “Play” areas include Skidmore College’s North Woods, Wilton Wildlife Preserve, and fragmented open spaces in the Town of Corinth.



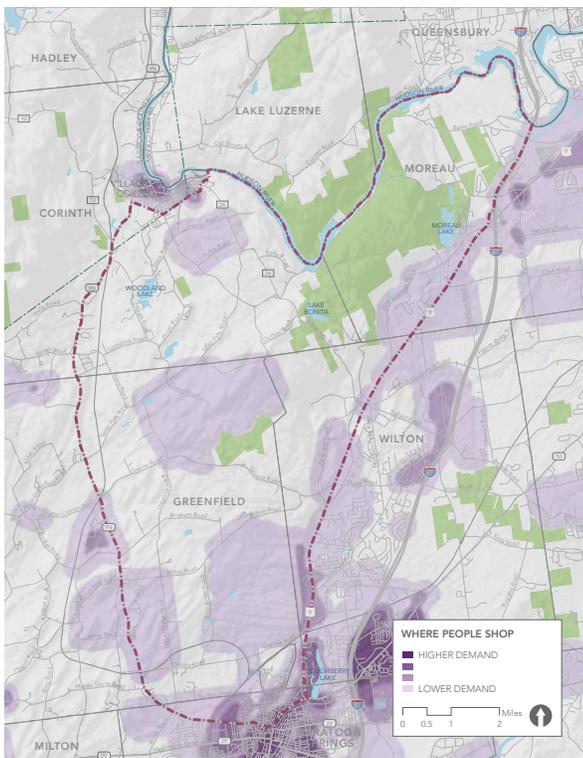
The Shoppes at Wilton
Example of where people shop



Skidmore College
Example of where people learn



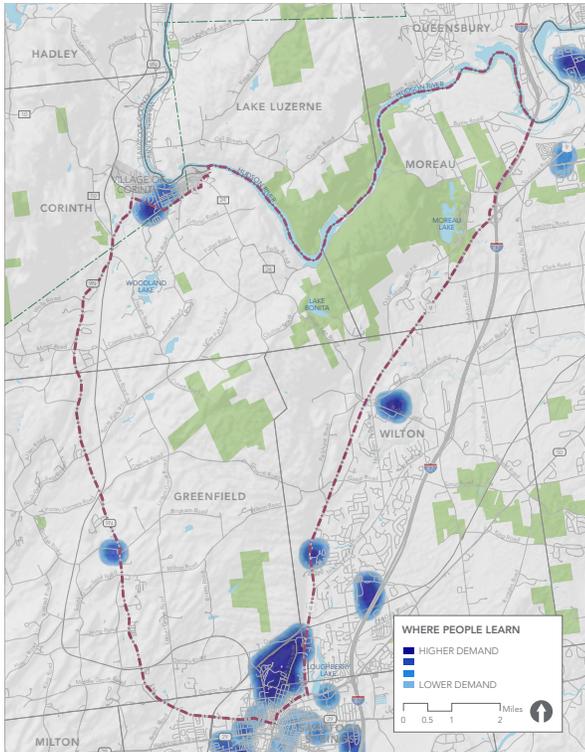
Saratoga Springs Train Station
Example of where people access transit



SHOP

WHERE PEOPLE SHOP

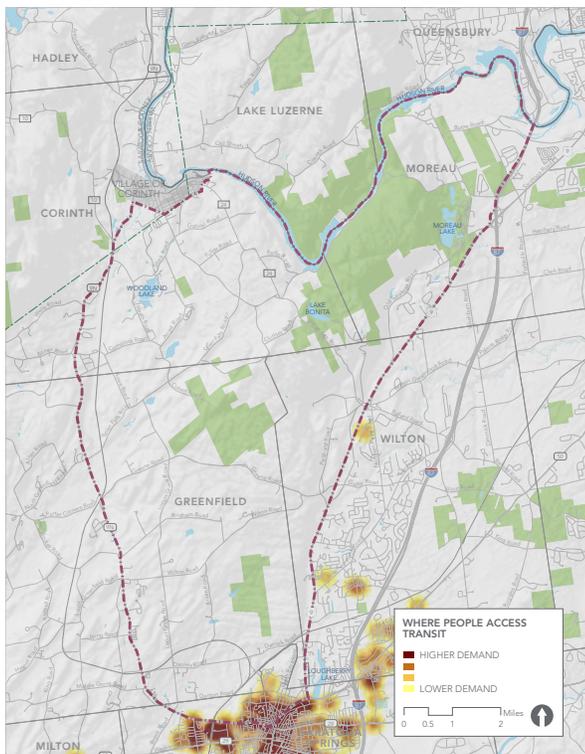
An analysis of where people shop helps provide connections between the local economy and outdoor recreation destinations. Retail opportunities are concentrated in the City of Saratoga Springs, the Village of Corinth, and portions of the Town of Wilton. Unsurprisingly, due to the rural landscape, there is a very low density of retail within Southern Palmertown.



LEARN

WHERE PEOPLE LEARN

The analysis includes the location of schools and higher learning institutions, assuming that educational facilities create a demand for recreational and potentially educational opportunities for students in the surrounding area. While just two educational facilities are located within the study area, Skidmore College and Corinth Elementary School, there are many schools directly adjacent to Southern Palmertown included in this analysis. Greenfield Elementary School, Maple Avenue Middle School, Saratoga High School, Ballard Elementary School, and Corinth Middle and High Schools are some of the major educational facilities located directly outside the study area.



ACCESS TRANSIT

WHERE PEOPLE ACCESS TRANSIT

The “Move” portion of this analysis reveals a heavy concentration of public transit opportunities on the southern end of the Study area, and no transit activity within Southern Palmertown north of the City of Saratoga Springs. There are two locations highlighting CDTA bus stops directly adjacent, but outside, the study area along Northern Pines road. Analysis of the transit opportunities reveal that the study area is not well served by the current transit system, as very few recreational opportunities in Southern Palmertown are accessible by public transit.

COMPOSITE DEMAND FOR RECREATION MAP

The Recreation Demand Analysis' scoring method is a function of density and proximity. Areas that have more features, and features that are closer together, have higher scores. Low feature density areas, and areas where features are further apart, receive lower scores. Composite demand is calculated by summing all six categories: Live, Work, Play, Shop, Learn, and Access to Transit. All categories are given the same weight in the Composite Demand for Recreation Map.

The analysis reveals high demand areas exist throughout the study area, yet some areas reveal much higher demand than other. Areas with higher demand concentrations are located in the City of Saratoga Springs and the Towns of Corinth and Wilton. Additional hotspots which

are more distributed throughout the study area are located in the Town of Greenfield, Moreau Lake State Park and Lake Bonita, Daniels Road State Forest, and Lincoln Mountain State Forest.

One of the goals in this Plan is to create a connected recreation system within Southern Palmertown. In addition to identifying existing demand for recreation, the Composite Demand for Recreation Map can be used to determine recreational recommendations which will help achieve this goal.

Creating recreational resources which connect existing hot spots will help create a connected recreation system within the focal study area and into the greater region. The recreational recommendations made in this Plan will incorporate the results from this Recreation Demand Analysis. Recreation recommendations will also consider the Conservation Priority Analysis and recommend that recreational opportunities be located away from high priority conservation opportunities unless they are extremely low impact and compatible with protection of the resources.

KEY FINDINGS

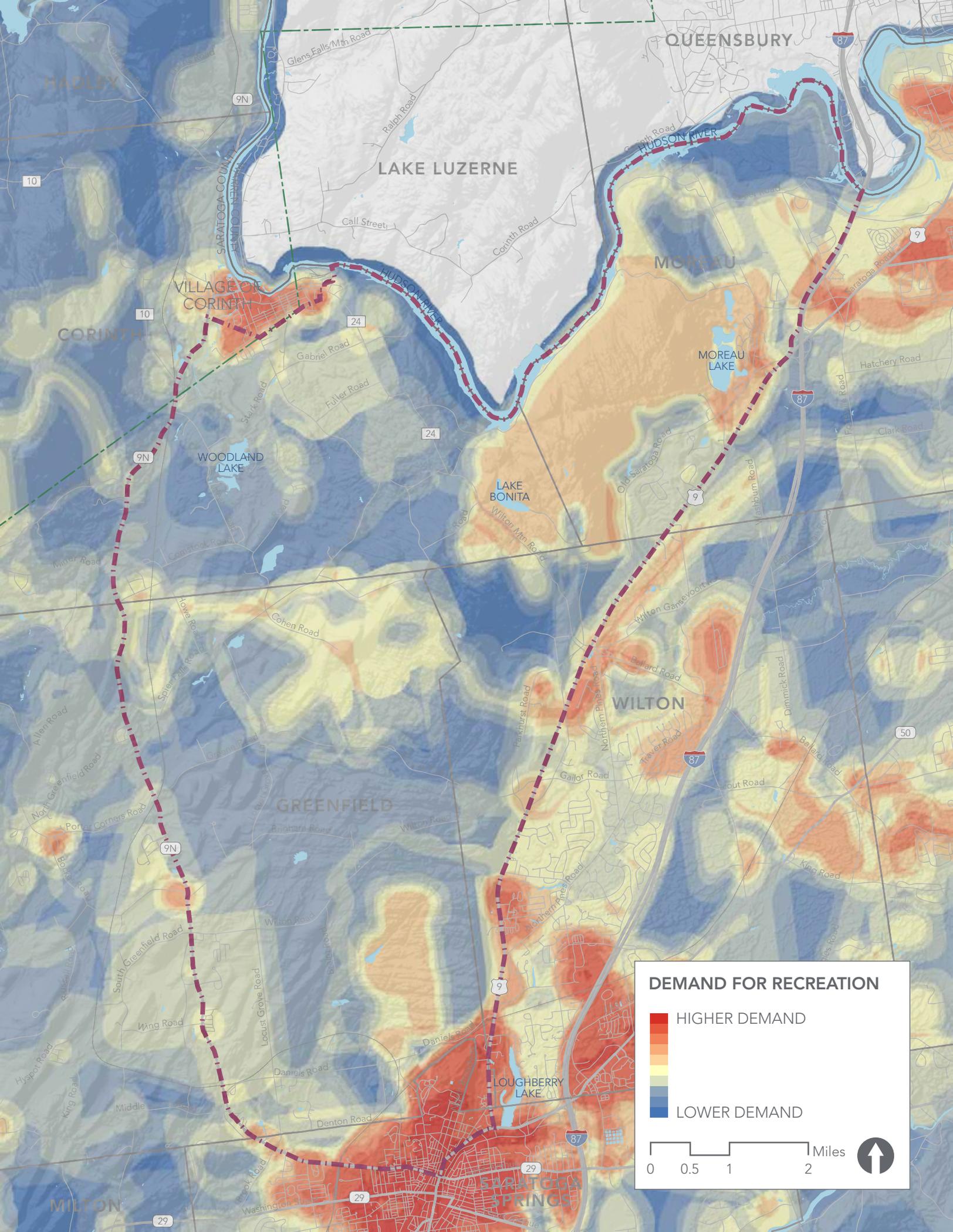
High Demand for Recreation in:

- Moreau Lake State Park
- Lake Bonita
- Daniels Road State Forest
- Skidmore's North Woods
- City of Saratoga Springs
- Village of Corinth

Future recommendations should create recreation opportunities to connect these hotspots while avoiding priority conservation areas, ultimately creating a connected recreation network within Southern Palmertown



Existing Trails in Daniels Road State Forest



DEMAND FOR RECREATION

HIGHER DEMAND



LOWER DEMAND



CASE STUDIES

This section includes case studies of outdoor recreation and conservation networks and innovative economic development initiatives that leverage existing recreation and/or conservation uses.

All of the case studies presented are similar in scale to the Southern Palmertown Area and address the following goals:

- 1 To identify a range of different approaches for establishing and maintaining a connected network of recreational and conservation lands in the Southern Palmertown Area; and,
- 2 To identify discrete economic development opportunities for Southern Palmertown that promote ecotourism, leverage recreational uses, and/or advance conservation priorities.

Case studies of paired recreation and conservation networks include:

1. Mohonk Preserve, Gardiner, New York
2. Kingdom Trails, East Burke, Vermont
3. Champlain Area Trail, Essex County, New York
4. Taconic Crest Trail, Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont

Case studies of innovative economic development that leverages existing recreation and/or conservation include:

1. North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, North Carolina
2. McMenamins Edgefield, Troutdale, Oregon
3. 13 Mile Woods Community Forest, Errol, New Hampshire



Mohonk Preserve, Gardiner, New York.

Photo Credit: Grendelkhan, Wikimedia Commons

MOHONK PRESERVE

GARDINER, NEW YORK \ RECREATION + CONSERVATION CASE STUDY

The Mohonk Preserve³⁶ is a large network of conservation and outdoor recreation lands in southeastern New York. It consists of more than 8,000 preserved acres and receives over 200,000 visitors each year.

The Mohonk Preserve borders Minnewaska State Park Preserve and is just south of the Catskill Park. It is located 5 miles to the west of New Paltz, which has a population of 14,000 and is home to the State University of New York (SUNY). The Mohonk Preserve is easily accessed from I-87 and the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail.

MANAGEMENT

The Mohonk Preserve, Inc. is a non-profit nature preserve that was established in 1963 (originally the Mohonk Trust). A Board of Directors oversees the finances, personnel, and governance of the organization. Over 30 staff support the operation, maintenance, and development of the Preserve. The Preserve’s annual operating budget is \$3 million, and revenue is generated through a variety of

mechanisms, including: private contributions, membership fees, grants, special events, and investments. Several different levels of membership are available and day use passes are available for purchase for non-members.

PROGRAMMING

The Mohonk Preserve offers many different programs that advance the Preserve’s mission, including: Conservation Science, Environmental Education, Land Protection, Land Stewardship, Access for All, and Weddings/Special Events. For example, Rock the Ridge is an annual 50-mile endurance challenge and fundraiser that has helped the Preserve raise nearly \$1 million since 2013.

These programs allow the Preserve to not only acquire land for conservation purposes, but also support the cultivation of a “living laboratory,” where staff advance conservation priorities through research, students embark on outdoor learning adventures, and the public develops a culture of environmental stewardship.

RECREATIONAL USES

The Mohonk Preserve has 75 miles of carriage roads and trails that support a variety of non-motorized uses throughout all seasons. The Preserve is home to world-class climbing and bouldering. Hunting and camping also occur throughout the Preserve.

Membership or purchase of a day pass is required to use the Mohonk Preserve lands. Only the Visitor Center and its immediate surroundings are available to the public for free.

-  Biking
-  Camping
-  Climbing/Bouldering
-  Cross Country Skiing
-  Hiking
-  Horseback Riding
-  Hunting
-  Mountain Biking
-  Snowshoeing
-  Running
-  Wildlife Viewing

"The mission of the Mohonk Preserve is to protect the Shawangunk Mountains region and inspire people to care for, enjoy, and explore their natural world."



The Mohonk Preserve has over 30 miles of carriage roads and is home to world-class bouldering.
Photo Credit: New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

LESSONS FOR SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN

- Achieving a level of conservation and recreation comparable to the Mohonk Preserve will require significant, long-term investment and leadership from one or more non-profit organizations
- Southern Palmertown has the necessary ingredients (existing state parks, trail networks, cultural heritage, non-profit investment, etc.) to make it a Mohonk-style destination
- A strategic plan outlining key property acquisitions and easements should be developed in the near-term to ensure development pressures do not further fragment the Southern Palmertown Area

KINGDOM TRAILS

EAST BURKE, VERMONT \ RECREATION + CONSERVATION CASE STUDY

The Kingdom Trails³⁷ provide over 100 miles of mountain biking trails, 18 miles of fat bike/snowshoe trails, and 7 miles of groomed Nordic ski trails. They are located in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, approximately one and a half hours from Burlington.

The Kingdom Trails are an international destination for mountain bikers, attracting tourists from across the United States and Canada. An economic impact study prepared for the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council estimates that the trails are used 94,000 times per year, resulting in approximately \$7.9 million of total annual spending by Kingdom Trail users.

