

Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District

There are many historic resources in the Town of Scipio, although the most significant collection of these is the Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District, located in the Hamlet of Sherwood at the crossroads of Route 34B and Sherwood Road. The Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District is a historically and architecturally significant collection of more than two dozen remarkably intact buildings and sites that is believed to be one of the very few concentrations of buildings and landscapes that so vividly tells the story of many important nineteenth century social movements.

Sherwood, like many surrounding early rural centers of population, commerce and worship, was settled in the late eighteenth century and developed under the strong influence of its many citizens who were members of the Society of Friends, or the Quaker faith. The character of the Hamlet of Sherwood, with its many historic homes, commercial block building, carriage houses and early cemetery has remained largely intact over the course of the last century. Although the bustling activity that once characterized the Hamlet has long been diminished, much of the spatial form and arrangement of structures in this historically significant early American settlement remain unchanged.

In March of 2006, ten properties in the Hamlet of Sherwood and two additional nearby properties, received the Seven to Save Designation by the Preservation League of New York State, and on February 29th of 2008, the Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District in the Hamlet of Sherwood was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District consists of 29 properties in the historic core of the hamlet, and encompasses nearly the entire Hamlet of Sherwood. The National Register listed historic district is noted for its high degree of historic integrity. Most of the homes are one-to-two story buildings of heavy-timber construction built between the 1820s and 1910, and most are vernacular interpretations of prevailing modes of their respective periods including Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic, Italianate, and Stick Style as well as eclectic blends of Victorian era styles.

The Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District is recognized for its association with numerous social reform movements. Issues related to abolitionism, the Underground Railroad, women's rights, and education are all represented within the district. Sherwood Cemetery, also located in the district, is a historic landscape, early racially integrated cemetery laid out in 1838 on land donated by Samuel Phelps. The district is believed to be one of the very few concentrations of buildings in the United States that so vividly tells the story of so many important nineteenth century social reform movements that shaped the character of New York State, and central New York in particular.

“Named after Seth Sherwood (1768-1820), the hamlet of Sherwood, New York, was settled in 1794 at the southeast corner of the 1795 Cayuga Indian Reservation. Several of the properties within the district were at one time owned by freed slaves; others by prominent abolitionists and women's rights advocates who sprang from the Society of Friends or Quaker faith. Of the 29 properties in the Sherwood Equal Rights Historic district, at least 10 are associated with African Americans and five more are related to known European American abolitionists and supporters of the Underground Railroad. Unlike people in many communities, however, Sherwood citizens retained their commitment to equal rights reform after the Civil War. About 67 percent of the town citizens were active Quakers. The Quaker philosophy undoubtedly helped shape the unique progressive outlook for Sherwood. Many Quakers settled in the Finger Lakes region of New

York State during the late 18th century. Quaker faith holds that all men and women are equal in the sight of God. Practicing their faith led these Quakers to question the inequalities of their era. Before the Civil War, North Street Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) was the source of much of the reform energy in central Cayuga County. On January 20, 1835, Quakers from North Street Meeting signed the first antislavery petition sent to Congress from Cayuga County. The Sherwood area community took an active part in the Underground Railroad. Some fugitives from slavery went to Canada while others stayed in the area surrounding the Hamlet of Sherwood.

Nationally-known reformers who came to Sherwood included:

- Susan B. Anthony (world famous woman suffragist)
- Mary and Emily Edmondson (who had escaped from slavery)
- Joseph John Gurney (English Quaker reformer)
- Slocum Howland, a leader in the American Anti-Slavery Society and a member of the Underground Railroad Network
- Harriet K. Hunt (early woman doctor)
- Abby Kelley (lecturer for the American Anti-Slavery Society)
- Rev. Anna Howard Shaw
- Sojourner Truth (born in slavery, who became a major abolitionist and woman's rights lecturer)
- Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave who won world renown for her work aiding other escaped slaves to the Northern States
- Booker T. Washington



This image (date unknown) looking east on Sherwood Road, shows the character of the old carriage roads lined with mature trees and sidewalks (Source: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>).

Like several buildings and at least one landscape in the Town of Scipio, the Slocum and Hannah Howland House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of history, for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past, and for its distinctive physical characteristics. The Slocum and Hannah Howland House is described in the National Register listing as “the center of the most significant Underground Railroad network in Cayuga County outside of Auburn.” The building, built c.1819, still stands near the center of the Hamlet of Sherwood, although it is in dire need of repairs and restoration.



The Slocum and Hannah Howland House on the north side of Sherwood Road just west of the Hamlet center, was built c.1830, May 2010.

Emily Howland, daughter of Slocum and Hannah Howland was born in Sherwood and worked tirelessly throughout her life for abolitionism, equal education, and women’s rights. Edward Pierce had Indian, European and African ancestry and built the Pierce-Holley House. Later, Thomas and James Hart came as freedom seekers from Maryland and settled in the area, with James living in Sherwood. In 1843, Herman and Hannah Phillips and their four children arrived as freedom seekers from Maryland. They settled in Sherwood and purchased a house in 1856. Philip and Mary Gaskin, also Freedom Seekers, lived nearby. The John and Genette Baker family, born in New York State, perhaps originally in slavery, lived in Sherwood from an early date. African American students boarded with the Howland family while they attended school. Both Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth stayed with the Howland family in the 1870s.

The women's rights movement was also strong in Sherwood. Four local institutions reflected women's rights ideals: the Women's Christian Temperance Union; the Sherwood Political Equality Club, the Sherwood Ramabai Circle, devoted to the Pandita Ramabai Mukti [Liberation] School for young women in Pune, India; and the Sherwood Select School, which, until its absorption into the public school system in 1926, was organized and operated entirely by women. The Sherwood Equal Rights Association, organized in 1891, was an extremely active and lasting women's suffrage group. At least three Sherwood citizens supported schools for freed people in the South during reconstruction, Slocum Howland with financial contributions and Emily Howland and Anna Searing as teachers."



The Emily Howland House just south of the center of the Hamlet of Sherwood on Route 34B, July 2010.

The building still standing on the southwest corner of the hamlet cross-roads (at right) was built c.1811 and once contained a store and the Sherwood Post Office. The building was abandoned in the 1970s and although it has suffered some deterioration, a large amount of original fabric still survives.



The Sherwood House on the northwest corner of the Hamlet crossroads was built in 1814 as a stagecoach inn and tavern. The Inn was remodelled and expanded in the 1880s at which time the Annex was built immediately to the north. A previous building had been on that same site and was used as a store and print shop but did not survive. In 1924, Isabel Howland converted the Sherwood House Inn to a hospital, and at that time the Annex was connected to the Sherwood House on the corner.



The Sherwood House, c.1814 (left) and Annex, c.1880 (right) on the northwest corner of the Hamlet of Sherwood (top photo date unknown) (Source: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>). (Bottom photo) The old Inn and Annex today, May 2010.

The Howland Cobblestone Store, on the northeast corner, was built in 1837 by Slocum Howland and used as the commercial center of his large trading network. Today, the building is a museum with one of the nations premier collections of women suffrage posters and memorabilia. It is listed on the National Register, the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, New York's Underground Railroad, and Heritage New York's Women's Trail. The William Howland Commercial Block was built in 1881-1883 and has been in continual use as a commercial center since its opening in 1883. Today the building houses an antique shop.



The William Howland Commercial Block building (left) today houses Cleaveland's Antique Store, and (right) the Howland Stone Store Museum in the Hamlet of Sherwood, May 2010.

The Mastin House, c.1832 is a vernacular Federal era dwelling and another contributing building in the Historic District facing Route 34B from the west. The Job and Deborah Otis House is located on Sherwood Road just east of the Hamlet of Sherwood and was built in 1815. The Otis House is listed individually on the national Register of Historic Places. A large cobblestone house, c1840 is at the center of the Hamlet of Merrifield or Scipio Summit at the intersection of Black and Center Roads.

Sherwood Cemetery (opposite) is a contributing site to the Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District. Located at the northern end of the historic district, the one acre community cemetery is the burial ground of many of Sherwood's most important settlers and citizens including Seth Sherwood. Established in 1838, it is one of the earliest racially integrated cemeteries in the country, with graves of war veterans and African-Americans who escaped slavery in 1843 and settled in Sherwood.

