

**TOWN OF ORANGE
PLANNING BOARD**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

MAY, 2012

TOWN OF ORANGE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - 2012

INTRODUCTION

In 2009, the Town of Orange determined the need to have an approach to enhancing the local economy while conserving the rural quality of life the residents enjoy. Through a series of informational meetings, the Planning Board determined that a Comprehensive Plan should function as the foundation of their efforts. Throughout this process, the Town of Orange has worked to identify common concerns, including the management of growth, possible economic development opportunities, costs and services sharing abilities and the protection of environmental and agricultural resources.

This is the first Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Orange. Currently, the Town of Orange has no land use controls.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A Comprehensive Plan articulates the vision of a community based upon specific past and expected future trends. Each community's plan is unique, addressing the areas of greatest concern to town officials and residents. According to New York State Town Law, Section 2-72-a, a Comprehensive Plan is defined as:

The materials, written and graphic, including but not limited to maps, charts, studies, resolutions, reports. And other descriptive material that identifies the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies standards, devices, and instruments for the immediate and long range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the Town.

THE TOWN OF ORANGE PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process utilized for the development of the Town of Orange Comprehensive Plan is outlined below. In summary, the Town of Orange ("the Town") determined the need to develop an approach to future economic and social development as well as environmental conservation. In 2009, the data collection and review process began, soon followed by a Public Survey for guidance. The Town of Orange Comprehensive Plan is expected to be adopted by the Town of Orange. After adoption, implementation of the plan will require a diligent and concerted effort by the Town to ensure the vision outlined is realized. Additional planning will be required as time passes. The Town should expect to review and update the Town of Orange Comprehensive Plan every 5 years. Monthly meetings to be held to ensure continued communication and additional workshops as needed.

VISION STATEMENT

PG. 2

Based on the resident survey, it is the vision of the Town of Orange to be a quality, stable place to live and be an attractive destination for visitors and tourists, while maintaining our natural beauty and rural way of life. The town will work to develop an approach for environmental conservation, focusing on opportunities for economic development that is beneficial to all, along with protection of valuable natural resources. It is the town's desire to be a well-managed community where pride in one's property is as apparent and complementary as our unique environment. (refer to appendix, page A-1)

MISSION STATEMENT

The town will work to develop an approach for environmental conservation, focusing on economic development that is beneficial to all and to protect its valuable natural resources. It is the Town's desire to be a well managed community where pride in one's property is as apparent and complementary as our unique environment.

UNDERSTANDING OUR NATURAL FEATURES

The environment is one of the foremost concerns of Town officials and residents in the Town. One of the primary reasons why people move to, or remain in the area is specifically because of the scenic views and wealth of prime fishing, hunting and outdoor activities. It is important to remember that natural features do not respect municipal boundaries. Therefore, the Town needs to work to ensure any future development will have a minimal impact on these shared assets that are so important to the Town's quality of life.

CREEKS, DRAINAGE AREAS AND FLOODPLAINS

The Town is fortunate to have a wealth of creeks and streams that should be protected to the extent practical. Creeks and streams drain from the landscape into lakes or large river systems. Western Schuyler County drains into three primary areas: Waneta, Lamoka, Seneca Lakes, and into the Chemung River.

WETLANDS

Wetlands are the filters for creeks and streams as well as the most diverse bio-habitat in Western Schuyler County. They play an essential role in the maintenance of water quality and clarity. They also provide unique habitat for fisheries, waterfowl, insects (such as dragonflies), and plant life. (refer to appendix, page A-2)

STATE FORESTS

PG. 3

A large portion of the Town of Orange is protected as State Forest due to its mix of high quality hardwoods that provide forestry opportunities, as well as unique habitat. Development within these areas is restricted by New York State due to its unique value for forestry purposes and ecological habitat. A large portion, approximately 52%, is State forest land. There is hiking, horse-back riding, and other recreational activities. Some of these areas include: Coon Hollow (over 1300 acres), Sugar Hill (over 9,000 acres), Cinnamon Lake, the Finger Lakes Hiking Trail, and Sugar Hill Fire Tower.

(refer to appendix, page A-3 and A-4)

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

New York State Agricultural Districts are managed at the county level. Every seven years, Schuyler County evaluates its Agricultural District Boundaries, at which point, farmers are allowed to join or leave the district. Being part of the district provides farmers with tax breaks and "right to farm" protection. (refer to appendix, page A-5)

EXISTING BUSINESS MIX

In general, the primary market area is the area where the Town would like to see their residents spend money. In addition, the Town would like to capture a portion of the money spent within the secondary market area. However, for this to happen, the correct mix of retail and service uses need to be present. The list below provides an overview of the businesses existing in the Town of Orange.

- Monterey Shock Incarceration (New York State Penal Institution)
- Monterey Jack's Bar & Grill
- Whisper Hill Equestrian Center (horse boarding & riding)
- Callie Winds Horse Stable & Arena
- Simpson's Red & White Grocery Store
- Rose Farm Produce Stand and Christmas Trees
- Truax Christmas Tree Farm
- Lewis's Greenhouse
- Southern Tier Auto on Coon Hollow Road
- Sutton's Construction
- Sugar Hill Woodworks
- Rocky Roost
- Affordable Portables
- Povoski Construction

As can be seen from the list above, there is a limited range of opportunities for the basic daily service and retail needs, such as adequate grocery stores and convenience shops, restaurants, gas stations, and general retail stores.

MARKET BASED RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS PG. 4

The Town of Orange is a rural area of New York State with a scattered development pattern that inhibits opportunities for concerted economic development. The primary factor limiting the development of a gas station, convenience store, grocery store and other related uses is the limited daily traffic available in the primary area. The solution to this problem is complex and long-term and will require a dedicated marketing program. At the same time, good planning is essential to ensure that needed activities can be developed and sustained. If the scattered population and development patterns continue, economic development will be hampered.

It is difficult to support retail uses when many households are spread out across the countryside. However, there is a market for many of the desired uses identified in page three. In order for these uses to survive, it will require residents to loyally purchase local products. With the Wal-Mart in Watkins Glen, and the existing comfort level of existing retailers, this is going to be difficult, but not impossible.

One possibility for a sustainable grocery store-type project would be a cooperative, year-round indoor farmers' market, which have proven to be successful in rural areas. The basic concept is that you allow farmers from the surrounding region to rent an indoor stand to sell produce, meats, wines, crafts, etc., year-round. The rent from the stands pays for the facility's maintenance and marketing. A share buying process can be utilized to ensure the farmers receive a minimum sales amount each month, growing season, etc. In some cases, this can be corn and tomatoes one week, strawberries and lettuce another, and apples and maple syrup, honey another and Christmas trees yet another. This process can be done through each individual farmer or through the cooperative as a whole. We recommend that the farmers work together to develop a bulk of diverse goods that can be divided among the shareholders.

Restaurants and their success are difficult to gauge. Unique concepts, like the cooperative year-long farmers' market, can attract people from outside the primary market area and become a tourism draw if it is marketed and maintained correctly.

Good public policy is developed and implemented on multiple levels. It must address the short and long term needs of a community, as well as provide varying levels of detail. In an effort to accomplish this, the Regional Growth and Development Policy developed for this plan has four key elements:

1. Policy: A policy is a general statement of a future condition toward which actions are aimed. However, the scope of a policy is less broad than the vision. It should support the vision by addressing a particular area of issue facing a community. Policies should not dramatically change over time, but rather be consistent throughout the planning horizon. Ideally, the policies contained in this plan should be useful for a 5 year planning horizon.

2. Policy Objective: A statement of a measurable activity to be accomplished in the pursuit of the policy. It refers to some specific aspiration which is reasonably attainable. Think in terms of actions such as "increase", "develop", or "preserve". The general lifespan of a policy objective is two to five to ten years.

3. Implementation Items: A specific proposal to do something that relates directly to accomplishing an objective; it can take the form of a plan, project, or program. The lifespan of an implementation item can vary from one to five to ten years depending on the item.

4. Policy Measures: A specific measure that relates to accomplishing the objectives of the policy; it identifies how, when, and amount to be done. Think in terms of "how do we tell if our policy is working?" Measures should be reviewed every one to two years to determine if the objectives and implementation items are effective. The measures included in this plan are more general and do not specify a time frame and amount to be accomplished. The Town should work to establish the baseline condition for all the measures in this plan and then determine the level and timing that is desirable.

REGIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Policy: It is the policy of the Town to have a relationship that strengthens the regional economy, and protects sensitive environmental areas such as Waneta, Lamoka and Seneca Lakes, preserves local character and enhances the quality of life for residents. The Town recognizes that its individual well-being is dependent on the continued advancement of shared efforts for community improvements. In addition the Town will take advantage of the benefits of working together toward a common vision for the future.

