

Town of Medway
Community and Economic Development Department
155 Village Street, Medway, MA 02053508-533-3291

**Medway Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Task Force
Community Forum # 2
Monday, March 12, 2018
6:30 - 9:00 p.m. at Thayer Homestead- 2 B Oak Street**

Members present: Matthew Hayes, Chairman, Paul Atwood, Denise Legee, David Blackwell, and Glenn Trindade

Members Absent: Cindy Sullivan and Paul Mahoney

Staff Present: Bridget Graziano, Consultant Anne Capra, David D'Amico, Mackenzie Leahy, Susy Affleck-Childs and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

Matt Hayes, Chairman called the meeting and Community Forum to order at 7:06 p.m.

Community Forum

Matt thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and introduced Anne Capra, Consultant from Conservation Works, LLC.

Anne thanked everyone for coming out and gave a brief presentation about what the OSRP Task Force has been doing and stated they held their first public forum in October and a third is planned for this spring. Anne explained that the Task Force distributed a public survey back in Sept/Nov and 305 people responded to the survey. In addition, the Task Force held its first public forum in October and there will be a third forum when the final draft plan is ready for public comment.

Anne reviewed some of the highlights from the survey. **(See Attached)**. The highest number of respondents were in the middle age group with children ages 6-12. The survey asked if people knew where the open spaces for recreation were located. A large number of respondents did not know where some of the spaces were located and stated they did not use them. Some respondents also didn't know where to go to get information about them. The survey asked respondents what their top concerns were about recreational spaces and the top concerns were: lack of restroom facilities, lack of maintenance and insufficient parking. People were also concerned about having a place to walk their dogs and about people who don't pick up after their dogs. Some people were concerned about swimming at Choate Park, more lightning needed at some of the schools, the need for more sidewalks and sports fields.

When asked about the trails in Medway, most knew where Choate Park, Idylbrook and the Community Farm were located but did not know where the Medway Amphitheater

was located. People had concerns about vegetation encroaching on trails, lack of facilities and inadequate signage. People were asked if they had an open space or park within 10 minutes walking distance from their house and fifty nine percent said they did. The ones who did not have anything within 10 minutes stated that having one within walking distance was very important to them.

When asked about open space in the next seven years, people were concerned about protecting and maintaining parks, existing farmland, acquiring new land and developing new trails. Most respondents stated they would attend a town meeting to vote for preserving open spaces/ parks. About half of the respondents said they would allow a sidewalk to be installed on their property and would volunteer to help maintain or build new trails. People felt that the most underserved group was teenagers.

Anne reviewed some of the maps that the Task Force has been working on. (**See Attached**) One of the draft maps was developed by the Community and Economic Development department. These maps show protected areas and areas that can be developed. The Chicken Brook Corridor was identified as an important area that the community would like to keep protected and continue to develop a trail. The maps also identified undeveloped places in town that would help us meet some of our strategic goals. Anne stated that the Task Force looked at major criteria such as natural resources, preserving buffers around natural habitats, wetlands and ponds. Some parcels have a high visual aesthetic value or provide recreational access to water. Medway has experienced water shortages and water bans so the water supply is very important. Anne stated we need to take a closer look at where our groundwater resources are located and if there is protected land near them for water recharge. Some of those areas overlap with prime farm land or potential development areas. Wildlife habitats are also important natural resources and those are indicated on the map as well. There are undeveloped parcels and also prime development parcels shown on the map. The land along Route 109 is mostly zoned for commercial and industrial developments. There are also some non-profit and religious owned parcels of land shown on the map.

Anne stated it is important to look at the goals from the last OSRP in 2010 to see if the community's goals have remained the same or changed. Some of the main goals from the 2010 OSRP were to preserve Medway's character, historic sites, agricultural land, recreational land and wetlands.

Anne had the group break out into four small groups to look at the maps and criteria provided at each table. (**See Attached**) She asked each group to identify their top 3 properties to be protected and explain why. Each group took about 15 minutes for discussion.

Group # 1 listed the Briggs property, Chicken Brook corridor and improving access to the Charles River. Some other spots to consider were the area behind Julian's Oil on Village Street, Shaw Street, Water View and a few others. It was noted that there are 24 unknown owned properties in Medway that should be researched. People also had some concerns about the limited access to the Amphitheater.

Group # 2 stated the land behind Shaw's would be a good area for recreational space. They also suggested that the farmland off Summer Street could be tied into the Chicken Brook Corridor.

Group # 3 suggested the Briggs property, the Panachelli property, the Cassidy property and the area on Summer Street.

Group # 4 suggested the property along the Charles River for recreation, the Cassidy property and Timber Crest.

Susy stated a new OSRP goal might be to try to shape a management system within the town for our open spaces and get everyone on the same page as far as care and upkeep. Susy asked what brought the new people to the forum tonight. Most people stated they heard about it from the Town's Facebook page. One person stated they were interested in exploring some of the Army Corp of Engineer areas and could not find any maps of them. Another person stated she worked for the New England Wildflower Society and was interested to find out what was going on in Medway.

Anne thanked everyone for coming and the forum concluded at 8:30 pm. The OSRP Task Force then briefly discussed how the forum went. They would have liked more people to attend and were interested to find that most people had heard about the forum through Facebook.

Review of Meeting Minutes from the 2/26/18 OSRP Task Force meeting

Matt made a motion to accept the amended minutes and Denise seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Susy reminded the Task Force that the land management workshop will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018.

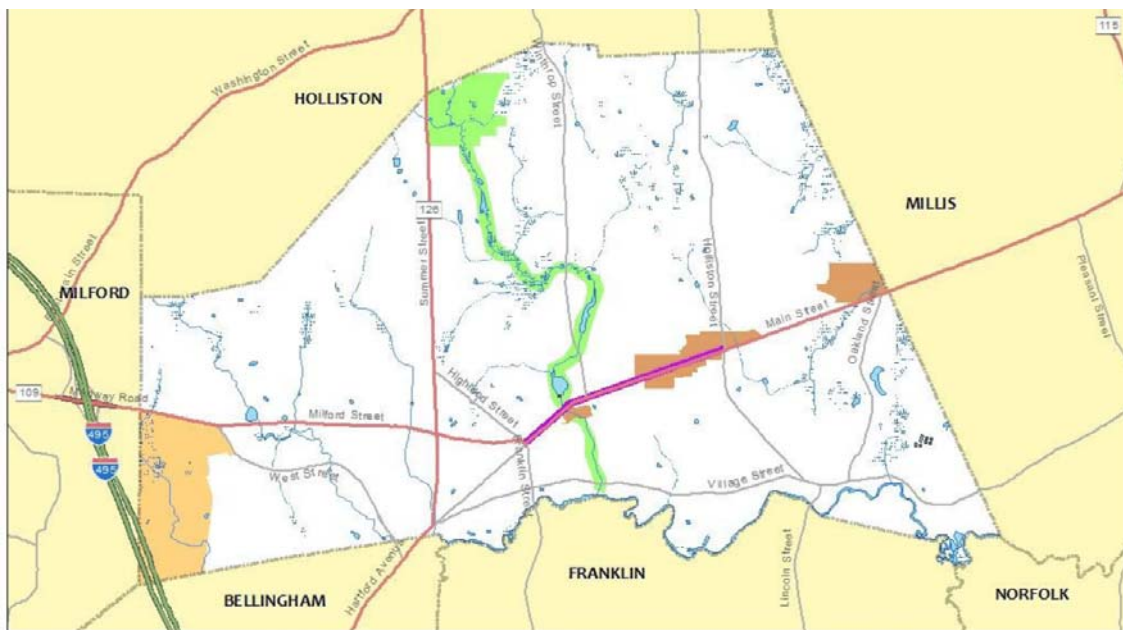
Adjourn

Matt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm and Glenn seconded the motion. All were in favor.

