



# **Firearms Business Zoning Public Forum**

**Town of Stow Planning Board**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 7:00pm**

**Presented through Zoom Web Conferencing**

# In this Presentation

- Introduction and Purpose of Proposed Bylaw
- Highlights of Proposed Bylaw
- Allowed Locations for Use
- Questions and Feedback

# Introduction

- Why Consider This Bylaw?
- Zoning
  - Regulation tool that controls the use and form of land development
  - Stow does not have zoning for Firearms Businesses
  - Cannot prohibit Firearms Businesses, though Stow can use zoning to establish where and how they operate

# Purpose

- Establish reasonable criteria for Firearms Businesses to operate in Stow to address concerns
- Regulate the process of siting a Firearms Business Use in Stow
- Minimize adverse impacts

# Process

- Planning Board development of draft bylaw
- Discussions with Police Department and Town Counsel
- Anticipate Warrant Article at Annual Town Meeting

# Highlights of Proposed Bylaw

- Defines Firearms Uses

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  - Ammunition
  - Firearm
  - Firearm Accessory
  - Firearms Business Use
  - Gunsmith

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- Defines Firearms Uses
  - Ammunition
  - Firearm
  - Firearm Accessory
  - **Firearms Business Use**
  - Gunsmith

Any retail or wholesale operation involving the purchase or sale, in any amount, of Firearms or Ammunition;

Sale of Firearm Accessories, in any amount;

Any retail or manufacturing operation involving, in any amount, the repairing, altering, cleaning, polishing, engraving, bluing or performing of any mechanical operation on any Firearm;

Sale of conversion devices, in any amount, such as an auto sear, fuel filters or solvent filters, trigger switches and/or similar products that when combined create a Firearm.



# Highlights of Proposed Bylaw

- Defines Firearms Uses;
- Creates Location Requirements

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- Defines Firearms Uses;
- Creates Location Requirements:
  - Industrial District
  - Must be located 500 feet or more from:
    - Residential District
    - Residential Uses
    - Places where children congregate (schools, parks, playgrounds, etc)
    - Church or other religious organizations
    - Trail networks
  - Limits to one Firearms Business per lot

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- Defines Firearms Uses;
- Creates Location Requirements;
- Establishes a Special Permit Process
  - Public Hearing through the Planning Board
  - Discussion of: Hours, screening, operations + security, signage, lighting
  - Valid for one year
  - Granted to the Firearms Business Owner and non transferrable
  - Creates revocation process