1. Continue to develop partnerships that will:
 - A. Capitalize on opportunities for shared services to reduce the cost of government
 - B. Preserve the traditional character of Monterey while taking advantage of future development opportunities
 - C. Actively apply for and solicit funding resources for planning and capital projects.
2. Strengthen relations with Schuyler County, SCOPED, and the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board to improve understanding services available to the Town.
3. Encourage regional recruitment strategies to attract new businesses to the Town.
4. Increase awareness of regional heritage and cultural resources.
5. Strive to view and protect the environment using natural boundaries (watersheds, prime soil areas, etc.) rather than municipal boundaries.

Policy Implementation:

1. Pursue funding resources for future community planning from the New York State Department of Quality Communities Program, the Appalachian Regional Commission, New York State Planning Federation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and New York State Council for the Arts.
2. Develop strategies to market the region for new economic development and tax base sharing opportunities.
3. Encourage year round events coordination group to explore the opportunities for a year-round events schedule attracting residents and tourists.
4. Coordinate with regional municipalities to avoid overlapping festival dates. Events should be planned in succession to encourage overnight and multi-day stays in the area.
5. Explore regional approaches to farmland and open space preservation strategies for the future, including the purchase and transfer of development rights, easements, subdivisions and land use regulations.
6. Work together to promote natural resources as a tourist destination including the State Forest lands, Waneta, Lamoka and Seneca Lakes.
7. Develop a plan that will define areas best suited for particular uses and respect natural feature's boundaries.
8. Explore and improve public access options to lakes, creeks and forests.

1. Cost of government.
2. New regional businesses.
3. Number of public forums concerning the quality of life in the community.
4. Number of successful grant applications.

SITE PLAN REVIEW

The Site Plan Review (SPR) will be used as the review basis for decisions concerning future growth and development in the Town. While the SPR does not define clear regulatory boundaries, it does provide areas where particular land uses are desirable based on the information gathered throughout the planning process. The SPR identifies the recommended use of land based on environmental limitations, desired build-out appearances and areas of protection. All land use shall comply with the rules and regulations as set forth by the State of New York and Schuyler County.

OPEN SPACES

One of the primary attributes that draw people, both residents and visitors, to the Town of Orange, is the extensive tracts of open space. The landscape of the Town consists of rolling hills, forest land and lakes.

**TOWN OF ORANGE
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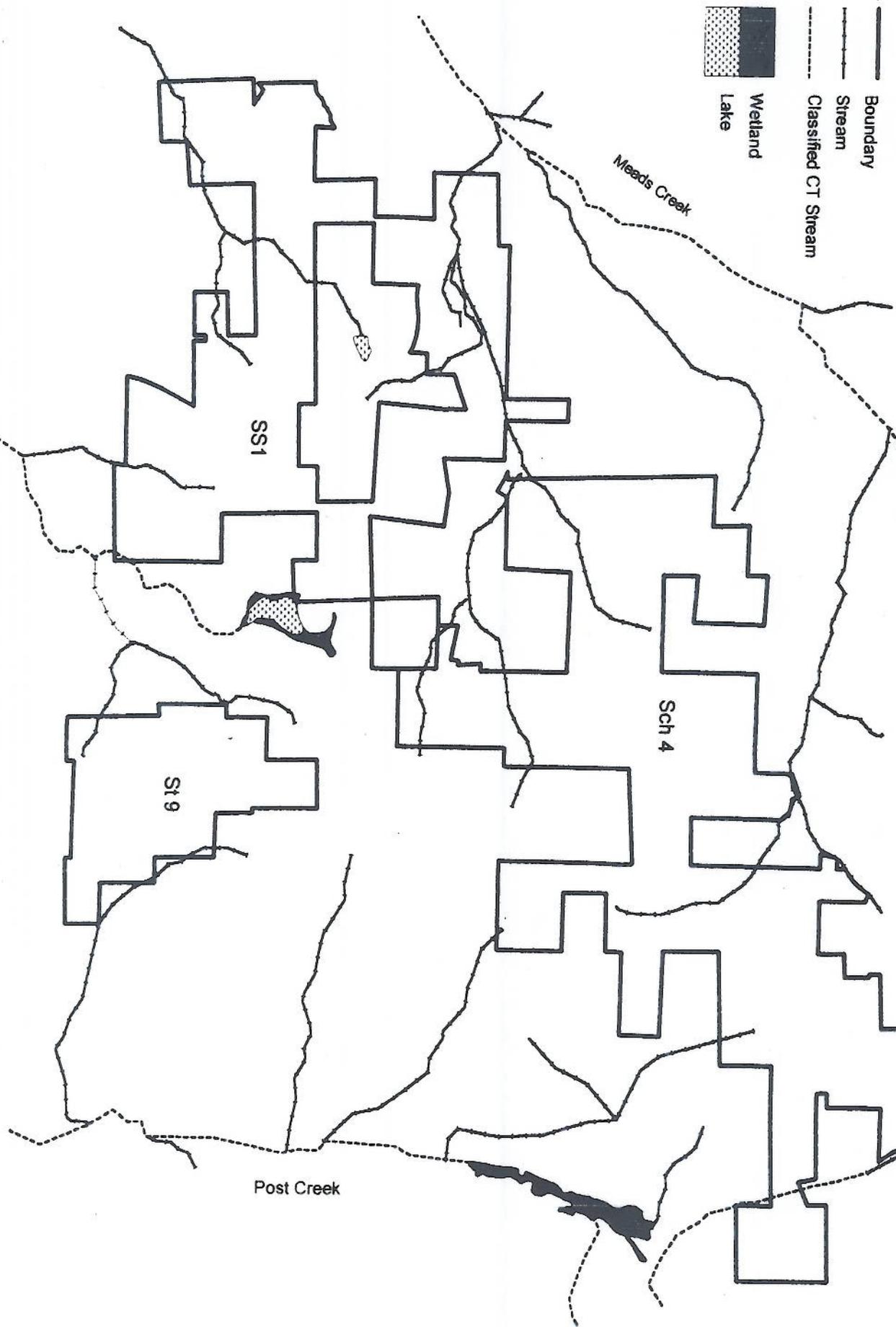
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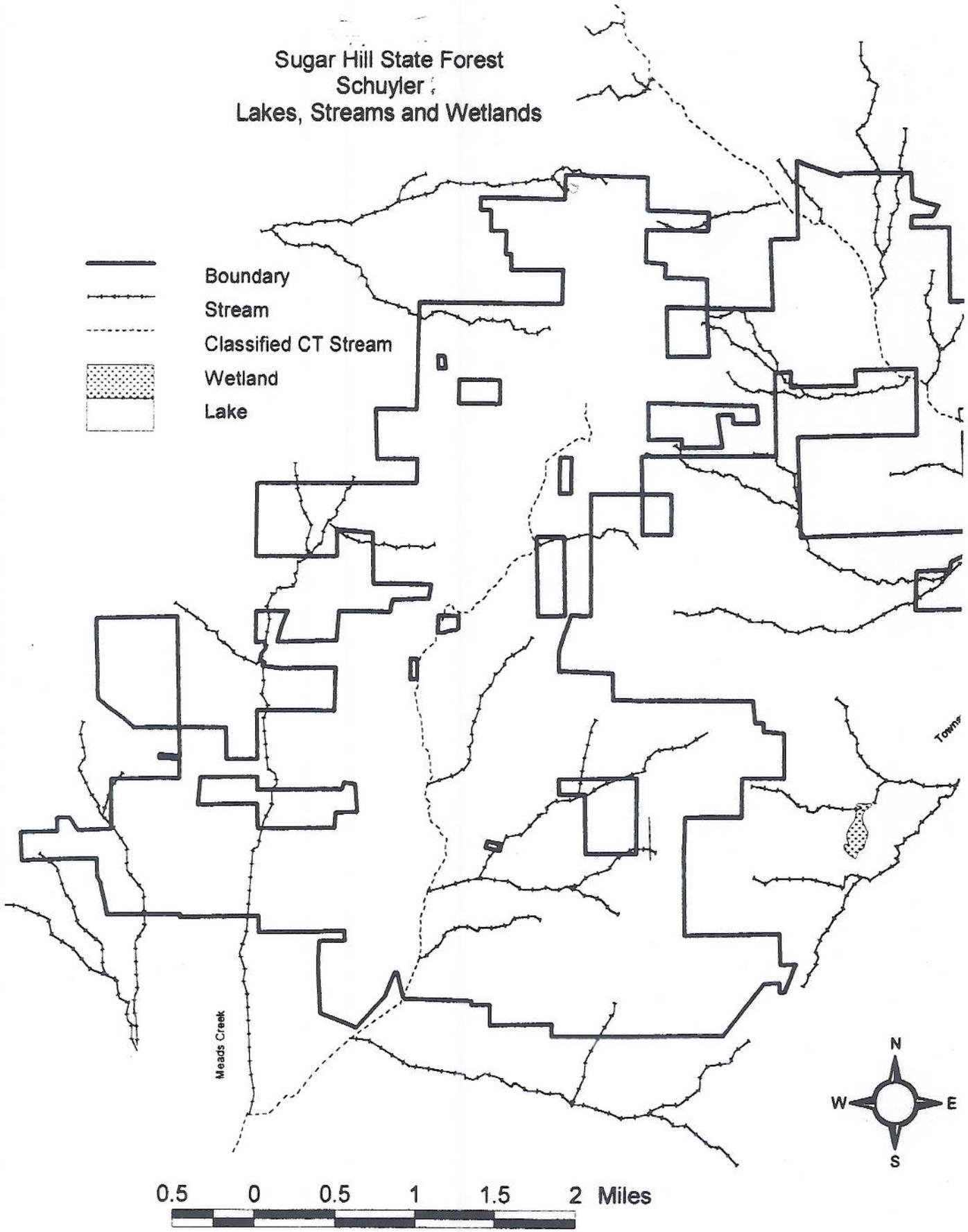
APPENDIX

