
Town of
WORTH
Plan

ADOPTED BY TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION APRIL 11, 2018

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Introduction

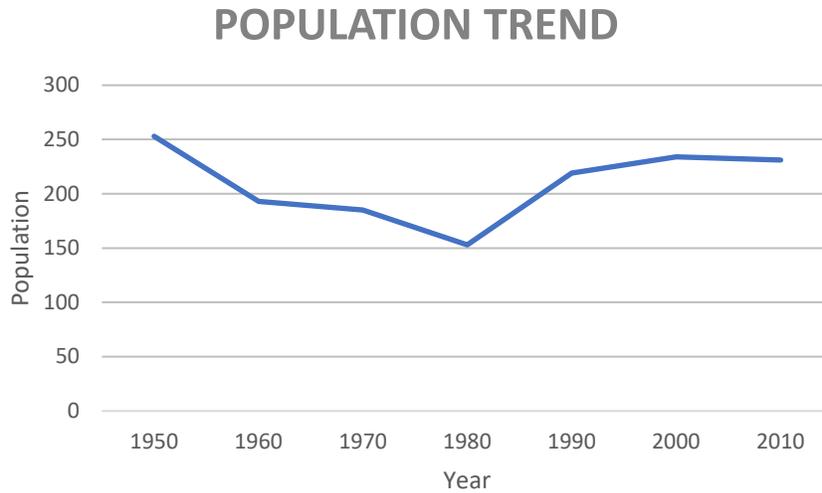
PURPOSE of the Plan

The purpose of the plan is to provide guidance for the physical development of the Town of Worth for the future. It is based on and reflects the planning ideals laid out in the Planning Accord for Tug Hill and the Tug Hill Reserve Act. The plan is intended to provide a framework for land development and land subdivision controls. It will also help assure that the growth of the area will be in concert with plans for infrastructure and road development, and will not negatively impact natural resources and rural character. Finally, it is hoped that other governments (state, county, and other local governments) will find the plan useful in shaping their future development activities. It is the purpose of this plan to create a vision for the community's future that is a shared vision of the citizens of Town of Worth.

PERIODIC REVIEW and Update of the Plan

It is recommended that this plan be reviewed and updated every five to eight years by the Town Board and others, as designated by the Town Board. A periodic review will refresh the Board's perspective on the longer range issues affecting Worth, and help to reinforce the link between day-to-day development decisions and longer range town policies. In addition, a periodic update will keep the plan current with the ever-changing conditions of the town without the need for large-scale planning efforts.

Town of Worth Demographics Profile



POPULATION characteristics

Worth’s population fell until 1980, and then rose until 2000. Between 2000 and 2010, the population decreased three people (-1.3%), while the county and state populations rose. The number of households decreased by four, unusual for the region, while the average household size increased by a larger proportion than usual for the region. Worth is one of the few places the average household size increased between 2000 and 2010.

In the same time period, the median age of residents increased by a large amount compared to the county and state. There was a net loss of 12 housing units, the opposite of the region’s trend.

	2000	2010	Change	Change in Jefferson Cty.	Change in NYS
Population	234	231	-1.3%	+4.0%	+2.1%
Number of Households	96	92	-4.2%	+8.4%	+3.7%
Average Household Size	2.44	2.50	+2.5%	-1.9%	-1.5%
Median Age	40.3	42.3	+2.0 years	+0.1 years	+0.4 years
Housing Units	259	247	-4.6%	+7.2%	+5.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (Full Census)

