



THOMASTON



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Community Resilience Building Summary of Findings

February 2024



Town of Thomaston, Connecticut

Community Resilience Building

Summary of Findings

Overview

The need for municipalities, regional planning organizations, academic institutions, corporations, states, and federal agencies to increase resilience to extreme weather events and a changing climate is strikingly evident amongst the communities across the state of Connecticut. Relatively recent events such as Super Storm Sandy, severe winter storms (2013 & 2015), COVID-19 pandemic, and Tropical Storm Isaias have reinforced this urgency and compelled leading communities like the Town of Thomaston to proactively collaborate on planning and mitigating risks. Ultimately, this type of leadership is to be commended because it will reduce the vulnerability and reinforce the strengths of people, infrastructure, and ecosystems and serve as a model for other communities in Connecticut, New England, and the nation.

Recently, the Town of Thomaston embarked on certification with Sustainable CT. As part of that certification, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Sustainable CT provided the Town with a community-driven process to assess current hazard and climate change impacts and to generate potential and prioritized solutions to improve resilience and sustainability. In February 2024, Thomaston's Core Team helped organize a Community Resilience Building process and workshop facilitated by TNC in partnership with Sustainable CT. The core directive of this effort was the engagement with and between community stakeholders to define strengths and vulnerabilities and the development of agreeable priority resilience actions for the Town of Thomaston.

The Thomaston Community Resilience Building Workshop's central objectives were to:

- Define top local, natural, and climate-related hazards of concern.
- Identify existing and future strengths and vulnerabilities.
- Identify and prioritize actions for the Town.
- Identify opportunities to collaboratively advance actions to increase resilience alongside residents and organizations from across the Town, and beyond.

The Town of Thomaston employed an “anywhere at any scale”, community-driven process called Community Resilience Building (CRB) (www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org). The CRB’s tools, reports, other relevant planning documents, and local maps were integrated into the workshop process to provide both decision-support and visualization around shared issues and existing priorities across Thomaston. The Thomaston Plan of Conservation and Development (2014) and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Government Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Thomaston Annex (2021) were particularly instructive as references. Using the CRB process - rich with information, experience, and dialogue - the participants produced the findings presented in this summary report. This includes an overview of the top hazards, current concerns and challenges, existing strengths, and proposed actions to improve Thomaston’s resilience to hazards and climate change today, and in the future.

The summary of findings transcribed in this report, like any that concern the evolving nature of risk assessment and associated action, is proffered for comments, corrections and updates from workshop attendees and other stakeholders alike. The leadership displayed by the Town of Thomaston on community resilience building will benefit from the continuous participation of all those concerned.

Summary of Findings

Top Hazards and Vulnerable Areas for the Community

Prior to the CRB Workshop, the Thomaston CRB Core Team identified the top hazards for the Town. The hazards of greatest concern included flooding from rivers, streams, and other waterways; winter storms, Nor’easters, and blizzards; and hurricanes and tropical storms. Additional hazards highlighted by participants during the CRB workshop included extreme precipitation events leading to landslides and extreme weather events (hot and cold). These hazards have direct and increasing impacts on the infrastructure, environment, and residents of and visitors to Thomaston. These effects are seen in residential areas, natural areas (wetlands, rivers, steep slopes, parks and preserves), roads, bridges, businesses, transportation, municipal facilities, churches, social support services, arts and culture, and other critical infrastructure and community assets within Thomaston.

Current Concerns and Challenges Presented by Hazards

The Town of Thomaston has several concerns and faces multiple challenges related to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change. In the last decade, Thomaston has experienced a series of highly disruptive and damaging weather events including Tropical Storm Irene (August 2011), Storm Alfred (October 2011), Super Storm Sandy (October 2012), winter Nor'easter Nemo (February 2013), Tropical Storm Isaias (July 2020), and other less impactful but more frequent events. Impacts from Irene included inland flooding with wind damage. Sandy caused additional flooding across low lying portions of Thomaston. Storms Alfred, Nemo, and a January blizzard (2015) respectively dropped several feet of snow on the Town resulting in isolated residents for long periods and required significant and costly plowing efforts. The magnitude and intensity of these events and others across Connecticut have increased awareness of natural hazards and climate change, while motivating communities such as Thomaston to proactively improve their resilience.

This series of extreme weather events highlights that the impacts from hazards are diverse. In Thomaston, this includes riverine flooding of critical infrastructure, bridges, roads, and low-lying areas; localized flooding from stormwater runoff during intense storms and heavy precipitation events; road closures due to snow, flooding, and downed trees; property damage from trees, wind, snow, and ice. Longer periods of elevated heat, particularly in July and August, have raised concerns about vulnerable segments of the population including elderly, disabled, and/or isolated residents. The combination of these issues presents a challenge to preparedness and mitigation priorities and requires comprehensive, yet tailored actions for various locations and/or areas across the Town of Thomaston.

The workshop participants were generally in agreement that Thomaston is experiencing more intense and frequent storm events and heat waves. Additionally, there was a general concern about the increasing challenges of being prepared for the worst-case scenarios (e.g., major thunderstorms and hurricanes) particularly in the late summer and in the fall/winter months when more intense storms coincide with colder weather (i.e., snow/ice storms, Nor'easters, blizzards).

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges

As in any community, Thomaston is not uniformly vulnerable to hazards and climate change. Certain locations, assets, and populations have been and will be affected to a greater degree than others. Workshop participants identified the following items as their community's key areas of concern and challenges across several broad categories.

Municipal Functions, Operations, & Growth:

- Municipal budgets are financially constrained which does not allow for spending on necessary improvement to facilities and infrastructure across Thomaston due to the current size of the municipal tax base.
- Approximately 25% of the land in Thomaston is too steep to support development due to the risk of landslides.
- Currently, there are no 30-acre parcels or greater in size near major transportation corridors like Route 8 that are feasible for development of commercial or industrial facilities, which would help to increase tax base.
- Ongoing concerns about the lack of sufficient compensation from the federal government for buildable land usurped for the installation of flood control dams in Thomaston. Flood control structure protect downstream municipalities to the detriment of Thomaston. Federal payments in lieu of taxes is \$1,000 annually despite representing over 30% of the municipalities grand list.
- Recognized brownfield property difficult and expensive to repurpose or redevelop due to the type of past industrial uses.
- Thomaston with the lowest per capita income as compared with surrounding municipalities, which may present challenges in a post disaster phase for many residents facing new expenses while trying to replace items and recover fully.
- Lack of affordable housing for elderly residents looking to downsize or younger families looking to move into a first home. Homes are purchased almost immediately once listed.
- Thomaston lacks a centralized grant writing capacity, which reduces the potential of securing grants to advance identified needs for improvement in facilities, infrastructure, and programs that could increase resiliency within the community.
- Concerns about the impacts from storms and extended power outages on senior population residing at Grove Manor given there are no generators and an elevator of concern at the facility.
- Excessive heat has led to early closings or cancelation of school due to inability to cool school facilities. Air conditioning units are installed in the High School but not in the other two schools and associated classrooms.

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

- Municipality primarily connects with and communicates to the public via Facebook, which can be a less than adequate communications platform for residents.
- Currently no internet technology professional on staff in Thomaston resulting in each department making updates to common platforms such as the municipal website.

Emergency Management & Preparedness:

- Cycles of drought and intense rainstorms coupled with a warming climate is increasing the risk of vector borne diseases across Connecticut including Thomaston.
- Communications between federal, state, and local governments are often inconsistent or non-existent leaving residents with less than complete information with which to make decisions during emergency situations.
- Cellular service interruptions for radios and cell towers experienced several times in last few years.
- Power outages caused by wind associated with major storm events.
- Flood of '55 and impacts rendered still referred to as the significant events in the region's history.

Roads, Bridges, Transportation Networks, & Dams:

- Main roadways and road segment closures have occurred due to many different events (flooding, tornados, and all-weather events) resulting in difficulties in movement of people, goods, and services. Highway Department is particularly concerned about the prospects of closure of Route 8 which would result in a major disruption of north/south and east/west travel due to the location through Thomaston.
- Major drainage issue on Watertown Road has not received any input or attention from Connecticut Department of Transportation despite the impacts to travel as well as the flooding of a condominium development.
- Major flooding issue on Fern Road due to inadequate and antiquated drainage systems put in place and maintained by hand over many decades.
- Inability to release stored water from Thomaston Dam until the Naugatuck River is below demarcated flood stage resulting in the unregulated release of stored water via dam spillways that can pose a risk to downstream property and people. Although this situation has not occurred to date, a recent event has raised concerns given the increase duration and magnitude of precipitation associated with storms.

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

Stormwater Management System, Wastewater Systems, & Septic Systems:

- Stormwater drainage systems have become undersized and outdated due to the continued increase in magnitude of precipitation events in the last decade. Cost to replace and/or retrofit is viewed as excessive due to the amount of engineering and installation work required, currently.
- Expense of making improvements to stormwater management infrastructure in the High Street area (>\$30M) presents an overall challenge for the municipality given that improvements are needed elsewhere as well. Recent grant proposals to the Federal Emergency Management Agency were not awarded for High Street area which has frustrated municipal staff and leadership looking to implement solutions.
- Existing sewer system does not service the entirety of the 8 square miles of usable land within Thomaston. Expanding the capacity of the sewer plant and the extent of the service area is necessary to foster additional development in Thomaston.
- Wastewater treatment plant is subjected to flooding due to the positioning in a low-lying area at the base of a hill.
- Septic failures on properties situated on bedrock ledges and hillsides with inadequate depth to groundwater for proper filtration. Companies are unwilling to service and repair failed septic systems due to topographic and bedrock challenges.
- Lack of understanding of the capacity of existing sewer lines given growth since last assessment in 2014 coupled with projected growth in population of Thomaston.

Watersheds, Wetlands, Rivers/Streams, Open Space, & Trees:

- Limited appreciation and understanding amongst residents that existing streams and waterways need to be maintained in their current configuration and not moved or manipulated which can result in increased flooding and runoff.
- Presence of hazardous dead and standing trees located along roadway that present an immediate concern during windstorms despite recent clearly by Eversource.
- Growing number of trees subjected to pest and pathogens resulting in dead and stand trees. Growing concerns about the likely impacts on trees in Thomaston from the spotted lanternfly which a new pest that can kill or impair trees.

Current Strengths and Assets

Just as certain locations, facilities, and populations in Thomaston stand out as particularly vulnerable to the effects of hazards and climate change, other features are notable assets for Thomaston's resilience building. Workshop participants identified the following items as their community's key strengths and expressed interest in centering them as the core of future resilience building actions.

Municipal Functions, Operations, & Growth:

- Clearly, the responsive and committed engagement exhibited by leadership, staff, and residents is a very appreciated strength within and across Thomaston. Ongoing collaboration between municipal staff, committee/commission/board volunteers, the business community, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, adjoining municipalities, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, and various state-wide organizations (i.e., Sustainable CT, The Nature Conservancy), among others, on priorities identified herein will help advance comprehensive, cost-effective, community resilience-building actions.
- Strong sense of community in Thomaston where residents care about the Town and those lifelong, multi-generational relationships with neighbors and municipal staff.
- Municipal staff dedicated to and fully focused on actions that improve Thomaston.
- Established track record of inter-department collaboration and cooperation in advancing and completing projects, which is viewed as a real strength in the community.
- Walkable and vibrant downtown district that is benefiting from additional focus on redevelopment effort that will enhance Thomaston as a destination.
- Many volunteer opportunities and community events which help to foster a strong sense of community and belonging amongst residents.
- Passionate volunteer organizations such as the Fine Arts Connection result in activities designed to enhance the livability of Thomaston (i.e., free public concerts, etc.).
- Outstanding, and pro-active land use commissions that are well versed in their roles and knowledgeable about prior practices as well as being open and amendable to adjust to accommodate the shifting needs of the community served.
- Community members in Thomaston place a high value on open space and recreational areas including parks and sports/playing fields.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments provides invaluable services with countless planning and project efforts including assisting with updates to the Plan of Conservation and Development, supporting access to grant funding opportunities, planning for upgrades in sidewalks (i.e., Elm Street), and identification of bike paths, greenway opportunities, and other town improvements.
- Highly engaged wetlands and zoning commissions that stringently review all issues related to expansion or development proximate to floodplains.
- Food pantry in Thomaston is used by and open to all residents in need coupled with a once-a-month food handout to the community.
- Part-time staff position represents the municipality's social service which helps take care of residents who need assistance with food, heat, clothing, and shelter.
- Highway Department stays on the job plowing during winter storms until all the roads are cleared and safe.

