

TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

10 FRONT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 778-0591 •FAX 772-4709 www.exeternh.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION Monthly Meeting

The Exeter Conservation Commission will meet in the Nowak Room, Exeter Town Offices at 10 Front Street, Exeter on **Tuesday**, **December 13th**, **2022 at 7:00 P.M.**

NON_PUBLIC SESSION

1. Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (d) for consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property.

Call to Order:

- 2. Introduction of Members Present
- 3. Public Comment

Action Items:

- 1. Conceptual discussion for the construction of a parking lot and new building for the Volvo Dealership on Portsmouth Ave, Tax Map/Lot 52-108, 54-3-4-1 and 54-3-3 (Cindy Balcius, Stoney Ridge Environmental, Daniel Enxing, Volvo)
- 2. Deliberative Session CIP Discussion
- 3. End of Year Expenditures
- 4. Committee Reports
 - a. Property Management
 - b. Trails
 - c. Outreach Events
 - d. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree)
- 5. Approval of Minutes: November 8th, 2022 Meeting
- 6. Correspondence
- 7. Other Business
- 8. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (1/13/22), Submission Deadline (12/2/22)

Andrew Koff Exeter Conservation Commission Posted December 9th, 2022 Exeter Town Website <u>www.exeternh.gov</u> and Town Office kiosk.

ZOOM Public Access Information:

Virtual Meetings can be watched on Channel 22 and on Exeter TV's Facebook and YouTube pages. To participate in public comment, click this link: <u>https://exeternh.zoom.us/j/88104740927</u>

To participate via telephone, call: +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Webinar ID: 881 0474 0927

Please join the meeting with your full name if you want to speak.

Use the "Raise Hand" button to alert the chair you wish to speak. On the phone, press *9.

More instructions for how to participate can be found here: https://www.exeternh.gov/townmanager/virtual-town-meetings Contact us at extvg@exeternh.gov or 603-418-6425 with any technical issues.



Kristen Murphy <kmurphy@exeternh.gov>

Exeter Volvo -Portsmouth Avenue

1 message

Cindy Balcius <cbalcius@stoneyridgeenv.com> To: Kristen Murphy <kmurphy@exeternh.gov>, Daniel Enxing <dan@volvocarsexeter.com> Cc: Cindy Balcius <cbalcius@stoneyridgeenv.com> Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 11:40 AM

Hi Kristen...thanks for meeting us on Monday. Attached you will find the draft plan and a preliminary Wetland Function and Value Assessment. As discussed, we would like to attend the December 13, 2022 Conservation Meeting to present the draft plan to the commission, discuss the impacts, wetlands ,

And potential wetland mitigation ideas.

Please let me know if you have any questions

Sincerely

Cindy

Cynthia M Balcius CWS, CSS, CPESC

Stoney Ridge Environmental LLC

8 Kiana Road

Alton, NH 03809

(603)776-5825

cbalcius@stoneyridgeenv.com

Please note: We have moved! Our new address is

8 Kiana Road, Alton, NH

Final FV&A Document-Reduced.pdf
8779K

WETLAND FUNCTION AND VALUE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Exeter Volvo, Portsmouth Avenue, Exeter

TAX MAP 52 LOT 108 TAX MAP 51 Lots 3-4, 1 & 3-3

In May and June of 2022, Cynthia M. Balcius CWS, CSS, CPESC of Stoney Ridge Environmental LLC (SRE) completed a wetland delineation review of the above referenced site and a vernal pool assessment. The wetland delineation review followed the existing wetland delineation completed in 2021 by others. SRE has concurred, confirmed and refreshed the wetland delineation using the following standards:

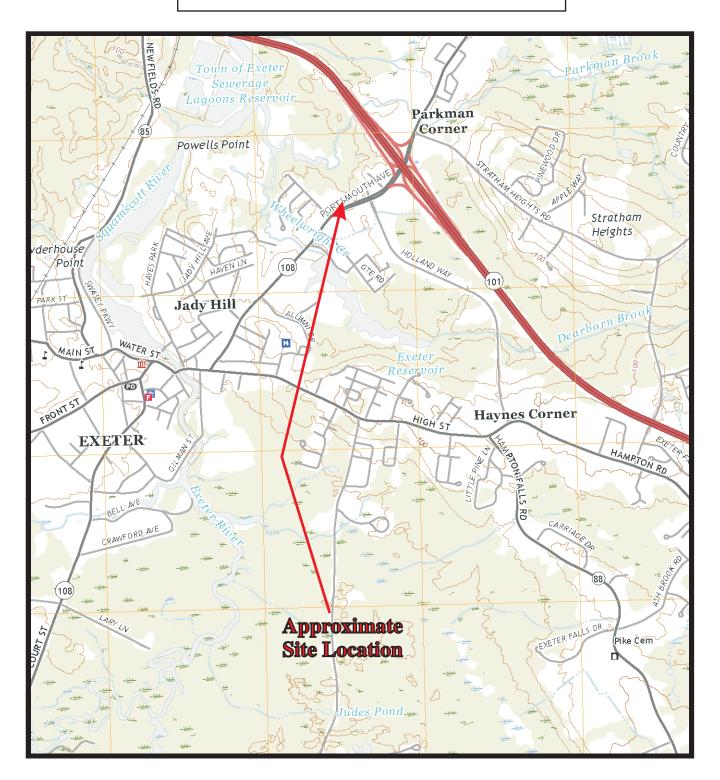
- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2016. Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States, Version 8.0. L.M. Vasilas, G.W. Hurt, and J.F. Berkowitz (eds.). USDA, NRCS, in cooperation with the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils.
- 2) *Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils In New England.* Version 4. June 2018. New England Hydric Soils Technical Committee.
- North American Digital Flora: National Wetland Plant List, version 2.1.0 (<u>http://wetland_plants.usace.army.mil</u>). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, Hanover, NH, and BONAP, Chapen Hill.
- The National Wetland Plant List: 2016 wetland ratings. Lichvar, R.W., D.L. Banks, W.N. Kirchner, and N.C. Melvin. 2016. Phytoneuron 2016-30: 1-17. Published 28 April 2016. ISSN 2153 733X.
- 5) Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual. January 1987. Wetlands Research Program Technical Report Y-87-1.
- Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region. January 2012, Version 2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-12-1.
- Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. December 1979. L. Cowardin, V. Carter, F. Golet, and E. LaRoe. US Department of the Interior. Fish and Wildlife Service. FWS/OBS-79/31.
- 8) *NHDES Wetlands Rules Chapters100 through 900.* Issued on December 15, 2019 and as amended through April 15, 2020.
- 9) RSA 482: A. The State of New Hampshire Wetland Statute.

The following references were utilized to complete the Vernal Pool Assessments and the Wetland Function & Value Assessments:

- 1) Army Corps of Engineers' *Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement* (Appendix A, USACE, September 1999).
- Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. December 1979. L. Cowardin, V. Carter, F. Golet, and E. LaRoe. US Department of the Interior. Fish and Wildlife Service. FWS/OBS-79/31.
- Identifying and Documenting Vernal Pools in New Hampshire 3rd Ed, 2016, New Hampshire Fish & Game.
- 4) Army Corps of Engineers "Vernal Pool Assessment" draft guidance, September 10, 2013. Appendix L Army Corps of Engineers New England District Compensatory Mitigation Guidance.



Site Locus Exeter Volvo Propery 146, 0, & 140 Portsmouth Ave Tax Map 51, Lots 1 & 3.4, Tax Map 52, Lot 108 Exeter, New Hampshire



Scale 1:24,000



Wetland Delineation and Wetland Function & Value Assessment

SRE confirmed and refreshed the wetland delineation flagging as noted above. During the site work, SRE also reviewed the wetlands to determine if there were any vernal pools on site. This work was completed during the prime time for amphibian breeding, May 2022. Based on observations and on the wetland types present there were no vernal pools identified within this site

During the delineation, wetlands on site and nearby wetlands located just off site, were classified using the Cowardin Classification Method. The wetlands were divided into 3 systems. The first Wetland A is located approximately 140 feet north of Portsmouth Avenue. Wetland A is classified as a PFO/SS1E wetland. Wetland B downslope of Wetland A is classified as a PSS1Ex wetland. SRE also classified the wetlands and the associated Parkman Brook System located to the north partially on the property but mostly off. This system at this location classifies as R1UB2/3/E2EM1.

SRE completed the function and value assessments of each of the wetlands on site using the Army Corps of Engineers' Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement (Appendix A, USACE, September 1999). Field work was completed for the Function and Value Assessment in September and October of 2022. Thirteen functions and values were assessed for each system including: groundwater recharge/discharge, floodflow alteration, fish and shellfish habitat, sediment/toxicant retention, nutrient removal, production export, sediment/shoreline stabilization, wildlife habitat, recreation, educational/scientific value, uniqueness/heritage, visual quality/aesthetics and endangered species habitat. Wetland functions are considered to be principal if they are an important physical component of a wetland system. Wetland values are considered to be principal if they are of special value to society, from a local, regional and/or national perspective. The rationale for the assigned functions and values for this wetland system is shown on the attached Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Forms.



A view looking north at Parkman Brook with the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the background.

Wetland A:

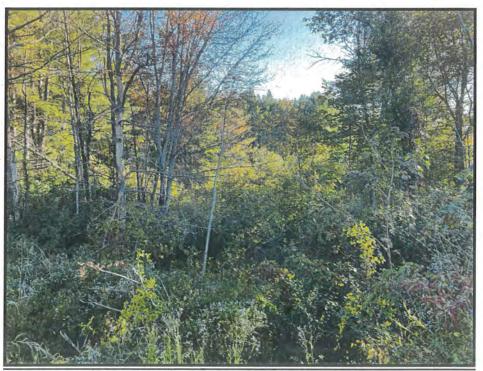
The Wetland System labeled as Wetland A is an overall small wetland system located in the upper portion of this sub watershed that starts near Portsmouth Avenue. This wetland is surrounded by development on 3 sides, including Portsmouth Avenue, the current Exeter Volvo and McDonalds. This Palustrine Deciduous Forested Wetland is found at the base of the surrounding slopes and is very dense with invasive species including glossy buckthorn, purple loosestrife, glossy buckthorn, and bittersweet. The tree layer consists of Red maple, glossy buckthorn with speckled alder and red-osier in the understory. The soils are mostly poorly drained silt loams. The hydrological indicators include drainage patterns, water-stained leaves and vegetation with enlarged lenticels. This portion of the wetland system starts on-site and is surrounded by impervious surfaces on 3 sides. During delineation is was clear that many of the narrow arms of this wetland have formed and developed from discharge from nearby BMP's or from overland sheetflow. These were easily traceable back to outlets and point discharge locations.

