

Welcome To:

## Rush Oak Opening Unique Area

In 1990 as part of the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act, the DEC acquired 123 acres from the Quinn family. In 1997, with the assistance of the Nature Conservancy and the Environmental Protection Fund, the DEC purchased an additional 105 acres from the Goff/Spink family.

There are three major ecological communities at Rush Oak Openings tracked by the NYS Natural Heritage Program.

- 1.Oak Openings (a.k.a. Oak savannahs).
- 2.Limestone woodland.
- 3.Wetlands (Shallow emergent marsh, Shrub swamp, Sedge meadow, or Silver maple-ash swamp.)

Management activities have focused on maintaining and improving the health, vigor and species composition of the Oak Opening ecological community. Emphasis was placed on the grassland component, which was nearly gone at the time of acquisition. Increased fire control from the 1950's to the 1990's, combined with natural plant succession, caused many grassland areas to revert to shrub and forest.

## GUIDELINES FOR USE OF RUSH OAK OPENINGS

- Respect the rules and regulations which apply to the use of public lands, and always seek permission before crossing private lands.
- Don't litter! If you carry it in, carry it out! Leave it as you would like to find them.
- Do not cut, chop or damage living or standing trees. Be careful with cigarettes in the forest or grass!
- Park trailers and vehicles in spaces provided. Do not block roadways and road entrances.
- Human waste: Use facilities provided. In the forest, dig a trench and cover completely.
- ATV's are prohibited on Unique Areas and State Forest land, trails, and roads.
- Stay on designated trails. Do not cause unnecessary damage by trampling trailside vegetation.
- Respect other users. Do not force others off the trail.
- Hunting allowed during legally open season. Permanent tree stands are prohibited. It is illegal to damage trees in any manner, including screws, nails, staples or wire wrapped around the tree.
- Rabies is possible in all warm-blooded animals. Please do not feed or harass any wildlife while visiting public land.

New York State



DEC

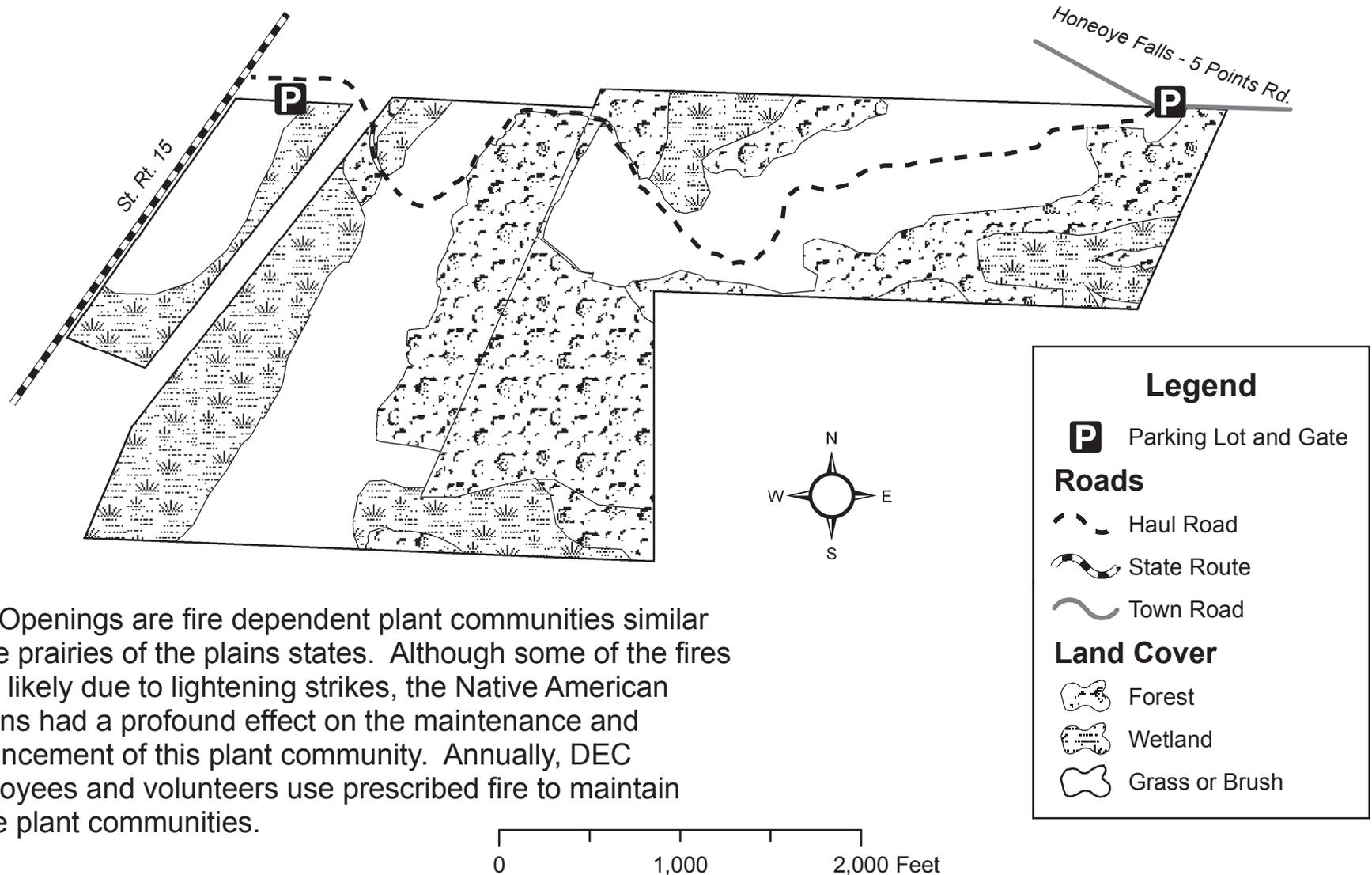
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Area of Exceptional Forest Character  
Monroe County, New York

Low impact recreation is encouraged as long as the significant plant communities are not damaged.  
Hiking, nature study, hunting, cross country skiing are compatible uses.



Oak Openings are fire dependent plant communities similar to the prairies of the plains states. Although some of the fires were likely due to lightening strikes, the Native American Indians had a profound effect on the maintenance and enhancement of this plant community. Annually, DEC employees and volunteers use prescribed fire to maintain these plant communities.