Beginning with HABITAT

An Approach to Conserving Maine's Natural Space for Plants, Animals, and People

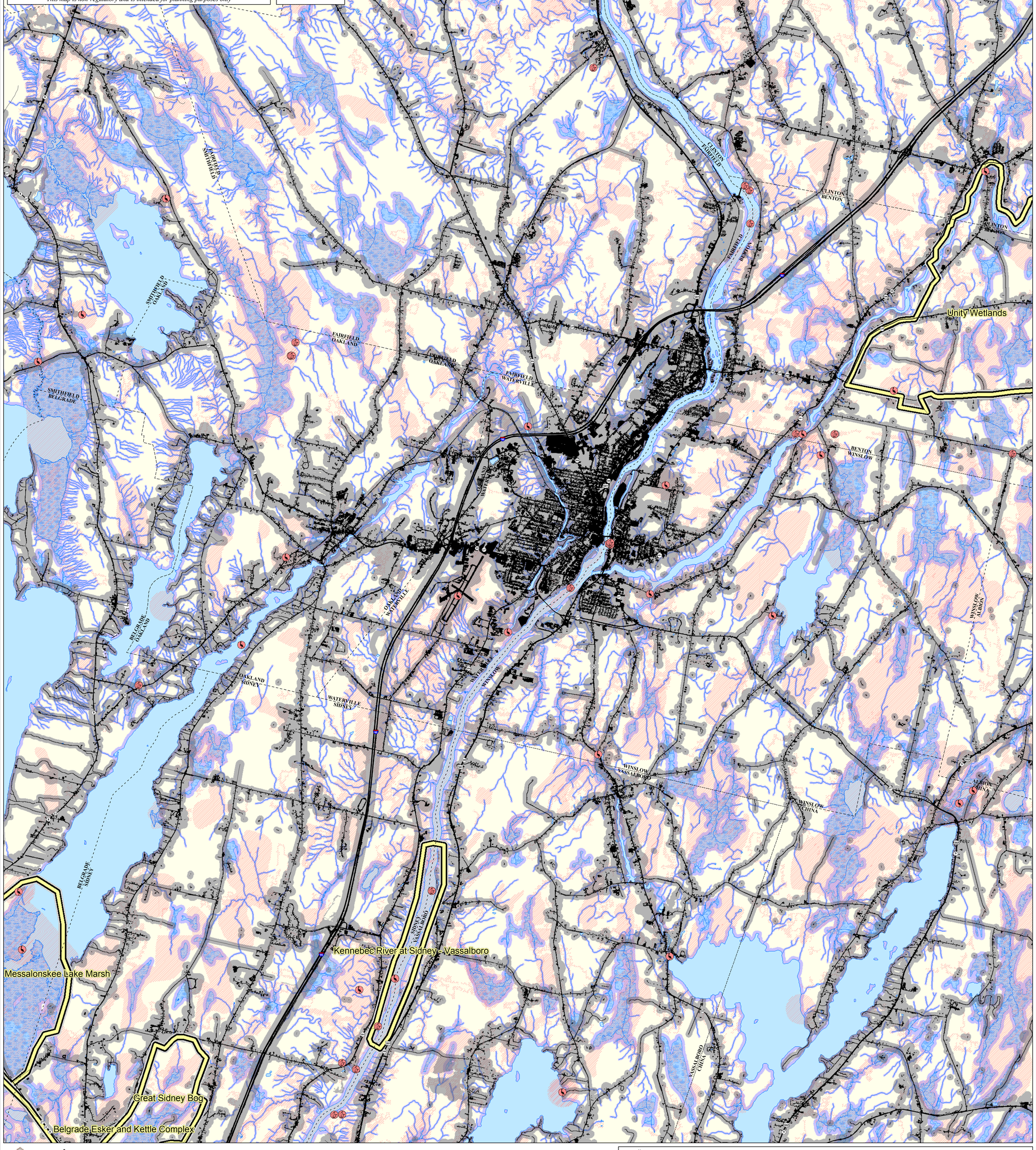
www.beginningwithhabitat.org

Regional

Building a Regional Landscape

City of Waterville

This map is non-regulatory and is intended for planning purposes only



LEGEND

The data presented here represents a compilation of core Beginning with Habitat map products. Comprehensive field surveys do not exist for all areas in Maine, so some important habitats may not be mapped. Habitat features on this map are based on limited field surveys, aerial photo interpretation, and computer modeling. Habitat data is updated regularly. Map users should consult with the Beginning with Habitat program to verify that data illustrated on this map is still current prior to utilizing it for planning decisions.

