

WOODBURY, VERMONT

COMMUNITY VALUES MAPPING

March 24, 2021



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Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department | Agency of Natural Resources

Introduction

In January of 2021, as part of an ongoing process to update the Woodbury Town Plan, the Woodbury Planning Commission invited the Community Wildlife Program to lead a Community Values Mapping event for the Town of Woodbury, Vermont. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an online approach to values mapping was chosen to maximize human safety. Community values were mapped at a live online event on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

At the online event, participants were asked to think about two simple questions:

What places in Woodbury do you love?

What do you value about these places?

Participants gathered virtually on a Zoom meeting and were divided into four breakout groups with a trained facilitator for each group. Participants then logged on to [Miro.com](https://miro.com), a website with an interactive whiteboard designed for simultaneous use by multiple users (Figure 1). 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 with seven predetermined value groups for participants to categorize their responses (Recreation, Hunting & Fishing, Scenic, Community, Working landscapes, Historic, and Ecological).

One at a time, group members used the drawing tool to outline a location that he/she/they value and selected a color that corresponded to one of the seven value groups. Once an outline was drawn, each participant stated what they loved about that place. For example, possibilities could include wildlife, views, working forests, farmland, economic resources, cultural and social resources, historic sites, places for recreation, hunting and fishing, or many other options. A brief description of what the drawn shape represented was documented using the comment tool on the map.



Figure 1. Screenshot of interactive whiteboard for multiple users at Miro.com, with a variety of mapped community values in Woodbury, Vermont.

The next participant chose either to use the same color (i.e., 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 those cases, overlapping polygons were drawn around the same area, each time with a different color as indicated in the legend.

Value Groups

The legend of value groups was pre-determined, as seen at right (Figure 2).

The full list of values listed was therefore:

- Recreation
- Hunting & Fishing
- Scenic
- Community
- Working Landscape
- Historic
- Ecological

When participants were unsure which value group best represented the feature they had mapped, small-group facilitators helped determine the most appropriate value group.



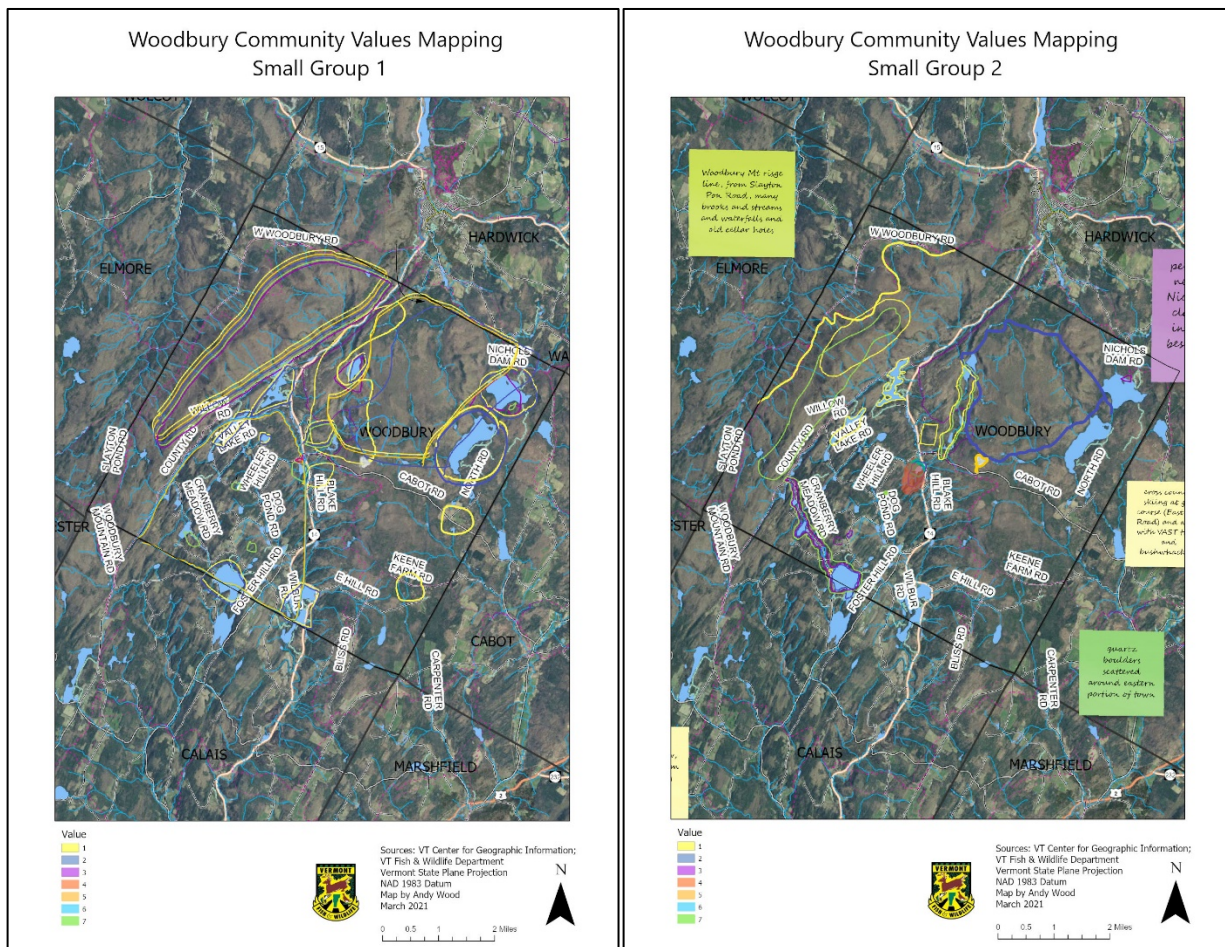
Figure 2. Legend depicting the seven value group categories used in Woodbury.

