Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan

Blueway Trail Plan

December, 2013

Prepared for:
Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan Committee

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Executive Summary

There are many opportunities along Cayuga Lake to create a safe environment for people who use non-motorized paddle craft to access local businesses, recreation areas, and to enjoy the beauty of the Finger Lakes region. The Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan identifies the existing conditions along the lakeshore for paddle boaters; provides an assessment of the regional assets; identifies gaps in access areas along the lakeshore; includes proposed locations and preliminary concepts for future access points and launch sites; as well as a marketing and outreach strategy.

Blueways or water trails are designated small boat and paddling routes that promote and facilitate water-based recreation and transportation. A well-planned blueway includes thoughtfully designed "put-ins" and "take-outs" at designated locations along the route, for rest, overnight stays, and for providing access to nearby land-based attractions. Cayuga Lake is bounded by waterfront hamlets and villages that have a history of depending on their lake location for transportation, industry, housing and recreation. These settlements can provide needed services and amenities for the trail. Some elements of a blueway include:

- Launch and Landing Sites
- Parking
- Lock-up facilities for paddle craft
- Small boat rental and storage facilities
- Wayfinding and interpretive signs, brochures and a web presence
- Places to visit and stay overnight

Not all Blueway Trail sites can provide all amenities or even car top access. A hierarchy of sites has been developed to describe the types of sites that exist or can be developed. A mix of these site types should be provided around the lake.

1. Land-based Launch Sites (would also provide emergency access points)
2. Overnight Sites
3. Temporary Use Sites

Paddlers of kayaks, paddleboards and canoes typically move between 1 – 5 mph, depending on wind, waves, experience level, the type of paddle craft and whether solo or tandem. Beginners on a day trip will normally paddle 2-3 miles before they get tired and seek to take a break if an access point is available. The plan analyzed the existing edge conditions of Cayuga Lake and identifies portions of the lake shore that are more than two miles from any existing private or public access point. The same analysis was performed after potential future access points were identified.

There are currently fourteen (14) sites that make up the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail:

- N1: Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR)
- N2: Mud Lock
- E3: Harris Park
- W1: Cayuga Lake State Park
- E6: Frontenac Park
- W5: Dean's Cove
- E11: Sheldrake Park
- E14: Myers Point Park (Lansing Town Park)
- W16: Taughannock Falls State Park
- E17: East Shore Park
- S1: Stewart Park
- S2: Allan H. Treman State Marine Park
- S3: Cass Park

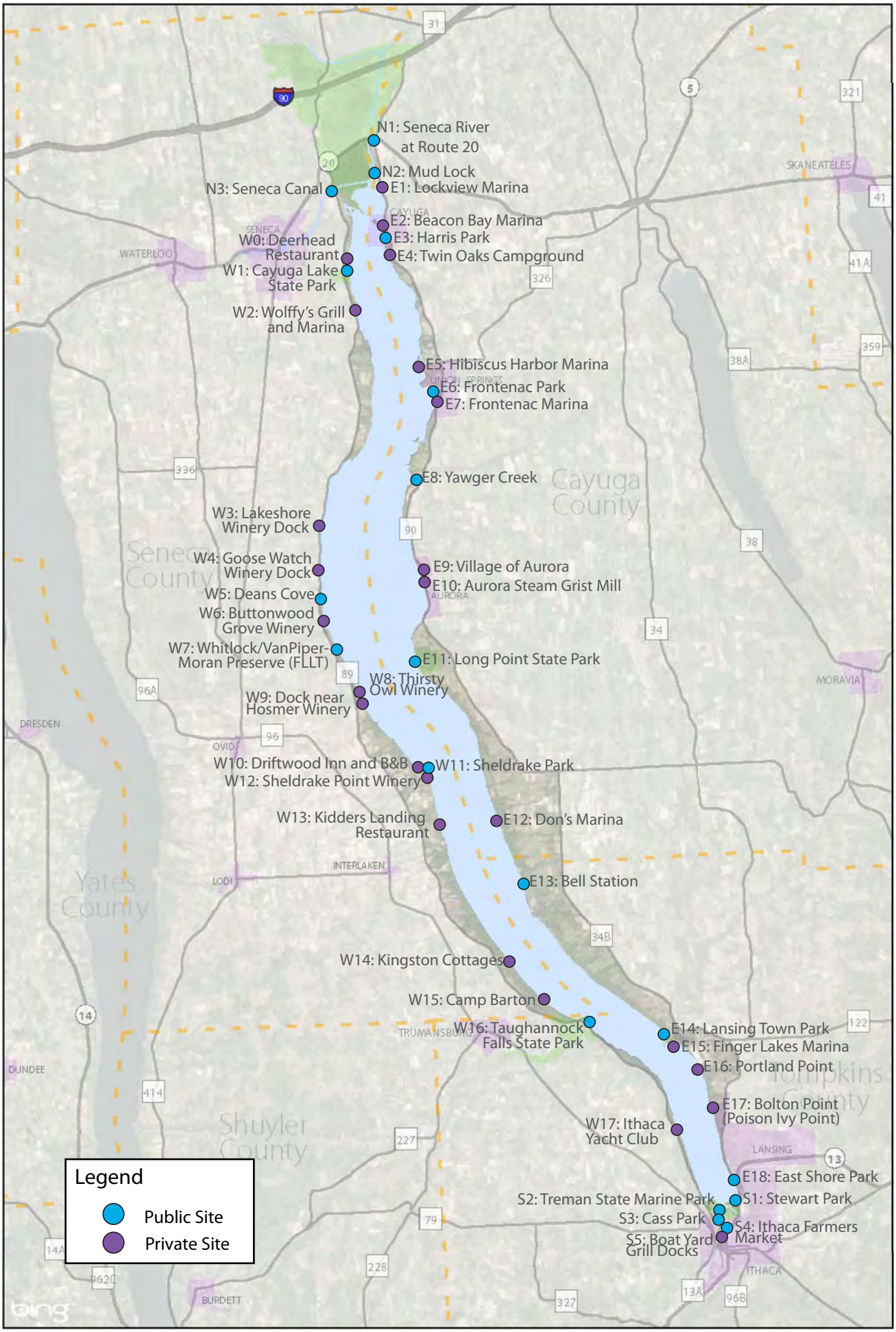
An additional twenty nine (29) potential future sites were identified. Some of these are undeveloped public properties, while others are under private ownership.

- N3: Seneca Canal
- E1: Lockview Marina
- E2: Beacon Bay Marina
- E4: Twin Oaks Campground
- W2: Wolffy's Grill and Marina
- E5: Hibiscus Harbor Marina
- E7: Frontenac Marina
- E8: Yawger Creek
- W3: Lakeshore Winery Dock
- W4: Goose Watch Winery
- W6: Button Grove Winery
- W7: Finger Lakes Land Trust's (FLLT)Whitlock/VanPiper-Moran Preserve
- W8: Thirsty Owl Winery
- W9: Dock near Hosmer Winery
- E9: Village of Aurora
- E10: Aurora Steam Grist Mill
- E12: Bet the Farm Winery
- E13: Don's Marina
- W10: Driftwood Inn B&B
- W12: Sheldrake Point Winery
- W13: Kidders Landing Restaurant
- E14: Bell Station
- E16: Finger Lakes Marina
- E17: Portland Point
- E19: Bolton Point
- W14: Kingston Cottages
- W15: Camp Barton
- W17: Ithaca Yacht Club
- S4: Ithaca Farmers' Market
- S5: Boatyard Grill Docks

Together, these sites would serve as the foundation of the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail, and would allow paddlers to enter and exit the lake at numerous convenient locations creating opportunities for both short and longer Blueway Trail trips. The Implementation Plan highlights the critical "next-steps" that should be taken to advance the vision of the Blueway Trail. Both Short Term and Long Term Action Items have been identified so that the Blueway Trail can be developed in the short term while longer term goals are being pursued. These goals include:

- Marketing the Blueway through informational materials, an interactive website, and promotional materials ;
- Install Blueway Trail Signage;
- Implement Physical Improvements at the priority pilot sites;
- Develop agreements and partnerships with private businesses and landowners and support their development of launch site improvements;
- Work with stakeholders to create an ongoing Blueway Trail Steering Committee to:
    a. Provide basic coordination for things like stewardship and promotion of the water trail, and
    b. Advance the kinds of best management practices that provide for a high-quality water trail experience, and that are therefore recognized under the National Water Trail System guidelines.

Additionally, site design guidelines for new launch sites are discussed and illustrated. Three sites that are ready for implementation are then described at a higher level of detail. Specific improvements that would help make the sites more accessible for Blueway Trail Users are identified, and cost estimates and illustrations for the improvements are provided as well. These sites will serve as a template for the development of the other potential launch sites and their development will help to advance the Blueway Trail into the future.



Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail

Existing and Proposed Blueway Sites

Introduction

There are many opportunities along Cayuga Lake to create a safe environment for people who use non-motorized paddle craft to access local businesses, recreation areas, and to enjoy the beauty of the Finger Lakes region. The Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan identifies the existing conditions along the lakeshore for paddle boaters; provides an assessment of the regional assets; identifies gaps in access areas along the lakeshore; includes proposed locations and preliminary concepts for future access points and launch sites; as well as a marketing and outreach strategy.

Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan

Blueways or water trails are designated small boat and paddling routes that promote and facilitate water-based recreation and transportation. A well-planned blueway includes thoughtfully designed "put-ins" and "take-outs" at designated locations along the route, for rest, overnight stays, and for providing access to nearby land-based attractions. New York State has numerous water trails in various stages of planning and implementation, including the Hudson River Water Trail, blueway trails along the Mohawk, Raquette and Black Rivers, and the Lake Champlain Paddlers Trail. The Canalway Water Trail is adjacent are adjacent to the proposed Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail and provides linkages to water trails across the state.

Cayuga Lake is bounded by waterfront hamlets and villages that have a history of depending on their lake location for transportation, industry, housing and recreation. These settlements can provide needed services and amenities for the trail. In Cayuga County, the Villages of Union Springs and Aurora offer restaurants, diners, overnight lodging, convenience stores and waterfront parks for put-in and take-out. Long Point State Park provides camping and opportunities for small boat access. Seneca County has Cayuga Lake State Park for camping and lake access, Dean's Cove Boat Launch, and the waterfront hamlet of Sheldrake with restaurants and a winery. Tompkins County offers Taughannock Falls State Park for camping, swimming, play areas and hiking; Myers Point Town Park for swimming and picnicking; and a variety of restaurants, services, and parks in the City and Town of Ithaca; including the Ithaca Farmers' Market, Stewart Park, Cass Park, and the Allan H. Treman State Marine Park.

Regional Setting and Initiatives

Communities and counties that border the lake have been planning and implementing greenway and trail projects for many years. The Erie Canalway Trail has been under development along the main line of the Erie Canal since the mid 1990's. The Cayuga-Seneca Canalway along the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, is now under development after many years of planning and fundraising. Tompkins County has been planning and developing greenways for many years also, and is now making significant progress in completing two land-based multi-use trail projects that are connected to the southern lakeshore, the Black Diamond Trail and the Cayuga Waterfront Trail. The planning and implementation of the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail is a great next step in making Cayuga Lake accessible and enjoyable for the widest range of users.

The proposed Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail will be on Cayuga Lake, the longest of the five Finger Lakes. Cayuga Lake is 40 miles in length, 3.5 miles wide at its widest point and more that 450 deep at its deepest location. Cayuga Lake and the Finger Lakes region offer year-round land and water-based recreational opportunities in a unique and scenic landscape setting just four hours northwest of New York City. Quaint villages and the City of Ithaca, wineries, wildlife preserves, waterfront state parks and abundant waterfalls are some of its many attractions.

Cayuga Lake is in the heart of the Finger Lakes Region, which is the setting of the largest wine-producing region east of California. Many of the wineries along Cayuga Lake are located along the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway, which is an 87 mile roadway that guides motorists and bicyclists around the lake with signage and information on distinctive destinations and attractions. The Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway was recently designated as one of the Top 10 Best American Road Trips, which places it in the good company of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina and the Pacific Coastal Highway in California, among others.

In May 2012, the first of many Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway 'Along the Byway' information kiosks was opened at the Montezuma Winery at the northwest edge of the Lake in Seneca County. The sign is the first in the Byway's Interpretive Signage program, which will install a series of informational signs in communities along the Byway. These signs will give travelers along the byway a greater understanding and appreciation of the resources available. They will highlight the history, natural resources, and cultural offerings that the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway works to promote and preserve. While the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway is a great automobile road trip, it is arguably an even better bike road trip with smooth wide paved road shoulders on NY's state highways, modest traffic levels, manageable terrain and numerous stops to rest and refuel.

Planning and Design Considerations for Blueways

Water trails are in some ways similar to land-based multi-use trails; but without some of the more challenging and expensive aspects of multi-use trail development related to route selection, right-of-way acquisition and construction. Both water and multi-use trails connect destinations for non-motorized users (paddlers, bikers, pedestrians, etc.) and provide a varying level of infrastructure to help users access the trail; find their way along it; learn more about the corridor; and its distinctive features and amenities including food, camping, B&B's, hotels, museums, etc. Some elements of a blueway include:

- **Launch and Landing Sites**
- **Parking**
- **Lock-up facilities for paddle craft**
- **Small boat rental and storage facilities**
- **Wayfinding and interpretive signs, brochures and a web presence**
- **Places to visit and stay overnight**

Aerial view of Bolton Point

Planning Process

Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan Committee

Planners from the three counties surrounding Cayuga Lake, Seneca, Cayuga and Tompkins, have received a grant from the New York State Department of State, Office of Planning and Development (NYSDOS) and collaborated to produce this Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan. The Blueway Trail Plan was prepared with funds provided to Seneca County, in cooperation with Cayuga and Tompkins counties, by NYSDOS though the environmental Protection Fund – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. A Steering Committee was formed to contribute and guide the plan through its development and includes representatives from the following additional groups or agencies:

- Cayuga County Office of Tourism
- The Village of Cayuga, a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) Community
- Finger Lakes Land Trust
- National Park Service – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program
- Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway
- New York State Canal Corporation
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation
- Seneca County Chamber of Commerce
- Ithaca Tompkins County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, NPS

Public Involvement

Prior to a two-day workshop, a website (http://cayugablueway.weebly.com) for the project was created and a user survey was circulated to gather input about conditions and use of the lake by the paddling community.

A series of workshops was held over two days on April 24th and 25th, 2013. On April 24th, the project team performed site visits to locations in the southern portion of the lake. A public workshop was held at 6pm at the Ithaca Public Library. 18 people attended the presentation and participated in the working groups. A range of officials, advocates, and residents attended the meeting and offered their comments on the Blueway Trail as a whole, as well as on specific routes, and improvements they would like to see.

On April 25th, the project team performed site visits to locations in the northern portion of the lake. The second public workshop was held in the Village of Cayuga Offices on April 25th at 12:30pm. 11 people attended the presentation and participated in the working group. Again, a range of officials, advocates, business owners, and residents attended the meeting and offered their comments on the Blueway Trail as a whole, as well as on specific routes, and improvements they would like to see.

The preliminary existing sites and proposed sites maps were displayed at the “Celebrate Cayuga Lake” event organized by the Finger Lakes Land Trust held at the Ithaca Farmers’ Market on July 25th, 2013. Several project team members were present to answer questions and take comments.

Existing Conditions

Cayuga Lake is located in the Finger Lakes Region in Central New York State. Cayuga is the longest of the Finger Lakes at almost 40 miles long. At its widest point it is roughly 3.5 miles wide, near the Village of Aurora. The average width of the lake is 1.5 miles. Cayuga Lake is bordered by three counties: Tompkins, Seneca, and Cayuga. The most populated area is located on the lake's southern tip, the City of Ithaca, with a population of approximately 30,000 people. Smaller communities along the Lake include: Interlaken, Canoga, Seneca Falls, Cayuga, Union Springs, and Aurora.

There are several colleges located in the region including Ithaca College and Cornell University, located at the southern tip of Cayuga Lake and Wells College in Aurora.

Many natural resources, aside from the lake itself, are located on Cayuga Lake's shores. The most notable is the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, which includes over 10,000 acres, situated on the northern shores of Cayuga Lake. The Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938 as a refuge, resting and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Allan H. Treman State Marine Park is located on the other end of the lake in Ithaca. In addition to the marina, several boat docks and launch sites, the park includes trails and acres of open space. Stewart Park, Cass Park,

Taughannock Falls State Park, Cayuga Lake State Park, Long Point State Park, Lansing Town Park, and East Shore Park are all located along the shores of Cayuga Lake. These existing parks are critical water access points.

Land use along the lake varies and includes open space, residential uses, and commercial uses. Due to the glacial formation of the lake, much of the lake's shoreline includes steep topography. Although these high points along the lake create spectacular views and protect the natural condition of the shoreline, they also inhibit opportunities for access to the lake. Even though

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

Kayaking near Allan H. Treman State Marine Park

Taughannock Falls State Park

these areas cannot provide launch sites for canoes and kayaks, some of them include small beaches which could serve as ideal resting areas for stand-up paddle boarders.

There are several marsh areas along the lake shore that are destinations for hunters, canoers and kayakers. The high grasses and cattails form nesting areas for birds and some hunters have set up blinds in these areas. There are also several open channels through these areas that can be navigated and are frequently explored by canoes and kayakers.

Cayuga Lake is surrounded by residential uses, where much of the shore is densely lined with single-family homes. Many of properties have private docks for individual access to the lake. As some residents have built larger docks and boat houses, some communities around the lake have become increasingly concerned about the negative influence to the character of Cayuga Lake.

Commercial uses along the lake are also significant. While village centers and the majority of commercial uses are located an eighth of a mile to a mile from the lakeshore, there are several commercial uses directly associated with the lake such as marinas and other boating associated services. One of the most popular lakefront commercial uses in this region is wineries. Many of these wineries promote water access by providing docks, even if the winery is located on the opposite side of the lakefront roadway. This is a unique opportunity for canoe and kayak routes along Cayuga Lake. The wineries that are located along the waterfront are identified later in the document.

Portion of the west shore line near Interlaken, NY

Blind at the marshes near Canoga

Residential land use along east shore of Ulysses

The Goose Watch Winery dock, one of many examples of winery docks along the lakefront

Town by Town Descriptions

Cayuga Lake and the municipalities that are located along its banks provide a diverse and beautiful setting for residents and visitors alike. From sloping hills to wooded banks and steep cliffs, paddlers along the Blueway Trail will have a unique vantage point from which to enjoy these impressive landscapes. The Lake stretches 40 miles from the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in Seneca County to the north, passes through Cayuga County, and ends in the City of Ithaca in Tompkins County to the south. This section of the plan describes the key municipalities along the banks of Cayuga Lake that will serve as the foundation of the Blueway Trail, by providing information about the trail, acting as launch sites, and by forming partnerships to promote and develop the Blueway Trail. An overview of each municipality is included, along with a discussion of their scenic qualities, and the condition of its waterfront and any existing public access points.

North End: Seneca County - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in the Town of Tyre

Overview: Cayuga Lake flows north into the Cayuga-Seneca Canal (Seneca River) at Cayuga-Seneca Canal Lock #1, commonly known as Mud Lock. The Seneca River forms the southern and eastern border of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Paddlers and boaters can follow the Cayuga-Seneca Canal west to the Town of Seneca Falls and Seneca Lake or north from Mud Lock, in the town of Aurelius to the main line of the Erie Canal. From there, paddlers can access many historic communities along the Erie Canal east to Albany or west to Buffalo. While the entire length of the historic Erie Canal is no longer navigable, a vast majority of it is; and communities in and around Cayuga and Seneca counties are developing projects to re-water portions of the canal where feasible. The Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, at the north end of Cayuga Lake, is a 10,000 acre refuge situated along one of the most active flight lanes in the North Atlantic Flyway which provides resting, feeding, and nesting habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds.

Scenic Quality: The Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and the Cayuga-Seneca Canal Lock #1 provide a starting point for the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail at the north end of Cayuga Lake that is rich in history, natural resources and scenic beauty.

Lake Edge and Public Access: While the Refuge is publicly owned and permanently protected, to minimize impact on waterfowl and wildlife, pedestrian access in the refuge is permitted but limited to only a few selected trails and access points. Visitors to the refuge are encouraged to tour the refuge primarily by car. Mud Lock is accessible to boaters and visitors, providing parking, restroom facilities. The Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge provides access to the Erie Canal System and the Cayuga-Seneca Canal.

Points, Coves and Navigation Markers:

- Erie Canal Navigational Channel
- Cayuga-Seneca Canal Navigational Channel

East Side: Cayuga County - Town of Aurelius

Overview: The Town of Aurelius is the northern most town along the east side of Cayuga Lake with approximately 5 miles of lake frontage. The Village of Cayuga occupies nearly one mile within the center of the town's lake frontage. Beacon Bay Marina and Cayuga Wooden Boatworks now occupy the

lakefront site of the Beacon Mill. Freight train service still passes through the Village, provided by the Finger Lakes Railroad's Geneva-Solvay line.

Scenic Quality: As is common for the Finger Lakes, the topography at the northern end of the lake is relatively flat and rolling with numerous marshes and agricultural fields along the lake edge. This area is attractive and accessible for residential development due to the relatively flat terrain.

Lake Edge and Public Access: Most of the Lake edge in the Town of Aurelius and the Village of Cayuga is under private ownership; however, Mud Lock is open to the public and highly accessible. The Village has restored the former Lehigh Valley Railroad Station as its Village office building adjacent to Harris Park. The park has public swimming, restrooms, and boat launch facilities. The active Finger Lakes Railroad line is located at the edge of the Lake and runs from Cayuga to the Springport town line to the south presenting a barrier to lakefront development and lake access in some areas. Twin Oaks Campground is a private campground located at the southern edge of the Village of Cayuga and provides lake access including swimming and boating for patrons. The Village of Cayuga is a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan community. The Village has been working on a Comprehensive Plan and a Waterfront Redevelopment Plan which includes a redesign of Harris Park and the re-building of the State Pier at the north end of the lake. Funding for the planning and design phase of the project was provided by NYSDOS. The Village of Cayuga has applied for additional funding for final site design and construction of their Waterfront Redevelopment Plan. The improvements in their plan will strengthen the access to the Village by paddlers along the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail.

Points, Coves and Navigation Markers:

- Navigable channel under the Finger Lakes Railroad Line
- Beacon Bay
- Village of Cayuga Cove

East Side: Cayuga County - Town of Springport

Overview: The Town of Springport has approximately 8 miles of lake frontage along the east side of Cayuga Lake, between the Towns of Aurelius to the north and Ledyard to the south. The former Lehigh Valley Railroad line was abandoned in Springport in 1948. The corridor is often used, as was the railroad, to provide access to numerous cottage communities and residences on or near the Lake. The topography along the lake edge gradually steepens making access to the lake edge increasingly challenging as one moves south.

The Lettie M. Cook Memorial Forest, the historic Peter Yawger House, and Yawger Creek are near the northern boundary of the Town in an area referred to as "Cayuga Junction" on older USGS maps, a junction of Lehigh Valley railroad lines. This area has nearly 1,000 feet of undeveloped lakefront land under private ownership and is adjacent to the Yawger Creek outlet. The Village of Union Springs is near the center of the Town's lake edge with more than one mile of frontage along Cayuga Lake. South of Union Springs the terrain steepens and the abandoned railroad line hugs the lake edge at the toe of the slope. The Town of Springport's Comprehensive Plan outlines several objectives related to the blueway trail, including promotion of public access to the lake and promotion of Frontenac Park as a community asset.

Scenic Quality: The lake edge in the Town of Springport is rich in history and scenic beauty, bookended by two scenic creeks and associated woodlands - Yawger Creek at its north border and the Great Gully at

its south border. The overall impression is one of lakeside cottages interspersed with larger, more recent year-round homes, and rolling farmland with the historic Village of Union Springs at its center.

Lake Edge and Public Access: The vast majority of the lake edge in Springport is under private ownership. Frontenac Park in the Village of Union Springs is a large public park with a boat launch, swimming, restrooms, pavilions, picnic areas, a concession stand, and parking. The park is within easy walking distance of the Village center.

Points, Coves and Navigation Markers:

- Hibiscus Point
- Howland Point
- Frontenac Island
- Twin Oaks Marina and Campground
- Hibiscus Harbor Marina
- Frontenac Harbor

West Side: Seneca County - Town of Seneca Falls

Overview: The Town of Seneca Falls has approximately 6.5 miles of lake frontage along the northwest edge of Cayuga Lake. Seneca Falls is bordered by the Towns of Tyre to the north and Fayette to the south. A 225 acre marsh managed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation borders 2 miles at the north edge of the lake's west side, bordering the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge to the north and flanking either side of the Finger Lakes Railroad embankment. Cayuga Lake State Park provides excellent public access to Cayuga Lake for boaters, paddlers and landside users for this northern section of the lake.

Scenic Quality: The lake edge in the Town of Seneca Falls is primarily developed as summer cottages and year-round residences. As is common towards the north end of Cayuga Lake, the land slopes gently towards the lake edge and has a more open and agricultural feel than the wooded and steeper slopes to the south.

Lake Edge and Public Access: The majority of the lake edge in Seneca Falls is under private ownership. Publicly-owned lake edge properties includes approximately 2 miles of the NYSDEC owned Cayuga Marsh and the Cayuga Lake State Park; however the marsh has no boat launch or trail facilities.

