

# Guiding Chenango

**A County Comprehensive Plan.**



**FINAL**  
**ADOPTED 2016**



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### **Mission:**

*To improve the quality of life of all residents of Chenango County in harmony with the rural character of its environs through a constancy of purpose.*



**“Land of the Bullthistle”**

*The Chenango County Department of Planning and Development prepared this plan with the assistance of various agencies and organizations:*

Chenango County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board  
Chenango County Agriculture Development Council  
Chenango County Area Agency on Aging  
Chenango County Clerk – Mary C. Weidman  
Chenango County Department of Information Technology  
Chenango County Department of Public Health  
Chenango County Department of Public Works  
Chenango County Emergency Management – Matthew Beckwith  
Chenango County Fire & Building Code Enforcement  
Chenango County Historian – Patricia Evans  
Chenango County Natural Gas Advisor – Steven Palmatier  
Chenango County Planning and Development Board  
Chenango County Real Property Tax Services  
City of Norwich Emergency Management – A. Wesley Jones  
City of Norwich Planning and Community Development – Todd Dreyer  
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***A downloadable copy of this Plan is available at;***  
***[www.co.chenango.ny.us/Planning](http://www.co.chenango.ny.us/Planning)***



# GUIDING CHENANGO

## A County Comprehensive Plan



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Photo 1: Sunset over Cook Pond

# GUIDING CHENANGO

## A County Comprehensive Plan

### **Comprehensive Plan (also known as a “Master Plan”)**

*A comprehensive plan consists of the materials, written and/or graphic, including but not limited to maps, charts, studies, resolutions, reports, and other descriptive material that identify the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, standards, devices and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the municipality.*

*New York State Chapter 418 of the Laws of the 1995 amending Town Law §272-a*

### **Purpose and Value of the Plan**

Chenango County prepared its first and only comprehensive plan in 1976, titled The Chenango County Comprehensive Plan – A Summary Report.<sup>1</sup> In 2001, it became obvious the County needed to take a broad look at all of the issues affecting the County and to devise a plan to respond to the rapidly changing global and regional economy. A comprehensive view of the County was necessary; it was time to evaluate the County’s assets and trends and prepare a collective vision for the future of the County’s economy, facilities, and services. As a basis for this vision, the County wanted a plan that identified current needs and values of residents, businesses, and institutions as well as an evaluation of its heritage and cultural background.

Comprehensive planning provides a community with the opportunity to guide future growth and development through the identification of key policies and goals of its residents with respect to public health, safety and general welfare. The purpose of a comprehensive plan is to provide a guide for all major decisions in pursuit of what the County wants to become in the future. The implementation of this plan, starting with its adoption and proceeding with recommendations, will provide the legal authority to direct development in a prescribed manner.

The Chenango County Comprehensive Plan should be viewed as a guidance document. It is not meant to be rigid, dictating how and when actions are to be taken. Because it has been so long since the County has had a comprehensive plan to guide its future, it is important to view this plan as a starting point to modern day planning. One of the primary goals in preparing this particular plan was to be as comprehensive as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> Chenango County Planning and Development Board, and The Bailey Association. The Chenango County Comprehensive Plan, 1976.

In other words, capture as many of the issues the community feels is important as possible. Consequently, the depth of discussion of specific topics is limited. Many issues and recommendations are going to warrant further study and more input from the public to provide the necessary detail to move forward. This plan provides the framework for the County to make reasonable, informed decisions on how to address the issues and concerns that presently face public officials. Like many communities, Chenango County does not have the necessary resources, financial, or otherwise, to accomplish all of the recommended actions to address every problem. However, with a plan in place, a proactive mindset, and community consensus on the issues and actions, the County can begin to realize beneficial change and progress towards the future in a well thought out and orderly fashion.

The purpose of the Chenango County Comprehensive Plan is:

- To be a statement of policy and a guide to future development patterns for Chenango County.
- To serve each municipality in its individual planning process.
- To guide growth to prevent haphazard and costly sprawl and protect valuable farmland.
- To encourage development of a sustainable economic base.
- To aid in obtaining state and federal assistance by establishing the prerequisites for such aid.
- To report key issues facing county residents.
- To promote political and technical coordination in community development.
- To inject long-range considerations into the determination of short-range actions.
- To stimulate public interest, participation and responsibility in municipal affairs.

## **Plan Process**

The process used to prepare this comprehensive plan was unique. Because of the County's fiscal constraints and limited resources to prepare this plan, the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development relied on the numerous existing studies and visioning exercises the County has engaged in over the years.

The reports summarizing these efforts provided the basis for this comprehensive plan, therefore, reducing the need for an exhaustive, detailed review of the County's existing conditions. In addition, a review of these past reports provided a thorough understanding of the issues and concerns of the community through a well documented public involvement process. Previous initiatives reduced the level of public involvement needed to ascertain the community's vision, policies, and goals for the future as documented in this plan.

The Chenango County Planning and Development Board, comprised of representatives from various municipalities and backgrounds, oversaw the comprehensive planning process to insure the appropriate conclusions were drawn from previous planning efforts. The board met periodically throughout the planning process to guide and review the preparation of this plan. The general public was invited to meetings conducted during the planning process to provide additional input and to review the final draft of this plan.

The public participation process used in the preparation of this plan was carried out through a variety of methods. First, a Community Survey with a target of 500 randomly drawn residents was conducted by Zogby International, Utica, New York. The survey and resulting report can be found on the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development website, below the Comprehensive Plan.

Second, the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development reviewed the survey previously conducted by the Chenango County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board to gather additional input regarding the agriculture industry. The results of this survey can also be found on the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development website, below the Comprehensive Plan.

Third, a draft form of the Comprehensive Plan was made available on the County Department of Planning and Development website where comments were solicited from businesses, other organizations, and residents in general. A press release was printed in The Evening Sun notifying interested persons of its availability online and how to provide feedback.

Finally, a public hearing was held prior to the adoption of the Plan to solicit any additional input.

### **Users of This Plan**

The Board of Supervisors, County Departments, the County Planning and Development Board, and Local municipalities should review this plan on a continuous basis as they move the County forward over the next decade. In particular, this plan will guide the planning process directing the future of the County municipalities. Local, Regional, State, and Federal agencies should review this plan to identify where the County is meeting its goal in becoming the vibrant center of the region and how they can participate in strengthening that goal. In addition, investors should review this plan to discover how they can fit into the economy and splendid physical setting that Chenango County is sure to create over the next decade.

## **Coordinating with Other Plans**

This Comprehensive Plan builds upon previous county planning efforts, most notably the remarkable grass roots process resulting in Chenango County's 2020 Vision<sup>2</sup> report. Other notable plans to reference for additional information include the Chenango County Economic Development Strategic Plan Update 2014-2020, currently in draft form, the Chenango County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan – 2012 Update, the Chenango County All Hazards Mitigation Plan – 2014 Update, the Opportunities for Chenango Survey Report, and the New York Upstate Revitalization Initiative.

Copies of the above mentioned plans are available for inspection at the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development.



Photo 2: Gaius Cook Park

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<sup>2</sup> Full title: Chenango County's 2020 Vision: Anticipating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Summary Report of the 2020 Vision Commission on the Future, 1992

## **HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

In many ways, Chenango County's historical and cultural resources are similar to our rich natural resources. Like wetlands, forests, agricultural lands and other natural resources, historic properties are a finite and endangered resource. Once a historic or cultural property is destroyed, it is lost forever. Cultural resources, such as historic buildings, monuments of historic events, and archaeological sites, are statements of Chenango County's identity. People especially value our authentic, homegrown cultural resources that set us apart from other counties.

### **Purpose of Plan for Historical and Cultural Resources**

This element of the Chenango County Comprehensive Plan sets forth policies and a course of action for the preservation and treatment of these historic and archaeological resources. The Plan reflects local attitudes toward historic preservation, establishes preservation as public policy and puts these values into writing.

The purpose of this plan is to protect and preserve our Historical and Cultural Resources, both identified and potential, by establishing public policy that ensures:

- Management decisions about historical and cultural resources are based on solid information obtained through credible research programs.
- County planners, developers, property owners and citizens have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about actions that could affect Chenango County's cultural heritage.
- All available information on historical and cultural resources is fully integrated into planning tools for local and tribal decisions about land use. Decisions concerning land use will include active participation by the wide variety of people whose heritage and traditions are at stake.

### **History of Settlement**

The original inhabitants of Chenango County were nomadic Native Americans of the Archaic Period (6000BC – 700BC) or earlier, who fished along the Chenango River re-using campsites over hundreds of years. Archaeologists have excavated a small village on the White Site near Norwich which has been carbon dated AD950 +/- 250 years. This site is one of the largest and best examples of the Hunter's Home Phase of Indian occupation in the state. When European settlers arrived, the Chenango Valley had long been the traditional hunting and fishing grounds of the Oneida Iroquois tribe.

Chenango County was part of a purchase made by Governor George Clinton from the Oneida Indians on September 22, 1788. Chenango County was formed March 15, 1798 from Herkimer and Tioga Counties. Sangerfield (Oneida County) was split off in 1804, and what is now Madison County followed in 1806. Chenango County is situated in the interior a little southeast of the center of the State, and contains 903 square miles. Two ridges of highlands extend through the County from northeast to southwest, the first lying between the Unadilla and Chenango Rivers and the second between the Chenango and Otselic Rivers. In 1807, Norwich was designated County Seat and a wooden courthouse was built, followed by a stone courthouse constructed in 1837 which is still in use.

Beginning in 1800 settlers poured into the County from New England and the Hudson River Valley. Many were Revolutionary War Veterans. The pioneer period from 1798 to 1837 was difficult. The County was covered in a dense virgin forest. According to agricultural historian, U. P. Hedrick, in Central New York at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the axe was as important to the pioneer farmer as the plow. Clearing the forest wore out the first two generations of many pioneer farm families, but in spite of the difficulties, settlement progressed at a rapid rate and large successful dairy farms were created.

The principal problem for the early settlers was a lack of dependable transportation. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 created a clamor for a canal of its own in Chenango County. The Chenango Canal opened in 1837, linking the Erie Canal at Utica to the Susquehanna River at Binghamton. While the Chenango Canal was never an economic success for New York State, it provided a huge boost to the economy of Chenango County, both for farmers and for manufacturers. Agricultural products such as hops and barrels of cider were shipped to large markets along the Erie. The Canal provided the impetus for industrial development that previously was not possible. Coal and iron ore were shipped in, finished products such as hammers and iron fencing were shipped out.

With the opening of the Chenango Canal, dairy farms increased in size and production while also offering farmers an alternative way to export crops such as corn, hops, and tobacco.<sup>3</sup> Several hop barns still exist within Chenango County although many have been converted to other uses.

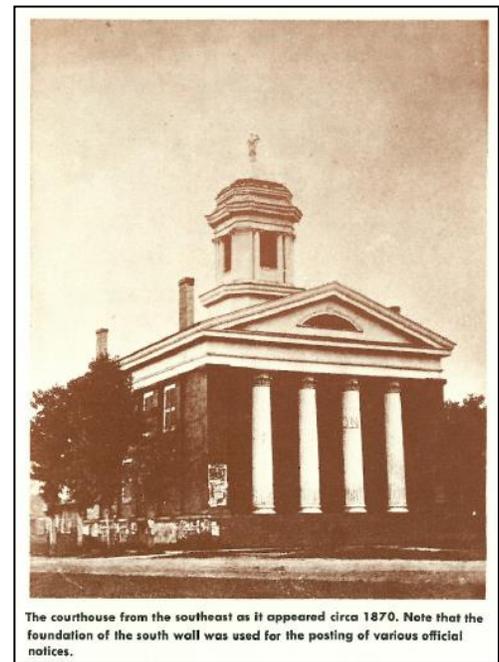


Photo 3: Provided by Patricia Evans, County Historian

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<sup>3</sup> New York Genealogy. "Early History Sherburne, Chenango County, New York" and "Early History Afton, Chenango County, New York". <http://www.newyorkgenealogy.org/chenango/early-history-sherburne.htm>



Photo 4: Spees' Spa. Photo provided by Peg Ross - Town of Greene Historian

Tourism in Chenango County began to flourish in the early 1800's as visitors from all over the east coast and beyond came to realize the supposed medical benefits of the area sulphur springs. Spees' Spa, also known as the McDonough Mineral Spring, located on the northern border of the Town of Smithville, once hosted a two story resort, Post Office and General Store in the early 1800's.<sup>4</sup>

Other notable sulphur springs located in the county included; Handsome Brooke near the Village of Sherburne; Sulphur Springs Health Resort located in the Town of Pitcher; and one two miles south of the City of Norwich.<sup>5</sup>

For the first time, industry also began to flourish in the County. The Maydole Hammer Factory was a major industry in the County for more than one hundred years. Founded by blacksmith David Maydole in Norwich shortly after the opening of the Chenango Canal, the factory eventually became known for producing the best adz-eye hammers in the world. David Maydole invented the process that created the adz-eye hammerhead which was designed to stay on the handle, correcting a major flaw in hammers of the day. The Maydole Hammer Factory was built to incorporate the power from lock 93 to run the grinding process in the factory. Other industries throughout the County built near the canal. Hart Pottery opened in Sherburne importing clay from New Jersey and salt from Salina combining with the plentiful local wood and water to produce beautiful pottery. The Parsons Low-Down Wagon factory was established at Earlville, and Lyon Iron Works was established in Greene. In 1869 the New York and Oswego Midland Railroad began operation in the County. With the success of this and other railroads through the County, the Chenango Canal declined steadily until it was closed in 1878.

Industrial development continued during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with many nationally known industries springing up in the County. Gail Borden was born in Norwich in 1836, leaving for Texas as a young man. Mr. Borden invented "Borden's Condensed Milk," and returned to Norwich in 1856 to begin manufacturing condensed milk. Milk plants were established in many towns in the county. The main Borden's plant was for many years located in Norwich. Oxford Blue Stone was quarried not only at Oxford, but also at Norwich beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Curbstones in New York City and Philadelphia were made from this local stone. The Norwich Pharmacal Company, founded in 1885, manufacturer of Pepto-Bismol, Unguentine, Norwich Aspirin, and other pharmaceuticals grew into a vast company which eventually

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<sup>4</sup> Rootsweb. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rsaft/ccgr.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Ross, Peg. "Spees' Spa or McDonough Sulphur Springs", 2013.

was purchased by Procter and Gamble. Today, much of the company has been moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. Champion Products, Norwich Shoe Company, TACO, Victory Markets, Tarbell Farms, Norwich Knitting Co., Page Seed Co., REA-D-Pack Foods, Gaines Dog Foods, Raymond Corporation, Bennett-Ireland, Sheffield Products, General Laboratory Associates, and the Gladding Corporation are companies that flourished in the twentieth century in the County. Today most have left, but Raymond Corporation, Quest International (formerly Sheffield, Kerry & now Sheffield again), Unison Industries, Ltd. (formerly GLA); Southern Tier Pet Nutrition (formerly Gaines and Chenango Valley Pet Foods), Gladding Corporation, and Page Seed Co. are still in operation.

Counted among the famous from Chenango County in addition to Gail Borden are Jedediah Strong Smith, known as the Pathfinder who discovered the first overland route to the Pacific; Dr. Ruth Benedict, first woman anthropologist who had Margaret Mead as her mentor; Harry Stack Sullivan, a well-known psychiatrist; William “Pussyfoot” Johnson was a nationally known prohibitionist; and artists Daniel Wagner, Maria Louisa Wager, and Tompkins Matteson. In addition, Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, accredited for founding the Mormon Church, lived in Afton and Smyrna respectively.

Our beautiful valleys and pastoral landscape have encouraged tourism with more people visiting the County each year. There are several museums, the Bullthistle Railroad, the Northeast Classic Car Museum, and the Chenango County Historical Society Museum, along with several local town historical society collections. Numerous yearly festivals such as the General Clinton Canoe Regatta, Sherburne Pageant of Bands, Colorscape, the Blues Festival, Gus Macker, and the Pumpkin fest are always successful tourist attractions.<sup>6</sup>

Early Chenango County was basically composed of seven townships:

- Town of Brookfield: Included the present Town of Columbus
- Town of DeRuyter: Included the present Towns of German, Lincklaen, Otselic, and Pitcher.
- Town of Greene: Included the present Towns of Coventry, Greene and Smithville
- Town of Jericho: Included the present Towns of Afton, Bainbridge, and Coventry.
- Town of Norwich: Included the present Towns of Guilford, McDonough, New Berlin, North Norwich, Norwich, Oxford, Pharsalia, Plymouth, and Preston.
- Town of Oxford: Included the present Towns of Guilford and Oxford.
- Town of Sherburne: Included the present Towns of Sherburne and Smyrna

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<sup>6</sup> “History of Settlement” section written predominantly by Patricia Evans, Chenango County Historian, with additions provided by various sources as noted.

## **Definition of Cultural Resources**

Cultural Resources are those buildings, structures, sites or associations left behind by a group of people and are generally over 50 years old. A large part of Chenango County’s special identity and civic pride is derived from its heritage. From the Native Americans who first established trading centers to the continuing waves of newcomers from around the world, all have left their mark. Cultural Resources consist of three types of properties; Historical, Cultural and Archaeological.

### **Historic Properties:**

Historic structures and landscapes engineered and built by man, such as:

- Historic buildings – houses, barns, commercial buildings, churches, schools.
- Historic structures – bridges, dams, stone fences.
- Historic districts – a grouping of buildings with related historic character listed on the NY State or Federal Registers of Historic Places.
- Historic objects – statues, monuments, sculpture.
- Landscapes – gardens, parks, urban and rural.

### **Traditional Cultural Properties and Archaeological Sites:**

Cultural Resources include properties that were held in spiritual or ceremonial honor or by a cultural group or tribe. Cultural Resources also may include properties that no longer show evidence of manmade structures but retain a historical association with an event or period, such as archeology sites, battlefields, Native American campsites, cemeteries and burial sites, and religious and ceremonial sites.

## **Historical Districts and Places**

A special community resource found throughout Chenango County includes places of historical interest and significance. Interest in the environment, together with a growing awareness of the irreplaceable quality of historic structures and the economics of present day building have all combined to make preservation and re-use of historic buildings an important consideration today.



Photo 5: White Store Church and Evergreen Cemetery

### **Historic Districts and Places:**

A Historic District is an area, which because of its identifiable historic character, has been so designated by the National Register of Historic Places based on a locality’s initial recommendations. The National Register

is the official list of the country's tangible history. A district must meet certain criteria to qualify for designation; the area need not, however, have national or state importance. Districts may be created by cities, towns or villages to protect areas which are significant to their own local development. Individual structures, whether in a Historic District or not, may be placed on the National Register.

At this time, Chenango County has eleven Historic Districts listed on the National Register, as well as numerous historical sites. The preservation and development of these historic resources in Chenango County has involved the impressive record of appreciation and dedication of public officials, civic organizations, and interested citizens.

To showcase this appreciation for preserving historic resources, various objects and structures have been moved or reassembled behind the Chenango County Historical Society on Rexford Street in the City of Norwich. Structures and objects located at the Historical Society include;

- “The Lilly Building” – houses a replica canal boat and other objects relating to the Chenango Canal
- Loomis Barn – an 1860's horse barn formerly located in the Town of Smithville. The barn will house agricultural equipment and other objects relating to farm life throughout the history of Chenango County.
- Preston School House
- Sap House

Historic buildings or districts on the National Historic Register recently preserved or restored include;

- Chenango County Courthouse, City of Norwich;
- Colonia Theater, City of Norwich;
- County Jail (converted to DSS Administrative Offices), City of Norwich;
- Loomis Farm, Town of Smithville;
- Rockwell's Mills Historic District, Town of Guilford;
- Smyrna Opera House Auditorium (Town Hall), Village of Smyrna.



Photo 6: 2013 County Courthouse Restoration

### **Grant Programs:**

To help property owners, municipalities, and other agencies with preserving or restoring historic properties for residential, commercial or industrial reasons, a variety of Federal and State grants and tax credits are available. Other organizations also offer grants to varying degrees.

A State program utilized by a number of Chenango County municipalities, including the City of Norwich and Village of New Berlin, is the New York Main Street Program. This grant is administered by the NYS Office of Community Renewal with a purpose to strengthen the economic vitality of the State's traditional Main Streets and neighborhoods.

Other NYS grant programs include the Historic Preservation Program, the Heritage Areas Program, and the Parks Program. These grant programs can be found at; <http://nysparks.com/grants/grant-programs.aspx>.

Federal grants for historic preservation include American Battlefield Protection, Preserve America, and Tribal Heritage. More information about these grants can be found here; <http://www.nps.gov/history/grants.htm>.

Both Federal and NYS tax credits are available for rehabilitation of structures listed on the National Historic Register. Programs include the Federal Investment Tax Credit Program for Income Producing Properties, New York State Tax Credit Program for Income Producing Properties, New York State Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit, and New York State Historic Barns Tax Credit. Depending on the program, tax credits could amount to twenty percent (20%) of the rehabilitation costs. More information about these tax credits can be found here; <http://nysparks.com/shpo/tax-credit-programs/>.

### **Outreach Programs**

Organizations at all levels offer programs to encourage residents and visitors to enjoy the plentiful history of a community. Programs include; Civil War Reenactments, editorials in the various newspapers by area historical societies and historians, the General Clinton Canoe Regatta, festivals and more. Not only does this instill a sense of historic pride to a region, it also helps an area economically by increasing the amount of tourism.

The Path Through History website, <http://www.paththroughhistory.ny.gov/>, is an interactive tool offered by NYS which lists all of the cultural and historical opportunities available to residents and visitors. Opportunities on the website can be sorted by a variety of themes including Arts and Culture, Civil Rights, Colonial History, Natural History, The Revolutionary War, Sports History, Women's Rights and more.

Among those listed are the various museums in Chenango County which also county offer educational outreach to residents and visitors of all ages. Whether interested in classic cars, railroads and trains, or just history in general, many opportunities exist. More information about our various museums and other recreational opportunities can be found in the Recreation section of this plan.

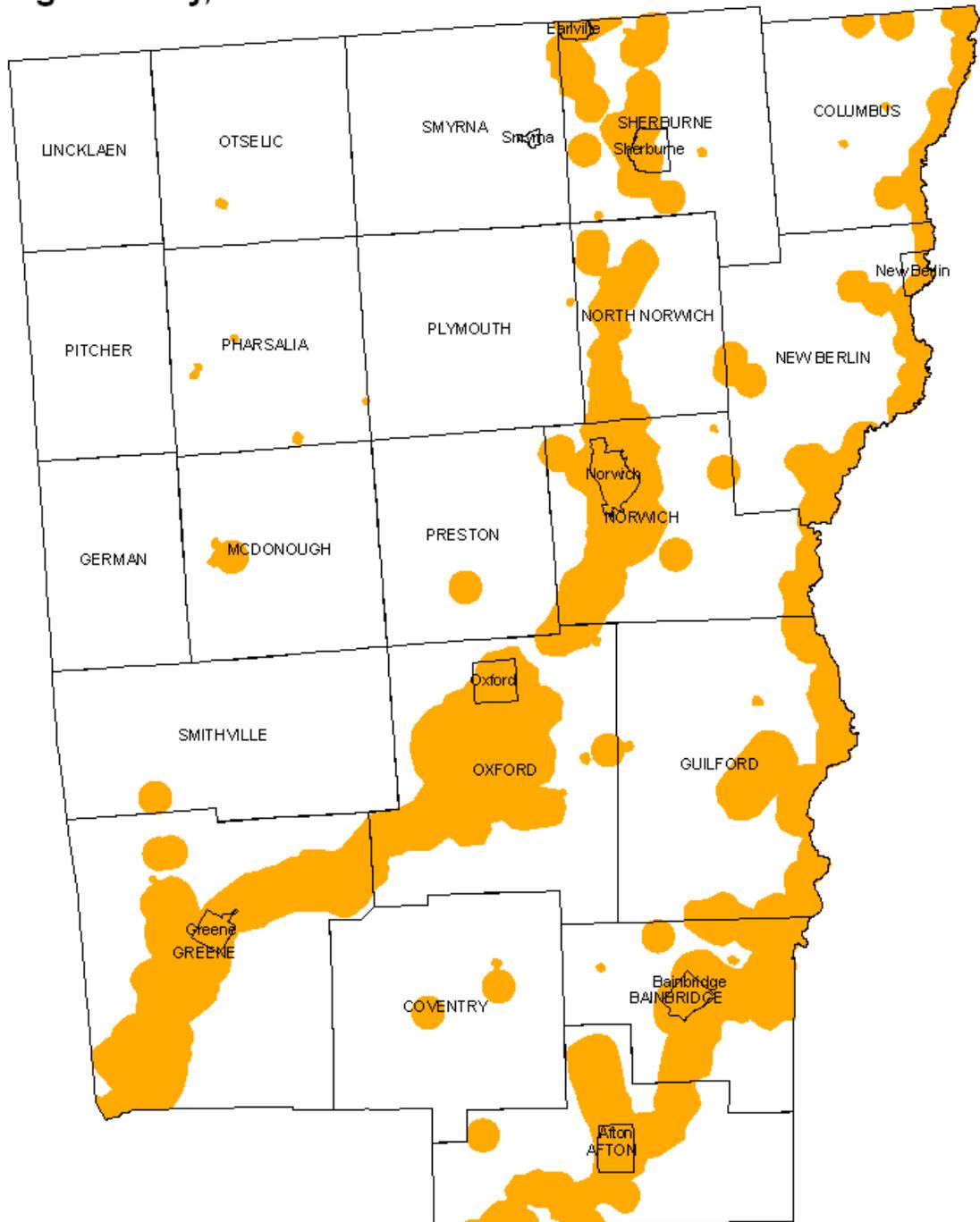
## Chenango County Buildings, Cemeteries, Historic Districts and Sites

### Listed on the National Register of Historic Places <sup>7</sup>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Period of Significance</b>
Afton	Main Street Historic District	District	1850-1949
Bainbridge	Bainbridge Historic District	District	1800-1924
Bainbridge	Charles C. Hovey Residence and Strong Leather Company Mill	Mill	1875-1924
Chenango County Chenango Canal	97 mile canal connecting Utica to Binghamton, NY 114 locks - Sherburne, No. Norwich, Oxford & Greene		1837-1878
Columbus	Columbus Community Church	Church	1825-1849, 1875-1899
Coventry	District 4 School	School	1900-1924
Coventry	Coventryville District School 2	School	1850-1874
Earlville	Earlville Historic District	District	1825-1924
Earlville	Earlville Opera house	Opera House	1875-1899
Greene	Bates Round Barn	Barn	1925-1949
Greene (Village)	Clinton-Rosekrans Law Building	Office	1800-1899
Greene (Village)	Greene Historic District	District	1800-1949
Greene	Young Round Barn	Barn	1900-1924
Guilford	Guilford Center Presbyterian Church	Church	1817
Guilford	Guilford Center Cemetery	Cemetery	1800-1974
Guilford	Rockdale Community Church	Church	1850-1949
Guilford	Rockwells Mills	District	1792-1907
McDonough	Calvary Episcopal Church	Church	1875-1924
New Berlin	Horace O. Moss House (Preferred Manor)	House	1825-1849
New Berlin	New Berlin Historic District	District	1800-1949
Norwich (City)	Chenango County Courthouse District	District	1800-1899
Norwich (City)	Methodist-Episcopal Church of Norwich	Church	1850-1924
Norwich (City)	North Broad Street Historic District	District	1825-1874
Norwich (City)	US Post Office - Norwich	Post Office	1925-1949
Norwich (City)	Eaton Family Residence (Jewish Center)	House	1900-1974
Norwich (City)	Emmanuel Episcopal Church Complex	Church	1850-1974
Norwich	White Store Church & Evergreen Cemetery	Church	1750-1949
Otselic	Newton Homestead – Gladding International Sport Fishing Museum	Museum	1850-1874
Otselic	South Otselic, Holden Mathewson House	House	1900-1949
Otselic	South Otselic Historic District	District	1800-1949
Oxford (Village)	Theodore Burr House (Oxford Library)	House	1794, 1810, 1822
Oxford (Village)	Oxford Village Historic District	District	1750-1874
Oxford (Village)	US Post Office - Oxford	Post Office	1925-1949
Oxford	Sannick Family Farm	House	1800-1924
Pitcher	Pitcher Federated Churches (Pitcher Baptist & First Congregational)	Churches	1800-1974
Sherburne (Village)	Sherburne High School	School	1900-1949
Sherburne (Village)	Sherburne Historic District	District	1800-1949
Sherburne	West Hill Cemetery	Cemetery	1800-1974
Smithville	Smithville Flats Valley Grange No. 1397; First Universalist Society Church; Smithville Community Center	Church	1825-1924
Smyrna (Village)	Smyrna Elementary School	School	1925-1949
Smyrna (Village)	Smyrna Opera House (Town Hall)	Auditorium	1900-1974
Smyrna	Upperville Meeting House	House	1875-1899

<sup>7</sup> New York State Historic Preservation and National Register of Historic Places, <http://nysparks.com/shpo/national-register/>.

# Archeological Sensitivity Chenango County, NY



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Note: This map is based on information prepared by the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Office. Accuracy cannot be guaranteed and should be used for reference purposes only.

## CHENANGO COUNTY TODAY

This section deals with those natural and environmental characteristics important to the overall development pattern - existing and future - in the County. Careful attention to the natural features of our environment is important because of the irreplaceable resources potentially altered or destroyed, the limitations they pose to development, and the cost of modifying these limitations when development must be adapted to them. If and when these features are ignored, after-the-fact corrections must be implemented.

### Geographic Location

Chenango County is in the approximate center of the state, west of Albany, north of Binghamton, and southeast of Syracuse, and is considered to be within the “Southern Tier”. It is bordered by Broome County to the south and southwest, Madison County to the north, Cortland County to the west, Otsego County to the northeast and Delaware County to the southeast.



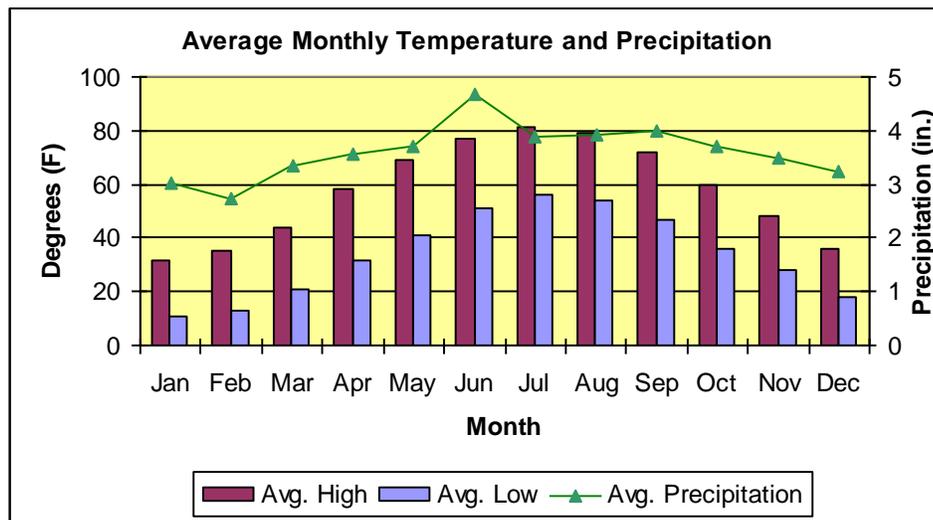
Source 1: Greenwich 2000, <http://New-York-US.net>

New York State is divided into nine geological regions with twenty-eight sub-classifications representing distinct types of landforms resulting from geologic structure and the process of erosion. Chenango County is located almost entirely within the Susquehanna Hills subdivision of the Appalachian Upland Area. The macro landform described as the Appalachian Uplands is underlain with Paleozoic sedimentary rocks which dip slightly toward the west and south. Severe erosion by streams as well as glacial action has produced a highly variable surface ranging from the rolling hills of the Finger Lakes to the low mountains of the Catskills. The

Susquehanna Hills subdivision of the Appalachian Upland region encompasses the upper regions of the Susquehanna River drainage basin which includes those tributaries throughout Chenango County leading to it.

## Climate

Chenango County has a humid continental climate influenced by cold and dry polar air masses from the north; warm, humid air masses from the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent subtropical waters; and cool, cloudy, and damp air masses flowing inland from the Atlantic Ocean.<sup>8</sup>



Source 2: The Weather Channel, [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com).

Due to these three air masses, the frost-free season in Chenango County averages over 120 days per year, except in the small area lying above 1,500 feet where the growing season is sometimes reduced to less than 120 days. January is typically the coldest month of the year with an average temperature of 22 degrees. A record cold of -32 degrees was recorded in 1968. July is typically the warmest month of the year with an average temperature of 69 degrees and a record high of 101 degrees recorded in 1936. Average precipitation for the County is about 40 inches per year with about 40 to 80 inches of snowfall. June is the wettest month of the year with an average 4.69 inches of rain. Amounts can vary based on elevation, with less in the valleys and greater on the hilltops.

## Topography

Formed by glaciation and erosion, the topography of Chenango County, as part of the Appalachian uplands, can be described as “rolling” to “hilly upland”. The Chenango, Unadilla and Otselic River corridors, which

<sup>8</sup> Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Flood Insurance Study, November 26, 2010. p. 7

vary in width up to a mile or more, are aligned in a generally north-south direction, eventually joining the Susquehanna River. The uplands have numerous small tributaries with steep grades. Elevations at the valley floor average around 900 – 1,000 feet above mean sea level; with upland areas generally reaching 1,500 feet or more above mean sea level. The highest point in Chenango County, approximately 2,000 feet above mean sea level, is located west of the City of Norwich. The lowest point in the Chenango Valley is in the vicinity of Greene where a 900-foot contour encloses the river.



Photo 7: Rolling Hills of Chenango County

## **Slopes**

In addition to the topographic map, maps of slopes and soils have been prepared to help interpret the topographic information in the following pages. The “Interpretation of Slopes” map records slopes in categories of 0 to 3, 3 to 8, 8 to 15, 15 to 35, and over 35 percent. The rate of change in elevation in these broad categories is important in terms of land uses which may be accommodated.

The categories of slope defined above may be interpreted as follows:

- 0-3% - few limitations on development of any type or on highway construction, except where run-off and surface drainage may be inadequate due to the very flatness of the land.
- 3-8% - areas which can generally accommodate development of most types, but at the upper limits, 6-8%, begin to pose problems for large commercial and industrial uses, highway construction, airports and other uses requiring large amounts of relatively flat land.

- 8-15% - these lands will be restricted to scattered and individually designed residential use – as well as agricultural and open space uses.
- 15-35% - generally represent areas too rugged to accommodate development of any substantial or concentrated nature, except for such recreation activities as hiking, skiing and other open space non-intensive uses.
- 35% and over – such areas are best devoted to forestry, open space and wildlife habitat uses as they are severely limited in terms of their appropriateness to most types of development.

Nearly half of the total County area is characterized by an incline in 0-3 and 3-8 percent categories where restrictions due to the degree and rapidity of change in the landform on most types of development are minimal.

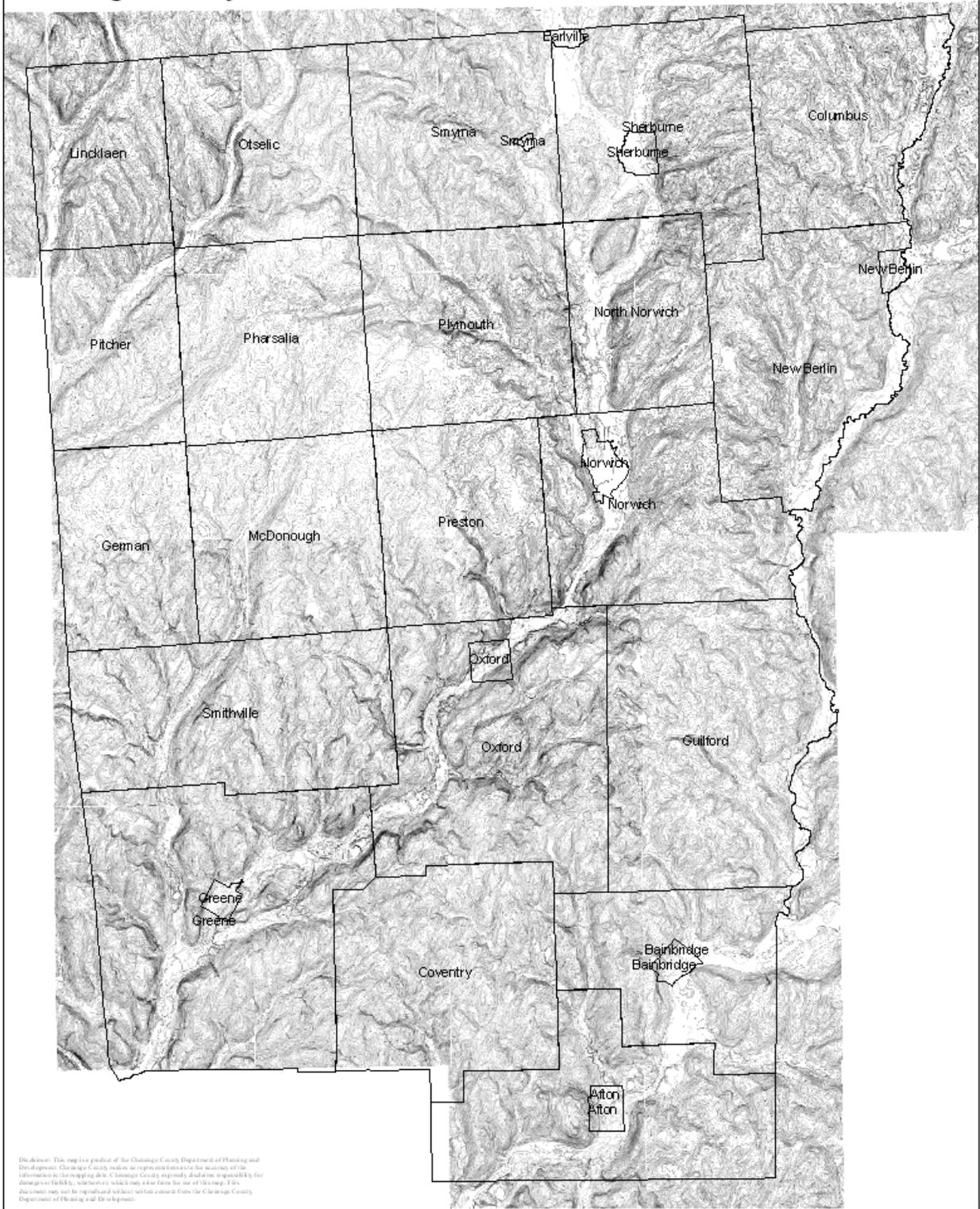
In Chenango County, the following percentages of land areas are tabulated within each of the five categories of slope described above and shown in the accompanying illustration.

Percent of Slope	Percent of County Area
0 - 3%	5.84
3 - 8%	39.59
8 - 15%	38.42
15 - 35%	11.79
Over 35%	4.36

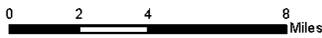
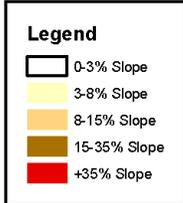
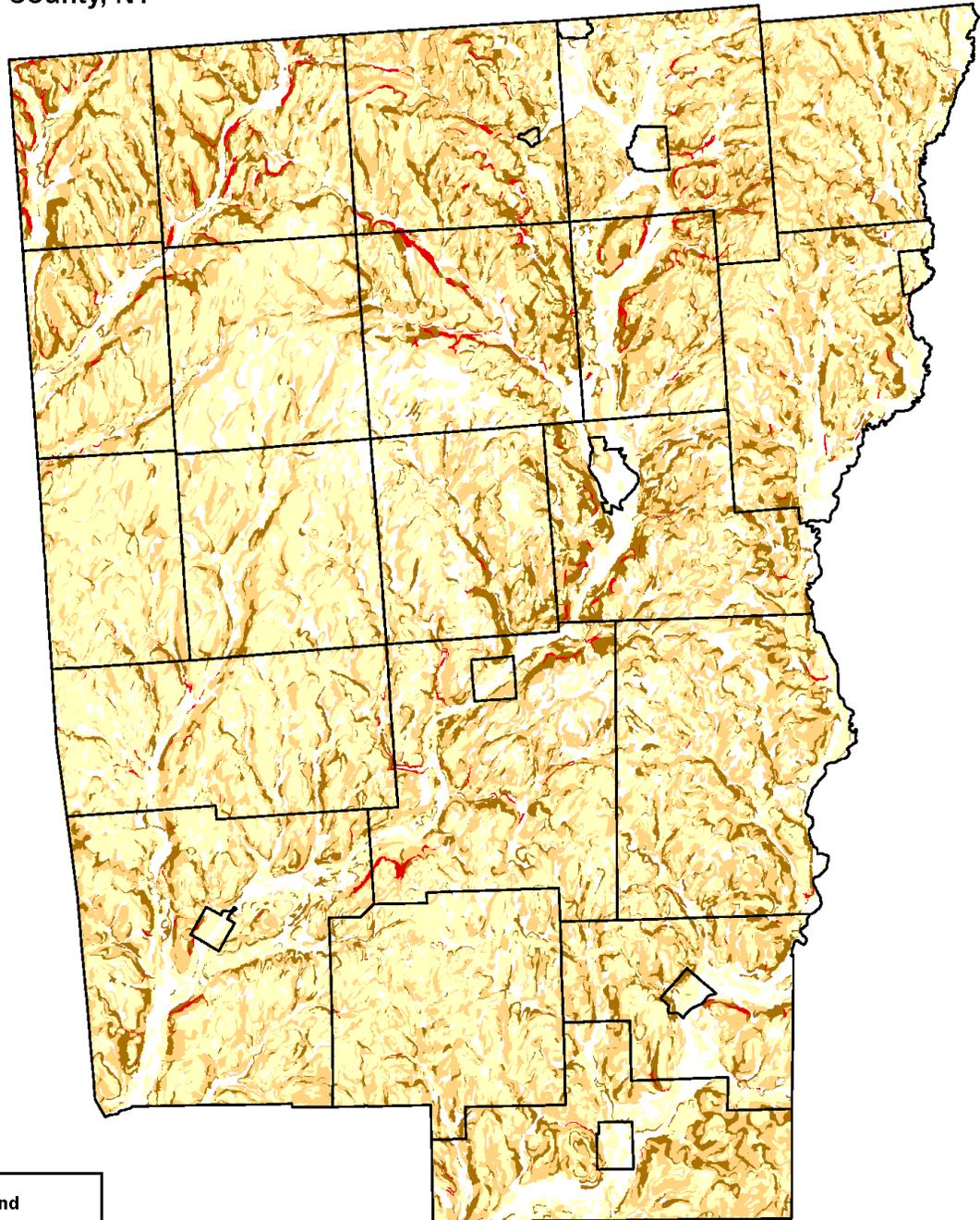
Source: 1 U.S. Department of Agriculture – Soil Conservation Service, 1985.