Table 1			

WEILAND WETLAND IDENTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION	NOTES
A PFO1E/SS1E	Forested wetland with scrub/shrub understory of glossy buckthorn and speckled alder
B PSS1Ex	Scrub/Shrub Wetland with ditched drainage channel
C R1UB2/3/E2EM1	Parkman Brook and the associated estuary marsh

The Wetland Function & Value Assessment (FVA) of Wetland A describes a disturbed wetland system that is mostly hydrologically driven by the discharges from the surrounding landscape. This wetland also exhibits robustly growing invasive species that have been established there for quite some time. Based on the FVA, this wetland is a low functioning system that, due to its location and inputs from the surrounding landscapes, has some minor function and ability to assimilate and hold larger volumes of water during large precipitation events and snow melt (floodflow alteration). The area is relatively flat to slightly concave and can hold some volume, however, it is limited by the slightly sloping topography draining to the north and small volume of the area. The area does offer some suitability for function as Wildlife Habitat, mostly to avian species and edge species. The invasive plant species provide cover but little food source. The wetland system is small, disturbed and not diverse. There are no endangered species records nor are there any endangered plant records and SRE did not observe any within this wetland while conducting field work.





A view of Wetland A beyond the uplands in the front.



A view of the thick areas of bittersweet and other invasives within the wetland.





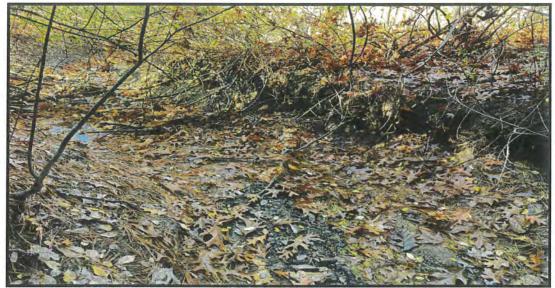
An aerial view of the tip of Wetland A adjacent to a stormwater basin on the right. Portsmouth Avenue is located in the upper portion of the photo.

Wetland B:

Wetland B is located north, northwest of Wetland A and is connected hydrologically. Wetland B has been classified as a Palustrine seasonally saturated scrub/shrub wetland system with poorly drained soils developed in marine sediments. This wetland has a dense area of scrub/shrub and has a ditched channel that directly drains into the Parkman Brook Wetland System. Wetland A directly feeds into this portion of the overall wetland system. Wetland B is surrounded mostly by undeveloped woodlands and Parkman Brook to the north. This wetland is the transition point to the brackish estuary and tidal Parkman Brook. This wetland has been classified as PSS1Ex, a Palustrine scrub/shrub seasonally saturated wetland.

Glossy buckthorn dominates the scrub/shrub layer while red-osier dogwood and speckled alder add to the dominant shrub wetland. Oriental bittersweet is abundant and found winding its way through the dense shrubs. Disturbance based herbaceous plants include multi-flora rose, wool grass and cattail. This area was surrounded to the east and west by a dominantly white pine upland landscape.





A view of the outlet channel area of Wetland B as it meets Parkman Brook in the background.



This is a view of Wetland B looking southeast towards Portsmouth Avenue.





View of Wetland B looking towards Parkman Brook.

The location, dense nature of the scrub/shrub vegetation and the ability to allow for some floodflow alteration slightly increases the functions and values of this system in comparison to Wetland A. The wetland is located adjacent to Parkman Brook, is bisected by a conservation easement, dense with scrub/shrub vegetation (although invasive) and is surrounded by undeveloped lands. This portion of the wetland system does have a Principal Function of Wildlife habitat due to its position and vegetative density especially in the transitional area close to the estuary and Parkman Brook. This wetland does allow for some minimal function for floodflow alteration but the area is relatively small in size, the invasive species are not conducive to food sources hence low production export potential, there is no fish or shellfish habitat nor is this area easily accessible. This area, however, does provide a fairly large buffer to the estuary and Parkman Brook.

Wetland C:

Wetland C is not located on the property that is being proposed for the development. However, Wetland C is the focus and the driver for the plan as presented for this development.

The portion of Wetland C as shown on the plan is classified as E2EM1/R1UB2/3 using the Cowardin Classification System. This is an intertidal estuary emergent wetland associated with a Riverine Tidal unconsolidated bottom of sand and sediment (Parkman Brook). This area is also considered a Prime Wetland in Exeter and is subject to the NHDES 100' Prime Wetland Buffer.





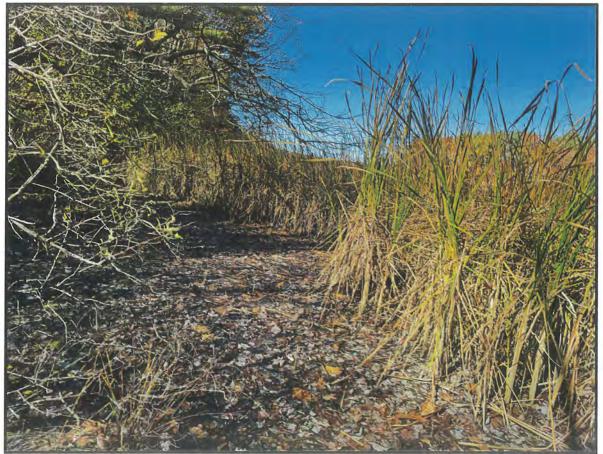
A view of Parkman Brook a tidal riverine system.

Wetland C, although not particularly botanically diverse, does contain a very dense vegetative plant community. The area is dominated by Narrowleaf cattail (*Typha angustfolia*) with Glossy bucthorn and red-osier dogwood along the transitional edges. As illustrated in the pictures the stream channel subject to daily tides has no vegetation present, while the intertidal estuary is densely vegetated. The soils are developed in marine sediments and in the estuary have an organic cap. These poorly drained and very poorly drained soils contribute to the numerous functions and values present in this system.

Parkman Brook itself originates east of the site. The stream system starts east of Portsmouth Avenue beyond Route 101, flowing westerly crossing Portsmouth Avenue and then flowing under Route 101 westerly where it passes this site on its way to merging with the Squamscott River.







A view of the transitional tidal marsh edge.

SRE conducted the FVA on the portion of the tidal wetland system as shown on the plan. Based on this analysis, Wetland C exhibits 7 Principal Functions and Suitability for at least 3 more functions and values. This would be expected in a wetland that is considered Prime Wetland and tidal in nature. This wetland system offers floodflow alteration with the estuary allowing for flooding during large scale storm events or tidal events. Sediment /Toxicant Retention with the organic soils and Nutrient Removal and Production Export through tidal cycles. The thick estuary vegetation allows for sediment shoreline stabilization and the dense habitat surrounded by woodlands offers great wildlife habitat while the stream and associated wetlands and uplands contribute to the wildlife corridor up and down the system.





Based on our analysis of the site and based on the Town of Exeter's Zoning and Prime Wetlands Designation, it is clear that this wetland system is one of importance, high functions and values and subject to local setbacks that reflect the Town's goals to protect the integrity of the area. As such, the proposed commercial development plan was designed with that in mind and framed around the local protections in place. The proposed impacts have been relegated to the front of the lot, proposing impacts to the lower functioning Wetland A. The proposed 34,520 sq ft of wetland impact is for the development of parking and access infrastructure. There is no proposed impacts to Wetland B.

If there are any additional questions or comments regarding this report, please feel free to contact us at (603) 776-5825.

Stoney Ridge Environmental 12/2 Cynthia M. Balcius CWS CSS. GRES Senior Wetland & Soil Scienting



Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

Teller Collins In		1		Wetland I.D. Wetland A
Total area of wetland 37.227 Human made? Par	tially is wella	and part of a wildlife corrido	or a "habitat island"? <u>No</u>	Latitude Longitude
Adjacent land use Commercial and Industrial	_	Distance to nearest	roadway or other development	Prepared by: CB, JS Date 11/30/22
Dominant wetland systems present PSS/FO1E		Contiguous undev	eloped buffer zone present_No	Wetland Impact: Type_ <u>Fill</u> Area_34,520
Is the wetland a separate hydraulic system? <u>No</u>				Evaluation based on: Office Field
How many tributaries contribute to the wetland? N	lone	Wildlife & vegetation diver	rsity/abundance (see attached list)	Corps manual wetland delineation completed? Y ✓ N
Function/Value	Suitabilit Y / N	y Rationale (Reference #)*	Principal Function(s)/Value(s)	Comments
Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	N	6, 13	The wetland is a low depressional area that receives impervious lots.	water from multiple stormwater drainages from the surrounding
	Y	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	The wetland exists as a low point, receiving and detaining main size this function is minimal.	y stormwater runoff from the surrounding impervious surfaces. Due to its small
Fish and Shellfish Habitat	N		This wetland is not associated with a watercourse or	pond.
Sediment/Toxicant Retention	N	1, 4	The wetland does not contain a dense or diverse am the wetland due to the impervious surfaces and storn but lacks the deep organics and long water retention	ount of vegetation. Potential sources of sediment are located above water runoff. The wetland does contain fine grained mineral soils, time for sedimentitoxicant retention.
Hereit Removal	N	3, 4, 7, 9		wetland due to the impervious surfaces, roadways and stormwater
Production Export	N	1, 4	No valuable food sources or products grow within the	wetland.
Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	N	1, 2, 3	This wetland is not associated with a watercourse.	
🖢 Wildlife Habitat	Y	6, 7, 13, 15, 16, 17	Due to the location of the wetland, in a commercial an location do offer some cover for songbird and edge s	tea there is some function as wildlife habitat. The small size and pecies.
A Recreation	N		The wetland is not safely accessible by the public. Ve loud road noise observed.	getation is comprised of multiple invasive species, with trash and
Educational/Scientific Value	N		The wetland is not safely accessible by the public. Ve loud road noise observed.	egetation is comprised of multiple invasive species, with trash and
📩 Uniqueness/Heritage	N	2, 17, 30	The wetland is not safely accessible by the public but comprised of multiple invasive species, with trash an	can be viewed from adjacent parking lots. The vegetation within is d loud road noise observed on site.
Visual Quality/Aesthetics	N		The wetland is not safely accessible by the public but comprised of multiple invasive species, with trash and	can be viewed from adjacent parking lots. The vegetation within is d loud road noise observed on site.
ES Endangered Species Habitat	N		No endangered species were observed while on site.	
Other		<u></u>		

Notes:

* Refer to backup list of numbered considerations.

Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

Total area of wetland _13.173 Human made? Par	tially Is wet	and part of a wildlife corrido	17 No.	or a "habitat island"? No	Wetland I.D. Wetland B		
Commercial/Industrial to the south					Latitude Longitude		
Adjacent land use Forested/conservation easement/estuary on al	l other sides	Distance to nearest	roadway o	or other development	Prepared by: CB, JS Date 11/30/22		
Dominant wetland systems present PSS1Ex		Contiguous undeve	eloped buf	fer zone present_partially	Wetland Impact: TypeArea		
Is the wetland a separate hydraulic system? No	Ifi	not, where does the wetland I	ie in the di	rainage basin? Middle	Evaluation based on:		
How many tributaries contribute to the wetland? N	0.00	Wildlife & constation diver	alta da haran d	and (and the day of the d	Office Field		
now many troutaries contribute to the wettand?	one	_windine & vegetation diver	sity/abund	ance (see attached list)	Corps manual wetland delineation		
	Suitabili	ty Rationale	Princi		completed? Y ✓ N		
Function/Value	Y/N	(Reference #)*	Funct	ion(s)/Value(s) C	omments		
Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	N	6, 13	N	The wetland is a low, depressional area that receives a transition to the estuary.	the stormwater runoff from the adjacent wetland A. This wetland is		
Floodflow Alteration	Y	3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 18	N	The wetland exists as a low point, in a semi-swale form receiving in the watershed contains a large impervious area percentage. D making it suitable but not principal.	g the stormwater runoff from the adjacent welland A. The area above the welland bue to the wellands small size, the value of the floodflow alteration is reduced.		
-Fish and Shellfish Habitat	N		N	This wetland is not associated with a watercourse or p	pond. Adjacent to Parkman Brook.		
Sediment/Toxicant Retention	N	1, 4, 8	N	Potential sources of sediment are located above the wetland due to the impervious surfaces, roadways and stormwater			
Wutrient Removal	Y	3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9	N	Potential sources of sediment are located above the wetland due to the impervious surfaces, roadways and stormwater			
Production Export	N	4, 7	N	No valuable food sources or products grow within the wetland.			
Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	N	1, 2, 3, 14	N	This wetland is not associated with a watercourse.			
🖢 Wildlife Habitat	Y	4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 16, 17, 21	Y		ea there is some function as wildlife habitat. The east, west and and provide animal access through the wetland. This is a principal		
The Recreation	N	1	N	The wetland is not safely accessible by the public. Ve loud road noise observed.	getation is comprised of multiple invasive species, with trash and		
Educational/Scientific Value	N	6	N	Vegetation is comprised of multiple invasive species.	C		
🜟 Uniqueness/Heritage	N	2, 22	N				
Visual Quality/Aesthetics	N		N	12			
ES Endangered Species Habitat	N		N	No endangered species were observed while on site			
Other							

Notes:

* Refer to backup list of numbered considerations.

Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

Total area of waterday	To over 1	-1		H 1	Wetland I.D. Wetland C
Total area of wetland Unknown Human made? No	Is well	and part of a whome corridor? Y	es	or a "habitat island"?_No	Latitude Longitude
Adjacent land use Estuary and Forest		Distance to nearest road	way c	or other development ~700ft. to road	Prepared by: CB, JS Date 11/30/22
Dominant wetland systems present E2EM1/R1UB2/3	3	Contiguous undevelope	d buf	fer zone present Yes	Wetland Impact: TypeArea
Is the wetland a separate hydraulic system? <u>No</u> How many tributaries contribute to the wetland? <u>N</u> Function/Value	^{one} Suitabilit	y Rationale P	abund	lance (see attached list)	Evaluation based on: Office ✓ Field ✓ Corps manual wetland delineation completed? Y ✓ N
	Y/N	(Keierence #)* F	unci		omments
Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	Y	1,2,4,5,7,8,15	N	Tidal stream and estuary, some discharge occuring.	
Floodflow Alteration	Y	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18	Y	The lidal estuary allows for flooding during large storm events an	id tidal events.
Fish and Shellfish Habitat	Y	1, 4 (see notes)	Y		on site, the system is connected to the Squamscott River, and e fish and shellfish habitat for multiple freshwater, anadromous and
Sediment/Toxicant Retention	Y	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16	Y	Potential sources of sediment are located above the v runoff. The dense herbaceous vegetation of the estua tidal effect on the river flow will reduce the overall rete	vetland due to the impervious surfaces, roadways and stormwater ry and fine mineral soils enhance sediment/and toxic retention. The ntion ability of the Parkman Brook.
Nutrient Removal	Y	3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14	Y	The estuary of Parkman Brook may flood during storm water system. The area has very dense typha vegetar	n events or high tide but will not result in a long term ponded/open ion that will be able to attenuate nutrients.
Production Export	Y	2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13	Y	No valuable food sources or products grow within the	wetland. The wetland is mainly a valuable habitat for wildlife.
Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	Y	1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15	Y	The wetland provides valuable floodwater storage in t stabilizing the soils and retaining/slowing water.	he event of large storm events. The dense vegetation will aid in
🖢 Wildlife Habitat	Y	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21	Y		h multiple conservation easements and undeveloped land abitat for multiple bird and animal species including migratory birds.
A Recreation	N	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9	N	The wetland is not accessible, or safely navigable. Th conservation land and listed as highest ranked habitat	e area is natural and protected by the town as prime wetland and by NHF&G.
Educational/Scientific Value	N	2, 4, 5, 6	N	The wetland is not accessible, or safely navigable. The conservation land. The area is listed as the highest ra	e area is natural and protected by the town as prime wetland and niked habitat by NHF&G.
★ Uniqueness/Heritage	N	5, 6, 7, 22, 27, 30	N	The Parkman Brook is listed by the Town of Exeter as	prime wetland, with adjacent conservation easements.
Visual Quality/Aesthetics	N	8	N	No viewing locations or access.	
ES Endangered Species Habitat	N		N	No endangered species were observed while on site.	
Other					

Notes:

Wetland A

* - indicates dominant species

Vegetation Observed:

Acer rubrum (red maple) * Frangula alnus (glossy buckthorn) * Cornus sericea (red-osier dogwood) * Alnus incana (speckled alder) * Rosa multiflora (multi-flora rose) Parthenocissus quinquefolia (Virginia creeper) Onoclea sensibilis (sensitive fern) Scirpus cyperinus (woolgrass) Juncus effusus (soft rush) Symphyotrichum puniceum (purple aster) Celastrus orbiculatus (Oriental bittersweet) Spiraea alba (white meadowsweet) Solidago rugosa (wrinkleleaf goldenrod) Typha latifolia (broadleaf cattail) Vitis labrusca (concord grape) Lonicera spp. (honeysuckle species) Lytheria salicaris (purple loosestrife)

Animals/Animal Sign Observed:

Multiple song birds including, American robin, black-capped chickadee, American crow Deer tracks and scat, edge species including squirrels, chipmunks, and racoons.

Wetland B

Vegetation Observed:

Frangula alnus (glossy buckthorn) * Cornus sericea (red-osier dogwood) * Alnus incana (speckled alder) * Celastrus orbiculatus (Oriental bittersweet) * Lonicera spp. (honeysuckle species) Typha angustifolia (narrowleaf cattail) Typha latifolia (broadleaf cattail) Acer rubrum (red maple) Rosa multiflora (multi-flora rose) Onoclea sensibilis (sensitive fern) Scirpus cyperinus (woolgrass) Juncus effusus (soft rush) Symphyotrichum puniceum (purple aster) Prunus serotina (black cherry) Spiraea alba (white meadowsweet)

Animals/Animal Sign Observed:

Multiple song birds including, American robin, black-capped chickadee, American crow Deer tracks and scat