Points, Coves and Navigation Markers:

- Bridgeport
- Cayuga Lake State Park

West Side: Seneca County - Town of Fayette

Overview: The Town of Fayette has nearly 8 miles of lakefront along the west edge of Cayuga Lake and in bordered by Seneca Falls on the north and the Town of Varick to the south. Fayette has no incorporated villages or publicly-owned parks or facilities along its lake edge. Perhaps its most distinguishing feature is the Canoga Marsh which occupies approximately 3 miles of the lake edge. State Route 89 is offset from the lake edge by ½ to 1 mile throughout much of Fayette's lake edge, ending at Burroughs Point with its spectacular views south into Aurora Bay and visually enclosed by Long Point and Sheldrake Point.

Scenic Quality: Fayette, like Seneca Falls to the north, has relatively gentle terrain, with rich farmland sloping to the lake edge. As described above, much of the northern portion is marshland with some lakefront cottage development embedded within. The southern half of the lakefront has dense lake cottage and house development, most with docks. From the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway on State Route 89, the views of Cayuga Lake to the south as you drive past Burroughs Point are spectacular with views south into Aurora Bay and visually enclosed by Long Point and Sheldrake Point.

Lake Edge and Public Access: There is no publicly-owned lakefront land in the Town of Fayette. The Red Jacket Yacht Club is a private marina with an associated housing development, located south of the Canoga Marshes. The Canoga Marsh may provide the setting for a paddle craft landing.

Points, Coves and Navigation Markers:

- Canoga Marsh
- Burroughs Point

East Side: Cayuga County - Town of Ledyard

Overview: The Town of Ledyard is bordered by the Town of Springport, Town of Genoa, Town of Scipio, Town of Venice, and approximately 10 miles of lakeshore. The Village of Aurora is located within the Town of Ledyard, along with several small hamlets. State Route 90 runs north-south along Cayuga Lake, and is located further from the shore in the southern part of the Town. Wells College is located in the southern half of the Village of Aurora.

Scenic Quality: The shore of Cayuga Lake in the Town of Ledyard has a gentle slope down to the waterfront in the northern portion. South of Long Point State Park, the slope becomes steeper. There is a small area of level land where residents are located just beneath the steep cliffs. Above the cliffs are farm land, forest, and low density residential development.

Lake Edge and Public Access: The lake edge in the Village of Aurora is home to the 3 mile long "Lake Path". It is a public hiking trail from Wells College to the Levana cliffs. The trail follows the former railroad right-of-way. The trail connects to the Village park and Wells College beach with four maintained village access points and two Wells College access points. Also located in Ledyard is Long Point State Park, which provides public and boat access to the Lake.

Points, Coves, and Navigation Markers:

- Ellis Point
- Long Point State Park
- Stony Point

West Side: Seneca County - Town of Varick

Overview: The Town of Varick occupies approximately 4.5 miles of Cayuga Lake's west shore. It is bordered by the Towns of Fayette to the north and to the south by the Town of Romulus. State Route 89 borders the water's edge closely through the Town.

Scenic Quality: The land is generally flat with a gentle slope. The shore is lined with residential homes or docks. To the west of State Route 89, the land is encompassed with farms, vineyards, and single family homes. State Route 89 is close to the water, offering a beautiful view of the lake.

Lake Edge and Public Access: There is no publicly-owned lakefront land in the Town of Varick.

Points, Coves, and Navigation Markers:

- Lakeshore Winery
- Goose Watch Winery

West Side: Seneca County - Town of Romulus

Overview: Bordered by the Town of Varick to the North and the Town of Ovid to the south, the Town of Romulus includes approximately 6 miles of the Cayuga Lake western shore. State Route 89 continues to run north-south along the lake with a slightly wider separation.

Scenic Quality: The land slopes towards the lake shore and the majority of the shore is privately owned with houses and docks. The lands west of State Route 89 are primarily occupied by farms and vineyards.

Lake Edge and Public Access: As noted above, the shore is lined with private homes and docks. Houses are spaced further apart than in other areas of the lake and the slope is wooded. There are several locations along the shore that are privately owned but undeveloped. Dean's Cove State Marine Park is located in the northern part of the Town.

Points, Coves, and Navigation Markers:

- Elm Beach
- Dean’s Cove Boat Launch

East Side: Cayuga County - Town of Genoa

Overview: The Town of Genoa is located south of the Town of Ledyard just north of Tompkins County and includes roughly 4 miles of the Cayuga Lake shores. State Route 34B travels north-south approximately a mile away from the shore. Lake Road and fire lanes are the primary means of accessing the waterfront.

Scenic Quality: The roadway is set back from the waterfront a top the ridge offering a wide view of the lake but not the waterfront. The land slopes down to the shore over 1,000 feet or more. In some areas, resulting in a short cliff along the shore; in others, the slope is more gradual.

Lake Edge and Public Access: There is no public access to the waterfront in the Town of Genoa. The lake edge is privately owned and primarily residential. Don's Marina is located along this portion of the lake shore.

Points, Coves, and Navigation Markers:

- King Ferry (formerly "Northville")
- King Ferry Station

East Side: Tompkins County - Town of Lansing

Overview: The Town of Lansing has the most lakefront edge of any municipality on Cayuga Lake (approximately 15 miles). The Norfolk-Southern railroad corridor, located along the lake edge and at the foot of a steep lake hillside, is one of the key features of the Lansing lakefront. This railroad was developed to service many of the extraction industries currently or formerly located along east side of the lake, including salt, limestone and gypsum mines. And because of the railroad and the lake's cooling capacity, a large coal-fired power plant was sited at Milliken Point at the north end of the Town. Many of the lakeside summer cottages located along the east side of Cayuga Lake were made accessible and convenient by their proximity to the railroad. In the future, if the railroad line closes, the abandoned corridor would be a spectacular lakefront trail from Ithaca through the Town of Lansing.

Scenic Quality: State Route 34B is located a few thousand feet away from the shore and does not offer great views of the waterfront. As the roads turn south, State Route 34B and State Route 34 travel further from the waterfront and only regain their proximity after passage of the industrial uses. The Town of Lansing is primarily a farming, bedroom, and tourism community.

Lake Edge and Public Access: The railroad lines a majority of the shore through the Town of Lansing as described above. The Milliken Power Plant is located along the waterfront in the northern part of the Town. Residential homes are located along the majority of the lake shore with the rail line between the houses and their docks. Residential uses are much sparser further to the south. Myers Point Park (Lansing Town Park) and the Finger Lakes Marina are located at Salmon Creek along the waterfront, also known as Myers Point.

Points, Coves, and Navigation Markers:

- Lake Ridge Point
- Lansing Station
- Portland Point
- Salt Point
- Myers Point Park Finger Lakes Marina

West Side: Seneca County - Town of Ovid

Overview: The Town of Ovid, located at the mid-point of Cayuga Lake's west side, between the Town of Romulus to the north and the Town of Covert to the south, occupies 6 miles of lakefront. The Hamlet of Sheldrake, in the Town of Ovid, has been one of the most important and scenic destinations along the lake since the steamboat era in the early to mid-19th century.

Scenic Quality: The landscape in Ovid and Sheldrake features gently sloped farm fields with crops, pasture vineyards, and some recent hop fields. The gentle slopes are ideal for lakefront housing and there are many historic and contemporary homes with dramatic lake views in the Hamlet of Sheldrake, towards Weyers Point to the north, and Kidders Landing to the south. Sheldrake has a strong and inviting presence on the Lake.

Lake Edge and Public Access: The Lake edge is occupied primarily by private houses and cottages. Public access is provided at Ovid's town beach in the Hamlet of Sheldrake. Docking facilities at Sheldrake

Winery and at Kidders Landing are available for customers. These docks have not been adapted to serve paddle craft.

Points, Coves, and Navigation Markers:

- Sheldrake Creek
- Sheldrake Point
- Kidders Landing
- Weyers Point

West Side: Seneca County – Town of Covert

Overview: The Town of Covert occupies 9 miles of lakefront on the west bank of Cayuga Lake between the Town of Ovid to the north and the Town of Ulysses to the South. It is the southernmost lake town in Seneca County and borders Tompkins County to the south. Covert has little publicly-accessible lakefront. Instead it hosts many lakefront cottages and residences at the foot of a fairly steep wooded slope. Numerous private beaches form the centerpiece of cottage communities organized around access drives from State Route 89 to the west.

Scenic Quality and Lake Edge: While there are some gentle agricultural slopes at the north end of the Town, near Ovid, most of Covert has moderately sloped agricultural fields along State Route 89, with steep wooded slopes falling to the lake edge. The lake edge is occupied primarily by private houses and cottages with very little public access. Despite the lack of public access to this section of Cayuga Lake for a boat launch, the scenery from both the lake and land is quite lovely.

Points, Coves, and Navigation Markers:

- Frontenac Point

West Side: Tompkins County –Town of Ulysses

Overview: The Town of Ulysses, with nearly 13 miles of lakefront, has some of Cayuga Lake's most distinctive features and sites to support the Blueway Trail. Ulysses is the northernmost town along Tompkins County's western lakefront and borders the Town of Covert and Seneca County to the north and the Town of Ithaca to the south. Taughannock Falls State Park, the Lowman Preserve, Camp Barton, the Cayuga Nature Center, and many lovely historic lakefront cottages and communities combine to make this one of the Blueway Trail's most compelling areas.

Scenic Quality: Taughannock Falls State Park with its spectacular waterfall, grand gorge, graceful delta park and numerous support services make this an important site on the Blueway Trail. South of the park, the lake edge is primarily private residences. However this area has a high concentration of historic lake cottages and boathouses, making it a charming paddle between Ithaca and Taughannock Falls State Park. Along the way, the Finger Lakes Land Trust has recently opened the Lowman Preserve which provides a quiet alternative landing site to Taughannock Falls State Park. Also along these shores is Camp Barton, a Boy Scout Camp. Across State Route 89 is the Cayuga Nature Center, an important destination within walking distance to the lake edge. At the south end of Ulysses in Glenwood Point is historically the site of the Glenwood Resort and now the home of the Ithaca Yacht Club, a private facility. The west bank of Cayuga Lake between State Route 89 and the Lake is heavily wooded and very scenic.

Lake Edge and Public Access: While most of the frontage is privately owned, there are significant public places and opportunities for developing agreements with other landowners. The woodlands and historic charm of 19th and early 20th century lake cottages make the Ulysses section one of the most interesting lakefront areas on the Blueway Trail.

Points, Coves, and Navigation Markers:

- Camp Barton
- Crowbar Point
- Maplewood Point
- Glenwood Point
- Taughannock Falls State Park
- Ithaca Yacht Club

East Side: Tompkins County – Town of Ithaca

Overview: In the Town of Ithaca, there is a very narrow sliver of the east shore of Cayuga Lake, between the Lake and the Village of Cayuga Heights. This land, while very small in size, is the site of some very important facilities related to Cayuga Lake and Tompkins County. At the northeast end of the Town is East Shore Park and the Cornell Sailing Club and Marina, all located on a small point approximately ¾ mile north of Stewart Park. East Shore Park and the Cornell Boating facilities are located on the site of former Remington Salt Company, a very large salt mining, processing and shipping facility that can be viewed in many historic photographs from Stewart Park in the early 20th century.

Scenic Quality: East Shore Park is a popular location for viewing sunsets, swimming (though not allowed by law) and is a popular location for parking and launching paddle craft. Many small sailboats are pulled onto the lakeshore and docked, but there is no formal public storage facility for canoes and kayaks at this location.

Lake Edge and Public Access: At the south end of this narrow Town property is the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and the County Visitor Center. This facility is visited by many county residents who use its second story conference room for meetings; and by thousands of visitors to the County to collect information about Ithaca and Tompkins County. The building is cut off from the Lake by the railroad line and embankment. The Cayuga Waterfront Trail begins at the County Visitor Center connecting to the Ithaca Youth Bureau, Stewart Park and the Ithaca Farmers' Market.

Points, Coves, and Navigation Markers:

- East Shore Park / Cornell Sailing Club and Marina
- Stewart Park
- Tompkins County Visitor's Center
- Ithaca Farmers' Market

South End: Tompkins County –City of Ithaca

Overview: The City of Ithaca, with nearly 1.5 miles of lakefront (not including inlets, such as the Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek), is located at the southern end of Cayuga Lake. Over time, it has been a center for transportation, shipping and manufacturing; a place for recreation, amusement, and higher education; a

residential area; and a place for large community celebrations. Like most other waterfront cities, Ithaca is once again reinventing itself focusing on connectivity via the Cayuga Waterfront Trail; by preserving and enhancing existing waterfront parks and open spaces; and by creating opportunities for residential and mixed-use waterfront development to create a more economically and environmentally sustainable future for the community. The Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail complements this emerging recreation and transportation network by enhancing access to Ithaca's greatest natural resource – Cayuga Lake.

Scenic Quality: Ithaca is fortunate to have so much waterfront acreage dedicated to public ownership and recreation. There are remnants of mature floodplain forests with spectacular specimen trees that provide an important habitat for resident and migrating bird populations. The City and State-owned park land, a municipal golf course, and a very popular waterfront Farmers' Market all contribute to an attractive waterfront. There are some significant underutilized waterfront sites, remnants of the waterfront's industrial past, that are visual eyesores which provide great redevelopment opportunities to complement Ithaca's public waterfront parks as high-density residential and/or mixed-use developments.

Lake Edge and Public Access: Most of the City of Ithaca's waterfront is publicly-owned park land and open space. The community is developing the Cayuga Waterfront Trail to create a non-motorized, multi-use transportation and recreation-way to link these open spaces with existing and emerging waterfront residential and commercial areas. While there are numerous piers, transient docking, launch and marina facilities, the infrastructure for paddle craft warrants improvement as Ithaca positions itself as a destination for human powered land and water transportation and recreation.

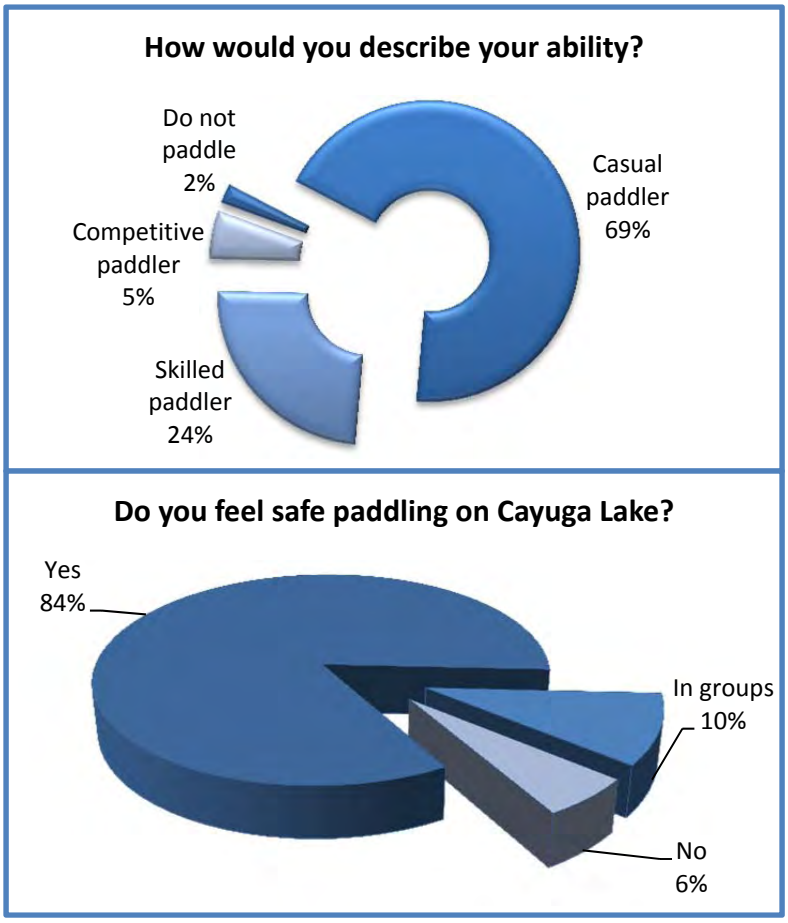
Points, Coves, and Navigation Markers:

- Stewart Park Day Camp Paddle Craft Pier
- Cascadilla Boathouse Floating Docks
- Ithaca Farmers' Market
- Cornell and Ithaca College Boathouses
- Lookout Point on Inlet Island
- Cass Park Public Docks
- Allan H. Treman State Marine Park
- Johnson Boatyard
- Ithaca Boating Center
- Fall Creek, Cascadilla Creek, Six Mile Creek, Cayuga Inlet
- Lighthouse Point

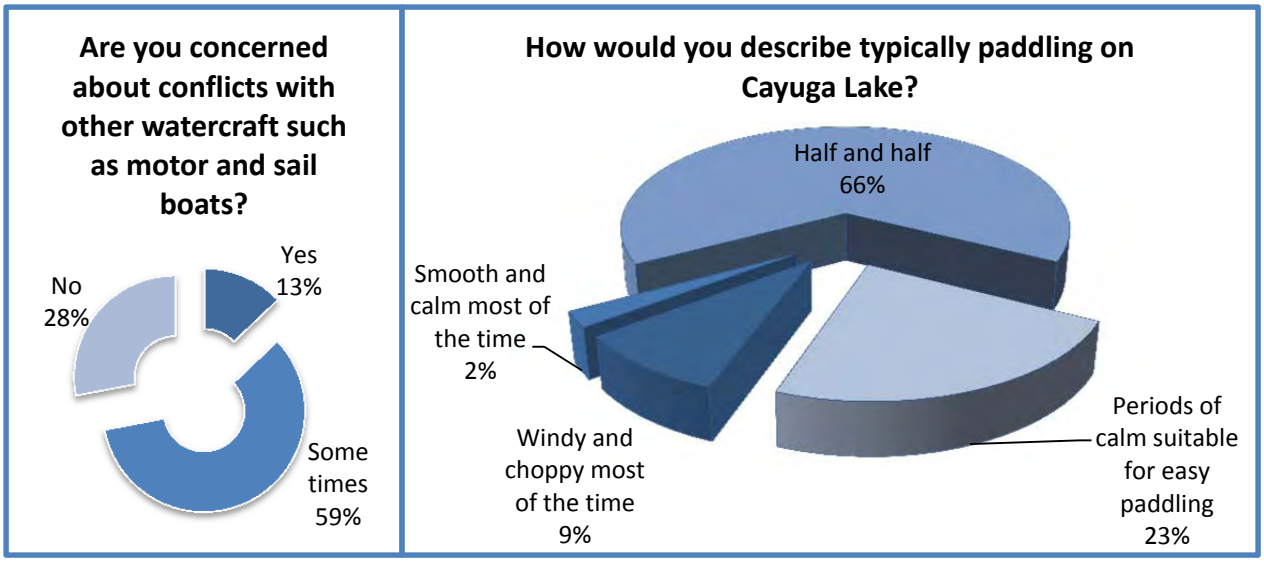
User Survey

A user survey was conducted through the winter and spring of 2013 to gather information about paddling on Cayuga Lake. There were over 90 people that responded to the survey which had 19 questions regarding paddling and Cayuga Lake. The responses helped to inform the Blueway Trail Plan. Over 50% of respondents thought that paddling on Cayuga Lake would be great if improvements were made.

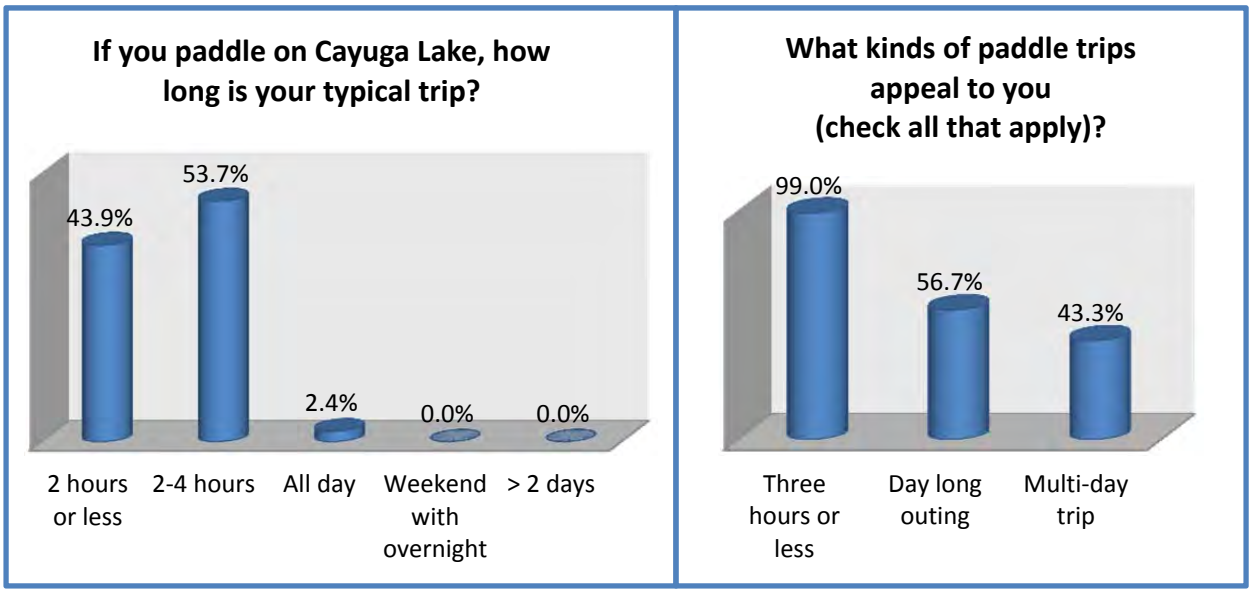
A majority of survey respondents considered themselves causal paddlers, while almost 25% considered themselves skilled. Almost 15% of respondents were concerned over potential conflicts with motorboats on the Lake. Nearly 60% felt this was only a concern part of the time. Over 80% considered paddling on the lake safe.



Although most paddlers were comfortable utilizing all types of water bodies, the majority preferred paddling on a lake. Approximately 65% of respondents described paddling on Cayuga Lake as calm half the time. Only 10% considered the lake windy and choppy.



The majority of respondents have taken trips and prefer trips which were less than four hours long. Still, a significant number also desired the ability to take day long or multi-day trips.



When asked to rank paddling facilities, the desire for water access and launches was clearly the most important component. The availability of maps and wayfinding signage, toilet facilities, and canoe/kayak rentals were also very important to the majority of paddlers. The ranking order of the facilities is shown below:

1. Access and canoe launches
2. Good maps and wayfinding signage
3. Toilet facilities
4. Canoe and kayak rental
5. Convient access to restaurants and lodging along routes
6. Picnic facilities
7. Camping accessibility from the water
8. Services to shuttle paddlers and craft
9. Guide services
10. Wheelchair accessible docks

Blueway Trail Characteristics and Case Studies

A Blueway Trail is a designated trail for non-motorized water crafts. Primarily serving as recreational trails, they have become increasingly popular throughout the United States. In addition to serving recreational purposes, Blueway Trails also provide educational opportunities and encourage conservation of our Nation's water bodies and shores. The national guidelines for Blueway Trails are described below. Several case studies of existing Blueway Trails are also described below to identify best practices for successful trails.

National Guidelines

The National Water Trails System (NWTS), administered by the National Park Service, is a system to support the development and maintenance of water trails on rivers, lakes, and other waterways in the United States. The NWTS defines water trails as "recreational routes on waterways with a network of public access points supported by broad-based community partnerships". Water trails provide both conservation and recreational opportunities. The NWTS supports local, state, and federal organizations in the development of these trails in an effort to protect and restore the nation's waterways. Increased access for recreational opportunities is also an important component.

The NWTS provides four criteria required for a water trail to be designated as a National Water Trail:

1. The trail (and its access points) must be open to public use and be designed, constructed, and maintained according to best management practices, in keeping with the anticipated use. Water trail access points that demonstrate state-of-the-art design and management are especially encouraged to apply for national water trail designation.
2. The trail must be in compliance with applicable land use plans and environmental laws.
3. The trail will be open for public use for at least 10 consecutive years after designation.
4. The trail designation must be supported by the landowner(s), (public or private), on which access points exist.

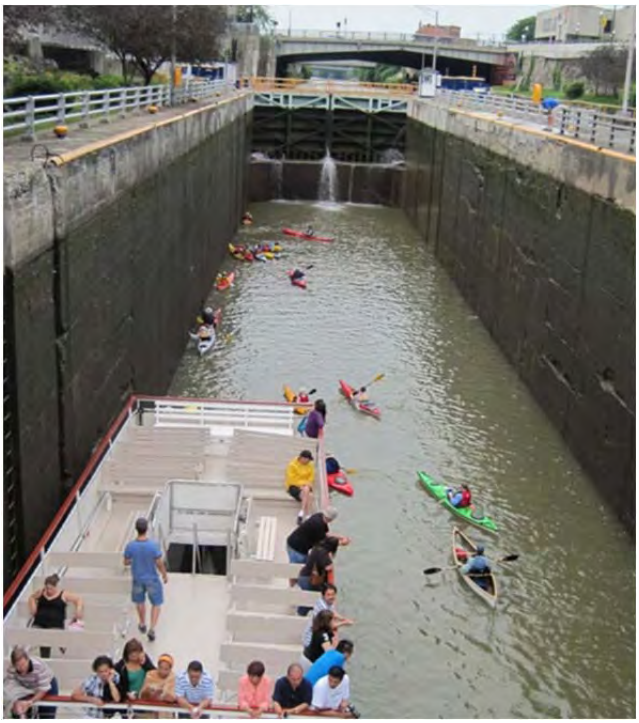
There are also several best-management practices that the NWTS provides that should be incorporated for a water trail and are significant in becoming designated as a National Water Trail. Established public access points are important and these access points should accommodate a range of trip lengths and a variety of recreational and educational opportunities. Educational documents should include the value of water resources, cultural heritage, boating safety and skills, and outdoor ethics. Water trails should also include opportunities for continued conservation, promoting and enhancing the health of local waterways. The ability to perform routine and long-term maintenance is also a key component for the success of a blueway trail and facilities. Facilities should be designed based on current sustainable practices.

