**From:** Jeanette Coffin

**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 12:45 PM

**To:** Anthony Henage

Cc: Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Britany Waddell; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

Subject: RE: Eastowne Northern Parcel (Fwd: Dry Creek - Mount Moriah Bottomland)

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Anthony Henage <anthony.henage@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 7:00 PM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

Cc: John Richardson < jrichardson@townofchapelhill.org>; Tom Henkel < thenkel1936@gmail.com>; Blount, Chelsea D

<chelsea.blount@ncdcr.gov>; Misty.buchanan@ncdcr.gov

Subject: Eastowne Northern Parcel (Fwd: Dry Creek - Mount Moriah Bottomland)

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Dear Council,

Thank you for your time. With today's Eastowne work session, I want to reiterate the importance of conserving the entire Northern 20-acre parcel (between Eastowne Drive and I-40) of Natural Heritage area which is part of a larger contiguous area of Conservation lands.

This area serves a variety of environmental functions critical to our town and surrounding areas. Even partial deforestation of the area would have an outsize impact on land and water quality of the town, beyond just the destruction of mature Hickories and Oaks.

The NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has studied the area and determined it is worthy of conservation through whatever means are necessary and the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board has unanimously passed a resolution to conserve this area.

I have laid the groundwork for a grant application with the NC Land and Water Fund and, as of our last communication, the district manager (Chelsea Blount) was waiting for follow up from the Council.

Please take into account the work of this State Division and your Advisory Board as you engage in discussions regarding Eastowne.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

**Anthony Henage** 

----- Forwarded message ------

From: Buchanan, Misty < misty.buchanan@ncdcr.gov >

Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Subject: Dry Creek - Mount Moriah Bottomland

To: "anthony.henage@gmail.com" <anthony.henage@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Henage,

Thank you for contacting North Carolina's Natural Heritage Program about the Dry Creek - Mount Moriah Bottomland natural area. Attached is a report with the most recent survey information from Natural Heritage Program (2019). This is the most recent information we have in our files for the site. Based on aerial photos, we do not expect that the conditions on the would have substantially changed since this report was written. Based on this information, the tract would qualify as a dedicated nature preserve or registered heritage area if there is interest on the part of the landowner.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this natural area or need further information.

Sincerely,

#### **Misty Buchanan**

Deputy Director for Natural Heritage

Division of Land and Water Stewardship

NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

New Office Line: 919-707-9382

misty.buchanan@ncdcr.gov

## 121 W. Jones St, MSC 1651 Raleigh, NC 27699-1651



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#### SITE SURVEY REPORT

**SITE NAME:** Dry Creek/Mount Moriah Bottomland – Eastowne tract

**DATES VISITED:** August 7, 2019

INVESTIGATORS: Mike Schafale, with Allison Weakley (Town of Chapel Hill) and Jennifer

Burdette (McAdams Company).

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Mike Schafale **DATE OF REPORT:** August 2019

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/PURPOSE OF VISIT: The Eastowne tract was visited at the request of the Town of Chapel Hill, because the tract was part of a natural area previously identified by NHP. The tract is part of a larger master planning effort that includes adjacent developed areas, and is the subject of a Development Agreement being negotiated between the town and the landowner.

The area of the Eastowne tract was first identified in the Orange County Natural Areas inventory under the name of Cedar Terrace Bottoms. The report emphasized the floodplain communities but included the upland area in the natural area boundary. Cedar Terrace Bottoms was later combined with the adjacent Mount Moriah Bottomlands natural area recognized in the Durham County Natural Areas Inventory.

**OWNER:** Health Systems Properties, LLC

**OWNER CONTACT + NOTES:** The owner was contacted by the McAdams Company for permission to survey the tract, prompted by a request from the Town of Chapel Hill... Permission for the survey was given by Simon George of UNC Health Care Real Estate and Development (email July 25 to Bill Derks).

**COUNTY:** Orange **QUAD:** Chapel Hill

**LOCATION** / **ACCESS:** The Eastowne tract is located on the northeastern edge of Chapel Hill, on the west side of I-40 and north of US 15-501 and its service road. Eastowne Drive runs along the west side of the tract. Providence Road is just west of the tract.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The Eastowne tract consists primarily of upland slopes, broad ridges, and a gentle knoll. A substantial stream valley with an intermittent to perennial stream and several ephemeral stream courses dissect the area. The north edge of the tract extends to the larger floodplain of Dry Creek. The site occurs within the Durham Triassic basin geological region but is unusual in having substantial relief rather than the subdued topography more typical of that region. In addition to sandstone substrate, diabase dikes are present, which produce soils with higher pH and higher base saturation than is typical in most of the Piedmont. The predominant natural community of the site is Dry-Mesic Basic Oak—Hickory Forest. Small areas of Basic Mesic Forest, Piedmont Headwater Stream Forest, Piedmont Alluvial Forest, and

Piedmont Swamp Forest are present. All of these forest communities are unusually mature, with large old trees.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SITE: The overall Dry Creek/Mount Moriah Bottomland natural area is currently rated at Moderate significance (R5 C4). Besides its natural community occurrences, it is an important landscape linkage. It provides biological connection for wildlife movement between the extensive conservation lands around Jordan Lake and those of Duke Forest upstream, with a partial connection to the Eno River basin. In the heavily urbanized areas of Chapel Hill and Durham, this natural area is the last such link remaining. The Eastowne tract is not in the direct line of the landscape connection. It contains a small portion of the floodplain communities but is particularly notable in being one of the few parts of the site with significant intact mature upland hardwood communities to complement the floodplains. Uplands around most of the site have been developed or have successional vegetation. The communities are unusual in having base-rich soils, because of one or more dikes of diabase underlying the area.

**SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES:** None noted. Gray petaltail dragonfly (*Tachopteryx thoreyi*), reported in the earlier survey, is no longer tracked as a rare species but is uncommon. It likely is still present.

**POTENTIAL FOR OTHER SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES:** Low, but *Enemion biternatum* or other plants of base-rich soils but not visible in late summer could possibly be present,

#### OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES AND FEATURES:

**SIZE:** The Eastowne tract is 20.5 acres. The overall Dry Creek/Mount Moriah Bottomland natural area is approximately 485 acres.

ELEVATION: 265-335 feet.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Upland slopes and broad ridges, dissected by several small drainages. The north end of the tract is in the wide floodplain of Dry Creek.

**HYDROLOGY AND MOISTURE:** Most of the acreage is dry-mesic uplands and slopes. The lower parts of the stream valley and the larger Dry Creek floodplain probably are flooded most years. The mapped 100 year floodplain extends up the lower slopes around them.

**PRESENCE OF STREAMS AND SEEPS:** One perennial stream is present, along the west side of the tract. A stream determination by Allison Weakley also identified intermittent and ephemeral streams in the smaller drainages.

**GEOLOGY:** The area lies in the Durham Triassic basin, and is underlain by Triassic sandstone. One or more diabase dikes are present within the tract. Outcrops of both diabase and sandstone were seen in the bed of the creek, and diabase float was also seen on the east side of the tract. Though the substrate is a mix of lithology, the vegetation suggests influence of mafic or calcareous rock throughout the tract.

**SOIL:** White Store (Fine, mixed, active, thermic Oxyaquic Vertic Hapludalfs) is mapped over most of the tract.

Goldston (Loamy-skeletal, siliceous, semiactive, thermic, shallow Typic Dystrudepts) is mapped on the steeper slopes along the drainages. Small areas of alluvial soil are not mapped.

Chewacla (Fine-loamy, mixed, active, thermic Fluvaquentic Dystrudepts) is present on the larger floodplain to the north and probably occurs as inclusions in the stream valley in the tract.

**COMMENTS ON PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** The site is unusual in having more relief than is typical for Triassic basin sites.

