

# AGENDA

Mansfield Conservation Commission  
Wednesday, February 18, 2009  
Audrey P. Beck Building  
CONFERENCE ROOM B  
7:30 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
4. Minutes
  - a. January 21, 2009
5. New Business
  - a. IWA Referral:
    - W1422 - DeBoer, 28 Centre Street- construction of a single family residence
  - b. Town Council/Town Manager referral re: Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision/Historic and Rural Character, Open Space and Working Farms  
(See 2/11/09 Update Memo from Director of Planning)
  - c. Parks Coordinator Position: Partial Cutback
  - d. Proposed Acquisition of Mansfield Lion Memorial Park  
(Memo from Director of Planning)
  - e. Other
6. Continuing Business (see 2/11/09 update memo from Director of Planning)
  - a. CL&P "Interstate Reliability Project"
  - b. Proposed UConn Composting Facility
  - c. Ponde Place Environmental Review Team study
  - d. IWA Violation Notice-Chernushek Property, 473 Middle Turnpike
  - e. Other
7. Communications
  - a. Minutes
    - Open Space (1/20/09)
    - PZC (1/20/09 and 2/2/09 )
    - IWA (1/20/09 and 2/2/09)
  - b. 2/10/09 Letter from Town Council/Planning and Zoning Commission Re: Extension of North Hillside Road Ext.
  - c. Winter 2009 CLEARscapes Newsletter
  - d. January/February 2009 CT. Wildlife
  - e. January 30, 2009 Quarterly Progress Report-UConn Landfill Closure
  - f. Other Correspondence
8. Other
9. Future Agendas
10. Adjournment

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Town of Mansfield  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Meeting of 21 January 2009  
Conference B, Beck Building  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

*Members present:* Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann, John Silander, Joan Stevenson, Frank Trainor. *Members absent:* Robert Dahn, Peter Drzewiecki. *Others present:* Henry Chernushek, Grant Meitzler (Wetlands Agent).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:34p by Chair Quentin Kessel.

2. The draft **minutes of the 17 December 08 meeting** were approved, with the addition of a missing verb in the last sentence of item 5.

**3. IWA business.**

a. Lehmann participated in the **IWA field trip** on 01/12/09; his report is attached.

b. **W1419 (Chernushek, Middle Tpk.)** Mr. Chernushek has cleared and re-graded about one acre of his land for a horse riding area. The cleared area lies in a valley drained by an intermittent stream flowing into a large wetland to the north. Mr. Chernushek did not obtain an IWA permit for this work. Meitzler's position is that he does not need one – or would not need one, had he left the stumps in place after clear-cutting – because, in his view, the work falls under a farming exemption in the Town's wetland regulations. In the absence of a legal opinion on this issue, the Commission agreed to treat Mr. Chernushek's proposal as it would any application involving wetlands.

After some discussion, the Commission then agreed unanimously (motion: Stevenson, Silander) to communicate to the IWA a number of concerns about this project, which the Commission does not have sufficient information to resolve, and to urge the IWA to look into them:

- How will sedimentation of the downstream wetland from deforestation, re-grading and horse riding be prevented?
- How will nutrient loading of the downstream wetland from horse manure be prevented?
- What is the design of the two brook crossings (culvert size, etc.) and is it adequate?

c. **W1421 (Clark, Farrell & Hanks Hill Rds)** A 4-lot subdivision is proposed, one lot (No.3) containing the existing house. After some discussion the Commission unanimously agreed (motion: Stevenson, Trainor) to make the following recommendations to the IWA/PZC:

- If possible, switch primary and reserve septic locations on Lots 1 & 2 to increase distance from wetlands.
- Run the DAE for Lots 1 and 2 along the rear stone wall so that the land beyond remains forested.
- Shrink the DAE for Lot 4 so as to buffer the wetland.
- Locate driveway cuts for Lots 1 and 2 so as to save the larger trees in the meadow.
- Designate a Conservation Corridor from Hanks Hill Rd. to the proposed Conservation Easement to provide access for wildlife.

**4. Planner's Update and Continuing Business.** The Commission briefly noted developments in some matters of interest.

- a. CL&P has responded to the Town's letter on the proposed **Interstate Reliability Project**. Kessel indicated that the Town's concerns had not, in his view, been adequately addressed and was persuaded to prepare a memo for the Council to this effect.
- b. Some residents have expressed concerns about odors from the proposed **UConn Composting Facility**. The University is attempting to reassure them.
- c. The Draft EIS for the **extension of North Hillside Rd** to Rt. 44 has been prepared. The preferred alignment is defended as the least environmentally offensive of the Build options (No Build not being an option at this point), where environmental offense is largely reckoned in terms of impact on wetlands.

5. Adjourned at 8:49p.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary  
22 January 09

Attachment: Report on 1/12/09 IWA Field Trip

Since the day was quite cold and the ground covered with snow, we did not walk these properties. Only such "site characteristics" as could be observed from driveways or roads were noted.

W1419 (Chernushek, Middle Tpk) The area Mr. Chernushek has identified as a garden site does not appear to be suited for this purpose. It will receive limited sunshine, lying as it does along the bottom of a fairly steep NE-facing slope topped by trees.

W1421 (Clark, Hanks Hill & Farrell Rds) The only part of this development that is really close to wetlands is a foundation drain on Lot 2, which exits about 30 ft from wetlands. However, the DAEs for Lots 1, 2, & 4 extend quite close to wetlands and appear to be larger than necessary. Those for Lots 1 & 2 might be pulled back to the stone wall (save for the path of the foundation drain). For some reason, the primary septic areas for Lots 1 and 2 are closer to the wetland than the associated reserve areas; is it possible to switch their locations for these lots? The location of driveways for Lots 1 and 2 could be adjusted to preserve some nice trees; the stone wall along Farrell Rd is rubble, not fine stonework, and nothing of significance would be lost by shifting the driveway cuts a bit from the existing gateways.

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT  
 MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
 4 SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD, STORRS, CT 06268  
 TEL: 860-429-3334 OR 429-3331  
 FAX: 860-429-6863**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

File #  
 W 1422  
 Fee Paid 280-  
 Official Date of Receipt 1-29-09

*Applicants are referred to the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations for complete requirements, and are obligated to follow them. For assistance, please contact Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetlands Agent at the telephone numbers above.*

Please print or type or use similar format for computer; attach additional pages as necessary.

**Part A - Applicant**

Name Deboer Family Limited Partnership

Mailing Address P.O. Box #6, Mansfield Center, CT

Zip 06250

Telephone-Home \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone-Business 860-423-3144

**Title and Brief Description of Project**

Proposed lot line realignment & construction of a single family dwelling with some minor grading within the upland review area

Location of Project 28 Centre Street, Mansfield Center, CT

Intended Start Date June 2009

**Part B - Property Owner (if applicant is the owner, just write "same")**

Name Same as above

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone-Home \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone-Business \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's written consent to the filing of this application, if owner is not the applicant:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's interest in the land: (if other than owner) \_\_\_\_\_

**Part C - Project Description (attach extra pages, if necessary)**

1) Describe in detail the proposed activity here or on an attached page. (See guidelines at end of application – page 6.)

Please include a description of all activity or construction or disturbance:

a) in the wetland/watercourse

b) in the area **adjacent** to (within 150 feet from the edge of) the wetland/watercourse, even if wetland/watercourse is **off** your property

1. Proposed lot line realignment for the construction of a single family dwelling.

2. No work is being proposed in the wetlands or watercourse

3. Some minor grading associated with the single family dwelling is proposed in the 150 ft. upland review area.

2) Describe the amount or area of disturbance (in square feet or cubic yards or acres):

a) in the wetland/watercourse

b) in the area **adjacent** to (within 150 feet from the edge of) the wetland/watercourse, even if wetland/watercourse is **off** your property

a. No work is proposed in the wetlands or watercourse

b. approximately 500 sq. ft. of the upland review area will be disturbed by minor grading activities.

3) Describe the type of materials you are using for the project: This project is proposing to use only natural on-site material to conduct the proposed grading in the upland review area.

a) include **type** of material used as fill or to be excavated \_\_\_\_\_

b) include **volume** of material to be filled or excavated \_\_\_\_\_

4) Describe measures to be taken to minimize or avoid any adverse impacts on the wetlands and regulated areas (silt fence, staked hay bales or other Erosion and Sedimentation control measures).

We are currently proposing silt fence and/or staked hay bales to protect the wetlands and upland review area for any adverse impact associated with this application

**Part D - Site Description**

Describe the general character of the land. (Hilly? Flat? Wooded? Well drained? etc.)

This site is currently gentle rolling hills, and is underlain with well drained Hinckley & Merrimac soils

**Part E - Alternatives**

Have you considered any alternatives to your proposal that would meet your needs and might have less impact on the wetland/watercourse? Please list these alternatives.

We have not considered any alternatives, since no work is being proposed in the wetlands and no wetlands impact is being proposed.

**Part F - Map/Site Plan (all applications)**

1) Attach to the application a map or site plan showing **existing conditions** and the **proposed project** in relation to wetland/ watercourses. Scale of map or site plan should be 1" = 40'; if this is not possible, please indicate the scale that you are using. A sketch map may be sufficient for small, minor projects. (See **guidelines at end of application – page 6.**)

- 2) Applicant's map date and date of last revision 11/24/2008
- 3) Zone Classification RAR-90
- 4) Is your property in a flood zone?  Yes  No  Don't Know

**Part G - Major Applications Requiring Full Review and a Public Hearing**

See Section 6 of the Mansfield Regulations for additional requirements.

**Part H - Notice to Abutting Property Owners**

1) List the names and addresses of abutting property owners

Name	Address
Sandra Lambert	27 Centre St., Mansfield Center, CT 06250
Hugh M. Hamill, Jr. Est.	30 Centre St., Mansfield Center, CT 06250
Deboer Family Limited Partners,	P.O. Box #6, Mansfield Center, CT 06250
Town of Mansfield,	Mnsfld. Ctr. Cemetery, 4 S. Eagleville Rd. Mnsfld, 06268

2) **Written Notice to Abutters** . You must notify abutting property owners by certified mail, return receipt requested, stating that a wetland application is in progress, and that abutters may contact the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agent for more information. Include a brief description of your project. **Postal receipts of your notice to abutters must accompany your application.** (This is not needed for exemptions).

**Part I - Additional Notices, if necessary**

- 1) Notice to Windham Water Works is attached. If this application is in the public watershed for the Windham Water Works (WWW), you must notify the WWW of your project within 7 days of sending the application to Mansfield—sending it by certified mail, return receipt requested. Contact the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agent to find out if you are in this watershed.
- 2) Notice to Adjoining Town. If your property is within 500 feet of an adjoining town, you must also send a copy of the application, on the same day you sent one to Mansfield, to

the Inland Wetlands Agency of the adjoining town, by certified mail, return receipt requested.

- 3) The Statewide Reporting Form (attached) shall be part of the application and specified parts must be completed and returned with this application.

**Part J - Other Impacts To Adjoining Towns, if applicable**

- 1) Will a significant portion of the traffic to the completed project on the site use streets within the adjoining municipality to enter or exit the site? \_\_\_ Yes x No \_\_\_ Don't Know
- 2) Will sewer or water drainage from the project site flow through and impact the sewage or drainage system within the adjoining municipality? \_\_\_ Yes x No \_\_\_ Don't Know
- 3) Will water run-off from the improved site impact streets or other municipal or private property within the adjoining municipality? \_\_\_ Yes x No \_\_\_ Don't Know

**Part K - Additional Information from the Applicant**

Set forth (or attach) any other information which would assist the Agency in evaluating your application. *(Please provide extra copies of any lengthy documents or reports, and extra copies of maps larger than 8.5" x 11", which are not easily copied.)*

**Part L - Filing Fee**

Submit the appropriate filing fee. (Consult Wetlands Agent for the fee schedule available in the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.)

\_\_\_ \$365. \_\_\_ \$110. \_\_\_ \$60. \_\_\_ \$25.

*Note: The Agency may require you to provide additional information about the regulated area which is the subject of the application, or about wetlands or watercourses affected by the regulated activity. If the Agency, upon review of your application, finds the activity proposed may involve a "significant activity" as defined in the Regulations, additional information and/or a public hearing may be required.*

**The undersigned applicant hereby consents to necessary and proper inspections of the above mentioned property by members and agents of the Inland Wetlands Agency, at reasonable times, both before and after the permit in question has been granted by the Agency.**

*L. Richard DeBoer*

Applicant's Signature

1-29-09

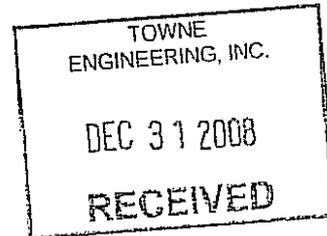
Date



# HIGHLAND SOILS LLC

December 30, 2008

Joseph Boucher  
Towne Engineering, Inc.  
P.O. Box 162  
South Windham, CT 06266



**RE: DICK DEBOER  
25 CENTER STREET  
MANSFIELD, CT**

Dear Joe:

The inland wetland boundaries on the above-referenced property were field delineated on November 13, 2008. The wetlands were field delineated in accordance with the standards of the National Cooperative Soil Survey and the definition of wetlands as found in the Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 440, Section 22A-38. I have reviewed the plans prepared by your office and have found the representation of the field delineated wetlands to be substantially correct.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please call me at (860) 742-5868.

Very truly yours,

John P. Ianni, M.S.  
Professional Soil Scientist  
CPESC

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**TOWN OF MANSFIELD**  
**OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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GREGORY J. PADICK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Memo to: Mansfield Conservation Commission  
From: Gregory Padick, Director of Planning  
Date: 2/11/09  
Re: Update on Miscellaneous Issues



**1. Town Council/Town Manager Referral: Mansfield 2020**

Before acting to accept the 2008 report: Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision, the Town Council instructed staff to forward the various vision and action item components to existing Committees and Commissions for review and comment. A template was prepared for submitting comments back to the Town Manager's Office. The responses will help refine recommended action items and help facilitate the approval of an implementation plan. The "deadline" for comments is April 1, 2009. The vision point and action items related to "Historic and Rural Character; Open Space and Working Farms" has been referred to 5 Committees/Commissions including the Conservation Commission. One response per Committee/Commission has been requested.

Each Committee/Commission can decide how to respond to this request. Alternatives include:

- a. Asking a member or sub-committee to draft a reply using the template and, at a subsequent meeting, a group response can be agreed upon.
- b. Having each member draft/or consider potential responses and, at a subsequent meeting, a group response can be agreed upon.

**2. CL&P Interstate Reliability Project**

The subject project has not yet been submitted to the Connecticut Siting Council. The Conservation Commission's 1/16/09 letter has been distributed to the Town Council and Planning and Zoning Commission and, at the Town Council's 2/9/09 meeting, staff was instructed to pass this communication to area legislators. The Town Manager has proposed a motion to the Windham Region Council of Governments (draft motion attached) but WINCOG has not yet acted on this request.

**3. UConn Compost Facility**

The attached 2/4/09 memo to the Planning and Zoning commission provides a summary and update on this project. Concerns continue to be expressed by property owners near the proposed Route 32 site. UConn officials have responded to these concerns and continue with design work. Construction is still planned for this summer.

**4. Ponde Place Project**

The Environmental Review Team visited the Ponde Place site off of Hunting Lodge Road in December. A report with the team's findings and recommendations is expected by the end of February. The State Department of Public Health has approved a feasibility plan for a community waters supply and test wells are expected to be drilled this spring. It is understood that any well drilling work, including potential access improvements, within regulated inland wetland areas will need IWA authorization.

**5. IWA Violation Notice-Chernushek property, 473 Middle Turnpike.**

Action regarding this violation notice has been tabled pending outcome of the 3-2-09 continued Public Hearing on the application submitted by Mr. Chernushek. The issue is complicated due to statutory exemption provisions for agricultural activities. A legal opinion from Mansfield's Town Attorney has been requested.

