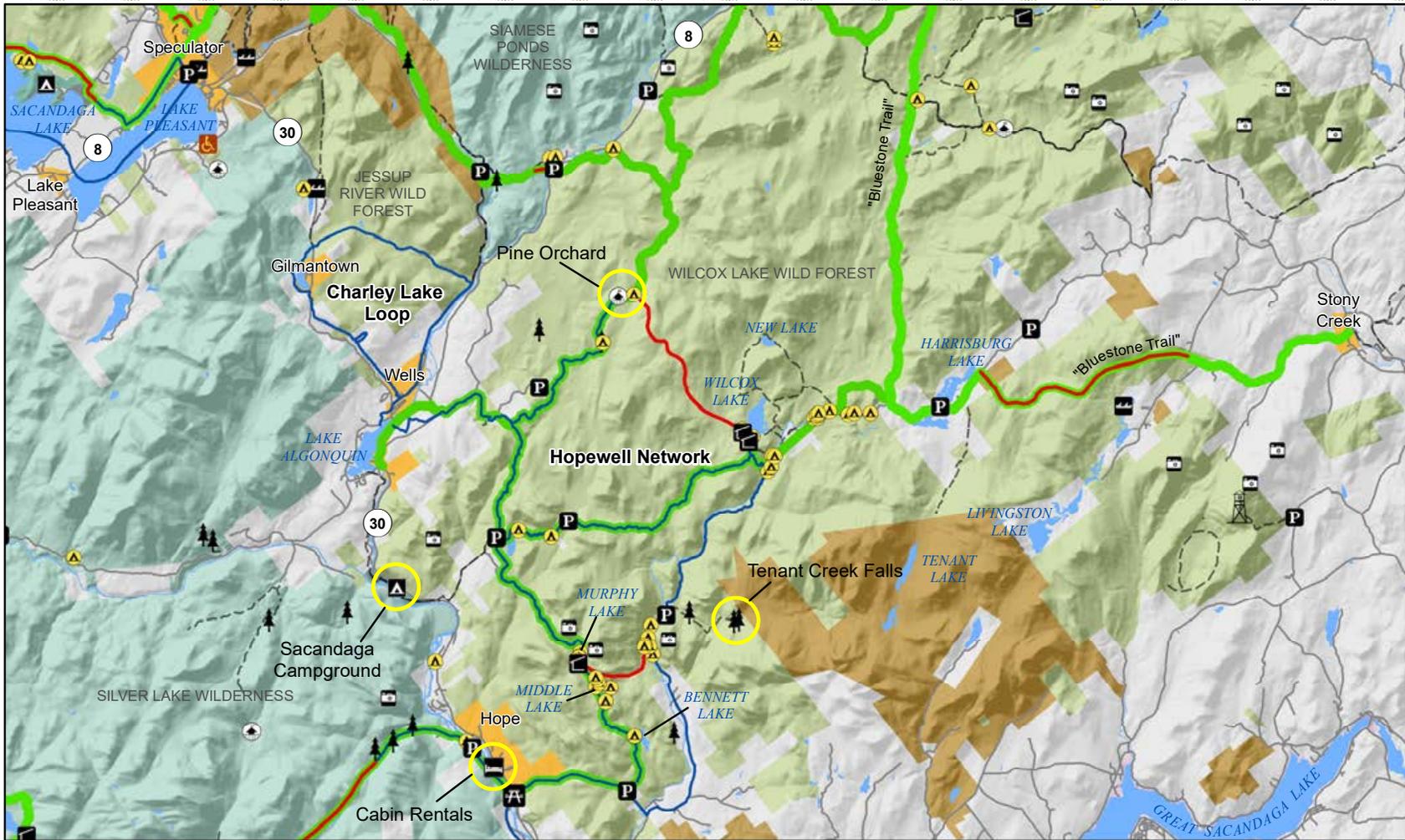
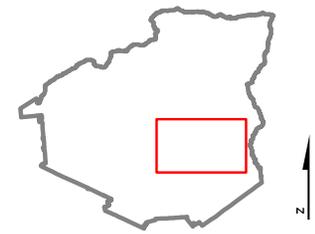
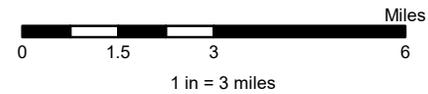