In addition to these elements, community involvement and support are crucial. A water trail plan should be maintained to outline a vision for the trail and key elements for development. Input and support from community leadership is key to maintenance and stewardship.

Another important element of all blueway or water trails is public information. There are many pieces of information which are critical to the success of a water trail including, but not limited to: water quality,

hazards, routes, access points, cultural resources, natural resources, food, and shelter. The distribution of this information, in an effective manner, to those using the trail is critical. Maps and guide signs should be provided at launch sites. Several trail groups have provided waterproof maps for purchase. A website with maps, weather, current information, and a business directory is the most effective way to promote the trail and provide information to trail users.

Case Study: Canalway Water Trail System



The Erie Canal, completed in 1825, runs 341 miles across New York State from Buffalo to Albany. The Erie Canal is part of a larger 524-mile New York State Canal System, which includes the Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca Canals, as well as Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. The Canal System is owned and operated by the New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York State Thruway Authority.

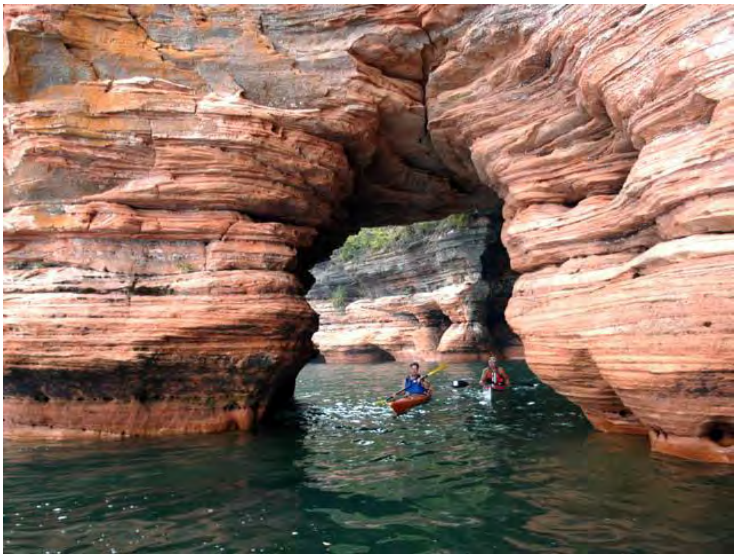
The Canalway Water Trail System that follows the canal waterways consists of access points and information useful to paddlers and small boaters. An interactive map, which can be found at http://www.canals.ny.gov/maps/index.html, identifies each launch site and the amenities available, including the type of boat launch, parking, picnic areas, camping and photos. The Canal Corporation website also provides materials on wineries located along Cayuga and Seneca Lakes and additional information that might be helpful in trip planning. The Canal Cruising Guide, which can be ordered from the Canal Corporation, is filled with images, maps, and information on services and amenities important to navigating the Canal System. The Canalway Water Trail is perfect for out and back day trips and overnight excursions.

The Canal System is utilized by a variety of modes of transportation including motor boats, canoes, kayaks, walkers and bicyclists. The adjacent Canalway Trail along the towpath is complete for roughly 75% of the canal. Rest areas and boat launches can be found along the canal, especially in canal hamlets and towns.

Case Study: Lake Superior Water Trails

There are several trails that line the 3,000 miles of shoreline along Lake Superior. There are a few trails that are well planned, documented, and marketed. Several other sections are still in development with little-to-no information available.

The Hiawatha Water Trail is located on the southwest shores between Big Bay and Grand Marais. Twenty access points are located between these two areas, covering approximately 120 miles of shoreline. The Hiawatha Water Trail includes over 20 campsites and three national conservation areas. The largest gap between landing points is 25 miles. Nautical charts and access point details are available online and a detailed waterproof trail map is available for purchase.



The Wisconsin Segment of the Lake Superior Water Trail covers more than 400 miles of the shoreline. The trail extends from the Michigan border to the City of Superior. For planning purposes, a gap analysis study was performed by the regional planning commission in conjunction with local and state agencies. A trail map, both in online and printed form, was also developed. The trail map shows developed, carry-in, and alternative access points; rest stops and picnic areas; campgrounds; emergency landing points; and light houses. Some additional watershed and boating information is also included. Business information is lacking; however, the trail is still in development.

Key features for the system include:

- Trail websites – printed map available or printable
- Launch descriptions with amenities
- Some overnight information
- Water condition information

Case Study: Lake Tahoe Water Trail

The Lake Tahoe Water Trail, located in both Nevada and California, is a 72-mile shoreline trail specific to paddling. Public and private launch sites are identified on maps for each area of the lake. A majority of the trail's launch points are ADA accessible. Additional amenities, for example food and lodging, are highlighted within a ¼ mile of each site. Historic sites, such as the Thunderbird Lodge, Vikingsholm, and the Ehrman Mansion are also included on maps and itineraries.

There is an interactive online map with each of the launch points and amenities.

Specialized day trip itineraries are also posted on the website and can be chained together for a multi-day trip or a full trip around the lake. Printed maps are also available. Environmental conservation is a large part of promoting this trail; and trail users are strongly encouraged to practice "leave no trace" camping and to clean their boats to prevent invasive species in Lake Tahoe.

Key features for the system include:

- Trail website – trail map available online
- Launch descriptions with amenities (1/4 mile radius)
- Conservation program
- Day trip and overnight itineraries

Case Study: Hudson River Greenway Water Trail

The Hudson River Greenway Water Trail has been extensively studied and implemented over several years. Active planning and coordination began in 1994. The Greenway Water Trail received its national designation in 2012. The trail is 256 miles long starting in two locations: in the Town of Hadley, Saratoga County in the Adirondack Mountains in northern New York; and in the Village of Whitehall, Washington County at the northern end of the Champlain Canal on Lake Champlain. The trail travels south from both locations and ends at Battery Park in Manhattan. Over 94 launch points have been identified, mapped, and inventoried as part of its implementation.

The trail was implemented in 2001 utilizing $1 million in state funding and was a joint effort between the Hudson Valley Greenway and Hudson Valley Watertrail Association. Several other agencies, including NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation and NYS Department of State were involved in the trail's development and continue to play a vital role. Goals of the trail are to have launches and take-outs every 10 miles or less on both shores of the river. Campsites or other overnight accommodations are to be located every 15 miles or less wherever possible to promote multi-day trips. The Hudson River Greenway Water Trail is still a work in progress with new sites, signage, and amenities continually added. In addition to site amenities, wildlife marshes, islands, historic sites, hamlets, and other trails are also identified. A detailed online map is available for use along with printed maps. A guidebook has also been developed as part of the water trail and is in its sixth edition. The online trail map can be found here: http://www.hrwa.org/pages/trail_map.shtml

Key features for the system include:

- Trail website – interactive map available online
- Detailed launch descriptions with amenities

- Marketing program
- Cultural and heritage links
- Overnight lodging information
- Frequent access points

Case Study Comparison

A common element to most water trails is a thorough website that includes a map of the water trail and access points. Typically, these access points are inventoried to provide users with information on the availability of facilities such as parking, restrooms, camping, potable water, and nearby amenities like trails, food, and lodging. Trail maps differ in their presentation and also accessibility. Some are interactive, while others are only available in hardcopy.

Distances between access and resting places vary with every water trail. These locations tend to be provided as frequently as possible, depending on shore conditions and public access. The table below compares the features of each of the case study water trails described above.

Water Trail Case Study Comparison

	Public Access	Launch/ Rest Spacing	Links to Other Trails	Conservation	Local/ Regional Support	ADA Accessible
Canalway Water Trail	Yes	Varies 2-30 mi.	Yes	Other Agencies	Yes	Some
Lake Superior Water Trails	Yes	Large Gaps	Yes	Other Agencies	Yes	Unknown
Lake Tahoe Water Trail	Yes	1-12 mi.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some
Hudson River Water Trail	Yes	Goal of less than 10 mi.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some

Water Trail Case Study Comparison (cont.)

	Water Trail Plan	Water Condition Provided	Shelter Info	Food Info	Trail Map	Website	Trail Management
Canalway Water Trail	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NYS Canal Corporation
Lake Superior Water Trails	Yes	Website	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Minnesota and Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Lake Tahoe Water Trail	No	Website	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lake Tahoe Water Trail Association
Hudson River Water Trail	Yes	Website	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Hudson River Valley Greenway

Developing the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail

The Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail was established by utilizing existing public access sites around the lake. The availability of existing sites around Cayuga Lake provides an existing Blueway Trail. Gaps in the existing system make traveling safely throughout the lake difficult. These gaps are described in this section. Potential additions to the Blueway Trail have been identified and are described in this section as well. Not all sites need to provide full access and all amenities; a hierarchy of sites has been established and is also described here.

Hierarchy of Sites

Not all Blueway Trail sites can provide all amenities or even car top access. A hierarchy of sites has been developed to describe the types of sites that exist or can be developed. A mix of these site types should be provided around the lake. For example, Temporary Use Sites can fill the gaps between the Land-based Launch Sites to provide emergency landings and stopping points along the trail. Overnight sites will typically be used by long distance paddlers and can be up to 10 miles apart.

1. Land-based Launch Sites (would also provide emergency access points)
    a. Full Access Launch - Higher impact, typical boat launch ramps; may have canoe/kayak storage.
    b. Small Launch - Could be a gravel slope, stepped-access for paddle craft or a municipal dock that is close to water level; may have canoe/kayak storage. Some may be more primitive requiring some portage and with no other facilities other than the ability to access the lake.
2. Overnight Sites
    a. City/Village Sites - Hotels, Inns and B&B's within easy walking distance.
    b. Camping and Cottages - State parks, municipal park or private facilities.
    c. Primitive camping - No road access or support facilities, simply space to lay out a tent and have a fire pit near the lake.
3. Temporary Use Sites
    b. Areas with support facilities -Restrooms, restaurants, beach, picnic facilities, historic sites, village centers, etc.
    c. Areas with no access to roads - Opportunity to pull off, rest, possibly swim, respite from storms or wind, picnicking, etc.
    d. Natural areas such as wetlands without land access - Wildlife viewing, birding, etc.

Blueway Trail Needs - Gap Analysis

The analysis of Cayuga Lake's edge conditions is based on discussions with stakeholders, field observations, the examination of aerial photos, USGS maps and web-based mapping tools such as GoogleEarth and BingMaps. Understanding of the edge conditions is necessary to move forward with recommendations for enhanced or new lake-side access points and blueway trail heads. The resulting maps include line designations that indicate:

- **Privately-owned frontage property** which includes various land uses such as homes, cottages, commercial uses, wineries and farms. In many cases the property is a narrow slice of land along the lake that is separated from the adjacent residence by a public roadway. This narrow piece of land is frequently steep and contains a dock.
- **Publicly-owned frontage property** which usually contains undeveloped open space or parkland; federal land managed by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (such as the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge); New York State Parkland or local parks.
- **Private or public land with environmental constraints** which would make any changes to the shoreline for the benefit of the Blueway Trail very difficult if not impossible. Constraints include steep slopes, cliffs, wetlands, sensitive habitat areas and archaeological sites.
- **Land occupied by private or public infrastructure immediately adjacent to the lake** (i.e. railroad lines or roads). In discrete locations, the presence of a public roadway could provide an opportunity for an access point if space allows for parking and a small site for a put-in/take out.
- **Lakefront access points on private property**, typically a dock, paddle craft launch or small marina provided by a nearby restaurant, inn or winery. These sites are publicly-accessible but oriented for customers of the nearby business or members of a marina or yacht club, not the general public. This could change potentially if partnerships are created between the business owner and the local municipality or advocacy group.
- **Lakefront access points on public property** usually in the form of docks, beaches, paddle craft launch sites, boat launches or small marinas at state or local parks. While these are fully accessible many are in need of key facilities such as potable water, restrooms and paddle craft storage racks.

Paddlers of kayaks, paddleboards and canoes typically move between 1 – 5 mph, depending on wind, waves, experience level, the type of paddle craft and whether solo or tandem. Beginners on a day trip will normally paddle 2-3 miles before they get tired and seek to take a break if an access point is available. Advanced paddlers can go a bit further without a break, and generally will travel between 8-12 miles for a day-long excursion on a relatively-calm lake. The plan includes a series of five analysis maps which identify portions of the lake shore that are more than two miles from any existing public access point. Areas beyond the two-mile radius (or roughly an hour's paddle) of any access point are the current "gaps" in the blueway trail system. These gaps are the portions of Cayuga Lake where there is little or no ability to legally access dry land. Identifying the location of existing gaps in lake-side access points helps to inform recommendations. The gap analysis was performed for both the existing

established public access points, and the proposed access points found in the recommendations section of the plan.

Existing Sites

There are fourteen (14) established launch and access points located on the shores of Cayuga Lake. A majority of these sites are publicly owned and maintained. Seven of these sites are already a part of the Canalway Trail System. These sites, as described in detail below, can be found on the Edge Condition and Gap Analysis maps (on pages 34 through 38 of this plan). Even though these sites are part of the existing blueway system, some improvements are recommended to enhance their use and amenities.

Land Access

N1: Montezuma Wildlife Refuge at Route 20

This launch site is located on Route 20 at the edge of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge with access to the northern portion of the Cayuga Seneca Canal. The launch point is owned and maintained by the NYS DEC. Parking and a boat launch are provided, as well as restrooms. There is a rocky beach area which allows for launching a paddle craft.

Existing Boat Launch

Action: Minor grading improvements to improve water access would make this launch point more desirable.

This site is part of the Canalway Water Trail
Municipality: Town of Tyre
Launch Type: Ramp
Parking: Cars (10) / Cars with Trailer (10)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 20' +/- from parking/pull up
Potable Water: No
Restrooms: Yes (Portable toilet)
Amenities: Fishing (DEC Access Site)
Located: 42.96204 Latitude /-76.73874 Longitude

Existing Beach Launch

Land Access

N2: Mud Lock

Cayuga-Seneca Canal Lock 1, Mud Lock, currently has a boat launch but no cartop launch facilities. Restrooms are located on site.

Action: The feasibility of developing cartop launch and primitive tent camping for paddlers should be explored with the New York State Canal Corporation.

This site is part of the Canalway Water Trail
Municipality: Town of Aurelius
Launch Type: Ramp
Parking: Cars (5) / Cars with Trailer (5)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 20' +/- from parking/pull up
Potable Water: No
Restrooms: Yes (Portable toilet)
Amenities: Fishing (DEC Access Site) and Picnicking
Located: 42.94637 Latitude / -76.73368 Longitude

Vehicle Access

Existing Boat Launch

Land Access

E3: Harris Park

Harris Park provides a small boat launch and pull-up. There are restroom facilities available at the park, along with picnic areas and a swimming area. The park hosts the Village of Cayuga summer concert series. The village offices are located at this site as well.

Action: The site can be improved to allow easier access for paddleboats. The specific recommendations included in the Village of Cayuga's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan pertaining to water access and amenities for non-motorized boaters should be implemented by the village and associated stakeholders.

Draft Village of Cayuga Waterfront Plan

Municipality: Village of Cayuga
Launch Type: Bank / Hand Launch
Parking: Cars (10)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 20’ +/- from parking/pull up
Potable Water: No
Restrooms: Yes
Amenities: Boat Launch, Picnicking, Swimming
Located: 42.917826 Latitude/ 76.730031 Longitude

Harris Park Beech Area

Land Access

W1: Cayuga Lake State Park

The Cayuga Lake State Park offers many amenities including: a boat launch, playground, fishing, swimming, camping, cabins, trails, and picnic areas. This is an existing canoe and kayak launch point and storage facilities have been provided. These are a monthly or seasonal rental (bring your own lock) system.

Boat Launch

Action: Consider adding kayak and canoe rentals, as well as additional kayak and canoe storage space as needed.

This site is part of the Canalway Water Trail
Municipality: Town of Seneca Falls
Launch Type: Ramp
Parking: Cars (40) / Cars with Trailer (25)
Camping: Yes (tent sites and cabins)
Portage Distance: 20' +/- from parking/pull up
Potable Water: Yes
Restrooms: Yes (Flush)
Amenities: Picnicking, Pavilion, Walking Trails, Swimming, Fishing
Located: 42.90037 Latitude / -76.74988 Longitude

Swimming Area

Land Access

E6: Frontenac Park

The Village of Union Springs' Frontenac Park has a very large boat launch and parking facility, along with ball fields, picnic pavilions, rest rooms, and Village offices. The existing boat launch is very busy and not optimum for paddle craft.

Action: A separate cartop launch facility should be developed, likely to the north of the Village offices. The feasibility of allowing tent camping on a low bluff adjacent to a restroom structure towards the north end of the park should be explored with Village officials. Trail development on the abandoned railroad bed should also be explored in marsh areas to the north of park. Links to the newly acquired large mill pond should also be explored.

This site is part of the Canalway Water Trail
Municipality: Village of Union Springs
Launch Type: Ramp
Parking: Cars (20) / Cars with Trailer (10)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 20' +/-
Potable Water: Yes
Restrooms: Yes (Chemical)
Amenities: Picnicking, Hibachi(s), Pavilion, Fishing
Located: 42.84244 Latitude / -76.69682 Longitude

Boat Launch

Swimming Area

Land Access

W5: Dean's Cove State Marine Park

Dean's Cove State Marine Park is an un-manned state park property. The facility offers a boat launch, parking, restrooms, and both stream and lake access. With minor improvements, a canoe and kayak specific launch point can be provided. No storage for canoes or kayaks is currently available at this location.

Action: Make minor grading and access improvements to the adjacent creek to provide canoe and kayak access. Provide storage of paddle crafts on site.

Existing Boat Launches

This site is part of the Canalway Trail
Municipality: Town of Romulus
Launch Type: Ramp
Parking: Cars (15) / Cars with Trailer (10)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 20' +/-
Potable Water: No
Restrooms: Yes (Chemical)
Amenities: Fishing
Located: 42.74389 Latitude / -76.76805 Longitude

Existing Boat Launches

Land Access

E11: Long Point State Park

Long Point State Park provides seasonal canoe and kayak storage for $50 per year. The park has a boat launch and restroom facilities. No camping is allowed but there is one cottage available for rental. Currently the beach can function for launching.

Action: Overnight tent camping for paddlers should be considered by regional park officials. A paddle-craft ramp should be constructed in the launch area.

Existing Boat Launch and drop off area

This site is part of the Canalway Trail
Municipality: Town of Ledyard
Launch Type: Ramp
Parking: Cars (20) / Cars with Trailer (50)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 20' +/-
Potable Water: Yes
Restrooms: Yes (Flush)
Amenities: Picnicking, Hibachi(s), Fishing
Located: 42.71594 Latitude / -76.70871 Longitude

Stairs to Launch from Parking Area

Land Access

Overnight

W11: Sheldrake Park/Ovid Town Park

Sheldrake Park is the location of the old steam ferry docks. The docks are gone now but the concrete base still remains, although in disrepair. Swimming is restricted at this site. It is also a popular spot for dog walking and fishing. The Town of Ovid is planning on installing portable toilets in future, and has applied for a grant to reinstate the docks and improve the park. There are several restaurants and bed & breakfasts nearby. A local land owner is also developing plans to create a "glamping" site within walking distance which would provide a range of overnight accommodations. Glamping is a term used commonly for glamorous camping sites that provide campers with luxurious amenities and an enhanced camping experience.

Concrete Base of Old Docks

Wooden Dock extending into Cayuga Lake

Action: This site could be improved by adding restrooms and a paddle craft ramp in the launch area. The Town should consider providing overnight tent camping sites for paddlers.

Municipality: Town of Ovid
Launch Type: Ramp
Parking: Cars (20) / Cars with Trailer (15)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 20' +/-
Potable Water: No
Restrooms: No
Amenities: Picnicking, Fishing
Located: 42.665564 Latitude / -76.699194

Overnight

W16: Taughannock Falls State Park

This is a state park that provides camping, cabins, swimming, and a launch site. Canoe and kayak storage racks were recently installed here as well and the storage space can be rented for a small fee. It is a bring-your-own-lock system. Hiking and overnight accommodations are available within the park, located about ¼ mile from the shoreline on the west side of

Existing Parking Area

State Route 89. A second kayak rack has been installed at North Point.

Action: Consider adding additional kayak and canoe storage space as needed.

Existing Boat Launches

This site is part of the Canalway Trail
Municipality: Town of Ulysses
Launch Type: Ramp
Parking: Cars (25) / Cars with Trailer (20)
Camping: Yes (tent sites and cabins)
Portage Distance: 20' +/-
Potable Water: Yes
Restrooms: Yes (Flush)
Amenities: Picnicking, Pavilion, Swimming, Walking/Hiking Trails, Concessions, Playground
Located: 42.54761 Latitude / -76.59687 Longitude

Land Access

E14: Myers Point ParkSalt Point

The Town of Lansing's Recreation Department along with Paddle-N-More has done an excellent job promoting paddling from Myers Point. A canoe/kayak storage rack has been added ($50/year to rent a storage space) and stonedust launch ramp is being added along Salmon Creek adjacent to the park road. The park has swimming, restrooms, food concessions and a playground. Myers Point Natural area is north of Salmon Creek, on the site of a former salt plant. The Town is managing this as a publicly-accessible natural area with minimal vehicle access. There is an excellent launch beach area at the north end of the point. Lagoda Cottage area has a public road right of way that can be used for launching, though there is no adjacent parking.

Existing Boat Launch

Action: Tent camping for paddlers should be considered to also allow this to be an overnight site.

Existing Parking Area

This site is part of the Canalway Trail
Launch Type: Ramp
Parking: Cars (15) / Cars with Trailer (10)
Camping: Yes (RV)
Portage Distance: 20' +/-Potable Water: Yes
Restrooms: Yes (Flush)
Amenities: Picnicking, Pavilion, Hibachi(s), Fishing
Located: 42.53723 Latitude / -76.54905 Longitude

E18: East Shore Park

Land Access

East Shore Park is a Town of Ithaca park at the north end of the point that is adjacent to the Merrill Family Sailing Center. The park has a nice picnic pavilion, lawn area, stone seating overlooking the lake. Swimming is not allowed at this site. There is an informal paddle craft launch site at the north end of the site close to the small parking area.

Existing Shelter and Signage

Action: Paddle craft storage, a larger launch area and the addition of restroom facilities are recommended .

Municipality: City of Ithaca
Launch Type: Bank / Hand Launch
Parking: Cars (15) / Cars with Trailer (5)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 100' +/-
Potable Water: No
Restrooms: No
Amenities: Picnicking, Pavilion
Located: 42.471386 Latitude / -76.503369 Longitude

Limestone Steps Leading into Lake

Land Access

S1: Stewart Park

Stewart Park has a recently constructed floating dock off of the Large Pavilion designed and built by the City of Ithaca primarily for use by the Stewart Park Day Camp, but also for the general public; however the floating section sits too high for optimum use by paddle craft. The Cascadilla Boat Club has well designed floating docks that are available for use by the public, though not well publicized and sometimes not encouraged by the club during classes and peak use times. The park has restrooms, pavilions, parking, and playground facilities.

Lawn at Stewart Park

•

Action: Additional docks in this area, along Fall Creek and at the lakeshore in the eastern edge of the park, are recommended. Boat storage would be a great service to offer the public. The adjacent creek banks to the Cascadilla Boathouse floating docks are in need of stabilization to prevent erosion and improve

access to the docks from the land. An accessible pathway to at least one dock should be developed. Parking is limited at the shoreline, so a 10 minute drop-off time should be established and related signage installed.

Municipality: City of Ithaca
Launch Type: Bank / Hand Launch
Parking: Cars (30) / Cars with Trailer (5)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 150' +/-
Potable Water: Yes
Restrooms: Yes (Flush)
Amenities: Tennis Courts, Playground, Athletic Fields, Duck Pond, Spray Pool, Golf Course, Bird Sanctuary
Located: 42.461319 Latitude / - 76.505436 Longitude

Land Access

S2: Allan H. Treman State Marine Park

Allan H. Treman State Marine Park has a boat launch and docks with a fee associated with launching from the site. The park is heavily used and there are conflicts between cars unloading paddle craft and boat trailers trying to access the water during peak times on site. A kayak storage unit has recently been installed. Units can be rented out through the Park's office. More storage units will be installed as needed.Allan H. Treman State Marine Park Boat Launch is a large boat launch facility designed for use by trailer boats, but suitable for use by paddle craft with public restrooms and potable water. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has provided seasonal secure canoe and kayak storage in the large parking area adjacent to the launch ramps. The marine transient dock along the north bank of the marina cove is suitable for use by paddle craft to access adjacent picnic areas and park landscape. This is a destination site only since parking is located a significant distance from the docks.

Existing Docks

Action: A paddle craft ramp should be added to the launch area to provide a better amenity to paddlers and to mitigate current conflicts between boat trailers and paddlers. The State (or the City, in the adjacent Cass Park) should consider providing overnight camping as well as canoe and kayak rentals at the park.