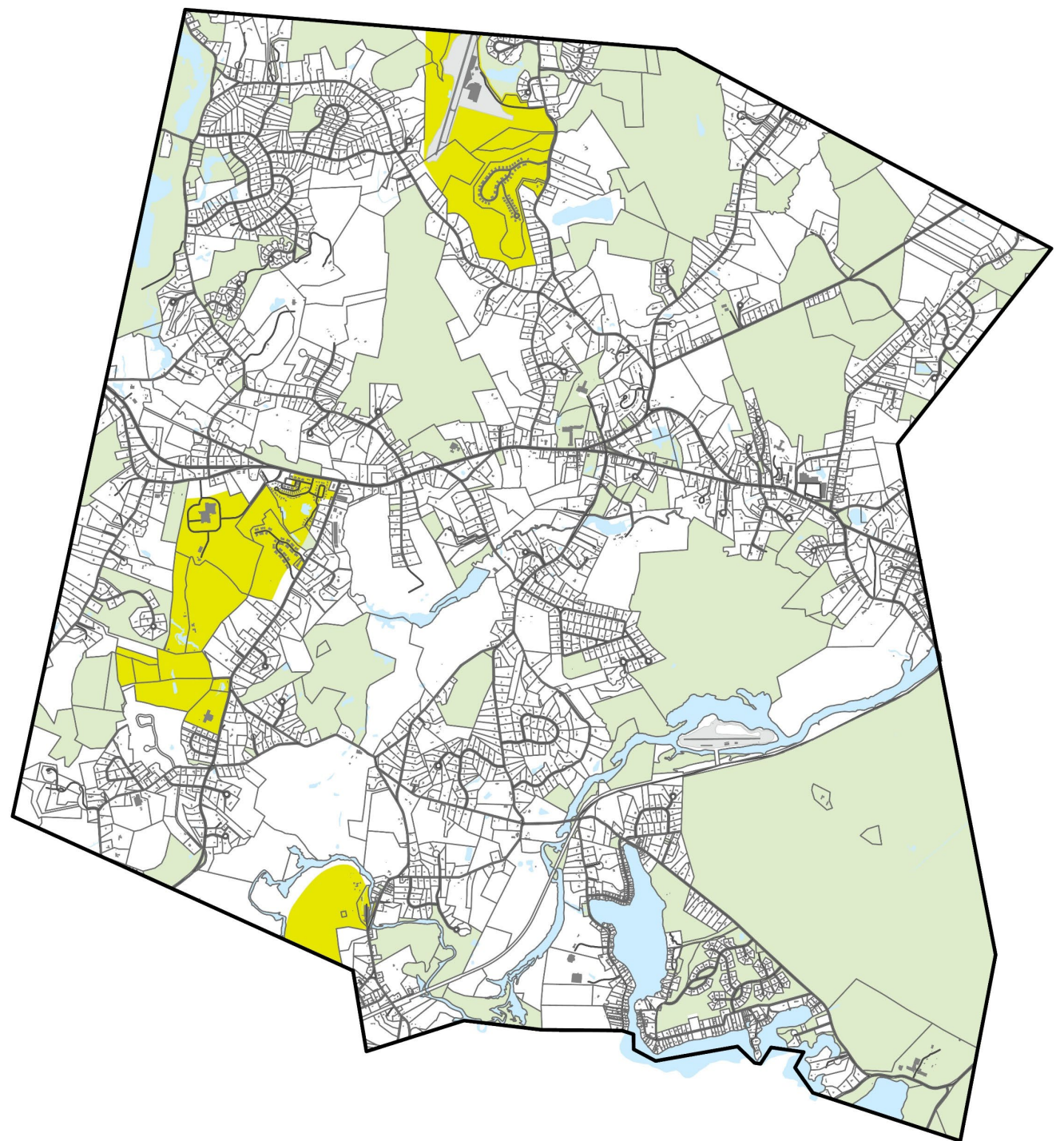
# **Firearms Business Locations**

Based on Draft Bylaw



# Locations for Firearms Businesses

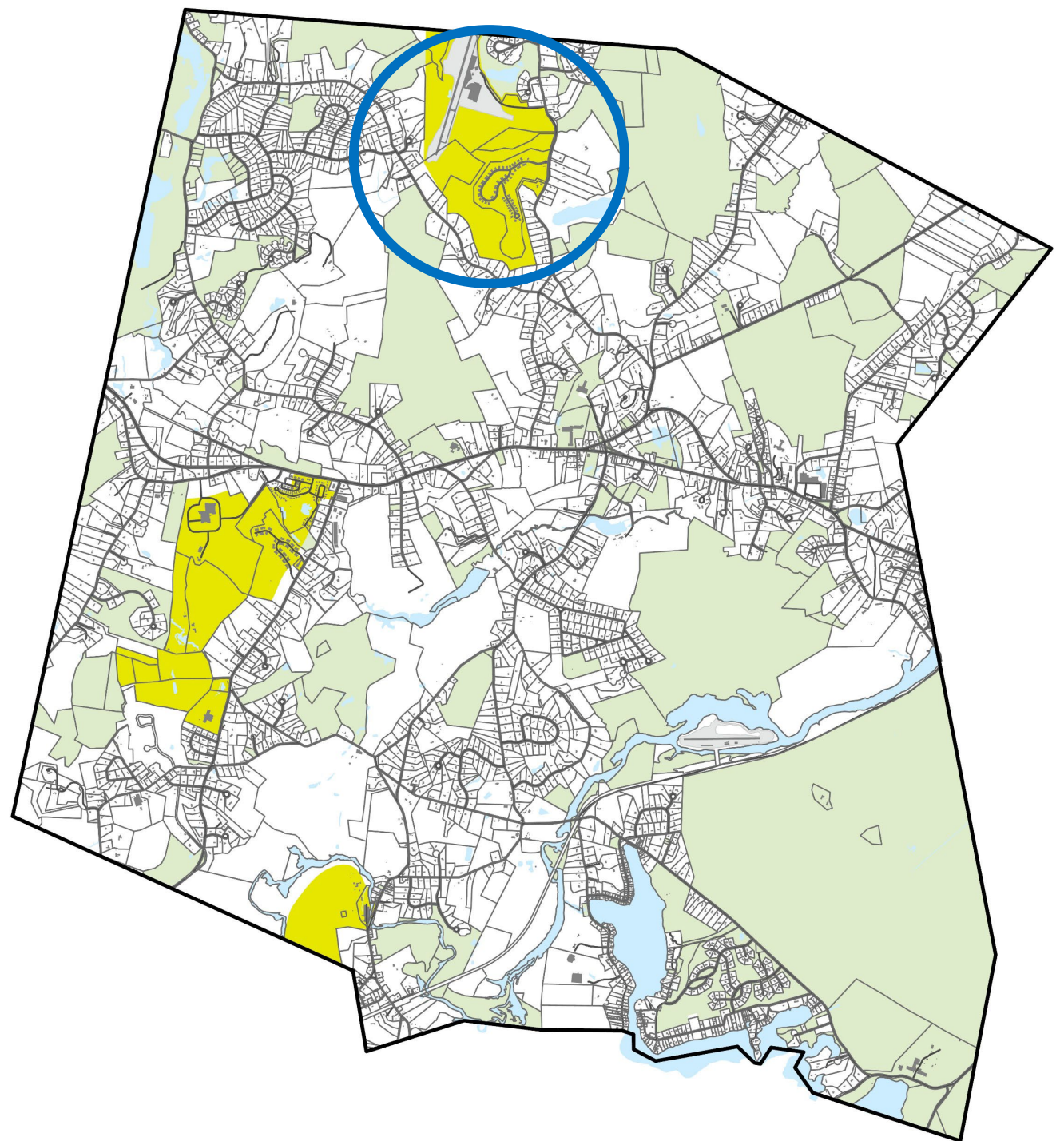
- Based on the draft Bylaw, Firearms Businesses are allowed only within the **Industrial District**.
- The map to the right shows all parcels located within the Industrial District.
- There are no proposed amendments to the Zoning Map for this drafted Bylaw.





