

Social Vulnerabilities

Certain people and groups are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than others. This means people in the same town may experience climate change differently. Examples of vulnerabilities that increase risk:

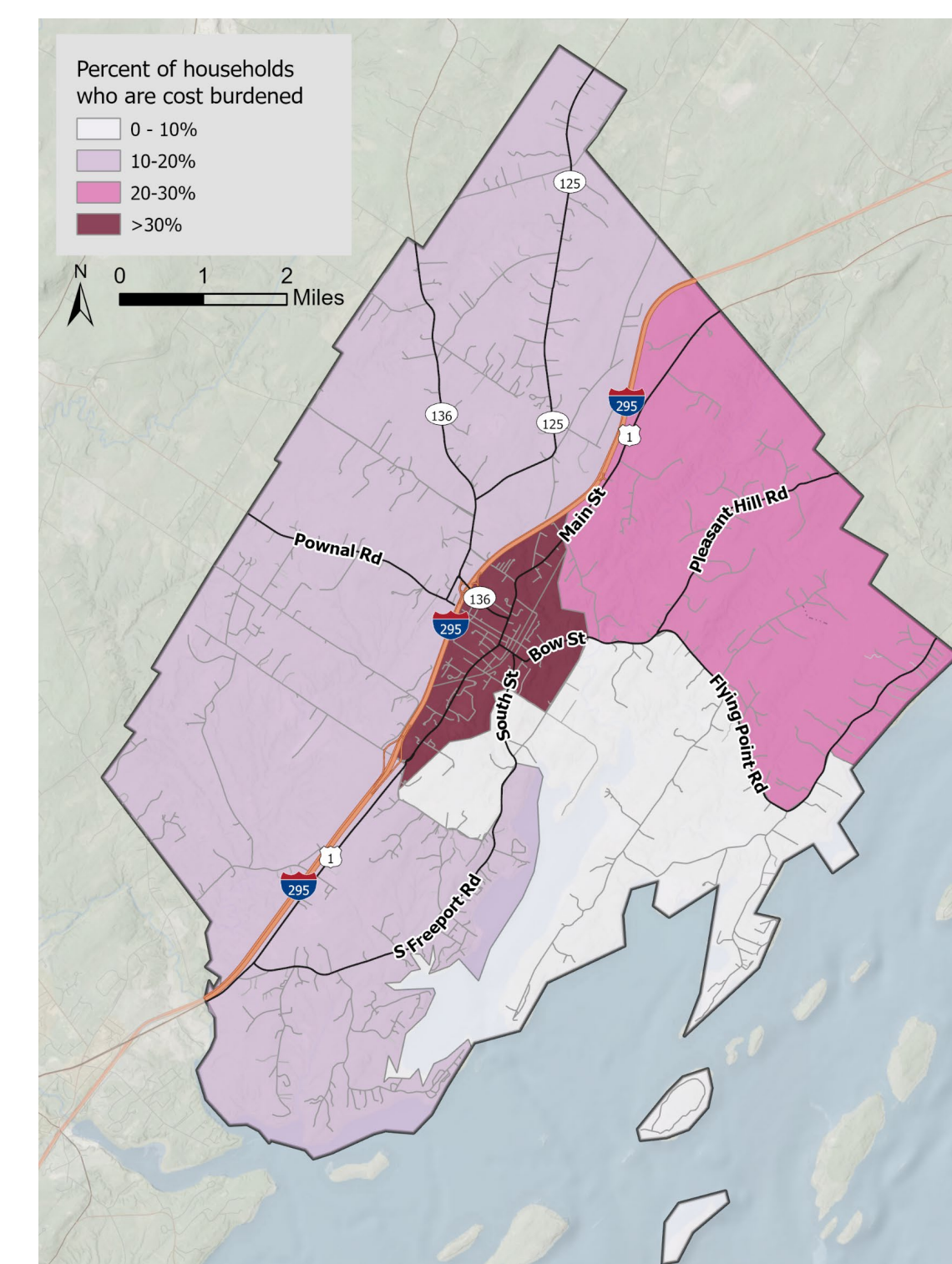
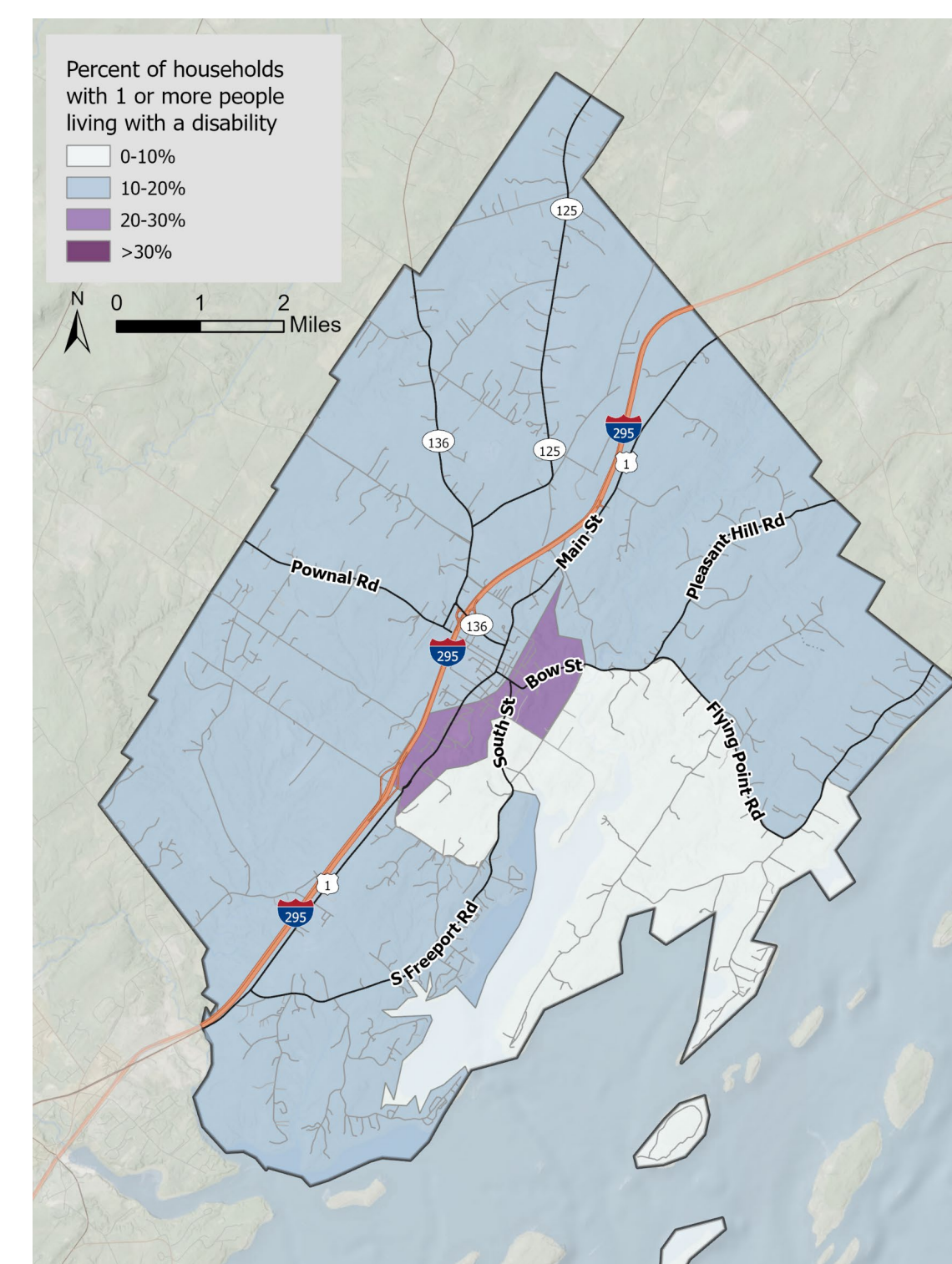
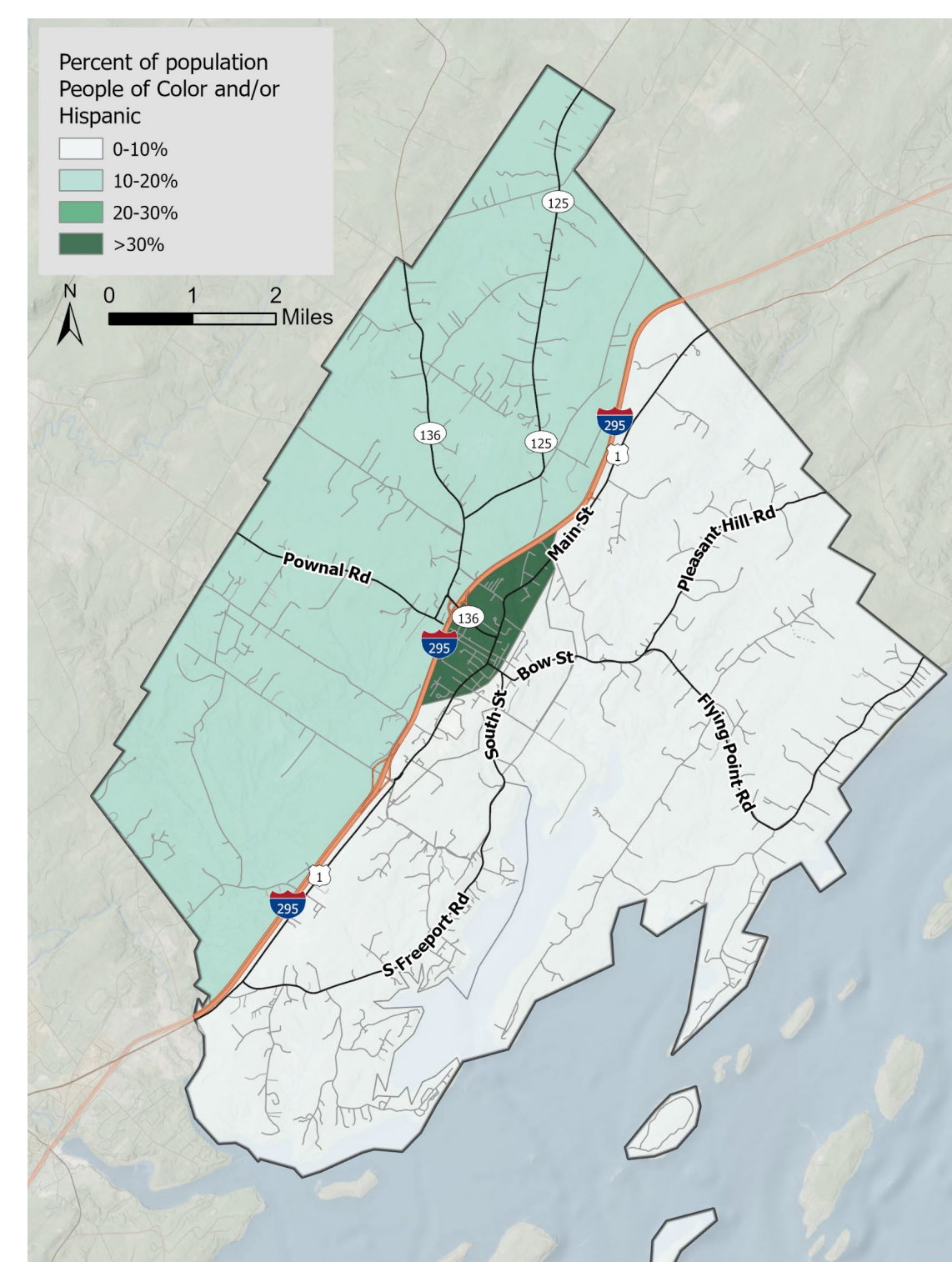
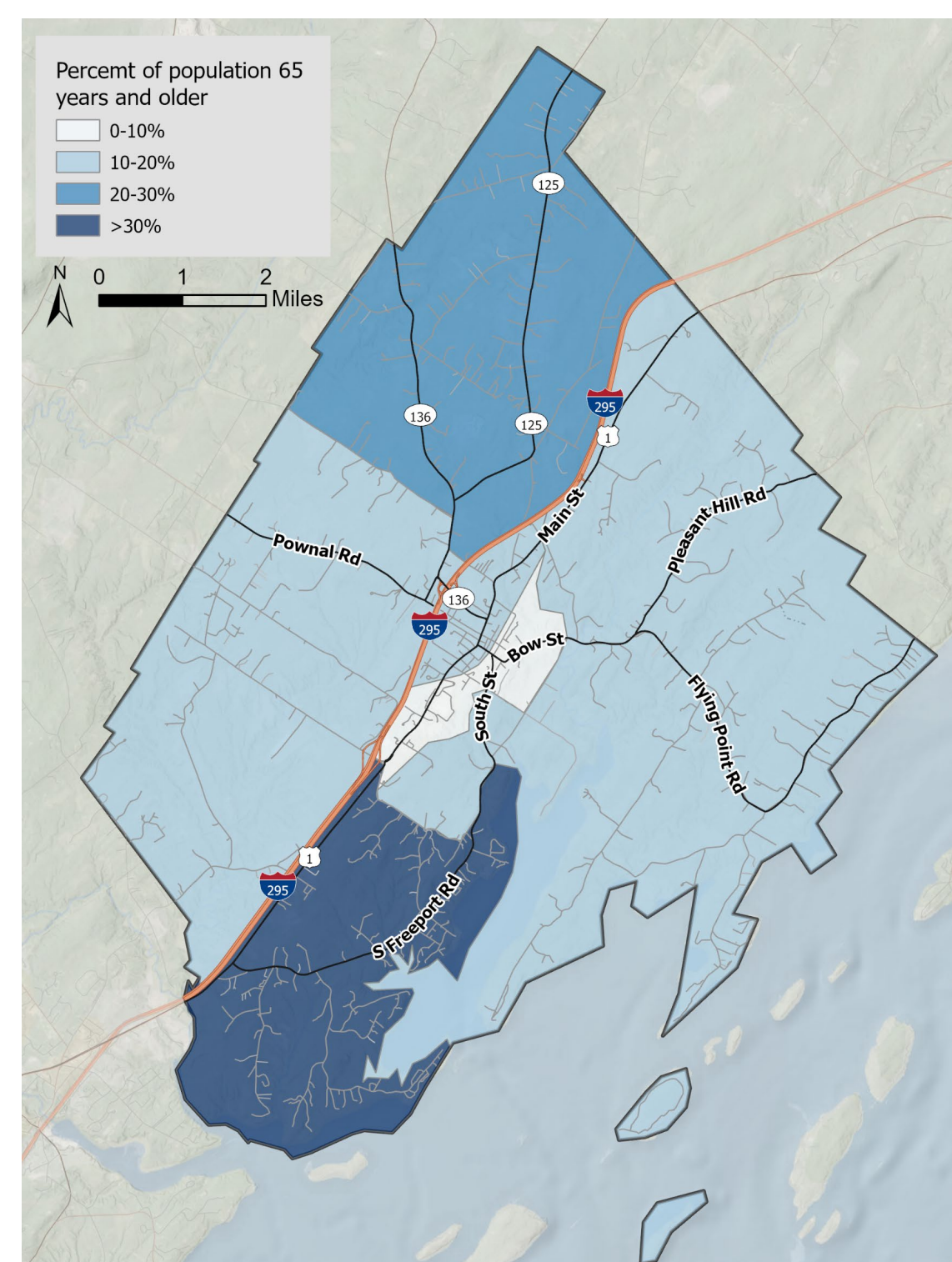
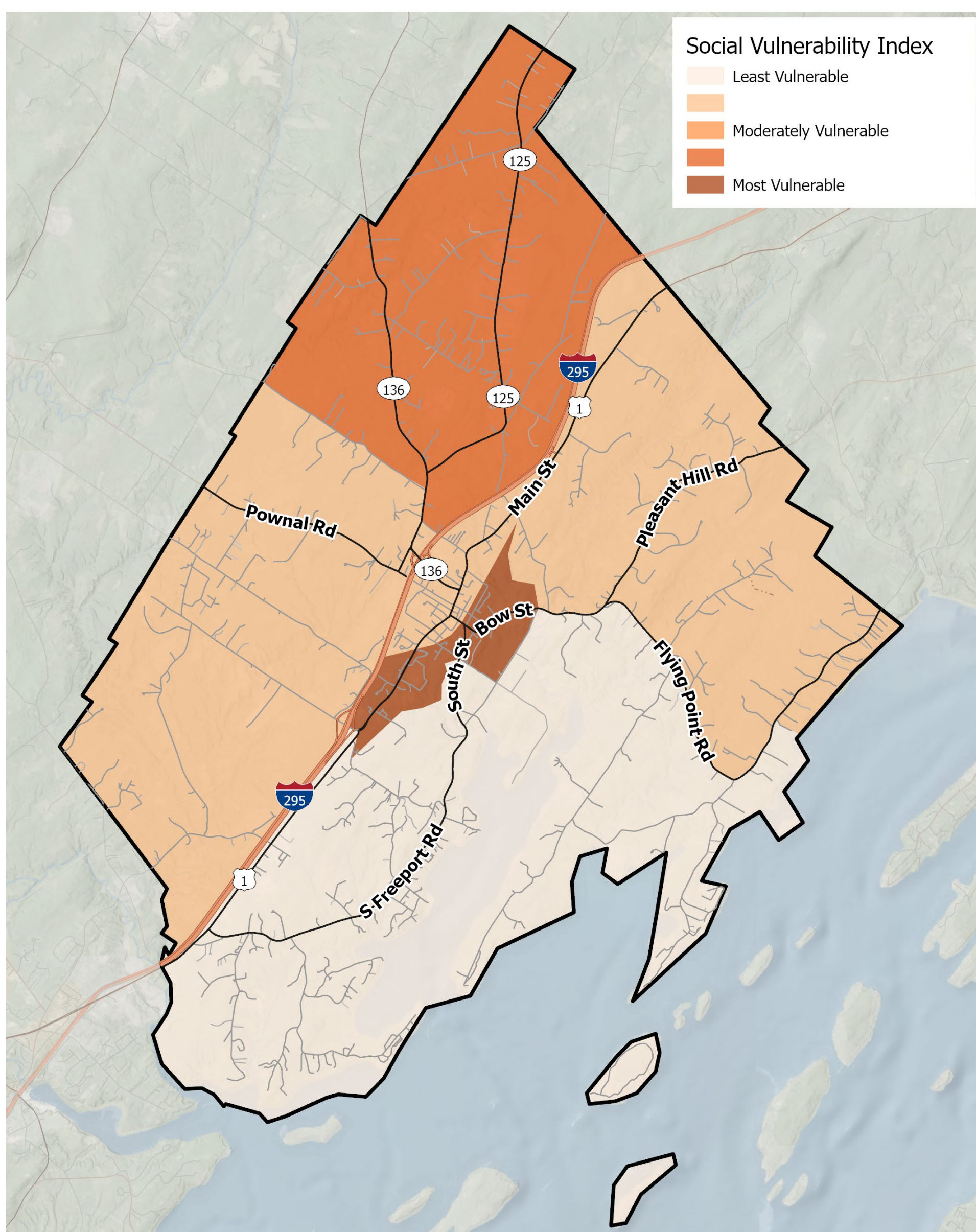
- **Age and health** affect the ability to control body temperature and maintain a healthy immune system, which make older and younger populations more prone to health-related climate impacts.
- **Race and ethnicity** are strongly correlated with disparities in health, exposure to environmental pollution, and vulnerability to natural hazards.
- People **living below the poverty line** or somewhere **unaffordable** have less money and time to prepare for climate change or deal with climate disasters.