There are several cemeteries in the Town of Scipio including Babcock, Birch, Cornwell, Freeman or Devine, Eddy, Fordyce, Manchester, Scipio Center, Sherwood, Snyder, and St. Bernard's Cemetery. Town of Scipio Historian, Sandie Gilliland, has found in her research that the small Cornwell Cemetery, near the intersection of Quarry Road and Route 34 is the burial place of several Revolutionary War veterans.



The Mastin House (left) on Route 34B, and the Job and Deborah Otis House (right) on Sherwood Road in the Hamlet of Sherwood, May 2010.



Sherwood Cemetery, on Route 34B in the Hamlet of Sherwood, May 2010.



Scipio Rural Cemetery (left), established in 1861 on State Route 34 in the Hamlet of Scipio Center. (At right) One of several old rural cemeteries in the Town of Scipio. Historical records indicate that Revolutionary War soldiers were buried in some of these cemeteries.



(Left) River of Life Church on Center Road at the east edge of the Hamlet of Scipio Center. (Right) Old schoolhouse at the corner of Wyckoff and Skillet Roads.



(Left) An old Italianate style farmhouse On Center Road at the east edge of the Hamlet of Scipio Center. (Right) A large brick manor house on Wyckoff Road in the southeast section of the Town where large old maple trees still line the street in small areas.

CEMETERY LOCATIONS IN THE TOWN OF SCIPIO, NY

SCIPIO RURAL CEMETERY	# 165
ST. BERNARD'S OLD CATH. CEMETERY	# 166
ST. BERNARD'S NEW CATH. CEMETERY	# 167
BOLTS CORNERS CEMETERY	# 168
GOULD - AKIN CEMETERY	# 169
SHERWOOD OR PHELPS CEMETERY	# 170
FORDYCE FAMILY CEMETERY	# 171
CORNWELL CEMETERY	# 172
EDDY CEMETERY	# 173
MANCHESTER FAMILY CEMETERY	# 174
BABCOCK CEMETERY	# 175
DEVINE CEMETERY	# 176
BURCH CEMETERY	# 177
HOWLAND BURIAL	# 178
OLD SETTLERS CEMETERY	# 179
ABNER WARD CEMETERY	# 181
UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY	# 182
WARNER CEMETERY	# 182A

The exact locations of some Cayuga County NY cemeteries are not verified on these maps. Cemetery locations cited on this map are for use as a general reference tool only.

**Cayuga County NY
County Historian's Office
157 Genesee St., 3rd Floor
Auburn, NY 13021
(315) 253-1300
historian@co.cayuga.ny.us**

**■ = CEMETERY PARCEL
VIA TAX RECORDS**

● = APPROXIMATE
CEMETERY LOCATION

***- EXACT CEMETERY LOCATION IS NOT SHOWN ON THIS MAP-
NOTE: SOME CEMETERIES ON THIS MAP ARE ONLY CITED BY THE CEMETERY NAME AND ARE LABELED ON THE MAP IN THE GENERAL AREA WHERE THE CEMETERY MAY RESIDE.**

*** NOTE: SOME CEMETERIES ON THIS MAP ARE ONLY CITED BY THE CEMETERY NAME AND ARE LABELED ON THE MAP IN THE GENERAL AREA WHERE THE CEMETERY MAY RESIDE.**

**PREPARED BY:
CAYUGA COUNTY NY
OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY SERVICES
IN COOPERATION WITH
THE COUNTY HISTORIAN'S OFFICE**

SCALE OF MILES



0 1/4 1/2



There are several historic buildings remaining in the hamlets and along the rural roadways of the Town of Scipio. In 1925 a Sears Pineola Kit Home was built at 4367 State Route 34B near Ridge Road in Scipio. Sears kit homes, advertised in the Sears Catalog as affordable pre-cut home building materials package kits available for delivery to a site, could then be assembled by the purchaser. The 1918 Pineola model, at \$489.00 and 340 square feet of living space, did not feature a bathroom. An outhouse was recommended.

A small schoolhouse building that appears on maps as early as 1875 remains at the intersection of Wyckoff and Skillet Roads, although it may have been moved from its precise original location. Many Scipio manor houses and churches, in a variety of architectural styles dating from the nineteenth through early twentieth century remain little changed. These beautiful surviving rural buildings and landscapes, should be mapped, documented and researched for their potential historic significance. Detailed descriptions of several properties that have already been listed on the National Register within the Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District including the Slocum and Hannah Howland House and the Howland Cobblestone Store in the Hamlet, as well as individually listed National Register properties are included in Appendix E.



The three historic buildings above are located in the Hamlet of Scipio Center. At left is Scipio Community Church.



A historic home on State Route 34 in Scipio, "A Touch of Country" is currently a bed and breakfast and country store.

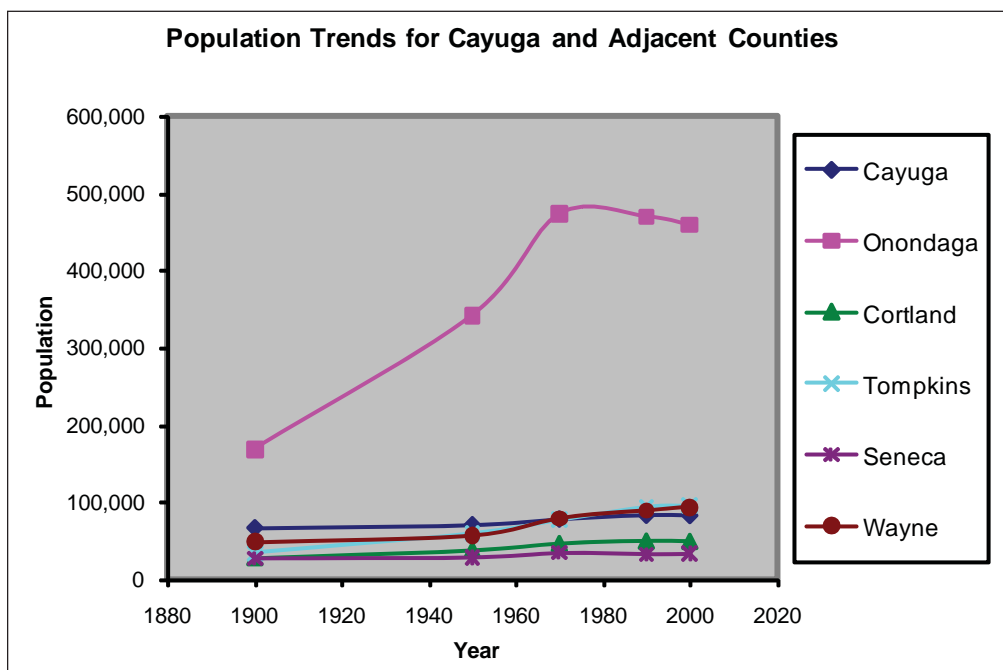


The cobblestone house at the corner of Black and Center roads in the Hamlet of Merrifield, May 2010.

