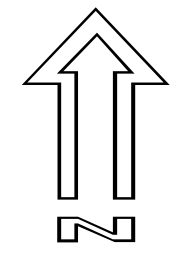


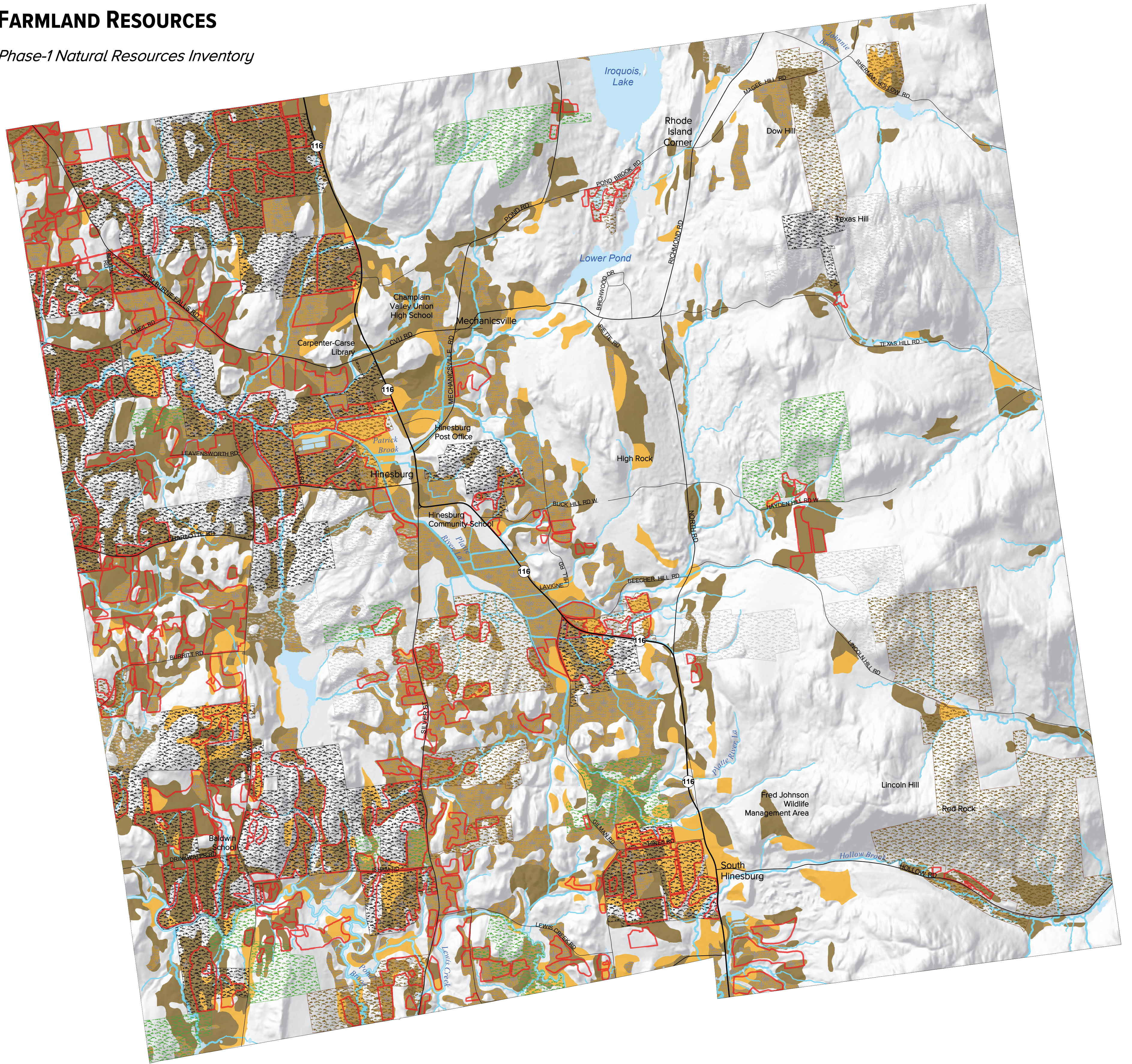


FARMLAND RESOURCES

Phase-1 Natural Resources Inventory



1:24,000



- ★ Farms
- ▭ Agricultural Fields
- Use Value Farmland Parcels
- ▭ <10 acres
- ▭ 10-25 acres
- ▭ 25-50 acres
- ▭ >50 acres
- Important Agricultural Soils
- ▭ Prime
- ▭ Statewide
- ▭ Statewide with limitations