### NATURAL COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Dry-Mesic Basic Oak—Hickory Forest (Piedmont Subtype): Upland slopes and ridges, occupying most of the tract. The canopy is dominated by Quercus alba and Quercus rubra, with frequent associates being Fraxinus americana, Fraxinus biltmoreana, Carya glabra, and Carya tomentosa. A few Pinus echinata are present. The understory includes Acer floridanum, Acer leucoderme, Cornus florida, Prunus serotina, Cercis canadensis, and a few Carpinus caroliniana. An open shrub layer includes abundant Viburnum rafinesqueanum, Viburnum prunifolium, Viburnum acerifolium, and patches with some Vaccinium pallidum and Vaccinium tenellum. A few Lindera benzoin were present in the upland, as well as small Crataegus sp., Diospyros virginiana, and a few other species. The herb layer is typically low in density, but includes multiple species indicative of base-rich soil, such as Dichanthelium boscii, Elymus virginicus, Phryma leptostachya, and Sanicula sp., as well as widespread upland species such as Tipularia discolor, Hexastylis arifolia, and Galium circaezans. A little Scleria oligantha and Piptochaetium avenaceum were seen. This forest is quite mature. Canopy trees average over 12" dbh and trees 16" are common. A few as large as 24" dbh were seen. The Natural Resources report by McAdams Company reports checking of aerial photos back to 1938 which suggest more than 80 years without disturbance over most of the area, and reports trees exceeding 30" dbh.

Basic Mesic Forest (Piedmont Subtype): Occurs on more sheltered slopes. The only extensive patch is on the east side of the tract, along a ravine. It is too small in extent to be highly significant by itself. The canopy is dominated by Fagus grandifolia. Fraxinus americana, Quercus rubra, Acer floridanum, and one large Liquidambar styraciflua also occur. The understory consists the same species, but a few Carpinus caroliniana are present. There is almost no shrub layer, but a few Aesculus sylvatica are present. Herbs are sparse, except for some beds of Polystichum acrostichoides. Despite the base-rich soil conditions indicated by the presence of Fraxinus and abundance of Acer floridanum, only a few herbs indicative of these conditions (e.g. Elymus virginicus) were seen. This may be due to the late season or to the small extent of the community. This forest is quite mature, with canopy trees averaging 16" dbh.

**Piedmont Headwater Stream Forest:** Small areas of this community occur along the upstream part of the main creek on the tract as well as in narrow bands along several ephemeral tributaries. The canopy is dominated Liriodendron tulipifera and has a typical mix of floodplain and upland species, including Liquidambar styraciflua, Ulmus americana, and Quercus alba. The understory includes Carpinus caroliniana as well as canopy species. Shrubs are sparse. Herbs generally are low in density and are a mix of species, including Polystichum acrostichoides, Dichanthelium

boscii, Prunella vulgaris, Viola sp., Iris cristata, Nabalus sp., and Agrimonia sp. Microstegium vimineum is present but not extensive. This forest is comparable in maturity to the upland forests.

Piedmont Alluvial Forest: Allluvial Forest occurs along the downstream part of the primary stream on the tract, where alluvial soils are better developed and the floodplains are wider. As is characteristic, the canopy is dominated by Liquidambar styraciflua. Other species include Liriodendron tulipifera, Acer floridanum, Quercus alba, and Platanus occidentalis. The understory is dominated by Carpinus caroliniana, but includes some Asimina triloba and Ulmus rubra, as well as canopy species. Lindera benzoin is the dominant shrub. Notable were a number of Styrax grandifolius on the edge of the floodplain. Rosa multiflora is frequent but no large individuals were seen. The herb layer is dense in much of the community. Microstegium vimineum dominates some large patches. A variety of native species are present, including Elymus virginicus, Leersia virginica, Agrostis sp., Rudbeckia laciniata, Sanicula sp., and Viola sp. Spring ephemeral species may also be present but were not visible at this season. The Piedmont Alluvial Forest is quite mature, with many trees 16-20" dbh.

**Piedmont Swamp Forest:** Present in the floodplain of Dry Creek, at the northern edge of the tract. The canopy is dominated by Liquidambar styraciflua and Fraxinus pennsylvanica, with some Ulmus americana and Platanus occidentalis. The understory is dominated by Carpinus caroliniana, and some Asimina triloba is present. Shrubs are largely absent, though some large vines are present. The herb layer is dense. Patches are dominated by Saururus cernuus, Impatiens capensis, Microstegium vimineum, or by a mix that includes Agrostis sp., Boehmeria cylindrica, Lycopus sp., Persicaria sp., and other species. The swamp forest is quite mature at its southern end, on the Eastowne tract, with canopy trees averaging 16" dbh. The more extensive floodplain north of that is younger, with canopy trees averaging 8" dbh.

#### **OTHER COMMUNITIES PRESENT:**

Two patches of successional pine communities are present on the tract, as well as a small grove on the western periphery. These patches my represent long-abandoned fields, but one is on a fairly substantial slope. The disturbance was many decades ago, and the trees are large – most 12-16" dbh. Notably, Pinus echinata appears to be more abundant than Pinus taeda. There has been much recent concern about declines in Pinus echinata populations. Unlikely Pinus taeda, the species was naturally abundant in oak forests. It once was a predominant invader of abandoned clearings, but has been supplanted by Pinus taeda in more recent decades.

## ANIMAL HABITAT COMPONENTS

**POOLS AND SEEPS:** Small seeps are present.

**ROCK DENNING SITES:** None noted.

**BIG TREES/LARGE CAVITIES:** Trees up to 20-24" dbh are present.

**SNAGS AND LOGS:** Moderate numbers, including some recently fallen trees.

#### **AQUATIC HABITAT FACTORS**

The channel of Dry Creek here is about 4 feet wide, with banks 2-3 feet high and a muddy bed. The water appeared fairly muddy at this time. The primary stream within the tract is perennial

along most of its length, intermittent at the upstream end. Its lower reach flows through a broad floodplain to the confluence with Dry Creek. Its bed is predominantly sand, and there are a couple of small rock outcrops along it. The downstream part of it has a braided series of flow paths rather than a single channel.

#### **SITE INTEGRITY**

**LAND USE IMPACTS:** Two old roadbeds cross the tract, running along each side of the primary stream. One especially is much larger than a typical logging road; it is graded as wide as a typical two-lane road. Though no remnants of pavement were seen, this could have been an important road before the construction of US 15-501. Where it crosses the primary stream, just upstream from its confluence with Dry Creek, there is fill some 10 feet deep. The fill has been breached, with a steep-sided gully cut through it down to stream level around the remnants of a culvert.

The successional pine stands suggest small fields or other clearings in the past. The forest presumably was logged in the past as well, though possibly only for local use by the landowner. All such activities were many decades in the past, and the forest is comparable to the most mature forests in the Piedmont.

One of the sandstone outcrops near the stream appeared to have been quarried or blasted. Drill holes were visible on the edge of the rock. The outcrop is small and is not along the road bed, so it is unclear why this would have been done.

**EXOTIC/WEEDY SPECIES:** Exotic plants are widely distributed in the tract but are not dense in most places. Microstegium vimineum dominates some patches in the Piedmont Swamp Forest and Piedmont Alluvial Forest. It is present less extensively in the Piedmont Headwater Stream Forest and a few patches occur even in the upland forests.

Rosa multiflora is frequent in the Piedmont Alluvial Forest and present in the Piedmont Headwater Stream Forest, on the roadbed, and scattered elsewhere, but no large plants or thickets were seen.

One small Nandina domestica bush was seen in the upland.

Glechoma hederacea, common in floodplains, was not noted, and Lonicera japonica is either minor or absent.

Stellaria media is not visible at this time of year, and may or may not be present in the floodplains.

**DIRECT HUMAN INTRUSION:** Probably low. However, remnants of a tent were found, which Allison Weakley reported was occupied by a homeless person earlier in the year. She also reported a separate camp of homeless people on the I-40 right-of-way near the tract. Both were abandoned at the time of this visit.

**DISTURBANCE SENSITIVE SPECIES:** None noted.

**FIRE REGIME:** No sign of fire. The oak forests would naturally burn, and if it were possible to conduct, prescribed burning would be beneficial.

