The Northwest Arkansas Open Space Plan is a coordinated, voluntary program to protect and promote the region’s most valued natural landscapes and open spaces. Open space includes the lands and waters where people hunt and fish, play with their children, hike through the woods, observe wildlife in their natural habitat, and, in some cases, where they farm and grow food. The goal is to preserve these assets, thereby maintaining our high quality of life as the region continues to grow and prosper.

Mapping Analysis and Prioritization

Thirty-six sets of open space data were organized into the 5 main subject areas below. Those data sets were then ranked by the steering committee according to their importance for each of the subject areas. Areas of land that have more of these features, and those having higher-value features, are shown in darker shades of green (scores 3-5). Areas of land with fewer of these features, or that lack these features, are shown in lighter shades of green (scores 1-3).

Benefits
- Enhancing Quality of Life
- Generating Economic Activity
- Water Quality
- Natural Wildlife Habitats
- Recreation, Health and Safety
- Historic and Cultural
- Farmland and Rural Landscapes

OVERALL PRIORITY MAP
The overall map combines the final maps above, with the greatest emphasis on the Natural Resources feature, as directed by the Steering Committee, and as supported by input from the public comment form.

HIGH PRIORITY AREAS & DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE
This map shows the highest priority areas (scores 4 & 5) from the Natural Resources Map, and existing open spaces (blue areas). The urban areas clash with and are surrounded by higher levels of development pressure.

HIGH PRIORITY AREAS THAT CONNECT TO EXISTING OPEN SPACES
This map shows the urban priority areas (scores 4 & 5) with existing protected areas. It shows corridors of land that can be protected to connect open spaces.

PRIORITY AREAS IN RELATION TO PUBLIC INPUT
This map shows public input for “Community’s Favorite Places” that were compiled in 2045 from more public workshops and through the online public input map. For specific comments, visit www.nwarpnc.com/publicinput.