MANAGEMENT

The Kingdom Trails network is located entirely on private property. Kingdom Trails is a non-profit conservation organization formed in 1994 that works with local landowners, businesses, government agencies, and other non-profits to create legal access to, develop, manage, maintain, and protect the trail system. Over

RECREATIONAL USES

The Kingdom Trails provide an extensive system of non-motorized, multi-use trails, where motorized uses, including electric assist bikes, are not permitted. Kingdom Trails operates two discrete seasons. The summer season opens as soon as weather conditions permit in the spring and closes on October 31. The winter season opens as soon as snow conditions permit and closes in April. In addition to the trail network, the Kingdom Trails offer a pump track and an instructional course for kids/beginners.

50 landowners and businesses have given Kingdom Trails permission to access their land for the trail system. In return, landowners receive insurance liability coverage, free membership to the Kingdom Trails, and discounts from local merchants. Kingdom Trails also partners with land trusts to acquire properties critical to the trail system and conservation priorities.

Trail users must pay a fee to access the trail system, which provides a revenue stream for Kingdom Trails to conduct trail management, operations, and maintenance. Grants and fundraising also play an important role in funding the trail system.

PROGRAMMING

Kingdom Trails hosts an annual 3-day mountain bike festival called NEMBA (Northeast Mountain Biking Association) Fest, featuring an industry expo, group rides, live bands, and local food. Organized trail rides also take place throughout the year.

SUMMER SEASON



Hiking



Mountain Biking



Running

WINTER SEASON



Cross Country Skiing



Fat Biking



Snowshoeing

"The mission of the Kingdom Trails is to provide recreation and education opportunities...while working to conserve natural resources and create economic stimulation."



Mountain biking on the Vermont Kingdom Trails.

Photo Credit: Vermont Kingdom Trails

LESSONS FOR SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN

- Using the Kingdom Trails model of public access on private lands, Southern Palmertown could enhance its existing network of public land trails
- This type of an approach would require an entity to assume a leadership role in negotiating with land owners, establishing legal access, and developing and maintaining the trail network
- Establishing permanent access to private lands through an easement or deed restriction is an important consideration, particularly in areas where trail connectivity is critical to the success of the network

CHAMPLAIN AREA TRAILS

ESSEX COUNTY, NEW YORK \ RECREATION + CONSERVATION CASE STUDY

The Champlain Area Trails³⁸ consist of a 42-mile public trail network in Essex County, New York. The trails connect several hamlets in the Champlain Valley, including Westport, Wadhams, Whallonsburg, Essex, and Willsboro. The trail network also provides direct access to the Essex-Charlotte Ferry and Split Rock Mountain Wild Forest. Future plans include a 30-mile loop trail between Westport and Essex as well as regional connections to trail systems in the Adirondacks, Vermont, and Quebec.

MANAGEMENT

Champlain Area Trails (CATS) is a non-profit organization established in 2009 with the purpose of creating and maintaining trails. CATS is governed by a Board of Directors and has 3 staff that oversee operations, development, and stewardship programs.

Recognizing the need to preserve the scenic lands and natural areas to which CATS provide access, the CATS Board of Directors formed the Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership Project (CVCP). The CVCP is a land trust whose mission is to, “protect farms, forests, and clean water, promote local farming, sustainable forestry, and historic hamlets, and develop outdoor education and outdoor recreation-based tourism initiatives.” CVCP conserves land through a combination of property acquisition and conservation easements.

PROGRAMMING

CATS offers several group hikes and outdoor education opportunities throughout the year. To encourage stewardship among trail users, CATS has an adopt-a-trail program that engages users in trail maintenance and monitoring activities.

RECREATIONAL USES

The Champlain Area Trails (CATS) serve non-motorized uses all year round and are free to the public. The CATS network also connects to regional trail systems, including: the Lake Champlain Paddler’s Trail, the Adirondack Coast Wine Trail, the Adirondack/Champlain Valley Yoga Trail, and on-road cycling routes.

A key component of the CATS mission is to link communities. Organized “Hamlet-to-Hamlet” hikes provide fun, community-building opportunities that also bring business to the local villages.



Biking



Cross Country Skiing



Hiking



Paddling



Snowshoeing



Running



Wildlife Viewing

“Champlain Area Trails...creates and maintains hiking and cross-country ski trails...that link communities, connect people with nature, and promote economic vitality.”



View of Lake Champlain from the Snake Den Harbor Overlook in Split Rock Mountain Wild Forest.
Photo Credit: Lake Champlain Land Trust

LESSONS FOR SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN

- A partnership or consortium of non-profit organizations with compatible missions could be an efficient mechanism to leverage existing resources (funds, public support, staff) and achieve mutually beneficial goals
- For example, establishing a partnership between an outdoor recreation-focused non-profit and a conservation-focused non-profit (e.g., Saratoga PLAN) would allow land to be preserved for the dual purpose of conservation and recreation
- CATS Hamlet-to-Hamlet initiative could serve as a model for improving multimodal connectivity between the villages in Southern Palmertown

TACONIC CREST TRAIL

MASSACHUSETTS, NEW YORK, VERMONT \ RECREATION + CONSERVATION CASE STUDY

The Taconic Crest Trail³⁹ is a 37-mile ridgeline trail that traverses through a network of over 10,000 acres of conserved lands. The trail is situated in the well-connected wilderness of the Berkshire Mountains, approximately 45 minutes east of Albany, New York.

This north-south trail connects Pittsfield, Massachusetts to North Pownal, Vermont and provides direct access to several other recreational destinations, including: Hopkins Memorial Forest (MA), Taconic Trails State Park (MA), Pittsfield State Forest (MA), Petersburg Pass State Forest & Scenic Area (NY), and Berlin State Forest (NY). The Taconic Crest Trail can be accessed from more than 10 different locations, and designated parking areas are provided in 3 locations.

MANAGEMENT

The Taconic Crest Trail consists of a network of public lands, conservation easements, and private property. The management of the trail and conservation lands requires an interstate

effort between Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont state agencies and local conservation non-profits. Despite the relatively decentralized management approach, the Taconic Hiking Club, a non-profit, is the sole organization responsible for patrolling and maintaining the entire length of the trail. The Taconic Hiking Club works directly with New York and Massachusetts State Agencies and also spearheads conservation efforts along the trail corridor.

PROGRAMMING

The Taconic Hiking Club sponsors an annual End-To-End Endurance Challenge, where participants trek nearly 30-miles and gain approximately 17,300 feet in cumulative elevation. The Hiking Club also sponsors organized hiking events throughout the year and provides opportunities for volunteers to conduct trail work/maintenance.

RECREATIONAL USES

The Taconic Crest Trail supports year-round, non-motorized, outdoor recreation. Hiking and snowshoeing are the predominant activities.

-  Camping
-  Hiking
-  Snowshoeing
-  Running
-  Wildlife Viewing

"[The Taconic Hiking Club's] primary responsibility is to maintain the 37-mile long Taconic Crest Trail..the trail offers hiking in a variety of settings throughout the seasons."



View from the Taconic Crest Trail.

Photo Credit: Flickr, Andy Arthur

LESSONS FOR SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN

- Similar to the Taconic Crest Trail, the Southern Palmertown Area encompasses multiple jurisdictions. Establishing an intermunicipal agreement between Corinth, Greenfield, Moreau, Saratoga, and Wilton could align conservation and recreation goals and create a unified vision for the future development of the region
- In addition to an intermunicipal agreement, a non-profit organization or other entity (e.g., Saratoga County) would be needed to spearhead the development and implementation of a strategic plan for Southern Palmertown

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA \ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CASE STUDY

The North Carolina Museum of Art⁴⁰ is approximately five miles west of downtown Raleigh, North Carolina. It is open year-round and admission to its permanent art collection and the Museum Park is free. The Museum is an important community resource, providing public access to art, educational programs, cultural events, and an extensive outdoor park and trail system.

SITE HISTORY

The North Carolina Museum of Art opened in 1956 in the renovated State Highway Division Building in downtown Raleigh. At the time, it was the first art museum in the country to be established with state funding. The Museum quickly outgrew its original location and selected

a new site on the western edge of Raleigh, which provided access to the interstate and ample space to expand in the future. The new site, and current location of the Museum, has significant cultural value. At different points in history it was inhabited by Native Americans, served as a Civil War training site, and housed a youth prison.

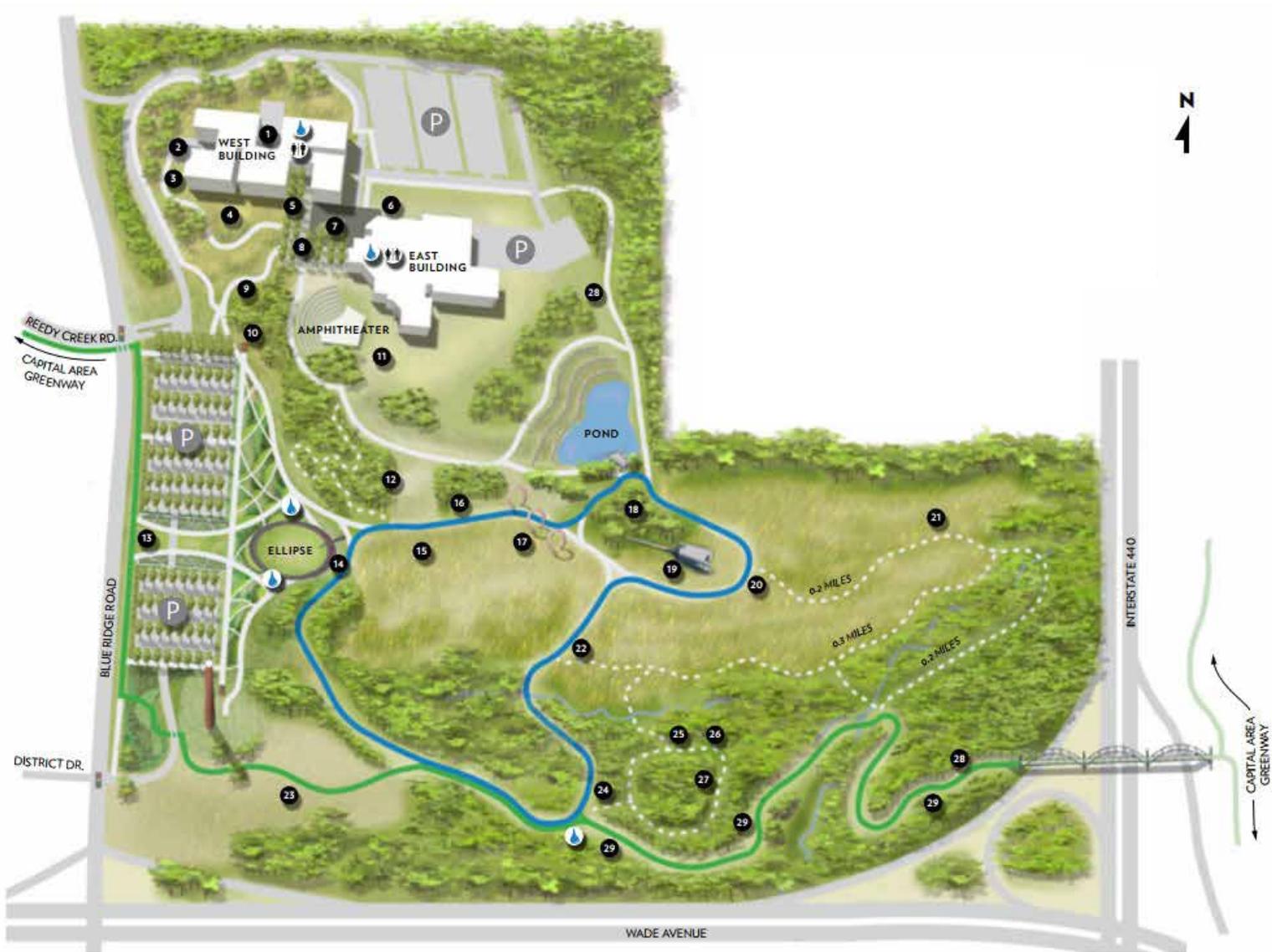
KEY FEATURES / ATTRACTIONS

In addition to its indoor art galleries, the museum has a 164-acre Museum Park with gardens, 2 miles of trails, an amphitheater, and over a dozen outdoor art installations. The East Coast Greenway, which links major cities between Maine and Florida, also runs through the museum property.



“This is a museum where you can find your own place - either in contemplative spaces or through lively, engaging tours, performing arts, or family workshops.”

Photo and Quote Credit: North Carolina Museum of Art



Map of the North Carolina Museum of Art and the Museum Park. Art installations are distributed throughout the Park and are represented by a black dot.

Photo Credit: North Carolina Museum of Art

LESSONS FOR SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN

- Establishing a cultural hub in the Southern Palmertown Area that is integrated into a region-wide trail network would create an important community resource as well as a regional tourist destination
- The existing grounds of Skidmore's Tang Museum could be enhanced to create an outdoor sculpture park and establish connections to the North Woods and Daniel's Road trail systems
- The former Mount McGregor Correctional Facility site may also be a good candidate for establishing a museum or interpretive center that highlights the area's indigenous, cultural, and ecological history

MCMENAMINS EDGEFIELD

TROUTDALE, OREGON \ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CASE STUDY

McMenamins Edgefield is a destination resort in the Pacific Northwest. It is nestled into farmland at the mouth of the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area. Edgefield is a 20-minute drive from downtown Portland, Oregon and a 15-minute drive from Portland's International Airport.

SITE HISTORY⁴¹

Edgefield was built in 1911 and served as the Multnomah County Poor Farm for several decades. The inhabitants of the 300-acre farm raised enough livestock and grew enough fruits and vegetables to feed the population of the poor farm, as well as the county hospital and jail. In the 1940's, when World War II created a surplus of jobs, Edgefield's population shrank dramatically and the farm transitioned into a nursing home and rehabilitation center. By 1982, the last patients were relocated and Edgefield was left vacant.

In 1990, the McMenamin Brothers purchased the Edgefield property and began transforming the historic property into a sprawling, farm-to-table, cultural hotspot and destination resort.

KEY FEATURES / ATTRACTIONS⁴²

Drawing inspiration from the site's long history as a working farm, McMenamins Edgefield provides an immersive experience for guests and visitors. The Edgefield property consists of over 70-acres of farmland, a 100-room hotel, extensive gardens, several restaurants, a winery, a brewery, a golf course, a movie theater, and a spa. Most of the food and beverages are grown, harvested, fermented, and prepared on-site. Edgefield hosts outdoor summer concerts, year-round music events, and provides a scenic venue for private events and weddings.

“Historic Edgefield, built in 1911 as the county poor farm, is a destination resort in the Pacific Northwest that blends Oregon’s natural beauty with McMenamins’ signature whimsy...”

- McMenamins Edgefield



Aerial perspective of the McMenamins Edgefield property.

Photo Credit: Oregon Encyclopedia

LESSONS FOR SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN

- The former Mount McGregor Correctional Facility provides a unique opportunity to develop an all inclusive resort that draws inspiration from the natural beauty of the surrounding region and the site's cultural and ecological history.
- Existing assets on the Mount McGregor Correctional Facility property could be leveraged to develop a tourist destination similar in scale and scope to McMenamins Edgefield. The site is 325-acres, has over 60 buildings, offers spectacular views, and could easily be connected to trail systems in Moreau Lake State Park.
- Significant private investment would be required

13 MILE WOODS COMMUNITY FOREST

ERROL, NEW HAMPSHIRE \ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CASE STUDY

Community-based forestry projects are diverse in scope and scale and address a wide variety of goals, including: the generation of fuel, food, and profit; the cultivation of tree nurseries; forest preservation for wildlife habitat, education, and recreation; public access to natural and scenic areas; and, community management of existing forest land. Community forests also provide an important opportunity for communities to reconnect with their landscape and cultural traditions.

In the United States, community forests occur on public or private lands and partnerships are typically established between the community and forest owner to accomplish shared economic development and stewardship goals.⁴³

13 MILE WOODS⁴⁴

13 Mile Woods is a 7,100 acre community forest located in Errol, New Hampshire that provides jobs, revenue for the town, wildlife habitat, and recreation, research, and education opportunities. The Town of Errol purchased 13 Mile Woods in 2005 from Lyme Timber Company with help from the Trust for Public Land, the Northern Forest Center, and bank loans.

The establishment of a public ownership model that promotes community participation and builds community capacity ensures the long-term, sustainable management of 13 Mile Woods.

