

Ex 3 – Eden Aff

CI2026-02325 | Nut Ridge on Cayuga Lake

Lansing

Index #: EF2026-0069

SITE NAME: Nut Ridge on Cayuga Lake**SITE CODE:** UNA-195**DATA LAST UPDATED:** 1/31/2017**OLD SITE CODE:****LOCATION**

Municipality: Lansing

Latitude: 42 37'1.4816"N

USGS Quad: Trumansburg 7.5'

Longitude: 76 38'16.984"W

Tax Parcel Numbers Included in this Site:

Tax parcel data is accurate as of 2014. 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.

503289-1-1-16,

SITE AND VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

More than 20 permanent and intermittent streams carve through the sloped property. Three gorges can be found on the property, exposing excellent examples of 3 different rock status assemblages. Mixed deciduous forests contain diverse stands of maple, basswood, and red and white oak, with a healthy understory that appears to have persisted despite deer browsing.

This site has a complex history. A portion of the eastern-most sections of the site appears to once have been farmed. Rusted cattle fencing can be found at many locations through the woods, indicating a history of grazing under the canopy (a practice quite prevalent 50 to 100 years ago). The less-steep portions of forest have been periodically logged, however some of the trees on the property appear to be quite old, indicating that at least a portion of the property has not been farmed in many years.

Currently, a coal-burning peaker power plant built in the 1960s, operates just south of the property.

In the early 1970s, it was the planned site of a nuclear power plant on Cayuga Lake. This project was strongly opposed by a combination of Cornell faculty and local activists. Although a foundation hole was excavated for the power station, it was subsequently filled back in.

In the subsequent 45 years, the site has returned to a natural state.

The flat, lakeside portions of the site have been used for decades, if not centuries by campers and picnicking groups; Native Americans may well have camped and fished from this sheltered site.

Two of the most noteworthy finds require mention here. A large and flourishing population of *Jeffersonia diphylla*, twin-leaf or butterfly-leaf, a NYS Threatened (S2) species population was found in one of the larger ravines. This is the only natural population in Tompkins County and one of the largest in NY, about 1000 plants. It is in shale and limestone talus with mature maple-basswood forest; pristine undisturbed habitat. The other is the pale pea, *Lathyrus ochroleucus*, a locally rare (and NYS Rare, S3) species previously thought to have completely vanished from the Cayuga Lake watershed.

REASONS FOR SELECTION

- Quality example of plant community
- Birding site
- Rare or scarce community types
- Wetlands
- Recreational value
- Important teaching site
- Area of geologic importance
- Diverse flora
- Rare or scarce plants
- Scenic/Aesthetic value
- Cultural/historic/archeological site
- Site of local significance

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

- Wetlands identified on the National Wetlands Inventory are found on this site.
- A stream runs through this site.

CONSERVATION OF THE SITE**PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE**

Size (acres): 296.5 Elevation (ft.): 390-720 feet Aspect: Southwest

Slope %**Topographic Position** Flat Crest 3 to 15 Upper Slope 15 to 25 Mid Slope Over 25 Lower Slope Bottom**Topographic Features**

Extremely steep slopes with unusual gorges, rock exposures, and associated water seepages.

Geological Features

Significant exposed outcrop of Tully limestone, upslope of Moscow shale. Variable texture (boulders to silt), usually poorly sorted sand-rich diamict, deposition beneath glacier ice, permeability varies with compaction, thickness variable (1-50 meters).

Soils Present on the Site

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

Soil Name**Hydric (Wet)****Erodibility****Drainage**

Arkport fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes

Non-hydric

Potentially highly erodible

Well drained

Arkport fine sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes

Non-hydric

Highly erodible

Well drained

Genesee silt loam

Non-hydric

Non-highly erodible

Well drained

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Hudson silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Non-hydric	Potentially highly erodible	Well drained to moderately well drained
Hudson-Cayuga silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Non-hydric	Highly erodible	Well drained to moderately well drained
Hudson-Cayuga silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	Non-hydric	Highly erodible	Well drained to moderately well drained
Hudson-Cayuga silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Non-hydric	Highly erodible	Well drained to moderately well drained
Hudson-Cayuga silt loams, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Non-hydric	Highly erodible	Well drained to moderately well drained
Ilion silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Hydric	Potentially highly erodible	Poorly drained
Ovid silt loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Potential hydric inclusions	Potentially highly erodible	Moderately well drained to somewhat poorly drained
Rock outcrop	Non-hydric	Not applicable	Not applicable

BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE

General Cover Types

Rock outcrops and gravel banks
 Old fields, meadows
 Old-field forest
 Upland forest
 Plantation or orchard
 Wet meadow
 Aquatic vegetation

Ecological Communities

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

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

Global - At least one community designated as rare or scarce at the global level by The Nature Conservancy is found on this site.