Emergency Management & Preparedness:

- Emergency services including Fire Department (approximately 40 volunteers) and Ambulance Corps (approximately 20 volunteers) represent a critical asset for Thomaston.
- Region 5 Dive Team provides services for eight town area including Bantam, Litchfield, Northfield, Morris, Watertown, Middlebury, Terryville, and Thomaston.
- Municipality maintains list for emergency management purposes of individuals at senior housing facilities that require oxygen.
- Recent installation of generators at both the Thomaston Town Hall and Ambulance Corps facility.
- Thomaston has a 24-hour sheltering facility at the Ambulance Corps facility.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers supports flood control measures for the Naugatuck River system via several dam structures including the Thomaston Dam.
- Emergency shelters open automatically during time of crisis and remain open until everyone served is returned to their homes.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Highly respected and effective volunteer fire fighting team in Thomaston.
- Thomaston Ambulance Corps maintains open communications with those in need within the community and will go directly to residents when needed (i.e., power outages) to ensure everyone is safe and well cared for.
- Thomaston just purchased a trailer to enable the safe stockpiling of essential supplies needed during emergencies as a definitive step towards better preparedness in the event of a disaster.

Roads, Bridges, Transportation Networks, & Dams:

- Support of the First Selectman and Board of Finance for projects involving Thomaston's roadways.
- Federally owned and operated dam structures provide flood control for downstream communities as well as providing a recreation attraction (i.e., camping, swimming, trail hiking, etc.) for residents and visitors resulting in benefits to the local economy.

Stormwater Management System, Wastewater Systems, & Septic Systems:

- Stormwater regulations have recently been integrated with the inland wetland and zoning regulations.
- Wastewater treatment plant is a strong asset for Thomaston with seasoned Wastewater Pollution Control Authority staff that maintain open communications with various municipal staff and commissions.

Watersheds, Wetlands, Rivers/Streams, Open Space, & Trees:

- Conservation Subcommittee of the Inland Wetland Commission actively moving forward with open space inventories and goals identification for open space land use in Thomaston.
- Large amount of undeveloped lands due to the topographical challenges that prevent development or make it cost prohibitive.
- Numerous municipal park facilities available for residents including the Seth Thomas Park which recently went through improvement to enhance recreational opportunities.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Outstanding parks and water resources such as Black Rock State Park, Black Rock Lake, Thomaston Dam, and Northfield Lake which offer passive recreation opportunities and help to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors.
- Town is committed to maintaining parks and open spaces for the public.



Credit: Pinterest



Credit: CTVisit



Credit: Wikipedia

Recommendations to Improve Resilience

A common theme among workshop participants was the need to continue community-based planning efforts focused on developing adaptive measures to reinforce Thomaston's strengths and reduce vulnerability to extreme weather, climate change and other common concerns raised. To that end, the workshop participants helped to identify several priority topics requiring more immediate and/or ongoing attention including:

- **Long-term vision and growth** (i.e., volunteerism, conservation, sustainable economic development, affordable housing, stormwater & waste management);
- **Infrastructure improvements** (i.e., roads/bridges/culvert, green stormwater infrastructure/management systems, wastewater system);
- **Quality of life improvements** (i.e., parks and recreation, open space & accessibility, sustainability, health & safety, economic prosperity, housing, transportation);
- **Emergency management** (i.e., communications, outreach, education, continuation of services, business recovery, evacuation, vulnerable populations).

In direct response, the Community Resilience Building Workshop participants developed the following actions and identified, but not ranked, them as priority or as additional actions. Mitigation actions from the Thomaston Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex (2021) are provided in Appendix A for cross reference with actions presented herein. Maps provided during the CRB Workshop, gathered from the Thomaston Hazard Mitigation Plan and Plan of Conservation and Development (2014), are provided in Appendix B.

Priority Actions

- Commit to securing a grant writer to work across departments to help coordinate and capture federal and state grants designed to advance projects as identified by the community (herein, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Plan of Conservation & Development, etc.). Look to ensure new grant writer position also works in partnership with the experienced and knowledgeable staff at the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.
- Conduct detailed assessment (by Thomaston Housing Authority – Grove Manor) then fix what is required with the elevator at the senior housing facility (estimated cost \$500K).

Priority Actions (cont'd)

- Work to improve communications between municipal government and residents by 1) identifying who on staff is responsible for managing communications channels with the public for each department or office and 2) identifying a decision/contact tree among staff so residents and other staff know who to go to with questions or problems.
- Define better approaches to increase information and resource sharing between stakeholders including municipal staff, non-profit organizations, business community, The US Army Corps of Engineers, faith-based organizations, and regional planning entities, among many others.
- Hire an Economic Development Coordinator or Main Street Manager to provide the capacity and expertise needed to properly consider and advance solutions to issues revolving around housing, development, and infrastructure in Thomaston.
- Conduct much needed upgrades to the wastewater treatment plan starting with fully funding the existing “WPCA Facilities Upgrade Plan” (estimated cost \$1M) (“upgrades rather than band aids”) by including the Plan in the immediate Thomaston Capital Improvement Plan. Last upgrade to facility and supporting pipe systems was over 25 years ago (1999).
- Create greater awareness amongst residents of recent efforts to improve operations at the wastewater treatment plant including computer system upgrades (\$600K) and improvements to three pump stations (\$1.2M) in hopes of greater support for additional needs to maintain services in Thomaston.
- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of infrastructure condition and needs across Thomaston followed by a prioritization process of critical projects needed in next 10 years (i.e., “Resilience Project Pipeline”). Ensure all road and roadway drainage system improvement/upgrade needs are incorporated in assessment.

Additional Actions

- Cross reference actions generated through the Thomaston Community Resilience Building process with mitigation actions identified in the Thomaston Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021) (see Appendix A for list of mitigation actions).
- Accelerate efforts to address immediate flooding issues in specific locations as identified in the Thomaston Hazard Mitigation Plan (see Appendix A) (i.e., “Resilient Project Pipeline”).
- Continue to work collaborative to complete the update to the Thomaston Plan of Conservation & Development including comprehensive community and departmental input.
- Look to identify and acquire/protect low-lying areas adjoining river and streams with the intention of increasing natural flood storage within Thomaston away from people and property.
- Explore the potential of developing a resiliency fund designed to set aside municipal funds to address anticipated future issues such as wastewater treatment plant service lines and facilities, municipal facilities, and roadways.
- Look to install green stormwater infrastructure (i.e., bioswales, rain gardens, tree pits, etc.) as a more cost effective and ecologically friendly approach to managing localized and nuisance flooding.
- Provide educational materials to homeowners on how to better manage stormwater runoff at their homes including step-by-step guidance on siting and installing rain gardens to trap and retain precipitation from roof leaders and downspouts.
- Continue to work closely with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments to pursue and secure grants to design and implement infrastructure improvement projects, among other needs in Thomaston.

Additional Actions (cont'd)

- Explore with other municipalities and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments approaches to increase recruitment of volunteers in Thomaston. Consider opportunities to create a regional bank to secure volunteers and match with community needs.
- Continue to encourage and support cross-departmental planning and operations activities to strengthen teams and potentially find efficiencies in services provided to the community.
- Look to strengthen stormwater management efforts in municipal zoning and regulations.
- Integrate affordable housing plans into the municipal Plan of Conservation & Development.
- Comprehensively assess generator needs for municipal buildings with emphasis placed on those facilities that are critical to continuity of services before, during, and after major events.
- Explore potential for provisions by the federal government of larger parcels to the municipality as potential developable sites for commercial and industrial facilities.
- Investigate what is needed to create opportunity for the industrial park in the Waterbury Road section of Thomaston including ways to lower the cost of installing utilities.
- Complete upgrades to the municipal website and ensure a system is in place to allow residents to sign up for notifications as well as options for residents to provide alerts on issues of concern (e.g., location of trees down across roads) and the ability to submit a request for assistance.
- Conduct outreach to increase awareness amongst residents of the new municipal website upgrades once completed including information sharing about the new tools designed to increase effective communications across Thomaston.

Additional Actions (cont'd)

- Work towards greater effective and transparent communication structure and protocols that better serve the residents of Thomaston. Examine approaches to build communication procedures and protocols into municipal policies to ensure use and effectiveness (“formalized protocols around the lines of communications”).
- Establish greater clarity on specific contacts amongst municipal staff for various roles and responsibilities so everyone knows who is on point to respond to specific situations and issues (i.e., “who monitors TextMyGov”).
- Continue to work with community-based organizations and neighborhood associations to identify vulnerable residents who are living independently in hopes of providing support services before, during, and after major storm events, as needed.



Credit: News Time



Credit: US Army Corps of Engineers



Credit: Facebook

CRB Workshop Participants: Department/Organization

Town of Thomaston – Office of the First Selectman
Town of Thomaston – Public Works Department
Town of Thomaston – Building Department
Town of Thomaston – Planning and Zoning Department
Town of Thomaston – Fire Department
Town of Thomaston – Parks and Recreation Department
Town of Thomaston – Public School
Town of Thomaston – Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission
Town of Thomaston – Economic Development Commission
Town of Thomaston – Board of Education
Town of Thomaston – Housing Authority
Town of Thomaston – Ambulance Corps
Town of Thomaston – Water Pollution Control Authority
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
United States Army Corps of Engineers
UniMetal Incorporated
University of Connecticut – School of Public Policy

Thomaston CRB Core Project Team

Stacey Sefcik – Land Use Administrator – Town of Thomaston

Anthony Lagana – Land Use Intern – Town of Thomaston, University of Connecticut

Online CRB Workshop Facilitation Team

The Nature Conservancy – Adam Whelchel, Ph.D. (Lead Facilitator)

Sustainable CT – Jessica LeClair (Small Group Facilitator)

The Nature Conservancy – Sue AnderBois (Small Group Facilitator)

Sustainable CT – Torin Radicioni (Scribe)

Sustainable CT – Inez Ortiz (Scribe)

Sustainable CT – Dorothy Piszczek (Scribe)

Recommended Citation

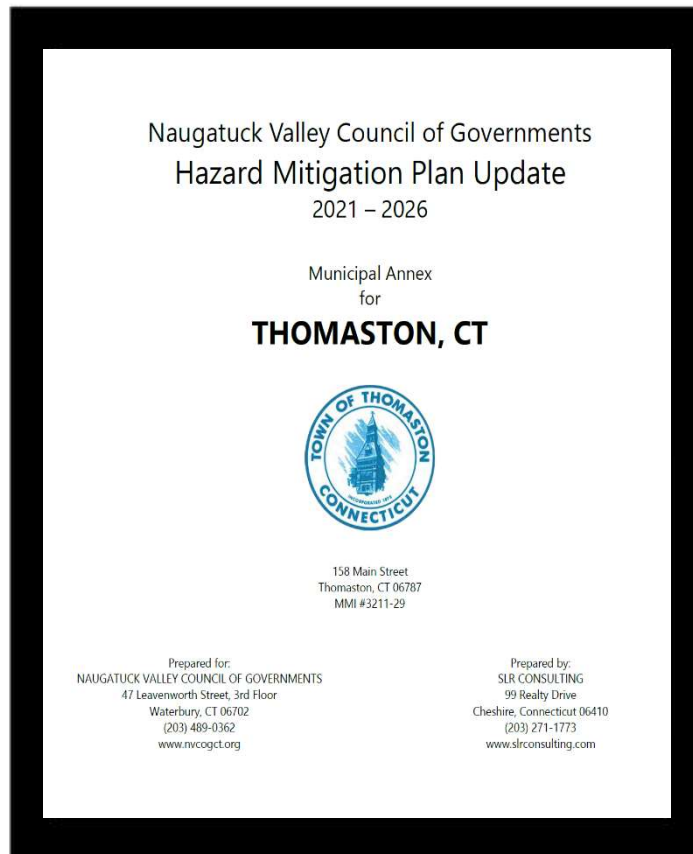
Town of Thomaston Online Community Resilience Building Workshop - Summary of Findings Report. (2024). Community Resilience Building Program. The Nature Conservancy and Sustainable CT. Thomaston, Connecticut.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix A

Town of Thomaston Mitigation Action Plan and Actions*



***Gathered from Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Hazard Mitigation Plan – Town of Thomaston Annex (2021).**

Action TMS-01

Take one of the following actions that will mitigate natural hazard risks while also meeting Sustainable CT objectives:

1. Disseminate a toolkit for pre-disaster business preparedness.
2. Revise regulations to promote Low Impact Development.
3. Include the goals of this Hazard Mitigation Plan, and at least three other sustainability concepts, in your next POCD update.

