

**Town of Newport**  
**Comprehensive Plan**

**2011**

# Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan 2011

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# Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan 2011

## Vision Statement

The Town of Newport has always been a rural community and a good place to raise a family. Residents are proud of the excellent educational opportunities offered to young people in our community and enjoy the Town's natural resources, like West Canada Creek. Some see Newport as a bedroom community for Utica/Rome but it is much more than that. There is a long heritage of people coming here willing to work hard at a business or on a farm to make their homes and raise their families in beautiful surroundings. Now the Town is feeling the pressures shared by most small communities in upstate New York to hold on to our small town atmosphere and agricultural heritage while allowing residential and small business land uses. It is of the utmost importance for the successful implementation and achievement of the objectives of this comprehensive plan that the Town move ahead with enforceable zoning regulations. In that spirit, we hope to preserve open spaces, continue with low-density housing and make it possible for farms and small businesses to operate successfully.

## Description of the Town of Newport

### *Location*

The Town of Newport covers an area of approximately 32.5 square miles located near the west central border of Herkimer County and bordering the Town of Russia to the north, Town of Deerfield on the west, Town of Norway to the east, and the Towns of Schuyler and Herkimer to the south. Newport was formed from the towns of Herkimer, Fairfield, Norway, and Schuyler, on April 7, 1806. The village of Newport, located on Route 28 straddling West Canada Creek, was incorporated in 1857 and at that time contained 3 churches, 1 bank, a gristmill, cotton factory, and 671 inhabitants. The village of Poland is partly located in the Town of Newport on its northwest corner and Middleville is partly located in the Town of Newport on its eastern border. The latitude of Newport is 43.181N. The longitude is -75.041W. Newport is less than 20 miles from Utica, 70 miles from Syracuse and about 85 miles from Albany.

### *History*

The first white settlement of the Newport area took place after 1786. The first businesses opened in 1793: William Wakely opened the first inn, George Cook opened the first store and Benjamin Bowen built the first sawmill. In 1808 one of the earliest settlers, Benjamin Bowen, built a cotton factory. The Herkimer Manufacturing Co. was formed in 1814. In 1844 V. S. Kinyon became the proprietor, employed 80 persons, and produced up to \$50,000 worth of sheeting annually. Later, in the 1840's and 50's Linus Yale manufactured locks in a factory on Knight's Brook.

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The very first plank road in Herkimer County, built in 1847, ran from Mohawk village through Herkimer and Middleville to Newport, along West Canada Creek. Before 1850 nearly every farm made their own butter and cheese but later many farmers sold their milk to cheese factories. The farming community shifted from subsistence to commercial agriculture as the transportation system allowed them to sell anything extra they produced and buy other items they needed.

In the 1880's a canning factory offered seasonal employment to men, women, and children who had spare time. In 1900 a large two-story building was built on the banks of West Canada Creek to house the Newport Knitting Mill. The mill employed about 100 men and women. The Michigan Condensed Milk Corporation purchased the Clover Leaf Creamery in 1904 and, after making improvements, operated the Newport Condensery from 1907 through the 1930's. The Borden Company purchased the old Michigan Condensed Milk Company in 1916 and produced milk, caramels, and fortified malted milk there until 1942. From 1942 until it closed in 1971, the Borden plant produced instant coffee and a food supplement called Hemo. At its peak the company employed 185 people.

### *Town Population, Education and Employment*

The population of the Town of Newport reported on the 2010 Census was 2,302. The population of the Town of Newport reported on the 2000 Census was 2,169. This shows an increase from 2000 to 2010 of 6.1%.

The chart below shows the percentage of Newport's population that falls into each age group at the 2000 Census and at the 2010 Census. The chart also shows the percentage of Herkimer County's population and the population of the State of New York that fell into those age groups at the 2000 Census and the 2010 Census. One of the demographic trends that will impact the Town of Newport in the future is an increase in the number of senior citizens. This is part of a national and state-wide trend. While giving priority to housing rehabilitation and services that might allow seniors to remain in their own homes, the Town should also consider other options for the senior population consistent with the goals of the Plan. Unlike the county and the state however, Newport has also seen an increase in the percentage of children under age 5.

<b>Percentage of Population by Age Group, 2000 - 2010</b>						
<b>Age</b>	<b>Town of Newport</b>		<b>Herkimer County</b>		<b>New York State</b>	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Under 5	4.7%	5.9%	5.6%	5.6%	6.5%	6.0%
5-9	16.4%	14.2%	14.2%	12.3%	14.1%	12.3%
10-14	8.9%	7.3%	7.3%	6.4%	7.0%	6.4%
15-24	11.5%	12.9%	12.9%	13.4%	13.4%	14.4%
25-34	11.5%	8.9%	11.3%	10.3%	14.5%	13.7%

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35-44	17.1%	14.2%	15.2%	12.0%	16.2%	13.5%
45-54	13.9%	17.5%	14.0%	15.7%	13.5%	14.8%
55-64	10.9%	13.3%	10.0%	13.8%	8.9%	11.9%
65-74	7.4%	8.0%	7.9%	8.6%	6.7%	7.0%
75-84	5.0%	4.7%	6.7%	5.6%	4.5%	4.5%
85 & older	1.6	1.4%	2.2%	2.7%	1.6%	2.0%
<b>Median Age</b>	38.5 yrs	40.8 yrs	39.0 yrs	42.1 yrs	35.9 yrs	38.0%

According to the American Community Survey 2005-2009, conducted by the Census Bureau, the median income for a household in the town in 2009 was \$42,958, with 35.2% having a household income below \$35,000, 42.6% having a household income between \$35,000 and \$75,000, and 20.3% having an income over \$75,000.

Education attained by Town of Newport residents:

High school graduate or higher      82.0% compared to 86.8% for Herkimer County  
 Bachelor's degree or higher      21.8% compared to 18.1% for Herkimer County

<b>Industry (civilian employees age 16 and older)</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Educational services, health care and social assistance	266	27.9%
Construction	142	14.9%
Retail trade	94	9.9%
Manufacturing	72	7.6%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing Retail trade	71	7.5%
Professional, scientific, administrative & waste management	58	6.1%
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	55	5.8%
Public administration	42	4.4%
Information	39	4.1%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation & food service	37	3.9%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	37	3.9%
Other services, except public administration	26	2.7%
Wholesale trade	13	1.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2000-2009

<b>Occupations (civilian employees age 16 and older)</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Management, professional and related occupations	272	28.6%
Sales and office occupations	241	25.3%
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations	175	18.4%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	160	16.8%
Service occupations	91	9.6%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	13	1.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2000-2009

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### *Land Use*

According to the 2010 Census, there are 876 occupied housing units in the Town of Newport with 689 or 79% of those occupied by the owner and 187 or 21% rental units. There are 74 vacant units (14 for rent, 1 rented unoccupied, 9 for sale, 1 sold unoccupied, 24 seasonal and 25 unoccupied). Of those 876 occupied housing units, 294 or 33.6% include children under the age of 18 and 236 or 26.9 include seniors over the age of 65.

Building permits for new single family homes in the Town of Newport have been issued on average of 5.3 a year for the last 15 years.

Age of Occupied Housing Units		New Single Family Home Building Permits		
Time span	Percentage	Year(s)	Town	County
		2010	3	96
		2009	2	100
Built 1939 or earlier	42.0%	2008	3	103
Built 1940 to 1949	3.2%	2007	5	135
Built 1950 to 1959	8.0%	2006	3	206
Built 1960 to 1969	6.6%	2005	6	162
Built 1970 to 1979	13.2%	2004	5	162
Built 1980 to 1989	11.2%	2003	9	143
Built 1990 to 1994	9.4%	2002	6	136
Built 1995 to 1998	3.4%	2001	4	128
Built 1999 to 3/2000	2.4%	1996 to 2000	34	551

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Factfinder & <http://censtats.census.gov/bldg/bldgprmt.shtml>

Historically, the Town of Newport was predominantly an agricultural community with dairy operations representing a large part of the local industry for many years. This agricultural base has been in long-term decline, consistent with the pattern in much of the northeastern United States. The 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture shows that about 140,000 acres of land in Herkimer County is in farms. This is down from a little less than 160,000 acres in 2002. Parts of the town of Newport are in Agricultural District #1 (Herkimer, Frankfort, Newport & Schuyler) and in Agricultural District #6 (Fairfield, Newport, Norway and Russia). Additional partials are eligible. (See map of Newport Prime Agricultural Soils)

Briefly, New York State Agricultural Districts Law provides the framework to limit unreasonable local regulation on farm practices, to modify public agencies' ability to acquire farmland through eminent domain, and to modify the right to advance public funds to construct facilities that encourage development. The Agricultural Districts Law also provides for reduced property tax bills for land in agricultural production by limiting the assessment of such land to its prescribed agricultural assessment value. Owners whose land satisfies the eligibility requirements may apply for an agricultural assessment. (See map of Newport Tax Parcels and Agricultural Districts)

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Dairying is the principal type of farming that has been associated with Herkimer County for most of its history and is still important today. The NYS Department of Agriculture estimates for 2009 show 13,800 dairy cows in Herkimer County with approximately 1000 of those in Newport. Eight farms in Newport are currently producing and shipping milk. Forage tops the list of crops produced and milk and other dairy products top production.