Topographic features have historically had a major role in determining the land use and settlement pattern in the County and will undoubtedly continue to do so. The configuration of the landform is also integral to the natural drainage and run-off patterns. An important consideration in the development of the County Plan will be to respect these natural patterns in the framework established for the proposed expansion or extension of the settlement pattern.

# Topography Chenango County, NY



# Interpretation of Slopes Chenango County, NY



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## **Soils and Soil Classifications**

Chenango County soils are well suited for agricultural crops, pastured livestock, and dairy farming but can be limited in areas due to steep slopes and poor drainage. A full report on the soils of Chenango County was prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Soil Conservation Service in 1985. The soil study highlights the quality and characteristics of the various soil associations and has been published as a separate, more detailed report.

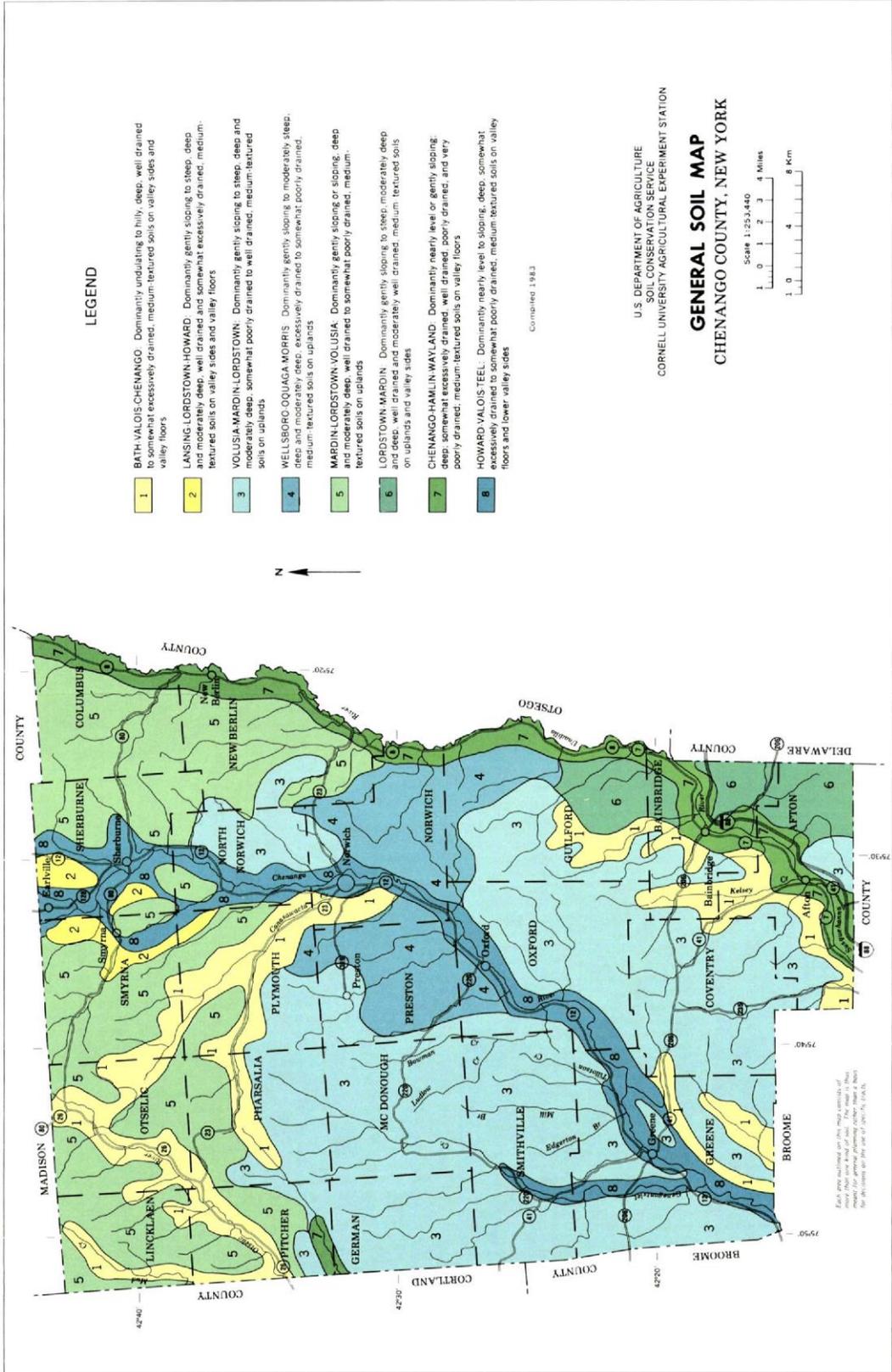
### **Rating Soils for Specific Uses**

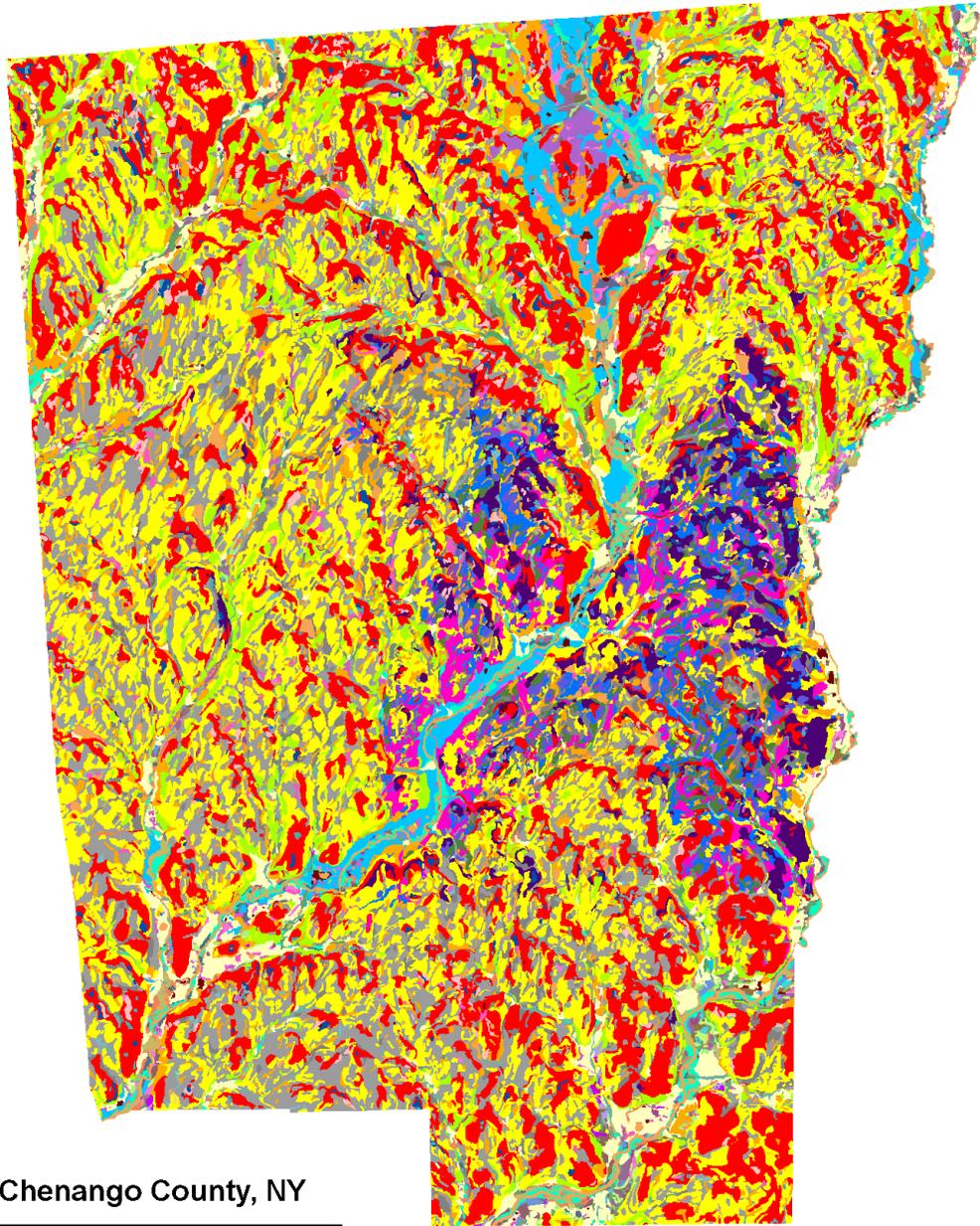
Each kind of soil in Chenango County has definite physical and chemical properties which permit grouping the soils according to their degree and kind of limitation and their suitability for various uses.

The soils are rated according to their limiting properties as follows:

- **Slight Limitations** – Areas so rated have few or no limitations for the designated use or those limitations that are present can be overcome at little cost.
- **Moderate Limitations** – In these areas, the limitations are more difficult to correct or may be impossible to correct entirely. Costs of overcoming limitations would be higher than on areas rated as slight, but would not pose insurmountable problems.
- **Severe Limitations** – Soils assigned this rating have the greatest number of limitations or limitations that are the most difficult to overcome. Costs of overcoming these limitations may make overall construction costs excessive. This limitation does not mean that a tract of land cannot be used for a specific purpose, but points out the problems that may arise. Most limitations can be overcome to a degree if cost is not a major consideration.

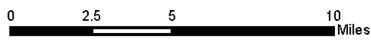
A summary outline of these limitations for selected types of uses is set forth in the Soil Survey of Chenango County, New York in the Tables section. Uses set forth in the survey include Land Capability and Yields per Acre of Crops and Pasture, Woodland Management and Productivity, Recreational Development, Wildlife Habitat, Building Site Development, Sanitary Facilities, Construction Materials, and Water Management.





### Soils in Chenango County, NY

Legend	
<b>Soils</b>	Ca Cm HpC MaC PhA Tr VcC
<b>Soil Symbol</b>	CbB Cn LaB MaD PhB Tu VpB
Ad	CbC GB LaC MbE Pt Ud W
AeB	Cc GC LaD MbB Pu Ue Wa
AsB	CdA Ha LaE McC Ra UnA WbB
AsC	CdB Hb LrB MoA Re UnB WcC
At	ChA HoA LrC MoB RIB VaB
BaB	ChB HoB LrD MoC RHC VaC
BaC	ChC HoC LoB OaB Sa VaD
BaD	ChD HoD LoC OaC SaA VaE
BvB	ChE HoE LuE OIB SaB VaF
BvC	ChA HpA LUF OIC Te VaA
BvD	ChB HpB MdB OIE Th VaB



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Map Symbol	Soil Name	Acres	Percent
Ad	Alden Silt Loam	1,984	0.3
ArB	Arkport fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	326	0.1
AsB	Arnot channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	2,970	0.5
AsC	Arnot channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	452	0.1
At	Atherton silt loam	2,023	0.3
BaB	Bath channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	4,033	0.7
BaC	Bath channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	5,260	0.9
BaD	Bath channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	6,039	1.0
BvB	Bath-Valois gravelly silt loams, undulating	2,929	0.5
BvC	Bath-Valois gravelly silt loams, rolling	4,873	0.8
BvD	Bath-Valois gravelly silt loams, hilly	12,728	2.2
Ca	Canandaigua silt loam	1,099	0.2
CbB	Canaseraga silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	264	0.1
CbC	Canaseraga silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	240	*
Cc	Carlisle muck	1,512	0.3
CdA	Castile gravelly silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	778	0.1
CdB	Castile gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	752	0.1
ChA	Chenango gravelly silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	1,605	0.3
ChB	Chenango gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	5,842	1.0
ChC	Chenango gravelly silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	3,571	0.6
ChD	Chenango gravelly silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	2,554	0.4
ChE	Chenango gravelly silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	1,859	0.3
CkA	Chenango channery silt loam, fan, 0 to 3 percent slopes	4,873	0.8
CkB	Chenango channery silt loam, fan, 3 to 8 percent slopes	4,577	0.8
Cm	Chippewa and Norwich soils	12,066	2.0
Cn	Chippewa and Norwich very stony silt loams	6,566	1.2
GrB	Greene silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	5,069	0.9
GrC	Greene silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	1,010	0.2
Ha	Hamlin silt loam, low bottom	4,592	0.8
Hb	Hamlin silt loam, high bottom	977	0.2
HoA	Howard gravelly loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	1,621	0.3
HoB	Howard gravelly loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	4,232	0.7
HoC	Howard gravelly loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	1,852	0.3
HoD	Howard gravelly loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	1,524	0.3
HoE	Howard gravelly loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	1,062	0.2
HpA	Howard silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	538	0.1
HpB	Howard silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	933	0.2
HpC	Howard silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	674	0.1
LaB	Lackawanna channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	2,563	0.4
LaC	Lackawanna channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	4,833	0.8
LaD	Lackawanna channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	2,710	0.5
LaE	Lackawanna channery silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	483	0.1
LnB	Lansing gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	535	0.1
LnC	Lansing gravelly silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	868	0.1
LnD	Lansing gravelly silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	147	*
LoB	Lordstown channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	33,559	5.8
LoC	Lordstown channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	35,603	6.1
LrE	Lordstown and Oquaga channery silt loams, 15 to 35 percent slopes	40,938	7.1
LrF	Lordstown and Oquaga channery silt loams, 35 to 50 percent slopes	6,725	1.2
MaB	Mardin channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	48,813	8.4
MaC	Mardin channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	52,864	9.1

MaD	Mardin channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	16,211	2.8
MbE	Mardin and Lackawanna very stony silt loams, 15 to 35 percent slopes	4,889	0.8
McB	Mardin and Wellsboro very stony silt loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes	6,686	1.2
McC	Mardin and Wellsboro very stony silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	8,373	1.4
MoA	Morris channery silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	552	0.1
MoB	Morris channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	6,318	1.1
MoC	Morris channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	2,334	0.4
OaB	Oquaga channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	3,236	0.6
OaC	Oquaga channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	3,115	0.5
OIB	Oquaga and Lordstown very stony silt loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes	1,805	0.3
OIC	Oquaga and Lordstown very stony silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	2,990	0.5
OIE	Oquaga and Lordstown very stony silt loams, 15 to 35 percent slopes	6,273	1.1
PhA	Phelps gravelly silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	220	*
PhB	Phelps gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	543	0.1
Pt	Pits, gravel and sand	509	0.1
Pu	Pits, quarry	281	0.1
Ra	Raynham silt loam	1,211	0.2
Re	Red Hook silt loam	884	0.2
RhB	Riverhead fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	309	0.1
RhC	Riverhead fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	220	*
Sa	Sapristis and Aquents, ponded	555	0.1
ScA	Scio silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	1,621	0.3
ScB	Scio silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	577	0.1
Te	Teel silt loam, moderately well drained	4,395	0.8
Th	Teel silt loam, somewhat poorly drained	1,785	0.3
Tr	Trestle silt loam	2,818	0.5
Tu	Tuller channery silt loam	1,756	0.3
Ud	Udifluvents-Fluvaquents complex, frequently flooded	10,168	1.7
Ue	Udorthents, smoothed	715	0.1
UnA	Unadilla silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	461	0.1
UnB	Unadilla silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	615	0.1
VaB	Valois gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	5,803	1.0
VaC	Valois gravelly silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	6,104	1.1
VaD	Valois gravelly silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	3,838	0.7
VaE	Valois gravelly silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	1,999	0.3
VaF	Valois gravelly silt loam, 35 to 50 percent slopes	2,590	0.4
VoA	Volusia channery silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	5,292	0.9
VoB	Volusia channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	50,756	8.8
VoC	Volusia channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	22,325	3.8
VpB	Volusia and Morris very stony silt loams, 3 to 10 percent slopes	22,776	3.9
Wa	Wayland silt loam	4,542	0.8
WeB	Wellsboro channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	7,168	1.2
WeC	Wellsboro channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	6,507	1.1
	Water	2,495	0.4
<b>Total</b>		581,120	100.0

Source: 2 U.S. Department of Agriculture – Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Chenango County, New York, 1985.

\* Less than 0.1 percent

## **Factors Used in Determining Soil Limitations**

The following are some of the soil properties, singly or in combination with others, commonly affecting land uses, and are instrumental in determining the above ratings. These soil properties are an important determinant of proper land use and may be properly accommodated for on a given type of soil.

- **Flooding** – Soils subject to flooding are considered to have severe limitations for use as sites for septic tanks, home sites, paved areas and sanitary landfills, regardless of frequency of flooding. Other uses affected to a moderate or slight degree due to infrequent flooding are; pipelines, landscaped areas and golf courses, campsites (exclusive of permanent buildings), and picnic and play areas.



Photo 8: Erosion due to flooding.

- **Prolonged and Seasonal Wetness** – Soils which are wet for most of the year, though not necessarily flooded, have severe limitations for most uses.
- **Surface Texture** – Affects absorption, infiltration, drying time after rain and ease of establishing and maintaining grass cover.
- **Depth to Bedrock** – Soil depth to bedrock affects many uses, especially if any excavating or grading is needed for the particular use such as septic tanks, home sites and streets. It is also generally difficult to establish vegetation on soils shallow to bedrock.
- **Slope** – The slope of the soil affects most uses. Nearly level and gently sloping soils that have no other physical shortcomings have slight limitations for most uses, while soils with steep slopes have severe limitations for most uses. Erosion is also an ever-present hazard on sloping hills.
- **Stoniness or Rockiness** – Numerous large stones or rock outcrops impose limitations for some uses. Soils that have very stony or rocky conditions indicated in the soil name contain sufficient stones and rock outcrops to be a hindrance to many uses.
- **Permeability** – Soil permeability is a measure of the amount of water that can pass through the soil or soil layers in a given amount of time. It is a most important item in rating soil capability to accommodate septic tank effluent. Although soils with rapid permeability usually have slight

limitations for septic tanks, a contamination hazard may exist. If shallow wells or bodies of water are nearby.

## **Water Resources and Related Features**

The water resources of Chenango County include both surface water areas – rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands – and subsurface ground water supplies – aquifers. Their importance is related to the many purposes water serves and the problems which result if this natural resource is not properly protected. Quality and quantity are important both now and in the future.



Photo 9: Small Stream in Chenango County

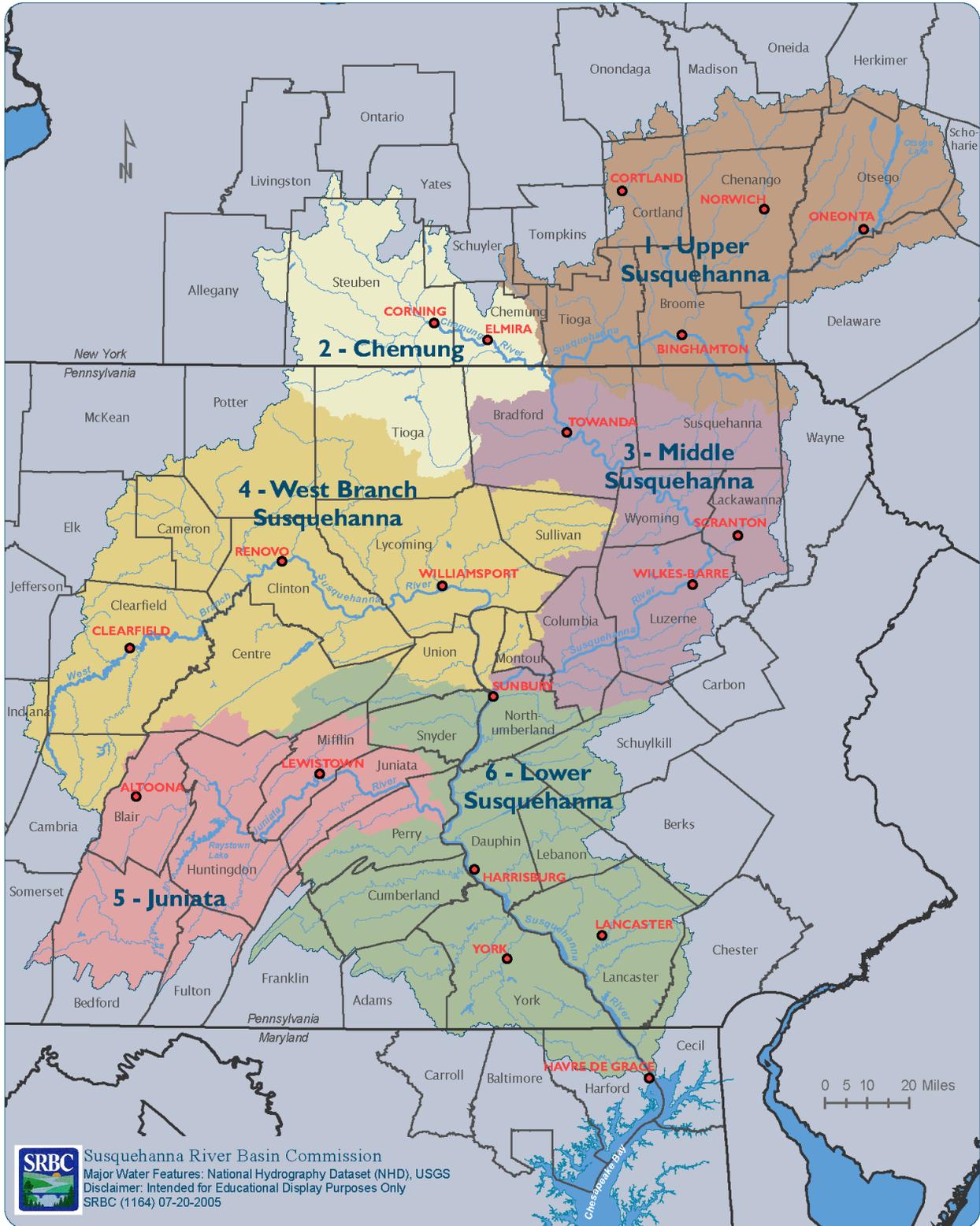
Virtually all water resources have a specific character or quality lending them to utilization or preservation for a specific and advantageous purpose. Lakes containing a sizable body of water are most likely to be used as a source of water supply, or for recreation, including lakeshore cottages, swimming, camping, fishing and boating. Natural and artificial ponds are frequently located on farms and are used for predominately agricultural purposes. Rivers, creeks and streams are natural drainage ways for the surrounding countryside and may be used for water supply in addition to scenic, recreation and open space purposes. Many bogs, marshes and wooded wetlands, although not readily adaptable for development purposes, do serve as a wildlife habitat and should be preserved as such. Other wetland areas including

those which do not support wildlife and those seasonal in nature are an important factor in the absorption and water-holding capacity of the land.

### **Drainage Basins**

Portions of two major drainage basins are in Chenango County; the Susquehanna River Basin encompassing most of the County, and the Delaware River Basin encompassing a very small southeast portion of the Town of Afton. Chenango County is part of the Upper Susquehanna Subbasin, one of six subbasins making up the larger Susquehanna River Basin. The subbasin includes our three major river corridors; the Otselic, Chenango, and Unadilla. Each watershed is directly affected by the type, quantity, and location of development within its boundaries as it relates to the natural drainage pattern.

## Susquehanna River Basin SUBBASINS



Susquehanna River Basin Commission  
 Major Water Features: National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), USGS  
 Disclaimer: Intended for Educational Display Purposes Only  
 SRBC (1164) 07-20-2005

The Otselic River Corridor includes the northwest portion of the County and encompasses portions of the Towns of Lincklaen, Otselic, Pharsalia, and Pitcher, all of which are characterized by sparse settlement patterns. Another principal stream in this corridor is the Tioughnioga River, contributing 1,293 river/stream miles to the Susquehanna River Basin.

The Chenango River corridor forms the largest and most prominent drainage channel in the County. The Chenango River originates in central Madison County to the north and travels 2,796 river/stream miles through the center of Chenango County. The principal corridor of development, including the City of Norwich and the Villages of Smyrna, Sherburne, Oxford, and Greene, occurs along this waterway. Other principal streams within this watershed include the Canasawacta and Geneganslet Creeks.

The Unadilla River Corridor includes almost the entire eastern edge of the County. The Unadilla River rises in Oneida County, runs 935 river/stream miles in Chenango County forming the boundary between Chenango and Otsego Counties, and joins the Susquehanna near Sidney. Along the course of the Susquehanna River, the corridor includes Bainbridge, Coventry and Afton, including the Villages of Bainbridge and Afton, a second major development corridor in the County.

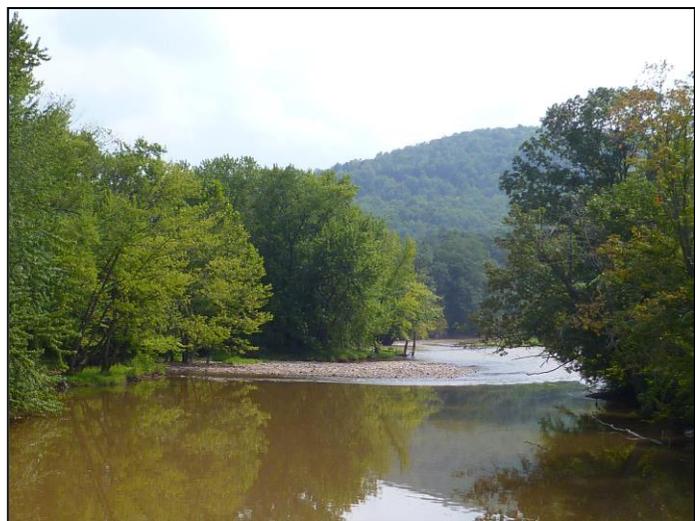


Photo 10: Unadilla River

### **River and Stream Classification and Quality**

The DEC has assigned most water bodies within the state a letter based classification on their existing or expected “best use.” The most pristine waters are assigned a classification of AA; while the most degraded waters are assigned a classification of D.

<b>Stream Classifications Class</b>	<b>Best Use</b>
AA	Drinking (after chlorination)
A	Drinking (after chlorination and filtration)
B	Bathing
C (T)	Fishing (trout)
C	Fishing
D	Secondary contact recreation

Source: 3 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6042.html>.

Additional classifications of “T” or “TS” can be added if a water body has sufficient amounts of dissolved oxygen to support trout and trout spawning. Water bodies designated as “C (T)” or higher (i.e., “C (TS)”, “B”, or “A”) are collectively referred to as "protected streams," and are subject to additional regulations.

Periodically, the DEC publishes the Priority Water-bodies List (PWL), which includes a list of water bodies that do not meet their designated “best use” classification. A data sheet that describes the conditions, causes, and sources of water quality degradation for each of the respective listings is also included in the PWL. The PWL is used by the DEC and other agencies as a primary resource for water resources management and funding.

Fish resources are a key factor in determining water body classifications because they are at the top of the food chain in aquatic habitats. As such, fish can be used as an indicator of the overall quality of an aquatic ecosystem. They are highly vulnerable, both directly and indirectly, to changes in their environment. They can be directly affected by physical and chemical changes in the water, and indirectly affected when changes in the environment affect their food sources or the temperature and turbidity of their habitat.

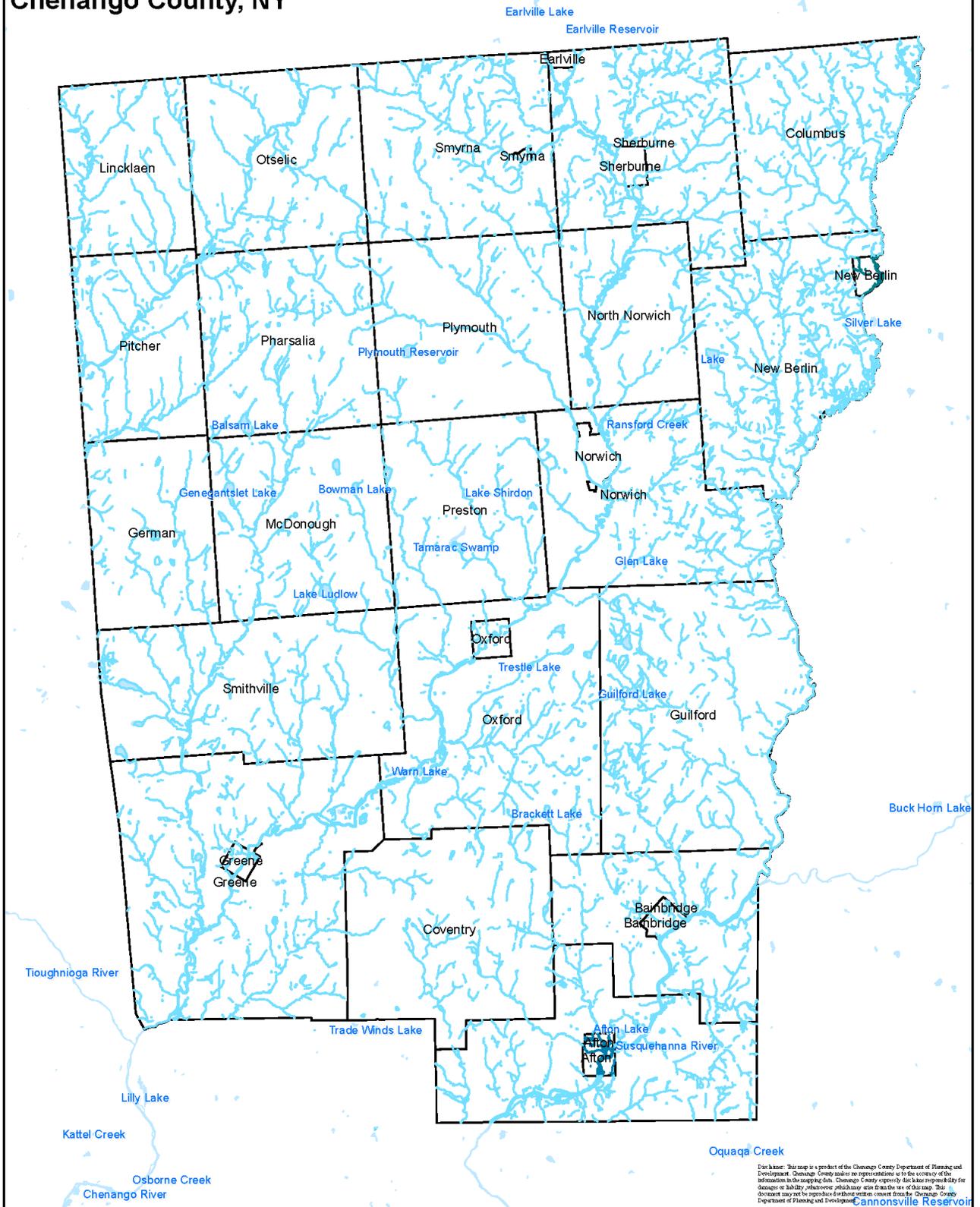
### **Sub-Surface Water Resources**

Aquifers are the primary sub-surface water resource in Chenango County. An aquifer is a geologic unit below the surface capable of storing and yielding usable quantities of ground water. Aquifers are usually described as confined or unconfined. Typically, confined aquifers are covered with, or consist of, less permeable substances such as clay or contiguous shale. Unconfined aquifers consist of unconsolidated materials such as sand and gravel, which allow substances to easily percolate from the surface to the aquifers below.

One or more aquifers can lie beneath any given point on the Earth’s surface; and the location, size, capacity, depth, and flow characteristics of an aquifer are directly related to the geology and hydrology of the particular aquifer and its recharge area.

The uppermost boundary of surficial aquifers (those closest to the Earth’s surface) is defined by the water table, which is where the spaces in unconsolidated sediments and the openings in bedrock are fully saturated. The spaces between soil and rock particles in the unsaturated zone, located above the water table, are only partially occupied by water. The water table rises and falls depending on the rates of groundwater recharge and discharge and the capacity of the aquifer.

# Water Resources Chenango County, NY



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Aquifers can be replenished – or recharged – by the infiltration of precipitation and surface water runoff through soil, as well as by the intermixing of surface water resources such as streams and creeks. The land area that contributes to this infiltration is called a recharge area. Recharge areas may replenish aquifers directly beneath them (as in the case of unconfined or surficial aquifers) or they may recharge aquifers far away (as in the case of confined aquifers).

Because aquifers are replenished by the infiltration of surface water, impervious surfaces (pavement from roads or parking lots, roofs, building footprints, etc.) decrease recharge areas and threaten aquifers by inhibiting infiltration of precipitation and surface water through the soil. Any contaminant contained in or near an aquifer, and/or its recharge area may potentially contaminate the aquifer. Potential contaminants include bacteria and pathogens leaching from septic systems; gas, salt and oil washed from parking lots; fertilizers; pesticides; hazardous or toxic waste spills; and petroleum or oil leaking from underground storage tanks.

Unlike surface water, which flushes contaminants downstream relatively quickly, groundwater in aquifers migrates relatively slowly and can take several years or decades to move from the point of origin to the point of discharge. Once degraded, an aquifer can become unusable, and oftentimes remediation is not technologically or economically feasible. Moreover, because of groundwater and surface water interactions, contamination in an aquifer may eventually contaminate surface water as well.

The quantity of water contained within an aquifer, and the aquifer's ability to serve as a reliable supply of water, must also be considered. Generally, an aquifer's geology, retention, and recharge characteristics determine the quantity of water available. When water is withdrawn at a rate faster than it is recharged, the aquifer can be depleted. Generally, this occurs when too many wells withdraw water from the same aquifer.

The major aquifers shown on the map below are concentrated principally along the major waterways at the base of the river valleys. The depth to the top of the aquifers below the water table ranges from less than 50 feet to more than 200 feet, and the saturated thickness of the aquifer ranges from less than 10 feet to more than 40 feet.

The general characteristics of the aquifers shown are described below:

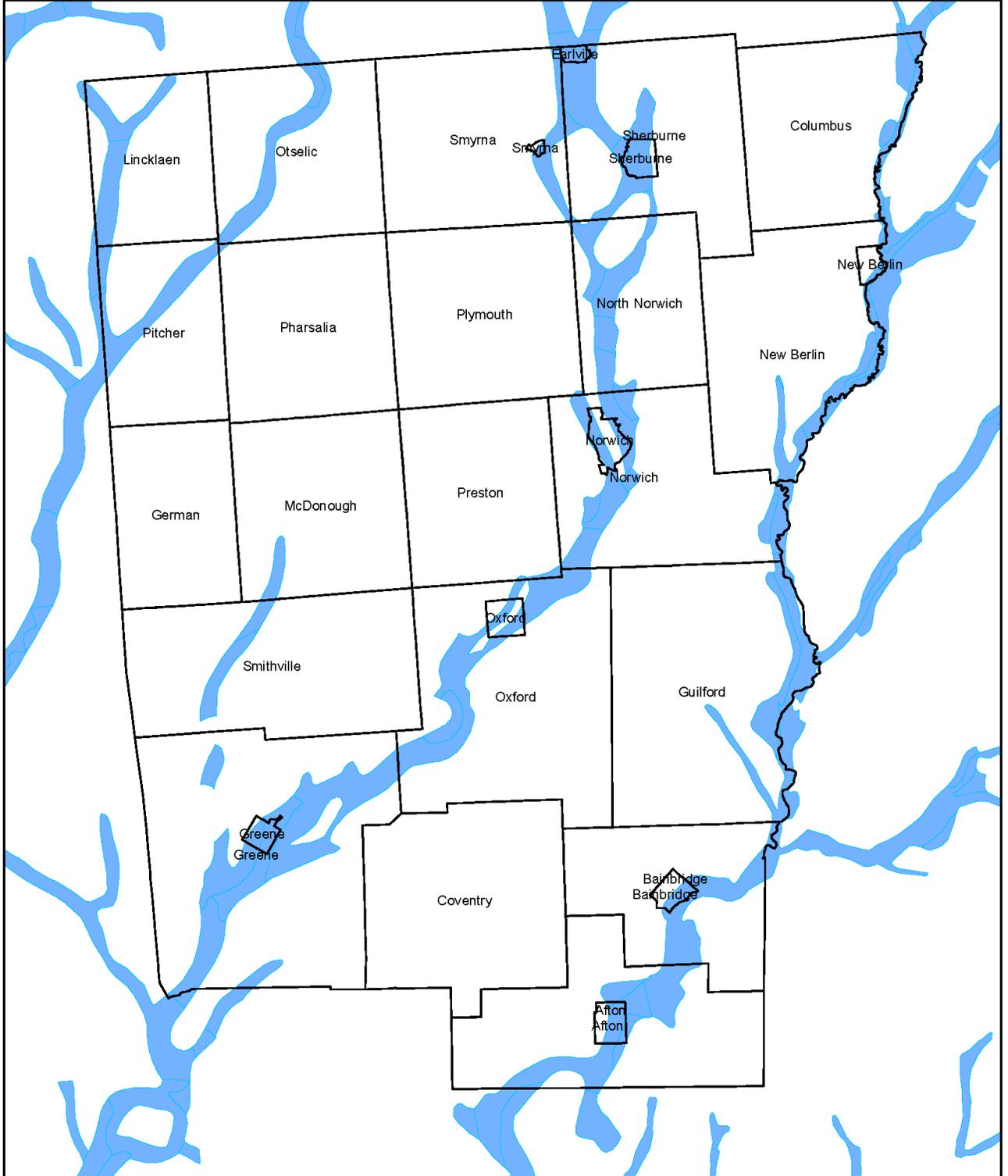
- Less than fifty feet deep (-50') – Aquifers at depths less than 50 feet have potentially greater sustained yields during continuous, long-term groundwater withdrawal than aquifers at greater depth. The quality of water, however, will have a pronounced seasonal fluctuation because of the seasonal changes in water quality in the nearby streams.

- Less than ten feet thick (-10') – The aquifer that is less than 50 feet deep and less than 10 feet thick may include some sand and gravel reworked and redeposited by recent streams. The water from this aquifer is of generally good quality for most uses.
- Ten to forty feet (10-40') and more than forty feet thick (+40') – The aquifer that is less than 50 feet deep and between 10 and 40 feet thick is the most widespread aquifer in the basin. The aquifer that is less than 50 feet deep and greater than 40 feet thick, in some areas contains a deep, continuous channel cut into underlying deposits. This is potentially the most productive aquifer in the basin and the water is of generally good quality for most uses.
- Fifty to two hundred feet deep (50-200')
  - Less than ten feet thick (-10') – The aquifer between 50 and 200 feet deep and less than 10 feet thick occurs as thin sand and gravel deposits at some depth in the center of the valley and as sand and gravel in terraces along the sides of the major valleys.
- More than two hundred feet deep (+200') – The aquifer greater than 200 feet deep is largely restricted in occurrence to the most eastern quarter of the basin. There is little information available from this aquifer and most of the hydrologic data were taken from small domestic wells in the major valleys. The water from this aquifer is of generally good quality for most uses. The dissolved solids content is low. The hardness content ranges from low to moderate and the iron content from low to high.

### **Protection of Water Resources**

In the hydrologic cycle, which sees the continuous circulation of water from the Earth's surface to the atmosphere and back to Earth, there is an important inter-relationship between ground and surface water. In Chenango County, this relationship is monitored by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps). Unlike the NYSDEC and Army Corps, the SRBC and DRBC are not restricted by political boundaries; the natural boundary of the river basins they serve act as their boundaries.

# Primary and Principal Aquifers Chenango County, NY



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Established in 1971 as a federal-interstate compact commission, the SRBC's mission is to enhance public welfare through comprehensive planning, water supply allocation, and management of the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin.<sup>9</sup> To carry out this mission, the SRBC has developed a set of policies, guidance and regulations which outline best management practices to protect this valuable resource.

Ten years older but representing a smaller area, the DRBC has provided leadership in restoring the Delaware River and protecting water quality, resolving interstate water disputes without costly litigation, allocating and conserving water, managing river flow, and providing numerous other services to the signatory parties.<sup>10</sup>

The NYSDEC Division of Water and the Army Corps require permits for activities that might affect or disturb a water body and/or its banks. The stringency of these permits corresponds with the DEC classification assigned to the water body and may range from a general, or unified, permit to a permit tailored to the specific site and type of work conducted. Regulated activities might include stream bank maintenance, construction, flood protection and mitigation, dredging, and certain agricultural practices.

Commercial, industrial, and agricultural activities that discharge to a water body require a State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit. This permit is required for a broad range of activities, including the discharge of wastewater, storm water, or chemical and thermal emissions from municipal treatment plants, industrial plants, utilities, large subdivisions, apartment complexes, and confined animal feeding operations.

Prior to conducting stream-related work or discharging wastewater, the Region 7 Office of the DEC or the Army Corps Buffalo District should be contacted to obtain the necessary approvals and permits. Each of these agencies will automatically forward permit applications to the other and each agency will contact the applicant if additional permits and/or paperwork are needed.

