

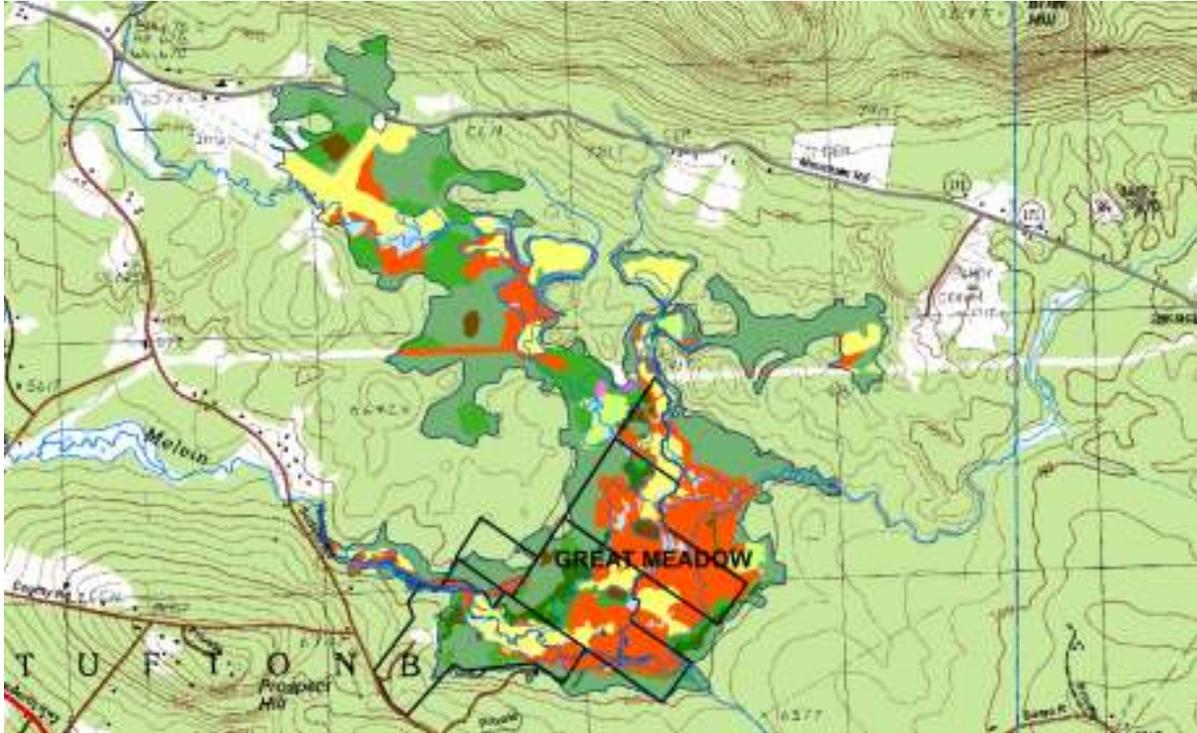
GREAT MEADOW



- Largest wetland complex in Tuftonboro**
- High water quality as tested in 2001-2002**
- Site above the largest drinking water supply in the region**
- Has regionally significant wildlife habitat for migratory waterfowl**
- Contains excellent hunting opportunity for deer, moose and game birds**
- Provides excellent recharge for the area aquifers**
- Includes old growth swamp forests in exemplary condition**
- 22 different natural communities, some rare in the state**
- The highest ranked wetland for ecological integrity in the region**

Synopsis

The Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission are seeking to permanently protect the Town-owned 176 acres of this 512.8-acre wetland complex in the heart of Tuftonboro. Long recognized as a regionally important resource, this large open basin at the headwaters of the Melvin River helps protect Melvin Bay and the upper part of Winnepesaukee Lake by intercepting floodwaters and capturing sediments and nutrients from upstream sources prior to reaching the lake. Located on a near level bench between Route 171 and Sodom Road, Great Meadow was the subject of intensive water quality and biological sampling by the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission in 2001–2002. It proved to be comprised of excellent water quality and wildlife habitat and was found to be regionally significant in its contribution to open space and biodiversity. A permanent conservation easement assigned to a third party will help ensure these long-term benefits to the citizens of Tuftonboro!



Great Meadow has a mix of natural habitats that vary from beaver ponds and flowing streams to upland forest islands to deep conifer swamp with lush vegetation and well-worn game trails. This remarkable resource deserves the high degree of protection that a conservation easement can ensure in perpetuity.