

## IV. Open Space Inventory and Mapping

### Publicly-Owned Open Space (*Map 1, page 20*) (MAP UNAVAILABLE ON WEB VERSION)

One of the first tasks to be undertaken by the Open Space Committee was to inventory and map publicly-owned open spaces that already exist in the Town of Glenville. Table 1 below is a summary of the 17 publicly-owned properties within Glenville. For practical purposes, only those parcels greater than 1/10 of an acre were included in the table. Also, this table does not include properties within the Village of Scotia.

**Table 1: Publicly-Owned Open Space in the Town of Glenville**

LOCATION	OWNER	ACREAGE
Sanders Preserve	Town of Glenville	370.00
Indian Meadows Park	Town of Glenville	190.00
Various State-owned parcels along the Mohawk River/Exit 26 Bridge	State of New York	108.13
Indian Kill Nature Preserve	Schenectady County	108.00
Big Island (Isle of the Onondagas)	State of New York	69.40
Maalwyck Park	Town of Glenville	57.55
Lock 9 Canal Park	State of New York	21.20
Daly's Island	State of New York	20.80
Little Island (Isle of the Senecas)	Schenectady County	14.00
<u>Alplaus Kill Natural Area</u>	Town of Glenville	11.40
Unnamed Island ("Conor Island" on some maps)	State of New York	10.00
Hemlock Hollow	Town of Glenville	9.00
Berkley Square	Town of Glenville	2.93
Indian Kill Park	Town of Glenville	1.80
Veteran's Memorial Park	Schenectady County	1.70
Freemans Bridge Boat Launch	State of New York	0.46
Green Corners School	Town of Glenville	0.10
<b>Total Open Space Acreage</b>		<b>996.47</b>
<b>Total Acreage in Town</b>		<b>31,293.32</b>
<b>Percent of Open Space</b>		<b>3.18%</b>

These publicly-owned open space parcels have also been mapped. They can be found on Map 1 of this Plan.



*Railroad bridge over the Alplaus Kill on the town-owned Alplaus Kill Natural Area property*

As noted in Table 1, ownership of these open space properties rests with the Town of Glenville, Schenectady County or New York State. The breakdown of ownership is as follows:

<b><u>Owner</u></b>	<b><u>Acreage</u></b>
Town of Glenville	642.78 (64.5%)
New York State	229.99 (23.1%)
<u>Schenectady County</u>	<u>123.7</u> (12.4%)
Total	996.47

One question that always surfaces whenever an open space plan is under consideration is *how much publicly-owned open space is enough?* As noted in Table 1, Glenville has 996 acres of publicly-owned land that qualifies as open space, or 3.18% of the total land area of Glenville. Is this too much, too little, or just right? Does it really matter?

Some organizations and publications suggest 5% as a target for publicly-owned open space, while others go as high as 10% to 20%. But there is no “standard” or widely-

accepted threshold. Nor should there be. There are more important factors that need to be considered as a municipality ponders its open space goals.

For instance, accessibility and visibility are two qualities that increase the “value” of open space, particularly if the open space is publicly-owned and meant to be used by the community’s citizens. A 20-acre wooded parcel tucked behind a subdivision, while beneficial, probably wouldn’t carry the same public value as a 5-acre “square” within a residential neighborhood or even a 3-acre parcel along the Mohawk River with good access from a public road.

Similarly, location relative to the population is another important quality for publicly-owned open spaces, especially those that are used for recreation purposes. Indian Meadows enjoys a great deal of use in large part because of the recreational facilities and ball fields that it offers but also because of its location in the middle of the suburban eastern portion of Glenville. If a similar facility were to be established on Green Corners Road or in any other rural western Glenville setting, far fewer people would take advantage of the park.



*New playground equipment at Indian Meadows Park*

Another highly desirable quality for publicly-owned open space is access to water, be it a river like the Mohawk, a small fishing stream or a pond. Water in all its forms is a draw. All other things being equal, a five-acre property along the Alplaus Kill is going to be viewed as more desirable by the public than a five-acre property without access to any water body.

Ecological value is yet another factor that needs to be considered when a community contemplates open space preservation. Wetland complexes, aquifer recharge zones, headwaters of streams and wildlife habitats are all widely-viewed as being worthy of

preservation. There likely would be greater benefit to permanently preserving a 20-acre pond/wetland complex than a 50-acre former Christmas tree farm.