# Map 9 ► Wells, Gilmantown, Hope, Stony Creek



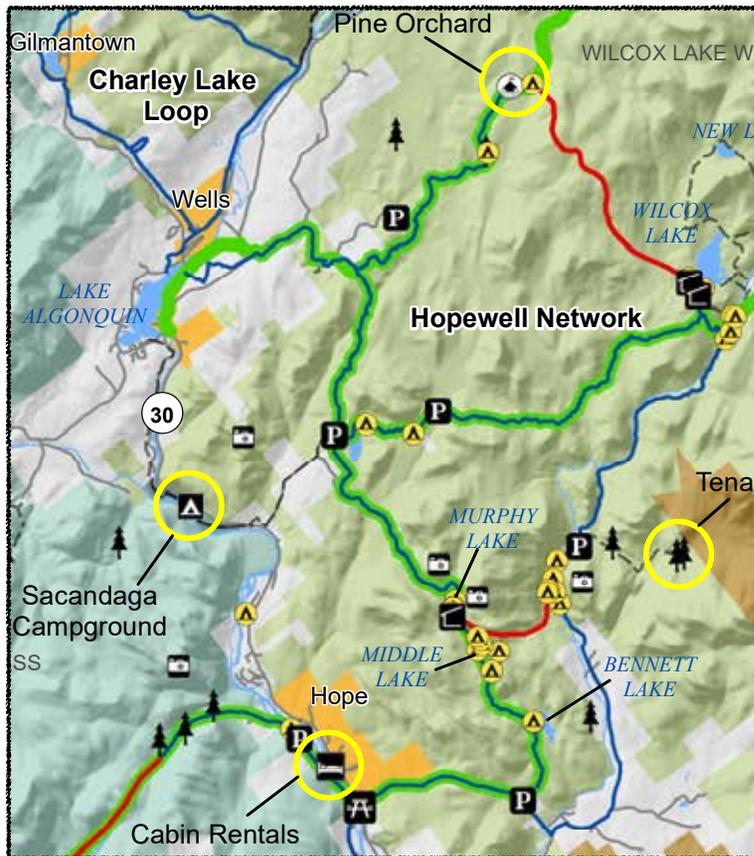
- |  |                    |  |                  |  |                       |  |                        |
|--|--------------------|--|------------------|--|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
|  | ADA Accessible     |  | Fire Tower       |  | Local Network         |  | Community              |
|  | Lodging            |  | Historic Site    |  | Regional Network      |  | Intensive Use          |
|  | Natural Feature    |  | Lean-to          |  | Construction Required |  | Pending Classification |
|  | State Campground   |  | Paddling Access  |  | DEC Trail             |  | Primitive              |
|  | Primitive Campsite |  | Parking          |  | Road                  |  | Wild Forest            |
|  | Day Use Area       |  | Scenic Area      |  |                       |  | Wilderness             |
|  |                    |  | Proposed Feature |  |                       |  | Easement               |

## Hope, Wells



Map produced by the Great South Woods Project Team at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

## Map 9 ► Wells & Hope Area Hopewell Network



**Access:** New trail segments create a loop from Pine Orchard to Wilcox Lake, and a shortcut from camping areas at East Stony Creek and Murphy Lake. These connections provide a shorter loop direct from Hope, and less out-and-back trails overall.

**Connectivity:** Links the communities of Wells and Hope directly, and Stony Creek indirectly by linking over to the Bluestone Trail (proposed) via Wells-Wilcox Circuit (regional network). West leg shared with Infinite South (regional network). Hope terminus links with Kallen Trek to the west.

