

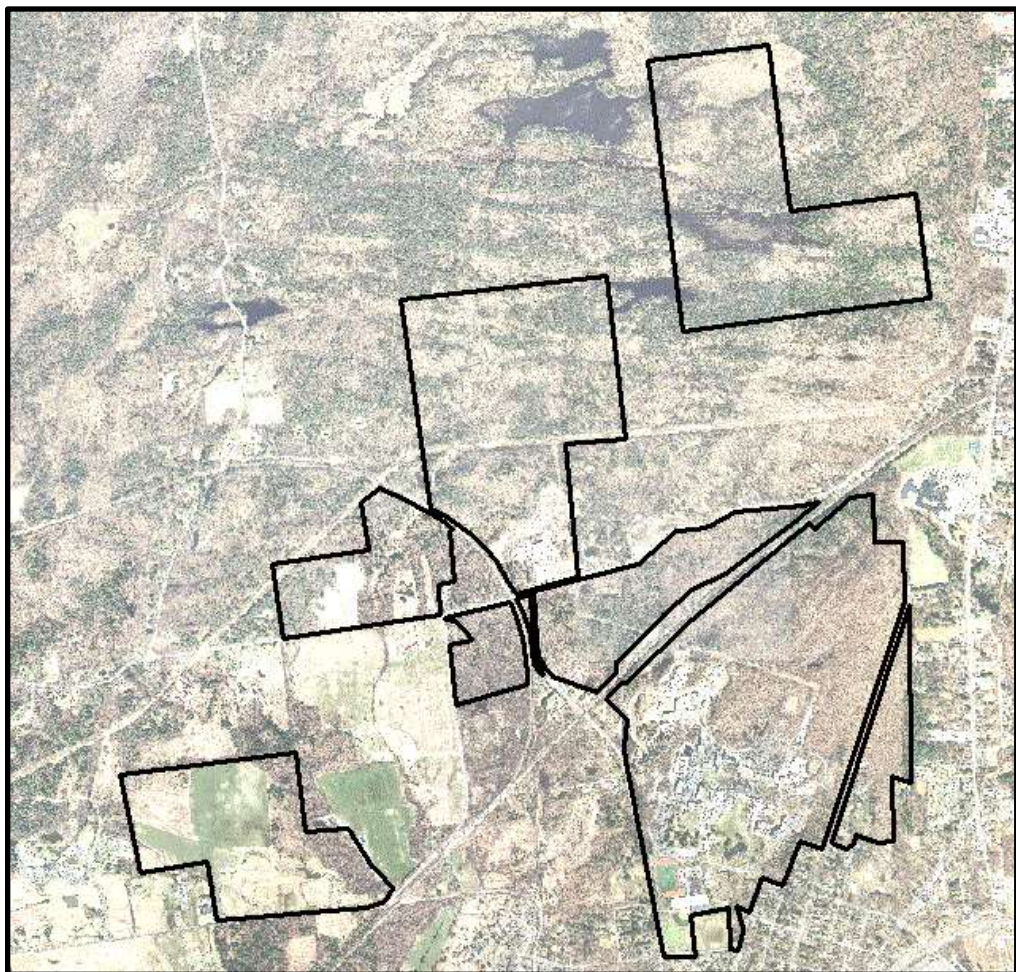
SKIDMORE WOODLAND ATLAS

Student Faculty Collaborative Research Summer 2012

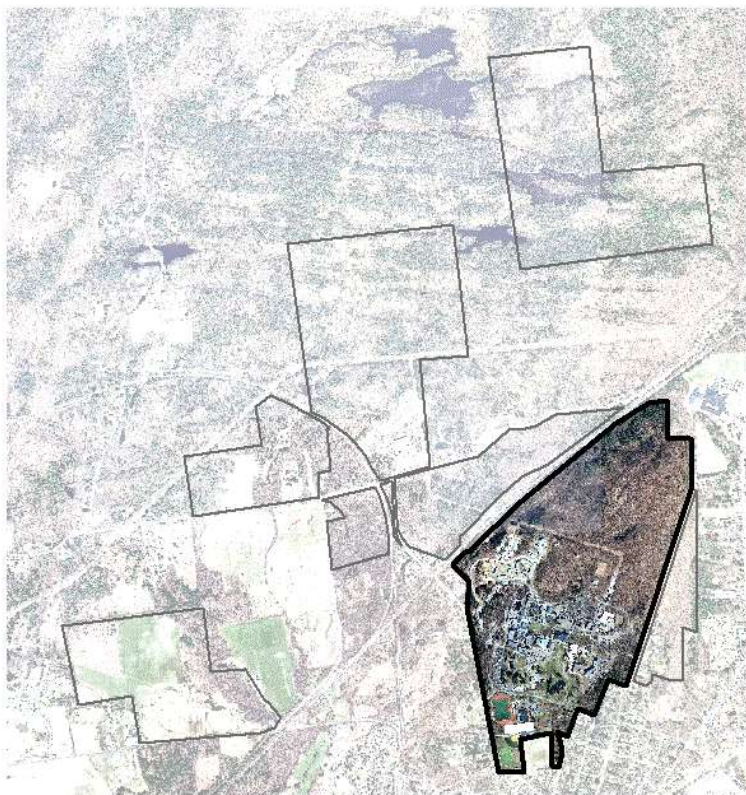
Jeremy Rosen 2014, Melissa Green 2013, Sondra Lipshutz 2013,
Matthew Tatkov 2013

Robert Jones, Associate Professor, Economics Department

SKIDMORE PROPERTY



Skidmore College now owns over 1,000 acres of land. About 900 acres of this land, including the North Woods, are woodland and 200 of these acres were acquired within the past two years. Subsequently, much of this land has been left unexplored and unmapped. In order to provide the school with an organized collection of information on these woodlands, our research team used geographic positioning systems (GPS) and Arc Map, a mapping application, to create various maps explaining and surveying the land. These maps include information on trails, surficial geology, bedrock types, points of interest, and history. Overall, this collection of maps and other information on Skidmore's many parcels opens the land to students and faculty for use and research.



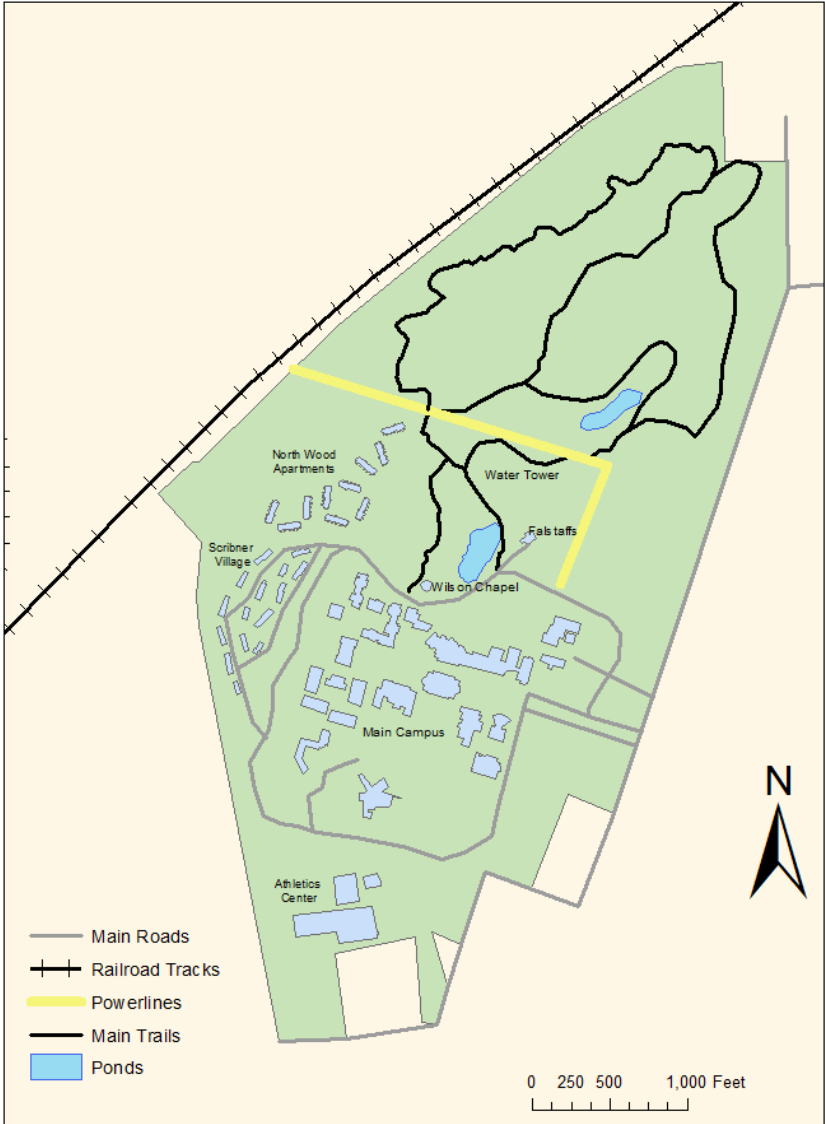
Skidmore's main campus property is about 328 acres. The 165 acres of woods located in the north of the school's property is called the North Woods.

In the 1880s the North Woods property was part of the Woodlawn Park and contained mansions, a toboggan slide, a dance pavilion, and carriage trails. There are also remains of the old Grotto Stables in the North Woods. The Woodlawn Park estate was neglected in the early 1990s and sold into parcels in 1916. In 1934 the city of Saratoga Springs built an underground reservoir on the land. In 1961, Skidmore purchased the property.

There are four main trails that are used in the North Woods, the red, blue, orange, and green trails. The woods are frequently used by Skidmore and community members for research, education, walking, running, snowshoeing, skiing, and dog walking. The water tower, right off of the red trail, is the highest point in Saratoga.

Most of the bedrock on the land is dolostone. When groundwater goes through dolostone it dissolves part of the rock and has created a minicave system under the ground called karsts. This phenomenon has created a disappearing stream off the blue trail.