While this discussion could be carried further, the point is that it is fairly meaningless to target a certain percentage of a municipality for open space preservation. Whether the figure is 3% or 20%, this number would be artificial. Proper stewardship of open space dictates that a community consider the *quality* of open space rather than the *quantity*, in most cases.

In terms of the character of the existing publicly-owned open spaces in Glenville, they cover a spectrum of uses including undisturbed islands in the Mohawk River, traditional day use municipal parks, an extensive riverside soccer complex, a one room school house, and Mohawk River boat and canoe launch facilities. The largest parcel (the Town's Sanders Preserve) and the County-owned Indian Kill Nature Preserve are very similar properties; both heavily wooded, hilly preserves with hiking trails and streams traversing the properties. These two preserves comprise 478 acres, which amounts to almost ½ of the total publicly-owned open space acreage in Glenville. Perhaps the key notable difference between these two preserves, aside from ownership, is that hunting is allowed in Sanders Preserve (by permit) while it is not allowed within the Indian Kill Nature Preserve.

As for usage, Indian Meadows Town Park, Maalwyck Park, the Indian Kill Nature Preserve, Lock 9 Canal Park, the Freemans Bridge Boat Launch, Sanders Preserve and Berkley Square are all popular destinations. The various New York State Canal Corps properties and the four undeveloped islands within the Mohawk River see little usage, primarily due to limited access and the fact that there are no recreation facilities on these parcels. Yet these properties have value as open space, offering aesthetic buffers along the Mohawk River and protection of wetlands and wildlife habitats.

The distribution of publicly-owned open space properties in Glenville is relatively good. As illustrated on Map 1, publicly-owned properties can be found throughout the Town. The rural western portion of Glenville is well-served by both Sanders Preserve and Lock 9 Canal Park, with the Green Corners School property, albeit quite small, constituting a unique amenity.





*The Green Corners School on Potter Road*

The more heavily developed eastern portion of Glenville also includes two of our larger properties; Indian Meadows Town Park and the Indian Kill Nature Preserve. The popular Berkley Square neighborhood park parcel is also found in the suburbanized portion of town.

The Mohawk River abuts 10 distinct open space properties throughout Glenville. Maalwyck Park and Lock 9 Canal Park are the most notable in terms of size and usage, with the recently rebuilt Freemans Bridge Road Boat Launch, although less than ½ acre in size, attracting large numbers of fishermen and boaters from late spring to mid-fall. The remaining riverfront properties are either undeveloped publicly-owned islands or New York State Canal Corps parcels.

## **Environmental Features** *(Map 2, page 25)*

***(MAP UNAVAILABLE ON WEB VERSION)***

Having examined the publicly-owned open space properties within the Town of Glenville, the next logical step was to assess the Town's natural resources and environmentally-sensitive lands. These types of features are typically maintained as open space due to regulatory or physical restrictions for development (i.e. wetlands, flood plains, steep slopes, etc.) or because the nature of the land use (agricultural or forest management) lends itself to the maintenance of open space.

Map 2 of this Plan (Environmental Features) details the location and extent of various features such as wellhead protection zones, primary recharge zones, streams and ponds, slopes in excess of 15%, wetlands, flood plains, farms, and Hoffman's Fault, to name a few. Cemeteries and school properties are also identified on the map, since these institutional land uses are typically regarded as open space features.

The Environmental Features map is really a companion to the Publicly-Owned Open Space map. The Publicly-Owned Open Space Map identifies those properties that are more or less permanently preserved as open space since they are owned by a governmental entity, while the Environmental Features map illustrates much of the privately-owned open space. Not surprisingly, certain natural resources/environmental features intersect with publicly-owned lands, as is evident in Sanders Preserve where steep slopes are common, in Indian Meadows Park where a large wetland leaves a horseshoe imprint in the southern third of the Park and within the Indian Kill Nature Preserve where flood plains, steep slopes and wetlands can all be found.



*The Van Vorst Farm*

In contemplating the “big picture” theme of the Environmental Features map, it is clear that Glenville is home to an abundance of natural resources and environmental features, and perhaps more agricultural land than most people would suspect. It is also evident that natural resources/environmental features are not confined to the rural western portion of Glenville. While it is true that the majority of steep slopes are found in the hillier western half of Glenville, there is no shortage of wetlands, flood plains, agricultural land and institutional open space in the suburban eastern portion of the Town.

