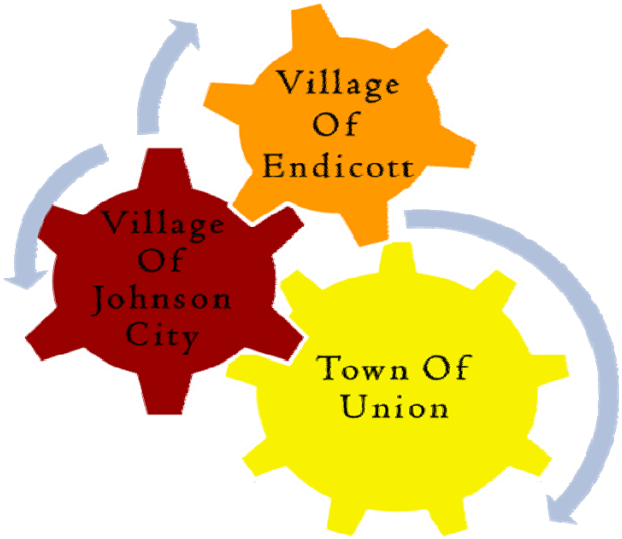
Goals & Objectives

Chapter 8



Environmental Setting

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Environmental Setting

8

MISSION STATEMENT: **TO PROMOTE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEED TO USE AND THE NEED TO PRESERVE NATURAL, MAN-MADE, AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.**

In order to enhance the interaction between people and the environment, efforts must be directed to the preservation of existing natural and man-made amenities and to the overall appearance of land development. Development should be integrated into the landscape through an ecological and environmental approach to design rather than forcibly be developed onto the land in unnatural ways. New buildings should also be related to existing buildings and structures and to the surrounding man-made environment.

As an area grows and changes over time the possibility of irreversible environmental damage increases. If measures are not taken to ensure the prevention, minimization, or resolution of potential and existing environmental problems, the likelihood of additional problems occurring is very high. Residential, commercial, and industrial growth should be designed in a manner that preserves important natural features and uses natural resources wisely.

Environmental Goals

ENV-1	Prevent development on land that is topographically unsuitable;
ENV-2	Provide for the preservation of open space and unique natural features;
ENV-3	Ensure that future developments are compatible with their surroundings, both natural and man-made;
ENV-4	Maintain air quality, noise, and lighting within acceptable community standards;
ENV-5	Protect the aquifer and water resources (e.g., groundwater and surface water) from contamination;
ENV-6	Protect wetlands and other critical environmental areas from pollution and the negative effects of development.

Objectives – Preservation And Natural Features

Objective A. Prevent development on land that is topographically unsuitable.

See Housing Goal, Rural and Development Areas, **Objective A. 1.**

a. Capital Improvement

Policies

1. Maintain floodwalls: mow grass, remove trash, and keep off- road vehicles from these areas.

Objective B. Provide for the preservation of open space and unique natural features.

See Housing Goal, Rural and Development, **Objective A. 2.**)

a. Land Use and Ordinance

Policies

1. Avoid critical areas when developing roads and utility lines to preserve unique natural features;
2. Design roads and utilities to have the least possible negative impact upon the environment.

Objective C. Assure that future developments are compatible with their surroundings, both natural and man-made.

See Housing Goal, Rural and Development, **Objective B. 1.**

a. Land Use and Ordinance

Policies

1. Discourage developers from destroying woodlands and other significant natural features.

b. Assistance

Policies

1. Identify public rights-of-way to significant bodies of water, creeks, woodlands, and scenic areas.

Objective D. Maintain noise and lighting within acceptable community standards.

a. Capital Improvement

Policies

1. Improve odor removal systems at Binghamton/Johnson City sewer treatment plant to reduce impacts on nearby areas.

b. Land Use and Ordinance

Policies

1. Develop and adopt performance standards for noise and exterior lighting and incorporate in Site Plan Review;

2. Develop and adopt noise ordinance.

Objective E. Protect the aquifer and water resources (e.g., groundwater and surface water) from contamination.

a. Capital Improvement

Policies

1. Extend sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and water lines in areas where health problems exist;
2. Improve capacity at Binghamton/Johnson City sewage treatment plant to allow extension of services;
3. Separate storm sewers from sanitary sewers to prevent overloading sewage treatment facilities during heavy rains;
4. Maintain creeks and water bodies in a condition that stabilizes the banks;
5. Inspect and repair storm and sanitary sewer lines prior to major road repairs;
6. Separate combined storm and sanitary sewer systems;

