Abstract
Town-owned properties play an important role in Vermont's forested landscape, and they also contribute to the state's economy of natural resources. These properties are subject to ongoing conservation and management, and many are not permanently protected from commercial forest harvests. To better understand the distribution, extent, and uses of municipal forests, the Vermont Town Forest Database was created in 2016 and includes a comprehensive inventory of municipal forests throughout the state. Analysis of the database describing the uses and conservation status of these forests is ongoing. Two major categories include properties that are officially labeled as town forest, but municipal forests also include public areas, parks, school forests, wilderness, ski district, and other parcels. Further investigations into the existing conservation measures are necessary, such as establishment of additional town ownerships and enforcement of conservation measures. Municipal forests play a critical role in the state's natural environment and biodiversity. Some parcels have been harvested; others are subject to ongoing management practices. Additional protection for many properties requires a consensus. It is possible that some town forests will be sold and converted to other land uses in response to short-term municipal exigencies.

Conclusions
As of April 2015, the database contains 350 properties constituting 14,235 acres, or roughly 11% of the total municipal lands are included. This average total occupancy is a 4.5% increase from the 2016 report. Some parcels have been harvested; others are subject to ongoing management practices. Additional protection for many properties requires a consensus. It is possible that some town forests will be sold and converted to other land uses in response to short-term municipal exigencies. To assist in locating properties or other suggestions for improving the database, please contact the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Laboratory (https://www.uvm.edu/spatialanaly).