

TOWN OF BENTON
2018 Comprehensive Plan
SECTION IV
VERSION 03/10/2018

Plan Approved by Town at the Annual Town Meeting, March 10, 2018

Plan Adopted by Town Select Board, April 3, 2018

**Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan
Section IV - Maps**

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

Section IV - Maps

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Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan Section IV - Maps

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – SECTION IV

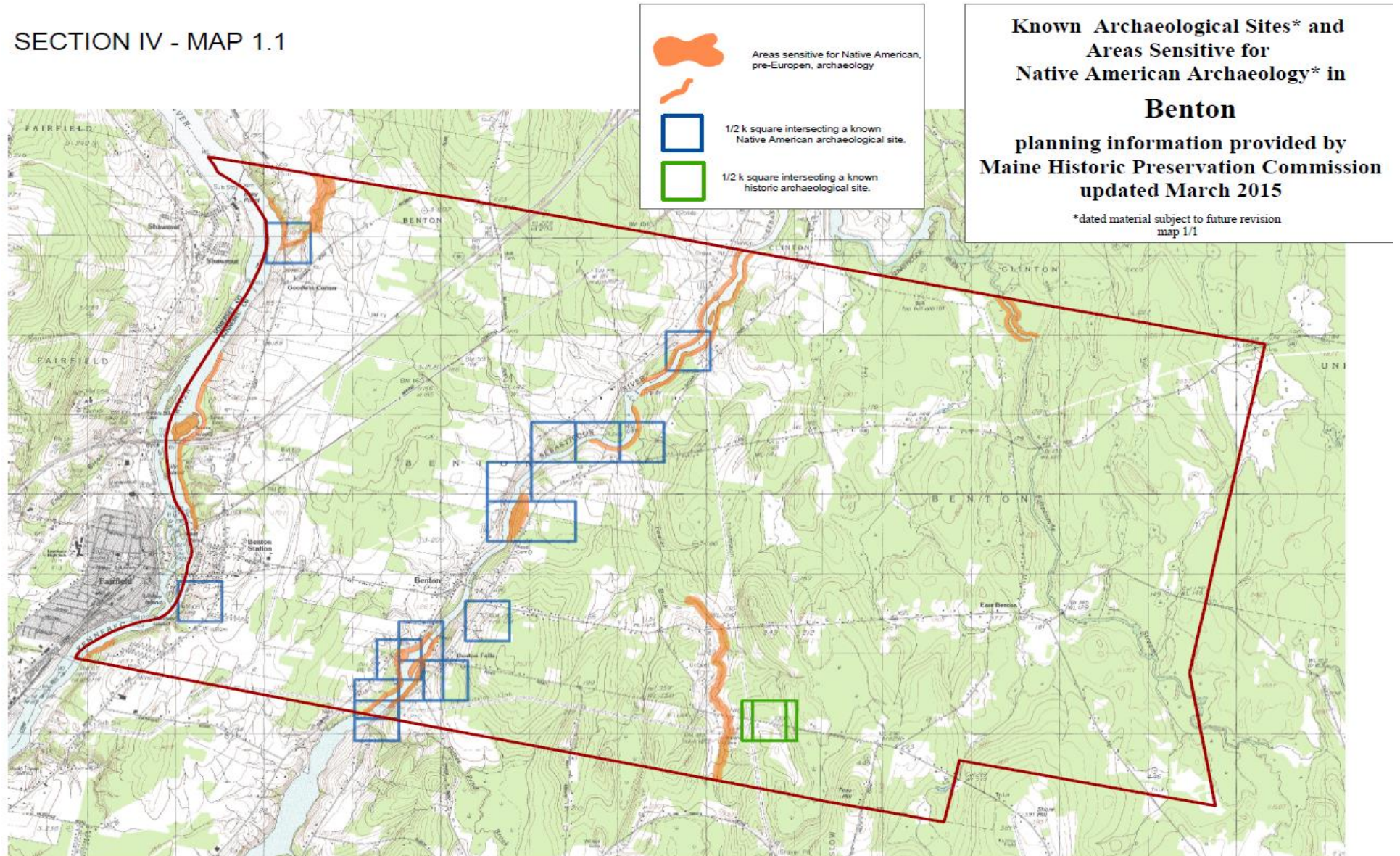
Section IV, is the source for maps that provide a visual picture of the Town and its infrastructure and sources for images used.

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

Section IV - Maps

1. HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES MAP(S)

SECTION IV - MAP 1.1



2. WATER RESOURCE MAP(S)

[illegible]

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

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LEGEND

This map depicts all wetlands shown on National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps, but categorized them based on a subset of wetland functions. This map and its depiction of wetland features neither substitute for nor eliminate the need to perform on-the-ground wetland delineation and functional assessment. In no way shall use of this map diminish or alter the regulatory protection that all wetlands are accorded under applicable State and Federal laws. For more information about wetlands characterization contact Elizabeth Hertz at the Maine Department of Conservation (207-287-8061, elizabeth.hertz@maine.gov).

The Wetlands Characterization model is a planning tool intended to help identify likely wetland functions associated with significant wetland resources and adjacent uplands. Using GIS analysis, this map provides basic information regarding what ecological services various wetlands are likely to provide. These ecological services, each of which has associated economic benefits, include: floodflow control, sediment retention, finfish habitat, and/or shellfish habitat. There are other important wetland functions and values not depicted in this map. Refer to www.maine.gov/dep/water/wetlands/ipwetfv2.html for additional information regarding wetland functions and values. Forested wetlands and small wetlands such as vernal pools are known to be underrepresented in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data used to create this map. The model developed to estimate the functions provided by each wetland could not capture every wetland function or value. Therefore, it is important to use local knowledge and other data sources when evaluating wetlands, and each wetland should be considered relative to the whole landscape/watershed when assessing wetland resources at a local level.



Organized Township Boundary



Unorganized Township



Selected Town or Area of Interest



Developed: Impervious surfaces including buildings and roads



Subwatersheds- The shaded, background polygons are subwatersheds (areas that drain to a particular lake, wetland, pond, river, stream, or the ocean). The subwatersheds are shaded to show topographic relief. This "hillshading" assumes the sun is shining from the northwest, so ridgetops and northwest-facing slopes appear light, whereas valleys and southeast-facing slopes appear dark. Because many areas of Maine are relatively flat, the topographic relief shown here has been exaggerated to make the details easier to see.

