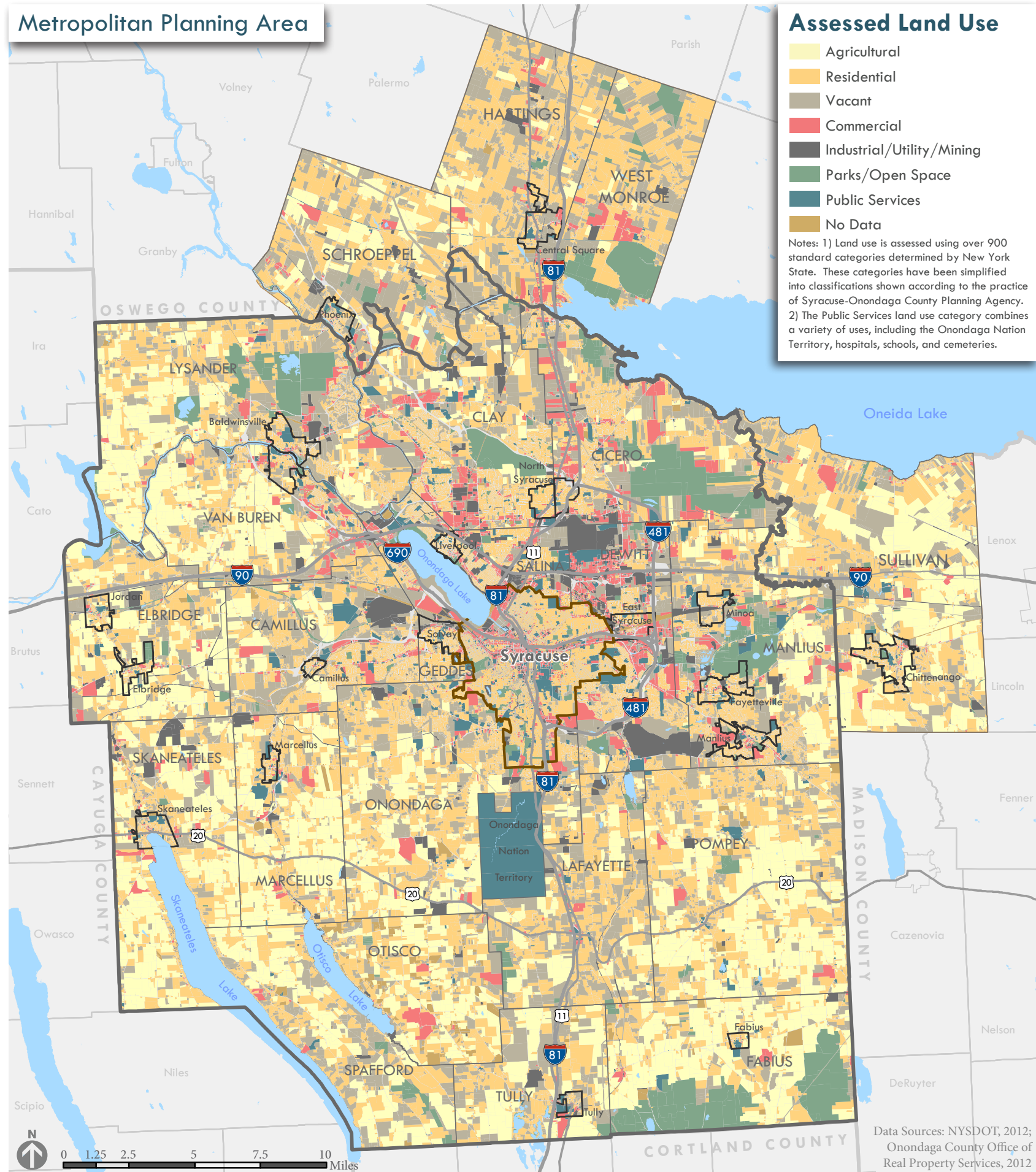
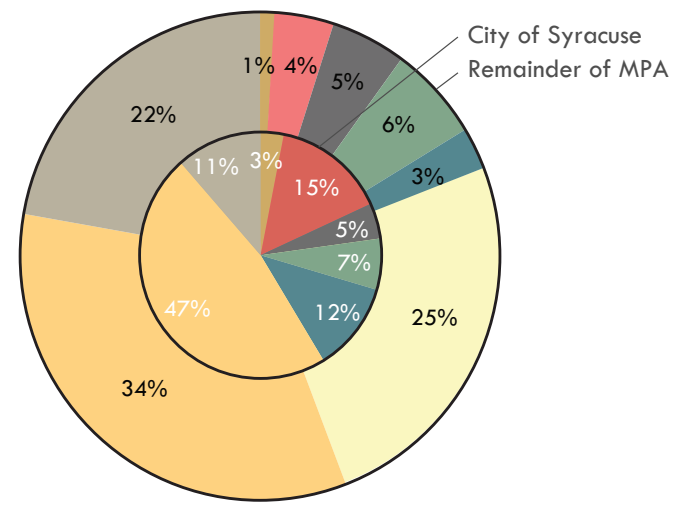


