

Town of Scarborough Open Space Ad-Hoc Committee

Monday, September 23, 2024 | 9:00 – 11:00 am | Hybrid: Town Council Chambers B and via Zoom

Meeting link:

https://scarboroughmaine.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_44i9FOBkTj6wWaAxWqKxwQ

Meeting #4 Agenda

1. Review 8/20 meeting notes
2. Presentation of Final Open Space Inventory (attached)
3. Review and discuss Draft Open Space Definition:
Open space is natural land with little human disturbance that fosters a healthier ecosystem and community by providing habitat for wildlife, enhancing water quality, connecting existing open space, and offering passive recreation opportunities. These spaces offer ecosystem services.
4. Review and discuss Draft Open Space Strategies (attached)
5. Review Schedule & Next Steps
 - a. Reminder: Survey Outreach
Participate in Sustainable Scarborough Day on 10/6?
 - b. Set Next Meeting Date

Town of Scarborough

259 US Route One | PO Box 360 | Scarborough, ME 04070 | P: 207.730.4000 | scarboroughmaine.org

Town of Scarborough Open Space Ad-Hoc Committee

Tuesday, August 20, 2024 | 9:00 – 11:00 am | Hybrid: Scarborough Public Safety and via Zoom

Meeting Notes

[Meeting Recording](#)

Attendance (In person):

Committee: Andrew Mackie, Crescie Mauer, Doug Williams

Staff: Jami Fitch, Emerson Goodrich, Todd Souza, Autumn Speer

Consultants: Judy Coby-George, Madeline Tripp

Attendance (Zoom):

Committee: Noah Nygren, Robyn Saunders, Karin Shupe, Maggie Vishneau

1. Summary of Public Engagement Feedback

- Madeline introduces the public engagement activities that have taken place to date or are currently in progress, including the public meeting, digital survey, and pop up events.
- The feedback has largely been from full time residents, and was split fairly evenly across the number of years lived in Scarborough as well as neighborhoods.

2. Conservation Prioritization Mapping

- Edits to the resource category maps include adding suggested trail connections, and a handful of data points in the clean water and environmental hazards categories.
- Andrew requests the finalized list of data sets included in each resource category and reflected on the map.
- **ACTION: Madeline will send a finalized list of the data sources included in each resource category to the committee.**
- Todd inquires about sample size and the amount of people whose responses have been captured by the various engagement events and suggests setting a goal for respondents to bolster the prioritization results. Autumn notes that around 400 respondents as a goal could be useful in backing up engagement results, and Judy notes that a smaller town had received over 300 responses. Andrew suggests leaving the survey open through the summer and beginning of the school year.
- Andrew and Jami discuss tabling at Sustainable Scarborough Day and what is needed to facilitate that. Autumn suggests the Library. Karin notes the ECOS Club at the high school, and Crescie and Jami add that they have contacts to reach out to contact the ECOS Club. Todd volunteers to donate a beach pass through an online raffle for respondents on the digital survey.

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- Todd and Crescie note that more clear priorities could be helpful. Autumn notes that changing existing survey questions should be avoided, but an additional question asking about top 3 priorities should be added to get more differentiation between resource categories.
- Andrew notes that the state habitat data used in the maps currently may not be entirely representative of Scarborough

3. Review Potential Conservation Goals

- Judy introduces the draft goals for the plan for discussion among the committee.
- Autumn suggests the explicit mention of the marsh in the goals.
- Karin inquires about a goal that addresses growth and development.
- Staff and the consultants do not feel that development needs to be included in the goals. Limiting development is implicit to an open space plan.
- Doug asks if the main goal of creating an open space network as outlined in the draft goals is accurate and whether there are other main goals, such as community character, that ought to be captured.
- Autumn suggests adding a portion that addresses the health of the residents as well.

4. Identify Potential Conservation Strategies

- Judy expands on potential strategies that could be derived from the goals and the plan. Many of the strategies address development without explicitly saying it.
- Andrew and Doug suggest that implementation strategies be concrete and align with the goals.
- The next meeting will specifically focus on implementation strategies for the Plan.

5. Next Steps & Set Next Meeting

- Judy touches on the next steps including, continuing outreach for the survey using the ideas discussed in this meeting.
- **ACTION: Jami will resend the survey link to the committee.**

Next meeting: 9/23 @ 9:00 am, in person (Council Chambers B) and on Zoom
Strategies will be sent prior to the meeting.