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

Section IV - Maps

Wetland Functions: Fill Pattern

Some wetlands may have more than one function (fill pattern)



RUNOFF / FLOODFLOW ALTERATION

Wetlands provide natural stormwater control capabilities. As natural basins in the landscape, wetlands are able to receive, detain, and slowly release stormwater runoff. Wetland shelves along stream banks naturally regulate flood waters by providing an area for swollen stream flows to expand and slow, thereby protecting downstream properties. This map assigns Runoff/Floodflow Alteration Functions to wetlands that are (a) contained in a known flood zone, (b) associated with a surfacewater course or waterbody, and (c) with slope < 3%.

AND/OR

EROSION CONTROL / SEDIMENT RETENTION

Wetlands act as natural sponges that can hold water, allowing suspended particles such as sediment to settle out. The dense vegetation in most wetlands helps to stabilize soil and slow water flows, thereby reducing scouring and bank erosion. This map assigns Erosion Control / Sediment Retention functions to wetlands with (a) slope < 3%; (b) emergent vegetation; and (c) close proximity to a river, stream, or lake.



FINFISH HABITAT

Wetlands with documented finfish populations, including wetlands adjacent to a river, stream, or lake.

AND/OR

SHELLFISH HABITAT

Inland wetlands and streams can directly affect the status of coastal shellfish harvest areas. Fecal coliform bacteria and waterborne nutrients resulting from land use changes away from the coast can travel via surface water to harvestable flats. One failed septic system near a stream could close a mudflat several miles away. Excessive nutrients can reduce water clarity and stimulate epiphytic growth that degrades eelgrass meadows. Conservation of freshwater wetlands and stream buffers in coastal watersheds is a key component in marine resource conservation. This map assigns a Shellfish Habitat function to wetlands within 0.5 miles of (a) identified shellfish habitat, (b) identified shellfish closure areas, or (c) mapped eelgrass beds OR palustrine wetlands directly connected by a stream of < 0.5 mile in length to (a) identified shellfish habitat, (b) identified shellfish closure areas, or (c) mapped eelgrass beds.



PLANT/ANIMAL HABITAT

Nearly all wildlife species, and many of Maine's plant species, depend on wetlands during some part of their life cycle. For the purposes of this map, wetlands containing open water or emergent vegetation, 3 or more wetland vegetation classes (see below), and within ¼ mile of a known rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal occurrence, within ¼ mile of a mapped significant or essential habitat, or within ¼ mile of a rare or exemplary natural community have been assigned this function. Rare element occurrences and mapped habitats can be found on Map 2 High Value Plant & Animal Habitats.



OTHER FUNCTIONS

CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL. Wetlands within ¼ mile of a boat ramp or school have been assigned this value as these wetlands are likely candidates for use as outdoor classrooms, or similar social benefit. Wetlands rated for other functions listed above may also demonstrate cultural/educational values although not expressly shown.

OR

NO DOCUMENTED FUNCTION. The basis of this characterization is high altitude aerial photos. Photo quality often limits the information that can be interpreted from small wetland features, or those with dense canopy cover. Although not assigned a function under this study, ground surveys may reveal that these wetlands have multiple functions and values.

Wetland Class: Fill Color



Aquatic Bed (floating or submerged aquatic vegetation), Open Water



Emergent (herbaceous vegetation), Emergent/Forested Mix (woody vegetation >20 ft tall), Emergent/Shrub-Scrub Mix (woody vegetation <20 ft tall)



Forested, Forested/Shrub-scrub



Shrub-scrub



Other (rocky shore, streambed, unconsolidated shore, reef, rocky bottom)

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

Section IV - Maps

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps (the basis of wetlands shown on this map) are interpreted from high altitude photographs. NWI Wetlands are identified by vegetation, hydrology, and geography in accordance with "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats" (FWS/OBS-79/31, Dec 1979). The aerial photographs document conditions for the year they were taken. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, State, or local government. NWI maps depict general wetland locations, boundaries, and characteristics. They are not a substitute for on-ground, site-specific wetland delineation.

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*

NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY (NWI)

Maine Office of GIS (1998); *nwi*

DRAINAGE DIVIDES

Maine Office of GIS (1994); *medrdvd*

DATA SOURCE CONTACT INFORMATION

Maine Office of GIS: <http://www.maine.gov/megis/>

Maine Department of Transportation- <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/>

Maine Department of Conservation:

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/commissioner/landuse/index.shtml>

Maine Geological Survey- <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/mgs.htm>

DIGITAL DATA REQUEST

To request digital data for a town or organization, visit our website.

