Waterbury
Community Values Mapping

June 2023

Hosted by Waterbury Conservation Commission

Facilitated by

Jens Hilke

Community Wildlife Program

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Overview

In April, 2023, the Waterbury Conservation Commission hosted a Community Values Mapping event for the Town of Waterbury, Vermont. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Community Wildlife Program facilitated the event. This included an in-person values mapping event on 4/11/23 and an online values mapping activity on 4/20/23. There were approximately 60 participants for the in-person event and about 11 online. These results do offer an important snapshot of community values in Waterbury.

For both of these activities (in-person and online), participants were asked to think about two simple questions:

- *What places in Waterbury do you love?*
- *What do you value about these places?*

The in-person Community Values Mapping event at St. Leo's Hall on 4/11/23 included 8 small groups and a total of approximately 60 participants.

At the live event, participants gathered at St Leo's Hall and were randomly divided into eight small teams with a facilitator for each team. One at a time, a participant used markers to outline a location that they value and used a color that corresponded to one of the value groups.

After the small groups marked up their maps, each group presented their map to all the participants.

For the online event, participants appeared on a Zoom meeting and were then randomly divided into three small breakout rooms with a facilitator for each team. Participants then logged on to Miro.com, an online whiteboard. The whiteboard was equipped with drawing tools that all participants could use and a map of town for them to mark up. The map also included a legend of value groups for participants to categorize their responses (Working landscape, Scenic Views, Recreation, Commercial, Historic, Community Places, Natural Areas/ Wildlife). One at a time, a team member used the drawing tool to outline a location that he/she values and used a color that corresponded to one of the value groups. Once an outline was drawn, the participant stated *what* they loved about the place.
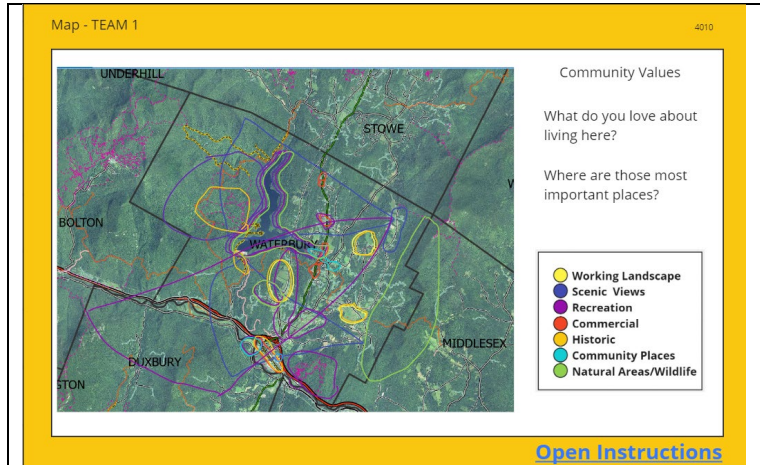
The online event took place on Zoom and used a Miro.Com whiteboard where maps were posted and respondents circled areas they care about in small groups. See Small Groups # 9, 10, & 11

The next participant chose either to use the same color (value group) to mark a place with a similar value or to choose a new color to outline a place with a different value.

Some places were valued for more than one reason. In these cases, places were outlined several times, each time with a different color as indicated in the legend.

The legend of value groups was pre-set to help users get ideas what to mark.

The full list of values:

Maps and Results

Results from all events—including eight individual maps from the live event, and three from the online events—were compiled to create the maps below. Digital data is also available to the town.
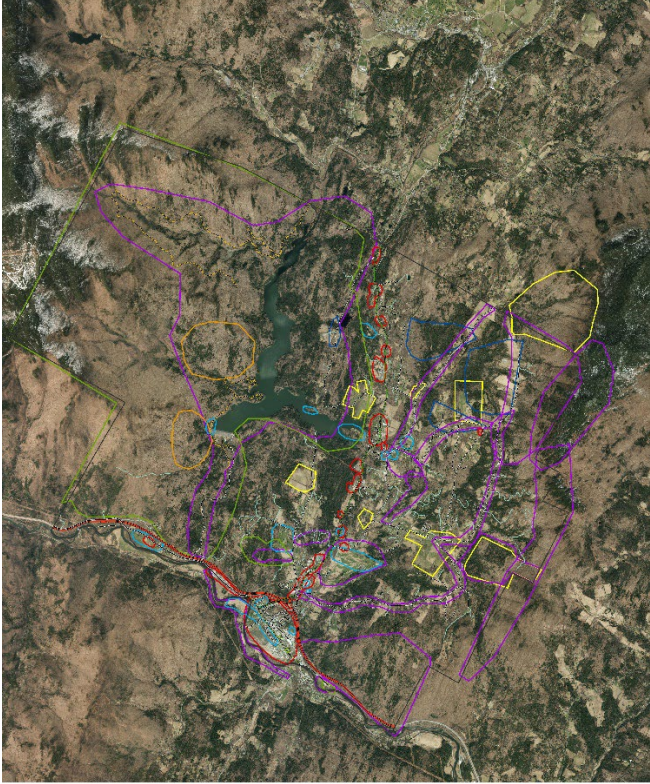
Results by Team:
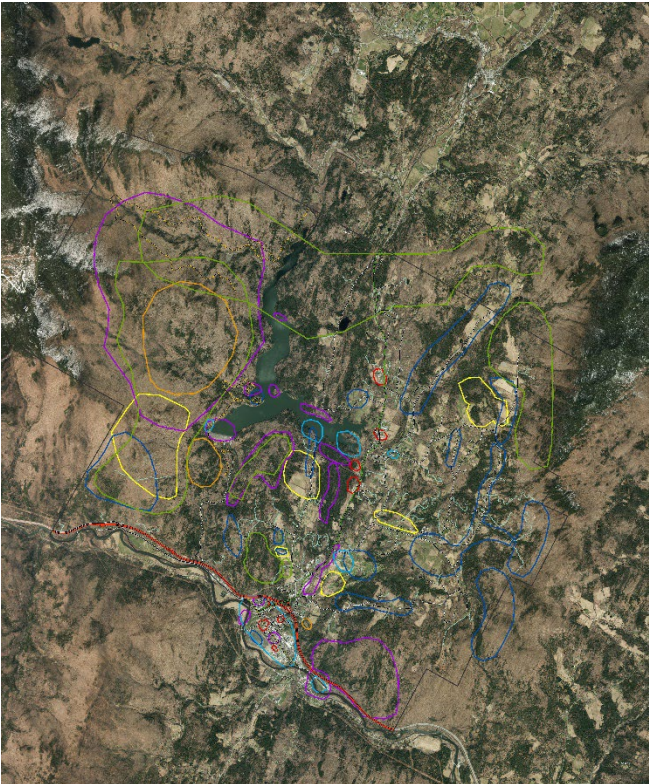The following maps show each of the small team maps as digitized. Values from these were later combined by value group for subsequent analysis.
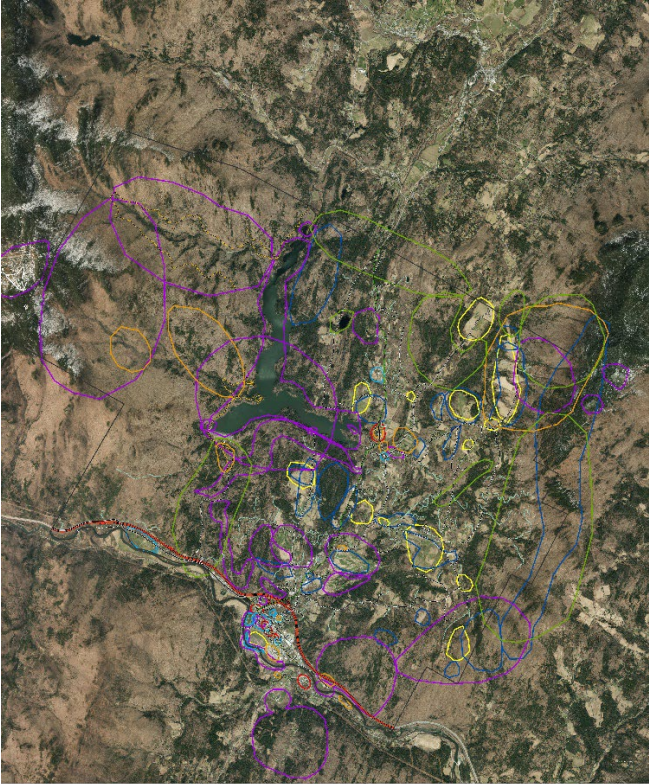
Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 1