7. Extend sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water trunk lines only in areas where future development should be encouraged;
8. Extend sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water lines where they would not negatively impact the lines into which they feed;
9. Design sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water lines to accommodate flow from future upland development;
10. Design and build sanitary sewer systems on a gravity flow system instead of pumps, where feasible;
11. Provide laterals from new sanitary sewer and water trunk lines to front property lines of existing and proposed lots;
12. Standardize sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water pipe sizes, placement and types for all developments. They should be of such type that they can be maintained by existing or proposed municipal equipment;
13. Build storm sewers, curbs, and gutters in a sequential manner in order to provide for proper storm water management and finished road surfacing;
14. Implement proper erosion control measures and other corrective actions in order to allow and accept additional runoff from upland development;
15. Develop a master plan for each drainage basin;
16. Design storm drainage systems to accept storm water from future upstream development and not to impact existing and future downstream development;
17. Design permanent and temporary ponding and storage areas to be an integral part of the overall development planning process and consider opportunities within the open space and landscaped areas for creation of such facilities;
18. Design permanent water ponding and storage areas to consider safety, appearance, recreation use, and effective, economical maintenance operations;
19. Design open channels and swales to harmonize with the natural features of the site and to be closely related to individual building lots;
20. Design the enclosed components of a storm water runoff system to help manage storm water, not just dispose of it;
21. Minimize the use of enclosed components to the extent consistent with the ability of the existing natural systems to accommodate storm runoff and the degree to which the local public will accept and act responsibly toward open channels;
22. Provide for maintenance of storm sewer systems on a routine basis to assure that open and enclosed systems can function at or near design capacity;
23. Design storm sewer systems to reduce pollutant discharge into ground and surface water.

b. Land Use and Ordinance

Policies

1. Reduce the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer;
2. Continue intermunicipal cooperative efforts in enforcing the Well Head Protection Ordinance;
3. Require that all individual land development proposals include storm water runoff system plans that are compatible with basin-wide master drainage plans.

c. Service

Policies

1. Maintain and improve communication and cooperation between New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Town/Villages;
2. Promote the cleanup of brownfield and other environmentally hazardous sites through a cooperative effort between the owner and local, state, and federal agencies;
3. Clean and maintain riverbanks and creeks free of trash.

d. Assistance

Policies

1. Provide financial assistance for the cleanup of brownfield and other environmentally hazardous sites;
2. Provide financial assistance for residents, property owners, and businesses to hook into the water lines and sanitary sewers;
3. Apply for federal and state grants to fund improvements or upgrades to public water and sanitary sewer systems.

Objective F. Protect wetlands and other critical environmental areas from pollution and the negative effects of development.

a. Capital Improvement

Policies

1. Minimize erosion from storm water runoff by appropriate design within the storm sewer system;
2. Design and install energy dissipaters and other outfall protection where enclosed storm water drains discharge onto erodible soils;

3. Use the best current technology to minimize off-site storm water runoff, increase on-site infiltration, and minimize off-site discharge of pollutants to ground and surface water.

