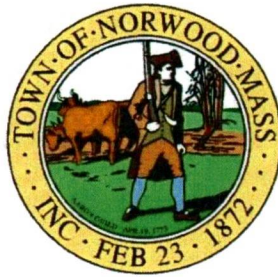


**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

STEPHEN WASHBURN, CHAIRMAN  
CATHERINE WALSH, VICE CHAIR  
JOHN GEAR  
PETER BAMBER  
KELSEY QUINLAN



**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER**  
CARLY ROCKLEN

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
HOLLY JONES

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**Norwood Conservation Commission****August 2, 2023****7:30 P.M.**

**Present: Stephen Washburn, John Gear, Peter Bamber, Kelsey Quinlan.**

**Absent: Catherine Walsh**

**Present: Carly Rocklen, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent, & Holly Jones, Assistant Director of Community Development**

The August 2nd, 2023 meeting was held remotely using Google Meet and in person at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect St. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, at 7:30 p.m. followed by a roll call and informatory announcement to attendees regarding meeting procedures.

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**7:30-8:00 PM –BioMap Presentation by Sarah Wasserman, Mass Wildlife**

Ms. Wasserman, a BioMap Outreach specialist, presented a slideshow titled The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts. She began the presentation by outlining what biodiversity is, as well as stating how biodiversity is currently in crisis at the state, national, and global scale. Ms. Wasserman stated that 432 species are currently on Massachusetts' endangered species list, with the main threats to biodiversity being habitat loss, fragmentation, invasive species, and emerging diseases, all of which are being compounded by climate change. Ms. Wasserman introduced BioMap, a website created by MassWildlife and in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy to help the people of the Commonwealth in protecting, managing, and restoring the lands and waters that are critical to biodiversity in Massachusetts. Ms. Wasserman demonstrated the online interactive map that is available to use on the BioMap website. She highlighted the use of this application and the ways in which it can serve as a useful tool for conservationists and municipalities throughout the state. Ms. Wasserman noted that BioMap allows municipalities at the local level to gain an insight into the significant biodiversity and resources in their areas which might have otherwise been overlooked. Regional connectivity data has also been incorporated into BioMap, allowing for users to analyze the state of vulnerable species beyond the borders of Massachusetts. Ms. Wasserman also stated that BioMap allows users to access climate resilience data, which identifies places that help plants, animals, and people cope with the impacts of climate change. Using Norwood as an example, Ms. Wasserman stated that the footprint of Norwood from a statewide perspective was 11.1% for habitat and 18.1% critical natural landscape. She also highlighted the differences between BioMap and Priority Habitat website. Priority Habitat is a regulatory screening tool used to review projects that may impact state listed species, while BioMap is non-regulatory and is designed to be utilized as a tool to plan and prioritize conservation actions. Ms. Wasserman stated that education and engagement were major focuses of the new iteration of BioMap.

Ms. Quinlan asked Ms. Wasserman at what intervals did she expect BioMap to be more dynamic in terms of the layers available to the user.

Ms. Wasserman responded that it was unlikely to happen within a few months, but stated that they hoped to reduce the time between each new iteration of BioMap to 2-4 years. As opposed to the 12 year gap between BioMap and BioMap 2.0.

Email: [sarah.wasserman@mass.gov](mailto:sarah.wasserman@mass.gov)

Link to main website [mass.gov/biomap](http://mass.gov/biomap)

### **Public Hearings:**

**1. 76 Prospect St. Notice of Intent** Norwood No. 2023-06

Applicant: Marion Group, LLC. Representative: Dan Merrikin of Legacy Engineering.

Project Description: A residential subdivision including roadway, stormwater infrastructure, and associated earthwork and utilities, in the buffer zone of bank, and riverfront area of an intermittent stream.

The Chair read the project description into the record and stated a request for continuance was received.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to continue to September 15th**

**Mr. Gear seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**2. 1 Technology Way Notice of Intent** Norwood No. 2023-09

Applicant: Mike Argiros of Alexander Argiros A Trust. Representative: Sam Malafronte of Solli Engineering, LLC.

Project Description: Replication of an isolated vegetated wetland cleared in violation of the Norwood Wetland Protection Bylaw.

The Chair read the project description into the record and stated a request for continuance was received.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to continue to the August 23rd meeting at a time to be determined.**

**Ms. Quinlan seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**3. 9 Arcadia Rd. Request for Determination of Applicability** No. 2023-16

Applicant: Patrice Monahan

Project Description: Construction of a shed in riverfront area and buffer zone to bank.

The Chair read the project description into the record.

Ms. Rocklen stated that the applicant requested to build a shed on gravel in the buffer zone and wished to know if the construction of the shed was in jurisdiction of the Commission.

The Chair asked Ms. Rocklen if this project was covered under the minor activity exemption under the WPA.

Ms. Rocklen responded that it was.

The Chair asked if the project was covered under the local bylaw legislation.

Ms. Jones said that the project is located in an area subject to the bylaw but would not alter the area under protection. She displayed a map and discussed the drain and sewer easements. She also drew the Commission's attention to the fence along the property line and how this fence serves as the demarcation line between the lawn from town property. Ms. Jones stated that since



the proposal is to construct the shed on top of gravel, she believed that no additional impervious surface.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability.**

**Mr. Gear seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**4. 86 Garden Parkway Request for Determination of Applicability No. 2023-17**

Application: Daryl K. and Gretchen A. Stampfl. Representative: Attorney David Hern

Project Description: To determine whether the area depicted on the provided plans is subject to jurisdiction under the Wetlands Protection Act or Norwood Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The Chair read the project description into the record.

Representing the applicant, Attorney Hern Jr. said the property is an undeveloped piece of land on Garden Parkway. He gave a brief history of the property ownership and boundary lines. He stated that it previously had wetlands but no longer does. He displayed a site plan, discussed existing conditions, and described the proposed single family dwelling. Attorney Hern said the applicant was requesting a Negative Determination of Applicability.

The Chair said that soil probes and GIS reflected an absence of a wetland. Mr. Bamber said he had seen the site and saw no evidence of wetland resources.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the public hearing and issue a Negative Determination of Applicability.**

**Mr. Gear seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**Wetland Issues and Updates:**

**1. 1420 Boston/Providence Turnpike (Wendy's/BJ's)**

Ms. Rocklen stated that the infiltration basin never successfully infiltrated the water. She said there was an idea of shifting basin to more of a manmade wetland in order to help remove pollutants.

Mr. Casey Burch, engineer, on behalf of the owner, said this site was approved in 2017 and constructed in 2018. He said the basin was constructed in groundwater. Test pits and borings were performed but it showed the water levels were lower than when it was constructed. He stated that they have been monitoring the basin after rain events. He said generally there is 8" of standing water in the basin at all times. As-built was compared with the approved plans and it was constructed according to the plans but it was still not infiltrating. He stated that it functioned as designed for attenuation but not infiltration.

The Chair commented that no matter what was done, it would not infiltrate. He stated that he did not like that it was now essentially a detention basin, would breed mosquitoes, and collect debris.

Ms. Rocklen reiterated that a manmade wetland would provide benefits.

Ms. Jones said there was a spillway above the level of groundwater. It would have an opportunity to slow drain into the spillway rather than evaporating.

Ms. Quinlan said she was in favor of a manmade wetland.

The Commission had a discussion regarding the pipe.

Ms. Jones said she was able to locate both ends of the pipe.

Mr. Burch said he would set up a schedule, involve a soil scientist, and notify the property owners.

Ms. Jones stated that the Order of Conditions has expired and the basin is still within the 100' buffer zone. She suggested once the Commission has reviewed a plan, to issue an enforcement

order.

The Commissioners agreed and asked for a timeline for the plan submission.

Mr. Burch said he anticipated having it by September 23rd.

**2. 1 Technology Way - Enforcement Order**

The Chair stated that he hoped to have a discussion about the potential need for a short-term temporary stabilization of a site while the NOI is being processed.

Ms. Jones stated that she would be able to administrative work on that issue along with Ms. Rocklen.

**Conservation Commission Business:**

**1. Selection of representative to Master Plan Committee**

The Chair stated that since Mr. Rocklen could no longer serve, they needed another member.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to nominate Ms. Quinlan.**

**Mr. Gear seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**2. Endean Orchard Subcommittee update**

Ms. Rocklen discussed work performed; weeding, mowing, mulching, removal of poison ivy and invasive species. Ms. Jones said that Mr. Negron had discussed organizing more talks and workshops. Grant money is available from the Cultural Council for 4 workshops. Discussion was had regarding potential projects.

**3. CPC report -passed over**

Ms. Jones said that if Commissioners had ideas for conservation projects, now would be the time to start thinking about applying for the next cycle.

**4. Agent update**

Ms. Rocklen said she was learning and thanked everyone for their assistance getting oriented. The Chair complimented her attention to detail and her passion for native species.

**5. Minutes from 5.31.23, 6.28.23, 7.12.23**

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to approve.**

**Mr. Gear seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**Adjournment.**

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to adjourn.**

**Ms. Quinlan seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:52 pm.

Next meeting: August 23, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. via Google Meet & in person.

*Respectfully submitted by Thomas Hackett and Lynn Marchand.*



# BioMap: The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts

## Town of Norwood Conservation Commission

**Sarah Wasserman**

BioMap Outreach Specialist

MassWildlife

[Sarah.Wasserman@mass.gov](mailto:Sarah.Wasserman@mass.gov)



MASSWILDLIFE





# **Agenda**

- 1. BioMap Presentation**
- 2. Website and Map Demonstration**
- 3. Questions and Discussion**



# Who Are We?

## BioMap Outreach Specialists with MassWildlife



MASSWILDLIFE



### Our Goals:

- Spread awareness of the new BioMap
  - Provide technical support
- Develop support materials







**3 billion birds  
have been lost  
in North America  
since 1970.**  
(The Cornell Lab of Ornithology).

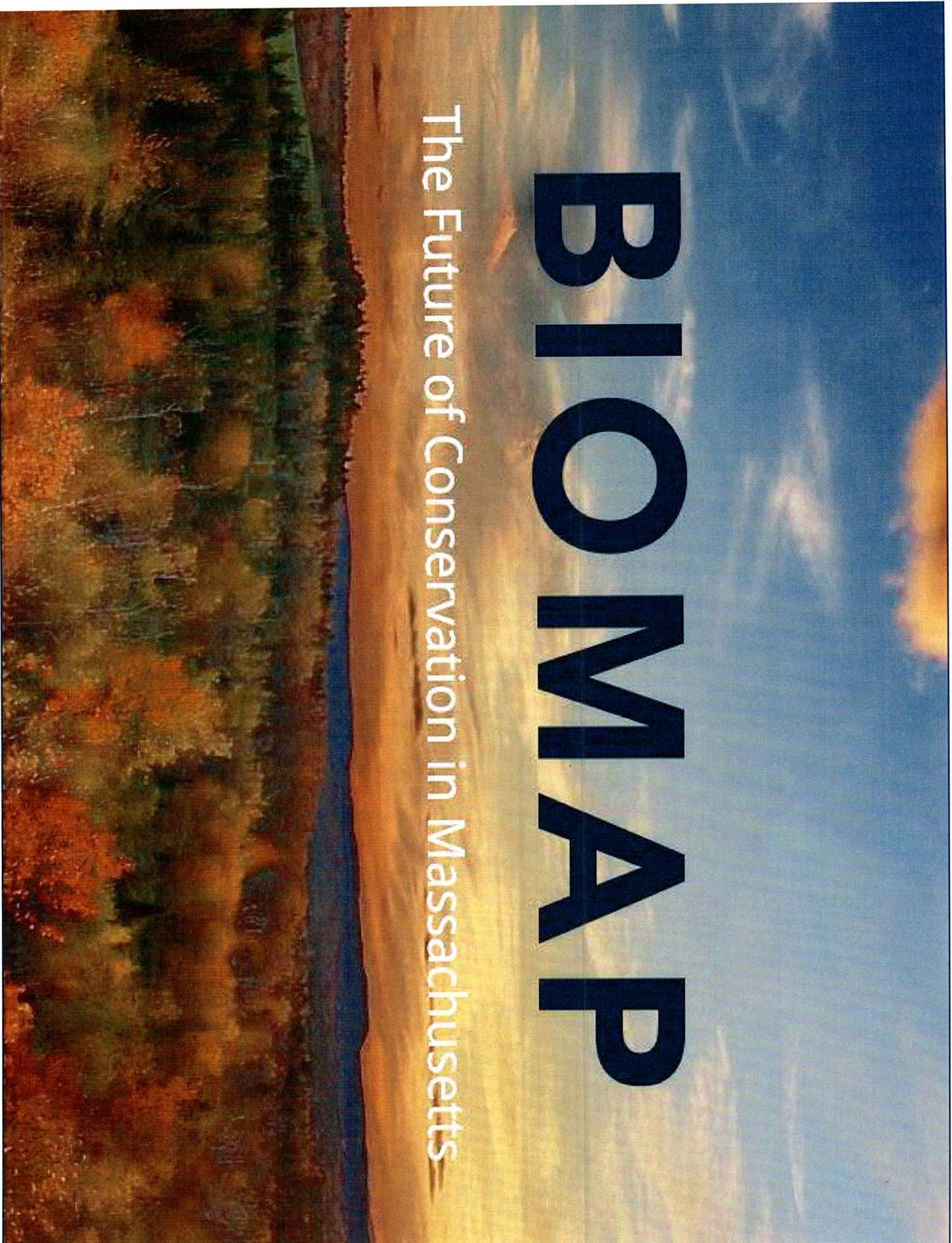


**One third of species in  
the U.S. are vulnerable  
and one in five are at  
high risk of extinction**  
(National Wildlife Federation).



