Town of Chester

New Hampshire

KEY

Political Boundaries
- Chester Town Line
- Neighboring Town Lines
- Fully or Semi-Protected Lands*
- Lot Lines

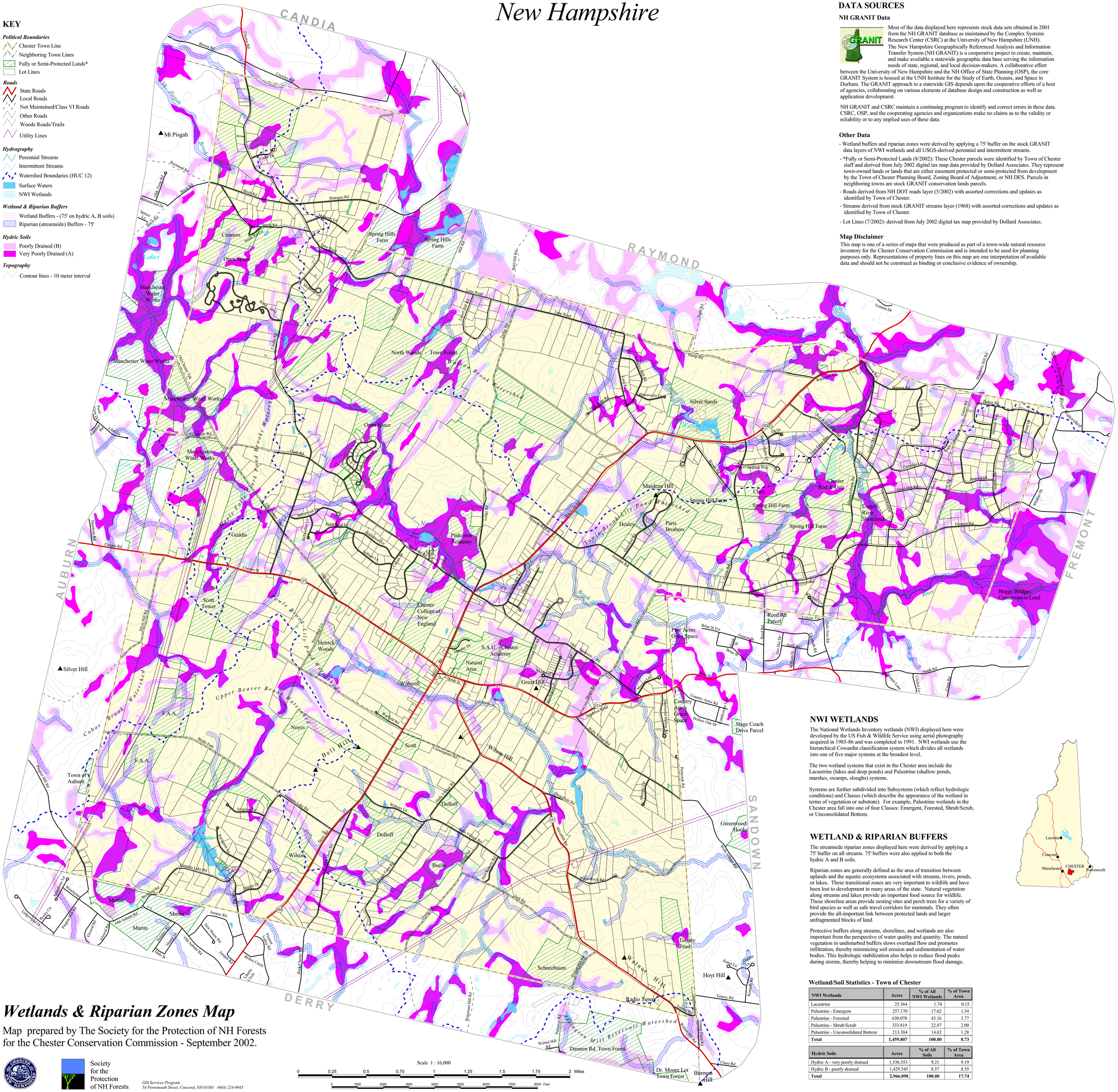
Roads
- State Roads
- Local Roads
- Not Maintained/Class VI Roads
- Other Roads
- Woods Roads/Trails
- Utility Lines

Hydrography
- Perennial Streams
- Intermittent Streams
- Watershed Boundaries (HUC 12)
- Surface Waters
- NWI Wetlands

Wetland & Riparian Buffers
- Wetland Buffers - (75' on hydric A, B soils)
- Riparian (streamside) Buffers - 75'

Hydric Soils
- Poorly Drained (B)
- Very Poorly Drained (A)

Topography
- Contour lines - 10 meter interval



DATA SOURCES

NH GRANIT Data

Most of the data displayed here represents stock data sets obtained in 2001 from the NH GRANIT database as maintained by the Complex Systems Research Center (CSRC) at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). The New Hampshire Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System (NH GRANIT) is a cooperative project to create, maintain, and make available a statewide geographic data base serving the information needs of state, regional, and local decision-makers. A collaborative effort between the University of New Hampshire and the NH Office of State Planning (OSP), the core GRANIT System is housed at the UNH Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space in Durham. The GRANIT approach to a statewide GIS depends upon the cooperative efforts of a host of agencies, collaborating on various elements of database design and construction as well as application development.