Maps and Results

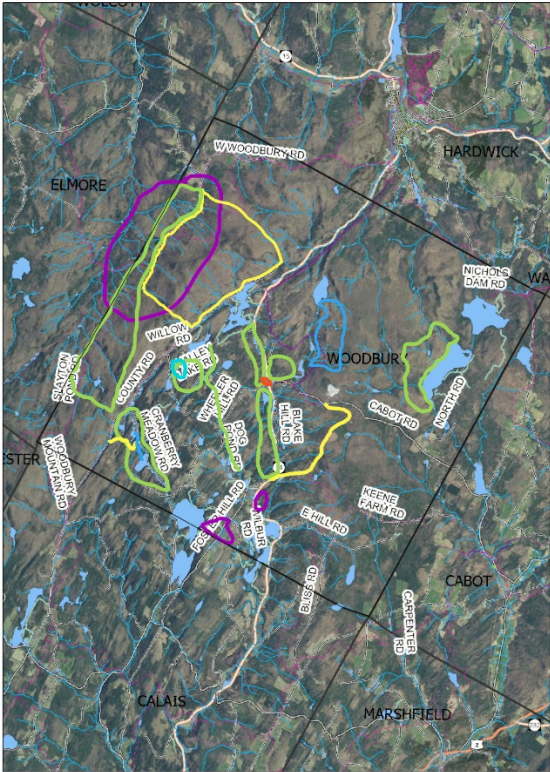
Results from the online event were digitized and compiled using ArcGIS software to create the maps below. Digital data are also available by request to the town and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. Existing data will be archived by the Community Wildlife Program.

Results by Small Group:

The following maps show each of the small group maps as digitized. Values from these maps were later combined by value group for subsequent analysis.



Woodbury Community Values Mapping Small Group 3

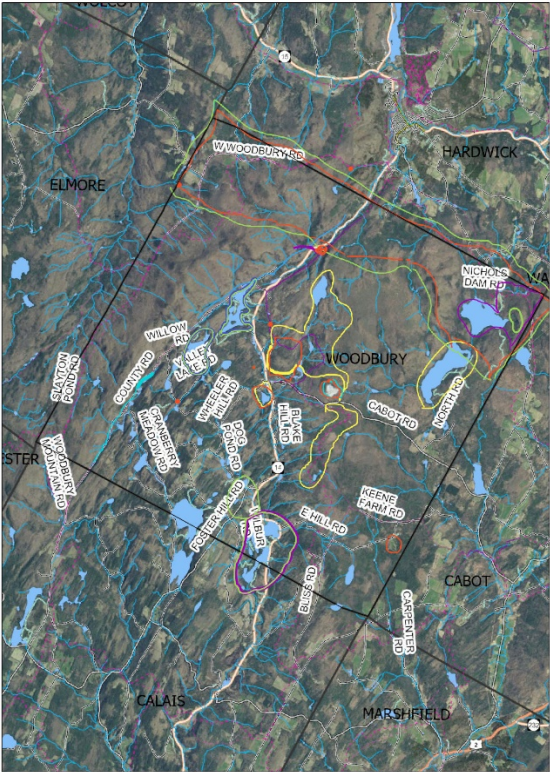


Value
1
2
3
4
5
6
7

Sources: VT Center for Geographic Information;
VT Fish & Wildlife Department
Vermont State Plane Projection
NAD 1983 Datum
Map by Andy Wood
March 2021

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Woodbury Community Values Mapping Small Group 4