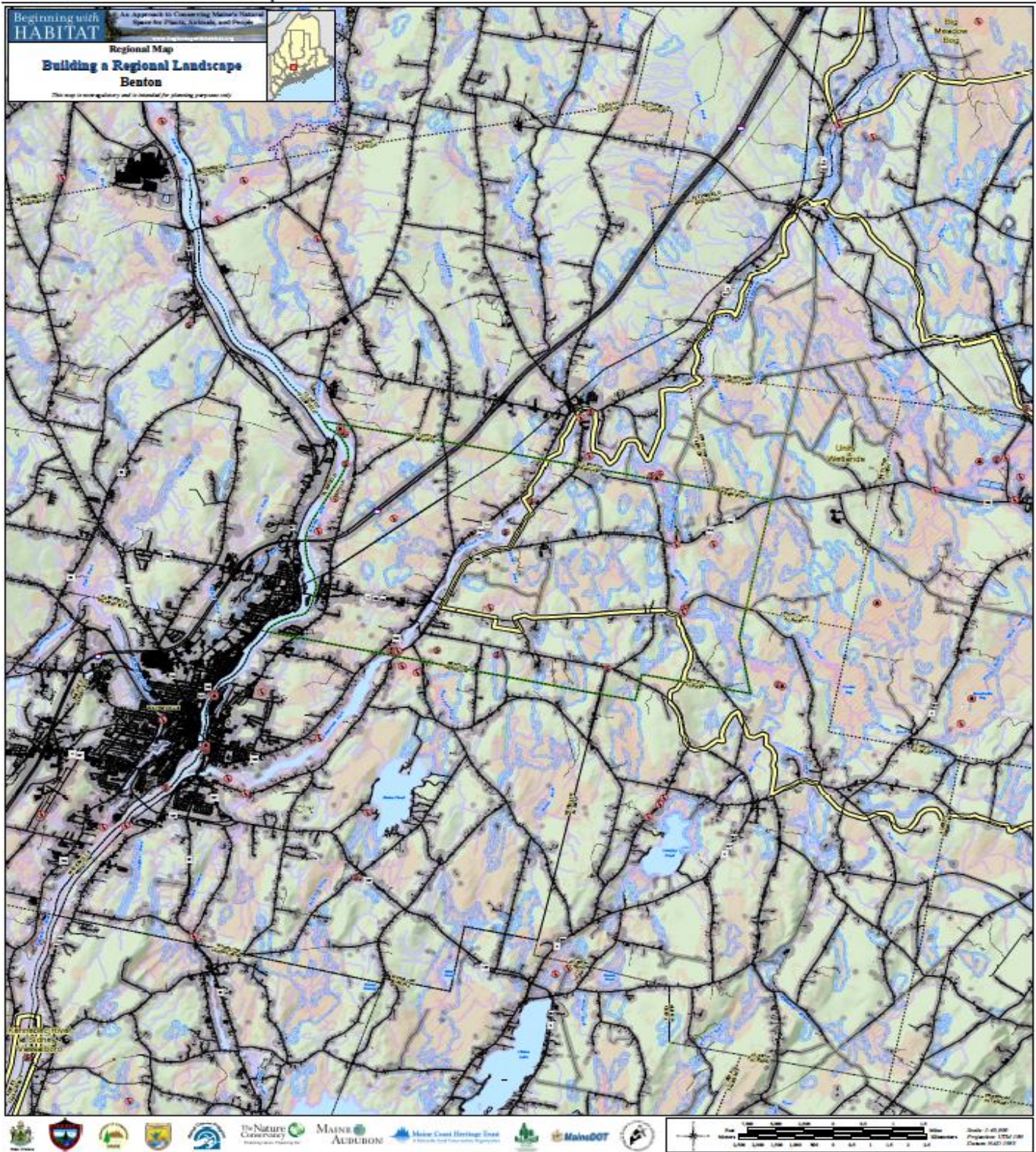
http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/the_maps/gis_data_request.html

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

Section IV - Maps

3. NATURAL RESOURCE MAP(S)

Benton Section IV - Map 3.0



Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

Section IV - Maps

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



Selected Town or Area of Interest



Developed Area of impervious surfaces including buildings and roads

MAP 1: Water Resources and Riparian Habitats



Riparian Buffer

Ponds \geq 10 acres (Great Ponds), rivers, coastal waters, and wetlands \geq 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 \geq 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.

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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 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.orgis.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)

Plants- Observations of plants cataloged by the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) that are rare in Maine. Locations have been field-verified within the last 20 years.

Animals- Observations of wildlife species that are endangered, threatened, or rare in Maine. Mapped by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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>.

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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 and Information Sources

DATA SOURCE INFORMATION

TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES

Maine Office of GIS; *metwp24*

ROADS

Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Transportation; *medotpub*, *E911rds*, *railroutesys*,

HYDROLOGY

U.S. Geological Survey; *NHDH Maine*

DEVELOPED

Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Environmental Protection; *imperv*

FOCUS AREA BOUNDARIES

Maine Natural Areas Program

NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; *NWI*

RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Maine Natural Areas Program

HIGH VALUE PLANT & ANIMAL HABITATS

Maine Office of GIS, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Maine Natural Areas Program, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; *ehpvrtn*, *ehrtm*, *shorebird*, *iwwh*, *shorezone_iwwh*, *snf*, *forest91*, *fresh91*, *grass91*, *saline91*, *gomlc7*, *dwa*, *svpbuffers*

PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Maine Natural Areas Program

UNDEVELOPED HABITAT BLOCKS, DEVELOPMENT BUFFER

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

DATA SOURCE CONTACT INFORMATION

Maine Office of GIS: <http://www.maine.gov/megis/>

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://www.fws.gov/GOMCP/>

Maine Department of Transportation: <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/>