EMPLOYMENT/INCOME

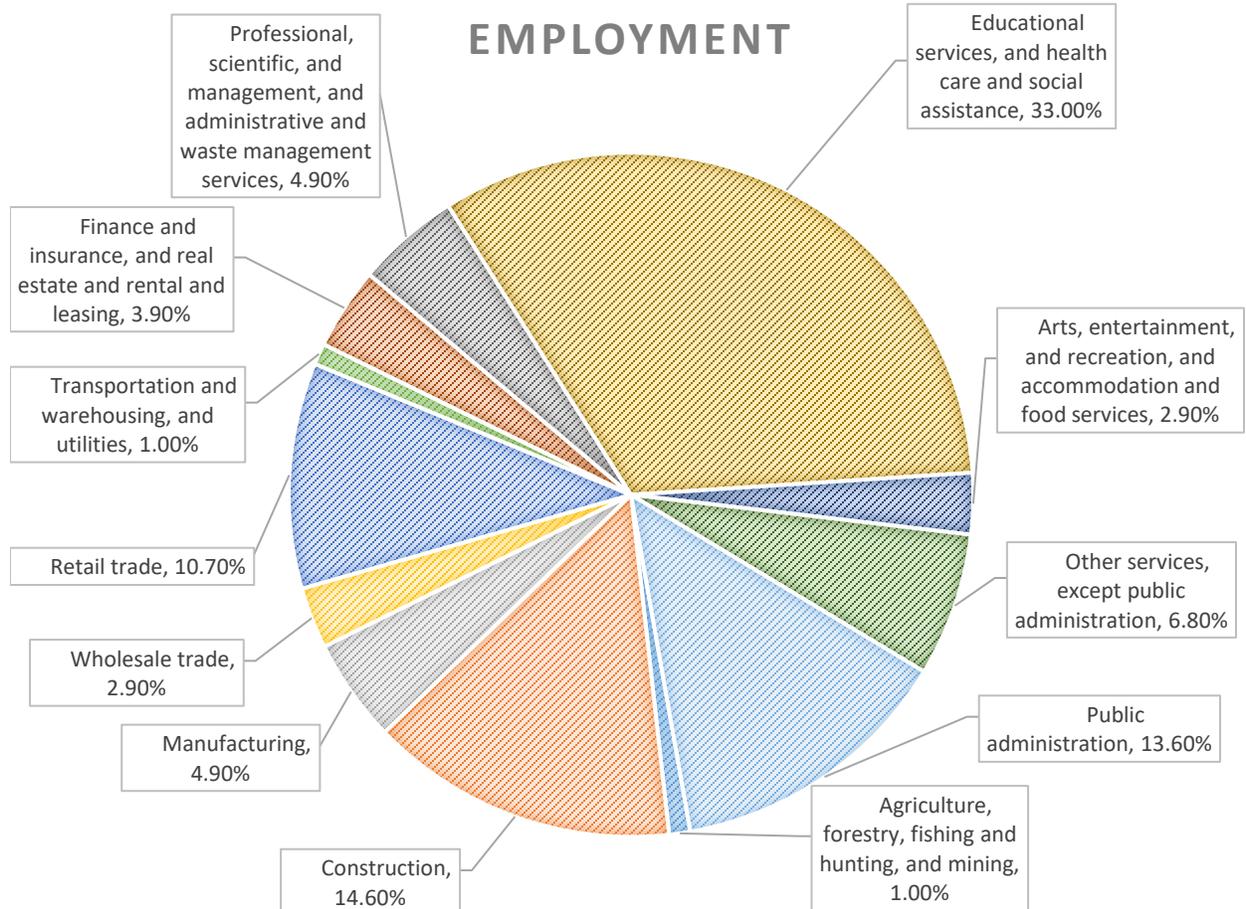
characteristics

Worth’s median income was under half its median housing value in 2015, which means housing affordability may be poor. 23% of the population is below the poverty line, a very high proportion.

2015 Median Household Income	\$60,625
2015 % of Population Below Poverty Line	23.3%
2015 Median Housing Value	\$132,500
2015 Mean Travel Time to Work	36.9 min.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (American Community Survey)

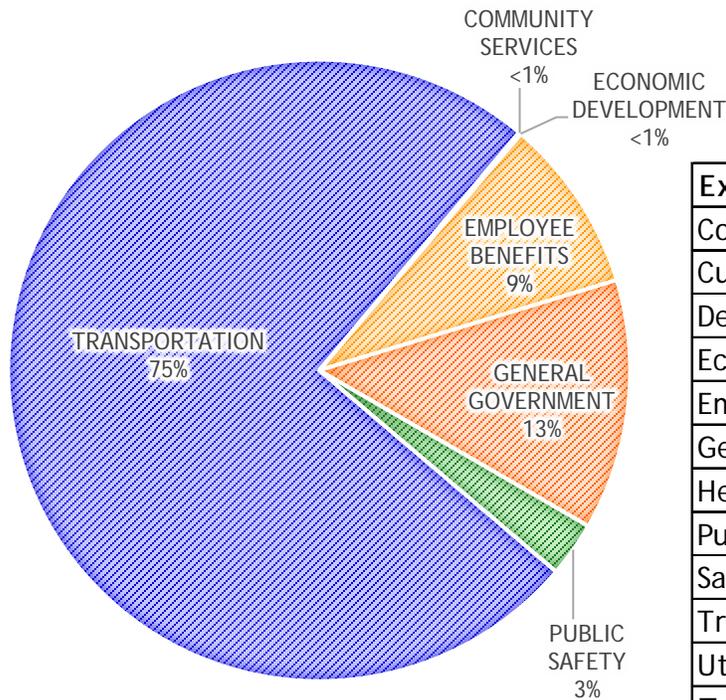
The average travel time to work in 2015 was estimated to be about 37 minutes. About 14.3% of residents worked outside Jefferson County. Residents of Rodman were employed in a variety of fields, primarily educational/health care services (33.0%) and construction (14.6%).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (American Community Survey)

Note: Data from the American Community Survey is subject to a variable margin of error, and is not exact.

