



GO WILD

Mass Audubon's Action Agenda



Goal 1:

Protect and Steward
Resilient Landscapes



Goal 2:

Advance Inclusive and
Equitable Access to Nature



Goal 3:

Mobilize to Fight
Climate Change



Nature in the City



Inequitable distribution of nature

- In New England – where the region has protected 24% of its land overall – people with lower incomes are half as likely to have access to protected open space than people with the highest incomes
- Communities with a high proportion of people of color have just 47% as much protected land in their neighborhoods.



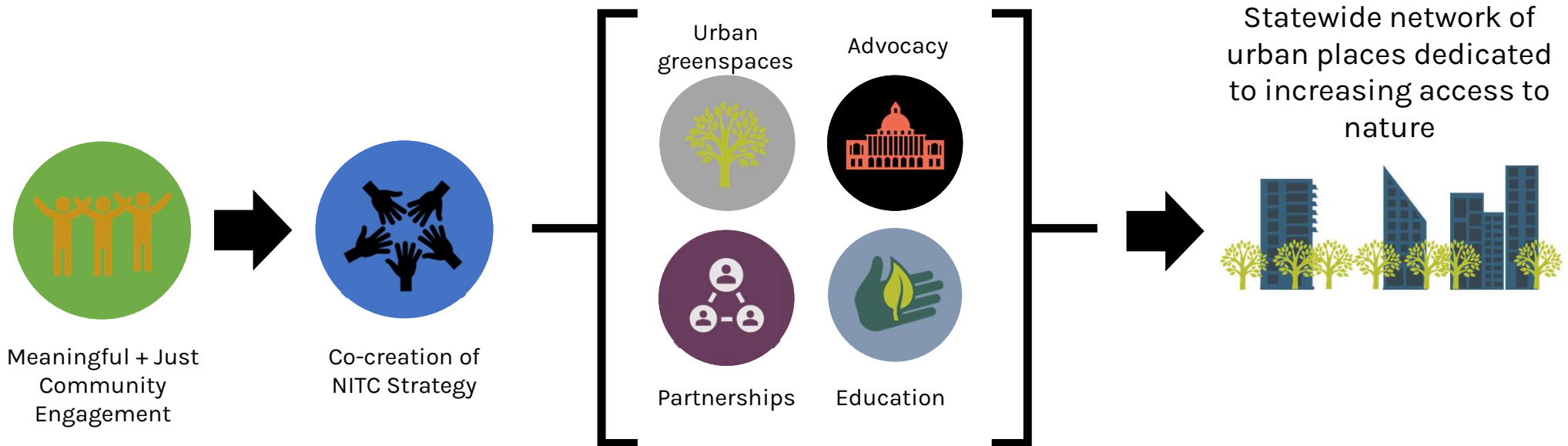
Program Vision

The Nature in the City Program envisions a Massachusetts where all city residents - no matter their race, income, ability, spoken language or lived experience - have access to greenspaces that bring them joy, connect them to the natural world, benefit human health, and address the effects of climate change.



Protect. Restore. Activate.

The Nature in the City (NITC) Program centers the needs, experiences and voices of the people in disinvested neighborhoods to support them in protecting, restoring and activating urban greenspaces.



Urban greenspaces

Categories



- **Urban area**
 - As defined by the US Census Bureau
- **Dis-invested/Disadvantaged neighborhoods**
 - Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool ([CEJST](#)), Environmental Justice ([MA definition](#))
- **Ecological value (existing or additive)**
 - Proximity to other protected resources (stream/river corridors, conservation land or park systems)
 - Vacant lots, if transformed to pollinator gardens or restored landscape

Urban greenspaces

Categories



1. Unprotected existing green and open spaces (Protect)
2. Unprotected heavily degraded sites in ecologically sensitive areas (Protect)
3. Protected but neglected sites (Restore)
4. Restored but ignored sites (Activate)



Forbes

- **Protect & Restore**
- Ecological value: Mystic River Watershed
- Existing site developed and degraded
- Surrounded by EJ neighborhood
- Degraded site needs protection and restoration



Crane Ledge Woods

- **Protect & Activate**
- Ecological value: existing tree canopy
- Surrounded by EJ neighborhood
- Existing site needs protection and equitable access



Magazine Beach

- **Activate**
- Ecological value: Charles River watershed
- Existing site protected, programming space
- Existing site needs equitable access

