



NORTH SMITHFIELD



Photo Credit: Town of North Smithfield, Carol Dandrade, Patch

Municipal Resilience Program Community Resilience Building Summary of Findings

September 2025



Town of North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Community Resilience Building

Summary of Findings

Overview

The need for municipalities, 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 Rhode Island. Events such as Tropical Storm Irene, Super Storm Sandy, severe winter storms (2013 & 2015), and even the recent severe flooding during the summer and fall of 2022 and 2023 have reinforced this urgency and compelled leading communities like the Town of North Smithfield 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 Rhode Island, New England, and the nation.

In the summer of 2025, the Town of North Smithfield embarked on certification within the state of Rhode Island's Municipal Resilience Program (MRP). As a prerequisite to certification, the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) provided the Town with a community-driven process to assess current hazard and climate change impacts and to surface projects, plans, and policies for improved resilience. In September 2025, North Smithfield's Core Team helped organize their Community Resilience Building process and workshop facilitated by TNC in partnership with RIIB. The core directive of this effort was the engagement with and between community members to define strengths and vulnerabilities and the development of priority resilience and sustainability actions for the Town of North Smithfield.

North Smithfield 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.

North Smithfield 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 North Smithfield. The North Smithfield Comprehensive Community Plan (2019) and the North Smithfield Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan (2025) 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 North Smithfield’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 North Smithfield 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 North Smithfield Core Team identified the top hazards for the Town. The hazards of greatest concern included flooding of rivers and streams, winter storms and Nor’easters, and tropical storms and hurricanes. Additional hazards highlighted by participants during the CRB Workshop included high wind events. These hazards have direct and increasing impacts on the infrastructure, environment, and residents of and visitors to North Smithfield. These effects are seen in residential homes, natural areas (wetlands, rivers, forests, preserves, parks), road infrastructure, dams, businesses, transportation systems, municipal facilities, social support services, and other critical infrastructure and community assets within North Smithfield.

Current Concerns and Challenges Presented by Hazards

The Town of North Smithfield has several concerns and faces multiple challenges related to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change. In recent years, North Smithfield has experienced a series of highly disruptive and damaging weather events including severe flooding along the Blackstone River and tributaries (March 2010), Tropical Storm Irene (August 2011), Superstorm Sandy (October 2012), Nor'easter Nemo (February 2013), and Blizzard Juno (January 2015), severe drought (2016), and significant blizzard and arctic temperatures (2022 and 2023). Impacts from Irene and Sandy included widespread inland flooding along with tree damage and associated power outages. The winter storms Nemo and Juno dropped 2-3 feet of snow with 2-3 inches per hour of accumulation at their peak. The magnitude and intensity of these events and others across Rhode Island have increased awareness of natural hazards and climate change, while motivating communities such as North Smithfield to proactively improve their resilience.

As is projected with climate change, the impacts from these severe weather events have been varied and diverse. In North Smithfield, this has included riverine flooding of critical infrastructure, roads, bridges, and low-lying areas; localized flooding from stormwater runoff during intense storms and heavy precipitation events; and property damage and utility outages (lasting several days or more) from 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 and disabled residents who are homebound, residents living in older housing stock without air conditioning, lower-income residents who may have difficulty with utility bills for temperature control in their homes, and the residents living in proximity to areas with increased potential for wildfires. The combination of these issues presents a challenge to preparedness and mitigation priorities and requires comprehensive, yet locally specific actions in North Smithfield.

The workshop participants were generally in agreement that North Smithfield 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 (Cat-3 or above)) particularly in the late summer and in the fall/winter months when more intense storms coincide with colder weather (i.e., Nor'easters, blizzards, ice storms).

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges

As in any community, North Smithfield 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:

- Increased political polarization has resulted in many residents staying homes versus participating in public meetings, where they could collaboratively find solutions to common issues.
- Fiscal challenges to make strategic investments in public facilities, such as Senior Center and Public Safety complex, without a diversified and expanding tax base to support the Town's needs. The state of Rhode Island's 4% levy cap compounds this fiscal issue.
- Limited public water and sewer services presents an obstacle to further development of viable and attractive commercial areas to help diversify and enhance the municipal tax base and local economy.
- Decline in connectivity amongst seniors living independently at home (i.e., not residing in a 55+ community), which can lead to issues during heat waves and winter storms.
- Federal grant awarded via the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct engineering assessments and improvements to the Cherry Brook area were revoked by the current federal administration, resulting in the current inability of the municipality to resolve a critical flooding issue for the community. The cost to fix culvert and resolve the riverbed issue is estimated at \$1M.
- Lack of air conditioning at North Smithfield High School and Middle School.
- Attempts by municipal staff to install sidewalks around the High School and Middle School to help increase the safety of students were not included in the nomination list for the State Transportation Improvement Plan for the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. Sidewalks can be prohibitively expensive for municipalities to pay for without assistance.

Emergency Management & Preparedness:

- Recent cuts in funding for hazard mitigation efforts and projects via the Federal Emergency Management Agency will leave North Smithfield further vulnerable and unprepared for the observed escalation in risks from natural disasters.

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

- Rapidly aging population of residents with limited mobility and are increasingly isolated during and after disasters.
- Low density and distribution of homes across North Smithfield creates challenges for timely emergency response in the event of power outages with the greatest concern being isolation of elderly and those with special/medical needs.
- Power outages associated with trees downing power lines has been an issue during major storm events with power interruption lasting more than a week in some cases (i.e., after Tropical Storm Irene). Power outages also resulting in lack of heat in residential units during winter storms present a significant life-threatening situation for many in North Smithfield.
- Growing concerns regarding the potential impact of wildfires on North Smithfield from a need for additional staff training and equipment readiness perspective. Recent small, smoldering brush fire (over 5 years ago) resulted in the need to bring in external water tanker trucks to suppress the fire, suggesting limited capacity in North Smithfield to manage larger more intense wildfire scenarios. This might also signal a need for dispersed dry hydrants to supply tankers locally. Concerns that longer hotter summers with extended droughts will increase wildfire risk in North Smithfield.
- Lack of distributed fire hydrant system in North Smithfield has presented a challenge to fire suppression efforts in the past when local fire fighters ran out of water and had to wait for water tankers to arrive resulting in greater damage to structures.
- Little awareness amongst residents of areas more vulnerable than others to loss of property from wildfires coupled with limited knowledge amongst residents on how to better manage properties to reduce risk of wildfires.
- Ongoing strain on Fire Department staff capacity when forced to pump out resident's basements during power outages when residential sump pumps are offline. This keeps the Fire Department from other storm-related work they could be attending to.
- Recent and projected increases in the duration and intensity of heat waves will elevate life threatening risks amongst vulnerable portions of the North Smithfield population including elderly residents and young families, especially if power outages knock out air conditioning units during a heat wave. There were three significant heat waves in 2025 with even more projected for 2026, both in North Smithfield and across the state of Rhode Island.
- Municipal Special Needs registry is no longer active, resulting in reduced awareness amongst emergency management professionals of residents at risk in North Smithfield.

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

- Exposure to regular flooding issues in a specific neighborhood near Cherry Brook. Flooding intensity and duration has increased due to the higher number of severe storms in recent years particularly behind the High School, Greenville Road, and the Union Village area. Adjoining homes, facilities, and infrastructure were built in flood prone areas since the 1950s and 60s. Increasing flooding issues will create downstream flooding issues for Woonsocket if more capacity for flood storage is not generated in this area.

Roads & Road Networks, Bridges, & Dams:

- Concerns regarding roadway infrastructure maintenance and upgrade needs, coupled with needed additional sources of funding to cover the costs associated with needed repairs.
- Five privately-owned dams in North Smithfield are in substandard condition and require work to bring them up to code to avoid potential catastrophic failure and downstream impacts to people, property, and the environment. Particularly vulnerable dams including the dams on Primrose Pond and Rankin Brook. The dams all along the Branch River need an engineering assessment.
- Beaver-induced flooding from a pond on private property in the Mechanic Street areas is a reoccurring issue.

Septic and Sewer Systems, Drinking Water Supply, & Stormwater Systems:

- Elevated high-water table due to more annual rainfall presents growing challenges for design, engineering, installation, and maintenance of residential septic systems.
- Outdated and ineffective septic systems associated with older homes presents a localized water quality and contamination issue during flooding events, particularly where those homes are situated near water bodies in Town.
- Sewer system needs upgrades to ensure adequate service for residents within the current service area.
- Limited availability of public water and sewer service results in potential overdependence on residential drinking water wells and septic systems.
- Ongoing and growing concerns amongst residents with private drinking water wells regarding the impacts of drought on water availability (“wells are drying up with one month of drought”).
- Decline in the availability of fresh, clean drinking water for residents during flooding events when flood waters can contaminate private residential drinking water wells.

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

- Pre- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contaminants have been detected in drinking water wells near the Fire Station.
- Drinking water distribution system is approaching end of current life cycle with upgrades and improvement needed.
- Undersized drainage pipes in various locations with some areas drained by 8" pipes installed back in the 1940s and 50s.
- Undersized culverts in the developed portions of North Smithfield present ongoing and future localized flooding issues. Specific areas of concern identified in recent North Smithfield Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan (2025).

Watersheds, Wetlands, Rivers, Open Space, Forests, & Trees:

- Accumulation of impacts on forests due to repetitive outbreaks of various blights, pests, and diseases across North Smithfield and all of western Rhode Island.
- Concerns about the proliferation of invasive plant species and the impact on the native pollinator community. Forest invasive pests and pathogens have growing impacts on income derived from woodlots as well as increasing the forest fire risk.
- Increasing number of incidents with infectious diseases from ticks and mosquitoes.
- Two superfund sites and a third on the border between North Smithfield and Burrillville presents potential contamination issues for groundwater resources.
- Concern about use of open space for energy generation - particularly potential for deforestation from solar projects approved prior to the change in state law restricting solar development in forested areas.



Credit: North Smithfield Land Trust



Credit: Beef Barn



Credit: Facebook

Current Strengths and Assets

Just as certain locations, facilities, and populations in North Smithfield stand out as particularly vulnerable to the effects of hazards and climate change, other features are notable assets for North Smithfield'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.

