

# Welcome to 2015 COE Ithaca, NY

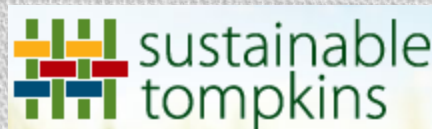
“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect”

Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac 1949

Tompkins County  
EMC



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# UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY

2015 COE ITHACA, NY OCTOBER 16

“If you are thinking one year ahead,  
sow seed. If you are thinking ten years  
ahead, plant a tree. If you are thinking  
100 years ahead, educate the people.”

Chinese proverb

Stephen Nicholson- Chair UNA  
committee

## Purpose of the UNA Inventory

- Identify and describe areas in the County with outstanding environmental qualities
- Promote the conservation and/or preservation of UNAs for the benefit of future generations
- Help people make informed choices about development in, or near these areas



Photo by Robert Beck©

UNA-46, Malloryville Bog, Town of Dryden

*The EMC shall “foster unified action...propose priorities and promote coordination... in the development and management of our [County] natural resources” (Resolution No. 295)*

# History of UNA's

- Began in 1973, started with 26 Areas
- Updated in 1990, 181 sites
- Updated in 2000 to 192 sites
- Won “Project of the Year Award” by NYSAEMC in 2000
- Created two more UNAs in 2012
- Now include 13% of Tompkins County land area
- Currently revising boundaries and adding new data as it becomes available

A scenic view of a forested gorge. On the left, a small pavilion with a dark roof sits on a rocky outcrop. A waterfall flows down the right side of the gorge. The background is filled with dense green trees.

## **Reasons for Selection**

**Designated Natural Area or Preserve**

**State-designated Wetland**

**Diverse Fauna or Flora**

**Rare or Scarce Plant, Animal or Community**

**Historic Botanical or Zoological Site**

**Geologic Importance**

**Important Teaching Site**

**Old-Growth Forest**

**Birding Site**

**Quality of Animal or Plant Community**

**Recreational Value**

**Scenic or Aesthetic Value**

**Wilderness Character**

**Archeological/Paleontological Site**

**Cultural/Historic Site**

**Urban Greenspace**

UNA-136, Cascadilla Gorge

City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca



Canada Lily, *Lilium canadense*



Showy Ladyslipper, *Cypripedium reginae*



Painted Trillium, *Trillium undulatum*

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## BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE

### Ecological Communities

Rarity: Global, State, Local

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*Bombylius major* sucking nectar from quaker ladies



Io moth relies on contiguous forest habitat

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## BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE

### Plant Species

Rarity: Global, State, Local

Legal Status: Federal or State

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Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*) in bog



Large Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) in bog

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## BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE

### Animal Species

Rarity: Global, State

Legal Status: Federal or State

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Photos by F. Robert Wesley



Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)