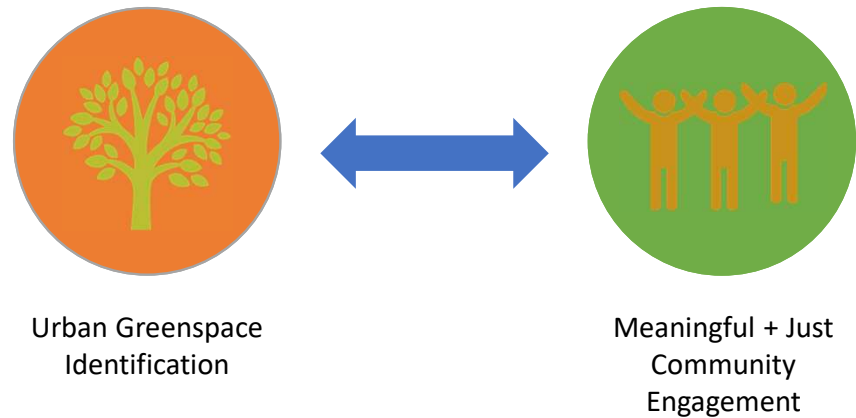


Canterbury Brook

- **Protect & Restore**
- Ecological value: stream and wetland health; flood mitigation
- Some existing site protection, programming space
- Degraded site needs partnered protection and restoration

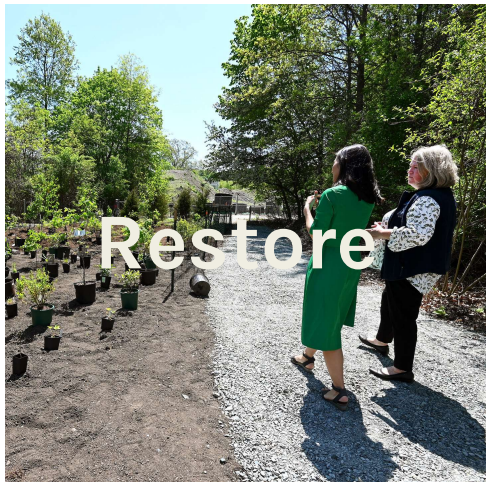
Urban greenspace identification

1. Existing partner network
2. Statewide spatial analysis
3. City-based community engagement



NITC Projects

Active



Boston Tree Alliance

- \$1M grant City of Boston ARPA funding
- \$2.6M grant USFS grant
- 5 years



Jerry's Pond, Cambridge

- IQHQ Eco Center
- \$200K in operating support (duration?)
- MAS to hold CR
- Advise on "restoration"



Pawtucket Farm, Lowell

- MAS owns land
- Co-operate with LP&CT, Mill City Grows
- Land: \$4.5M
- Phase 1+2: \$7.8M



Magazine Beach, Cambridge

- 5-yr lease DCR thru 2026
- Free programming (generally)
- Annual operating budget: \$160K



Magazine Beach

Cambridge, MA

- Partnership with MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to operate environmental education programs and events out of the Powder Magazine Building in Magazine Beach Park
- Goals for the site:
 - Engage with neighbors and visitors about the Charles River as a natural and cultural resource, and the historic significance of the Powder Magazine site
 - Work with local partners in conservation, the arts, music, and with local food vendors to leverage the assets of the community to activate Magazine Beach
 - Provide access and foster a sense of belonging in nature for people living in nearby environmental justice neighborhoods





Jerry's Pond

Cambridge, MA

- Former 19th-century clay pit that has been fenced off for 50+ years due to environmental contamination
- Adjacent to the Rindge Towers, an affordable housing development, home to thousands of residents
- Partnership with the Friends of Jerry's Pond, Alewife Study Group, and IQHQ (real estate developer)
- Vision is to restore the site; open up the pond for community access; build boardwalks and a pavilion; and offer nature programming to the community.

Jerry's Pond Current Conditions



0 300 600 1,200 Feet

This map is not a survey. Boundaries are approximate.