- Clearly, the responsive and committed engagement exhibited by leadership, staff, and residents is a very appreciated strength within and across North Smithfield. Ongoing collaboration between municipal staff, committee/commission/board volunteers, business owners, land trusts, faith-based organizations, non-government organizations, adjoining municipalities, and various state-level organizations, among others, on priorities identified herein will help advance comprehensive, cost-effective, community resilience building actions.
- Residents of North Smithfield largely consist of people that describe themselves as being able to handle issues and are self-sufficient ("we are a resilient community").
- North Smithfield is comprised of a very cohesive, tight-knit, and friendly community.
- Residents who truly care about their environment and desire that additional open space be preserved within North Smithfield to help increase the community's quality of life and wellbeing.
- Currently, the various boards and commissions have come together with the Town Administration and Council in a positive and collegial manner ("promotes cohesion and connectedness across the community").
- Office of the Town Administrator has been helpful in providing organization, direction, and momentum to move forward much needed initiatives and projects that help with effectiveness and efficiency of municipal services for residents and community members.
- Planning Department and the Planning Board work well together and seek out input from the community via ongoing engagement opportunities.
- Public safety services, including Department of Public Works, Fire, Police, and Emergency Management, collaborate well in advance of major storm systems to ensure residents are safe and critical services and functions are maintained.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Residents work cooperatively with municipal staff within the Planning, Fire, and Police Departments, among others, as well as with the Town Administrator's Office ("we have a small-town feel").
- Municipality has a long history of cooperating and aiding neighboring communities – including in Massachusetts and Connecticut - in times of need. Community members are generally very supportive of resources directed at equipment improvements and additional training for staff.
- Fire Department is efficient with very fast response times.
- Department of Public Works proactively prepares and begins plowing at the onset of snow and ice storms which is greatly appreciated by residents.
- Partnership between the Town and the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Commission was highlighted as an asset given the ongoing collaboration around developing grants to design and implement projects that enhance the ecology of the aquatic resources in North Smithfield and beyond.
- North Smithfield has a new updated Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan as of 2025.
- Although not on an interstate highway, North Smithfield is in a centralized location regionally between Providence, Worcester, and Boston, which helps with access to regional jobs and regional amenities for residents.
- Public school system in North Smithfield was called out as a very strong asset and a compelling reason for many to come and live in the community. North Smithfield School Committee controls operations of schools as part of the municipal budget.
- Water resources across North Smithfield were identified as a significant asset for the community including wetland areas that help to absorb precipitation and store flood waters ("wetlands help increase our resilience").
- Extensive network of rivers and streams that flow into larger watershed systems for significant rivers in northern Rhode Island including the Branch River, Blackstone River along with the Woonasquatucket River (headwaters in North Smithfield). Small brooks of importance for the Town include Crookfall Brook as well as Cherry Brook which runs the entire length of North Smithfield and feeds into the Blackstone River.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- North Smithfield is situated at the top of the Woonasquatucket River watershed with ample opportunity to install natural solutions to help indirectly provide flood protection to other vulnerable downstream municipalities.
- Diverse habitats and contiguous open space across North Smithfield with intact natural forest lands.
- Relatively large amount of open space as compared to other municipalities located along rivers downstream from North Smithfield. This presents opportunities for additional land conservation, habitat restoration, and flood protection to help improve conditions in North Smithfield as well as downstream communities.
- Per capita investment in land protection is relatively high (though there is unspent municipal bond money available for additional conservation efforts).
- Low density of housing in North Smithfield helps to increase the amount of porous natural surfaces that accelerate infiltration of rainwater, which helps to reduce flooding during and after major precipitation events.
- Smithfield Reservoir is an asset to North Smithfield which provides a drinking water source, with protected ecosystems around the water body.
- North Smithfield borders the Woonasquatucket Reservoir which provides an exemplary drinking water storage area.
- Woonasquatucket River Greenway including the old railroad systems and utility corridors provide residents and visitors with an outstanding trail system as well as bring attention to restoration efforts along the Woonasquatucket River and beyond. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council is mainly responsible for revitalizing the Woonasquatucket River, the Greenway, and orchestrating potential expansions of the Greenway – and North Smithfield sits at the headwaters of the River and the Greenway.
- Areas of development are concentrated in compact and accessible areas.
- The Tax Incentive Financing - Mixed Use District on Route 146 is being enhanced in hopes of receiving new development that will increase overall tax base for North Smithfield without placing additional development pressure elsewhere in Town.
- Comstock Water Tower was recently repaired, rehabilitated, and recommissioned.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Recent improvements to the pump stations for the municipal sewer system via the work of the Sewer Commission.
- Old dams on reservoirs are largely managed by responsible and action-oriented individuals that have worked to sustain the community for decades and will continue to be allies going forward.
- Recently adopted waste management approach and processes were called out as a strength.



Credit: Wikipedia



Credit: Michael St. Jean



Credit: Homes.com

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 reduce North Smithfield's 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. asset management plan, responsible/sustainable growth, volunteerism, conservation & recreation, economic development, funding/tax base, water quality);
- **Infrastructure improvements** (i.e. road/dams, stormwater management systems, green stormwater infrastructure, private septic systems, public sewer & water);
- **Quality of life improvements** (i.e. parks and recreation, open space & access, sustainability, health & safety, economic prosperity, water quality, education);
- **Emergency management** (i.e. communications, outreach, education, continuation of services, evacuation, vulnerable populations, wildfire).

In direct response, the Community Resilience Building workshop participants developed the following actions and identified, but did not rank, them as priority or as additional actions. Mitigation actions from the North Smithfield Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan (2025) are provided in Appendix A. Maps provided during the CRB Workshop gathered from the Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan and the Comprehensive Plan (2019) are provided in Appendix B.

Priority Actions

- Move forward the work to study Cherry Brook watershed and drainage/flooding issues. The first phase of the project has already been completed, which generated proposed design improvements. Additional funds are needed to get proposed designs to 90% completion. Town should consider expanding project scope to entire section of the Cherry Brook watershed versus just the Union Village area. Project will likely require the initial purchase of a flood prone property within the project area (estimate cost of \$93K).

Priority Actions (cont'd)

- Initiate a comprehensive study of all dams across North Smithfield in hopes of determining where the greatest concern for catastrophic failure is located and under what type of extreme precipitation/flooding event. Work directly with private dam owners as well as Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to find remedies for identified hazardous dams.
- Work towards continued protection of Crookfall Brook watershed which feeds the Woonsocket Reservoir #3 (see watershed map in Appendix B). Look to engage with the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council for advice and support in this ongoing effort to further protect key aquatic resources.
- Explore the possibility of developing a strategic facilities and operation plan for the water distribution system including cost, sequencing, and timing of system expansion into different areas of North Smithfield including the ongoing maintenance needs of the system as it increases the service area.
- Conduct a needs and resources assessment for seniors and other vulnerable populations in North Smithfield to help better align the municipal emergency management staff and resources with the needs present in the community. Update the Special Needs Registry including location, contact information, and needs (i.e., those on oxygen, etc.) to better service residents before, during, and after major events. Look to the Emergency Management Agency director to lead on this effort in the absence of a dedicated, paid senior resident coordinator.
- Look to enhance the existing Code Red alert system in North Smithfield via better awareness and voluntary enrollment of residents to better serve the community through this emergency management communication system.
- Increase fire prevention management by securing additional portable generators and pumps to ensure the Fire Department and the Department of Public Works have adequate resources to match the current need during storms.

Additional Actions

- Town Council conduct follow-up meetings regarding the outcomes of the Community Resilience Building process and look to potentially establish a community resilience committee or working group to organize and advocate for steps forward to improve resiliency in North Smithfield.
- Examine Community Resilience Building Summary of Findings from neighboring municipalities to find areas of common interest, shared value, and capacity availability to begin creating regional partnerships and networks to collaboratively tackle issues.
- Look to redo this Community Resilience Building process in five years as a stand-alone and/or integrated into future Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan updates for North Smithfield.
- Consider increasing the current part-time director of Emergency Management Agency position to full-time with an emphasis placed on expanding collaborations with other organizations and surrounding municipalities as well as engagement in community-based processes such as Community Resilience Building.
- Continue exploring and planning for the eventual development of a senior center in North Smithfield with a program and facility director and staff.
- Explore the potential to expand the tax base and diversify tax revenue to ensure the Town can afford necessary maintenance and upgrades within an fiscal environment devoid of state and federal government funding and grant awards (“we need to be able to fund ourselves going forward”).
- Work to ensure the best available information and approaches to increasing resilience through planning is integrated into the activities of Boards, Committees, and Commissions, in particular the Planning Board, in hopes of informing current and future resilience development in North Smithfield.

Additional Actions (cont'd)

- Conduct civic engagement education amongst residents in hopes of enhancing the public discourse on common issues in North Smithfield (“need to get more residents involved with making decisions about our community”), which will also help improve social cohesion amongst the community members.
- Initiate and complete an Asset Management Plan for North Smithfield to help address questions such as what to invest in and when to help ensure the municipally owned and managed property (i.e., buildings, roads, infrastructure (i.e., water & sewer)) are properly managed for the long term.
- Conduct assessment of undeveloped parcels that could provide the greatest amount of flood water storage during major precipitation events across North Smithfield (“our natural assets”). Look to protect as permanent open space parcels with greater flood storage potential.
- Further explore the use of green stormwater infrastructure (i.e., bioswales, retention ponds, rain gardens, etc.) to reduce localized flooding in intersections, along roadways, near and within parking lots, and around residential homes, business, and municipal facilities.
- Work to address issues associated with high and significant hazard dams by connecting with current owners and compelling inspection and maintenance as needed to prevent downstream impacts in the event of catastrophic failures.
- Follow closely and contribute to the full watershed assessment of the Woonasquatucket River including recommended improvement projects via the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council. Project is expected to be completed in 2026.
- Explore ways to reduce the impacts of heavy trucks and vehicles on small roadways by establishing truck routes and weight restrictions within and through North Smithfield.
- Work to further reduce excessive speeding along Route 7 and along other roadways in Town.

Additional Actions (cont'd)

- Conduct an update on the Sewer Facilities Plan for North Smithfield.
- Increase awareness and voluntary sign-up for the municipal's Code Red system to help increase the extent of emergency communications to residents of North Smithfield. Look to the EMA director to ensure this task is completed on an annual basis. Consider including a notice for voluntary enrollment in the Town's Code Red system in annual municipal tax bill too residents.
- Meet with the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council to learn more about their program that trains volunteers to help community members during times of emergency. Look to incorporate approaches and training materials via a municipal-based effort in North Smithfield.
- Look to increase staffing levels at sheltering facilities are used as warming and cooling centers as well as establish an official standard operating procedure manual for sheltering operations and activities in North Smithfield ("it's a fire drill every time").