* Next OSRP Update Task Force meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Location to be determined

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Rozak
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and edited by,
Susan E. Affleck-Childs
Planning and Economic Development Coordinator



Legend

- Priority Development Corridor
- West Industrial Zone / 43D Site
- Commercial Zoning Districts
- Priority Preservation Sites

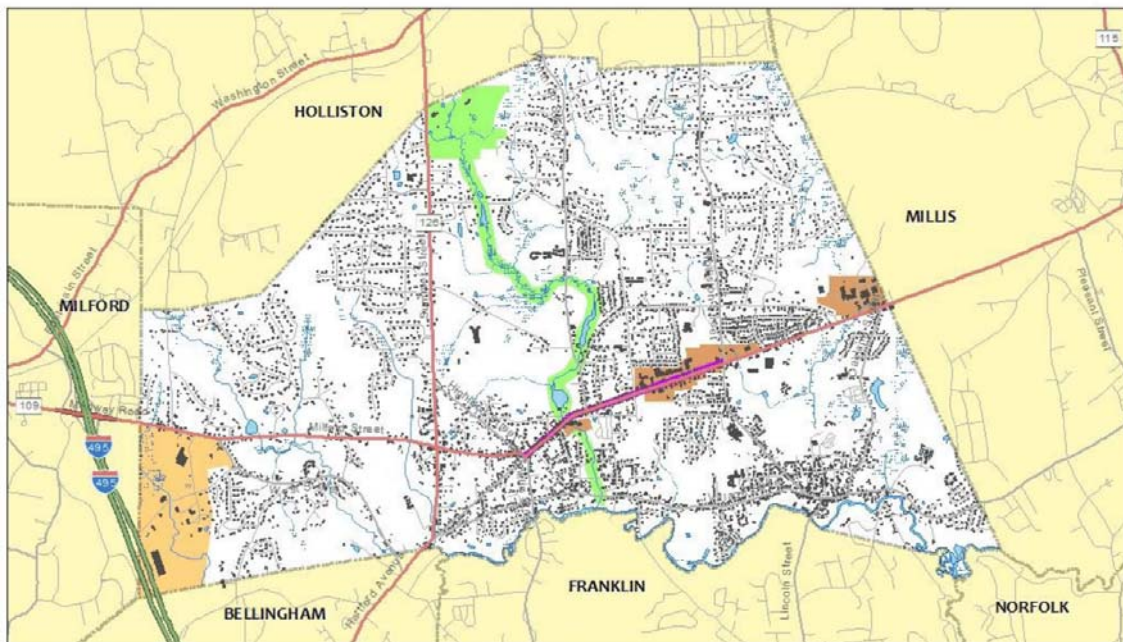
Priority Preservation and Development Sites Town of Medway

Conservation Works, LLC
February 10, 2018

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Data Sources:
Medway Community and Economic Development Department
495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan, 2012



Legend

- Buildings
- Priority Development Corridor
- West Industrial Zone / 43D Site
- Commercial Zoning Districts
- Priority Preservation Sites

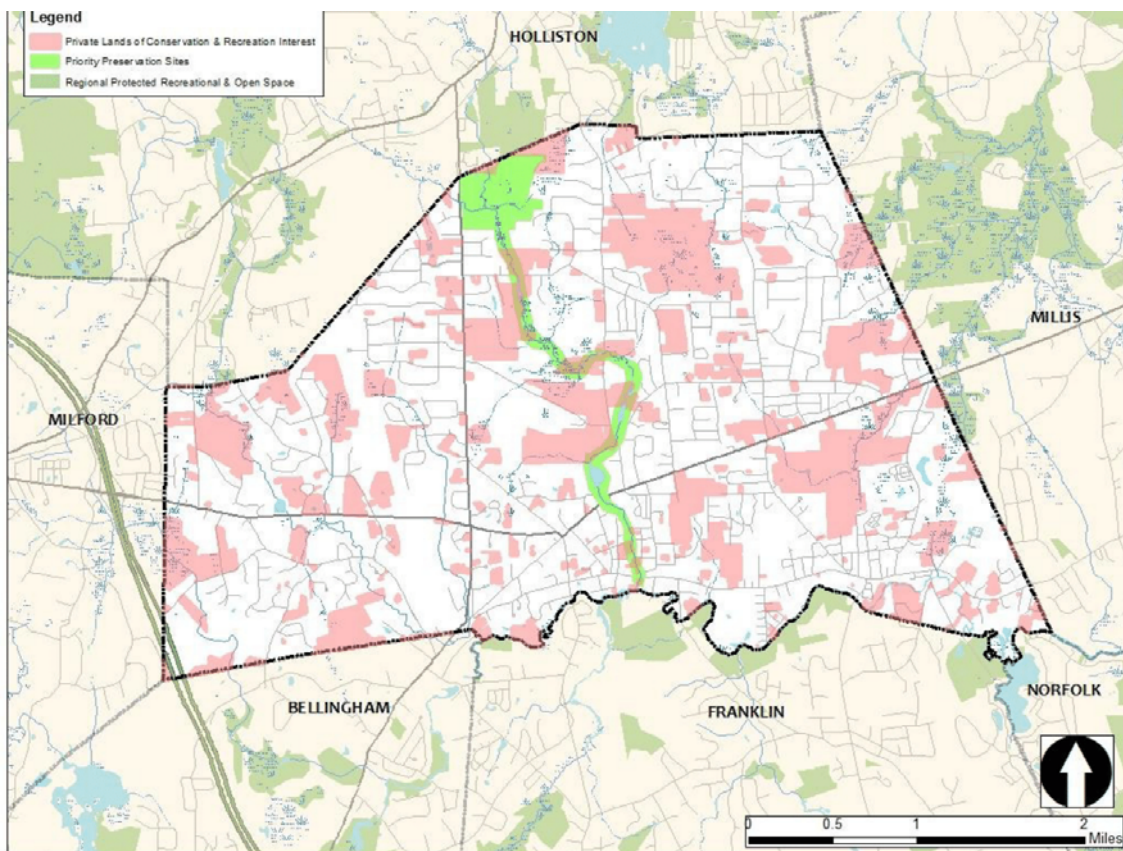
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Open Space Committee Criteria for Open Space Protection

Natural Resources

- ☐ Preserves or buffers natural areas containing diverse wildlife habitat and/or migration corridors
- ☐ Provides protection for wetlands, ponds, vernal pools, and/or waterways