9/8/2022

By Nick Rossi, Mass Audubon

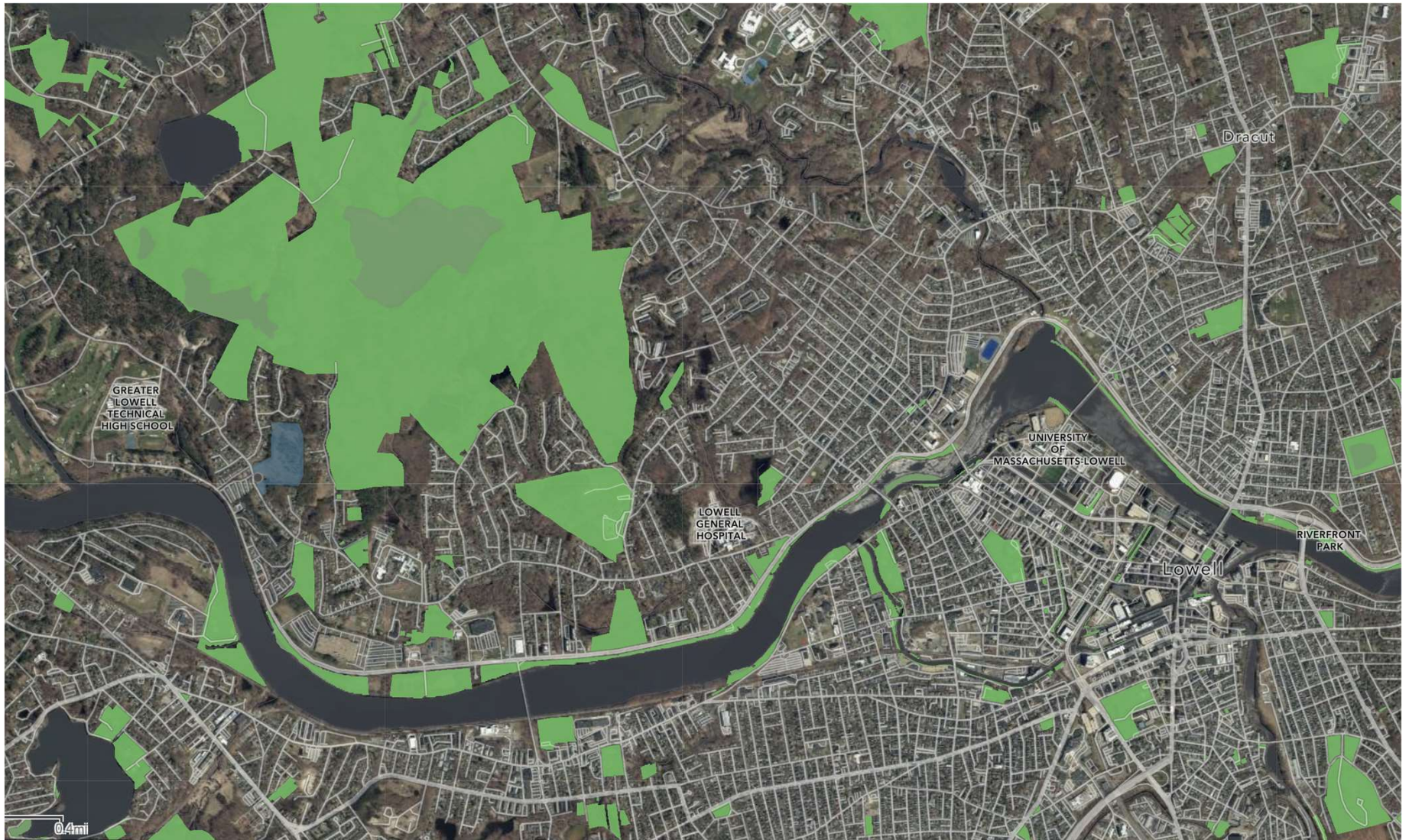


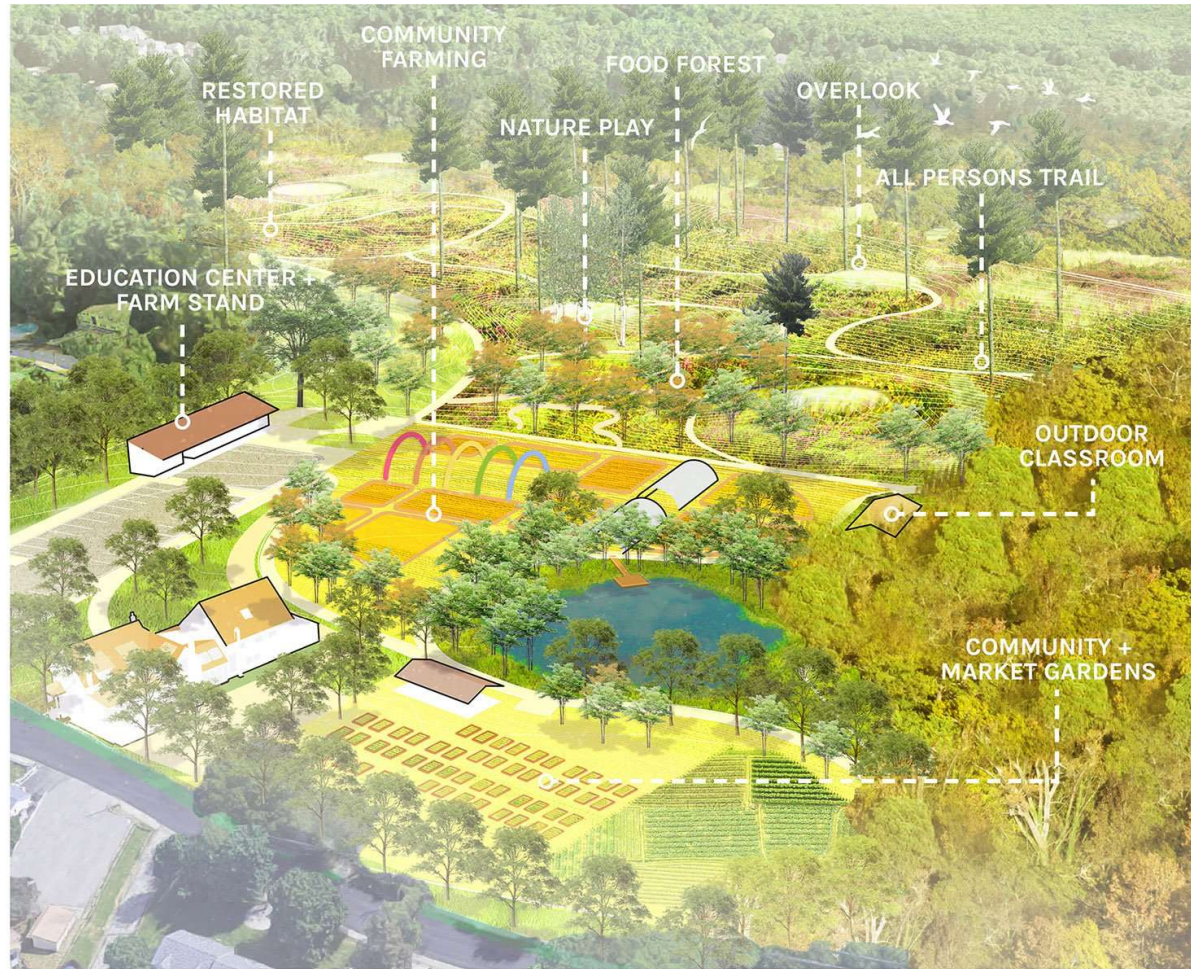


Pawtucket Farm

Lowell, MA

- Partnership with Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, Mill City Grows, and the City of Lowell
- Former 20-acre Christmas tree farm and the last family farm in Lowell
- Plan for the property includes:
 - Ecological restoration of the property
 - Maintaining a working farmland that includes a food forest and community gardens
 - Building a nature center that offers educational programming, including Mass Audubon camps and school programs





Pawtucket Farm Wildlife Sanctuary – Partner Framework

Cooperation Agreement



CITY of
LOWELL

Management Plan Agreement



Conservation Restriction

Grantor:



Grantees:



CITY of
LOWELL

Agricultural License

Licensors:



Licensee:



Consulted:



	Closing #1	Closing #2	Closing #3	Total
<i>Closing Date:</i>	<i>November 1st, 2023</i>	<i>December 27th, 2023</i>	<i>January 3rd, 2025</i>	
Lowell CPA Funds	\$625,000	\$875,000 ¹		\$1,500,000
L&WCF Grant		\$1,000,000 ¹		\$1,000,000
Anon. Foundation	\$675,000 ²			\$675,000
State Earmark	\$475,000		\$25,000	\$500,000
Bafflin Foundation	\$100,000			\$100,000
Indiv. MAS Donors			\$375,000	\$375,000
Indiv. LP&CT Donors	\$50,000	\$50,000		\$100,000
Total	\$1,925,000	\$1,925,000	\$400,000	\$4,250,000

1 = CPA and L&WCF Funds will be paid when CR is recorded (expected Feb. 2024). Mass Audubon provided a temporary bridge loan for acquisition #2.

2= LP&CT received a \$1.2 million grant from the anonymous foundation and contributed \$1.175 million to facilitate Closing #1. However, LP&CT ultimately wants to retain \$500,000 of those funds as a project endowment. When Lowell funds the full CPA amount, LP&CT will hold back \$500,000 and \$675,000 of the foundation's grant funds will "stay" in the deal.