Lead	Plan
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB, CT DEEP, Sustainable CT
Timeframe	2022
Priority	High

Action TMS-02

Refer to the Morris Low Impact Sustainable Development Design Manual, created to be a regional resource by the Northwest Conservation District and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, to incorporate LID guidance and regulations into the local Zoning Regulations or Ordinances

Lead	Plan
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2022
Priority	High

Action TMS-03

Work with CT DEEP to complete a formal validation of the Repetitive Loss Property list and update the mitigation status of each listed property.

Lead	EM, Plan, FS
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2022
Priority	High

Action TMS-04	
Strengthen the stormwater management requirements in the Zoning Regulations.	
Lead	LU
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB, FEMA Grant, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2022
Priority	Med

Action TMS-05	
Fully incorporate the provisions of the DEEP model flood regulations into the local flood damage prevention regulations (or ordinance), including but not limited to the required design flood elevations for the first floor, building electrical systems, and building mechanical systems.	
Lead	Plan, FS, NFIP Coordinator
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB, FEMA Grant, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2022
Priority	Med

Action TMS-06	
Increase Substantial Damage and Substantial Improvement lookback periods to two or more years.	
Lead	Plan, FS, NFIP Coordinator
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB, FEMA Grant, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2022
Priority	Med

Action TMS-07	
Remain engaged with FEMA and the State during the Housatonic River Watershed flood map updates. Review draft maps and provide comments to FEMA.	
Lead	Plan, FS, NFIP Coordinator
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB, FEMA Grant, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2022
Priority	Med

Action TMS-08	
Use the CT Toxics Users and Climate Resilience Map to identify toxic users located in hazard zones within your community. Contact those users to inform them about the CT DEEP small business chemical management initiative.	
Lead	EM, FS
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	CT DEEP
Timeframe	2022
Priority	Med

Action TMS-09	
Add pages to the town website dedicated to citizen education and preparation for natural hazard events	
Lead	EMS
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB
Timeframe	2022 – 2023
Priority	Low

Action TMS-10	
Coordinate with CT SHPO to conduct historic resource surveys, focusing on areas within natural hazard risk zones (flood zones, wildfire hazard zones, steep slopes) to support the preparation of resiliency plans across the state.	
Lead	Plan, HC/HDC
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB, CT SHPO
Timeframe	2022 – 2023
Priority	Low

Action TMS-11	
Coordinate with CT SHPO to conduct outreach to owners of historic properties to educate them on methods of retrofitting historic properties to be more hazard-resilient while maintaining historic character.	
Lead	Plan, HC/HDC
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB, CT SHPO
Timeframe	2022 – 2023
Priority	Low

Action TMS-12	
Work with CTDEEP to secure EAPs for dams where failure of the dam could impact Thomaston.	
Lead	EMS
Cost	\$25,000 - \$50,000
Funding	OB, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2022 – 2024
Priority	Med

Action TMS-13	
Develop a prioritized list of generator needs for critical facilities, and incorporate into Capital Improvement Plan.	
Lead	EM, DPW
Cost	\$0 - \$25,000
Funding	OB, CIP
Timeframe	2022 – 2024
Priority	Low

Action TMS-14	
Investigate if sensitive components such as IT server racks, above ground fuel tanks, etc. are braced to mitigate potential wind or earthquake damage.	
Lead	Public Works
Cost	\$25,000 - \$50,000
Funding	OB, CIP
Timeframe	2022 – 2024
Priority	Low

Action TMS-15	
Drainage from the ponds near Hillside Cemetery are causing nuisance flooding along Cables Lane. A mitigation project may be needed here.	
Lead	DPW
Cost	More than \$500,000
Funding	OB, CIP, FEMA Grant, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2023 – 2025
Priority	High

Action TMS-16	
Complete a stabilization project at Old Northfield Road at the unnamed tributary to Branch Brook (near the base of Babbitt Road), which is eroding the bank. A stabilization project is needed here before the roadway is undermined.	
Lead	DPW
Cost	\$100,000 - \$500,000
Funding	CIP, FEMA Grant
Timeframe	2023 – 2025
Priority	Low

Action TMS-17	
Continue to encourage the Connecticut Water Company to extend/upgrade the public water supply systems into areas requiring water for fire protection	
Lead	Fire Department
Cost	\$100,000 - \$500,000
Funding	CIP, FEMA Grant, FEMA AFG, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2023 – 2025
Priority	Low

Action TMS-18	
Work with the Connecticut Water Company to identify and upgrade portions of the public water supply systems that are substandard from the standpoint of adequate pressure and volume for fire-fighting purposes.	
Lead	Fire Department
Cost	\$100,000 - \$500,000
Funding	CIP, FEMA Grant, FEMA AFG, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2023 – 2025
Priority	Low

Action TMS-19	
Perform upgrades to the Nystrom Pond Dam and Dike (both owned by the Town). Both are Class BB (moderate) hazard structures. Failure would flood approximately six properties in the Northfield area. DEEP recently raised the hazard classification for the dam.	
Lead	EM, DPW, FS
Cost	More than \$1 million
Funding	CIP, CT DEEP
Timeframe	2022-2024
Priority	High

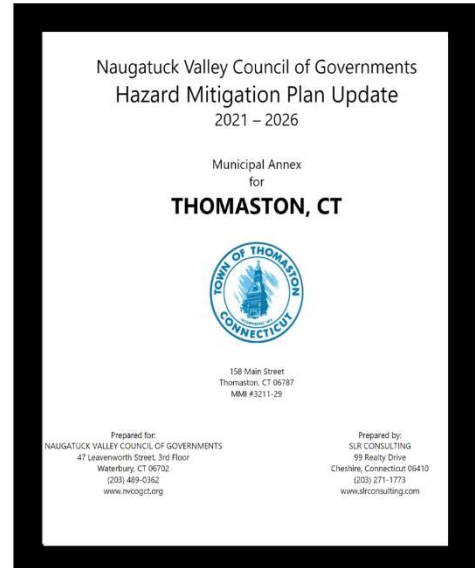
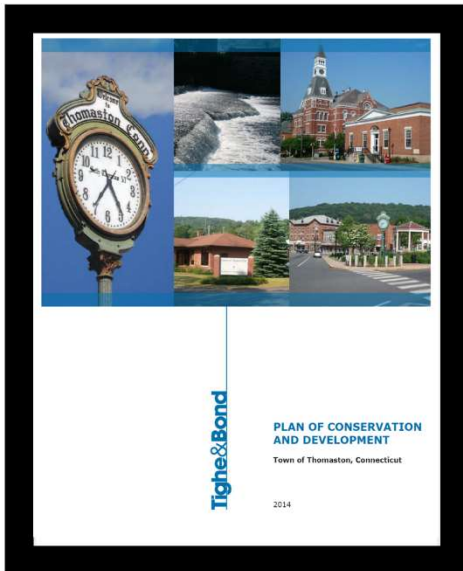
Action TMS-20	
Secure a centralized storage location or trailer for the Town's emergency management supplies.	
Lead	EM
Cost	\$100,000 - \$500,000
Funding	OB, CT DEMHS
Timeframe	2025 – 2027
Priority	Low

Action TMS-21	
Install backup generators, and perform any necessary electrical upgrades to support expanded generator capacity, at several critical facilities (particularly the Housing Authority buildings).	
Lead	EM, DPW
Cost	More than \$500,000
Funding	CIP, FEMA Grant
Timeframe	2025 – 2027
Priority	Low

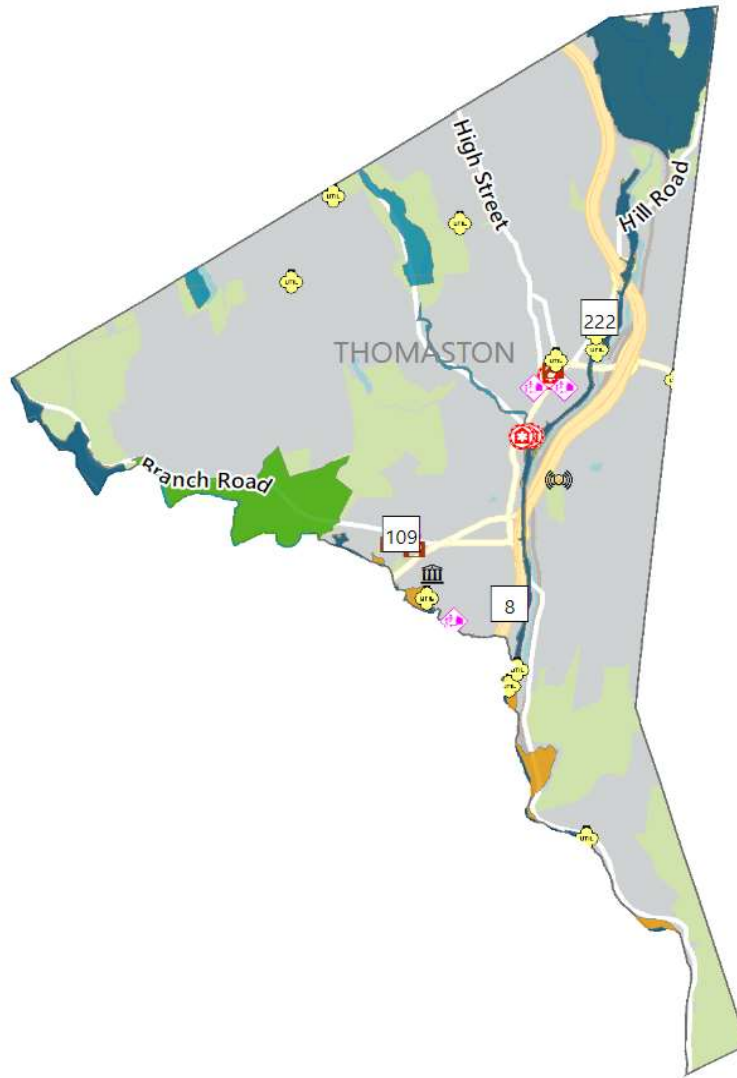
Action TMS-22	
Mitigate flooding impacts on High Street Extension	
Lead	EM, DPW
Cost	More than \$500,000
Funding	CIP, FEMA Grant
Timeframe	2021 – 2024
Priority	High

Appendix B

Thomaston Map Resource Packet* Used During Workshop



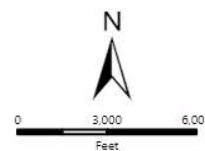
***Gathered from Thomaston’s Plan of Conservation and Development (2014) and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Hazard Mitigation Plan – Town of Thomaston Annex (2021).**