## **Wetlands**

There are 160 wetlands in Chenango County representing 4,470 acres, primarily Class II (3,019 acres). A map of the wetlands in Chenango County is shown in a later page. Wetlands such as swamps and marshes are often easily recognizable, but some wetlands, such as forested wetlands and wet meadows, are not obvious because they are dry during part of the year.

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<sup>9</sup> Susquehanna River Basin Commission. <http://www.srbc.net/about/geninfo.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Delaware River Basin Commission. <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/vision.htm>

Wetlands are a critical component of natural ecosystems and provide a variety of benefits such as:

- Filtering harmful toxins, nutrients, and sediment from surface and storm water runoff;
- Storing floodwaters and reducing the magnitude of flood events; and
- Providing valuable habitat for a diverse array of flora and fauna, including many rare, threatened, or endangered species.

According to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, wetlands are “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, wet meadows, and similar areas.”

According to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), “Freshwater wetlands are those areas of land and water that support a preponderance of characteristic wetlands plants that out-compete upland plants because of the presence of wetlands hydrology (such as prolonged flooding) or hydric (wet) soils. Freshwater wetlands commonly include marshes, swamps, bogs, and fens.”

The recreational uses associated with wetlands are very diverse and include bird watching, hunting, and fishing, all of which provide direct economic benefits to local communities. Because wetlands are crucially important both economically and environmentally, they are highly regulated by the Army Corps and the DEC.

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

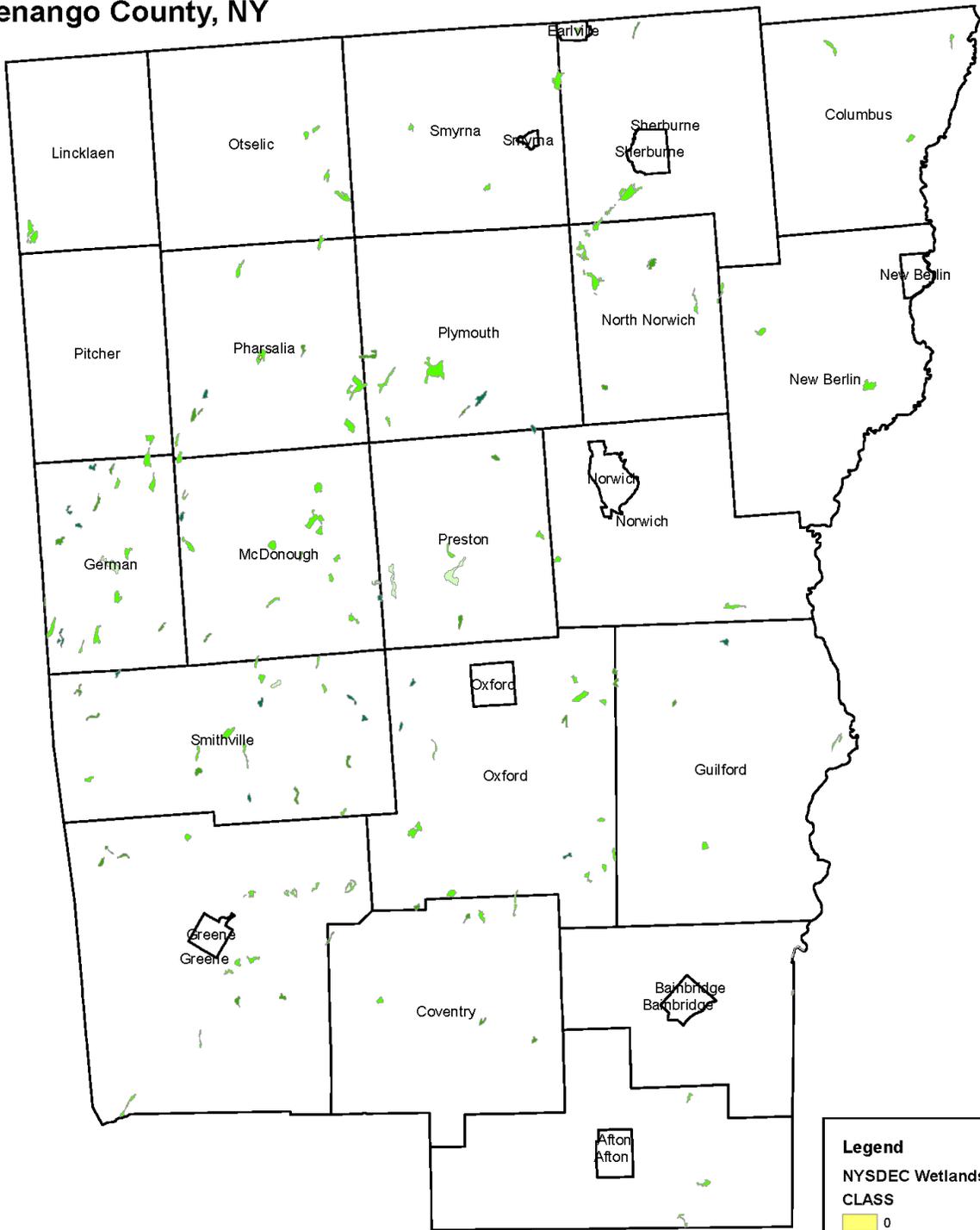
The National Wetlands Inventory was developed by analyzing aerial photographs and can be used to locate wetlands that are at least one acre in size; however, locations of wetlands should be verified by the Army Corps. The Army Corps issues wetland permits for the placement of fill or dredge materials and the construction of certain structures in waterways (navigable and non-navigable) and wetlands. Disturbances to wetlands must be mitigated in accordance with Army Corps



Photo 11: Class 2 Wetland

regulations. The Army Corps permit required for activities within a wetland, and the amount of wetlands mitigation required, vary depending on the type of project proposed and the area of wetland impacted.

# NYSDEC Fresh Water Wetlands Chenango County, NY



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The DEC regulates wetlands that are 12.4 acres or larger in size (this is based on the metric system: 12.4 acres = 5 hectares) as required by the Freshwater Wetlands Act enacted in 1975 to protect and preserve the critical role wetlands play in the environment. For any work occurring within a wetland or within 100 feet of a wetland boundary, the DEC requires that a wetlands permit be obtained.

Prior to conducting work in or near a wetland, the Region 7 Office of the DEC or the Army Corps Buffalo District should be contacted to obtain the necessary approvals and permits. Each of these agencies will automatically forward permit applications to the other and each agency will contact the applicant if additional permits and/or paperwork are needed. If permits are not obtained or wetlands are improperly altered, the Army Corps and the DEC have the authority to levy fines.

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

The DEC classifies wetlands according to their respective functions, values, and benefits. Of the four classes of wetlands, Class I wetlands are the most valuable and are subject to the most stringent standards. The Army Corps classifies wetlands only according to their species composition.

### **Other Water-Related Considerations**

Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System – Many rivers in New York State possess outstanding natural, scenic, historic and recreational values. Careless use of these rivers and their immediate environs deprives present and future generations of their benefit. The State, therefore, enacted the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act to preserve and protect selected rivers. Prior to inclusion in the system, study and subsequent designation of each river or portion of such river must be made. Studies of the Chenango, Otselic, and Unadilla Rivers have been initiated by the NYSDEC in the past but were not recommended to be designated as such.



Photo 12: Flooding Event in 2011

### **Flooding Events**

Improper management of the above mentioned drainage basins, rivers, streams and wetlands can cause a number of undesired effects. Improper management practices can include filling of wetlands and floodplains, diverting rivers and streams, the use of improper storm water controls, etc.

One major effect of improper management in Chenango County has been the increased frequency of record setting floods. Substantially larger amounts of rainfall have been to blame, but the improper management practices have compounded the severity of the floods. The two most substantial floods occurred within the past 10 years in 2006 and most recently in 2011. For a full list of events in each municipality and how each was affected, please refer to the Chenango County All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Flood events are part of natural hydrological and seasonal cycles. The size and location of the areas which are typically inundated during flood events, as well as the magnitude of the event, are significantly influenced by the total area of impervious surface (roads, parking lots, etc.) and wetlands within a watershed. Creation of, or increases in, impervious surfaces, diversion of water off the landscape (to ditches or nearby water bodies), and the loss of wetlands which help store and control floodwaters also cause higher volumes and peak flows of storm water runoff. It should also be noted that, while floods can cause damage to the infrastructure, the economy, and the environment, periodic inundation can benefit the habitat of certain flora and fauna species and add nutrients to agricultural lands located in flood areas.



Photo 13: Flooding Event in 2011

The record breaking June 2006 flood, caused by a stalled low pressure front, dumped four to ten inches of rain on areas of Chenango County and throughout the region. In some locations, water levels broke records held for nearly 100 years by up to four feet.<sup>11</sup>

A second record breaking flood occurred in 2011 due to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, each dumping three to five and

four to eight inches of rain on Chenango County respectively. Water levels near or above the 2006 records swept through the area causing significant amounts of damage to homes, crops, roads and more.

### **Flood Hazard Areas in Chenango County**

Flood Hazard Areas (FHA) are areas determined to be vulnerable to flooding by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA). The following table shows the likelihood of occurrence of flood events during specified intervals of time.

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<sup>11</sup> Susquehanna River Basin Commission. “June 2006 Flood: A summary of the flood and performance of the Susquehanna Flood Forecast and Warning System”, January 2007.

Likelihood of Experiencing at Least One Flood Event							
	In 1 Year	In 10 Years	In 20 Years	In 25 Years	In 30 Years	In 50 Years	In 100 Years
10-Year Flood	10%	65%	88%	93%	96%	99%	99.99%
25-Year Flood	4%	34%	56%	64%	71%	87%	98%
50-Year Flood	2%	18%	33%	40%	45%	64%	87%
100-Year Flood	1%	10%	18%	22%	26%	39%	63%
500-Year Flood	0.20%	2%	4%	5%	6%	10%	18%

Source: 4 Cornell University;. Water Courses Vol. 5, Issue 1, Spring 1998. A Newsletter from Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Department of Soil, Crop and Atmospheric Sciences, Cornell University.

FEMA produces paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to show areas subject to flooding as determined by historic, meteorological, and hydrological data, as well as open space conditions, flood control structures, and land use in the watershed at the time the FEMA study is conducted.

These maps delineate Special Flood Hazard Areas, commonly referred to as 100-year or base flood areas. These maps may also include the elevation of the base flood (100-year flood event), flood insurance risk zones, and areas subject to inundation by a 500-year flood event, all of which may be used to establish the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) flood insurance premiums.

FIRMs exist for every municipality in Chenango County. In November 2010, every municipality in Chenango County enacted the Flood Damage Prevention Law. This law was authorized by the New York State Constitution, Article IX, Section 2 and the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, Article 36.

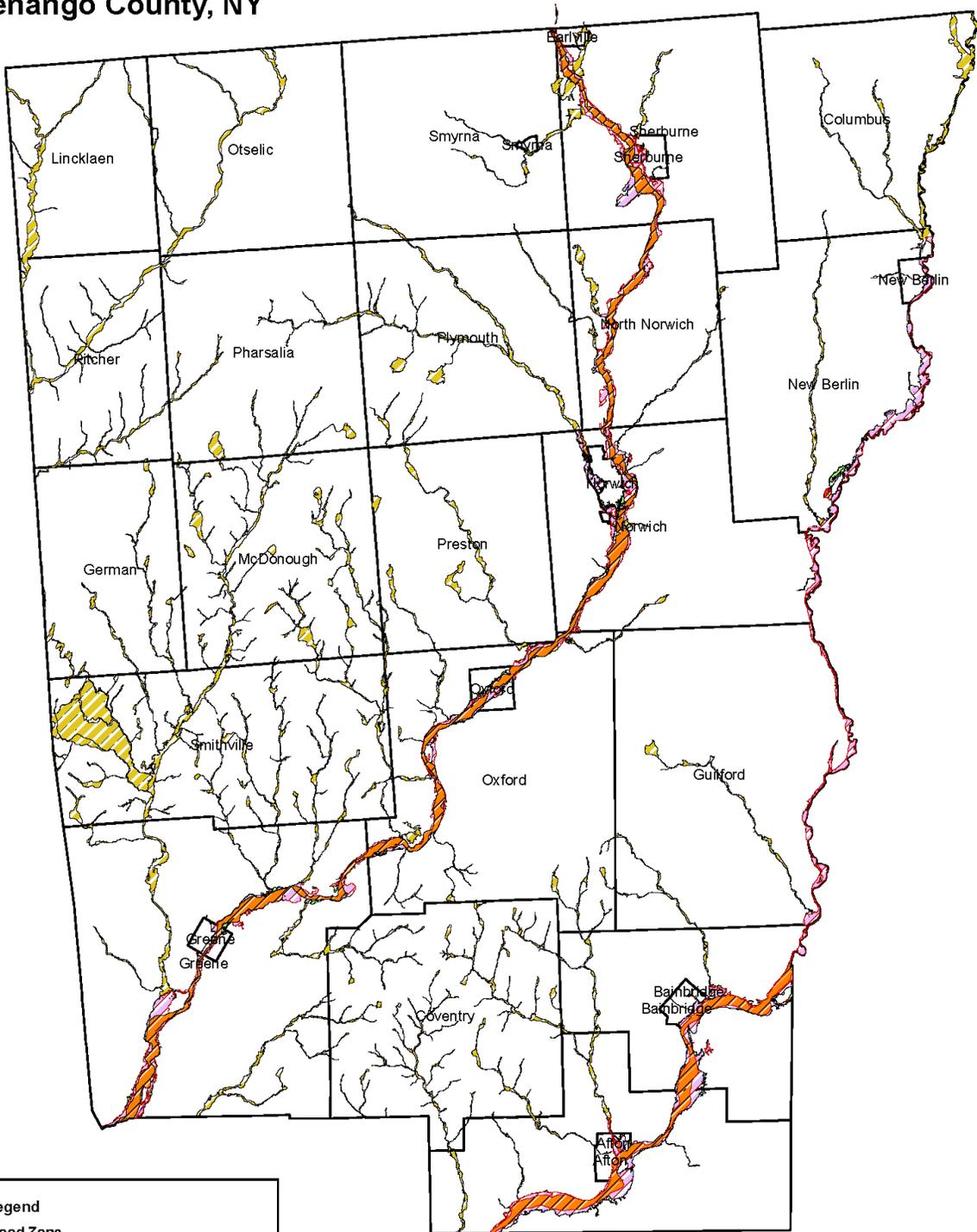
FIRMs may also identify floodways, which are defined as water body channels plus any adjacent floodplain areas that must be kept free of encroachments so that the 100-year flood discharge can be conveyed without increasing the elevation of the 100-year flood more than a specified amount.

The executive summary of a survey conducted in 2013 for Opportunities for Chenango by the Binghamton University Center for Applied Community Research and Development states; "While only a small number of respondents have had their homes flood in the past, 75% of those who have experienced flooding do not carry flood insurance, citing cost."<sup>12</sup>

Although this was not established as a variable in the survey, it should be noted that flood insurance is not required for those who do not have a mortgage on their home.

<sup>12</sup> Binghamton University and Opportunities for Chenango. Opportunities for Chenango Survey Report. 2013. P.9.

# FEMA Flood Zones Chenango County, NY



**Legend**

**Flood Zone**

-  0.2 PCT ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD HAZARD,
-  A,
-  AE,
-  AE, FLOODWAY

X.

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## Maps and Data

FEMA has created a digital version of the FIRMs, called Q3 Flood Data, to be used for post-disaster response and recovery, as well as general planning purposes. Similarly to the paper FIRMs, the digital data also displays 500-year flood zones, 100-year flood zones, and areas outside these flood zones.

Q3 Flood Data differs from the paper FIRMs in that Q3 Flood Data does not include base flood elevation information necessary for engineering analysis and site design. FEMA also notes Q3 Flood Data should not be used to identify the flood-prone status of a property within 25 feet of a Special Flood Hazard Area, nor should it be used for site design, engineering, or flood insurance policy rating for properties in a Special Flood Hazard Area. All site specific information should be taken from the paper FIRMs.

The measurement used to estimate the frequency of a flood event can be confusing because a 100-year flood event is not a flood event that is likely to occur once every 100 years. Rather, it has a one percent chance of occurring or being exceeded during a one-year period, a 10% chance of occurring during a 10-year period, an 18% chance of occurring in a 20-year period, and so on.

## Wildlife Resources

An inventory of natural resources in Chenango County must include reference to the abundant fish and



Photo 14: Wild Turkey - Submitted by Ted Guinn.

wildlife populations. The characteristics of the climate, topography, soil and water discussed earlier are the major determinants in the distribution of animal, bird and fish populations.

Forest-oriented wildlife populations predominate in the area due to the vast number of State and resident-owned forest lands throughout the County.

Waters low in nutrients and temperature and high in dissolved oxygen are ideal for trout. Characteristics of the waters in the southern portions of the County are more suitable for smallmouth bass and wall-eyed pike. Even the threatened Bald Eagle, our national symbol, can be seen flying about portions of the County.

The NYS DEC stocks a number of water bodies on a yearly basis to enhance recreational fishing and to restore native species to waters they formerly occupied, shown in the map below. The following list reflects

distribution for January 1 – December 31, 2010. The fish are stocked with help from County Federated Sportsman.

Fishing access points, designated by a brown sign with yellow lettering, are located throughout Chenango County.

Sites along the Chenango River include;

- Hale Street – City of Norwich
- Route 41 Bridge – Village of Greene
- NYS Route 12 – Hamlet of Brisben
- NYS Route 12 – Town of North Norwich
- County Road 32B – Off of NYS Route 12
- NYS Route 80 – West of Village of Sherburne

Sites along the Susquehanna River include;

- NYS Route 41 Bridge – Village of Afton
- Downstream of NYS Route 206 Bridge – Town of Bainbridge



Photo 15: Unadilla River Fishing Access Point

Sites along the Unadilla River include;

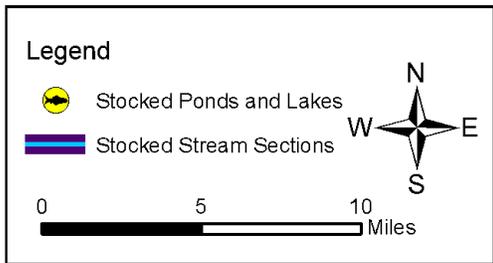
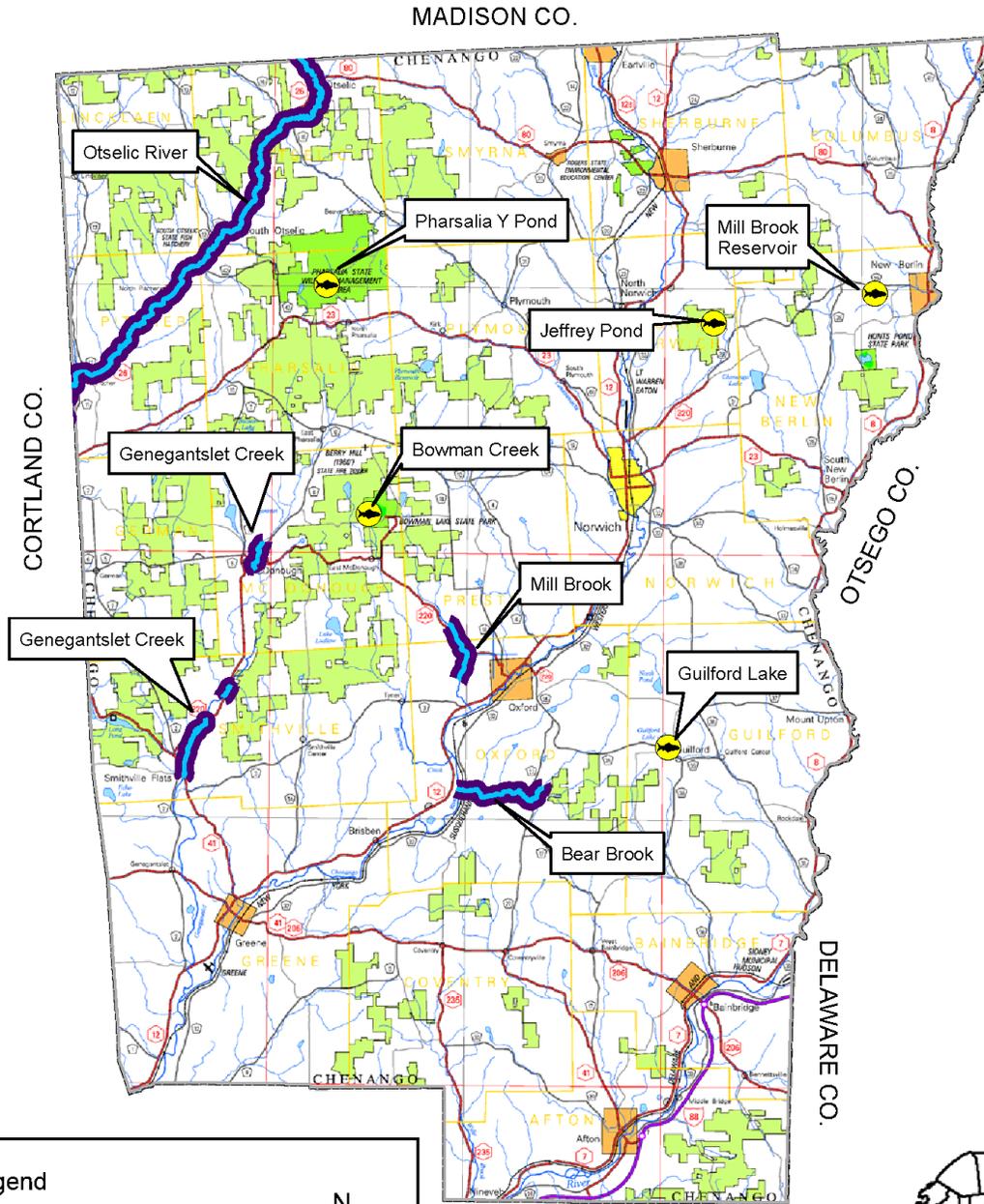
- Batterson Road – South of the Hamlet of Mt. Upton
- NYS Route 8 – Two miles north of the Hamlet of South New Berlin
- Adjacent to NYS Route 23 Bridge – Hamlet of South New Berlin

Species	Abundance and Region
Bald Eagle	Few throughout the eastern and southern portion of the County and increasing.
Black Bear	Few throughout the southern portion of the County.
Deer	Excellent throughout the County.
Pheasant	Few throughout the County.
Red Fox	Fair to good throughout the County.
Ruffed Grouse	Fair to good throughout the County.
Smallmouth Bass	Can be found the length of the Chenango and Unadilla Rivers and tributaries.
Tiger Muskellunge (Pike)	Stocked by NYSDEC in a number of lakes and rivers. See map below.
Trout	Stocked by NYSDEC in a number of lakes and rivers. See map below.
Wild Turkey	Small pockets throughout the County.

Source 3: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



# Chenango County Trout Stocking



There is also a site on the Sangerfield River, 2.6 miles north of Sherburne on NYS Route 12B.



Photo 16: Private fishing pond.

Lakes and Ponds with public access include;

- Balsam Pond – Pharsalia
- Bowman Lake – McDonough
- Chenango Lake – New Berlin
- Guilford Lake – Guilford
- Jackson Pond – Pharsalia
- Long Pond – Smithville
- Millbrook Reservoir – New Berlin
- Pharsalia Y Pond – Pharsalia

Water Body	Number	Species	Size (in.)
Bear Brook	1100	Brown Trout	7
Bowman Lake	690	Brook Trout	9.5
Bowman Lake	1560	Rainbow Trout	8
Chenango Lake	491	Tiger Muskellunge	11
Geneganslet Creek	1750	Brown Trout	8
Geneganslet Creek	580	Brown Trout	8.5
Geneganslet Creek	370	Brown Trout	8
Geneganslet Creek	70	Brown Trout	12.5
Geneganslet Creek	1040	Brown Trout	8
Geneganslet Creek	460	Brown Trout	8.5
Geneganslet Creek	200	Brown Trout	12.5
Guilford Lake	200	Brown Trout	12.5
Guilford Lake	1740	Rainbow Trout	8
Jeffrey Pond	1080	Brook Trout	9.5
Long Pond	382	Tiger Muskellunge	10.5
Mill Brook	800	Brown Trout	7
Mill Brook Reservoir	150	Brown Trout	13
Mill Brook Reservoir	1940	Rainbow Trout	8
Otselic River	6750	Brown Trout	8
Otselic River	2330	Brown Trout	8.5
Otselic River	1230	Brown Trout	13
Otselic River	1000	Brown Trout	13.5
Pharsalia Y Pond	100	Brook Trout	9.5

Source: 5 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

## LAND USE

Land use patterns, including their location and growth, have been established over time based on geography, history, or accident, and cannot be changed easily. Once established, patterns have developed further based on transportation corridors, utilities, the availability of employment opportunities, the availability of public and service facilities, and suitability of the land to support development. It is with these land use patterns in mind that the plan for guiding future growth is prepared.

While these established urbanized areas or centers of population obviously have a major impact on future growth, its direction and intensity all too frequently follows the “path of least resistance”. The ability of the land to accommodate additional urban area development at varying densities, and the relationship of these areas to other types and intensities of land use, is a key determination in the formulation of an intelligent approach to land use planning.

Land use patterns can also be controlled to varying degrees based on the extent of which a municipality wants to encourage or discourage growth. Using land use regulations such as site plan review, subdivision, or zoning ordinances, among others, municipalities can control, within the limits of New York State Law, land uses they deem to be allowable within their boundaries.

### Existing Features

To show the existing use of land within Chenango County, a data set of land uses was provided by the Chenango County Real Property Tax Department using NYS Real Property Tax Data. From this data set, land use patterns were placed into nine categories and charted based on common classifications given by local assessors. It should be noted that assessors classify a parcel based on the primary use of the entire property and may not include ancillary uses. Other sources of land use based information such as the USDA Ag Census calculates acreage to more precise measurements.

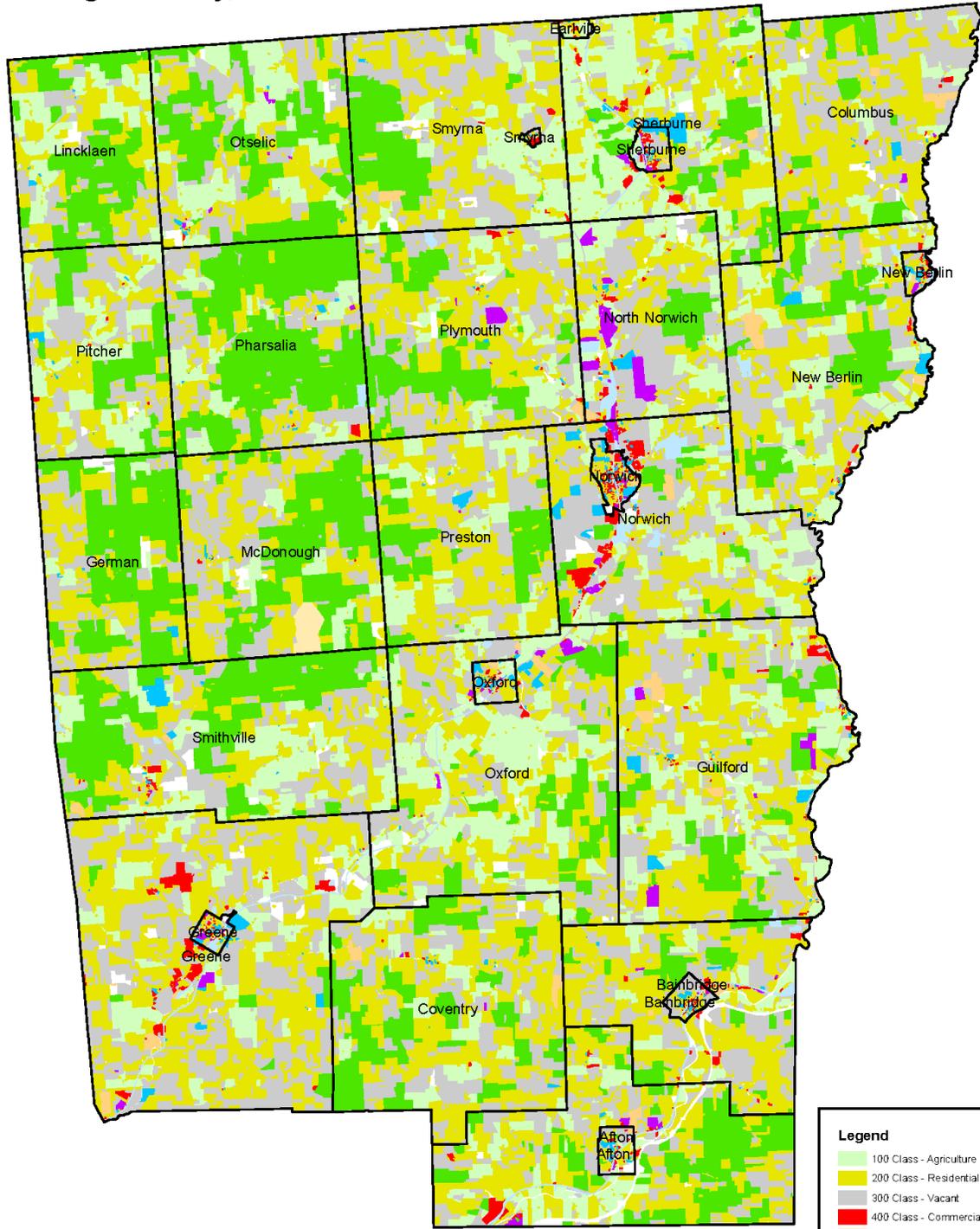


Photo 17: Working on the Farm - Provided by Rena Doing.

#### Agricultural

Agriculture has been an integral part of Chenango County throughout its history, providing both food and the rural landscape so desired by residents.

# Land Use Chenango County, NY



Legend	
<span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span>	100 Class - Agriculture
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	200 Class - Residential
<span style="color: grey;">■</span>	300 Class - Vacant
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	400 Class - Commercial
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	500 Class - Amusement
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	600 Class - Community Services
<span style="color: purple;">■</span>	700 Class - Industrial
<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span>	800 Class - Public Service
<span style="color: darkgreen;">■</span>	900 Class - Forest Lands

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Based on Real Property Tax Information, at present, agricultural land covers 103,295.35 acres, or 17.73% of Chenango County. Agricultural land uses within this category include dairy farms, horse farms, livestock/meat, fields of crops, apple orchards, grape vineyards, nursery or greenhouses, specialty farms, and aquaculture, among others. The highest concentration of the agricultural land use is along the river valleys where the most fertile of soils have historically been found.

Land Use	Total Acres	Percent of County
Agricultural	103,295.35	17.73
Residential	203,775.60	34.98
Vacant	135,749.90	23.30
Commercial	3,754.36	0.64
Amusement	3,597.39	0.62
Community Services	15,345.73	2.63
Industrial	1,662.83	0.29
Public Service	2,569.64	0.44
Forest Lands	112,777.20	19.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>582,528.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source 4: Chenango County Real Property Tax Data

The 2012 USDA Ag Census indicates the number of farms in Chenango County is at 828; down from 908 in 2007, and 960 in 2002. This decrease in the number of farms can be attributed to a number of factors, including but not limited to, the increasing costs of feed, fuel, labor, and taxes, and the fluctuating price of milk.

Promoting and pursuing cost-saving and economic development opportunities to support agricultural industries, including the expansion of area farmers markets, increased use of grazing on fallow lands, the legal cultivation and sale of industrial hemp fiber and its associated products, and the recycling of agricultural plastics, among others, should be promoted and pursued.

Additional information about agriculture in Chenango County can be found in the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan.

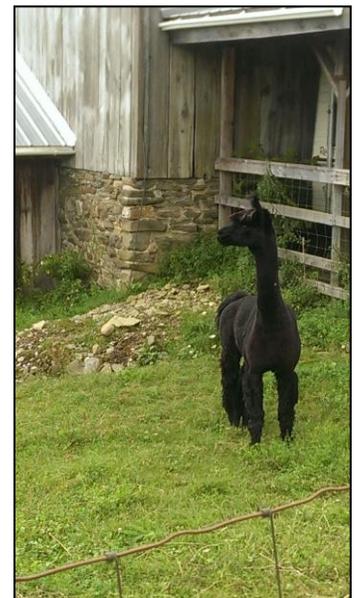


Photo 18: Alpaca - Provided by Paul Thomsen.

### Residential

The most common land use, covering 203,775.60 acres, or 34.98% of Chenango County, are residential land uses. This category may include single, two or multiple family residences, rental properties, estates, manufactured homes, seasonal residences, and multiple residences on the same lot, among others.

The highest concentrations of the residential land use can be found along the major transportation corridors including the seven villages and one city where services are more accessible.

Additional information about housing can be found in the Demographic Profile section of this Plan.

### Vacant

Vacant land is the second most common land use and covers 135,749.90 acres, or 23.30% of Chenango County. Lands within this category can be described as lands which have never been developed for a specific purpose, or have been developed previously for a purpose which is no longer in use. Agricultural land, no longer part of an active farm, rural lots of 10 or more acres, and vacant commercial or industrial land are but a few examples of land uses within this category.

Efforts are continuously being made to revitalize these vacant lands for a variety of uses, although vacant lands can also be valuable as open space.

### Commercial

Commercial lands cover 3,754.36 acres, or .64% of Chenango County. This category of land use is rather broad and can include such uses as apartments, auto dealers, bars, hotels, motels, parking lots, retail stores, restaurants, and service or gas stations, among others.

Commercial lands are the most concentrated along the major transportation corridors where residents and visitors pass by most frequently.

More information about commercial land uses can be found in the Economic Base section of this Plan.

### Amusement

Land uses categorized under amusement cover 3,597.38 acres, or .62% of Chenango County. This category includes such uses as fairgrounds, bowling alleys, golf courses, parks, athletic fields and playgrounds, among others. Although this category only represents a small portion of the land uses in the county, it is important to mention these land uses add to the overall quality of life in the county.

### Community Services

Land uses categorized under the community services section account for 15,345.73 acres, or 2.63% of Chenango County. Land uses in this category include libraries, hospitals, schools, religious buildings,

government buildings, and cemeteries, among others. This land use is important for Chenango County because it offers vital services to residents.

More information about these services, including specific agencies, can be found in the Community Facilities section of this plan.

### Industrial

Industrial land uses cover 1,662.83 acres of Chenango County, or .29% of Chenango County. Industrial uses include industrial and manufacturing facilities, mining or quarrying, and natural gas wells. Industrial land uses are important to Chenango County because they are an important source of jobs to residents.

Most of the industrial uses found in Chenango County are located along the main transportation corridors. Transportation corridors provide easy access to markets where industrial businesses can move raw materials and sell their products.

More information about industrial land uses can be found in the Economic Base section of this Plan.

### Public Service

Land uses categorized under the public service section cover 2,569.64, or .44% of Chenango County. Land uses within this category include electric generation plants, communication facilities, cellular towers, landfills, and sewage treatment plants, among others. This land use provides vital services to residents.



Photo 19: Entrance to Wiley Brook State Forest

More information about these land uses can be found in the Community Facilities and Infrastructure sections of this Plan.

### Forest Lands

Forest lands, whether public or private, account for 112,777.20 acres, or 19.36% of Chenango County. Forest lands provide county residents and visitors with a number of recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, snowmobiling and more. Most of the forest lands, approximately 80,000 acres, in the county are owned by NYS and can be found in the northwestern quadrant.

More information can be found in the Chenango County Today section of this Plan.

### State Forest by Town

Town	Town Acreage	Acreage of State Forest	% of Total Acreage
Afton	29,824	3,881.14	13.01
Bainbridge	23,488	386.01	1.64
Columbus	24,576	1,444.03	5.88
Coventry	31,744	3,396.21	10.70
German	18,368	6,938.12	37.77
Greene	50,368	438.61	0.87
Guilford	39,872	1,751.69	4.39
Lincklaen	17,024	5,241.94	30.79
McDonough	25,280	8,025.38	31.75
New Berlin	29,440	2,783.69	9.46
North Norwich	18,304	1,194.95	6.53
Norwich	27,584	23.63	0.09
Otselic	24,960	7,424.65	29.75
Oxford	39,424	2,765.40	7.01
Pharsalia	25,408	12,879.79	50.69
Pitcher	18,368	3,008.05	16.38
Plymouth	27,392	3,829.46	13.98
Preston	22,592	1,673.90	7.41
Sherburne	28,544	1,449.12	5.08
Smithville	32,512	8,418.89	25.89
Smyrna	27,456	3,991.98	14.54
Chenango County	582,528	80,946.64	13.90

Source: 6 Chenango County Real Property Tax Data

### Development Patterns

The pattern of development in Chenango County has been molded principally due to its geography and historic settlement patterns. As with most locations, the original inhabitants of the county settled along river corridors where food, rich soils, and water were readily available. While those inhabitants are no longer here, the development patterns have remained.

Development patterns generally follow a circular pattern and can occur at varying degrees. As more people settle into an area, the number of businesses locating in an area generally increases, thus creating additional jobs. As additional jobs become available, housing development increases in an arch from the center of development, increasing the population of an area.

The speed of this cycle is relative to the number of people and businesses locating to the area, the amount of available land, and the amount of promotion or regulation of increased development.

#### Chenango River/NYS Route 12

The most pronounced development pattern in Chenango County is along the Chenango River and NYS Route 12 corridor. The NYS Route 12 corridor offers businesses and residents direct access to large urban centers such as Utica to the north and Binghamton to the south. Due to the large volume of traffic traveling to and from these larger urban centers, businesses have found the area ideal in attracting customers and shipping their products.

Development is expected to increase within this corridor due to the amount of available land and the increased traffic along the corridor. The NYS Department of Transportation has undertaken a project to upgrade NYS Route 12 throughout its extent in order to increase the safety and effective flow of traffic on the road. In Chenango County, this has largely occurred between Greene and Oxford. Revitalization of the adjacently located New York Susquehanna and Western Railway is expected to increase the amount of development within this corridor as well, with connections to other railroads in Binghamton and Utica.

Municipalities located along this corridor include the Towns of Greene, Oxford, Preston, Norwich, North Norwich, and Sherburne, the Villages of Greene, Oxford, and Sherburne, and the City of Norwich.

#### Susquehanna River/ NYS Routes 7 and 8, and Interstate 88

The Susquehanna River corridor, while not covering a large portion of Chenango County, is another important development pattern in our area. Within this corridor are NYS Routes 7 and 8, and Interstate 88, connecting Chenango County to such large urban centers as Albany, Binghamton, Utica, and the Adirondack Park. The Canadian Pacific Railway is also located within this corridor connecting with other railroads in Binghamton and Schenectady.

Historically, development has thrived in this area, however it has remained relatively slow recently. Development is expected to increase within this area due to the construction of the Constitution Pipeline, a large natural gas transmission line proposed to run through Southeastern Chenango County, and possible exploration of natural gas. More information about natural gas drilling and its associated infrastructure can be found in the Energy and Infrastructure sections of this Plan.

Municipalities within this corridor include the Towns and Villages of Afton and Bainbridge.

### Unadilla River/NYS Route 8

The Unadilla River corridor is another important development pattern in Chenango County. This corridor covers a larger percentage of the county than the Susquehanna but is not as pronounced as the Chenango River corridor. The Unadilla corridor connects with the Susquehanna near Bainbridge and also includes NYS Route 8, connecting Chenango County to Utica and the Adirondack Park.

The amount of traffic along this corridor has increased within the last few years. Reacting to this increase, NYSDOT has worked to improve the safety of NYS Route 8 by adding “Center Audible Roadway Delineators” and enhanced signage.

Municipalities within this corridor include the Towns of Bainbridge, Guilford, Norwich, New Berlin and Columbus, and the Village of New Berlin.

### Northwest Chenango

The northwestern portion of Chenango County is shaped by the vast state-owned forests located there. Access to this area is limited by lesser utilized state and county roads, limiting the amount of people traveling through. Due to the combination of these factors, the pattern of development in this area has been highly limited to the small hamlets, is relatively unchanged, and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Municipalities within this area include the Towns of Lincklaen, Otselic, Pitcher, Pharsalia, German, and McDonough.

## **Land Use Laws and Regulations**

Article IX of the New York State Constitution allows local governments to adopt specific local laws relating to property, affairs or government.<sup>13</sup> Land use regulations relating to property can include site plan review and subdivision regulations, zoning ordinances, sanitary codes, and more. These laws and regulations allow local municipalities more control over how, where, and what types of development can occur within their jurisdiction.

Various municipalities in Chenango County have utilized this authority to enact land use laws and regulations as shown in the chart below. Although each law or regulation is intended to accomplish the same, or similar tasks, each municipality decides how strict or broad the law or regulation will be.

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<sup>13</sup> James A. Coon – Adopting Local Laws in New York State - 2014

### Regulations in Effect

	(County) Building & Fire (Local)	Floodplain Law	County Floodplain Admin	Junkyard Junk Storage	Mobile Home	Refuse	Sanitary	Telecommunications	Road Use (Agreement or Law)	Site Plan Review	Subdivision	Zoning	Local Right to Farm	Comprehensive Plan
<b><u>TOWNS</u></b>														
Afton	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
Bainbridge	X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X			X
Columbus	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	P	X		X	X
Coventry	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	**		X	
German	X	X	X	X			X		X		X			
Greene	X X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X
Guilford	X	X	X	X		X	X				X			P
Lincklaen	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X			
McDonough	X	X	X	X					X					
New Berlin	X X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
North Norwich	X	X	X	X X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Norwich	X	X	X	X		X				X	X			
Otselc	X	X	X	X X		X	X			X	X			
Oxford	X	X	X	Z	Z			X		Z	X	X		X
Pharsalia	X	X	X	X		X	X							
Pitcher	X	X	X	X			X				X			
Plymouth	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X		X	
Preston	X	X	X	X X		X	X						X	
Sherburne	X	X	X	X X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Smithville	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X			X
Smyrna	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X		X	X
<b><u>CITIES</u></b>														
Norwich	X X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X
<b><u>VILLAGES</u></b>														
Afton	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Bainbridge	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Earlville	X X			X										X
Greene	X X	X		Z	Z	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
New Berlin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Oxford	X	X	X	Z	Z	X	X		P	Z	X	X		X
Sherburne	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Smyrna	X	X	X	X	X		X						X	X

\*\* - Subdivision Regulations addressed in Site Plan Regulations

P - Regulation is currently pending (2014)

Z - Refer to Zoning Ordinances

Note: To obtain a copy or to verify whether or not a regulation is in effect or has changed, you should contact the local town/village/city clerk.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

A demographic profile is an important component of any comprehensive plan because of its ability to highlight important trends in a community over an extended period of time. Trends of particular importance include the number of residents coming into (or exiting) the county, population density, unemployment rates, and a breakdown of the age groups making up the county, among others. Being able to recognize these trends can help a community focus on pertinent issues to guide their future.

