

Landscape Project (Version 2.1 and Version 3.0)


Wildlife Habitat

The Landscape Project data layers were created under the direction of the [Division of Fish and Wildlife](#). The goal of the project is to identify and protect habitats critical to New Jersey's endangered and threatened species within healthy, functioning ecosystems. The Landscape Project data layers were derived from the Department's air photo-based land use/land cover. The Highlands Region was the first area of the state for which the Department completed an update of the 1995/97 LU/LC data set using 2002 aerial imagery. This 2002 LU/LC now forms the base layer for Version 3.0 and Version 2.1. Version 3.0 of the Landscape Project consists of 3 layers: Species Based Patches, Streams, and Vernal Habitat. Version 2.1 of the Landscape Project consists of 8 layers: Bald Eagle Foraging, Beach, Emergent Wetlands, Forest, Forested Wetlands, Grassland, Urban Peregrine and Wood Turtle. The presence of wildlife was used as an indicator of a habitat's value, creating five rankings based on a species conservation status. Those rankings are: 5--federally endangered and threatened, 4--state endangered, 3--state threatened, 2--priority concern, and 1--suitable habitat without a recent sighting. The majority of the species data used in the Landscape Project are taken directly from Biotics, the biodiversity data management software used by the Department and managed jointly by the [Endangered and Nongame Species Program](#) (ENSP) and the [Natural Heritage Program](#) (NHP). Wildlife records in Biotics are derived from a variety of sources. These include ENSP surveys, NJDEP staff reports, private consultant reports and reports from the general public. It is intended that the users of this application will be able to identify a specific property or location in the state and then identify any wildlife habitat that may exist on or near the property in question. Once this determination is made, users can contact the Landscape Project office and the Division of Land Use Regulation (LURP) for additional directions on how to proceed.

Instructions for Use

Outlined below are the procedures to be followed while using the application.

A. Using address matching functionality

1. With the map extent set to the entire state, click on the link "Find Location of Interest" at the right side of the page.
2. From the Find Location of Interest pop-up window, select Search Type "Address" by clicking the radio button next to it.
3. The window will change to display the address fields (Street Address and Zip Code) in which the user should type in the necessary information.
4. Click the "find" button.
5. A window will appear titled "i-MapNJ - Address Match Candidates" with a table "Locate Results" and list of the sites returned from the address search criteria. With the cursor select the address of the best search candidate. (If this window does not appear go to Section B below)
6. A new map extent will appear with the selected property at the center of the map window. An orange star  will mark the location on the Map View Frame. You will note that the aerial photography, whose visibility is scale dependent, is now visible. (Scale dependence - In order to reduce map clutter some data layers are only visible within pre-designated map scale ranges).
7. The user must determine which Landscape Version is appropriate for the location. To do this, turn on the Landscape Project Version layer by checking its checkbox in the Data Layers list which is to the left of the map frame. At the top of the Data Layers list, click on the "refresh map" button and the map will redraw, this time displaying the Landscape Project Version layer in the area of interest.

