**Open Space Environmental Assessment & Land Prioritization Planning Tools and Maps**

There are many valuable geospatial tools, regional data sets, and pre-developed town, region, and state maps available for prioritizing lands, assessing habitat, and making important land acquisition decisions that are guided by the ecological integrity of landscapes and the ability of the terrestrial and aquatic habitats to support certain biological communities or organisms. Many of these tools are free to download and easy to use!

* [Mapping and Prioritizing Parcel Resiliency (MAPPR) Tool 2.0](https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/shaping-the-future-of-your-community/current-projects/mappr-project) (Mass Audubon) – A mapping tool that can be used to create priority rankings of parcels of land at the local and watershed scales. The tool can be customized by selecting or assigning weighted importance to certain criteria of specific interest.
* [BioMap2: Conserving the Biodiversity of Massachusetts in a Changing World](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/biomap2-conserving-the-biodiversity-of-massachusetts-in-a-changing-world) – A framework for protection and stewardship of lands and waters that are most important for conserving biological diversity in Massachusetts. BioMap2 [Town Reports](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/biomap2-town-reports) and maps are available for download for each city and town in Massachusetts. An interactive GIS map viewer and spatial data download is also available from MassGIS.
* [Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System (CAPS)](http://www.umasscaps.org/) – An ecosystem-based (coarse-filter) approach for assessing the ecological integrity of lands and waters and subsequently identifying and prioritizing land for habitat and biodiversity conservation. [CAPS IEI Town Maps](http://www.umasscaps.org/data_maps/maps.html) depicting areas of potential high ecological integrity are available for download for all cities and towns in Massachusetts, plus a single map (GeoTIFF) encompassing the entire state. The town maps are in the form of high-resolution PDFs depicting areas in the top 50% of values using integrated IEI scores overlaid onto USGS topographic maps to help provide geographical references for important areas.
* [MassDEP Important Habitat Maps](http://www.umasscaps.org/data_maps/massdep-maps.html) – [Town Maps](http://www.umasscaps.org/data_maps/massdep-maps.html) depicting *Habitat of Potential Regional or Statewide Importance* are available as high resolution PDFs for all communities in Massachusetts, plus a single map (GeoTIFF) encompassing the entire state. These “Important Habitat” maps are based on the integrated index of ecological integrity (CAPS) and depict all areas (not just regulated “resource areas”) that score in the top 40% for IEI-I. Areas so designated as “Habitat of Potential Regional and Statewide Importance” represent 40% of the undeveloped landscape as well as 40% of each ecological community (e.g. forest, shallow marsh, shrub swamp, forested wetland, salt marsh). Areas within the polygons that are also within Wetland Protection Act jurisdiction represent "Habitat of Potential Regional or Statewide Importance" and may trigger detailed review (See Section III of the [MassDEP guidance document](http://www.umasscaps.org/pdf/wldhab.pdf)).
* [MassGIS Oliver Interactive GIS Platform](http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map_ol/oliver.php) – A free GIS data viewer for viewing and assessing statewide physical, environmental, and cultural spatial data and printing unique, self-developed maps. Themed Map viewers and Data downloads are also available through [MassGIS](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massgis-bureau-of-geographic-information).
* [The Northeast Conservation Planning Atlas](https://nalcc.databasin.org/) – A platform that provides access to high-quality geospatial datasets, maps and information to facilitate partner-driven conservation from Maritime Canada to the Appalachians.
* [Natures Network](http://www.naturesnetwork.org/) and [complementary resources](http://www.naturesnetwork.org/resources/), including [Northeast Habitat Guides](https://rcngrants.org/sites/default/files/news_files/Northeast%20Aquatic%20and%20Terrestrial%20Habitat%20Guide.pdf) and [State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP)](https://northatlanticlcc.org/resources/state-wildlife-action-plans), including [Massachusetts’ SWAP](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/state-wildlife-action-plan-swap).
* List of [Massachusetts Species of Greatest Conservation Need](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/11/wi/massachusetts-species-of-greatest-conservation-need.pdf).
* [New England Landscapes Futures Explorer](https://newenglandlandscapes.org/) – NELF, an interactive personal tour guide or navigator helping us understand how our decisions today can help shape the future of our communities, land, farms, forests, and water resources. NELF will help you explore different possible outcomes based on global trends and local decisions. *The New England Landscape Futures Explorer is brought to you by Harvard Forest and the 100+ citizens who helped define this project.* [Explore with NELF!](https://newenglandlandscapes.org/)