Arguably the two most important environmental features in Glenville are the well fields for the Town of Glenville and Village of Scotia. The Town’s well field is located northwest of the Village of Scotia, off of Van Buren Road and along the Mohawk River. The Village of Scotia’s well field is also located within the Town, about 1 ½ miles east of the Town’s well field, off of Vley Road (see page 24).

Each well field actually consists of two different zones; the wellhead protection zone and the primary recharge zone. Both of these zones of the Schenectady/Great Flats Aquifer are vulnerable to contamination given the high permeability of the gravelly soils that comprise the aquifer. And while the “outlying” general recharge zones of the aquifer (not shown on the map) are also susceptible to contamination, the proximity of the wellhead protection zone and primary recharge zone to the actual municipal wells means that any contamination that occurs within these two zones could very well pollute the Town’s and/or Village’s water supply.

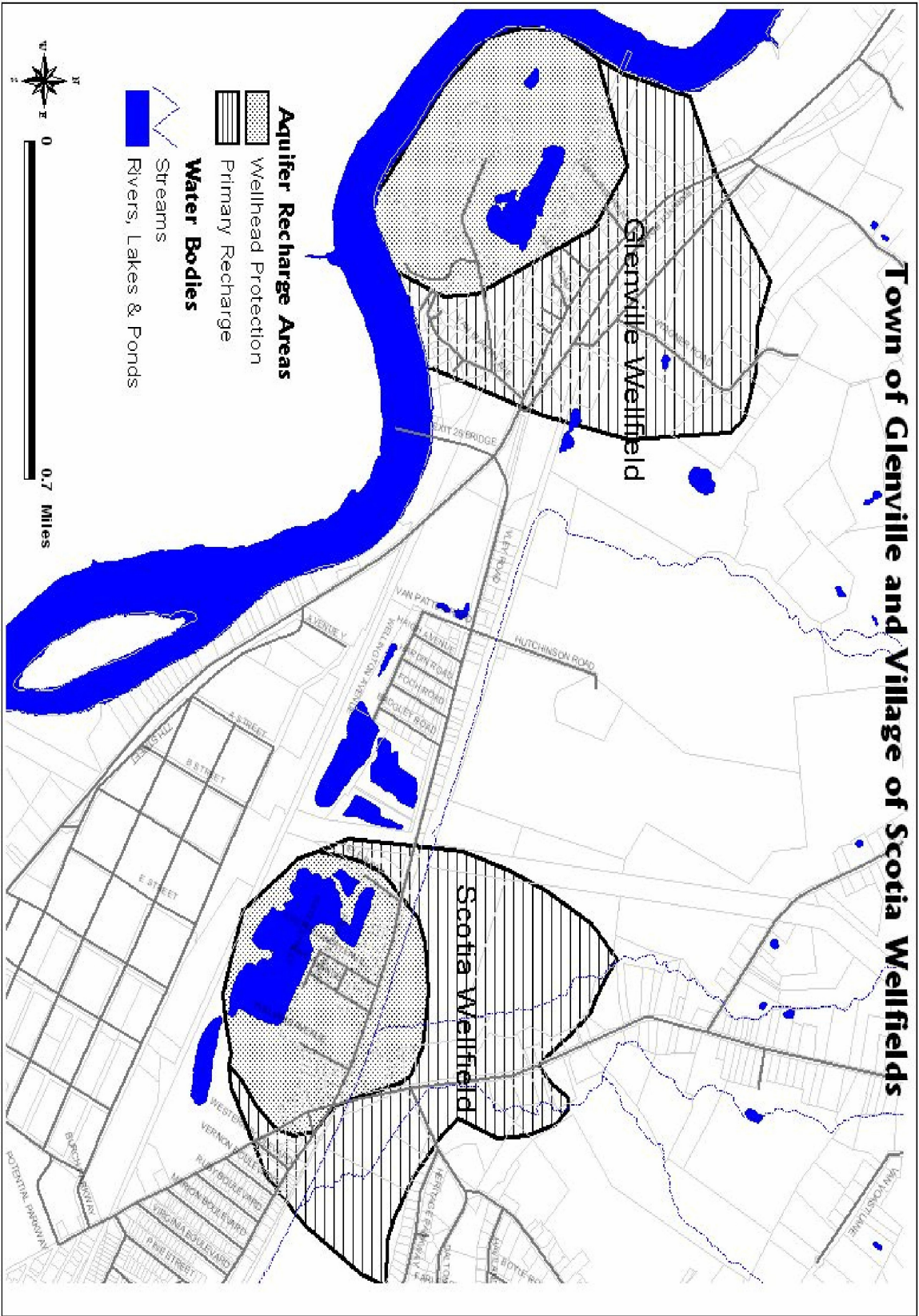
As one would expect, flood plains are found in abundance along the Mohawk River. The Alplaus Kill is also characterized by a considerable amount of flood plain. The Indian Kill, a tributary to the Alplaus Kill, has a companion flood plain, though much of it is confined to the Indian Kill Nature Preserve. Even smaller streams such as the Kromme Kill and Horstman Creek are accompanied in stretches by a surprisingly wide flood plain.