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic beauty • Natural environment • State forests • Diverse wildlife habitat • Outdoor recreation opportunities • Accessibility (regional location) • Rural character • Clean air/water • Farmland/open space • Slower-paced lifestyle • Not Anywhere, USA • Lack of zoning • Volunteer organizations and opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High taxes • Lack of commercial base • Lack of planning • No sewer and water • Lack of public involvement • Seasonal population • Low density • Limited parks and youth activities • Limited senior activities • No public transportation • No public beach • Some residents lack pride in yard and home • Appearance of junk • Too far to services (hospital/grocery, etc.) • Rural blight • Lack of Zoning • Limited infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated recreation areas (town/ inter-municipal/county) • Public access areas to lakes • Better utilization of state forests • Improved marketing • Land use planning • Heritage/rural tourism • Agriculture/niche farming • Revitalization of existing hamlets • Removal of junk • Zoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued resistance to change • Abandoned trailers/limited housing opportunities • Pride in housing • Road conditions • Sprawl/lack of planning • Pollution • Lake pollution • Poor forestry practices • Lack of planning • Public nuisances

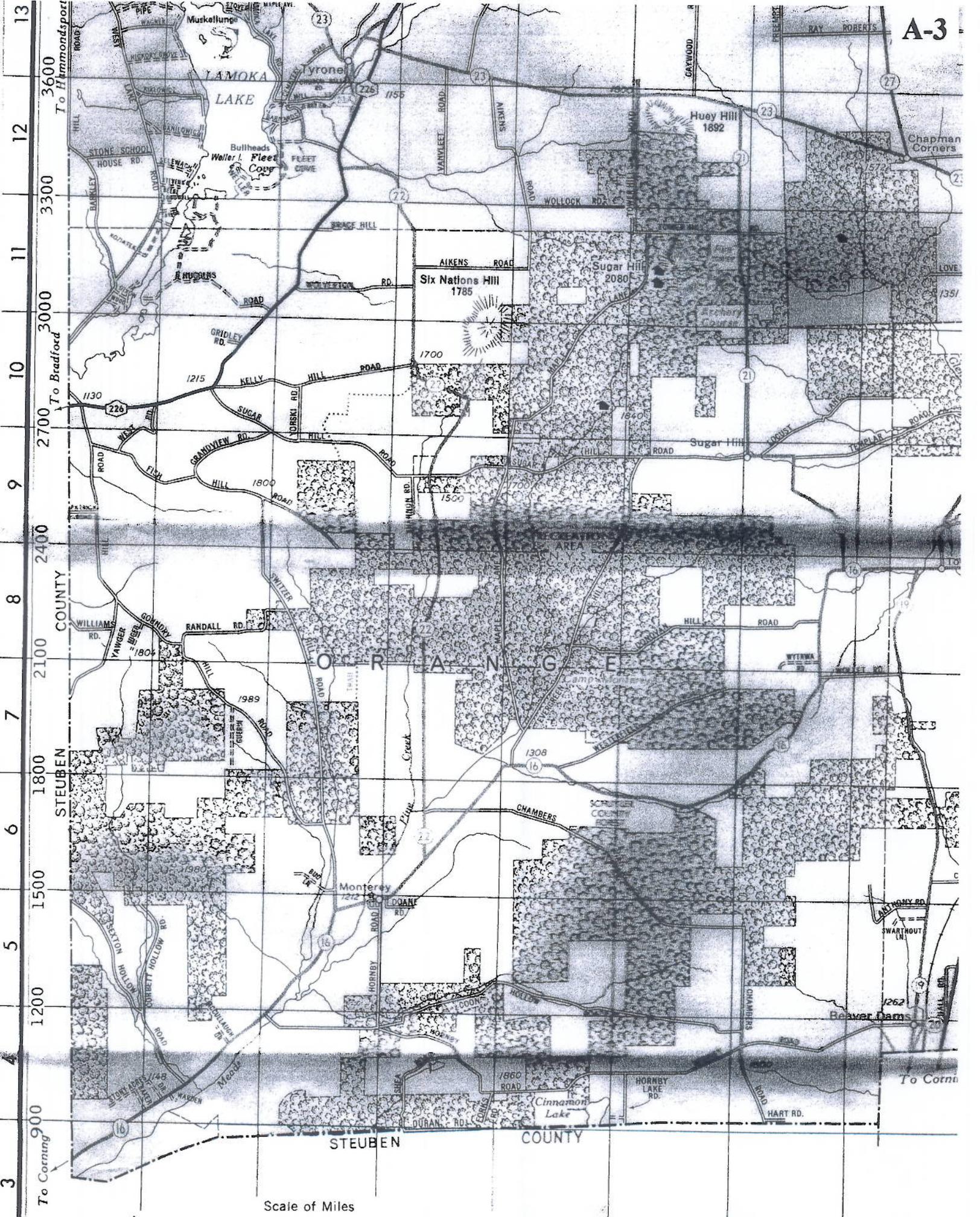
**Cinnamon Lake, Coon Hollow and Beaver Dams State Forests
Steuben-Schuyler 1 (SS1), Schuyler 4 (Sch 4), and Steuben 9 (St 9)
Lakes, Streams and Wetlands**



Sugar Hill State Forest
Schuyler
Lakes, Streams and Wetlands



Source: Six Nations Unit Management Plan, December 1998
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



Scale of Miles



Sugar Hill State Forest

View Map North || View Map South || View Map in PDF North (390 KB) || View Map in PDF South (344 KB) || View Six Nations Brochure in PDF (11x17, 840 KB)

The trails on Sugar Hill State Forest are open for use, but due to funding reductions, the trails and DEC roads on this and other state forests, have received minimum to no maintenance. Please contact the Bath Sub-office to make sure facilities are open and for trail conditions.

Sugar Hill State Forest is located about 7 miles west of Watkins Glen, near the hamlets of Tyrone and Bradford, in the Allegheny Plateau. It covers approximately 9,085 acres in the towns of Orange, Tyrone, and Reading in Schuyler County.

History

This area was settled beginning in approximately 1802. As noted in other state forest descriptions, agricultural abandonment occurred relatively early, (1910-1929) on the hilltop lands occupied by this state forest.

The State Reforestation Law of 1929 and the Hewitt Amendment of 1931 set forth the legislation which authorized the Conservation Department to acquire land by gift or purchase for reforestation purposes. These state forests consisting of not less than 500 acres of contiguous land were to be forever devoted to "reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes". This broad program is presently authorized under Article 9, Title 5, of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law.

In 1933, under the 1929 State Reforestation Law, the first 27 proposals for Sugar Hill State Forest were purchased, for a total of about 2,050 acres. They ranged in size from about one acre to over 200. With the exceptions of the war years of 1943 and 1944, additional acres were added every year up until 1950, all for \$4 per acre. Two proposals totaling about 60.7 acres were added under the Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Act in 1964 and 1965. Most of the proposals were purchased from individuals or families, but the proposal that the Fire Tower and Sugar Hill Recreation Area was constructed on was purchased from the Glen National Bank in 1936.

During that same time period, the United States was entering the Great Depression. The administration of then-president Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933 to provide employment opportunities for the thousands of unemployed men at the time. Sugar Hill State Forest and other state forests were the sites of many work projects carried out by the CCC, including the planting of thousands of pine and spruce trees, the construction of roads, the Sugar Hill Fire Tower, and water holes between 1934 and 1941. The earliest plantings were done by the Works Projects Administration (WPA).

The CCC was quite active on this state forest in the early days. In 1935 camp S-123 was established on Pine Creek Rd, and the records indicate they did an experimental seeding of pin cherry, choke cherry, birch and white ash seeds that first year. In 1936 they planted 1,266.1 acres of red pine, Japanese larch, Norway spruce, black locust, and/or white pine, for a total of approximately 1,719,650 trees. They also seeded 30.5 acres to black walnut, black cherry, birch, red oak, and/or hickory. That camp was later closed on October 31, 1941, with the pending start of World War II, so later plantings were done by inmates and/or DEC staff. Additional acres were planted between 1937-1940, 1958-1967, 1969, 1972, 1974-1976, the most recent in 1986.