Trail Map



2011



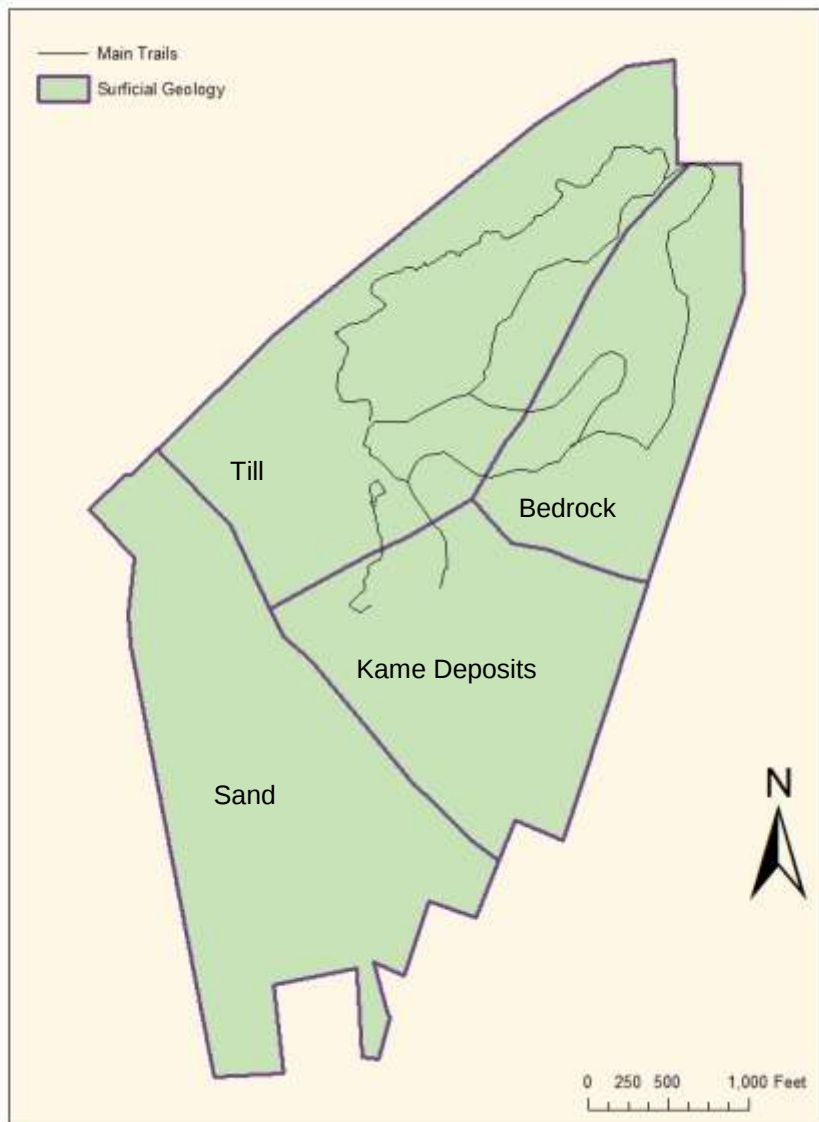
1880



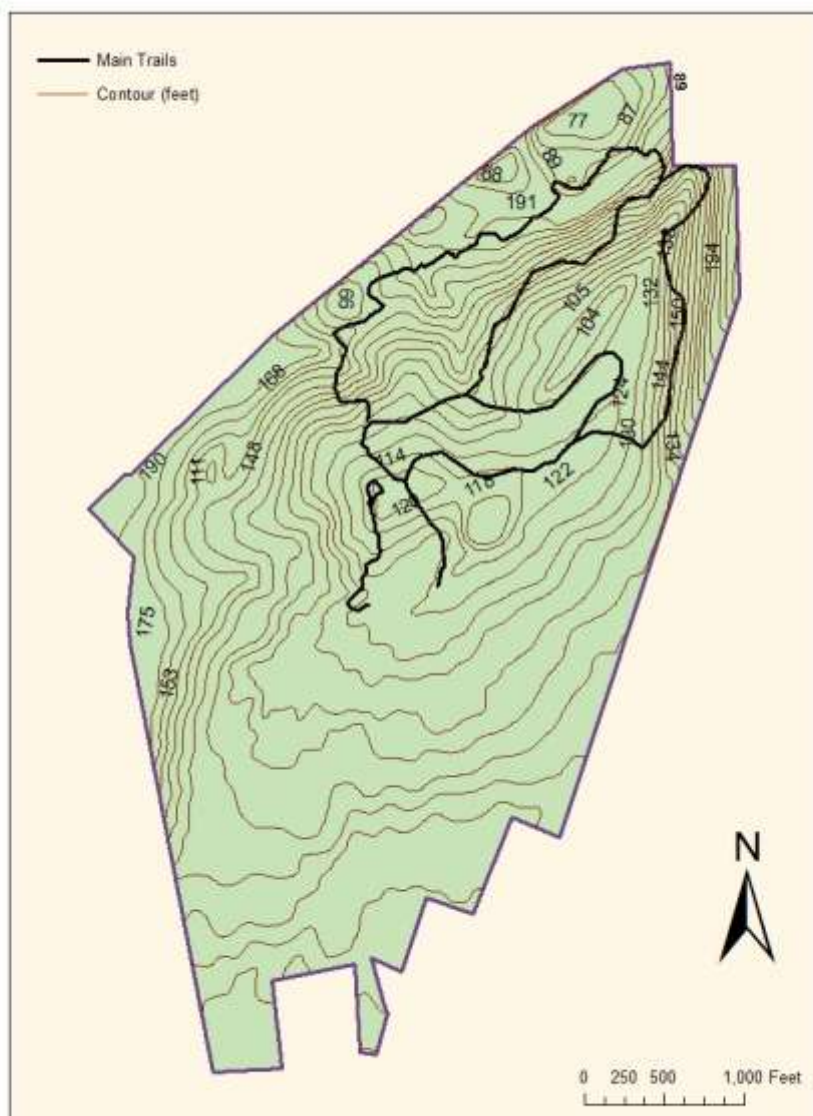
1893



Surficial Geology



Contour





Pond



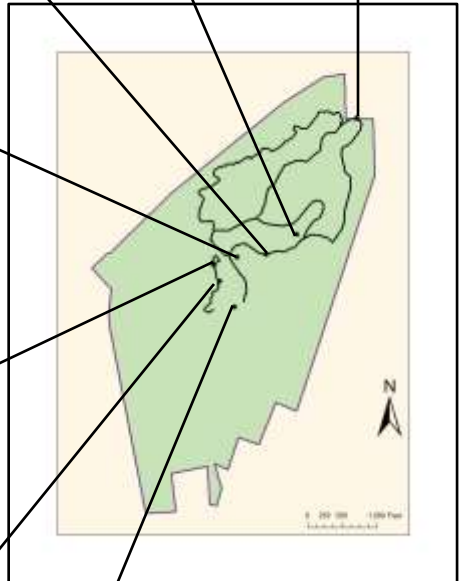
Rock Outcropping



Well



Water Tower



Whale Rock

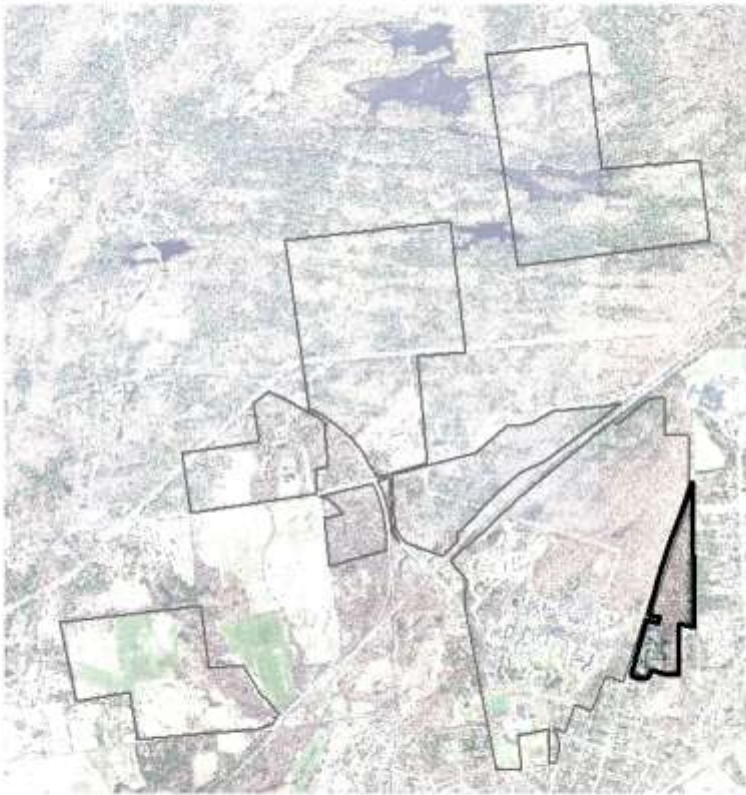


Grotto Stables



Marshland

HILLSIDE



The college's Hillside property is approximately 35.4 acres of land. The parcel is located to the east of Skidmore's campus off to the right of Glen Mitchell Road. The college's admissions building and Surrey Hotel are located on this land.

The Hillside property was originally part of Woodlawn Park in the late 1800s. In 1819 Henry Walton bought the land and in 1879 Henry Hilton purchased the land and created the Woodlawn Park. The park held his estate, stables, riding trails, and meadows for himself and his guests.

The main walking trails are located in the northern portion of the land. There are also a series of historic trails that may have been part of the miles of carriage trails created by Henry Hilton in the late 1880s. There is evidence of a building foundation that could have been part of the Hilton estate.

The Hillside property land is also notable for its elevation change of 70 feet in the northern part of the parcel.

