EXHIBIT B

# TOWN OF ULYSSES

## PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

## STAFF MEMO

**TO:** Town Board
**FROM:** Niels Tygesen, Planner
**DATE:** May 7, 2026
**SUBJECT**: Proposed Smith Woods Critical Environmental Area Designation

## BACKGROUND AND INTENT

Staff received an email on April 16, 2026 from the Town Supervisor informing of Town Board (TB) Resolution 2026-079 adopted on April 14, 2026 to start the preparation of the environmental assessment forms for potential designation of Smith Woods as a Critical Environmental Area (CEA). The email further informed that the consideration of the CEA designation was a required portion of the donation agreement the Town accepted last year for the property owned by Paleontological Research Institute (PRI).

The TBs Resolution had five findings:

1. PRI is in the process of donating the property to the Town.
2. Smith Woods is a unique, old-growth, undeveloped forest that holds important historic and educational opportunities which if negatively impacted by surrounding development could bring harm to its continuation and preservation.
3. The Town is obligated to review and potentially designate the property as a CEA.
4. The proposed action to designate the land as a CEA appears to be an Unlisted Action under New York State's Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).
5. The TB's desire to begin the process of environmental review (ER) for the proposed action.

The TB then resolved the proposed action was preliminarily classified as an Unlisted Action and directed me to:

1. Prepare Part 1 of Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) relating to the Proposed Unlisted Action;
2. Prepare a memo recommending particularized reasons for the designation of Smith Woods as a CEA; and
3. Prepare a narrative response to the questions within Part 2 of the SEAF for TB review and consideration.

The 04.16.2026 email further explained Town Legal was charged with completion of abstract for the property which according to Legal should be sufficient given the TB is not proposing to extend the CEA boundaries past the property lines, that Marvin Pritts could assist in resources needed related to this memo, and requested the memo by May 7, 2026 for the Town Board's May 12, 2026 meeting.

## LOCAL CEAs

There is only one CEA designated in Tompkins County: Coy Glen, designated by the Town of Ithaca due to a wide variety of botanical species.

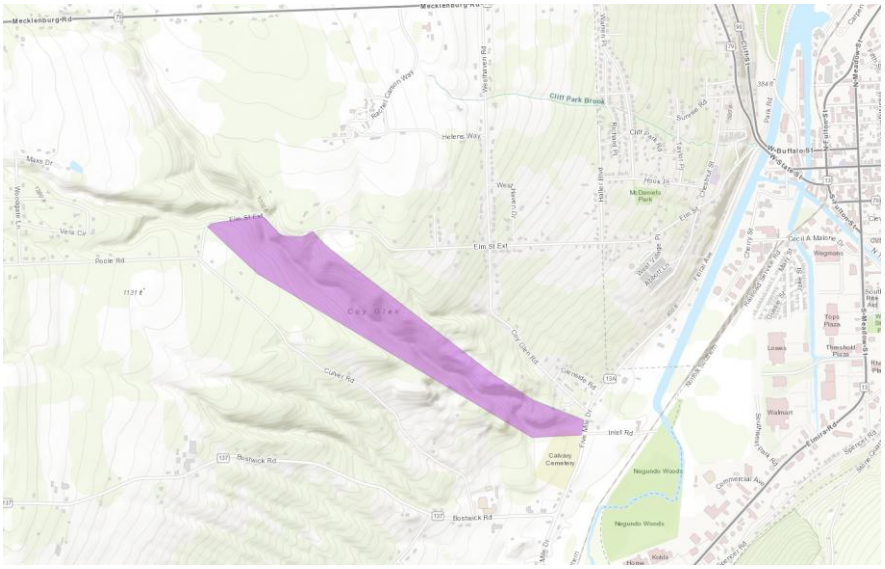


Image 1: Coy Glen CEA

There are no CEAs in adjacent Seneca County.

In adjacent Schyler County there are two CEAs: Queen Catharine Wildlife Management Area, designated by Schuyler County for the protection of plants and wildlife, and Texas Hollow, also designated by Schuyler County, due to diverse ecological habitat.

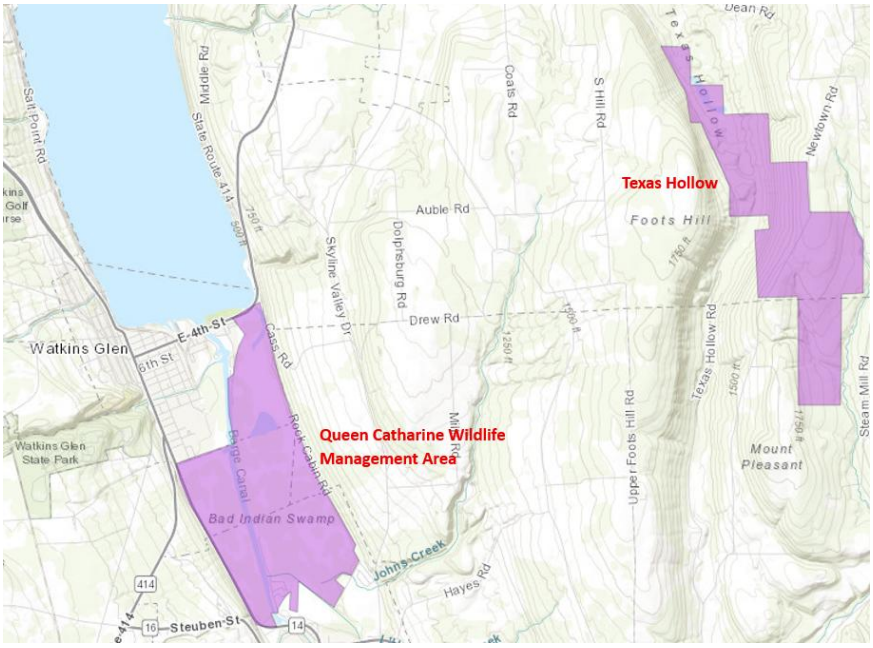


Image 2: Queen Catharine Wildlife Management Area and Texas Hollow CEAs

## STATE LAWS AND GUIDANCE RELATED TO CEAs

CEAs, per New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), are areas in the state which have been designated by a local or state agency to recognize a specific geographical area that must have an exceptional or unique character that covers one or more of the following:

- A benefit or threat to human health;
- A unique natural setting (e.g., fish and wildlife habitat, forest and vegetation, open space and areas of important aesthetic or scenic quality);
- An 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.
-

DEC states that CEA designation serves to alert project sponsors to the agency's concern for the resources or dangers contained within the CEA. Once a CEA has been designated, potential impacts on the characteristics of that CEA become relevant areas of concern that warrant specific, articulated consideration in determining the significance of any Type I or Unlisted actions that may affect the CEA. Often CEAs are recognized and designated because a locality sees this as an avenue to protect or ensure consideration of the resource in land use decisions.

It should be noted, identified Type II actions do not require environmental review under SEQR, thereby, regardless that a future proposed Type II action may occur in or are substantially contiguous to a CEA, it will not change the SEQR classification of the proposed action nor require ER. Additionally, with the changes to SEQRA in 1996, Unlisted Actions occurring within or substantially contiguous to a CEA are not automatically elevated to Type 1 actions, nor does it automatically require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The designation of a CEA gives the sponsor of any action in or substantially contiguous to the area a heightened sense of awareness of the importance of the area. It raises a red flag that there are significant concerns that should be considered when any agency is reviewing that action. It does not grant any agency any jurisdiction that did not already exist before the designation of the CEA.

It should be further noted that designation of a CEA does not substitute for, nor does it provide, governmental protection afforded by land use controls such as prescriptive environmental or developmental regulations; CEAs cannot in and of themselves be considered as a type of development control.

**Process**

Per the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Title 6, Chapter VI, Part 617.14.g:
Designation of a CEA must be preceded by written public notice and a public hearing. The public notice must identify the boundaries and the specific environmental characteristics of the area warranting the designation.

DEC provides further guidance on additional procedures to consider including:

- Holding an informational meeting with affected landowners, other interested agencies, and the public to consider:
  - The characteristics of the potential CEA that make it worth considering for designation; or
  - The kind of actions that would require environmental review under SEQR; or
  - The alternatives for boundaries; or
  - Any important community values which could be affected by the designation; or
  - Adverse impacts likely to be incurred if the area is not designated as a CEA; or
  - Management plans for the CEA to determine the compatible activities within and adjacent to the

proposed CEA and propose special mitigation measures, acceptable impact thresholds, or compatible future actions.