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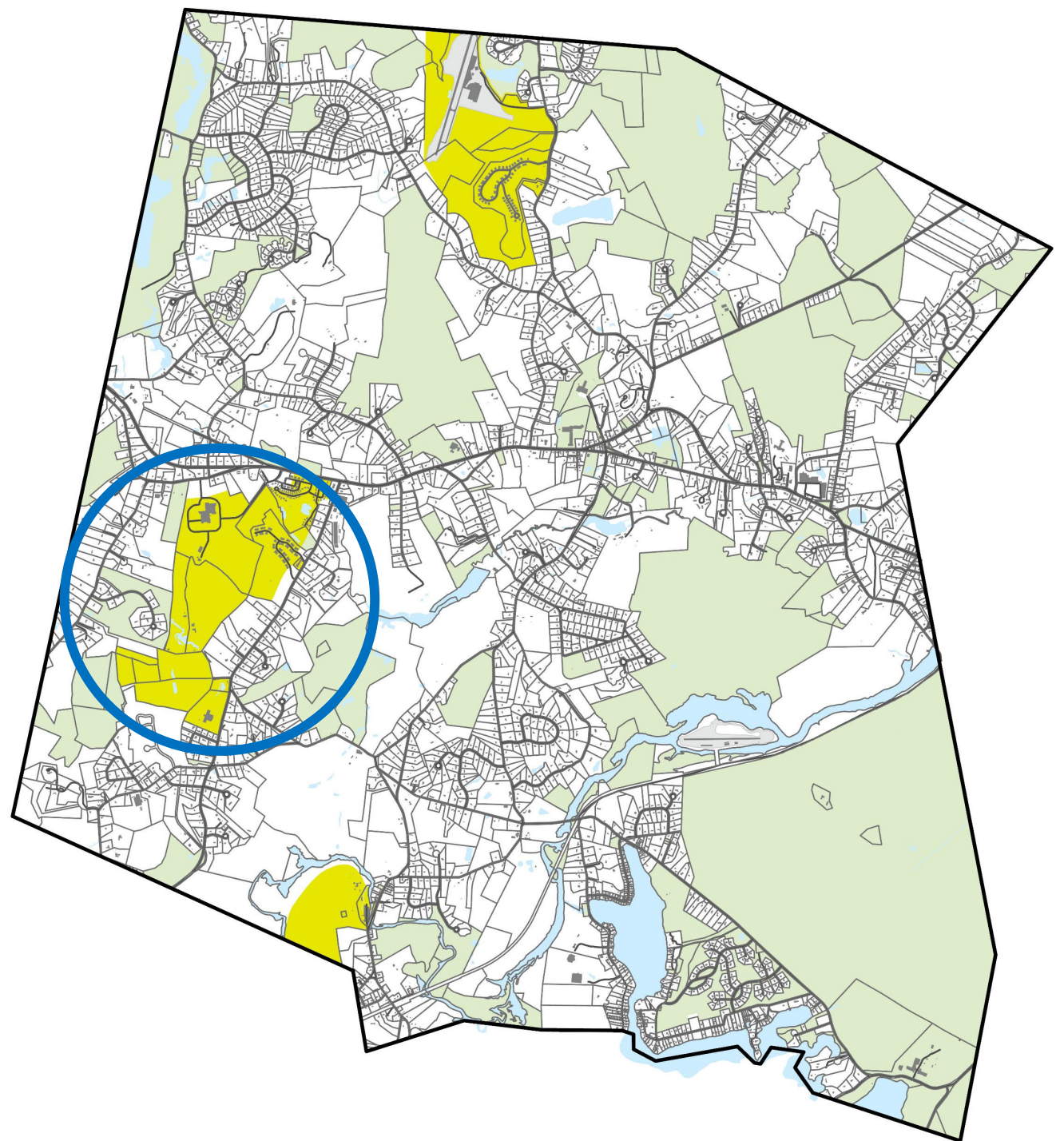
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