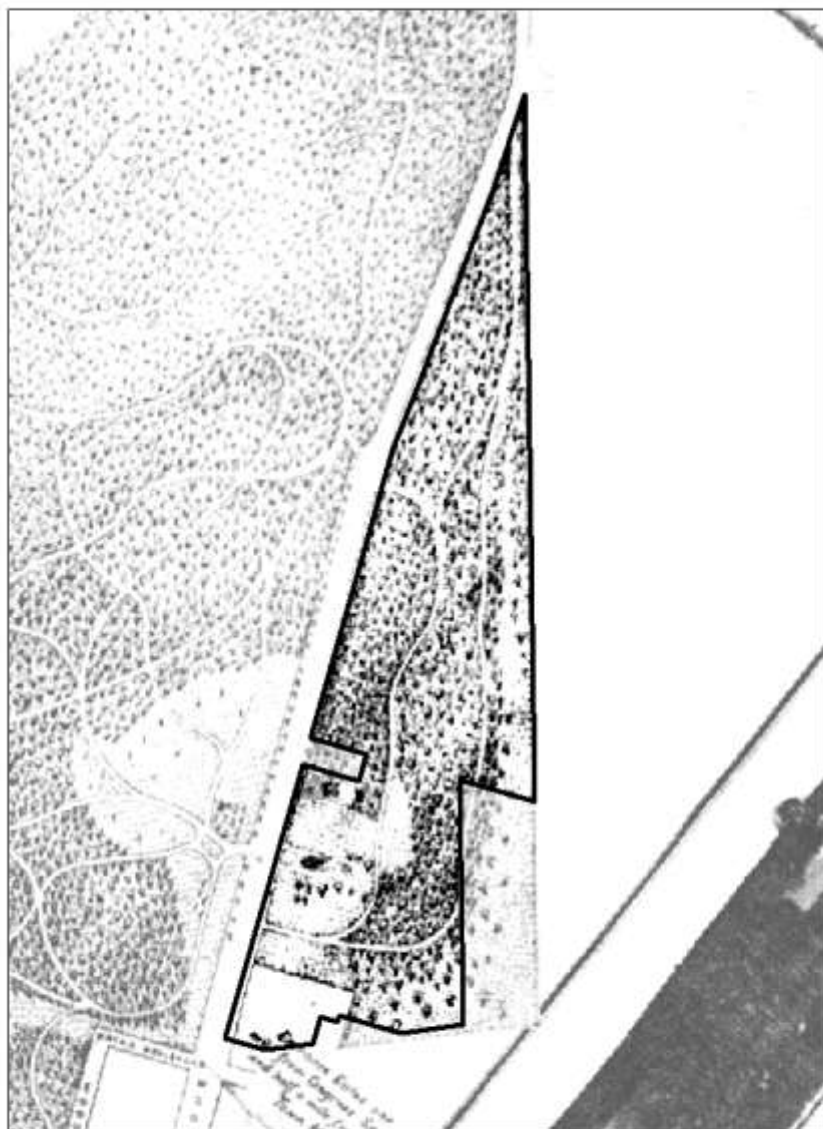
Trail Map



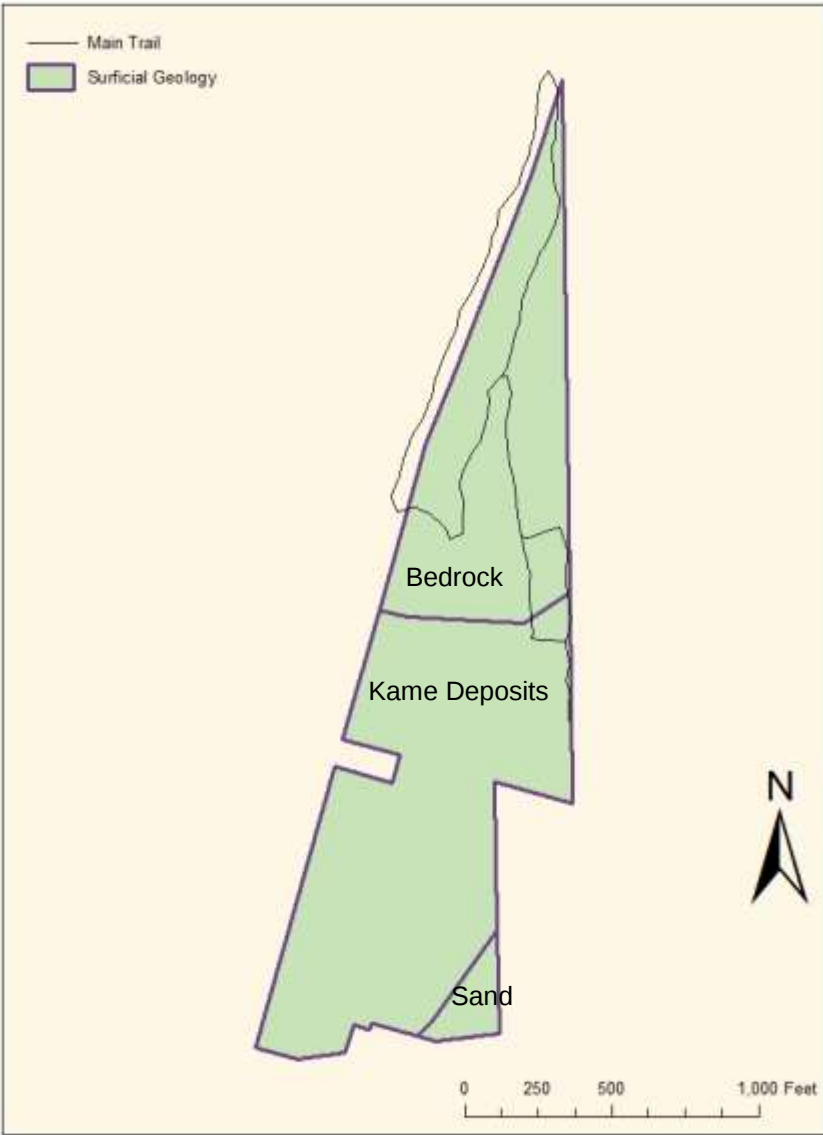
2011



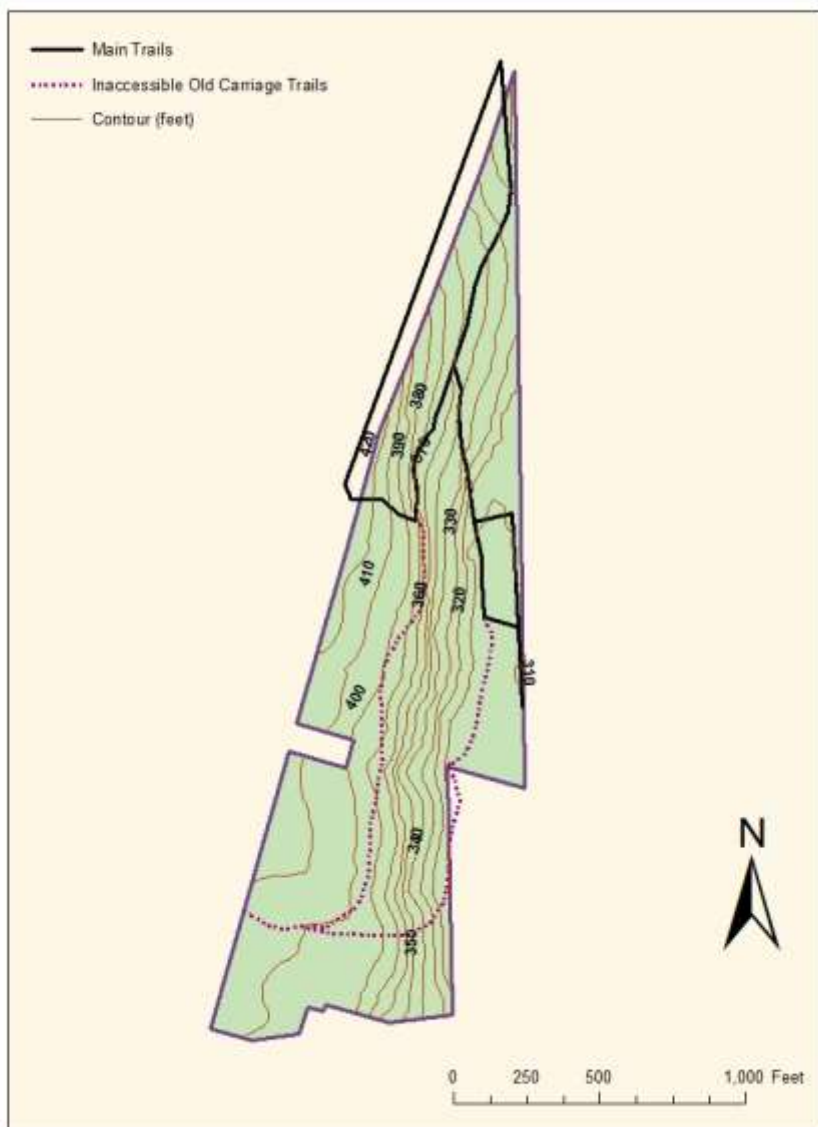
1880



Surficial Geology



Contour



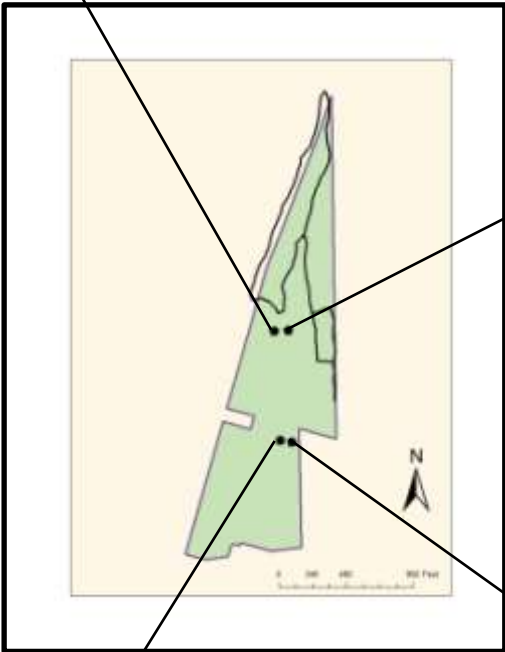
Hillside Points of Interest



Foundation



Carriage Trail

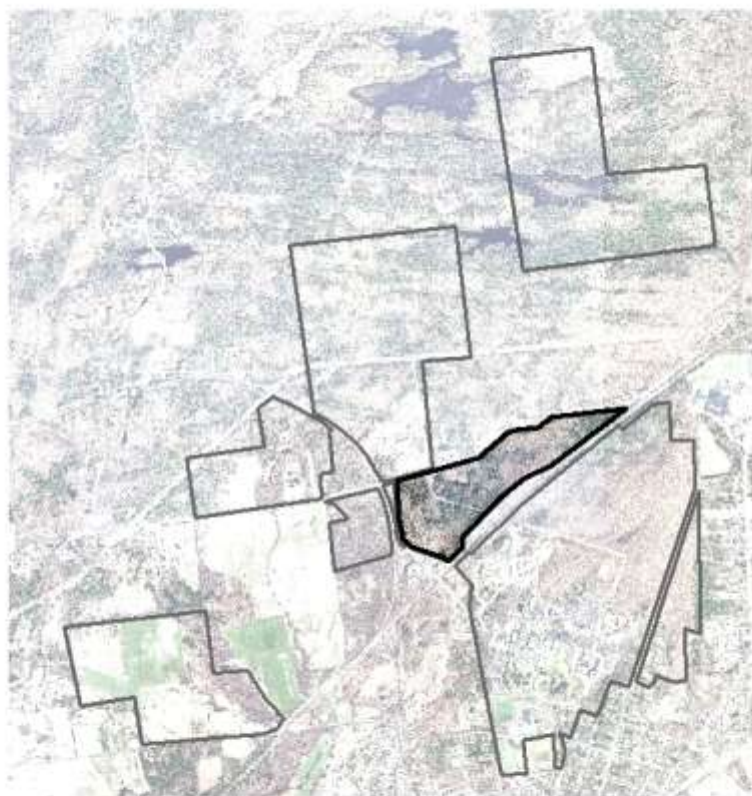


Well



Skidmore Inn Recyclables

DENTON



The Denton Parcel is located northwest of the railroad tracks and south of the stables parcel. Overall, this parcel represents 79.5 acres of Skidmore's property and was acquired by Skidmore in 1961. Despite historic maps from the 1800s showing evidence of many trails throughout the land, especially to the southwest, these trails no longer exist making the land difficult to navigate. However, their remnants may vary with the seasons.