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

Local - At least one community designated as rare or scarce at the local level by the Tompkins County EMC and the Cornell Plantations is found on this site.

Ecological Communities Inventoried on this Site:

Community Name	Description	Global/State/Local Rarity
Successional northern hardwoods	A forest with more than 60% canopy cover of trees that occurs on sites that have been cleared or otherwise disturbed. Dominant trees are usually two or more of the following: red maple, white pine, white ash, gray birch, quaking aspen, big-tooth aspen, and, less frequently, sugar maple and white ash. Tree seedlings and saplings may be of more shade tolerant species. Shrubs and ground cover species may be those of old-fields. In abandoned pastures apples and hawthorns may be present in the understory.	G5 S5 L4
Rocky headwater stream	The aquatic community of a small to moderate sized rocky stream with a moderate to steep gradient that lacks persistent emergent vegetation. The cold water stream flows over eroded bedrock near the stream origin and contains alternating riffle and pool sections. These streams typically have mosses and algae present, but few larger rooted plants.	G4 S4 L4
Intermittent stream	The aquatic community of a small ephemeral streambed with a moderate to steep gradient where the water flows only during the spring or after a heavy rain. The streambed may be covered with mosses such as Bryhnia novae-angliae.	G4 S4 L4
Summer stratified monomictic lake	The aquatic community of a lake that is so deep that it has only one period of mixing or turnover each year, and one period of stratification, during the summer. Because these lakes usually do not freeze, the water circulates and is isothermal during the winter. Characteristic aquatic macrophytes include pondweeds, horned pondweed, naiad, waterweed, tapegrass, and coontail (Cayuga Lake).	G3G4 S2S3 L2
Inland calcareous lake shore	The gravelly, sandy, or muddy shore of a lake or pond with calcareous water and seasonally fluctuating water levels. The substrate is either saturated or flooded. Vegetative cover may be sparse; the dominant species are herbaceous. Characteristic species include spikerushes, soft rush, bulrushes, water plantain, water stargrass, creeping spearwort, and lake cress.	G4? S3S4 L2L3
Calcareous shoreline outcrop	A community with sparse vegetation that occurs along the shores of lakes and streams on outcrops of calcareous rocks such as limestone and dolomite. Most plants are rooted in rock crevices. Mosses and lichens may be common. Characteristic species include wild columbine, Carex eburnea, C. granularis, silky dogwood, red-osier dogwood, and meadow rue.	G3G4 S3? L3
Calcareous cliff community	A community with sparse vegetation that occurs on vertical exposures, cliffs, and talus slopes of resistant bedrock such as limestone or dolomite or consolidated materials. There is little soil. Characteristic species include purple cliff brake, bulb fern, early saxifrage, and eastern red cedar	G4 S3S4 L3