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**TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

GREGORY J. PADICK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Memo to: Planning and Zoning Commission  
Cc: Conservation Commission  
From: Gregory Padick, Director of Planning  
Date: 2/12/09  
Re: 8-24 Town Council Referral: Proposed Acquisition of Mansfield Lions Memorial Park



Pursuant to the provisions of Section 8-24 of the State Statutes, the above-referenced proposed acquisition has been referred to the PZC for comment. State Statutes provide the PZC with a 35-day comment period but, since a public hearing has been scheduled for 2/23/09, a response at Monday's meeting is recommended. I have included information on the proposed property that was submitted to the Town Council. The following review comments are provided for the PZC's consideration:

- The 69.9 acre property is owned by Mansfield Recreational Park Inc. and Mansfield currently leases 40 acres of the property in association with existing soccer fields and associated improvements. The current lease expires in 2020. The proposed acquisition of this property by the Town has been discussed for many years and an agreement to convey the land to the Town for \$75,000 plus up to \$5,000 in closing costs was recently reached. This agreement is subject to final approval by the Town Council (see attached 2/9/09 Agenda Summary Item for more details).
- The subject property is located between Wormwood Hill Road and the Fenton River. It abuts Army Corp of Engineers land associated with Mansfield Hollow State Park and Mansfield's transfer station property (former landfill). Vehicular access is provided from the transfer station access road off of Warrenton Road (see attached maps). An existing trail links the property to the nearby Nipmuck Trail adjacent to the Fenton River. The property is in an RAR-90 zone.
- Except for areas cleared in association with existing recreational uses (primarily soccer fields) the subject property is wooded in character. It generally slopes to the west toward the nearby Fenton River. Wetland areas are situated in northerly portions of the site.
- The subject site is within Plan of Conservation and Development designated "Stratified Drift Aquifer" and "Interior Forest" areas. It is within the Willimantic Reservoir Watershed.
- The attached Agenda Summary Item and 1/20/09 letter from the Open Space Preservation Committee provide justification for Town acquisition. In summary, Town ownership of this parcel will protect the significant investment made in recreational improvements; will allow a trail connection to the adjacent Dorwart property, which soon will be conveyed to the Town, and Coney Rock Preserve (see attached map); will help preserve a large interior forest area and associated wildlife habitat and will help protect surface and ground water quality.
- The proposed acquisition will promote many goals, objectives and recommendations contained in Mansfield Plan of Conservation and Development and its particular Policy Goal #2, objectives a, e and f and Policy Goal #4, Objective d. The proposed acquisition clearly addresses a majority of the Plan's eight Open Space Acquisition Priority Criteria (see Appendix X of Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development). My review indicates that criteria 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 would all be met. In addition, a number of potential recreational improvements on this property are identified in Appendix I of the Plan.
- The property is designated within "Conservation" and "Preservation" classification in the CT Policies Plan for Conservation and Development and is within existing preserved land and preservation area classifications in WINCOG's Regional Land Use Plan.

**Summary/Recommendation**

Based on my review, the proposed acquisition of the Mansfield Lions Memorial Park would support goals, objectives and recommendations contained in Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development. Accordingly, the following motion has been prepared for the PZC's consideration.

**That the Planning and Zoning Commission notify the Town Council that the proposed acquisition of the Lions Memorial Park would significantly promote goals, objectives and recommendations contained in Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development and therefore the PZC supports the proposed purchase of this property.**

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## 1/29/09 Draft Resolution-Submitted by M. Hart

### A Resolution Regarding CL&P's Interstate Reliability Project and Proposed Transmission Lines in Eastern Connecticut

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Windham Regional Council of Governments hereby approves the submission of the following comments regarding CL&P's Interstate Reliability Project:

1. It is essential that all aspects of Connecticut's energy policy (including but not limited to: energy conservation and potential reductions of existing and future energy demand; alternative sources of energy generation; and energy storage both within the generation/transmission system and at individual consumption sites) be comprehensively and independently studied before additional electric transmission lines are approved and constructed. In association with the Connecticut Siting review process, it is recommended that a Request for Proposals seeking non-transmission alternatives be issued and that all potential alternatives carefully be considered.
2. If, after a comprehensive consideration of alternatives, the Connecticut Siting Council determines that additional transmission line construction is needed, alternative routes that do not cross through rural eastern Connecticut should be thoroughly investigated. Any new transmission lines should be located in a manner that supports existing and potential areas of concentrated development. State and regional land use plans should be important considerations in making locational decisions for any new transmission lines.

The Windham Regional Council of Governments also hereby authorizes its Executive Director, Mark N. Paquette to submit letters conveying this action to CL&P, the Connecticut Siting Council and the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board.

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TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Item #24

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GREGORY J. PADICK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Memo to: Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission  
From: Gregory Padick, Director of Planning  
Date: 2/4/09  
Re: UConn Compost Facility: Summary/Update:

For many years UConn has been planning to construct a facility to compost the University's leaves and agricultural waste. In order to prevent any stormwater runoff or groundwater infiltration from this composting operation, the facility will be constructed as a 10,000 square foot covered "hoop barn" with a concrete floor. Finished compost will be temporarily stored on an adjacent concrete pad. Composting is a natural form of recycling and is considered an environmental best practice for managing agricultural and other organic wastes. UConn will use a windrow style composting process to promote *aerobic* decomposition, which, in turn, will reduce odors that are caused by *anaerobic* decomposition from the alternative practice of stockpiling or spreading raw manure. The process will result in a relatively odorless, earthy compost material, which UConn will use as an alternative to chemical fertilizers or manure on our agricultural fields. Composting not only prevents the anaerobic emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>, but also returns or recycles carbon, along with nutrients, to the soil as finished compost. Thus, the compost facility will also help UConn meet its climate change action goals and commitments.

During the spring of 2008, UConn officials decided to revisit potential compost facility sites. A nine person Advisory Committee was formed, site evaluation criteria were developed and potential sites on UConn owned land throughout Mansfield were considered. Gregory Padick, Mansfield's Director of Planning, Conservation Commission Chairman, Quentin Kessel (representing the Naubesatuck Watershed Council) and resident Meg Reich (representing The Willimantic River Alliance) were designated as non-UConn representatives on this committee. Background information and recommended sites were presented at a November 2008 Open House. Residents proximate to two recommended sites were invited to the Open House. Following the Open House, the committee confirmed the two sites east of Route 32 and north of Route 44 as the most appropriate alternates. Subsequently, UConn officials responded to letters of concern received from neighbors of these recommended sites. These letters, which have been distributed to the Town Council, indicate that the subject sites remain acceptable to the university.

It is understood that UConn officials are proceeding with final designs and cost estimates for the two recommended sites. No special state or local permits are required and construction of a new composting facility at one of the recommended sites is expected to begin by early summer with an anticipated completion this fall.

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# MEMORANDUM

Town of Mansfield  
Town Manager's Office  
4 So. Eagleville Rd., Mansfield, CT 06268  
860-429-3339  
Maria.Capriola@mansfieldct.org



To: Open Space Committee  
Historic District Commission  
Conservation Commission  
Agriculture Advisory Committee  
Cemetery Committee

cc: Jennifer Kaufman  
Greg Padick  
Mary Stanton

From: Matthew Hart, Town Manager  
Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager

Date: February 6, 2009

Re: Strategic Planning – Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision

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## **BACKGROUND**

As many of you know, Mansfield recently underwent a community visioning process as part of a Town Council strategic planning initiative. Nearly 70 people participated in two visioning weekends during winter 2007/2008. Another 200+ stakeholders from the community commented on the ideas generated during the visioning process through a series of open houses and an on-line "wiki" in early 2008. Throughout the spring and summer of 2008, many of these participants continued to meet and refine their recommended vision points and action plans for Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision.

Through this process, nine vision points emerged as priorities for the community:

- K-12 Education and Early Childhood Development
- Historic and Rural Character, Open Space and Working Farms
- Housing
- Public Safety
- Recreation, Health and Wellness
- Regionalism
- Senior Services
- Sustainability and Planning
- University/Town Relations

A Strategic Planning Steering Committee consisting of Council members, staff, board members, citizens and other stakeholders assisted in guiding and coordinating the process. In September 2008, Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision was presented to the Town Council by the Steering Committee. Mansfield 2020:

A Unified Vision is reflective of the status and ideas of the participating community stakeholders at a specific point in time.

**ACTION NEEDED**

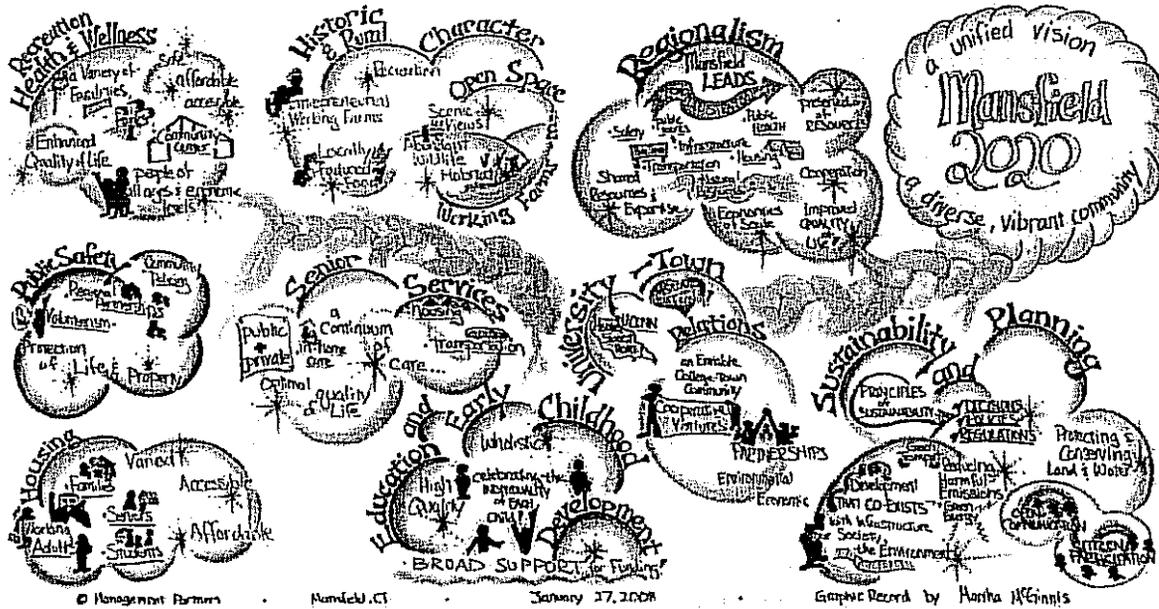
Town Council is currently in the process of reviewing the merits of the recommendations presented in the plan. Council has determined that your Committee has significant expertise relevant to one or more vision points in the strategic plan. As a result, Council respectfully requests your review and feedback regarding the Historic and Rural Character, Open Space and Working Farms vision point and related action plans<sup>1</sup>. They are attached for your review. Please review the attached information and complete the attached template for each action plan assigned to you for review. Please provide the completed template(s) to the Town Manager's Office no **later than April 1, 2009**. Your assistance will aid Council in determining action plans and steps for its strategic plan, as well as prioritization of items within the plan. Once prioritization of the plan has occurred, Council will likely seek guidance and assistance from your Committee in regards to implementation.

If you have questions regarding this memorandum please contact your assigned staff person or Maria Capriola or Sara-Ann Chaine in the Town Manager's Office at 860-429-3336.

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<sup>1</sup> Pages 20-21, Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision

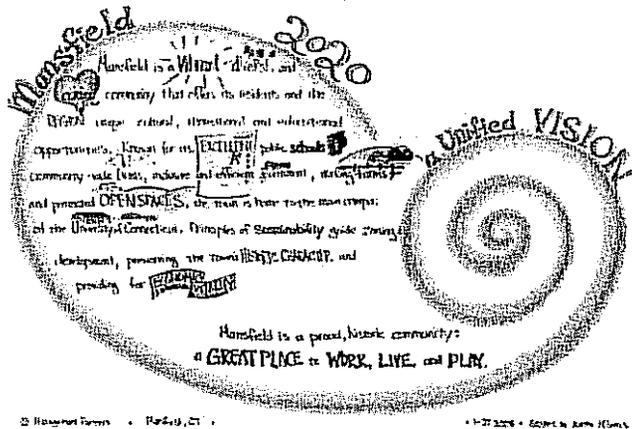
## Mansfield 2020 Unified Vision and Priority Vision Points



The Future Search process resulted in the following unified vision and priority vision points. In addition to the priority vision points listed here, a comprehensive list of vision points developed and considered are detailed in the "Vision Search" section of the report. The unified vision establishes the overarching themes for Mansfield's future.

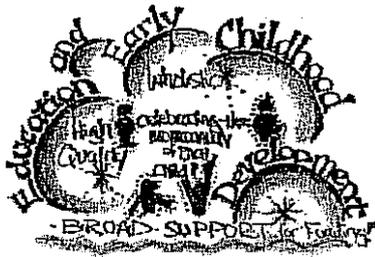
### Unified Vision

Mansfield is a vibrant, diverse and caring community that offers its residents and the region unique cultural, recreational and educational opportunities. Known for its excellent public schools, community-wide events, inclusive and efficient government, working farms and protected open spaces, the town is home to the main campus of the University of Connecticut. Principles of sustainability guide zoning and development, preserving the town's



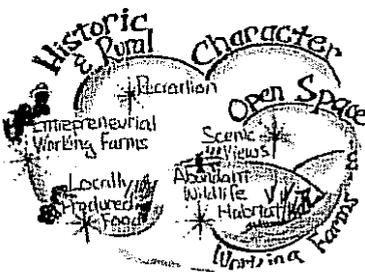
historic character and providing for economic vitality. Mansfield is a proud historic community: A great place to live, work and play.

## Priority Vision Points



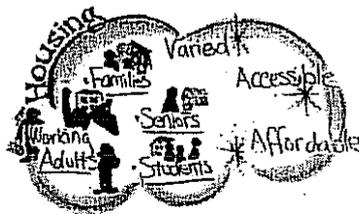
### K – 12 Education and Early Childhood Development

Mansfield provides high quality, holistic education for all children/youth in town while celebrating the individuality of each child. Funding for education has broad support from the community.



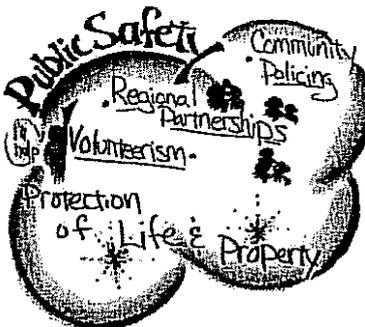
### Historic and Rural Character, Open Space and Working Farms

Mansfield's cultural history together with its woodlands, open fields, and working farmlands, remain an integral part of the Town's character providing locally produced food, abundant wildlife habitat, scenic views and inviting recreational opportunities. Through collaboration with the University of Connecticut and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Mansfield is known as an incubator site for a growing number of entrepreneurial farms and farmers.



### Housing

Mansfield has varied types of affordable and accessible housing that meets the needs of everyone, especially families, working adults, seniors and students.



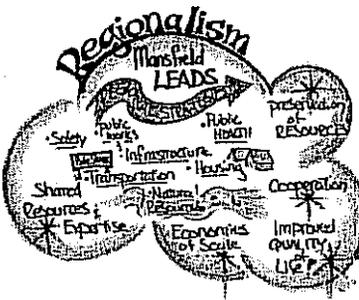
### Public Safety

Mansfield's public safety services—police, fire and EMS—have appropriate resources to serve the present and future needs of the community. The community emphasizes the protection of life and property, and the importance of regional partnerships, volunteering and community policing.



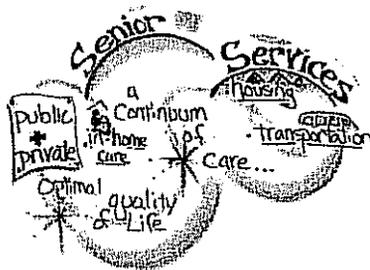
### Recreation, Health and Wellness

The Town of Mansfield has a variety of quality recreation facilities and programs that build a sense of community and citizen health and wellness. The community center is a key asset that promotes health, fitness and well being. Outdoor parks and facilities assist in this effort. These resources provide safe, affordable and accessible places to enhance the quality of life of people of all ages and socioeconomic levels.



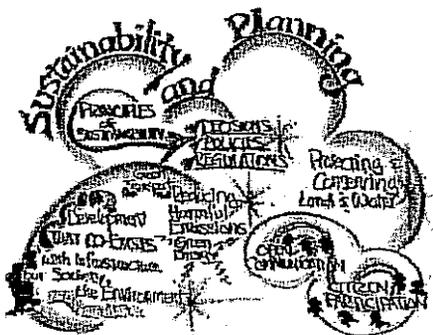
### Regionalism

Mansfield is a leader in developing regional strategies for addressing common concerns such as public works and infrastructure, public health and safety, education, economic development, transportation, natural resources, housing, health and recreation. Shared resources and expertise and other cooperative efforts lead to economies of scale, preservation of resources, and improved quality of life.