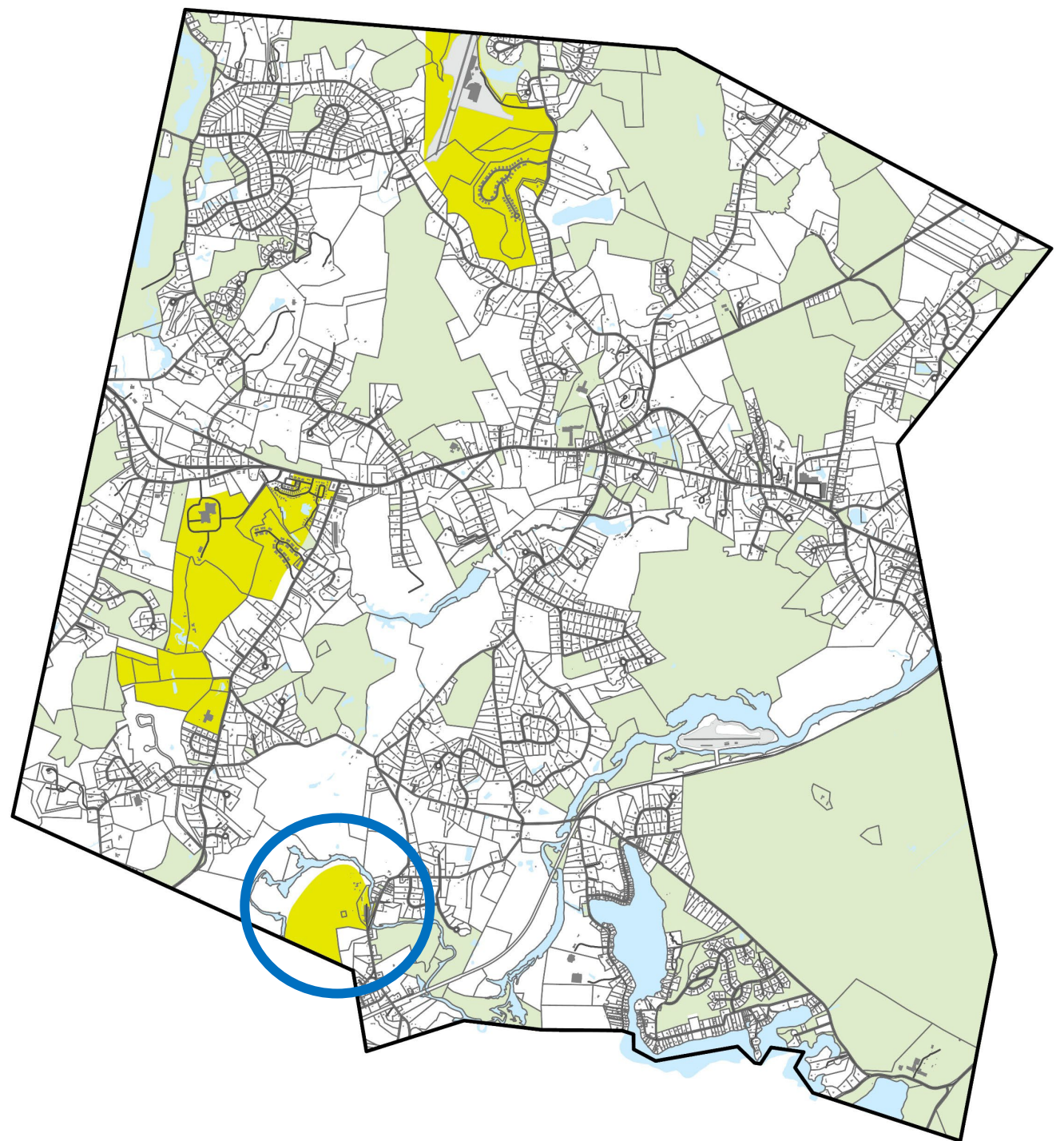
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