

# Climate Resilient Carlisle

Conservation Committee Meeting  
Discussion and Recommendations

October 10, 8:00 pm



# Purpose of Discussion

- Discuss Commission's Goals in Updating the Bylaw
- Review Draft Bylaw Update with Climate Resilience in Mind
- Discuss Recommendations

# What the draft bylaw update includes:

- Add recreation and climate change resiliency to the resource area values, and includes description of how these values would be addressed
- Remove the requirements that resources (wetland, marsh, spring, etc.) must be bordering on a surface water
- Add Buffer area to all resources as its own resource area subject to protection, rather than just regulation (raises the bar)
- For buffer zone, establishes 25-foot undisturbed vegetated buffer, 50-foot setback between resource area and driveways, roads and structures.

## What the draft bylaw update includes (cont.):

- Add protections for all vernal pools, whether or not they are certified and/or within a buffer, including a 100 foot undisturbed buffer for VPs
- Septic leach fields are at least 50 feet from resources areas (not buffers)
- Creates categories of exemptions, exceptions and presumptively permitted work
- Allow the use of an outside consultant for certain projects, at cost to applicant

# Climate Changes of import to Wetlands Protection Regulation include:

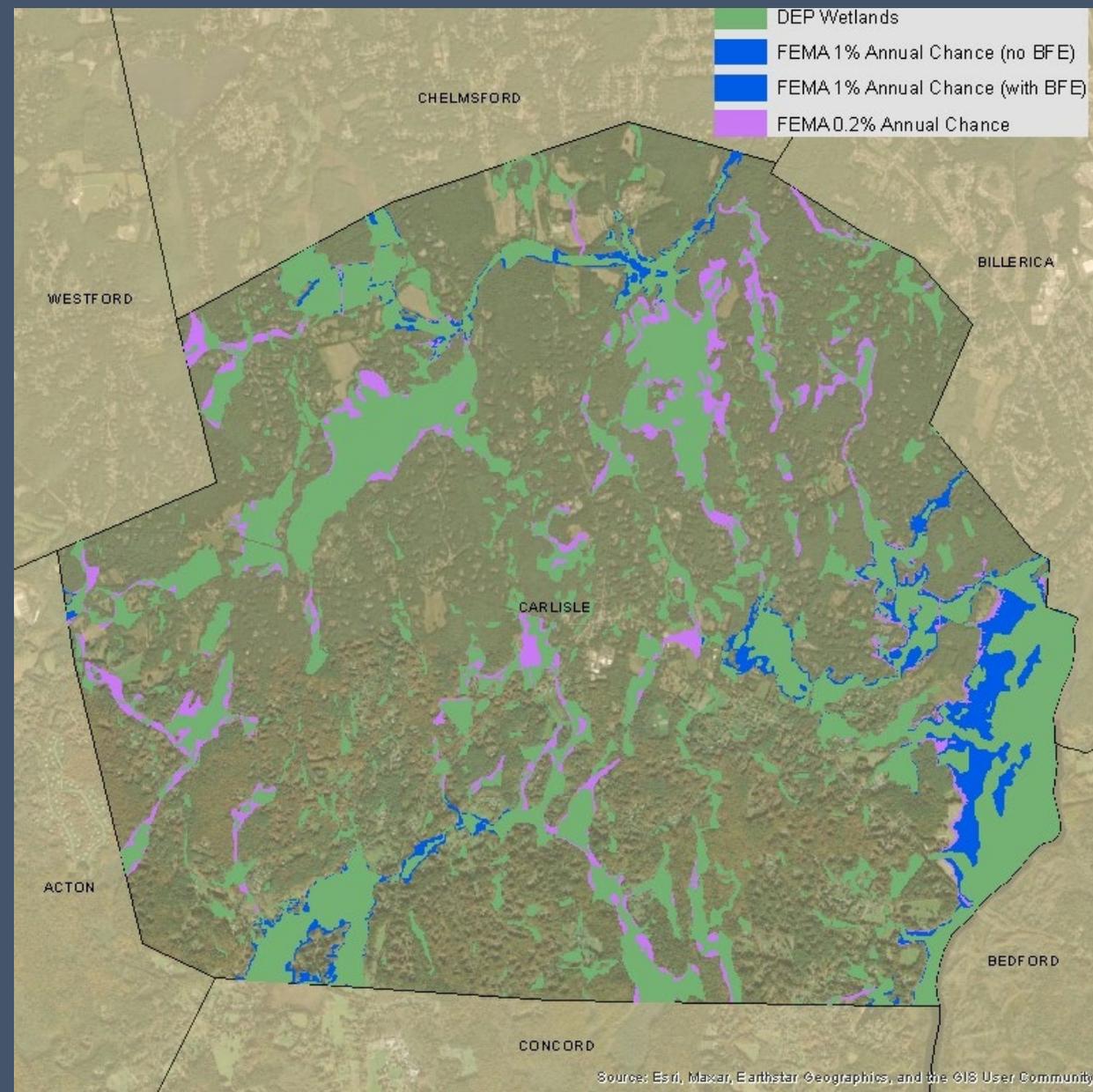
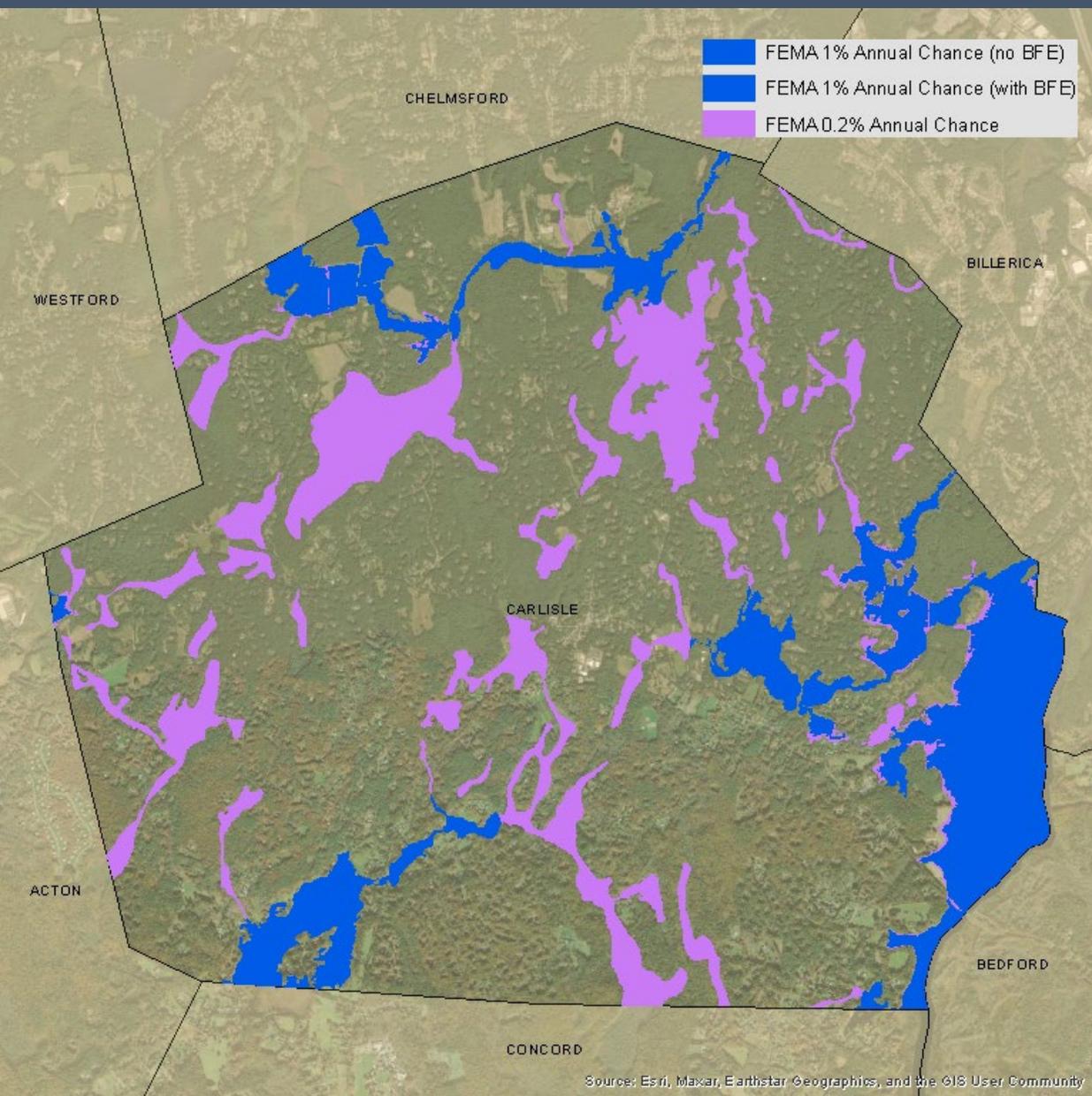
Floodplains are increasing, generally - is the 100 year floodplain accurate and protective enough?