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Successional old field	A meadow on sites cleared, plowed, and then abandoned. The ragweed type occurs on fields 1 to 3 years after last cultivation; ragweed, daisy, Queen Anne's lace, crab grass, golden foxtail, and chickweed are common. The goldenrod subtype occurs 3 - 15 years after last cultivation. Dominant species are perennial composites: goldenrods and asters. Other herbs include timothy, orchard grass, smooth brome, bluegrasses, quackgrass, sweet vernal grass, evening primrose, old-field cinquefoil, wild strawberry, and hawkweeds. Shrubs and trees represent less than 50% cover but include gray dogwood, arrowwood, raspberries, blackberries, sumac, red maple and white pine.	G4	S4	L4
Successional shrubland	A shrubland with at least 50% cover of shrubs that occurs on agricultural fields 10 - 25 years after abandonment, following other disturbance, and especially on sites with restricted drainage. Characteristic shrubs include gray dogwood, raspberries, hawthorn, serviceberries, chokecherry, sumac, nannyberry, arrowwood and buckthorn. Herbs are those of old-fields. <u>Seedlings of white pine, red maple and white ash are usually present.</u>	G4	S4	L4
Successional red cedar woodland	A woodland community that commonly occurs on abandoned agricultural fields and pastures, particularly on fertile, calcareous soils, on slopes along the lakes and, occasionally, on well drained soils of alluvial valleys. The dominant tree is usually red cedar. Gray birch, hawthorn, buckthorn, white ash, and black walnut are common associates. Shrubs and ground layers are similar to that of successional old field.	G5	S5	L3
Appalachian oak-hickory forest	A hardwood forest with more than 60% canopy cover of trees that occurs on well-drained sites, usually on flat hilltops, upper slopes, or south and west facing slopes. Dominant trees include one or more of red oak, white oak, and black oak. Mixed with oaks, are one or more of pignut, shagbark, and sweet pignut hickory. Common associates are white ash, red maple, and hop hornbeam. Small trees include flowering dogwood, witch hazel, shadbush, and choke cherry. Shrubs and groundlayer flora are diverse. Shrubs include maple-leaved viburnum, blueberries, red raspberry, gray dogwood, and beaked hazelnut.	G4G5	S4	L4
Beech-maple mesic forest	A hardwood forest with sugar maple and beech co-dominant. Found on moist, well-drained soils, on north and east facing slopes, and on gently sloping hilltops of any aspect, this ecological community type rarely occurs in ravines. Common associates are basswood, American elm, white ash, yellow birch, hop hornbeam, and red maple. Characteristic species in the sub-canopy are musclewood, striped maple, witch hazel, hobblebush, and alternate-leaved dogwood. There typically are few herbs and shrubs, but tree seedlings may be abundant. <u>There are many spring ephemerals.</u>	G4	S4	L4
Maple-basswood rich mesic forest	A hardwood forest that typically occurs on fertile, moist, well-drained soils. It is often associated with limestone or deep glacial gravels. Dominant trees are sugar maple, basswood, and white ash. Common associates are bitternut hickory, tulip tree, musclewood, alternate-leaved dogwood, and witch hazel. The shrub layer is sparse. Spring wildflowers are usually abundant. Characteristic species are trillium, white baneberry, spring beauty, toothwort, trout lily, and bloodroot.	G4	S2S3	L3
Hemlock-northern hardwood forest	A forest that typically occurs on lower slopes of ravines, on cool, mid-elevation slopes, and at the edges of drainage divide swamps. Hemlock is a co-dominant species with one to three others: beech, sugar maple, red maple, black cherry, white pine, yellow birch, black birch, red oak, and basswood. Shrubs have low abundance, but striped maple may be present. Herbs characteristic of northern and montane areas are common.	G4G5	S4	L4
Hardwood plantation	A planted stand of commercial trees species, usually for timber purposes. Usually a monoculture, but they may be mixed stands with two or more species. Species typically planted include red oak, black cherry, white oak, black walnut, hybrid poplars, and black locust.	G5	S3	L2L3
Wetland headwater stream	The aquatic community of a small, swampy brook with a low gradient, slow flow rate, and cool to cold water that flows through a fen, swamp or marsh near the stream origin. Springs may be present. The substrate is clay, gravel or sand, with silt, muck, peat, or marl deposits along the shore. Characteristic plants include watercress, Chara. Persistent emergent vegetation is lacking.	G4	S4	L4

Plant Species

Although substantial effort was made to identify significant plant species on this site, it is possible that additional rare or scarce species exist that do not show up in this report. A field check is always recommended prior to modifying the landscape. Detailed information regarding each species' rareness and status may be found in Appendix D. For up-to-date information on species, contact the NY Natural Heritage Program (518-783-3932).

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

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

Legal Status:

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

Significant Plant Species Inventoried on this Site:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global/State/Local Rarity	Local Comments	State Legal Status
Ranunculus allegheniensis	Allegheny crowfoot	L2	Rare	None
Celastrus scandens	American bittersweet	L4		Exploitably vulnerable
Staphylea trifolia	bladdernut	L3	Scarce	None

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<i>Menispermum canadense</i>	Canada moonseed	L3	Scarce	None
<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>	downy arrowwood	L3	Scarce	None
<i>Myosotis verna</i>	early or white scorpion-grass, spring forget-me-not	L3	Scarce	Unprotected
<i>Phryma leptostachya</i>	lopseed	L3	Scarce	None
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey tea	L4		None
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	ninebark	L3	Scarce	None
<i>Lathyrus ochroleucus</i>	pale wild pea	G4G5 S3	L2H	Rare, not seen recently
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	pasture rose		L4	None
<i>Hieracium venosum</i>	rattlesnake-weed		L4	None
<i>Carex rosea</i>	sedge	L3	Scarce	None
<i>Carex digitalis</i>	slender woodland sedge	L3	Scarce	None
<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	slippery elm	L4		None
<i>Symporicarpos albus</i>	snowberry	L3	Scarce	None
<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>	twinleaf	G5	S2	L2
<i>Carex willdenowii</i>	Willdenow's sedge	G5	S1	L2
<i>Taenidia integerrima</i>	yellow pimpernel		L4	None

Animal Species

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

Animal Description:

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

Global - At least one animal species designated as rare or scarce at the global level by The Nature Conservancy is found on this site.