# BIO MAP

The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts

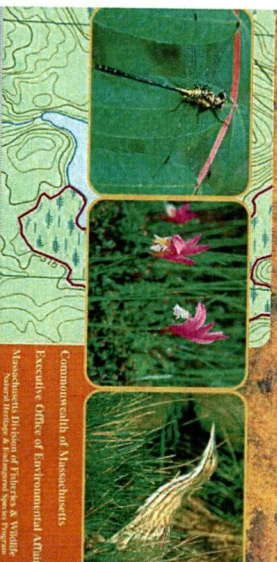




# BioMap Over Time

## BioMap

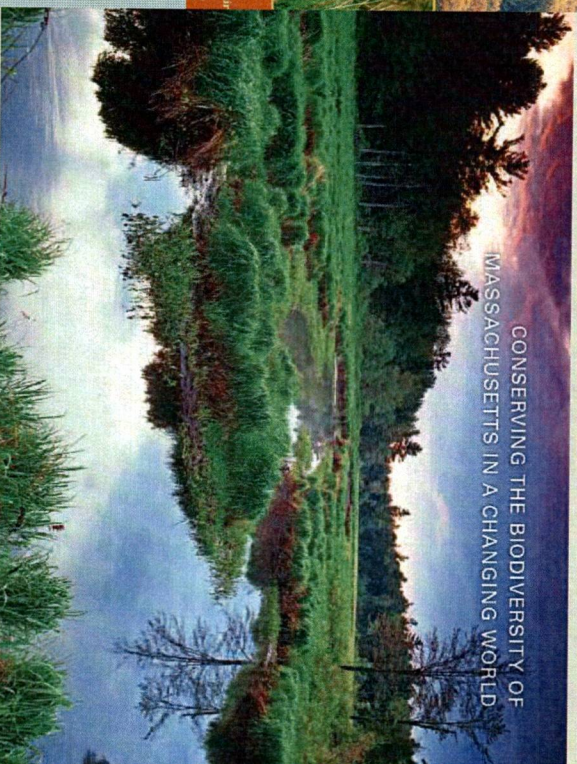
Guiding land conservation for biodiversity in Massachusetts



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
Massachusetts Division of Fish, Fish & Wildlife  
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

## BioMap2

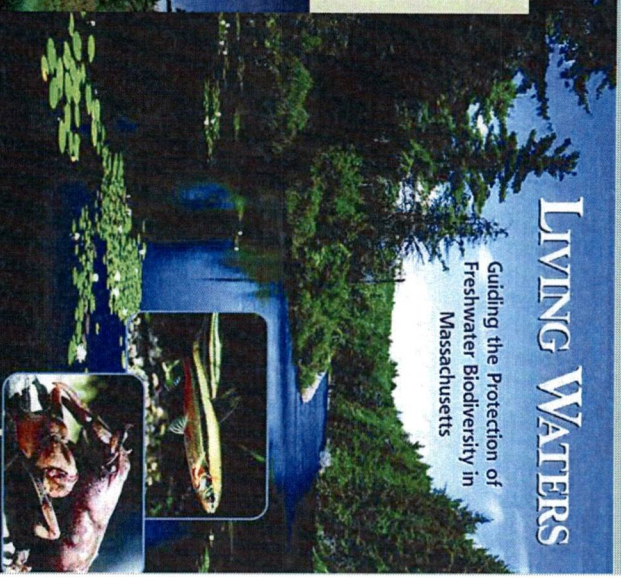
CONSERVING THE BIODIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS IN A CHANGING WORLD



MA Department of Fish & Game | Division of Fisheries & Wildlife | Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program • The Nature Conservancy

## LIVING WATERS

Guiding the Protection of Freshwater Biodiversity in Massachusetts



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

The Nature Conservancy



MASS WILDLIFE

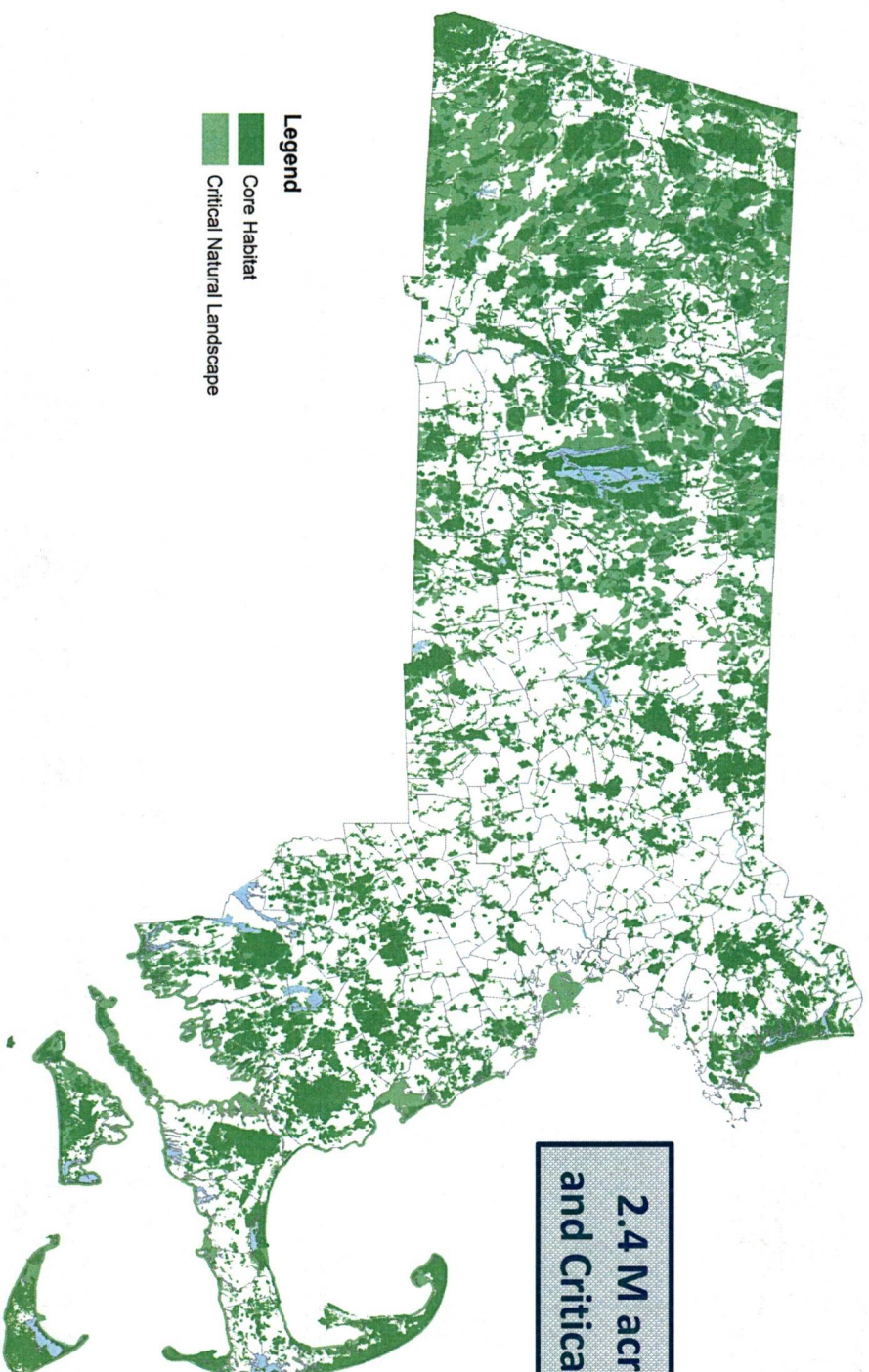




**A MAP. A TOOL. A VISION.**



# BioMap: A MAP



2.4 M acres of Core Habitat  
and Critical Natural Landscape

## Legend

- Core Habitat
- Critical Natural Landscape

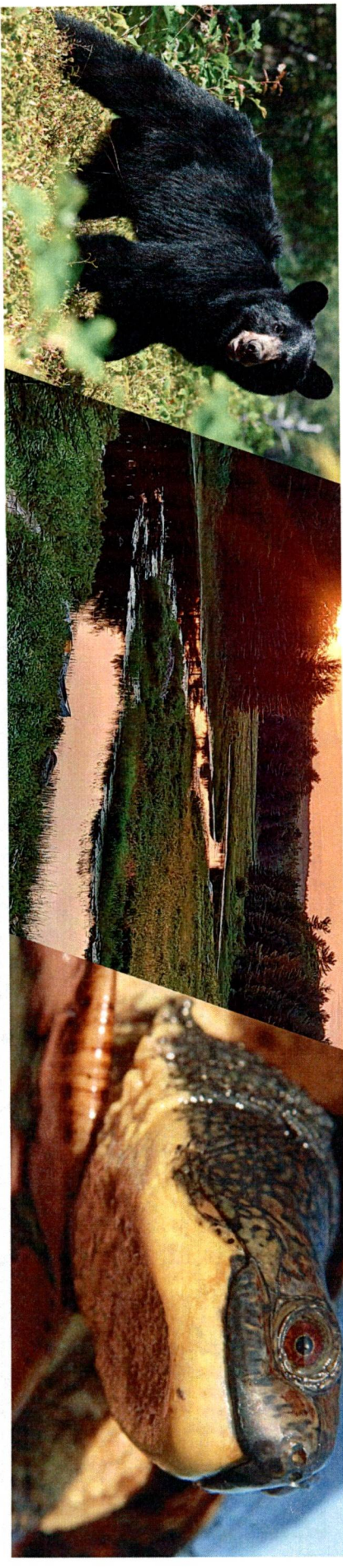
## Core Habitat

Areas critical for the long-term persistence of rare species, exemplary natural communities, and resilient ecosystems

## Critical Natural Landscape

Large landscapes minimally impacted by development and buffers to core habitats and coastal areas, both of which enhance connectivity and resilience.





## BioMap Components

### Core Habitat:

- Rare Species Core
- Forest Core
- Aquatic Core
- Wetland Core
- Vernal Pool Core
- Priority Natural Communities

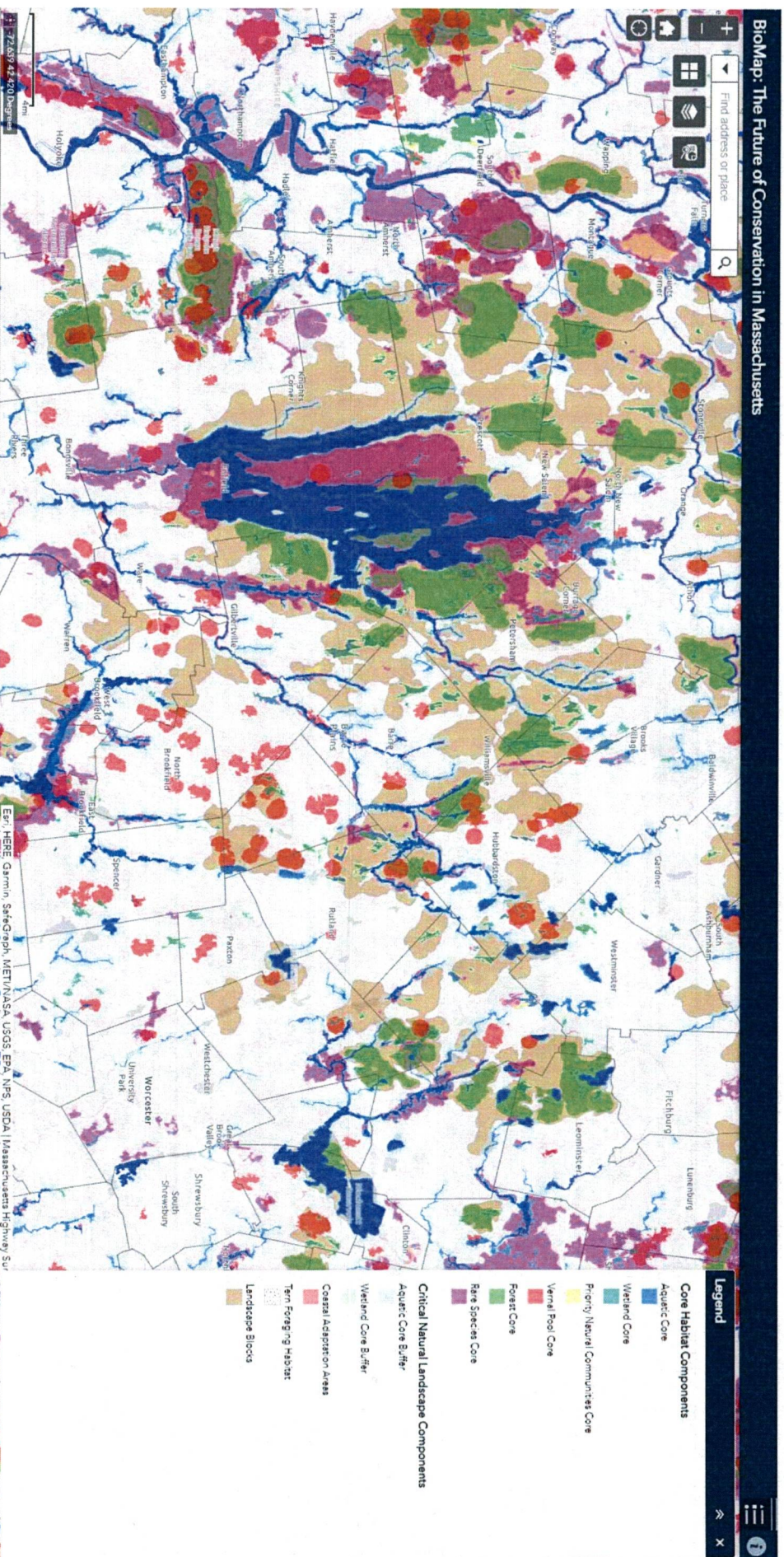
### Critical Natural Landscape:

- Landscape Blocks
- Coastal Adaptation Areas
- Tern Foraging Habitat
- Aquatic Core Buffer
- Wetland Core Buffer

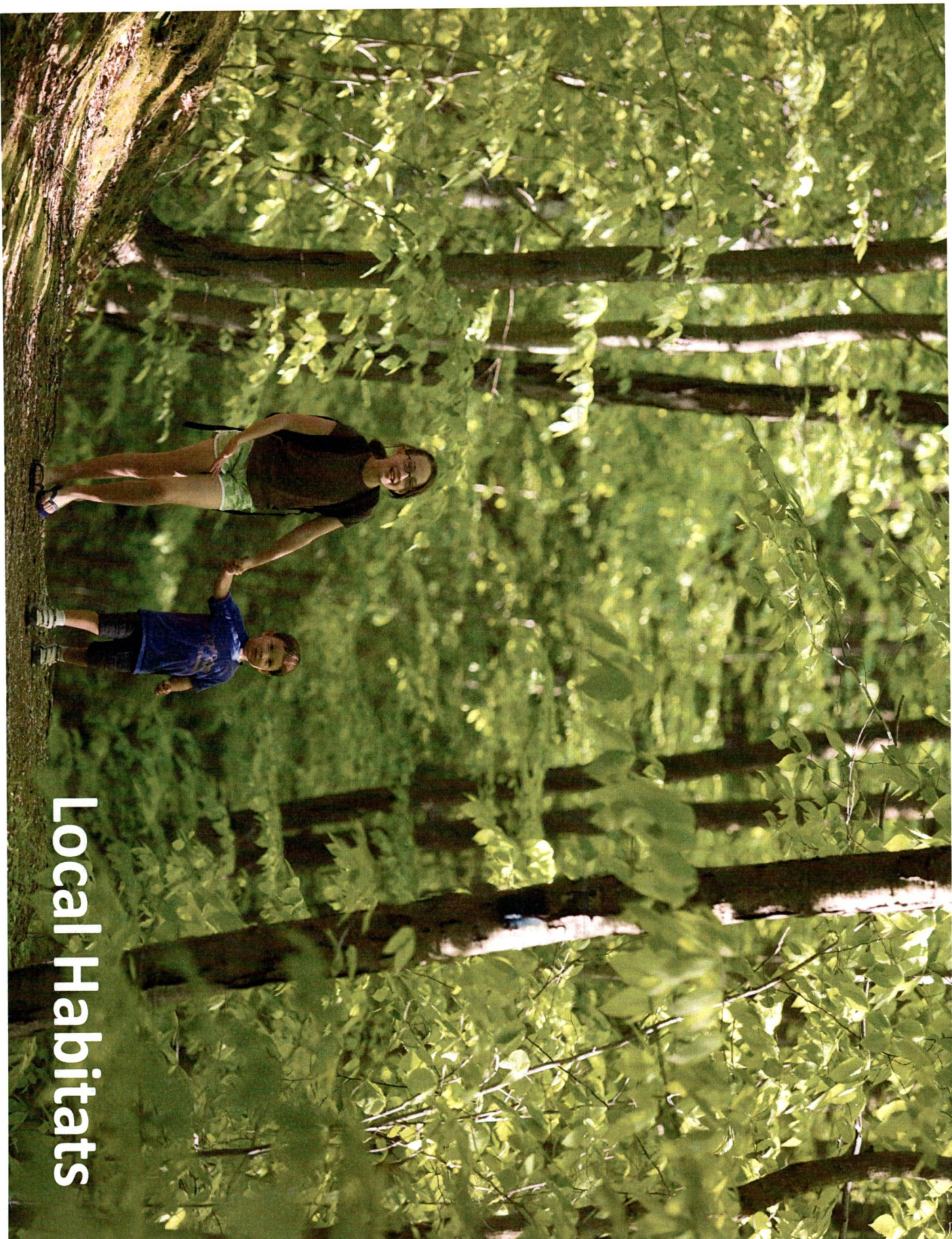




# BioMap Components







# Local Habitats



[illegible]



