

TOWN OF OTEGO

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Adopted December 14, 2016



Town of Otego Municipal Building

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Comprehensive Plan was prepared by The Town of Otego Planning Board. Assistance was provided by the agencies, organizations, and individuals listed below.

Town of Otego Planning Board

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Planning Board Secretary: Teresa DeSantis

Town of Otego Town Board

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Terry Brown
David Sheldon
Barbara Stanton

Agencies/Organizations

Otsego County Planning Department
Otsego County Conservation Association
New York Department of Conservation
New York Department of Transportation

VISION STATEMENT

The citizens of the Town of Otego, wish to protect our rural natural landscapes and enhance open spaces. We respect our traditions and history and wish to preserve the Town's historic architecture and character. Agriculture will continue to be part of the Town's economy and character. We encourage new development to honor the ways our town has looked through its long history. Hence, we promote careful design and placing of new buildings to complement and harmonize with those already here. Residents are committed to involvement in the Town's future and are proud of our strong community identity.

We foresee the future of the Town of Otego as continuing to have a clean environment, while maintaining our rural character. There is a commitment to carefully managing growth and development in order to maintain access to our natural areas so as to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for our families.

We envision our residents and visitors enjoying increased year-round recreational and cultural opportunities such as biking, hiking, and walking trails with ample access points to the Susquehanna River.

Our goal is to have sustainable economic growth and diverse year-round businesses that serve both residents and visitors. We would like to see low-impact, family-owned small businesses flourish. It is important to have the Town of Otego encourage the construction of affordable housing for our work force, as well as for our families and seniors. We foresee amenities for our youth, families, and seniors such as improved transportation and activity centers. Our desire is to have all homes, businesses and neighborhoods to be safe and well maintained. Traffic volume and speed should be controlled for the safety of our citizens, and roads should be well built and maintained. We foresee high-quality schools with a well-managed budget and a Town government that works to provide the best possible public services and reasonable taxes. The Town of Otego citizens look forward to working with other Towns and Villages to promote our common good.

This is our vision for the future.

**Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Otego
Adopting Comprehensive Plan Update**

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Otego, Otsego County, New York, held at the Municipal Building on the 14th day of December, 2016, the following resolution was offered by Councilperson Stanton, who moved for its adoption, seconded by Councilperson Sheldon:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Otego directed the Town Planning Board to prepare a proposed comprehensive plan update and the Town Planning Board did draft a proposed comprehensive plan update, in two parts; and

WHEREAS, the Town Planning Board held public hearings on March 1, 2016 (for Part 1) and on June 21, 2016 (for Part 2), and otherwise assured full opportunity for citizen participation in the preparation of such proposed plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Planning Board presented the proposed comprehensive plan update and recommendations to the Town Board at its regular meeting on July 13, 2016; and

WHEREAS, on or about September 2, 2016, the Town referred the proposed comprehensive plan update to the Otsego County Planning Department for review and comment, in accordance with General Municipal Law §239; and

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted on September 7, 2016, the Town Board, by a vote of 4-0, declared itself lead agency on this action for purposes of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"); and

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted on September 7, 2016, the Town Board scheduled a public hearing on the comprehensive plan update for October 12, 2016, and authorized publication of the notice of the public hearing at least ten days prior to the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk published a notice of the public hearing in the Oneonta Daily Star and posted the notice of the public hearing on the Town's sign board and on the Town's website; and

WHEREAS, copies of the proposed comprehensive plan update were made available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk and at the local library; and

WHEREAS, the Otsego County Planning Department responded to the Town on September 20, 2016 and approved the comprehensive plan with the condition that the Otsego County agricultural plan be addressed in accordance with Town Law §272-a; and

WHEREAS, the Town Planning Board and the Town Board have reviewed the comments from the Otsego County Planning Department and confirmed that the Planning Board did in fact consider the Otsego County agricultural maps and agricultural plan in its comprehensive plan update and summarized that information on pages 13 through 16 and on page 43 of Part 1 of the comprehensive plan update; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board conducted the public hearing on October 12, 2016 and heard comments on the plan from approximately 20 members of the public; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on December 14, 2016, the Town Board determined that adoption of the comprehensive plan constitutes a Type I action pursuant to SEQRA, completed the environmental review of the proposed comprehensive plan in accordance therewith, determined that the adoption of the comprehensive plan update would not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts, and issued a negative declaration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 14th day of December, 2016, by the Town Board of the Town of Otego, Otsego County, New York, as follows:

1. The Town Board hereby finds that the adoption of the proposed comprehensive plan update will promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the Town of Otego and will be in the best interests of the people of the Town of Otego.
2. In accordance with §272-a of the New York State Town Law, the Town Board hereby adopts the comprehensive plan dated July 13, 2016, effective immediately.
3. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to file a copy of the comprehensive plan in the Office of the Town Clerk, to post a copy on the Town's website, and to provide a copy of the comprehensive plan to the Otsego County Planning Department.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call that resulted as follows:

Councilperson Brown	Voted (absent)
Councilperson Sheldon	Voted yes
Councilperson Stanton	Voted yes
Supervisor Hurlburt	Voted yes

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted by a vote of 3-0.

CERTIFICATION FORM

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)ss.:
COUNTY OF OTSEGO)

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Town of Otego, in the County of Otsego, New York, DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

That a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Otego was duly called and held on the 14th day of December, 2016, at which the Resolution attached hereto was duly adopted by the Town Board, and that the attached Resolution is a true and correct copy of the proceeding as adopted by the Board.

That all members of the Town Board had due notice of said meeting and that the meeting was open to the public as required by section 103 of the Public Officers Law. Notice of the meeting was duly given prior thereto by publication and by posting.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Town seal this 14th day of December, 2016.



Maryalice Brown, Town Clerk

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Introduction

Comprehensive Planning for the Town of Otego

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan is an overall vision for future planning and community decisions. It serves as a local government's guide to community physical, social, and economic development. Comprehensive plans provide a foundation and rationale for local planning and land use decisions. Chapter 209 of the New York State Laws of 1993 amended the zoning-enabling statutes to define a "comprehensive plan" and provide an optional process for adopting one. Under these provisions a comprehensive plan:

“...means 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 town located outside the limits of any incorporated village or city.”¹

Early zoning-enabling laws were fashioned to balance community needs with individual property rights. Thus, drafters of the law required the actual regulations to be based on a logical and “comprehensive plan” for the betterment of the whole community. The comprehensive plan was to provide the means to connect the circumstances and the locality to the zoning law. It was, and is, insurance that the law bears a “reasonable relation between the end sought to be achieved by the regulation and the means used to achieve that end.”²

Court decisions further defined the relationship between land use laws and a comprehensive plan. The “courts have required the municipal governing body to zone in accordance with a land use policy which is in the interest of the overall community.”³ Town law has for some time now required that any new or amendments to land use laws be undertaken “in accord with a well considered plan”⁴ or “in accordance with a comprehensive plan.”⁵

¹ 1. Town Law, §272-a(2)(a); similar definitions exist for villages (Village Law, §7-722(2)(a)) and cities (General City Law, §28-a(3)(a)).

² 2. Bassett, Edward M., *Zoning: The Laws, Administration, and Court Decisions During the First Twenty Years* (1940) p. 23.

³ 3. Damsky, *supra* at 1295.

⁴ 4. Gen. City Law §20(25).

⁵ 5. Town Law §263; Village Law §7-704.

Comprehensive Planning in Rural Areas

Many rural communities are cautious when considering formal planning for the future. Some residents question its necessity. In today's economic and social environment, however, planning for the future is a necessity, and supported by the New York State Association of Towns and Department of State.

Until recently, many rural communities consisted mainly of farming and its supporting businesses. Industry and large commercial businesses were located in cities where the workers and consumers lived. The automobile and the growth of a road system allowed people to live further from work. As people moved further out of the cities, so did the commercial and municipal development required to support the residents. People could live further from work, and still get the necessary services. These suburban areas were perceived as ideal places to live and thus grew rapidly.

Eventually many towns and villages once considered rural were altered by migration from populated areas and lost their quaint, rural identity. Only the very rural areas were left as the last escape for people desiring an open environment in which to live; the Town of Otego is one such place.

In the past several decades, national demographic shifts and regional economic struggles have slowed local growth. In Otsego County, new development associated with baseball camps, potential development associated with mineral extraction, the services required of an aging population, and challenges associated with aging housing stock, all present situations that require communities to act responsibly in planning for their future.

Background of Otego's Comprehensive Plan

The first Town Comprehensive Plan, passed in 2011, was developed to provide some coordination of the various land use laws previously adopted by the Town, and to provide a pathway for future decisions related to the use of land and other community resources.

Recent developments in the community have made it necessary for the Town to take a hard look at all the current land use regulations and long term plans. Economic conditions, property values, school enrolment issues, infrastructure degradation and the potential extraction of natural gas have prompted an update of the Town's Plan.

The first comprehensive plan was written by the Town of Otego Planning Board at the request of the Town Board. The plan incorporated findings from a survey of town residents (See Appendix A). The Planning Board held a public hearing on July 5, 2011, which was well attended; town residents filled the main room of the municipal building and many people spoke. The Town of Otego Comprehensive Plan was reviewed by the Otsego County Planning Department and

approved for local action on August 23, 2011. The Town Board voted to accept the Comprehensive Plan on October 12, 2011, and the plan was adopted.

During the July 2011 public hearing, three issues were raised by citizens that were not addressed in the comprehensive plan in any way. They were: renewable energy, poor telecommunication infrastructure in most of the Town, and concerns about drilling for natural gas. The Town authorized a second survey in 2011 to assess community sentiment on these three issues. Details of the survey are provided in a full report in Appendix B.

The essential purpose of this comprehensive plan is to provide guidance for the future of the Town that supports developmental changes in a way that will not diminish or compromise the environment, resources, or services that we as a community have inherited and are entrusted to protect. To that end, this revised Comprehensive Plan for Otego, NY incorporates findings from the 2011 community survey as well as suggestions offered by the Otsego County Planning Department. It is intended to guide Town planning and governance for the next five years or until the next update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

This document is organized into three parts. **Part I** focuses on **community resources**. It describes the physical, historical, geographical, and human assets of the Town of Otego. **Part II** presents **goals, recommendations and action plans** for the near future. These include goals from the previous plan and incorporate new information from citizens living in the Town of Otego. **Part III** is an appendix of **references** for readers.

PART I: COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Town of Otego

Regional Setting

The Town of Otego is located in Otsego County along the Susquehanna River on the western edge of the Catskill Mountains. Albany is nearly 90 miles to the northeast, and Binghamton is about 50 miles to the southwest. Nearby are the City of Oneonta (8 miles) and the Village of Sidney (15 miles).⁶ Cooperstown, the county seat, is 30 miles to the northeast.

Otego is primarily rural with residents employed in many occupations, including business, arts, construction, agriculture, light industry, transportation, education, health care, service, and tourism (See Appendix for a full listing of industry and occupations for Otego residents). With its rolling hills and nearby lakes and rivers, the Susquehanna Valley is a prime area for outdoor sports. Area residents have the best of both worlds. Route 88 provides easy access to metropolitan Albany and the tri-city area of Binghamton. The area is home to the SUNY Colleges at Oneonta and Delhi. Hartwick College is also nearby. Local Hospitals are Bassett

⁶ Abstracted from the Unatego Central School District employee solicitation brochure, July 2007.

Hospital in Cooperstown and A.O. Fox Hospital in Oneonta. Professional and amateur theatre groups perform at the Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, the Orpheus Theatre in Oneonta, and in summer stock productions in Franklin. Cooperstown is home to the Baseball Hall of Fame and several other renowned museums. In recent years, Oneonta has become a regional shopping center, with a variety of national chain stores and many fine restaurants. The area's many educational, cultural, social, and recreational opportunities provide for a high quality of life.

History⁷

The Town of Otego, whose name comes from a Native American word meaning "where there is fire," is located in the southern part of Otsego County. It is located on the banks of the Susquehanna River, which flows along the south and eastern parts of the town. Otego Creek enters the Susquehanna River east of the eastern town line and the Otsdawa Creek flows southerly through the town and Village of Otego to the Susquehanna.

Except for a few Dutch and French explorers in the 1600's, the written history of Otego begins when the Wallace, Morris, and Reade Patents, which gave control of large tracks of unpopulated (by Europeans) land to wealthy colonial land speculators in the mid 1700's. It was not until after the Revolutionary War ended that settlement and political subdivision began in earnest.

The area around Otego was first settled by Europeans in the 1770's. The formation of the Township began with the issuing of three colonial Patents in 1770 that consisted of what is now the Town of Laurens, the greater portions of the Towns of Milford, Oneonta, Otego, and a small part of the Town of Morris.

"Old Otego" was formed in 1822. It was organized from the eastern part of Unadilla and a tier of lots on the south side of the river taken from Delaware County, and was initially called Huntsville and, for a brief period, Hamburg. The town of Otego did not achieve its present boundaries until 1830. In April 17, 1830, the present Town of Otego was formed from Huntsville, the western part of "Old Otego," and part of the Town of Milford. The eastern part of "Old Otego" became part of Oneonta. Otego remained under one municipal government until 1892 when the Village of Otego was incorporated. Since the eastern part of "Old Otego" became part of Oneonta the first records of the town (all those before 1830) are located in the office of the Oneonta Town Clerk.

The time between the War of 1812 and the Civil War was one of rapid growth and constant change in the township. Patent landowners found it more convenient to sell, rather than rent, their land and this, along with the reduction and elimination of property qualifications for voting and office holding, changed the political landscape. Political conservatives, the Jeffersonian Democrats, started losing ground to the more progressive Whig Party and later Republican Party.

⁷ "The Sherriff (1861-1863)" by Helen Groves

The northern part of the county had more cash crop tenant farms and tended to be more politically conservative. These differences would become even more divisive later on.

The farms that spread up the creeks were not the isolated, self-sufficient ones you might associate with a frontier, but a thickly settled rural landscape that either produced or processed cash crops in addition to their food and shelter. Every valley creek had water-powered lumber and grist and wool cloth mills in addition to asheries (for producing lye to make soap). There were at least five distilleries, plus blacksmiths, coopers, creameries, and tanneries. These facilities increased the value of local crops, preserved perishables and provided a source of cash income to purchase other goods.

The hamlet of Hamburg also expanded its commercial scope. The Otego Bicentennial History describes it in this way:

A record of 1822 says that Hamburg was "a busy, thriving little place founded in 1810." It had two mills, two stores, 24 dwellings, a post office, a schoolhouse and several mechanic shops. After 1822 the town became Huntsville. In 1835 Otego had three taverns, a schoolhouse and 35 dwellings. In 1842 it had three taverns, four stores, three churches, two blacksmith shops, four other shops, two doctors, 65 buildings and about 300 inhabitants.

In 1842 the hamlet of Otsdawa had a store, a tannery, a fulling (wool finishing) mill, two saw mills, and about 20 dwellings."

The township was too far from mass transport of the time, the Erie Canal and railroads, to export cash crops in any meaningful amount or distance, but that would change after the Civil War with the arrival of the railroad.

When the Civil War began, some local men enlisted right away, but the largest number responded to Lincoln's call for volunteers in the summer of 1862. Two regiments were raised with significant numbers of Otsego County men, the 121st and 152nd New York Volunteer Infantry Regiments. Many others would be credited to a variety of units as replacements for the losses suffered during the war. Almost 400 Otsego County men died in the war.

The 121st was known as "Upton's Regulars" after its colonel, Emory Upton, and because its training and battlefield performance was that of regular U.S. Army units. Support for the war was not unanimous and officers were in regular correspondence with County Sheriff Andrew Adrian Mather⁸ to be on the lookout for deserters and draft dodgers and the "copperheads," Democrats who encouraged or hid them. Mather is known to have made several trips to Otego and the southern part of the county.

⁸ S. Banyar, Upton Regulars, private documents from Helen Groves, Historian.

The Albany and Susquehanna Railroad came through the town in January of 1866. With access to distant markets, dairy and hops farming became major cash crops. The hamlet of Otego grew rapidly and became an incorporated village in 1892. By the turn of the 20th century, it boasted a weekly newspaper, four hotels, an opera house, and shops, mills, and factories.

Change continued rapidly into the 20th century. State Route 7 was paved; automobiles and telephones changed everyday life. The economic strains of the WWI and the Great Depression were felt in rural and village life. Electrification, which did not begin until the mid 1930's, would eventually spell the end of small dairy farms as ten-gallon cans were replaced in the 1960's with refrigerated bulk tanks and tanker trucks. Small farms were rented or bought by neighbors with capital to expand. Less productive farms reverted to woods after the road frontage was sold for building lots.

Demographics⁹

The Town of Otego is home to over 3,000 citizens. The population is somewhat evenly divided by gender, with slightly more females (51.5%). The greatest numbers of residents are working-age adults; 40% of residents are between 25 and 54 years of age and an additional 14% are between 55 and 64 years old. Children under 19 account for 772 or nearly 25% of residents and senior citizens make up 15.6% of the population.

Census 2000 and 2010 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100- Percent Data	Census 2000 (SF-1)		Census 2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total population	3,183	100	3,115	100
SEX AND AGE				
Male	1,534	48.2	1,510	48.5
Female	1,649	51.8	1,605	51.5
Under 5 years	167	5.2	170	5.5
5 to 9 years	220	6.9	200	6.4
10 to 14 years	307	9.6	192	6.2
15 to 19 years	225	7.1	210	6.7
20 to 24 years	130	4.1	151	4.8
25 to 34 years	349	11	311	10
35 to 44 years	512	16.1	408	12.8
45 to 54 years	483	15.2	540	17.3
55 to 59 years	219	6.9	235	7.5
60 to 64 years	120	3.8	223	7.2
65 to 74 years	229	7.2	283	9.1
75 to 84 years	173	5.4	152	4.9
85 years and over	49	1.5	50	1.6

⁹ Data below combines Village and Town. See Appendix C for breakdown by Village and Town.

Median age (years)	39.1	(X)	42.9	(X)
18 years and over	2,323	73	2,409	77.3
21 years and over	2,234	70.2	2,306	74
62 years and over	519	16.3	599	19.2
65 years and over	451	14.2	485	15.6

Recent population trends

According to Census data, the past two decades show some changes in the overall population. In 2010, there were 68 fewer individuals in the Town of Otego compared to 2000, which is a reverse of a population increase of 55 individuals between 1990 and 2000. Thus, overall population changes over the last twenty years have been modest, with a total difference of 13 individuals or 0.4% fewer people between 1990 and 2010. Population changes in specific age groups are important to note, however, and reflect national trends of an aging population, more single-person households, and a higher rate of individuals who identify as non-white or mixed-heritage. These data include Village residents, which under state law are also considered residents of the Town as well.

The distribution across age groups in the Town of Otego is similar to the rest of New York State. Children under 5 are roughly 6% of the population in Otego and statewide, though there is a smaller percent in nearby Oneonta. All children under 18 are close to 22% of the population in the State and in Otego as well. Otego has slightly greater the rate of persons over 65, 15.6% compared to the State rate of 13.5%.

People QuickFacts 2010	New York State	City of Oneonta	Town of Otego
Persons under 5 years	6.00%	3.10%	5.50%
Persons under 18 years	22.30%	10.80%	22.70%
Persons 65 years and over	13.50%	10.40%	15.60%

Median Age: The Median Age is a figure that has half of the population both above and below it. The median age has increased from 34.6 in 1990 to 42.9 in 2010. The increase is a result of the loss of younger residents and the increase of older residents, and reflects national trends as the large cohort of baby boomers reach their senior years.

Households and Household Size: The last ten years saw an increase in the number of households in Otego, particularly in non-family households and single-family households, and a decrease in the number of homes with children under 18. Household size averaged 3.09 in 1990, 2.93 in 2000 and further decreased to 2.87 in 2010, reflecting not only fewer numbers of children in families but also an increase in families with only two individuals, including married couples and single parents.

Households	Census 2000 (SF-1)		Census 2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
With own children under 18	417	33.8	338	26.3
Non-family households	359	29.1	418	32.5
Householder living alone	271	22	335	26.1

Family Size				Change 1990 - 2000		Change 2000 - 2010		Change 1990 - 2010	
	1990	2000	2010	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Average Family size	3.09	2.93	2.87	-0.16		-0.06		-0.22	
Households	1,139	1234	1285	95	8.3%	51	4.1%	146	12.8%

Increased diversity: Racial diversity is slightly higher in Otego in 2010 than in 2000, with a greater percent of residents identifying as having more than one race, an over 1% increase in the rate of residents identifying as having two or more racial identities, and slightly fewer identifying as white-only.