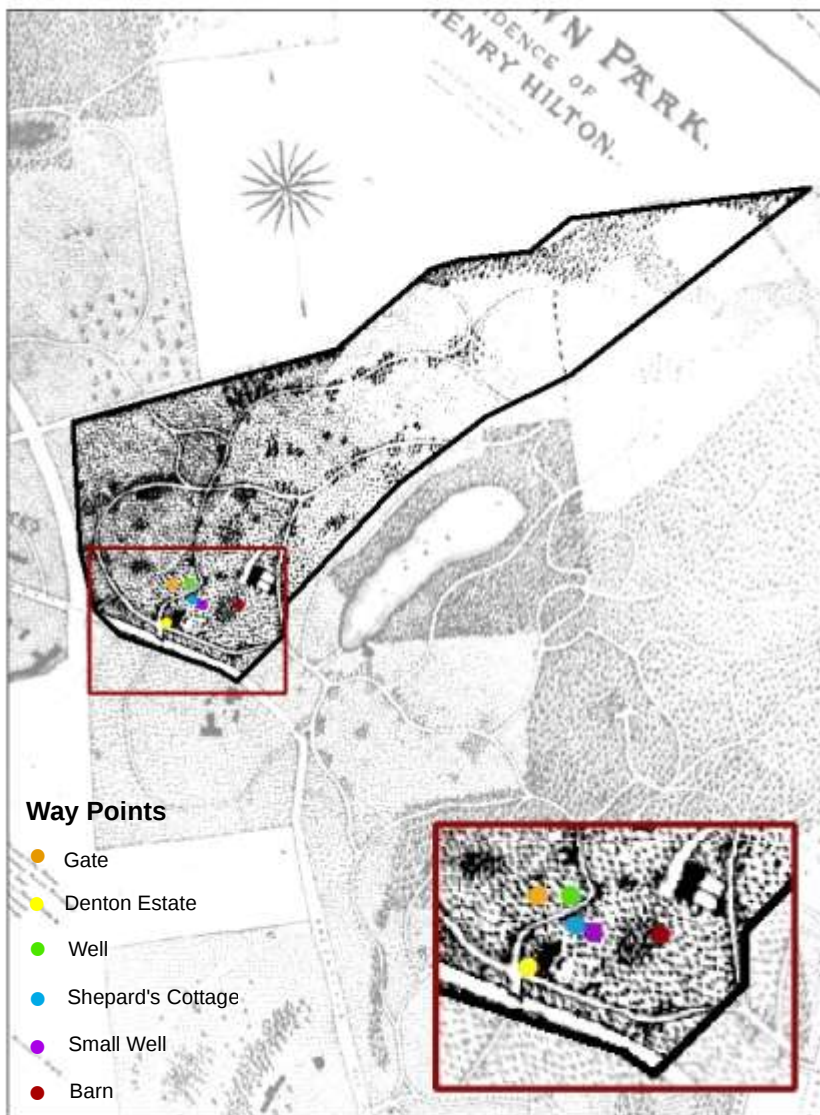
The reason for the concentration of trails in the southwest corner is the Denton estate owned by John Denton in the late 1800s. Property maps and trail maps of Saratoga during the 19th century show both his ownership and the layout of his land. Additionally, artifacts left from the estate are very clear. Walking through the land, one can find a gate leading to his estate in the middle of where one of the trails once was.

The foundation from the 80 by 40 foot main house built in 1759 also still remains as well as many wells and cottages. Also notable is the 115 feet stone wall from the sheep fold composed of seven, 15 by 50 feet pens. Over the hill just above the pens was once a barn however its evidence is not clear.