This community profile for Chenango County was developed using demographic data from a variety of sources; most notably US Census data. A number of other plans and reports were also utilized to identify any regional trends that might have an impact on the County.

### **Population and Population Trends**

Chenango County is primarily a rural county with some existing small urban areas located along the major river valleys and transportation corridors. These small urban areas are the centers of population, commerce and industry in the County.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Chenango County (50,477) has declined by approximately 1.8%, or 921 people, since 2000. The county has lost approximately 1,500 residents over the last twenty years and is projected to continue this trend over the next two decades.<sup>14</sup>

A study published by Cornell University's Program on Applied Demographics in 2013 takes the exodus of people in Chenango County to an extreme level by projecting a loss of approximately 10,718 residents (nearly 400 per year) by 2040, leaving the Chenango County population at 39,759; a level unseen since 1950. Cornell calculates these figures based on a formula using assumptions for births, deaths, and migration at the local, national and international levels.<sup>15</sup>

Based upon 2010 US Census Bureau figures shown in the chart below, the most intensively developed land use pattern based upon population density exists within the City of Norwich with similar characteristics displayed by the Villages of Greene, Oxford, Sherburne, Bainbridge, New Berlin, Earlville, Afton, and Smyrna to lesser and varying degrees. The lowest population density is found in the Town of German,

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<sup>14</sup> US Census Bureau

<sup>15</sup> Cornell University – [Chenango County Profile](#): A collection of recent demographic, social, economic and agricultural data, 2013

followed closely by the Towns of Lincklaen and Pharsalia, primarily due to the vast quantities of State-owned forest.

The population density of a municipality is determined by the area of the community relative to its population. Therefore, as the population of the County and individual communities increase or decrease, there is a corresponding increase or decrease in the population density. The decreasing population of Chenango County has subsequently decreased the density by approximately one person per square mile from 2010 to 2000. Although annexations can affect density patterns, most communities in Chenango County have remained relatively unchanged in area.

Significant changes in the density patterns between 2000 and 2010 occurred in the Town of North Norwich, experiencing a negative change of 6.4 persons per square mile, followed closely by the Town of Plymouth with a negative change of 5.72 persons per square mile. The Towns of Norwich and Preston experienced the highest density increase with 3.76 and 3.29 persons per square mile, respectively.

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>2010 Census</b>	<b>2000 Census</b>	<b>Area in Sq. Mi.</b>	<b>2010 Density</b>	<b>2000 Density</b>	<b>Change</b>
Afton **	2,851	2,977	46.6	61.18	63.88	-2.70
Bainbridge **	3,308	3,401	36.7	90.14	92.67	-2.53
Columbus	975	931	38.4	25.39	24.24	1.15
Coventry	1,655	1,589	49.6	33.37	32.04	1.33
German	370	378	28.7	12.89	13.17	-0.28
Greene **	5,604	5,729	78.7	71.21	72.80	-1.59
Guilford	2,922	3,046	62.3	46.90	48.89	-1.99
Lincklaen	396	416	26.6	14.89	15.64	-0.75
McDonough	886	870	39.5	22.43	22.03	0.41
New Berlin **	2,682	2,803	46	58.30	60.93	-2.63
North Norwich	1,783	1,966	28.6	62.34	68.74	-6.40
Norwich **	3,998	3,836	43.1	92.76	89.00	3.76
Otselic	1,054	1,001	39	27.03	25.67	1.36
Oxford **	3,901	3,992	61.6	63.33	64.81	-1.48
Pharsalia	593	542	39.7	14.94	13.65	1.28
Pitcher	803	848	28.7	27.98	29.55	-1.57
Plymouth	1,804	2,049	42.8	42.15	47.87	-5.72
Preston	1,044	928	35.3	29.58	26.29	3.29
Sherburne **	4,048	3,979	44.6	90.76	89.22	1.55
Smithville	1,330	1,347	50.8	26.18	26.52	-0.33
Smyrna **	1,280	1,418	42.9	29.84	33.05	-3.22
<b>Chenango Co.</b>	<b>50,477</b>	<b>51,401</b>	<b>910.2</b>	<b>55.46</b>	<b>56.47</b>	<b>-1.02</b>

Source: 7 US Census Bureau

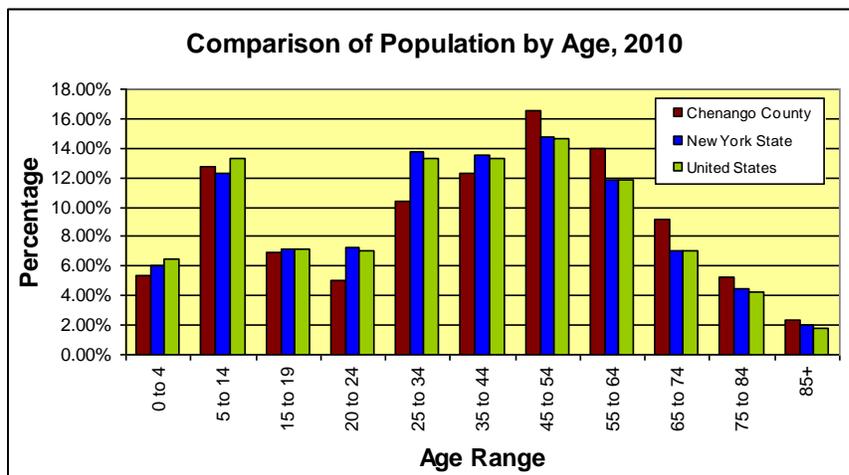
\*\* Population and Area for Villages are included within the Town data.

Since 2000, the hardest hit age group has been the young-adults ages 35 to 44, followed by young children ages 0 to 9. Significant increases have been seen in the 60 to 64 and 65 to 74 age groups, indicating an aging population. Information regarding Chenango County’s aging population can also be extrapolated from US Census Bureau household data. From 2000 to 2010, the number of family households with their own children under the age of 18 declined by 5.5%. Subsequently, the number of households with individuals 65 years and over increased by 1.7%.

Age Range	2010	2000	1980
Under 5 years	2,735	3,054	3,682
5 to 9	3,023	3,748	3,856
10 to 14	3,443	4,137	4,666
15 to 19	3,505	3,775	4,789
20 to 24	2,548	2,357	3,630
25 to 29	2,677	2,637	3,628
30 to 34	2,550	3,219	3,547
35 to 44	6,182	8,262	5,601
45 to 54	8,349	7,244	4,691
55 to 59	3,668	2,933	2,548
60 to 64	3,394	2,381	2,544
65 to 74	4,636	3,868	3,628
75 to 84	2,615	2,779	1,796
85 and over	1,152	1,007	738
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,477</b>	<b>51,401</b>	<b>49,344</b>

Source: 8 US Census Bureau  
 Note: Information for 1990 is unavailable.

Community and economic development alike will play a key role in helping to turn these trends around. Communities in Chenango County should strive to offer more annual events, cultural opportunities, quality educational services, and job opportunities. Special attention should be paid to attracting and retaining young families in the area. If this area is unable to attract new employers and retain the employers currently here, these trends of aging and population decline will likely to continue into the future.



Source: 9 US Census Bureau

## Housing, Housing Affordability, and Household Income

Housing and housing affordability is of great concern to Chenango County. In a report released by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. Dinapoli in March 2014, Chenango County ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in NYS with 45.4% of rental households with rents above the affordability threshold, up from 36.0% in 2000. While the percentage

is better than the statewide average, it is concerning nonetheless.<sup>16</sup>

One reason behind the high percentage of households with rents above the affordability threshold is due to our relatively low median household income compared to the average monthly rent for a housing unit. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (2008-2012) Estimates<sup>17</sup>, the median household income for Chenango County is \$44,127 with the most common rent payment (42.9%) of \$500 to \$749 per month.

Subject	Number	Percent of Total
Total Housing Units	24,671	100%
Occupied Housing Units	19,779	80.2%
Vacant Housing Units	4,892	19.8%
Lacking Plumbing Facilities	138	0.7%
Lacking Kitchen Facilities	163	0.8%
Lacking Telephone Service	452	2.3%

Source 5: American Community Survey (2008-2012) Estimates

With the New York State median household income at \$57,683, a large disparity between Chenango County and other counties throughout the state can be seen.

A second reason for the high percentage is due to the decreased number of available rental units. In 2010, the rental vacancy rate was 6.5%, nearly half of the 11.0% in 2000, indicating an increase in rental households who are more likely to stay for longer periods of time. With less rental units available, supply and demand causes the cost of available rental units to increase.

Within the same report issued by Comptroller Dinapoli, Chenango County ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the percentage of households with owner costs above the affordability threshold at 24.5%, up from 18.9% in 2000. While ranking lower in this category, the percentage in Chenango County is relatively similar to most other Upstate counties.<sup>18</sup>

In a survey completed by the Binghamton University Center for Applied Community Research and Development for Opportunities for Chenango, 491 surveys were administered online or in person at OFC sites. Of 277 respondents who owned their home, eleven percent (11%) are not current on their payments or taxes, and slightly less than half (46%) carry homeowner's insurance.<sup>19</sup>

Also of great concern is the number of housing units lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities. According to the American Community Survey (2008-2012) Estimates, of the 19,779 housing units in Chenango County, 138 are lacking complete plumbing facilities (0.7%), 163 are lacking complete kitchen facilities (0.8%), and 452 have no telephone service available (2.3%).

<sup>16</sup> Dinapoli, Thomas P., NYS Comptroller. Housing Affordability in New York State, March 2014. P. 5.

<sup>17</sup> American Community Survey (2008-2012) Estimates – US Census Bureau

<sup>18</sup> Dinapoli, Thomas P., NYS Comptroller. Housing Affordability in New York State, March 2014. P. 5.

<sup>19</sup> Binghamton University and Opportunities for Chenango. Opportunities for Chenango Survey Report. 2013. P.9.

Housing characteristics listed above also reflect upon the amount of poverty found in Chenango County. The New York State Community Action Association released the 2012 Poverty Report in September, 2012. Concerning statistics found in the report include:

New York State:

- Ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in actual number of individuals living in poverty (2,845,024).
- 902,006 children (21.2%) in New York State live in poverty.
- 9.8% of adults over 25 with an Associate's Degree live in poverty.

Chenango County:

- 21.1% (2,331) of children under 18 residing in Chenango County live in poverty.
- 14.8% (7,357) of individuals are in poverty
- Single mothers with children comprise 46.5% of all families in poverty in Chenango County.
- Senior Citizens (65+) living in poverty totals 8.0%

For more detailed information about the housing needs of Chenango County, please see the Opportunities for Chenango Survey Report cited above.

### **Labor Force and Unemployment Rate**

Generally speaking, a workforce is available in Chenango County for basic, entry-level positions in manufacturing, food and agricultural processing, retail/service, and back office operations. However, a gap between the positions available in the county and the skills possessed by applicants has been identified. With increased education and training options with focus on job placement, this gap can be significantly reduced.

Three industries make up approximately 55% of total employment held in Chenango County; education, health, and social services, 24%; manufacturing, 21%; and retail, 11%.

Many employers convey to economic development and workforce development professionals the need for basic jobs skills training in Chenango County. To that end, CDO Workforce offers training in basic job skills, interviewing, resume building, and more. There are also several training opportunities for those lacking specific job skills including CDO Workforce, BOCES, and Morrisville State College's Norwich Campus.

Economic development and workforce agencies continue to work together to locate appropriate training programs and venues for skilled trades related to manufacturing, retraining, and continuing education

opportunities, as well as funding to provide training dollars to area businesses and individuals.

Because the previous Microenterprise Program ended in the fall of 2009, training has not been available in Chenango County for those wishing to start or expand a small business. The 24-hour course offered during the last round of program funding provided an important training opportunity, particularly for low to medium-income individuals who were unable to find the time, money or transportation to reach bigger markets such as Binghamton or Syracuse for training.

National trends have indicated that more individuals are attaining higher levels of education, while the number of individuals having only a high school education or less has been steadily decreasing. In Chenango County, 85.4% of residents 25 years and older have at least a high school diploma. Accordingly, within this same age group, 18.5% have some college, but only 9.7% have received a Bachelor’s degree or higher. Chenango County residents exceed the State percentage by 2.1% for those individuals that have some college and are 25 years or older. For those that have a Bachelor’s degree, Chenango County is 8.7% below the New York State percentage.

Based on the 491 respondents of the OFC Needs Assessment survey, twenty-three percent (23%) indicated they “would like to attend a training or education program but were discouraged mostly by cost, transportation, working, or childcare.” Cost received the most responses with thirty-nine (39), followed by Transportation (16), Working (13), and Child care with twelve (12), respectfully.<sup>20</sup> Chenango County residents have a desire to educate themselves and learn new skills, but the barriers preventing them from doing so need to be broken.

**Chenango County Unemployment Statistics: Monthly and Yearly for 2010 – 2014**

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg
2014	7.4%	7.7%	7.1%	5.6%	5.7%	5.6%	5.7%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.7%	5.9%	6.1%
2013	9.4%	8.9%	8.4%	7.3%	6.8%	7.0%	6.6%	6.2%	6.2%	6.1%	6.1%	6.2%	7.1%
2012	9.6%	9.6%	9.1%	7.9%	8.1%	8.3%	8.3%	7.6%	7.5%	7.7%	7.6%	8.2%	8.3%
2011	9.6%	9.6%	9.0%	8.1%	7.8%	8.2%	8.0%	7.7%	8.3%	7.9%	8.0%	8.4%	8.4%
2010	10.7%	10.8%	10.4%	9.0%	8.6%	8.5%	8.5%	8.0%	8.3%	8.1%	8.8%	8.9%	9.1%

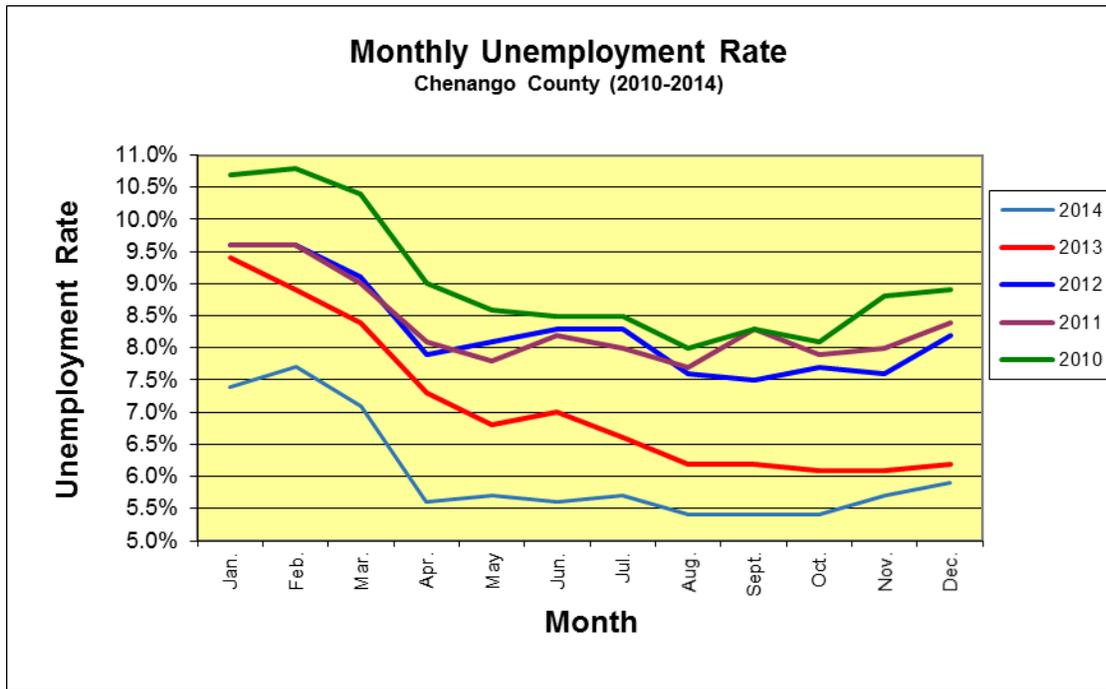
Source: 10 NYS Department of Labor

The unemployment rate for Chenango County has improved over the last few years. Since its peak at 10.8% in February 2010, the unemployment rate had been cut in half to 5.4% in October, falling below the National

<sup>20</sup> Binghamton University and Opportunities for Chenango. Opportunities for Chenango Survey Report. 2013. P.7.

average of 6.2% and the NYS average of 6.1%.<sup>21</sup> Due to the relatively small population of Chenango County, even the smallest of layoffs can have a dramatic impact on the unemployment rate.

Although other factors may apply, the decline in the unemployment rate can be potentially attributed to the expansion and retention of employees by Chobani, Golden Artist Colors, the Raymond Corporation, and other large employers within the County who have experienced large growth due to the improving economy.



Source: 11 NYS Department of Labor, Division of Research and Statistics, 518-457-3800.

<sup>21</sup> NYS Department of Labor, Division of Research and Statistics, 518-457-3800.

## ECONOMIC BASE

In understanding the economy of Chenango County, one should reference the Chenango County Economic Development Strategic Plan Update 2014-2020 and its associated goals and strategies, currently in draft form as of this printing.<sup>22</sup> The Plan is an extensive update of the Economic Development Strategic Plan finalized in 2006 and will serve as the Economic Base section and Economic Development goals of this comprehensive plan.

The Executive Summary of the Economic Development Strategic Plan Update 2014-2020 as currently worded can be read below;

An Economic Development Strategic Plan identifies the goals and strategies by which a community seeks to achieve sustainable economic viability in a competitive regional, national and global markets, and to achieve economic growth to meet the future needs of both its residents and businesses. This Economic Development Strategic Plan Update will act as a guide or “blueprint” for these activities in Chenango County.

The planning and development of this Strategic Plan Update began in 2011, when the Development Chenango Corporation board of directors discussed new issues and impediments to economic development, and recommended that staff members update the plan.

The 2005-2006 economic development strategic planning process was extensive, and provided a useful and comprehensive analysis of economic conditions at that time. Many of the Goals/Strategies and Action Items proposed in the 2006 plan have been accomplished or are part of the ongoing work of key organizations impacting economic development in Chenango County.

Staff and board members sought to update the plan without starting from scratch, and therefore the following process was proposed and pursued:

- Benchmarking status of the previous plans’ proposed action items
- Seeking feedback from the public, businesses, municipalities, and community partners regarding the prior plan and accomplishments
- Updating demographic information, and sharing the information so that stakeholders could consider it while participating
- Surveying the current economic conditions of the area

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<sup>22</sup> Economic Development Strategic Plan Update 2014-2020. Commerce Chenango. Reference date September 16, 2015.

- Conducting a new SWOT analysis
- Identifying and seeking feedback regarding the priority goals to pursue in the next five to ten years
- Utilizing an advisory committee throughout the process for guidance, feedback, and direction

**The process resulted in the following significant updates:**

**Vision**

Chenango County’s economic development partners will develop a prosperous and business friendly economic climate which yields long term job growth, capital investment and improved quality of life. The partners will provide services and support for: business development, retention, and expansion; infrastructure and housing development; education and workforce; and the growth of tourism, cultural, and arts activities.

**Goals**

The six main economic development goals for Chenango County to achieve over the next five years are as follows:

- Encourage Business Recruitment, Retention, and Expansion
- Prioritize and Address Workforce Development Needs
- Foster Downtown Revitalization
- Support Housing Development to Meet Community Needs
- Build Tourism, Agritourism, the Arts, & Cultural Opportunities
- Grow Agriculture and Forestry Industries

**Strategies and Action Items**

Strategies to achieve the six goals, as well as action items to support those key strategies, were identified utilizing known economic development tools, an understanding of the capacity of Chenango County municipal entities and partner economic development agencies, and feedback received from the numerous participants in the planning process.

The Goals, Strategies, and Action items section—the true work plan for the partner organizations—is located on page 55 (of the Economic Development Strategic Plan).

## ENERGY RESOURCES

From keeping cold air out of homes to keeping the production lines at industrial and manufacturing businesses moving, energy is of great importance to Chenango County. While the merits of each energy source are debatable and subject to personal preference, a variety of energy sources are needed to keep Chenango County residents comfortable and businesses thriving.

### Natural Gas Drilling

Chenango County in its entirety sits over one or more strata of natural gas bearing rock. Some companies have already begun to extract this resource from the bedrock below and there is the potential for more to come. This resource brings both opportunities and concerns that need to be addressed.

#### Geology

Starting with the Marcellus Shale, the producible strata closest to the surface, Chenango County has at least seven strata of interest to the Natural Gas industry. The seven strata along with descriptions of each follow;

1. Marcellus Shale – A tight black shale of Devonian origin that extends through Virginia, West Virginia, Eastern Ohio, Pennsylvania, parts of Maryland, and Southern and Central NY. It is thought that the Marcellus is one of the largest natural gas fields in the world based on total recoverable gas in place. The Marcellus is considered a source rock as it contains organic content that was converted into hydrocarbons. (Engelder)

In Chenango County the Marcellus is most likely to be producible in the portions of the county south of Norwich based on depth of strata. It is expected that a depth of 2000 feet will be required for the formation to be hydraulically fractured and for the formation pressure to be high enough to produce gas.

2. Oriskany Sandstone – A lower Devonian Sandstone capped by the Onondoga Limestone, it is considered a reservoir rock formation. It will be a minor play in portions of Chenango County.

3. Herkimer Sandstone – Along with the Oswego and Oneida Sandstones the Herkimer was deposited during the Silurian period. It was the target of a small drilling program conducted by Norse Energy and may prove to produce a significant amount of natural gas production in Chenango County. It is surmised

that the formation exists across most of the northern tier of Chenango County. (Selleck)

4. Oswego and Oneida Sandstone – These two strata may produce significant amounts of Natural Gas in the future once a few technological problems are overcome. The Oneida has been a target for Norse energy in the Northern portion of the County and was the target of a well proposed to be drilled in the Town of Guilford (Hanehan 1) by Gastem USA.

5. Utica Shale – The Utica Shale is an organic rich Ordovician black shale underling all of Chenango County at depths that will allow it to be developed. The actual potential of the play is still unknown; however estimates that it may be twice as large as the Marcellus are coming to be accepted within the Geological Community. It is the Utica that is thought to be the source rock for the Herkimer, Oswego, and Oneida reservoirs. (Nyahay)

6. Trenton Black River, Theresa and Potsdam dolomite / limestone – These formations are middle to early Ordovician strata that may produce Natural Gas. The Trenton Black River has been known to produce huge wells in NY, however being able to consistently hit a productive portion of the formation has proven to be an elusive goal for the Exploration and Production Companies.

7. Other minor formations exist beneath the county however their economic impact will presumably be small.

## **Historical Activity**

Although drilling for natural gas is thought to be relatively new to Chenango County, there is a history of the industry prospecting here. Data from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) shows the first natural gas well recorded as being drilled in Chenango County was drilled by A.W. McQueen, just south of the Lower Ravine Road in the Town of Norwich about a third of a mile from the roads intersection with NYS Route 12. Only one additional well is listed on the DEC website as having been drilled in Chenango County prior to 1963; a dry wildcat well drilled in the town of Columbus in 1948.

Between 1963 and 1967 a total of eleven wells were drilled in the Genegantslet field in the Towns of Greene and Smithville. This was the first attempt to commercialize a natural gas field in the county. Pipeline construction was actually started from the field to the Village of Greene but was ultimately abandoned. A few of the wells did continue to provide homeowner gas into the 2000s.

From the early 1970s through 2006, another ten exploratory wells were permitted in the county. The majority

of these were dry holes and most were drilled to provide the Exploration and Production (E&P) companies with stratigraphic data.

In 2006 Norse Energy began drilling commercial wells in the Town of Smyrna as an extension of the field it was developing in the Town of Lebanon in Madison County. The initial permits were issued covering various strata including the Oriskany, Oneida, Vernon and Herkimer formations. Since 2007 however, all of the proposed production wells in the County have targeted the Herkimer formation in the Towns of Smyrna, Plymouth and Preston. In addition to these production wells, a number of stratigraphic wells have been drilled by Norse targeting the Marcellus and other formations.



Photo 20: Well Site Operated by Emkey Resources

Other companies including Gastem, Talisman, Chesapeake, EOG and Grasen Energy were engaged in leasing and gathering geological data from 2000 until 2008 when the de-facto moratorium on high volume hydraulic fracturing made it impossible to develop wells in tight shales (Marcellus and Utica in our region). This moratorium brought an end to most interest on the part of the Exploration and Production Companies in the region.

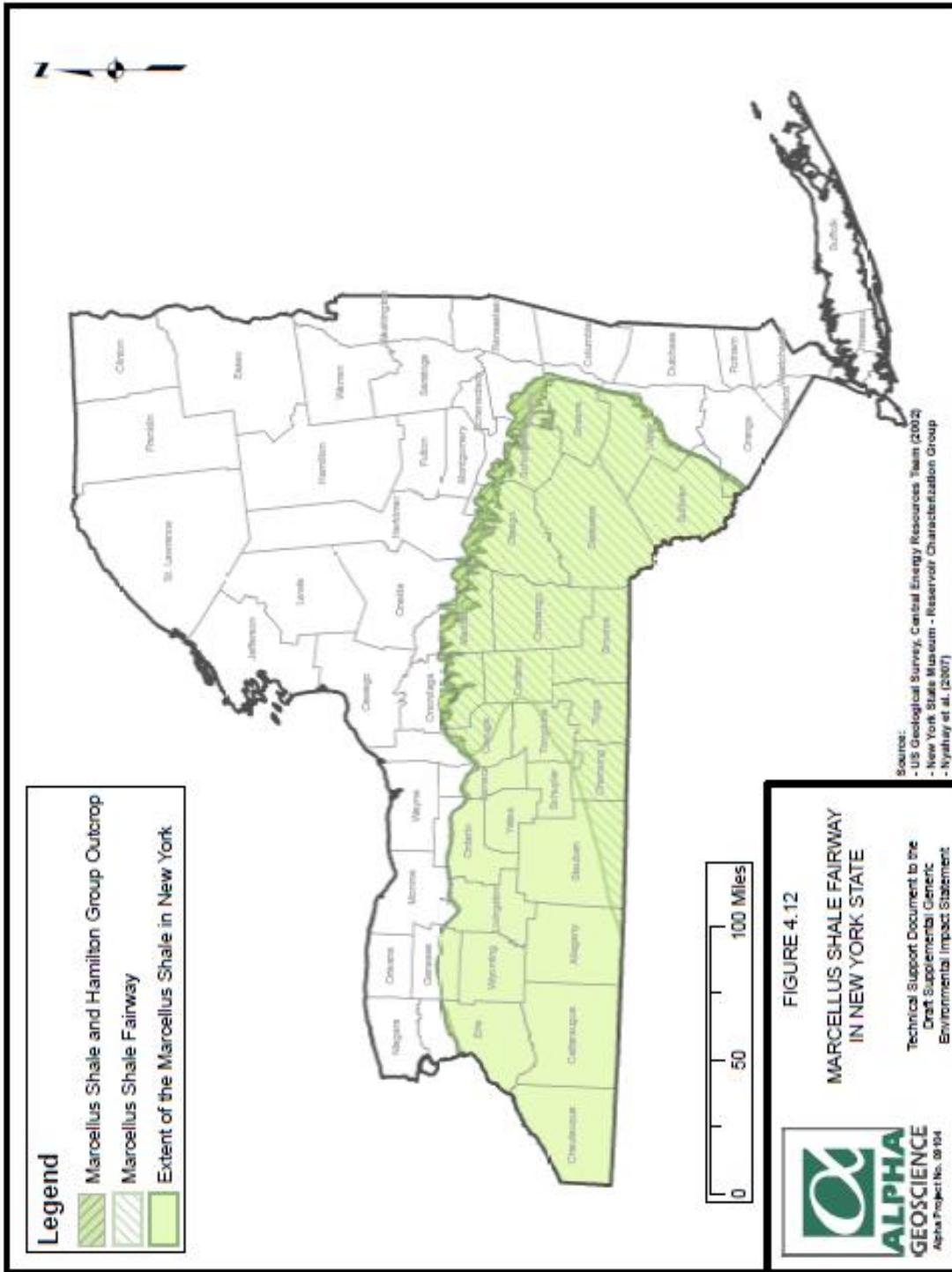
Norse Energy declared bankruptcy in 2013 and sold portions of its assets to other companies. EmKey Resources took possession of the producing wells, gathering line system and the right-of-way for pipeline from the Millennium Pipeline in Broome County to the Dominion Pipeline in Madison County.

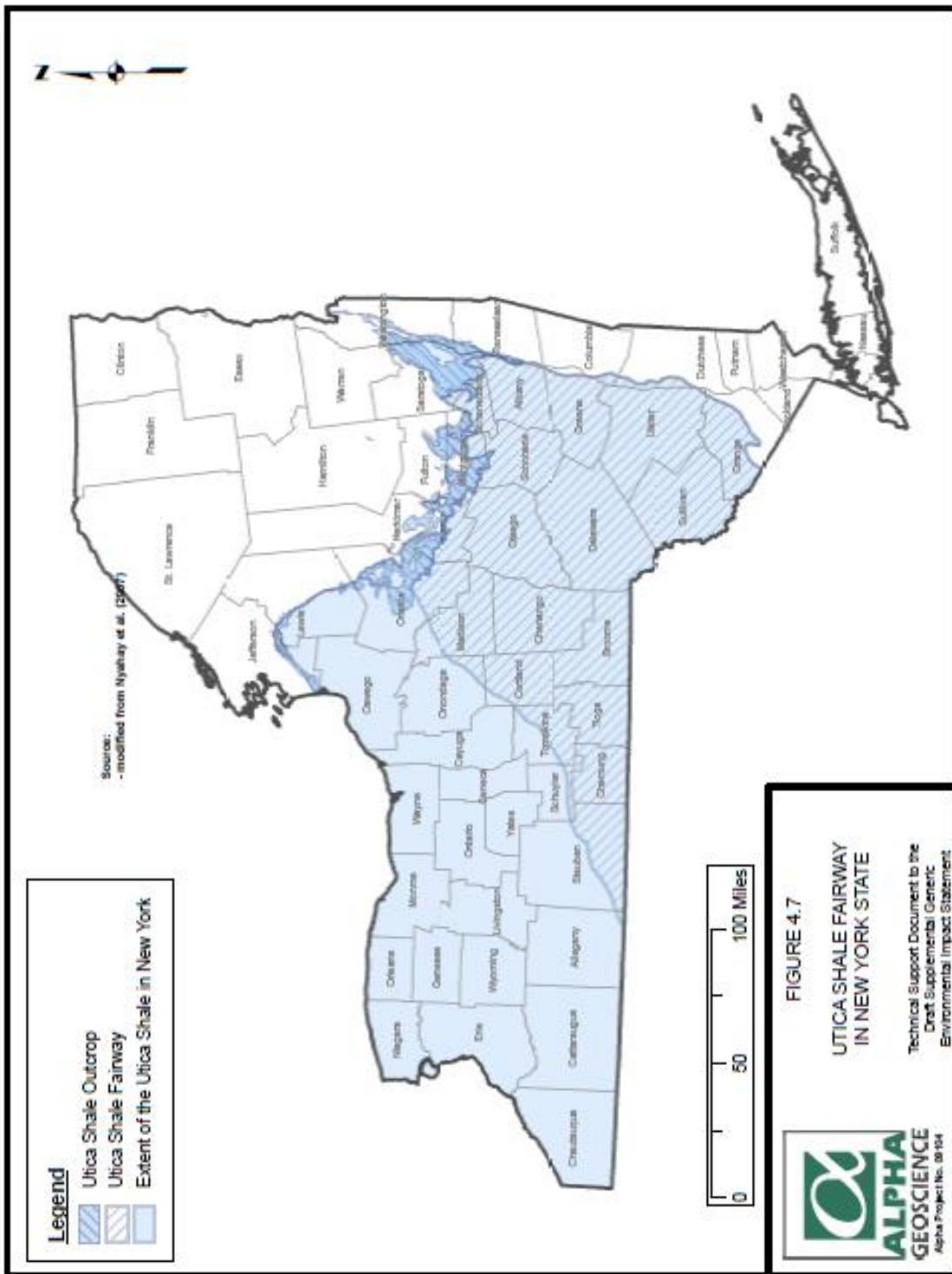
### **Regulatory Framework**

All Natural Gas wells in NYS are regulated by the NYSDEC under the authority granted to the agency under Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Law (NYS Environmental Conservation Law Article 23).

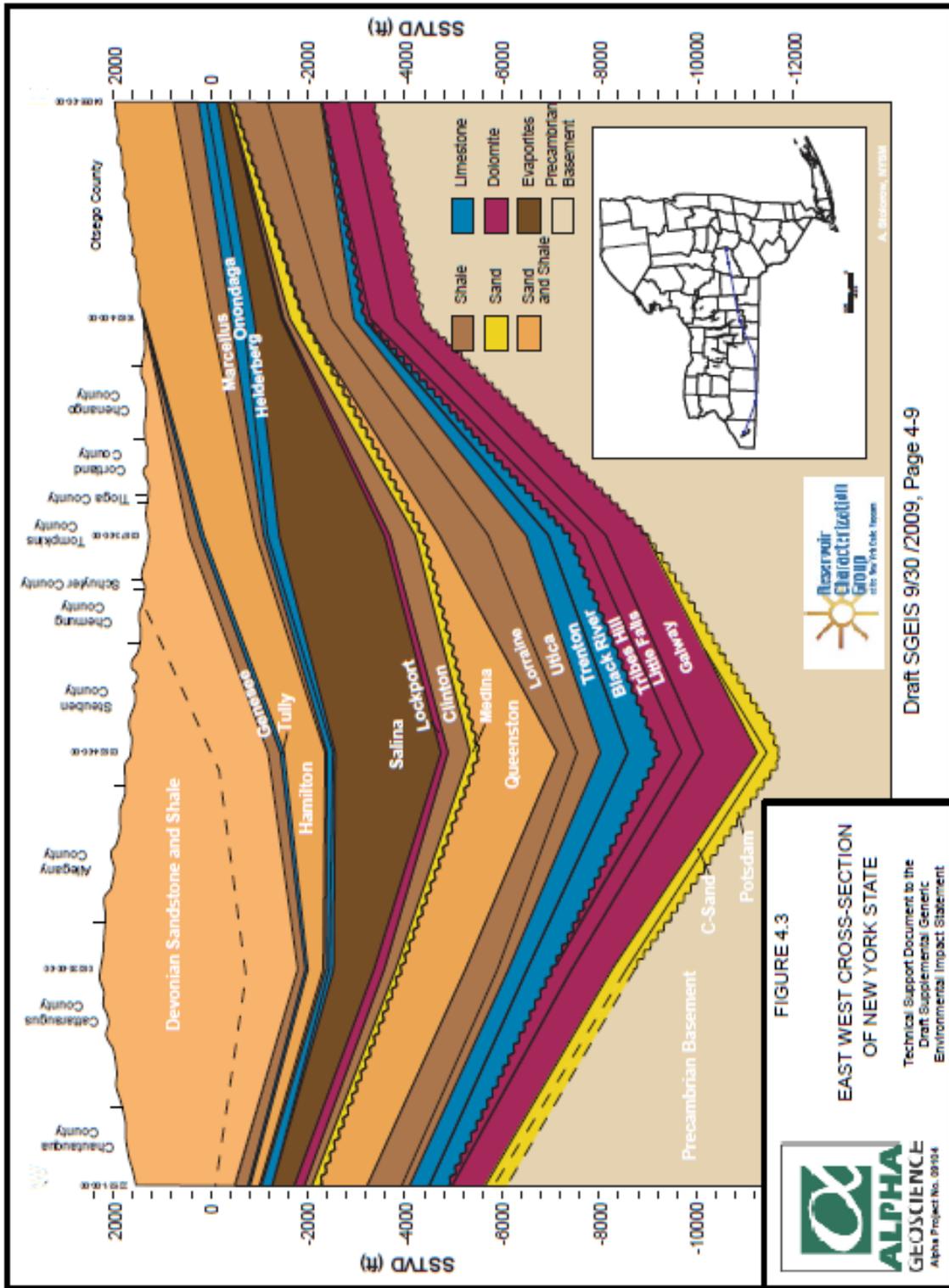
The wells drilled in the county since 1992 have been drilled and completed under the guidelines set forth in the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) issued by the NYSDEC in July of that year. A copy of the GEIS is also available on the DEC website.

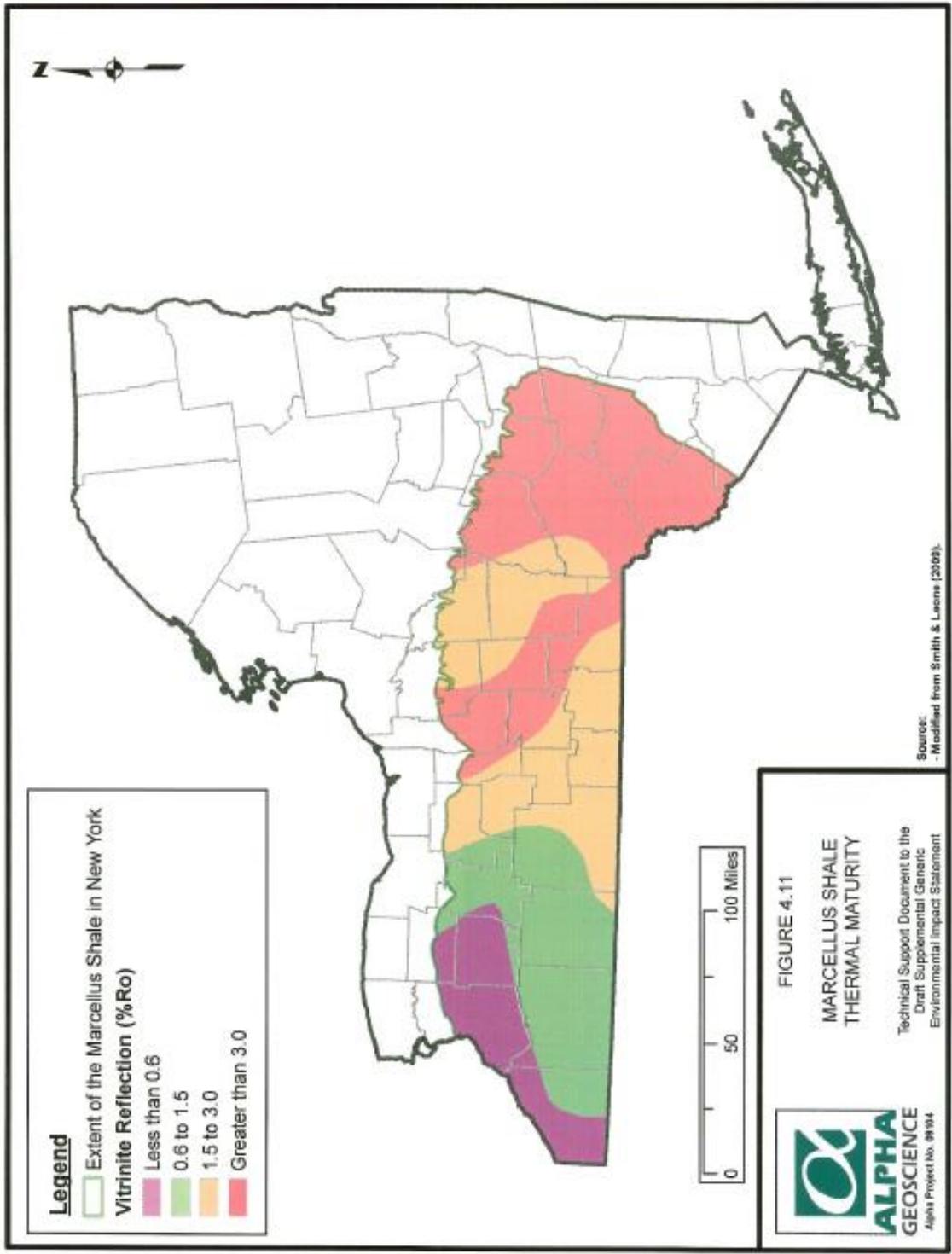
Additional regulation is enforced by a myriad of other agencies at both the State and Federal levels.