The Sugar Hill Fire Tower was built in 1941 by the CCC, and was used until the mid-1980's when aerial detection became more efficient and economical. It is 75 feet tall and sits at an elevation of 2,096 feet above sea level. In a 1991 ceremony, celebrating its 50th year in existence, the tower was designated a historic landmark by the American Forestry Association, and listed on the National Historic Lookout Register.

In 1958, the State Department of Corrections opened Camp Monterey Conservation Work Camp. The prison camp was built on Evergreen Hill Rd, because the old CCC camp was located on a busy road. Initially, the prison had 50-60 inmates and 30-40 employees. Today, it has the capacity for 300 inmates and provides employment for up to 200 people. The inmates provide labor for numerous projects on the state forest land and to neighboring towns and parks.

State forests now provide opportunities for many informal outdoor recreational activities. They also provide wood for New York's forest products industry, a major part of New York's economy.

Tips for Using State Forests

Please abide by the above rules and regulations governing state land for the safety of the forest and the public.

Recreation

Six Nations Trail System

Among its many attractions is the Six Nations Trail System, approximately 35 miles long. A portion of the trail system is located on Goundry Hill State Forest. It is open for horse use in the summer months, and snowmobile use when there is sufficient snow cover. Foot travel is encouraged all year round.

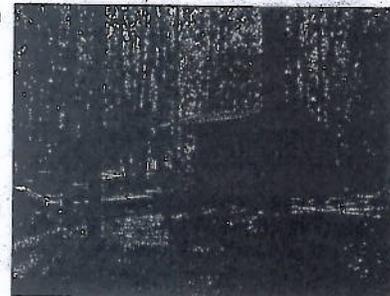
The main trail head for the system is the Sugar Hill Fire Tower and Recreation Area located near the north end of the Sugar Hill State Forest, off of Tower Hill Rd. At that location you will find parking, water, flush toilets, the fire tower, rangers cabin, picnic area and pavilion, 16 horse stalls, rec building, kiosks with sign-in sheets, an accessible horse mounting ramp, two radio towers, a couple of archery targets and field area for camping. The trails and Sugar Hill State Forest are open for use, but due to funding reductions, some trails and DEC roads on this and other state forests, may receive minimum or no maintenance.

The rangers cabin and rec building are usually closed for public use. The fire tower observation deck is closed, but the stairs up to the top landing are open for climbing at your own risk. It is currently one of the last fire towers in New York State readily accessible to the public and affords a 15-mile vista in all directions. On a clear day the view is spectacular.

Camping and picnicking are first come-first serve for the prime locations. Large groups (20 or more people) need to contact the DEC Bath Sub-Office and get a Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP). There are usually four or more large, organized gatherings each year, so check the kiosk or call the DEC Bath sub-office.

The 16 horse stalls are also first come-first use. After these are full, horses may be tied to vehicles or to stakes firmly implanted in the ground. Horses may also be held in small portable paddocks. Horses may not be tied directly to a tree, to minimize damage to the tree.

Lower Evergreen Parking Lot, a secondary trail head, is located near the south end of the state forest, off of Evergreen Hill Rd. At that location you will find four horse stalls, a one-hole outhouse, picnic tables, fire rings, and a kiosk with sign in sheets. Water is available from a nearby stream, but is not potable, so treat it before drinking it.



Lean-to on Sugar Hill

There are eight other parking areas which hold from two to six cars and from which the trail system can be accessed. There are numerous other access spots where the trail system crosses a road without a parking lot.

Maps to the Trail System

The brochure of the trail system can be found in the kiosk located at the Fire Tower Recreation Area, the parking lot on the south end of Evergreen Hill Rd, from the Bath DEC office, or by printing this pdf of the brochure. It is 11 inches by 17 inches, double sided, and 1.4 MB in size. Additional maps may be found on the Six Nation Trail System or Goundry Hill State Forest web pages or create your own with the State Recreational Lands Interactive Mapper.

Accessible Features



Include a horse-mounting platform, restrooms, and picnic tables located at the Fire Tower Recreation Area. Picnic tables are available at the Lower Evergreen parking lot. The only ATV trails that exist are for persons with disabilities - pursuant to DEC Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD). Individuals with qualifying disabilities may apply for a permit to operate an ATV on trails designated by the DEC, a permit must first be obtained from the DEC. (The trails are open for walking at any time.) Do to the multi-user nature of the trails on Sugar Hill State Forest the designated trails are only open for ATV use from October 1 to December 31. One of these trails runs south from the Fire Tower Recreation area on Seneca Trail and ends at the parking lot on the east end of Tower Hill Rd. The other is a section of A-Trail, starting at the intersection of Maple Lane and Sugar Hill Rd. and ends about two miles to the south.

Full listing of DEC's Accessible Recreation Destinations.

Other Recreation

Also located on the area is a portion of the Finger Lakes/North Country Trail (foot traffic only), the Sugar Hill Recreation Area, and the Sugar Hill Archery Course.

The Sugar Hill Archery Course is open for use by anyone, but only a handful of target backstops are left up year round. The New York Field Archers and Bowhunters (NYFAB) maintains the courses. They also organize 2 or 3 archery competitions each year, which draw competitors from all over the United States.

Town and county roads provide mountain biking opportunities.

Hunting and trapping are permitted on the property in accordance with all game regulations, unless otherwise posted. Traps may not be set on public road right of ways. Body gripping traps set on land must be at least 100 feet from public trails. Permanent tree stands are prohibited. However, a tree stand or blind is allowed, provided that it does not injure any trees, is properly marked or tagged with the owner's name and address or valid hunting or fishing license number, and is placed and used during big game season, migratory game bird season, or turkey season, but no more than thirty days in one location per calendar year.

Geo-caching is allowed although caches must be marked with the owner's contact information and may not be placed in dangerous or ecologically sensitive locations.

Field Notes

As many of the plantations established by the CCC and inmates reach the end of their natural life (75-100 years of age), it is reasonable to assume that it will all begin to decline at nearly the same time, and in the process convert to natural hardwood stands. As this decline intensifies, salvage timber sales of some of these areas will probably be necessary.

This forest also has mineral resources, and a history of mineral extraction. In 2001 a deep natural gas well was drilled west of Evergreen Hill Rd. It successfully hit gas, and visitors should expect to see natural gas wellheads and pipelines. The pipeline and power line corridors provide additional access to the interior of the forest. Except for a short section parallel to Mohawk and A Trails, this is for foot travel only, please!

Today, Sugar Hill and all state forests in New York are managed for multiple benefits to serve the needs of the people of New York. Sustainable management practices ensure a perpetual supply of timber, a diversity of wildlife habitats, compatible recreational opportunities and clean water.

State Forest Regulations

Anyone enjoying this property must observe the following rules which protect both them and the forest environment.

- Do not litter. Carry out what you carry in. Burying of refuse is prohibited.
- If you build a fire, do so with care and use wood from dead and downed trees only. Never leave a fire unattended. All fires must be extinguished with water, and the coals must be raked until cool to the touch.
- Do not bring firewood from home because this may also transport dangerous invasive pests to the state forest.
- Unauthorized cutting of live trees or new trail building is prohibited.
- Camping for more than three consecutive nights or in a group of ten or more requires a permit from a DEC Forest Ranger.
- Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water except at camping areas designated by the department.
- Human waste should be buried in a shallow hole 4-6 inches deep, and at least 150 feet from water, trails, and campsites. Cover with leaf litter and dirt.
- Motorized vehicles are permitted only on access roads posted as open to motor vehicles. Off road use of motorized vehicles is prohibited, except where specifically permitted by signs, posted notice or by DEC permit.
- No permanent structures should be established, including tree stands or blinds.
- ATV and UTV use is generally prohibited on State Forests.
- Individuals with disabilities can apply for a Motorized Access Permit (MAPPWD) to use a motor vehicle on designated roads.
- Horses must have Negative Coggins Test. Please remove manure and place in the wagon next to the horse stalls. Keep horses out of camping and picnic area. Do not tether horses to live trees.