**ADJACENT LAND USE/OFFSITE STRESSES:** The tract is closely surrounded by developed areas on most sides. Wide busy highways mark two boundaries, while a street borders a third. Large buildings and parking lots border part of it. Stresses from adjacent areas presumably are typical: altered stream hydrology, sediment and chemicals in runoff, penetration of light and weeds along the forest edges, and increased populations of animals associated with forest edges. One stress of adjacent developed areas, domestic pets, may not be present since the surrounding area is not residential, but feral animals are still likely.

**RELATION/CONNECTION TO OTHER SITES AND HABITAT PATCHES:** The Eastowne tract is connected to the Dry Creek floodplain and, through it, to the rest of the Dry Creek/Mount Moriah Bottomland natural area, the New Hope Creek corridor, Duke Forest, and Jordan Lake. The adjacent lands along Dry Creek are owned by the Town of Chapel Hill and portions are under conservation easement with Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

**DEGREE OF THREAT/POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE:** Very high. UNC Health Systems is in a negotiated master plan and development agreement process that involves this tract as well as adjacent tracts.

**BOUNDARY EXPLANTATION/JUSTIFICATION:** No changes have been made in the natural area boundary. It is marked by roads and developed areas. Most of it is the mature forest communities. Small areas of successional forest are included for site continuity.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROTECTION:** This tract is worthy of protection in its natural condition, through whatever means are feasible. The tract adjoins conservation lands owned by the Town of Chapel Hill and is connected through them to Durham County lands and to a larger network of conservation lands.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESTORATION NEEDS: The only significant management need is control of the exotic plants.

**NEED FOR FURTHER STUDY:** Low. A spring visit likely would find many additional plant species.

#### **REFERENCES:**

McAdams Company. 2019. Natural Resources Report and Preliminary Assessment, UNC HCS – Eastowne Campus. EMA-17000.

Sather, D., and S.P. Hall. 1988. Inventory of Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats for Orange County, North Carolina. Orange County Environment and Resources Conservation Department and North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. Updated by Bruce Sorrie and Rich Shaw 2004.

## PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED:

# **THOROUGHNESS OF LIST:** (moderate)

O = Dry-Mesic Basic Oak—Hickory Forest

M = Basic Mesic Forest

H = Piedmont Headwater Stream Forest

A = Piedmont Alluvial Forest

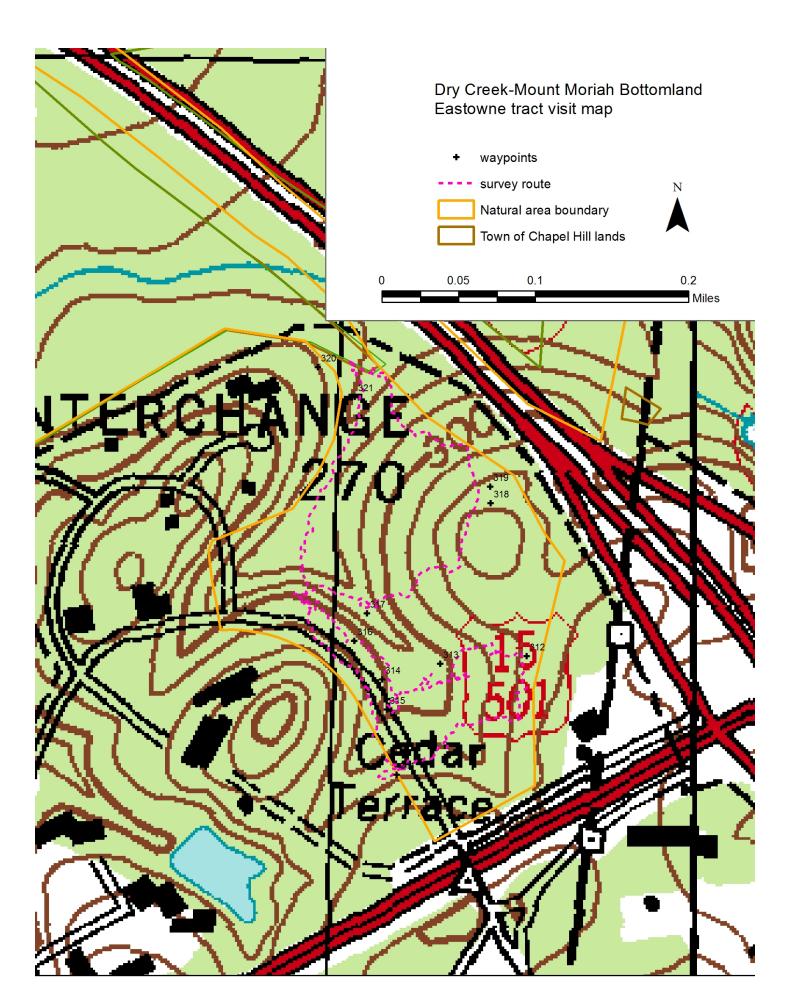
S = Piedmont Swamp Forest

canopy		
Acer floridanum	M, H, A	c
Carya glabra	O	c
Carya tomentosa	O	c
Fagus grandifolia	M	c
Fraxinus americana	O, M	c
Fraxinus biltmoreana	O	c
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	S	c
Liquidambar styraciflua	A, S, H, M	c
Liriodendron tulipifera	H, A	c
Pinus echinata	succ, O	c
Pinus taeda	succ	c
Platanus occidentalis	A, S, H	$\mathbf{c}$
Quercus alba	O, H, A	$\mathbf{c}$
Quercus rubra	O, M	c
Ulmus americana	A, S, H	c
Understory		
Acer floridanum	O	u
Acer leucoderme	O	u
Acer rubrum	O	u
Amelanchier arborea	O	u
Asimina triloba	A, S	u
Carpinus caroliniana	A, S, H, O, M	u
Carya ovata	0	u
Cercis canadensis	O	u
Cornus florida	O	u
Juniperus virginiana	O	u
Prunus serotina	O	u
Quercus falcata	O	u
Ulmus rubra	A	u

shrubs

Aesculus sylvatica Crataegus sp. Diospyros virginiana Ilex decidua Lindera benzoin Nandina domestica Rosa multiflora Styrax grandiflora Vaccinium pallidum Vaccinium tenellum Viburnum acerifolium	M O O O A, O O A A A O O O O	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$
Viburnum prunifolium Viburnum rafinesqueanum	O, H O, M	S S
vines Campsis radicans Lonicera sempervirens Muscadinia rotundifolia Parthinocissus quinquefolius Smilax rotundifolia Thyrsanthella difforme Toxicodendron radicans	H O H, A, S, O, M O O A S	v v v v v
herbs Agromonia pubescens? Agrostis sp. Asclepias sp. Boehmeria cylindrica Carex spp. Carex typhina? Clitoria mariana Coreopsis verticillata Dichanthelium boscii Dichanthelium sp. Dioscorea villosa Elephantopus nudatus Elymus virginicus Euphorbia pubentissima	H S, A H S A, M S succ O O, H S O H H, A, O, M O	h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h
Galium circaezans Hexastylis arifolia Hexastylis virginica Impatiens capensis Iris cristata Leersia virginica Ligusticum canadense Lycopus sp.	O O M S H A S S	h h h h h h h h

Maianthemum canadense	O, H	h
Microstegium vimineum	S, A, H, O	h
Nabalus sp.	H	h
Persicaria sp.	S	h
Persicaria virginiana	S	h
Phryma leptostachya	A, O	h
Piptochaetium avenaceum	O	h
Polystichum acrostichoides	M, H	h
Prunella vulgaris	A, H	h
Rudbeckia laciniata	A	h
Ruellia caroliniana	H	h
Sanicula sp.	S, A, O	h
Saururus cernuus	S	h
Scleria oligantha	O	h
Tipularia discolor	O	h
Uvularia perfoliata	O	h
Viola sp.	O, M, H, A	h



**From:** Jeanette Coffin

**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 12:43 PM

To: Carol Prokop

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Sarah Vinas; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry;

Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay

Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Preserve the wildlife corridor in Eastowne.