RACE AND IDENTITY	Census 2000: Percent	Census 2010: Percent
One race	99.4	97.8
White	97.5	96
Two or more races	0.6	1.7

Natural Resources Inventory

A map of the existing environmental resources provides a starting point for evaluating where and what type of development should be encouraged or limited within the Town. Steep slopes, floodplains, aquifers, and protected streams are each elements that can affect the development potential of land.

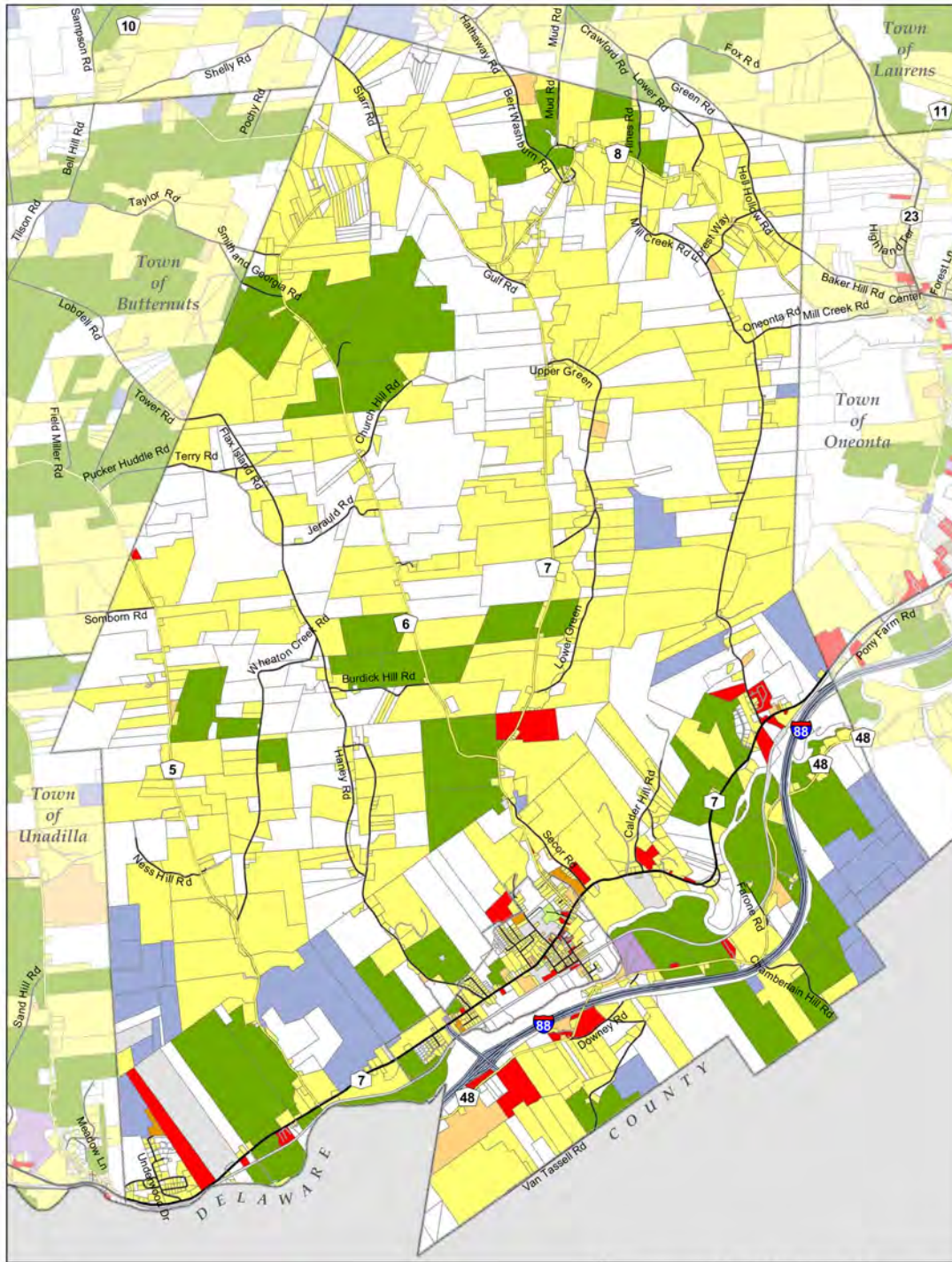
The Town lies within the Susquehanna River Basin and watershed. A watershed is a geographic area that is drained by, or contributing to, a stream, lake, or other primary body of water. Approximately 28 miles of state classified Trout and Trout Spawning Waters run through the Town.

Land Use

Land use maps show how people use the landscape – whether for development, conservation, or agriculture. Land use can be determined through real property records and by conducting field surveys and observation.

Current land use information enables communities to identify existing land use patterns to make better informed decisions concerning proposed land uses, development of suitability analyses, and comprehensive planning. This map provides a static picture of development patterns based on available Otsego County data as of 2012 and may be used as a benchmark for future land use analysis.

(Adopted from Natural Resource Inventory of the Town of Oneonta, New York July 2012 by Otsego County Conservation Association.)



Legend

Property Use (by assessment class)

- | | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural | Commercial |
| Residential - Single Unit | Entertainment & Recreation |
| Residential - Multi Unit | Community and Public Services |
| Residential - Multi purpose | Industrial |
| Vacant | Public Parks and Forest Lands |
| | Private Forest and Conservation Land |

TOWN OF OTEGO LAND USE

OTSEGO COUNTY

NEW YORK



Prepared by:
Otsego County
Planning Department
197 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY
13326

Date: March 7, 2011
Scale in Miles
0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1

SHEET 1 OF 1

Prepared By: BAE Date: March 7, 2011
File Path/Name: \\GIS\GIS\GIS\MapData\OTsego\OTsego Land Use.mxd
Data Path/Name: \\GIS\GIS\GIS\MapData\OTsego\OTsego Land Use.mxd
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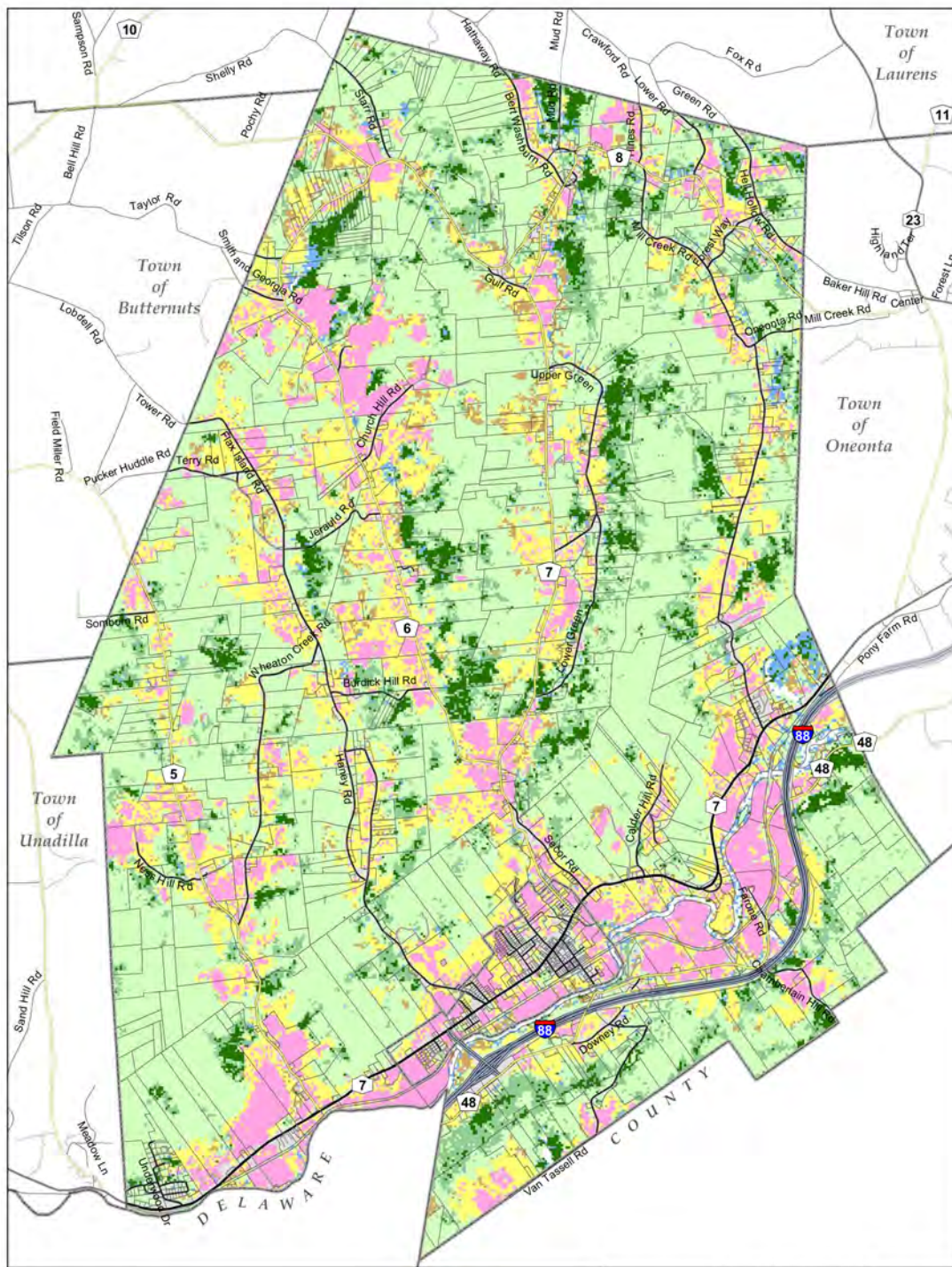
Land Cover (2011 Imagery)

Land cover documents how much of a region is covered by forests, wetlands, impervious surfaces, agriculture, and other land and water types. Land cover can be determined by analyzing satellite and aerial imagery, and can provide information to help managers best understand the current landscape. In order to see change over time, land cover maps for several different years or even decades are needed. With this information, managers can evaluate past management decisions as well as gain insight into the possible effects of their current decisions before they are implemented.

Upland forests are of several types, including widespread native forests of the hemlock/white pine/northern hardwoods type. The Town includes naturally reforesting hayfields and pastures, where the pioneer tree species include white pine, hawthorn, quaking aspen, big tooth poplar, red maple, gray birch, black birch, black cherry, and serviceberry. Nesting birds of the upland forests include a diverse range of species. Hemlock gorges have a special subset of nesting species including black-throated green warblers, blue-headed vireos, and Blackburnian warblers.

There are many open lands in the Town of Otego. These provide habitats such as hayfields, pastures, orchards, cornfields, and the early stages of natural reforestation. These form when agriculture or mowing stops and the trees re-grow. Hayfields, both in the valley bottom and in the uplands, are critically important habitat diverse species of grass-nesting birds such as meadowlark and savanna sparrow. The Town's pastures and orchards are relatively open habitats with scattered trees. They boast quite a different bird fauna than pure grasslands; here are found such species as eastern bluebird, American robin, song sparrow, Baltimore oriole, and common yellowthroat. Naturally reforesting pastures and hayfields provide scrubby, semi-open habitats favored by indigo buntings, field sparrows, chestnut-sided warblers, woodcocks, and the monarch butterfly, together with some of the pasture and orchard species listed above. Birds of prey include broad-winged, red-shouldered, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks that favor upland forests, as do great horned, barred and screech owls. Red-tailed hawks, kestrels and harriers frequent the more open habitats, and bald eagles fish and sometimes nest along a number of the creeks in the Town. In winter, rough-legged hawks and occasional golden eagles may be found hunting in pastures, reforesting fields and forest openings.

The various habitats of the Town of Otego are home to many wild mammals, including conspicuous types like white-tailed deer, red fox, coyote, raccoon, skunk, opossum, beaver, muskrat, woodchuck and small rodents, and more reclusive species such as gray fox, fisher, mink, short-tailed weasel, and bobcat. Otter and an occasional, probably transient, black bear may also be found.



Otsego Land Cover

- Shrubland
- Mixed Forest
- Wetlands
- Pasture or Idle Cropland
- Evergreen Forest
- Deciduous Forest
- Developed
- Crops (Alfalfa, Corn, Etc)

Note:
Data Source: 2011 USDA NASS, NLCD

TOWN OF OTSEGO LAND COVER

OTSEGO COUNTY

NEW YORK

Prepared by:
**Otsego County
Planning Department**
197 Main Street
Coopersstown, NY
13326

Date: March 7, 2011
Scale in Miles
0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1

SHEET 1 OF 1

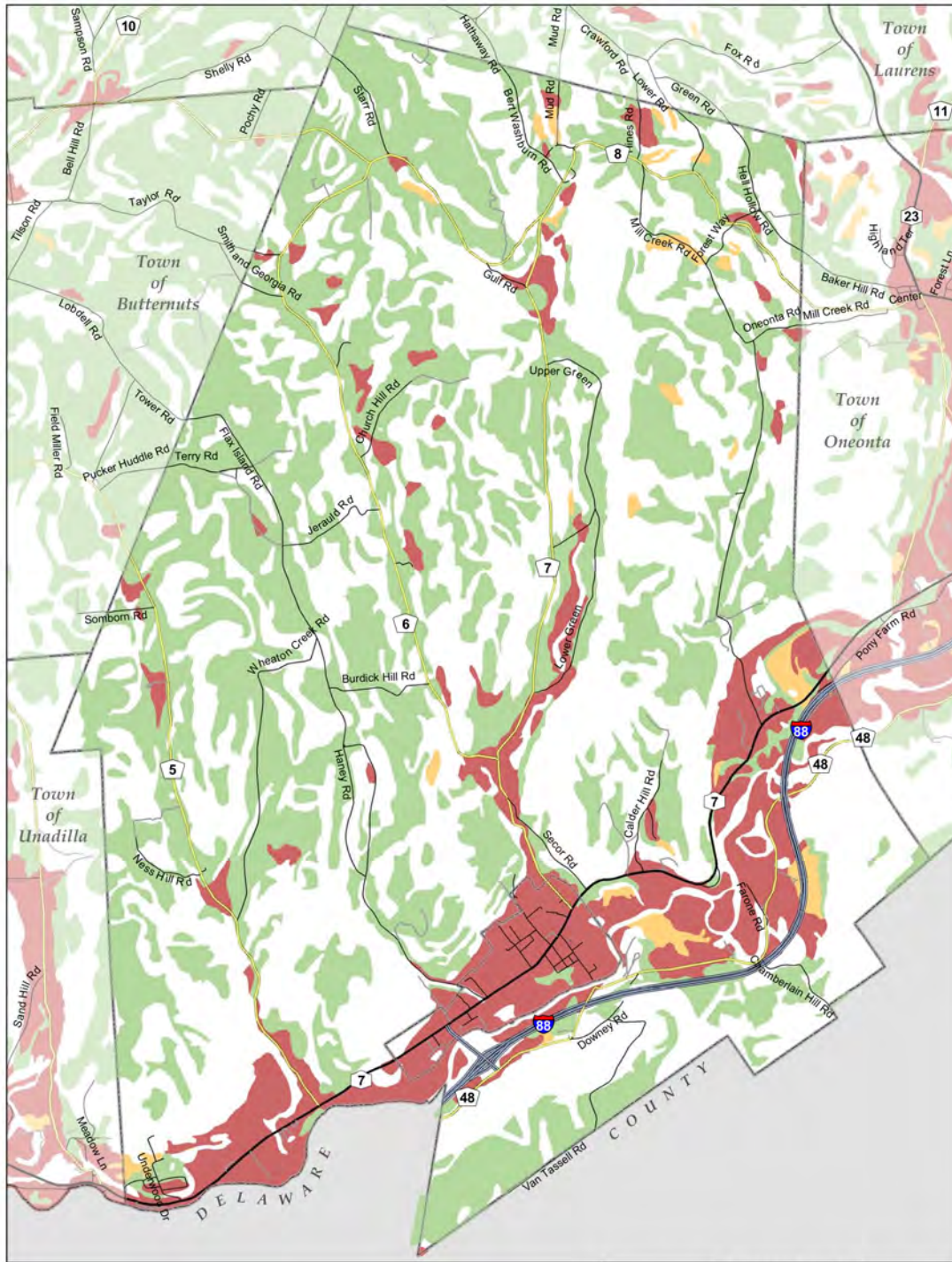
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Agricultural Soils

Soils are a mixture of mineral particles, organic matter, water, and air. Soils are usually described in terms of their texture, e.g. sand, silt, and clay. Soils affect a variety of human activities from agriculture to the engineering and construction of roads, buildings, and septic systems. Soils are critical in determining the productivity and viability of agricultural operations.

Prime Farmland is land with soils that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) understands to have the best combination of physical and chemical factors for agricultural production. The second highest classification of agricultural soil is Farmland of Statewide Significance. According to the USDA, these soils are not as productive as Prime Farmland, but if managed according to sound agricultural practices these soils can produce fair-to-good yields.

This map shows farmland soils in the Town of Otego. Note that the Village of Otego sits atop one of the largest patches of Prime Farmland in the town.



Legend

- Prime Farmland Soils
- Prime Farmland Soils - if drained
- Farmland Soils of Statewide Importance (as defined by NRCS)

TOWN OF OTEGO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS AND SOILS

OTSEGO COUNTY

NEW YORK



Prepared by:
Otsego County
Planning Department
197 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY
13326

Date: January 14, 2018
Scale in Miles
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8

SHEET 1 OF 1

Prepared By: EAM Date: January 14, 2018
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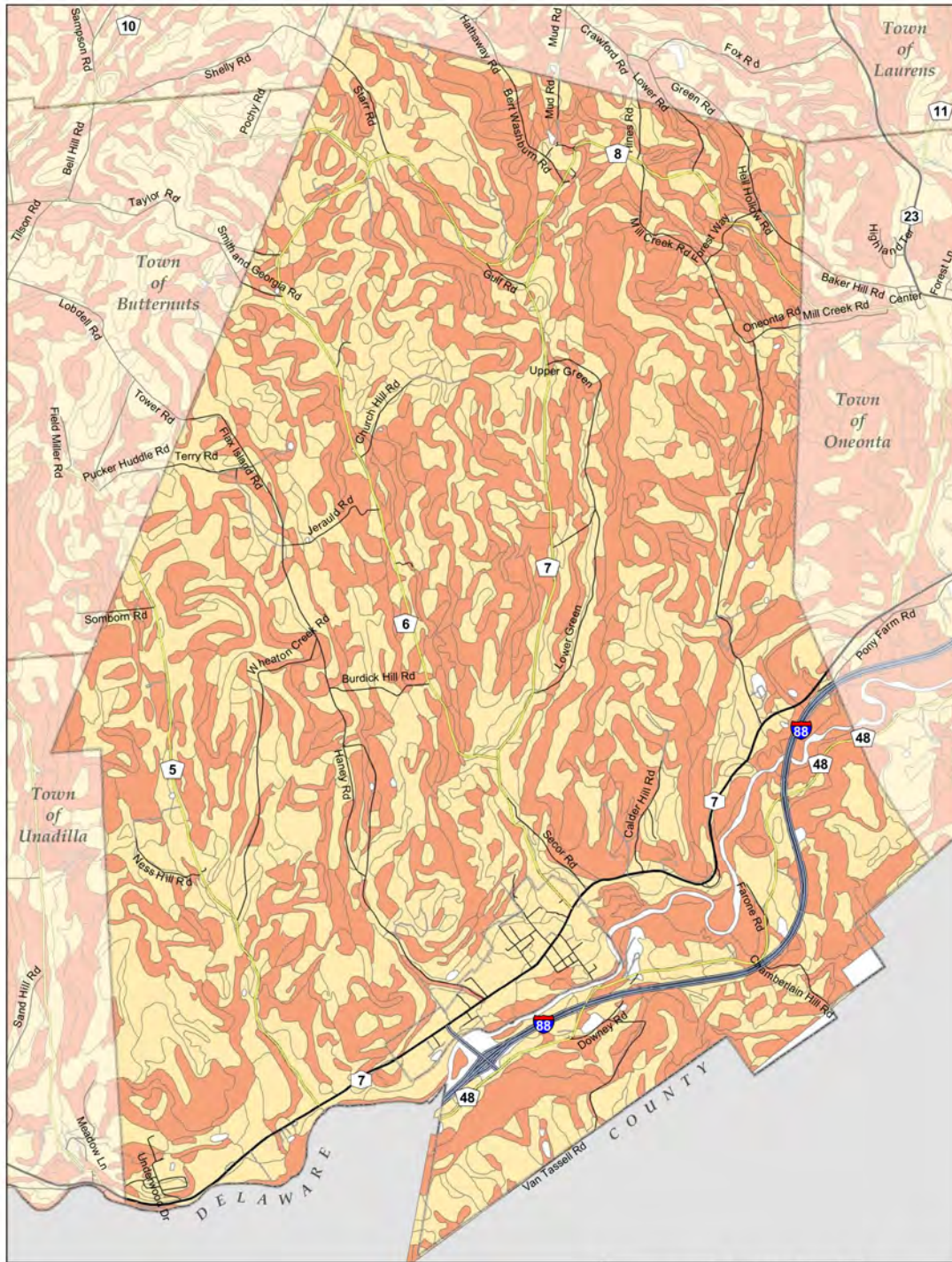
Agricultural Enterprises

Unlike Agricultural Soils, which classifies soils as prime or statewide significance for agriculture, Agricultural Enterprises shows details of specific agricultural activity within the Town of Otego. Agricultural Enterprises are derived from parcel attributes maintained by the Otsego County Office of Real Property Tax Services – and should be updated regularly by the Town of Otego assessor. Additionally, the Map of Agricultural Enterprises shows parcels currently enrolled in an Agricultural District.