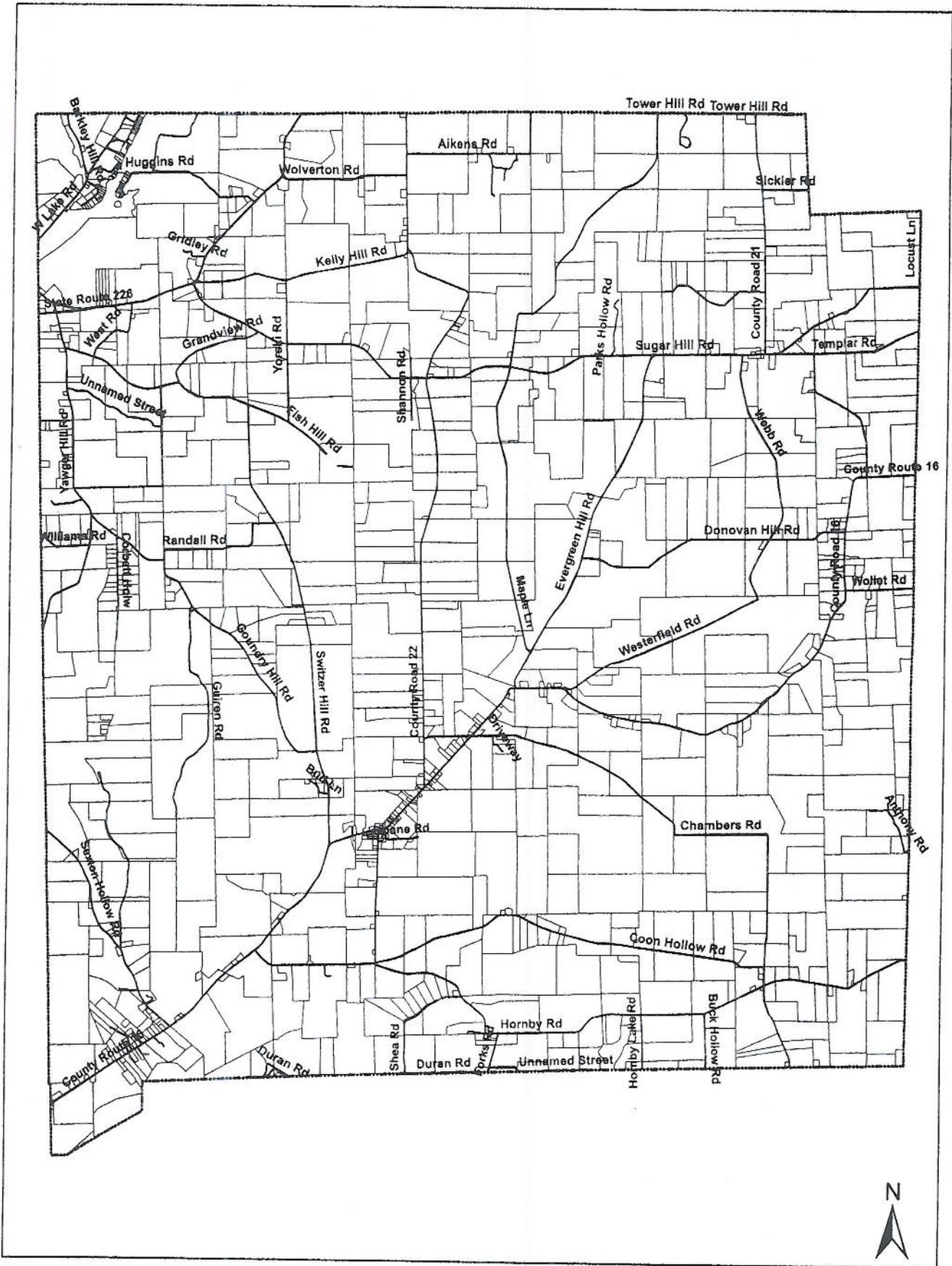
Directions

The route to the Sugar Hill Recreation Area of Sugar Hill State Forest which is longer, but with fewer turns and gentler hills, would be to follow Rt. 17/86 to the Savona exit, and then take 226 north to Co. Rt. 23. Turn east on Co. Rt. 23, take the third right onto Tower Hill Rd. and the entrance to the tower area is the third right on Tower Hill Rd.

The route from Watkins Glen is: from Rt. 14 in downtown take 409 west, take a right onto Co. Rt. 28, then a left onto Co. Rt. 23, then a left onto Co. Rt. 21, the first right onto Tower Hill Rd, and then a left into the tower area.

Comments and Suggestions

Town of Orange



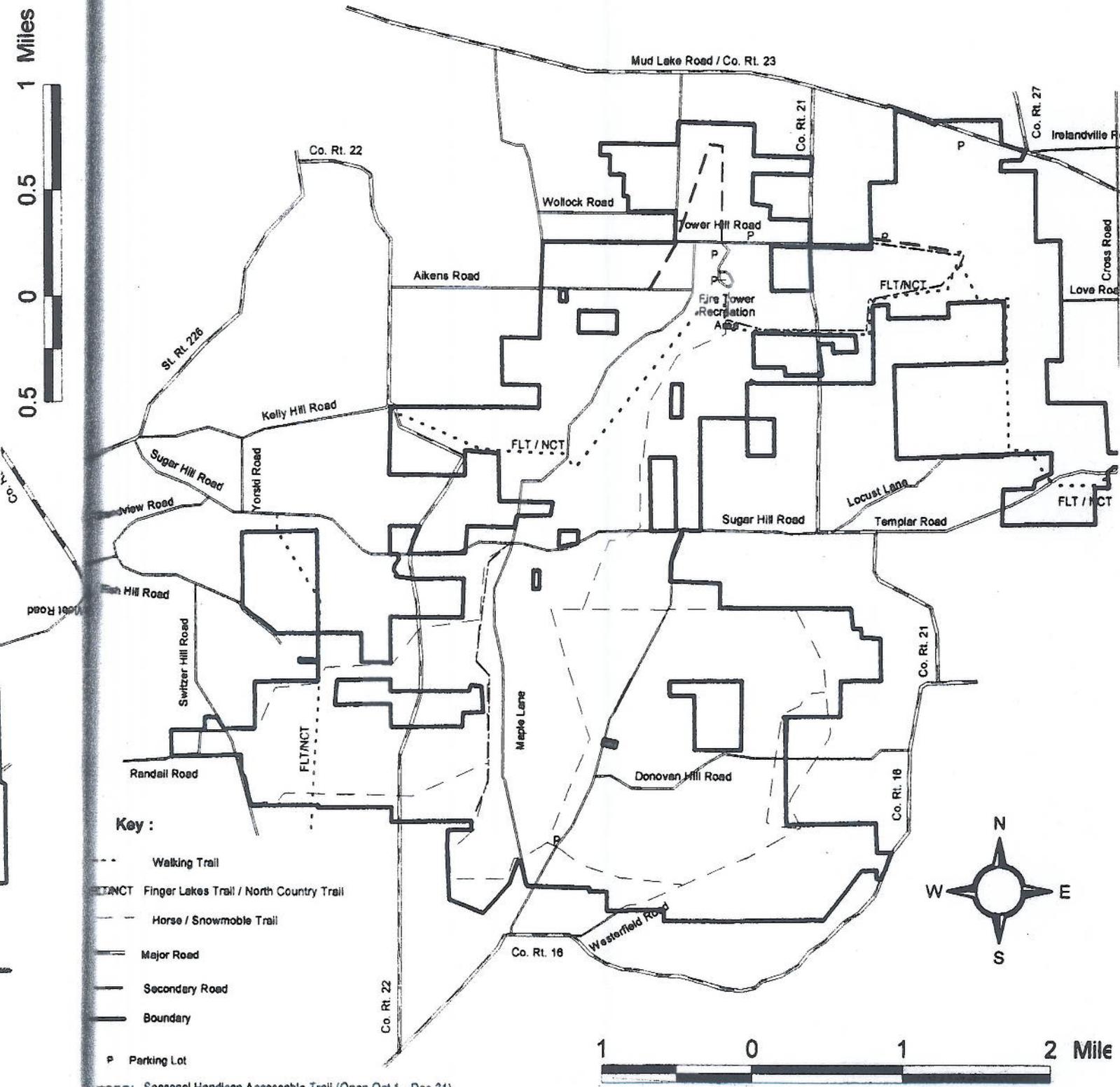
Legend

-  Parcel
-  Town of Orange Boundary
-  Town of Orange Roads



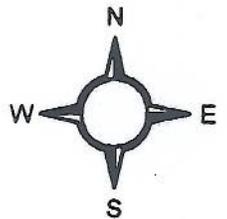
Created By:
 Cornell Cooperative Extension Schuyler County
 Sources: CUGIR, U.S. Census, NYS
 Date: May 2009

Sugar Hill State Forest
Schuyler
State Reforestation Area
9,085 Acres



Key :

- Walking Trail
- Finger Lakes Trail / North Country Trail
- Horse / Snowmobile Trail
- Major Road
- Secondary Road
- Boundary
- Parking Lot
- Seasonal Handicap Accessible Trail (Open Oct 1 - Dec 31)





NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Goundry Hill State Forest

View Map || View Map in PDF (280 KB) || View Brochure in PDF (11x17, 840 KB)

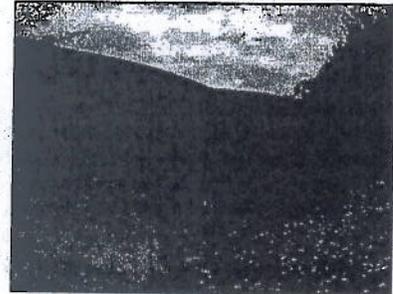
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Goundry Hill State Forest is located about 9 miles north of Coopers Plains, near the hamlets of Bradford and Monterey, in the Allegheny Plateau. It covers approximately 2,112 acres in the town of Orange in Schuylar County.