CRB Workshop Participants: Department/Organization

Town of North Smithfield – Office of the Town Administrator

Town of North Smithfield – Planning Department

Town of North Smithfield – Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security

Town of North Smithfield – Public Works Department

Town of North Smithfield – Fire Department

Town of North Smithfield – Water & Sewer Department

Town of North Smithfield – Senior Services

Town of North Smithfield – Historic District Commission

Town of North Smithfield – Planning Board

Town of North Smithfield – Asset Management Commission

Town of North Smithfield – Groundwater Protection Committee

North Smithfield Heritage Association

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

North Smithfield Core Project Team

Scott A. Gibbs – Town Administrator – Town of North Smithfield

Mark Carruolo – Director of Planning – Town of North Smithfield

Online CRB Workshop Facilitation Team

State of Rhode Island (DEM) - Kim Koriath (MRP Co-Lead)

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

The Nature Conservancy – Sue AnderBois (Small Group Facilitator)

State of Rhode Island (DOA) – Roberta Groch (Small Group Facilitator)

The Nature Conservancy - Kai Lo Muscio (MRP Coordinator)

The Nature Conservancy – Tim Mooney (Scribe)

The Nature Conservancy – Angela Tuoni (Scribe)

The Nature Conservancy – Tara Hoda (Scribe)

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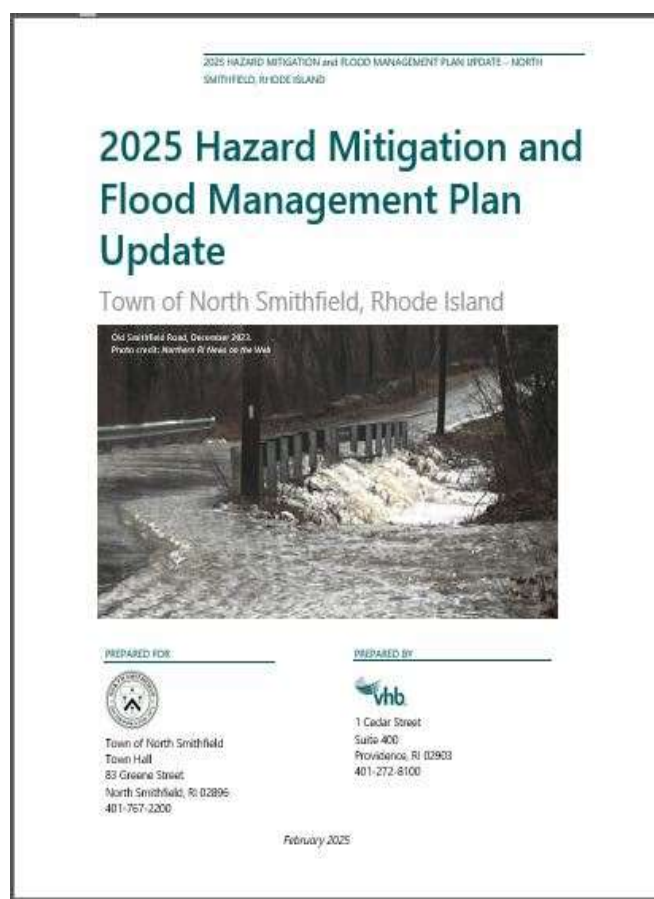
Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the Town leadership, staff, and community members for their willingness to embrace the process in hopes of a more resilient future for North Smithfield. This online Community Resilience Building Workshop was made possible in large part through the dedicated contribution of the facilitation team members who skillfully conducted the North Smithfield Community Resilience Building workshop in close partnership with the Town’s Core Project Team.

Appendix A

Town of North Smithfield

Mitigation Actions*



***Gathered from the North Smithfield Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan Update (2025).**

Table 29 Summary of Actions

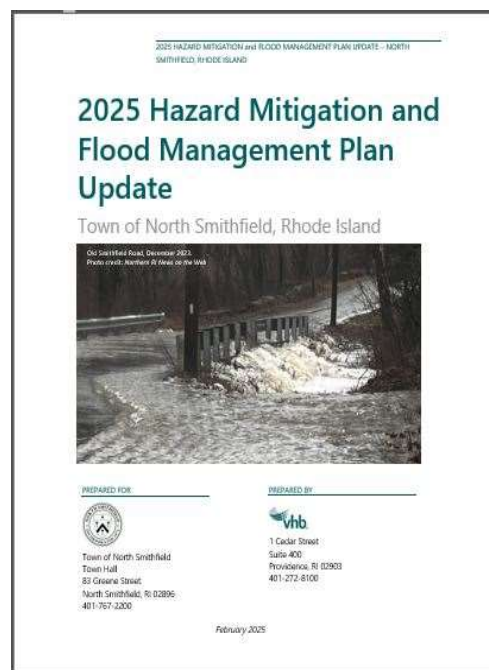
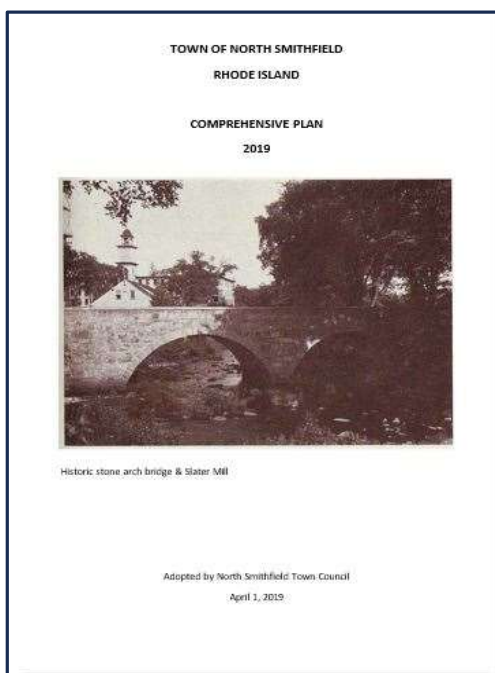
Action	Priority Level	Action	Priority Level	Action	Priority Level
1. Conduct a town-wide Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) study.	HIGH	3. Clear debris from culverts. c. Woonsocket Hill Road and/or Pound Hill Road	Medium	3. Clear debris from culverts. a. Upstream end of Heroux Drive.	Low
4. Improve drainage at Old Smithfield Road between poles 46 and 47 (rushing water), and 60 and 61 (standing water in wood-line and onto road).	HIGH	7. Join RiWARN.	Medium	3. Clear debris from culverts. b. Coordinate w Woonsocket to clear debris from culverts such as Rockland Ave and culvert under Railroad Crossing 2.	Low
6. Improve wastewater pump stations at Pound Hill Road and Branch River.	HIGH	12. Secure stable funding to support the North Smithfield Emergency Management Department.	Medium	5. Obtain variance/MOU to use private property on Tift Road for emergency evacuation of one property if bridge were to fail.	Low
8. Improve drinking water flow throughout town. a. Phase 1: getting water to the northern neighborhoods. b. Phase 2: water distribution within the neighborhoods.	HIGH	14. Take inventory of mobile trailers/pods and move them to the fire station on St. Paul's Street.	Medium	11. Confirm if Forestdale Pond Dam #048 (high hazard) is broken.	Low
9. Acquire new 800 MHz radios for DPW.	HIGH	15. Create an efficient communication plan for warming/cooling centers.	Medium	13. Inventory shelter supplies.	Low
10. North Smithfield School Department to upgrade to town-wide 800 MHz radios	HIGH	17. Develop an Emergency Evacuation Plan.	Medium		
16. Evaluate effectiveness of CodeRED.	HIGH	18. Encourage business participation in CodeRED.	Medium		
2. Replace undersized culverts. a. Cherry Brook neighborhood (Meadowbrook Avenue/ Railroad Crossing 2).	Medium	19. Wetland Preservation a. Create a digital map of existing wetlands. b. Implement measures (local regulations, education, awareness) to prevent degradation of existing wetlands.	Medium		
2. Replace undersized culverts. b. Replace upstream half of Great Road (146A) culvert.	Medium				

Appendix B

Town of North Smithfield

Map Resource Packet*

Used During CRB Workshop



***Gathered from North Smithfield's Comprehensive Plan (2019) and North Smithfield's Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan Update (2025).**