Scarborough Conservation Open Space Plan

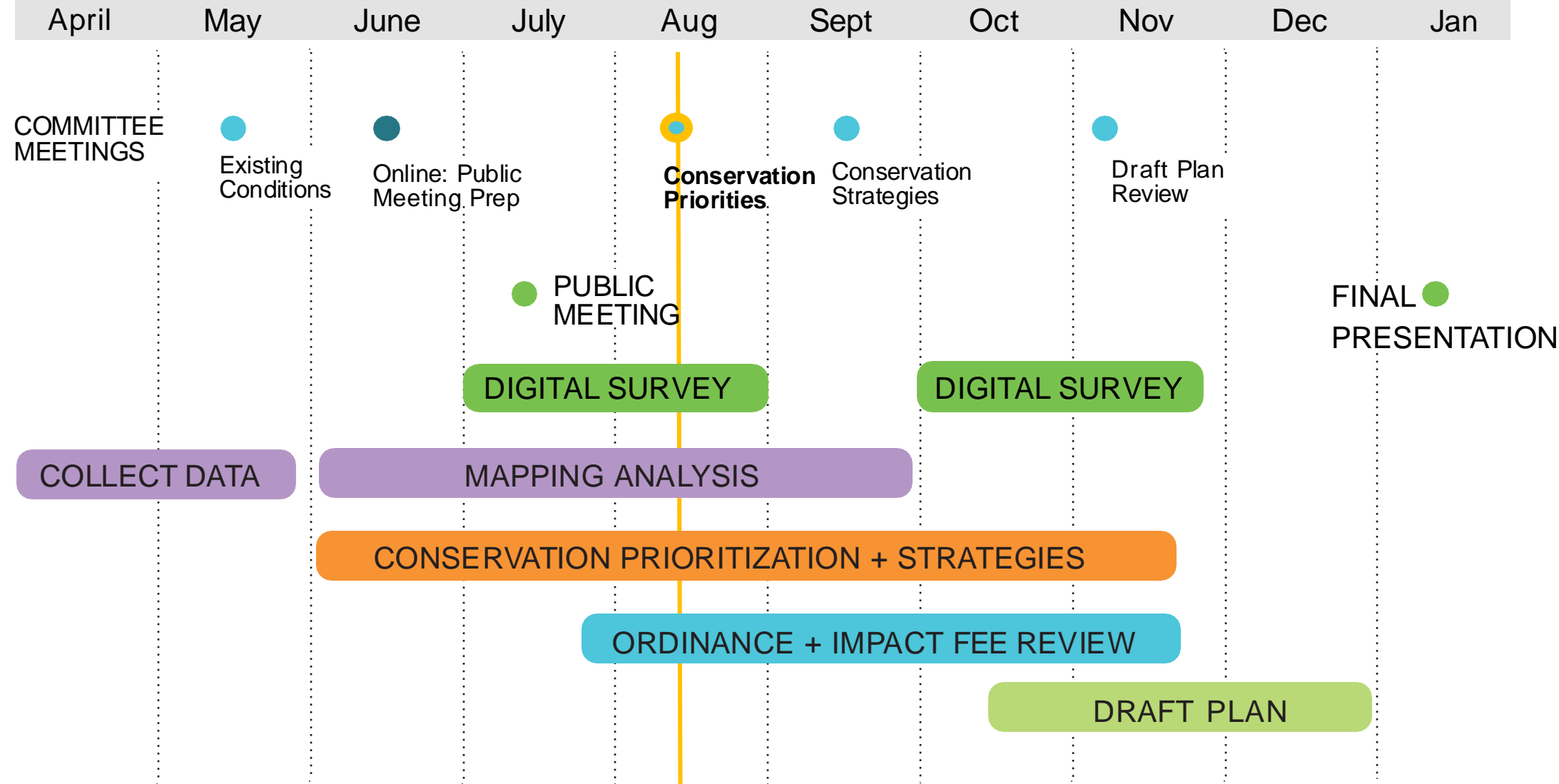
Open Space Ad-hoc Committee

MEETING 2 08/19/2024

AGENDA

1. Summary of Public Engagement Feedback
2. Conservation Prioritization Mapping
3. Review Potential Conservation Goals
4. Identify Potential Conservation Strategies
5. Next Steps & Set Next Meeting

SCHEDULE



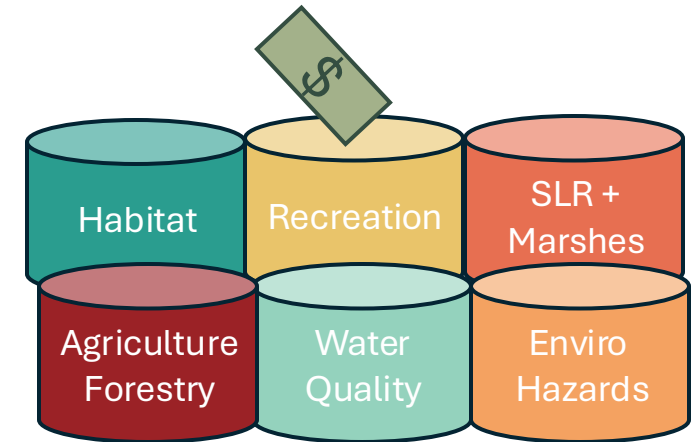
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