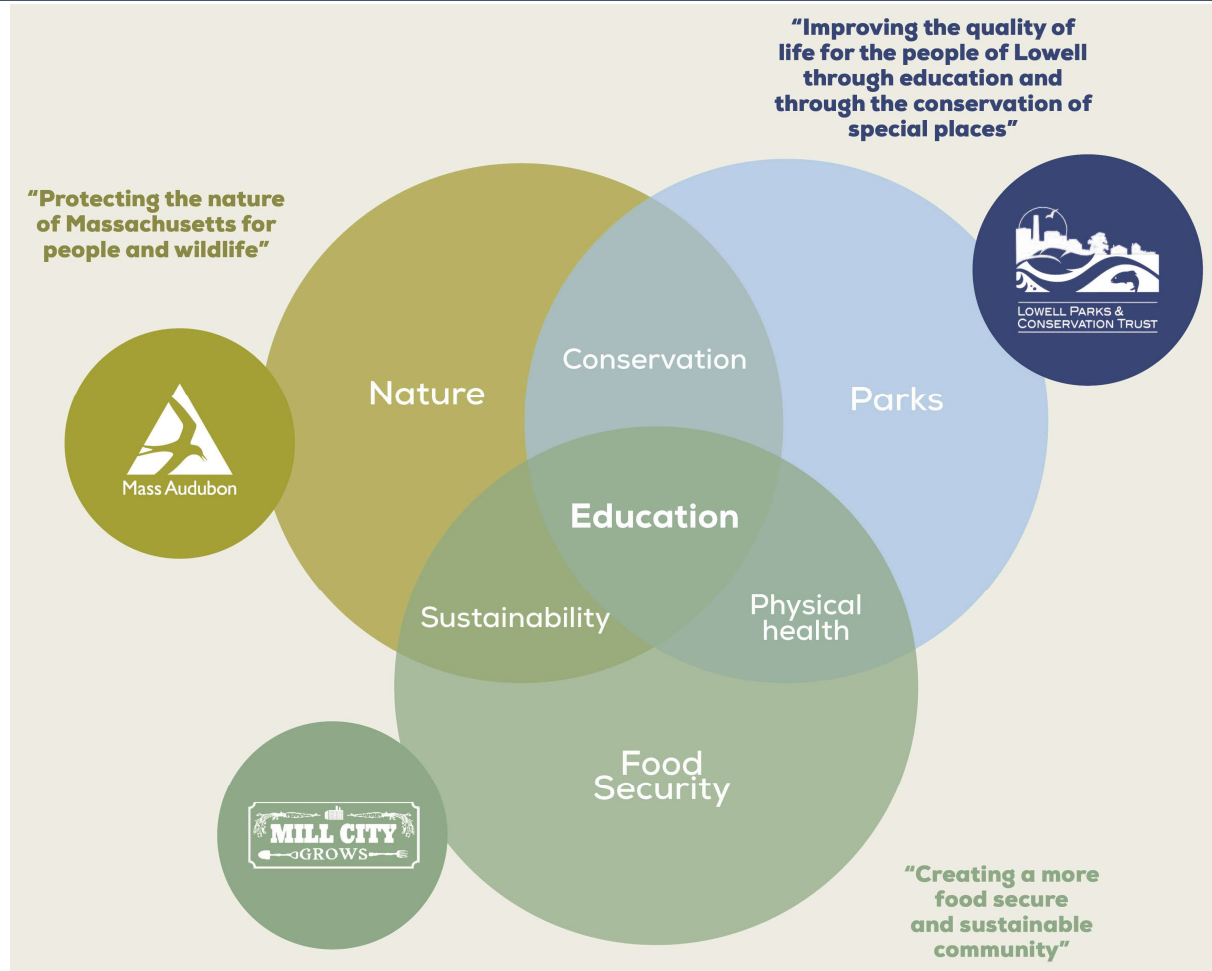
Schematic Design



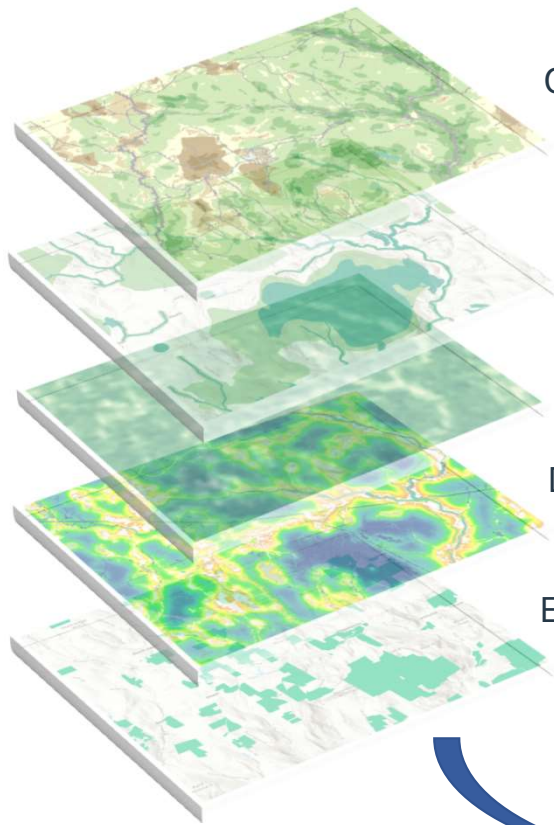
Schematic Design



Our partner team reflects our commitment to community engagement, environmental stewardship, & education