b. Land Use and Ordinance

Policies

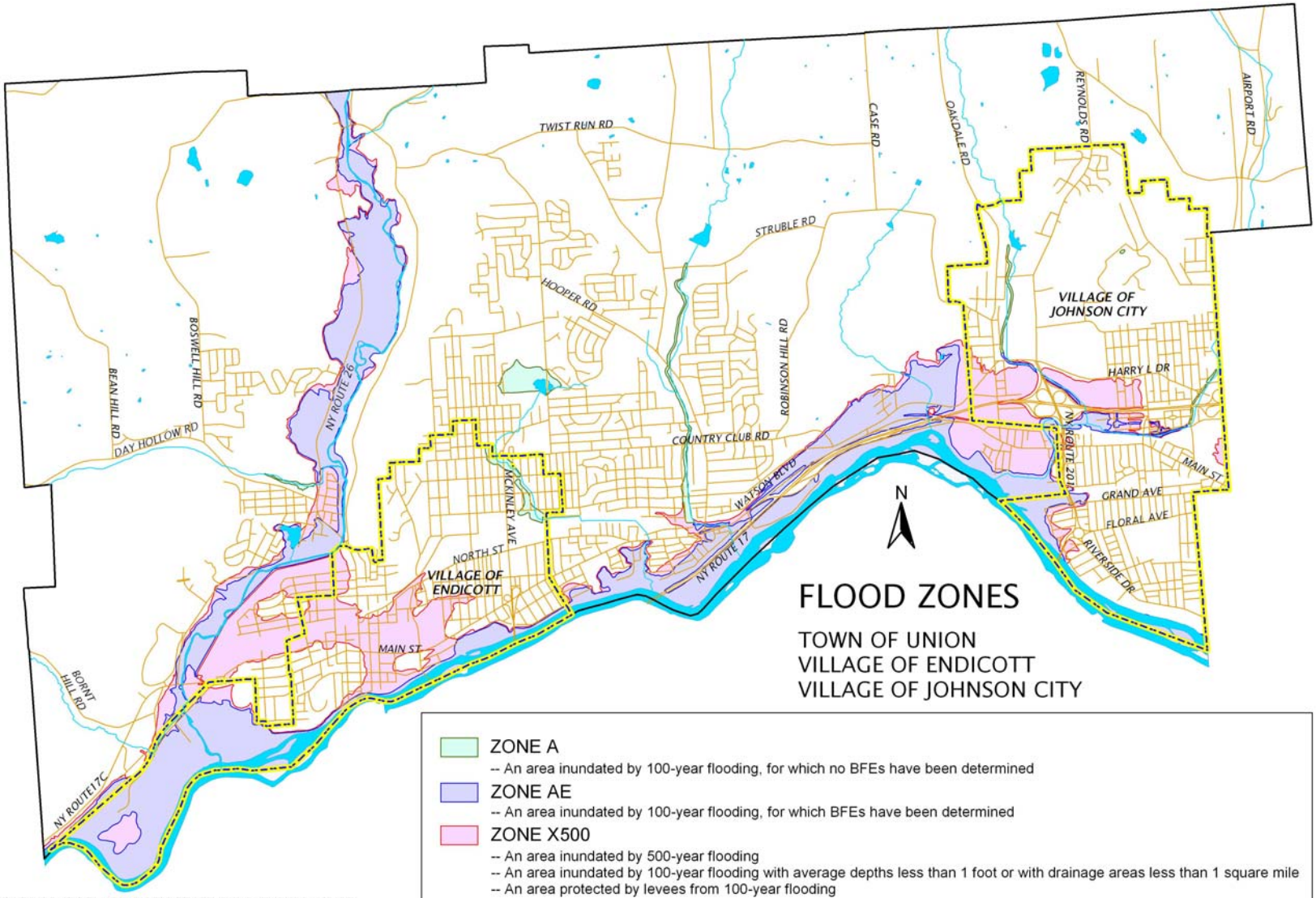
1. Restrict development in designated wetland areas.