BENEFITS

Residents of the Town of Errol have received several benefits from 13 Mile Woods Community Forest, including:

- Permanent conservation of 7,100 acres;
- \$3.7 million generated from sustainable timber harvests from 2006 - 2012;
- Over \$2.2 million in spending on recreational tourism in 2012;
- Recreational investments and permanent public access;
- Preservation of the Town's rural and scenic character; and,
- Strong local governance and direction.

“The town’s vision of owning and managing its own forestland resulted in the best of both worlds: a conservation project that has a direct positive effect on the local economy and supports quality jobs based on a healthy working forest.”

- Elizabeth Reaves and Marta Ceroni of the Donella Meadows Institute



Community volunteers help rebuild trails within a community forest.

Photo Credit: Open Space Institute

LESSONS FOR SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN

- The Southern Palmertown Area has over 30,000 acres of forested land. Pursuing a community forest model would provide an opportunity for sustainable development that benefits the local economy, while also preserving land for public access, wildlife habitat, and recreational and educational uses
- The Open Space Institute provides funding for the creation or expansion of community forests through its Community Forest Fund. Additional funding is also available through the Trust for Public Land and the Northern Forest Center.

FOREST-BASED ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The Forest-Based Economic Development section of the document lists various types of forest-based economies typical in New York State as described by the North East State Foresters Association. While forest activities are largely at the discretion of private land owners, through conservation practices, forests can be protected for the following forest-based economic development activities⁴⁵ to take place in the future:

- Forestry, Logging, and Trucking
- Wood Products Manufacturing
- Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing
- Pulp and Paper Manufacturing
- Wood Energy
- Christmas Tree Harvesting
- Maple Syrup Production
- Forest Recreation

These forest-based economies may be implemented in Southern Palmetown to boost the economic health of the area.

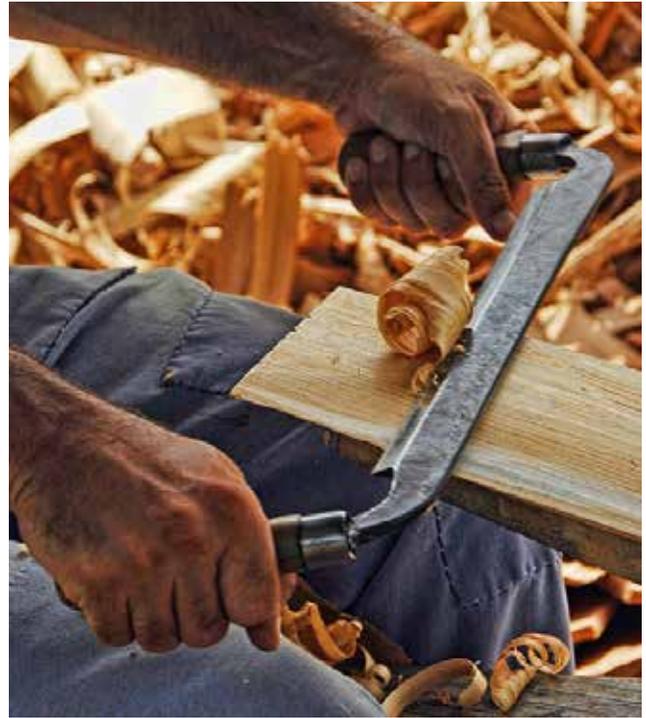


Logging and Trucking

Photo Credit: US Fish and Wildlife (flickr.com)



Maple Syrup Collection
Photo Credit: US Dept. of Agriculture (flickr.com)



Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing
Photo Credit: Graham H (pixabay.com)



Christmas Tree Harvesting
Photo Credit: Thomas McDonald (nytimes.com)



Wood Products Manufacturing - Wood Chips
Photo Credit: FEMA (commons.wikimedia.com)



Moreau Lake State Park

CHAPTER 4

LAND USE SCENARIOS

Three Land Use Scenarios were developed to show the effects various levels of development and conservation strategies may have on the landscape within Southern Palmertown:



Scenario 1: Suburban Sprawl Growth Pattern



Scenario 2: Conservation/Development Balance



Scenario 3: Strong Conservation Emphasis

Land Use Scenario Planning provides a general estimation of potential future land use configurations and land use impacts within Southern Palmertown. This is done by analyzing spatial data and applying various conservation requirements, development restrictions, and other assumptions depending on the driving force for each scenario.

The **Suburban Sprawl Growth Pattern Land Use Scenario** was created to show the effect continued suburban growth, with few conservation strategies, could have on the landscape within Southern Palmertown.

The **Conservation/Development Balance Land Use Scenario** was created to show the effect of light development patterns and moderate conservation strategies on the landscape within Southern Palmertown.

The **Strong Conservation Emphasis Land Use Scenario** was created to show the effect conservation- and recreation-oriented economic development and strong conservation strategies may have on the landscape within Southern Palmertown.

LAND USE SCENARIO PLANNING

DESCRIPTION

Land use scenario planning is a process in which “alternative futures” are estimated based on existing land use patterns and a range of conservation and development strategies of varying intensities. This planning technique is used to visualize and describe how certain considerations may affect a region. Scenarios are used to inform policy- and infrastructure-related recommendations depending on the needs and desires of the community.

Three Land Use Scenarios were developed for Southern Palmertown:

- Scenario 1: Suburban Sprawl Growth Pattern
- Scenario 2: Conservation/Development Balance
- Scenario 3: Strong Conservation Emphasis

The assumptions associated with each of the three scenarios are described in detail throughout this chapter.

METHODOLOGY

Land Use Scenario Planning provides a general estimation of potential future land use configurations within Southern Palmertown. This is done by analyzing various spatial datasets for each scenario.

Each of the three Land Use Scenarios were created using ArcGIS processes and various conservation and development patterns with respect to the datasets listed above.

EXISTING LAND USES

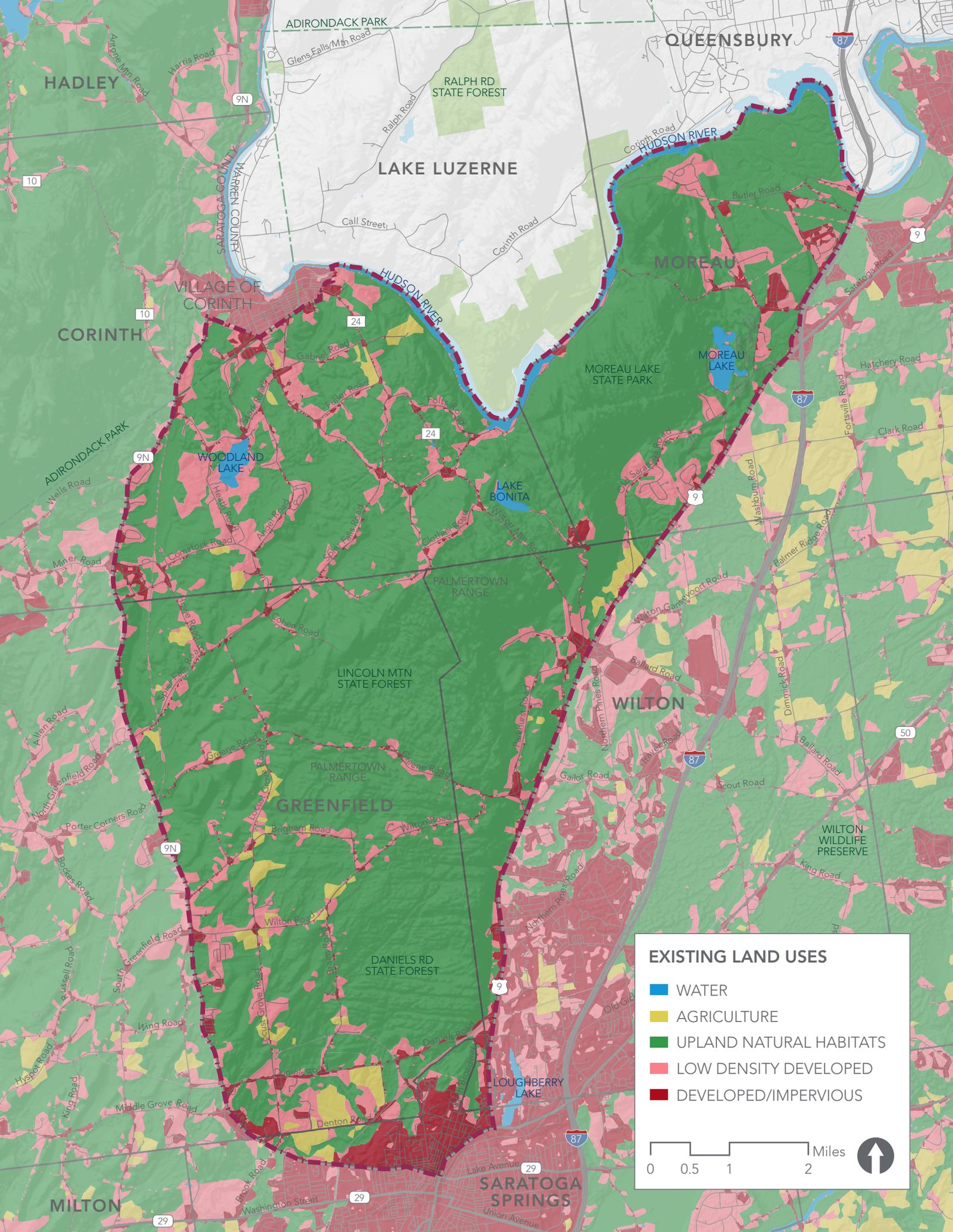
There are five land use categories included in the Existing Land Uses Map:

- Water
- Agricultural Land
- Upland Natural Habitat
- Low Density Developed
- Developed/Impervious

Each of the three Land Use Scenarios will be comprised of the same five land use categories.

THIS PROCESS ANALYZES THE FOLLOWING DATASETS:

- Water & Wetland Features
- Conservation Land
- Agricultural Land
- Recreation Corridor Parcels
- Terrestrial Resilience
- Groundwater Recharge
- Low/Medium/High Predicted Growth Areas



EXISTING LAND USES

- WATER
- AGRICULTURE
- UPLAND NATURAL HABITATS
- LOW DENSITY DEVELOPED
- DEVELOPED/IMPERVIOUS



HADLEY

ADIRONDACK PARK

QUEENSBURY

RALPH RD STATE FOREST

LAKE LUZERNE

MOREAU

VILLAGE OF CORINTH

MOREAU LAKE STATE PARK

MOREAU LAKE

CORINTH

WOODLAND LAKE

LAKE BONITA

PALMERTOWN RANGE

LINCOLN MTN STATE FOREST

PALMERTOWN RANGE

GREENFIELD

WILTON

WILTON WILDLIFE PRESERVE

DANIELS RD STATE FOREST

LOUGHBERRY LAKE

SARATOGA SPRINGS

MILTON



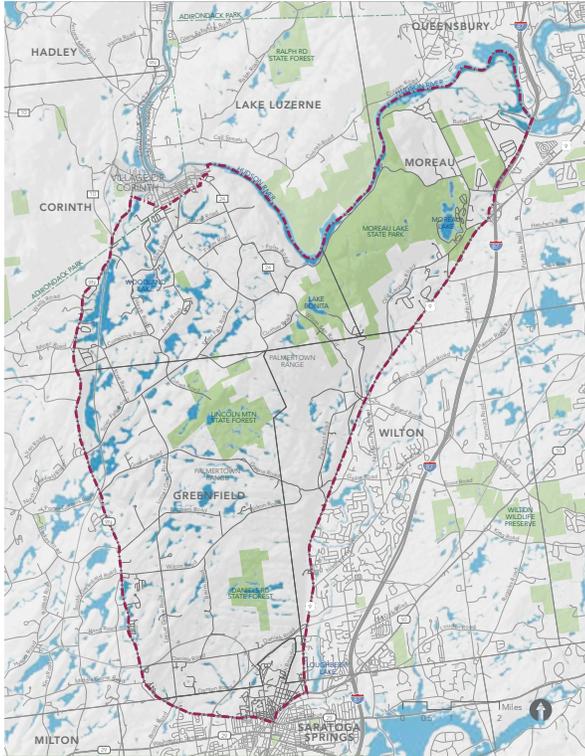
RESOURCES PROTECTED BY SCENARIO 1

- Water and Wetland Features
- Conservation Land

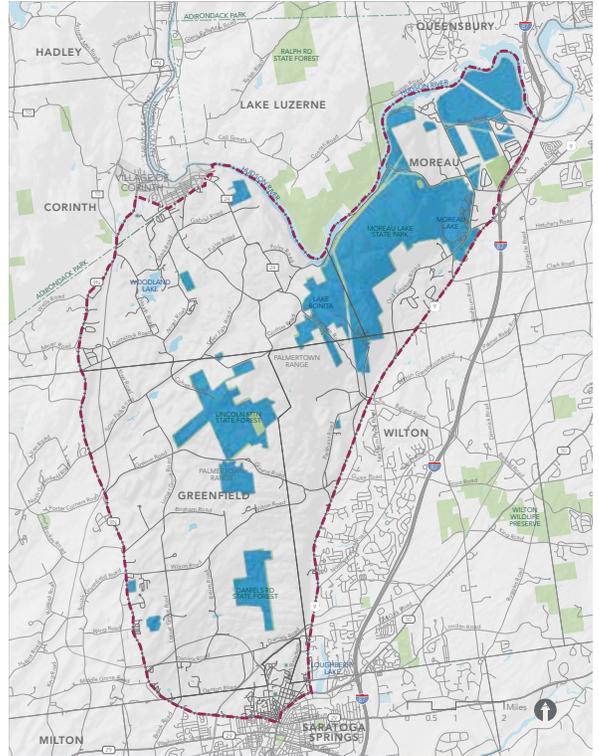
ASSUMPTIONS:

The following assumptions were made when determining Land Use Scenario 1:

- Existing Low Density Development land uses will remain
- Existing Developed/Impervious land uses will remain
- New growth can occur in all (low, medium, high) predicted growth areas
- New growth will be “Low Density Development” land uses



WATER & WETLANDS



CONSERVATION LAND



SUBURBAN SPRAWL GROWTH PATTERN

LAND USE SCENARIO 1

DESCRIPTION

The Suburban Sprawl Growth Pattern Land Use Scenario was created to show the effect extensive low density developed land, with few conservation strategies, could have on the landscape within Southern Palmertown.

Excluding water, wetlands, and designated conservation land, this scenario assumes Upland Natural Habitat and Agricultural land uses can be replaced by Low Density Developed land uses where there are High, Medium, or Low Predicted Growth Areas.

The resulting map reveals a landscape vastly different from the existing land uses. There is an overwhelming amount of Low Density Developed land uses resulting from this scenario. The amount of Low Density Developed land increases from 5,312 acres to 24,690 acres, a 365% increase.

Due to the large increase in Low Density Developed land, the amount of Agricultural land in the study area decreases from 887 acres to 88 acres, a 90% decrease. Additionally, Upland Natural Habitats decreases from 31,179 acres to 12,600 acres, a 60% decrease, in favor of additional residential, low density, land uses.

DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Development types are not restricted in this scenario. This Suburban Sprawl Growth Pattern Land Use Scenario assumes all new development will be “Low Density Developed” land to show how the landscape will be affected if sprawl is not limited within Southern Palmertown. While the communities in the area have local zoning codes in place, they generally support ongoing low-density land development of this type.