Strategic Open Space

- ☐ Is large
- ☐ Is contiguous to protected areas
- ☐ Can support multiple uses

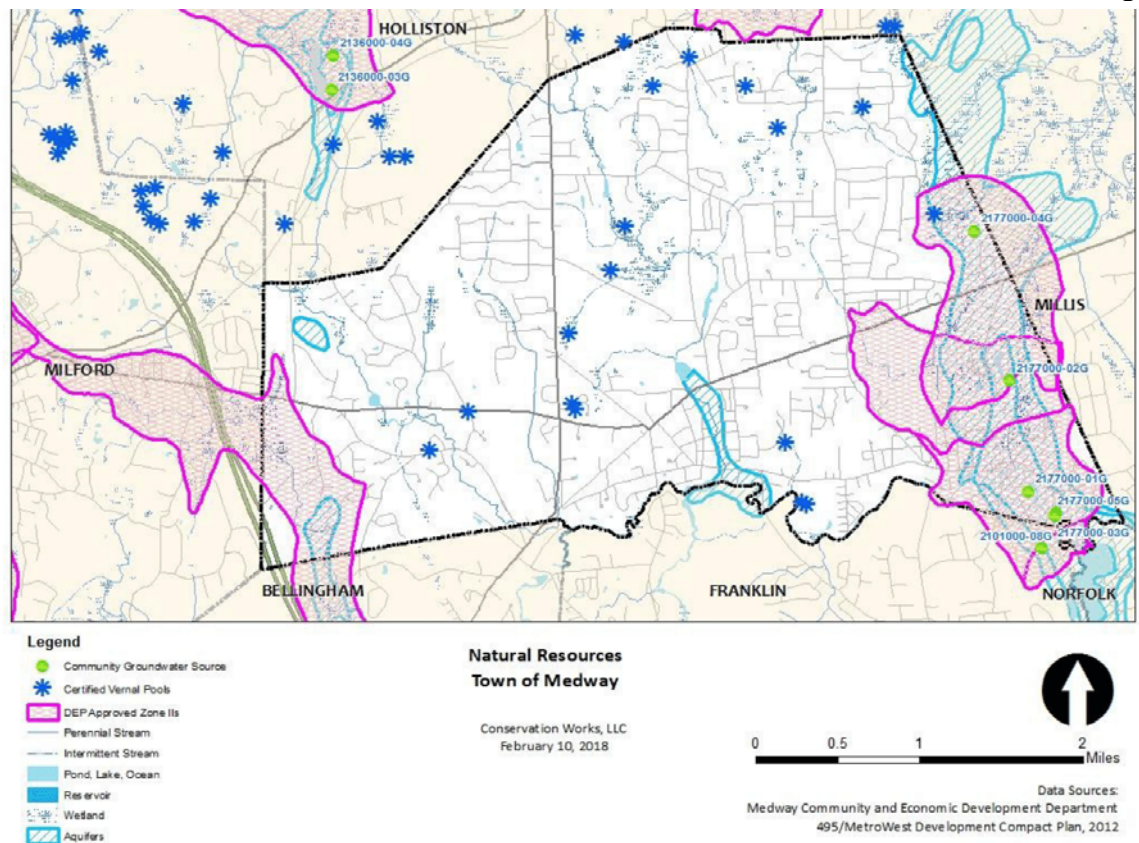
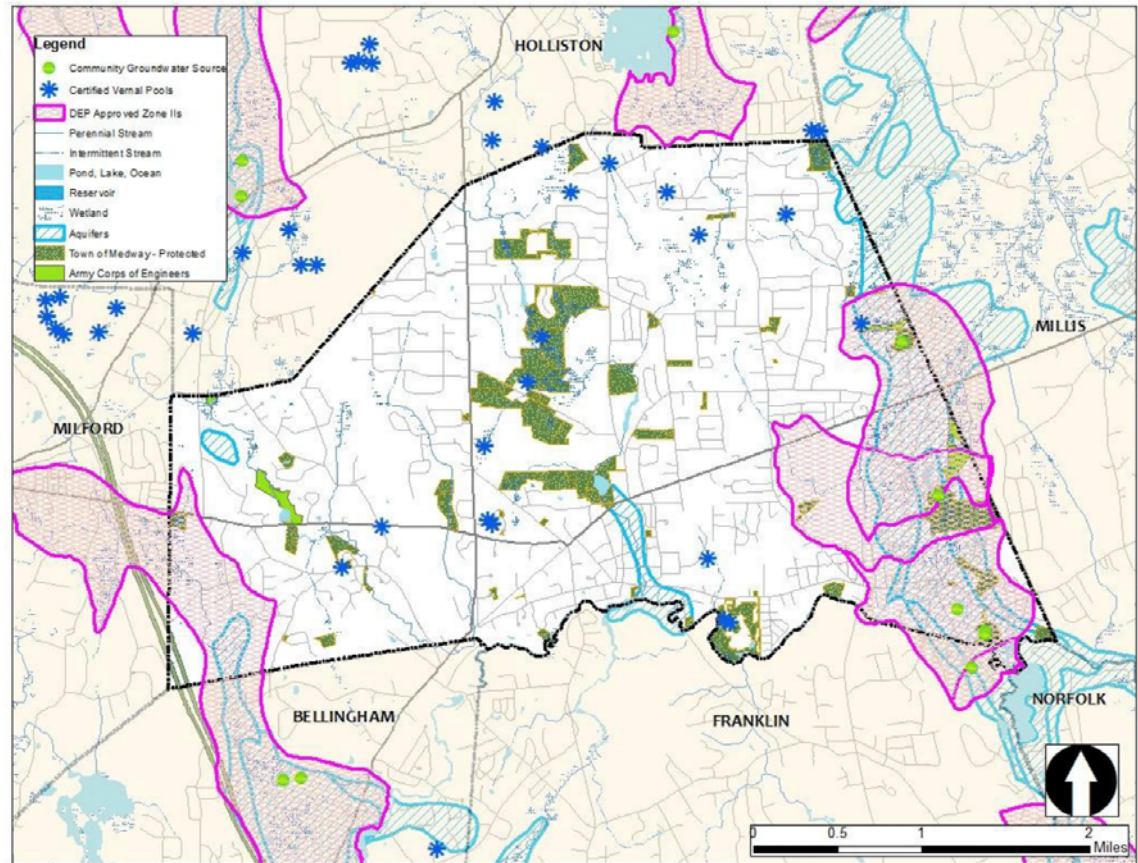
Public Use

- ☐ Is an area of high visual or aesthetic value
- ☐ Provides/improves recreational access and/or lake, stream, or trail access
- ☐ Contains important historical, geological, or local landmark features
- ☐ Requires limited preparation to achieve intended use