Demographic Profile

Population

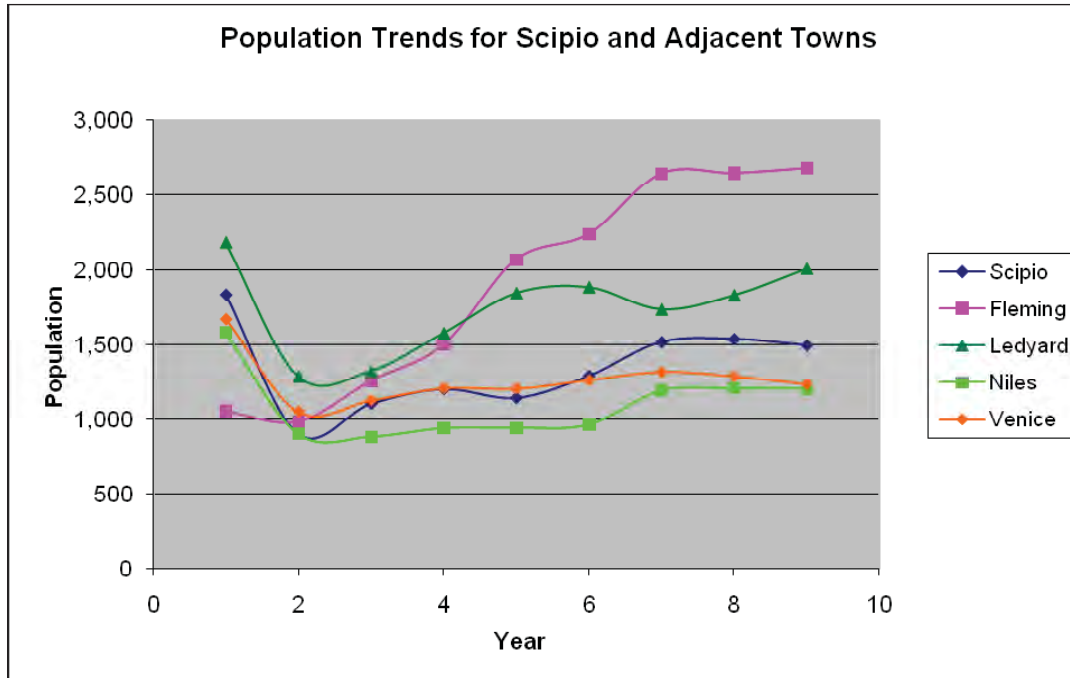
Cayuga County's total population for 2000 was 81,963. The largest proportion of this population resides within the center of the County and includes the City of Auburn with a population of 28,574, surrounded by the five towns of Sennett, Throop, Owasco, Fleming and Aurelius. Other than the City of Auburn, there are twenty-three incorporated towns in Cayuga County ranging in population from Brutus with 4,777 residents in 2000 to Sempronius with 893 residents.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

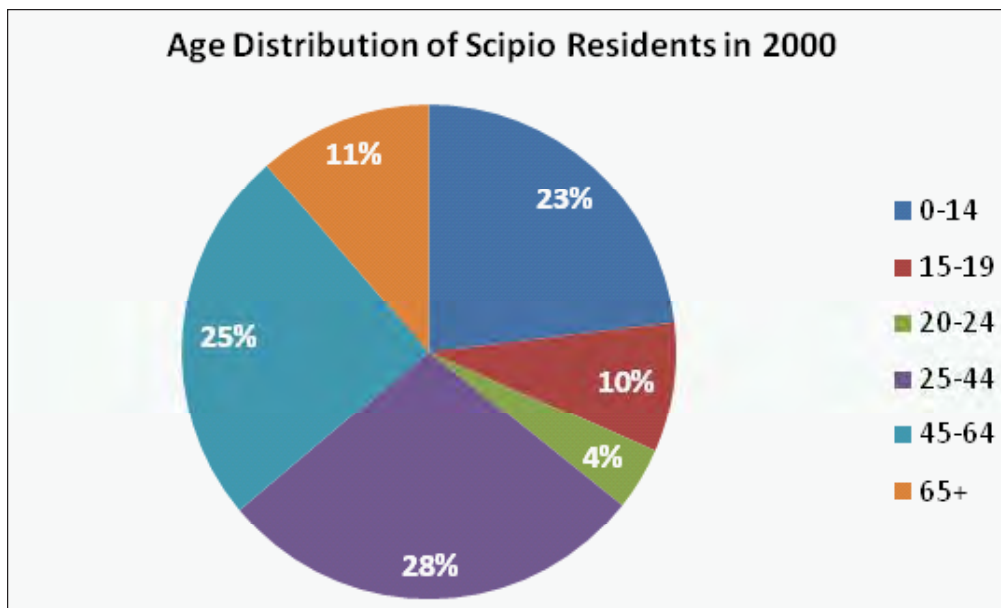
The total number of households in the County is approximately 30,558, with approximately 11,411 of those in Auburn. Although the County offers a diversity of housing choices, the majority of homes were built before 1939 and the County is well known for its wealth of 19th century architecture.

The population of the Town of Scipio was 2,702 in 1829, only 317 fewer than the population of Auburn which was 3,019 that same year. By 1900, Scipio's population was 1,836, and it reached a low of 903 residents in 1930, less than 30% of what it had been a century earlier. Between 1930 and 2000, the population of Scipio grew steadily, but dropped slightly after 2000 to reach 1,496 in 2008. A similar trend can be seen in adjacent towns in Cayuga County with the exception of Fleming and Ledyard which have both experienced modest growth in population since 2000.

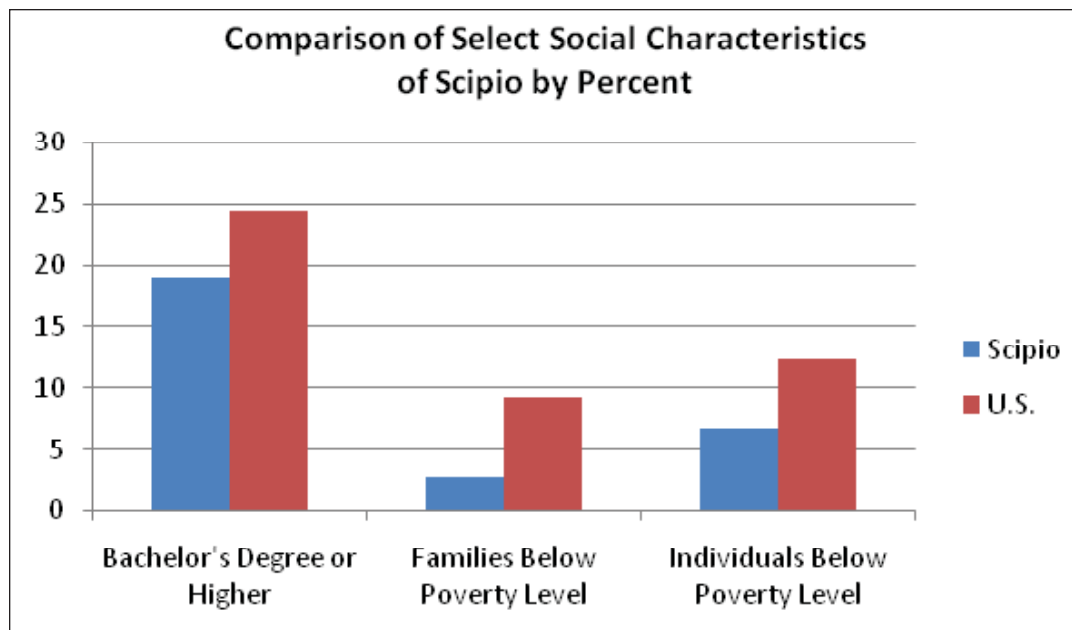


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

In 2000, 46% of Scipio residents were 45 years of age or older, and 37% were under 24 years old.



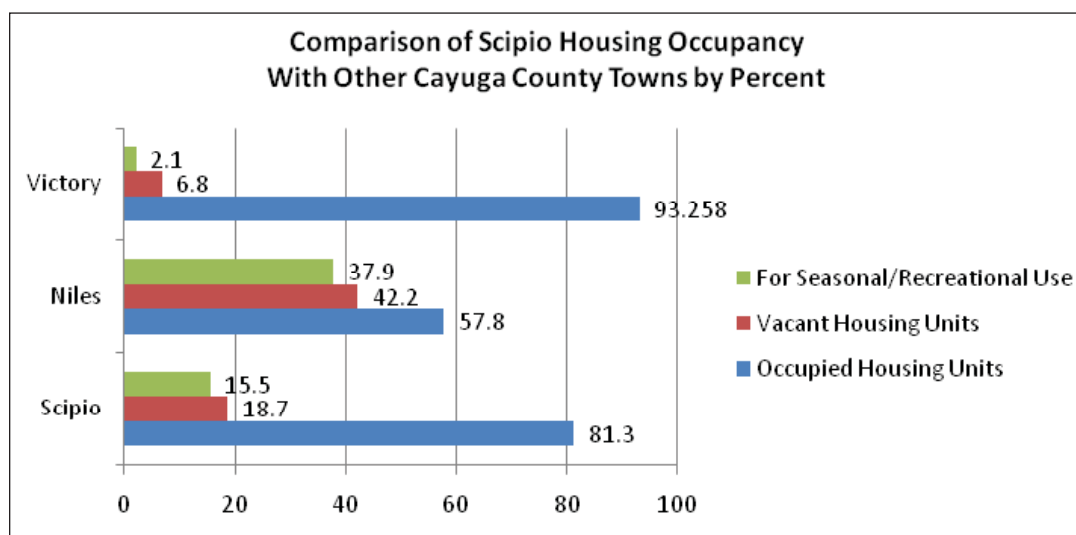
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.