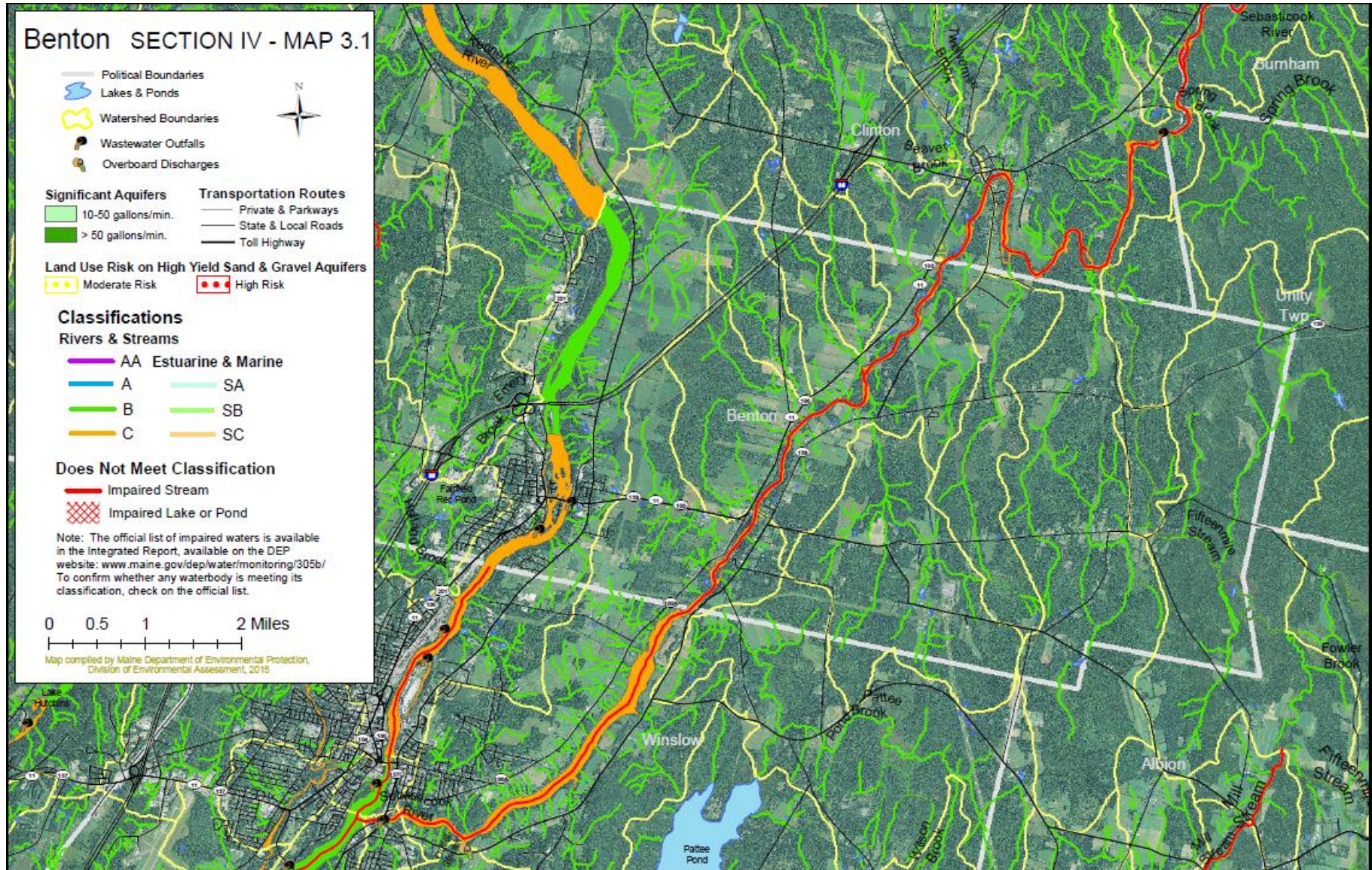
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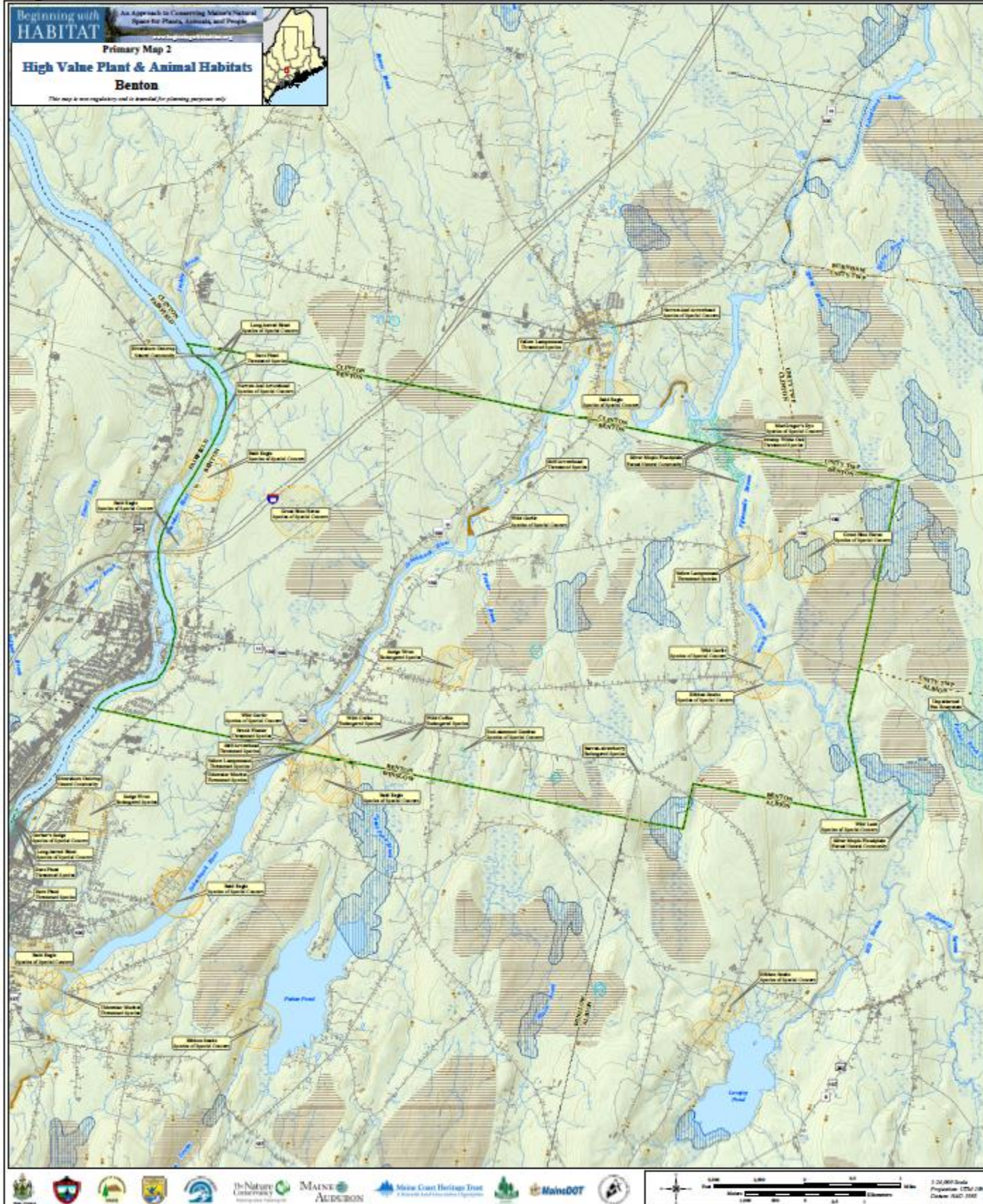
Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

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Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan Section IV - Maps

High Value Plant & Animal Habitats, Benton Section IV Map 3.2



Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

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LEGEND

Beginning with Habitat (BwH) is a voluntary tool intended to assist landowners, resource managers, planners, and municipalities in identifying and making informed decisions about areas of potential natural resource concern. This data includes the best available information provided through BwH's coalition partners as of the map date, and is intended for information purposes only. It should not be interpreted as a comprehensive analysis of plant and animal occurrences or other local resources, but rather as an initial screen to flag areas where agency consultation may be appropriate. Habitat data sets are updated continuously as more accurate and current data becomes available. However, as many areas have not been completely surveyed, features may be present that are not yet mapped, and the boundaries of some depicted features may need to be revised. Local knowledge is critical in providing accurate data. If errors are noted in the current depiction of resources, please contact our office. Some habitat features depicted on this map are regulated by the State of Maine through the Maine Endangered Species Act (Essential Habitats and threatened and endangered species occurrences) and Natural Resources Protection Act (Significant Wildlife Habitat). We recommend consultation with MDIFW Regional Biologists or MNAP Ecologists if activities are proposed within resource areas depicted on this map. Consultation early in the planning process usually helps to resolve regulatory concerns and minimize agency review time. For MDIFW and MNAP contact information, visit <http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/contacts/index.html>.



