



Farmland Protection & Green Infrastructure Plan

Village of Round Lake,
New York

August 2011

Technical Assistance
Provided by:



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INTRODUCTION

The Village of Round Lake is a unique community with an unusual settlement pattern. The compact settlement pattern and surrounding rural landscape define the Village. This physical setting makes it one of the New York's most charming villages. Born as a result of its natural environment, development within the Village, and, indeed, Village life, are inextricably connected with the natural environment. As the natural environment is indistinguishable from the tradition and history of the Village, it is impossible to alter the natural environment without altering the historical context and unique sense of place. Therefore, it is vital that all future development proceed with the utmost care with respect to both the natural and built environment of the Village.

As of the census of 2000, there were 604 people, 257 households, and 160 families residing in the Village of Round Lake. The 2010 census recorded 623 people. The Village is approximately 1.2 square miles, or 768 acres, making the population density at that time 558.7 people per square mile (1.2 people per acre). However, this is deceiving. Due to historical settlement patterns, 90% of the residents live on only 115 acres, leaving a ring of open space, farmland, woodlands and recreational surrounding the Village. In other words, the traditional village settlement encompasses only 15% of Village's 1.2 square miles.

Recognizing this distinctive significant heritage, the Village began a process to identify actions to protect it. A Farmland Protection and Green Infrastructure Plan Planning Team (Planning Team) was created and included the Mayor, representatives from the Village Board of Trustees, the Village Attorney and residents of the Village of Round Lake. Funding and technical assistance was provided by Saratoga P.L.A.N., the land trust for Saratoga County.

Members of the Planning Team included Linda Conner, Stewart Galloway, Nancy Harple, Steve Luce, Diane Marchand, Tom Peterson, Gary Putnam, Dixie Lee Sacks, Judy Selig, Diane Shapiro, Anne Sherman, Carol Silvera, Sharon Walsh and Carrie Woerner.

The process for creating the Plan started in October 2008 with a series of community charrettes. All Village residents were invited to participate in establishing open space priorities.

The Planning Team worked throughout 2009 to establish action plans for the top priorities identified in the charrettes. In December 2009, the Planning Team brought the Plan forward to the Village Board for review and adoption. Several revisions were requested and this document represents the next iteration of the Plan.

This Village of Round “Lake Farmland Protection and Green Infrastructure Plan” (the Plan) will (1) identify the categories of critical natural resources deserving of protection; (2) specify goals for protecting these resources for the short, medium and long-terms; (3) restore ecologically damaged areas; and (4) name strategies, plans and funding for achieving these goals. This plan is intended to act as a guide for all future development as well as preservation, restoration and enhancement efforts.

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The Little Village in the Grove (Round Lake, New York)

I live near a village; it's not very old.
A thousand inhabitants live there I'm told.
A quaint little village that lies so serene,
By a lake, on a hill, in a foliage of green.

The pulse of the world within it throbs
The heartbeat of life is never robbed.
Babies are born, old folks die;
Young folks many, as you and I.

The good and the bad, the rich and the poor,
Pass the time of day at the Post Office door.

The church bells ring on a Sunday morn,
From a world of toil and strife we are torn,
That within our hearts new hopes may be born.

The cities are fine for those who will
Hustle and bustle and never be still.
But for me a quieter life I crave,
Near a village that lies so serene
By a lake, on a hill, in a foliage of green.

- Frances Adelle Bedford Goldfoot, 1942

“By a lake, on a hill, in a foliage of green,” as Frances Adelle Bedford Goldfoot poetically described the Village of Round Lake in 1942. The description is still true, still desired by its residents, but under threat from unplanned development. The historic Village of Round Lake, situated in a glen, is bordered on the east by an undeveloped lake and substantial wetlands, to the west by a forever wild publicly-owned lands forming a buffer from the Adirondack Northway, to the north and south by long-established farmland and by a wooded valley which was the channel for the melt-water from the retreating glacier which formed the lake. These natural resources, which bound and are located within

the Village, have helped to frame the development of the historic Village, and must be protected if the Village is to remain a community and not become a suburb. The traditional settlement patterns and natural condition of these lands and waters should be retained to the extent possible.

At a community workshop in October 2008, a group of Round Lake Village residents identified and discussed a wide range of open space priorities. A consensus emerged around three major objectives of open space protection and conservation:

- Address the environmental problems in Round Lake and design a program of use for the Lake so that it is a useful recreation amenity for Village residents and surrounding communities.
- Protect the remaining farm parcels from future development either through purchase or obtaining a conservation easement from the current owners.
- Enhance the park-like setting of the Village with additional landscaping and amenities to make the existing parks more useful by Village residents.

The complete list of items generated by the community is included as an Appendix A.

HISTORY

In 1867, Joseph Hillman, a real estate and insurance broker from Troy, and a small group of interested laymen and ministers of the Methodist Church visited the western shores of Round Lake. Impressed by the pine woods, the nearby farms, the availability of pure spring water, and the convenient train service, these men brought a larger group to survey the proposed camp meeting grounds. On May 5, 1868, the Round Lake Camp Meeting Association of the Troy Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated.

In 1869, summer residents erected the first cottages. Within the context of the campgrounds, the Victorian architecture created a wonderful fusion of natural and architectural beauty. The 1880s saw many changes. Education became the partner of religion in the summer programs. As a result of this and other developments, the area became a cultural Mecca. Accompanying this cultural expansion was a building boom.

An abundance of natural and recreational resources were recognized and developed including a mineral spring; and fishing, swimming, and boating on the Lake. Also popular were tennis, baseball, croquet, and golf. Residential needs were satisfied for year-round residents and summer visitors alike in new large homes and cottages, and in various hotels and boarding houses.

However, the subsequent decline of the Village as a cultural attraction led to train service discontinuance and dissolution of the Association. In 1969 the residents voted to become a Village and our certificate of incorporation was received in 1969.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the developed Village is its physical layout. That is, residences and other structures are generally arranged in concentric circles radiating from the Auditorium. Also extending from the Auditorium are narrow streets and pedestrian walkways, creating a hub and spoke pattern. The typical lot and its house are small. However, there is no lack of recreational space. Set throughout the Village are a multitude of parks and congregate areas. Residents are forced to go beyond the confines of their respective parcels in order to recreate. Open space, easily accessed by the pedestrian pathways, is heavily used. Residents thus become extremely familiar with each other. This is a secret of Village life; the "attitude" of community is a product of the physical layout of the Village.