- Prepare a generic EIS (GEIS) on the proposed CEA. Although a CEA designation may warrant a negative determination of significance, a concise GEIS on a proposed CEA could provide an effective tool to better inform landowners, the public, and decision makers.

Once an agency has designated the CEA, it must file notice of that designation with the DEC Commissioner, the DEC office for the region in which the CEA is located, and all other agencies that are routinely involved in undertaking, funding, or approving actions in the municipality in which the area has been designated. The notification must include a map at an appropriate scale to readily locate the boundaries of the CEA, written justification supporting the designation, and proof of public hearing. The designation takes effect 30 days after filing with the DEC Commissioner.

In its deliberations, the TB should note there are alternatives to CEA designation that might provide equal or greater protections than, or in tandem with, CEA designation, including the adoption of prescriptive environmental or developmental regulations that would cover those elements in Smith Woods the TB desires to protect, adoption and implementation of a management plan, establishment of a policy or adoption of environmental or developmental regulations that require a full EAF and coordinated review for all or certain kinds of Unlisted actions.

**The subject site**

Smith Woods (Parcel 503689-13.-3-1) is located east of Cemetery Road at the intersections of Falls Road and 96, just east of the Village of Trumansburg (image from Tite report below). It is approximately 31.75 acres in area and zoned PR: Park/Recreation zone. Lands to the north across Falls Road and adjacent to the east are zoned R: Residential. Lands to the east-southeast are zoned B1: Business. Lands to the south across 96 are zoned A2: Special Ag. Adjacent lands to the west in the Village appear to be zoned East Gateway Mixed Use and Residential. Development standards specific to the PR zone are listed in the Code of the Town of Ulysses (CTU) 212 Article XVIII, development standards specific to the R zone are listed in CTU 212 Article VII, development standards specific to the B zone are listed in CTU 212 Article XV, and development standards specific to the A2 zone are listed in CTU 212 Article VI. It appears the development standards for the Village's East Gateway Mixed Use zone are listed in Article IV of their zoning law and the development standards for the Residential zone are listed in Article III.

The Town has not adopted prescriptive environmental regulations that specifically covers rules and procedures designed to take into consideration the environmental impact of actions taken by or affecting the town as provided for under SEQRA, therefore, the default list of all Type 1 and Type 2 SEQR actions are listed under NYCRR 6.VI.617 subsection 4 and subsection 5 respectively.

According to DEC's Environmental Resource Mapper (ERM), the site has been identified as a significant natural community (beech-maple mesic forest) with high quality occurrence of uncommon community type significance (image below). It also appears there may be State jurisdictional wetlands on and adjacent to the subject site (image below). There does not appear to be any State or USGS designated streams on or adjacent to the subject site. US Fish and Wildlife have not identified any federal wetland on or adjacent to the subject site, but the Town's official local wetland map has identified wetlands and a stream adjacent to the subject site (image below). The regulations specific to streams and wetlands and their related buffers are listed under CTU 212-124.

According to FEMA's Flood Map Service Center, the subject site does not contain or appear to be impacted by a designated flood zone.

The subject site has been identified by Tompkins County as a Unique Natural Area ((UNA) image below and inventory sheets included as attachment to this memo). The Town has not adopted prescriptive environmental regulations specific to UNAs other than requiring site plan approval by the Planning Board for properties located in a UNA and within either the Lake Shore zone or Conservation zone.

According to NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO) Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), there has been one identified marker on the subject property: wayfinding signage (images below) and two identified markers in close proximity to the subject property: Grove Cemetery Gate to the north across Falls Road and Youth Building at the Fairgrounds to south across 96.