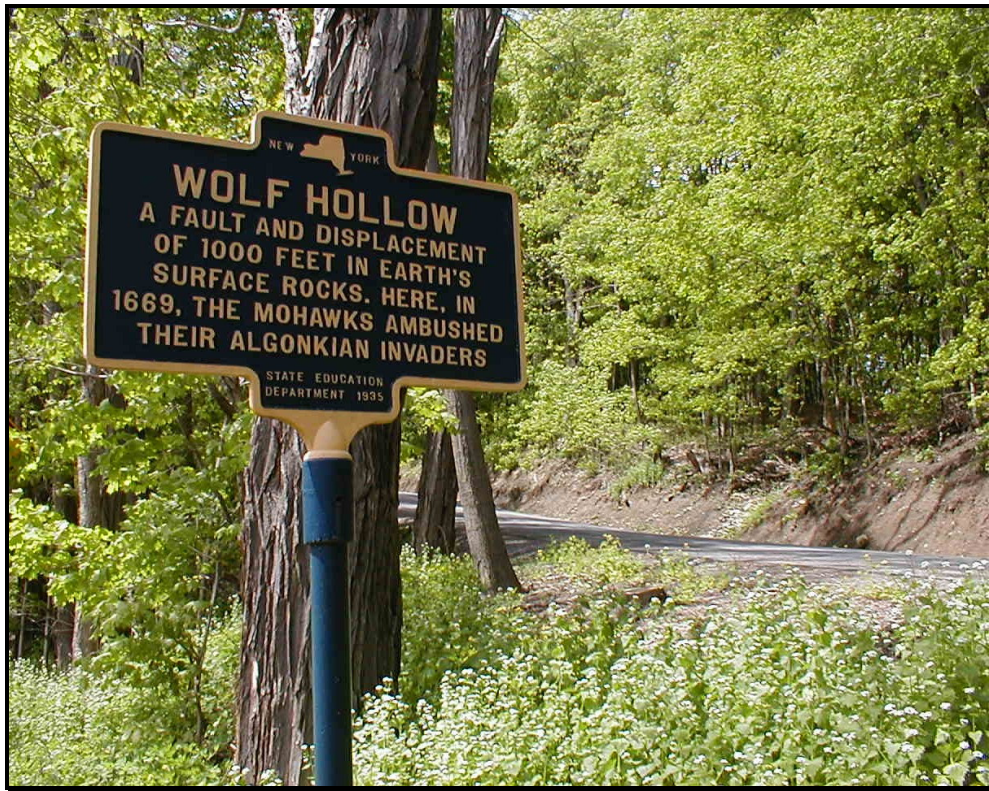
New York State-regulated freshwater wetlands can be found throughout most areas of Glenville, particularly along streams and in low-lying flat areas. You won't find wetlands in steeper areas of town, particularly in the southward facing slopes above the Mohawk River because the topography doesn't allow for large, flat areas where surface water can pool.

Hoffman's Fault, oriented more or less north/south, cuts through the western portion of town. The fault exhibits a prominent outcrop of limestone and dolomite. The land east of Hoffman's Fault is said to have subsided over 1,000 feet when the fault gave way millennia ago. The fault also gives rise to the most prominent geological feature in Glenville – Wolf Hollow Gorge. Here one can find a considerable stretch of 100+ foot sheer cliffs, unique vegetation and an ancient path that accommodated migrations of the Algonkian Indian tribe. Wolf Hollow is also the site of a battle in 1669 between the Algonkians and Mohawks.