Precipitation is coming in larger, more concentrated events – is stormwater being managed and are wetlands large enough to absorb and hold the stormwater?

Droughts are longer and more frequent - are wetlands and vegetation able to hold and infiltrate more water to counter drought effects?

# So how can Climate Resilience be addressed in Wetlands Protection Regulation?

- Consider protection or regulation of activity within the 500-year floodplain instead of the 100-year floodplain. Or use the 100 to 500 year floodplain area as the buffer.
- Consider stronger protections for vegetated buffers, employ buffer restoration, and require native, non-invasive vegetation.
- Keep septic leach fields out of the floodplain and the wetland buffer.
- For Emergency Projects language in V.A(iii), consider including language that minimizes the cutting of trees over a certain size or removal of wetland soils.



# Expand Floodplain Protections to the '500-year floodplain' (0.2% AEP)

Flood Hazard or Floodplain is addressed in:

- Zoning Wetlands/Flood Hazard District
- Water Supply Regulations
- Wetland Protection Bylaw
- Board of Health Regs for Review of Subdivision, CC, ROOSC, and SROSC

Consider Detangling the Wetlands Protection from Flood Hazard District in Zoning

Expand protections for 0.2% AEP floodplain in Wetlands Bylaw

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## So how can Climate Resilience be addressed in Wetlands Protection Regulation? (cont.)

- Consider applying stormwater management standards to projects that are typically exempt if they exceed a certain amount of impervious cover, say 20,000 square feet (almost ½ acre)?

Currently: Stormwater management standards do not apply to single family house or housing developments comprised of detached single-family dwellings on four or fewer lots, or multifamily projects with four or fewer units, *provided that there are no stormwater discharges that may potentially affect a critical area*. They only apply to maximum extent practicable if they may potentially affect a critical area, or if the project is between 4-9 units or lots. A critical area in Carlisle includes recharge areas for public water supplies. *(summarized)*

# Questions?

## Reach out if anything comes to mind!

Thank you!!

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