EXPENDITURES



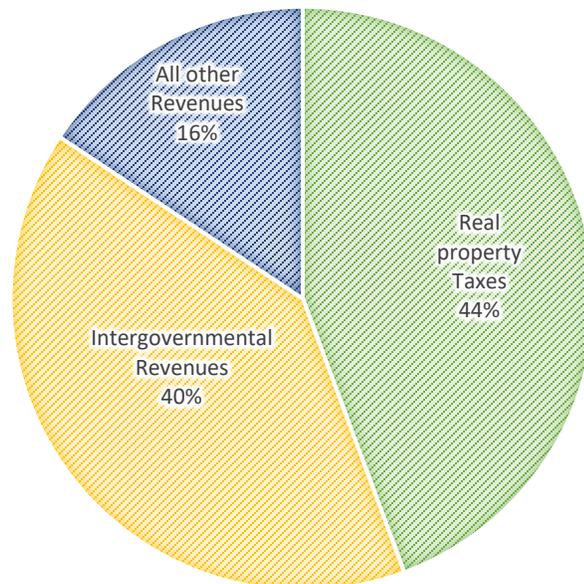
Expenditures (\$)	Worth
Community Services	480
Culture and Recreation	0
Debt Service	0
Economic Developments	287
Employee Benefits	52205
General Government	75224
Health	0
Public Safety	16500
Sanitation	0
Transportation	431568
Utilities	0
Total by Town	576264

TOWN BUDGET characteristics

In 2015, Worth's total revenue (\$593,550) exceeded total expenditures by \$17,286. Most revenues came from property taxes, accounting for \$263,247. Inter-governmental revenues (\$237,399) also contributed.

The greatest expenditures were Transportation (\$431,568), General Government (\$75,224) and Employee Benefits (\$52,205), together accounting for 97% of total expenditures.

REVENUES



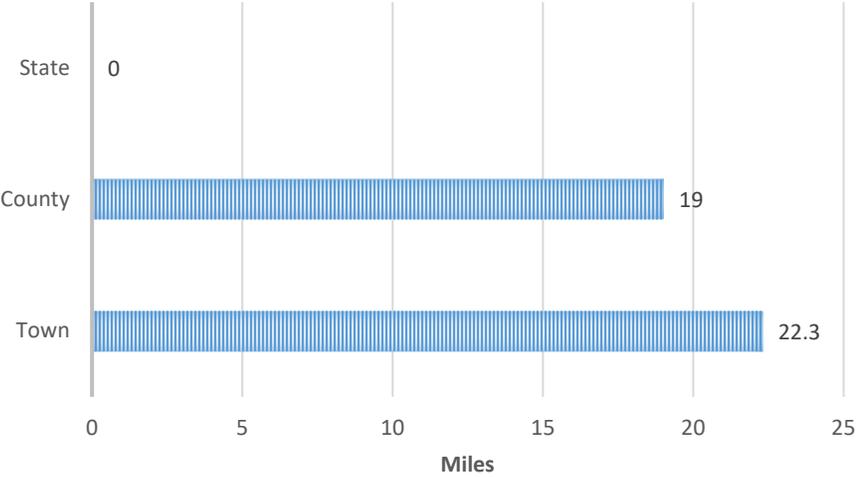
ROAD MILEAGE

LAND USE
characteristics

As of 2017, 54.0% of Worth’s roads are owned by the Town, 46.0% by Jefferson County, and none by New York State. Worth has a total of 41.3 miles of roadway.

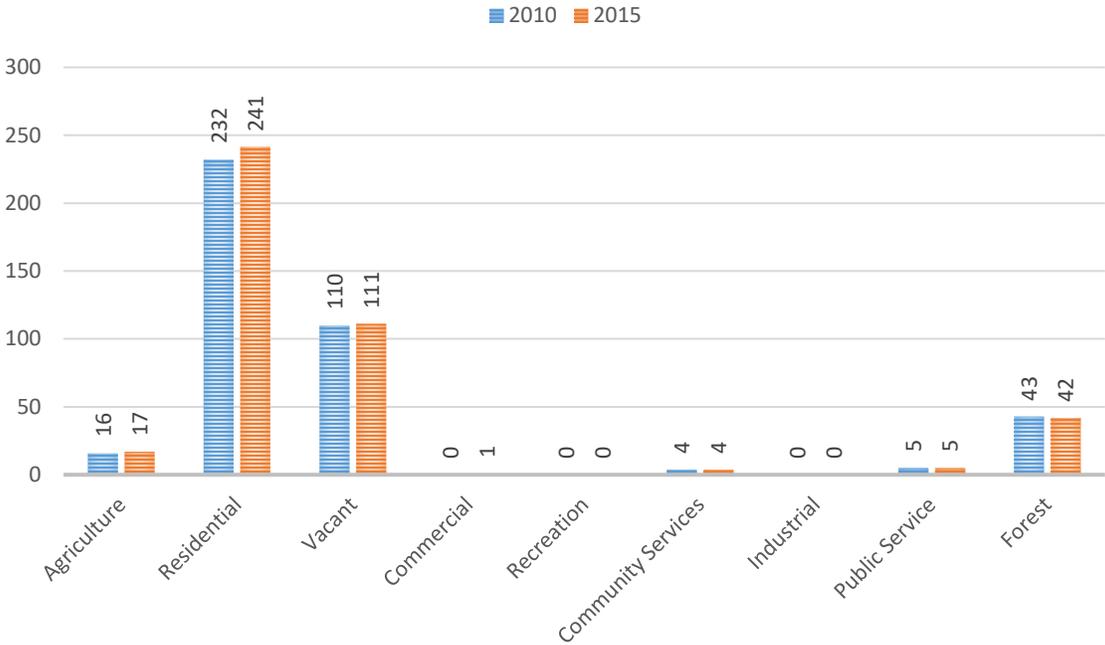
Overall, Worth’s properties are mostly residential (57.2%), vacant (26.4%), or forest (10.0%). During the five years from 2010 and 2015, there was an

increase of nine residential (+4%), one vacant, one agricultural and one commercial (the first) property. At the same time Worth lost one forest property. Bear in mind that this data only captures the number of tax parcels in Worth, not the acreage.