*Wolf Hollow Historic Marker*

## **Natural, Scenic and Historic Features** (*Map 3, page 32*) **(MAP UNAVAILABLE ON WEB VERSION)**

The Town of Glenville has a very interesting history that in no small way was shaped by the presence of the Mohawk River. If one were to thumb through “The Van Epps Papers: On the History of the Town of Glenville,” by the Town’s first historian, Percy Van Epps, it would be difficult *not* to appreciate the Town’s colorful past.

Glenville was incorporated as a town in 1821. However, settlement within the area now known as Glenville goes back much further, before the Colonial period and long before 1665 when Alexander Lindsey (more commonly known as Alexander Lindsey Glen) became the first white man to settle in Glenville when he built his home along the north side of the Mohawk River in what is now the Village of Scotia.

As noted in the Van Epps Papers, it has been estimated that the Mohawk Indians settled in the Mohawk Valley, and quite likely in the area that became Glenville, at some point between 1560 and 1580. The Algonkian people were here long before the Mohawks. Prior to the Algonkians there is evidence of prehistoric peoples having been in the Mohawk Valley as far back as shortly after the retreat of the last ice sheet, approximately 10,000 years ago.



In addition to being home to a number of historic structures and archeological sites, Glenville has no shortage of natural and historic resources. Wolf Hollow comes to mind, of course, as well as various waterfalls along both the Alplaus Kill and Indian Kill. Perhaps the most notable of these is Buttermilk Falls on the Alplaus Kill, located behind the Mill Stone Speakeasy (formerly the Kristel Inn) on Route 50.



*Buttermilk Falls on the Alplaus Kill (behind the Mill Stone Speakeasy on Route 50)*

Various locations in western Glenville afford sweeping views, many of the Mohawk River and Valley, some north towards the foothills of the Adirondacks and the mountains of southern Vermont, and others of settled areas such as Scotia and Schenectady. Pleasant vistas of farms, streams, gorges and ponds are plentiful in Glenville, as are views of rolling hills and valleys made possible by the contrast in elevation between the Mohawk River and eastern Glenville and the hills of West Glenville.

This discussion leads us to a look at Map 3, “Natural, Scenic and Historic Features.” The features labeled on this map were identified and hand-drawn on a map by noted local naturalist Vincent Schaefer in 1983. The map shows the general locations of 50 prehistoric, historic, geologic and scenic items that dot Glenville’s landscape. A brief description of these 50 features follows.



**Table 2: Items Identified on the Natural, Scenic and Historic Features Map**

1	VanderVeer Homestead: Home of Clarence VanderVeer, farmer, historian, quartz crystal expert, inventor, clock and music box repairman.
2	Glacial Straie: In the field opposite the VanderVeer Homestead are areas of surface rock bearing glacial strata.
3	The Green Corners School: A fine example of the “Little Red Schoolhouse” – this one room school of brick construction is located near the junction of Touareuna, Green Corners and Potter Roads. It has been restored to its original condition by the VanderVeers.
4	Quartz Crystals: Along the fault scarp which extends northeasterly from Wolf Hollow toward Galway, quartz crystal can sometimes be found in the vicinity of the limestone outcrops.
5	Karst Structure: On the east side of Wolf Hollow Extension Road north of its crossing of West Glenville Road is a circular depression. This is probably a limestone sink hole. Years ago the bottom drainage was plugged and a small pond formed. Later it drained. In the spring its slopes are covered with white trillium.
6	Prehistoric Indian Site: On the north side of the road from Wolf Hollow to West Glenville is a large abandoned gravel bank. When this was being mined a very interesting ancient campsite was uncovered, said to have produced ground slate artifacts which relates to the Laurentian Culture 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.
7	Van Epps Farm: The farm of Percy Van Epps for many years Town Historian for Glenville; farmer, musician, archeologist and philosopher.
8	Shale Breccia: A shale quarry in a field on the west side of the road emerging from Wolf Hollow is noted for a shaly rock which breaks into very small pieces when quarried. This is due apparently to the immediate proximity of the Hoffman Ferry or Wolf Hollow Fault. The dragged rock is shattered and crushed in the shear zone.
9	Wolf Hollow (Ancient Indian Trail): The deep hollow was the route of an ancient Indian Trail to New England via the Hudson and Hoosick (Hoosac) Valleys. This is also the site of a 1669 battle between the Mohawks and Algonkians.
10	Old Fort: Near the top of the west slope not far from the “coal mine” location is a fairly deep “ditch” which seems to have been formed by a large block of stone which tipped toward the east thus producing a depression which local people called a fort.
11	Wolf Hollow (“Coal Mine”): Near the place where the Chaughtanoonda Creek crosses under the Wolf Hollow Road is a horizontal downward sloping hole which was a “mine” that was thought to produce coal. Unfortunately, it is likely that the hole was “salted” with actual coal encouraging the miner to continue digging.
12	Wolf Hollow (Geologic Uniqueness): A deep, narrow ravine produced by a massive displacement of rock strata with the Amsterdam Limestone on the west and Schenectady Shale and Sandstone on the east.
13	View of Mohawk Valley: One of the finest views of the Mohawk Valley toward Schenectady from the Van Epps Farm. This was a favorite ski area at one time, compliments of the Schenectady Wintersports Club.