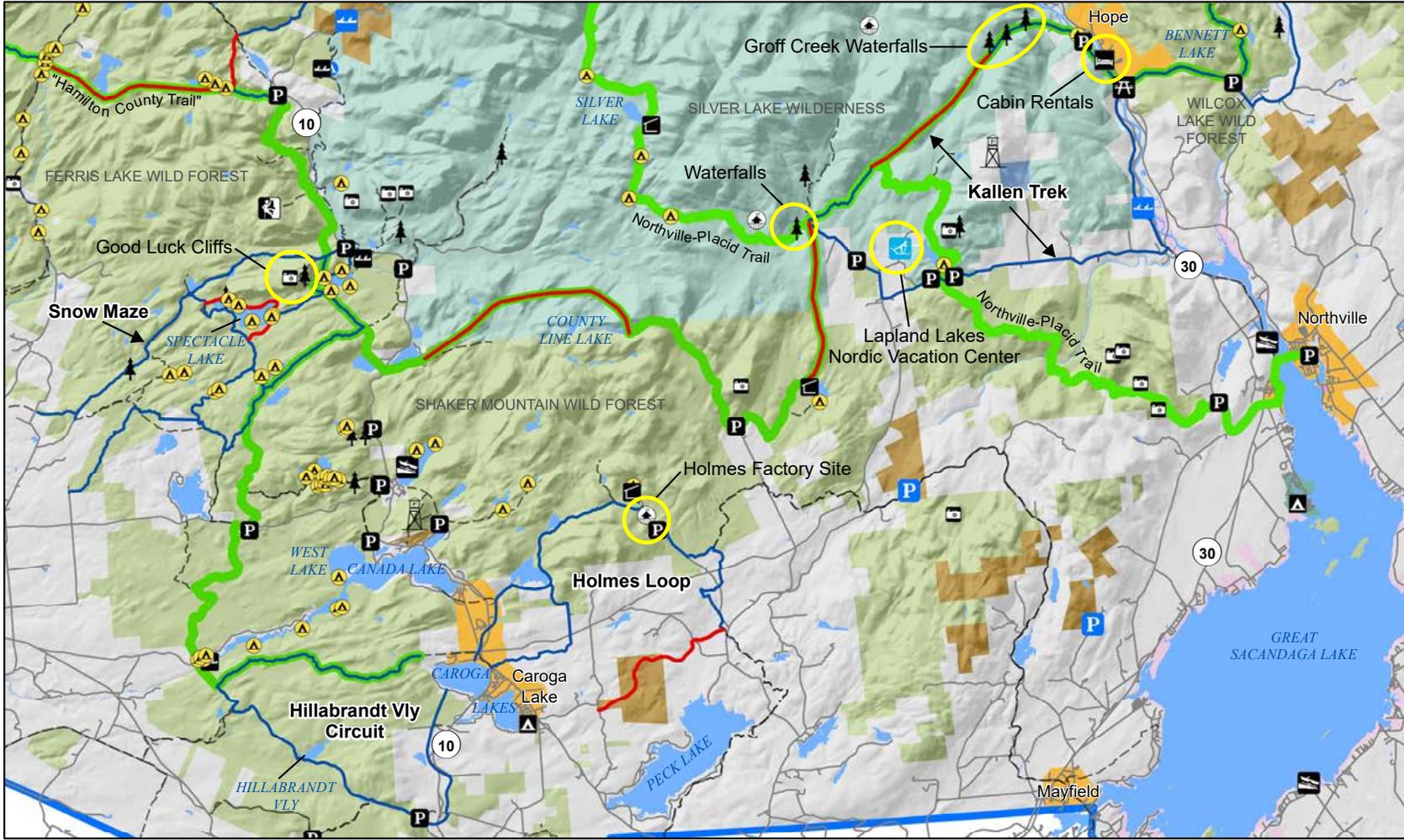
**Stewardship:** Signage at junctions with Wells-Wilcox Circuit and Kallen Trek; field-validate suitability of snowmobile sections for hiking (particularly access in from Wells, built for snowmobiles). Registers required in Hope (near picnic area) and Wells.

**Destination:** Network passes Lake Algonquin, visits Pine Orchard (old growth) then Wilcox Lake, follows East Stony Creek, with a side trip available toward easement to scenic waterfalls and Rand Mountain, then passes Bennet, Middle, and Murphy Lakes before Willis Lake where there is a spur trail to Moose Mtn. Lots of camping available near Wilcox, Murphy, Middle, Bennett Lakes and East Stony Creek.

**Partnerships:** Parking could be secured by each town (Hope and Wells). Two sections to be constructed are key to closing the loop (3.69 mi) and providing a shortcut in the loop (1.72 miles).

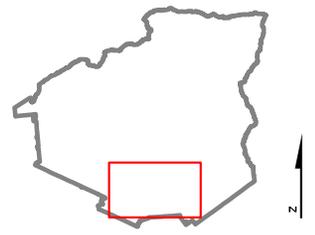
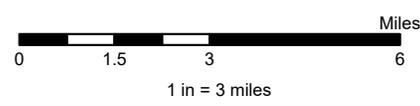
The 44-mile **Hopewell Network** offers a tour of lakes and natural features such as Pine Orchard and Tenant Creek Falls in the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest east of Hope and Wells. Instead of driving Route 30, travelers could opt to get out in the woods where few visitors venture and hike from Hope to Wells. This is not a day hike, but scenic lean-tos at Wilcox and Murphy Lakes welcome the overnight visitor. Constructing roughly 3 miles of trail through the Wild Forest provides a shortcut from Wilcox Lake to Pine Orchard. Visitors staying in Wells could also complete the Charley Lake Loop that runs around Gilmantown and Wells, following a stretch of the Sacandaga River, and connecting to the Hopewell Network near Lake Algonquin in Wells.

