

The Demonstration Area Nature Trail is located on 98 acres at the former Lowville Tree Nursery.

**STOP 1:** The fire tower was originally located at Number Four. This is the upper section of the tower. The original was 90 feet tall. Fire observers in towers have largely been replaced by aerial detection flights. Feel free to climb the stairs to the cabin. Please be careful when walking up and down. You have to duck while exiting the tower, so please watch your head.

**STOP 2:** Feel free to use the picnic area. Picnic tables and barbecue grills are out for your use.

**STOP 3:** You are now entering the arboretum. It contains over 500 different species and cultivars of trees and shrubs.

**STOP 4:** Bluebird Nest Boxes  
The bluebird is "New York State's official bird." Bluebirds were very common throughout the Empire state at one time.

**STOP 5:** This area was set aside for wildlife. It contains hedges of honeysuckle and other shrubs. Many different birds and mammals feed on the fruits and use the hedges as escape cover and nesting areas.

**STOP 6:** This area was formerly managed to demonstrate Christmas Tree production. Due to heavy browsing by deer and limited staff time, it was decided to let this area go natural

**STOP 7:** You are now in the Sugar Maple Orchard. This area contains genetically improved sweet trees. Tree seedlings came from many sources including the College of Forestry, a Local Stock, a Vermont Stock, and an Aiken Stock.

**STOP 8:** In 1993, the marsh was constructed on the grounds as wetland replacement for Route 812 reconstruction. Topsoil fill from the excavation was placed to the north of these trees. The resulting change in drainage, along with buried root systems is killing these trees. Never raise or lower the grade on your ornamental trees. Also be careful when altering drainage patterns.

**STOP 9:** There are two ditches that run through the property. These ditches serve as drainage when the Black River floods in spring and fall.

**STOP 10:** Open fields are an important habitat for many species of animals. Many migrating song birds use fields for feeding and nesting cover.

**STOP 11:** This is the old Bunkhouse. Workers stayed here during the tree lifting and packing season. To the East, notice the two large Hybrid Poplar. These trees

were planted around 1971, and have a diameter of 19.8 inches and a circumference of 60 inches.

**STOP 12:** Six acres were set aside here to demonstrate a Natural Woodland. Both planted and naturally occurring species are present here. There is some poison ivy along the trail on to Stop 13. Remember "leaflets three - let it be"

**STOP 13:** You are now in a remnant of the forest which grew along the Black River and on the "Flats" before they were cleared. These include Green Ash, Silver Maple, Elm and Willow. This area also shows the damage the Microburst did on July 15, 1995. The Microburst did great damage on state and privately owned forests. The 104,000 acres of state forest that the Lowville office is responsible for had a total of 6,000 acres with heavy damage.

**STOP 14:** You are now at the location of the annual Conservation Field Days and Lewis County Envirothon.

**STOP 15:** This pond is an example of how a typical farm pond can be managed for Trout.

**STOP 16:** This Red Pine plantation is one of the many that can be seen across New York State. These trees were grown here in Dadville and planted around 1963.

**STOP 17:** The Wildlife Marsh is located here on 3.5 acres. It is the home or way station to a large variety of waterfowl and water inhabiting mammals.

**STOP 18:** As you look down the cedar hedge you will notice a distinct horizontal line at the bottom of the green crown of trees. This was caused by deer feeding on the boughs during the winter.

**STOP 19:** This site includes the Coniferous Plantations which contains many softwood species blocks such as: Red Spruce, White Spruce, Balsam Fir, Austrian Pine, Larch, White Pine, Pitch Pine, Jack Pine and Norway Spruce.

**STOP 20:** This is a block of our native Red Spruce. Red Spruce is the most common native spruce in New York State.

**STOP 21:** You are now in the Pine Plantation. There are White Pine, Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce, Pitch Pine, and Jack Pine. Every tree in a few of the blocks were pruned. This is not normally recommended.

**STOP 22:** Pitch Pine is an interesting tree. Fire is responsible for maintaining large stands in the wild. The cones often persist unopened on the trees until a forest fire; then soon after a fire many of the cones will open, shedding the seeds.

**STOP 23:** You are now passing by several blocks of various kinds of hardwoods including: Chestnut, White Birch, Red Oak, Black Walnut, and Hybrid Poplar. Hybrid Poplar are trees that are started from 1 year stem cuttings taken from parent trees.