The physical layout is partially responsible for the "campground atmosphere" so appreciated by residents. Also contributing to this setting are the mature tree stock and the relative isolation of the developed Village from the surrounding environs. The tree stock adds considerable beauty to the Village, and gives a sense of shelter. The isolation of the Village, accomplished by geography and the surrounding woodlands, allows and encourages the Village to maintain its unique character.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND PROCESS

The Village has an adopted Comprehensive Plan (created in 2000; revisited in 2007 and determined no changes needed to be made). The objective of the Comprehensive Plan is to maintain the unique character of the Village and its reputation as a unique and charming little Victorian "Village in the grove." The Plan notes that the isolation of the Village, accomplished geographically and by the surrounding woodlands, allows and encourages the Village to maintain its character. Because of the traditional, small lot size, open space is heavily used and is thus the secret of Village life: the attitude of community is a product of the physical layout of the Village. The Plan acknowledges the importance of environmentally sensitive areas, wildlife and associated habitat, agriculture, wooded areas as sound and pollution buffers to the Northway, wetlands and floodplains to control flooding and purify water and greenways to connect people and wildlife.

In 2006 the Green Infrastructure Plan for Saratoga County identified four green infrastructure theme areas including natural systems, working landscapes, recreation and trails, and cultural landscapes. The regional significance of Round Lake and the surrounding area is made clear in the Green Infrastructure Plan. To quote the Plan, "The area around Round Lake exhibits all four green infrastructure themes - the cultural landscape of the village and scenic Route 67; the natural system of the lake, wetlands, forests and Anthony Kill; the recreational opportunities provided by the lake, and the Zim Smith Trail; and the surrounding working landscape of active farms."

EXISTING RESOURCES

As identified in Saratoga County's Green Infrastructure Plan, the area surrounding Round Lake exhibits all four green infrastructure themes (Natural Systems, Working Landscapes, Cultural Landscapes and Recreation and Trails), making the Village of Round rich in a variety of resources. An inventory of one particular parcel, known as the Roerig Property, is included in Appendix B and highlights the variety of resources found within the Village as a whole.

Natural Systems Theme

A. Water Resources

The Village is rich in water resources that provide flood protection, drinking water, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Importantly, all of the resources are in the Upper Hudson River Watershed and travel to the Hudson River through Round Lake and out the Anthonykill.

Round Lake: According to the book *Round Lake Little Village in the Grove*, "the lake is a glacier created lake, one mile in diameter, three miles in circumference and 29 feet at its deepest point". (p.83) In 1873 the RLA built a road to the lake and a boat landing. Several boats offered public access to the lake, among them a small steamboat "The Ordellia" 45' long capable of carrying 40 passengers on sightseeing trips. She sank (no date available) and remains at the bottom of the lake.

The Round Lake Association (RLA) formed the Round Lake Incorporated Company in 1909 and built a boathouse and casino (to improve on the existing boathouse), featuring a game room, refreshment booth, soda fountain and bathing booths. The beach was also improved at that time. During winter, the lake (if frozen) would be scraped for ice skating; sulkies and carriages would also race on the lake. The Casino prospered and in the 1940's Lewis Lavery ran an airplane service in addition to the bathing beach and boat livery. However, the seaplane base there was halted in 1955 when the RLA broke the lease with Lewis F. Lavery (RLA won a court decision). According to his son, Robert Lavery, "in 1936-7 Mr. Lavery put in the concrete pier and public beach and operated the boathouse (built by Howard Lenox). They had as many as 80 boats for public use (canoes and rowboats), and another 80 were available from Mr. Chamberlain on the east side of the lake, 40 available at Little Round Lake. At this time, Route 9 had two lanes and there was a road adjacent to the highway for access to the lake. In the early part of the century there were farms surrounding the lake and one could walk completely around the perimeter of the lake. During the drought in the 1920's, stones were put in the outlet to raise the water level for the farms around the lake. At some time in the 1940's, the Army Corps of Engineers dynamited the outlet (one time) to clear the channel in the outlet and lower the water level of the lake. The channel had become blocked by beaver dams."

Streams: Ballston Creek and two unnamed streams important in flood control and as wildlife habitat and spawning grounds for ducks, beavers and pike.

Wetlands: Within the Village, segments of 5 different state-regulated wetlands systems are present. One, identified as “R-15,” is wholly contained in the Village and contains more than more than 75 acres, alone totaling 10% of the Village. The Village also contains segments of R-13 and 14.

Figure 1 illustrates the key water resources of the Village.

B. Wooded Areas

Within the Village boundaries there are 343 acres of land with forest cover. This represents 45% of the Village’s land area.

These wooded areas are mostly in private ownership and are second growth forests of between 25 and 50 years in age.

Figure 2 shows the extent of forest cover in the Village.

C. Wildlife

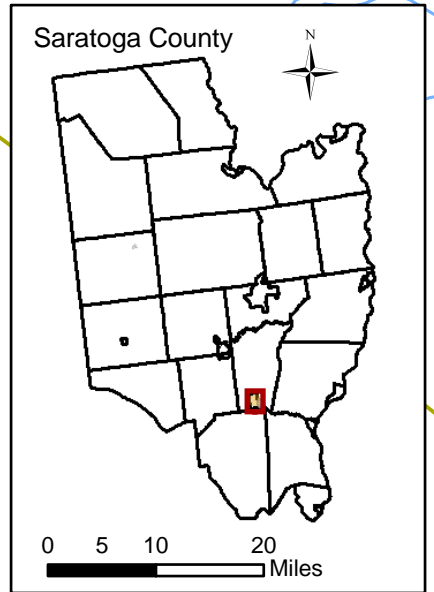
1. Bird Data: According to the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas 2000, there are a number of game, protected, special concern and threatened species of birds that are possible, probably or confirmed within the area around the Village. Those of special concern or threatened include the Cooper’s Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk (both of special concern), Least Bittern (threatened).