c. Assistance

Policies

1. Provide for public ownership of designated wetlands and other critical environmental areas.

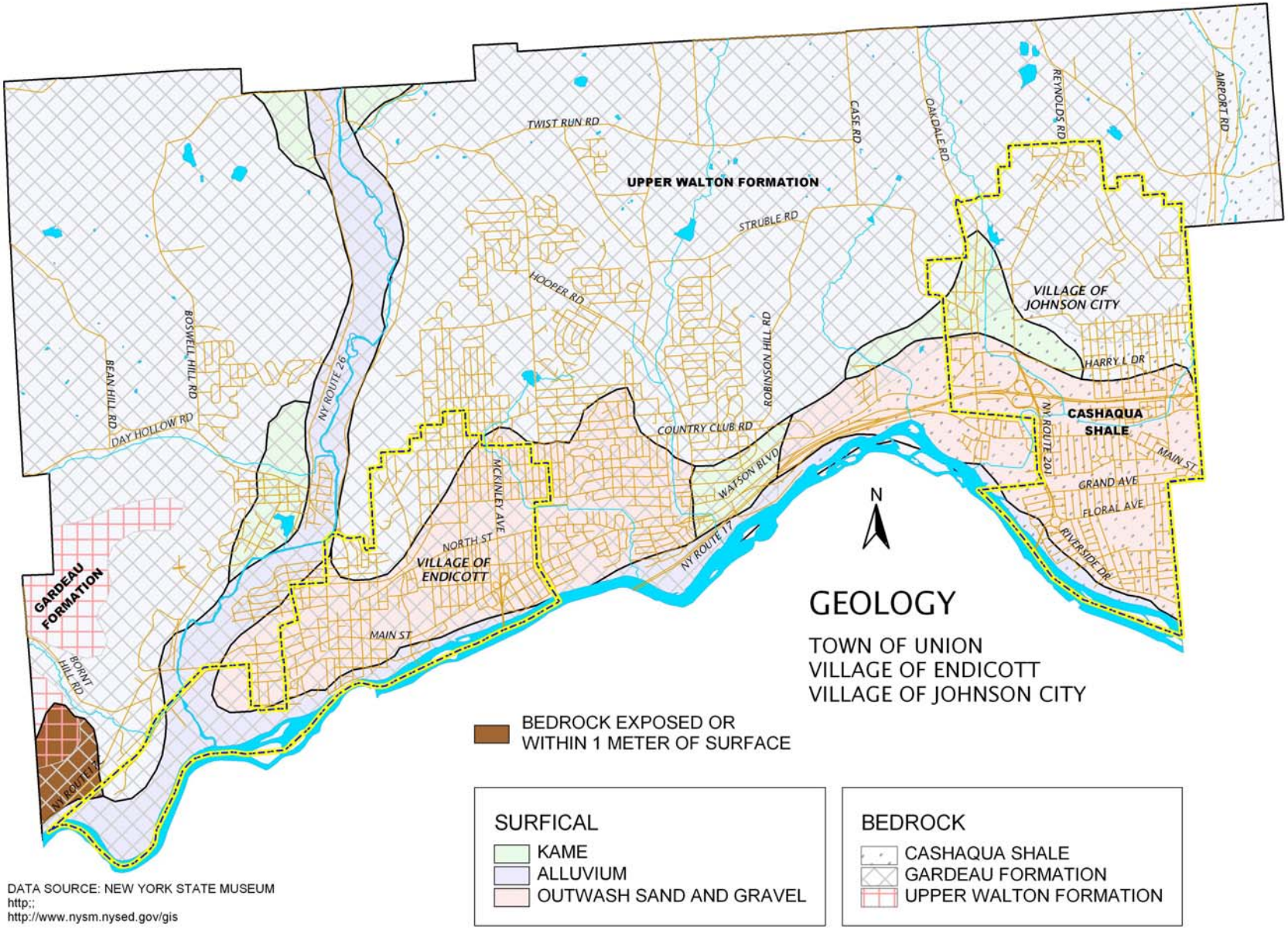
Map 1 ~ Town Of Union Flood Zones