FARMLAND DATA LAYERS

Vermont's farms grow regional sources of food, contribute to the local economy, and help to perpetuate the scenic landscape of pastures and forested mountains appreciated by residents and tourists (Vermont Working Landscape Council, 2011; Buldoc and Kessel, 2008). Vermont's farms can also provide essential habitat for wildlife, including multiple grassland bird species of Greatest Conservation Need (Vermont Wildlife Action Plan Team, 2015). Barns and other ancillary farm infrastructure like manure pits, paddocks, and silage bunkers, are essential parts of the working farm, along with the fields and pastures. All fields and pastures are not created equal, some soils and topographies are much more productive and important for agriculture. The Farmland Resources map shows the town's farming backbone, including Farms, Fields, and Important Agricultural Soils (see following Subsection for a description of these data layers).

The following data layers were used and/or developed during the inventory and analysis of farming resources in town.

Farms

Location of active (circa 2020) farms selling commercial products or providing an on-farm commercial service (such as horse boarding) was mapped. One point per farm was placed centrally near the farm infrastructure (e.g. barn, paddocks, manure pit). Active farms were interpreted by Native Geographic, LLC from aerial imagery of multiple vintages, including 2016 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) and 2018 VT Ortho imagery. Farm locations were then verified and updated by the Hinesburg Conservation Commission, Hinesburg Director of Planning and Zoning, and other members of the Phase-1 Inventory Team in 2020.

Fields

Fields include the location of hay, pasture, corn, other crops, and grassy openings at least 1-acre in size or nearly contiguous with other farm fields. Fields also includes vineyards, nurseries, and orchards of any size. Fields were digitized and interpreted by Native Geographic, LLC from leaf-on and leaf-off aerial imagery of multiple vintages. Final determination and extent were based on 2016 NAIP imagery, but 2018 VT Ortho aerial imagery, Google Street View, and the Vermont High Resolution Land Cover data were also consulted. Fields were generally delineated at a scale of a 1:5,000. Throughout the town, fields may be used rotationally for hay, corn, and pasture. Determination of use was based on dominant land use in 2016 imagery. Fields with permanent fences were mapped as pasture. However, this category is likely to include large lawns and fallow fields.

UVA Farmland

Parcels with some portion of their land enrolled in the Vermont use value appraisal (UVA) program (also known as "current use") as farmland. Many parcels include some areas excluded from UVA or enrolled as forestland. In 2020, this layer was created by Native Geographic, LLC using the 2018 Hinesburg Parcel data and the 2019 current use data.

Important Agricultural Soils

Important agricultural soils are a subset of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey, including prime and other important agricultural soils. The soil map and data used were prepared

by soil scientists as part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. The subset includes soils of Prime and Statewide Importance:

Prime: Suite of the most productive agricultural soils in the state. Soil capable of high and sustained productivity. Soil has a favorable combination of texture, nutrients, topography, drainage, and soil moisture.

Statewide: Also, highly productive agricultural soils across the State. Compared to Prime soils, statewide soils may have lower productivity due to limited moisture availability, slow drainage, flooding, and/or steepness.

Statewide with Limitations: Statewide soils requiring artificial drainage for farming. Without drainage, these are not Statewide soils

For more information see the *Farmland Classification Systems for Vermont Soils* report.

References

Bolduc, B. and H. Kessel. 2008. *Vermont in Transition: A Summary of Social Economic and Environmental Trends*. Vermont Council on Rural Development. Montpelier, VT.
United States Department of Agriculture. 2018. *Farmland Classification System for Vermont Soils*. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colchester, VT.

United States Department of Agriculture. 1978. *Soil Survey of Orange County, Vermont*. Vermont Wildlife Action Plan Team. 2015. *Vermont Wildlife Action Plan 2015*. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, Montpelier, VT.

Vermont Working Landscape Council. 2011. *Vermont's Working Landscape: Investing in Our Farm and Forest Future. The Action Plan of the Vermont Working Landscape Partnership*. Vermont Council on



This map is not a survey. Map contains data of varying accuracy and age.

Map produced: 12/21/2020
Map Coordinate System: VT State Plane (NAD 83)