PUBLIC MEETING



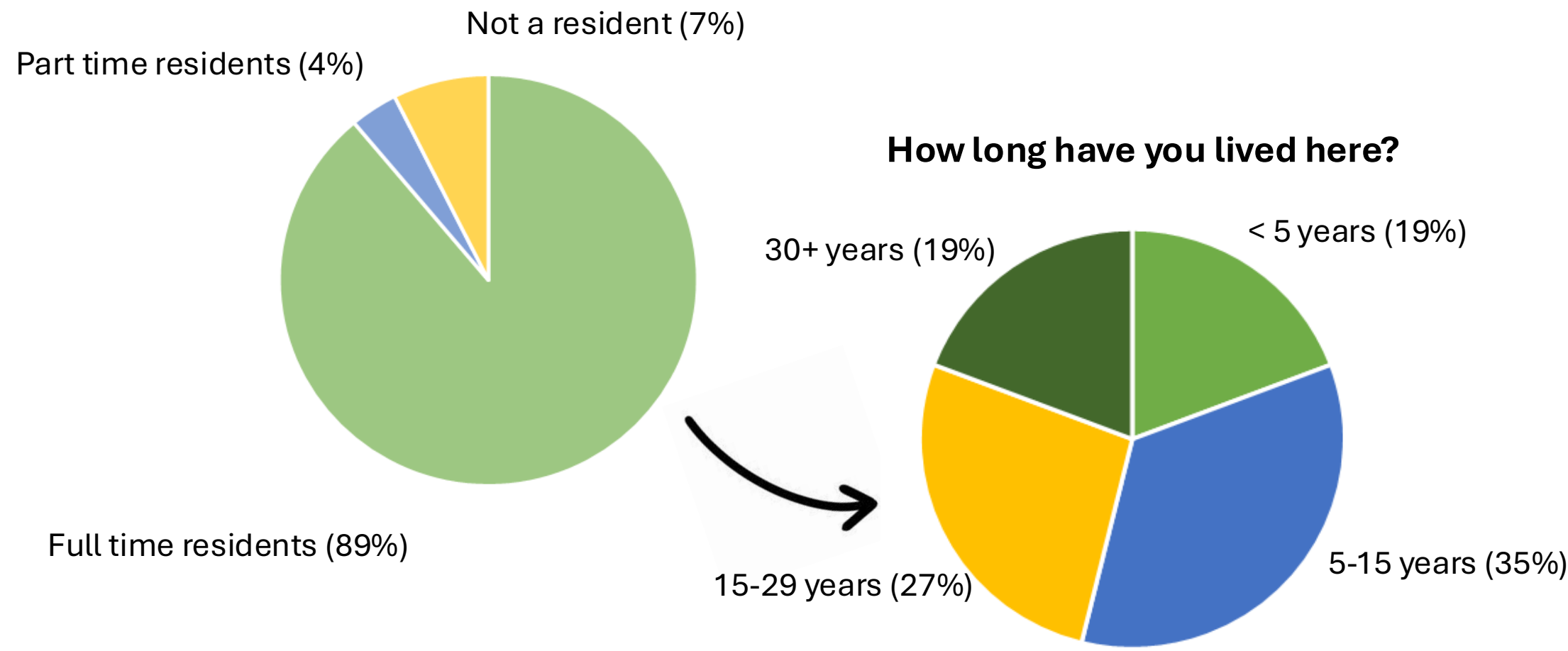
DIGITAL SURVEY



POP-UP EVENTS

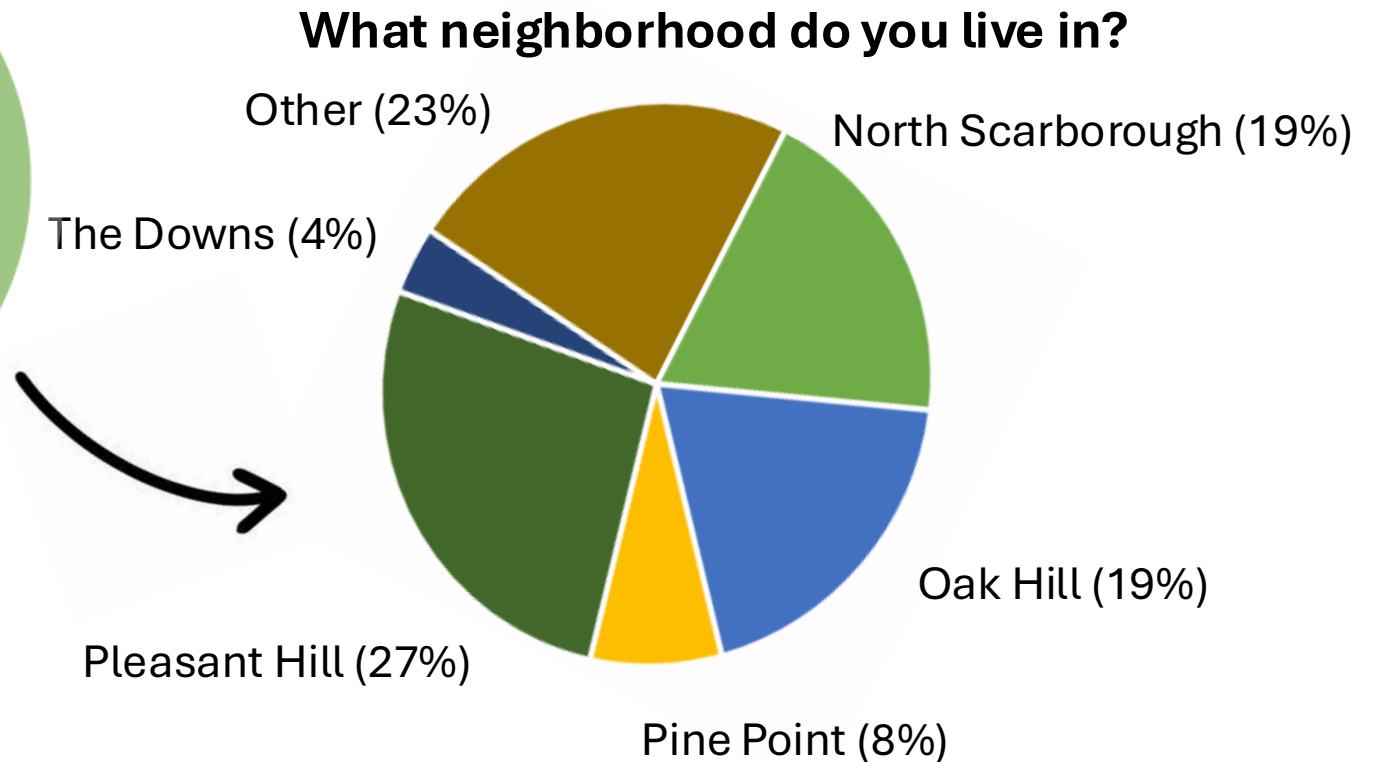
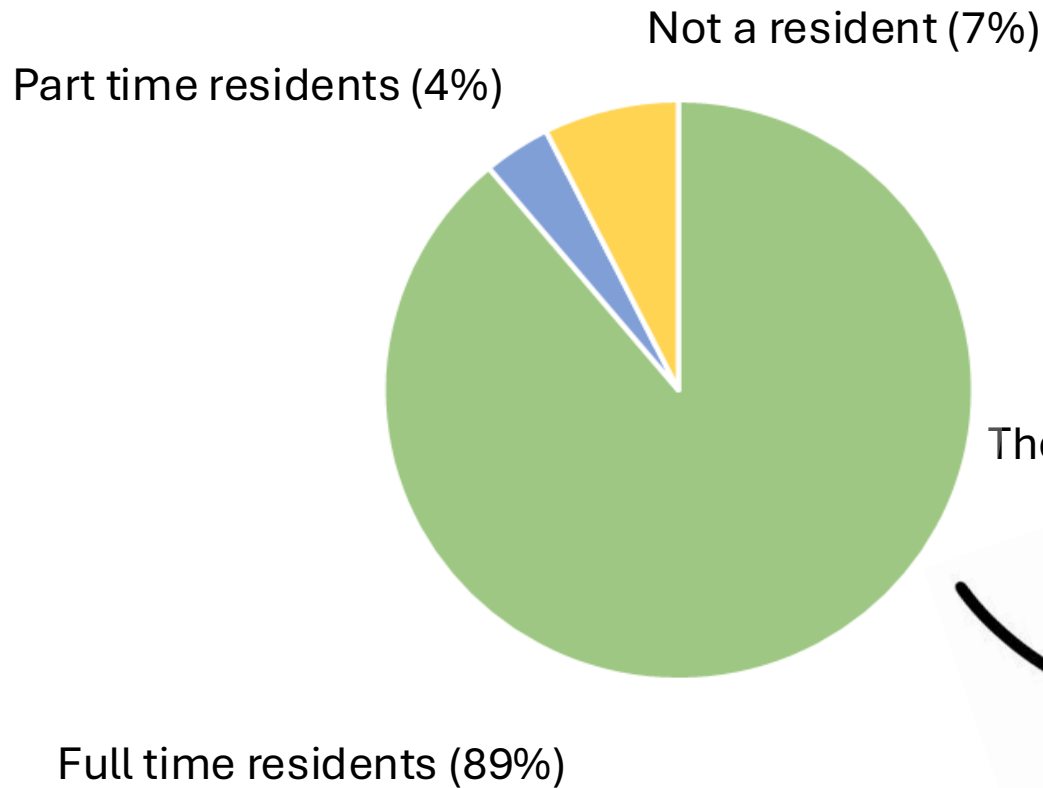
Who did we hear from?

June 26th Public Meeting (27 comment cards)