99 REALTY DRIVE
 CHESHIRE, CT 06410
 203.271.1773

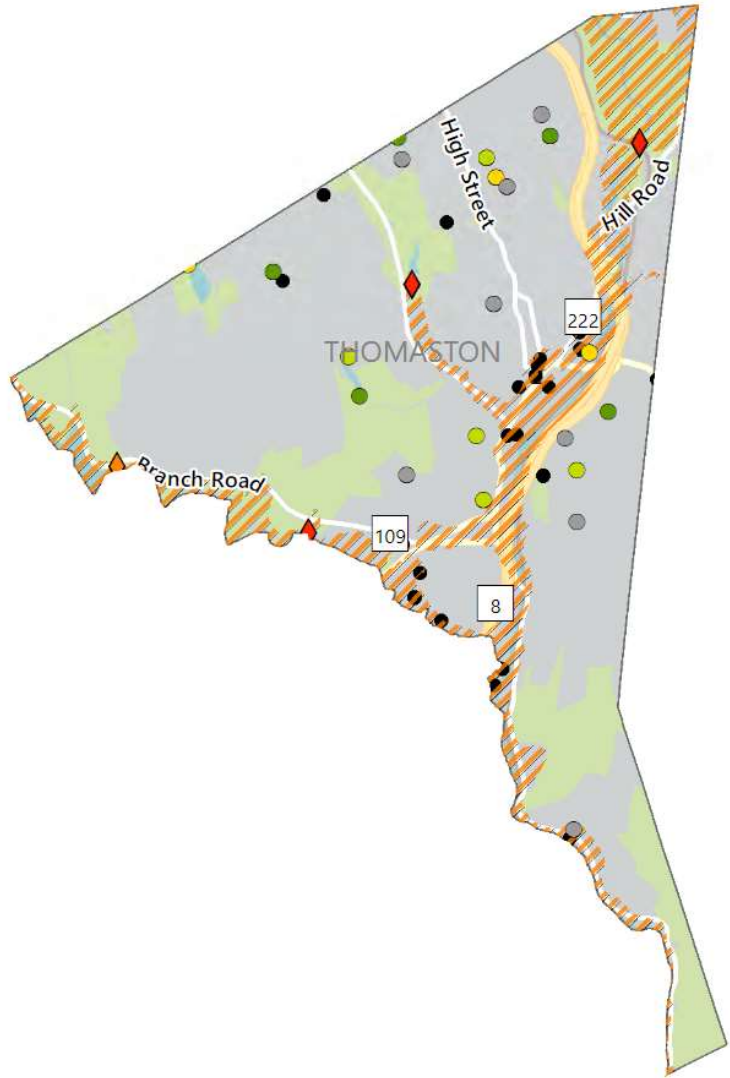
Flood Hazards in Thomaston

NVCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
 Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
 47 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor
 Waterbury, CT 06702



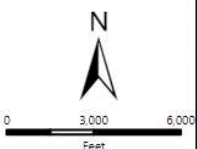
DATE 6/15/2021
 PROJ. NO. 141.3211.00029

FIG. 3-1



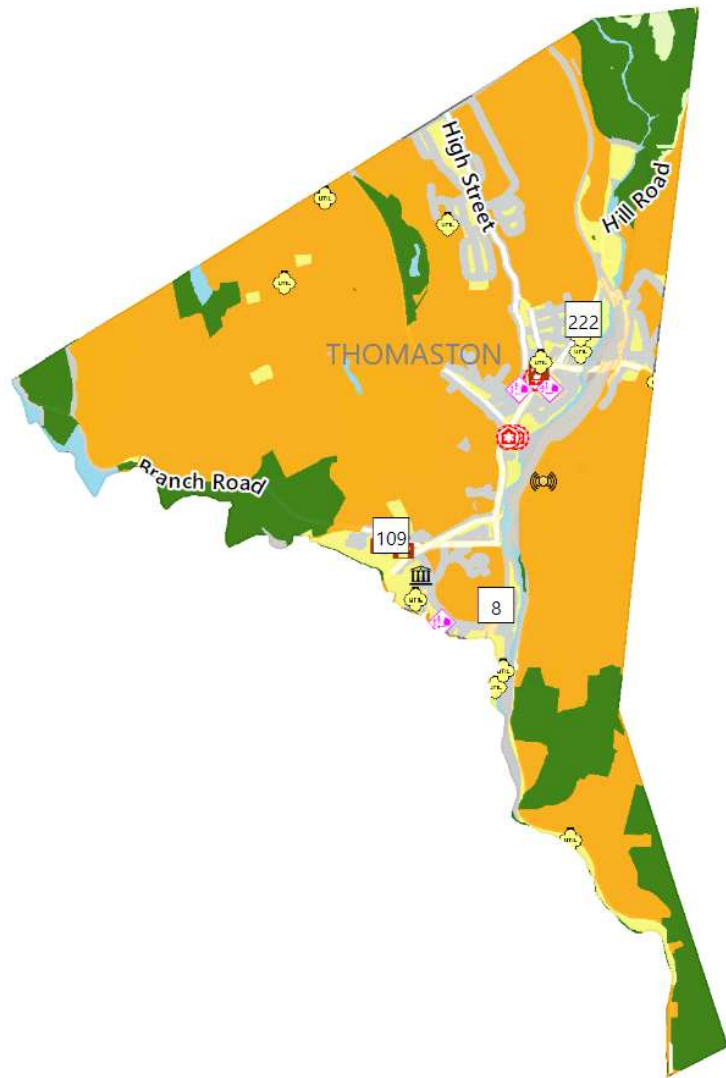
99 REALTY DRIVE
 CHESHIRE, CT 06410
 203.271.1773

Dam Failure Hazards in Thomaston
 NVCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
 Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
 47 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor
 Waterbury, CT 06702



DATE 6/15/2021
 PROJ. NO. 141.3211.00029

FIG. 8-1

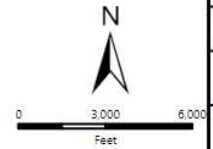


Critical Facilities	Wildland Urban Interface Type
Communications	Wildland-Urban Intermix
Emergency Response	Wildland-Urban Interface
Government Services	Vegetated: Low Housing Density
School	Vegetated: No Housing
Utility	Non-vegetated
Vulnerable Population	Water
Historic Sites	
Historic Sites	



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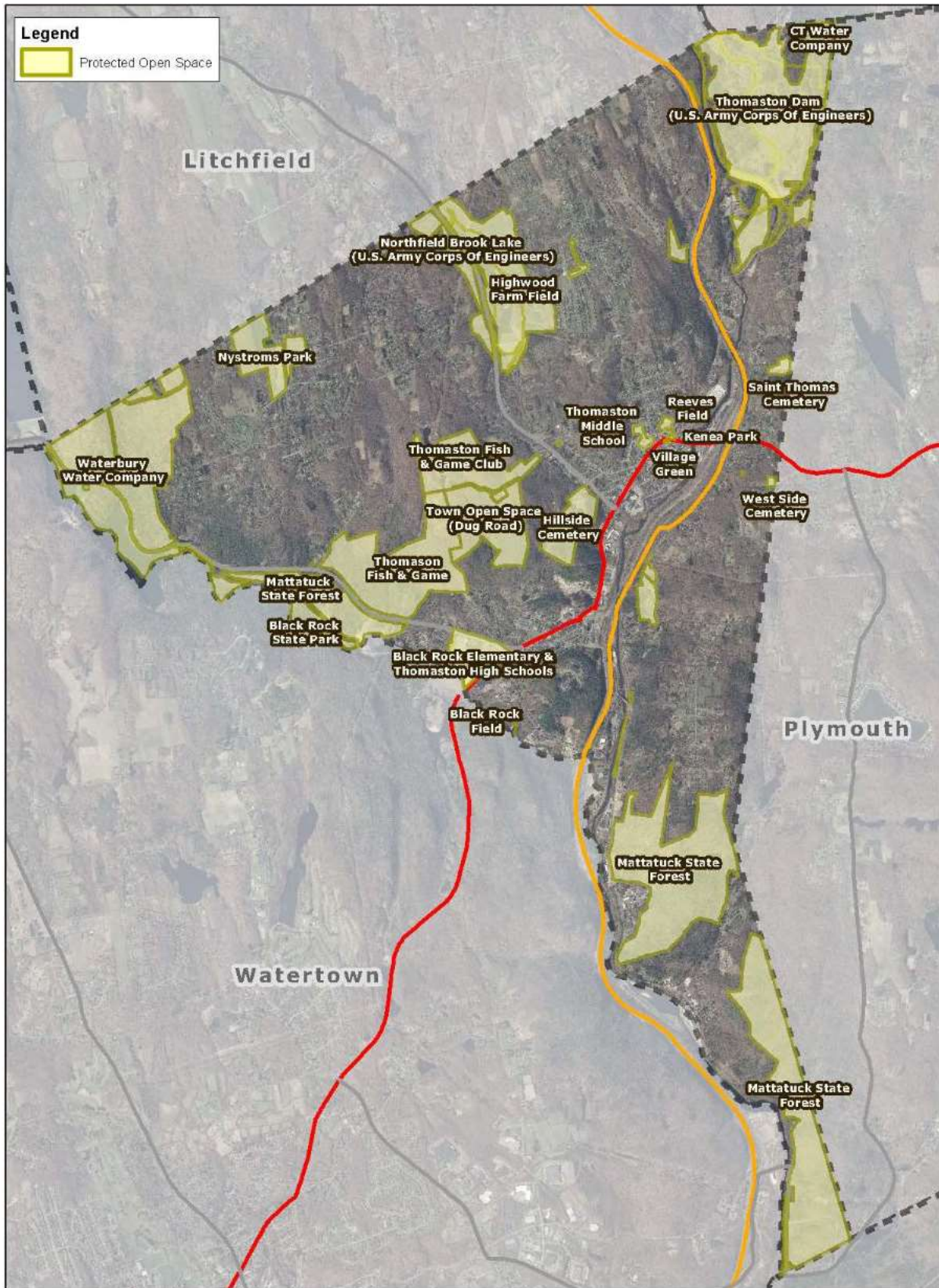
Wildfire Hazard in Thomaston
 NVCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
 Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
 47 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor
 Waterbury, CT 06702



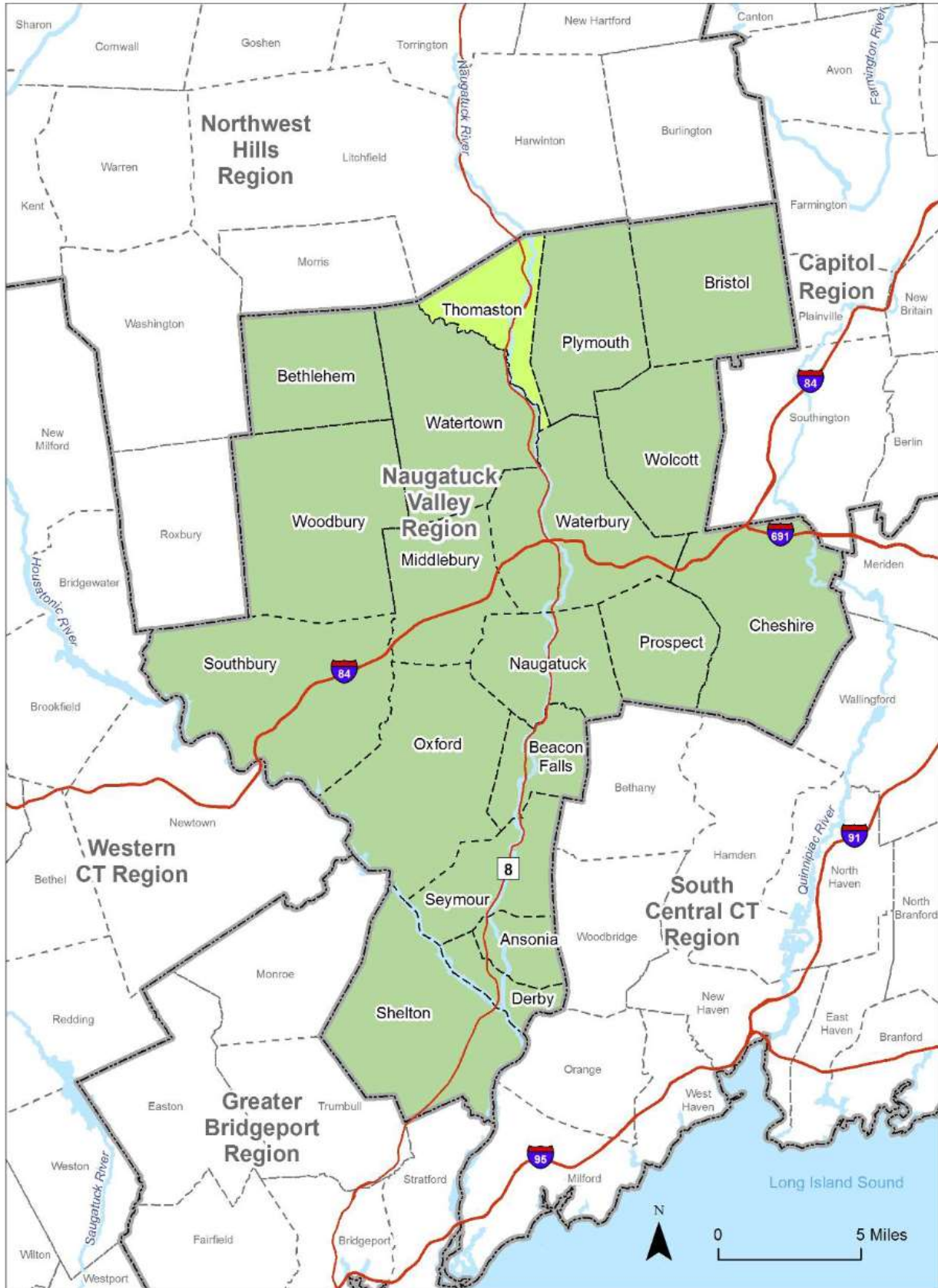
DATE 6/15/2021
 PROJ. NO. 141.3211.00029