8. Click on the radio button to the left of the Landscape Version layer name in the Data Layers list to make it active. Note only one radio button can be turned on at a time. Select the "identify" tool from the toolbar located above the map. Move the mouse cursor to the location of interest (i.e., address) in the map view and click on the location. A popup window will appear containing information relevant to Landscape Version layer. (Refer to the "data description" button noted above and the link to "full metadata" for an explanation of the data elements presented).
9. Turn on the Landscape Project Version layer(s) appropriate for your location; either Version 2.1 (Bald Eagle Foraging, Beach, Emergent Wetlands, Forest, Forested Wetland, Grassland, Urban Peregrine or Wood Turtle) or Version 3.0 (Streams, Species Based Patches or Vernal Habitat). Turn on a landscape project layer by checking the checkbox next to its name in the Data Layer list. Click the "refresh map" button at the top of the Data Layer list and the map will redraw and display any critical wildlife habitat from that landscape layer in the area of interest. For faster map refreshing, it is suggested that each landscape layer be "turned on" one at a time, and then turned off, before the next layer is turned on.
10. If the user is interested in the details about the critical wildlife habitat for a particular polygon in a landscape layer, click on the radio button to the left of the layer's name in the Data Layer list to make it active. Note only one radio button can be turned on at a time. Click on the "identify" tool from the toolbar located above the map. Move the cursor over the critical wildlife habitat layer in the map view window, click on the landscape polygon of interest, and a popup window will appear containing information relevant to the polygon clicked on. (Refer to the "data description" button noted above and the link to "full metadata" for an explanation of the data elements presented).
11. If the scale of the map extent is not satisfactory, the user can zoom in further by clicking on the "zoom in" tool from the toolbar located above the map. To use this tool, move the cursor to the map view, press the left mouse button while pulling the cursor down and to the right over the area to be zoomed to; note the red box bracketing the area of interest. Upon release of the mouse button the map will automatically zoom to the area that was bracketed by the red box.
12. If any of the landscape project data layers intersect the property in question, users should contact the [Endangered and Nongame Species Program](#), or the [Division of Land Use Regulation](#) for further information. In some cases where wetland areas are found on the property, as well as critical wildlife habitats, additional determinations of wetland resource value will need to be made. The two offices listed above can direct users as to how those determinations are made.

B. If the address matching functionality fails

1. Turn on the County and Municipality data layers from the Data Layer list by checking the checkboxes associated with each layer. Click on the "refresh map" button at the top of the Data Layers list for the map to refresh and display these layers.
2. With the map extent set to the entire state, select the "zoom in" tool from the tool bar located at the top of the page. To use this tool, move the cursor to the map view, press the left mouse button while pulling the cursor down and to the right over the area to be zoomed to, note the red box bracketing the area of interest. Upon release of the mouse button the map will automatically zoom to the area that was bracketed by the red box. At this stage the user should zoom to their county of interest.
3. Locate the municipality of interest and zoom to that area using the same technique as noted above.
4. In the Data Layers list, turn on the Roads (Tele Atlas) data layer. Occasionally, depending on the current map scale or the density of roads in the map extent, the roads and the road name labels will clutter the map; the user may adjust the map extent (zoom in/zoom out) to reduce the label clutter

effect. Use the roads names and photo-identifiable features in the aerial photography to locate the area of interest.

5. If the aerial photography causes confusion during this process it can be turned off. Scroll to the bottom of the Data Layers list and turn off the Aerial Photos 2002 layer by un-checking its checkbox and then click the "refresh map" button at the top of the Data Layers list.
6. When the area of interest is located follow steps 6 through 13 above.

Data limitations

1. These maps provide information regarding the location of areas identified to date by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as habitat for endangered or threatened wildlife species.
2. DEP may identify additional endangered or threatened species habitat at any time if there is sufficient evidence that an area qualifies as threatened or endangered species habitat.
3. The Department may, on a case by case basis, determine that an area documented as threatened or endangered wildlife habitat on the Landscape Project maps is no longer suitable as habitat. In such cases, the area will not be classified as endangered or threatened species habitat for regulatory purposes.
4. These maps show only areas identified as suitable habitat for threatened or endangered animal species, not threatened or endangered plant species. The DEP's method for identifying threatened or endangered plant species habitat can be found in the Department's Freshwater Wetlands Technical Manual, available from the Department's Office of Maps and Publications at (609) 777-1038.
5. Any wetland boundaries shown on these maps are approximate and are for guidance only. Therefore, these maps are not an accurate indication of whether DEP will classify an area as exceptional resource value wetland under the DEP's freshwater wetland rules. To obtain a determination of whether or where wetlands are located on a property and the resource value classification of a wetland, contact the DEP and apply for a letter of interpretation under the freshwater wetlands rules, N.J.A.C. 7:7A-3.

Any questions concerning "Landscape Project Mapping" should be addressed to Peter Winkler:
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