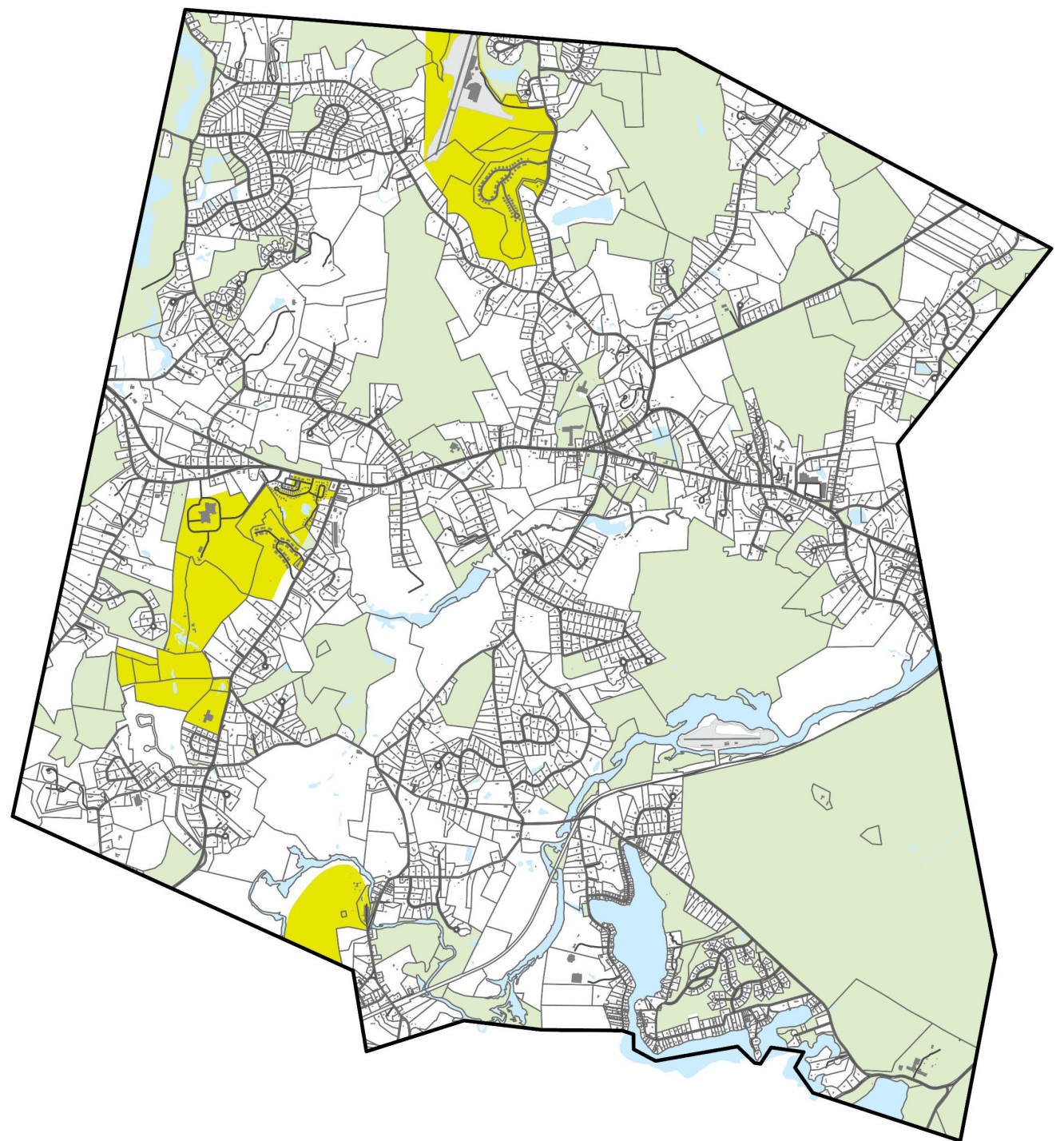
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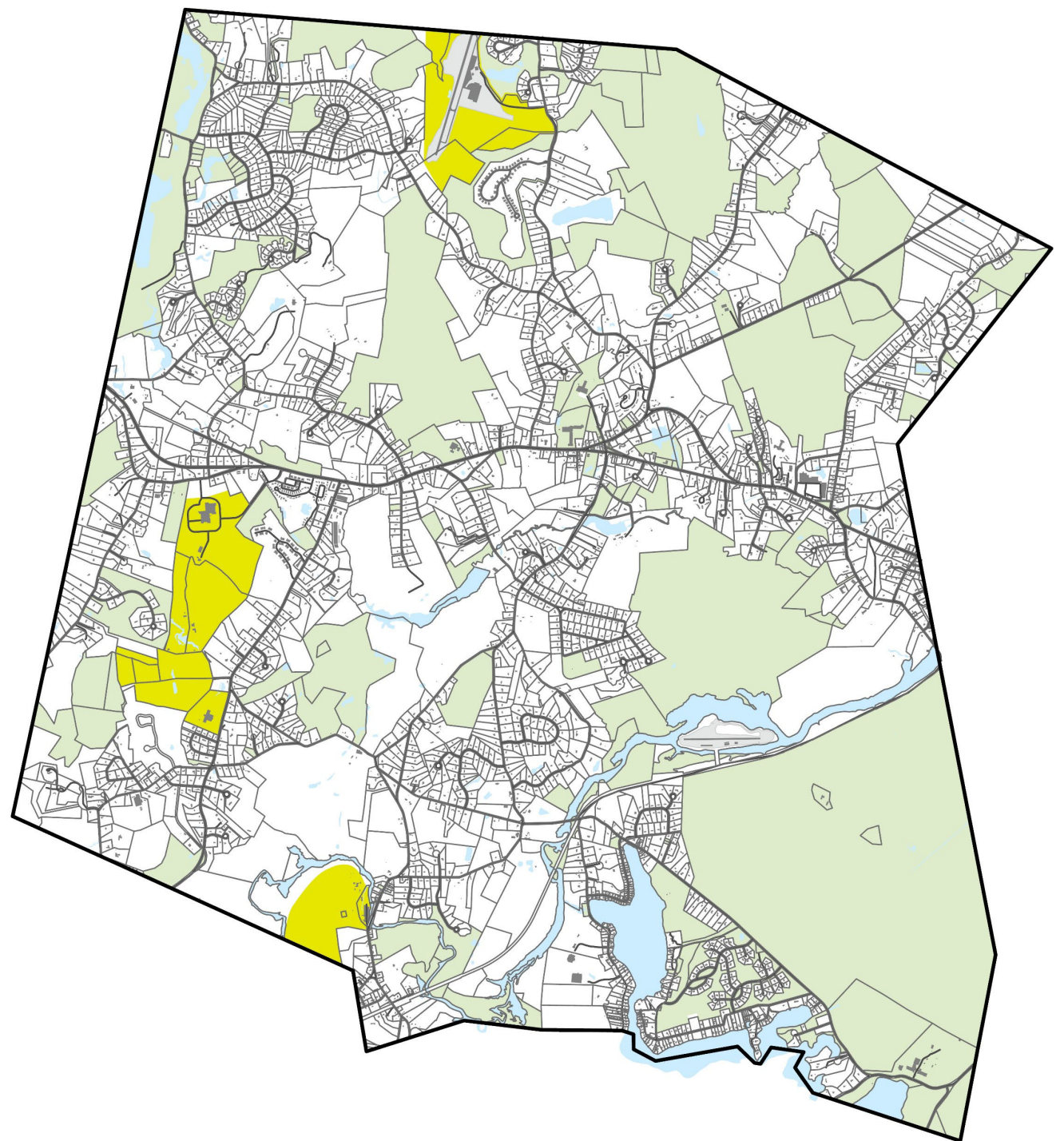