Land Conservation Focal Areas



Climate Resilience

+

BioMap

+

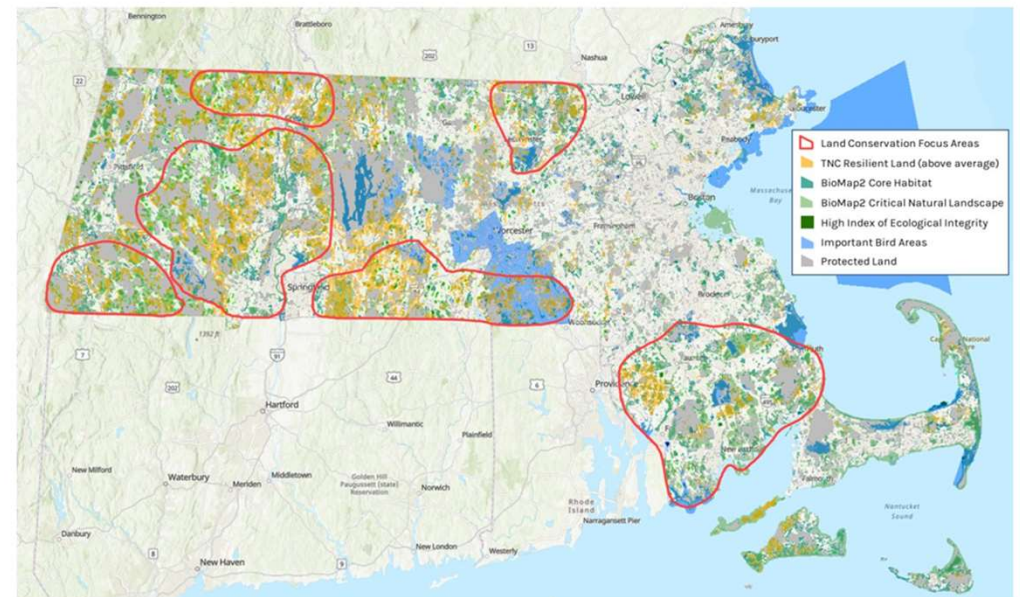
Forest Carbon

+

Development Risk

+

Existing protection



Winchendon Forest Pre-Acquisition

Winchendon & Ashburnham

A scenic photograph of a forest landscape. In the foreground, a stream flows through a wooded area with some fallen branches. The middle ground shows a misty or foggy forest with trees and a small clearing. The background features rolling hills or mountains partially obscured by the mist. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall atmosphere is serene and somewhat somber due to the weather.

Property and Abutting Conservation Land

- 1,365-acre assemblage in Winchendon & Ashburnham
- Located in high priority forest conservation area
- Abuts multiple state/NGO conservation holdings