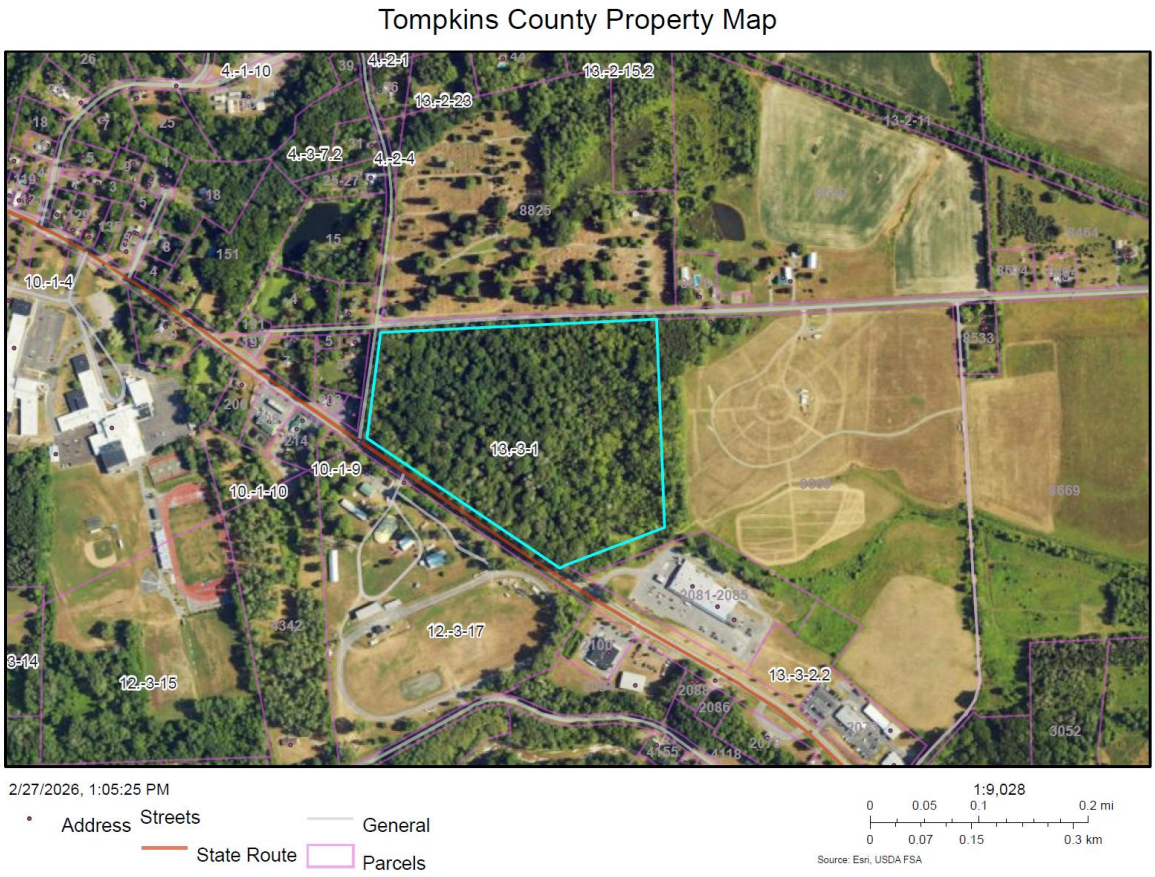


Image 3: Title Report Map of Subject Property

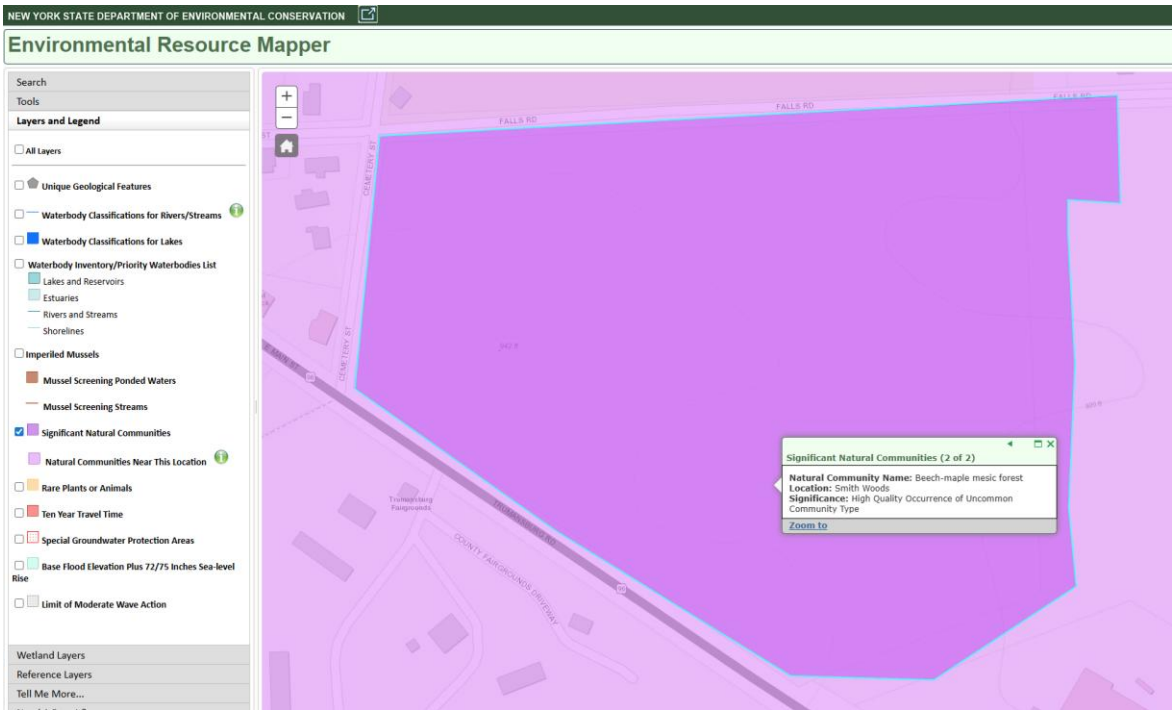

Image 4: DEC ERM Significant Natural Community

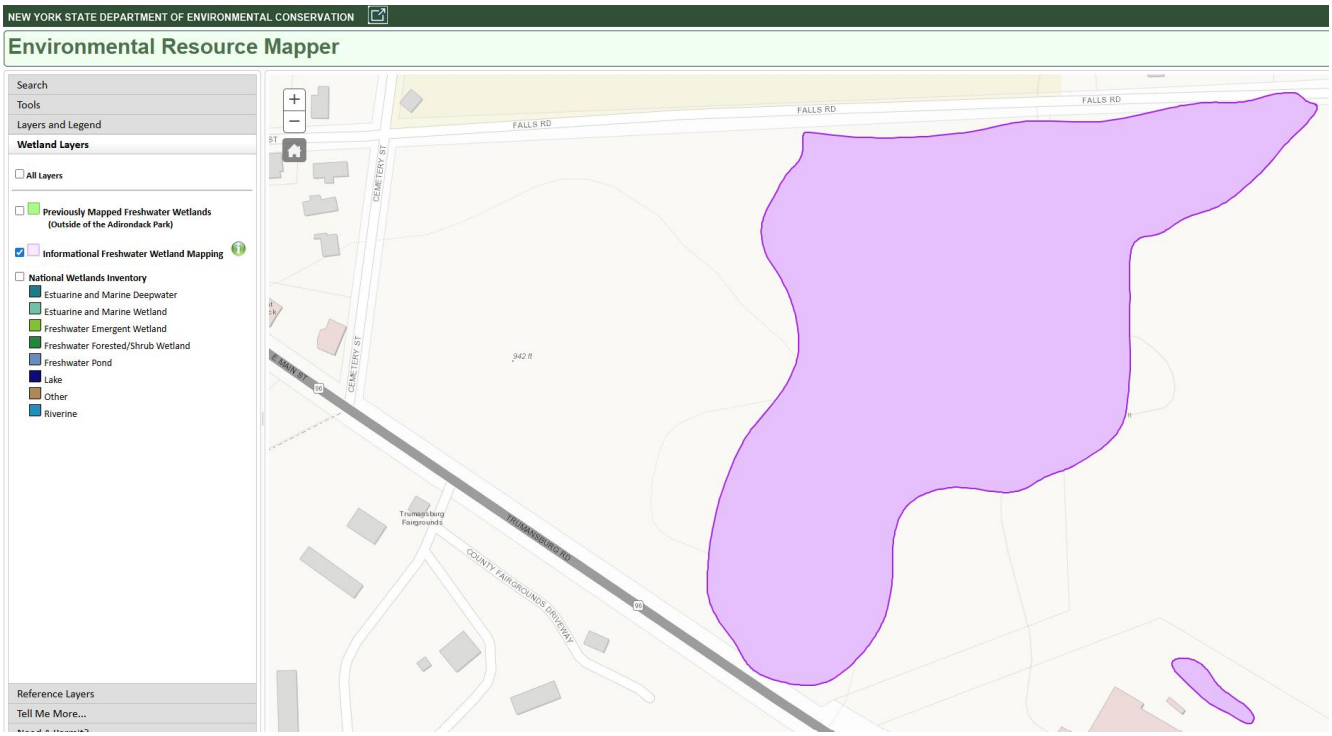

Image 5: DEC ERM Informational Freshwater Map

Image 6: Town of Ulysses Wetland Map

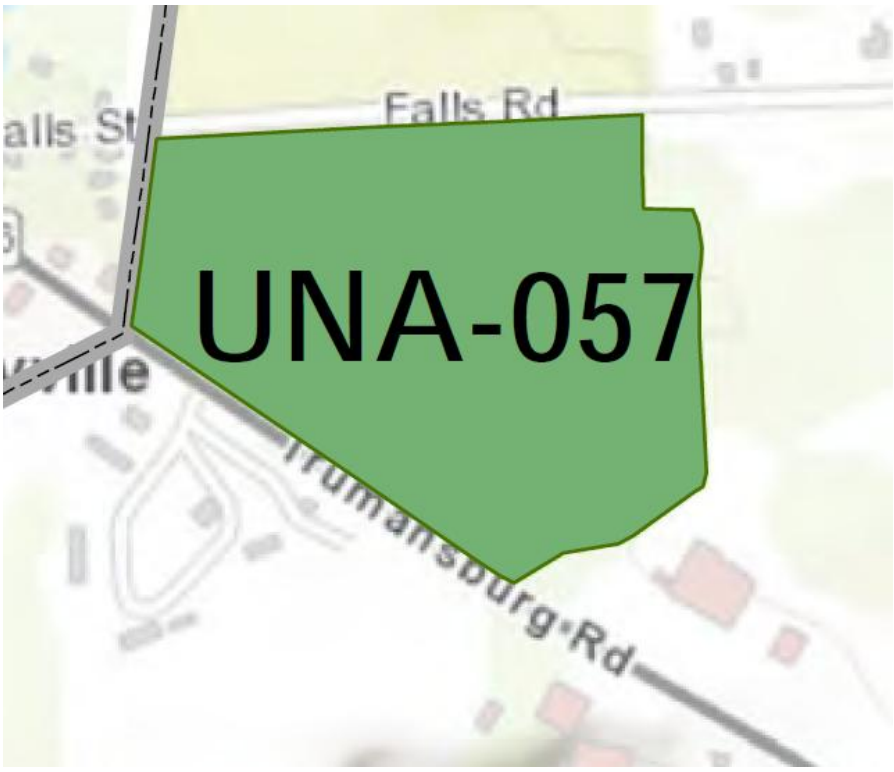

Image 7: Tompkins County UNA-057, Smith Woods

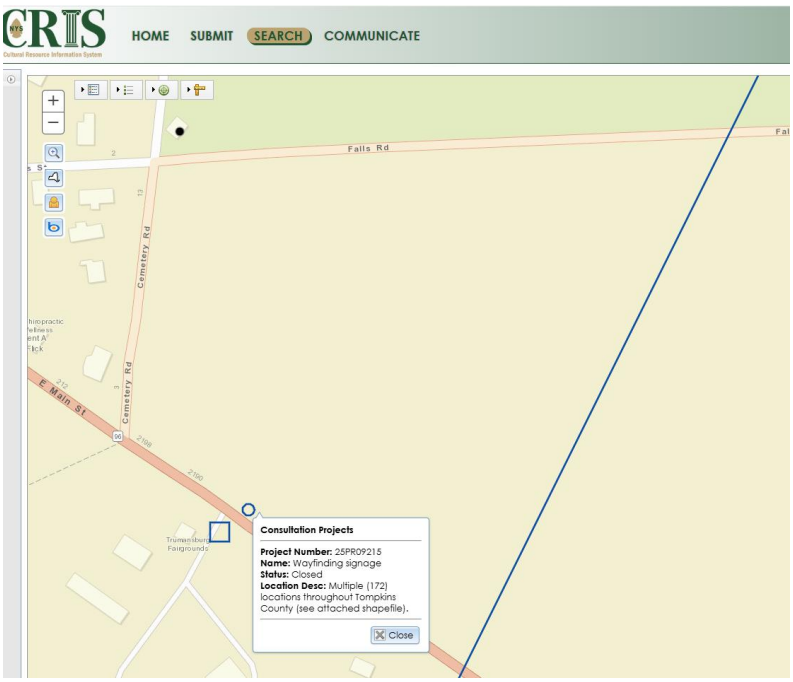

Image 8: SHPO CRIS

Image 9: Google Map Streetview Image of Wayfinding Signage

## DELIVERABLES ON DIRECTIVES

**Preparation of Part 1 of SEAF relating to the Proposed Unlisted Action**

DEC notes the act of designating a CEA is a discretionary decision by the TB, and should be processed as an Unlisted Action unless the area proposed for designation in some way triggers a Type I review (e.g., a designated historic site). Attached to this memo is a draft of SEAF Part 1 as directed by the TB. The TB should review the list of Type 1 actions noted above. Per NYCRR 6.VI.617.4.b.9, any Unlisted Action (unless the action is designed for the preservation of the facility or site), that exceeds 25 percent of any threshold established in this section, occurring wholly or partially within, or substantially contiguous to, any historic building, structure, facility, site or district or prehistoric site that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or that is listed on the State Register of Historic Places or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places, is a Type 1 action. Further, NYCRR 6.VI.617.4.b.10 states any Unlisted action, that exceeds 25 percent of any threshold in this section, occurring wholly or partially within or substantially contiguous to any publicly owned or operated parkland, recreation area or designated open space, including any site on the Register of National Natural Landmarks is a Type 1 action. NYCRR 6.VI.617.4.b.4 lists a relevant threshold, namely the acquisition of 100 or more contiguous acres of land by a local agency. Should subsections b.9 and/or b.10 apply, the threshold would be 25 acres; Smith Woods is approximately 31.75 acres. Staff recommend the TB forward this memo, the draft of SEAF Part 1, and associated information to Town Legal, and request guidance on whether or not the Town should procced with ER as an Unlisted Action. Part 1.1 states that if the proposed action only involves the legislative adoption of an ordinance (resolution) to proceed to Part 2. Staff however completed the form in case it's needed or warranted. Staff recommend the TB request Town Legal review and consider amending as needed.

At time of submission of this memo to the Town Supervisor and Town Clerk, Town Legal had not yet forwarded a description for Schedule A related to the survey (attached to this memo). It's presumed Town Legal will provide this to the Town Supervisor in the near future. There were additional related notes of concern by Legal the TB should confer.

**Preparation of a memo recommending particularized reasons for the designation of Smith Woods as a CEA**

Staff reached out to Marvin Pritts per the Town Supervisors direction and requested documentation on one or more exceptional or unique features of the subject site as required by State law noted above, with associated data and materials that could be included in this memo (letter included as an attachment to this memo).

1. In regards to Smith Woods being a benefit to human health

   The World Health Organization's (WHO) Constitution lists several principes for human health, at the top is identifying health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". They affirm that health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition, and that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security.

   Oregon State University (OSU) has defined Human Health as "a relative state in which one is able to function well physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually in order to express the full range of one's unique potentialities within the environment in which one is living".

   According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), forests are indispensable to human health by filtering the air, regulating water cycles, and by helping to mitigate the hazardous effects of climate change through carbon sequestration. They can also help reduce risks of cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and mental health issues, resulting in better, longer, and more equitable health outcomes.