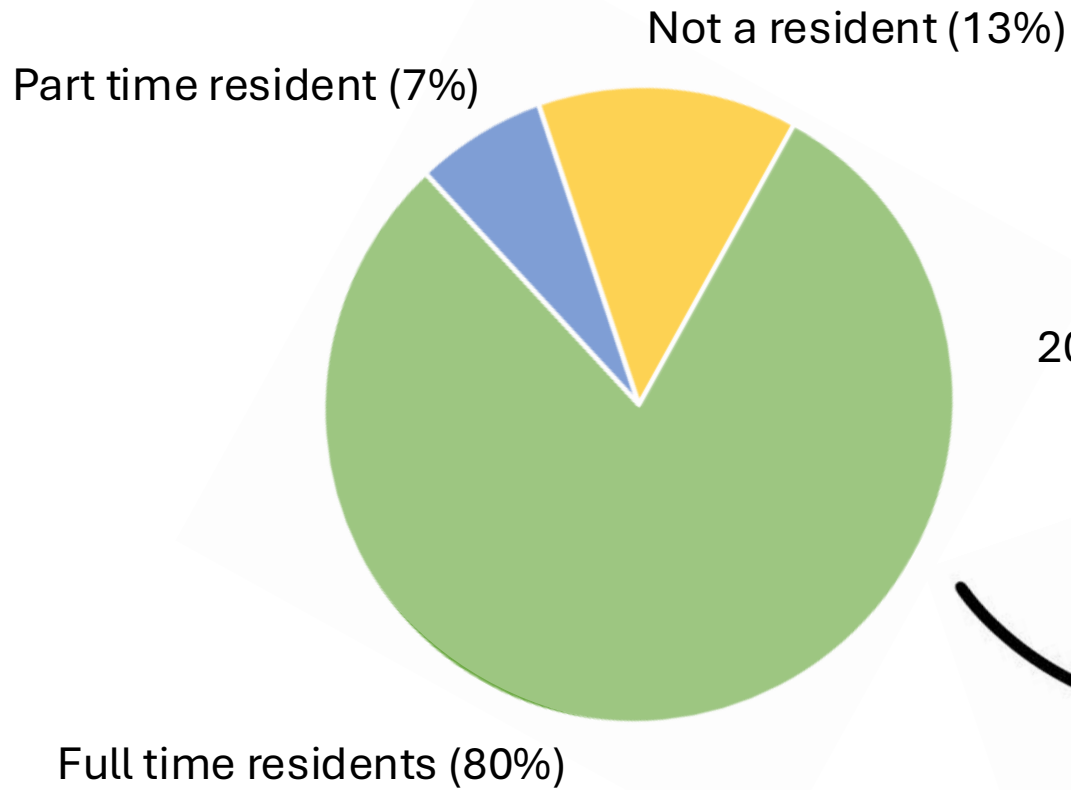
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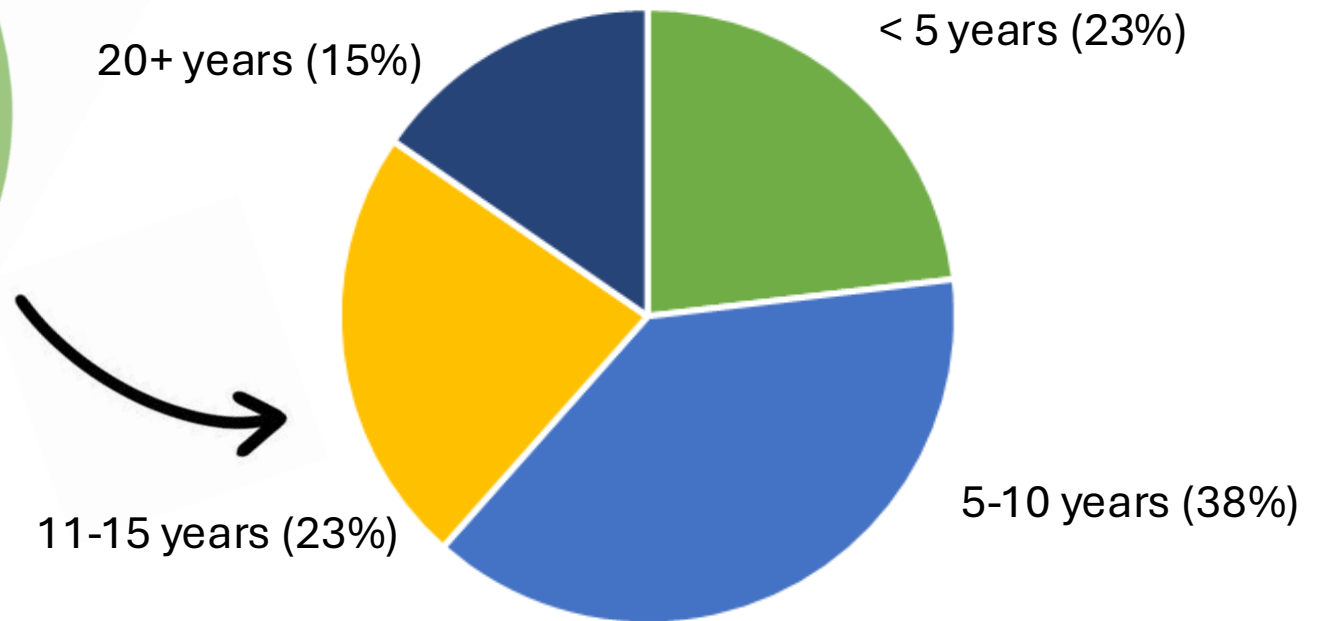


Who did we hear from?

Online Engagement (32 responses)

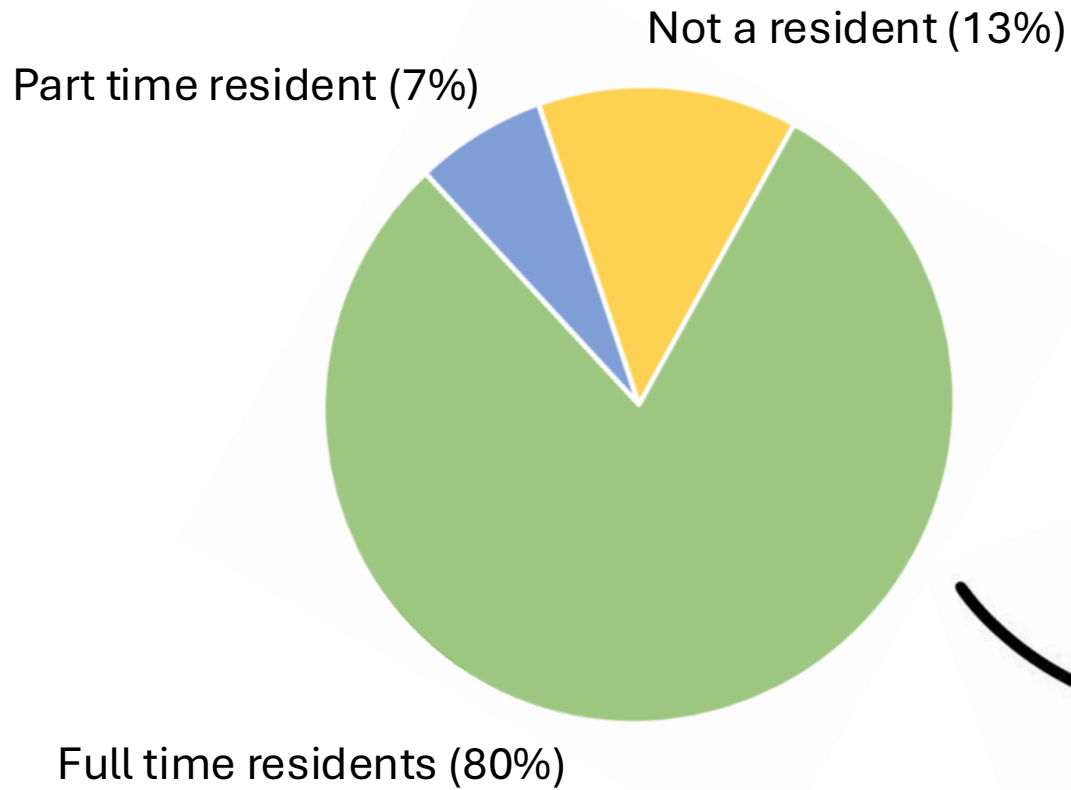


How long have you lived here?