### Senior Services

Through public and private efforts, Mansfield provides a continuum of care services such as: housing, transportation and in-home care to create an optimal quality of life for an aging population.



### Sustainability and Planning

Principles of sustainability guide the decisions, policies and regulations of the Town government and its regional partners. In order to achieve quality of life and economic prosperity for current and future generations, Mansfield protects and conserves land and water resources, reduces harmful emissions by promoting green transportation and energy, and plans for development that coexists with infrastructure, social and environmental resources.



### University/Town Relations

Mansfield, home to the University of Connecticut main campus, has built an enviable college-town community. Mansfield has established and maintained a good relationship with UConn through many cooperative ventures and partnerships including sustainable environmental and economic partnerships.



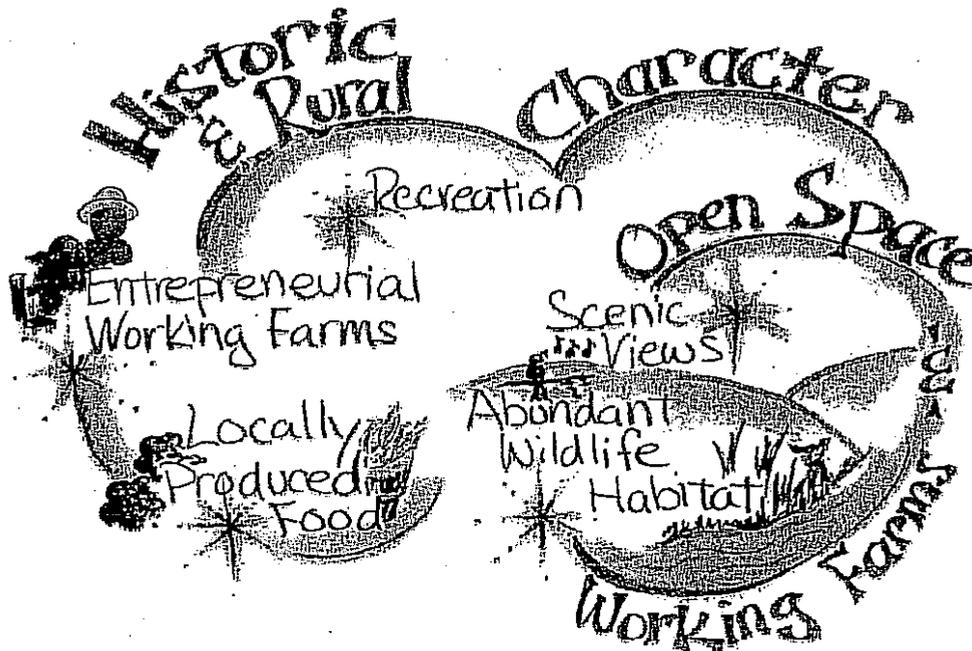
# MANSFIELD 2020: A UNIFIED VISION

## Historic and Rural Character, Open Space and Working Farms

Mansfield's cultural history together with its woodlands, open fields, and working farmlands, remain an integral part of the Town's character providing locally produced food, abundant wildlife habitat scenic views and inviting recreational opportunities. Through collaboration with the University of Connecticut and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Mansfield is known as an incubator site for a growing number of entrepreneurial farms and farmers.

### Historic Character and Rural, Open Space and Working Farms Action Items:

- Preserve existing farms in Mansfield while increasing the number of farms and farming opportunities
- Protect and maintain Mansfield's cultural history, including its historic structures and villages, scenic roads and views, stonewalls, and burial grounds



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## **ACTION PLAN VISION POINT: HISTORIC AND RURAL CHARACTER, OPEN SPACE AND WORKING FARMS**

**Action Item:** Preserve existing farms in Mansfield while increasing the number of farms and farming opportunities

**What constraints or obstacles may need to be overcome to be successful?**

Economics of farming vs. subdivision

**What positive factors are in place to help make this action item successful?**

Increased interest in food quality and source; people more willing to pay for food quality

**What individuals might you need/want to include?**

Agricultural Advisory Committee, Open Space Preservation Committee, Zoning Board, University Cooperative Extension Services, Conservation Commission

**Who else may be working on this or is interested in its success?**

Existing farmers, CSA's, Joshua's Trust, Connecticut Farmland Trust

**What department or agency should take the lead responsibility to make this happen?**

Economic Development Department (reporting to Town Manager), working with Planning and Zoning Commission

**How will we know if we are successful?**

We have kept existing farms from being developed, increased farmed acreage and bounty at Farmer's Markets

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Desired Target Date</b>
1. Expand/encourage the purchase/use of local produce in schools, senior center and various state institutions	2009
2. Inventory current and prospective suitable farm sites town-wide to provide possible opportunities for current and future farmers	2009
3. Investigate funding and financing sources to support farmland preservation, farming or farm enhancement projects, such as private foundations, town, state and federal grants and programs, in addition to tax incentives	2009
4. Create the Mansfield Farm Cooperative and seek a Coordinator responsible for: 1) expanding markets for Mansfield farm produce; 2) supporting and educating farmers about various markets, educational or financial opportunities; 3) expanding the Storrs Farmers Market; 4) educating the public of all ages about the benefits and challenges involved in local farming; 5) exploring regional benefits of a commercial kitchen and USDA slaughterhouse and smokehouse facilities for small farmers	2009
5. Work with legislators to enact legislation to enable the preservation of farmland	2009

**MANSFIELD 2020: A UNIFIED VISION  
BOARD/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK TEMPLATE**

**Action Plan Being Reviewed (PLEASE INSERT):**

Is this action plan a current priority of your Committee?

Is this action plan a future priority of your Committee?

Is this action plan feasible in whole or in part? Please elaborate.

Is this action plan legal (i.e. statutory, regulations that exist that would not make the plan legal)?

Does this action plan have merit?

**MANSFIELD 2020: A UNIFIED VISION  
BOARD/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK TEMPLATE**

What work has been done, if any, to date on items referenced in this action plan?

Would you recommend proceeding or deleting this action plan? In whole or in part? Please elaborate.

Are there low cost or no cost solutions that can be utilized to implement this action plan? If so, please elaborate.

Does your Committee have other priorities relevant to the vision points not currently identified in the action plans that are important to identify? If so, please elaborate.

Will your Committee be willing to provide future assistance with implementation of the strategic plan?

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## **ACTION PLAN VISION POINT: HISTORIC AND RURAL CHARACTER, OPEN SPACE AND WORKING FARMS**

**Action Item:** Protect and maintain Mansfield's cultural history, including its historic structures and villages, scenic roads and views, stonewalls, and burial grounds.

**What constraints or obstacles may need to be overcome to be successful?**

Cost of maintenance and restoration; encroachment by developments; resistance by owners of historic structures

**What positive factors are in place to help make this action item successful?**

Historic Districts, Cemetery Committee, Joshua's Trust, awareness and community pride in Mansfield's history, Scenic Road Designation, Historic Society, Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development

**What individuals might you need/want to include?**

Historic District Commission, Public Works Department, Zoning Officer, Historical Society, Building Inspector

**Who else may be working on this or is interested in its success?**

Private owners

**What department or agency should take the lead responsibility to make this happen?**

Community effort

**How will we know if we are successful?**

Historic Districts maintained and protected

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Desired Target Date</b>
1. Establish new Historic Districts	2008-09
2. Establish Village Districts ( as defined in State Statutes)	2008-09
3. Promote scenic road designations	2008-09
4. Develop Town Ordinances to protect stonewalls	2008-09
5. Develop programs to educate citizens on history and rural character of the Town	2008-09

**MANSFIELD 2020: A UNIFIED VISION  
BOARD/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK TEMPLATE**

<b>Action Plan Being Reviewed (PLEASE INSERT):</b>
Is this action plan a current priority of your Committee?
Is this action plan a future priority of your Committee?
Is this action plan feasible in whole or in part? Please elaborate.
Is this action plan legal (i.e. statutory, regulations that exist that would not make the plan legal)?
Does this action plan have merit?

**MANSFIELD 2020: A UNIFIED VISION  
BOARD/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK TEMPLATE**

What work has been done, if any, to date on items referenced in this action plan?

Would you recommend proceeding or deleting this action plan? In whole or in part? Please elaborate.

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Does your Committee have other priorities relevant to the vision points not currently identified in the action plans that are important to identify? If so, please elaborate.

Will your Committee be willing to provide future assistance with implementation of the strategic plan?

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**Town of Mansfield  
Agenda Item Summary**

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Matt Hart, Town Manager *MH*  
**CC:** Maria Capriola, Assistant to the Town Manager; Gregory Padick, Director of Planning; Curt Vincente, and Director of Parks and Recreation, Jennifer Kaufman, Parks Coordinator  
**Date:** February 9, 2009  
**Re:** Acquisition of Mansfield Lions Memorial Park

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**Subject Matter/Background**

Lions Memorial Park is a 69.9-acre parcel owned by Mansfield Recreation Park, Inc. Forty of the 69.9 acres are leased to the Town of Mansfield. Mansfield has been leasing a portion of the Mansfield Recreation Park, Inc. land since 1971 at no cost. The current lease expires in 2020. The site currently contains four soccer fields, a pavilion and a concession area with restrooms, all built by the Town of Mansfield. The value of these improvements is approximately \$2 million.

Mansfield Recreation Park, Inc. is offering this parcel to the Town for a price of \$75,000 plus an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for closing costs. This organization is a nonprofit entity established in 1953 with a mission to provide a recreation park for the citizens of Mansfield. According to Mansfield Recreation Park, Inc's charter, the property must be sold to a tax-exempt organization having the purposes and powers similar to those of Mansfield Recreation Park, Inc. However, once Mansfield Recreation Park, Inc. sells this property, the organization who buys this land is under no restriction to maintain the land as recreational use and they could develop and/or subdivide the parcel and sell to abutters for profit. If the Town Council authorizes the purchase this property, the deed will be restricted so that the property can only be used for recreational purposes and other uses including educational and/or cultural activities and/or uses that promote gatherings for the community.

This 69.9-acre property is the connecting parcel between Mansfield Hollow State Park and the Dorwart property, which has been approved for purchase by the Town Council. Public ownership of the forested portion of this land would expand the protected portion of an interior forest area. Town ownership of this connecting parcel between adjoining preserved properties would help protect a wildlife corridor and provide permanent protection for the final link in a long trail system that encompasses Mansfield Hollow, Fifty-Foot Cliff Preserve, Coney Preserve and the Dorwart property. In addition, Preservation of this property would protect land and part of a tributary in the immediate watershed of the Fenton River and the Willimantic Reservoir's public water supply

downstream. These preservation goals are supported in Mansfield's 2006 Plan of Conservation and Development.

Beyond the preservation goals listed above, Town ownership of this land would secure Town ownership of land where we have invested approximately \$2 million in recreational facilities.

The Open Space Preservation Committee reviewed this parcel at their meeting on January 20, 2009 and supports the purchase of this property. Mansfield's Assessor estimates the value of this property as of October 1, 2004 to be \$209,700, or approximately \$3,000 per acre.

#### Financial Impact

After recent commitments for the acquisition of the Dorwart Property (including expenses), the Luce Property, and the Moss Sanctuary (including an estimated \$200,000 for dam repair\*), the Open Space Acquisition Fund has a balance of \$95,000. If the Town were to acquire Mansfield Lions Memorial Park, there would remain a balance of \$15,000 in the fund, not including the unissued bonding authorized in fiscal year 2006/2007 for \$1,000,000. (See attached spreadsheet for more detail.)

#### Recommendation

For the reasons listed above, staff recommends that the Town Council schedule a public hearing for its February 23, 2009 meeting and refer this to the Planning and Zoning Commission, pursuant to section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

If the Town Council supports this recommendation, the following motion is in order:

*Move, to refer the proposed purchase of the 69.9 acre Mansfield Recreation Park, Inc. property to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's next regular meeting on February 23, 2009 to solicit public comment regarding the proposed purchase of this property.*

#### Attached

- 1) January 20, 2009 OSPC recommendation concerning Lions Memorial Park
- 2) Aerial Photo of the Lions Club Property and Contiguous Open Space
- 3) Existing and Potential Trails on the Lions Club Property and Contiguous Open Space
- 4) Open Space Fund Commitments

\* The Town is expected to receive a 2/3 cost share from CT DEP for dam repairs at the Moss Sanctuary. The dam does not need to be repaired immediately and the Town plans to wait until state funding is available to proceed with these repairs.

LEASE

This Agreement between MANSFIELD RECREATION PARK, INC., c/o Dignor Piner, 106 Bassetts Bridge Road, Mansfield Center, Connecticut (Lessor) and the TOWN OF MANSFIELD, a municipal corporation (Lessee).

1. Lessor leases to Lessee for the period January 2, 1995 to January 2, 2020, the premises described in Exhibit A attached hereto, including the right to use the existing well on the easterly boundary of said premises.

2. Lessee shall use said premises as a recreation area and may make improvements thereon with the prior written approval of the Lessor, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Planned improvements as depicted on the approved site plans entitled, "Town of Mansfield, Proposed Completion of Lions Club Park April, 1993, sheets 1-57", shall be considered as already approved for the purposes of this agreement.

3. Lessee shall, during the term hereof

- a. Maintain the existing roadway running northerly from Park Road to said premises, providing a good gravel road surface which is also well drained;
- b. Maintain in force liability insurance covering the use of said premises with limits for Personal Injury and Property Damage of \$5,000,000.00, and name Lessor as an also insured on said policy for the leased premises.
- c. Police said premises so as to keep the same free of trash and rubbish;
- d. Keep weeds and vegetation under reasonable control;
- e. Execute any subordination agreement at the request of the Lessor, so long as the execution thereof does not interfere with the Lessee's right of quiet enjoyment.
- f. Permit the use of the area North of the existing soccer fields by the Scouts for camping and other scouting activities.

4. Lessor may, during the term hereof

- a. Make improvements to said premises, so long as such improvements do not interfere with Lessee's right of quiet enjoyment;
- b. Use the premises for its own recreational purposes, or other purposes, including fund raising events, upon prior written consent by Lessee, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- c. Utilize other Town buildings and facilities in accordance with Town's policies of use for such facilities at no cost to Lessor, except for such facilities that involve a separate use charge to all users, be they Town groups or otherwise.

5. If not terminated by either party at the scheduled end of this agreement (January 2, 2020), this lease shall continue in effect as if renewed one year at a time.

6. Should any litigation result from this agreement, the prevailing party in such litigation shall be entitled, as additional damages, to a reasonable attorney's fee.

7. This agreement shall be binding upon, and shall inure to the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the parties.

8. Each of the parties hereto shall indemnify and hold harmless the other from any condition or event resulting from their performance of this agreement.

Dated at Mansfield, Connecticut this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1994.

LESSOR

LESSEE

MANSFIELD RECREATION PARK, INC.