Reducing social vulnerabilities creates healthier, more resilient communities

Household Composition and Disability		Housing and Transportation	
Aged 65+	21.7%	Mobile Homes	6.0%
Aged 65+ and Living Alone	17.6%	Older Housing	55.0%
Aged 18 or younger	21.3%	No Vehicle	1.5%
Living with a Disability	6.8%	No Internet	4.3%
Socioeconomic		Renters	22.1%
Below Poverty	3.5%	Cost Burdened	19.3%
Unemployed	3.4%	Minority Status	
Self-employed	8.3%	Minority	8.7%
Natural Resource occupation	1.4%	Limited English Speaking Household	0.0%
Median Income	\$89,484		

8,517
Total Population

4,165 total
Housing Units



12.7%
homeowners who are cost burdened



45.3%
Renters who are cost burdened

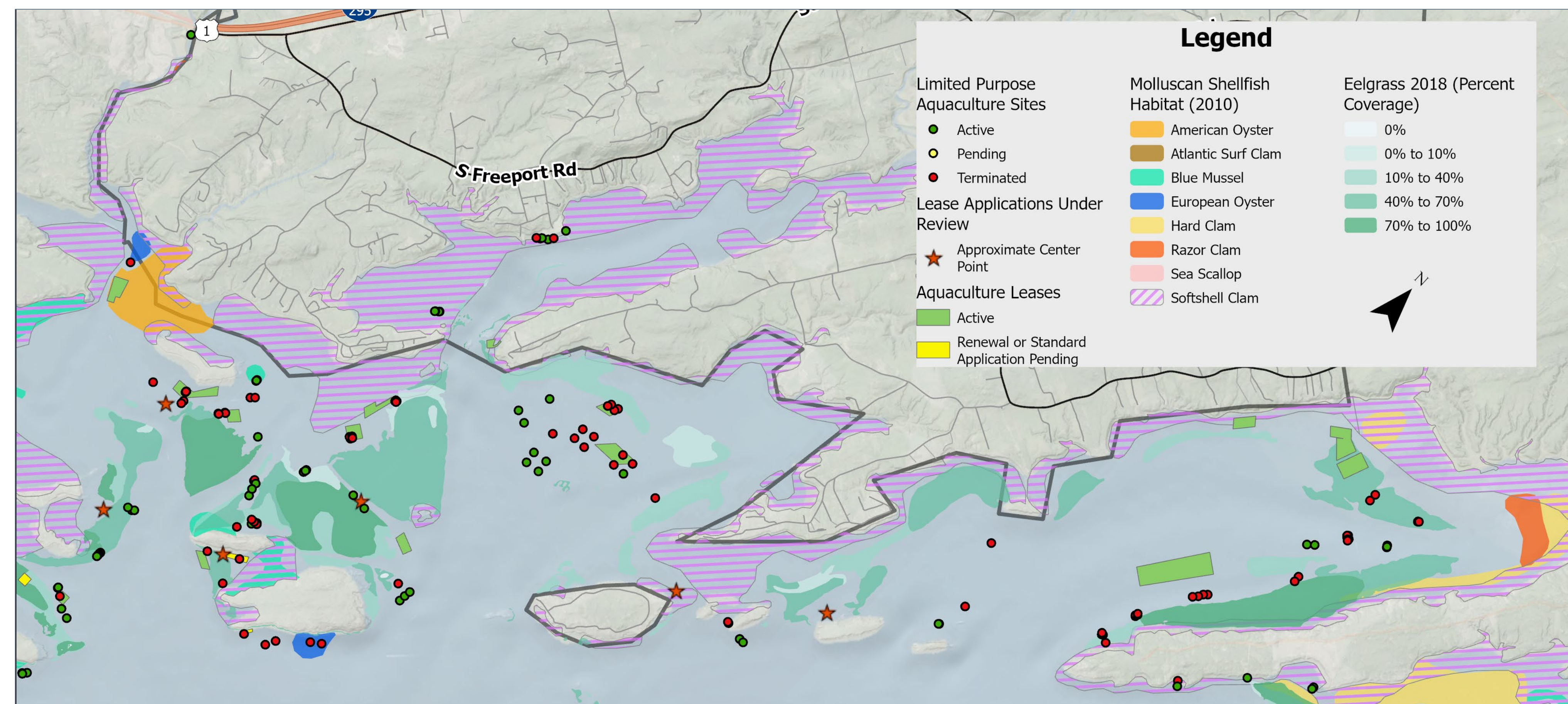
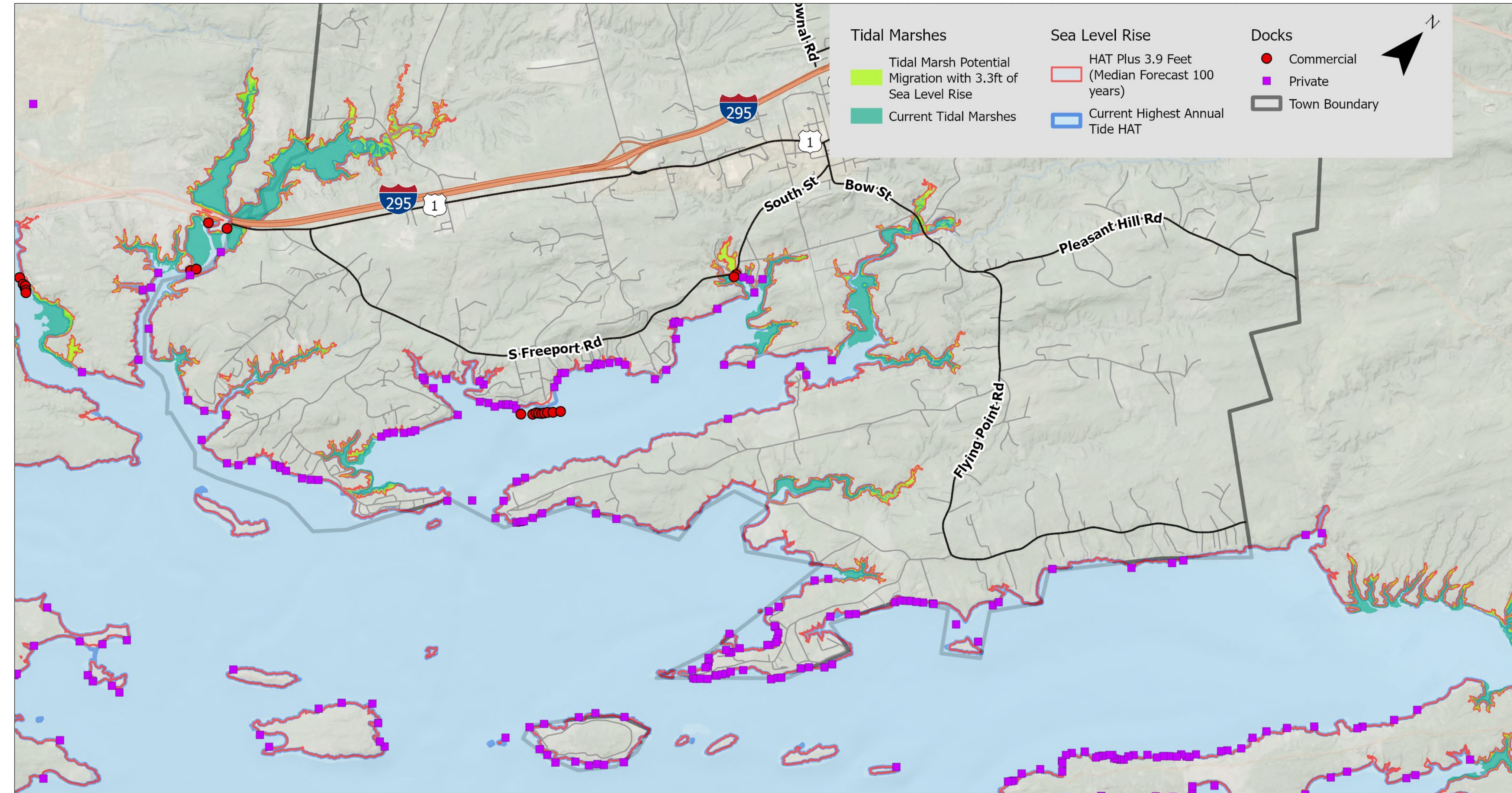
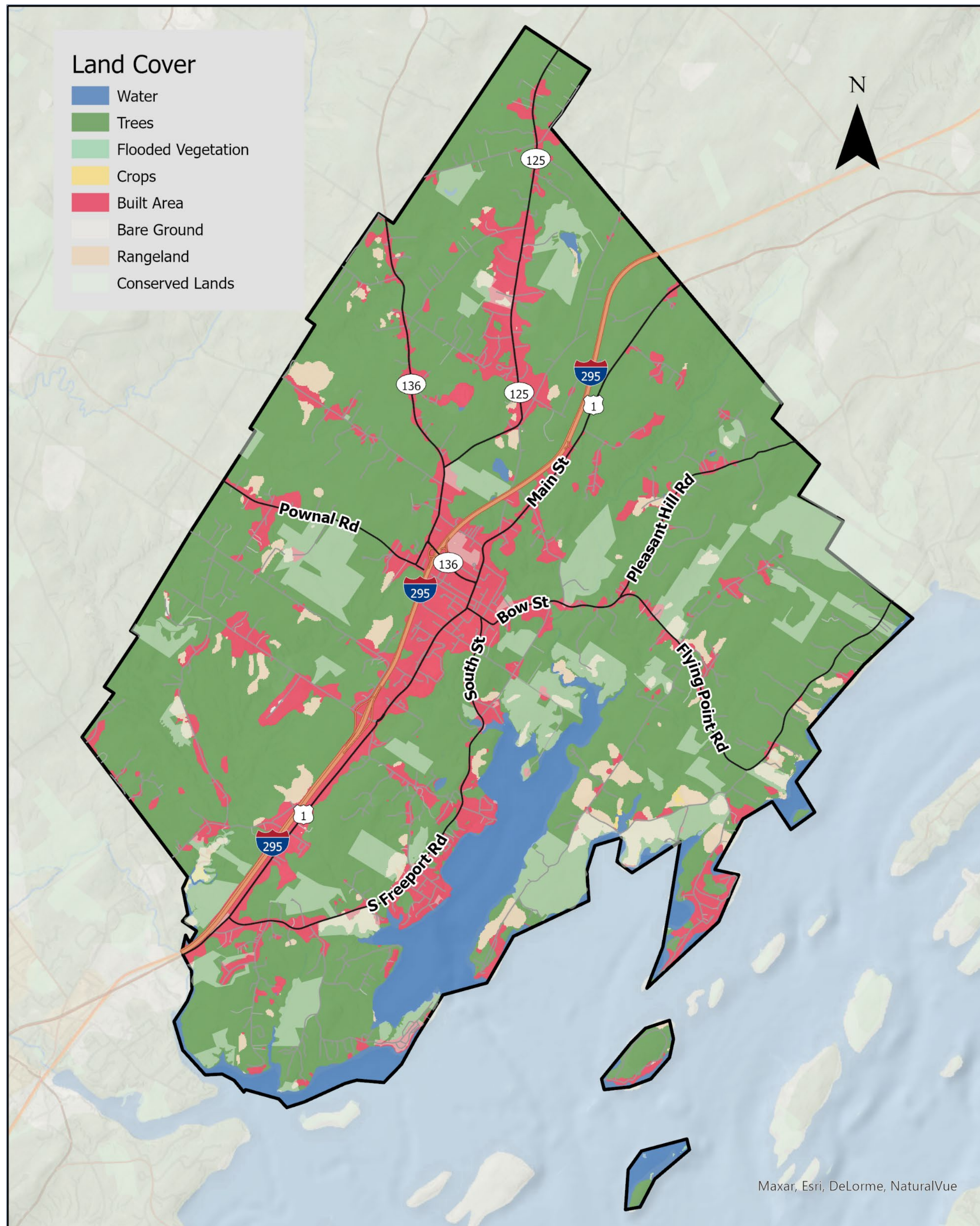
17.6%
Residents 65 years and older who live alone