Land in the Town of Newport has also been used for other commercial enterprises. For example, rock quarries and mining have existed in Newport for many years. Trenton limestone deposits supplied the stone for many buildings in Newport. The mining of Herkimer Diamonds (quartz crystals) in Middleville has been a popular tourist attraction for over 200 years. Now these mines are visited by families, rock collectors, school and scout groups, and even people who believe that the crystals have magical properties.

### *Property Taxes*

Comparison of Property Taxes for Towns in Herkimer County 2010			
Towns and villages of Newport, Poland and Middleville	Locally Stated Assessment Ratio	Taxes per \$1000 AV	Adjusted to 100% for comparison
Newport Town	100.00%	\$1.66	\$1.66
Newport Village	100.00%	\$3.94	\$3.94
Poland Village	100.00%	\$4.17	\$4.17
Columbia	95.00%	\$5.45	\$5.18
Danube	97.00%	\$2.65	\$2.57
Fairfield	82.00%	\$4.90	\$4.02
Middleville	82.00%	\$6.70	\$5.49
Frankfort	75.00%	\$4.91	\$3.68
German Flats	77.15%	\$5.56	\$4.29
Herkimer	94.00%	\$4.25	\$4.00
Litchfield	95.00%	\$3.01	\$2.86
Little Falls	70.00%	\$4.00	\$2.80
Manheim	70.00%	\$2.55	\$1.79
Norway	72.50%	\$7.19	\$5.22
Ohio	10.00%	\$54.87	\$5.49
Russia	100.00%	\$4.54	\$4.54
Salisbury	100.00%	\$2.90	\$2.90
Schuyler	89.50%	\$3.89	\$3.48
Stark	65.00%	\$8.34	\$5.42
Warren	69.00%	\$7.02	\$4.84
Webb	82.00%	\$2.09	\$1.71
Winfield	95.00%	\$2.79	\$2.65

Source: NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services (See Resource List)

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### *Natural, Visual, Cultural & Historic Resources*

Residents of both the Town and Village of Newport volunteer for the Newport Revitalization Committee. This group decorates the Village of Newport every spring with annuals and hanging baskets. They have also installed brackets on telephone poles in the Village to display flags during the summer.

Scenery around Newport has long been popular with photographers. As early as 1890 photographers went up Woodchuck Hill to take scenic photographs for postcards. According to a study conducted for the Herkimer County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan (See Resource List) the only protected open spaces in the town of Newport are the two Newport Test Annex sites operated by the U.S. Air Force. The study reported no National, State or local public parkland, reforestation areas, wildlife management areas, historic sites, conservation easements or lands purchased by private land trusts in the town of Newport. (See Newport Satellite Imagery map)

There are public libraries that serve Town residents located in the Villages of Newport, Poland and Middleville.

There are museums at the Newport History Center and at the Herkimer Diamond Mines. Collections of local history research materials are owned by the Newport History Center and the Kuyahoorra Historical Society.

Currently, there are no buildings in the Town of Newport, outside of the village, listed on the New York State or National Register of Historic Places. Structures listed on the National Register could be eligible for federal rehabilitation tax credits and low interest loans. In addition, listing on the National Register could help protect properties through the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). SEQRA provides review of a proposed project's proximity to sites that are listed or *eligible for listing* on the National Register of Historic Places and can expose negative impacts of a project and enforce mitigation of those impacts.

However, there are a number of old homes and barns in the Town of Newport that are of sufficient architectural or historical interest to merit inclusion on the National Register and it would be an important step towards preservation if an historical inventory were prepared and further, if applications were made to include at least some of them on the National Register. These include, but are not limited to, the Morey-Hawkins House, Hawthorne Rd.; the Morey-Davis House, Hawthorne Rd.; the Maxwell House, Hawthorne Rd.; and the Harris-Roesler House, Rte. 28. The environmental impact statement for the Turbine JS1 project was required to report impact on the following five properties in the Town of Newport because they are "National Register-Eligible" properties located within the viewshed that the Project was required to address: 2615 Newport Road, 2608 Newport Road, 2672 Newport Road, 5432 NY 28 at Castle Road, and 472 Summit Road.



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There are four structures in the Village of Newport that are listed on the New York State and National Register of Historic Places (See Resource List):

- Benjamin Bowen House
- Newport Stone Arch Bridge
- Yale-Cady Octagon House and Yale Lock Factory Site
- Masonic Lodge

A number of other buildings in the Village of Newport are of historic and architectural interest or National Register-Eligible, for example: 7541 Main Street, Sweezy house; 7551 Main Street, Perry house; 7417 Main Street, Wooster house.; 7518 Main Street, Yale house; 7517 Main Street, Bowen-Sanford house; The Reynolds block; Stone building, 7435 Main St.; Stone building, 7437 Main St.; Stone building 7439 Main St.; the 1905 limestone vault in the Newport Cemetery, St. John's Roman Catholic Church and several others.

The Newport History Center receives many inquiries from people doing genealogical research and many of those questions regard ancestors who are buried in Newport cemeteries. Cemeteries also provide open space and bird and animal habitat. The following local cemeteries continue to generate interest and people come to the area to visit them: Irish Settlement Cemetery, Swezey-Bromley (Swezey Hill Cemetery), Thomas Family Cemetery, Martins Corners Cemetery, Honey Hills Golf Course Cemetery, Newport Cemetery (village), St. John's Cemetery (village).

### ***Topography, Soils, Natural Resources***

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Town of Newport has a total area of 32.5 square miles of which, 32.0 square miles is land and 0.5 square miles (1.45%) is water. The land in the Town of Newport is broken by ridges of highlands, which rise on each side of the narrow valley formed by the West Canada Creek. The change in elevation in the town is readily apparent when you look to the east and west while driving along Route 28. The hills in the southeastern part rise to a height of 1639 feet (Harter Hill) and the valley elevation is around 600 feet. The landscape is mostly flat farmland along the west Canada Creek. There is also flat farmland at higher elevations. The hills in between are mostly covered with woodland where some lumbering is still being done. The West Canada flows southeast through the town forming part of the eastern boundary and flowing into the Mohawk River at Herkimer. White Creek flows south through the east part and drains into the West Canada. The soil is a clayey loam, with some gravel on the hills. It is chiefly under laid by limestone, which is quarried in some localities.

Soil suitable for agricultural use is distributed broadly over the Town of Newport with the most in the western area of the Town and very little in the northern area. (See Newport Prime Agricultural Soils map) The bedrock underlying the Town of Newport is described in *Soil Survey of Herkimer County, New York, Southern Part*, published by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. Underlying bedrock consists of

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Utica shale, Frankfort shale, Trenton limestone, Little Falls dolomite and miscellaneous glacial deposits.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture General Soil Map included in *Soil Survey of Herkimer County, New York, Southern Part*, shows five soils in the Town of Newport.

1. Deep soils formed in recent alluvium; on flood plains. Alluvial land-Hamlin-Teel association: Deep, excessively drained to very poorly drained soils of variable texture that formed in recent alluvium. This soil runs along the banks of West Canada Creek from Poland almost to Middleville.
2. Soils formed in deep deposits; on glacial outwash terraces, kames, deltas, and old alluvial fans. Howard-Phelps association: Deep, somewhat excessively drained to moderately well drained, medium-textured and moderately coarse textured soils formed in water-sorted deposits from siltstone, sandstone, limestone, and some granite. This soil runs along the West Canada Creek further away from the banks of the West Canada Creek.
3. Deep to shallow soils formed in calcareous and noncalcareous glacial till; on uplands. Rough broken land-shaly rock land association: Deep to very shallow, steep and very steep land. This soil is found west and south of West Canada Creek including the banks of the creek at and immediately south of the Village of Middleville with small deposits near the Newport-Herkimer boarder.
4. The entire northwest corner of the Town of Newport is made up of soils formed in deep deposits; on glacial outwash terraces, kames, deltas, and old alluvial fans. Hinckley-Windsor association: Deep, excessively drained, coarse-textured soils formed in water-sorted deposits of sand, or gravel and sand that are rich in granite and gneiss.
5. In the west & southwest areas of the Town of Newport there are soils of the Manheim-Conesius-Lansing association: Deep, somewhat poorly drained, medium-textured soils formed in glacial till from alkaline shale, and moderately well drained and well drained soils formed in till from shale, siltstone, and limestone. Deep soils formed in calcareous glacial till; on uplands.