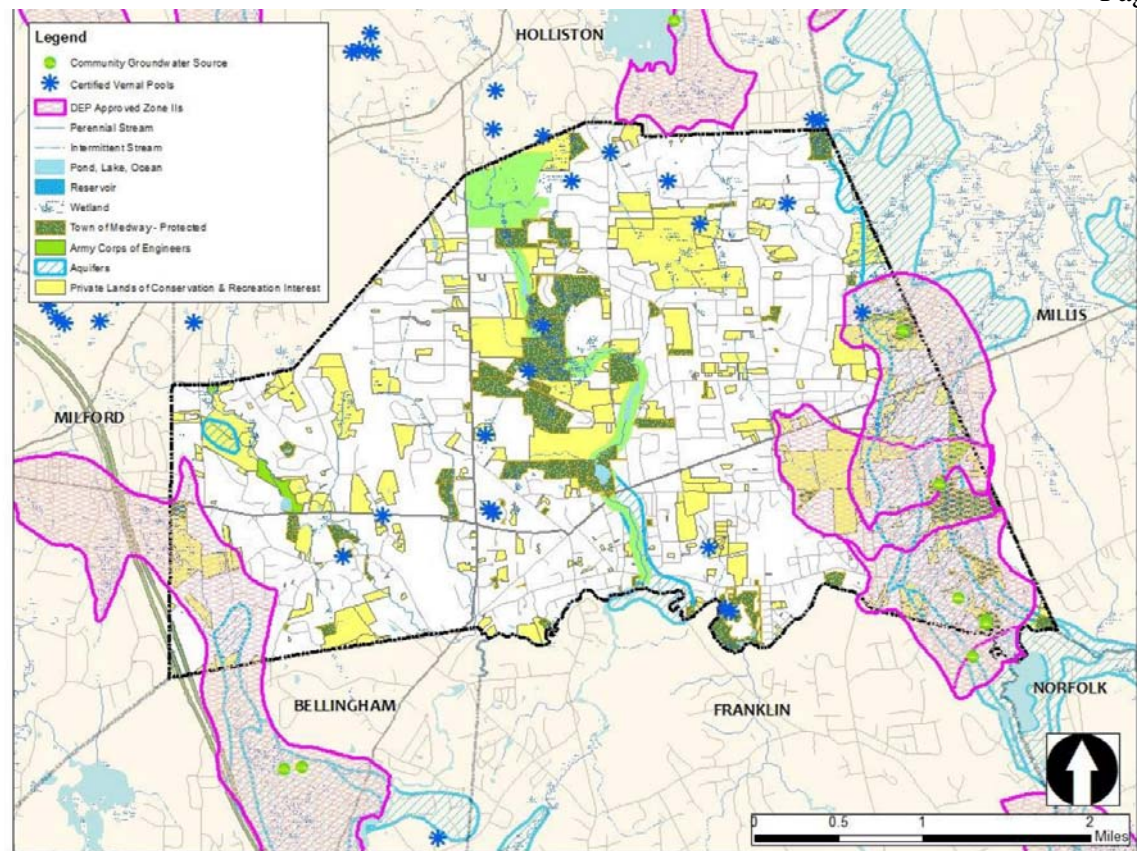
Agriculture

- ☐ Categorized as Chapter 61 or otherwise used recently for agriculture

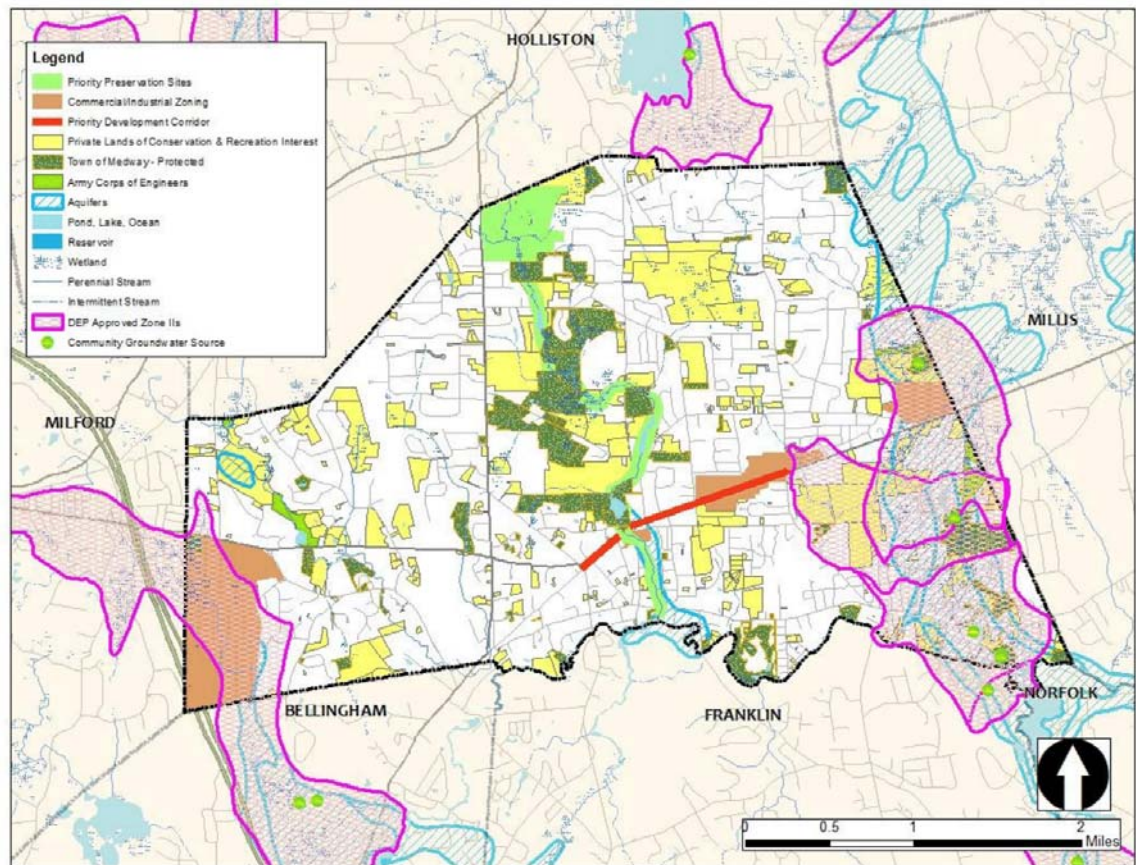
Water Resources

Water Resources
and Protected Land

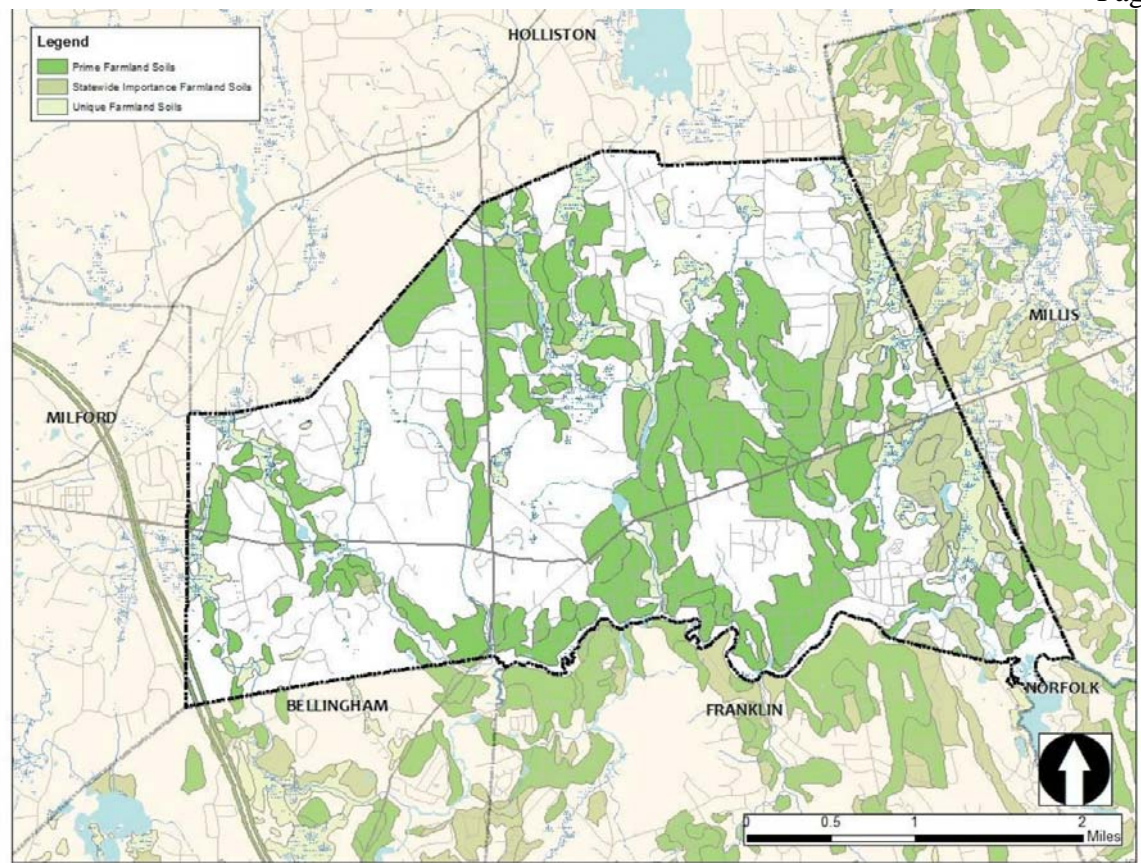
Water Resources, Protected Land, Private Lands of Conservation Interest