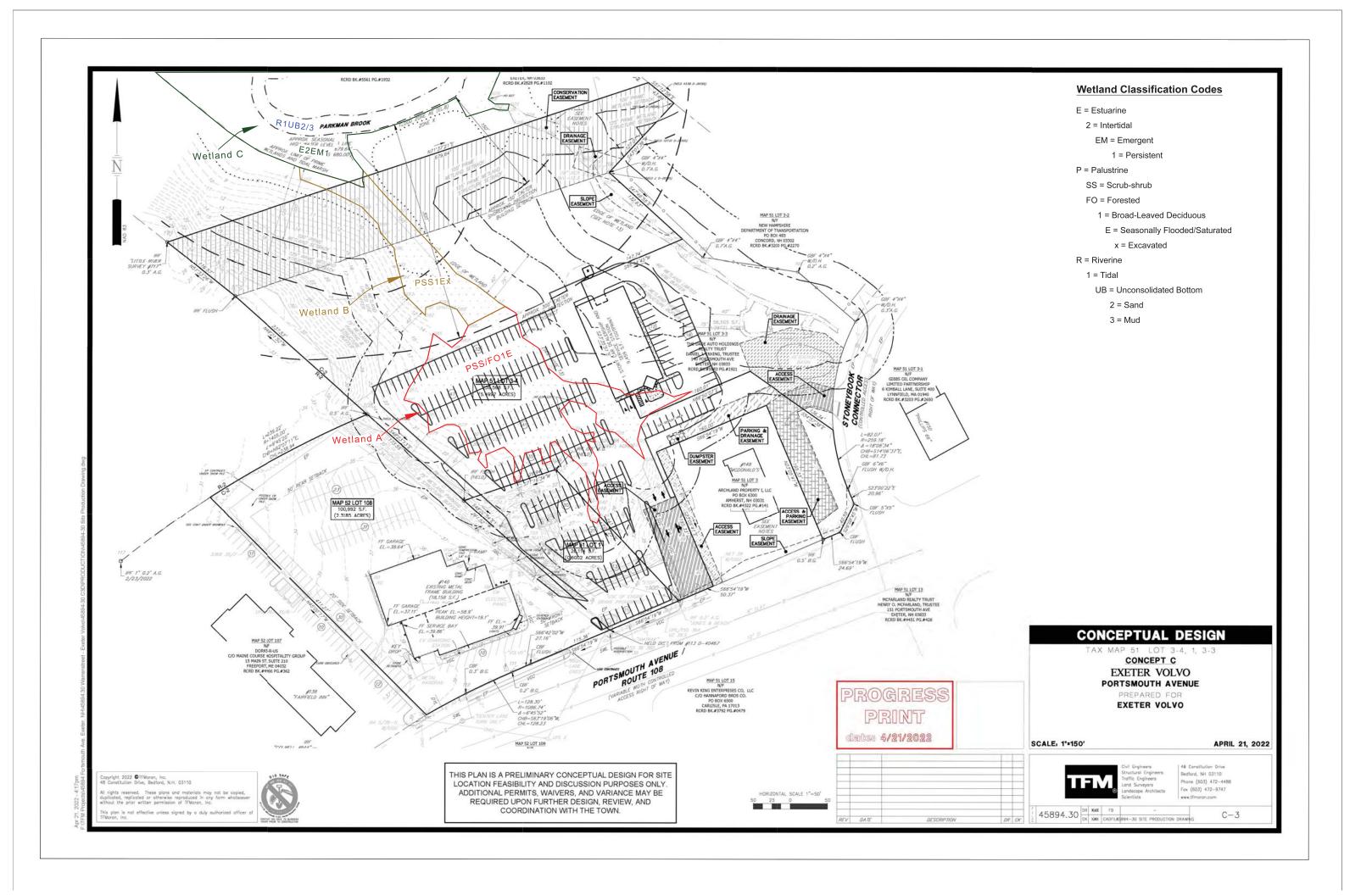
<u>Wetland C</u>

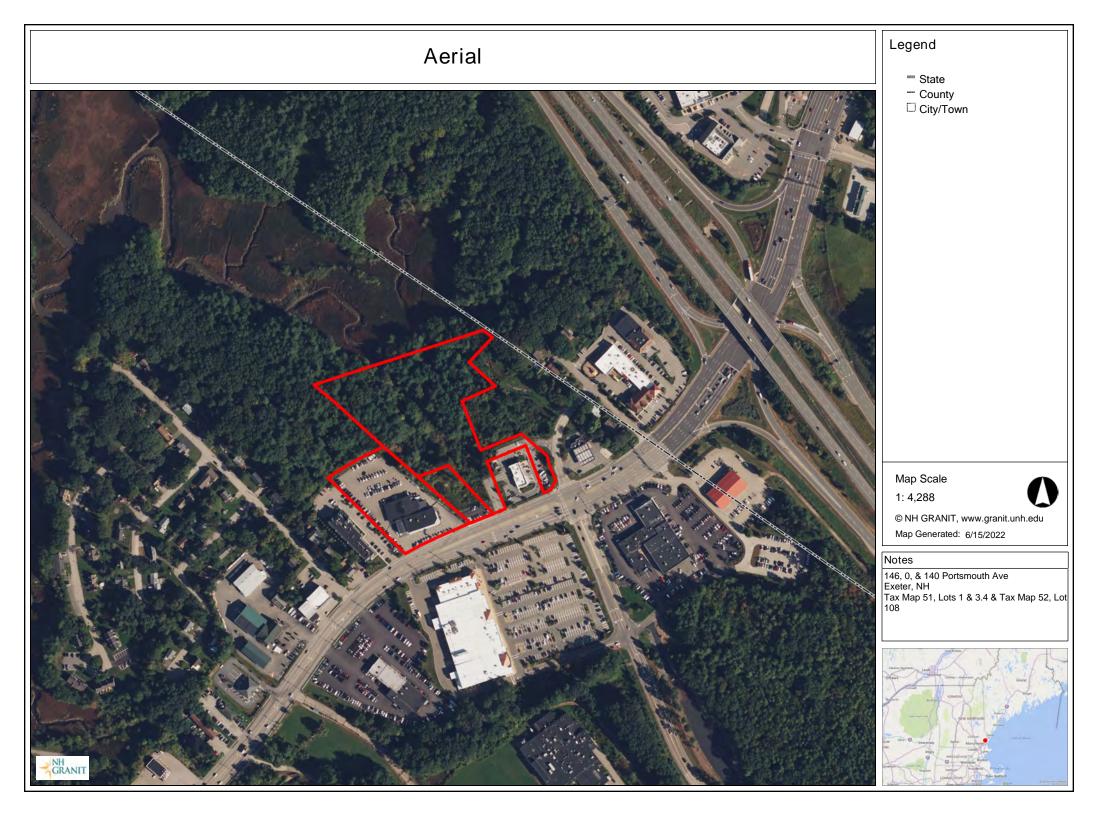
Vegetation Observed:

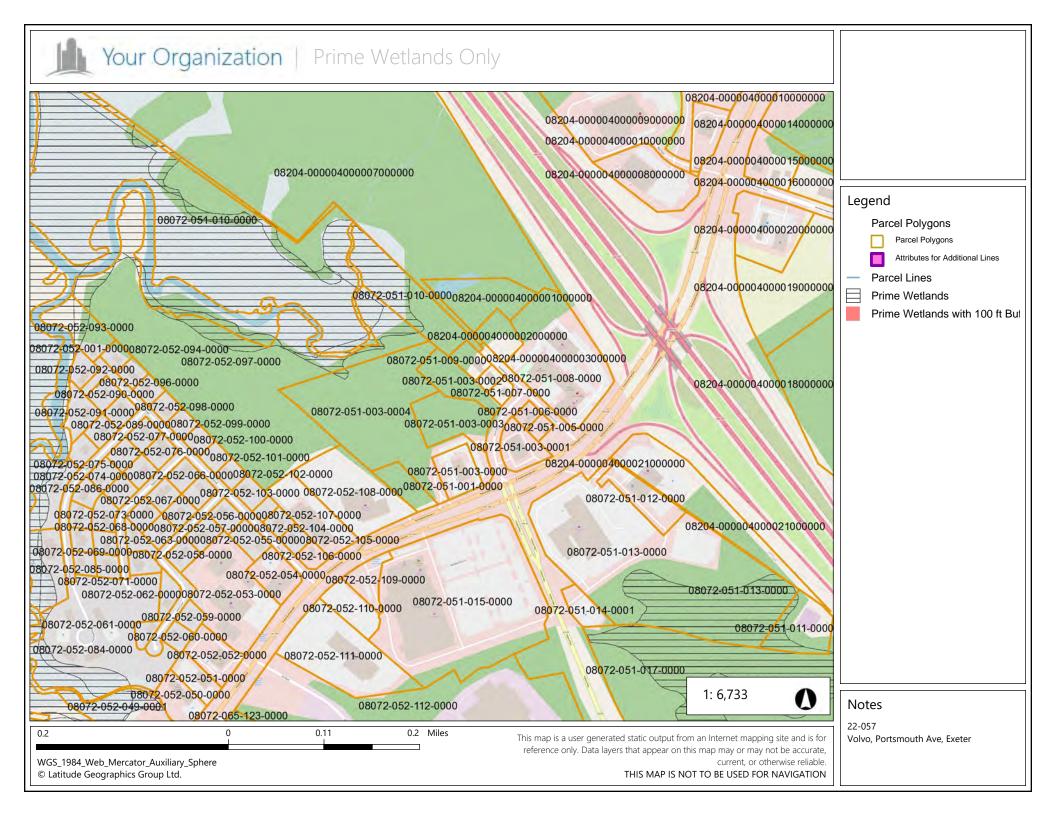
Typha angustifolia (narrowleaf cattail) *Frangula alnus (glossy buckthorn) *Cornus sericea (red-osier dogwood)Carex spp.Hydrocotyle spp. (pennywort species)Quercus alba (northern white oak)Pinus strobus (white pine)Juniperus virginiana (eastern red cedar)

Animals/Animal Sign Observed:

Multiple song birds including, American robin, black-capped chickadee, American crow Deer tracks and scat