2. Terrestrial and palustrine (inland wetlands such as inland marshes and swamps as well as bogs, fens, tundra and floodplains which lack flowing water, contain ocean derived salts in concentrations of less than 0.05%, and are nontidal) communities including but not limited to: successional old field, successional shrubland, hemlock-northern hardwood forest, Appalachian oak-hickory forest, beech-maple mesic forest, shallow emergent marsh, reedgrass/purple loosestrife marsh, shrub swamp, floodplain forest, hemlock-hardwood swamp, redmaple hardwood swamp and vernal pools.






3. Rare and Endangered Species: According the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, there is indication that an endangered plant, *Persicaria setacea*, may be present in the Village, along the shore of the Lake. Rare animals are reported just over one mile away from the Village, including the Karner Blue, Frosted Elfin and Dusted Skipper butterflies, which are found where their food, wild lupine, is

FIGURE 1: WATER RESOURCE

**Figure 1:
Water Resources**



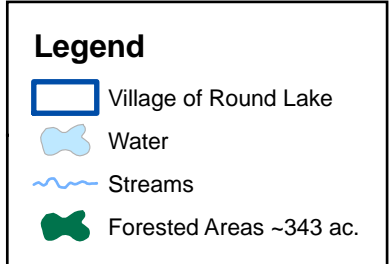
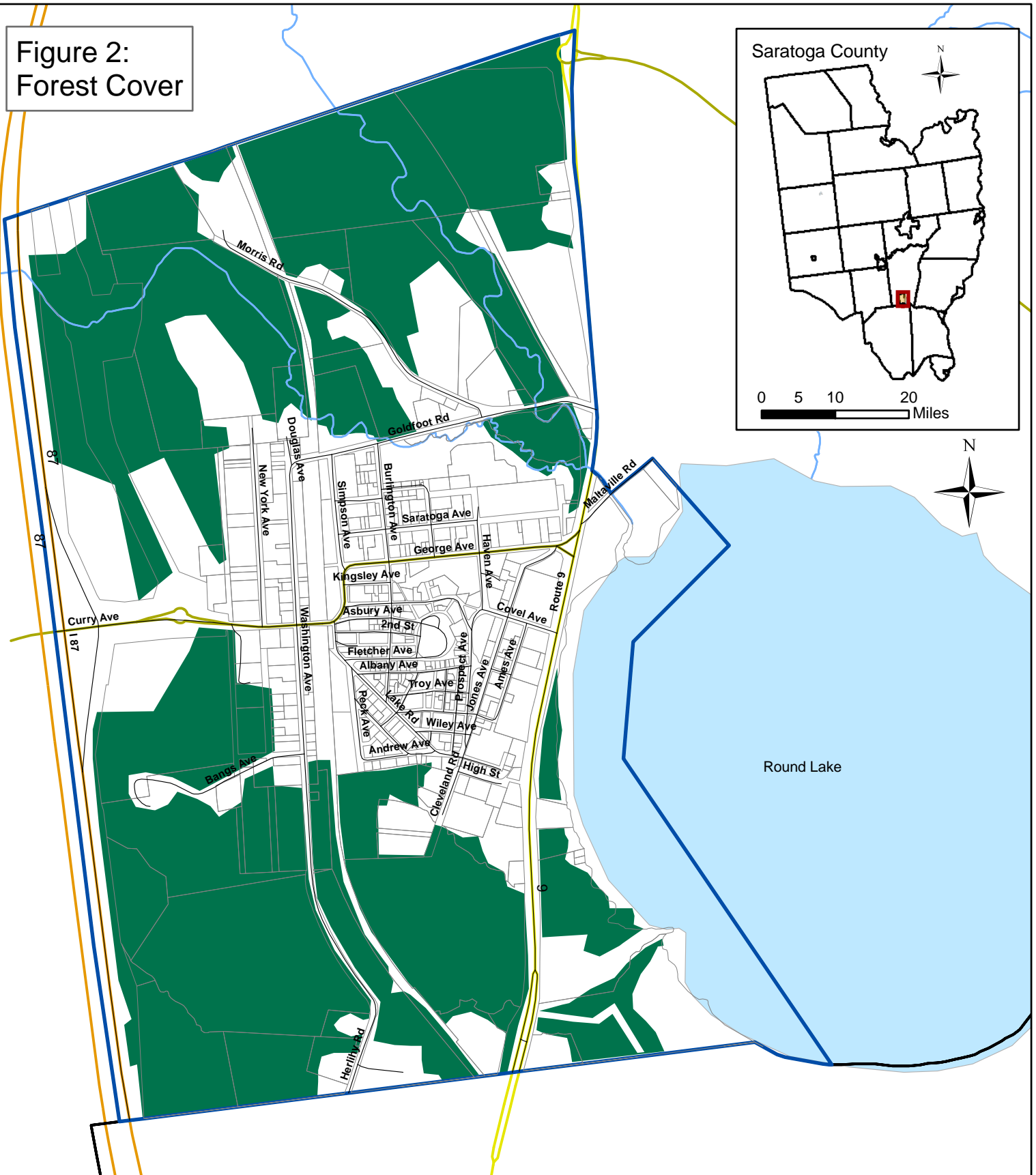
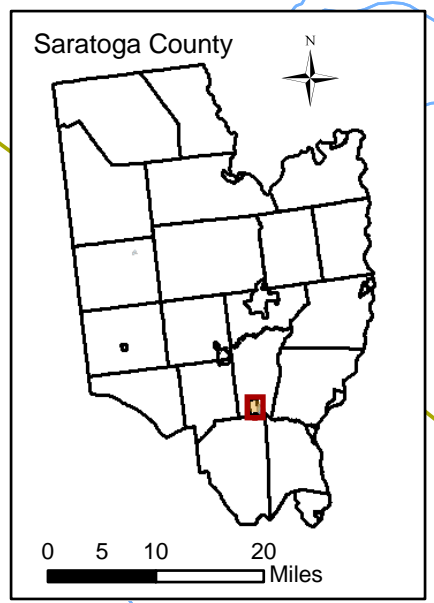
Legend

-  Village of Round Lake
-  Water
-  Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Floodplains and Wetlands

This map displays recreational resources for the Village of Round Lake, NY, as of 2011. Data was obtained from Saratoga County Planning Department, NYS GIS Clearinghouse, NYS DEC and National Wetlands Inventory, and USDA NRCS.