Gray Tree Frog, *Hyla versicolor*



Red Spotted Newt, *Notophthalmus viridescens*

## What a Unique Natural Area is NOT

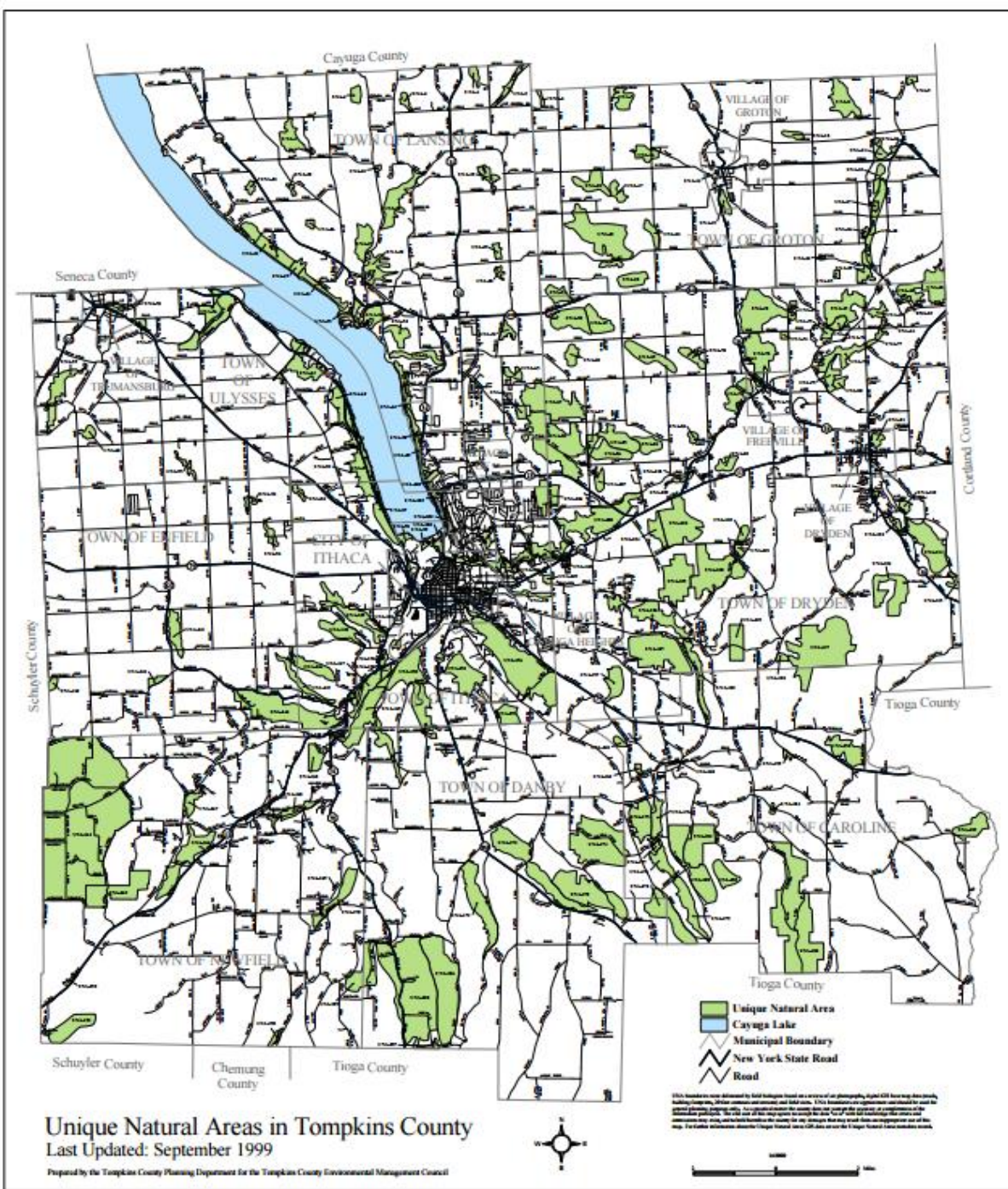
A UNA is not a regulatory  
designation

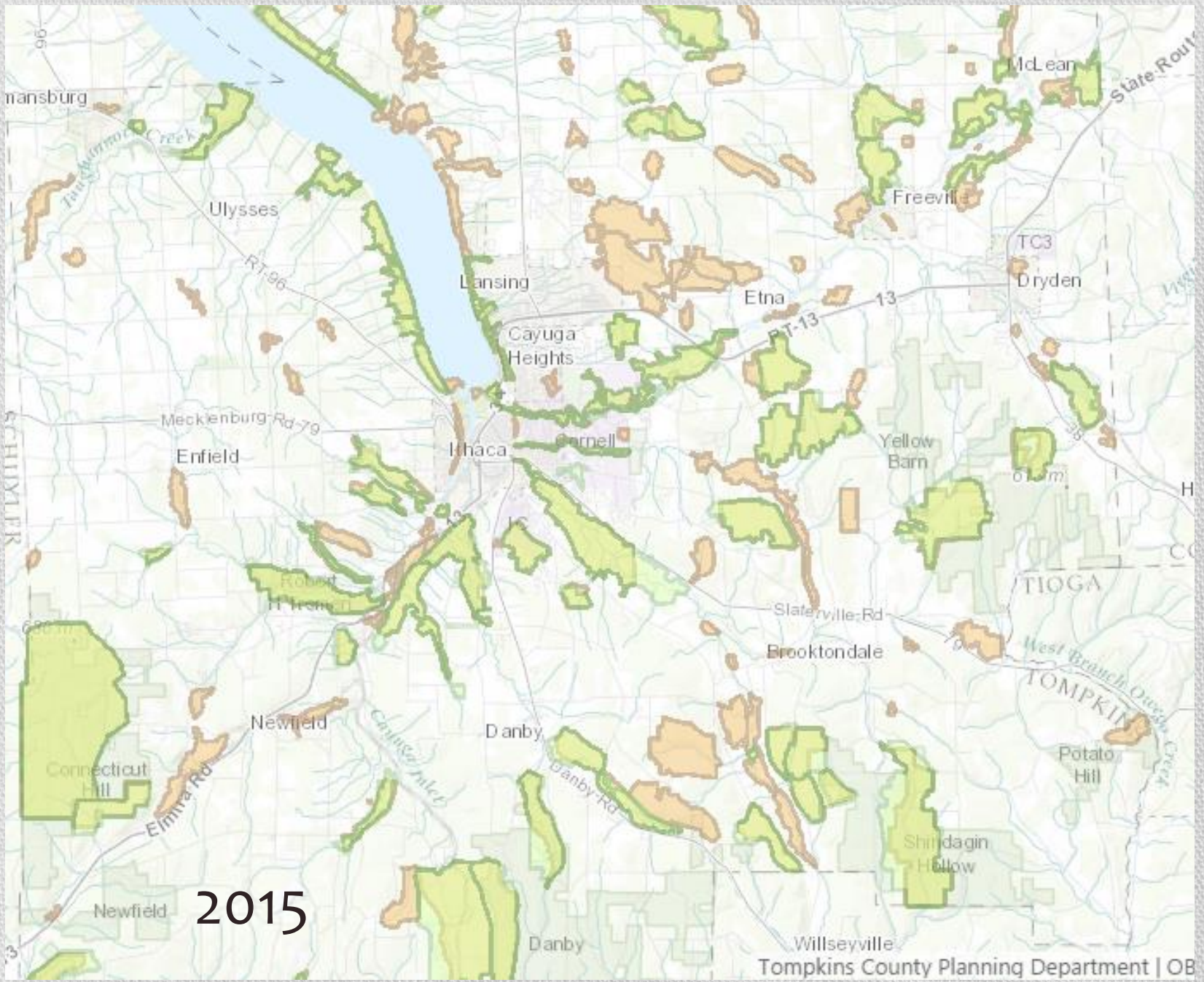
It does not provide legal  
protection for an area

Some Municipalities have  
included reference to UNAs  
in their planning and zoning



1999





2015

# Guidelines for boundary updates

- Snap to property lines if justified
- Inclusion of National Wetland Inventory
- Conform to edge of vegetation
- Inclusion of newly protected lands (e.g. nature preserves)
- Changes in landcover since last field visit or aerial photo






UNA Committees has revised 78  
Areas to date



2012 natural color orthoimagery

**Name**  
**Code**  
**Original acres**  
**Revised acres**  
**Percent change**  
**Reasons for changes**

**Townley Swamp, West**  
**UNA-50**  
**261.94**  
**196.49**  
**-24.99**  
**adjust to road, tax parcel, mature forest**

-  Batch 2 revisions
-  Batch 1 revisions
-  UNA 2000 boundaries
-  TompkinsParcels2013
-  National Wetlands Inventory



# Postcard to Landowners

- To be sent out soon
- 820 for revisions to 78 UNAs



## **Tompkins County Unique Natural Areas (UNAs) Inventory Update Information**

**According to our records, you own a part of one (or more)  
UNAs identified by the:**

**Tompkins County Environmental Management Council**

Boundary revisions have recently been made in these UNA's. You are invited to view our new maps and information at this password protected and time limited site: <http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/emc/>

After 2 months, this information will only be available at local libraries, and municipal offices

**Username: EMC  
Password: UNA-2014**

For more questions please send email to [planning@tompkins-co.org](mailto:planning@tompkins-co.org) or call the Tompkins County Planning Department at (607) 274-5560

Tools



Home



Initial View



Identify



Rectangle



Print



Distance



Area

Basic Tools

Measure



I want to...



