APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREA

The Town of Fairfax, California requests that approximately 1000 acres of undeveloped land within and around the Town be designated as the Fairfax Priority Conservation Area (PCA) by the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), based on the information contained within this application.

In 2007, ABAG initiated a process to identify certain land within the Bay Area that should be given priority for preservation and protection as open space, public access and natural resource areas. In 2007, the "Central Marin Ridgelands" were nominated as a PCA and was subsequently approved by ABAG. *See the Central Marin Ridgelands PCA Map for the Fairfax area attached here at Exhibit 1.*

The Town of Fairfax is now proposing an additional PCA area to fill in gaps of unprotected areas that are outside the existing PCA but are within and around the Town. The proposed Fairfax PCA area is made up of separate and distinct geographic locations that generally fall into three zones (west, south and north) and that constitute significant and important Natural Landscapes, Regional Recreational Areas and Urban Green Spaces in accordance with ABAG's revised PCA guidelines. *See the Fairfax PCA Map attached here at Exhibit 2.*

FAIRFAX, CALIFORNIA – ON THE FRINGES OF WESTERN MARIN

The Introduction to the Fairfax General Plan for 2010 through 2030 includes a more comprehensive history of our unique village, which is situated at the gateway to western Marin. But, we thought it would be helpful to include some of that information here by way of an introduction to the character and flavor of Fairfax in order to provide as clear a picture as possible of why the preservation of undeveloped land within and around the Town is so darned important to the citizens of Fairfax and, we think, ought to also be important to the whole Region. For the complete General Plan, please visit the Town of Fairfax's website at http://www.town-of-fairfax.org/.

> "Fairfax is a small town located at the western edge of Marin County's city-centered corridor that parallels U.S. Highway 101, with the agriculturally rich rural portion of the county just beyond to the west. The town's natural setting encompasses a series of valleys, canyons, and forested hills with largely undeveloped ridgelines. Scenic and natural resources are key aspects of the community's sense of place and contribute to the overall quality of life in Fairfax. In addition to the form of the land, mature trees and the extensive areas of protected open space in and around the Town help define the community character. The architectural diversity of the neighborhoods and the compact, small scale Town Center area also make Fairfax a very special place for residents and visitors." Fairfax General Plan Introduction at pp. 16-17.
>
> In 1865 a portion of Fairfax was leased to the "North Pacific Coast Railroad for summer picnics, an area that quickly became known as Fairfax Park. The railroad built the first covered dancing hall, or pavilion."

Fairfax General Plan Introduction at p. 14.

Thus, early in its history, Fairfax became a destination for railroad passengers from San Francisco and other points all around the Bay Area. Visitors travelled to Fairfax to enjoy picnics and to frolic among the redwoods in Fairfax's beautiful parks. In the late 1920's, the Meadow Golf Club, artfully nestled beneath Mount Tamalpais, opened along the Bolinas/Fairfax Road in a setting that rarely fails to inspire golf aficionados to this day. In the early 1940's, the Marin Town and Country Club was established and offered visitors still more reasons to travel to Fairfax to enjoy the Town and its abundant natural beauty.

> "Historic development patterns in Fairfax created a town with a distinct center, providing a good public transit hub within walking and bicycling distance of most of the town's inhabitants. Fairfax has retained a village-like quality, with distinct neighborhoods, and large areas of surrounding visible open space." Fairfax General Plan at LU-1.

> "In the 1960's and 70's, the cultural revolution exploded in San Francisco and dripped into the psychedelic corners of this central-Marin hamlet. Today the culture continues to evolve, as bicyclists flock to the local coffee shops and internet cafes, and musicians serenade our popular restaurants and bars." Fairfax General Plan at CON-35.

Fairfax is considered the home of mountain biking thanks to a handful of young off-road cycling pioneers who are credited with having given birth to the now international sport in the 1970's, barreling down Mount Tamalpais on fat tire paperboy bikes they called "klunkers." Today, the hordes of bicyclists who descend quite literally on Fairfax every day of the week are a testament to Fairfax's continued longevity as a "destination" for those who seek to enjoy all the pleasures of unspoiled western Marin County, while still enjoying the modern conveniences available in this small town.

> "Fairfax lies at the confluence of San Anselmo Creek and Fairfax Creek, establishing the headwaters of Corte Madera Creek. The structure of the Town has evolved around these dynamic streams, which once supported salmon and steelhead and a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, all dependent on a healthy riparian corridor and flood-plain. Fairfax General Plan at CON 17.

In addition, Fairfax's geographic location, at the intersection of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and the Bolinas/Fairfax Road, make it the last "stop" before these two main transportation routes open up into the undeveloped and rural regions of west Marin.

Each of these factors has contributed to the character of Fairfax today. It is a town on the fringes. Beyond Fairfax, to the west, lie vast, undeveloped areas of parks, preserves, rural farms, ranches and the watershed. Hills to the north and

south of the Town create a series of "ridgelands" that provide scenic beauty, wildlife corridors, and connect recreational trails for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. Fairfaxians place significant value on their natural environment and recognize that our Town offers a buffer between the more well-developed cities and towns to our east, along Marin's 101 corridor, and the natural and rural areas to the north, west and south of us. Thus, the Town of Fairfax has a keen interest in preserving these "buffering" areas in as natural a state as possible, both for the benefit of the wildlife that co-exists with us in the area and to maintain the quality of life of Fairfax's human residents and visitors.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED FAIRFAX PCA – ZONES 1, 2 AND 3

The proposed Fairfax PCA consists generally of three distinct zones, to the west, south and north of the Town.

Zone 1 – Western Fairfax/Tamarancho/Cascade. Representing approximately 300 acres, this area is generally located to the west of the developed areas of Fairfax and encompasses the unprotected and undeveloped or under-developed and recreational lands west of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and north of the Bolinas/Fairfax Rd. Generally, the area within Zone 1 is characterized by sloping lands or ridgeland areas that connect to existing and protected open space (Marin Municpal Water District (MMWD) lands, Marin County Open Space District lands and Mt. Tamalpias State Park), consists of woodland or coastal grass vegetation, and includes many recreational trails, formal or informal, which have been used for many decades by the public and provide for linkage to existing public trail systems.

Zone 2: Southern Fairfax/Bald Hill. Representing approximately 275 acres, this area generally encompasses the undeveloped or under-developed and recreational lands to the south of Sir Francis Drake Blvd and the Bolinas/Fairfax Rd. Generally, the area within this zone is characterized by undeveloped lands with stream, wetland and meadow riparian areas and by sloping lands and ridgeland areas adjacent or near to the Fairfax/San Anselmo border. The upland border areas connect to existing and protected open space (the Bald Mountain area protected open space lands) and consists of woodland or coastal grass vegetation, and include many recreational trails, formal or informal, which have been used for many decades by the public and provide for linkage to existing public trail systems. The riparian area also provides the potential for recreational activity.

Zone 3 – Northern Fairfax/Sleepy Hollow/Oak Manor/Wall. Representing approximately 450 acres, this zone encompasses the undeveloped or under-developed and recreational lands generally located to the north of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Generally, this zone is characterized by sloping lands or ridgeland areas that connect to existing

and protected open space (lands owned by the Town of San Anselmo and the Town of Fairfax and Marin County Open Space District lands), consists of woodland or coastal grass vegetation, and includes a number of recreational trails, formal or informal, which have been used for many decades by the public and provide for linkage to existing public trail systems.

ATTRIBUTES AND BENEFITS OF PROPOSED FAIRFAX PCA

The revised PCA guidelines for new or modified PCA nominations recognize that priority designation is appropriate for land that encompasses one or more of the following four attributes:

Natural Landscapes--areas critical to the functioning of wildlife and plant habitats, aquatic ecosystems and the region's water supply and quality.

Agricultural Lands--farmland, grazing land and timberland that support the region's agricultural economy and provide additional benefits such as habitat protection and carbon capture.

Urban Greening--existing and potential green spaces in cities that increase habitat connectivity, improve community health, capture carbon emissions, and address stormwater.

Regional Recreation--existing and potential regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

The lands within each of the three zones identified above squarely meet three of the characteristics needed for designation. Each of these three zones consist of predominately "natural landscape," in that most of the lands are adjacent to existing open space areas, consist of native redwood, bay, oak, or manzanita woodlands or coastal scrub or grassland vegetation, which provide habitat and corridors for wildlife. In addition, much of the land also contains or drains to creeks and streams.

Likewise, each of the zones within the proposed PCA provides substantial benefits in the form of "urban greening". For the most part, the lands in the proposed PCA provide and enhance a greenbelt and a wildlife connection between existing urban development and existing, protected open space areas. In addition, as noted, much of the land provides water drainage to riparian areas. Finally, the proposed PCA provides significant “regional recreational” opportunities. Much of the land contains existing trails used by the public and connected to other existing regional trail systems, such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the Marin County Open Space District trail system, and Town of San Anselmo and Fairfax trails. With those linkages, the public would be able to access the trail systems in Golden Gate National Recreational Area, Point Reyes, and Mt. Tam State Park (amongst others) and travel on public trails by

foot or bike from Fairfax to Novato to the north, from Fairfax to the ocean to the west and from Fairfax to San Francisco Bay to the South.

The specific benefits and co-benefits and the required and optional criteria for the proposed Fairfax PCA can be further described as follows:

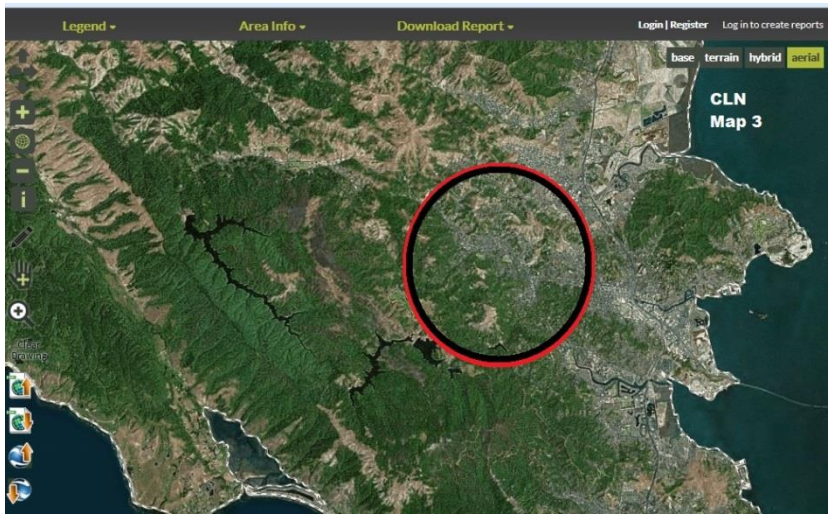
Attribute	**Benefits and Co-Benefits***	**Required Criteria**	**Optional Criteria**
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial Ecosystems	Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN) that are Essential Important, Fragmented, or For Further Consideration ***(Zone 1 – 154/308 acres = Essential; Zone 2 – 42/275 acres = Essential; and Zone 3 – 221/448 acres = Essential)***; or Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage ***(Zones 1, 2 and 3).***	Protects other critical habitat ***(Zones 1, 2 and 3)***.
	Water Supply and Water Quality	Protect urban water supply ***(Zones 1, 2 and 3)*** or Support watershed health ***(Zones 1, 2 and 3)***.	

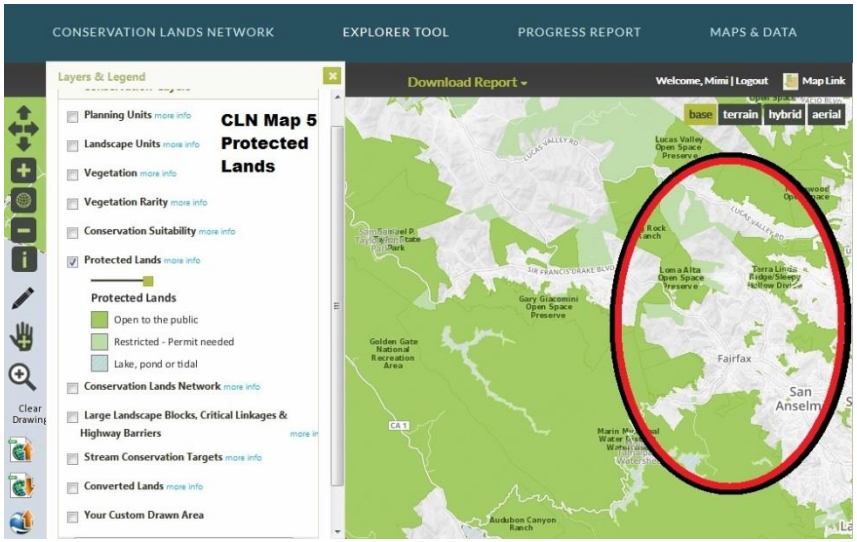
	Compact Growth*	Protect land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces ***(Zones 1, 2 and 3)***; Support adopted open space policy protection measures ***(Zones 1, 2 and 3)***.	Support stable urban edges ***(Zones 1, 2 and 3)***.
Urban Greening	Community Health	Supports Local Climate Action Plan/ Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening ***(Zones 1, 2 and 3)***.	
Regional Recreation	Recreation	Proposed Regional Trails • Ridge Trail ***(Zones 1, 2 and 3)***. Acreage of regional park added ***(Zones 1, 2 and 3)***.	

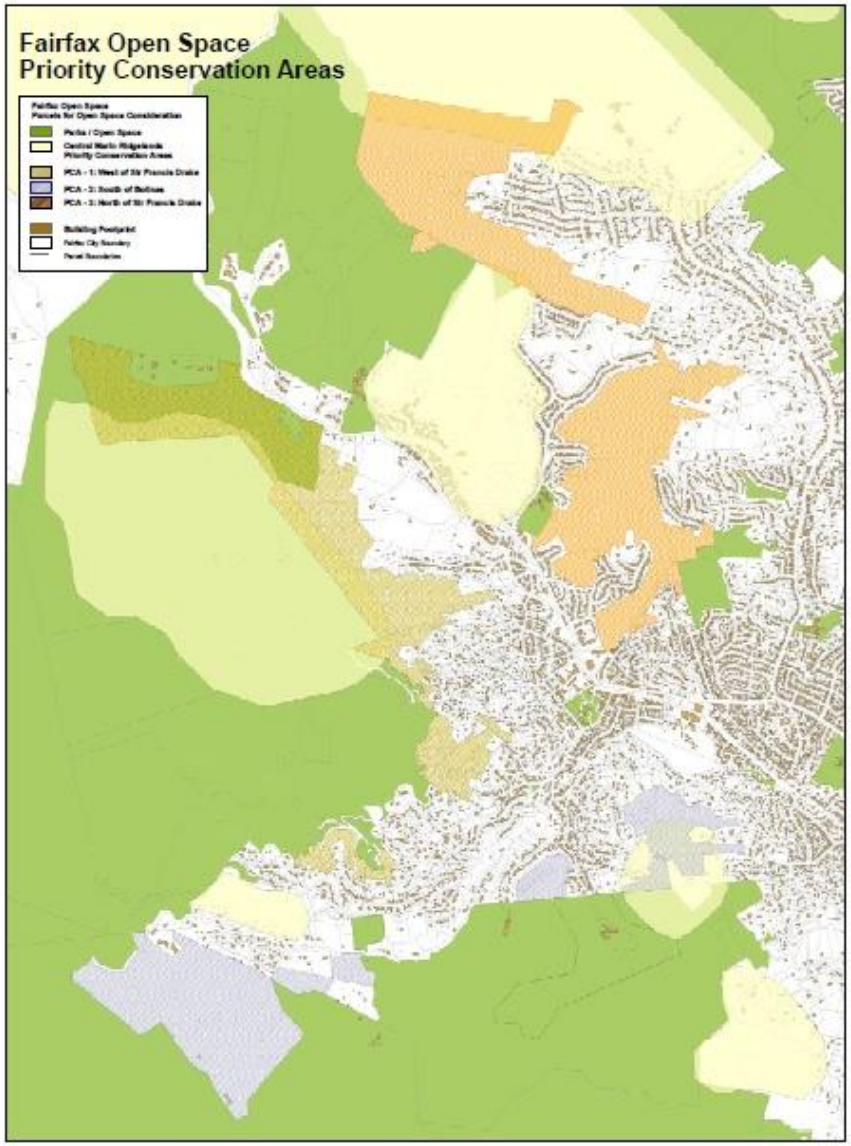
ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit 1 - Central Marin Ridgelands PCA Map for the Fairfax Area
Exhibit 2 - Fairfax PCA Map
Exhibit 3 - Data, maps and other information to support the designation of the proposed Fairfax PCA

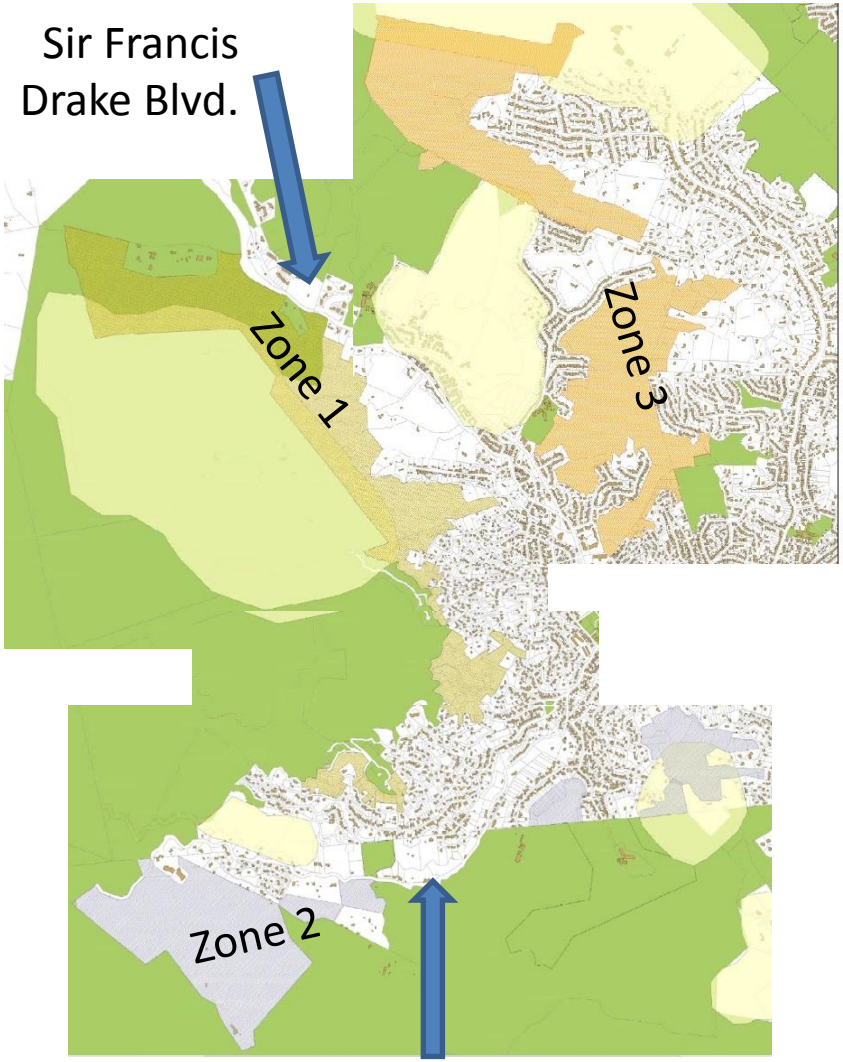
Exhibit 1: Overview of the Proposed Fairfax PCA Zones 1, 2 and 3







Proposed Fairfax Priority Conservation Areas Zones 1, 2 and 3



Zone 1

- Western Fairfax/Tamarancho /Cascade

Zone 2

- Southern Fairfax/Bald Hill

Zone 3

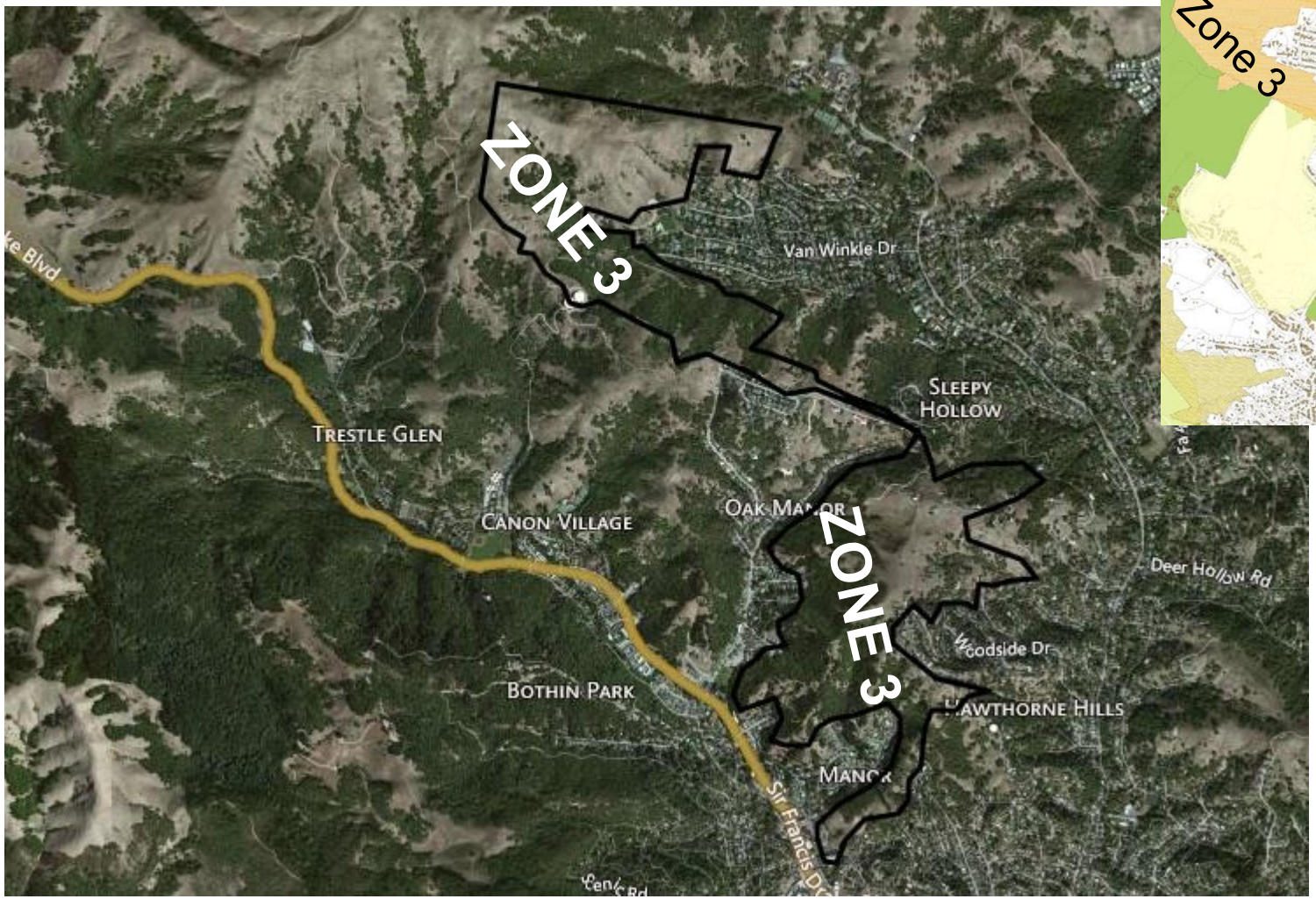
- Northern Fairfax/Sleepy Hollow/Oak Manor/Wall

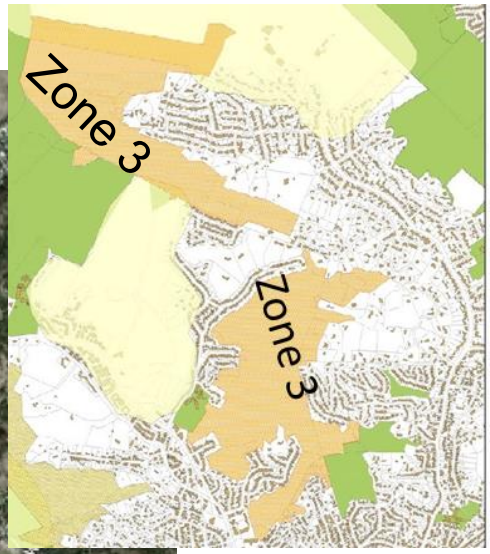
Each of the three zones consists of areas that have been grouped together in terms of their geographic locations and their relationships to the primary roads dissecting Fairfax: ***Sir Francis Drake Boulevard***, and the ***Bolinas-Fairfax Road***.

Zone 1 - Western Fairfax/ Tamarancho/Cascade

Zone 2 - Southern Fairfax/ Bald Hill

Zone 3 - Northern Fairfax/Sleepy Hollow/Oak Manor/Wall

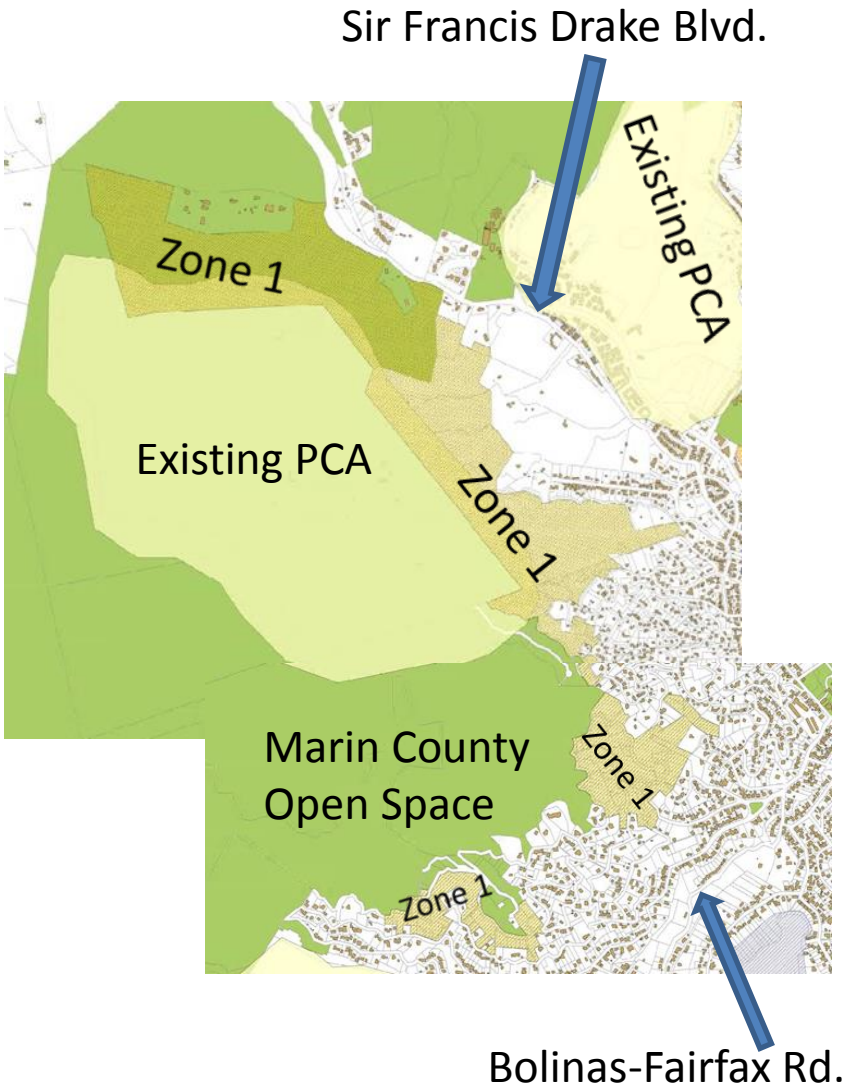




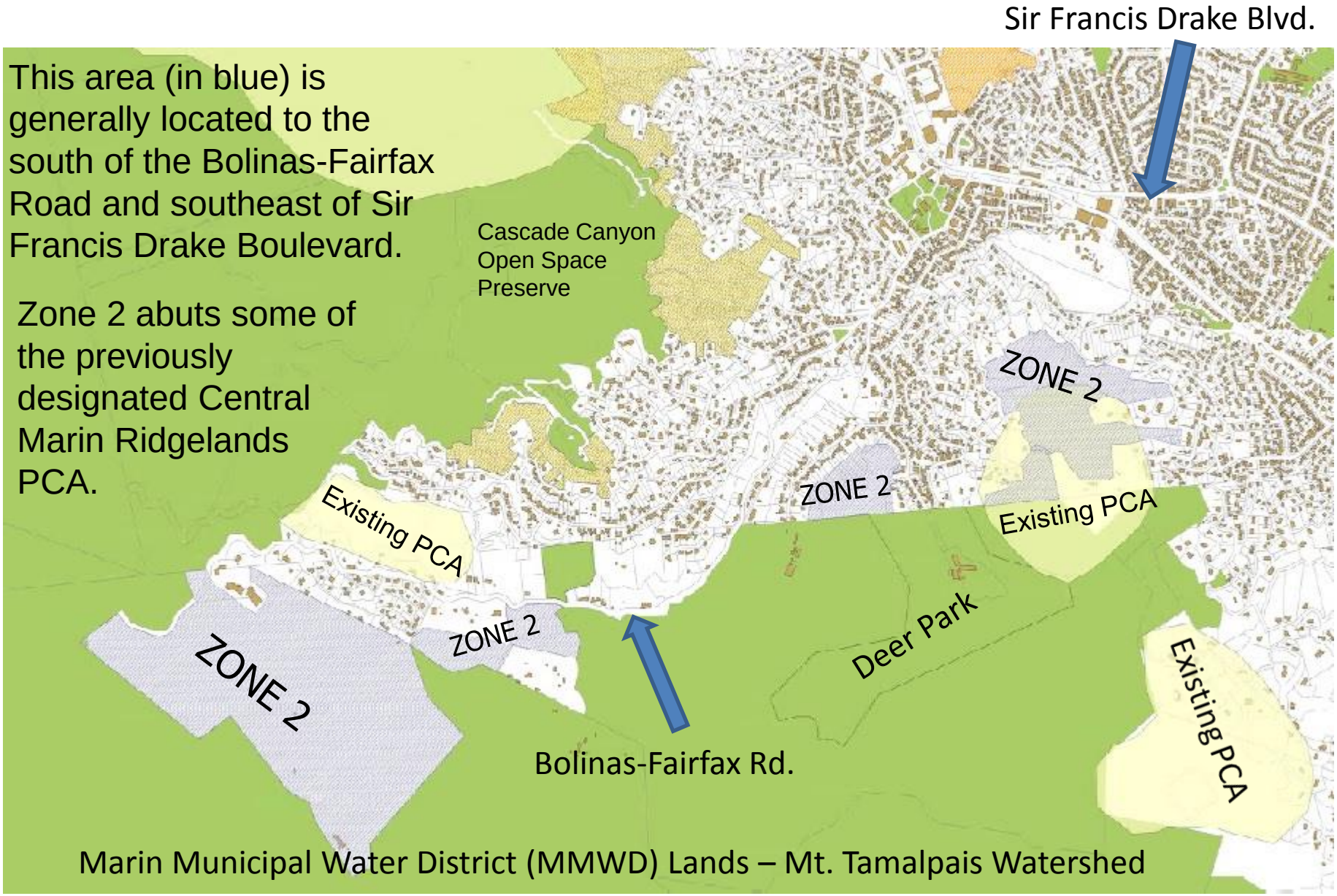
Zone 1 - Western Fairfax/ Tamarancho/Cascade

- This area is generally located to the southwest of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and to the North of the Bolinas-Fairfax Road.

- The lands within this area adjoin the area already designated as a PCA under the previously approved and confirmed Central Marin Ridgelands PCA designation.

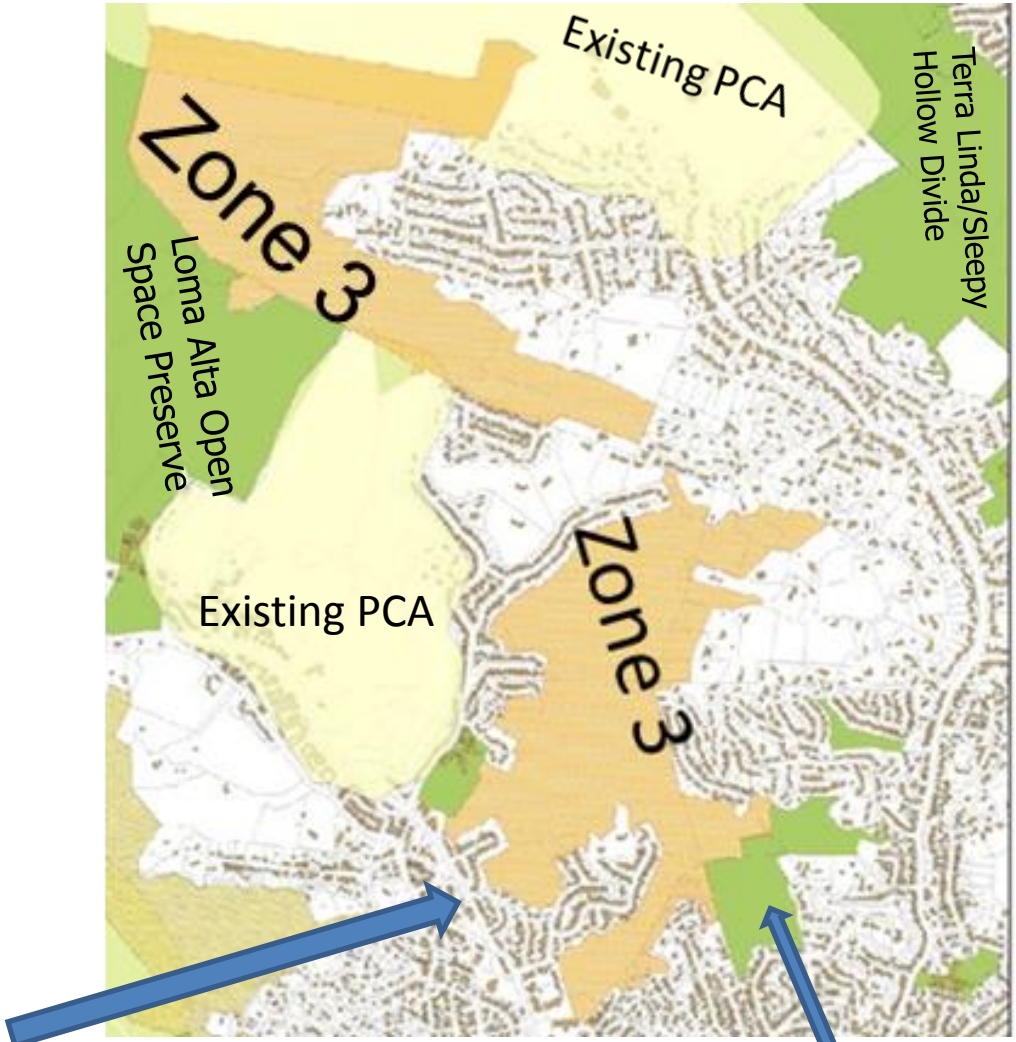


Zone 2 - Southern Fairfax/Bald Hill



Zone 3 - Northern Fairfax/Sleepy Hollow/Oak Manor/Wall

- This area is generally located to the north of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.
- The lands within this area adjoin the area already designated as a PCA under the previously approved and confirmed Central Marin Ridgelands PCA designation.



Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

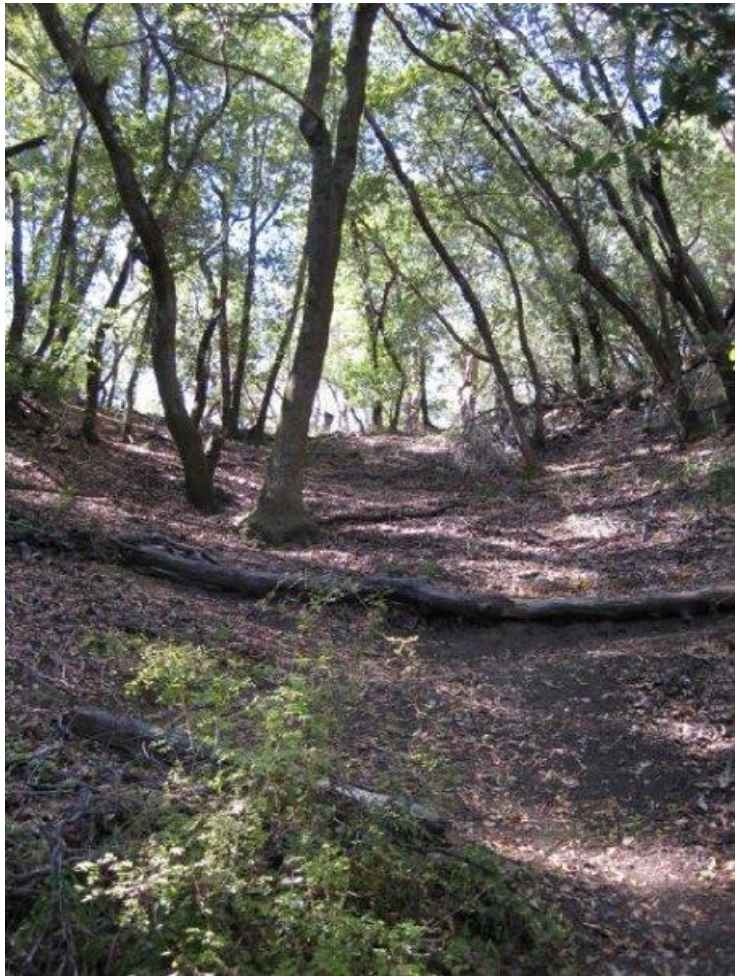
Hawthorne Canyon Open Space

The ***Primary Functions*** of the lands included within Zones 1, 2 and 3 of the Proposed Fairfax PCA each meet the following designations:

- Natural Landscape;
- Urban Greening; and
- Regional Recreation.

The ***Primary Benefits and Co-Benefits*** of each of the PCA Designations for Zones 1, 2 and 3 of the proposed Fairfax PCA are:

- **Natural Landscape (See Exh. 2)**
  - Terrestrial Ecosystems
  - Water Supply and Water Quality
  - Compact Growth
- **Urban Greening (See Exh. 3)**
  - Climate and Resilience
  - Community Health
- **Regional Recreation (See Exh. 4)**
  - Recreation



Neighborhood Hillside Trail on at-risk property in Zone 1

Exhibit 2 - Natural Landscape Benefits in the Proposed Fairfax Priority Conservation Area

WATER SUPPLY AND WATER QUALITY

➢ **Natural Landscape**

- ❑ Water Supply and Water Quality

Each of the zones within the Proposed Fairfax Priority Conservation Area have numerous creeks and streams, and are recharge areas for other creeks and streams, including some important and significant streams, and the Mount Tamalpais Watershed.

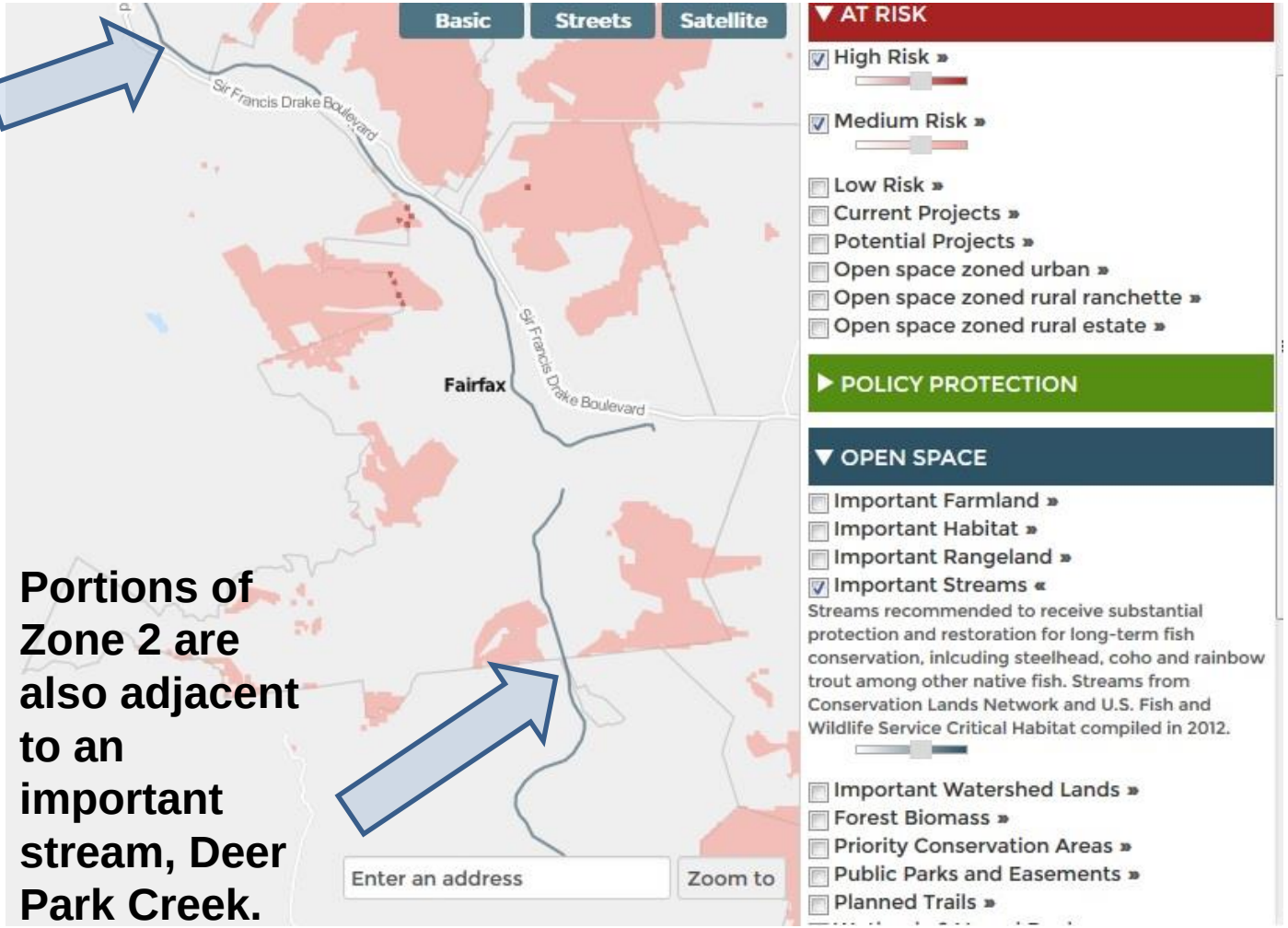
➢Natural Landscape

❑ Water Supply and Water Quality

✓ Protect Urban Water Supply

The eastern side of Zone 1 runs generally along and uphill of Fairfax Creek, which is identified as an important stream in the Greenbelt Mapper.

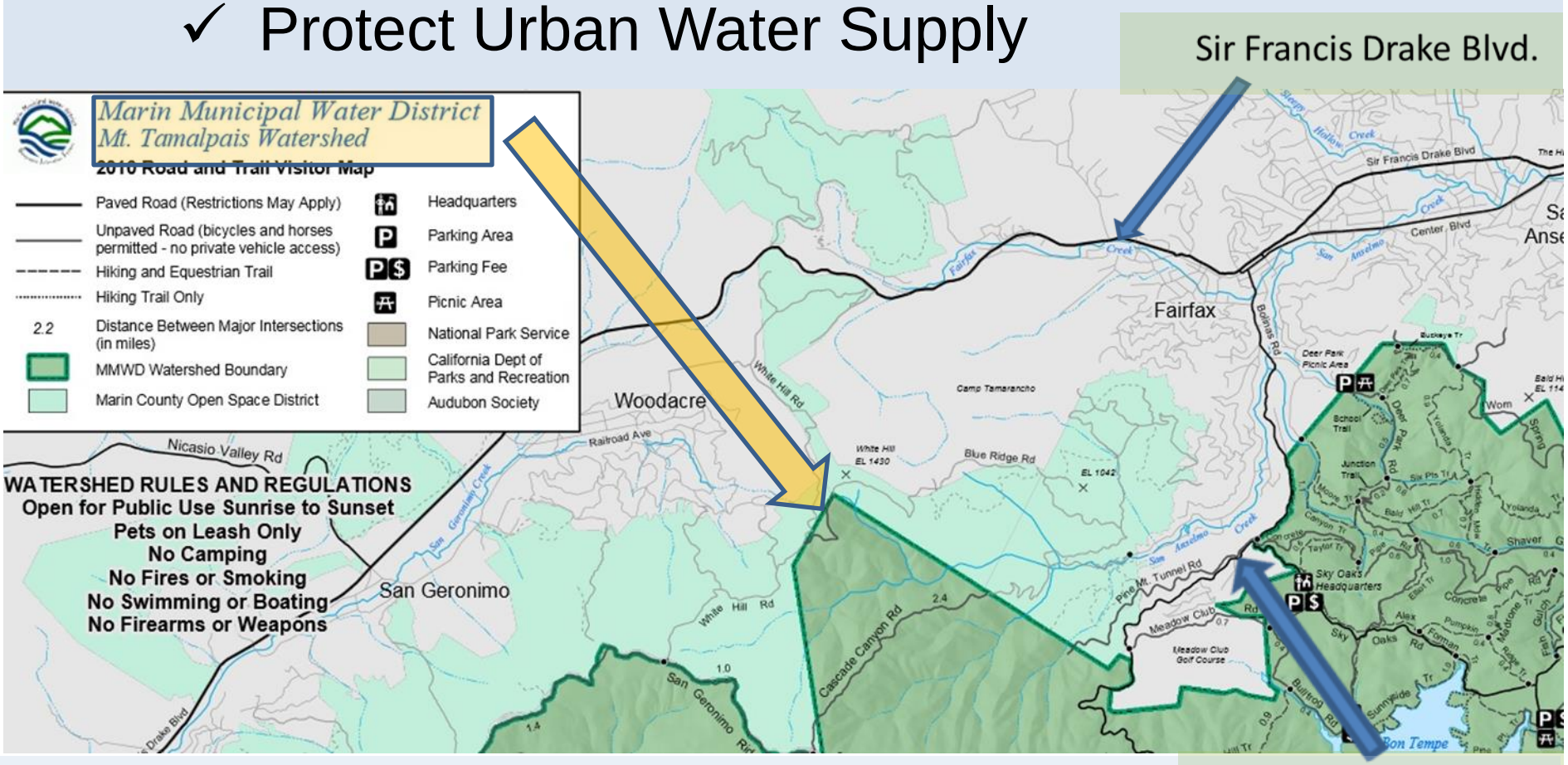
Important Streams: *Streams recommended to receive substantial protection and restoration for long-term fish conservation, including steelhead, coho and rainbow trout among other native fish.*



Portions of Zone 2 are also adjacent to an important stream, Deer Park Creek.

➢Natural Landscape

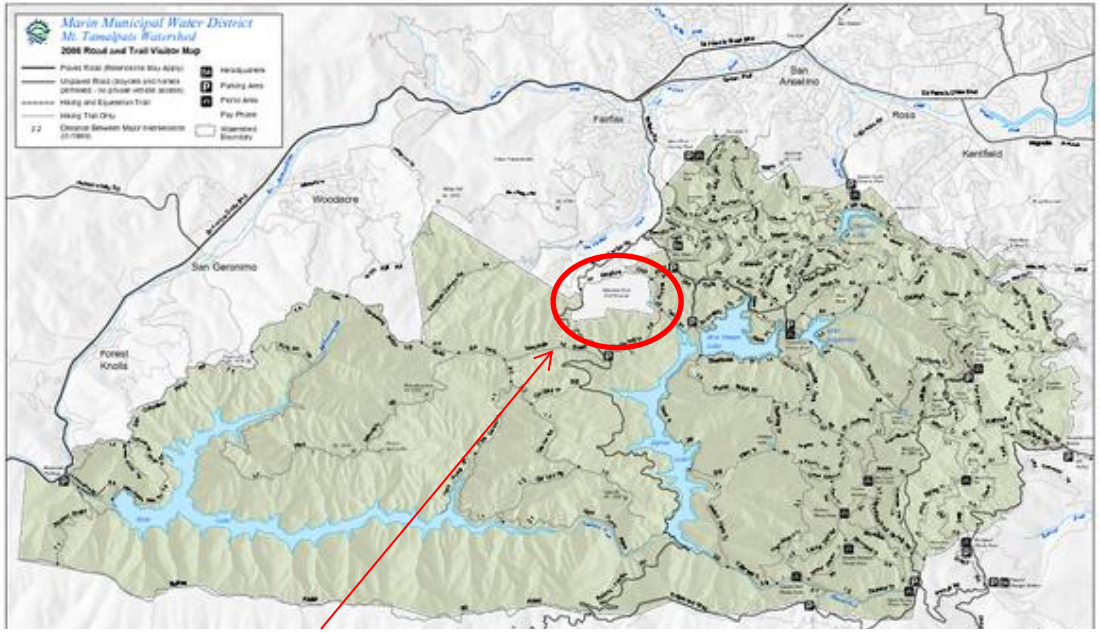
- ❑ Water Supply and Water Quality
  - ✓ Protect Urban Water Supply



Zone 1 is adjacent to White's Hill Open Space Preserve and the Cascade Canyon Open Space Preserve, which are themselves adjacent to the Marin Municipal Water District's (MMWD's) Mount Tamalpais Watershed.

✓ Protect Urban Water Supply

- Maintaining undeveloped land where possible along the Fairfax fringes of the preserved areas adjacent to the Mt. Tam Watershed benefits the overall health of the watershed and, as a result, MMWD's customers throughout the County.

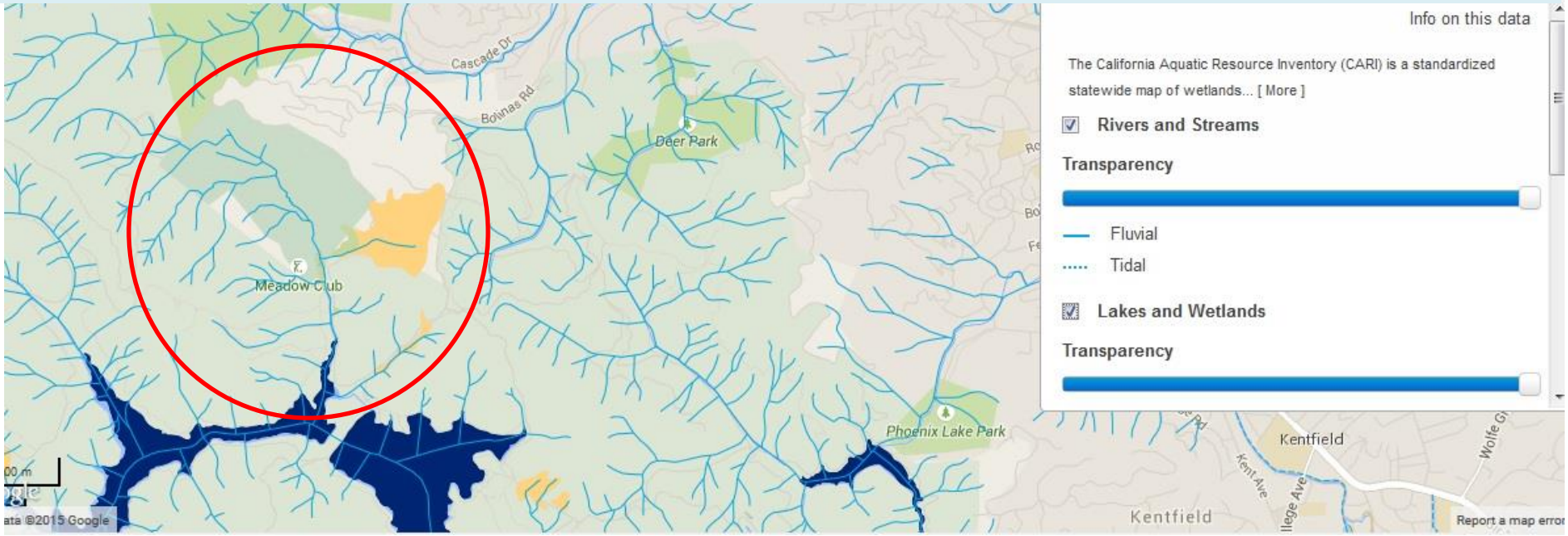


The Mount Tam Watershed constitutes an area of protected, undeveloped land that stretches across Central Marin County from Kent Lake and Lagunitas in the west to Phoenix Lake and Kentfield in the east and south to Muir Woods and Mount Tam State Park.