FIG. 9-1

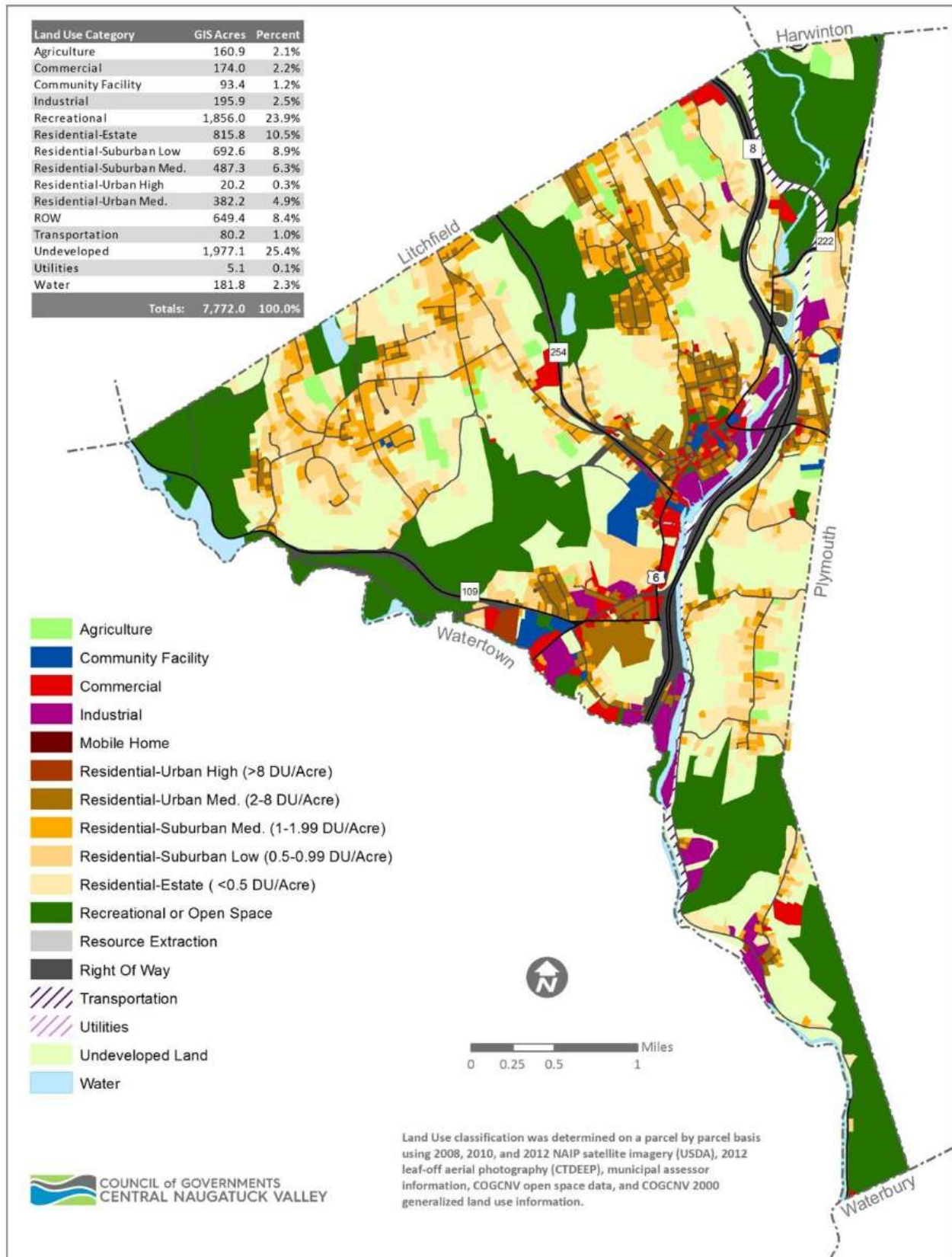
**Figure 1-1
Thomaston Aerial Photograph**



**Figure 1-2
Naugatuck Valley Region**



**Figure 4-1
Generalized Land Use in Thomaston**



**Figure 4-2
Thomaston Zoning Map**

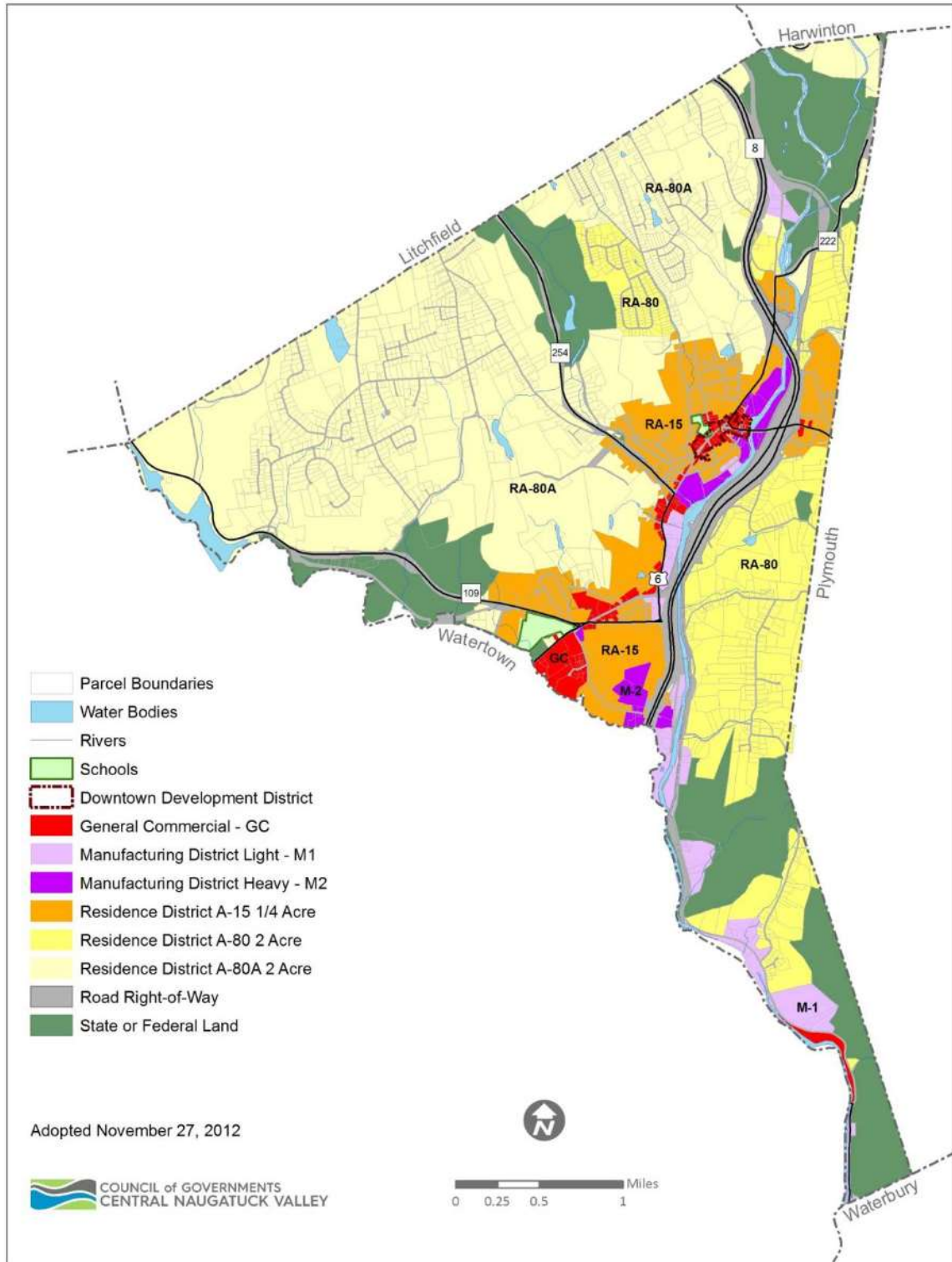
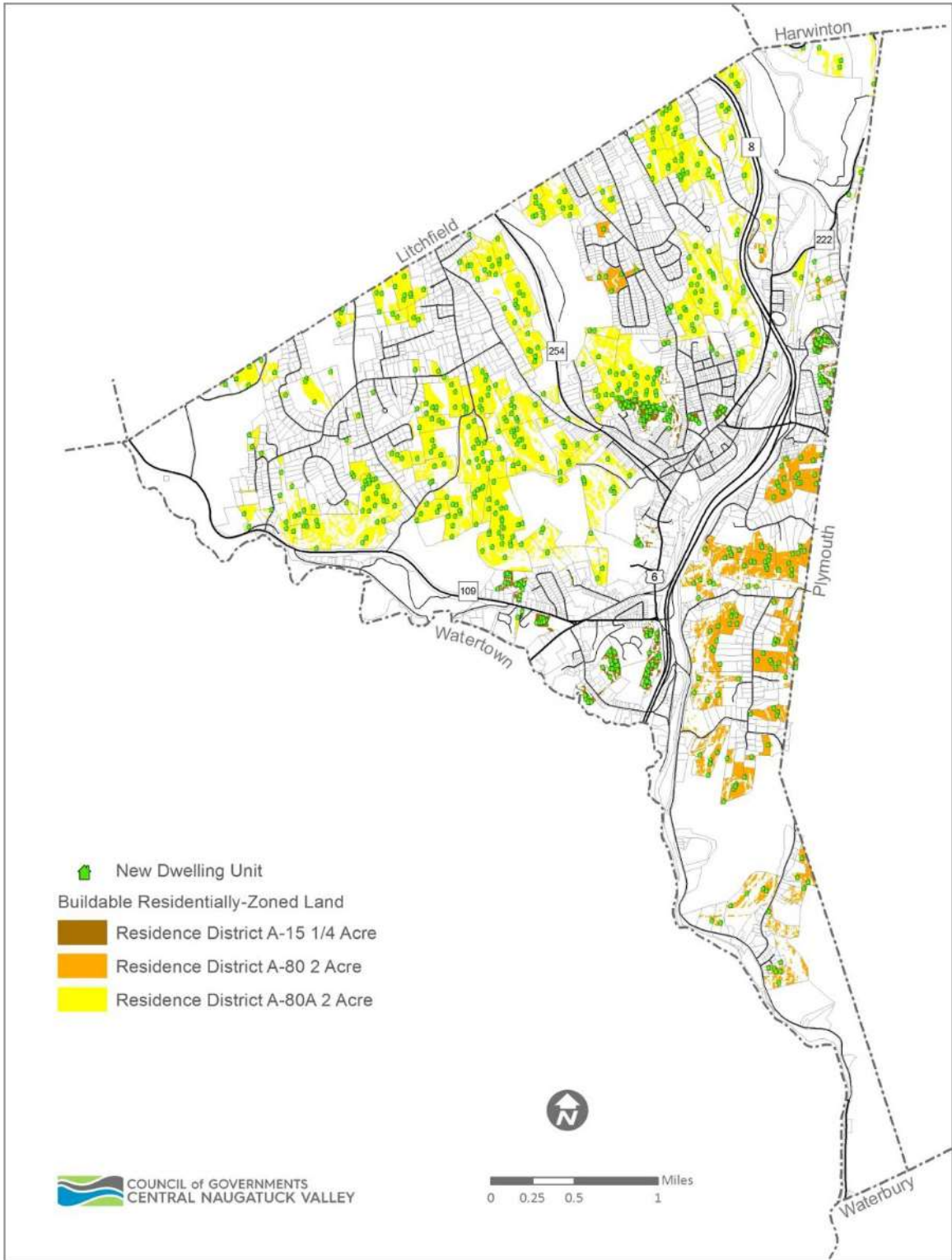
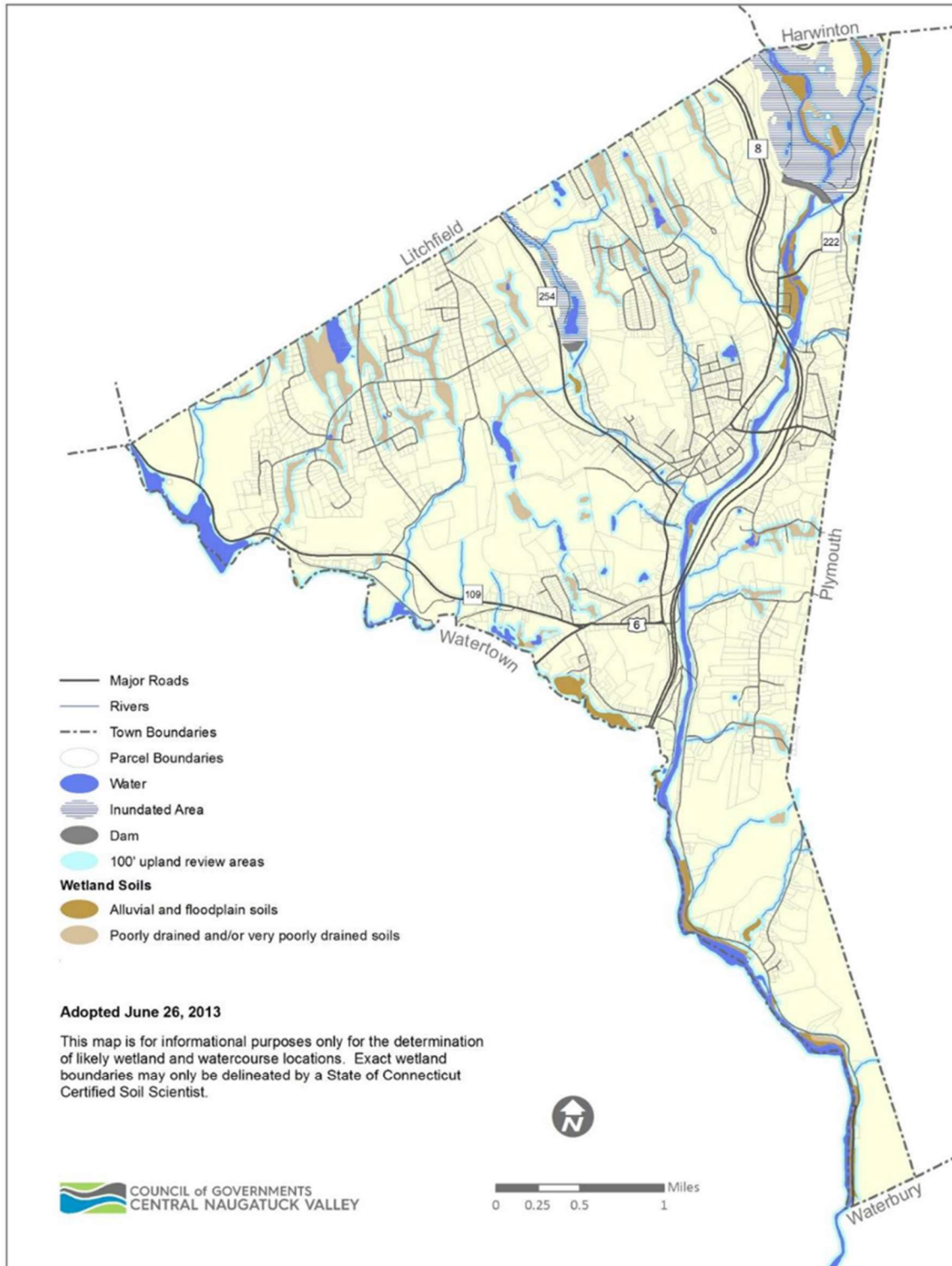