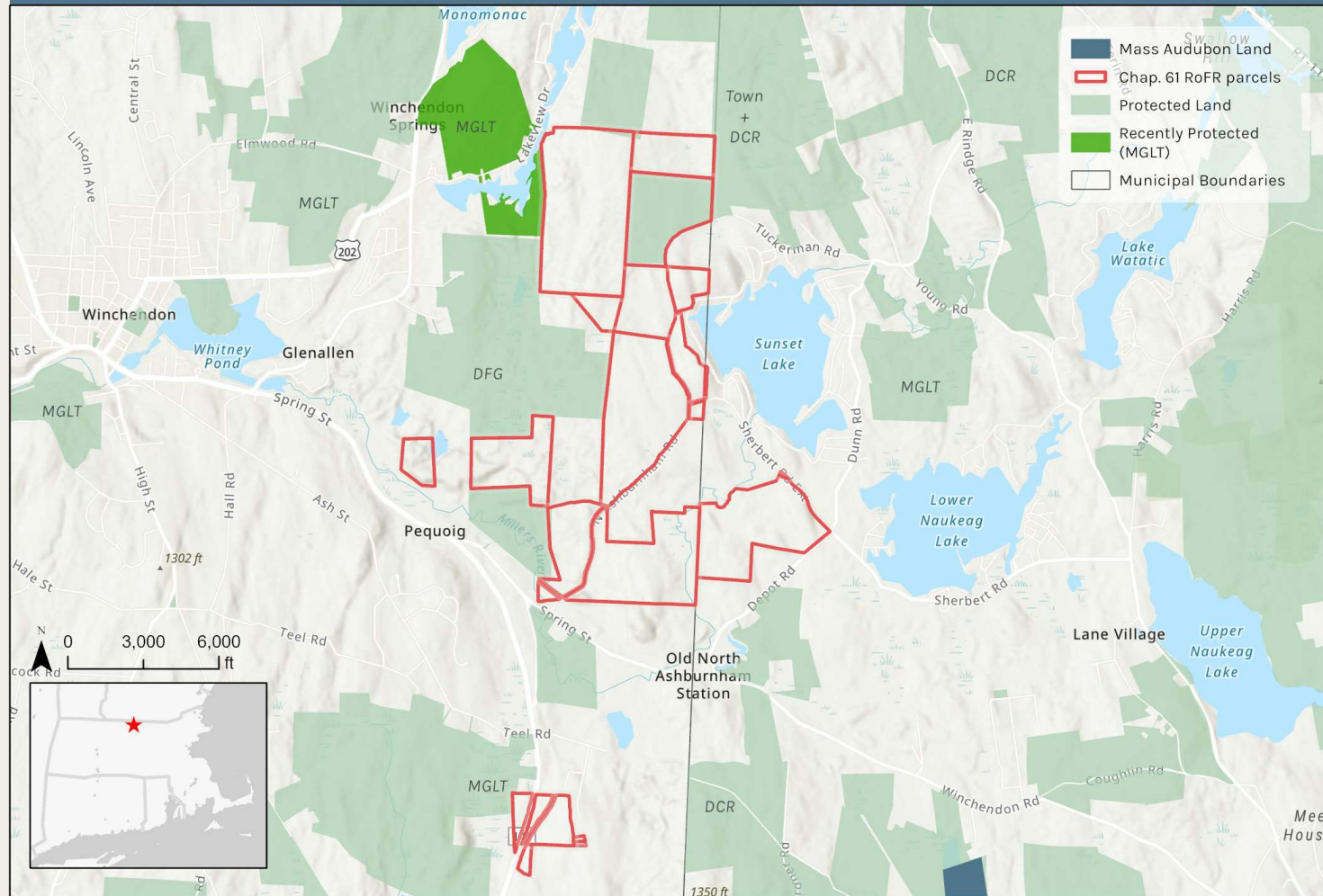


Winchendon Forest LLC

Winchendon and Ashburnham, MA

This map is not a survey and
the boundaries are approximate.

Created by M. Gordon, 2023
Data: MassGIS, MassDOT, FEMA, MassDEP



A photograph of a forest stream with trees and branches framing the view. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding foliage and the overcast sky. The scene is misty, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The stream flows through the center of the frame, with its surface acting as a mirror for the surrounding environment.

Conservation Values

- 85% in BioMap Core Habitat/Critical Natural Landscape
- Significant area mapped as Priority Habitat for Endangered Species by NHESP
- Core Acquisition Focus Area for State Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

