



Town of New Lisbon

908 County Highway 16
Garrattsville NY 13342
(607) 965-2112

Natural Resources Inventory

The New Lisbon Climate Smart Communities Task Force

April 2022

Supervisor: Ed Lentz
Deputy Supervisor: Nancy Martin-Mathewson
Councilpersons: Flo Loomis, Brian Ryther, Bill Whitaker
Highway Superintendent: Don Smith

Justice: Hon. Glen Noto
Clerk/Collector: Charlene Wells
Assessor: Pam Dyn-Gohde
Land Use EO: Tom Riso

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Contributors & Acknowledgements

Prepared and submitted by:

- New Lisbon Climate Smart Communities Natural Resources Work Group: Dr. Vicky M. Lentz (chair), Shannon Cesarski, Dr. Trevor Fuller, Daniel Lapin, Edward T. Lentz

Contributors:

- Selinda Brandon, Wildlife Biologist, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 4 Fish and Wildlife
- Shannon Cesarski, B.S. Candidate, Biology and Geography, SUNY College at Oneonta
- Coney, Sarah, Director, Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
- Trevor Fuller, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Department Chair, Geography and Environmental Sustainability Department, SUNY College at Oneonta
- Daniel Lapin, AICP Environmental Planner, Otsego County Conservation Association, Inc.
- Edward T. Lentz, Supervisor, Town of New Lisbon, and Chairperson, Butternut Valley Alliance, Inc.
- Vicky M. Lentz, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Department Chair, Biology Department, SUNY College at Oneonta
- Paul Lord, Biology Department, SUNY College at Oneonta
- Timothy Pokorny, Aquatic Biologist, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 4 Fisheries
- Charles Scheim, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics (retired), Hartwick College
- Connie Tedesco, Botanist, Botanical/Land Trust Consultant, the fernery
- Donna Vogler, Professor, Botanist, Biology Department, SUNY College at Oneonta
- Dan Zimmerman, Forester, Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District

Reviewed by:

- The Town of New Lisbon Climate Smart Communities Task Force: Nancy Martin-Mathewson (Chair), Alyx Braunius, John Braunius, Edward T. Lentz, Dr. Vicky Lentz, Florence Loomis
- The Town Board of the Town of New Lisbon: Edward T. Lentz (Super.), Nancy Martin-Mathewson (Dep. Super.), Florence Loomis, Brian Ryther, Bill Whitaker
- The Planning Board of the Town of New Lisbon: Matthew Palmer (Chair), William Balcom, David Galley, Amy McKinnon, Robert Taylor

Section 1: Introduction

The Town of New Lisbon is a small, rural town in about the center of Otsego County (in the central region of NY state).¹ New Lisbon has a population of 1,114 according to the 2010 census, and an estimated population of 1,048 according to 2019 Census Bureau estimates². The town comprises several small unincorporated hamlets but no incorporated villages or other urban centers.

New Lisbon does not have any large businesses or employers in the town, but has several small businesses, many self-employed entrepreneurs and many active farms. Many of the farms are owned and operated to supplement income for those working off the farm. Farming continues to be a significant part of the town's economy and culture. Owing to its low population density and lack of industrial activity, the town abounds with natural beauty including forests, fields, streams, and ponds.

The purpose of this Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) is to document natural resources, both physical and biological, and cultural resources, within the Town of New Lisbon and to provide a foundation for land use and conservation planning. The town is expected to use this NRI to identify priorities and to determine appropriate strategies for protecting important natural cultural, historic, and recreational resources and the vital functions they provide, consistent with the town's Comprehensive Plan and land use ordinances. It will also be useful as a tool for county or regional planning and project assessment. Maintaining the integrity and ecological health of natural resources is a key part of preventing the release of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that is associated with development.

To prepare this NRI, the town's Climate Smart Communities Task Force generally followed the process described in the DEC's comprehensive guide: [*Creating a Natural Resources Inventory: A Guide for Communities in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed*](#).³ In

¹ See, Map of Otsego County Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas, attached as Appendix 1-1, in which the Town of New Lisbon is highlighted with dashed magenta border lines..

² <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-total-cities-and-towns.html>

³ Haeckel, I., and Heady, L., *Creating a Natural Resources Inventory* (2014), ISBN: 978-0-692-24875-8.

April 2021, a work group comprising Dr. Vicky Lentz (chair), Daniel Lapin, Dr. Trevor Fuller, Edward T. Lentz, and Shannon Cesarski was formed to develop goals, to agree on the scope of the project, and to develop a report outline and format, in addition to identifying sources of information, data, and maps, and assigning responsibilities. As suggested in the guide, this NRI comprises a base map and an inventory and discussion of geology and soils, water resources, habitats and wildlife, climate conditions and projections, cultural resources, and land use. Other persons with knowledge and expertise were also consulted during this process, including the persons acknowledged on page ii of this NRI.

The town's Comprehensive Plan makes clear the high value placed on the town's natural resources by town residents, as evidenced by the plan's Vision Statement:

In our Vision for the Town of New Lisbon in the future, our community character is preserved, civic pride sustained and quality of life enhanced. In the coming years, we carefully manage new growth and development while respecting private property rights in order to *protect* the integrity of our Town, its hamlet centers, small businesses, cultural & civic institutions, public parks, and our natural resources; *preserve* historic buildings, open space, a vibrant agricultural & farming community and scenic vistas to and from the Butternut Creek; *enhance* the provision of business services and access to telecommunications infrastructure; *provide* sustainable public infrastructure and services to meet growing community needs in a cost-effective manner; provide housing opportunities for a range of household incomes; and set quality design standards to ensure that new growth and redevelopment enriches our community aesthetics and is in harmony with the existing fabric of the Town of New Lisbon.⁴

The Comprehensive Plan includes 13 recommendations relating to natural resources and nine relating to cultural, historic and recreational resources.⁵ In addition to guiding land use decisions by the town, this NRI will assist the town in its ongoing efforts to implement the town's Comprehensive Plan.

⁴ Comprehensive Plan, Town of New Lisbon (2008).

⁵ Appendix 1-2.

Section 2: Physical Setting

The Town of New Lisbon has a total land area of approximately 44.7 square miles. Of this area, 44.5 square miles are comprised of land and 0.14 square miles are under water. The range of elevation is nearly 780 feet. The lowest point is 1,140 feet above mean sea level (msl) along the Butternut Creek. The highest point is 1,919 feet above msl abutting the Texas Schoolhouse State Forest. Change in elevation can affect local weather conditions at temperatures close to dew point or freezing. In the Town, this change in elevation can result in a shorter growing season for those lands above 1,750 feet msl according to the Otsego County Soil Survey.⁶

As is evident from the Base Map, the topography of the town is traversed by two valleys, both having generally north–south orientations.⁷

These valleys follow fault lines in the generally level acidic dark shale layers of the Allegheny Plateau, which were further scraped out by receding glaciers. The Butternut Creek flows southerly in the western valley to join the Unadilla River farther south in the Town of Butternuts. The West Branch of the Otego Creek flows southerly in the eastern valley. Both the Unadilla and the West Branch Otego are tributaries of the Susquehanna River. At the north boundary of the town the fairly wide Butternut Valley is about 1,360 feet above sea level; it drops to slightly more than 1,200 feet at the south boundary about six miles downstream. The Otego Valley has steeper walls and the West Branch originates at nearly 1,400 feet at the north town line and descends to about 1,260 feet as it enters the Town of Hartwick near the southeast corner of New Lisbon where it also adjoins the Town of Laurens.⁸

A steep–walled ridge runs north–south through the center of the town and rises to an undulating spine roughly 1,900 feet above sea level at the north town line; this elevation falls gradually to about 1,800 feet at the town’s south line. This ridge is paralleled by further similar ones east and west of the town for more than forty miles in each

⁶ Town of New Lisbon Comprehensive Plan (2008).