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

Legal Status:

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

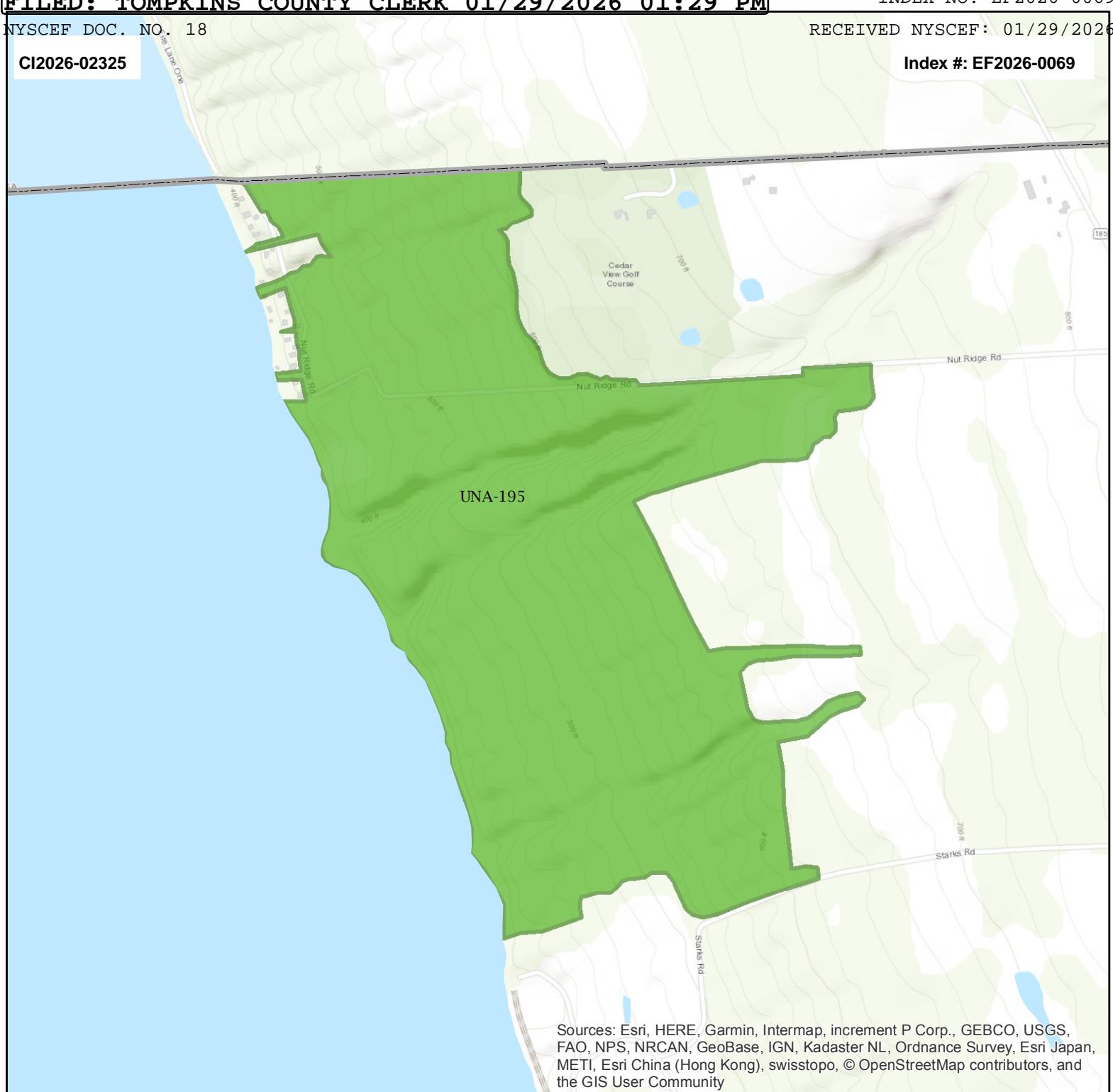
State - At least one animal species designated by NYS as threatened or endangered is found on this site.

Animal Species Inventoried on this Site:

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Global/State Rarity</u>	<u>Federal/State Legal Status</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	G5	SHB, S1N	MBTA SE
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	G5	S3B, S3N	MBTA ST
<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i>	Blue-winged warbler			PIF Species of Concern, Threatened
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow Flycatcher	G5	S5	MBTA SU
				Audubon Watch List

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UNA-195 Bell Station

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

Last Updated 2018

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.



0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

- Revised Unique Natural Areas
- Other Unique Natural Areas
- Municipal Boundaries