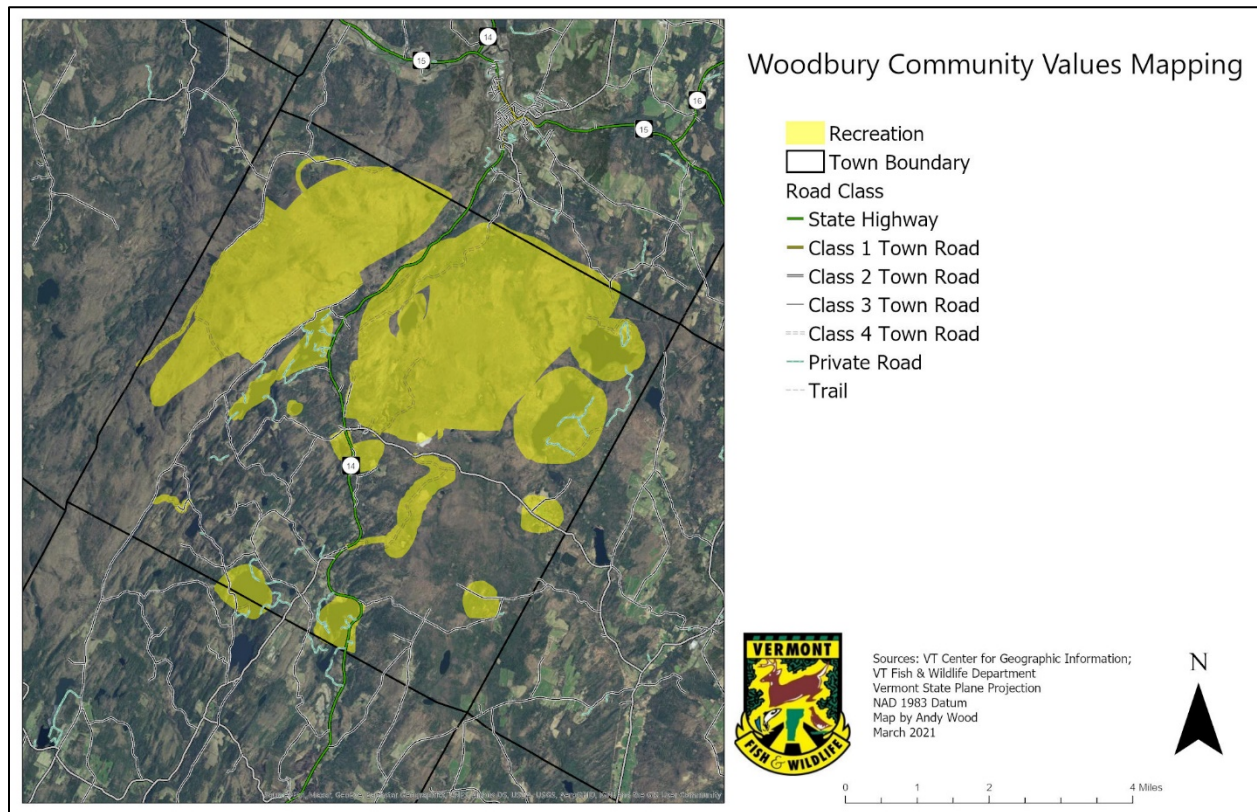
Value
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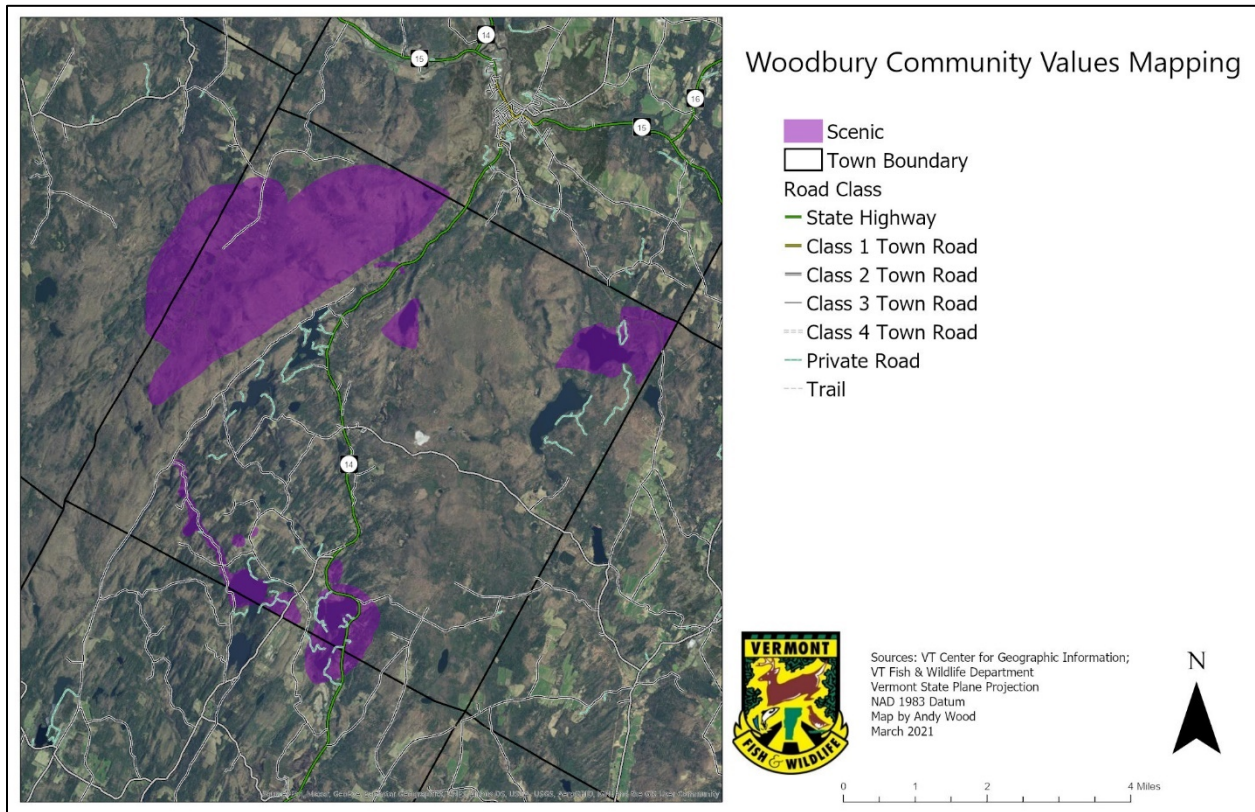
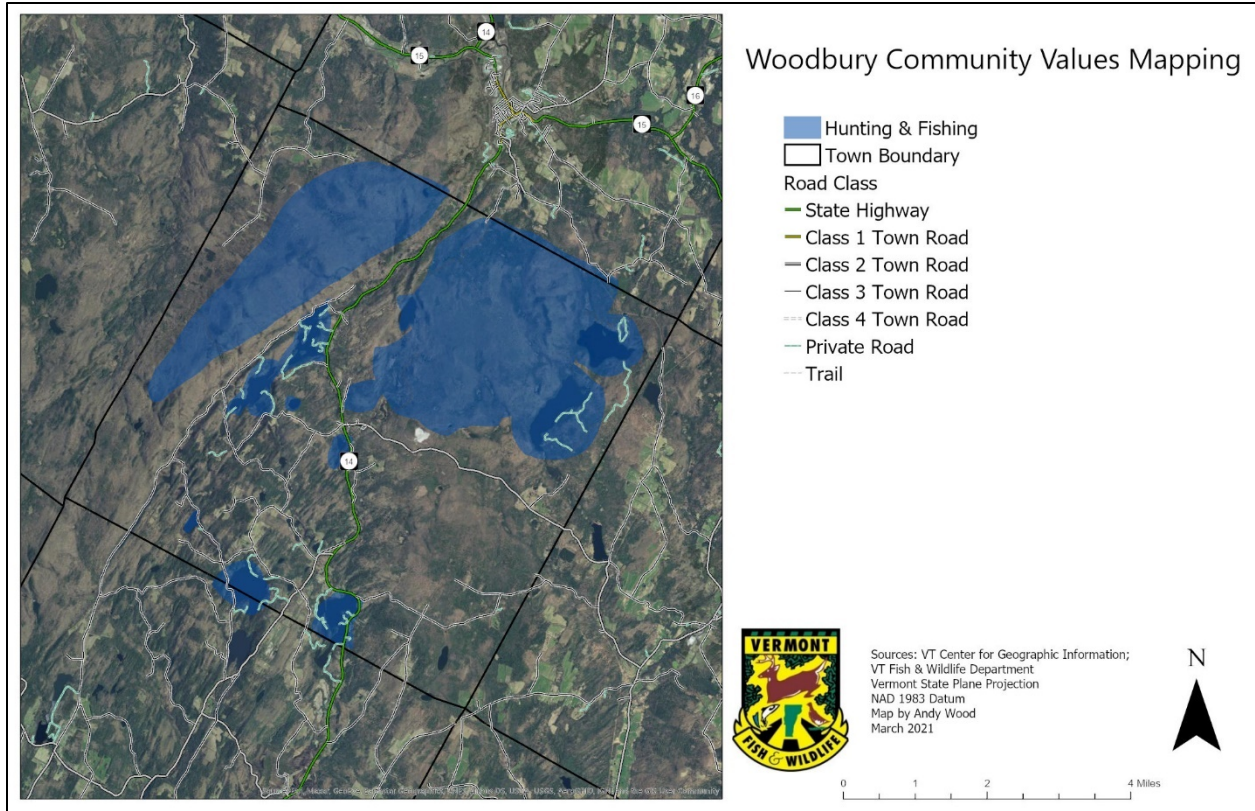