⁷ Appendix 2-1.

⁸ New Lisbon Reconnaissance–Level Historical Survey, Appendix 7-1.

direction. This topography characterizes the entire Allegheny Plateau region between the Mohawk Valley to the north; the Schoharie Valley to the east; and the Susquehanna Valley to the south.⁹

In general, land at higher elevations ($\pm 1,500$ feet above sea level) tends to be wooded, while much of the floor of the Butternut Valley is open. Even so, arable land is found at nearly all elevations. Pasture, some gradually returning to forestland and some kept open by brush hogging or by small and occasional herds of beef cattle, sheep, goats, and some horses, occurs at all elevations.¹⁰

Slopes Map

A slopes map of the town is appended hereto.¹¹

Comprehensive slope information is an essential element in the planning process. Relating land use to topography can help to minimize damage to the environment and avoid extensive site alterations that can cause destabilization of banks and erosion. Development on slight slopes usually presents the fewest limitations and can be developed with few engineering problems or harm to the environment. In contrast, development on steep slopes can mean higher construction costs, unstable soils and sewage disposal problems. Development on steep slopes should be avoided to mitigate the potential for erosion. It is particularly important to avoid the disturbance of steep stream banks and to preserve the vegetation on the edge of streams.

Steep slopes are found throughout the Town. They are especially common along the hillsides abutting the Butternut Creek and the West Branch Otego Creek and their tributaries.

As the town reviews site plan review and subdivision applications, it is important to take into consideration the topography of each site in order to mitigate potential impacts. The Town's Site Development Plan Review Law requires applicants to provide a grading & drainage plan showing existing contours, rock outcrops, depth of bedrock, soil

⁹ New Lisbon Reconnaissance-Level Historical Survey, Appendix 7-1.

¹⁰ New Lisbon Reconnaissance-Level Historical Survey, Appendix 7-1.

¹¹ Appendix 2-2.

characteristics and watercourses. The Town's Subdivision Regulations require that applicants show topographic conditions at intervals of not more than five (5) feet along with an approximate grading plan if natural contours are to be changed.

Soils Map

Proper siting of development must include an analysis of soil types within a community. Soils differ according to variations in composition, particle-size gradation, and compaction; factors which control permeability, porosity and strength. Each of these factors and depth to bedrock is important in determining how much and what kind of development the land is capable of supporting. It is important to consider the specific soil conditions in a community in directing growth to areas that can support development without high construction costs.

Soil porosity and permeability is a major consideration in determining development capability. Soils with seasonally high water tables are also not well suited to development since they are prone to wetness and frequent ponding that present severe problems that are difficult and costly to overcome. When development is proposed on sites with poor soils conditions, a careful review is required to avoid adverse environmental impacts.

The underlying geology of the Butternut Creek is 100% shale.¹²

A Soil Suitability Map¹³ and a Detailed Soils Map¹⁴ are attached. The Soil Suitability Map shows those areas with a depth to bedrock of 48 inches or less (shown in pink) and those areas with seasonally high water tables (shown in yellow). Lower density and less intensive development should be directed to these areas since they have severe building constraints. The town should use the Soil Suitability Map as a guide as they review site plan and subdivision applications. When development is proposed on sites with poor soils conditions a careful review is required to avoid adverse environmental

¹² Susquehanna River Basin Commission, <https://www.srbc.net/continuous-instream-monitoring/watershedProfile?cimSystemsId=2&monitoringStationsId=115>

¹³ Appendix 2-3. Reproduced from Comprehensive Plan, Town of New Lisbon (2008).

¹⁴ Appendix 2-4.

impacts. The Detailed Soils Map provides more information that can be referenced when making land use decisions.

The Town's Subdivision & Site Plan Review Laws require developers to provide soil bearing and percolation tests to ensure that the soils are suitable for a septic system. The regulations also require tests to ensure that on- site water quality and quantity is sufficient to meet the demands of the proposed land use.

Section 3: Water Resources

Waterbodies and their surroundings are fragile and can easily be affected by modifications to their structure. Stream disturbance or modification (e.g., stream bed sediment clearing, removal of vegetation along stream bank, man-made changes in stream shape or size, etc.) can lead to heavy erosion both upstream and downstream and thus cause sediment pollution or flooding that could have otherwise been avoided. Thus, as the Town of New Lisbon, like other communities, is experiencing increasing frequency and severity of flood events, it is important to understand how flooding can easily overwhelm any natural infrastructure that has been disturbed by human activity. While updating and improving infrastructure can help increase a community's safety, preserving waterbodies and their surroundings can be one of the most effective ways to improve a community's resilience in the face of climate change.

Water Resources in New Lisbon

The Town of New Lisbon lies entirely within the Upper Susquehanna River Basin. Within the Town of New Lisbon, the Butternut Creek and the West Branch of the Otego Creek are the two major tributaries that drain into the Upper Susquehanna River Basin.

A map of water resources in the Town of New Lisbon is appended hereto.¹⁵ An additional map identifying lotic and lentic waters in the town, and a textual description of aquatic resources in the town, are contained in the Region 4 Fisheries Notes by Tim Pokorny, which is attached to this NRI.¹⁶

Groundwater

In general, groundwater is drawn from three kinds of aquifers in the Town of New Lisbon: bedrock, glacial till and glacial outwash. There are also many springs on hillsides, at the base of hills, or along valley walls where glacial deposits come in contact with bedrock. Groundwater is the primary source of potable water for local residents. When contaminated, groundwater is very difficult to clean up. It is thus

¹⁵ Appendix 3-1.

¹⁶ Pokorny, T., Region 4 Fisheries Notes (2021), Appendix 4-3.

important to protect groundwater from contamination in order to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

The Town's principal aquifer lies within the Butternut Valley. Many residents derive their potable water from wells that are drilled into this aquifer. When wells are drilled into the aquifer they not only become a conduit for withdrawing groundwater but also a potential conduit for contaminants to enter the aquifer.

There are also many springs in the Town. Springs occur where 1) the water surface intersects the land surface, 2) the overlying soil is porous thus allowing groundwater to flow freely to the surface and 3) where fractures in the bedrock reach the water table. Spring water can be easily contaminated if the water table is close to the surface and recharge areas are not protected from contamination.

There are two main watersheds in the town: the Butternut Creek on the west and the West Branch Otego Creek on the east.

Butternut Creek

The Butternut Creek Assessment Background Report, which is one of two volumes of the final report of an assessment of the Butternut Creek and its tributaries in 2016 to 2018, provides a detailed description of the entire Butternut Valley watershed.

A USGS StreamStats Map and Basin Characteristics Report are appended hereto.¹⁷

The Butternut Creek watershed is the second largest watershed in Otsego County, after the Susquehanna River watershed, and is well-studied. A catalog of reports and publications regarding the Butternut, including the Butternut Creek Assessment Background Report, in the Butternut Valley Alliance Butternut Creek Library is appended hereto.¹⁸ All reports and publications listed in the bibliography are available from the BVA and from the Town of New Lisbon.

