

Forest and Natural Areas Conservation at the Municipal Level

How PEI municipalities can
include natural areas
conservation in their official
plans

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December 18, 2023



PEI Forested Landscape Priority Place for Species at Risk Initiative (FLPP)

- Joint initiative co-led by Environment and Climate Change Canada- Canadian Wildlife Service and PEI Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division
- FLPP supporting the Federation of PEI Municipalities to engage with municipalities
- **GOAL- to update municipal processes and Official Plans and Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws to enable and develop protected areas/ urban forestry plans.**

Forests are the most biodiverse habitats in PEI

PEI forests provide habitat to...

- 13 Species at Risk assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
- 60+ migratory bird species that arrive in PEI each spring to make nests and raise their young in our forests.
- Amphibians, reptiles, mammals, insects, fungi, mosses, lichens, and vascular plants!



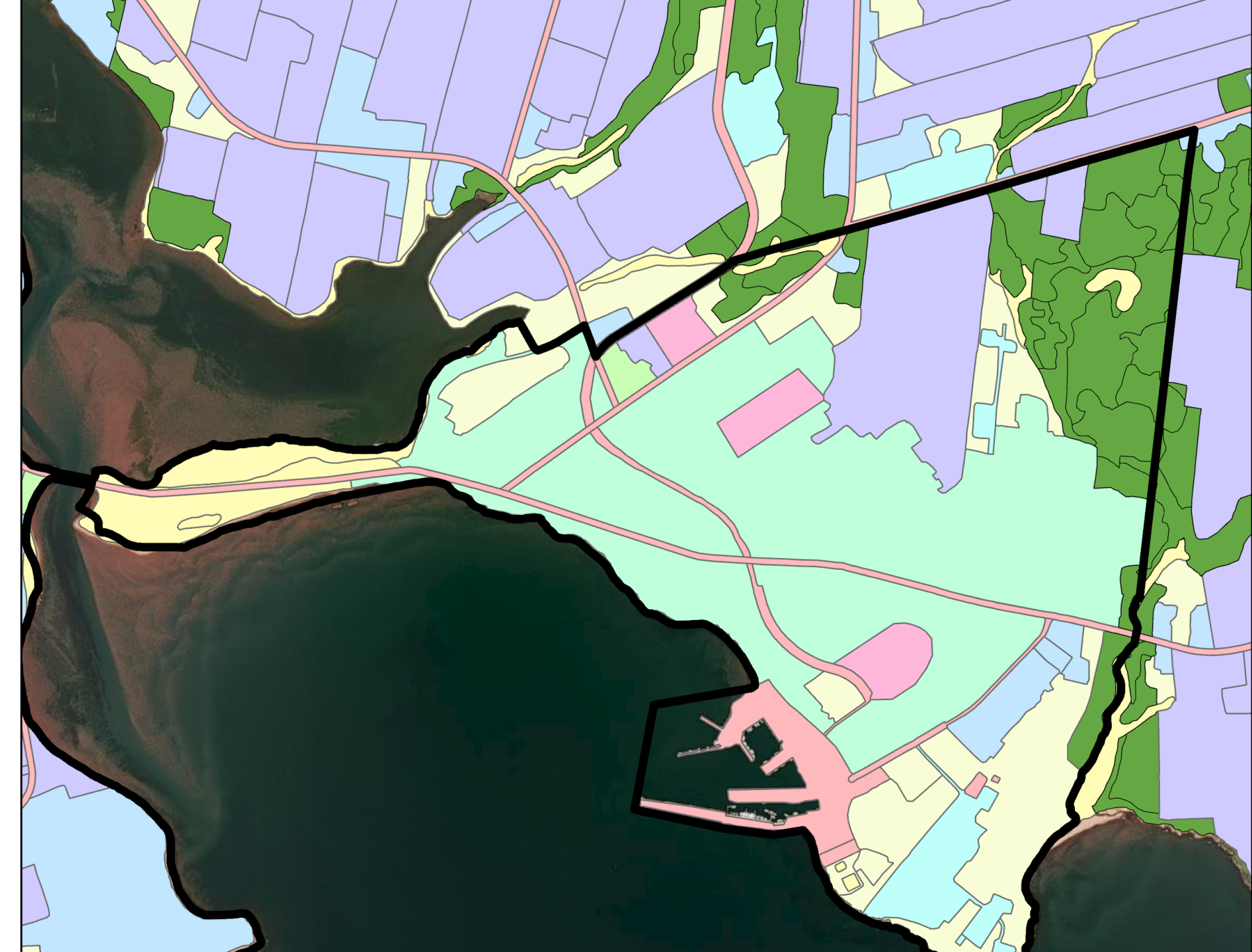
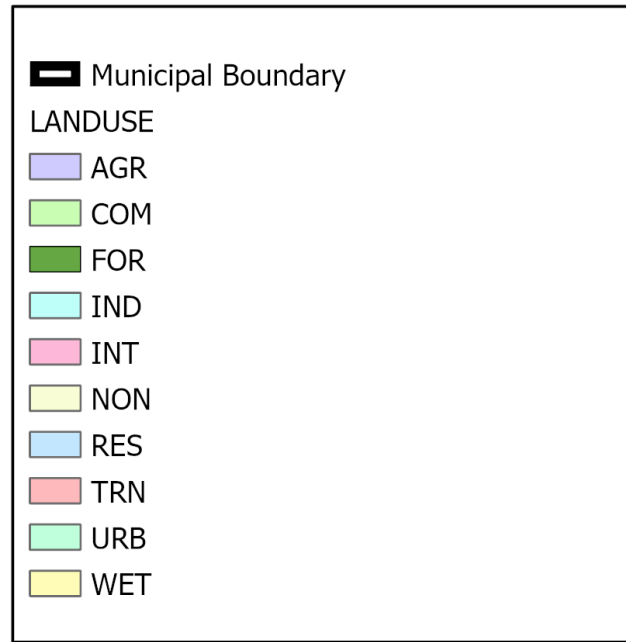
WHAT NATURAL AREAS DO FOR US

