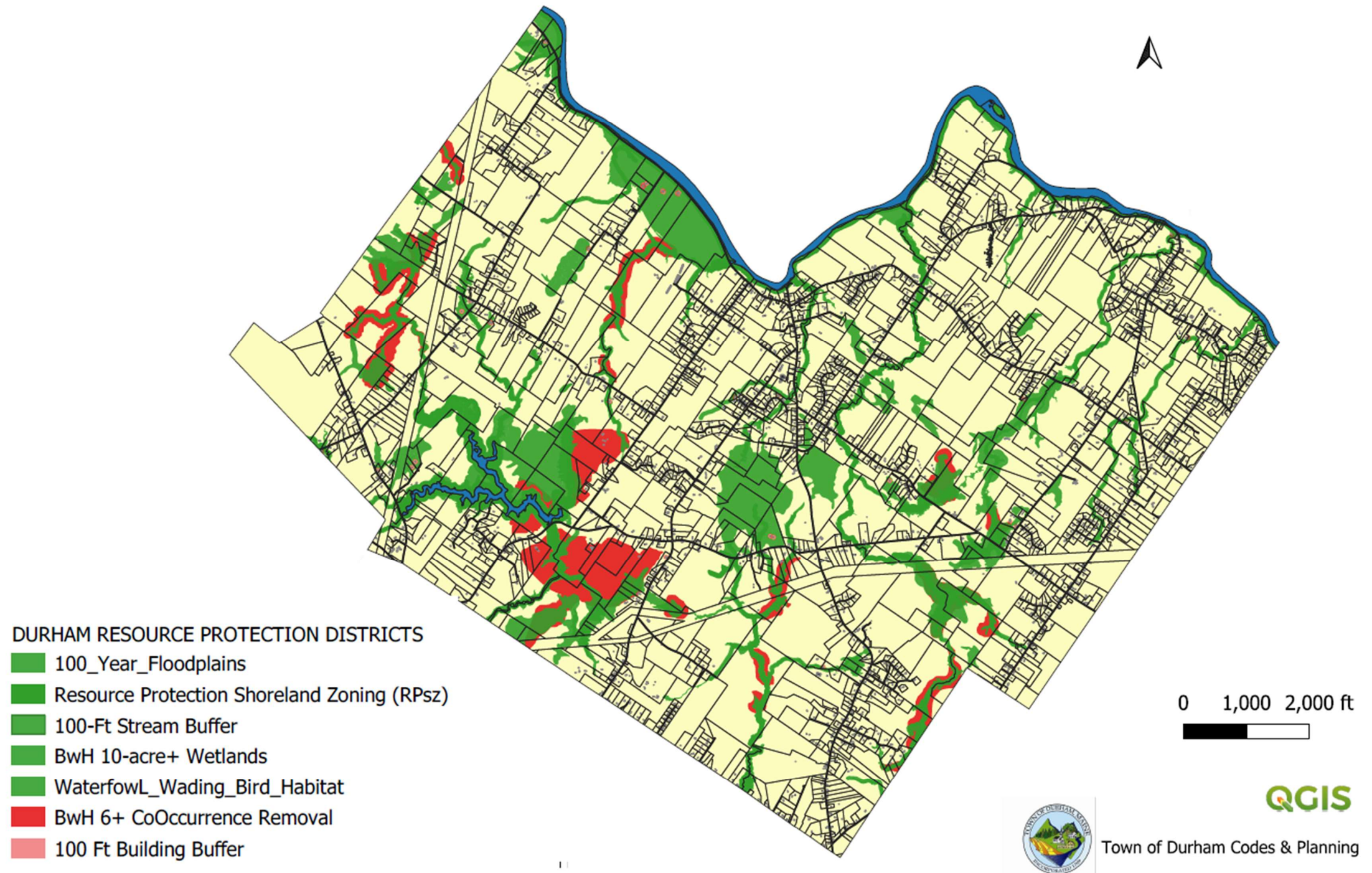


SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RESOURCE PROTECTION DISTRICT REVISIONS

- 2023 Zoning Map Revisions:** Updated to reflect the Comprehensive Plan's recommendations, removing outdated floodplain data and incorporating new criteria of mandatory shoreland zoning, stream buffers, large wetlands, waterfowl/wading bird habitats, and areas with high co-occurrence of natural resources.
- Public Concerns:** Significant public concern over the accuracy of state data and the impact on existing structures led to a subsequent review of the Resource Protection District changes by a working group of Planning Board and Conservation Commission members.
- New Data:** In 2024, Durham received updated data from Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's Beginning with Habitat Program indicating that only small areas along some streams meet the higher co-occurrence threshold, leading to proposed boundary revisions.
- Building Restrictions:** Existing home sites in the Resource Protection District face expansion restrictions. The removal of inaccurate Beginning with Habitat Co-Occurrence areas will alleviate restrictions for some buildings, but others will remain restricted.
- Options for Removing Home Sites:** Three options were considered for removing existing home sites from Resource Protection, with the Working Group recommending a 100-foot development buffer around existing structures to provide relief while maintaining environmental protections.
- Development Buffers:** Specific recommendations for 100-foot development buffers around existing buildings in floodplains and large wetlands, but with refined building buffers for the more sensitive stream buffers, and waterfowl/wading bird habitats to allow expansions without further environmental degradation.
- Zoning Map & Ordinance Revisions:** The Working Group recommends revising the Zoning Map to remove areas designated solely based on the co-occurrence of natural resources and adjusting boundaries to remove restrictions on existing buildings, with clear guidelines added to the Land Use Ordinance.

DRAFT RESOURCE PROTECTION DISTRICT 2025 (With Areas Removed per New State Data and with Development Buffers around Existing Buildings)



****PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING TO BE HELD BY THE PLANNING BOARD & CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AT THE FIRE STATION ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 6:30 PM.****