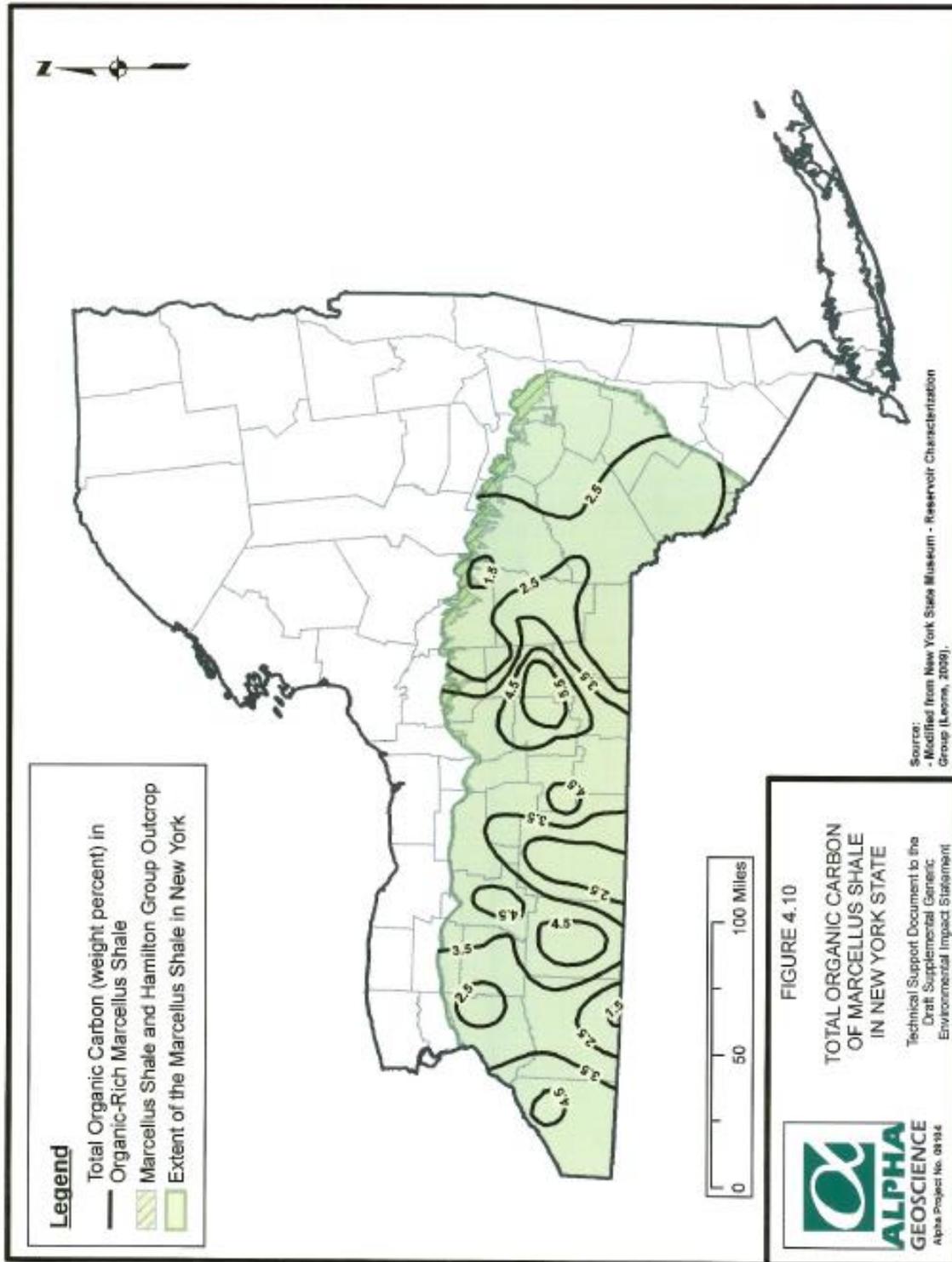


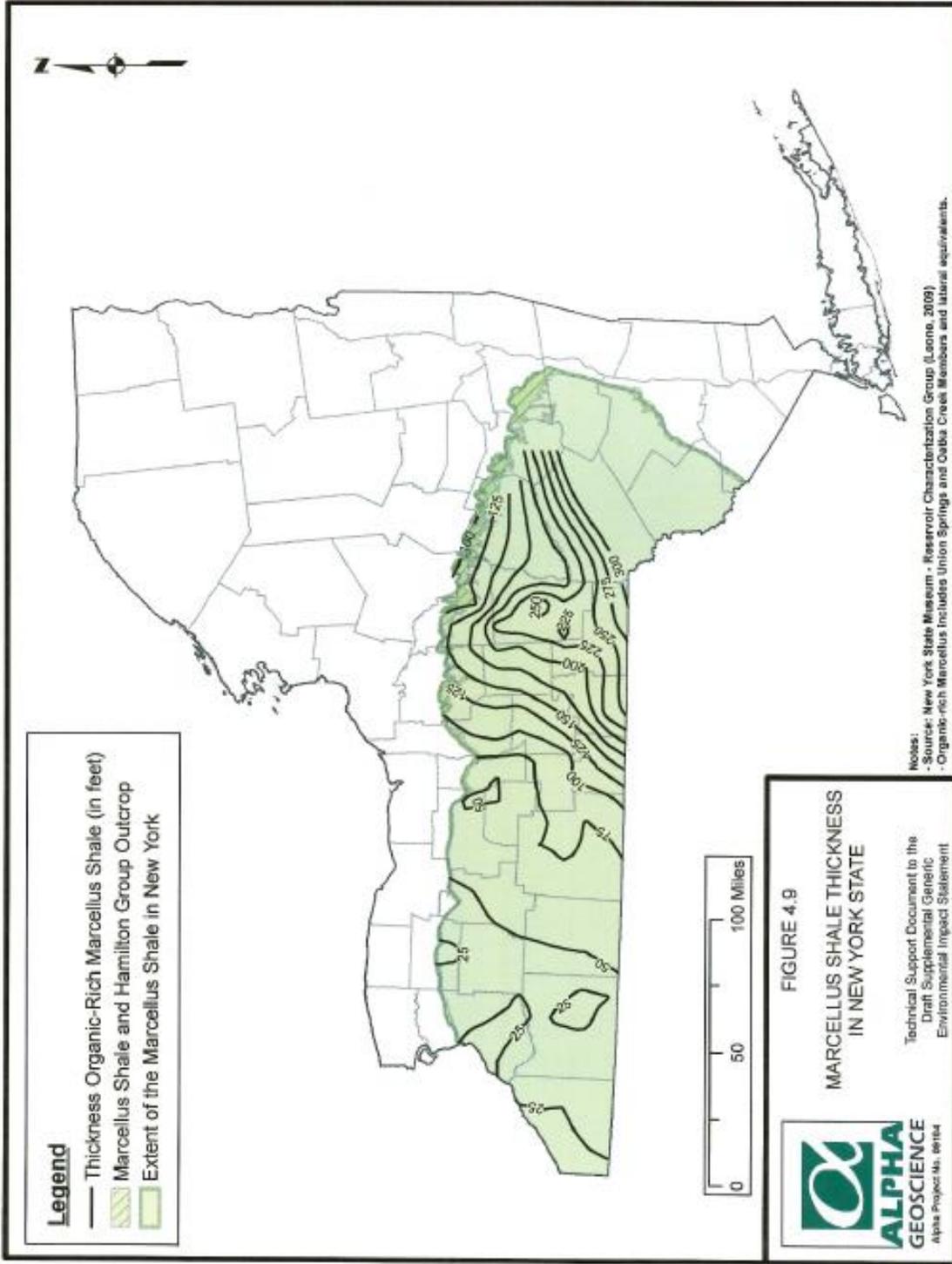
Draft SGEIS 9/30 /2009, Page 4-16



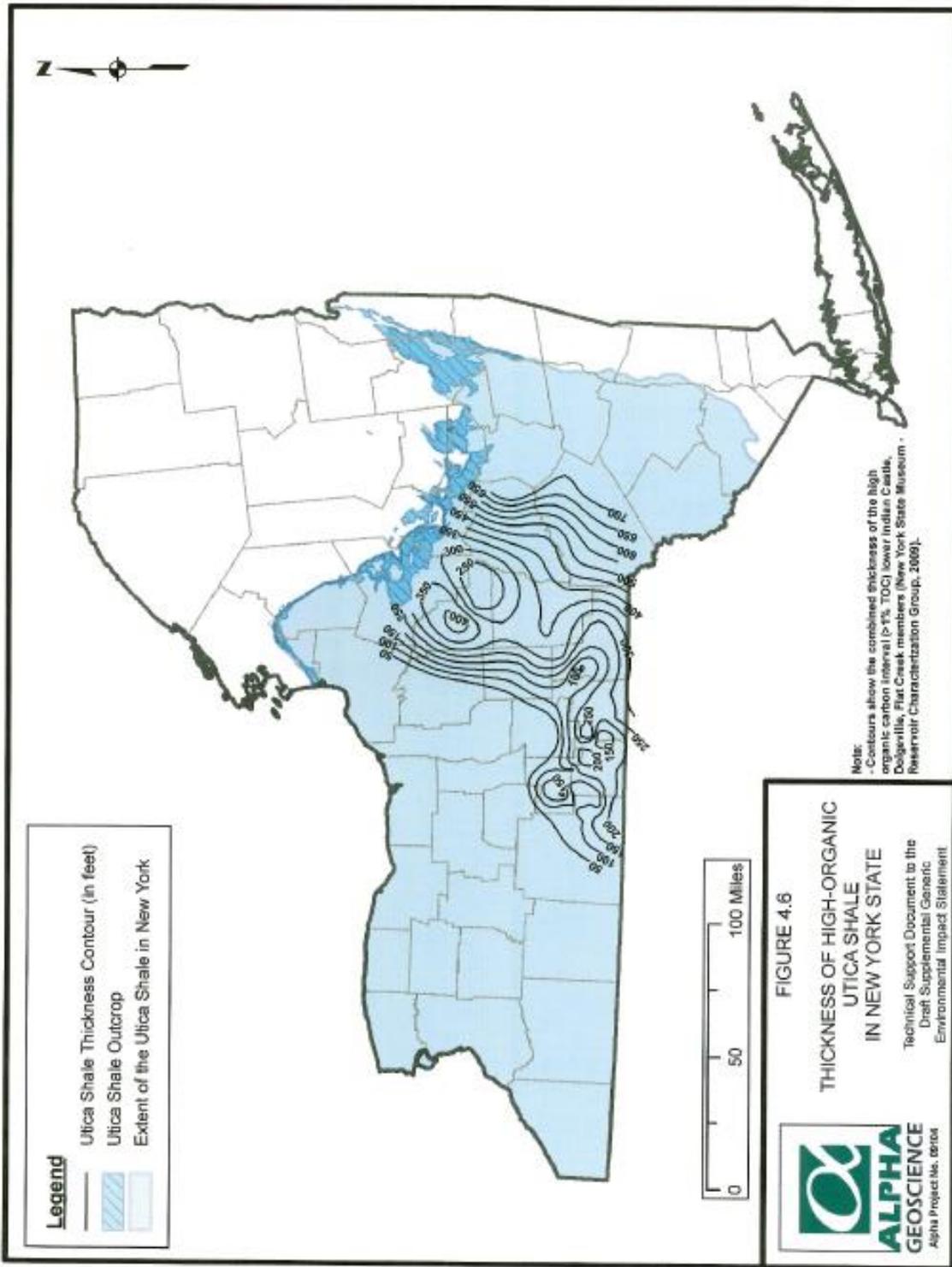


Revised Draft SGEIS 2011, Page 4-21





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## **Future Natural Gas Development**

Natural gas development may occur in the County even if the dSGEIS is not approved. One scenario would be for the regulatory system to remain just as it currently is. This would allow Exploration and Production Companies to drill wells in the County under the GEIS which is in effect now. This could lead to additional wells being drilled in the County into formations other than the two tight shale's mentioned below.

The Marcellus and the Utica formations are both considered to be tight shale's and the only process currently proving to consistently allow the producers to extract natural gas from them in economically viable quantities involves the process of Hydraulic Fracturing. Although this process is permitted in every other state where these or similar tight shale's exist, New York State decided to not allow the practice.

## **Impacts**

Some of the potential impacts of natural gas development are;

- Land disturbances during the drilling phase of one to two acres per pad site for conventional wells and up to five acres for a multi well pad where HVHF techniques are employed. Once drilling is completed and the pad site reclaimed, the area occupied by the producing wells would shrink to from a tenth of an acre to approximately one acre for a six-well site.
- Additional pipeline would need to be constructed if the fields expand beyond the reach of the current gathering line systems.
- We could expect to see an influx of workers from outside our area. The process of drilling and completing a well involves a number of skills not found in the local workforce. This influx could occupy some if not most of our hotel and motel rooms and some seasonal rentals including cottages and campsites.
- We would see road impacts at the State, Town and County level with the possibility of intermittent localized traffic disruptions.
- We would see additional retail activity, particularly at eateries and at those businesses that supply goods and services the industry uses ranging from gravel to welding supplies.

- There would be tax revenues that would flow to the County, Towns, School Districts and other entities that rely on the property tax system as a source of funding.
- There would be additional income that would be distributed to the holders of the mineral rights.

## **Transportation Systems**

In most cases, once released from the strata natural gas is transported by pipeline to its final point of consumption. The four categories of pipeline in New York include;

- Gathering lines, which take the natural gas from the well to its initial point of sale where it enters either an interstate, intrastate or distribution line.
- Interstate lines, which allow the natural gas to enter pipelines interconnected in a nationwide grid where the gas can be moved to the point of greatest need. Interstate lines also allow the natural gas to be moved to storage fields where it can be stock piled for use during times of peak demand. The closest storage field to Chenango County is the Stagecoach Field, west of Owego, NY.
- Intrastate lines, function much like interstate lines except they do not cross state borders.
- Distribution lines, allowing the natural gas to reach the final point of consumption and can be owned by a public utility, municipal power authority, an IDA or even an individual industrial consumer.

All pipelines are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the New York State Public Service Commission, or some combination of the two.

Currently there is only one distribution system in the County. New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) has a pipeline serving portions of the City of Norwich and Towns of Norwich and Oxford. It then extends to the East to Oneonta in Otsego County, and the North and West, to DeRuyter in Madison County and on to Cortland in Cortland County.

In Chenango and Madison County there is also a gathering line system constructed by Norse energy extending from the Blood 1 well in the Town of Preston to a Compressor station in the Town of Eaton where the gas is compressed and moved into the Dominion pipeline at Morrisville in Madison County.

There are three interstate lines traversing New York State from West to East. The Millennium crosses the Southern Tier supplying towns and cities along that corridor and primarily the New York City and the New

Jersey Markets. The Tennessee and Dominion roughly follow New York State Rt. 20 from Western NY to the Albany area where the gas can enter both the New England and New York City and New Jersey markets.

There are currently no North – South pipelines connecting these 3 interstate pipelines east of Cayuga Lake and west of the Hudson River Valley. There are however a number of proposed lines which could fill the gap.

The two likely to impact Chenango County are the Constitution Pipeline, and the Emkey Pipeline. The Constitution Pipeline is slated to roughly follow interstate 88 from Chenango County to Schoharie County and is intended to move gas from PA to an interstate system with a connection near Wells Bridge NY.

The villages of Afton and Bainbridge will likely have access to natural gas from this line and it would be surprising if distribution systems were not constructed to supply homes and businesses there.

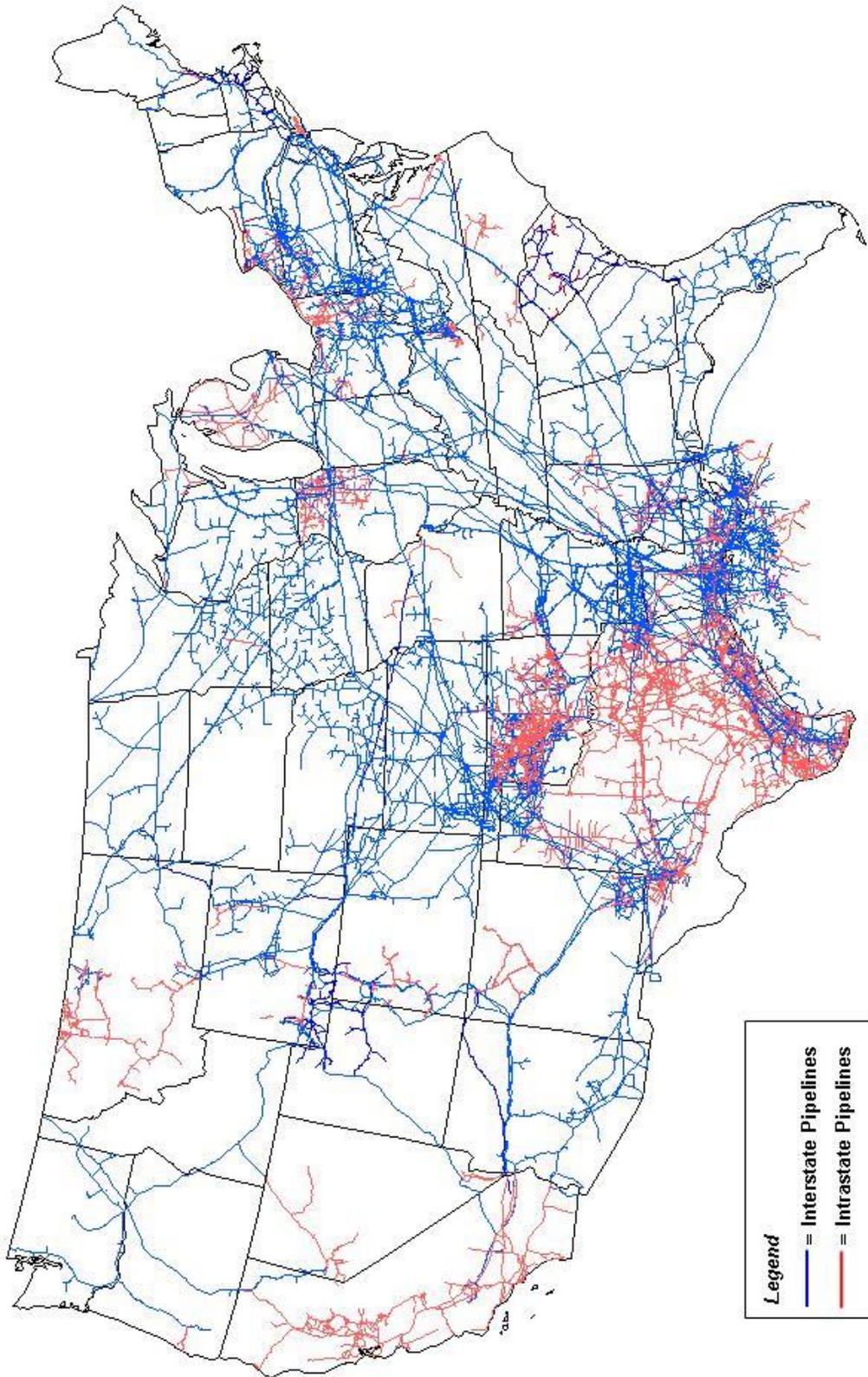
EmKey Resources is also exploring the possibility of constructing a pipeline through a right of way obtained by Norse running from Broome County, through Chenango County and connecting to one or both of the East to West pipelines at Morrisville in Madison County.

This pipeline, if it is constructed could potentially offer a source for natural gas to be distributed to the Village of Greene, the Hamlet of Smyrna and the Village of Sherburne. It could also add capacity to the NYSEG line currently serving the portions of the county mentioned above.

### **Natural Gas Usage**

Although most of Chenango County does not currently have natural gas service, the expansion of the distribution system should be encouraged in the county. Natural gas is both cleaner and less expensive per BTU than most alternatives commonly in use in the county today.

The New York State Public Service Commission held a series of hearings in the spring of 2013 focused on overcoming the barriers to extending natural gas availability to one half to one million more customers in NY. At one of those hearings it was estimated the average household in New York could save approximately one thousand two hundred dollars per year by switching from fuel oil to natural gas while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.



Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil & Gas, Natural Gas Division, Gas Transportation Information System

The importance of the availability of natural gas to industrial customers was also a topic of discussion with it being seen as an important component in attracting industry to and retaining industry in NY.

Natural gas may also become the preferred fuel for vehicles in the country over the next several years. Whether the vehicle is fueled with compressed natural gas (CNG) or liquefied natural gas (LNG) it is a less expensive and less polluting form of fuel.

If pipelines are constructed in the county, obtaining access to gas from them for local use should be pursued for both domestic and industrial consumption.

Although the final regulations at the state level for siting LNG tanks are not yet in place at the time of this printing, options for delivery to either a small community or industrial customer is also a possibility in the future.

## **Renewable Energy**

Chenango County businesses and residents are beginning to push towards utilizing a larger amount of renewable energy resources such as biomass, solar, and wind for their energy needs. Depending on a number of economic and social factors, some energy sources are more suitable for certain areas of Chenango County than others. While this will not meet all of the energy needs, Chenango County supports renewable energy initiatives for its businesses and residents.

### **Biomass Resources**

Substantial amounts of biomass exist in Chenango County, mainly in the form of wood resources. Wood resources have been used for hundreds of years in Chenango County, not only for their energy needs but for building houses, furniture, and other necessary tools and products.



Photo 21: Splitting Wood - Provided by Chenango County Historian

Historically thru today, trees are felled, cut into larger chunks, and later split for use as fire wood. With newer technologies being introduced, such as the wood boiler, more families are using biomass for their energy needs.

Another less utilized biomass resource is pellets. To

produce biomass pellets, biomass such as grasses, hay, shrubs and trees are harvested from fields and taken to a facility where they are burned to create ash. The ash is then molded into the shape of a pellet where they transported to consumers, dumped into a hopper, continuously fed to a stove where it is burned to provide heat for the structure.

### **Solar Resources**

There are two types of solar resources available to Chenango County; photo-voltaic and solar thermal.

Photo-voltaic energy, captured through solar panels, can be constructed on top of existing structures or ground-mounted as stand-alone units. The solar panel collects solar radiation from the sun where, through an internal process, is directly converted to electricity. If excess electricity is produced by the panel, it can either be stored by a large battery for later use or tied into the existing electrical grid where it can be sold to other users.

Solar thermal energy, captured by tubes, can also be constructed on top of existing structures or as a stand-alone unit. A solar thermal unit uses the heat from the sun to heat up the water inside the tubes where it is subsequently transported to a storage unit until needed for heating or hot water.

To obtain maximum efficiency, solar panels must be in direct sunlight, unhindered by trees or other structures, and mounted at 192 degrees south.

Residents and business owners should consult with professionals as to whether or not their location is suitable for solar energy. Depending on location and size of the installation, local laws may apply. Those interested should contact local officials to make them aware of their plans.

### **Wind Resources**

In some areas as nearby as Madison County, wind can be an abundant form of renewable energy for residents and businesses alike. Using turbines which drive an electrical generator, wind mills harvest mechanical energy which is then transported to structures or the electrical grid. Wind mills, depending on size, are typically ground mounted and can extend hundreds of feet in the air.

Because of Chenango County's north to south facing hills which hamper the flow of wind, the ability to locate large and in some cases small scale wind energy is prohibitive. To see if your location is suitable for

wind energy, you should contact a professional.

Depending on location and size of the installation, local laws may apply. Those interested should contact local officials to make them aware of their plans.

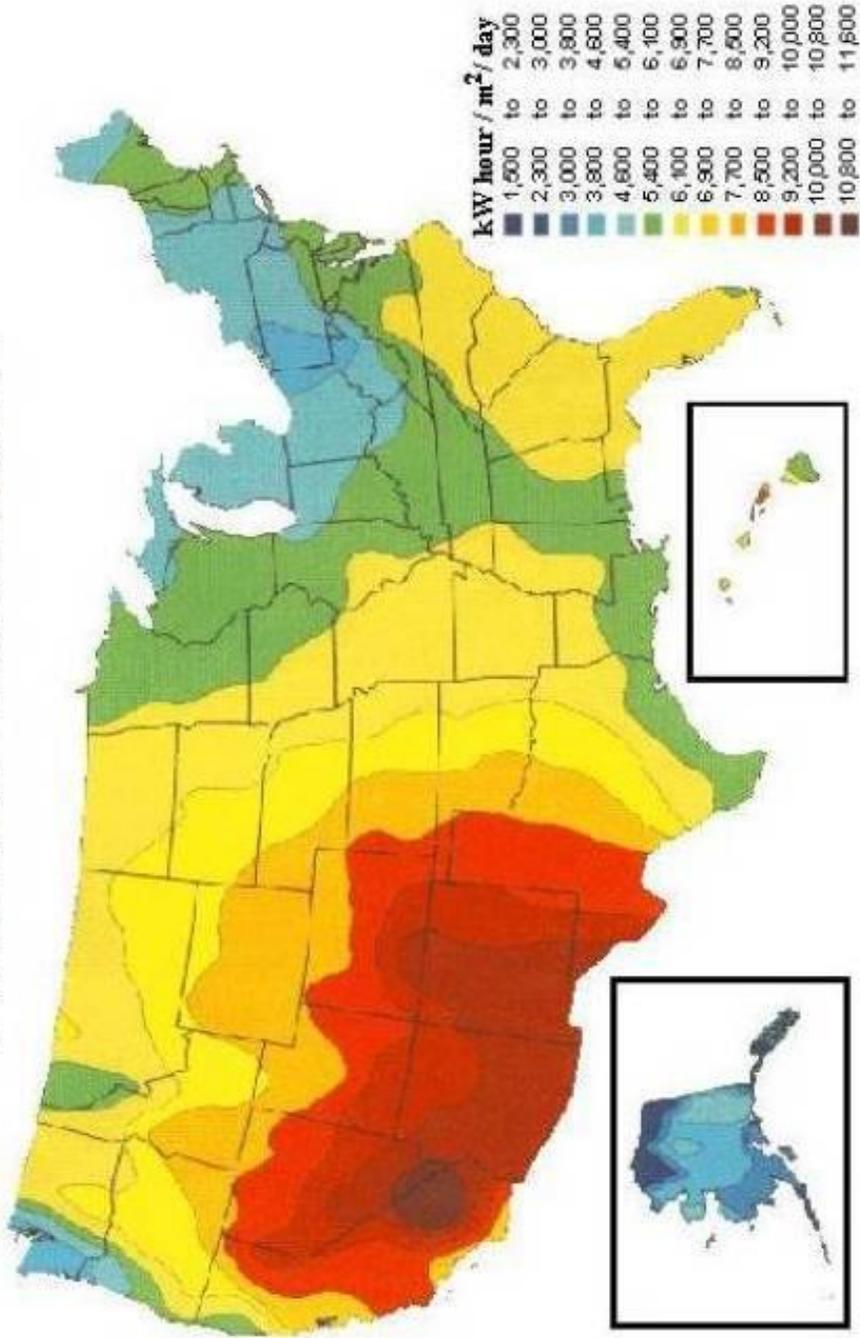
Social concerns including aesthetics and noise can also be prohibitive for the siting of wind mills. Due to their height, wind mills are highly visible and can cause conflicts with neighboring properties.

### **Grant Opportunities**

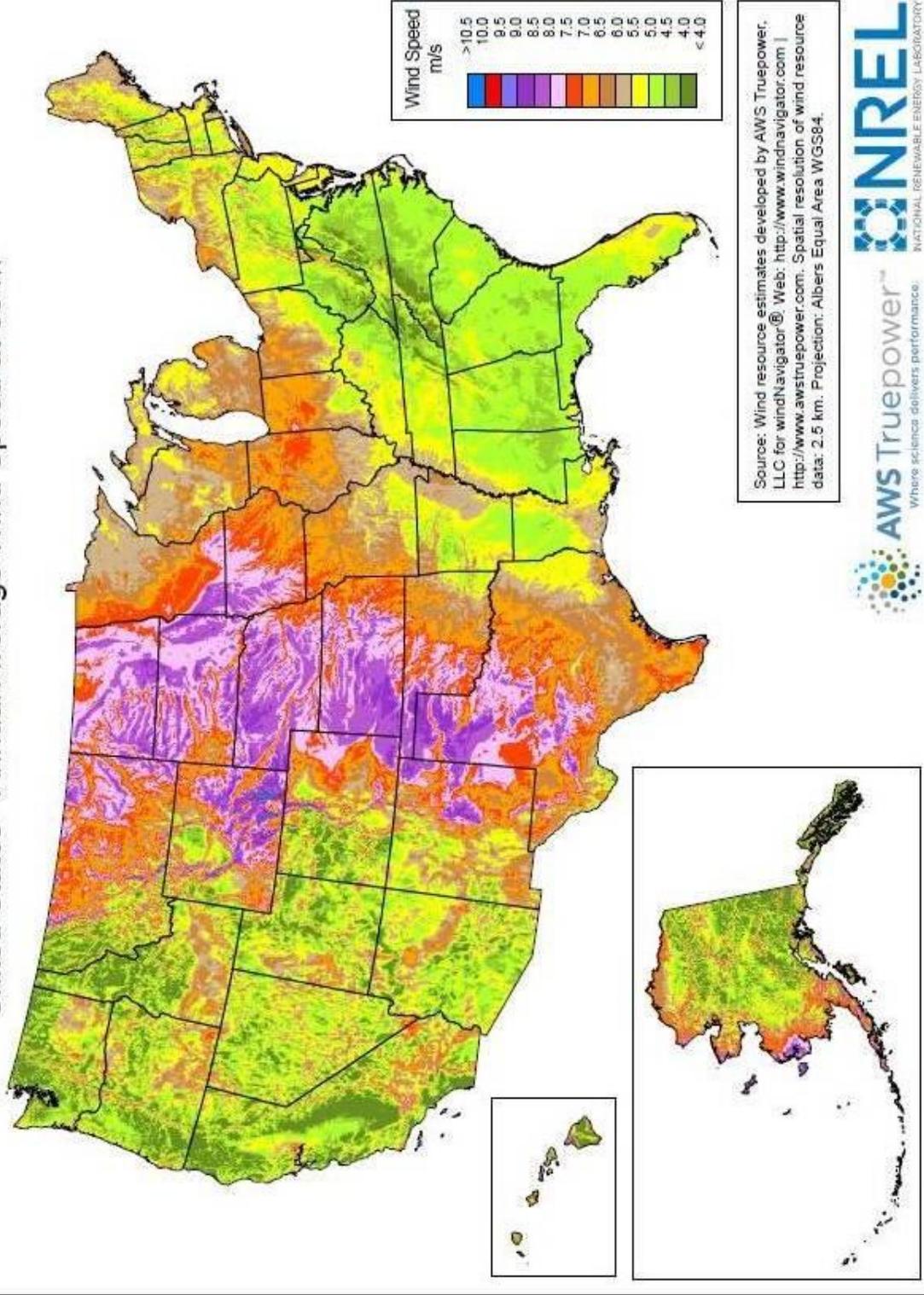
Grant opportunities are readily available for renewable energy projects through the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) and other NYS clean energy programs such as the NYS Green Bank.

For more information about these programs and others which may be available, please visit the NYSERDA website at <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/>.

# Annual Insolation



# United States - Annual Average Wind Speed at 80 m



## INFRASTRUCTURE

This section on transportation characteristics inventories the existing highway system, examines related considerations such as traffic volumes, sufficiency ratings and design standards, describes rail, air, bus service, scheduled improvements, and sets forth recommendations for improvement of the transportation network.

### Highway Systems in Chenango County

The highway network in Chenango County is comprised of approximately 1,755.4 miles of road. Of this, there are 1,483.9 miles of County, Town, Village and City roadways, 261.9 miles of New York State highway, including sections of NYS Routes 7, 8, 12, 12B, 23, 26, 41, 51, 79, 80, 206, 220, 235, 320, 990L and M, and 9.6 miles of Interstate 88.

The 308 miles of Chenango County Highway serves portions of each of the twenty-one towns with a primary function as major or collector roads interconnecting the network of Town, State and Interstate Road Systems. This network of roadways is adequate for local travel but deficient for servicing industrial and commercial businesses not in close proximity to the interstate highway system.



Photo 22: Local Road through Forest Land

The Interstate Highway system servicing Central New York and Chenango County includes: Interstate Route 88 running east-west in the southern corridor of the county,

provides access to the northeast corridor in the Albany area, connecting to Interstate Routes 87 and 90; and in the southwest connecting to Interstate Route 81 and 86 (formerly NYS Rte 17) near Binghamton.

### Functional Classification of Highways

The present functional classification of rural highways is based not on jurisdiction, but on a number of service criteria developed as part of the 1972 National Transportation Study. Most important of these criteria is the size of communities and other traffic generators connected by the highway and the type of traffic served:

local, intermediate, or long distance. In order of decreasing service standards, these classifications are as follows:

1. Interstate
2. Principal Arterials
3. Minor Arterials
4. Major Collectors
5. Minor Collectors
6. Local Roads

Based on present highway legislation, county roads classified as “major collectors” or above are eligible for assistance under the Federal-Aid Primary and Secondary Systems. It is important, therefore, that those roadways within the County which fall within these classifications is so designated and thus remain eligible for federal assistance. There are eleven (11) federally classified roads in Chenango County, accounting for 44.96 miles, they are; County Road 5, 10A, 25, 32, 32A, 32B, 33, 34, 35, 36, and 44.

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) functional and proposed functional classification of highways is illustrated in the map on the previous page.



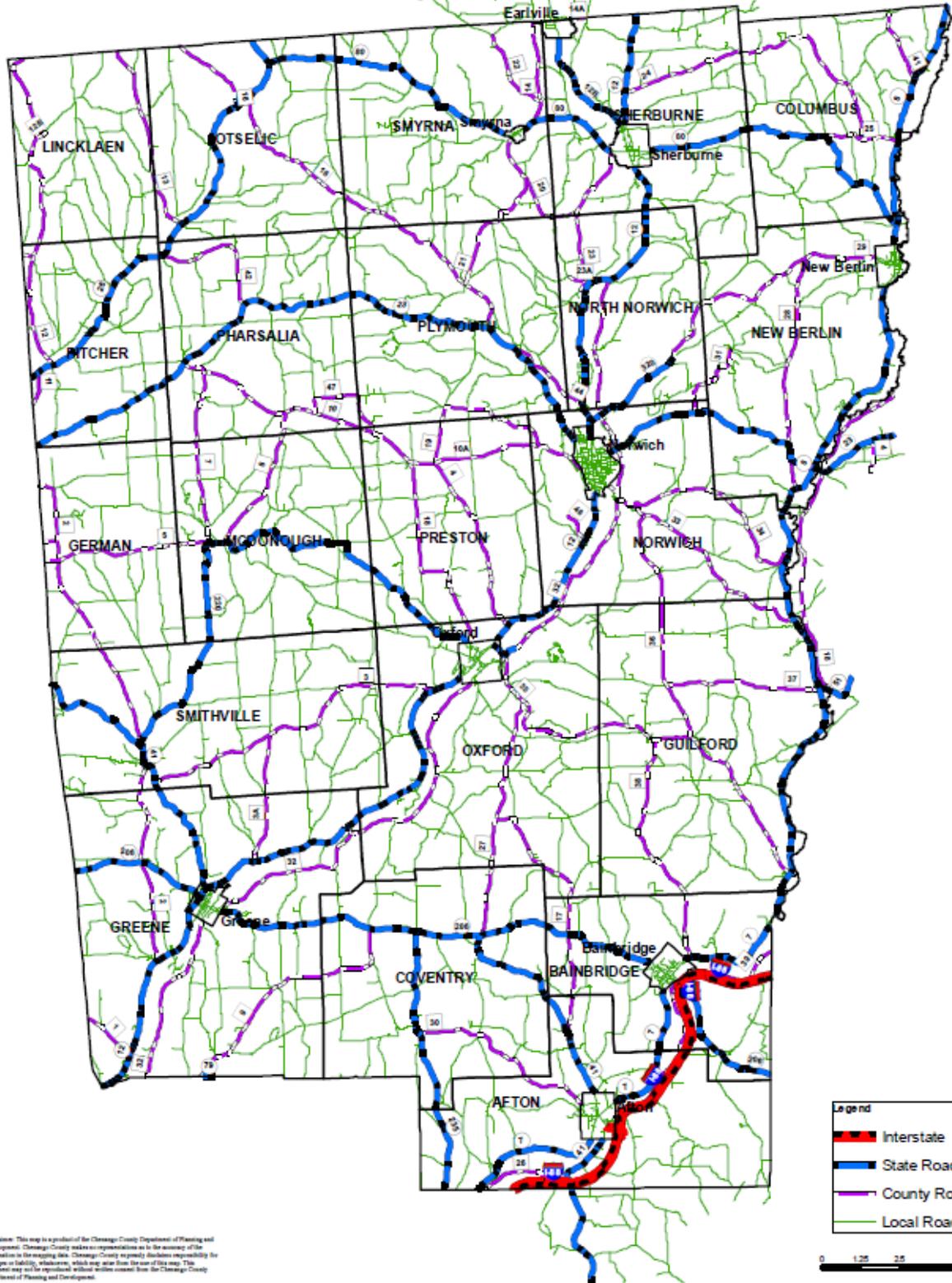
Photo 23: Bridge recently completed in Oxford.

## Highway Related Considerations

**Traffic Volumes:** Traffic counts are made on State Highways in Chenango County by NYSDOT and by the County Highway Department for the County highway network.

The highest average annual daily traffic on State highways was noted on Route 12 in the City and Town of Norwich with the number of vehicles ranging from 13,007 to 15,272. Interstate Route 88 in the Town of Afton and Bainbridge witnessed the next highest volumes ranging from 10,844 to 11,743 vehicles.

# Existing Highway System Chenango County, NY



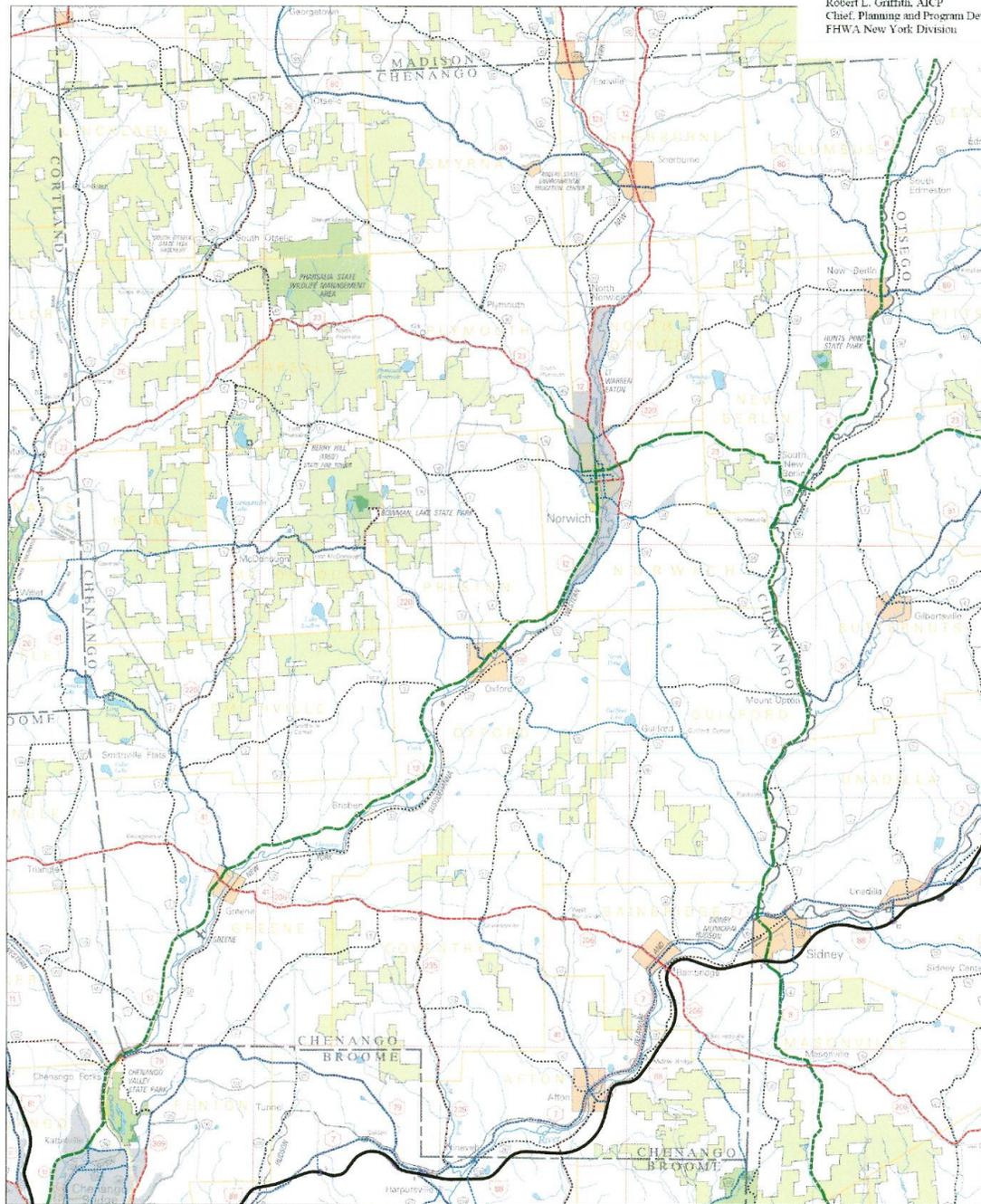
2000 Rural Functional Classification  
Chenango County  
Region 9

Approved: February 5, 2008

*Robert L. Griffith, AICP*

Robert L. Griffith, AICP  
Chief, Planning and Program Development  
FHWA New York Division

New York State  
Department of Transportation



BOUNDARIES	
State	— — — — —
County	— — — — —
City or Village	— — — — —
Town	— — — — —
Other	— — — — —
ROADS	
Planned Touring Route	○
Interstate	— — — — —
U.S.	— — — — —
State	— — — — —
County	— — — — —
State Hwy (SH)	— — — — —
Number and S&E	— — — — —
County Road	— — — — —
Interchange Number	— — — — —
Other	— — — — —
Unimproved	— — — — —
4 or more lanes	— — — — —
Less than 4 lanes	— — — — —
Vehicle back up	— — — — —

Functional Classification System			
Urban	Functional Classification	National Highway System	Rural
Interstate	1	1	1
Principal Arterial (Downtown)	2	2	2
Principal Arterial (Suburban)	3	3	3
Major Arterial	4	4	4
Collector	5	5	5
Local	6	6	6
Urban Area	7	7	7
Interstate	8	8	8
Principal Arterial	9	9	9
Major Arterial	10	10	10
Minor Arterial	11	11	11
Minor Collector	12	12	12
Local	13	13	13



Chenango County

Map Plotted: May 22, 2006

Traffic counts on County roads indicate that average daily traffic volumes on most County roadways are relatively low compared to traffic volumes on major State highways. In Chenango County traffic volumes are highest on County Roads 32, 35, 36 and 38. The highest average annual daily traffic on County highways was noted on County Route 32 in the Town of Norwich, ranging from 3,712 to 8,679 vehicles.