DECREASE IN AGRICULTURAL LAND



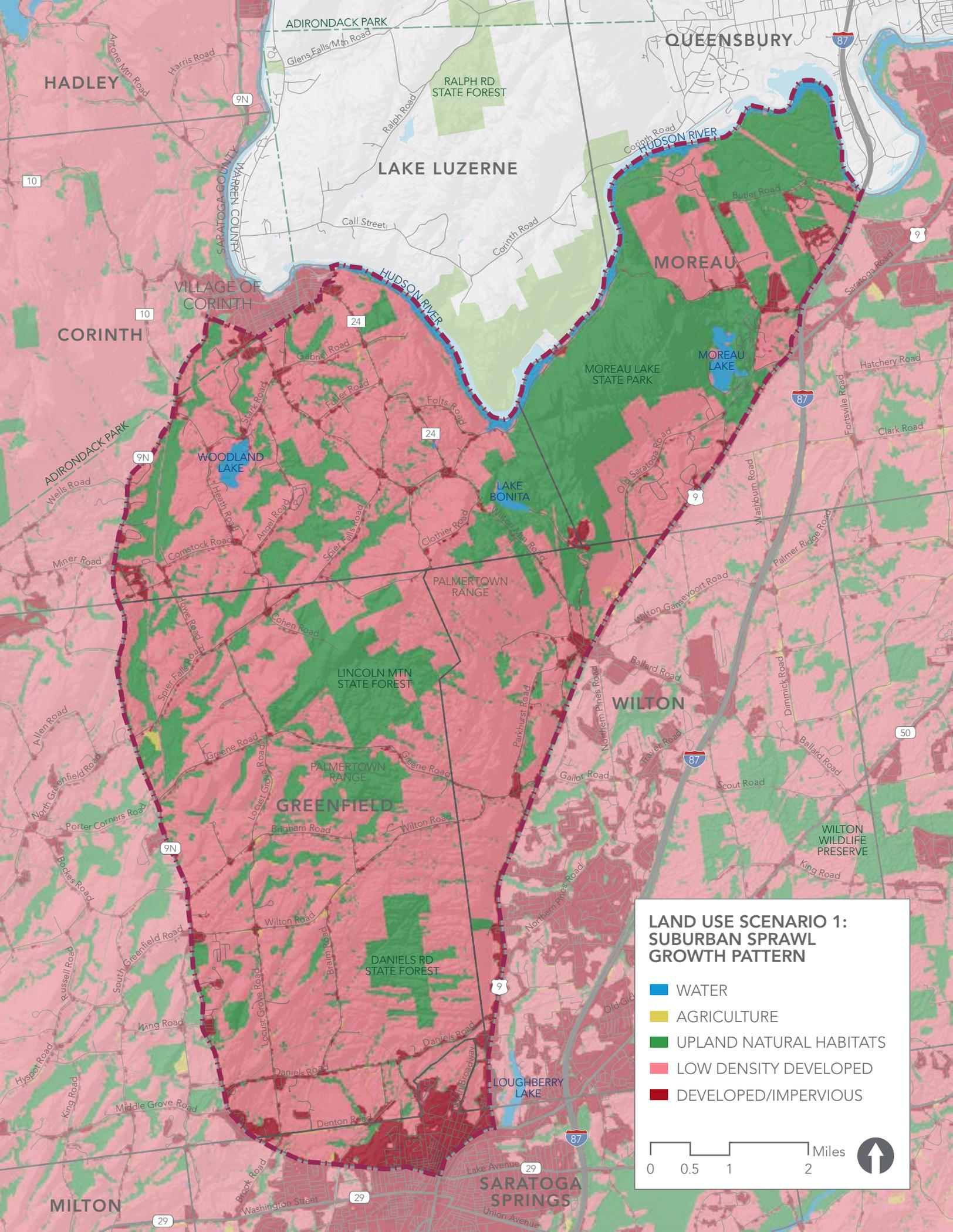
DECREASE IN UPLAND NATURAL HABITAT



INCREASE IN LOW DENSITY DEVELOPED LAND



NO CHANGE IN DEVELOPED/IMPERVIOUS LAND



**LAND USE SCENARIO 1:
SUBURBAN SPRAWL
GROWTH PATTERN**

- WATER
- AGRICULTURE
- UPLAND NATURAL HABITATS
- LOW DENSITY DEVELOPED
- DEVELOPED/IMPERVIOUS





RESOURCES PROTECTED BY SCENARIO 2

- Agricultural Land
- Recreation Corridor Parcels
- "Far Above Average" Terrestrial Resilience
- Low Predicted Growth Areas
- Medium Predicted Growth Areas
- Water and Wetland Features
- Conservation Land

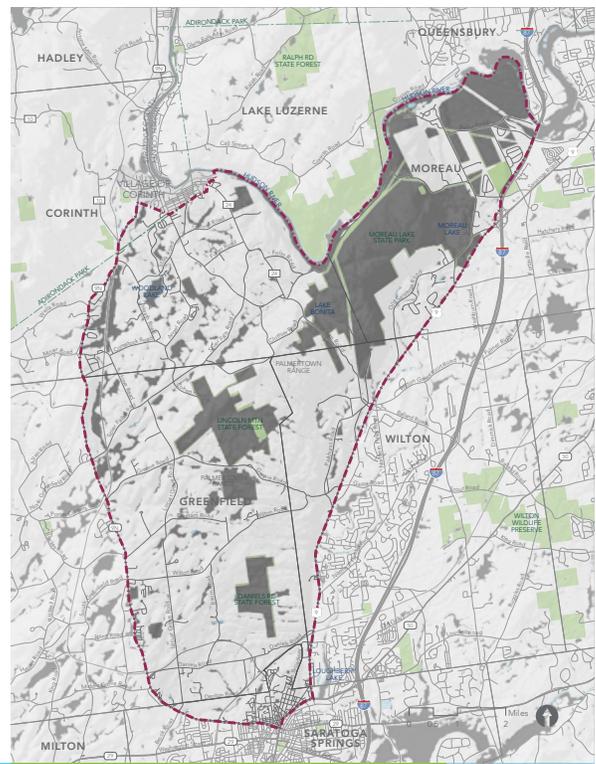
NEW
CONSIDERATIONS

INCLUDED IN
SCENARIO 1

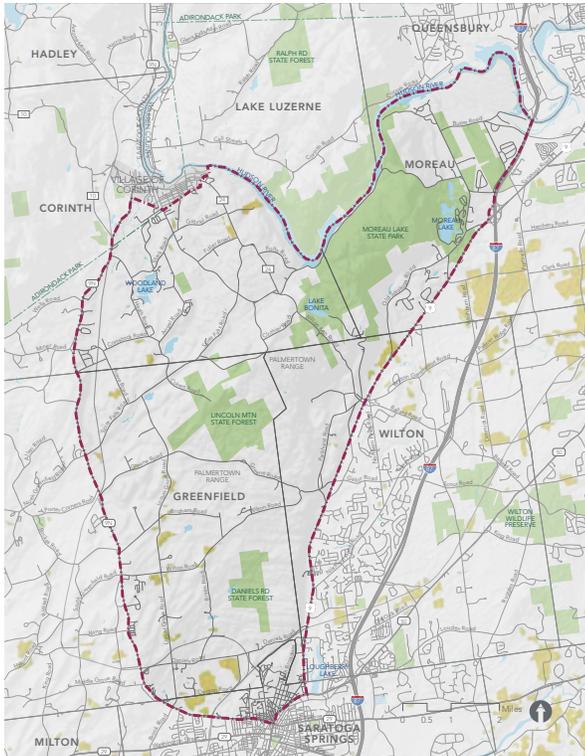
ASSUMPTIONS:

The following assumptions were made when determining Land Use Scenario 2:

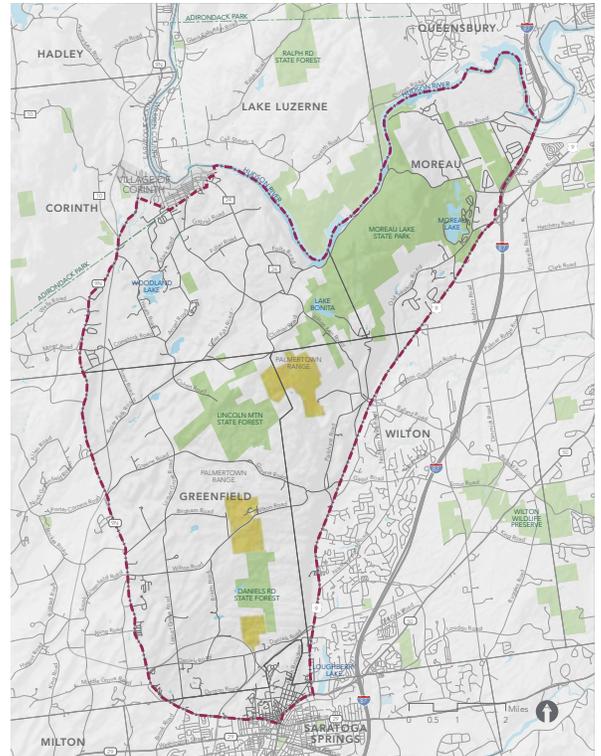
- Development of a trail from Moreau Lake State Park and Daniels Road State Forest is possible
- Existing Low Density Development land uses will remain
- Existing Developed/Impervious land uses will remain
- New growth is allowed to occur only in "High" predicted growth areas
- All new growth will be "Developed/Impervious" land uses



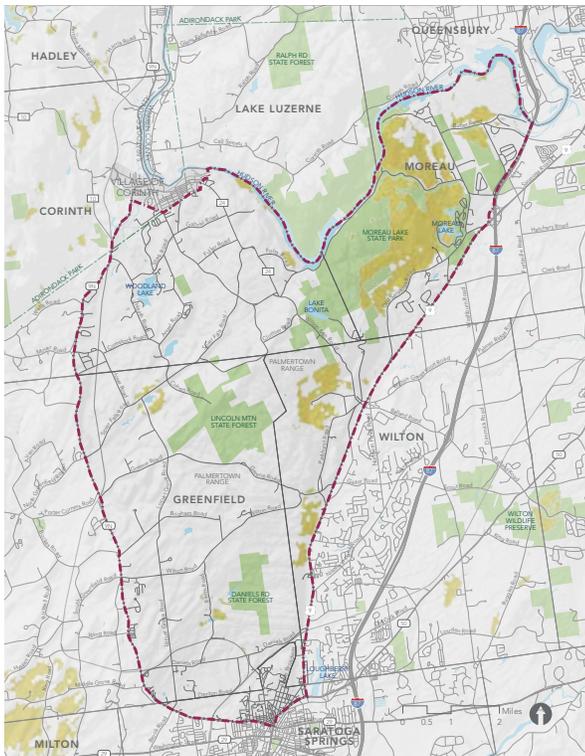
PREVIOUSLY ELIMINATED
(FROM SCENARIO 1)



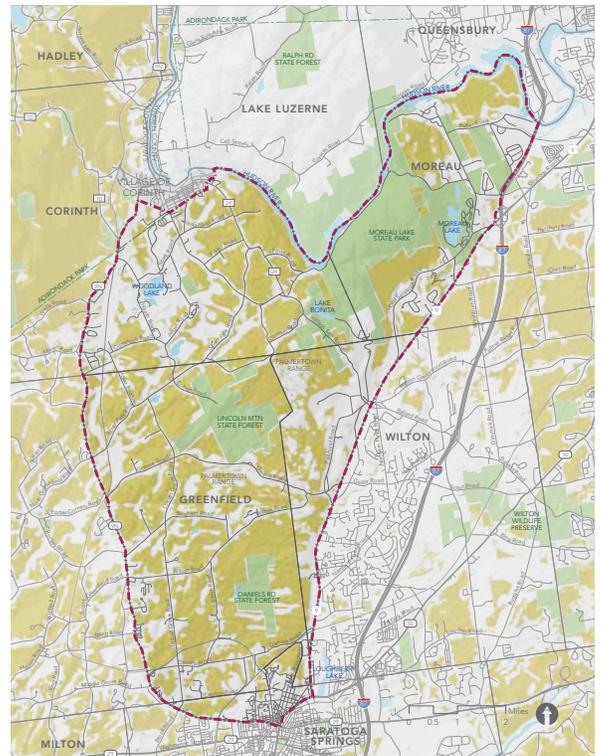
AGRICULTURAL LAND



**RECREATION CORRIDOR PARCELS
(NOT YET ACQUIRED/CONSERVED)**



**TERRESTRIAL RESILIENCE
(FAR ABOVE AVERAGE)**



**LOW & MEDIUM
PREDICTED GROWTH**



CONSERVATION/ DEVELOPMENT BALANCE

LAND USE SCENARIO 2

DESCRIPTION

The Conservation/Development Balance Land Use Scenario was created to show the effect of light development restrictions and moderate conservation strategies on the landscape within Southern Palmertown. This scenario builds off of the conservation areas included in Land Use Scenario 1. In addition to prohibiting development on water, wetlands, and designated conservation land, this scenario also limits development on agricultural land, parcels which may be necessary to create a trail along the Palmertown Ridge, areas where Terrestrial resilience is “Far Above Average,” and Medium and Low Predicted Growth Areas.

This scenario assumes all existing Low Density Developed and Developed/Impervious land will remain unchanged. New development is allowed to occur in High Predicted Growth Areas which are not restricted by the “No Development Areas” listed above. All new development is assuming to be Developed/Impervious land. This scenario will simultaneously help accommodate a growing population while limiting sprawl, ultimately conserving much of the natural landscape in Southern Palmertown.

In comparison to Scenario 1, this Conservation/Development Balance Scenario shows less of an extreme change to the natural landscape. Due to the development framework included in this scenario, there is no change to the amount of Agricultural land in the study area. Upland Natural Habitats in Southern Palmertown decreases 6%, from 31,179 acres to 29,452 acres. Therefore, there were 1,727 acres of developable Upland Natural Habitat that also fell under the High Predicted Growth Areas. This increases the amount of Developed/Impervious land by 73% from 2,360 acres to 4,087 acres.

DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Minimize sprawl development, such as Low Density Developed Land Uses.
- New development should be encouraged in community centers, such as Developed/Impervious Land uses. This will limit the effects of sprawl-type development while still providing housing and other developments for the growing region.



**NO CHANGE IN
AGRICULTURAL LAND**



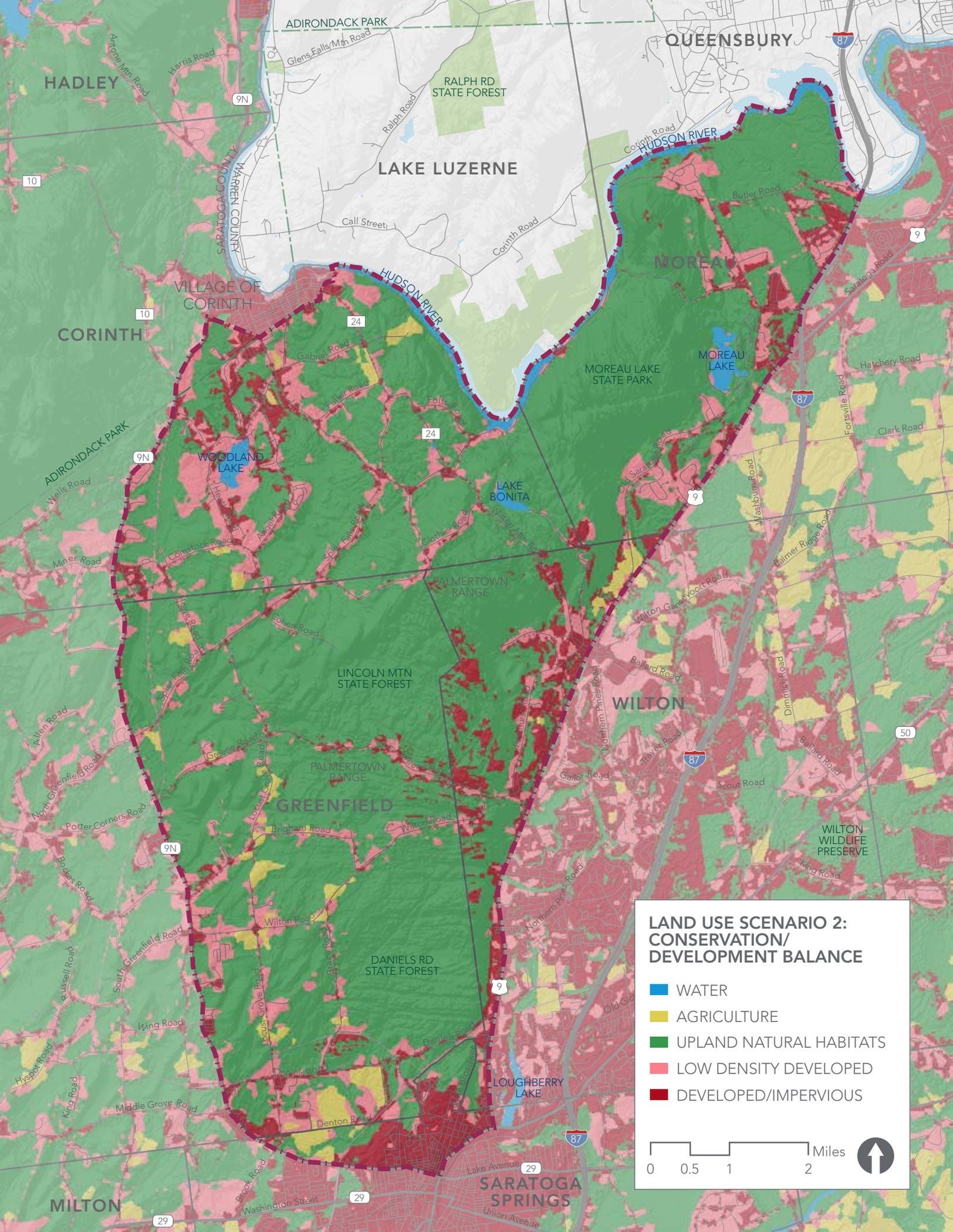
**DECREASE IN
UPLAND NATURAL HABITAT**



**CHANGE IN
LOW DENSITY DEVELOPED LAND**



**INCREASE IN
DEVELOPED/IMPERVIOUS LAND**



**LAND USE SCENARIO 2:
CONSERVATION/
DEVELOPMENT BALANCE**

- WATER
- AGRICULTURE
- UPLAND NATURAL HABITATS
- LOW DENSITY DEVELOPED
- DEVELOPED/IMPERVIOUS

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

ADIRONDACK PARK

QUEENSBURY

HADLEY

RALPH RD STATE FOREST

LAKE LUZERNE

MOREAU

VILLAGE OF CORINTH

CORINTH

MOREAU LAKE STATE PARK

MOREAU LAKE

WOODLAND LAKE

LAKE BONITA

ADIRONDACK PARK

ALMERTOWN RANGE

WILTON

LINCOLN MTN STATE FOREST

PALMERTOWN RANGE

GREENFIELD

DANIELS RD STATE FOREST

LOUGHBERRY LAKE

WILTON WILDLIFE PRESERVE

MILTON

SARATOGA SPRINGS



RESOURCES PROTECTED BY SCENARIO 3

- **“Above Average” Terrestrial Resilience**
- **Groundwater Recharge (Greater than 12 Inches)**
- **High Predicted Growth Areas that do not overlap with existing Low Density Developed Land**
- Agricultural Land
- Recreation Corridor Parcels
- “Far Above Average” Terrestrial Resilience
- Low Predicted Growth Areas
- Medium Predicted Growth Areas
- Water and Wetland Features
- Conservation Land

