# **Targeted Rare Plant Survey**

# South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley Chautauqua County, New York

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of ConnectGen LLC (ConnectGen), Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) conducted a targeted rare plant survey for the South Ripley Solar Project. The Project is proposed to have a generating capacity of up to 270 megawatts (MW) with a 20 MW battery storage component. In addition to the solar panel arrays and battery storage, the Project is anticipated to include access roads and fencing; inverters co-located with medium-voltage transformers; a substation; a point of interconnection connecting to the existing substation or a new switchyard; a potential operations and maintenance building; and temporary construction laydown areas. The Project is located on private land within an approximately 4,500-acre Facility Area in the Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York (see Figure 1). The rare plant survey was conducted within an approximately 2,540-acre Study Area that encompasses the area where the Facility would be sited (see Figure 2).

The survey investigated the potential occurrence of one state-listed endangered plant species known to occur in the vicinity of the Facility Area, tall ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*). This species was targeted for surveys based upon correspondence received from the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP), attached hereto as Appendix A. Specifically, correspondence from the NYNHP dated May 21, 2020 identified records of this species, which has a heritage conservation status of critically imperiled in New York State, in the vicinity of the Facility Area, noting that tall ironweed is "listed as endangered and so is a vulnerable natural resource of conservation concern." This report documents the methods and results of the targeted rare plant survey conducted for the proposed Project.

### 2.0 TALL IRONWEED DESCRIPTION AND ECOLOGY

Tall ironweed is a tall perennial in the aster family that commonly reaches heights of 3-7 feet. Stems are green or purplish, stout, and hairy. The leaves are alternately arranged and up to 10 inches long and 2½ inches across, with a shape ranging from lanceolate to ovate or lanceolate-oblong. Leaf margins are serrated (i.e., toothed). The upper surfaces of the leaves are hairless and dark green in color, while the lower surfaces are typically pubescent. The inflorescences are showy composites, with 15-30 brightly colored purplish-magenta disk flowers. The floral bracts are ovate with blunt or short-pointed tips. As the flowers senesce, each disk floret is replaced by a small grayish brown achene topped with a small tuft of tawny hairs. Plants are self-incompatible, and seeds are wind-dispersed (Strother, 2006; Gleason & Cronquist, 1991; Illinois Wildflowers, 2020).

As described above, tall ironweed occurs over a large range, spanning 12 degrees of latitude, and is subject to a wide range of environmental conditions. Reciprocal transplant experiments have demonstrated that the substantial ecotypic variations in the form of morphological and phenological differences along a north-south transect are due to actual

genetic divergences. These distinct genetic adaptations to specific environmental conditions may enable tall ironweed's broad geographic distribution (Urbatsch, 1973).

In New York State, tall ironweed typically occurs in seasonally wet successional old fields (Weldy et al., 2020). Elsewhere across its range, where it is more common, tall ironweed is reported from a wider range of habitats, including wet pastures, floodplains, open woodlands, roadsides, swamps, prairies, and thickets (Strother, 2006; Gleason & Cronquist, 1991; Illinois Wildflowers, 2020). NYNHP has records of this species **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** <

**END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** (see Appendix A). Tall ironweed has a state conservation rank of S1 and is state-listed as endangered, which typically indicates that a species is known from five or fewer sites or from four or fewer topographic quadrangles in New York State (Young, 2020).

Tall ironweed has been recognized by pollination ecologists for attracting large numbers of native bees. The nectar of the flowers attracts butterflies, skippers, bee flies, and various bees (primarily long-tongued bees). Some bees also collect pollen for their larvae. The caterpillars of various moths feed on tall ironweed, particularly the pith of their stems and their roots. These species include ironweed borer moth (*Papaipema cerussata*), ironweed clearwing moth (*Carmenta bassiformis*), ironweed root moth (*Polygrammodes flavidalis*), and red groundling moth (*Perigea xanthioides*). Other insects feed on the flowers of tall ironweed, including four-spotted tree cricket (*Oecanthus quadripunctatus*) and short-winged meadow katydid (*Conocephalus brevipennis*). Mammalian herbivores tend to shun Ironweed species as a food source, because the foliage is bitter. As a result, these plants can become more abundant in pastures over time (Illinois Wildflowers, 2020).

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

A Survey Area was established based on the habitat requirements for tall ironweed and the location where this plant species has been recorded near the Facility Area, as provided in the NYNHP correspondence. The Survey Area, as illustrated in Figure 2, includes various successional old field and thicket habitats throughout the Facility Area. Areas within the Facility Area that do not provide potential habitat for tall ironweed (e.g., cultivated agricultural fields, mature forests) were not included in the Survey Area and were not evaluated during the rare plant survey. Recently cut hayfields were excluded from the Survey Area because the vegetation in these fields was typically cut very short, preventing identification of many plant species, including tall ironweed.

Since this rare plant survey specifically targeted tall ironweed, the appropriate survey period (i.e., the time of year when the species is easiest to identify) dictated the timing of the survey. For tall ironweed, the NYNHP recommended survey window includes a flowering period from August 1 to September 15, and a fruiting period from September 15 to October

15 (Young, 2020). Because the flowers are showy and brightly colored, EDR elected to perform the survey during the flowering period. EDR Botanist Sara Stebbins conducted the targeted rare plant survey at the Facility Area on August 17-20, August 31, and September 1, 2020. The surveys were conducted on foot, using meandering routes to thoroughly cover all areas of potentially suitable habitat.

A list of plant species observed within the Facility Area during the course of this survey is included as Appendix B. However, it is important to note that this targeted rare plant survey focused specifically on the endangered species identified through correspondence with the NYNHP and does not constitute a comprehensive floristic survey that would identify all plants within the Facility Area. Although some forested and agricultural areas were traversed to access remote areas of suitable habitat, large portions of the Facility Area that do not provide potential habitat for the target species were not surveyed. Furthermore, not all plants can be identified in August and early September. A complete inventory of all plant species growing within the Facility Area would require additional visits throughout the growing season and assessment of all habitat types. This survey was specifically designed to determine the presence or absence of the target species, tall ironweed.