Source: NYS Dept. of Transportation, 2017

TAX PARCELS BY PROPERTY CLASS



Source: NYS Office of Real Property Tax Svcs.

Town of Worth Community Resources Profile

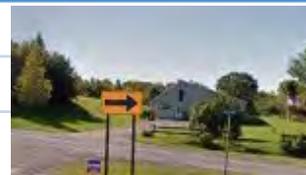
Worth is in the southeastern corner of Jefferson County, touching Lewis and Oswego Counties. It is bordered by the towns of Rodman and Pinckney to the north, Montague to the east, Redfield to the south, and Lorraine to the west. As mentioned before, there are no state-owned roadways, and Worth is a generally low-traffic area. The busiest road segment is County Route 189 between County route 95 and the western town boundary, with an average daily traffic of 250 vehicles in 2015. The town contains portions of Jefferson County Agricultural District #1.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Worth Town
Hall

About 4,500 sq ft.

24600 County Rte 189, Lorraine, NY 13659



Worth's primary municipal building is the Town Hall facing north at the intersection of County Route 189 and Overton Road.

PUBLIC LANDS

	Little John State Wildlife Management Area	• 7,918 acres
	Tug Hill State Forest	• 12,242

Worth contains portions of the Little John State Wildlife Management Area, which is primarily in Redfield. A large portion of the Tug Hill State Forest (State Rt. 177) is in Worth. It offers extensive skiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing trails, and has land in three towns.

Note that not the entire acreage of each park is within the town of Worth.

Goals for the Future

1.0 Retain the quality of our area's surface and groundwater. These waters are essential to providing individual and municipal water supplies. They are essential to many industries of our area. They are important to the retention of fishing opportunities and wildlife habitat.

- 1.1 Discourage adverse development near major wetlands and concentrations of wetlands.
- 1.2 Discourage adverse development near major stream corridors.
- 1.3 Discourage adverse development near significant springs, wellhead areas of water supply systems, and aquifers.
- 1.4 Continue to identify and map major wetlands, concentrations of wetlands, major stream corridors, significant springs, water supply well head areas, and aquifers.
- 1.5 Raise awareness of the importance of Tug Hill waters.

2.0 Retain major forested areas most important to forest industry, hunting, fishing, and other types of recreation. Major blocks of forest land on Tug Hill are not only important for retaining the area's economy and recreation opportunities, they are also important in providing wildlife habitat and the very character of the area. In addition, Tug Hill's vast reaches of forest are key to maintaining the purity of its waters and to controlling rates of runoff.

- 2.0 Continue to identify major forested areas.
- 2.1 Discourage subdivision and development that would take major forested lands out of productive use for forest industry, hunting, fishing and other types of recreation.
- 2.2 Discourage unreasonable restrictions on forestry activities that adversely affect businesses.
- 2.3 Encourage forestry-related businesses as a means of maintaining a healthy economy, and as a means of retaining large parcels of forestland.
- 2.4 Encourage educational programs that show the importance of forested lands to the area's environment, economy and recreational opportunities.
- 2.5 Promote sound forestry practices for all commercial and private harvesting through the establishment of minimum forest management standards.

3.0 Retain the area's most important wildlife habitat and unique areas to conserve hunting, fishing, and recreational opportunities, and to help retain the character and biological richness of our area. Important wildlife habitat areas and unique areas such as our gulfs are a significant part of the character of our heritage, and can provide important recreational opportunities. They also are of great importance to our economy because of the economic contributions hunting and fishing make to the area, and the economic benefit that comes from the viewing of wildlife and scenery by snowmobilers, skiers, hikers, motorists, and others.

3.1 Discourage adverse development in important wildlife and plant habitat areas, and in and near gulfs.

3.2 Support town-by-town identification of important wildlife habitat and unique areas. Encourage further research to identify such areas.

3.3 Encourage educational programs regarding the importance and benefit of habitat and unique areas for use in schools and with civic and adult groups.

4.0 Retain area's existing farms and best farm soils for farm production. Local action alone cannot retain our farms. This depends on the individual actions of our farmers, the natural economy and state and national farm policy. Locally, we can take actions that help keep good farm land from inappropriate development and help farm diversification.

4.1 Support identification of important farm lands, and updates of existing farm land inventories.

4.2 Update land use controls that would limit farm lands being taken out of production.

4.3 Support voluntary actions taken by individual farmers to keep their farms in production, through tools such as ag districts, and ag land assessments.