NH GRANIT and CSRC maintain a continuing program to identify and correct errors in these data. CSRC, OSP, and the cooperating agencies and organizations make no claims as to the validity or reliability or to any implied uses of these data.

Other Data

- Wetland buffers and riparian zones were derived by applying a 75' buffer on the stock GRANIT data layers of NWI wetlands and all USGS-derived perennial and intermittent streams.
- *Fully or Semi-Protected Lands (8/2002): These Chester parcels were identified by Town of Chester staff and derived from July 2002 digital tax map data provided by Dollard Associates. They represent town-owned lands or lands that are either easement protected or semi-protected from development by the Town of Chester Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, or NH DES. Parcels in neighboring towns are stock GRANIT conservation lands parcels.
- Roads derived from NH DOT roads layer (5/2002) with assorted corrections and updates as identified by Town of Chester.
- Streams derived from stock GRANIT streams layer (1968) with assorted corrections and updates as identified by Town of Chester.
- Lot Lines (7/2002): derived from July 2002 digital tax map provided by Dollard Associates.

Map Disclaimer

This map is one of a series of maps that were produced as part of a town-wide natural resource inventory for the Chester Conservation Commission and is intended to be used for planning purposes only. Representations of property lines on this map are one interpretation of available data and should not be construed as binding or conclusive evidence of ownership.

NWI WETLANDS

The National Wetlands Inventory wetlands (NWI) displayed here were developed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service using aerial photography acquired in 1985-86 and was completed in 1991. NWI wetlands use the hierarchical Cowardin classification system which divides all wetlands into one of five major systems at the broadest level.

The two wetland systems that exist in the Chester area include the Lacustrine (lakes and deep ponds) and Palustrine (shallow ponds, marshes, swamps, sloughs) systems.

Systems are further subdivided into Subsystems (which reflect hydrologic conditions) and Classes (which describe the appearance of the wetland in terms of vegetation or substrate). For example, Palustrine wetlands in the Chester area fall into one of four Classes: Emergent, Forested, Shrub/Scrub, or Unconsolidated Bottom.

WETLAND & RIPARIAN BUFFERS

The streamside riparian zones displayed here were derived by applying a 75' buffer on all streams. 75' buffers were also applied to both the hydric A and B soils.

Riparian zones are generally defined as the area of transition between uplands and the aquatic ecosystems associated with streams, rivers, ponds, or lakes. These transitional zones are very important to wildlife and have been lost to development in many areas of the state. Natural vegetation along streams and lakes provide an important food source for wildlife. These shoreline areas provide nesting sites and perch trees for a variety of bird species as well as safe travel corridors for mammals. They often provide the all-important link between protected lands and larger unfragmented blocks of land.

Protective buffers along streams, shorelines, and wetlands are also important from the perspective of water quality and quantity. The natural vegetation in undisturbed buffers slows overland flow and promotes infiltration, thereby minimizing soil erosion and sedimentation of water bodies. This hydrologic stabilization also helps to reduce flood peaks during storms, thereby helping to minimize downstream flood damage.

Wetland/Soil Statistics - Town of Chester

NWI Wetlands	Acres	% of All NWI Wetlands	% of Town Area
Lacustrine	25.364	1.74	0.15
Palustrine - Emergent	257.170	17.62	1.54
Palustrine - Forested	630.070	43.16	3.77
Palustrine - Shrub/Scrub	333.819	22.87	2.00
Palustrine - Unconsolidated Bottom	213.384	14.62	1.28
Total	**1,459.807**	**100.00**	**8.73**

Hydric Soils	Acres	% of All Soils	% of Town Area
Hydric A - very poorly drained	1,536.553	9.21	9.19
Hydric B - poorly drained	1,429.545	8.57	8.55
Total	**2,966.098**	**100.00**	**17.74**

Scale 1 : 16,000

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75 2 Miles

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 Feet

Wetlands & Riparian Zones Map

Map prepared by The Society for the Protection of NH Forests for the Chester Conservation Commission - September 2002.

Society for the Protection of NH Forests

GIS Services Program
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 (603) 224-9945