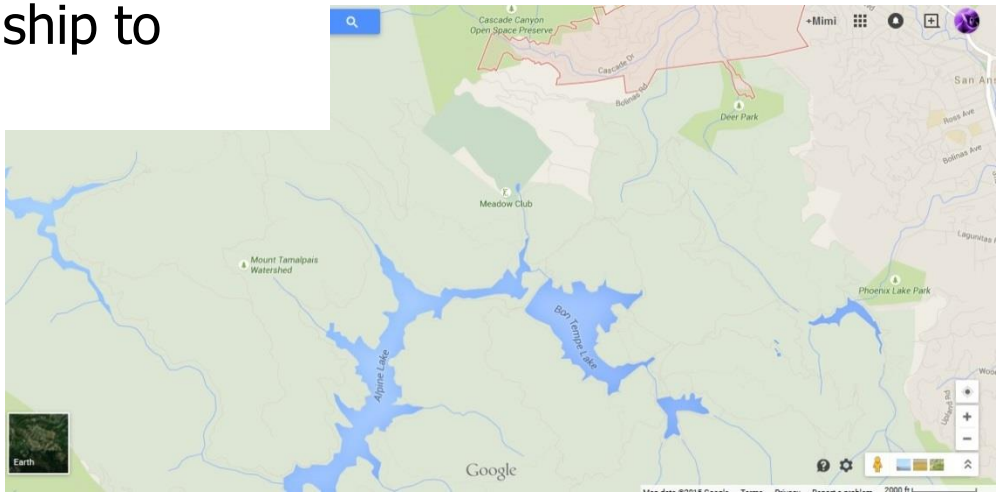
The Meadow Golf Club, within Zone 2, drains directly into Alpine Lake within the MMWD Mt. Tamalpais Watershed.

MMWD provides drinking water to 186,000 customers in central and southern Marin County. According to the MMWD website, 75% of this water comes from more than 21,000 acres of protected watershed on Mt. Tamalpais and in the grassy hills of west Marin. Rainfall from Marin watersheds flows into one of MMWD's seven reservoirs and is then treated at one of MMWD's water treatment plants before delivery to Marin County homes and businesses.

- **Natural Landscape**
  - Water Supply and Water Quality
    - ✓ Protect Urban Water Supply



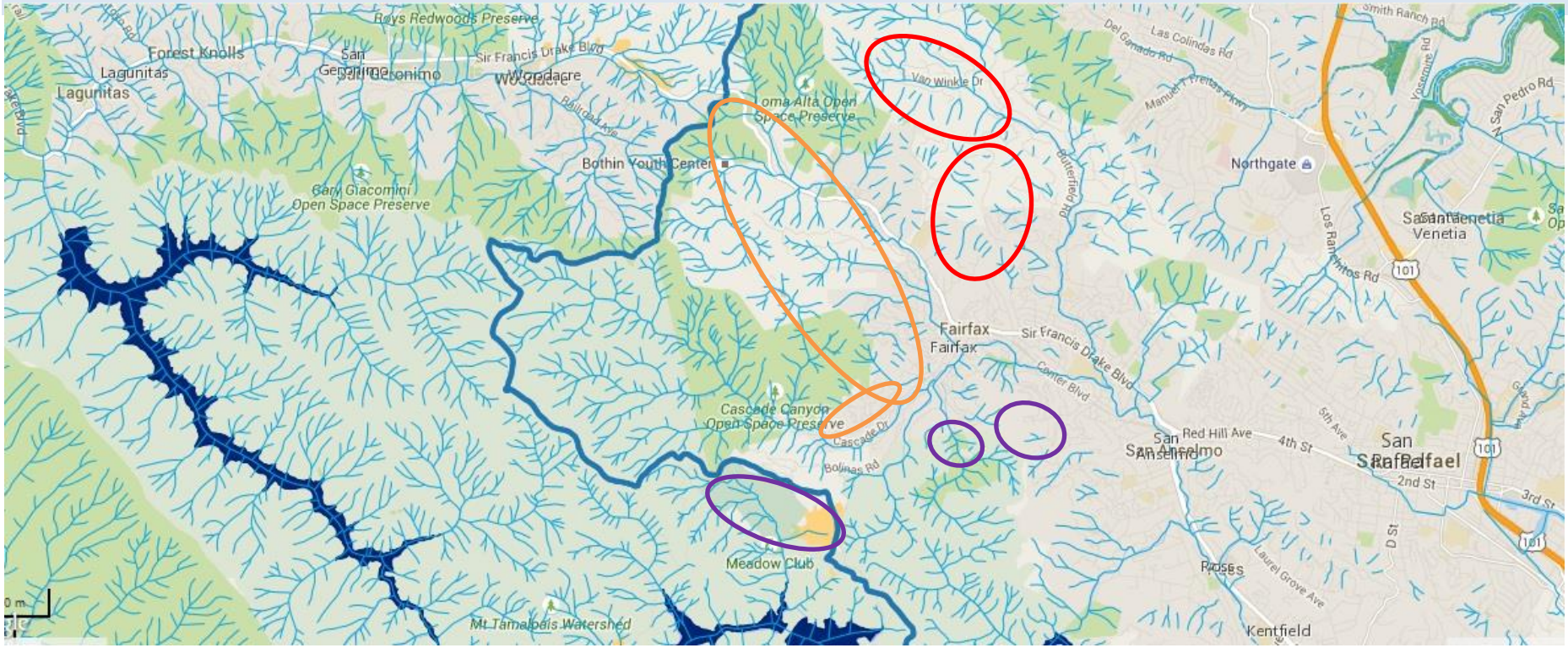
ZONE 2 – Meadow Golf Club relationship to Alpine Lake in MMWD Watershed



Division between Hydraulic Regions

➢Natural Landscape

❑ Water Supply and Water Quality



APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS OF ZONES 1, 2 and 3

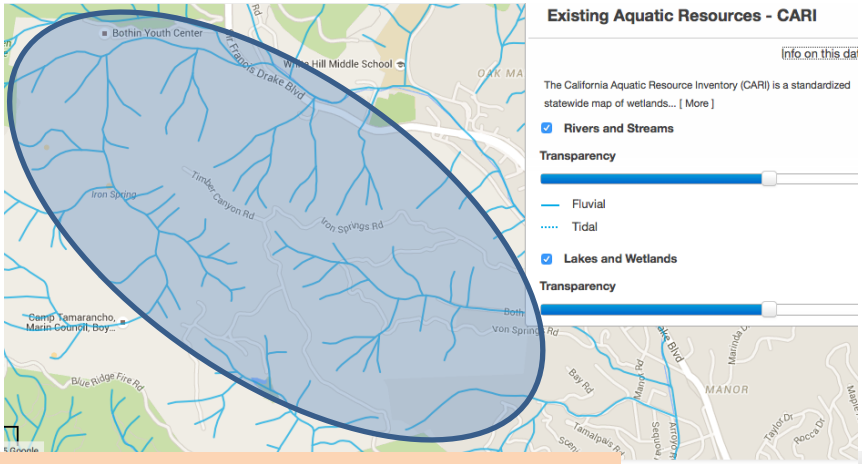
ECOAtlas Aquatic Resources Map

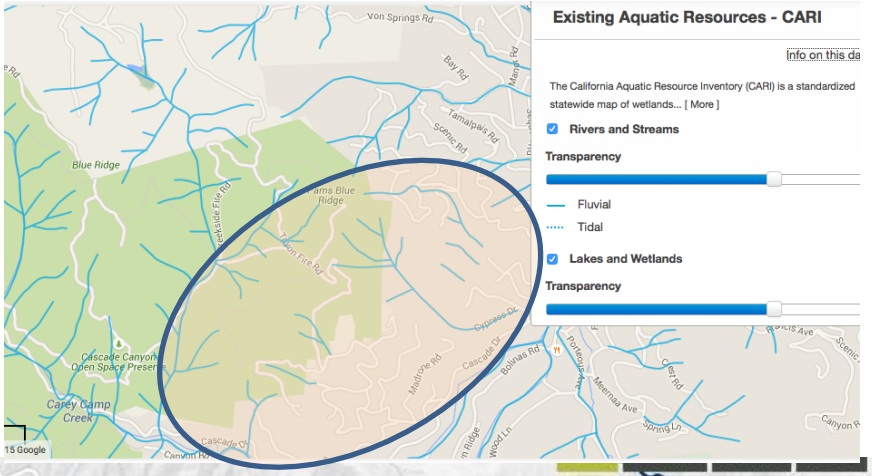
ZONE 1 ZONE 2 ZONE 3

- **Natural Landscape**
  - Water Supply and Water Quality

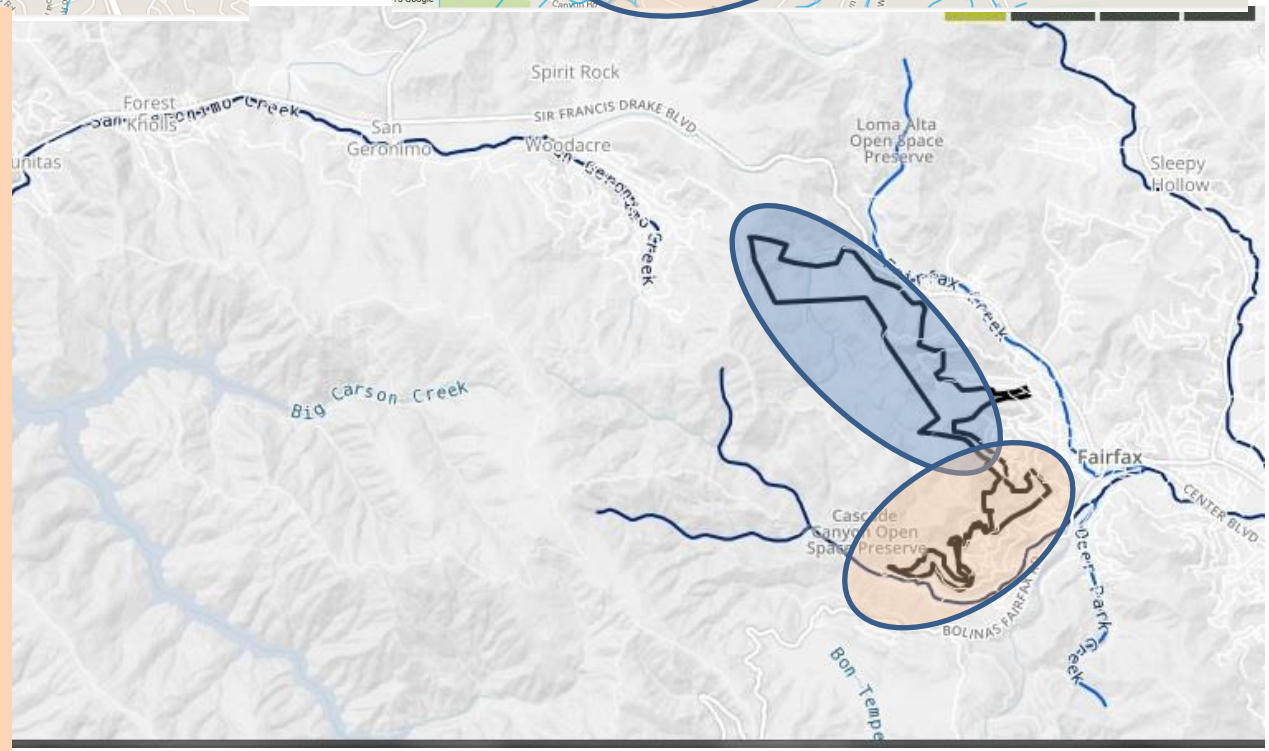
✓ Supports Watershed Health
✓ Protects streams

Zone 1
Existing Aquatic Resources - ECOATLAS





- Natural Landscape
  - Water Supply and Water Quality
    - ✓ Protects Streams identified as Stream Conservation Targets in CLN



Zone 1 includes areas from which Priority 1 & 2 Stream Conservation Targets are recharged.

Sources: ECOAtlas and CLN

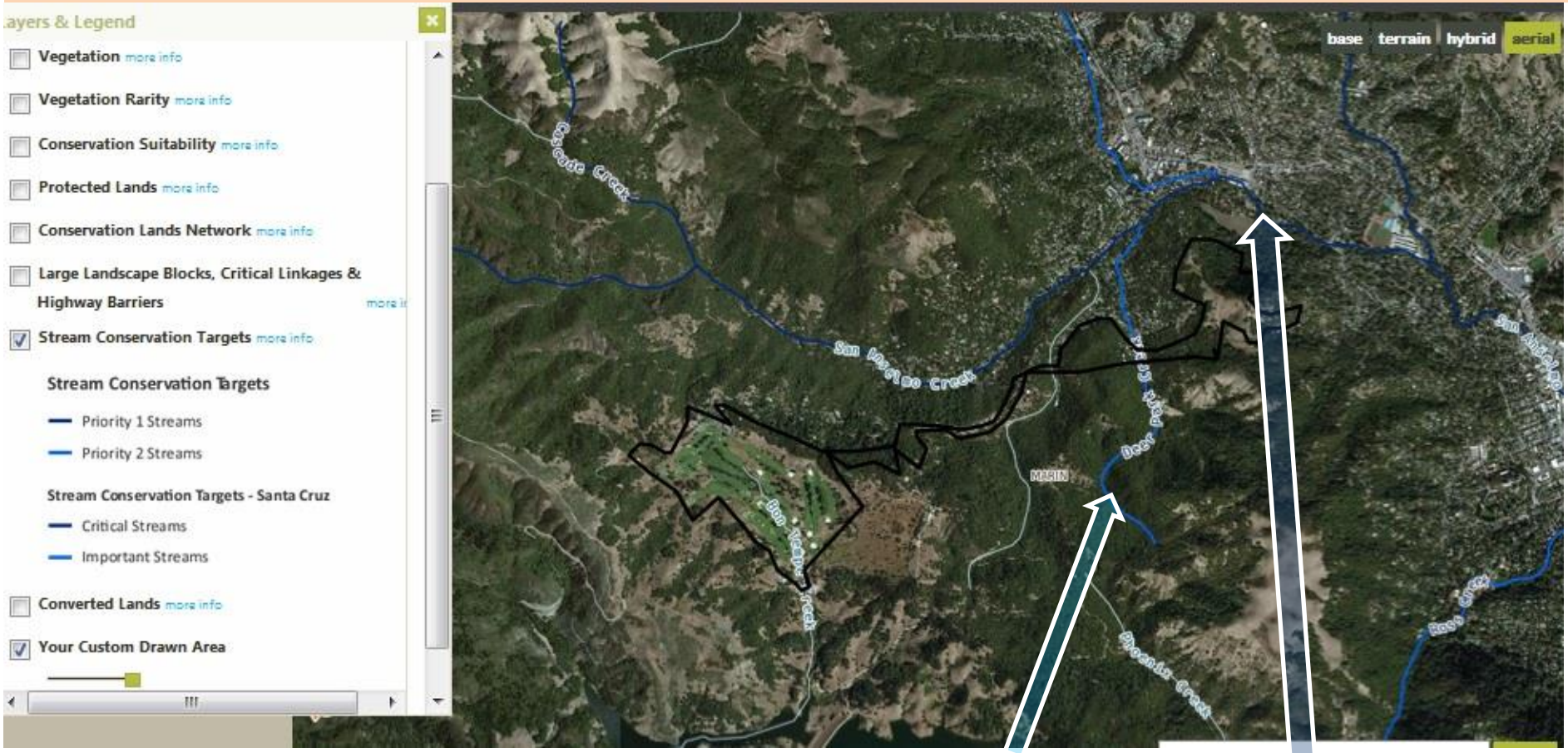
➢Natural Landscape

❑ Water Supply and Water Quality

- ✓ Supports Watershed Health
- ✓ Protects streams

Zone 2 - Existing Aquatic Resources – ECOATLAS

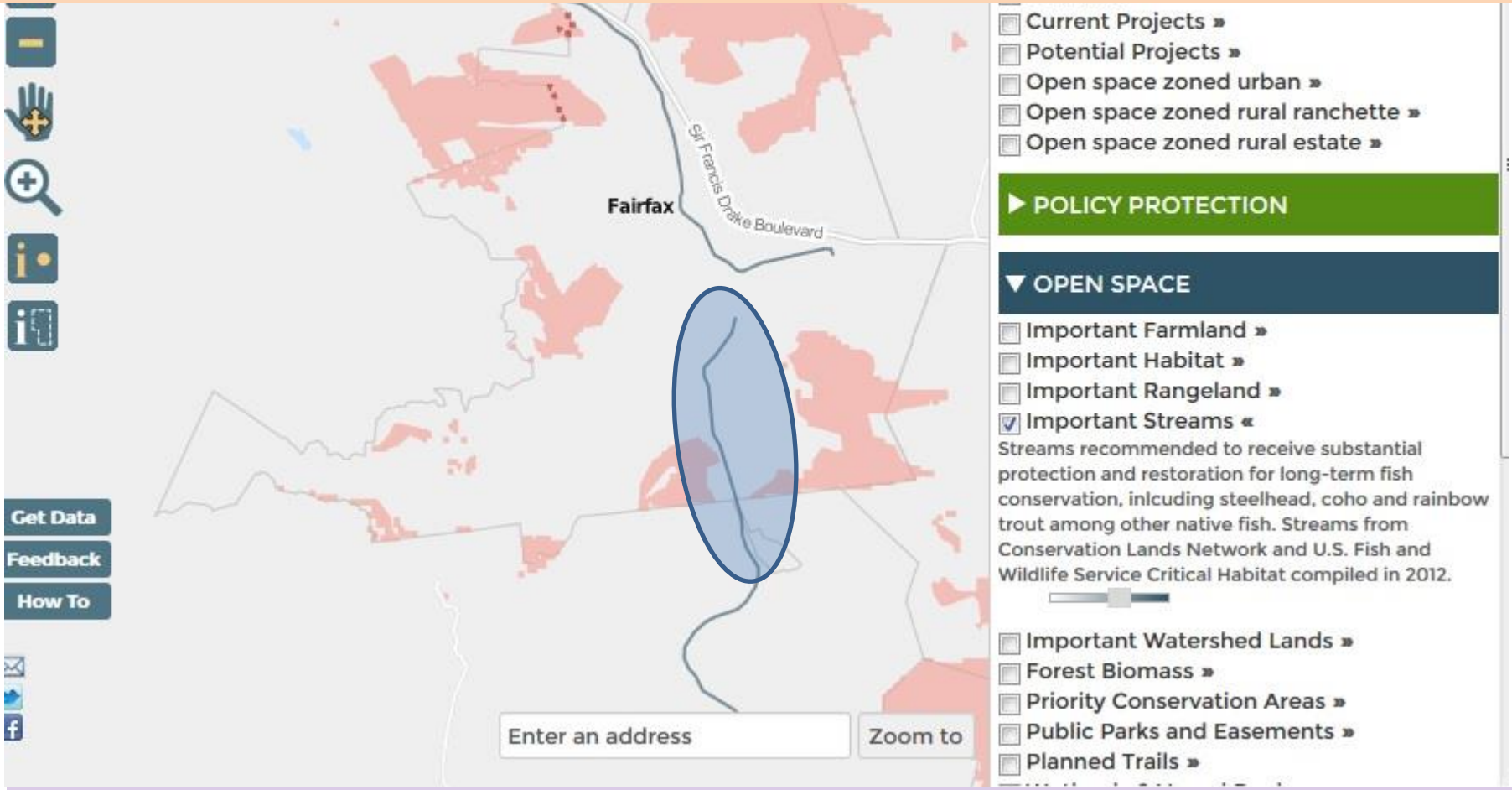
- Natural Landscape
  - Water Supply and Water Quality
    - ✓ Protects Streams identified as Stream Conservation Targets in CLN



Priority 2 Stream **Priority 1 Stream**

Zone 2 includes areas from which Priority 1 and 2 Stream Conservation Targets are recharged.

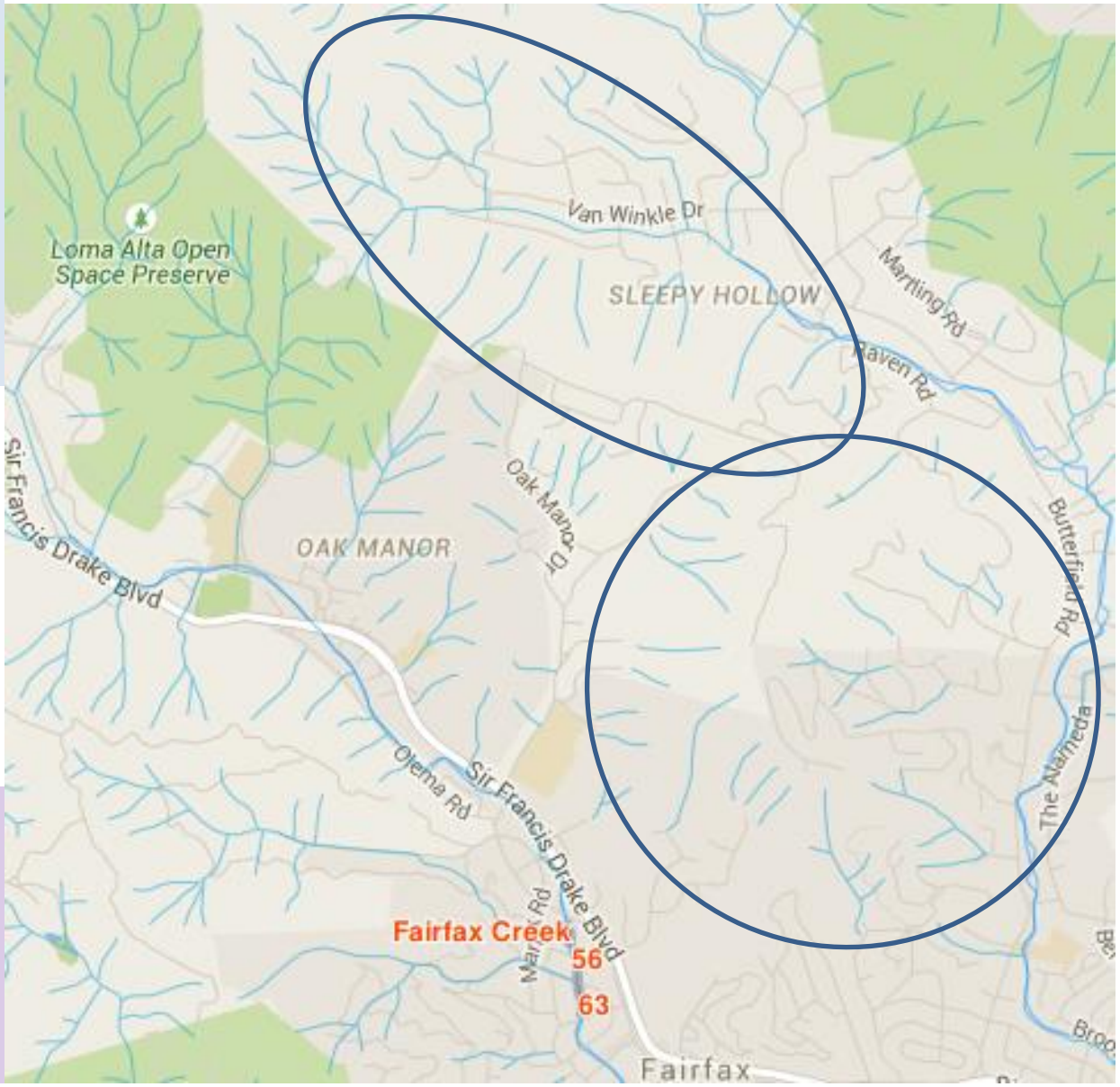
- Natural Landscape
  - Water Supply and Water Quality
    - ✓ Protects Important Stream Recommended to Receive Substantial Protection and Restoration



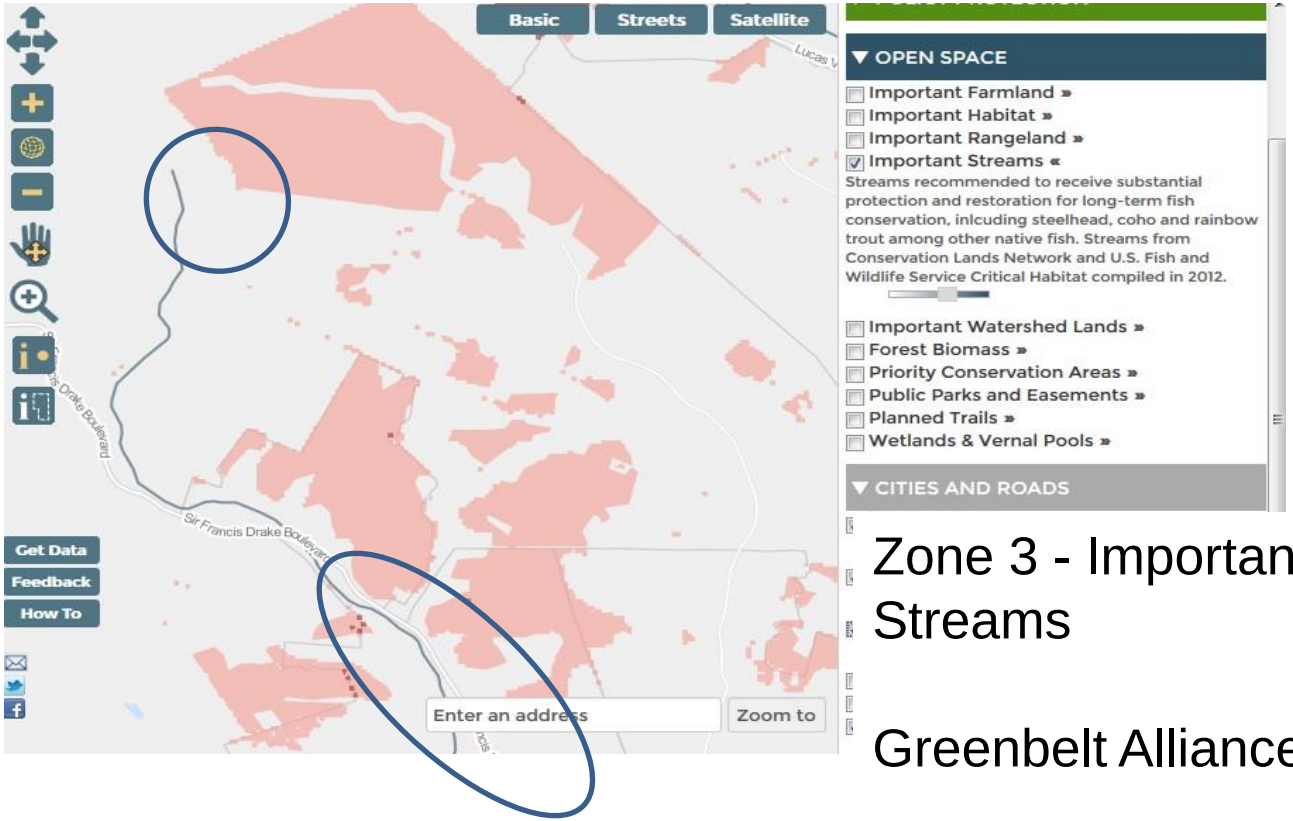
Zone 2 includes areas from which an important stream – Deer Park Creek -- is recharged, as identified in the Greenbelt Alliance mapping system.

- **Natural Landscape**
  - Water Supply and Water Quality
    - ✓ Supports Watershed Health
    - ✓ Protects streams

Zone 3
Existing Aquatic Resources - ECOATLAS



- Natural Landscape
  - Water Supply and Water Quality
    - ✓ Protects Important Stream Recommended to Receive Substantial Protection and Restoration



Zone 3 - Important Streams

Greenbelt Alliance

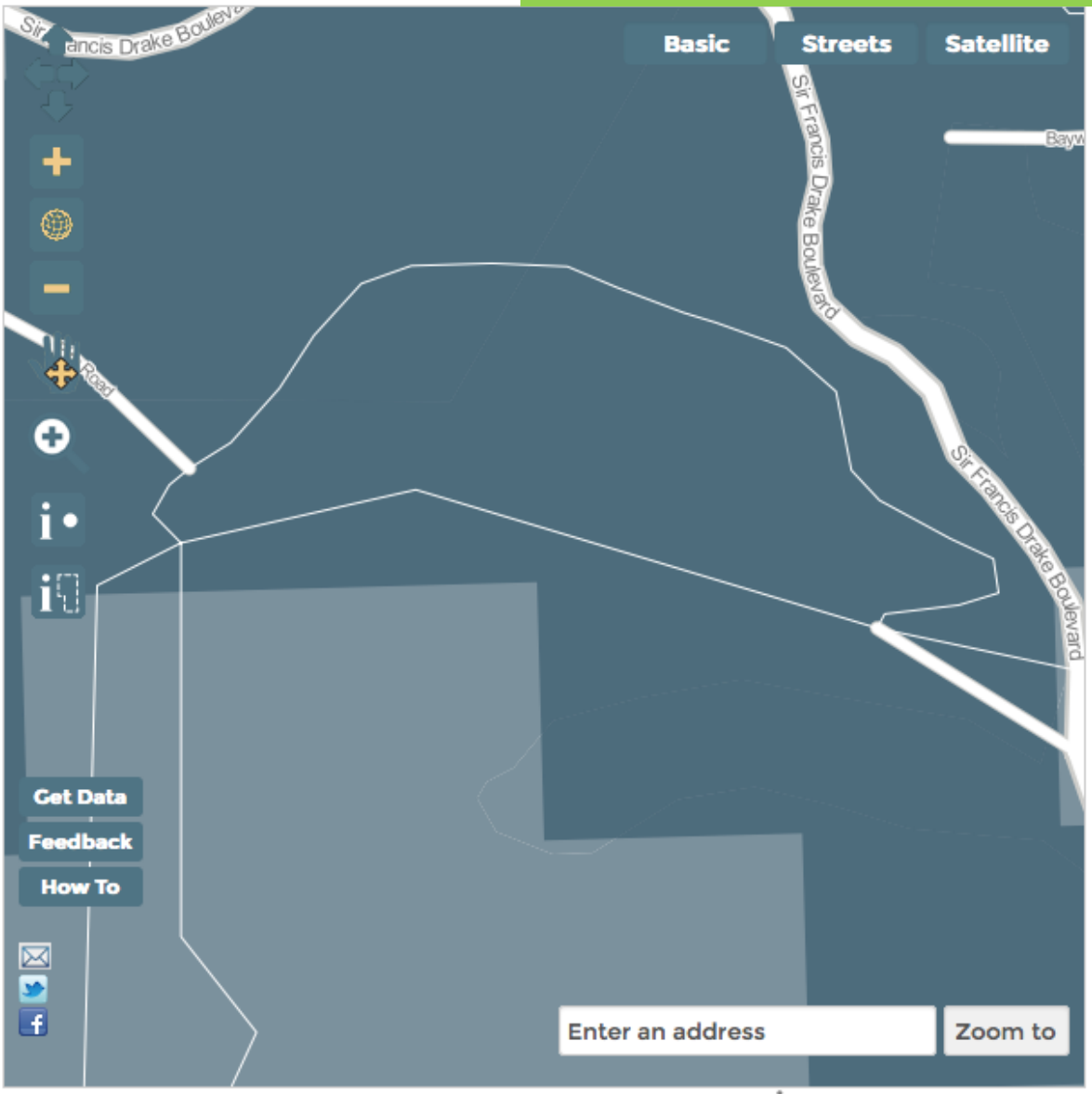
Zone 3 includes areas from which an important stream – Fairfax Creek -- is recharged, as identified in the Greenbelt Alliance mapping system.

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☐ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
- ☐ Forest Biomass »
- ☐ Priority Conservation Areas »
- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Northern Portion of Zone 1

Habitat and Watershed

Greenbelt Alliance

© 2012 Greenbelt Alliance | Interactive mapping by GreenInfo Network

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands

- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☐ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
- ☐ Forest Biomass »
- ☐ Priority Conservation Areas »
- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Southern Portion of Zone 1
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands

- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☐ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
- ☐ Forest Biomass »
- ☐ Priority Conservation Areas »
- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

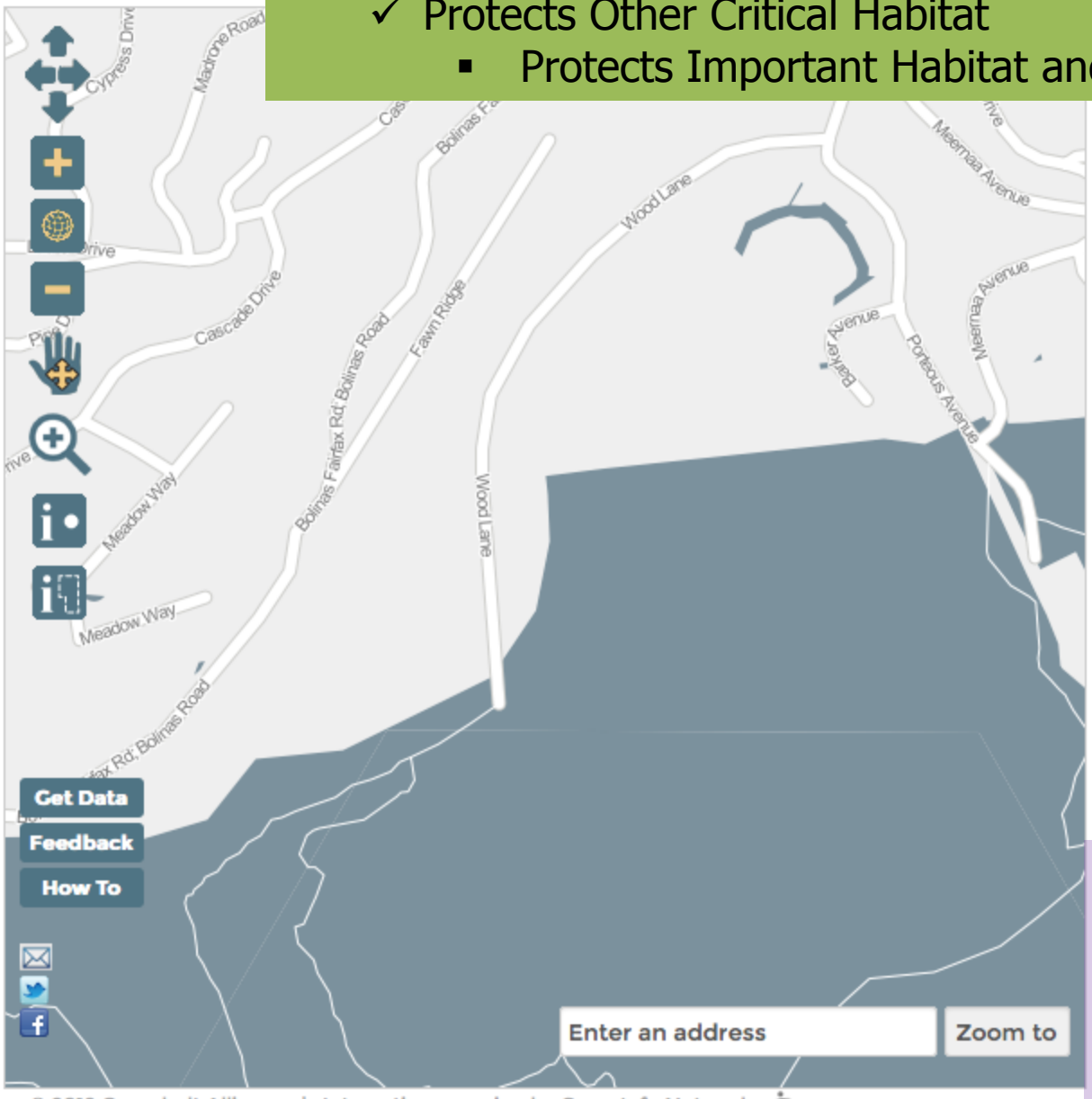
▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Western Portion of Zone 2
Habitat and Watershed

Greenbelt Alliance

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

- [x] Important Habitat »
- [ ] Important Rangeland »
- [ ] Important Streams »
- [x] Important Watershed Lands »
- [ ] Forest Biomass »
- [ ] Priority Conservation Areas »
- [ ] Public Parks and Easements »
- [ ] Planned Trails »
- [ ] Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

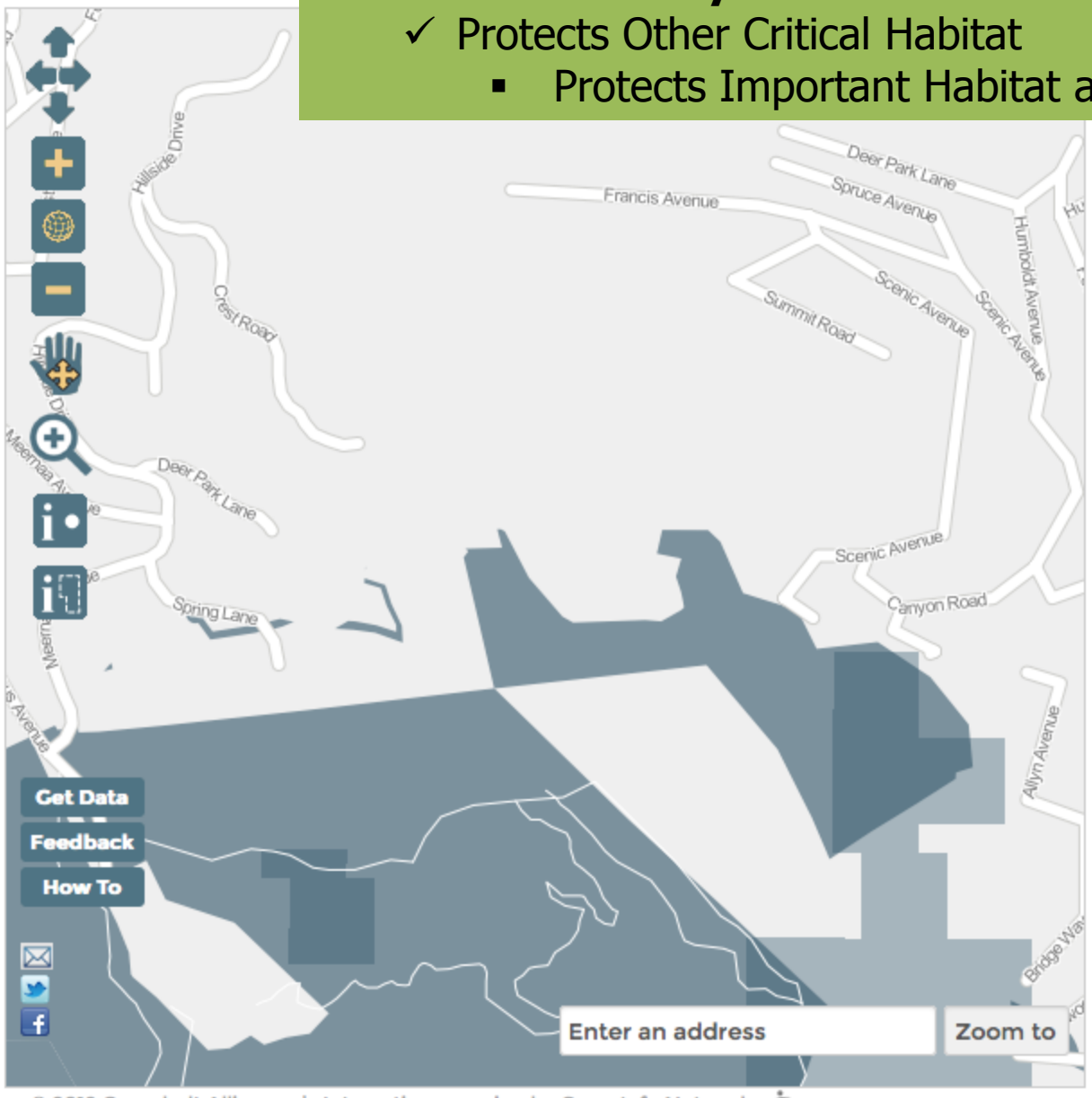
Middle portion of Zone 2

Habitat and Watershed

Greenbelt Alliance

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

- [ ] Important Farmland »
- [x] Important Habitat »
- [ ] Important Rangeland »
- [ ] Important Streams »
- [ ] Important Watershed Lands »
- [x] Forest Biomass »
- [ ] Priority Conservation Areas »
- [ ] Public Parks and Easements »
- [ ] Planned Trails »
- [ ] Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

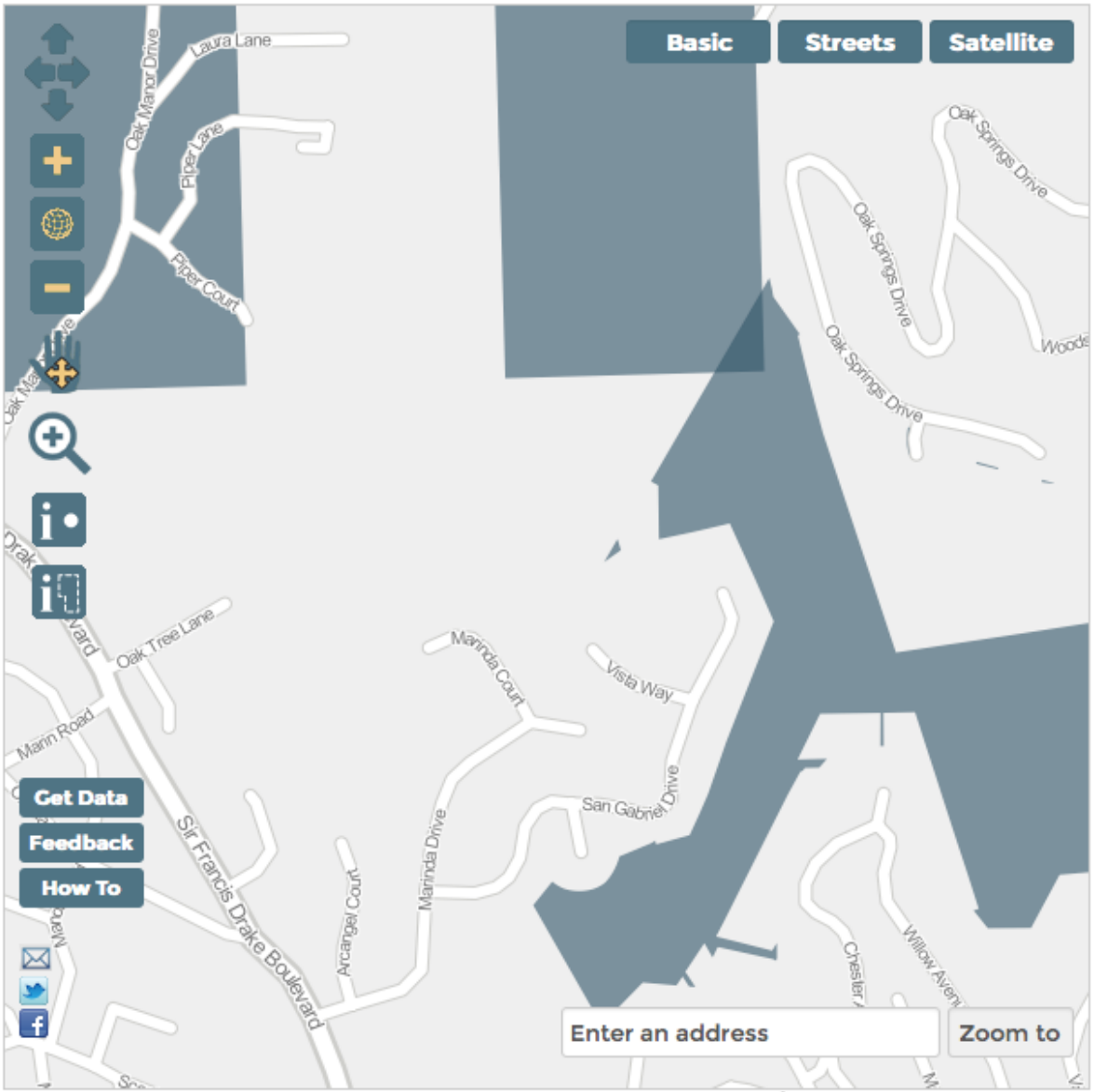
Eastern Portion of Zone 2
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARC

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



© 2012 Greenbelt Alliance | Interactive mapping by GreenInfo Network

- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☐ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
- ☐ Forest Biomass »
- ☐ Priority Conservation Areas »
- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

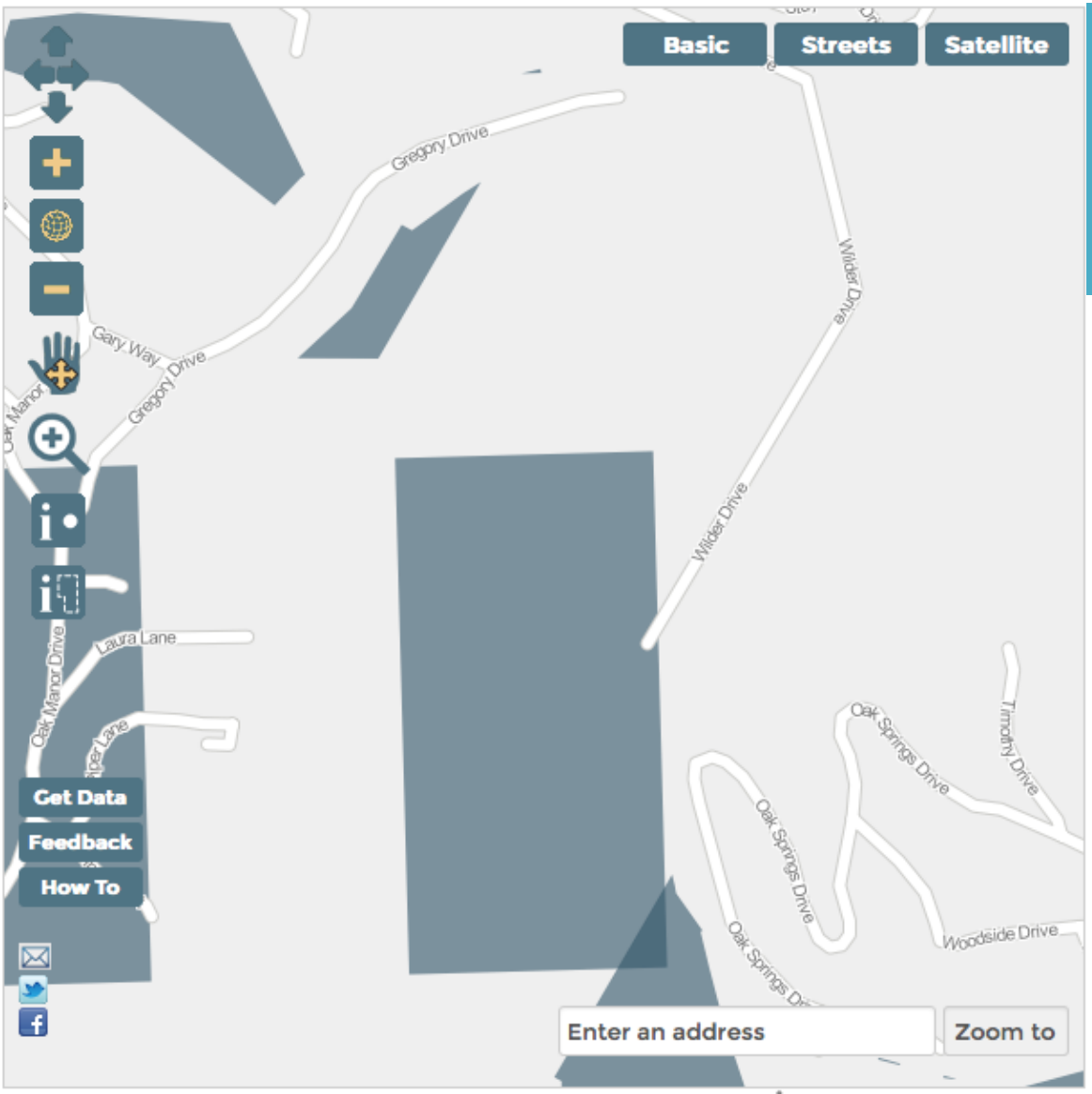
Southern Portion of Zone 3
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



© 2012 Greenbelt Alliance | Interactive mapping by GreenInfo Network

- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☐ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
- ☐ Forest Biomass »
- ☐ Priority Conservation Areas »
- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

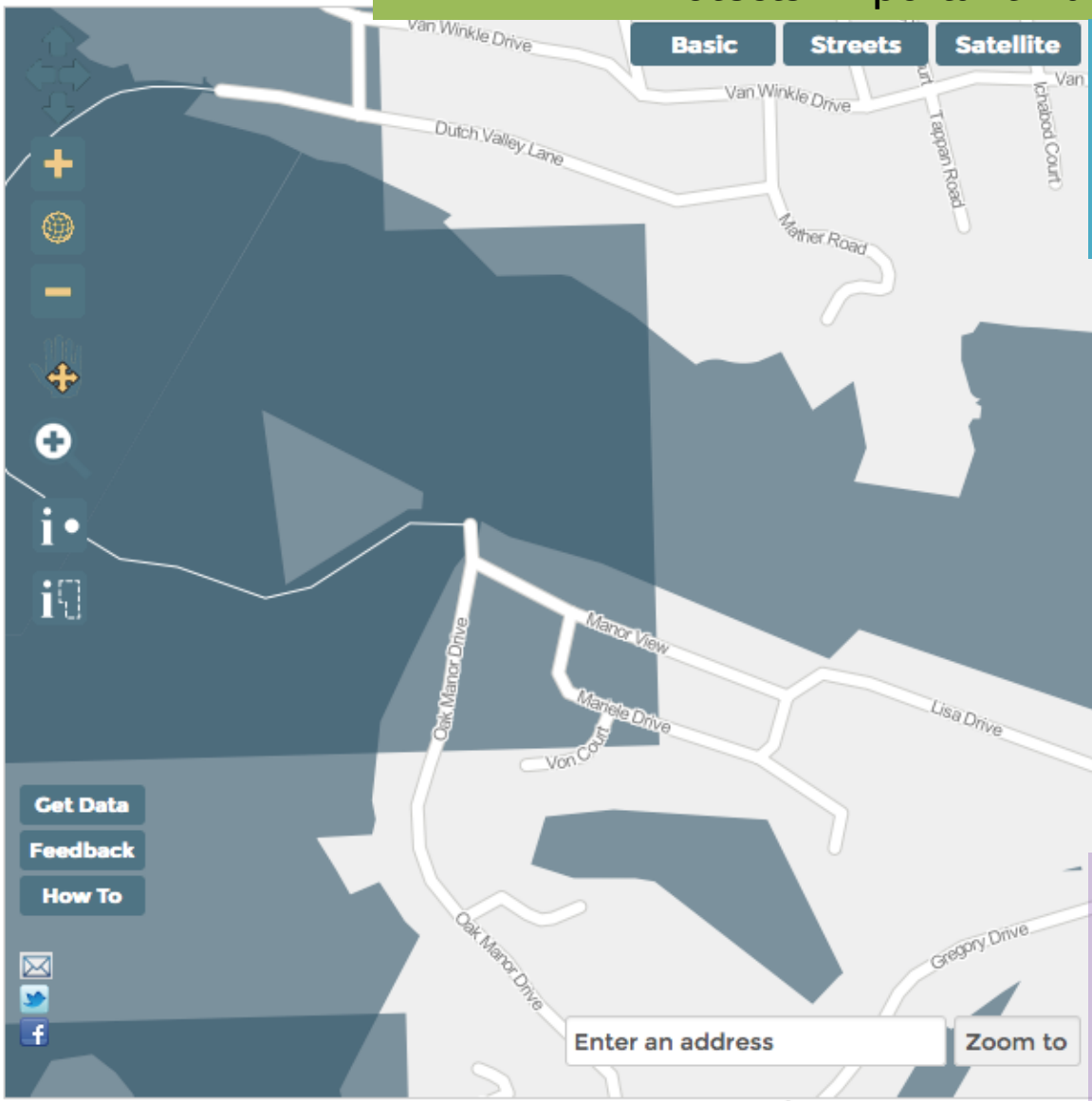
Mid-southern portion of Zone 3
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | AI

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☐ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
- ☐ Forest Biomass »
- ☐ Priority Conservation Areas »
- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Mid-Northern Portion of Zone 3
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

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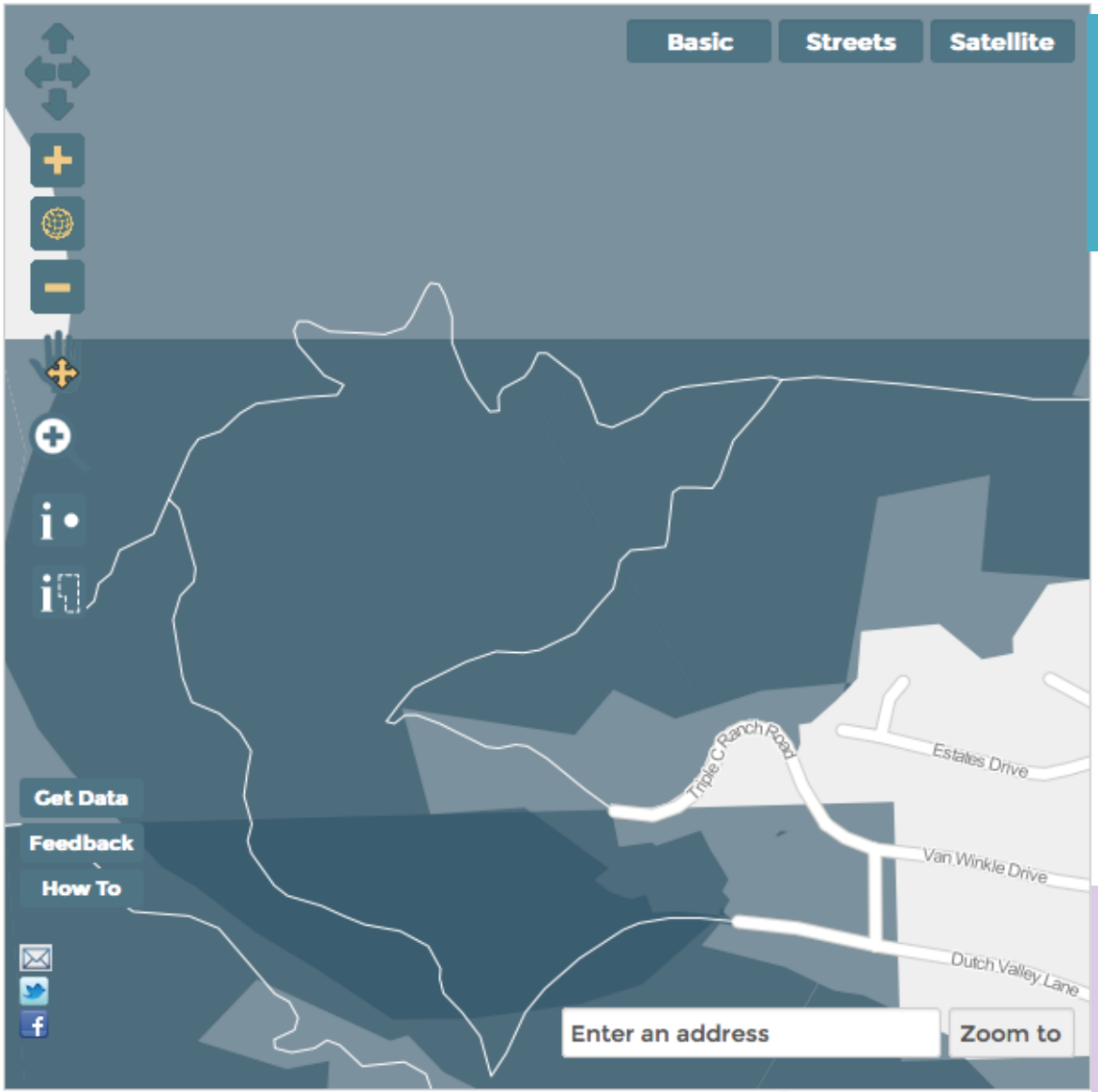
GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



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- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☑ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
- ☐ Forest Biomass »
- ☐ Priority Conservation Areas »
- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Northern Portion of Zone 3
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

Exhibit 2 - Natural Landscape Benefits in the Proposed Fairfax Priority Conservation Area

COMPACT GROWTH

Designation as Natural Landscapes:

- ❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems
- ❑ Water Supply and Quality
- ❑ **Compact Growth**

❑ **Compact Growth**

- ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces; or*
- ✓ *Support adopted open space policy protection measures; and*
- ✓ *Supports stable urban edges (Optional).*

Major Price Reduction to $1,850,000

Development Opportunity | Fairfax, CA

98 acres of undeveloped land knowns as the Wall Property was advertised for sale and purchased by a developer recently. The Wall Property lies within the southern part of Zone 3 and is one of the “at-risk” open space properties in Fairfax.