This site is part of the Canalway Trail
Municipality: City of Ithaca
Launch Type: Ramp
Parking: Cars (40) / Cars with Trailer (25)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 20' +/-

Existing Docks

Potable Water: Yes
Restrooms: Yes (Flush)
Amenities: Picnicking, Hibachi(s), Showers, Fishing, Dry Dock Available (a dock that can be flooded then drained)
Located: 42.45849 Latitude / -76.51446 Longitude

Land Access

S3: Cass Park

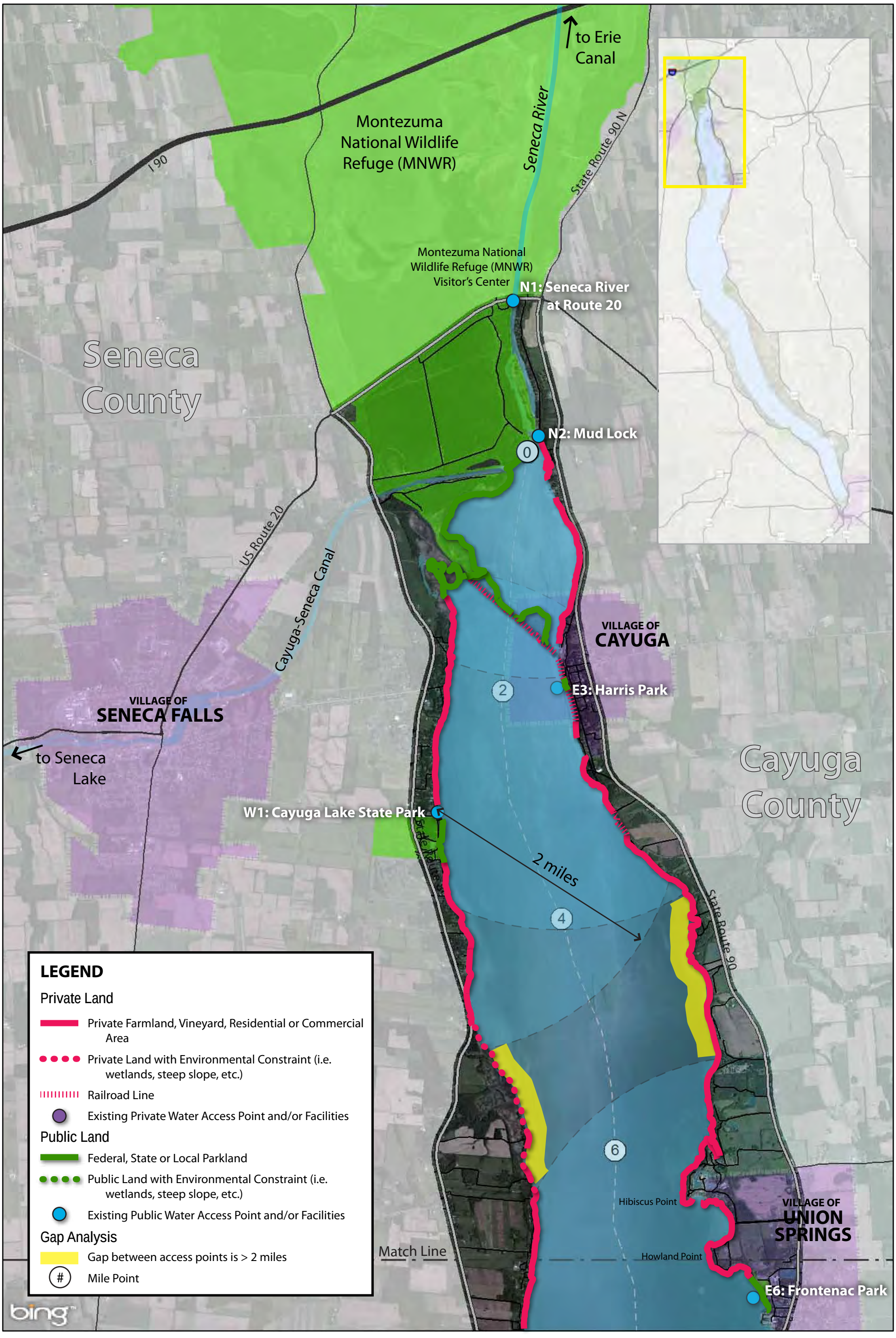
Cass Park is located on the Cayuga Inlet on State Route 89 just south of Allan H. Treman State Marine Park. The existing docks are not suitable for use by paddle craft; however the grass area near the docks is currently used to launch canoes and kayaks. The park has had issues with people temporarily storing their crafts on site. The park provides many amenities, including a pavilion. Parking is near capacity. If traffic increases, the existing facilities may not be able to accommodate the increased parking demand.

Cass Park along Cayuga Waterfront Trail

Action: The existing floating dock should be replaced per the site plan prepared for the park by Rick Manning, ASLA. Canoe and kayak rentals would be a welcomed addition to the park. The nearby Farmer's Market could provide a new launch site location across the inlet from Cass Park

Municipality: City of Ithaca
Launch Type: Bank / Hand Launch
Parking: Cars (40) / Cars with Trailer (15)
Camping: No
Portage Distance: 100' +/-
Potable Water: Yes
Restrooms: Yes (Flush)
Amenities: Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts, Athletic Fields, Playground, Walking Trail, Picnicking
Located: 42.452956 Latitude / -76.512617 Longitude

Aerial Image of Cass Park along Cayuga Inlet



Cayuga Blueway - Edge Conditions and Gap Analysis: Existing Conditions

Map 1 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

EDGE CONDITIONS

Private Land

- Private Farmland, Vineyard, Residential or Commercial Area
- Private Land with Environmental Constraint (i.e. wetlands, steep slope, etc.)
- Railroad Line
- Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities

Public Land

- Federal, State or Local Parkland
- Public Land with Environmental Constraint (i.e. wetlands, steep slope, etc.)
- Public Water Access Point and/or Facilities

Gap Analysis

- Gap between access points is > 2 miles
- (#) Mile Marker

E6: Frontenac Park

VILLAGE OF UNION SPRINGS

Town of Fayette

Town of Springport

Farley's Point

State Route 90

Burroughs Point

Ellis Point

Town of Varick

State Route 89

Main St

2 miles

VILLAGE OF AURORA

W5: Dean's Cove

Town of Ledyard

Cayuga County

Seneca County

Rocky Point

E11: Long Point State Park

Town of Romulus

Match Line

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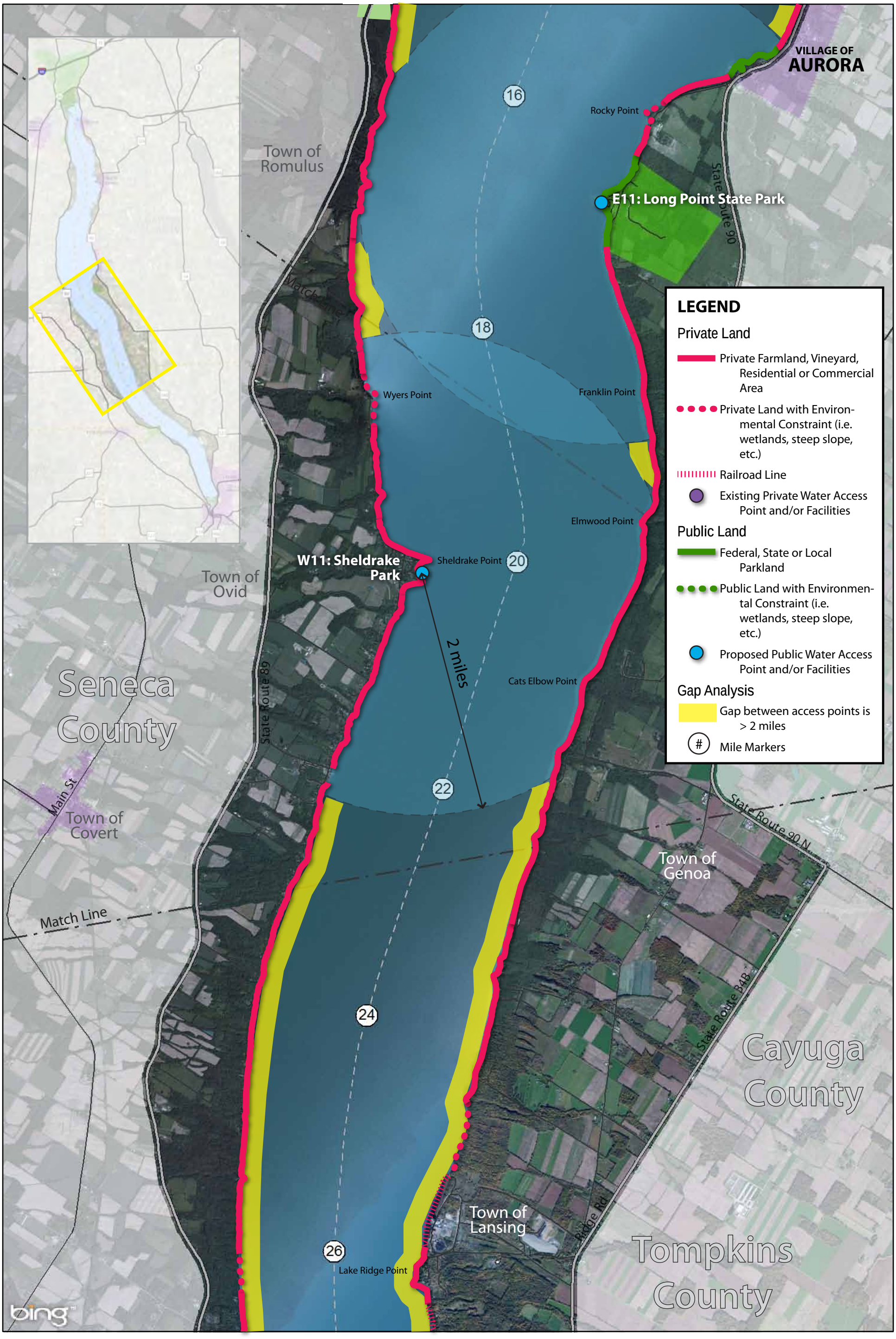
Cayuga Blueway - Edge Condition and Gap Analysis: Existing Conditions

Map 2 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

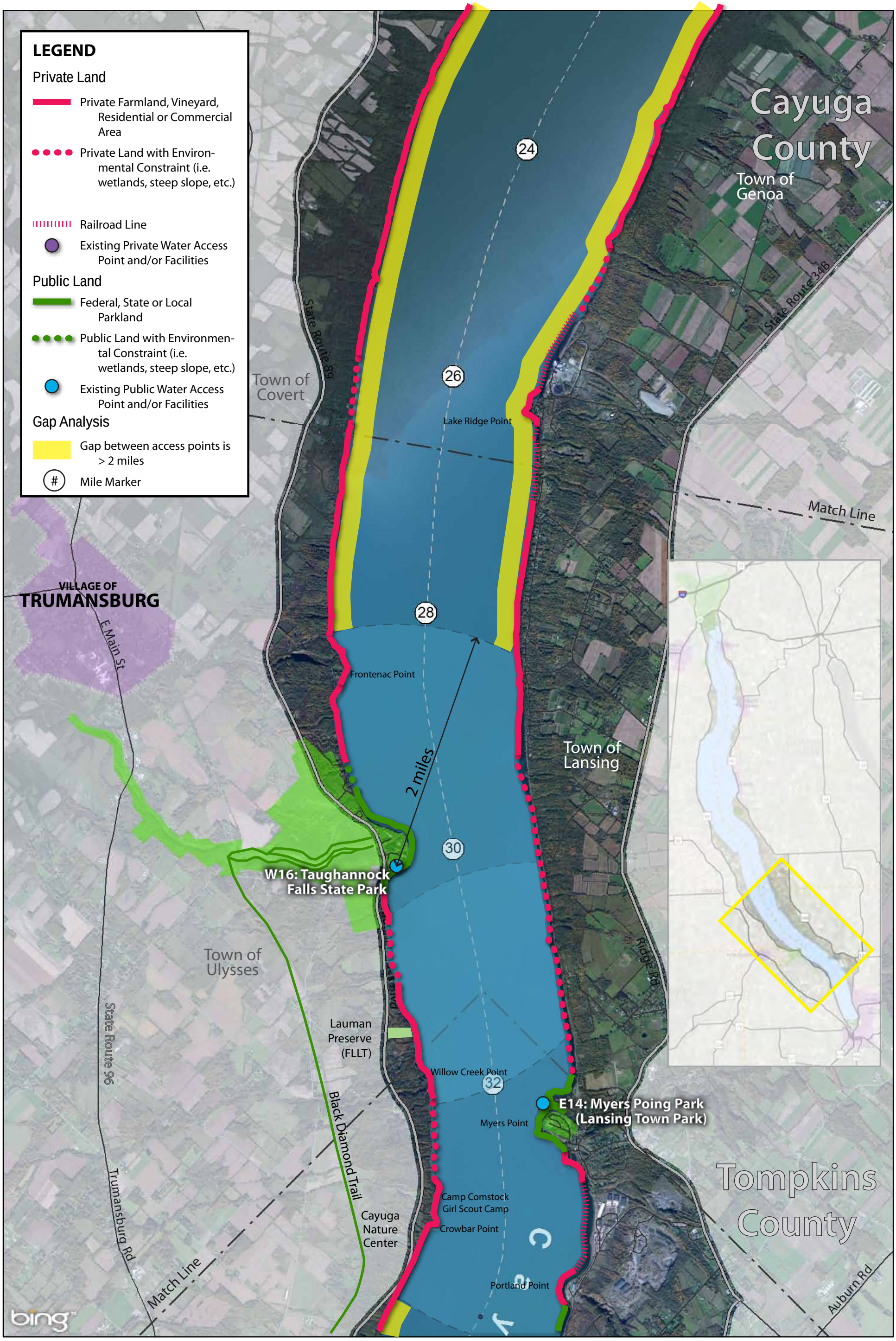
0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Cayuga Blueway - Edge Condition and Gap Analysis: Existing Conditions

Map 3 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

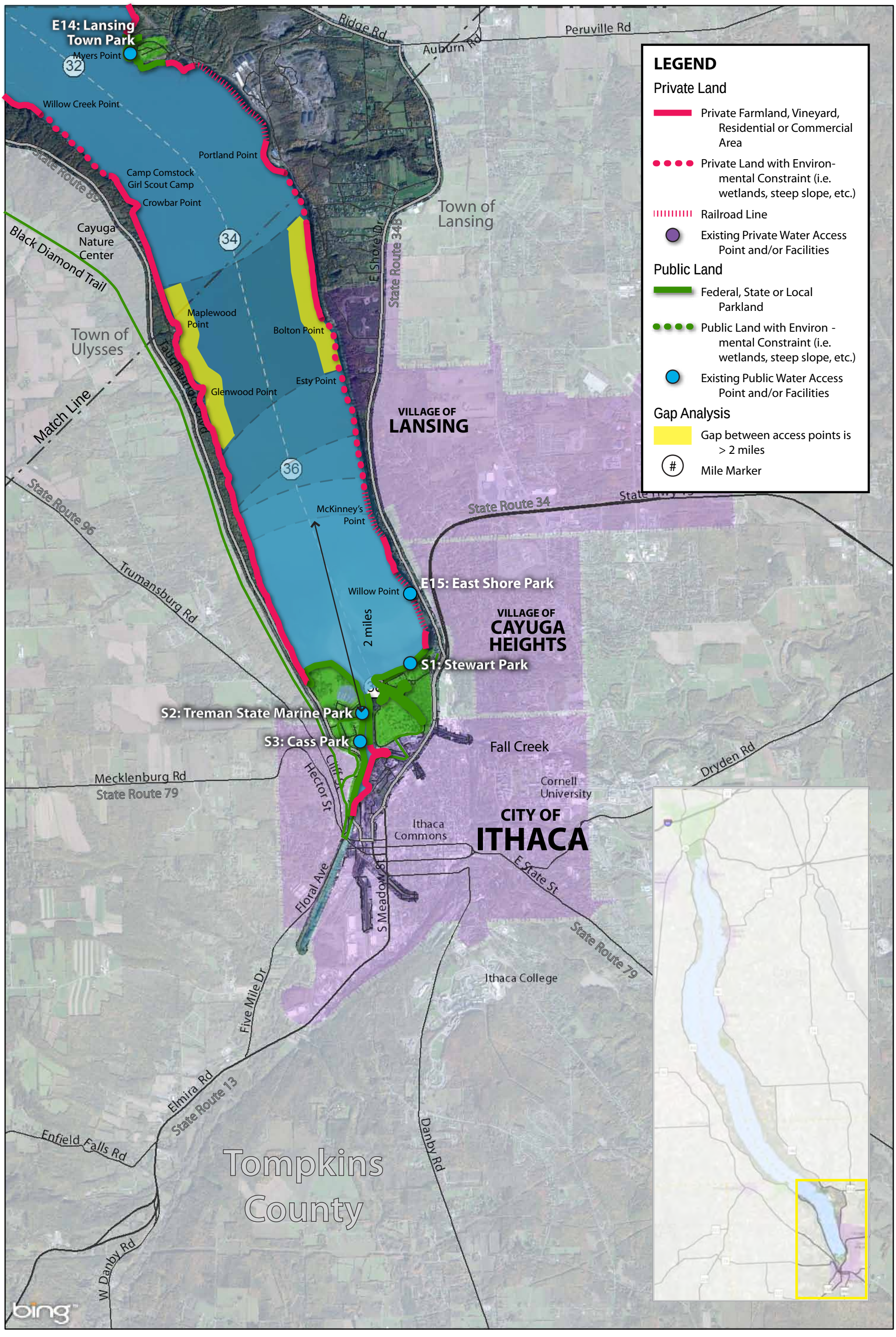
0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Cayuga Blueway - Edge Condition and Gap Analysis: Existing Conditions

Map 4 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Cayuga Blueway - Edge Condition and Gap Analysis: Existing Conditions

Map 5 of 5
Date: 9/25/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Potential Additional Blueway Trail Access Points

There are a number of potential future launch sites; both publically and privately owned that could be improved to provide different levels of access and amenities as part of the Blueway Trail. Examples of improvements to existing sites and the types of cooperative agreements between private landowners, in order to add in sites to the Blueway Trail, are listed below.

- Improvements to existing public lands to provide access for canoe and kayakers. Personal water craft docks need to be low to the water level and some paddlers prefer access to ramps and beach launches instead of docks.
- Improvements to existing access points (either on private or public land) so they offer additional services and amenities such as restrooms, parking or potable water.
- Invite public and private land owners with existing access (including recently improved sites) to the lake for paddle craft to become a Blueway Trail Partner. Help owners identify, through signage and marketing materials for the trail, any potential restrictions to access that they may have. For example, limited hours, seasonal use, "customers only", etc.)
- Secure public easements or purchase lands when necessary to expand the number of publicly-accessible sites and facilities along the Blueway Trail.

Each of the potential future sites are described below, including the current condition, type of access, and specific recommended improvements or action items.

Land Access

N3: Seneca Canal

There is a potential access point on the Seneca Canal with direct access to the lake at the corner of Hyatt Road and State Route 89, approximately a mile from Cayuga Lake. There is an old bridge abutment adjacent to Route 89 along the shore and also gentle at-grade access. The property is owned by the New York State Canal Corporation. There is no official parking; however, a car was parked there during the site visit.

Aerial view of Seneca Canal

Action: Open discussions with the NYS Canal Corporation to develop a parking area and formal launch site at this location.

Land Access

E1: Lockview Marina

The Lockview Marina is located in the Village of Cayuga off of State Route 90, near the northern tip of Cayuga Lake. It is a small private marina with slips, fuel, pump-out facilities, and winter boat storage.

Aerial view of Lockview Marina

Action: Future paddle craft access improvements and opportunities for seasonal and winter canoe and kayak storage should be discussed with the property owners.

Land Access

E2: Beacon Bay Marina

The Beacon Bay Marina is located in the Village of Cayuga off of Water Street, and is about 1.5 miles south of Lockview Marina. Beacon Bay Marina is a private marina with boat slips, motor boat service, and winter boat storage. Cayuga Wooden Boatworks, a wooden boat restoration company, is also located on this site.

Aerial view of Beacon Bay Marina

Action: Future paddle craft access improvements and opportunities for seasonal and winter canoe and kayak storage should be discussed with the property owners.

Land Access

Overnight

E4: Twin Oaks Campground

Twin Oaks is a private small marina and campground just north of Plaster Point and the Village of Union Springs. There are no existing launch points but there is opportunity to develop them along the shore.

Aerial view of Twin Oaks Campground

Action: Discuss opportunities with the landowner for developing a launch site to provide water access to and from the campgrounds for overnight accommodations, day use, and land access.

Land Access

Temporary Use

W0: Deerhead Inn & Restaurant

The Deerhead Inn is a restaurant serving lunch and dinner, located on Lower Lake Road. Jimmy's Lakeside Bar is located on the Cayuga Lake waterfront. There are boat docks available.

Aerial view of Deerhead Inn

Action: Discuss opportunities with the property owner to provide paddling access and storage for paddle crafts.

Land Access

Temporary Use

W2: Wolffy's Grill and Marina

This is a marina with transient docking in association with a lakefront restaurant. It is located 2 miles south of Cayuga Lake State Park. Access at this site would provide additional amenities such as food and restrooms.

Action: Discuss opportunities with the property owner to provide temporary access and storage for paddle crafts.

Aerial view of Wolffy's Grill and Marina

Land Access

Temporary Use

E5: Hibiscus Harbor Marina

The Marina is a private site with boat slips, motor boat service, winter boat storage, boat launch, and a restaurant.

Action: Future paddle craft access improvements provide better access to the restaurant, and opportunities for seasonal and winter storage should be discussed with the property owners.

Aerial view of Hibiscus Harbor Marina

Land Access

Temporary Use

E7: Frontenac Marina

This is a full service marina in the Village of Union Springs. The private marina has boat slips, fuel and pump out facilities, winter boat storage, sales and motor boat service.

Action: Future paddle craft access improvements and opportunities for seasonal and winter canoe and kayak storage should be discussed with the property owners.

Aerial view of Frontenac Marina

Land Access

Temporary Use

E8: Yawger Creek

Well suited as a shoreline access point, the Hecht property features approximately 900 feet of level shoreline. The parcel is located in the Town of Springport, in Cayuga County. It borders both Yawger Creek and State Route 90. The owner of the land has expressed interest in seeing the land conveyed to New York State as a shoreline access point and conservation area.

Action: Continue discussions with the property owner to acquire the property. Provide canoe and kayak access, and explore the possibilities of overnight camping facilities.

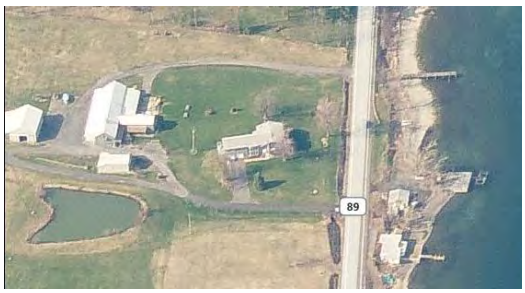
Aerial view of Yawger Creek

Land Access

Temporary Use

W3: Lakeshore Winery Dock

The Lakeshore Winery is located on the west shore of Cayuga Lake and offers a dock for boats. The winery also offers a lakefront vacation rental. The winery also owns a beach area that may provide a landing site for paddlers.



Aerial view of Lakeshore Winery Dock

Action: Discuss potential paddle craft access improvements and inclusion in the Blueway Trail with the Winery owners.

Land Access

Temporary Use

W4: Goose Watch Winery Dock

The Goose Watch Winery has a dock located on the waterfront. Signage for the dock is prominent. The dock provides access for a number of boats but high above the water level, and will not provide adequate access for paddlers.

Aerial view of Goose Watch Winery

Action: A natural launch could be developed along the shore by the property owners to provide access to the winery. A discussion with the property owners is recommended.

Land Access

Overnight

Temporary Use

E9: Village of Aurora

The Village of Aurora owns two street rights of way that extend from State Route 90, west to the water edge. The southernmost access point is on the Dublin Road ROW and is the wider of the two with a sidewalk and access lane for launching, and parking across State Route 90 at the historic Patrick Tavern. This is the site where the Fire Department rescue boat is stored during summer months. The Village owns the Patrick Tavern, the oldest structure in the Village, and has plans to develop it into a history museum. This site is also near Dorie's, a seasonal Deli and Ice Cream Parlor. The Lafayette Road ROW, north of the Aurora Inn, has a roadway and path to the water, but the ROW is very narrow and not as conducive to heavy public use. The Village owns a public park near the Aurora Inn and adjacent to the Inn's dock. Wells College owns extensive lake frontage at the south end of Aurora.

Aerial view of the Dublin Rd ROW

Aerial view of the Lafayette St ROW

Action: Discuss opportunities with the Village to develop a launch ramp at the public park near the Aurora Inn, where the services are concentrated in the heart of the Village. Discuss opportunities with Wells College to provide canoe and kayak access to the lake in the south end of the Village.

Temporary Use

E10: Bet the Farm Winery & Gourmet Food

The Bet the Farm Winery is located in the Village of Aurora along the shores of the lake. There is waterfront access and a dock available that provides access to amenities such as food, restrooms, and access to the Village.

Action: There is potential for paddling pull-up access and discussions should be started with the property owner.

Aerial view of Bet the Farm W & G Food

Overnight

W6: Buttonwood Grove Winery

The Buttonwood Grove Winery is located on the west side of State Route 89. The winery offers several amenities, including on-site accommodations at the three cabins located on the property. Water access is approximately ¼ mile to the south. The existing beach is the current access, and with small improvements, this would provide a good launch point. The Winery is willing to offer shuttle services for canoe and kayakers that wish to visit.

Aerial view of Buttonwood Grove Winery

Action: Continue discussions with the property owner regarding the possibility of developing a launch point on the winery's property.

Land Access

W7: Whitlock/VanPiper-Moran Preserve (Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT))

The Preserve offers parking for a car-top launch and a portage of approximately ¼ mile down to the water. The beach access is a good area for getting in and out of the water. Currently, there is only a bench located here but other amenities are possible such as restrooms and other facilities. Overnight camping will not be allowed on the property. In addition to water access, there are also hiking trails located on the property.

