

# ***Dark Water***

Water Systems of SUNY Purchase



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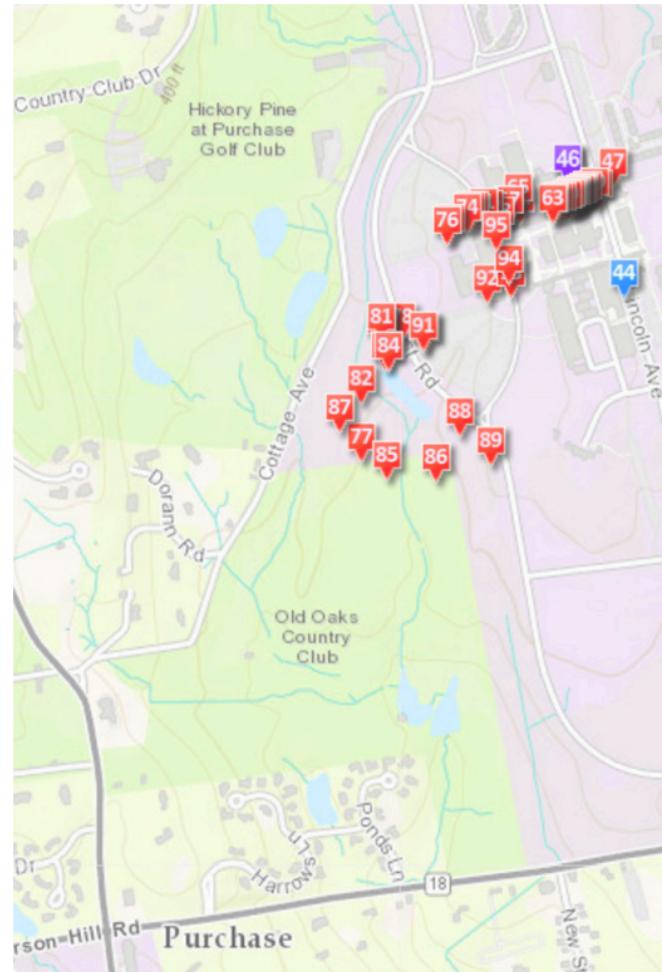
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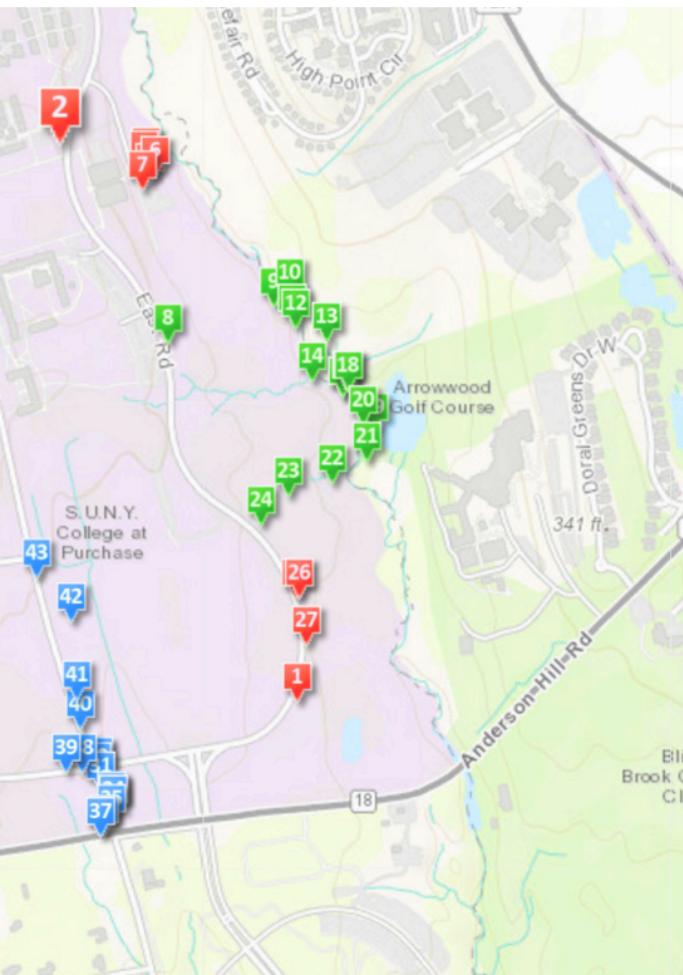
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This field guide was created as an aid  
to an interactive web story map.  
Take the full journey at:

<http://arcg.is/2dCQwXx>





**Key:**  
blue: water supply  
green: sanitary sewer  
red: stormwater



Over the course of September through October of 2016, new surveys were taken on the status of water supply, sanitary sewer, and stormwater systems around Purchase College's campus.

Components of infrastructure often appear so natural that they become invisible to those that inhabit spaces around them.

This field guide details the locations and condition of these aquatic infrastructures and aims to catalog the parts of them that are often overlooked.

The blue tags represent the travel of water supply throughout campus primarily along Lincoln Avenue.

The red tags represent stormwater outlets. The school was designed so the spaces around the perimeter are lower than the rest, which allows gravity to move the stormwater with ease.

The green tags represent sewer caps that were installed when the college was first built. The line runs along the brook in between Doral Arrowwood and the school's perimeter.

# Water Supply



Purchase's water supply is provided by Westchester Joint Water Works who obtains water from the Catskill and Delaware watersheds of New York City and also from Rye Lake.



Under Anderson Hill Road, there is a 16-inch public water main that goes to an underground assembly vault that is northwest between Lincoln Avenue and Anderson Hill Road.



In two years from 2010 to 2012, the campus consumed about 6.1 million gallons per month, or 203,000 per day.

# Sanitary Sewer



There is an 18-inch sewer from the Westchester County Trunk that is around the campus.

The sewer service is owned and maintained by the State University of New York. The system is connected to a sewer that lies along the eastern boundary of the campus near Blind Brook.



There is estimated 113,000 gallons per day generated by the campus community that flows from the sewage system.







A circular metal manhole cover is positioned in a patch of green grass. The cover has a textured, diamond-shaped pattern and features the word "STORM" embossed in its center. Numerous fallen leaves, in shades of brown, yellow, and orange, are scattered across the grass and resting on the manhole cover, particularly concentrated around the "STORM" text.

STORM

# Stormwater



There are five main storm sewer pipeline systems that collect runoff of the hundreds of drains that line the road and pathways on campus. There are two main destinations where this water winds up however.



The eastern side of campus drains to tributaries of Blind Brook which flows through Rye and Harrison to Milton Harbor.



Water from the academic plaza, residential housing, and the W1 and W2 parking lots flows west into the woods in between Purchase and the Old Oaks Country Club.

# Sustainability

Many of the buildings on campus were constructed in the 1970's when there wasn't a focus on efficiency and sustainability while designing infrastructure. For instance, there is only one water submeter on campus.

Lack of water submeters makes it impossible to measure water usage in specific buildings which in turn makes it impossible to know how much water is being lost where.

With investment and collective action, the college can undertake large scale projects to revitalize archaic infrastructure in hopes to create a more sustainable future.

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*Field Notes*