History

This area was settled beginning in approximately 1802. As noted in numerous other state forest descriptions, agricultural abandonment occurred relatively early, (1910-1929) on the hilltop lands occupied by this state forest.

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View of Corbett Hollow on Goundry Hill

This is the first state forest of Schuylar County, starting with proposals A, B and C that were acquired in 1932, under the 1929 State Reforestation Law. Proposal A was about 147 acres; B was about 236 acres; and C about 126 acres, for a total of 509 acres, just above the 500 acre minimum. All were purchased for \$4 per acre. Additional acres were added under the Reforestation Law in 1936, 1939, 1941 and 1952. Then in 1964 an additional 204.5 acres were added under the Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Act of 1960, bringing Goundry Hill State Forest to its current size of approximately 2,112 acres.

During that same time period, the United States was entering the Great Depression. The administration of then-president Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933 to provide employment opportunities for the thousands of unemployed men at the time. Goundry Hill State Forest and other state forests were the sites of many work projects carried out by the CCC, including the planting of thousands of pine and spruce trees and the construction of water holes between 1934 and 1941. The earliest plantings were done by the Works Projects Administration (WPA). In 1935, the CCC camp S-123 was established on Pine Creek Rd. on nearby Sugar Hill State Forest.

That camp was later closed on October 31, 1941, with the pending start of World War II, so later plantings were done by inmates and/or DEC staff.

State forests now provide opportunities for many informal outdoor recreational activities. They also provide wood for New York's forest products industry, a major part of New York's economy.

Tips for Using State Forests

Recreation

Six Nations Trail System

Among its many attractions is the multiple use Six Nations Recreation Trail System, just shy of 40 miles long. The majority of the trail system is located on Sugar Hill State Forest. It is open for horse use in the summer months, and snowmobile use when there is sufficient snow cover. Foot travel is encouraged all year round.

The main trail head for the system is the Sugar Hill Fire Tower and Recreation Area. Located near the north end of the Sugar Hill State Forest, off of Tower Hill Rd. The trails and Goundry Hill State Forest are open for use, but due to funding reductions, the trails and DEC roads on this and other state forests, will receive minimum or no maintenance.

People may access Oneida Trail from Corbett Hollow Rd., Guerin Rd or Goundry Hill Rd. At the end of Corbett Hollow Rd. is a turn around loop, with a wide area for parking or camping. Water is available from a nearby stream, but is not potable so it must be treated before drinking. There are no other facilities provided. Guerin Rd. has a parking area about a half mile from Goundry Hill Rd; it holds about 10 cars. It is then a short walk north or south on the road to the trail.

Maps to the Trail System

The brochure of the trail system can be found in the kiosks located at the on Sugar Hill State Forest one at the Fire Tower Recreation Area, the other at the parking lot on the south end of Evergreen Hill Rd, from the Bath DEC office, or by printing this pdf of the Six Nations Recreation Trail System brochure. It is 11 inches by 17 inches, double sided, and 2.1 Mb in size. Additional maps may be found on the Sugar Hill State Forest or Six Nation Trail System web pages or create your own with the State Recreational Lands Interactive Mapper.

Accessible Features



The only ATV trails that exist are for persons with disabilities - pursuant to DEC Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD). Individuals with qualifying disabilities may apply for a permit to operate an ATV on trails designated by the DEC. A permit must first be obtained from the DEC. Trails are open for walking at any time. One of these trails heads south from the parking lot on Guerin Rd., passes the gas well pad and continues onto a point of land with several scenic vistas of Meads Creek Valley.

Full listing of DEC's Accessible Recreation Destinations.

Other Recreation

Also located on the area is a portion of the Finger Lakes Trail (foot traffic only). In 1972 construction of the Finger Lakes Trail was authorized on Goundry Hill State Forest. Maintenance has been continued by the volunteers of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference under the Adopt-A-Natural-Resource Program. In 1992 it was designated as a segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail, a 3200-mile trail which extends from New York to North Dakota.

Town and county roads provide mountain biking opportunities.

Hunting and trapping are permitted on the property in accordance with all game regulations, unless otherwise posted. Traps may not be set on public road right of ways. Body gripping traps set on land must be at least 100 feet from public trails. Permanent tree stands are prohibited. However, a tree stand or blind is allowed, provided that it does not injure any trees, is properly marked or tagged with the owner's name and address or valid hunting or fishing license number, and is placed and used during big game season, migratory game bird season, or turkey season, but no more than thirty days in one location per calendar year.

Geo-caching is allowed although caches must be marked with the owner's contact information and may not be placed in dangerous or ecologically sensitive locations.

Field Notes

As many of the plantations established by the CCC and inmates reach the end of their natural life (75-100 years of age), it is reasonable to assume that it will all begin to decline at nearly the same time, and in the process convert to natural hardwood stands. As this decline intensifies, salvage timber sales of some of these areas will probably be necessary.

This state forest also has mineral resources, and a history of mineral extraction. In 2001, a deep natural gas well was drilled south of Guerin Rd. It successfully hit gas, and visitors should expect to see natural gas wellheads and pipelines. The pipeline and power line corridors provide additional access to the interior of the forest (foot travel only please).

Today, Goundry Hill and all state forests in New York are managed for multiple benefits to serve the needs of the people of New York. Sustainable management practices ensure a perpetual supply of timber, a diversity of wildlife habitats, compatible recreational opportunities and clean water.

State Forest Regulations

Anyone enjoying this property must observe the following rules which protect both them and the forest environment.

- Do not litter. Carry out what you carry in. Burying of refuse is prohibited.
- If you build a fire, do so with care and use wood from dead and downed trees only. Never leave a fire unattended. All fires must be extinguished with water, and the coals must be raked until cool to the touch.
- Do not bring firewood from home because this may also transport dangerous invasive pests to the state forest.
- Unauthorized cutting of live trees or new trail building is prohibited.
- Camping for more than three consecutive nights or in a group of ten or more requires a permit from a DEC Forest Ranger.
- Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water except at camping areas designated by the department.
- Human waste should be buried in a shallow hole 4-6 inches deep, and at least 150 feet from water, trails, and campsites. Cover with leaf litter and dirt.
- Motorized vehicles are permitted only on access roads posted as open to motor vehicles. Off road use of motorized vehicles is prohibited, except where specifically permitted by signs, posted notice or by DEC permit.
- No permanent structures should be established, including tree stands or blinds.
- ATV and UTV use is generally prohibited on State Forests.
- Individuals with disabilities can apply for a Motorized Access Permit (MAPPWD) to use a motor vehicle on designated roads.
- Horses must have Negative Coggins Test. Do not tether horses to live trees.

Directions

From 188, take Exit 42 (Coopers Plains), head north on Meads Creek Rd. (County Rte. 26 / County Rte. 16). Turn left onto Sexton Hollow Rd, then right onto Corbett Hollow Rd.

From State Rte. 226, head south on Yawger Hill Rd. Then turn left at the "Y" onto Goundry Hill Rd. take a right at the "T" to stay on Goundry Hill Rd. then turn right onto Guerin Rd.

Comments and Suggestions

State forest lands are owned by all New York State Residents and represent a significant natural heritage for future generations. The Department of Environmental Conservation strives to manage these lands for the best long-term interests. We appreciate your help. If you have suggestions on how we can improve the management of these lands, please let us know. Address your concerns to the Lands and Forests DEC Region 8 Bath Sub-Office.