Sources: VT Center for Geographic Information;
VT Fish & Wildlife Department
Vermont State Plane Projection
NAD 1983 Datum
Map by Andy Wood
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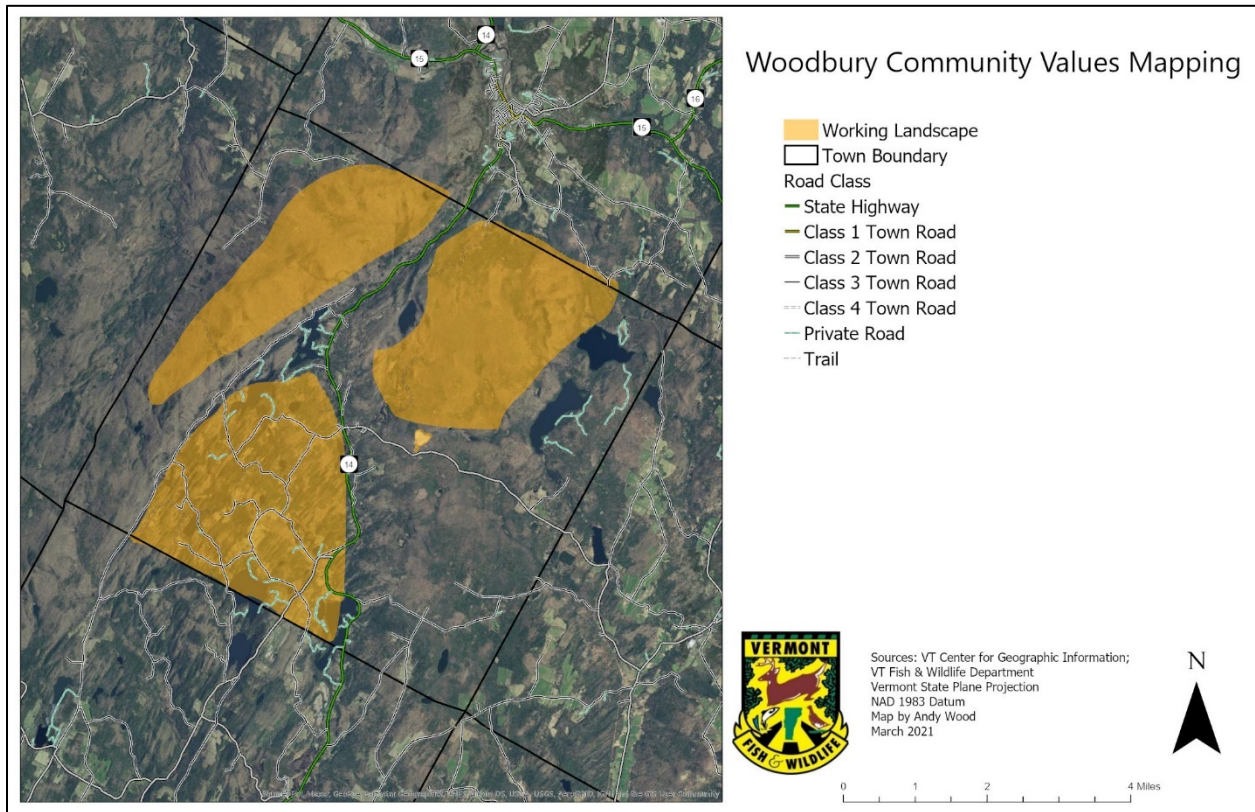
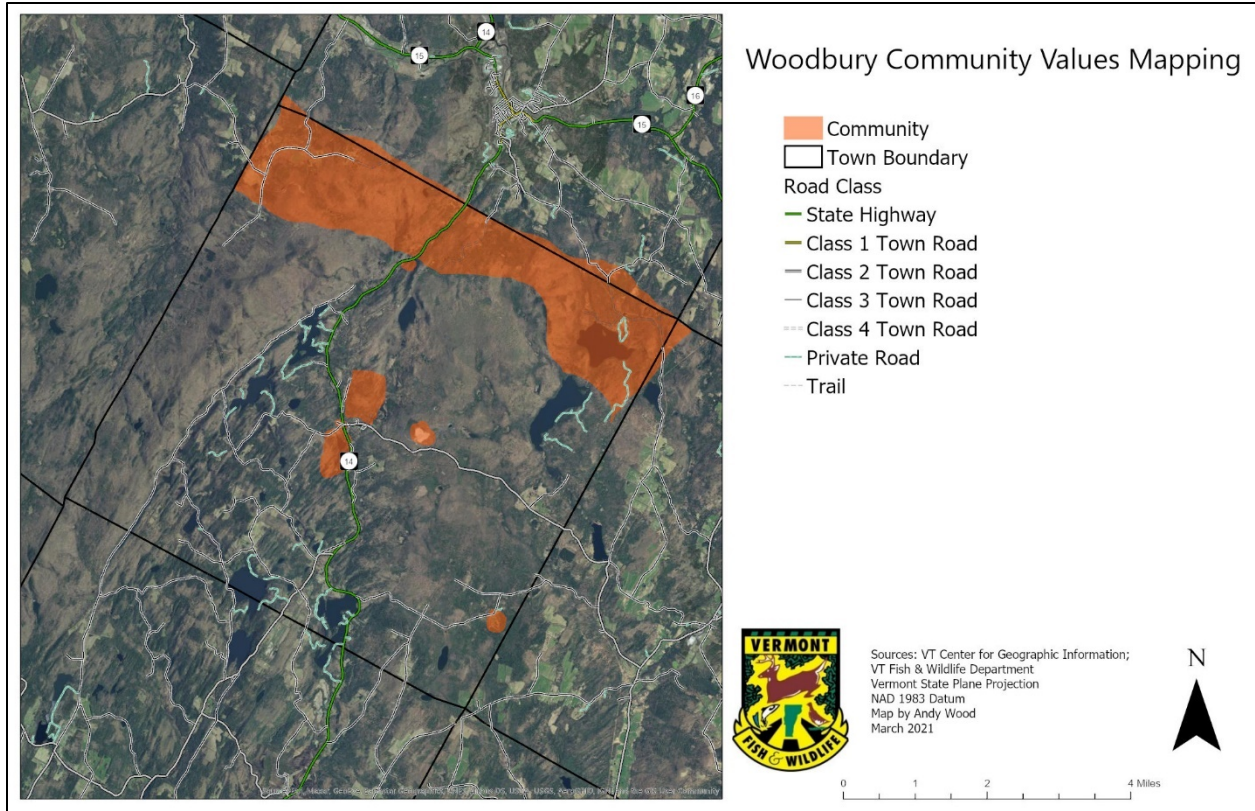
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