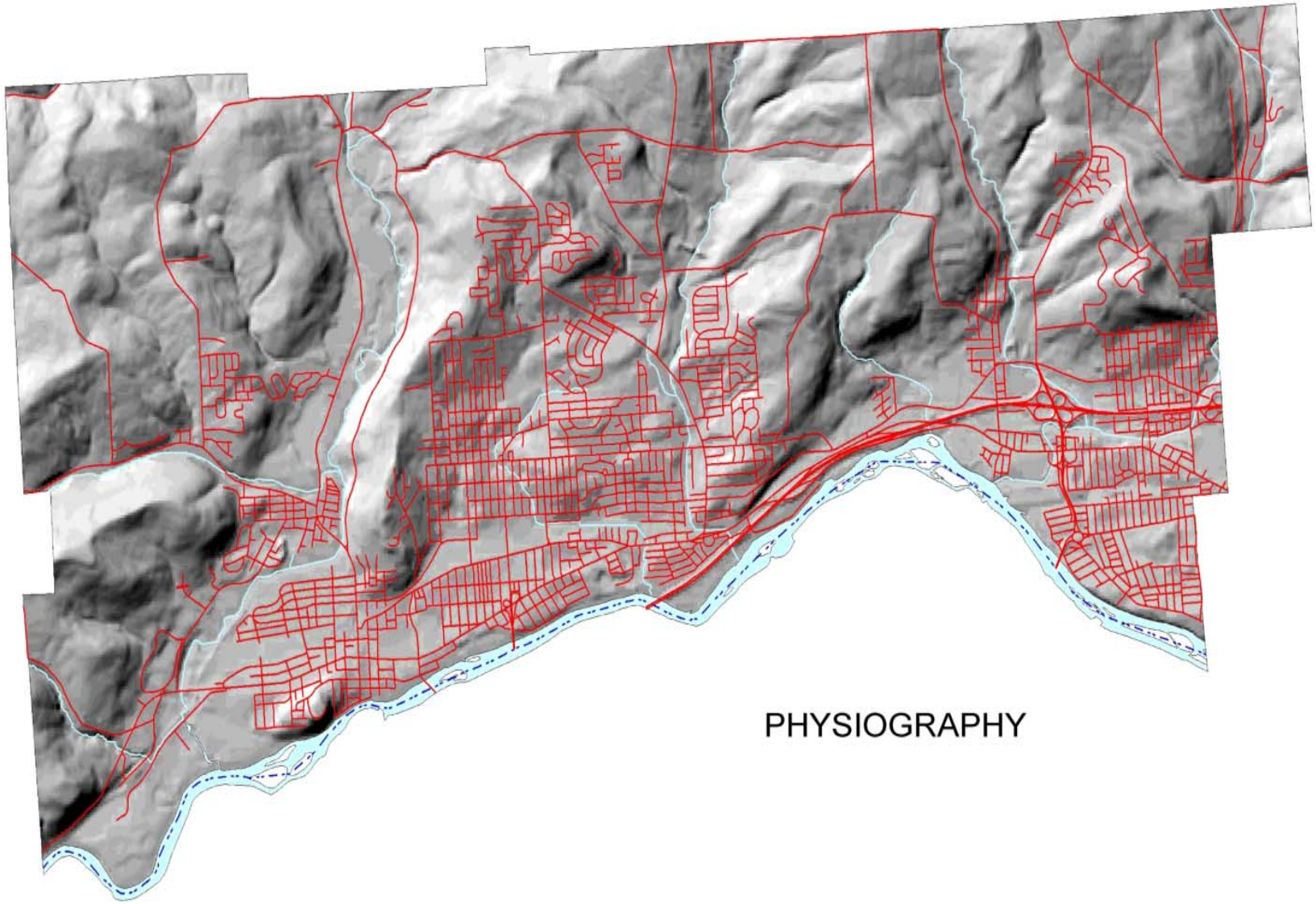
DATA SOURCE: NEW YORK STATE GIS CLEARINGHOUSE.
FEDERAL EMERGENGY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY DIGITAL Q3 FLOOD ZONE DATA.
http://www.nygis.stse.ny.us/inventories/fema.htm