¹⁷ Appendix 3-2.

¹⁸ Appendix 3-3. The BVA Butternut Creek Library is accessible by email to executivedirector@butternutvalleyalliance.org and is expected to be accessible to BVA members on the [BVA website](#) in the spring of 2022.

The SRBC has a monitoring station on the Butternut near Flat Iron Bridge in Unadilla.¹⁹

The Butternut Valley Alliance, Inc. (BVA), in the persons of Dr. Leslie Hasbargen and Edward T. Lentz, has been monitoring water quality in the Butternut just upstream of the bridge on CR12 since October 2017 as part of a citizen science program run by the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) at Dickinson College in collaboration with the Otsego County Conservation Association. Data are in the BVA Butternut Creek Library.

Several benthic macroinvertebrate surveys of the Butternut in New Lisbon indicate that the stream is clean and ecologically healthy, as discussed in section 4 of this NRI.

Several landowners along the Butternut Creek in New Lisbon have improved and are maintaining riparian buffers with the support of the DEC's Trees for Tribes program, the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

West Branch Otego Creek

The West Branch Otego Creek has a drainage area of 19.7 sq. mi. Its source is on Briar Hill, just south of NY 80 in the Town of Burlington; its confluence with the Otego Creek in the Town of Laurens is at approximately 42.58920, -75.05838.²⁰

A USGS StreamStats Map and Basin Characteristics Report are appended hereto.²¹ Water quality monitoring by the citizen science volunteers mentioned above was only recently initiated. Preliminarily, data indicate that the West Branch Otego is also in good health.²²

Lakes & Ponds

There are numerous lakes and ponds in the town. Most are on privately owned parcels and not open to the public, such as the ponds at 42.6642 -75.1054, 42.6215 -75.1207,

¹⁹ <https://www.srbc.net/continuous-instream-monitoring/>

²⁰ <https://streamstats.usgs.gov/>

²¹ Appendix 3-4.

²² Hasbargen, L., and Lentz, E.T., personal communication (2022). Data re available in the BVA Butternut Creek Library.

and 42.6508 -75.2015, to identify a few. Two are in the private campgrounds in town, Crystal Lake at Adventure Bound Camping, 111 East Turtle Lake Road (42.6508 -75.2015) and the pond at Meadow-Vale Campsites, 505 Gilbert Lake Road (42.6065 -75.1237).

Publicly accessible lakes and ponds can be found at Gilbert Lake State Park, 18 CCC Road, Laurens and Texas Schoolhouse State Forest, Jones Road. In Gilbert Lake State Park, there are four: Lake of the Twin Fawns, Ice Pond, Spring Pond, and, the largest of the four, Gilbert Lake.

The DEC website²³ includes the following description of Gilbert Lake:

- Physical Features:
- Elevation: 1,515 feet
- Area: 41.2 acres
- Shoreline Length: 1.2 miles
- Length: 0.46 miles
- Max Depth: 20 feet
- Mean Depth: 9.3 feet
- County & Town: Otsego County, Town of New Lisbon
- Aquatic Plant Life:
- Limited rooted aquatic vegetation.
- Access:
- Unimproved trailer launch located in Gilbert Lake State Park on Gilbert Lake State Park Road. Permit required to launch boats.
- For more information on this launch including Google Maps driving directions, visit the Boat Launch Sites for Otsego County page.
- Fish Species:
- Rainbow Trout, Golden Shiner, Creek Chub, White Sucker, Brown Bullhead, Pumpkinseed, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch.²⁴

Texas Schoolhouse State Forest has an unnamed beaver pond of approximately 10 acres and a shoreline of about 0.5 mile. A large beaver dam is on the east side of the pond with a series of smaller dams downstream. Like most beaver dams, the dams have occasionally broken over the years under the stress of heavy rains. Recently, the dams broke on about May 9, 2021 due to rain in the preceding days and weeks, with flooding from the beaver pond causing damage to portions of Lena Road and to a

²³ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/84962.html>

²⁴ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/84962.html>

private residential driveway on Lena Road. The dams broke twice more in 2021, again following heavy rains. The beavers continue to rebuild.

The pond serves as a Great Blue Heron rookery. Unfortunately, the number of standing trees with lateral branches diminishes each year, leaving only a handful for heron nests.

There is a marked hiking trail of about 2 miles that starts at Jones Road, makes a loop down to the pond, along the creek and then back out along a logging road. There are about two dozen interpretive signs along the way describing some of the flora and fauna that inhabit the area.

Wetlands

Wetlands are perhaps the most critical of all water resource considerations due to their sensitivity to disturbance. These areas are subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and are commonly referred to as bogs or marshes.

Wetlands serve an important function cleansing water and they retain large amounts of runoff during the spring thaw or major storm events. In this respect, wetlands help to reduce peak flood flows and decrease flood damage. All proposed development within the vicinity of NYSDEC and federal wetlands must comply with the regulation of the respective authority. The Planning Board must ensure that applicants adhere to these standards when reviewing site plans or subdivision proposals.

A map from the DEC Environmental Resource Mapper²⁵ showing state-protected wetlands in the town is attached.²⁶

Floodplains

A flood zones map from the NYS GIS Clearinghouse prepared in 2021 is attached.²⁷ It shows areas in which there is a 1% annual chance flood, i.e., 100 year flood zones (in addition to lakes and ponds). All of these zones are along the Butternut Creek.

²⁵ <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/erm/>

²⁶ Appendices 3-5N and 3-5S.

²⁷ Appendix 3-6.

Floodplain maps prepared in 2017 by the National Flood Insurance Program maps show 100 year flood zones denoted as “Special Flood Hazard Areas.”²⁸

Town Law 1992-1 prohibits construction and other development within Special Flood Hazard Areas without a floodplain development permit having been issued by the town.

Riparian Zones

During the Butternut Creek Assessment, numerous sites of significant erosion along the Butternut and its tributaries, including Stony Creek, Mill Creek within the town were identified. Along the entire main channel and its tributaries, 214 Priority Sites were identified. Approximately 70 of the priority sites are in the Town of New Lisbon. Of these, 27 were characterized as “extreme” and another 27 were characterized as “very high.” Data for these sites are attached.²⁹ The town should endeavor to identify funding, such as from the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, to remediate these sites.

It is important that the town, in making land use decisions, take into consideration the importance of minimizing erosion, particularly along creek banks. Riparian zones are critical to minimization of erosion and sediment pollution. Sediment from the Butternut and the West Branch Otsego Creeks makes its way all the way to the Chesapeake Bay. Riparian zones are densely populated with plant species and have intricate root systems that prevent erosion and undercutting of banks. In addition, the woody stems and grasses help to physically trap sediment by slowing down the water runoff from the surrounding area, allowing the sediment to settle out.

The branches, stems and leaves of these plants absorb the impact of raindrops. Decaying leaves and low-growing vegetation form a ground cover that further lessens the erosive force of raindrop impact. This ground cover slows runoff, increasing the amount of water that is absorbed into the soil and then released slowly into the stream, reservoir, groundwater or atmosphere. The water that is absorbed may contain nutrients, pesticides, and other pollutants that will eventually be taken up by plants or broken down over time.