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 2

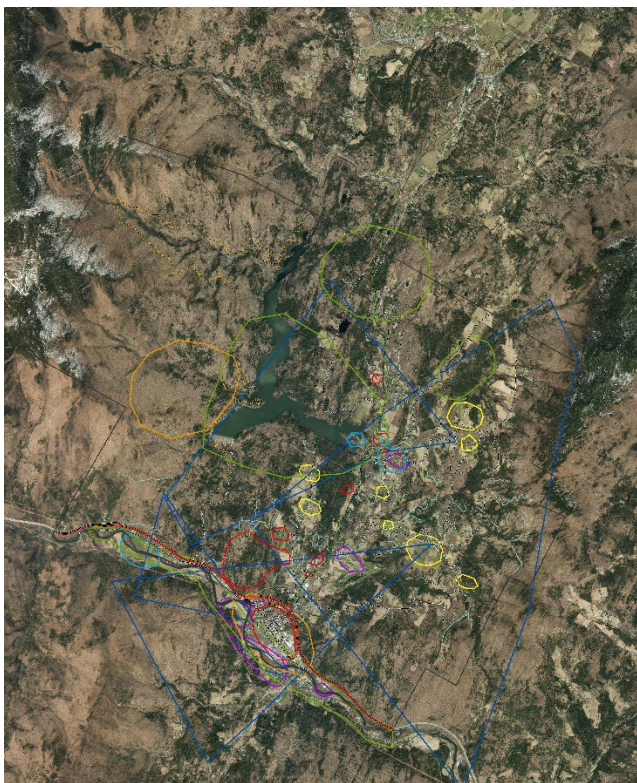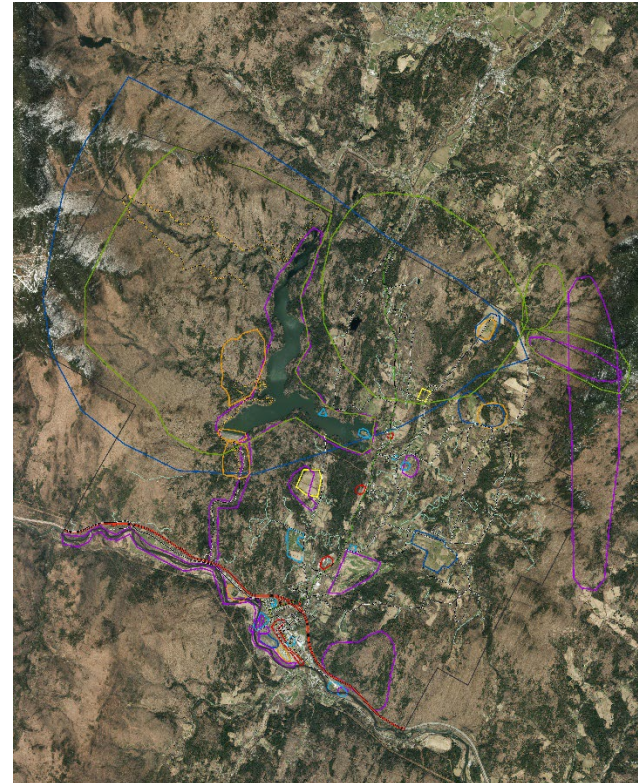Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 3
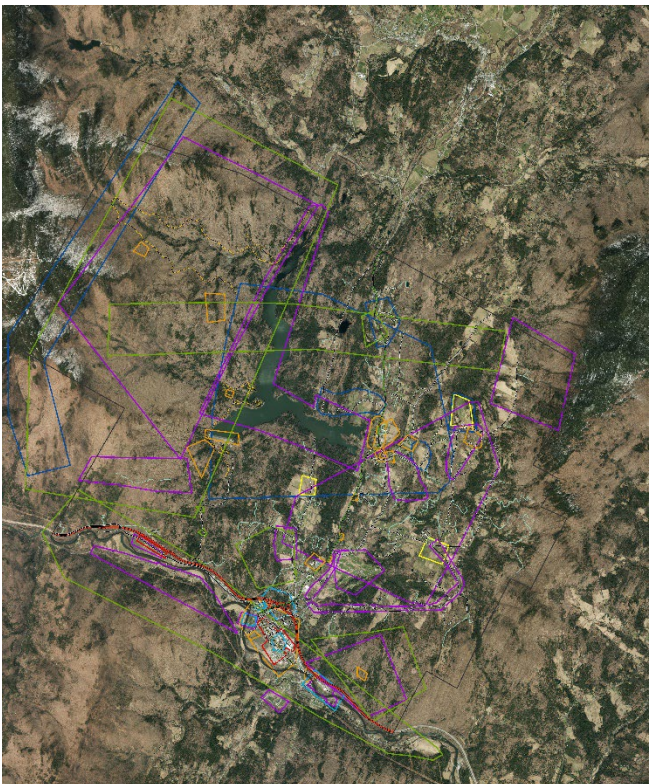
Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 4