**Sufficiency Ratings:** In order to relate the foregoing descriptions of existing conditions and traffic volume, the NYSDOT sufficiency rating are described as follows:

The sufficiency rating is determined by combining the data and ratings in two areas: structural condition and traffic capacity. Standard of highway design provide the background for comparison against which highway structural conditions and traffic capacities are evaluated. The physical condition of each section of a State highway is expressed as a structural rating, while its ability to serve the present traffic volumes adequately are stated as a capacity/volume ratio.

Structural Rating: The highway structural rating is based on ratings in the following three areas:

- Surface is rated on the amount of scaling, spalling, pitting and checking.
- Rupture and displacement are rated by considering frost heaves, warping, movement of pavement in any direction, and condition of joints and edges.
- Maintenance index is rated by the resident engineer. The purpose of this index is to provide a comparative rating of needs in maintaining the highway, not including such housekeeping activities as guide-rail work, mowing, center-line striping and brush/tree removal.

Capacity/Volume Rating: Traffic capacity adjustment is made by means of the capacity/volume ratio, developed from the ratio of theoretical capacity of each highway section to the volume of traffic actually using that section. Both capacity and traffic volume are expressed in terms of the number of vehicles during a theoretical hour, commonly referred to as the design hour (DH).

A numerical value is assigned to each highway section in each of these two categories. The scores are then averaged to determine the sufficiency rating. The detailed sufficiency ratings represent the arithmetic mean of the separate capacity/volume and structural ratings for highways in the area listed.

The higher the number, the better the rating making these ratings useful to:

- To establish a basis for highway improvements;
- To provide a measure of the progress in overall improvement of highways;
- To aid in anticipating requirements for long-range highway improvements; and

- To provide a foundation for extended highway planning and programming as the basis for realistic highway financing.

## **Highway Design Considerations**

To render the possibility of inadequate or short-sighted highway construction less likely in the years ahead, it is important to establish standards and guidelines of highway construction for improving, and upgrading existing roadways.

The highway system should be designed to relate closely to the existing and desirable future land use pattern in the community, the topographic and physical conditions encountered, and to the volume and type of traffic anticipated.

Some of the important features of highway location and design which will have an important bearing on the ability to carry anticipated traffic volumes without undue congestion or hazard include:

- **Alignment:** horizontal and vertical sight distances play an important part in the safety of a highway (passing, sight and braking distances), as well as in its ability to move traffic (steep grades, no passing zones).
- **Pavement width:** affects the safety and efficient capacity of a highway
- **Lateral Clearance and Shoulder Width:** are important safety features, especially with two-way traffic (there is a direct correlation between road side obstacles, shoulder widths and safety)
- **Type and Concentration of Traffic:** the presence of commercial vehicles (trucks, buses, etc.) in large numbers, as well as peak hour concentrations, can diminish the ability of a highway to function as designed.
- **Intersections:** their frequency is an important determinant of capacity as is their design an important component of safety.

These considerations need to be incorporated in the design of all future highway improvements and construction. The minimum standards set forth are designed to insure their consideration and provide a common basis of evaluation.

**State Highway Standards:** NYSDOT uses the Highway Design Manual to ensure proper design of highways. “The primary functions of the Highway Design Manual (HDM) are to: (1) provide design criteria, requirements, and guidance on highway design methods and policies which are a current as practicable, and (2) assure uniformity in the application of design practices throughout the New York State Department of

Transportation consistent with the collective experience of the Department of Transportation, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and the Federal Highway Administration.”<sup>23</sup>

**County Road Standards:** The road standards recommended for the Chenango County Highway Department are related to the proposed system of road classification including “Minor Arterial”, “Major Collector”, “Minor Collector”, and “Local” county roads. The recommended standards for developing County minor arterial and major lane secondary highways are shown in the full transportation report. In addition, the minimum suggested standards for developing the County’s minor collector and local roads are as followed:

	<b>Minor Collector</b>	<b>Local Road</b>
Right-of-Way	60 Feet	50 Feet
Pavement Width	20 Feet	18 Feet
Shoulder Width	5 Feet	5 Feet
Grade in Percent (Min)	8.0%	10.0%
Grade in Percent (Max)	0.5%	0.5%

Source: 12 Highway Design Manual

Intersections shall be generally:

- Not closer than 1,000 ft. to the next intersection
- At approximately a 90° angle for at least 100ft.
- No greater than 3% in grade for at least 100 ft.

**Town Highway Standards:** The Town Highway Improvement Program or “Donovan Plan” has the following purposes:

- Raising the roadbed above grade;
- Grading back-slope and eliminating brush;
- Widening of roadbed to not less than eighteen feet;
- Surfacing with gravel or other suitable material to a depth of not less than twelve inches, which shall not be stabilized with suitable binding materials;
- Widening shoulders to not less than five feet;
- Providing for adequate drainage facilities;
- Providing for vegetative protection on the sides of State or municipally owned slopes bordering on highways to prevent erosion of soil and to conserve water; and
- Providing for the construction or reconstruction of necessary bridges.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.nysdot.gov/divisions/engineering/design/dqab/hdm>

In general, all Town roadways should be constructed or improved in accord with the standards of the Town Highway Improvement Program and the Local Road standards outlined above.

## **Other Modes of Transportation**

To give additional insight to the needs and adequacy of the highway system it is important to examine other modes of transportation, including air, bus and rail services.



Photo 24: Lt. Warren Eaton Airport

### **Air Service:**

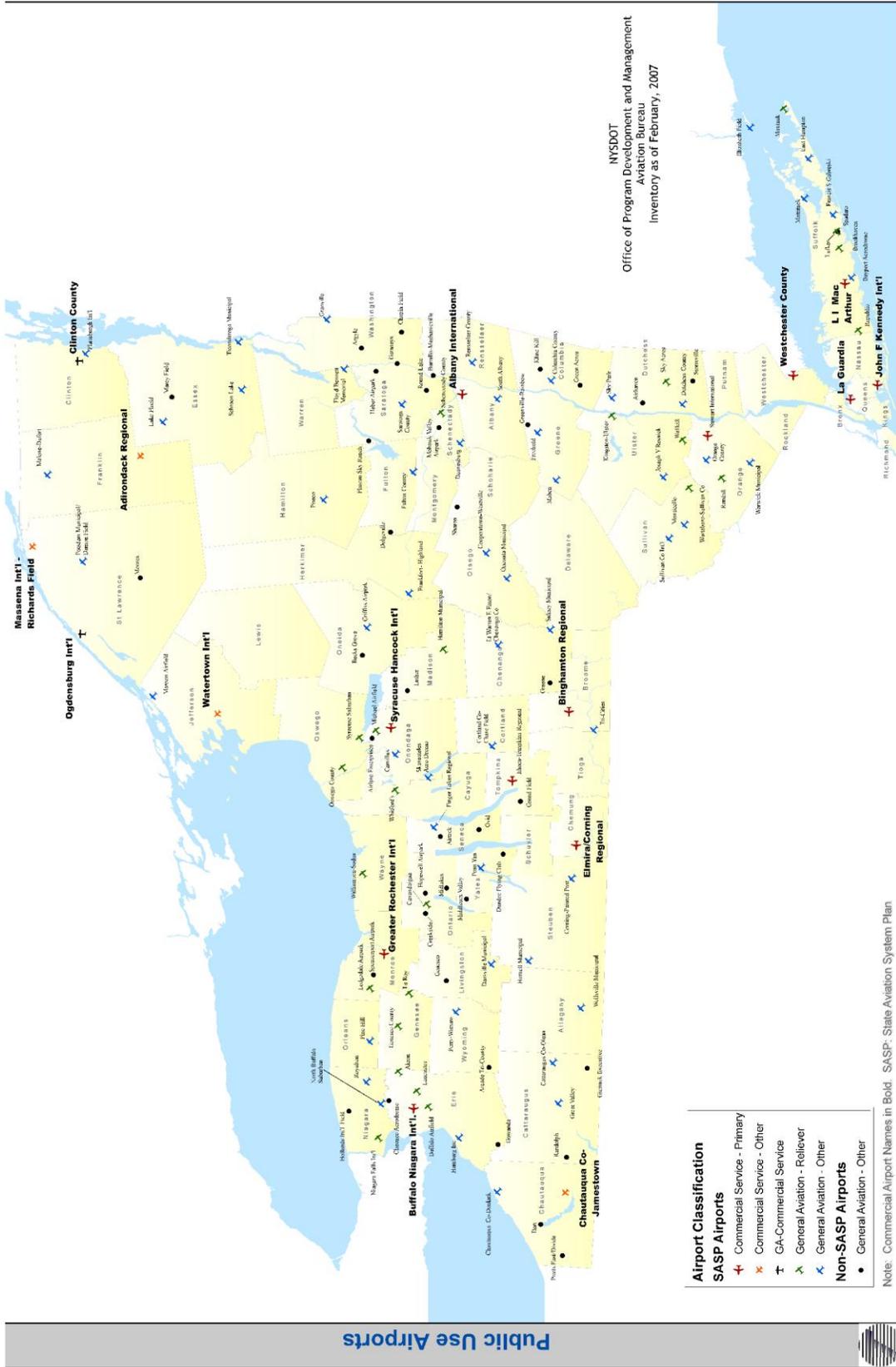
Due to the lack of available commercial air service in Chenango County residents generally utilize the services of the Greater Binghamton Airport, Syracuse Hancock International Airport and the Albany International Airport. These airports are identified by the Federal Aviation Administration as a State

Aviation System Plan (SASP) “Commercial Service-Primary” airport, offering travelers direct access to hubs in several states. In the immediate area, the Chenango County Lt. Warren E. Eaton Airport, the Sidney Municipal Airport and the Greene Airport have facilities available for small private and corporate air service.

The Lt. Warren E. Eaton Airport, located two miles north of the City of Norwich in the Town of North Norwich, is a County owned and administered SASP “General Aviation-Other” airport. Storage and fueling is available at the airport including eighteen T-hangars and a 10,000 gallon fuel tank for Jet-A and 100LL Av gas. While charter flights do come into the airport, there are no charter operations at this time. Airport facilities are made available for the flying public, however there are restrictions on night-instrument landings. Additional information about Lt. Warren E. Eaton Airport can be found in the Community Facilities section of this plan.

In neighboring Delaware County, The Sidney Municipal Airport is also a publicly-owned SASP “General Aviation-Other” airport. The facility is located in the Village of Sidney, but the runway extends into the Town Bainbridge, Chenango County. LifeNet of New York Advanced Air Medical Helicopter Transport is stationed at the Sidney Municipal Airport. LifeNet provides emergency services to Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, and Otsego Counties in New York, and Susquehanna County in Pennsylvania.

The Greene Airport, located in the Town of Greene, is privately-owned, Non-SASP “General Aviation-Other” airport. Although privately-owned, use of the airport is open to the public.



## **Public Transportation**

Due to the rural nature of Chenango County, public transportation is severely limited to Village and City centers where populations are greater. Recent changes at the State level, more specifically how transportation providers are reimbursed through Medicaid, will impact this valuable resource.

Contracted services in Chenango County are: “Dial-A-Ride”; transportation for participants in Department of Social Services and Mental Health programs; and Area Agency on Aging services. The Area Agency on Aging contracts rides for Senior citizens and delivery of meals. Area Agency on Aging has a waiver from New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) allowing them to transport meals from the Department of Corrections Kitchen Facility for the senior programs. This waiver entitles First Transit to receive subsidies for mileage, cutting cost to the County programs.

Alternative transportation opportunities are currently being researched. One such opportunity is the 511NY/RideShare program through the NYS Department of Transportation. The 511NY/RideShare program offers the online background services to allow transportation sharing among residents. Based on the number of residents taking similar routes, other modes of transportation could be added to accommodate larger groups.

## **Rail Service**

In Chenango County, freight service is available on both the Canadian Pacific (Norfolk Southern) and the New York Susquehanna and Western (NYSW) Railways. Railroad services offer vital links between businesses within and outside of Chenango County, increasing economic development and reducing truck traffic along main transportation corridors.

The Canadian Pacific, located parallel to NYS Route 7 in the Towns and Villages of Afton and Bainbridge, traverses 14.8 miles of the County. The Canadian Pacific is an important direct connection to Binghamton and Schenectady.

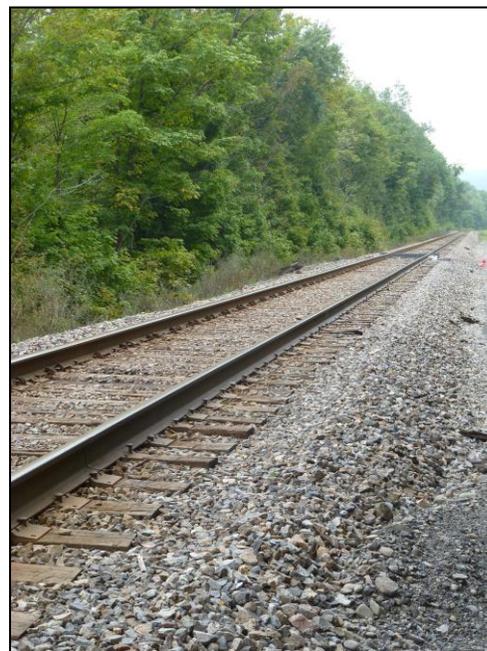


Photo 25: Rail bed Heading South



As of the final draft of this plan, the north-south rail line through Chenango County previously operated by the New York Susquehanna and Western Railway (which formerly operated a short line between Binghamton and Utica), was out of service. The line was severely damaged by severe weather events in 2006, 2007, and again in 2011. Lack of significant traffic and high cost of repair hampered NYSW's ability to make investments in the repairing the line.

The County of Chenango Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) was successful in attracting NYS Department of Transportation grant funding to conduct repairs to the line in 2011; the grant award was 16% of the original funding request. In 2012, CCIDA utilized this state funding as a portion of the 20% local funding match required to leverage additional grant investments from the US Dept. of Commerce's Federal Economic Development Administration, and was successful in receiving a \$4.897 million grant award. As of this writing, CCIDA had completed the full scale engineering of the project. The question of assessing title right of way for the railroad was raised and ultimately settled by the existing 10 year lease-hold interest. The environmental impact of the rail line on surrounding wetlands was under question by the Army Corps of Engineers, and continuation of the project was contingent on their approval. Sending out bids for contractors and purchase of materials had been curtailed as a result. This may be problematic given the limited supply of materials in the market, but it is still expected that construction will begin in the spring.

If the line can be revitalized, links will be provided to CSX Transportation in Syracuse and Norfolk southern to the south in Binghamton. NYSW can then continue providing service through NS trackage rights to North Bergen, New Jersey, the Canadian Pacific Railway in Binghamton; and Norfolk Southern in Binghamton and Passaic Junction, New Jersey.

The only functioning rail service (in the County) at this time is in the southeastern portion of Chenango County in Bainbridge and Afton, provided by Canadian Pacific Railway. Trains regularly pass through these communities en-route between Binghamton and Albany.<sup>24</sup>

## **Utilities/ Telecommunications**

Utilities and Telecommunication lines, including electric, natural gas, sewer, water and broadband are scattered throughout the County offering a variety of services for residents in the areas where some or all of these services are available.

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<sup>24</sup> Chenango County Economic Development Strategic Plan Update 2014-2020

### **Electric:**

New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG), a utility, is the primary provider in Chenango County, however the Villages of Greene and Sherburne offer municipal electric through a purchase agreement with NYSEG.

Generally, electric is accessible to all areas of the County. Some areas of the county where existing electrical infrastructure is being utilized at its capacity, limiting the possibility of additional electrical consumption in those areas. Remediating this issue may require the construction of new power lines and/or substations.

Three phase power, necessary for many industrial activities, is not available in many of the rural areas of the county. Unless this infrastructure is built out, industrial development will be limited to the areas in the county where three phase power is available.

### **Natural Gas:**

New York State Electric and Gas is the only utility providing natural gas service to Chenango County. The NYSEG pipeline enters the county in the Town of Otselic, with service taps in the hamlet of Plymouth. The line continues to a compressor station at the intersection of NYS Route 23 and County Route 32 where it divides into two lines. The main line continues east exiting Chenango County in the Town of New Berlin and the secondary line services the City of Norwich where it continues south to service the Village of Oxford where the line ends.

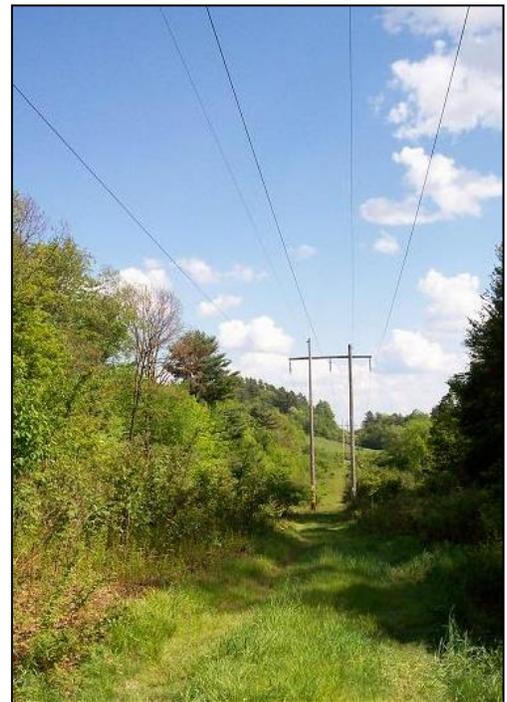


Photo 26: Electrical line running through wooded area.

The current NYSEG system, once exiting Chenango County to the east, serves Oneonta in Otsego County. On very cold days the line operates at its capacity, limiting the amount of natural gas that could be guaranteed for use by new industrial customers wishing to connect to the system.

Norse Energy, LLC explored and developed natural gas resources in the Towns of Smyrna, Plymouth and Preston in the late 2000s, connecting their active wells to a private pipeline delivering the natural gas to a compressor station entering the NYSEG line in the Town of Plymouth. In the years since, the pipeline has been bought by Emkey Resources, LLC and the compressor station decommissioned. Any gas currently produced in Chenango County is being supplied to an interstate pipeline in Morrisville, Madison County.

The proposed Constitution Pipeline may bring natural gas to the region with a distribution tap located near

Sidney (Delaware County), supplying natural gas to a proposed distribution system proposed to be owned and operated by Leatherstocking Natural Gas. Leatherstocking intends to build a system to serve the Village of Sidney and some outlying areas including the newly constructed Amphenol facility. The line would be extended along the NYS Route 7 corridor to the Village of Bainbridge. Franchise agreements for the two towns are already in place.

Additional information on natural gas exploration in Chenango County is covered in the Energy Resources section of this plan.

### **Water Supply Systems**

The Natural Features section of this plan provided an overview of the abundant natural surface and sub-surface water resources available in Chenango County. The major aquifers within Chenango County are capable of providing maximum yields between 300,000 to 500,000 gallons per day, per well. The minor aquifers are capable of yielding 1,000-10,000 gallons of water per day, per well.

The water in Chenango County generally has a high mineral content, considered “hard water”. With a few exceptions, the quality meets New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) potable standards for drinking water. New York State Department of Health classifies water systems as follows:

**A Public Water System** is any entity which provides water to the public for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, with at least 5 service connections that regularly serves an average of at least 25 people daily for at least 60 days out of the year. Public water systems are then further categorized as one of the following types of systems:

- **Community Water System:** a public water system that serves the same people year-round. Most residences including homes, apartments, and condominiums in cities, towns and mobile home parks are served by community water systems. Examples of community water systems include municipally-owned (cities, towns, or villages) public water supplies, public water authorities, or privately-owned water suppliers such as homeowner associations, apartment complexes, and mobile home parks that maintain their own drinking water system.



Photo 27: Community water system.

- **Non-community Water System:** A non-community water system is a public water system serving the public but does not generally serve the same people year-round. There are two types of non-community water systems; transient and non-transient non-community water systems.
- **Transient Non-community Water System:** A transient non-community water system is a non-community water system that serves different people for more than six months out of the year. Rest stops, parks, convenience stores and restaurants with their own water supplies are examples of transient non-community water system.
- **Non-transient Non-community Water System:** A non-transient non-community water system is a non-community water system that serves the same people more than six months per year, but not year-round. Schools, colleges, hospitals and factories with their own water supplies are examples of non-transient non-community water systems.

The major and some of the minor population centers in the County are located adjacent to primary aquifers. The access to an abundant and economically obtainable ground water supply has been essential for public health safety and community development.



Photo 28: Reservoir component of a community water system.

Communities supplied by wells with municipally owned/operated public water systems are:

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| • City of Norwich       | • Village of Oxford          |
| • Village of Afton      | • Village of Sherburne       |
| • Village of Bainbridge | • Village of Smyrna          |
| • Village of Earlville  | • Hamlet of Mount Upton      |
| • Village of Greene     | • Hamlet of South New Berlin |
| • Village of New Berlin | • Hamlet of South Otselic    |

The Hamlet of Guilford is solely supplied by a filtered surface water supply while the City of Norwich and Village of Afton supplement their wells with a filtered surface water supply.

Public Water Systems are monitored regularly by NYSDOH, Chenango County Environmental Health Staff

and a certified municipal employee.

Rural residential water systems are typically supplied by natural springs and drilled/dug water wells. Too often residential properties, especially in small hamlets, have small lots, poor soil and improperly developed water wells easily contaminated by private waste water systems and/or inadequate drainage.

There are funding sources available for financing new or updating community and private water systems. One potential resource for funding public water systems is the “Drinking Water State Revolving Fund” (DWSRF) funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Both publicly and privately owned community water systems are eligible for this funding. The DWSRF offers a low-interest rate loan for infrastructure, and the state may also provide additional loan subsidies (including forgiveness of principal) for drinking water projects.<sup>25</sup> States must provide a minimum of 15% of the available funds to municipalities with populations fewer than 10,000 people, of which all Chenango County municipalities would meet this requirement.<sup>26</sup>

A potential source of funding for private water wells in Chenango County is through the NYS Community Development grant programs. “Opportunities for Chenango”, in partnership with Chenango County Planning and Development, applies for available grant funding to administer Well/Septic programs for qualified low to middle-income County homeowners. Depending on the type of repair, eligibility, and availability of funds, a homeowner could receive a grant for 100% of the project cost.



Photo 29: Concrete water storage tank for community water system.

Costs not covered by the grant may be paid directly by the homeowner or covered by deferred and/or low-interest loan options.

While the pursuit of improvements to existing water supply and distribution systems or the provision of any additional such system will rest with the individual municipality or special district charged with its administration, the County is concerned with adequate provision of portable and sufficient water supply from two principal vantage points.

First, the County is concerned with providing overall direction to the provision of public water supply to those centers of population which can support such systems. Part of this direction speaks to

<sup>25</sup> [http://epa.gov/orwdw/arsenic/pdfs/funding/arsenic\\_moa.pdf](http://epa.gov/orwdw/arsenic/pdfs/funding/arsenic_moa.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/orwdw/dwsrf/pdfs/dwfact.pdf>

the question of existing and potential available sources of water and the implications of the utilization of these sources. Secondly, the County is concerned with the adequacy of local water supply as it relates to potential health or contamination problems. This in turn relates directly to growth and settlement patterns throughout the County and the need to relate density patterns to available resources that would serve a given area.

### **Sanitary Sewage Systems**

Similar to the water supply systems, there are two principal wastewater disposal systems in Chenango County: a municipal wastewater system owned and maintained by a municipality; and a private on site wastewater system.

Communities in Chenango County operating municipal wastewater systems are:

- City of Norwich
- Village of Bainbridge
- Village of Greene
- Village of Oxford
- Village of Sherburne
- Village of Smyrna

NYS Department of Conservation (NYSDEC) permits and monitors municipal wastewater treatment facilities. Treated sewage and waste effluents from municipal wastewater systems is monitored for pH, dissolved oxygen, toxic waste, phenolic compounds, and odor-producing wastes prior to discharge into streams or bodies of water.

Municipal wastewater treatment systems in rural, isolated areas would not be economically feasible, as there would not be sufficient population or industry to pay the high cost of construction and maintenance. To protect the environment and public health from untreated wastewater disposal in rural areas, NYSDOH requires all **new** residential onsite wastewater systems to be designed by a licensed engineer and installed as per the approved design. Many towns in the County have adopted Onsite Wastewater Sanitary laws addressing new installation and repair requirements.

The 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates states of 20,003 occupied housing units in Chenango County, 125 lack complete plumbing facilities.<sup>27</sup>

### **Communication Opportunities**

Telephone, Cable Television and Internet Services are primarily provided by Frontier Communications, Time Warner Cable, DirectTV and Empire Wireless Dish service reaching the majority of Chenango County businesses and households. Advancements in communication made possible by fiber optic technology offers

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<sup>27</sup> 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau

phone service, high speed Internet access, cable TV service, WiFi and DISH Network Satellite TV Service. Cellular telephone service is available through Verizon Wireless and AT&T.

Local radio stations WCHN (Norwich/Oneonta based), WSKG (Binghamton based) and WCDO (Sidney based) provide daily news and emergency updates. Television stations providing local news service to Chenango County are based in Binghamton, Syracuse and Utica.

Local publications providing local news, information on entertainment, and sales for the Chenango County area are: The Evening Sun, Sherburne News, Chenango American, New Berlin Gazette, The Daily Star, Binghamton Press and Sun Bulletin, Tri-Town News, Town & Country Pennysaver, The Chenango American, Oxford Review-Times and Norwich-Sidney Pennysaver.

### **Broadband**

Depending on the specific type, most Chenango County residents have access to some type of broadband technology at their homes including multiple providers of each. At this time, fiber optic is not available within Chenango County.

		<b>County of Chenango</b>	<b>New York State</b>
Area (in square miles)		898	54,571
Population		50,477	19,378,102
Housing Units*		24,710	8,108,103
Census Blocks		3,509	350,169
Wireline Coverage*		95% (23,500)	96% (7,770,000)
Wireless Coverage*		91% (22,400)	96% (7,780,000)
DSL	# of Providers	2	38
	Housing Units Covered*	94% (23,200)	92% (7,470,000)
Cable	# of Providers	3	17
	Housing Units Covered*	72% 17,700	94% (7,610,000)
Fiber	# of Providers	0	25
	Housing Units Covered*	0.00% (0)	42% (3,370,000)
Wireless	# of Providers	5	16
	Housing Units Covered*	91% (22,400)	96% (7,800,00)
Satellite	# of Providers	4	4
	Housing Units Covered*	100.00% (24,710)	100.00% (8,108,103)

\* Based on Census Block 2010 "Housing Units" data.  
Source: 13 NYS Broadband Mapping Project

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES and SERVICES**

Public buildings are important community facilities, not only for the services they provide, but also as symbols of the public services they represent and pride in one's community. Public buildings in the various municipalities of Chenango County include County owned or affiliated buildings, as well as those in the City of Norwich, Villages and Towns. The inventory presented has been reviewed as to location and use.

### **City, Town and Village Facilities**

The Public buildings in the eight (8) villages in the County generally include: Village offices, public libraries, volunteer fire departments, police station (part-time/full-time officers), and a Department of Public Works.

The principal municipal buildings in the City of Norwich include: City of Norwich offices in the refurbished train station, the City Fire Department (full-time and volunteer) and the City Police Department (full-time) all located in close proximity on East Main Street; City Court and judicial offices, located in the refurbished train depot, on Hubbard Avenue; and Guernsey Memorial Library located on Court Street.

The principal public buildings in the twenty-one (21) towns of the county are the town offices, highway garages and volunteer fire departments. In the past it was advantageous for towns to share space in the town highway garage or the town clerk may conduct business in private homes. However, new state regulations relating to record keeping and the judicial system have resulted in many towns constructing separate town offices and courtroom facilities to meet these regulations.

These municipal community facilities also serve as meeting locations for various organizations and events.

### **County Facilities**

The principal Chenango County facilities include: the Chenango County Court House, the County Office Building, Social Services Administrative Building, Department of Public Works Buildings, Public Safety Building, Lt. Warren E. Eaton Airport, the County Adult Care Home-Preston Manor, County Historical Museum, East and West Park, and the Gaius Cook Recreational Park in Greene. Several County Agencies lease space in various locations in the County for offering public services.

The County Administrative buildings, County Court House, County Office Building and Social Service Administrative Building are centrally located in the City of Norwich.

**The Chenango County Court House** is built of native limestone and was constructed in 1809, in West Park, the center of the city. The white portico of the colonial building presents a stately appearance in the East & West park setting, formerly known as the public square. The Square was completely renovated in 2011 through the efforts of the “Friends of the Parks”.

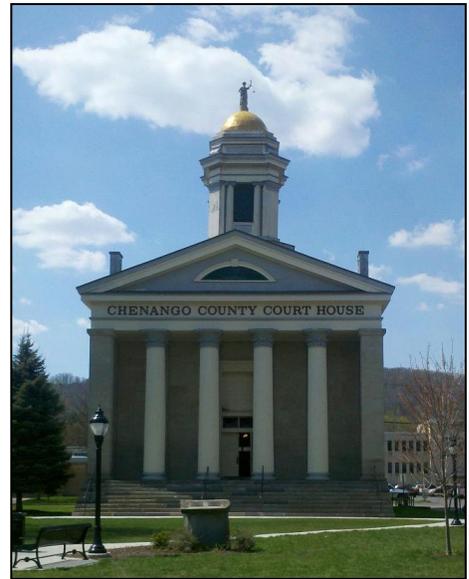


Photo 30: Chenango County Courthouse

Chenango County also leases space at The Eaton Center as part of the Chenango County Court System. Located at The Eaton Center are the Supreme, Family, Surrogate, Drug Treatment-NYS Employees, District Attorney, Probation, Public Defender and other support services.

**The County Office Building** located at 5 Court Street is comprised of two sections. The original 3-story building built in 1960 houses the offices for the majority of the public service departments: Board of Elections, Public Health Nursing and Disaster Preparedness, Area Agency on Aging, Motor Vehicle, County Clerk, County Code Enforcement, Environmental Health, Children with Special Needs, Tax Departments (Real Property & Delinquent), County Treasurer, Planning & Development, Personnel, Youth Bureau, DWI/Traffic and Mental Health Offices.



Photo 31: Chenango County Office Building

The connecting 2-story County Annex built in 1991 primarily houses the Department of Social Services programs: Adoption, Adult/Long Term Care Services, Adult Protective, Child Care Assistance, Child Preventive, Child Protective, Child Support Services, Employment Services, Food Stamps, Foster Care, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Investigations Unit, Medicaid, PINS / Juvenile Services, Preston Manor Home for Adults, and Temporary Assistance. The offices for: Buildings/grounds, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County Attorney, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and County Mental Health are located in the Annex. Parking for 245 employee/visitor vehicles is conveniently located in four County parking lots surrounding the building.

**East and West Park** are located on the corners of Broad and Main Streets in the City of Norwich. East and West Park were recently renovated by a volunteer community group, “Friends of the Parks”. The renovation included a new stage for performances and the relocation and renovation of the historic gazebo.

**The Chenango County Historical Society and Museum** located at 45 Rexford Street, Norwich is housed in a former public school building. The museum is owned and operated by the Chenango County Historical Society (CCHS) established in 1947 by James Flanagan serving as the focal point for Chenango County history. Their mission is to lead and support the advancement of research, education, and enjoyment of Chenango County’s history and historically significant assets.

Through the years the CCHS has expanded their displays to include an O&W Railroad kiosk and Chenango Canal building to house a canal boat with historical canal information. A renovation project is planned for the Canal display to exhibit the major stops along the canal route. Discussion is ongoing to preserve the remains of “Lock 99”, in the Town of Oxford as an addition to Canal history. These displays are representative of the significance of researching transportation history in the County.

In conjunction with transportation in the County there is a focus on industry. A replica of the “Sugar Shacks” used in making maple syrup is under construction on the museum campus. In the Entrance Hall at the Museum rotating displays of local municipal economic history are planned. The Norwich Pharmacal Museum that was originally housed at the Eaton Center is now on display.

In 2011 the Historical Society renovated a house adjacent to the museum with plans to use this building as a Research facility. The site is also being used by the Chenango County Historians Office. Development of a portion of the museum campus focusing on farm history is currently underway. The focal point will be an 1865 Horse/Carriage barn, built by Edward Loomis and originally located in the Town of Smithville. The historical and architectural significance of the barn was recognized by the current owner of the Loomis property who dismantled the structure and donated it to be reconstructed for display on the Chenango County Historical Society campus.

**The Earl B. Clark Business Park**, located in the Town of North Norwich, is a county-owned facility administered by the County Industrial Development Agency. The CCIDA is open to considering any development proposals for the park, and targeted uses include light manufacturing, warehouse, and agricultural processing.

**The Lt. Warren E. Eaton Airport**, classified as a small general aviation facility, is owned and administered by Chenango County. The airport is located approximately 2 miles north of the City of Norwich in the Town of North Norwich on a 150 acre parcel, and is an important fixture of Chenango County.

The airport has two active, asphalt runways; 01 and 19, with a combined runway length of 4724' x 75'.

Services at the airport include fuel and storage for aircraft including two 10,000 gallon fuel tanks providing Jet-A and 100 LL Av Gas. The fuel system has a 24/7 fuel master unit to monitor and complete credit card transactions for all customers. There are currently eighteen T-hangars with sixteen T-hangars leased to private owners, at this time. Among our current tenants are the owners of “*Plane Leather Repair*”; a company specializing in repairing aircraft interiors both on and off site.

Among the eighteen T-hangers is a new six bay T-Hangar completed in 2013. The project included resurfacing, painting and grooving the runways, installing taxiway lighting on Runway 1, and a rotating beacon. The new T-hangar design is similar to the other existing hangars with automatic bi-fold doors, electric, and lighting. Also available at the airport is the main hangar for larger aircraft. Future planned improvements include the widening of runways and removal of obstructions.

Airport day is an annual event at Lt. Warren E. Eaton airport to foster aviation to the surrounding communities. The EAA chapter highlights the day by providing “Young Eagles” flights, giving our youth ages 8 to 17 the opportunity to go for free flights to experience aviation first hand. Various planes attend the day’s events along with some community agencies on display.

With an average number of flights estimated to be 750 a year, the single most important constraint is the decreased jet traffic into Lt. Warren E. Eaton airport.

**The Department of Public Works** is comprised of two Divisions: Highway and Waste Management.

Highway, located at 79 Rexford Street in the City of Norwich, is responsible for servicing/maintaining 308 center line miles of County highways, 142 bridges, issuing work or driveway permits, and dispatching dead deer from the County highways. There are several buildings at this site to house/repair equipment, a



Photo 32: Weigh station at the North Norwich Transfer Station.

road salt storage facility, a diesel/gasoline contained fueling pump station and office space.

Waste Management, comprised of three facilities, is responsible for solid waste disposal in the County. The County landfill, opened on County Road 47 in the Town of Pharsalia in 1994, was a result of a NYSDEC mandate requiring all town landfills to be closed, capped and vented. At the two recycling/transfer stations, one located on NYS Route 12N in the Town of North Norwich, and the other located on Coutermarsh Road, Brisben, in the Town of Greene, bagged solid waste is collected in large transportable containers for transfer to the main landfill.

All three facilities are available to County residents and waste haulers to discard their bagged solid waste, mandatory/voluntary recyclables and composting materials.

- Mandatory recyclables include: “HDPE” bottles/jugs, metal food containers, colored/clear glass food containers, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, brown paper bags and box board, rechargeable and button cell batteries, used motor oil and antifreeze are separated into designated recycling bins at each site. Areas are designated for construction/demolition debris; yard clippings, tree/shrub waste and other biodegradable natural materials for composting.
- Voluntary recycling of: “PETE” plastic containers, electronics, magazines/junk mail, scrap metal, #3-7 plastic tubs/lids, plastic grocery bags, computers and fluorescent lamps.

The County has taken important strides toward providing an acceptable method of solid waste disposal for the County businesses and residents. The County landfill was designed to meet the American Society of Civil Engineers definition and standards of a sanitary landfill:

*“A method of disposing of refuse on land without creating nuisances or hazards to public health or safety, by utilizing the principles of engineering to confine the refuse to the smallest practical area, reduce it to the smallest practical volume, and cover it with a layer of earth at the conclusion of each day’s operation, or at such more frequent intervals as may be necessary.”*



Photo 33: Entrance to County landfill in Pharsalia.

The County landfill is a twenty-five (25) acre site primarily surrounded by NYS forest land. The poor soil in this area, in addition to the cell lining containment system captures the waste leachate from the decomposing solid waste and the added

rain/snowfall liquids. The leachate is pumped to a holding tank where it is then transported to the City of Norwich Waste Treatment facility for treatment. The County landfill is expected to be functional until 2046, with a proposed development of seven (7) lined, waste cells each containing a leachate collection system.

**The Public Safety Building** was built in 2006 in the Town of Norwich on County Road 46, previously known as the Upper Ravine Road. The Public Safety Building replaces the County Sheriff’s office and jail originally in the City of Norwich. The following County Departments are located in the new facility: County Sheriff; Division of Corrections; Civil Division; Chenango County 911 Center, and the Emergency Management/Fire Coordinator Division.

**Preston Manor** is a New York State licensed home for adults operated by the Chenango County Department of Social Services. Preston Manor is located in a country setting, seven miles west of Norwich at 1150 County Road 4 in the Town of Preston. Preston Manor can accommodate 48 ambulatory residents who do not requiring nursing care but may require assistance or supervision. Rooms are private and semi-private on two floors with no elevator.



Photo 34: Preston Manor

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Preston Manor was originally the “poor house” accommodating paupers and the “insane” in the County. The land was farmed providing work and food for the occupants.

**The Social Service Administrative offices** are housed in the former Sheriff’s Department/Jail built in 1902 and the Corrections annex building directly across from the County Office Building complex located on the corner of West Park Place and Court Street. The buildings were renovated in 2009 to accommodate the Social Services Administrative offices while maintaining the historic charm of the buildings. In addition to the office facility at this location, the County maintains a small maintenance garage and small employee parking lot. There is additional parking available in the adjacent City of Norwich Parking lot.

## **Chenango County Service Organizations and Outreach Programs**

**Catholic Charities of Chenango County** is supported by the Catholic Diocese. Locally Catholic Charities provides services dedicated to responding to the needs of people through service, advocacy, convening and empowerment. They provide programs that may mirror and compliment programs provided by other agencies in the County. Services provided include:

- Counseling Program addressing anxiety, depression, physical abuse, sexual assault, neglect, etc. for children, adolescents, adults and families in addition to a rural outreach school program.
- Domestic/Violence/Crime Victims Program
- Residential Services Program provides safe housing, 24-hour supervision for children, and adults in various locations. In addition to a Supported Housing program providing assistance with security deposits, furniture, utilities and rent stipends.
- Roots & Wings is an Emergency Services and Basic Needs program to coordinate, assist, strengthen and promote opportunities for individuals to move from dependence to self-sufficiency by coordinating food surplus access/distribution; clothing, furniture, etc. This program maintains a partnership with Opportunities for Chenango to assist individuals and families to help them meet their immediate needs and encourage them to address longer-term problems.

**Chenango ARC** has evolved since its' inception in 1964 developing group programs in the early 1990's when a shift in the delivery of services occurred emphasizing individuality. This shift is specific to meet a consumer's needs in the areas of vocational rehabilitation, job readiness training, employment opportunity, residential services, service coordination, day habilitation, and other support services that would allow participants the opportunity to meet their optimum level of success and independence. These measures are designed to ensure that program participants are not only involved in, but are making positive contributions to their respective communities.

**Chenango County Area Agency on Aging (AAoA)** advocates for, plans and provides, a coordinated system of services designed to assist county residents 60 years of age and older wishing to remain independent, secure and active.

Available Programs are:

- Outreach: A program providing holistic counseling assistance by phone, in the office, or at the individual's residence, assisting with:
  - *Health Insurance Information Counseling & Assistance Program (HIICAP)*, there has been an increase in demand for these services due to the complex 2006 changes to the many components of Senior insurance programs (Medicare, Managed Care, Prescription drugs);
  - *Lifeline service*, a medical alert system;
  - *Weatherization, Referral and Assistance Program (WRAP)* assessment and liaison for energy, weatherization needs; in addition to providing information & assistance with various other County programs such as: Real Property Tax Exemption/Credits, Public Health and Social

Services.

▪ Additional AAoA services:

- *Legal Assistance* focusing on problems with Social Security, SSI, Medicare, Medicaid, financial management or adult protective services;
- *Long Term Care Ombudsman Program* advocates for nursing, adult home residential care problems;
- *Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)* assists income eligible seniors with heating costs;
- *Coordination with AARP* on Tax assistance and Defensive Driver Classes;
- *Expanded In-Home Services (EISEP) and Housekeeper/Chore Worker* programs are shared cost programs offering case management, in-home personal care, respite and ancillary services for individuals ineligible for Medicaid;
- *Nutrition Program* provides meals through Home Delivery and at Senior Centers. A nutritious menu is planned by the County Registered Dietitian, with preparation of the meals by the contracted Department of Corrections staff at the Public Safety Building. The packaged meals are delivered by the First Transit Bus Service and volunteers on approximately 24 routes throughout the County. Eight (8) Senior Centers: Bainbridge, Coventry, Greene, McDonough, New Berlin, Norwich, Sherburne, and South Otselic provide a variety of activities, special programs in addition to the nutritious meals;
- “*NY Connects*” is a focal point to aid individuals in finding assistance for referrals to services that will help with determining eligibility for Long-Term Care. The program will assess needs and provide options counseling through partnering with County Public Health, Community and State Agencies.

