SUMMARY REPORT

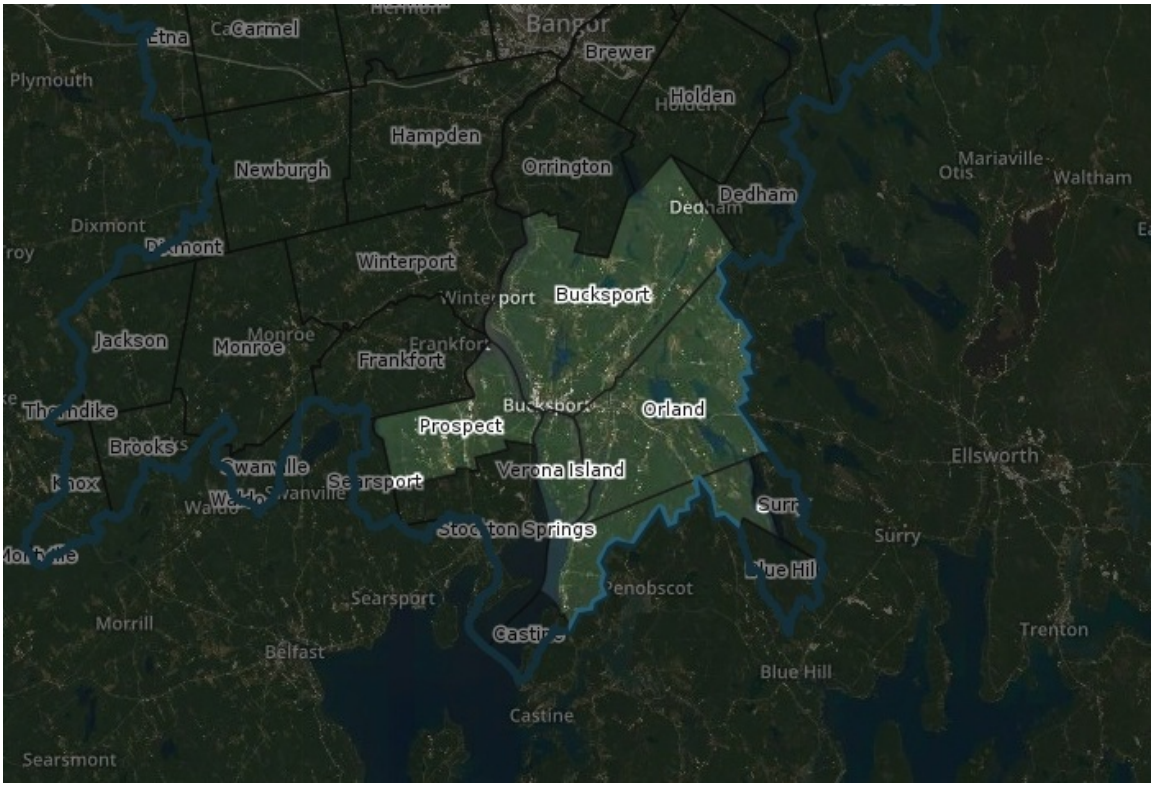
About This Report

This report includes custom results from the Maine Futures Community Mapper. These results are based on land suitability and land change models developed in partnership between University of Maine researchers and stakeholders representing conservation, forestry, agriculture, and economic development in Maine. These models are simplified representations of land use conditions, intended to inform planners, businesses, policy-makers, scientists, and other citizens when they are making land use plans and decisions. If you have any questions or concerns about the information included here or in the Maine Futures Community Mapper, contact info@mainelandusefutures.org. For more information about how these maps and models were developed, see MaineLandUseFutures.org

The Maine Futures Community Mapper includes complete coverage for approximately 4.5 million acres of Maine, in two watersheds: the Lower Penobscot River Watershed (LPRW) and the Casco Bay/Lower Androscoggin watershed (CBLA). These two watersheds were chosen based on research by the U.S. Forest Service that identified these areas as at-risk for significant impacts on forest ecosystems by future development. This report includes information for the sub-region that you selected.

Disclaimer: All maps, tables, and charts in the Maine Futures Community Mapper and in this report depict the results of land use models. These models are for exploratory land use planning purposes only, do not portray ground-truthed information, and are not sufficient for making legal or financial decisions.

Selected Area

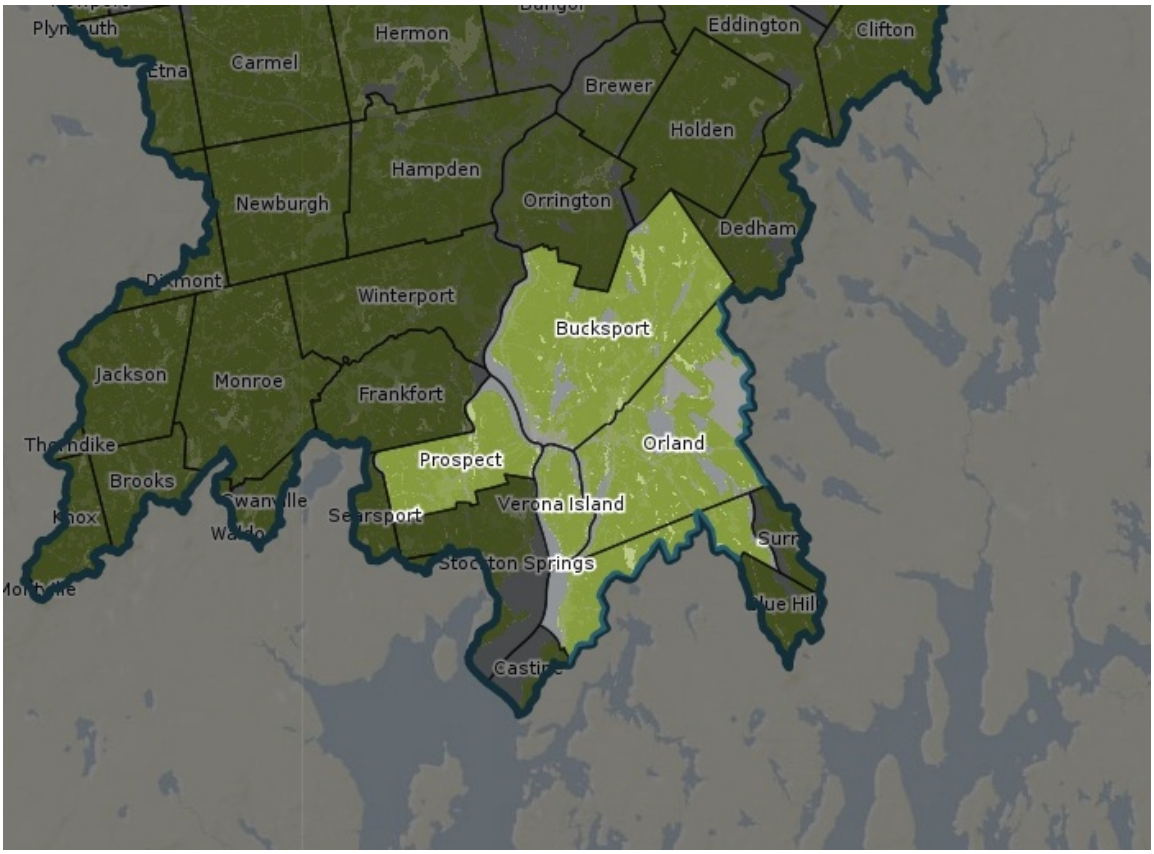


The selected area is 94,403 acres in size.

This occupies 4% of the Lower Penobscot River Watershed.

Suitability: Forestry

This layer shows suitability for forest management activities in the selected area. Forestry suitability is a product of factors identified by forestry stakeholders and weighted by researchers and forestry stakeholders. In the Lower Penobscot River Watershed (LPRW), factors include: site slope, distance to road, forest block size, site productivity, and access to markets. For the Casco Bay/Lower Androscoggin Watershed (CBLA), factors include: population density, proximity to recreation, degree of regulation, forest block size, distance to roads, slope, drainage, and productivity.



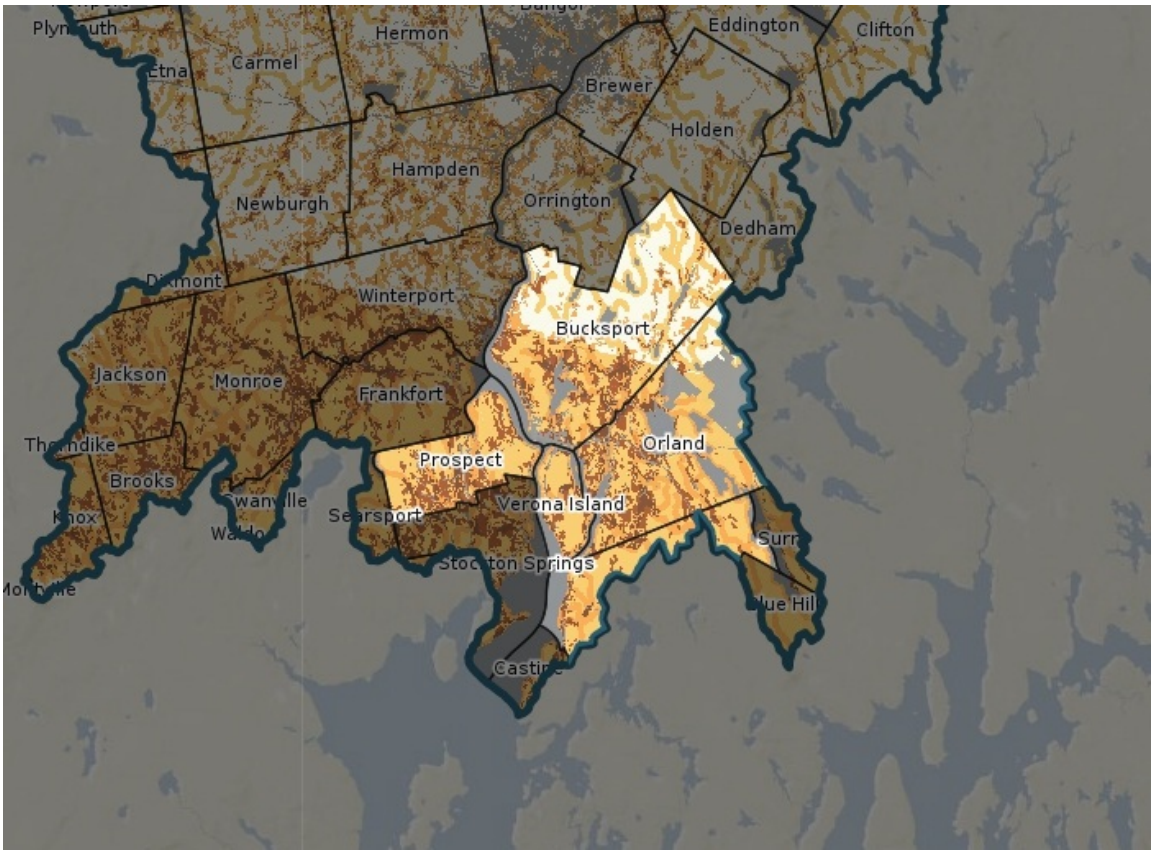
Suitability is based on factors and weights identified by local stakeholders knowledgeable about each land use and modeled using Bayesian belief networks. Suitability was scored between 0 (least suitable) and 1 (most suitable) and then rescaled to 0 to 100%. Unavailable areas are those that are excluded from this land use, either because they are already developed or because there are legal restrictions in place that preclude this land use.

