

Appendix J: Town of Grafton Resource Targets and Conservation Priority Areas

Located entirely on the Rensselaer Plateau, all the Town of Grafton is mapped within a high priority ecological area due to the Plateau's extensive forests, which provide habitat for large mammals and many birds, and to the Plateau's many ponds, lakes, and wetlands. The town also has extensive public lands including Grafton Lakes State Park, the Dunham Reservoir, Dyken Pond Education Center, and parts of Pittstown State Forest and Grafton Forest. These public lands also contain high priority scenic areas. The Dickenson Fire Tower offers one of the most extensive views in Rensselaer County. Route 2, as it traverses the Plateau, is a priority scenic resource.

Most of the high priority water resource areas are in the northern part of the town that is within the watershed of the Tomhannock Reservoir, and along several streams that drain the Plateau to the north and east. The north/northwestern escarpment of the Rensselaer Plateau on the Grafton Forest and west and north of Grafton Lakes State Park contains high priority climate resiliency areas, scenic overlooks, and ecologically significant habitats.

Resource Target	Conservation Priority Area
Water	Tomhannock Reservoir watershed in northwestern/northern part of town, including forestlands and steep slopes
Water	Quacken Kill corridor
Ecological	Rensselaer Plateau, especially north escarpment (Slide Mountain), peatlands, and lakes and ponds
Climate Resiliency	North escarpment of the Rensselaer Plateau
Climate Resiliency	Bunker Hill and vicinity (near Jay Hakes Road)
Climate Resiliency	Area along Fire Tower Trail near Grafton Lakes State Park
Agricultural	None
Scenic	Grafton Lakes State Park
Scenic	Pittstown State Forest
Scenic	Northwestern escarpment of the Rensselaer Plateau
Scenic	Dyken Pond Center
Composite	Rensselaer Plateau from Grafton Lakes State Park to north, and escarpment
Composite	Dyken Pond Center and vicinity
Composite	Bunker Hill and vicinity (near Jay Hakes Road)

Conservation Plan for Rensselaer County Highest Priority Areas - Town of Grafton

- High Priority Ecological Areas
- High Priority Scenic Areas
- High Priority Climate Resiliency Area
- High Priority Agricultural Areas
- High Priority Water Resource Areas
- Parks and Conserved Land
- Municipal Boundary
- Forested Land
- Surface Water
- Rivers and Streams