**Chenango Arts Council** is located in the City of Norwich. The Arts Council has promoted the Arts in the County for 35 years. The mission of the Chenango Arts Council is to support life-enriching art throughout the greater Chenango region. In an effort to increase access to a greater quality of life, the Arts Council is continuously seeking ways to expand and enhance its outreach into the greater Chenango County community.

The Chenango Arts Council is part of the New York State Decentralization Grant Program, offering money to foster the development of local cultural resources responsive to community needs, and also offers a Grants for Teachers Program. The Grant for Teachers Program allocates money to Chenango County schools for arts related projects in the classroom.

The Arts Council envisions the future of our county as a place where the arts are important in the lives of all

residents and a home for local, national and international artists. The Council strives to provide quality educational arts services and cultural programming to the broadest audiences possible throughout Chenango County.

**Chenango County Board of Elections** is responsible for the oversight of voter registration and elections. In 2009 the old style automatic lever voting machines were replaced by “Dominion Image Cast” voting machines. To insure Chenango County registered voters are given the opportunity to vote the Board of Elections secures space for voting at designated polling sites in each of the 21 towns plus the City of Norwich. The voting machines are maintained in accordance with the required regulations. Between elections the machines are protected and stored in a temperature controlled area at a leased site in the Eaton Center, City of Norwich.

### **Chenango SPCA**

Founded in 1907, the Chenango SPCA (CSPCA), a non-profit organization, is a nationally recognized, open-admission animal shelter that provides care for lost and homeless pets, adopts pets to new homes and educates families and the community about the needs of companion animals. CSPCA serves primarily the residents and animals of Chenango County and the surrounding communities.

#### **Our Services**

##### Chenango SPCA

- Provides shelter, care and compassion for over 1000 stray, lost, surrendered, abandoned, abused or neglected animals every year.
- Adopts homeless pets to new families
- Helps families find the right pet for their lifestyle so that all animals find their forever home.
- Offers a wish book for families to register to find that ‘perfect match’
- Reunites lost pets with their worried families
- Offers compassionate euthanasia and cremation
- Provides education, training and outreach
- Offers a Tree of Life memorial wall with engraved leaves to commemorate beloved pets
- Has professional, knowledgeable and experienced staff
- Offers volunteer opportunities
- Is recognized by national animal welfare organizations such as Humane Society of the US (HSUS) and American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Chenango SPCA is to provide and promote care, compassion and respect for our animals and our community.

**Commerce Chenango** – In 2007, the Chenango County Chamber of Commerce consolidated the economic development services of several organizations under one “umbrella” organization and changed their name to Commerce Chenango. Their mission is to represent a partnership of business and professional people, to make a difference in the community. Membership in Commerce Chenango provides an opportunity to partner with area businesses, to meet potential clients, expand contacts, increase management expertise, and become involved in issues that affect business and community.

Commerce Chenango is a business resource center offering training and education programs supporting business planning and business financing. This organization offers access to regional demographic information, labor and workforce statistics, economic trending reports and relocation packages, information essential for retaining, expanding or initiating new business.

Commerce Chenango is the voice of business, large and small, to local, state and federal leaders. Their government and advocacy efforts allow them to team up with other influential business organizations such as “Unshackle Upstate NY” and the “Business Council of New York State” increasing their political strength for member causes.

“Chenango Tourism”, a component of Commerce Chenango, maintains a listing of events advertising the numerous community activities inviting residents and visitors to scenic Chenango County.

In addition to Commerce Chenango the Afton Chamber of Commerce, Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce, and Greater Greene Chamber of actively support community projects and events in the County.

**Chenango County Community Mental Hygiene Services** encompasses: Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services; Mental Health Clinic; Mental Health Satellite Services; Psychosocial Club Program; and the Serendipity Programs.

- **The Mental Health Clinic** is located in the County Office Annex Building. The Clinic provides: Assessment & Evaluation; Crisis Intervention; Child, Parent-Child, & Family Therapy; Medication Therapy; Intensive, Supportive and Regular Case Management Services for all Chenango County residents; Consultation Services; and Forensic Services.
  
- **Mental Health Satellite** locations in Afton, Greene, and Norwich offer services by appointment to

further accommodate individuals seeking assistance.

- The Psychosocial Club Program meets at 103 Leilani’s Way, Town of Norwich, for Chenango County residents over 18 years with prior or current involvement with mental health services. The program offers training in: Social Skills, Daily Living, and Vocational/Educational. In addition the program offers: Case Management, Daily Structured Programming and Recreational Activities.
- Serendipity Programs: (Vocational/Educational) a job training and educational program with meetings at the Serendipity Café, in the Eaton Center, Norwich.
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services, available at 105 Leilani’s Way, Norwich, encompass: Assessment & Evaluation; Crisis Intervention; School-Based Prevention Services; Individual Counseling; Group Therapy; Child, Parent-Child, & Family Therapy; Vocational Evaluation Services and Medication Therapy for Chenango County residents affected by substance abuse.

**Cornell Co-operative Extension (CCE)** system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work. The CCE plays a major supportive role in research and education through the Land Grant University system. The Chenango County office offers agricultural educational and technical assistance programs including: dairy, livestock, field crop production, nutrient management, Integrated Pest Management, farm business, resource management, farm estate planning, marketing, horticulture, fruit and vegetable production, environmental and business management, and rural land management. Additional programs in youth education, 4-H, Agriculture, Horticulture, Nutrition “Eat Smart New York” obesity prevention training, and natural resources including natural gas.

The Cornell Co-Operative building located at 99 North Broad St., Norwich, houses the agencies assisting in implementation of these various programs:

- Farm Service Agency (FSA) equitably serves all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. The agency is a customer-driven agency with a diverse and multi-talented work force, dedicated to achieving an economically and environmentally sound future for American Agriculture. The Chenango County FSA service center offers Farm Bill programs including: commodity price support, conservation, and farm loan programs.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance for engineering and

design phases of the EQIP program and cost-shared assistance in barnyard improvements such as milk house waste, farm drainage, and manure management. The FSA works closely with NRCS, providing technical assistance for the Wetlands Reserve program, and the Conservation Reserve program in cooperation with SWCD offers technical and financial assistance for grazing systems. NRCS administers the Emergency Watershed Protection program with the provision of technical and cost-sharing assistance after natural disasters and assists SWCD with engineering and technical support for the design and implementation of Best Management Practices.

- Soil and Water Conservation District: The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offers a variety of services and products to private landowners and municipalities on a voluntary basis in helping them more effectively manage the natural resources of their real property in a sustainable manner to reach their land use objectives. Improving and protecting water quality, in addition to soil erosion control, is the core of most SWCD services. While all landowners in Chenango County can avail themselves of SWCD services, commercial farmers are the primary clientele.
- Services fall into one of three types: information, technical assistance, and financial assistance. The spectrum of technical assistance includes providing progressive help in planning, design, layout, oversight of installation, and verifying, at completion, the work is consistent with existing conservation practices standards. Though much of this service is associated with projects which are partially paid from one or more sources of government funding, technical assistance is available to any landowner regardless of how a project is funded.

The SWCD applies annually, through the *Agricultural Non-point Source Abatement & Control Program (AgNPSA&CP)*, for the New York State *“Best Management Practices” (BMP)* program on behalf of interested farmers located in targeted watersheds. This provides a cost-share option for farmers to address water quality issues in their operation both in the form of planning and implementation of appropriate conservation practices. The SWCD is the only entity eligible to secure dollars from the AgNPSA&CP for farmers.

A farm related service unique to the SWCD is completing “Soil Group Worksheets”. This is a required step when a landowner is applying to the local town/village assessor for property tax relief through an agricultural exemption. One worksheet is filled out for each tax parcel which includes agricultural production ground, be it owned by the farmer or rented out. By enrolling in this program, landowners commit that portion of their land granted the exemption to remain in active agricultural production for a rolling eight years.

Coordinating with neighboring counties & organizations, the SWCD is able to gain access to rental field equipment for Chenango County farmers. To date, this has included no-till seeder and fence post driver.

The SWCD works with farmers interested in participating in *Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)*. This is a required entry point for those seeking financial assistance for conservation work for farm operation.

Farmers are required to secure a permit from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) or the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) for work in and around streams on their property. The SWCD assists with the application process.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) are the federal agencies responsible for the USDA farm bill programs; the SWCD also contributes local input on specific priorities and technical assistance to participating farmers.

An emerging role for the SWCD is assisting landowners in preventing undesirable impacts or constraints for continued agricultural use of property when exploration, extraction, or conveyance of natural gas is expected or occurring.

Products for conservation, not available locally from private retailers, maybe stocked or ordered for sale to the public by the SWCD. This includes such items as bare root tree & shrub seedlings, fish fingerlings, drainage tile animal guards, herbaceous seed mix, and USGS topographic maps.

**David L. Follett Memorial NYS Supreme Court Library** leases space in the Masonic Temple building 3-5 West Main Street, Norwich, to provide access to law & legal educational related materials.

**Development Chenango Corporation (DCC)** is a non-profit 501(c)3 local development corporation. DCC is the lead agency in Chenango County focusing on economic development, providing small business development services, low-interest business loans, economic development grant writing and administration, and downtown revitalization projects. The organization manages three revolving loan funds: a business assistance loan fund, a microenterprise loan fund, and a dairy revolving loan fund. DCC acts as applicant on behalf of businesses and communities when they lack the capacity or the eligibility status to accomplish loan or grant applications independently.

DCC's mission is: To promote and coordinate economic development in Chenango County through education and technical assistance, business investment, downtown revitalization, and by attracting funding to Chenango's businesses and communities. Development Chenango contracts with Commerce Chenango (the Chamber) for management, payroll, and administrative services, and is co-located in the Chamber's office in Norwich. Together, DCC and the Chamber manage and administer the work of the County's Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA). The role of CCIDA is to provide tax abatement incentives to industrial and commercial businesses seeking to locate and/or expand in Chenango County, including access to real property tax abatement (in the form of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement), sales tax abatement, or mortgage recording tax abatement. CCIDA also may assist larger manufacturing projects in attaining tax-exempt industrial revenue bond financing.

**Chenango County Dispute Resolution Center** partnering with Delaware and Otsego Counties is a community funded program provided by Catholic Charities. The Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) offers custody and visitation services in the Family Courts of Chenango, Delaware and Otsego Counties, as well as community mediation services in many smaller town and village courts. With offices in Oneonta, Norwich and a presence in every Family Court they serve, the DRC is a New York State - sponsored alternative to the formal court process. In addition to custody and visitation mediation, the DRC handles a number of specialty programs, ranging from agricultural to the Lemon Law.

**Chenango County Farm Bureau** is a not-for-profit agricultural organization, dedicated to providing its farmer and associate members with legislative support, educational programs and services giving farmers and non-farmers alike the opportunity to be part of an organization dedicated to supporting and enriching agriculture. It provides an opportunity for individuals interested in the food system, land issues and rural living to join together and make their voices heard. The Farm Bureau is active within the political system on a broad range of issues that concern every New Yorker, from taxation, conservation to local food availability. A strong, viable agricultural industry is beneficial not only for the economy, but also for local communities and consumers.

**Chenango County Habitat for Humanity** is a 501(c) (3) non-profit charitable organization that seeks to provide affordable housing in Chenango County, New York State.

Habitat strives to help all communities located in Chenango County to eliminate poverty housing and revitalize communities. The primary target population for the project is to help families of all ages and of racial/ethnic composition currently living in substandard housing throughout Chenango County, who need a "hand up" rather than a "hand out". Habitat helps free families from the unending struggles that accompany

inadequate shelter. With the stability of a real home, families can devote more attention to jobs, education, health and happiness.

As the cycle of poverty is broken, children benefit and neighborhoods improve. This goal is achieved with volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations of money, land and materials. Families are selected based on their level of need, willingness to partner, acceptance of responsibilities and ability to repay a no-interest mortgage. Families must complete 350 hours of "sweat equity", including time in homeowner education classes. Qualified families purchase CCHH built homes with a zero-interest mortgage, enabling them to own their own home.

**Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County** a non-profit health care agency that serves individuals with life-limiting illness. Hospice has provided services in Chenango County for more than twenty years. The experienced and compassionate staff comes to an individual's home, nursing home, hospital room, group or adult home to manage symptoms to provide patient comfort. Hospice endorses a holistic approach to health care, with a deep understanding that serious illness often results in profound physical, emotional, and spiritual changes.

The Agency has experts in each of these areas to help patients and caregivers cope as their illness progresses, patients rest easier knowing that loved ones are offered grief counseling after their death.

Their service is to: Explain the expected progression of your illness; Work with an individual's personal physician for the best outcome; Provide symptom and pain relief; Educate caregivers; Pay for medications included in your Hospice plan of care; Provide medical equipment: oxygen, hospital beds, wheelchairs, etc.; Visit your home on a regular basis; Provide personal hygiene care; Take your phone call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and respite care; Offer trained volunteers for companionship; and Provide bereavement care to loved ones for at least 13 months following a death.

**Chenango County Office of Employment & Training** (OET) is located in the CDO Workforce New York Career Center, O'Hara Drive, Norwich. This is a departmental unit of Chenango County Government completely funded with Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title 1B funds and periodically with additional grant funding. OET is a primary partner in the Chenango Delaware Otsego (CDO) Workforce program, NYS Department of Labor and other partner agencies.

The center is a resource center providing access to class rooms, computers, fax machines, phone, training provider catalogs, and a copy machine. These are helpful tools for job searching, interviewing, resume and

cover letter writing. The WIA Title 1B Funds enables the agency to provide employment and training assistance which includes: Initial and Comprehensive Assessment of Customer Needs; Job Search/Job Skills Counseling & Case Management; Training Assistance (Classroom & On-the Job); Supportive Services; Incumbent Worker Training; Resume Development; Job Search/Skills Workshops; and Job Matching/Referrals.

**Opportunities for Chenango, Inc. (OFC)** is a community action agency, serving the citizens of Chenango County, NY. They are committed to helping families and individuals recognize their strengths, set realistic goals, make responsible choices, and become successful, self-sufficient members of the community.

OFC, Inc. programs focus on child and family development, housing security, life-skills training, education, literacy, health and nutrition, community, employment and economic development. OFC, Inc. follows a family development services system, a way of working with families and empowering them to move out of poverty. The goal is to support families in their efforts to move from crisis situations, economic dependency and vulnerability, to an increasingly stable and economically self-supporting situation. Families are full partners in identifying their strengths, needs and with staff guidance put together steps to attain self-sufficiency.

A key component of OFC, Inc.'s success in meeting the needs of the community is the power of collaboration. Our agency is part of an intricate network of local social services agencies and governmental entities that, through the spirit of cooperation and partnerships, efficiently help our most vulnerable citizens achieve self-sufficiency. OFC, Inc. has and continues to partner with the County of Chenango by providing administrative assistance for programs such as LIHEAP and WRAP, as well as, assistance with the administration and service delivery of Community Development Block Grants that focus on housing needs and homeownership initiatives.

**Religious Organizations** of nearly every denomination are represented throughout the County providing religious teachings, support and a social environment for Chenango County residents.

**Springbrook** is an organization wearing many hats throughout NYS. The programs are funded and sanctioned by NYS agencies and various organizations, designed in a way to meet the specific needs of children, adults, and families. Chenango County has a satellite program located in Norwich affiliated with the regional office in Oneonta, NY.

Programs for children & adults include:

- Kids Unlimited Preschool a preschool program providing educational services to children with and without developmental disabilities.
- Early Intervention specifically for children between the ages of birth and two. Chenango County Public Health administers an Early Intervention Program.
- Service Coordination helping families with children and adults with developmental disabilities to obtain services, outcomes and the dreams they desire.
- Residential Habilitation is goal oriented. This service includes assistance and guidance in such things as personal care, activities of daily living, cooking, cleaning, or money management.
- Respite is not goal oriented but rather a family assistance program to provide some relief for the caregivers.
- Recreation Programs for those living at home with their families. This provides the community and home-based individuals with the opportunity to come together and socialize with their peers in group activities and events at Springbrook and in their own communities.
- Special Olympics a year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Preparation to participate provides continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.
- Consolidated Support & Services assists families in keeping their loved ones in their own home rather than seeking a more restrictive environment allowing families to manage their fiscal resources.
- Parents as Partners Program meets on a monthly basis giving parents an opportunity to meet other parents, share information, resources and stories.

**Chenango United Way:** The mission of the Chenango United Way (CUW) is to build partnerships and maximize resources to improve the quality of life for local residents by focusing on the three areas of local impact- education, income and health.

This work is done by:

- Investing in local strategies and local programs that deliver cost effective, measurable results
- Supporting local programs and agencies that have sound fiscal and management practices
- Fostering efforts that build collaboration and partnerships
- Addressing the root causes of problems that challenge our community
- Leveraging community resources beyond the annual campaign

In December 2013, the CUW Board of Directors approved a new strategic plan with the goal of engaging the community on a community agenda that focuses on identifying local issues and enables the United Way and key community partners to take action on critical and emerging community issues.

The goal of this increased engagement effort will allow the organization to:

- Heighten the commitment and leadership impact of the CUW Board of Directors as they become more aware of community issues and focused on community priorities and impact strategies that lead to sustained community change efforts
- Listen more deeply to the community and use what is heard to commit to an issue and develop a community plan, deepen relationships with stakeholders in order engage them around community priorities (as donors, advocates and volunteers) and mobilize other community resources against priority issues
- Develop and implement community impact strategies with the intent of creating and documenting sustainable results within the community (and specifically within the priority populations identified by the issue)

In an effort to increase community and stakeholder engagement in this effort, beginning in 2014 the Chenango United Way will be convening three Community Impact Teams (CIT) around the national United Way goal areas of education, income and health. The CITs will be responsible for developing a shared knowledge and understanding of its impact area, identifying and prioritizing community issues into a community impact agenda, analyzing various program strategies relative to these issues and developing innovative and collaborative initiatives to address them.

Performance regarding these strategic goals will be evident because of:

- An increase in local financial resources, donor participation and the opportunity to invest in identified priority issues – **GIVE**
- An increase in advocacy efforts around identified priority issues – **ADVOCATE**
- An increase in volunteerism tied to identified priority issues – **VOLUNTEER**

**Chenango County Weights & Measures** is administered by one County employee operating an office from their private home. Weights & Measures is responsible for assuring measurement accuracy in Commerce throughout Chenango County in accordance with Article 16 of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law. The Department conducts the following activities to promote equity in all commercial transactions involving quality, weight, measure or count:

- Inspecting and/or testing all commercially used weighing and measuring devices and systems;

- Inspect and/or test package commodities;
- Perform petroleum sampling and investigations at the retail level;
- Keep and maintain the applicable standards of Weights and Measures of Chenango County;
- Respond to consumer complaints relating to purchases made within Chenango County; and
- Enforce any violations found.

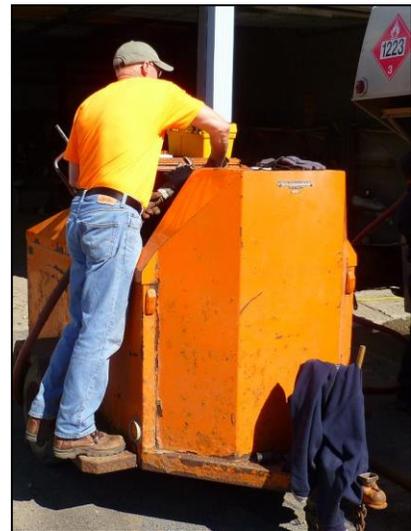


Photo 35: Testing a fuel truck.

**Chenango County Youth Bureau** is administered by one County Employee with the following primary goals and objectives to assist Chenango County youth:

- Prepare youth for eventual economic self-sufficiency by facilitating summer job opportunities for eligible youth
- Provide constructive activities for youth to make use of leisure time
- Provide school based resiliency/asset based youth and family counseling options providing optimal physical and emotional health
- Work with communities to make available/accessible formal and informal services (child care, parent training, recreation, youth services, libraries, museums, parks)

## **Health Care and Social Assistance Facilities**

Healthcare services are a growing concern throughout the U.S., especially in areas, such as Chenango County, where the population aged 55 and over is growing and increasingly comprises a larger portion of the population. According to the 2010 census, 25% of the County's population was over 55. This will continue to be the case as the County's population continues to age.

Public Health and health-related facilities provide the primary health services to Chenango County residents. Chenango County Public and Mental Health, Chenango Memorial Hospital, Bassett Health Care, and the United Medical Associates, a group of Chenango County physicians participating in the United Health Services program based in Broome County, provide general and specialized health care.

There are several health related private practices in the County: Family Practice Health Care, Podiatry, Opticians and Eye Care physicians, Orthopedics, Physical Therapy, Psychiatry, Surgical, and Chiropractic services.

- **UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital** a 138-bed facility located in the City of Norwich services the immediate and primary medical needs of the residents of Chenango County. Chenango Memorial Hospital, Inc. was founded in 1910 as a privately owned health care facility, modernized in 1990 with a \$7.5 million renovation plan and affiliated with the United Health Services in Broome County in 1995. Chenango Memorial Hospital includes: Inpatient and Outpatient Surgical Care units, a Women’s Health Center and a Newborn Family OB unit.

UHS Chenango Memorial staffs an intensive care unit, diagnostic heart care center, walk-in care center, oncology, radiology/imaging and laboratory departments as well as a physician-staffed emergency department. The second floor is dedicated and specially designed as a residential health care/long-term care facility.

UHS Chenango Memorial’s primary care network is the county’s central source for preventative and medical care. With primary care centers in Norwich, Oxford and Sherburne, patients in rural areas have access to quality primary care in their own neighborhood. All primary care centers are physician staffed and always accepting new patients.

The hospital also provides services at a large dental center in Norwich, ENT care, and physical therapy at an offsite center.

- **Clinics:** In addition to the hospital in Norwich, UHS-Chenango has clinics in Greene, Norwich, Oxford and Sherburne. The Bassett Healthcare Network, based in Cooperstown, NY, provides services in Norwich and Sherburne. Afton Family Health Care is a private clinic in Afton servicing the southern portion of Chenango County. Several specialty physicians visit the County from larger medical centers providing medical services including allergists, dermatologists, and urologists.

### **Health Related Facilities**

Health Care Services and health care cost is a growing concern throughout the United States, especially in rural communities and areas with an increase in the aging population. Chenango County offers a number of health related services, and facilities to accommodate the increased number of senior residents:

#### **Home Care Services:**

- Gentiva, provides home health care in Chenango County, employing nurses, therapists and other healthcare professionals dedicated to educating and empowering patients to take charge of their own care, so they can achieve the highest possible level of health and independence. In home

- services include: Skilled nursing; Physical, occupational and speech-language therapy; Cardiac and pulmonary care; Neuro-rehabilitation; Wound care; Disease and pain management; Medication management and education; Patient education to promote self-management; Treatment for balance problems that can lead to fall risks; and Hospice services.
- At Home Care (AHC) a not-for-profit Article 36 Medicare-certified home health agency partners with the Bassett Healthcare Network. AHC provides in home professional and paraprofessional services in Herkimer, Delaware, Otsego and Chenango Counties. Services include: Nursing; Telehealth; Lifeline; Physical therapy; Occupational therapy; Speech therapy; Respiratory therapy; Medical social work; Clinical dietician; Respiratory therapy; and Certified home health aide.

**Adult/Elder Care Facilities** in Chenango County address various stages of adult life.

- Adult Care Facilities often referred to as “Adult Homes” are licensed and regulated by New York State Department of Health. Most Adult Care Facilities offer private and semi-private rooms including meals, housekeeping, laundry, limited transportation, social activities, some personal care, medication management and 24 hour supervision.
- Independent Senior Housing is restricted to adults usually age 50 and older, although some facilities may include younger adults with disabilities. The owner/operator has no responsibility to supervise or provide personal care to the residents.
- Independent Senior Housing with Services provide additional amenities: meals, housekeeping, transportation, socialization, laundry, resident/service coordinator helping residents access other community based services.

The following facilities in Chenango County provide one or both of these options:

- **V. Afton:** Afton Edge Apts;
- **V. Bainbridge:** Chen-Del-Ot Apts; Maple Manor Apts;
- **V. Greene:** Village Greene Apts;
- **V. New Berlin:** Chase Housing Corp.;
- **C. Norwich:** Grace View Manor Apts.; Golden Age Apts.; Peacock Park Manor; Marlene Meadows; Chenango Valley Home Apts.; Norwich Center Senior Housing;
- **V. Oxford:** BIDA Adult Home; Brookside Apts.; Oxford Community Apts.;
- **T. Preston:** Preston Manor;
- **V. Sherburne:** Grace Manor Apts.; Sherburne Senior Housing; West Lake Village

**Skilled Nursing Facilities** are nursing homes providing 24 hour a day skilled nursing care, related services or rehabilitative services for the injured or disabled. Short and long term care is provided in Skilled Nursing Facilities. In Chenango County there are five regulated Skilled Nursing Facilities: V. New Berlin, Chase Memorial Home; V. Oxford, NYS Veterans Home; City of Norwich: Valley View Manor Nursing Home, Norwich Rehabilitation & Nursing Facility; and UHS Senior Living at Chenango Memorial Hospital.

## **Health Related Organizations and Programs**

**Chenango Health Network** is a rural health network whose objectives are to increase access to health and wellness information and to health care services. They serve individuals and work to affect change at the community level. Their goal is to improve the quality of life in every community in Chenango County. Chenango Health Network operates collaboratively. With their partners, they identify needs and look for ways to address those needs, all in keeping with their goals and objectives through such programs as:

- 1) **Be Healthy Chenango** is a chronic disease prevention program promoting environmental change, healthy eating and active living. Efforts for diabetes and obesity prevention focus on school and community programs.
- 2) **Cancer Outreach** promotes the importance of early detection of breast, cervical and colorectal cancer.
- 3) **Cancer Support Services** offers cancer survivors, caregivers and their families: local resource information and referral; computer assistance to access the internet for research; discussion and education programs; one-on-one support; volunteer cancer survivor peer support.
- 4) **Prescriptions Assistance** staff submit applications to pharmaceutical manufacturers programs on behalf of individuals who meet eligibility requirements for “in need” medicines for long periods of time
- 5) **Insurance Assistance** assisting individuals applying for a variety of public insurance programs: Medicaid, Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus, and the Medicaid Treatment Acts Benefits Program. Individuals receive information and counseling about long term care insurance, Prenatal Care Assistance Program (PCAP), Veterans Assistance and Healthy NY.
- 6) **Tobacco Free Chenango** offers activities to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, to counteract the tobacco industry messages in advertisement, sponsorship and promotion.

A Board of Directors comprised of individuals representing various businesses, educational institutions,

medical/dental facilities, and county agencies provide oversight for the various programs funded by a NYS Rural Health Grant.

**Chenango County WIC Program**, operated by Opportunities for Chenango, focuses on food and nutrition for “Women, Infants and Children”. Families meeting income guidelines are assessed by health care professionals for medical or nutritional risks. Checks for WIC food: milk, cheese, cereal, fruit juice, eggs, infant formula, and whole grain bread are accepted at local grocery stores. WIC staff also provides referrals to other support services.

**Chenango County Public Health** supports the broad goals of the New York State Health Department Prevention Agenda by providing services and oversight of the following NYS Department of Health programs and NYS International Fire & Building Code program:

- Bioterrorism: The bioterrorism program started at the Chenango County Health Department after the 2001 Anthrax attacks. Grant money was provided to Local Health Departments (LHD) to develop and write emergency response plans to prepare for a potential biological attack. Over the years the program has changed from planning for a potential biological attack to all hazard planning, concentrating on response and prevention of disease caused by all types of disasters, i.e. flooding. The main role for the staff is to develop the LHD all hazard response plan, with the emphasis on mass dispensing of medicines/vaccines.
- Children with Special Needs Division: Is a program designed to provide services for children with developmental delay, disability or condition. The division offers programs to help families receive evaluation and treatment services including:

*Child Find*: A component of Early Intervention ensures tracking and developmental screening of children from birth to age three at risk of developmental delays and disabilities.

*Early Intervention*: A family centered program providing therapeutic and support services to children from birth to age three includes: Service coordination; Multidisciplinary evaluation; Speech/language, Occupational and physical therapy; and Special instruction.

*Preschool Special Education*: Provides service for children age’s three to five with developmental delay or disability. The child’s school district develops an Individualized Education Program and the Counties and State provide funding.

- County Code Enforcement Division: This Division is responsible for administration and enforcement of the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes in Chenango County. The goal is to insure that new and existing homes, shops, restaurants, places of worship, work places and all buildings within the county are safe. This is accomplished through oversight of planning, construction and use via: Building Permits; Building Inspections; Fire Prevention Inspections; Addressing Complaints; Education; in addition to working closely with other County agencies and municipalities.
- Environmental Health Division: Applies principles of the physical, biological, and chemical properties to detect, evaluate, control and manage factors in the environment that affect health. Environmental Health is responsible for plan review, plan approval, permit issuance, inspections, complaint investigations and enforcement in the following program areas:
  - Food Service Establishments; Lead Poisoning investigation; Mobile Home parks; Rabies investigation; Sewage systems; Community water supplies; Children's camps; Hotels/motels; Pool/beaches; Realty Subdivisions; Campgrounds; Indoor air; Public Health nuisances; Smoking regulations; Individual sewage systems; Non-community water; and Migrant labor camps.

Assistance is provided to individuals, organizations, and municipalities for: Bottled/bulk water; Chemical emergencies; Hazardous waste sites; Environmental health assessments; Individual water supplies; Communicable diseases, and Occupational health.

- Health Educator is available to do presentations in schools, at worksites and for community organizations on health related topics.
- Prevention Services promote healthy behavior to prevent the onset of disease. This is accomplished through the following services offered to County residents: *Blood Pressure Screening*; *Chest Clinic, control of Tuberculosis*; *Communicable Disease Prevention and Investigation* interacting with medical facilities, nursing homes and other health agencies; *Home Visiting Program* to pregnant, postpartum women, and children for health supervision; *Immunization Program* clinics offering immunizations against 18 preventable diseases to every county resident. Free clinics to children birth-18 years old through the NYSDOH Vaccines for Children Program. Clinics are offered several times a month or by appointment. *Lead Poisoning Prevention Program* prevents lead poisoning through education and testing for lead in children ages one and two years. Testing is available for children age one to six years with no private or

public insurance; *Rabies* program provides post-exposure treatment for Chenango County residents exposed to animals testing positive for rabies or for an at-risk exposure; *Sexually Transmitted Disease Program* provides free testing, treatment, education and referral services for Chenango County residents.

**Family Planning of South Central NY, Inc.** provides services in the Eaton Center. For more than 90 years, Planned Parenthood has worked to improve women’s health and safety, prevent unintended pregnancies, and advance the right and ability of individuals and families to make informed and responsible choices. Services offered include;

Abortion Referral; Birth Control; [HIV Testing](#); Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual (LGBT) Support Services; Morning-After Pill (Emergency Contraception); Pregnancy Testing & Services; Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Testing, Treatment & Vaccines; and Women's Health Care.

The combination of health and health-related facilities available to Chenango County residents illustrates the obvious importance attached to these facilities in providing patient care. UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital combined with the reasonably accessible facilities in adjoining metropolitan areas, in addition to advances in technology, provides residents with opportunities for accessing medical attention and expertise throughout the County.

## **Law Enforcement**

The enforcement of law in Chenango County is a function of municipal, county and state police agencies. The following is a discussion of administrative arrangements, characteristics of police and jail facilities.

### **County Correctional Services and Facilities**

The Chenango County Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer in the County. Originally Sheriff’s were appointed to their position with the first Chenango County Sheriff appointed in 1798. In 1822 the Sheriff position changed from appointed to elected, with a current term of four (4) years.

Chenango County Sheriff’s Department maintains a County website providing information about: “Weather”; “Most Wanted” in Chenango County; “Sex Offender Notification & Search”; “Crime Tips”; “Operation Safe Child”; and a “Kids Page” to keep area residents informed.

The Chenango County Sheriff’s Department is located in the Public Safety Facility, County Rd. 46, in the

Town of Norwich. This new Public Safety Facility opened in 2006 housing the following divisions:

- Correctional Division has a maximum capacity of 166 inmates. It contains a commercial kitchen, where meals are prepared for the inmates in addition to the AAoA meals program, and six (6) Housing Units. Each housing unit has a day room, laundry, program room, and exercise yard. The Corrections Division is the largest division in the Chenango County Sheriff's Department.

In 2007, the Chenango County Sheriff's Department - Corrections Division received accreditation by the New York State Accreditation Board. The New York State Accreditation Program is a progressive and contemporary program to assist police agencies in evaluating and improving their overall performance. It is a formal recognition that an organization meets or exceeds general expectations of quality in the Law Enforcement Field. Accreditation acknowledges that an agencies implementation of policies is conceptually sound and operationally effective.

- Communication Division: 911 Center currently has a staff of 11 full time (Chief Dispatcher, 911 Addressing Coordinator, and 9 Public Safety Dispatchers) and 6 part time dispatchers. There are six (6) ergonomically correct American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant intergraded telephone/radio consoles with a dramatically improved computer aided 911 call system. This major upgrade provides the dispatchers with the necessary tools to expedite emergency and routine service calls. The Dispatchers not only process emergency calls, but completes numerous activities in support of personnel, such as dispatching and monitoring primary and backup units, investigators, contacting and relaying pertinent information for the Sheriff's Deputies, Municipal Police Departments, Fire Departments and other Public Safety Agencies in Chenango County. An additional two (2) console fully functional backup 911 center is located at the Norwich City Police Department.

- Law Enforcement Division is a New York State Accredited Agency. Of the 542 police agencies in New York State, only 20% have achieved this goal of accreditation. In 2013 the Emergency 911 Dispatch Center addressed 33,437 calls of which 16,331 were handled by the Chenango County Sheriff's Office. The Division consists of twenty-two (22) full-time sworn Deputies:

- 1 – Patrol Lieutenant
- 4 – Patrol Sergeants
- 2 – Detectives
- 1 – Narcotic Detective
- 15 – Road Patrol Deputies
- 1 – Civil Deputy
- 1 – K-9 German Shepherd Police dog, named “Geroen”.

- The Road Patrol is responsible for patrolling 910 square miles that include twenty-one (21)

Townships and seven (7) Villages, 24 hours a day. The Chenango County Sheriff's Department - Patrol Division was first accredited by New York State Accreditation Board in 1999. The Patrol Division participates in State and federally funded programs: "Stop-DWI" patrol; "Aggressive Driving"; "Buckle-Up" seatbelt; "Safe Child Car Seat"; "Child Identification ID Card"; and the Sheriff's "STOPPED" safe driving program for young drivers under the age of 21 years.

The Chenango County Sheriff's Department - Patrol Division currently has one (1) New York State Certified "K-9" Police Dog. The K-9 team Deputy and his partner "Geroen" are both New York State certified in Narcotic Detection and the Tracking of humans. The Sheriff's Department utilizes the K-9 patrol for searches of: lost or missing persons / children, illegal narcotics, suspects, vehicles, buildings and the Chenango County Correctional Facility. The K-9 patrols also are available for assisting other local Law Enforcement agencies with various searches and K-9 demonstrations at local schools and organizations. The K-9 Unit is a valuable "crime fighting and crime prevention" tool being utilized by the Sheriff's Department on a daily basis.

- Navigation Patrol is conducted on various lakes, ponds and portions of the Chenango River in Chenango County. The Navigation Unit utilizes two (2) motorized patrol boats (17ft. "Boston Whaler" and 20ft. "American Air Boat") for water rescues, salvage operations, patrols, trainings, Boating Safety Course and demonstrations.
  
- Snowmobile Patrol in Chenango County. Deputies utilized the Sheriff's Department snowmobile to patrol numerous trails and seasonal roads in the county. Deputies utilized Snowmobile Safety Check-Points in the following towns: Norwich, New Berlin, Preston, North Norwich, Coventry, Guilford, Oxford, Otselec, Pharsalia, Smyrna, Sherburne, McDonough, German, Smithville, Plymouth, Bainbridge and Greene.

Prior to the start of each snowmobile season the Sheriff's Department conducts a "Snowmobile Safety Inspection". The purpose of the "Snowmobile Courtesy Inspection Decal" program is to promote the safe operation of snowmobiles within Chenango County. Any inspected snowmobile **MUST** pass the following criteria:

- 1) Valid Proof of Insurance. (Temporary 30 day inspection not valid for inspection)
- 2) Working Clear or Amber Headlight.
- 3) Working Red Taillight.
- 4) Working Brakes and rear Brake lights. (Brakes **MUST** be demonstrated during Inspection)

- 5) Equipped with functioning (OEM) Muffler or Equivalent.
  - 6) Equipped w/ minimum of 16 square inch of reflective material on both sides of cowling.
  - 7) Registration numbers clearly displayed on each side of cowling.
  - 8) All Snowmobiles MUST be registered.
- Civil Division is one of the major divisions at the Sheriff's Department. It is maintained by the Chief Civil Clerk and two Civil Clerks. The major function of the Civil Division is judgment collection and the processing and service of civil papers. The Civil Division received accreditation in 2008.

### **Municipal Police Departments**

The Villages of Afton, Bainbridge, Greene, Oxford, Sherburne, the Town of New Berlin, and the City of Norwich have individual police departments.

The City of Norwich Police Department has nineteen (19) full time officers on staff. The individual Village Police Departments have varying needs which are reflected in the number of full and part-time officers, their hours of service, salaries, and benefits.

Emergency calls throughout the County are dispatched to the various State, County and Local Police agencies through the County 911 system. The Chenango County Sheriff's Department and NYS Police Department provide a support role to local Police Departments upon request for emergency assistance and in criminal investigations.

### **Related Law Enforcement Services and Facilities**

NY State Police Troop C, with headquarters in Otsego County, maintains a substation on NYS Route 12 south of the City of Norwich. This provides a base operation for State Police activities in Chenango County and adjacent areas.

The New York State Police patrol the unincorporated areas of Chenango County providing assistance to the Village Police departments and the Chenango County Sheriff's Department in criminal investigations and other police related issues upon request.

Law enforcement services and correctional facilities are a necessary component of the community facilities

serving Chenango County. While most of these services and facilities are outside the normal area of policy, the areas most directly concerned would be the adequacy and needs of the physical or plant facilities of the various units of government. Recommendations for maintenance and advancements in technology are the primary areas of concern.

## **Emergency Management/Fire Protection**

A major upgrade in communication technology offers Emergency Management and Fire Districts increased notification and response time to fire/medical emergencies. Fire protection is aimed at both the prevention of fires, reduction of loss of life and property in the event of a fire. It is, therefore, one of the most vital services of a community and is the major concern to public officials and residents of the community.

State, County and local authorities participate in fire protection programs affecting Chenango County. In 2010 the 911 Center dispatched 8,931 Fire/EMS calls to the Fire Districts in Chenango County and adjacent Districts servicing the County.

In Chenango County there are twenty-one (21) Fire Districts: Afton, Bainbridge, Brisben, Coventry, Earlville (shared Madison Co.), Greene, Guilford, McDonough, Mt. Upton, North Norwich, New Berlin, City of Norwich, Oxford, Pharsalia, Plymouth, Preston, South Otselic, Sherburne, Smithville, Smyrna and South New Berlin. Five (5) Fire Districts provide service to the periphery of Chenango County: Cortland County, Cincinnatus and Cuyler Fire Districts; Broome County, Harpursville and Chenango Forks Fire Districts; and Otsego County, Edmeston Fire District.

Analysis of land use and growth patterns within the County is an important component when planning a Fire District's future needs to ensure fire protection services will be consistent with future development. In recent years several Fire Districts: City of Norwich, Greene, Plymouth, Sherburne and Smithville have built new or upgraded their facilities to accommodate additional services, fire fighting equipment, and larger trucks.

The County Emergency Management/Fire Coordinator and Board of Supervisors have taken an active role in leading and coordinating improved fire protection service throughout Chenango County. Installation of the Microwave simulcast repeater transmitter network transmits off all nine (9) communication towers instantly, repeating across the entire County. This advanced technology has vastly improved communication to all emergency personnel throughout the County.

The upgraded infrastructure, new radio communication equipment and emergency reporting software meet

current standards providing improved interoperability between Fire & EMS with the County Highway, Law Enforcement and all County Fire Departments.

## **School Systems**

The schools in a community are important elements of the physical and social facilities of the area. It is important in the preparation of a community plan for long-range development of the County to consider the school systems' physical facilities – both buildings and sites.

