



The North Shore Land Alliance, Inc.

501c3 land trust with a mission
**to conserve and steward
Long Island's natural and
historic lands, waters and
environmental resources.**

The primary reason we protect
land is to protect the water.

To date, we have protected
1,400 acres of environmentally
significant land.



Land and Water

Basics Concepts–

- Sole Source Aquifer
- Special Groundwater Protection Areas
- Watersheds

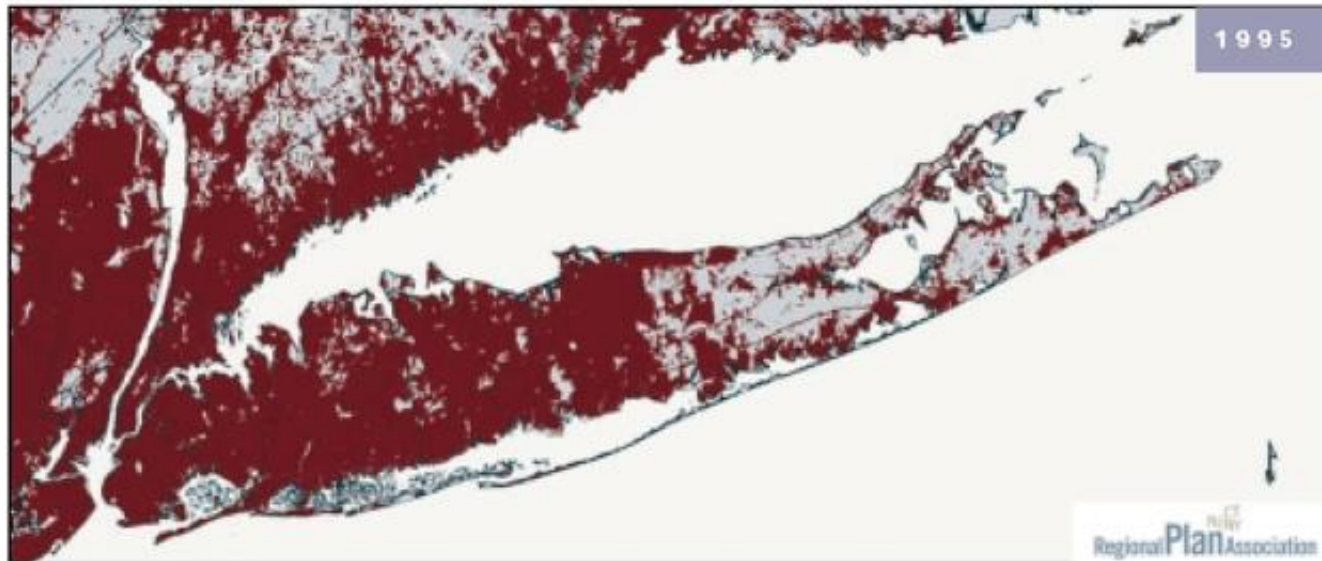


What happens on the land, happens
in the water...

What we do on or to the land affects both the
quantity (volume) and quality (pollutant
levels) of the water



