

Beavers Create Wetland Habitat



Just down the trail from here is an old beaver dam. Beavers built this large dam and in the process, created a species-rich wetland habitat. Wetlands are a source of great diversity and beauty. They also serve as a sponge and filter, mitigating flood damage by slowing runoff and purifying the waters that pass through them.

Beavers are still very active here, mostly at night. Look for signs of chewing on nearby trees. It's also a place to check for animal tracks in the mud.

Did you know that plants need oxygen? As you walk along this section of the trail, look for water-loving plants that have adapted to low-oxygen wetland areas, such as cattails, sensitive ferns and sedges. They evolved to develop alternative methods of finding oxygen, such as air-filled cells in the roots of cattails or hollow stems in grasses.



A beaver collecting branches for a dam.

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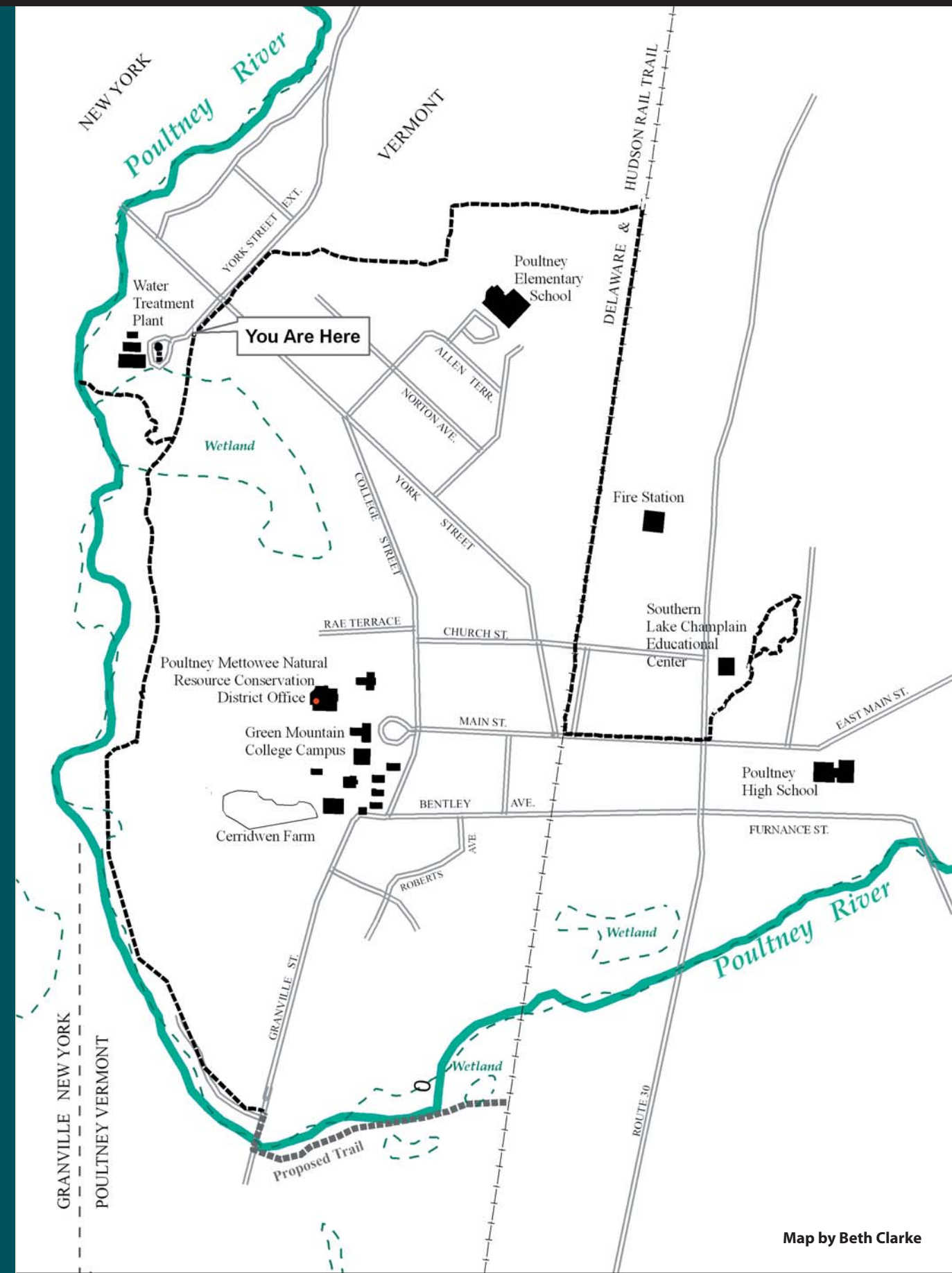
A dynamic wetlands environment.

Courtesy of VT Agency of Natural Resources



Cattail sedge.

Robert Mollenbrock/USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Map by Beth Clarke