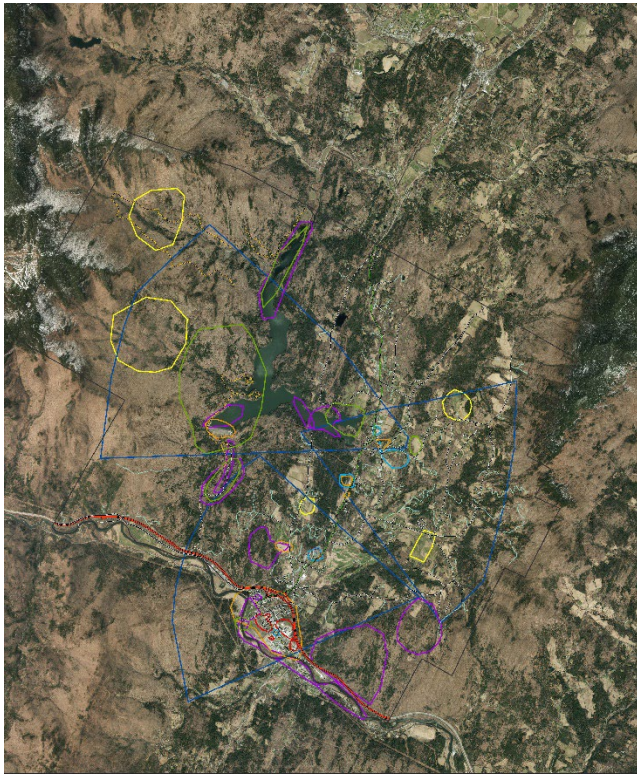
Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 5
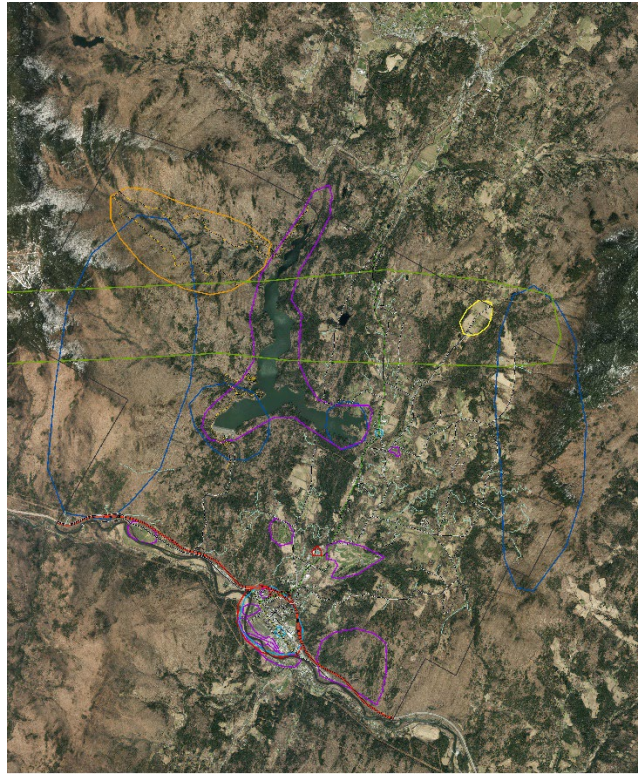
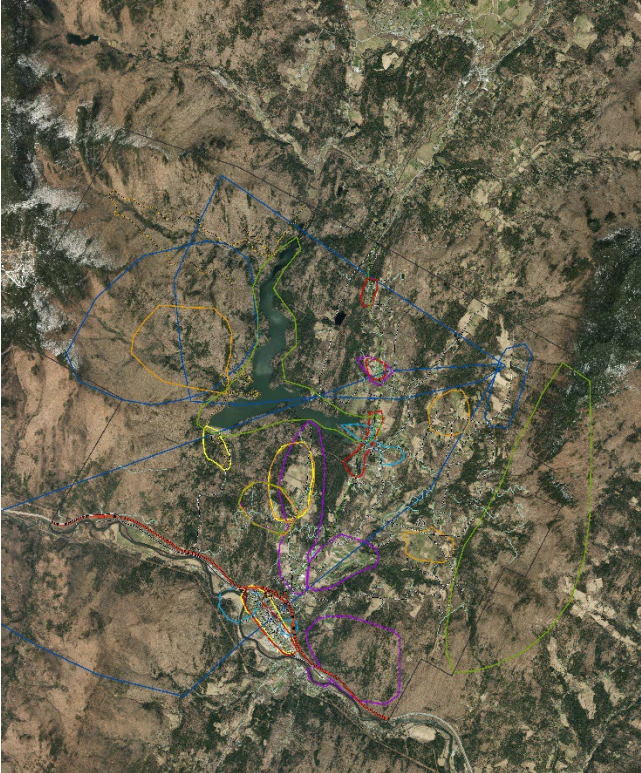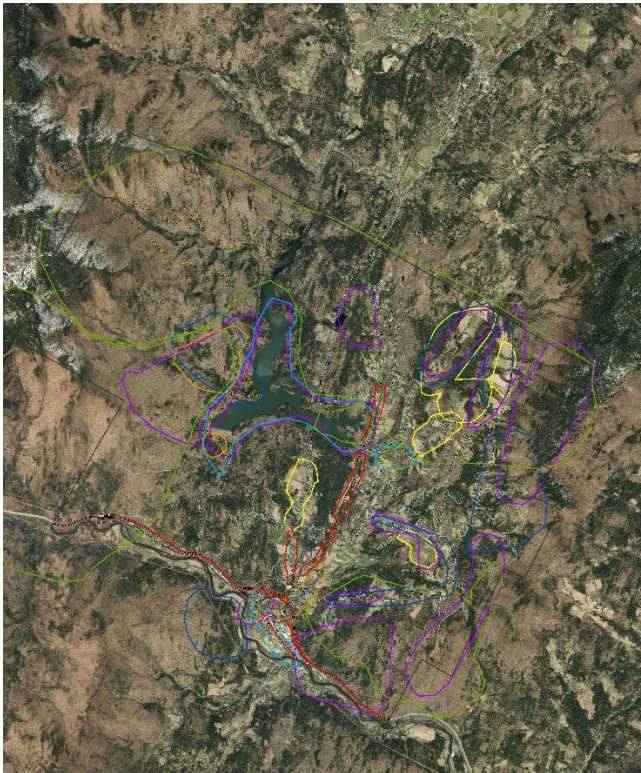Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 6