As explained on the town’s Comprehensive Plan, riparian zones can:

²⁸ Digital Images of the maps were too large to append to this NRI but are available from the Town Clerk.

²⁹ Appendix 3-7.

- Increase property values;
- Reduce property loss from excessive erosion;
- Protect water quality;
- Enhance wildlife habitat;
- Protect the natural beauty of the land;
- Provide privacy; and
- Enhance scenic views.

* * *

Section 4: Fauna & Flora

Wildlife that can be found in the town is similar to what may be found throughout central NYS or, more particularly, in DEC Region 4 west of the Catskills, for example:

Mammals: beaver, raccoon, bobcat, fisher, black bear, white-tailed deer, red and gray fox, striped skunk, eastern gray squirrel and eastern chipmunk

Birds: wild turkey, ruffed grouse, American crow, black-capped chickadee, blue jay, Canada goose, American robin, American goldfinch, downy woodpecker

Reptiles and amphibians: snapping turtle, painted turtle, garter snake, Eastern milk snake, ring-necked snake, American toad, green frog, bull frog, wood frog, red-spotted newt, Northern red-backed salamander.³⁰

There are no DEC Wildlife Management Areas in the town.

With respect to mammals of current popular interest, fishers, or fisher cats, are expanding in and around the town.³¹ Black bears are spotted in the town or caught on trip cameras, but it does not appear that there is a self-sustaining population within the town. There are occasional anecdotal and dubious reports of Eastern Cougar sightings.

Fish and Other Aquatic Animals

A description of aquatic habitat in New Lisbon can be found in the DEC Region 4 Fisheries notes.³²

At least four types of aquatic animals known to be present in the Butternut are species of concern: freshwater mussels, American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleghaniensis alleghaniensis*), and Swallowtail shiner (*Notropis procne*). The following The yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*), which is present in the Butternut, is a species of greatest conservation need.³³

³⁰ Selinda L. Brandon, Wildlife Biologist, Division of Fish and Wildlife, NYS DEC, Region 4 (personal communication) (2022).

³¹ See, DEC [Fisher Management Plan](#) (2015), pp. 24-30.

³² Appendix 4-1.

³³ Butternut Creek Watershed Management Plan, 2021. Adopted by Otsego County December 1, 2021.

Elliptio complanata pearly mussels are common in the Butternut below New Lisbon. Despite the presence of gravid females, a survey of the Butternut for larval stage *E. complanata* in late June 2021 did not find evidence of reproduction.³⁴

Following are lists of mussels and crayfish known to live in the Butternut.³⁵

| Mussels | |
|--|--------------------|
| Species Name | Common Name |
| <i>Alasmidonta marginata</i> ¹ | Elktoe |
| <i>Alasmidonta undulata</i> | Triangle Floater |
| <i>Elliptio complanata</i> | Eastern Elliptio |
| <i>Lampsilis cariosa</i> ¹ | Yellow Lampmussel |
| <i>Lampsilis radiata</i> | Eastern Lampmussel |
| <i>Pyganodon cataracta</i> | Giant Floater |
| <i>Strophitus undulatus</i> | Creeper |
| 1. NYS Species of Greatest Conservation Need | |

| Crayfish | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Species Name | Common Name |
| <i>Cambarus bartonii</i> | Common Crayfish |
| <i>Faxonius propinquus</i> | Northern Clearwater Crayfish |
| <i>Faxonius rusticus</i> ² | Rusty Crayfish |
| 2. Invasive | |

Eastern Hellbenders were released in the lower Butternut in 2020 by a consortium that included The Wetlands Trust. Approximately 6,000 American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) glass eels were released into the Butternut in Morris in 2019 by researchers Paul H. Lord and Sarah Coney of SUNY Oneonta.

³⁴ Coney, S., and Lord, P.H., SUNY Oneonta, personal communication (2021).

³⁵ Coney, S., and Lord, P.H., SUNY Oneonta, personal communication (2022).

Regarding fish in the Butternut:

Brown trout stocking was terminated in Butternut Creek in 2012 in favor of (*sic*) the brook trout population. Fisheries surveys in 2011, 2013, and 2016 revealed a self-sustaining population (*sic*) of brook trout in Butternut Creek among very few left-over stocked brown trout despite stocking numbers similar to Otego/Wharton Creeks. DEC policy for stocking trout streams prevents placing brown trout on top of a sustaining native brook trout population. Butternut Creek continues to be monitored to assess the status of this recovering brook trout population that should allow a unique opportunity for anglers to pursue quality sized brook trout in Otsego County.³⁶

The results of various fish surveys in the Butternut are contained in reports in the BVA Butternut Creek Library.

Angell (2017)³⁷ reports:

After completion of the survey, a total of 540 fish were collected and examined. This included 18 different species contained within 8 different families. After analyzing each site individually and comparing them with one another, it was concluded that the site that yielded the greatest number of fish was New Lisbon; this site also had the highest species diversity. ... The species of fish that proved to be the most abundant overall was the slimy sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*) totaling 159 caught over the 6 sites. Less abundant species included (*sic*) a redbreast dace (*Clinostomus elongates*) caught at Strawberry Fields and 6 burbot (*Lota lota*) caught at New Lisbon.

Angell (2017) also reports the following species in New Lisbon:

³⁶ Leatherstocking - Unit Management Plan, Region 4 Fisheries, NYSDEC, Notes by Wells & Pokorny, September 2018. See, also, Appendix 4-3.

³⁷ Angell, N., Baseline fish survey of Butternut Creek. SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, Cooperstown (2017).

| Species | Sum of count | Site | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| | | Strawberry Fields | New Lisbon | Morris Fair Grounds | Gilbertsville | Copes Corners | Flat Iron |
| Blacknose Dace | 113 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Brook Trout | 10 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Burbot | 6 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Common Shiner | 20 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Creek Chub | 25 | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Cutlips Minnow | 34 | X | X | | X | X | |
| Fall Fish | 17 | X | X | | X | | X |
| Longnose Dace | 68 | X | X | | | | |
| Margined Madtom | 9 | X | | | | | |
| Pumpkin Seed | 1 | | X | | X | X | X |
| Redside Dace | 1 | | X | | | X | X |
| Rock Bass | 6 | | X | | | | |
| Rosyface Shiner | 4 | | X | | | | |
| Shield Darter | 17 | | | X | X | X | X |
| Slimy Sculpin | 159 | | | | X | X | X |
| Smallmouth Bass | 1 | | | | X | X | |
| Spottail Shiner | 16 | | | | | X | X |
| Tessellated Darter | 22 | | | | | X | |
| White Sucker | 11 | | | | | | X |
| Grand Total | 540 | | | | | | |

Recent samplings of fish in Gilbert Lake collected rainbow trout, brown trout, largemouth bass, pumpkinseeds and one brown bullhead. White sucker and golden shiner, which were not collected in these samplings, are most likely rare in the lake. Creek chubs inhabit the largest tributary to Gilbert Lake in low densities and a few may drop down to the lake.³⁸

Macroinvertebrates are an indicator of stream health and habitat for aquatic animals. A macroinvertebrate survey of the Butternut in 2002 concluded that “the habitat and water quality of Butternut Creek is in good condition.” The four survey sites in or proximate to New Lisbon were the public fishing access site in Burlington, just below Bell Hill Road, just above County Highway 12, and May Apple Hill Farm close to the New Lisbon-Morris line.³⁹