### ***Wetlands, Floodplains and Watersheds***

Flood plain boundaries are determined and mapped through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). One hundred year flood boundaries delineate the flood elevation that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceed each year. A 500-year flood line shows the flood elevation that has a 0.2% chance of being equaled or exceeded each year. In general, the flood plains in Herkimer County encompass the lands adjacent to the tributaries, streams, ponds and other bodies of water. The only body of water with significant areas of FEMA designated floodplain in the Town is the West Canada Creek (See Newport Streams, Floodplains and Wetlands map).

In Herkimer County the Mohawk River is the only major stream flowing west to east and provides drainage for all but a small area in the southwestern part of the county. Other

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streams and tributaries are generally north-south oriented and lead into the Mohawk River.

### ***Recreational Resources***

West Canada Creek is well-known to fly fisherman as central New York's best trout stream. The scenery and gradient also make the West Canada Creek one of the best rivers in central New York for canoeing, kayaking and tubing. There are designated and undesignated places to park with access to the creek (See Maps section for web access to NYS DEC West Canada Creek Fishing Map). Most of the railroad bed between Poland and Middleville that must be crossed for access to the west bank of West Canada Creek is on private property but is not posted. The West Canada Fish & Game Club is also located on Route 28 in the Town of Newport between the villages of Newport and Middleville.

Golf Club of Newport was designed by the famous golf course architect, Geoffrey S. Cornish. It is an 18-hole, regulation length, par 72 course and was featured as a "Hidden Gem" in the 1999 annual issue of *New York Golf* magazine.

The West Canada Trail Riders snowmobile club has been in existence for over twenty years and currently maintains 24 miles of trails mostly in the Town of Newport. A trail map is available (See Maps section for web access).

The Upstate ATV Association was founded in 2002 to develop and maintain a trail system connecting the townships of Norway, Salisbury, Russia, Newport, Ohio, Danube, Manheim, etc. for safe and legal riding of three and four wheeler vehicles.

The Kuyahora Kickers Runners Club was organized in 1981 and has sponsored the Beer and Chili Run in February since 1982 and as a benefit since 2006 involving 80 to 100 area runners.

The buildings and grounds of the West Canada Valley Central School District are open to the community for use, but because of the busy schedules kept by school student groups and interscholastic sports program, a request form must be completed and submitted to the high school office 2 weeks prior to anticipated use.

Recreational activities include:

- Fishing (especially fly fishing)
- Hunting
- Camping
- Canoeing, kayaking and tubing
- Snowmobiling
- ATV
- Golf
- Hiking
- Digging for quartz crystals

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### Running

School sports, playing fields & cross-country track

Newport playground and skating rink (Village)

West Canada Valley Youth Soccer Organization

Kuyahoorra Youth Football

West Canada Valley Little League

### *Health & Emergency Services*

Newport is served by Little Falls Hospital / Bassett Healthcare's Newport Primary Care Center. Hospitals/medical centers with 24 hour emergency, trauma and urgent care services nearest Newport are Little Falls Hospital (about 11 miles), St. Luke's Memorial Hospital Center and St. Elizabeth Medical Center (both about 13 miles).

Kuyahoorra Volunteer Ambulance Corps provides emergency response services to the Town of Newport. The ambulance service is located on Case Street in the Village of Poland. There are over 50 volunteers with paramedic ambulance, two paramedic rescue cars and off-road rescue capabilities including a snowmobile, all terrain vehicles and a rescue sled. They provide 24 hour a day paramedic level service. When Kuyahoorra has been dispatched, Rural Metro provides service to this area from its Herkimer station on Main Street in Herkimer. Rural Metro also provides 24 hour paramedic level service.

The New York State Police and Herkimer county Sheriff's Department both have jurisdiction in the Town of Newport. There are no local (town or village) police departments. However, the New York State Police does provide patrol service to the area as needed. The State Police operate out of the Herkimer Station in Herkimer and the West Winfield Satellite Station in West Winfield. Police coverage is provided 24 hours per day.

The Newport Volunteer Fire Company No. 4 has approximately 50 volunteers and services approximately 48 square miles that includes portions of the Towns of Norway and both the Village and Town of Newport. The firehouse is located on Main Street (Route 28) in the Village of Newport. The fire department has two engines, two pumper-tankers, one tanker, one rescue vehicle, a boat and one pick up truck equipped for rescue and emergency medical services. They are trained for performing high rope rescue if necessary and they are the water rescue unit for Herkimer County.

The Village of Middleville (both in the Town of Fairfield and the Town of Newport) is served by the E.W. Corey Hose Volunteer Fire Company located on North Main Street in the Village of Middleville.

The Village of Poland (both in the Town of Russia and the Town of Newport) is served by the Poland Volunteer Fire Department on Case Street in the Village of Poland.

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Emergency calls that require police, fire, and/or ambulance are dispatched by the Herkimer County 911 Emergency Center.

### ***Educational Resources***

Public school students living in the Town of Newport attend West Canada Valley Central School or Poland Central School. The school tax rate per \$1000 of assessed value in 2009 was \$16.04 for residents of the West Canada Valley school district. For Poland Central School district it was \$11.96. This area is also served by Herkimer County BOCES. There are no private or religious elementary or high schools in Newport.

There are no colleges in Newport but there are schools of higher education within commuting distance for students who have their own transportation: Herkimer County Community College (about 11 miles), Mohawk Valley Community College – Utica Branch (about 14 miles), SUNY-IT Utica/Rome (about 12 miles), and Utica College (about 14 miles), Utica School of Commerce and St. Elizabeth School of Nursing (about 14 miles), Hamilton College (about 28 miles), and Munson Williams Proctor School of Art (about 14 miles). Empire State College also has a learning center in Utica.

### ***Infrastructure including Power, Water & Sewer***

Town residents outside the village of Newport obtain their water supply from private wells, developed springs, and constructed ponds and maintain private septic systems. They are responsible for maintaining their own wells and septic systems. Village of Newport residents are provided with water by the Newport Water Department and maintain private septic systems.

The infrastructure providing electric service to this area is maintained by National Grid. Newport is served locally by Newport Telephone Company. Although part of the 375 mile Iroquois Natural Gas pipeline runs through a portion of the Town of Newport, there is no natural gas service in the Town.

The Town of Newport Highway Garage is located on the Newport Road just south of the Village of Newport on a 2 acre plot. There is no landscaping. The garage has office and meeting space and garage space for equipment and storage. There is paved parking and the property is used for storage of a large sand pile (mixed with salt) that is used on the roads. The Town of Newport contracts with Herkimer County to plow 46 miles of County roads. The main road through the Town, Route 28, is maintained by NYS DOT. (See Newport Transportation System map)

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### *Solid Waste Disposal*

The Town of Newport has a scheduled town wide bulk pick-up day. Residents of the Town of Newport can make their own arrangements with private haulers for solid waste (garbage and recyclables) to be disposed of at landfills in Utica and Rome, which are administered by the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (OHSWA) or have the option of bringing their solid waste to the stations themselves. The OHSWA also administers a green waste composting facility, a land clearing debris facility, a brush processing facility, and a household hazardous waste facility, all of which are located in Utica.

### *Transportation*

There is no scheduled public transportation serving the Town of Newport. Town residents who are unable to drive are at a serious disadvantage and this problem may become a more serious as the population ages. School children are transported by school bus. There is also a bus serving Herkimer County ARC. Herkimer County Office for the Aging may provide rides for persons over 60 by special prior arrangement.

The nearest train service is about 12 miles away in Utica (321 Main Street). The nearest airports providing scheduled passenger service are in Syracuse (73 miles) and Albany (85 miles).