TOWN OF MANSFIELD

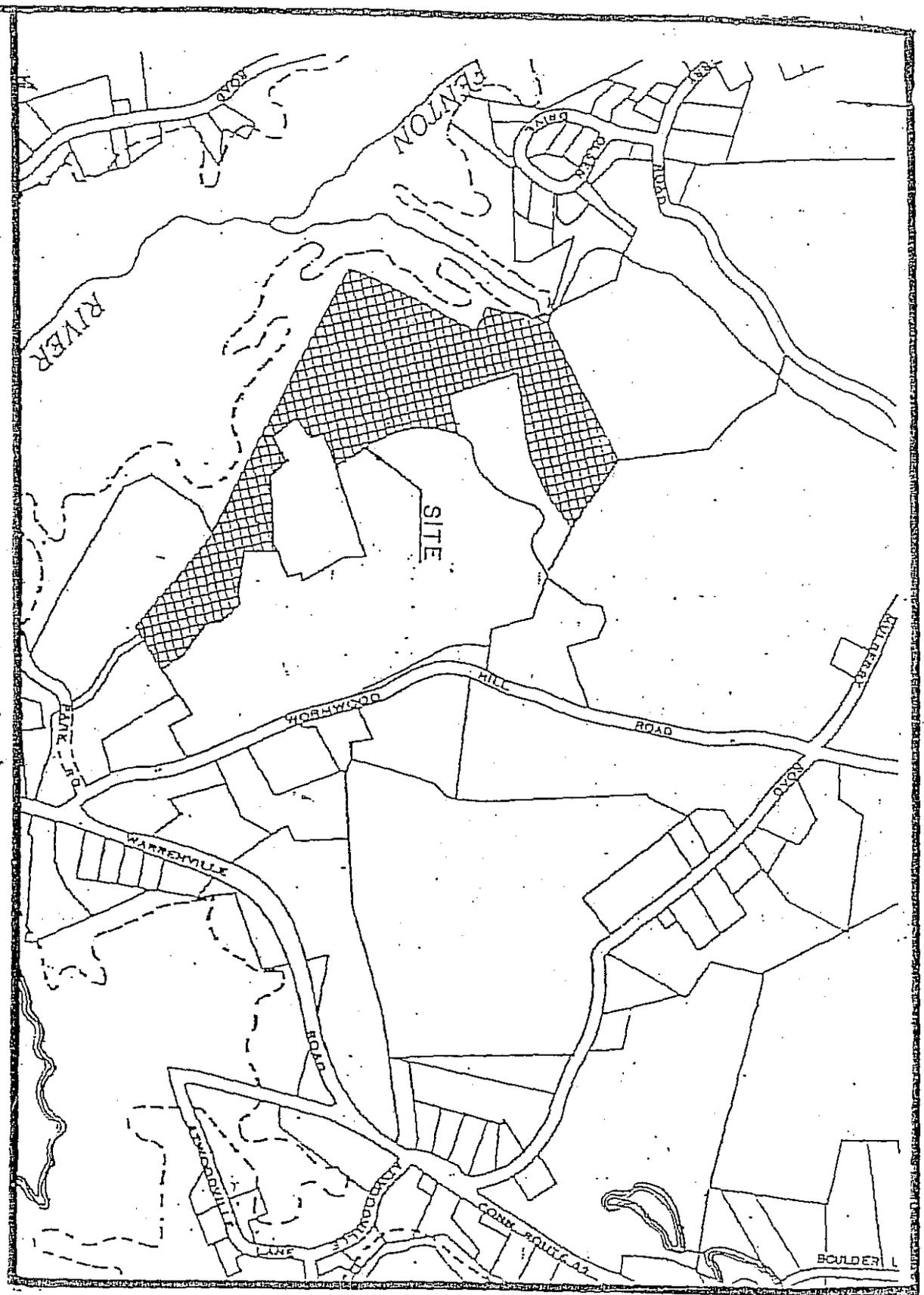
BY Dignor Piner  
DIGNOR PINER

BY Martin H. Berliner  
MARTIN H. BERLINER

Its

Its Town Manager

LOCATION PLAN  
Scale: 1" = 1000'



## OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

January 20, 2009

To: Town Council

Re: Acquisition of the Lions Club Field (Mansfield Recreation Park, Inc.)

At their January 20, 2009, meeting, the Committee reviewed the Town's proposed acquisition of a 69.9-acre parcel off Route 89, which is owned by Mansfield Recreation Park, Inc.

### COMMENTS:

This parcel currently is leased to the Town, which has installed four soccer fields and related service buildings on this land since 1971. The committee reviewed acquisition of this property with reference to the following items:

#### **Town Plan's Open Space Acquisition Priority Criteria:**

The property is the connecting parcel between Mansfield Hollow State Park and the Dorwart property (which has been approved for purchase by the Town Council). Public ownership of the forested portion of this land would expand the protected portion of an interior forest area.

Town ownership of this connecting parcel between adjoining preserved properties will help protect a wildlife corridor and provide permanent protection for the final link in a long trail system that encompasses Mansfield Hollow, Fifty-Foot Cliff Preserve, Coney Preserve and the Dorwart property.

Preservation of this property will protect land and part of a tributary in the immediate watershed of the Fenton River and the Willimantic Reservoir's public water supply downstream.

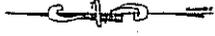
#### **Additional benefits of the Town's purchase of this parcel:**

It would secure Town ownership of land under a \$2 million Town investment in recreational facilities.

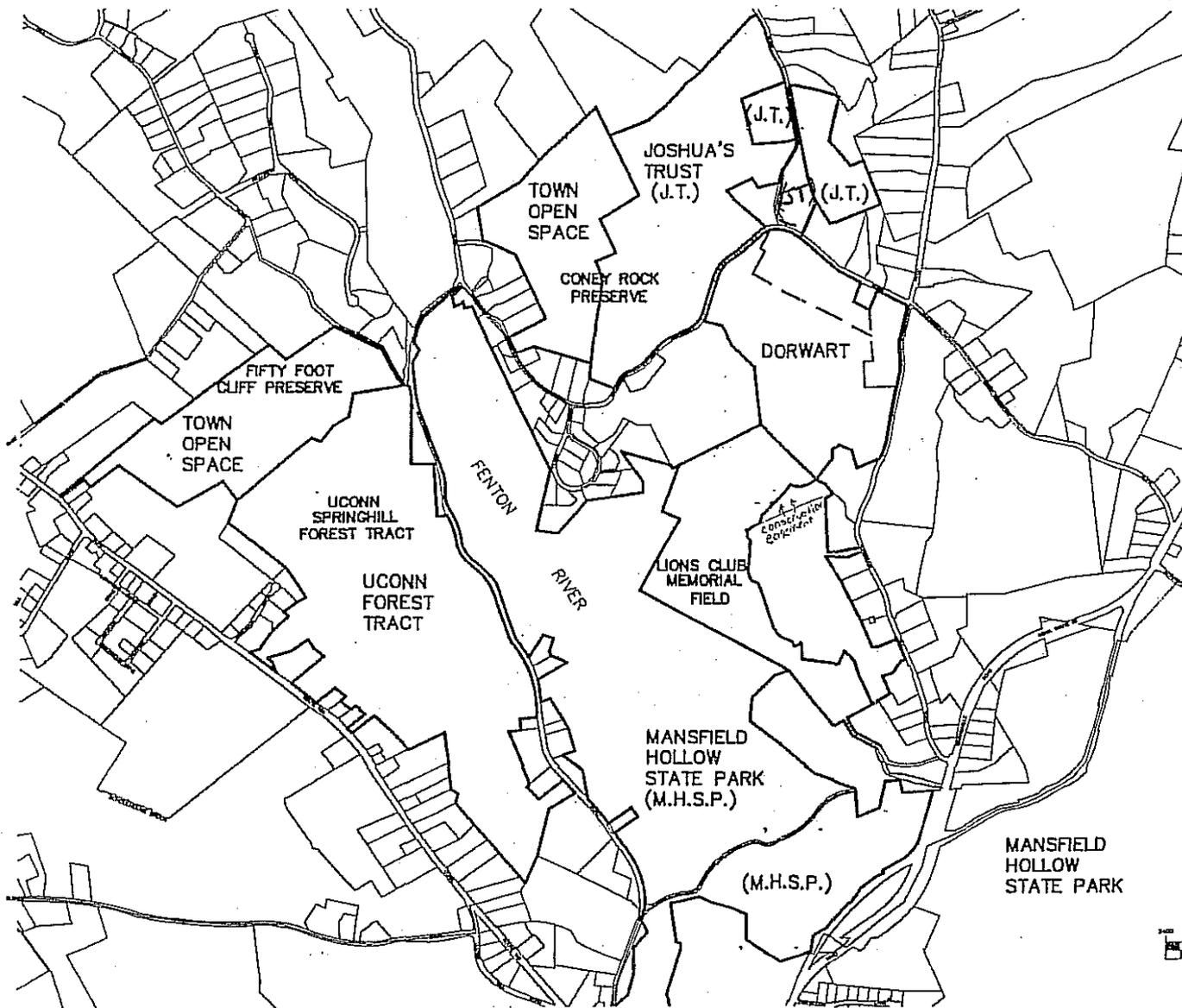
It would provide a wider buffer area between the landfill and private homes to the east.

### RECOMMENDATION:

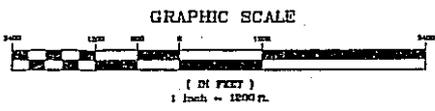
The Committee supports this purchase for the reasons stated above.



AERIAL PHOTO  
OF THE LIONS CLUB PROPERTY



PROPERTY MAP  
 OF THE LIONS CLUB PROPERTY  
 AND CONTIGUOUS PRESERVED  
 OPEN SPACE



		Open Space Fund Commitments		
Current Fund Balance as of February 1, 2009				\$630,021.00
85105 - Authorized (Unissued) Bonding - 06/07				\$1,000,000.00
Property	Price	Expenses	Grants	Fund Balance
Dorwart Property	\$325,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$112,500.00	\$407,521.00
Luce Property (Contribution to Joshua's Trust)	\$12,500.00			\$395,021.00
Moss Sanctuary	\$100,000.00	\$200,000.00	*	\$95,021.00
Mansfield Lions Memorial Park	\$75,000.00	\$5,000.00		\$15,021.00
<p>* The Town is expected to receive a 2/3 cost share from CT DEP for dam repairs at the Moss Sanctuary. The dam does not need to be repaired immediately and the Town plans to wait until state funding is available to proceed with these repairs.</p>				

**Town of Mansfield**

**Open Space Preservation Committee**

Minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting

Members present: Jim Morrow, Ken Feathers, Quentin Kessel, Steve Lowrey, Vicky Wetherell

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35
2. Minutes of the November 18, 2008, meeting were approved.
3. Opportunity for Public Comment: none present.
4. Old Business: None.
5. New Business

Executive Session: The committee discussed a potential Town acquisition and will forward its recommendation to the Town Manager.

The Committee reviewed the proposed Clark subdivision on Farrell and Hanks Hill Roads and did not have comments to forward to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

6. Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Wetherell, acting secretary

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## MINUTES

### MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), B. Gardner, J. Goodwin, K. Holt, P. Kochenburger, P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan  
Members absent: R. Hall  
Alternates present: M. Beal, G. Lewis, L. Lombard  
Staff present: G. Padick, Director of Planning

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Alternate Lewis was appointed to act in Hall's absence, and Lombard and then Beal if needed.

#### Minutes:

1/5/09- Gardner MOVED, Ryan seconded, to approve the 1/5/09 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY:

1/12/09 Field Trip- Holt MOVED, Goodwin seconded, to approve the 1/12/09 field trip minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with Beal, Holt and Goodwin in favor and all others disqualified.

#### Zoning Agent's Report:

Item A & C were noted.

##### B. Hall Property Update

After discussing the Zoning Agent's report, the chairman recommended following the staff's suggestion that this item be put on the next agenda and to invite Mr. Hall to attend. It was also noted that the existing regulations regarding contractor storage should be revisited, and staff encouraged members to review these regulations prior to the next meeting.

##### D. Request for Exception from Storage Shed Setbacks, 228 Baxter Road, J. Uziemblo, o/a, Baxter Road Estates, PZC File #1229

Gardner MOVED, Holt seconded, that the PZC authorize the placement of a 12 by 12-foot storage shed at 228 Baxter Road, as described in 1/3/09 and 1/13/09 submittals from Jeffrey Uziemblo and depicted on the submitted 1/3/09 plan, as provided for under Article VIII, section B.1.d of the regulations. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### Old Business:

##### 1. 3-Lot Subdivision Application, Bassetts Bridge & South Bedlam Roads, Mansfield Hollow Estates, File # 1278 (M.A.D. 2/13/09 or 35 days after IWA Action)

Tabled, awaiting staff review of revised plans. Gardner volunteered to work with staff on draft motion.

##### 2. Site Modification Request Proposed Replacement of Existing Commercial Building at Corner of Storrs and Bassetts Bridge Roads. Padick referenced a 1/15/09 report from the Director of Planning which supplements his 11/26/08 report; a 1/14/09 report from the Assistant Town Engineer; a 1/12/09 report from the Fire Marshal; and a 1/12/09 report from the Director of Health. Padick also referenced a revised set of plans and a list containing details of the project that was submitted by the applicant's representative, John Ivan.

Ranjit Balajjen, owner, and John Ivan, contractor, were present. They presented samples of the cream-colored vinyl siding, and sand-colored roof shingles that they intend to use.

Members expressed concerns about the use of the parking area on this site by other area businesses; adequate amount of parking spaces; proximity of building to Route 195; design of the exterior, including materials, doors and windows; and the slope of the lot. Members expressed concern about the conflict between delivery trucks and customer vehicles in the parking area and suggested several changes for the configuration of the parking area. Chairman Favretti noted no further questions or comments from the public, applicant or the Commission.

Kochenburger MOVED, Ryan seconded, that the PZC Chairman and Zoning Agent be authorized to approve a reconstruction of an existing commercial building at 454 Storrs Road through the modification

process pursuant to the provision of Article XI, Section D. This authorization, which includes a setback waiver for buildings and parking areas, is subject to the following conditions:

1. The plans received at the 1/5/09 meeting shall be refined, as deemed appropriate by the PZC Chairman with staff assistance, to incorporate or reference details submitted in list form (curbing, footing drains, well overflow piping, etc.) and to address any other issues raised after additional review by staff.
2. The new accessible parking space shall be delineated and signed as per state requirements. The location of the space may be revised after further consideration of site grading details.
3. State DOT approval shall be required before a zoning permit is issued for new construction. A demolition permit may be authorized without D.O.T. approval.
4. Plans for signage and landscaping shall be prepared and submitted for Planning and Zoning approval. The landscape plan shall include plantings around the planned free standing sign, and trees and shrubs that will enhance site aesthetics. All landscaping improvements shall be installed or bonded before occupancy permits are authorized.
5. This authorization is for the proposed package store use. Any change of use shall require Commission approval including a determination that parking and loading requirements for the new use can be safely addressed on the subject non-conforming site.
6. If it is determined by the Planning and Zoning Commission that delivery services have not been safely addressed within the proposed parking area, the applicant shall alter delivery services and/or locations in a manner acceptable to the Commission.
7. Notice of these conditions shall be filed on the Mansfield Land Records prior to the issuance of a Zoning Permit.

MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Plante who was opposed.

3. **Potential Re-Zoning of the "Industrial Park" zone on Pleasant Valley Road and Mansfield Avenue.**

Item was tabled awaiting staff meeting with primary property owners.

4. **Proposed Telecommunication Tower in southern Mansfield**

Padick summarized his report noting no significant impact if either site is chosen. He did not feel comments were necessary in this case due to the low impact to neighbors until an official application has been submitted to the citing council. Item was tabled.

5. **Draft Environmental Impact Statement, North Hillside Road Ext., Public Hearing Thursday, January 29, 2009, 7pm at Bishop Center**

Item was tabled, noting a 1-29-09 public hearing at 7 pm at Bishop Center at UConn.

**New Business:**

1. **8-24 Referral, Potter Trust Property, East of 288 Storrs Road**

Holt MOVED, Gardner seconded, that the Planning and Zoning Commission report to the Town Council that it has no objection to the Town's acceptance and subsequent conveyance of a .7 acre parcel currently owned by the Estate of Theodore Potter, subject to a condition that any conveyance be to an abutting property owner who merges this land with an existing lot. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. **New Application, 4-Lot Subdivision, Hanks Hill & Farrell Rds, Clark Estates Subdivision, File #1280**

Gardner MOVED, Holt seconded, to receive the subdivision application (file # 1280) submitted by Sheila Clark for a 4-lot subdivision named Clark Estates on property located at the west side of Farrell Road and the north side of Hanks Hill Road, owned by the applicant, as shown on plans dated 10/30/08, and as described in other application submissions, and to refer said application to the staff, Conservation Commission, Parks Advisory Committee and Open Space Preservation Committee for review and comments. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Reports of Officers and Committees:** Favretti noted the next Regulatory Review Committee meeting was set for 2/10/09 at 1 p.m.

**Communications and Bills:** Items noted.

**Adjournment:** Favretti declared the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine K. Holt, Secretary

## DRAFT MINUTES

MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting, Monday, February 2, 2009  
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), B. Gardner, J. Goodwin, R. Hall, K. Holt, P. Kochenburger,  
P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan  
Alternates present: G. Lewis  
Alternates absent: M. Beal, L. Lombard  
Staff present: G. Padick, Director of Planning  
Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Alternate Lewis was appointed to act if needed.

### Minutes:

1/20/09- Gardner MOVED, Plante seconded, to approve the 1/20/09 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Hall who disqualified himself.

### Zoning Agent's Report:

Item A - C were noted.