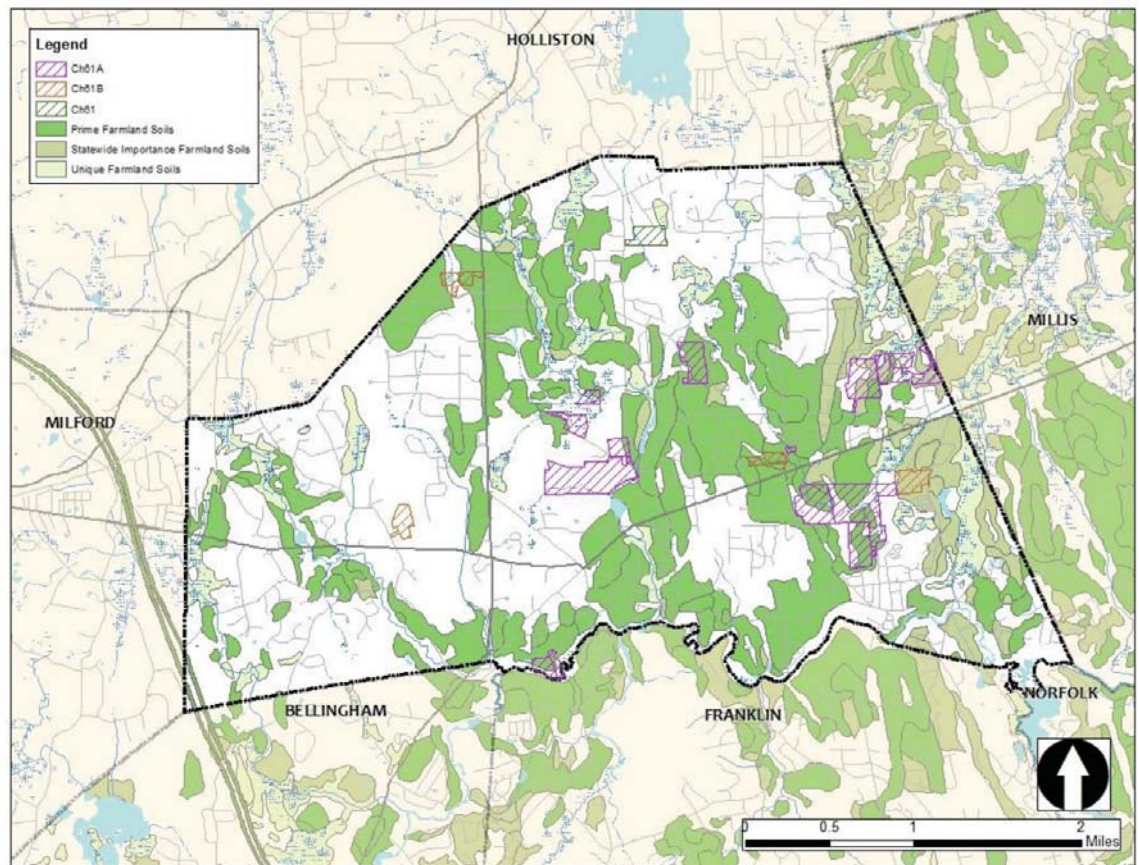
Water Resources and Priority Development Sites