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 7

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 8

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 9

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 10

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Team 11

Results by Value Group:

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Working Lands   (from ALL Teams)

The Map shows all responses for that value group as digitized, including inputs from all Small Teams.

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Working Lands Response Intensity

The Map shows the intensity of individual responses for that value group.
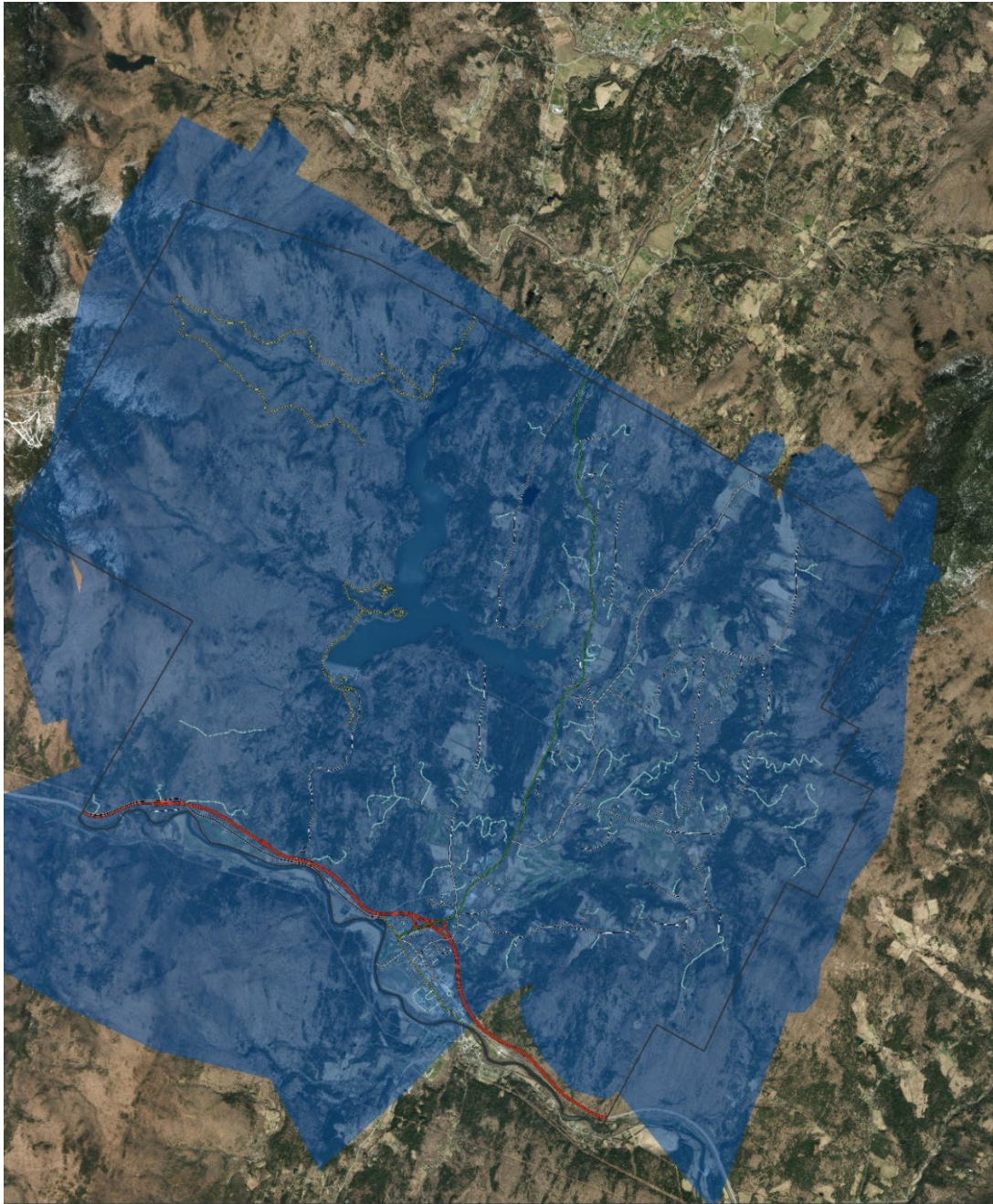
Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Scenic Areas   (from ALL Teams)