Post WWII rampant
development
transformed Long Island



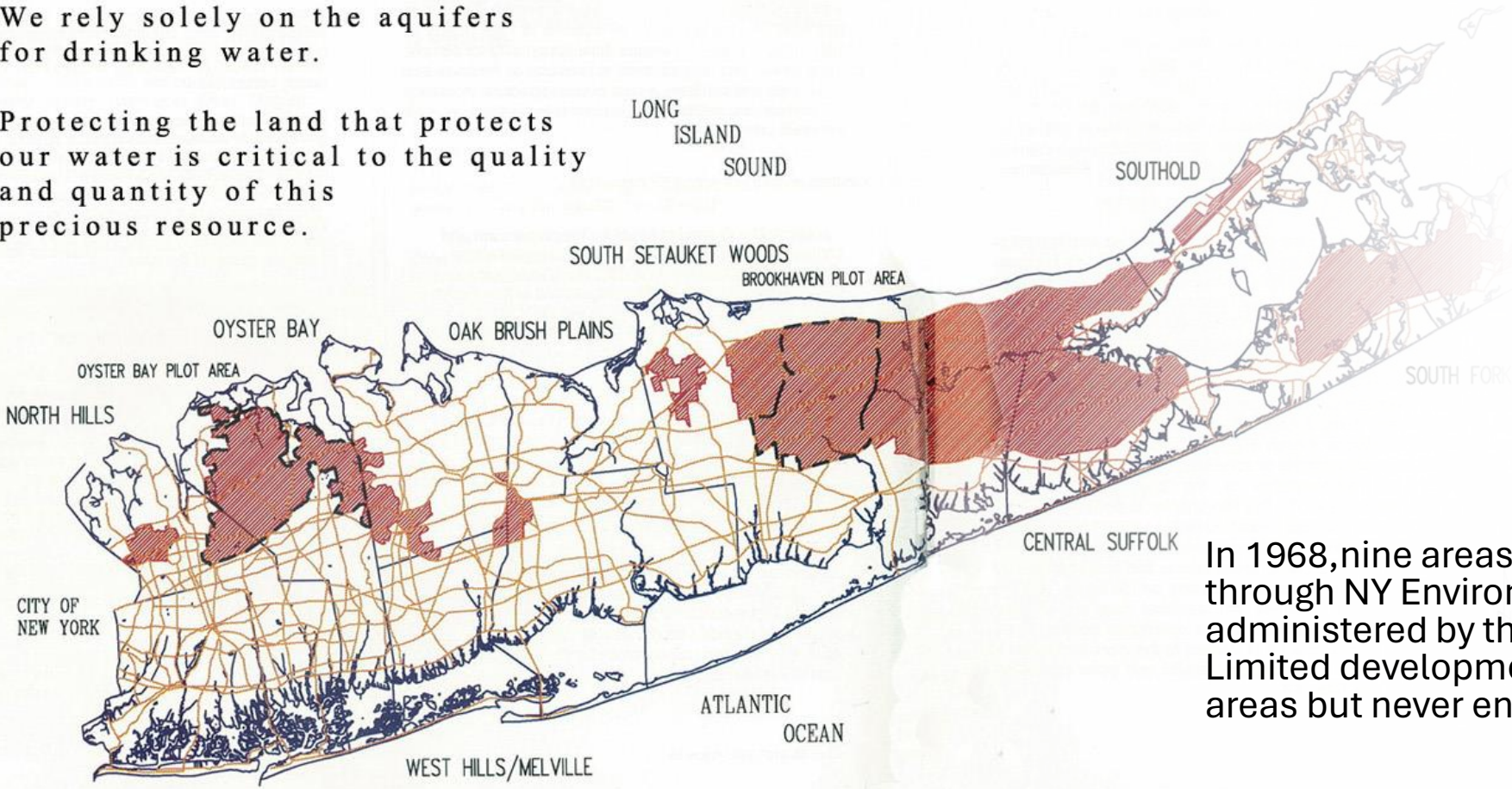
North Shore Land Alliance

Figure 1-2 Location of the Nine SGPAs

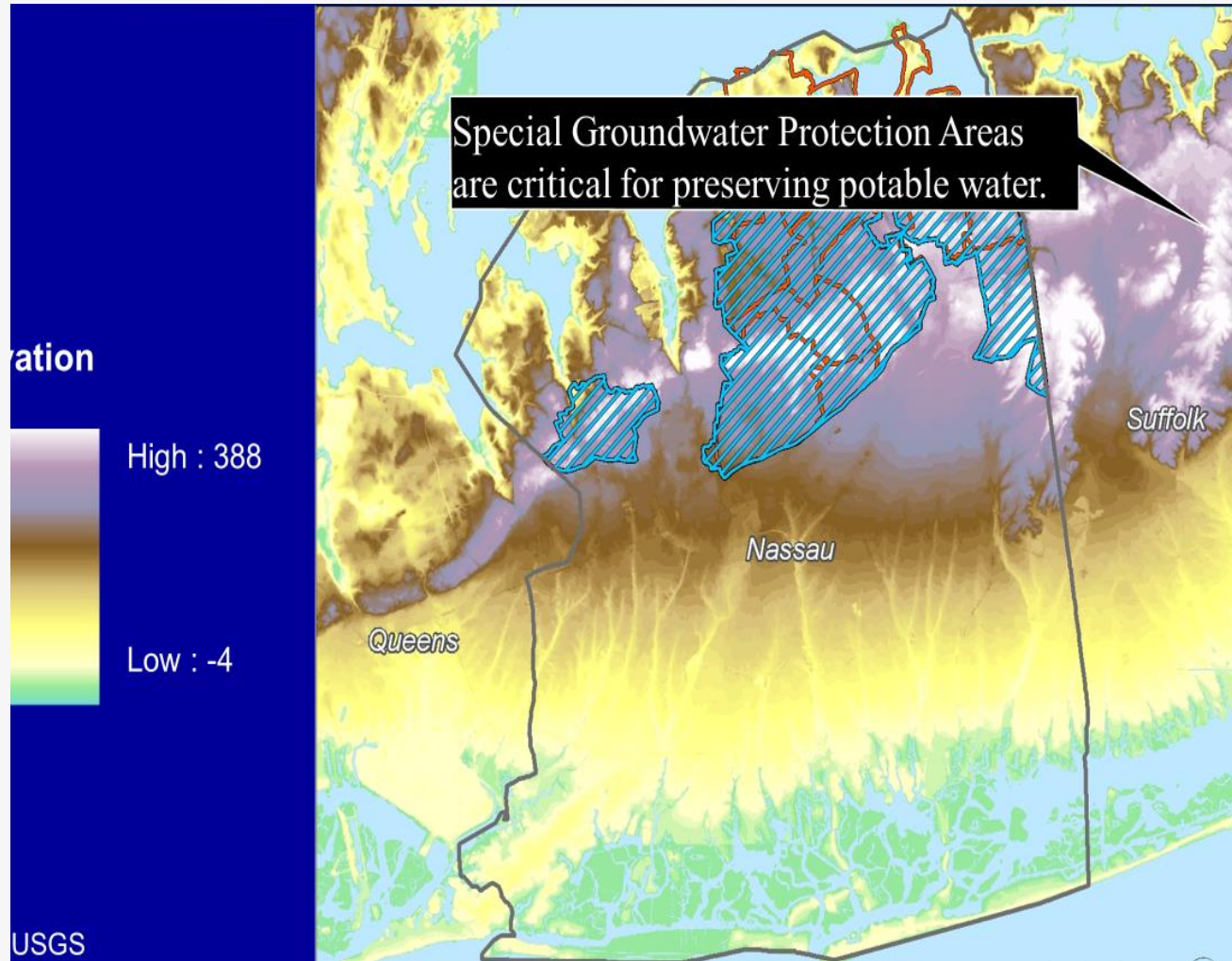
SPECIAL GROUND-WATER PROTECTION

The single unifying element in Long Island is groundwater. Nassau and Suffolk Counties are an island totally isolated from any source of water importation, We rely solely on the aquifers for drinking water.

Protecting the land that protects our water is critical to the quality and quantity of this precious resource.



In 1968, nine areas were set aside on LI and codified through NY Environmental Conservation Law to be administered by the Regional Plan Association. Limited development was recommended in these areas but never enforced.