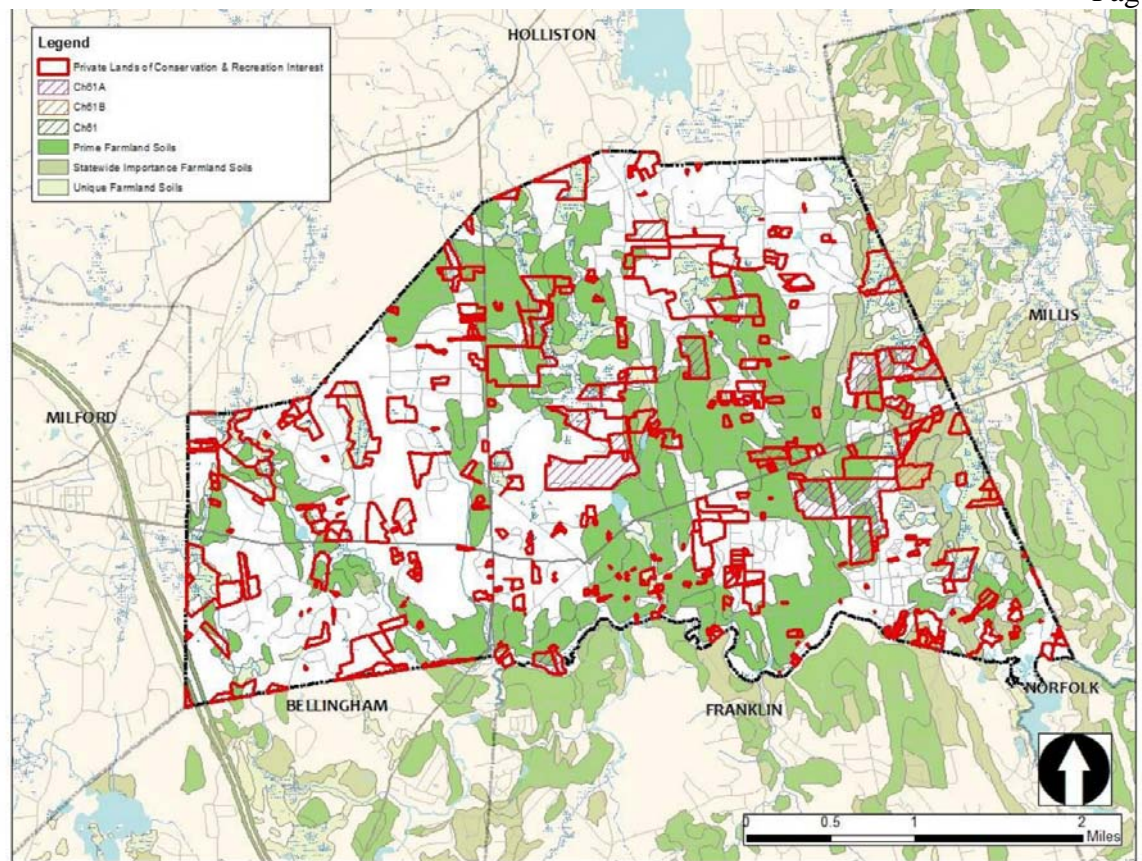
Farmland Soils



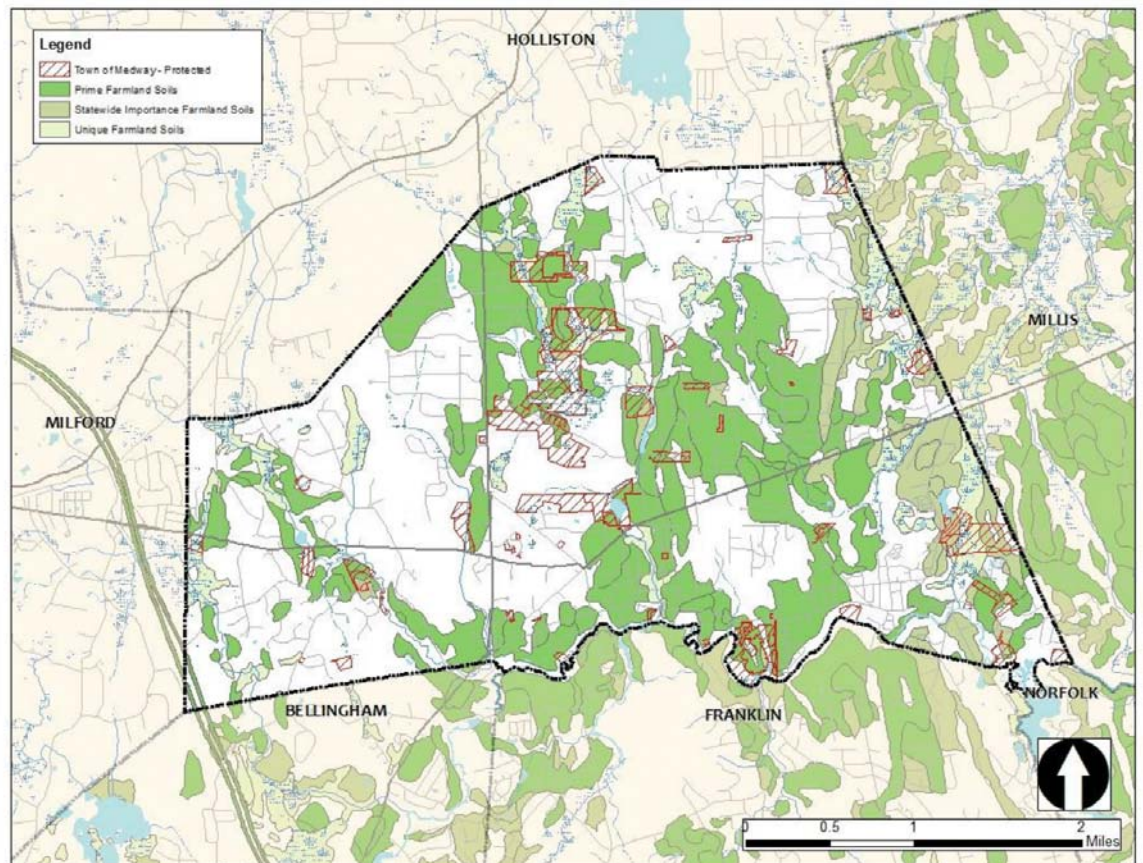
Farmland Soils and Chapter Lands



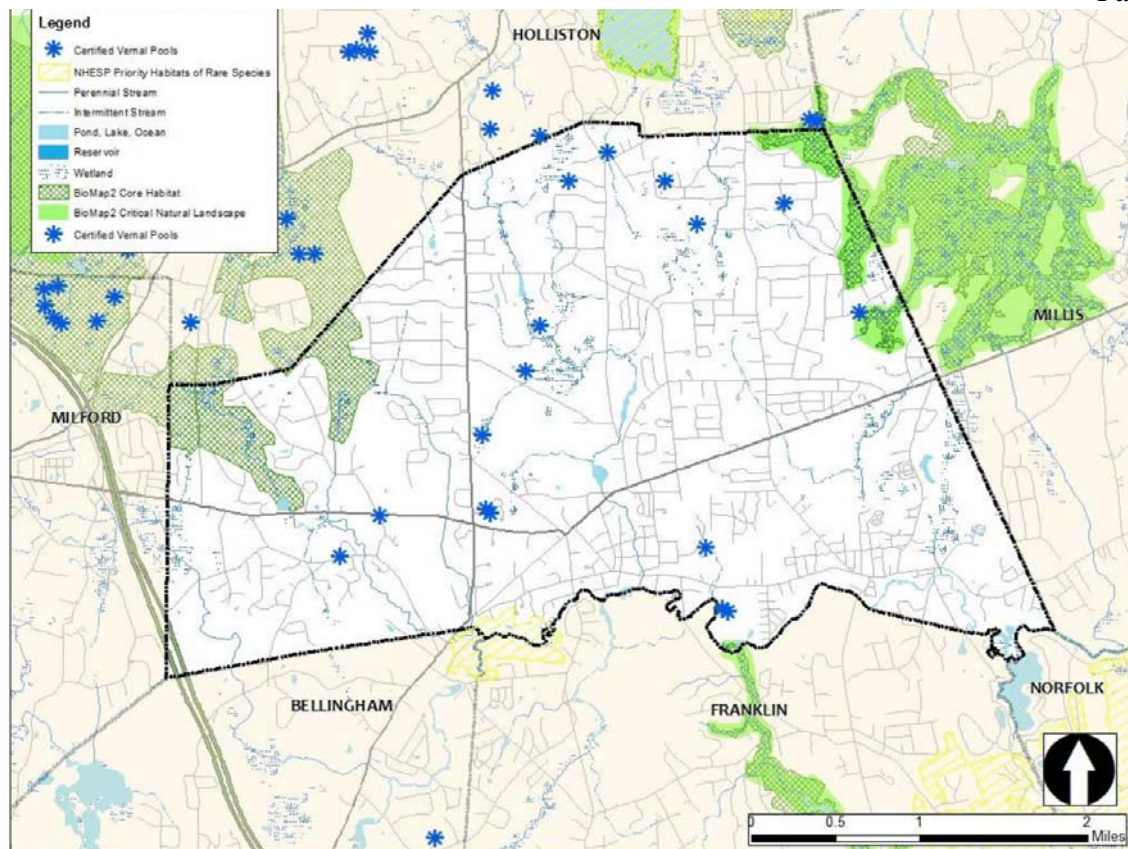
Farmland Soils and Conservation



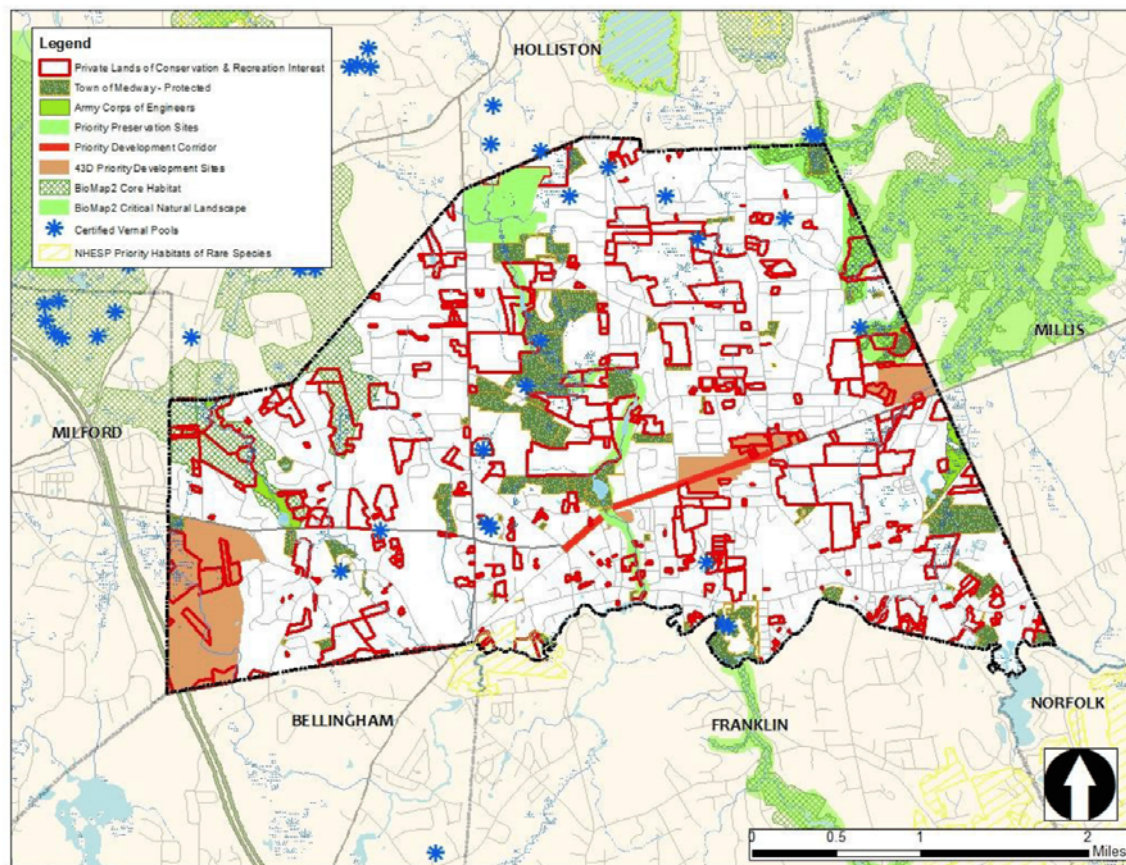
Farmland Soils and Conservation – Town of Medway Protected

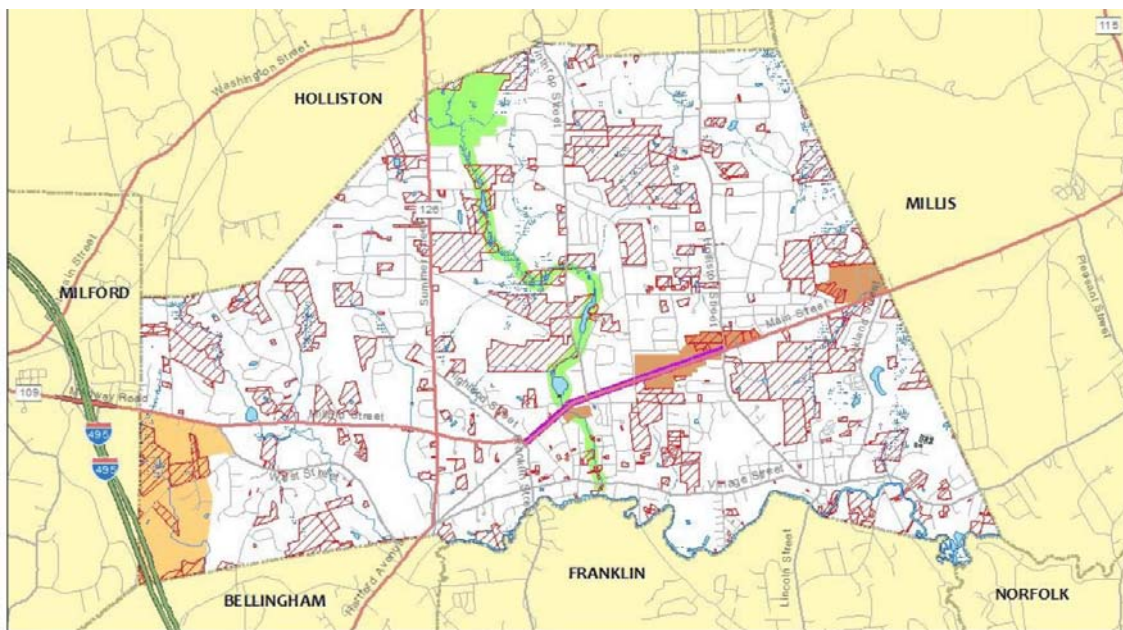