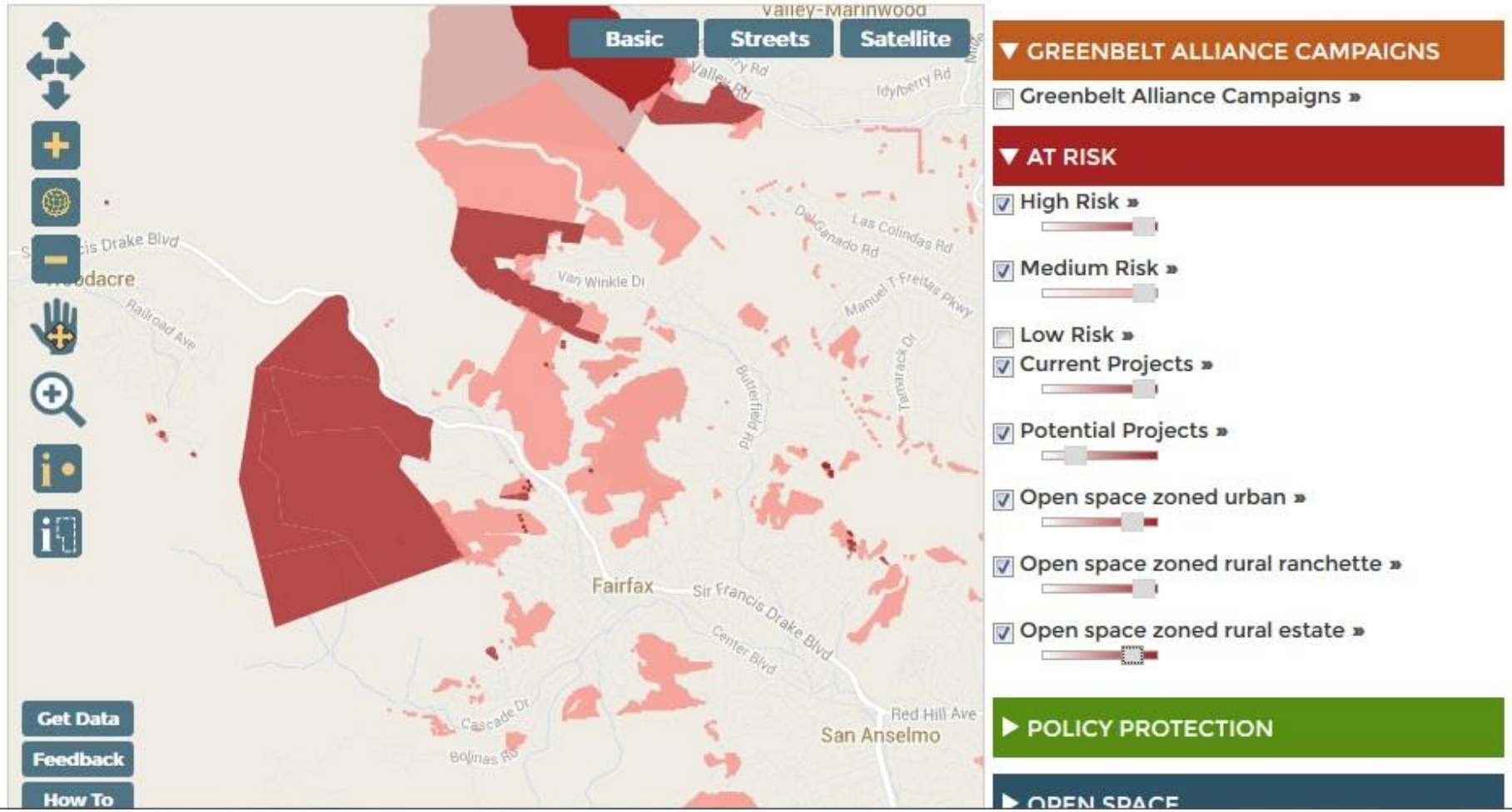
❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE | EVENTS & OUTINGS | NEWS | ENDORSEMENT | DONATE | Search

At Risk 2012



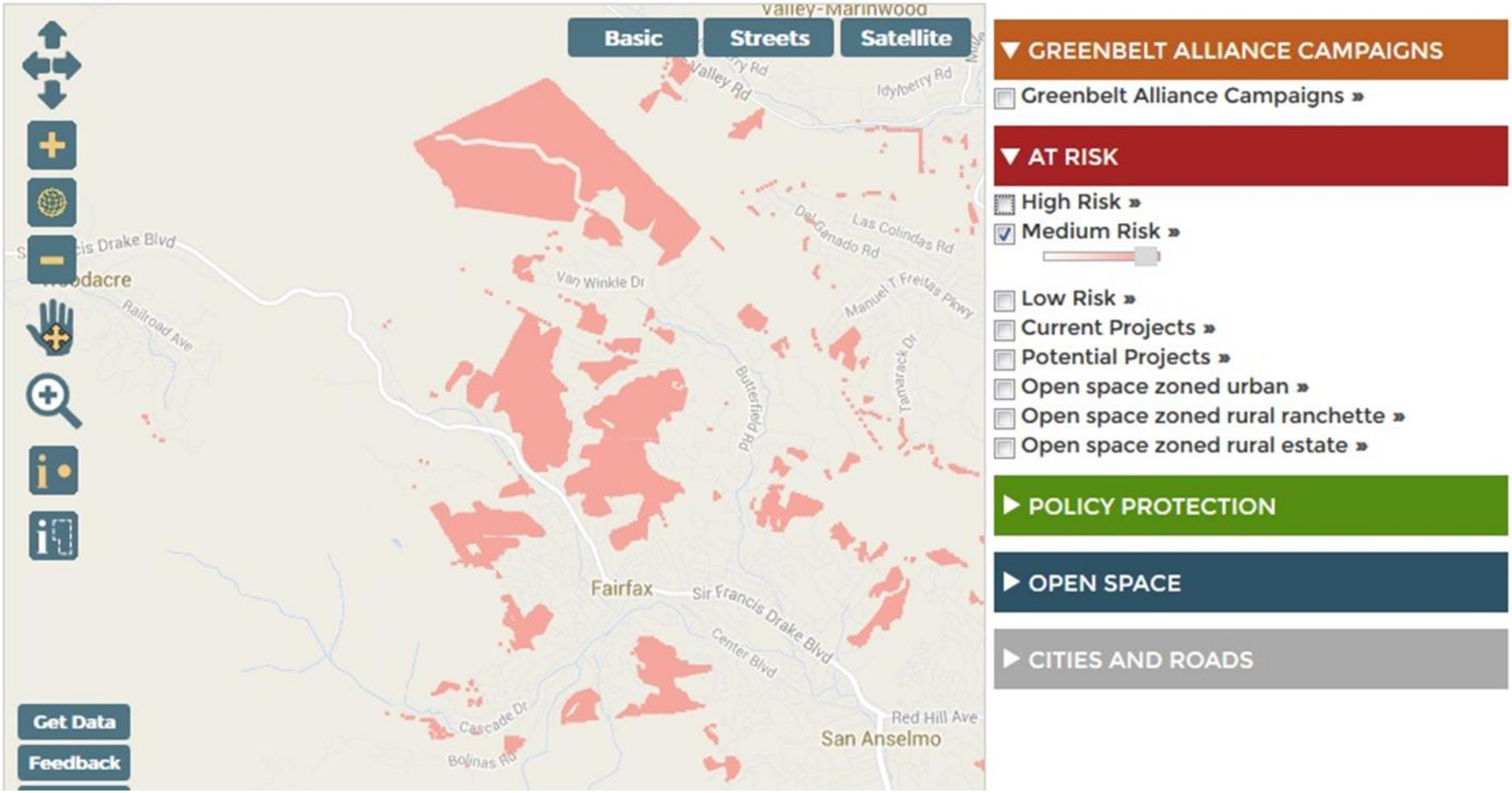
GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCAT

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

At Risk 2012

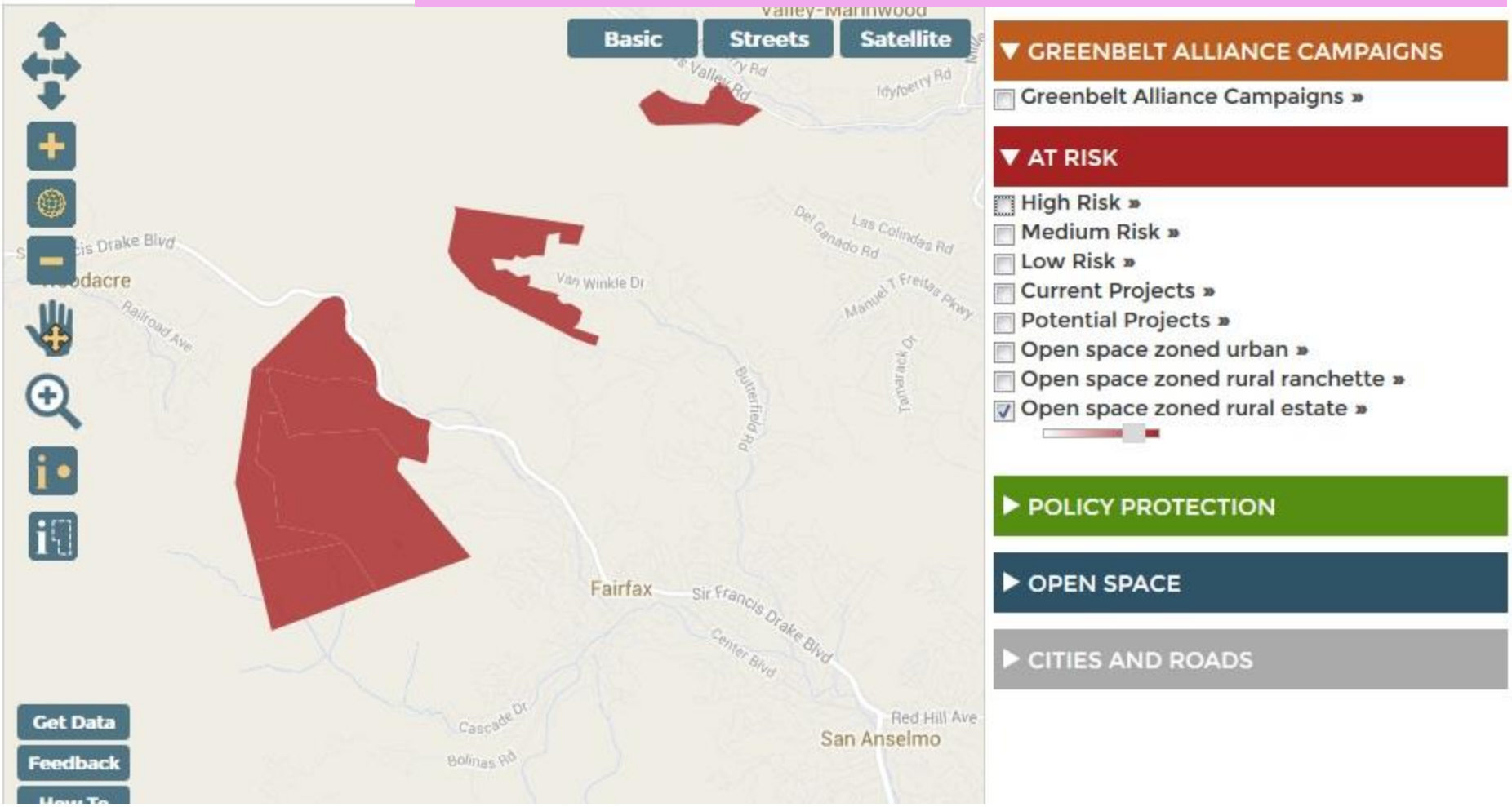


GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE

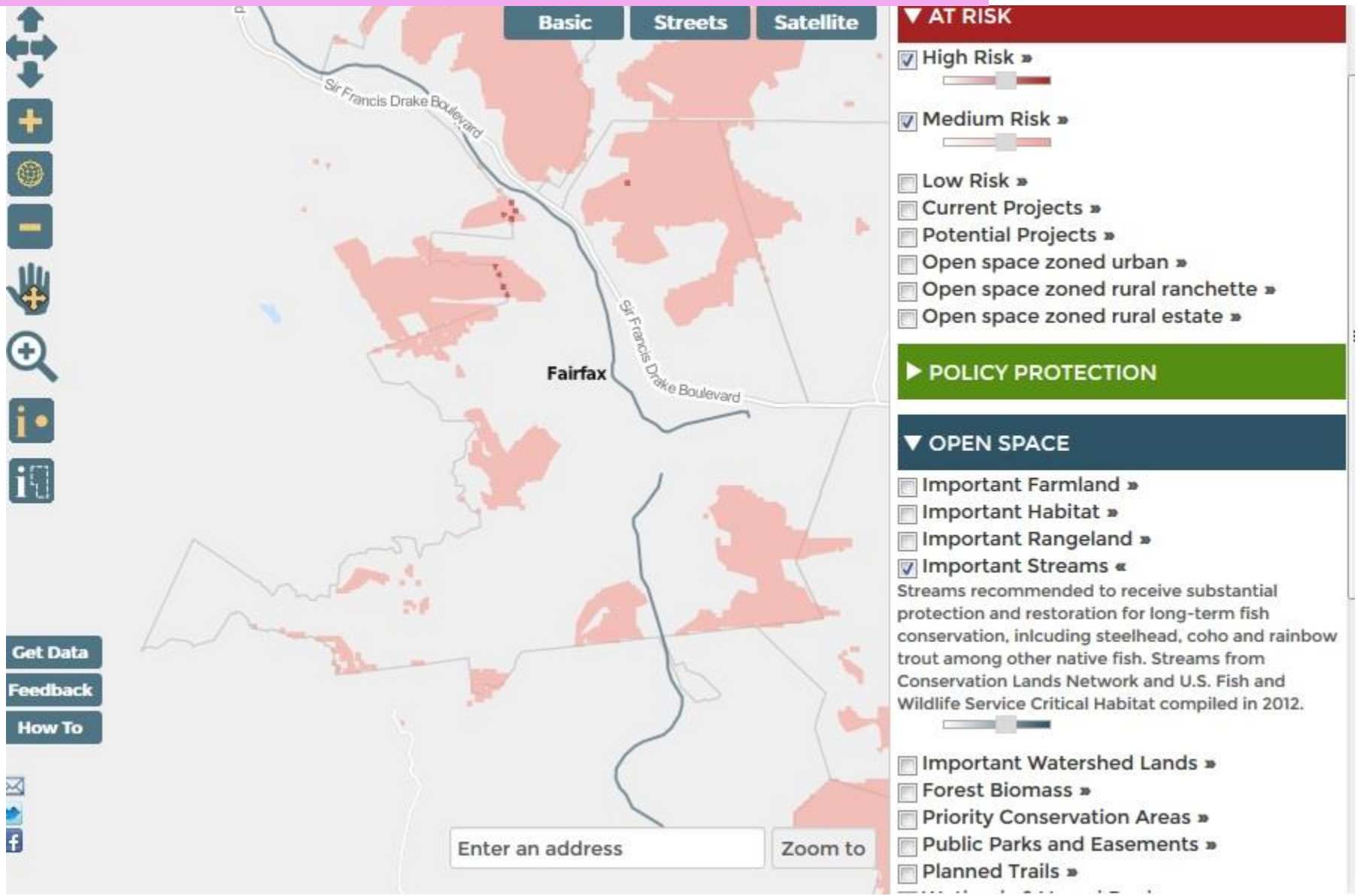
At Risk 2012

- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



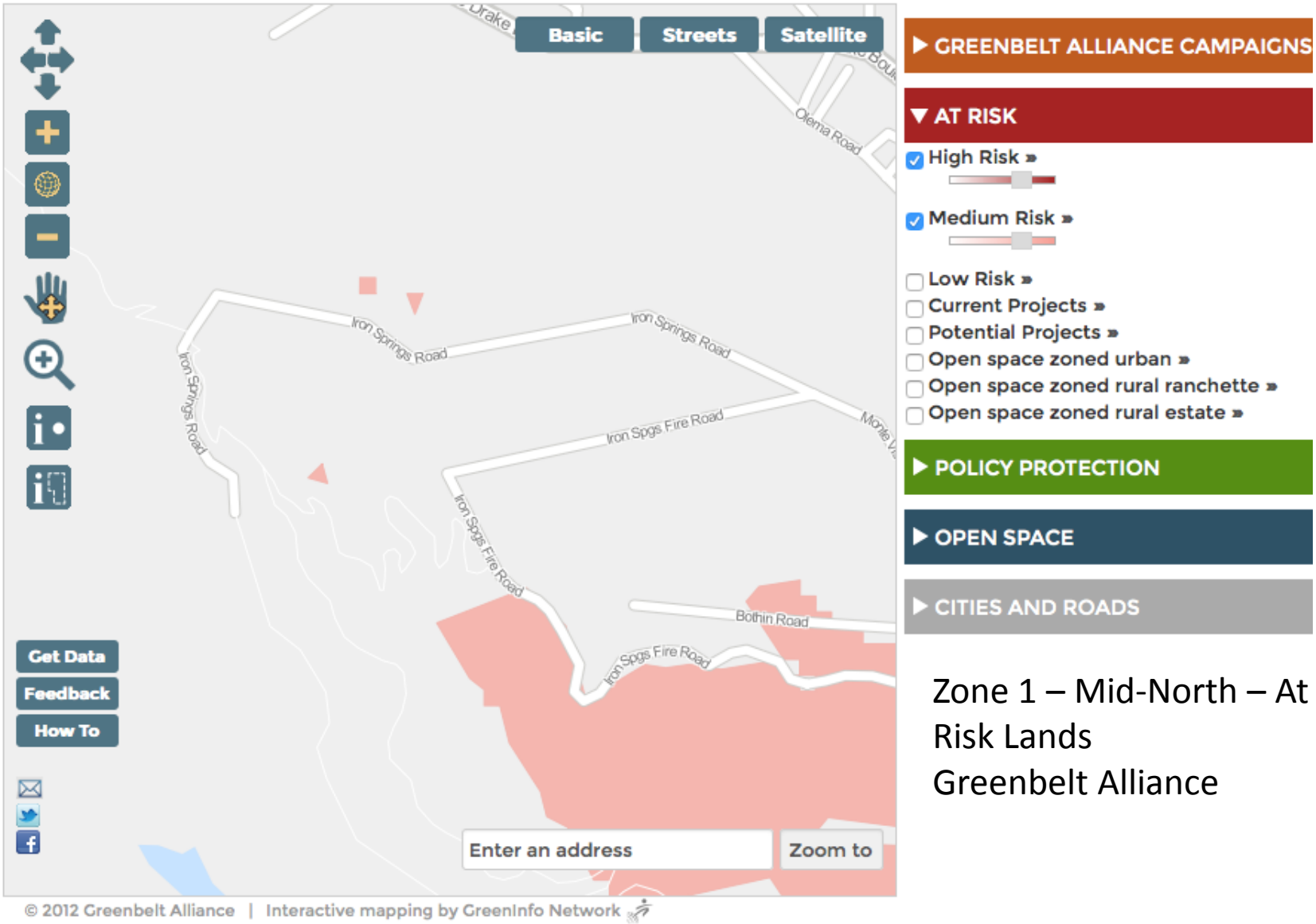
GREENBELT ALLIANC

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADV

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

At Risk 2012



Zone 1 – Mid-North – At Risk Lands
Greenbelt Alliance

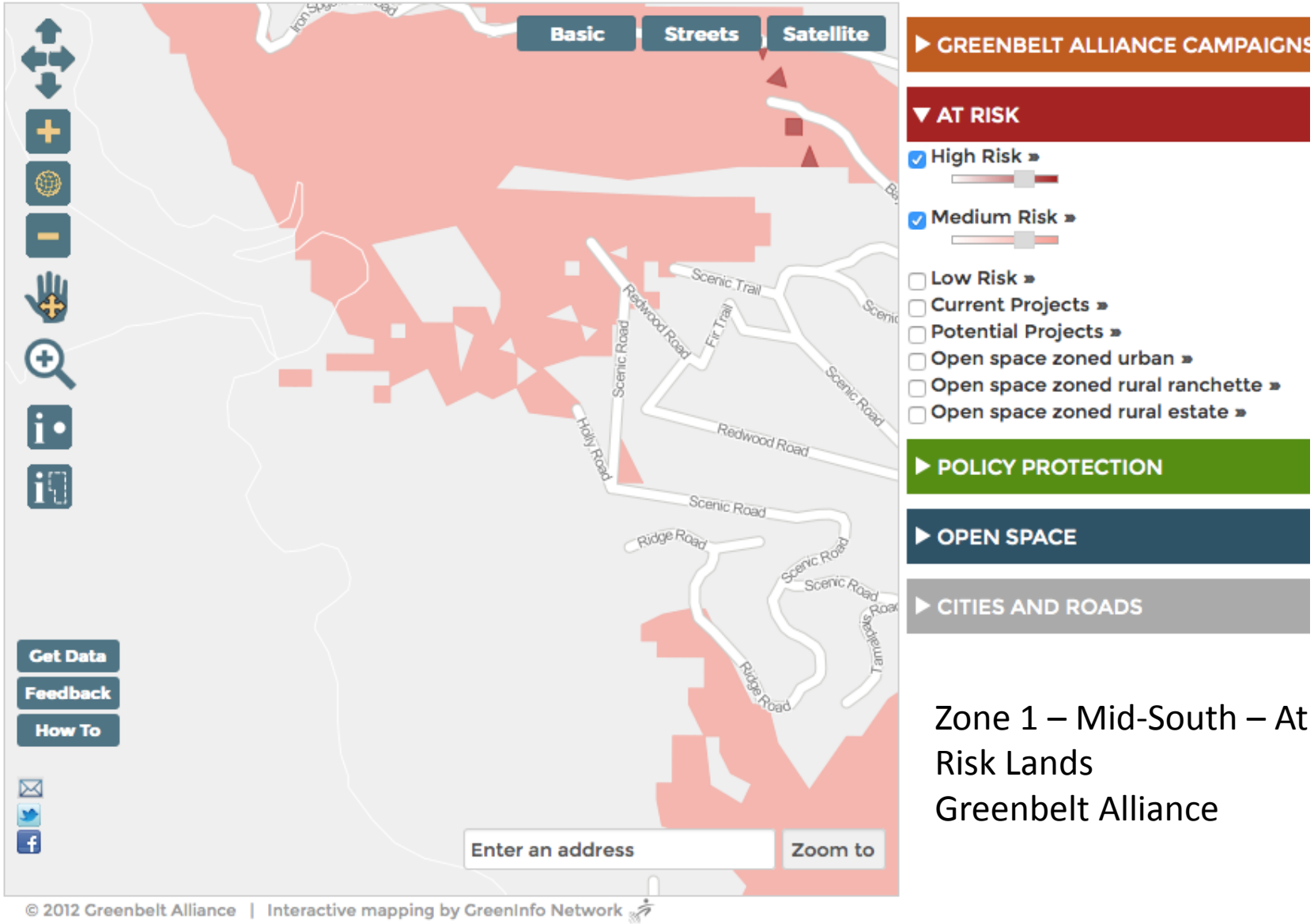
GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | AD

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

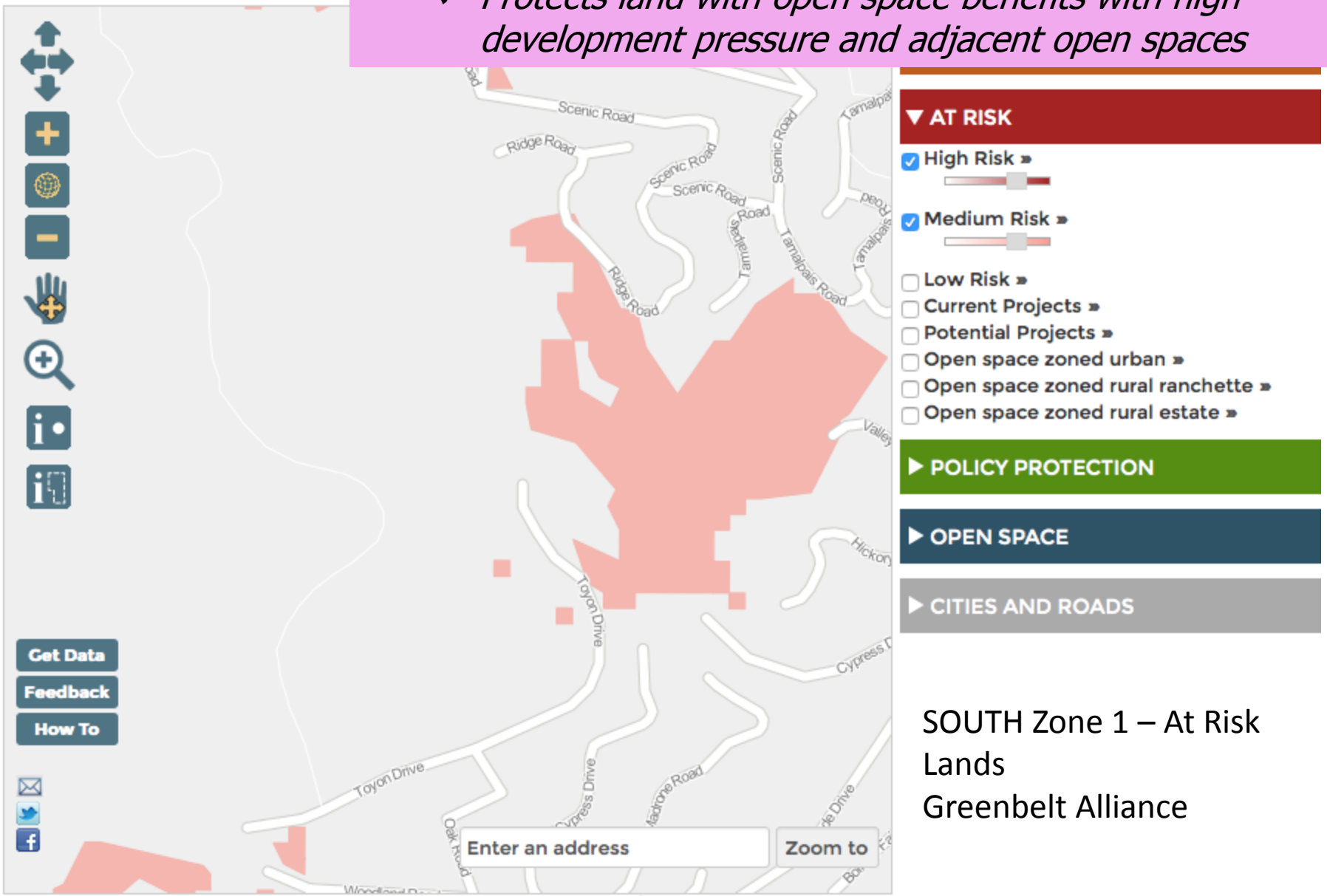
At Risk 2012



Zone 1 – Mid-South – At Risk Lands
Greenbelt Alliance

At Risk 2012

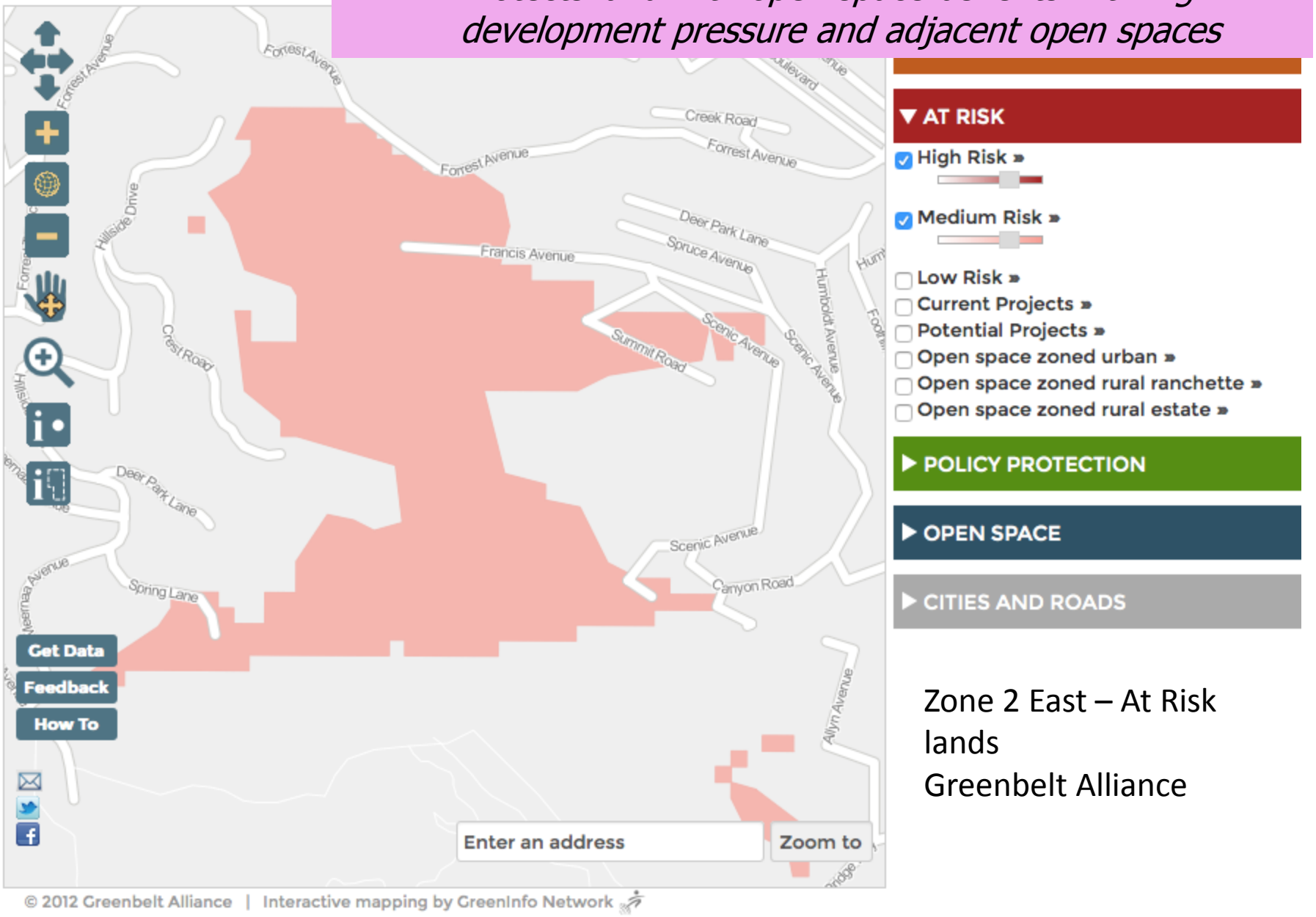
- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



SOUTH Zone 1 – At Risk Lands
Greenbelt Alliance

At Risk 2012

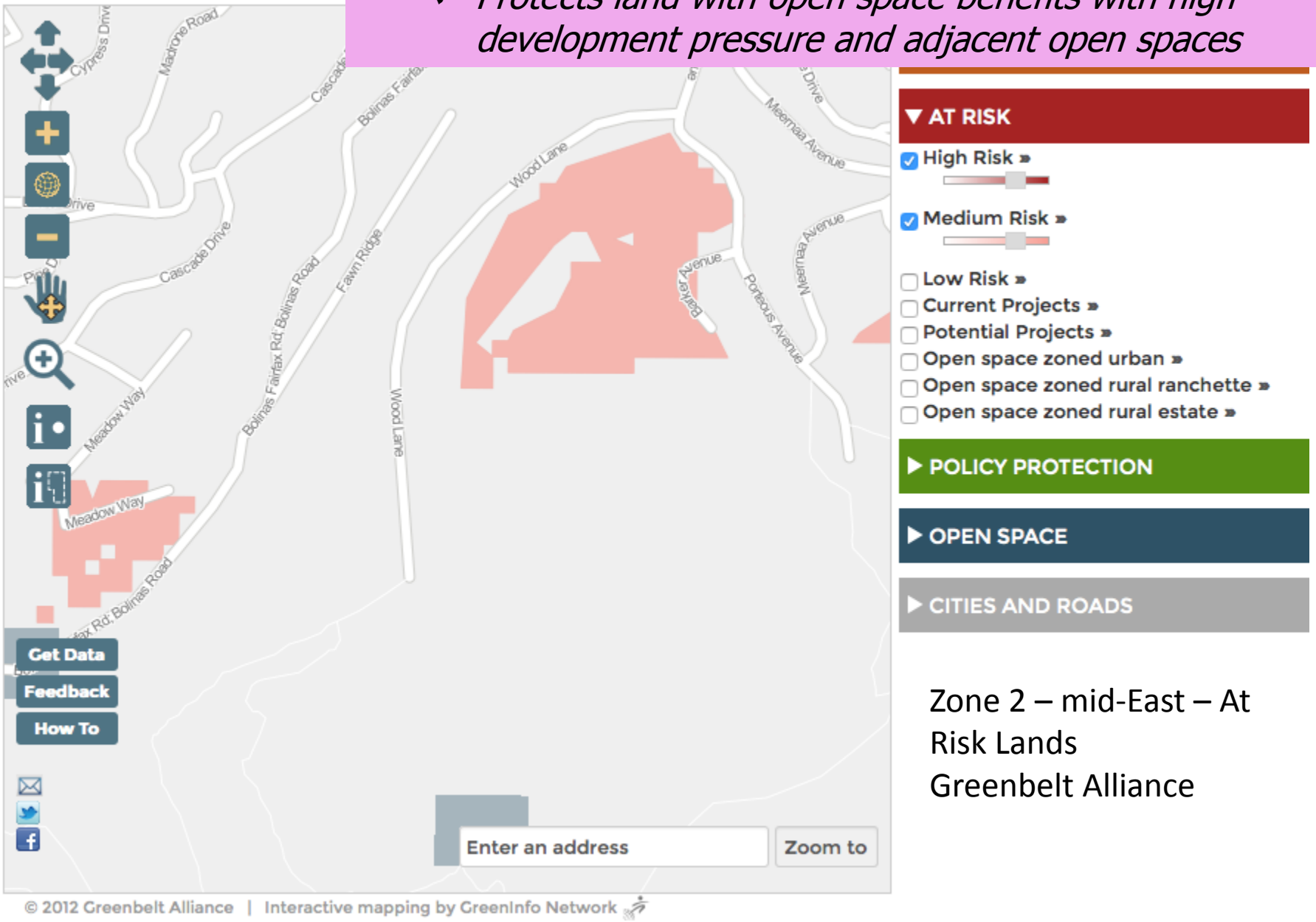
- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



Zone 2 East – At Risk lands
Greenbelt Alliance

At Risk 2012

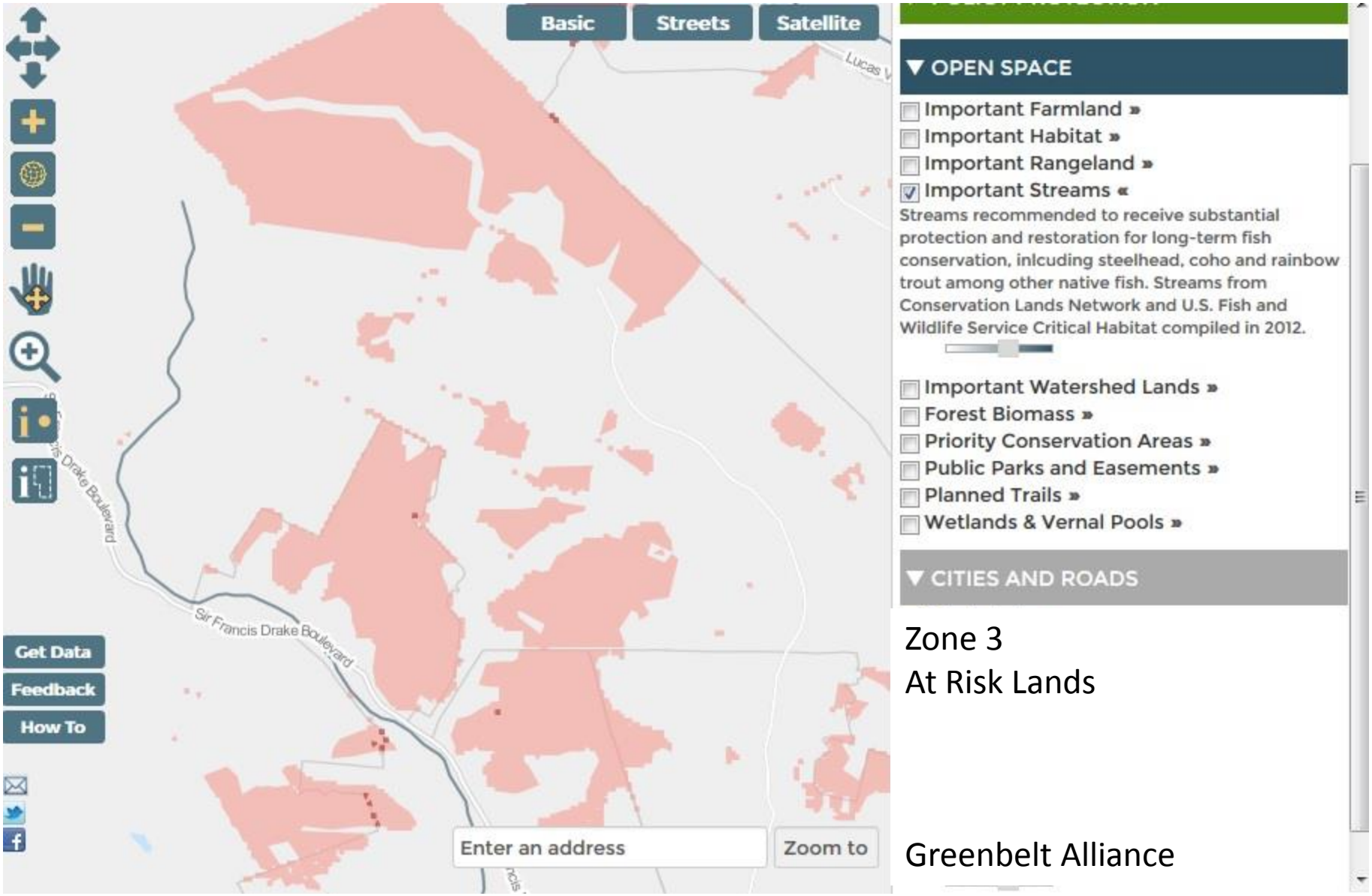
- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



Zone 2 – mid-East – At Risk Lands
Greenbelt Alliance

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



Zone 3
At Risk Lands

Greenbelt Alliance

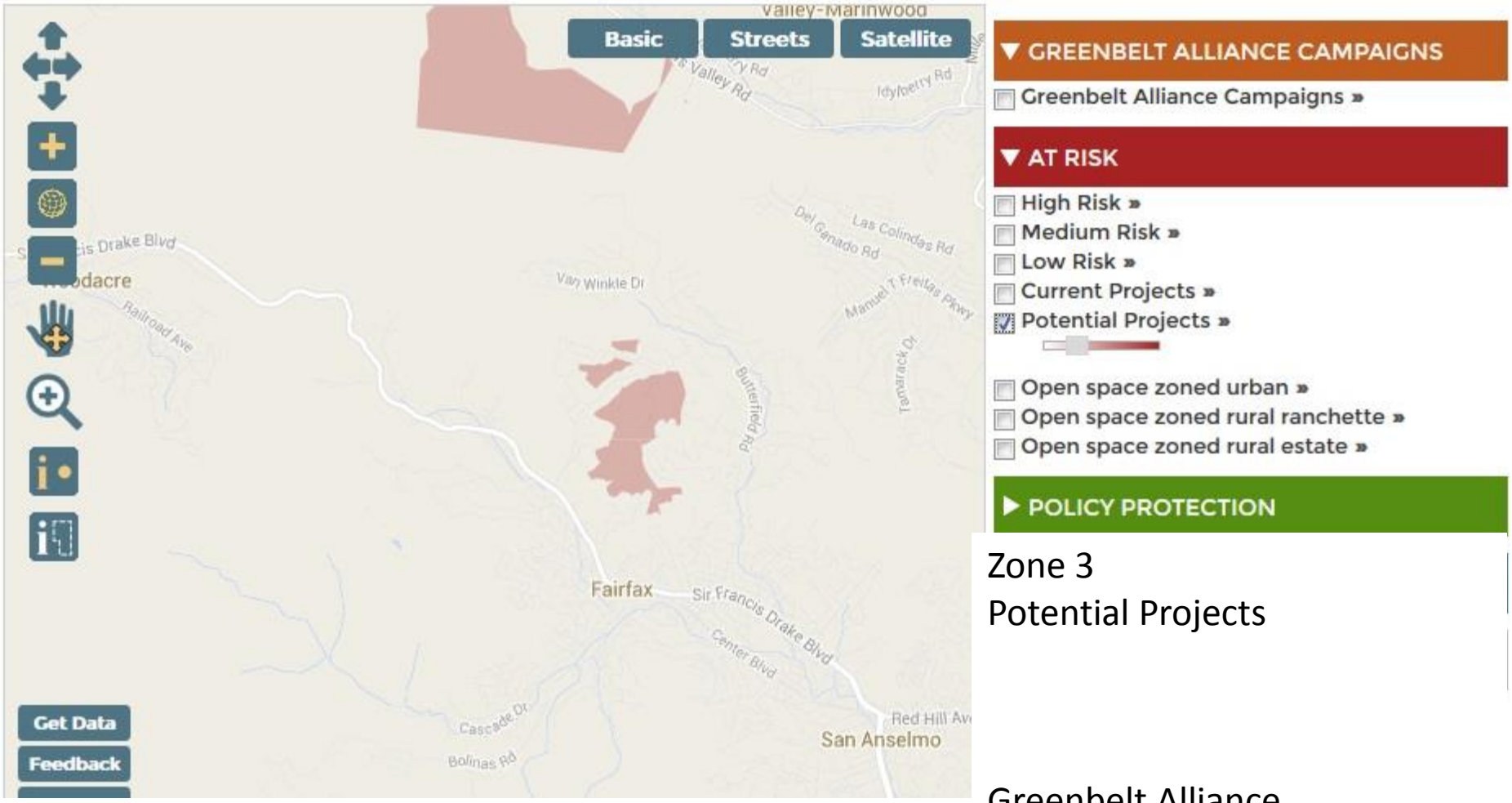
GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

At Risk 2012



Zone 3
Potential Projects

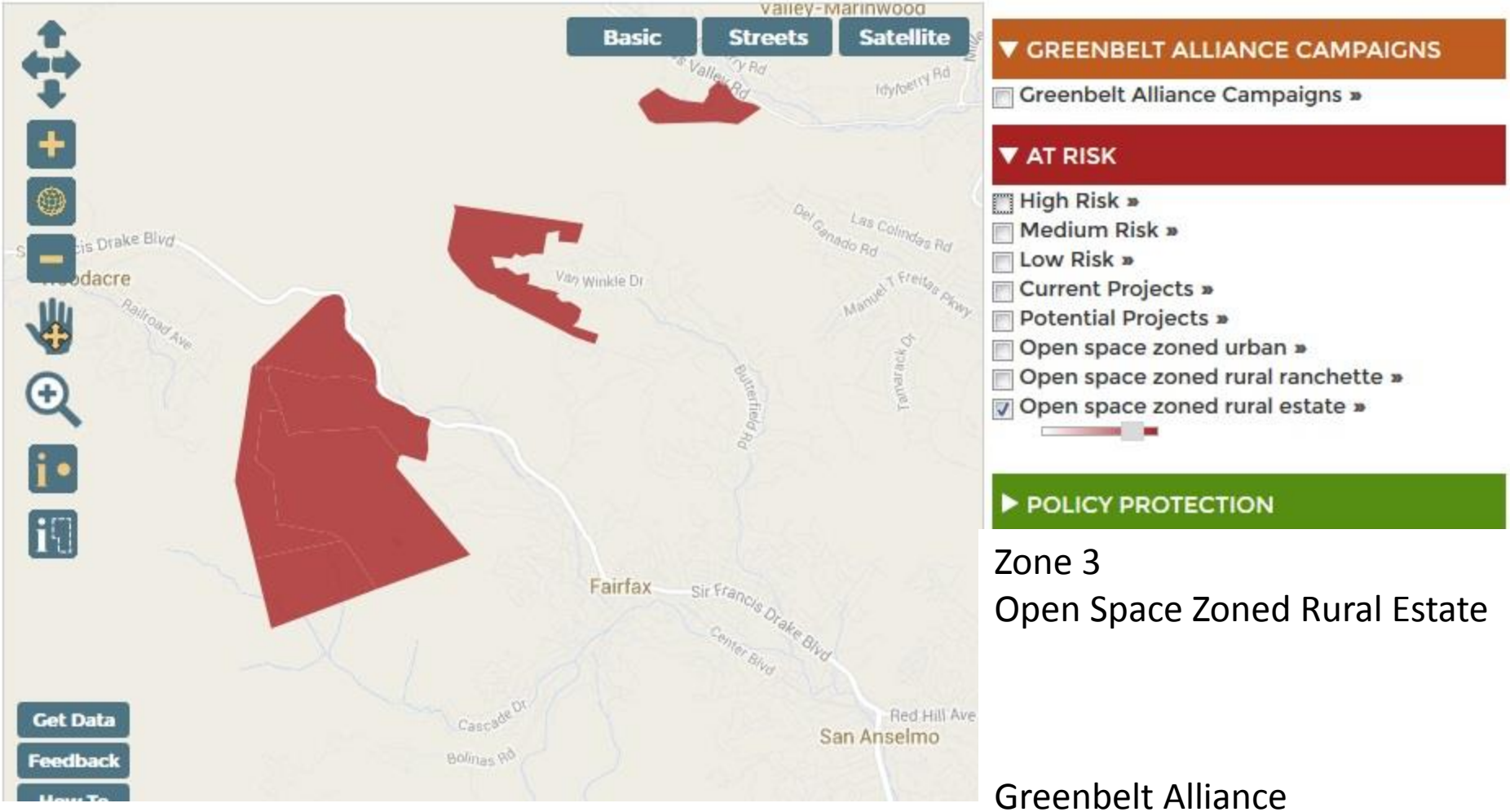
Greenbelt Alliance

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE

- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

At Risk 2012



Zone 3
Open Space Zoned Rural Estate

Greenbelt Alliance

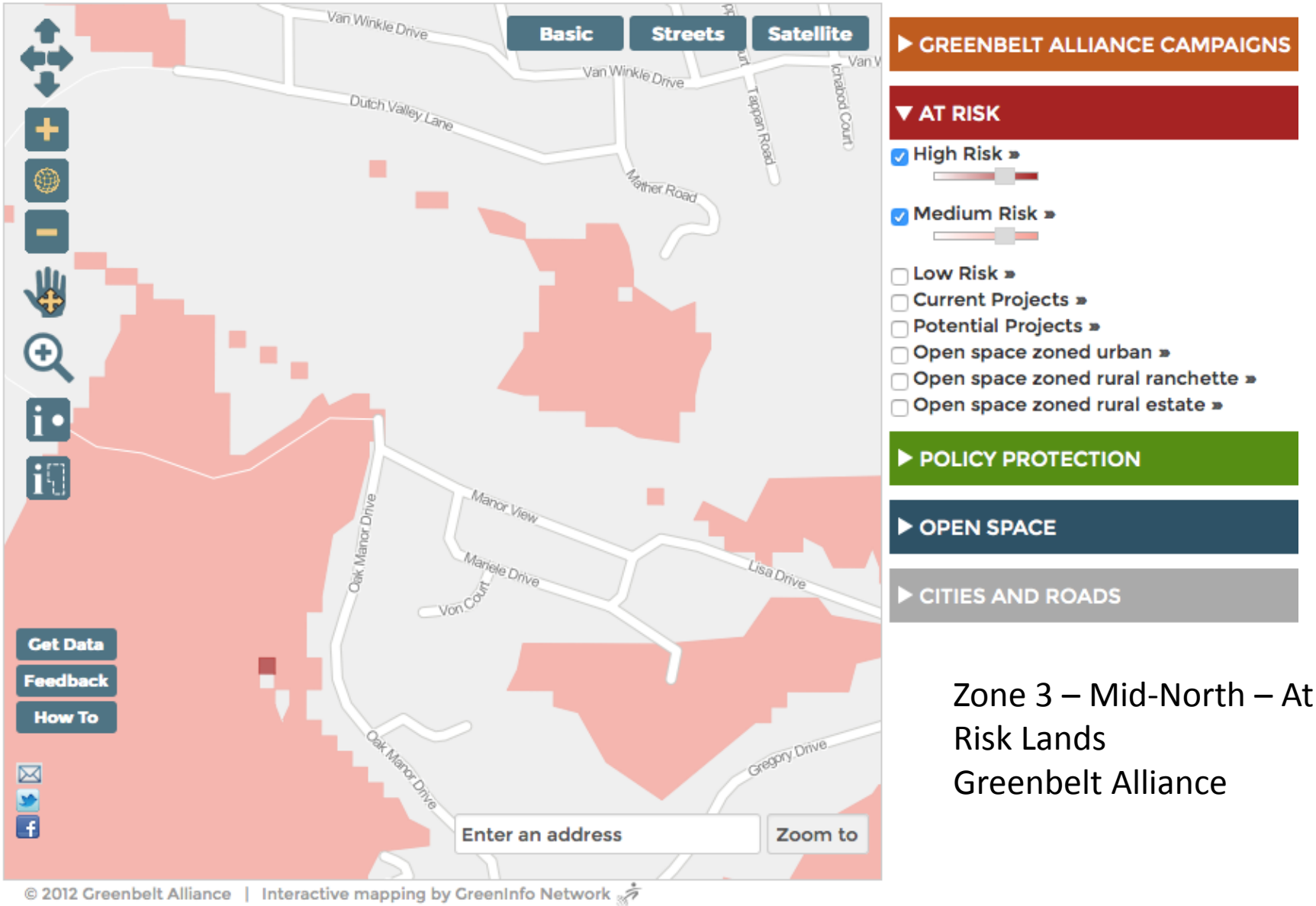
GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADV

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

At Risk 2012



Zone 3 – Mid-North – At Risk Lands
Greenbelt Alliance

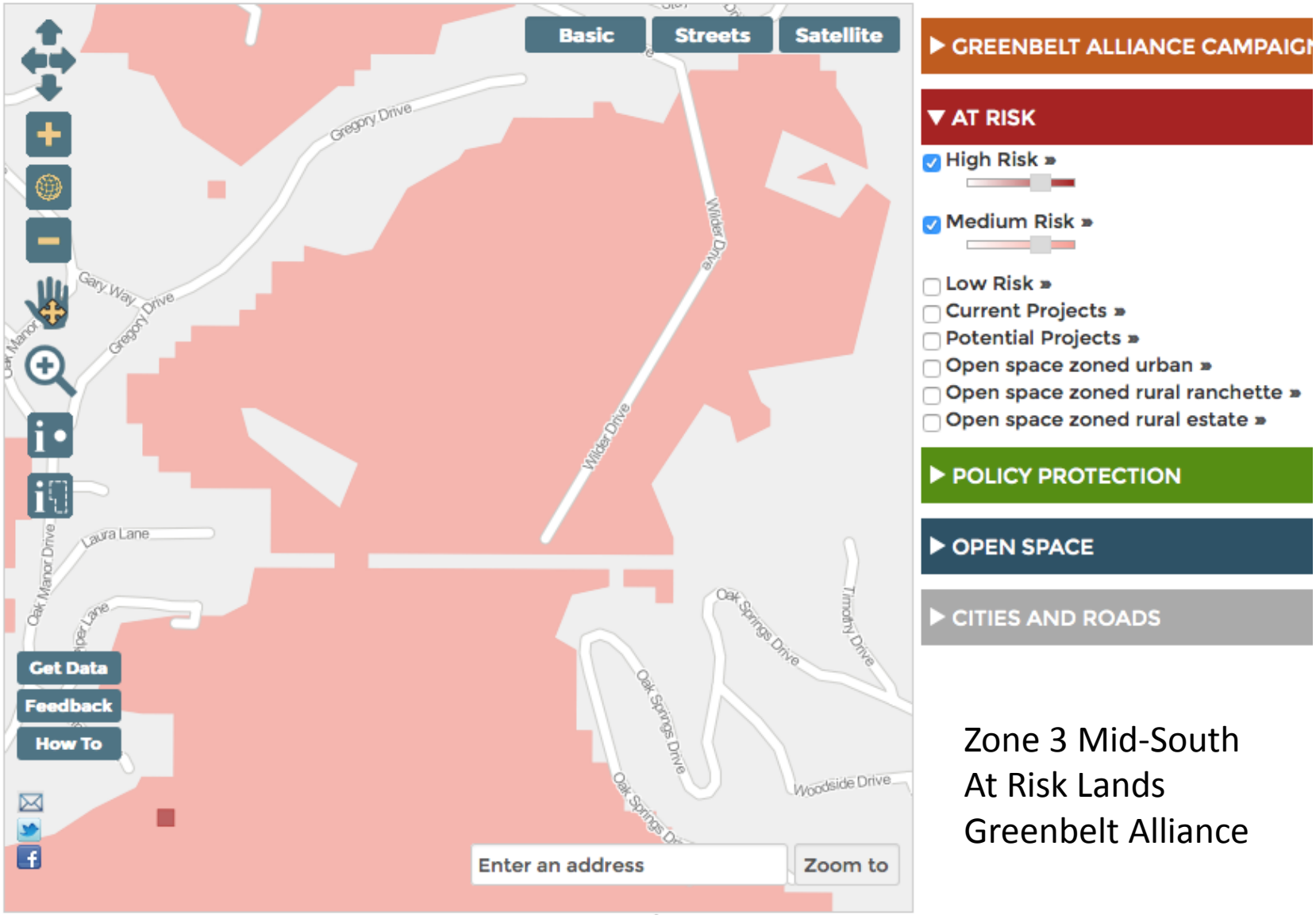
GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | AD

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

At Risk 2012



Zone 3 Mid-South
At Risk Lands
Greenbelt Alliance

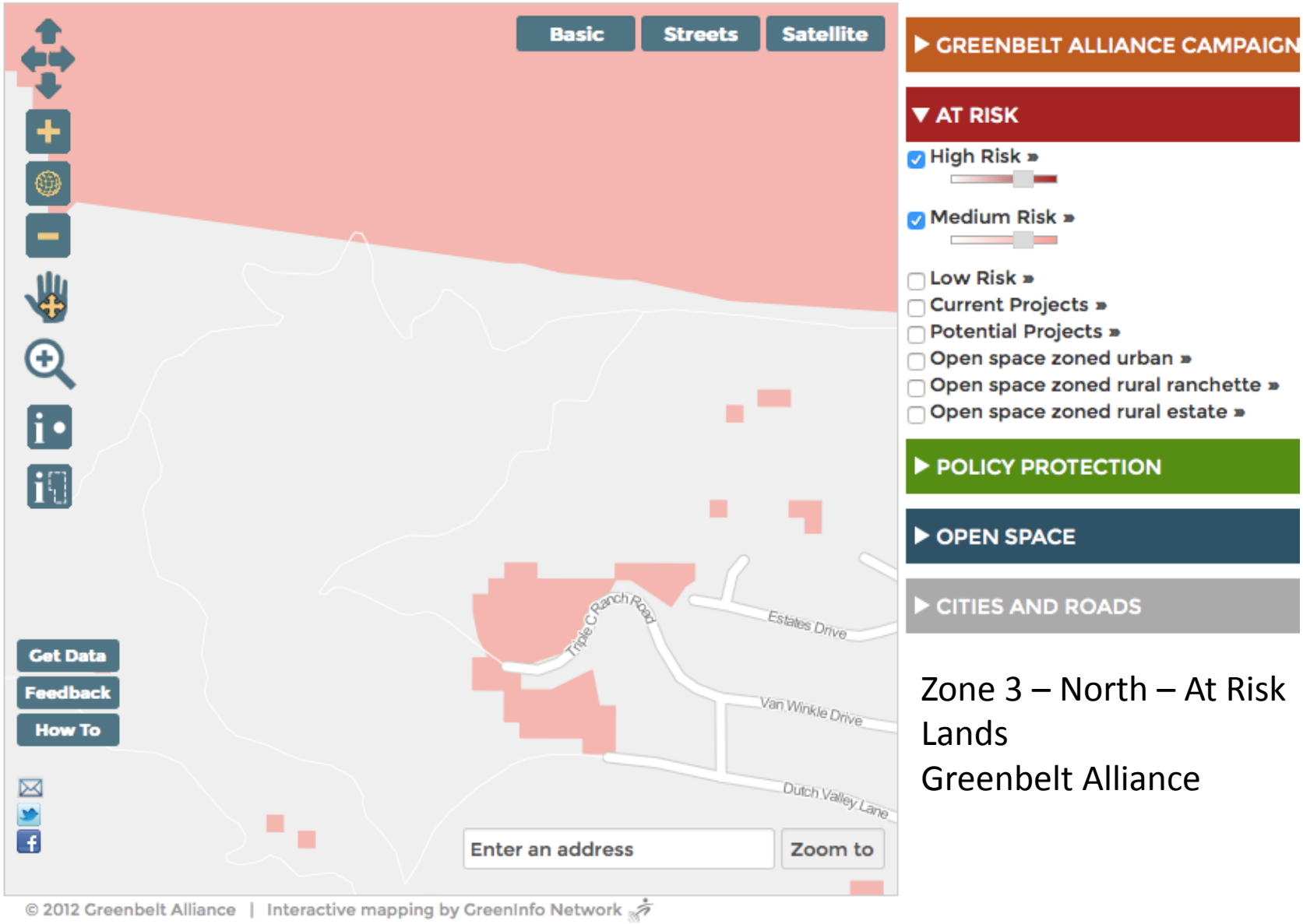
GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | A

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

At Risk 2012



Zone 3 – North – At Risk Lands
Greenbelt Alliance

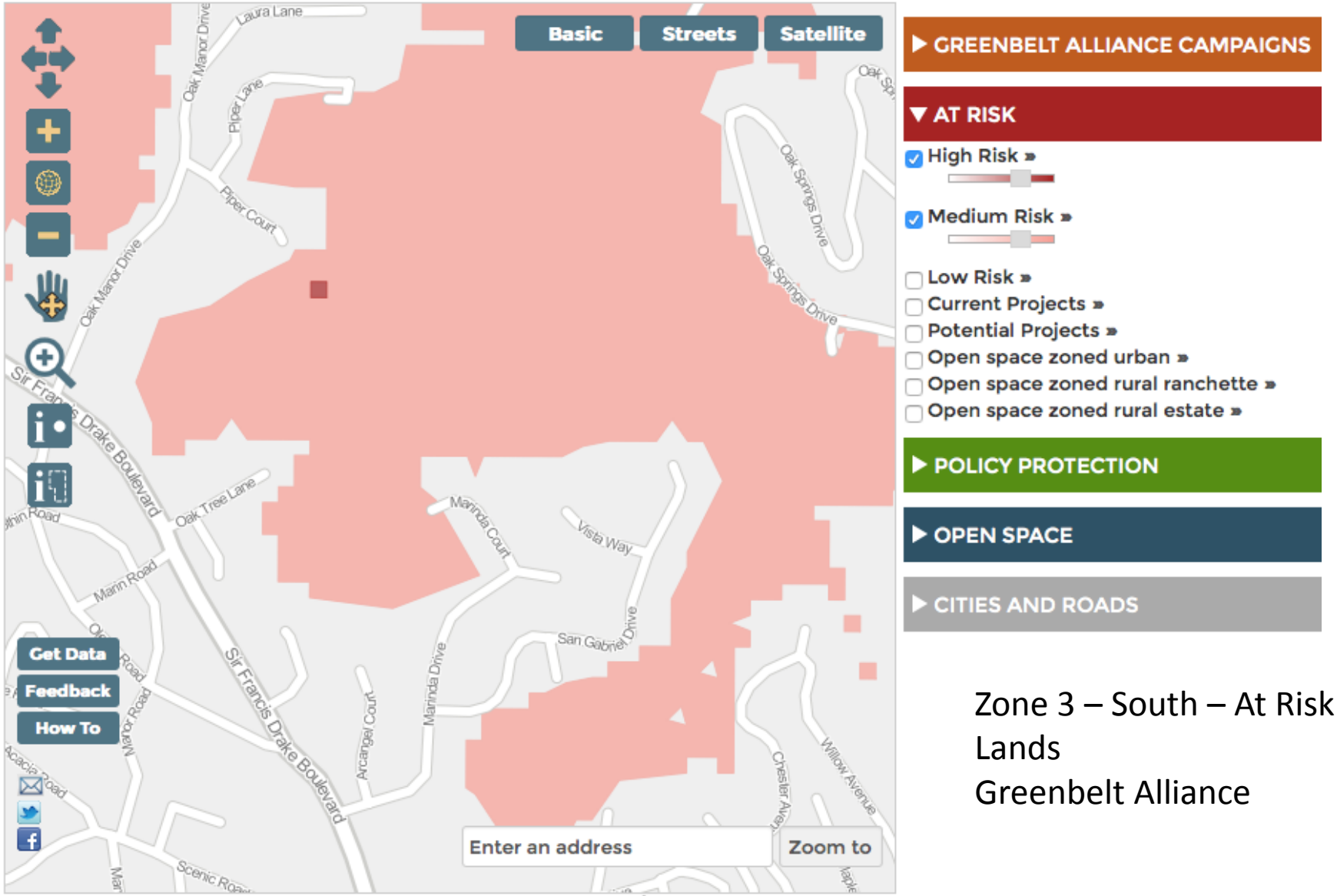
GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADV

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

At Risk 2012



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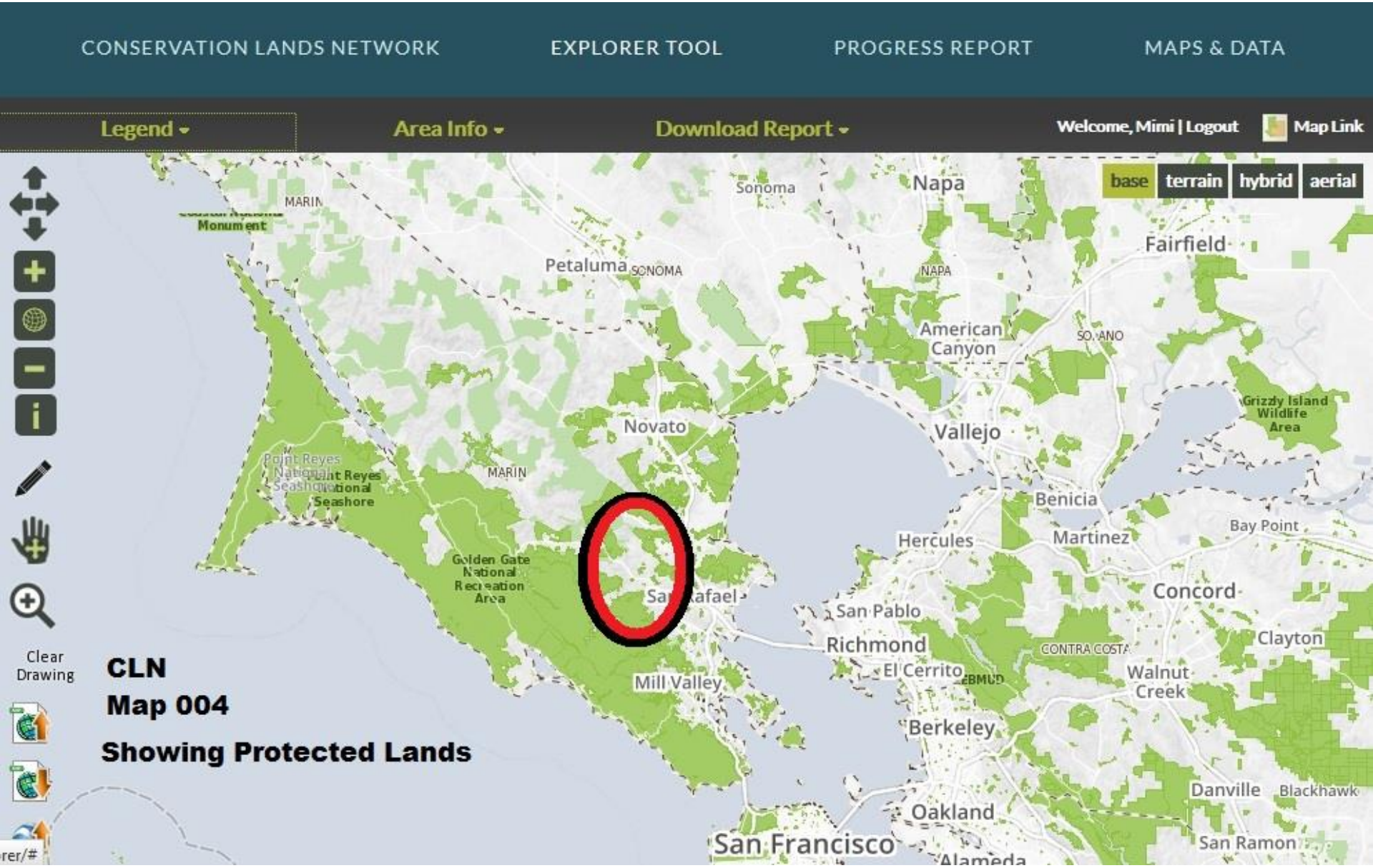
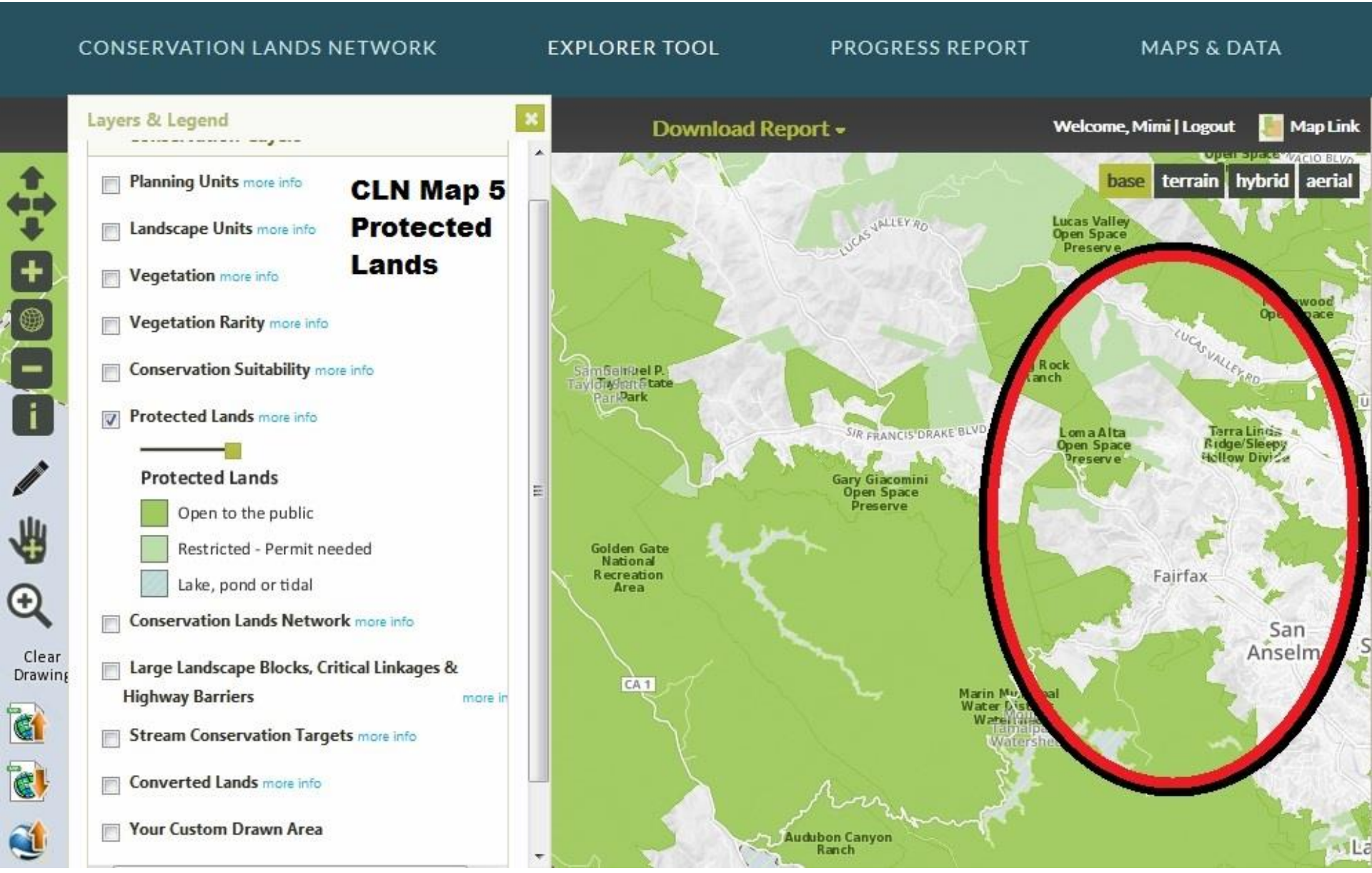
Zone 3 – South – At Risk Lands
Greenbelt Alliance

- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



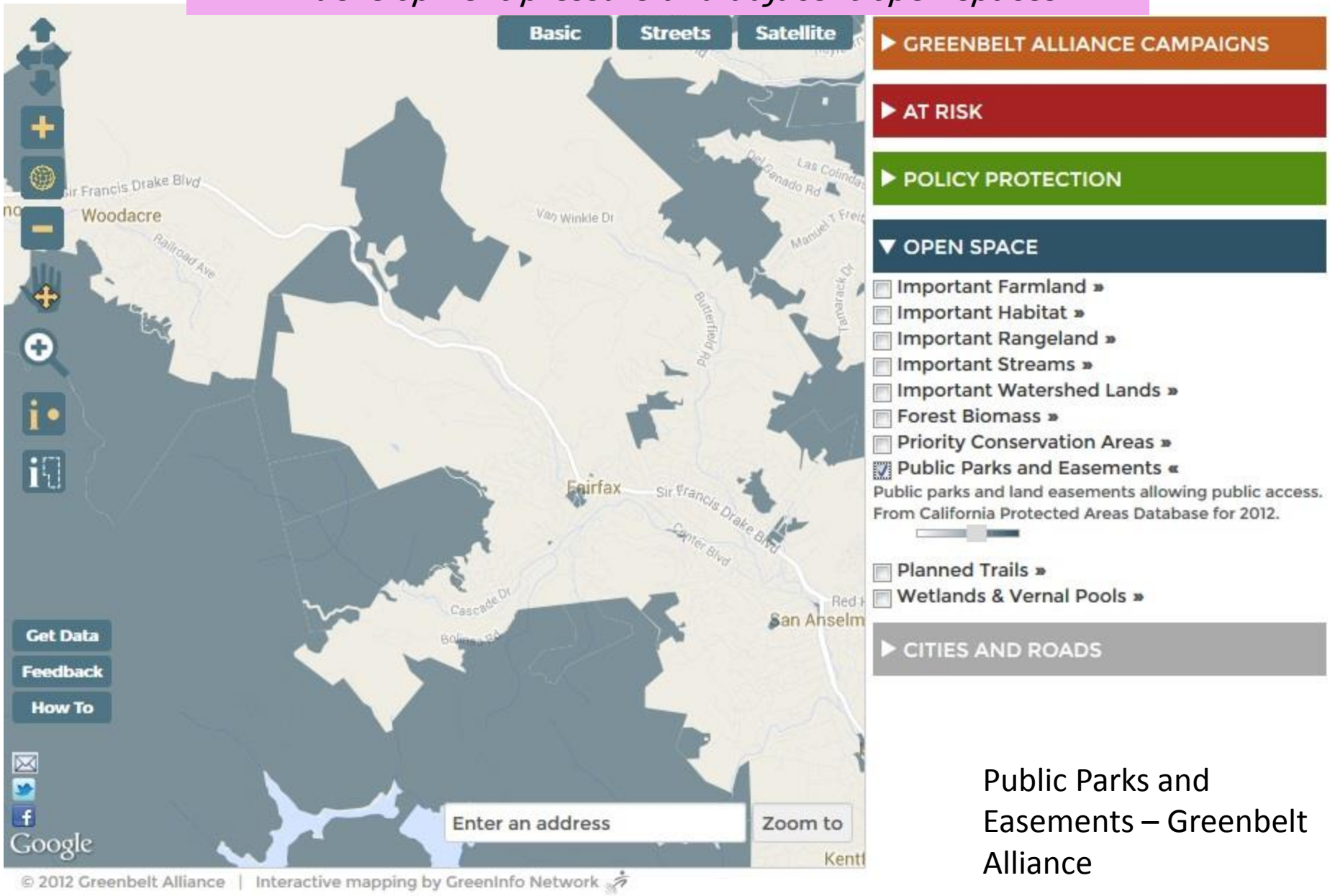
❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



Public Parks and Easements – Greenbelt Alliance

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

▶ GREENBELT ALLIANCE CAMPAIGNS

▶ AT RISK

▼ POLICY PROTECTION

☑ Policy Protection Permanent «

Greenbelt lands that are permanently protected from development, including most public lands, land trust properties, and conservation easements. From the California Protected Areas Database collected in 2012.

- ☐ Policy Protection High »
- ☐ Policy Protection Medium »
- ☐ Policy Protection Low »
- ☐ Agricultural Protection »
- ☐ Coastal Zone »
- ☐ Baylands Protection »
- ☐ Critical Habitat »
- ☐ Flood Plain Protection »
- ☐ Greenbelt Reserves »
- ☐ Habitat Conservation Plan »
- ☐ Hillside Protection »
- ☐ Riparian Protection »
- ☐ Williamson Act Properties »

▶ OPEN SPACE

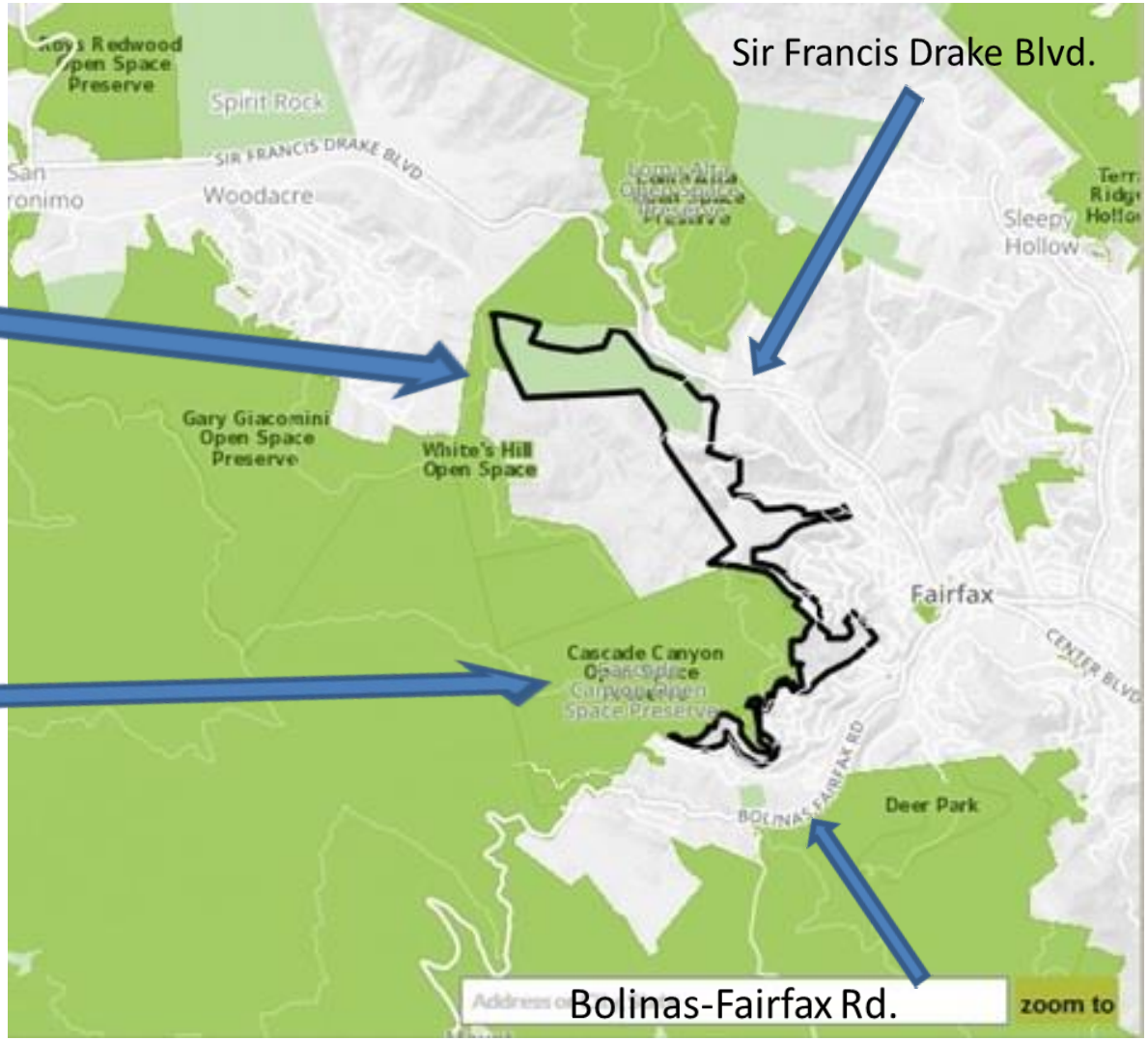
▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Policy Protection permanent – Greenbelt Alliance

- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

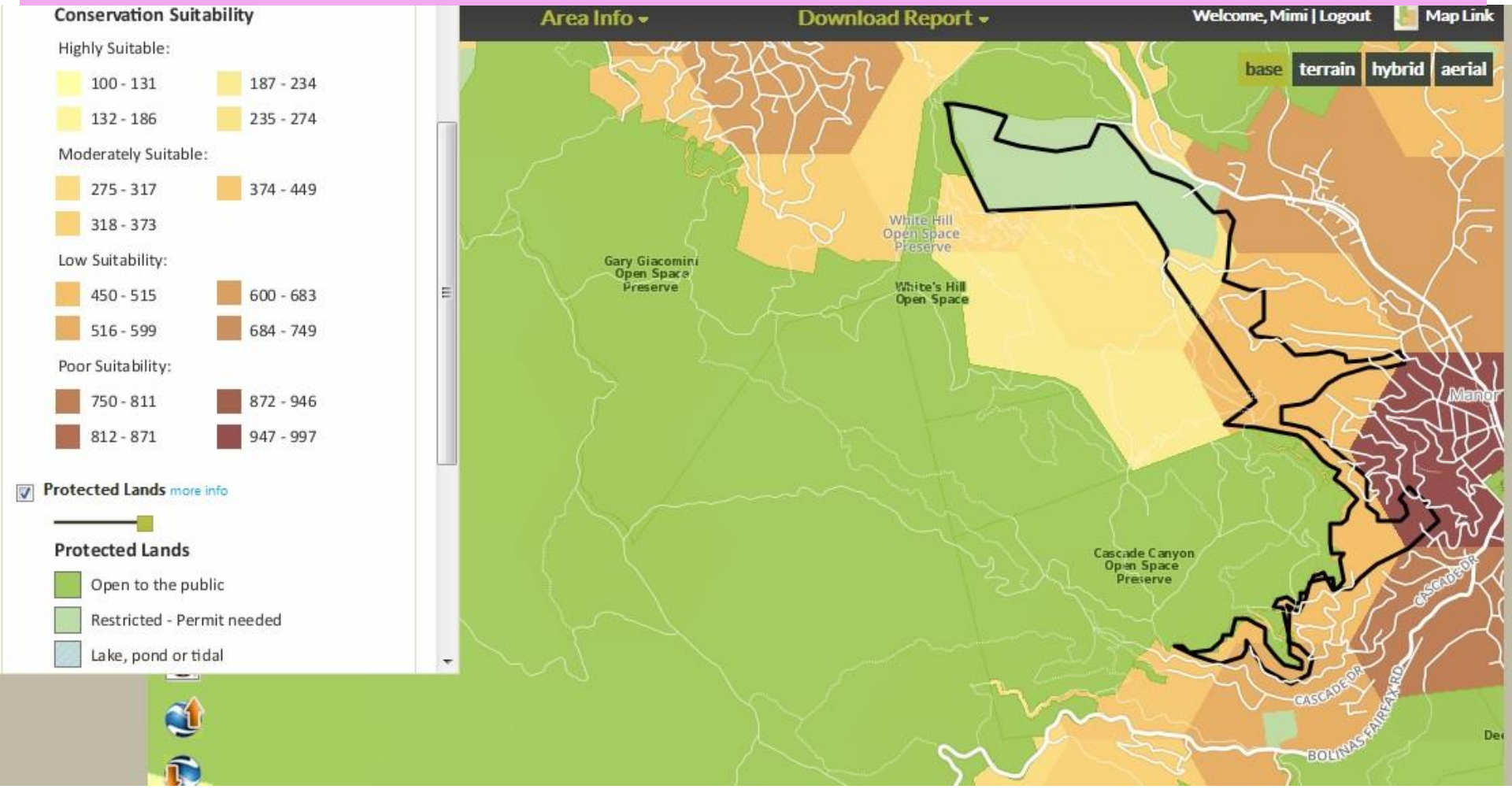
Zone 1 – Western Fairfax/Tamarancho/Cascade

Zone 1 is adjacent to White's Hill Open Space Preserve and the Cascade Canyon Open Space Preserve.



❑ Compact Growth

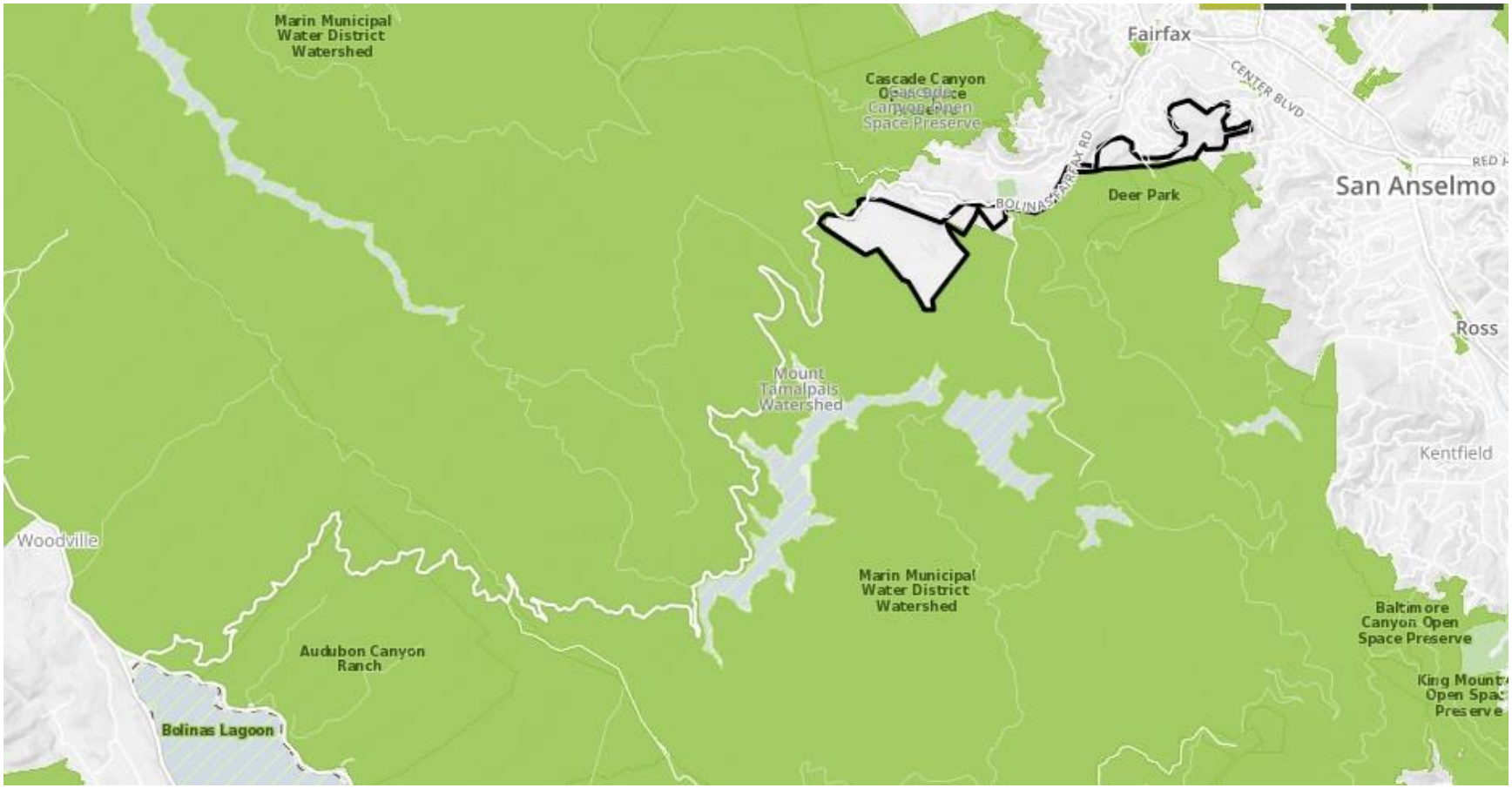
✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



Conservation Suitability – Zone 1
Conservation Lands Network

- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

Zone 2 abuts Mount Tamalapais Watershed and protected lands of the MMWD and the County of Marin.



- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

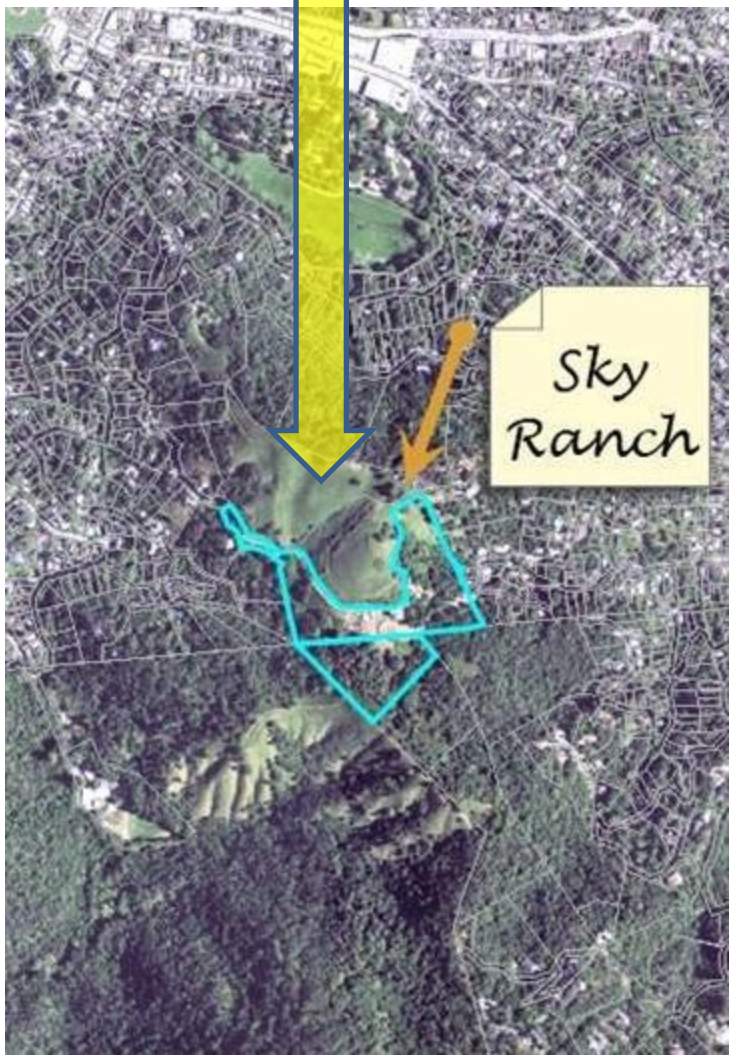
EASTERN PORTION OF ZONE 2

Zone 2 also abuts the 16 acre "Sky Ranch," which was recently acquired as Open Space by the Marin Open Space Trust and is expected to be transferred to the Marin Open Space District by the fall of 2015.

- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

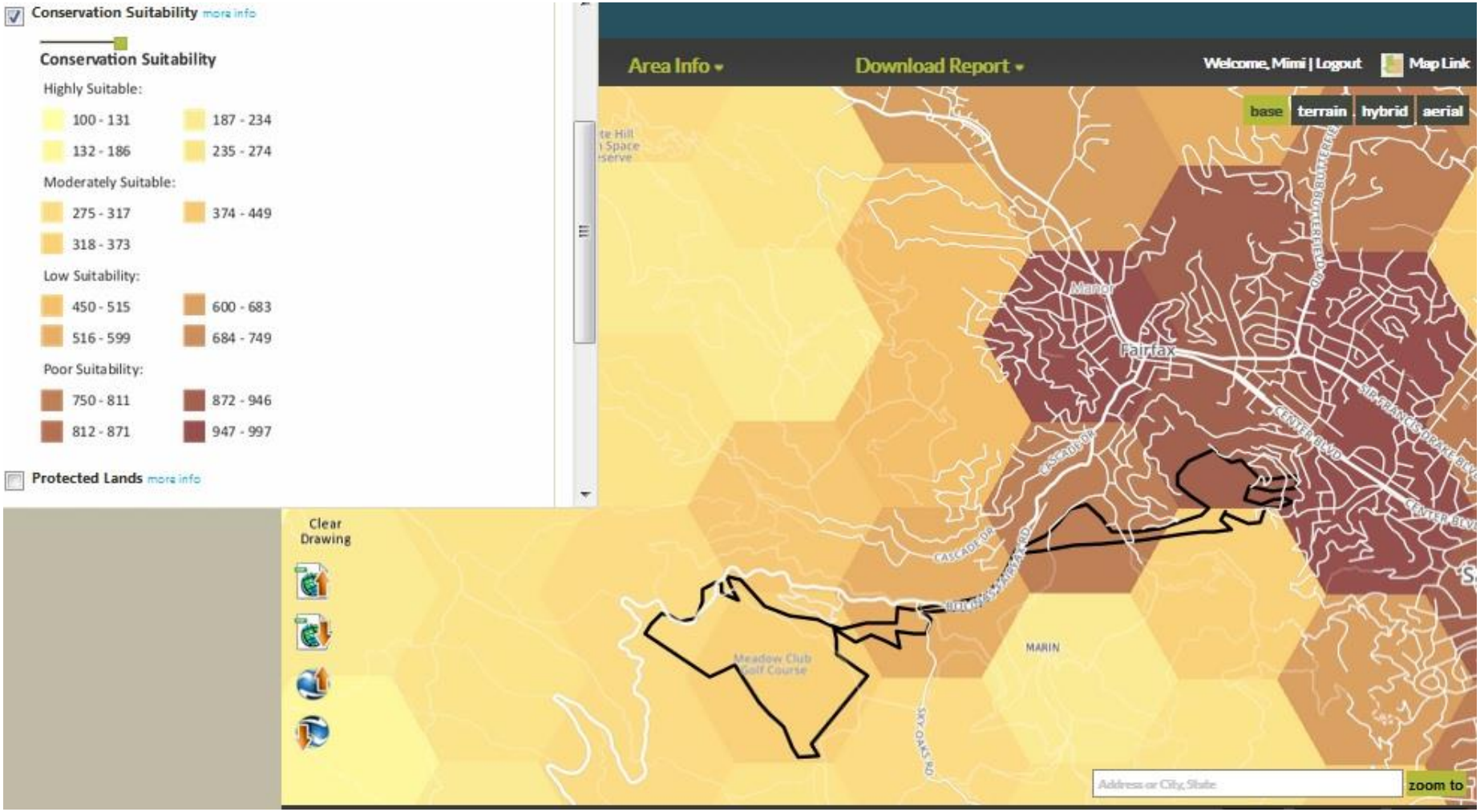
View south from the top of the hill on the eastern portion of Zone 2 looking at Sky Ranch and Bald Hill Preserve.

Eastern Portion of Zone 2



❑ Compact Growth

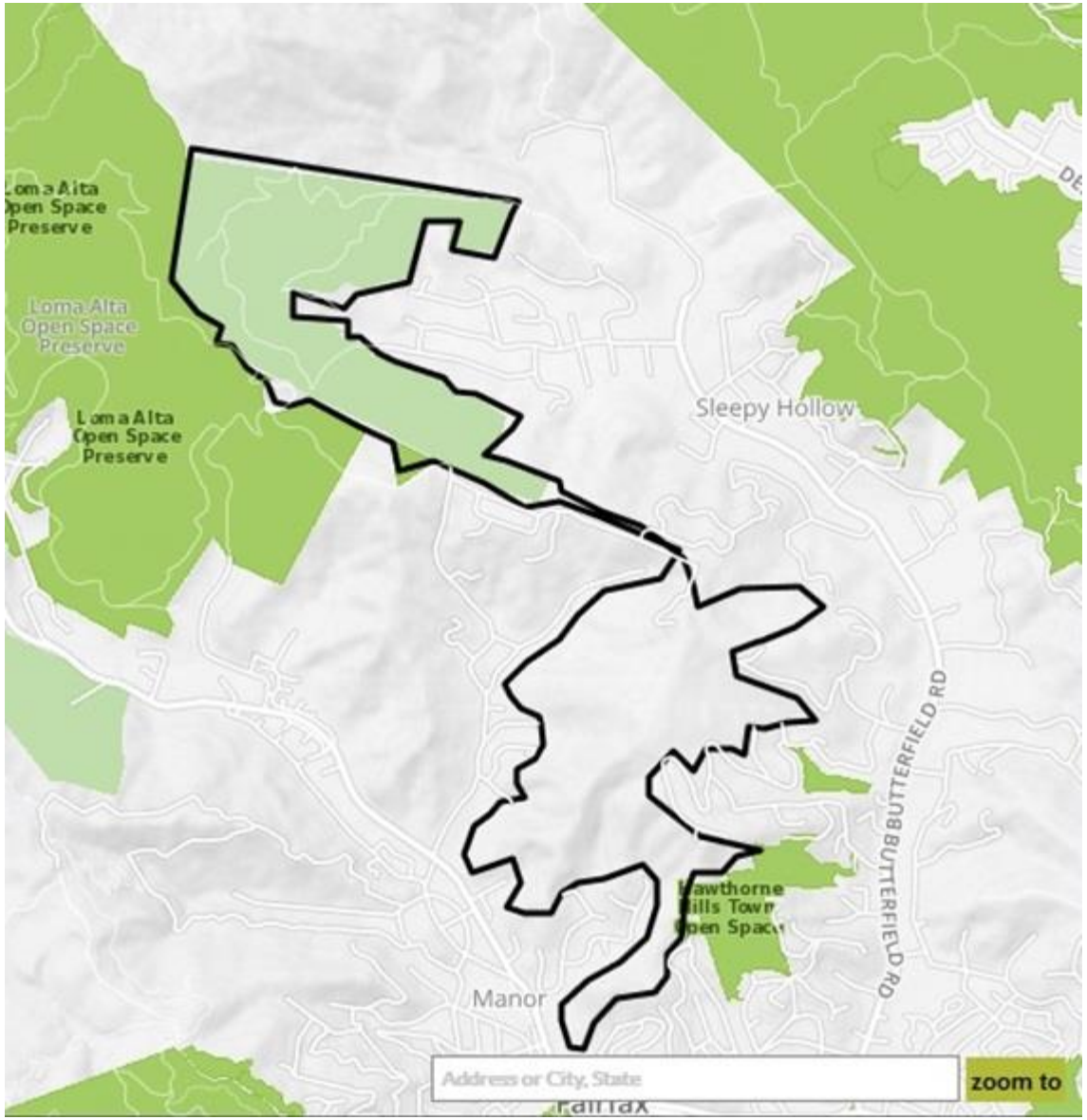
✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



Zone 2 – Suitability for Conservation
Conservation Lands Network

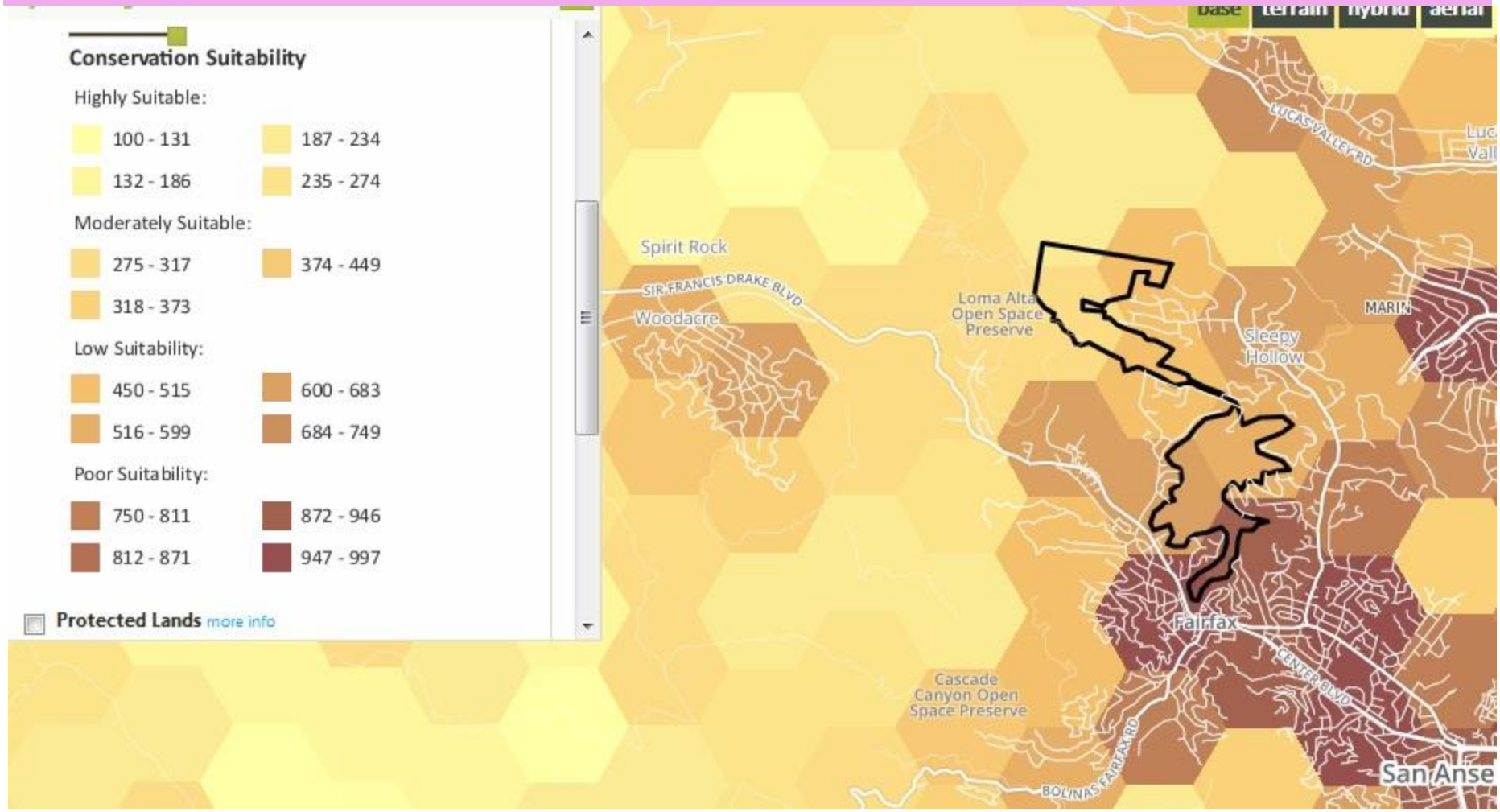
- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

Zone 3 is adjacent to Loma Alta Open Space Preserve and Hawthorne Canyon Open Space



❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*



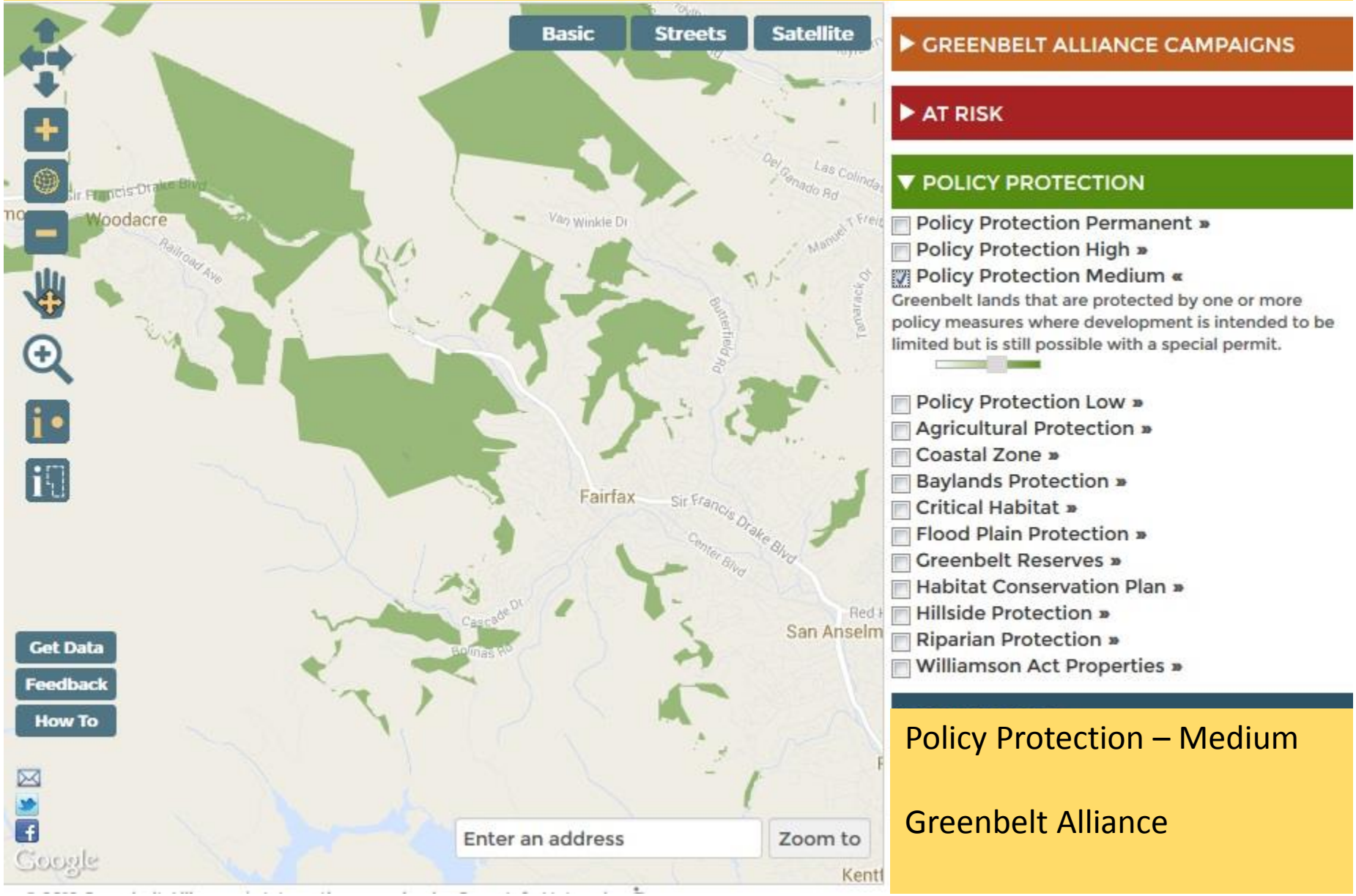
Zone 3 – Conservation Suitability
Conservation Lands Network

- **Compact Growth**
  - ✓ *Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces*

View from the Southern Portion of Zone 3 looking northwest, toward the Northern Portion of Zone 3.