The Map shows all responses for that value group as digitized, including inputs from all Small Teams.

It is important to note that the "Scenic" value grouping includes two different ways of drawing that value. It may be helpful to the town to distinguish between viewpoints (places from where a view can be seen), viewsheds (the entire land area that can be seen from a viewpoint), and scenic areas (which also include places in which the visually pleasing character is in the immediate foreground, such as a road passing through a tunnel of trees or a pathway along a pretty brook). For this exercise, these categories were not distinguished by all groups, and were lumped together for the analysis.
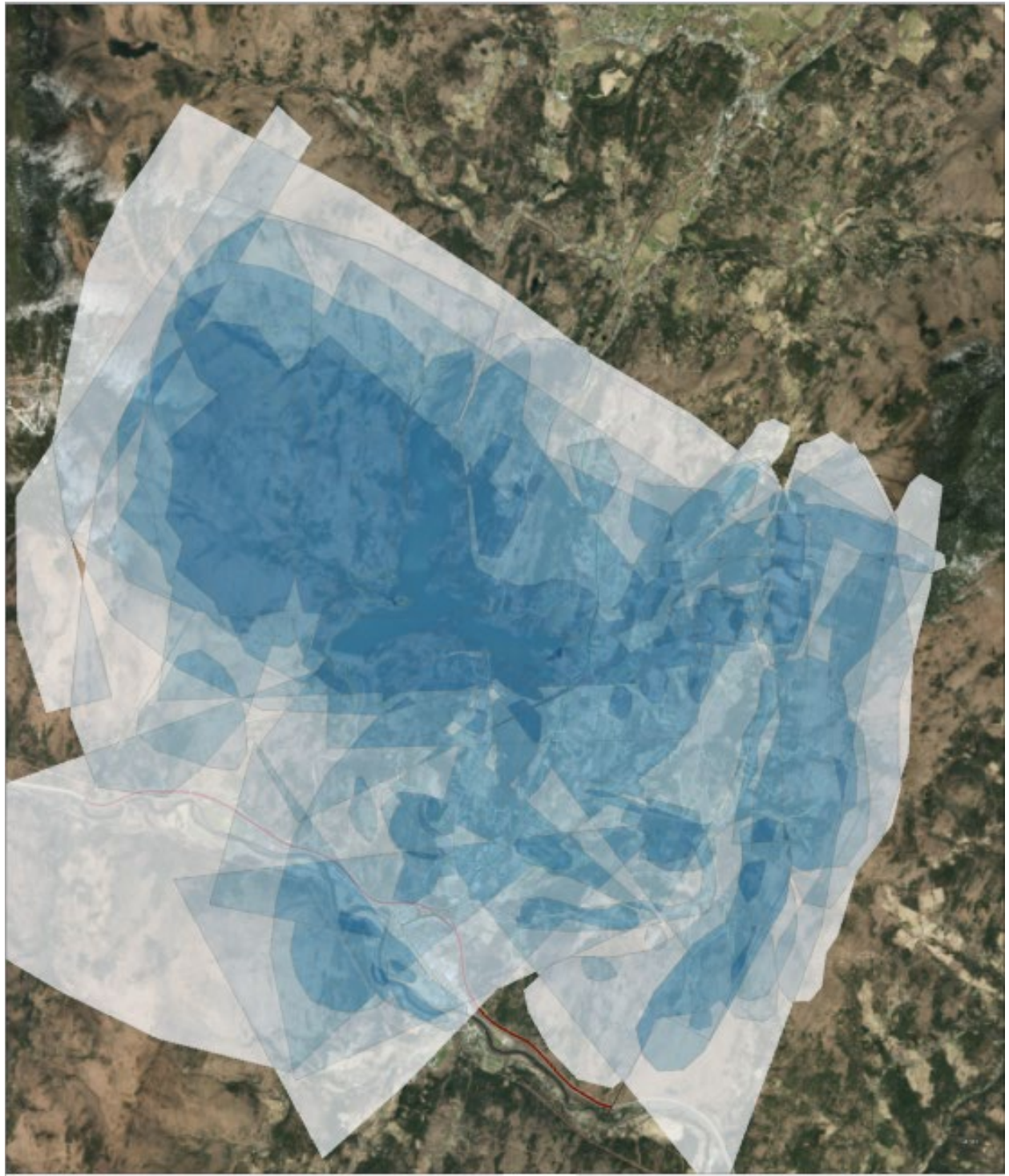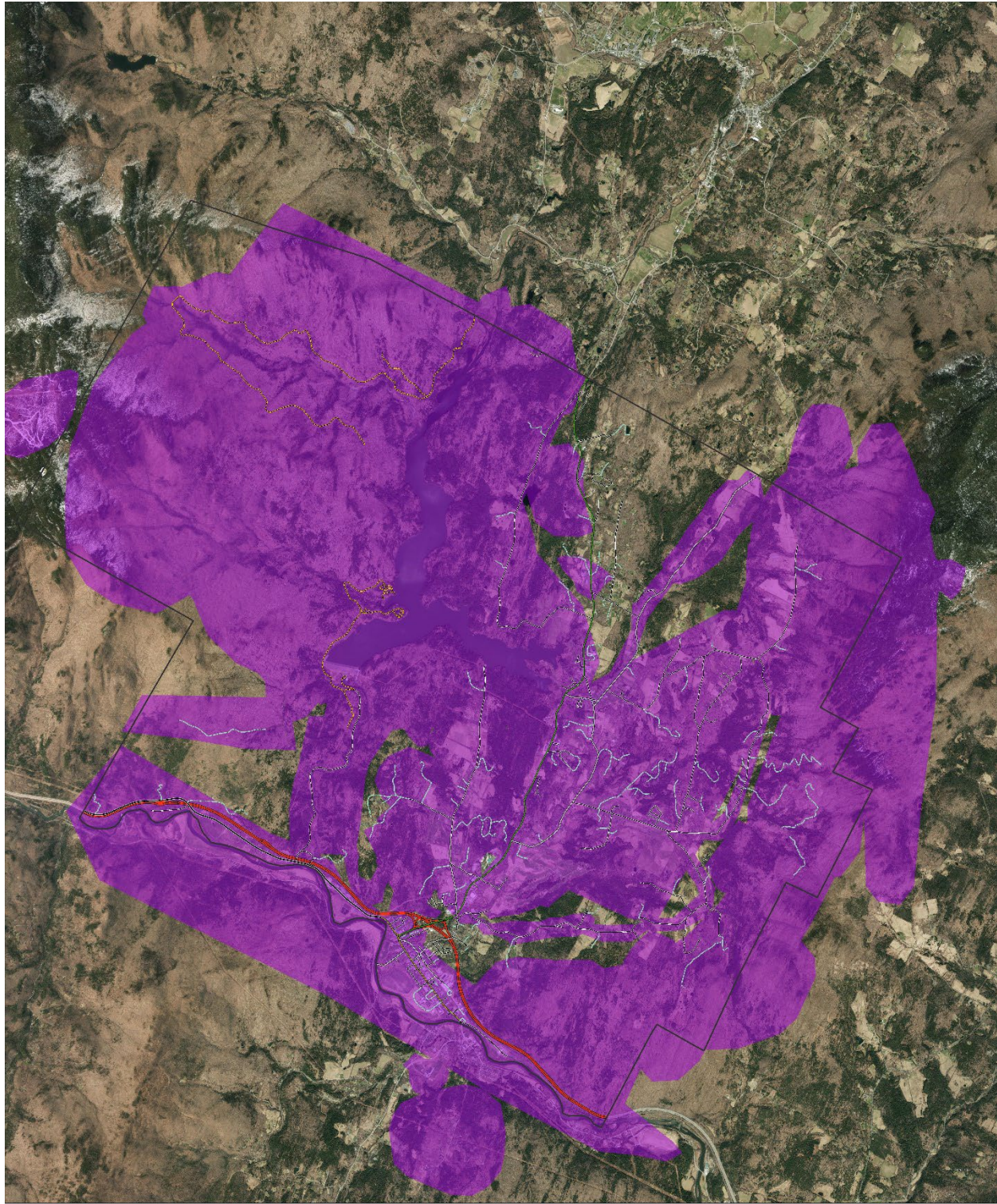
Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Scenic Areas Response Intensity