What is now known as Smith Woods, was part of a 600-acre "bounty land grant" tract paid to soldiers after the Revolutionary War. Part of this tract was logged and farmed, but this roughly 32-acre portion was left intact. Additional history of Smith Woods can be found in a book entitled, "Smith Woods: The Environmental History of an Old Growth Forest Remnant in Central New York State" (2017) by W.D. Allmon, M.P. Pritts, P.L. Marks, B.E. Epstein, D.A. Bullis and K.A. Jordan. The forest is within walking distance of local public schools allowing students to walk there for field trips, is across the road from the fairgrounds, and nearby to Main Streat Trumansburg. Trails have been constructed to make the parcel more accessible to the public, and the topography is relatively flat, making it accessible for those with limited physical abilities. Ensuring an accessible forest will be preserved as much as possible from potential adverse impacts of development will help continue to provide countless opportunities throughout the year for people to engage in outdoor activities, bettering their individual health and improving the greater health of the community as identified by WHO, OSU, and WWF.

2. In regards to Smith Woods being a unique natural setting (e.g., fish and wildlife habitat, forest and vegetation, open space and areas of important aesthetic or scenic quality)

   As noted above, Tomkins County has already designated the area as a UNA, it has been designated as a park by the Town, and it is a forest with wetlands. Ensuring the forest and its associated wetlands will be preserved as much as possible from potential adverse impacts of development will help continue to ensure future generations will be able to enjoy the unique natural setting of the area.

3. In regards to Smith Woods having social, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, or educational value

   It would appear Smith Woods could be designated as an old growth forest per State definition under the Consolidated Laws of New York 43-B.45-0105.6. As noted above and referenced in Tompkins County's UNA sheets, this subject site is considered historically valuable by local residents. It contains part of a farm owned by Smith, a wallpaper manufacturer from New York City, from 1860 – 1892, and there is a concentration of historic structures in the area. There are few places where an old growth forest remnant is as accessible as Smith Woods. Its proximity to schools and relatively flat topography make it a unique educational resource. Educators can show learners first-hand the characteristics of old growth forests without the need to travel great distances or hike over steep and rough terrain. Ensuring the forest will be preserved as much as possible from potential adverse impacts of development will help preserve social, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and educational value for future generations.

4. In regards to Smith Woods having an inherent ecological or hydrological sensitivity to change that may be adversely affected by any change

   Tompkins County's UNA sheets note the subject site is a mature forest stand with trees over 150 years old, the New York Natural Heritage Program has determined that this site may contain rare plants, animals, and/or significant ecological communities, there is a beech-maple mesic forest and a red maple-hardwood swamp, and there is at least one plant species designated as rare or scarce at the state and local levels by The Nature Conservancy, the New York Natural Heritage Program, Tompkins County EMC, and the Cornell Plantations. A hemlock tree that blew over in 1989 was professionally aged at SUNY ESF and was estimated to have germinated in 1663. Several oak trees are estimated to be 250 years old based on their circumference. Ensuring the forest will be preserved as much as possible from potential adverse impacts of development will help preserve the ecological and/or hydrological elements of the subject site.

**Preparation of a narrative response to the questions within Part 2 of the SEAF for TB review and consideration**

Attached to this memo is a draft of narrative response to SEAF Part 2 as directed by the TB.
As noted above, staff recommend the TB confer with Town Legal to determine whether the ER review should proceed as an Unlisted Action or as Type 1.

**Additional recommendations**

Staff recommend the TB consider holding one or more informational meetings with adjacent landowners, other interested agencies (including but not limited to Tompkins County Planning and Sustainability Department, Village of Trumansburg's Board of Village Trustees, both Planning Boards and BZAs for the Town and Village, Town Bee Friendly Community Committee, Town Conservation and Sustainability Committee, Town Habitat Nature Preserve Advisory Committee, Town Tree Advisory Council, Town Youth Commission, Village Events & Tourism Committee, Ulysses Historical Society, and professional staff and/or retained professional services that administer environmental and developmental regulations for both the Town and the Village), and the general public to consider items related to the designation of the subject property as noted above, prior to scheduling a public hearing on the matter. Staff also recommend the TB consider other options besides CEA designations, that could be adopted to ensure preservation of the subject site as much as possible such as prescriptive environmental and developmental regulations. Staff further recommend the TB confer with Town Legal to determine whether the ER review should have a GEIS as noted above.

