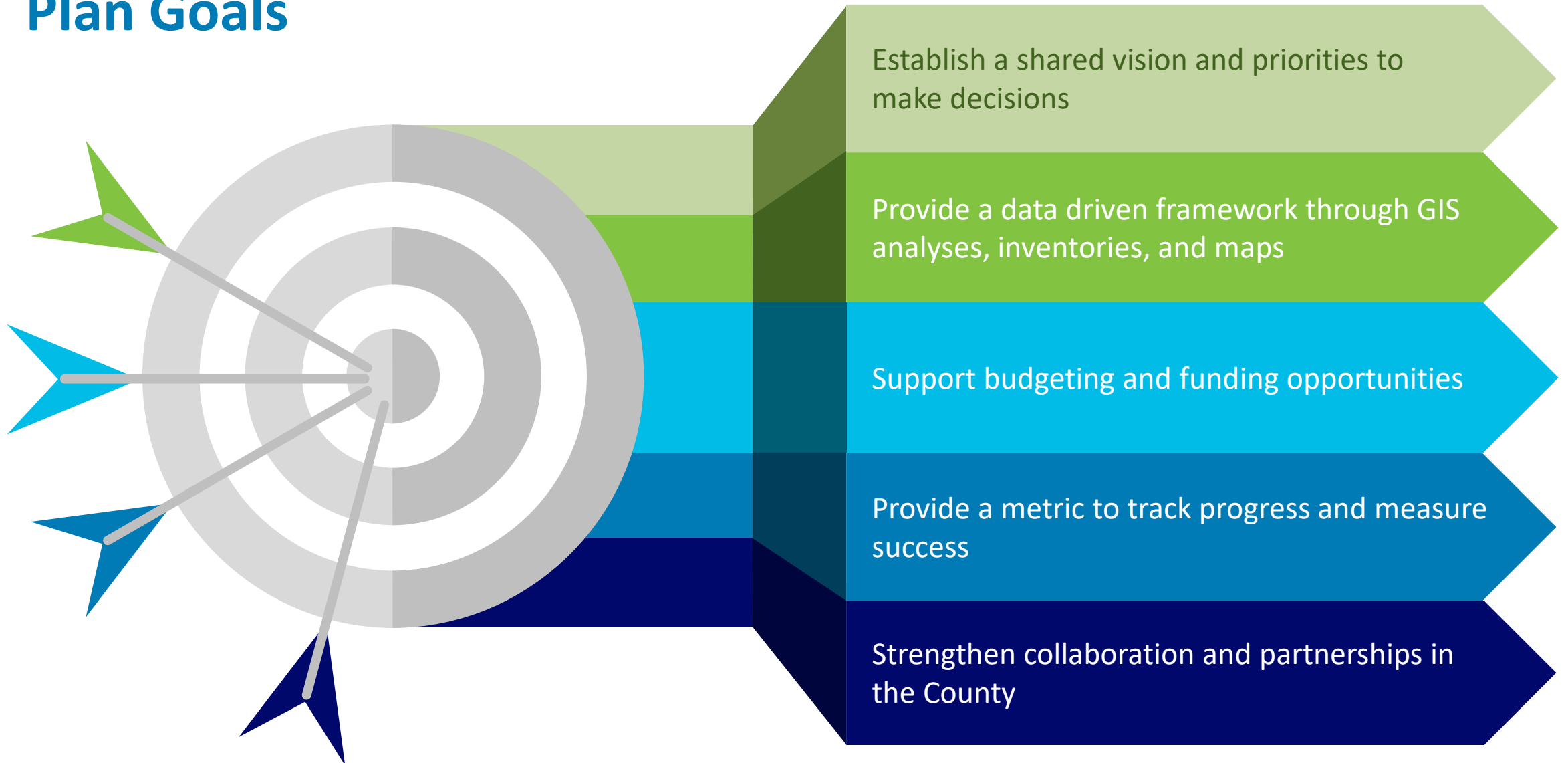
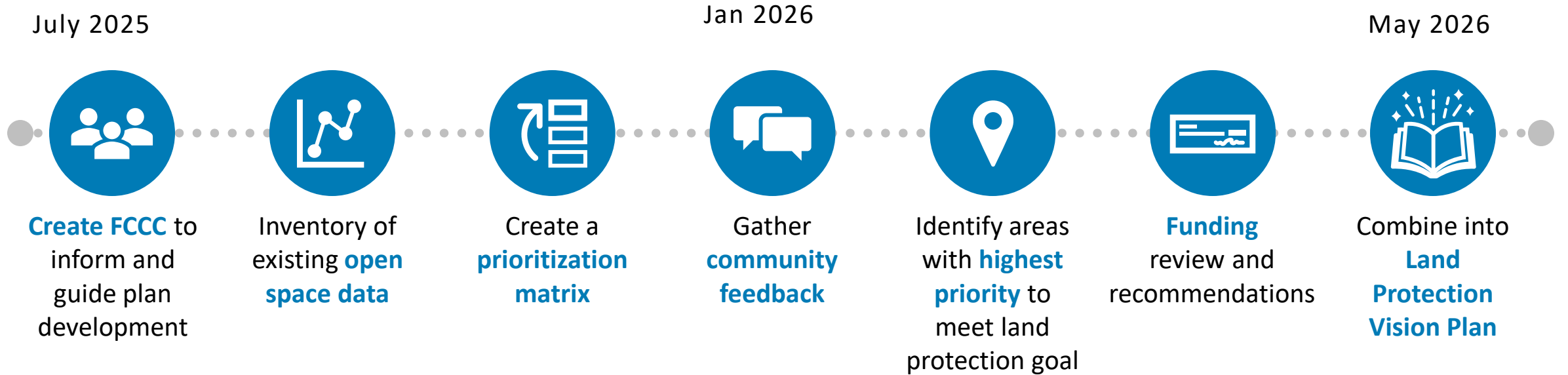