Land Use

- Residential use is the largest single land use (by area) in the region.
- Between 2000 and 2010, the towns located along the northern edge of Onondaga County (Lysander, Clay, and Cicero) and the City of Syracuse added the greatest number of new residential units.
- Commercial uses are primarily situated along major transportation facilities.

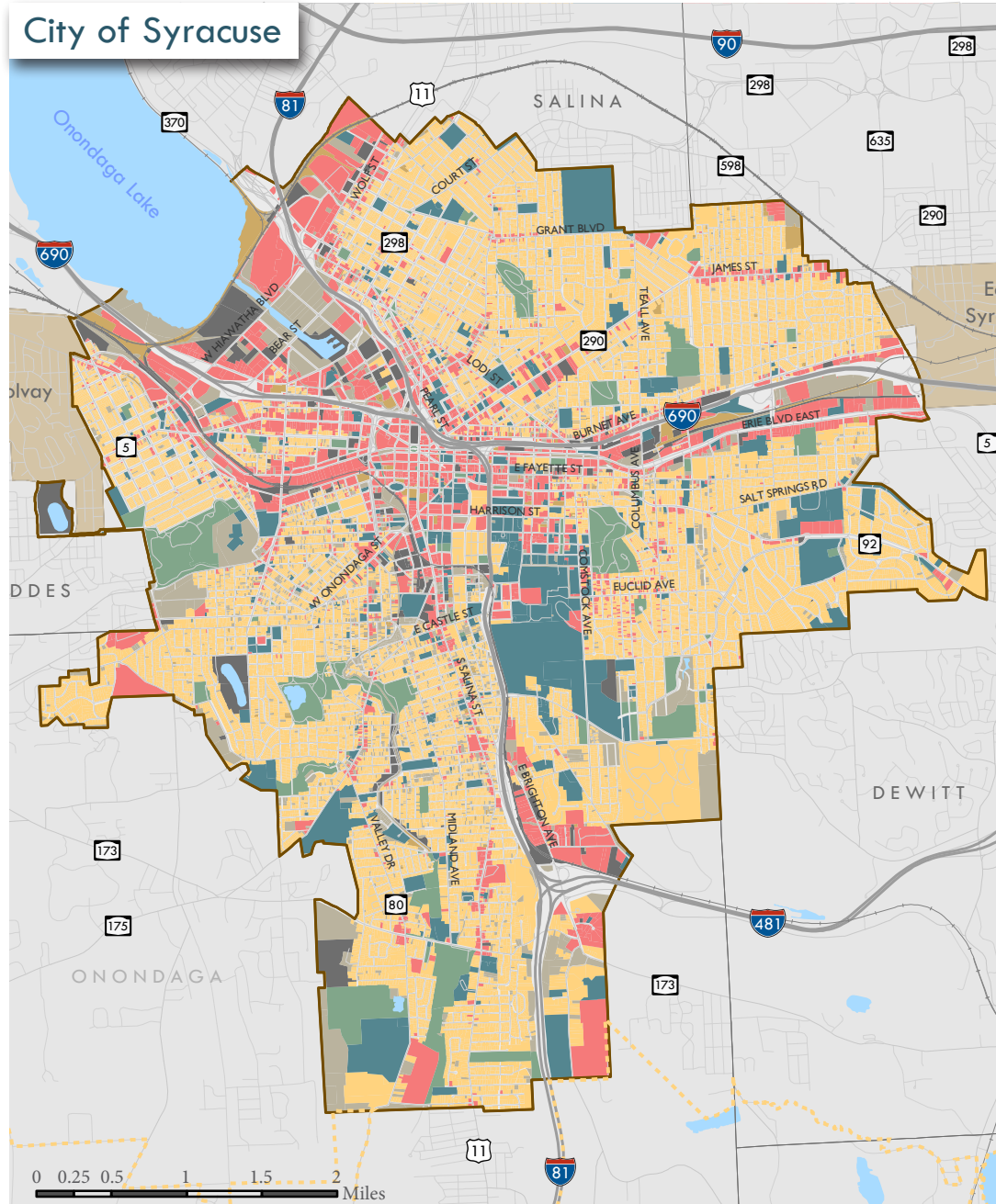
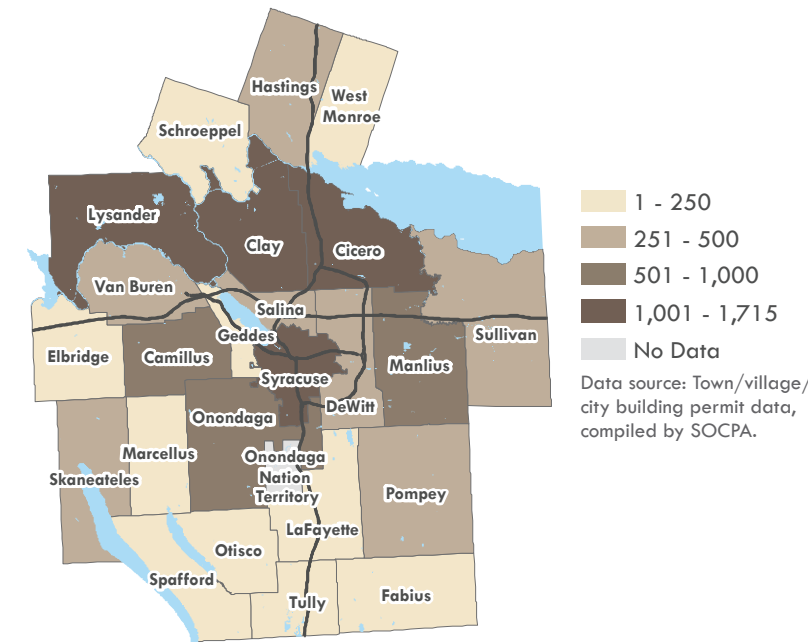


Percent of Total Land Area by Assessed Land Use, City of Syracuse and Remainder of MPA



Note: See legend at left for land use categories.