UNA-50 Townley Swamp, W

1 of 2



UNA-50 Townley Swamp, West



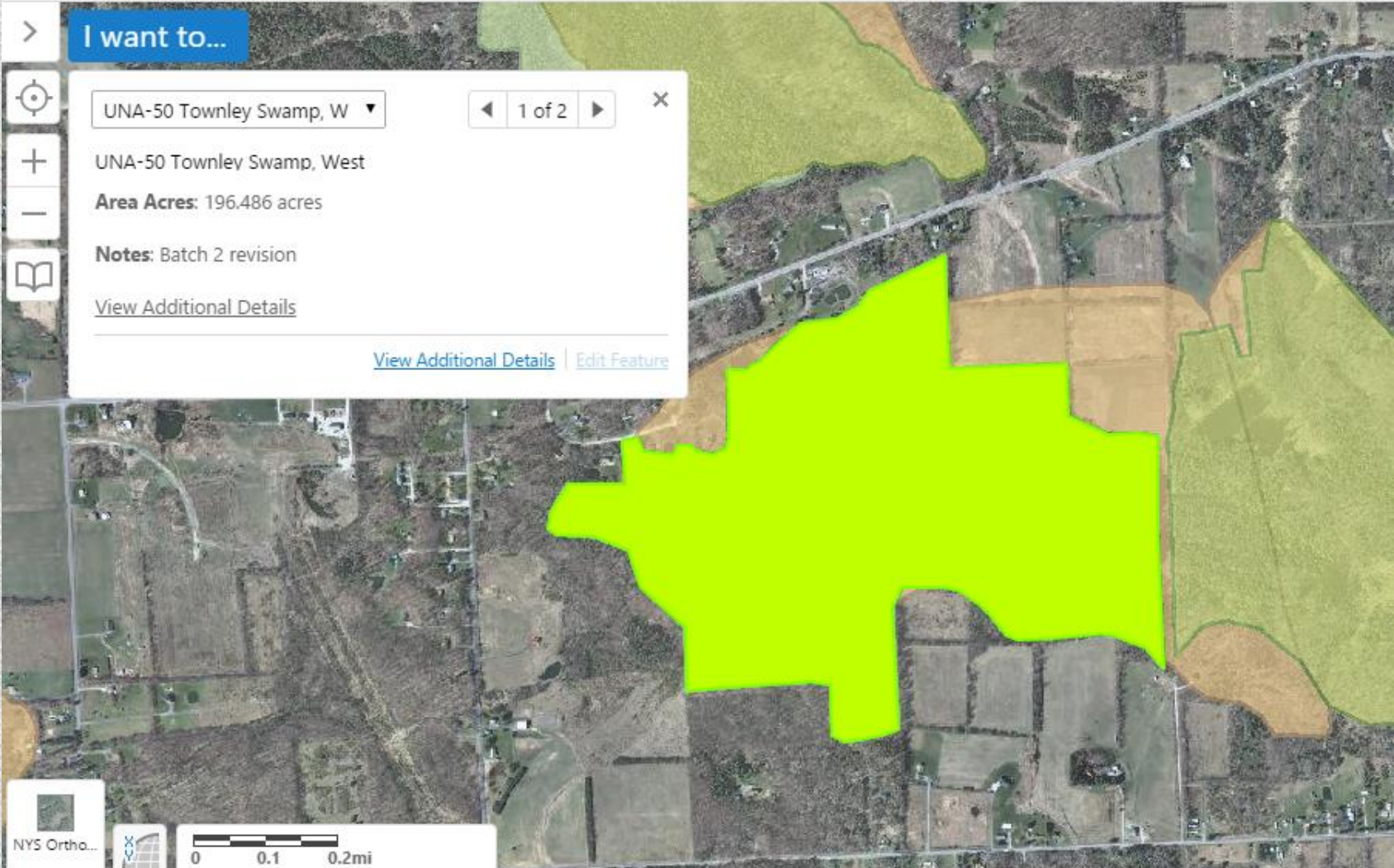
**Area Acres:** 196.486 acres






**Notes:** Batch 2 revision

[View Additional Details](#)