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Carol Prokop <cprokop96@gmail.com> Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 12:19 PM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

**Subject:** Preserve the wildlife corridor in Eastowne.

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Dear Mayor Hemminger and Members of the Chapel Hill Town Council,

I urge you to say "No" to the UNC Health Care proposal to build a six-story parking deck in the middle of a 20-acre tract of mature hickory and beech forest that provides vital habitat for birds and is part of a contiguous wildlife corridor that connects other preserved lands in the New Hope and Eno River Basins. Please note: It is essential to maintain this connection between all of this preserved land because its value as a wildlife habitat is far greater as contiguous land

than it would be if you added up the impact of the separated tracts of land. The tract in question, labeled "N20" on a map that I saw for the UNC Health Care plan for Eastowne, has been officially designated by the State as a Natural Heritage site, with good reason.

UNC Health Care has other options for providing parking in the Eastowne area, and they have already indicated that they could enlarge the capacity of the first three parking decks they intend to build, instead of building them smaller and cheaper and reserving the valuable wildlife tract for additional parking space in the future. Ideally, an easement should be put on this tract to preserve it forever, and the current plan for the other parking decks should be expanded to accommodate the permanent removal of that tract for any potential use in the future.

We have all heard it said over and over again that this or that animal is in danger of extinction in the wild, or this individual is the last of its species because of loss of habitat. This is what it means. If you have ever felt that sadness when looking at the last of a species and wished that you could do something about it, this is your chance. Do the right thing. Please.

My background is in Biological Sciences, and I have been informed about this issue with the help of the New Hope Audubon Society, a group that my husband and I support and trust completely for good information about local ecology. I am a resident of Chapel Hill.

Sincerely yours, Carol Prokop

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:13 AM

**To:** romason124

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Parking deck on Hickory Oak Forest

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: romason124 < romason124@gmail.com> Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 10:48 AM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

Subject: Parking deck on Hickory Oak Forest

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Save our open space.

Ro Mason

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:13 AM

**To:** Jill Blackburn

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Preserve Hickory Oak Forest

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Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin

Jeanette Coffin Office Assistant Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

----Original Message-----

From: Jill Blackburn <jridkyb@gmail.com> Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:45 AM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

Subject: Preserve Hickory Oak Forest

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Dear Mayor and Town Council

As you review the UNC Health proposal, please preserve the Hickory Oak Forest.

Successful development needs to consider the protection and preservation of our natural world and environment v	which
adds to the quality of life for everyone in our community.	

The preserve is a key natural area that deserves to be protected and preserved. Development must work in unison with protection of land home to many various species and botanical life. They were there before UNC.

Ask UNC to design their plan with the protection of this key environmental area for generations to come.

Jill and Dick Blackburn

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:13 AM

To: kevin odonnell

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Please Reject Hickory Oak Forest Parking Deck Plan

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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From: kevin odonnell < kevinodonnell1@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 5:52 AM

**To:** Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org> **Subject:** Please Reject Hickory Oak Forest Parking Deck Plan

**Importance:** High

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Dear Mayor Hemminger and Town Council members:

Please reject UNC Health's plan to build a parking deck on Hickory Oak Forest, at their Eastowne Drive facility. We need to preserve this mature-growth forest for future generations. Thank you.

# Kevin S O'Donnell

### kevinodonnell1@att.net

BELIEVE WHILE OTHERS ...
by William Arthur Ward
Believe while others are doubting.
Plan while others are playing.
Study while others are sleeping.
Decide while others are delaying.
Prepare while others are daydreaming.
Begin while others are procrastinating.
Work while others are wishing.
Save while others are wasting.
Listen while others are talking.
Smile while others are frowning.
Commend while others are criticizing.
Persist while others are quitting.

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:14 AM

To: Janet

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Hickory Oak Forest

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Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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From: Janet <starjet@mindspring.com> Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:43 PM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

Subject: Hickory Oak Forest

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

As a long-time resident of this 'southern part of heaven', I implore you not to put a parking lot in Hickory Oak Forest.

"Pave Paradise,	, put up a parking	lot" must	not be sun	g in our	beautiful,	still livable
city.						

Thank you,

Janet Tice

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:14 AM

To: Rebekah Smith

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Forest Around UNC Health at Eastowne

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Rebekah Smith <rebekahgm7@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:23 PM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

Subject: Forest Around UNC Health at Eastowne

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Hello,

UNC Health needs more commerce and income at the expense of quality of life and ecological care in town? Please don't allow further development of the Eastowne property.

As always, with thanks for your public service, Rebekah M. Smith

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:14 AM

To: Amanda

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Parking deck vs forest

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin

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----Original Message-----

From: Amanda <catdoctor72@msn.com> Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:09 PM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

Subject: Parking deck vs forest

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Oh, please do not choose concrete parking over a forest. There is so much concrete in this town now. Please don't pave paradise and out up a parking lot.

Amanda Mckee DVM

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023 12:14 PM

**To:** Susan Attermeier

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Hickory Forest

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Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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From: Susan Attermeier <satter@bellsouth.net> Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:19 AM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

**Subject:** Hickory Forest

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

#### Greetings

Regarding your decision on tearing down a protected forest and replacing it with a parking deck:

- 1. It is not necessary because other parking options will be available at the renovated shopping center
- 2. It would further degrade the livability of the area, which is already overpopulated with

large buildings and - um - dumb shops

3. It would involve cutting more trees and therefore contribute to climate change.

Please Please do not approve the parking deck!!!

Susan Attermeier

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023 2:19 PM

To: Kristi Webb

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Save the Hickory Oak forest!

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

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**From:** Kristi Webb <kristiwebbnc@gmail.com> **Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023 1:20 PM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

Subject: Save the Hickory Oak forest!

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Dear May and Town Council members,

We have learned that at tonight's Council meeting you plan to discuss UNC Heath's request for a permit to develop their property at Eastowne. Part of the UNC Heath's plan is build a parking deck on the Hickory Oak Forest. This is a rare-old growth forest designated by the North Carolina Heritage Program as worthy of preservation. It must be conserved. As a psychologist, Kristi knows the research on the importance of conserving green spaces for our mental health. At a time when the country is deep in a mental health crisis - with depression and anxiety at sky-high rates, with teen suicide

an epidemic - it is unconscionable to even consider bulldozing an old-growth forest in our town. There is no possible justification to do so.

Please do the right thing and make a statement by rejecting UNC Health's request to develop their Eastowne property in any way that threatens the Hickory Oak forest.

Todd Woerner (he/him/his) Kristi Webb (she/her/hers) kristiwebbnc@gmail.com 919-225-1569 (K's cell)

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 2:19 PM

**To:** Hope Horton

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Save the Hickory Oak Forest

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Again, thank you for your message.

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----Original Message-----

From: Hope Horton <hopematrix@fastmail.com> Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 12:32 PM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

Subject: Save the Hickory Oak Forest

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Please vote to save this valuable ecosystem. It is no longer responsible to extinguish forests and habitat in these days of climate change and mass extinction of species. Human health and well being depends upon the well being of our natural spaces, as we are learning the hard way these days.

It is unconscionable to destroy this forest, particularly for a parking lot. This would be a move in a devastating direction given all we know about the importance of forests and the plants, creatures, and insects they harbor.

It is in your hands to preserve or destroy something which cannot be replaced and which holds incalculable value for all species.

Thank you for your vote to save this forest.

Hope Horton, Orange County resident

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 3:44 PM

To: Nina Tracy

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: Protecting the Eastowne Wooded Area

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

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Jeanette Coffin



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(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Nina Tracy <nina.m.tracy@gmail.com> Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 3:38 PM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

Subject: Protecting the Eastowne Wooded Area

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Hello Mayor and Council,

I'm reaching out to express the importance of the Eastowne natural area. I am a Chapel Hill-ian born and raised and have always deeply loved our town's commitment to respecting the environment and our local ecosystems. I was involved in the clean up of this Eastowne area last year, a wooded area inclusive of a stream and lots of native plants and wildlife, which neighbored the apartment complex where I used to live.