New Residential Units Created by City/Town, 2000 - 2010

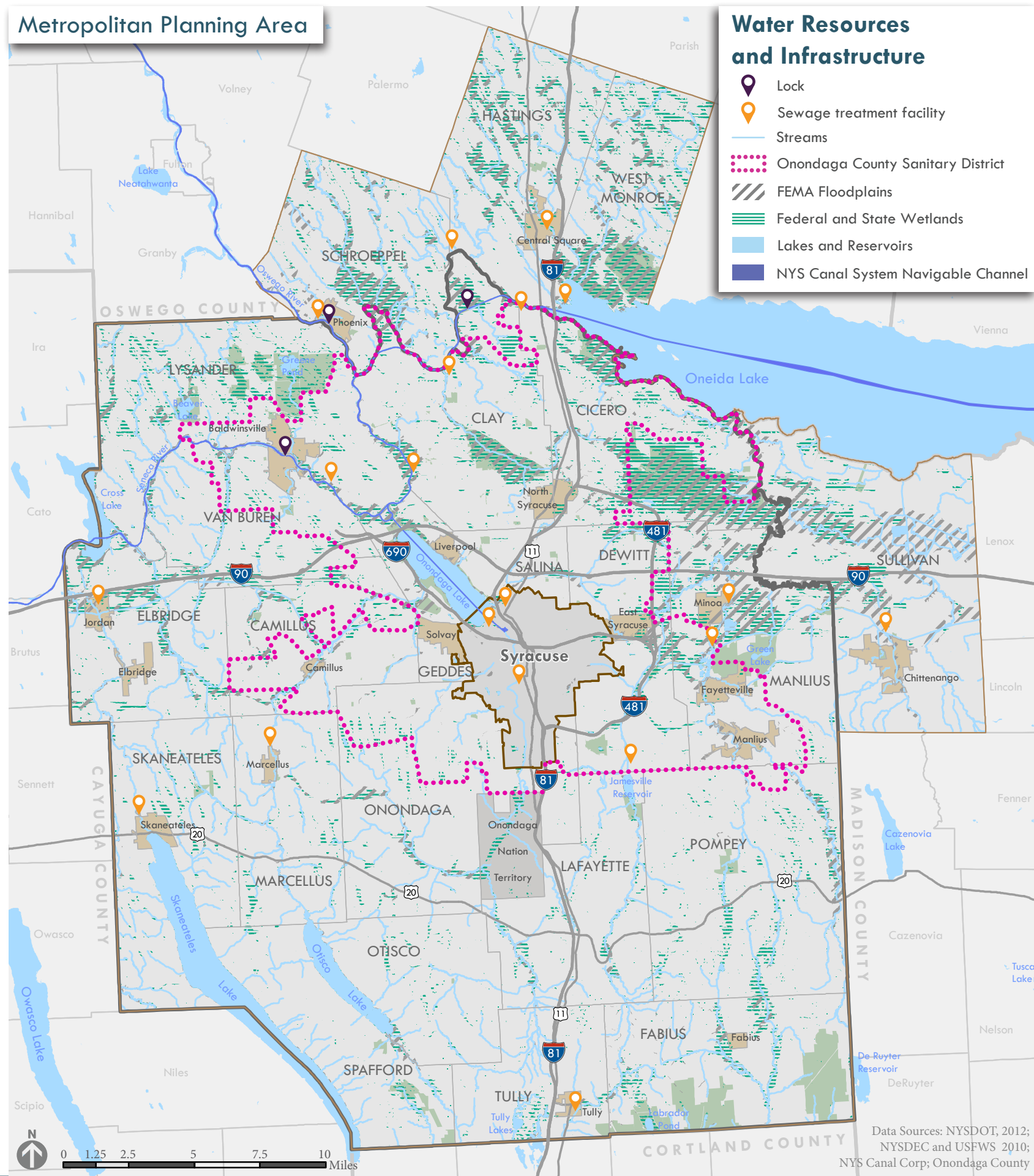


These maps show existing land use as identified by town, village, and city assessors. Note that “land use” is distinct from “zoning.” A zoning map reflects a community’s zoning ordinance and represents the preferred uses for parcels, whether or not those uses are currently present. A land use map shows the actual use of that land. Land use categories shown in these maps are based on New York State’s Property Type Classification Codes, a uniform set of land use categories used by assessors statewide.