This map clearly shows a large portion of vacant productive agricultural land and parcels in the agricultural district that appear to be out of production.

Septic Suitability of Soils

All septic systems require a percolation test and siting of a drainage system. Implications for planning development on soils with very limited ability to handle septic effluent are profound and may require engineered systems to limit pollution. The following map classification likely emanates from the soil survey. The noteworthy pattern is that there are virtually no “unlimited” soils and quite a bit of “very limited” soils across the Town of Otego.



Legend

Soils : Septic Absorption Field Suitability

- Somewhat limited
- Very limited

TOWN OF OTEGO SOILS : SEPTIC SUITABILITY	
OTSEGO COUNTY Prepared by: Otsego County Planning Department 197 Main Street Cooperstown, NY 13326	NEW YORK <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Scale in Miles </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">SHEET 1 OF 1</div>
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Erodibility

The erodibility of a soil is an expression of its inherent resistance to particle detachment (degradation) and transport by rainfall (erosion). It is determined by the cohesive force between the soil particles and may vary depending on the presence or absence of plant cover, the soil water content and the development of soil structure. When calculating the degree of erodibility of a soil, several things are taken into account, including silt content, very fine sand content, and organic matter content, as well as the structure of the surface layer and the permeability of the profile.

This map shows a high degree of erodibility in the upper portions of the drainage system in the Town.

Steep Slopes

Steep slopes are defined by the degree of their grade, with three categories: 1) 0-10% grade = Gradual; 2) 10% - 15% = Moderate and 3) 15% + grade = Steep. When steep slopes are disturbed by removing vegetation and developing the hillside, significant issues can arise. Such activity can often cause more problems than the benefits provided. It is important that municipal planning boards consider the consequences of building on a slope above 10% grade before allowing development. Potential consequences can include increased erosion, landslides, and sedimentation. It is also more difficult to control fires on sloped land, and is difficult for emergency vehicles to access development on steep hillsides.¹⁰

Specifically, disturbing steep slopes can:

- 1) Create Hazards: There is increased potential for roads and driveways to wash out on steep slopes. Steep slopes can cause a lack of emergency vehicle access. Increased car accidents can occur on icy sloped roads.
- 2) Damage Property: Erosion or landslide damage can occur to homes and property on or downhill of steep slopes. Increased runoff and sediment can damage downhill property and contribute to stream instability, resulting in stream bank erosion damage.
- 3) Cause Water Pollution: Steep slopes can cause an increased potential for erosion. There can also be increased transport of polluted runoff due to fewer opportunities for pollutants to settle or be filtered out by vegetation. Slope can also cause increased potential for septic system failure. These consequences result in increased costs for residents and taxpayers. The costs that local governments may incur as a result of steep slope development include:

- Need for additional emergency vehicles capable of climbing steep slopes.
- Road repair costs when runoff issues cause roads to wash out.
- Additional maintenance of roadside culverts and ditches due to runoff issues.
- Increased stream maintenance costs.
- High costs for extending infrastructure. Sewer and water systems are especially difficult and expensive to engineer on steep slopes.

Protecting steep slopes preserves the natural scenic beauty. The Town of Otego is characterized by flat river valleys such as those along Otsdawa Creek and the Susquehanna River, rolling hills, and areas of steep slopes (25% or higher) surrounding higher elevations. Note that the roads tend to follow routes with few slopes. As indicated by road density, most land development in the town has occurred in non-sloping areas.¹¹

¹⁰Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board, (February 2012). “Steep Slopes and Land Use Decisions: Guidance for planning boards to consider steep slopes in land use decisions”

¹¹ ibid (2001). “Susquehanna-Chemung Action Plan”.



Legend

Contour20ft_smooth

500

100

Slopes: 15% to 25%

Slopes: Greater than 25%

TOWN OF OTEGO

SLOPE AND TOPOGRAPHY

OTSEGO COUNTY

NEW YORK

Prepared by:
Otsego County
Planning Department
197 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY
13326

Date: March 7, 2013

Scale in Miles
0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2

SHEET 1 OF 1

Prepared By: EAD
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Surface (Surficial) Geology

Surficial geology describes the rocks and unconsolidated materials that lie between the bedrock and the surface of the land, and the inorganic material that makes up the soil. Surface geology is important because the characteristics of materials below the earth's surface influence the feasibility of constructing buildings and roads. Surficial deposits commonly determine soil composition and, therefore affect agricultural productivity.

The vast majority of the surficial geology in the Town of Otego is made up of glacial till, an unsorted mixture of sand, silt, clay, and rock fragments. The depth of this material varies from a just a few inches on some hilltops to several hundred feet on the toeslopes of some valleys. The surface geology is different and more diverse along the Susquehanna River floodplain.

Types of Surficial Geology:

Alluvium: Alluvium consists of modern river deposits and is less suitable for development due to flood potential and a high water table.

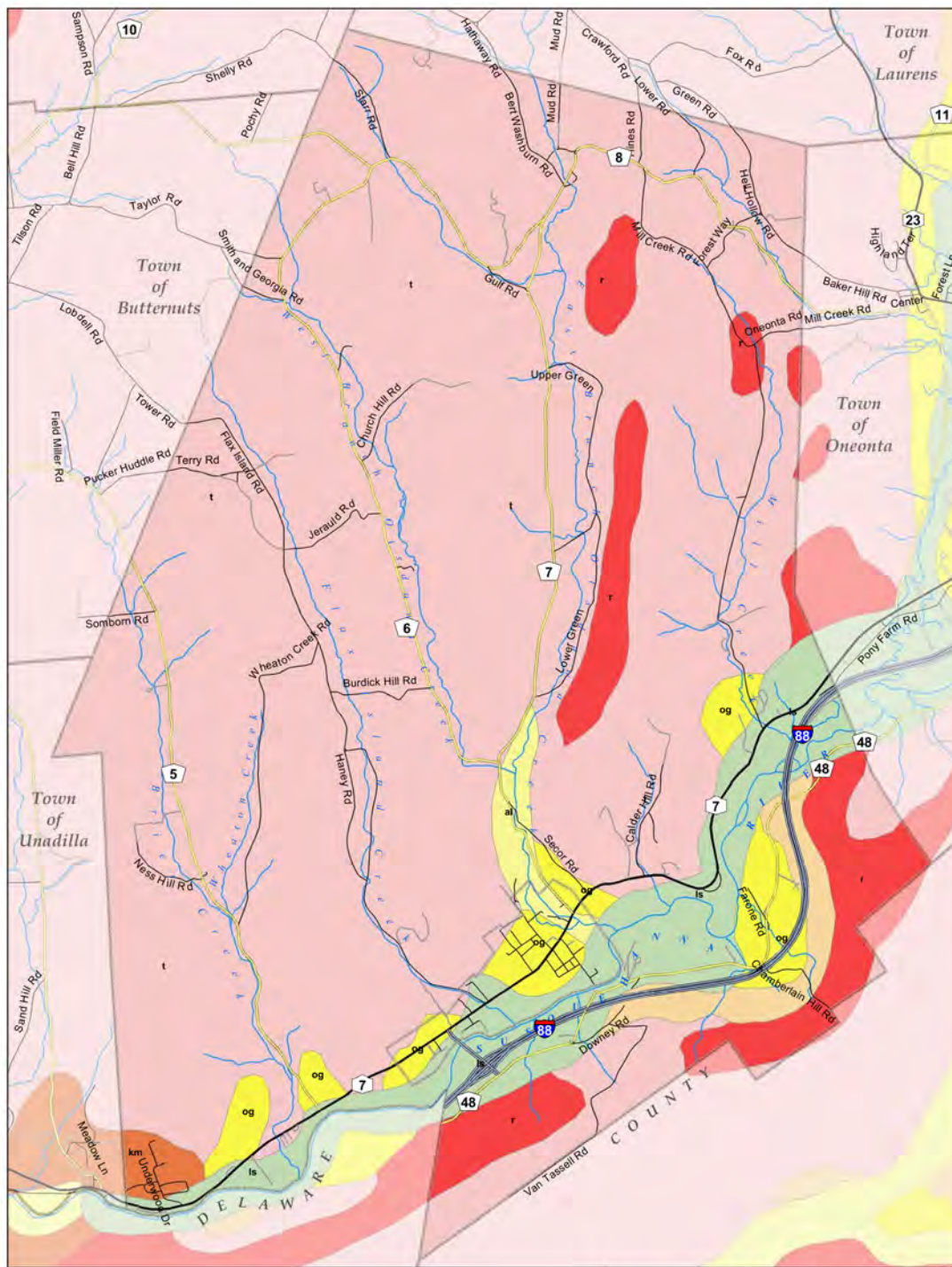
Kames: Kames are sediments deposited in water in direct contact with a glacier. Often these are ponds on the glacier as the ice melts away.

Lacustrine Sands: Lacustrine sands are usually silt and fine sand deposited into a lake. These lakes often form at glacial margins.

Outwash Deposits: Outwash consists of deposits by melting water streams during glacial retreat.

Glacial Till: Glacial till consists of sediment deposited directly onto the land surface from ice.

Of the soils mentioned above, kame (mound- or hill-like glacial deposits consisting of stratified sand and gravel) and outwash soils are the most suited to development, owing to favorable characteristics, such as depth to groundwater, compaction, and drainage characteristics. Outwash soils, however, may occur in groundwater recharge areas. Alluvial soils are the least suited to development; these soils have high water tables and usually occur in areas subject to routine flooding. Glacial till soils can present development challenges as well as opportunities, depending upon depth and drainage characteristics.



- Legend**
- Surficial Geology**
- Material**
- al - recent deposits
 - all - alluvial fan
 - co - colluvium
 - col - colluvial fan
 - pm - swamp deposits
 - d - dunes
 - lb - lacustrine beach
 - ld - lacustrine delta
 - lsc - lacustrine silt & clay
 - ls - lacustrine sand
 - og - outwash sand & gravel
 - fg - fluvial gravel
 - fds - fluvial deltaic deposits
 - k - kame deposits
 - km - kame moraine
 - tm - till moraine
 - t - fill
 - udc - undifferentiated drift complex
 - r - rock

TOWN OF OTEGO SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

OTSEGO COUNTY

Prepared by:
**Otsego County
Planning Department**
197 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY
13326

NEW YORK

Scale in Miles
0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2

SHEET 1 OF 1

Prepared By: EAM Date: March 7, 2013
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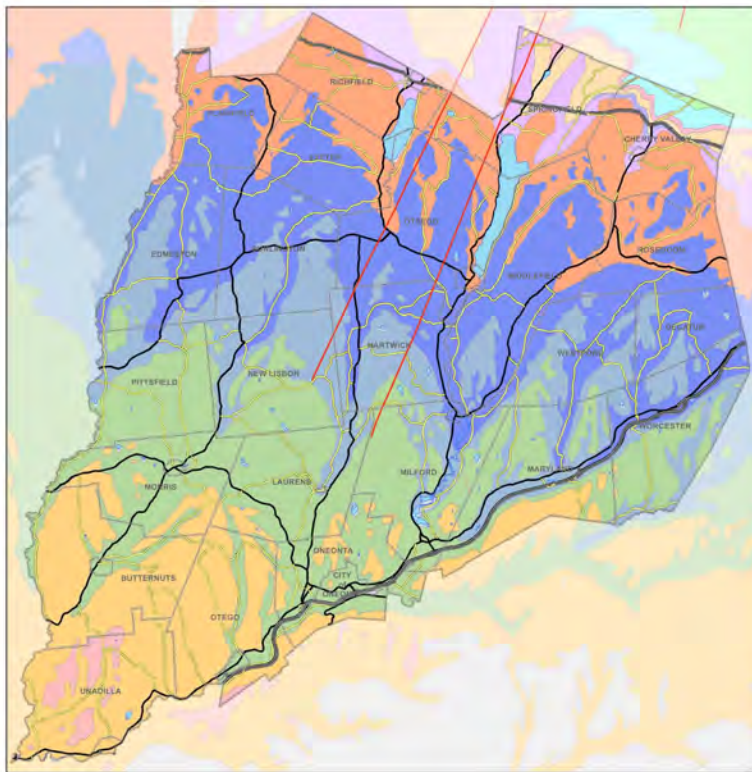
Bedrock Geology

Bedrock geology describes the basic rock formations that underlie soils and unconsolidated materials. Bedrock occasionally protrudes through these materials or may be exposed alongside roads and creek beds. These rocks, formed millions of years ago, constitute the foundation of materials and topography in a region. Depending on the type of rock and its susceptibility to forces such as erosion and glaciation, bedrock will often determine the path of moving water such as rivers and streams. Understanding the patterns of drainage systems can help civil engineers determine the placement of new buildings and cities.

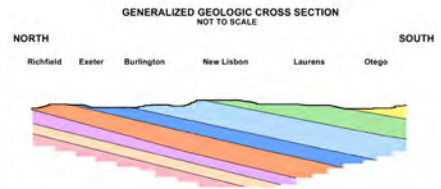
The Town of Otego rests on the Appalachian plateau in central New York. The plateau is gently etched with rivers that drain south to the Susquehanna River, and ultimately to Chesapeake Bay. Devonian age sedimentary rocks (407 to 385 million years old) underlie the area. These sediments were deposited into a mostly marine setting, which started off as a shallow warm sea. Onondaga limestone was deposited, then experienced a large influx of terrestrial mud from the erosion of mountains that lay to the east (Marcellus, Panther Mountain, Moscow, Oneonta, and Unadilla formations), and sediments from this event are known as the Catskill delta. The seas gradually waned, and retreated during Oneonta Formation time.

In Otego, two main bedrock geological formations are exposed: the Oneonta (younger) and Unadilla (older). The Unadilla commonly shows thin sandstone beds with brachiopod fossil imprints and ripple marks. These features imply a shallow marine setting for the deposition of the layers. The layers of the Oneonta Formation are often reddish, and fossils of tree roots are common. The reddish (oxidized) character and the presence of trees imply a terrestrial setting. Thus, sea levels were falling, or the continent was rising during Oneonta formation time. There are younger formations that overlie the Oneonta (the Sonyea group of sedimentary layers), but most of the deposition of the bedrock sediment was complete by the end of the Devonian, about 360 million years ago. About 2 million years ago, glaciers from Canada repeatedly advanced over the area, and further sculpted the valleys, and buried much of the lower valley floors during the last glacial retreat, about 13 to 14,000 years ago. The glaciers scoured depressions into some of the uplands, and these basins were later filled with lakes, ponds and bogs after the glaciers retreated.

Numerous geologic faults are confirmed in Otsego County. These are portrayed on a map developed by geologist Robert Jacobi (see Appendix X). These are faults characterized by very sporadic seismic activity. In Otsego County, numerous Northwest-trending magnetic and topographic faults can be found. These kind of fault lines are found throughout the Appalachian Plateau. Jacobi documents the epicenters of three seismic events in eastern Otsego County as being located on the Northeast-trending E97 lineament and gravity gradient that mark the Susquehanna. Faults are known pathways for gases and sometimes liquids to move through rock formations.



- Legend**
- Subsurface Fault
 - Bedrock at Surface**
 - Catskill Shale
 - Oneonta Formation
 - Unadilla Formation
 - Moscow Formation
 - Panther Mt Formation
 - Ludlowville Formation
 - Marcellus Formation
 - Onondaga Limestone
 - Oriskany Sandstone
 - Port Ewen Formation
 - Cobleskill Limestone
 - Rochester Shale
 - Frankfort Formation
 - Ulrica Shale



Data Sources:
Bedrock Geology,
Hudson Mohawk Sheet
NYS Museum Map and Chart
Series No. 15
Preliminary Brittle Structure Map
of New York
NYS Museum Map and Chart
Series No. 31

**COUNTY OF OTSEGO
BEDROCK GEOLOGY**

OTSEGO COUNTY **NEW YORK**

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Prepared for:
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Planning Department
197 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY
13326

Date: 10/1/2011

Scale in Miles
0 0.9 1.8 2.7 3.6 4.5

SHEET 11 OF 11

Faults and Seismic Activity¹²

The geology of New York State includes several Ordovician-aged and other faults, including Alleghanian folds and other commonly acknowledged faults; there are up to ten known faults in New York State. These are part of the Appalachian Basin portion of New York State.

Many of these faults are basement faults. The adjacent map shows these faults, numbered 1 through 10, and recorded earthquake magnitudes in and around New York State.

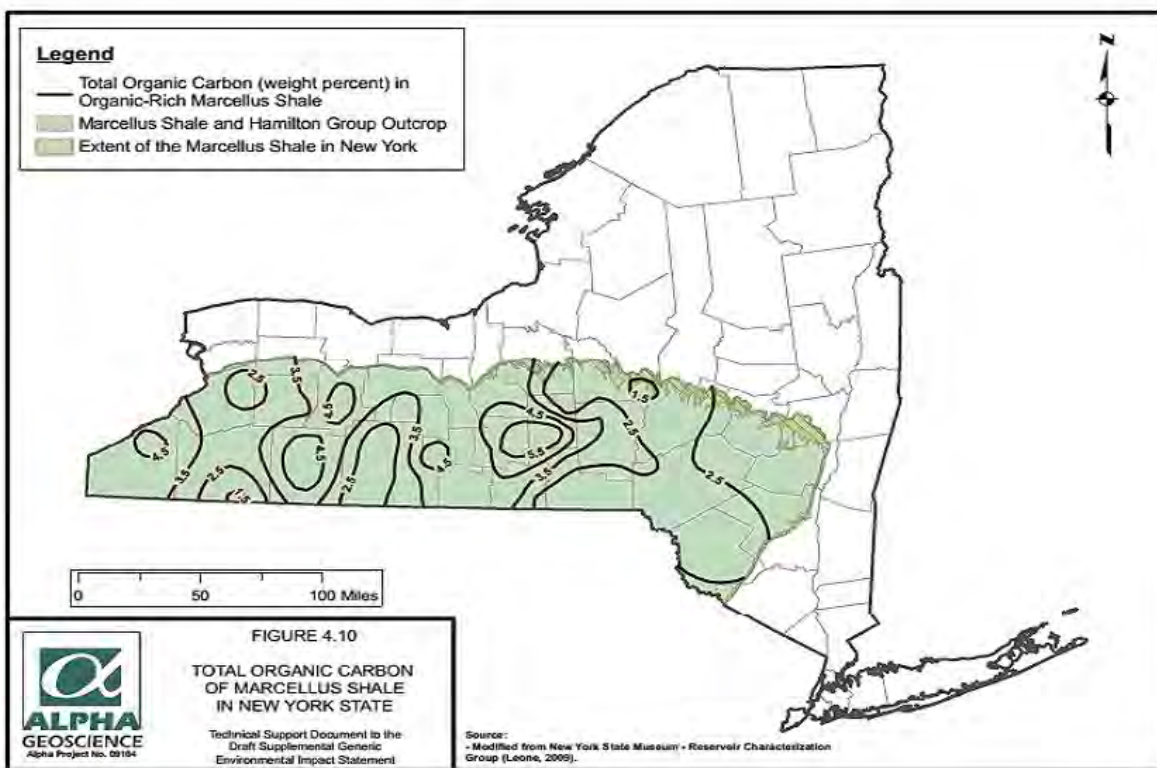
Otsego County is home to fault #10 on the map.