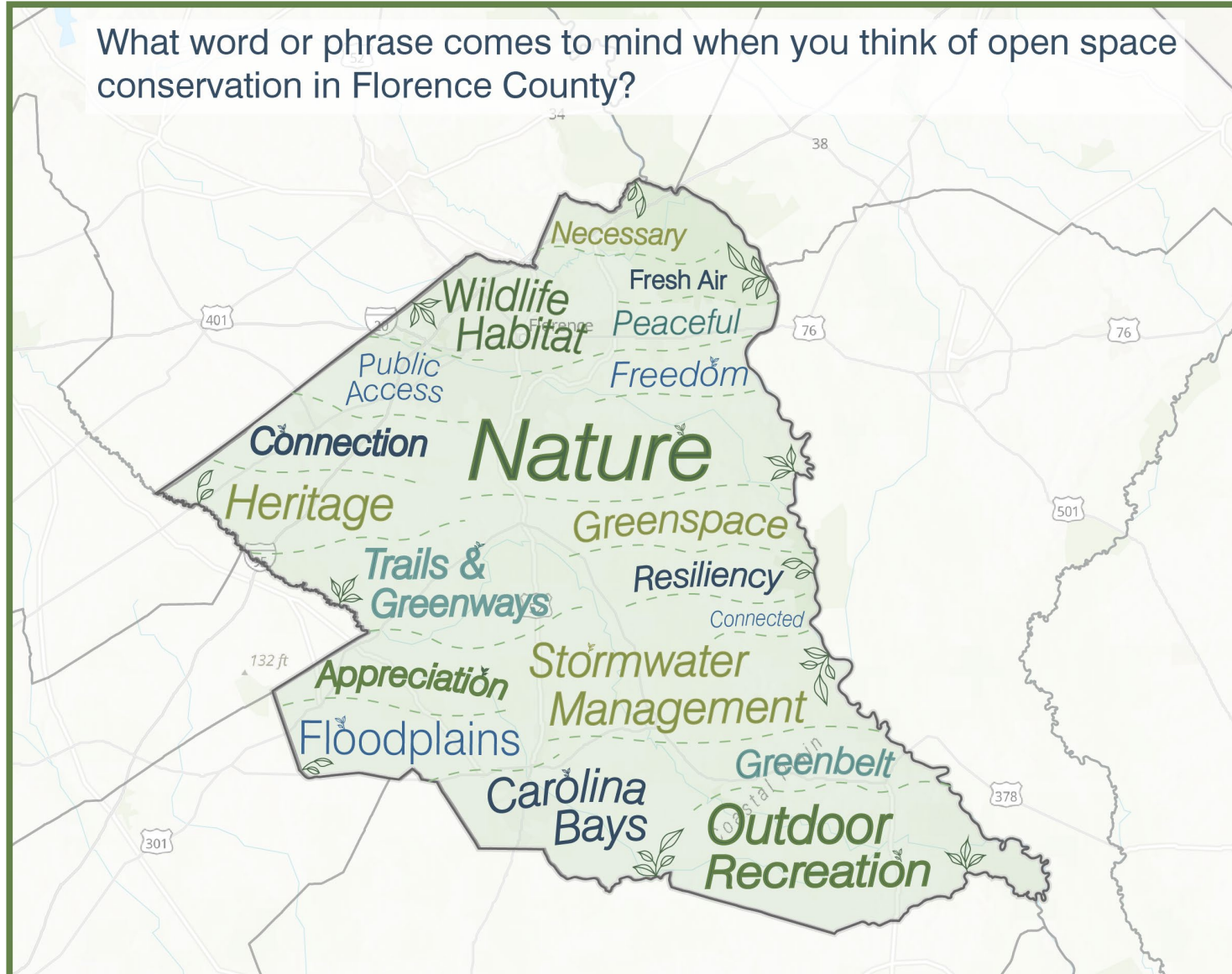
Plan Goals



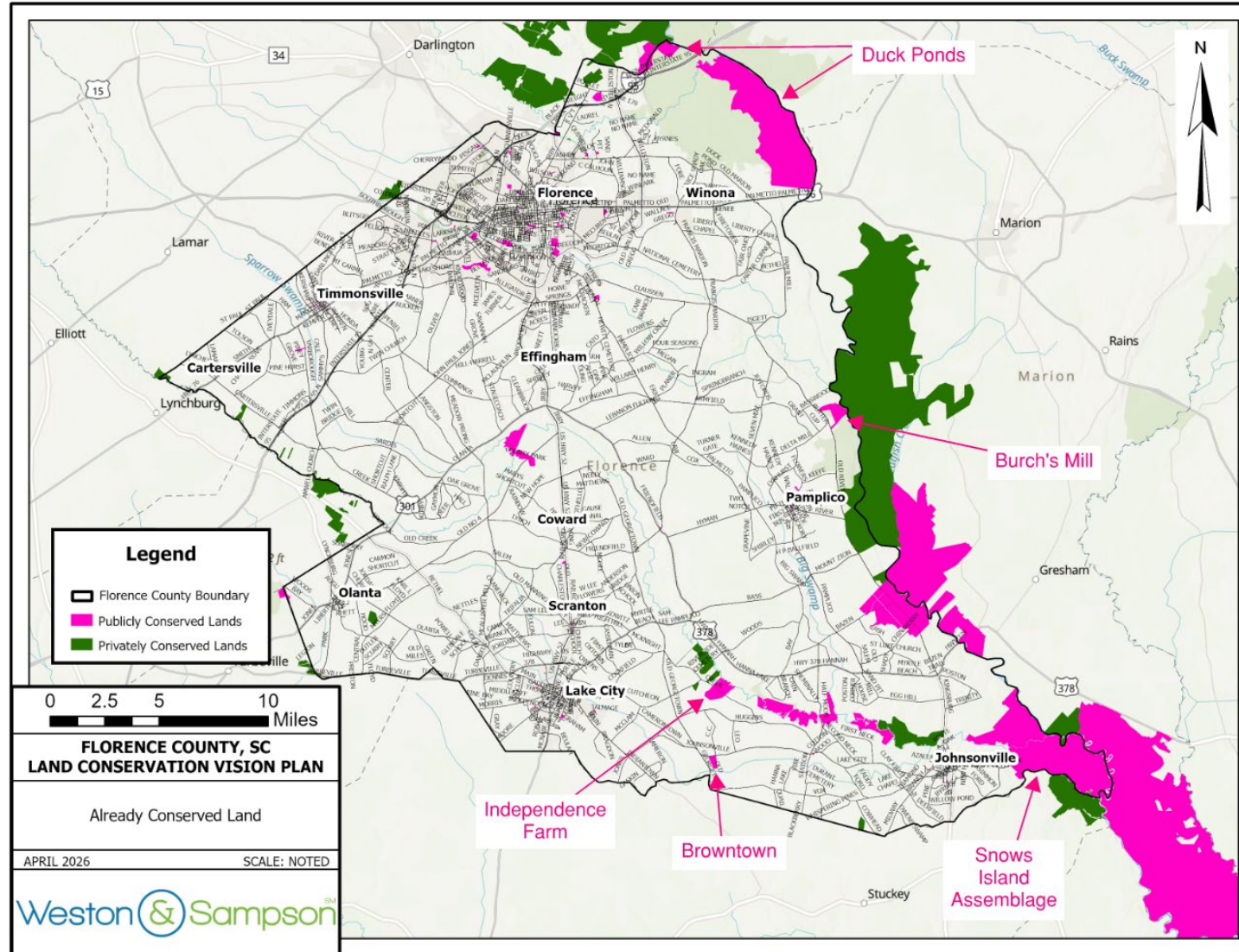
Plan Process



Investing in Conservation



Investing in Conservation



“The numbers are constantly changing but as of March 2026 the conserved acres within the County amounted to approximately 26,906 acres or about **5% of the County’s area**, of this about 4,559 acres are privately owned and 22,347 acres are publicly accessible. This has increased from only 1.3% protected just 4 years ago.”

Investing In Conservation – Land Cover

Land Cover Type	2014 (acres)	2024 (acres)	Change
Water	3,617	3,620	3
Dev Open Space	32,366	35,521	3,155
Dev Low Intensity	24,850	26,254	1,404
Dev Med Intensity	7,506	8,334	828
Dev High Intensity	2,900	3,151	251
Barren	280	521	241
Deciduous Forest	166	160	-6
Evergreen Forest	80,357	80,064	-293
Mixed Forest	866	709	-157
Scrub	9,692	15,084	5,392
Herbaceous	7,791	9,786	1,995
Pasture	318	777	459
Crops	141,120	128,563	-12,557
Woody Wetlands	194,494	185,705	-8,789
Emergent Wetlands	1,603	9,677	8,074
Total	507,926	507,926	0

“The largest change in land cover type was loss of **12,600 acres or 10% of cropland**. Development impacted an additional 5,600 acres, this was land that was previously cropland. The rest of the cropland shifted into scrub and herbaceous land cover types. Mature forests decreased by 460 acres and wetlands lost 715 acres.”

Already Conserved Land

Land Cover Type	Acres
Water	505
Dev Open Space	140
Dev Low Intensity	172
Dev Med Intensity	25
Dev High Intensity	3
Barren	6
Deciduous Forest	155
Evergreen Forest	3,679
Mixed Forest	50
Scrub	742
Herbaceous	809
Pasture	1
Crops	977
Woody Wetlands	13,048
Emergent Wetlands	6,610
Total	26,906

Investing In Conservation

The state of South Carolina has invested approximately **\$4.99 billion** in land protection to date.



an approximate 18:1 return on investment. For every dollar invested, South Carolina receives eighteen dollars in measurable value.

While in Florence County, an approximate **36:1** return on investment is seen due to the high value of wetland habitats.

Values from "Return on Conservation: The Economic Value of SC's Natural Infrastructure" by SCOR, OSI, and EcoMetrics.