The Map shows the intensity of individual responses for that value group.

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Recreation   (from ALL Teams)

The Map shows all responses for that value group as digitized, including inputs from all Small Teams.

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Recreation Response Intensity

The Map shows the intensity of individual responses for that value group.

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Commercial   (from ALL Teams)

The Map shows all responses for that value group as digitized, including inputs from all Small Teams.

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Commercial Response Intensity

The Map shows the intensity of individual responses for that value group.

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Historic Sites   (from ALL Teams)

The Map shows all responses for that value group as digitized, including inputs from all Small Teams.

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Historic Sites Response Intensity

The Map shows the intensity of individual responses for that value group.

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Community Places   (from ALL Teams)

Community Values
1 Working Lands
2 Scenic Areas
3 Recreation
4 Community of
5 Rural Scenic
6 Community Places
7 Scenic Areas

Data Sources: Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Fish & Wildlife
Department
Vermont State Plane Projection
NAD1983 Datum
Map by Jens Hilke
June 2023

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The Map shows all responses for that value group as digitized, including inputs from all Small Teams.

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Community Places Response Intensity

The Map shows the intensity of individual responses for that value group.

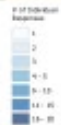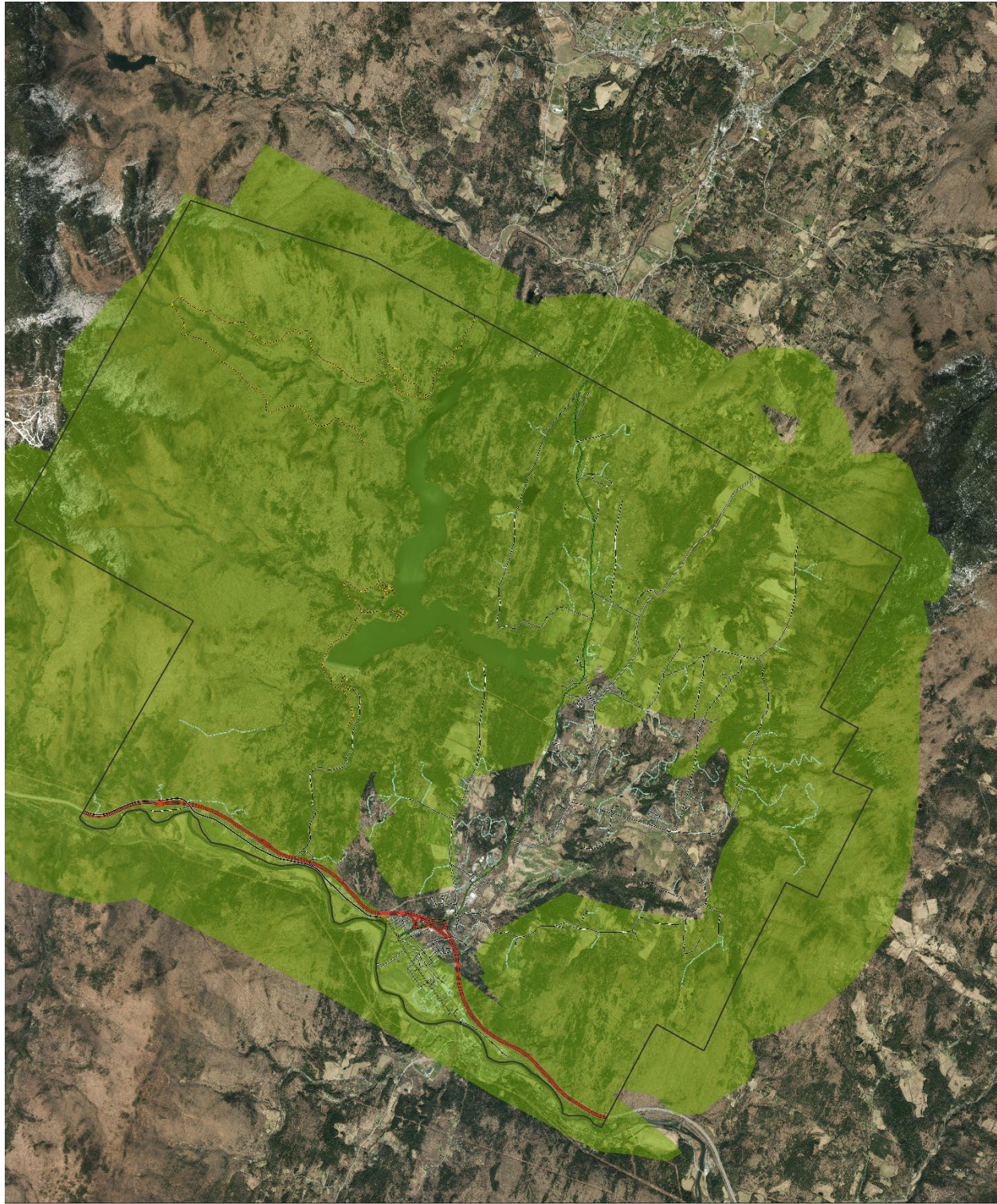Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
Natural Areas   (from ALL Teams)

The Map shows all responses for that value group as digitized, including inputs from all Small Teams.

Waterbury Community Values Mapping 2023
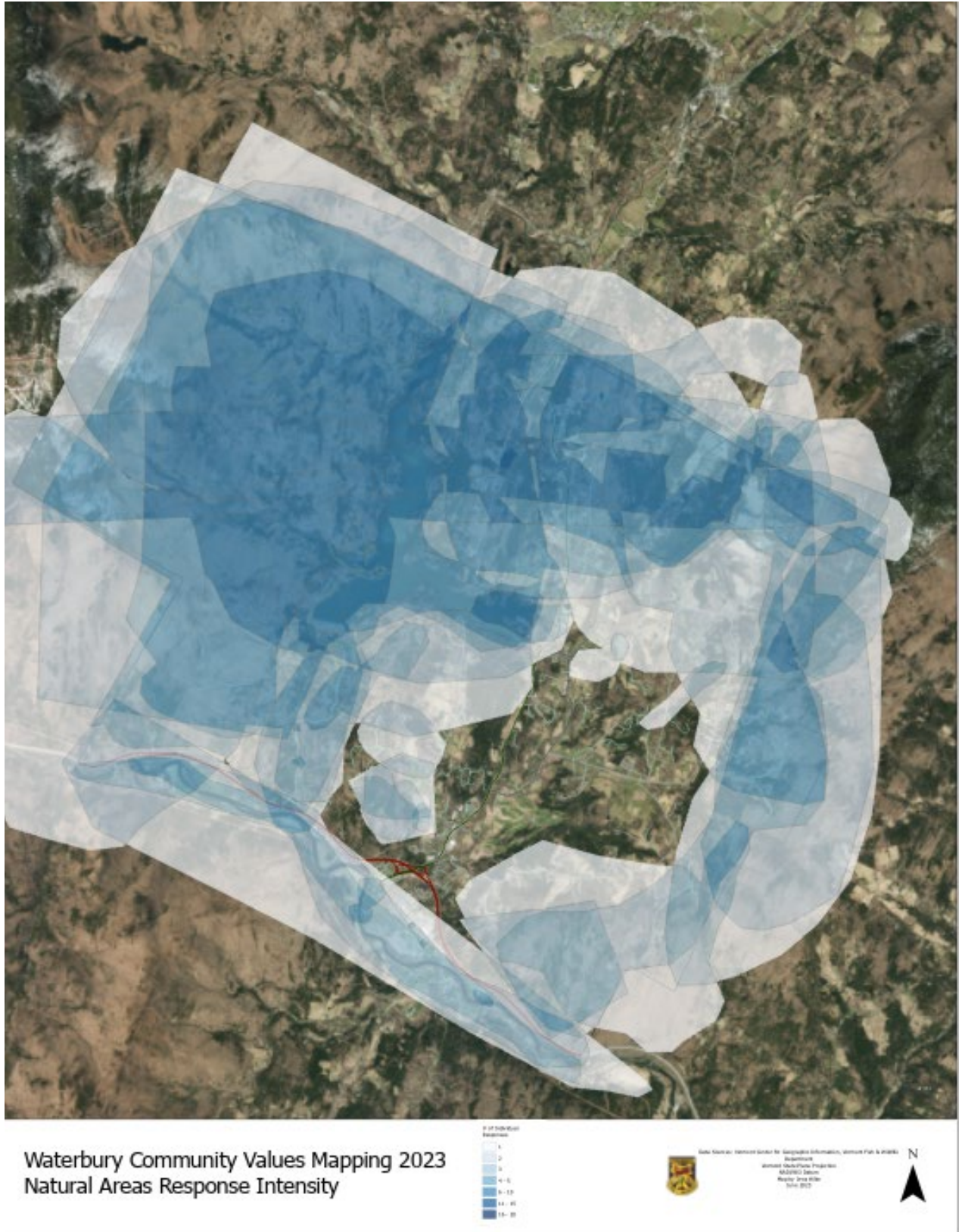Natural Areas Response Intensity

The Map shows the intensity of individual responses for that value group.