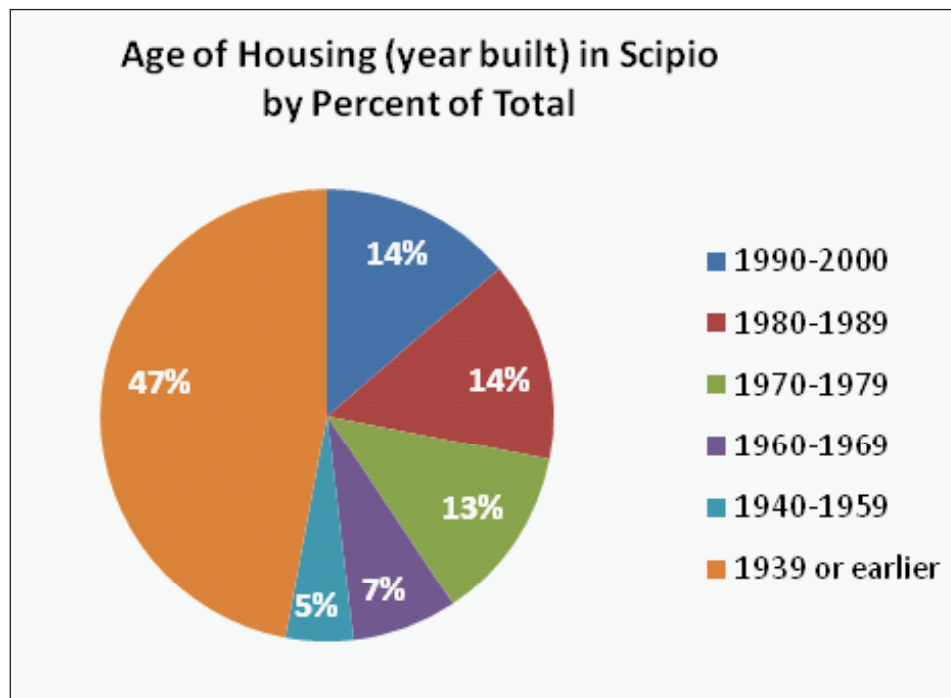
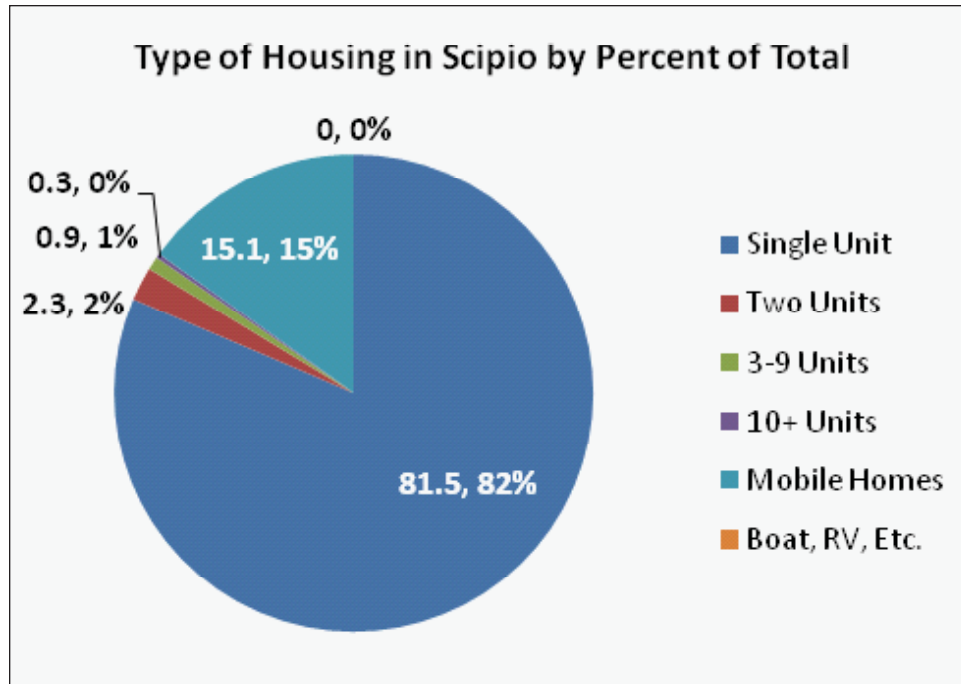
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Housing

In the Town of Scipio, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that there were 702 total housing units in 2000 up from 631 total units in 1990. Owner occupied housing represented 69% of that total in 2000. Ten residences, or 1.4% of total housing units were reportedly vacant in 2000. The median cost of housing in Scipio in 2000 was \$83,000 up from \$59,200 in 1990. Median gross monthly rent in the Town was \$544 in 2000, up from \$275 in 1990.



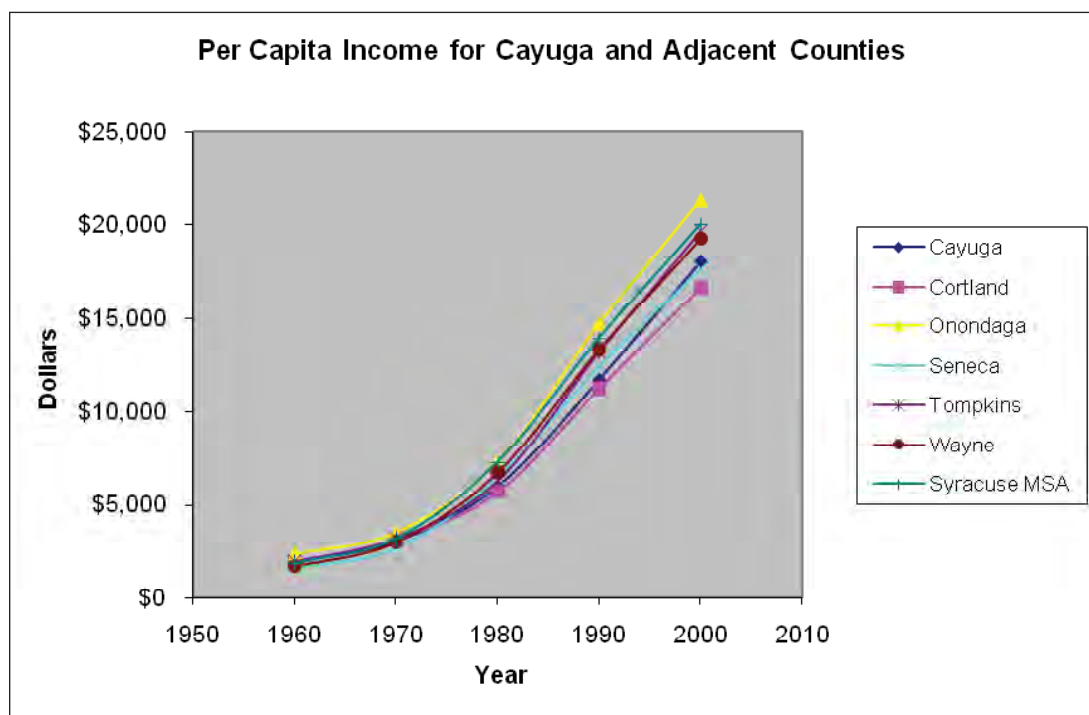
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