In a similar survey in 2003, the creek was rated as “non-impacted to slightly impacted,” with only one site (Morris) of eight rated as slightly impacted. Two of the sites were in New Lisbon, one just above County Highway 16 and the other just above County Highway 12.⁴⁰

In a follow up to the 2002 survey, macroinvertebrates were surveyed at nine sites, including three in (or adjacent) New Lisbon: the public fishing access site in Burlington, Bell Hill Road, and County Highway 12. Regarding the New Lisbon and sites upstream, the survey report concluded:

The significant changes in total organisms collected, percent EPT, and the family biotic index indicate improved water quality conditions, since 2002 in the upper half of the Butternut Creek (Sites 1-5). There are a number of factors that could contribute to this improvement, including increased forest cover and a decrease in farming activity (USDA 2012). The topography in the upper end of the watershed is steeper, and therefore less conducive to dairy farming. Stream improvements have been conducted in this section of the stream, including the installation of riparian buffers by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, under the NYSDEC’s Trees for Tribs program (NYSDEC 2017b). In addition, the area

³⁸ Fish samplings of Gilbert Lake in 2015 and 2019, Timothy Pokorny, Aquatic Biologist, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 4 Fisheries, personal communication (2022).

³⁹ Stensland, M.F., Benthic Macroinvertebrate Survey of Butternut Creek, M.A. Thesis, SUNY Oneonta (2005).

⁴⁰ Bodes, R.W. et al, Butternut Creek - Biological Assessment, 2003 Survey (2004).

encompassing Sites 1-5 is above 1200 ft (366 m) in elevation, a locally important factor in delineating the boundaries of coldwater fisheries (Cornwell 2016).⁴¹

In September 2018, a macroinvertebrate survey conducted by Butternut Valley Alliance volunteers Dr. Leslie Hasbargen, Dr. Vicky Lentz, and Edward T. Lentz as part of a citizen science program run by the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) at Dickinson College reported a healthy diversity and abundance of species.⁴²

Birds

Bird surveys in and proximate to the town were conducted in 2020 and 2021 by Dr. Charles Scheim and Sandy Bright with help from Tom Salo and JoAnn Salo. A list of species observed and classified as Possible, Probable, or Confirmed breeders in the area based on the current NYS Breeding Bird Atlas criteria is attached.⁴³ After each Possible, Probable, or Confirmed is a notation that indicates what actual evidence was observed to lead to that classification. For example, Confirmed (ON) means the bird was seen "on nest", or Probable (P) means a likely "breeding pair" was observed. There may be additional species that inhabit the town but were not observed during these surveys.

Plants

Plants that can be found growing wild in the town are similar to what may be found throughout central NYS or, more particularly, in DEC Region 4 west of the Catskills. Information about species of plants in the town is difficult to find. The iNaturalist database⁴⁴ contains reports of identification of the following plant species in the 13415, 13810, and 13342 postal codes: Devil's Beggarticks, Mayapple, Hemp Dogbane, Black-eyed Susan, Common Wrinkle-leaved Goldenrod, Goutweed, Creeping Bellflower, Wild carrot, Fleabanes, Horseweeds, Knapweeds, Creeping Buttercup,

⁴¹ Peterson, James E., Butternut Creek Biomonitoring, Summer 2017, M.A. Thesis, SUNY Cobleskill (2017).

⁴² Data are available in the BVA Butternut Creek Library.

⁴³ Appendix 4-2.

⁴⁴ iNaturalist is a joint initiative by the [California Academy of Sciences](https://www.calacademy.org/) and the [National Geographic Society](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/) and collects information on plants and animals submitted by the public. <https://www.inaturalist.org> <https://www.inaturalist.org/home>

Dutchman's Breeches, American Chestnut, Clouded Yellows, Waxcaps, Golden Spindles, Honeysuckles, Fowl Mannagrass, Dark Green Bulrush, Broad-leaved Helleborine, Velvet-foot Fairy Fan, Cutleaf Teasel, Raspberry, Stripe Maple, partidge Berry, Fan Clubmoss, Common Mugwort, American Beech, Pointed Broom Sedge, Plaantain-leaved Pussytoes, Awl-fruited Sedge, Dames Rocket, Large-leaved Avens, Mints, and Creeping Bellflower.

Plants identified during a collection in New Lisbon include, among others, the following:⁴⁵

| Genus species | Common Name | Location |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Draba verna</i> | spring whitlow grass | Gilbert Lake State Park |
| <i>Dianthus armeria armeria</i> | deptford pink | Texas School State Forest |
| <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> | germander speedwell | Dockstader Road |
| <i>Veronica officinalis</i> | common speedwell | Dockstader Road |
| <i>Viola blanda</i> | sweet white violet | Texas School House State Forest |
| <i>Acorus calamus</i> | old world sweetflag | Dockstader Road |
| <i>Carex cephaloidea</i> | cluster-headed sedge | Dockstader Road |
| <i>Carex conoidea</i> | field sedge | Dockstader Road |
| <i>Carex leptalea</i> | bristle-stalked sedge | Dockstader Road |
| <i>Carex pallescens</i> | pale sedge | Dockstader Road |
| <i>Scirpus microcarpus</i> | barber-pole bulrush | Dockstader Road |
| <i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i> | narrow-leaved blue-eyed grass | Texas School House State Forest |
| <i>Goodyera pubescens</i> | downy rattlesnake plantain | Dockstader Road |

Plants growing wild at a location in New Lisbon are reported to include, among others: Blueberry, Raspberry, Blackberry, Ginseng, Hawthorn, Wild Iris, Milkweed, Partridge Berry, St. John's Wort, Ragweed, Chicory, Foxtail, Buttercup, Chickweed, Thistle, Indian Paintbrush, and hops.⁴⁶

Plants identified in Texas Schoolhouse State Forest and featured on trailside interpretive signage are: Eastern Hemlock, White Pine, Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Red

⁴⁵ Tedesco, Connie, personal communication.

⁴⁶ Martin-Mathewson, N., personal communication (2022).

Oak, White Oak, Sensitive Fern, Christmas Fern, Bracken Fern, and Hay-scented Fern.⁴⁷

The New York Flora Atlas lists 1,149 species of plants in Otsego County.⁴⁸

Invasives

Invasive insects that threaten the town include the Emerald Ash Borer and the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. While there are no published reports of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in New Lisbon, there are confirmed reports nearby in Cooperstown and Laurens.⁴⁹ The Butternut Valley Alliance will conduct a pilot HWA survey of the Butternut Creek watershed in the winter of 2022-23.

In addition to the insect invasives, plant invasives also threaten our ecosystems. Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, and Japanese Knotweed, in particular, pose significant threats in the town.⁵⁰ Plant invasives that have been reported as confirmed in (or adjacent) the Town of New Lisbon include: Common Speedwell Gypsy Weed (*Veronica officinalis*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp*), Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), Common Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*),⁵¹ Garlic Mustard, Purple Loosestrife and Multiflora Rose.⁵²

⁴⁷ Vogler, D., personal communication (2020).

⁴⁸ New York Flora Atlas, New York Flora Association, <https://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu>.

⁴⁹ nyimapinvasives.org

⁵⁰ Dan Zimmerman, Forester, Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District (personal communication) (2022).