## ATTACHMENTS

TB Resolution 2026-079
KO Email 04.16.2026
Smith Woods Tompkins County UNA Sheets
Draft SEAF Parts 1 and 2
Letter from Marvin Pritts 04.30.2026

**TOWN OF ULYSSES**
10 Elm Street, Trumansburg, NY 14886
townofulyssesny.gov

**Town Supervisor** (607) 387-5767, Ext 232 • supervisor@townofulyssesny.gov
**Town Clerk** (607) 387-5767, Ext 221 • clerk@townofulyssesny.gov

STATE OF NEW YORK}
COUNTY OF TOMPKINS} SS:
TOWN OF ULYSSES:

**PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM FOR POTENTIAL DESIGNATION OF SMITH WOODS AS A CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREA**

RESOLUTION # 79 OF 2026:

WHEREAS, the Paleontological Research Institute ("PRI") is in the process of donating the property known as Smith Woods to the Town of Ulysses; and

WHEREAS, Smith Woods is a unique, old-growth, undeveloped forest that holds important historic and educational opportunities which if negatively impacted by surrounding development could bring harm to its continuation and preservation; and

WHEREAS, as part of the donation, the Town is obligated to review and potentially designate said property as a Critical Environmental Area (the "Proposed Action"), as that term is used and defined pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Action appears to be an Unlisted Action; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to begin the process of environmental review for the proposed action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ulysses preliminarily classifies the Proposed Action as an Unlisted Action and directs the Town Planner to prepare a Part 1 Short Environmental Assessment Form relating to the Proposed Action; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Planner is directed to prepare a memo recommending particularized reasons for the designation of Smith Woods as a Critical Environmental Area; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Planner is directed to prepare a narrative response to the questions within Part 2 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form for the Town Board's review and consideration; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor or her designee, each with the support of the Town Planner, are hereby authorized and directed to take all other steps necessary to proceed with the potential designation of Smith Woods as a Critical Environmental Area; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Vote: 3-0
Date Adopted: 4/14/26

*I, the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Ulysses, County of Tompkins, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above resolution is an exact copy of the same adopted by the Ulysses Town Board at a meeting on the 14th day of April, 2026.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Town of Ulysses, New York, on this 16th day of April, 2026.*

Carissa M Parlato

{ SEAL } *Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk*

## Niels Tygesen

**From:** Katelin Olson
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 10:12 AM
**To:** Niels Tygesen
**Cc:** Elizabeth Weatherby; Carissa Parlato; Lori Asperschlager; Nathan VanWhy; Marvin Pritts; Michael Perehinec
**Subject:** Critical Environmental Area designation
**Attachments:** Resolution regarding environmental review for CEA designation of Smith Woods.docx

Good morning, Niels,

On Tuesday night, the Town Board passed a resoution to begin the process of considering Smith Woods for Critical Environmental Area designation. Considering this designation is a required portion of the donation agreement that the Town accepted last year for the PRI property.

Attached is the resolution we adopted directing you to begin the environmental review process, as well as gathering the information necessary for the review. (Please see Carissa if you need a certified copy of it.)

Mike (not copied) is overseeing the completion of the abstact for the property, and I'll loop you in to that conversation shortly so we have a timeline on when to anticipate receiving it. Nate (copied) thinks that should be sufficient to serve the CEA process, given that we are not proposing to extend the boundaries past the property lines.

Marvin is copied, because he will likely be able to help connect you with the resources necessary to complete the memo.

Niels, please let me know—anticipating that we will have the abstract soon—if it is reason to have the draft materials ready in three weeks (May 7). Ideally I would like to begin the review process at the May 12th meeting.

Please reach out to Nate and Mike as needed, and please let me know if there are any questions at this point.

Thanks,

Katelin

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Katelin Olson, Ulysses Town Supervisor
Vice Chair, Tompkins County Council of Government
Vice Chair, Three Falls LDC
supervisor@townofulyssesny.gov

**SITE NAME:** Smith Woods **SITE CODE:** UNA-57
**DATA LAST UPDATED:** 6/27/2025 **OLD SITE CODE:** UL-03

## LOCATION

**Municipality:** Town of Ulysses **Latitude:** 42 32 10 N
**USGS Quad:** Trumansburg **Longitude:** 76 39 42 W

**Tax Parcel Numbers Included in this Site:**
*Tax parcel data is accurate as of 2024. For up-to-date information on tax parcel descriptions and ownership, contact the Tompkins County Assessment Department. When a UNA covered less than 0.025 ac. of a parcel, the parcel was excluded from this list.*

UL-13.-3-1 UL-13.-3-2.1 UL-13.-4-2.2

## SITE AND VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

This is old-growth forest, part of which was recently disturbed by a blowdown and heavy salvage harvest. Still present are unusually large, fine specimens of several forest trees. Most of the forest is dominated by beech and sugar maple with much hemlock, tulip tree, white ash, and black cherry. Cucumber tree (Magnolia acuminata) and flowering dogwood (Cornus florida) are found here. In a small wet area on the east side the forest, trees include black ash, American elm, and red maple. This site remains one of the best example of mature natural forest on a mesic site in Central New York.

## REASONS FOR SELECTION

- Old-growth forest
- Rare or scarce plants
- Important teaching site
- Quality example of plant community
- Scenic/Aesthetic value
- Rare or scarce community types

## SPECIAL LAND-USE INFORMATION

**Special Land-Use Designations and Features**

- A mature forest stand with trees over 150 years old is found on this site.
- The New York Natural Heritage Program has determined that this site may contain rare plants, animals, and/or significant ecological communities.
- This site is considered historically valuable by local residents. This site contains part of a farm owned by Smith, a wallpaper manufacturer from New York City, from 1860 - 1892. The woods were offered to William Biggs as payment for estate management in 1909. Biggs accepted the woods, but set it up as a memorial to Smith. It is managed by a board of trustees. There is a concentration of historic structures in the area.
- Some or all of this site lies in an agricultural district, certified pursuant to NYS Agriculture and Markets Law.

**Water Resources**

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## CONSERVATION OF THE SITE

**Adjacent Land-Use:** The site is surrounded on three sides by roads; one of which (Route 96) is heavily traveled, presenting a danger to wildlife. The adjacent cemetery and fair grounds have little impact on the woods.

**Evidence of Disturbance and Threats to Site:** Salvage harvest of trees and cleanup following a recent windstorm created much disturbance, but with proper management, natural recovery should occur. A major threat to the site would be the construction of trails linking Trumansburg with the grocery store.

**Special Conservation/Management Needs:** The land downslope of the site is scrubby woods and fields; some of that land should be acquired in order to provide a buffer for the site, especially along Route 96. The site does not have an adequate protective buffer.

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE

**Size (acres):** 33.98 **Elevation (ft.):** 916 to 944 **Aspect:** flat

**Slope %**
- [x] Flat
- [x] 3 to 15
- [ ] 15 to 25
- [ ] Over 25

**Topographic Position**
- [x] Crest
- [ ] Upper Slope
- [ ] Mid Slope
- [ ] Lower Slope
- [ ] Bottom

### Topographic Features

Gently rolling site that is almost level.

### Geological Features

- - - - -

### Soils Present on the Site

*Soil characteristics of the site were determined manually and are approximate. In the future, digital soil data will provide more accurate information.*

| Soil Name | Hydric (Wet) | Erodibility | Drainage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arkport fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | Non-hydric | Potentially highly erodible | Well drained |
| Niagara silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | Non-hydric | Potentially highly erodible | Somewhat poorly drained |
| Howard gravelly loam, 5 to 15 percent simple slopes | Non-hydric | Highly erodible | Well drained |

## BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE

### General Cover Types

Upland forest

Wetland forest

## Ecological Communities

*Detailed information regarding each community type's rareness may be found in Appendix F. For up-to-date information on ecological communities, contact the NY Natural Heritage Program (518-783-3932).*

**Rarity:** ( Key: No checkmarks indicate that no communities fall within those categories.)

- ☐ Global - At least one community designated as rare or scarce at the global level by The Nature Conservancy is found on this site.
- ☐ State - At least one community designated as rare or scarce at the state level by The Nature Conservancy and the New York Natural Heritage Program is found on this site.
- ☐ Local - At least one community designated as rare or scarce at the local level by the Tompkins County EMC and the Cornell Plantations is found on this site.