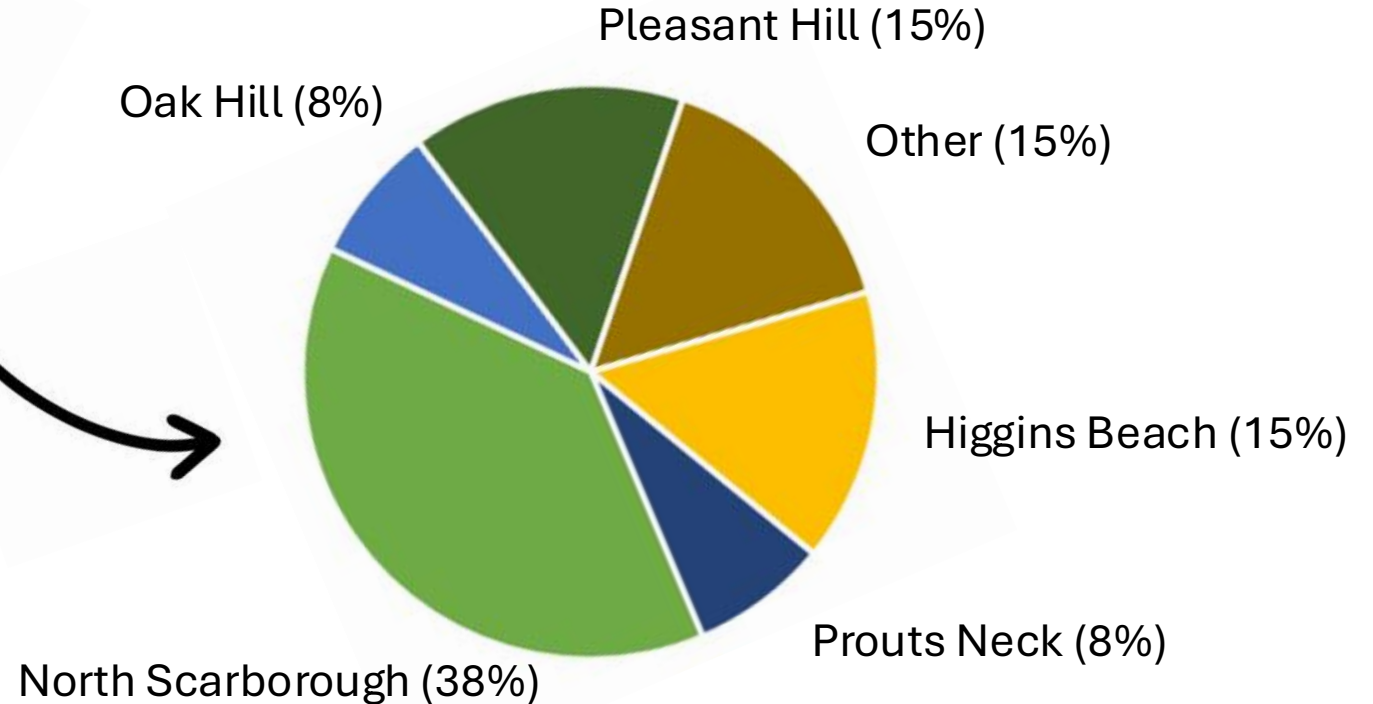


Who did we hear from?

Online Engagement



What neighborhood do you live in?