### 4.0 RESULTS

> END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION (see Figure 3). The locations and numbers of plants were recorded using an EOS Positioning Systems Arrow 100 GPS unit with reported sub-meter accuracy. Each stem within a clump or proximal group of clumps were classified by phenological phase (i.e., flowering, in bud, in seed, or vegetative) and counted. These numbers are summarized in Table 1 below. The GPS points, illustrated as green circles on Figure 3, do not attempt to represent each individual plant, although in some cases a point was collected for a single stem if no other tall ironweed plants were located nearby. Rather, the tall ironweed plants located in close proximity were grouped together, with GPS points collected as necessary to assist with the counting effort and demarcate the extent of the population. The shapefiles derived from the GPS data and illustrated in Figure 3 are provided under separate cover.

Table 1. Tall Ironweed Plant Counts by Parcel and Phenology BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION <

Parcel ID	Uahitat	Number of Tall Ironweed Plants				Sheet Number	
Parcerib	Habitat	Flowering	In Bud	In Seed	Vegetative	Total	Figure 3
	field						
	field						
	aspen grove						
	field						
	field						
Total							

#### > END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Four of the parcels contain BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 

> END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 

tall ironweed plants. In contrast, the remaining parcel contains BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 

> END CONFIDENTIAL 
INFORMATION. Except for the population BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 

> END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION growing in a small grove of quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), all of the tall ironweed plants were observed growing in open hayfields that appear to be either actively hayed, but uncut at the time of the survey, or recently fallowed.

Vegetation in the fields where tall ironweed was observed consists of a mix of upland and wetland species common in agricultural landscapes. The most frequent associated species include orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), goldenrods

(Euthamia graminifolia, Solidago rugosa, S. altissima), sensitive fern (Onoclea sensibilis), wild madder (Galium album), bird's-foot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus), soft rush (Juncus effusus), swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata), calico aster (Symphyotrichum lateriflorum), crooked stem aster (Symphyotrichum prenanthoides), green bulrush (Scirpus atrovirens), tall agrimony (Agromonia gryposepala), wool grass (Scirpus cyperinus), Queen Anne's lace (Daucus carota), timothy (Phleum pratense), common boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum), red clover (Trifolium pratense), fox sedge (Carex vulpinoidea), canary reed grass (Phalaris arundinacea), and golden ragwort (Packera aurea).

Photographs were taken of tall ironweed plants and their habitats, as well as images that document diagnostic features identifying the plants as tall ironweed. Representative photographs are included in Appendix C.

### 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

The state-listed endangered species tall ironweed was identified **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** < > **END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**. These populations are mapped in Figure 3, and representative photographs are included in Appendix C. In May 2020 correspondence, the NYNHP indicated that tall ironweed has a heritage conservation status of "critically imperiled in New York State", noting that tall ironweed is "listed as endangered and so is a vulnerable natural resource of conservation concern." Accordingly, all appropriate measures should be taken to minimize or avoid impacts to this species to the extent practicable during the design, construction, and operation of the South Ripley Solar Project.

### 6.0 REFERENCES

Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, 2nd Edition.* The New York Botanical Garden. 910 pp.

Illinois Wildflowers. 2020. *Tall Ironweed.* Available at: <a href="http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/savanna/plants/tl\_ironweed.htm">http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/savanna/plants/tl\_ironweed.htm</a> (Accessed December 2020).

NatureServe. 2020. *NatureServe Explorer*. Arlington, Virginia. Available <a href="https://explorer.natureserve.org">https://explorer.natureserve.org</a> (Accessed December 2020).

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). 2020. *State Protected Plants*. Available at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7135.html (Accessed December 2020).

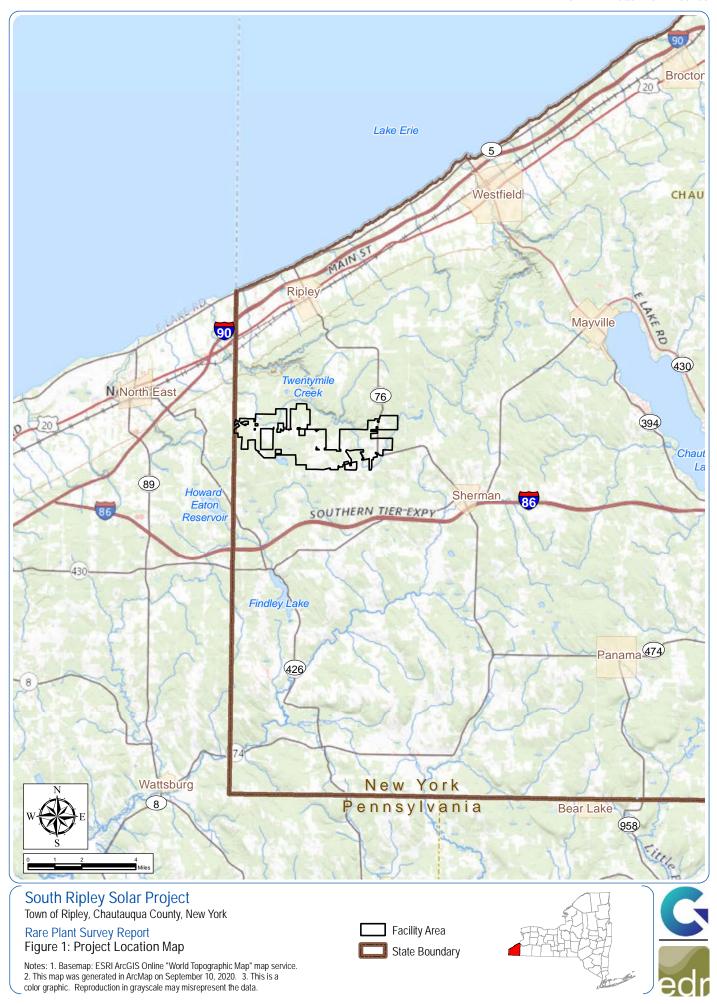
Strother, J.L. 2006. *Vernonia*. In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+. Flora of North America North of Mexico. 21+ vols. New York and Oxford. Vol. 19, pp. 206-213.

