

Inventory of Town Owned Open Space

A Work-In-Progress

Working Draft as of Year End 2015

Simsbury Conservation Commission

Simsbury Open Space Committee

rev. 1/7/2016

Introduction

Simsbury owns many parcels of open space. Some are well known and well maintained parks. Others are less familiar. This document is a step in the process of identifying all of the parcels in hope of determining the best use and maintenance needs of each.

The primary data were derived from the town's GIS database as it existed in December 2014. In any such database, coding errors are possible, and this effort will include trying to remedy any of those which are found. Some parcels that were not initially identified as open space on the database came to light from Parks and Recreation (herein "P&R") data and the assessor's map. Readers will note that the locations listed (called "Street" in the map labels) are sometimes odd, and they should rely on the maps, not the labels, in those cases. In some places where data were lacking or clearly incorrect, the editor has inserted information, usually enclosed in square brackets.

This document works roughly west to east, extracting map segments into Figures and labeling the town open space parcels displayed therein. Except those added to the database, the open space parcels are colored light green. In the town open space map, some of those parcels are also labeled with a "3". Some of those 3's might be visible in the extracted maps, but they are not meaningful here. Some of the Figures might show parts of open space parcels not labeled on that page. These are dealt with on other Figures; some overlaps were unavoidable. Prior to the Figures pages is a map that gives a rough guide to which Figures might cover particular parts of town. Also prior to the Figures pages is a key to the maintenance costs of those parcels serviced by Parks & Recreation (the "P&R burden") and a key to the characteristics and uses of the parcels (their "roles"). There is also an interpretive key to the wetlands and watercourses, habitat and natural diversity graphics that are included in many Figures. As data have been added, some Figures have been supplemented with additional sheets, thus Figures 23a and 23b, where parcels were added, and Figure 8w, where the wetlands and watercourses graphic would not fit on the first sheet. Following the pages of Figures, there is a spreadsheet listing the properties. It is in map order, from A09 through K05. The Figure column indicates on which Figure the parcel is depicted and labeled. The Vol/Page column provides the location of the deed in the land records. The spreadsheet has been reordered to place all of the parcels that are merely cul de sac circles at the end. There also spreadsheets showing which parcels have been classified in each category. The classifications are, thus far, still preliminary and need further study.

