#### 2022 SuAsCo Regional Prioritization Plan Sudbury Valley Trustees Massachusetts



Metrowest Conservation Alliance Working regetive to preser load load and ware



#### **Sudbury Valley Trustees** Protecting natural areas for wildlife and people in a 36-community region between Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts





We Needed to Update Our Land Protection Planning

#### Goals

- Update land protection priorities to guide our own organization and partnerships throughout our service area
- Include more climate planning data sources
- Better plan for equity in our work
- Take a more collaborative approach

# Project Funding

#### SVT was awarded funding:

- Sudbury, Assabet & Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council
- 2021 Land and Climate Program
  - Administered by the Land Trust Alliance
  - Technical Support Partnership with the Open Space Institute



SuAsCo Regional Prioritization Plan

- Coordinated a working group through our Regional Conservation Partnership: Metrowest Conservation Alliance (MCA)
- A survey of the MCA and SVT members helped guide the values included in the plan.
- Results led to four themes:
  - Natural Services
  - Habitat for Biodiversity
  - Community Conservation
  - Farmland

## Natural Services

- Carbon Storage
- Connecting Core Habitats for Biodiversity
- Protection of Water Quality
- Protection of Flood Storage Capacity



# Habitat for Biodiversity

- Significant Blocks of Habitat
- Areas of Uninterrupted Interior Forest
- Priority Natural Communities
- Under-represented Natural Communities
- Rare and Endangered Species Habitat
- Migration Corridors
- Climate Resiliency



## Community Conservation

- Smaller Minimally Disturbed Natural Areas
- Environmental Justice Areas
- Access Points to Regional Trail Links and Areas Connecting Them
- Access Points to Existing Preserved Lands
- Areas In and Around Severe Summer Heat
- Protection of Water quality
- Protection of Flood Storage Capacity



### Farmland

- Existing Farmland Identified Through Local Knowledge and Land Cover Analysis
- Designated Prime Farmland Soils



### **GIS** Analysis

Gathered data for each theme

- Natural Services: 8 datasets
- Habitat for Biodiversity: 13 datasets
- Community Conservation: 11 datasets
- Farmland: 3 datasets



### **GIS** Analysis

- Assigned scoring to features in the datasets
- Weighted datasets based on feedback from survey
- Converted all data to 30m x 30m rasters
- Combined datasets using Weighted Sum
- Used Zonal Statistics as Table to summarize values in ownership parcels







#### Communicating Our Results





Conservation in the SuAsCo





Metrowest Conservation Alliance

Conservation Alliance Working together to protect local land and water

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# Conservation in the SuAsCo

Identifying Land Protection Priorities for a More Sustainable Future

Story Map authored by Nyssa Hunt (UT-Chattanooga IGTLab), Christa Collins and Dan Stimson (SVT) November 1, 2022





Sudbury Valley Trustees

Metrowest <u>Conservation Alliance</u> Working together to protect local land and water

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Story Map authored by Nyssa Hunt (UT-Chattanooga IGTLab), Christa Collins and Dan Stimson (SVT) December 6, 2022

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#### **Community Conservation**



Esri, CGIAR, USGS | Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS

#### **Community Conservation**



### Next Steps

- Defining our own proactive priorities
- Working with partners to introduce and utilize the tools and data for their priorities



#### Natural Services



### Thank You