Resource Category Map Edits/Additions

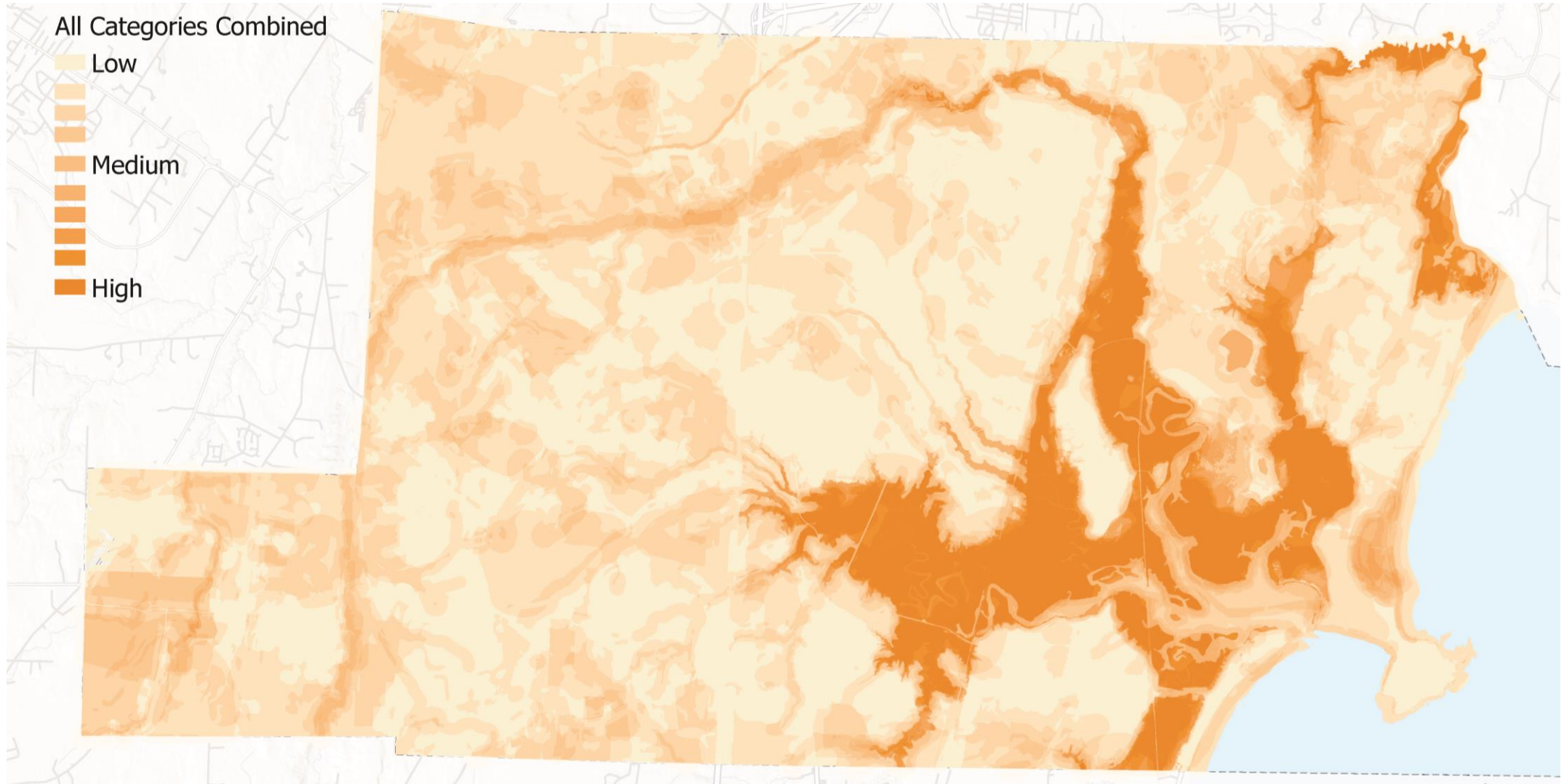
Recreation

- Suggested trail connections

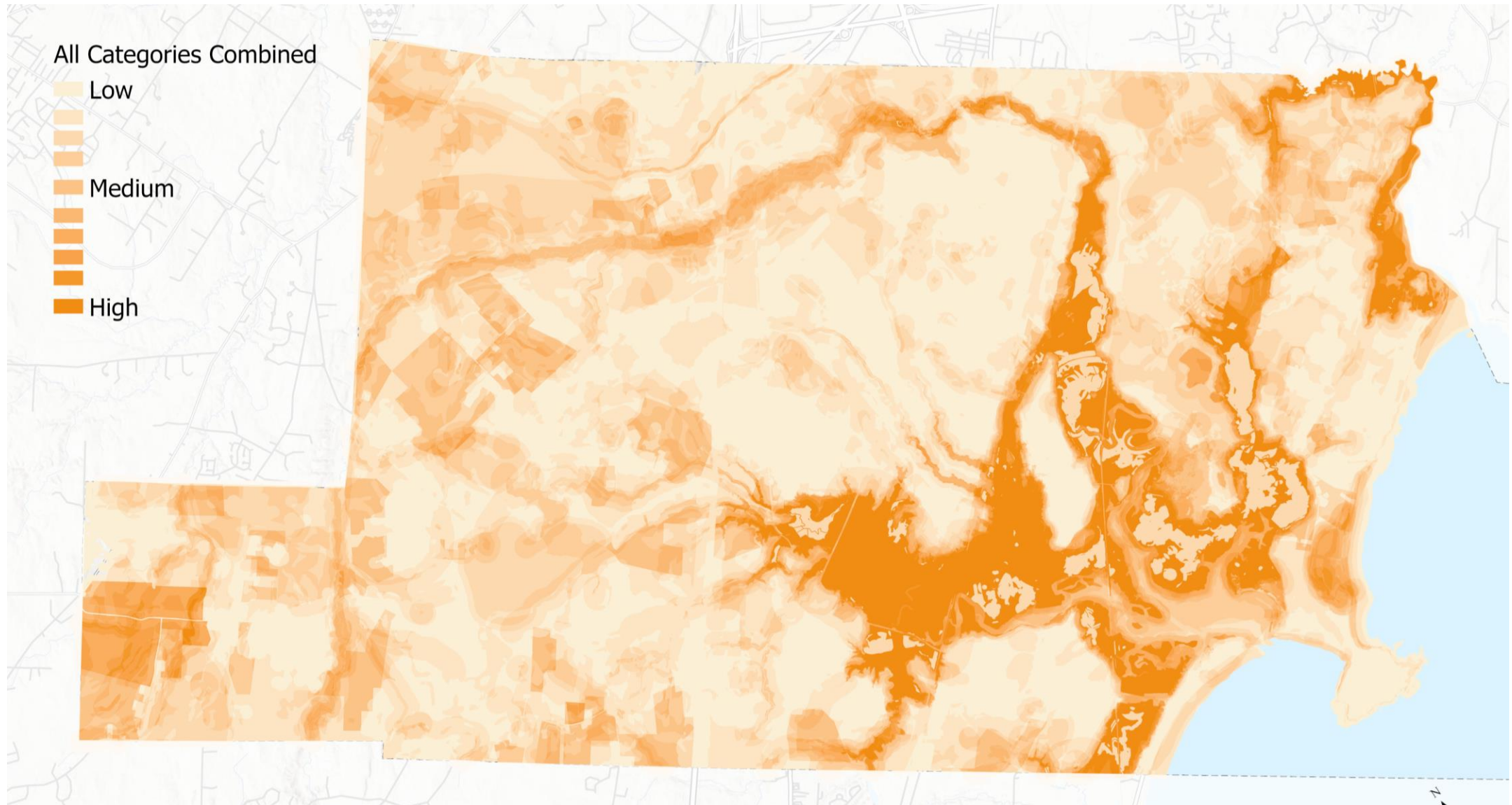
Clean Water & Environmental Hazards

- Add coastal bluffs, natural gas lines, overboard discharge permits, stormwater discharge locations
- Include beaches in Erodible Soils layer