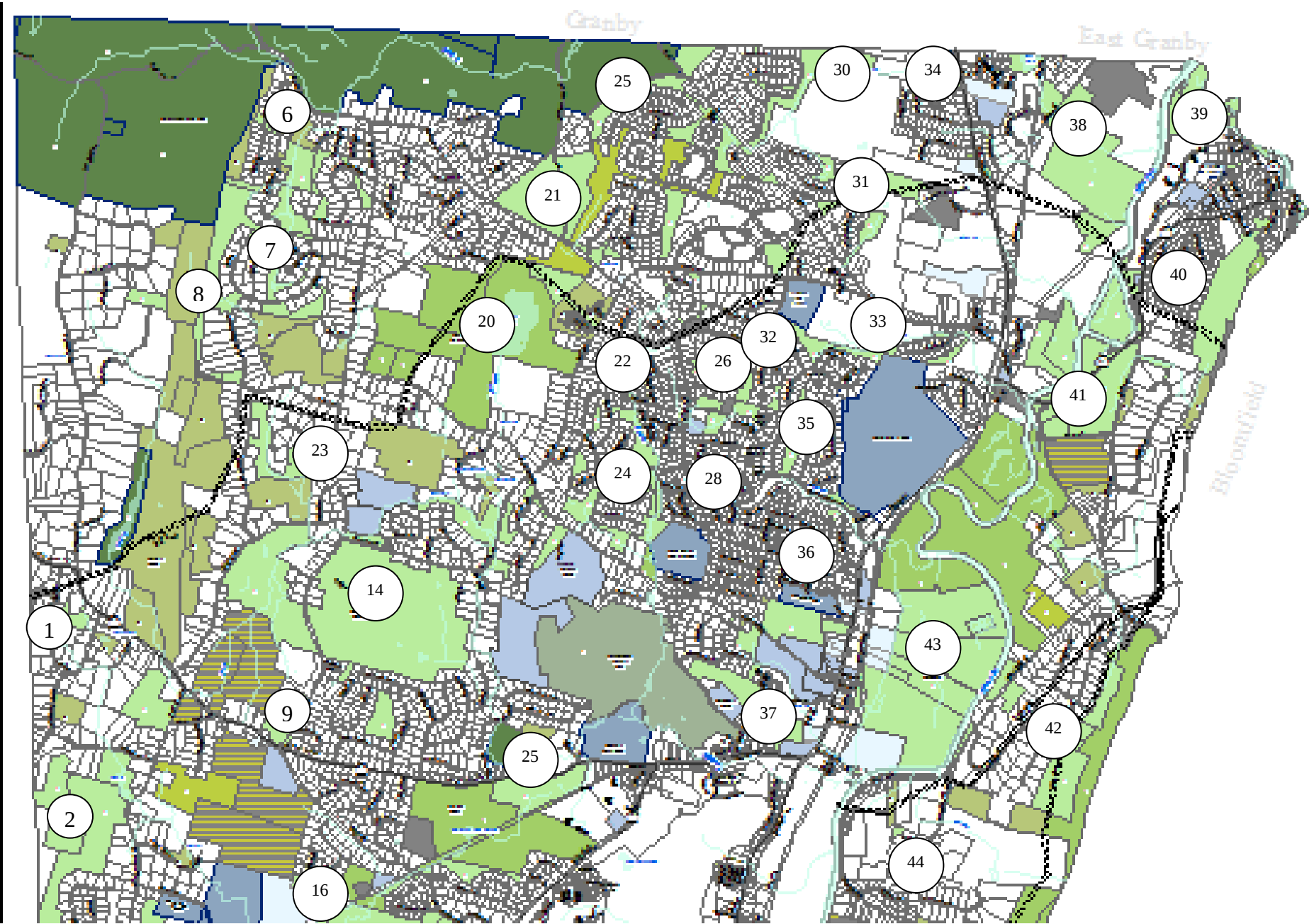
The extracted maps in the Figures are not all to the same scale. It is expected that the Comments sections and the codes for the role played by each parcel will be populated as work progresses, and there is much more to be done. We are grateful to Adam Hammershoy, whose 2015 summer internship was devoted to visiting and classifying the parcels. His observations are on file with the town. Some of his observations are shown in the Comments column, labeled "AH".

This is a working draft; it is not yet a proper basis for decision making.



7 January 2016 .

A Rough Indication of Areas Covered by the Figures that Follow:



A Rough Indication of Areas Covered by the Figures that Follow (continued):



Codes for P&R Burden

- A mowed and/or maintained on a regularly scheduled basis
- B regular public use - periodic maintenance
- C maintenance only as needed

Codes for Parcel Roles

- A Aquifer Protection Area
- S Special Features

- P1 Major Park
- P2 Secondary Park
- P3 Property with Park Potential or Ancillary to a Park

- C1 Major Trail Connectivity
- C2 Secondary Trail or Path Connectivity
- C3 Property with Trail Potential

- H1 Significant Wildlife Habitat
- H2 Lesser Wildlife Habitat

- W1 Significant Watercourse
- W2 Other Significant Wetlands
- W3 Other Wetlands

- F Agricultural Land

Note that each parcel is coded with only its highest code in each category. Thus a parcel might be coded C2,W1, but not C2,C3,W1,W2. There is some subjectivity in these gradations of these categories, but more uniformity might be possible as on site analysis is pursued.

Key to Wetlands and Watercourses Figures:



— Watercourse

Two categories of soils which are wetland soils under Connecticut law:

- Poorly Drained and Very Poorly Drained Soils
- Alluvial and Floodplain Soils

Note that these data are derived from a DEEP database which might not match Simsbury's wetlands map in all instances.

Some parcels have been coded as containing wetlands based on an inspection, even though they are not so indicated on the DEEP database.