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# HIKING

## Lewis County, NY

# NYSDEC

## Demonstration Area

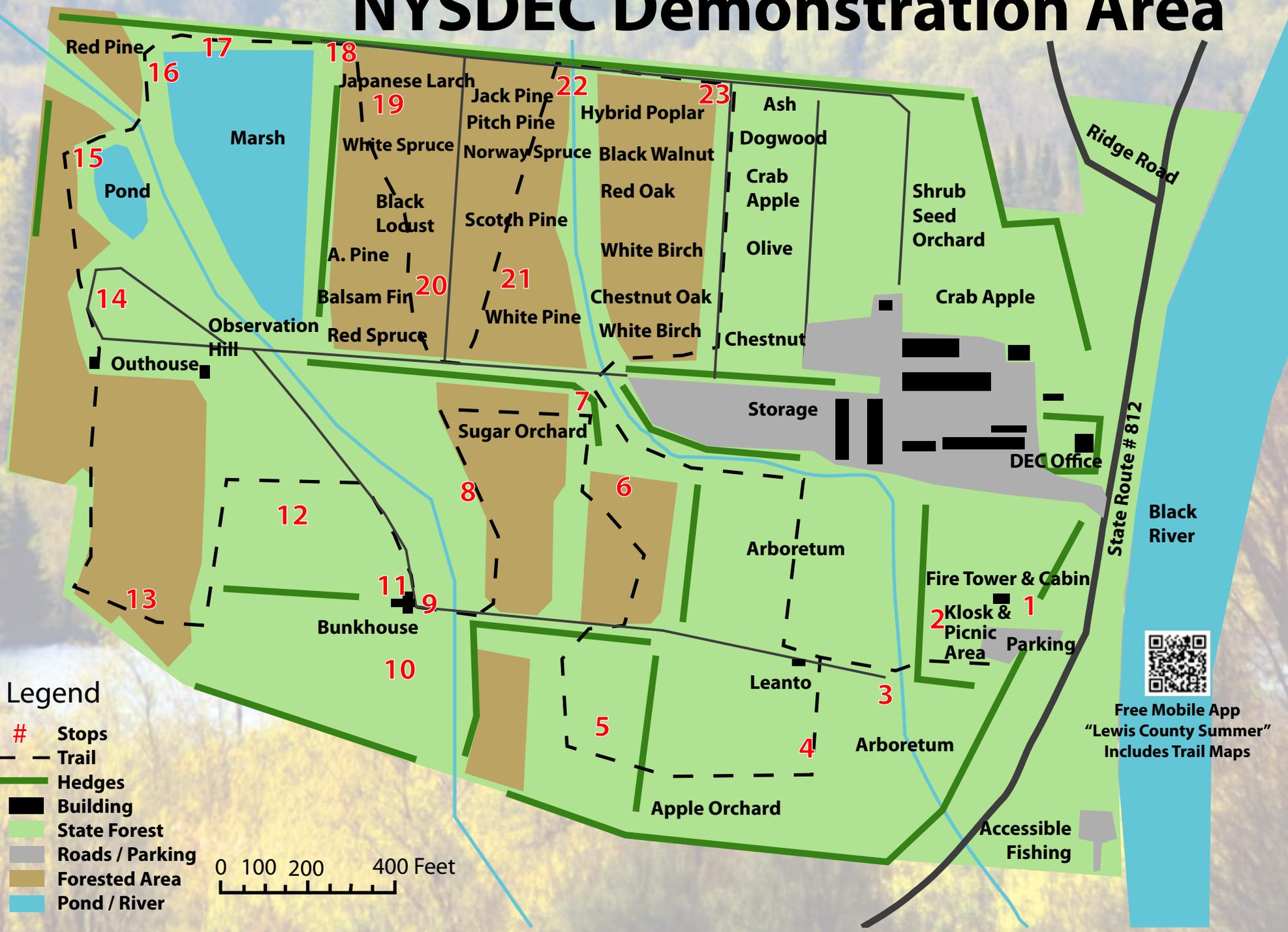


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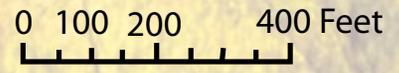


# NYSDEC Demonstration Area



## Legend

- # Stops
- - - Trail
- Hedges
- Building
- State Forest
- Roads / Parking
- Forested Area
- Pond / River



Free Mobile App  
 "Lewis County Summer"  
 Includes Trail Maps