Town of North Smithfield Official Zoning Map



Legend

Panels

Lakes

Zoning

(BH) Business - Highway

(BN) Business - Neighborhood

(LC) Limited Commercial

(M) Manufacturing

(MUT) Mixed Use - Commercial

(MUZ) Mixed Use - Industrial

(OS) Open Space

(RA) Rural Agriculture

(REA) Rural Estate Agriculture

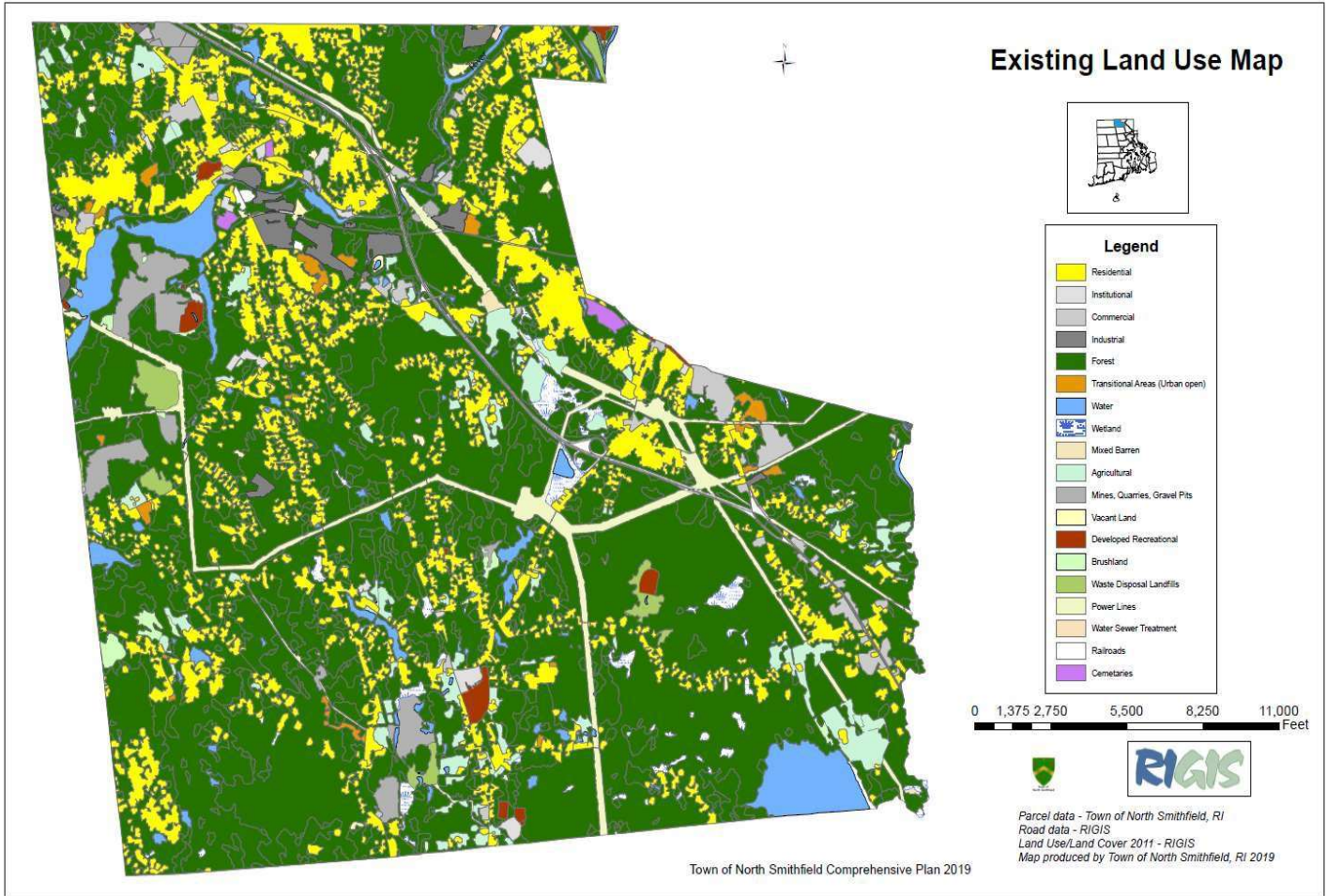
(RS) Residential - Suburban

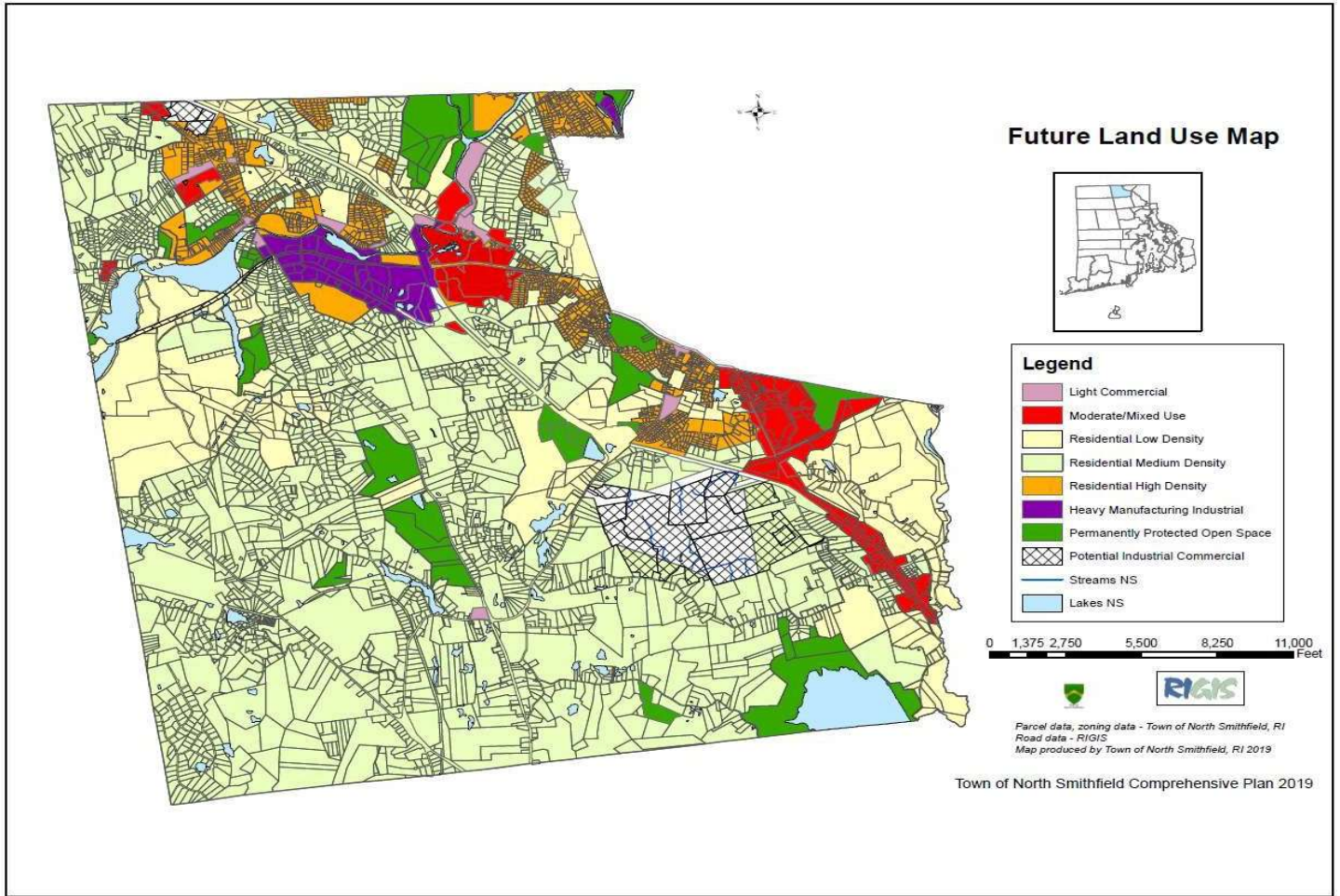
(RU) Residential - Urban

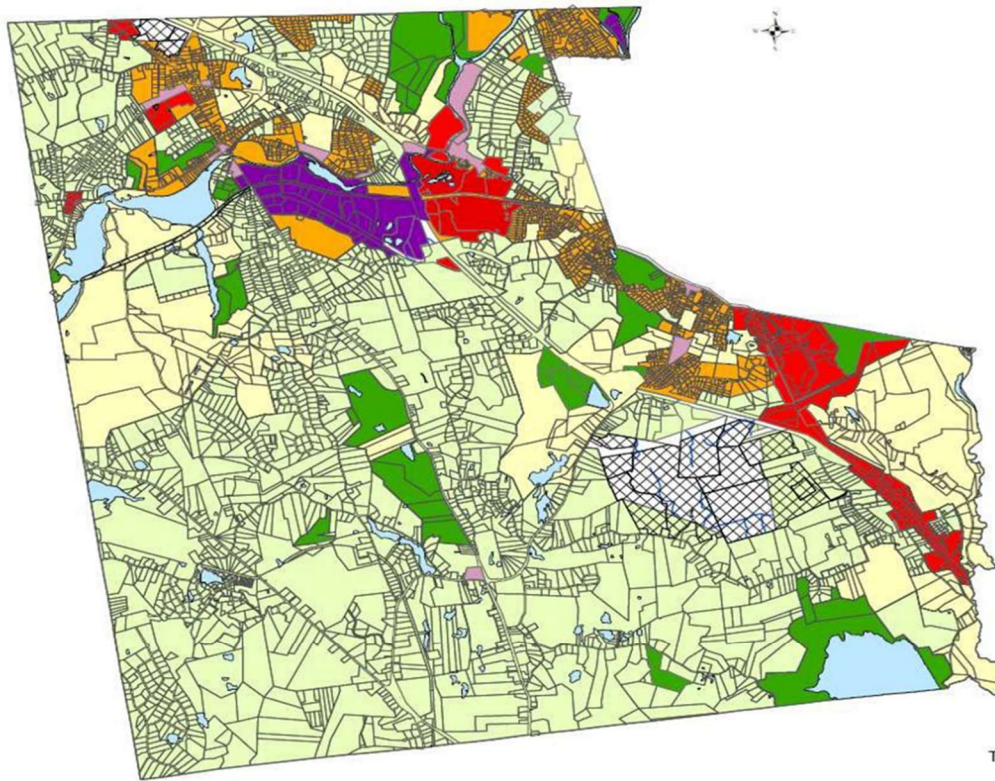
0 1,375 2,750 5,500 8,250 11,000 Feet



Parcel data - Town of North Smithfield, RI
Road data - RIGIS
Map produced by Town of North Smithfield, RI 2019
Town of North Smithfield Comprehensive Plan 2019