4.4 Support programs to help strengthen dairy farming and to help farmers that wish to diversify their operations.

4.5 Encourage educational programs that demonstrate to school students and adults the importance of farming to our area.

4.6 Discourage development which would tend to disrupt agricultural practices.

4.7 Encourage only those land uses which lend support to the agricultural industry.

5.0 Retain private and public hunting and fishing opportunities, and other outdoor recreational activities, in our area.

- 5.1 Support voluntary actions, of private landowners to improve hunting, fishing and other recreational access to public lands designated for these uses, such as the sale of access easements, or involvement in fish and wildlife cooperator programs.
- 5.2 Discourage actions that would lead to the subdivision of lands important to hunting, fishing and other recreation where that subdivision would remove lands from such use.
- 5.3 Identify areas important to recreation. These might include designated public motorized and nonmotorized recreation trails, public roads opened for recreational trail use, and parking areas.
- 5.4 Encourage educational programs that demonstrate the importance of hunting, fishing and recreation to our way of life and our area's economy. Also encourage educational programs and appropriate law enforcement to protect private property rights and to provide safe hunting, fishing and other recreational opportunities.
- 5.5 Direct the development of active recreation facilities and programs to areas near population concentrations where services can be provided more economically.
- 5.6 Encourage the proper design and management of passive recreation activities in the more remote areas in order to conserve the water and forest resources and to minimize change to the area's character.

6.0 Retain historic sites and structures that are important to the character of our area.

- 6.1 Identify historic sites and structures.
- 6.2 Discourage development that would diminish the quality of historic sites and structures through town planning and land use controls.

7.0 Control the costs of public road maintenance.

- 7.1 Discourage new public roads into or across remote areas not now served by public roads, especially in the core forest of our area, in areas that would lead to the breakup of lands important to forest management, wildlife, farming, hunting, fishing and other recreation.
- 7.2 Identify portions of roads that might be appropriate for some form of abandonment, minimum maintenance designation, or seasonal use designation.
- 7.3 Support state legislation that would limit town responsibilities for maintenance on designated remote roads.
- 7.4 Discourage development of year-round residences along seasonal roads.

8.0 Help keep villages and hamlets good places to live.

- 8.1 Plan for village and hamlet improvement projects, and apply for grants to assist in such work.
- 8.2 Direct development, through regulation and other means, into and around already existing hamlets and communities away from those portions of the region where significant physical and economic limitations to growth exist.

Town of Worth Development Laws

The Town of Worth Rural Development Code was adopted in 1978.