Islanders depend on the many goods and services that nature provides:



Forests and natural areas provide **vital ecosystem services** to municipalities

Corporate Land Use Inventory for the Town of Souris Prince Edward Island



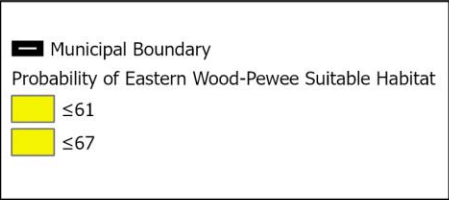


Eastern Wood-pewee
(Contopus virens)

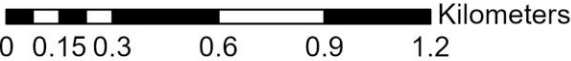
COSEWIC Status: Special Concern

Breeding habitat requirements:
Somewhat generalist, prefers mature or old hardwood/mixedwood stands with relatively open understory

Habitat Suitability for Eastern Wood-pewee within the Town of Souris Prince Edward Island



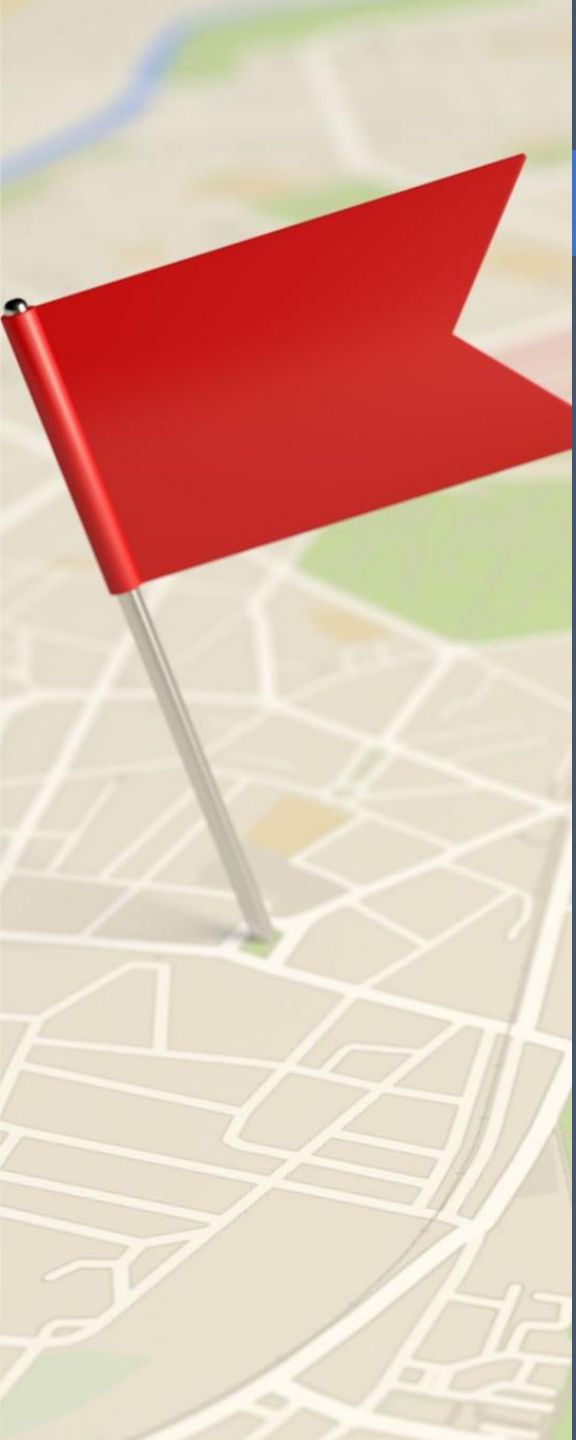
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



How can the municipality promote forests?

- The town can develop and enhance urban forests in park spaces
 - These forests can then serve as recreation space & habitat
- As land is subdivided, municipalities can take 10% of land for park space
- **Update official plans and bylaws & clarify process and enhance urban forests as park space**





Municipal Official Plan

- Future land use map
- Designate conservation areas
- Subdivision of land policy
- Park policy
- Fragmentation policy
- Buffer and edge policy
- Hedgerow policy
- Natural area conservation policy
- Habitat policy
- Species at risk policy
- Climate Change Adaptation



Municipalities can Identify and designate parks & habitat areas

- Inventory land
- Examine existing land use
- Draft maps
- Identify potential conflict areas
- Consult widely with interest holders, including subject matter experts
 - Watershed groups/ Provincial staff
- Designate areas to be parkland
 - Long term- future land use map
 - Immediate- zoning map



Subdivision design includes parks

- Parkland dedication typically considers:
 - Ball fields
 - Playgrounds
- But can also be used for:
 - **Trails/ linear parks**
 - **Expanded buffers**
 - **Natural areas**
 - **Municipal Forests**
 - **Habitat areas**



Partners in conservation

- Federal government
- Provincial government
- Other municipal governments
- PEI Watershed Alliance
- Local Watershed Groups
 - Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
- Conservation organizations
 - Nature Conservancy Canada, Island Nature Trust
- Federation of PEI Municipalities
 - <https://fpeim.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Protecting-Habitat-Guide.pdf>
- Private landowners



Tonight, we ask Council:

- For a motion for Council to support participation in a project with FPEIM to explore developing processes for identify parkland, protected areas and/or municipal forestry plans, and where indicated to assist in updating municipal documents to protect space for habitat.



Thank you for listening!

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