# Local Landscapes



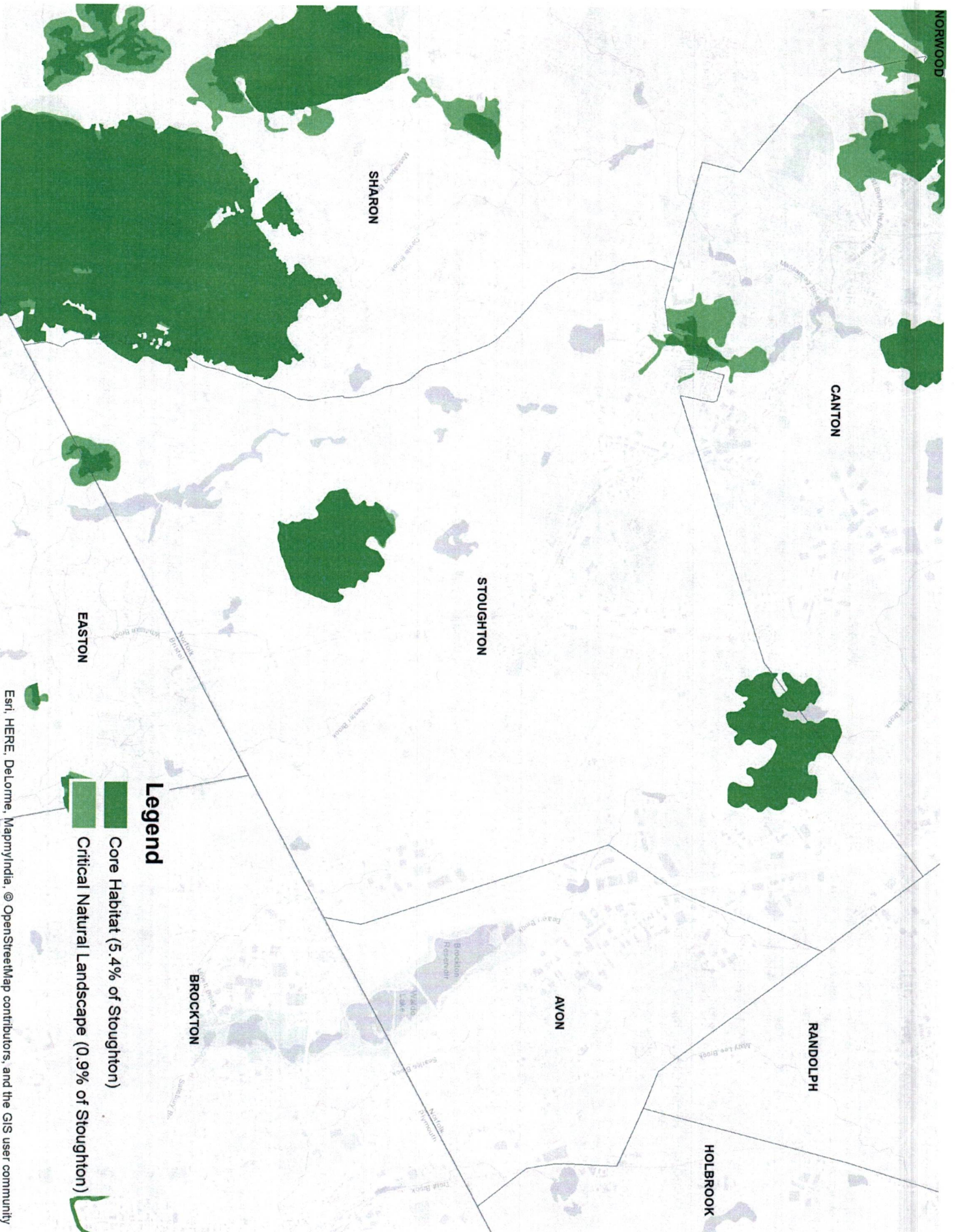
Landscape Blocks



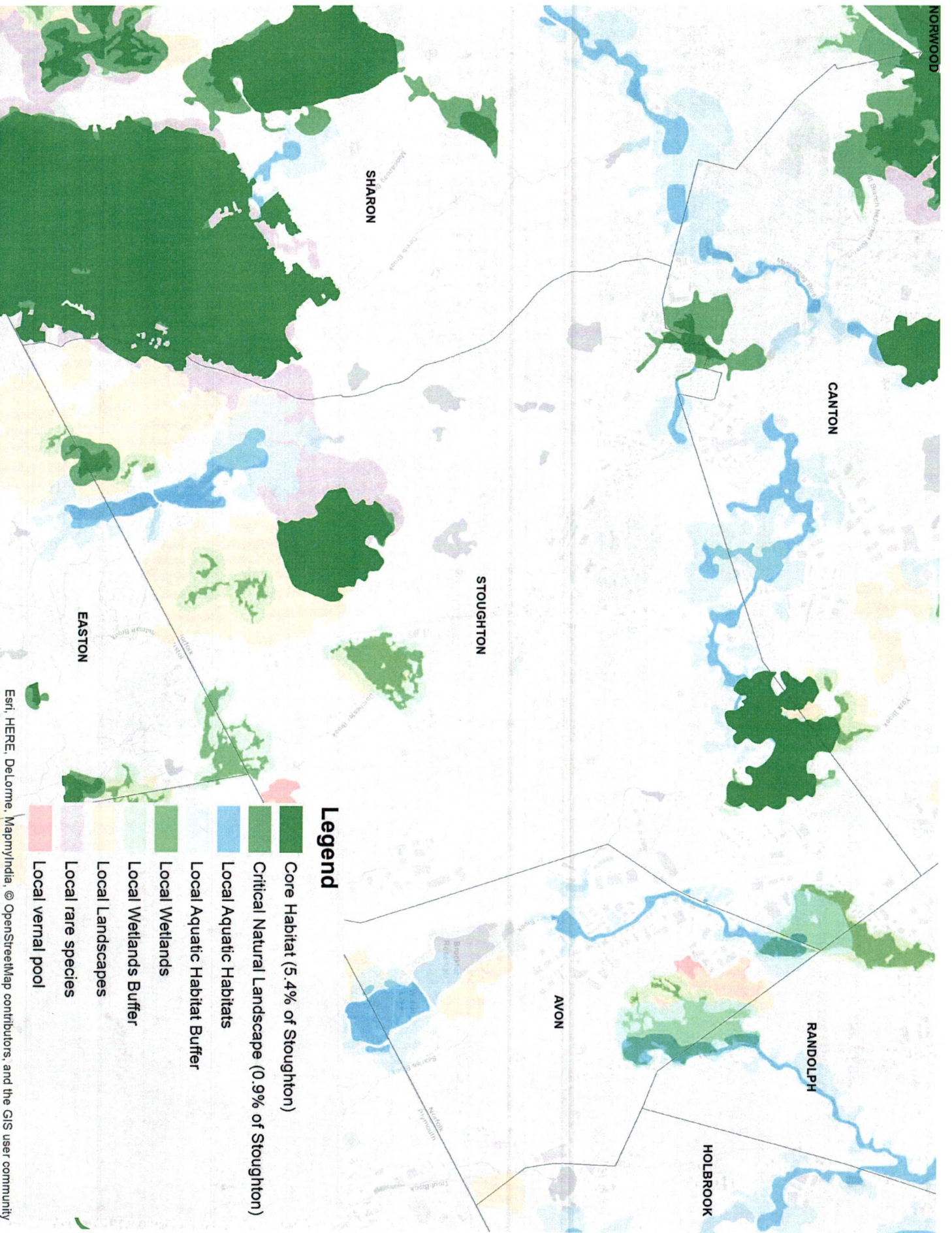
Local Landscapes











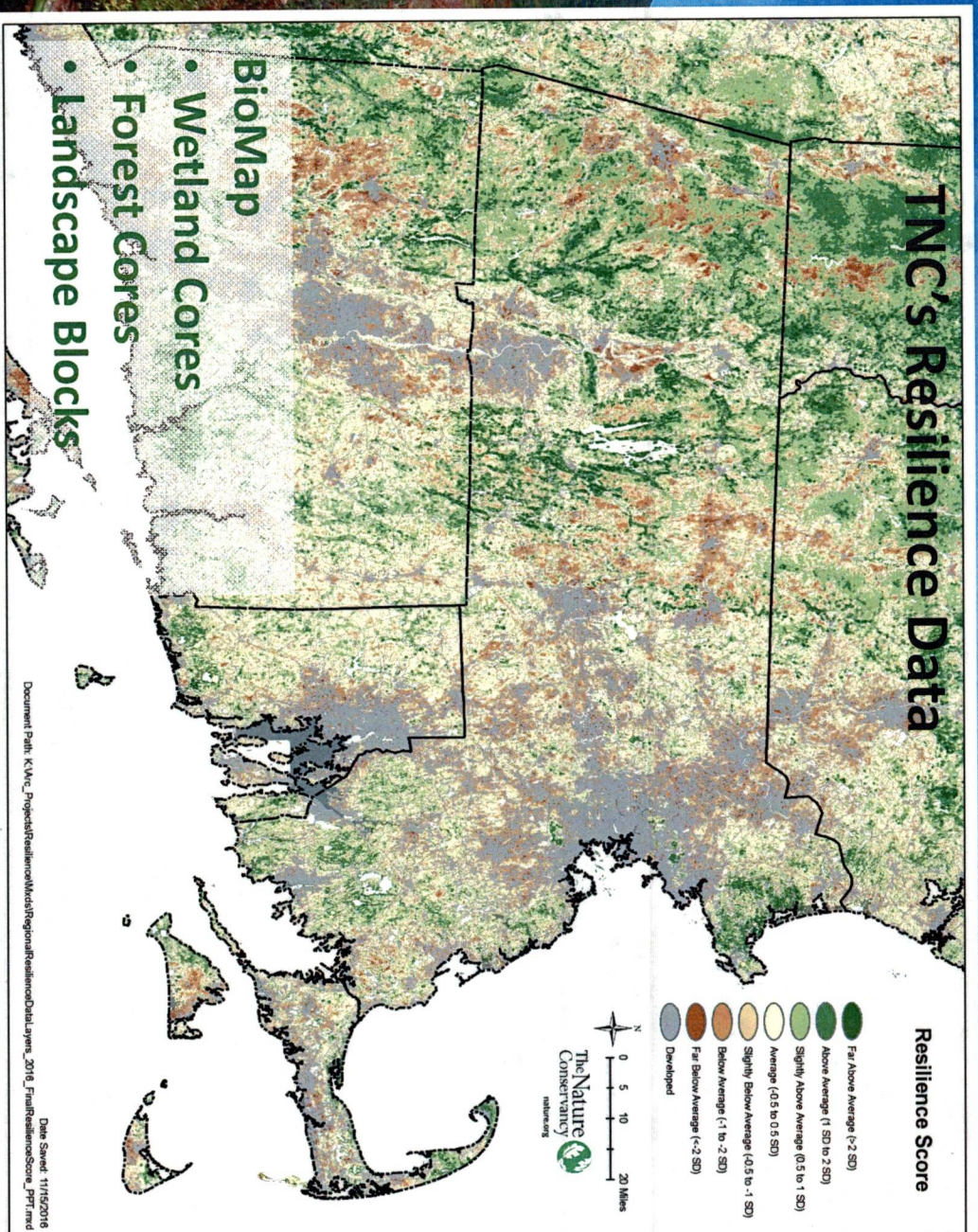


# Regional Connectivity



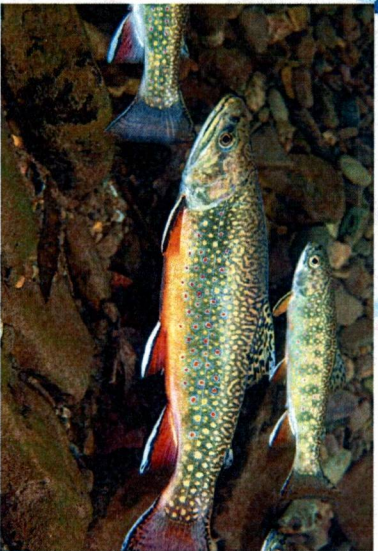


# Climate Resilience



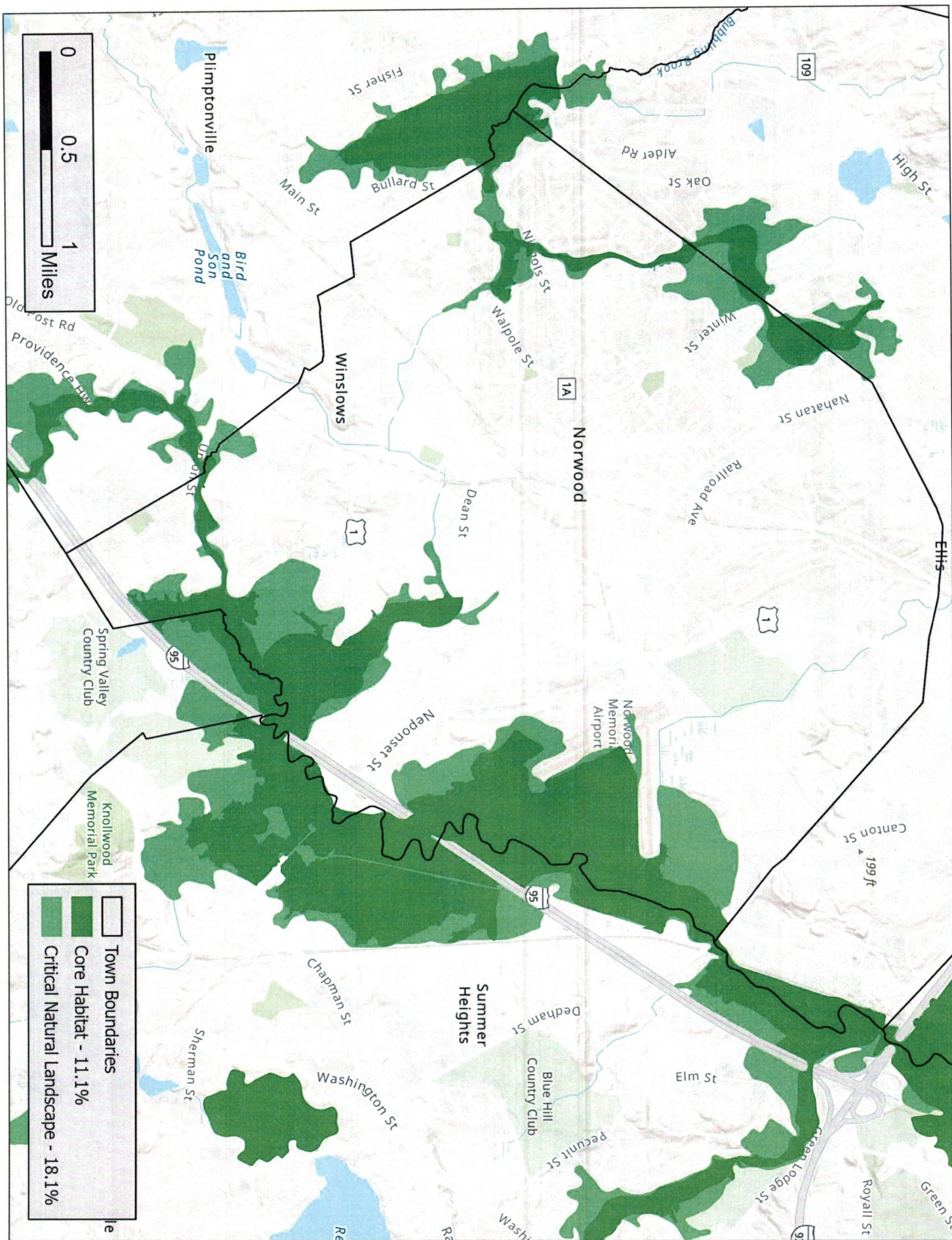


# Aquatic Resilience

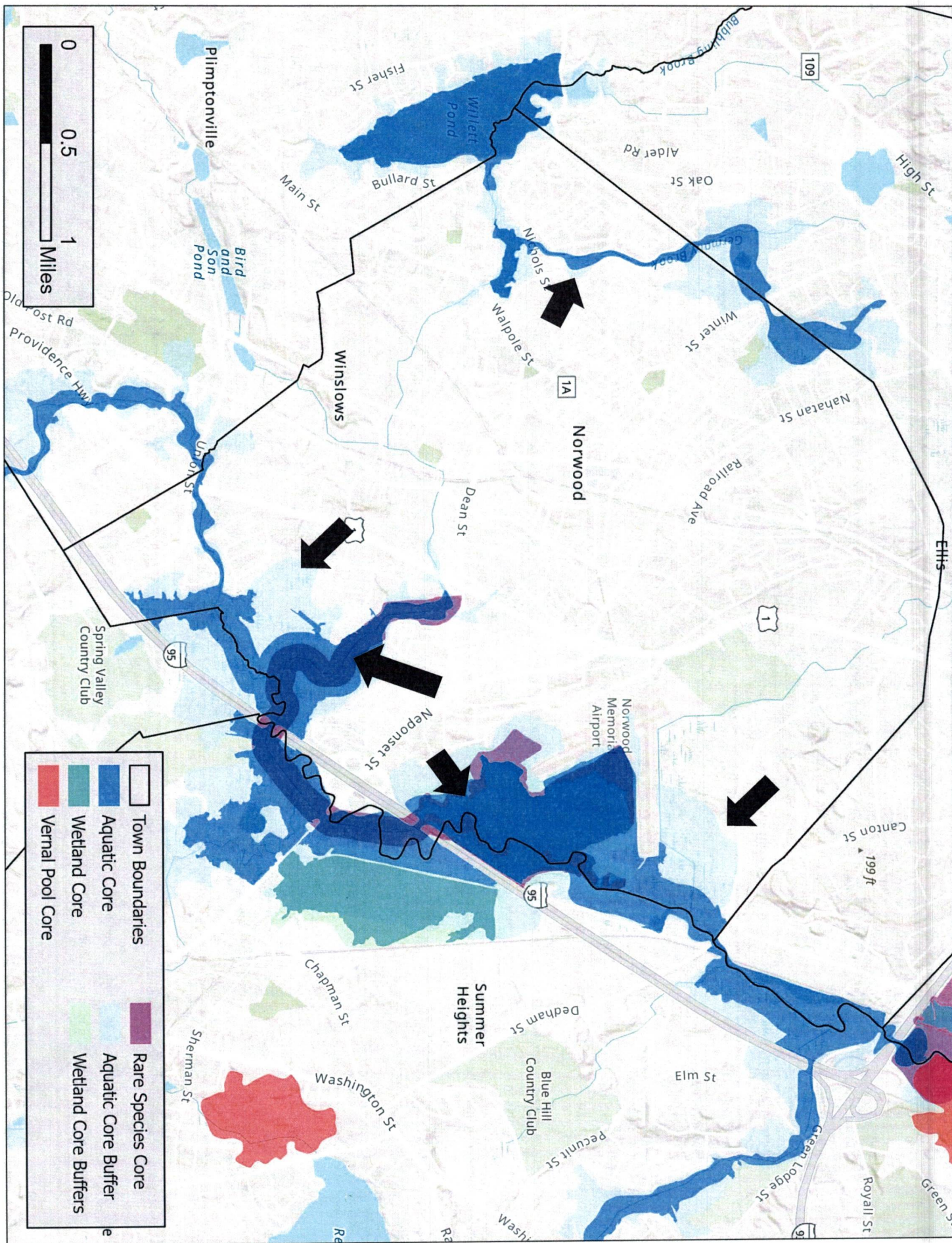


- **Climate resilient Rivers, Streams, Lakes, & Ponds**

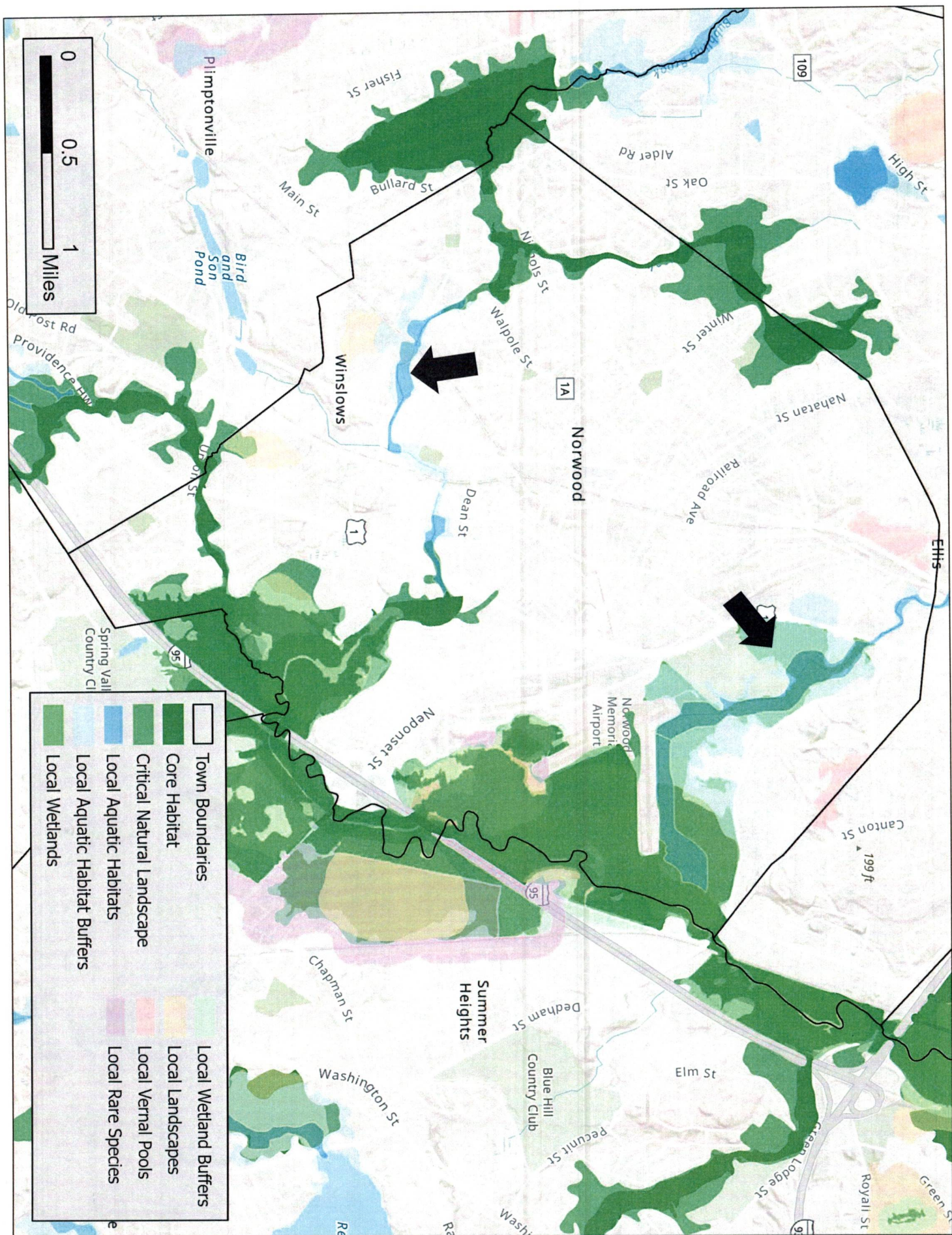




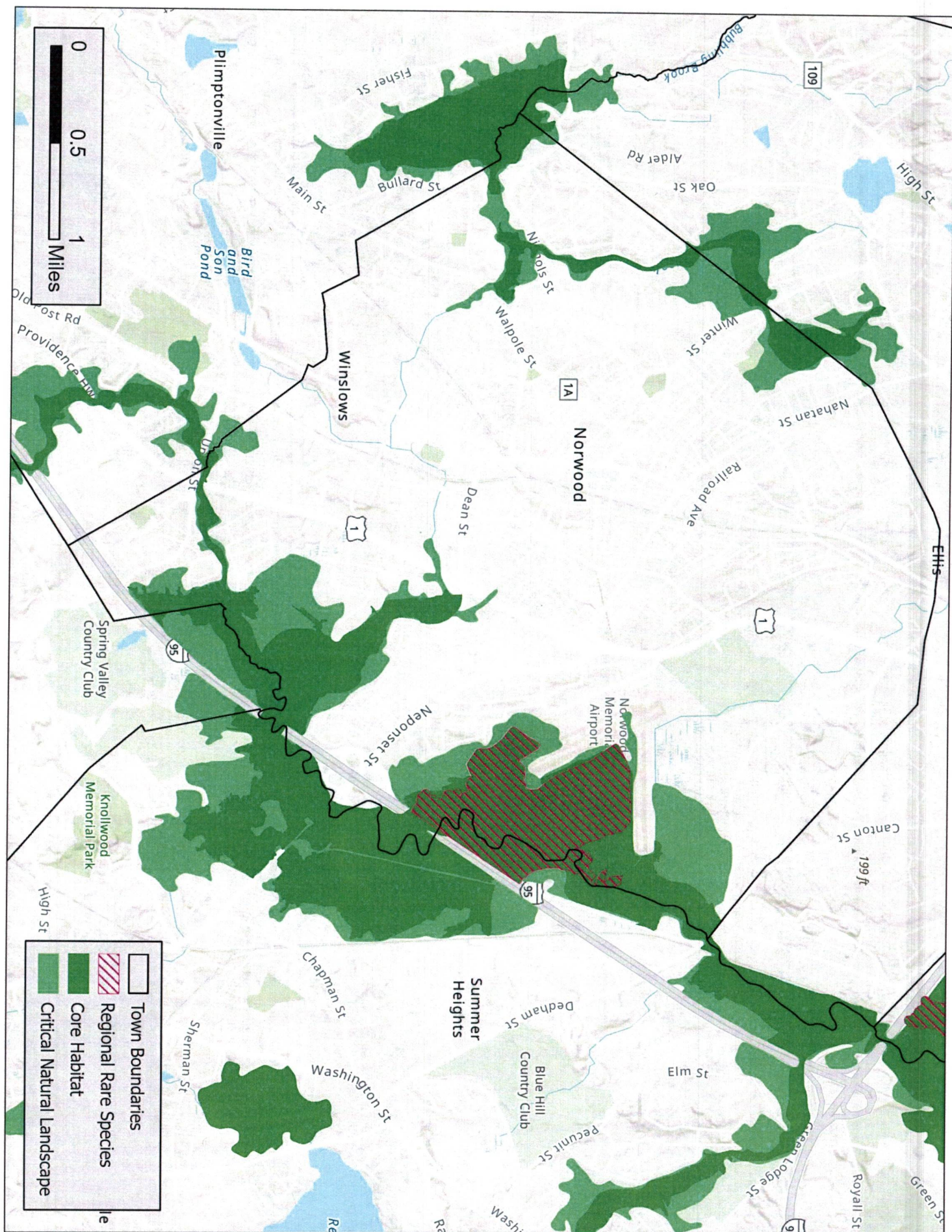




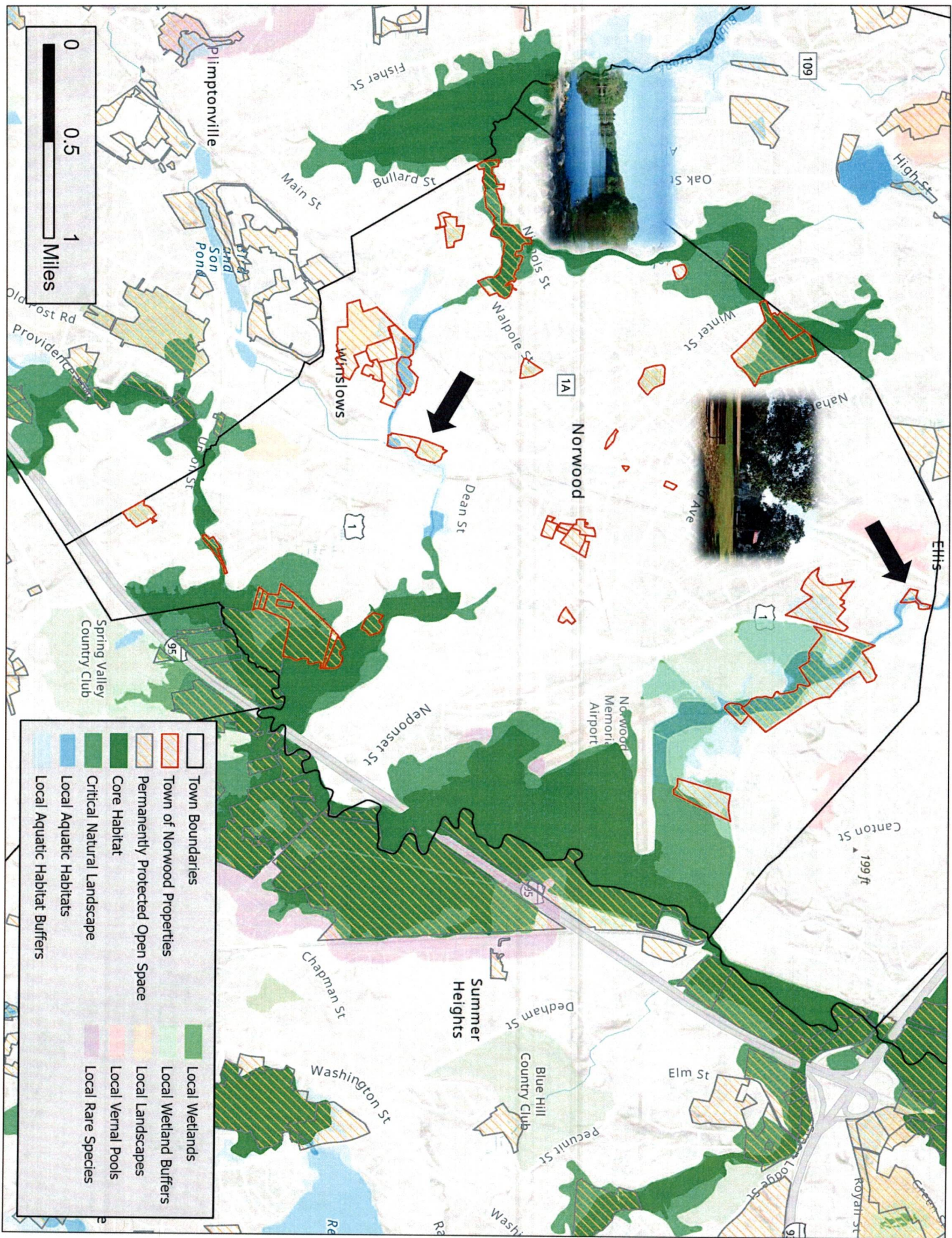














# BioMap: A TOOL

## BIO MAP

The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts

What is BioMap

BioMap Components

How to Use BioMap

What's New

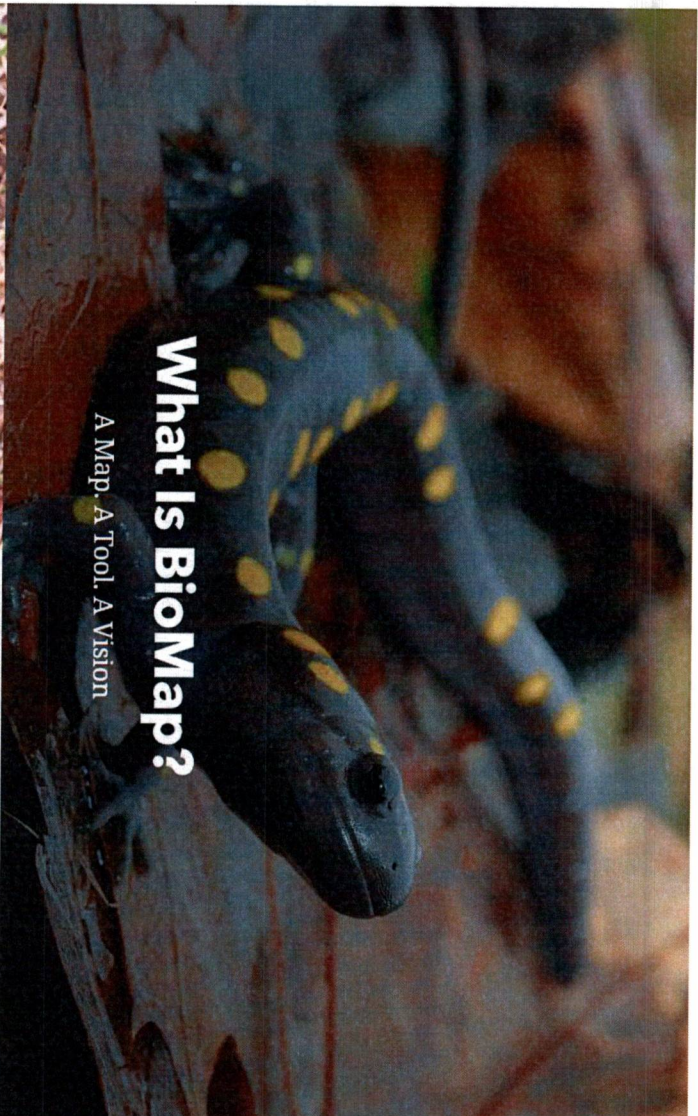




## BioMap: The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts





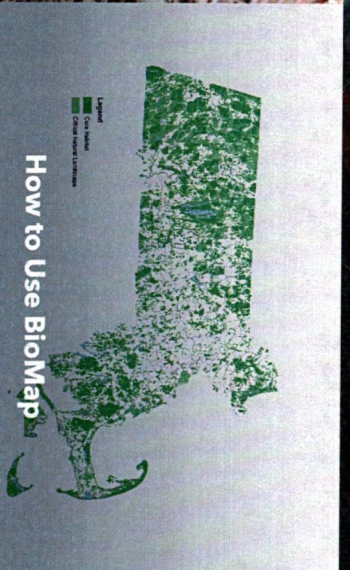


# What Is BioMap?

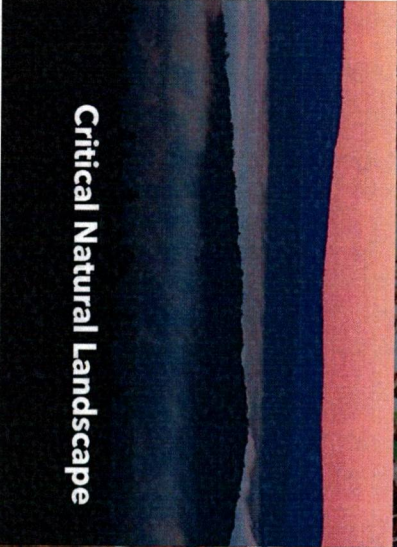
A Map. A Tool. A Vision



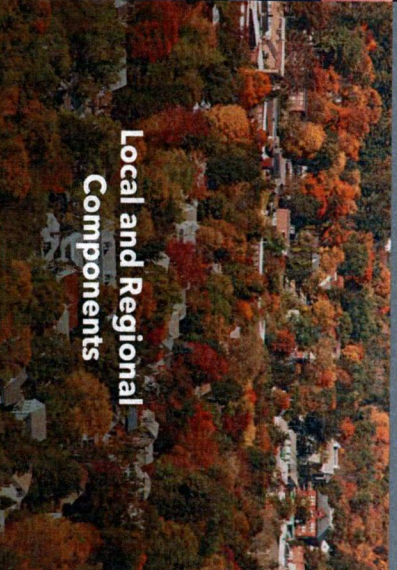