FIGURE 2: FORESTED AREAS

**Figure 2:
Forest Cover**



This map displays recreational resources for the Village of Round Lake, NY, as of 2011. Data was obtained from Saratoga County Planning Department, NYS GIS Clearinghouse, NYS DEC and National Wetlands Inventory, and USDA NRCS.

found. Appropriate on-site survey may be warranted as complete survey data is not available. In prior a survey undertaken for the Exit 11 Bypass project, areas with the ability to support blue lupine were been identified within the Village.

Recreational Resources Theme

A. Trails

Zim Smith Trail

The Zim Smith Trail is a regional resource that connects the municipalities of Ballston, Clifton Park, Halfmoon, Malta and the Village of Round Lake. The idea of turning the abandoned railroad bed into a trail was championed in the Village by a resident, Stewart Galloway. A group was formed which approached the town of Malta with the idea. A committee was formed to obtain grants and coordinate with the Saratoga County Heritage Trail Committee, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation, Saratoga County, among others.

After being closed for a time due to construction of a roadway that necessitated reorientation of the trail, use of the trail has undergone resurgence. The Volksmarchers, walking groups and senior groups have all rediscovered the trail and its scenic beauty and health benefits.

This paved multi-use recreational trail is currently 9 miles long and runs 3 miles in a north south direction through the Village.

Other Existing Trails

- The Pines: woodlands at the south end of Peck Avenue, has an unimproved walking trail that connects Peck Avenue to the Zim Smith Trail in two locations.
- Ladies Walk: a remnant of the original campground facilities, Ladies Walk was a footpath leading to the women's latrine on the north side of Mount Morris. The footpath begins on Haven Avenue and meanders up the hill just on the north side of the ridge.
- Gentlemen's Walk: a remnant of the original campground facilities, Gentlemen's Walk was a footpath, with stone steps, leading to the men's latrine on the northwest side of Mount Morris. The footpath begins on Covell Avenue and cuts between two houses to the set of stone steps that lead toward George Avenue.
- Crandall Path: This unimproved walking trail is an extension of Cleveland Avenue and runs past the lands owned by P. Crandall.

- Ballfield Path: An extension of Haven Avenue, that picks up at the north side of the Ball Fields. This walking path includes a footbridge to cross the creek.
- Malta Trolley Line: The historic Malta Trolley line runs through private lands on the south and north ends of the village, and along the lake edge around the south-west perimeter of Round Lake.

B. Parks

The Village's parkland includes 11 designated parks, which are used by Village residents and those from neighboring municipalities including Malta, Halfmoon, Ballston Spa and Clifton Park) and a community garden. Because of Round Lake's small lot size, public lands are heavily used as cultural and social gathering spaces and host yoga classes, preschool "green hour," library activities, Mayfest, Antiques Festival, Crafts Festival, a children's camp and a children and nature program.

Figure 3 shows the key recreational resources of the Village.

Working Landscapes Theme

A. Active Farmland

The Village includes agricultural districts and farmland soils of state-wide importance as well as prime farmland soils. A soils map, map of agricultural districts and list of prime soils and those of state-wide importance are included in Appendix C.

There are 2 active farms within the Village limits including:

- Sievers: Hay, Horses, Sheep.
- Cronin: boards horses

The Roerig farm was until recently an active farm whose primary crop was hay. And until 2009, the Crandall farm was an active farm whose primary product was eggs.

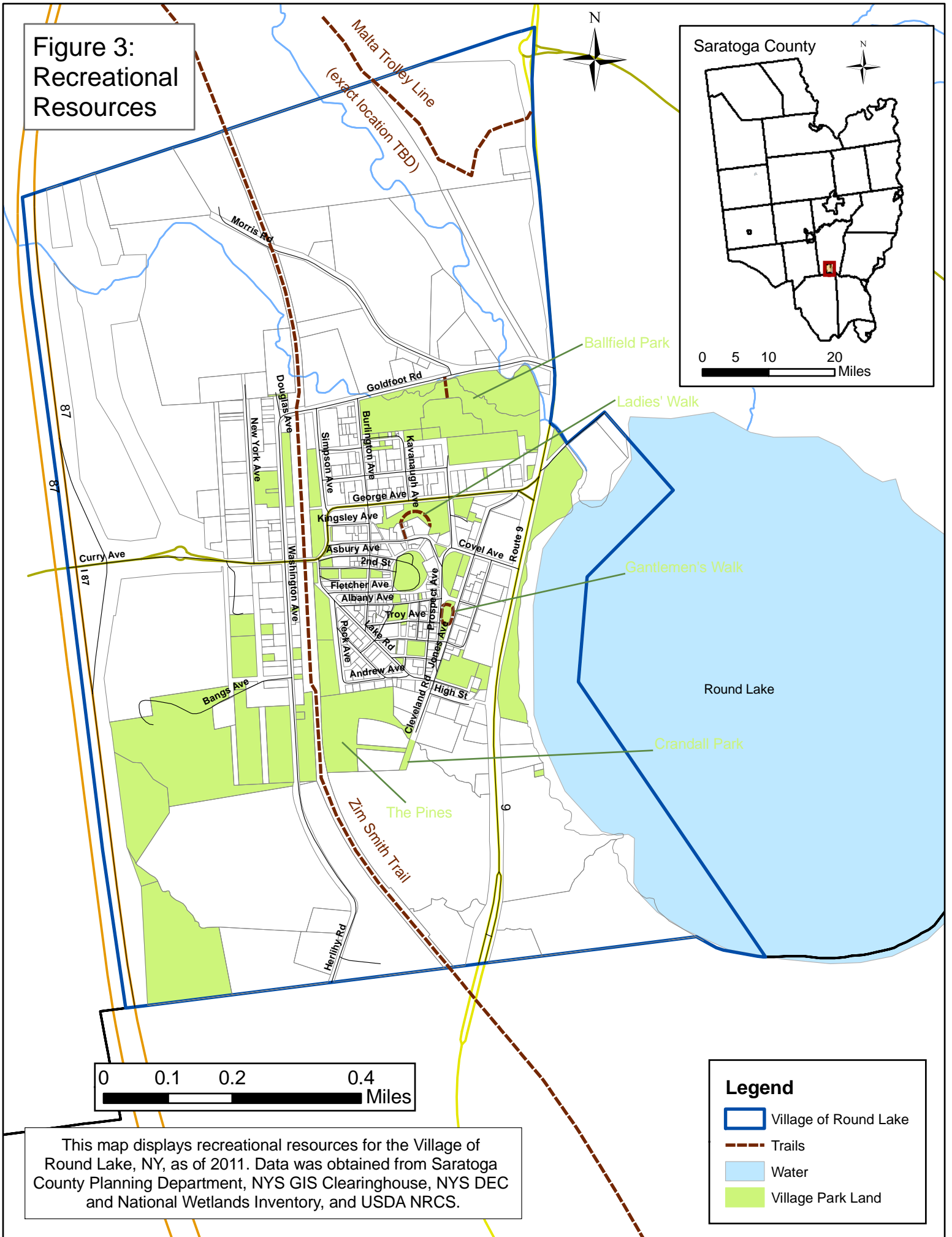
Historically there were a number of other farms surrounding the Village, including:

- Corp: Dairy
- Knap: Dairy
- Cleveland

Most farmers sold their produce locally and so would have come into the Village of Round Lake to sell. There were at one time green grocers, butchers and other merchants with storefronts in the Village.

FIGURE 3: RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

**Figure 3:
Recreational
Resources**



This map displays recreational resources for the Village of Round Lake, NY, as of 2011. Data was obtained from Saratoga County Planning Department, NYS GIS Clearinghouse, NYS DEC and National Wetlands Inventory, and USDA NRCS.

Cultural Resources Theme

There are over 300 houses in the village and of them only 10% have been built in the last 20 years. 80% of the homes that remain were built before the 1900s. Our village is the same as it was before 1900 so that if someone who lived here in the 19th century were to return in 2011 and walk down the streets, he would recognize right where he was after all those years. We have not changed. The result is continuity in our culture and this is one of our great resources.

Three hotels remain from this era:

- Ryan's home built in 1873
- Morris home
- The Russell House

Alumni Hall was built in 1884 at the cost of \$1500, was a meeting hall built by the divinity school; mainly arts were taught. The Smith Brothers (cough drops) rented space for a restaurant in the Hall. Other restaurants were housed there over the years.

Guild Hall was built to house the Episcopalians for their worship until they built the church.

Episcopal Church was built in 1892.

Methodist Church was built in 1896. The organ was donated by Andrew Carnegie.

Auditorium was built in 1885, with an addition put on to house the famous Ferris Tracker organ in 1888. This organ is a grand part of our culture even today. There are concerts each summer and tours from organ groups come here to see one of the few Tracker Organs that remain. There are no changes after 1888 on the exterior of the auditorium and only a few changes inside. It is basically intact.

Library, built in 1888, by Mr. Clark, a minister from Vermont is the original structure except for the back part facing the lawn that had been burned in a fire. That was replaced. The windows remain the same into the 21st century.

The 30x90 lots have been patterned after the lot size in Troy where much of the village has gotten its influence from the Methodist Conference in that city. Homes around the Auditorium were built where there once were tent sites in the days of the Camp Meetings. The grander, wealthier homes were built facing the Railroad station on the west side of town rather than facing the lake. The railroad had a great influence on the development of the village for it gave access to people who used this as their means of travel. It was in later years that a casino was built on the lake and homes began to be constructed facing the water in the early 1900's.

Almost all the buildings (256 of the 300 structures) in the Village of Round Lake are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic district was designated in 1975.

Figure 4 illustrates the working landscape resources of the Village.

LANDS OF CONSERVATION INTEREST

If one takes the key elements that identify the four above themes (natural systems, recreational resources, working landscapes and cultural resources) they would represent those areas or land of conservation interest. The Planning Team felt that these are the areas where efforts should be focused on developing conservation measures to ensure the continued protection of the resources.

The Planning Team evaluated these lands of conservation interests and made the following conclusions:

- The New York State designated wetlands are adequately protected by NY Department of Environmental Conservation regulations and by the Village's "LCV Land Conservation" zoning district.
- The existing parklands and public trails are adequately protected by the benefit of being in public ownership.