[View Additional Details](#) | [Edit Feature](#)

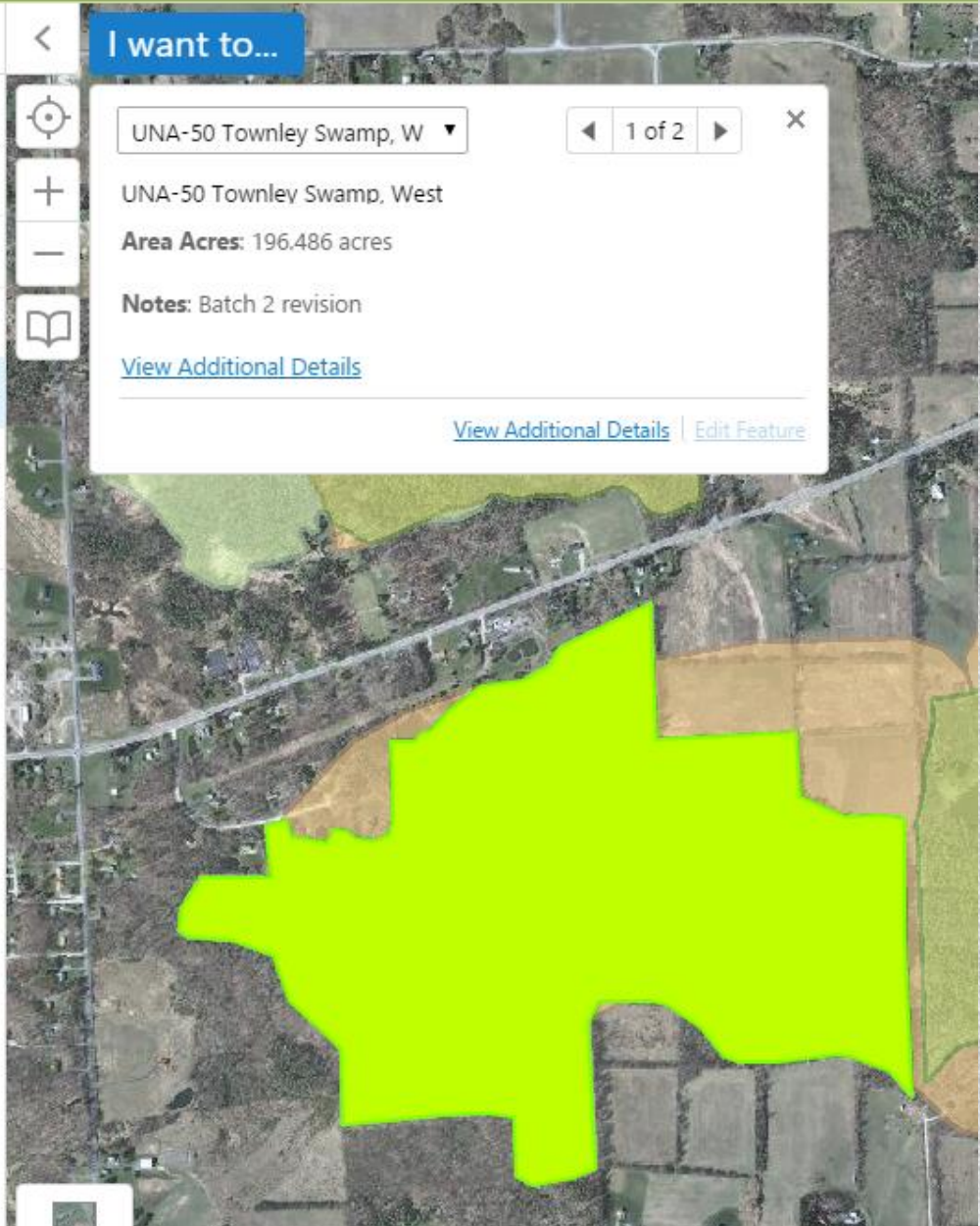


Layers

-  UNA 2014 Revisions
-  Parcels
-  Unique Natural Areas 1999

Base Maps

-  Topo Map
-  NYS Ortho 2012
-  Imagery 2010



I want to...