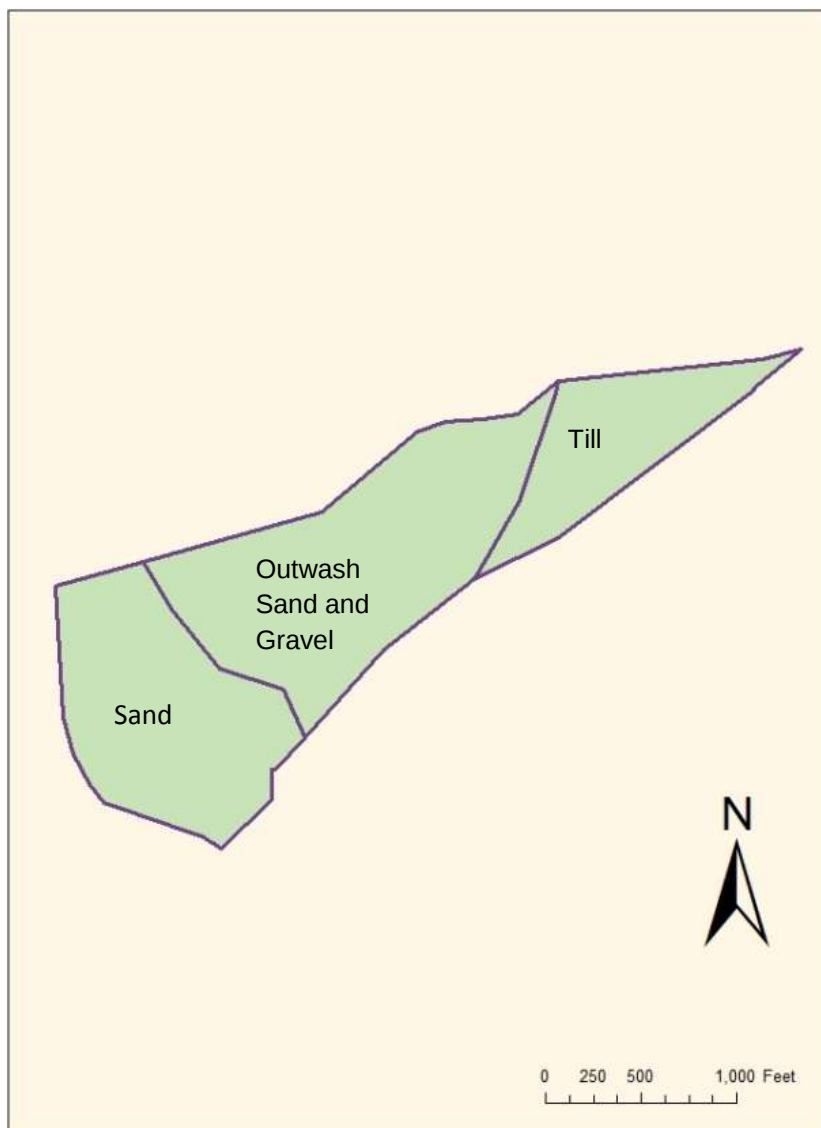
2011



1880



Surficial Geology



Contour



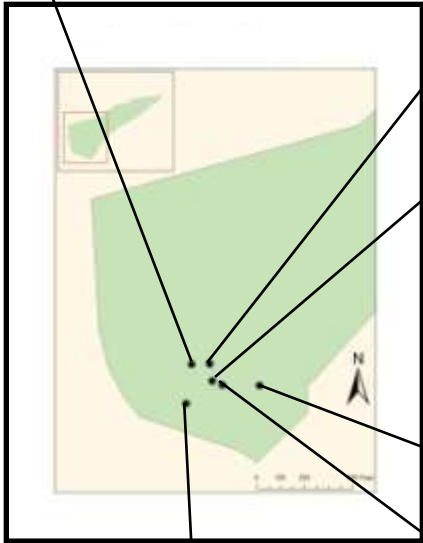
Denton Points of Interest



Gate



Well



Shepard's Cottage



Barn

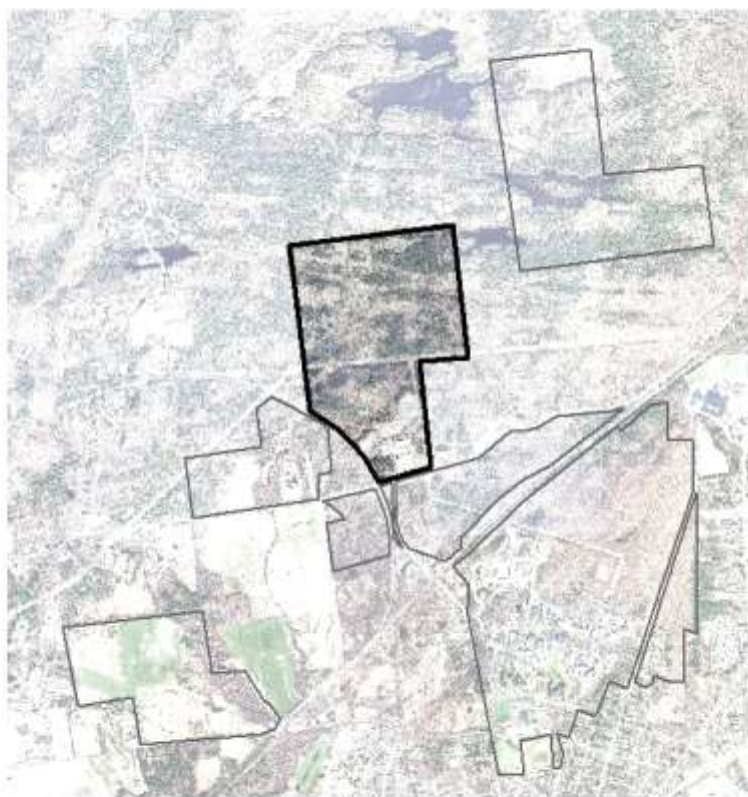


Denton Estate



Small Well

STABLES

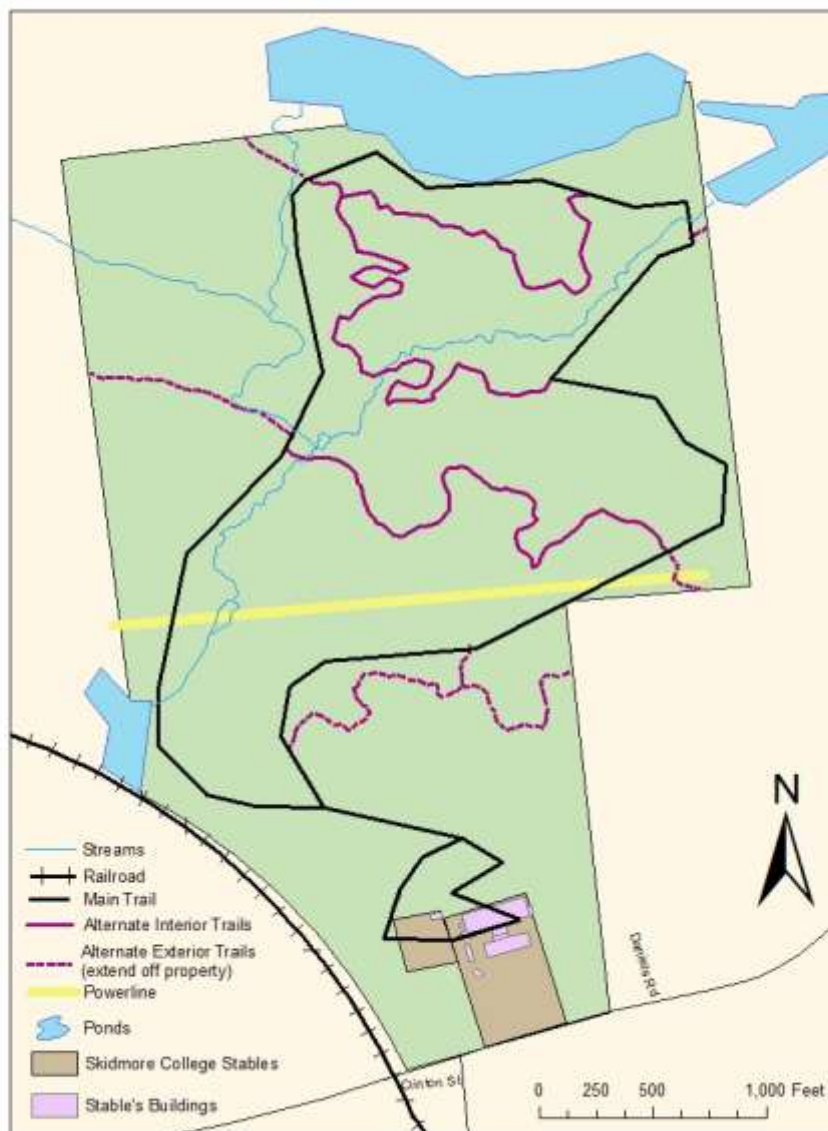


The Stables property is a parcel of approximately 209.2 acres. The trails are located to the north of Skidmore's campus and behind the college's Van Lennep Riding Stables.

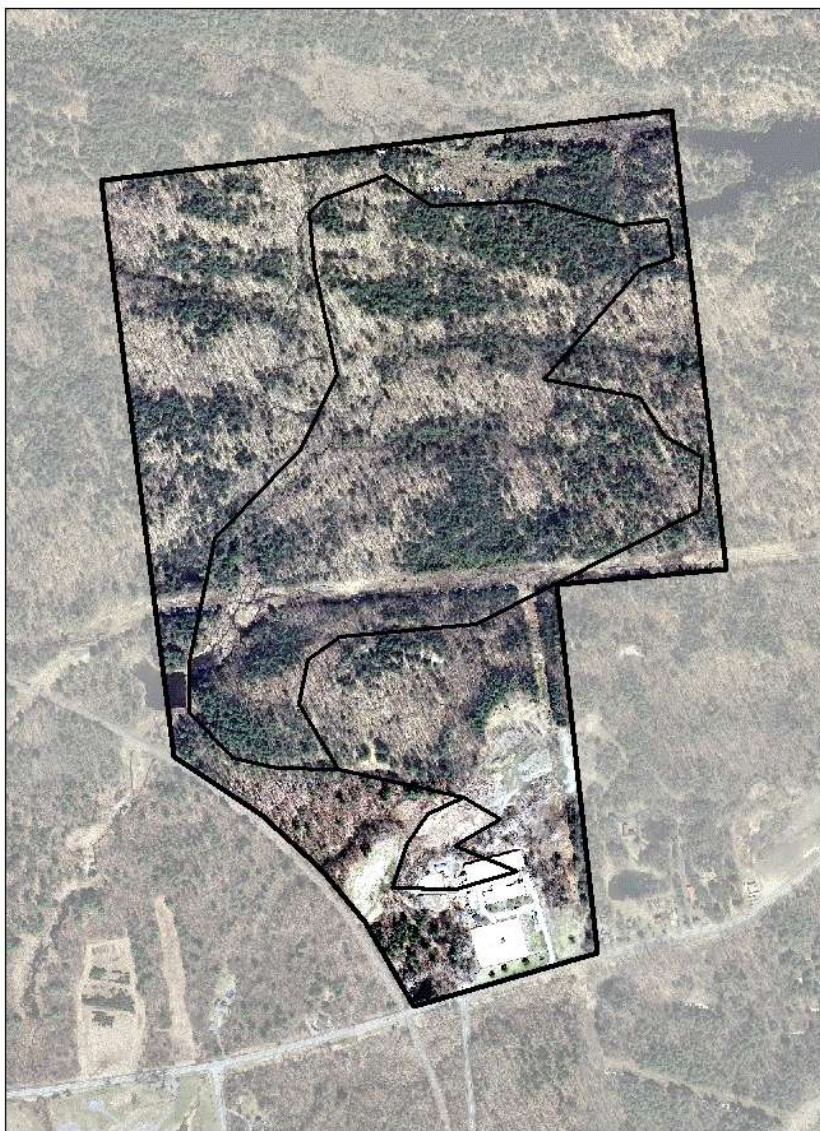
The Stables property was formally part of the Woodlawn Park created by Judge Henry Hilton in the 1880s. He built his estate on the land and maintained the open space, forests, and wetlands. In the 1960s Skidmore acquired the land and it became the Skidmore Stables.

The main trail that loops around the property was originally part of 22 miles of carriage trails created during the 1880s. Today there are smaller trails that extend off the main trail that highlight unique aspects of the land such as a rock outcropping, beaver dam, and a small waterfall. The trails are used for recreational walks and are also used as part of the Saratoga Mountain Bike Association.