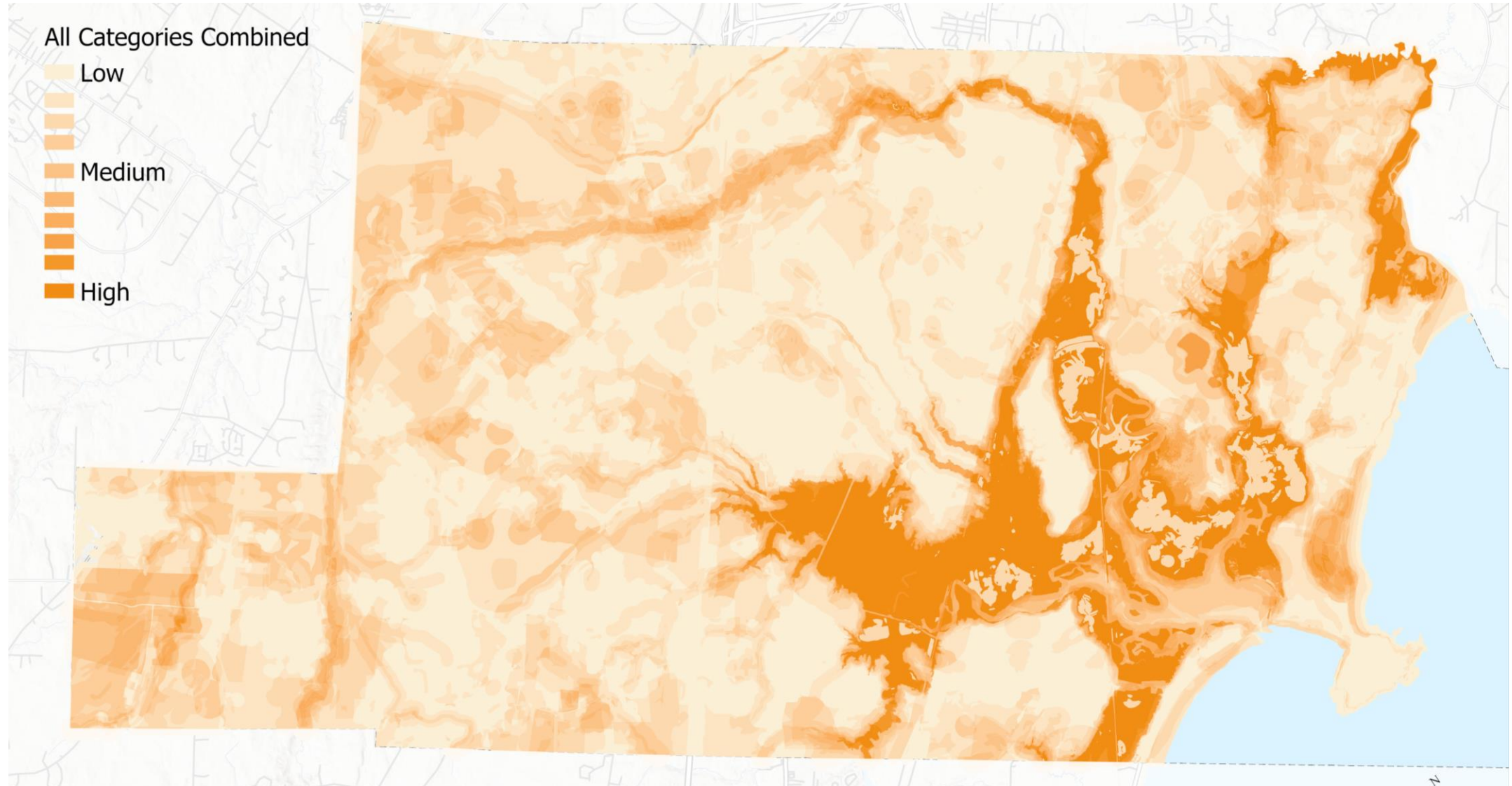
Priority Map Results: Public Meeting



Priority Map Results: Online



Priority Map Results: Pop-up Events



Do you think the results represent Scarborough's Open Space Values?



OPEN SPACE PLAN DRAFT GOALS

Build an open space network that...

Promotes healthy, biodiverse
ecosystems,

Fosters resilience in our communities
and working lands,

And is interconnected and accessible
for the entire community.

Protects 30% by 2030

BRAINSTORM POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

What strategies could help meet these goals?

Create a conservation scorecard for acquiring open space.

Put high/medium priority municipal land into conservation.

Create a development fee to fund open space.

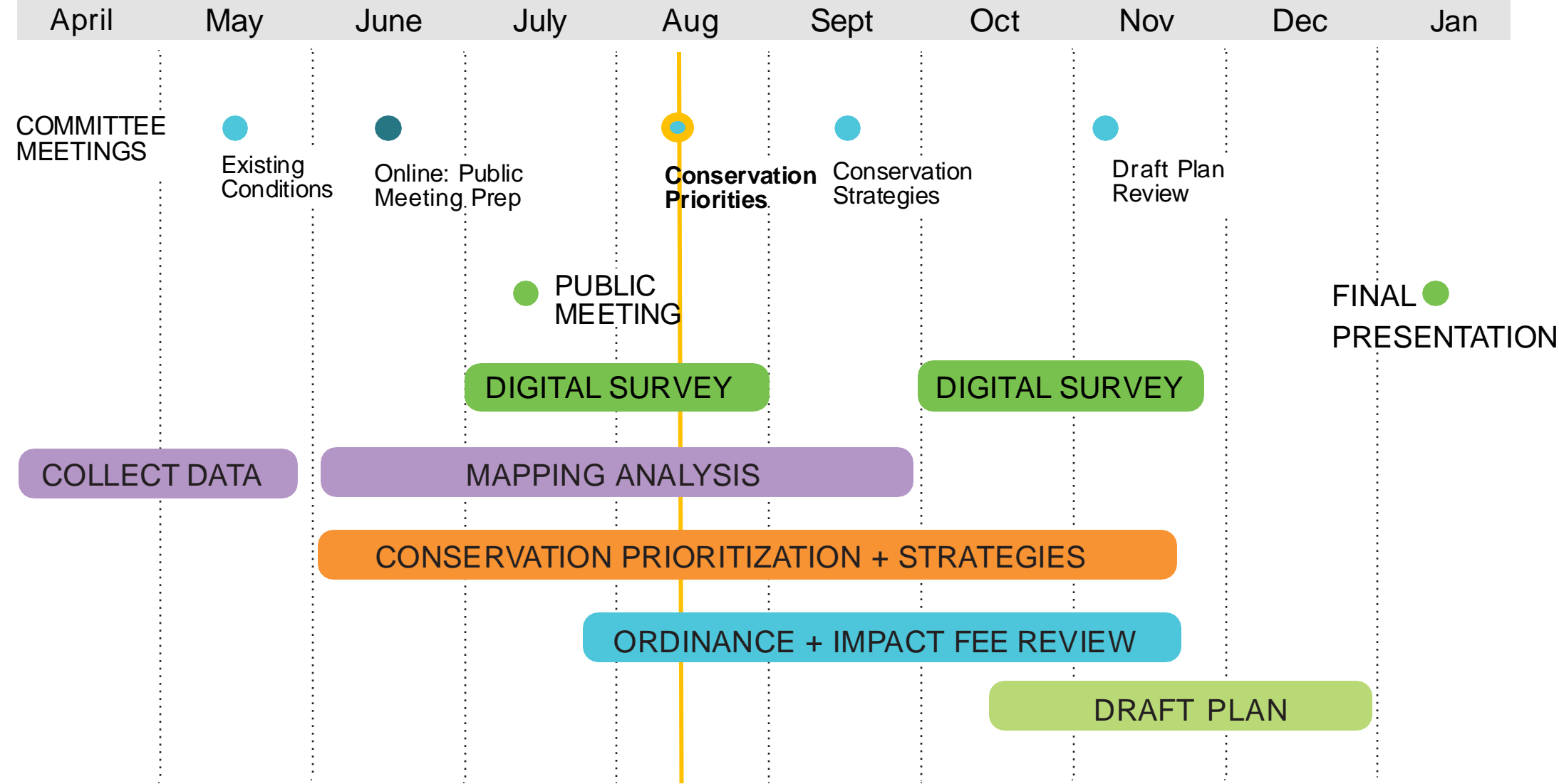
Raise development fees in high/medium priority focus areas.

Update ordinances to reflect open space values (requiring conservation subdivisions).

Require new development to put open space in publicly accessible easement.

Create system to refine & track open space data.

SCHEDULE



NEXT STEPS

Continue Outreach For Survey!