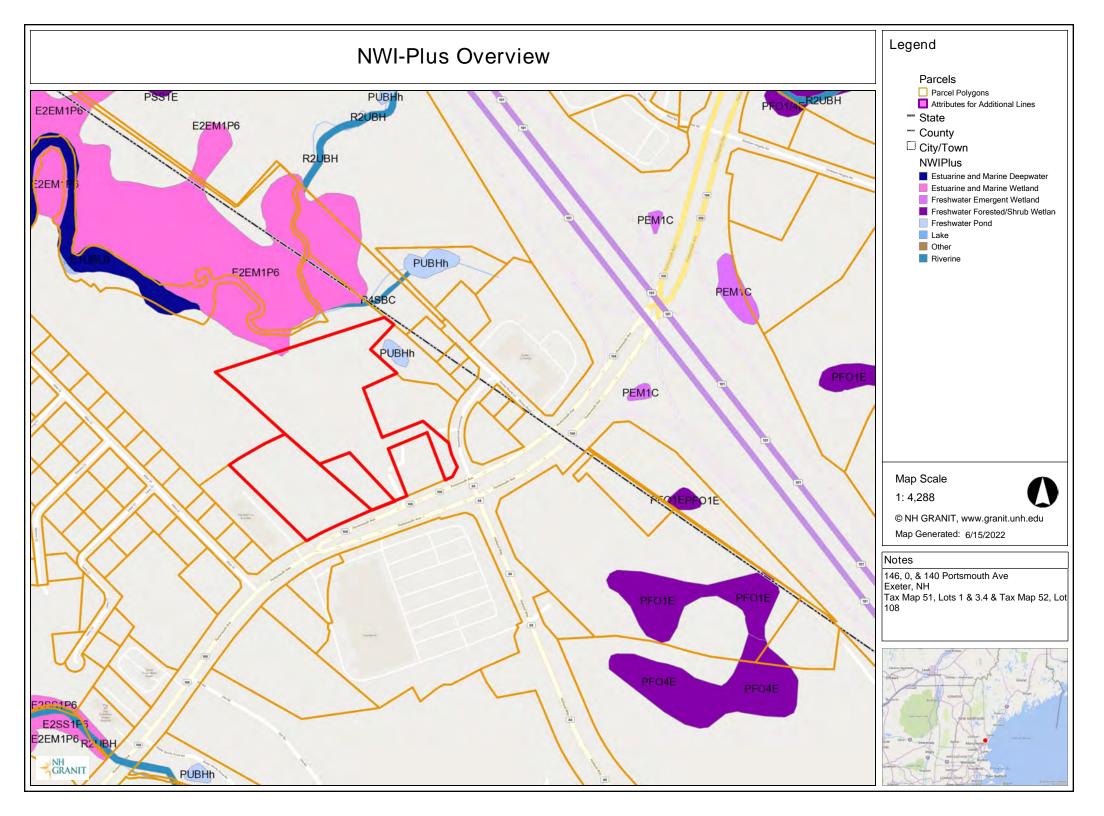


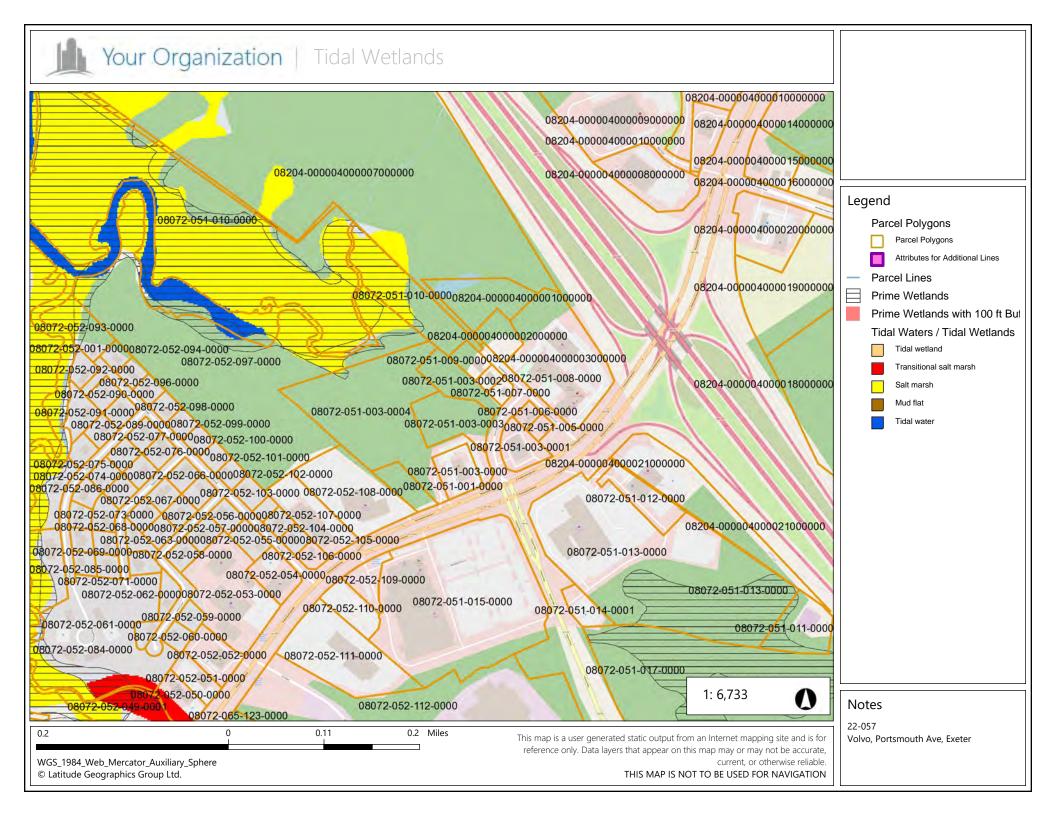


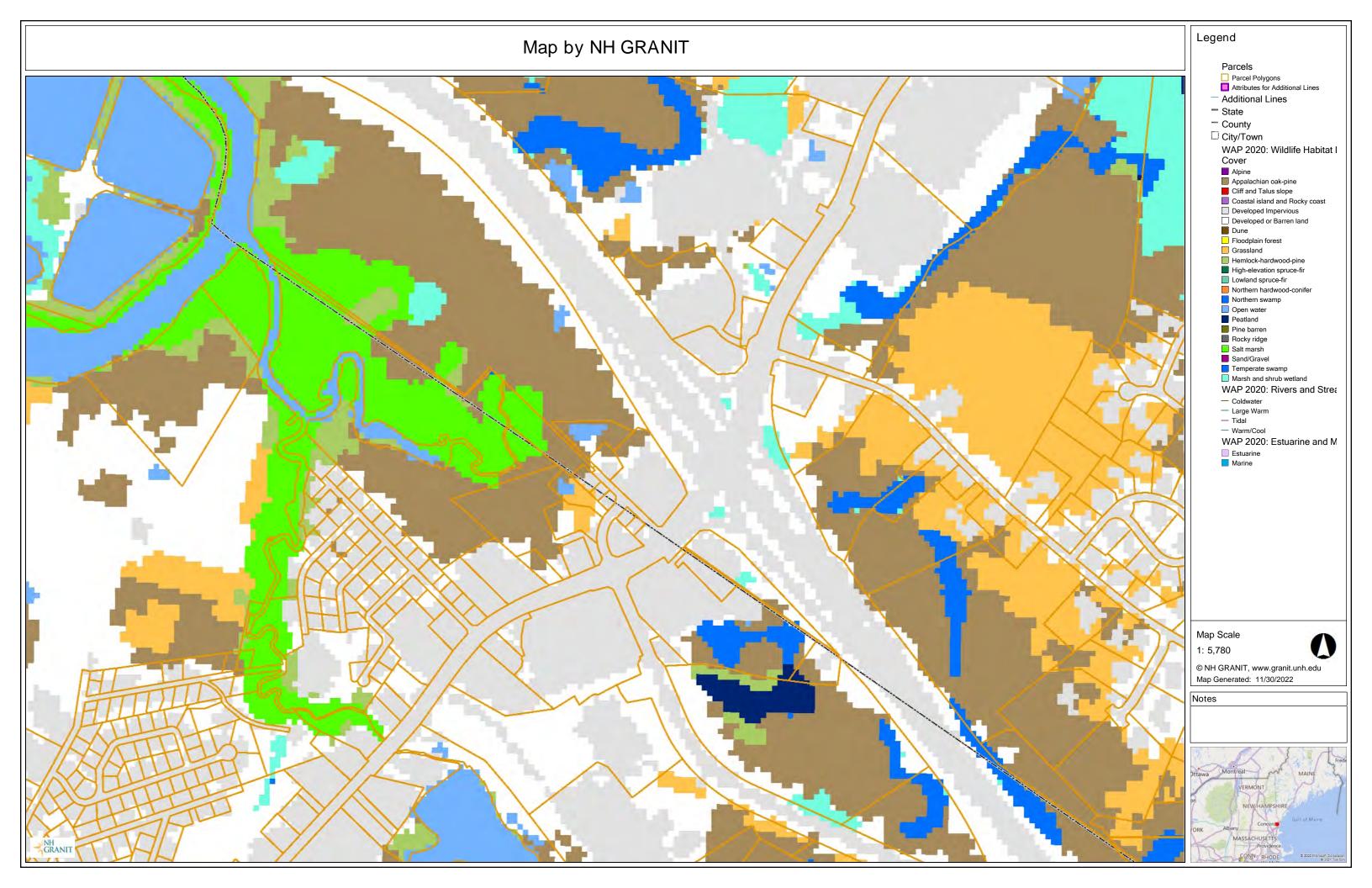


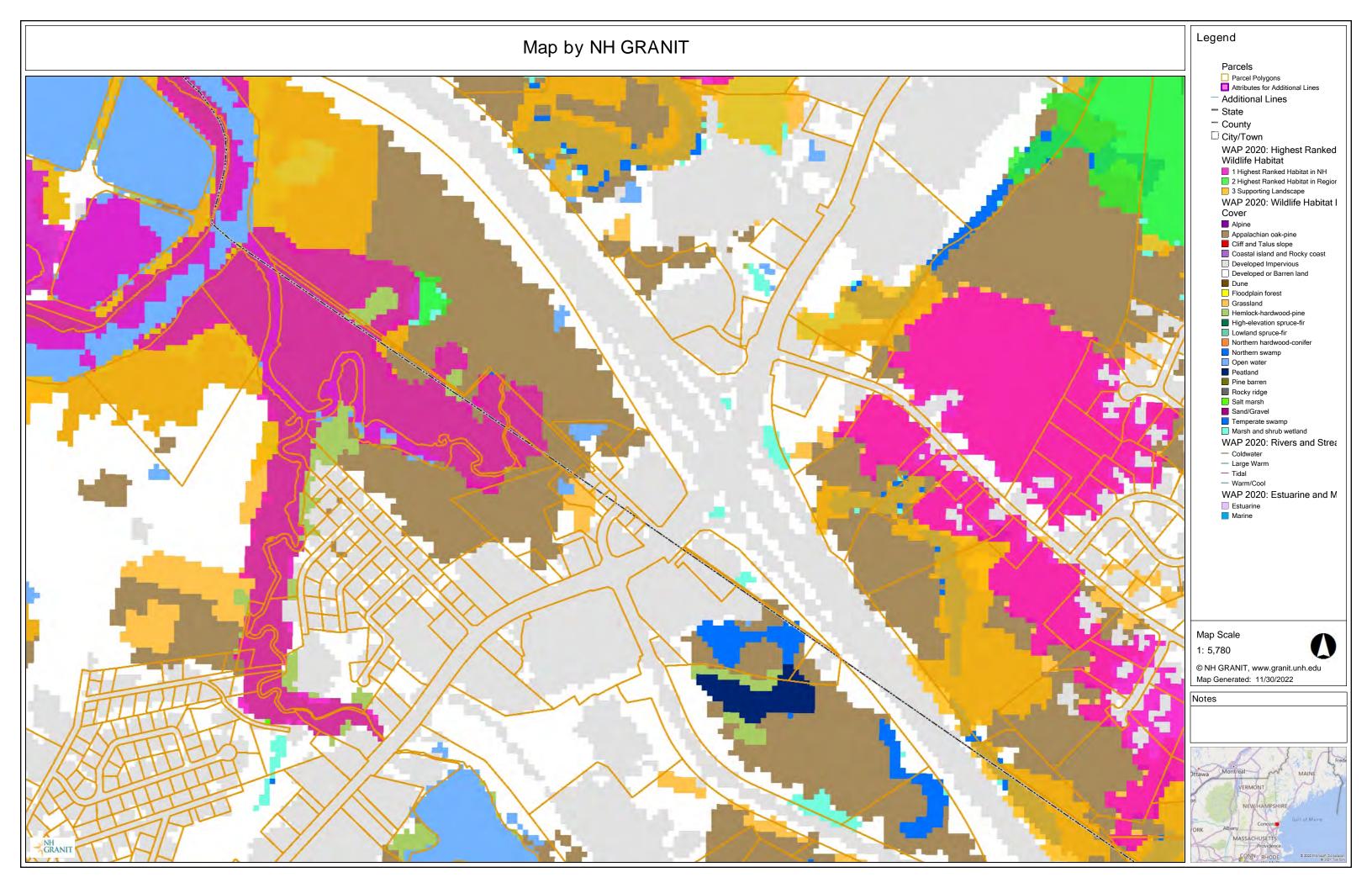


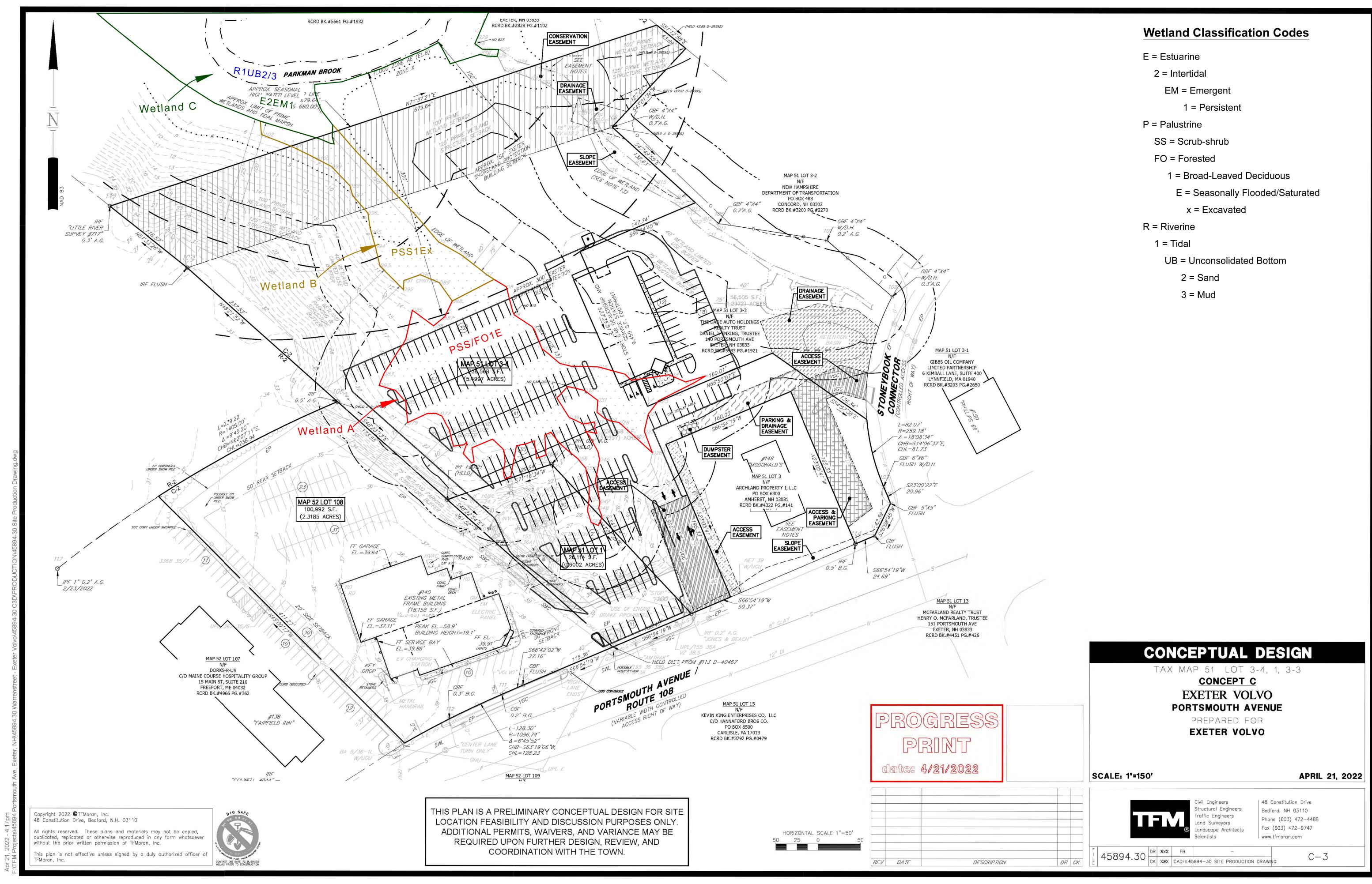
330

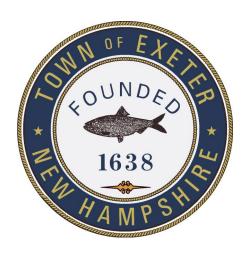












Brickyard Park and Griset-Mendez Conservation Area

Natural Resources

Brickyard Park and the Griset-Mendez Conservation Area is a 54.75 acre area of predominately undeveloped woodland comprised of two separate parcels. The Brickyard Park parcel is a 12.75 acre property owned and managed by the Exeter Parks and Recreation Department. It contains a 2.25 acre athletic field and parking area predominantly used for group sports such as flag football. The remaining 10.5 acres are undeveloped woodland. The Griset-Mendez Conservation Area is a 31.61 acre property owned and managed by the Exeter Conservation Commission. The large unfragmented block of deciduous and conifer forests and wetlands associated with Scamen Brook. The undeveloped portions of these parcels provide quality habitat that supports a diverse array of wildlife and contributes to the protection of an important wildlife corridor. This makes it an excellent spot for viewing wildlife including beavers, deer, coyote, fox, rodents, amphibians and a variety of bird species.

Property Dedication

Brickyard Park and the Griset-Mendez Conservation Areas were deeded by Brian Griset and Adela Mendez-Griset and their family to the Town of Exeter for the enjoyment of all its residents and other creatures in the belief that everyone should leave this Earth just a little bit better for each new generation.

The 12.75 acre Brickyard Park and recreational fields located along Kingston Road were dedicated to provide a children's active recreational area on the west side of Exeter in 1993. Three decades later, in 2021, the adjacent Mendez-Griset parcel was deeded to the Town for passive recreation, ecological education opportunities and to protect a diverse ecosystem to support native NH wildlife. This property was deeded in association with the Hidden Meadow development. The development includes a contiguous, privately-owned 10-acre open space managed by the homeowners association. This private parcel features grassland habitat which adds to the diversity of habitat types in the region, helping to support a broader array of wildlife diversity.

Compatible Uses

