

Scarborough Conservation Open Space Plan

OPEN SPACE AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING 1 05/07/2024

## AGENDA

- 1. Introductions
- 2. Project Overview
- 3. Existing Open Space Land
- 4. What Qualifies as Open Space?
- 5. Approach: Data + Community Values
- 6. Existing Conditions Data
- 7. Community Engagement Overview

## INTRODUCTIONS

#### TOWN STAFF

Autumn Speer, Planning Director

Jami Fitch, Sustainability Manager

Emerson Goodrich, Sustainability Fellow

#### CONSULTANTS

Jessica Kimball, Project Manager

Judy Colby-George, GIS Specialist

Madeline Tripp, Support Staff

Mindee Goodrum, Natural Resources Specialist

#### COMMITTEE

Liam Erikson, Coastal Waters and Harbors Advisory Committee Patricia Brigham, Community Services Advisory Board

Maggie Vishneau, Conservation Commission

Robyn Saunders, Long Range Planning Committee

Doug Williams, Parks & Conservation Land Board

Mike Kane, Scarborough Fish and Game

Andrew Mackie, Scarborough Land Trust

Crescie Maurer, Scarborough Land Trust, Marsh Committee

Daryen Granata, Shellfish Committee

Karin Shupe, Town Council



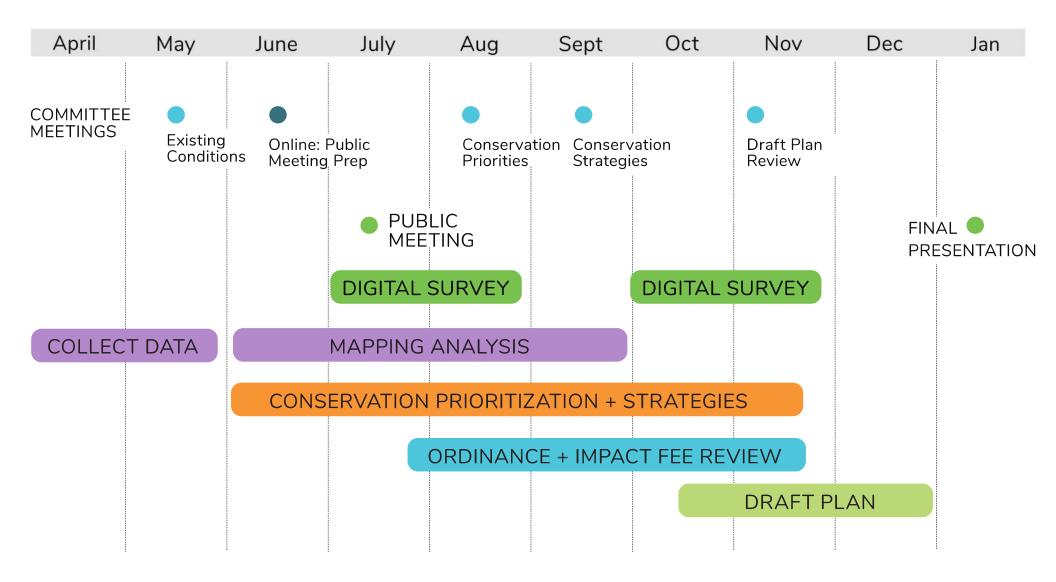
## PLAN GOALS

- Comprehensive inventory of open space resources
- Outline strategies for achieving the Town's 30x30 goal (30% by 2030)
- Identify the highest priority areas for conservation
- Provide strategies to expand the conservation of open space
- Recommend potential ordinance improvements + impact fee structure
- Guide capital investments & funding opportunities

PROCESS DRIVEN BY:

**Geospatial Data Community Engagement** 

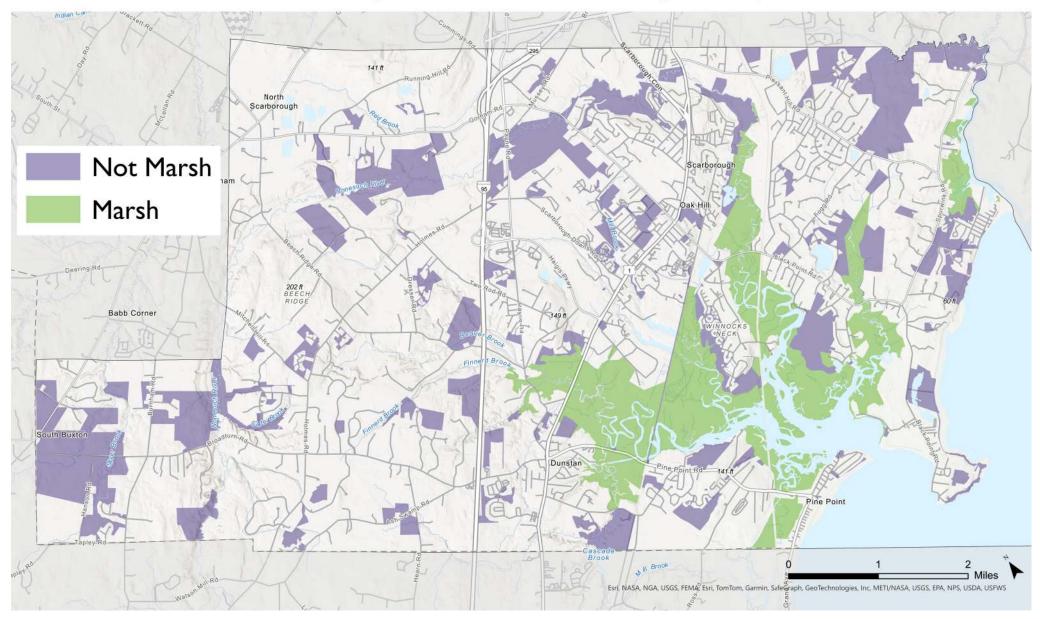
## SCHEDULE



# How large is our community?



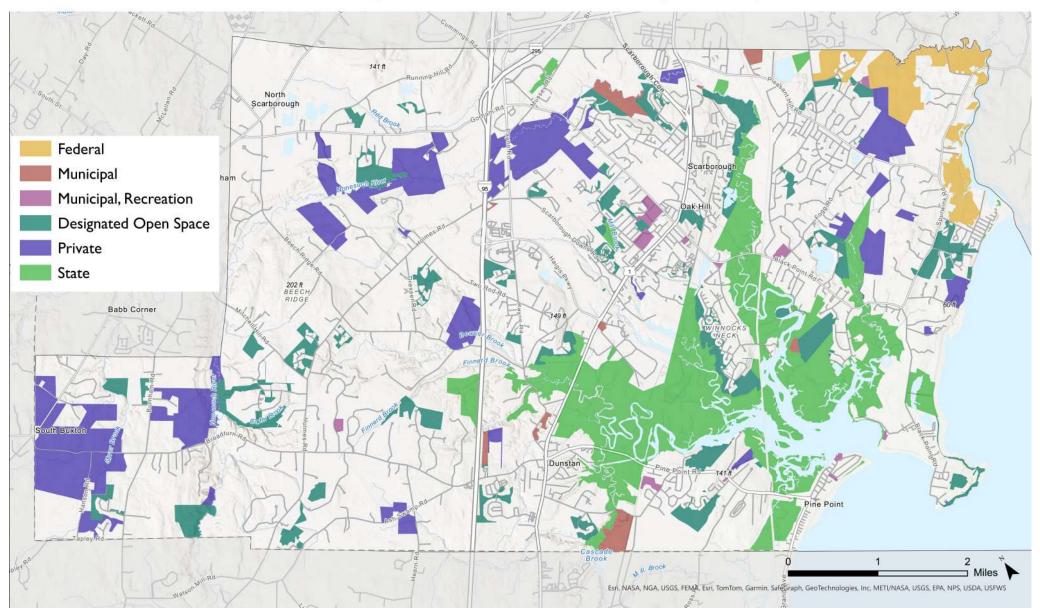
# What land is currently conserved as open space?