⁵¹ nyimapinvasives.org

⁵² Unpublished observations.

The NYS DEC classifies Otsego County as a county with active Giant Hogweed sites, with reports of sites near the Town of New Lisbon,⁵³ and describes Wild Parsnip as widespread in the state with sites reported in Otsego County.⁵⁴

A 2013 survey of aquatic invasive species in Otsego County, which included 13 sample sites in the Butternut, reported Japanese Knotweed and Rusty Crayfish in the Butternut but only in the middle and lower reaches, i.e., below New Lisbon.⁵⁵

A list of invasive species that threaten the town's water resources prepared by the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) follows.

| Invasive Threats | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Species Name | Common Name | Species Name | Common Name |
| <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> | European frogbit; common frogbit | <i>Orconectes rusticus</i> | Rusty crayfish |
| <i>Aldrovanda vesiculosa</i> | Waterwheel plant | <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> | Sea lamprey |
| <i>Channa argus</i> | Northern snakehead | <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> | Eurasian water-milfoil |
| <i>Osmerus mordax</i> | Rainbow smelt | <i>Potamogeton crispus</i> | Curly pondweed |
| <i>Najas minor</i> | Brittle naiad | <i>Trapa natans</i> | Water chestnut |
| <i>Nymphoides peltata</i> | Yellow floating heart | <i>Lepomis macrochirus</i> | Bluegill |
| <i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> | Mud bithynia | <i>Viviparus georgianus</i> | Banded mysterysnail |
| <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | Yellow iris | <i>Pylodictis olivaris</i> | Flathead Catfish |
| <i>Nitellopsis obtusa</i> | Starry stonewort | <i>Ludwigia peploides ssp glabrescens</i> | Floating primrose-willow |
| <i>Misgurnus anguillicaudatus</i> | Oriental weatherfish | <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> | Water Lettuce |
| <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> | Fanwort | <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> | Water Hyacinth |
| <i>Cipangopaludina chinensis</i> | Chinese mysterysnail | <i>Corbicula fluminea</i> | Asian Clam |
| <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> | Common carp | <i>Perca flavescens</i> | Yellow Perch |
| <i>Didymosphenia geminata</i> | Didymo rock snot | <i>Rhodeus sericeus</i> | Bitterling |
| <i>Dreissena polymorpha</i> | Zebra mussel | <i>Dreissena bugensis</i> | Quagga Mussel |

⁵³ Giant Hogweed Statewide Distribution Map, NYS DEC, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html#Where>

⁵⁴ https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/wildparsnipfact.pdf

⁵⁵ Yoo, A., K. Herzog, and H. Waterfield. 2013. Aquatic invasive species present in Otsego County, NY water bodies. SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, Cooperstown, New York, USA. (Otsego Creek was also sampled but not the West Branch.)

While not invasive, White Tailed Deer negatively affect the regeneration of hardwood forests through substantial browsing. This browsing is on commercially important species thus giving non-preferred browse species, like American Beech and ferns, a distinct advantage, threatening the future biodiversity and species makeup of our forests.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ Dan Zimmerman, Forester, Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District, personal communication (2022).

Section 5: Climate Change

New York's climate is described as humid continental. This is defined by having four distinct seasons with seasonal temperature differences. This can be seen in New York by the hot and humid summers and the cold, sometimes severe, winters. The average annual temperature in New York is 53.4 degrees Fahrenheit⁵⁷.

Overview:

Most of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that come from New York State are due to transportation. Transportation in NY accounts for 47.4% of the emissions, followed by residential emissions at 19.8%⁵⁸. Furthermore, even though New York, especially in the more northern parts of the state, is known for its mountains and forests, the trees in New York only absorb 11.1% of the total carbon dioxide emissions for the state. This means that over 120 billion trees would need to be planted to absorb all of the carbon dioxide that the state emits. Due to this, New York State as a whole would need to reduce their overall transportation emissions in order to become more sustainable and climate smart.

In New Lisbon, mobile sources account for approximately 80% of GHG from government operations.⁵⁹ Based on recent events, the greatest threats to the Town of New Lisbon are extreme weather events, such as the widespread regional floods in 2006 and 2011 and the very localized but damaging flood events in July 2022. The town also faces periods of extreme heat and cold and dry periods, as well as a seemingly unending onslaught of invasive species, the most recent being the impending arrival of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, all exacerbated by climate change.

⁵⁷ <https://en.climate-data.org/north-america/united-states-of-america/new-york/new-york-1091/>

⁵⁸ <https://stateofthecclimate.org/new-york-climate-report/>

⁵⁹ Town of New Lisbon Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (Scopes 1 and 2) (2020).

Temperature:

In Otsego County, according to some reports, the 12-month average temperature increased 1.3°F from March 1900 to February 2021⁶⁰ and about 1.5°F from 2002 to 2022 and is expected to increase by 9°F, to about 55.7°F, from 2022 to the end of this century.

Precipitation:

In Otsego County, the average 12-month total precipitation increased 3.2 inches from March 1900 to February 2021.⁶¹

Impact on the Town of New Lisbon

The changing climate across New York State and Otsego County and its expected impact including extreme events are discussed in the Butternut Creek Watershed Management Plan.

Based on recent events, the greatest threats to the Town of New Lisbon are increased flood events such as the widespread regional floods in 2006 and 2011 and the very localized but damaging flood events in the middle and lower Butternut Valley in July 2022.

In recent years, the town has also experienced:

- extreme heat events,
- extreme cold events,
- prolonged dry periods interspersed with heavy precipitation events, and
- a seemingly unending onslaught of invasive species, the most recent being the impending arrival of the Hemlock Woody Adelgid,

all exacerbated by climate change.

In response, the town has been taking additional measures, e.g., increasing the capacity of roadside drainage ditches, replacing culverts with larger volume (diameter and length) culverts and replacing the Garrattsville streetlights and other indoor and

⁶⁰ <https://usafacts.org/issues/climate/state/new-york/county/otsego-county>

⁶¹ <https://usafacts.org/issues/climate/state/new-york/county/otsego-county>

outdoor lighting with energy efficient LED lights. The town is also taking additional actions to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and to improve resiliency, as explained in the town's Climate Action Plan, including, e.g., exploring the feasibility of replacing its smaller trucks with EV's, with an eye towards eventually replacing its fleet of four plow/dump trucks with EV's as technology improves.

Section 6: Town Government & Land Use

New Lisbon's elected governmental officials are a five person town board including a Town Supervisor, a Town Clerk/Collector, a Highway Superintendent, and a Town Justice. Appointed officials include an Assessor, a Bookkeeper, a Historian, a Land Use Enforcement Officer, a five person Board of Assessment Review, and an unpaid five person advisory Planning Board.

The town is in the 5th County Representative District (New Lisbon, Hartwick, Milford),

The town comprises 1,016 total parcels of which 52 are in the Garrattsville Lighting District.⁶² There are 599 Solid Waste User Fee Units in the entire town, 13 state-owned parcels, 13 special franchise parcels, 23 utilities parcels, and 35 wholly exempt parcels including six cemeteries. The total assessed value of all parcels in 2020 was \$118,021,633 of which \$104,643,926 was taxable by the town.