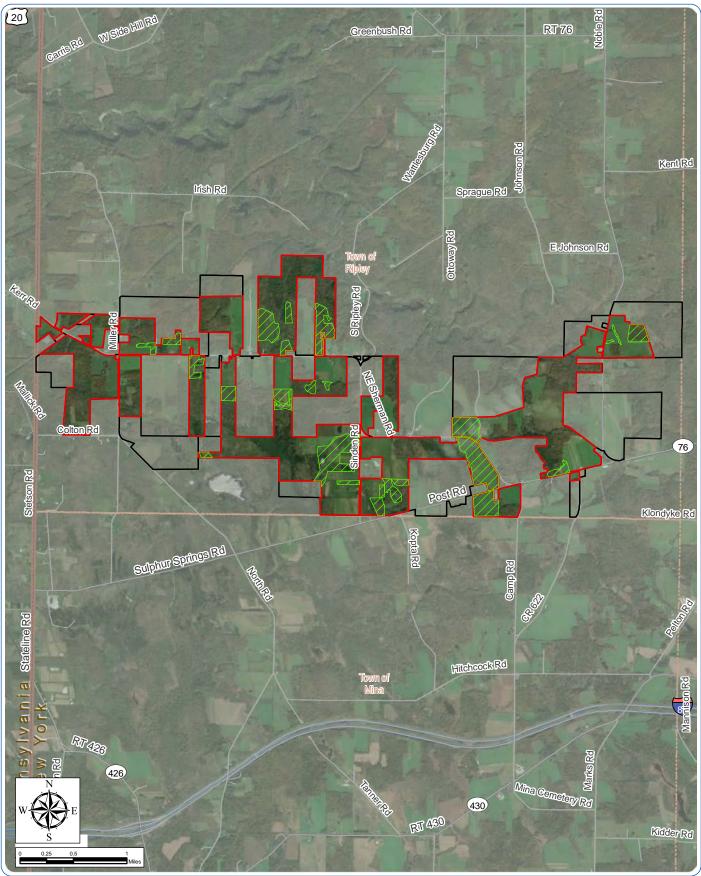
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Weldy, T., D. Werier, and A. Nelson. 2020. *New York Flora Atlas*. [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (original application development), USF Water Institute. University of South Florida]. New York Flora Association, Albany, NY. Available at: <a href="http://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/">http://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/</a> (Accessed September 2020; last modified September 6, 2020).

Young, S.M. 2020. *New York Rare Plant Status Lists*. New York Natural Heritage Program, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Albany, NY. November 2020. 109 pp.

**FIGURES** 





# South Ripley Solar Project Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report

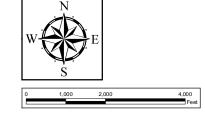
Figure 2: Survey Area

Notes: 1. Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Imagery" map service. 2. This map was generated in ArcMap on November 6, 2020. 3. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.





Figure 3 contains confidential data and may be legally protected from disclosure. Do not include this map in public documents or make it available in response to FOIL requests.



# South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report

Figure 3: Tall Ironweed Locations

Tall Ironweed (CONFIDENTIAL)

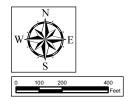
Facility Area

Town Boundary

State Boundary



Figure 3 contains confidential data and may be legally protected from disclosure. Do not include this map in public documents or make it available in response to FOIL requests.



### South Ripley Solar Project

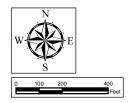
Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report

Figure 3: Tall Ironweed Locations - Sheet 1 of 5



Figure 3 contains confidential data and may be legally protected from disclosure. Do not include this map in public documents or make it available in response to FOIL requests.



### South Ripley Solar Project

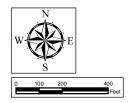
Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report

Figure 3: Tall Ironweed Locations - Sheet 2 of 5



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### South Ripley Solar Project

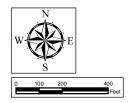
Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report

Figure 3: Tall Ironweed Locations - Sheet 3 of 5



Figure 3 contains confidential data and may be legally protected from disclosure. Do not include this map in public documents or make it available in response to FOIL requests.



### South Ripley Solar Project

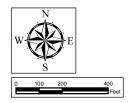
Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report

Figure 3: Tall Ironweed Locations - Sheet 4 of 5



Figure 3 contains confidential data and may be legally protected from disclosure. Do not include this map in public documents or make it available in response to FOIL requests.



### South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report

Figure 3: Tall Ironweed Locations - Sheet 5 of 5



# APPENDIX A

Agency Correspondence

#### NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, New York Natural Heritage Program 625 Broadway, Fifth Floor, Albany, NY 12233-4757 P: (518) 402-8935 | F: (518) 402-8925 www.dec.ny.gov

May 21, 2020

William Whipps EDR 217 Montgomery Street, Suite 1000 Syracuse, NY 13202

Re: South Ripley Solar Project (EDR Project No. 19020)

County: Chautauqua Town/City: Ripley

Dear Mr. Whipps:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the above project.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities that our database indicates occur in the vicinity of the project site.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our database. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

The presence of the plants and animals identified in the enclosed report may result in this project requiring additional review or permit conditions. For further guidance, and for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), please contact the NYS DEC Region 9 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at dep.r9@dec.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Heidi Krahling

Environmental Review Specialist New York Natural Heritage Program





### Report on State-listed Animals

# The following state-listed animal has been documented in the vicinity of the project site.

The following list includes animals that are listed by NYS as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; and/or that are federally listed or are candidates for federal listing.

For information about any permit considerations for your project, please contact the Permits staff at the NYSDEC Region 9 Office at dep.r9@dec.ny.gov, (716) 851-7165.

The following species has been documented within 0.75 mile of the project site.

COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME NY STATE LISTING FEDERAL LISTING

Birds

Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus Threatened 12663

Breeding

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the listed animals in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org, and from NYSDEC at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html.

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### New York Natural Heritage Program



# Report on Rare Animals, Rare Plants, and Significant Natural Communities

# The following rare plants and significant natural communities have been documented at or in the vicinity of the project site.

We recommend that potential impacts of the proposed project on these species or communities be addressed as part of any environmental assessment or review conducted as part of the planning, permitting and approval process, such as reviews conducted under SEQR. Field surveys of the project site may be necessary to determine the status of a species at the site, particularly for sites that are currently undeveloped and may still contain suitable habitat. Final requirements of the project to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts are determined by the lead permitting agency or the government body approving the project.