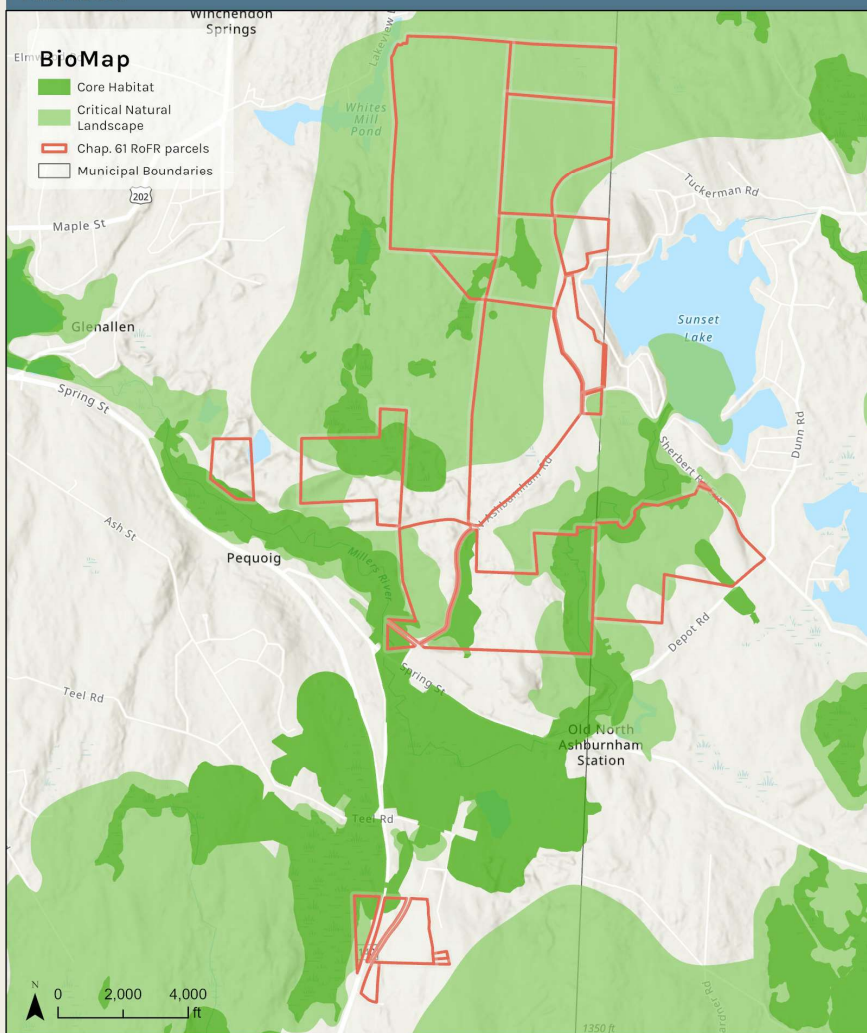


BioMap at Winchendon Forest

~1,300 Acres in Winchendon and Ashburnham

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Created by mgordon, 2023
Data: MassGIS, MassDOT, FEMA, MassDEP

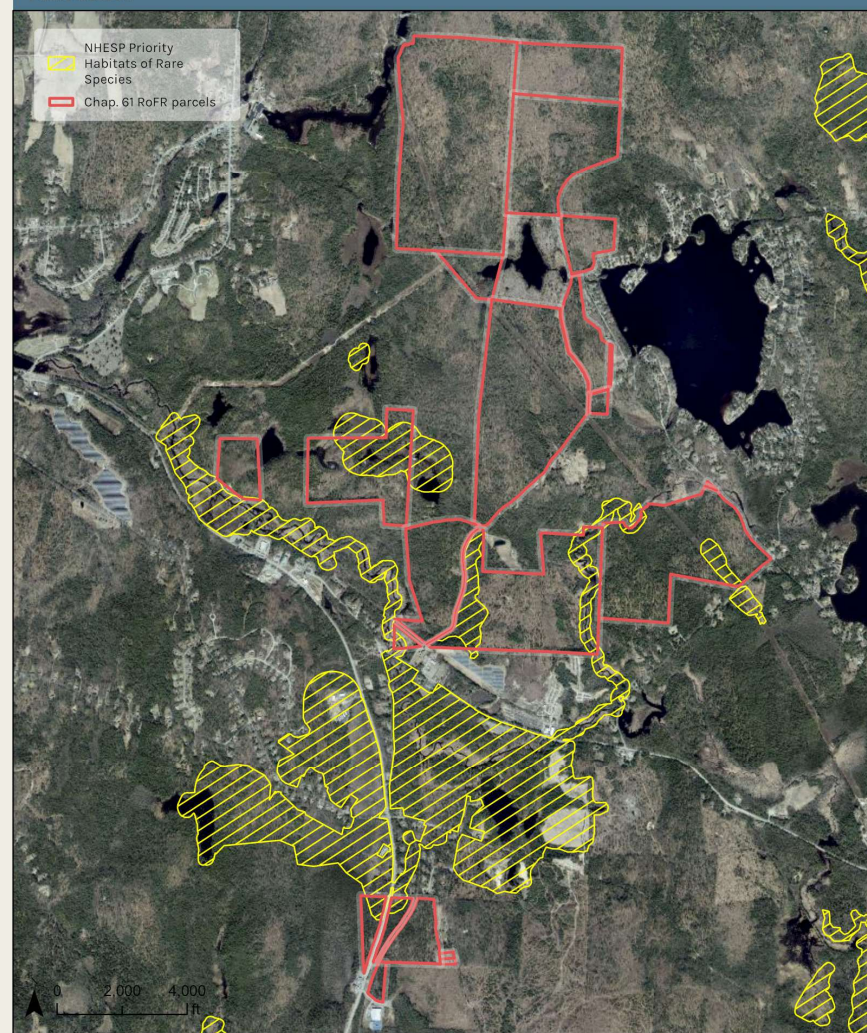


Rare Species Habitat

~1,300 Acres in Winchendon and Ashburnham

This map is not a survey and the boundaries are approximate.

Created by mgordon, 2023
Data: MassGIS, MassDOT, FEMA, MassDEP



A misty forest landscape with a stream and trees. The scene is captured in a soft, hazy light, with tall trees lining the banks of a narrow stream. The water reflects the surrounding greenery and the overcast sky. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

Property Status

- Property is under agreement to solar developer as utility-scale ground mount solar facility
- Purchase price is \$6,000,000
- Multiple agency and NGO partners have identified the property as a high priority for protection
- Closing is scheduled for end of calendar year
- Property is enrolled in Chapter 61 (Forestry)



Chapter 61 Opportunity

- Under Chapter 61, Town has right of first refusal when property is converted to a non-forestry use
- Town has 120 days to exercise, waive or assign its rights
- Town can assign its RoFR to non-profit conservation entity
- Assignee has 90 days to complete purchase