Cost burdened households are those who spend 30% or more of their income on home or rental costs

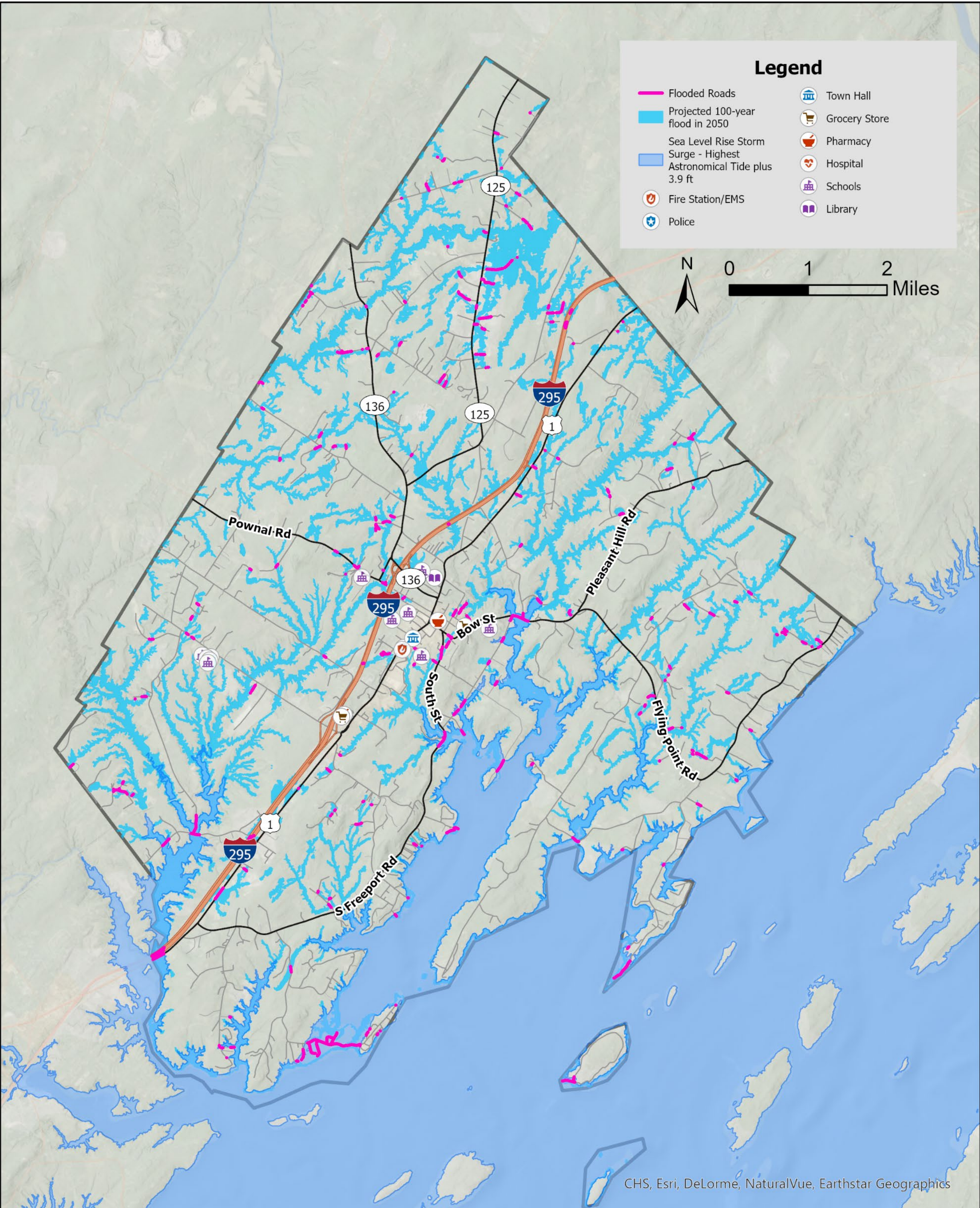
Data source: 2020 ACS 5-year estimates

Ecosystem Vulnerabilities

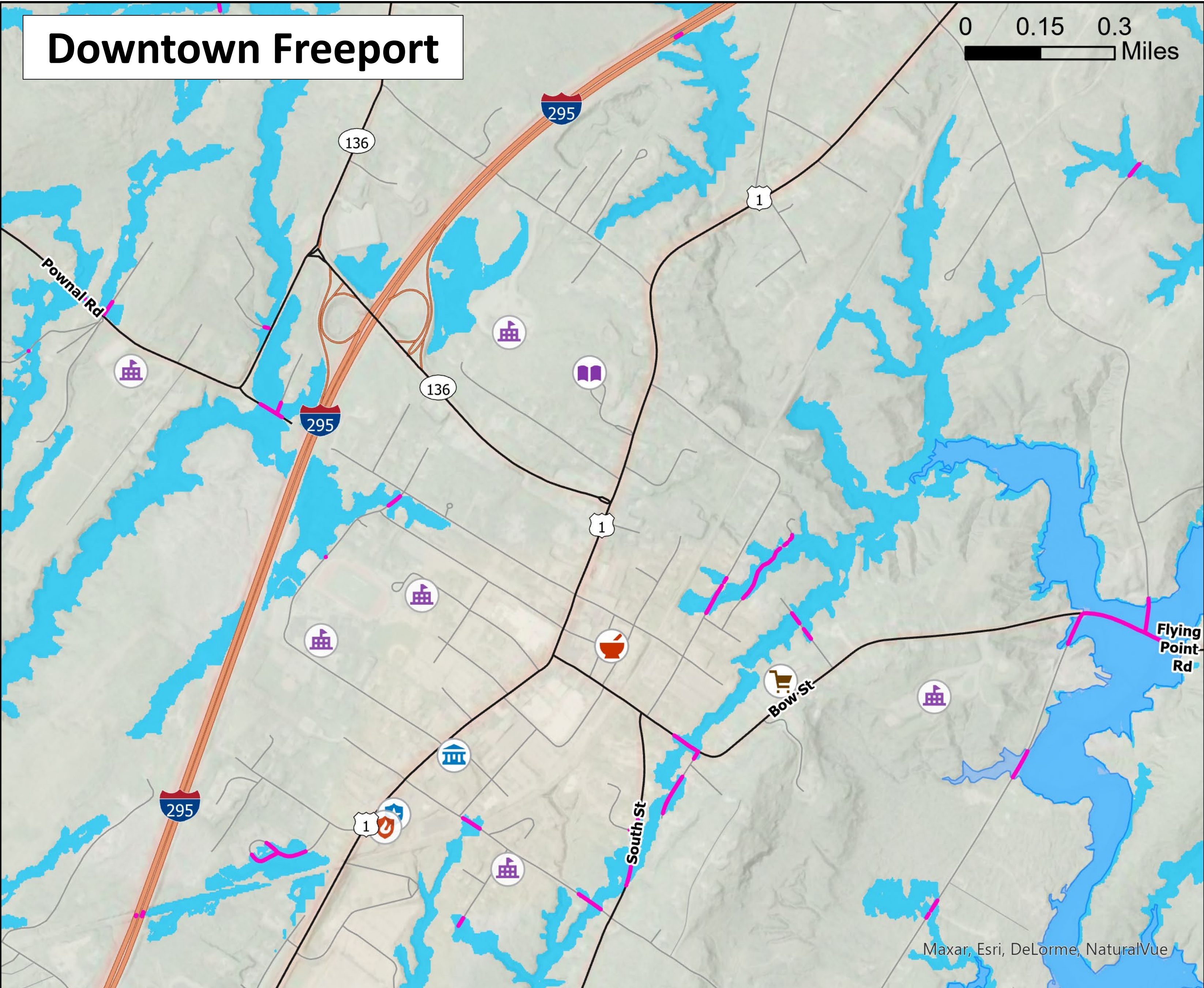
Ecosystems support wildlife, filter air and water, and play a vital role in maintaining a healthy community and vibrant economy. Climate change, particularly sea level rise, poses a risk to these delicate habitats. Understanding environmental vulnerabilities will help protect these key resources.



Infrastructure Vulnerabilities



Flooding from sea level rise and increased precipitation are a major impact from climate change. Within Freeport, several roads and bridges are vulnerable to flooding. In addition to flooding, the changing temperatures will decrease the lifespan of pavement. Higher temperatures cause pavement to soften, expand, or buckle, while freeze-thaw cycles increase cracking in the pavement. This may impact emergency responses, travel to critical resources or isolate communities.



Data sources: State of Maine; FloodFactor