#### D. Bonding of site Improvements, Healey Property, 476 Storrs Road, File #819

Holt MOVED, Hall seconded, that the Planning & Zoning Commission authorize the PZC Chairman with staff assistance to execute a bond agreement with Michael Healey, and to accept a cash bond in the amount of \$7,000 for the completion of required site work at 476 Storrs Road. Said bond agreement shall specify that all required site work shall be completed by June 1, 2009. Upon receipt of the bond and execution of a bond agreement, the Zoning Agent is authorized to issue a Certificate of Compliance for the subject development. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### Renewal of Land Uses/Potential Zoning Violations: Hall Property, Old Mansfield Hollow Road

Chairman Favretti asked Zoning Agent Curt Hirsch to give an overview. Hirsch referenced his 1/15/09 memo and noted that he and Hall met to discuss the memo. Hall stated that by May 1<sup>st</sup> he hopes to have removed, from his property, all of the storage and non-registered vehicles (except three antique pieces of equipment). Hirsch stated that he and Hall have not resolved the issue regarding contractor use of the property, and noted that he has found no evidence establishing a business on the property by Hall's parents. Hall stated that he plans to keep all registered vehicles, about three or four pieces of equipment. Hall asked that the PZC inform him of what is an acceptable number of registered vehicles.

Althea Stadler, Mansfield Hollow Road, expressed concern that the vehicle removal was supposed to be done last year. She wanted to know what guarantee there is that it will happen now. Robert McCarthy, Mansfield Hollow Road, questioned if any new vehicles or equipment will be allowed on the site once it is cleaned up.

Holt asked Hirsch what category does antique farm equipment fall under in the Zoning Regulations.

Chairman Favretti explained that there will be no Commission discussion this evening but asked that members collect their thoughts for discussion at the next meeting and be prepared to give Hirsch direction.

### Old Business:

#### 1. 3-Lot Subdivision Application, Bassetts Bridge & South Bedlam Rds, Mansfield Hollow Estates, File # 1278 (M.A.D. 2/24/09)

Gardner MOVED, Hall seconded, to approve with conditions the subdivision application (File #1278), of the Estate of Shirley Popeleski, for three lots, on property owned by the applicant, located on Bassetts Bridge and South Bedlam Roads, in an RAR-90 zone, as submitted to the Commission and shown on plans dated July 1, 2008 as revised to January 5, 2009.

This approval is granted because the application, as hereby approved, is considered to be in compliance with the Mansfield Subdivision Regulations. Approval is granted with the following conditions:

1. Final plans shall be signed and sealed by the responsible surveyor, engineer, and soil scientist.
2. Pursuant to subdivision regulations, particularly Sections 7.5 and 7.6, this action specifically approves the depicted Building Area and Development Area Envelopes and sideline setback waivers for Lots 1 and 2. Unless the Commission specifically authorizes revisions, the approved envelopes shall serve as the setback lines for all future structures and site improvements, pursuant to Article VIII of the Zoning Regulations. This condition shall be specifically Noticed on the Land Records and the deeds for the subject lots.
3. The final plans shall be revised to incorporate the following revisions:
  - A. Note 3 on Sheet 1 shall be revised to delete the clause "except where noted".
  - B. On Sheet 2 the erosion and sediment control notes shall be revised to update the estimated start of construction and to change the frequency of inspections to daily.
  - C. The Development Area Envelope on Lot 2 shall be revised near the southwestern corner to exclude a low lying area defined by a stone wall. The stone wall shall be used as the DAE.
  - D. On all three lots, the Development Area Envelopes along the Bassetts Bridge Road street line shall be moved at least 25 feet from the street line except for the driveway areas for Lots 2 and 3.
  - E. On Sheet 1, a note shall be added to specify that no structures shall be located on septic system and reserve areas.
4. The approved plans include notes regarding stone wall and tree preservation. Pursuant to Section 7.7, no existing stone walls shall be altered except for site work depicted on the approved plans. No stones from existing walls shall be removed from the site. Furthermore, a number of specimen trees have been identified to be saved. No Zoning Permits shall be issued on individual lots until a protective barrier has been placed around the specimen trees identified to be saved and has been found acceptable to the Zoning Agent. In conjunction with the filing of final maps, notice of this condition shall be filed on the Land Records and referenced in the deeds of the subject lots.
5. Due to the size of the subject subdivision and distance from existing survey control points, this approval waives (pursuant to Section 6.5.4.b) the requirement that the survey be tied to the Connecticut Plane Coordinate System.
6. The Commission, for good cause, shall have the right to declare this approval null and void if the following deadlines are not met (unless a ninety (90) or one hundred and eighty (180) day filing extension has been granted):
  - A. All final maps, including submittal in digital format, a right-of-way deed for land along Bassetts Bridge and South Bedlam Roads, the depicted drainage easement on Lot 3 and a Notice on the Land Records to address conditions 2 and 4 (with any associated mortgage releases) shall be submitted to the Planning Office no later than fifteen days after the appeal period provided for in Section 8-8 of the State Statutes, or, in the case of an appeal, no later than fifteen days of any judgment in favor of the applicant;
  - B. All monumentation with Surveyor's Certificate, shall be completed or bonded pursuant to the Commission's approval action and Section 14 of the Subdivision Regulations no later than fifteen days after the appeal period provided for in Section 8-8 of the State Statutes, or, in the case of an appeal, no later than fifteen days, of any judgment in favor of the applicant.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. **Application, 4-Lot Subdivision, Hanks Hill & Farrell Rds., Clark Estates Subdivision, File #1280**  
Holt MOVED, Gardner seconded, to table this item and schedule a Public Hearing for March 2, 2009 for the subdivision application, because the subdivision is on a scenic road. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. **Draft Environmental Impact Statement, North Hillside Road Ext.**  
Hall MOVED, Holt seconded, that the Planning and Zoning Commission authorize Chairman Favretti to co-endorse, with Mayor Paterson, Town comments on the December 2008 Environmental Impact Statement. It is understood that the comments will be consistent with the 2/2/09 draft letter prepared by the Director of

Planning. If the draft letter is not supported by the Town Council, Chairman Favretti is authorized to submit an independent letter about North Hillside Road Extension. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Potential Re-Zoning of the "Industrial Park" zone on Pleasant Valley Road and Mansfield Avenue.**  
Item tabled awaiting staff meeting with primary property owners.

**New Business:**

None.

**Reports of Officers and Committees:**

Favretti noted the next Regulatory Review Committee meeting is set for 2/10/09 at 1 p.m.

**Communications and Bills:**

Items noted.

**Adjournment:**

Favretti declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Katherine K. Holt, Secretary

PAGE  
BREAK

MINUTES  
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
Special Meeting  
Tuesday, January 20, 2009  
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), B. Gardner, J. Goodwin, K. Holt, P. Kochenburger (arrived 7:19 pm), P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan  
Members absent: R. Hall  
Alternates present: M. Beal, G. Lewis, L. Lombard  
Staff present: G. Meitzler (Wetlands Agent)

Chairman Favretti called the special meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Alternate Lewis was appointed to act in Hall's absence, and Lombard and then Beal if needed.

**Public Hearing:**

**W1420 - White Oak Condominiums - Mansfield City & White Oak Roads**

Chairman Favretti opened the public hearing at 7:03. Members present were Favretti, Gardner, Goodwin, Holt, Kochenburger (7:19 pm), Plante, Pociask, Ryan, and alternates Beal, Lewis, and Lombard. Favretti appointed Lewis to act. Wetlands Agent Meitzler read the legal notice as it appeared in The Chronicle on 1/8/09 and 1/14/09 and referenced a 12/29/08 memo from G. Meitzler, Wetlands Agent.

Mark Peterson, P.E. of Gardner and Peterson Associates, representing the applicant, reviewed the proposal and specifically indicated the wetlands as flagged by Soil Scientist, John Ianni. Peterson noted for the record the Town Council's October 2008 approval for the use of Town land adjacent to the White Oak Condominiums for the installation of a sewer collection system.

Holt questioned if the applicant had received Meitzler's memo, and if he had any objection to the suggestion for the use of rip-rap in one specific area. Peterson indicated that he had no objections to Meitzler's suggestion.

Gardner questioned what part of the system will be on the Town land. Peterson indicated that the leaching field will be the only part of the system on the Town land.

Pociask asked if the pumping stations will be on the White Oak property and who will be responsible for maintenance of them. Peterson responded that the stations will be on the White Oak property and will be the responsibility of the condominium association.

Robert Roberge, 66 White Oak Road, had several concerns regarding the length of time to complete the project, road closure during construction, disturbance of the wetlands, the inconvenience to the residents, property value, and affordable housing benefits for the town. Peterson addressed Mr. Roberge's concerns regarding the project specifics including that the crossing of the wetlands would be done during the dry time of year, and the road disturbance would be done one lane at a time. He referred Mr. Roberge's questions regarding town benefits and affordable housing to the Director of Planning who responded that the White Oak Association has paid the Town \$15,000 in return for the use of the open space land, and that the Town Council did not address any affordable housing issues.

Chairman Favretti noted no further questions or comments from the applicant, public or Agency. Gardner MOVED, Pociask seconded, to close the Public Hearing at 7:26 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Consideration of Action:**

**W1420 - White Oak Condominiums - Mansfield City & White Oak Roads**

Holt MOVED, Gardner seconded, to grant an Inland Wetlands License under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to **The White Oak Condominiums** (file no. W1420), for installation of piping for a sewer collection and force main piping system through the development and along

White Oak Road, crossing a small wetland area with seasonal flow and within 150 foot regulated areas adjacent to wetlands, as shown on plans dated 12/01/2006, revised through 11/12/2008, and as described in other application submissions. This action is based on the application submissions, and consideration of applicable regulations.

Based on the above considerations, the Agency hereby finds this project will not cause significant impact, provided the following conditions are met:

1. All erosion and sedimentation controls (as shown on the plans) shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized.
2. At the wetland crossing located 400 feet in from Mansfield City Road, the top 12 inches of the excavation for the force main shall be protected with stone for erosion protection.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until January 20, 2014), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

W1417 - Popeleski - Bassetts Bridge & S. Bedlam Rd - 3 Lot subdivision

Holt MOVED, Gardner seconded, to grant an Inland Wetlands License under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to Thomas V. Pope, Executor (File W1417), for approval of a 3-lot residential subdivision on property owned by the Estate of Shirley Popeleski, located at Bassetts Bridge and South Bedlam Roads, as shown on a map dated July 21, 2008, revised through January 5, 2009, and as described in other application submissions.

This action is based on a finding of no anticipated significant impact on the wetlands, and is conditioned upon the following provisions being met:

1. Appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until January 20, 2014), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine K. Holt, Secretary

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, February 2, 2009  
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), B. Gardner, J. Goodwin, R. Hall, K. Holt, P. Kochenburger,  
P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan  
Alternates present: G. Lewis (arrived 7:02 p.m.)  
Alternates absent: M. Beal, L. Lombard  
Staff present: G. Meitzler (Wetlands Agent)

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Lewis was appointed to act if needed.

**Minutes:**

1-5-09 - Hall MOVED, Ryan seconded, to approve the 1-5-09 regular meeting minutes as written. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

1-12-09 Field Trip- Holt MOVED, Goodwin seconded, to approve the 1-12-09 field trip minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with Holt and Goodwin in favor and all others disqualified.

1-20-09- Gardner MOVED, Ryan seconded, to approve the 1-20-09 special meeting minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Hall who disqualified himself.

**Communications:**

The Wetlands Agent's Monthly Business report and the draft minutes of the 1-21-09 Conservation Commission meeting were both noted.

**Outstanding Enforcement Actions:**

W1419 - Chernushek, 473 Middle Turnpike-violation

Pending outcome of public hearing on application.

W1400 - Glode - Stafford Rd

Item has been referred to the Town Attorney who is working towards an outcome with the property owner. Item was tabled.

**Old Business:**

W1421 - Clark - Hanks Hill/Farrell Rds - 4 lot subdivision

Ed Pelletier, Datum Engineering, distributed and reviewed the changes to revised plans, dated 2/2/09. His changes were based on the recommendations in staff reports.

Holt MOVED, Gardner seconded, to grant an Inland Wetlands License under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to Sheila Clark (File W1421), for a 4-lot residential subdivision on property owned by the applicant, located on the north side of Hanks Hill Road and the west side of Farrell Road, as shown on a map dated October 30, 2008, revised through February 2, 2009, and as described in other application submissions.

This action is based on a finding of no anticipated significant impact on the wetlands, and is conditioned upon the following provisions being met:

1. Appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized.
2. The DAE and footing drain on Lot 2, and the DAE on Lot 4, shall be revised to increase the separation distance from wetlands to a minimum of 25 feet.
3. The plans shall be redrawn to accommodate Condition #2, with the approval of the Inland Wetlands Agent.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until February 2, 2014), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Public Hearing:**

**W1419 - Chernushek, 473 Middle Turnpike - Application**

Chairman Favretti opened the Public Hearing for the application of Chernushek at 7:22 p.m. Members present were Favretti, Gardner, Goodwin, Hall, Holt, Kochenburger, Plante, Pociask, Ryan, and alternate Lewis. Wetlands Agent Meitzler read the legal notice as it appeared in the Chronicle on January 22 and January 28, 2009, and noted a 1-28-09 report from G. Meitzler, Wetland Agent and a 2-2-09 report distributed this evening from the Town Attorney.

Mr. Chernushek stated that he received Meitzler's 1-28-09 report and agreed to all of his recommendations. Holt reviewed with the applicant the questions raised by the Conservation Commission. Favretti requested that the applicant work with Meitzler to finalize the details of the recommended changes; the applicant agreed.

Chairman Favretti noted no comments or questions from the public, applicant, or agency. Holt MOVED, Gardner seconded, to continue the Public Hearing on the application and the Violation Hearing until March 2, 2009. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**New Business:**

**W1422 - DeBoer, Center St - Single family Residence**

Goodwin stated that as receipt motions are administrative actions, she felt comfortable putting the DeBoer receipt motion on the floor. However, she would be disqualifying herself on any further consideration of action on this application. Then Goodwin MOVED, Holt seconded, to receive the application submitted by Deboer' Family Limited Partnership (File W1422) under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield for the construction of a single family residence, located at 28 Centre Street, on property owned by the applicant, as shown on a map dated 11-24-08, and as described in other application submissions, and to refer said application to the staff and Conservation Commission for review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Field Trip:**

A field trip date was set for Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 12:15 p.m.

**Reports of Officers and Committees:**

None noted.

**Other Communications and Bills:**

Noted.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine K. Holt, Secretary

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD**  
Planning and Zoning Commission



AUDREY P. BECK BUILDING  
FOUR SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD  
MANSFIELD, CT 06268-2599  
(860) 429-3330  
Fax: (860) 429-6863

February 10, 2009

Richard A. Miller, ESQ  
Director, Office of Environmental Policy  
University of Connecticut  
31 LeDoyt Road  
Unit 3055  
Storrs, CT 06269-3055

Bradley D. Keazer  
Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration  
628-2 Hebron Avenue  
Suite 303  
Glastonbury, CT 06033-5007

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Study, North Hillside Road Extension

Dear Messers Miller and Keazer:

Mansfield's Town Council and Planning and Zoning Commission, with staff assistance, have reviewed the December 2008 draft Environmental Impact Statement for the North Hillside Road Extension project. The following comments are presented for your consideration:

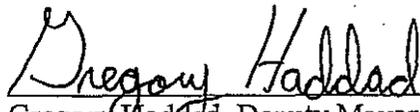
1. The North Hillside Road Extension project and associated development of UConn's North Campus have been studied extensively for over ten years, with numerous opportunities for public review and comment. The December 2008 draft Environmental Impact Statement further refines the analysis of these inter-related projects and Mansfield's Town Council and Planning and Zoning Commission are in agreement with the EIS conclusion that these projects can be implemented without significant environmental impact.
2. Mansfield's Town Council and Planning and Zoning Commission support the subject projects for many reasons including the following:
  - A. The extension of North Hillside Road will facilitate traffic movements on state and local roads and will reduce vehicular traffic on many local roadways that were not designed for current traffic volumes. This roadway project, and associated walkway and bicycle lanes, will promote both vehicular and pedestrian safety for all Mansfield residents and visitors, including UConn students and staff. This project has been a high priority transportation improvement for decades.
  - B. The extension of North Hillside Road will facilitate the development of the UConn North Campus and provide regionally significant economic development opportunities. The North Campus development

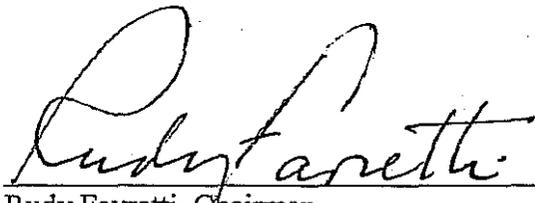
will enhance research opportunities for UConn students and staff, job creation and collaborative public/private partnerships.