This regional map provides a landscape view of water resources, high value plant and animal habitats, and undeveloped habitat blocks. For more detailed information, please consult the 1:24,000 (town level) Beginning with Habitat "Water Resources and Riparian Habitats", "High Value Plant and Animal Habitats" and "Undeveloped Habitat Blocks" maps. Availability of town level maps can be found at: www.beginningwithhabitat.org/the_maps/map_availability.html

Organized Township Boundary

Unorganized Township *(Beginning with Habitat does not provide data for unorganized townships)*

Developed Area of impervious surfaces including buildings and roads

Rivers, Streams, and Brooks

Ocean, Lakes, and Ponds

MAP 1: Water Resources and Riparian Habitats

Riparian Buffer

Ponds ≥ 10 acres (Great Ponds), rivers, coastal waters, and wetlands ≥10 acres in size are surrounded by a 250 foot riparian buffer zone. Streams are surrounded by a 75 foot riparian buffer zone.

NWI Wetlands ≥ 10 Acres

The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) uses aerial photographs from the mid-1980s to identify wetlands based on visible signs of wetland vegetation, hydrology, and geography. The NWI maps are not based on field wetland delineations and given the limits of aerial photo interpretation, do not depict all wetlands that occur. Ground verification should be used to determine actual wetland boundaries and NWI maps should be considered as only a planning tool to determine potential wetland locations.

MAP 2: High Value Plant and Animal Habitats

Essential Wildlife Habitats (MDIFW)

Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW, www.maine.gov/ifw) maps areas currently or historically providing habitat essential to the conservation of endangered or threatened species including bald eagles, roseate terns, piping plovers, and least terns as directed by the Maine Endangered Species Act. These regulated areas may require special management. Identification of Essential Habitat areas is based on species observations (occupancy). For more information about Essential Wildlife Habitats, go to www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/species/endangered_species/essential_habitat/introduction.htm. These habitat layers also may be downloaded from the Maine Office of GIS Data Catalog at http://apollo.ogis.state.me.us/catalog.

Significant Wildlife Habitats (MDIFW)

Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA, 1988) was intended to slow further degradation and loss of Maine's natural resources. This act regulates activities within and adjacent to wetlands, streams, and other natural resources, but also regulates activities that could threaten the state's Significant Wildlife Habitats. Mapped Significant Wildlife Habitats include tidal and inland waterfowl/wading bird habitat, deer wintering areas, seabird nesting islands, shorebird areas, and significant vernal pools. For more information about NRPA, go to: www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docstand/nrpapage.htm.

Natural Heritage Network Occurrences (Plants/Animals/Communities) (NatureServe; MNAP, MDIFW)

Plants- Observations of plants that are rare in Maine (MNAP). Locations are mapped at 1:24,000 scale and field-verified within the last 20 years.

Animals- Observations of wildlife species that are endangered, threatened, or rare in Maine (MDIFW).

Communities- The MNAP has classified and distinguished 98 different natural community types that collectively cover the state's landscape. These include such habitats as floodplain forests, coastal bogs, alpine summits, and many others. Each type is assigned a rarity rank of 1 (rare) through 5 (common). Mapped rare natural communities or ecosystems, or exemplary examples of common natural communities or ecosystems, are based on field surveys and aerial photo interpretation. Consult with an MNAP Ecologist to determine conservation needs of particular communities or ecosystems.

High Value Habitat for Priority Trust Species (USFWS)

This data layer portrays the highest value habitat from the Gulf of Maine Watershed Habitat Analysis, a habitat suitability model developed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Gulf of Maine Coastal Program. The analysis evaluated existing field data and scientific literature for 91 species of fish, wildlife, and plants important to USFWS in the Gulf of Maine watershed and ranked the landscape based on potential habitat for each species. This theme shows only the most important habitat (top 25%) for all species combined and excludes areas less than 5 acres. For more information please see the 1:24,000 Map 2 "High Value Plant and Animal Habitats" and Map 8 "Valuable Habitats for USFWS Priority Trust Species." For more information about the Gulf of Maine Watershed Habitat Analysis please visit: http://www.fws.gov/northeast/gulfofmaine.