Route 28 passes through the Town of Newport and the villages of Newport, Poland and Middleville. Other major roads are Route 8 and Route 169. (See Newport Transportation System map) There are NYS Thruway exits at Herkimer and at Little Falls (12-15 miles for most residents).

According the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2005-2009, mean travel time to work for adults living in the Town of Newport is 28 minutes. Most of this travel is by private car (chart below).

<b>Workers 16 and over go to work by:</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Car, truck or van – drove alone	750	81.2%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	96	10.4%
Public transportation (ex. Taxi)	13	1.4%
Walked	12	1.3%
Other mode of transportation	20	2.2%
Worked at home	33	3.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2005-2009

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### **The Three Villages**

The three villages in the Town of Newport – Newport, Middleville (part) and Poland (part) –were early areas of concentrated settlement and housed businesses that served surrounding rural areas. Early maps show churches, schools, hotels, tack shop, tailor, grist mill, wagon maker, livery stable, box makers, blacksmith, general store, pharmacy, millinery shop, photograph studio, saw mills, post offices, doctor, dentist and veterinary offices, a lock factory, and cheese makers. Today the villages are more residential but still provide services and alternative housing (rental, assisted living). The most obvious business loss is the general store which has been replaced by traveling to stores in Herkimer, Little Falls, Ilion, Utica, Rome and shopping on the Internet.

#### ***MIDDLEVILLE village***

The incorporated Village of Middleville is divided by West Canada Creek between the Towns of Fairfield and Newport. The total population of the Village of Middleville on the 2010 Census was 390 people with 160 of them living in Newport and 230 in Fairfield. Because of the relationship between the river and the roadway, a car traveling on Route 28 entering Middleville from Newport (west to east) travels through part of the Town of Fairfield before reaching the part of Middleville that is in the Town of Newport . Middleville has its own village offices, library, gas station, and bank. Their Post Office is closed due to flood damage. Physically and perceptually residents of the Village of Middleville feel a certain independence.

#### ***NEWPORT village***

The incorporated Village of Newport is centrally located in the Town of Newport. It has an area of 0.6 square miles of which 0.5 square miles is land and 0.1 square miles is water. The population in the 2010 Census was 640, unchanged from the 2000 Census. The Village of Newport has its own village offices, library, gas station, bank, and Post Office. There are four structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Village of Newport has its own comprehensive plan but village residents participated in preparation of the Proposed Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan.

#### ***POLAND village***

The incorporated Village of Poland is shared between the Town of Newport and the Town of Russia. It has an area of .53 square miles, .52 square miles of land and .01 square miles of water. The total population of the village on the 2010 Census was 490 people with 128 in the Town of Newport and 362 in the Town of Russia. The Village of Poland has its own village offices, services and conveniences; web site, library, gas station, bank, and Post Office.

## Existing Businesses

### *Existing Businesses – Town of Newport*

#### **R-1**

Golf Club of Newport  
Todd Cable  
T.J. Allen Trucking  
Eric Carney  
Bass Concrete  
Stewart's Logging  
White Creek Logging  
Lewandrowski Wood Working  
Lori's Cuts  
Mane Attraction  
Draft Zero (Sam Waterbury)  
Kelly Wood's Day Care  
Harris Dale  
West Canada Valley Central School  
West Canada Supply (Barry)  
Land Surveying (Scott Blanchard)  
Auto Country carriage Repair  
Dupont Trucking

#### **R-2**

McKerrow Pit/Excavating  
Newport Magnetics  
At Last Pottery & Plants  
Three Village Cheese LLC (Felio)  
Summit Hill Creamery  
Heart and Hand Massage

#### **B-1**

Blue Rose Restaurant

#### **B-2**

KOA  
Crystal Chandelier  
Herkimer Diamond Mines  
Hanson Aggregates NY  
Poland Sand & Gravel  
Dick Moody Body Shop



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### **AG**

Rowe Trucking  
Mike Maine Excavating  
Cave Trucking  
Hampel Construction  
Upstate Auto Glass  
River's Edge Restaurant  
Moody Sand Pit  
Dmitri Veterinary  
Computer Solutions  
Sierra Computer Services  
Belle Hill Farm (Justice Barton)  
Ronald Denslow Farm  
John Diaz Family Farm  
Elwood Farm  
Foster Family Farm  
God's Acres (Joseph Callahan)  
Christopher Graupner Farm  
Helmer Family Farm  
Andy Hershberger Farm  
William Hershberger Farm  
Sam Hershberger Farm  
Honey Hill Farm (Al & Jane Lewandrowski)  
Honeydale Farm (Ferdinand Lewandrowski)  
Francis Kelleher Farm  
Patrick Maxwell Farm  
Abe Miller Farm  
Peaceful Meadows Farm (Eugene Wilczewski)  
Lynn Salm Farm  
Tasovac Family Farm  
Ted Polczynski Farm  
Stevener Family Farm  
Joe Troyer Farm  
Dan Yoder Farm

### **Town of Newport – Alphabetical Order**

Ace of Diamond Mines  
At Last Pottery & Plants  
Bass Concrete  
Belle Hill Farm (Justice Barton)  
Blue Rose Restaurant  
Cave Trucking  
Computer Solutions  
Country Carriage Auto Repair

## Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan 2011

Crystal Chandelier  
Ronald Denslow Farm  
Dick Moody Body Shop  
John Diaz Family Farm  
Dmitri Veterinary  
Draft Zero Sam Waterbury  
Dupont Trucking  
Elwood Farm  
Eric Carney  
Foster Family Farm  
God's Acres (Joseph Callahan)  
Golf Club of Newport  
Christopher Graupner Farm  
Hampel Construction  
Hanson Aggregates NY  
Harris Dale  
Heart and Hand Massage  
Helmer Family Farm  
Herkimer Diamond Mines  
Andy Hershberger Farm  
William Hershberger Farm  
Sam Hershberger Farm  
Honey Hill Farm (Al & Jane Lewandrowski)  
Honeydale Farm (Ferdinand Lewandrowski)  
Francis Kelleher Farm  
Kelly Woods Day Care  
KOA  
Lewandrowski's Wood Working  
Lori's Cuts  
McKerrow Pit/Excavating  
Mane Attraction  
Patrick Maxwell Farm  
Abe Miller Farm  
Mike Maine Excavating  
Moody Sand Pit  
Newport Magnetics  
Peaceful Meadows Farm (Eugene Wilczewski)  
Poland Sand & Gravel  
Ted Polczynski Farm  
River's Edge Restaurant  
Rome Research Corp  
Rowe Trucking  
Lynn Salm Farm  
Scott Blanchard Land Surveying  
Stevener Family Farm  
Sierra Computer Services

## Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan 2011

Stewart's Logging  
Sudderly's Electric  
Summit Hill Creamery  
T.J. Allen Trucking  
Tasovac Family Farm  
Three Village Cheese LLC (Felio)  
Todd Cable  
Total Change Hair Salon  
Joe Troyer Farm  
Upstate Auto Glass  
West Canada Supply (Barry)  
West Canada Valley Central School  
White Creek Logging  
Dan Yoder Farm

### *Existing Businesses – Villages of Newport/Poland/Middleville*

#### **Village of Newport**

Asaro's Service Station  
Autenrith Furniture  
C & D's Market  
Cardinal Gardens  
Cook Fence  
Creek Side Insurance  
Dan Mark Farm  
Feel the Music Dance Studio  
Fiacco;s Tires and Batteries  
Flowers for You  
L.C. Ford  
Li'l Country Store  
M & T Bank  
Main Street Ristorante  
Moody's Polaris  
New York Pizza  
Newport Free Library  
Newport Marketplace  
Newport Primary Care  
Newport Printing  
Newport Service (McEvoy)  
Newport Telephone  
Reynolds Drapery Service  
Signature Styles by Sabrina  
Snyder's Fuel Service  
Soron's Radio & Appliances

## **Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan 2011**

Town Tavern  
Tranquil Moments  
W.E. Autenrith & Sons Funeral Home  
What Cheer Hall Bed & Breakfast  
WKUY-LP

### **Village of Middleville**

RJ's Pizzeria  
Dibbles Inn  
Smith Brothers Honda  
Summit Hill Wine & Liquor  
West Canada Sports Shop

### **Village of Poland**

Fenton Construction  
Kuyahoorra Outdoor Center  
The Pit Stop  
Rommel Fence  
United Cerebral Palsy  
Vincent Oil

## Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan 2011

### Goals & Actions

The Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan Committee formulated these goals and actions using information collected in the Town of Newport Survey from residents of the Town of Newport and results of the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) list that was created during the first meetings of the Committee as well as concerns raised by residents of the village of Newport and the parts of the villages of Poland and Middleville that are in the Town of Newport. These goals & actions are subject to periodic review.