## Core Habitat



## How to Use BioMap



## Critical Natural Landscape



## Local and Regional Components

# Education & Engagement

## A Closer Look at Core Habitat Components

Core Habitat identifies key areas to ensure the long-term persistence of rare species, exemplary natural communities, and resilient ecosystems across the Commonwealth. Read more about each of the Core Habitat Components.



### Rare Species Core

Areas critical to the long-term conservation of our most vulnerable species and their habitats.



### Forest Core

The most intact forests, least impacted by development and essential for numerous animals and plants.



### Aquatic Core

Intact rivers, streams, lakes and ponds supporting a diversity of species and physical and ecological processes.



### Wetland Core

The most intact, least disturbed wetlands within resilient, less developed areas, with fewer stressors like pollution.



### Vernal Pool Core

Clusters of ecologically significant pools and insect surrounding upland habitat to ensure connectivity between pools.



### Priority Natural Communities

Assemblages of plant and animal species with limited distribution and the best examples of common assemblages.

## A Closer Look at Critical Natural Landscape Components

Critical Natural Landscape (CNL) identifies large landscape blocks that are minimally impacted by development, as well as buffers to core habitats and coastal areas to enhance resilience. Read more about each of the CNL Components.



### Landscape Blocks

Intact and connected forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes, and coastal habitats that sustain healthy countless species.



### Wetland Buffers

Intact habitat surrounding Wetland Core that supports wetland in services and habitat connectivity.



### Aquatic Habitat Buffers

Intact habitat surrounding Aquatic Core that supports aquatic life and habitat connectivity.



### Coastal Adaptation Areas

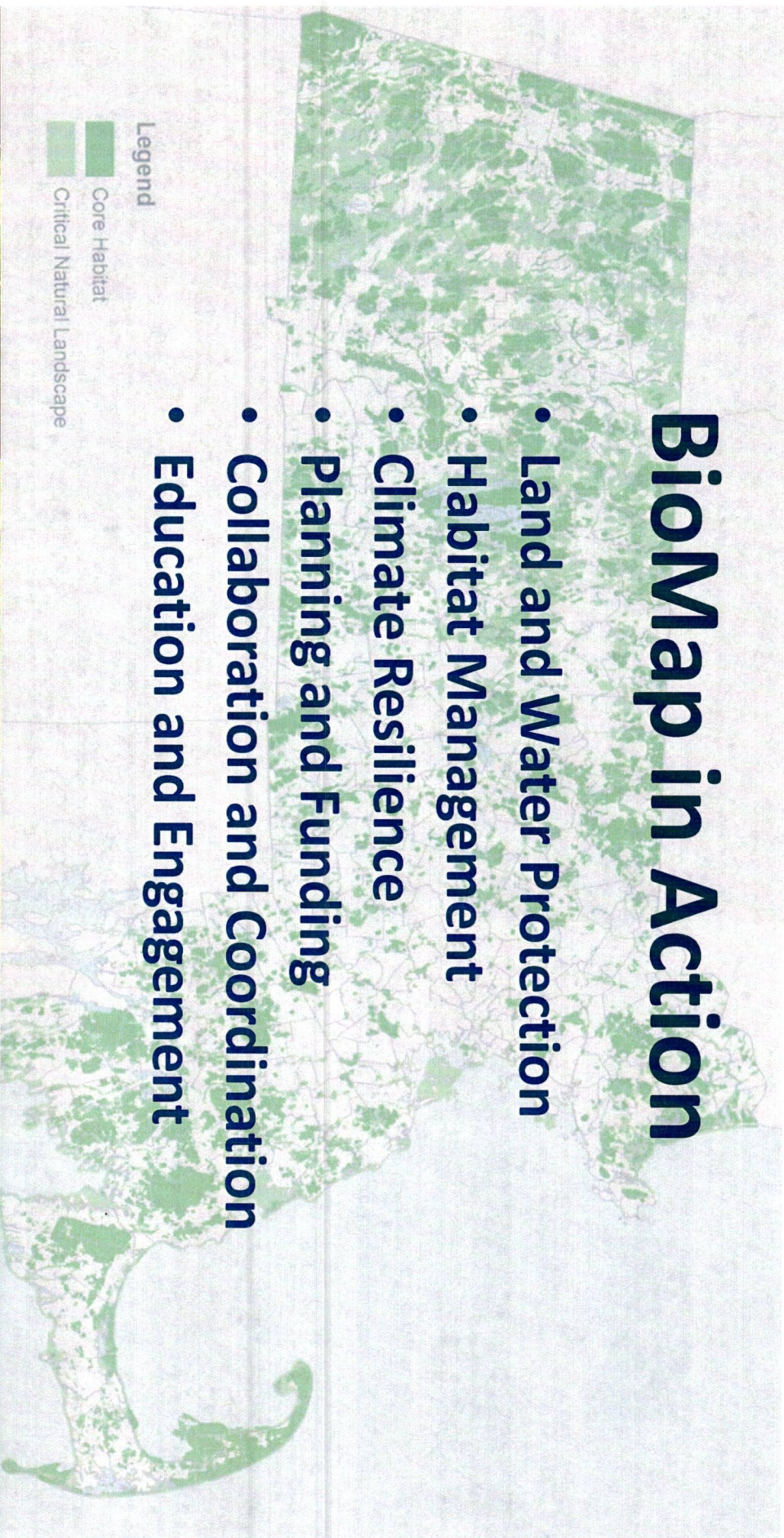
Areas adjacent to existing salt marshes that are most conducive to habitat movement as sea levels rise.



### Ten Foraging Habitat

Offshore habitat used by state-listed Roseate, Arctic, Common, and Least Terns when feeding.



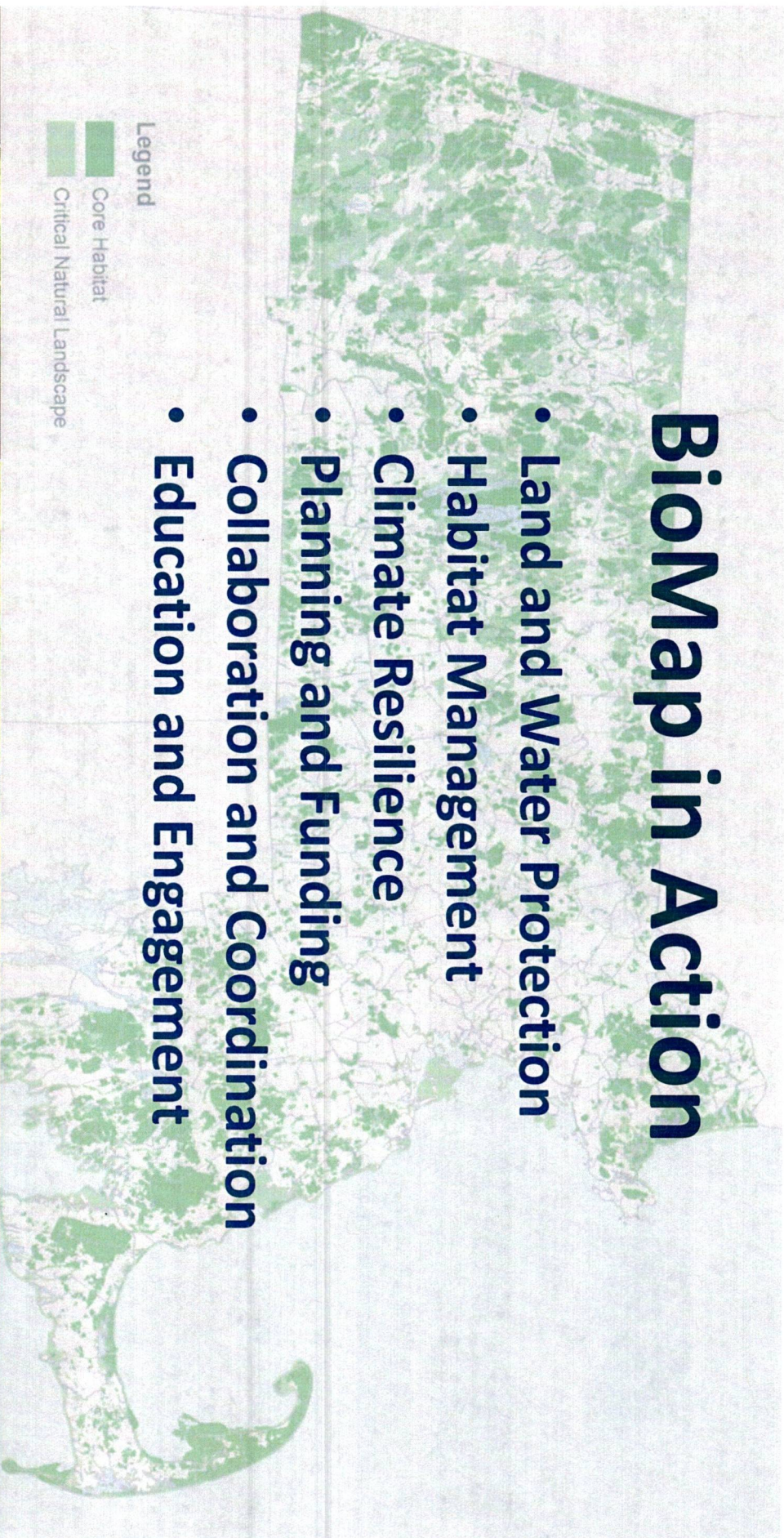


# BioMap in Action

- Land and Water Protection
- Habitat Management
- Climate Resilience
- Planning and Funding
- Collaboration and Coordination
- Education and Engagement

