

City of Portsmouth Historical Land Use (Acres)

Land Use Type	1962	1974	1998	2005	2010	2015	2010 to 2015 Change in Acreage	2010 to 2015 Percent Change
Active Agricultural	948	214		81	84	77	-7	-8.33%
Aux Transportation				187	188	179	-9	-4.79%
Farmsteads	27	8		8	9	10	1	11.11%
Forested	3,855	3,753	3,756	1,931	1,915	1,849	-66	-3.45%
Industrial/Commercial	1,443	1,714	1,726	1,508	1,525	1,601	76	4.98%
Mixed Urban	133	374	624	56	56	56	0	0.00%
Open Wetlands	319	332	387	1,955	1,955	1,968	13	0.66%
Other/Idle	1,164	1,365	675	609	587	550	-37	-6.30%
Playing Fields/Recreation				283	285	270	-15	-5.26%
Railroad				26	26	26	0	0.00%
Residential	1,699	1,780	2,047	1,995	2,013	2,032	19	0.94%
Transportation	389	449	762	1,116	1,115	1,130	15	1.35%
Utilities				219	216	228	12	5.56%
Water	787	774	788	789	789	789	0	0.00%
Total	10,763							

Note: Years 1962, 1974, and 1998 were compiled with a slightly different methodology than 2005, 2010, and 2015. Aux Transportation, Playing Fields and Utilities are categories only broken out in 2005, 2010, and 2015. Classification of Open Wetlands improved between 1998 and 2005 due to higher quality aerial photos. Many Open Wetlands had previously been classified as Forested. Classification of Playing Fields/Recreation improved in 2015 to ensure that those in proximity to a school were classified as Education.

Land Use Definitions

Active Agricultural: This category includes fields, pastures, row crops, orchards, etc. It does not include farm buildings.

Aux Transportation: This category includes parking structures/lots, designated park & ride lots, margins along roadways, and medians.

Farmsteads: This category includes farm buildings.

Forested: This category includes forests.

Industrial/Commercial: This category includes commercial, services, government, educational, indoor cultural/public assembly, industrial, office parks, and shopping malls.

Mixed Urban: This category includes mixed residential-commercial, outdoor cultural/public assembly, and cemeteries.

Open Wetlands: This category includes all visible wetlands (recognizing that some forested wetlands will be indistinguishable).

Other/Idle: This category includes mining areas, vacant developed land, brush or transitional between open and forested, salt flats, beaches and river banks, sandy areas (non-beaches), bare/exposed rock, strip mine/quarry or gravel pit, and disturbed land (for example, construction).

Playing Fields/Recreation: This category includes outdoor recreation not associated with a school.

Railroad: This category includes railroad transportation.

Residential: This category includes multi-family, single family, mobile home parks, and group/transient quarters.

Transportation: This category includes air transportation, water transportation, limited and controlled highway rights-of-way, and road rights-of-way.

Utilities: This category includes communication, electric, gas, water, wastewater, and solid waste utilities.

Water: This category includes all surface water features (not including wetlands).

For more detailed descriptions, please contact rpruyne@rpc-nh.org.