Overlapping Values Map

Each Value Group (e.g. "Recreation" or "Scenic Areas") combines results from all of the small group maps in that category, eight value groups in all. The following shows an overlap of these eight value groups. The legend shows numbers 1-7. These do NOT refer to a particular value group. Rather, they show the number of value groups overlapping at that location. To determine which values are present at that location, refer to the Results by Value Group section.
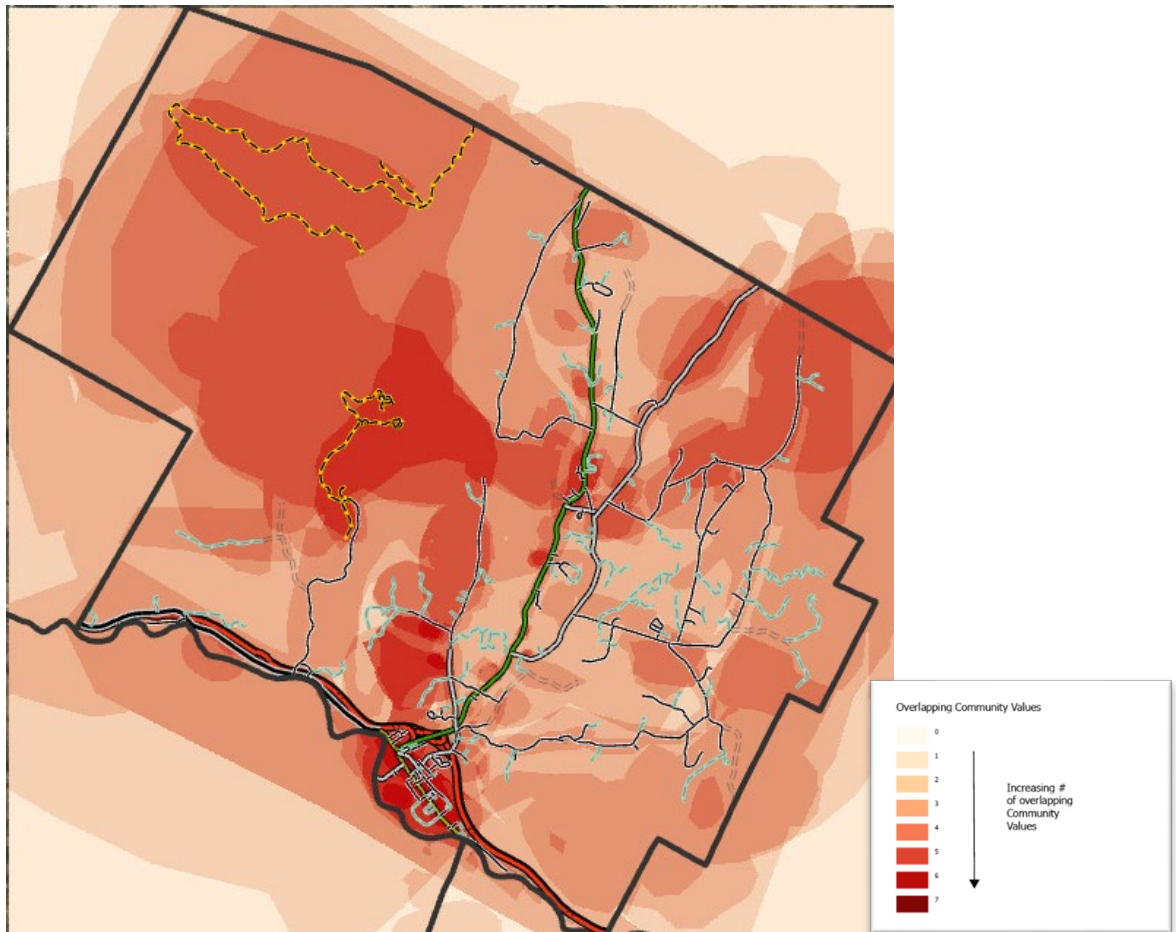
Overlapping value groups is not necessarily good or bad, it simply shows that a particular location is important for a variety of reasons. When thinking about any of these overlapping locations, it is necessary to understand the particular suite of value group present in any location to understand what implications that may have for land use planning or other community objectives. For example, a forested area that shows recreation, scenic, & working landscape values at the same location suggests the location meets a variety of community needs and may be unsuitable for other values such as residential development based on public opinion. However, a location that shows Scenic and Commercial values might point to potential conflicts. Furthermore, even areas that reflect only one value group might still be so important to the community that other values wouldn't be welcomed by the community there. So, overlapping value groups alone doesn't describe the level of importance of any value group at that location but does offer insight into where multiple values are held at the same place/time.

Overlapping Community Values & Ecological Priorities

Vermont Conservation Design identifies features at the landscape and natural community scales that are necessary for maintaining an ecologically functional landscape – a landscape that conserves current biological diversity and allows species to move and shift in response to climate and land-use changes. At the landscape scale, users can see patterns in Vermont's forests, waterways, and the places that connect both into functional networks. At the community scale appear significant natural communities, lakes representing high quality examples of different lake types, and similar important features that are vital to assemblages of plants and animals.