Organized Township Boundary



Unorganized Township



Selected Town or Area of Interest



Developed: Impervious surfaces such as buildings and roads

Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Wildlife



Known rare, threatened, or endangered species occurrence and/or the associated habitats based on species sightings.

Consult with an MDIFW regional biologist to determine the relative importance and conservation needs of the specific location and supporting habitat. For more information regarding individual species visit our website, http://www.maine.gov/rfw/wildlife/species/endangered_species/state_list.htm, for species specific fact sheets.

The Federal Endangered Species Act requires actions authorized, funded, or carried out by federal agencies be reviewed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If your project occurs near an occurrence of the Atlantic Salmon, Roseate Tern, Piping Plover, Canada Lynx, New England Cottontail, Fubish's Lousewort, or Small-whorled Pagonia contact the Maine Field Office, USFWS, 1168 Main St., Old Town, ME 04468.

Rare or Exemplary Plants and Natural Communities



Rare Plant Locations

Known rare, threatened, or endangered plant occurrences are based on field observations. Consult with a Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) Ecologist to determine conservation needs of particular species. For more information regarding rare plants, the complete list of tracked species and fact sheets for those species can be found at: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/features/plantlist.htm>



Rare or Exemplary Natural Community Locations

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.

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

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Essential Wildlife Habitats



Roseate Tern Nesting Area or
Piping Plover-Least Tern Nesting, Feeding, & Brood-Rearing Area

Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW, www.state.me.us/ifw) maps areas currently or historically providing habitat essential to the conservation of endangered or threatened species as directed by the Maine Endangered Species Act (12 MRSA, Chapter 925, Subchapter 3, Sections 12804 and 12806) and regulations (MDIFW Rules, Chapter 8.05). Identification of Essential Habitat areas is based on species observations and confirmed habitat use. If a project occurs partly or wholly within an Essential Habitat, it must be evaluated by MDIFW before state and/or municipal permits can be approved or project activities can take place.

Significant Wildlife Habitats



Candidate Deer Wintering Area

Forested area possibly used by deer for shelter during periods of deep snow and cold temperatures. Assessing the current value of a deer wintering area requires on-site investigation and verification by IF&W staff. Locations depicted should be considered as approximate only.



Inland Waterfowl / Wading Bird

Freshwater breeding, migration/staging, and wintering habitats for inland waterfowl or breeding, feeding, loafing, migration, or roosting habitats for inland wading birds.



Seabird Nesting Island

An island, ledge, or portion thereof in tidal waters with documented, nesting seabirds or suitable nesting habitat for endangered seabirds.



Shorebird Areas

Coastal staging areas that provide feeding habitat like tidal mud flats or roosting habitat like gravel bars or sand spits for migrating shorebirds



Tidal Waterfowl / Wading Bird

Breeding, migrating/staging, or wintering areas for coastal waterfowl or breeding, feeding, loafing, migrating, or roosting areas for coastal wading birds. Tidal Waterfowl/Wading Bird habitats include aquatic beds, eelgrass, emergent wetlands, mudflats, seaweed communities, and reefs.



Significant Vernal Pools

A pool depression used for breeding by amphibians and other indicator species and that portion of the critical terrestrial habitat within 250 ft of the spring or fall high water mark. A vernal pool must have the following characteristics: natural origin, nonpermanent hydroperiod, lack permanently flowing inlet or outlet, and lack predatory fish.

Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act

Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA, 1988) is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP; <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docstand/nrpapage.htm>) and is intended to prevent further degradation and loss of natural resources in the state, including the above Significant Wildlife Habitats that have been mapped by MDIFW. MDEP has regulatory authority over most Significant Wildlife Habitat types. The regional MDEP office should be consulted when considering a project in these areas.

Atlantic Salmon Spawning/Rearing Habitat



Atlantic Salmon Rearing Habitat



Atlantic Salmon Spawning Habitat



Atlantic Salmon Limited Spawning Habitat

Mapped by Atlantic Salmon Commission (ASC) and US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) from field surveys on selected Penobscot and Kennebec River tributaries and the Dennys, Ducktrap, East Machias, Machias, Pleasant, Narraguagus, and Sheepscot Rivers.

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

Section IV - Maps

Data Sources

DATA SOURCE INFORMATION

TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES

Maine Office of GIS: *Metwp24* (2013)

ROADS

Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Transportation: *Medotpub* (2013)

HYDROLOGY

U.S. Geological Survey National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Maine (2012)

DEVELOPED

Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and multiple other agencies:
Imperv (2011)

ESSENTIAL & SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE HABITATS

Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife: *DWA, ETSC, Ehplvtm, Ehrtem, IWWH, Sni, Shorebird, TWWH* (2003-2013)

RARE NATURAL COMMUNITIES & PLANTS

Maine Natural Areas Program: *MNAP_eos* (2013)

ATLANTIC SALMON HABITAT

Maine Office of GIS, Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: *Ashab3* (2013)

DATA SOURCE CONTACT INFORMATION

Maine Office of GIS: <http://www.maine.gov/megis/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 Program: <http://gulfofmaine.fws.gov>

Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission: <http://www.maine.gov/asc/>

Maine Department of Transportation: <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/>

