

Guilford – Forest Stewardship, Statistics

(area of town: 25,387 acres)

Use Value Appraisal – UVA GIS parcel data originally are from ANR in 2007, and WRC did a draft update in 2013. Statistics are from 2013.

- 128 UVA enrollments, totaling 12927 acres (this may include agricultural land, excluded land, home sites, etc.; in other words, not all of this acreage is forested), or **51% of the town**.
- Using 2009 data from VNRC, 62% of the land in parcels over 50 acres is in the UVA program (38% is not), and 60% of parcels over 50 acres are enrolled in UVA (40% is not). There are nearly 60 parcels greater than 50 acres in size that are not enrolled in UVA, but may qualify for enrollment.

UVA enrollment shows areas of known working lands (forest management and/or agriculture), and lands have a lien against development for the period in which the property is enrolled. Large areas of contiguous enrollment, particularly in the central and southwest portions of town. For more information on UVA, see the Forest Stewardship report, and WRC maps.

Public and Conserved Land – make up 6% of the town

(Note: public land just includes that used for open space, recreation, conservation, etc.)

Public land: 434 acres, all of which is state land (46 acres of this is water), or 1.7% of the town

- Fort Dummer State Park – 144 a.; campground, picnic area, etc., in northeastern corner of town.
- Sweet Pond State Park – 109.6 a. (16 of which is, or was, water); essentially undeveloped, south-central part of town
- Roaring Brook Wildlife Management Area – 107.7 a., eastern edge of town
- Weatherhead Hollow Pond – 31 a. (30 of which is water)

Conserved land (conservation easements): 1107 acres, 4.4% of the town; includes easements held by the Vermont Land Trust and the Northeast Wilderness Trust

See WRC map for locations.

Development

There are 1066 primary structures (primary residential, commercial, or public buildings) in Guilford, based on 2008 WRC and E911 data. 92 primary structures were constructed from 2001-2008, which represents 9% of structures in Guilford. Of the structures constructed between 2001 and 2008, 54 (or 59%) are more than 300 feet from a public travelled road.

Natural Heritage Data

Guilford contains numerous element occurrences in Vermont's Natural Heritage Inventory, maintained by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. The Inventory is a database of rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species, and significant natural communities.

The Inventory identifies seven significant natural communities in Guilford, three of which are ranked as rare in the state (a river cobble shore, a sugar maple-ostrich fern riverine floodplain forest, and a rich

fen), and one ranked as uncommon (dry oak-hickory-hop hornbeam forest). Six occurrences of rare plant species and four occurrences of animal species exist, one state endangered, another state threatened, and the others noted as rare.

The inventory also contains information on uncommon species and other features, including poorly documented rare species. There are nine records in this category of plants, animals, and a natural community.

Note that while the Natural Resources Inventory documents where rare, threatened, and endangered species and significant natural communities have been found, no comprehensive survey, except for state lands, has been conducted to find such occurrences. The absence of a record in the Inventory at a specific location area does not mean there are no occurrences of species or communities at that location.

See WRC map for locations.

Habitat Blocks

Habitat blocks are areas of contiguous forest and other natural habitats that are unfragmented by roads, development, or agriculture. They are ranked for their biological and conservation value based on 11 biological and physical diversity factors. Habitat blocks have been mapped throughout the state for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department by the Vermont Land Trust.

Guilford contains all or part of 28 different habitat blocks ranging from 20 acres to over seven square miles. The highest-ranked blocks in Guilford—those with the highest biological and physical diversity—include one west of Green River Road between Hinesburg and Stage Roads (it extends into Halifax), and another encompassing Wilkens Hill (the area between Carpenter Hill and Stage Roads). Other high-ranking habitat blocks include those surrounding East Mountain, Gallup and Amidon Pinnacles, Owls Head Mountain and Belden Hill, and the area bounded by Weatherhead Hollow, Sweet Pond, and Guilford Center Roads.

See WRC map for details.

Forest Productivity

An analysis was done by Jon Osborne of the Vermont Land Trust to rank those habitat blocks (areas of contiguous forest and other natural habitats that are unfragmented by roads, development, or agriculture) over 500 acres for their forest productivity. This analysis was based on, in order of importance: geology, elevation, hardness, landform, slope, and precipitation. There are about a dozen blocks with significant acreage in Guilford, along with several more which are mostly in adjacent towns. All habitat blocks but two rank in the top 10 percent of blocks in the state for forest productivity. This situation is similar for the other Connecticut River Valley towns in Windham Region. Towns in the central and western portions of the region (exception of Halifax) have habitat blocks with less productivity. In short, the forests of Guilford are highly productive.

See WRC map for details.