	High Suitability		Moderate Suitability		Low Suitability		Unavailable	
Selected Area, Local Scoring	71,841 acres	76.10 %	4,576 acres	4.85 %	563 acres	0.60 %	17,424 acres	18.46 %
Selected Area, Regional Scoring	74,079 acres	78.47 %	2,899 acres	3.07 %	2 acres	0.00 %	17,424 acres	18.46 %
LPRW Watershed	2,089,754 acres	84.68 %	146,916 acres	5.95 %	1,258 acres	0.05 %	230,034 acres	9.32 %

Selected Area, Local Scoring Selected Area, Regional Scoring LPRW Watershed

Suitability: Agriculture

This layer shows suitability for agriculture activities in the selected area. Agriculture suitability is a product of factors identified by agriculture stakeholders and weighted by researchers and agriculture stakeholders. For the Lower Penobscot River Watershed (LPRW), factors incorporated into agriculture suitability are: commercial operation size, distance to wholesale market, retail operation size, distance to retail market, climatic favorability, irrigation, and soil productivity. For the Casco Bay/Lower Androscoggin Watershed (CBLA), factors incorporated into agriculture suitability are: expansion opportunity, access to markets, field size, support services, proximity and diversity of other farms, regulatory constraints, housing density, soils, water source aspect, and climate zones.



Unavailable
Highest 10%
80-90th percentile
70-80th percentile
60-70th percentile
50-60th percentile
40-50th percentile
30-40th percentile
20-30th percentile
10-20th percentile
Lowest 10%

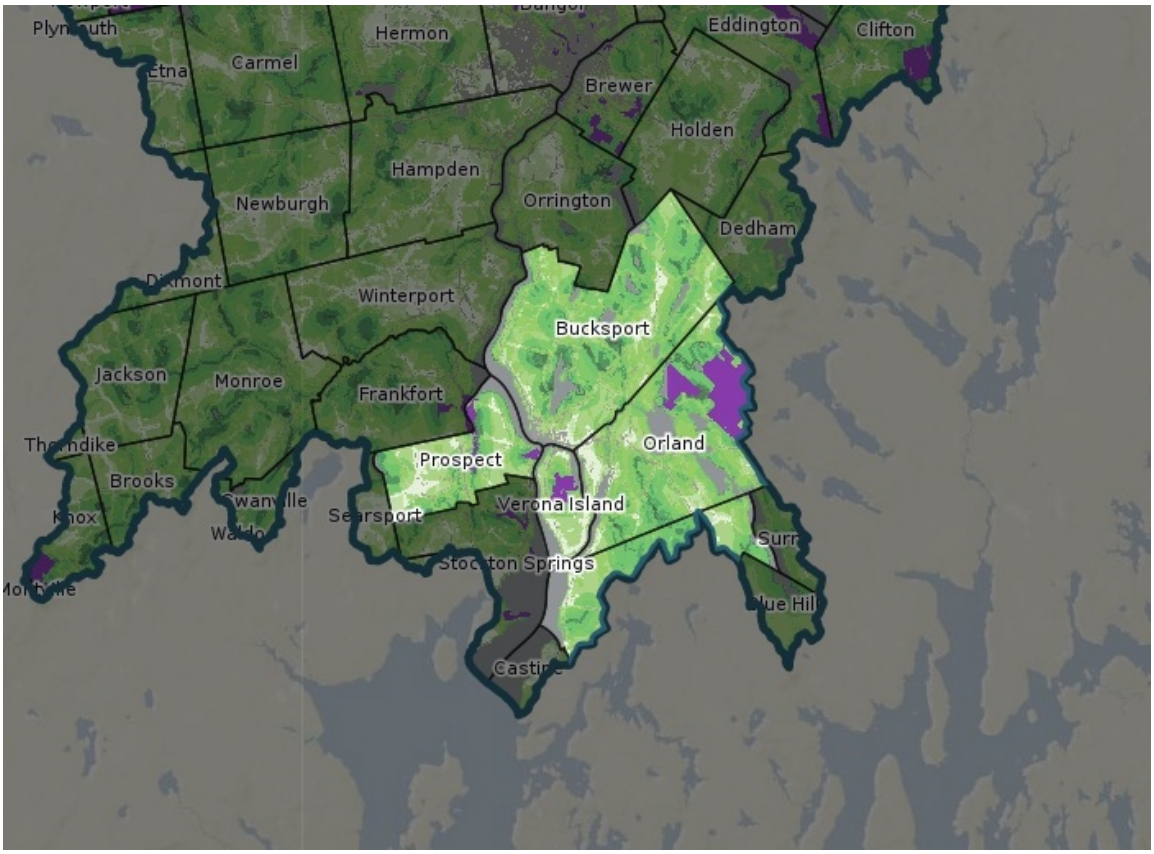
Suitability is based on factors and weights identified by local stakeholders knowledgeable about each land use and modeled using Bayesian belief networks. Suitability was scored between 0 (least suitable) and 1 (most suitable) and then rescaled to 0 to 100%. Unavailable areas are those that are excluded from this land use, either because they are already developed or because there are legal restrictions in place that preclude this land use.

	High Suitability		Moderate Suitability		Low Suitability		Unavailable	
Selected Area, Local Scoring	15,854 acres	16.79 %	34,950 acres	37.02 %	26,176 acres	27.73 %	17,424 acres	18.46 %
Selected Area, Regional Scoring	15,912 acres	16.86 %	48,097 acres	50.95 %	12,971 acres	13.74 %	17,424 acres	18.46 %
LPRW Watershed	107,766 acres	4.37 %	802,379 acres	32.51 %	1,327,783 acres	53.80 %	230,034 acres	9.32 %

Selected Area, Local Scoring Selected Area, Regional Scoring LPRW Watershed

Suitability: Conservation

This layer shows suitability for conservation activities in the selected area. Conservation suitability is a product of factors identified by conservation stakeholders and weighted by researchers and conservation stakeholders. For the Lower Penobscot River Watershed (LPRW), factors incorporated into conservation suitability are: municipal water source, surface water, floodplain, unfragmented terrestrial communities, rare species, wildlife habitat, distance to protected lands, viewshed, adjacency to water, and recreation points. For the Casco Bay/Lower Androscoggin Watershed (CBLA) factors incorporated into conservation suitability are: productive capacity, drinking water, state significant water quality, recreation features/access, block size, cohesion, ecological land units, rare species and high value habitat, species richness, and cultural/historical features.



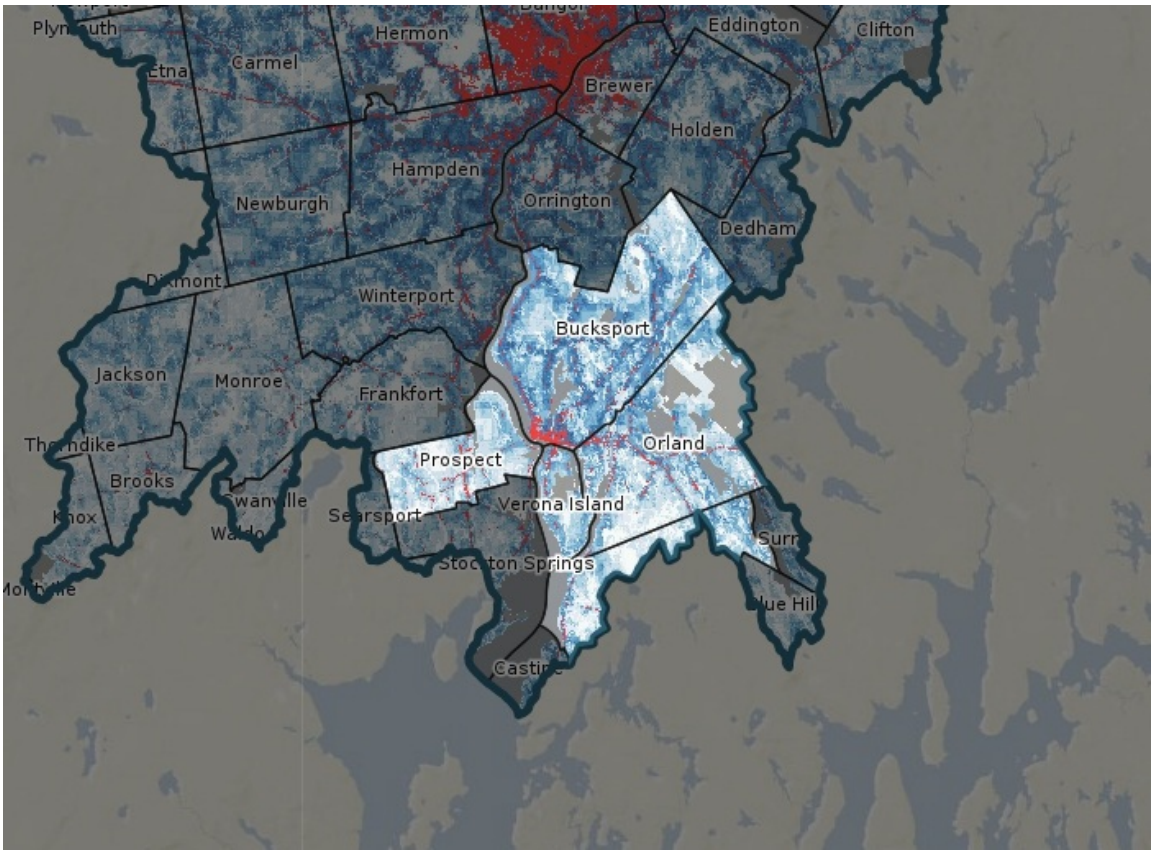
Suitability is based on factors and weights identified by local stakeholders knowledgeable about each land use and modeled using Bayesian belief networks. Suitability was scored between 0 (least suitable) and 1 (most suitable) and then rescaled to 0 to 100%. Unavailable areas are those that are excluded from this land use, either because they are already developed or because there are legal restrictions in place that preclude this land use.