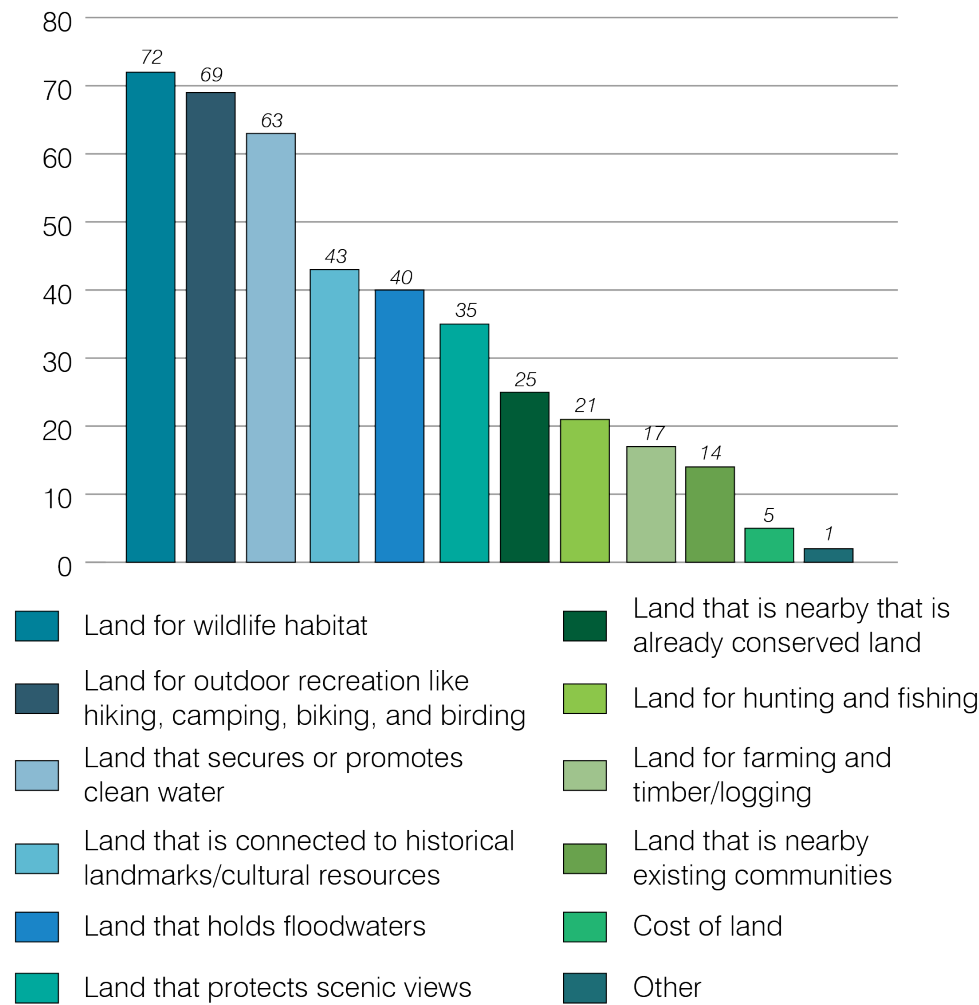
Investing in Conservation

In progress...estimate to reach 30% land conserved goal by 2050

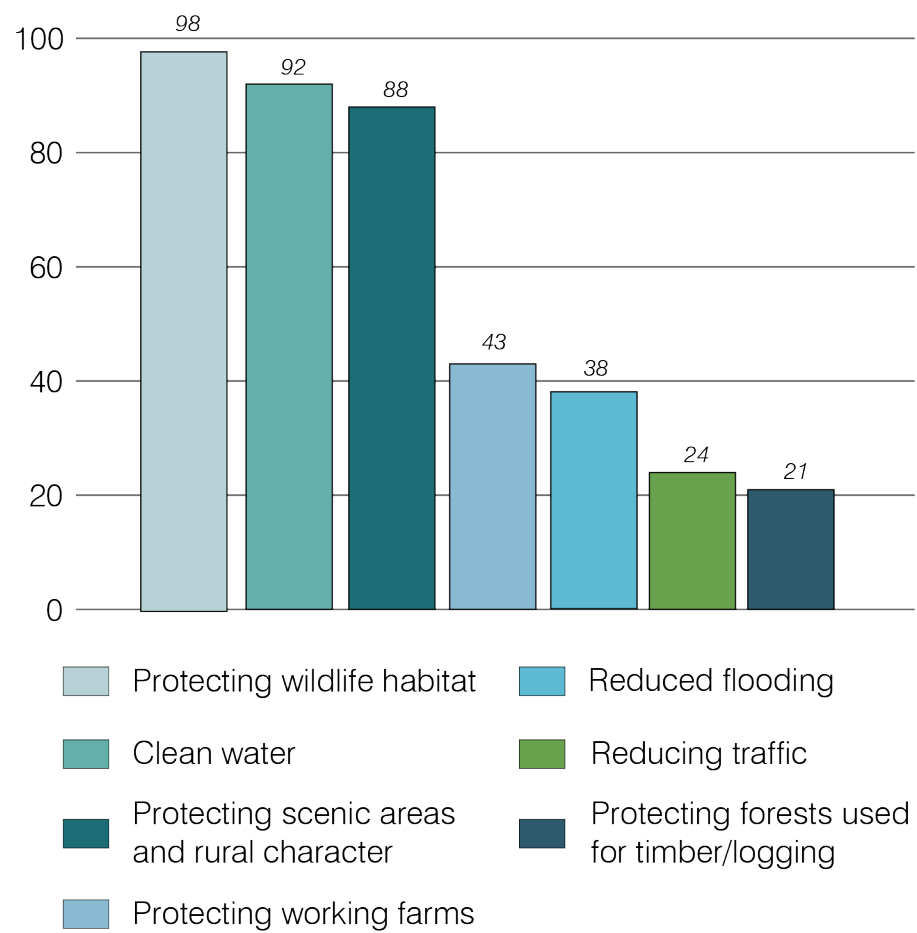
- Assumptions for Conservation Easements vs Fee Simple Acquisition
- Assumption for \$/acre
- Assumption for increase in \$/acre over 25 years
- Comparing with an accelerated conservation scenario where a large portion of conservation takes place in next 10 years

Land Conservation Models

What do you think should be the most important factors to consider when making decisions on land conservation? (top 3)



Some benefits of conserving land are included below. Which benefits are the most important to you? (top 3)



Land Conservation Models

Excerpts from Land Conservation Vision Plan:



LAND CONSERVATION EFFORTS

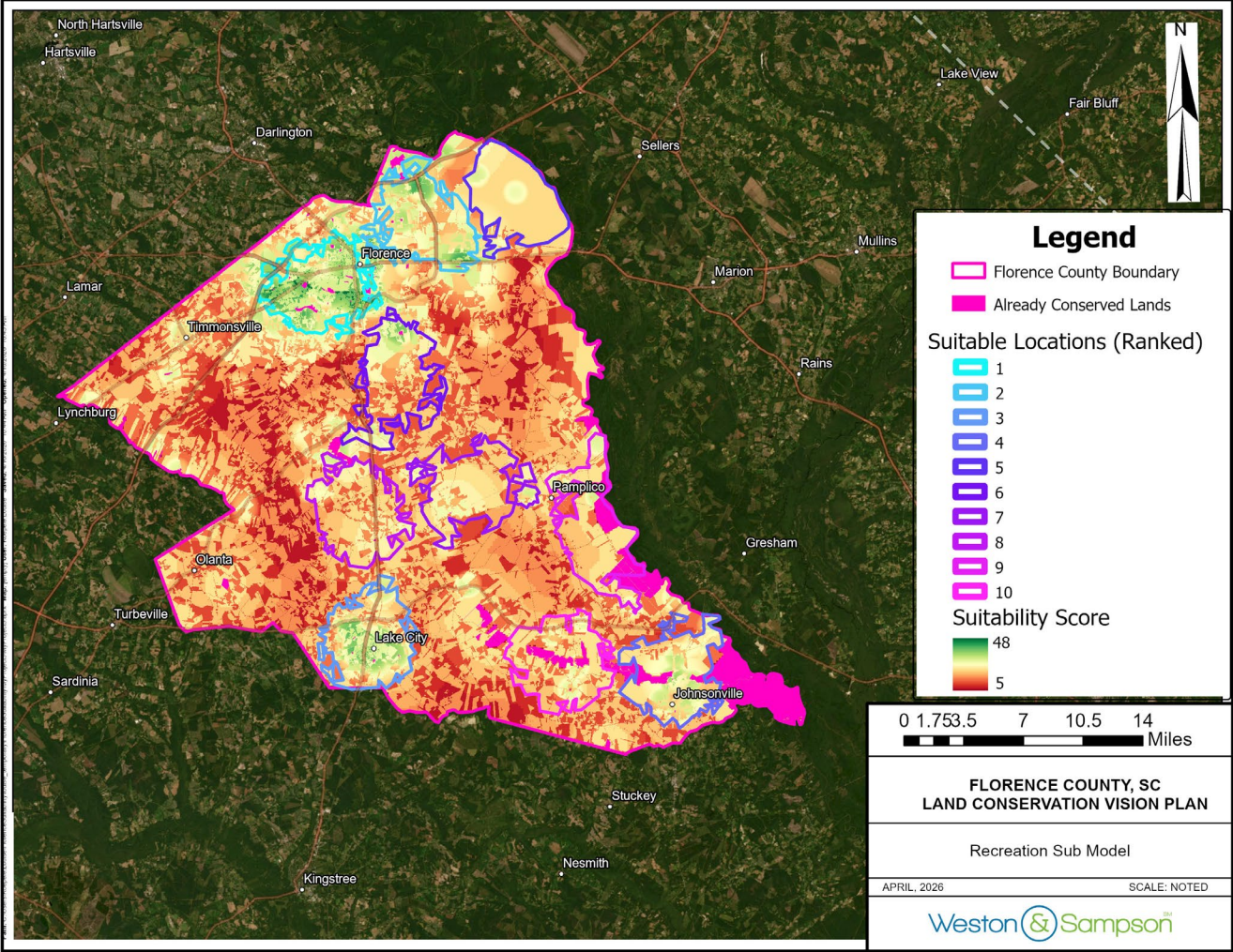
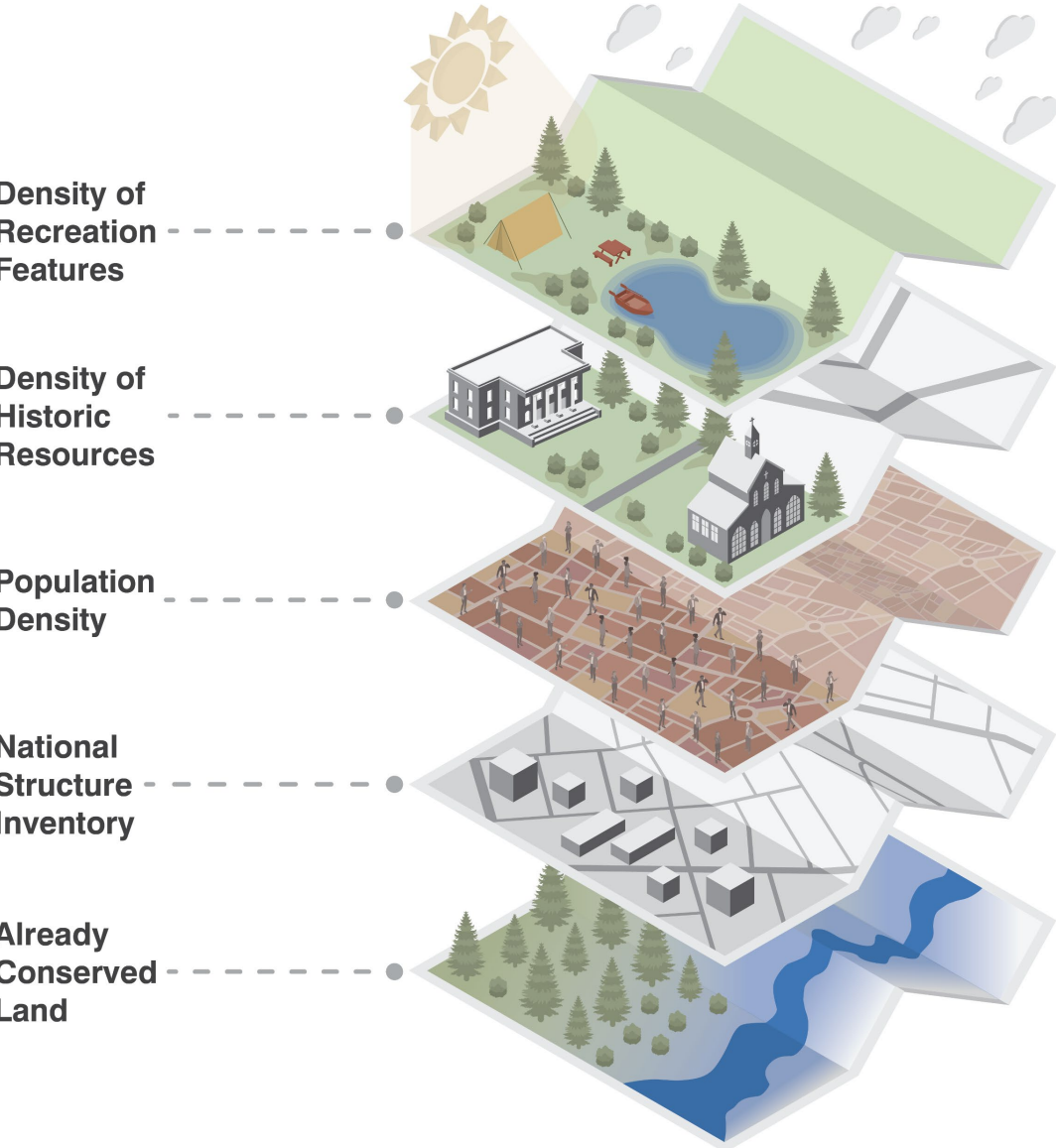
While there were only three focus areas identified for the spatial analysis, it is important to note that **land conservation efforts aimed at habitat protection, recreation, and water quality will also produce additional benefits not explicitly identified, such as enhanced flood resilience, as added co-benefits of conservation.**