**Ecological Communities Inventoried on this Site:**

| Community Name | Description | Global/State/Local Rarity | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beech-maple mesic forest | A hardwood forest with sugar maple and beech co-dominant. Found on moist, well-drained soils, on north and east facing slopes, and on gently sloping hilltops of any aspect, this ecological community type rarely occurs in ravines. Common associates are basswood, American elm, white ash, yellow birch, hop hornbeam, and red maple. Characteristic species in the sub-canopy are musclewood, striped maple, witch hazel, hobblebush, and alternate-leaved dogwood. There typically are few herbs and shrubs, but tree seedlings may be abundant. There are many spring ephemerals. | G4 | S4 | L4 |
| Red maple-hardwood swamp | A swamp that occurs in poorly drained upland depressions usually on acidic muck over clay. The bedrock is usually shale. Red maple or silver maple may dominate alone or with yellow birch. Black ash, white pine and hemlock may also be present. The shrub layer is quite dense and includes spicebush, winterberry, black chokeberry, highbush blueberry, red-osier dogwood, arrowwood, and nannyberry. The herb layer is often dominated by cinnamon fern. Herbs include skunk cabbage, jewelweed, and sedges. | G5 | S4S5 | L4 |

## Plant Species

*Although substantial effort was made to identify significant plant species on this site, it is possible that additional rare or scarce species exist that do not show up in this report. A field check is always recommended prior to modifying the landscape. Detailed information regarding each species' rareness and status may be found in Appendix D. For up-to-date information on species, contact the NY Natural Heritage Program (518-783-*

**Rarity:** ( Key: No checkmarks indicate that no species fall within those categories.)

- ☐ Global - At least one plant species designated as rare or scarce at the global level by The Nature Conservancy is found on this site.
- ☑ State - At least one plant species designated as rare or scarce at the state level by The Nature Conservancy and the New York Natural Heritage Program is found on this site.
- ☑ Local - At least one plant species designated as rare or scarce at the local level by the Tompkins County EMC and the Cornell Plantations is found on this site.

**Legal Status:**

- ☐ Federal - At least one plant species designated as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Department of the Interior is found on this site.
- ☑ State - At least one plant species designated in New York State as endangered, threatened, rare or exploitably vulnerable is found on this site.

**Significant Plant Species Inventoried on this Site:**

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Global/State/Local Rarity | | | Local Comments | State Legal Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Phryma leptostachya | lopseed | | | L3 | Scarce | None |
| Botrychium oneidense | Oneida grape fern | G4 | S1S3 | L3 | Scarce | Exploitably vulnerable |

## Animal Species

*Some UNAs contain much more information on animal species than others based on the availability of data. A field check is always recommended prior to modifying the landscape. Detailed information regarding each species' rareness and status may be found in Appendix E. For up-to-date information on species, contact the NY Natural Heritage Program (www.nynhp.org/).*

**Animal Description:** - - - - -

**Rarity:** ( Key: No checkmarks indicate that no species fall within those categories.)

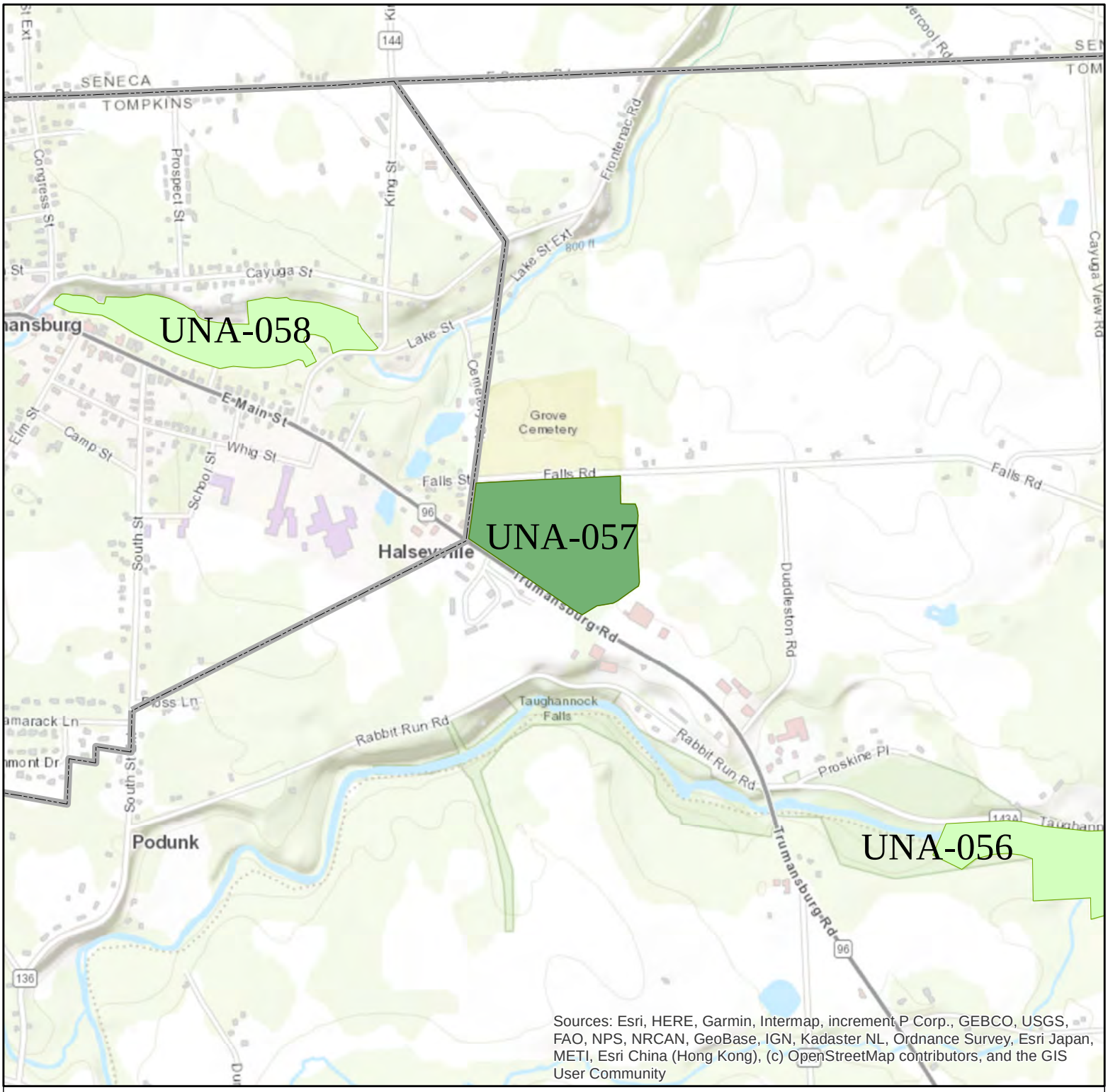
- ☐ Global - At least one animal species designated as rare or scarce at the global level by The Nature Conservancy is found on this site.
- ☐ State - At least one animal species designated as rare or scarce at the state level by The Nature Conservancy and the New York Natural Heritage Program is found on this site.

**Legal Status:**

- ☐ Federal - At least one animal species designated as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Department of the Interior is found on this site.
- ☐ State - At least one animal species designated by NYS as threatened or endangered is found on this site.

**Animal Species Inventoried on this Site:**

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Global/State Rarity | Federal/State Legal Status | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No data | | | | |




# UNA-057 Smith Woods

Tompkins County Environmental Management Council
Inventory of Unique Natural Areas in Tompkins County.

Last Updated: 2022

UNA boundaries were delineated by field biologists based on a review of air photographs, digital GIS base map data (roads, building footprints, 20 foot contours and streams) and field visits. UNA boundaries are approximate and should be used for general planning purposes only. As a practical matter the County does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information portrayed. The end use of this map agrees to accept the data "as is" with full knowledge that errors and ommissions may exist, and to hold harmless the County for any damages that may result from an inappropriate use of this map.