	High Suitability		Moderate Suitability		Low Suitability		Unavailable	
Selected Area, Local Scoring	2,989 acres	3.17 %	60,809 acres	64.41 %	12,169 acres	12.89 %	13,547 acres	14.35 %
Selected Area, Regional Scoring	2,669 acres	2.83 %	60,748 acres	64.35 %	12,551 acres	13.29 %	13,547 acres	14.35 %
LPRW Watershed	128,802 acres	5.22 %	1,731,935 acres	70.18 %	202,680 acres	8.21 %	162,203 acres	6.57 %

Selected Area, Local Scoring Selected Area, Regional Scoring LPRW Watershed

Suitability: Development

This layer shows suitability for development activities in the selected area. Development suitability is a product of factors identified by economic development stakeholders and weighted by researchers and stakeholders. For the Lower Penobscot River Watershed (LPRW), suitability includes residential, commercial and amenity development based on: roads, utilities, education, proximity to service center, proximity to amenities, property tax rate, permitting, slope, soils, floodplain, infrastructure, ability to distribute, proximity to other businesses, population, and Viewshed. For the Casco Bay/Lower Androscoggin Watershed (CBLA) suitability includes residential and commercial development based on: environmental constraints, zoning/planning, environmental amenities, community amenities, roads, soils, public utilities, infrastructure, access to transportation networks, and proximity to other businesses.



Already Developed
Unavailable
Highest 10%
80-90th percentile
70-80th percentile
60-70th percentile
50-60th percentile
40-50th percentile
30-40th percentile
20-30th percentile
10-20th percentile
Lowest 10%

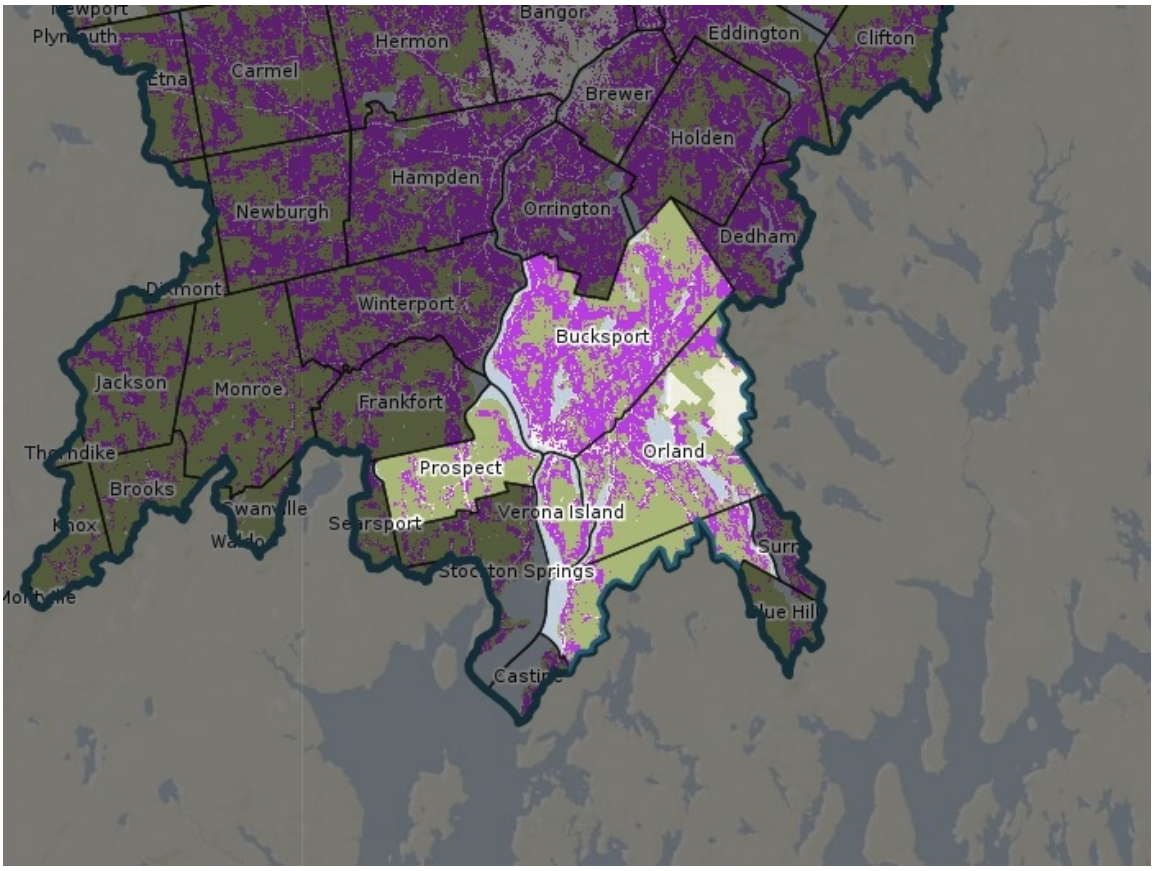
Suitability is based on factors and weights identified by local stakeholders knowledgeable about each land use and modeled using Bayesian belief networks. Suitability was scored between 0 (least suitable) and 1 (most suitable) and then rescaled to 0 to 100%. Unavailable areas are those that are excluded from this land use, either because they are already developed or because there are legal restrictions in place that preclude this land use.

	High Suitability		Moderate Suitability		Low Suitability		Unavailable	
Selected Area, Local Scoring	9,375 acres	9.93 %	57,417 acres	60.82 %	9,174 acres	9.72 %	16,008 acres	16.96 %
Selected Area, Regional Scoring	6,578 acres	6.97 %	59,206 acres	62.72 %	10,183 acres	10.79 %	16,008 acres	16.96 %
LPRW Watershed	68,505 acres	2.78 %	967,221 acres	39.19 %	1,027,690 acres	41.64 %	364,057 acres	14.75 %

Selected Area, Local Scoring Selected Area, Regional Scoring LPRW Watershed

Conflict: Forestry and Development

This layer identifies areas that are highly suitable for development, highly suitable for forestry, and areas that are highly suitable for both forestry and development.



High Forestry Potential
High Development Potential
High Potential for Both

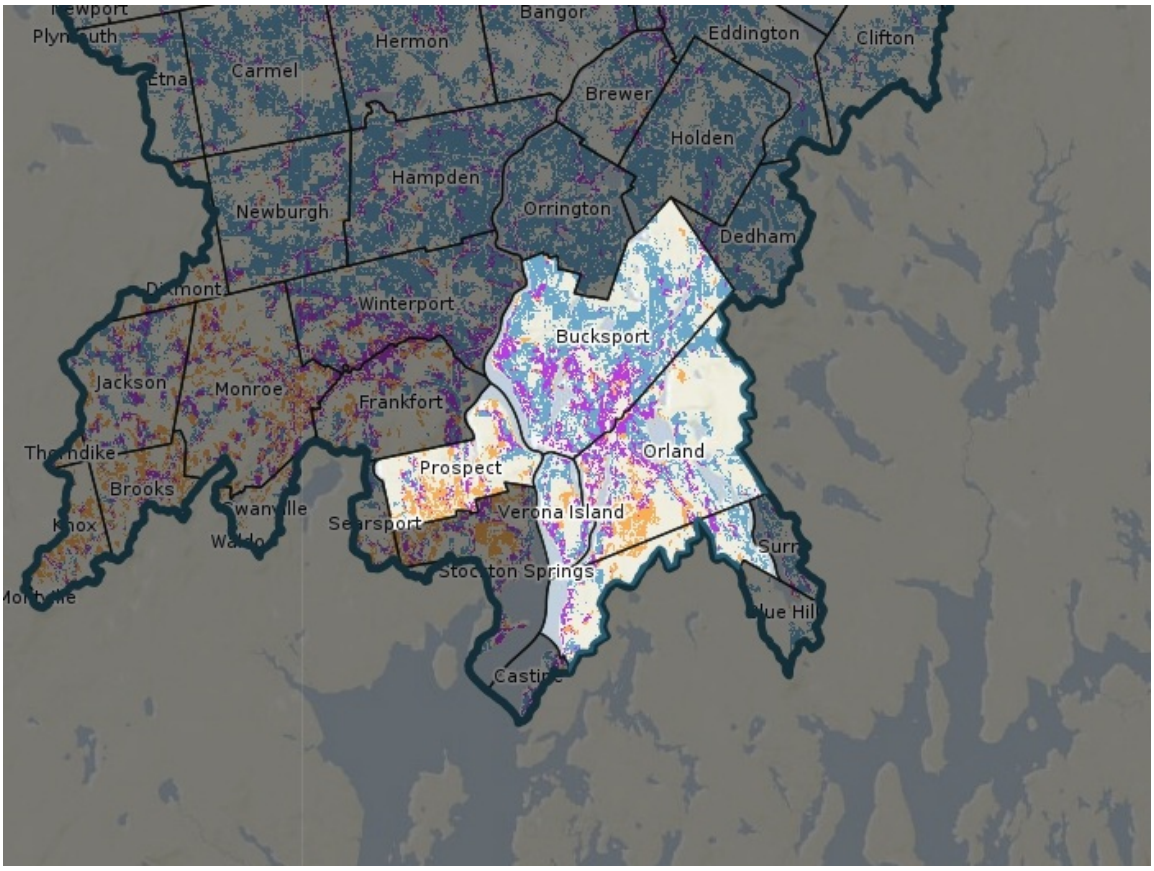
This layer identifies areas that are both highly suitable for development and highly suitable for forestry. The top half of the suitability scores (e.g., 0.50-1.00) for forestry are considered highly suitable in both LPRW and CBLA. Highly suitable for development includes the top third (0.67-1.00) of scores in CBLA and the top half of scores (0.50-1.00) in LPRW. Thresholds are based on the distribution of suitability scores for each land use in each watershed.