#### *Development/Economic*

**Goal:** Find a substitute to stand in for the traditional business hub.

**Action:** Consider the Village of Newport as the central business hub for the area and the other two villages as mini-hubs. Promote Town of Newport businesses at all three business hubs.

**Goal:** Continued improvement and growth of Town and Village of Newport's local retail service areas.

**Action:** Promote the Town of Newport whenever possible. Support activities that keep the villages' downtowns active. Promote all businesses at community events.

**Goal:** To allow the growth of both tourism and businesses.

**Action:** Adjust zoning to allow growth in both tourism and businesses.

**Goal:** More local employment opportunities.

**Action:** Create more allowable uses in the Town of Newport. Encourage creative new uses.

**Goal:** Protect and maintain the rural character and small town atmosphere of the Town of Newport while promoting appropriate economic development.

**Action:** Increase allowable uses. Allow residents more freedom and flexibility to use their property by allowing more uses that fit in with community standards for physical, visual and social impact to the area. Encourage home-based businesses that least impact the small town atmosphere. These might include: B & B, craft workshops, individual professional offices, antique shops, landscape nurseries, cottage industry businesses, and repair shops.

**Goal:** Maintain reasonable tax rates. Change the public perception that rates are higher than those in other communities (See Property Tax chart) and demonstrate that tax rates are commensurate with services rendered.

**Action:** Broaden the Town's tax base in order to stabilize and limit the level of residential property taxes by encouraging the expansion and addition of revenue-producing land uses such as business and industry. Encourage

## Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan 2011

communication between Town government and town residents. Publicize and encourage attendance at town meetings.

**Goal:** Updated zoning regulations.

**Action:** Work with the Zoning Board to update zoning regulations.

**Goal:** Improve the tourism economy in ways that also maintain the town's character.

**Action:** Encourage local tourist destinations (e.g. diamond mines, restaurants, etc.) to provide information about visitor services (for example, maps of the Town, directions to accommodations, and recreation and lists of other local businesses). Provide them with produce maps & brochures. Get uniform signs directing tourists to recreation areas, historic sites, etc. Create infrastructure to support tourism that give visitors to Newport more opportunities to spend money in the Town. (This kind of infrastructure could also help local residents find local goods and services.) Provide Welcome Wagon-type information to newcomers.

### *Land Use*

**Goal:** Maintain the economic viability of agriculture in the Town of Newport as both a source of economic activity and as a means of preserving the traditional landscape and rural character of the Town.

**Action:** Find ways to support local farmers and find or create places for them to sell their products. Open a farmers market. Promote local produce at community events. Encourage Community Supported Agriculture and agro-tourism. Support zoning that will control development in scenic areas. Support the Herkimer County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. (See Resource List)

**Goal:** Prevent conflicts between farmers and non-farmers.

**Action:** Adopt a Right to Farm law. Find opportunities to educate non-farmers about normal farming practices. Create opportunities to bring farmers and non-farmers together, for example, a farmers market. Enforce the New York State Right to Farm Statutes. (See Resource List)

**Goal:** Prevent conflicts between residential use and business use.

**Action:** Investigate mixed use zoning. Encourage new businesses near existing businesses.

**Goal:** Keep floodplains, wetlands, and slopes over 15% open and undeveloped for flood protection and to eliminate groundwater contamination.

**Action:** The Town of Newport participates in the National Flood Program. As a participant, the Town should continue to promote adherence to the National Floodplain Insurance Program guidelines (See Resource List and Flood plain map) and steer new development away from areas needed to help mitigate flooding.

## Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan 2011

### *Resource Protection*

**Goal:** Consistent zoning enforcement.

**Action:** Adopt enforceable zoning regulations.

**Goal:** Protect and preserve special natural resources and areas, unique geological and open space areas, views, and key water bodies and watersheds, and to foster a healthy community; connect people to nature and recreation and to safeguard our natural resources.

**Action:** Protect selected areas through zoning. Provide information to residents about conservation easement tax credits and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and other USDA programs (See Resource List).

**Goal:** Well maintained properties, civic pride and strong property values.

**Action:** Provide a Town trash day. Provide information about the HUD 203(k) Rehabilitation Program (See Resource List). Look for additional sources of funding and other incentives for property owners to maintain properties. Enforce zoning laws.

**Goal:** Protect and foster the Town's historic resources through the preservation of historic records, cemeteries, landmarks, sites and structures.

**Action:** Continue to support the Newport History Center. Look for additional sources of funding and incentives to preserve the Town's historic resources. Provide information about existing funding, for example, the New York State Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit and New York State Tax Credit Program for Income Producing Properties (See Resource List).

### *Community Infrastructure and Services*

**Goal:** Better communication between the town government and the public with less dependence on "word-of-mouth."

**Action:** Start a town newsletter and web site. Appoint a person to gather and/or generate content for the newsletter and web site and/or for local newspapers. Encourage residents to attend Town Board meetings.

**Goal:** To have no vacant properties and to avoid the eyesore of vacant or abandoned buildings.

**Action:** If properties become vacant, try to determine why the property has become vacant and investigate possible solutions. Enforce existing building and health codes. At present time most vacant properties are located in the Village of Newport. The Town of Newport has no direct authority over the Village but would be supportive of any Village efforts to find solutions and receptive to partnering with the village in applying for grants.

## Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan 2011

**Goal:** Provide residential, business and public recreation areas. Provide recreation opportunities for residents of Newport that would also be available for tourists to the area.

**Action:** Protect residential, business and recreation areas through zoning. Find opportunities to improve residential, business and public recreation areas.

**Goal:** Give tourists reason to stop in Newport instead of just passing through or bypassing it on the way to the Adirondacks. Exploit West Canada Creek and the Southern Adirondack Scenic Byway.

**Action:** Provide services and information aimed at tourists. Provide information about recreation opportunities for tourists. Develop brochures, provide maps, distribute information about recreation areas and recreational activities, for example, access to fishing areas.

## The Comprehensive Plan Process

### *The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee*

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee completed a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis at the outset of the planning process. The Committee used information gathered from the survey and also brought to the table their own knowledge of the community. The SWOT Analysis technique was used to guide the direction of some key focal points within the plan.

#### **Members of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee:**

Patty Marko, *Chair (Village Planning Board/retail store owner)*

Nanette Roesler (Town Clerk/town resident)

Jim Fisher (Village Planning Board/B&B owner)

Donna Goodbread (Town ZBA/business person/village resident)

Diane Lockwood (real estate agent/town resident)

John Snyder (former business person/financial advisor/village resident)

Mike McEvoy (Town Supervisor/business person/village resident)

Rich Brelinskey (farmer/town resident)

Kathleen Snyder Esty (nurse, village resident)

Gail Fischer (retailer/business owner/physical therapist/Kuyahoorra Chamber of Commerce)

Debbie Tracy (school library assistant/village resident)

Roberta Walsh (retired/village resident)

Eric Newman, Jr. (business person/town resident)

### *Other Participants*

The meetings of the Steering Committee were open and members of the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals and interested local residents participated and brought



## Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan 2011

valuable insights to the discussions. Members of boards, town and village residents and business owners who attended one or more meetings:

Todd Fenton	Ron Fusco
Tom Lindsay	Phyllis Fisher
Carl Dalmata	Mark Dupont
Rob Warney	Kathy Dupont
Torrey Felio	Art Bass
Frank Salisbury	Anne McKerrow
Tiffany Morrison	

Christopher Eastman, manager of the Land Use Training and Technical Assistance program at the New York Department of State, attended one meeting and the Committee would like to thank him for his assistance.