14	Johnny's Spring (John Van Epps): A very cold spring which is located at the base of a limestone cliff. It is under a cluster of Hemlock where the Wolf Hollow Road makes a right angle bend at the south of the Hollow.
15	Fault Drag: When a large rock displacement occurs, the strata on one side is dragged upward (or downward). The drag of the Hoffmans fault can be seen at the bend of the road near Johnny's Spring (south end of Hollow).
16	Chaughtanoonda Creek: The lower reaches of this stream are quite beautiful but on private farms.
17	On the Joel Swart Farm near the Chaughtanoonda Creek downstream of Wolf Hollow were a group of ancient Indian cornpits.
18	Prehistoric Indian Site: On the Swart farm, collection of Indian artifacts assembled by John Swart.
19	The Kinaquariones: The limestone knob which marks the place where the Wolf Hollow Fault crosses the Mohawk River has been called the Kinaquariones. Some believe that its definition (apparently a Mohawk word) was "the rock that marks the boundary of the Mohawk country." Support for this interpretation is found in the fact that all Mohawk villages or "castles" are up-river from this location.
20	Prehistoric Burying Ground: Between Routes 5 and the old New York Central Railroad, a very unusual prehistoric Indian burial site was uncovered of a culture similar to the mound builders of Ohio.
21	Touareuna Hill/Glenville: On the northerly end of Waters Road is a spectacular view of the southern Adirondacks.
22	Touareuna Hill: Several roads climb Touareuna Hill which is the dominant hill on the north side of the Mohawk between the Verf Kill and Hoffmans Ferry. Waters Road has excellent views of the Mohawk Valley and the Sand Sea (Zandrige) Kill at Pattersonville.
23	Verf Kill: (Tequatseru) [wooden spoon] A Mohawk River tributary, the Verf Kill carves a deep ravine running southerly between Waters and Johnson Roads. The Mohawk Indians called this stream "Tequatseru" or "place of the wooden spoon." The Dutch then renamed it "Verf Kill" meaning "color creek" for a yellowish mineral deposit along its banks, purportedly used by the Mohawks for paint.
24	Verf Kill Falls: The Verf Kill is a small stream draining the southern slope of Touareauna Hill. It has cut into the Schenectady Shales and Sandstones and in some areas produces waterfalls. Such a falls was the site of an early home occupied by a Vedder descended from the pioneer Harman Albertse Vedder.
25	Vedder Tavern: This interesting old historic building has a fascinating history which unfortunately has many gaps in it. Unfortunately its interesting brick patterns are hidden by a stucco coating. A brick foundation at this site has a date of 1676. The fabrication of roof timbers is quite similar to the Mabie House in Rotterdam Junction across the river. Dewitt Clinton stayed here on his return from the initial inspection of the Erie Canal.
26	Triangle Flat: A triangular piece of ground below the Vedder Tavern and up river from the mouth to the Verf Kill (Tequatseru) [wooden spoon] which has yielded many prehistoric Indian artifacts representing a wide variety of cultures.