¹² Source: R.D. Jacobi. "Basement faults and seismicity in the Appalachian Basin of New York State." *Tectonophysics* 353 (2002) 75-113

Natural Gas Resources

The Town of Otego sits over one or more strata of natural gas bearing rock. The Marcellus and the Utica formations, which extend over multiple states, are both considered tight shales. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation states that “Geologists estimate that the entire Marcellus Shale formation may contain up to 489 trillion cubic feet of natural gas throughout its entire extent.¹³” Figure 4.10 shows the aerial distribution of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) in the Marcellus Shale based on the analysis of drill cuttings sample data. TOC generally ranges between 2.5 and 5.5 percent, with the highest levels in the central portion of the state.

Some states, including neighboring Pennsylvania and Ohio, have extracted natural gas resources from shale deposits using a high volume hydraulic fracturing process. However, New York State banned high volume hydraulic fracturing due to significant public health risks. Following a December 17, 2014 press release in which Acting Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker recommended that high-volume hydraulic fracturing should not move forward in New York State,¹⁴ Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens issued a legally binding statement to prohibit HVHF in New York State, effective June, 2015.¹⁵



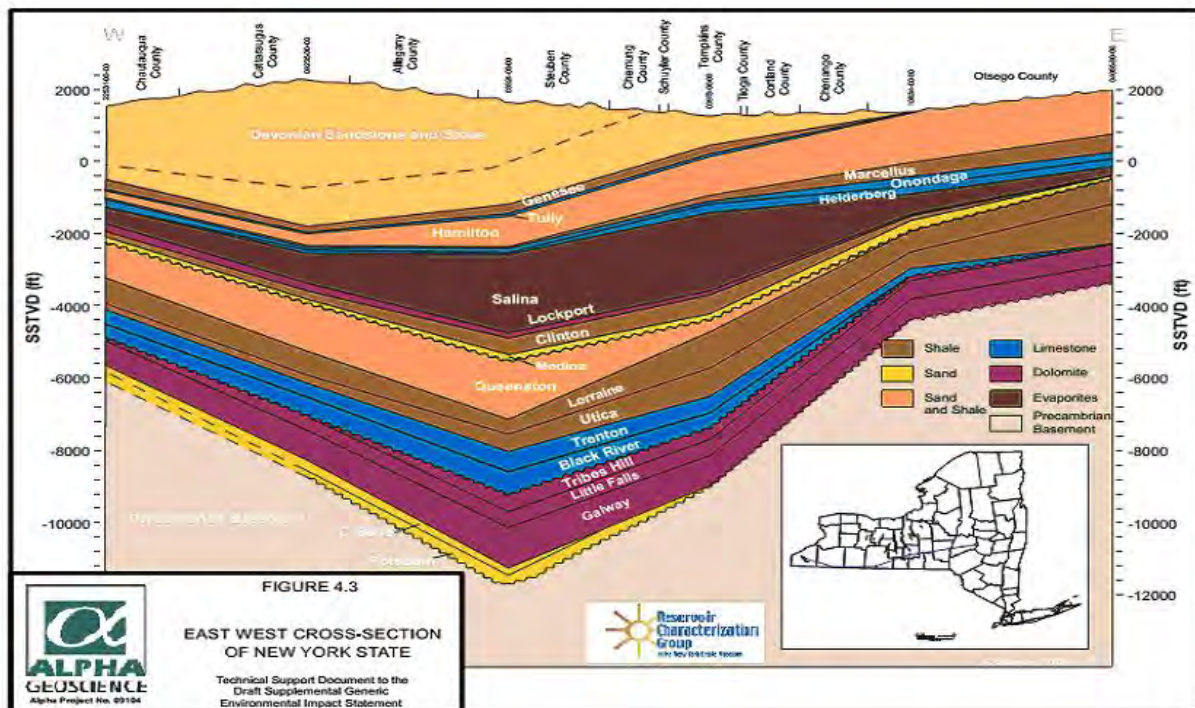
Revised Draft SGEIS 2011, Page 4-20

¹³ See DEC website, extracted July 14, 2014 from <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/46288.html>

¹⁴ See DEC website, extracted November 17, 2015 from <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/100055.html>

¹⁵ See DEC website, extracted November 17, 2015 from <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html>

Figure 4.3 is a generalized cross-section from west to east across the southern tier of New York State and shows the variation in thickness and depth of the different stratigraphic units. This figure was initially developed by the Reservoir Characterization Group of the New York State Museum.



Significant Natural Communities

By definition in State law, significant natural communities include rare or high-quality wetlands, forests, grasslands, ponds, streams, and other types of habitats, ecosystems, and ecological areas. According to the NYSDEC, there are no statewide-defined significant natural communities mapped within the Town of Otego.



Town of Otego- Land Cover Map
2006 National Land Cover Dataset

0 1 2 Miles

Map by Teresa DeSantis February, 2014

Watersheds, Flood Zones and Aquifers

Watersheds:

A watershed is the land area that contributes water to a given point, such as a stream or lake. Eventually all surface water, some groundwater resources, and precipitation falling within the watershed drain into a single receiving water body such as a river, lake or wetland. Watersheds exist at various scales within a hierarchical structure. Gullies and ravines trickle into streams, which in turn feed into larger streams or rivers. Each of these water bodies drains its own particular watershed so that larger watersheds are comprised of several smaller ones. A watershed boundary is usually delineated by connecting the highest elevation points in the area. Land use in a particular area is often determined by the availability of reliable water supplies, and in developed areas the single most important determinant of the quality and quantity of local water resources is land use. Because of this dynamic relationship between water and land use, the characteristics of the entire watershed must be considered when addressing water quality and water quantity issues, including such factors as the amount of impervious surfaces and effectiveness of local land management practices. Additionally, the critical influence and impact of water on important ecological and economic systems (such as provision of drinking water, flood impacts, recreation, and future economic growth) make watersheds increasingly important management and planning units.

FEMA Flood Zones:

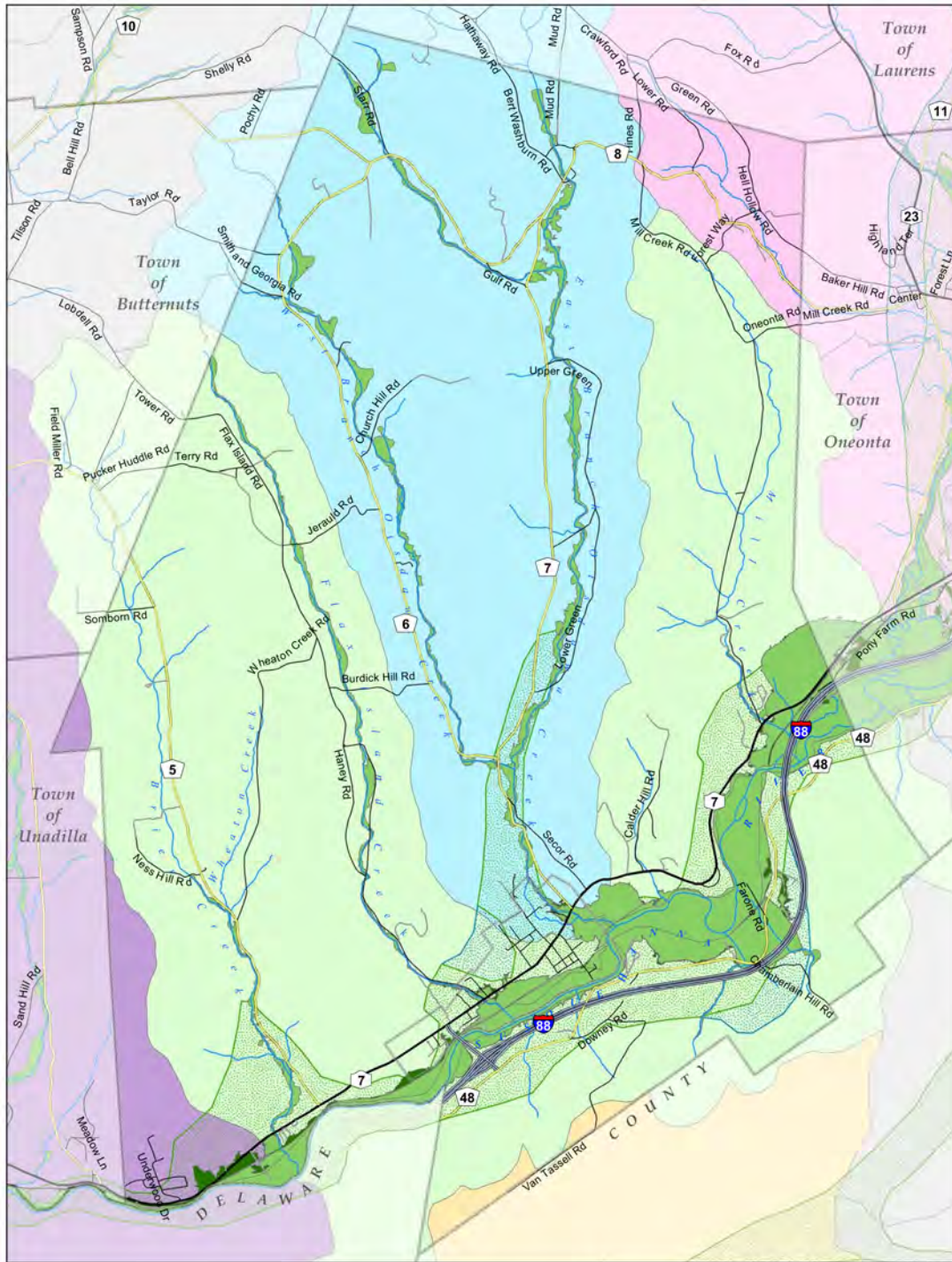
Flood damage is an ongoing problem, as it has been throughout recorded history. The streams, rivers and lakes are naturally subject to rising and falling water levels, relocation of stream channels, flooding of valley bottoms, and wave action on lake shores. Intense storms of local and regional extent have repeatedly resulted in flooding of low-lying areas throughout the region. In addition to these large-scale flood events, the region experiences numerous smaller floods and flash floods almost every year. Unfortunately, many communities are located along waterways (because of flat land and water-based transportation), where the hazard of flooding is an environmental fact of life. The resulting economic and personal costs have been significant. Structural projects have been built in hopes of controlling future flood waters. Municipalities have enacted floodplain management regulations based on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards. As time passes, people tend to forget about flooding and become complacent. Additional development and filling occurs in flood-prone areas. Deforestation and upland development increase the amount of runoff. Stream channels are allowed to become clogged with debris. Wetlands are filled and new ones not created. People forget that these actions all increase the risk of future flood damage. In short, residents of the watershed continue to underestimate the destructive powers of their rivers, streams, and lakes. If future flood damages are to be reduced, flood mitigation measures will need to be incorporated into many different programs in a manner that outlives the all-too-short memories of area residents. Although floods are natural phenomena that cannot be prevented, their effects are amplified by human activities. Loss of life, property damage, and mental anguish can be reduced by applying corrective and preventive measures.¹⁶

¹⁶ Adapted from Tompkins County Natural Resources Inventory (2001) and Susquehanna-Chemung Action Plan -- Land Use, An Ecosystem-Based Watershed Management Plan for the

Aquifers

The upper surface of groundwater is the water table. Below this surface, all the pore spaces and cracks in sediments and rocks are completely saturated with water. This saturated zone is where groundwater occurs. Aquifers are geologic formations beneath the earth's surface that store and yield usable amounts of groundwater. Since aquifers are replenished by the infiltration of surface water, impervious surfaces, such as parking lots and building footprints, threaten aquifers by inhibiting the infiltration of precipitation and surface water through the soil. Any polluting spills within the aquifer or its recharge zone could contaminate it. Potential contamination pathways include bacteria and pathogens from septic systems and feedlots, salt and oil washed from roadways, fertilizers and pesticides from landscaping and agriculture, and hazardous or toxic waste spills.

The Town of Otego has an abundant supply of clean water. The main aquifers in Otego occupy the valley floors. The principal aquifer is in a glacial drift centered below the Butternut Creek. This aquifer is partly replenished from the North from run-off. There is plentiful groundwater and many springs exist. In addition to many natural ponds, there are many developed ponds that also tap into groundwater and springs. Smaller aquifers utilized by private wells are not shown on the map.



Legend

FEMA Prelim DFIRMs

- 100 year flood zone
- 500 year flood zone

Principal Aquifers

- Principal Aquifer 10-100 gallons per minute
- Principal Aquifer >100 gallons per minute

Watershed Subbasins

- Brier Creek
- Lower Otego Creek
- Lower Ouleout Creek
- Otsdawa Creek
- Sand Hill Creek

TOWN OF OTEGO WATERSHEDS, FLOOD ZONES AND AQUIFERS

OTSEGO COUNTY

Prepared by:
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Planning Department**
197 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY
13326

NEW YORK

Date: March 7, 2013

Scale in Miles
0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1

SHEET 1 OF 1

Prepared By: EAM Date: March 7, 2013

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Surface Water and Wetlands

The term water bodies includes lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and wetlands. This map shows all the water bodies within the Town of Otego.

New York State classifies streams based on their existing or expected “best use,” from Class AA indicating most pristine, to Class D, or most degraded. Streams with sufficient amounts of dissolved oxygen to support trout or trout spawning are classified with additional (T) or (TS), respectively. Streams designated as “C (T)” or higher are collectively referred to as “protected streams” and are subject to additional regulation by the state. The many trout streams in the town are marked with a “T” on the map. All streams in the town are Class C or higher.

Stream Class Best Use

- AA Drinking (after disinfection), bathing, fishing
- A Drinking (after disinfection and approved treatment), bathing and fishing
- B Bathing and fishing
- C Fishing (propagation and survival)
- D Fishing (survival)

Surface Water Bodies and Streams

Aside from several reservoirs and artificial impoundments, Otego has few large surface water bodies. The Susquehanna River flows in a Northeast to Southwest direction through the Southernmost section of our town. The Susquehanna River flows approximately 5.2 miles through the town.

The Town of Otego contains at least five upland, cold-water streams that appear to support reproducing populations of native brook trout, as well as smaller streams that may shrink to intermittent pools in dry summers. Both types of streams contain a clean-water fauna of invertebrate insects, crayfish, and small salamanders. Only the streams with perennial flow support fish. The town contains no standing water bodies of appreciable size, but small natural kettle depressions and beaver ponds are important habitats for frogs, small fish, and waterloving birds such as northern water thrush, common yellowthroat, small flycatcher species, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, spotted sandpipers, and great blue herons. Acid bogs and small “beaver meadows” may contain insectivorous plants such as sundew and pitcher plant, and trees such as black spruce, tamarack and green ash.

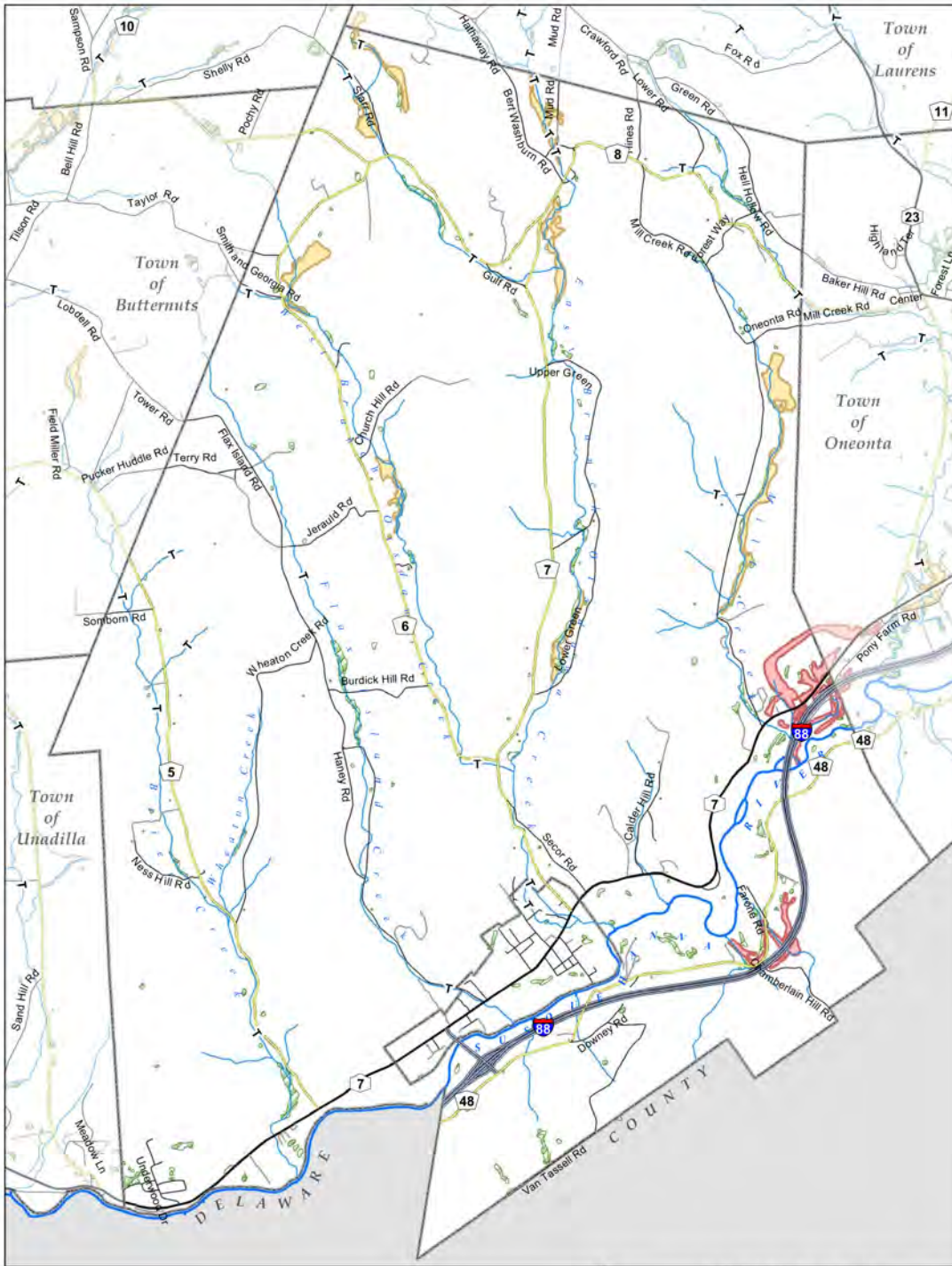
The upland streams are: the Briar Creek; the Wheaton creek as a tributary to Briar Creek, the Flax Island Creek, the Otsdawa creek with its West and East branches, and the Mill Creek. There is a total of 52 miles of lesser streams in Otego. Flood plain and riparian forests along these streams and the Susquehanna River also play important ecological roles and are characterized by

black willow, butternut trees, silver maple, red maple, and sycamores as well as blue beech and hop hornbeam in the understory. Typical riparian forest birds include cedar waxwing, yellow warbler, common yellowthroat, bank swallow, Baltimore oriole, catbird, and grackle. There also are at least two kinds of flood plain forest occupying parts of the valley floor.

Wetlands are vital components of the environmental system. Federal and state agencies consider wetlands to be distinct from other water bodies for regulatory purposes. The way that wetlands are delineated is different for the state and federal governments, and the regulations are different for each. New York State regulates wetlands 12.5 acres and larger in size; it may also regulate smaller wetlands if these are deemed to “have unusual local importance.” According to State law, the classification system (Class I wetlands have the highest rank, which descends through Classes II, III, and IV) is based on cover type, ecological associations, special features, hydrological and pollution control features, and distribution and location.¹⁷

Both state and federally regulated wetlands are indicated on this map.