### ***Supporting Documents*** (on file at the Town Clerk's Office)

- SWOT Analysis
- Town of Newport Residents Opinion Survey
- Town of Newport Residents Opinion Survey Results
- List of Concerns Generated by SWOT and Survey
- Larger Maps and Other Resources

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### Resource List (accessed June 2011)

FEMA National Flood Insurance Program

<http://www.fema.gov/about/programs/nfip/index.shtm>

Herkimer County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan

[http://www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/31860/NY\\_Herkimer\\_AFPP.doc](http://www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/31860/NY_Herkimer_AFPP.doc)

Herkimer County 2030 Long-Range Transportation Plan

<http://ocgov.net/oneida/planning/hocts/lrtp>

Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile Update, 2009, created by Herkimer County Integrated County Planning and Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc., in collaboration with the members of the Comprehensive Assessment Task Force

<http://herkimercounty.org/content/Generic/View/40>

HUD (203)k Rehabilitation Program

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/housing/sfh/203k/203kabou](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/sfh/203k/203kabou)

National Register of Historic Places

Benjamin Bowen House

[http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp\\_view.asp?GroupView=2796](http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp_view.asp?GroupView=2796)

Newport Stone Arch Bridge

[http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp\\_view.asp?GroupView=2771](http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp_view.asp?GroupView=2771)

Yale-Cady Octagon House and Yale Lock Factory Site

[http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp\\_view.asp?GroupView=102227](http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp_view.asp?GroupView=102227)

Masonic Lodge

[http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp\\_view.asp?GroupView=103045](http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp_view.asp?GroupView=103045)

New York Data Center

<http://www.empire.state.ny.us/NYSDataCenter/Census2010.html>

New York State Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit and

New York State Tax Credit Program for Income Producing Properties

<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/tax-credit-programs/>

New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services (Property & School Tax rate info)

<http://www.orps.state.ny.us/>

New York State Right to Farm Statutes

[http://www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/31860/NY\\_Herkimer\\_AFPP.doc](http://www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/31860/NY_Herkimer_AFPP.doc)

U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Factfinder

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

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U.S. Census Bureau Manufacturing, Mining and Construction Statistics  
<http://www.census.gov/const/www/permitsindex.html>

U.S.D.A. Census of Agriculture 2007  
<http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>

U.S.D.A. Programs (Wildlife Habitat Incentives and other programs)  
<http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

### Maps

FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps  
<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/map/flood.shtm>

New York State DEC Environmental Resource Mapper  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/imsmaps/ERM/viewer.htm>

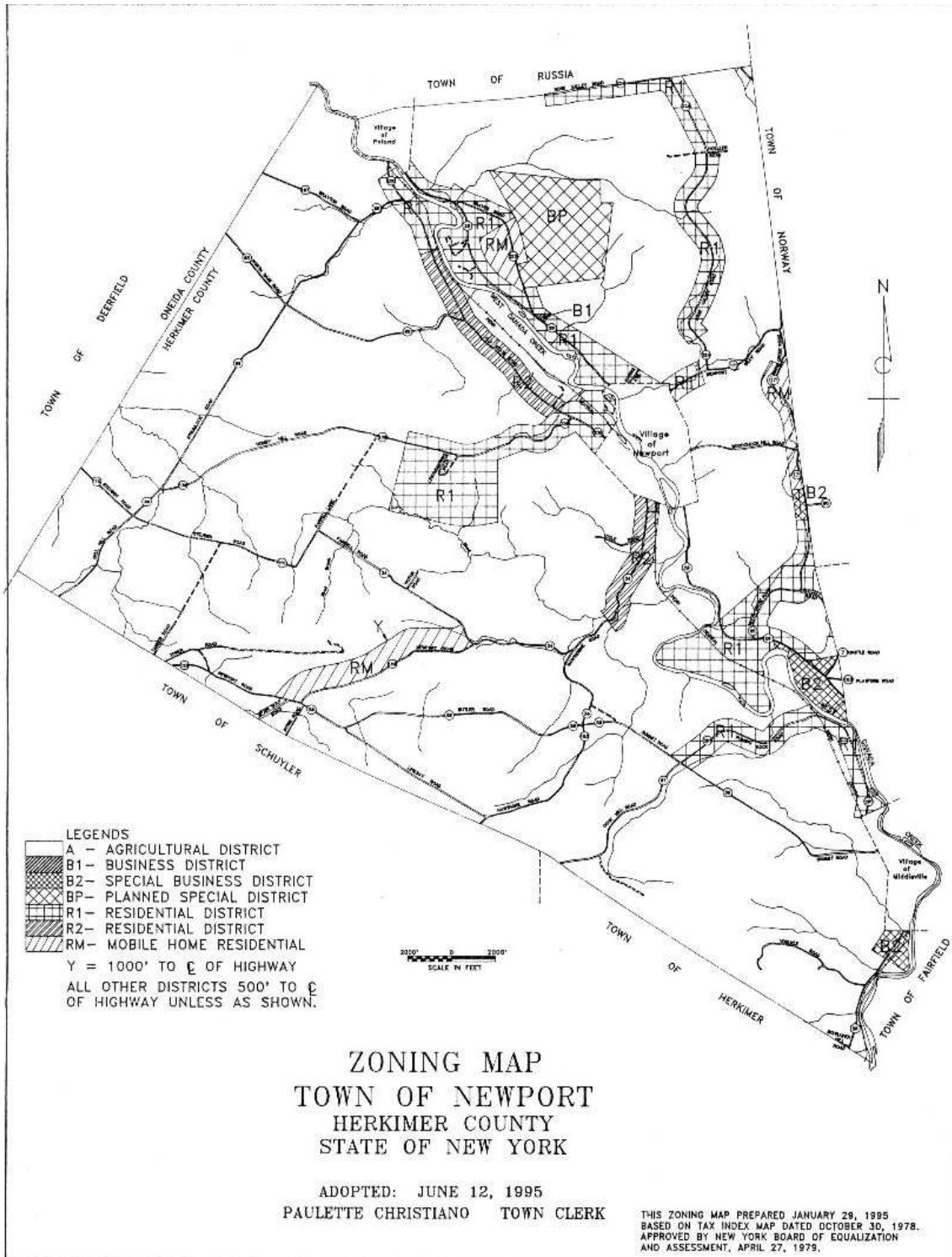
New York State DEC West Canada Creek Fishing Map  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9235.html>

West Canada Trail Riders Snowmobile Trail  
Map<http://www.westcanadatrailriders.com/trailmap.htm>

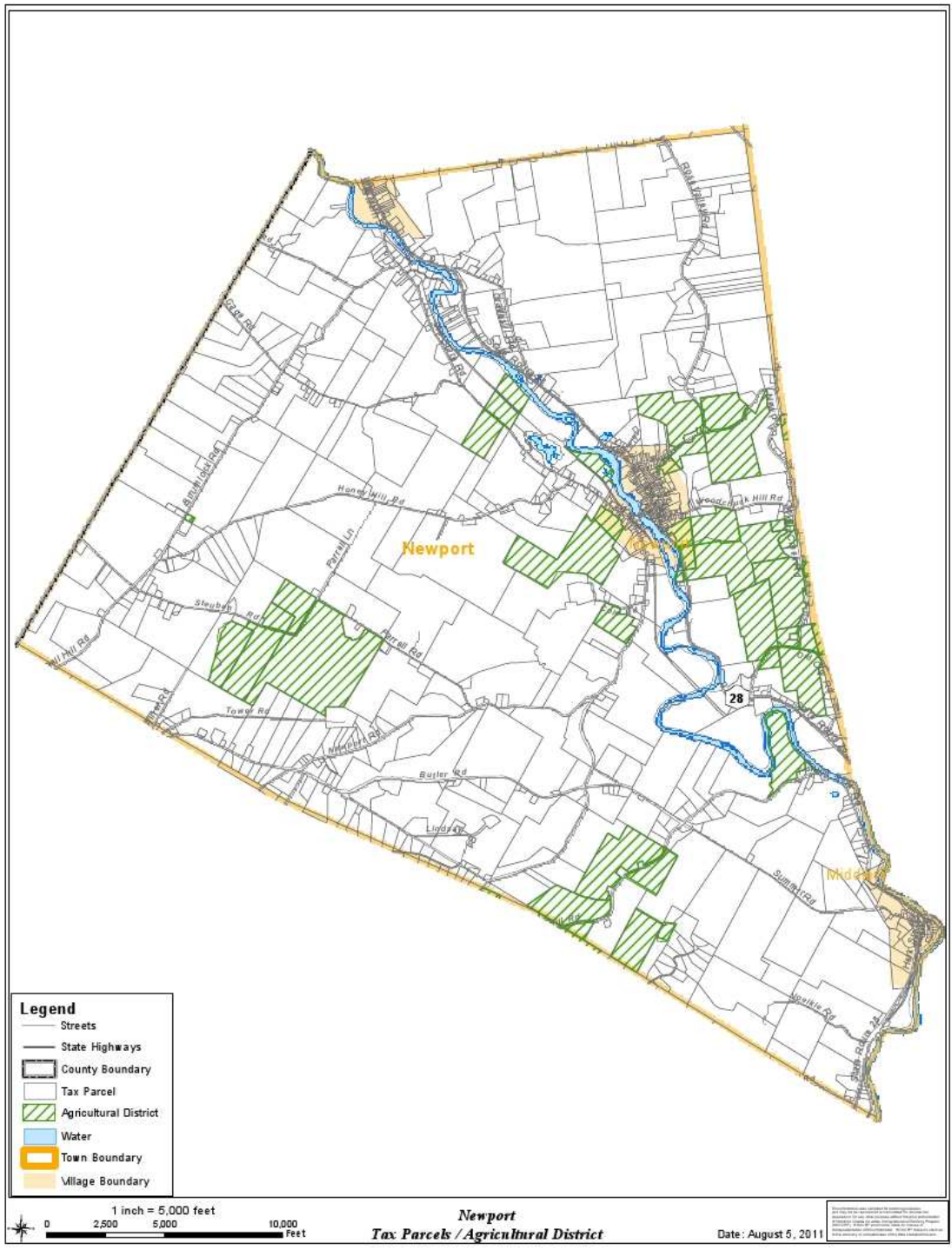
Town of Newport Agricultural Districts Map at Cornell University Geospatial  
Information Repository  
<http://cugirdata.mannlib.cornell.edu/pdf/agHERK2010.pdf>