I understand the need for growth and development, but it must be done with balance. I hear that UNC Health is seeking to keep options open for them to develop this area in the future. I cannot claim to understand all of the technicalities there, but I do know that developing key natural areas like this particular plot runs the risk of throwing our local ecosystems out of balance, affecting the watershed for much of town, and further fragmenting the already limited space left to local wildlife.

Please consider prioritizing this natural area off Eastowne and do not permit UNC Health the option to raze this rich area for yet another bunch of concrete.

Thanks for your consideration, Nina Tracy

--

Nina Tracy (919) 636-2550

**From:** Jeanette Coffin

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023 3:44 PM

**To:** neva whybark

**Cc:** Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown;

Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark;

Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens

**Subject:** RE: NO Eastowne parking deck, please!

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Jeanette Coffin



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(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: neva whybark <nwhybark@gmail.com> Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 3:33 PM

To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>

Subject: NO Eastowne parking deck, please!

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

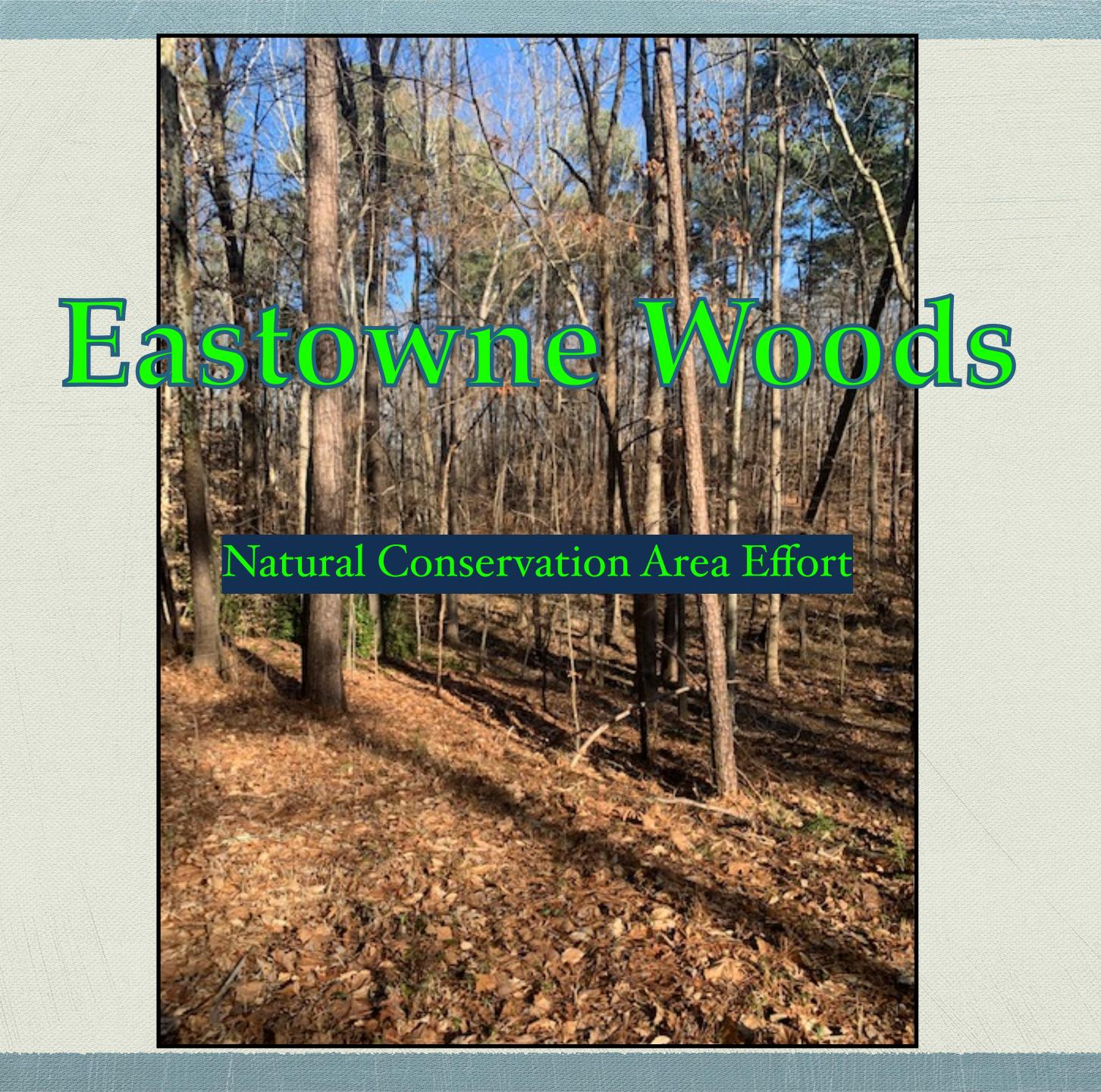
Dear Mayor and Council members:

Please **reject** the UNC plan for the parking deck at Eastown tonight and in the future. Once the Hickory Oak Forest is destroyed, it cannot be replaced. The North Carolina Heritage Program designated it worthy of preservation!

Be environmentally responsible and do not grant the permit, please!