Trail Map



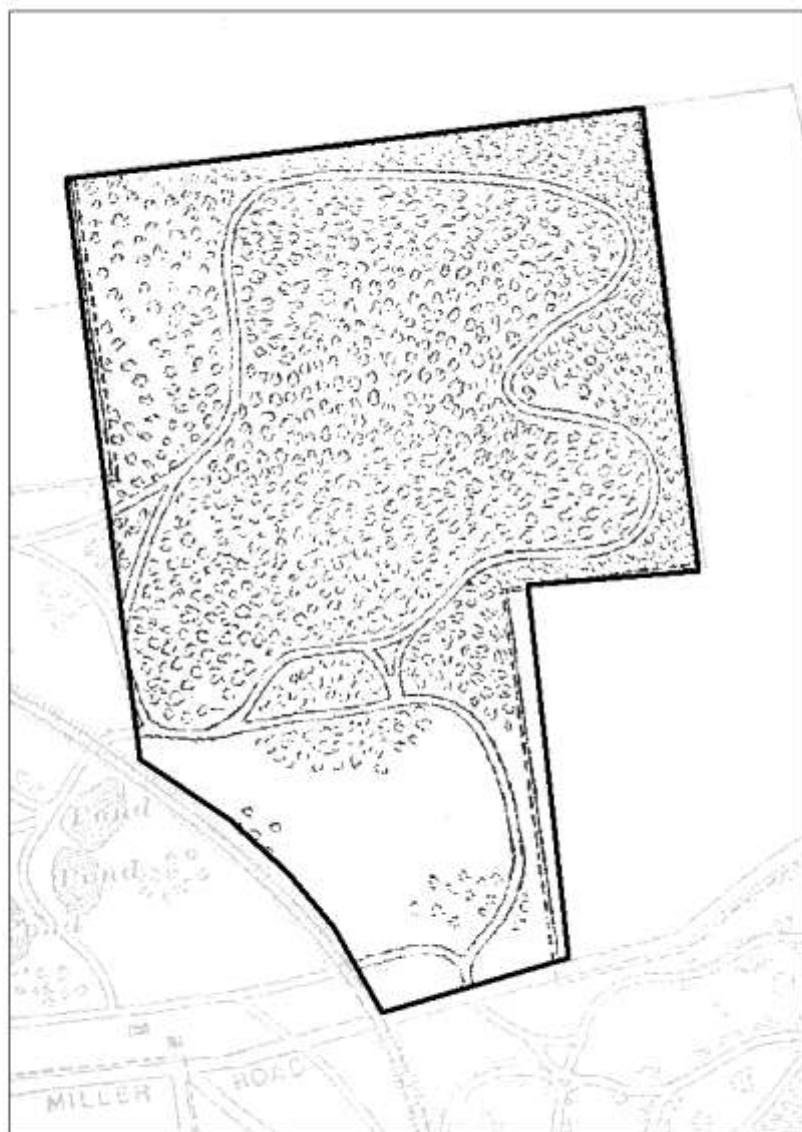
2011



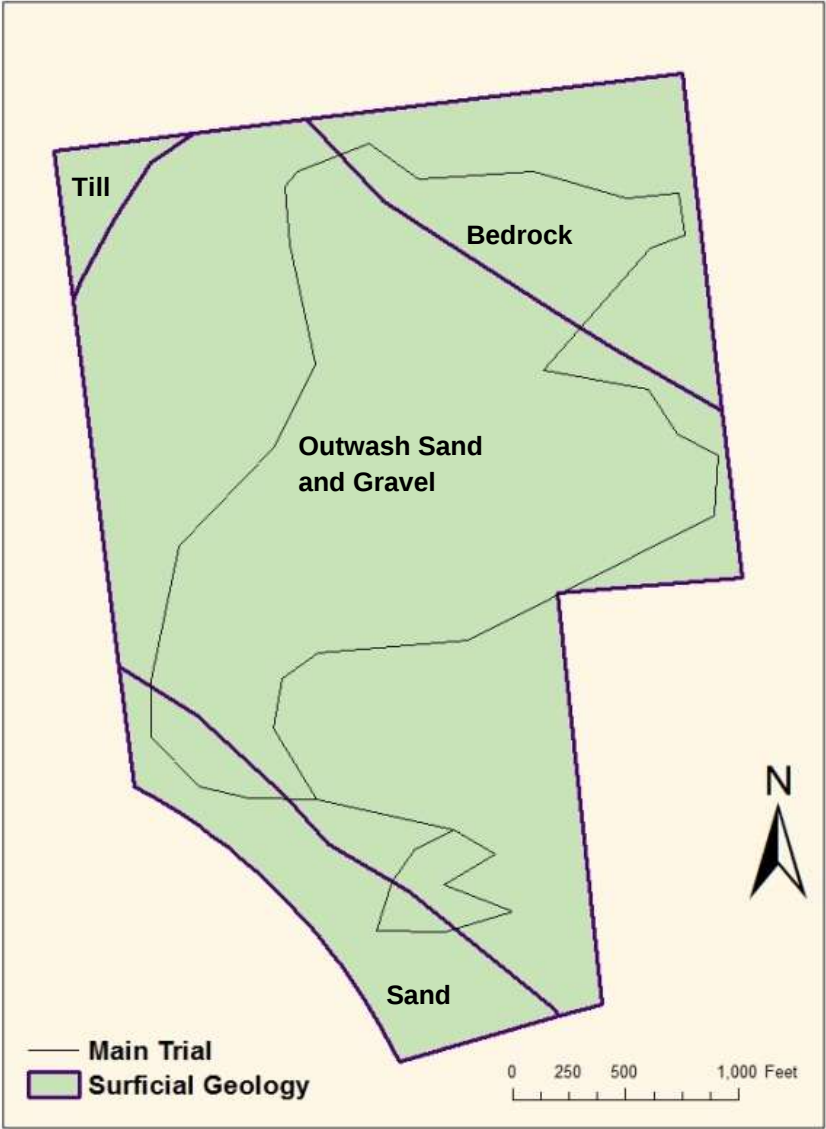
1880



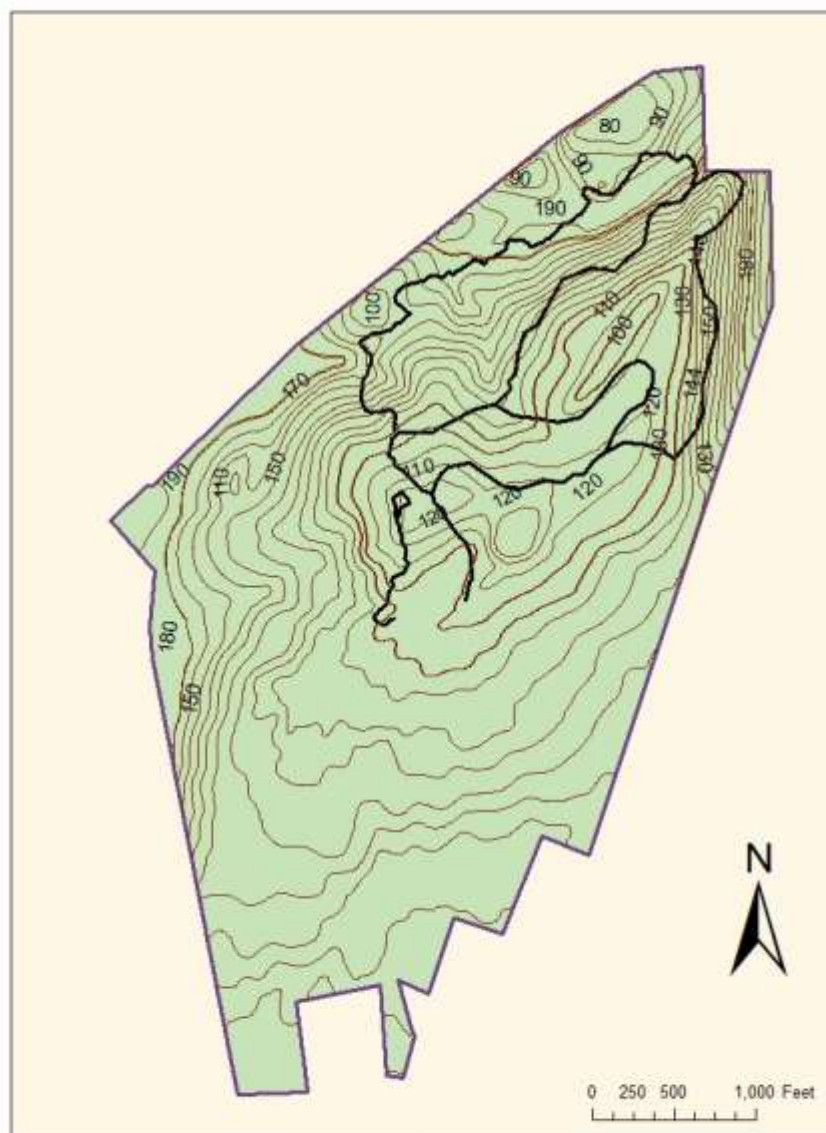
1893



Surficial Geology



Contour



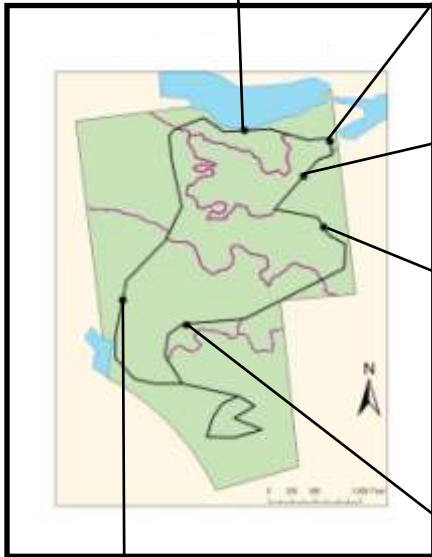
Stables Points of Interest



Swampland



Beaver Dam



Waterfall



Stone Wall

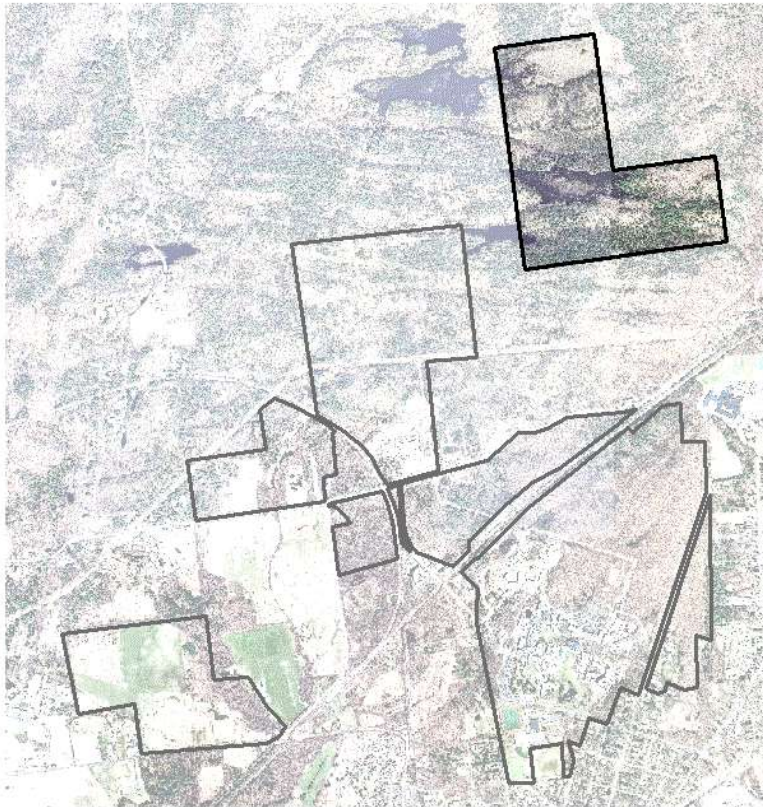


Pond



Rock Outcropping

NEW LAND



Everything spiritual and everything emotional begins with thanks.