Figure 1

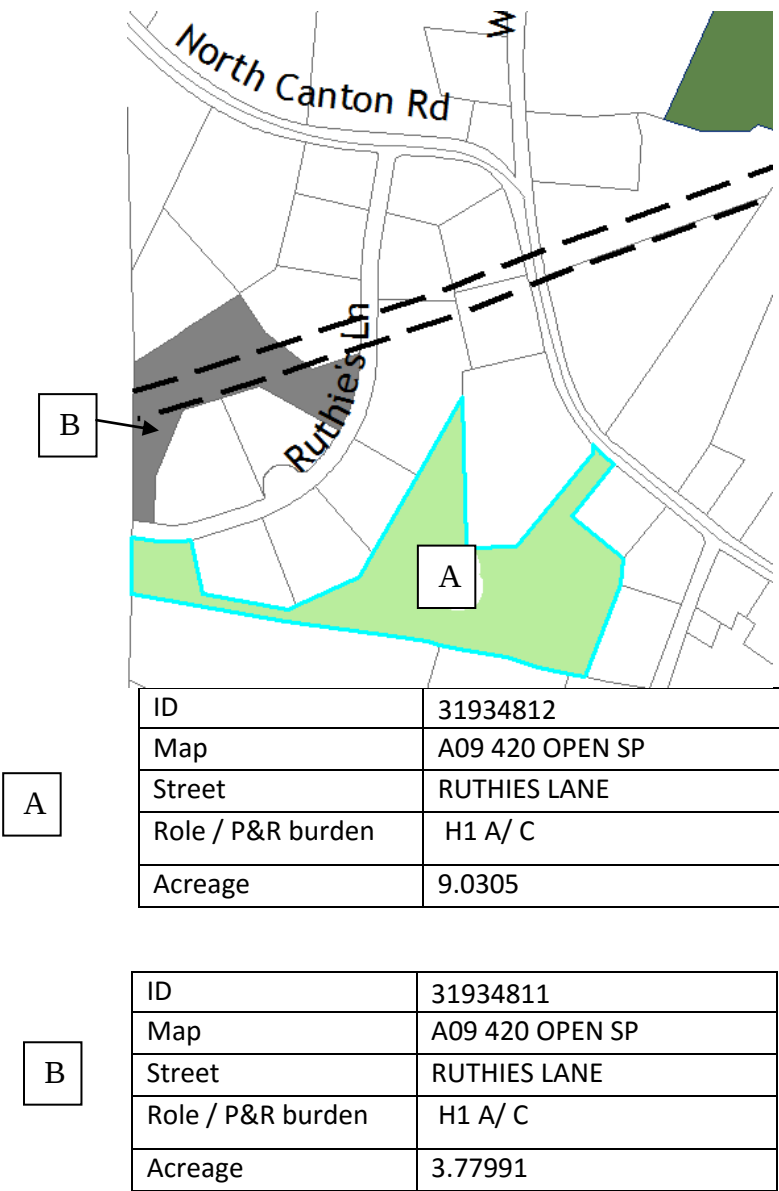
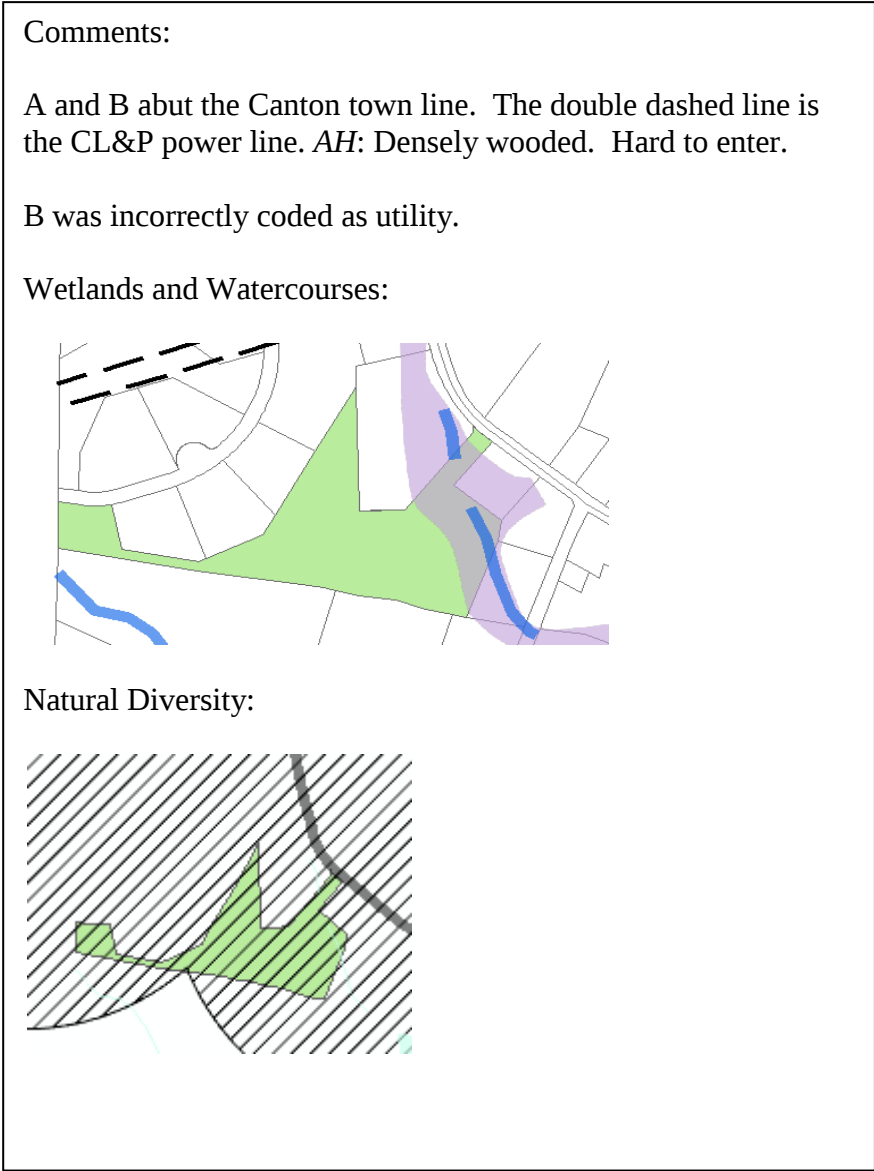


Figure 2

Comments:

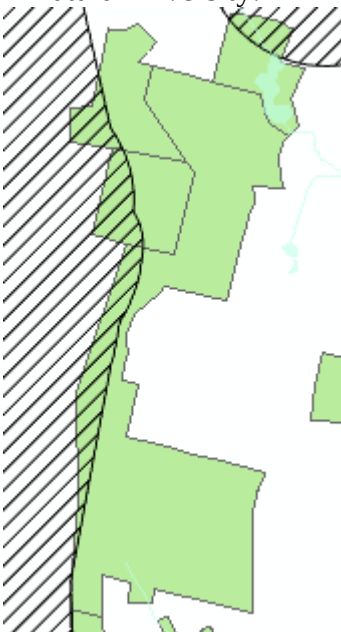
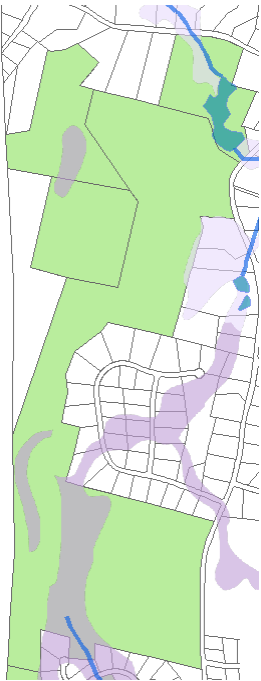
These four parcels are all contiguous parkland, actively managed by Parks & Rec. A, C and D are Onion Mountain. B is the trout fishing reservoir.

The left margin of the map is the Canton town line.

D: P&R notes wooded, hiking trails

B: P&R notes conservation, wetlands, water body:

Wetlands and Watercourses: Natural Diversity:



A

ID	04014911
Map	A11 404 013
Street	SHINGLE MILL ROAD
Role / P&R burden	H2 P1 A
Acreage	21.2961

B

ID	32063607
Map	B11 404 008
Street	61 WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD
Role / P&R burden	W1 H2 P1 A / B
Acreage	16.9979

C

ID	04014950
Map	A11 404 006
Street	WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD
Role / P&R burden	W3 H2 P1 A /
Acreage	20.4737

D

ID	04014935
Map	B11 404 004
Street	65 WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD
Role / P&R burden	W3 H2 C1 P1 A / B
Acreage	145.2500

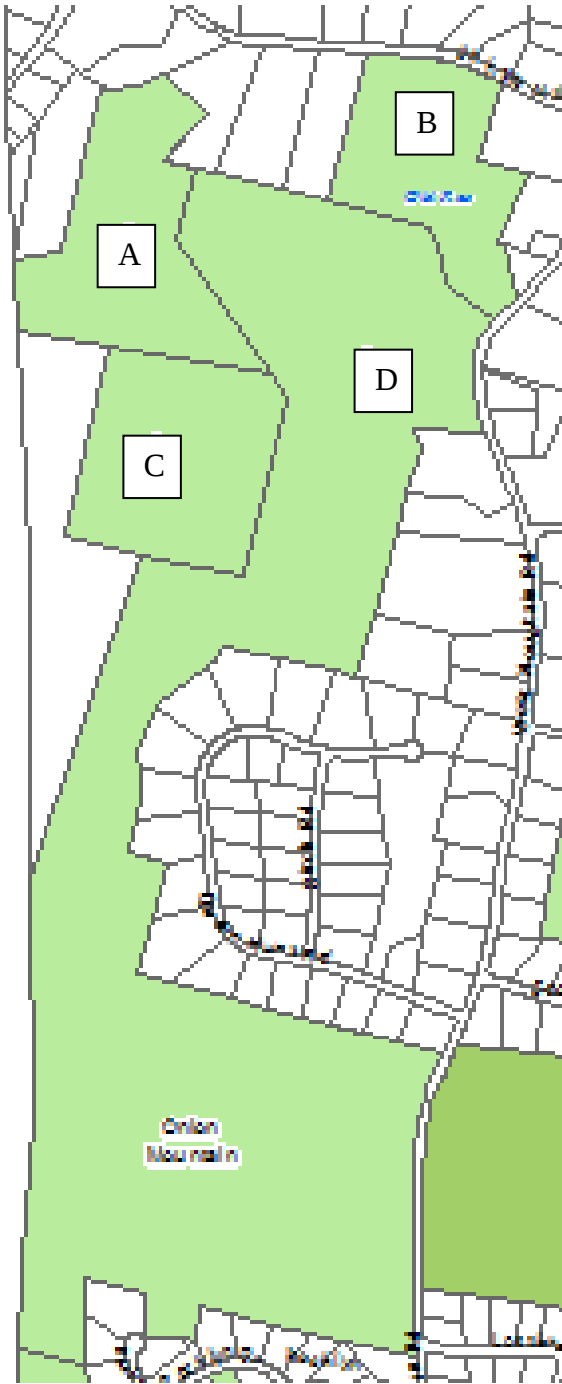
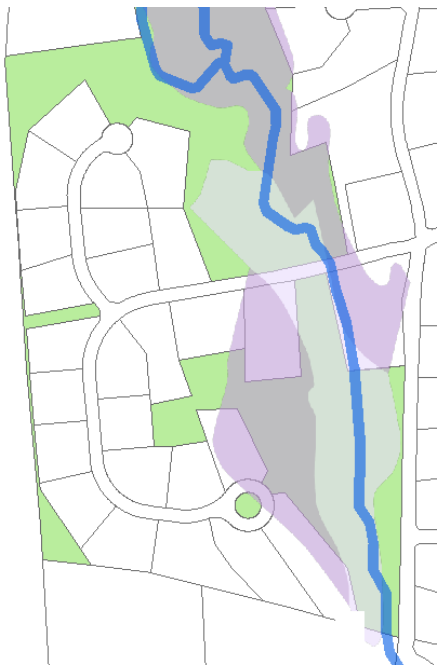


Figure 5

Comments

AH: A, a significant amount of wildlife; B, difficult to maneuver through parcel.

Wetlands and Watercourses:



A	ID	30654639
	Map	A18 503 000
	Street	OLD STONE CROSSING
	Role / P&R burden	W1 H1 /C
	Acreage	20.6465

B	ID	30654640
	Map	A18 503 000
	Street	OLD STONE CROSSING
	Role / P&R burden	W1 /C
	Acreage	12.2598

1	Old Stone Crossing circle is 30654645, Map A18 503 OSB
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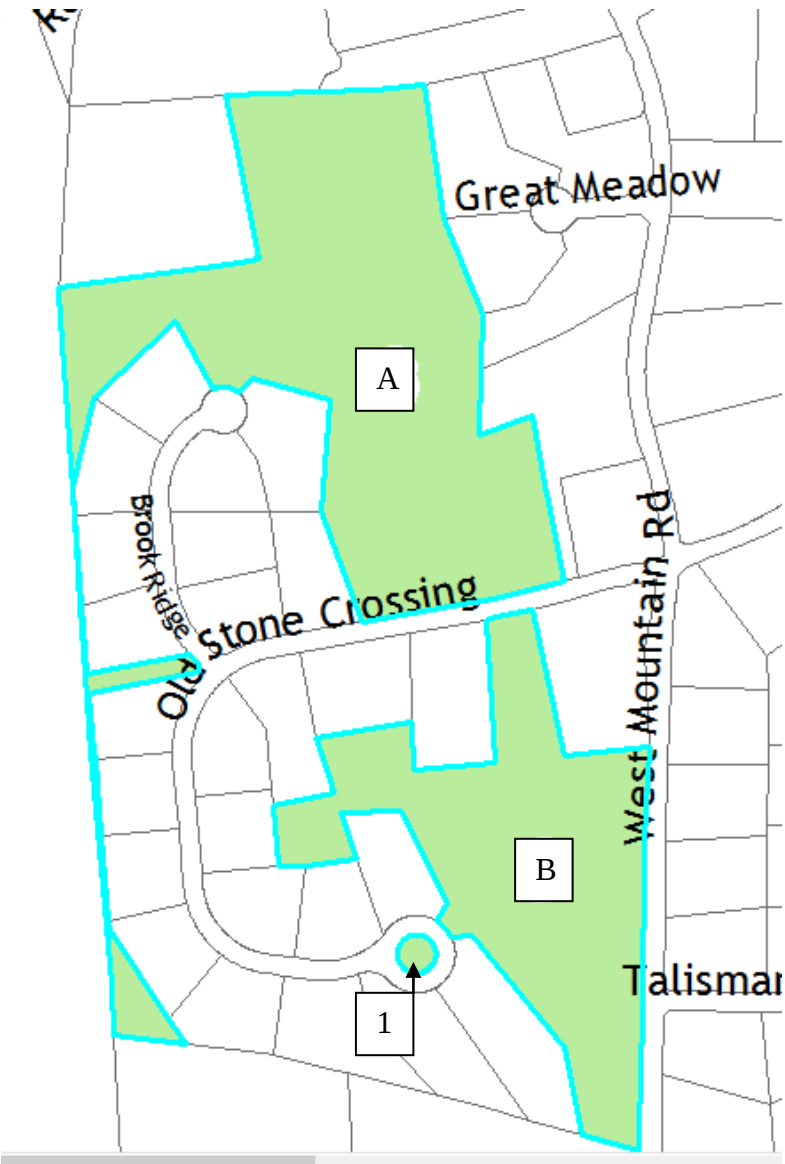


Figure 7n

Natural Diversity



Figure 7h

Critical Habitat



Figure 18

Comments

Wetlands and Watercourses:



D: deed restriction - open space, no development.
Subject to a trails easement for adjacent condo.