	High Forestry Potential		High Development Potential		High Potential for Both	Other
Selected Area, Local Scoring	46,259 acres	49.00 %	0 acres	0.00 %	30,719 acres	32.54 %
LPRW Watershed	1,925,643 acres	78.03 %	0 acres	0.00 %	311,024 acres	12.60 %

Selected Area LPRW Watershed

Conflict: Agriculture and Development

This layer identifies areas that are highly suitable for development, highly suitable for agriculture, and areas that are highly suitable for both agriculture and development.



High Agriculture Potential
High Development Potential
High Potential for Both

The top third of the suitability scores (e.g., 0.67-1.00) for agriculture are considered highly suitable in both LPRW and CBLA. Highly suitable for development includes the top third (0.67-1.00) of scores in CBLA and the top half of scores (0.50-1.00) in LPRW. Thresholds are based on the distribution of suitability scores for each land use in each watershed.

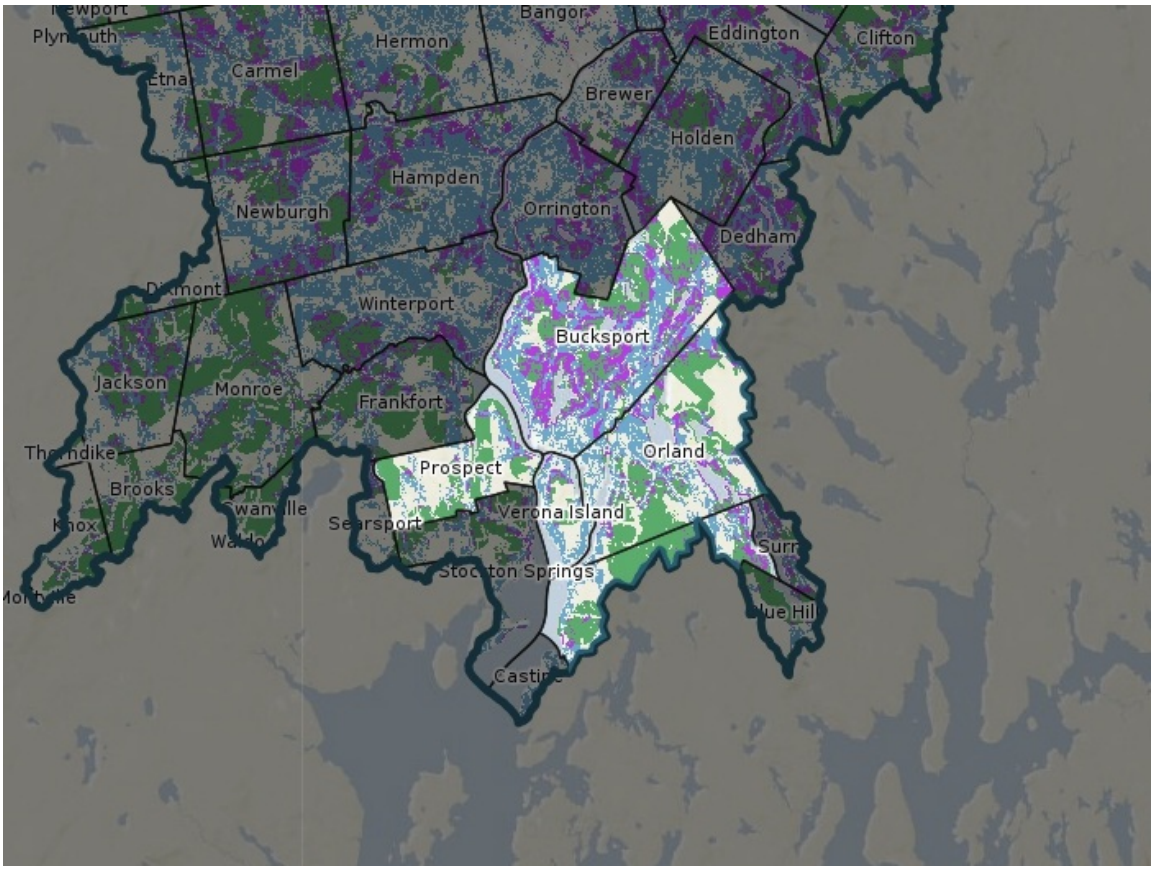
	High Agriculture Potential		High Development Potential		High Potential for Both	
Selected Area, Local Scoring	7,050 acres	7.47 %	21,727 acres	23.01 %	8,993 acres	9.53 %
LPRW Watershed	63,868 acres	2.59 %	266,411 acres	10.79 %	44,614 acres	1.81 %

Selected Area

LPRW Watershed

Conflict: Conservation and Development

This layer identifies areas that are highly suitable for development, highly suitable for conservation, and areas that are highly suitable for both conservation and development.



High Conservation Potential
High Development Potential
High Potential for Both

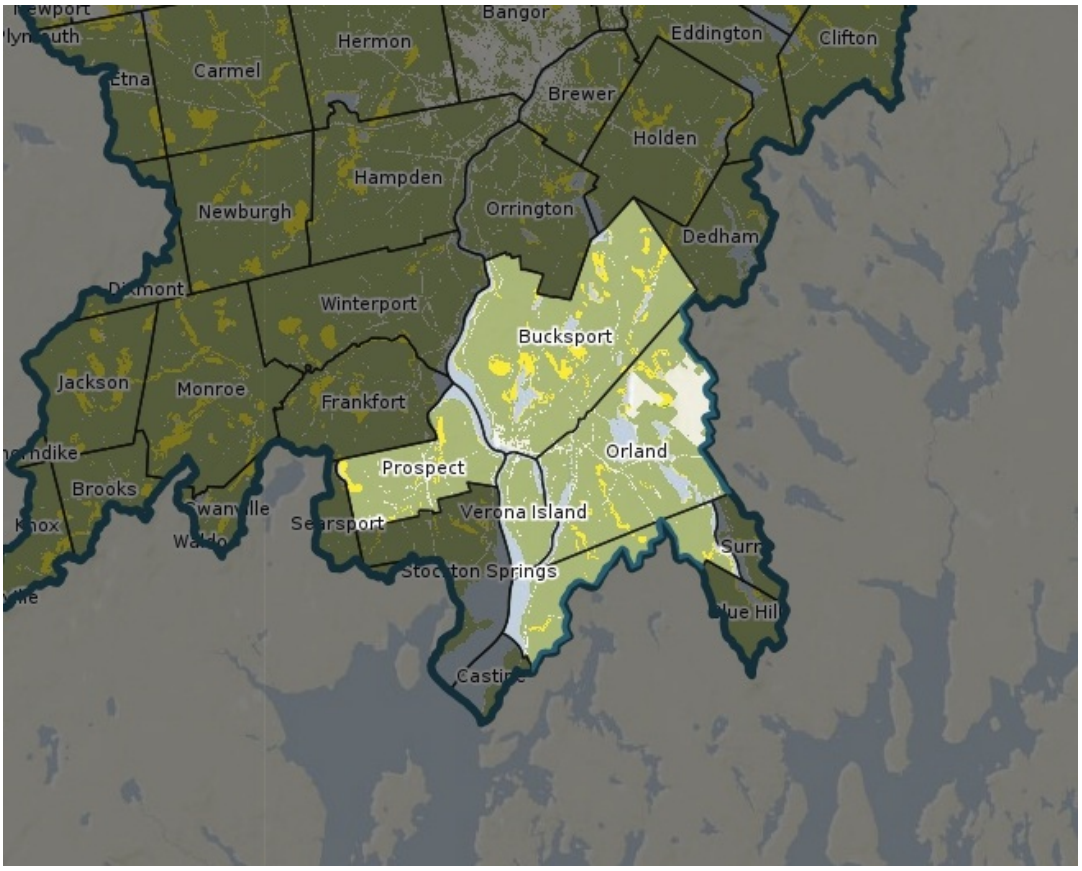
The top half of the suitability scores (e.g., 0.50-1.00) for conservation are considered highly suitable in both LPRW and CBLA. Highly suitable for development includes the top third (0.67-1.00) of scores in CBLA and the top half of scores (0.50-1.00) in LPRW. Thresholds are based on the distribution of suitability scores for each land use in each watershed.

	High Conservation Potential		High Development Potential		High Potential for Both	Other
Selected Area, Local Scoring	24,833 acres	26.31 %	19,458 acres	20.61 %	11,261 acres	11.93 %
LPRW Watershed	1,064,659 acres	43.14 %	206,838 acres	8.38 %	104,187 acres	4.22 %

Selected Area LPRW Watershed

Opportunity: Forestry and Conservation

This layer identifies areas that are both highly suitable for conservation and highly suitable for forestry.



High Forestry Potential
High Conservation Potential
High Potential for Both

For both conservation and forestry the top third of the suitability scores (e.g., 0.67-1.00) are considered highly suitable in both LPRW and CBLA. Thresholds are based on the distribution of suitability scores for each land use in each watershed.