The two Town-owned properties may be enjoyed by the public for on-trail passive recreation including hiking and bird watching. Dogs are welcomed but must be leashed and cleaned up after. In the winter, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing enable year-round exploration of the area.

Wheeled and motorized vehicles, hunting, camping and fires are prohibited.



A small trail has been installed connecting to both the Brickyard Park parking lot and the dedication bench south of Brickyard Park through the woodland of both parcels. The trail follows a former agricultural road, crosses and old beaver dam that is now an earthen path. The former agricultural roadway supports a vibrant population of cottontail rabbits and the woodland overstory along the trail is a great area to see barred owls. This trail ultimately connects with a rail path that functioned when the area was used as Eno's Brickyard. Supplies were carted from the brickyard to the railroad via this rail path. *Please note:* the old rail path is privately owned and not open to the public at this time. Please respect private property signs.

Trail Information & Historical Use

USE LIMITATIONS:



Trail Loop 0.45 mi.



Smith Page

Conservation

ATER





Oaklands Town Forest Region

Natural Resources

The Oaklands Town Forest is a 230-acre area of conservation lands managed by the Exeter Conservation Commission. The property was originally conserved in the 1990s with 137 acres of additional parcels conserved adjacent to the town forest over the years. In 1991, by vote of the residents of Exeter, the land was officially designated as a Town Forest, giving it special allowances under NH Revised Statutes 31:112. The forest spans the area north of Route 101 between Watson and Newfields Roads (Rte. 85). Several trails cross onto private property, lands managed by home ownerships and conservation easements and rely on permission from the landowners.

The large unfragmented block of deciduous and conifer forests is important for wildlife diversity, quality habitat and movement corridors. This makes it an excellent spot for viewing wildlife including beavers, deer, coyote, fox, rodents, reptiles, amphibians and many bird species. The land is characterized by numerous boulder and ledge outcrops, hummocky terrain, and a number of vernal pools and wetlands. Forestry management is guided by a long term forest management plan which includes occasional selective harvesting.