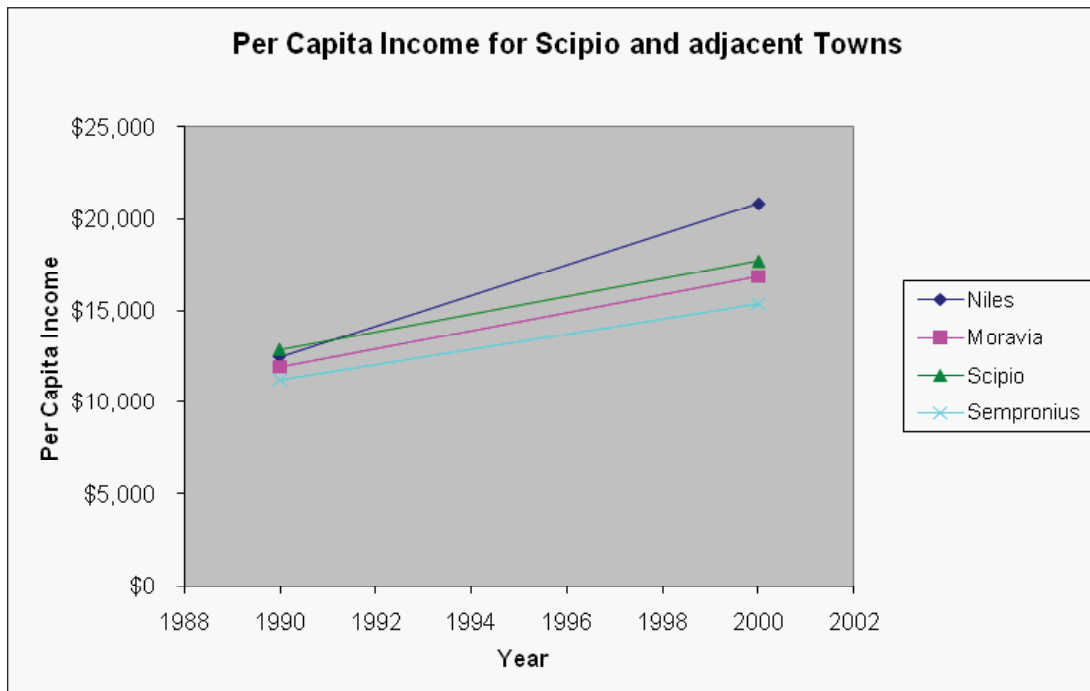
Business/Economic Base

Situated in central New York State between Syracuse and Rochester, Cayuga County's principal source of employment is manufacturing, with most of the industry located in or near the City of Auburn. Manufactured products in Cayuga County include electrical and electronic components, fiber optics, diesel engines, auto parts, glass bottles, plastic products, and high quality steel and machined products. Agriculture is also vital to the central New York economy, with Cayuga County producing some of New the State's finest live-stock, dairy products and cash crops. Cayuga County is the State's number one corn producing county and ranks fourth in New York for milk production. Agriculture generates \$125.4 million in annual income for the County. The products of agriculture in Cayuga County are led by milk and other dairy products from cows at 62%, followed by grain crops (12%), cattle and calves 8%, vegetables and fruit (6%), and nursery, greenhouse and sod (4%). Per capita income for Cayuga County in 2000 was \$18,003, up from \$11,671 in 1990.



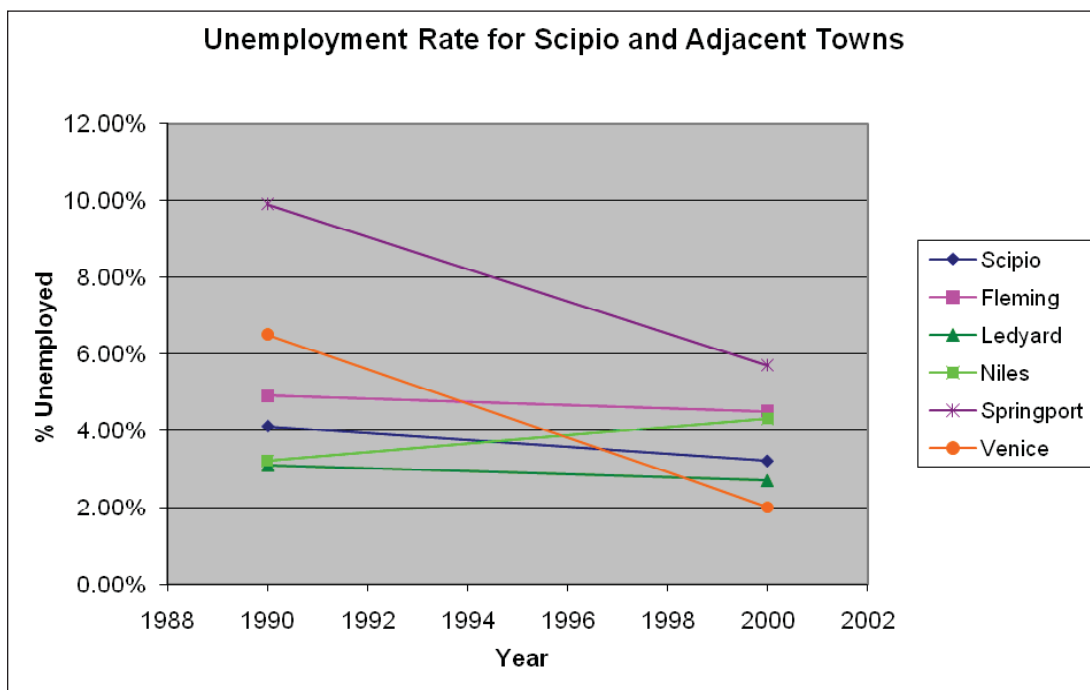
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Scipio resident occupations were reported in the 2000 census as largely management, professional, and related occupations (31%), followed by sales and office (19%), service (19%), production, transportation and material moving (16%), and construction, extraction and maintenance occupations (8%). In the Town of Scipio, with its highly productive soils and abundant water resources, the business of agriculture has remained strong in recent years. In addition to the Southern Cayuga School District, which employs many Scipio residents, local employers include large local dairy farm operations in the Town.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Although the 2010 census may show a rise in unemployment rates, unemployment in the Town of Scipio had remained low in 2000, dropping to 3.2% from 4.1% in 1990. Median family income for Scipio residents was reported at \$50,395 in 2000, up from \$31,970 in 1990.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.



In addition to the many agricultural operations in the Town of Scipio, there are a number of small businesses serving local markets, and a few that supply regional products and services. Local products include farm-grown produce, crafted stone monuments and wooden sheds. There are contracting, excavating, beauty and auto detailing services. Visitors to the Town can enjoy a stay at a bed and breakfast or attend a function at Casowasco Conference Center on the shores of Owasco Lake.

Some of the businesses currently operating in Scipio include:

Allen Farms	Dugan Farms	Sherwood Infirmary Antiques
Angeline Elevator	Empire Fence	St. John Monuments
Auker Produce Stand	Enterprise Farms	Sunset Exteriors
Carol's Beauty Shop	Green Hill Farms	Touch of Country B&B
Casowasco Conference Center	Guerette Lumber	Valley Mound Farms
Cleaveland's Antique Store	Janssen Excavating	Van Nest Taxidermy
Club 34	Juhl Contracting	Winning Finishes
Custom Controls	Quality Sheds	Woodlandview Farm
Dalton's Dippity Doo	Scipio Springs Dairy	
Detail Auto	Scipioville Garage	

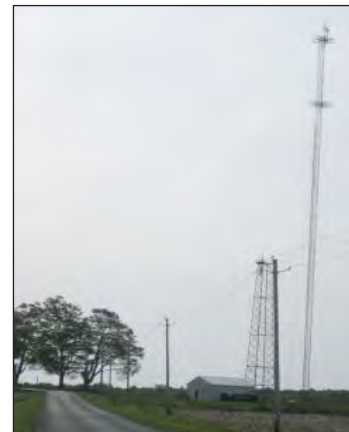
Municipal Infrastructure and Services

The Town of Scipio has two voting districts. Scipio Town government consists of an elected Town Supervisor, Town Clerk/Registrar, and Highway Superintendant serving two year terms, and an elected Town Board with five members (including the Town Supervisor) serving terms of four years. The Town Board appoints the Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer, and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Town also holds positions for a Town Justice, Tax Assessor, Town Historian, and Animal Control Officer. The Town of Scipio currently has no municipal water or sewer facilities. All developed properties have private well water and waste water disposal (septic) systems. The Town Highway Department provides plowing and paving of Town roads. The Town conducts two annual clean up days.



Utility services include NYSEG, AT&T, and Verizon. On September 8, 2008 a volunteer committee of town residents along with the town supervisor began working to bring a broader range of high-speed internet options, including broadband, to the Town of Scipio. The group is exploring a variety of options for the town, taking into consideration the availability, cost, and reliability of several technologies and exploring possible sources of grant funding to support the development of necessary infrastructure. A survey was developed to help assess the town's needs and desires concerning high speed internet and to address both individual and business needs.