Action: Provide additional amenities such as signage and restrooms.

Lakeview at Whitlock/VanPiper-Moran Preserve

Land Access

W8: Thirsty Owl Winery Dock

The Thirsty Owl Winery, located off State Route 89, has a boat dock on the lake; but the winery itself is located several hundred feet above the water line up a small hill via a driveway. The existing boat dock however, is high and would not easily accommodate canoes and kayaks.

Action: Discuss the possibility of adding a secondary beach launch point for canoe and kayak access with the property owners.

Aerial view of Thirsty Owl Winery Dock

Land Access

W9: Dock near the Hosmer Winery

The Hosmer Winery has a tasting and retail facility located on State Route 89, on the west shore of Cayuga Lake, located in a renovated barn. There is dock access approximately a half mile away from the winery.

Action: Discuss the potential to provide paddle craft access with the property owners.

Aerial view of docks near Hosmer Winery

Overnight

W10: Driftwood Inn B&B

The Driftwood Inn Bed and Breakfast is located on the waterfront of Cayuga Lake, just north of Sheldrake Point. The inn will provide pull-up overnight accommodations for long distance paddlers.

Action: Discuss inclusion of this property as part of the Blueway Trail with the property owner.

Aerial view of Driftwood Inn B&B

Temporary Use

W12: Sheldrake Point Winery

The Sheldrake Point Winery is located south of Sheldrake Point. The winery offers waterfront access with a dock and a potential landing site for paddlers with some improvements. There is a driveway that leads to the winery itself, across County Road 153, and approximately 80 feet above the water level.

Action: Discuss potential grading improvements for the landing site with the property owners.

Dock at Sheldrake Point Winery

Temporary Use

W13: Kidders Landing Restaurant

Kidders Landing Restaurant is located on the other side of the roadway from the lake. A dock is provided for those coming by boat.

Action: Grading and landing site improvements may be needed to provide a safe and useable canoe and kayak launch site. Secure storage would be needed for those leaving their craft to grab a meal. With permission from the owners, this site could also provide emergency access.

Aerial view of Kidders Landing Restaurant

Temporary Use

E12: Don's Marina

This is a private marina located in the Town of Genoa. Paddling access would require improvements and discussions with the property owner.

Action: Discuss the potential for the marina to provide emergency access and future long-term storage of paddle crafts with the owners.

Aerial view of Don's Marina

Overnight

Temporary Use

E13: Bell Station

Bell Station is the largest undeveloped lakefront property in the Finger Lakes with 3400+/- feet of lake frontage. Lake views are spectacular and the site offers great potential as a day use and primitive overnight camping area. Vehicular access to the lake edge is challenging due to the steep topography. The railroad bed provides an excellent surface for a lakefront walking trail. This property is already a popular destination for paddlers. Identified as a priority project within New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan, this parcel is proposed for acquisition as a State Wildlife Management Area.

Aerial view of Bell Station Parcel

Action: Work with local and state agencies to acquire the property from NYSEG as a State Wildlife Management Area. Develop a canoe and kayak landing point. Identify the potential for additional amenities such as rest rooms and overnight camping areas. Develop a hiking trail along the railroad corridor.

Overnight

Temporary Use

W14: Kingstown Cottages

The Kingstown Cottages are lakeside cottages and yurts available for overnight accommodations. It appeared as though there may be the possibility to launch a canoe or kayak from the lake shore.

Aerial view of Kingston Beach

Action: This potentially could offer private overnight accommodations for users on the trail and the possibility for emergency access; however, this will need to be discussed with the owner.

Overnight

Temporary Use

W15: Camp Barton

Camp Barton is a private Boy Scout camp with two beaches. The southern beach is closest to the main camp and is the one used by the scouts during the summer. This portion of the camp is closed off to visitors while the camp is in session, from mid-June to Labor Day Weekend. The camp typically has 300 kids during the week and scouts typically canoe down to Taughannock Falls State Park and also do an overnight to Cayuga Lake State Park using sail boats. The northern beach is located near the staff cabins. During the off-season, these cabins are rented on a nightly or weekly basis. The camp has an EMT on staff during the summer months.

Camp Barton Beach Front

Action: Develop a partnership with the camp for emergency access during the summer months and overnight accommodations during the off-season.

Temporary Use

E15: Finger Lakes Marina

The Finger Lakes Marina is located at Myers Point, just south of Lansing Town Park. The proximity to the park makes paddling improvements at this location unnecessary, except for potential emergency access.

Action: Discuss potential use as emergency access with the property owners.

Aerial view of Finger Lakes Marina

Temporary Use

E16: Portland Point

This is a privately-owned lakefront parcel. The area to the north adjacent to Cargill Salt Mine may offer some landing/rest stop possibilities as well. Cornell Plantation's Edwards Lake Cliff Preserve is located above Portland Point, but is not accessible to the lake shore.

Action: Approach the owners about possible use of this site as a temporary use rest stop for the Blueway Trail. Explore possibilities for overnight camping.

Aerial view of Portland Point

Temporary Use

E17: Bolton Point

Bolton Point (Poison Ivy Point) is owned by the Village of Lansing and is accessible from Blackchin Road, home to the Bolton Point Drinking Water Intake, and part of the Lansing Greenway network. The parking area is a very long and steep walk from the Point and vehicular access is restricted by the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Public access from the roadway is not currently available.

Action: The site is an attractive and well placed rest stop from Ithaca. Restroom and picnic facilities would enhance its function, along with a well sited landing beach.

Temporary Use

W17: Ithaca Yacht Club

The Ithaca Yacht Club is a private, membership only, property. Facilities include a restaurant, docks, a launch site, and canoe and kayak storage on-site.

Action: Discuss the possibility of providing emergency access with the Ithaca Yacht Club and the possibility of expanding access to the property, launch, and restaurant in the future.

Aerial view of Ithaca Yacht Club

Temporary Use

S4: Ithaca Farmers' Market

The Ithaca Farmers' Market has a very nice pier for small tour boat outings, and transient docking for sail and motor boats. A small beach along Cascadilla Creek at the north end of the market provides existing access for canoes and kayaks.

Action: When the Farmers' Market is closed mid-week, this area provides an ideal launch site. When the market is open though, space for launching and portaging paddle craft is limited. Due to these space constraints, the site should be limited to temporary use rather than be developed as a

Launch Locations at Ithaca Farmers' Market

major launch site. Docks for paddle crafts should be installed, either to the north or south end of the Market to provide access to the site.

Temporary Use

S5: Boat Yard Grill docks

Transient docking here primarily serves the Boat Yard Grill Restaurant at the northern tip of Inlet Island. The docks are currently not designed to accommodate paddle craft access easily. Improving this location would provide access to food and other amenities in the inlet.

Action: Discuss adding a paddle launch site and temporary storage to this site with the property owners.

Aerial view of Boat Yard Grill docks

NOT FOR PUBLIC USE

to Erie Canal

Seneca River

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR)

State Route 90 N

I 90

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) Visitor's Center

N1: Seneca River at Route 20

Seneca County

N2: Mud Lock

N3: Seneca Canal

E1: Lockview Marina

US Route 20

Cayuga-Seneca Canal

VILLAGE OF CAYUGA

E2: Beacon Bay Marina

E3: Harris Park

VILLAGE OF SENECA FALLS

E4: Twin Oaks Campground

to Seneca Lake

W0: Deerhead Restaurant

W1: Cayuga Lake State Park

Cayuga County

2 miles

W2: Wolffy's Grill and Marina

Hibiscus Point

E5: Hibiscus Harbor Marina

VILLAGE OF UNION SPRINGS

Howland Point

Match Line

E6: Frontenac Park

E7: Frontenac Marina

LEGEND

Private Land

- Private Farmland, Vineyard, Residential or Commercial Area
- Private Land with Environmental Constraint (i.e. wetlands, steep slope, etc.)
- Railroad Line
- Existing Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- Proposed Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities

Public Land

- Federal, State or Local Parkland
- Public Land with Environmental Constraint (i.e. wetlands, steep slope, etc.)
- Existing Public Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- Proposed Public Water Access Point and/or Facilities

Gap Analysis

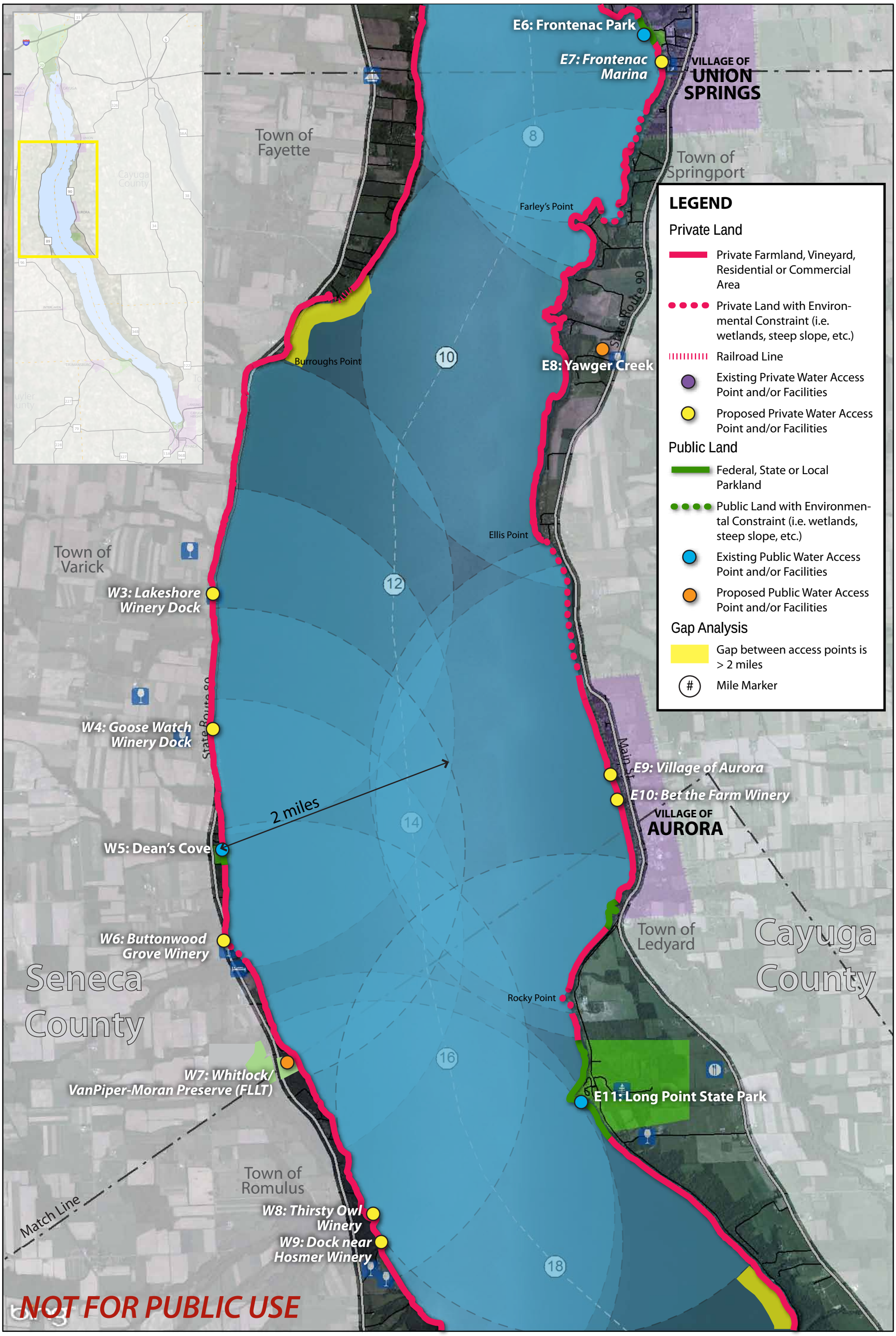
- Gap between access points is > 2 miles
- # Mile Point

Cayuga Blueway - Edge Conditions and Gap Analysis with Existing & Proposed Access Points

Map 1 of 5

Date: 12/6/2013

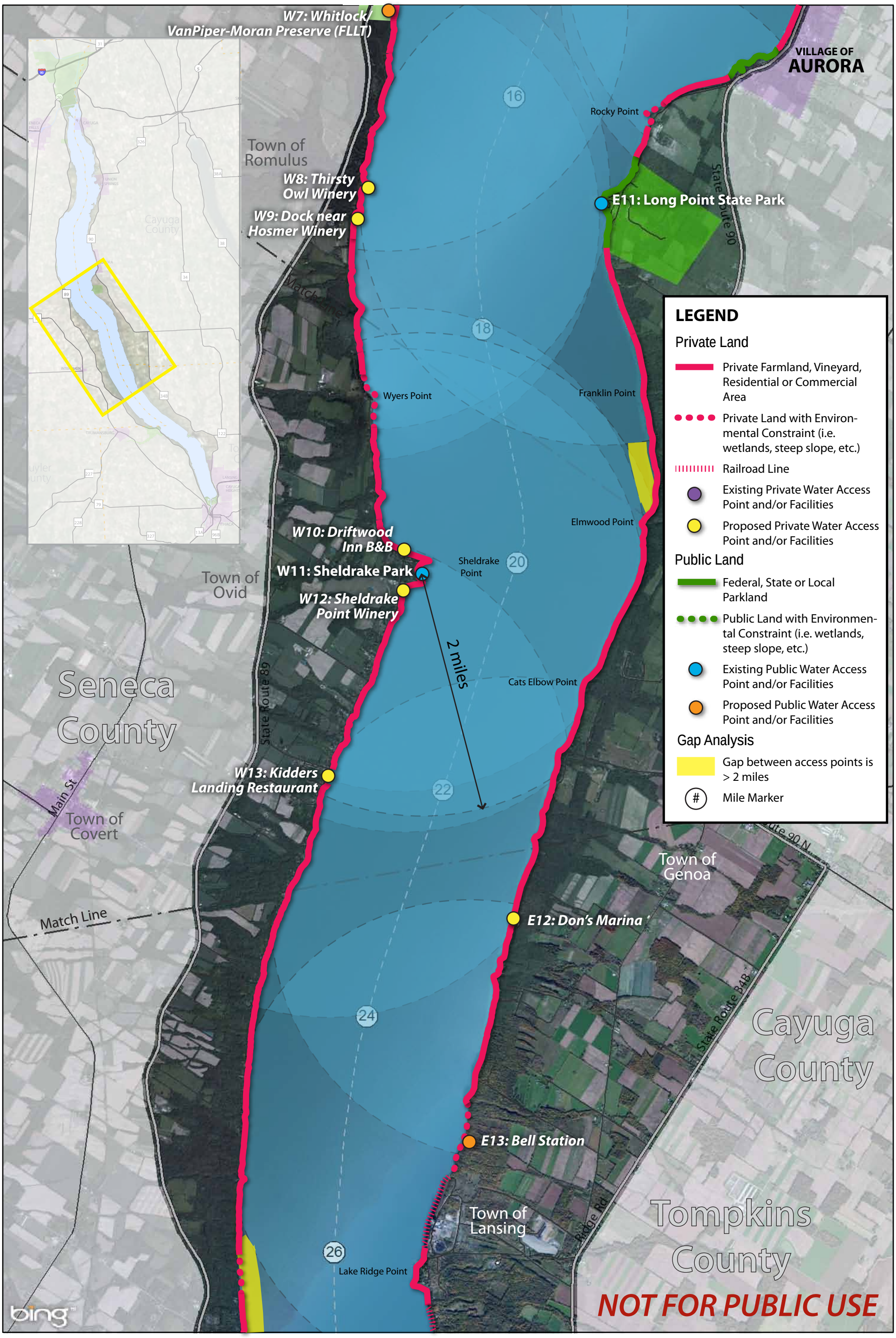
0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Cayuga Blueway - Edge Condition and Gap Analysis with Existing & Proposed Access Points

Map 2 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Cayuga Blueway - Edge Condition and Gap Analysis with Existing & Proposed Access Points

Map 3 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

LEGEND

Private Land

- Private Farmland, Vineyard, Residential or Commercial Area
- Private Land with Environmental Constraint (i.e. wetlands, steep slope, etc.)
- Railroad Line
- Existing Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- Proposed Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities

Public Land

- Federal, State or Local Parkland
- Public Land with Environmental Constraint (i.e. wetlands, steep slope, etc.)
- Existing Public Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- Proposed Public Water Access Point and/or Facilities

Gap Analysis

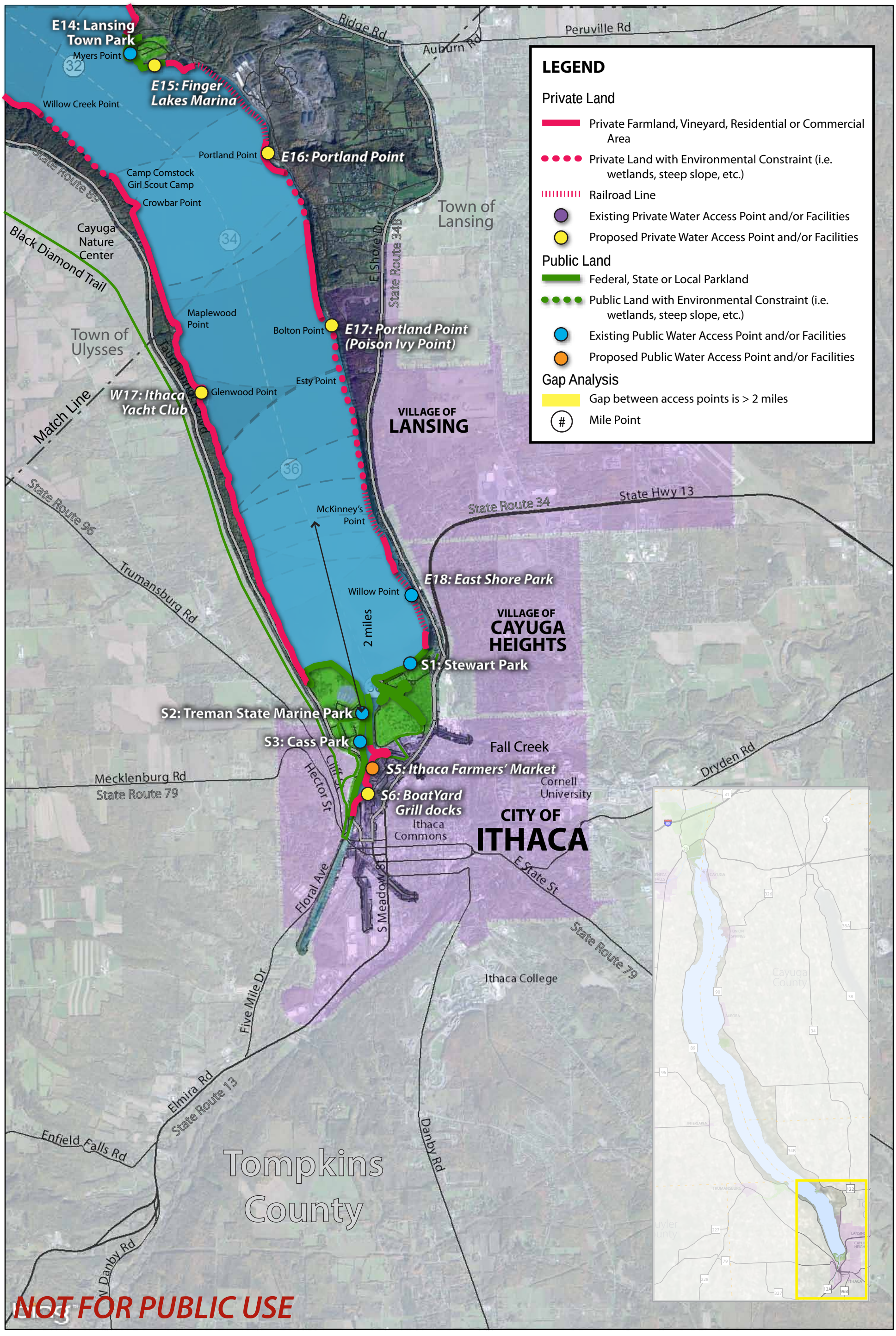
- Gap between access points is > 2 miles
- (#) Mile Marker

E12: Don's Marina
Cayuga County
Town of Genoa
24
E13: Bell Station
State Route 34B
State Route 89
Town of Covert
26
Lake Ridge Point
W14: Kingstown Cottages
Match Line
VILLAGE OF TRUMANSBURG
E Main St
28
W15: Camp Barton
Frontenac Point
2 miles
Town of Lansing
30
W16: Taughannock Falls State Park
Town of Ulysses
State Route 96
Lauman Preserve (FLLT)
Willow Creek Point
32
E14: Myers Point Park (Lansing Town Park)
Myers Point
E15: Finger Lakes Marina
Tompkins County
Black Diamond Trail
Cayuga Nature Center
Camp Comstock Girl Scout Camp
Crowbar Point
Trumansburg Rd
Match Line
Portland Point
E16: Portland Point
Auburn Rd
bing
NOT FOR PUBLIC USE

Cayuga Blueway - Edge Condition and Gap Analysis with Existing & Proposed Access Points

Map 4 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



NOT FOR PUBLIC USE

Cayuga Blueway - Edge Condition and Gap Analysis with Existing & Proposed Access Points

Map 5 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Itineraries for the Cayuga Blueway Trail

The existing Blueway Trail offers several sites around the Lake that are close together or adjacent to natural or scenic areas. This lends itself well to several day use areas. It has been shown through the user surveys that the typical trip on Cayuga Lake is a day trip lasting a few hours. Day use trips, utilizing the existing and proposed sites, are described in detail in the following section, and are identified in the accompanying Itineraries and Suggested Routes maps on pages 60-64. Paddlers desiring overnight length trips can combine multiple day trip itineraries to form overnight trips. These longer trips are described in the Overnight Trips Itineraries section. Lake crossings are proposed for some itineraries with approximate crossing distances. Lake crossings should be done with caution and not by beginning paddlers.

Day Trip Itineraries

Through site investigation and public input, several day trip itineraries utilizing existing access points have been identified. A general description of the route is provided, along with approximate length of the trip, the necessary level of paddling experience required to safely complete the trip, and alternate route options for the specific trip. Paddlers need to be aware of potential hazards of crossing the lake when trip descriptions mention this possibility. The 14 day trips are described below.

1. Montezuma: Paddling is not allowed on the waterways and pools within the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. However, there are great paddling opportunities within the larger Montezuma Wetlands Complex along the Erie Canal, the Clyde and Seneca Rivers. Four paddling routes have been identified by MNWR staff**:** the Armitage Bridge/Route 89 route; the Mays Point route; the Refuge/Seneca River Route; and the Howland's Island Route. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #1.

2. Cayuga Lake to Seneca Falls Route: Route follows the Cayuga-Seneca Canal (Seneca River) between the north end of Cayuga Lake and the Village of Seneca Falls. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #1.

- *Length:* Approximately 4 miles (one way).
- *Description of Paddling Experience:* Follows the scenic route of the Cayuga-Seneca Canal branch of the Erie Canal, a narrow river corridor with woodland and farmland edges. Links the marshlands at the north end of Cayuga Lake to the historic Village of Seneca Falls. A canal lock is at the east end of Van Cleef Lake and paddle craft landings are found at Trinity Church on Van Cleef Lake or at the Canal Harbor in the Village Center.
- *Other Route Options:* Paddlers could chose to spend the night in Seneca Falls and return to Cayuga Lake, or continue to Seneca Lake State Park and into Seneca Lake.

3. Cayuga to Cayuga: Cayuga Lake State Park to Cayuga Village Route: From Cayuga Lake State Park, route follows the west shore north of the park along the extensive marshes and railroad causeway to the mouth of the Seneca River/Cayuga-Seneca Canal at Mud Lock, then south to the Village. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #1.

- *Length:* 5 miles in length (one way).

- *Description of Paddling Experience*: The north end of Cayuga Lake has shallow, calm lake waters and large marshlands at west and north ends, an area renowned for great bird watching and wildlife.
- *Other Route Options*: Paddlers can create a 6 mile loop by crossing the lake between Cayuga Lake State Park and the Village of Cayuga. The crossing at the north end of the Lake is, at most times, the safest and calmest crossing of the lake due to the frequent northwest afternoon wind, approximately 0.8 miles.

4. Cayuga to Canoga: Cayuga Lake State Park to Canoga Marshes Route: Heading south from Cayuga Lake State Park, the route follows the west shore of the Lake to the Canoga Marsh. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #1.

- *Length*: Approximately 3 miles (one way).
- *Description of Paddling Experience*: The route begins at the State Park and passes many private lake houses and cottages, as well as Wolffy's Grill and Marina (one of the few lakeside restaurants on Cayuga Lake) before it reaches the Canoga Marsh and a unique cottage community on Canoga Island.
- *Other Route Options*: Paddlers can cross the lake at or south of Canoga Marsh to reach the Village of Union Springs, a 4 ½ mile paddle (one way).

5. Village to Village: Cayuga to Union Springs Route: Heading south from the Village of Cayuga, the route follows the east shore of the Lake to the Village of Union Springs. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #1.

- *Length:* Approximately 5 ½ miles (one way).
- *Description of Paddling Experience*: The route connects 2 lakeside villages on Cayuga Lake passing many cottages and newer, often larger lakefront homes along the gentle slopes of the northeast corner of the Lake. Paddlers pass Frontenac Island, one of only two islands in the Finger Lakes, on their way to Frontenac Park in Union Springs..
- *Other Route Options*: Paddlers can spend a night in Union Springs or cross the lake at any point to create a loop that passes Cayuga Lake State Park and returns to the Village of Cayuga.