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Support adopted open space policy protection measures*



Policy Protection – Medium

Greenbelt Alliance

❑ Compact Growth

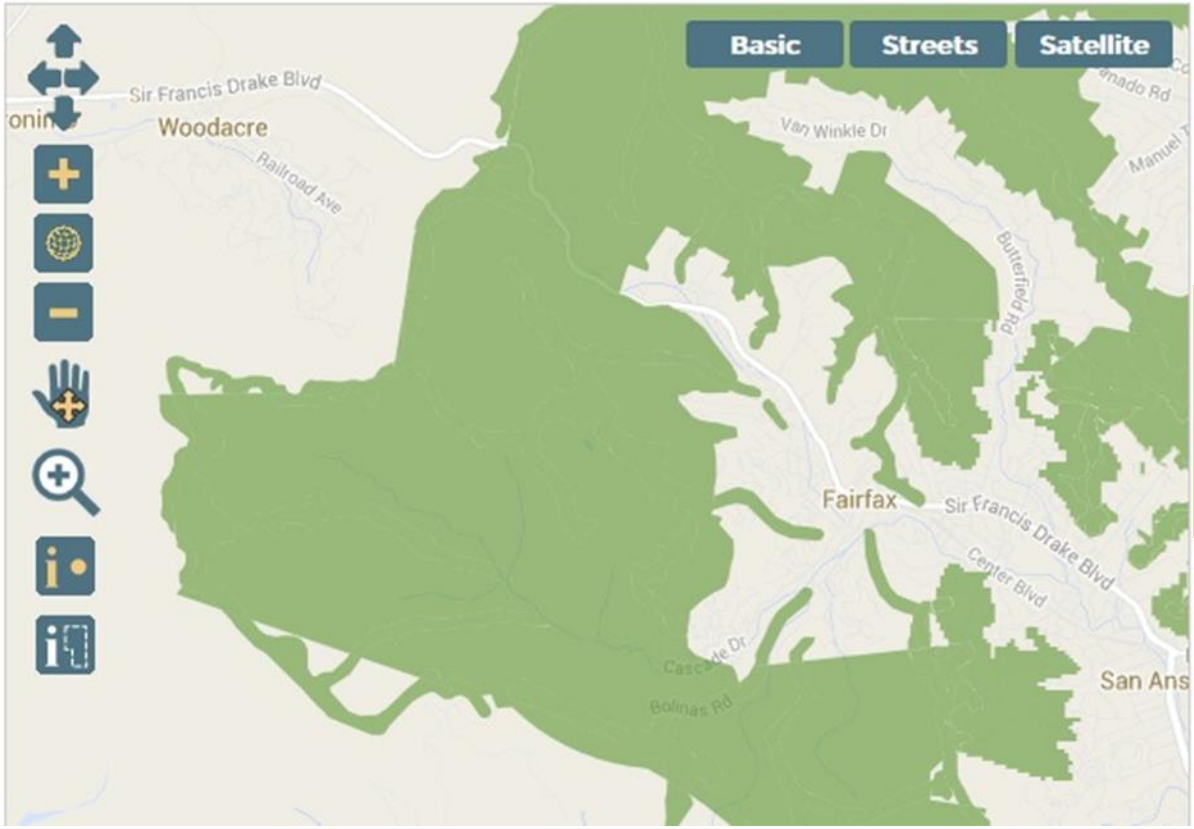
✓ *Support adopted open space policy protection measures*

ABOUT PRESS CONTACT

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE | EVENTS & OUTINGS | NEWS | ENDORSEMENT | DONATE | Search

At Risk 2012



▶ GREENBELT ALLIANCE CAMPAIGNS

▶ AT RISK

▼ POLICY PROTECTION

Hillside Protection

Greenbelt Alliance

- ☐ Critical Habitat »
- ☐ Flood Plain Protection »
- ☐ Greenbelt Reserves »
- ☐ Habitat Conservation Plan »
- ☑ Hillside Protection »
- ☐ Riparian Protection »
- ☐ Williamson Act Properties »

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Support adopted open space policy protection measures*

ABOUT PRESS CONTACT

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

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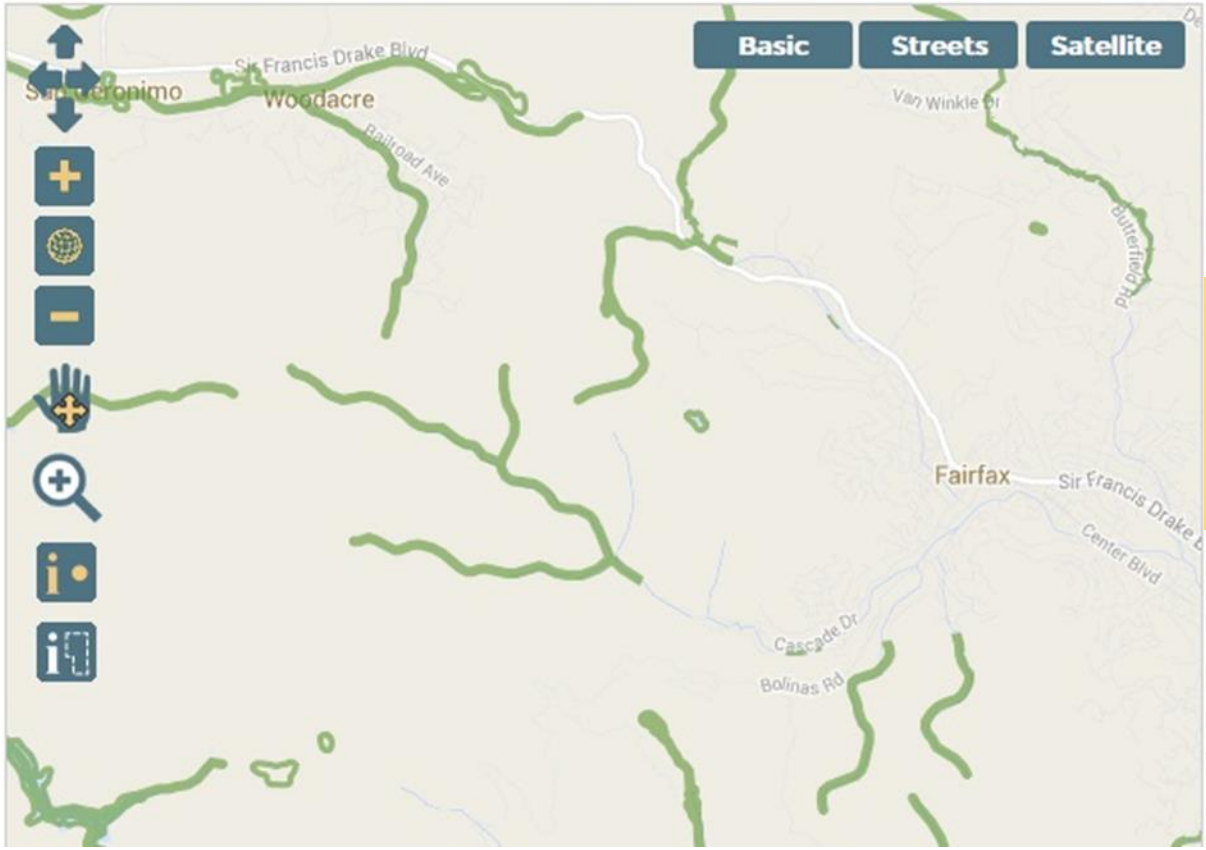
At Risk 2012



▶ GREENBELT ALLIANCE CAMPAIGNS

▶ AT RISK

▼ POLICY PROTECTION

Riparian Protection

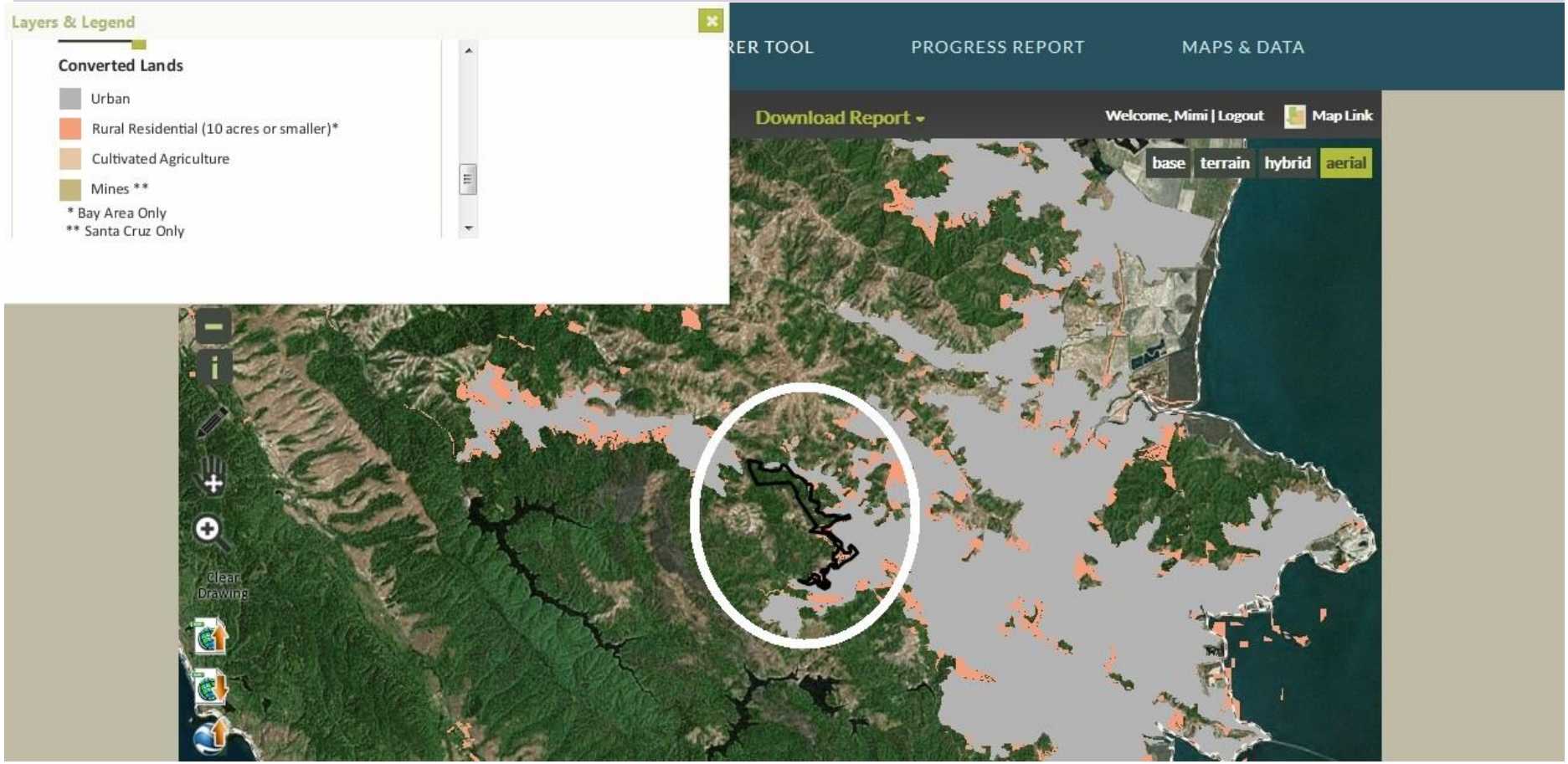
Greenbelt Alliance

- ☐ Critical Habitat »
- ☐ Flood Plain Protection »
- ☐ Greenbelt Reserves »
- ☐ Habitat Conservation Plan »
- ☐ Hillside Protection »
- ☑ Riparian Protection »
- ☐ Williamson Act Properties »

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Supports stable urban edges.*

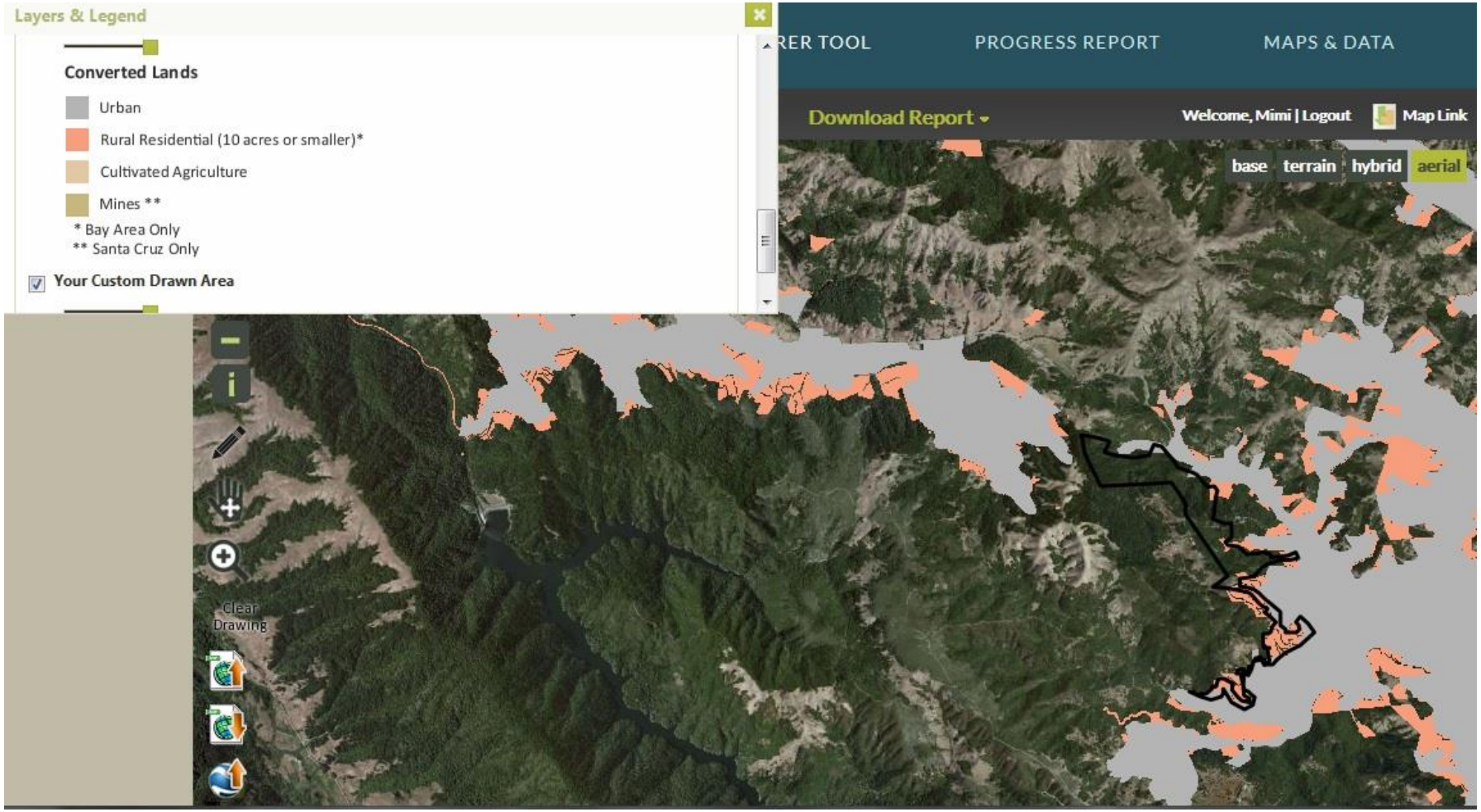
OVER VIEW OF (and outline of Zone 1) CONVERTED LANDS – Conservation Lands Network



❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Supports stable urban edges.*

ZONE 1 – CONVERTED LANDS – Conservation Lands Network



❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Supports stable urban edges.*

ZONE 2 – CONVERTED LANDS – Conservation Lands Network

❑ Compact Growth

✓ *Supports stable urban edges.*

ZONE 3 – CONVERTED LANDS – Conservation Lands Network

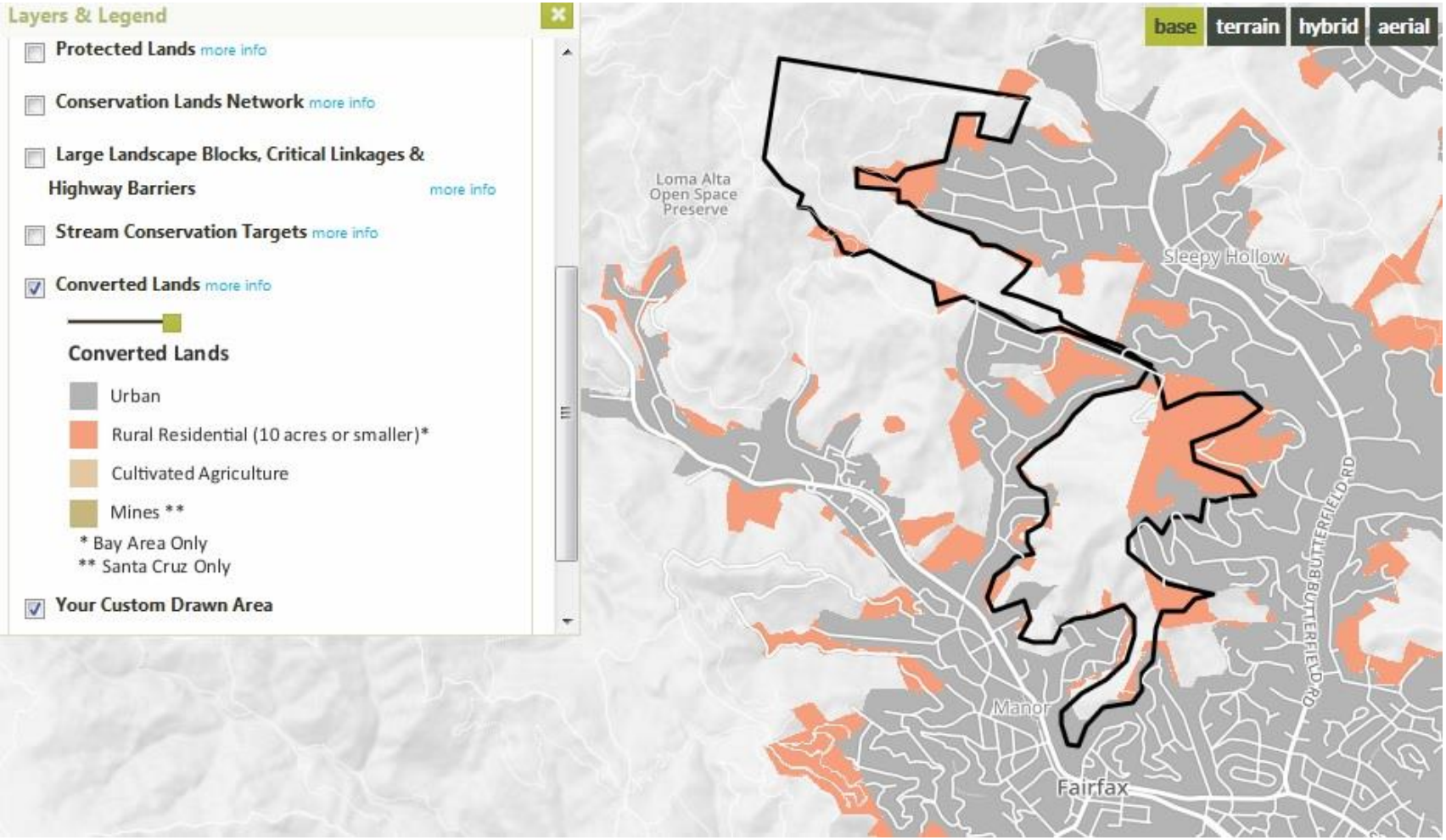


Exhibit 2 - Natural Landscape Benefits in the Proposed Fairfax Priority Conservation Area

TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Natural Landscapes are areas that are critical to the functioning of wildlife and plant habitats, aquatic ecosystems and the region's water supply and quality.

Designation as Natural Landscapes:

- ❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems
- ❑ Water Supply and Quality
- ❑ Compact Growth

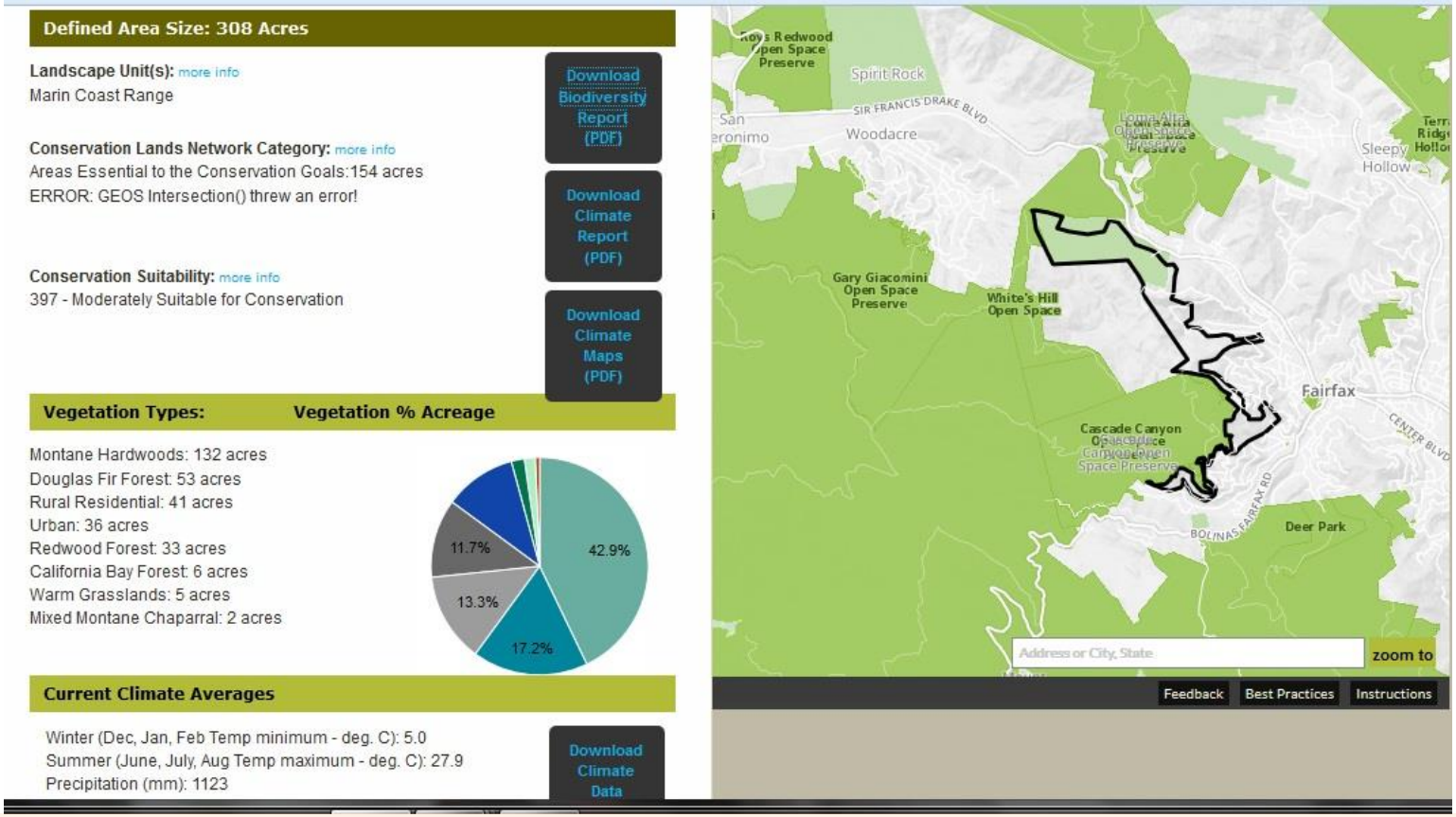
❑ **Terrestrial Ecosystems**

- ✓ *Protects land within Conservation Lands Network*
  - *Essential*
  - *Important,*
  - *Fragmented, or*
  - *For Further Consideration; or*
- ✓ *Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage*
- ✓ *Protects Other Critical Habitat (Optional)*

Forested area in Zone 1

❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

- ✓ *Protects land within Conservation Lands Network*
  - *Essential*
  - *Important,*
  - *Fragmented, or*
  - *For Further Consideration*

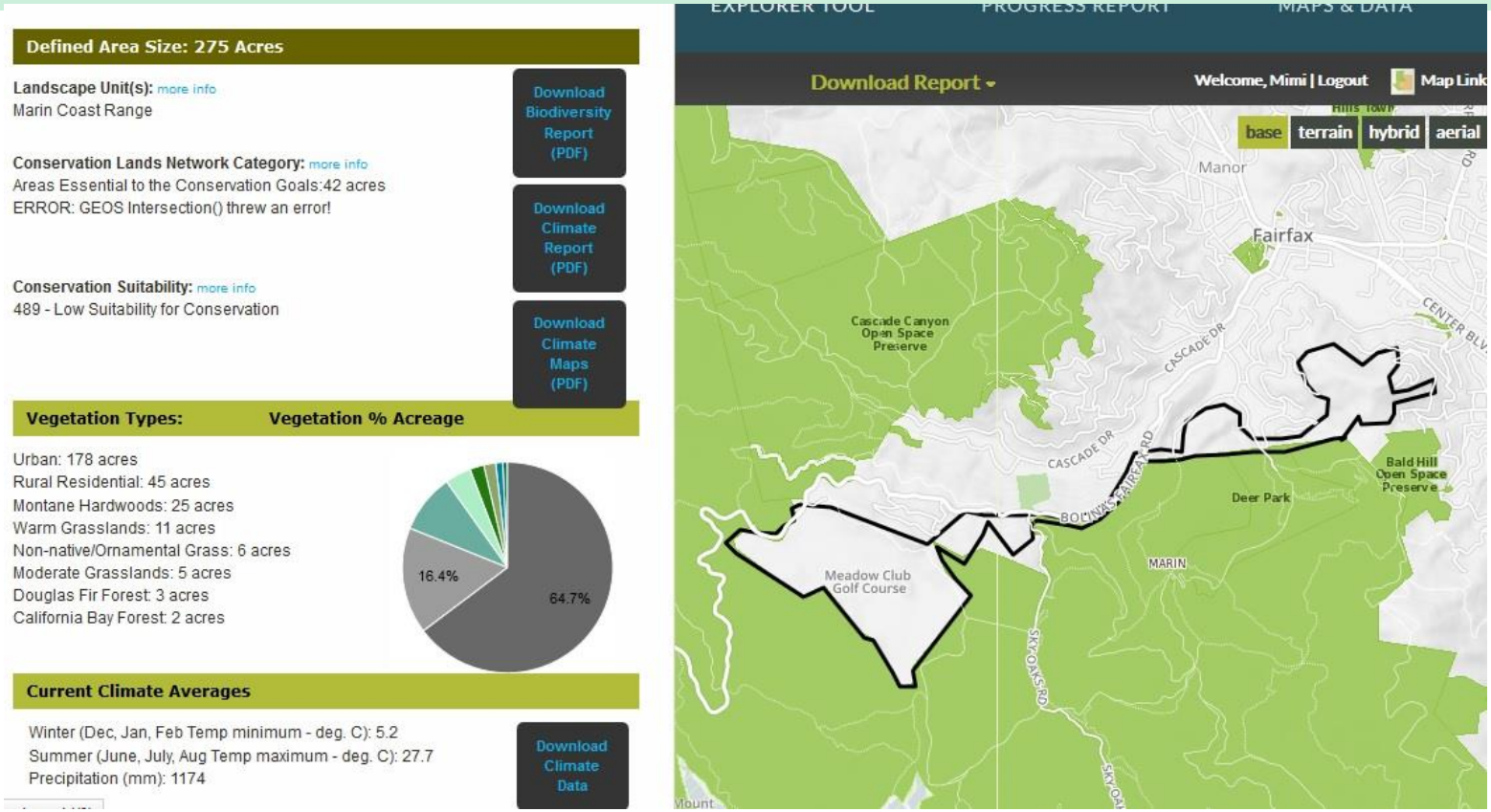


Zone 1 includes 154 acres essential to the Conservation Goals.

Source: Conservation Lands Network

❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

- ✓ *Protects land within Conservation Lands Network*
  - *Essential*
  - *Important,*
  - *Fragmented, or*
  - *For Further Consideration*

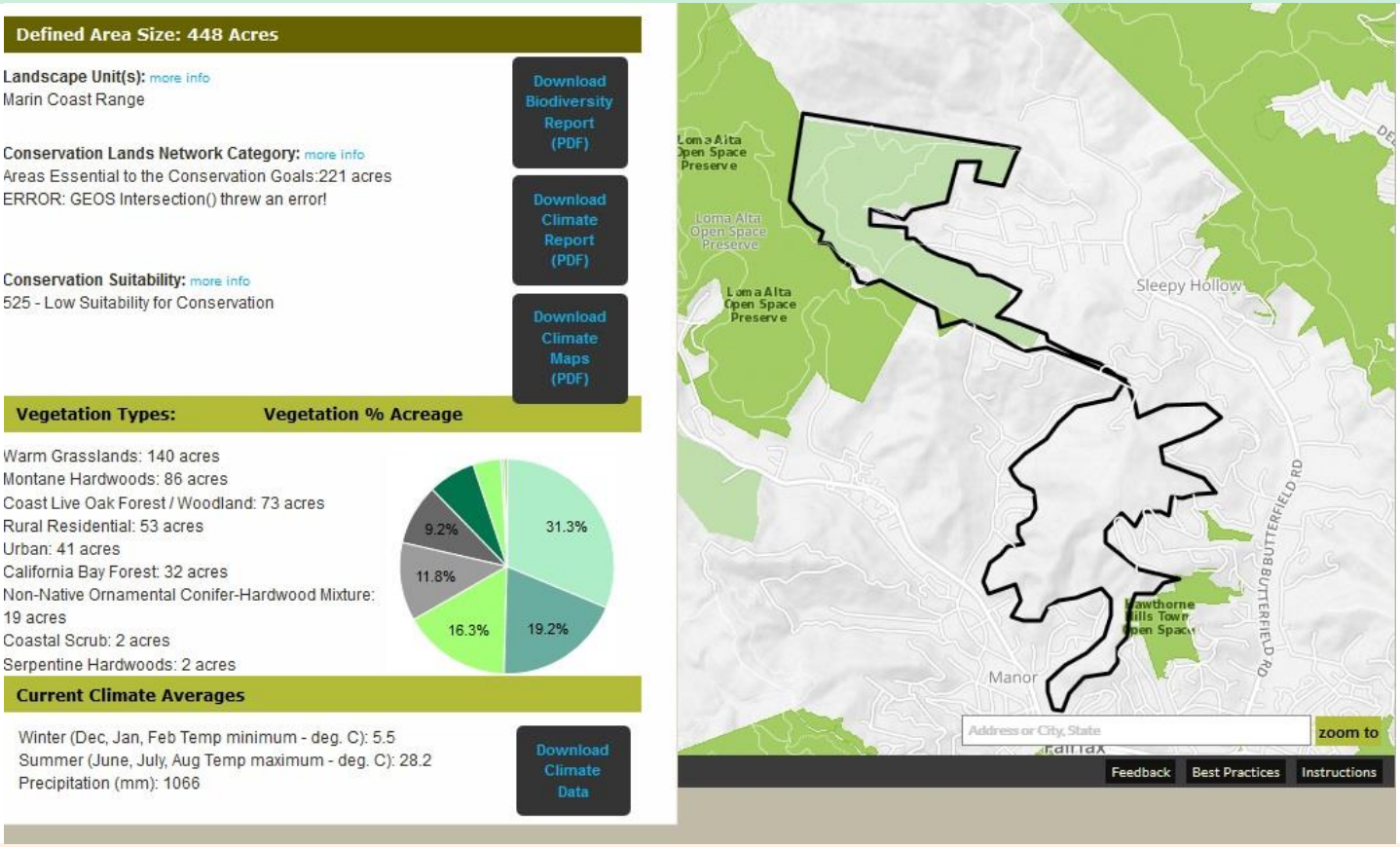


Zone 2 includes 42 acres essential to the Conservation Goals.

Source: Conservation Lands Network

❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

- ✓ *Protects land within Conservation Lands Network*
  - *Essential*
  - *Important,*
  - *Fragmented, or*
  - *For Further Consideration*



Zone 3 includes 221 acres essential to the Conservation Goals.

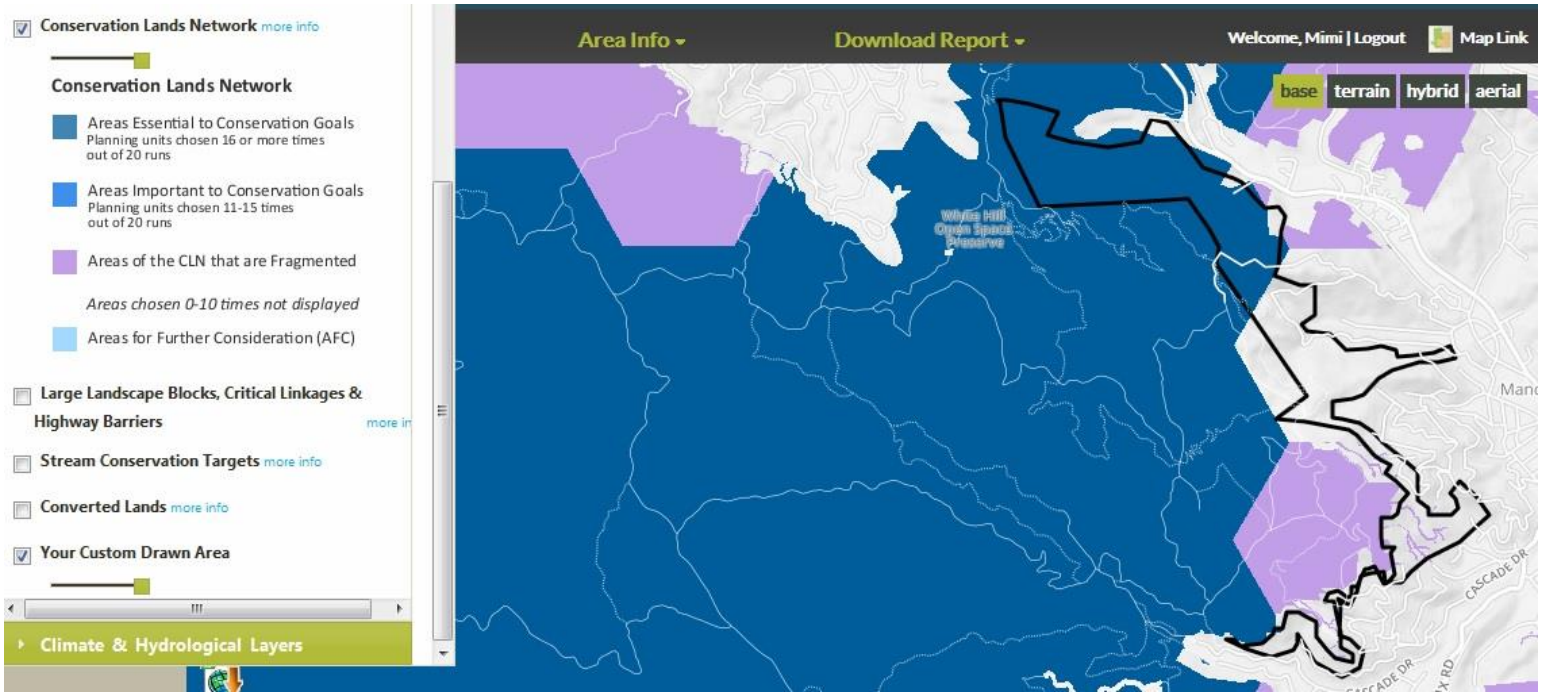
Source: Conservation Lands Network

❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Land Within the Conservation Land Network

The Conservation Lands Network's Biodiversity Portfolio Report for Zone 1 (at Attachment 6) indicates that there are approximately 154 out of 208 acres of land within Zone 1 that are "Essential to the Conservation Goals."

According to the Conservation Lands Network map, the acres identified as "essential" appear along the northern tip of Zone 1. But please take note that the Biodiversity Portfolio Report's characterization of approximately 135 acres within Zone 1 as "protected" bears further scrutiny -



❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Land Within the Conservation Land Network

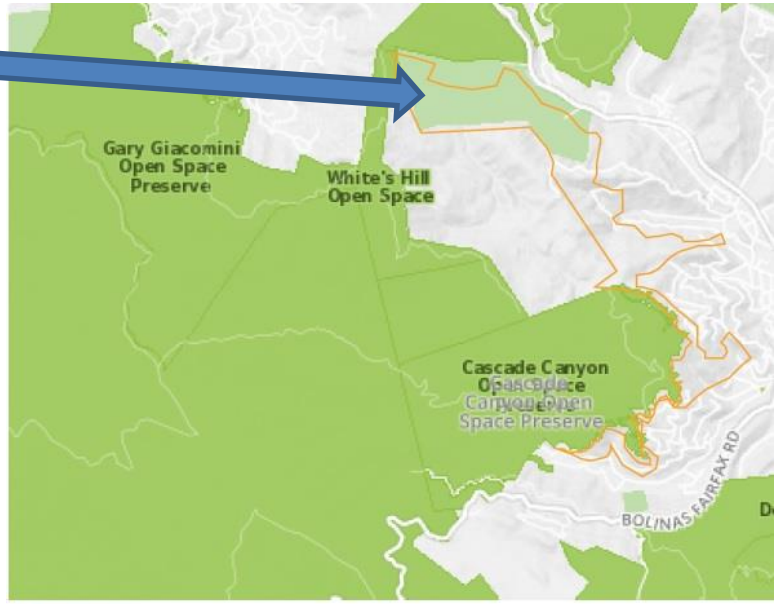
Zone 1 – Conservation Targets

CONSERVATION TARGETS

Coarse Filter Vegetation Targets:

VEGETATION TYPE CONSERVATION TARGET	RARITY RANK	SELECTED AREA			LANDSCAPE UNIT	
		TOTAL ACREAGE	PROTECTED ACREAGE	ACREAGE TOWARD LANDSCAPE UNIT GOAL	LANDSCAPE UNIT GOAL	ACREAGE TO MEET GOALS
Mixed Montane Chaparral - Marin Coast Range	2	1	0	1	2,563	-
Redwood Forest - Marin Coast Range	2	32	32	0	3,170	-
Montane Hardwoods - Marin Coast Range	3	130	38	92	16,308	-
Warm Grasslands - Marin Coast Range	3	4	0	4	11,250	1,008
Douglas Fir Forest - Marin Coast Range	3	53	52	1	7,831	-
California Bay Forest - Marin Coast Range	3	5	5	0	9,326	-
Rural Residential - Marin Coast Range	4	40	1	39	0	-
Urban - Marin Coast Range	4	36	7	29	0	-
		301	135	166		

While the Conservation Lands Network (CLN) assumes that 135 acres of Zone 1 are "protected," a closer examination of the CLN map of the area indicates that the "protected" acreage is actually privately held land for which a permit for access by the general public is required. We are unaware of restrictions against further development of this area should it ever be sold or should the current owner desire to do so. Thus, Fairfax regards all of Zone 1 as "unprotected" land.



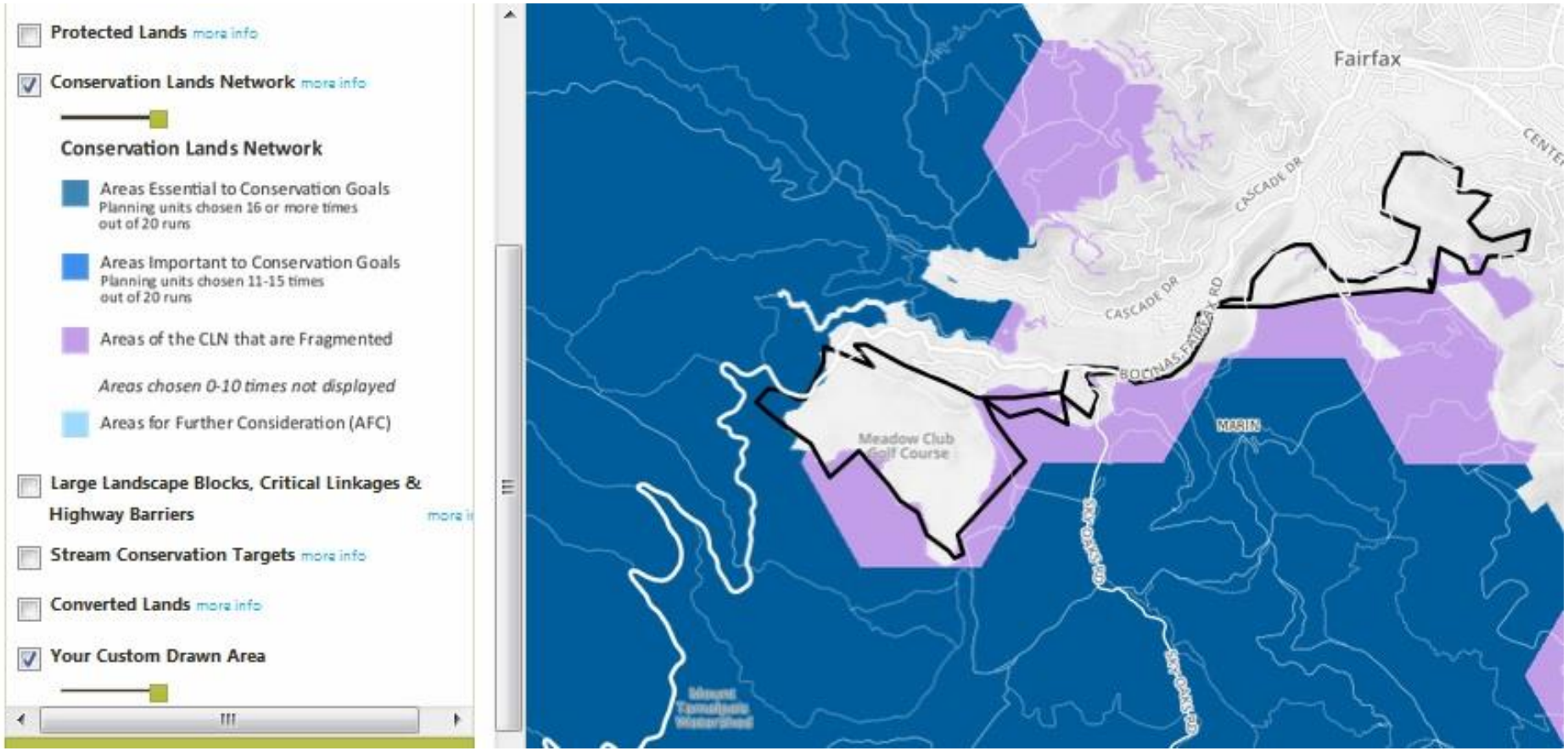
Protected Lands

- Open to the public
- Permit required
- Lake, pond or tidal

❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Land Within the Conservation Land Network

The Conservation Lands Network's Biodiversity Portfolio Report for Zone 2 (at Attachment 6) indicates that there are approximately 42 out of 275 acres of land within Zone 2 that are "Essential to the Conservation Goals."



❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Land Within the Conservation Land Network

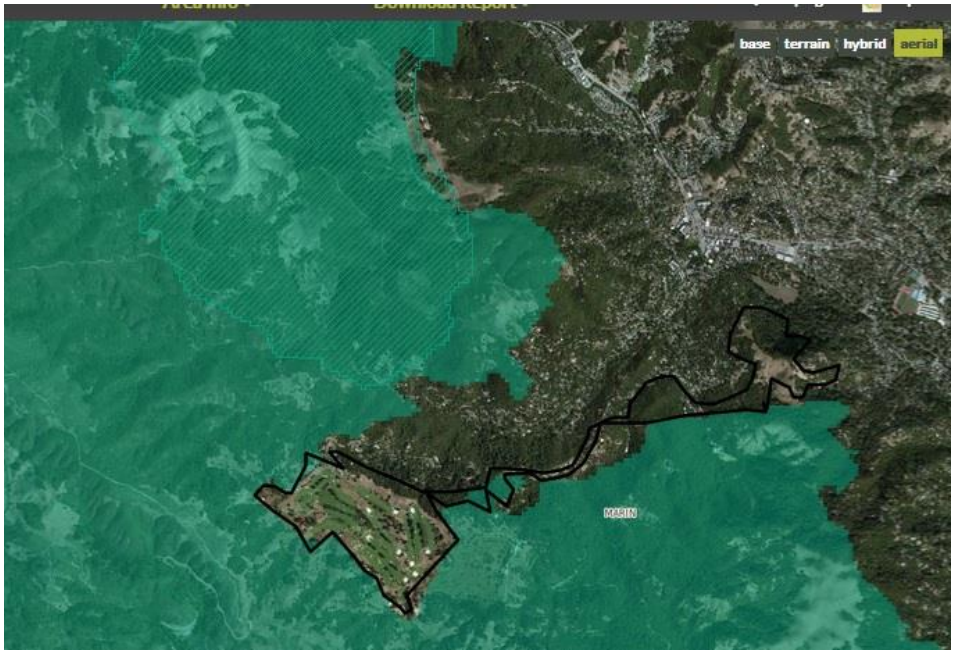
Zone 2 - Conservation Targets

CONSERVATION TARGETS

Coarse Filter Vegetation Targets:

VEGETATION TYPE CONSERVATION TARGET	RARITY RANK	SELECTED AREA			LANDSCAPE UNIT	
		TOTAL ACREAGE	PROTECTED ACREAGE	ACREAGE TOWARD LANDSCAPE UNIT GOAL	LANDSCAPE UNIT GOAL	ACREAGE TO MEET GOALS
Coast Live Oak Forest / Woodland - Marin Coast Range	2	0	0	0	3,914	661
Montane Hardwoods - Marin Coast Range	3	24	4	20	16,308	-
Warm Grasslands - Marin Coast Range	3	10	0	10	11,250	1,008
Moderate Grasslands - Marin Coast Range	3	4	0	4	21,499	-
California Bay Forest - Marin Coast Range	3	2	0	2	9,326	-
Douglas Fir Forest - Marin Coast Range	3	2	0	2	7,831	-
Urban - Marin Coast Range	4	177	2	175	0	-
Rural Residential - Marin Coast Range	4	44	0	44	0	-
Non-native/Ornamental Grass - Marin Coast Range	4	5	2	3	0	-
		268	8	260		

While the CLN assumes that 175 acres of Zone 3 are “urban,” a closer examination of the aerial view of the critical linkages map for Zone 2 helps to demonstrate that this area is far from “urban.” The Meadow Golf Club may have been characterized as “urban” based solely on it being a golf course. However, it is a golf course on a meadow underneath Mount Tamalpais and Fairfax takes issue with the characterization of so much of Zone 2 as “urban.”

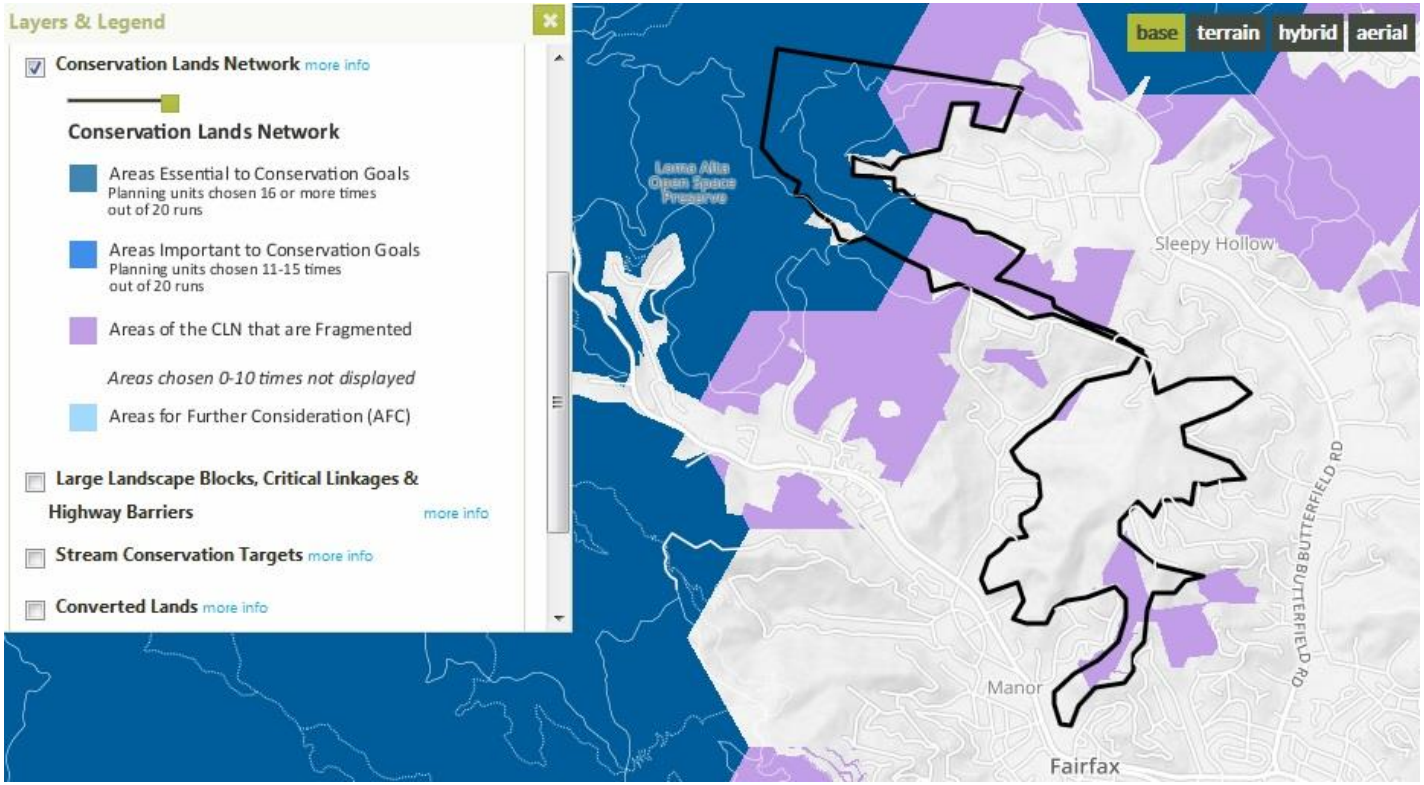


❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Land Within the Conservation Land Network

The Conservation Lands Network's Biodiversity Portfolio Report for Zone 3 (at Attachment 6) indicates that there are approximately 221 out of 448 acres of land within Zone 3 that are "Essential to the Conservation Goals."