- C. The extension of North Hillside Road and associated public sewer and water utility extensions will facilitate the coordination of needed utility extensions to Mansfield's Four Corners area which has documented ground water contamination and private well and septic system problems.
3. The subject project is fully consistent with the Connecticut Policies Plan for Conservation and Development, the Windham Region Land Use and Transportation Plans and Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development. Many specific goals, objectives, policies and recommendations contained in these plans would be promoted by the extension of North Hillside Road and the associated development of North Campus.
4. The draft Environmental Impact Statement appropriately identifies comprehensive mitigation measures that need to be incorporated into construction plans. It is essential that in association with the listed permits that need to be obtained, Mansfield residents and representatives be given adequate notice and opportunity to review and comment on construction plans prior to their approval and implementation.

Mansfield officials are available to discuss any of the comments contained in this letter. We anticipate continued cooperation regarding the review and implementation of construction plans for North Hillside Road extension and the associated development of UConn's North Campus. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Gregory J. Padick, Mansfield's Director of Planning at 860-429-3329.

Very truly yours,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor  
Mansfield Town Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rudy Favretti, Chairman  
Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission

Cc: Thomas A. Harley, CT Department of Transportation  
Corey M. Rose, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, N.E. District

# CLEARSCAPES

A Newsletter of the Center for Land Use Education and Research at the University of Connecticut

Winter 2009

## In This Issue

**Research** - CT's Changing Landscape

**Outreach** - CT Land Use Academy

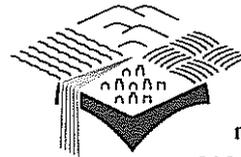
**Tools** - New "About Bulldozers" Booklet

**New & Noteworthy @ CLEAR**

Read about recent projects, awards, websites and other updates.

## Outreach

### Connecticut Land Use Academy: "Basic Training" for Local Commissioners



In 2008 the Connecticut Land Use Academy completed the first full calendar year of its new format, providing training for 300 land use commissioners from 120 towns across the state.

The Academy, which is largely funded by the Office of Responsible Growth of the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, provides "basic training" for new and continuing commissioners focusing on knowledge and skills that they need in their role as land use decision makers. The new format consists of four day-long training workshops in different locations of the state over the course of the year.

Each workshop is comprised of three sessions: *Roles and Responsibilities*, *Legal Requirements* (taught by the Connecticut Bar Association), and *Map Reading for Site Plan Review*. It's a lot to get through in one (long) Saturday, but for those hardy souls who make the commitment, it seems to be worth it! About 91% of post-training survey respondents were "satisfied" or "very satisfied."

... continued on pg 3

## Research

### 21 Years of Landscape Change in Connecticut

CLEAR has just released the next version of its Connecticut's Changing Landscape (CCL) project, which now charts changes to the face of Connecticut over a 21-year period, from 1985 to 2006.

The project, a much-used resource since 2002 for many communities and organizations, uses satellite-based remote sensing data to characterize land cover at certain

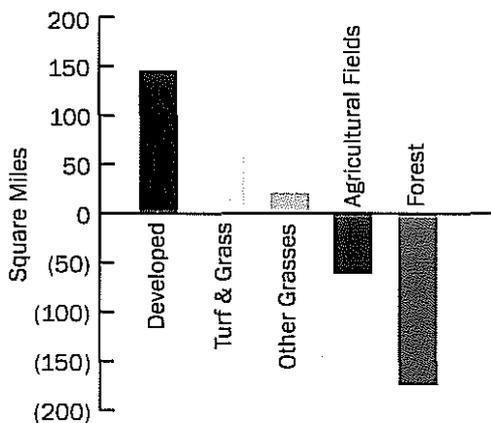
points in time, and land cover changes over time. Land cover is what is physically covering the ground (forest, turf, development) versus land use, which is what is planned, practiced or permitted in a given area (parkland, residential, industrial).

Version 2 updates the study to 2006, with data for each of the five study years (1985, 1990, 1995, 2002 and 2006) and landscape change over the entire 21-year period. Version 2 is also an enhancement: it now includes specific information on agricultural fields, which had previously been unavailable, as well as other improvements that increase the overall accuracy of the data.

The bottom line: the "Land of Steady Habits" has been undergoing fairly steady changes that will be no great surprise to most: farm and forest land area is decreasing, and largely being converted to developed land and its two closely-related land covers, turf/grass (lawns, ball fields, etc.) and other grasses (long untended grassy areas, sometimes meadows but usually roadway verges) (graph). See inside for more results and a tour of the new CCL website.

... continued on pg 2

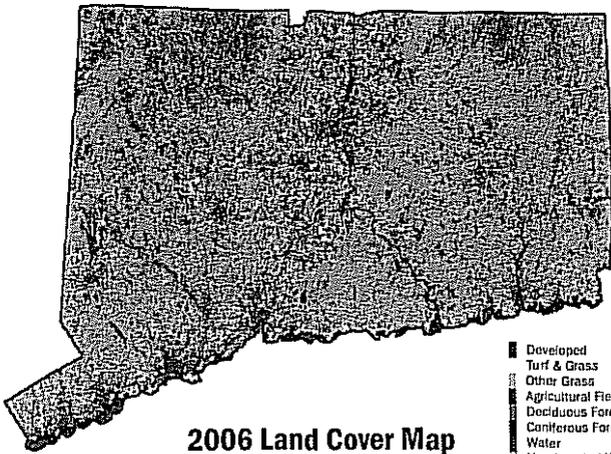
Change 1985 - 2006, Statewide



Changes to the major land cover categories over the 21-year project period, in square miles. Gains in the three development-related categories almost exactly balance losses to forest and agricultural fields.

# Connecticut's Changing Lands

21 Years of Landscape Change in Connecticut continued from cover



2006 Land Cover Map

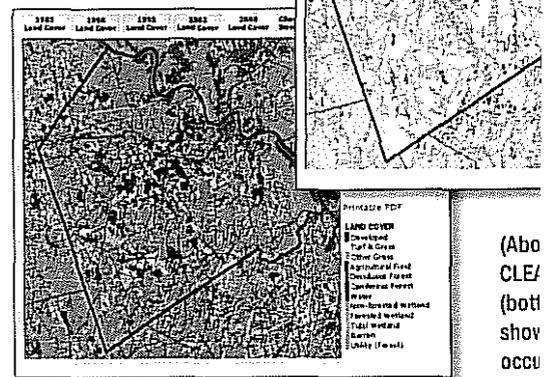
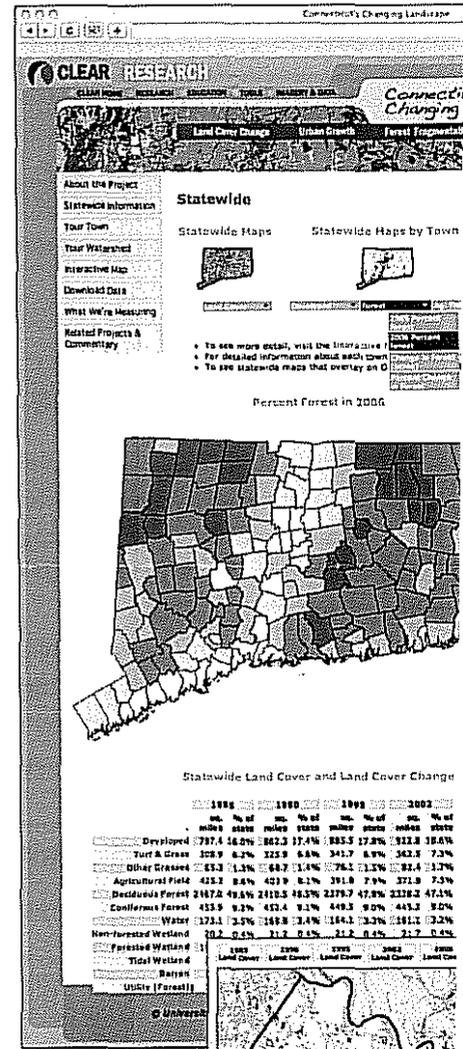
- Developed
- Turf & Grass
- Other Grass
- Agricultural Field
- Deciduous Forest
- Coniferous Forest
- Water
- Non-forested Wetland
- Forest Wetland
- Tidal Wetland
- Barren
- Utility Corridor

CLEAR's updated and enhanced Connecticut's Changing Landscape (CCL) website offers information from the study in a range of ways, from data tables to charts to maps to interactive web mapping—all at the state, regional and town levels. The **Statewide Information** page has been made more visual and intuitive, and offers maps and charts that show both land cover and land cover change data in several forms. State maps that show town-by-town levels of development, forest and agricultural lands are included on this page (see images, right).

Going beyond the statewide picture, the CLEAR website has information on how these trends played out in each of the state's 169 towns. Through the **"Your Town"** page (which was the most popular portion of the Version 1 website, used by over 1200 visitors per month during 2007 and 2008), visitors can query the project database to get data tables and maps for their town. All five years of land cover are available, as are two different types of maps depicting change (right). Both maps highlight the areas where new developed land and turf/grass occurred during the project period.

The **Interactive Map** page allows visitors to explore the data by choosing for themselves which map to view, and to pan and zoom to their area of interest. Finally, the **Download** page is for planning, environmental and research professionals who want the actual geographic information systems (GIS) data for use in their own work. (And lest you think "who would ever want to do that?," Version 1 data was downloaded by over 700 separate organizations and individuals!)

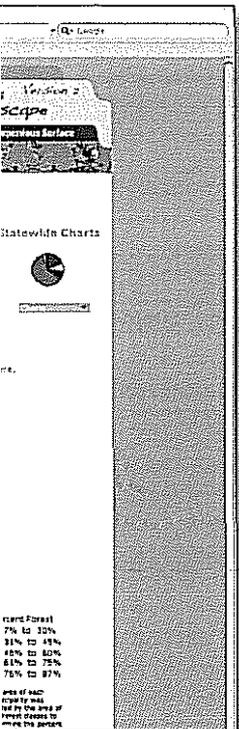
Like the landscape it studies, the CCL project is ever-changing, so keep checking the website. In the spring, CLEAR hopes to augment the basic land cover change information with the results of several analytical models and studies that use the land cover data to depict forest fragmentation, urban growth, and land cover change in riparian (streamside) corridors.



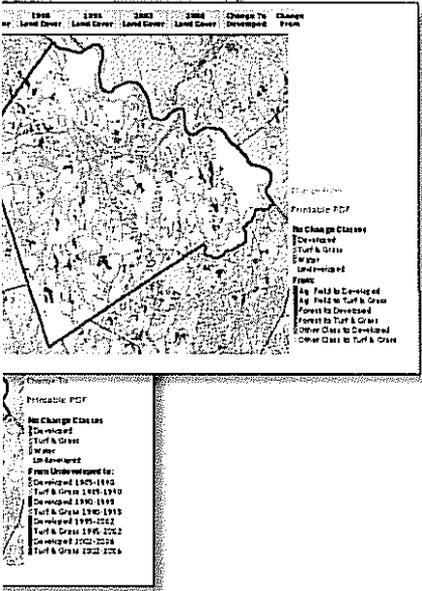
Visit Connecticut's Changing Landscape Website at: [clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape](http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape)

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# Map Tour



The Statewide Information page (left) has pull-down lists from which you can choose land cover and land cover change maps and charts. Shown here is a map depicting the average forest cover in 2006, by town.



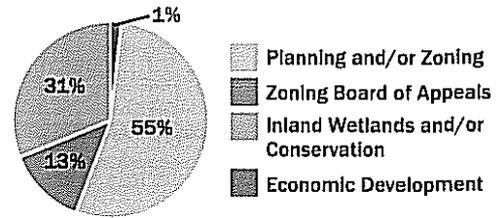
...s of Newtown from the Your Town portion of the website. In addition to the land cover maps there are two change maps. The first (middle) shows development according to the time period when the second (top) shows new development according to land cover (forest, agricultural fields) preceded it.

## Basic Training for Land Use Commissioners continued from cover . . .

And who are these folks? Based also on the surveys, it appears that slightly over half of Academy attendees are Planning and/or Zoning commissioners. Inland Wetlands and Watercourse and/or Conservation commissioners were also well-represented, with Zoning Boards of Appeal and Economic Development commissions having less representation (chart).

Despite the success of the basic Academy training, most people would agree that when it comes to education of local land use officials, more is needed. Of course, CLEAR outreach programs like Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO), Land Use Planning Program, Geospatial Training Program and Green Valley Institute cover a lot of ground, particularly when it comes to conducting workshops on all the aspects of natural resource-based planning. However, the Academy is also expanding its reach.

The first "Hot Topics in Land Use" conference, sponsored in partnership with the Connecticut Bar Association Planning and Zoning section and the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, was held in November of 2008. The conference included nine workshops on a wide variety of topics, including



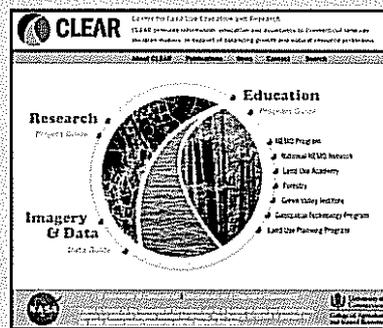
(Above) Chart shows who is attending the Land Use Academy. (Below) Local officials from the greater Hartford region review maps at the Academy's Map Reading for Site Plan Review workshop.



farmland preservation, affordable housing, village and historic districts, economic development, downtown revitalization and form-based zoning. The plan is for Hot Topics to be held every other year, alternating with the Land Use Law Conference sponsored by the Connecticut Bar.

Look for the 2009 Land Use Academy information, plus the new "Online Academy" section, on the website: [clear.uconn.edu/luu](http://clear.uconn.edu/luu).

## Visit the CLEAR Website @ [clear.uconn.edu](http://clear.uconn.edu)



The CLEAR website is divided into three main sections, Research, Imagery and Data, and Education. A new Tools section is planned for 2009.

The CLEAR website is a major resource to a wide variety of Connecticut residents. Between January 2007 and June 2008, the website averaged 4700 unique visitors per month (multiple visits by the same person are not counted).

The CLEAR website includes: research results, maps, charts and data, educational program information, case studies, topical information on natural resource management, publications, and more!

# Tools

## New "About Buildouts" Booklet

CLEAR's NEMO Program has just released a booklet that goes over basic information about "buildout" analyses.

A buildout analysis is a projection of how much development would occur in a community if it were to build on every available acre of land, given certain constraints. In recent years, buildouts have been much discussed as a tool to help inform local planning. But what exactly is entailed in doing a buildout? How accurate is it? What software (if any) and data do you need?

A supplement to an existing NEMO workshop, this booklet goes over buildout basics, including the limitations, data needs

and educational uses of this planning tool. The publication is based on a study conducted in 2006-2007 by CLEAR in collaboration with Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, funded by Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. The study made comparisons of three different buildout analyses of varying degrees of sophistication, in the interest of exploring the implications for a statewide buildout study.

The booklet can be downloaded at: [nemo.uconn.edu/tools/publications/about\\_buildouts.pdf](http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools/publications/about_buildouts.pdf).

## New & Noteworthy @ CLEAR

► **The National NEMO Network**, which now comprises 32 programs in 30 states, won the 2008 national award from USDA as the *Outstanding Integrated Water Resources Program*.

► **The CT NEMO Program** won the 2008 *Communications Award* from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Plan Association for its set of three interrelated websites focused on Low Impact Development (LID). Visitors can get information from the CT DEP Stormwater Quality Manual, use Google Maps to visit and get information about LID emplacements around the state (image), or search for LID-friendly land use regulations currently in use in Connecticut towns. Visit NEMO's low impact development websites at:

[nemo.uconn.edu/tools.htm](http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools.htm).