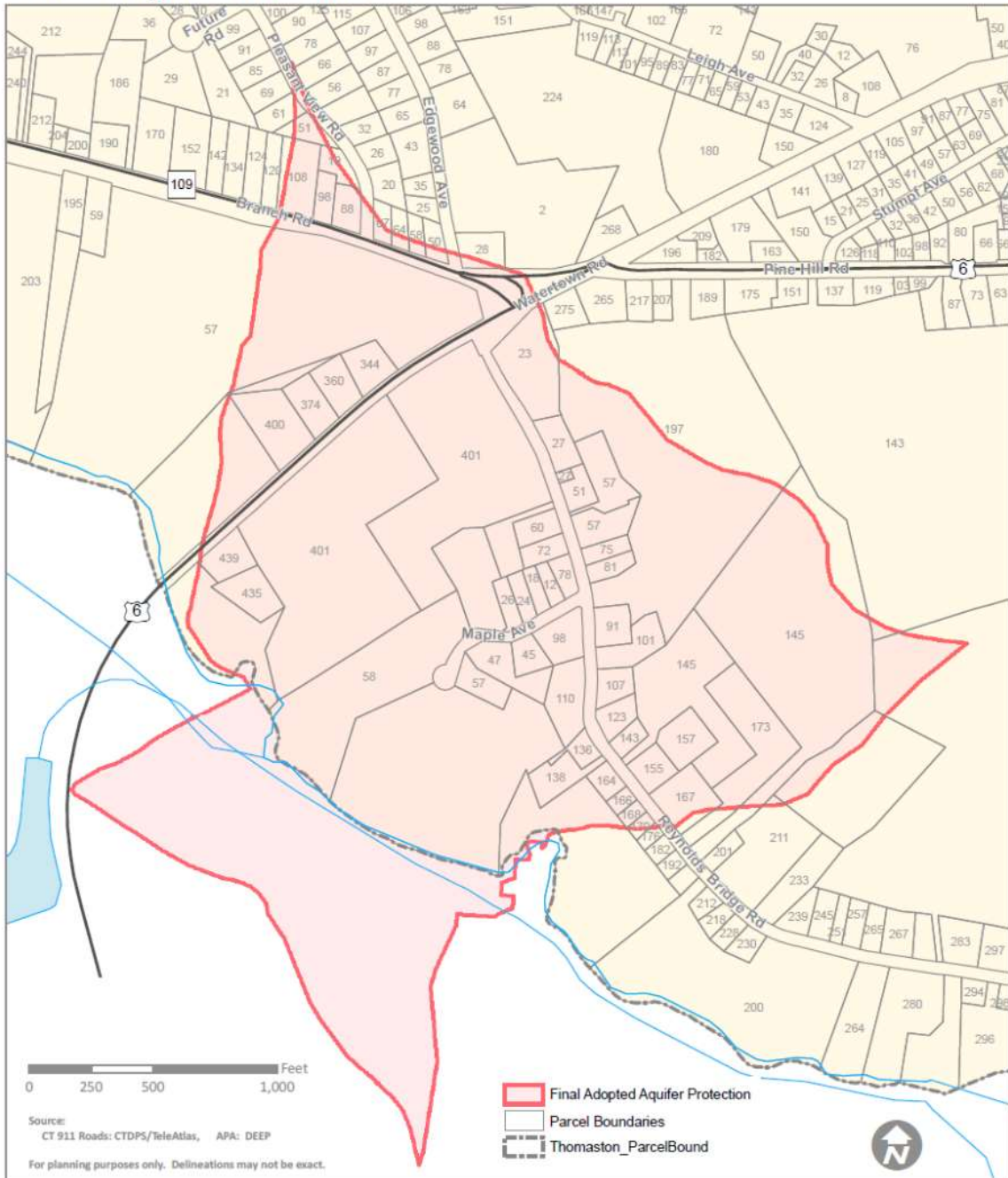
Figure 4-3
Residential Build-Out Analysis



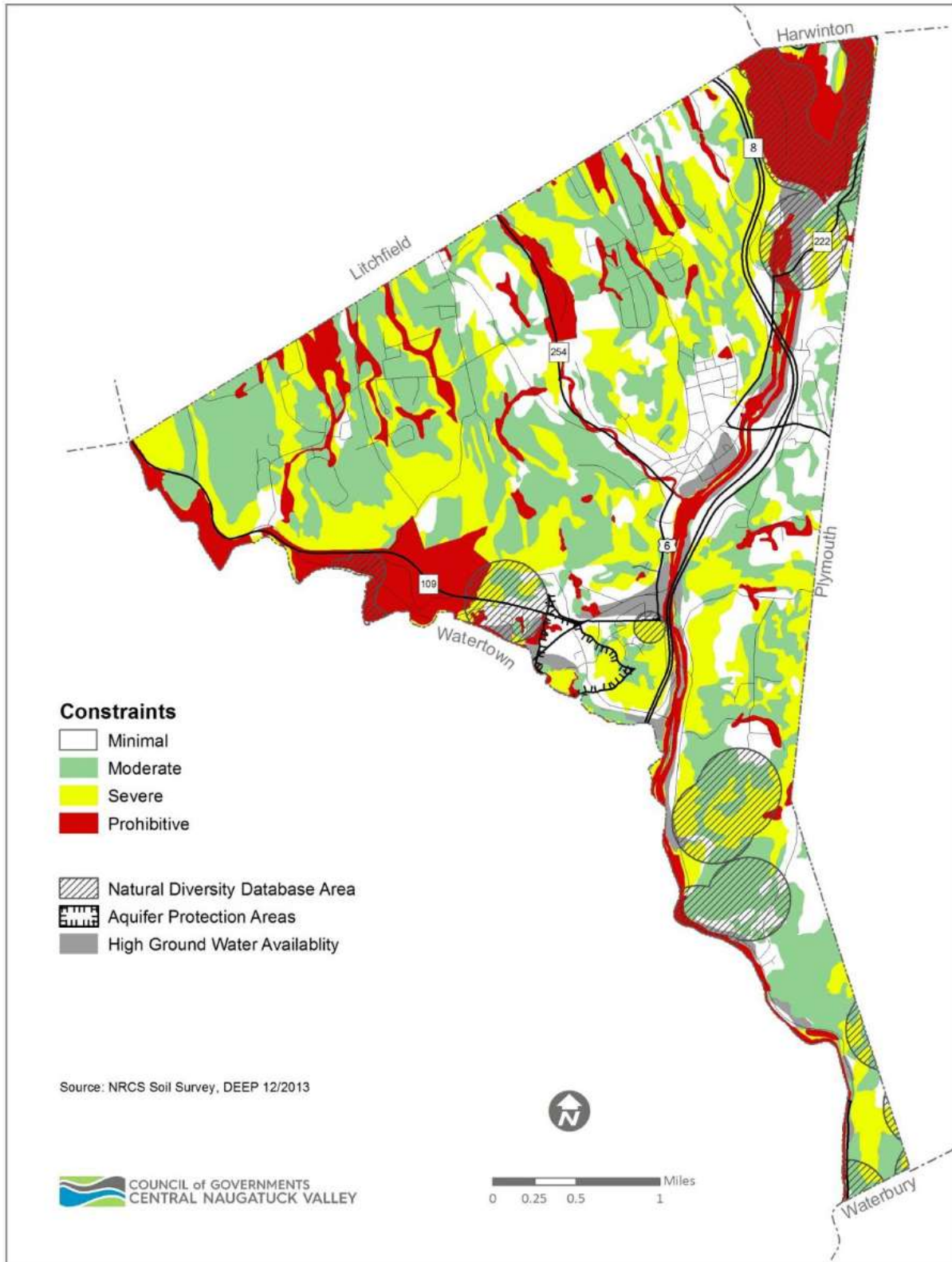
**Figure 5-2
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses**



