

Development Constraints



Town of Bristol, NH  
Land Use Office  
Natural Resources Mapping

**Legend**

- Municipal Boundaries
- Tax Parcels - 2017
- Newfound Lake Watershed
- Conservation & Public Lands

**Cumulative Development Constraints**

- 1 - 2 (Bottom 20% of Scores)
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 - 8 (Top 20% of Scores)

**Development Constraints**

This map shows a composite of several natural resource features that are constraints to future land development to varying degrees. The features include the following— shown in detail on other master plan maps: wetlands, highly erodible soils, steep slopes (>25%), riparian and shoreland buffers, NHWAP habitat tiers 1 and 2, uncommon habitat types, floodplains, aquifer recharge zones, drinking water protection areas, and prime farming soils.

Every feature above corresponds to a “layer” of geographic data. In other words, there is a layer of wetland data for Bristol, a layer showing prime soils, etc. Wherever you are in town, there is information about whether these features are present or not.

The various natural elements that characterize land can limit development. Some, such as wetlands and steep slopes offer severe constraints to development. Others require balanced consideration of the benefits of the natural resource feature to community planning and quality of life. Water quality in streams, rivers and lakes is directly linked to highly erodible soils when these soils are disturbed. High quality wildlife habitat is found only in certain locations in Bristol, suggesting that a balance between open space and future development be considered. Local food production depends upon the most productive farming soils.

In a GIS, these natural resource layers were given weights that show their relative effect on development constraint and then added together to produce a **co-occurrence map**. Figures in the legend correspond roughly to the amount of natural resource sensitivity that co-occurs at any given location in Bristol. The darker the color, the greater the potential development constraint.

*Please note that, while natural characteristics play a critical role in the welfare of our community, other factors like cultural context and history will affect Town decisions regarding development. The Bristol Zoning Ordinance is a community-based legal document for land use that exemplifies such thinking.*

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Mapping & Analysis by  
GreenFire GIS