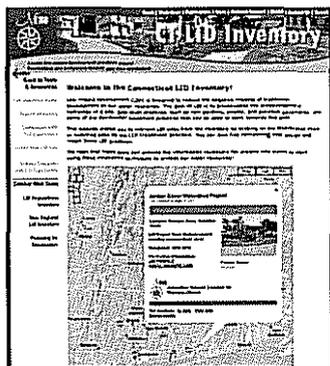
► **The Geospatial Training Program** has just released its 2009 schedule. In addition to the ever-popular Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

and Global Positioning System (GPS) courses, the Program has added new courses on creating Google Maps "mash-ups" and using remote sensing and imagery in the context of your GIS. For more information visit:

[clear.uconn.edu/geospatial/training.htm](http://clear.uconn.edu/geospatial/training.htm).

► **CLEAR graduate student Mark Hoover** is working on a study of inundation of key marsh habitats along Long Island Sound. The work, which is supported by a grant from The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter, models the competing forces of sea level rise and marsh accretion, and makes predictions about the fate of the marshes along the coast.

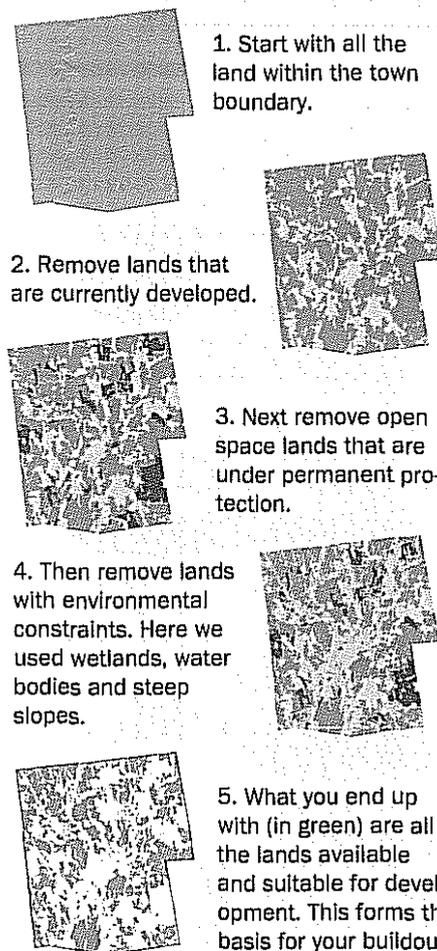
► **NEMO's Online Community Resource Inventory**, which is used by about 1200 different people per month to access maps of their town, has now added coastal habitat data layers to its list of maps. Visit: [nemo.uconn.edu/tools/cr/](http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools/cr/).



Connecticut's Low Impact Development (LID) Inventory Website.

## The Buildable Lands Analysis

Below is an example from the booklet showing how to determine lands available and suitable for development.



1. Start with all the land within the town boundary.

2. Remove lands that are currently developed.

3. Next remove open space lands that are under permanent protection.

4. Then remove lands with environmental constraints. Here we used wetlands, water bodies and steep slopes.

5. What you end up with (in green) are all the lands available and suitable for development. This forms the basis for your buildout.

Contact CLEAR at: University of Connecticut, CES, 1066 Saybrook Road, P.O. Box 70, Haddam, CT 06438 • Phone: (860) 345-4511  
• Email: [clear@uconn.edu](mailto:clear@uconn.edu) • Web: [clear.uconn.edu](http://clear.uconn.edu)  
• Editor: Chet Arnold • Designer: Kara Bonsack

The University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) provides information, education and assistance to land use decision makers, in support of balancing growth and natural resource protection. CLEAR is a partnership of the Department of Extension and the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the CT Sea Grant College Program. Support for CLEAR comes from the University of Connecticut and from state and federal grants.

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January/February 2009

# Connecticut Wildlife

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BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES • WILDLIFE DIVISION



# The Year in Review 2008

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES - WILDLIFE DIVISION

*This "Year in Review 2008" provides a summary of the many accomplishments and responsibilities of the DEP Wildlife Division.*

## Species Research and Management

### *Nongame Birds*

With the help of fencing and other protection efforts, 41 pairs of ground-nesting piping plovers (state and federally threatened) fledged 102 young and 252 pairs of least terns (state threatened) fledged 76 young. Trained volunteers monitored several beaches and distributed educational materials to beachgoers. Fireworks permit applications (21) were reviewed for impacts to piping plovers.

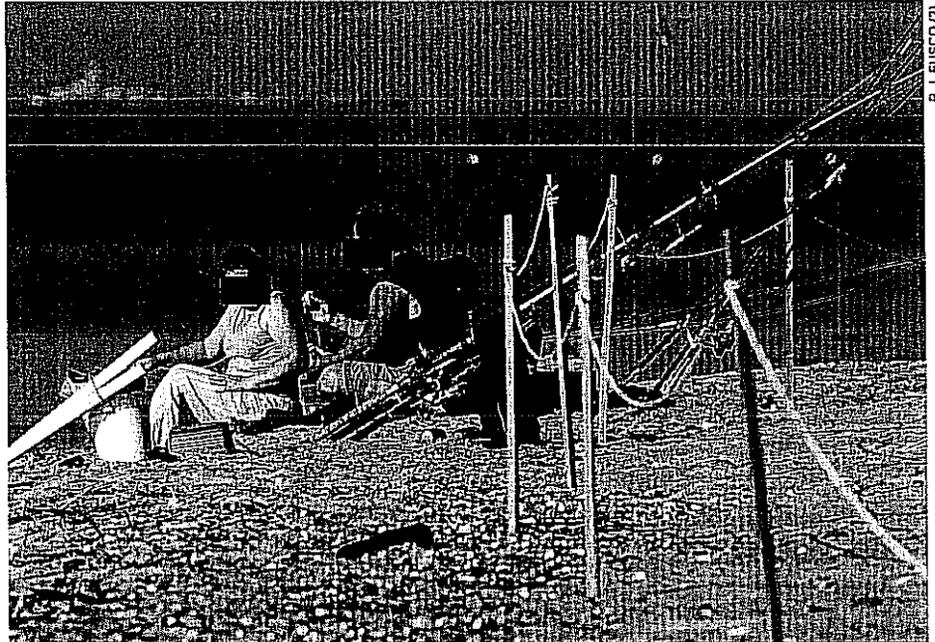
Of the 10 documented pairs of peregrine falcons (state endangered), 9 nested. Two of the pairs failed and the chick count could not be determined for 2 others due to inaccessibility. Of the 5 accessible pairs, 18 chicks fledged and 9 were banded.

Seventeen breeding pairs of bald eagles (state endangered) attempted to nest in the state in 2008. Thirteen of the pairs successfully fledged 21 chicks, of which 13 were banded by biologists.

During the 2008 Midwinter Bald Eagle survey, 345 volunteers counted 81 bald eagles—49 adults, and 32 immatures.

Winter night bird surveys were conducted on 28 routes using a species specific callback. Surveyors detected 4 northern saw-whet owls, 6 eastern screech owls, 69 barred owls, 3 long-eared owls, and 17 great-horned owls. Summer night bird surveys, designed to detect whip-poor-wills and breeding saw-whet owls, were completed along 21 routes. Surveyors detected 18 whip-poor-wills and 7 saw-whet owls. Survey efforts are also combined with other states to monitor night birds regionally.

A pilot investigation was conducted in the summer to determine whip-poor-will habitat preference and prey availability. Whip-poor-wills were captured and radio tagged, and calling surveys and invertebrate sampling were conducted. Locations of calling birds will be overlaid onto



P. J. FUSCO (2)

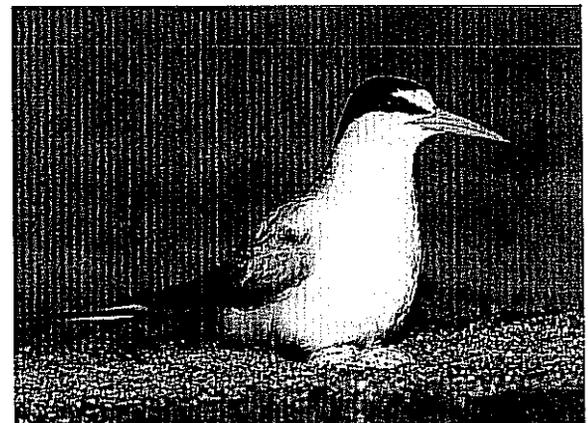
Beachgoers continue to inadvertently impact beach nesting birds, especially terns. Here, a family enjoys a morning picnic while fishing. However, they are too close to a least tern nesting colony. The string fencing in the photo delineates the nesting area. Birds that nest close to the fence line are kept away from tending their nests by people that linger too close, and, as seen in the photo, by fishing gear extending into the colony. Food on the beach close to active nesting colonies will attract nest predators like gulls and raccoons.

forest stand maps to determine habitat preferences.

2008 was the fifth and final season of the Woodland Raptor Surveys. Callback recordings were used to detect sharp-shinned hawks, Cooper's hawks, northern goshawks, broad-winged hawks, red-shouldered hawks, and red-tailed hawks. Volunteer citizen scientists monitored raptor, raven, and owl nests for activity and nesting success. Sixty-six raptor nests, 10 raven nests, and 8 owl nests were reported.

Monitoring of shrubland habitat nesting species continued. Between May 15 and July 15, avian point count surveys were conducted by Division staff and volunteers at 24 sites in early successional habitats, such as old fields, shrublands, woodland edges, and powerline right-of-ways.

A pilot monitoring program, Chim-



Least tern at its nest on a Connecticut beach.

ney Watch, was implemented. The goal of this regional program is to assess chimney swift limiting factors, including nesting structure availability. Nesting chimney availability was assessed for 13 randomly selected survey blocks around Connecticut. Nine blocks were surveyed for chimney occupancy by swifts. No

life Income Tax Check-off Fund and the Northeast Wildlife Damage Management Cooperative to examine the state's moose population. The cooperative 2-year study being conducted with the University of Connecticut was intended to focus on home range size, habitat use, movements, causes of mortality, and public perceptions about moose. Efforts to capture moose have been limited, but a more intensive effort will be conducted in January 2009. Opinion surveys about moose and moose management were mailed to more than 2,000 residents across northern Connecticut, with a 31% response rate. A detailed analysis will be completed soon. Hunter opinion surveys about moose and moose management were sent to 30 town clerks for distribution in January, April, and October, and will be mailed to nearly 800 Connecticut hunters in January 2009. The data from this study will assist the DEP in developing a comprehensive moose management plan. In 2008, there were 36 reported moose sightings and 1 documented moose vehicle accident in Connecticut.

### Indiana Bat Project

An Indiana bat research project was conducted with funding from Connecticut's Endangered Species/Wildlife Income Tax Check-off Fund. The Indiana bat is a state and federally endangered species that has only been confirmed in Connecticut at one location since the 1950s. The project sought to document new records of Indiana bats at 2 locations in western Connecticut. Seventy-one bats of various species were captured in 3 nights of harp trapping in April. Another 166 bats comprising 4 different species were captured over 20 nights of mist-netting from late May to mid-August. No Indiana bats were captured.

### Wild Turkey

During the 2008 spring hunting season, 6,617 permits were issued and 1,558 turkeys were harvested. The spring harvest was comprised of 65.3% adults, 34.2% juveniles, and 0.5% bearded hens.

Brood surveys provide an index of annual productivity for the state's turkey population. Survey cooperators reported 224 turkey observations, including 448 hens—118 with broods, and 330 without broods. The 2008 brood index of 2.2 was lower than the 2007 index of 2.6. Brood survey information indicates that turkeys had lower productivity in 2008 than 2007.



Connecticut holds three different turkey hunting seasons: the spring season in May, and the fall archery and fall firearms seasons.

### Ring-necked Pheasants

During the 2008 fall hunting season, 14,742 adult ring-necked pheasants were purchased for release on 44 state-owned, state-leased, and permit-required hunting areas. The Division continues to use volunteers to assist with stocking on several public hunting areas.

### Waterfowl

During the annual check of wood duck nest boxes on state land, data forms were completed at each site and 130 boxes were checked, cleaned, and replenished with new nesting material. Overall, 80% (104) of the boxes were classified as being in good condition and 72 of the boxes had been used by wood ducks.

During annual pre-season duck banding operations, 923 ducks were captured and banded, which included 857 mallards, 27 black ducks, 37 wood ducks, 1 blue-wing teal, and 1 pintail. All captured ducks were aged, sexed, and banded with a metal leg band before release. Banding data provide information on migration patterns, survival rates, and distribution of harvest and also help to assess the vulnerability of different age and sex classes to harvest.

Canada geese were banded during the molting period at 43 sites located throughout the state. A total of 1,037 adults and 756 local (hatch year) birds were captured. Another 512 previously

banded geese were also captured.

Annual surveys were conducted for breeding waterfowl, breeding swans, breeding marshbirds, woodcock, and midwinter waterfowl.

Due to the Wildlife Division's concern about the inland expansion of mute swans, a statewide breeding survey was initiated in 2004. This survey covers the entire coastline, selected portions of

### Local Artist Illustrates 2008 CT Duck Stamp

The Wildlife Division was honored that the 2008 Connecticut Duck Stamp, which featured a pair of common goldeneyes, was illustrated by Burt Schuman, a wildlife artist from Rocky Hill. Burt is a graduate of the Parsons School of Design, in New York, and a member of the Society of Animal Artists. His artwork has been shown in numerous art shows, including the New England Wildlife Art Expo where his work was awarded best in class and show and second best of show.



gratory birds for Asian H5N1 (avian influenza) continued in 2008. Species targeted for testing included resident Canada geese, mallards, American black ducks, greater scaup, long-tailed ducks, Atlantic brant, semi-palmated and least sandpipers, dunlins, sanderlings, and black-bellied plovers. Samples are being obtained across the state and throughout the migration and wintering periods. In 2008, Connecticut was tasked with collecting at least 800 samples from live and hunter-killed birds. To date, over 780 samples have been collected. More emphasis has been placed on obtaining samples from mortality events, as these may provide the best probability of detecting Asian H5N1. A list of high priority sites to monitor for mortality events was compiled based on the distribution of backyard poultry flocks, commercial poultry operations, and migratory bird concentration areas. Weekly surveys were conducted at these sites.

### Weasel Study

The statewide survey for short-tailed and long-tailed weasels continued through the fall of 2008. The goal of the project is to record the distribution and abundance of both species within the state. Unlike last year, when only one trap type was used, three types of live traps were used in 2008, including wooden box traps, tube-shaped traps made from PVC pipes, and small Havahart® traps. Ten weasels (5 males, 5 females) were captured at 8 of 13 study sites. The traps were placed adjacent to stone walls that were located near open fields, water sources, and, occasionally, conifer stands.

The Wildlife Division appreciates the efforts of those residents who collected 17 road-killed weasels. A tissue sample was collected from each weasel for genetic testing to help determine where each species is found in the state.

### Small Game

During 2008, 109 cottontail rabbits were examined to determine distribution of New England (NEC) and eastern cottontail (EC) rabbits throughout the state. The Division obtained samples from roadkills (17), live-trapping (85), hunter harvest (6), and other means (1). Of the 109 examined, 86 were EC, 20 were NEC, and 3 were unknown. Since this research was initiated in 2000, 1,324 samples have been collected. Among all methods of collection,



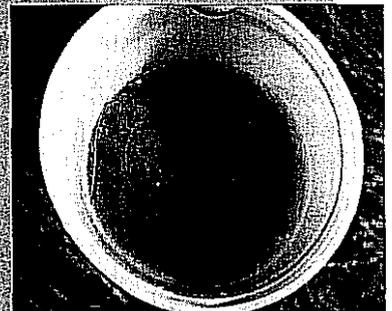
R. WOLFE, MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (2)

## Mosquito Management

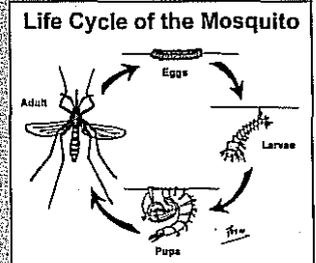
Connecticut's Mosquito Management Program is a collaborative effort involving the DEP Wetland Habitat and Mosquito Management (WHAMM) Program, CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Agriculture, and the University of Connecticut Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science. The WHAMM Program provides technical assistance to municipalities and homeowners on mosquito biology and control options and performs operational mosquito control on state-owned properties. CAES maintains 91 mosquito trap locations throughout the state from June through October to monitor the mosquito population and track mosquito-borne pathogens like West Nile Virus (WNV) and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) that can cause disease in humans, birds, and animals. In the 2008 season, 211,496 mosquitoes comprised of 38 different species were trapped and tested. From those, 191 WNV isolations were detected in 9 different species. Most of these isolations were from traps in lower Fairfield and New Haven counties. No EEE isolations were identified in 2008.