There are no public schools in the town. Instead, the town is served by four school districts: Edmeston (125 parcels), Laurens (242 parcels), Morris (641 parcels), and Cooperstown (8 parcels).⁶³

The town hall is in the hamlet of Garrattsville, very near to the intersection of State Highway 51 and County Highway 16, which are main routes to the Utica region and I-90. The town hall is less than a half hour from Cooperstown, Oneonta, New Berlin, and Norwich. The Community Room in the town hall is designated as the emergency center for the town.

The town is a fire protection district. Fire protection and emergency medical services are provided by contract with the Garrattsville Fire Company. The town also has a contract with the Village of New Berlin EMS.⁶⁴

New Lisbon's transportation system consists entirely of highways as its waterways are essentially not navigable, there is no railroad, and commuter bus service is limited.

⁶² The 18 streetlights in the lighting district were recently converted to LED lamps.

⁶³ Otsego County Real Property Tax Services, 2021 Final Rolls.

⁶⁴ The town holds a temporary municipal certificate of need. The town plans to make the certificate permanent before it expires later in 2022.

New Lisbon's highways include one state route, NY 51, five county highways (CR 12, 14, 15, 16, 17), and town highways.

There are 66 miles of town highways, of which approximately 22 miles are paved, five town bridges (Turnbull Road, Coles Bridge, Bell Hill Road, Myers Mill Road (Butternut), and Myers Mill Road (Stony Creek), and approximately 55 town culverts ≥ 24 ".

In 2021-2022, ~5 miles of the town highways were designated as seasonal (distances are estimates):

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Stahl (Gross to CR14, 0.45 mi) | Mittlesdorf (from SH51, 0.6 mi) |
| Blue Jay Spur (0.65 mi) | Pardee (corner to CR17, 0.25 mi) |
| Quinlog (Texas to Goddards, 0.96 mi) | Lena (Texas to Jones, 1.2 mi) |
| Pine Woods (0.44 mi) | |
| Harrington (from SH51, 0.35 mi) | |
| Gill Hill (turnaround to Pittsfield line, 0.2 mi) | |

There are no villages in the town. In addition to the hamlet of Garrattsville, other smaller hamlets in the town are: Falls Bridge, Lena, New Lisbon (Noblesville), Stetsonville, and Welcome (New Lisbon Centre).

The town does not have a post office. There are nine postal codes within the town: 13315 (Burlington Flats), 13335 (Edmeston), 13342 (Garrattsville), 13348 (Hartwick), 13411 (New Berlin), 13415 (New Lisbon), 13796 (Laurens), 13808 (Morris), 13810 (Mt. Vision).

The Town has a Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2008.⁶⁵ The town does not have a zoning ordinance. Town land use laws, which are available on the town website⁶⁶, are:

| | |
|--|---|
| Placement and Location of Driveways (2022-1), | Site Plan Review (2011-1), |
| Regulation of Public Assemblages (1970-1, 2018-2), | Subdivisions (2011-1), |
| Solar Energy Farms (2017-1), | Road Preservation (2009-1), |
| Flood Damage Prevention (2017-1), | Prohibition of Construction on Seasonal Roads (2007-1), |
| Prohibition of Heavy Industry (2011-2), | Prohibition of Private Burial Grounds (1996-2), |

⁶⁵ New Lisbon Comprehensive Plan (2008), www.townofnewlisbon.com

⁶⁶ www.townofnewlisbon.com

Farmers' Rights (1990-1),
 Prohibition of Dumps (1988-1),
 Prohibition of Solid Waste Disposal
 Facilities (1987-2),

Prohibition of Transport of Solid Waste
 (1987-1),
 Waiver of Code Enforcement (1983-1),
 Snowmobile Regulations (1972-1).

There are 21 known cemeteries in the town⁶⁷ of which the following are maintained by the town Highway Department (or by resident volunteers):

Garratt Monument-Co. Hwy. 16, north of
 Garrattsville

Gross Hill Cemetery- Vibbard Road

Gledhill Cemetery-St. Hwy. 51,
 Garrattsville

Stetsonville Cemetery- St. Hwy. 51, east
 side, south of Bell Hill Rd, New Lisbon

Smith Cemetery-Myers Mill Road, New
 Lisbon

Thurston/Chapin Cemetery-St. Hwy. 51,
 east side, south of intersection with CR
 12, New Lisbon

Welcome Cemetery--Co. Hwy. 16, near
 Co. Hwy. 14

Buck Cemetery---Miller Road

Falls Bridge/West Creek Cemetery---
 below Braun Rd/Co. Hwy. 15 intersection
 on CR 11.

Photographs taken in some of the cemeteries in the town can be found in the town's Historical Survey.⁶⁸

There are 127 parcels in the town with agriculture adjustments to their assessments.⁶⁹

Only roughly a quarter of these participate in an agricultural district.⁷⁰ Field crops mainly include grass and corn. Recently specialty crops such as sunflower, hops, and cannabis are also being planted. Livestock mainly includes dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs.

The town's Comprehensive Plan states this, with regard to farming in the town:

⁶⁷ See, Appendix 6-1, by Town Historian Virginia Schoradt. A substantially similar map and listing can be found in the Otsego County Planning Department Map Gallery at https://cms2files.revize.com/otsegocountyny/Cemetary%20Map_2015.pdf.

⁶⁸ Appendix 7-1.

⁶⁹ Otsego County Real Property Tax Services, 2021 Final Rolls.

⁷⁰ See, Otsego County Planning Department, Map Gallery at <https://cms2files.revize.com/otsegocountyny/Document%20Center/N-R/Planning/Maps/Consolidated%20Agricultural%20Districts%20Map.pdf>.

According to information obtained from the County Real Property Tax Office, farmland accounts for a total of 10,984.46 acres or 17.16 square miles of land within the Town of New Lisbon. The total land area of the Town is 44.67 square miles and 38.39% of that land area is devoted to agriculture. A disturbing trend in the Town is the large percentage of agricultural land that is classified as abandoned or vacant by the County Office of Real Property. According to County data, a total of 46.87% of the Town's agricultural land is either abandoned or vacant

and provides the following table:

| Table 9-1 New Lisbon Agriculture & Farmland | | |
|--|------------------|------------|
| | # | % |
| Abandoned | 2,717.34 | 24.74 |
| Vacant | 2,430.56 | 22.13 |
| Field Crops | 2,225.68 | 20.26 |
| Cattle | 1,388.21 | 12.64 |
| Dairy | 1,017.06 | 9.26 |
| Horse Farm | 443.66 | 4.04 |
| Livestock | 385.30 | 3.51 |
| Sheep | 210.83 | 1.92 |
| Tree Farm -Nursery | 165.82 | 1.51 |
| Total | 10,984.46 | 100 |
| <i>Source: County Office of Real Property Tax Records 2007</i> | | |

While these data are dated 2007, they are reflective of the current state of farming in the town notwithstanding that the exact numbers may have changed somewhat. For example, the 2015 tax assessment rolls, the earliest rolls available on the county website, list 126 agriculture adjustments in New Lisbon, which compares well with the 127 noted above and suggests a more or less static condition.

There are no large businesses in the town. There are two general stores that offer breakfast, sandwiches, canned and dry goods, and merchandise: The Garrattsville General Store which is at the intersection of County Highway 16 and State Highway 51 and Foolish Farms located on County Highway 12.