27	Chalybeate Spring: Along the lower run of the Verf Kill south of Route 5 and on the west side of the stream is a spring which deposits a yellowish clay-like residue called ocher. It was used as a paint by the prehistoric and historic Indians of the Mohawk Valley.
28	The Swart home built in the late eighteenth century and probably used at one time as a tavern.
29	Gravel Bank: A typical deposit of glacial gravel such as extends along the Mohawk River. Much of the gravel has been carried southward from the Adirondack Mountains. Thus the pebbles and boulders consist of granite, gneiss, crystalline limestone, anorthosite and Potsdam sandstone. Greywacke, shale and sandstone from the Mohawk tributaries can also be found.
30	Block House: The foundation and hearth of a historic structure thought to have been a blockhouse for monitoring river traffic during the Revolution. Musket balls, colonial crockery and similar artifacts were found when the river cut into the high bank a short distance south of the B&M Railroad trestle and opposite Schenectady International.
31	Glenville portion of the Aquifer: Water wells sunk into the gravel deposits along the Mohawk River by the Town of Glenville are similar to those on the south side of the river. They tap the delta of the Iromohawk River which drained the Great Lakes region when the St. Lawrence River was blocked with glacial ice. The delta formed in the western edge of the former Lake Albany.
32	Site of prehistoric Indian village, likely destroyed by gravel mining.
33	The Bent Site: An important prehistoric Indian Village excavated by the New York State Museum with the help of members of the Van Epps – Hartley Chapter of the New York State Archeological Association. Fine effigy pestles and bannerstones found.
34	View of Schenectady: A fine view of Schenectady City. The Mohawk Hudson Plain and the Taconics are visible from this area.
35	Site of old G.E. Laboratory: The historically famous Sacandaga Road experimental laboratory where many pioneering experiments were conducted with light and radio waves. Early nuclear experiments were purportedly conducted there, as well.
36	Cache Mound: A low mound of earth on the edge of a farm field. The mound is probably of natural origin. Indian artifacts consisting of large blades of the type frequently reworked into smaller arrowheads, scrapers and knives have been found here.
37	Mohawk Conglomerate: Along the Mohawk River on the north side, a large deposit of sand and gravel is exposed in a bank that is about 50 feet high. At several locations the gravel has been cemented by a natural deposit of calcium carbonate. A number of springs emerge from the gravel in the vicinity of the conglomerate.
38	Upper Mohawk Aquifer: A cross section of sand and gravel – often cemented to form Mohawk Conglomerate is exposed on the north side of the Mohawk. Famous General Electric Company scientist Charles Steinmetz had his river camp near the outcrop – down river.

39	Hackberry Slope: One of the rare trees in the Mohawk Valley is the Hackberry ( <i>Celtus occidentalis</i> ). Only a few isolated trees can be found throughout the valley area with one exception. On the wooded slope along Route 5, south of the Navy Depot are many hackberry trees – dozens of them ranging in size from inches to feet in diameter. Why this is so is not known. These trees should be protected.
40	Lock 8 Prehistoric Village Site: West of the road crossing the flats between Route 5 (Amsterdam Road) and Lock 8 is a large field which for many years has been planted in corn. Scattered across this field are a number of prehistoric Indian campsites.
41	Buried Village: On the north side of the Mohawk River several hundred yards downstream of Lock 8 was a prehistoric Indian village site. Flood waters cut into the bank of the river exposing fire hearths six to eight feet underground.
42	A series of small prehistoric camp sites on the Flats adjacent to the Mohawk River. Now mostly destroyed by housing development.
43	Location of the Glen Sanders Mansion (1713), one of the best preserved of the old houses along the Mohawk River.
44	Small prehistoric Indian campsite adjacent to the Indian Kill upstream of Route 50.
45	Indian Kill Falls.
46	Site of small Indian (prehistoric) campsite.
47	Site of the large Grist Mill located on the spur of land adjacent to Buttermilk Falls on the Alplaus Kill. This was in operation until the mid 1920's. It is now marked by a depression on the lawn behind the Mill Stone Speakeasy on Route 50.
48	Buttermilk Falls: This is a highest waterfall on the Alplaus Kill. Located behind the Mill Stone Speakeasy, it has been (in the past) the site of Grist and Saw Mills. Both a saw mill and a grist mill were in operation in the 1920's. There was a mill dam a short distance above the falls north of the Route 50 Highway Bridge for the saw mill.
49	Site of small prehistoric Indian Campsite near the B&M Railroad.
50	An extensive prehistoric village site was located on the slope west of the mouth of the Alplaus Kill (Eel Place).