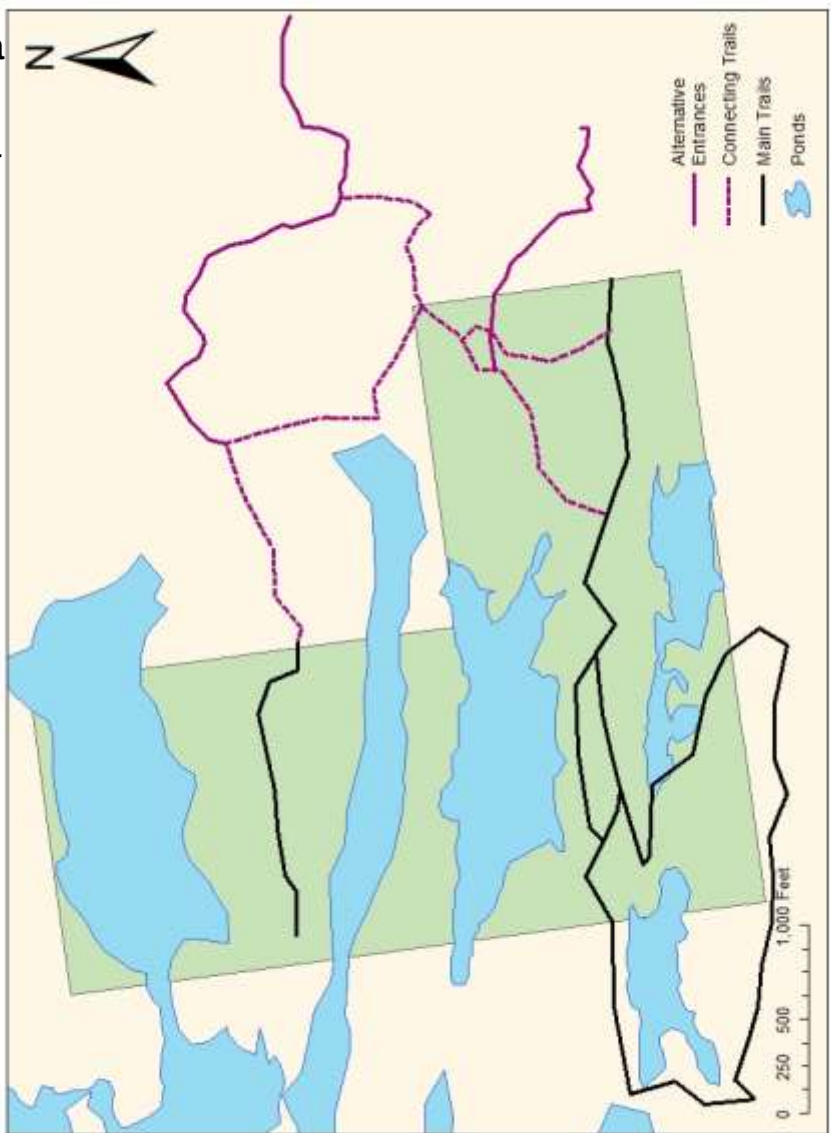
Skidmore College acquired the New Land property in December 2009 from Michael Roohan. The Roohan family owned that land but it was mainly open to the public. The few trails that are defined in the parcel are created mostly by logging trucks.

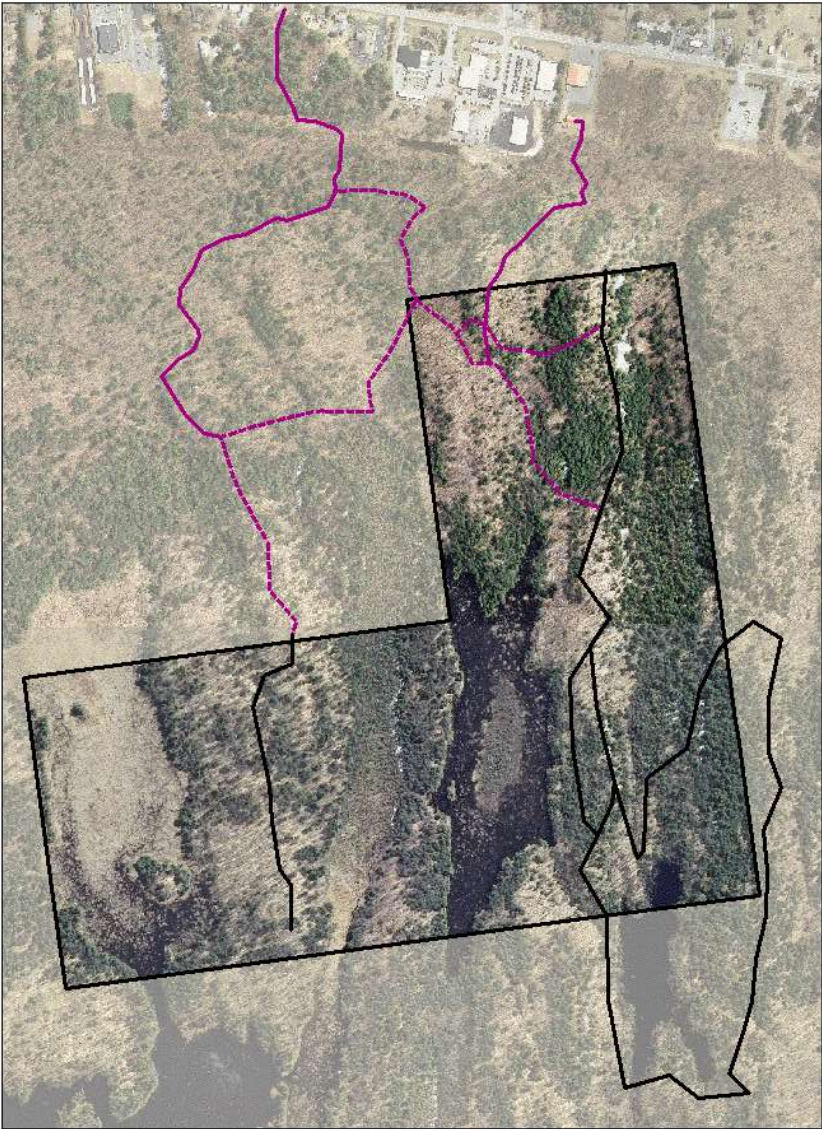
In the 1880s, before the Roohan family had possession over the land, it was inhabited by the Abenaki Native American tribe, who lived throughout New England and Quebec. The tribe migrated to Saratoga each summer season, down from their homeland in Canada, to sell their artisan woven baskets to the racetrack tourists in Saratoga Springs.

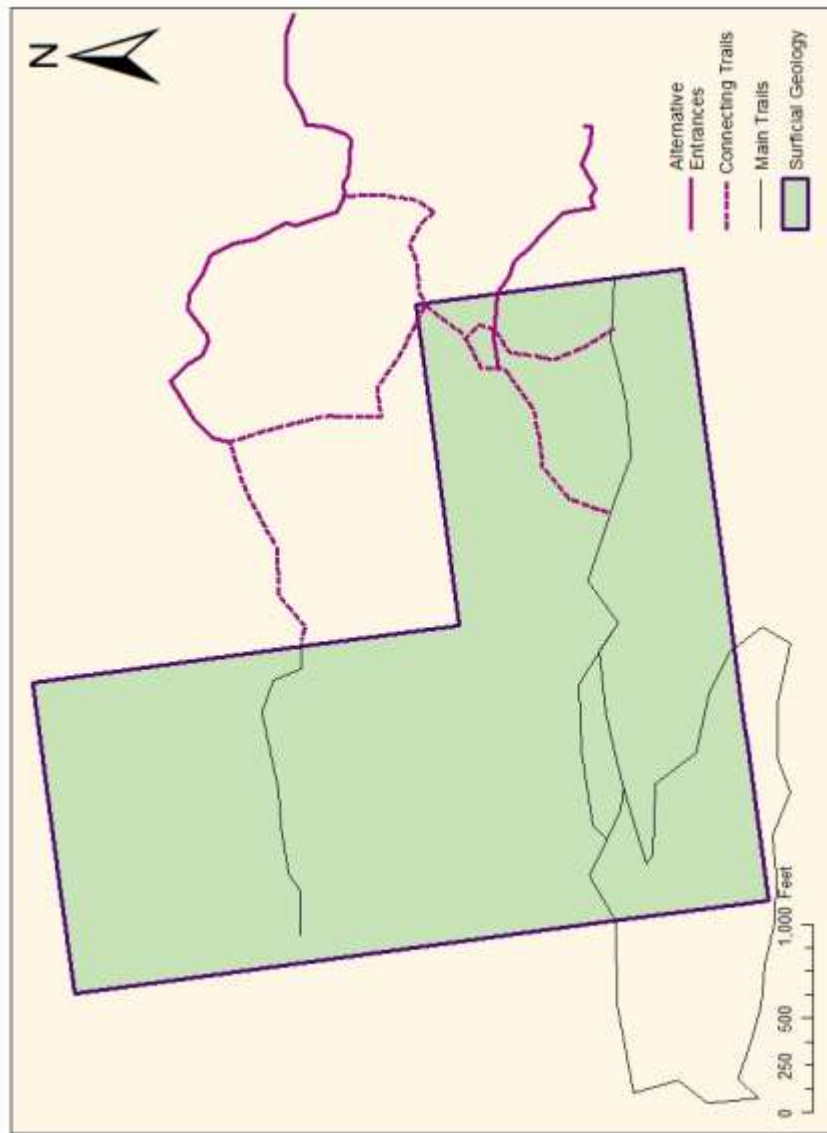
There is evidence of their ephemeral campsites on top of a large, flat, elevated, and clear-cut plateau in the New Land west of the Wilton Firehouse. When the area was in use and the trees were cleared, the town and Saratoga Lake were visible. The temporary housing, typically tents made out of birch bark and canvas tarps, was easily deconstructed and transported to the next site. Possible evidence of the Abenaki's presence is the Sweet Grass plant, which the tribe used to make their hand-crafted baskets, that still grows at the top of this clearing. A large flat stone surrounded by smaller rocks that could have been used as a table is another indication of the inhabitation of the Abenaki.