The following natural communities are considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. Each community is either an example of a community type that is rare in the state, or a high-quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers these community occurrences to have high ecological and conservation value.

COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME NY STATE LISTING HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS

**Wetland/Aquatic Communities** 

Confined River High Quality Occurrence of Uncommon Community Type

Documented within the project boundary. Twentymile Creek. This is a moderately large occurrence in very good condition and with very good species diversity. The stream is in a moderate-sized landscape of working forests.

10196

#### **Upland/Terrestrial Communities**

#### **Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest**

**High Quality Occurrence** 

Documented within the project boundary. This is a moderate-sized occurrence in a mature state with small patches of putative old growth and excellent plant species diversity. The community is in an excellent moderate-sized and intact forested landscape.

6512

The following plant is listed as Endangered and so is a vulnerable natural resource of conservation concern.

COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME NY STATE LISTING HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS

**Vascular Plants** 

Tall Ironweed Vernonia gigantea Endangered Critically Imperiled in NYS

Documented within 0.4 mile south of the project site.

Moist pastureland and successional old field. The area was probably a rich hemlock-hardwood forest before human and beaver activities.

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1882

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted, and we cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the rare animals and plants in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org, from NatureServe Explorer at www.natureserve.org/explorer, and from USDA's Plants Database at http://plants.usda.gov/index.html (for plants).

Information about many of the natural community types in New York, including identification, dominant and characteristic vegetation, distribution, conservation, and management, is available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org. For descriptions of all community types, go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/97703.html for Ecological Communities of New York State.

# APPENDIX B

Plant Species List

Observed On-Site During EDR Surveys, 2020

Notes	Family	Genus	species	common name	Conservation Rank
	Acoraceae	Acorus	americanus	sweet flag	S5
	Adoxaceae	Sambucus	nigra	common elderberry	S5
	Adoxaceae	Viburnum	acerifolium	mapleleaf viburnum	S5
	Adoxaceae	Viburnum	dentatum	smooth arrowwood	S5
	Adoxaceae	Viburnum	lantanoides	hobblebush	S5
	Adoxaceae	Viburnum	opulus	highbush cranberry	S4
	Alismataceae	Alisma	subcordatum	water-plantain	S5
	Alismataceae	Sagittaria	latifolia	common arrowhead	S5
	Amaranthaceae	Chenopodium	album	lambs-quarters	SNA
	Amaryllidaceae	Allium	tricoccum	wild leeks	S5
	Anacardiaceae	Rhus	typhina	staghorn sumac	S5
	Anacardiaceae	Toxicodendron	radicans	poison ivy	S5
1	Apiaceae	Anthriscus	sylvestris	wild chervil	SNA
	Apiaceae	Daucus	carota	Queen Anne's lace	SNA
	Apiaceae	Pastinaca	sativa	wild parsnip	SNA
	Apiaceae	Sium	suave	hemlock water-parnsip	S5
	Apocynaceae	Apocynum	androsaemifolium	spreading dogbane	S5
	Apocynaceae	Apocynum	cannabinum	Indian hemp	S5
	Apocynaceae	Asclepias	incarnata	swamp milkweed	S5
	Apocynaceae	Asclepias	syriaca	common milkweed	S5
	Aquifoliaceae	Ilex	verticillata	common winterberry	S5
	Araceae	Arisaema	triphyllum	common jack-in-the-pulpit	S5
	Araceae	Lemna	minor	lesser duckweed	S5
	Araceae	Symplocarpus	foetidus	skunk cabbage	S5
	Araliaceae	Aralia	nudicaulis	sarsaparilla	S5
	Asparagaceae	Maianthemum	canadense	Canada mayflower	S5
	Asphodelaceae	Hemerocallis	fulva	day lily	SNA
	Asteraceae	Achillea	millefolium	common yarrow	SNR
	Asteraceae	Ambrosia	artemesiifolia	ragweed	S5
	Asteraceae	Ambrosia	trifida	giant ragweed	S4
	Asteraceae	Arctium	minus	common burdock	SNA
	Asteraceae	Artemisia	vulgaris	mugwort	SNA
	Asteraceae	Bidens	cernua	nodding beggar-tick	S5
	Asteraceae	Centaurea	jacea	brown knapweed	SNA
	Asteraceae	Cichorium	intybus	chicory	SNA
	Asteraceae	Cirsium	arvense	creeping thistle	SNA
	Asteraceae	Cirsium	vulgare	bull thistle	SNA
	Asteraceae	Doellingeria	umbellata	flat-topped aster	S5