# Map 10 ► Northville & Caroga Lake



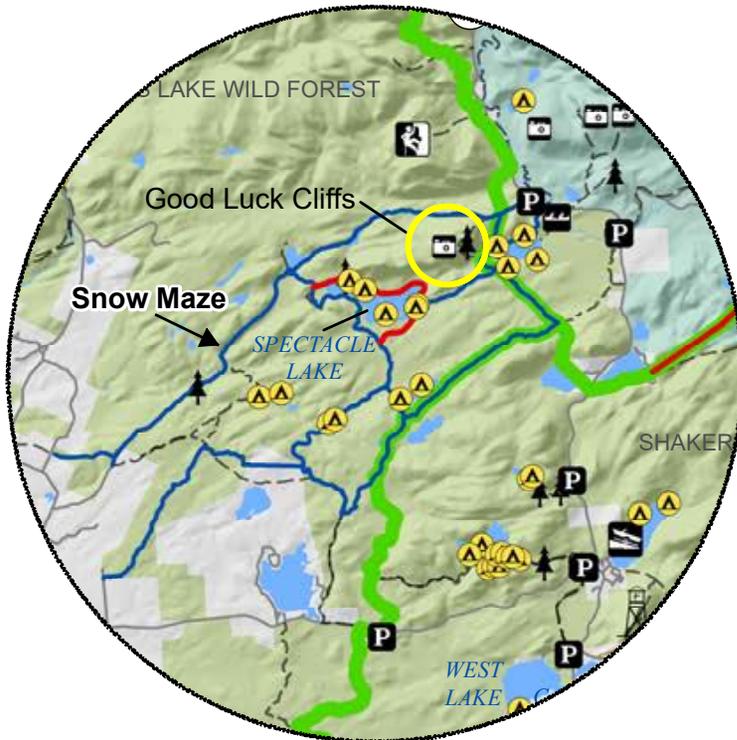
- |                          |                 |                       |                        |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Lodging                  | Fire Tower      | Proposed Feature      | Community              |
| Boat Launch              | Historic Site   | Local Network         | Intensive Use          |
| Natural Feature          | Lean-to         | Regional Network      | Pending Classification |
| State Campground         | Paddling Access | Construction Required | Primitive              |
| Primitive Campsite       | Parking         | DEC Trail             | State Administrative   |
| Cross-Country Ski Center | Rock Climbing   | Road                  | Wild Forest            |
| Day Use Area             | Scenic Area     |                       | Wilderness             |
|                          |                 |                       | Easement               |

## Northville, Caroga Lake



Map produced by the Great South Woods Project Team at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

## Map 10 ► Northville & Caroga Lake Snow Maze



**Access:** New trail section (2.54 mi) along Spectacle Lake completes a loop around the waterbody, adding to the overall network of existing snowmobile trails that might be suitable for hiking.