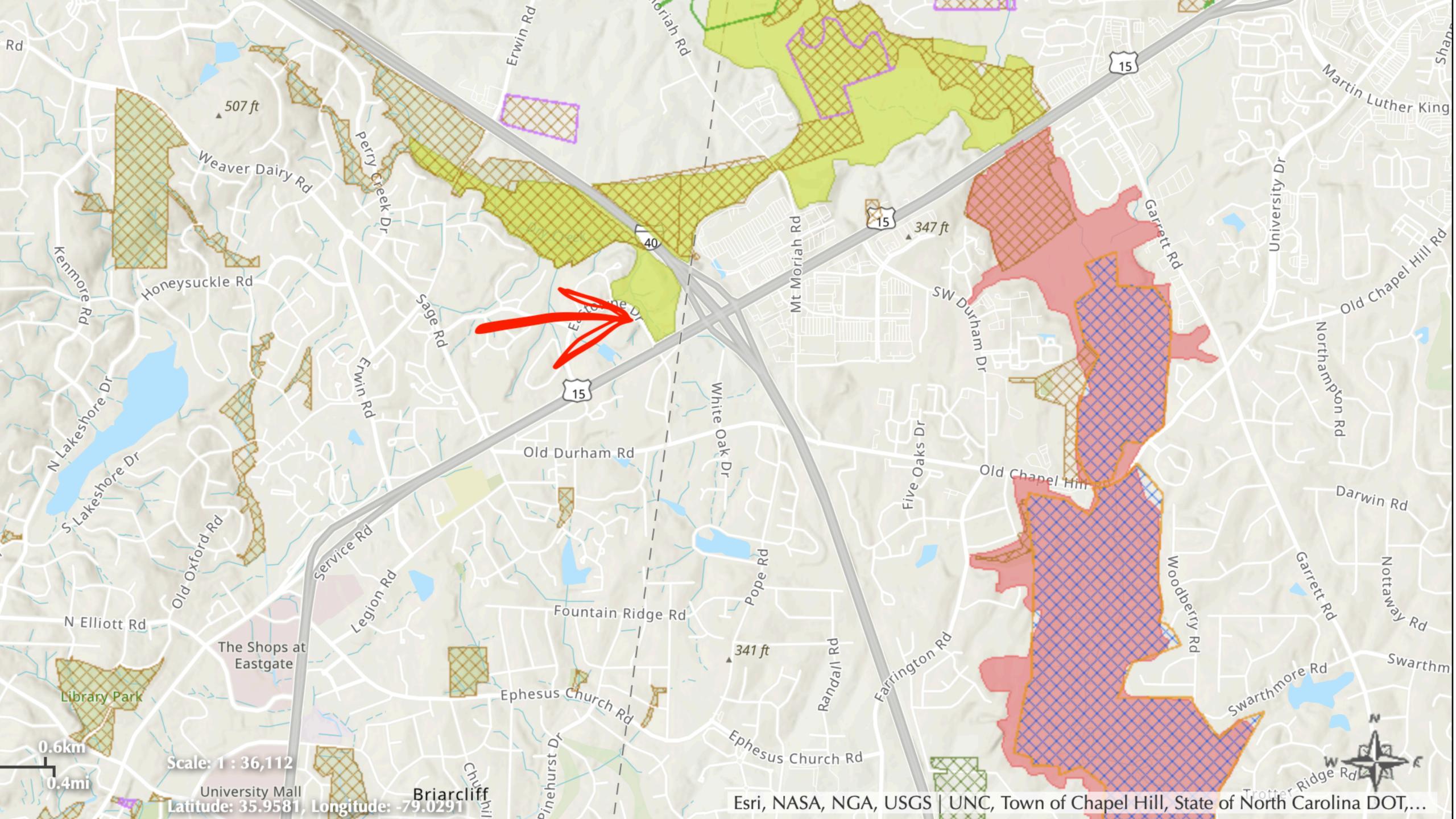
Sincerely,

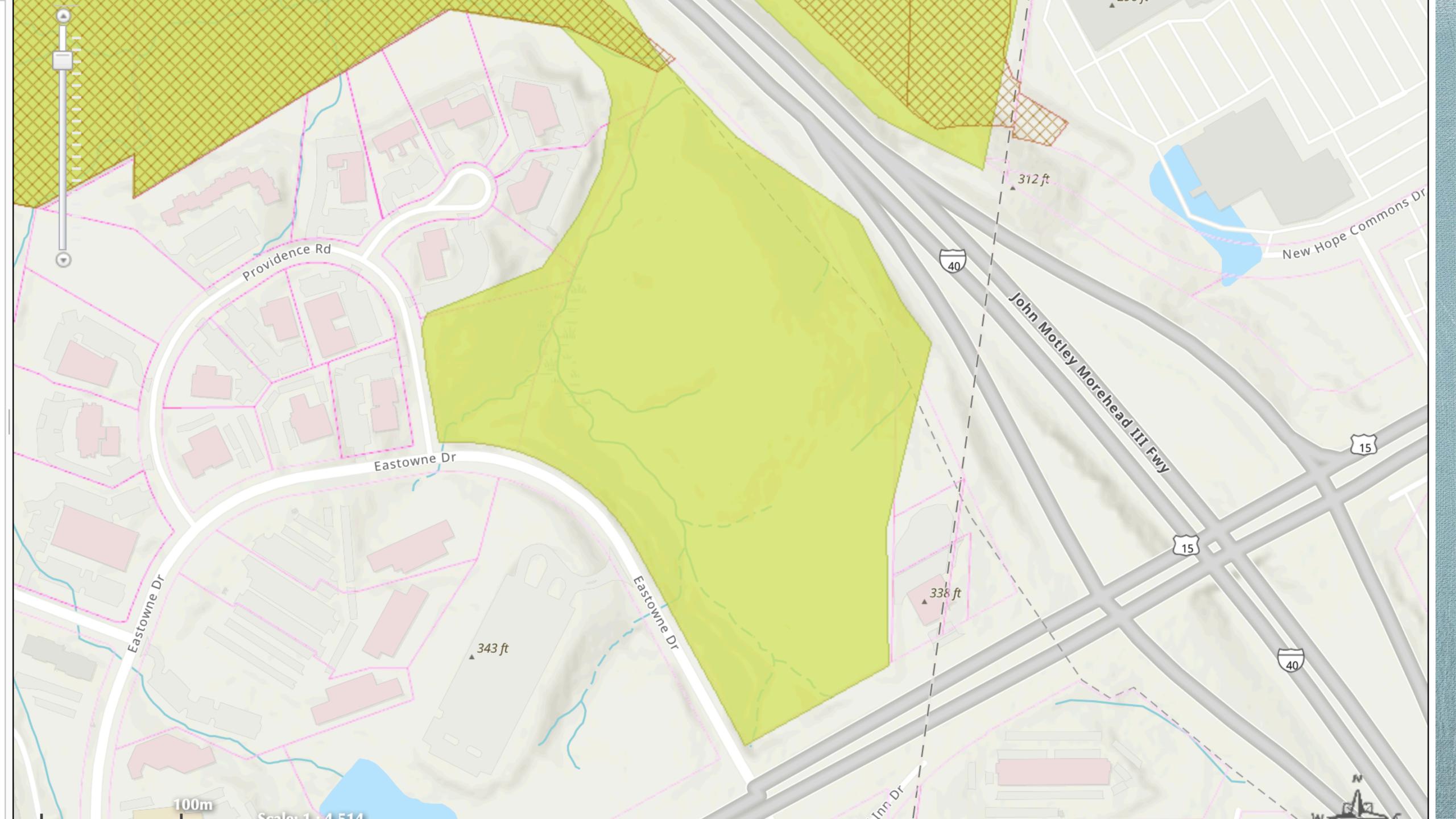
Neva Whybark



# Backsround

- Unusually mature old-growth Hickory and Oak Forest.
- Part of the Dry Creek and Mount Moriah Bottomland natural area, which is the last link remaining between Jordan Lake and Duke Forest. (Critical wildlife corridor)