Butternuts Beer and Ale, a craft brewery, is located on Hwy 51. There are a small number of remaining dairy farms, including Silver Spoon Dairy on State Highway 51 between New Lisbon and Garrattsville and Hellow Hollow on Miller Road. There is a

goat dairy, Painted Goat Farms, on Middlesdorf Road, that sells a wide variety of goat cheeses and related products, A replacement heifer and sheep & lamb farm, Welcome Acres, on County Highway 16 in the hamlet of Welcome. There are at least two maple syrup producers, Harrington Maple and Mill Hollow Maple. In addition, there are numerous cottage businesses including B&B's, auto/engine repair shops, building contractors, daycare centers, jewelry production, a greenhouse, a farm store, logging, taxidermy, etc. Many town residents engage in small scale farming, primarily of vegetables, beef cows, and pigs.

New Lisbon also serves as a bedroom community for employers in the surrounding, more populous municipalities such as Oneonta (e.g., SUNY College at Oneonta, Hartwick College, and A.O. Fox Hospital), Cooperstown (e.g., Bassett Medical Center, Otsego County, and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum), Norwich, and New Berlin (e.g., Chobani).

Section 7: Historical, Scenic & Recreation Resources

Historic Resources

In 2013, the town commissioned production of a reconnaissance level historic resources survey, which provides a brief description of the town and its historic resources.⁷¹

The Butternut Creek Watershed Background Report contains a brief historical overview of the Butternut Creek Valley at pages 72 *et seq.* Copies are available from BVA, Otsego County SWCD, and the Town of New Lisbon.

The Town Historian, Virginia Schoradt, has over the years created an extensive collection of reports on various subjects. The following of her reports are available from the Town Clerk and on the town's website⁷²:

- Early History
- Mills of New Lisbon
- History of Otsego County
- The Hard and Peck General Store
- Dr. Bishop Scrapbook
- Churches
- Cemeteries
- Yellow School House District #11
- New Lisbon Farm Telephone Company
- New Lisbon World War II Honor Roll
- Businesses
- Naming of Areas
- Schools
- Garrattsville
- Welcome
- Lena
- Stetsonville
- Noblesville (New Lisbon)

The town's Comprehensive Plan includes discussion of historic resources, including schoolhouses, cemeteries, and barns. With regard to schoolhouses, the plan notes that the town at one time had 16 schoolhouses of which 12 are remaining and recommends that the town support improvements to the schoolhouses not presently being maintained.⁷³ The plan includes a Historic Resources Map, a copy of which is

⁷¹ Appendix 7-1. Also accessible at townofnewlisbon.com.

⁷² The web page is under construction and is therefore incomplete as of this writing.

⁷³ Town of New Lisbon Comprehensive Plan, pages 69-74.

attached.⁷⁴ One of the schoolhouses identified in the Comprehensive Plan as abandoned, viz., the Noblesville Schoolhouse, has been purchased by an area resident and is in the process of being restored.

Scenic Resources

The dominant natural features of the town are its two river valleys that run more or less north to south on either side of the town with low mountain ridges flanking the two valleys in the west, center, and east areas of the town.

The larger of the two rivers is the Butternut Creek about which several studies have been completed in recent years. A library comprising reports of these studies is maintained by the Butternut Valley Alliance.⁷⁵

The other creek is the West Branch Otsego Creek which enters the town at its border with the Town of Burlington and empties into the Otsego Creek just outside the southeast end of the town in the Town of Laurens at approximately 42.58917, -75.05844.

Both creeks have numerous tributaries which, like the main streams, offer views of natural beauty, especially tributaries entering the Butternut from the west as they flow, often cascading, down the mountain and into the Butternut.

Both creeks are discussed more fully in Section 3 of this Natural Resources Inventory.

There are no designated scenic vistas in the town. However, natural beauty abounds and there are many locations that offer especially beautiful vistas. Some of these include the following:

- ★ the beaver pond and heron rookery at Texas Schoolhouse State Forest
- ★ the view of the Butternut Valley coming down CR12 into the valley
- ★ the large pond on the south side of Blue Jay Hollow Road
- ★ the Butternut Creek looking upstream from the bridge at CR16
- ★ the Butternut Creek looking upstream from the bridge at CR12
- ★ the Butternut Creek looking upstream from the bridge at Myers Mills Road
- ★ the Butternut Creek looking downstream from the bridge at Myers Mills Road

⁷⁴ Appendix 7-3.

⁷⁵ See, Appendix 3-3.

- ★ the large pond on County Highway 14 at County Highway 16
- ★ the view looking south on Parker Road at Bardin Road
- ★ the view from the top of Turnbull Road just below the Burlington town line looking southeast down into the valley
- ★ the wetlands on the West Branch Otsego Creek looking downstream from Goddards Road
- ★ Mill Creek looking up from SH51 in Garrattsville
- ★ Stoney Creek looking upstream from Myers Mills Road
- ★ the view from the top of the hill on CR 14 between CR16 and S. Welcome Road
- ★ the view from the north side of Walters Road looking down to the creek that passes under Walters Road between Elliott and Harrington Roads.

Reactions and comments to a quick Facebook survey re: scenic resources in the town are shown in Appendix 7-2.

Recreation Resources

The primary destination for recreation in the town is Gilbert Lake State Park which offers camping, hiking, boating, swimming fishing, cross country ski trails, and more. The park straddles New Lisbon and Laurens, with the camping sites being in New Lisbon. The postal address is 18 CCC Road, Laurens NY 13796.

Texas Schoolhouse State Forest has walking trails, including a 2 mile loop with interpretive signage describing some of the flora and fauna that can be found in the forest. This trail also brings hikers close to a large beaver pond with multiple beaver lodges and a Great Blue Heron rookery.

The trails are maintained by volunteers acting pursuant to a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement with the DEC (Agreement # 17-04-ST-01). The BVA in conjunction with the town have identified funding to install observation areas on the pond and are exploring funding opportunities to enhance the rookery. Trailheads are on Jones Road at approximately 42.65641, -75.11148, with parking on both sides of Jones Road. The trails are listed in Otsego Outdoors.⁷⁶

There is a basketball court, children's playground, and ball field behind the town hall on CR 16 in Garrattsville.

⁷⁶ <https://otsegooutdoors.org>

There is a left bank fishing access site accessible from Backus Road across the creek from Rabbit Hollow Road, at approximately 42.6517, -75.1542. There is another fishing access site on the right bank accessible from County Highway 16 that runs upstream from the border with Burlington at approximately 42.6686, -75.1449.

Although not formally designated as such, there is a natural pool on the upstream side of the bridge on CR12 that is often used for fishing and bathing. Similarly, there is also an area often used by anglers on the downstream side of the bridge on Bell Hill Road.

The town in collaboration with the BVA and CNYC recently installed a bicycle route connecting TSSF and GLSP. The route runs clockwise and connects the trailhead at Texas Schoolhouse State Forest with a portion of the route going through Gilbert Lake State Park. It is approximately 20 miles and has a cumulative incline of about 1600 feet.

There are numerous snowmobile trails in the town connecting the town to the statewide network of snowmobile trails.

There are no Otsego County forests in New Lisbon but Otsego County Forest #4, Chapin Memorial Forest, is in Pittsfield just outside the Pittsfield-New Lisbon town line and is accessible from Gill Hill Road in New Lisbon at approximately 42.5957, -75.2028.