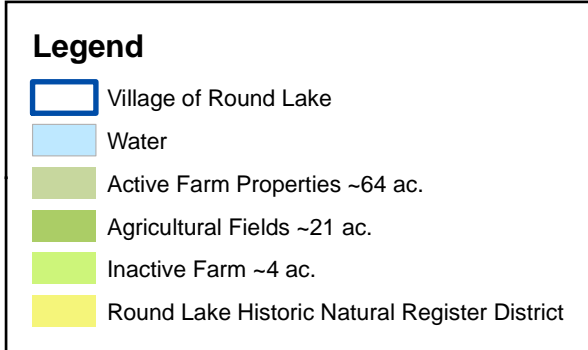
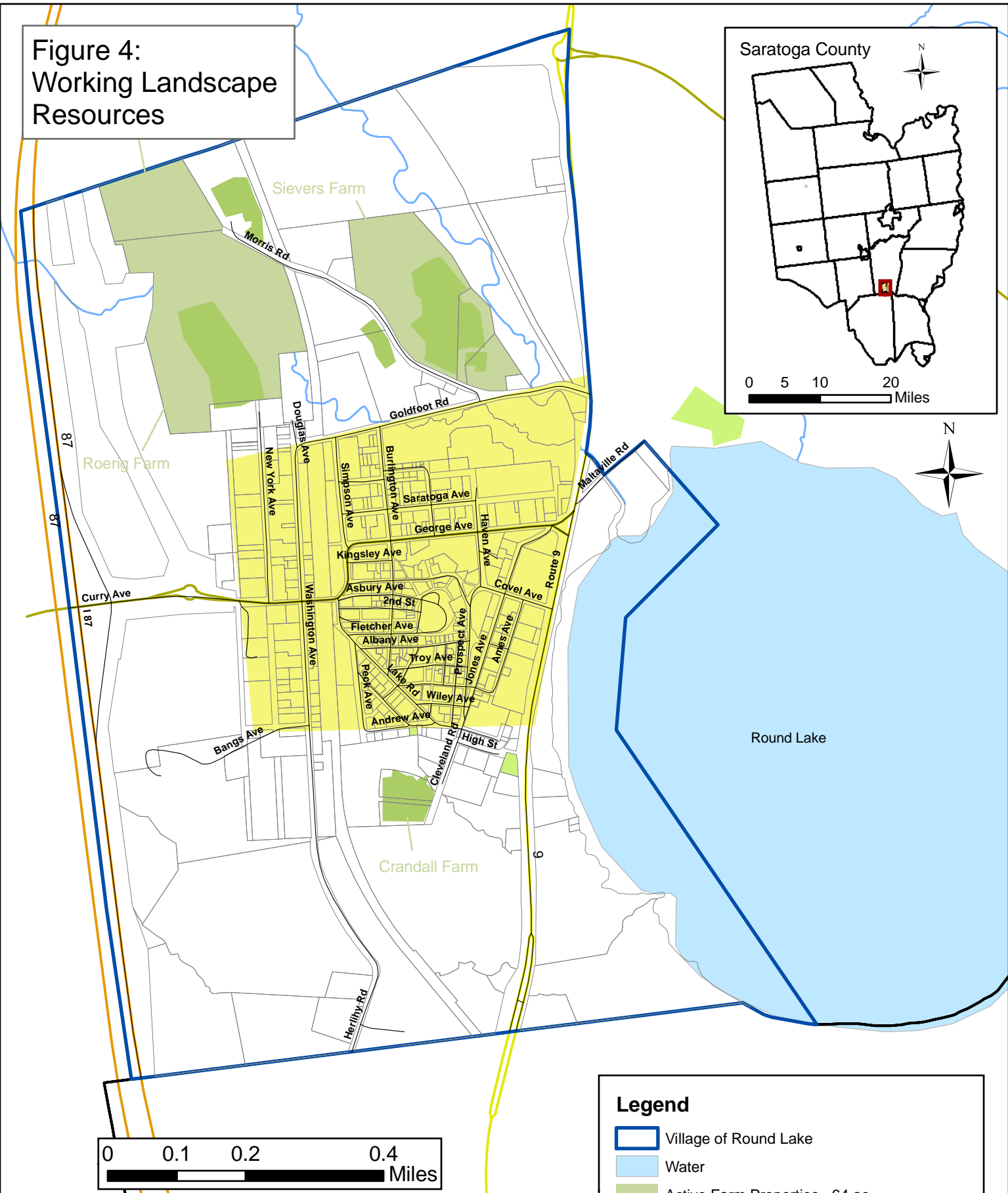
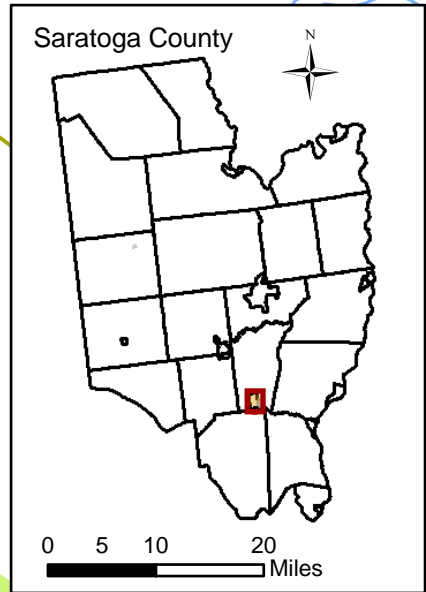
The Planning Team then analyzed the development capability of the land area surrounding the Village settlement area. This area encompassed a little more than 350 acres. However, 40 acres have slopes greater than 15% and 66 acres are in designated wetlands, so 106 acres have no development capability. That leaves 246 acres in the surround portions of the Village where development could occur. The current zoning on these developable lands is "RV-1" which permits residential development on 14,000 square foot lots (1/3 of an acre). If one subtracts 15% of these developable acres for road and lost size variations, then the remaining land of 192 acres could support the development of 597 residential homes. If all these new homes were ever built, the Village could more than triple in size – from 257 home to 854 home. Using the 2000 average family size of 2.35 persons, the population of the Village would grow from 600 to over 2000 residents.

The Planning Team fully realized that full buildout of all the developable lands within the Village was unlikely, but they were concerned that any significant residential construction in the surrounding area had the potential to adversely affect the quality of the life of the residents of the existing settled area.

The Planning Team next looked at the traditional ways in which others communities have taken steps to protect their open space and made some preliminary conclusions

FIGURE 4: WORKING LANDSCAPES

**Figure 4:
Working Landscape
Resources**



This map displays recreational resources for the Village of Round Lake, NY, as of 2011. Data was obtained from Saratoga County Planning Department, NYS GIS Clearinghouse, NYS DEC and National Wetlands Inventory, and USDA NRCS.

- **Purchase Open Space:** Other communities have set up programs to purchase land from private owner using municipal funding, grants or donations. The Planning Team felt that there was little chance that the Village residents would be willing to support their government purchasing the opened developable 192 key acres. With vacant land selling for between \$25,000 and \$40,000 an acre, the cost for purchasing was near \$7 million. The cost could slightly be reduced if the Village were to purchase open space easement on these developable lands. However, the cost would still be far too high for the Village residents to support.
- **Change the Zoning:** To create open space other communities have increased the permissible lot sizes from say 1/3 acre to one or two acres. This would reduce the development potential on the Villages 192 acres by a third or more. Some other communities enact open space zoning provisions, which permit small lot sizes while requiring 50% or more of the developable land to remain in open space. Various other communities use incentive zoning (density bonuses) and transfer development rights to transfer development away from the existing open space to current the build-up areas. In 2008, the Village Board adopted Conservation Subdivision zoning. In the future, the Village may consider additional zoning changes that would further protect/create open space in the Village.