6. Union Springs to Aurora and Long Point State Park Route: Heading south from the Village of Union Springs, the route follows the east shore of the Lake past Yawger Creek and the Village of Aurora to Long Point State Park. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #2.

- *Length:* Approximately 6 miles to Aurora and 8 miles total to Long Point State Park (one way).
- *Description of Paddling Experience:* The route follows the gently sloped east shore with historic cottage communities like Farleys Point, natural areas like Yawger Creek, contemporary lake houses overlooking the escarpment near Levanna, and the charming historic Village of Aurora.
- *Other Route Options:* Paddlers can stop in Aurora shops, restaurants, and inns or continue to Long Point State Park. Lake crossings are possible from Aurora to Dean's Cove Boat Launch or from Long Point State Park to the Finger Lakes Land Trust's Whitlock/VanPiper-Moran Preserve.

7. Dean's Cove Area Route: Leaving from Dean's Cove and following the west shore, this route passes two winery docks north of Dean's Cove Boat Launch and two winery docks and a Finger Lakes Land Trust Preserve to the south. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #2.

- *Length:* Approximately 2 miles to the north and 2 – 3 miles to the south.
- *Description of Paddling Experience:* North of Dean's Cove Route 89, the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway, is very close to the lake with primarily docks and boathouses along the lake edge. South of Dean's Cove, the lake edge is developed with cottages with the exception of the Whitlock/VanPiper-Moran Preserve, a Finger Lakes Land Trust forested preserve.
- *Other Route Options:* Lake crossings can provide a link from the west shore to east shore destinations at the Village of Aurora and Long Point State Park (approximate 2 mile crossing at Long Point State Park).

8. Sheldrake Park Area Route: Starting at Sheldrake Park, paddling routes are possible both north and south of this charming lakeside hamlet on the west shore the Lake. Heading north, this route follows the west shore to the Finger Lakes Land Trust's Whitlock/VanPiper-Moran Preserve. The south route, also following the west shore, leads to Kidders Landing and O'Malley's Restaurant. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #2.

- *Length:* North route from Sheldrake Park is approximately 4 miles to the Finger Lakes Land Trust's Whitlock/VanPiper-Moran Preserve (one way). Paddling south from Sheldrake Park, Kidders Landing and O'Malley's Restaurant are nearly 2 miles from Sheldrake.
- *Description of Paddling Experience:* Many older cottages are found between Sheldrake Park and Wyers Point. There is a scenic escarpment between Wyers Point and the Hosmer and Thirsty Owl winery docks. Heading south from Sheldrake Point to Kidders Landing there are many beautiful and historic lake homes and boathouses.
- *Other Route Options:* Paddlers can continue north from the FLLT preserve to Cayuga Lake State Park, or cross the lake to reach Long Point State Park or the Village of Aurora. Both trips are long one-day paddles but can be done with overnight stays in the Village of Aurora or at one of the State Parks.

9. Long Point State Park to Cats Elbow Point Route: Heading south from Long Point State Park, the route follows the east shore of the Lake past Elmwood Point to Cats Elbow Point. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #3.

- *Length:* Approximately 3 ½ miles (one way).
- *Description of Paddling Experience:* The Lake narrows as you move south towards Sheldrake Point on the west side of Cayuga Lake. There are many small cottages along the former Lehigh Valley railroad line, located at the base of the steep, wooded slope.
- *Other Route Options:* If lake conditions are appropriate, the lake crossing to Sheldrake Point is one of the narrowest lake crossings, at approximately 1 ½ miles in length.

10. Taughannock Falls State Park North Route: Heading north from Taughannock Falls State Park, the route follows the west shore of the Lake past Frontenac Point and continuing north towards the Kingstown Cottages. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #4.

- *Length:* Approximately 3 miles (one way).
- *Description of Paddling Experience:* The route begins at the State Park and heading north passes many private lake houses, cottages, boathouses, docks, and the Camp Barton Boy Scout Camp at Frontenac Point.
- *Other Route Options:* Paddlers can continue to Kingstown Cottage area, further north to Sheldrake Park, or cross the lake to Lake Ridge Point (approximately 1.25 miles).

11. Myers Point Park (Lansing Town Park) North Route: Heading north from Myers Point Park (Lansing Town Park), the route follows the east shore of the Lake along the escarpment found along the southeast corner of Cayuga Lake. This route is round-trip. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #4.

- *Description of Paddling Experience***:** The route begins at Myers Point Park (Lansing Town Park) and passes along the east shore, a relatively undeveloped length of lakeshore with an active railroad at the bottom of the slope and some newer year round lake homes on large wooded lots overlooking the escarpment and the lake. This is one of the more scenic paddles on the lake. The length of the trip is round-trip and can vary in length depending on how far one wants to go.
- *Other Route Options:* Many paddlers create a loop to Taughannock Falls State Park by paddling diagonally from park to park, or heading north and crossing directly opposite of the State Park (approximately 1 mile).

12. Myers Point Park (Lansing Town Park) to Ithaca Route: Heading south from Myers Point Park (Lansing Town Park), the route follows the east shore of the Lake to the Town of Ithaca, then the City of Ithaca.

- *Length:* Approximately 5 ½ miles (one way).
- *Description of Paddling Experience:* The route begins at Lansing's lakefront park on Myers Point and passes a major industrial site with the Cayuga Crushed Stone and Cargill Salt mine. South of this area and Portland Point, the route passes a dramatic rock escarpment with new lake houses at the top of the ridge and the Norfolk Southern Railroad line at the base of the slope. Towards the south end in the Town of Ithaca, there are smaller lake cottages and docks, the East Shore Park and Cornell Sailing Center, and Stewart Park at the south end of the Lake in the City of Ithaca.

*Other Route Option*s: Paddlers can cross the lake at any time to create a loop and look at some of the charming, historic cottages on the west side of the lake.

13. Taughannock Falls State Park to Ithaca Route: Heading south from Taughannock Falls State Park, the route follows the west shore of the lake past many historic lake cottages and cottage communities, the Finger Lakes Land Trust's Lauman Preserve, Camp Comstock (Girl Scout Camp) at Crowbar Point, the Ithaca Yacht Club at Maplewood Point, and some large new year round lake homes. This route ends in the City of Ithaca at Cass Park. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #4 & #5.

- *Length:* Approximately 1 ½ miles to the Lauman Preserve; 3 miles to Crowbar Point; and 7 miles to Ithaca (Cass Park).
- *Description of Paddling Experience:* The route is one of most scenic and historic sections of lakefront with lovely historic lake cottages and boathouses in a heavily wooded slope. The only

official pull out area is at the Finger Lakes Land Trust's Lauman Preserve, just 1 ½ miles south of Taughannock.

- *Other Route Options:* The area between Taughannock Falls State Park and Lansing Town Park (at Myers Point), as described in Route 12, is excellent for paddling park to park diagonally across the lake or crossing from Willow Creek Point, one of the shortest crossings on Cayuga Lake with a distance of approximately 0.8 miles.

14. City of Ithaca Waterways Route: There are many route options in the City of Ithaca along the south end of Cayuga Lake. Paddlers can travel up the the Cayuga Inlet to Inlet Island and beyond to other creeks and waterways including Fall Creek and Cascadilla Creek. This trip is shown on Itineraries and Suggested Routes Map #5.

- *Length:* Approximately 1 mile from Cayuga Lake at Stewart Park to Inlet Island on the Cayuga Inlet.
- *Description of Paddling Experience:* There are many destinations and linkages along the Cayuga Inlet and south end of the Lake, including Stewart Park, Treman State Marine Park, the Ithaca Farmers' Market, Cass Park and the Ithaca Children's Garden, and Inlet Island.
- *Other Route Options:* Paddlers can continue along the Cayuga Inlet and other channels south of Inlet Island to get to commercial areas in the City of Ithaca's southside which include business like Wegmans, Eastern Mountain Sports, etc. Or they can follow the Flood Control Channel, which is used as a competitive rowing course which is used by area colleges, south to the fish ladder.

Overnight Trip Itineraries

The itineraries described in the previous section can be completed as independent trips. For paddlers who desire longer trips, they can combine two or more itineraries together to create an overnight length trip. The 14 day trip itineraries were analyzed and the following combinations of day trips are presented as potential overnight trips. The overnight trips are grouped by anticipated duration.

Two Day and One Night Trips (5 total):

1. *Cayuga Lake State Park to theVillage of Cayuga to Union Springs*
   This 2 day, one night trip can include itinerary 4 and/or 5.
2. *Village of Union Springs to Long Point State Park/Village of Aurora to Dean's Cove*
   This 2 day, one night loop can include itineraries 6 and 7.
3. *Long Point State Park/Village of Aurora to Sheldrake Point*
   This 2 day, one night loop can include pieces of itineraries 6, 7, 8 and 9.
4. *Taughannock Falls State Park to Myers Point Park (Lansing Town Park)*
   This overnight loop can include itineraries 11 and 12. Note that these loops can be completed in one day if conditions are good and paddlers are experienced.
5. *Taughannock Falls State Park toMyers Point Park (Lansing Town Park) to Ithaca*
   This 2 day, one night loop can include pieces of itineraries 12, and 13.

Three or Four Days and Two or Three Nights (5 total):

1. *Cayuga Lake State Park to the Village of Cayuga to Long Point State Park/Village of Aurora to Dean's Cove*
   This 2 day, one night loop can include itineraries 4, 5, 6 and 7.
2. *Cayuga Lake State Park to the Village of Cayuga to Long Point State Park/Village of Aurora to Sheldrake Park*
   This 2 day, one night loop can include itineraries 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
3. *Long Point State Park/Village of Aurora to Sheldrake Park*
   This overnight loop can include pieces of itineraries 6, 7, 8 and 9. This is a 4 day trip with 3 overnights.
4. *Village of Aurora/Long Point State Park to Taughannock Falls State Park to Lansing Town Park*
   This 2 day, one night loop can include itineraries 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.
5. *Sheldrake Park to the City of Ithaca*
   This 2 day, one night loop can include pieces of itineraries 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

Five to Seven Day Trip (1 total):

1. *End to End – Cayuga Lake State Park or the Village of Cayuga to the City of Ithaca and return.*

NOT FOR PUBLIC USE

to Erie Canal

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR)

Seneca River

State Route 90 N

I 90

1

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) Visitor's Center

N1: Seneca River at Route 20

Seneca County

N2: Mud Lock

N3: Seneca Canal

E1: Lockview Marina

US Route 20

2

Cayuga-Seneca Canal

3

VILLAGE OF CAYUGA

E2: Beacon Bay Marina

E3: Harris Park

VILLAGE OF SENECA FALLS

E4: Twin Oaks Campground

to Seneca Lake

W0: Deerhead Restaurant

W1: Cayuga Lake State Park

Cayuga County

W2: Wolffy's Grill and Marina

4

5

State Route 90

6

Hibiscus Point

E5: Hibiscus Harbor Marina

VILLAGE OF UNION SPRINGS

Match Line

Howland Point

E6: Frontenac Park

E7: Frontenac Marina

bing

LEGEND

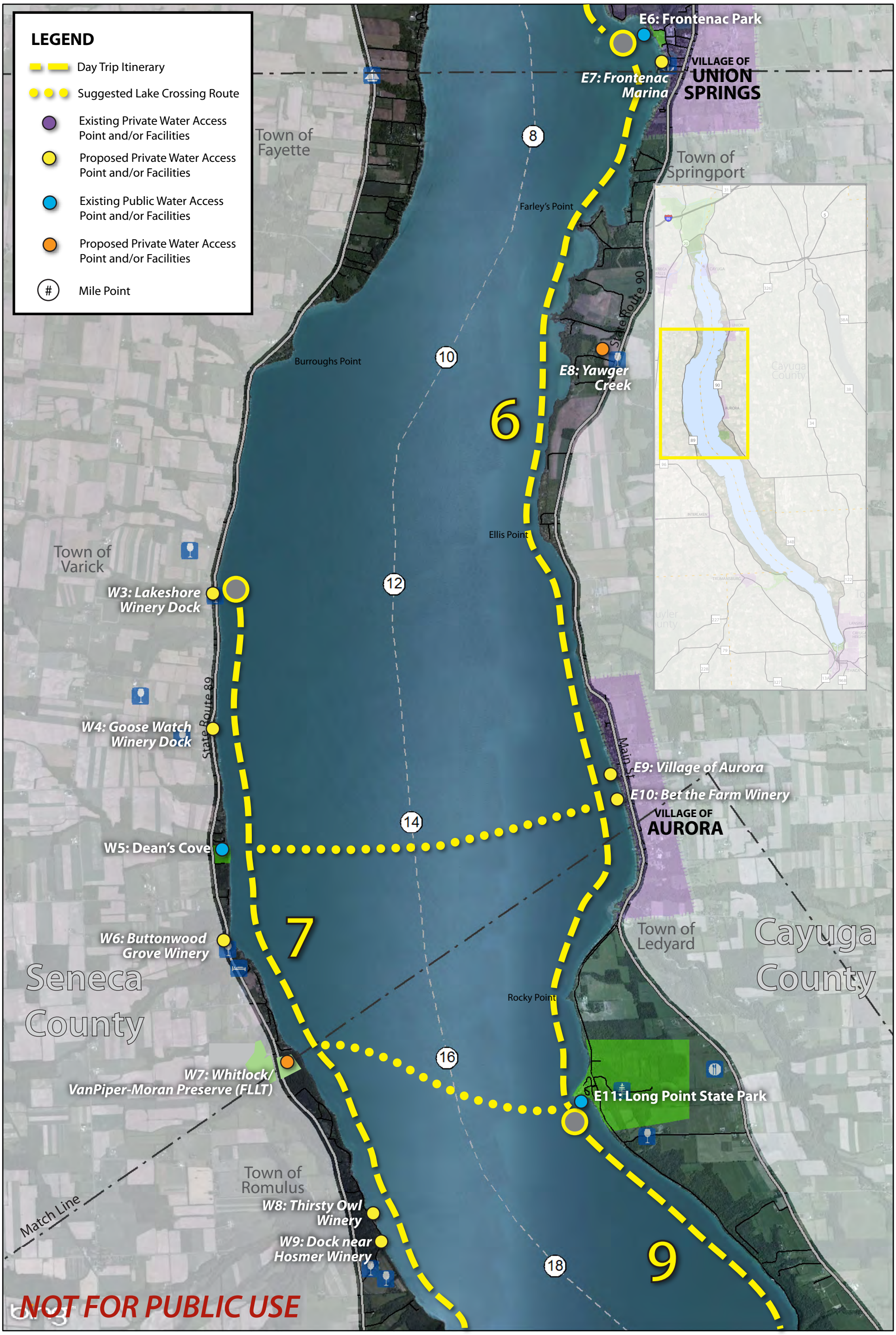
- Day Trip Itinerary
- Suggested Lake Crossing Route
- Existing Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- Proposed Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- Existing Public Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- Proposed Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- (#) Mile Point

Cayuga Blueway - Itineraries and Suggested Routes

Map 1 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

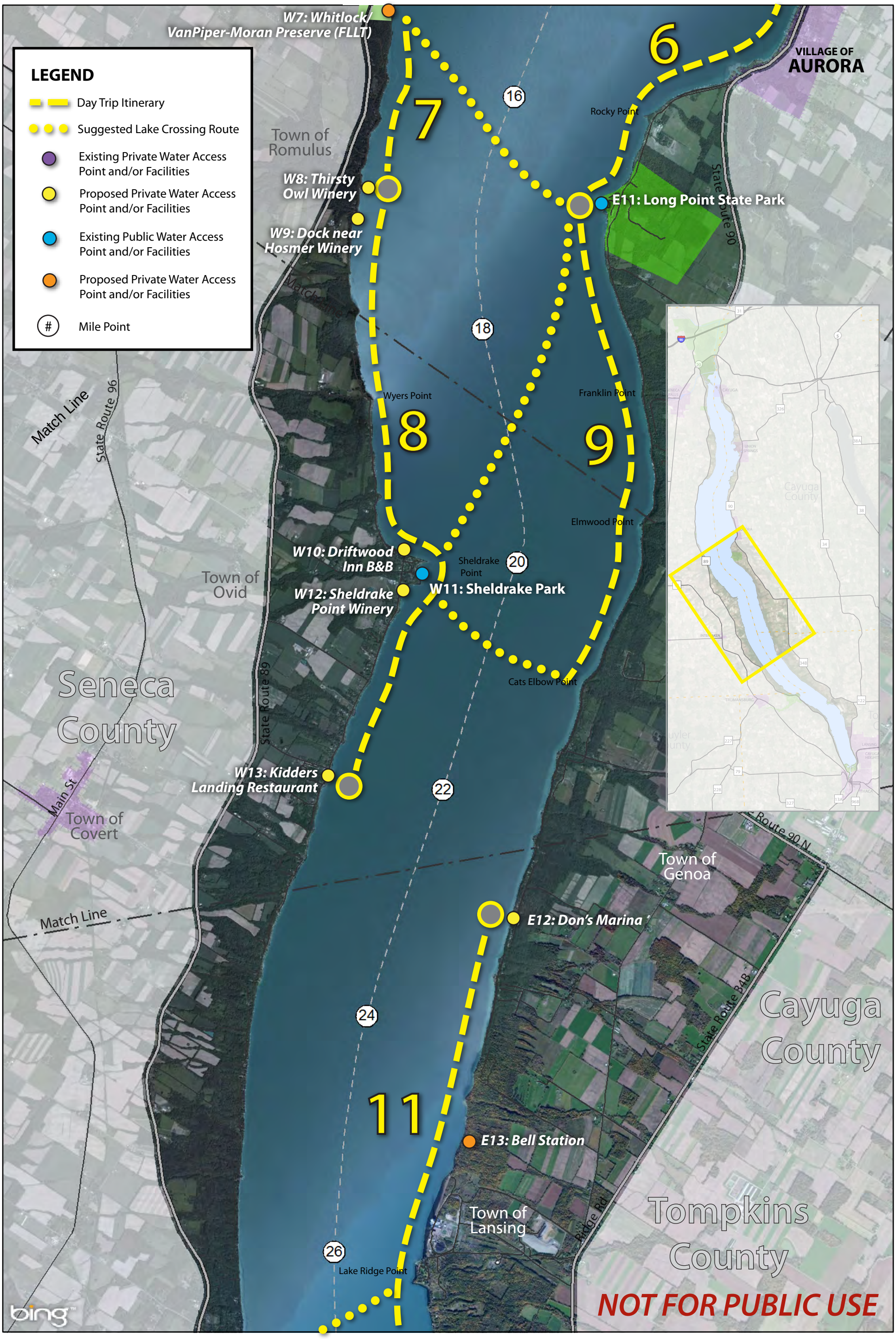
N



Cayuga Blueway - Itineraries and Suggested Routes

Map 2 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Cayuga Blueway - Itineraries and Suggested Routes

Map 3 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

NOT FOR PUBLIC USE

LEGEND

- Day Trip Itinerary
- Suggested Lake Crossing Route
- Existing Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- Proposed Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- Existing Public Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- Proposed Private Water Access Point and/or Facilities
- (#) Mile Point

E12: Don's Marina

Cayuga County

Town of Genoa

E13: Bell Station

State Route 34B

State Route 89

Town of Covert

Match Line

Lake Ridge Point

W14: Kingstown Cottages

VILLAGE OF TRUMANSBURG

E Main St

W15: Camp Barton

Frontenac Point

10

11

Town of Lansing

W16: Taughannock Falls State Park

Taughannock Blvd

Ridge Rd

Town of Ulysses

State Route 96

Lauman Preserve (FLLT)

Willow Creek Point

12

E14: Myers Point Park (Lansing Town Park)

Myers Point

E15: Finger Lakes Marina

Black Diamond Trail

Trumansburg Rd

Cayuga Nature Center

Camp Comstock Girl Scout Camp

Crowbar Point

13

Tompkins County

Portland Point

E16: Portland Point

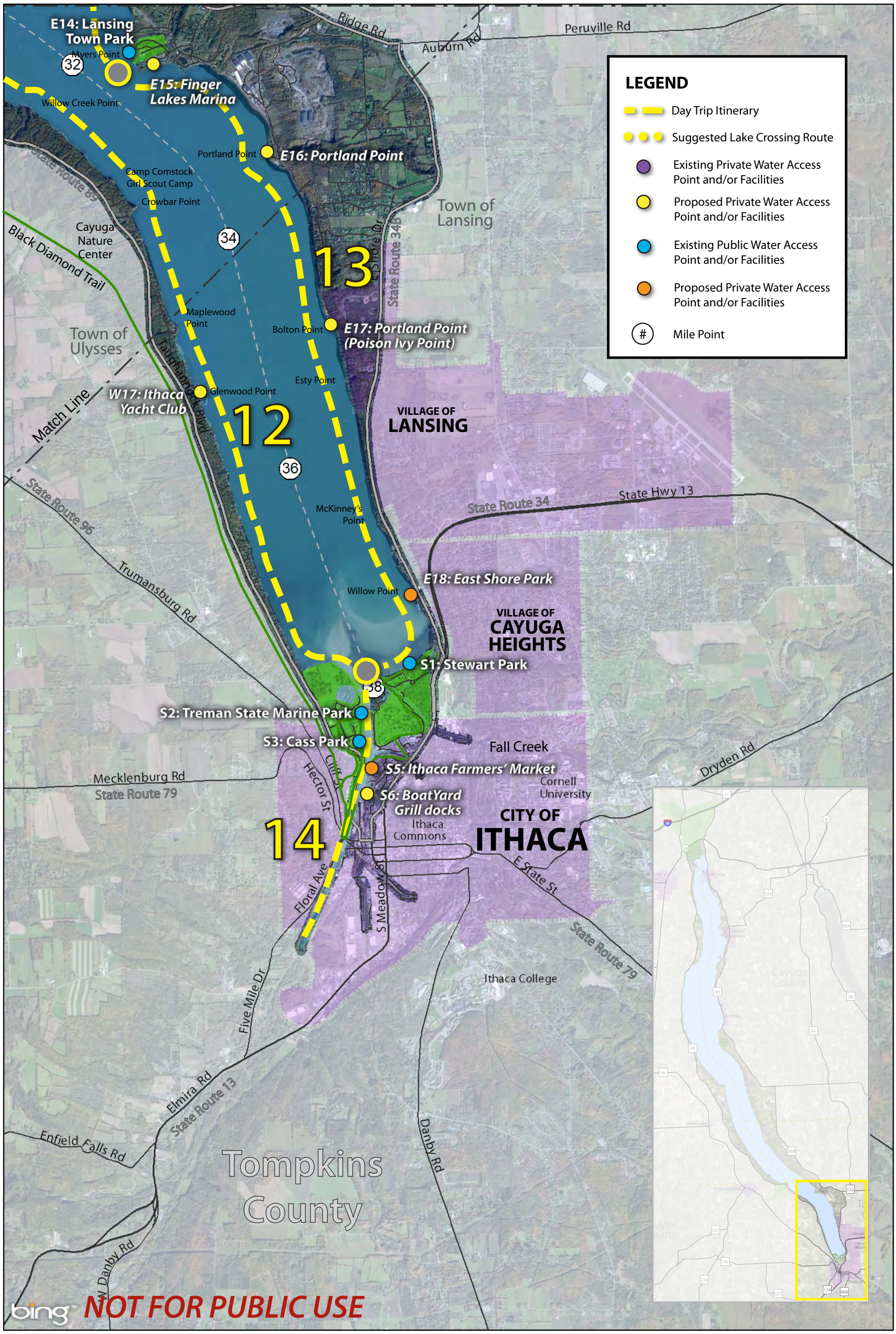
Auburn Rd

bing

Cayuga Blueway - Itineraries and Suggested Routes

Map 4 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Cayuga Blueway - Itineraries and Suggested Routes

Map 5 of 5
Date: 12/6/2013

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Implementation Plan

This plan has identified the existing paddle craft launch sites around Cayuga Lake and identified potential locations that could serve as new launch sites. Together, these sites serve as the foundation of the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail, and allow paddlers to enter and exit the lake at numerous convenient locations creating opportunities for both short and longer Blueway Trail trips. The Implementation Plan highlights the critical "next-steps" that should be taken to advance the vision of the Blueway Trail. Both Short Term and Long Term Action Items have been identified so that the Blueway Trail can be enhanced in the short term while longer term goals are being pursued. Short term actions have been identified for the next 1 to 5 years and long term action items for 5 to 10 years.

To unify the trail system, a consistent signage and a detailed management plan needs to be developed. Both of these considerations are described in this section. Additionally, site design guidelines for new launch sites are discussed and illustrated. The implementation of this plan will begin with three sites which have been chosen as "anchors" for the Blueway Trail (one in each county). These sites represent the range of locations around the lake and the types of improvements which are needed to become fully accessible to paddle craft and to provide necessary amenities. These sites are explained in more detail beginning on page 77 with specific improvements that would help make the sites more accessible for Blueway Trail Users as well as cost estimates and illustrations for the improvements. These sites will serve as a template for the improvement and development of both existing and future launch sites.