UNA-50 Townley Swamp, W

UNA-50 Townley Swamp, West

**Area Acres:** 196.486 acres

**Notes:** Batch 2 revision

[View Additional Details](#)

[View Additional Details](#) | [Edit Feature](#)

**SITE NAME:** Townley Swamp, West Branch**SITE CODE:** UNA-50**DATA LAST UPDATED:** 2/6/2015**OLD SITE CODE:** DR-21**LOCATION****Municipality:** Town of Dryden**Latitude:** 42 32 17 N**USGS Quad:** West Groton**Longitude:** 76 26 28 W**Tax Parcel Numbers Included in this Site:**

*Tax parcel data is accurate as of June 1, 1999. For up-to-date information on tax parcel descriptions and ownership, contact the Tompkins County Assessment Department. When a UNA covered less than 0.025 ac. of a parcel, the parcel was excluded from this list.*

DR 21.-1-13

DR 21.-1-14.12

DR 21.-1-14.2

DR 21.-1-18

DR 21.-1-19.2

DR 21.-1-19.4

DR 21.-1-24.13

DR 21.-1-24.4

DR 21.-1-24.5

DR 21.-1-24.6

DR 21.-1-24.7

DR 21.-1-33

DR 21.-1-34.1

DR 21.-1-35

DR 21.-1-36

DR 21.-1-37

**SITE AND VEGETATION DESCRIPTION**

Townley Swamp is one of the largest and most pristine swamps in Tompkins County. In the rich, mesic forest adjacent to the swamp; sugar maple, basswood, white ash, red maple, and bitternut hickory are found abundantly. Musclewood, spicebush, arrowwood, and nannyberry occur in the understory. Herbs are abundant and diverse and species diversity is generally high. The swamp is mostly hemlock, red maple, yellow birch forest. Black ash is present in some areas. The ground is hummocky with water pools between the hummocks. Bryophytes are abundant and diverse. There are some areas of speckled alder thicket.

**REASONS FOR SELECTION**

- Rare or scarce plants
- Historic botanical/zoological site
- Rare or scarce community types
- State-designated wetland
- Diverse fauna
- Old-growth forest

**SPECIAL LAND-USE INFORMATION****Special Land-Use Designations and Features**

- A mature forest stand with trees over 150 years old is found on this site.
- Some or all of this site lies in an agricultural district, certified pursuant to NYS Agriculture and Markets Law.
- The Tompkins County Greenway Coalition has identified a biological corridor which includes this site.

**Water Resources**

- Wetlands identified on the National Wetlands Inventory are found on this site.
- A stream runs through this site.
- All or some of a Class 4 NYS Freshwater Wetland lies on this site.
- A NYS protected stream runs through this site.

**CONSERVATION OF THE SITE****Adjacent Land-Use:**

Agriculture and abandoned agricultural land.

**Evidence of Disturbance and Threats to Site:**

There has been logging on some parts of the upland areas. American elm may once have been a canopy dominant in some open areas. Flooding and changes in drainage are considered threats to the site.

**Special Conservation/Management Needs:**

The site does not have an adequate protective buffer.

**PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE****Size (acres):** 196.49 **Elevation (ft.):** 1198 to 1265 **Aspect:** flat**Topographic Features**