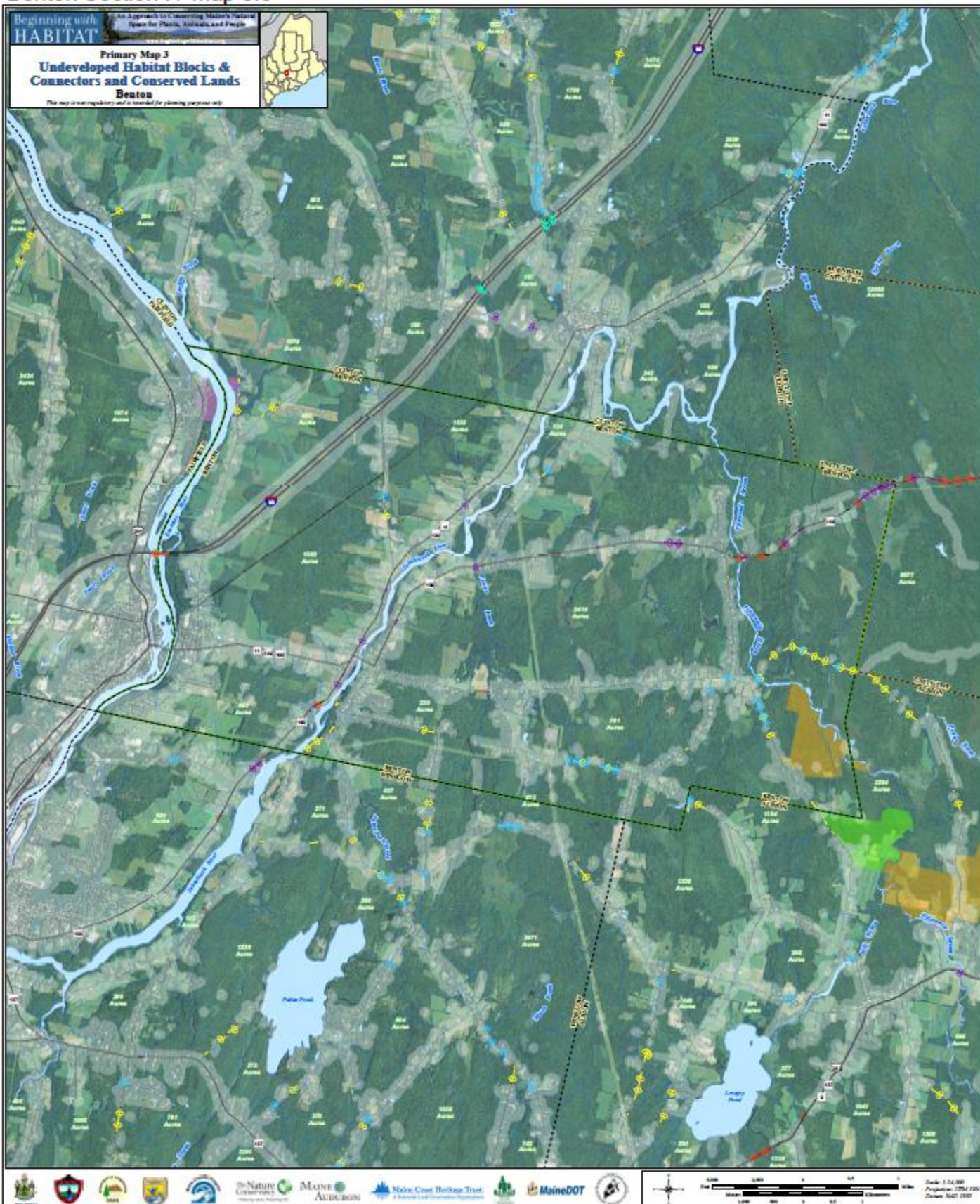
DIGITAL DATA REQUEST

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http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/the_maps/gis_data_request.html

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan Section IV - Maps

Benton Section IV Map 3.3






Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

Section IV - Maps

LEGEND

This map highlights undeveloped natural areas likely to provide core habitat blocks and habitat connections that facilitate species movements between blocks. Undeveloped habitat blocks provide relatively undisturbed habitat conditions required by many of Maine's species. Habitat connections provide necessary opportunities for wildlife to travel between preferred habitat types in search for food, water, and mates. Roads and development fragment habitat blocks and can be barriers to moving wildlife. By maintaining a network of interconnected blocks towns and land trusts can protect a wide variety of Maine's species—both rare and common—to help ensure rich species diversity long into the future. Maintaining a network of these large rural open spaces also protects future opportunities for forestry, agriculture, and outdoor recreation.

-  Organized Township Boundary
-  Unorganized Township
-  Selected Town or Area of Interest

Habitat Blocks



Development Buffer (*pale transparency*)

250-500 foot buffer around improved roads and developed areas based on development intensity.

Undeveloped Habitat Block

Remaining land outside of Development Buffers. Blocks greater than 100 acres are labeled with their estimated acreage.

Approximate Road Crossing Habitat Connections

Represented habitat connections identified through computer modeling highlight locations where quality habitat is likely to occur on both sides of a given road between undeveloped habitat blocks greater than 100 acres and between higher value wetlands. These representations are approximate and have not been field verified.

Undeveloped Block Connectors

Likely road crossing areas linking undeveloped habitat blocks greater than 100 acres. The threat of habitat fragmentation and animal mortality corresponds to traffic volume.



Yellow lines represent habitat road crossings with daily traffic volumes less than 2000 vehicles per day.



Red lines represent habitat road crossings with daily traffic volumes greater than 2000 vehicles per day.

Riparian Connectors

Likely crossing locations for wetland dependent species moving between waterways and wetlands divided by roads



Blue lines represent riparian road crossings with daily traffic volumes less than 2000 vehicles per day.



Purple lines represent riparian road crossings with daily traffic volumes greater than 2000 vehicles per day.



Highway Bridge Connectors

Highway bridges along I-95 and I-295 that span riparian habitat connecting adjacent but separated habitat blocks. These are locations where species are likely to take advantage of infrastructure to move between habitat blocks.

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Conserved Lands

The State of Maine's conserved lands database includes lands in federal, state, and non-profit ownership. It does not include many privately owned conservation lands, especially those protected by local land trusts, or town owned conservation lands. For the most accurate and current information about land ownership, consult with the local assessor and/or other local land management agencies. If public access potential to any of the properties displayed here is uncertain, landowners should be contacted to determine if permission is necessary.

Ownership Type (transparent layers)

Federal

National parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. (Includes Canadian conserved lands.)

State

Wildlife Management Areas and other properties managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, state parks, and parcels managed by the Bureau of Parks & Lands.

Municipal

Town parks, athletic fields, community forests, etc.

Private Conservation

Properties owned and managed by private (usually non-profit) organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust; Trust for Public Land, and local land trusts.

Easement

Voluntary legal agreements that allow landowners to realize economic benefit by permanently restricting the amount and type of future development and other uses on all or part of their property as they continue to own and use it.