¹⁷ Richardson "Environment Scan"



Legend

Regulated Wetlands

- NYS Regulated Class I Wetland
- NYS Regulated Class II Wetland
- NYS Regulated Class III Wetland
- NYS Regulated Class IV Wetland
- US Regulated Wetlands

NYS Regulated Streams (T = trout stream)

- Class A Waterbody
- Class B Waterbody
- Class C Waterbody
- Lakes

TOWN OF OTEGO SURFACE WATER FEATURES

OTSEGO COUNTY

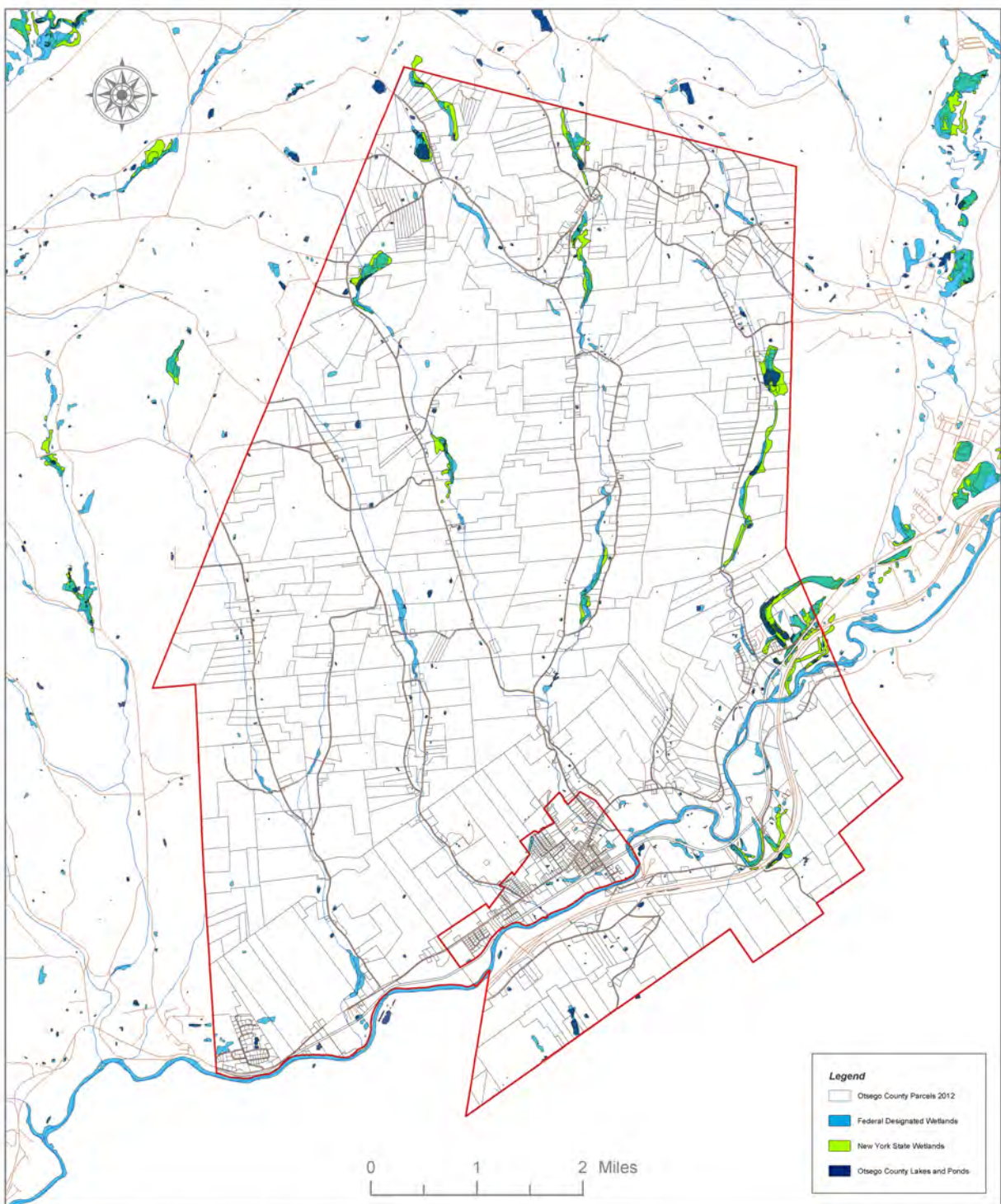
Prepared by:
**Otsego County
Planning Department**
197 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY
13326

NEW YORK

Scale in Miles

SHEET 1 OF 1

Prepared By: EAW
 File Path: Name: \\GIS\MAPS\Municipalities\Otsego\1\Otsego1.mxd
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 G:\Mapdata\Otsego_Data\Cooperstown\Cooperstown



Town of Otego- Federal And State Wetlands with Lakes and Ponds

Map by Teresa DeSantis October 16, 2013

Critical Environmental Areas

Local agencies may designate specific geographic areas within their boundaries as "Critical Environmental Areas" (CEAs). State agencies may also designate geographic areas they own, manage or regulate. To be designated as a CEA, an area must have an exceptional or unique character with respect to one or more of the following:

- a benefit or threat to human health;
- a natural setting (e.g., fish and wildlife habitat, forest and vegetation, open space and areas of important aesthetic or scenic quality);
- agricultural, social, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, or educational values; or
- an inherent ecological, geological or hydrological sensitivity to change that may be adversely affected by any change.

Following designation, the potential impact of any Type I or Unlisted Action on the environmental characteristics of the CEA is a relevant area of environmental concern and must be evaluated in the determination of significance prepared pursuant to Section 617.7 of SEQR.

There are currently no designated CEAs in Otego or within Otsego County. The County Board of Health has recommended that the town consider designating a CEA for the protection of village wellheads. Please refer to Part II of this document for further discussion, including examples from CEAs from neighboring Counties.

Land Use

The Town of Otego is a rural residential area, as the following breakdown of acreage shows. In keeping with area trends, although the number of dairy farms have decreased over the decades, from 26 in 1980 to 4 in 2013¹⁸, land under cultivation has not declined as fast. Town residents make use of and enjoy their properties in a variety of ways: there are a significant number of hay farmers, wood lots (commercial and private), hobby farms, horse farms, and home gardeners. Outdoor recreational uses include backcountry skiing, snowmobiling—the O-t-go Sno-goers maintain an extensive trail system—hunting, ATV-riding and horseback riding, to name a few.

In response to the 2007 survey, citizens expressed an interest in both the protection of agricultural areas and the development of light industrial growth within identified zones. For example, 66% of survey respondents want future policies to protect the Town agricultural areas. Similarly, 58% want the Town to pass laws protecting productive farm lands from development. Sixty-eight percent of those surveyed want the Town to encourage more light industrial growth within certain land areas of the community. In addition, 59% want the Town to

¹⁸ Local resource, Bill Gibson via Dave Sheldon, Town Board.

identify new industrial sites and growth in order to lower residential taxes in the future. (See *Appendix D* for Use Map)

Description of Land Uses

According to the Otsego County Land Use Study 2011:¹⁹

The *Town of Otego* consists of nearly 27,400 acres. Almost forty-four percent of the total acreage is *residential* land. Thirty-three percent of total acreage is *vacant land*. Almost fifteen percent is used in *agriculture*, with *forest land* a little over five percent of total acreage.

The *Town of Otego* consists of a little over 1,300 parcels [Figure A-41].²⁰ *Residential* parcels account for almost fifty-seven percent of the total. *Vacant land* is thirty-four percent of the parcels. *Agricultural* pursuits are over three percent. *Forest land* and *commercial* enterprises are a little over two percent each.

The *Village of Otego* consists of approximately 670 acres. Over forty three percent of the acreage is *residential*. Thirty-seven percent of the acreage is *vacant land*. Almost seven percent of the acreage is coded as *agricultural*. Five percent of total acreage is described as *Community services*.

The *Village of Otego* has a little over 500 parcels [Figure A-43]. *Residential* parcels are over sixty-eight percent of the total; *vacant land* is twenty-one percent. *Commercial land* is a little over five percent and *community services* are almost three percent.

Property Classification System

The designation of land use categories is defined at the County level. Otsego County Real Property System of classification consists of numeric codes in nine categories. Each category is composed of divisions, indicated by the second digit, and subdivisions (where required), indicated by a third digit.

The nine categories are:

100 - Agricultural - Property used for the production of crops or livestock.

200 - Residential - Property used for human habitation. Living accommodations such as hotels, motels, and apartments are in the Commercial category - 400.

300 - Vacant Land - Property that is not in use, is in temporary use, or lacks permanent improvement.

¹⁹ *A Comparative analysis of land use and residential housing in Otsego County, New York*, p. 14. University at Albany, State University of New York.

²⁰ See Appendix: OtsegoCountyAtlas2011: Figures A-41– 44.

400 - Commercial - Property used for the sale of goods and/or services.

500 - Recreation & Entertainment - Property used by groups for recreation, amusement, or entertainment.

600 - Community Services - Property used for the well being of the community.

700 - Industrial - Property used for the production and fabrication of durable and nondurable man-made goods.

800 - Public Services - Property used to provide services to the general public.

900 - Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands & Public Parks - Reforested lands, preserves, and private hunting and fishing clubs.

To illustrate the divisions [second digit] and subdivisions [third digit], the 200 class [residential] is further broken down into subcategories, as follows:

210 - One Family Year-Round Residence - A one family dwelling constructed for year-round occupancy (adequate insulation, heating, etc.).

220 - Two Family Year-Round Residence - A two family dwelling constructed for year-round occupancy.

230 - Three Family Year-Round Residence - A three family dwelling constructed for year-round occupancy.

240 - Rural Residence with Acreage - A year-round residence with 10 or more acres of land; it may have up to three year-round dwelling units.

241 - Primarily residential, also used in agricultural production

242 - Recreational use

250 - Estate - A residential property of not less than 5 acres with a luxurious residence and auxiliary buildings.

260 - Seasonal Residences - Dwelling units generally used for seasonal occupancy; not constructed for year-round occupancy (inadequate insulation, heating, etc.). If the value of the land and timber exceeds the value of the seasonal dwelling, the property should be listed as forest land (see category 900). NOTE: If constructed for year-round occupancy, see code 210.

270 - Mobile Home - A portable structure built on a chassis and used as a permanent dwelling unit. **Note: These are homes built prior to 1976 and regulated by HUD.**

271 - Multiple Mobile Homes - More than one mobile home on one parcel of land; not a commercial enterprise [Note: commercial mobile home parks are coded 416].

280 - Residential - Multi-Purpose/Multi-Structure

281- More than one residential dwelling on one parcel of land. May be a mixture of codes 210's, 220's, and 230's, or all one type.

283 - A residence which has been partially converted or adapted for commercial use (e.g., residence with small office in basement). Primary use is residential.

Commercial Uses

The development of land for commercial and/or light industrial uses is currently allowed in zoned areas along the I-88 corridor. Such development could increase overall assessed value of property for the Town. The Town's current three residential zoning districts divide the Town approximately into thirds: two zones are predominantly residential districts, and one is a mixture of commercial and residential uses. That district, Residential District 1, (R1), is the County Highway 48, I-88, and State Highway 7 corridor. From the beginning discussions of the Town's zoning law, this area was thought to have the most potential for commercial and /or industrial development and was purposely zoned to limit uses that might inhibit the potential growth of any commercial ventures.

Town of Otego Land Use	# of Acres	% of Land	# of Parcels	% of Parcels
TOTAL	27,400		1,300	
Residential		44%		57%
Vacant land		33%		34%
Agricultural		15%		3%
Forest land		>5%		>2%
Commercial				
Community services				

Village of Otego Land Use	# of Acres	% of Land	# of Parcels	% of Parcels
Total	670		500	
Residential		>43%		68%
Vacant land		37%		21%
Agricultural		<7%		3%
Community services		5%		
Commercial				>5%

Development of Land Use Ordinance

In 2002, the Town of Otego passed the Otego Zoning Ordinance, creating four zoning districts (See map in Appendix). The R1 District, which encompasses the State Route 7/I-88 corridor, is a Residential/Commercial District. R2 is a Rural Residential District and R3 is a Rural District. The R4 District is an overlay Light Industrial District within the R1 Residential/Commercial District.

Otego's zoning law was prompted by a number of county-wide issues. Rural towns without zoning are susceptible to unregulated land use development that can have negative economic and social consequences for residents. Zoning can help protect and preserve property values, safety and rural way of life that so many in the town cherish.

Under the direction of the Otego Town Board, the town Planning Board, assisted by the Otsego County Planning Department, developed a land use law for review and adoption by the Town Board. Some of the reasons Otego adopted the zoning law were to²¹:

- Help to plan for the future layout and development of the town;
- Stabilize the tax base by encouraging a mix of commercial, agricultural, light industrial and residential uses;
- Preserve and protect the agricultural way of life by preventing incompatible land uses in the town;
- Protect the town's fragile environmental resources from improper and /or over development due to the steep slopes, poor soils and wetlands located throughout the town;
- Insure sufficient safe supplies of drinking, potable water for each lot created, taking into consideration the need to sufficiently filter wastewater and prevent pollution of residential wells;
- Ensure that each lot created was of sufficient size to be safely developed;
- Make sure all lots had access to a public or private road, thus preventing land-locked lots that rely on easements for access;
- Separate incompatible uses into different districts;
- Protect community resources such as farmland, groundwater, woodlands, wetlands, steep slopes, and fragile soils;
- Maintain community character and aesthetics.

In 2000, tax bills from the Unatego School District (which is comprised of most of the Towns of Unadilla and Otego, and parts of the Town of Sidney) caught landowners in the town by surprise. That year, school taxes rose 25% for most residential homeowners. At that time, no state regulation for a 2% tax cap was in place. A review of town statistics over the past several years demonstrated why the escalation was so high in the Unatego School District compared to other districts. From the mid 1990s through 2000 the number of mobile home permits issued in Otego far exceeded those in any surrounding towns in the county. Statistics gathered by Otsego County

²¹ See Town of Otego Zoning Law, pp. 6-7.

in its yearly building report showed that between 1992 and 2000 there were 38 permits issued in the town of Otego for stick built homes. During the same time period there were 174 permits issued for mobile homes. Thus, over the nine-year period, 82% of the residential construction in the town was that of mobile homes.

The reason these homes were being erected in Otego, in part, was because there was no zoning. The same was true for Unadilla. The neighboring community of Oneonta had zoning both in the town and in the city. These zoning ordinances limited where mobile homes could be placed. Most of Oneonta's neighbors had zoning, as well. If one wanted to live near Oneonta and was looking for a place to erect a mobile home, Otego was the logical choice.

The correlation between mobile home construction and school taxes is straightforward: a 1,200 square foot mobile home is assessed between one-third and one-half that of a stick built home of equal size and age, when sited on the equivalent piece of taxable real estate. For the most part, these homes were placed on rented lots on properties already designated as sections of one greater parcel of land. Taxes on the master property were assessed in a regular fashion. The mobile home owners, however, were not assessed for taxes in the same way, as they did not own the land on which their structures were placed. Only a small portion of the taxes levied on the park were passed to each homeowner in the park. Yet the services, especially school services, needed by those in a mobile home are the same as those of residents in a stick built unit. Thus, for years Otego and Unadilla were issuing building permits for residential uses that paid far fewer school taxes than stick built homes, but which needed equal services, because most of these dwellings were placed on rented property. Only those mobile homes placed on a property owned by the purchaser would be assessed in the same manner as a stick built home. The end result was the 25% increase in school taxes as the school district could only hold off for so long before passing its costs off to the town.

In addition, the property assessments in Unadilla were lower than those in Otego. Overall, Unadilla has a greater number of homes in poor condition and more mobile homes in parks. Even though there were a larger number of residences in Unadilla, the school tax burden was proportionately greater in Otego due higher property tax assessments.

These phenomena, along with the high percentage of land within the town with poor, clay-like soils, wetlands or slopes exceeding 15% grade, led to unbalanced residential development and an unsustainable tax base.

Thus, to help create a more equitable tax base for the future of the town and plan for balanced development, the Town adopted a zoning law. The specific zoning districts reflect a combination of land features (such as steel slopes) and the likelihood of development in different portions of the town. State Route 7 and County Route 48 were identified as most likely locations for commercial development and thus are designated as the Residential-Commercial District (R1). The minimum lot size is two acres. The purpose for this district was clearly noted in the

town zoning law. “The purpose of this zoning district is to include those lands that are a mixture of residential and commercial uses. This will enable the fewest number of non-conforming uses and will encourage the continued development of commercial uses along the town’s major roads where commercial businesses are likely to settle. This district includes those lands located along State Route 7 and County Route 48. The zoning map specifically describes the boundaries of this district.”²²

Land along the larger, more populous county roads is the Rural Residential District (R2), with a minimum lot size of two acres. The purpose of this zoning district was clearly noted in the town zoning law: “The purpose of this zoning district is to provide for a variety of mixed uses with a minimum small lot size. The small lot size will ensure that first time homebuyers have a chance to erect homes. This district is located along all county roads in the town. The exact boundaries of this district are shown on the town’s zoning map.”²³

Land located along town roads is designated as the Rural District (R3), with a minimum lot size of three acres. The purpose was clearly stated in the zoning ordinance: “The purpose of this district is to permit low density, residential development in those areas of the town that are far removed from services, infrastructure and/or which have steep slopes and environmental features that prohibit densely populated settlements. This zoning district is located along town roads. It also covers those lots in the town that have no public access to a road. (i.e. their access is through private easements). The exact boundaries of this district are shown on the zoning map.”²⁴

Finally, the Light Industrial District (R4) was established as an overlay district. As the zoning law notes, “This zone is an overlay zone, one that has additional requirements beyond that of the district underlying it. The zone overlies part of the Residential-Commercial district in the town and allows for development of properties in the town that are well suited for light industrial use. These lands include those located in close proximity to I-88 and those that have been included in the county’s application to the State for designation as an Economic Development Zone (EDZ). This overlay zone is delineated on the town’s zoning map.”²⁵

²² Town of Otego Zoning Law, p. 19.

²³ Town of Otego Zoning Law, p. 21.

²⁴ Town of Otego Zoning Law, p. 22.

²⁵ Town of Otego Zoning Law, p. 23.

Inventory of local laws²⁶

Year adopted	Law number	Law name
1975	Local Law #1 of 1975 Amended by Local Law #4 of 1989	Water Supply and Septic Disposal
1987	Local Law #1 of 1987	Flood Damage Prevention
1996	Local Law #2 of 1996 Amended by Local Law #1 of 1997	Mobile Home Park Law
1997	Local Law #2 of 1997	Site Plan Review Law
2000	Local Law #2 of 2000	A Local Law Regulating Telecommunications Facilities (cell tower law)
2002	Local Law, 2002 Amended 2004 Amended 2005	Zoning Ordinance
2003	Local Law, 2003	Land Subdivision law
2007	Local Law #2 of 2007 Amended by Local Law #1 of 2011	Administration and Enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code
2010	Local Law #3 of 2010 Amended December 2011 (filed January 2012)	Junk Storage Law
2010	Local Law #4 of 2010	Junk Yard Law
2012	Local Law #1 of 2012	Local Road Use and Preservation Law
2013	Local Law #1 of 2013	A Local Law to Effect a Moratorium within the Town of Otsego on Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Exploration, Extraction and Support Activities

HOUSING

Housing Inventory

According to the Otsego County Rural Property System, County of Otsego, the Town of Otsego outside the Village has 544 housing units. One, two, and three family homes are the most prevalent type of housing, comprising about fifty-four percent of the residential total. Manufactured housing is almost forty-six percent of the total. Seasonal residences are a little over two percent.

²⁶ See <http://www.townofotsego.com/localgov.htm>

The Village of Otego has 346 total units. Most residences are shown as one, two, or three family homes. Manufactured housing accounts for 2% of the total, including 4 doublewide and 3 singlewide units.

The Town and Village of Otego have five mobile/manufactured home parks: the Willowvale Trailer Park (31-41 units); Sunset (16 units); Beers (5 units); Kowalczyk (2-3 units) and Mill Creek/Mill Creek Estates (58-69 units).