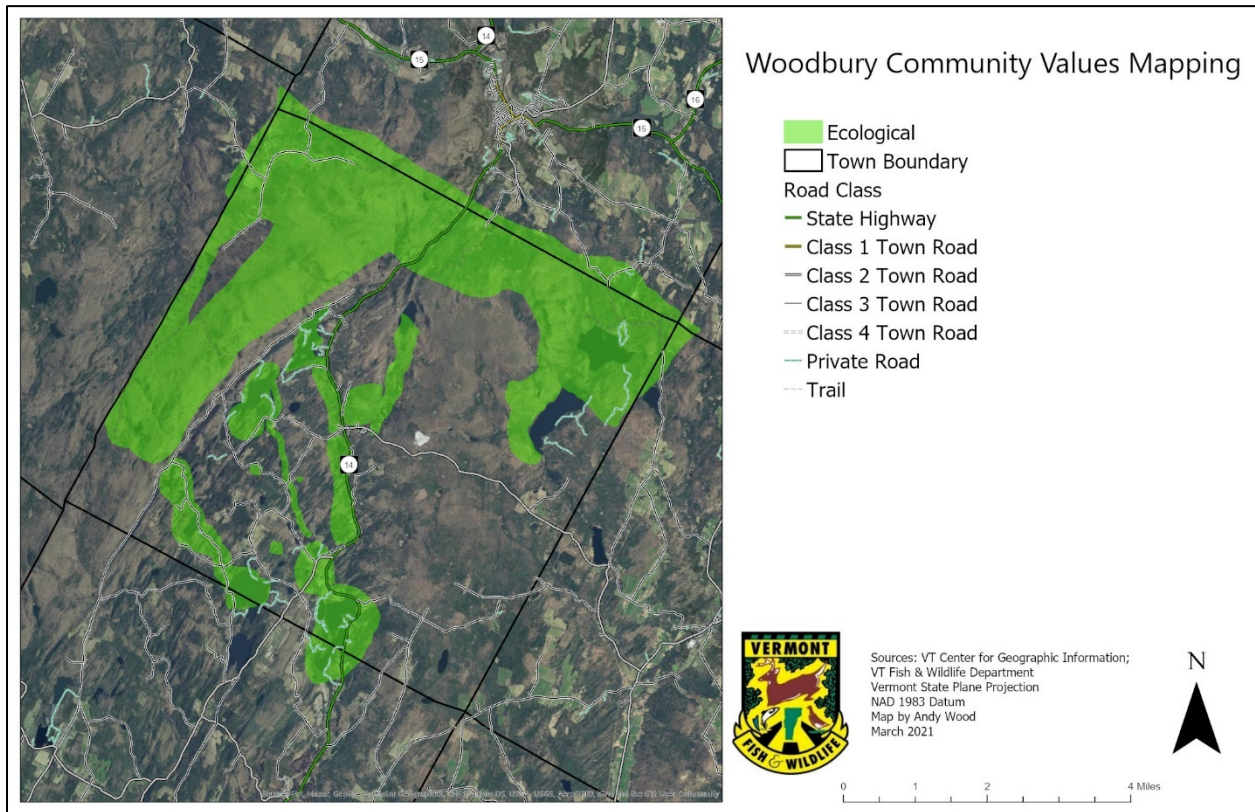
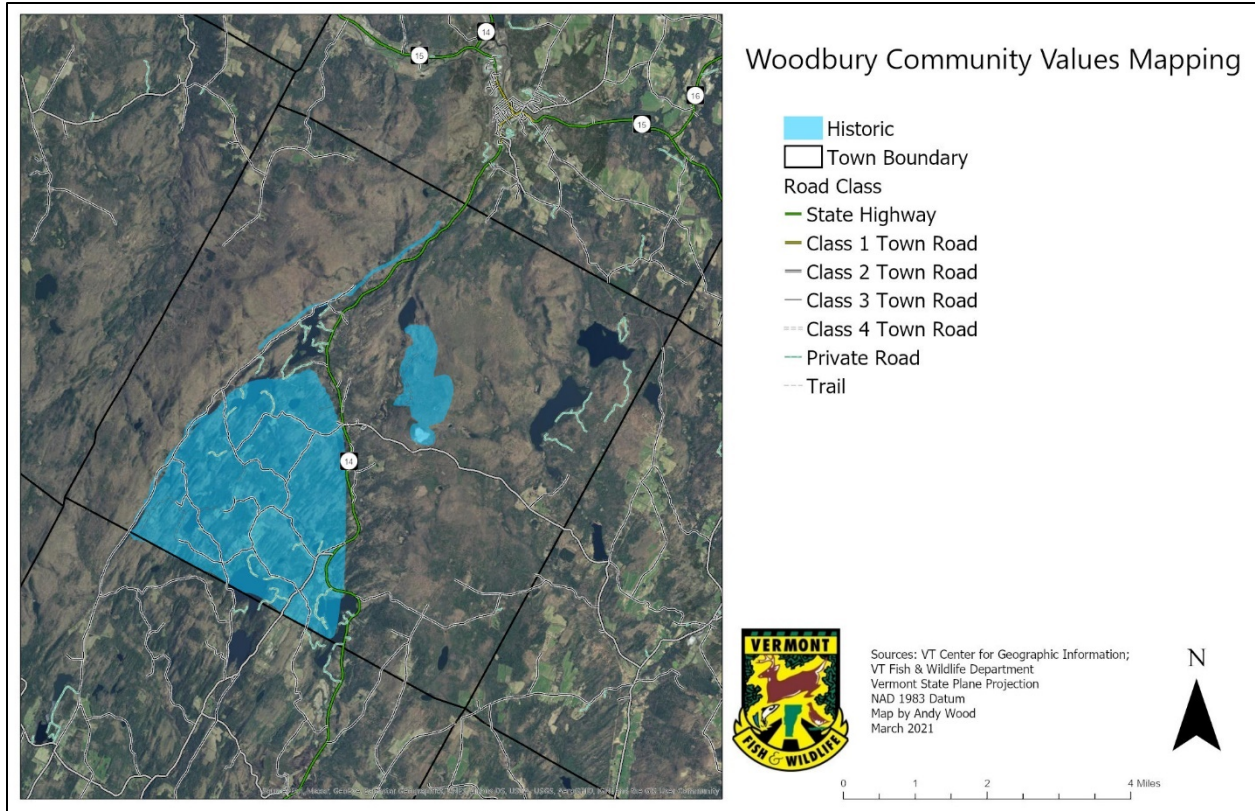
Results by Value Group:

The following maps show each of the value groups as digitized, including combined inputs from across all four Small Groups.



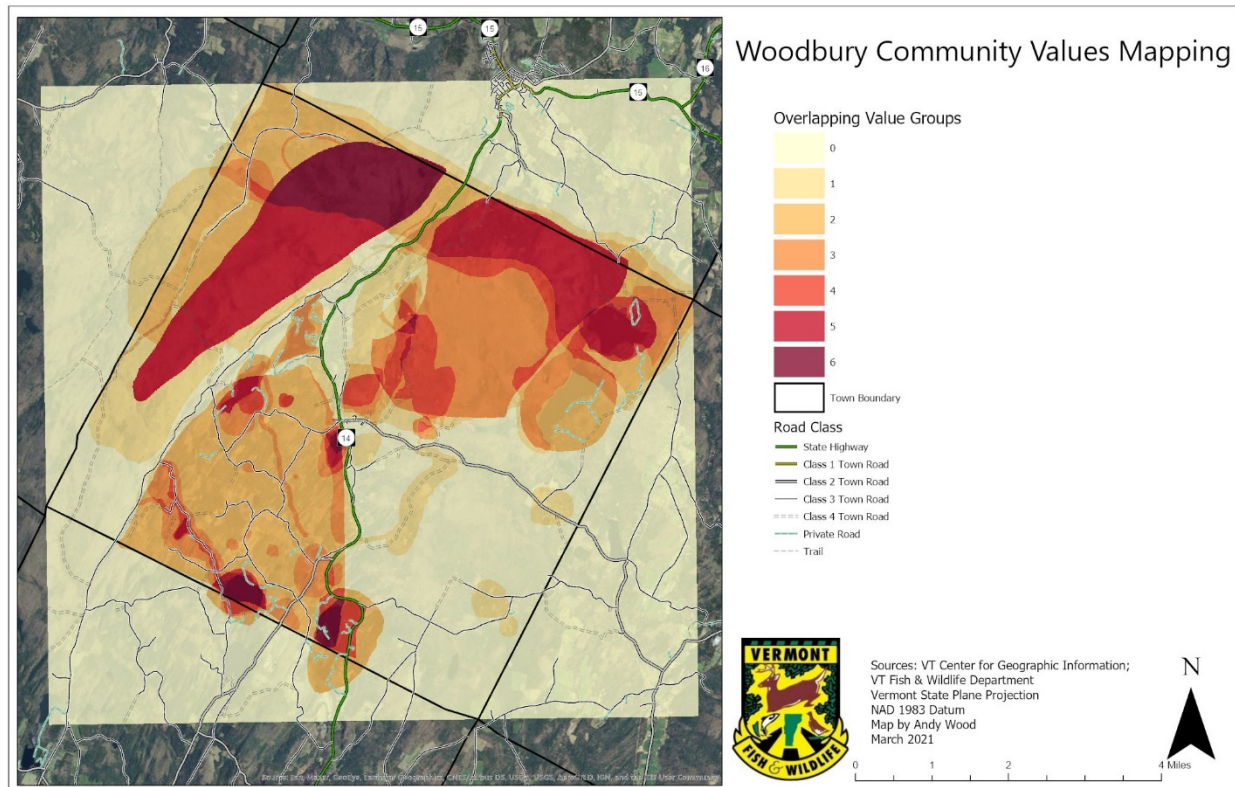






Overlapping Values Map

Each Value Group (e.g., “Recreation” or “Scenic”) combines results from all of the four small group maps in that category. The following map shows an overlap of all seven value groups. The legend shows numbers 1-6. These do not refer to a particular value group; instead, they show the quantity of value groups overlapping at that location. To determine which values are present at that location, refer to the Results by Value Group section.