**Connectivity:** Links with Caroga Connector and Hamilton County Trail.

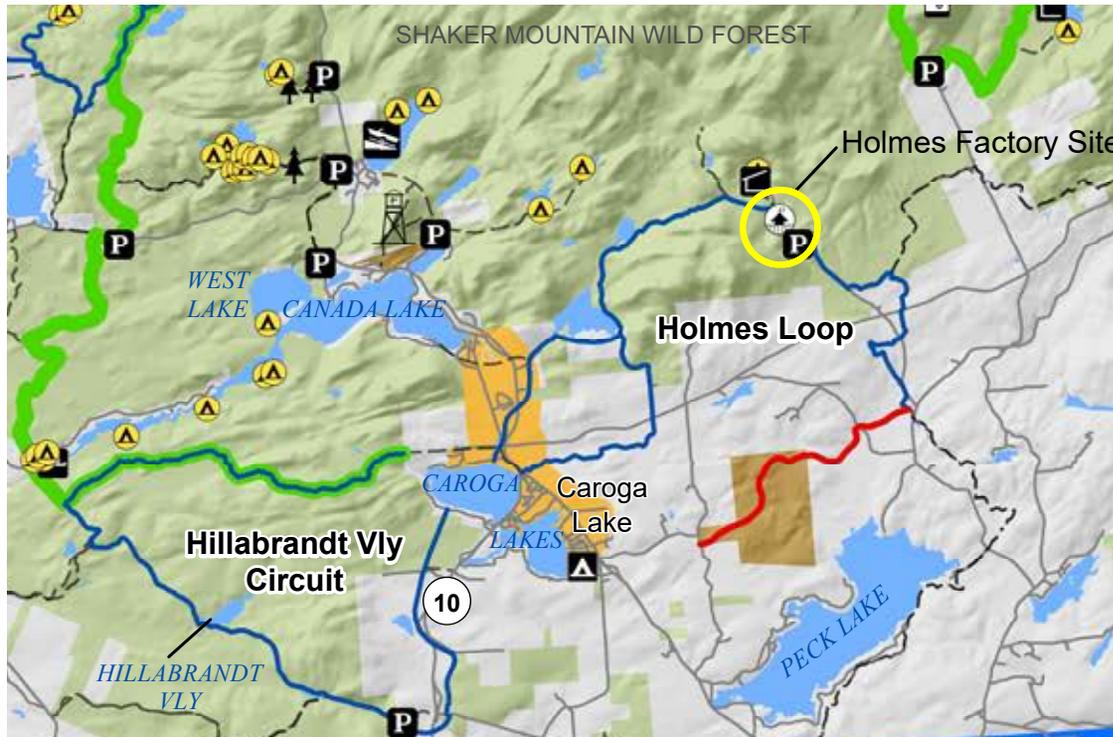
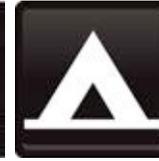
**Stewardship:** Junction signs at intersections with Caroga Connector/Hamilton County Trail, internal junction signs, sign designating trail around Spectacle Lake. Many wetlands throughout the area, important to keep in mind when field-validating suitability of snowmobile trails for off-season hiking. Increased use of campsites on Spectacle Lake may pose issues.

**Destination:** Many attractive waterfalls and waterbodies along the Maze, including Dry, Dexter, Speculator, Long, Goose Egg, Fourth, Third, and Good Luck Lakes. Overnight locations available at Waters Mill Pond, Long Lake, Third Lake, Spectacle Lake, and Good Luck Lake. Short side hike available to Good Luck Cliffs.

**Partnerships:** Field-validation and trail maintenance in/near wetland areas could be conducted by a local trails chapter.

The **Snow Maze** primarily serves snowmobilers, but sections can be designated for and used by snowshoers and skiers, and potentially by summer hikers and bikers -- but the trail conditions and suitability should be investigated and monitored accordingly. All-season users interested in scenic views of Ferris Lake Wild Forest can take a short hike to the top of Good Luck Cliffs from the Snow Maze in summer and fall. Spectacle Lake and Good Luck Lake provide multiple sites for primitive camping. Recommendations to expand this trail network create a loop around Spectacle Lake, improving access to primitive lakefront campsites. The area may also be suitable for single-track mountain biking trails, to be designed to minimize impact on wetlands, ponds and vernal pools. Paddling, rock climbing, hiking, camping and scenic opportunities nearby could make this area of Ferris Lake Wild Forest an outdoor recreation destination.

## Map 10 ► Northville & Caroga Lake Holmes Loop & Hillabrandt-Vly Circuit



**Access:** Currently-existing loop trail out of Caroga Lake through Ferris Lake Wild Forest, passing West Caroga Lake, Hillabrandt Vly, and Unnamed ponds.

**Connectivity:** North stretch overlaps with Caroga Connector (regional network).

**Stewardship:** Field-validate trail suitability for hiking, considering multiple wetlands on or near existing trails. Create register at Caroga Lake.

**Destination:** Current snowmobile trails, might be suitable for hiking. Decent day-hike, or overnight using campsites just off the circuit on the Caroga Connector.

**Partnerships:** Outfitters for summer biking trips. Parking may be needed in town.

**Holmes Loop** and the **Hillabrandt-Vly Circuit** are twin snowmobile loops to the east and west of the Hamlet of Caroga Lake, which have potential as summer walking and biking trails that could accommodate those seeking a less challenging but scenic day trip, leaving from and returning to Caroga Lake. The Holmes Loop provides access to a number of lakes and a historic site along its route, with new trail suggested through an easement and private lands, in order to connect back to the roads into Caroga Lake. Permission for summer walking/biking use must be negotiated for sections of both loops not in the Shaker Mountain WF, as well as DEC easement.