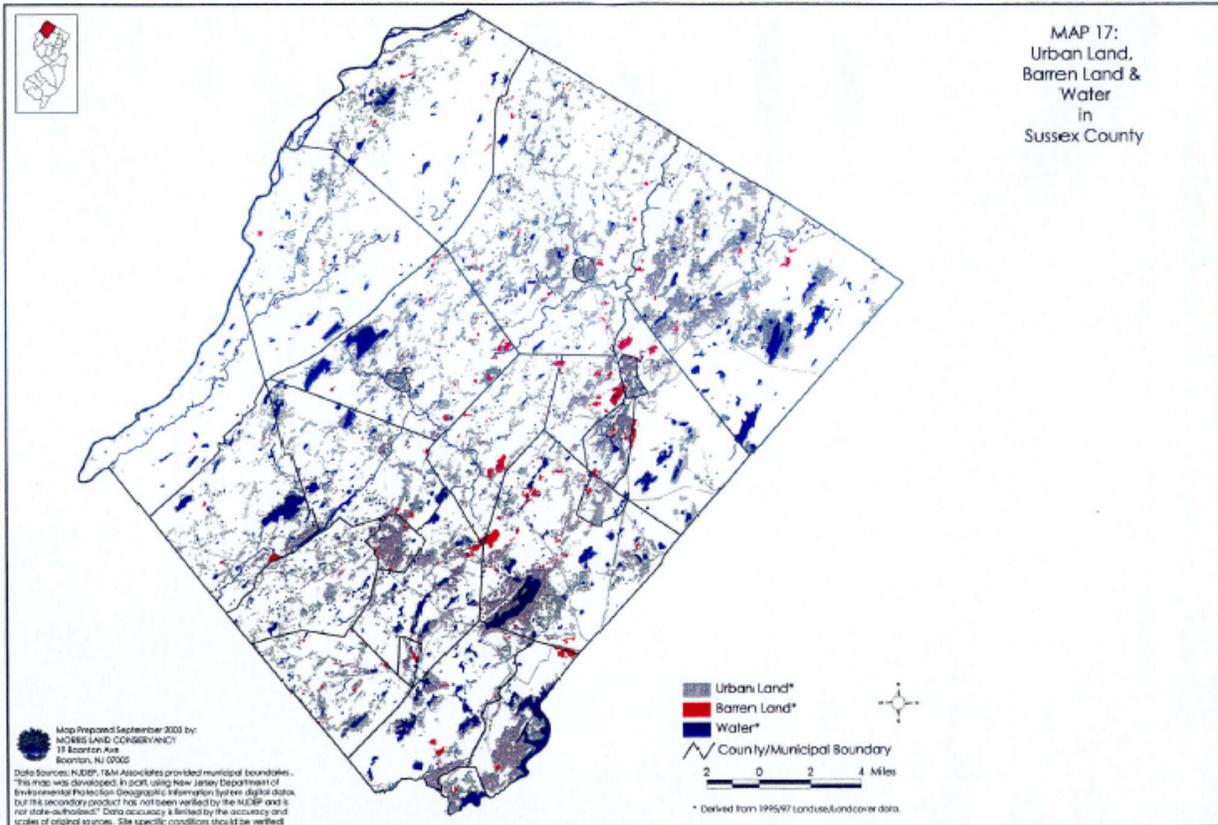


Land that is under woodland management receives the favorable farmland tax assessment rate in exchange for the planned harvest of the property’s timber resources. According to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s New Jersey Farmland Data Report for the tax year 2002, a total of 56,272 acres in Sussex county are classified as woodland/wetlands and 35,129 of these acres are non-appurtenant woodlands, i.e. those not attached to other lands that are farmed.

### Urban Land / Barren Land / Water

Urban land accounts for 42,445 acres, or 12% of Sussex County’s land area. Included in the ‘Urban’ category are any anthropogenic features or structures. This includes roads, parking lots, homes, offices, schools, stores and utility facilities.

The remaining 4% of the county is comprised of ‘Water’ and ‘Barren Land’. ‘Water’, which includes lakes, rivers, ponds and reservoirs, accounts for 12,827 acres. ‘Barren Land’ accounts for 2,169 acres and includes any land devoid of vegetative cover. This includes mines and quarries, such as those located on the Sparta/Hopatcong border and in Hardyston as illustrated by **Map 17: Urban Land, Barren Land & Water in Sussex County**.



A summary of land use according to data derived from the NJDEP’s 1995/97 Landuse/Landcover data layer is as follows:

- Total Upland Forest: 194,259 acres 57%
- Total Wetlands: 47,670 acres 14%
- Forested Wetlands (30,744 acres 9%)
- Herbaceous Wetlands (16,926 acres 5%)
- Tilled Agriculture: 44,075 acres 13%
- Urban Land: 42,445 acres 12%
- Water: 12,827 acres 4%
- Barren Land: 2,169 acres <1%
- Total: 343,445 Acres 100%**

**Steep Slopes**

Occurring across all of the previously mentioned land use/land cover categories are steep slopes. The benefit of mapping steep slopes lies in the ability to catalog topographic trends and to use that information in making informed land use decisions. According to **Map 18: Slope Categories in Sussex County**, the most striking occurrence of steep slopes is along Kittatinny Mountain, and along the escarpment of Sparta, Hamburg and Wawayanda Mountains.