For further information on management activities:

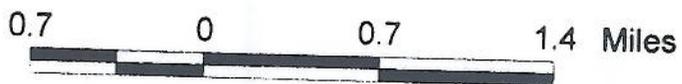
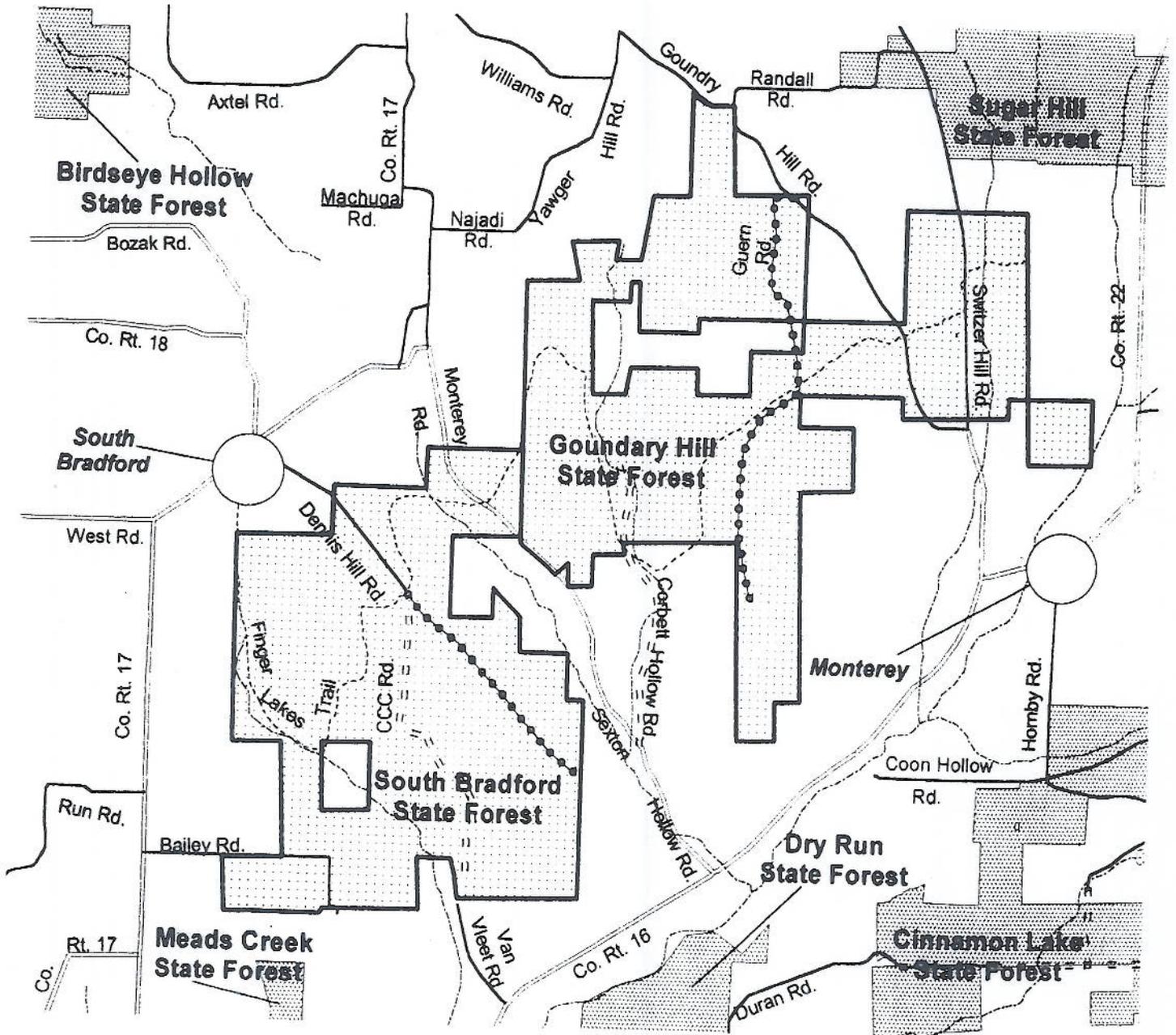
Contact State Land Management Working Group, DEC Bath Sub- Office 607-776-2165. (M-F; 8:30 am to 4:45 pm)

Important Telephone Numbers

Fire and Law Enforcement : 585-226-6706 or 911

State Forest Office (M - F; 8:30 am to 4:45 pm) 607-776-2165

South Bradford State Forest - Steuben Goundry Hill State Forest - Schuyler



Source: Region 8, State Forests & Wildlife Management Areas
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Coon Hollow State Forest

[View Map](#) || [View Map in PDF \(240 KB\)](#)

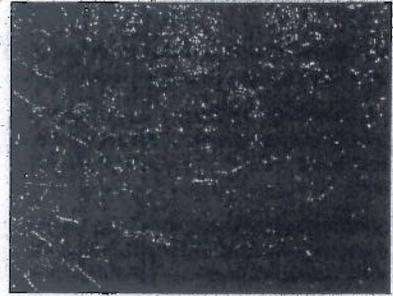
Coon Hollow State Forest is located about 9 miles north of Coopers Plains, near the hamlets of Monterey and Beaver Dams, in the Allegheny Plateau. It covers approximately 2,456 acres in the towns of Orange and Dix in Schuylar County.

History

This area was settled beginning in the late 1700's. As noted in numerous other state forest descriptions, agricultural abandonment occurred relatively early (1910-1929) on the hilltop lands occupied by this state forest.

The State Reforestation Law of 1929 and the Hewitt Amendment of 1931 set forth the legislation which authorized the Conservation Department to acquire land by gift or purchase for reforestation areas. These lands were to be forever devoted to "reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes."

The majority of this state forest was purchased between 1937 and 1942, with another small addition in 1947, all for \$4 per acre. Proposal V was purchased in 1942 as part of bankruptcy proceedings. In 1963 about 17 acres was added under the Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Act. A very small addition, of 1.3 acres, was added in 1977 for additional access to Coon Hollow Rd. In the 1930s, this area was the site of work projects carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was established by the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide employment opportunities for men during the Great Depression. Conservation projects completed here include the planting of pine and spruce trees and construction of water holes.



Chambers Rd on Coon Hollow

The CCC was quite active on this and adjacent state forests in the early days. In 1935 camp S-123 was established on Pine Creek Rd, in nearby Sugar Hill State Forest. The CCC camp was closed October 31, 1941, with the pending start of World War II, so later plantings were done by inmates and/or DEC staff. In 1940 they planted 1 acre of Scotch pine and Japanese Larch to control erosion. Then in 1941, 21.5 acres were planted with white spruce.

In 1958, the State Department of Corrections opened Camp Monterey Conservation Work Camp on nearby Sugar Hill State Forest. The prison camp was built on Evergreen Hill Rd because the old CCC camp was located on a busy road. Initially, the prison had 50-60 inmates and 30-40 employees. Today it has the capacity for 300 inmates and provides employment for up to 200 people. The inmates provide labor for numerous projects on state forest land and to neighboring towns and parks. Inmates planted 119 acres on this forest in 1961, 205 acres in 1962, with additional planting in 1963, 1964, and 1987.

State forests now provide opportunities for many informal outdoor recreational activities. They also provide wood for New York's forest products industry, a major part of New York's economy.

Tips for Using State Forests

Recreation

Recreational opportunities on this state forest focus on rustic experiences with a limited amount of development.

Hunting and trapping are permitted on the property in accordance with all game regulations, unless otherwise posted. Traps may not be set on public road right of ways. Body gripping traps set on land must be at least 100 feet from public trails. Permanent tree stands are prohibited. However, a tree stand or blind is allowed, provided that it does not injure any trees, is properly marked or tagged with the owner's name and address or valid hunting or fishing license number, and is placed and used during big game season, migratory game bird season, or turkey season, but no more than thirty days in one location per calendar year.

Geo-caching is allowed although caches must be marked with the owner's contact information and may not be placed in dangerous or ecologically sensitive locations.

Field Notes

As many of the plantations established by the CCC and inmates reach the end of their natural life (75-100 years of age), it is reasonable to assume that it will all begin to decline at nearly the same time, and in the process convert to natural hardwood stands. As this decline intensifies, salvage timber sales of some of these areas will probably be necessary.

Today, Coon Hollow and all state forests in New York are managed for multiple benefits to serve the needs of the people of New York. Sustainable management practices ensure a perpetual supply of timber, a diversity of wildlife habitats, compatible recreational opportunities and clean water.

State Forest Regulations

Anyone enjoying this property must observe the following rules which protect both them and the forest environment.

- Do not litter. Carry out what you carry in. Burying of refuse is prohibited.
- If you build a fire, do so with care and use wood from dead and downed trees only. Never leave a fire unattended. All fires must be extinguished with water, and the coals must be raked until cool to the touch.
- Do not bring firewood from home because this may also transport dangerous invasive pests to the state forest.
- Unauthorized cutting of live trees or new trail building is prohibited.
- Camping for more than three consecutive nights or in a group of ten or more requires a permit from a DEC Forest Ranger.
- Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water except at camping areas designated by the department.
- Human waste should be buried in a shallow hole 4-8 inches deep, and at least 150 feet from water, trails, and campsites. Cover with leaf litter and dirt.
- Motorized vehicles are permitted only on access roads posted as open to motor vehicles. Off road use of motorized vehicles is prohibited, except where specifically permitted by signs, posted notice or by DEC permit.
- No permanent structures should be established, including tree stands or blinds.
- ATV and UTV use is generally prohibited on State Forests.
- Individuals with disabilities can apply for a Motorized Access Permit (MAPPWD) to use a motor vehicle on designated roads.

Directions

From 186, take Exit 42 (Coopers Plains), head north on Meads Creek Rd. (County Rte. 26 / County Rte. 16). In the hamlet of Monterey you have two choices, continue straight and the forest will be on your right shortly; or turn right onto Chambers Rd.