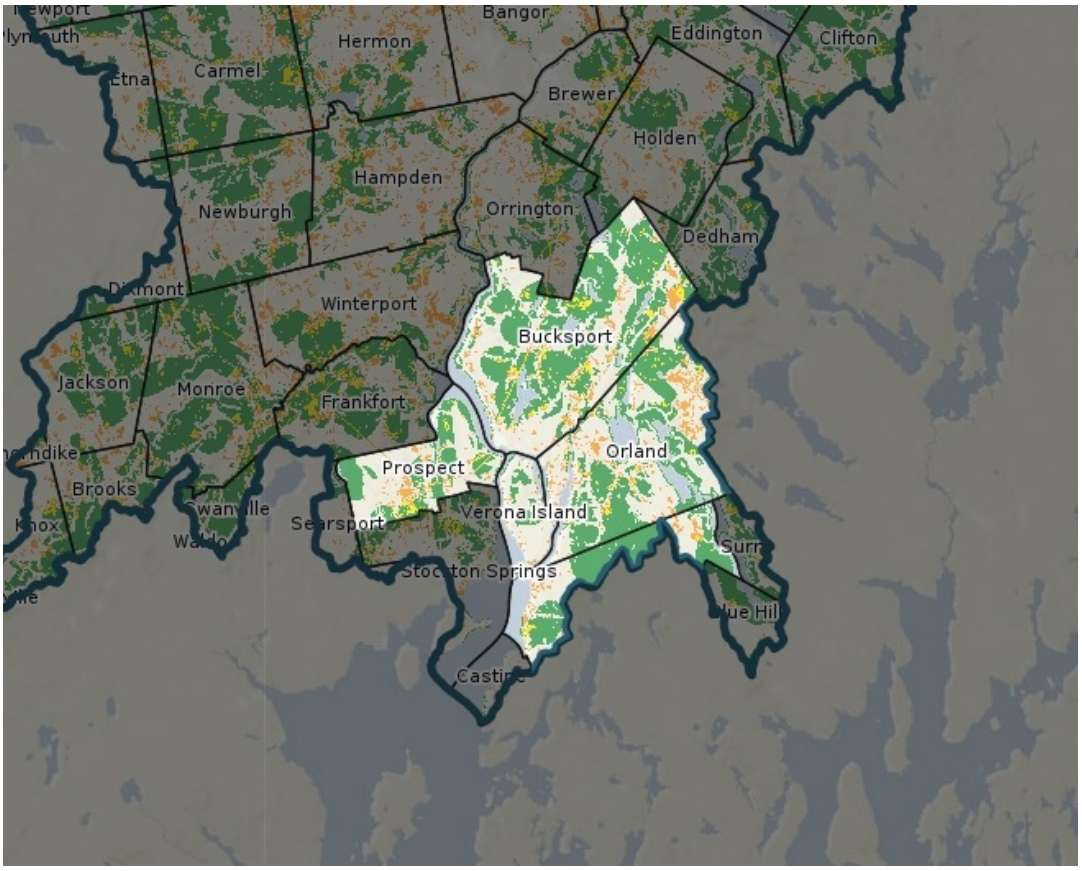
	High Forestry Potential		High Conservation Potential		High Potential for Both	Other
Selected Area, Local Scoring	71,886 acres	76.15 %	20 acres	0.02 %	5,039 acres	5.34 %
LPRW Watershed	1,990,120 acres	80.64 %	4,997 acres	0.20 %	233,718 acres	9.47 %

Selected Area

LPRW Watershed

Opportunity: Agriculture and Conservation

This layer identifies areas that are both highly suitable for conservation and are listed by the National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) as being currently in agriculture production or in a state that could easily be put under production (e.g., fallow fields).



High Potential for Agriculture
High Potential for Conservation
High Potential for Both

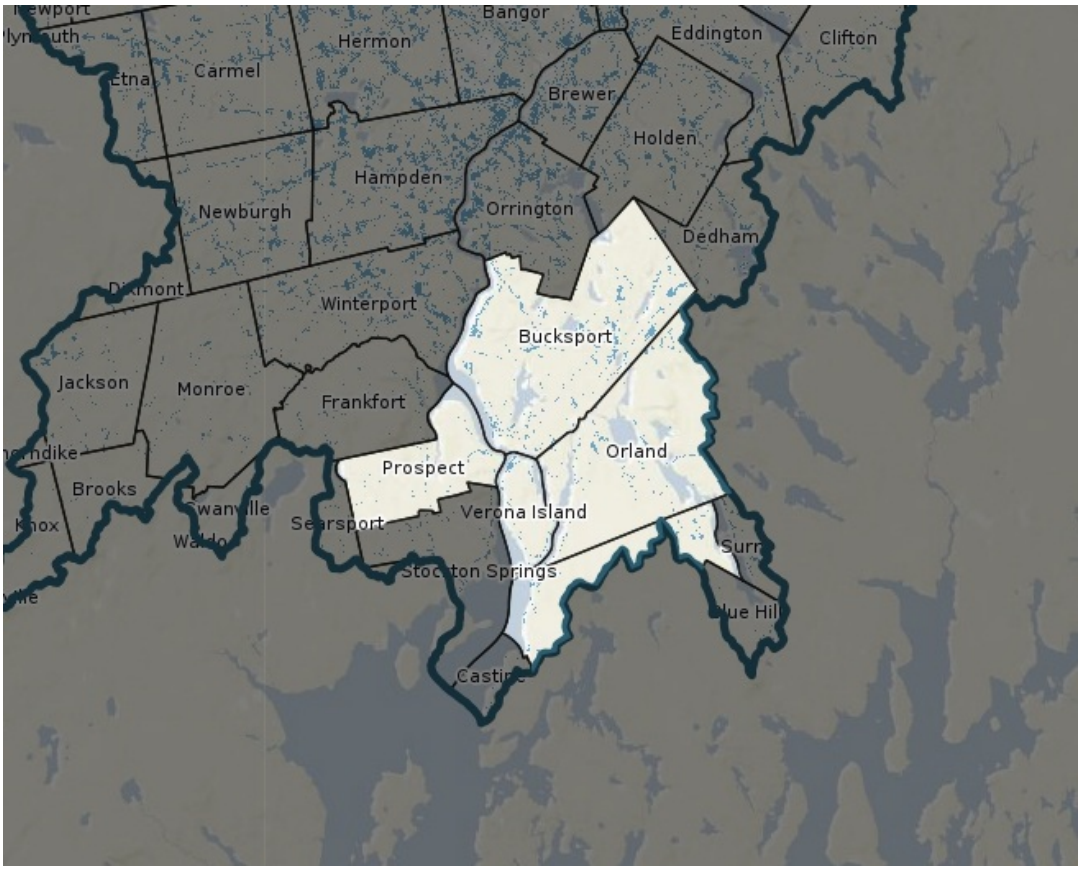
The top half of the suitability scores (e.g., 0.50-1.00) for conservation are considered highly suitable in both LPRW and CBLA. Thresholds are based on the distribution of suitability scores for each land use in each watershed.

	High Forestry Potential		High Conservation Potential		High Potential for Both		Other
Selected Area, Local Scoring	5,561 acres	5.89 %	33,843 acres	35.85 %	2,252 acres	2.39 %	
LPRW Watershed	130,834 acres	5.30 %	1,065,987 acres	43.19 %	102,858 acres	4.17 %	

Selected Area LPRW Watershed

Opportunity: Development Without Conflicts

This layer identifies areas that are highly suitable for development but are modeled as not being highly suitable for conservation, agriculture, or forestry. These maps do not include any ground-truthed information about the current status of the ownership or characteristics of the property. Disclaimer: This layer identifies areas that have a lower probability of having conflicts between development and other land uses compared with other areas.



Possible Development Opportunities

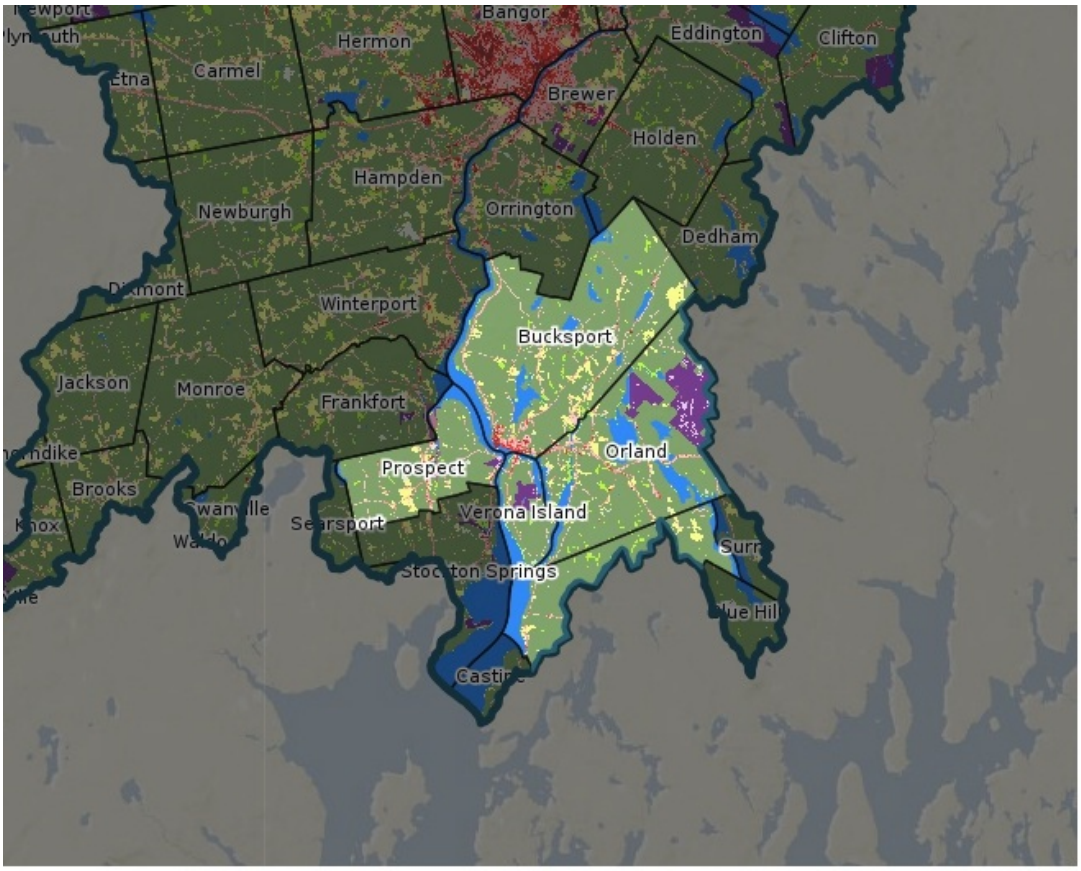
Highly suitable for development includes the top third (0.67-1.00) of scores in CBLA and the top half of scores (0.50-1.00) in LPRW. For the other land uses, areas not considered suitable includes the bottom half (0-0.49) for conservation, the bottom two-thirds (0-0.67) for agriculture, and the bottom nine-tenths (0-0.90) for forestry. Thresholds are based on the distribution of suitability scores for each land use in each watershed, which varied considerably.