Residential Tax-base²⁷

The “Total Taxable Value of Assessed Land in Otego, Town and Village” is \$61,932,800.00. The following table shows the residential tax levy and how these funds are collected.

Levy Description	Total Tax Levy	Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of assessed valuation
County Tax	470,801	2.381200
Town General & Highway	529,945	2.680200
Highway Outside Village	206,055	1.479000
General Part Town	51,045	.366400
Otego Fire District	146,894	.715200
Unatego School Tax	6,801,265	16.411657
Total	8,206,005	

Housing Conditions and Rehabilitation Needs

According to the Otsego County Land Use and Housing Condition Atlas,²⁸ 84.9% of the Town of Otego’s housing is normal or better; and 92.2% of the Village’s housing is normal or better, placing it fifth highest in the county’s residential housing quality.

	# poor	# fair	% poor/fair	# normal	#good/excellent	# trailers	% of total	# residential parcels
Town of Otego	28	84	15.1%	544	86	125	16.8%	742
Village of Otego	4	23	7.8%	276	44	1	<0.1%	347

²⁷ 2014 Tentative Assessment Roll for Otego, Town and Village, retrieved from: <http://www.otsegocounty.com/depts/rps/2014AssessmentRolls.htm>

²⁸ Prepared by University of Albany, SUNY; Planning Topics – Summer Session 2011.

Since the Otsego County average for poor/fair housing is 20.5%, the Town of Otego is better than average for the county in terms of the percent of housing units that are rated as poor/fair. Nevertheless, the Town of Otego ties with the Town of Hartwick for having the third highest percentage of housing in poor condition²⁹ at 3.8%, with the county average being 1.7%³⁰.

Community Services & Resources

Educational

The Town of Otego is home to two of the three schools in the Unatego Central School District. This District is a consolidated school system between the Towns of Unadilla and Otego. Approximately 900 students in grades K-12 are served by the Unatego system. Otego Elementary School stands in the Village of Otego and the Unatego JR/SR High School stands in the southwestern corner of the town, bordering the Town of Unadilla.

Otego Elementary School houses grades K-2 and special education classrooms. Students in grades 3-5 attend Unadilla Elementary School. After-school child care is also provided in the Otego Elementary School for grades K-5. The after-school program at Otego Elementary is a self-supporting program in which parents pay a fee and the school administers and manages the program. The curriculum includes games, homework assistance, outdoor recreation, snack, and arts and crafts.

Unatego JR/SR High School houses grades 6-12 and the District offices. There is a 900-seat auditorium, a cafeteria, two gyms, three computer labs, a library, and numerous specialized classrooms (e.g. technology, science, music, etc.).

Food services at each facility offer a full breakfast and lunch menu. The cafeteria is highly utilized by students of all ages. Reduced and free lunch programs are available to families who meet the eligibility requirement and approximately 56% of families qualify for one of these benefits.

In addition to the basic components of education, the Unatego Central School District offers independent and innovative programs for its students. Special Education curricula are provided by the district to the developmentally and physically disabled, as well as the behaviorally challenged. The district practices the inclusionary model of Special Education in which students with special needs are integrated into the regular education classrooms and the

²⁹ This study (p. 30) defines poor as: Severely dilapidated structure with no functional utility and considerable physical deterioration. This structure is uninhabitable and is often found abandoned.

³⁰ See Otsego County Atlas 2011 Appendix: Tables 1 and 2 and Figures A-41– 44.

curriculum is adapted and customized to the needs of the student with the assistance of a Teacher's Aide or a Certified Teacher. For those students who are unable to integrate into the classroom setting, Special Education classes are available. Approximately 15% of the District's students require specialized services. Capability for this service is limited however; some high-needs students are transported to a Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego Board of Cooperative Educational Services (DCMO BOCES) site for adaptive education.

Technology courses are offered to Junior and Senior high students interested in learning a specialized skill or trade. The district transports these students to a DCMO BOCES campus. Students attending these programs will receive a Unatego diploma if they meet all school requirements.

For students of academic excellence, Advanced Placement Instruction is provided as well as the opportunity to complete college level course work through online programs provided by local institutions of higher education. The Unatego Central School District is home to a very successful debate team, theatrical company, a strong Music program with many levels of chorus and band, and a HS marching band. The District also offers social action, language, and educational clubs. In 2015 the high school had a 92% graduation rate and was named one of America's best high school by US News and World Report, earning a rank of #178 out of a total of 1,259 schools.

Students are offered a variety of athletic programs. Track, wrestling, soccer, basketball, football, golf, and baseball are just some of the extra-curricular sporting activities of the district. Students also complete community service requirements in the local community.

Overall, classes are relatively small, with upgraded technology in classrooms such as SmartBoards, computers, and televisions helping to facilitate the educational experience through electronic attendance and other innovative teaching tools.

As with many other communities, there are challenges confronting this school district. On the one hand the District enrollment decreased from 1,259 students to 873 students during the 2004 to 2016 period, a decrease of 30%, and on the other there is trend towards an aging adult population. This scenario, along with the recent decreases in New York State educational funding, may present financial challenges for the District in the future.³¹

The residents of the Town of Otego have some use of the District facilities for meetings, concerts, and sports (providing a Certificate of Insurance, if necessary). In the future, the use of these buildings and grounds can and will be expanded.

³¹ The Unatego CSD facilities study has further detail on enrollment and facilities in a report available to the public via <http://www.unatego.org/Downloads/FinalReport%20Draft.pdf>.

Recreational

The Town of Otego, in conjunction with the Village of Otego, offers numerous recreational opportunities. Physical resources are: a public outdoor swimming pool (open July and August), baseball fields, a picnic pavilion, the Harris Memorial Library, the Roland B. Hill Museum of Archaeology, the Rod & Gun Club, and the American Legion Hall. There is also fishing and boating access to the Susquehanna River. The Town offers a summer recreation program for local children with swimming and arts & crafts courses offered. The recreation director oversees this program and insures the safety and cleanliness of the pool and its environs.

The pavilion is available for use by residents by reservation. The baseball fields are reserved for scheduled use by the various local teams during season. A concession stand is available for use by the teams.

The Harris Memorial Library has been recently renovated and serves the community as the site of various activities and club meetings such as the Otego Craft Club, the Historical Society, and others. Residents may take computer classes, join reading programs, and participate in educational workshops.

Town residents pride themselves in a strong sense of community. In May, Otego hosts “Otego Days,” which is a town-wide yard sale. The American Legion and Fire Department also hold events during the year. The annual Memorial Day General Clinton 70-mile Canoe Regatta passes through the town of Otego, which provides a relay point in the race at the NYSDEC maintained fishing access site.

In the future, the Roland B. Hill Museum could be used as a venue for recreational events, as could both the Elementary School and Unatego Jr-Sr High School. Otego’s location in the beautiful Susquehanna River valley provides access to cultural events in Binghamton, Oneonta, and Cooperstown. Boating, fishing, snowmobiling, hunting, and the like, are all within easy reach of town residents.

Economic

Economic resources in the Town of Otego include numerous small business, listed below. Many businesses represent the service industry, including auto and construction services. Other businesses reflect the Town’s agricultural and rural setting, including farms, farm and garden retailers and horse stables.

Businesses in the Town of Otego

Adrenaline Zone Paint Ball, Betty Beaver Fuel Stop, Blueberry Farm on the Otsdawa, Bookhout Funeral Home, Briarwood Company, Breezy Meadows Farm, Candlestick Realty, Community Bank, Crossroads Inn, Dave Sullivan’s Christmas Tree Farm/Logs/

Sap House, Daydreams Farm, Dollar General, Dutchayr Farm, Escobar's Repair & Restoration, GA Wells & Sons Trucking, Gilly's Trees & Pumpkins, Greenie's Car Wash, Greg's Taxidermy Studio, Gretna Gardens, Hewlett Farm, Higby Construction, Hometown Auto, Hawthorne Hill Farm, Hesse Galleries, Hunters Rein Stables, Invisible Fence of CNY, Jake's Delhi, John Whalen Automotive, John's Painting, Jordan Bros Farm, Karen Himes Salon, Stevens Excavating, Lundin's Tree Farm, Maraglio Masonry, Matt's Auto, M L Rowe Welding & Fabricating, Muddy River Farm, New York Doll Products, Northfield Farm and Athelas Therapeutic Riding, Otego Family Dental, Otego Sales and Service, Otego Tire & Auto, Otsego Electric & Plumbing, Perennial Fields, Pie in the Sky, Popek's Used and Rare Books, [Quickway /Mirabito](#) Truck Stop, River Valley New Holland, Robert Burkhart Taxidermy, Roberto Romano Woodworking, ServiceMaster by Burch, [Shear Perfection Hair Salon](#), Silversmith & Goldsmith, Sprinkles & Cream, Steiner Packing Company, Sticky Ritchey's Maple Syrup, Superior Construction, Tax Resolutions, Tom Anderson Roofing, Tim Whitehead Roofing, and Underwood Stoves.

Cultural

Historical Resources

Otego has significant historical resources. For history of the larger area, the New York State Historical Association is located in nearby Cooperstown. In addition, the Greater Oneonta Historical Society, formerly the Upper Susquehanna Historical Society, strives to preserve the heritage of the Greater Oneonta area, which includes the Town of Otego.

An important resource for local history specific to Otego, is the Otego Historical Society, located at 6 River Street. The society's website (<http://www.oteghistoricalociety.org/>) offers access to many files and information. The society meets monthly and produces a newsletter. Its holdings include cemetery records, Otego High School yearbooks, graduation photos, Otego postcards, military photos, and written oral histories and memories of Otego, among many other items.

In particular, the Otego Historical Society website offers local history written by Helen Groves, including "A History and A Remembrance of the Village of Otego." Currently the society is working with local citizens to update "The Bicentennial History of Otego" by Helena Northup Myers. This extensive local history, written in 1976, covered every home and business in Otego.

Another historical resource is The Rolland B. Hills Museum, which houses a large collection of Indian artifacts and memorabilia. The museum is adjacent to the Otego Elementary School in the former home of Dr. Hunt and known as the "Pillars."

Library Resources

The Otego Free Library was established in 1923. It received its charter from the NY State Board of Regents in 1948. In its early years, the small collection of books was housed in various locations in the Village of Otego. In the 1940's, it was housed in a small building adjacent to the Grange Hall on Main Street. In 1949, a fire destroyed the Grange Hall and badly damaged the library. It then moved to the old firehouse on River Street where it remained until 1981.

In 1976, Dasa Harris willed her house at 334 Main Street along with a sum of money to the Village of Otego to establish a library. This 2 story Victorian built in 1875 in the Italianate style is one of the architectural gems on Otego's Main Street. To honor Dasa Harris, it was decided to name her home, The Harris House.

In 1980, an addition was added to the back of the Harris House to make a permanent home for the library. In the fall of 1981, school children assisted in moving the collection from River Street to the new building on Main Street. The Library's charter was amended in 1980 to accommodate the change of the name to the Harris Memorial Library.

It had been many years since repairs to the Library had been undertaken. By 2007, it became apparent that the building needed major repairs that could no longer be ignored. The first project was to replace the roof of the Harris House. In fairly rapid succession, the roof of the Library building was also replaced, and the veranda of the Harris House was repaired and repainted. This was followed by painting both the exterior and interior of the Harris House and having the windows that faced onto the porch replaced. The Library was very fortunate to receive many donations from the public, to have a wonderful "Friends of the Library" team who worked hard at organizing several fund raising events, and to receive grants totaling \$25,000 from a variety of sources. These helped defray the costs of renovations.

Today, the Harris Memorial Library is an oasis in Otego. Major internal renovations gave it a warm, welcoming appearance. The library is staffed by one librarian who is assisted by several volunteers and is open 28 hours a week. The library contains 18,000 adult, juvenile and children's books. It subscribes to 40 different magazines and houses approximately 200 reference books available for public use. Movies and audio books can also be borrowed. The four computers are regularly in use by community members of all ages. The Harris House is attached to the library and is the site of many activities, attracting residents from many surrounding communities including:

- an hour-long pre-school program, held weekly;
- computer classes for adults;
- summer reading program provided for Unatego Summer Recreation participants;
- regular meetings: Otego Historical Society, Otego Craft Club & Otego Book Club;

- a venue for guest speakers and other community endeavors.

Religious Services

The Town has a variety of religious institutions that are home to a variety of faiths:

The **Otego Presbyterian Church**, located at 16 River Street, was organized in 1805. The present building was begun in 1830 and dedicated in 1833. The bell was purchased in 1852 and in 1867 extensive changes were made to the interior. To the student of architecture or the observant traveler, the church exhibits a level of craftsmanship highly unusual in this rural area. The church stands as an historic and architectural landmark of the highest quality. The church is handicapped accessible and child care is provided.

The **Otego United Methodist** at 10 Church Street was established in 1847. Every Lent, the church hosts soup suppers that raise money for local missions. The community vacation Bible school (which takes place each July) and is open to all Otego youth. There is a harvest dinner each October. The church has recently begun one-day retreats and an annual “talent less” variety show that are open to the public. The church hosts library fundraisers and quilt shows. It also provides space for Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy Scouts of America, informal tai chi, and dulcimer groups.

The **First Christian Church** is a fundamental, evangelical fellowship of believers at the west branch on the Otsdawa. It was organized July 10, 1830, at the home of the Abner Weaver family. Land was purchased at the intersection of Church Hill Road and County Highway 6 where the church was built in 1837. Its outreach programs have helped support many missionaries throughout the years.

Unatego Community Church (UCC) is located at 101 Main Street in the Village of Otego. Originally founded and built in 1816 as the Otego Baptist Church, it recently partnered with the Unadilla Baptist Church to become the Unatego Community Church. The church’s goal is to be a regional church as opposed to a “one town” church. The congregation, in its outreach program, has provided for the use of the church building for community needs. The building is handicap accessible.

Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery was founded in 1977 as a monastic community for women; they are members of the Orthodox Church in America, part of the ancient and world-wide Orthodox Communion. Since 1983, the monastery has been located at 144 Bert Washburn Road with two chapels and a guest house on the millpond. Within the monastery’s framework of daily liturgical and personal prayer, the members work as farmers and artisans.

Public Services

Town Government

The Town of Otego municipal building is located at 3526 State Highway 7. As a government building, it is also utilized for court, public hearings and general government business meetings.

The Town of Otego government includes the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Court Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Highway Superintendent and crew, the Town Assessor, Building Code Enforcement Officer, Town Attorney and Justices (two), Dog Control Officer, and Bookkeeper. The Town Board is chaired by the Supervisor, who is elected every two years. Four Town Board Members are elected to four year terms, with staggered elections (two members are elected every two years, thus there is never a time all the Board members are newly elected). The Town Board meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month.

The Town of Otego Highway Department consists of a Highway Superintendent, a Deputy Superintendent and five employees. The Highway Department maintains the Town's 38 miles of town roads, which are primarily asphalt and gravel surfaced, as well as 4 bridges and numerous culverts. In addition, the Highway Department is responsible for snow and ice removal on town roads and 27 miles of County roads within the Town boundaries.

The Town of Otego has multiple Town assets related to roads and highways. These include the Town garage and shop, a lower storage building, a salt building and the Town gravel bank. In addition, the Town owns four 10-wheel and two 6-wheel trucks and 1 pick-up truck, all of which have plows and sanders, and a backhoe, an excavator, a track loader, a road grader and two wheel loaders. Smaller equipment includes a tractor/mower, wood chipper, chain saws and shop tools.

The Town Planning Board includes five volunteer community members and one alternate. Planning Board members are appointed by the Town Board for five year terms. The Planning Board meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month.

The Town has a Zoning Board of Appeals that meets the first Monday of the month, when needed.

Police, Fire and Emergency Services

The original Fire Department was formed in the Village of Otego in 1889. The first fire truck was purchased in 1930. The department still has this truck which is used for parades and conventions. The fire district was formed in 1944 in order to extend fire protection coverage to the whole town. At this time, a second fire truck was purchased.

In 1933, the first firehouse was built on 5 River Street, which now houses the Otego Historical Society. In 1949, the fire station was constructed at its present location on River Street with a two bay garage. The Emergency Squad originated in 1952, along with a countywide Mutual-Aid fire system. In 1959, the Fire Police was formed for traffic control.

The fire station was expanded to a five bay garage in 1960. At the present time, the department has expanded to eight vehicles in order to handle emergencies. They are: a water tanker, three pumper trucks, a rescue truck, two utility pickup trucks, and an ambulance. The inventory also includes a boat, snowmobile, and a six-wheeled ATV for off-road search and rescue operations. These are housed in a nine-bay garage at the same location.

The Fire Department is made up of 40 well-trained active volunteer members. The Emergency Squad is made up of 13 volunteer members (three with advanced life-support certification, two with intermediate life-support certification, and eight with basic life-support certification).

The Otego Fire District is primarily financed through taxes, but fund-raising, donations, and grants play a part in large equipment purchases. The 2009 annual budget was about \$130,000 for the Fire Department and \$3,500 for the emergency squad. The rest of the squad's operating expenses came from donations and fund-raisers.

In 2009, the Fire Department responded to 26 fires, 64 hazardous conditions, 16 rescues, and 21 mutual aid calls to other fire departments. The Emergency Squad responded to 259 calls.

Health Care

Health care services are available to citizens in nearby Oneonta and Sidney. There are two regional hospitals, one in Oneonta and one in Cooperstown, with specialty and urgent care facilities in Oneonta, Sidney and Cooperstown. Dental, vision and mental health services are also provided in the three major population centers. Rehabilitation and skilled nursing facilities are located in Oneonta, Cooperstown and Norwich.

Community-based Services

Several services and mutual aid organizations are found in Otego, including *Meals on Wheels* and a *Community Food Pantry* based at the Unatego Community Church. At its last report, the Community Food Pantry was serving 112 individuals in nearly 50 families with emergency food once a month in "a dignified, confidential and supportive manner."³²

Transportation

Highway and Road Network

The Town is bordered on its southern side by Interstate 88 (I-88). The Interstate provides our community convenient access to and from the Town to the commercial areas of Oneonta and

³² 2013 Brochure

Sidney, as well as Binghamton and Albany. I-88 has become an increasingly busy roadway accommodating automobile and commercial traffic. Since its opening, I-88's commercial traffic has increased dramatically, partly due to the high costs in using the NYS Thruway, a toll road, and partly due to I-88's more convenient route to Binghamton and other points south.

As an expressway, I-88 connects to arterials roads, like State Highway 7, at various interchanges. Communities adjacent to the Town, like the City of Oneonta, Village of Otego, Village of Unadilla, and the Village of Bainbridge have such connections. These interchanges provide the local communities with easy access to the Interstate and allow commercial goods to be quickly delivered to businesses within these communities.

Traffic counts since the early 1980's have decreased significantly along Route 7 with the opening of Interstate I-88. Over the last decade, however, they have remained constant, or vary slightly during the summer from tourism and local events.

State Highway 7 also borders the Town on its Southern line. It parallels I-88 and the Susquehanna River, and handles mostly local traffic. State Highway 7 passes through the Village of Otego as its Main Street. It also is the Main Street for the Villages of Unadilla and Bainbridge and the City of Oneonta.

The Town has a system of collector roads. These are roadways that funnel traffic from residential and agricultural areas to the arterials such as Mill Creek and Flax Island roads. There are also smaller residential and local roads like Wheaton Creek, Haney and Calder Hill roads, which provide access to residences and farms. The Town has two seasonal roads, Jerauld Road and Burdick Hill Road, on which access and development are limited. According to the NYS Department of Transportation, the Town is responsible for a total of 38 miles of roadways.

The Town Board passed Local Law No. 1 of 2012 – Local Road Use and Preservation Law, to protect and upgrade roads that may be damaged by high intensity traffic due to a specific construction activity. Seventeen townships, including the Town of Otego, and Otsego County have contracted with Delta Engineering to survey baseline road conditions and specify upgrades and repairs to preserve town roads.

The East (Co. Hwy 7) and West Branch (Co. Hwy 6) of the Otsego, Briar Creek (Co. Hwy 5), County Hwy 48, and County Highway 8 are collector roadways within the Town but maintained by Otsego County. They have a combined 25.94 miles of roadways.