Communications tower at Wyckoff and Geiger Rd. owned by GRI Telecom.



Scipio's Volunteer Fire Company on Route 34 is part of a fire district that includes two fire houses in the Town of Venice; one on Long Hill Road, and one on Poplar Ridge Road. Under this arrangement the Town of Scipio covers approximately 56% of the cost of fire protection for the District. Southern Cayuga Instant Aid, Incorporated provides ambulance service from their location at 2530 State Route 34B Poplar Ridge.

The Southern Cayuga Central School District serves the Town of Scipio in public education and includes Southern Cayuga High School, Southern Cayuga Middle School in the Town of Venice, and Emily Howland Elementary School (pre-K through 4th grade) on State Route 34B in Scipio. Peachtown Elementary School is a private school, grades K-8, located on the Wells College campus in Aurora. There are two Mennonite Schools in the area. One is located on Route 34 in Fleming, just south of the hamlet. The other is in Scipio at Center Rd. between Carter Road and Wyckoff. The Finger Lakes Mennonite School on Center Road was built in 2003 and currently has approximately 16 students and 3 teachers. Membership in the Mennonite church is not required to send children to the school, but tuition is required.

Hazard Library located at 2487 Route 34B in Poplar Ridge, and Aurora Free Library in Aurora serve the Scipio community. The Hazard Library Association received its Charter from the Regents of the University of the State of New York on June 26, 1895, and the Association is the direct descendant of the Reading Room established by William R. Hazard in 1874. Mr. Hazard donated his personal library of some 700 volumes as well as property, 16 by 20 rods, with a brick building and a hotel. The building was doubled in size in 1913 and today is shared with the Poplar Ridge Post Office. A Masonic Lodge is located on Route 34 in Scipio Center. Churches include the Finger Lakes Mennonite Church, River of Life Church, Scipio Baptist Church, Scipio Community Church, and Scipioville Presbyterian Church.

UNION SPRINGS

AUBURN

School Districts

Town of Scipio Comprehensive Plan

MAP 4

School District

- AUBURN
- MORAVIA
- SKANEATELES
- SOUTHERN CAYUGA
- UNION SPRINGS

Other

- Streams
- Roads
- Tax Parcels
- Town of Scipio
- Towns
- County

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



Data obtained from Cayuga County Planning Department and New York State Department of Education. This map was created for planning purposes only. The CNYRPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map. Please see text for full disclaimer. Map created: October 2009

Town of Fleming

Town of Niles

Owasco Lake

SOUTHERN CAYUGA

Town of Moravia

Town of Venice

Town of Ledyard

348

34

38

348

Dublin Hill Rd

Spring Street Rd

Vanliew Rd

Sloan Rd

Silver Street Rd

W Lake Rd

W Lake Rd

Fire Lane 26

Fire Lane 23

Fire Road 21

Duck Rd

Fire Lane 19

Shale Pt

State Route 38

Casowasco Dr

Willow Point Rd

Kennedy Rd

Mather Rd

Welch Rd

Sally Rd

Booth Rd

Geiger Rd

Burns Rd

Center Rd

Wyckoff Rd

Woodland Dr

Hunter Rd

Quarry Rd

Center Rd

Sherwood Rd

Bergerstock Rd

Black St

Cork St

Manchester Rd

Gray Rd

Levanna Rd

Goose Ln

State Route 348

Walters Rd

Mosher Rd

Great Gully Rd

Chase Rd

Fleming Scipio Town Line Rd

Longpoint on O

Fire Lane 1

Guthrie Rd

Rd

Hill Rd

Duryea St

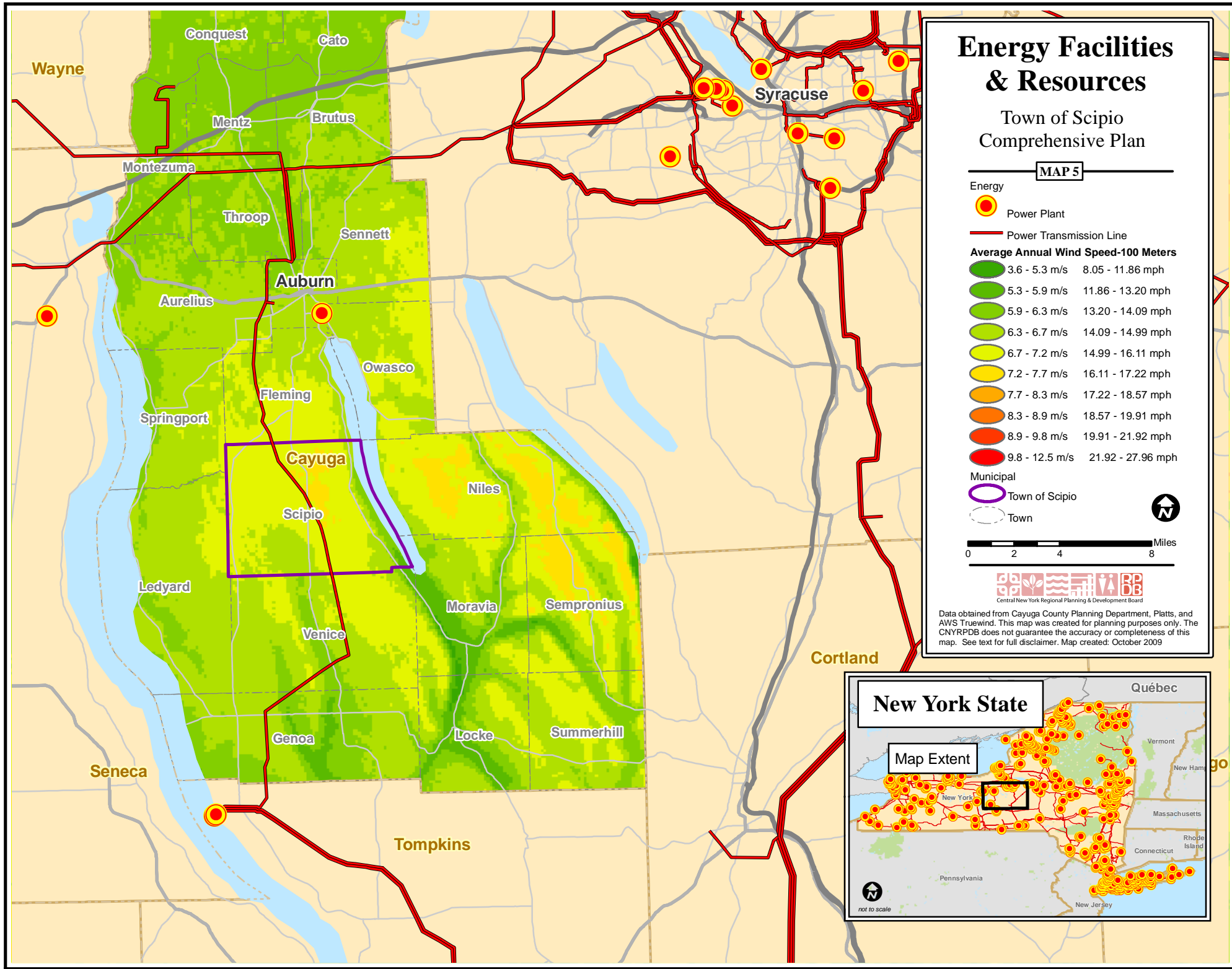
Fire Lane 29

Fire Lane 31

Indian Cove Rd

Fire Lane 3

Fire Lane 1



Energy Facilities & Resources

Town of Scipio Comprehensive Plan

MAP 5

Energy



Power Plant

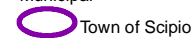


Power Transmission Line

Average Annual Wind Speed-100 Meters

3.6 - 5.3 m/s	8.05 - 11.86 mph
5.3 - 5.9 m/s	11.86 - 13.20 mph
5.9 - 6.3 m/s	13.20 - 14.09 mph
6.3 - 6.7 m/s	14.09 - 14.99 mph
6.7 - 7.2 m/s	14.99 - 16.11 mph
7.2 - 7.7 m/s	16.11 - 17.22 mph
7.7 - 8.3 m/s	17.22 - 18.57 mph
8.3 - 8.9 m/s	18.57 - 19.91 mph
8.9 - 9.8 m/s	19.91 - 21.92 mph
9.8 - 12.5 m/s	21.92 - 27.96 mph