According to the Conservation Lands Network map, the acres identified as "essential" appear along the northern tip of Zone 3. But please take note that the Biodiversity Portfolio Report's characterization of approximately 187 acres within Zone 3 as "protected" bears further scrutiny -



❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Land Within the Conservation Land Network

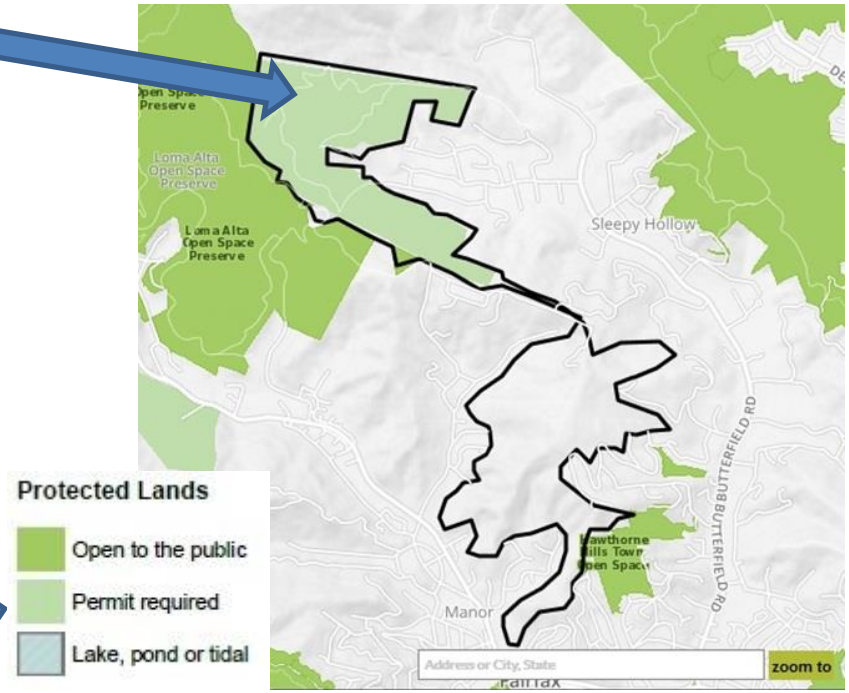
Zone 3 - Conservation Targets

CONSERVATION TARGETS

Coarse Filter Vegetation Targets:

VEGETATION TYPE CONSERVATION TARGET	RARITY RANK	SELECTED AREA			LANDSCAPE UNIT	
		TOTAL ACREAGE	PROTECTED ACREAGE	ACREAGE TOWARD LANDSCAPE UNIT GOAL	LANDSCAPE UNIT GOAL	ACREAGE TO MEET GOALS
Serpentine Hardwoods - Marin Coast Range	1	1	0	1	416	114
Coast Live Oak Forest / Woodland - Marin Coast Range	2	72	0	72	3,914	661
Warm Grasslands - Marin Coast Range	3	140	98	42	11,250	1,008
California Bay Forest - Marin Coast Range	3	31	1	30	9,326	-
Montane Hardwoods - Marin Coast Range	3	85	76	9	16,308	-
Coastal Scrub - Marin Coast Range	3	1	1	0	6,384	-
Rural Residential - Marin Coast Range	4	52	3	49	0	-
Urban - Marin Coast Range	4	40	8	32	0	-
Non-Native Ornamental Conifer-Hardwood Mixture - Marin Coast Range	4	19	0	19	0	-
		441	187	254		

While the Conservation Lands Network (CLN) assumes that 187 acres of Zone 3 are "protected," a closer examination of the CLN map of the area indicates that the "protected" acreage is actually privately held land for which a permit for access by the general public is required. We are unaware of restrictions against further development of this area should it ever be sold or should the current owner desire to do so. Thus, Fairfax regards all of Zone 3 as "unprotected" land.



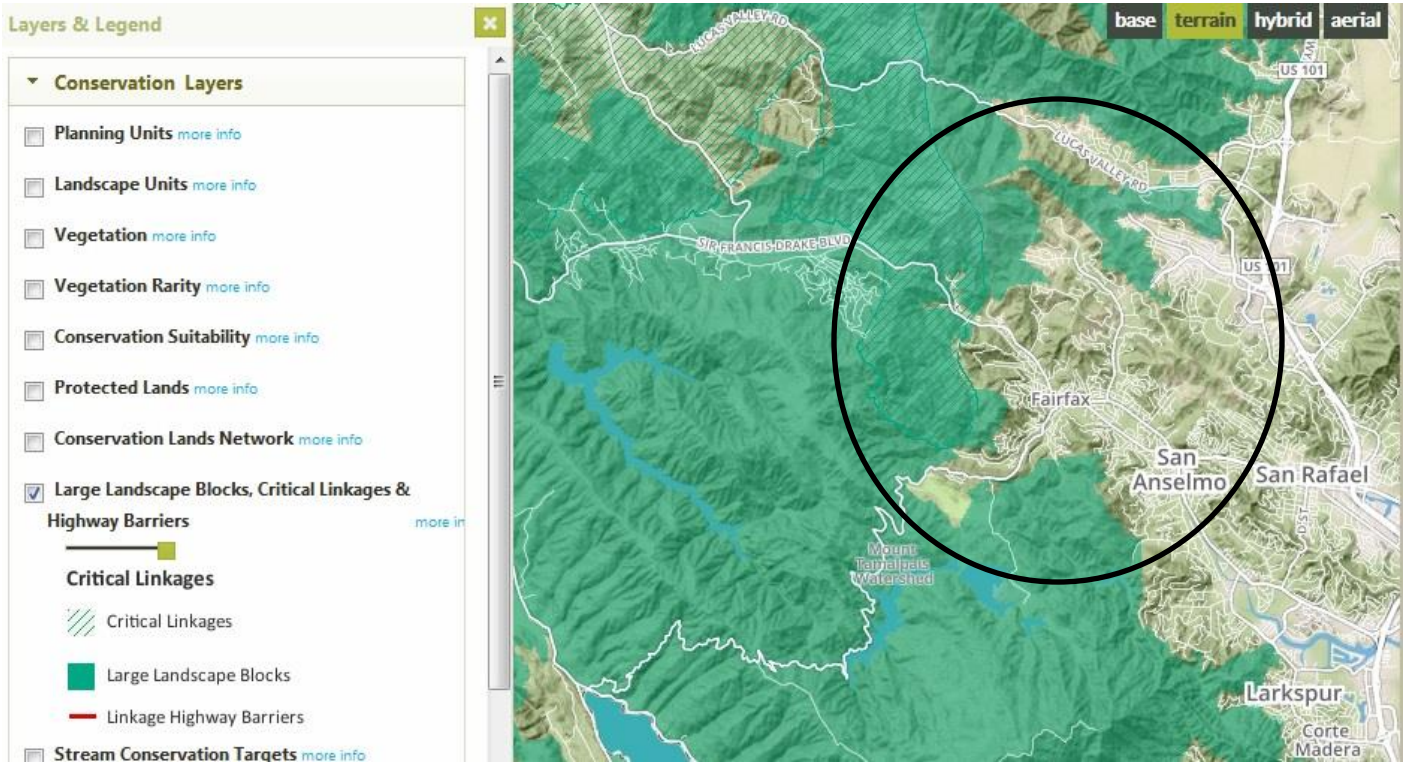
❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage

"These landscape linkages and the wildlands they connect are meant to serve as the backbone of a regional wildlands network to which smaller wildlands can be connected."

Executive Summary – Critical Linkages: Bay Area and Beyond 2013.

Living on the fringe/ In Fairfax, where wildlands / Meet wild people.

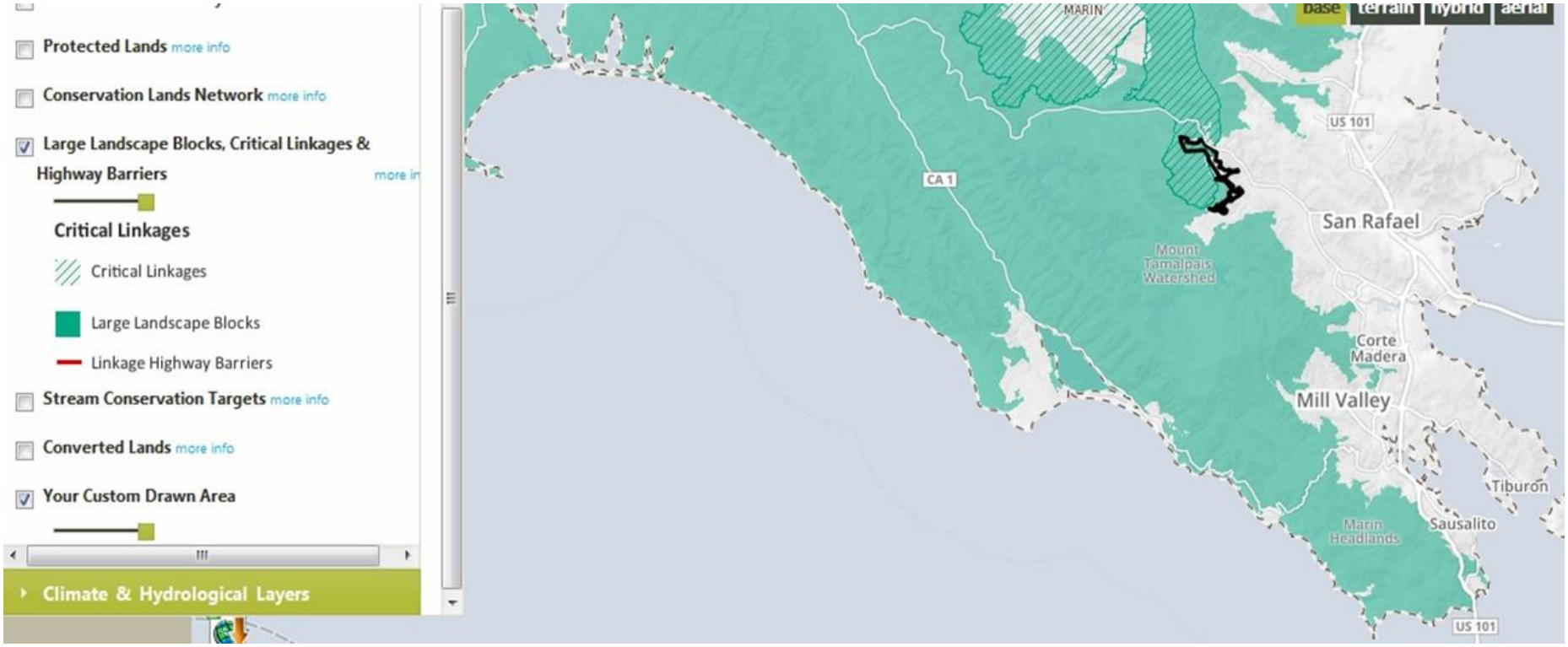


❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage

Zone 1 – The Big Picture

The Critical Linkages Map from the Conservation Lands Network (below) provides a good visual of the relationship of this area of the Proposed Fairfax PCA to the rest of the landscape blocks across central and southern Marin County.



❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage

Zone 2 – The Big Picture

❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage

Zone 3 – The Big Picture

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage

CONSERVATION LANDS NETWORK

Critical Linkages

Critical Linkages

Large Landscape Blocks

Linkage Highway Barriers

Close up on Zone 1 Critical Linkages

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage

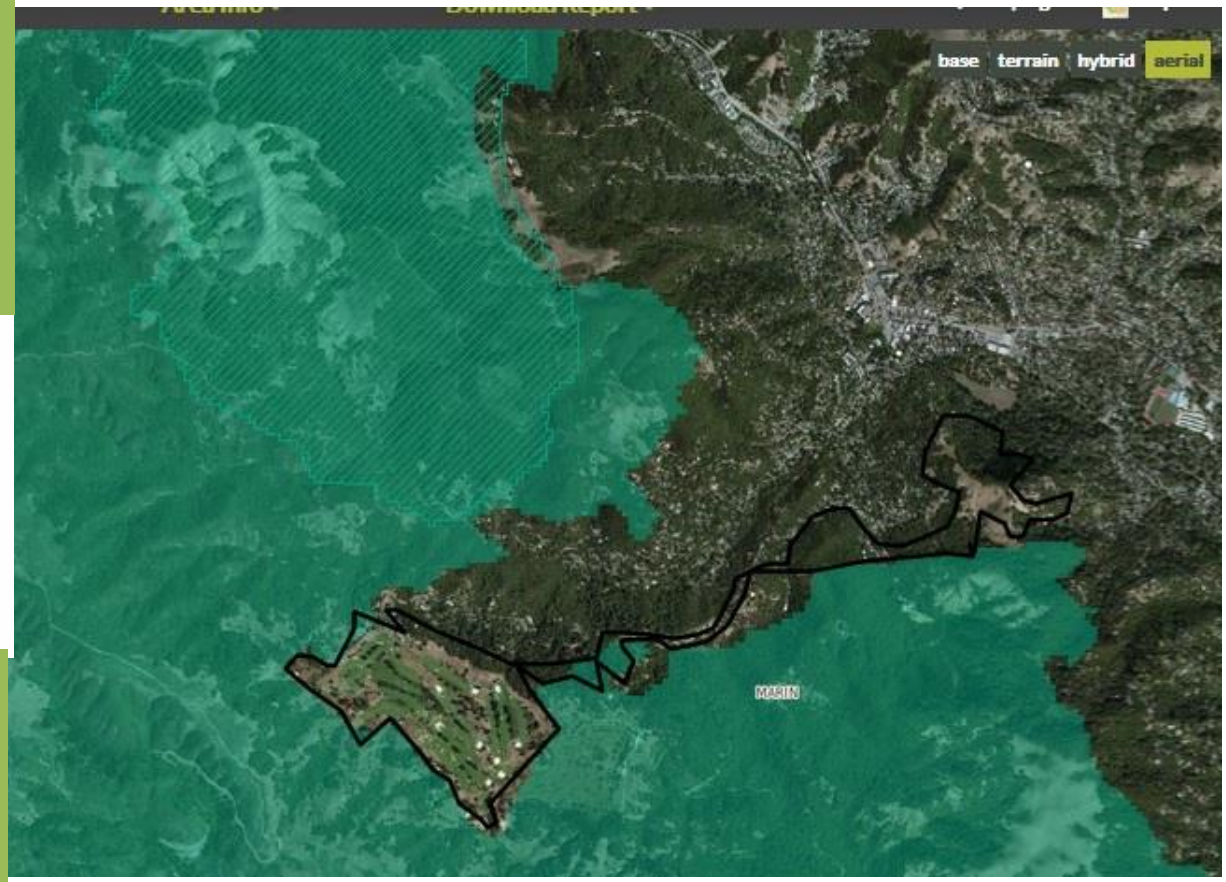
CONSERVATION LANDS NETWORK

Critical Linkages

Critical Linkages

Large Landscape Blocks

Linkage Highway Barriers



Close up on Zone 2 Critical Linkages

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage

CONSERVATION LANDS NETWORK

Critical Linkages

Critical Linkages

Large Landscape Blocks

Linkage Highway Barriers

Close up on Zone 3 Critical Linkages

❑Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓Protects Other Critical Habitat

Photo Credit: Anne Capron, owner and resident of 700 Iron Springs Road, Fairfax, CA, took the photo from the deck attached to her home adjacent to Zone 1.

❑Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓Protects Other Critical Habitat

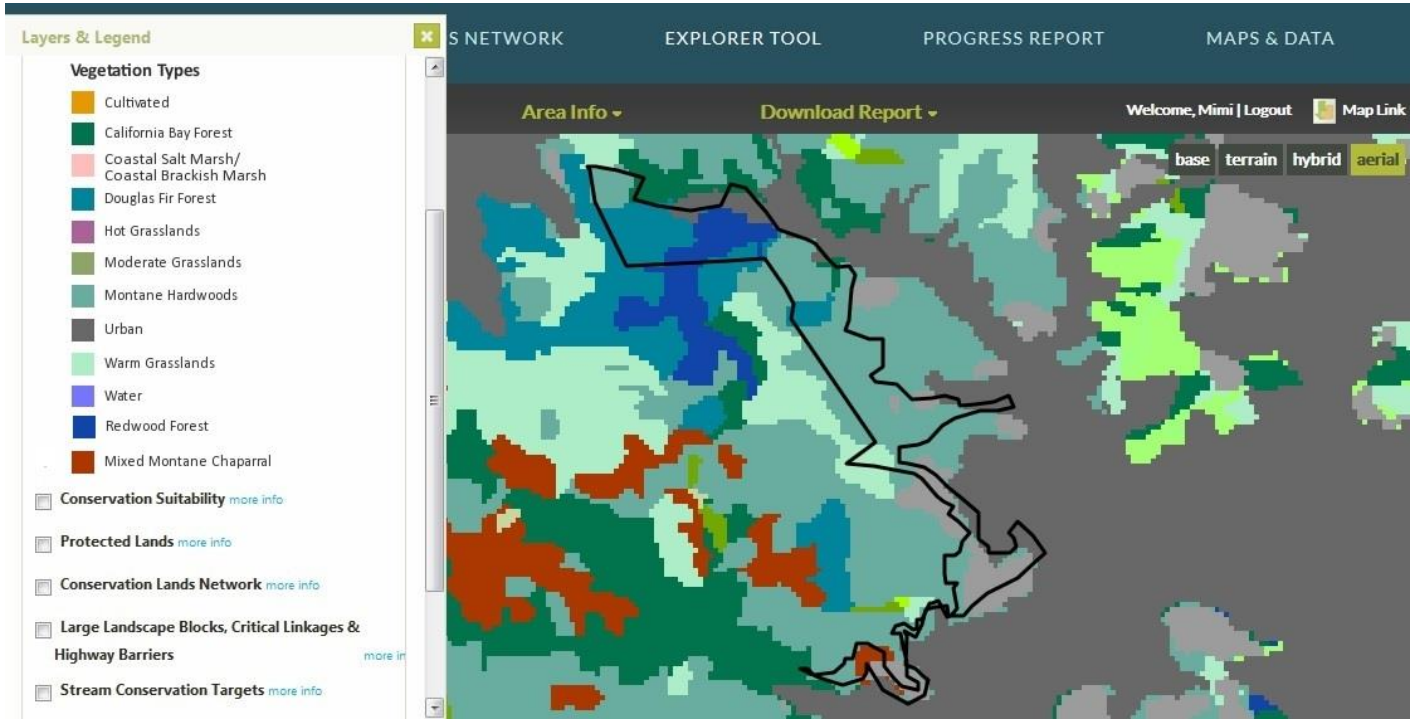
Central Marin County, California boasts a rich diversity of wildlife - there are over 150 species of birds that live and breed in Marin, our creeks support some of the best coho salmon populations in northern California, and our hills are home to California's top predator, the mountain Lion.

Zone 1 of the Proposed PCA also contains northern spotted owl habitat.

Bird Species Identified on the Wall Property -- within the southern portion of Zone 3 -- by the Fairfax Open Space Committee

Turkey Vulture	American Crow
Red - tailed Hawk	Common Raven
Red-shouldered Hawk	Wren tit
Osprey	Oak Titmouse
Peregrine Falcon	American Robin
Rock Pigeon	Varied Thrush
Band–tailed Pigeon	Northern Mockingbird
Anna's Hummingbird	Orange-crowned warbler
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird	Spotted Towhee
Northern Flicker	California Towhee
Acorn Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Black Phoebe	Lesser Goldfinch
Western Scrub Jay	House Finch
Steller's Jay	

For the complete bird list as well as a list of flora, fauna and mushrooms identified on the Wall Property, please see Attachment 6.

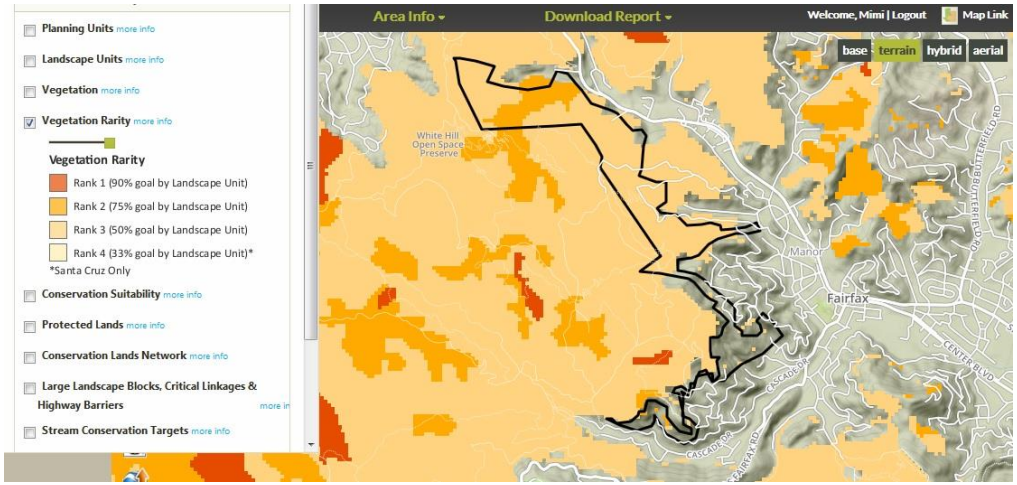


- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ *Protects Other Critical Habitat*

CLN Vegetation Map

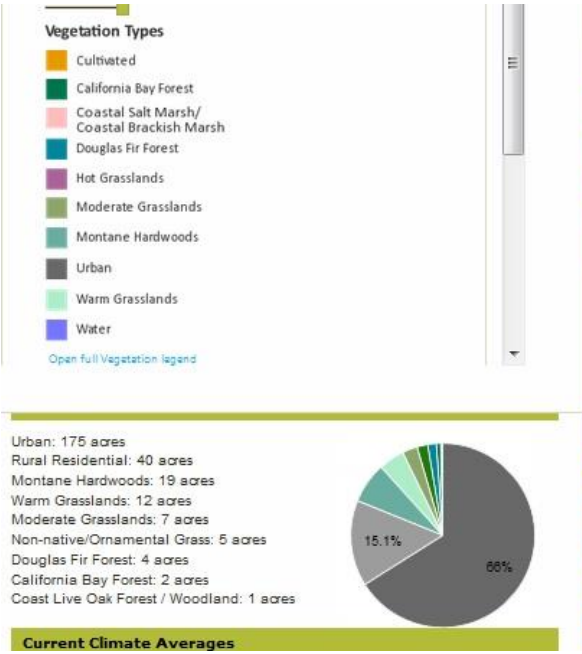
ZONE 1

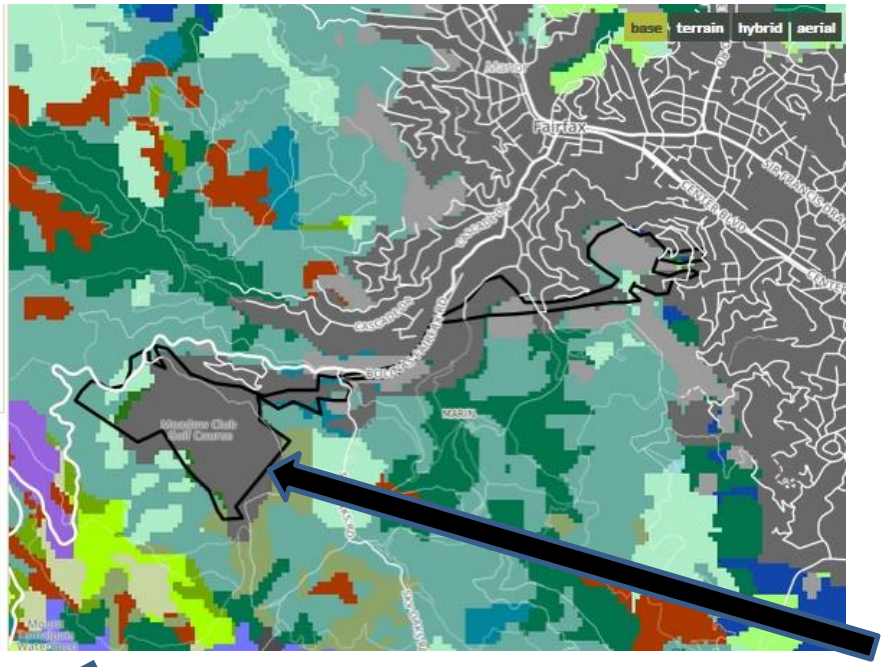
CLN Vegetation Rarity Map



❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ *Protects Other Critical Habitat*



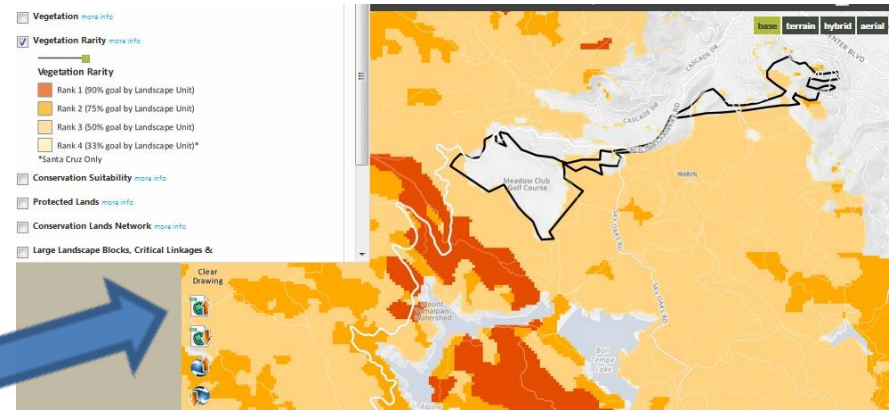


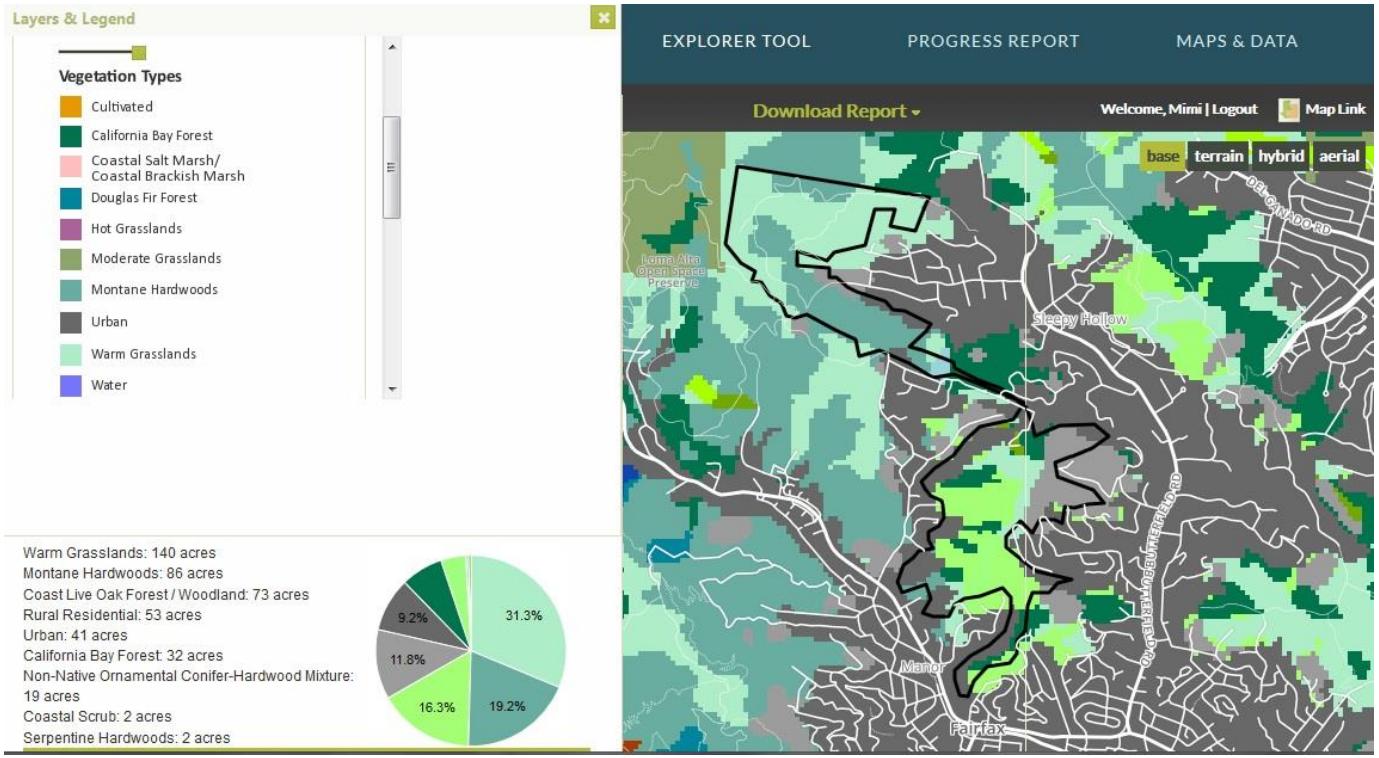
Fairfax disagrees with the designation of much of Zone 2 as "urban" – especially with respect to the Meadow Golf Club property.

CLN Vegetation Map

ZONE 2

CLN Vegetation Rarity Map



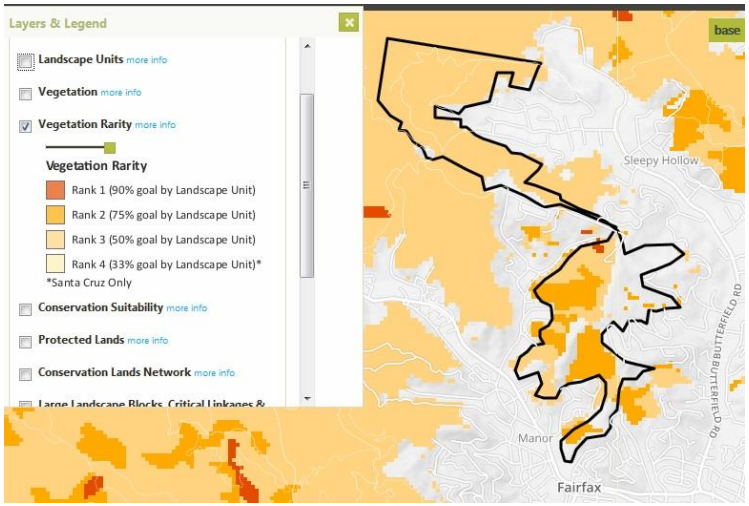


- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ *Protects Other Critical Habitat*

CLN Vegetation Map

ZONE 3

CLN Vegetation Rarity Map

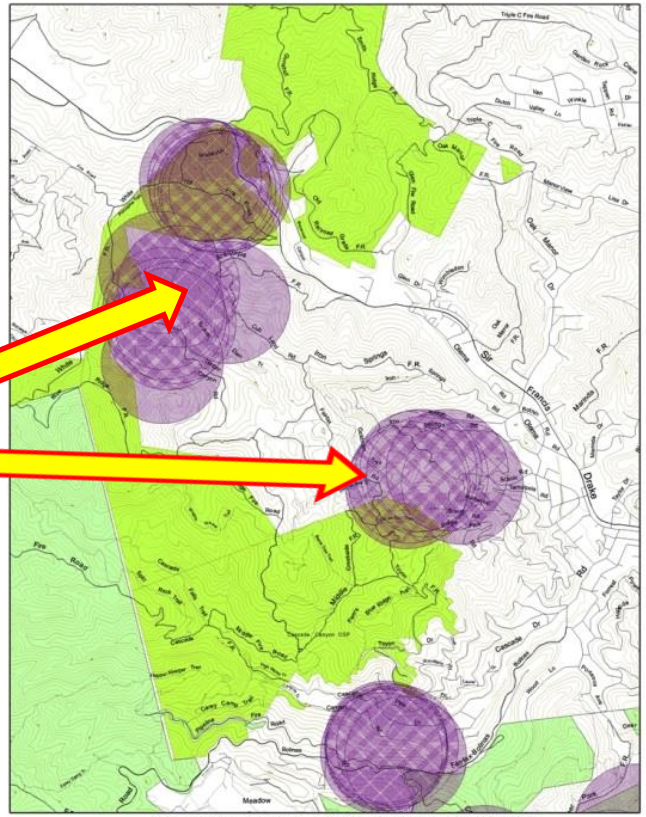


❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems
✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat

ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

Zone 1 includes numerous locations where the nests of ***Northern Spotted Owls*** have been noted by the County of Marin.

The Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) ranges across California's north coast and interior and is Federally listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act. The species is also listed as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act.



Spotted Owl Nests--Fairfax Vicinity--1999-2010

Source: Marin County Parks Oct. 2012

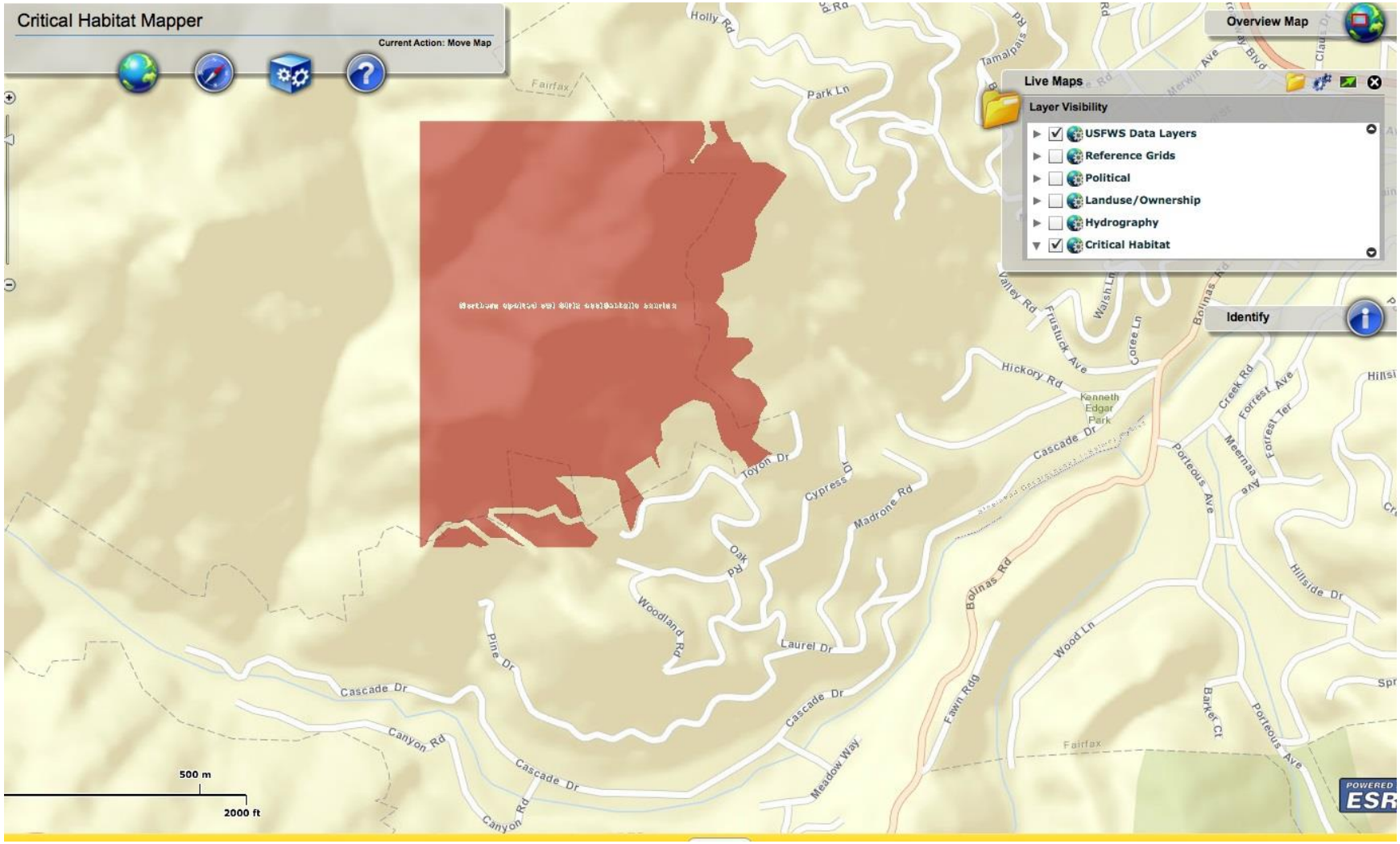
An important caveat to the map included here came from the County Parks Department when it provided the map:

" . . . [W]e don't want planners or other regulators to assume that the absence of a nest in a given location means that a Spotted Owl is not present. [Point Reyes Bird Observatory] surveys nests on or in close adjacency to our preserves because we are providing them funding and granting them permission to conduct surveys on our lands. Viewers of our maps and data often assume that the purple circles are the only areas where the owls are living, but they could really be anywhere that there is suitable habitat. The vegetation communities on Tamarancho – redwood/ douglas fir/ bay forest--are the same habitat types that support owls on our own preserves. The only way you can really rule out the presence of owls in that type of habitat is to have a qualified biologist conduct a Spotted Owl survey. . ."

❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Critical Habitat Mapping System also identifies portions of Zone 1 as critical habitat for the northern spotted owl.



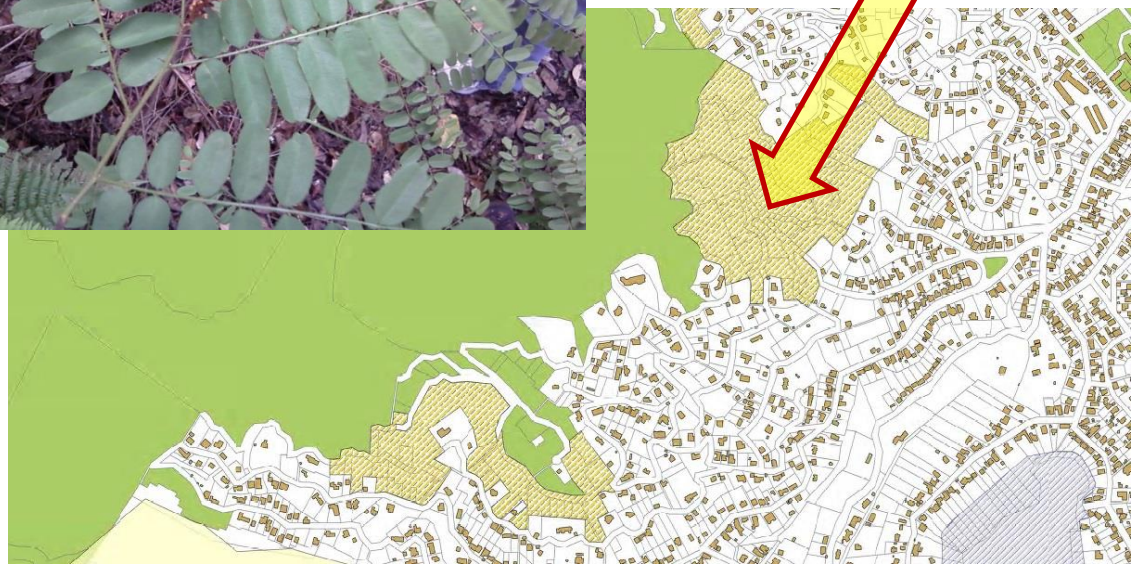
❑ Terrestrial Ecosystems

✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat

The Fairfax Open Space Committee has identified ***Napa False Indigo*** on at least one property within the southern portion of Zone 1.

Napa False Indigo, *amorpha californica var. napensis*, a dicot, is a shrub that is native to California and is endemic (limited) to California.
It is included in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants on list 1B.2 (*rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere*).*

Zone 1 – Rare and Endangered Plant Habitat



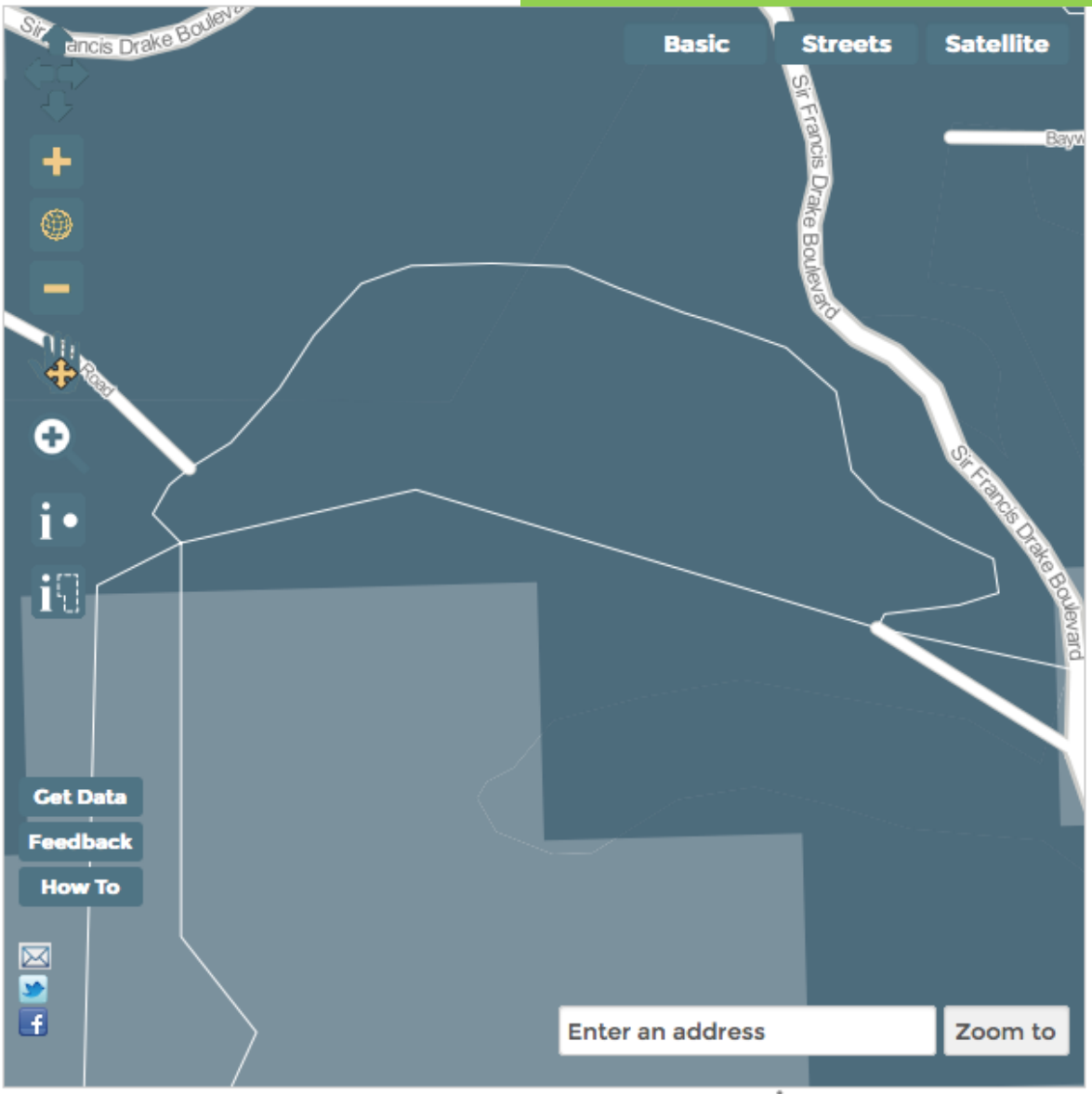
* Plants with a California Rare Plant Rank of 1B are rare throughout their range with the majority of them endemic to California. Most of the plants that are ranked 1B have declined significantly over the last century. California Rare Plant Rank 1B plants constitute the majority of taxa in the CNPS *Inventory*, with more than 1,000 plants assigned to this category of rarity. All of the plants constituting California Rare Plant Rank 1B meet the definitions of the California Endangered Species Act of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and are eligible for state listing. Impacts to these species or their habitat must be analyzed during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA, or those considered to be functionally equivalent to CEQA, as they meet the definition of Rare or Endangered under CEQA Guidelines §15125; (c) and/or §15380.

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☐ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
- ☐ Forest Biomass »
- ☐ Priority Conservation Areas »
- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Northern Portion of Zone 1

Habitat and Watershed

Greenbelt Alliance

© 2012 Greenbelt Alliance | Interactive mapping by GreenInfo Network

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands

- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☐ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
- ☐ Forest Biomass »
- ☐ Priority Conservation Areas »
- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Southern Portion of Zone 1
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands

- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☐ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
- ☐ Forest Biomass »
- ☐ Priority Conservation Areas »
- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

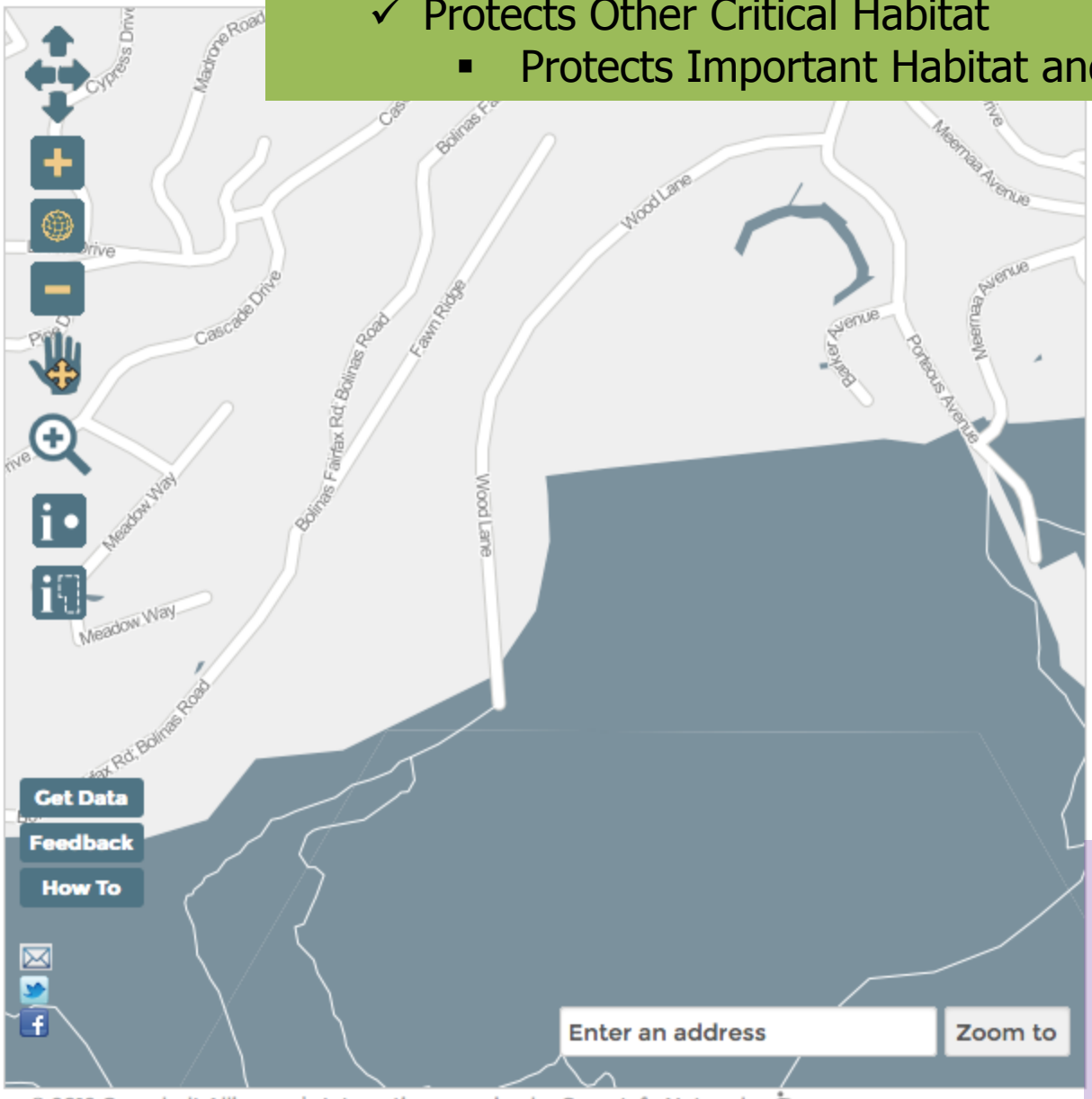
▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Western Portion of Zone 2
Habitat and Watershed

Greenbelt Alliance

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

- [x] Important Habitat »
- [ ] Important Rangeland »
- [ ] Important Streams »
- [x] Important Watershed Lands »
- [ ] Forest Biomass »
- [ ] Priority Conservation Areas »
- [ ] Public Parks and Easements »
- [ ] Planned Trails »
- [ ] Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

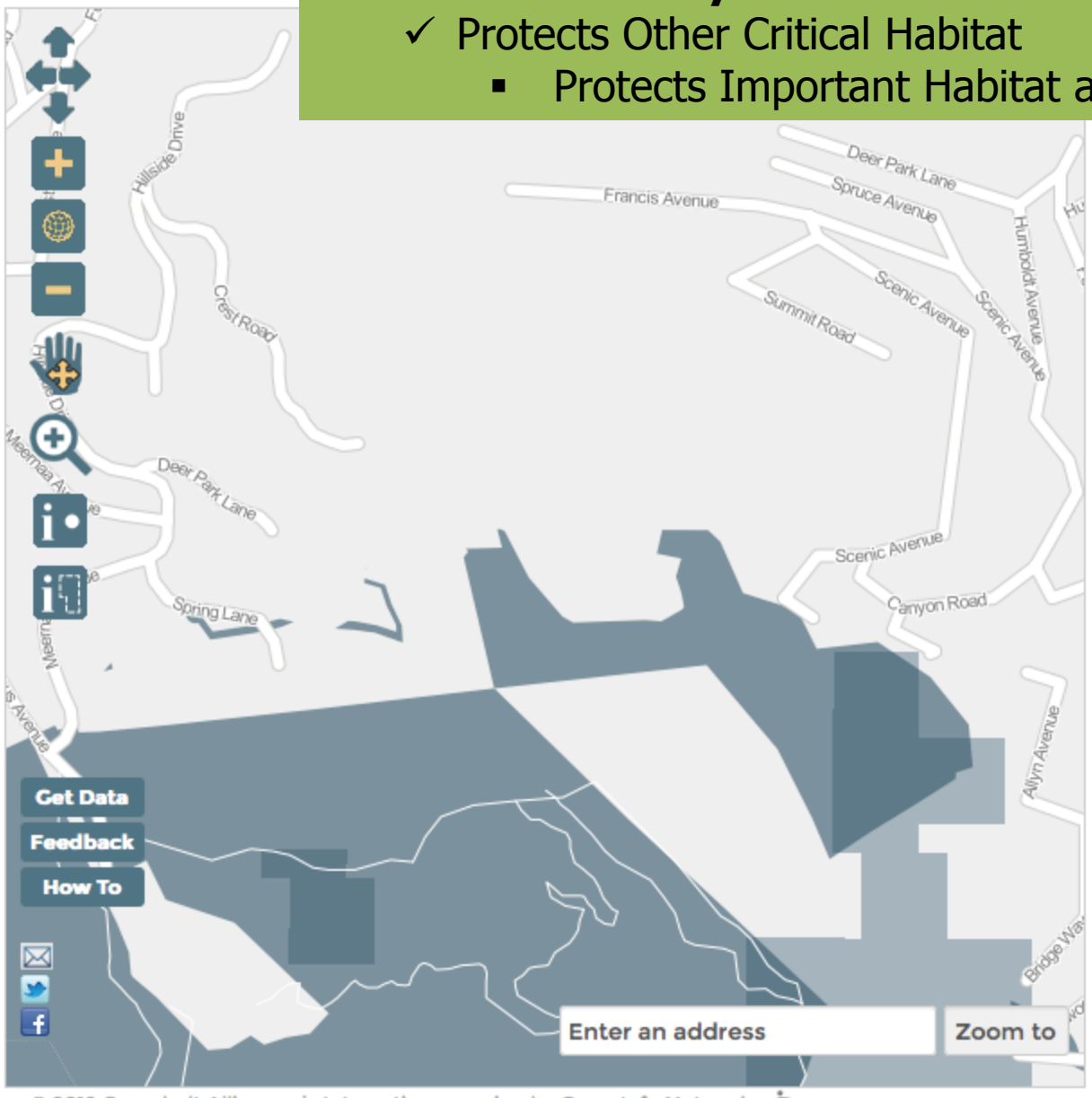
Middle portion of Zone 2

Habitat and Watershed

Greenbelt Alliance

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

- [ ] Important Farmland »
- [x] Important Habitat »
- [ ] Important Rangeland »
- [ ] Important Streams »
- [ ] Important Watershed Lands »
- [x] Forest Biomass »
- [ ] Priority Conservation Areas »
- [ ] Public Parks and Easements »
- [ ] Planned Trails »
- [ ] Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Eastern Portion of Zone 2
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands

Watching the humans from a hillside driveway adjacent to the eastern portion of Zone 2.