	Possible Development Opportunities	Other
Selected Area, Local Scoring	2,780 acres	2.94 %
LPRW Watershed	62,919 acres	2.55 %

Selected Area LPRW Watershed

Scenario: 2006 Conditions (Reference)

This layer shows 2006 land use/land cover conditions. It combines the 2006 National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) with lands in conservation as of 2006, from The Nature Conservancy's 2010 protected areas dataset. It was then reclassified to reduce the number of classes displayed.



- Water
- Developed, Open Space
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed, High Intensity
- Forest
- Agriculture
- Wetlands
- Conserved Forest
- Conserved Agriculture
- Conserved Wetlands
- Conserved Other
- Other

Water, four density levels of Development, Forest, Agriculture, Emergent Wetlands, and Other are the reduced NLCD categories this layer displays. Agriculture includes Cultivated Crops and Pasture/Hay, and Forest includes Deciduous, Evergreen, Mixed, Scrub Shrub, and Woody Wetlands. Other includes the NLCD categories of Barren Lands, Grassland/Herbaceous, and Perennial Ice/Snow. Additionally, all conservation lands are identified, with their associated NLCD land use/land cover categories.

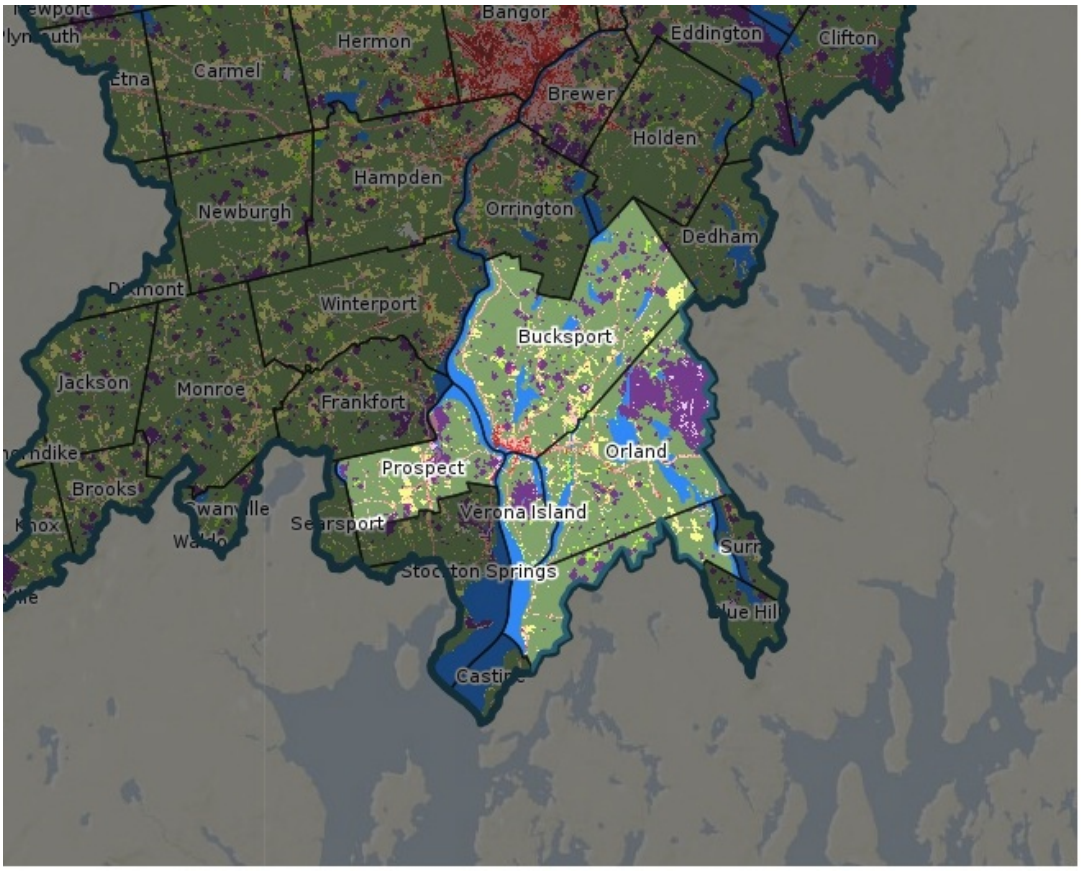
	Selected Area		LPRW Watershed	
Water	3,069 acres	3.25 %	94,327 acres	3.82 %
Developed, Open Space	449 acres	0.48 %	41,129 acres	1.67 %
Developed, Low Intensity	315 acres	0.33 %	22,695 acres	0.92 %
Developed, Medium Intensity	43 acres	0.05 %	9,603 acres	0.39 %
Developed, High Intensity	3 acres	0.00 %	3,867 acres	0.16 %
Forest	22,243 acres	23.56 %	1,430,260 acres	57.95 %
Agriculture	845 acres	0.89 %	52,376 acres	2.12 %
Wetlands	540 acres	0.57 %	35,506 acres	1.44 %
Conserved Forest	2,780 acres	2.95 %	158,467 acres	6.42 %
Conserved Agriculture	6 acres	0.01 %	616 acres	0.02 %
Conserved Wetlands	39 acres	0.04 %	3,983 acres	0.16 %
Conserved Other	224 acres	0.24 %	2,497 acres	0.10 %
Other	63,849 acres	67.63 %	612,634 acres	24.82 %

Selected Area

LPRW Watershed

Scenario: Continued Current Conditions

This layer shows projected land use/land cover conditions in the year 2036 under a Continued Current Conditions scenario. We used historical land use/land cover data from 1996 to 2006 to model land use change to 2036.



- Water
- Developed, Open Space
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed, High Intensity
- Forest
- Agriculture
- Wetlands
- Conserved Forest
- Conserved Agriculture
- Conserved Wetlands
- Conserved Other
- Other

Like the 2006 Conditions and other scenario layers, Water, four density levels of Development, Forest, Agriculture, Emergent Wetlands, and Other are the reduced NLCD categories this layer displays. Agriculture includes Cultivated Crops and Pasture/Hay, and Forest includes Deciduous, Evergreen, Mixed, Scrub Shrub, and Woody Wetlands. Other includes the NLCD categories of Barren Lands, Grassland/Herbaceous, and Perennial Ice/Snow. Additionally, all conservation lands are identified, with their associated NLCD land use/land cover categories.

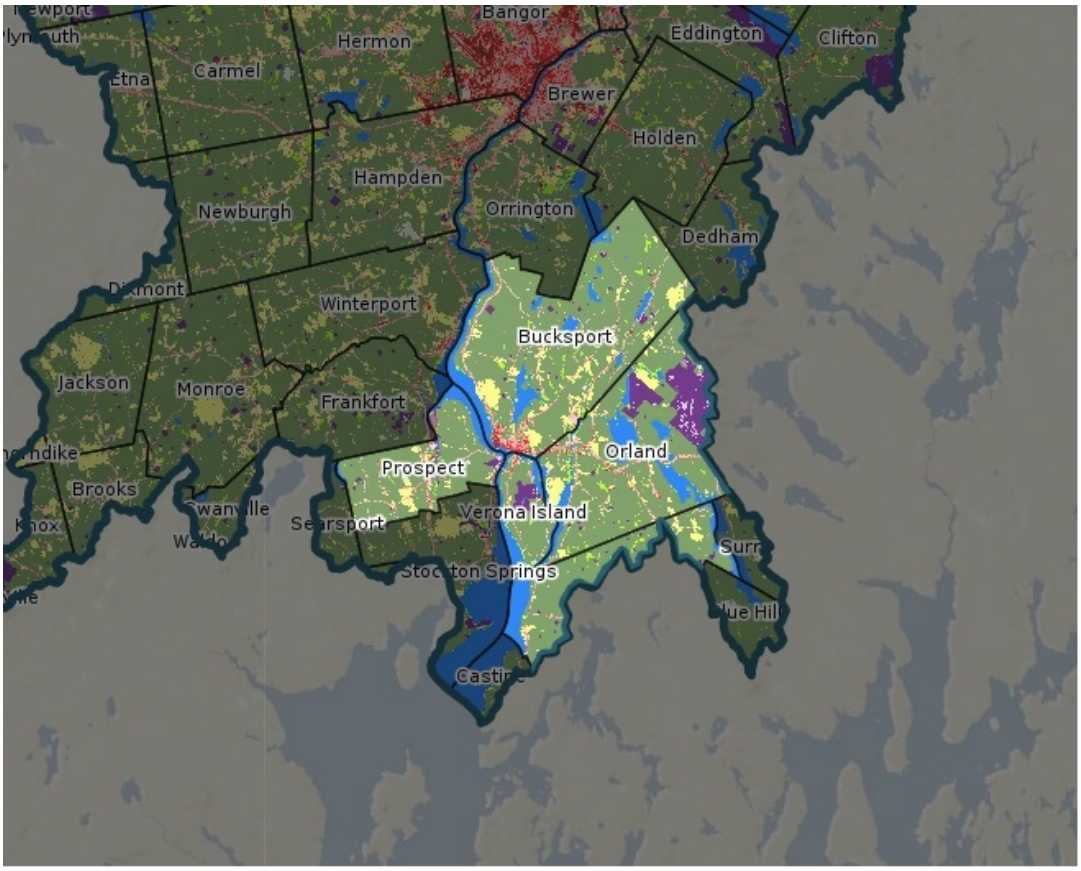
	Selected Area		LPRW Watershed	
Water	10,574 acres	11.20 %	117,210 acres	4.75 %
Developed, Open Space	2,654 acres	2.81 %	48,536 acres	1.97 %
Developed, Low Intensity	2,061 acres	2.18 %	29,115 acres	1.18 %
Developed, Medium Intensity	463 acres	0.49 %	10,550 acres	0.43 %
Developed, High Intensity	157 acres	0.17 %	3,999 acres	0.16 %
Forest	59,809 acres	63.35 %	1,627,183 acres	65.93 %
Agriculture	3,732 acres	3.95 %	71,134 acres	2.88 %
Wetlands	1,410 acres	1.49 %	34,178 acres	1.38 %
Conserved Forest	11,205 acres	11.87 %	458,264 acres	18.57 %
Conserved Agriculture	231 acres	0.24 %	5,223 acres	0.21 %
Conserved Wetlands	578 acres	0.61 %	12,021 acres	0.49 %
Conserved Other	411 acres	0.43 %	10,402 acres	0.42 %
Other	1,122 acres	1.19 %	40,147 acres	1.63 %

Selected Area

LPRW Watershed

Scenario: A1

This layer shows projected land use/land cover conditions in the year 2036 under a low population growth/stronger economic emphasis scenario. Under this scenario, the amount of developed land added to the two study areas is the same as Continued Current Conditions, but it occurs in a lower density, dispersed pattern. Conservation efforts are reduced and less aggregated than under the Continued Current Conditions scenario. Agriculture slightly increases from the Continued Current Conditions scenario.