This map and the descriptions that accompany the map are 25 years old, and would benefit from more precise locations, greater narrative detail and verification of the sites' conditions and locations, and whether or not they still exist. Unfortunately, Mr. Schaefer is no longer with us to assist with this task. The good news is that Mr. Schaefer's son, James, *is* available and has already helped the Open Space Committee by bringing this map to our attention and by filling in some of the gaps. Soon to be added to the map are the various historic homes and structures in Glenville, currently being inventoried by Town Historian Joan Szablewski. With James Schaefer's help, and with assistance from other knowledgeable local historians and naturalists, the Town will continue to expand on this map and the accompanying feature descriptions.



## **Open Space Areas (Map 4, page 35)**

**(MAP UNAVAILABLE ON WEB VERSION)**

Map 4, entitled “Open Space Areas,” looks very similar to Map 2, “Environmental Features.” That’s because Map 4 builds off of Map 2 by taking high concentrations of environmental features and natural resources and grouping them into what we are calling “open space areas.”

The open space areas have been identified as follows:

Hoffman’s Fault – Discussed previously in the Plan, Hoffman’s Fault is a unique geologic feature that has given rise to the historic, botanic and geologically-interesting Wolf Hollow Gorge. A very narrow landform, Hoffman’s Fault can either stand alone as an open space area or be combined with the adjacent West Glenville open space area.

West Glenville – This pastoral landscape is characterized by a mixture of active farms, hilly terrain, ponds and scenic views. The hamlet of West Glenville is the well-defined cultural center of this region of town.

Sanders Preserve – The centerpiece of this open space area is the 370-acre, Town-owned Sanders Preserve. Steep slopes, streams and gorges both surround and cut through the Preserve.

Aquifer Protection Zone – There are actually two aquifer protection zones; one defines the wellhead protection area and primary recharge zone of the Town of Glenville’s well field while the other identifies the Village of Scotia’s well field and surrounding area. Arguably the most important natural resource within the Town, the aquifer protection zones warrant special attention in terms of open space preservation.

Mohawk River – This open space area includes the entire 14+ mile length of the Mohawk River in Glenville. This open space area includes the river itself, adjacent flood plains, certain land conservation-zoned lands and the various islands within the Mohawk River that lie within the Town of Glenville.

Indian Meadows – As with the Sanders Preserve open space area, the Indian Meadows area is anchored by a Town-owned park (Indian Meadows). This area is also characterized by a significant cluster of freshwater wetlands and the meandering path of the Indian Kill.

Van Vorst Road – The Van Vorst Road open space area exhibits a mix of active agricultural land, flood plains, streams and steep slopes. More so than any other open space area in Glenville, the Van Vorst Road area is witnessing considerable suburban sprawl as new homes and cul-de-sacs continue to pop up.

Horstman Creek – Wetlands and flood plains along Horstman Creek and the Kromme Kill dominate this open space area. Commercial projects such as the recently built Wal Mart and the soon-to-be-built Lowe’s store have and will continue to consume flood plain and agricultural land.

Indian Kill Greenway – This open space area could be incorporated into either the Indian Meadows open space area or the Alplaus Kill area since it is the Indian Kill that is the common denominator for all three areas. Yet, the Indian Kill Greenway is itself distinct due to the presence of the Indian Kill Nature Preserve and the steep slopes that envelop this stream.

Alplaus Kill – This is another open space area with an important water body defining the landscape, in this case, the Alplaus Kill. The Alplaus Kill is the Town’s largest Mohawk River tributary, and not surprisingly, flood plains and wetlands can be found along the stream course.



*Lock 9 from Lock 9 Canal Park on the Mohawk River*

The Open Space Areas map is a useful tool in that it defines regions of town where open space preservation should be a high priority. Admittedly, many of the features and natural resources identified on this map are already protected through local or state legislation. However, these very features and the open space that typically surrounds them can be compromised or even lost if development starts “chipping away” at the boundaries. Already we are seeing this occur in the West Glenville, Sanders Preserve, Van Vorst Road and Horstman Creek areas outlined above.