Action Items

The matrix on the following pages shows each site, both existing and proposed, and identifies the amenities currently available. Additional amenities, proposed for the short term and long term, are also identified. The elements identified include:

- Public property
- Boat dock
- Paddle-craft launch
- Parking area
- Rest-rooms
- Access to potable water
- Access to food
- Access to camping
- Access to hotel or inn
- Picnic tables
- Shelter
- Paddle craft rental
- Paddle craft storage
- Bicycle rental
- Access to trails

Table 1 – Site Conditions and Improvements

Access point	Access point location	Public property	Boat dock	Paddle craft launch	Parking area	Rest-rooms	Access to potable water	Access to food	Access to camping	Access to hotel or inn	Picnic tables	CLBT Signage	Shelter	Paddle craft rental	Paddle craft storage	Bicycle rental	Access to trails
Town of Aurelius, Cayuga County, east shore																	
N1	MNWR at Route 20					1/4 mi	1/4 mi										
N2	Mud Lock																
N3	Seneca Canal																
E4	Twin Oaks Campground																
Village of Cayuga, Cayuga County, east shore																	
E1	Lockview Marina																
E2	Beacon Bay Marina																
E3	Harris Park																
Town of Seneca Falls, Seneca County, west shore																	
W0	Deerhead Inn & Restaurant																
W1	Cayuga Lake State Park																
W2	Wolffy's Grill and Marina																
Town of Springport, Cayuga County, east shore																	
E8	Yawger Creek																
Village of Union Springs, Cayuga County, east shore																	
E5	Hibiscus Harbor Marina																
E6	Frontenac Park, Union Springs																
E7	Frontenac Marina																
Town of Varick, Seneca County, west shore																	
W3	Lakeshore Winery dock																
Town of Romulus, Seneca County, west shore																	
W4	Goose Watch Winery dock					1/4 mi	1/4 mi										
W5	Dean's Cove																
W6	Button Grove Winery																
W7	Whitlock VanPiper-Moran Preserve																
W8	Thirsty Owl Winery																
W9	Dock near Hosmer Winery																
Town of Ledyard, Cayuga County, east shore																	
E11	Long Point State Park																

Currently Available
Short Term Improvement
Long Term Improvement

Table 1 Continued – Site Conditions and Improvements

Access point	Access point location	Public property	Boat dock	Paddle craft launch	Parking area	Rest-rooms	Access to potable water	Access to food	Access to camping	Access to hotel or inn	Picnic tables	CLBT signage	Shelter	Paddle craft rental	Paddle craft storage	Bicycle rental	Access to trails
Village of Aurora, Cayuga County, east shore																	
E9	Aurora Steam Grist Mill																
E10	Bet the Farm Winery																
Town of Genoa, Cayuga County, east shore																	
E12	Don's Marina																
Town of Ovid, Seneca County, west shore																	
W10	Driftwood Inn B&B																
W11	Sheldrake Park																
W12	Sheldrake Point Winery																
Town of Covert, Seneca County, west shore																	
W13	Kidders Landing restaurant																
W14	Kingston Cottages																
W15	Camp Barton								seasonal								
Town of Lansing, Tompkins County, east shore																	
E13	Bell Station																
E14	Lansing Town Park																
E15	Finger Lakes Marina																
E16	Portland Point																
E17	Bolton Point																
Town of Ulysses, Tompkins County, west shore																	
W16	Taughannock Falls State Park									walk rq'd					fee		
W17	Ithaca Yacht Club																
Town of Ithaca, Tompkins County																	
E17	East Shore Park																
City of Ithaca, Tompkins County																	
S1	Stewart Park																
S2	Treman State Marine Park														fee		
S3	Cass Park																
S4	Ithaca Farmers' Market																
S5	Boatyard Grill docks																

Currently Available
Short Term Improvement
Long Term Improvement

Short Term

In the short term, in order to implement key elements of the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan, it is recommended that the three counties continue to work together to implement and seek additional funding to undertake the items listed below. Potential funding sources include Environmental Protection Fund/Environmental Protection Fund-Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and NYS Department of State), NYS Council on the Arts, NYS Canalway Grants Program, and local room tax funds from the three Counties. More details on potential funding sources are provided in the last section of this Plan.

1. **Market the Blueway:**
   a. Develop basic informational materials about the Blueway Trail as it exists today for distribution to visitors, residents, local government officials, and the business community. Emphasize that paddlers need to respect private property and only access lands clearly identified on the trail maps as publically accessible.
   b. Develop an interactive website which can be updated with site amenities, current weather conditions, and emergency information for the Blueway Trail.
   c. Develop descriptive and promotional materials which can be distributed through a brochure as well as a dedicated promotional website to encourage the development of partner agreements with private land owners and businesses.
2. **Blueway Trail Signage**
   a. Design an attractive water trail logo/sign along with an interpretive navigational map/kiosk.
   b. Install signage at all existing access sites including: the Village of Cayuga, the Village of Union Springs, Long Point State Park, Lansing Town Park, Stewart Park, Allen Treman State Marine Park/Cass Park, , Taughannock Falls State Park, Sheldrake Park, Dean's Cove Boat Launch, and the Cayuga Lake State Park.
   c. Install signage to educate the public regarding invasive species and notices to clean off crafts. Include Aquatic Invasive Disposal Stations at put-in and pull-out sites for the blueway trail.
3. **Physical Improvements**
   a. Implement physical improvements at the Blueway Trail "anchor" sites which have been identified in each of the three counties.
   b. Develop Blueway Trail public access agreements with private businesses and landowners; and support the development of launch site improvements. These agreements should stipulate use of the launch site (public access, any restrictions, etc.), maintenance and condition of the site, signage, and mapping.
4. **Blueway Trail Steering Committee**
   a. Continue to work with key stakeholders to create an ongoing working committee to assist with further design, promotion, and implementation of the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail.

Long Term

In the long term, in order to continue to implement the Blueway Trail Plan, it is recommended that the three counties continue to work together and with other private or public organizations to undertake the following, utilizing the potential funding sources identified above.

1. **Market the Blueway:**
   a. Update the website with new sites as they are added to the Blueway Trail. An additional action should be to include interactive trip planning into the website.
   b. Update publications such as brochures and maps as future sites are added to the Blueway Trail.
   c. Continue to encourage the development of partner agreements with private land owners and businesses.
2. **Blueway Trail Signage**
   a. Install signage at future blueway sites as they are developed.
3. **Physical Improvements**
   a. Develop a shuttle system to and from popular blueway sites,.
   b. Implement physical improvements such as adding amenities and improving water access at existing sites.
   c. Work to develop future sites including the construction of physical improvements and the addition of amenities as funds and land become available, and as partner agreements are formed.
4. **Land Acquisition**
   a. Efforts should be made to secure additional shoreline access sites around the lake; while also maintaining the character of undeveloped shoreline and vista points through the use of conservation easements. Additional acquisitions should be considered to enhance access to the lake, with a particular focus on gaps between existing shoreline access points and sites that are of sufficient size to accommodate multiple uses, including shoreline access, fishing, and bird watching. Conservation easements are legal agreements that limit future development while allowing land to remain in private ownership, and on the tax rolls.
5. **Blueway Trail Management**
   a. Identify and develop potential trail management entities or partnerships.
   b. Blueway Trail Steering Committee: Continue to work with key stakeholders to create an ongoing working committee to assist with further design, promotion, and implementation of the Blueway Trail.

Blueway Signage

Signage at paddle craft launch locations along a blueway trail system is very important. Signage placed at the roadway so that users can find the access point is the first critical connection. Signage at the water's edge so that users can see these access points from afar is even more important. These signs should include information regarding the amenities available at the site. If a location is for emergency stops only, it should still be clearly

Blueway Trail Sign Design Concept – The lower panel should relate to the type of facility that the sign is marking

marked from the water but posted as such. Key considerations include:

- Selecting the appropriate amount, size, color, style, location and material in balancing the need to be visible with the desire to minimize visual intrusion.
- Other practical factors include cost, availability, weather resistance, installation, and susceptibility to vandalism and theft

The planning team developed a sign concept for the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail (see image on previous page). The sign design is based in part on the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway logo, shown here on the left. As the Blueway Trail develops, there should be a synergistic relationship between the Scenic Byway and the Blueway Trail. Shared design elements in the logo would help to reinforce the relationship between Cayuga Lake's Byway and Blueway Trails. If the final design for the Blueway Trail logo, signs and marketing materials, includes the major graphic element from the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway logo, formal permission will be necessary from CLSB, Inc. Board of Directors for the use of their logo art.

Since several sites along the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail are already part of the Erie Canalway Trail, elements from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor logo, or the logo itself, may also be incorporated into Blueway Trail signage. Permission for use will be necessary from the National Park Service and the NYS Canal Corporation.

Types of signs include:

- Road signs leading to a launch site
- Trailhead signs – kiosk displays and bulletin boards are strategic locations to post information because most water trail users will spend some amount of time preparing for their trip here. Displaying the following information can be helpful:
    - Blueway Trail map
    - Safety measures and water trail specific warnings
    - Leave no trace guidelines
    - Interpretive information where relevant – such as wildlife, trees, fish species and other natural and local history of note
- Campsite and day-use site signs – these can be helpful in directing boaters to the appropriate location
- Signs along the Blueway—i.e. along Cayuga Lake's shore that identify distance to access points, intersecting streams and points of interest
- Interpretive signage for natural environments and historic markers.
- Quick Response (QR) codes for Smart Phones and devices for wayfinding and interpretive signage.

Guidance from the New York State Department of Transportation will be sought to ensure that road signage developed around the Blueway Trail system meets all applicable state and federal highway standards.

Blueway Trail Management

The development of individual sites will not be under a single entity around the Lake, but rather by individual owners, municipalities, or state agencies. It is important to identify and develop a management entity that unifies the Blueway Trail System and provides oversight and assistance, such as site guidelines and standards, marketing, website maintenance, and signage. While several public agencies and non-profit organizations share an interest in seeing the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan implemented, at this time no entity has emerged that has both the ability to provide sufficient focus on implementation of the plan and sufficient capacity to ensure success. The following is a list of key stakeholders and partners which should work together to form a Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Management body who would ultimately be responsible for the future of the Blueway Trail.

Key stakeholders and partners include:

- Cayuga, Seneca, and Tompkins Counties – respective planning departments have served as primary collaborators on the Blueway Trail planning project;
- Tourism Promotion Agencies (TPAs) / Convention and Visitor Bureaus (CVBs) in Cayuga, Seneca and Tompkins Counties - have an interest in promoting tourism relating to the Blueway Trail;
- Representatives of business and the hospitality community – wineries, restaurants, overnight accommodations operators, paddling tour and rental operators;
- Non-profit organizations and private individuals or organizations with an interest in expanding the Blueway Trail and providing amenities for the trail;
- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Canal Corporation and NYS Department of State – are the primary State agencies responsible for conservation, outdoor recreation, and waterfront revitalization.
- National Park Service Rivers & Trails Conservation Assistance Program – source of expertise on development of water trails;
- Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, National Park Service – provides increased recognition, marketing, and funding opportunities as part of the Heritage Corridor;
- Municipalities in Cayuga, Seneca and Tompkins Counties who will be hosts and implementers of recommended improvements along the water trail.
- Finger Lakes Land Trust – a non-profit regional conservation organization and a collaborator on this water trail planning project with a focus on conservation of shoreline sites;
- Cayuga Lake Watershed Network – a non-profit watershed conservation organization with a focus on watershed protection as well as the promotion of outdoor recreation on the lake;
- Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway, Inc. – a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and promoting the scenic byway around lake which borders many water trail access sites;
- Cayuga Lake Watershed Inter-municipal Organization (IO) – coalition of municipalities with a focus on watershed restoration, protection, and water quality problems and solutions;

Paddle Craft Site Components

There are four key infrastructure components that create a complete Blueway Trail site. Each of these components has been recommended at one or more sites as part of the Cayuga Blueway Trail, but not all sites can accommodate each of these elements.

- **Parking** should be adequate for anticipated level of use, visible and safe, and as close to the launch as practical. An accessible route should be provided from parking to the water edge.
- **Lock-up facilities** should also be provided at selected locations, particularly in more populated areas where boaters may want to park their boat and walk to services.
- **Small boat rental and storage facilities**, particularly in city/village areas or heavily-used parks, make the water trail more easily accessible for skilled and less experienced paddlers.
- **Launch and Landing Sites** (put-in and take-out) are described in more detail in the next section.

Paddle Craft Launch Design

The design of paddle craft launches is a critical element to enable people to get in and out of the water. Launch and landing sites should be located every 4 miles for day use paddling and every 8 - 12 miles for more long distance paddlers; and should be large enough to accommodate large groups and also provide for paddlers with special needs. ADA guidelines should be followed wherever possible. The launch pier should be no more than 12" above high water level. There are several additional factors that should be considered when locating and installing a canoe / kayak launch:

Stone Launch

- Accessibility - paddlers of all abilities should be able to walk their boat and launch their boat.
  - Grades to the launch should be 5% or less. Slopes exceeding 15% are too difficult for paddlers to traverse.
  - The launch should be at least 5' wide and 25' long to allow dry access.
  - Access should be located in areas without heavy water flow and that experience little erosion.
  - Handrails and additional support structures help paddlers balance during put-in and take-out.

- Best Suited - a launch should be located in a place with safe access. The launch area needs to be designed and located to withstand flow levels, currents, and exposure. A firm surface needs to be provided that is not vulnerable to erosion.

- Cost-Effective and Durable - existing natural sites are the most cost effective. Steep banks can be graded to create a ramp or steps leading down to the water. Hardy materials that are suitable for a canoe / kayak launch also help to prevent

Natural Beach Launch

NYCDEP Designated Recreational Boat Launch

erosion. Removable or permanent floating dock launches can also be installed but are more costly.

  - A removable kayak and canoe launch is a cost effective way to ensure ADA access and comfort for water trail users. The launch allows for an individual to independently maneuver themselves allowing for more freedom in activities.

- Storage- temporary and permanent storage space is an important element to launch site design. The ability to store a canoe or kayak allows blueway trail users to stop at a location to utilize amenities and stay overnight. Storage structures should also be provided at various locations along the Blueway Trail for winter storage.

Covered storage rack

Detailed Site Plans

One Blueway Trail "anchor" site has been selected in each of the three counties along Cayuga Lake. These sites were selected for their potential in improving access and use of the Blueway Trail. Detailed recommendations for each of these sites are provided and will serve as examples for other existing and future sites on the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail. Enlargements of the Tompkins County Site has also been included in the final section of this plan to illustrate additional amenities which could be installed at each of the selected sites.

Tompkins County – Stewart Park

Tompkins County has many sites now used for canoe and kayak launching including the Town of Ithaca's East Shore Park in the City of Ithaca, as well as Stewart Park, the Ithaca Farmers' Market, Treman State Marine Park, Cass Park, and others along the Cayuga Inlet. The following three sites in the City of Ithaca were selected as priority sites for the Blueway Trail Plan, and a detailed site plan has been developed for each site.

1. Stewart Park East: Located toward the east end of Stewart Park and north of the existing lakefront parking lot, the proposed cartop launch ramp and overlook will utilize an existing stone dust accessible pathway from the parking lot to the lake edge. Proposed Blueway Trail improvements include the following elements:

- Two designated 15 minute cartop launch spaces in the existing parking lot, adjacent to access aisle and handicap parking space. Sign and pavement markings for all three spaces.
- Existing accessible walk to be topped and re-graded with 1inch of new stone dust surfacing
- Gravel launch ramp with rip rap edging on both sides.
- A Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail directory and other signs, including a vehicular wayfinding sign from the Scenic Byway, should be installed at the site, as well as a waterside wayfinding sign, and additional signage in the parking area.

Planning Level Cost Estimate - Stewart Park East	
Amenity	Cost Range
1. Sign and pavement markings for (1) handicap space and (2) cartop launch spaces	$300-500
2. Resurfacing/re-grading existing accessible walk	$3,000-5,000
3. Gravel Launch Ramp w/ rip rap edging	$25,000-35,000
4. (1) Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway Vehicular Sign	$100-200
5. (1) Cayuga Lake Blueway Waterside Sign	$100-300
6. (1) Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Directory	$300-500
7. Parking Lot Signage	$200-600
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE	**$29,000-42,100**

*Based on NYSDOT pay item prices, typical signage costs, and manufacturer costs; includes contingency.

2. Stewart Park West: Located south of the Cascadilla Boathouse along Fall Creek, the development of the Stewart Park West launch site should be coordinated with the Fall Creek bank stabilization efforts and planned improvements to the Cascadilla Boat Club (CBC) docks. The proposal shown here suggests the installation of a floating dock system south of the existing CBC docks. Other proposed Blueway Trail improvements include the following elements:

- One designated 15 minute cartop launch space in the existing parking lot, adjacent to access aisle and handicap parking space. Signage and pavement markings.
- Construct paved accessible walk linking parking area to launch dock.
- ADA accessible floating dock with 2 ramps, after installing blanket gabions to stabilize the eroding edge of Fall Creek.
- A waterfront trail bench adjacent to the launch site.
- A Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail directory and other signs, including a vehicular wayfinding sign from the Scenic Byway, should be installed at the site; as well as a waterside wayfinding sign and additional signage in the parking area.

Planning Level Cost Estimate - Stewart Park West	
Amenity	Cost Range
1. Sign and Pavement Markings for handicap space and one cartop launch space	$300-400
2. Construct accessible walk to launch dock	$1,000-3,000
3. Floating dock with two ramps	$25,000-35,000
4. (1) Trail Bench	$300-500
5. (1) Blueway Trail Directory Sign	$300-500
6. (1) Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway vehicular sign	$100-200
7. (1) Cayuga Lake Blueway waterside sign	$100-300
8. Parking Lot Signage	$200-600
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE	**$27,300-40,500**

*Based on NYSDOT pay item prices, typical signage costs, and manufacturer costs; includes contingency.

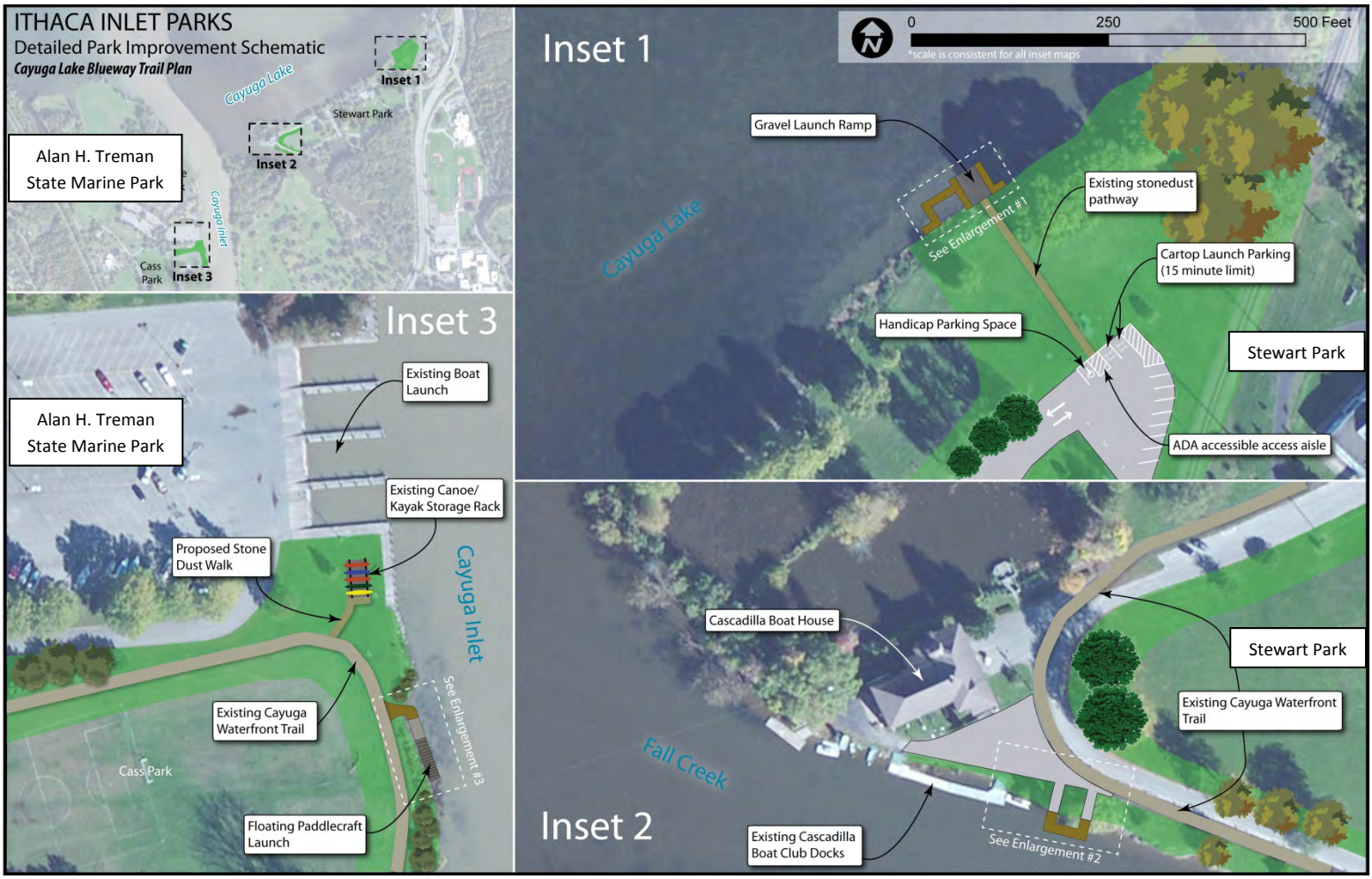
3. Cass Park: A floating dock launch system is proposed in a naturally occurring notch along the west bank of the Cayuga Inlet south of the storage rack at the Allen H. Treman State Marine Park. The Park recently installed a 12 boat canoe-kayak seasonal storage rack south of the boat launch. The rack was full in its first year of operation, with spaces rented for $100 per year. Other proposed Blueway Trail improvements include the following elements:

- No new parking is needed as there is adequate parking at the boat launch. A temporary, 15 minute cartop launch space with sign and striping.
- An accessible pathway from the storage rack at the Allen H. Treman State Marine Park to the Cass Park Trail and from trail to floating launch.
- ADA accessible floating dock with ramp.

- A Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail directory and other signs, including a vehicular wayfinding sign from the Scenic Byway, should be installed at the site, as well as a waterside wayfinding sign, and additional signage in the parking area.

Planning Level Cost Estimate – Cass Park	
Amenity	**Cost Range**
1. Construct stone dust accessible pathway from the storage ramp to Cass Park Trail and floating launch	$1,000-1,500
2. Floating dock and ramp	$25,000-30,000
5. (1) Blueway Trail Directory Sign	$300-500
6. (1) Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway vehicular sign	$100-200
7. (1) Cayuga Lake Blueway waterside sign	$100-300
8. Parking Lot Signage	$200-600
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE	**$26,700-33,100**

*Based on NYSDOT pay item prices, typical signage costs, and manufacturer costs; includes contingency.



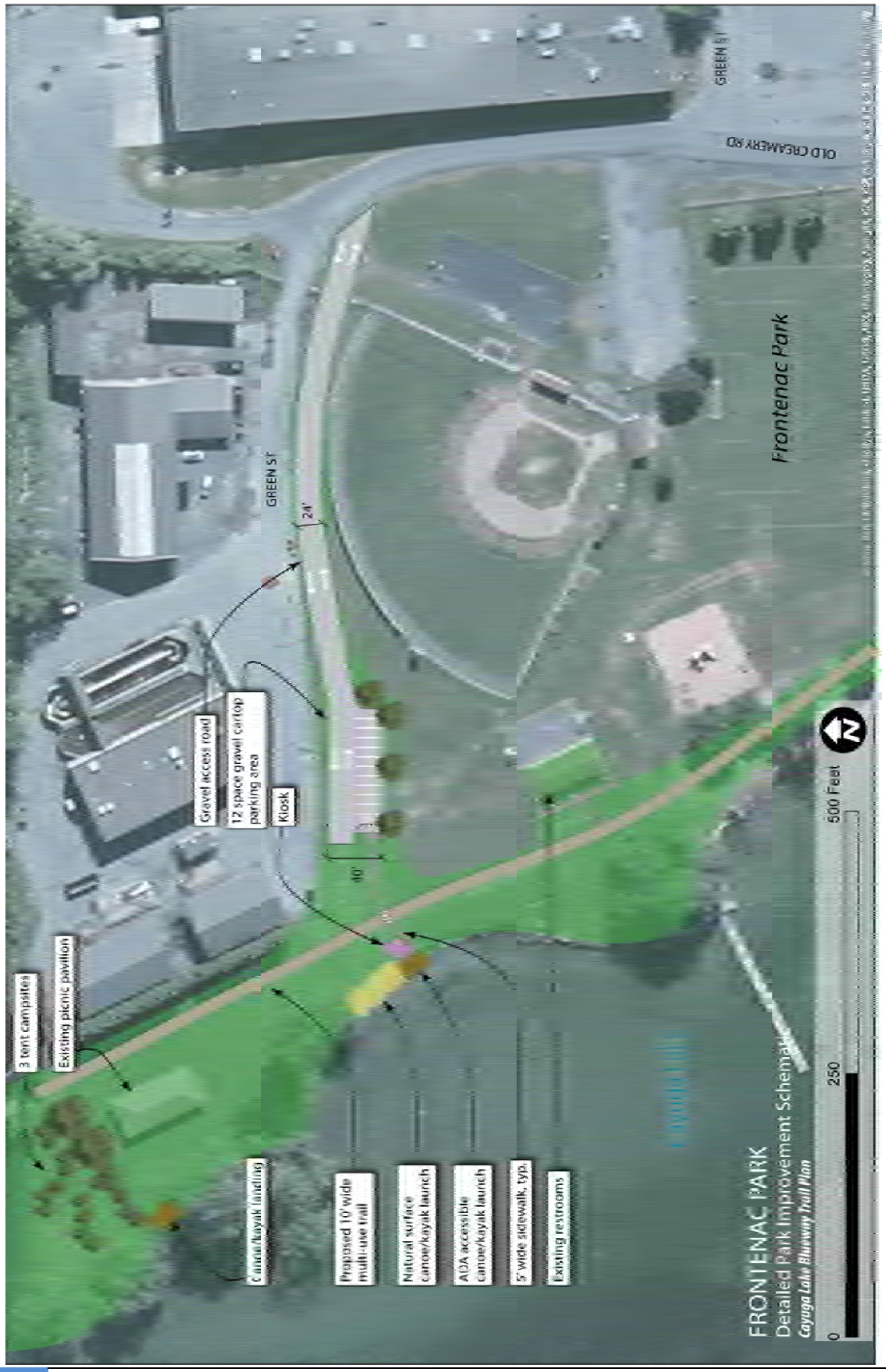
Cayuga County – Frontenac Park

Frontenac Park, in the Village of Union Springs, is located on a spectacular lakefront site and is within a block of the Village Center along Route 90 and the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway. Frontenac Park already boasts ball fields, a concession stand, a large boat launch facility with trailer parking, restrooms, picnic pavilions, and other facilities; however, paddle craft access is limited and uninviting. Developing access at this site provides a great opportunity for a day-trip connection between the Village of Union Springs and the Village of Cayuga. Proposed Blueway Trail improvements include the following:

- A 12 car gravel drive and parking area designated for day use by vehicles using the proposed cartop launch. Including a handicap parking space with an access aisle.
- Accessible pathway from parking area to launch ramp.
- ADA accessible removable accessible floating launch.
- A natural surface launch adjacent to the floating launch.
- Seasonal canoe and kayak storage racks should be installed.
- 3 designated tent camping sites for the exclusive use of paddlers, to be located at the north end of the park, along the lake edge and near the existing Picnic Pavilion.
- A trail connection from the park to connect with other parks and points of interest in the Village, such as Old Mill Pond on State Route 90.
- A Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail directory and other signs, including a vehicular wayfinding sign from the Scenic Byway, as well as a waterside wayfinding sign, and additional signage in the parking area.