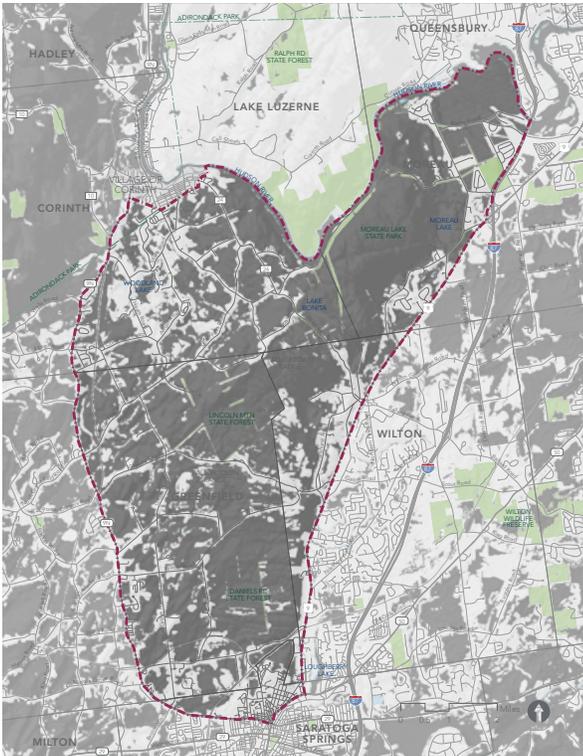
NEW CONSIDERATIONS

INCLUDED IN SCENARIOS 1 & 2

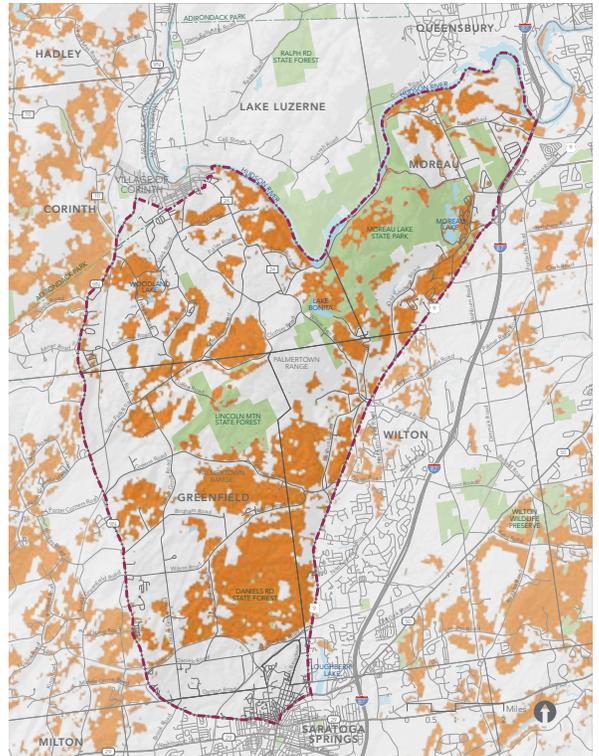
ASSUMPTIONS:

The following assumptions were made when determining Land Use Scenario 3:

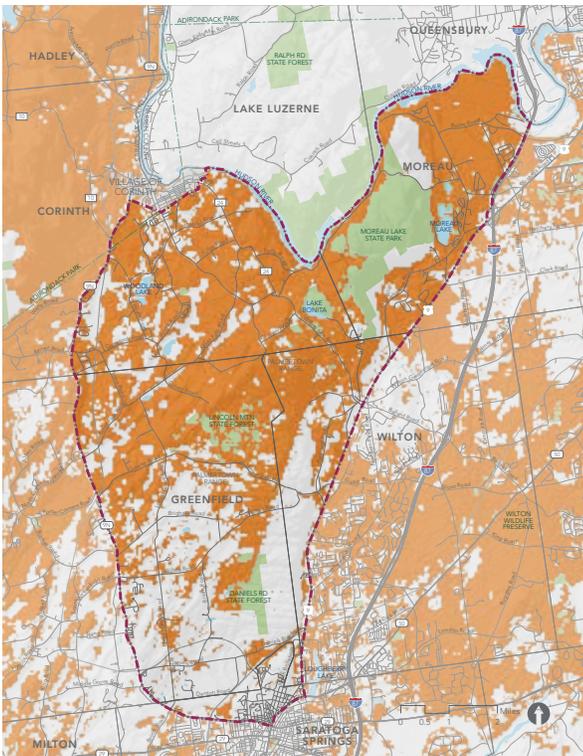
- Development of a trail from Moreau Lake State Park and Daniels Road State Forest is possible
- Existing Low Density Development land uses will remain where these uses do not overlap with high predicted growth areas
- Existing Developed/Impervious land uses will remain
- New growth is focused in “High” predicted growth areas that overlap with existing “Low Density Development” land uses
- New growth will be “Developed/Impervious” land uses



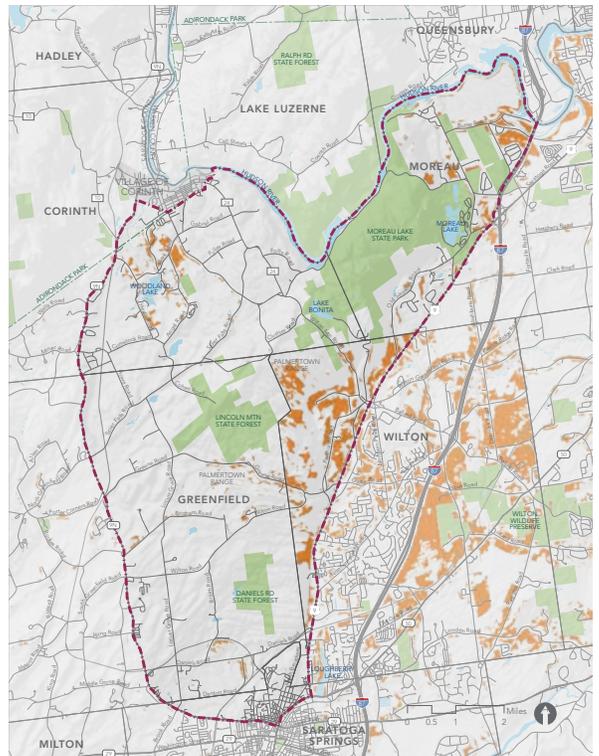
PREVIOUSLY ELIMINATED
(FROM SCENARIOS 1 & 2)



TERRESTRIAL RESILIENCE
(ABOVE AVERAGE)



GROUNDWATER RECHARGE
(>12 INCHES)



HIGH PREDICTED GROWTH
(NOT OVERLAPPING WITH EXISTING
LOW DENSITY DEVELOPED LAND)



STRONG CONSERVATION EMPHASIS

LAND USE SCENARIO 3

DESCRIPTION

The Strong Conservation Emphasis Land Use Scenario was created to show the effect conservation- and recreation-oriented and forestry-based economic development and strong conservation-oriented land use strategies may have on the landscape within Southern Palmertown. This scenario builds off of the conservation areas included in Land Use Scenarios 1 and 2. In addition to managing development on previously listed land uses, this scenario prohibits development on lands of "Above Average" terrestrial resilience and where the capacity for groundwater recharge is greater than 12 inches on average. This scenario focuses on conserving all existing open space land uses and densifying existing developed land uses. Any new development, which is assumed to be "Developed/Impervious" uses, is assumed to occur where High Predicted Growth Areas overlap with Existing "Low Density Developed" land.

This scenario assumes all existing Developed/Impervious land will remain unchanged. All new development is assumed to be Developed/Impervious land. New development is concentrated in High Predicted Growth Areas that overlap with Existing "Low Density Developed" land. This practice will reduce sprawl, ultimately conserving the existing landscape in Southern Palmertown.

Areas which are likely to develop in this scenario include: former McGregor prison, areas around Exits 16 and 17, Woodland lake, edges along Routes 9, 9N and Corinth, and major East-West corridors such as Denton Road, Daniels Road, Wilton Road, Brigham Road, Greene Road, and Spier Falls Road.

In comparison to Scenarios 1 and 2, this Strong Conservation Emphasis Scenario has no change to the natural landscape. Therefore, there is no change to the amount of Agricultural land or the Upland Natural Habitat in the study area.

In this scenario, the amount of Low Density Developed land drops from 5,312 acres to 3,890 acres, a 27% decrease and the amount of Developed/Impervious land grows from 2,360 acres to 3,782 acres, a 60% increase.

DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Reduced new sprawl development, such as Low Density Developed Land Uses.
- Densify existing development (converting some Low Density Developed Land to Developed/Impervious Land).
- Encourage conservation- and recreation-oriented economic development, including sustainable forestry, tourism and trails.



NO CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL LAND



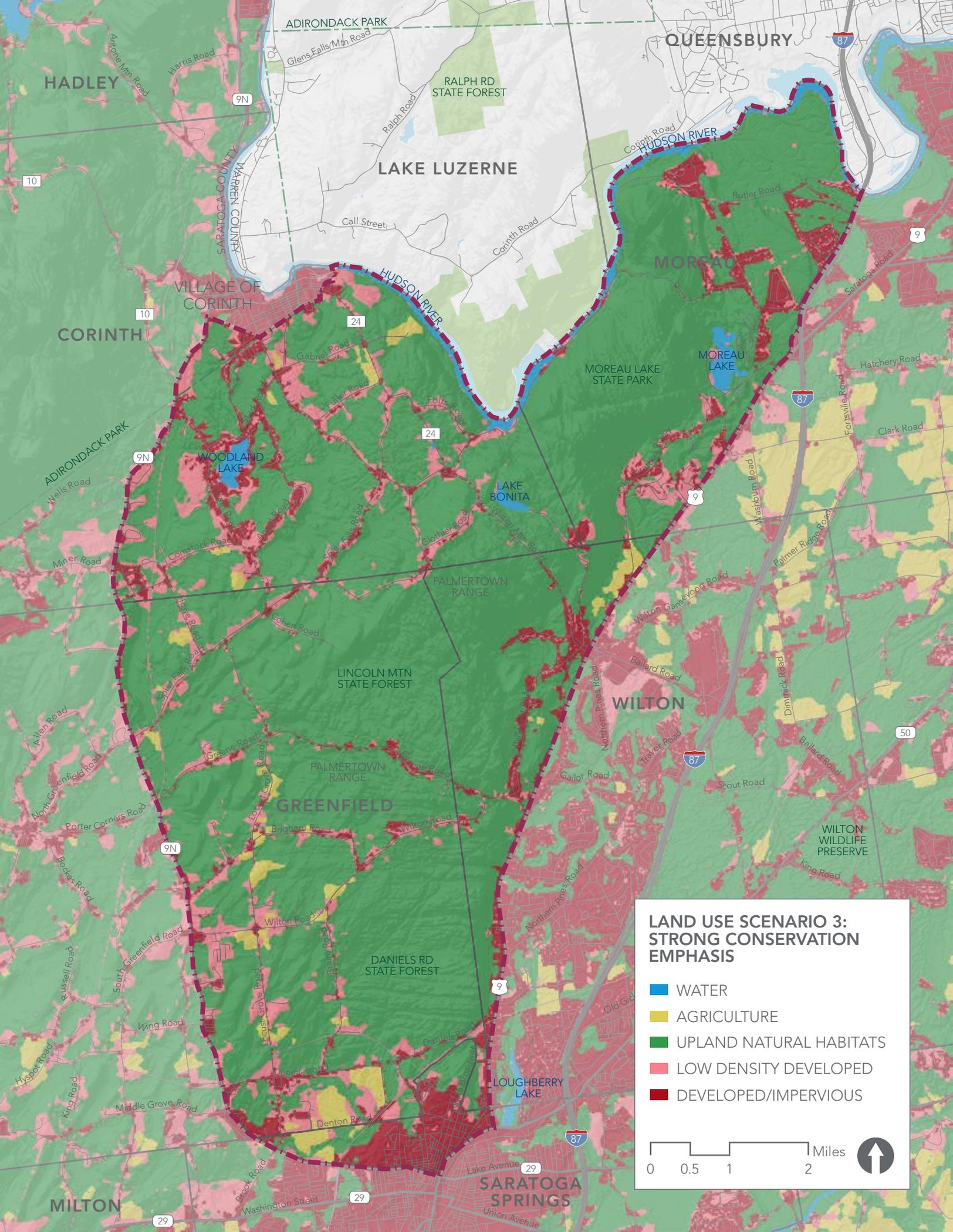
NO CHANGE IN UPLAND NATURAL HABITAT



DECREASE IN LOW DENSITY DEVELOPED LAND



INCREASE IN DEVELOPED/IMPERVIOUS LAND



ADIRONDACK PARK

QUEENSBURY

HADLEY

RALPH RD STATE FOREST

LAKE LUZERNE

MOREAU

VILLAGE OF CORINTH

CORINTH

MOREAU LAKE STATE PARK

MOREAU LAKE

WOODLAND LAKE

LAKE BONITA

PALMERTOWN RANGE

LINCOLN MTN STATE FOREST

WILTON

GREENFIELD

PALMERTOWN RANGE

DANIELS RD STATE FOREST

LOUGHBERRY LAKE

WILTON WILDLIFE PRESERVE

MILTON

SARATOGA SPRINGS

LAND USE SCENARIO 3: STRONG CONSERVATION EMPHASIS

- WATER
- AGRICULTURE
- UPLAND NATURAL HABITATS
- LOW DENSITY DEVELOPED
- DEVELOPED/IMPERVIOUS

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



LAND USE SCENARIO SUMMARY

The three Land Use Scenarios estimate how certain development practices and conservation strategies may effect the future of the Southern Palmetown landscape.