The Planning Team concluded that the most practical approach was to focus on developing an action plan to preserve a few specific sites that had the most importance for its residents.

RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Action #1: Long Term Lake Use

DESCRIPTION

The water level of Round Lake is rising, threatening the natural habitats and recreational use of the lake. Invasive plants that crowd out native species, such as cattails, is *Phragmites australis* and purple loosestrife. Smart Swampweed, a native species, for example, was last seen on the shores of Round Lake in 1932.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Round Lake is a natural resource that provides for active recreation, such as boating, fishing and swimming. Providing for the long term conservation of Round Lake benefits the community through species protection, particularly herons and bald eagles.

APPROACH AND PLAN

- ❑ Establish an intermunicipal Lake Committee and engage some or all of the communities (Malta, Stillwater, Clifton Park, Half Moon and Village of Round Lake) owning a piece of the lake in the effort to provide for its long-term conservation. With this approach, we would pool resources and jointly work to set priorities and secure funds for the work necessary to address the environmental threats to Round Lake.
- ❑ Hire a consultant to assess the current condition and identify the means for addressing any threats to the Lake
- ❑ Invite a representative from the Division of Coastal Resources to come talk to the committee about how to protect Round Lake.

Action #2: Protect the Roerig Farm

DESCRIPTION

The Roerig Farm, located on 33 acres, in the north west side of the Village and adjacent to the Zim Smith trail and protected wetlands, is one of the parcels of land the Village would like to protect as open space. Of the 33 acres, only 7 acres are buildable. Under current zoning, a subdivision could be created on the parcel that would include perhaps 21 single-family homes.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The settlement pattern in Round Lake included farms surrounding the Village center on the north, west and south perimeters. Protecting the Roerig Farm as working farmland or for passive recreation retain the traditional settlement pattern. Potentially conditions exist on this parcel for endangered species like the Karner Blue butterfly.

APPROACH AND PLAN

- ❑ Convene a group to walk and photograph the property. Invite Judy Selig, Leah Stewart and others with specialized knowledge (for example, Environmental Studies professors from Skidmore) to participate and direct this activity.
- ❑ Evaluate conservation values, including assessing species habitats.
- ❑ Review study of the adjacent area conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers
- ❑ Talk to PLAN re purchase of development rights.
- ❑ Assess value of development rights.
- ❑ Meet with Roerig brothers to ask about donation of development rights.

Action #3: Encourage Sustainability

DESCRIPTION

The Village of Round Lake can encourage sustainability by retaining local agriculture, encouraging local energy production, expanding the Community Garden and investing in a community-wide composting facility. There are 3 parcels that have traditionally been, and today continue to be working farms. The Village would like to protect those as working farms. Conservation easements could be used to achieve this level of protection. Investigation into the available technology for and the siting requirements for locally produced alternative energy (wind and solar) could yield opportunities to reduce the cost of energy consumption for the Village and for Village residents. The Village has sponsored a Community Garden for many years; the Garden serves as a local safe food source for the residents who participate. Providing adequate space to accommodate the continuation and growth of the Community Gardens would increase the sustainability of Round Lake. Recycling yard waste through a local composting facility is another opportunity to increase sustainability in our community.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The settlement pattern in Round Lake included farms surrounding the Village center on the north, west and south perimeters. Protecting these parcels as working farm land retains the traditional settlement pattern. Potentially conditions exist on these parcels for endangered species like the Karner Blue butterfly. As an alternative, some one or more of these parcels could be the site for installation of alternative energy generation facilities, i.e. wind turbines or solar panels, which would benefit Village residents in reduced energy costs. Each year more and more residents seek to participate in the Community Garden; expanding the Garden would enable the community to meet these needs.

APPROACH AND PLAN

- ❑ Develop an understanding of conservation easements
- ❑ Identify suitable parcels for expanding the Community Garden with access to water and full sun.
- ❑ Invite a speaker to talk to the community about sustainability and locally grown food.
- ❑ Investigate grants related to Green Communities
- ❑ Investigate what local composting in Schenectady and Albany

Action #4: Retain Woodlands and Minimize Woodland Fragmentation

DESCRIPTION

On the southwestern edge of the Village and in other areas of the Village are wooded lands. These woods have traditionally been places where Village residents have walked and enjoyed the natural resources.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Working to retain the woodland areas would again ensure the continuation of the traditional settlement pattern and would provide for species protection and passive recreation for Village residents.

APPROACH AND PLAN

- ❑ Convene a group to walk and photograph the property. Invite Judy Selig, Leah Stewart and others with specialized knowledge (for example, Environmental Studies professors from Skidmore) to participate and direct this activity.
- ❑ Evaluate conservation values, including assessing species habitats.
- ❑ Talk to PLAN re purchase of development rights.
- ❑ Assess value of development rights.
- ❑ Meet with owners to discuss donation of development rights.

Action #5: Enhance Existing Parks and Linkages to Existing Trails

DESCRIPTION

The Village of Round Lake in the early 1980 established as Parkland a number of parcels throughout the Village. Many of these are, in practice, targeted to specific uses like playgrounds for children, ball fields for active recreation. There are opportunities for connections into the Saratoga County Trails System that, if pursued, would provide a means for Village residents who work in the Tech Park to ride their bikes to work and for increased recreational use of the trails. Some of the parks have drainage problems that need to be addressed; the standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Programs to dedicate certain parks for specific uses are desirable to ensure the usability and quiet enjoyment of the parks for all residents. Setting aside School House Park for a passive recreation park, in particular, would create a place of beauty, a peaceful and tranquil settling, and would promote happy, healthy lifestyle. A trail connection from the new park in the Victorian Landings development to the Zim Smith Trail would provide additional connectivity to the Village and access by those residents to the bike path leading into the Tech Park. By addressing the standing water drainage problems in South Park, the health risks of standing water are reduced and the quality of the park is improved for Village residents.