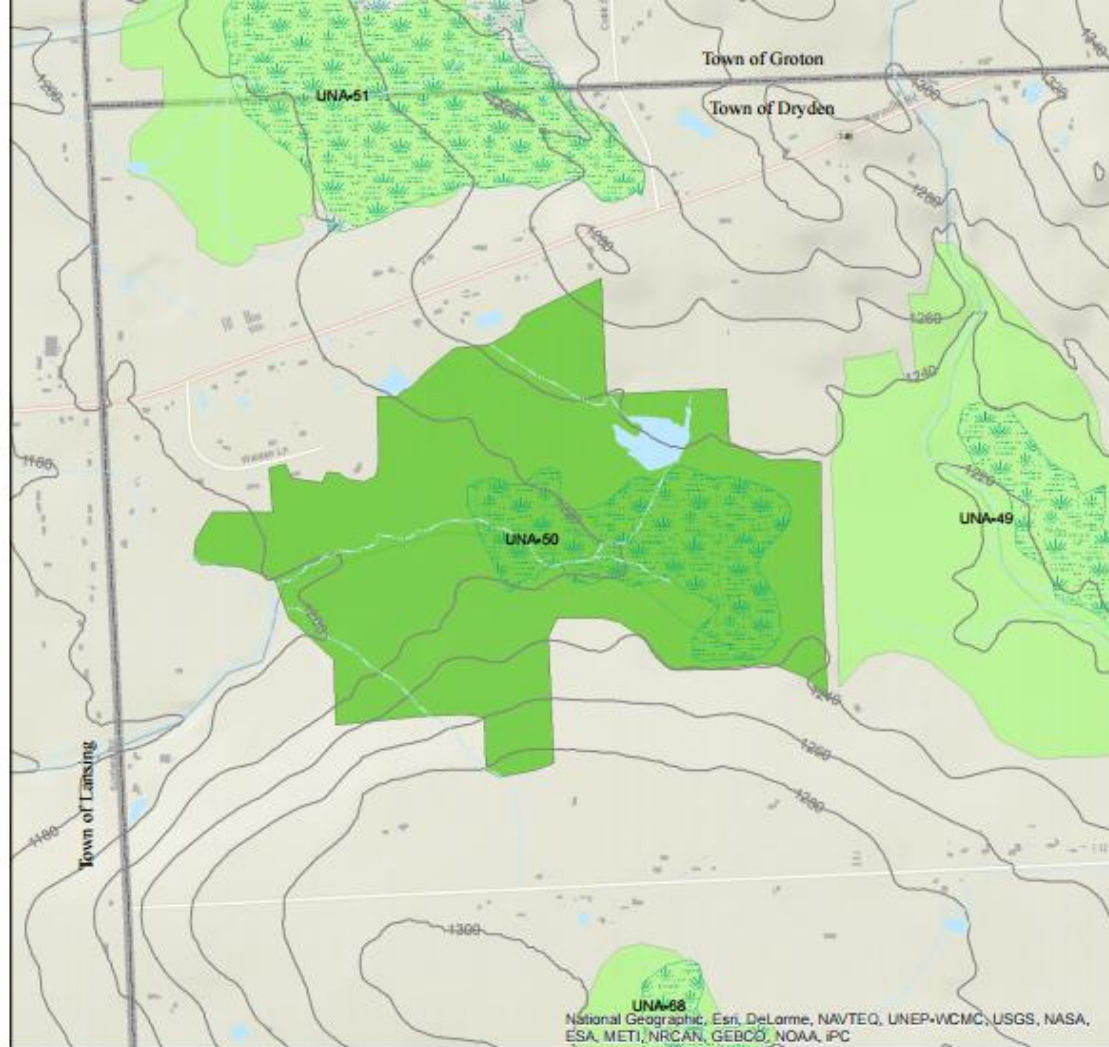
Wetland swamp on upland.

**Slope %**

- Flat  
 3 to 15  
 15 to 25

**Topographic Position**

- Crest  
 Upper Slope  
 Mid Slope



## UNA-50 Townley Swamp, West

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

Last Updated 2014

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

- Unique Natural Area 50
- Other Unique Natural Areas
- NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands
- Municipal Boundaries
- 20ft contours



A photograph of a lush forest floor. The ground is covered in a thick layer of bright green moss. Several large, broad-leaved plants, possibly Nigella arvensis, are scattered throughout the scene. The background is filled with dark tree trunks and dense foliage, creating a sense of a deep, shaded woodland.

## Next Steps

- **Planning Tool for Municipalities**
- **Community Education**
- **Conservation Efforts**