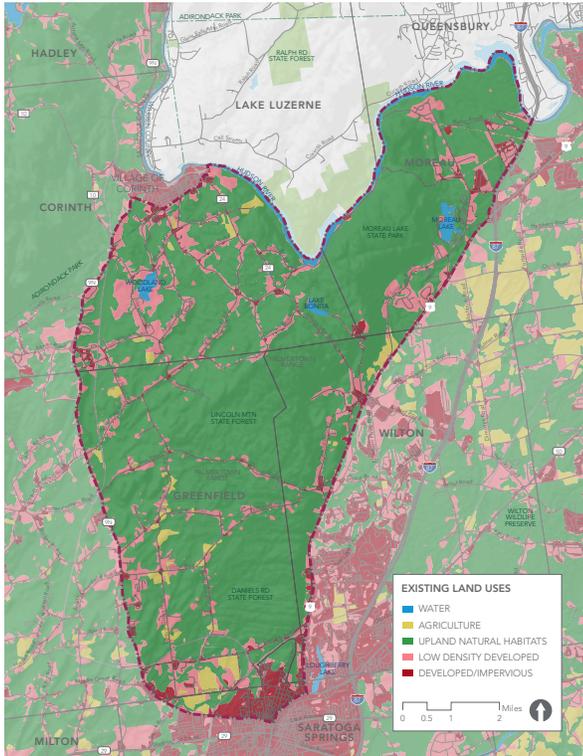
Table 5 gives an overview of the Conservation Areas within each Land Use Scenario. A side-by-side comparison of the Existing Land Use Map as well as all three Land Use Scenarios is supplied on the adjacent page.

Table 6 includes a summary of the percent and acreage changes within each Land Use Scenario. Additional graphics provide a visual representation of the change in acreage as well as Key Takeaways from this analysis.

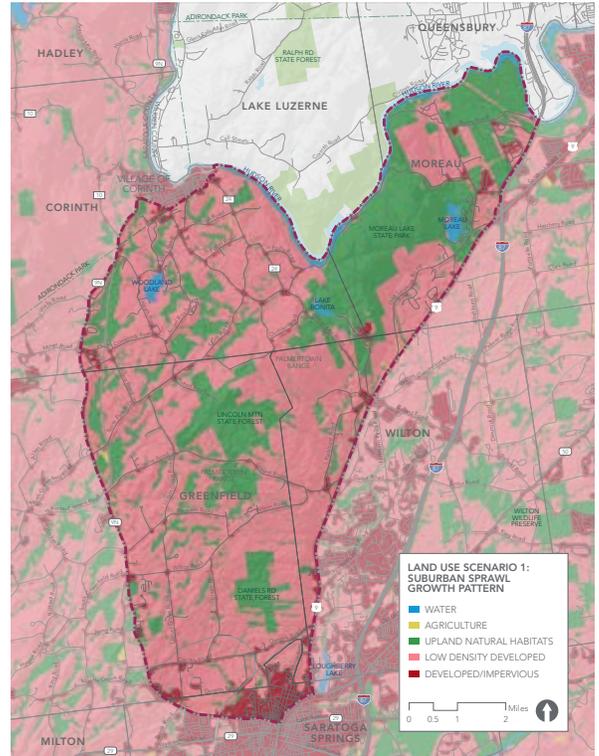
This analysis will be used in conjunction with the outcomes from the public engagement strategies, conservation analysis, and recreation analysis to determine appropriate recommendations within Southern Palmetown.

Table 5: Considerations Used for Scenarios

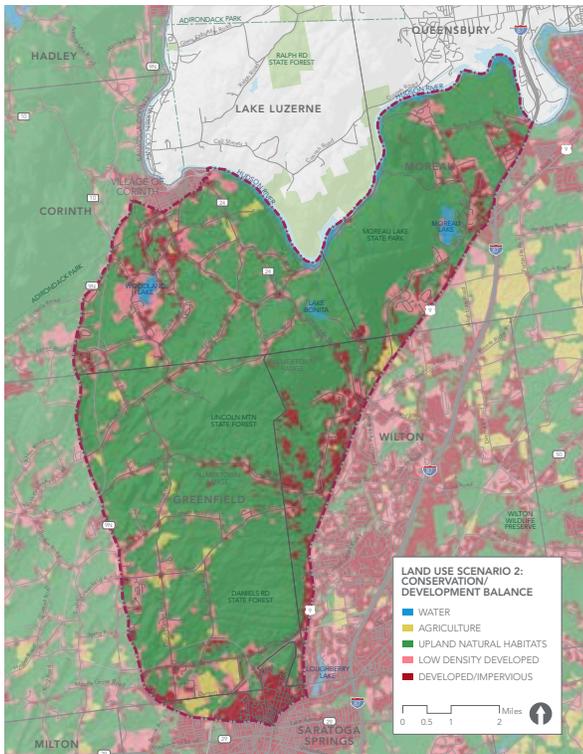
		SCENARIO 1 SUBURBAN SPRAWL GROWTH PATTERN	SCENARIO 2 CONSERVATION/ DEVELOPMENT BALANCE	SCENARIO 3 STRONG CONSERVATION EMPHASIS
AREAS OF CONSIDERATION	Water & Wetlands	•	•	•
	Conservation Land	•	•	•
	Agricultural Land		•	•
	Ridge Trail Parcels		•	•
	"Far Above Average" Terrestrial Resilience		•	•
	"Above Average" Terrestrial Resilience			•
	Groundwater Recharge (Greater than 12 Inches)			•
	Low Predicted Growth Areas		•	•
	Medium Predicted Growth Areas		•	•
	High Predicted Growth Areas (Not overlapping with Existing Low Density Developed Land)			•



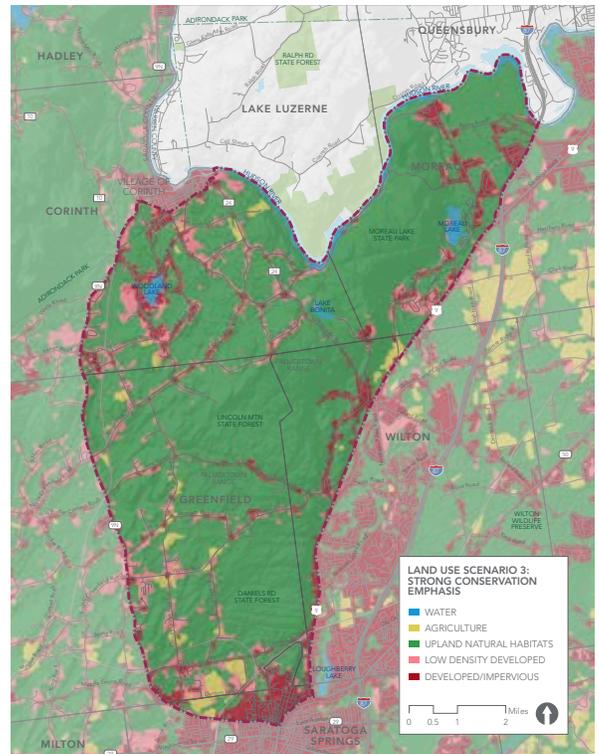
EXISTING LAND USES



SUBURBAN SPRAWL GROWTH PATTERN LAND USE SCENARIO 1



CONSERVATION/ DEVELOPMENT BALANCE LAND USE SCENARIO 2

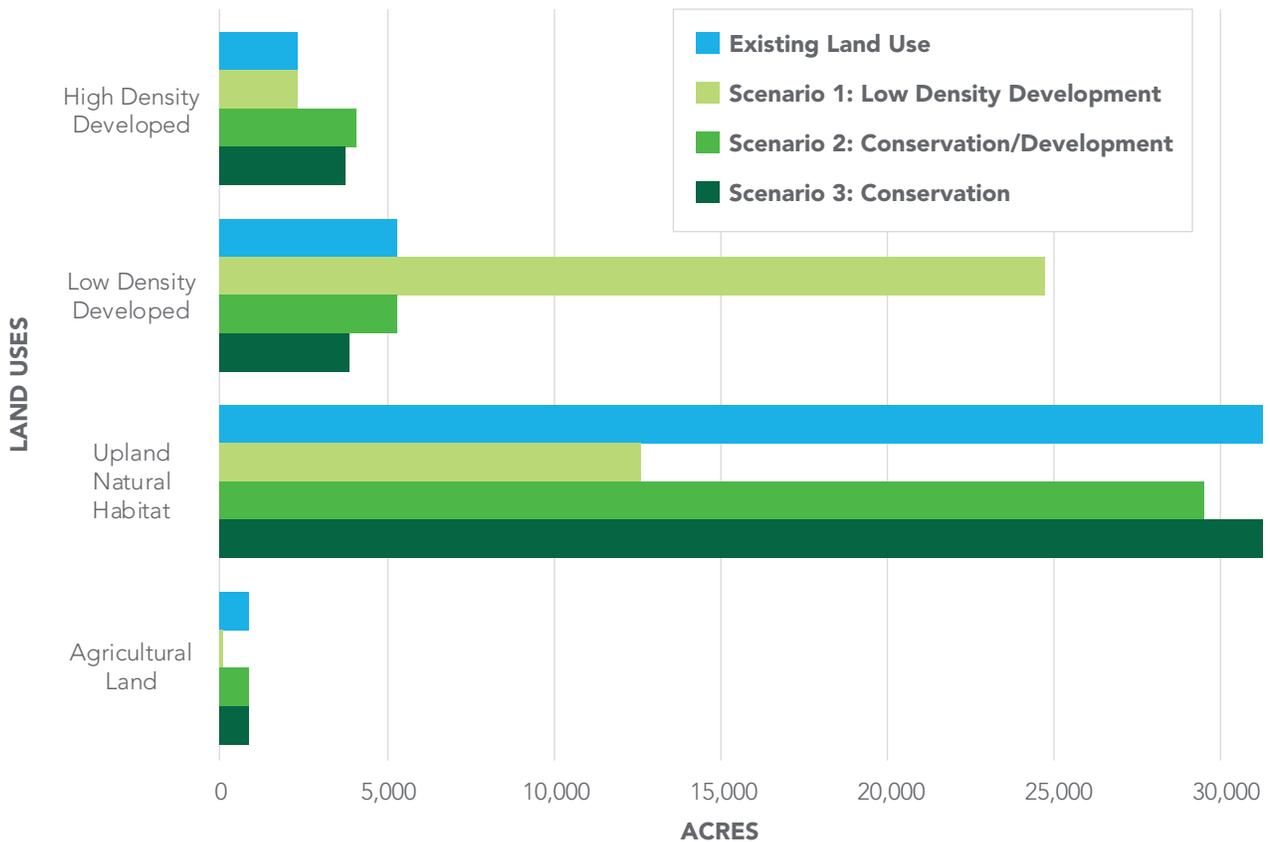


STRONG CONSERVATION EMPHASIS LAND USE SCENARIO 3

Table 6: Comparison of Land Use Scenario Acreage Changes

	EXISTING LAND USE	SCENARIO 1 SUBURBAN SPRAWL GROWTH PATTERN		SCENARIO 2 CONSERVATION/ DEVELOPMENT BALANCE		SCENARIO 3 STRONG CONSERVATION EMPHASIS	
		Acreage	Acreage	Percent Change	Acreage	Percent Change	Acreage
Water	692	692	0%	692	0%	692	0%
Agricultural Land	887	88	-90.1%	887	0%	887	0%
Upland Natural Habitat	31,179	12,600	-59.6%	29,452	-5.5%	31,179	0%
Low Density Developed	5,312	24,690	+364.8%	5,312	0%	3,890	-26.8%
Developed/ Impervious	2,360	2,360	0%	4,087	+73.2%	3,782	+60.3%

Land Use Scenario Acreage Comparison*



*Water was not included in the graphic as it remains the same across all alternatives

LAND USE SCENARIO KEY TAKEAWAYS



SCENARIO 1 SUBURBAN SPRAWL GROWTH PATTERN

- Low Density Development Patterns
- Minimal Conservation Strategies
- Lose 60% of Upland Natural Habitat
- Lose 90% of Agricultural Land



SCENARIO 2 CONSERVATION/DEVELOPMENT BALANCE

- Moderate High Density Development Patterns
- Moderate Conservation Strategies
- Lose 6% of Upland Natural Habitat
- No change in Agricultural Land



SCENARIO 3 STRONG CONSERVATION EMPHASIS

- Strategic High Density Development Patterns
- Strong Conservation Strategies
- No change in Upland Natural Habitat or Agricultural Land



Lake Bonita - Existing Conserved Land

CHAPTER 5

MAKING THE CONNECTION

Three recommendations sections and maps were developed to highlight specific recommendations as well as best practices and policies related to:



Conservation



Recreation



Economic Development

This study demonstrates that the land and communities along the Palmertown Ridge serve an important role as the ecological, cultural, agricultural and recreational connection between the Adirondack Park, the upper Hudson River Valley, and the Green Mountains National Forest.

The greatest potential for capitalizing on these values in a meaningful way will be realized when community members and stakeholders invest in and work collaboratively towards the unified goal of a thriving natural resource-based recreational economy.



Hudson River North of the Town of Moreau

INTRODUCTION

This Plan provides ample evidence of this region's potential as a conservation and recreation-based economy. When managed according to the recommendations of this Plan the forests of the Palmertown Range can serve as a reliable economic engine for the community by providing forest products such as maple syrup, timber products like paper or lumber, and artisan woodcrafts. The myriad of charismatic ecosystems, flora, and fauna found in the Palmertown Range can serve as an economic and quality of life asset for the community by providing place-based recreation unique to the location relative to the Adirondacks, the Green Mountains, and the Hudson River. Simultaneously, intentional management of these resources can provide fresh, clean drinking water while also protecting the local communities from the adverse effects of climate change by protecting habitats and ecosystems that are climate change resilient.

The area's wetlands, aquifer, and stream corridors are significant resources for local water supplies including the watersheds for Saratoga Springs, Wilton, and Corinth, as well as the Snook Kill, Kayaderosseras, Saratoga Lake, pure Hudson River water that supplies Saratoga County and the Global Foundries nanotechnology site in Malta. In addition, the Hudson River also provides a significant clean energy source at the Spier Falls dam, further demonstrating the long term value of ensuring a sustainable approach to the area's future.

Ideally, the lands in the study area will be seen as a significant resource to capitalize on for both their conservation and recreation potential to support a sustainable local economy. This Plan aims to utilize recreation opportunities as a catalyst for land conservation. Tourism and recreation activities driven by conservation practices are key components to the area's success. The following recommendations are key steps to move forward in this direction.

SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

A Southern Palmertown Guidance Committee should be formed to advise, support, and oversee the implementation of this plan by local partners and government agencies. The goal of this Committee is to ensure that the recommendations from this plan are implemented. The most important function of the Committee is to keep the network of partners engaged in the implementation of their respective recommendations and adapt the implementation strategy to meet the needs of the partner groups. To establish a functioning committee, the following will need to take place:

Identify a lead local agency, such as Saratoga PLAN, to house the Committee and guide the initial framework until the Committee can operate independently.

The core Committee - whose initial membership will be comprised of a representatives from the client group of this master plan in addition to local municipal leaders, local landowners, and

businesses who are representative of the area. The core Committee will reach out to these owners and businesses and activate them as: a) committee members; or b) community thought partners, depending on interest.

The committee will commence an inaugural meeting by the end of 2018 to review the recommendations from this plan and outline the roles, expectations and anticipated scheduling and/or phasing of implementation.

The Committee will meet at regular intervals to review the progress of the plan's implementation and adjust or make recommendations according to need.

The Committee will oversee the next steps for the plan, the most important of which is the development of a cohesive strategy for branding and wayfinding throughout the Southern Palmertown.



CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES

- Create a connected and protected landscape of forests, agricultural lands, and significant natural communities which results in a region that is able to adapt to climate change and protect an important area for groundwater recharge.
- Adopt this Plan as a compliment to each local community's current comprehensive plan. Present plan to planning boards and encourage planning boards to compare development proposals to Plan and to seek perspective of conservation organizations on site plans. Cultivate and train active citizens to monitor and/or serve on town and planning boards in their home town and to advocate for conservation and outdoor recreation in the southern Palmertown area.
- Review and amend local zoning codes to align sustainable economic development with long-term conservation values.
- Work with landowners and developers to identify key habitat locations and conservation opportunities.
- Build consensus among adjacent communities and business leaders that the watershed value and economic potential afforded by extensive natural lands are vital to the continued vibrancy of our locales.
- Conduct education and advocacy programs on public lands or land controlled by land trusts.
- Identify appropriate economic activities and public recreation uses for individual conservation areas that enhance the landscape without negatively affecting natural resources

SPECIFIC CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

ACQUIRE LAND OR SECURE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS BASED ON THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN THIS PLAN.