Wildlife Habitat



Wildlife Habitat and Protection Status





Legend

- Priority Development Corridor
- West Industrial Zone / 43D Site
- Commercial Zoning Districts
- Priority Preservation Sites
- ▨ Private Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

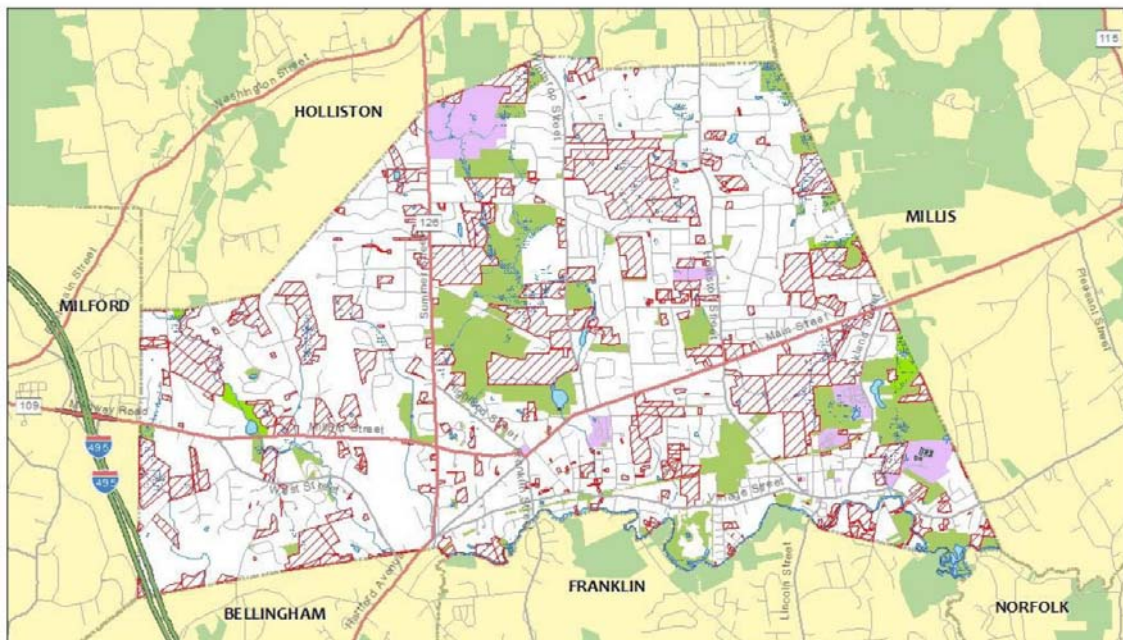
Priority Preservation and Development Sites Town of Medway