N

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Unique Natural Areas 2024

Other Unique Natural Areas

Municipal Boundaries

# SEQR Short Environmental Assessment Form
# Parts 1 and 2

## TOWN OF ULYSSES

**Adoption of a resolution designating Smith Woods as a Critical Environmental Area, considered an 'Unlisted Action' under SEQR, for which the Ulysses Town Board is acting as Lead Agency.**

Prepared by:

Niels Tygesen
Town Planner for the Town

**Table of Contents**

1. Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) Part 1 DRAFT
2. SEAF Part 2 DRAFT
3. SEAF Part 2 Narrative Evaluation Impact Assessment DRAFT

# *Short Environmental Assessment Form*
## *Part 1 - Project Information*

**Instructions for Completing**

**Part 1 – Project Information. The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1.** Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

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**Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information**

Name of Action or Project:
Smith Woods Critical Environmental Area Designation

Project Location (describe, and attach a location map):
2000 Block of Trumansburg Road, Parcel 503689-13.-3-1

Brief Description of Proposed Action:
Designation of the subject site as a Critical Environmental Area (CEA) as provided for per New York Codes, Rules and Regulations Title 6, Chapter VI, Part 617.14.g.

| Name of Applicant or Sponsor: | Telephone: 607.387.5843 |
|---|---|
| Town of Ulysses Town Board | E-Mail: clerk@townofulyssesny.gov |

Address:
10 Elm St.

| City/PO: | State: | Zip Code: |
|---|---|---|
| Trumansburg | NY | 14886 |

| | NO | YES |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2. | ☐ | ☑ |
| 2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency? If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval: It's presumed DEC Commissioner may have authority whether to approve the designation or not. | ☐ | ☑ |

3. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action? ~31.75 acres
   b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed? None acres
   c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor? ~31.75 acres

4. Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action:

5. ☑ Urban ☑ Rural (non-agriculture) ☐ Industrial ☑ Commercial ☑ Residential (suburban)
   ☑ Forest ☑ Agriculture ☐ Aquatic ☐ Other(Specify):
   ☑ Parkland

| | NO | YES | N/A |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5. Is the proposed action, | | | |
| a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations? | ☐ | ☐ | ✓ |
| b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan? | ☐ | ✓ | ☐ |

| | NO | YES |
|---|---|---|
| 6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape? | ☐ | ✓ |

| | NO | YES |
|---|---|---|
| 7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area? | | |
| If Yes, identify: _____ | ✓ | ☐ |

| | NO | YES |
|---|---|---|
| 8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels? | ✓ | ☐ |
| b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action? | ☐ | ✓ |
| c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action? | ☐ | ✓ |

| | NO | YES |
|---|---|---|
| 9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements? | | |
| If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies: | | |
| N/A, the proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. | ✓ | ☐ |

| | NO | YES |
|---|---|---|
| 10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply? | | |
| If No, describe method for providing potable water: | | |
| N/A, the proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. | ✓ | ☐ |

| | NO | YES |
|---|---|---|
| 11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities? | | |
| If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: | | |
| N/A, the proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. | ✓ | ☐ |

| | NO | YES |
|---|---|---|
| 12. a. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places? | ✓ | ☐ |
| This section's response was automatically generated by DEC's EAF Mapper<br>b. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory? | ✓ | ☐ |

| | NO | YES |
|---|---|---|
| 13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency? | ☐ | ✓ |
| b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? | ✓ | ☐ |
| If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: _____<br>The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time.<br>Both DEC and the Town have identified wetlands on and adjacent to the subject site. Wetland category, habitat scores, and area are unknown. A professional wetland delineator would need to conduct a site investigation and provide the Town with a report. | | |

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14. Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site. Check all that apply:

☐ Shoreline ☑ Forest ☑ Agricultural/grasslands ☐ Early mid-successional

☑ Wetland ☐ Urban ☑ Suburban

| | NO | YES |
|---|---|---|
| 15. Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered?<br>This section's response was automatically generated by DEC's EAF Mapper | ☑ | ☐ |
| 16. Is the project site located in the 100-year flood plan? | ☑ | ☐ |
| 17. Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources? | ☑ | ☐ |
| If Yes,<br>a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties? | ☑ | ☐ |
| b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drains)? | ☑ | ☐ |
| If Yes, briefly describe:<br>N/A, the proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. | | |
| 18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that would result in the impoundment of water or other liquids (e.g., retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)?<br>If Yes, explain the purpose and size of the impoundment:<br>N/A, the proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility?<br>If Yes, describe:<br>N/A, the proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 20. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or completed) for hazardous waste?<br>If Yes, describe:<br>This section's response was automatically generated by DEC's EAF Mapper | ☑ | ☐ |

**I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE**

Applicant/sponsor/name: Town of Ulysses Town Board Date: _____

Signature: _____ Title: _____

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PRINT FORM

# EAF Mapper Summary Report

**Disclaimer:** The EAF Mapper is a screening tool intended to assist project sponsors and reviewing agencies in preparing an environmental assessment form (EAF). Not all questions asked in the EAF are answered by the EAF Mapper. Additional information on any EAF question can be obtained by consulting the EAF Workbooks. Although the EAF Mapper provides the most up-to-date digital data available to DEC, you may also need to contact local or other data sources to confirm data provided by the Mapper or to obtain data not provided by the Mapper.

| | |
|---|---|
| Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area] | No |
| Part 1 / Question 12a [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites] | No |
| Part 1 / Question 12b [Archeological Sites] | No |
| Part 1 / Question 13a [Wetlands or Other Regulated Waterbodies] | Yes - Digital mapping information on local, New York State, and federal wetlands and waterbodies is known to be incomplete. Refer to the EAF Workbook. |
| Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal] | No |
| Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain] | Digital mapping data are not available or are incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook. |
| Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site] | No |

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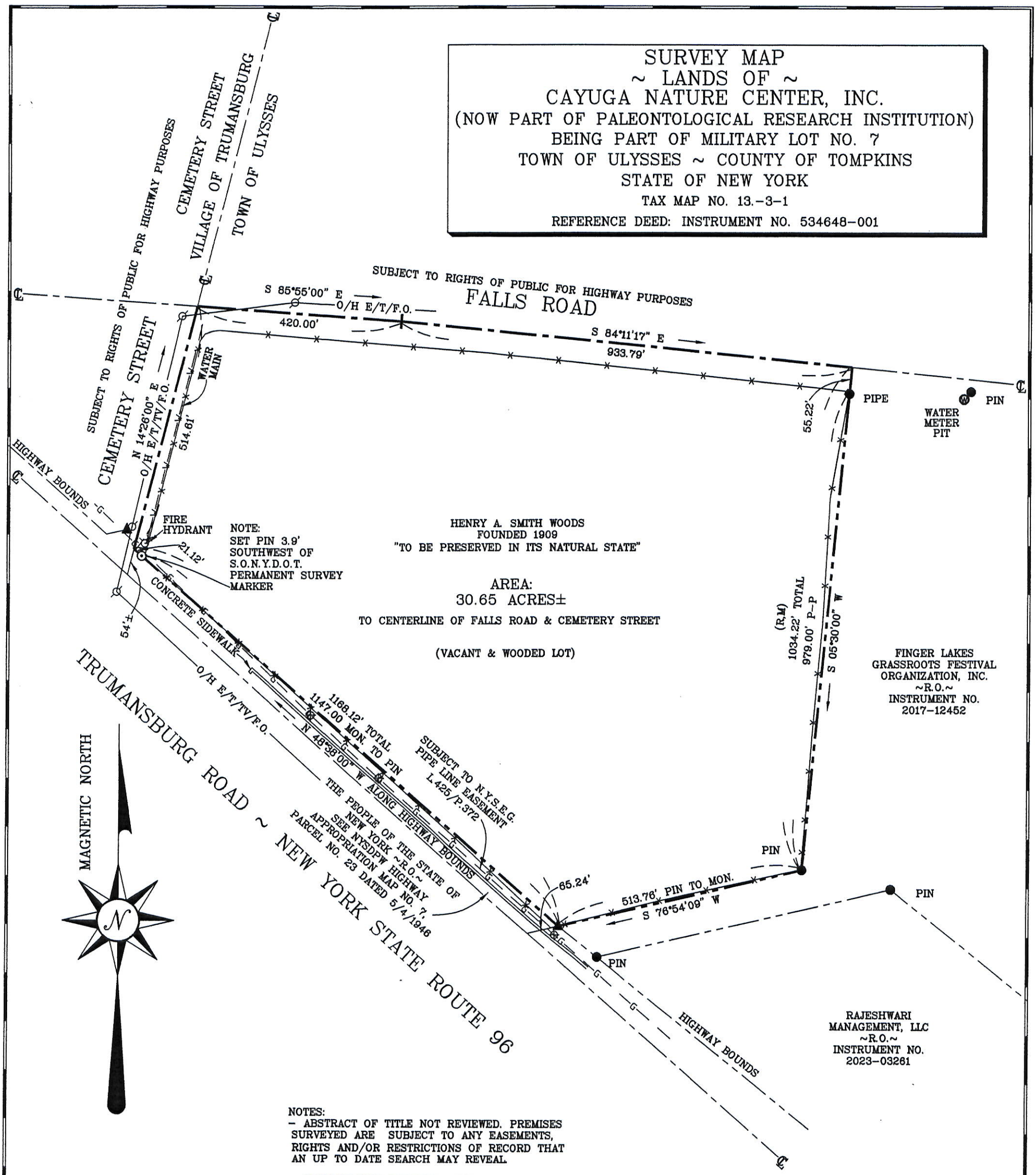
# SURVEY MAP
## ~ LANDS OF ~
## CAYUGA NATURE CENTER, INC.
(NOW PART OF PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION)
BEING PART OF MILITARY LOT NO. 7
TOWN OF ULYSSES ~ COUNTY OF TOMPKINS
STATE OF NEW YORK
TAX MAP NO. 13.-3-1
REFERENCE DEED: INSTRUMENT NO. 534648-001




NOTES:
- ABSTRACT OF TITLE NOT REVIEWED. PREMISES SURVEYED ARE SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, RIGHTS AND/OR RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD THAT AN UP TO DATE SEARCH MAY REVEAL.
- UNDERGROUND UTILITIES SHOWN BY THIS SURVEY ARE APROXIMATE ONLY AND DRAWN BASED ON OBSERVABLE EVIDENCE. UNDERGROUND UTILITIES MUST BE FIELD MARKED BY OTHERS TO DETERMINE THEIR EXISTENCE AND/OR EXACT LOCATION.