Discussion

The presence of 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 suite of value groups 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, hunting & fishing, 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. As another example, a location that shows recreation and hunting & fishing values might point to potential conflicts with activities such as mountain biking and hunting occurring at the same time which is potentially dangerous. Furthermore, consider that even areas that reflect only one value group might still be so important to the community that other values would not be welcomed by the community there. To summarize, overlapping value groups alone do not describe the level of importance of any value group at that location but can offer insight into where multiple values are held at the same place and time.

Excerpted Mapping Comments

A variety of comments and notes were included with value mapping. The following comments, lightly edited for punctuation and brevity, highlight several recurring themes and values in Woodbury.

- Cranberry Meadow Road vicinity, flat and scenic.
- Cranberry Meadow area: loons and bald eagles.
- Bike tour, Cranberry Meadow, Country Road, from Calais, across Dog Pond Road and back south into Calais.
- Golf Course.
- ATV Trail – small number of folks use for hiking and biking too.
- Log town road / rec opportunity.
- Quiet, boating, fishing.
- Hiking and walking.
- Cross country skiing at golf course (East Hill Road) and along with VAST trails and bushwhacking.
- Elmore Branch/Class 4 Road Rec, ecological significance.
- Lots of hiking trails in this area (Buck Lake and to its south), mostly unposted private land.
- Class 4 roads: great recreation – bikes, snowmobiles, walking.
- Hunting everywhere, not many posted signs. Bear & Moose sightings.
- Woodbury Mountain line, from Slayton Pond Road, many brooks and streams and waterfalls and old cellar holes.
- Woodbury Mountain, hiking, skiing, hunting.
- Woodbury Range: working landscape, recreation/hunting, large unfragmented forest block, can be seen from many places in town.
- Buck Lake drainage important to diversity of wildlife.
- Buck Lake WMA/Conservation Camp valued as public land for hunting, fishing, and recreation.
- Great view to south of Green Mountains from Buck Lake “lookout.”

- Woodbury Mountain Range Scenic View.
- Meyer Family/Bardill Lumber Company owns about half the town and contributes to the ecological, recreation, hunting, unbroken forest, and contributes to the character of the town. This includes Woodbury Range.
- Scenic: Foster Hill Road looks towards Calais.
- Town Forest: blazed trail, hunting, hiking.
- Town Forest: recreation, hunting, ecological with vernal pools.
- Town Forest: Mature Hardwoods.
- Mature stand of hardwood trees in Town Forest (700 feet up Town Farm Road).
- “The Land of Lakes and Ponds.”
- Dog Pond: great smallmouth bass fishing.
- Nichols Pond: bass.
- Fish & Wildlife Access areas on Nichols, East Long, and Buck Pond.
- All the waters flow out of Woodbury; nothing flows into town.
- All rivers flow out of town.
- Woodbury supposedly has the highest density of lakes and ponds than any other town in Vermont but lacks a public beach.
- East Long Pond: Natural shoreline.
- Natural shoreline limited to west shore of East Long Pond and Buck Lake.
- Most active recreational pond in Woodbury: good spot for potential public access (referring to Sabin Pond).
- Stream: clean water. Beaver flowage. More streams like this throughout town providing clean, good quality water.
- Two waterfalls: scenic and ecological values with wetland.
- Water source.
- Clean waters in headwaters, including Dog Pond Brook where clams exist.
- Triangle polygon demarcates the last best agricultural area.
- Old Meyer Family Agricultural Lands.
- Old granite quarries.
- Granite quarry.
- Quartz boulders scattered around eastern portion of town.
- Important geological feature (historic/ecological) that follows county road.
- Town hall and historic gathering place.
- Site of one of the earliest sawmills where water from Valley Lake was diverted to.
- Historic corridor relevant to origin of Woodbury.
- School and library with town-owned ecological Class II wetland. Valued for educational opportunities.

- Woodbury Elementary School; important wetland area
- School is listed as historic preservation building.
- Wetlands, birds, and moose.
- RT 14 Wetlands: Moose Sightings.
- Wetland: birding haven.
- Town wetland.
- Peregrine falcon nesting at Nichols Ledge. It is closed to people in summer but best views in fall time.

Additional Data Comparisons

The values mapped through this exercise can be helpful to a community in a variety of ways. Sometimes, it is beneficial to see how some values compare with other existing data, such as ecological data (e.g., wetlands inventory, rare species), existing infrastructure (e.g., roads, transmission lines), or community data (school locations, etc.).

For additional assistance comparing the results of the Community Values Mapping exercise with other data, contact staff at the Community Wildlife Program

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About the Community Wildlife Program

The [Community Wildlife Program](#) of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department provides technical assistance to towns, Regional Planning Commissions, and conservation organizations. We keep tabs on the latest in conservation science and help integrate that information into efforts to protect wildlife, habitat, and the most important lands and waters in Vermont. Whether you are drafting a new town plan, seeking a project partner, or looking to level up your conservation planning, we are here to help. Consultations and follow-up services are free of charge and sponsored by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.