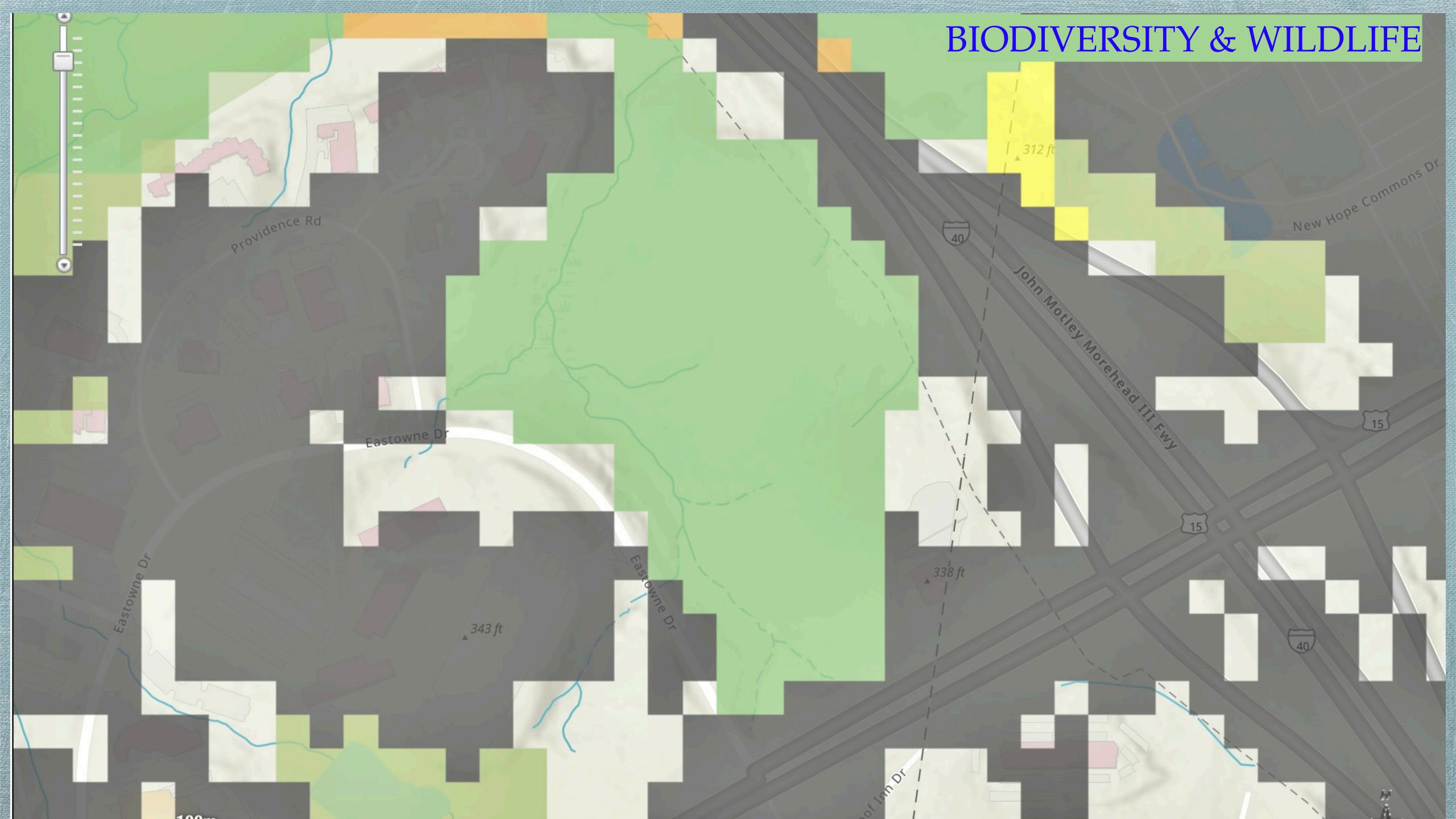






# Backsmound

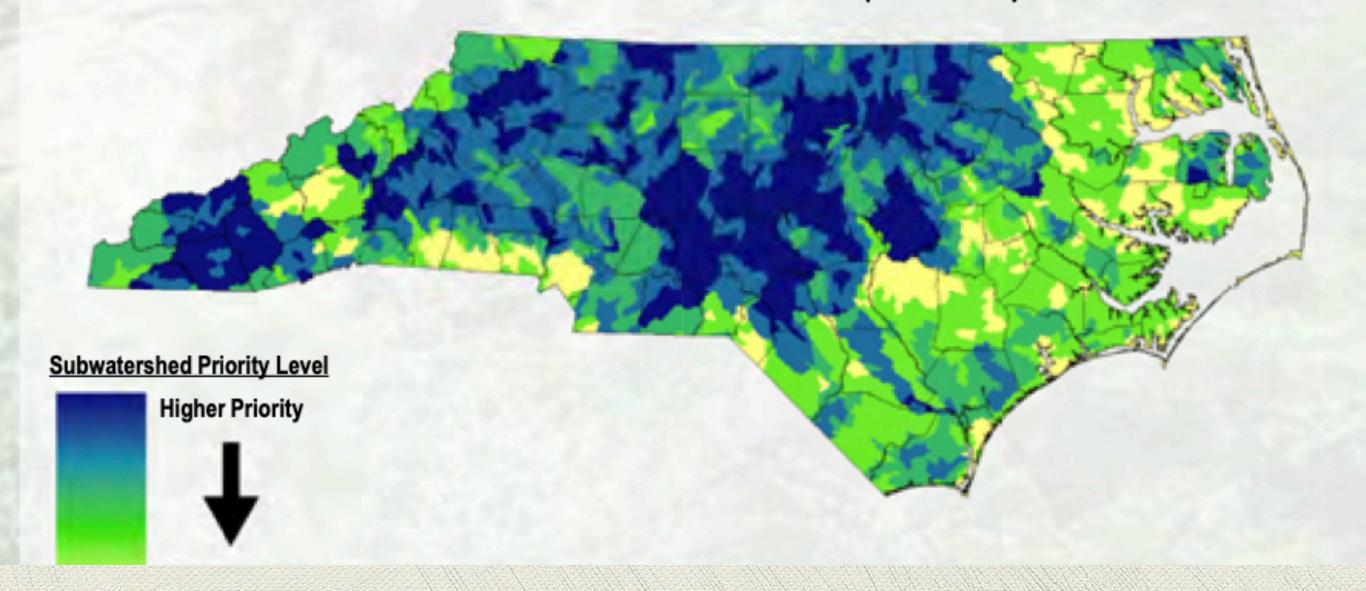
- \* Town of Chapel Hill requested a site survey that was conducted August 7, 2019
- Determined that: "This tract is worthy of protection in its natural condition, through whatever means are feasible. The tract adjoins conservation lands owned by the Town of Chapel Hill ... to a larger network of conservation lands"

