

Natural Resources Inventories: A Guide for NH Communities and Conservation Groups

BASIC INVENTORY

Suggested GIS maps and Associated Data Requirements

This table describes a basic set of NRI maps that every town should have. These maps can be easily generated using GIS and existing data on the GRANIT database. Additional maps and data can be added as funds and resources permit.

Description	Data Layers and Web Links
Base Map and Conservation Lands	
<p>This map shows conservation lands overlaid onto a topographic or aerial photo base map.</p> <p>Note that not all of the lands shown in the “Conservation Lands” data layer are permanently protected, e.g. town-owned lands, lands owned by academic institutions, unprotected water supply land, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial photograph or topographic map base • Political boundaries • Transportation and utility networks • Surface water resources • Watershed boundaries • Conservation lands data (including detail on type of ownership) • Refer to the GRANIT Conservation/Public Lands Standards web page for more information on the lands included in the Conservation Lands data layer. <p>See example of the Conservation Lands Map for Epping</p>
Water Resources and Wetlands Map	
<p>This map shows all water resources, including surface and ground water resources and wetlands. Favorable Gravel Well Analysis data can be overlaid onto this map.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political boundaries • Transportation and utility networks • Conservation lands • Surface water resources • Watershed boundaries • Stratified drift aquifers • Favorable Gravel Well Analysis • Wellhead protection areas • Public water supply sources • National Wetlands Inventory data • NRCS wetland soils data <p>See example of the Water Resources & Wetlands Map for Epping</p>
Important Soils and Steep Slopes Map	
<p>This map shows Agricultural Soils and Active Farmlands. It can also be used to display hydric (wetland) soils, steep slopes, and important ridgelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydric (Wetland) Soils • Steep Slopes (if applicable) • Ridgelines (if applicable)

Wildlife Action Plan Maps	
<p>The NH Wildlife Action Plan is a blueprint to keep species from becoming endangered. Completed in 2005 by NH Fish & Game Department staff and their conservation partners, the Wildlife Action Plan provides NH landowners and conservationists with important tools for restoring and maintaining critical habitats and populations of the state's species of conservation and management concern. A set of two maps was prepared to display data from the Wildlife Action Plan (maps updated in 2010). Click here to read a brief overview of the Wildlife Action Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NH Wildlife Habitat Land Cover Map shows the distribution of habitats across the state. • Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition Map shows the ranking of wildlife habitats based on an analysis of ecological condition using biological, landscape and human impact factors most affecting each habitat type). • See examples: Wildlife Habitat Land Cover Map for Epping Highest Ranked Habitat Map for Epping • The 2010 updated Wildlife Action Plan maps are available from GRANIT, on the GRANITView Mapper and on the NH Fish & Game Town Maps web page (pdf and jpeg formats)
Unfragmented Blocks Map	
<p>This map shows intact (unfragmented) tracts of land that comprise large areas of open space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This map is derived by using existing roads data, and demarcating a "developed" zone 500 ft in width on each side of all roads, except for Class 6 roads. See example of Epping's Unfragmented Blocks Map
Digitized Tax Map	
<p>This map shows current digitized tax map parcel data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitized tax map data, available through your town (some towns may not yet have digital tax map). This could be generated as a manual transparent overlay, or it could be added as a data layer on any of the above maps See example of Epping's digitized tax map
Regional Conservation Plans	
<p>Check to see what regional conservation plans and studies may have been conducted in your area. The maps generated for these studies may provide additional information for a local NRI and information on conservation priorities for a town's Conservation Plan.</p>	<p>Examples of regional conservation plans include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Conservation Plan for NH • Quabbin to Cardigan Conservation Plan • Land Trust conservation plans , e.g. Bear Paw Regional Greenways Conservation Plan • Watershed Plans, e.g. Newfound Lakes Region Association Master Plan <p>See example of Epping's section of the Coastal Conservation Plan map</p>

Additional Information:

- *Additional local data (not available through GRANIT) may be available via your regional planning commission and/or your town. Check with them to find out what additional GIS data layers they may have for your town.*
- *The Basic set of NRI maps can be generated by hiring a GIS provider or by creating the maps yourselves if your town has GIS capabilities and a person with the necessary skills. We recommend you have your NRI maps generated at a 1:24,000 scale. These large scale maps are easier interpret with all data clearly shown.*
- *If you do not have local GIS capability or the funds to hire a consultant to generate the maps, you can create a set of 8.5 x 11 basic maps using the [GRANITView Mapper](#). All the data described in the table above is available on the GRANIT Data Mapper. However, note that the Data Mapper has limited capability for combining data layers – the user is restricted to using the data layers within each theme, and data layers cannot be combined across themes.*