Base Flood Elevation (BFE)-- Average depth of the base flood in feet above the ground surface as determined by a vertical datum referenced in the Flood Insurance Study report.

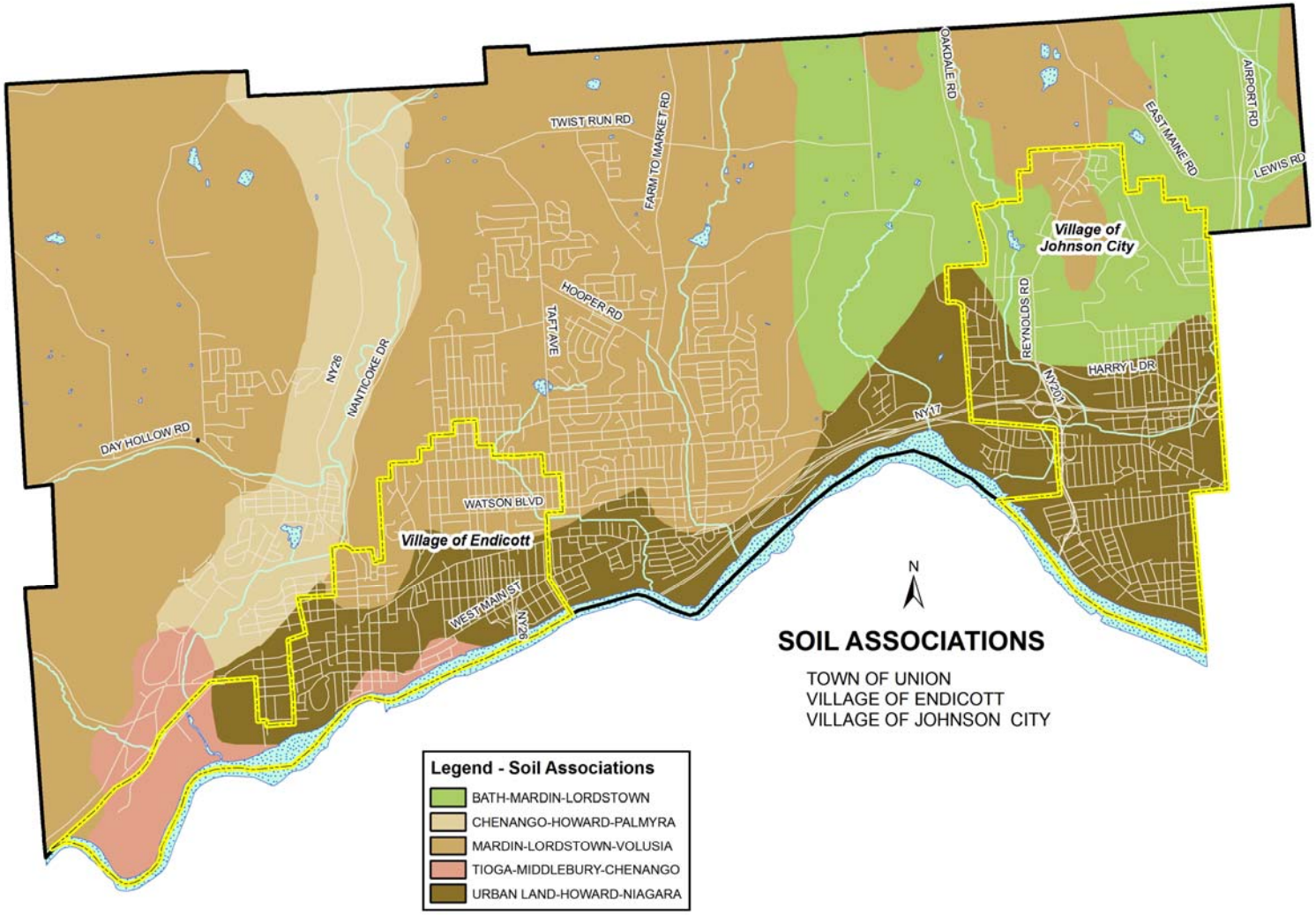
Map 2 ~ Town Of Union Geology