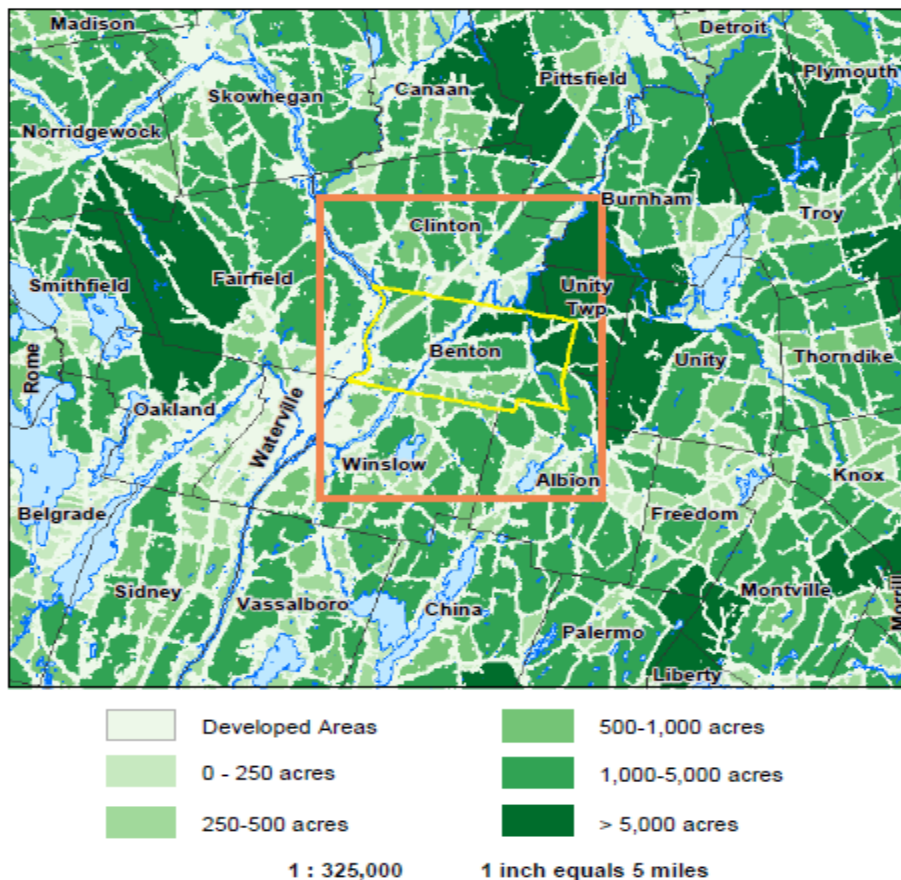
Aerial Imagery

Aerial imagery is often the best tool available to visualize existing patterns of development and resulting changes in the natural landscape. By depicting undeveloped habitat blocks, habitat connectors and conserved lands with aerial photos, the map user can more easily identify opportunities to expand the size and ecological effectiveness of local conservation efforts.

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

Section IV - Maps

Regional Undeveloped Blocks



Data Sources

DATA SOURCE INFORMATION

TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES

Maine Office of GIS: *metwp24* (2013)

ROADS

Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Transportation): *medotpub* (2013)

HYDROLOGY

U.S. Geological Survey: *NHD_Maine* (2012)

UNDEVELOPED HABITAT BLOCKS, DEVELOPMENT BUFFER, CONNECTORS

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

CONSERVATION LANDS

Bureau of Parks and Land, Land Use Regulatory Commission, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife: *conserved_land* (2014)

AERIAL IMAGERY

U.S. Department of Agriculture: *NAIP 2013* - state-wide 1-meter color orthoimagery

DATA SOURCE CONTACT INFORMATION

Maine Office of GIS - <http://www.maine.gov/megis/catalog/>

Maine Natural Areas Program - <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/>

Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife - <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/>

Maine Department of Transportation - <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/>

Maine Department of Environmental Protection - <http://www.maine.gov/depl/>

DIGITAL DATA REQUEST

To request digital data for a town or organization, visit our website.

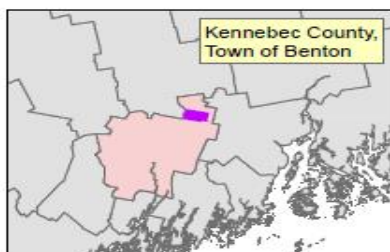
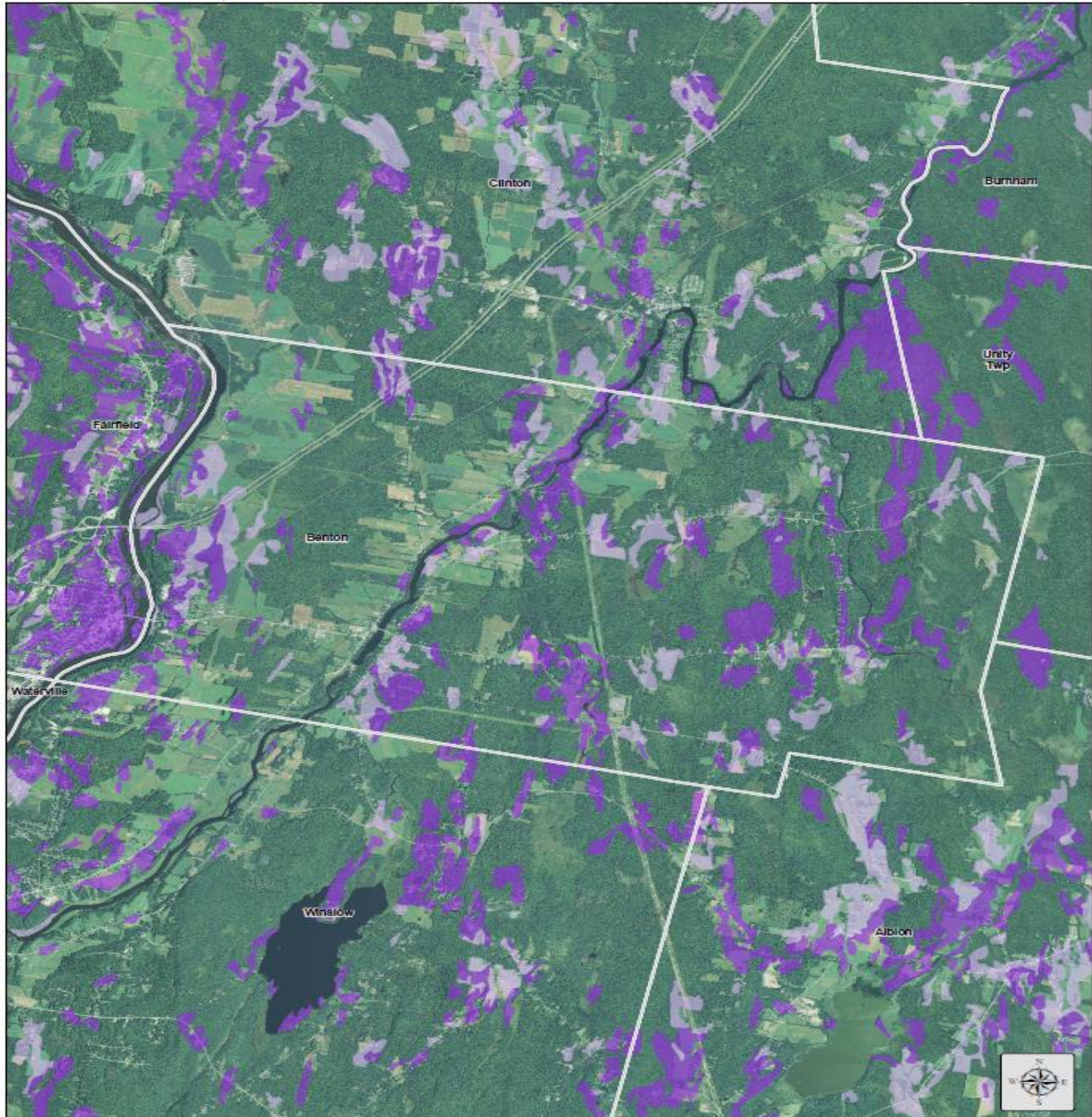
http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/the_maps/gis_data_request.html