New York State Department of Transportation has scheduled the rehabilitation of State Highway 7 as it passes through the Village of Otego. The project involves the replacement of the roadway and adjoining curbing and the correction of severe drops at the intersection of several Village streets.

Railroad System

The Delaware and Hudson Railroad lies along the southeastern part of the Town, along a corridor with the Susquehanna River and state, county and interstate highways. The rail service currently includes freight transport via the Canadian Pacific Railway. There are several farm road crossings in the Town, and one at-grade crossing on River Street in the Village of Otego, where there is also an unused siding at the former feed mill site.

Susquehanna River

The Susquehanna River flows through the Town of Otego at the southeastern part of the town. The river, whose headwaters are located in Otsego Lake, near Cooperstown is used recreationally for boating, and is part of the Headwaters River Trail (HRT), a newly developed canoe and kayak trail on the Susquehanna River and its four major tributaries, the Chenango, Unadilla, Otsego, and Tioughnioga rivers.³³ River enthusiasts from Broome, Tioga, Cortland, Chenango, and Otsego counties are working together to improve recreational opportunities on this trail, which offers hundreds of miles of navigable waters and 60 public access points. The HRT joins the Chemung Basin River Trail and Pennsylvania river trails to complete the entire Susquehanna River Trail system all the way to the Chesapeake Bay.

Public Transportation & Taxi Service

Public and purchased transportation services are limited in Otego. Taxi service is available through vendors based in Oneonta, and public bus service is available through Otsego Express. Their Route 6 includes Monday through Saturday services to Otego, Unadilla and Sidney with a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

Air Transportation

Residents of Otego may find commercial air service in two nearby cities of Binghamton, NY and Albany, NY. Private and chartered air service is available at the City of Oneonta municipal airport and at the Thomas J. Fagen Municipal Airport in Sidney.

³³ Source: Otsego County Conservation Association website, Annual Dinner, 2012

Goals, Recommendations & Action Plans

This section of the Otego Comprehensive Plan offers recommendations and suggested steps to meet community needs. The following recommendations incorporate those from the Comprehensive Plan passed in October 2011 as well recommendations from the County Planning office. In addition, results from community surveys conducted in 2008 and 2012 inform the development of this section.

- 1) Protect the quality of groundwater resources in the Town of Otego**
- 2) Ensure the long-term health of the Town's forestlands**
- 3) Provide a safe, efficient road system that meets community needs**
- 4) Support safe, affordable and efficient housing**
- 5) Provide facilities that will meet current and anticipated community needs**
- 6) Provide recreational resources that serve the needs of the community**
- 7) Support the town-wide interest in renewable energy**
- 8) Improve access to high quality telecommunication services for Town residents**
- 9) Otego Zoning Map and Zoning and Subdivision Laws should be consistent**
- 10) Town Board should review survey results and public comments regarding gas drilling.**

Goal #1: Protect the quality of groundwater resources in the Town of Otego.

Recommendation: Clarify and update current protections of water resources.

Rationale: **a)** The current Comprehensive Plan identifies this goal; **b)** Water is a vital and necessary natural resource; **c)** Community concern for water protection is high for both public and private water sources. The 2008 Comprehensive Plan survey captures the fact that the vast majority of citizens are not served by public water services. Community concern for water is also reflected in data from the 2012 survey³⁴. For example, 72% felt gas drilling was likely to have a negative effect on their drinking water. Others were not concerned gas drilling would impact water quality. Many comments from 2012 survey respondents related to water, including that their support for new development was conditional on guarantees that drinking water would be protected.

Action Plan: Establish an ad-hoc Water Resources Committee to clarify current protections, identify potential risks, and define and pursue additional protection to secure water resources now and for future generations. This committee will consider the following:

- Enforcement of a 100-foot buffer between development and watercourses;
- Ensure that development of buildings and other permanent structures occurs outside the restriction of the 100-year floodplain;

³⁴ See Appendix for results of 2012 survey.

- Explore the need for a formal Critical Environmental Area (as outlined by NYS DEC) to protect water quality. See Table 1 below for examples of other municipalities' use of CEAs to protect water.
- Require Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) in accordance with the NYSDEC State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) general permit for commercial developments or major subdivisions applications.
- Encourage the use of retention/detention basins that are an integral part of the overall site plan or subdivision plan.

TABLE 1: Examples of localities' use of a CEA to protect water

County	Designating Agency	Critical Environmental Area	Recorded Date	Reason for Designation
Delaware	Roxbury, Town of	Roxbury Water District Aquifers (pdf, 212 kb)	3/10/1990	protect groundwater aquifers
Schoharie	Wright, Town of	Wright Karst Area (PDF, 268KB)	2/28/1997	protect water quality
Broome	Town of Vestal	Well Field 4-2,4-3, and 4-4 Recharge Areas (pdf, 327 kb)	8/29/1990	primary recharge for well fields
Cortland	Homer, Town of	Homer Public Water Supply Source (pdf, 297 kb)	7/2/2009	aquifer protection/public water supply source protection
Cortland	City of Cortland	Property indicated as the "City Water Works" on the filed map (pdf, 218 kb)	11/22/1989	protect Cortland's sole source aquifer
Cortland	McGraw, Village of	Groundwater Protection Overlay District (pdf, 175 kb)	4/28/1999	provide groundwater protection

Goal #2: Ensure the long-term health of the Town's forestlands.

Recommendation: Use the Town website to maintain links to County, Extension, State and Federal resources for town residents interested in forest management.

Rationale: Wooded areas are important to Otego citizens. In the Comprehensive Plan survey, respondents identified wooded areas as a benefit of living in this community. The preservation of woodlands was the third largest environmental concern identified in the survey.

Action Plan:

- Identify best management practices for wooded areas and share information with the Town and Town residents. This may include information about:
 - The New York State 480-A Forestry Management Program.
 - County support for development of forestland as an agricultural use (such as tree farms or nurseries).
- Update the existing subdivision and land development ordinance to be consistent with this comprehensive plan and Agricultural and Markets Law Article 25-AA.
- Support efforts by property owners to participate in the Conservation Tax Credit (CTC) Program, and encourage education on pros and cons.

Goal #3: Provide a safe, efficient road system that meets community needs

Recommendation: Leverage all available resources to meet Town road system needs.

Rationale: One hundred percent of survey respondents use a motor vehicle, and thus local roads, which include State, County and Town roads, are a primary means of travel. Respondents to the community survey indicated the use of local roads was critical in their commuting to work and other locations. The most frequently stated major concern was the lack of road shoulders. Most respondents feel the speed limits are adequate as posted. They also expressed that repair, upkeep, and snow/ice removal of roads is good. A similar number of respondents also do not want Town tax dollars used for improvements to public roads. However, 40% feel roads do need to be improved now. Some residents (31%) feel vehicle speeds are too fast and some are concerned that road shoulders are too narrow (31%).

Action Plan:

- The Town Subdivision and Site Plan Review laws should be amended to require input from the Town Superintendent of Highways in regard to the location, design, construction, and safety of all proposed roads based on design standards and any applicable Town ordinances.
- Explore addition of bike lanes on State Route 7.
- Investigate the potential, where feasible, of widening shoulders to make traveling safer, especially on County routes.
- Explore ways to secure contingency funding for unexpected repairs due to natural disasters, such as flooding.

Goal #4: Support Safe and Affordable Housing

Recommendation: Maintain current housing regulations and encourage efforts to improve housing.

Rationale: The Town of Otego has sufficient affordable housing³⁵. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, in the Town of Otego:

- 56% of the owner-occupied housing has a mortgage.
- Of those, 60% are paying less than 20% of their monthly household income on housing costs; and almost 80% spend less than 30%.

Therefore, since the generally accepted definition of affordability is for a household to pay no more than 30% of its annual income on housing, it may be concluded that the Town of Otego has sufficient affordable housing³⁶. New housing should be built according to current land use regulations to maintain a balance between affordable housing and a manageable property tax base. Any expansion of areas for manufactured housing should not be made without a professional assessment of how this would affect the tax base of the Town and the changes to the cost of services provided to its residents.

Action Plan:

- Consider modifying the Town's Subdivision Law to include alternative subdivision methods like planned unit development, cluster housing, and conservation easements. Modifications should clarify these methods of developing land an encouraged method for any large-scale developments. By clustering the residential units, the remaining or undeveloped portion of the parcel could remain as open space and could be permanently protected through deed restrictions, conservation easements, acceptable land trusts, landowner's agreement, or homeowner association's bylaws.
- Explore local, state and federal programs to improve the quality of existing housing stock, prevent and address issues of building dilapidation, and share information with Town residents.
- Explore local, state and federal programs to promote energy efficiency in local housing.

Goal #5: Provide facilities that meet current and anticipated community needs.

Recommendation: Establish a facilities work group to plan for needs of the Town and cooperate with other local stakeholders.

³⁵ See Appendix: ACS_11_5YR_DP04

³⁶ See Appendix: ACS_11_5YR_DP04

Rationale: The Town should be prepared to plan for strategic use and repurposing of physical and building resources (i.e., School buildings, church buildings, Town building basement) to avoid vacant buildings and meet community needs.

Action Plan: The Town should consider the following actions:

- Develop a formal Asset Management Plan. This plan would allow the Town to manage all assets by reviewing their maintenance needs and replacement schedules, and identify how future improvements will be financed. This review process should take place every one or two years to reduce the likelihood of costly emergency maintenance costs.
- The Town currently owns, but does not maintain the Roland B. Hill Museum. The structure should be fully evaluated for potential use as a multi-function building. The Town is encouraged to search for Technical Assistance (TA) grants that might provide the proper analysis of the building.

Goal #6: Provide recreational resources that serve the needs of the community year-round.

Recommendation: Maintain current resources and consider potential improvements.

Rationale: Recreational activities can contribute to overall health and well-being of Town residents, attract visitors to the area, and contribute to the appeal of the community for individuals searching for a place to live.

Action Plan: The Town should consider the following actions:

- Investigate the creation of a Town Park possibly utilizing the Town gravel site located along the Susquehanna River following site restoration.
- Coordinate with the NYSDEC to identify opportunities to provide a boat launch as well as hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails within the park.

Goal #7: Support the town-wide interest in renewable energy

Recommendation: Gather information on renewable energy and the impact of such efforts for individuals and the Town.

Rationale: The majority of Town of Otego residents favor renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and biomass fuel, with the greatest interest in residential wind power (77%). (See Survey Results, Appendix X). In addition, speakers at both public hearings for the Comprehensive Plan encouraged the Town to pursue more renewable energy

Action Plan: The Planning Board, in consultation with the Town Board, should:

- Identify code, tax, and other impacts of renewable energy development, such as:
 - Identify building code guidelines for residents making renewable energy upgrades.
 - Identify costs and benefits of commercial scale renewable energy development
 - Sources of information that capture solar and wind potential in the Town
- Identify links and information for residential renewable energy provision to include on Town website.
- Support efforts to bring opportunities, grants, and avenues of funding for renewable energy.
- Establish an Advisory Committee on renewable energy development.

Goal #8: Improve access to high quality telecommunication services for all Town residents

Recommendation: The Town should explore new technologies and co-operative solutions to providing internet, broadcast and telephone services through current or alternative providers.

Rationale: This is an area of ongoing concern expressed by residents both in Town Board and Planning Board meetings as well as through the town-wide survey conducted in spring, 2012. High quality telecommunication services have important implications to the educational and economic capacity of the citizens of Otego. A high rate of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with all for areas of telecommunications services: land-line telephone (89%); television (69%); internet access (60%) and cellular telephone (42%).

Action Plan: The Planning Board, with Town Board support, should consider the following:

- The feasibility of establishing an ad-hoc Telecommunications Committee to apply for and administer grants and other financial assistance to provide high-speed internet access.
- Explore options with under-served neighboring townships, Otsego County and New York State to encourage current telecommunication vendors to provide improved services.
- Ensure that providers of electric and digital infrastructure maintain their equipment and right of ways to maximize the reliability of their services to residents.

Goal #9: The Town of Otego Zoning Map and Zoning and Subdivision Laws should be consistent.

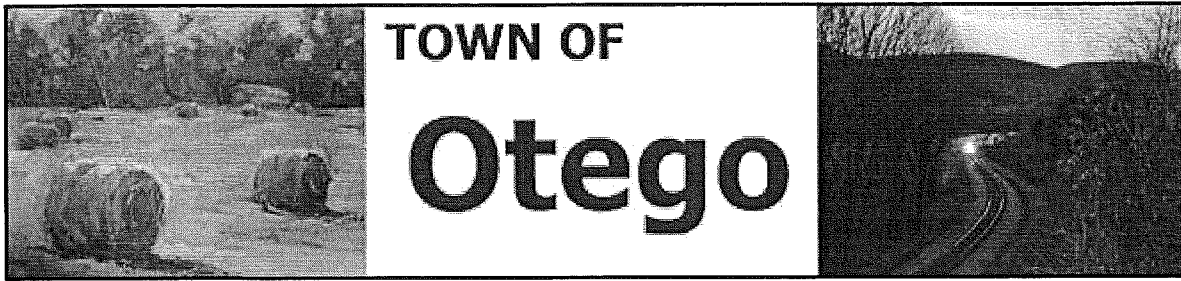
Action Plan: The Planning Board will review, with the Town Attorney, discrepancies between the Zoning Map and local laws, and consult with the County and Town for next steps.

Recommendation: The Town Board should review survey results and public comments regarding gas drilling.

APPENDIX:

Population Trends, Town and Village of Otego 1990 - 2010

Population Groups	1990	2000	2010	Change 1990 - 2000		Change 2000 - 2010		Change 1990 - 2010	
				Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Village of Otego	1,068	1,052	1,010	-16	-1.5%	-42	-4.0%	-58	-5.4%
Town of Otego	2,060	2,131	2,105	71	3.4%	-26	-1.2%	45	2.2%
Total Population	3,128	3,183	3,115	55	1.8%	-68	-2.1%	-13	-0.4%
Sex									
Male	1,520	1,534	1,510	14	0.9%	-24	-1.6%	-10	-0.7%
Female	1,608	1,649	1,605	41	2.5%	-44	-2.7%	-3	-0.2%
Age of Population									
Under 5 years	280	167	170	-113	-40.4%	3	1.8%	-110	-39.3%
Under 18 years	879	860	706	-19	-2.2%	-154	-17.9%	-173	-19.7%
18 and over	2,249	2,323	2,409	74	3.3%	86	3.7%	160	7.1%
20-34 years	672	479	462	-193	-28.7%	-17	-3.5%	-210	-31.3%
35-54 years	796	995	938	199	25.0%	-57	-5.7%	142	17.8%
55-64 years	274	339	458	65	23.7%	119	35.1%	184	67.2%
65 and over	422	451	485	29	6.9%	34	7.5%	63	14.9%
Median Age	34.6	39.1	42.9	4.5	13.0%	3.8	9.7%	8.3	24.0%
Average Family size	3.09	2.93	2.87	-0.16		-0.06		-0.22	
Households	1,139	1234	1285	95	8.3%	51	4.1%	146	12.8%



2011 COMMUNITY SURVEY

Report on Results from the Planning Board

September 18, 2012

TOWN OF OTEGO 2011 COMMUNITY SURVEY

Background

In July of 2011, the Town of Otego adopted a Comprehensive Plan. During the public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan, three issues arose that were not addressed in the Plan. The Town then directed the Planning Board to construct a questionnaire to survey Otego citizens on those three issues, which are: 1) gas drilling; 2) alternative energy; and 3) phone and internet service.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire was drafted by the Planning Board with the following objectives:

- 1) That it be no more than one page in length to save costs;
- 2) That it use simple, direct language;
- 3) That responses be confidential & duplicate surveys be ruled out through use of a random number code on each survey
- 4) That participation be inclusive of both property owners and registered voters.

During the November 2011 and December 2011 meeting, over a dozen community members participated in the actual content and wording of the questionnaire. A final version was sent to the Town Board on February 10, 2012. They approved it with the addition of an "undecided" option for question 10 (See attachment A). This version was pilot tested with strong results, giving high confidence in the survey instrument.

A last minute change was made to the final survey instrument by a community member, without Planning Board input. This change was to question 1, adding question 1A (see Attachment B).

Data Collection

The Town Board determined that the questionnaire would be mailed to all Town residents, including those in the Village. A mailing list was created of both property owners and registered voters. Every attempt was made to remove duplicate mailings to owners of multiple properties or to residents who are both property owners and registered voters. The Town Clerk was also prepared to give surveys to residents who did not receive a survey (i.e., not property owners or

registered voters)¹. On February 29th the postal clerk received 2,223 letters (approx. 2,700 surveys), which were mailed out in batches over several days. The questionnaire indicated a deadline of March 30th for returning the questionnaire to the Town's PO Box. All returned questionnaires were collected at the Post Office by the Town Clerk and placed in a large locked metal box in the Clerk's office.

Data Management

The Planning Board adopted a data management process that was open to the public. Planning Board members opened 1,432 responses and sorted them into groups of 100. Each group was counted for initial results of Question 10 (These results were presented to the Town on April 12, 2012). The Planning Board then entered all the data, by batches of 100, into excel databases. Working in two teams of two Planning Board members each, all the data was entered by each team (i.e., each questionnaire was entered twice, by a different team, into two different computers). Planning Board members agreed that comments would be entered only once. Each meeting to enter data was announced to the public and most data entry sessions had one or more members of the public attend.

The progress of the data entry was recorded folder by folder with each team signing off on a folder after entering the data. Data entry was completed in July 2012 and the two databases were cleaned and reconciled by the beginning of September 2012. During the data cleaning, one planning board member released data results to a few members of the public. This release was unauthorized and violated a vote that passed during the June planning board meeting to specifically not release results prior to completing the data cleaning and analysis.

Thirty individuals contacted the Town Clerk for a survey, who confirmed the requester was a property owner or an Otego resident. The surveys given out by the Clerk were coded with a unique set of codes. In its final data cleaning step, the Planning Board confirmed that those individuals requesting a survey from the Clerk did not also return a survey received in the mail.

¹ Such individuals could request a survey from the Town Clerk during office hours if they provided identification with an Otego address. The clerk recorded these requests so they could be checked against the returned surveys and any duplicates (i.e., one person returning more than one survey) could be eliminated.

Results

Final frequencies were presented at the September 4, 2012 meeting of the Planning Board and the Board agreed that the results should go to the Town Board. Results are presented below.

Alternative energy

The survey had three questions on alternative energy. There was high interest in all three areas of energy, with the highest interest in residential wind (over 1,100 people, or 77% indicated interest) followed by commercial scale wind (881 or 62%). There was also interest in biofuel (695 or 49%) although this option also had the greatest number of undecided responses (26%).

Would you be in favor of residential-scale wind power within the Town of Otego?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1104	77%
Undecided	171	12%
No	100	7%
No Opinion	51	4%

Would you be in favor of a commercial-scale wind facility within the Town of Otego?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	881	62%
Undecided	268	19%
No	206	15%
No Opinion	66	5%

Would you be in favor of a biofuel facility within the Town of Otego?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	695	49%
Undecided	369	26%
No	296	21%
No Opinion	58	4%

Telecommunications

One question asked about level of satisfaction with telecommunication services: land line and cellular phone, internet, and television. The greatest level of dissatisfaction is with land-line telephone service, with 53% dissatisfied and 26% very dissatisfied, thus indicating 79% of survey respondents are unhappy to some degree with their residential phone service. Similarly, 69% of respondents are dissatisfied with their television service and 60% indicate they are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with internet access for their computer usage. Highest levels of satisfaction were with cellular phone service, with 24% satisfied and 33% very satisfied.

How satisfied are you with service?	Very Satisfied		Satisfied		Dissatisfied		Very Dissatisfied	
Land-line telephone	113	9%	153	12%	676	53%	327	26%
Cellular telephone	430	33%	313	24%	377	29%	172	13%
Internet access	303	25%	189	15%	508	41%	235	19%
Television	125	9%	171	12%	683	48%	298	21%

Likely Benefits

Respondents were asked about likely benefits from gas drilling. Responses were evenly spread across the choices, with no one benefit deemed very likely by the majority of respondents. The most likely expected benefit was reduced property or school taxes (44%). Respondents were most skeptical about job creation, with 43% thinking it not at all likely.