Map 3 ~ Town Of Union Physiography

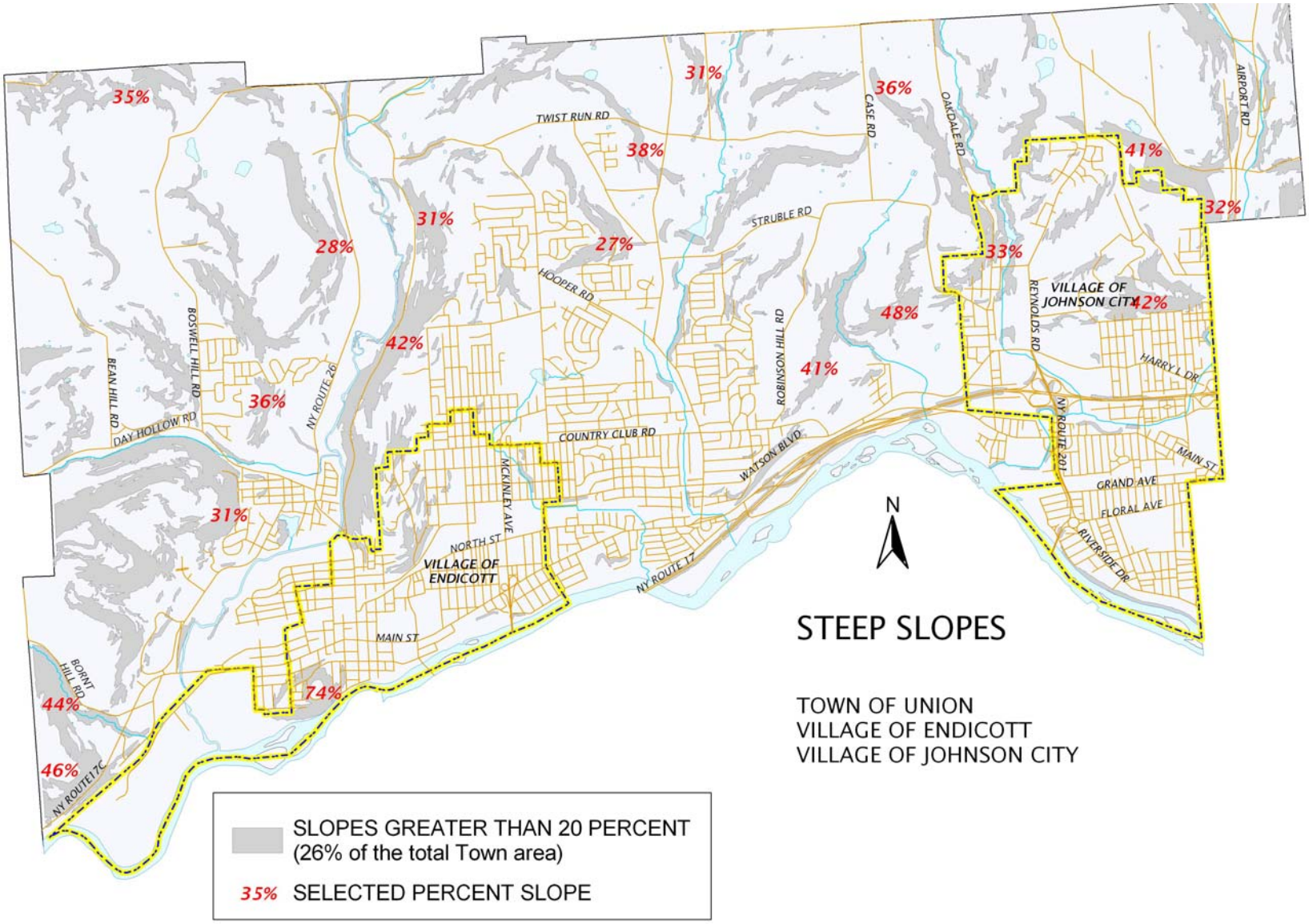


Map 4 ~ Town Of Union Soil Associations

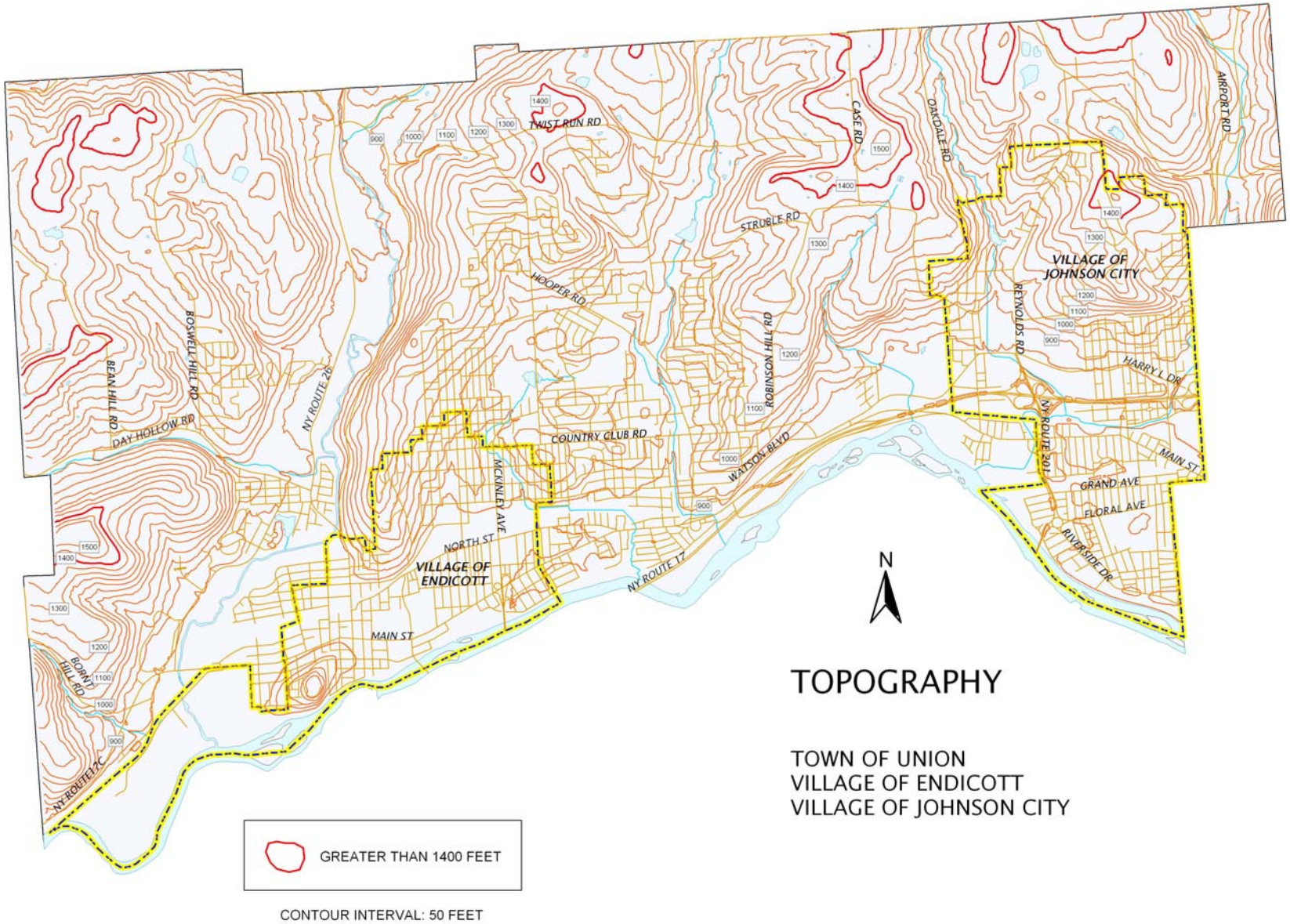


Source: Cornell University (CUGIR), US Dept. of Agriculture, and National Resource Conservation Service