# Locations for Firearms Businesses

Within the Industrial District, where could a Firearms Business Locate?

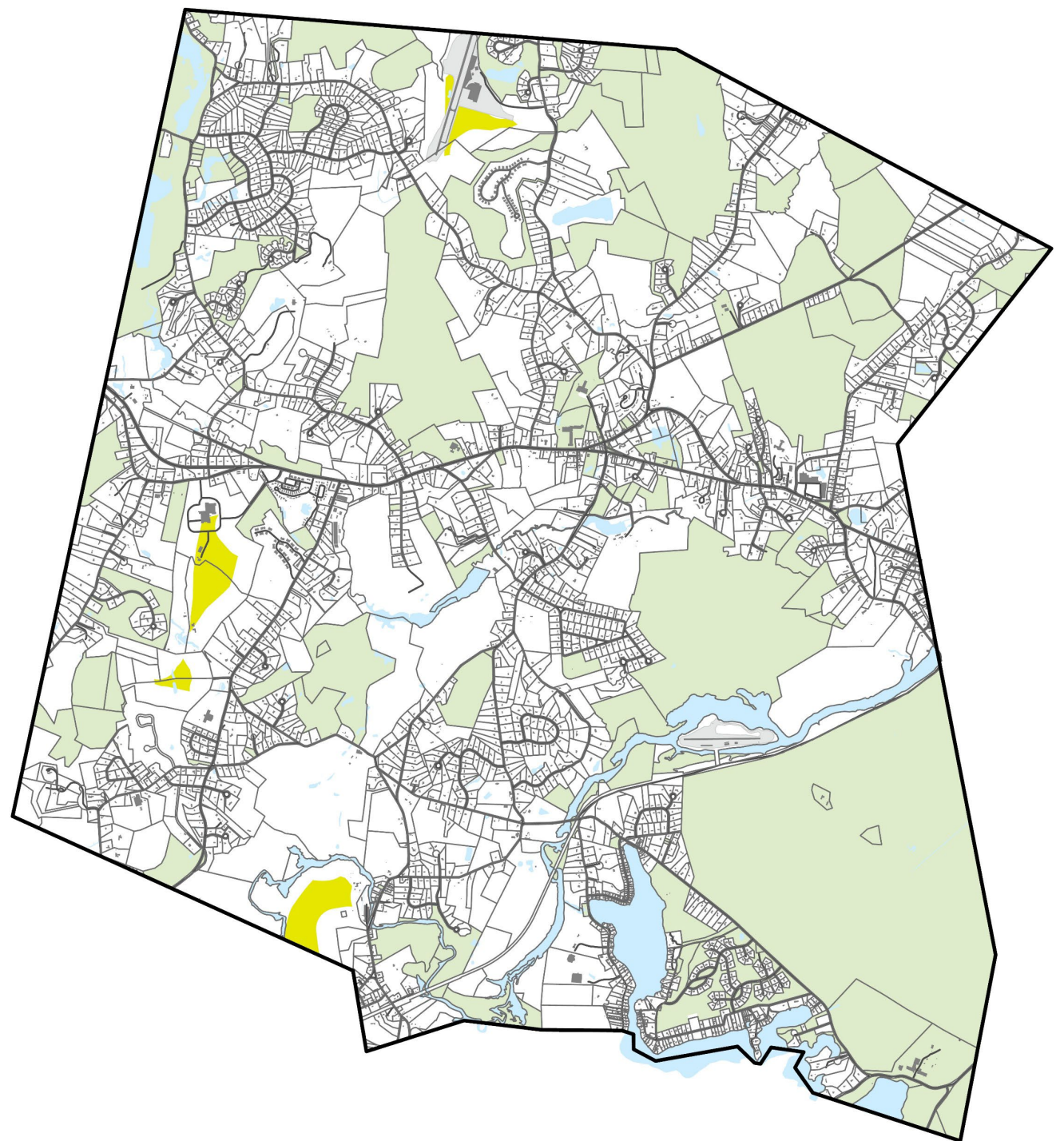
- Zoning does not equal land use!
- Based on the draft bylaw, residential uses in the Industrial District have been removed from the map to the right.
- These properties used other regulatory mechanisms to get permitted (Comprehensive Permits, Overlay Zoning Districts).





