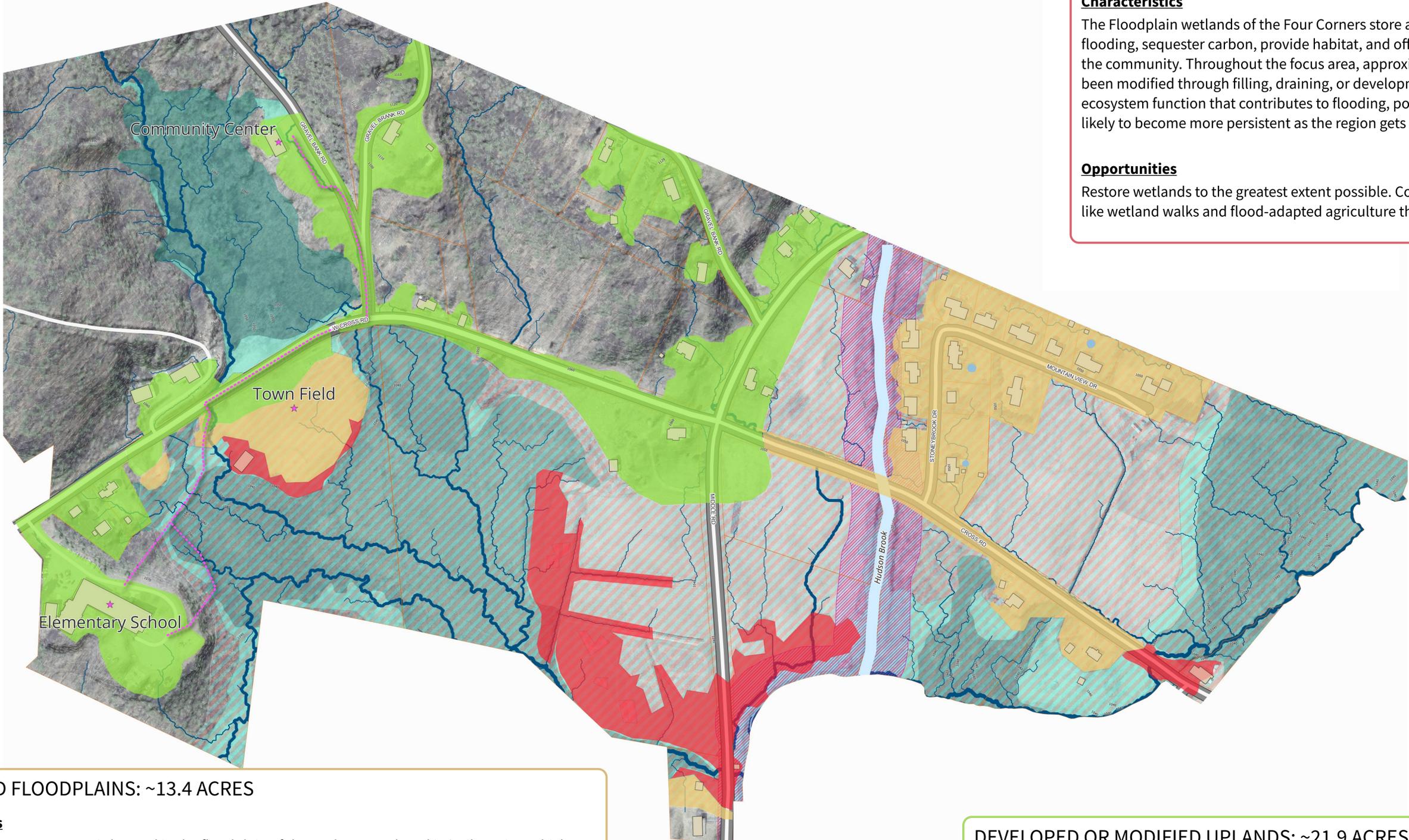


Four Corners Project: Context Summary



DEVELOPED, FILLED, AND/OR MODIFIED WETLANDS ~7.3 ACRES

Characteristics

The Floodplain wetlands of the Four Corners store and filter stormwater, mitigate flooding, sequester carbon, provide habitat, and offer recreational opportunities for the community. Throughout the focus area, approximately 7.3 wetland acres have been modified through filling, draining, or development—causing a diminishment of ecosystem function that contributes to flooding, ponding, and field saturation that is likely to become more persistent as the region gets wetter.

Opportunities

Restore wetlands to the greatest extent possible. Combine with ecological recreation like wetland walks and flood-adapted agriculture that can thrive in wetland conditions.

DEVELOPED FLOODPLAINS: ~13.4 ACRES

Characteristics

Much of the Four Corners area is located in the floodplain of the Hudson Brook and its' tributaries, which are underlain by hydric soils with poor to very poor drainage capabilities. Significant portions of this floodplain have been developed, resulting in a patchwork of agricultural and residential parcels, crisscrossed by roadways. The area's inherent soil properties, combined with impervious land cover and undersized or compromised culverts, exacerbate the flooding that is predicted to occur with greater intensity and frequency.

Opportunities

Ensure residents located in the floodplain have emergency evacuation plans in place (for animals too) and are supported in keeping basements dry between and after flood events. Increase flood storage capacity of non-developed floodplains (e.g., through wetland restoration and retention/detention ponds); upgrade culverts to bridges; elevate houses in most severe flood zones.

DEVELOPED OR MODIFIED UPLANDS: ~21.9 ACRES

Overview

These are areas above the floodplain-wetland complex that have built infrastructure, impervious surface, and/or significant grading. These areas have diminished capacity to slow, infiltrate, and store water and nutrients higher in the landscape and are often designed to shuttle water off-site as quickly as possible—exacerbating downstream dynamics, especially in prolonged or extreme rain events.

Opportunities

Nature based solutions like reforestation, permeable paving and pathways, rain gardens, vegetated swales, and ecological lawn management can restore some of the lost ecosystem function of modified uplands, leading to better water quality, stormwater dynamics, and habitat diversity. These solutions also have the benefit of enhancing educational, public, and community spaces.