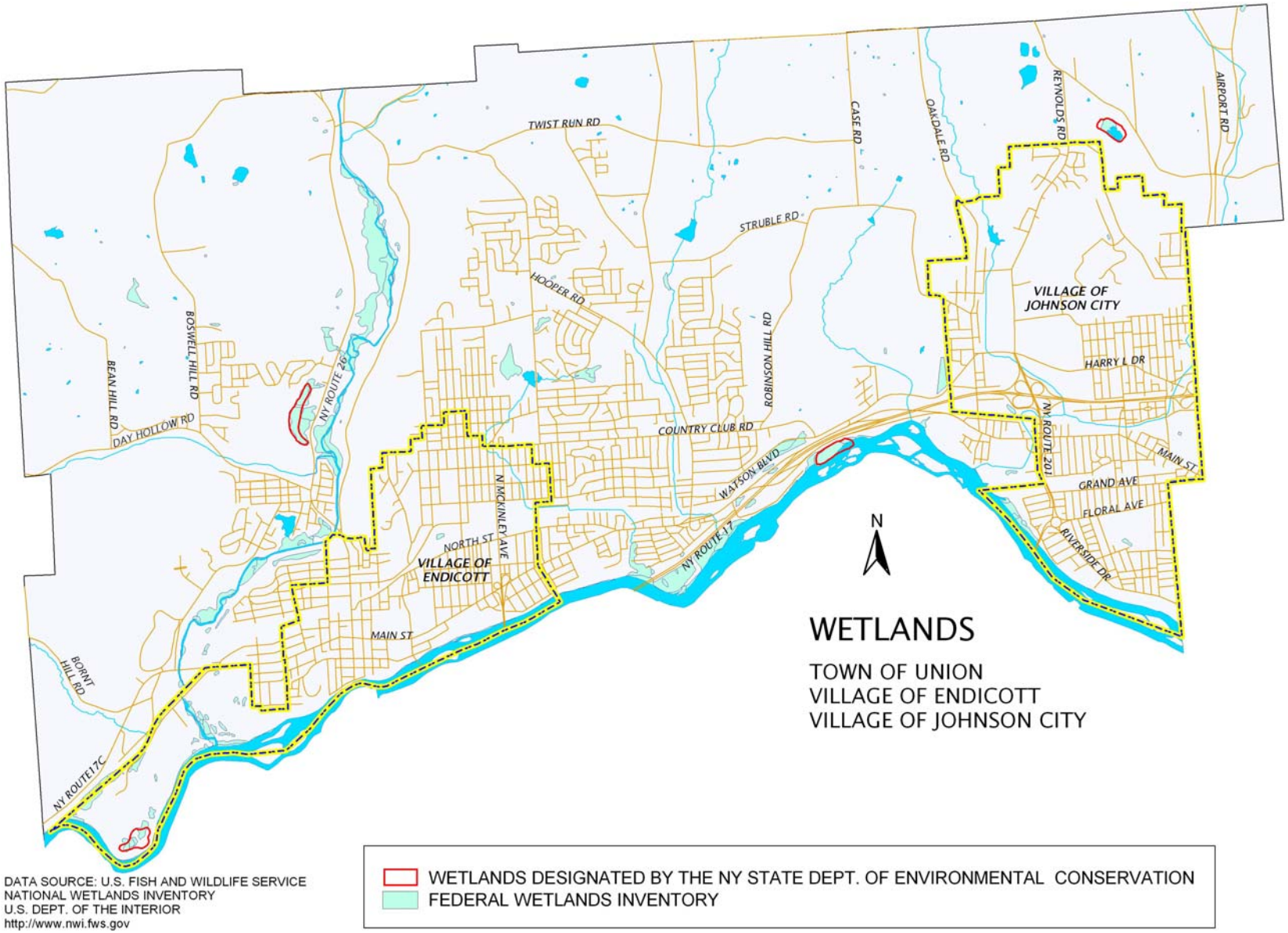
Map 5 ~ Town Of Union Steep Slopes



Map 6 ~ Town Of Union Topography



Map 7 ~ Town Of Union State/Federal Wetlands



DATA SOURCE: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
http://www.nwi.fws.gov