What do you think are the likely benefits which will result from gas drilling?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not at all likely
Job creation	27%	30%	43%
Reduced property/school taxes	44%	26%	30%
Direct revenue to the Town	29%	29%	35%
Overall improved local economy	37%	26%	36%

Negative Impacts

The survey asked about greatest concerns related to negative impacts from gas drilling including drinking water, road conditions and property values. Of the six concerns listed, five showed a greater than 40% response deemed as very likely to occur. The greatest concern was with noise (49%), followed by local road conditions (48%) and a decline in property values (46%).

What do you think is the likelihood that gas drilling will have a negative impact on the following?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not at all likely
Noise	49%	32%	19%
Local road conditions	48%	26%	25%
Property values	46%	22%	30%
Drinking water supply	45%	27%	28%
Overall quality of life	42%	24%	34%
Emergency services	31%	26%	43%

Gas Drilling

The survey asked one question about allowing gas drilling in Otego. Of those who responded, a greater number (655, or 47.12%) do not want to allow drilling. This is an eight percentage point difference from those who responded they do want gas drilling (543, or 39.06%). The results include many respondents who were undecided: nearly 14%.

Do you want to allow gas drilling within Otego?

	Frequency	Percent
No	655	47.12%
Yes	543	39.06%
Undecided	192	13.81%

Responses to gas drilling by place of residence

Below are five tables that look at how people responded to the issue of gas drilling sorted by where they live – in the Village of Otego, in the Town outside the Village, and somewhere other than Otego. Each table includes a brief explanation above the table itself.

Table 1 shows the raw count of people's position on drilling sorted by where they indicated they lived. It also shows where there is missing data (i.e., people who did not answer the question).

TABLE 1: Summary of Question 10 by residence (raw data)

<i>Place of Residence</i>	Drilling Position				<i>Total</i>
	<i>Against</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>No response</i>	
In the Village	205	79	64	6	354
Town outside the Village	375	323	108	26	832
Don't live in Otego	64	135	16	8	223
No response	11	6	4	3	24
Totals	655	543	192	43	1433

Table 2 shows the data with non-responses removed. This includes those respondents who did not answer questions about their position on drilling and/or their place of residence.

TABLE 2: Adjusted summary (missing data removed)

<i>Place of Residence</i>	Drilling Position			Totals
	<i>Against</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	
In the Village	205	79	64	348
Town outside the Village	375	323	108	806
Don't live in Otego	64	135	16	215
Totals	644	537	188	1369

DETAILS OF RESULTS

The next series of tables breaks out the above results in detail. **Table 3** shows the percentages of the total number of responses ($n = 1,369$) based on the counts in Table 2. A few things of note: first, the single largest value on Table 3 is the percent of Otego residents outside the Village who indicate they are against drilling. Town residents outside the village make up the largest number and highest percentage of respondents who are AGAINST drilling. They also account for the highest rate of residents who are FOR drilling and the highest number of overall survey returns, 59%, as shown in the last column on Table 3.

Table 3: Rate of response by place of residence

<i>Place of Residence</i>	Drilling Position			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Against</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	
In the Village	15%	6%	5%	25%
Town outside the Village	27%	24%	8%	59%
Don't live in Otego	5%	10%	1%	16%
Totals	47%	39%	14%	100%

Table 4a, b and c shows which groups provided the most and least support for which positions on drilling. Table 4a shows those who indicated they are FOR drilling and what percent are from the Village, what percent are from the Town outside the village, and what percent are landowners who don't live in Otego. Table 4b shows the residential breakdown of those AGAINST drilling and Table 4c shows the numbers for those who are UNDECIDED. Note that the Town-outside-the-Village provided a large majority of the total responses for all three positions; this group had the most influence on the survey results overall. Table 4a also shows that fully one-quarter of the total FOR responses came from respondents who don't live in Otego; this group was the least likely to be against gas drilling. A little over a third of the AGAINST responses came from the Village; this group was most likely to be against drilling.

Table 4a: Which groups support drilling?

<i>Place of Residence</i>	<i># for</i>	<i>% for</i>
In the Village	79	15%
Town outside the Village	323	60%
Don't live in Otego	135	25%
<i>Total</i>	537	100%

Table 4b: Which groups are opposed to drilling?

<i>Place of Residence</i>	# against	% against
In the Village	205	32%
Town outside the Village	375	58%
Don't live in Otego	64	10%
<i>Total</i>	644	100%

Table 4c: Which groups are undecided?

<i>Place of Residence</i>	# undecided	% undecided
In the Village	64	34%
Town outside the Village	108	57%
Don't live in Otego	16	9%
<i>Total</i>	188	100%

Table 5 looks at the distribution of opinions within each residential group. In other words, of all the Otego residents who live outside the Village, what percent are for and what percent are opposed to gas drilling? For Otego residents who live outside the Village, respondents were 47% AGAINST and 40% FOR drilling. In other words, if only Otego residents who live outside the Village were counted, a higher percent are against gas drilling by seven percentage points. If this looks familiar, it is because it reflects almost exactly the rates of FOR and AGAINST of the total 1,369 survey responses in Table 3. The only straight majorities on Table 5 are the Village responses AGAINST drilling (59%), and the non-Otego resident responses FOR drilling (63%). It is also interesting that the Village had the highest rate of responding as UNDECIDED (almost 1 in 5) while those who own land but don't live in Otego were least UNDECIDED (7%).

Table 5: How each group chose

<i>Place of Residence</i>	Drilling Position			<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Against</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	
In the Village	59%	23%	18%	100%
Town outside the Village	47%	40%	13%	100%
Don't live in Otego	30%	63%	7%	100%

Limitations

Every study has limitations. For this study, one limitation is that many Otego residents did not participate in the survey. The response rate was high, but still does not capture the opinions of everyone. A second limitation is question 1A. A basic validity check (see tables below) shows the question is not an accurate measure of property location for non-residents. Question 1

showed 223 respondents did not live in Otego, yet only 158 respondents answered follow-up question of 1A. Furthermore, of those who did answer question 1A, close to a third indicated they were residents. In short, many people who should have answered 1A did not, and many people who did answer 1A were not supposed to. Thus, survey results cannot differentiate between non-resident property located in the Village or in the Town outside the Village.

Summary Table for Question 1A

<u>Q1A Oth</u>	<u>Freq.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0 (Village)	12	7.59
1 (Town)	146	92.41
Total	158	100.00

Q1A validity check

2 (Other)	223
Total resp.	158
Total Residents also responding to Q1A	52

<u>Q1_Res</u>	<u>Q1A_oth</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	
0	8	2	10
	0.7	9.3	10.0
	80.00	20.00	100.00
1	0	42	42
	3.0	39.0	42.0
	0.00	100.00	100.00

Comments

Below are the comments from two folders (A and E) of the survey.

Yes, BUT only if residents' drinking water is protected. This must be guaranteed by a MAJOR energy company because small independent drillers would just say they cannot afford to deliver pure water and declare bankruptcy. One way to do this is to require that all fracking fluid have a unique chemical compound or element added which would be traceable to a MAJOR energy company that would have the resources to provide pure drinking water to all parties whose water may become contaminated at any time during or after the drilling process. Test reports from the provider of the fracking fluid presenting evidence of the presence of the unique chemical compound or element must be provided for each batch of fracking fluid. These must be retained by the town in order to complete the path from the contaminated drinking water to the energy company.

The sooner they start the better.

Make sure that any approval for gas drilling meets the legal standards established by law.

I do not believe it will interfere with water quality.

Environmentalists need to join forces with the gas industry to put resources together to drill safely for the environment now and long term. We can put a man on the moon but we can't figure out how to drill for gas and oil safely??

Until gas companies and environmental groups join forces to develop a safe efficient means of drilling and recycling by products - should be no drilling.

Need a lot more information. Is it possible? Yes, have a presentation from both sides for/against (3rd parties only) and then a debate between the two, with comments and questions from the Otego community.

I only agree to it if it can be done safely in a way that does not pollute our water tables. I do need more information on the drilling as to positive and negative impact on our town.

Unsafe

All depends on if they hire local people and not import workers from elsewhere.

My concern is that inspections are done properly to prevent construction errors that could cause water contamination

I am very concerned about fracking causing micro earthquakes as seen in Ohio

The possible health risks far outweigh any possible pros you could name - we cannot exist without clean water, noise, we can deal with - change in the countryside, we can deal with.

I cannot imagine how the pros (possible pros) can begin to outweigh the likelihood of damages to the quality of life and potential health risks to my grandchildren and the other children of our area - I can live with noise - I can't live without water or with the possibility that our reckless and greedy decisions could jeopardize the lives of our children!!!

Gas drilling has not been tested to the point that my water can be guaranteed

Do not allow!

I am very opposed because of the fracking issue

My concern is public safety issues may not be thoroughly investigated while trying to get this operating in a hurry.

Please do not allow hydro-fracturing in Otego. It will ruin the town / village.

By allowing this industry in our backyard we will be destroying our small town way of life.

All though I know it would be beneficial I am concerned about safety of the water!!!

This experiment should not be allowed until proven safe for some time, preferably in a neutral location

Not in favor of gas drilling in any form.

The revenue the town may make doesn't outweigh the risk to the people of Otego! People will pack up and leave or you will face the possibility of people becoming ill and dying. Revenue won't matter when you're paying it out in lawsuits! Leave our beautiful town alone please - thank you.

Temporary benefits likely - long term consequences on our environment and quality of life may be negative. MORE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH = DRILLING SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE A GOOD DECISION!

Gas drilling (hydrofracking) is rape of the environment! Please consider the information on the enclosed article by Ron Bishop + Nancy Cannon!

I strongly oppose it.

I strongly oppose gas drilling within Otego. It will make a few people rich and they can afford to move away when things get bad.

It is too risky and will jeopardize water quality, which is extremely important.

Gas drilling would not be good for the town.

All safety plus conservation concerns must be addressed. Property owners must be protected from any liabilities.

I am for drilling as long as safety and health concerns can be addresses, especially drinking water quality.

Needs to be here and will be here eventually.

We have also signed a gas lease on our primary property and feel that any negative effect would only be temporary but like anything else that affects us in life every day. And the overall benefits to the economy are much needed.

Drilling will help the residents/town/state

It would be a huge investment in the quality of life in our town.

Please allow it! Otego is dying, taxes are killing us. The young people are leaving. Think about all the job opportunities that are simply not there. Unless you want to work in the gas

station/truck stop/deli etc. Drilling companies maintain and improve roads. Taxes go down and many jobs for citizens.

Yes, drilling will create jobs, stimulate the economy, stop young people from leaving because lack of employment. I feel gas drilling can be done in a safe responsible manner.

Our local economy is dying pass RESPONSIBLE gas drilling.

Roads will be damaged by truck travel, however the gas company needs good roads to run their equipment on, so they will fix and repair them in the long run, this will be positive for the taxpayer.

Safe drilling is possible, revenue to town will be seen plus should help school taxes they are driving people out of area.

Could help with school taxes, they are driving people out ov area.

Those men and women who are now graduating from high school, and may not be looking to a desk job but manufacturing, pipe-fitting, driving, well-design, etc...finally something for young working families.

At this time when Otego, together with the rest of Otsego and neighboring counties are hemmoring jobs and young families, we desperately need to encourage the harvest of the natural resource which will infuse our school district and towns with millions of dollars of revenue.

We/re land owners and taxpayers in Otego. Please do not our violate our right as landowners

Please allow our natural resource to be the opportunity for economic growth in NY

All for it!

Overall economy will improve

There is a lot of misinformation coming from those who oppose. Know the FACTS not just one group's rhetoric

The gas has been mixed with water for 100 years

Nat gas is the bridge fuel for the US. Will help provide jobs and growth for Otego

As a landowner and taxpayer, we do not want to see our rights denied. Please do not interfere with our rights as landowners

Please do not deny our land rights and deny NY the economic benefit of nat. gas.

As long as it's safe, it will greatly benefit the local economy

I am for drilling if it can be done properly meeting state requirements and properly audited by state for enforcement.

Until I am convinced (WITH PROOF) that gas drilling does not pose a threat to our environment, I am not in favor of it.

Lawsuits waiting to happen and destruction of the environment.

Would hope you would not allow it. As I understand it, it is bad for water quality even though they claim not.

Gas drilling and sales would improve the local economy and ease the U.S. dependence on foreign nations!

This area needs the economic boost - right now it's dying a slow death. Gas drilling should be well-regulated and monitored.

I would prefer wind options before drilling, and we seem to have plenty of it. I believe the drilling is inevitable, so let's do it safely outside the village, on larger parcels where landowners and everyone will benefit.

Our taxes are outrages because of no tax base. You cannot sell your property. How can anything credit a situation worse than that?

!!!DRILL BABY DRILL!!!

No

Needs to be done in a very controlled manner - hydrofracking is scary.

I am sick and tired of u people telling landowners what they can and can't do with there own land. If u outlaw it you pay my [REDACTED] TAXES.

Our town needs revenue. People better wake up, or we will all have to move out of this state.

Changes along with progress are very important, but, we must understand the negatives and make sure we improve the quality of life for all local residents not just a few individuals and major gas companies.

Waiting for DEC or some org. More competent to evaluate overall process and detriments. We need some solid unbiased information that is based on solid facts. Not the scare tactics used by people that are interested in one side or the other.

If its supposed to be so safe why don't they frack on N.Y. City watershed land.

Water quality - we have it now. Drilling - will we have it then???

No fracking

Any benefits should be considered long-term boom and then bust doesn't help anyone.

More research and studies need to be done.

No

It should be up to the landowner whether to drill or not. Government should stay out of the decision

I think the advantages of drilling will by far outweigh the bad. Most of the arguments given by the anti-frackers are based on deception, out and out lies, and hysteria. Most biofuels such as ethanol are not economical, and are bad for engines.

I would like to see the town try gas drilling for at least two years. It would be a boost for the economy and would allow the town to become more self-sufficient. By trying it for two years, would allow the town to see how well the state regs work and what additional ones would be needed at the town level.

The industry growth would allow for town growth in personal finances, road improvements, financial aid to the Town Board, hwy, fire and ems, and other local businesses, allowing Otego to become one of the best known community in the state.

Drilling does not mean - hydrofracking: If it does - I am against it.

It's coming anyway - why spend money and time to try and stop it!

It will bring jobs and lower taxes for all residents.

If done correctly I do believe it may have a positive economic impact.

Fracking is harmful to the environment!

Any pollution in drink water is a lawsuit waiting to happen

I am VERY concerned over water table contamination by Fracking compounds & overall disposal of the chemicals

I do not agree with it, even though I understand that the town economy may benefit - the risks are just too big.

Not a good thing

Not informed enough but I've been told its not a good thing

Gas drilling in this community would be a DISASTER!!

We have well water and I don't need GAS in it or to stop my water from coming into my house
- this drilling for gas is unsafe for people

If you drill across America there will soon be no place to safely live for the American people...we should advance to more ecofriendly technologies

I am in favor of an up to 5 year moratorium until more data can be gathered and the pros and cons better understood. I'm not necessarily anti-drilling, I just need more facts.

We have very good water - let's keep it that way!

Please help preserve one of the only remaining aspects of our region: it's beauty

Until it is safer for ALL residents, it should not be allowed

Are we willing to trade a possible short term (5 year) economic gain for some for a long term change in our environment (The thing that leads many people to move here

Why would we allow a few to ruin the way the rest of us lives. This is a very dangerous industry. We will all lose in the end for a brief period of employment

No drilling within Otego

Don't know enough about bio-fuel

no no no no no re direct revenue to the Town, gas companies give brides

There is no warranty of hazards or results

Too much of a risk. We've seen a lof about it and none of it good.

Why take a chance on ruining our great water & town?
No gas drilling please

Otego ancestors knew you don't take from the land what you can't put back. Don't mess with our water over man's greed. Casing wells with concrete can't block chemicals.

My biggest concern would be health factors - water, air, soil, ground. Need full PROOF of safe living conditions.

Appendix A

Approved Survey

**Town of Otego
Planning Board
3526 State Hwy 7, PO BOX 468, Otego, NY 13825**



Dear Community Member,

NO PHOTOCOPIES WILL BE COUNTED

The Town Board has authorized the mailing of this questionnaire to address three areas not currently addressed in the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

The mailing is being sent to the Town's registered voters and property owners. It will also be available at the Town Clerk's office, for those who do not own property or are not registered to vote, but who wish to participate in the survey. Surveys must be mailed to or dropped off at the Town of Otego Municipal Building on or before **February 29, 2012**. A self addressed, postage paid, envelope has been provided for your convenience.

(Please check one answer for each question)

1. Where is your primary residence? ☐ Village of Otego ☐ Town of Otego ☐ Other

2. Would you be in favor of residential-scale wind power within the Town of Otego?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐ No opinion

3. Would you be in favor of a commercial-scale wind facility within the Town of Otego?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐ No opinion

4. Would you be in favor of a biofuel ** facility within the Town of Otego?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐ No opinion

5. How satisfied are you with your residential service for the following?

CHECK ONE BOX FOR EACH ROW	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
a) Land-line telephone				
b) Cellular telephone				
c) Computer Internet access				
d) Television				

6. Would you pay for an enhanced level of service for any of the above? Which one(s)?

7. Any additional comments on Internet or phone service?

8. What do you think are the likely benefits which will result from gas drilling?

CHECK ONE BOX FOR EACH ROW	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not at all likely
a. Job creation			
b. Reduced property/school taxes			
c. Direct revenue to the Town			
d. Overall improved local economy			

9. What do you think is the likelihood that gas drilling will have a negative impact on the following?

CHECK ONE BOX FOR EACH ROW	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not at all likely
a. Drinking water supply			
b. Local road conditions			
c. Property values			
d. Noise			
e. Emergency services			
f. Overall quality of life			

10. Do you want to allow gas drilling within Otego? YES ☐ NO ☐ Undecided ☐

11. Any comments on gas drilling within Otego?

PLEASE NOTE: NO PHOTO COPIES OF SURVEY WILL BE COUNTED. Also note that the number handwritten in the box (front right) is not for the purpose of tracking individuals respondents. It is for eliminating the possibility of duplicate survey forms being submitted.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Town Planning Board

**** BIOFUELS --** Fuel produced from renewable resources, especially plant biomass, vegetable oils, and treated municipal and industrial wastes. The use of biofuels as an additive to petroleum-based fuels can also result in cleaner burning with less emission of carbon monoxide and particulates. . Ethanol produced by fermenting the sugars in biomass materials such as corn and agricultural residues is known as bioethanol. Bioethanol is used in internal-combustion engines either in pure form or more often as a gasoline additive. . Biodiesel is made by processing vegetable oils and other fats and is also used either in pure form or as an additive to petroleum-based diesel fuel. . Biogas is a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide produced by the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter such as sewage and municipal wastes by bacteria. It is used especially in the generation of hot water and electricity.

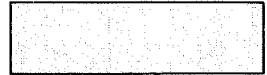
Appendix B

Adjusted Survey

(version that was mailed out)

Please return by
MARCH 30, 2012

Town of Otego
Planning Board
3526 State Hwy 7, PO BOX 468, Otego, NY 13825



Dear Community Member,

NO PHOTOCOPIES WILL BE COUNTED

The Town Board has authorized the mailing of this questionnaire to address three areas not currently addressed in the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

The mailing is being sent to the Town's registered voters and property owners. It will also be available at the Town Clerk's office, for those residents who do not own property or are not registered to vote, but who wish to participate in the survey. Surveys must be mailed to or dropped off at the Town of Otego Municipal Building on or before **March 30, 2012**. A self addressed, postage paid, envelope has been provided for your convenience.

(Please check one answer for each question)

1. Where is your primary residence? ☐ Village of Otego ☐ Town of Otego ☐ Other

1A. If Other, your primary property is in: ☐ Village ☐ Town

2. Would you be in favor of residential-scale wind power within the Town of Otego?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐ No opinion

3. Would you be in favor of a commercial-scale wind facility within the Town of Otego?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐ No opinion

4. Would you be in favor of a biofuel ** facility within the Town of Otego?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐ No opinion

5. How satisfied are you with your residential service for the following?

CHECK ONE BOX FOR EACH ROW	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
a) Land-line telephone				
b) Cellular telephone				
c) Computer Internet access				
d) Television				

6. Would you pay for an enhanced level of service for any of the above? Which one(s)?

7. Any additional comments on Internet or phone service?