### **School Districts:**

There are sixteen school districts serving Chenango County, nine located in the County and seven in the four adjacent counties. The eight Central School Districts in Chenango County are:

- Afton
- Bainbridge/Guilford
- Greene
- Norwich
- Otselec Valley (So.Otselec/Georgetown)
- Oxford
- Sherburne/Earlville
- Unadilla Valley (New Berlin/South New Berlin )



Photo 36: Bainbridge-Guilford Central School

School Districts located in adjacent counties serving designated areas of Chenango County are:

- Brookfield Central School District – Madison County
- Chenango Forks Central School District – Broome County
- Cincinnatus Central School District – Cortland County
- DeRuyter Central School District – Madison County
- Gilbertsville – Mount Upton Central School District – Otsego County
- Harpursville Central School District – Broome County
- Sidney Central School District – Delaware County
- Whitney Point Central School District – Broome County

Private Schools serving Chenango County are:

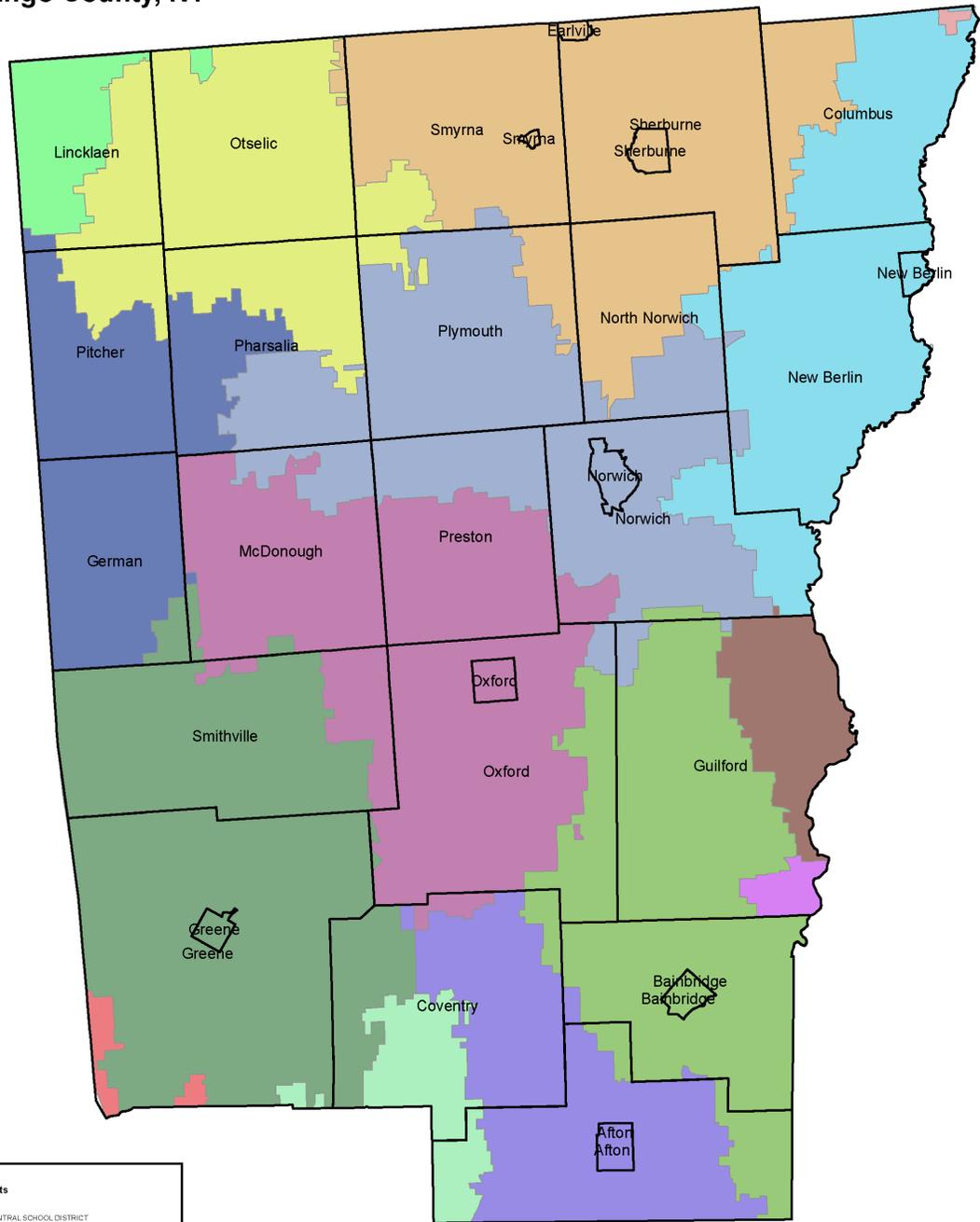
- Holy Family School – City of Norwich
- Milford Academy (College Prep school) – New Berlin
- Valley Heights Christian Academy – City of Norwich

## **Public School Structures and Sites:**

Consideration should always be given to location, adjacent land uses, physical characteristics of the site and access. When a School District proposes plans to build a new facility or add to the existing building, NYS Department of Education – Division of Buildings and Grounds has specific guidelines for constructing or remodeling school building sites. The campus shall be educationally adaptable with consideration for situation of building and development of the grounds for outdoor educational program and related activities, without excessive initial or development costs, and shall provide the following minimum usable acres, unless otherwise approved by the commissioner:

- 1) Elementary schools (kindergarten through sixth grade): three acres base plus one acre for each 100 pupils or fraction thereof;
  - 2) Secondary schools (7th through 12th grade): 10 acres base plus one acre for each 100 pupils or fraction thereof;
  - 3) Sites shall be developed to conserve natural resources and avoid environmental problems within the limits of the educational program. Care shall be taken to insure that the site and facilities thereon are consistent with and contribute to the school and community environment and provide for the health and safety of occupants.
- 
- **Afton Central School District** has one large building located on approximately 30 acres of land at Academy and Sand Streets in the Village of Afton. The original structure was constructed in 1901 with several upgrades and additions housing grades K-12 at this site.
  
  - **Bainbridge Central School District** is comprised of three buildings. Primary school (pre K-1<sup>st</sup>) 13 acres, School St., Guilford; grades 2-5 Greenlawn School, 11.5 acres, Greenlawn Ave. Bainbridge; and grades 6-12 10.2 acres, Juliand St. Bainbridge.
  
  - **Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton School District** formed in 1990 merging Mt. Upton and Gilbertsville School Districts. In 1994 a new campus was built on NYS Rte 51, Gilbertsville (Otsego Co.) housing grades pre K- 12.
  
  - **Greene Central School District** is comprised of three buildings. Primary school K-2 and Middle school grades 3-5 located on 144.7 acres, County Rd. 32, Greene; and grades 6-12 located on 56 acres, at South Canal Street, Greene.

# School Districts Chenango County, NY



Legend	
School Districts	
NAME	
[Color]	AFTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	BAINBRIDGE-GUILFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	BROOKFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	CHENANGO FORKS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	DINWIDDIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	DE RUYTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	GEORGETOWN-SOUTH OTSELIC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	GILBERTSVILLE-MOUNT UPTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	HARPURSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	NORWICH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	OXFORD ACAD & CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	SHERBURNE-EARLVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	SIDNEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
[Color]	UNADILLA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Disclaimer: This map is a product of the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development. Chenango County makes no representation as to the accuracy of the information in the mapping data. Chenango County expressly disclaims responsibility for damages or liability, whatsoever, which may arise from the use of this map. This document may not be reproduced without written consent from the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development.

- **Norwich City School District** is comprised of four buildings in the City of Norwich: Stanford Gibson Primary School, houses pre K-2, on 43 acres, Newton Ave.; Perry Browne School with grades 3-5 on 11 acres, Beebe Ave.; Middle School with grades 6-8 and the Senior High School, grades 9-12 share a 65 acre complex on Midland Drive.
- **Otselic Valley School District** is, at this time, comprised of two buildings; K-4 located in Georgetown (Madison County) and Grades 5-12 located in South Otselic. A building project is currently under way to expand the existing middle/high school (15 acres) to accommodate pre K-12 at the South Otselic location.
- **Oxford Central School District** has two locations in the Village of Oxford. The new Primary school (pre K-4) and Senior High 9-12 complex on 26 acres, S. Washington Street. The middle school, grades 6-8 on 12 acres, Fort Hill.
- **Sherburne/Earlville Central School District** is a large complex comprised of two separate buildings, on 465 acres, School St. in the Village of Sherburne. The Primary school building houses grades pre K-5; the large complex in front of the Primary building is divided into two sections accommodating grades 6-8 and 9-12.
- **Unadilla Valley Central School District** formerly the New Berlin and South New Berlin School Districts merged in 1996 building a new campus in 2003 on 160 acres at 4238 State Hwy 8, New Berlin. The complex is sectioned, grouping grades pre-K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 in separate sections.

**Private Schools:**

- **Holy Family School**, formerly St. Paul’s Catholic school, is a part of the Syracuse Diocese supported by 8 local parishes. The school is located on 3 acres, Prospect Street, Norwich, offering classes for early childhood –grade 8.
- **Valley Heights Christian Academy** located on 5 acres, Calvary Dr., Norwich, is a coed Baptist affiliated private school, serving 96 students in grades pre K-12.
- **Milford Academy** a private prep school at the 10 acre former New Berlin School site on School Street, New Berlin. Milford Academy targets undergraduate/postgraduate (grades 9-12) student athletes who require additional educational guidance and/or athletic training. The students typically

represent a diversity of socio/economic backgrounds. These students, in general are gifted athletes who have the opportunity to attain four-year athletic scholarships at major universities throughout the country.

### **Area Colleges**

Due to our central location in New York State, Chenango County students have the opportunity to choose from a variety of well-known and highly respected Ivy League schools or Community Colleges, depending on their educational goals, within a relatively small radius.

The list below includes colleges within or adjacent to Chenango County as well as colleges and universities offering high school students the opportunity to take college-level courses while still attending high school in Chenango County. Online programs are also available at a number of colleges.

- **Binghamton University (BU)** – Until 1953, Harpur College, now Binghamton University, was one of only two liberal arts colleges in New York State. Now, one of the nation’s Top 50 Public Universities, BU enrolls over 13,000 undergraduate students and offers over 70 areas of graduate studies.
- **Broome Community College (BCC)** – Located on NYS Route 12 in the Town of Dickinson, NY, BCC enrolls nearly 6,000 students of which approximately 4,000 are full-time. There are four academic divisions at Broome Community College; the Business and Public Services Division, the Health Science Division, the Liberal Arts Division, and the Science, Technologies, Engineering & Mathematics Division, all of which offer Associates Degrees to students in various program focus areas. The College recently finished a new Science, Technologies, Engineering, and Mathematics Building and is now in the process of building student housing.

Classes using BCC curriculum are offered to High School students at Afton, Bainbridge-Guilford, Chenango Forks, Greene, Harpursville, Sidney, and Whitney Point Central School Districts.

- **Colgate University** – A private, four-year school located in Hamilton, NY. Chartered in 1819 as the Hamilton Literary and Theological Institution, Colgate University is the 66<sup>th</sup> oldest college in the United States. Colgate University offers 53 diverse academic programs to over 2,900 undergraduates.

High School students at the Sherburne-Earlville Central School can attend some classes offered at Colgate University.

- **Hamilton College** – Among the first three institutions of higher education chartered in NYS, the cornerstone of Hamilton College was laid in 1794. With over 50 areas of study, Hamilton College is one of only five Universities in the United States without a “Distribution Requirement” meaning students do not have to fulfill particular course requirements.
- **Hartwick College** – Established in 1797 and incorporated as Hartwick Seminary in 1816, Hartwick College became a private four-year college in 1927. Located in Oneonta, NY, Hartwick College offers Liberal Arts and Sciences programs to over 1,500 undergraduate students.
- **Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC)** – Located in Rome, NY, MVCC is a two-year college enrolling approximately 7,400 students. MVCC was founded in 1946 as a SUNY affiliated college and now offers over 90 majors.

Classes using a MVCC curriculum are offered at Brookfield Central School District.

- **Morrisville State College – Norwich Campus** – Located at Roger W. Follett Hall, 20 Conkey Ave., adjacent to the Eaton Center in the City of Norwich, the Norwich Campus was completed in 2004. The Roger W. Follett Hall location offers students close proximity to downtown services, housing, shopping, cultural and recreational activities. The main campus is located in Morrisville, NY, approximately 30 miles north of Norwich.

This facility serves Chenango County and other counties in South Central New York. The campus offers associate degree programs in select career and technical areas as well as liberal arts transfer programs. Students wishing to enroll in Morrisville programs not offered at the Norwich Campus may take general education or elective courses that can be applied to SUNY Morrisville State College (Main Campus) associate or bachelor degree programs. Campus highlights include a wireless network, ThinkPad University integration and "Smart Classrooms," with ceiling-mounted video/data projectors that can interface with VHS, DVD and document cameras.

Classes using a Morrisville State curriculum are offered to High School students at the Norwich, Otselic, Oxford and the Unadilla-Valley Central School Districts.

- **Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)** – Located in Rochester, NY, RIT enrolls over 18,000 students, and is recognized internationally as being a leader in preparing deaf or hard-of-hearing

students for successful futures. RIT offers both undergraduate and graduate programs.

The Rochester Institute of Technology is one of only two colleges in New York State participating in the “Project Lead the Way” program. Each course endures for nine days with students earning college credits for passing each course. Students at the Norwich City School District can participate in the “Project Lead the Way” program.

- **SUNY Cobleskill** – Founded in 1911 in Cobleskill, NY, SUNY Cobleskill offers 31 Associate and 21 Baccalaureate Degrees to approximately 2,500 students. For the past four years, SUNY Cobleskill has been enrolled in President Obama’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Classes using a SUNY Cobleskill curriculum are offered at Gilbertsville – Mount Upton Central School District.

- **SUNY Cortland** – Located in Cortland, NY, SUNY Cortland is one of the founding members of the SUNY system. With three sub-schools incorporated into the College, School of Arts and Sciences, School of Education, and School of Professional Studies, SUNY Cortland enrolls over 7,000 students and offers 62 undergraduate, and 35 graduate, majors.
- **SUNY Delhi** – Located in Delhi, NY, the college was founded in 1913 and now enrolls over 3,100 students. SUNY Delhi offers 40 associate degree programs and 13 baccalaureate degree programs. In 2008, SUNY Delhi was ranked among the Top 40 Colleges in the North by the *U.S. News and World Report Guide to Americas Best Colleges*.

Classes using a SUNY Delhi curriculum are offered at Sidney Central School District.

- **SUNY Oneonta** – Located in Oneonta, NY, SUNY Oneonta enrolls approximately 5,800 students and offers 70 undergraduate, and 15 graduate/post-baccalaureate, programs. Providing both quality and affordability, SUNY Oneonta has been named to Kiplinger Magazine’s “100 Best Colleges in Public Colleges”.
- **Syracuse University (SU)** – Located in Syracuse, NY, SU was founded in 1870. SU offers more than 200 majors and 100 minors to undergraduate students, and over 200 graduate programs. Within the Syracuse University campus is a network of Schools and Colleges focused specific professional paths such as the School of Architecture and College of Law, among others.

Classes using a Syracuse University curriculum are offered at the Chenango Forks, Greene and Unadilla-Valley Central School Districts.

- **Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3)** – Located in Dryden, NY, TC3 opened in 1968 as a SUNY institution. TC3 offers approximately 54 academic programs in a variety of focus areas and offers student housing in seven apartment-style buildings

Classes using a TC3 curriculum are offered to High School students at the Bainbridge-Guilford, Chenango Forks, Cincinnatus, DeRuyter, Gilbertsville – Mount Upton, Greene, Harpursville, Oxford, Sherburne-Earlville, Unadilla Valley, and Whitney Point Central School Districts. The Afton Central School District is also pursuing a class through TC3.

- **University at Albany**, located in Albany, NY, is a SUNY recognized institution founded in 1844 as a “Normal School”. The University now offers 118 undergraduate majors and minors, and 138 graduate programs to approximately 18,000 students. The University of Albany’s College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering ranks number one in the World.

Classes using the Albany curriculum are offered to High School students at the Chenango Forks, Gilbertsville – Mount Upton, Oxford, Sherburne-Earlville, and Unadilla-Valley Central School Districts.

#### **Other Educational Facilities:**

- **Delaware, Chenango, Madison and Otsego Board of Cooperative Education Services (DCMO BOCES)** Chenango Area Educational campus are located at 6678 County Rd. 32, in the town of North Norwich. DCMO BOCES provides high quality programs to students as well as adult learners in the sixteen school districts they service.

BOCES provides leadership and support for partnerships with business, industry, community and higher education. In addition, they provide collaborative services to the component school districts. Significant facility improvements have been made at the campus to support the educational programs provided by DCMO BOCES helping students and those who live and work in your community meet goals for a better future.

- **The Chenango County Historical Society and Museum** in Norwich is both an educational and cultural resource for the County. Their objective is to preserve local history and emphasize the spirit of the past throughout the County.
- **Leadership Chenango** is an educational program developed to educate potential Community leaders. Leadership is the single most important ingredient needed to build a thriving and successful community. The Leadership Chenango Program, developed in the mid 1980's, was designed to identify and develop individual's potential to become future community and civic leaders, volunteers for charitable organizations, potential board members for schools, and government or community organizations. Commerce Chenango and the Chenango Foundation are committed to developing all facets of the county including the leaders who will guide our area toward future successes. To date, over 250 individuals have successfully completed the Leadership Chenango program with many participants currently serving in leadership roles in the community or at their workplace.

### Library Facilities

The library service for Chenango County residents is provided by eleven community libraries and the Four County Regional Library system (4CLS). The 4CLS chartered in 1960 is a cooperative association of autonomous local libraries in Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Otsego Counties which have banded together to strengthen their resources, to extend their service, and to share the advantage of belonging to a larger unit. The System is governed by a board whose members are elected by the trustees of the member libraries. The System serves the community libraries and provides a cybermobile operation enhancing the library resources to all County residents. The eleven (11) Public Libraries offering services to County residents are not all open and staffed full time due to limited budgets. They are located strategically throughout the County in the following locations:

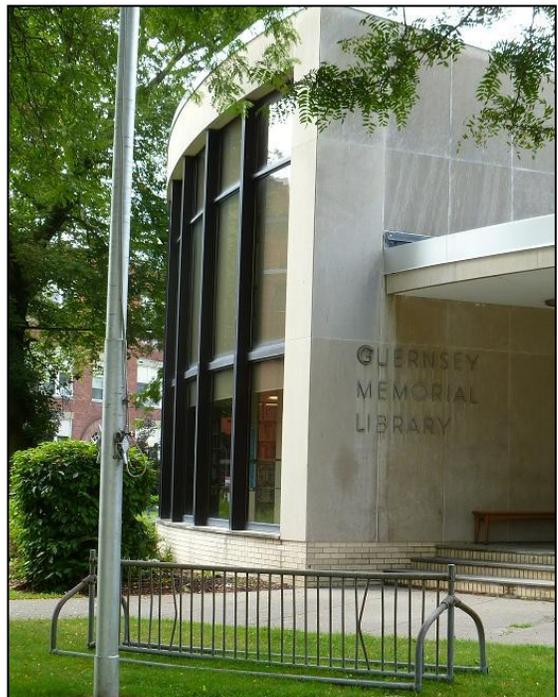


Photo 37: Guernsey Memorial Library

- Afton Free Library
- Bainbridge Free Library

105A Main Street, Afton, NY

13 North Main St., Bainbridge, NY

- David L. Follett Memorial NYS Supreme Court Library 5-9 Main St. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Norwich, NY
- Earlville Free Library 6 North Main St., Earlville, NY
- Greene Moore Memorial Library 59 Genesee St., Greene, NY
- Guernsey Memorial Library 3 Court St., Norwich, NY.
- McDonough Library & Community Center 115 Co. Rd. 7, McDonough, NY
- New Berlin Library 15 So. Main St., New Berlin, NY
- Oxford Memorial Library 8 Fort Hill Park, Oxford, NY
- Sherburne Public Library 2 East State St., Sherburne, NY
- Smyrna Public Library 7 East Main St., Smyrna, NY
- South New Berlin Free Library 3320 State Hwy 8, So. New Berlin, NY

Additional resources are the school district libraries at their facilities as well as the special purpose libraries at the Chenango County Historical Society and the Follett (County) Law Library.

It is recommended that communities where the libraries are located in older wood frame structures, lacking adequate fire protection devices, upgrade the facility to protect rare books and artifacts of significance to the local community.

Local municipalities, school districts, the county and the state continue to support the library services in the county at the highest level possible. It is also recommended that funds be appropriated and allocated, including revenue sharing funds, for necessary improvement in library book, periodical, record and historical memorabilia; and for capital improvements to access the latest technological advances for accessing information.

## ARTS & RECREATION

Chenango County is considered a quiet rural area, but it is alive with numerous entertainment, cultural, and recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors to the area. From theatre productions, historical museums, events and festivals, hiking and snowmobiling trails, parks, and more, Chenango County offers fun for all ages during every season.

### Arts and Entertainment

The Chenango Arts Council offers diversified year round professional entertainment at their West Main Street, Norwich auditorium, in addition to art displays in their gallery. The Colonia Theatre, also located in the City of Norwich, is one of the few remaining movie theaters in the area. The original theater was remodeled, closing the balcony and dividing the existing theater to accommodate two movie theatres. A third floor restoration is underway to add a third theater. New movie releases, games and events are offered for public entertainment.

In Greene, the Chenango River Theatre offers performances from June to October. The Chenango River Theatre is the regions only professional, non-profit theatre company under contract with Actors' Equity, the union for professional actors. The Historic Earlville Opera House offers seasonal musical, theatrical and cultural events in the refurbished 1893 theatre, in addition to a small art gallery. The Jericho Arts Council, in the process of restoring the Town Hall Theater in Bainbridge, originally built in 1910, offers a "Town Hall Opry" series. In Afton at the high school auditorium, the Afton Community Theater offers performances by actors with various degrees of experience. In Oxford, 6 On The Square is committed to promoting music and the arts by offering cultural and educational programs. The Sam and Adele Golden Gallery (SAGG) for the Arts in New Berlin is dedicated to holding exhibitions of scholarly and educational focus that underscore the creative possibilities and potentials of the visual arts.

There is no shortage of amateur talent entertainment in the county with dance recitals performed by students from the area dance schools, high school student plays, and talent contest events throughout the year. Black Bear Winery features amateur and professional talent on weekends throughout the year in addition to featuring a new wine or cider from their quaint winery on County Route 1, in the Town of Greene. The Del-Se-Nango Olde Tyme Fiddlers Association has reopened their dance hall in the Town of McDonough, offering square dancing and dance competitions, dinners, and much more.

Chenango County museums provide historical knowledge and experiences about Chenango County. Such knowledge and experience can be found at: the Chenango County Historical Society Museum, the Northeast Classic Car Museum and the Bullthistle Model Railroad museum on Rexford Street, Norwich; additionally, several village and town historians provide an opportunity to visit their local archives at a designated museum, library or town office.

The Chenango County Agriculture Society in Norwich and the Afton Fairgrounds host an annual fair on their



Photo 38: Chenango County Blues Festival, photo by Lindsey Miles.

perspective grounds with midway rides, games, horse racing and professional entertainment. Afton offers weekly car races on their grounds from April thru October; and Chenango County hosts: 4-H events; the Antique Car Show & Flea Market; Dairy Day Celebration; Norwich Bluegrass Festival; Fourth of July Celebration; Relay For Life Event; Chenango Blues Festival; the Chenango County Historical Society Antique Show and other additional private events.

Throughout the County various organizations sponsor large community events for entertainment and fundraising;

- Afton: Community Arts/crafts Fair;
- Bainbridge: Annual General Clinton Canoe Regatta, and National Dog Show event;
- Greene: Applefest, Greene Community Days, Arts/Craft Fair;
- Guilford: Guilford Days;
- New Berlin: Pro-National Motorcross Races, Youth Days;
- Norwich: Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival, Fall/Pumpkin Festival, Blues Fest Summer Series, and the Christmas Parade of Lights;
- Sherburne: Friends of Rogers Winter Festival, and the Pageant of Bands;
- Smithville: Smithville Days

In addition to the large festivals and events, many of the smaller towns/villages sponsor picnics, field days and celebrations to highlight their community. For a complete and current list of events, please see the Tourism Events Calendar on the Commerce Chenango Tourism website; <http://chenangony.org/tourism/>.

## State, County, and Public/Commercial Recreational Facilities

Chenango County, with its central location in New York State and numerous acres of forestland, provides year round opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting and fishing, camping, cross country skiing and snowmobiling opportunities for County residents and visitors. Approximately 14%, or roughly 80,000 acres of Chenango County is designated as NYS Forest land.

Areas of NYS forestland and private land have been carefully mapped for snowmobile riding. Snowmobile clubs maintain and mark the snowmobile trail routes for use by responsible snowmobile riders.

In addition to the many miles of trails in NYS forest land and parks for hiking, bicycling and cross country skiing, approximately 70 miles of the Finger Lakes Trail meanders through Chenango County.



Photo 39: Trails at Gaius Cook Park

The “Chenango Greenway Trail” was developed for walking along the west side of the Chenango River, in the Town of Norwich. There are on-going discussions to extend this trail. There is also a designated paved bicycle/walking/running lane along County Route 32.

For those who wish to stay for longer periods of time, campsites are available at the state owned properties of Bowman Lake and Balsam Pond; the County owned Gaius Cook Park; and the Town of New Berlin Millbrook Recreation Park. Commercially owned campgrounds are located in the Towns of Coventry, Greene, Guilford, and New Berlin, offering camping and recreational activities.



Photo 40: Finger Lakes Trail

Gaius Cook Park, owned by the County, is located 3 miles east of the Village of Greene on Parks Road in the Town of Greene. The 167 acre park offers camping (38 campsites with water/electric, 2 primitive campsites for tenting, and recently added lean-to's), a bathhouse with showers, and a wastewater dumping station for self-contained camping units. The campground has a pond for canoeing and non-gas powered boating, however, no swimming is allowed. The pond is stocked for fishing, and two maintained trails totaling approximately 2.5 miles for hiking around the park. There are two pavilions available for family picnics, a swing set, and volleyball court for recreation.



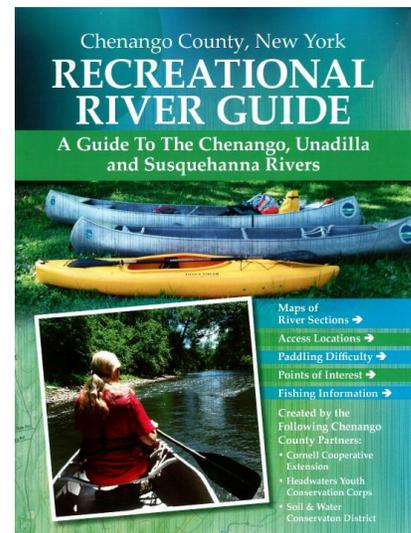
Photo 41: Gaius Cook Park



Photo 42: Playground at Gaius Cook Park

Chenango County is also fortunate to have four (4) scenic river corridors: Otselic River in the northwest section of the county; Chenango River in the center of the county; the Unadilla River forming the eastern border; and the Genegantslet Creek in the mid to southeast portion of the county. The river corridors, numerous lakes, ponds and tributaries provide the sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts with numerous public access locations to canoe, kayak, and fish for enjoyment.

For more information about these river corridors and the recreational opportunities associated with them, please see the “Chenango County, New York Recreational River Guide – A Guide to the Chenango, Unadilla, and Susquehanna Rivers” produced in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps, and the Soil & Water Conservation District. The reference guide includes maps of river sections, access locations, paddling difficulty of individual sections, points of interest, and other fishing related information.



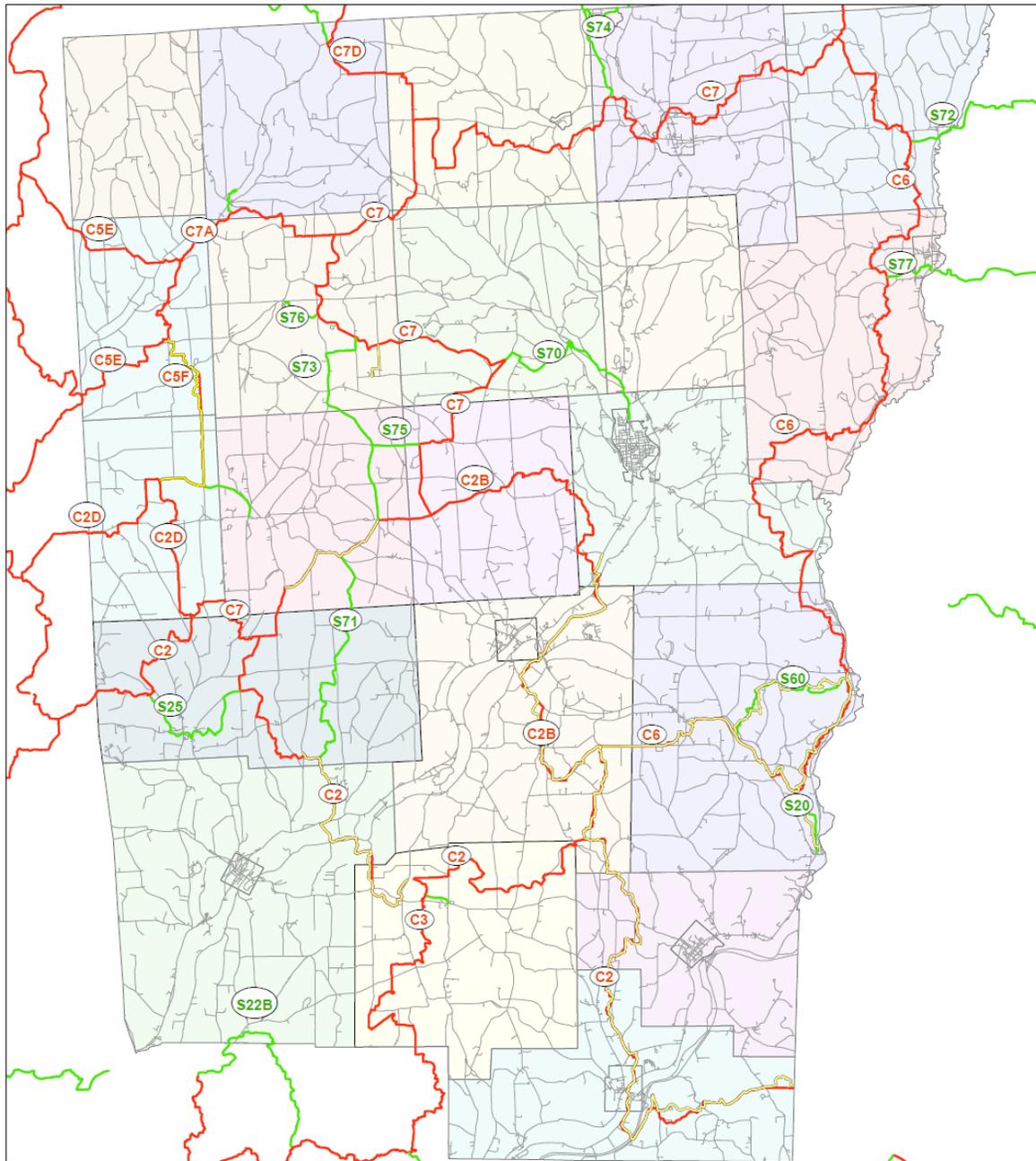
In late spring, summer, and early fall, Chenango County recreation activities are available at several commercial public-access golf courses strategically located throughout the County; and the community swimming pool parks located in the Villages of Bainbridge, Oxford, Sherburne and the City of Norwich. Many towns and villages in the county have recreation areas with playground equipment, basketball and tennis courts, and fields for baseball, soccer or football.

Indoor winter activities include bowling in Bainbridge, Earlville, Greene, New Berlin, and Norwich; or swimming at the indoor pools in the Afton, Greene, Norwich, Sherburne and Unadilla Valley schools districts, as well as the Norwich Family YMCA which provides numerous indoor activities for recreation and exercise.



# Chenango County 2013 FUNDED SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

Jennifer Burcroff  
District Technician  
Chenango County SWCD  
June 17, 2013



### LEGEND

2013 Phase I Proposed Trails

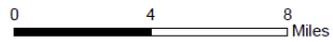
### NYS Funded Snowmobile Trails 2013

TYPE (Corridor or Secondary)

C

S

roads100k\_l\_ny017



The information represented on this map was provided to the Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) from files utilizing Global Positioning Systems as submitted by the snowmobile clubs who participate in the NYS Grant-In-Aid program. These files were created for the purposes of completing the funding application and represent trails that are documented for the above mentioned program.



## **GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE**

Identifying a set of community Goals and Strategies is an important process of any comprehensive plan. Due to the flexible nature of comprehensive planning, these goals and strategies should be considered as a set of fluid recommendations, not necessarily completed exactly as stated in the timetable suggested. Ultimately, due to the unpredictable nature of the future, a periodic review of these goals and strategies should be done to reassess their relevance.

### **Development Process**

In order to be consistent with other county-wide plans, the County Planning Board and Planning Department reviewed the Chenango County Economic Development Strategic Plan Update 2014-2020, currently in draft form, the Chenango County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan – 2012 Update, the Chenango County All Hazards Mitigation Plan – 2014 Update, the Opportunities for Chenango Survey Report, and the New York Upstate Revitalization Initiative. These plans and associated goals can be found on the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development website.

The goals and strategies were identified by utilizing the above mentioned plans, in addition to; community input provided by the Zogby Survey and Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board Survey; interviews of various County Department Heads; public comments to the Draft Chenango County Comprehensive Plan downloaded to the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development website; monthly County Planning Board meetings; and a public hearing.

### **Implementation Process**

Community stakeholders, both present and future, should proactively utilize these goals and strategies to guide their decision making process when development ideas or opportunities arise. As stated above, these goals should be viewed as fluid recommendations and not necessarily implemented exactly as written. It should also be noted that suggested funding sources for these goals may change or be eliminated completely, altering the practicability of an opportunity. Likewise, other funding sources more in line with goals and strategies may be implemented and should be pursued.

Goal 1: Ensuring Chenango County is a Safe, Healthy, and Stable Community to Reside.					
What Will Be Done	Where It Will Be Done	Who Will Do It	When Will It Begin	Funding Sources	
Support and submit grant applications to provide access to safe, decent, and affordable housing for all residents.	Countywide	County Planning Department, Opportunities for Chenango, Catholic Charities, CWS	Continued Effort	NYS Office of Community Renewal and CDBG Small Cities Grants and others as they become available.	
Support and foster the pursuit of improvements to, or expansion of, existing residential water supplies and/or distribution systems to meet short and long-term needs.	Countywide with Focus on Urban and Village Centers	County Environmental Health, County Planning Department, Opportunities for Chenango	Within 5 years	NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Office of Community Renewal, and CDBG Small Cities Grants and others as they become available.	
Minimize water contamination hazards through implementation, inspection, and enforcement of residential sanitation regulations.	Countywide	County Environmental Health in partnership with Municipalities	Continued Effort	No Cost	
Discourage the filling, and/or development of structures, within the 100-Year Flood Plain.	Countywide	County and Municipal Code Enforcement and Planning Boards, Planning Department	Continued Effort	No Cost	
Assess the healthcare needs of the population in order to support existing programs and identify gaps in service to promote the well-being of all residents.	Countywide	County Area Agency on Aging, Bassett Healthcare, Department of Social Services, Healthcare Providers, OFC, NYS Department of Health, Chenango Health Network, Family Resource Network, and UHS.	Within 2 years	No Cost	
Participation in County and Region-wide health delivery and planning functions.	Regional	Bassett Healthcare, NYS Department of Health, and UHS.	Continued Effort	No Cost	
Goal 2: Enhancing and Maintaining a Safe and Efficient Network of Infrastructure.					
What Will Be Done	Where It Will Be Done	Who Will Do It	When Will It Begin	Funding Sources	
Encourage the expansion of high-speed internet connection to underserved areas.	Rural Areas	County Planning Department, Private Providers, and Southern Tier East	Within 2 years	Governor Cuomo's Broadband Initiative, Regional Economic Development Council	
Investigate ways to enhance energy efficient transportation options to meet the needs of bicyclists, drivers, pedestrians, transit riders, and community residents of all ages.	Countywide	Municipalities (County, Town and Village), NYS Department of Transportation, OFC, Rural Health Network of SCNY, and United Way.	Within 5 years	511 NY Program	

Enhance the facilities at the Lt. Warren E. Eaton Airport.	Lt. Warren E. Eaton Airport	Airport Steering Committee	Within 5 years	FAA Grants
Provide well-built and maintained roads in harmony with the rural character of the County.	Countywide	Municipalities	Continued Effort	CHIPS Funding
Encourage direct transit routes from residential centers to prominent businesses.	Focus on Village Centers and Places of Employment	Partnership between the Business Community, NYS Department of Transportation, County Planning Department, and Southern Tier East, OFC and United Way.	Within 2 years	511 NY Program
Encourage the development of telecommunication facilities to increase the availability of cell phone service to under-served areas.	Countywide; Specifically the NYS Route 8 and NYS Route 23 Corridors	Private Providers, Local Code Officials and Municipalities, Emergency Management	Within 5 years	Private Funding, Regional Economic Development Council
Implement and utilize the mitigation measures found within the All Hazard Mitigation Plan.	Countywide	County and Municipal Code Enforcement and Highway Departments	Continued Effort	Office of Homeland Security Grants
Support and submit grant applications for streetscape, housing development, commercial investment, and facade improvements.	Countywide and Focus on Village Centers where Appropriate	Commerce Chenango, Municipalities, Opportunities for Chenango	Continued Effort	Office of Community Renewal, Main Street Grants, CDBG
Participate in the Build-Now NY Program (formerly Shovel Ready)	Countywide	Commerce Chenango, Municipalities	Within 2 years	Regional Economic Development Council
Redevelop brownfield and other abandoned residential, commercial and industrial sites.	Countywide	Commerce Chenango, CCIDA, County Planning Department, Municipalities (County, Town and Village)	Continued Effort	Regional Economic Development Council, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Provide support to public and private facilities considered strategic to the people of Chenango County and its economic vitality. (Ex. Fairgrounds, Rogers Conservation Center, etc.)	Countywide	Commerce Chenango, County Planning Department, Municipalities	Continued Effort	Regional Economic Development Councils

Goal 3: To Enjoy the Diverse Historic, Cultural and Recreational Opportunities Available to Residents and Visitors of Chenango County					
What Will Be Done	Where It Will Be Done	Who Will Do It	When Will It Begin	Funding Sources	
Encourage and support grant applications for the preservation and restoration of historic structures and districts and participation in the National Register of Historic Places Program.	Countywide	Municipalities, County and Municipal Historians and Historical Societies, Other Related Entities	Continued Effort	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Grants	
Foster educational programs to encourage youth and other residents to participate in outdoor recreational activities.	Y-Camp, Gaius Cook Park, Rogers Conservation Center	County Public Facilities, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Friends of Rogers, Sportsmans Associations, Other Related Entities	Continued Effort	No Cost	
Anticipate and effectively manage future changes in land use, growth, and development in such a manner that allows development to occur while preventing the loss of irreplaceable natural and cultural resources.	Countywide	County Planning Department, Commerce Chenango, Municipalities	Continued Effort	No Cost	
Support community events and festivals throughout the year.	Regional	Commerce Chenango, Community Groups, Event Organizers, Municipalities, County Planning Department	Continued Effort	Community Groups, Sponsorships, I Love NY, USDA, and National Endowment for the Arts Grants	
Encourage the preservation and expansion of wetlands for recreational opportunities and flood control.	Countywide	County and Municipal Code Enforcement and Planning Boards, Planning Department, Soil and Water Conservation District, DRBC, SRBC	Continued Effort	NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, National Resource Conservation Service, Environmental Protection Agency Grants	
Encourage and support the development of multi-use trails on State and/or County-owned lands including ATV/motorcycles.	State/County-owned lands	Commerce Chenango, County Planning Department, Local Specialized Clubs (snowmobile clubs, horse clubs, etc.)	Within 5 years	No Cost	
Heavily market recreational opportunities, including use of social media, advanced smart phone and GPS enabled mapping of existing organizations and venues.	Countywide	Commerce Chenango, Planning Department	Continued Effort	I Love NY Program	

Goal 4: To Align Education and Workforce to Foster Economic Development in Chenango County.					
What Will Be Done	Where It Will Be Done	Who Will Do It	When Will It Begin	Funding Sources	
Continue to provide training for local officials including planning and zoning boards, assessors, and code officials.	Countywide	Planning Department, Real Property Tax Department, Code Enforcement	Annually	No Cost	
Investigate ways to improve transportation options to assist job seekers in finding employment	Focus on Village Centers and Places of Employment	Rural Health Network of SCNY, Planning Department, and United Way.	Within 2 years	511 NY Program	
Create a system where educators and business cooperate in educating residents with the skills needed to acquire available jobs in the area.	Countywide	County Government, DCMO BOCES, SUNY Morrisville, Business Community, NYS Department of Labor and CDO Workforce.	Within 2 years	Appalachian Regional Commission, Regional Economic Development Council	
Change the Chenango County Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund to better reflect the needs of start-up businesses.		County Government, County Planning Department	Within 2 years	No Cost	
Continue to hold job fairs in coordination with area educational facilities and the business community.	Countywide	Commerce Chenango, Business Community, Educational Institutions	Continued Effort	No Cost	

Goal 5: To Limit the Impact of Natural Disasters and Mitigate Climate Change.					
What Will Be Done	Where It Will Be Done	Who Will Do It	When Will It Begin	Funding Sources	
Discourage the filling, and/or development of structures, within the 100-Year Flood Plain.	Countywide	County and Municipal Code Enforcement and Planning Boards, Planning Department	Continued Effort	No Cost	
Promote and coordinate participation in FEMA's Community Rating System.	Countywide	Planning Department, Highway Department, Municipalities			
Implement and utilize the mitigation measures found within the All Hazards Mitigation Plan.	Countywide	County and Municipal Code Enforcement and Highway Departments	Continued Effort	Office of Homeland Security Grants	
Update the Chenango County All Hazards Mitigation Plan on a 5-year cycle.	Countywide	Planning Department, Highway Department, Municipalities	Every 5 years	NYS Office of Homeland Security, FEMA	

Encourage the preservation and expansion of wetlands for recreational opportunities and flood control.	Countywide	County and Municipal Code Enforcement and Planning Boards, Planning Department, Soil and Water Conservation District, DRBC, SRBC	Continued Effort	NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, National Resource Conservation Service, Environmental Protection Agency Grants
Investigate ways to improve transportation options to allow carpooling and reducing the number of car trips per day.	Focus on Village Centers and Places of Employment	Rural Health Network of SCNY, Planning Department, and United Way.	Within 2 years	511 NY Program
Increase the number and quality of biking, hiking and walking trails to reduce the reliance on automobiles and promote a healthier lifestyle.	Countywide	Municipalities, Related Public and Private Groups.	Within 5 years	Regional Economic Development Council, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Encourage the transition from fuel oil to natural gas to cut down on greenhouse gases and increase economic vitality.	Countywide	County Planning Department, Commerce Chenango, Municipalities, and Private Providers.	Within 2 years	Regional Economic Development Council, Private Providers
Encourage the installation and utilization of renewable energy resources.	Countywide	County Planning Department, Commerce Chenango, Municipalities, and Private Providers.	Continued Effort	NYSERDA, Regional Economic Development Council