# What land is currently conserved as open space?

TOWN AREA	30,528 acres
CONSERVED LAND	4,700 acres (15 %)
CONSERVED MARSH	2,750 acres (9 %)
TOTAL CONSERVED	7,500 acres (24 %)
AREA NEEDED TO MEET 30x30 GOAL	1,700 acres (6 %)
	CONSERVED LAND CONSERVED MARSH TOTAL CONSERVED AREA NEEDED TO

# What land is currently conserved as open space?



## Does this all classify as open space?

#### **FEDERAL**

Land owned by the Federal government.

Rachel Carson Preserve

527 acres

2% of town7% of open space

## **MUNICIPAL**

Undeveloped Town land. May or may not be protected.

• Hunnewell Hill

300 acres 1% of town 4% of open space

#### **PRIVATE**

Privately owned land (MFT / SLT).

- Pleasant Hill Preserve
- Comstock Farm

2,100 acres7% of town28% of open space

#### STATE

Land owned and managed by state agencies.

Scarborough Marsh

3,000 acres 10% of town 40% of open space

## RECREATION

Town recreation areas (parks, school fields, boat launches).

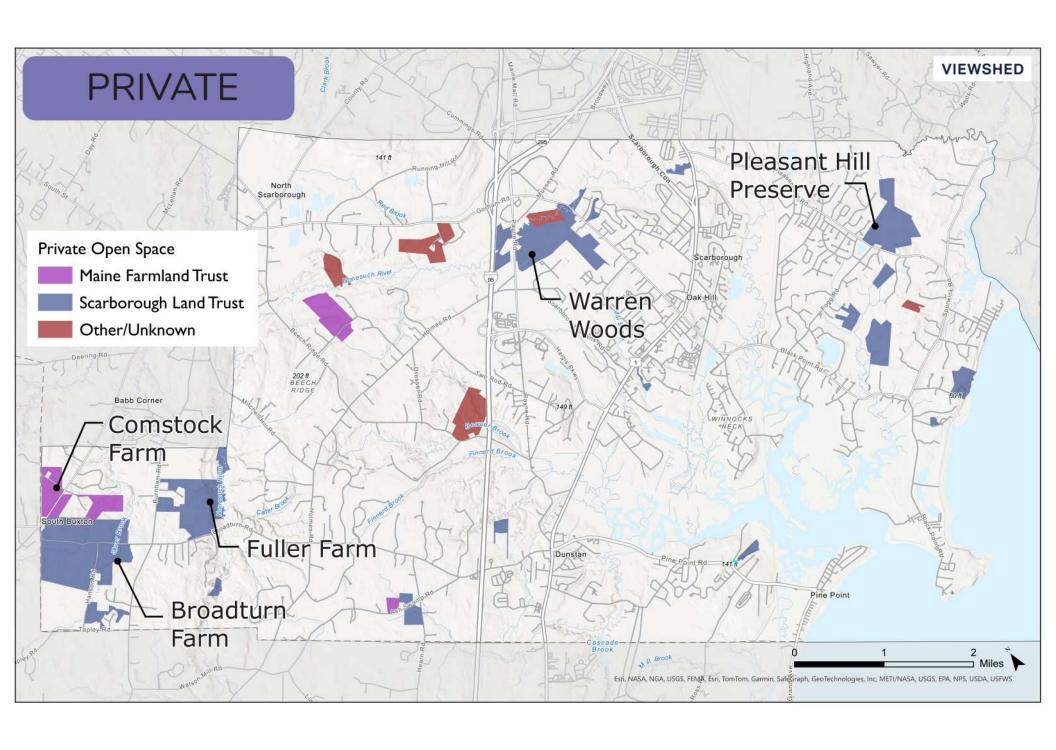
- Blue Point Park
- SEDCO Field

100 acres<1% of town</li>1.5% of open space

#### **DESIGNATED**

Conserved land within subdivisions.

1,500 acres5% of town20% of open space



# Does this all classify as open space?

















Scarborough would like to strategically conserve an additional 1,700 acres by 2030.

What land area is left to expand open space?