South Ripley Solar Project page 1 of 10

Observed On-Site During EDR Surveys, 2020

Notes	Family	Genus	species	common name	Conservation Rank
	Asteraceae	Erechtites	hieraciifolius	common pilewort	S5
	Asteraceae	Erigeron	annuus	annual daisy fleabane	S5
	Asteraceae	Erigeron	canadensis	horseweed	S5
	Asteraceae	Erigeron	philadelphicus	Philadelphia fleabane	S5
	Asteraceae	Erigeron	strigosus	small daisy fleabane	S5
	Asteraceae	Eupatorium	perfoliatum	common boneset	S5
	Asteraceae	Eurybia	divaricata	white wood aster	S5
	Asteraceae	Eurybia	macrophylla	bigleaf aster	S5
	Asteraceae	Euthamia	graminifolia	flat-topped goldenrod	S5
	Asteraceae	Eutrochium	maculatum	joe-pye weed	S5
	Asteraceae	Gnaphalium	uliginosum	low cudweed	SNA
	Asteraceae	Hypochaeris	radicata	cat's-ear	SNA
	Asteraceae	Inula	helenium	elecampane	SNA
	Asteraceae	Lactuca	canadenis	Canada lettuce	S5
	Asteraceae	Lapsana	communis	nipplewort	SNA
	Asteraceae	Leucanthemum	vulgare	ox-eye daisy	SNA
	Asteraceae	Packera	aurea	golden ragwort	S5
	Asteraceae	Pilosella	aurantiaca	orange hawkweed	SNA
	Asteraceae	Pilosella	caespitosa	meadow hawkweed	SNA
	Asteraceae	Rudbeckia	hirta	black-eyed Susan	SNA
	Asteraceae	Rudbeckia	laciniata	cut-leaved coneflower	S5
	Asteraceae	Solidago	altissima	tall goldenrod	S5
	Asteraceae	Solidago	canadensis	Canada goldenrod	S5
	Asteraceae	Solidago	gigantea	swamp goldenrod	S5
	Asteraceae	Solidago	juncea	early goldenrod	S5
	Asteraceae	Solidago	rugosa	rough-stemmed goldenrod	S5
	Asteraceae	Sonchus	arvensis	field sowthistle	SNA
	Asteraceae	Sonchus	asper	spiny sowthistle	SNA
	Asteraceae	Symphyotrichum	lanceolatum	lance-leaved aster	S5
	Asteraceae	Symphyotrichum	lateriflorum	calico aster	S5
	Asteraceae	Symphyotrichum	novae-angliae	New England aster	S5
	Asteraceae	Symphyotrichum	prenanthoides	crooked stem aster	S5
	Asteraceae	Symphyotrichum	puniceum	purplestem aster	S5
	Asteraceae	Taraxacum	officinale	dandelion	SNA
	Asteraceae	Tragopogon	pratensis	goat's-beard	SNA
	Asteraceae	Tussilago	farfara	coltsfoot	SNA
3	Asteraceae	Vernonia	gigantea	tall ironweed	S1
	Athyriaceae	Athyrium	angustum	northern lady fern	S5

South Ripley Solar Project page 2 of 10

Observed On-Site During EDR Surveys, 2020

Notes	Family	Genus	species	common name	Conservation Rank
	Balsaminaceae	Impatiens	capensis	spotted jewelweed	S5
1	Berberidaceae	Berberis	thunbergii	Japanese barberry	SNA
	Berberidaceae	Caulophyllum	thalictroides	blue cohosh	S5
	Berberidaceae	Podophyllum	peltatum	mayapple	S5
	Betulaceae	Alnus	incana	speckled alder	S5
	Betulaceae	<i>Betula</i>	alleghaniensis	yellow birch	S5
	Betulaceae	Betula	<i>lenta</i>	sweet birch	S5
	Betulaceae	Betula	populifolia	gray birch	S5
	Betulaceae	Carpinus	caroliniana	musclewood	S5
	Betulaceae	Ostrya	virginiana	eastern hophornbeam	S5
	Boraginaceae	Myosotis	scorpioides	forget-me-not	SNA
	Brassicaceae	Alliaria	petiolata	garlic mustard	SNA
	Brassicaceae	Barbarea	vulgaris	yellow rocket	SNA
	Brassicaceae	Brassica	rapa	field mustard	SNA
	Brassicaceae	Cardamine	pensylvanica	Pennsylvania bitter cress	S5
	Brassicaceae	Nasturtium	officinale	water-cress	SNA
	Brassicaceae	Raphanus	raphanistrum	wild radish	SNA
	Brassicaceae	Rorippa	palustris	common yellow-cress	S4
	Campanulaceae	Lobelia	cardinalis	cardinal flower	S4S5
	Campanulaceae	Lobelia	inflata	Indian-tobacco	S5
	Caprifoliaceae	Lonicera	morrowii	Morrow's honeysuckle	SNA
	Caryophyllaceae	Cerastium	fontanum	mouse-ear chickweed	SNA
	Caryophyllaceae	Myosoton	aquaticum	giant chickweed	SNA
	Caryophyllaceae	Silene	vulgaris	bladder campion	SNA
	Caryophyllaceae	Stellaria	graminea	lesser stitchwort	SNA
	Caryophyllaceae	Stellaria	pubera	star chickwed	SNA
	Convolvulaceae	Calystegia	sepium	hedge false bindweed	SNR
	Convolvulaceae	Cuscuta	gronovii	common dodder	S5
	Cornaceae	Cornus	amomum	silky dogwood	S5
	Cornaceae	Cornus	racemosa	gray dogwood	S5
	Crassulaceae	Penthorum	sedoides	ditch stonecrop	S5
	Cyperaceae	Carex	crinita	fringed sedge	S5
	Cyperaceae	Carex	intumescens	bladder sedge	S5
	Cyperaceae	Carex	lupulina	hop sedge	S5
	Cyperaceae	Carex	lurida	sallow sedge	S5
	Cyperaceae	Carex	scoparia	broom sedge	S5
	Cyperaceae	Carex	stricta	tussock sedge	S5
	Cyperaceae	Carex	vulpinoidea	fox sedge	S5

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Observed On-Site During EDR Surveys, 2020