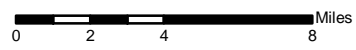
Municipal



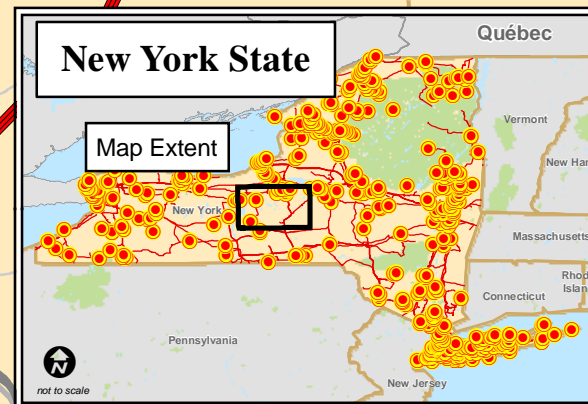
Town of Scipio



Town



Data obtained from Cayuga County Planning Department, Platts, and AWS Truewind. This map was created for planning purposes only. The CNYRPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map. See text for full disclaimer. Map created: October 2009



Land Use and Zoning

Zoning in the Town of Scipio currently consists of one zone applicable to the entire town: Agricultural/Residential (AR) with Floating Planned Development Districts allowable as Commercial Planned Development (CPD), Industrial Planned Development (IPD), or Residential Planned Development (RPD). Scipio currently has no Subdivision Regulations or Site Plan Review process. There are two commercially zoned parcels (Jay Horst/Custom Controls at 2804 Skillet Rd. and Guerrette Lumber at 3077 Center Rd.). Future land use policy in the Town should seek to address issues of community concern (see pages 123 and 124 of Appendix C). Specific land use goals and recommendations can be found on page 16 and 17 of Chapter 1.¹⁶



Natural Resources and Environment

The natural setting of the Town of Scipio, on an elevated plateau above Owasco Lake, features vast areas of open agricultural fields and rich soils through which small streams course on their way to outlets on Cauyga and Owasco Lakes. Due to its location amid the eastern Finger Lakes, the Town of Scipio has a somewhat extended growing season even though it receives heavy amounts of snow in winter that are typical of Central New York State. The unusual topography of this region results in a great diversity of landscapes and ecological types within relatively small geographical areas like the Town of Scipio. A windy ridge extends into the Town from the south accompanied by open agricultural fields and expansive views. There are also significant areas of hardwood swamp, occasional out-croppings of limestone, wooded ravines with rocky waterfalls, and a mix of rocky and sandy shoreline along Owasco Lake.

¹⁶ For more detailed information on Land Use Law in New York State, see Pace University Law School's *What is Land Use Law, A Beginner's Guide* on-line at http://web.pace.edu/page.cfm?doc_id=32327

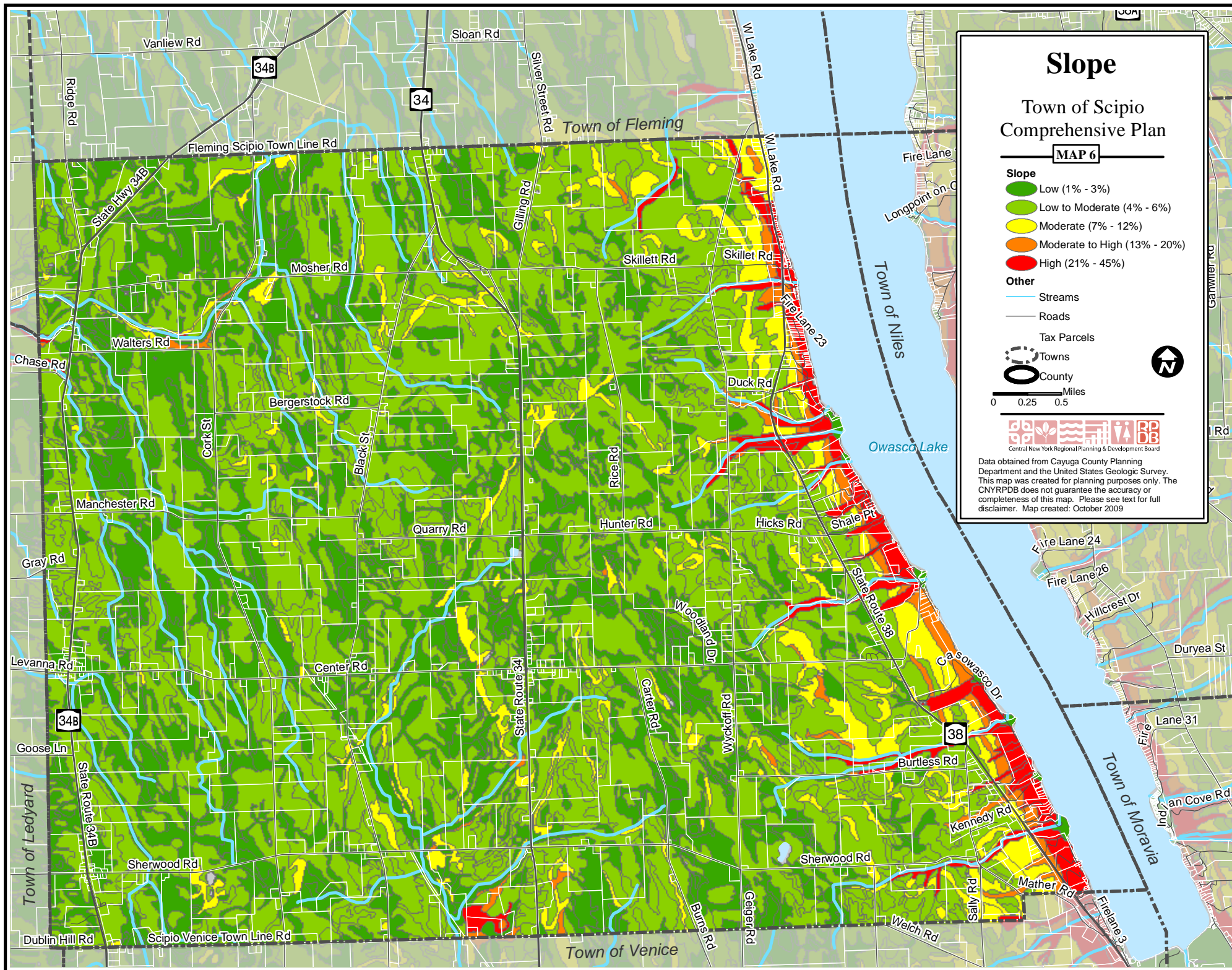
The Town of Scipio features large, open areas of nearly flat land on a broad, gently sloping plateau between Owasco and Cayuga Lakes. A gentle change in elevation of approximately 400 feet occurs over the breadth of the Town from an elevation of approximately 1300 feet in the southeastern portion to an elevation of about 900 feet in the northwest. Over all the Town slopes gently to the west from an elevation of 710 feet at Owasco Lake to Cayuga Lake at an elevation of 381 feet. Areas of steep slopes exist along the eastern border of the Town along the west shore of Owasco Lake. Along this eastern edge of the Town, the elevation drops abruptly at about a 15% slope to the elevation of Owasco Lake. A series of seven or more ravines and deep gullies in the shale rocks, some forming beautiful cascades, have been cut by small streams that traverse five miles of sloping lands draining the highlands above the lake.

Forests and vegetation on the steep slopes above Owasco Lake serve as important buffers by filtering out and minimizing sediment and nutrient runoff into the lake. The quality of stormwater run-off from the many creeks and streams in the Owasco Lake Watershed is also key to maintaining the existing quality of the lake water which serves as a public water supply. Roadway pollutants and nutrient and chemical run-off from agricultural practices in combination with unchecked erosion, poorly planned land clearing, insufficient vegetated buffers (like mown lawn), have the potential to severely impact the quality of the resource. There are currently no special requirements in the Town for the preservation of these important vegetated buffer lands adjacent to the Towns streams and along the lake shore.¹⁷

¹⁷ Source: Audubon Society, <http://iba.audubon.org/iba/viewSiteProfile.do?siteId=2807&navSite=state>, and Skaneateles Highlands Conservation Planning and Stakeholder Survey Project, Finger Lakes Land Trust and CNY Regional Planning and Development Board, 2009.