Trail Information

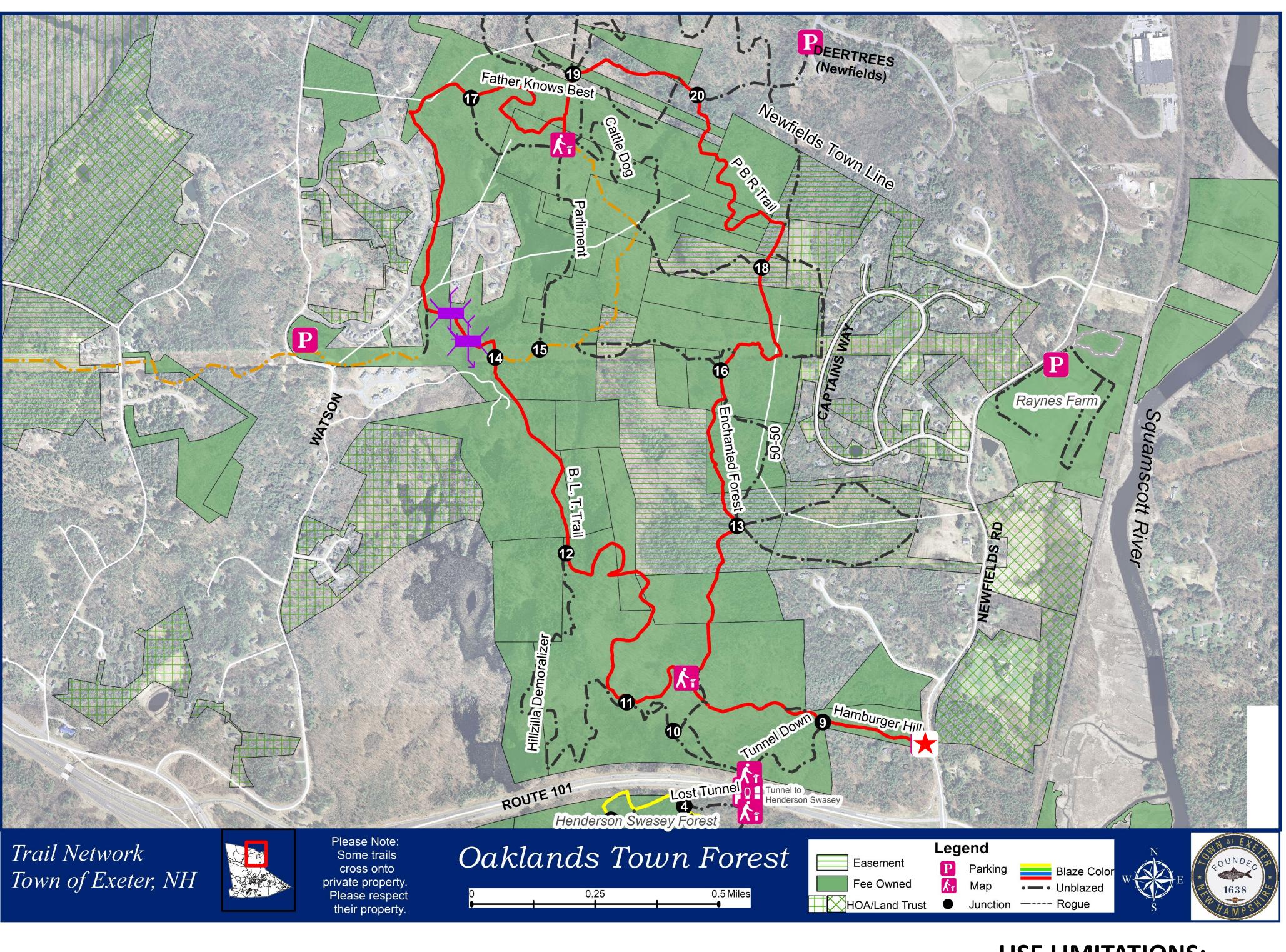
The area has a well-established trail system that provides a number of outdoor opportunities, including cross-country skiing, running and jogging, hiking, orienteering and mountain biking. The trail connects to the Henderson Swasey Town Forest trail network to the south through a large culvert that runs beneath Route 101. The trails extend into Newfields to a parking lot on Deertrees Ln. Though the main trailhead is west of Newfields Road, additional access points occur at Watson Road, and intercept private land within the Forest Ridge and Captains Meadow land.

Temporary closures may occur during very muddy or wet conditions. Closures will be posted at entrance kiosks and the Town of Exeter website. Private landowners have the right to limit access. Please respect closures for the benefit of all users.

Compatible Uses

The property is open year round for passive recreation such as hiking, wildlife viewing, biking, winter snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, and hunting in season. Users should wear blaze orange during hunting seasons.

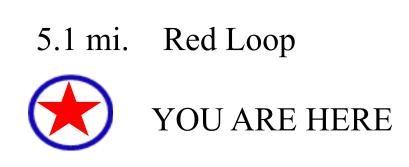
Leashed dogs under their owners control are permitted. As a courtesy to others and out of respect to your trail system, please carry-in-carry out all trash and clean up dog waste.



First Time to Our Trails?

This is a complex network of trails. Only our colored trails have painted blazes, with double blazes indicating direction changes. Though we attempt to keep blazes maintained, a forest is a dynamic system and markers may or may not always be visible. Always follow safe hiking standards, let others know your hike plan, be adequately dressed and carry food and water, be aware of sunset times, pay attention to your surroundings, weather and trail conditions. Staying safe is YOUR responsibility.

Distances:





USE LIMITATIONS:



NEW TO THE TRAIL NETWORK? Visit openstreetmap.org And click on the ARROW to location your position.



Henderson Swasey Town Forest

Natural Resources

The Henderson-Swasey Town Forest is a 220-acre area of conservation lands managed by the Exeter Conservation Commission. The property was originally conserved in the 1970s with additional parcels added over the years. In 1991, by vote of the residents of Exeter, the land was officially designated as a Town Forest, giving it special allowances under NH Revised Statutes 31:112. The forest spans the area south of Route 101 between Commerce Drive and Newfields Road (Rte. 85) near the rail-road trestle underpass. Several trails cross onto private property and rely on permission from the landowners.

The large unfragmented block of deciduous and conifer forests is important for wildlife diversity, quality habitat and movement corridors. This makes it an excellent spot for viewing wildlife including beavers, deer, coyote, fox, rodents, reptiles, amphibians and many bird species. The land is characterized by numerous boulder and ledge outcrops, hummocky terrain, and a number of vernal pools and wetlands. Forestry management is guided by a long term forest management plan which includes occasional selective harvesting.

Trail Information

The area has a well-established trail system that provides a number of outdoor opportunities, including cross-country skiing, running and jogging, hiking, orienteering and mountain biking. The trail connects to the Oaklands Town Forest trail network to the north through a large culvert that runs beneath Route 101. Though the main trailhead is west of Newfields Road, several other access points exist on private lands including: via the C3i parking lot off of the Commerce Way culde-sac, Industrial Drive, behind the Meeting Place, and Norris Brook Condominiums.

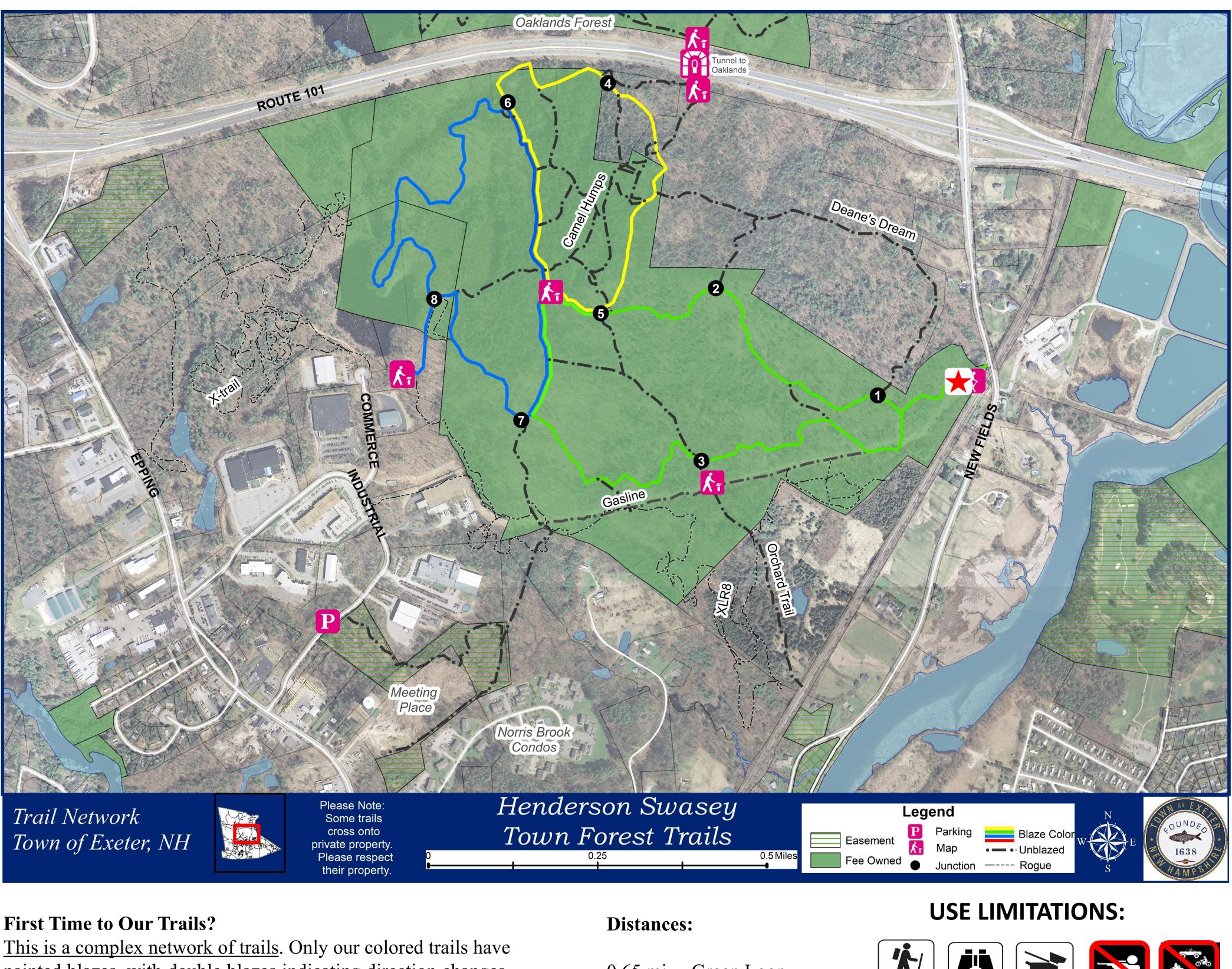
Temporary closures may occur during very muddy or wet conditions. Closures will be posted at entrance kiosks and the Town of Exeter website. Private landowners have the right to limit access. Please respect closures for the benefit of all users.

Compatible Uses

The property is open year round for passive recreation such as hiking, wildlife viewing, biking, and winter snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Leashed dogs under their owners control are permitted. As a courtesy to others and out of respect to your trail system, please carry-in-carry out all trash and clean up dog waste.

Hunting is not permitted on this property, but visitors connecting to the Oaklands Town Forest should be aware that hunting is permitted there.



painted blazes, with double blazes indicating direction changes. Though we attempt to keep blazes maintained, a forest is a dynamic system and markers may or may not always be visible. Always follow safe hiking standards, let others know your hike plan, be adequately dressed and carry food and water, be aware of sunset times, pay attention to your surroundings, weather and trail conditions. Staying safe is <u>YOUR</u> responsibility.