LAND TRUSTS

- Establish relationships with key landowners and offer conservation options.
- Identify and secure funding sources and grants:
 - Environmental Protection Fund (EPF),
 - Federal and State funding for farmland Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) easements,
 - NYS Conservation Partnership Program,
 - County Open Space Fund, and
 - Open Space Institute Small Grants Program.
- Complete the transaction-related due diligence.
- Integrate the recommendations of this Plan into appropriate open space and management plans.

BUSINESSES/COMMERCIAL

- Consult with land trusts and local government on regional conservation priorities during review of development proposals in order to incorporate goals.
- Sponsorship/philanthropic adoption of non-profit land acquisitions that protect watershed lands.
- Contact local land trusts to gauge interest prior to sales of excess lands.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Using this Plan as a base, engage and coordinate in master planning and conservation planning.
- Provide matching funds for grants for conservation efforts with cash or in-kind services.
- Sponsor or coordinate educational opportunities to teach about the importance of forest protection.
- Familiarize Planning Boards with the Plan and use the Plan to guide review and recommendations of development proposals.

LANDOWNERS

- Reach out to local land trusts to indicate interest in protecting land and to learn about conservation and estate planning options.
- Develop succession plan for property prioritizing land conservation.
- Work with local land trusts, New York Forest Owners Assoc. (NYFOA), Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop land management plans that integrate into the recommendations from this initiative.
- Collaborate on an open space and conservation plan in coordination with local governments and land trusts.

ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A COMMUNITY FOREST WITHIN THE STUDY AREA.

LAND TRUSTS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Identify joint roles in Community Forest project and enter into framework memorandum of understanding (MOU).
- Establish an overseeing Community Forest Committee for long term sustainable land use management.
- Search for and identify appropriate property in collaboration with the Community Forest Committee.
- Identify and secure funding sources and grants:
 - County Open Space Fund,
 - Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Parks Open Space Funding,
 - Federal Community Forest Fund, and
 - NYS Conservation Partnership Program.

- Forestry education program on site.
- Acquire property and do transaction-related due diligence.
- Develop and implement long term sustainable management plan.

LANDOWNERS

- Support project at planning board and other town meetings.
- Participate as Committee member or volunteer for ongoing management of Community Forest.

BUSINESSES/COMMERCIAL

- Support through business sponsorship of specific programs and employee volunteer days.
- Identify and implement ways to financially benefit from the community forest.

ONGOING CONSERVATION EDUCATION, PROGRAMMING, AND/OR ADVOCACY.

LAND TRUSTS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- In collaboration with local and county governments and steered by the Guidance Committee, hire a person to direct the long term implementation of the plan within Southern Palmertown.
- Provide training to local planning and zoning officials about key conservation issues in the area.

- Continue leading tours, educational events, and media outreach to create a 'conservation culture' within local communities.

LANDOWNERS & BUSINESSES/COMMERCIAL

- Participate in conservation education, programming, and advocacy events.

COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP A STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE.

LAND TRUSTS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Develop stewardship programs within the study that reflect the values of this Plan.
- Identify appropriate projects and lands.
- Provide access to lands for identified stewardship projects.
- Outreach to local schools, academic institutions, and service organizations for interest in stewardship programs and projects.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation tools to determine success of stewardship programs.

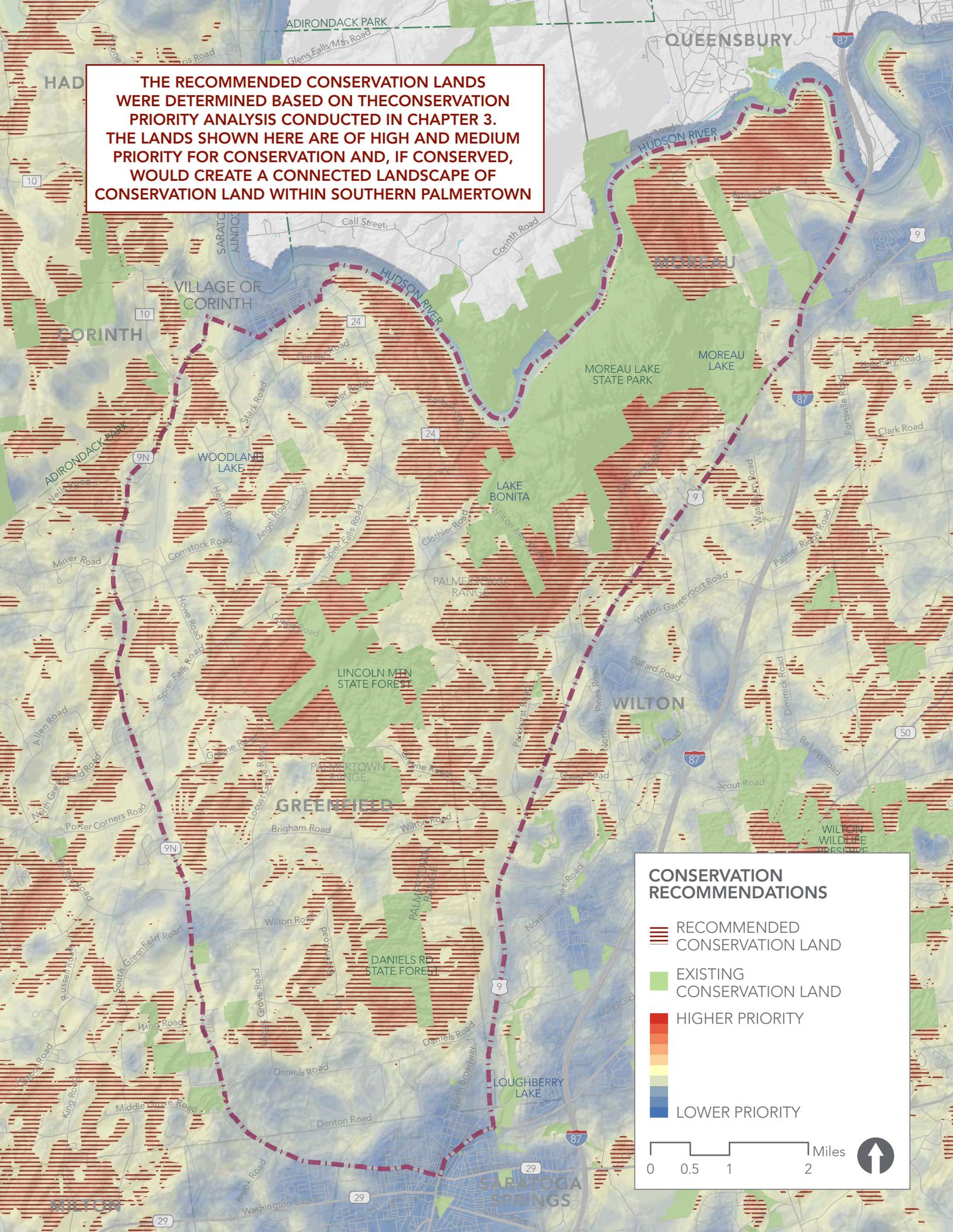
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Provide opportunities for student led research projects, field trips, learning expeditions and outdoor education initiatives.
- Skidmore College, School districts, Adirondack Community College, Friends of Kaydeross, Adirondack Mountain Club, Friends of Moreau Lake State Park, Friends of Grants Cottage, Wilton Historical Society, Greenfield Historical Society, Saratoga Stryders, Saratoga Back Country Horsemen, Saratoga Lake Association, Audubon, Local and Regional Hunting and Snowmobile Clubs, Boy Scout Troops, etc.

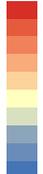
A GRAPHICALLY LINKED COMPREHENSIVE INTERPRETIVE PLAN SHOULD BE COMPLETED TO TELL THE STORY OF THIS PLACE.

- The steering committee should seek planning funding to develop:
 1. A comprehensive interpretive plan for the region, and;
 2. Wayfinding and branding standards.
- Coordination between the municipalities will be essential.

THE RECOMMENDED CONSERVATION LANDS WERE DETERMINED BASED ON THE CONSERVATION PRIORITY ANALYSIS CONDUCTED IN CHAPTER 3. THE LANDS SHOWN HERE ARE OF HIGH AND MEDIUM PRIORITY FOR CONSERVATION AND, IF CONSERVED, WOULD CREATE A CONNECTED LANDSCAPE OF CONSERVATION LAND WITHIN SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN



CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

-  RECOMMENDED CONSERVATION LAND
-  EXISTING CONSERVATION LAND
-  HIGHER PRIORITY
-  LOWER PRIORITY

0 0.5 1 2 Miles 

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RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS

POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES

- Promote year round non-motorized trail recreation, complimented by snowmobiling in designated areas in the winter.
- Coordinate with the Saratoga County-wide Trails Committee, Saratoga Mountain Bike Assoc. (SMBA), Adirondack Mountain Club, Saratoga Back Country Horseman (SBCH), and others to ensure that future opportunities for all trail users are realized.
- Emphasize sustainable design and responsible shared use of recreation lands with all trail user groups (hikers, bikers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, snowmobilers, horseback riders, hunters, anglers, etc.).
- Follow industry standards for appropriate trail design and surfacing based on existing conditions and expected use.
- Focus on key destinations including Moreau Lake State Park, Daniels Road State Forest, and Lincoln Mountain State Forest.
- Develop gateway access points at trailheads with signage and parking accommodations for cars, bicycles, and horse trailers. Provide linkages from gateway access points to long “through” trails as well as shorter loop trails.
- In the long term, work towards a fully connected trail system that links community population centers and destinations across the area.
- Coordinate trail network development with local emergency services providers to ensure public safety.
- Follow state of the art, sustainable trail design standards.
- Site recreation opportunities to limit access to sensitive conservation areas.

SPECIFIC RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

DEVELOP A 'FRIENDS' ORGANIZATION, SEPARATE FROM THE SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN GUIDANCE COMMITTEE, TO SUPPORT ONGOING TRAIL AND OUTDOOR RECREATION SUCH AS TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

LAND TRUSTS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Provide support for 'Friends' group with access to lands for trail construction and maintenance.
- Partner with Saratoga Mountain Bike Assoc. (SMBA), Adirondack Mountain Club, and Saratoga Back Country Horsemen to create a volunteer stewards group for Lincoln Mountain State Forest.
- Apply for grants to plan, design, build, and maintain trails.

LAND OWNERS

- Volunteer to participate.

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL

- Sponsor trail activities and employee service days in collaboration with the 'Friends' group.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Provide opportunities for outdoor education, student research projects, and volunteer days to contribute to the effort.



Enlist Volunteers for Trail Construction and Maintenance

Source: ADK Mountain Club

COMPLETE LAND ACQUISITIONS/EASEMENTS FOR A TRAIL FROM MOREAU LAKE STATE PARK TO DANIELS ROAD STATE FOREST, COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS TRAIL, AND PUT A TRAIL STEWARDSHIP PLAN IN PLACE.

LAND TRUSTS

- Outreach to local landowners.
- Serve as land acquisition and transaction specialists.
- Work to acquire lands or easements that are connected.
- Undertake trail construction or initiate public-private partnerships or grant funded opportunities for construction.
- Develop a trail stewardship plan.
- Promote and educate the public on the benefits of land conservation and trail development.

LANDOWNERS

- Be open to learning about and considering linear use, trail easements or land acquisition.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Support acquisition efforts by land trusts.
- Provide information about conservation priorities to municipal departments and encourage departments to search for and flag opportunities for acquisition and/or trails development.
- Undertake or assume responsibility for construction or initiate public-private partnerships or grant funded opportunities for construction.

BUSINESSES/COMMERCIAL

- Consider Ridge Trail in development planning.
- Sponsor acquisitions and construction efforts.

IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT FACILITIES FOR SPECIFIC USES TO ACCOMMODATE ALL ABILITIES IN KEY DESTINATIONS SUCH AS MOREAU LAKE STATE PARK, DANIELS ROAD STATE FOREST, AND LINCOLN MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST AS APPROPRIATE (Ex: hiking trails appropriate for families vs trails appropriate for long distance backpackers; beginner mountain biking trails vs advance mountain biking trails; etc.).

LAND TRUSTS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Work across municipal boundaries to plan regionally to create connected trail networks.
- Hire experts to determine appropriate locations for various types of recreation activities and to design appropriate recreation facilities for all abilities, including wheelchairs.

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL

- Sponsor construction of recreation facilities.
- Volunteer to help with implementation of recreation facilities.
- Consider recreation priorities in development planning.

LANDOWNERS

- Offer land for easements or acquisition.
- Volunteer to help with implementation of recreation facilities.

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE WAYFINDING PLAN FOR SOUTHERN PALMERTOWN.

LAND TRUSTS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Apply for grant funding for a wayfinding plan.
- Hire experts to conduct a wayfinding plan.

CONSTRUCT GATEWAYS AT MAJOR RECREATION HUBS SUCH AS MOREAU LAKE AND SARATOGA SPA STATE PARKS AND DANIELS ROAD AND LINCOLN MOUNTAIN STATE FORESTS.

LAND TRUSTS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Apply for grant funding for design and construction of gateways for the Southern Palmertown area.
- Hire experts to design gateways.

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL

- Sponsor construction of gateways.

PROVIDE LIMITED TRAIL ACCESS WITH AN EDUCATIONAL OR INTERPRETIVE FOCUS IN LINCOLN MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST AND OTHER LOCATIONS WITH SIGNIFICANT CONSERVATION VALUES.

LAND TRUSTS

- Outreach to local landowners.
- Serve as land acquisition and transaction specialists.
- Work to acquire lands or easements that are connected.
- Promote and educate the public on the benefits of land conservation.

LANDOWNERS

- Be open to learning about and considering conservation easements or land acquisition options.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Support acquisition efforts by land trusts.
- Provide information about conservation priorities to municipal departments and encourage departments to search for and flag opportunities for acquisition.

BUSINESSES/COMMERCIAL

- Consider conservation priorities in development planning.
- Sponsor acquisitions and conservation efforts.

COMPLETE THE SARATOGA GREENBELT TRAIL.

LAND TRUSTS

- Acquire lands or easements as needed.
- Collaborate with the Saratoga Greenbelt Trail (SGBT) in order to connect to the Saratoga Greenbelt Trail and planned or existing trails in Corinth, Wilton, and Moreau.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Undertake construction or initiate public-private partnerships or grant funded opportunities for construction.

BUSINESSES/COMMERCIAL

- Sponsor trail construction/acquisition efforts.

CONVERT THE SARATOGA AND NORTH CREEK RAILWAY TO A SHARED-USE TRAIL IF RAILROAD OPERATIONS ARE DISCONTINUED AND CREATE A TRAIL WHERE FEASIBLE ALONG THE FORMER RAIL LINE TO GRANT'S COTTAGE

LAND TRUSTS

- Acquire adjacent lands and provide easements for access at intermediate points along the North Creek Railway.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Responsible for construction or initiating public-private partnerships or grant funded opportunities for construction.

BUSINESSES/COMMERCIAL

- Sponsor trail construction/acquisition efforts.