0' 200' 400' 600'
GRAPHIC SCALE

## LEGEND:

- ● EXISTING IRON MONUMENT AS SHOWN
- ▲ EXISTING TRIANGULAR CONC. HIGHWAY MONUMENT
- ⊙ SET 3/4" REBAR AND SURVEY CAP
- UTILITY POLE
- WATER VALVE
- FIRE HYDRANT
- GAS PIPELINE MARKER
- R.O. REPUTED OWNER
- (....) RECORD DISTANCE
- (R,M) RECORD DISTANCE, MEASURED DISTANCE
- O/H OVERHEAD UTILITIES
- U/G UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
- ℄ PRESENT CENTERLINE OF PAVEMENT
- —x— PAGE WIRE FENCE


REAGAN LAND SURVEYING
P.O. Box 1124
Dryden, New York 13053
Phone/Fax (607) 844-8837
EMAIL: office@reaganlandsurveying.com


NOTE: Any revisions to this map must comply with section 7209, Subdivision 2 of the New York State Education Law. All certifications hereon are valid for this map and copies thereof only if said map or copies bear the embossed seal of the licensed land surveyor whose signature appears hereon. This map is not valid when used in conjunction with a "Survey Affidavit" or "Certificate of No-Change".

| Date Surveyed: 4/2026 | Drawn By: A. PUZO | Scale: 1"=200' | Job No.: 26-030 |
|---|---|---|---|

I hereby certify to: PMV LEGAL GROUP, PLLC; THE TOWN OF ULYSSES;

that I am a licensed land surveyor, New York State License No. 049892 and that this map correctly delineates an actual survey on the ground made by me or under my direct supervision, that it was prepared in accordance with the current code of practice for land title surveys adopted by the New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors; and that I found no visible encroachments either way across property lines except as shown hereon.

Signed: _____ Dated: APRIL 22, 2026

"Copyright 2026: All Rights Reserved, Reagan Land Surveying"

PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
MICHAEL JOHN REAGAN
NO. 049892
STATE OF NEW YORK

**Agency Use Only [If applicable]**

**Project:** Smith Woods CEA Designation

**Date:**

# *Short Environmental Assessment Form*
# *Part 2 - Impact Assessment*

**Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.**
Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept "Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?"

| | No, or small impact may occur | Moderate to large impact may occur |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations? | ✓ | ☐ |
| 2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land? | ✓ | ☐ |
| 3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community? | ✓ | ☐ |
| 4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)? | ✓ | ☐ |
| 5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway? | ✓ | ☐ |
| 6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities? | ✓ | ☐ |
| 7. Will the proposed action impact existing: a. public / private water supplies? | ✓ | ☐ |
| b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities? | ✓ | ☐ |
| 8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources? | ✓ | ☐ |
| 9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)? | ✓ | ☐ |
| 10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems? | ✓ | ☐ |
| 11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health? | ✓ | ☐ |

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The proposed action consists of designation of the subject site, parcel , known as Smith Woods, as a Critical Environmental Area (CEA) as provided for per New York Codes, Rules and Regulations Title 6, Chapter VI, Part 617.14.g. The proposed area to be designated in approximately 32 acres and is not adjacent to any locations that would require review of this action as a Type I.

This narrative provides the impact assessments for potential issues of concern identified in the Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) Parts 1 and 2 for this action, as reviewed by the Ulysses Town Board. The following information supplements and supports the answers in the SEAF Parts 1 and 2 by describing how the action is anticipated to affect and/or interact with the existing local environment.

No potentially large or significant adverse impacts to the environment have been identified as resulting from the proposed action.

Following are specific responses to each of the SEAF Part 2 questions. The Part 2 questions are included in this narrative in whole.

**Question One: Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?**

**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time.

**Question Two: Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?**

**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time.

**Question Three: Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?**

**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. If designated as a CEA, it is hoped this action will help preserve and improve the character or quality of the existing community.

**Question Four: Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area?**

**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. If designated, this action would establish the first CEA in Ulysses and establish the second CEA in Tompkins County.

**Question Five: Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?**

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**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time.

**Question Six: Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?**

**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time.

**Question Seven: Will the proposed action impact existing public/private water supplies, or public/private wastewater treatment utilities?**

**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time.

**Question Eight: Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?**

**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. If designated as a CEA, it is hoped this action will help preserve and improve the character or quality of any historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources that may be present.

**Question Nine: Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?**

**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. If designated as a CEA, it is hoped this action will help prevent any future adverse change to the natural resources present.

**Question Ten: Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?**

**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time.

**Question Eleven: Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?**

**Answer**: No or small impact. The proposed action is to only designate the subject site as a CEA. No other action is planned at this time. If designated as a CEA, it is hoped this action will help prevent any future hazard to environmental resources present and preserve and improve human health.

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TO: Niels Tygesen, Town Planner

FROM: Marvin Pritts, Board member, Paleontological Research Institute and Professor of Plant Science, Cornell University

RE: Smith Woods

DATE: April 30, 2026

Smith Woods is a unique natural area located just outside the village of Trumansburg. The history of Smith Woods is well documented in a book entitled, "Smith Woods: The Environmental History of an Old Growth Forest Remnant in Central New York State" (2017) by W.D. Allmon, M.P. Pritts, P.L. Marks, B.E. Epstein, D.A. Bullis and K.A. Jordan. This tract was part of a "bounty land grant" paid to soldiers after the Revolutionary War. Part of this 600-acre parcel was logged and farmed, but a 32-acre tract was left intact. This tract later was held as collateral by a bank, then sold to Henry Smith of New York City who used it as a camp site. In 1909, the family no longer wanted ownership of the property and set up a trust to manage the woods for "the preservation of the park in its natural state and for the educational and recreational use of the community." In 2007, the Cayuga Nature Center, and subsequently the Paleontological Research Institute, became managers of Smith Woods until the current day. A fence was erected around the parcel to keep out deer which were damaging the understory. Trails were constructed to make the parcel more accessible to the public.

What makes Smith Woods unique?

1) Documented history suggests that no logging (cutting of living trees) or agriculture occurred on the site.
2) The forest contains excellent examples of pit and mound topography, branches emerging high in the canopy, and very large trees.
3) Outside of light gaps, the primary saplings are shade tolerant beech and sugar maple. The dominant overstory trees are beech, sugar maple, and hemlock. Yellow poplar also is a significant overstory species. Twenty-three species of trees have been documented in Smith Woods. This species mix is characteristic of old growth forests.
4) A hemlock tree that blew over in 1989 was professionally aged at SUNY ESF and was estimated to have germinated in 1663. Several oak trees are estimated to be 250 years old based on their circumference.

5) The forest is within walking distance (10 minutes) of the local public schools allowing students to walk there for field trips. It is across the road from a fairground - facilitating public access.
6) The topography is relatively flat making it accessible for those with limited physical abilities.
7) Much of the soil in Smith Woods is a well-drained Arkport sandy loam – one of the most fertile soils in New York State. Unlike many other old growth remnants located in poor sites, trees in Smith Woods grow to great heights (145 feet as determined by Cornell University tree climbing club).

To summarize, there are few places where an old growth forest remnant is as accessible as Smith Woods. Its proximity to schools and relatively flat topography make it a truly unique educational resource. Educators can show learners first-hand the characteristics of old growth forests without the need to travel great distances or hike over steep and rough terrain.