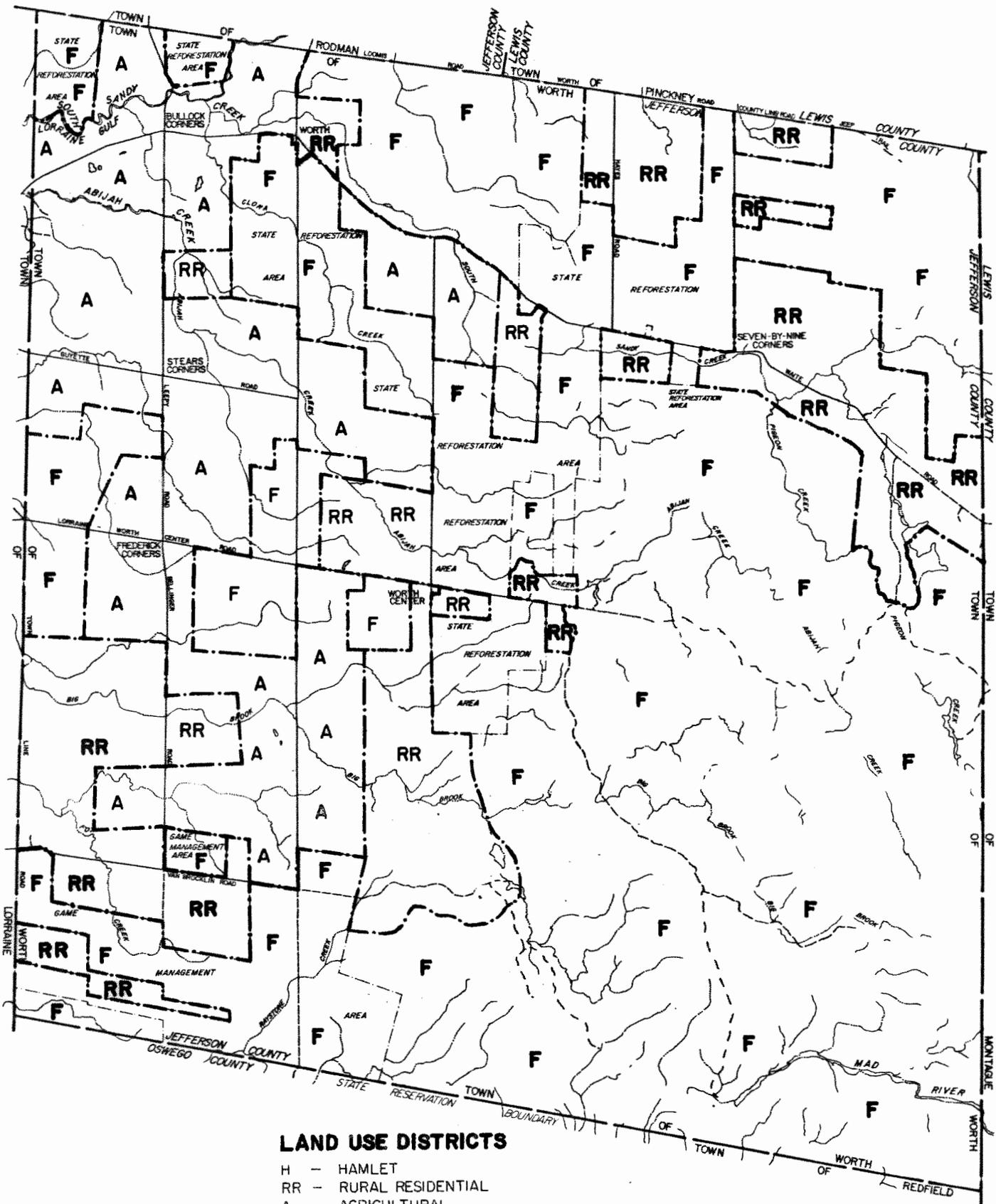
LAND USE & ZONING laws

The Town of Worth Rural Development Code establishes four districts:

- **Hamlet** – Developed to some extent and includes low or medium density residential uses with some commercial and industrial uses. Principal uses include education, public, and religious facilities, retail businesses, single- and two-family dwellings, and social institutions. Lot frontage is 200 ft. minimum unless public water is present.
- **Rural Residential** – Sparsely settled, but generally accessible by highway. Some forest and agricultural use may be present. Principal uses include recreation, seasonal, single- and two-family dwellings, and retail businesses. Minimum lot size is 210 ft. by 210 ft.
- **Forest Resources** – Predominantly covered by dense vegetation and contains many wet areas and stream courses. Relatively inaccessible by automobile and contains few permanent residences and some seasonal residences. Principal uses include seasonal dwellings and wood processing. Minimum lot size is 500 ft. by 500 ft.
- **Agricultural** – Generally used for agricultural activities. Mostly open in character with some scattered spots of forest, wetland, and residential use. Principal uses include farms and seasonal, single- and two-family dwellings. Minimum lot size is 210 ft. by 210 ft.

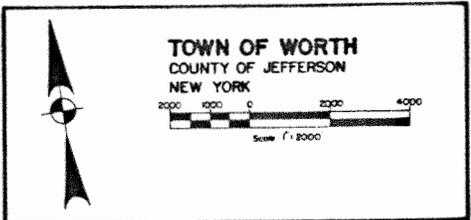
The law defines general regulations for all districts (and district-specific regulations), such as uses permitted, lot sizes, height, setbacks from roads, and waste disposal standards. The law outlines processes and procedures and provides rules for amending the law and applying for permits. It provides general design standards and road standards. The Town of Worth's authority to maintain development standards and outline development procedures is in part protected by this law.

Agricultural parcels in Worth are additionally subject to New York State laws such as Article 25AA.