# Locations for Firearms Businesses

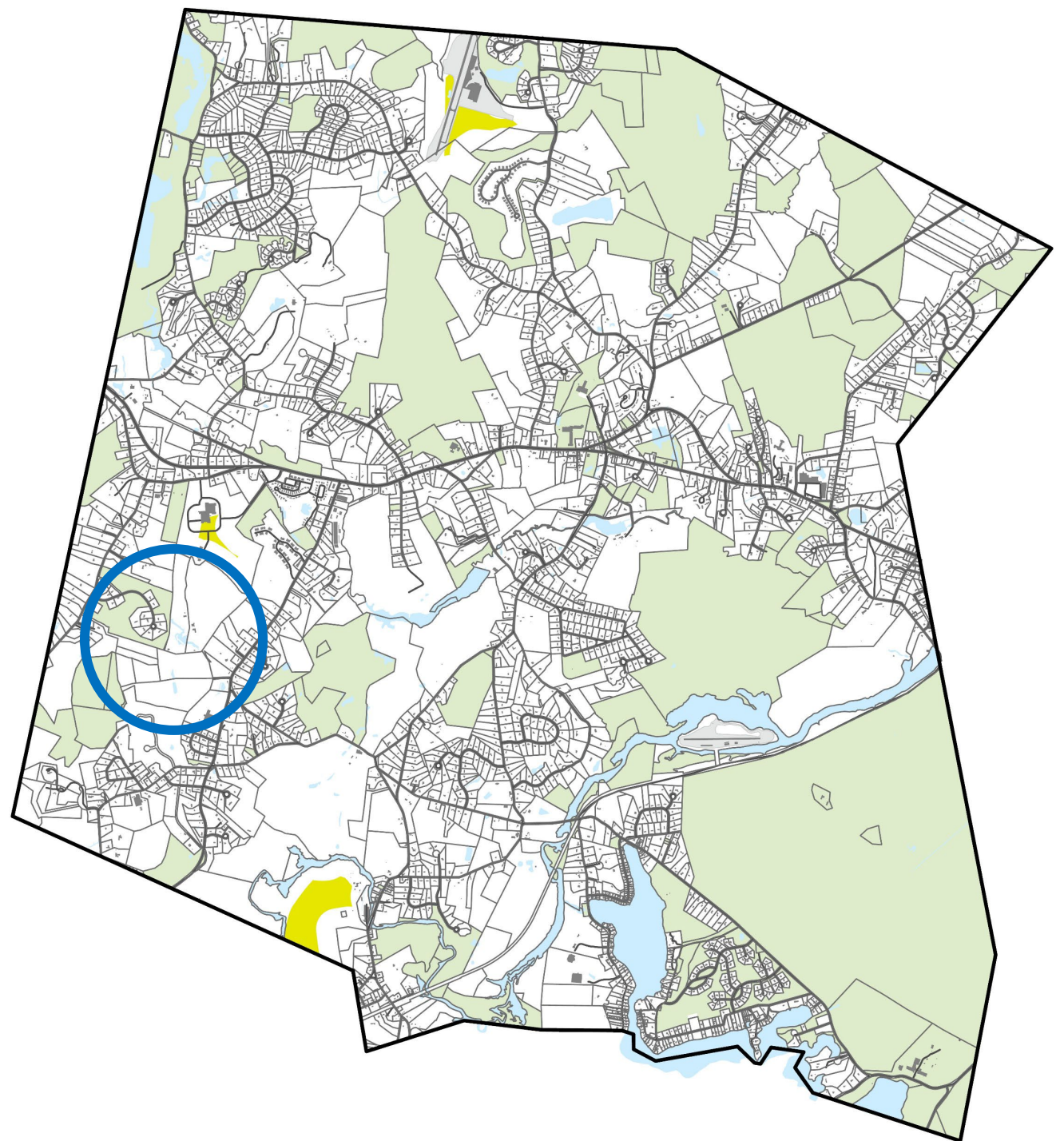
- Each parcel that is nonresidential and zoned Industrial is given a 500-foot buffer from any residential uses or parcels where children could gather (like a park).
- The map to the right shows the locations where firearms businesses can locate given current land uses.