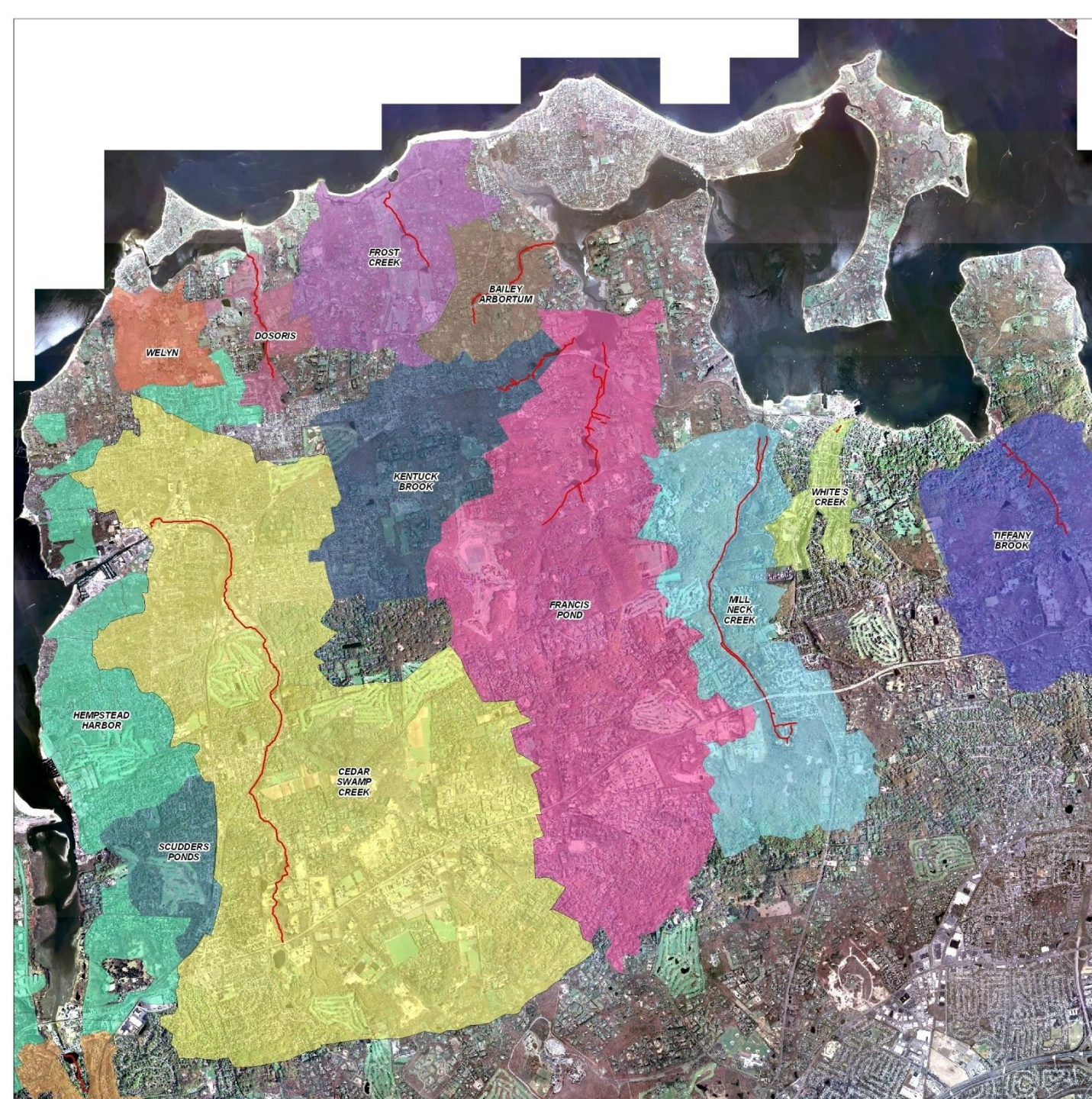


Elevation and Movement

Watershed

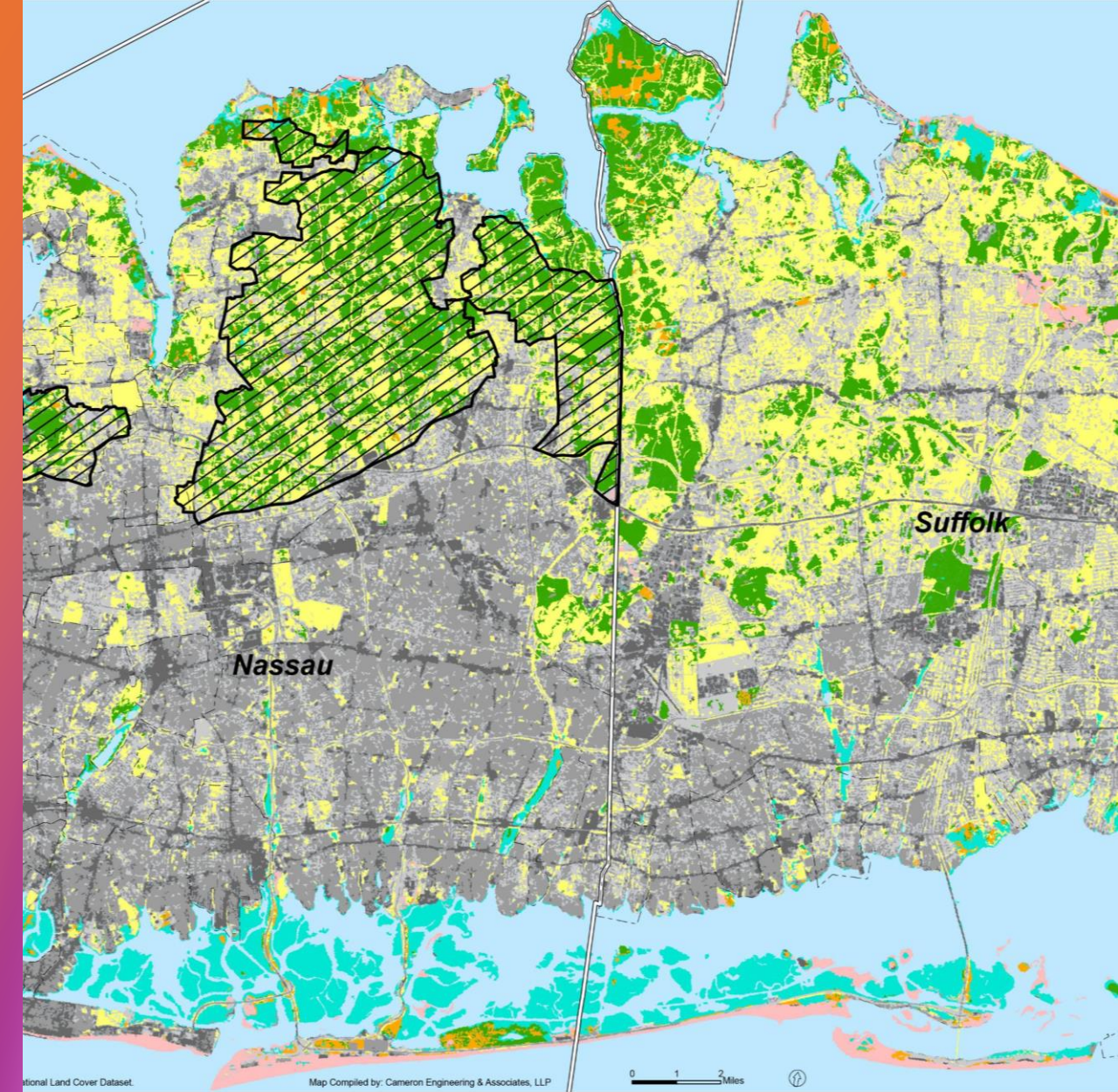
Every community is part of a watershed, broadly defined as an area of land that drains to a common body of water, such as a stream, river, lake, or bay.

Land use and activities throughout a watershed influence the health of downstream waters.



Land Types

Today, nearly 60% of Nassau County's land surface is impervious resulting in severe stormwater runoff.





Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services

Trees, forests and grasslands **capture rainwater** and reduce the risk of natural disasters such as floods and landslides.

Their intricate root **systems filter harmful pollutants** and slow down the absorption of water into the soil preventing erosion and reducing the risk of flooding.

These lands types also **store tremendous amounts of carbon** critical to addressing climate change.



Wetlands

Wetlands are the vital link between water and land. “Wetlands” is the collective term for flat vegetated areas, in depressions in the landscape, and between dry land and water along the edges of streams, rivers, lakes, and coastlines.

Wetlands help regulate water levels within watersheds; improve water quality; reduce flood and storm damages; provide important fish and wildlife habitat; and support hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities

90% of US wetlands have been lost since 1900.



The Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful Initiative

30 x 30 **Conservation Plan**

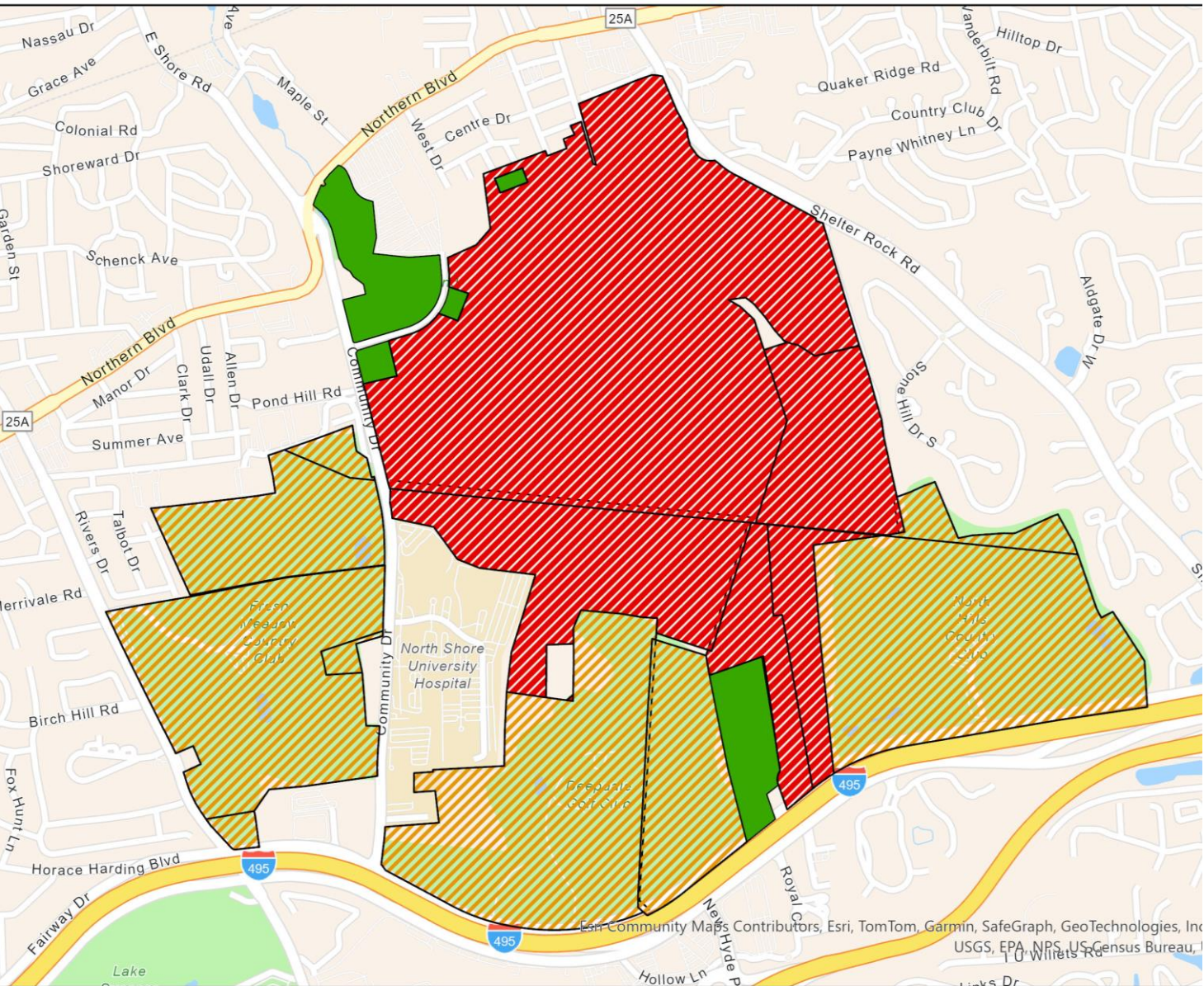
January 27, 2021, President Biden joined 50 countries in an international effort to protect 30% of U.S. lands and oceans by 2030.

- Today 12% of US lands are protected and 25% of waters.

Governor Hochul signed similar legislation in 2022.