Planning Level Cost Estimate – Frontenac Park	
Amenity	Cost Range
1. Construct gravel drive and (12) car parking area with (1) handicap space and access aisle	$7,000-10,000
2. Construct Stone dust, accessible path from parking lot to launch ramp	$1,000-3,000
3. (1) Removable Floating Launch	$25,000-30,000
4. (1) Gravel Launch	$10,000-15,000
5. (2) Canoe and Kayak Storage Racks	$800-1,500
6. Camp site construction with launch	$5,000-7,000
7. Hiking trail connection	$2,000-4,000
8. (1) Blueway Trail Directory Sign (kiosk)	$300-500
9. (1) Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway vehicular sign	$100-200
10. (1) Cayuga Lake Blueway waterside sign	$100-300
11. Parking Lot Signage	$200-400
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE	**$51,500-71,900**

*Based on NYSDOT pay item prices, typical signage costs, and manufacturer costs; includes contingency.


FRONTENAC PARK
Detailed Park Improvement Schematic
Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan
0
250
500 Feet
N
Frontenac Park
OLD CREAMERY RD
GREEN ST
24'
40'
3 tent campsites
Existing picnic pavilion
Gravel access road
12 space gravel cartop parking area
Kiosk
Canoe/kayak landing
Proposed 10' wide multi-use trail
Natural surface canoe/kayak launch
ADA accessible canoe/kayak launch
5' wide sidewalk, typ.
Existing restrooms

Seneca County – Sheldrake Park

Sheldrake Park will be the primary redeveloped launch site in Seneca County. It is the only local municipal owned property along Cayuga Lake within the County; and the Town of Ovid is also interested in developing this asset. This area has the potential to be a full access point with food available at O'Malley's and Kidders Landing down the road; overnight possibilities at B&Bs or Glamping sites; and the Town has plans to provide restrooms at the launch site. Proposed Blueway Trail improvements include the following:

Short Term

- A 12 car gravel parking area designated for day use by vehicles using the proposed cartop launch. Including a paved handicap parking space with an access aisle.
- ADA accessible removable accessible floating launch.
- A permanent restroom
- Construction of picnic area with three picnic benches and landscaping / screening

Long Term

- Accessible pathway from parking area to launch ramp.
- A natural surface launch adjacent to the floating launch.
- Reconstruction of the old barge piers for fishing, viewing, and docking.
- Seasonal canoe and kayak storage racks.
- Acquire additional property to expand the park.

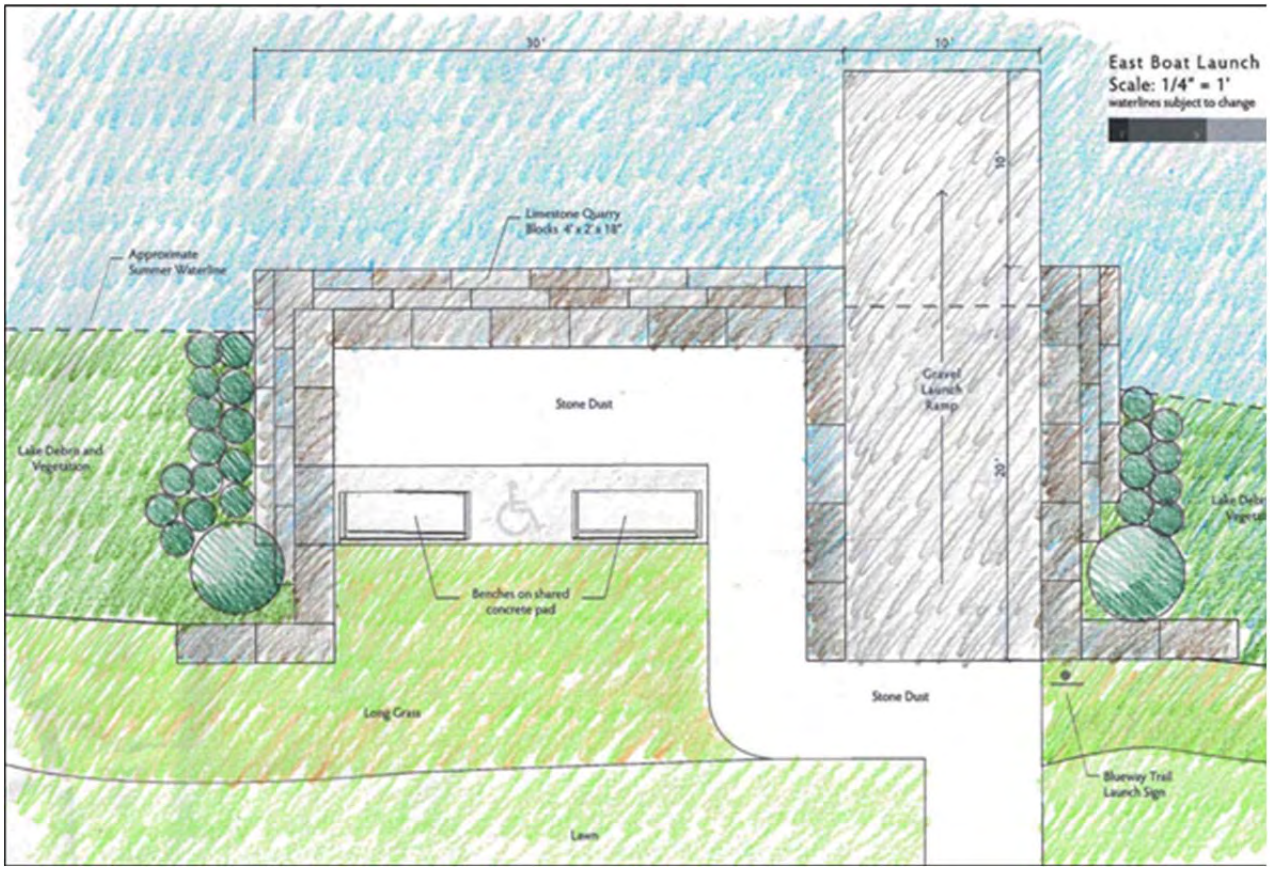
Planning Level Cost Estimate – Sheldrake Park	
Amenity	Cost Range
Short Term	
1. Construct a gravel drive and a (12) car parking area with (1) handicap space and access aisle	$7,000-10,000
2. (1) Permanent Restroom	$5,000-10,000
3. (1) Removable Floating Launch	$25,000-30,000
4. (3) Picnic Tables	$600-1,000
5. Picnic Area construction and landscaping	$600-1,000
6. (1) Blueway Trail Directory Sign	$300-500
7. (1) Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway vehicular sign	$100-200
8. (1) Cayuga Lake Blueway waterside sign	$100-300
9. Parking Lot Signage	$200-600
Total Short Term Cost Estimate	**$36,900-51,600**
Long Term	
10. Construct Stone dust, accessible path from parking lot to launch area	$500-1,000
11. (1) Natural Surface Launch	$10,000-15,000
12. Reconstruction of barge piers	$35,000-50,000
13. (2) Canoe and Kayak Storage Racks	$800-1,500
Total Long Term Cost Estimate	**$45,800-66,500**
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE	**$84,700-120,100**

*Based on NYSDOT pay item prices, typical signage costs, and manufacturer costs; includes contingency.

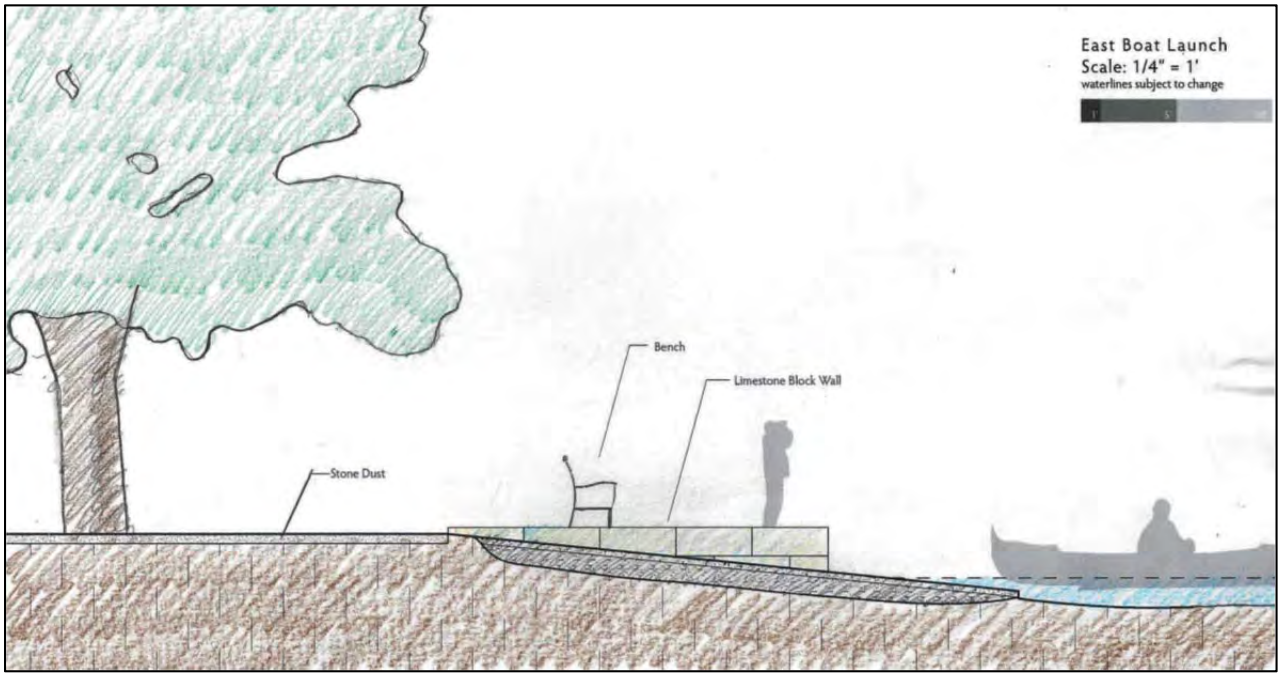
Natural surface canoe/kayak launch
ADA accessible canoe/kayak launch
5' wide sidewalk, typ.
Picnic area
Vegetated buffer
Property line (approx.)
Restroom
12 space gravel cartop parking area
Cayuga Lake
SHELDRAKE PARK
Detailed Park Improvement Schematic
Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan
0
250
500 Feet

Enlargement Areas - Ithaca

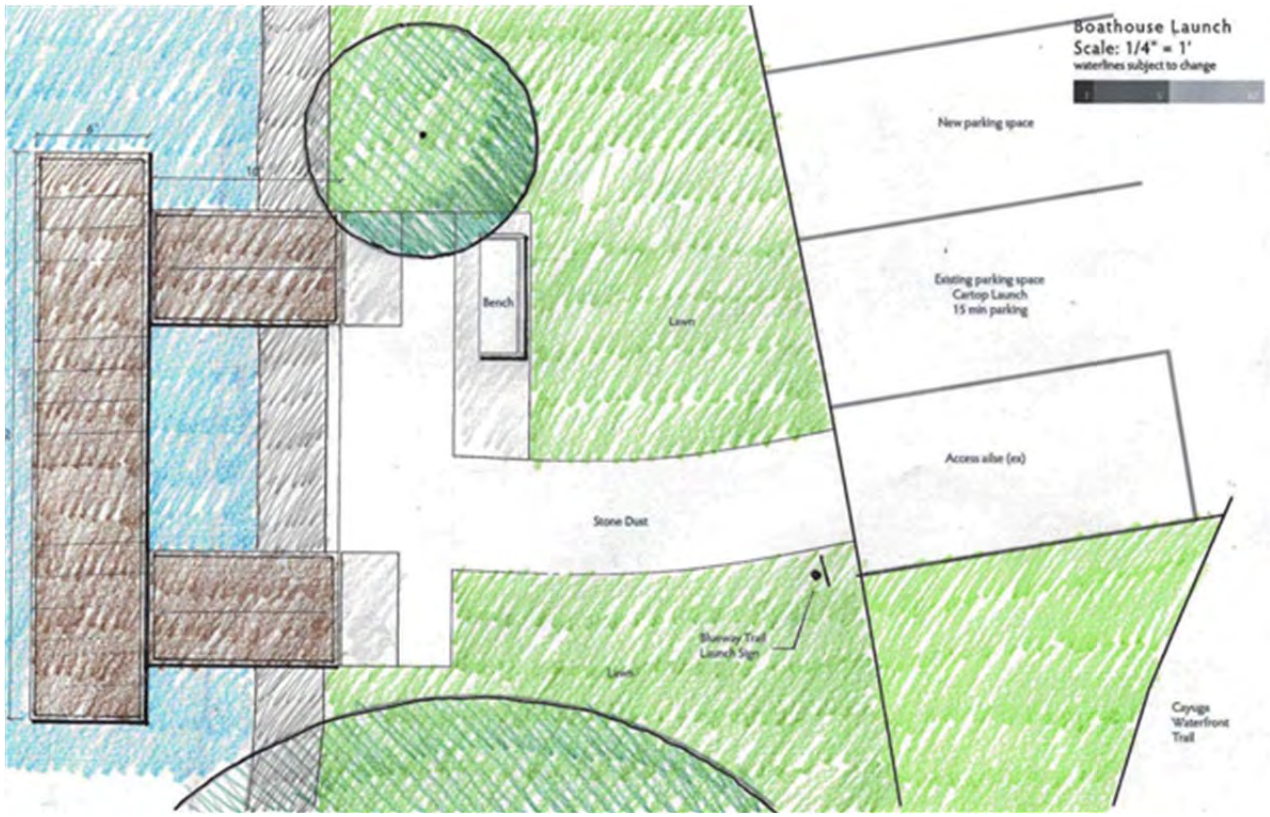
The site plan enlargements included in this plan include a more elaborate and expensive design than would be needed to simply accommodate the launch site. The enlargement area graphics have been developed for the Ithaca Area launch sites, but the amenities illustrated within them are applicable to the two other launch sites highlighted above, Frontenac Park and Sheldrake Park. Some of the more detailed, optional features include stepped stone quarry block edging, stone dust surfacing, and two Cayuga Waterfront Trail benches. This design is consistent with two other overlooks being developed as part of the Stewart Park Rehabilitation Action Plan.



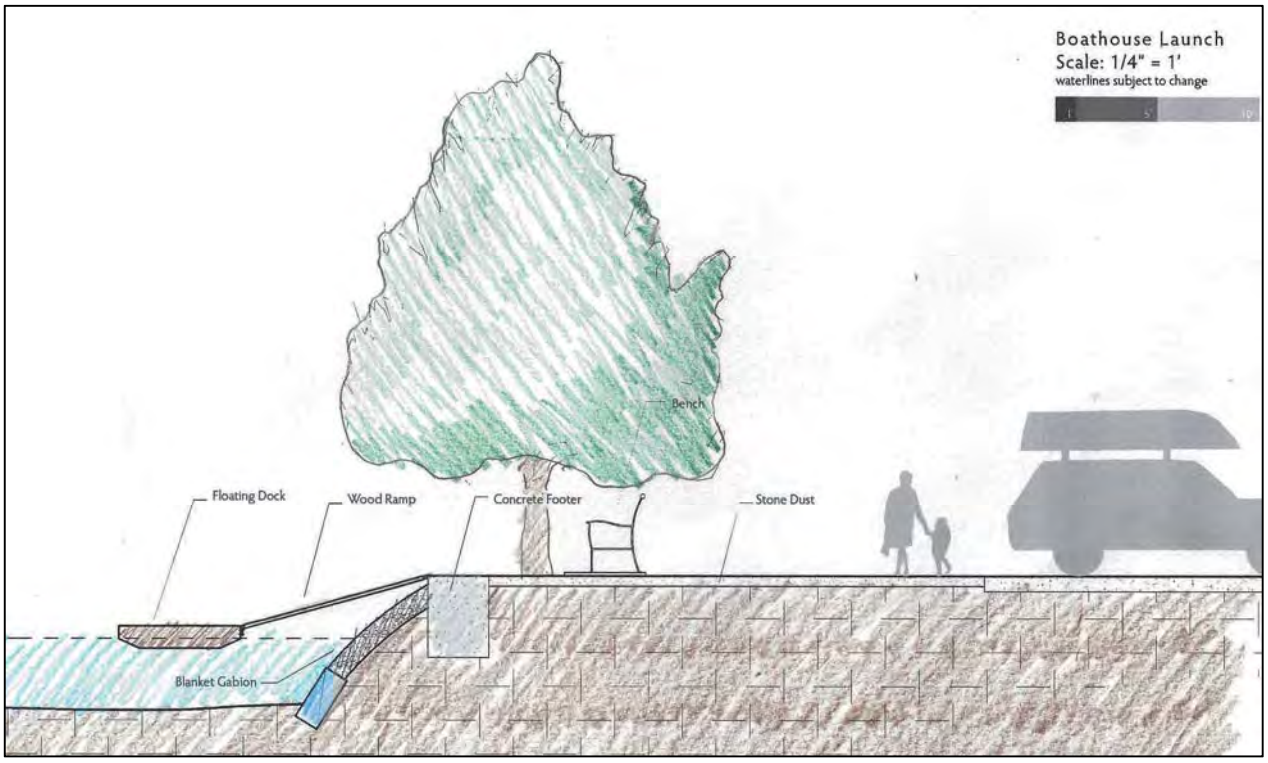
Plan View of Stewart Park East Launch Site, Gravel Launch



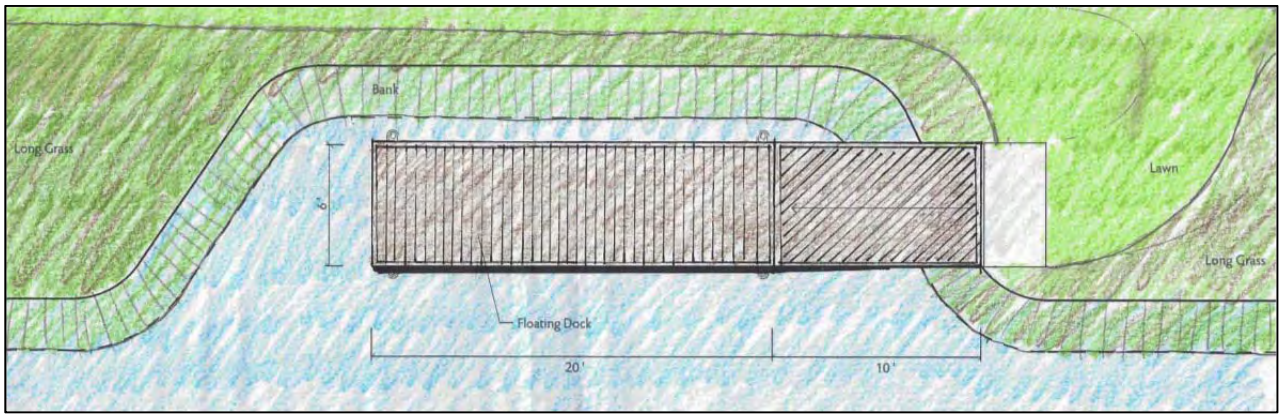
Cross Section View of Stewart Park East Launch Site, Gravel Launch



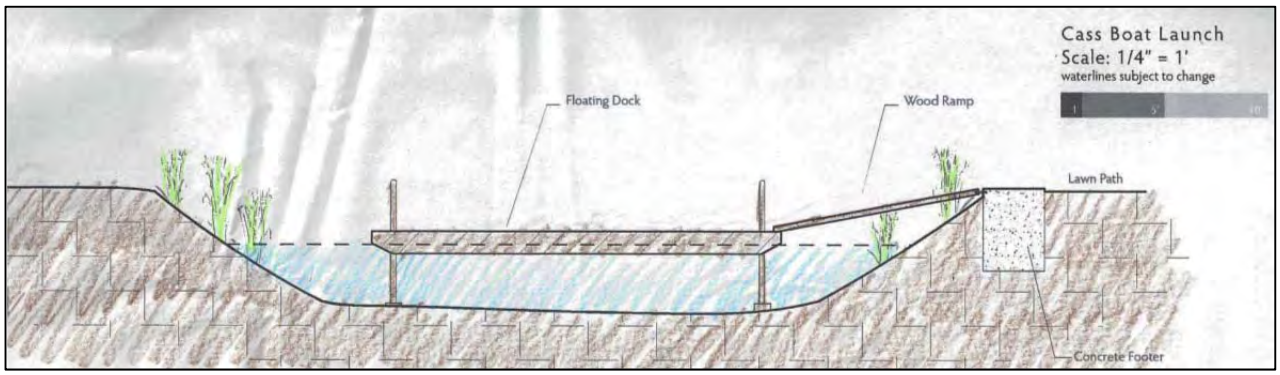
Plan View of Stewart Park West Launch Site, Floating Dock



Cross Section View of Stewart Park West Launch Site, Floating Dock



Cross Section View of Cass Park Launch Site, Floating Dock



Cross Section View of Cass Park Launch Site, Floating Dock

Funding Opportunities

The following section outlines sources of funding for non-motorized projects in New York State. Federal, state, local, and private sources of funding are identified. The following descriptions are intended to provide an overview of available options and do not represent a comprehensive list. Funding sources can be used for a variety of activities, including: planning, design, implementation and maintenance. It should be noted that this section reflects the funding available at the time of writing. The funding amounts, fund cycles, and even the programs themselves are subject to change without notice.

Federal transportation funding is typically directed through state agencies to local governments either in the form of grants or direct appropriations, independent from state budgets. Federal funding typically requires a local match of 20%; although there are sometimes exceptions, such as the recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funds, which did not require a match.

The following is a list of possible Federal funding sources which could be used to support construction of many non-motorized improvements. Most of these are competitive, and involve the completion of extensive applications with clear documentation of the project needs, costs, and benefits. .

Community Transformation Grants

Community Transformation Grants administered through the Center for Disease Control support community-level efforts to reduce chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes. Active transportation infrastructure and programs that promote healthy lifestyles are a good fit for this program, particularly if the benefits of such improvements accrue to population groups experiencing the greatest burden of chronic disease.

More info: http://www.cdc.gov/communitytransformation/

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants for planning and acquiring outdoor recreation areas and facilities, including trails. Funds can be used for right-of-way acquisition and construction. The LWCF is administered by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation.

More info: http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) is a National Parks Service (NPS) program providing technical assistance via direct NPS staff involvement to establish and restore greenways, rivers, trails, watersheds and open space. The RTCA program provides only for planning assistance—there are no implementation monies available. Projects are prioritized for assistance based on criteria including conserving significant community resources, fostering cooperation between agencies, serving a large number of users, encouraging public involvement in planning and implementation, and focusing on lasting accomplishments.

More info: http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rtca/who-we-are.htm

NYSDOS – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)

The New York Department of State, Office of Planning and Development works with communities in the Finger Lakes Region through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to promote community revitalization and resource protection through community based plans and projects. The Department of State provides funding through the Environmental Protection Fund for projects which enhance public access to waterways and state lands, promotes sustainable economic development, protects and improves water quality, and revitalizes hamlets and downtowns. Eligible activities include planning, feasibility, design and construction of trails, blueways and streetscape enhancements.

More info: http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/lwrp.html

Additional Federal Funding

The landscape of federal funding opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian programs and projects is always changing. A number of Federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency have offered grant programs amenable to bicycle and pedestrian planning and implementation, and may do so again in the future. For up-to-date information about grant programs through all federal agencies, see: http://www.grants.gov/

Private Foundations

Private foundations are an increasingly important source of funds for blueway trail planning and implementation.

More info: http://www.foundationcenter.org/

Local Tourism Funding

Grants funded by County hotel room occupancy tax may be available in each of the three Counties to support tourism related elements of the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan.

More info for Tompkins County: www.tompkinscountyny.gov/tourism