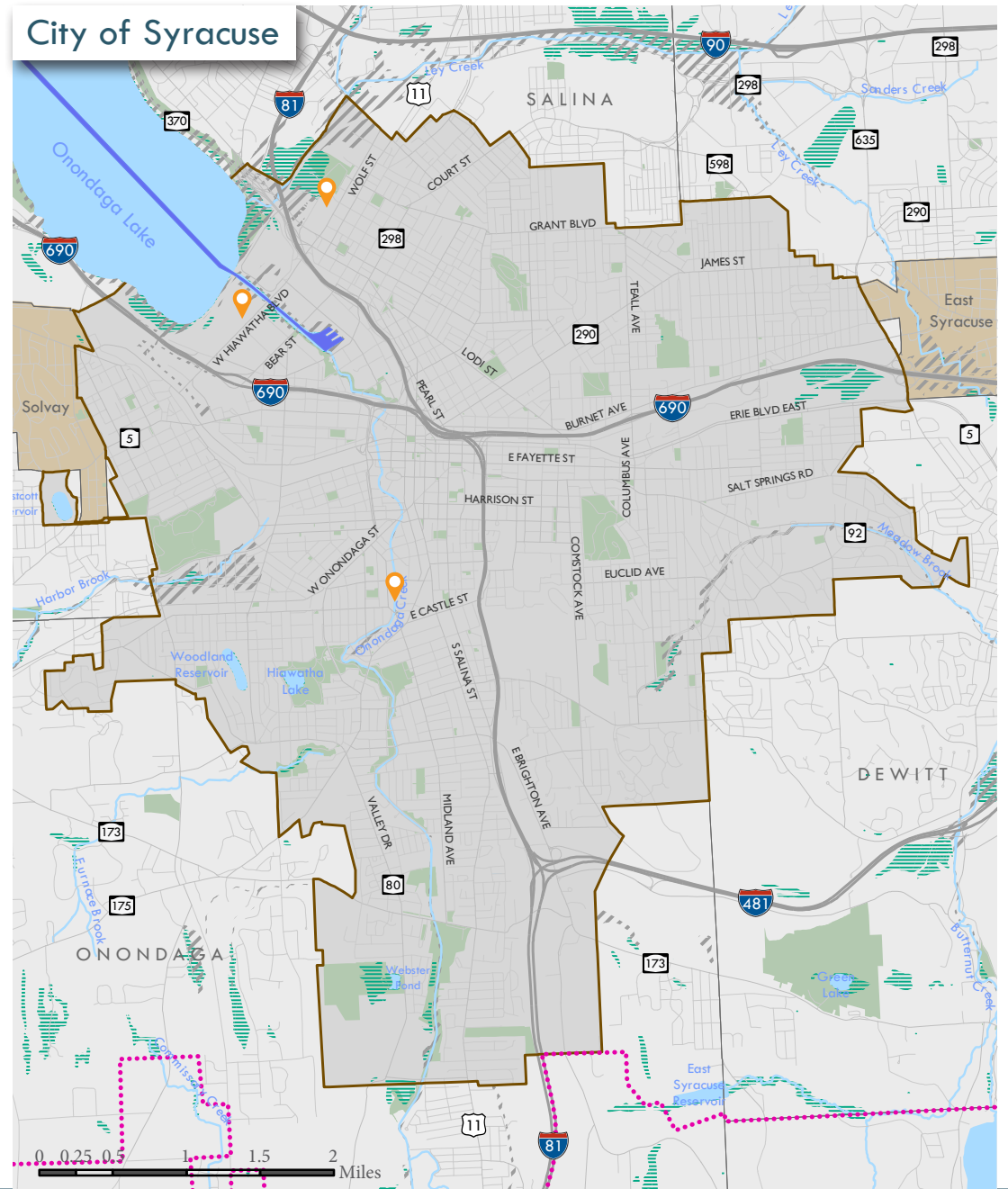
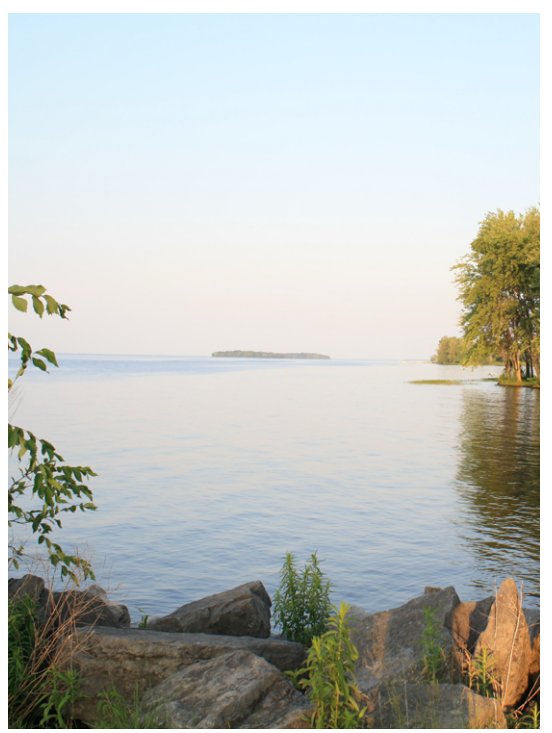
Nearly 60 percent of the land outside of the City of Syracuse falls into two land use categories: residential and agricultural. Residential uses surround the City of Syracuse and radiate outward from it along major transportation corridors. In the eastern, western, and southern parts of the MPA, homes give way to farmland as one gets farther away from the city. North of the city, the transportation infrastructure and flat topography have facilitated residential development. The Towns of Lysander, Clay, and Cicero gained more new residential units than other suburban towns between 2000 and 2010. The only other municipality to add over 1,000 new residential units during that period was the City of Syracuse.