## Undeveloped Areas - Current Conserved Lands



= 6,000 acres

## **APPROACH**

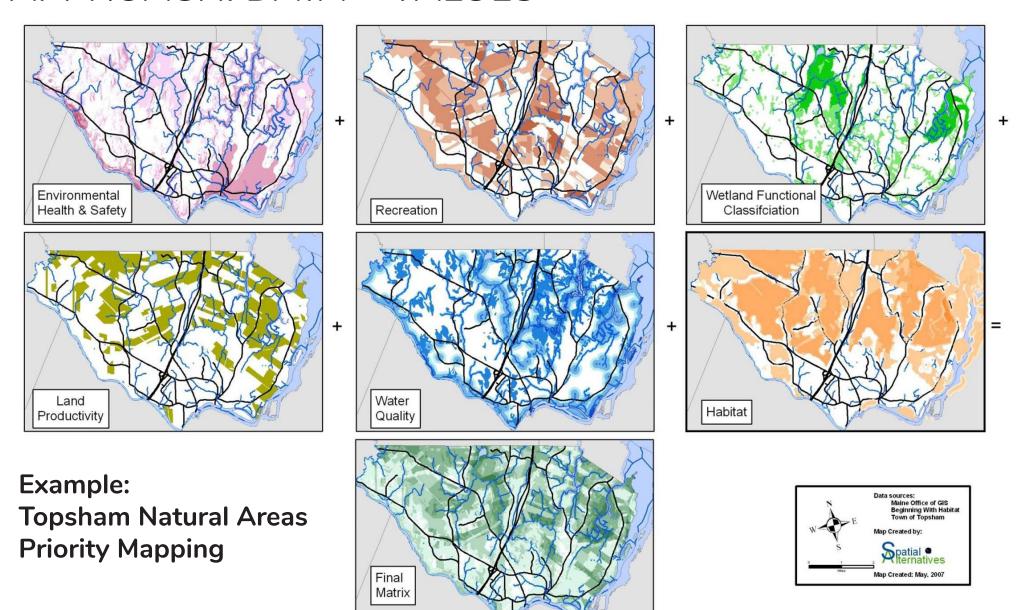
In order to establish strategies for conservation and prioritize areas in the community to focus conservation efforts, we will use:

**Geospatial Data (mapping)** 

+

**Community Values (outreach)** 

## APPROACH: DATA + VALUES

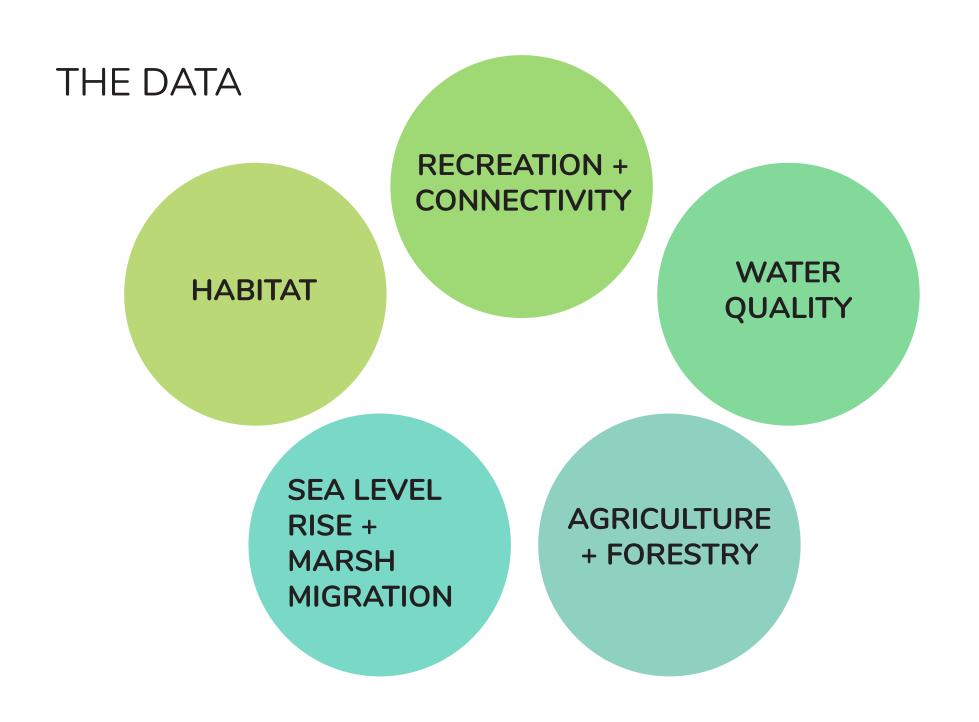


## **APPROACH:** DATA + VALUES

The result will be a community-wide map identify the low / medium / high areas to prioritize for future land conservation.