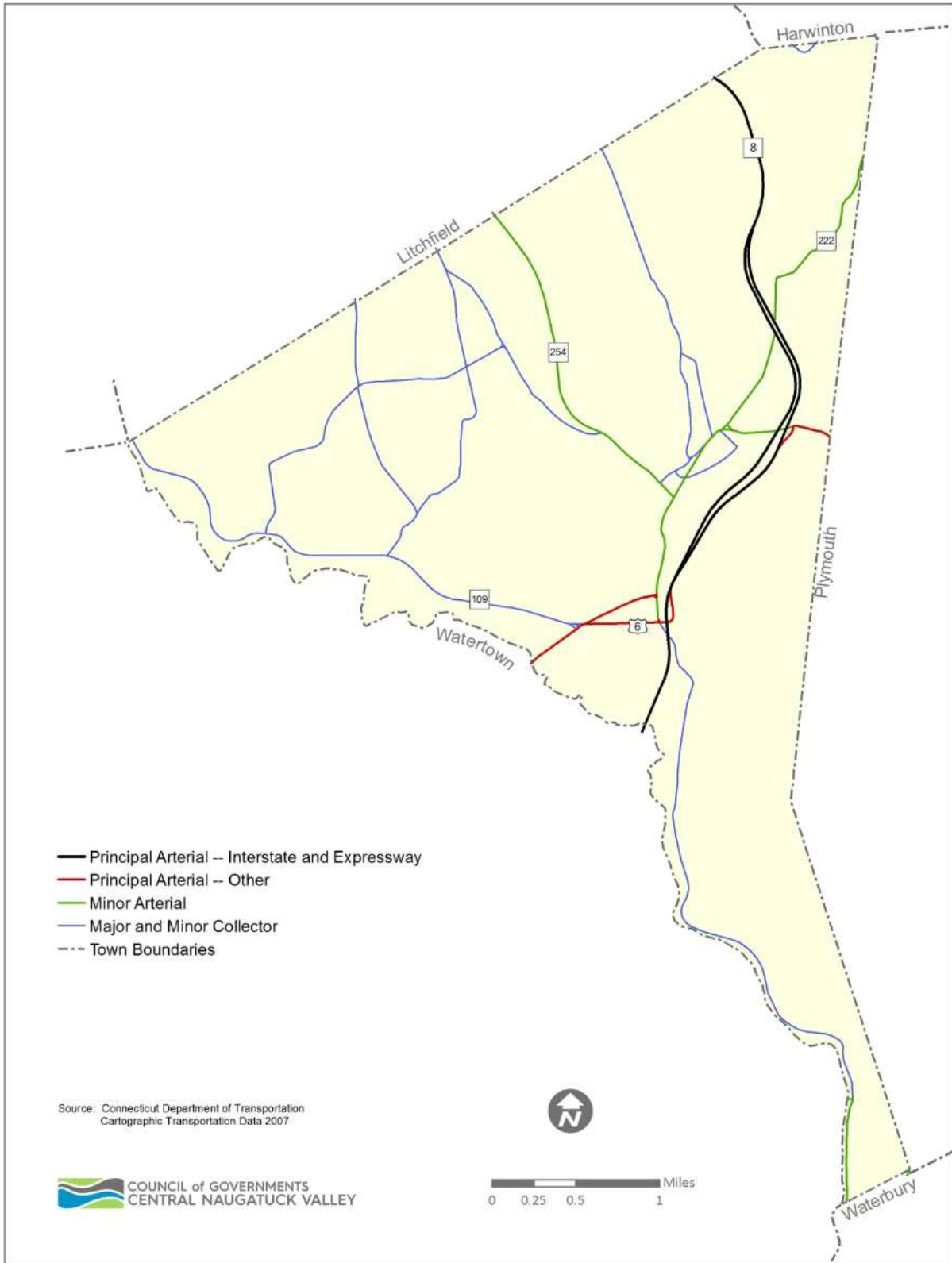
**Figure 5-3
Level "A" Aquifer Protection Area**



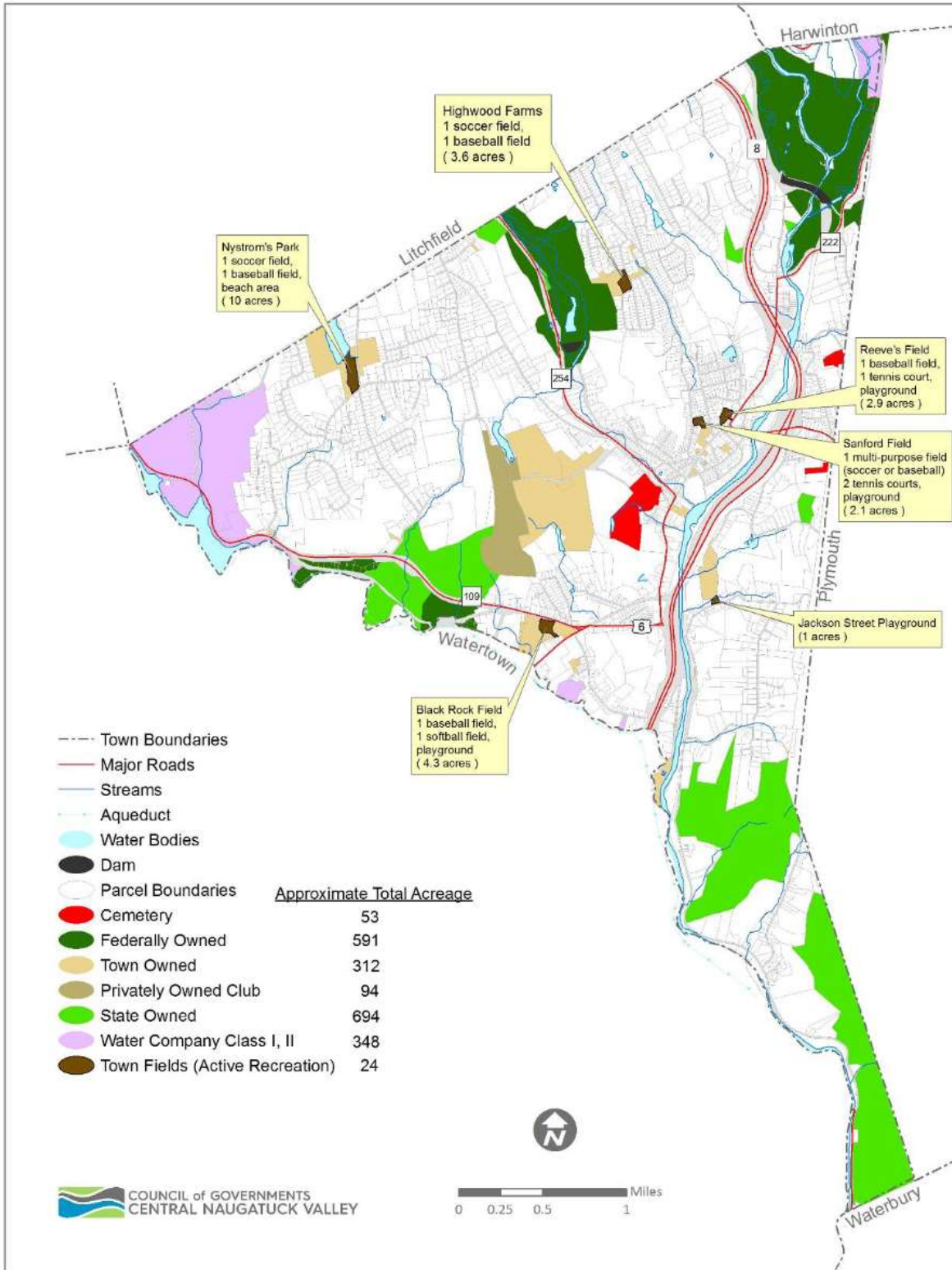
**Figure 5-4
Comprehensive Map - Development Constraints**



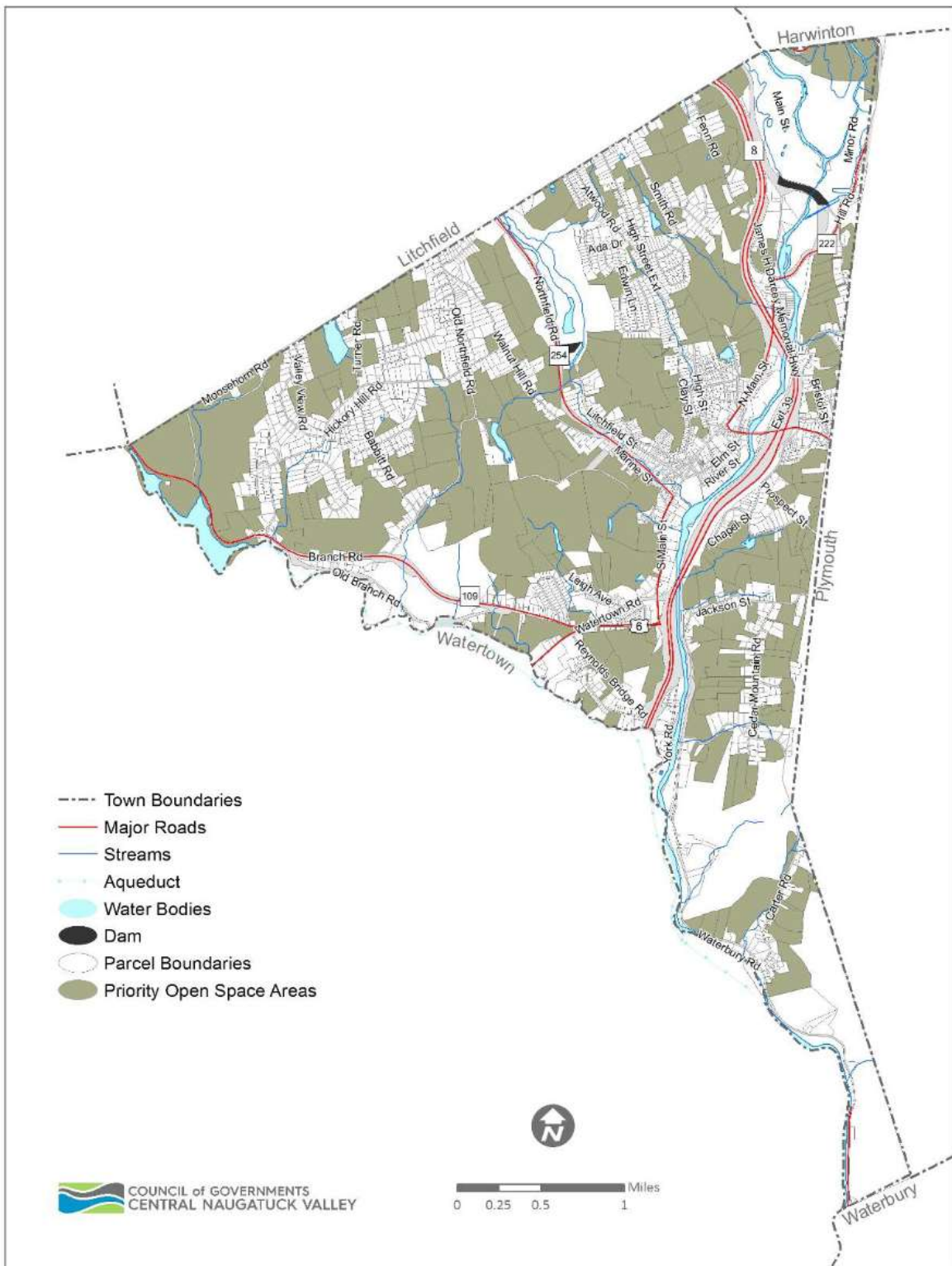
**Figure 8-1
Functional Classification of Roads in Thomaston**