Water Resources

- Many community plans seek to preserve water resources and provide public waterfront access.
- Since the late 1990s, the Onondaga County Sanitary District has expanded by more than 12,000 acres to facilitate proposed residential subdivisions, without accompanying regional population growth.
- The NYS Canal System continues to ship freight by barge, moving more than 96,000 tons in 2013.



Many of the recreational assets in our community are linked to our water resources, such as the Onondaga Creekwalk (above) and Oneida Shores County Park (right).



The MPA has a vast array of water resources that fulfill many functions. Local trails often run adjacent to waterways and waterfronts may present opportunities for economic development. Many local plans seek to preserve water resources and provide public access where appropriate.

Wetlands provide flood and stormwater control, filter pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat. Floodplains also provide a buffer between development and potentially-damaging floods. Protecting these natural resources is essential to maintaining the abundant, high-quality water that Central New Yorkers depend on for drinking and recreation. Encroachment of new development and increasing stormwater runoff created by impermeable surfaces, such as roads and parking facilities, can threaten our water resources.

The ability to effectively deal with wastewater influences the amount, density, and location of new development in our region. Access to Onondaga County's trunk sewer system is confined to properties located in the Sanitary District. However, according to the Onondaga County Sustainable Development Plan, the County has agreed to meet developers' requests to add more than 12,000 acres to the district to facilitate proposed residential subdivisions since 1998. This expansion occurred without accompanying regional population growth. At the same time, the aging infrastructure in the urban core and inner-ring suburbs continues to require ongoing and costly maintenance.

Waterways also provide a transportation function. The Syracuse MPA is the crossroads for the N.Y.S. Canal System, which extends to ports such as New York City, Buffalo, and Oswego. Although the Canal System is mostly used for recreational purposes, some freight shipping by barge still occurs. According to the NYS Thruway Authority and Canal Corporation, more than 96,000 tons of freight were shipped using the Canal System in 2013, which was a 124 percent increase from 2012.