MAP 3: Undeveloped Habitat Blocks

Undeveloped Habitat Blocks (MDIFW)

Undeveloped habitat blocks are areas with relatively little development and that provide opportunity for meaningful habitat conservation. These areas remain mostly unfragmented and are likely to include habitat conditions of a quality that could be expected to support most terrestrial species known to occur in the given region. Undeveloped habitat blocks have been depicted on this map by removing areas within 250-500 feet, based on intensity, of all improved roads identified by the Maine Department of Transportation and all developed areas identified in the 2006 MELCD Land Use/Land Cover and 2005 Impervious Surface data.

Development Buffer (MDIFW) *(note: transparent layer)*

Areas defined by a 250-500 foot, intensity based, zone of influence around all improved roads identified by the Maine Department of Transportation and all developed areas identified in the 2006 MELCD Land Use/Land Cover and 2005 Impervious Surface data.

Focus Areas

Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance *(note: not present in all regions)*

Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance have been designated based on an unusually rich convergence of rare plant and animal occurrences, high value habitat, and relatively intact natural landscapes (the combined elements of Beginning with Habitat Maps 1-3). Focus area boundaries were drawn by MNAP and MDIFW biologists, generally following drainage divides and/or major fragmenting features such as roads. Focus Areas are intended to draw attention to these truly special places in hopes of building awareness and garnering support for land conservation by landowners, municipalities, and local land trusts. For descriptions of specific Focus Areas, consult the Beginning with Habitat notebook or the following website: http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/focusarea/index.htm

Data Sources

DATA SOURCE INFORMATION

(note: italicized file names can be downloaded from Maine Office of GIS)

TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES
Maine Office of GIS (2006); *metwp24*

ROADS
Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Transportation (2005); *medotpub*

HYDROLOGY
Maine Office of GIS, U.S. Geological Survey (2004); *hyd24*

DEVELOPED
Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Environmental Protection (contact agency for this multiple agency collaboration) (2005); *imperv*

FOCUS AREA BOUNDARIES
Maine Natural Areas Program

NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY
Maine Office of GIS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (1998); *nwi*

RIPARIAN BUFFERS
Maine Natural Areas Program (2005)

WELLS, WELL BUFFERS
Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Human Services-Drinking Water Program (2004); *wells, wellsbuf*

AQUIFERS
Maine Office of GIS, Maine Geological Survey (2006); *aquifer_polygons*

DRAINAGE DIVIDES
Maine Office of GIS (1994); *medrdvd*

HIGH VALUE PLANT & ANIMAL HABITATS
Maine Office of GIS, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Maine Natural Areas Program, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; *eheagle, ehpvrtrn, ehrtern, sni, forest91, fresh91, grass91, saline91, gomlc7*

UNDEVELOPED HABITAT BLOCKS, DEVELOPMENT BUFFER
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

DATA SOURCE CONTACT INFORMATION

Maine Office of GIS- http://apollo.ogis.state.me.us/catalog
Maine Natural Areas Program- http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife- http://www.maine.gov/ifw/
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service- Gulf of Maine Coastal Program- http://gulfofmaine.fws.gov
Maine Department of Transportation- http://www.maine.gov/mdot/

DIGITAL DATA REQUEST

To request digital data for a town or organization, visit our webiste.
http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/the_maps/gis_data_request.html

State of Maine

The Nature Conservancy — SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

Maine Audubon

Maine Coast Heritage Trust — A Statewide Land Conservation Organization

Additional Funding: Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, MaineDOT

Feet: 7,500 5,000 2,500 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles
Meters: 2,500 2,000 1,500 1,000 500 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Kilometers

1:40,000 Scale
Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Projection
North American Datum (NAD) 1983

Supported in part by Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund lottery ticket sales

Map Prepared by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
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Supported in part by Loon Conservation Plate funds