APPROACH AND PLAN

- ❑ One key element of a park system is to provide opportunities for people to relax and socialize with others, or passive recreation. Round Lake currently has several parks, which offer places for active recreation: at the children's parks, baseball fields, at the tennis and basketball courts, and on the Zim Smith Trail

(used for walking, running and biking), all of which are well used by village residents. The Schoolhouse Park is currently a wide-open area with a few park benches. It has great potential to be developed into a park for passive recreation where the lake itself can be appreciated.

- The land sloping East toward Route 9 could be cleared of brush and offer a year round view of the lake. The Silvera property on Ames Avenue has a similar sightline and demonstrates the potential that Schoolhouse Hill Park has. There is at this time no place in the village where residents can sit and view the lake, enjoying the changing face of the lake. Since many residents have no way of experiencing the lake in a boat, this would give them a way to connect with the lake, a prime reason the Methodist chose to site the Camp Meeting Association at Round Lake in the 1800's. The original layout of the village connected directly to the lake, but the development of Route 9 has cut the village off from easy access to the lake, or even a place to view it. The improved School House Hill Park would be a place to gather, to play chess or board games, read a book, have exercise classes facing the lake: it would be a park for all of the senses.
- Desirable Linkages to Existing Trails
 - With the proposed development of Victorian Landing at the western edge of the village, an opportunity to add a park on the western side of Round Lake emerges. To incorporate the residents of the new development with the parks in the village, a walking trail should be planned between the development and the Zim Smith trail. Far range planning would connect the Zim Smith Trail to the Malta Tech Park complex to offer a safe route for residents to commute by foot or bike to work and shopping areas.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Brainstorm Results: Open Space Priorities

The following list was developed during a brainstorming session in which about 40 residents of the Village of Round Lake participated. This list served to inform the planning process. It is included here for historical record only.

Item	Dog park
Long-term use of lake, lower the lake level 23 (1)	More defined roads
Roerig property for future acquisition 22 (2)	Smaller village trucks
Create intermunicipal lake committee 19(4)	More gardens/trees
Street signs 19 (3)	Dog cleanup
Zen park 14 (5)	Rocks for sitting
Retain as much woodland as possible 13 (6)	Purchase George & Curry Roads
Conservation easements with large landowners 13 (7)	Picnic areas
Minimize woodland fragmentation 11(9)	Dock in lake
Noise buffers 11 (8)	Wave pool
Eliminate illegal ATV use 8(10)	Replant large trees
Tree Preservation 7(11)	More grass seed
More benches 4 (12)	Less blacktop and more pavers
Clean up open spaces (e.g., tires, old vehicle parts)	Parking areas for residents only
Convert lakeshore to accessible, walkable, clean parkland	Wildflowers along roads
Limit motorized use of lake	Maintain community gardens
	Drain park lands
	Enforce leash law
	Retain & enforce parkland & character
	Improvements at boat launch
	Reduce woodland loss
	Less asphalt
	Ice Rink

Appendix B: Roerig Property Inventory

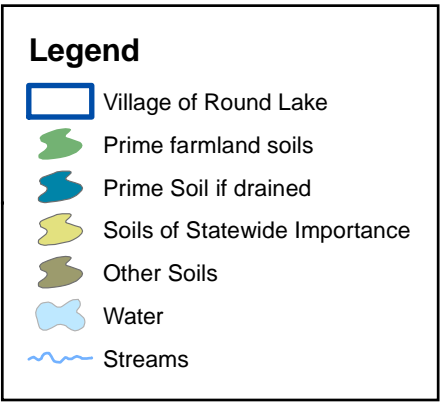
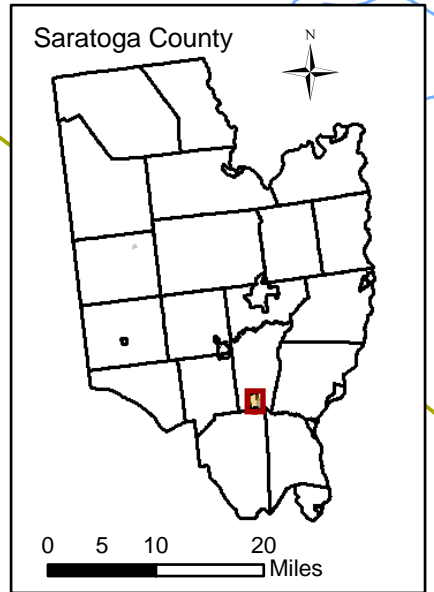
On June 14, 2009 Diane Shapiro, Judy Selig, Diane Marchand, Nancy Harple, and Steve Luce did a walk of the Roerig Property. We started with the field at the north end of New York Avenue. We spread out and went down either side of the field and through the middle looking for anything of note. Cow vetch, wild strawberry, birdsfoot trefoil and clover were found in the field. Cardinal, American goldfinch, common yellowthroat warbler, red-eyed vireo, red-bellied woodpecker, Eastern wood pewee, gray catbird, red-winged blackbird and ovenbird were heard in this area. It was noted that the field is surrounded on the west, north, and east by stands of trees, which act as wind and sound barriers.

We went through the wooded section of the east side of the parcel. There is 60-70% canopy with mixed deciduous trees including maple, nut (hickory), oak and fruit (apple). Eastern white pines are mixed in and there is a stand of pines in the northeast corner. It appears to be second growth forest still going through succession. There is 100% groundcover including garlic mustard, grapevine, raspberry, poison ivy and bloodroot. A lot of the low vegetation is honey suckle. A cooper's hawk was seen and heard. There was a lot of white wash on the vegetation surrounding a pine tree but difficult to see if there was a nest up in the branches that could have been the hawk's. The wash could have been from roosting birds. A stream runs through this eastern section. In addition to the Cooper's hawk, ovenbird, cardinal, black-capped chickadee, and red-eyed vireo were heard in this area.

Of the portion of the parcel in active agriculture, the soil is of the Broadalbin silt loam with 3 to 8 percent slopes (BtB) type and is ranked as a Prime Farmland Soil.

Appendix C: Soils

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This map displays recreational resources for the Village of Round Lake, NY, as of 2011. Data was obtained from Saratoga County Planning Department, NYS GIS Clearinghouse, NYS DEC and National Wetlands Inventory, and USDA NRCS.