The way we rate areas for potential conservation will be based on the values or interests identified by the community.

We start with the existing conditions data....





Ecosystems of Significance
Inland Wading Bird & Waterfowl Habitat
Tidal Wading Bird & Waterfowl Habitat
Deer Wintering Areas
Endangered, Threatened, or Species of Concern
Habitat Focus Areas
Significant Vernal Pools

#### THE DATA

SLR + MARSH MIGRATION Current Marsh Marsh Migration with:

- 1 ft of Sea Level Rise
- 2 ft of Sea Level Rise
- 3 ft of Sea Level Rise

WATER QUALITY National Wetland Inventory Streams & Rivers Waterbodies Great Ponds 250 ft Buffers

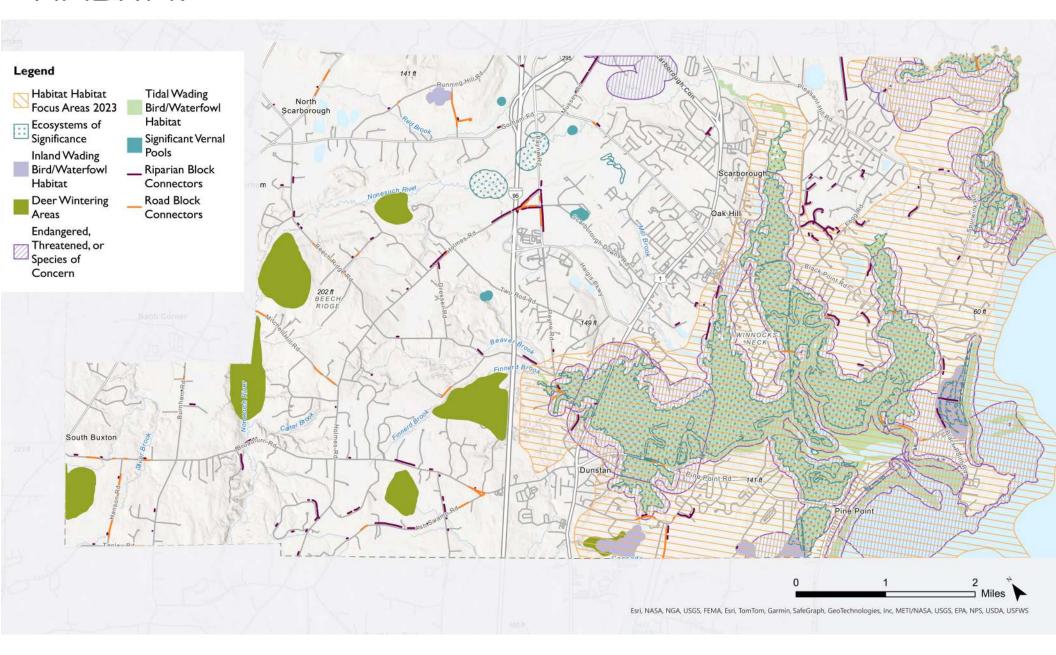


Town-owned Parks
Public Access Conservation Land
Trails



Tree Growth Parcels
Open Space Parcels
Farmland Parcels
Prime Farmland Soils

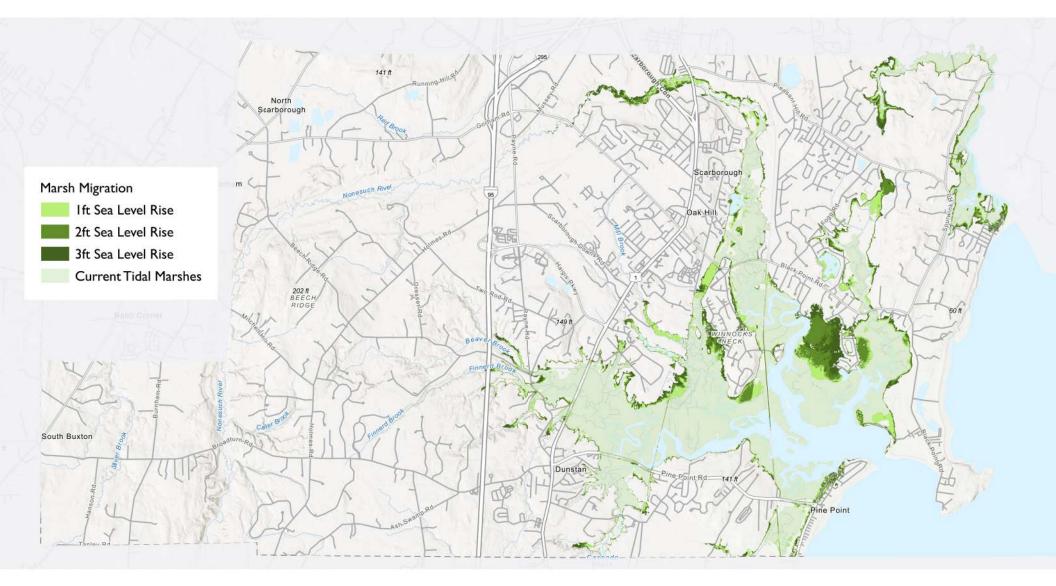
## **HABITAT**



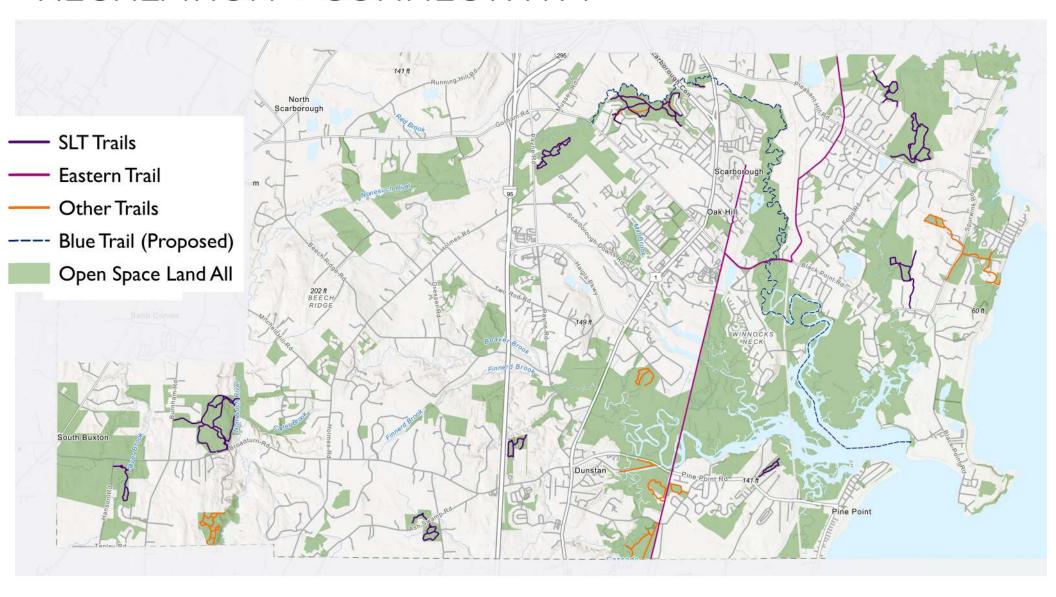
# WATER RESOURCES / QUALITY



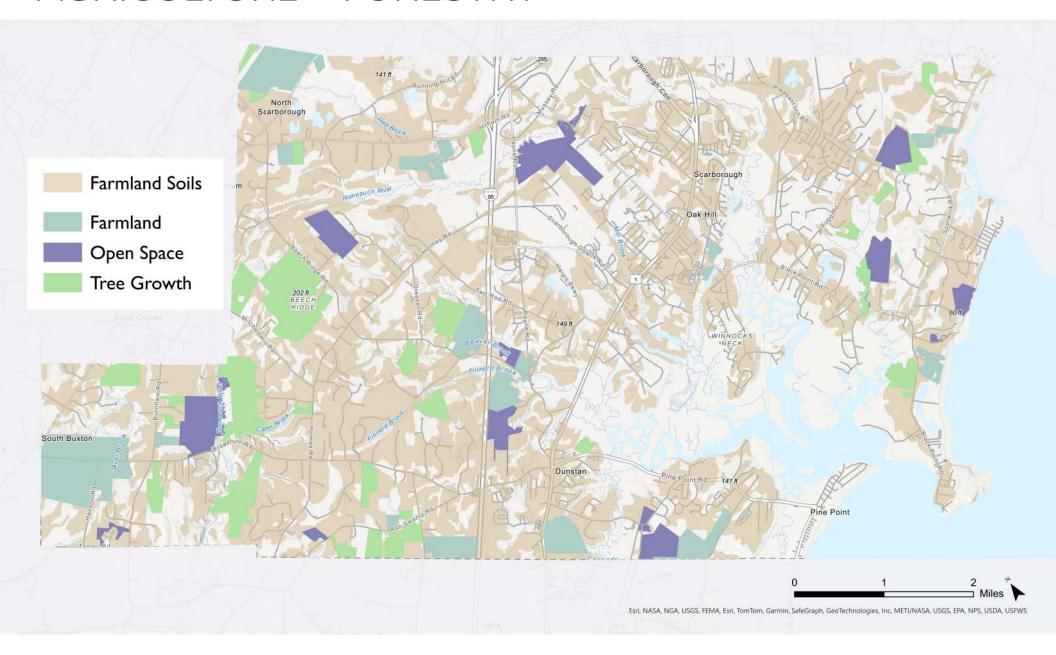
## SEA LEVEL RISE + MARSH MIGRATION



## RECREATION + CONNECTIVITY

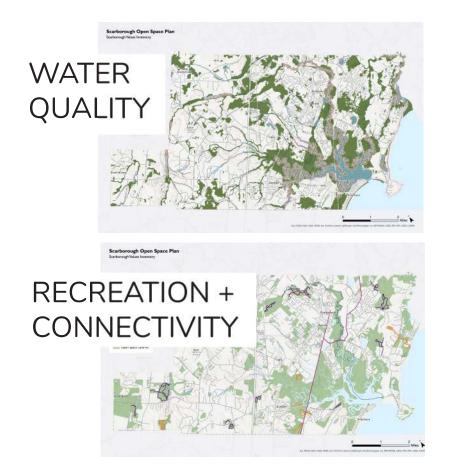


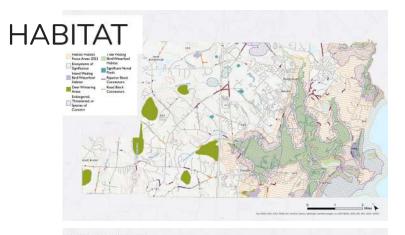
# AGRICULTURE + FORESTRY



#### POTENTIAL MATRIX

high / medium / low value areas to prioritize open space conservation









#### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

What are the community's values?

What do people want to prioritize most?

Are there specific areas, habitats, or connectivity efforts that should guide conservation strategies?



## **PUBLIC MEETING**

## July Forum Activities:

- Budget Exercise
- Mapping Open Space











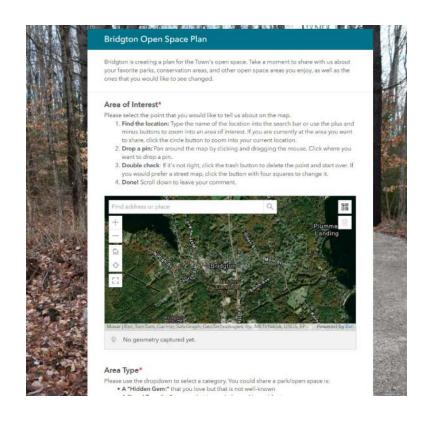






# ONLINE OUTREACH TWO ROUNDS OF DIGITAL FEEDBACK

- July/Aug: Community Survey
  & Digital Mapping
  (to match community meeting)
- Sept/Oct: Feedback on Conservation Priorities Matrix



Further Discussion