Town of Newport Agricultural Districts Map at Oneida County Dept. of Planning  
[http://www.ocgov.net/oneida/sites/default/files/planning/AgDistrictMaps/Herkimer/NEWPORT\\_LETTER.pdf](http://www.ocgov.net/oneida/sites/default/files/planning/AgDistrictMaps/Herkimer/NEWPORT_LETTER.pdf)

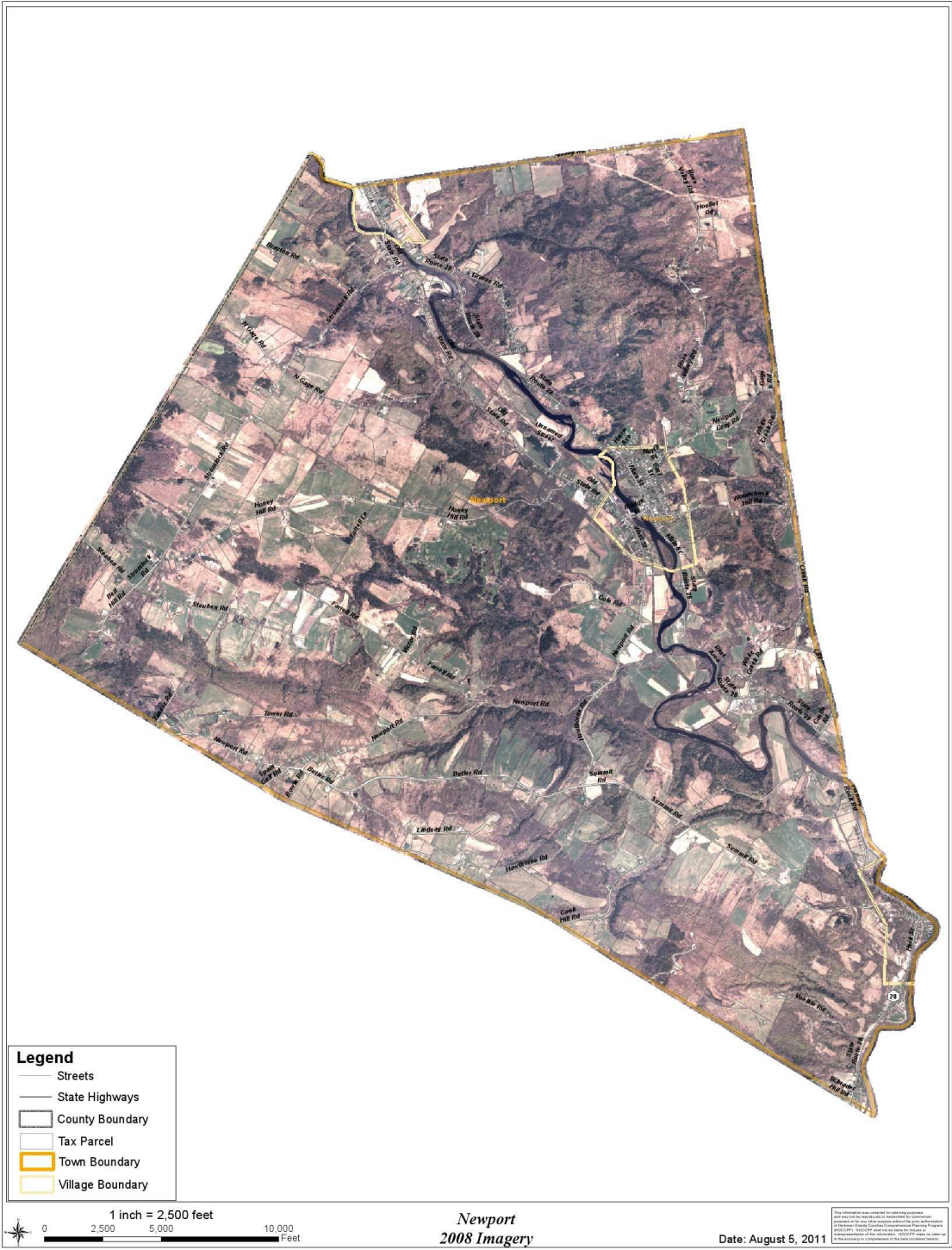