Notes	Family	Genus	species	common name	Conservation Rank
	Cyperaceae	Cyperus	esculentus	yellow nut sedge	SNR
	Cyperaceae	Dulichium	arundinaceum	three-way sedge	S5
	Cyperaceae	Eleocharis	spp.	spike rushes	SNR
	Cyperaceae	Schoenoplectus	tabernaemontani	soft-stemmed bulrush	S5
	Cyperaceae	Scirpus	atrovirens	green bulrush	S5
	Cyperaceae	Scirpus	cyperinus	woolgrass	S5
	Dennstaedtiaceae	Dennstaedtia	punctilobula	hay-scented fern	S5
	Dennstaedtiaceae	Pteridium	aquilinum	bracken fern	S5
	Dryopteridaceae	Dryopteris	carthusiana	spinulose woodfern	S5
	Dryopteridaceae	Dryopteris	intermedia	evergreen woodfern	S5
	Dryopteridaceae	Polystichum	acrostichoides	Christmas fern	S5
1	Elaeagnaceae	Elaeagnus	umbellata	autumn olive	SNA
	Equisetaceae	Equisetum	arvense	field horsetail	S5
	Equisetaceae	Equisetum	hyemale	scouring rush	S5
	Equisetaceae	Equisetum	sylvaticum	woodland horsetail	S5
	Ericaceae	Gaultheria	procumbens	wintergreen	S5
	Ericaceae	Hypopitys	monotropa	yellow pinesap	S4
	Ericaceae	Monotropa	uniflora	ghost pipes	S5
	Ericaceae	Pyrola .	elliptica	shinleaf	S5
	Ericaceae	Vaccinium	corymbosum	highbush blueberry	S5
	Ericaceae	Vaccinium	myrtilloides	velvetleaf blueberry	S5
	Ericaceae	Vaccinium	pallidum	hillside blueberry	S5
	Euphorbiaceae	Acalypha	rhomboidea	common copperleaf	S5
	Fabaceae	Amphicarpaea	bracteata	hog peanut	S5
	Fabaceae	Lotus	corniculatus	bird's foot trefoil	SNA
	Fabaceae	Medicago	lupulina	black medick	SNA
	Fabaceae	Medicago	sativa	alfafa	SNA
	Fabaceae	Melilotus	albus	white sweet clover	SNA
2	Fabaceae	Robinia	pseudoacacia	black locust	SNA
	Fabaceae	Securigera	varia	crown-vetch	SNA
	Fabaceae	Trifolium	aureum	hop-clover	SNA
	Fabaceae	Trifolium	hybridum	alsike clover	SNA
	Fabaceae	Trifolium	pratense	red clover	SNA
	Fabaceae	Trifolium	repens	white clover	SNA
	Fabaceae	Vicia	cracca	cow vetch	SNA
	Fagaceae	Fagus	grandifolia	American beech	S5
	Fagaceae	Quercus	rubra	red oak	S5
	Geraniaceae	Geranium	robertianum	herb-robert	S5

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Observed On-Site During EDR Surveys, 2020

Notes	Family	Genus	species	common name	Conservation Rank
	Hamamelidaceae	Hamamelis	virginiana	witch hazel	S5
	Hypericaceae	Hypericum	canadense	Canada St.John's-wort	S5
	Hypericaceae	Hypericum	fraseri	Fraser's marsh St.John's-wort	S5
	Hypericaceae	Hypericum	mutilum	dwarf St. John's-wort	S5
	Hypericaceae	Hypericum	perforatum	common St.John's-wort	SNA
	Hypericaceae	Hypericum	punctatum	spotted St.John's-wort	S5
	Juglandaceae	Juglans	nigra	black walnut	S5
	Juncaceae	Juncus	effusus	soft rush	S5
	Juncaceae	Juncus	tenuis	path rush	S5
	Lamiaceae	Clinopodium	vulgare	field basil	SNR
	Lamiaceae	Collinsonia	canadensis	horse-balm	S5
	Lamiaceae	Galeopsis	tetrahit	hemp nettle	SNA
	Lamiaceae	Lycopus	americanus	American bugleweed	S5
	Lamiaceae	Lycopus	uniflorus	northern bugleweed	S5
	Lamiaceae	Mentha	arvensis	wild mint	SNA
	Lamiaceae	Mentha	x. <i>piperita</i>	peppermint	SNA
	Lamiaceae	Prunella	vulgaris	self-heal	SNA
	Lamiaceae	Scutellaria	lateriflora	mad-dog skullcap	S5
	Lamiaceae	Stachys	palustris	marsh hedge-nettle	SNA
	Lauraceae	<i>Lindera</i>	benzoin	spicebush	S5
	Liliaceae	Clintonia	borealis	blue bead lily	S5
	Liliaceae	Medeola	virginiana	Indian cucumber root	S5
	Liliaceae	Streptopus	lanceolatus	rosy twisted stalk	S5
	Lycopodiaceae	Dendrolycopodium	hickeyi	Pennsylvania tree clubmoss	S5
	Lycopodiaceae	Huperzia .	lucidula	shining clubmoss	S5
	Lycopodiaceae	Lycopodium	clavatum	running clubmoss	S5
1	Lythraceae	Lythrum	salicaria	purple loosestrife	SNA
	Magnoliaceae	Magnolia	acuminata	cucumber tree	S5
	Malvaceae	Malva	moschata	musk mallow	SNA
	Malvaceae	Tilia	americana	American basswood	S5
	Melanthiaceae	Trillium	erectum	wake robin	S5
	Melanthiaceae	Trillium	undulatum	painted trillium	S5
	Oleaceae	Fraxinus	americana	white ash	S5
	Oleaceae	Fraxinus	pennsylvanica	green ash	S5
1	Oleaceae	Ligustrum	obtusifolium	border privet	SNA
	Onagraceae	Circaea	alpina	small enchanter's nightshade	S5
	Onagraceae	Circaea	canadensis	enchanter's nightshade	S5
	Onagraceae	Epilobium	coloratum	eastern willowherb	S5
	Onayractat	Lрповійні	COIOLAIUIII	Casiciti WillOWHCID	30

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Observed On-Site During EDR Surveys, 2020

Notes	Family	Genus	species	common name	Conservation Rank
	Onagraceae	Epilobium	hirsutum	great hairy willowherb	SNA
	Onagraceae	Epilobium	strictum	downy willowherb	S5
	Onagraceae	Ludwigia	palustris	water purslane	S5
	Onagraceae	Oenothera	biennis	evening primrose	S5
	Onagraceae	Oenothera	perennis	sundrops	S5
	Onocleaceae	Onoclea	sensibilis	sensitive fern	S5
	Orchidaceae	Epipactis	helleborine	weed orchid	SNA
	Orobanchaceae	Epifagus	virginiana	beechdrops	S5
	Osmundaceae	Osmunda	claytonia	interrupted fern	S5
	Osmundaceae	Osmundstrum	cinnamomeum	cinnamon fern	S5
	Oxalidaceae	Oxalis	montana	white wood sorrel	S5
	Oxalidaceae	Oxalis	stricta	common yellow wood sorrel	S5
	Phrymaceae	Mimulus	ringens	monkey flower	S5
	Phytolaccaceae	Phytolacca	americana	common pokeweed	S5
	Pinaceae	Picea	abies	Norway spruce	SNA
	Pinaceae	Picea	pungens	blue spruce	SNA
	Pinaceae	Pinus	resinosa	red pine	S5
	Pinaceae	Pinus	strobus	white pine	S5
	Pinaceae	Pinus	sylvestris	Scotch pine	SNA
	Pinaceae	Tsuga	canadensis	eastern hemlock	S5
	Plantaginaceae	Chelone	glabra	white turtlehead	S5
	Plantaginaceae	Plantago	lanceolata	English plantain	SNA
	Plantaginaceae	Plantago	major	common plantain	SNA
	Plantaginaceae	Plantago	rugelii	blackseed plantain	S5
	Plantaginaceae	Veronica	anagallis-aquatica	water speedwell	SNA
	Plantaginaceae	Veronica	officinalis	common speedwell	SNA
	Poaceae	Agrostis	gigantea	redtop	SNA
	Poaceae	Anthoxanthum	odoratum	sweet vernal grass	SNA
	Poaceae	Bromus	inermis	smooth brome	SNA
	Poaceae	Calamagrostis	canadensis	bluejoint	S5
	Poaceae	Dactylis	glomerata	orchard grass	SNA
	Poaceae	Danthonia	spicata	poverty oatgrass	S5
	Poaceae	Dichanthelium	clandestinum	deer-tongue grass	S5
	Poaceae	Dichanthelium	lanuginosum	wooly rosette grass	S5
	Poaceae	Echinochloa	crus-galli	Eurasian barnyard grass	SNA
	Poaceae	Elymus	hystrix	bottlebrus grass	S5
	Poaceae	Glyceria	canadensis	Canada manna grass	S5
	Poaceae	Glyceria	melicaria	slender manna grass	S5