Conservation Works, LLC
February 10, 2018

0 0.5 1 2
Miles



Data Sources:
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Legend

- ▨ Private Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest
- Town of Medway
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Nonprofit & Religious Institutions

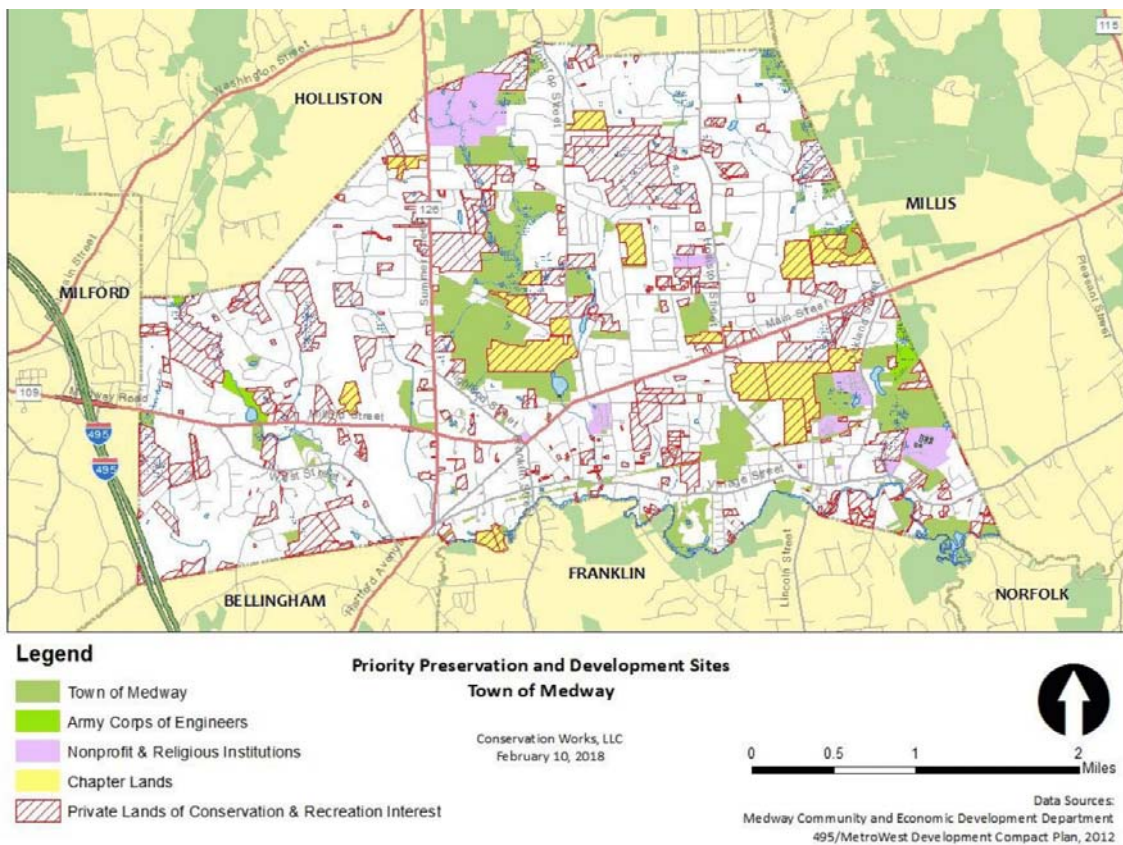
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2010 Vision Statement

To preserve Medway's rural character through the permanent protection of undeveloped land, wetlands and surface water bodies, agricultural lands and uses, scenic views, historic sites and recreation land.

Goals

2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan

1. Identify and protect undeveloped land that directly affects aquifers and groundwater, wildlife habitats, ponds and waterways.
2. Provide and maintain a diversity of conservation and recreation land uses, with opportunities for both passive and active recreation.
3. Promote the development and maintenance of trails and trail linkages.
4. Provide outreach to increase awareness among residents of the range of Medway's open space and recreational assets.
5. Develop and maintain an active community culture of open space acquisition and habitat preservation.
6. Encourage compact development to reduce sprawl.
7. Facilitate the stewardship of open spaces.

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Strategic Open Space

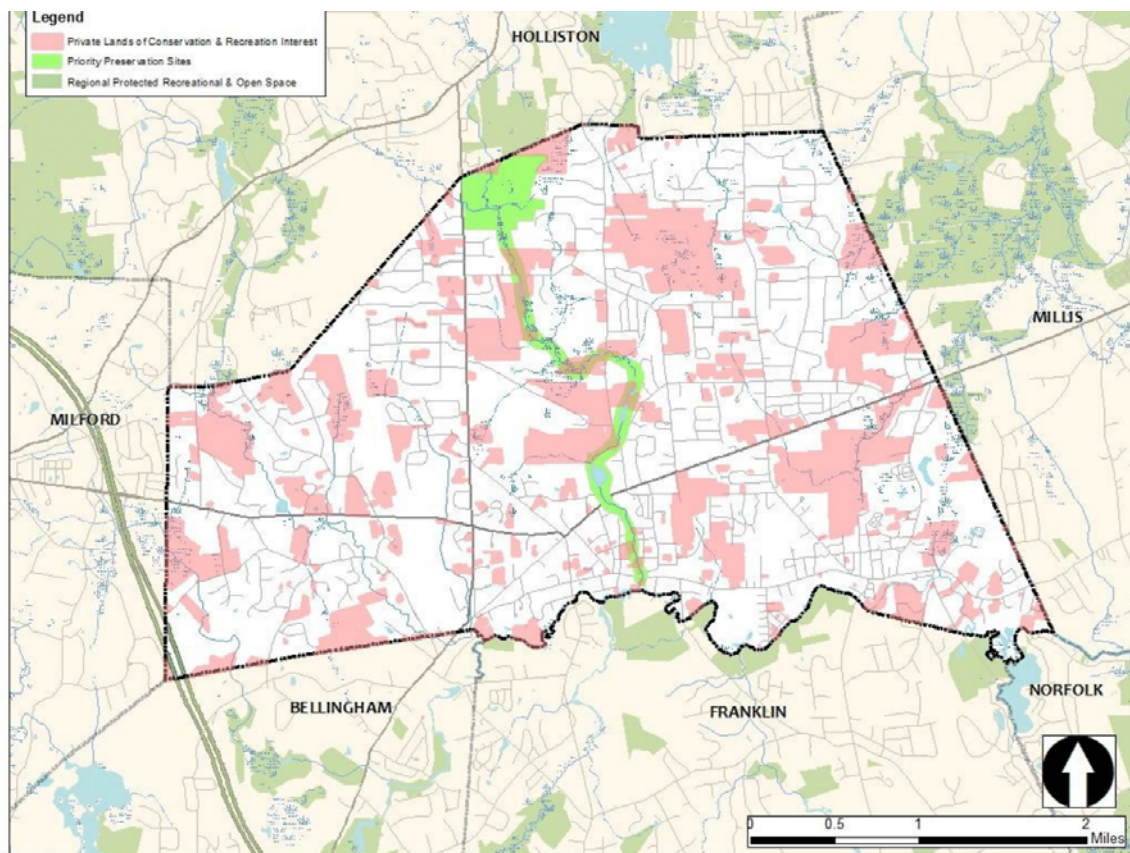
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Agriculture

- ☐ Categorized as Chapter 61 or otherwise used recently for agriculture



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