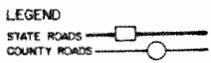
LAND USE DISTRICTS

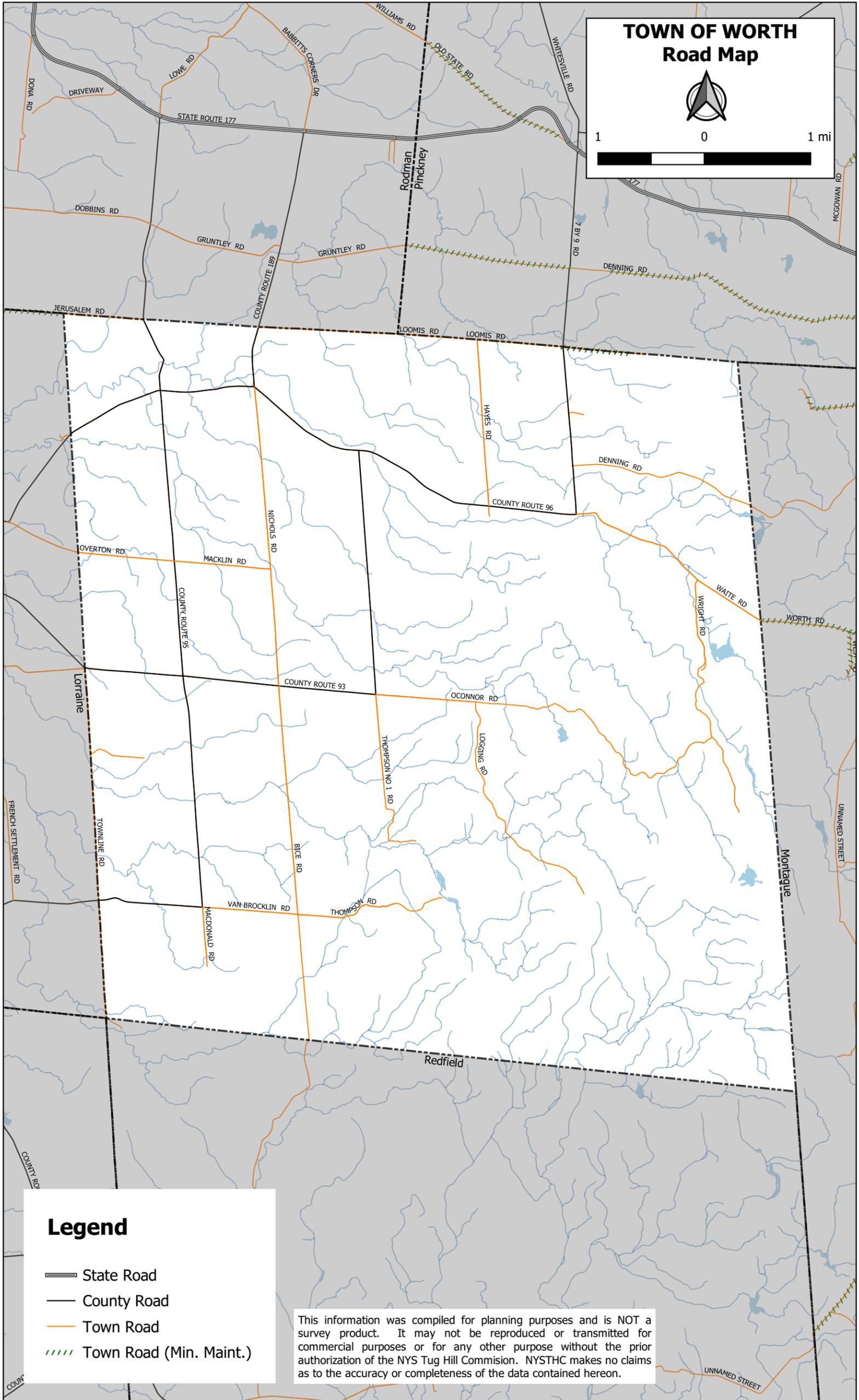
- H - HAMLET
- RR - RURAL RESIDENTIAL
- A - AGRICULTURAL
- F - FOREST