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Observed On-Site During EDR Surveys, 2020

Notes	Family	Genus	species	common name	Conservation Rank
	Poaceae	Glyceria	striata	fowl manna grass	S5
	Poaceae	Holcus	lanatus	velvet grass	SNA
	Poaceae	Leersia	oryzoides	rice cutgrass	S5
	Poaceae	Oryzopsis	asperifolia	spreading ricegrass	S5
	Poaceae	Phalaris	arundinacea	reed canary grass	SNR
	Poaceae	Phleum	pratense	timothy	SNA
	Poaceae	Phragmites	australis	common reed	SNA
	Poaceae	Poa	pratensis	Kentucky bluegrass	SNA
	Poaceae	Schizachne	purpurascens	false melic grass	S5
	Poaceae	Schizachyrium	scoparium	little bluestem	S5
	Polygalaceae	Polygala	sanguinea	blood milkwort	S5
	Polygonaceae	Persicaria	arifolia	halberd-leaved tearthumb	S5
	Polygonaceae	Persicaria	lapathifolia	dock-leaved smartweed	SNR
	Polygonaceae	Persicaria	maculosa	spotted lady's-thumb	SNA
	Polygonaceae	Persicaria	sagittata	arrow-leaf tearthumb	S5
	Polygonaceae	Persicaria	virginiana	jumpseed	S5
	Polygonaceae	Polygonum	aviculare	doorweed	SNA
	Polygonaceae	Rumex	acetosella	sheep sorrel	SNA
	Polygonaceae	Rumex	crispus	curly dock	SNA
	Polygonaceae	Rumex	obtusifolius -	bitter dock	SNA
	Primulaceae	Lysimachia	borealis	starflower	S5
	Primulaceae	Lysimachia	ciliata	fringed loosestrife	S5
	Primulaceae	Lysimachia	nummularia	creeping Jennie	SNA
	Ranunculaceae	Clematis	virginiana	virgin's bower	S5
	Ranunculaceae	Coptis	trifolia	goldthread	S5
	Ranunculaceae	Hepatica	acutiloba	sharp-lobed hepatica	S5
	Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus	acris	tall buttercup	SNA
	Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus	caricetorum	bristly buttercup	S5
	Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus	repens	creeping buttercup	SNA
	Ranunculaceae	Thalictrum	pubescens	tall meadow-rue	S5
	Rosaceae	Agrimonia	gryposepala	common agrimony	S5
	Rosaceae	Amelanchier	spp.	serviceberries	SNR
	Rosaceae	Crataegus	monogyna	one-seeded hawthorn	SNA
	Rosaceae	Crataegus	spp.	other hawthorns	SNR
	Rosaceae	Fragaria	virginiana	common wild strawberry	S5
	Rosaceae	Geum	canadense	white avens	S5
	Rosaceae	Geum	rivale	purple avens	S5
	Rosaceae	Malus	domestica	apple	SNA

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Observed On-Site During EDR Surveys, 2020

Notes	Family	Genus	species	common name	Conservation Rank
	Rosaceae	Potentilla	indica	mock strawberry	SNA
	Rosaceae	Potentilla	norvegica	ternate-leaved cinquefoil	SNA
	Rosaceae	Potentilla	recta	sulphur cinquefoil	SNA
	Rosaceae	Potentilla	simplex	old field cinquefoil	S5
	Rosaceae	Prunus	pensylvanica	pin cherry	S5
	Rosaceae	Prunus	serotina	black cherry	S5
	Rosaceae	Prunus	virginiana	choke cherry	S5
	Rosaceae	Pyrus	communis	common pear	SNA
	Rosaceae	Rosa	multiflora	multiflora rose	SNA
	Rosaceae	Rosa	palustris	swamp rose	S5
	Rosaceae	Rubus	alleghaniensis	common blackberry	S5
	Rosaceae	Rubus	flagellaris	northern dewberry	S5
	Rosaceae	Rubus	hispidus	bristly dewberry	S5
	Rosaceae	Rubus	idaeus	red raspberry	S5
	Rosaceae	Rubus	laciniatus	cut-leaved blackberry	SNA
	Rosaceae	Rubus	occidentalis	black raspberry	S5
	Rosaceae	Rubus	pubescens	dwarf raspberry	S5
	Rosaceae	Sorbus	aucuparia	European mountain-ash	SNA
	Rosaceae	Spiraea	alba	meadowsweet	S5
	Rosaceae	Spiraea	tomentosa	steeplebush	S5
	Rubiaceae	Galium	album	wild madder	SNA
	Rubiaceae	Galium	asprellum	rough bedstraw	S5
	Rubiaceae	Galium	trifidum	small bedstraw	S5
	Rubiaceae	Mitchella	repens	partridgeberry	S5
	Salicaceae	Populus	deltoides	eastern cottonwood	S5
	Salicaceae	Populus	grandidentata	bigtooth aspen	S5
	Salicaceae	Populus	tremuloides	quaking aspen	S5
	Salicaceae	Salix	spp.	willows	SNR
	Sapindaceae	Acer	rubrum	common red maple	S5
	Sapindaceae	Acer	saccharinum	silver maple	S5
	Sapindaceae	Acer	saccharum	sugar maple	S5
	Saxifragaceae	Chrysosplenium	americanum	golden saxifrage	S4
	Saxifragaceae	Micranthes	pensylvanica	swamp saxifrage	S4S5
	Saxifragaceae	Tiarella	cordifolia	foamflower	S5
	Scrophulariaceae	Verbascum	thapsus	common mullein	SNA
	Smilacaceae	Smilax	hispida	bristly greenbrier	S5
	Solanaceae	Solanum	carolinense	horsenettle	S5
	Solanaceae	Solanum	dulcamara	deadly nightshade	SNA