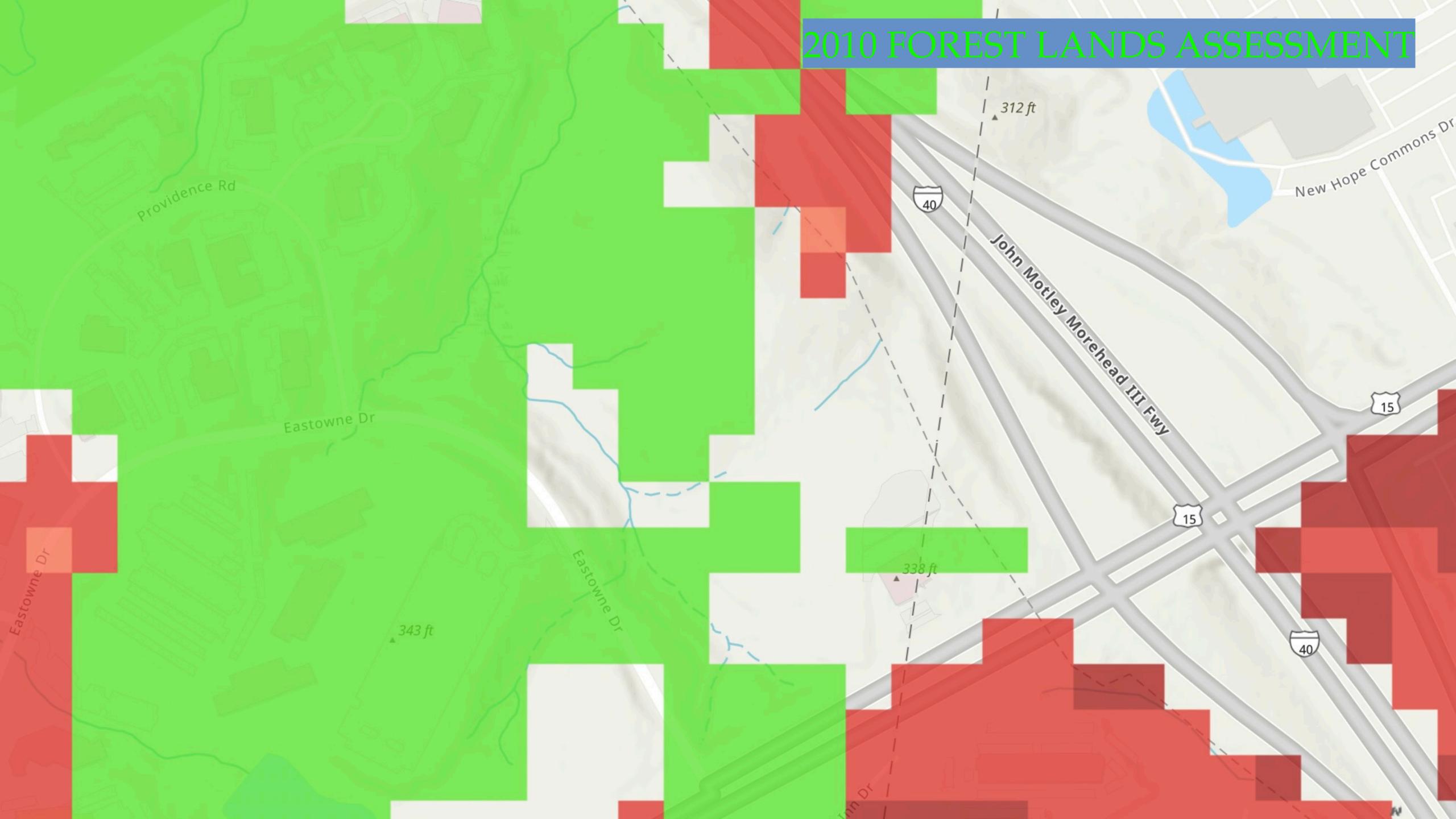


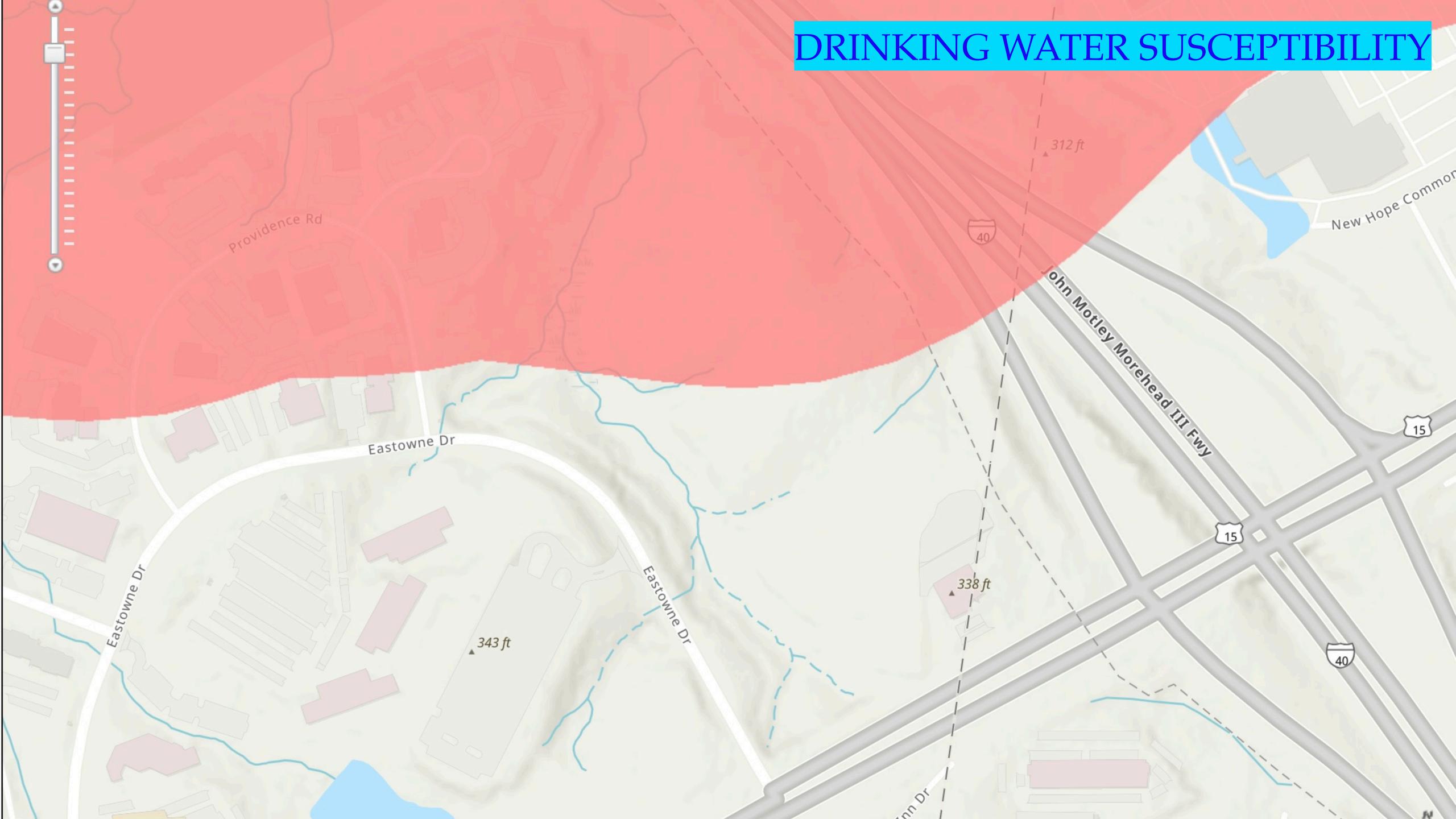
#### **Priority Forest Watersheds for Water Quality & Quantity**

The NCFS conducted a spatial analysis to identify watersheds where forest conservation and management are important to the future supply of clean municipal drinking water, or where restoration or protection activities will improve or restore a critical water source. This analysis used five existing datasets combined through a weighted overlay. The five datasets used are listed below, ranked in order of their weighting:

- 1. N.C. Conservation Planning Tool Water Service Assessment
- 2. N.C. Rural Economic Development Center Forecasted Water Demand
- 3. Southern Forest Lands Assessment Forestland Layer
- 4. N.C. Source Water Assessment and Protection Areas
- 5. Southern Forest Lands Assessment Development Layer









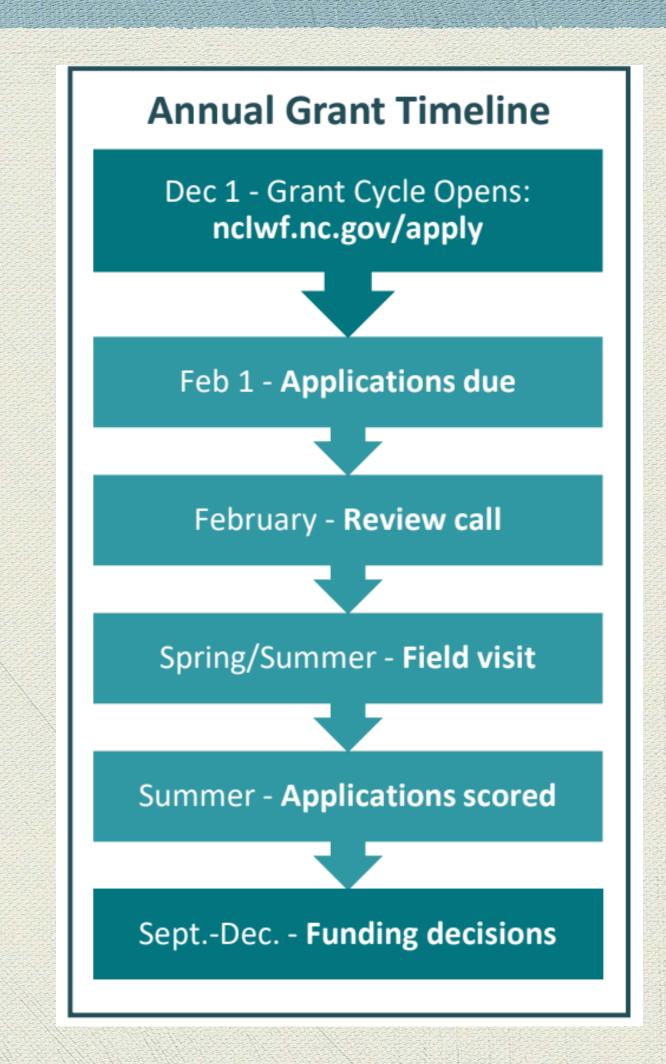


### ESAB RESPONSIBILITIES

- Sec 2. -174. Duties and Powers
  - \* 1. Make recommendations to council regarding development plans
  - 4. Advocate for managing environmental resources in a way that reflects the community's values
  - 6. Maintain and improve current environmental protections
  - 7. Identify Chapel Hill resources for further protection (i.e. natural heritage areas)

## NC Land and Water Fund

- \* ESAB Resolution to Town Council:
  - Partner with UNC Health Care to apply for the North Carolina Land and Water Fund Acquisition Grant
  - Establish the Hickory-Oak Forest as a Conservation Area



#### LAND ACQUISITION

Land acquisition projects for Riparian Greenways, Riparian Buffers, Natural Heritage Communities, Military Buffers, and Cultural/Historic Sites are intended to: acquire land for riparian buffers to protect surface waters; establish a network of riparian greenways; provide buffers beneficial to the military mission; acquire land that represents the ecological diversity of North

Resource significance	58%
Military buffers	5%
Other public benefits	7%
Readiness	10%
Match value	20%

Carolina as mapped by the Natural Heritage Program; and, to conserve lands that protect historic or cultural sites of significant importance. It is required that a permanent conservation agreement will be recorded on property purchased using NCLWF funds and on property used as match. Agreements on property purchased with NCLWF funds are typically held by the state. Agreements on matching tracts are typically held by conservation non-profits or local governments.