Future Land Use Map



Legend

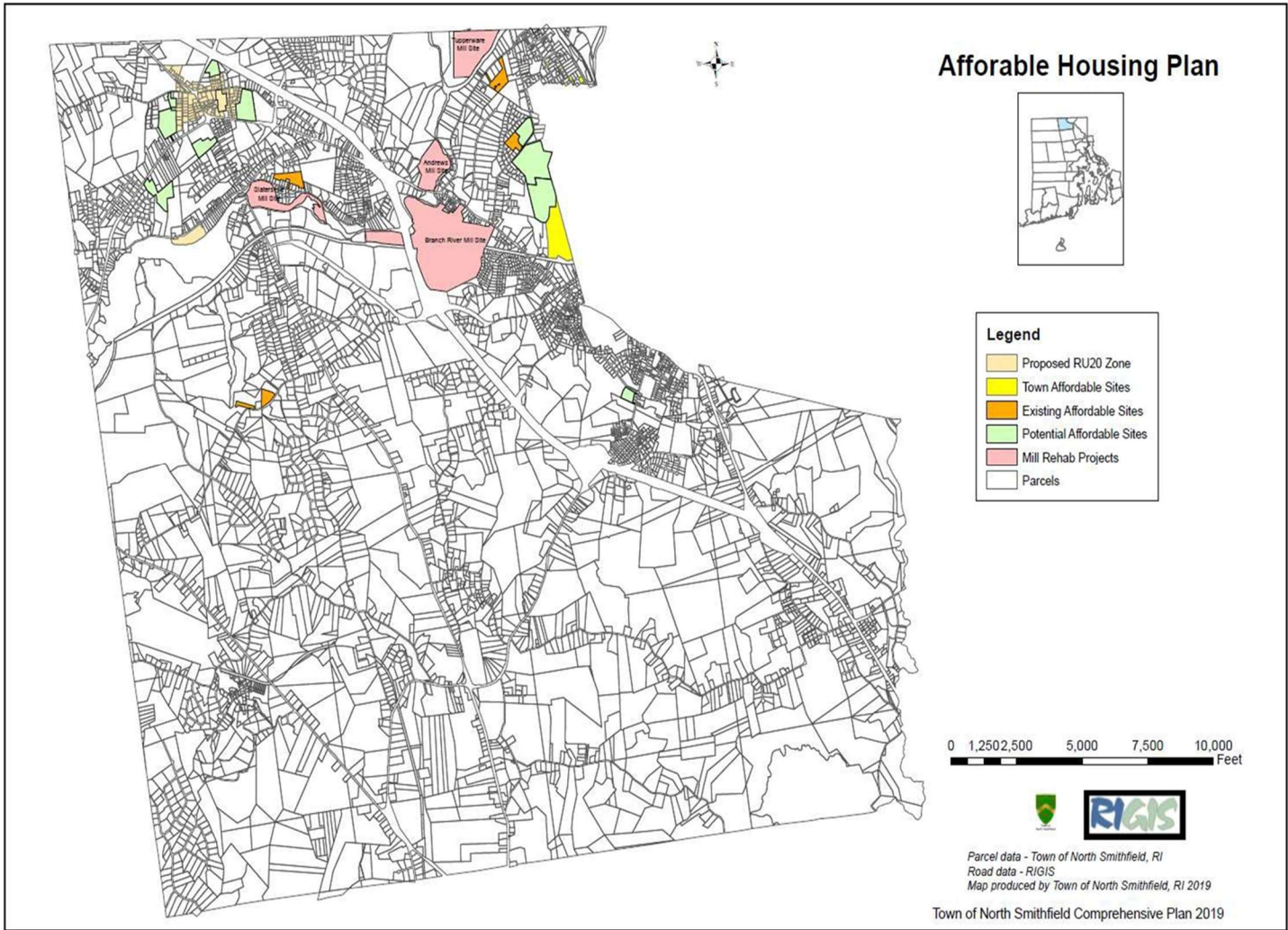
- Light Commercial
- Moderate/Mixed Use
- Residential Low Density
- Residential Medium Density
- Residential High Density
- Heavy Manufacturing Industrial
- Permanently Protected Open Space
- Potential Industrial Commercial
- Streams NS
- Lakes NS