From State Rte. 414, head north on County Route 19. Parking is on the shoulder.

Comments and Suggestions

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For further information on management activities:

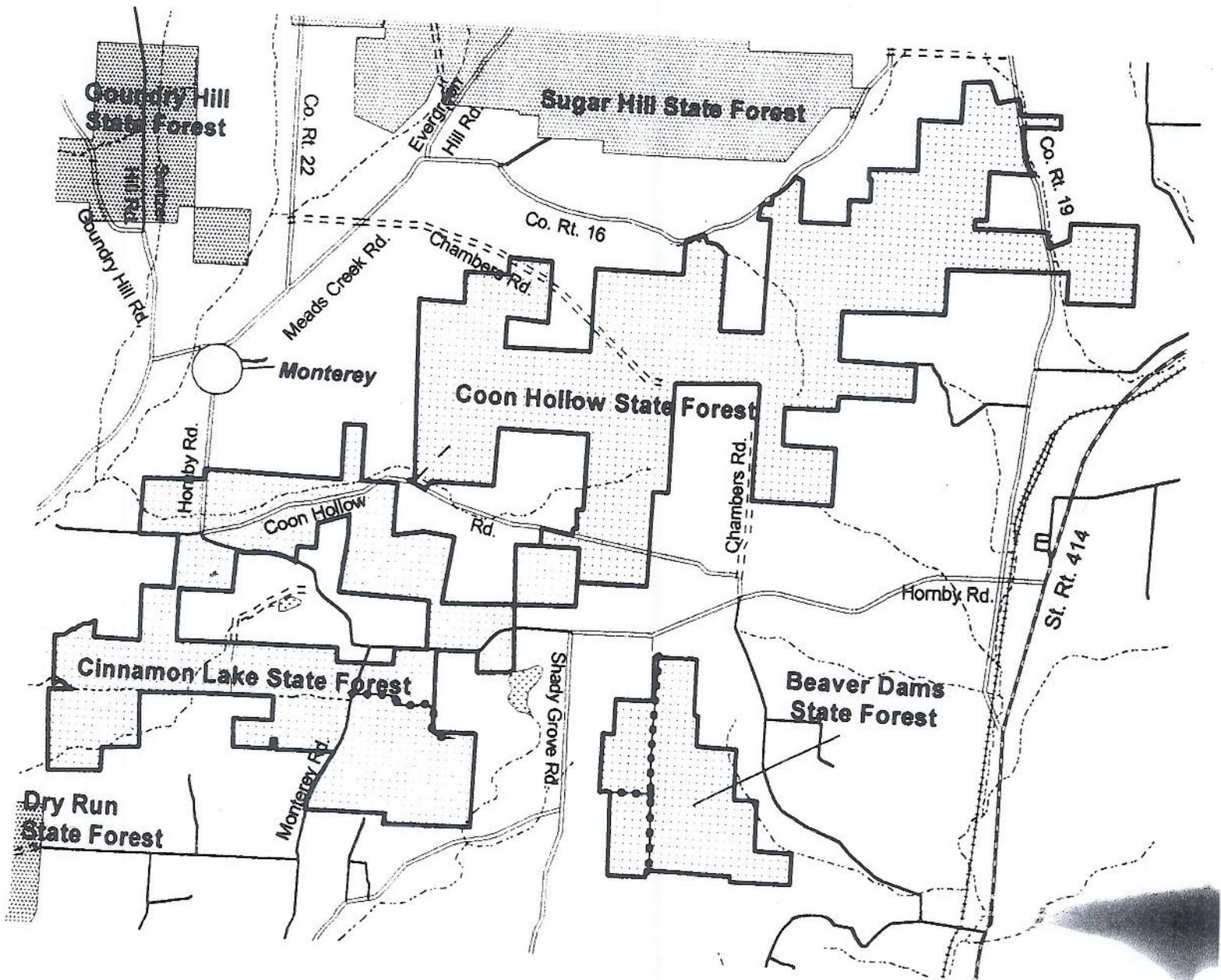
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Coon Hollow State Forest - Schuyler Cinnamon Lake State Forest - Steuben - Schuyler Beaver Dams State Forest - Steuben



Source: Region 8, State Forests & Wildlife Management Areas
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



Cinnamon Lake State Forest

[View Map](#) || [View Map in PDF \(190 KB\)](#)

Cinnamon Lake State Forest is located about 7 miles north of Coopers Plains, near the hamlets of Monterey and Beaver Dams, in the Allegheny Plateau. It covers approximately 1,786 acres in the towns of Orange in Schuyler County, and Hornby in Steuben County.

History

This area was settled beginning in the late 1700's. As noted in numerous other state forest descriptions, agricultural abandonment occurred relatively early (1910-1929) on the hilltop lands occupied by this state forest.

Cinnamon Lake State Forest was one of the earlier state forests in Steuben and Schuyler counties, with the first parcels being purchased by New York State in 1932. Additional acres were acquired in 1933, 1936-1937, 1939-1940, 1942, and 1948-1950, all for \$4 per acres. The most recent addition was proposal AA, when in early 1965, 37 acres were added under the Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Act, for a purchase price of \$1,100.

In the 1930s, this area was the site of work projects carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was established by the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide employment opportunities for men during the Great Depression. Conservation projects completed here include the planting of thousands of pine and spruce trees and construction of water holes.

Early plantings were done by the Works Projects Administration (WPA). In 1932 the WPA planted 4,659 dogwood, viburnum and grape, and 392.85 acres of Norway spruce, red pine, and some white ash. Then in 1934, they planted 65.7 more acres. The CCC was quite active on this and adjacent state forests in the early days. In 1935, camp S-123 was established on Pine Creek Rd, on nearby Sugar Hill State Forest. The CCC camp was closed Oct. 31, 1941 with the pending start of World War II, so later plantings were done by inmates and/or DEC staff. The CCC planted trees in on Cinnamon Lake State Forest in 1938-39, and 1941.

In 1958, the State Department of Corrections opened Camp Monterey Conservation Work Camp on nearby Sugar Hill State Forest. The prison camp was built on Evergreen Hill Rd because the old CCC camp was located on a busy road. Initially, the prison had 50-60 inmates and 30-40 employees. Today it has the capacity for 300 inmates and provides employment for up to 200 people. The inmates provide labor for numerous projects on state forest land and to neighboring towns and parks. Inmates planted 63 acres in 1963, 20 acres in 1964, with additional planting in 1967, 1977, 1985, 1988 and 1993.

State forests now provide opportunities for many informal outdoor recreational activities. They also provide wood for New York's forest products industry, a major part of New York's economy.

Tips for Using State Forests

Recreation

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The parking lot on Hornby Rd. that can be used to access a snowmobile trail on the north side of the road, and a foot trail to Cinnamon Lake on the south side. Gas Well Road Trail heads east from a parking lot on Forks-Monterey Rd.

Field Notes

As many of the plantations established by the CCC, and inmates, reach the end of their natural life (75-100 years of age), they are converting to natural hardwood stands.

The Norway spruce on Forks-Monterey Rd (see photo above) was planted in 1932, then thinned and sold for Christmas trees in 1943, '45 and '47. That same stand was thinned in 1957, 1959, 1960 and 1961, with the most recent thinning occurring in 1998 with a sale price of \$4,738.33.

Today, Cinnamon Lake and all state forests in New York are managed for multiple benefits to serve the needs of the people of New York. Sustainable management practices ensure a perpetual supply of timber, a diversity of wildlife habitats, compatible recreational opportunities and clean water.

Accessible Features



The only ATV trails that exist are for persons with disabilities - pursuant to the NYS DEC Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD). Individuals with qualifying disabilities may apply for a permit to operate an ATV on trails designated by the NYS DEC, a permit must first be obtained from the NYS DEC. The trails are open for walking at any time.

Full listing of DEC's Accessible Recreation Destinations.

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- Do not bring firewood from home because this may also transport dangerous invasive pests to the state forest.
- Unauthorized cutting of live trees or new trail building is prohibited.
- Camping for more than three consecutive nights or in a group of ten or more requires a permit from a DEC Forest Ranger.



Forest view on Cinnamon Lake

- Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water except at camping areas designated by the department.
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- Individuals with disabilities can apply for a Motorized Access Permit (MAPPWD) to use a motor vehicle on designated roads.

Directions

From 186, take Exit 42 (Coopers Plains), head north on Meads Creek Rd. (County Rte. 26 / County Rte. 16). In the hamlet of Monterey turn right onto Hornby Rd.

From State Rte. 414, head north on County Rte. 19, then straight onto Hornby Rd.

Comments and Suggestions

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Cinnamon Lake, Coon Hollow
and Beaver Dams State Forests
Steuben-Schuyler 1 (SS 1), Schuyler 4 (Sch 4),
and Steuben 9 (St 9)