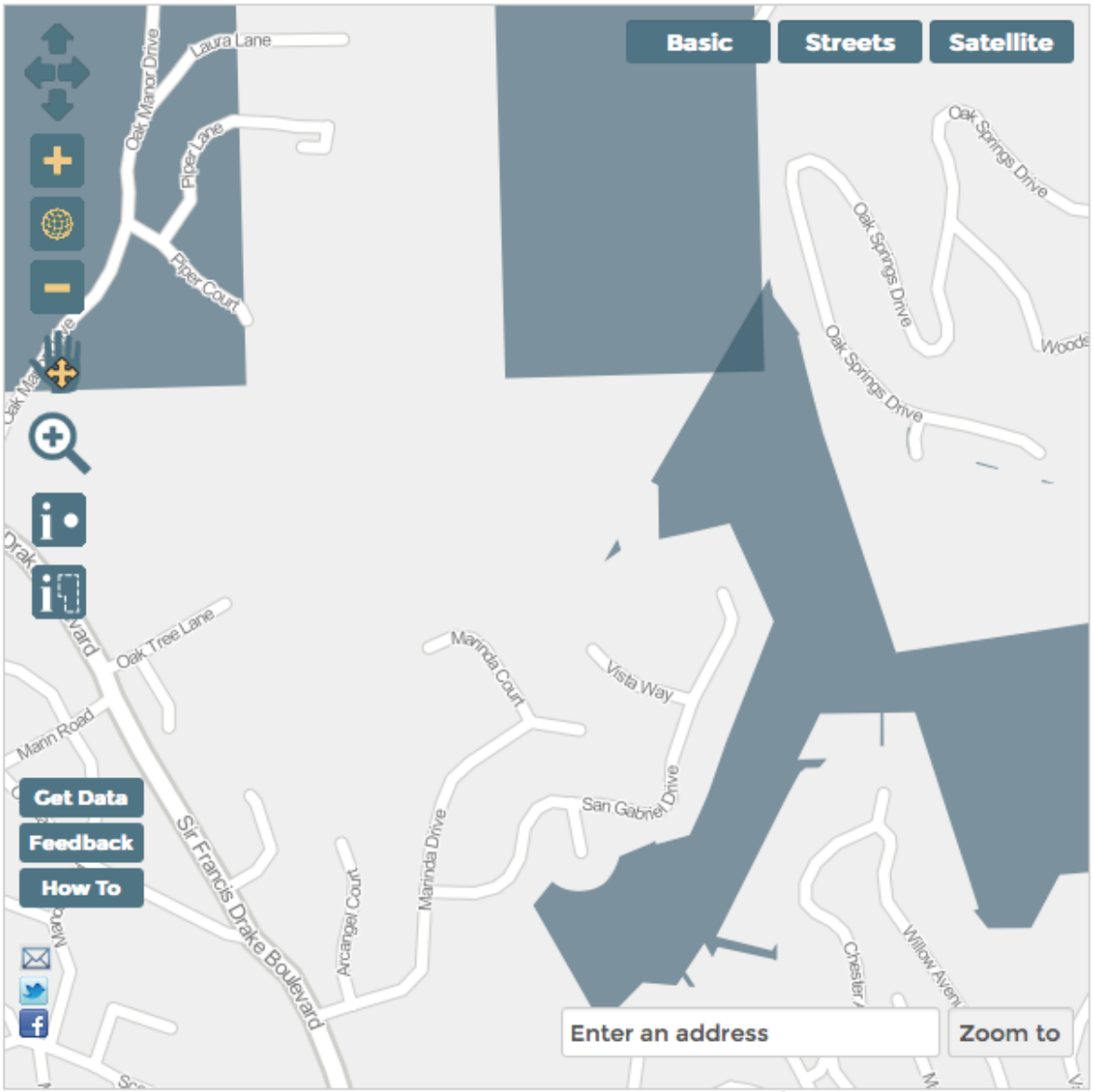
Most "Fairfaxians" will tell you that we strive to co-exist as harmoniously as possible with the wildlife with whom we share our spaces. Many commonly found species live in and around the natural areas of Fairfax, including deer, raccoons, squirrels, opossums, snakes, lizards, bob-cats, coyotes and a host of bird varieties.

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARC

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



© 2012 Greenbelt Alliance | Interactive mapping by GreenInfo Network

- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
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- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

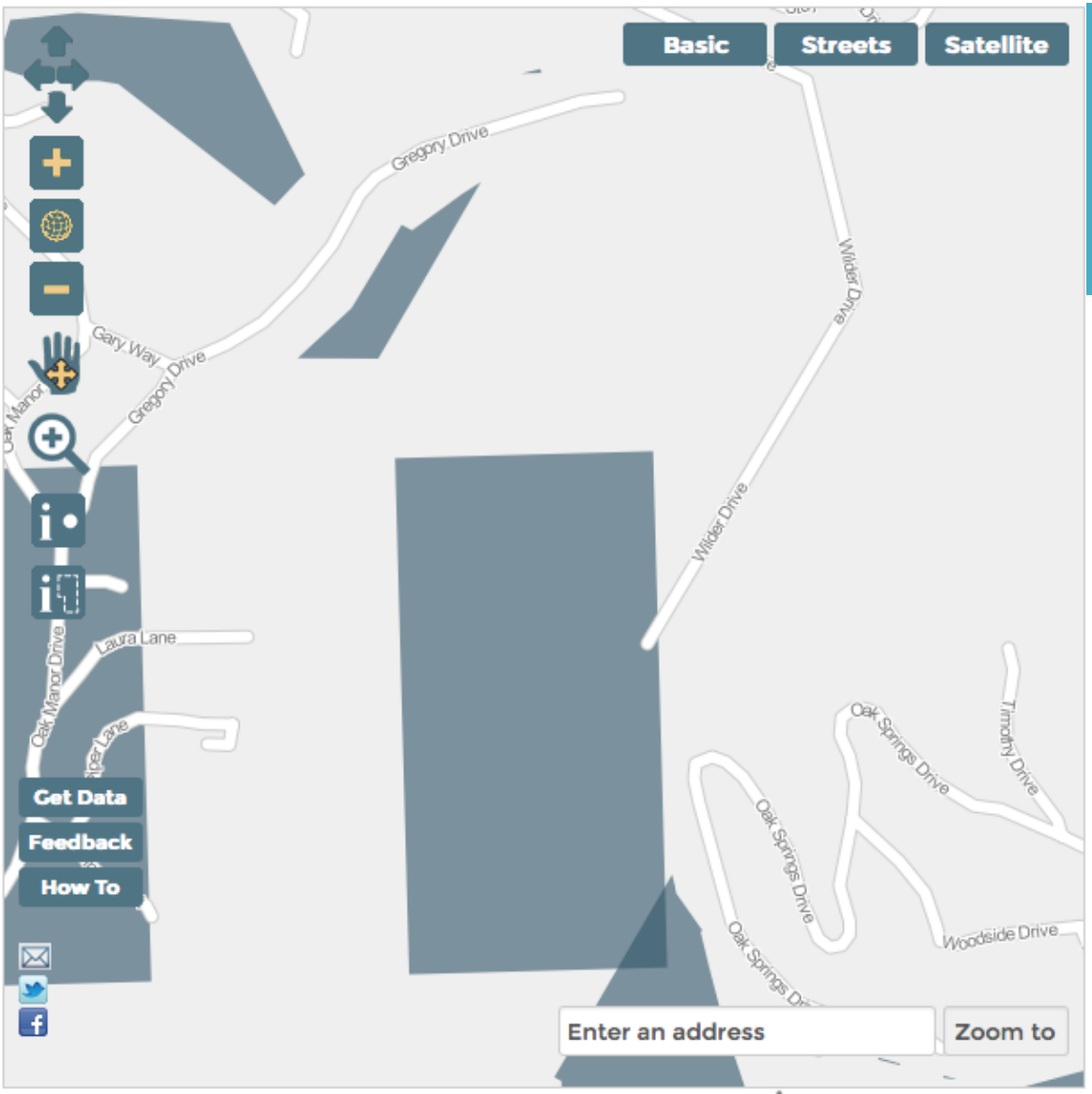
Southern Portion of Zone 3
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



© 2012 Greenbelt Alliance | Interactive mapping by GreenInfo Network

- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
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- ☑ Important Watershed Lands »
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- ☐ Public Parks and Easements »
- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

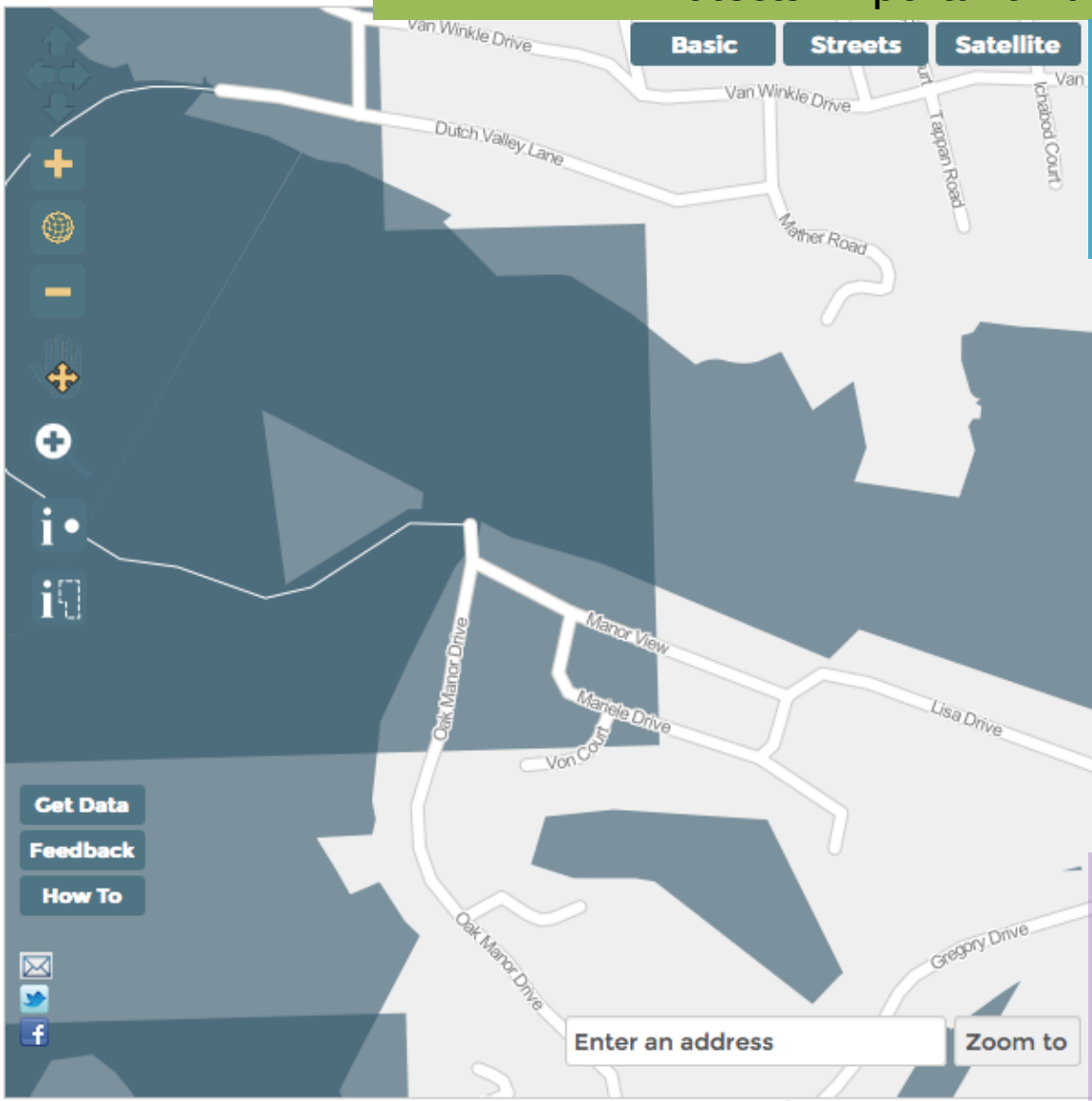
Mid-southern portion of Zone 3
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | AI

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Important Habitat and Watershed Lands



- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Important Farmland »
- ☑ Important Habitat »
- ☐ Important Rangeland »
- ☐ Important Streams »
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- ☐ Planned Trails »
- ☐ Wetlands & Vernal Pools »

▶ CITIES AND ROADS

Mid-Northern Portion of Zone 3
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

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INITIATIVES | RESEARCH

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
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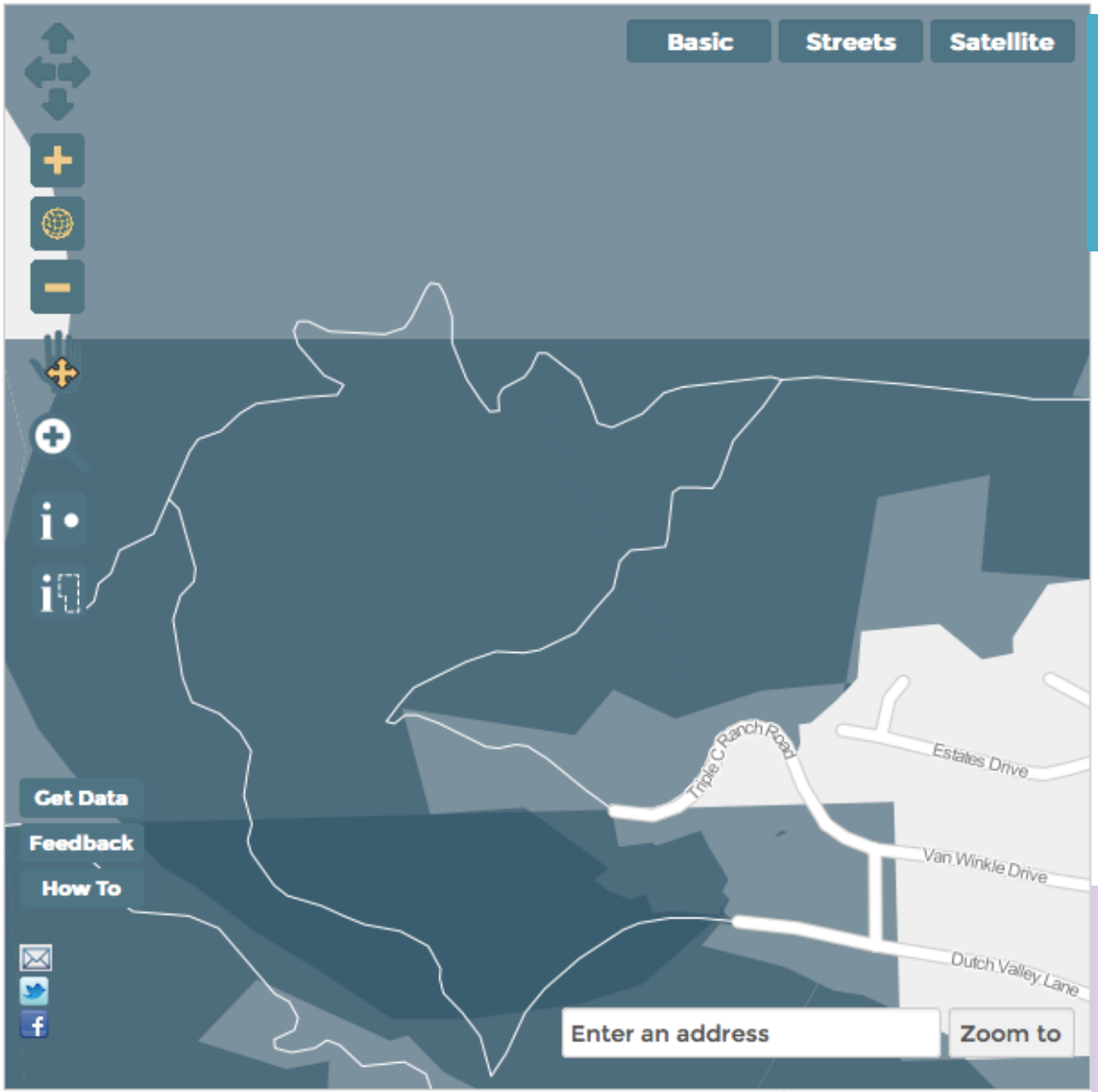

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- **Water Supply and Quality**
  - ✓ Supports watershed health

▼ OPEN SPACE

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▶ CITIES AND ROADS

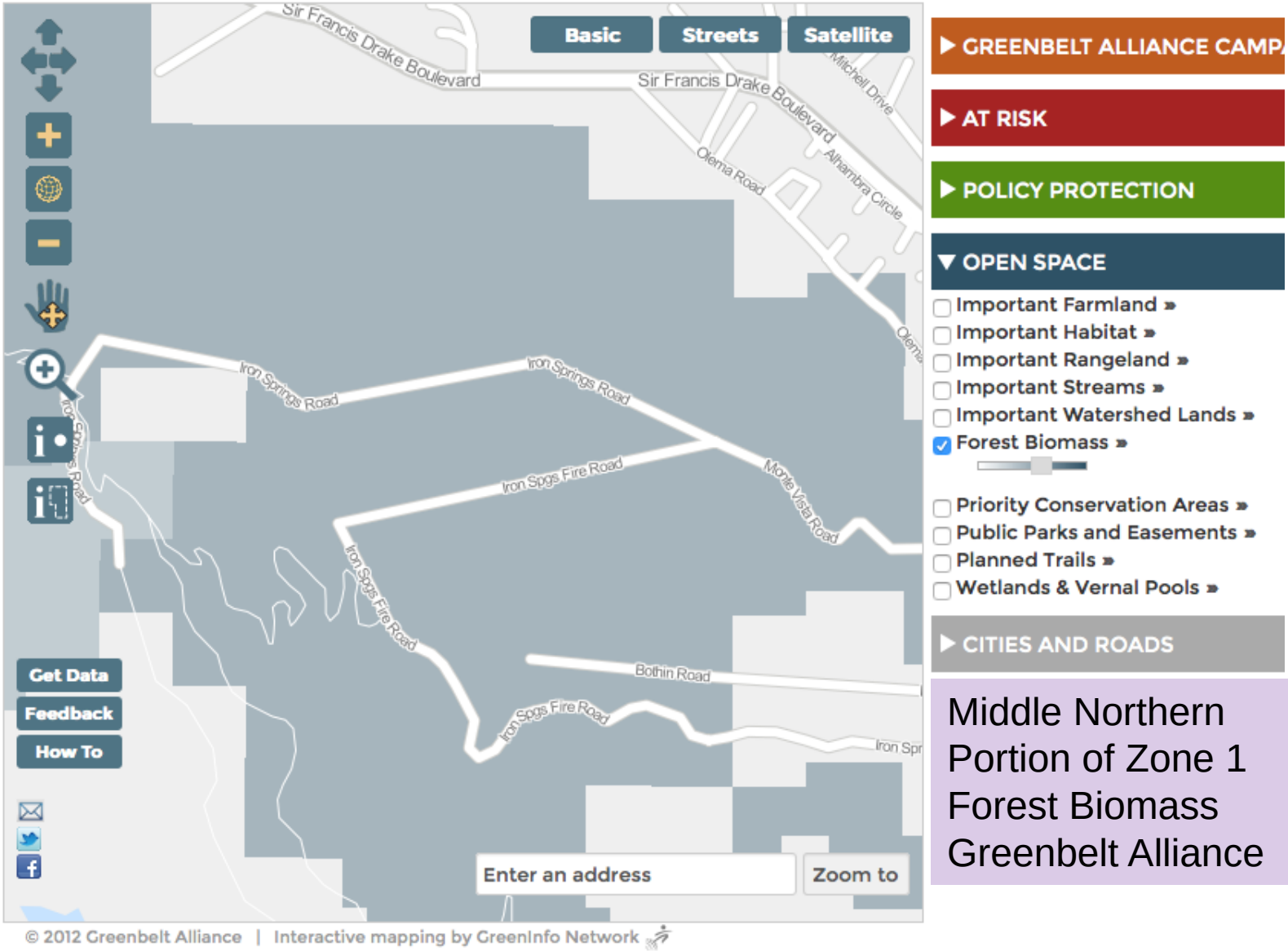
Northern Portion of Zone 3
Habitat and Watershed
Greenbelt Alliance

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Forest Biomass



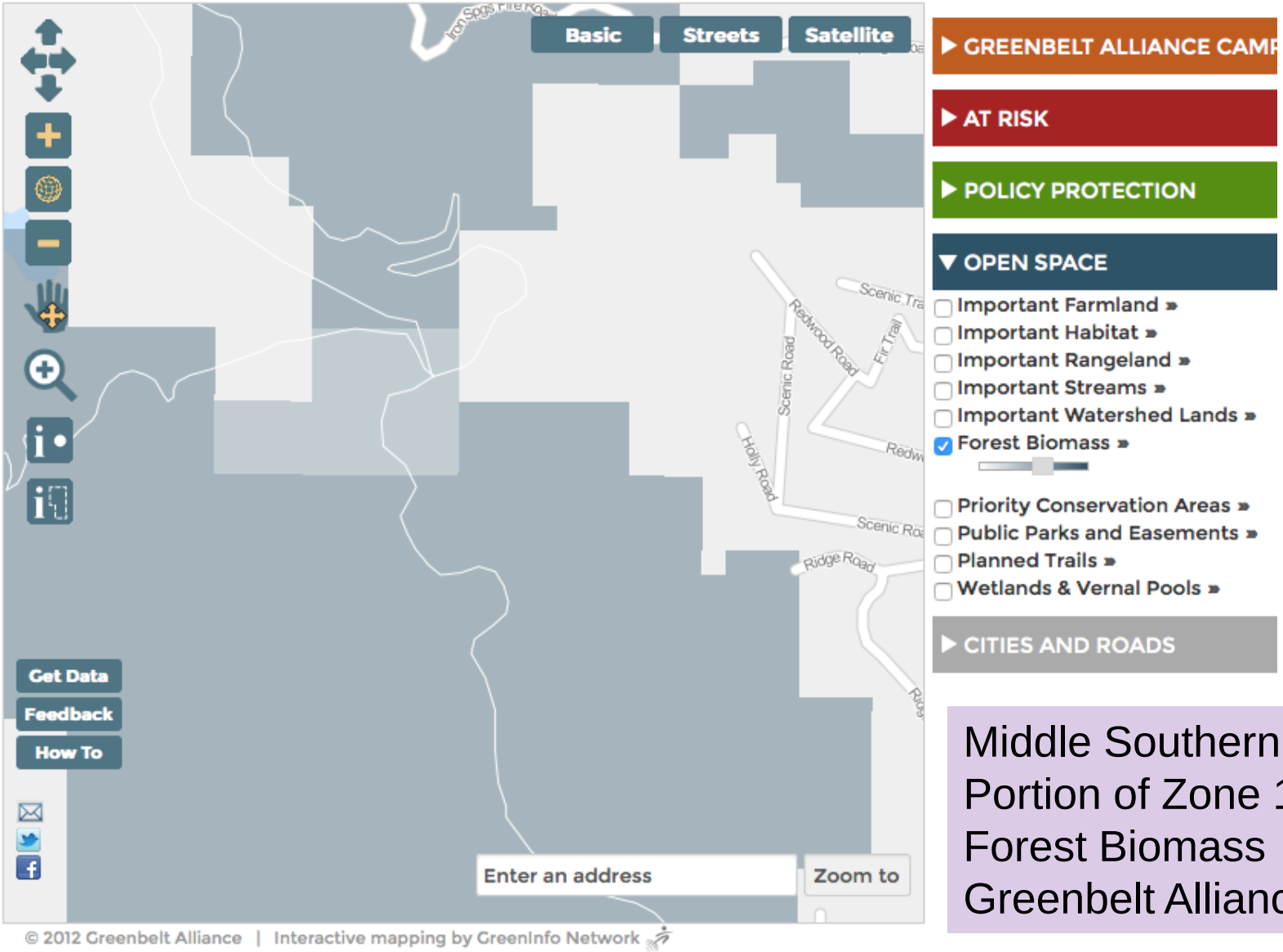
Middle Northern Portion of Zone 1 Forest Biomass Greenbelt Alliance

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Forest Biomass



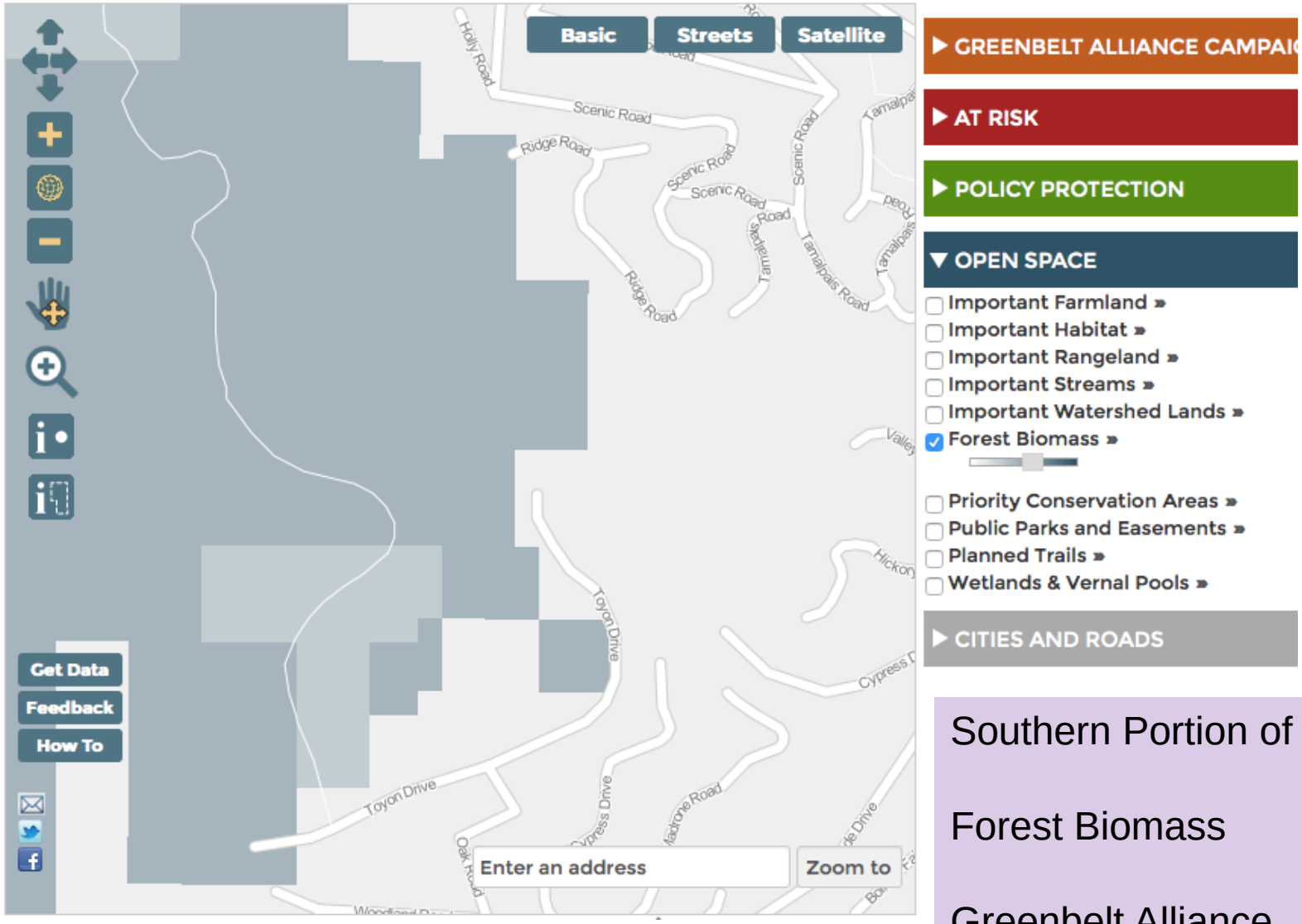
Middle Southern Portion of Zone 1 Forest Biomass Greenbelt Alliance

GREENBELT ALLIANCE

INITIATIVES | RESEARCH | ADVOCATE | EVENTS

At Risk 2012

- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
  - ✓ Protects Other Critical Habitat
    - Protects Forest Biomass



Southern Portion of Zone 1

Forest Biomass

Greenbelt Alliance

Exhibit 3 – Urban Greening

Benefits in the Proposed Fairfax Priority Conservation Area

At the border between West and East Marin, Fairfax is ever under threat of development and therefore requires protection.

Fairfax Priority Conservation Area

Supports local Climate Action Plan related to Urban Greening

Climate and Resilience

&

Community Health

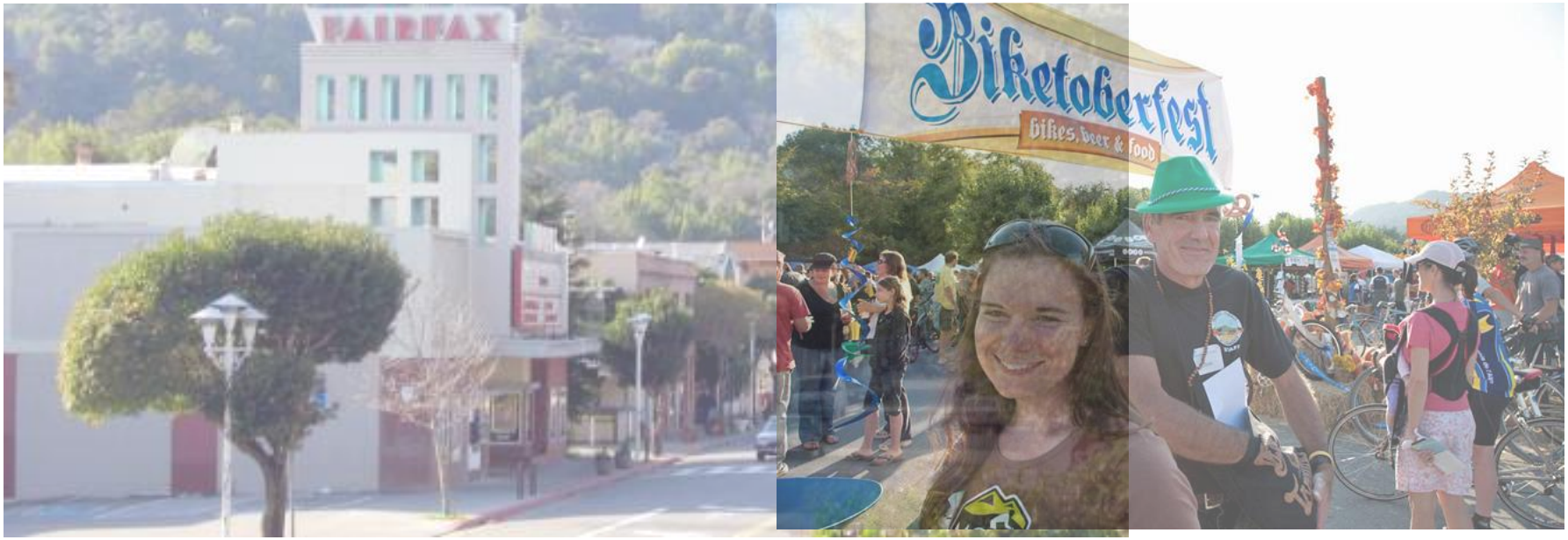
Climate & Resilience

In alignment with Fairfax Climate Action Plan Natural Systems & Sequestration section 3.2

Securing Open Space will:

- **Protect Trees and their Canopy** which protects against Urban Heat Island Effect
- **Protect or increase Carbon Storage/Potential** where Fairfax seeks to reduce in overall GHG production 27% by 2020
- **Ensure continued Stormwater Retention**, filtration as well as other eco-system services such as erosion control & bank stabilization.

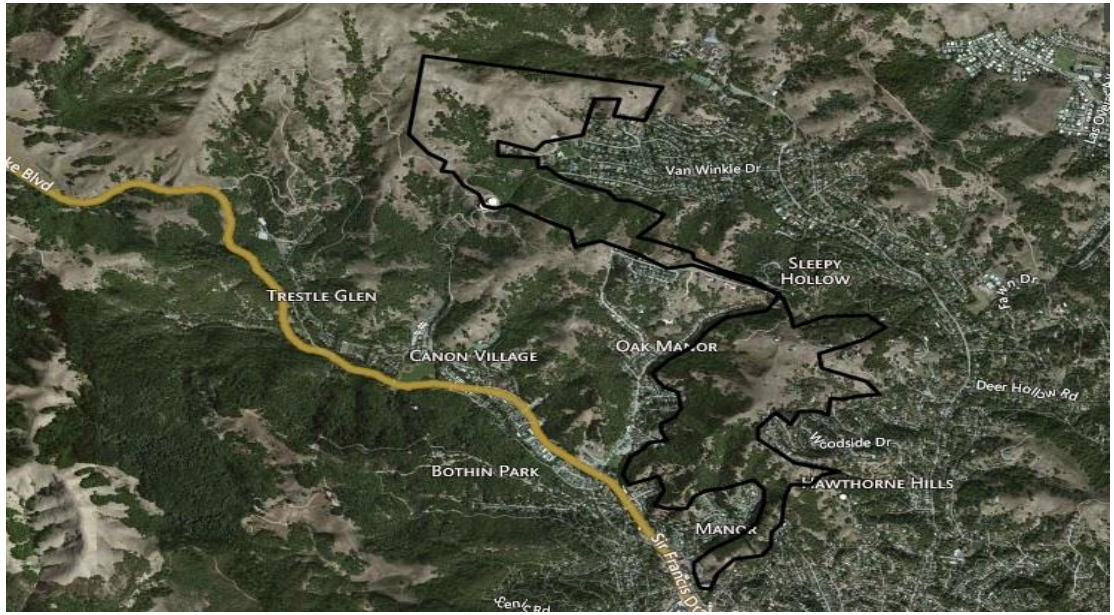
Community Health: Conservation Elements of the Fairfax General Plan



As Marin County seeks to address human health and the health and adaptability of natural systems, it will need to address the following:

- (a) Water resources including expanded rainwater harvesting, water storage and conservation techniques, water reuse (GP CON-4.1.1)
- (b) Biological resources including land acquisition, designation of open space as a buffer against flooding, and protection of existing natural barriers. (GP CON-4.2.2). . . ADPT-4, the Fairfax CAP at 45.

Community Health: Circulation Elements of the Fairfax General Plan



- Educate public re. environmental benefits of walking, cycling, taking public transit and ridesharing, and provide information to assist in these (e.g., information available in public places, pedestrian pathways). (GP C-6.3.4) **TLU-11(e) on page 30 of the Fairfax CAP.**
- Locate higher density development along transit corridors. (GP C-6.1.3). **TLU-5 at p. 28 of the Fairfax CAP.**

Exhibit 4 – Regional Recreational Benefits in the Proposed Fairfax Priority Conservation Area

Regional Recreation Areas are areas that include existing and potential regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Proposed Regional Trails
  - ✓ Ridge Trail
- ❑ Acreage of Regional Park Added

Entrances to Youth Camps on the Northwestern portion of Zone 1.

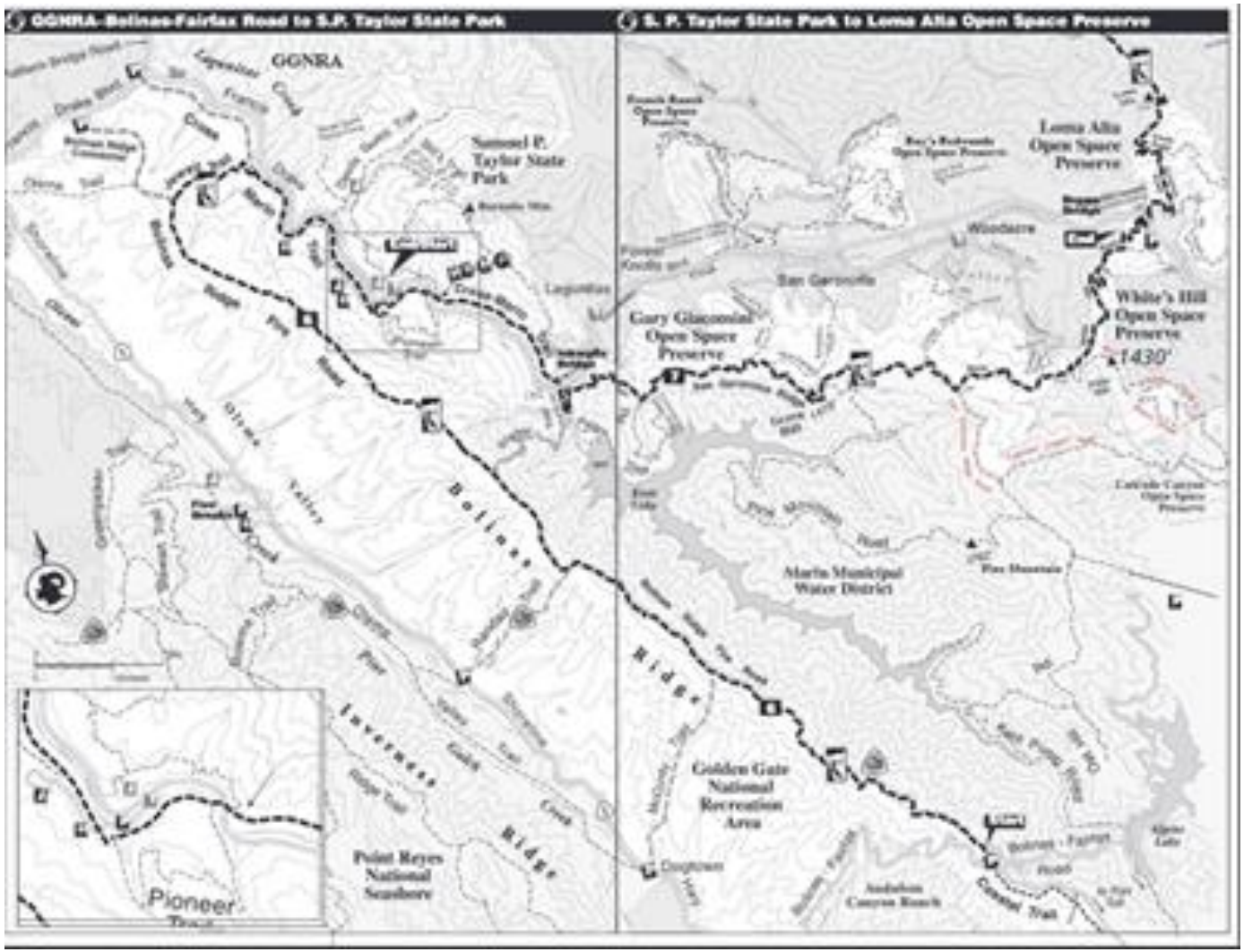
Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Proposed Regional Trails
  - ✓ Ridge Trail

Approximate location of Proposed Fairfax PCA Zones 1, 2 and 3

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

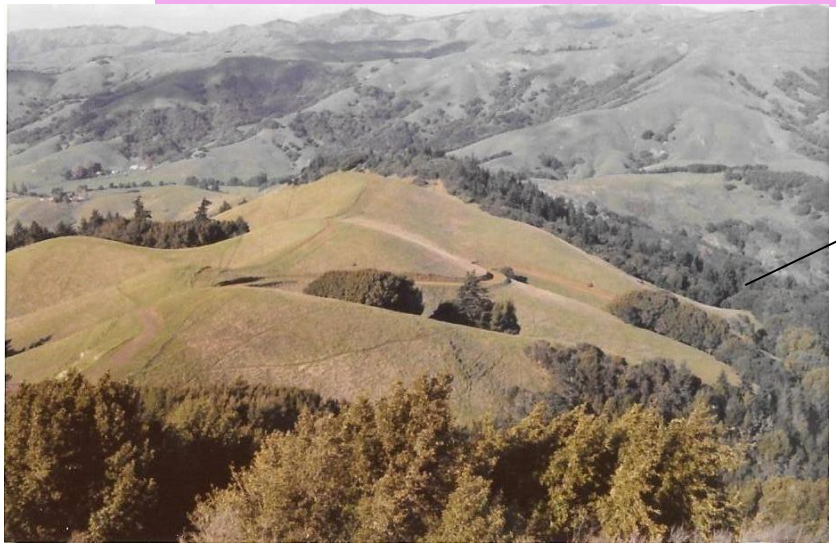
- ❑ Proposed Regional Trails
  - ✓ Ridge Trail



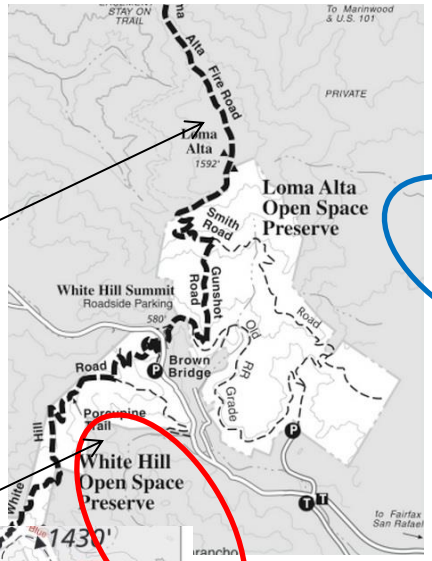
The Ridge Trail through Central Marin County

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Proposed Regional Trails
  - ✓ Ridge Trail



View looking north-east from the top of White's Hill, overlooking Sir Francis Drake Blvd.



Approximate locations of

- ZONE 1
- ZONE 2
- ZONE 3

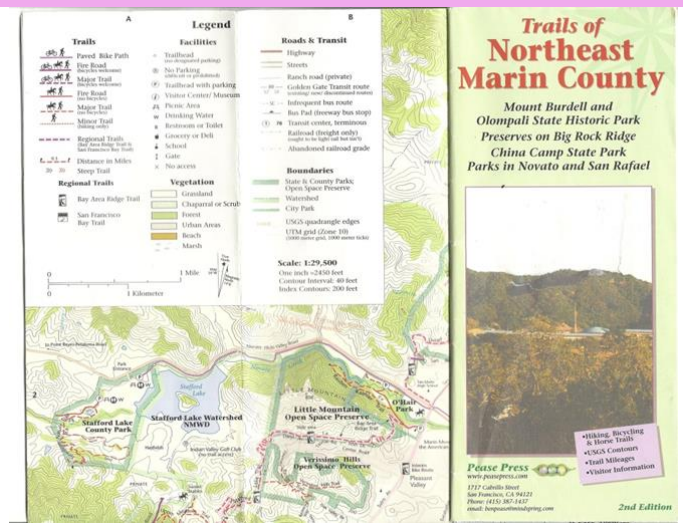
Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

Numerous paths, trails, and bridges, makeshift and otherwise, thread through the magical forests of Fairfax – including this trail in the northwestern portion of Zone 1.

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

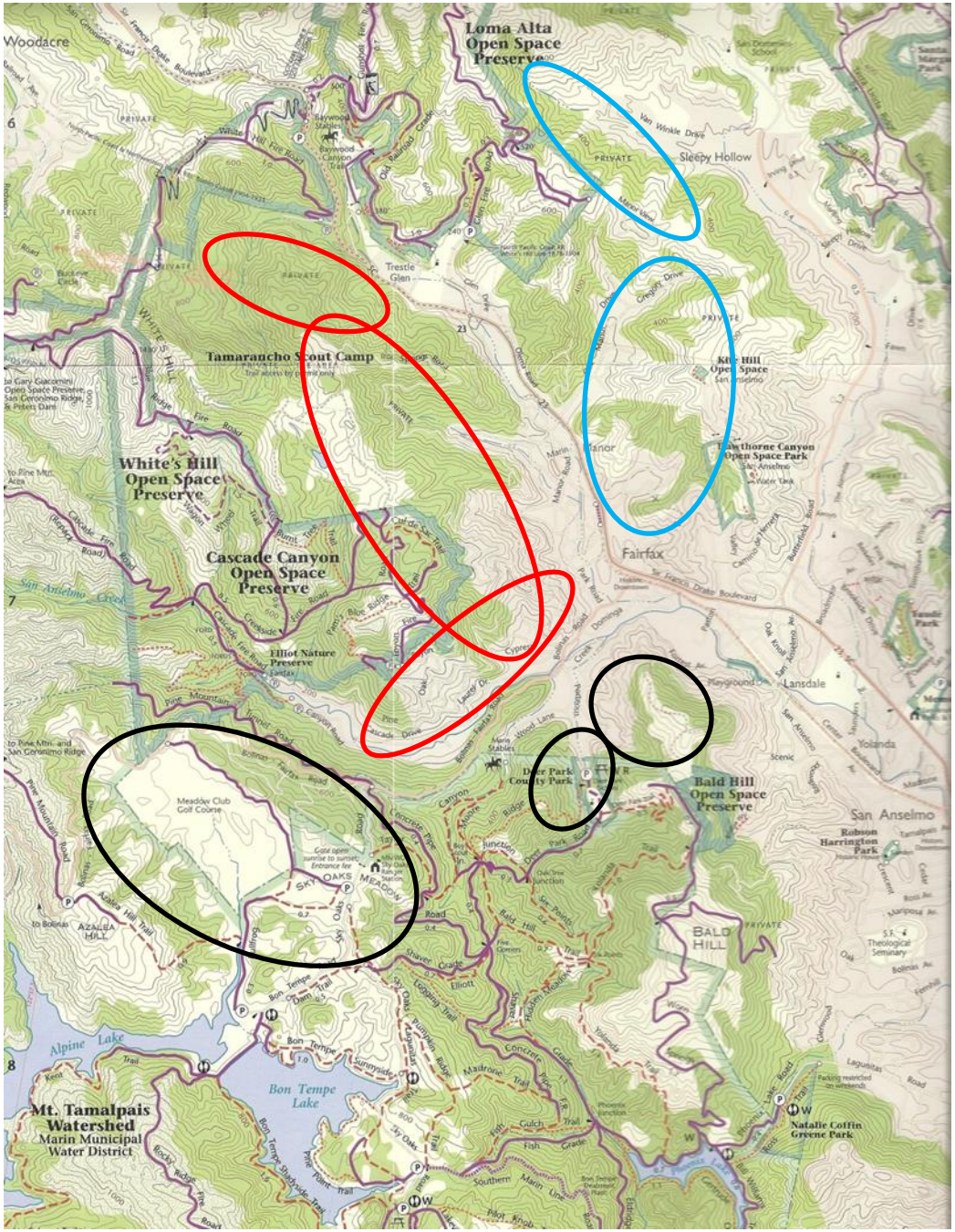


ZONE 1

ZONE 2

ZONE 3

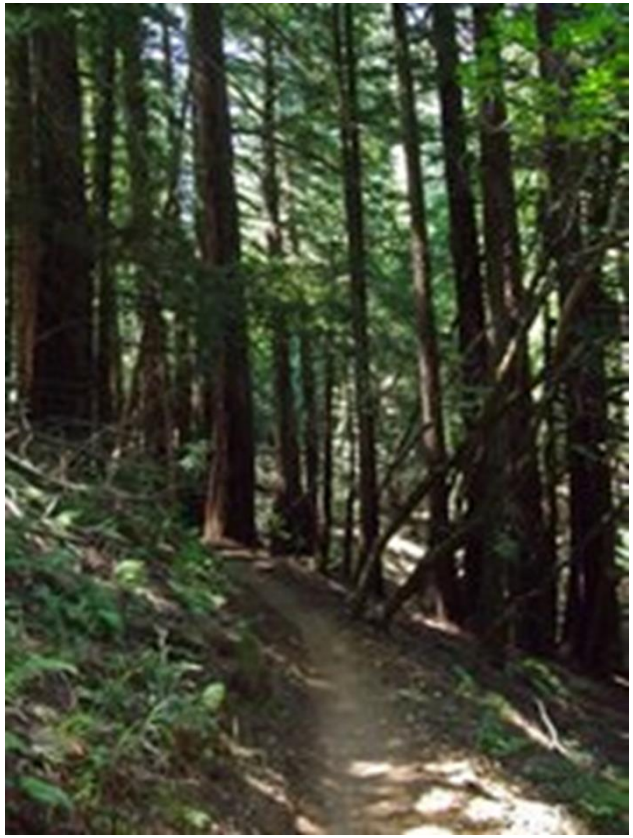
Relationships of Proposed Fairfax PCA Zones to Formal Trails



Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

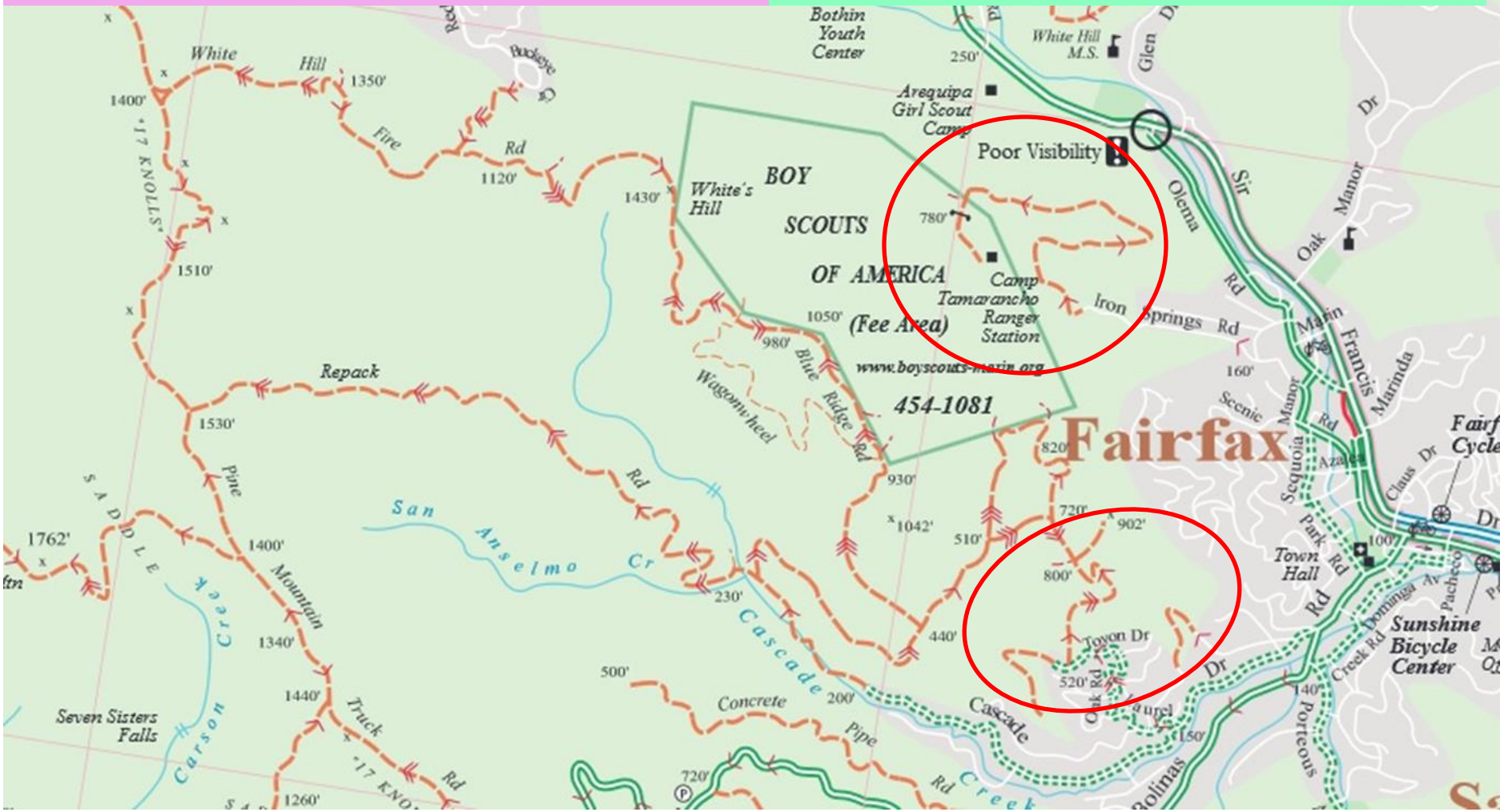
Trails in and around the northern portion of Zone 1.



Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

Popular biking trails on an area believed to be the home of Mountain Biking – including on Zone 1.



Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

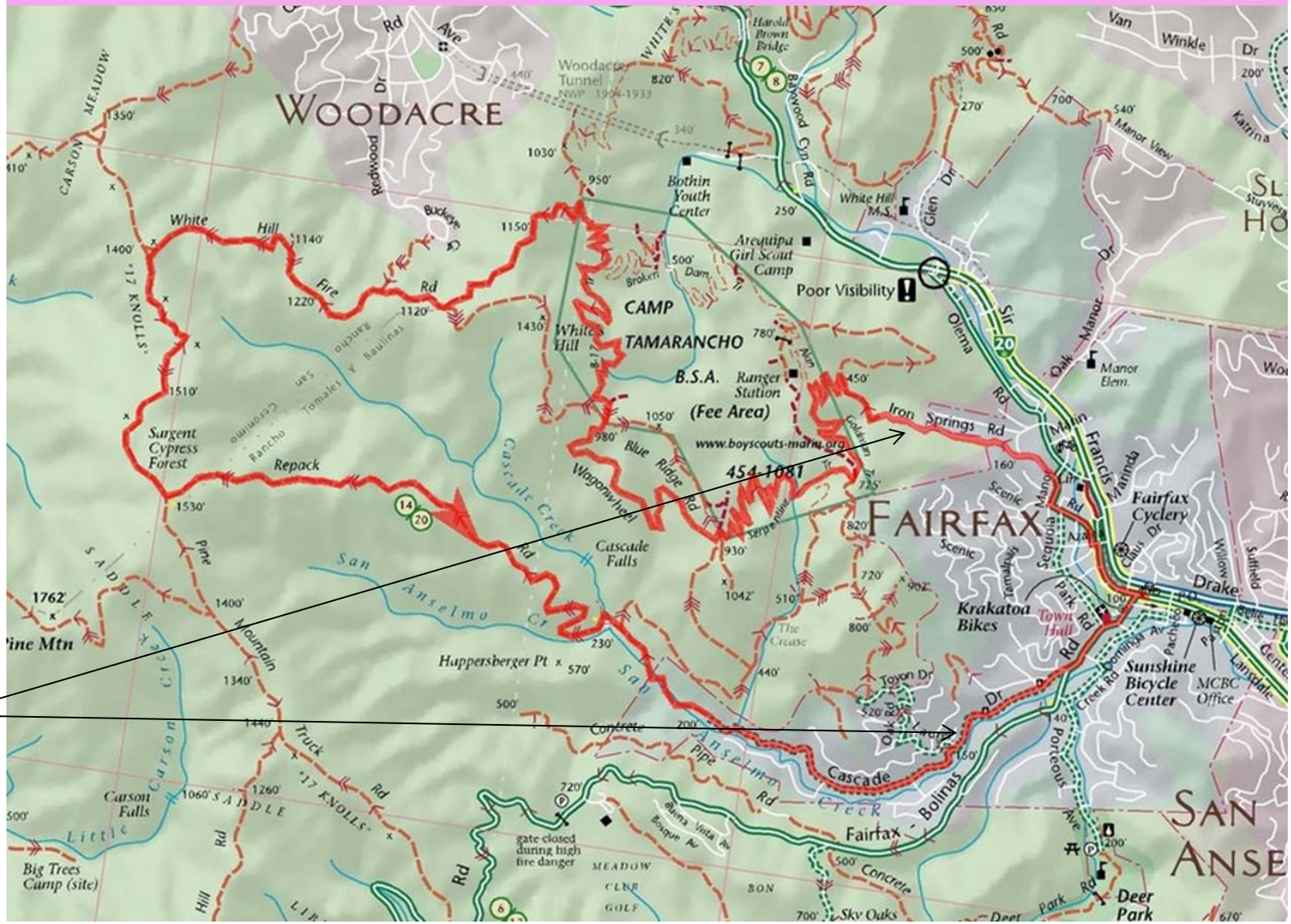
- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

Toyon Trail on the Sothern portion of Zone 1.

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

The Marin Bike Coalition has a map for bikers in the Fairfax and Woodacre areas that includes trails that cross over portions of Zone 1



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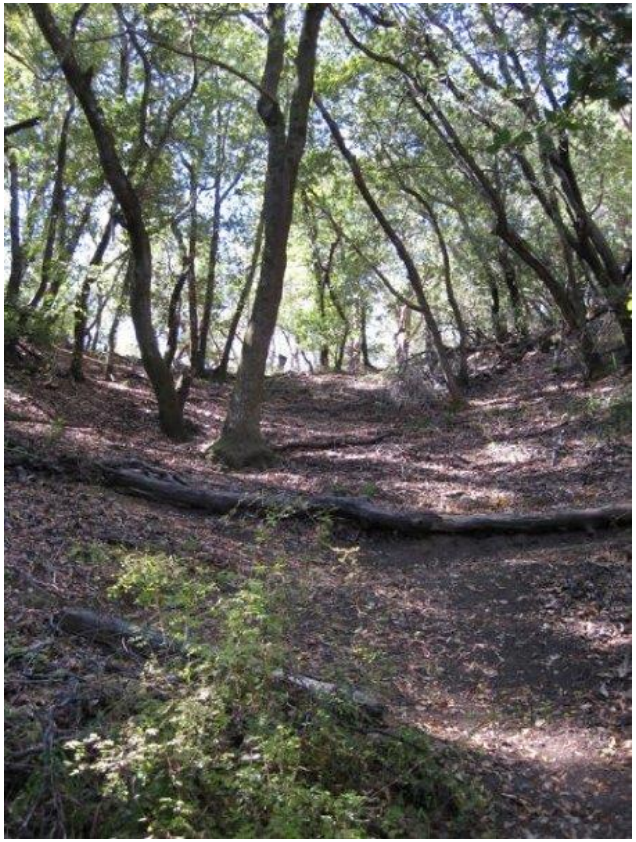
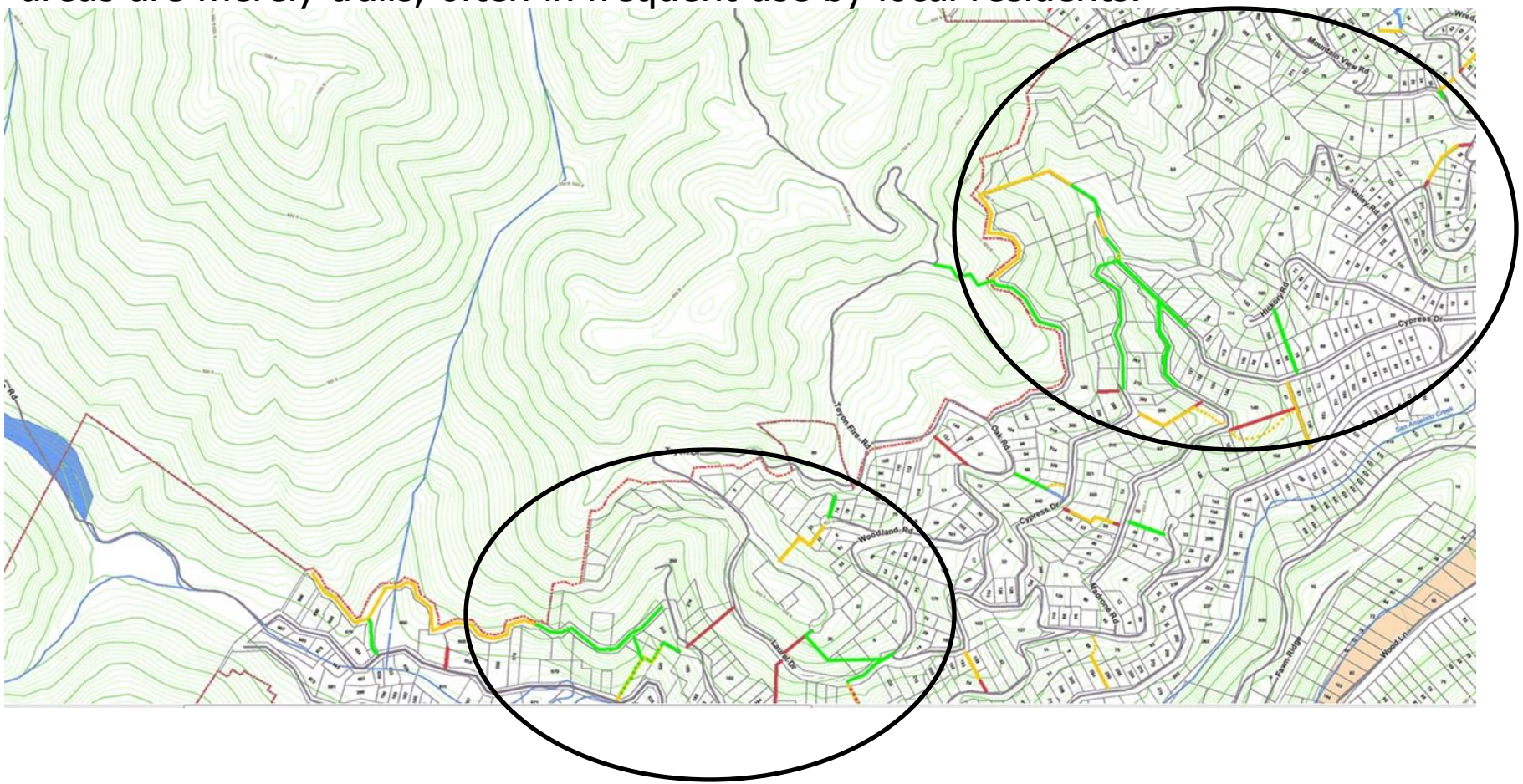


Trails within the proposed Fairfax PCA are used for a wide variety of recreational activities, including hiking, biking and horseback riding.

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

The Fairfax Volunteers' Trail Maps for the Southern Portion of Zone 1 include trail status color coding with Green = Accessible; Yellow = Some obstacles; and Red = Inaccessible or Blocked. Note that a number of the "roads" on the map in these areas are merely trails, often in frequent use by local residents.



Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

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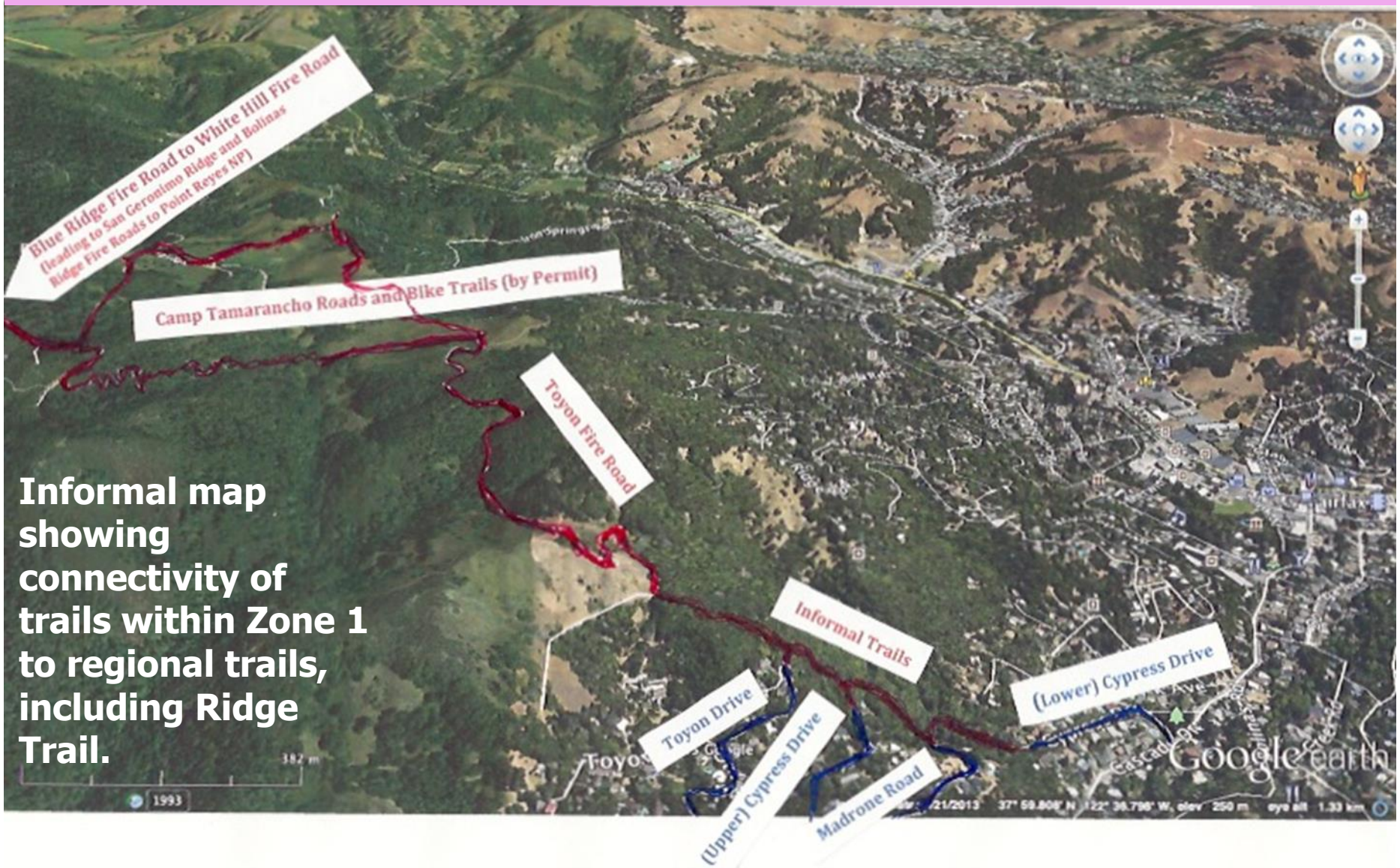


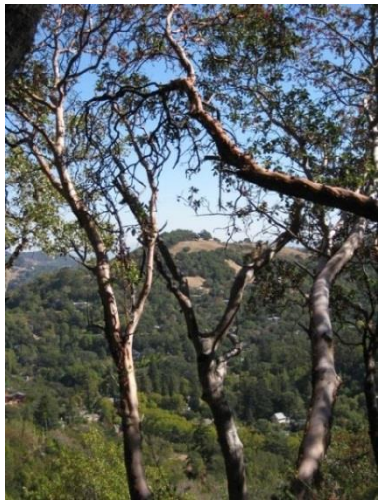
Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

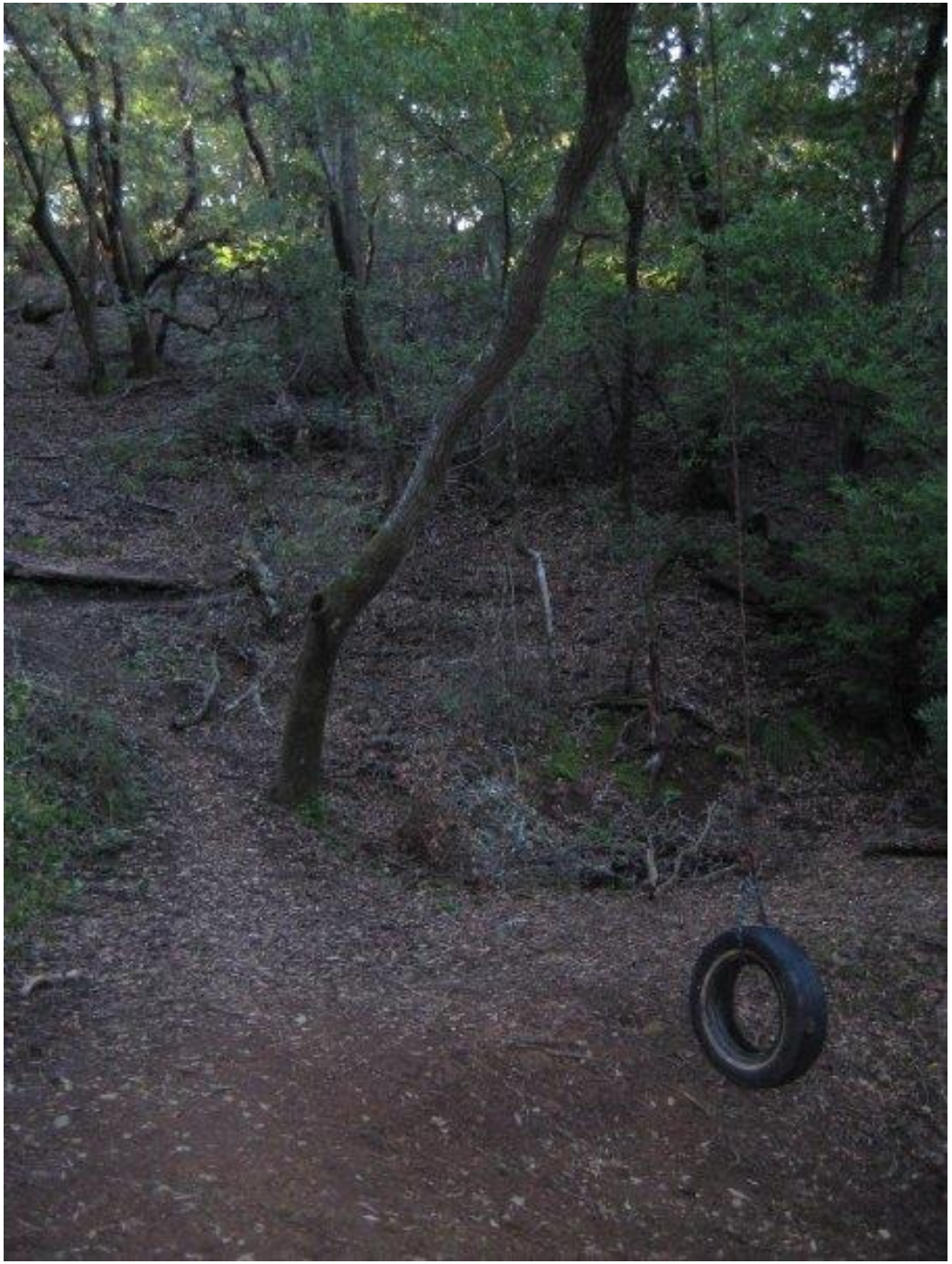
Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

Well-travelled trail in the southern portion of Zone 1 with tire swing. To the left, the trail winds up the hill and connects with Cascade Canyon Open Space Preserve.



To the right, the trail winds around the side of the hill, offering spectacular views through the forest of the hillside in Zone 3!



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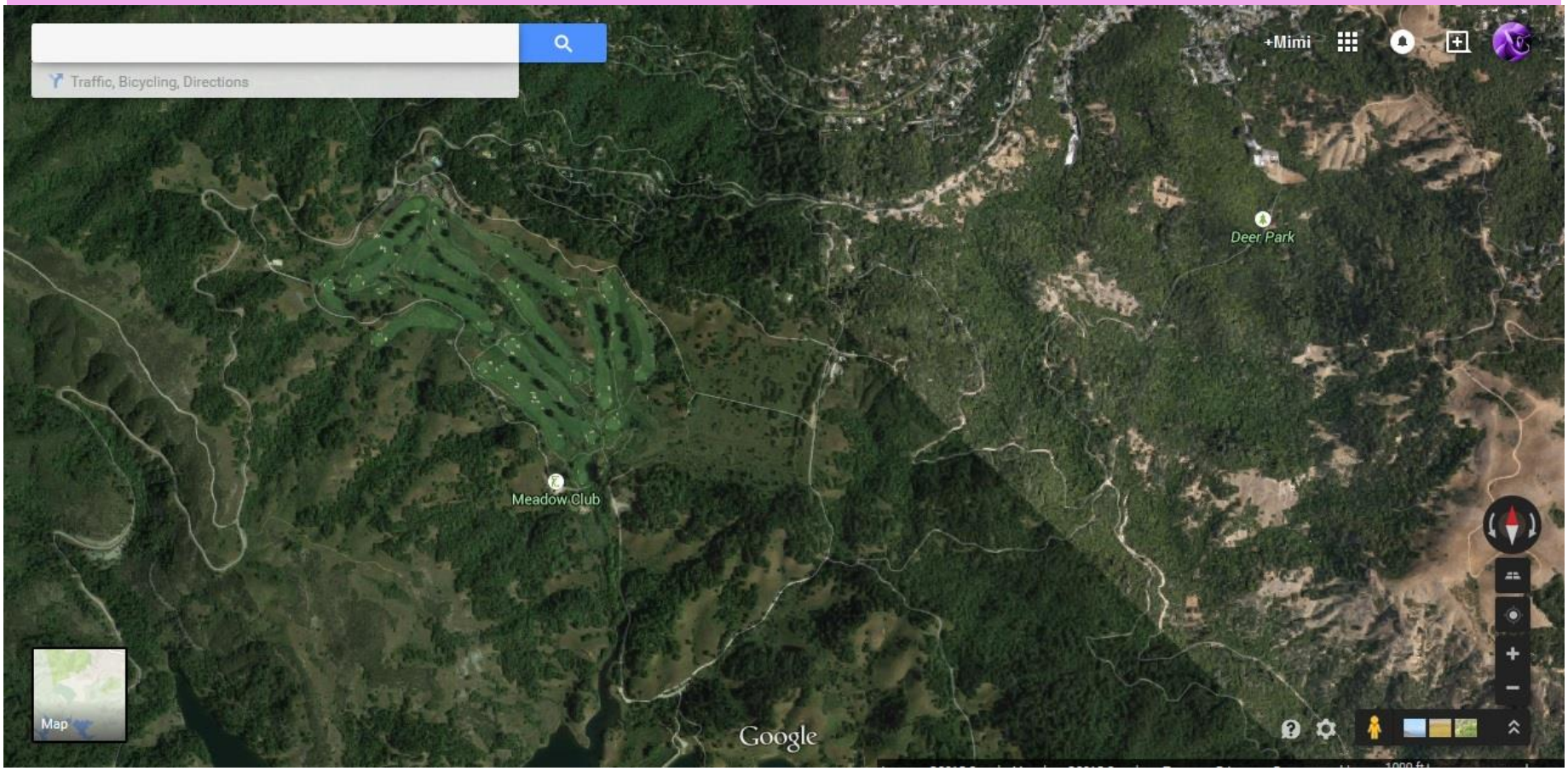
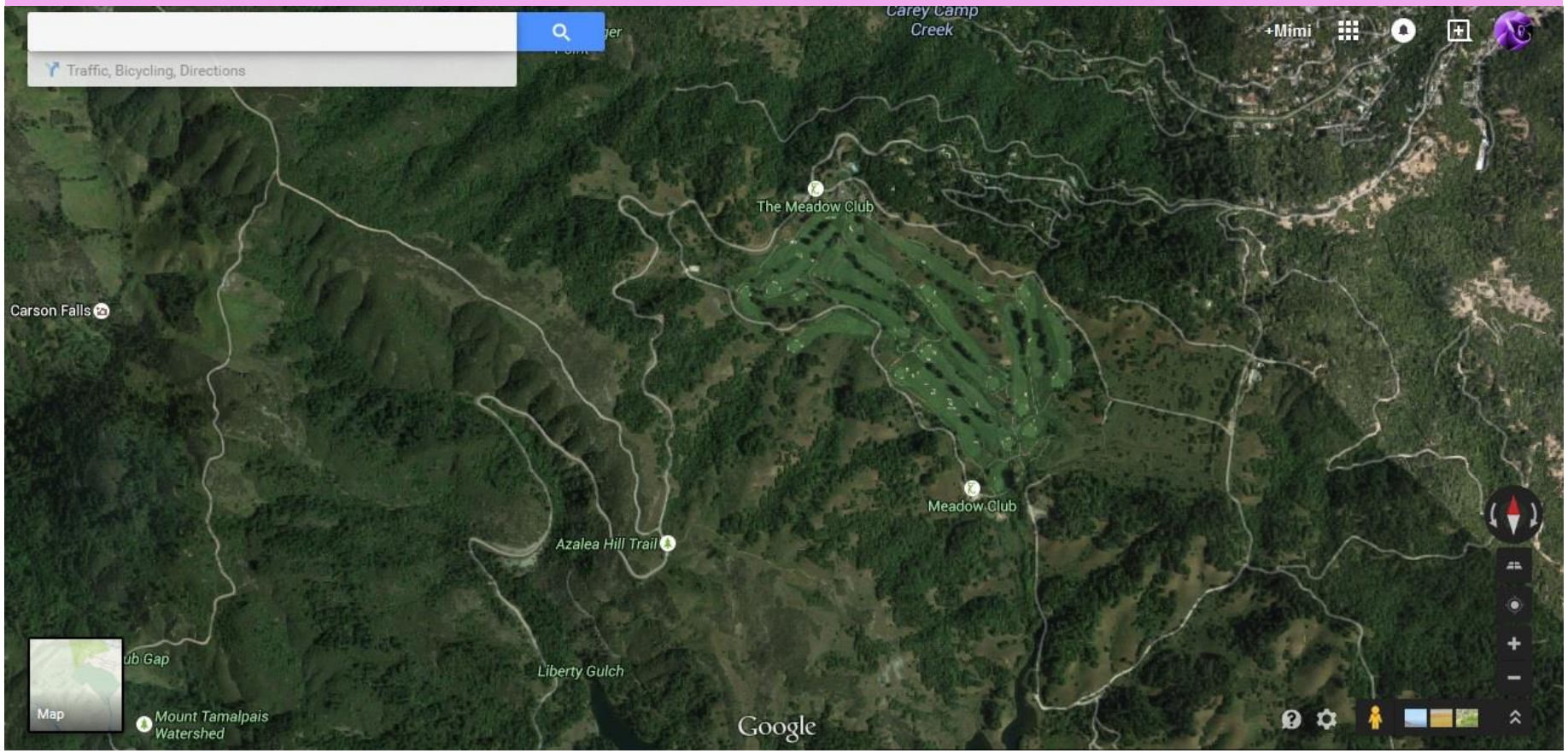


Google Earth images of trail system in and around Zone 2.

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.



Trail system around western portion of Zone 2 – The Meadow Club.

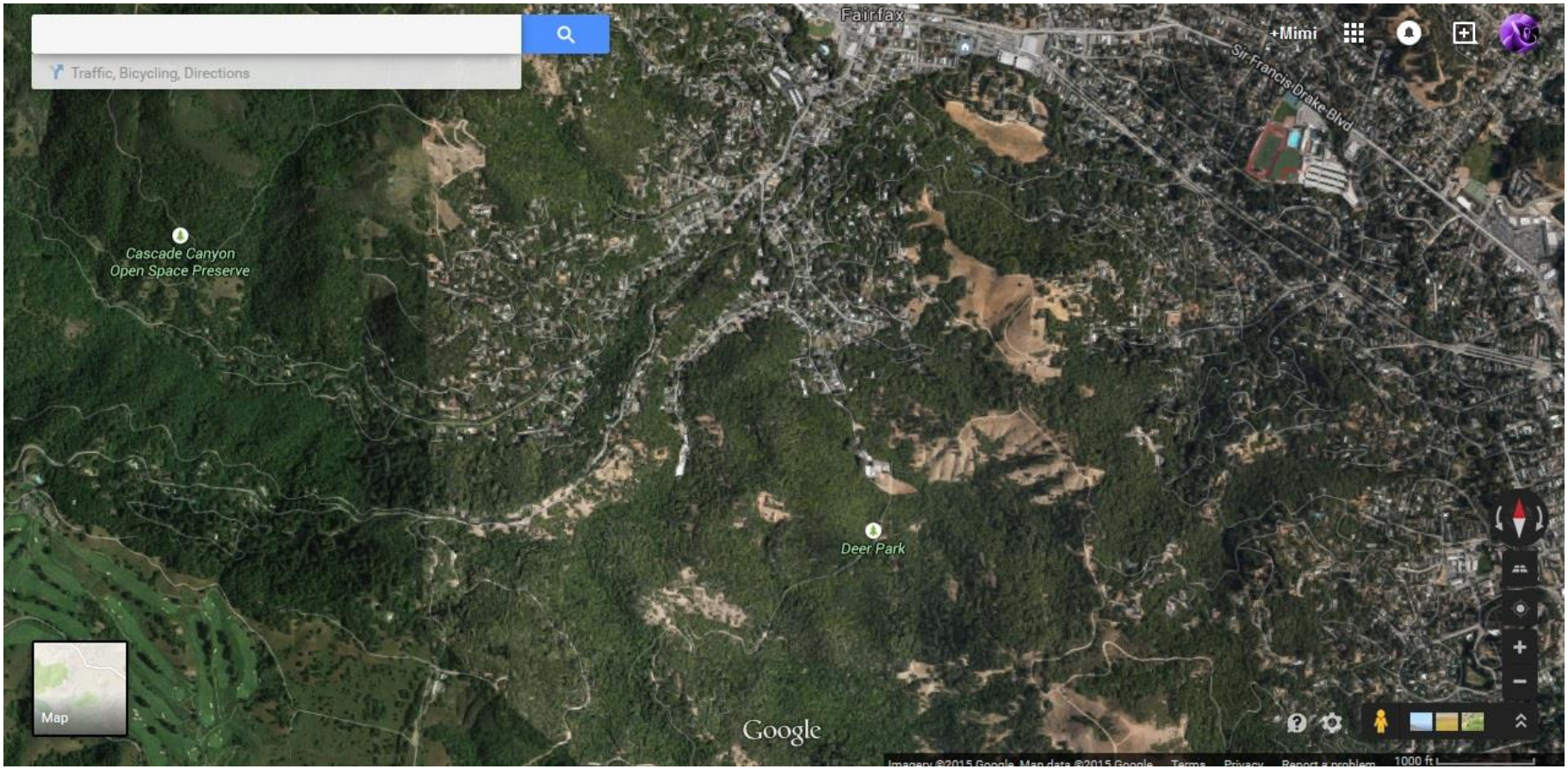
Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

View of the Meadow Golf Club in the south-western portion of Zone 2.

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.



Trail system around north-eastern portion of Zone 2.

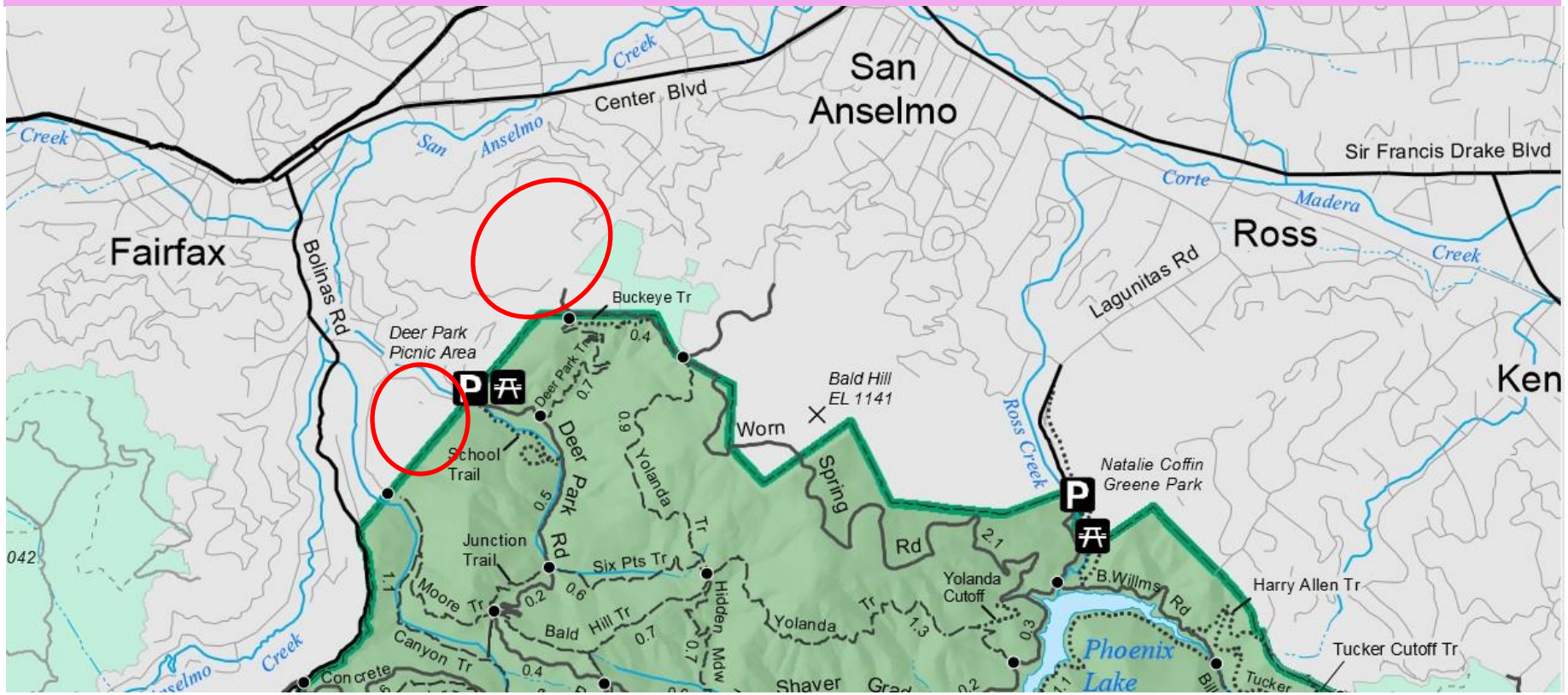
Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

Some non-human residents of Zone 2, enjoying the wildlife habitat that Zone 2 and its environs have to offer as a co-benefit to the area's recreational benefits.

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

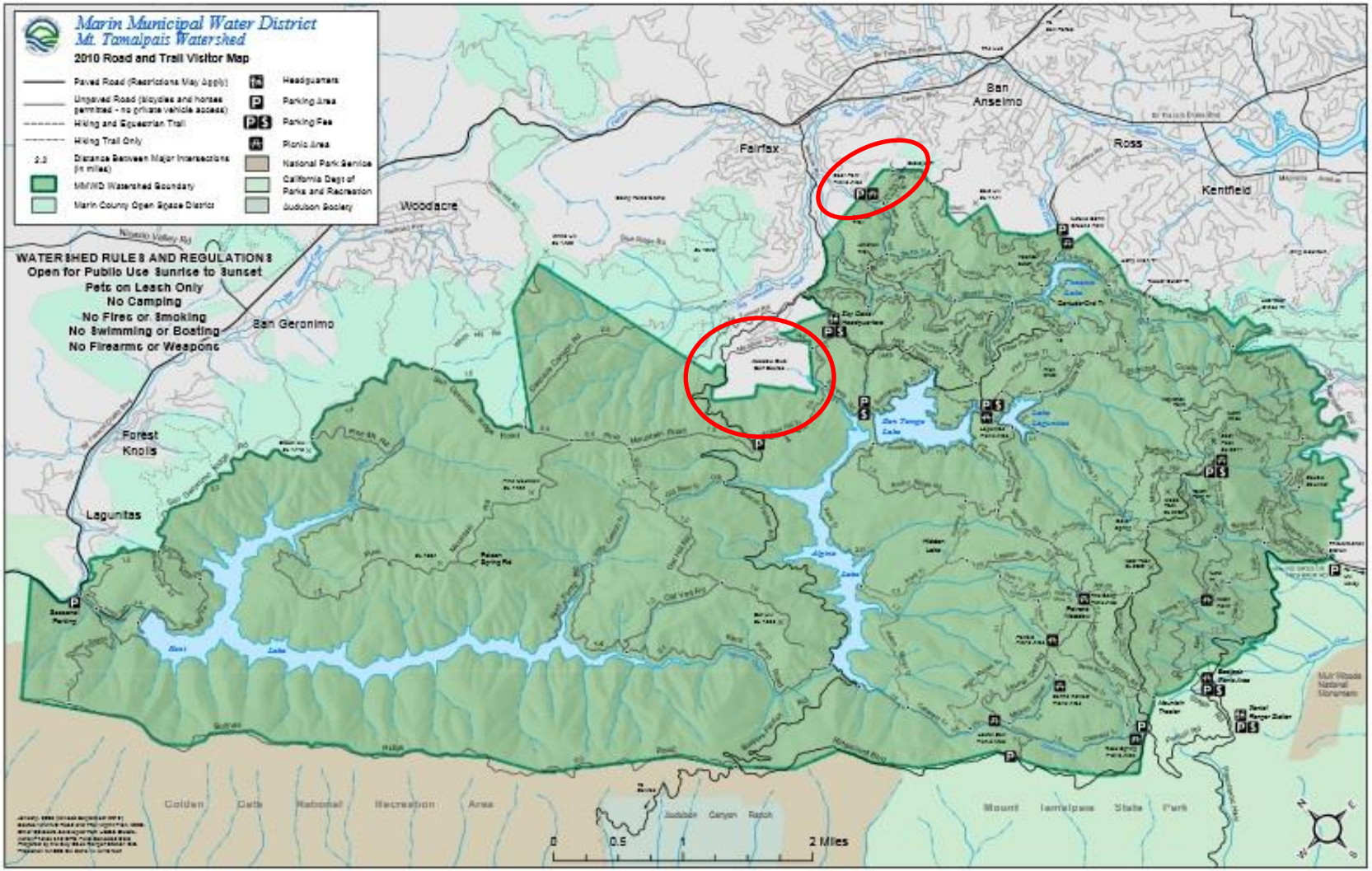
- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.



Map showing the proximity of north-eastern portions of Zone 2 to the Marin Municipal Water District Trail system.

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.



Zone 2 – Adjacent to the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed and Trails.

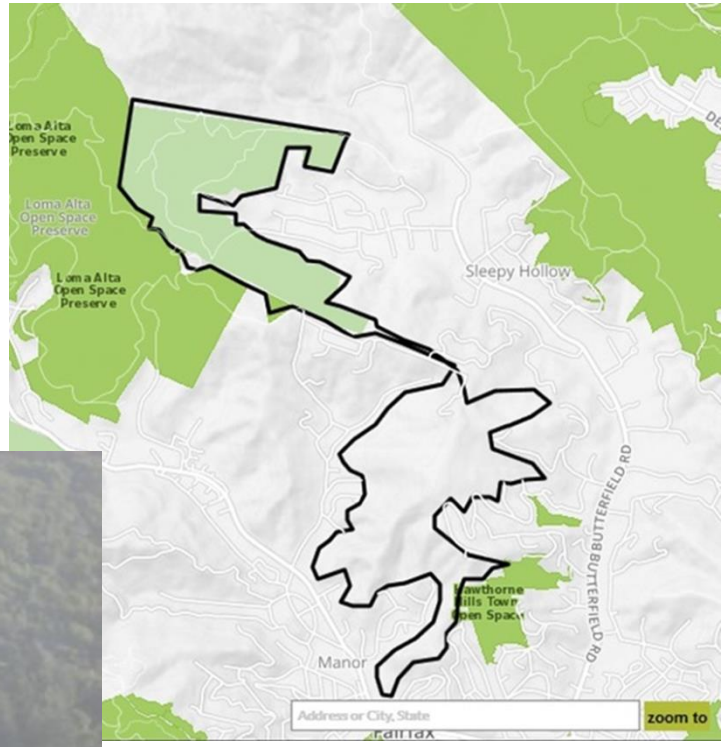
Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

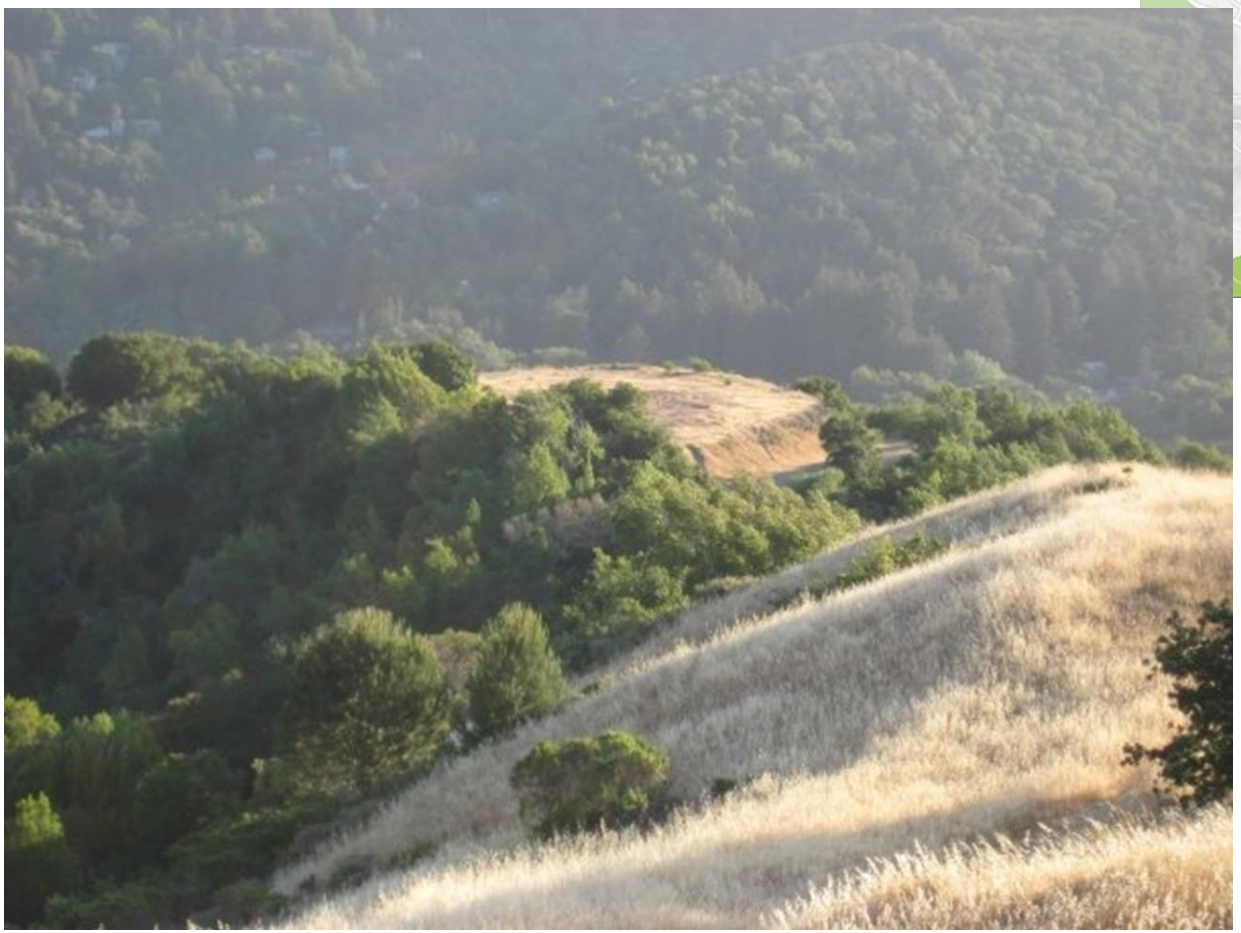
Eastern portion of Zone 2, connectivity to Regional Recreational Trails

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.



Zone 3



Ridgeline on the southern portion of Zone 3.

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

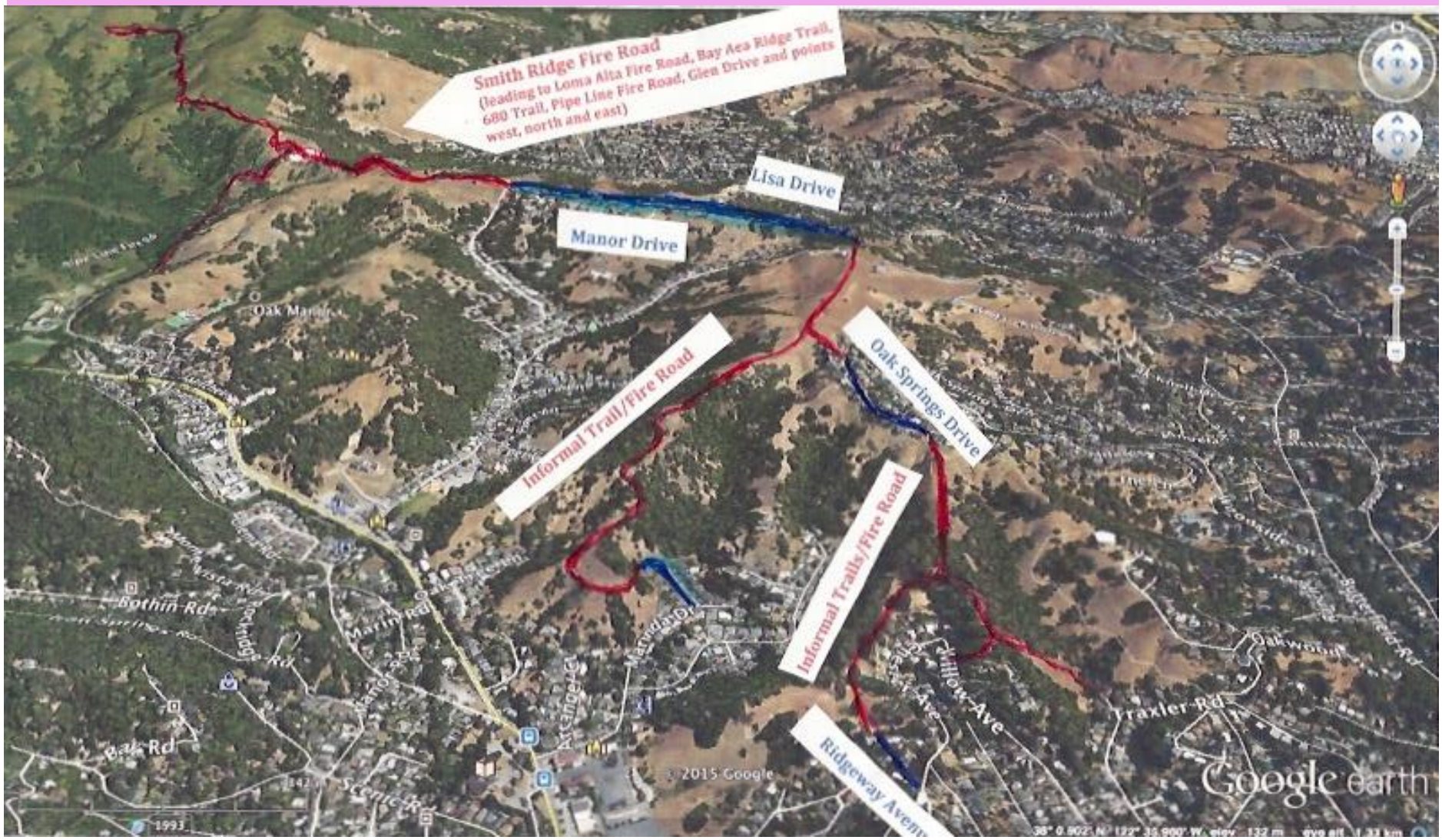
Zone 3 receives significant recreational use, due to its stunning ridgelines and the fact that it connects the neighborhoods of Sleepy Hollow to the north and Fairfax to the South.

For many locals these undeveloped trails constitute important routes for travelling by foot between these neighborhoods.

These same trails, with their sweeping 360° views, draw visitors from afar and locals alike to their windswept vistas.

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.



Existing trail system on Zone 3.

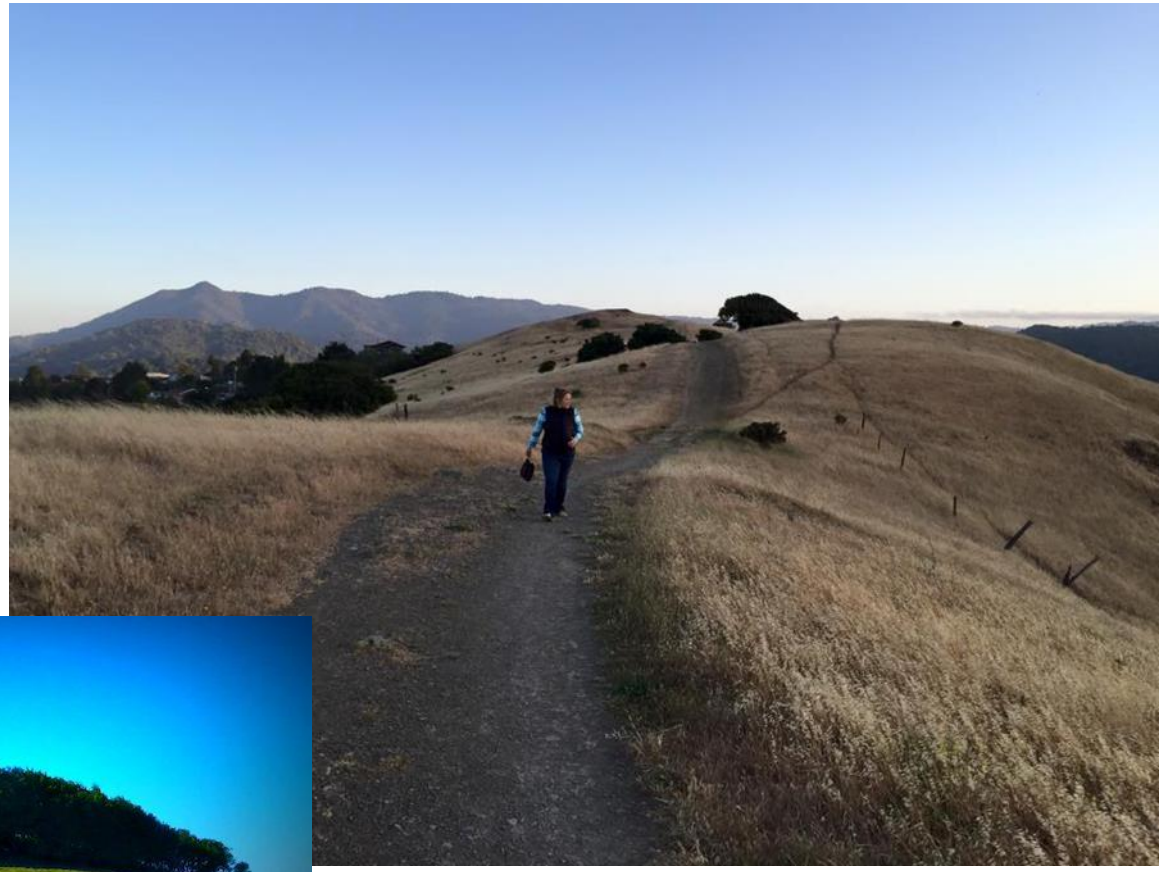
Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

Zone 3 Vistas

Designation as Regional Recreation Areas:

- ❑ Includes regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.



Hikers and bikers alike enjoy the trails and views from Zone 3.