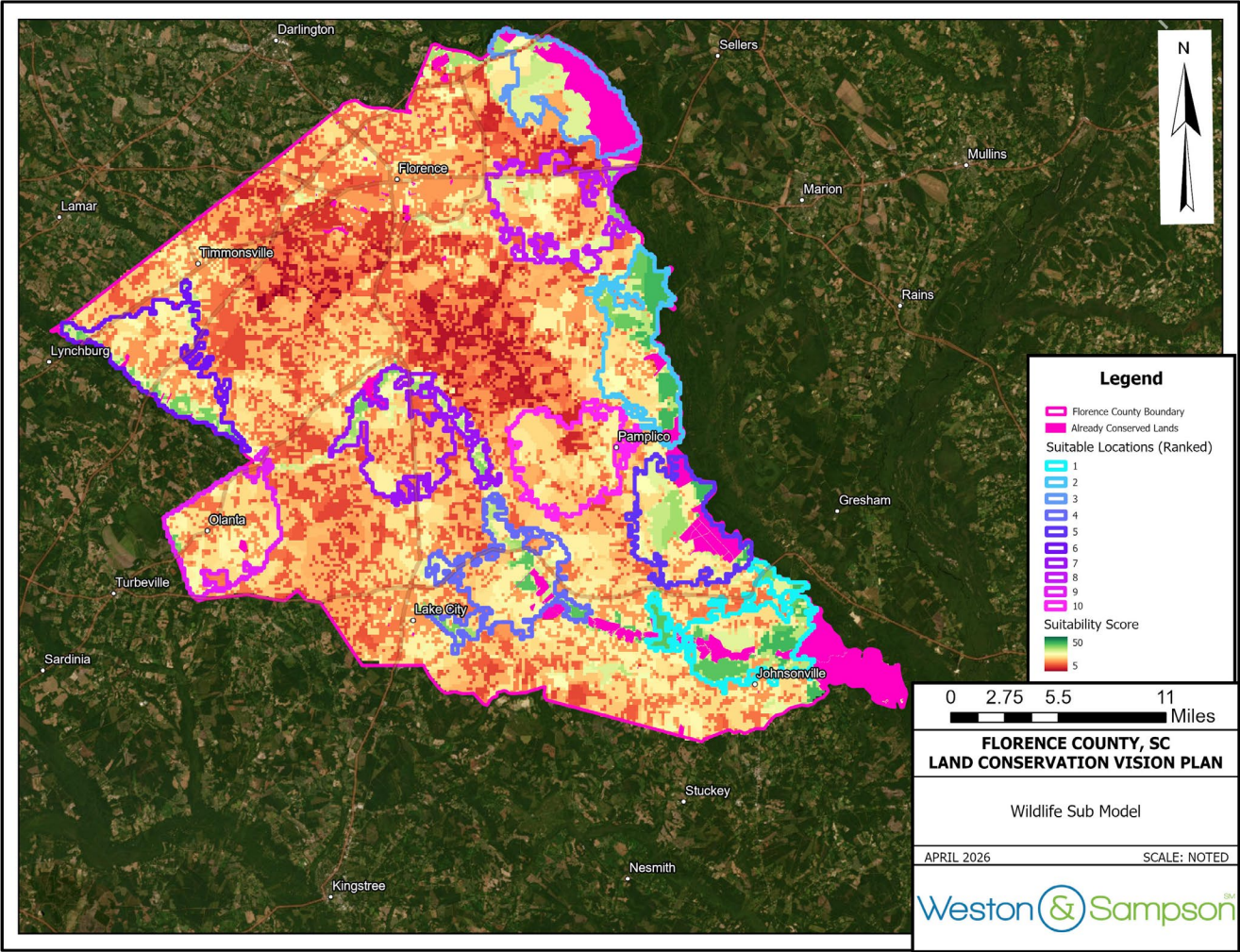
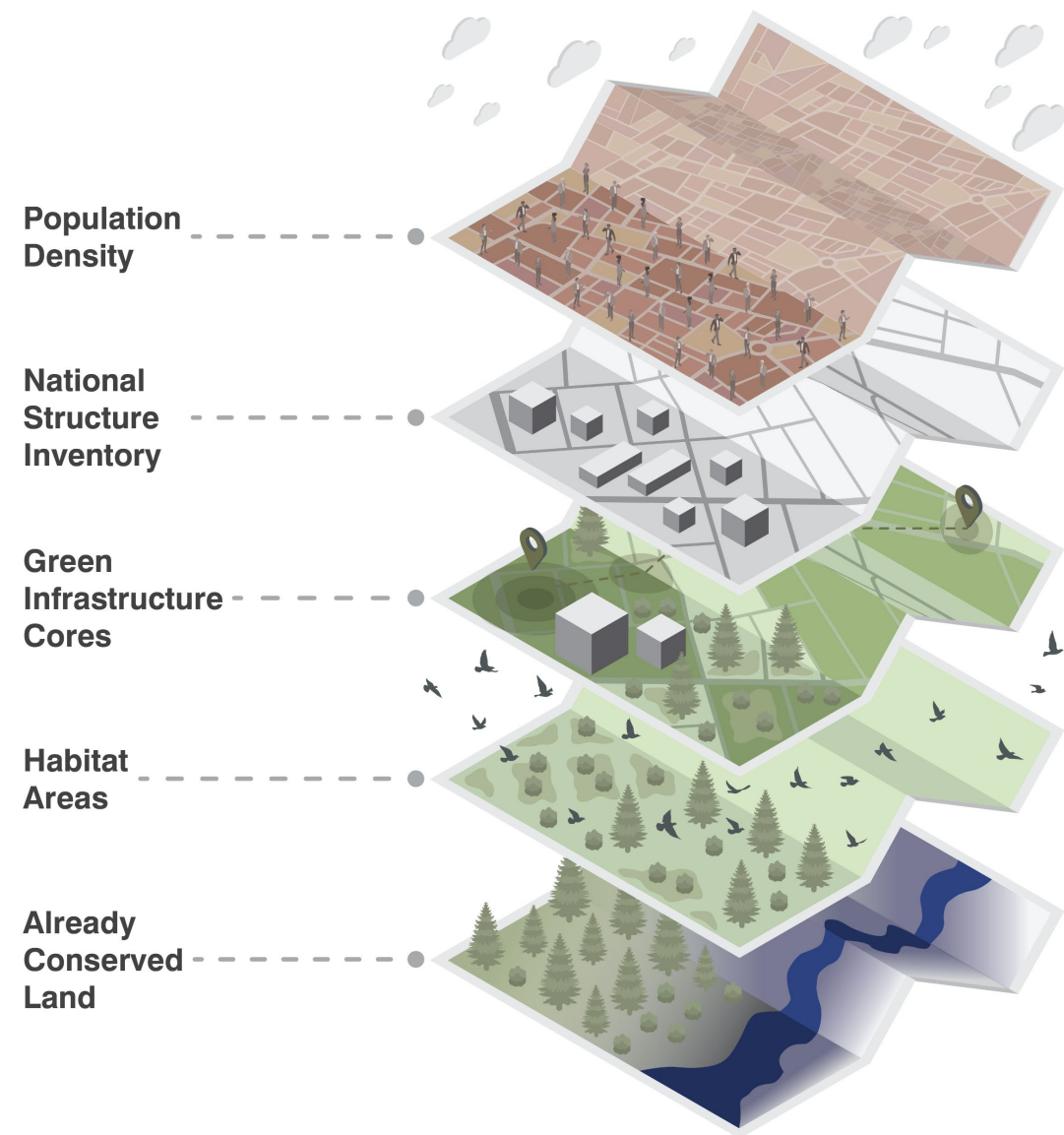
It is important to note that this **GIS analysis is intended as a guiding tool rather than a definitive determination of conservation value.** Parcels located outside of the identified top ten regions or those with lower priority may still be strong candidates for conservation. In general, **conserved land provides ecological, recreational, and community benefits regardless of its ranking.**