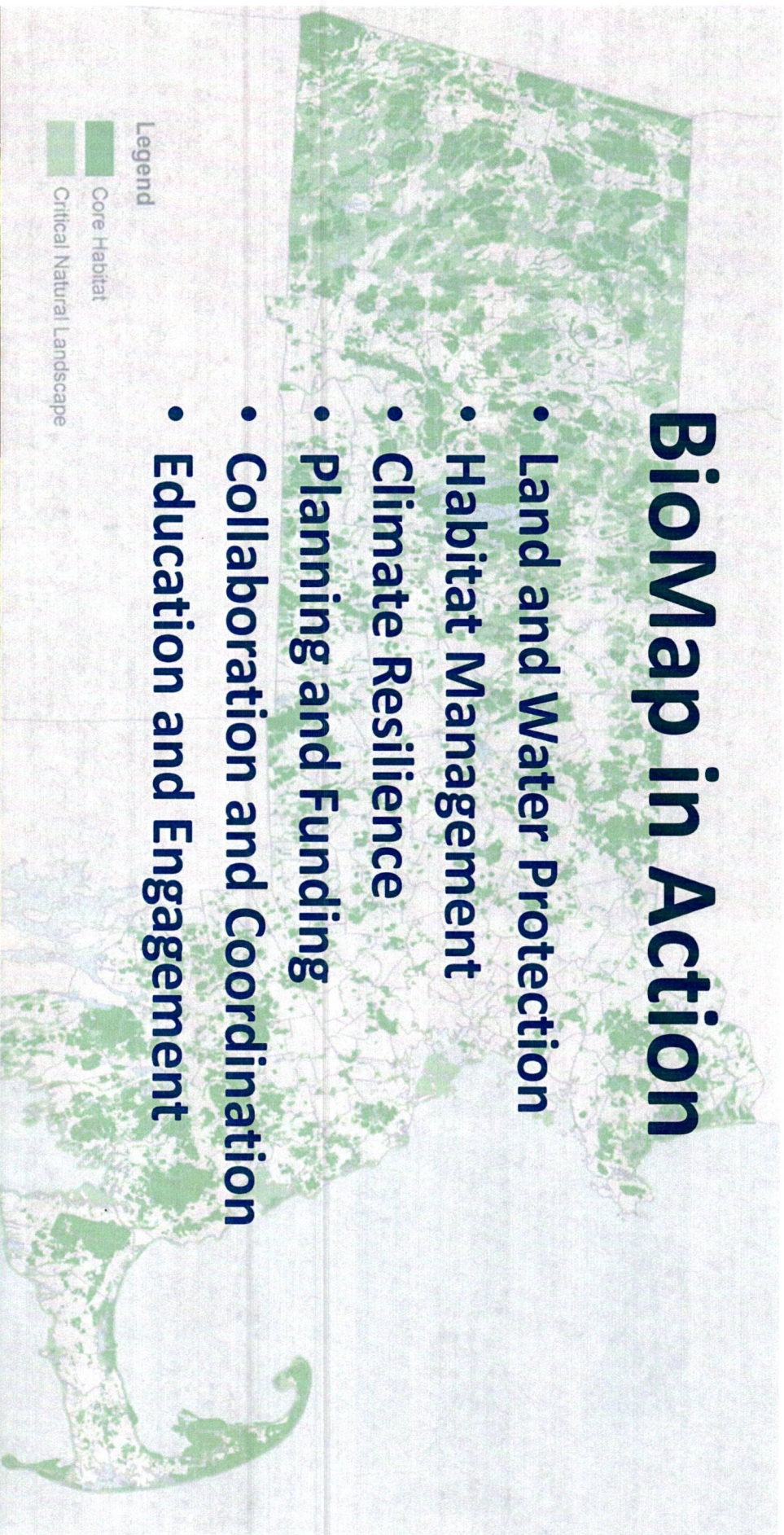
**Legend**

- Core Habitat
- Critical Natural Landscape

- 
- # BioMap in Action
- Land and Water Protection
  - Habitat Management
  - Climate Resilience
  - Planning and Funding
  - Collaboration and Coordination
  - Education and Engagement
- Legend**
- Core Habitat
  - Critical Natural Landscape

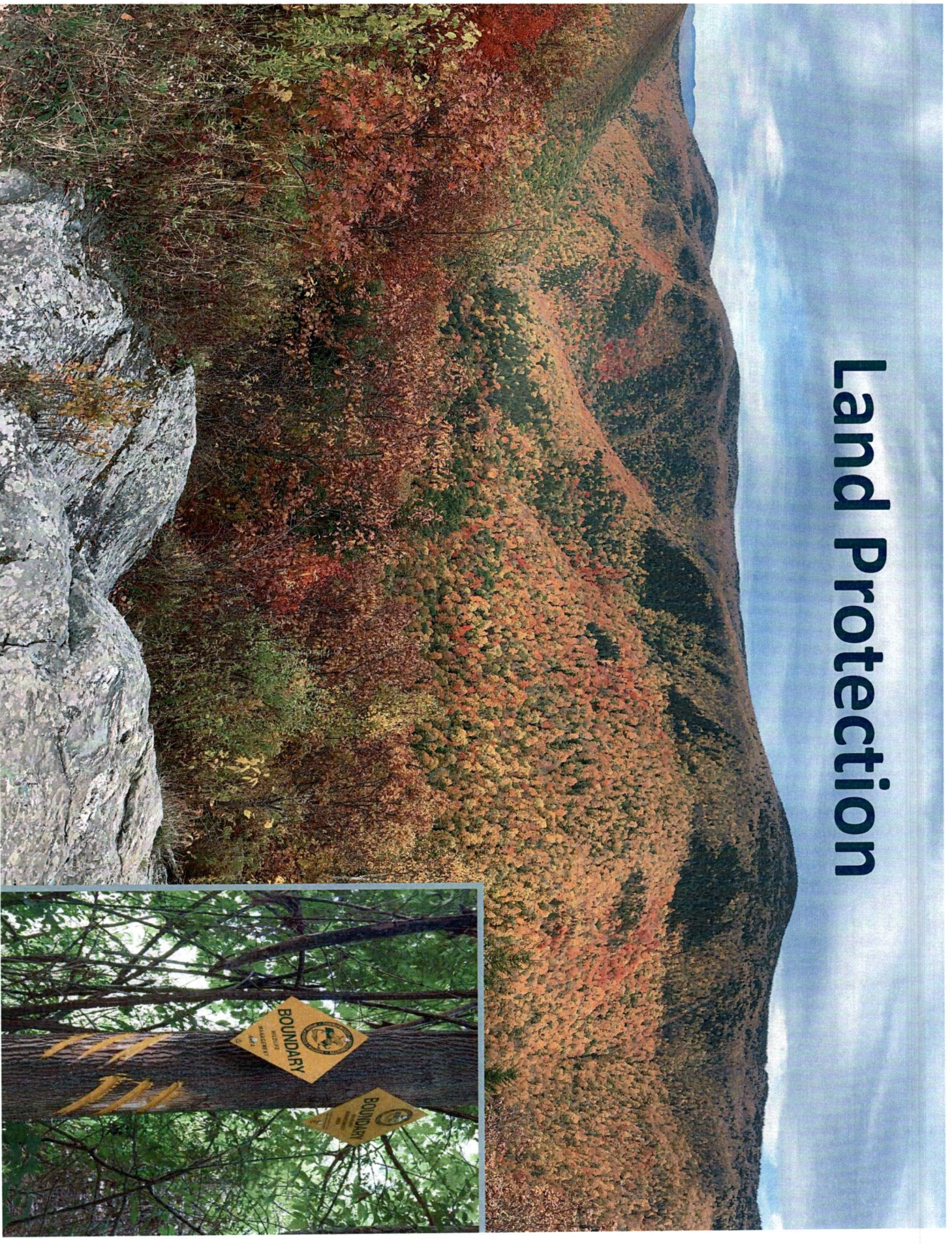
Core Habitat

Critical Natural Landscape





# Land Protection





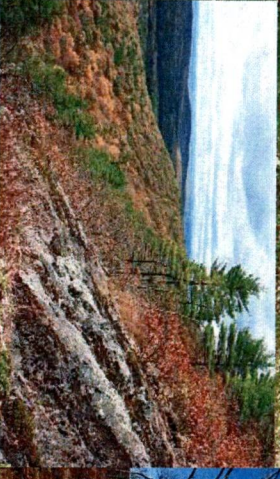
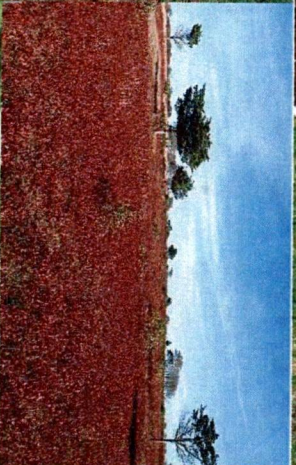
# Habitat Restoration Resource Center



Restoring and Managing Habitats for  
Biodiversity and Climate Resilience

[Mass.gov/restorehabitat](https://mass.gov/restorehabitat)

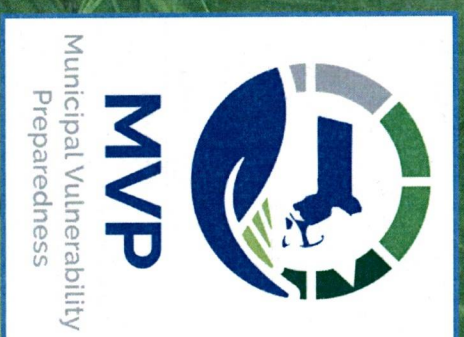
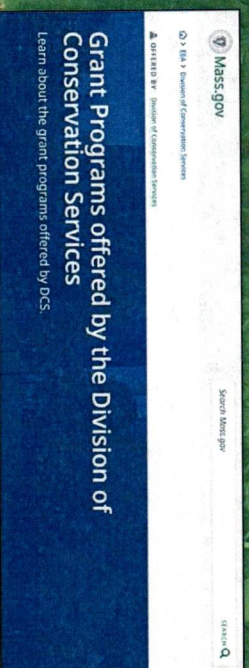
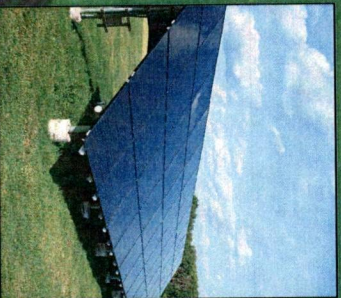






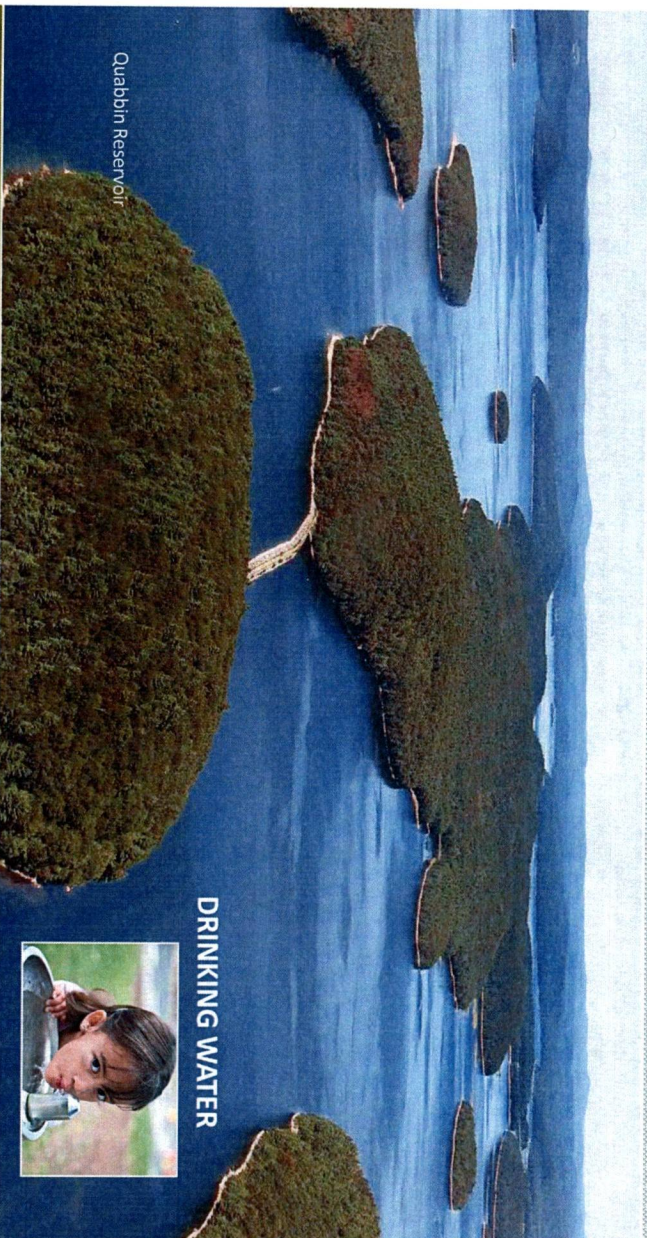
# Planning, Funding, & Collaboration Win-Win Solutions

- Planning:
  - Land Trusts
  - Agencies
  - Municipalities
- Open Space Plans
- MVP Plans
- Infrastructure Siting
- Grants and Funding