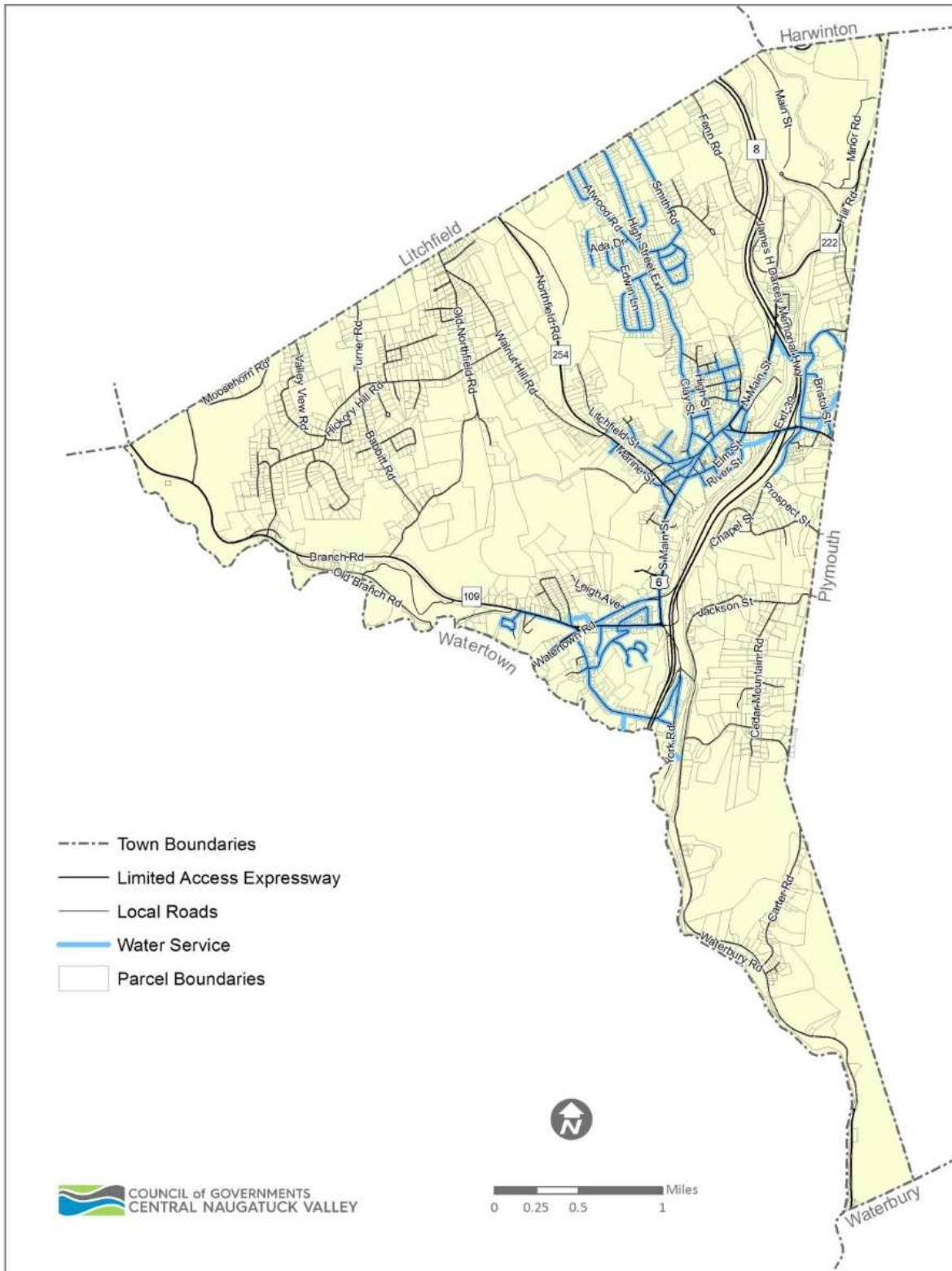
**Figure 9-1
Public and Private Open Space**



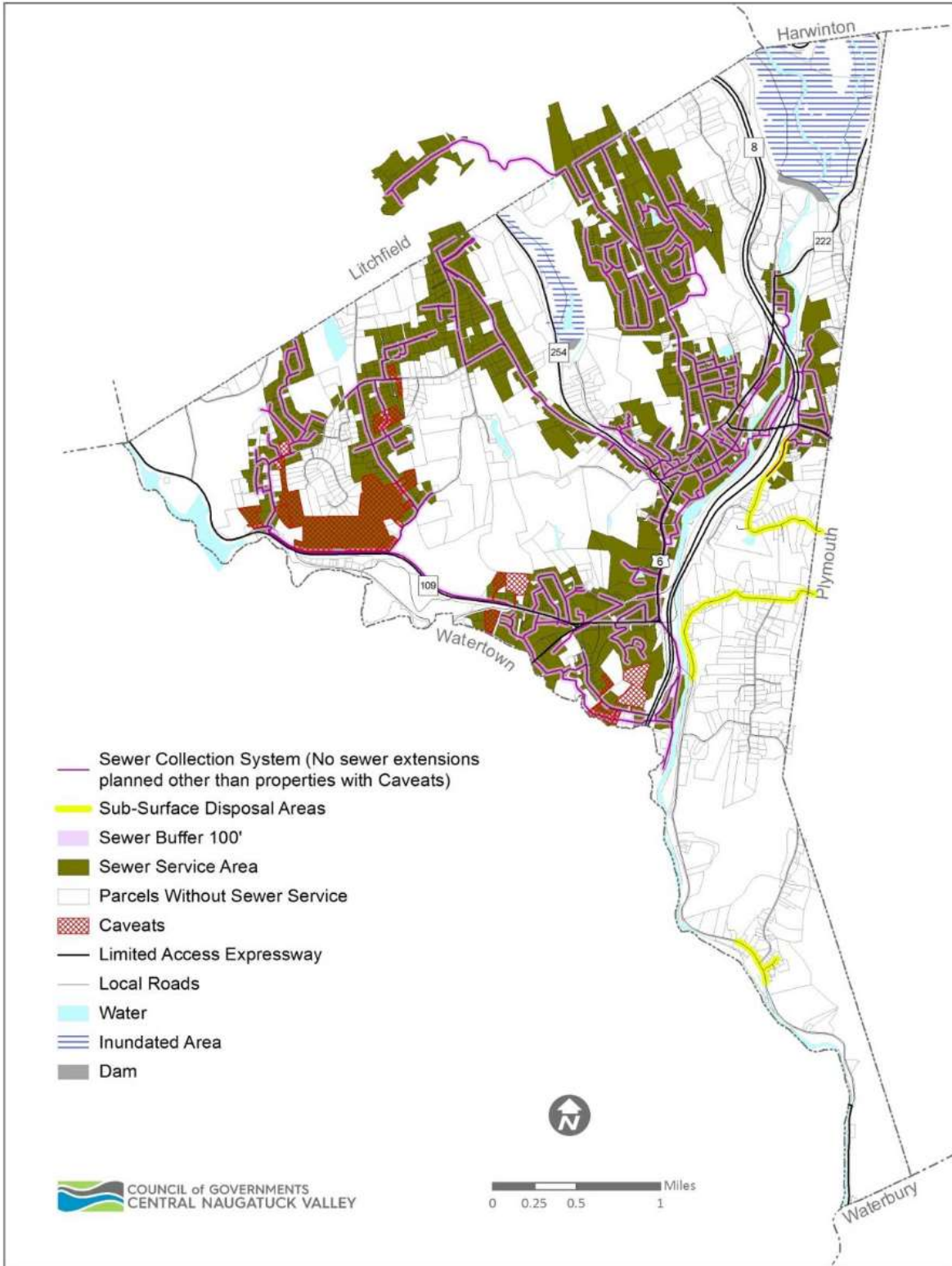
**Figure 9-2
Priority Open Space Areas**



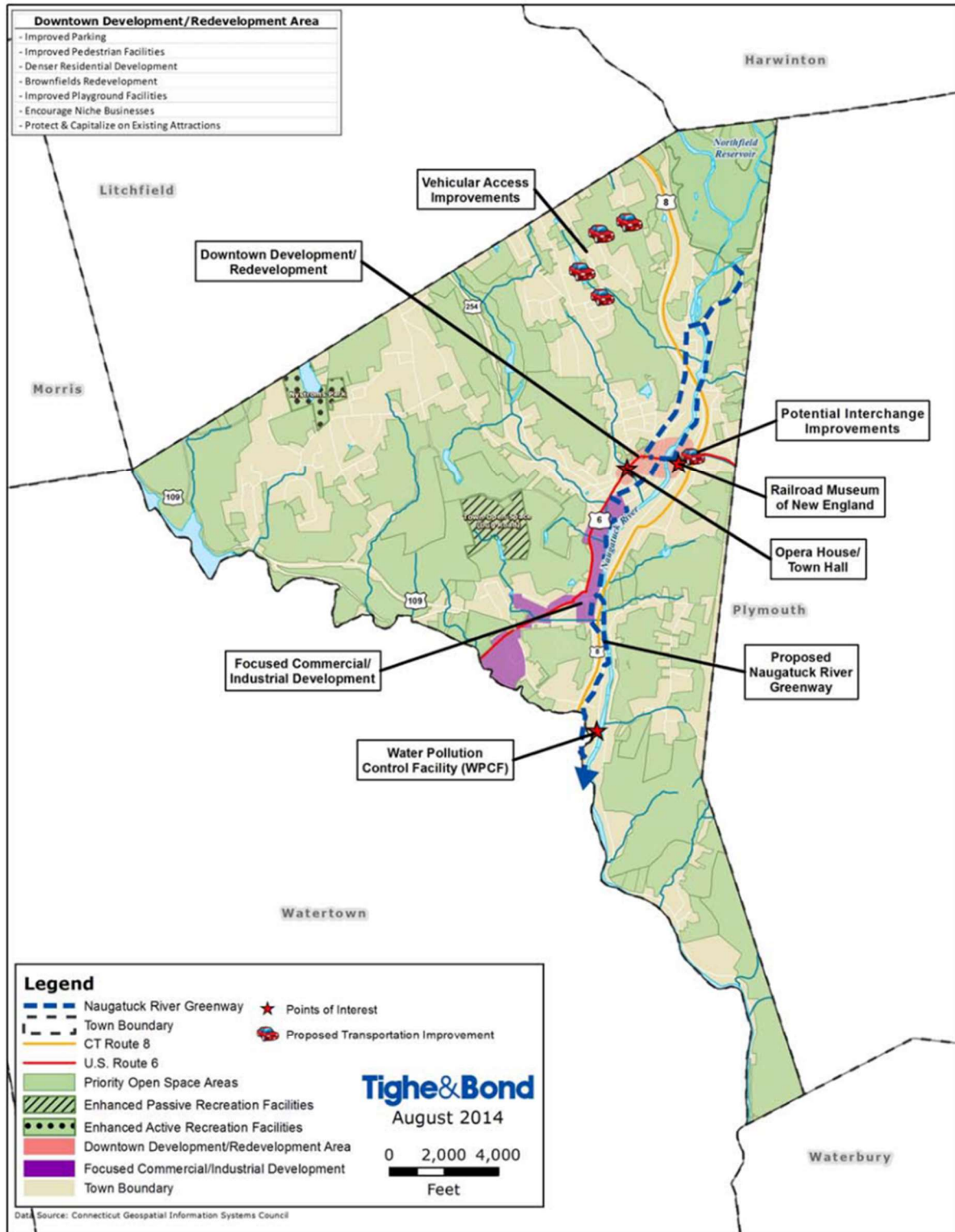
**Figure 10-2
Thomaston Water Service Area**



**Figure 10-3
Thomaston Sewer Service Area**



**Figure 11-1
Future Land Use Plan**





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