- Water
- Developed, Open Space
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed, High Intensity
- Forest
- Agriculture
- Wetlands
- Conserved Forest
- Conserved Agriculture
- Conserved Wetlands
- Conserved Other
- Other

Like the 2006 Conditions and other scenario layers, Water, four density levels of Development, Forest, Agriculture, Emergent Wetlands, and Other are the reduced NLCD categories this layer displays. Agriculture includes Cultivated Crops and Pasture/Hay, and Forest includes Deciduous, Evergreen, Mixed, Scrub Shrub, and Woody Wetlands. Other includes the NLCD categories of Barren Lands, Grassland/Herbaceous, and Perennial Ice/Snow. Additionally, all conservation lands are identified, with their associated NLCD land use/land cover categories.

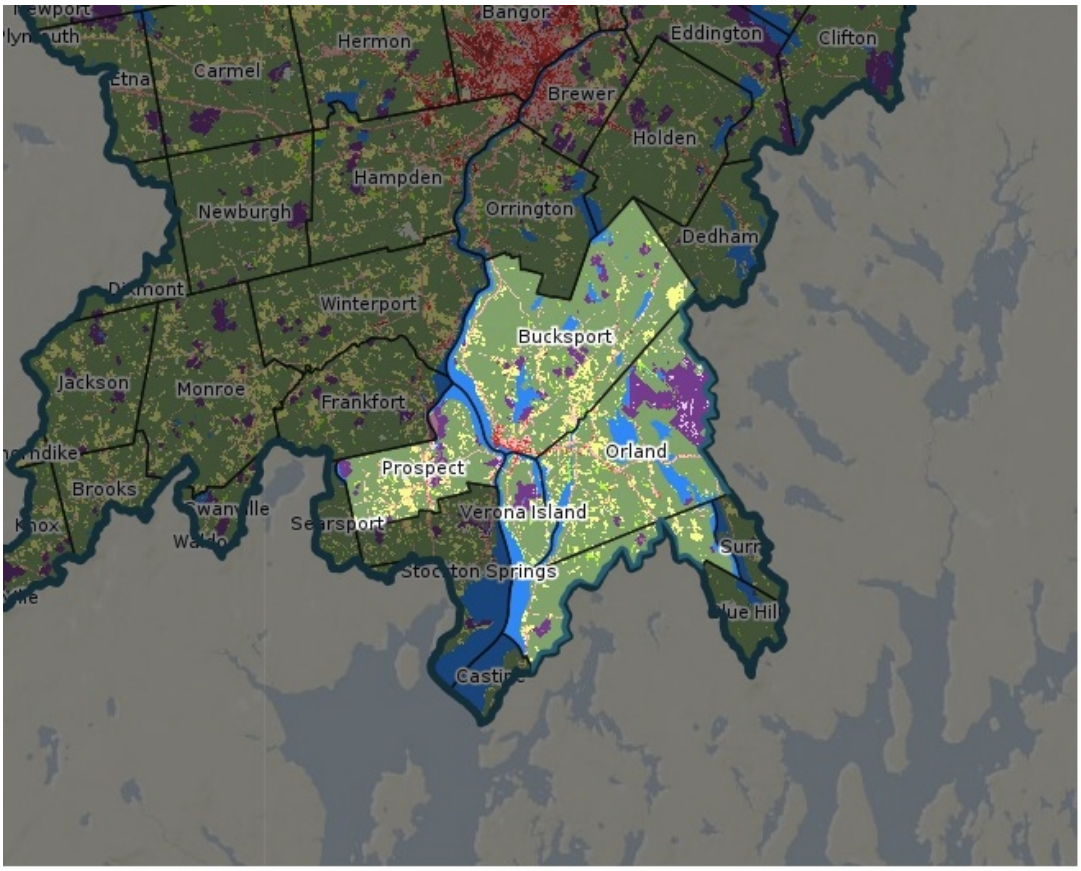
	Selected Area		LPRW Watershed	
Water	10,556 acres	11.18 %	117,157 acres	4.75 %
Developed, Open Space	2,669 acres	2.83 %	49,578 acres	2.01 %
Developed, Low Intensity	2,213 acres	2.34 %	31,283 acres	1.27 %
Developed, Medium Intensity	441 acres	0.47 %	10,189 acres	0.41 %
Developed, High Intensity	154 acres	0.16 %	3,943 acres	0.16 %
Forest	65,029 acres	68.88 %	1,811,425 acres	73.40 %
Agriculture	4,890 acres	5.18 %	84,317 acres	3.42 %
Wetlands	1,651 acres	1.75 %	40,152 acres	1.63 %
Conserved Forest	4,950 acres	5.24 %	263,845 acres	10.69 %
Conserved Agriculture	37 acres	0.04 %	1,454 acres	0.06 %
Conserved Wetlands	336 acres	0.36 %	5,928 acres	0.24 %
Conserved Other	293 acres	0.31 %	5,411 acres	0.22 %
Other	1,184 acres	1.25 %	43,280 acres	1.75 %

Selected Area

LPRW Watershed

Scenario: A2

This layer shows projected land use/land cover conditions in the year 2036 under a low population growth/stronger environmental emphasis scenario. Under this scenario, the amount of developed land added to the two study areas is the same as Continued Current Conditions, but it occurs in a higher density, clustered pattern. Conservation efforts are similar to Continued Current Conditions scenario, but more aggregated. Agriculture is the same as under Continued Current Conditions.



Like the 2006 Conditions and other scenario layers, Water, four density levels of Development, Forest, Agriculture, Emergent Wetlands, and Other are the reduced NLCD categories this layer displays. Agriculture includes Cultivated Crops and Pasture/Hay, and Forest includes Deciduous, Evergreen, Mixed, Scrub Shrub, and Woody Wetlands. Other includes the NLCD categories of Barren Lands, Grassland/Herbaceous, and Perennial Ice/Snow. Additionally, all conservation lands are identified, with their associated NLCD land use/land cover categories.

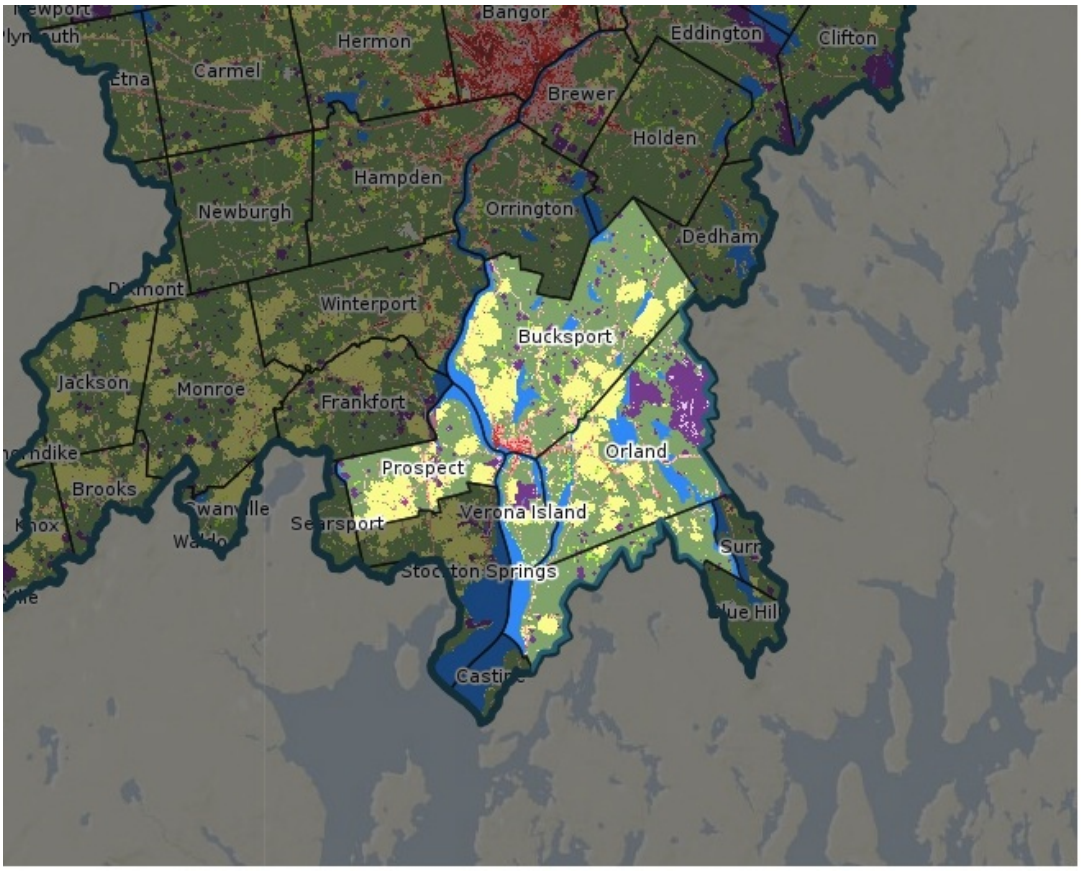
	Selected Area		LPRW Watershed	
Water	10,559 acres	11.19 %	116,996 acres	4.74 %
Developed, Open Space	2,559 acres	2.71 %	48,559 acres	1.97 %
Developed, Low Intensity	1,870 acres	1.98 %	26,942 acres	1.09 %
Developed, Medium Intensity	465 acres	0.49 %	11,015 acres	0.45 %
Developed, High Intensity	163 acres	0.17 %	4,071 acres	0.16 %
Forest	60,733 acres	64.33 %	1,697,625 acres	68.79 %
Agriculture	7,526 acres	7.97 %	94,016 acres	3.81 %
Wetlands	1,418 acres	1.50 %	29,610 acres	1.20 %
Conserved Forest	7,032 acres	7.45 %	370,641 acres	15.02 %
Conserved Agriculture	81 acres	0.09 %	2,758 acres	0.11 %
Conserved Wetlands	542 acres	0.57 %	16,378 acres	0.66 %
Conserved Other	299 acres	0.32 %	6,609 acres	0.27 %
Other	1,156 acres	1.23 %	42,742 acres	1.73 %