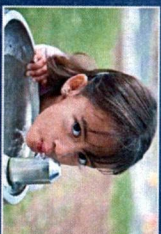


# BioMap: A VISION

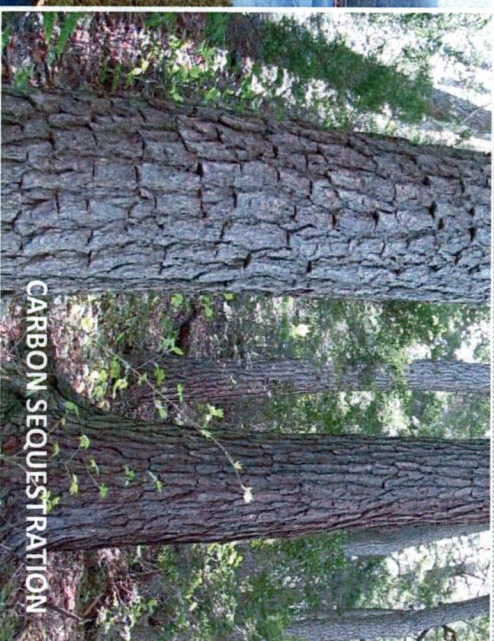


Quabbin Reservoir

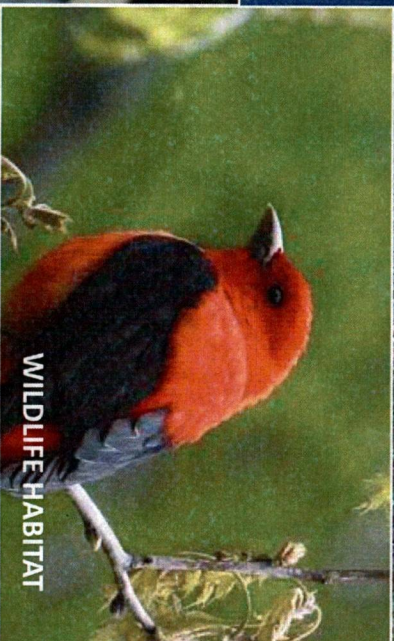
DRINKING WATER



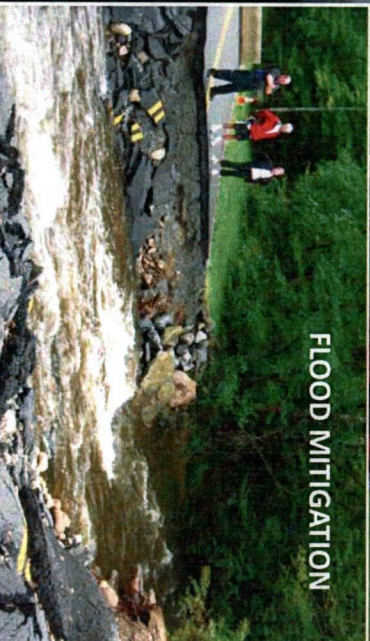
HEALTH AND RECREATION



CARBON SEQUESTRATION



WILDLIFE HABITAT



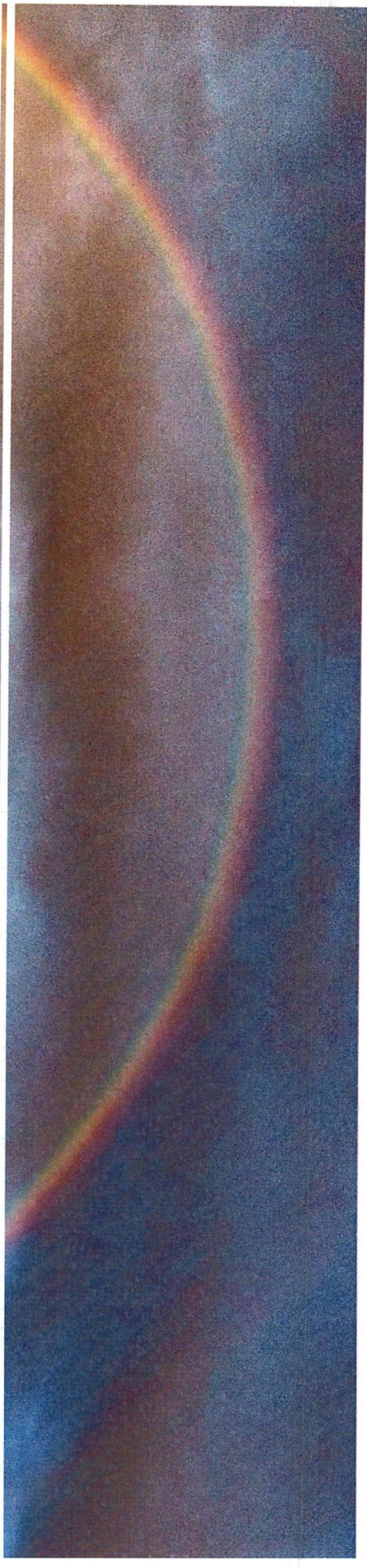
FLOOD MITIGATION



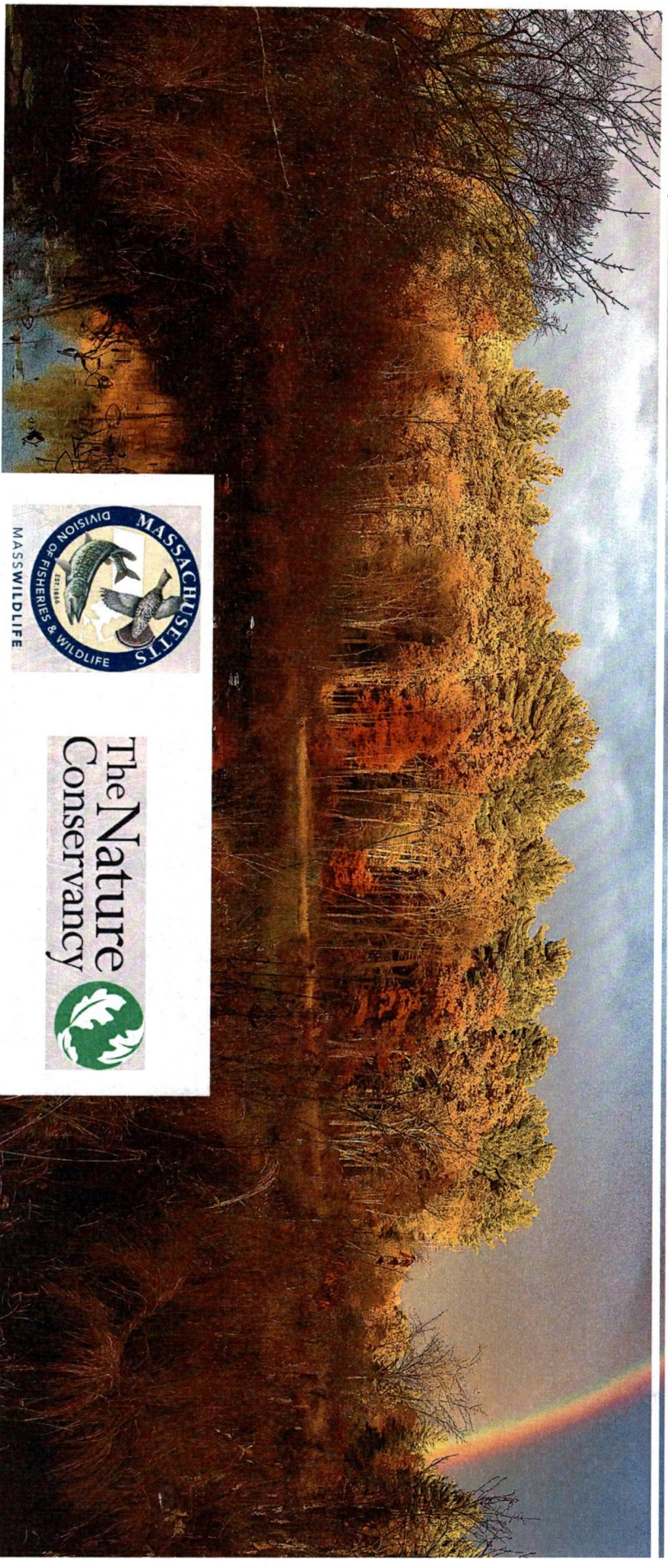
# Acknowledgments

- Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, especially former Secretary Kathleen Theoharides
- The Beveridge Family Foundation and numerous generous donors
- MassWildlife
  - Eve Schluter, Jonathan Regosin, Tara Boswell, Daniel Bove, Jonathan Brooks, Chris Buelow, Caren Caljouw, Jason Carmignani, Karen Dolan, Alex Entrup, Martin Feehan, Karro Frost, Troy Gippis, Brian Hawthorne, H Heusmann, Mike Huguenin, Mike Jones, Adam Kautza, Jacob Kubel, Andrew Madden, Sarah Maier, Steven Mattocks, Ben Mazzei, Nicole McSweeney, Jacob Morris-Siegel, Carolyn Mostello, Michael Nelson, Marianne Piche, Rebecca Quinones, Todd Richards, Susan Sacco, Dave Scarpitti,, Emily Stolarski, Jason Stolarski, Dave Sczcebak, Andrew Vitz, Dave Wattles, Robert Wernerehl
- MA Department of Fish and Game
  - Dan Koch, Elaine Brewer, Michael LaChance, Christy Edwards
- The Nature Conservancy
  - Andy Finton, Jessica Dietrich, Becky Budd, Melissa Clark, Arlene Olivero, Mark Anderson
- Additional Contributors
  - James DeNormandie, Brad Compton, Nancy Crowley, Scott Jackson

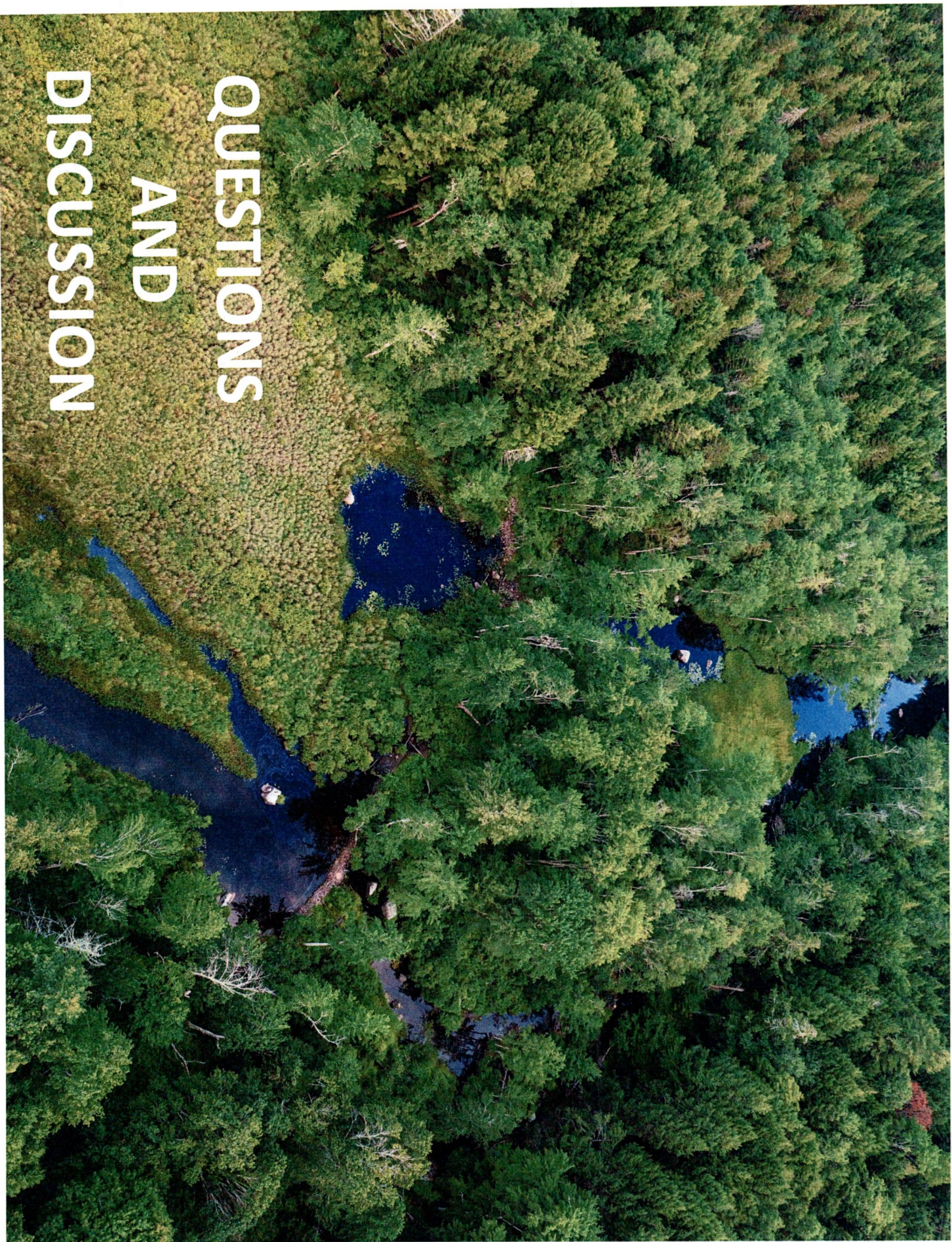




# [Mass.gov/biomap](https://mass.gov/biomap)







# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION