

Chesapeake Bay High-Resolution Land Cover Project

Rachel Soobitsky

Geospatial Project Manager

rsoobitsky@chesapeakeconservancy.org



Our Mission



Connect

Innovation

Conserve

Restore

Precision Conservation



*"Getting the right practices, in the right places,
at the right scale, and
making sure they are working"*

CBP Proposal

Objective 1: Land Cover Updates

- Partnering with University of Vermont

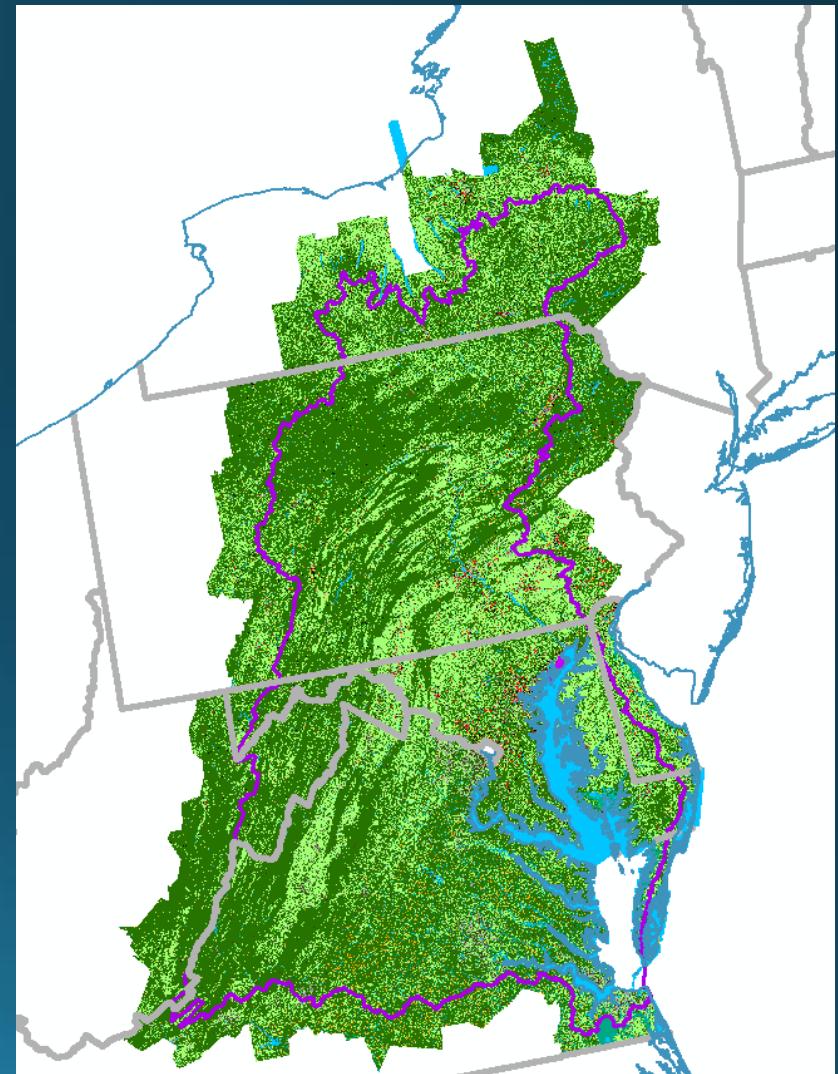
Objective 2: Hydrology & Ditches

- Partnering with UMBC

Objective 3: BMP Mapping & Tracking

- Partnering with Chesapeake Commons and Drexel University

Objective 4: General Geospatial Support

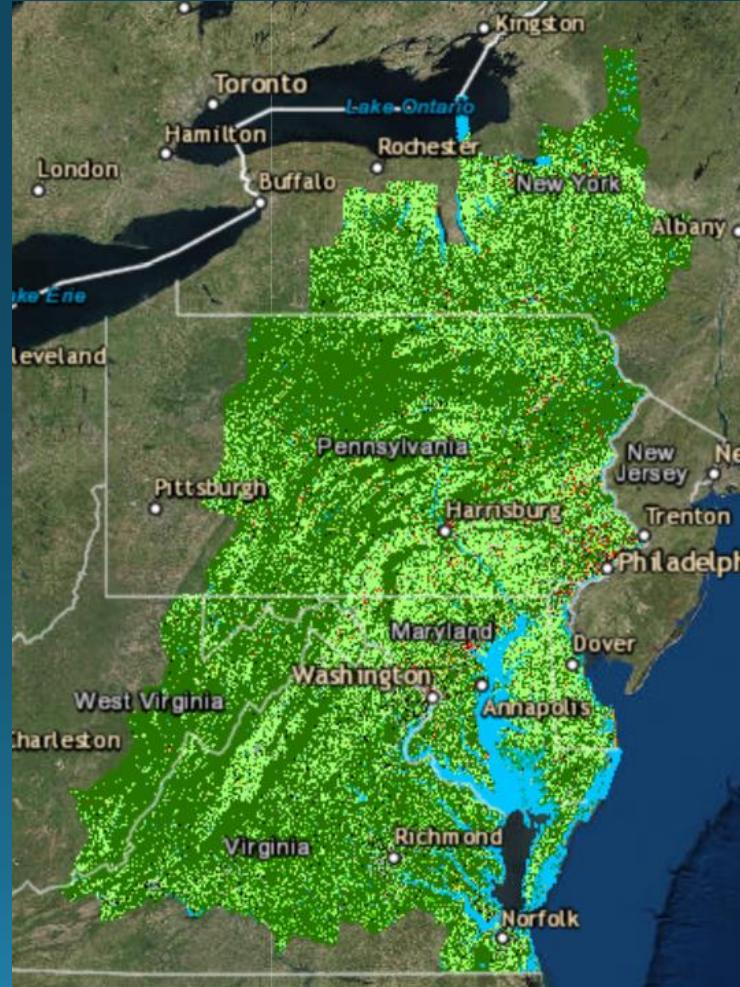


Objective 1: Land Cover Updates

- Stakeholder Outreach
 - Planimetric Data
 - Feedback/Input

bit.ly/LCFeedbackForm

bit.ly/CICLandCoverWebviewer



Data Motivation

TMDL- 2025 Pollution Reduction Goals

- Maryland
- Washington D.C.
- New York
- West Virginia
- Delaware
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia



Partnership

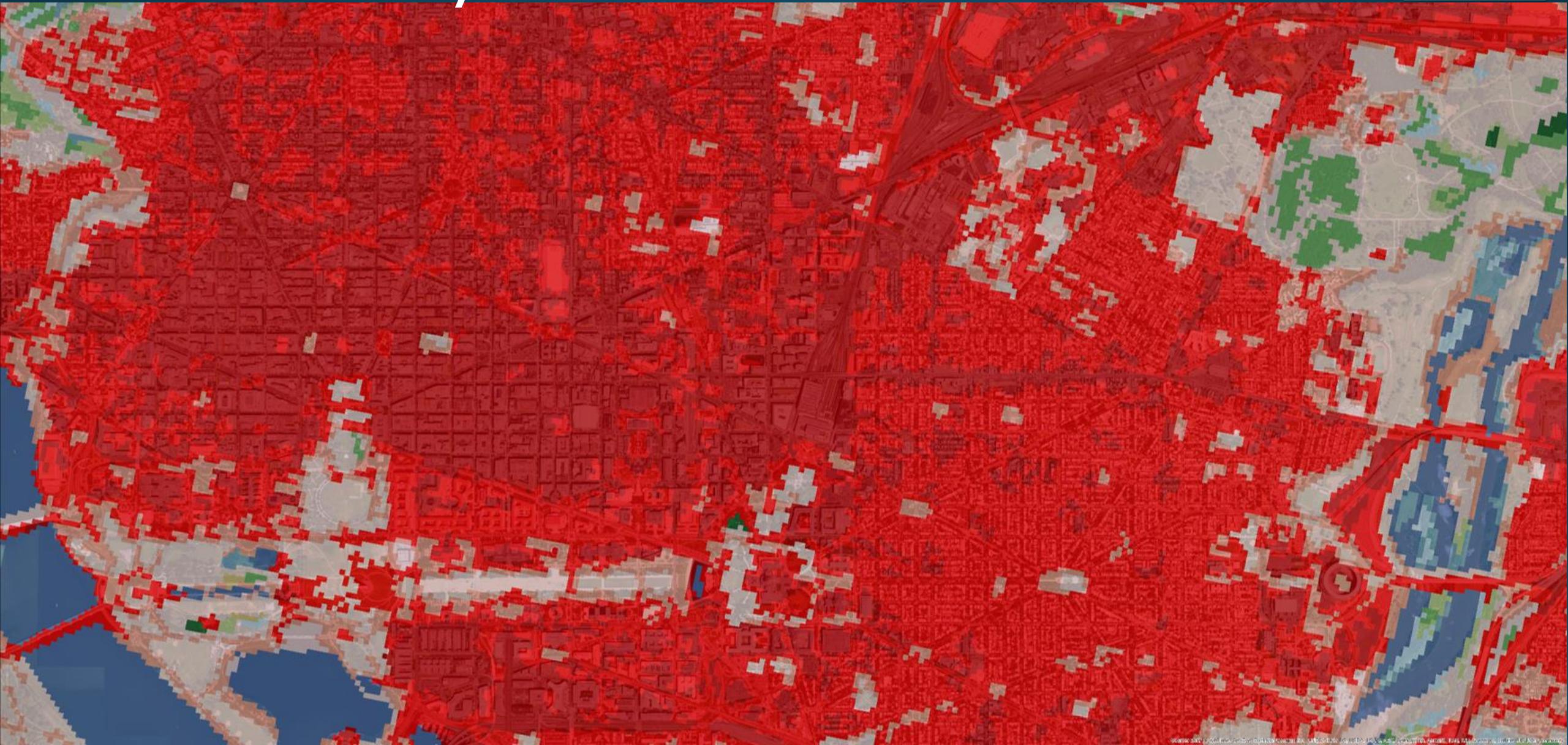


Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

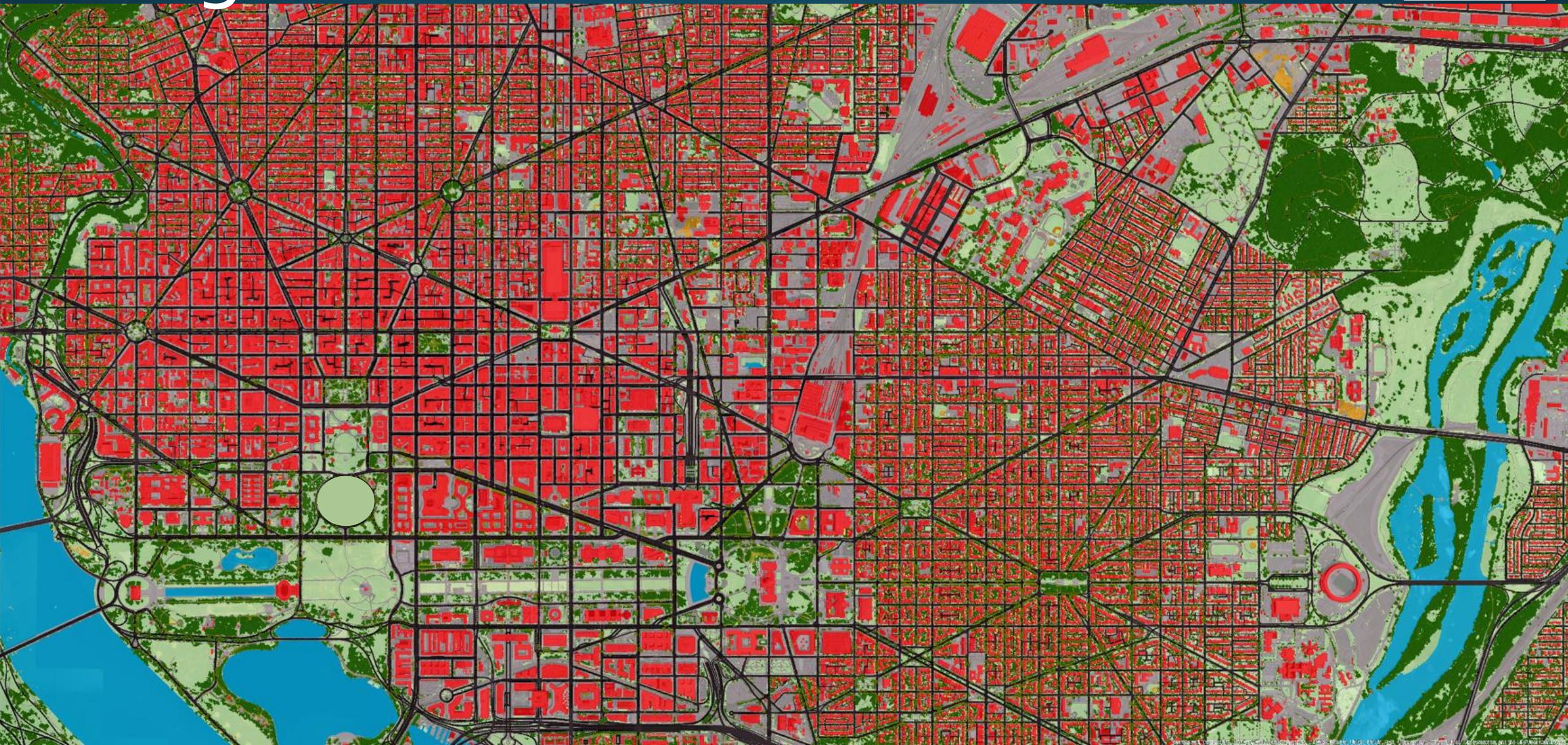


University of Vermont
Spatial Analysis Lab

Previously Available Data



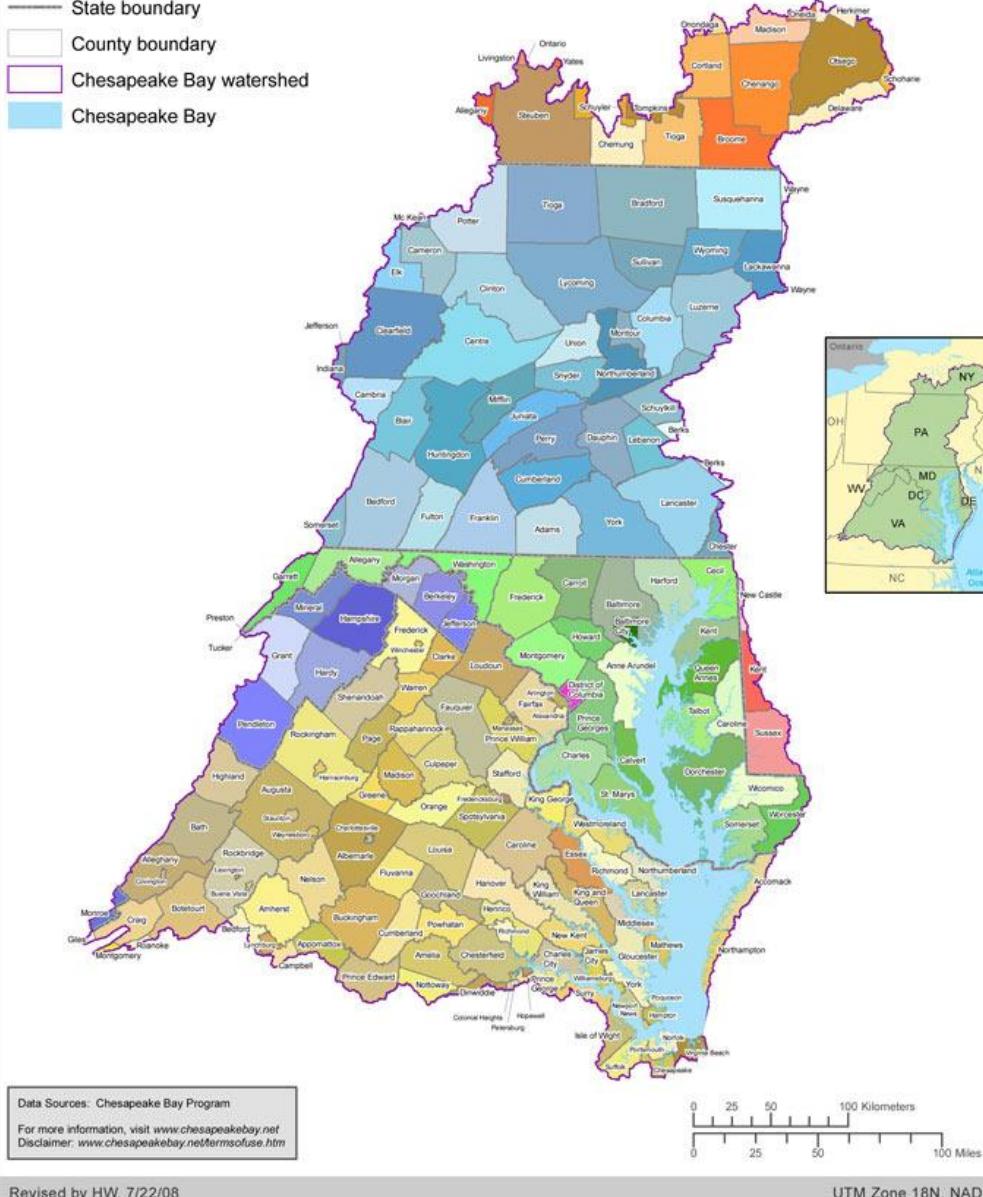
High-resolution Data



Chesapeake Bay Counties

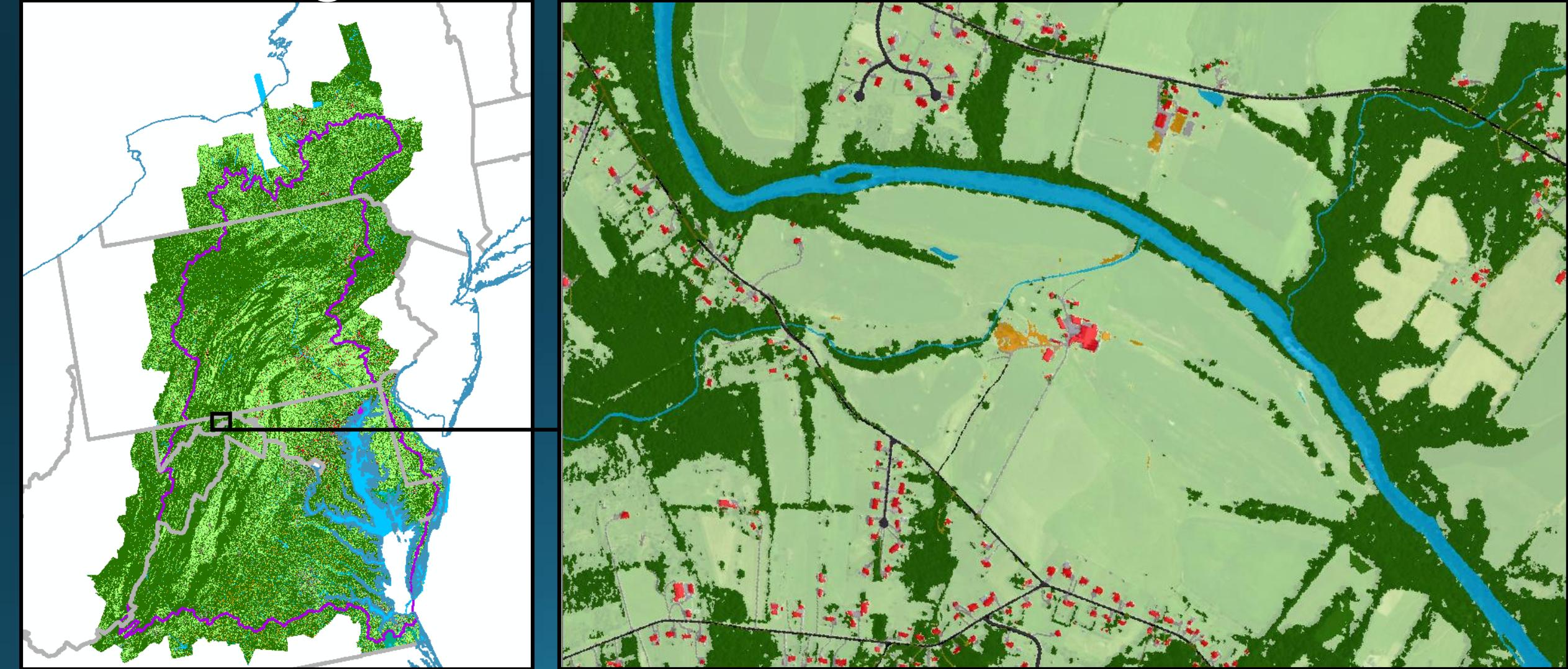


- State boundary
- County boundary
- Chesapeake Bay watershed
- Chesapeake Bay



High-resolution Data

Planning at the Parcel Scale

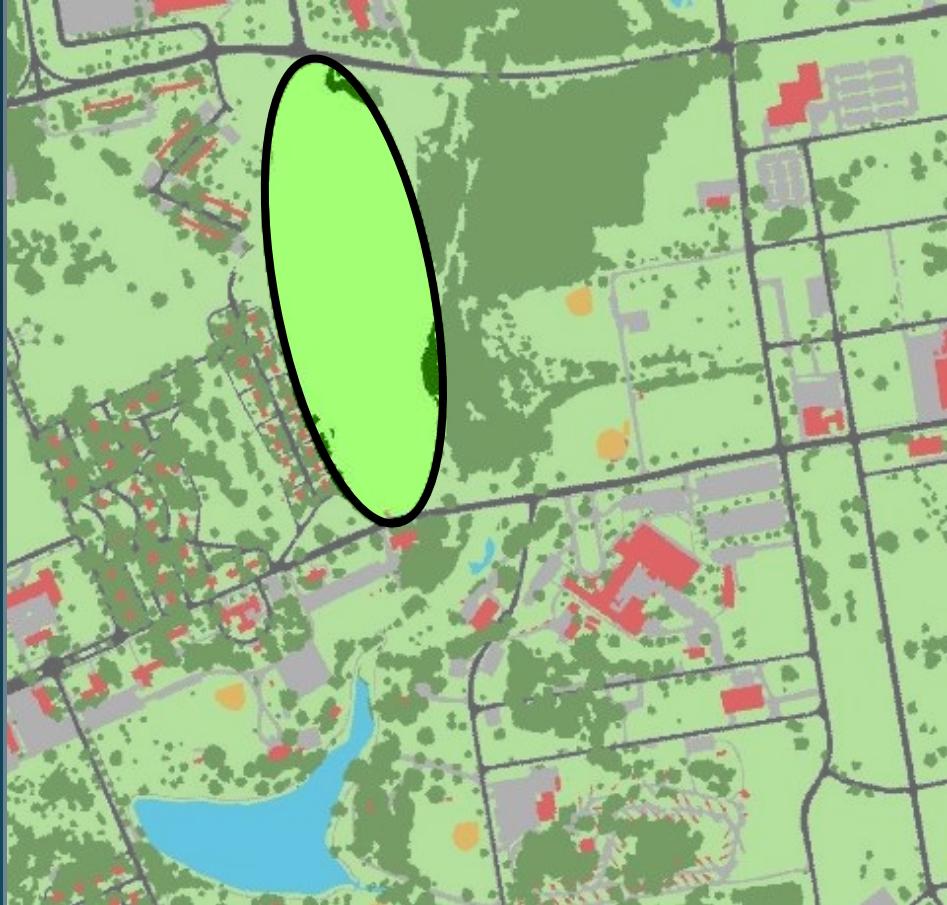


Change Detection

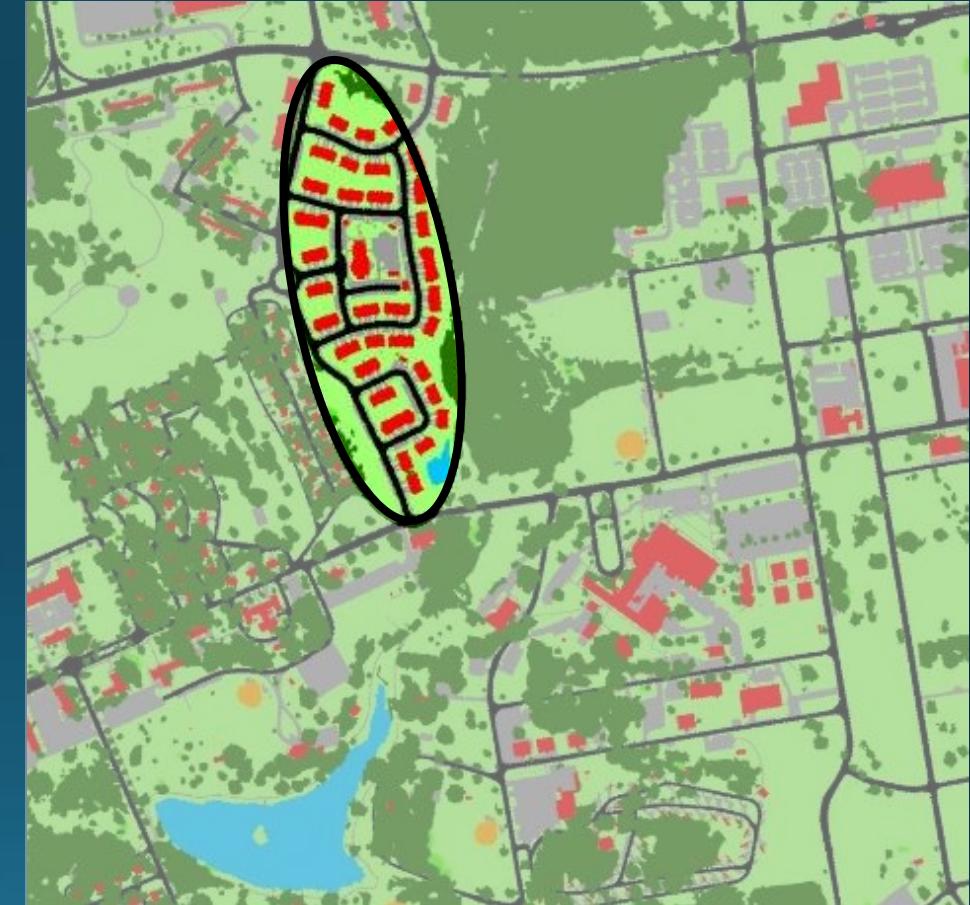
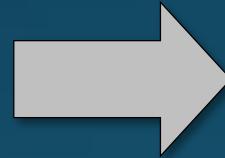


University of Vermont
Spatial Analysis Lab

CONSERVATION
INNOVATION
CENTER
CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY



2007



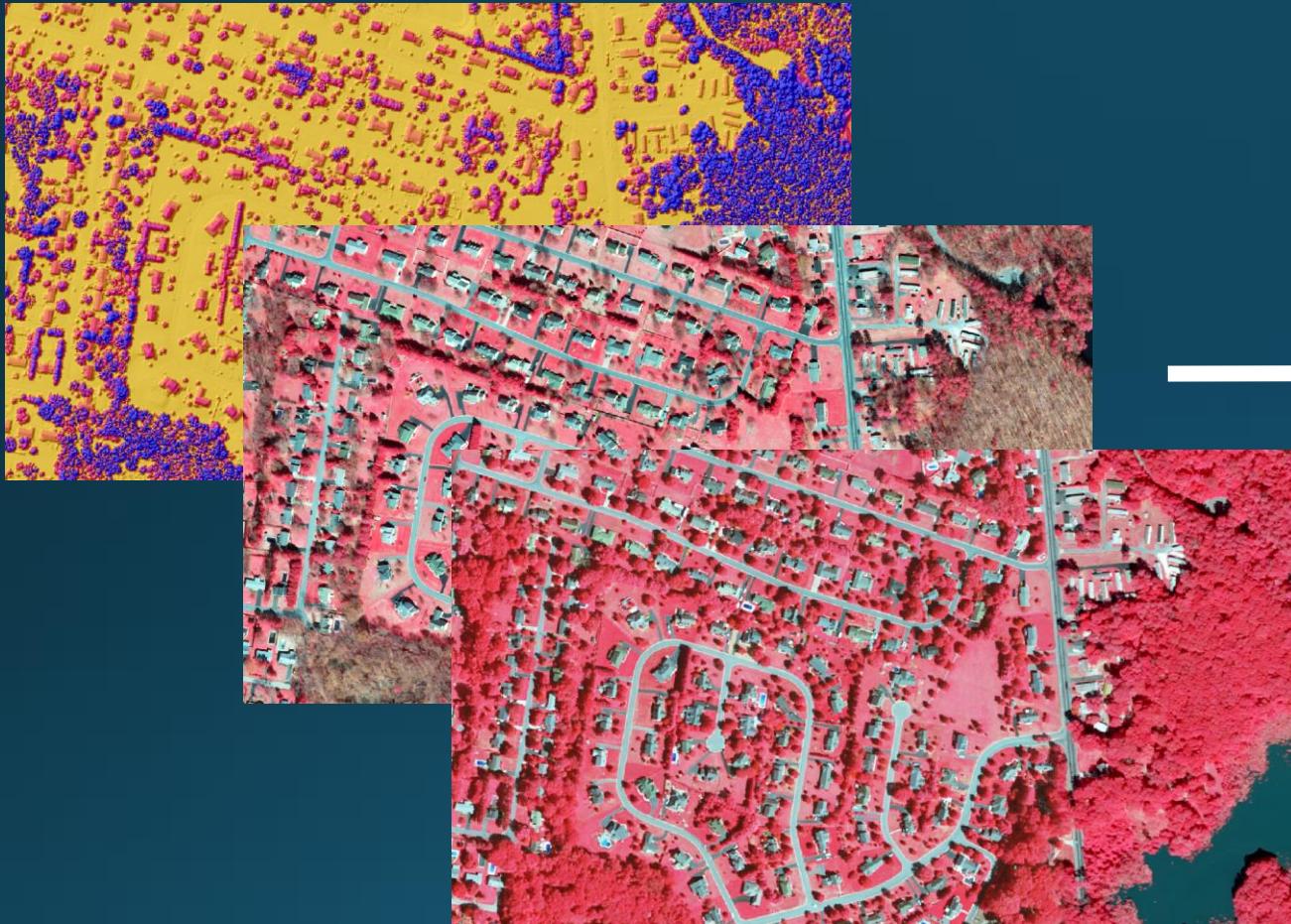
2013

Land Cover Update



University of Vermont
Spatial Analysis Lab

CONSERVATION
INNOVATION
CENTER
CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY



Background	Tree Canopy
Barren	Tree Canopy Over Other Impervious
Low Vegetation	Tree Canopy Over Roads
Other Impervious	Tree Canopy Over Structures
Roads	Water
Scrub-Shrub	Wetlands (emergent)
Structures	

Land Use Conversion

2013 NAIP Imagery



2013 Land Cover



2013 Land Use



Water	Structures
Wetlands	Impervious
Forest	Roads
Shrubland	Tree Canopy over Structures
Herbaceous Vegetation	Tree Canopy over Impervious Surfaces
Barren	Tree Canopy over Impervious Roads

Impervious, Road	Tree Canopy over Turf
Impervious, Non-Road	Mixed Open
Tree Canopy over Impervious	Fractional Turf (small)
Water	Fractional Turf (med)
Tidal Wetlands	Fractional Turf (large)
Floodplain Wetlands	Fractional Impervious
Other Wetlands	Turf Grass
Forest	Agriculture

Planimetric Data

Integrate county planning data

- Parcel Data
- Local Land Use Data
- Building Footprints
- Street Centerlines
- Zoning Data
- Etc...



Why planimetric enhancement?



Purple: Most updated county buildings dataset

Red: Buildings classified from our remote sensing techniques



Use Cases

Lidar Flow Path Mapping



Lidar Flow Path Mapping



An aerial photograph showing a patchwork of agricultural fields in various stages of cultivation, from dark green to brown. A small cluster of houses and buildings is visible in the bottom left corner, surrounded by trees and a road network.

**Better data is only useful if it can be
harnessed to inform better projects**

Goal: Identify priority locations for BMP implementation

CBP Land Cover Classification	
Barren	
Impervious Roads	
Impervious Surfaces	
Low Vegetation	
Shrubland	
Structures	
Tree Canopy	
Tree Canopy over Impervious Roads	
Tree Canopy over Impervious Surfaces	
Tree Canopy over Structures	
Water	
Wetlands	

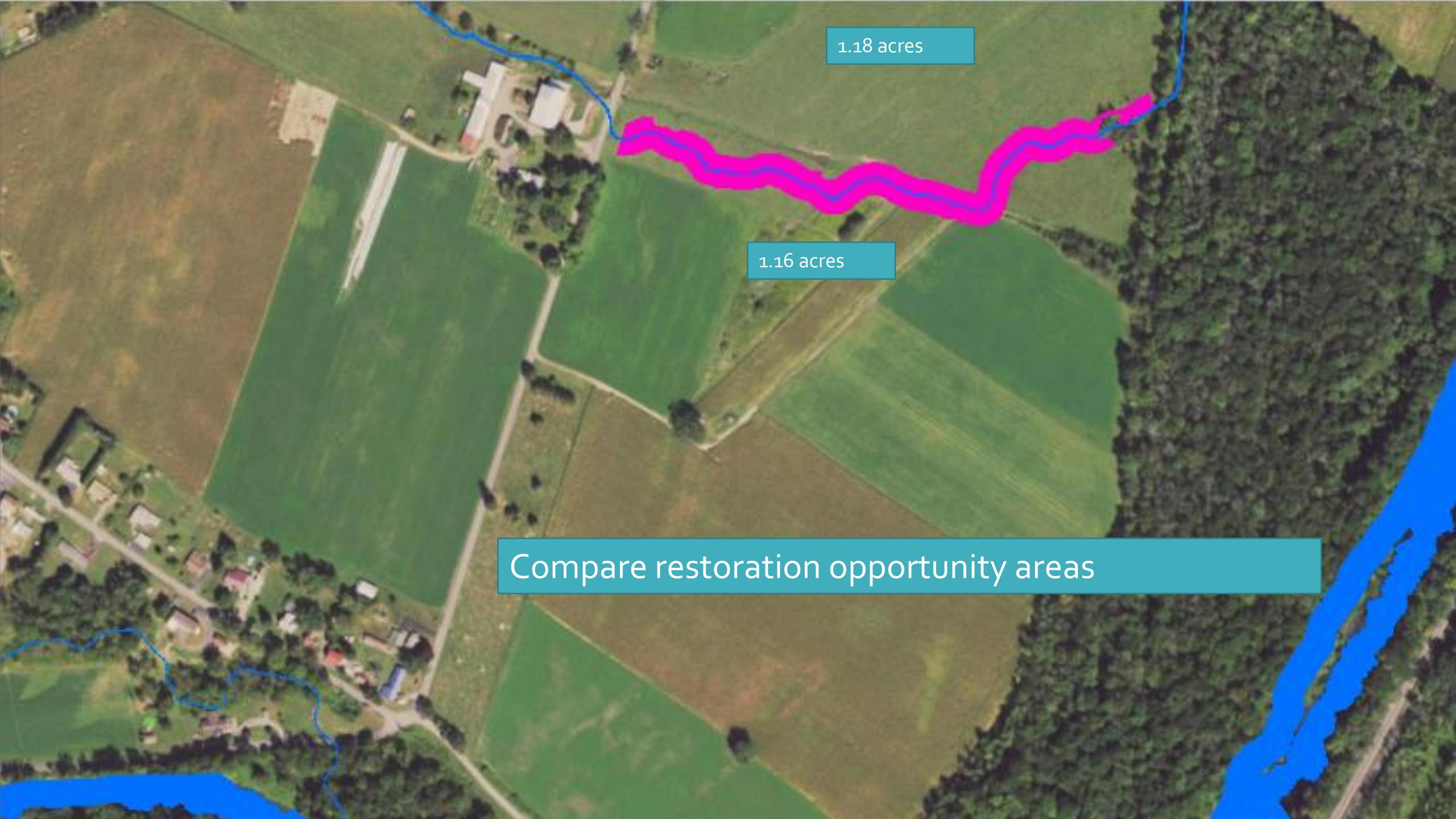
Pixel size: 1 meter by 1 meter

High Resolution Land Cover & Concentrated Flow Paths



Pixel size: 1 meter by 1 meter

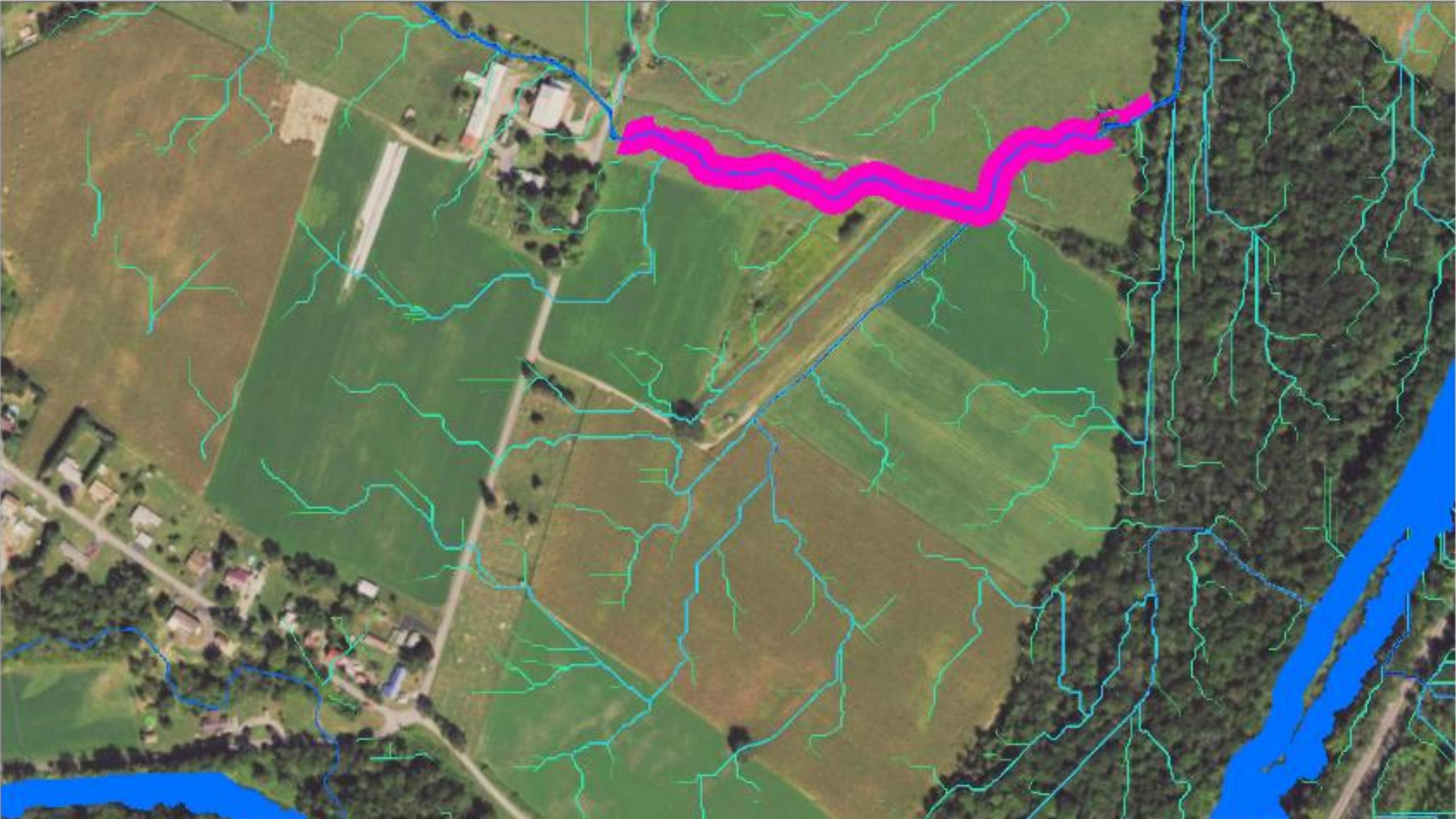
Identified gaps in riparian forest buffer coverage