Wooded and vegetated slopes above Owasco Lake, critical in protecting the quality of this important public drinking water supply. This photo was taken near Duck Road in the Town of Scipio, photo courtesy of Bill Hecht.

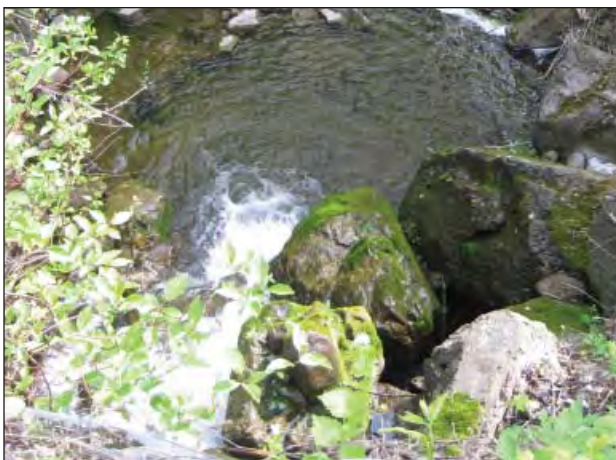
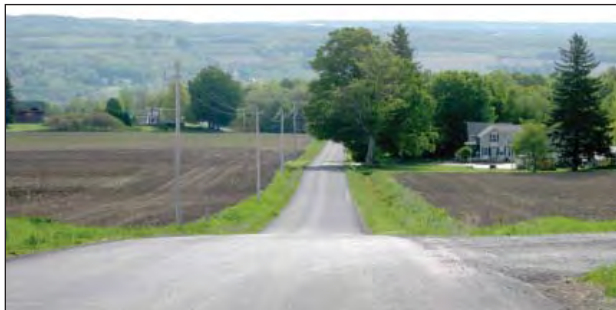
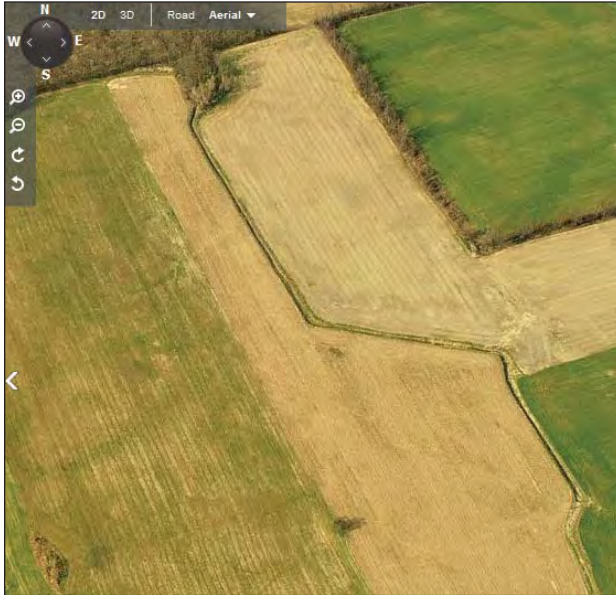


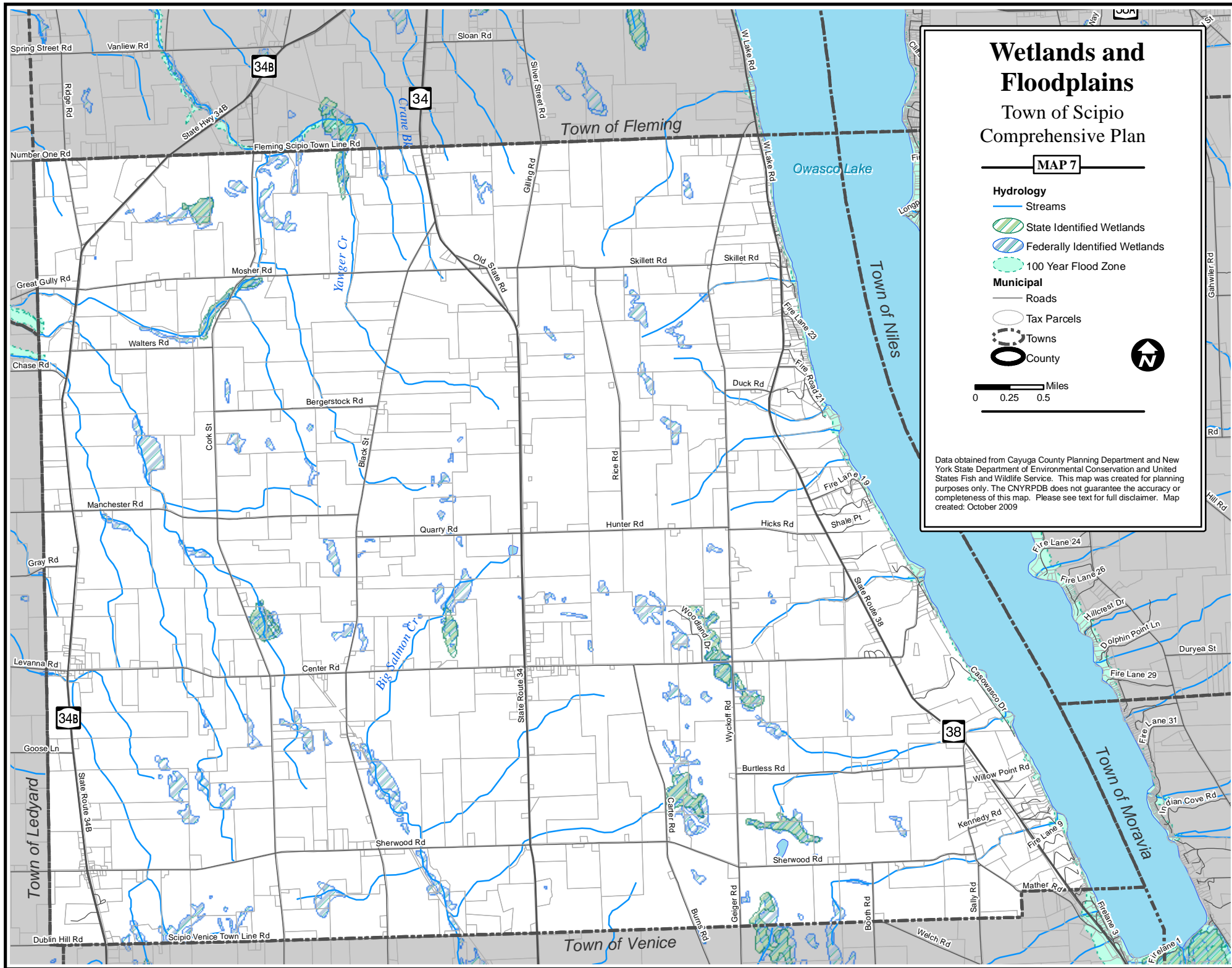


Although the Town of Scipio has very few ponds like this large one just off of Sherwood Road, it has over twenty federally and state recognized wetlands. Many of the Town's wetlands are wooded and are perched in the agricultural plateau land which is also laced with small tributary streams to Salmon Creek and Great Gully Creek, both of which feed Cayuga Lake to the west.



Many of these tributary drainages have been channelized and directed through vast stretches of farm fields. Along the rim of the plateau near the Town's eastern edge, five miles of steeply sloping land drains the Scipio highlands by way of several streams and rivulets that feed Owasco Lake. Historically, these streams furnished numerous mill sites along their courses, though many tend to be inconsistent and subject to the influence of droughts. The gentle over-all slope of the plateau to the west carries most of the runoff in the Town of Scipio to Cayuga Lake. In this way, water and accompanying pollutants and sediments travel from the roadways and agricultural lands to two of the Finger Lakes.





Wetlands and Floodplains

Town of Scipio Comprehensive Plan

MAP 7

Hydrology

- Streams
- State Identified Wetlands
- Federally Identified Wetlands
- 100 Year Flood Zone

Municipal

- Roads
- Tax Parcels
- Towns
- County

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Data obtained from Cayuga County Planning Department and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This map was created for planning purposes only. The CNYRPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map. Please see text for full disclaimer. Map created: October 2009