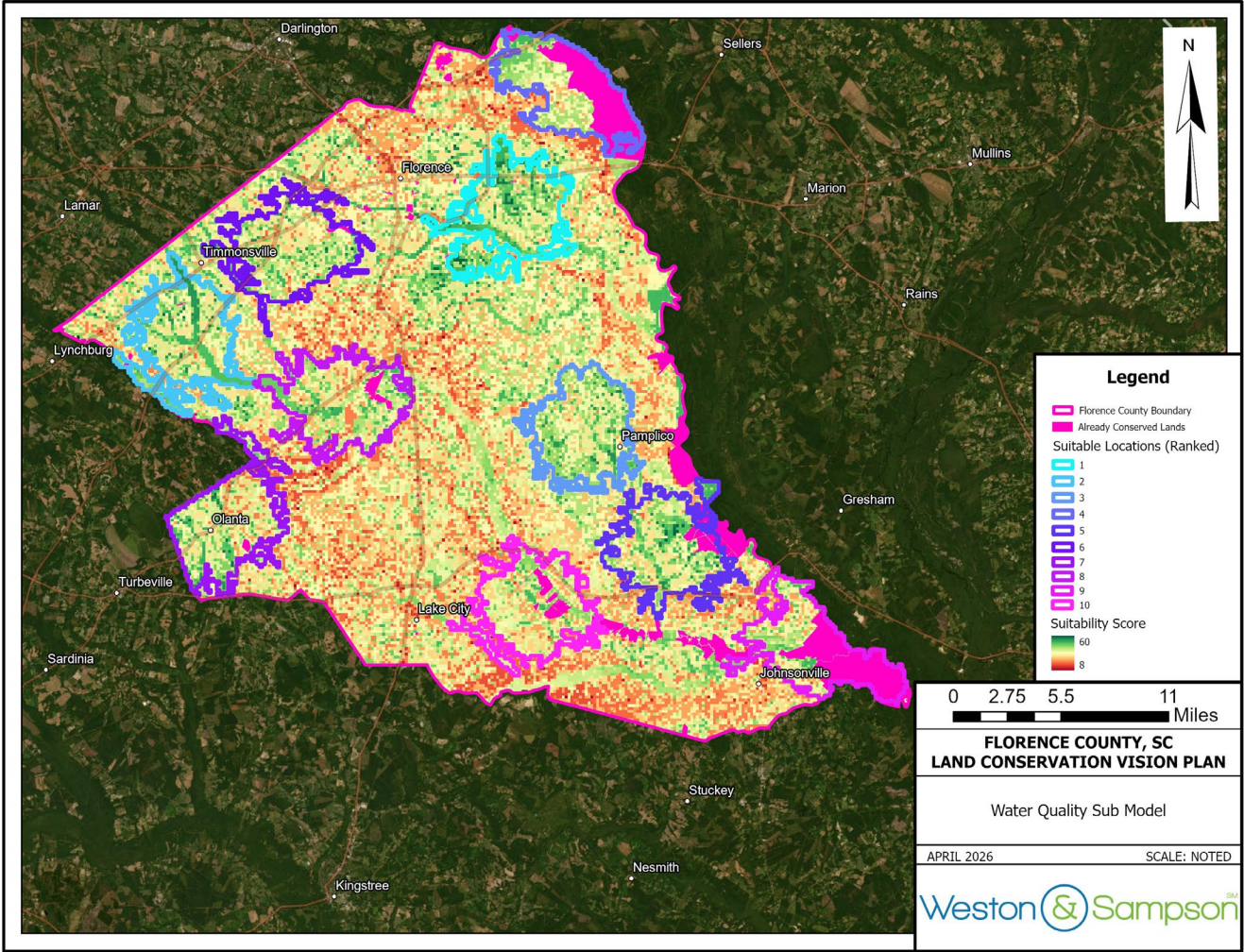
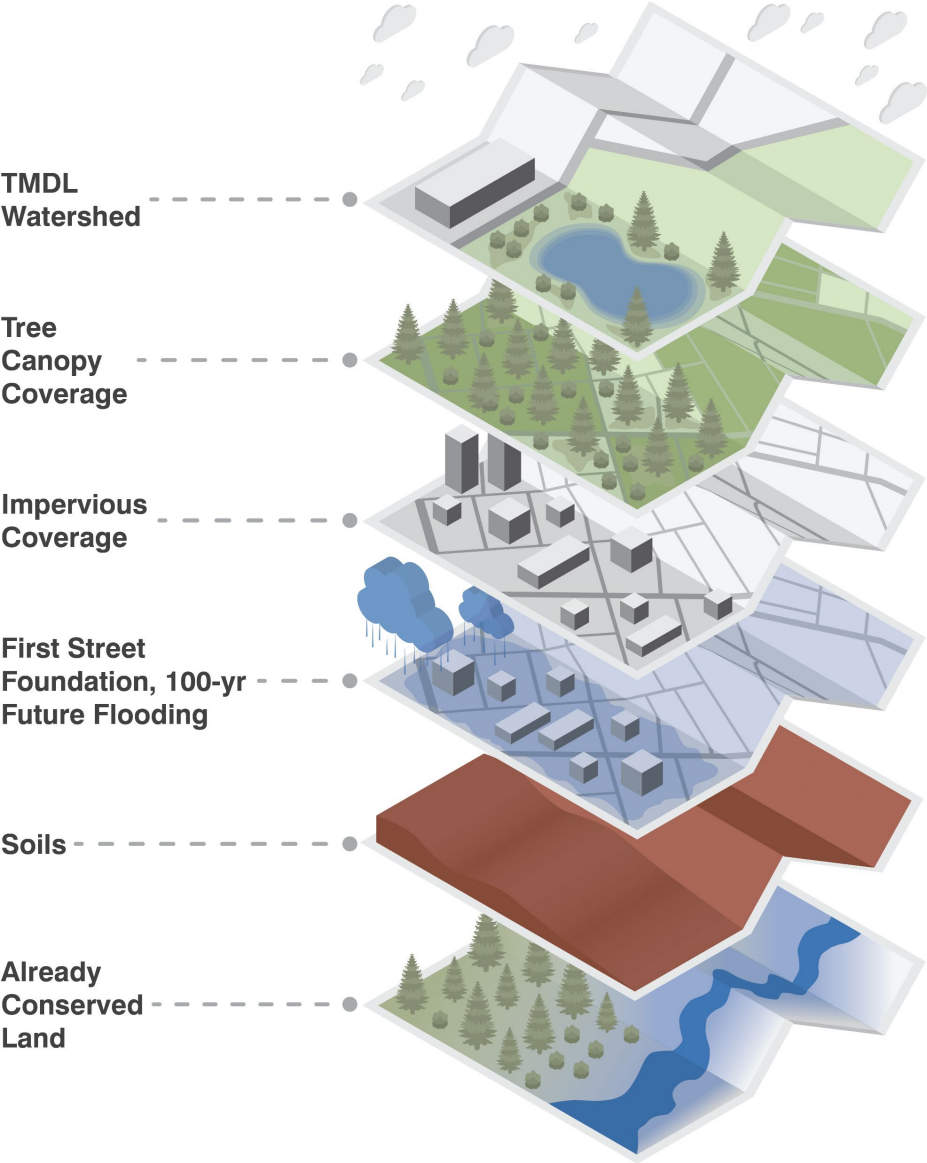
Land Conservation Models – Recreation Opportunities