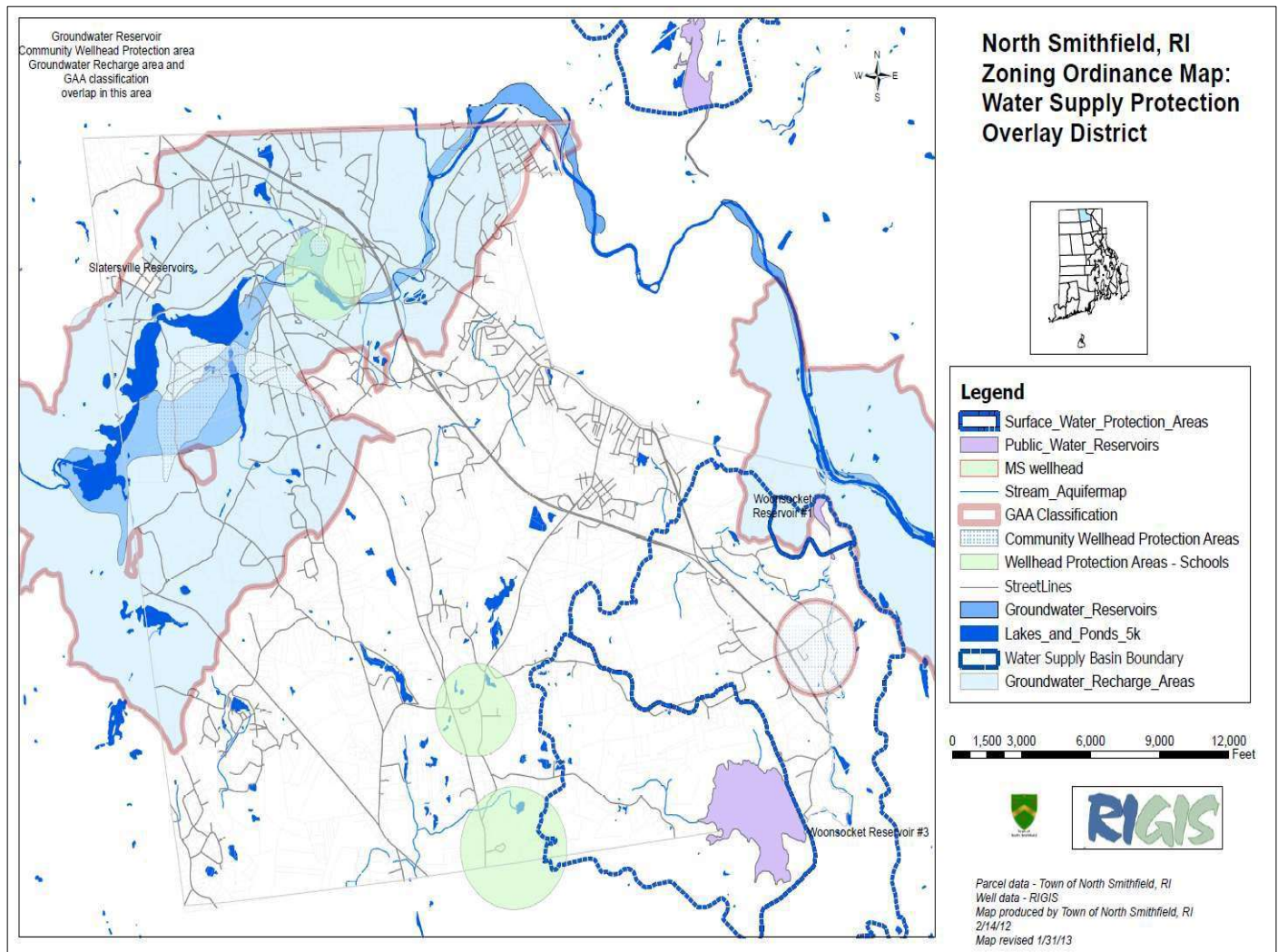
0 1,375 2,750 5,500 8,250 11,000 Feet

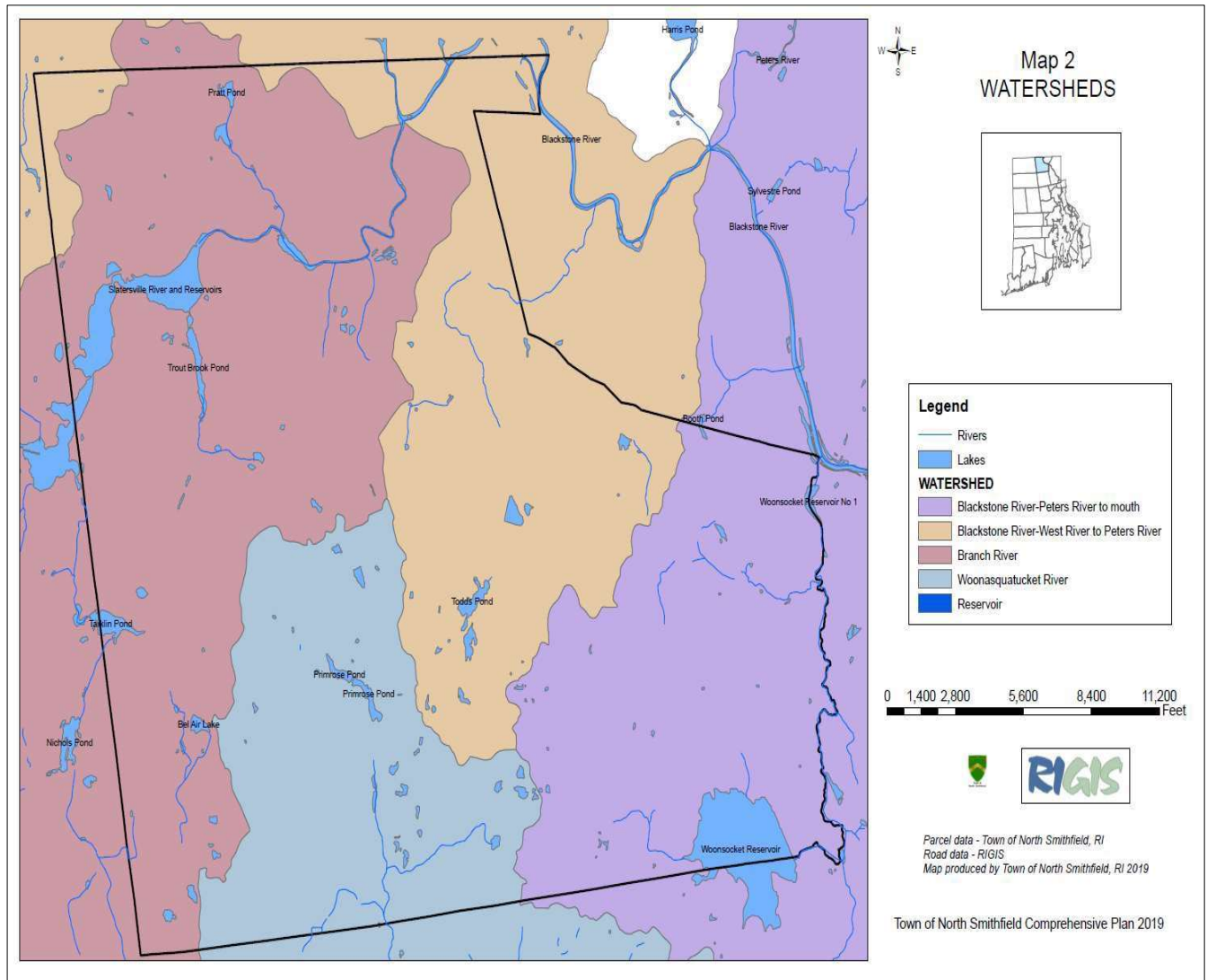


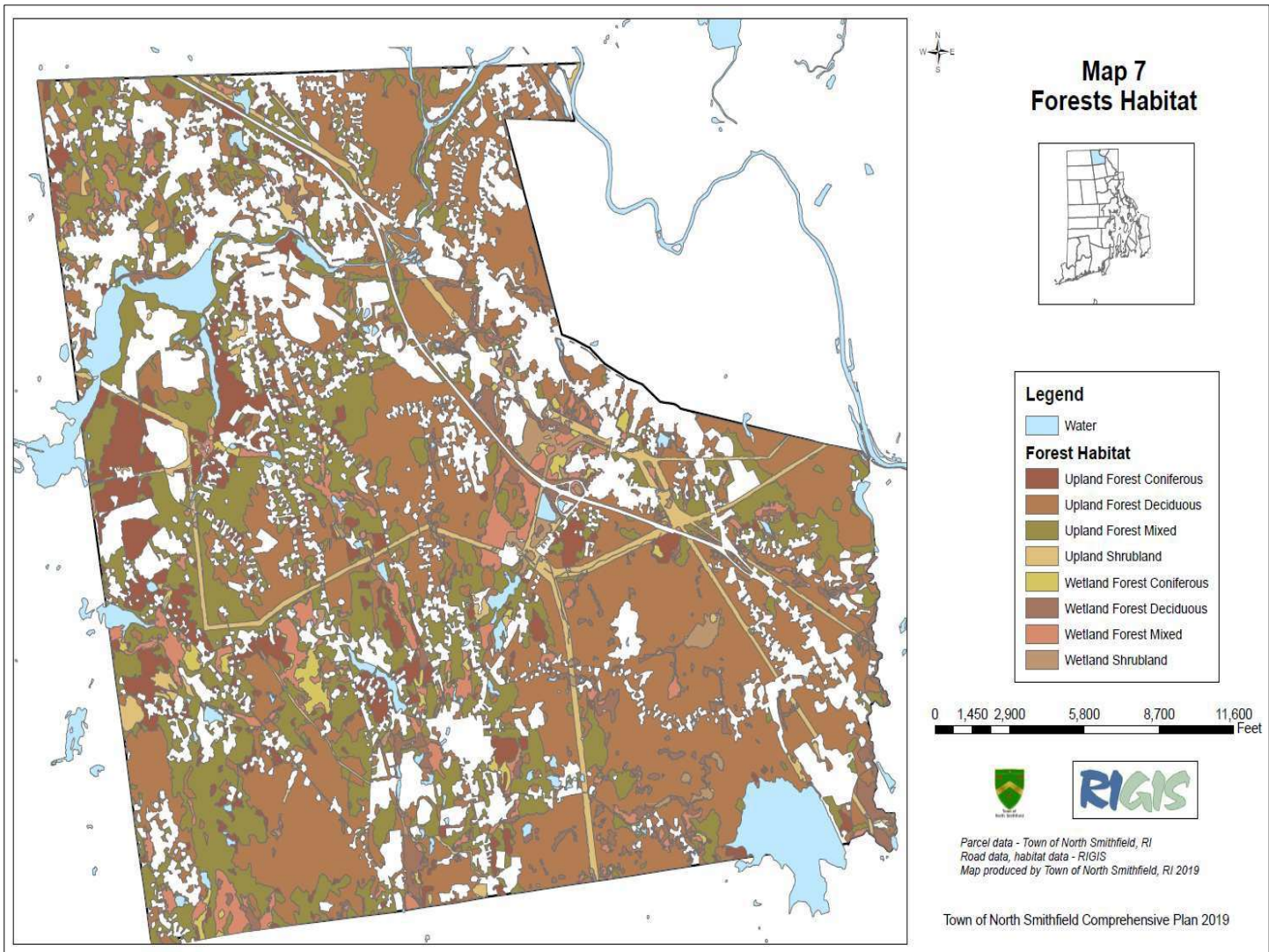
Parcel data, zoning data - Town of North Smithfield, RI
Road data - RIGIS
Map produced by Town of North Smithfield, RI 2019

Town of North Smithfield Comprehensive Plan 2019









Map 9 Wildlife Protection



Legend

- State_Conservation_Areas
- Local_Conservation_Areas
- Natural_Heritage_Areas

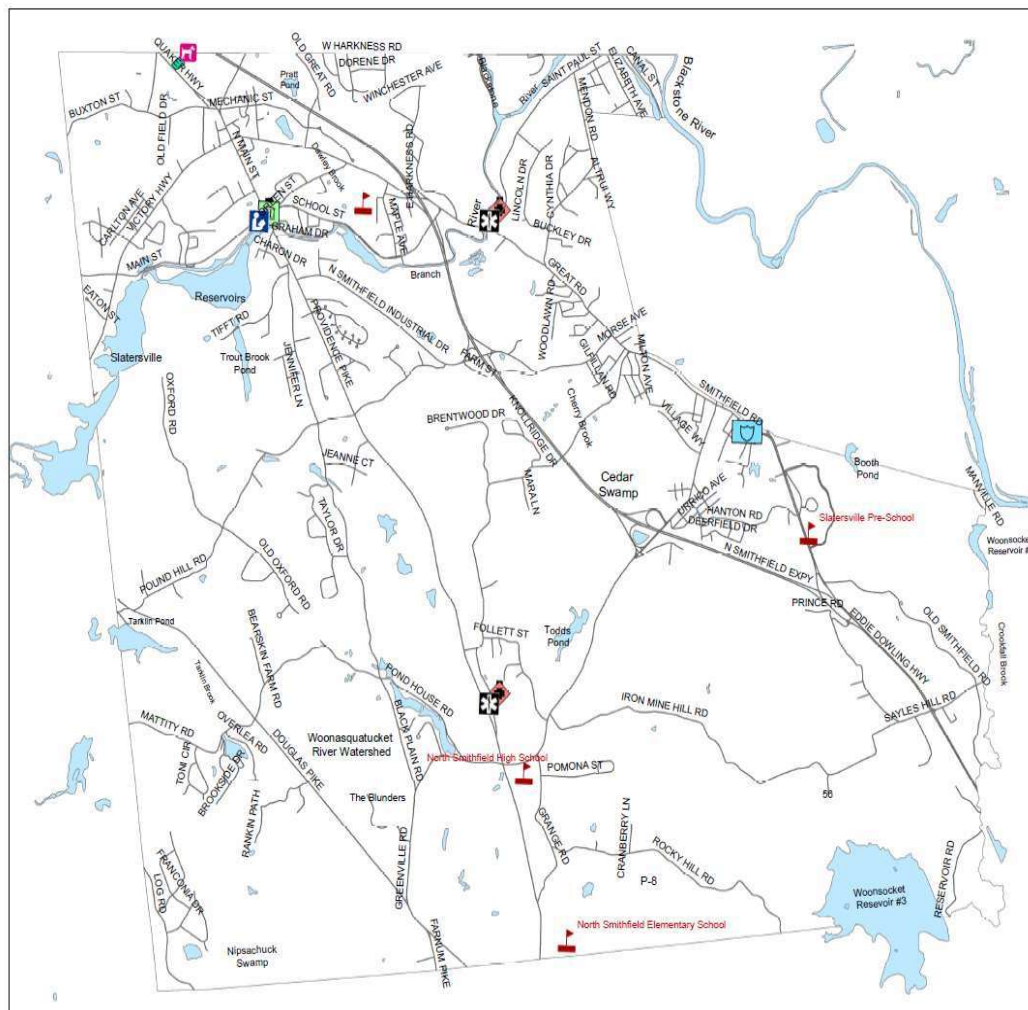
0 1,300 2,600 5,200 7,800 10,400 Feet



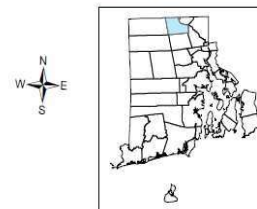
Parcel data - Town of North Smithfield, RI
Road data, conservation/heritage data - RIGIS
Map produced by Town of North Smithfield, RI 2019

Town of North Smithfield Comprehensive Plan 2019





Services and Facilities



Legend

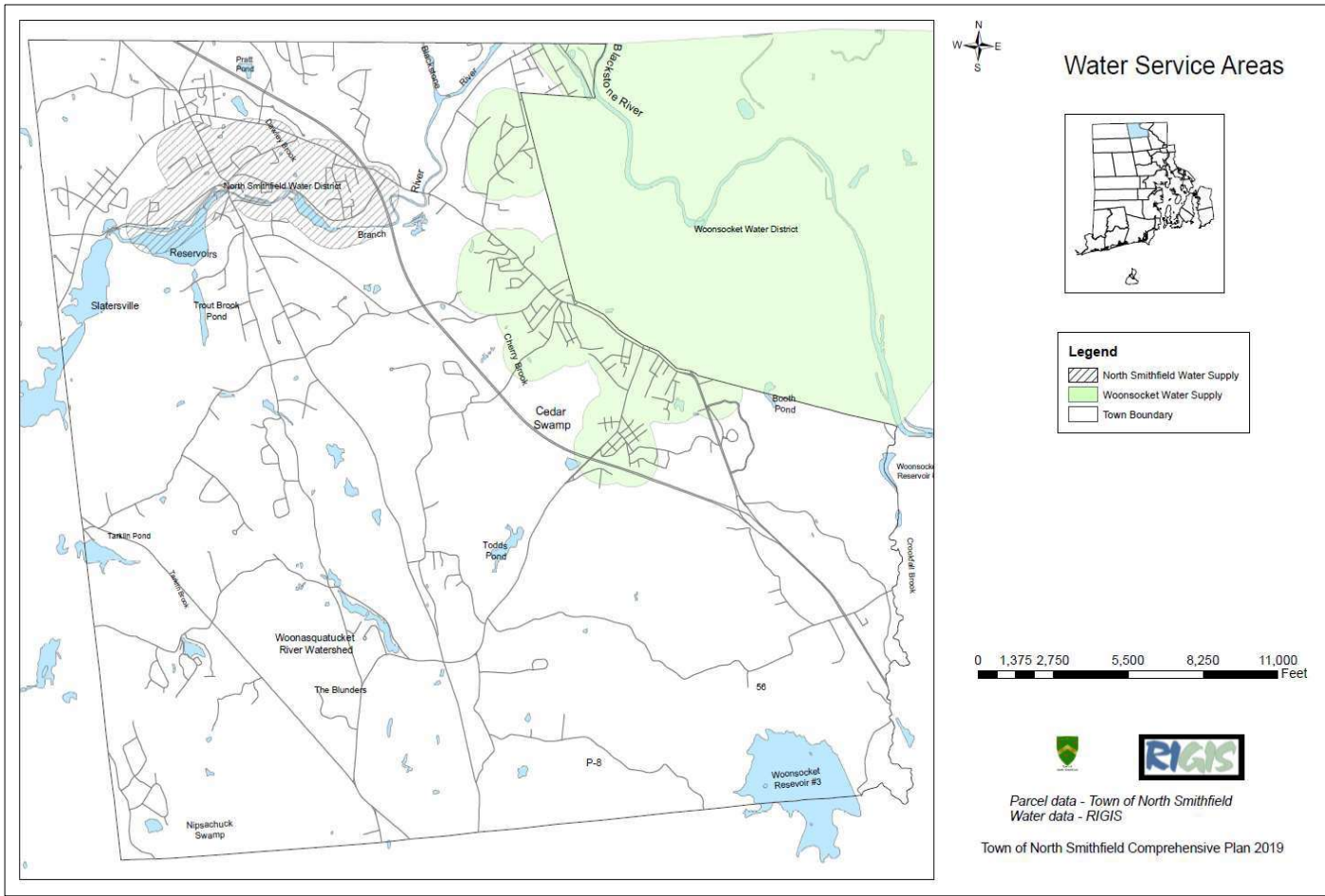
- NS Library
- Town Hall
- Animal Shelter
- Emergency Services NS
- Law enforcement NS/Town Hall Annex
- Schools NS
- DPW
- NS fire stations
- Ponds and Lakes
- Roads NS