Set Date For Next Committee Meeting

Think About Open Space Strategies

OPEN SPACE DEFINITION



Existing Open Space Inventory

Scarborough Open Space Plan

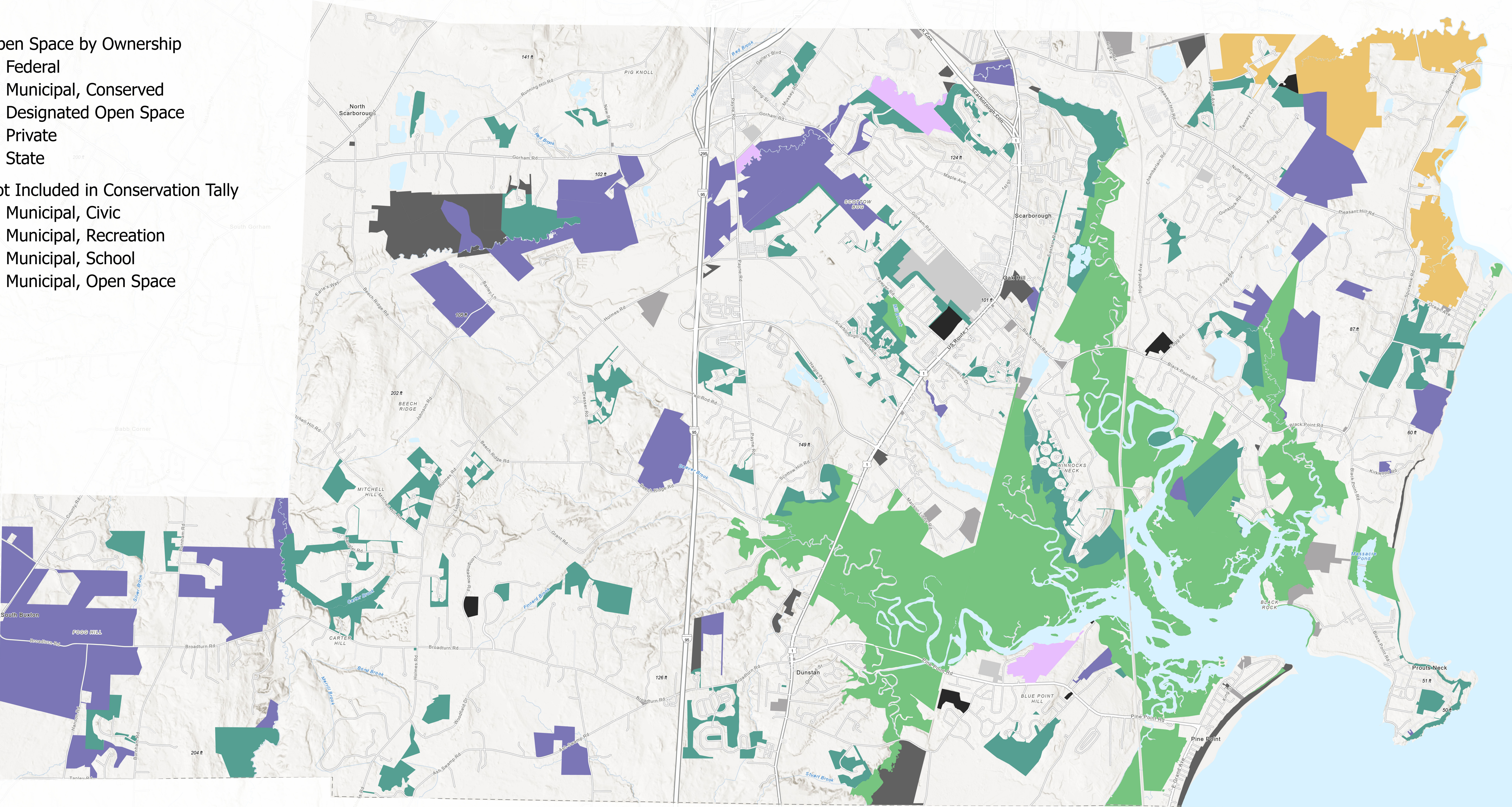
	Current Open Space	
Open Space by Ownership	Acres	Percent of Town Land Area
Private	882.0	2.89%
Designated Open Space	1,596.2	5.23%
Municipal- Conservation	120.2	0.39%
State	3,006.1	9.85%
Federal	527.2	1.73%
Total Conservation	6,131.7	20.09%
Town Land Area	30,527.8	
Not included in 30X30 calculation	Acres	Percent of Town Land Area
Municipal- Open Space	401.7	1.32%
Municipal- School	182.7	0.60%
Municipal- Civic	141.0	0.46%
Municipal- Recreation/Parks	59.3	0.19%

Scarborough Open Space Plan

Existing Open Space

- Open Space by Ownership
- Federal
 - Municipal, Conserved
 - Designated Open Space
 - Private
 - State

- Not Included in Conservation Tally
- Municipal, Civic
 - Municipal, Recreation
 - Municipal, School
 - Municipal, Open Space



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

Draft Open Space Conservation Strategies

Scarborough Open Space Plan

Preserving 30x30

- ❖ Use the Open Space Focus Areas to prioritize the purchase of properties.
- ❖ Prioritize connections between open space parcels which support the movement of people, wildlife, and/or water.
- ❖ Update the conservation scorecard for acquiring open space to align with the Open Space Plan and focus areas.
- ❖ Support changes to town ordinances that will encourage conservation.
- ❖ Review all town ordinances to ensure that the definition of open space is consistent between the plan and ordinances.
- ❖ Support future bond programs to purchase outright or partner with other organizations to purchase high priority parcels.
- ❖ Review all town owned properties to determine if any of them are in high priority areas or provide connectivity (trails, wildlife, or water).
- ❖ Create a development fee to fund open space.
- ❖ Promote the use of the Open Space Current Use Property Tax Program.
- ❖ Work with neighboring towns to expand connectivity.

Ordinance Changes – Residential Zoning/Subdivision

- ❖ Set up an open space fund and impact fees which are based on the conservation priority/value of the parcel, based on the Open Space Focus Areas.
- ❖ Subdivisions Changes
 - Create a maximum setback.
 - Allow mowing within the building envelope only.
 - Require protection of trail connections. Provide funding to assist with trail development and amenities (parking) if a public right of way is created.
 - Develop conservation best practices for non-conservation subdivisions.
 - Set impact fees for subdivisions in lieu of conservation best practices.
- ❖ Conservation Subdivisions
 - Require Conservation Subdivisions in RF and R2 districts.
Or, add more triggers for when developers must use Conservation Subdivisions.

- Allow Conservation Subdivisions in all other Residential districts and add more triggers for when developers must use Conservation Subdivisions.
- Review the definition of land which can be counted as open space to ensure that it is in sync with the Open Space Plan definition.
- Revise the development process to take all relevant natural features into account and then design lots around those features.
- Provide Density Bonus/Reduction in Impact Fees when protecting high value open space.

Ordinance Changes – Commercial Development

- ❖ Modify impervious surface requirements.
- ❖ Review parking standards.
- ❖ Use Open Space Focus Areas maps to require preservation of high value open space areas and allow for the use of an impact fee for open space under certain circumstances and in certain locations (reflect DEP LID standards).

Ordinance Changes – Shoreland Zoning

- ❖ Update marsh Resource Protection (RP) zoning to account for sea level rise.
- ❖ Update FEMA Floodplains RP by adding sea level rise elevations to current FEMA zones.
- ❖ Require a conservation easement for RP on lots that are divided/subdivided.

Data Collection

- ❖ Create a system to refine & track open space data, and coordinate between departments to update and share open space data.
- ❖ Develop a scenic view inventory to identify, prioritize, and protect important views.
- ❖ Collect more detailed habitat data for locally important species of flora and fauna.
- ❖ Develop a trail network master plan to map and understand the formal and informal trails throughout the town.

Education

- ❖ Develop educational materials and/or events (brochures, workshops, etc.) for community members about good stewardship (such as how to install native plantings, low-impact stormwater management, etc.).
- ❖ Organize a volunteer group to help care for municipal conservation lands (like a “Friends of ___” group) through activities like invasive species removal, planting native plants, or tracking important species sightings. Or, an annual community stewardship event could be held to help accomplish management goals.