



Extension

Sea Grant



Land Conservation Priorities For the Protection of Coastal Water Resources (2016)



Summary:

Supplementing the 2006 Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds, this resource identifies land conservation opportunity areas based on coastal water resource benefits from pollutant attenuation and removal, flood storage and risk mitigation, and public water supply.

Keywords:

- Water resources
- Land conservation
- Conservation priorities
- Environmental benefits
- Public water supply
- Flood storage
- Pollutant attenuation
- GIS data layer

Key Points:

- There are many undeveloped areas in Exeter that provide a single or – quite often – multiple priority benefits to our community's water resources.
- In intercepting stormwater and removing pollutants, conserving and protecting riparian buffers is recommended – 50m for 1st and 2nd order streams and associated wetlands, 100m for 3rd+ order streams and wetlands, and 200m for tidal wetlands (after mapping a projected 2m vertical rise to account for sea-level rise).
- Prioritize the conservation of large, low, flat areas, as well as potential salt marsh migration pathways to safeguard the protection that salt marshes provide people and property.
- Protecting lands that deliver sustainable, abundant, and clean water is a critically important and cost-effective way of supporting Exeter's vibrant and resilient community, and benefits other natural resource values, such as wildlife habitat and recreation.

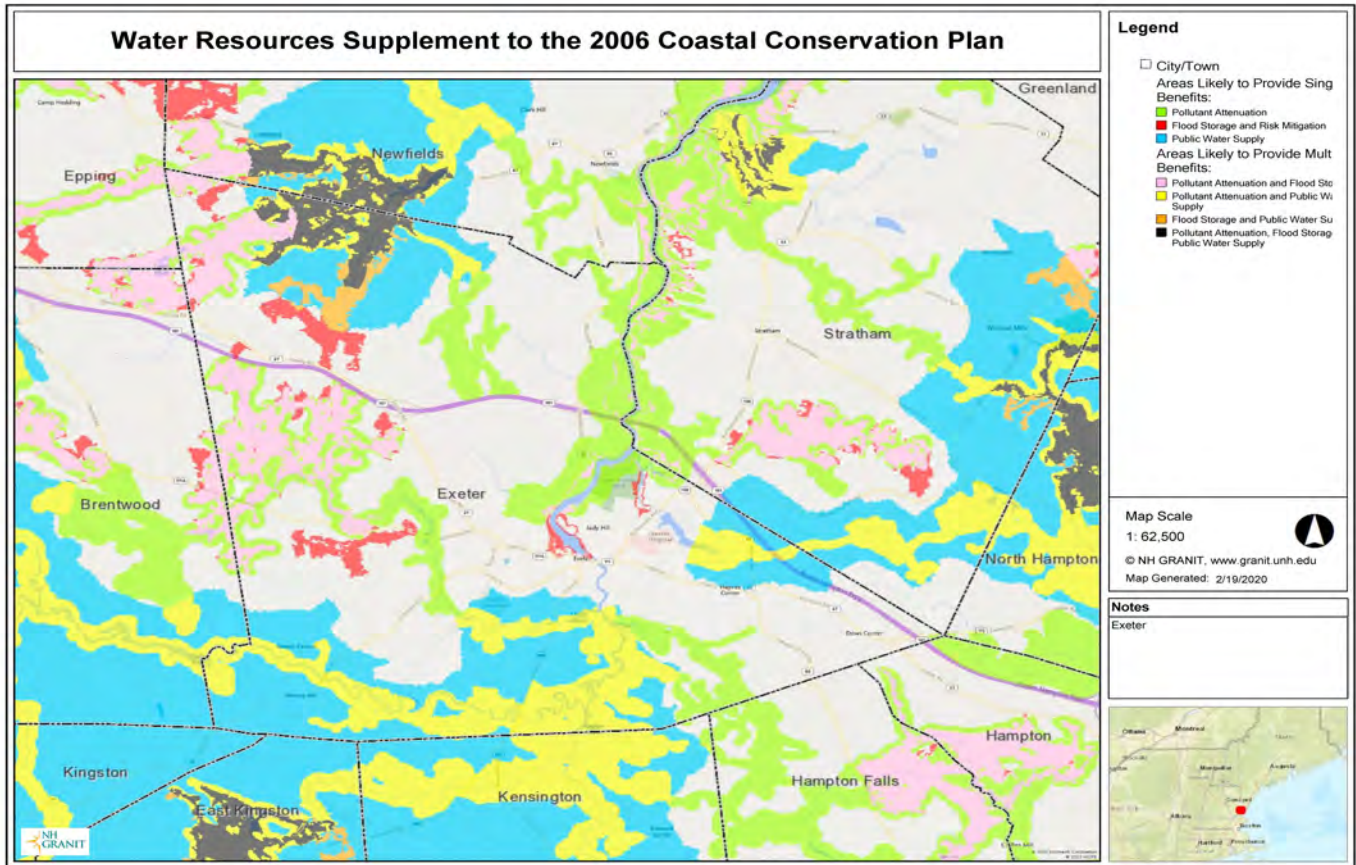


How to Use this Resource:

The associated map-based data layers, viewable on the NH Coastal Viewer, offer a valuable tool to identify areas that offer the greatest benefits to coastal water resources, providing a way to evaluate the effectiveness of existing conserved lands, as well as lands for potential future conservation or development. Additionally, the report explains the significance of the three priority benefits which are identified, as well as how to support and protect them.

[Link to Exeter Climate Resources Page with Land Conservation Priorities Report and Maps](#)

Example Maps:



Report Authors: The Nature Conservancy, NH Chapter
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