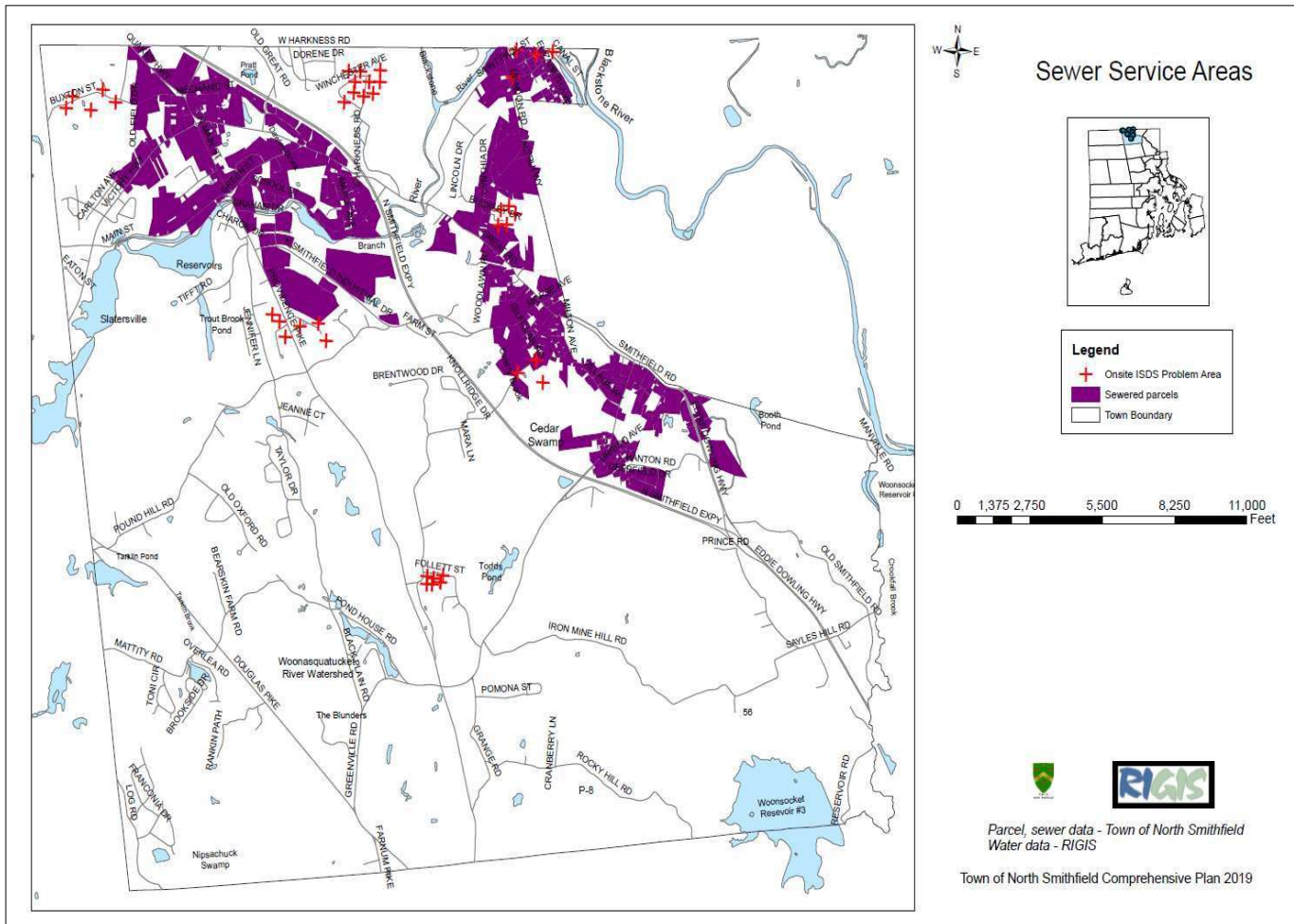
0 1,375 2,750 5,500 8,250 11,000 Feet

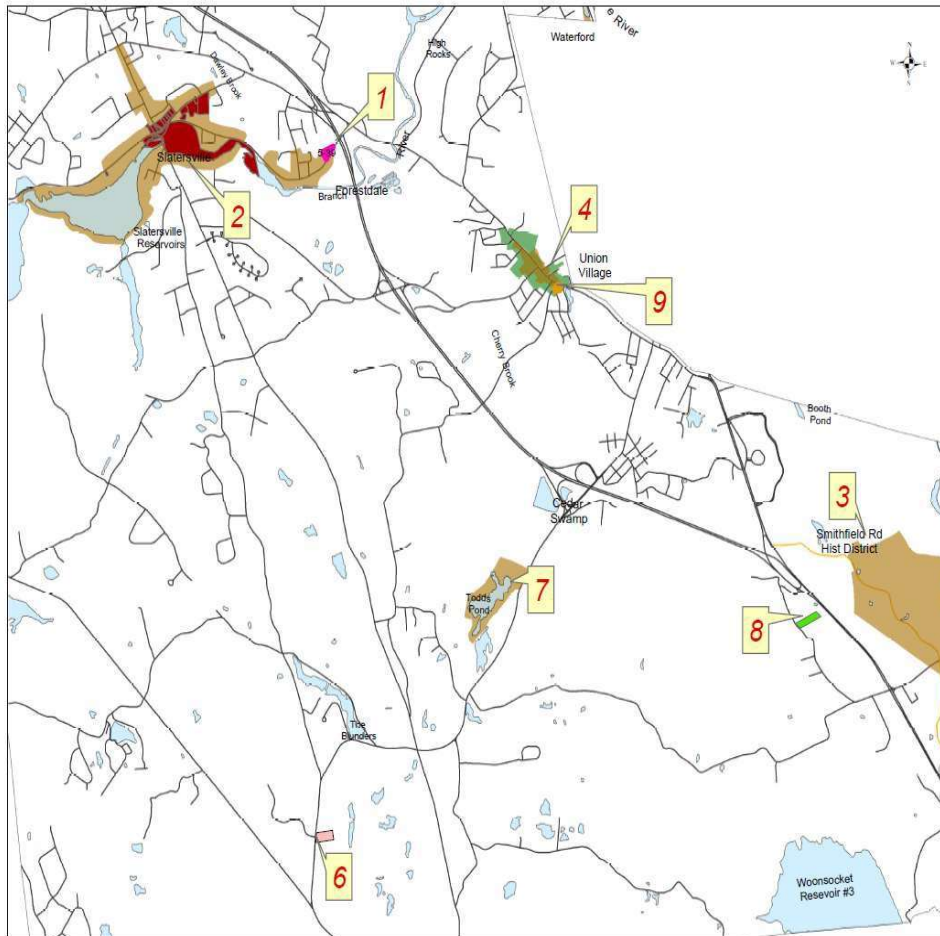


Parcel data - Town of North Smithfield

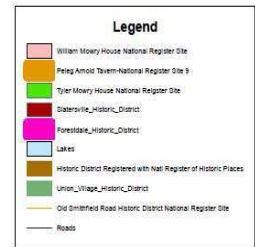
Town of North Smithfield Comprehensive Plan 2019







CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

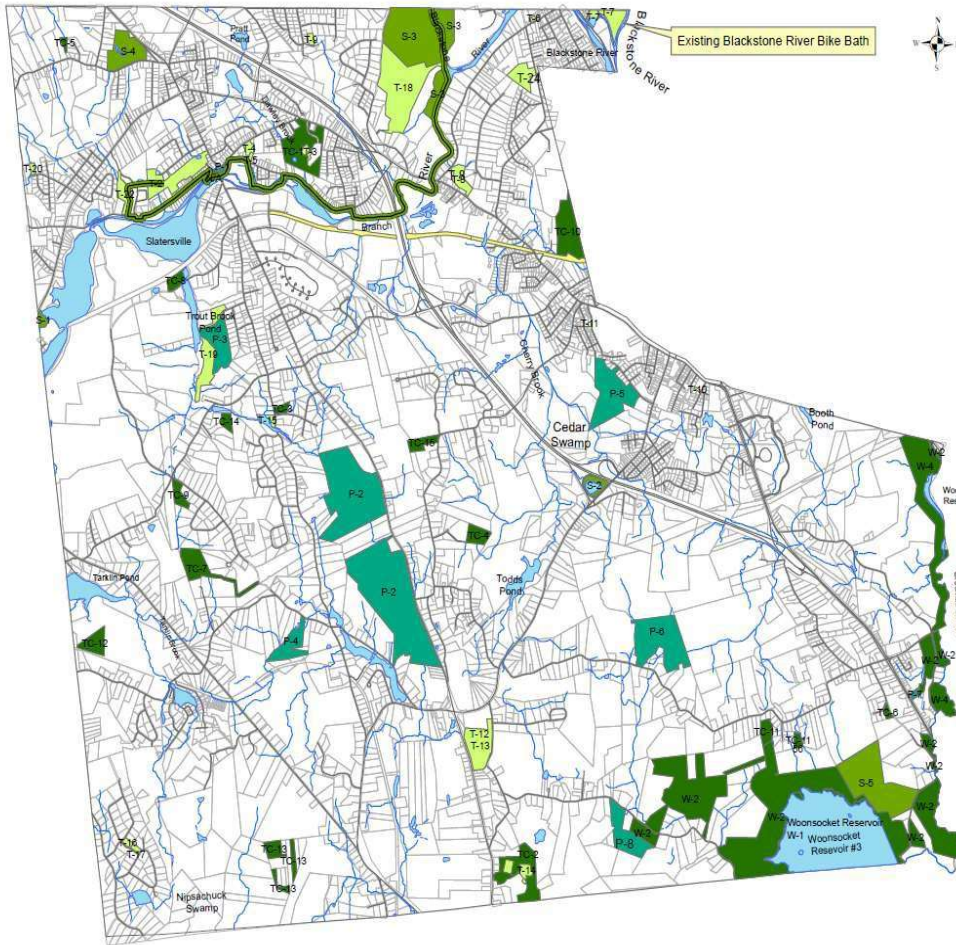


Location	National Register Sites
1	Forestdale Mill Village
2	Slatersville Historic District
3	Old Smithfield Road Historic District
4	Union Village Historic District
unknown	Three Dog Archaeological Site
6	William Mowry House
7	Smith-Andrews-Taft-Todd Farm/Todd Farm
8	Tyler Mowry House
9	Peleg Arnold Tavern



Parcel data, local historic data - Town of North Smithfield
Road data, National historic data - RIGIS
Map produced by Town of North Smithfield, RI 2019

Town of North Smithfield Comprehensive Plan 2019



Protected Open Space and Recreation Plan



Legend

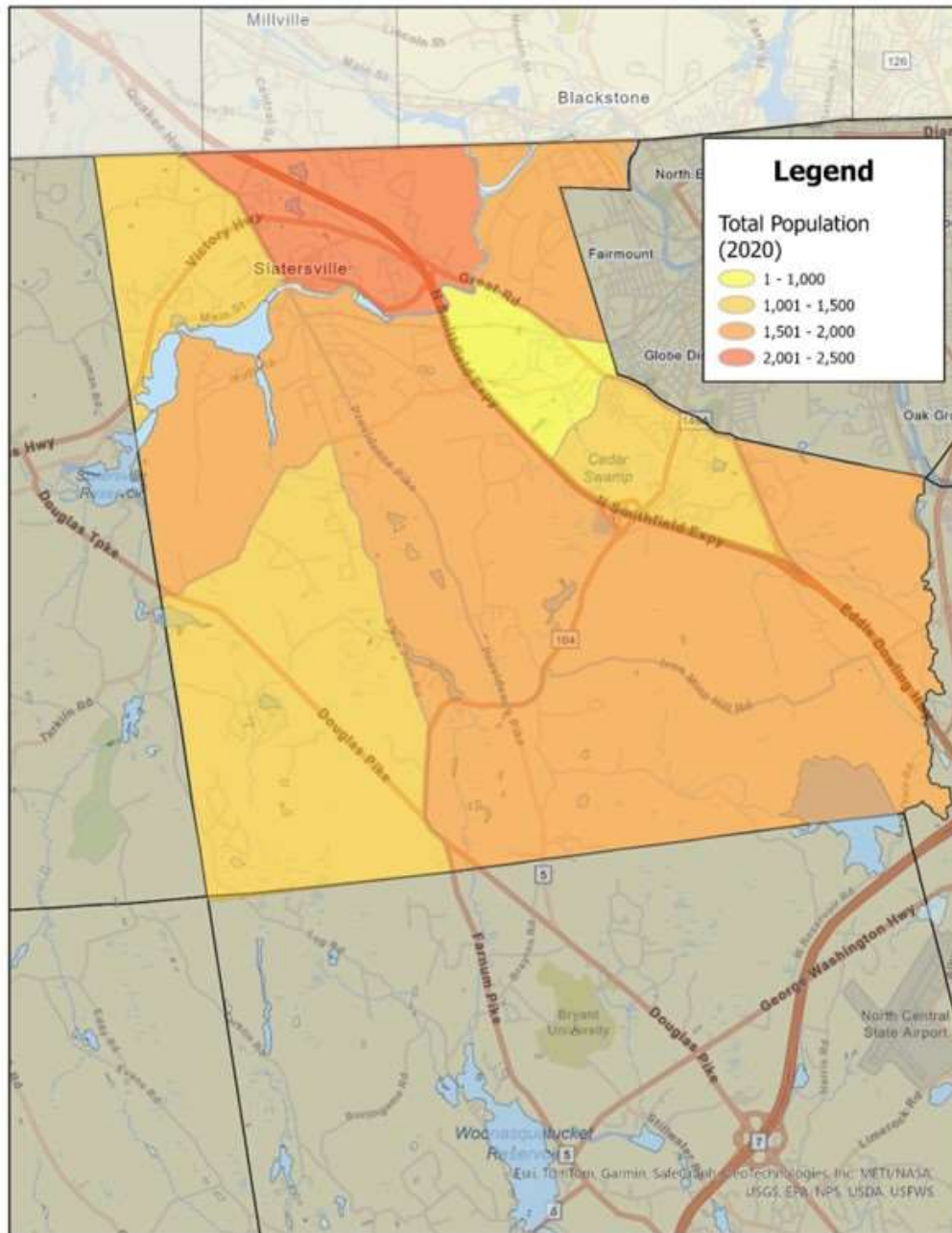
- Conserv & Passive Rec Areas
- Private Open Space & Recreational Areas
- Town Open Space & Recreational Areas
- State Open Space & Recreational Areas
- Conceptual Branch River Bike Path
- Conceptual Branch River Greenway
- Ponds and Lakes NS

0 1,350 2,700 5,400 8,100 10,800 Feet



Parcel data, open space data- Town of North Smithfield, RI
State data - RIGIS
4/26/19

Figure 7 2020 Population by Census Block



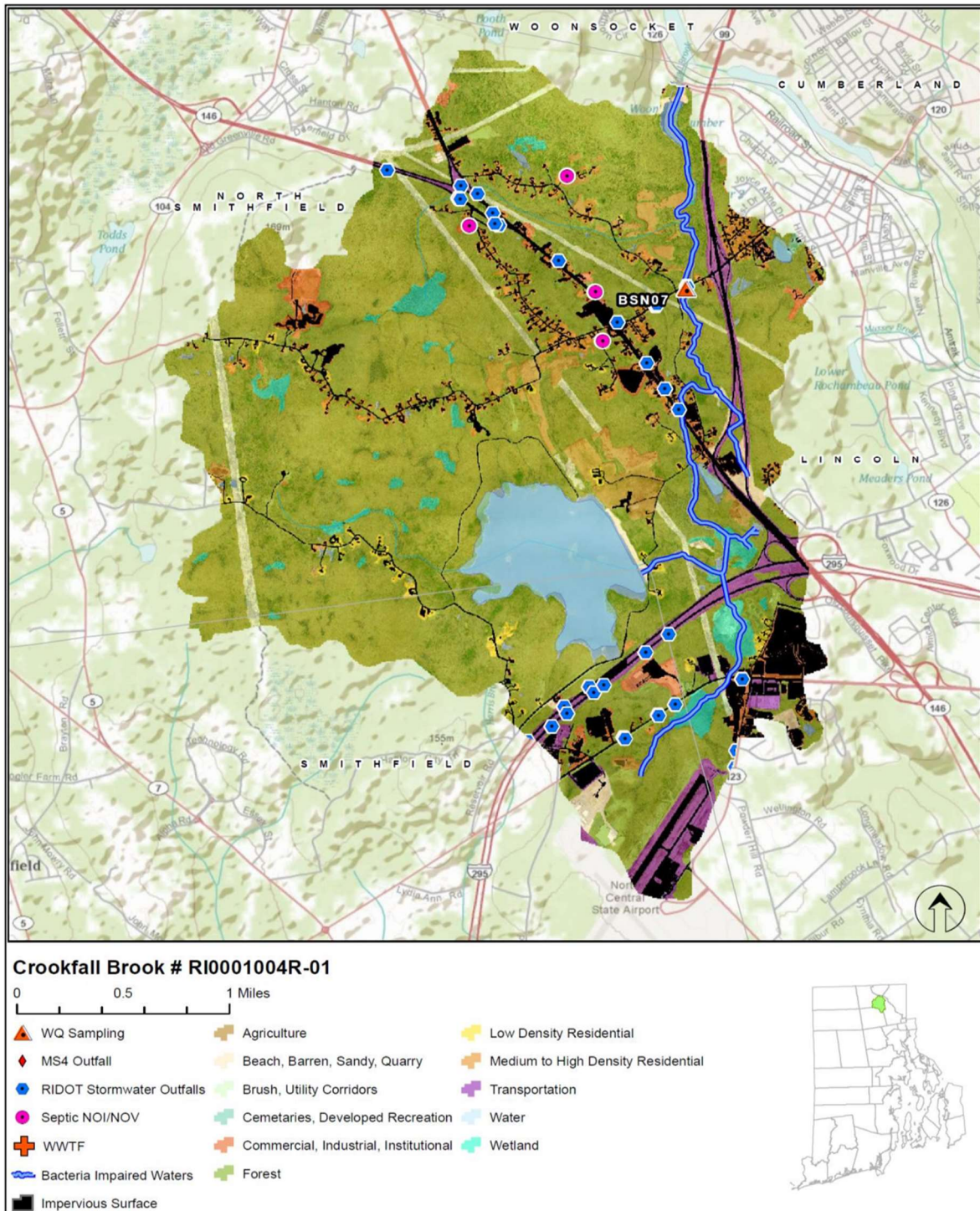


Figure 2: Map of the Crookfall Brook watershed with impaired segment, sampling location, and land cover indicated.



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