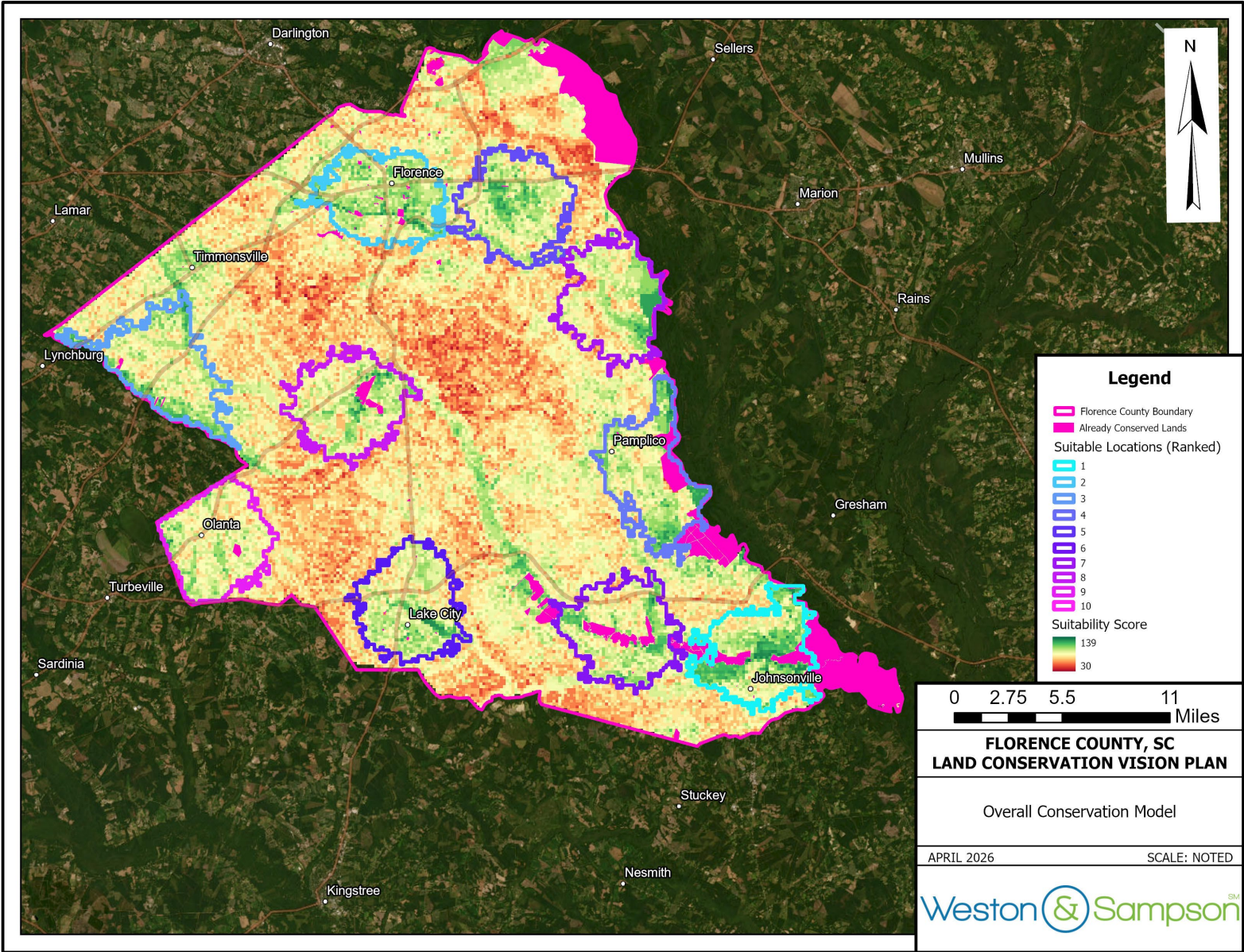
Land Conservation Models – Wildlife Habitat



Land Conservation Models – Water Quality Protection



Land Conservation Model - Overall



Parcels located outside of identified regions or with lower priority may still be strong candidates for conservation.