Selected Area

LPRW Watershed

Scenario: B1

This layer shows projected land use/land cover conditions in the year 2036 under a high population growth/stronger economic emphasis scenario. Under this scenario, the amount of developed land added to the two study areas is greater than the Continued Current Conditions scenario, and it occurs in a lower density, dispersed pattern. Conservation efforts are reduced and less aggregated than under the Continued Current Conditions scenario, but slightly higher than A1, because of the larger population in the region. Agriculture slightly increases from the Continued Current Conditions scenario.



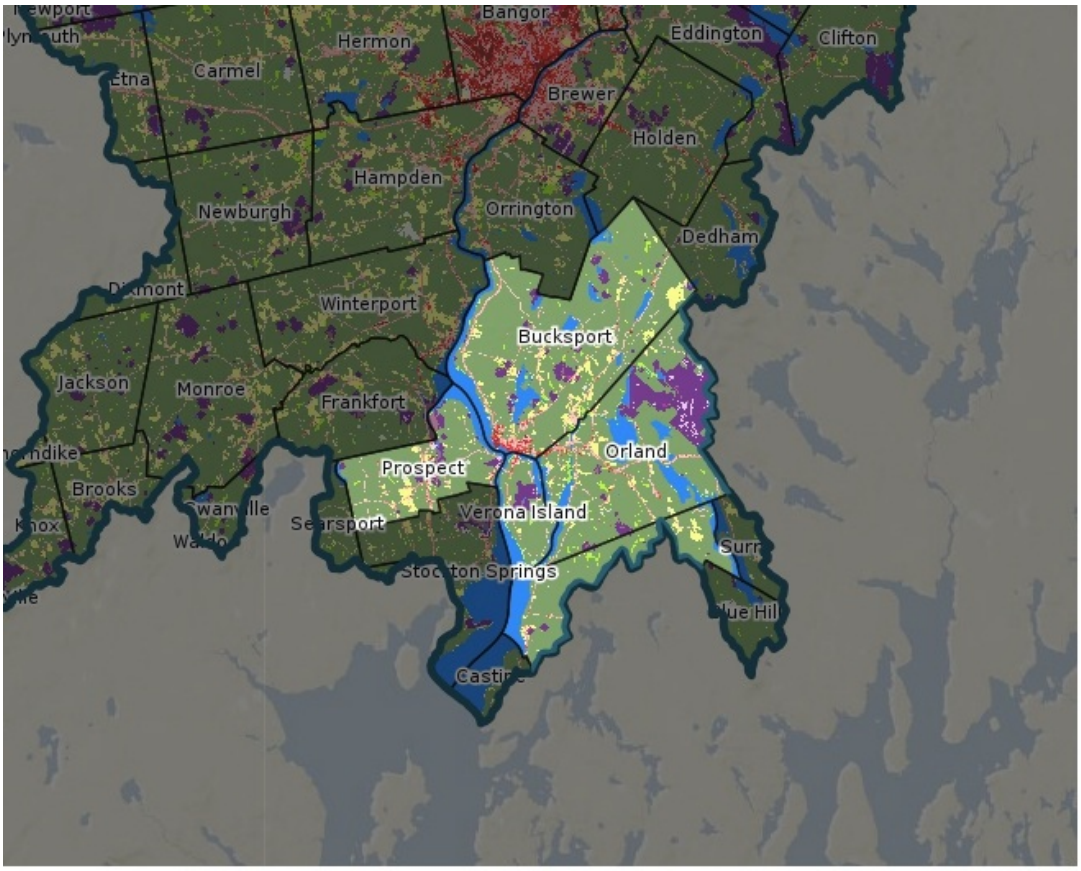
- Water
- Developed, Open Space
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed, High Intensity
- Forest
- Agriculture
- Wetlands
- Conserved Forest
- Conserved Agriculture
- Conserved Wetlands
- Conserved Other
- Other

Like the 2006 Conditions and other scenario layers, Water, four density levels of Development, Forest, Agriculture, Emergent Wetlands, and Other are the reduced NLCD categories this layer displays. Agriculture includes Cultivated Crops and Pasture/Hay, and Forest includes Deciduous, Evergreen, Mixed, Scrub Shrub, and Woody Wetlands. Other includes the NLCD categories of Barren Lands, Grassland/Herbaceous, and Perennial Ice/Snow. Additionally, all conservation lands are identified, with their associated NLCD land use/land cover categories.

	Selected Area		LPRW Watershed	
		Selected Area		LPRW Watershed
Water	10,876 acres	11.52 %	116,861 acres	4.74 %
Developed, Open Space	2,111 acres	2.24 %	45,726 acres	1.85 %
Developed, Low Intensity	2,186 acres	2.32 %	35,271 acres	1.43 %
Developed, Medium Intensity	438 acres	0.46 %	10,169 acres	0.41 %
Developed, High Intensity	176 acres	0.19 %	4,388 acres	0.18 %
Forest	50,428 acres	53.42 %	1,668,458 acres	67.60 %
Agriculture	18,314 acres	19.40 %	158,513 acres	6.42 %
Wetlands	1,489 acres	1.58 %	37,122 acres	1.50 %
Conserved Forest	6,883 acres	7.29 %	336,585 acres	13.64 %
Conserved Agriculture	91 acres	0.10 %	2,756 acres	0.11 %
Conserved Wetlands	416 acres	0.44 %	8,335 acres	0.34 %
Conserved Other	314 acres	0.33 %	7,174 acres	0.29 %
Other	683 acres	0.72 %	36,604 acres	1.48 %

Scenario: B2

This layer shows projected land use/land cover conditions in the year 2036 under a high population growth/stronger economic emphasis scenario. Under this scenario, the amount of developed land added to the two study areas is greater than the Continued Current Conditions scenario, and it occurs in a higher density, clustered pattern. Conservation efforts are slightly higher than the Continued Current Conditions scenario, but more aggregated. Agriculture is the same as under Continued Current Conditions.



- Water
- Developed, Open Space
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed, High Intensity
- Forest
- Agriculture
- Wetlands
- Conserved Forest
- Conserved Agriculture
- Conserved Wetlands
- Conserved Other
- Other

Like the 2006 Conditions and other scenario layers, Water, four density levels of Development, Forest, Agriculture, Emergent Wetlands, and Other are the reduced NLCD categories this layer displays. Agriculture includes Cultivated Crops and Pasture/Hay, and Forest includes Deciduous, Evergreen, Mixed, Scrub Shrub, and Woody Wetlands. Other includes the NLCD categories of Barren Lands, Grassland/Herbaceous, and Perennial Ice/Snow. Additionally, all conservation lands are identified, with their associated NLCD land use/land cover categories.

	Selected Area		LPRW Watershed	
		Selected Area		LPRW Watershed
Water	10,912 acres	11.56 %	117,228 acres	4.75 %
Developed, Open Space	2,728 acres	2.89 %	49,507 acres	2.01 %
Developed, Low Intensity	1,938 acres	2.05 %	27,703 acres	1.12 %
Developed, Medium Intensity	526 acres	0.56 %	12,106 acres	0.49 %
Developed, High Intensity	162 acres	0.17 %	4,236 acres	0.17 %
Forest	64,250 acres	68.06 %	1,724,942 acres	69.89 %
Agriculture	3,835 acres	4.06 %	73,786 acres	2.99 %
Wetlands	1,493 acres	1.58 %	30,617 acres	1.24 %
Conserved Forest	6,836 acres	7.24 %	364,732 acres	14.78 %
Conserved Agriculture	109 acres	0.11 %	2,834 acres	0.11 %
Conserved Wetlands	501 acres	0.53 %	15,596 acres	0.63 %
Conserved Other	296 acres	0.31 %	6,492 acres	0.26 %
Other	820 acres	0.87 %	38,182 acres	1.55 %

About the Project

The Maine Futures Community Mapper (MFCM) is a web-based tool that helps Maine residents: (1) identify locations that are most suitable for future development, conservation, agricultural uses, or forestry; (2) identify potential conflicts and compatibilities between different land uses; and (3) envision their future landscape under different possible scenarios of change.

Maine's most important asset is its exceptional quality of place. Our communities are at the heart of that quality of place. Ensuring a future where Mainers can count on vibrant communities with vital economic development, coupled with a sustainable natural resource base, requires thoughtful planning. The MFCM was developed in partnership with dozens of stakeholders from the economic development, conservation, forestry, and agriculture communities to assist planners, citizens, policy-makers, and scientists in planning for our collective future.

The MFCM is the culmination of four years of research conducted through the Maine Alternative Futures Project of the Maine Sustainability Solutions Initiative. Our stakeholder-driven land use research program worked closely with a large number of citizens, conservationists, scientists, business leaders, and policy-makers to develop a series of land use suitability models and alternative future scenarios. Our first focus groups, which included representatives from forestry, conservation, economic development, and agriculture, were held in the Lower Penobscot River Watershed in 2010. In 2012, the project was expanded to include the Casco Bay and Lower Androscoggin watersheds. After the land use models were completed in early 2013, the Maine Futures Community Mapper was developed to provide residents, planners, and policy-makers with new ways of envisioning their communities now and in the future.