0.65 mi.	Green Loop
1.75 mi.	Blue Loop
0.98 mi.	Yellow Loop
0.50 mi.	Gas Pipeline



YOU ARE HERE

NEW TO THE TRAIL NETWORK? Visit openstreetmap.org And click on the ARROW to location your position.

1	Exeter Conservation Commission
2	November 8, 2022
3	Nowak Room
4	Exeter Town Offices
5	10 Front Street
6	Draft Minutes
7	
8	Call to Order
9	
10	1. Introduction of Members Present (by Roll Call)
11	
12	Present at tonight's meeting were by roll call, Chair Andrew Koff, Nick Campion, Don Clement, Alternate,
13	and Kyle Welch, Alternate
14	
15	Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner
16	
17	Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and indicated Alternates Don Clement and Kyle Welch
18	would be active.
19	
20	2. Public Comment (7:00 PM)
21	
22	Mr. Koff asked if there were any questions or comments from the public related to non-agenda matters
23	and there were none.
24	
25	Action Items
26	1 Draft Floodalain Davelonment Ordinance Amendment
27 28	1. Draft Floodplain Development Ordinance Amendment
28 29	Ms. Murphy reported the amendment to the Floodplain Ordinance has been drafted to elevate the base
30	flood to 2' (currently it is at 1'). She worked with RPC to establish an advisory area to recommend
31	owners follow the SLR maps extending beyond the FEMA maps. This is for a small area of Water Street
32	and on Portsmouth Ave where the water treatment plant is. There would be no change to flood
33	insurance. It would formalize the process of what applicants provide including certifications. She met
34	with the Master Plan Oversight Committee. The amendment would go to Town Meeting after public
35	hearings with the Planning Board.
36	
37	Ms. Murphy posted the map showing the area in pink, which is required, and the portion shown in blue
38	where new construction or substantial improvements would trigger recommendations to follow the
39	same procedure as if in the flood plain, to be 2' above base flood elevation.
40	
41	Mr. Clement asked why not require this in this area and Mr. Koff noted fiscal impacts would likely cause
42	it to be shot down. Mr. Welch noted, as being devil's advocate, that it would put a lot of faith in the SLR
43	models for 2050 and 2100 which show 4" SLR with storm surge in 2100. Ms. Murphy noted it promotes

44	ed	uca	tion a	and publi	c outreach and communication. The levels could be higher than modeled if there is
45	no	ta	chang	ge in foss	il fuel reduction. She noted these models don't reflect inland rise modeled by the
46	Ca	pe s	study		
47					
48	2.	Сс	ommi	ttee Rep	orts
49					
50			a.	Propert	ty Management
51					
52				i.	Seasonal Closure of McDonnell Conservation Area Gate Effective: 10/28
53					
54					Ms. Murphy reported the gate is closed for the season and while this would leave
55					parking for only one or two cars, people can still walk out there. She thanked,
56					Diane, Bruce, Charlene and the McSweenies for their help with closing the gate each
57					day. Having the gate closed will cut down on calls to Police during the winter
58					months.
59					
60				ii.	Conservation Land Mowing & Recommendations for Next Year
61					
62					Mr. Murphy discussed mowing with David O'Hearn. Morrissette had been divided
63					into three areas to be mown every other year. It would be three years before the
64					first area would be mown again. He recommended that since the woody growth is
65					increasing to mow the full field in 2023 and then divide into half every other year.
66					There is a lot of multiflora rose and autumn olive which are invasive species. She
67					noted she has seen a lot more diversity with annuals. She reported he brush
68					hogged the Stone property by Powder Mill Road and it looks good. He
69					recommended two cut next year in June and August. The first cut will trigger
70					resprouting.
71					
72					Mr. Clement indicated he would like to see an opportunity for agricultural use or
73					community gardens there. The soil was fertile there. Ms. Murphy noted the south
74					side at Raynes can be used for community gardens.
75					
76					Mr. Koff noted there is no water or electricity, but a tank could be placed. There are
77					no deed restrictions for agriculture on the parcel. Ms. Murphy noted there is a gas
78					line to consider close to the access way.
79					
80					Mr. Koff indicated the Commission would figure out how to come up with the
81					additional \$2,000 to fund additional mowing.
82					
83				iii. I	Raynes Farm Project
84					
85					Murphy noted the Commission received an L-Chip Grant for \$100,000 matched by
86					dents with another \$100,000 and \$50,000 from the Commission for the repairs at
87				Ray	nes Barn. She put out two RFPs and has not received any qualified response. She

88	reached out to the company, Bedard Preservation, who did the identification and cost of
89	repairs, and they are willing to complete the project now that they have time in their
90	schedule. However costs have now increased by \$50,000 due to inflation and what they
91	have would only purchase clapboards and paint two sides. They would focus on the
92	south and east sides which are the worst. She submitted a Scope of Work Amendment
93	to L-Chip and would contract with Bedard before the end of December.
94	
95	Ms. Murphy researched grants and found one with T-Mobile that is \$50,000 and closes
96	at the end of December. The grant is for improving community facilities and promoting
97	public spaces. She would hear by January or February. She is getting letters of support
98	from the Historical Society, the Merrills (former farmer), the Word Barn, Facilities
99	Advisory Committee is presenting at the end of the week and with the Select Board. If
100	successful she would go back to L-Chip and amend the contract with Bedard. The
101	contingency plan is the Moose Plate but that would delay until 2024. She thanked Don
102	and Sally for providing feedback and edits on the application.
103	
104	iv. Griset-Mendez Property Update
105	
106	Ms. Murphy reported she received no update from the State on the wetland issue
107	raised. She shared the photos and information and asked if a permit were issued. The
108	no-hunting signage has been installed. She ordered custom signs.
109	
110	v. Amundsen Easement Grantor Request
111	
112	Ms. Murphy noted a property owner came in and wants to cut back two and a half acres
113	off Garrison Lane, but the plan doesn't line up with the aerial, so the proposal is unclear
114	to her at this point. There is a large easement with exclusion area.
115	
116	b. Trails
117	
118	Mr. Koff reported there was a Trails Committee meeting last week. Mr. Welch attended and
119	Mr. Short phoned in. Toby from Fort Rock Riders was there. They discussed closures of side
120	trails. Toby has signs that say closed for revegetation. Someone took down some of the
121	Conservation signs. Mr. Welch brought maps called heat maps that track use by bike or
122	pedestrian on trail apps. He showed locations where bikes might like what he called spaghetti
123	trails whereas pedestrians don't want to see the same sights. A lot are on private property and
124	the community will be sad if those go away.
125	
125	Mr. Koff indicated the need for better signage and possibly QR codes to assist those getting lost.
120	The Commission could reach out to the Fire Department to see if they have records of where
128	people are having difficulty most often. Blazing could be closer together and signs could
128	indicate the direction to parking lots.
129	
130	Ms. Murphy will bring the budget to the next meeting.
101	wish warping will bring the budget to the next meeting.

132		
132		c. Outreach Events
134		c. Outreach Events
134		i. 9/25 Kayak Program Report
135		1. 9/25 Kayak Program Report
		Mr. Wolch and Mr. Madican attanded the Kayak program. About eight people joined them
137		Mr. Welch and Mr. Madison attended the Kayak program. About eight people joined them.
138		The cost is \$25 and includes kayak, paddle and lifejacket. Parks & Recreation may be
139		interested in sponsoring more events.
140		
141		ii. 10/21 SkyWatch Report
142		
143		Mr. Koff attended the SkyWatch event and noted there were about 28 people in
144		attendance. He thanked the NH Astronomical Society for giving the presentation in the barn
145		and setting up their telescopes for viewers. He hoped this would be a regular event and
146		happen in warmer months also.
147		
148		Ms. Murphy noted it was difficult with lighting to get people from the barn back to the
149		parking area where the telescopes were set up. She encouraged attendees to bring their
150		red flashlights and noted lanterns could be placed.
151		
152		d. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy, CPAC, Tree)
153		
154		Ms. Murphy noted Mr. Mattera attended the River Study Committee meeting on October 20 th .
155		Paul Vlasich, the Town Engineer, presented the updates on Pick Pocket Dam and syphon
156		updates.
157		
158		Ms. Murphy noted the Sustainability Committee is presenting to the Select Board on the $14^{ ext{th}}$
159		concerning single use plastics.
160		
161		Ms. Murphy noted the Energy Committee and Community Power created a timeline as to what
162		can be implemented. Sustainability and Energy talked about getting together to collaborate and
163		share resources and outreach on ordinances. Sustainability meets on the 1 st Tuesday of the
164		month and Energy meets on the 2 nd Wednesday during the day.
165		
166		Ms. Murphy reported the Tree Committee hosted their tree program and added labels to some
167		trees at Swasey.
168		
169	3.	Approval of Minutes
170		
171		a. September 13, 2022 Meeting
172		
173		Mr. Koff motioned to approve the September 13, 2022 minutes. Mr. Madison seconded the
174		motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0.
175		

176 4. Correspondence

Ms. Murphy reported she received a notification from Brendan Quigley concerning the Glerups
 projects with minor requests from NH DES to communicate with the abutter and correspondence
 from Fish & Game asking for notices of protected species and that the Functions and Values report
 address vernal pools.

- 182183 5. Other Business
- 184

187

194

177

185 Ms. Murphy noted the Carlisle project is going to the Planning Board on Thursday. The Gateway186 project got additional state funding.

Ms. Murphy reported the NHACC Conference was held. She and Mr. Madison attended. He went to climate adaption workshops, and they discussed SLR and precipitation. Ms. Murphy attended Conservation Fund Best Practices and was surprised to learn what happens when the budget isn't approved, and it goes to default and can be re-arranged by the Select Board. She noted she was disappointed Dover cancelled their presentation on TDR (Transfer of Development Rights). They have a robust Conservation fund as a result and she would like to learn more.

- Ms. Murphy attended a seminar at Plymouth Community College which partnered with the
 Conservation Commission and High School to conduct their natural resources inventory. She noted
 high schools get free access to ESRY. They focused on wildlife and trials and the effect of trails on
 wildlife.
- 200 7. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (12/13/22), Submission Deadline (12/2/22)
- 202 8. Adjournment
- 203

199

201

204 MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM seconded by Mr. Madison. A vote was 205 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

- 206
- 207 Respectfully submitted,
- 208
- 209 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary
- 210 Via Exeter TV