LANDOWNERS

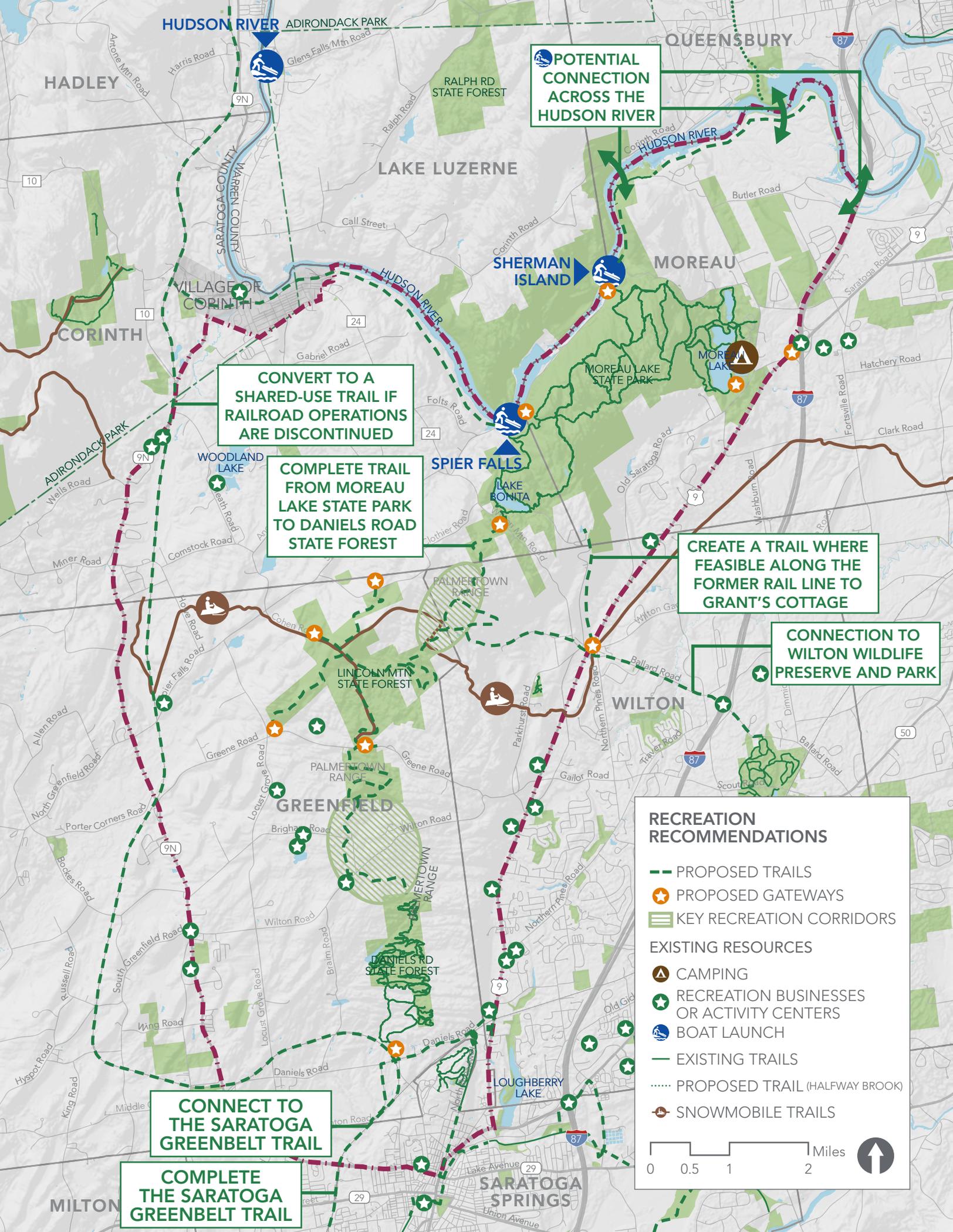
- Provide easements for access at intermediate points along the North Creek Railway.

PROVIDE A CONNECTION FOR TRAIL USERS BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MOREAU AND THE TOWN OF QUEENSBURY.

- There is the potential to provide a connection across the Hudson River to connect the trails within the Town of Moreau to trails in the Town of Queensbury. This may be done by way of:
 1. A ferry across the Hudson River,
 2. Built into future improvements to the I-87 bridge, and/or
 3. Boat launches on either side of the Hudson River.

MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE SCENIC QUALITY OF ROADS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA FOR ALL USERS.

- Entities with road maintenance responsibilities need to maintain high-quality road conditions and ensure roads are safe and scenic for all users.



POTENTIAL CONNECTION ACROSS THE HUDSON RIVER

CONVERT TO A SHARED-USE TRAIL IF RAILROAD OPERATIONS ARE DISCONTINUED

COMPLETE TRAIL FROM MOREAU LAKE STATE PARK TO DANIELS ROAD STATE FOREST

CREATE A TRAIL WHERE FEASIBLE ALONG THE FORMER RAIL LINE TO GRANT'S COTTAGE

CONNECTION TO WILTON WILDLIFE PRESERVE AND PARK

CONNECT TO THE SARATOGA GREENBELT TRAIL

COMPLETE THE SARATOGA GREENBELT TRAIL

RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- PROPOSED TRAILS
- ★ PROPOSED GATEWAYS
- KEY RECREATION CORRIDORS

EXISTING RESOURCES

- ▲ CAMPING
- ★ RECREATION BUSINESSES OR ACTIVITY CENTERS
- ⚓ BOAT LAUNCH
- EXISTING TRAILS
- ⋯ PROPOSED TRAIL (HALFWAY BROOK)
- ⚓ SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

0 0.5 1 2 Miles ↑

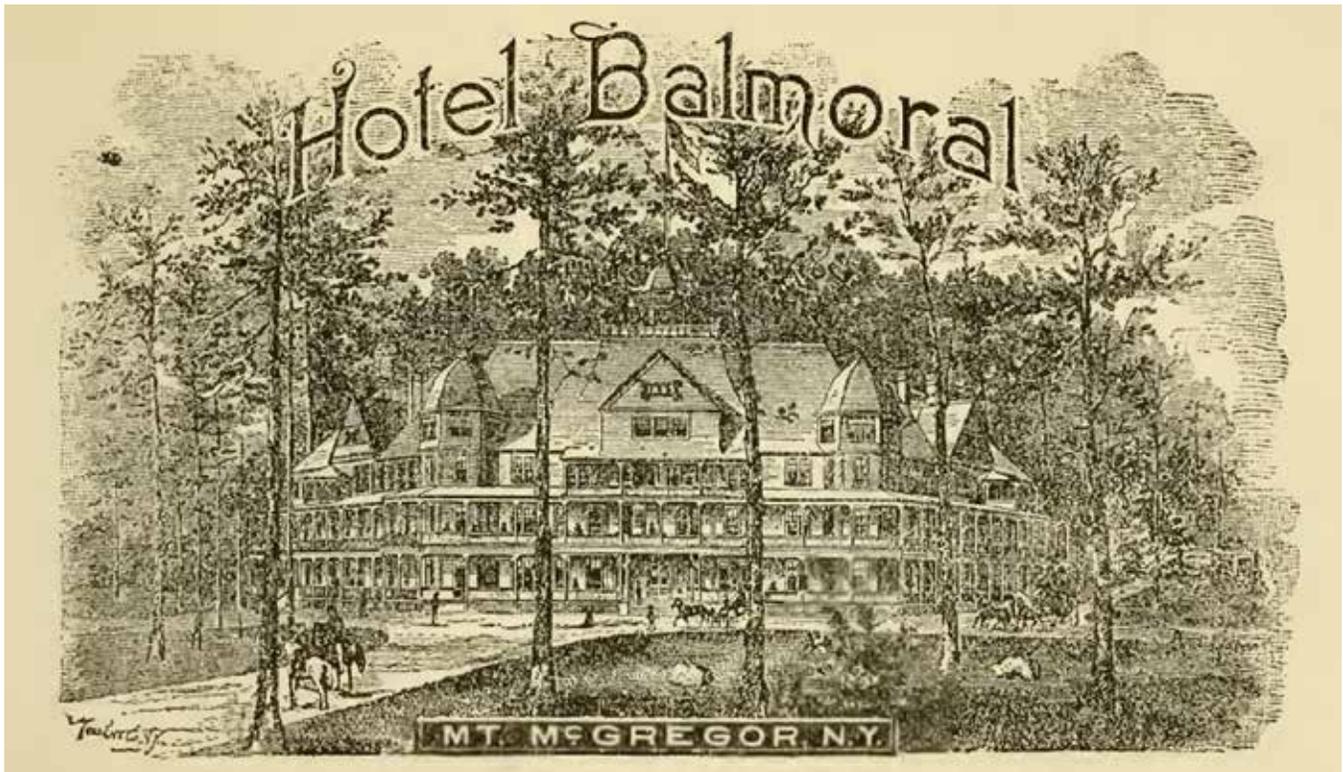
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ECONOMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES

- Work with the SEDC, Chamber of Commerce, Alliance for the Creative Economy, the Prosperity Partnership and the business community to ensure the area's economic development is compatible with the landscape.
- Encourage conservation and recreation oriented land uses and development patterns across jurisdictions.
- Support markets and incentives for sale of local forestry and agriculture products.
- Promote hike and bike friendly communities within the region.
- Strategically site economic generators to enhance and protect the natural landscape.
- Businesses that require land development should locate to currently developed lands.



Hotel Balmoral, 1886

Source: Henry Lee

The Hotel Balmoral stood at the top of Mount McGregor, near Saratoga Springs, NY, from 1883-1897

SPECIFIC ECONOMIC RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

ENGAGE IN A BRANDING EXERCISE FOR THE STUDY AREA TO DETERMINE AN IDENTITY FOR THE REGION, INCLUDING A FINAL NAME, GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION AND MARKETING STRATEGY.

- This effort will be led by the steering committee but will seek input and involvement from the all of the stakeholders.
- It will be the responsibility of the stakeholders to “claim the brand, claim the name” and make this place resonate.
- Seek funding from economic development programs (such as the Regional Economic Development Council) to develop brand and marketing strategy.
- Must include considerable participation from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, in order to create cohesive branding on both private and state lands in the region.

FACILITATE TRAIL-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT, ECO-TOURISM, AND RECREATION-BASED TOURISM BUSINESSES, INCLUDING LODGING, RESTAURANTS AND CAFES, RENTAL SHOPS, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND GUIDE SERVICES, CAMPING, GEOCACHING, AND RELATED BUSINESSES AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS ALONG THE TRAIL SYSTEM.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Preserve sustainable economic development opportunities.
- Revisit zoning and land use laws to promote development compatible with this Plan.
- Market and promote this area as a recreation and tourism destination.

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL

- Seek partnerships and opportunities that capitalize on the sustainable use of the region (i.e. partnerships with lodging businesses for tourists, partner with local artisans, local businesses promoting Southern Palmertown through their locally made products etc.).
- Business organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), and Prosperity Partnership should identify and recruit compatible recreation businesses.

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE BALMORAL HOTEL (MT. MCGREGOR CORRECTIONAL FACILITY) AND CONSIDER CONSERVATION OF PRIORITY LANDS WITHIN THE PROPERTY.

LAND TRUSTS

- Seek partnerships with private developers to pro-actively plan and promote this property for long-term sustainable development by developing the land with consideration of the goals referenced in this Plan.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Plan and support development that stresses long-term economic value and wealth preservation through conservation.
- Chamber of Commerce, State agencies, and others can research, reach out to, and assist with soliciting bids from potential compatible businesses (ex. McMenamins Edgefield).

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL

- Promote long-term, sustainable economic development by considering the environmental, social, and economic needs of the community. Look for expansion opportunities for existing regional businesses whose business models are supported by and support this Plan into the property.

LANDOWNERS

- Advocate for development that seeks to benefit the community over the long-term and supports the recommendations of this Plan.

COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL TOURISM ORGANIZATIONS, MUNICIPALITIES, AND THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO UTILIZE THE AREA'S RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL

- Work with the steering committee to develop and promote a cohesive vision and brand.
- Promote recreational opportunities through the "I Love New York" campaign and the Adirondack Regional Tourism Council.

LAND TRUSTS & OTHER NON PROFITS

- Develop marketing materials and mapping to share with tourism organizations.

ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT APPROPRIATE WORKING LANDSCAPES AND FOREST-BASED ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES SUCH AS FORESTRY, WOOD AND PAPER MANUFACTURING, WOODWORKING ARTISAN PRODUCTS, CHRISTMAS TREE HARVESTING, MAPLE SYRUP AND MUSHROOM PRODUCTION, AND FOREST RECREATION.

LAND TRUSTS

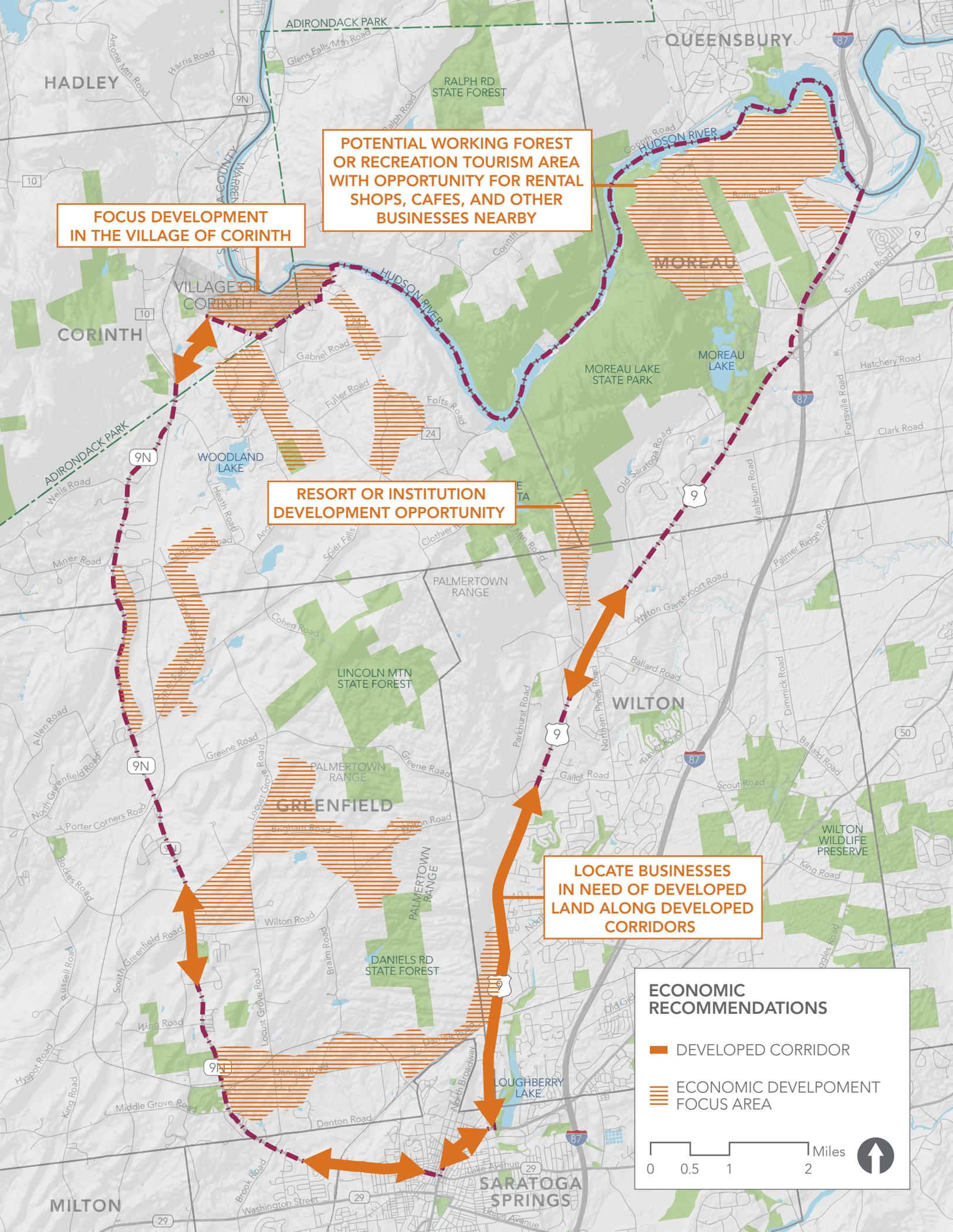
- Through purchase and agreements promote and allow for active sustainable economic activities on preserved lands.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Carefully amend local zoning laws to promote these activities.

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL & LANDOWNERS

- Promote and encourage sustainable economic development activities on private lands.
- Share a regional brand with all associated landscape-dependent businesses.



**FOCUS DEVELOPMENT
IN THE VILLAGE OF CORINTH**

**POTENTIAL WORKING FOREST
OR RECREATION TOURISM AREA
WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR RENTAL
SHOPS, CAFES, AND OTHER
BUSINESSES NEARBY**

**RESORT OR INSTITUTION
DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**LOCATE BUSINESSES
IN NEED OF DEVELOPED
LAND ALONG DEVELOPED
CORRIDORS**

**ECONOMIC
RECOMMENDATIONS**

-  DEVELOPED CORRIDOR
-  ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FOCUS AREA

0 0.5 1 2 Miles 

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NEXT STEPS

This Plan is the beginning of a new vision for this unique area. It is clearly a place with significant conservation, recreation, and economic development potential - and realizing that vision will require new partnerships. With a shared understanding of how significant this landscape is, the region's stakeholders now have the potential to create a lasting legacy for future generations.



ENDNOTES

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