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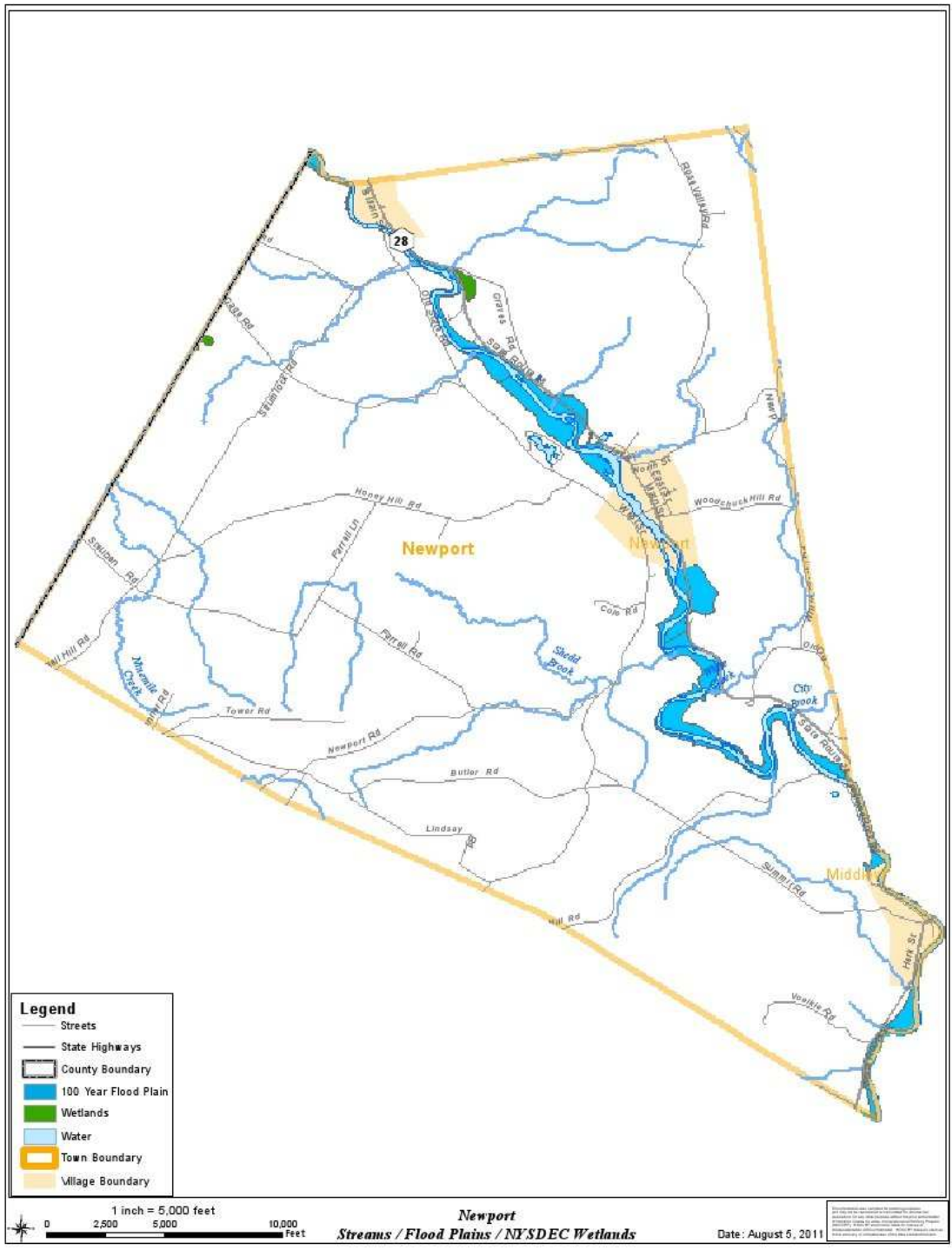
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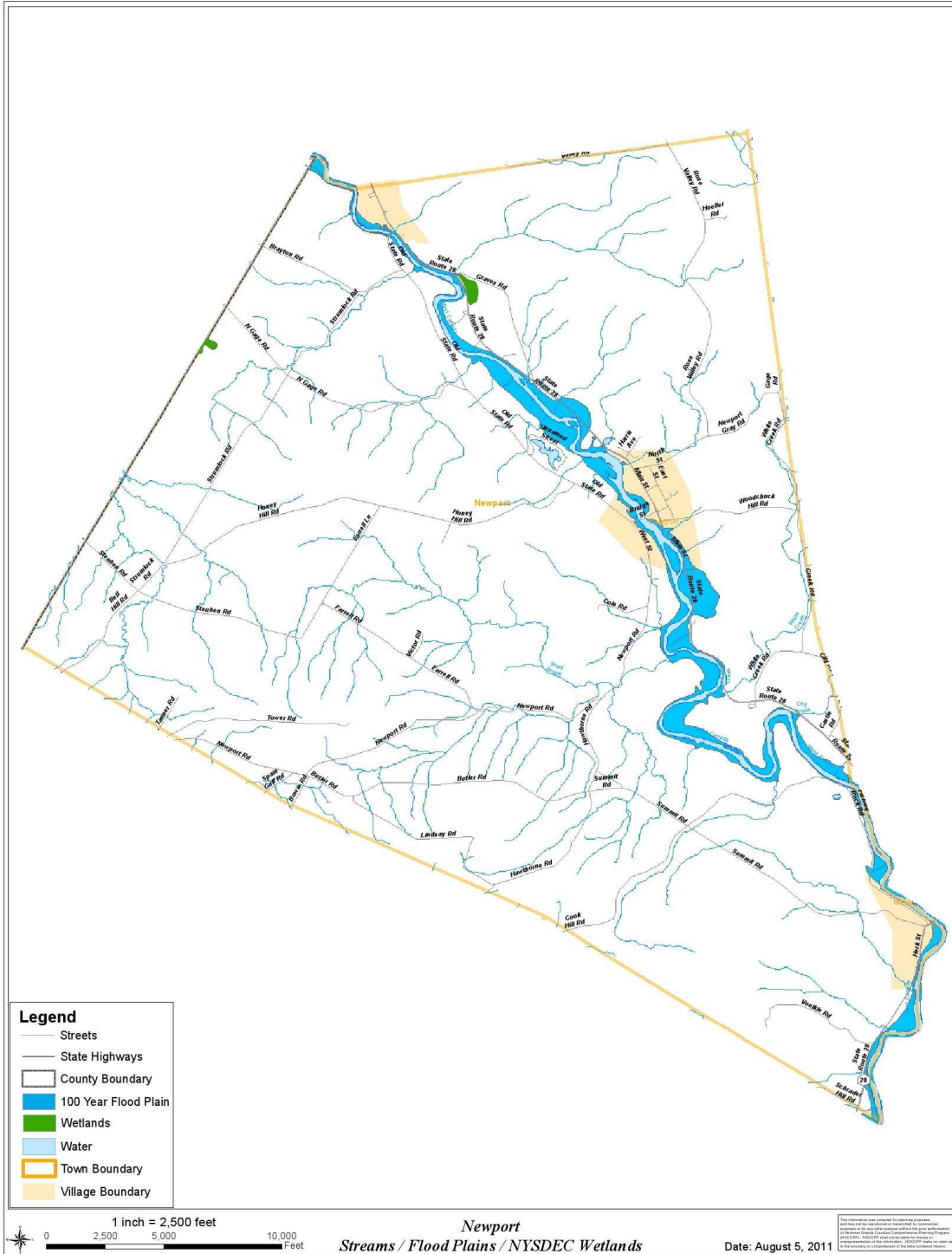
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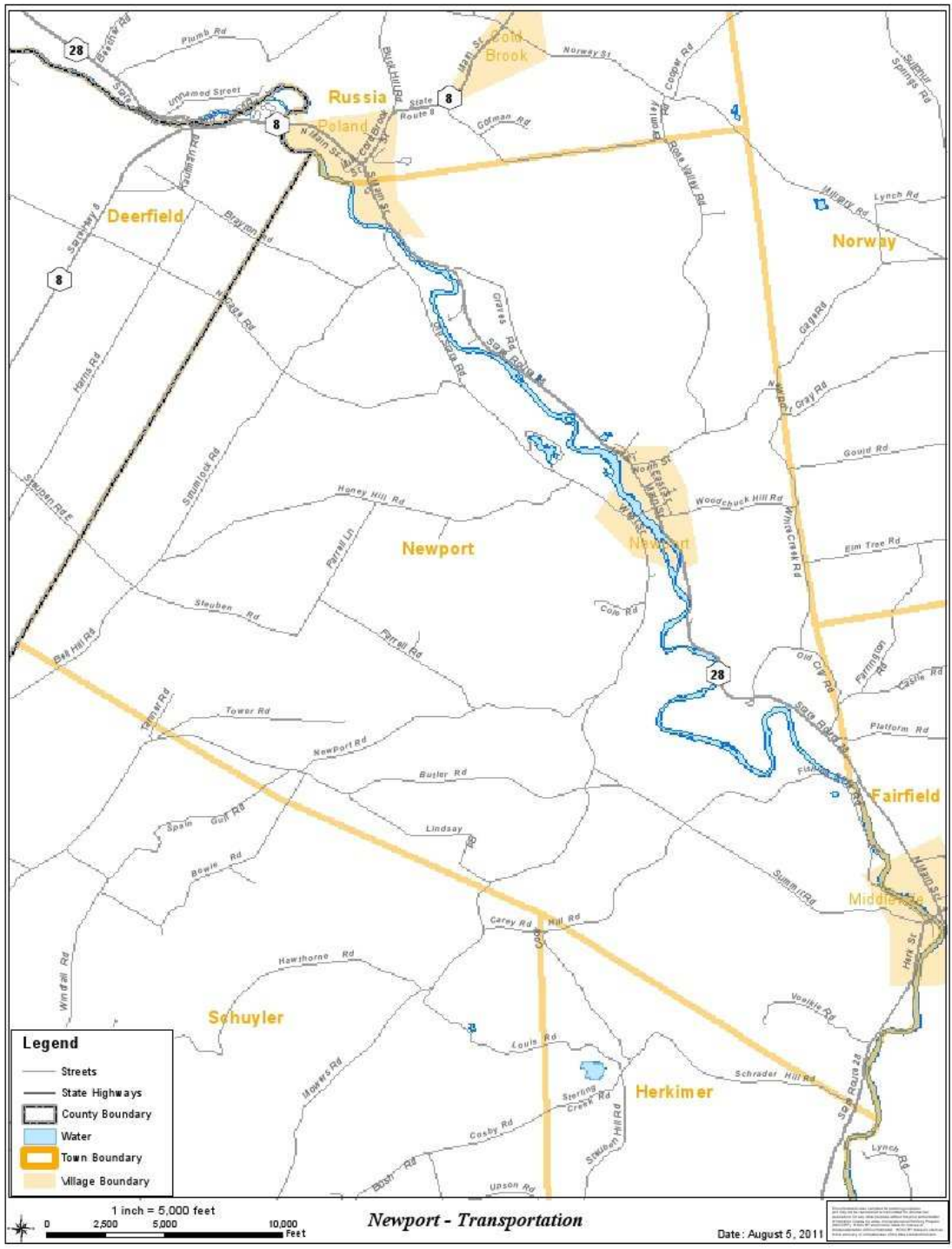


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