# Locations for Firearms Businesses

## Considering Active Permits

- If residences at the Cottages at Wandering Pond development are constructed, this would further limit potential locations for Firearms Businesses
  - The Cottages at Wandering Pond comprise several parcels within the blue circle.

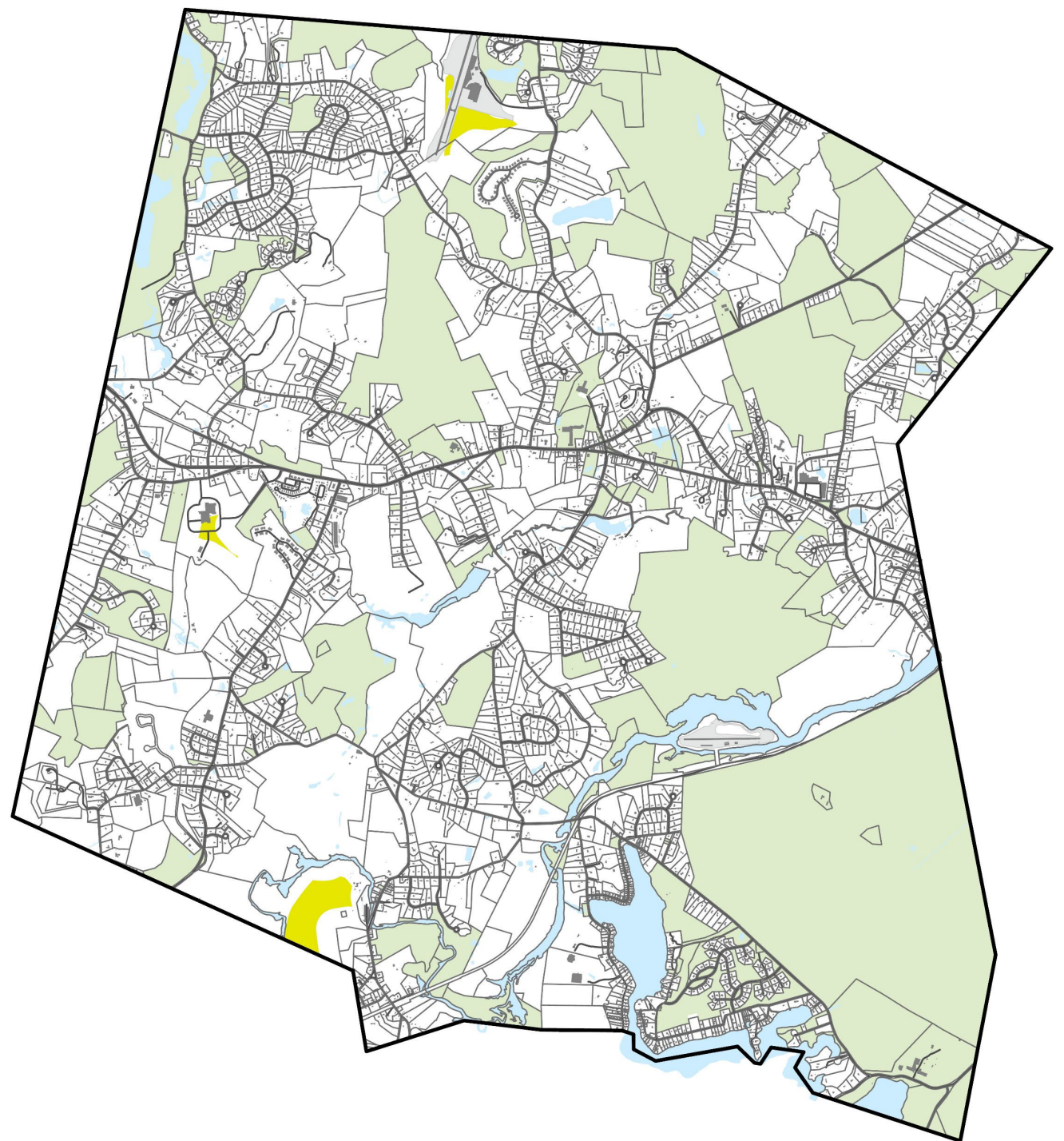




# Locations for Firearms Businesses

Considering Active Permits

- If residences at the Cottages at Wandering Pond development are constructed, this would further limit potential locations for Firearms Businesses
- The map to the right shows the locations where Firearms Businesses can locate, considering this future land use scenario.



The background of the slide is a grayscale map of a coastal region, showing land parcels, roads, and water bodies. A prominent green rectangular frame is centered on the slide, enclosing the title text.

# Discussion