Skidmore's New Land was also home to several squatters throughout history. Angeline Tubs was an elderly woman who resided and wandered the forest after the Revolutionary war. During her life spanning one hundred and four years (1761-1864) she was commonly considered a witch or a sorceress surrounded by a hoard of cats. Another sorcerer or alchemist rumored to reside in the land was Dr. Dee, a magician who worked for Louis XIV. The various travelers and inhabitants of this property have recognized the spiritual power of the land.

Trail Map

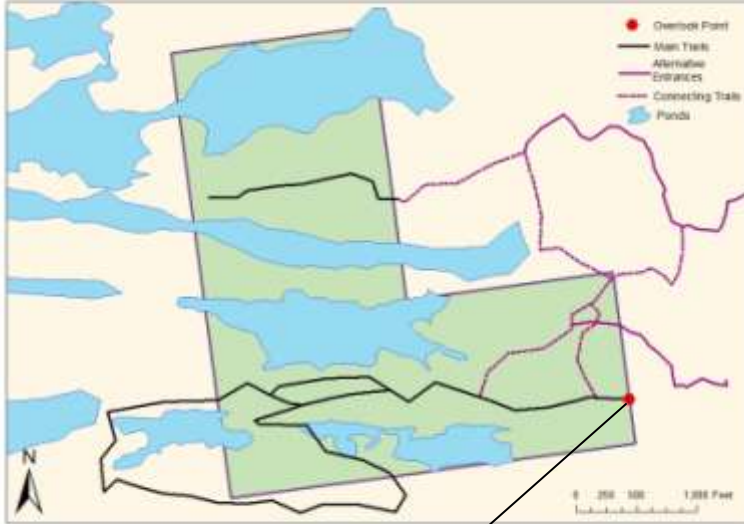






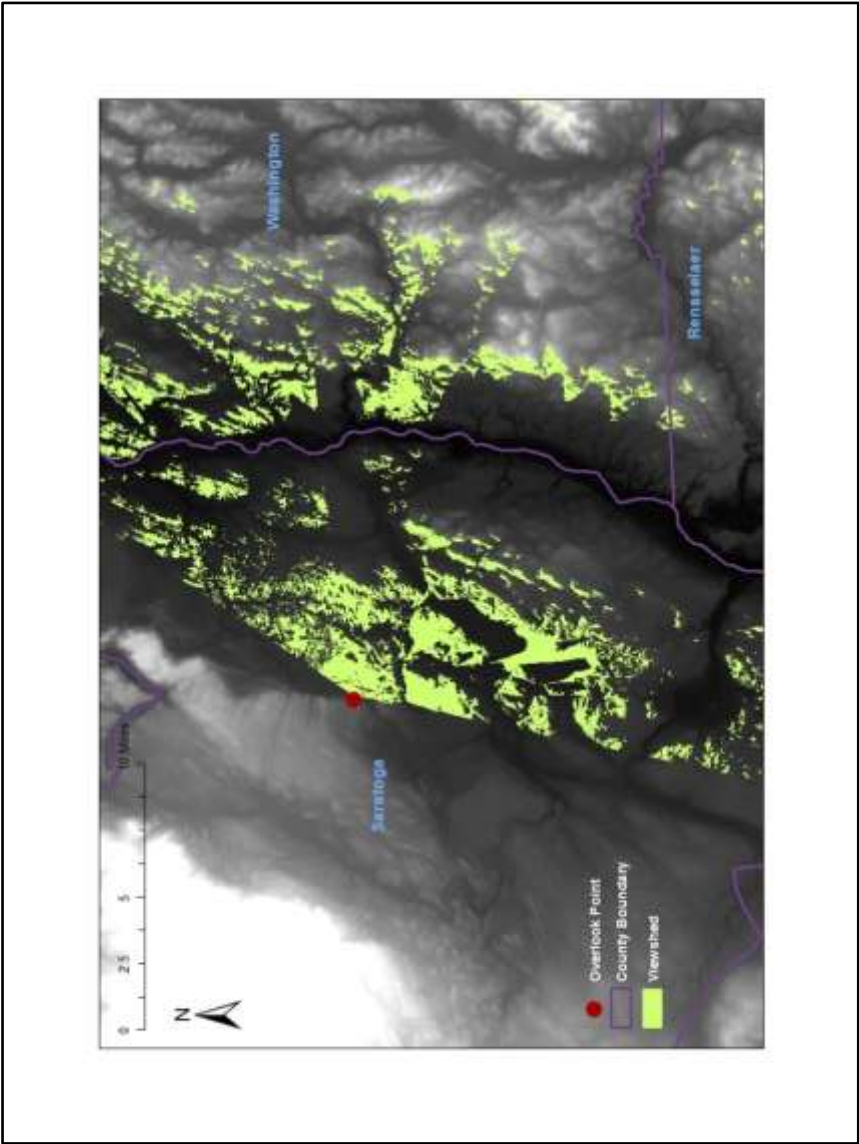


New Land Overlook

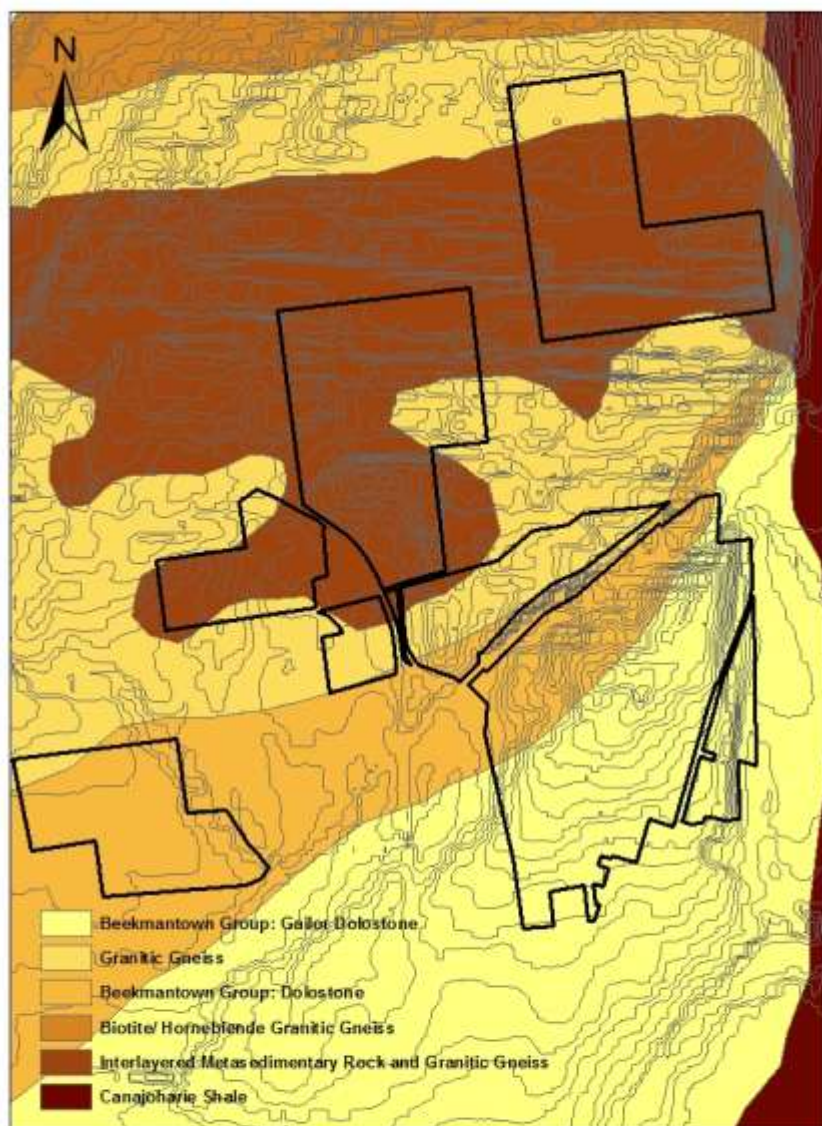


Viewshed Analysis

A Viewshed analysis represents the land area that can be seen from a specific observational point. This map depicts the area of land that can be seen from the overlook point in the New Land Property. From the point (in red) a viewer can see all of the highlighted land (green). Here an observer can see into Washington County. This analysis does not include surficial obstructions such



Bedrock



The variation in bedrock in the Saratoga area, as well as many other significant geological features, is greatly determined by the Saratoga McGregor Fault system which includes the subsequent Woodlawn Fault. The McGregor fault runs north to south passing the very east section of the New Land property and continuing east of the hillside parcel. Extreme changes in contour, which are evident east of the New Land and through the hillside property, define the location of the fault. To the East of the fault the Bedrock is Middle Ordovician (500 to 440 million years ago) black Shale often known as Canajoharie Shale however this does not concern the surficial bedrock of Skidmore's parcels of land. To the west of the McGregor fault the bedrock varies in rock type. North of the railroad, or the Woodlawn fault, the bedrock is mostly Precambrian Granitic Gneiss which continue west past Skidmore's property.

Skidmore's bedrock type is essentially split into two main types of bedrock because of the Woodlawn fault. This fault stems off from the McGregor fault following the railroad tracks northwest of the main campus between the main campus and the Denton property. The change in contour between these two parcels of land shows evidence of the fault. To the south of the fault are the main campus and the hillside property in which the bedrock is Lower Ordovician Gailor Dolostone which falls under the Beekmantown Group.

The properties to the northwest of the Woodlawn fault include the Denton and Stables parcels, as well as the Newland property. The bedrock in these properties is primarily Precambrian Granitic Gneiss. Most of the bedrock however is not uniformly granitic Gneiss. The stables parcel contains both migmatites and metasedimentary rock layered with the granitic gneiss. The New Land bedrock is also composed of rock other than granitic gneiss such as migmatite and possibly biotite, and hornblende. This area also includes graphite, marble, pegmatites, and intrusive diabase dikes.

References

Bruchac, J. 2012, July 14. Personal Interview.

Roohan, M. 2012, July 4. Personal Interview.

Air Photos: NYS Clearinghouse Orthoimagery 2011.

Property Boundaries: Saratoga County Office of Real Property Tax Service Agency

County maps: US Census Bureau

Roads shape files: ESRI Maps

Geological: NYS Museum

Historic Maps: National Archives, Smithsonian Institute

Chan L, DiMauro A. Skidmore College 2007 Campus Plan The Campus Planning Framework. April 2007.