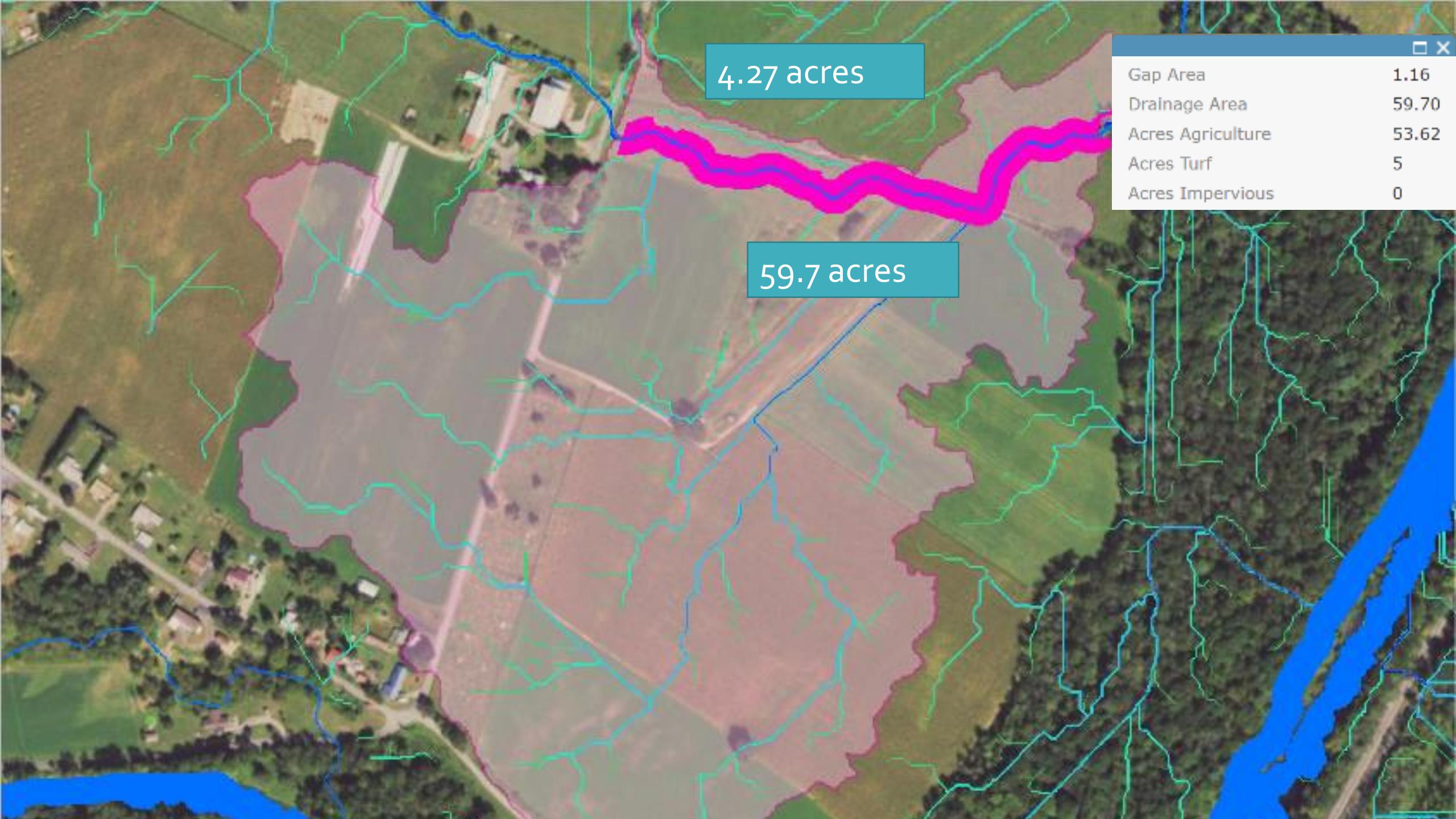


1.18 acres

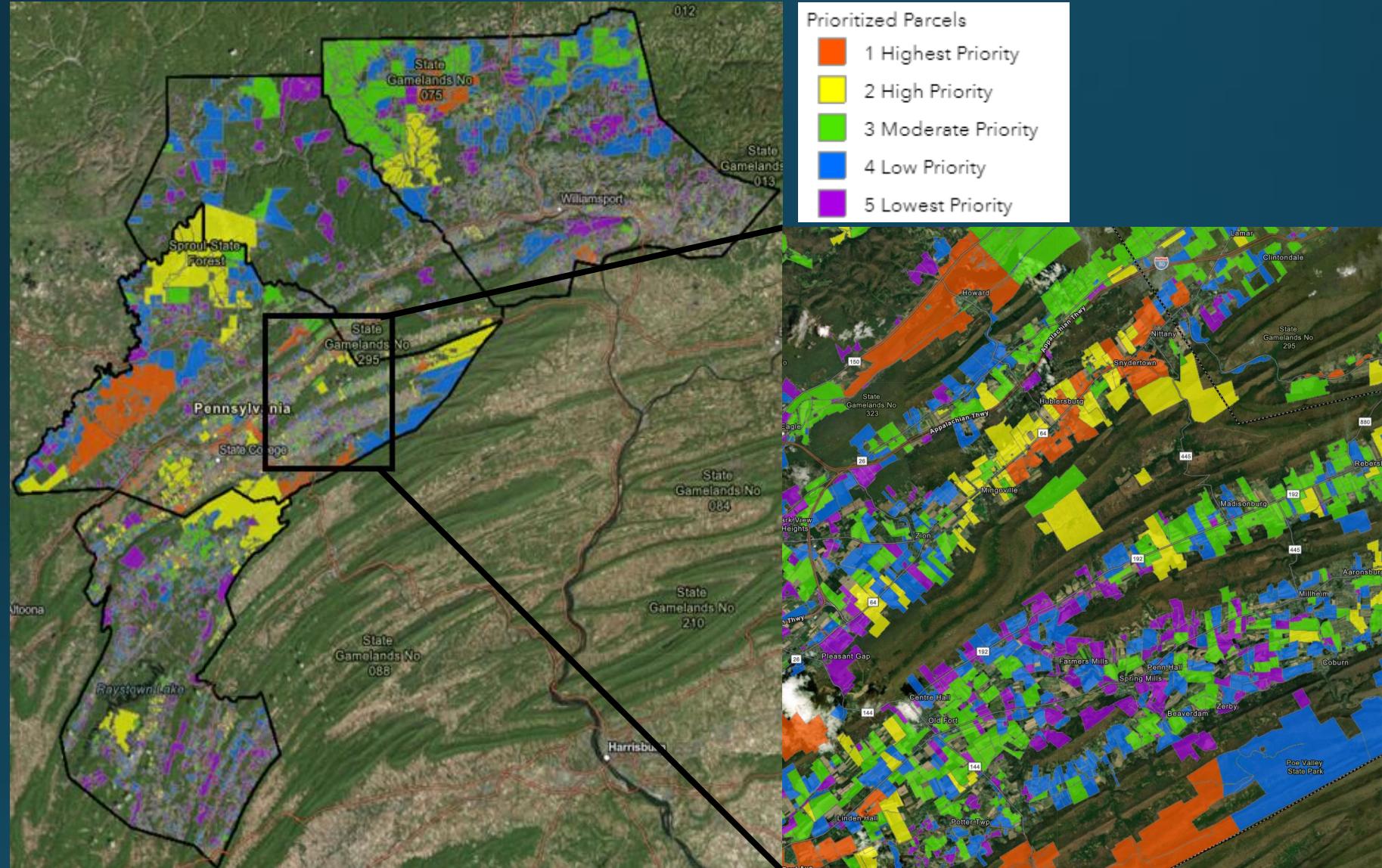
1.16 acres

Compare restoration opportunity areas





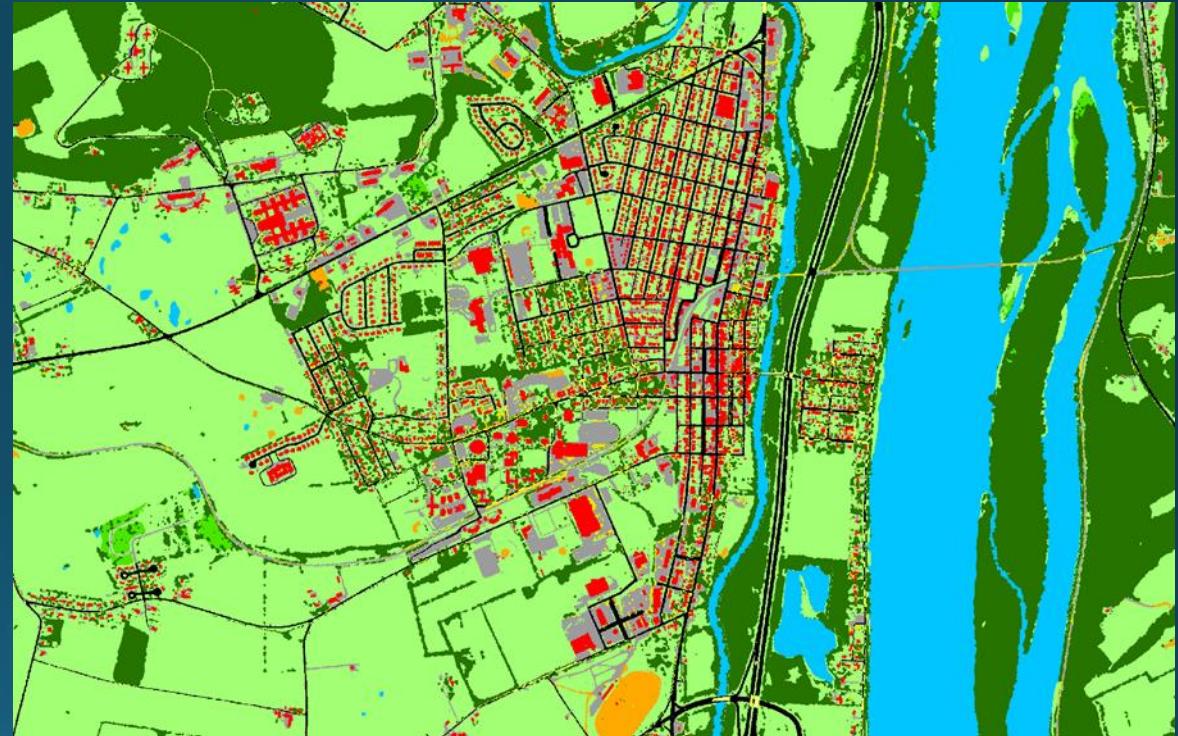
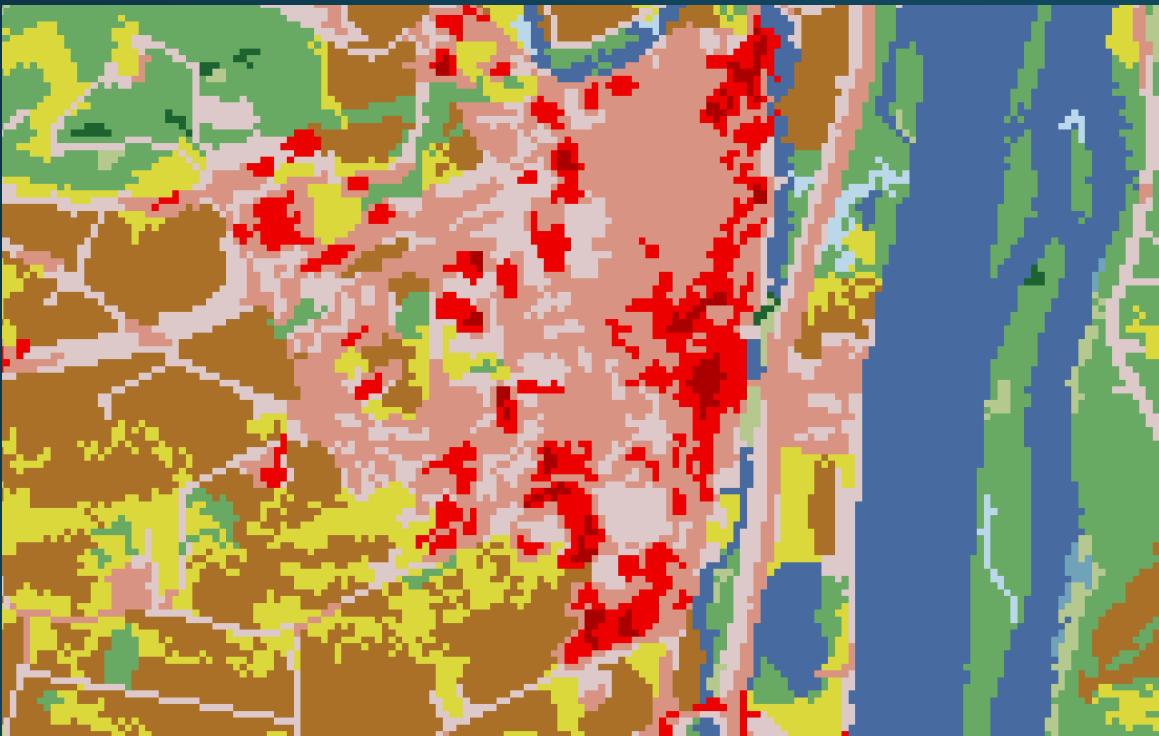
Assessing the landscape



Criteria used in prioritization:

- Area of ROA
- Area of UDA treated
- LC/LU in UDA
- Proximity to quality streams
- Other environmental variables...

bit.ly/LCFeedbackForm
bit.ly/CICLandCoverWebviewer



More Information

bit.ly/LCFeedbackForm
bit.ly/CICLandCoverWebviewer

- Conservation Innovation Center
conservationinnovationcenter.org
- Chesapeake Bay Land Cover
conservationinnovationcenter.org/land-cover-data-project
- Pennsylvania Case Study – Conservation Opportunities Analysis
envisionthesusquehanna.org/precision-conservation-data-and-tools
- Pennsylvania Case Study – Restoration Reporting
restorationreports.com
- Maryland Case Study – Watershed Delineation Tools
chesapeakeconservancy.org/apps/ConservationToolbox
Watershed Delineation -> "Zoom to Chester"
- Maryland Case Study – Prince George's County Stormwater Prioritization Tool
chesapeakeconservancy.org/apps/PG_Stormwater



bit.ly/LCFeedbackForm

bit.ly/CICLandCoverWebviewer



conservationinnovationcenter.org

rsoobitsky@chesapeakeconservancy.org