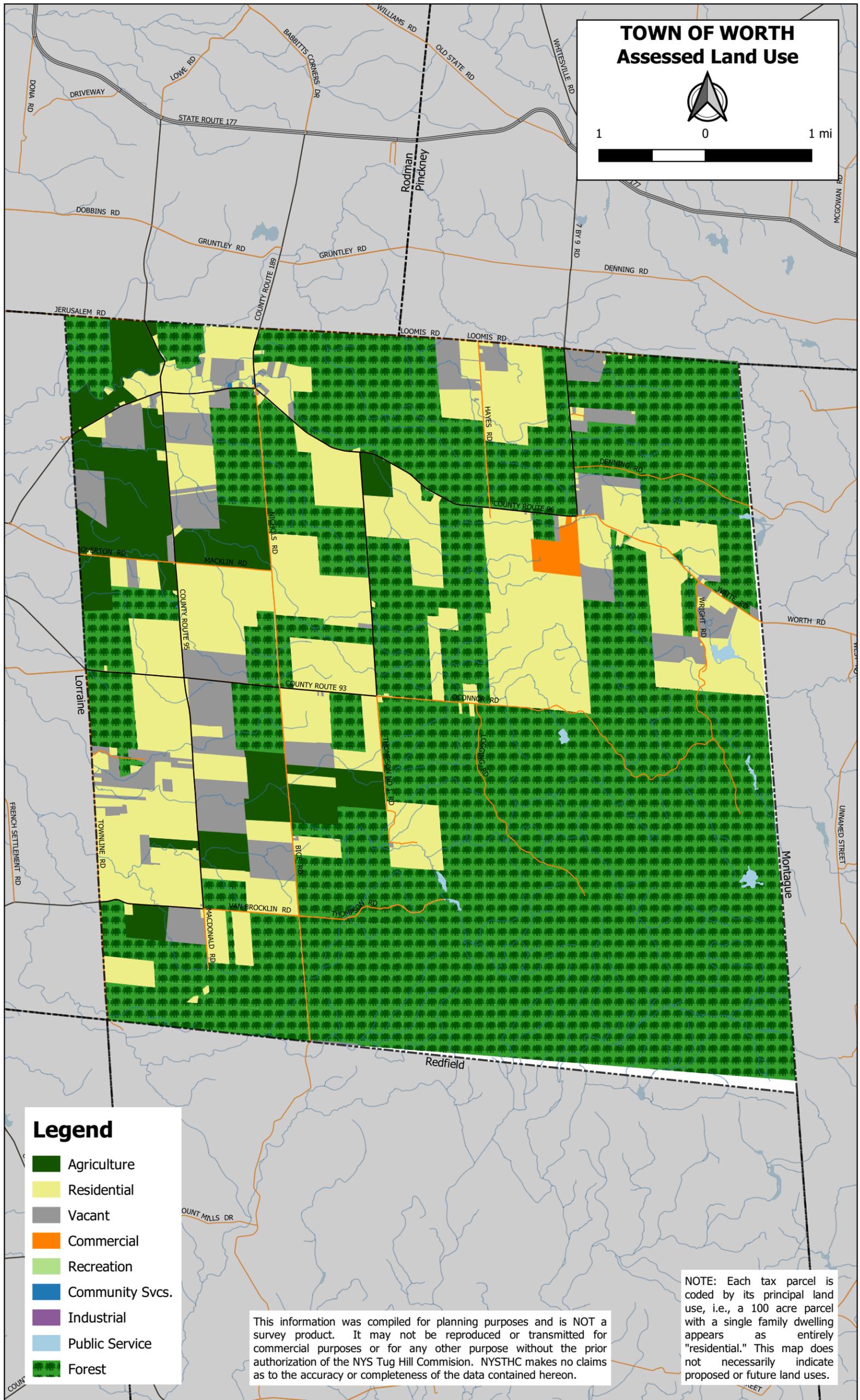


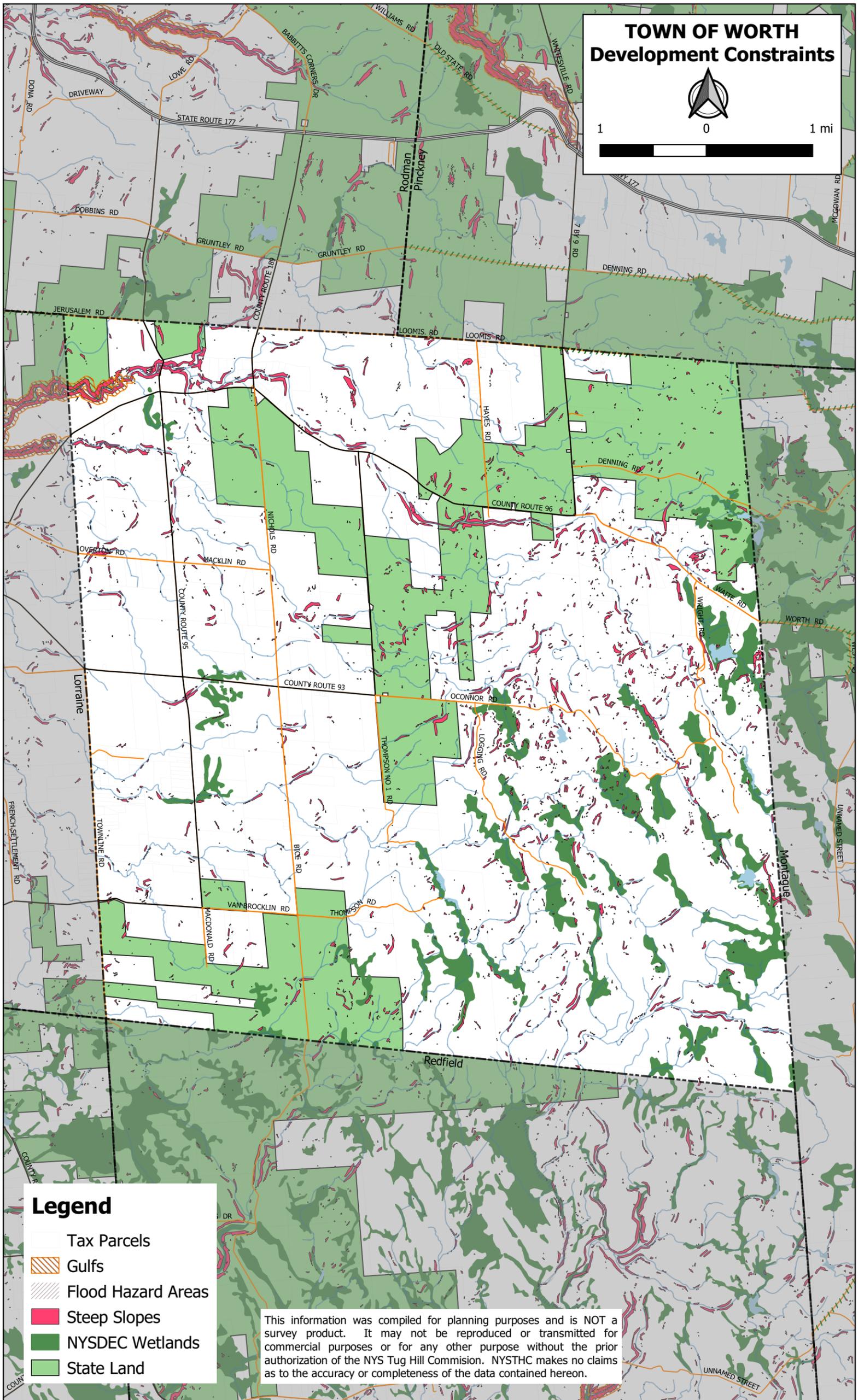
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REV. NO.	DATE	REMARKS
1	T.G. 2/24/88	
2		
3		









**TOWN OF WORTH
Development Constraints**



1 0 1 mi

Legend

-  Tax Parcels
-  Gulfs
-  Flood Hazard Areas
-  Steep Slopes
-  NYSDEC Wetlands
-  State Land

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