- NYS has 19% of lands and waters protected

North Hills SGPA Potential Protection Area



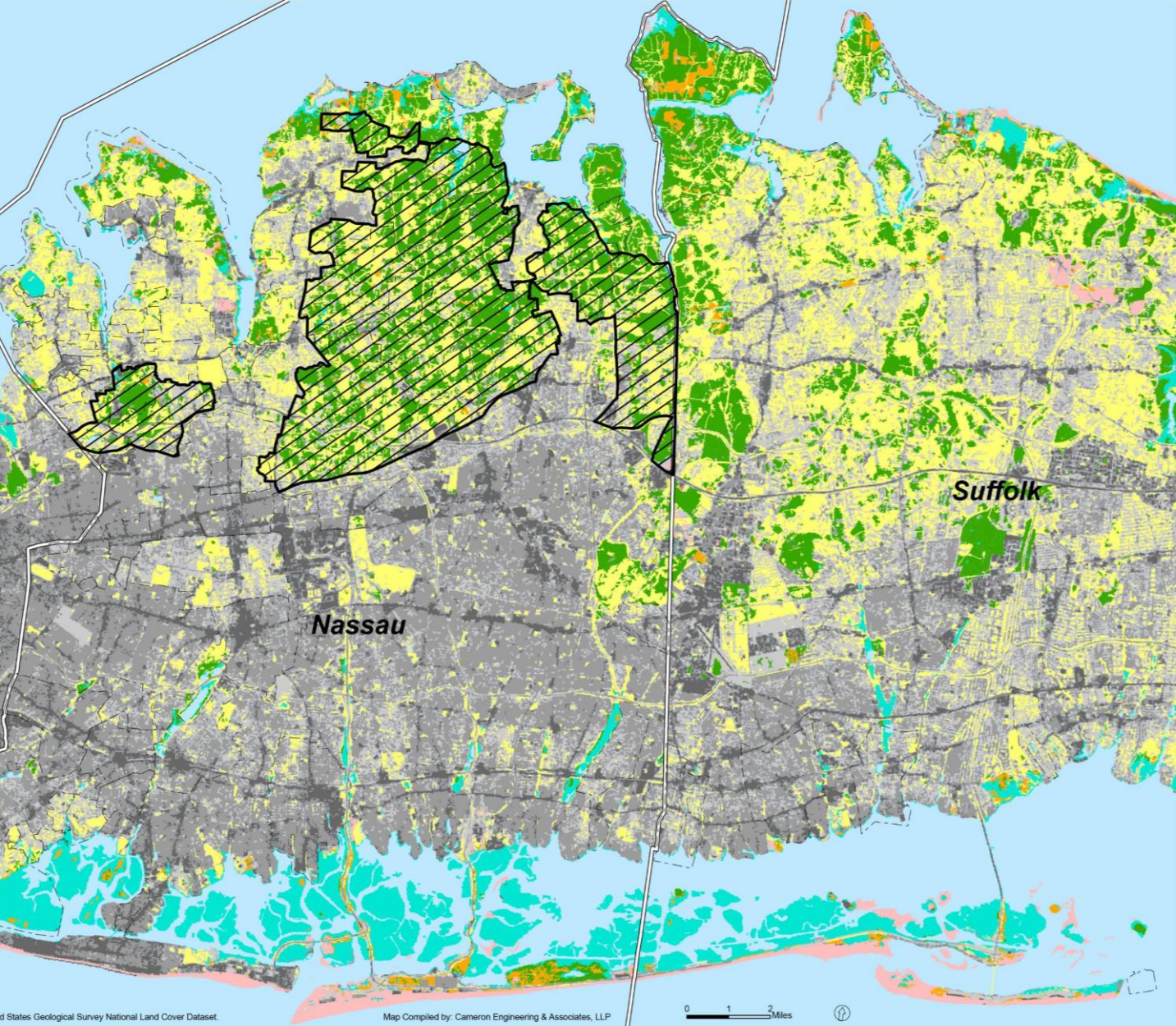
Is there any land left to save?

In Nassau County 15% of our land is protected

More than 10,000 acres have been identified as conservation opportunities – enough to reach the 30 x 30 goal if we act now!

- Legend**
- Already Protected Lands - 48 Acres
 - Conservation Opportunity Parcels - 506 Acres





SOLUTIONS

WHAT CAN WE DO?

1) Prioritize and target conservation in areas with the greatest impact on water quality

- Protect Land in the SGPA critical to ensuring adequate water quantity.
- Protect wetlands to absorb harmful pollutants and protect us from the impacts of increasingly severe storms.





How do we protect more land?

- Support government land acquisition programs on federal, state and local levels.
- Elect candidates that care about protecting the environment.
- Conserve your own land and/or encourage your friends and neighbors to do so.
- Support organizations involved in efforts like these.
- Volunteer your time.



2) Use best management practices on the land to reduce the levels of water pollutants, such as nitrogen and phosphorous

- Plant more trees, better manage forests
- Replace Invasive species with native plants that require less water and absorb more carbon
- Build raingardens to absorb and recycle water
- Compost to build better soil
- Do not use pesticides and insecticides



America's Homegrown National Park

In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water.

Author Doug Tallamy

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

3) Build Partnerships and Educate our Community

- Align with Like-Minded Organizations
- Build Awareness of the problems and the solutions
- Empower People to Act



Economic Benefits of Open Space

The cost of water in areas like the the Pine Barrens, where the source water is protected, is up to 10x lower than in unprotected areas because the water doesn't require as much costly treatment.

Parks and open space reduce stormwater management costs by capturing precipitation and/or slowing its runoff. Protected areas lower stormwater management costs by \$23.9M annually



It will take all of us working together to protect the land
that protects our water

*“Never doubt that a small group of
thoughtful, committed citizens can change
the world;*

indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”

Margaret Mead, Anthropologist