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

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4. AGRICULTURAL MAP(S)

Benton, Section IV Map 4.1



Benton Agricultural Resources

Aerial Photo: NAIP 2013
Source Data: USDA, MEGIS, Maine DACF
Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone 19, Meters
Produced by: Municipal Planning
Assistance Program, DACF
May 2015



0 1 2 Miles

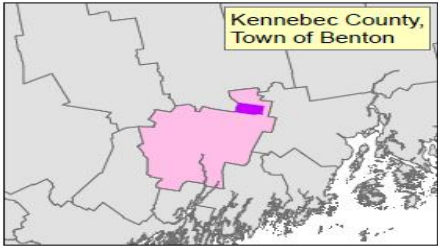
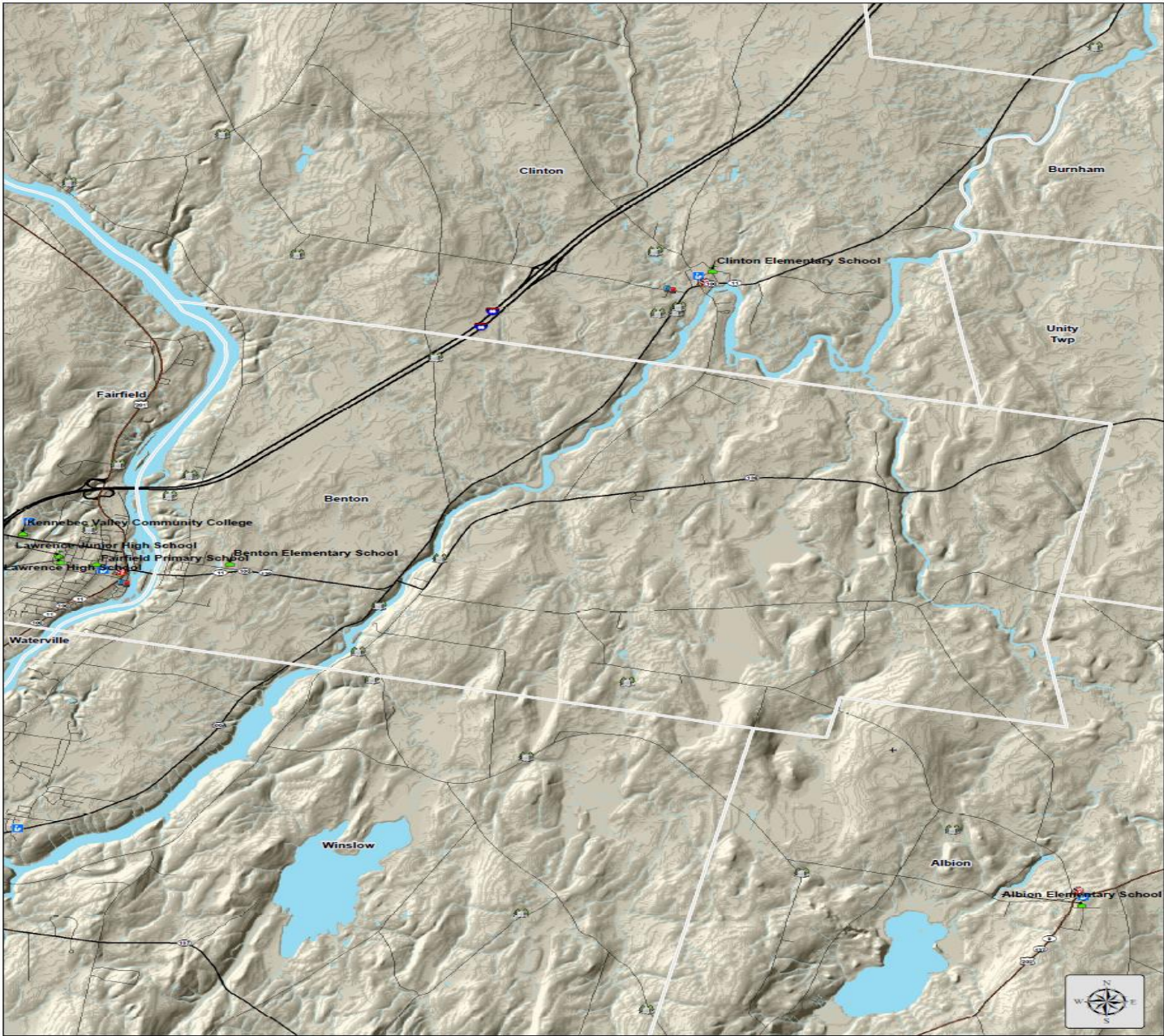
Legend	
	Municipal border
Farmland Soils	
	Farmland of statewide importance
	Prime farmland

Town of Benton Comprehensive Plan

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9. BENTON INFRASTRUCTURE MAP(S)

Benton, Section IV Map 9.1



Benton Infrastructure

Source Data: USDA, MEGIS, Maine DACF
 Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone 19, Meters
 Produced by: Municipal Planning
 Assistance Program, DACF
 May 2015



0 1 2 Miles

Legend	
	Municipal border
	Fire Station
	School
	Police Station
	Library
	Cemetery
	Airport
	River/Stream
	Waterbody
	U.S. Routes
	E911 Roads
	Primary
	Secondary
	Local

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