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Observed On-Site During EDR Surveys, 2020

Notes Family	Genus	species	common name	Conservation Rank
Thelypteri	daceae <i>Thelypteris</i>	noveboracensis	New York fern	S5
Thelypteri	idaceae Thelypteris	palustris	marsh fern	S5
Typhacea	e <i>Sparganium</i>	americanum	American bur-reed	S5
Typhacea	e <i>Typha</i>	angustifolia	narrowleaf cattail	S5
Typhacea	e <i>Typha</i>	latifolia	broadleaf cattail	S5
Ulmaceae	e Ulmus	americana	American elm	S5
Urticacea	e <i>Boehmeria</i>	cylindrica	false nettle	S5
Urticacea	e <i>Laportea</i>	canadensis	wood nettle	S5
Urticacea	e <i>Pilea</i>	pumila	clearweed	S5
Verbenac	eae <i>Verbena</i>	hastata	blue vervain	S5
Verbenac	eae <i>Verbena</i>	urticifolia	white vervain	S5
Violaceae	. Viola	labradorica	American dog violet	SNR
Violaceae	. Viola	rotundifolia	roundleaf violet	S5
Violaceae	. Viola	sororia	common violet	S5
Vitaceae	Parthenocissus	quinquefolia	Virginia creeper	S5
Vitaceae	Vitis	aestivalis	summer grape	S5
Vitaceae	Vitis	riparia	riverbank grape	S5

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Nomenclature follows the New York Flora Atlas (Weldy et al., 2020).

#### Notes:

- 1. This species is listed as a prohibited invasive species in New York State (NYSDEC, 2014).
- 2. This species is listed as a regulated invasive species in New York State (NYSDEC, 2014).
- 3. This species is listed as endangered by New York State. Endangered plants are typically species with either five or fewer extant sites or fewer than 1,000 individuals; or species that are restricted to fewer than four USGS 7½ minute series quad maps; or species that are listed as endangered by the United State Department of Interior (Young, 2019).

### State Conservation Ranks:

- Critically imperiled in New York State because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer sites or very few remaining individuals) or extremely vulnerable to extirpation from New York State due to biological or human factors.
- S2 Imperiled in New York State because of rarity (6 20 sites or few remaining individuals) or highly vulnerable to extirpation from New York State due to biological or human factors.
- Vulnerable in New York State. At moderate risk of extinction or elimination due to very restricted range, very few populations (usually 21 35 extant sites), steep declines, or other factors.
- S4 Apparently secure in New York State. Common in many areas of the state but possibly rare in other areas.
- S5 Demonstrably secure in New York State. Common; widespread and abundant.
- SNA Species for which a rank is not applicable. These plants are not native in New York State and are not of conservation concern.
- SNR Not yet ranked.

#### Sources:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). 2014. 6 NYCRR Part 575, Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species. September 10, 2014.

Weldy, T., D. Werier, and A. Nelson. 2020. New York Flora Atlas. [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (original application development), USF Water Institute. University of South Florida]. New York Flora Association, Albany, New York. Available at: http://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/ (Accessed September 2020; last updated September 9, 2020).

Young, S.M. 2019. New York Rare Plant Status Lists. New York Natural Heritage Program, State University of New York College of environmental Science and Forestry. Albany, NY. March 2019. 108 pp.

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### APPENDIX C

Photo Documentation

### Photo 1.

Tall ironweed plants. Parcel ID

Mapped on Figure 3, Sheet

Redacted to protect confidentiality of tall ironweed location.



### Photo 2.

Bracts of tall ironweed flowers magnified with 10x hand lens. Parcel ID

Mapped on Figure 3, Sheet ......

South Ripley Solar Project Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report Attachment C: Photo Documentation

September 2020







### Photo 3.

Stem and leaves of tall ironweed plant. Parcel ID



### Photo 4.

Tall ironweed plant growing in aspen grove. Parcel ID

South Ripley Solar Project Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report Attachment C: Photo Documentation

September 2020





Photo 5. Tall ironweed plants growing . Parcel ID Mapped on Figure 3, Sheet Redacted to protect confidentiality of tall ironweed location. Photo 6. Tall ironweed plants. Parcel ID Mapped on Figure 3, Sheet Redacted to protect confidentiality of tall ironweed location. **South Ripley Solar Project** Chautauqua County, New York Rare Plant Survey Report Attachment C: Photo Documentation September 2020



### Photo 7.

Tall ironweed plants. Parcel ID

### Photo 8.

Tall ironweed plants. Parcel ID

Redacted to protect confidentiality of tall ironweed location.

South Ripley Solar Project Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report Attachment C: Photo Documentation

September 2020





Photo 9. Tall ironweed plants. Parcel ID Mapped on Figure 3, Sheet Redacted to protect confidentiality of tall ironweed location. Photo 10. A tall ironweed plant Redacted to protect confidentiality of tall ironweed location. Parcel ID Mapped on Figure 3, Sheet

**South Ripley Solar Project** Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report Attachment C: Photo Documentation

September 2020







Photo 11.

Tall ironweed flowers. Parcel ID

. Mapped on Figure 3, Sheet ......

South Ripley Solar Project Chautauqua County, New York

Rare Plant Survey Report Attachment C: Photo Documentation September 2020



