

LAND USE

Land use in the Clifton Park area is approximately 50 percent residential and commercial and approximately 50 percent agricultural, forested, and open land. The residential and commercial areas are predominantly in the eastern part; the agricultural and forest land are mostly in the western part. The Mohawk River (New York State Barge Canal) forms the southern boundary of the area. Interstate Highway 87, a heavily used transportation corridor, traverses the area in a north-south direction.

Land use in this area is an important consideration in the development of ground-water protection programs. Many domestic wells and public-supply wells pump water from the shallow surficial aquifer, which extends over most of the area. The high permeability of the surficial aquifer and the shallow depth to water in most places makes ground water susceptible to contamination from surface sources such as landfills, salt-storage stockpiles, hydrocarbon-fuel storage, chemical plants, and other facilities having a potential for contaminant leakage.

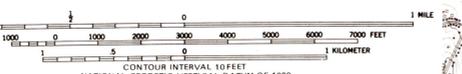
Surface exposures of kames, kame deltas, and esker deltas (plate 2) are the principal avenues for recharge to the deeper (confined) Colonie Channel aquifer. Thus, any contaminants introduced at the surface of these deposits will migrate to the underlying confined aquifer under natural hydraulic gradients. Heavy pumping from the confined aquifer would steepen the hydraulic gradients and increase the rate of contaminant movement.

EXPLANATION

- 1 INDUSTRIAL--light and heavy manufacturing, petroleum and chemical storage facilities.
- 2 EXTRACTIVE--sand and gravel mining (both active and abandoned).
- 3 COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES--includes urban areas, shopping centers, commercial strip development, communications facilities, and facilities without extensive grounds, such as hospitals, municipal buildings, government centers, schools, and universities.
- 3A LANDFILLS--includes both active and abandoned landfills, open dumps, and junkyards.
- 3B SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES--land application of sewage; includes settling lagoons, both active and abandoned.
- 4 TRANSPORTATION (land or air)--facilities including limited-access highways, airports, truck and train terminals and yards.
- 4A TRANSPORTATION (waterways)--includes barge canals, channels, locks, ports, docks, dams, and shipyards.
- 5 FARMLAND (crops and pasture)--includes both active and inactive agricultural areas, and areas used for horticulture or domestic livestock.
- 5A FARMLAND--orchards and vineyards.
- 6 FOREST--includes forest stands exceeding 30 feet in height and brush, tree, and shrub cover less than 30 feet; forested public areas; forested recreation areas, such as public and private campgrounds, ski resorts, public parks; and forested hospital grounds, school campuses, and correctional facilities.
- 7 RESIDENTIAL--includes high-, medium-, and low-density residential areas, trailer parks, rural hamlets, estates of 5 acres or more, farm-labor camps, developed shoreline, and commercial strip development that is at least 2/3 residential.
- 8 OPEN LAND--includes open recreation areas and open public areas such as golf courses, hospital grounds, school and college campuses, correctional facilities, and cemeteries.
- 9 WATER AND WETLANDS--includes natural or manmade ponds, lakes or reservoirs, streams and rivers averaging 100 ft wide or more, bogs and shrub wetlands, wooded wetlands, and marine wetlands.
- BOUNDARY BETWEEN LAND USE AREAS--approximately located.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Cornell University, 1968, Land Use and Natural Resources Inventory (LUNRI) map series; Niskayuna and Round Lake, N.Y. quadrangles, 1:24,000 scale; New York State Cooperative Extension.



Base from New York State Department of Transportation 1:24,000 series; Niskayuna (1974), Round Lake (1974). Land Use modified from Land Use and Natural Resources Inventory (LUNRI) maps, Cornell University (1968) and Town of Clifton Park Land Use map, Saratoga County Planning Commission, 1973.

HYDROGEOLOGY OF THE CLIFTON PARK AREA, SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

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