The DPH reported 8 human cases of WNV, none of which were fatal. It was determined that 1 infection was acquired out-of-state while the individual was traveling. The ages of those infected ranged from 12-87 years (median age: 49). According to the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as of October 21, 2008, there were 1,141 human cases of WNV reported throughout the United States, including 25 deaths. Since 1999, there have been 69 human cases of WNV in Connecticut, 3 of which were fatal.

In June, during National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program announced a new website ([www.ct.gov/mosquito](http://www.ct.gov/mosquito)), which provides current information on the state's program and informative links to other state and national sites on mosquito biology and control.



Top: Seasonal technician Malcolm Hill (left) and Mosquito Control Specialist Steve Rosa inspect marshes for mosquito larvae at Rood's Neck State Park in East Lyme. Above: Mosquito larvae collected in a sample.



### Human Cases of WNV Infection in Connecticut, 1999-2008

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Total Cases	0	1	6	17	17	1	6	9	4	8	69
Acquired in CT		1	6	17	15	0	5	8	4	7	63
Deaths		0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Age Range (median)		62	37-89 (68)	24-81 (45)	6-85 (55)	78 (78)	34-83 (62)	41-81 (63)	48-78 (67)	12-87 (49)	6-89 (56)

## Report Bobcat and Fisher Sightings

Reported sightings of bobcats continued an increasing trend. The 2008 sighting reports received was the greatest 12-month total yet recorded. Bobcats continue to be observed most frequently in towns west of the Connecticut River.

Although fisher are well established throughout the state and a trapping season has been instituted, the Wildlife Division still seeks sighting reports from the public. Fisher sightings and harvests are most frequent in towns east of the Connecticut River.



lection pressure but mainly to the loss of habitat. No bog turtles were found at any new or historic sites.

The second year of a study on wood turtle populations in Fairfield County was completed. Wood turtles (state species of special concern) are declining throughout their range. Habitat loss and fragmentation are a concern in Fairfield County, which has the highest human population in the state. Visual surveys were conducted for wood turtles in and along rivers and streams. Biological data were collected from all individuals and carapaces were notched for identification purposes. Baseline data on wood turtle populations will continue to be collected through the 2009 field season.

### Black Bears

Winter dens of 12 radio-collared female black bears were inspected in February and March to examine reproduction. Six of the sows had litters of

cubs, with an average of 2.2 cubs per litter, and 5 sows denning with yearlings born during the previous winter. The first year survival of cubs was estimated at close to 80% based on the number of yearlings present compared to how many cubs were present the year before.

Seventeen previously untagged bears were captured, which included 2 yearlings tagged at their winter den, 9 caught while trying to recapture research bears, and 6 captured at problem sites.

Bear sighting reports continued to increase rapidly. From October 2007 through September 2008, 2,759 bear sightings and 375 cases of property damage were reported to the Wildlife Division.

During this period, 6 bears were killed by vehicles and 2 bears that were originally tagged in Connecticut were killed by vehicles in other states.

Three bears were killed by property owners and 3 with histories of problem behavior were captured and euthanized.

### Furbearers

Wildlife Division staff devotes a considerable amount of time and effort responding to calls and emails with questions and concerns about furbearer species. Concerns about coyotes, especially in southern towns,

and foxes have become very frequent in recent years.

Trapping and hunting harvest totals for beaver, river otter, mink, red fox, gray fox, coyote, and fisher were determined through pelt tagging. Trapping harvest totals for muskrat, raccoon, skunk, opossum, and weasel were estimated from a trapper questionnaire. Season harvest totals for most species and harvests by trappers and hunters decreased slightly from levels in the 2006-2007 season. Trappers harvested 1,095 beavers and 214 fishers. Although the number of coyotes harvested dropped, the proportion taken by trappers remained high following a 3-year old regulation change that allows



Bear sighting reports continued to increase rapidly in 2008. From October 2007 through September 2008, 2,759 bear sightings and 375 cases of property damage were reported to the Wildlife Division.

## CT's Endangered Species List to Be Revised

The Connecticut Endangered Species Act, passed in 1989, recognizes the importance of the state's plant and animal populations and the need to protect them from threats that could lead to their extinction. The overall goal of the legislation is to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance any endangered or threatened species and their essential habitat. The DEP began revising Connecticut's Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species List for 2009. The DEP is mandated to review this list every 5 years. This process is an intensive one that brings committees of taxonomic experts together to discuss the contents and proposed changes to the list.



The blue-spotted salamander is a Connecticut threatened species.

PHOTO BY P. J. FUSCO

## Connecticut and Massachusetts Partner to Preserve 450-acre Property Important to Grassland Birds

Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell and Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick recently announced the preservation of approximately 450 acres of land straddling the Connecticut and Massachusetts border. Comprising 254 acres in Southwick, Massachusetts, and 196 acres in Suffield, Connecticut, the property will be managed jointly by the two states as habitat for a variety of migratory birds and other species. This effort demonstrates cooperation between states, private conservation groups, and business. Grassland habitats are under intense development pressure, especially along the Connecticut River corridor. This purchase helps ensure that both states retain enough suitable land to continue attracting important migratory bird species, which are a part of the biodiversity in the region.

The Conservation Fund, a national organization dedicated to preserving land and protecting natural resources, facilitated the \$4.4 million purchase, working with the two states and former property owner Swedish Match Co. – the successor to Culbro Tobacco and General Cigar. A former tobacco farm, the new two-state Wildlife Management Area comprises approximately 450 acres of mostly meadow and is ideal habitat for endangered birds. With the land deal complete, the states will begin enhancing habitat for upland sandpipers, grasshopper sparrows, eastern meadowlarks, and savannah sparrows. The Wildlife Management Area also will likely attract a variety of mammal, reptile, amphibian, and invertebrate species. Wetlands on the property already harbor a sizeable great blue heron rookery.

*This site is among the most promising areas in southern New England to establish a viable nesting area for state-endangered birds, such*

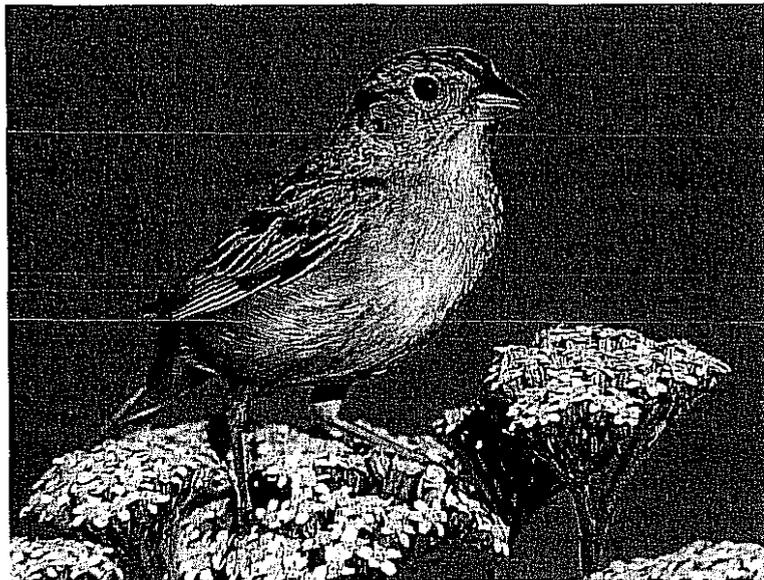
*as upland sandpipers and grasshopper sparrows. Its large size, well-drained soil conditions, existing vegetation structure, and the fact that grassland birds are nesting there already combine to make this site perfect for ensuring the continued presence of these unique creatures. Grasslands are one of the top priority habitats recognized by Connecticut's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. This acquisition provides the most significant protection of important grassland habitat in our time and it promises to protect not only threatened and endangered bird species, but a host of other plants and animals dependent upon this unique environment.*

*The Connecticut River Valley – especially from the Hartford area north into Massachusetts – includes grassland areas that serve as prime nesting and breeding grounds for more than 80 bird species. Thirteen of these species are listed under Connecticut's Endangered Species Act, eight of which breed in the Connecticut River Valley. In Massachusetts, the state's Endangered Species Act protects eight grassland bird species – five of which breed in the Connecticut River Valley. As these grasslands have become attractive to residential and commercial developers, both states have made preserving this habitat a priority. Both Connecticut and Massachusetts have identified the need to protect grassland birds through their respective State Wildlife Action Plans.*

*Connecticut formally adopted a Grassland Habitat Conservation Initiative to protect critical grassland areas in 2006, while the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife uses a variety of tools and initiatives to manage and restore the Commonwealth's grassland habitats as part of Governor Patrick's \$50 million annual commitment to land conservation. This recent purchase mitigates the loss of grasslands elsewhere along the Connecticut River corridor.*

*The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife spent six weeks this past fall removing 27 miles of wire, 3,000 tobacco poles, and tobacco shade tenting from the Southwick land to restore the former tobacco fields to open meadows for wildlife. The Division is also moving to repair damage from illegal ATV use on the property and to curtail future illegal ATV trespass. Citizens are asked to report ATV violations in Massachusetts to the Environmental Police at 1-800-632-8075; violations in Connecticut can be reported to the DEP Encon Police at 1-800-842-HELP. In*

*Connecticut, similar efforts are underway on the Suffield portion of the property to address the remaining wire, poles, and shade netting, and to undertake removal of debris and demolition and removal of structures that are unsafe or no longer needed. In addition, DEP Wildlife Division biologists have begun collecting information on the variety of species that live in this unique habitat complex. As knowledge of wildlife use of the area increases, a management plan will be implemented to enhance the fields, forests, and wetlands to benefit species from native bees to musk turtles to great blue herons to upland sandpipers and more.*



The new two-state wildlife management area will provide important nesting habitat for grasshopper sparrows.



CT and MA have identified the need to protect grassland birds, like the eastern meadowlark, through their State Wildlife Action Plans.

and different environment than where it has lived most or all of its life. Did it fly south from Greenland or Baffin Island? Has it ever seen people before? How long did it take it to get Connecticut? In any case, it would have been a long and arduous journey for the bird. The closest point to the Arctic Circle from Connecticut is over 1,500 miles.

### **Description**

Snowy owls are among the largest and most powerful of owls. They are heavy-bodied, white, tuftless, and have bright yellow eyes. Their white plumage is marked with black or brown barring that varies according to age and sex. Adult males can be almost pure white; females have darker markings, and immature owls are the most heavily marked. Males are smaller than females. A thick, heavy underlayer of down feathers keeps the owls' bodies warm and dry in the worst of arctic conditions. The feet are heavily feathered to the tips of the toes, another protection from extreme cold. Snowy owls have long, broad wings that are rounded at the tips. Their flight is strong, steady, and, like all owls, silent. They will often glide low to the ground or low over water for long distances. When viewed from a distance, snowy owls appear to look like a plastic grocery bag or a bleach bottle on the landscape. Without snow on the ground they can be fairly easy to see. But, when there is snow, the owls become almost invisible against the white background of winter.

### **Behavior**

Snowy owls are strong and aggressive predators. They take a wide variety of prey, including many kinds of mammals and birds. Their diet includes lemmings, hares, mice, rats, voles, ground squirrels, ptarmigans and other grouse, ducks, sea birds, sandpipers, crows, gulls, and fish. Of these, lemmings, hares, and ptarmigans are among the most frequently preyed upon.

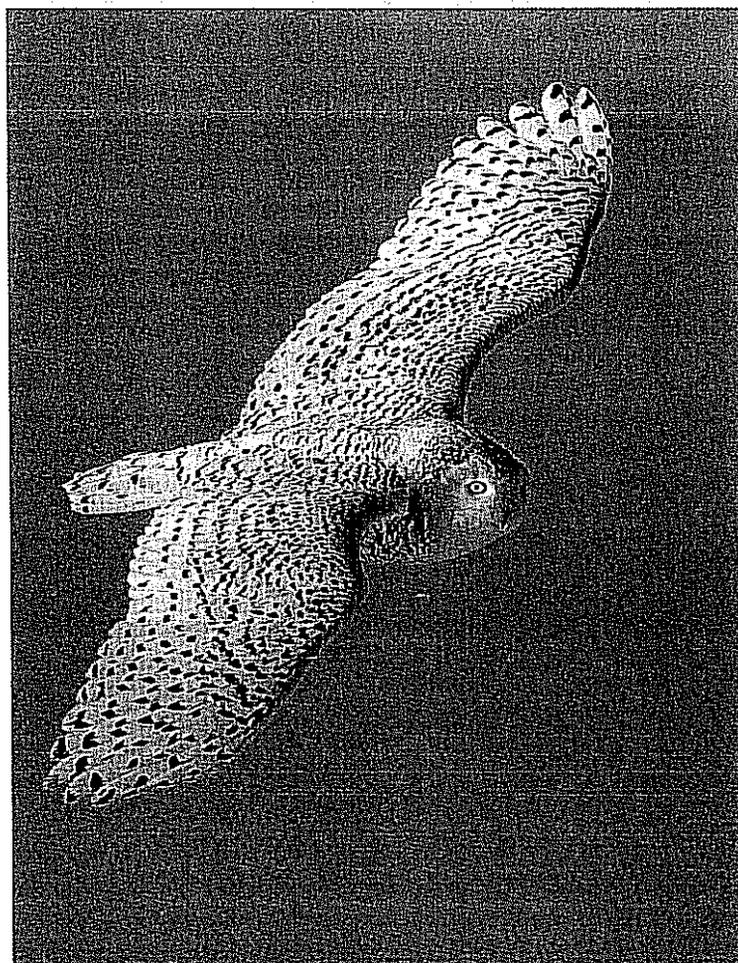
Snowy owls are usually shy and wild by nature. They typically do not allow close approach. In its preferred habitat of wide open spaces, an owl will sit on a prominent perch that offers a commanding view of its realm. From there it will keep a watchful eye for potential danger and scan for prey. Snowy owls have few enemies, but their most vulnerable time is when they are nesting. Danger may come in the form of an Arctic fox or golden eagle that may attempt to rob the nest of eggs or young. But, interloper beware, snowy owls are extremely aggressive in defending their nest.

Being from the Arctic, where the time of daylight varies greatly, snowy owls may be active by day and/or night. Southward flights generally occur at night, but some movement may happen by day. Hunting activity is frequently at night, including dawn and dusk, but also may occur in daylight. Daytime hunting activity during winter may be an indication that a bird is stressed for food.

### **Conservation**

Snowy owls are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in the United States. In Canada, protection is afforded by individual Provincial laws. Alaska hunting regulations do allow state residents to harvest snowy owls in certain areas of the state provided that the birds are used for food or clothing, and no bird or part of a bird may be sold or offered for sale.

Drastic fluctuations in the population are part of a regular cycle for these birds. Their numbers are directly tied to food availability, as is their success in raising young. When lemming populations are high, snowy owl numbers will grow. When their prey experiences a population crash, owl numbers will also drop. Historically, the natural life cycle dynamics of owls and prey have had little to do with man-made events, but the effects of global warming may prove to be a different challenge in the coming years. As the Arctic's ecosystem changes due to rising temperatures and melting ice, the future of snowy owls, lemmings, and a host of other arctic wildlife will be determined.



Outside of the breeding season, snowy owls are nomadic birds that often move great distances in search of food, especially in irruption winters.

### **Owls in Myth and Legend**

As a symbol of the far north, the snowy owl is the subject of many legends in folklore and culture. They are seen as creatures of wisdom and power, and as protectors from evil. Some also believe them to be agents of demons, death, and sickness.

In many cultures, owls are messengers of the gods. They have the power to see what is unseen, and to see through deception. Owls in some cultures are said to be able to sense those with magical powers, and also detect the good or evil in people.

According to legend in parts of Russia, snowy owls are made to stay behind while other birds migrate south as punishment for their deception. In parts of Africa, owls are believed to be evil and are referred to as "witchbirds."

In traditional Sioux Indian culture, the snowy owl is admired as a creature that symbolizes bravery and possesses special powers. While, in Apache culture, owls are viewed as the embodiment of the dead and as the most feared of all creatures.

Owls have been a part of human myth and legend for as far back as humans themselves. One of the earliest known human cave paintings in France illustrates a family of snowy owls. It is easy to see why owls have developed such prominence in magic and legend of native cultures. Owls are active during the night, they can see in the dark, they have strange sounding vocalizations, and their flight is completely silent and stealthy. Also, unlike most other birds, and similar to humans, they have binocular vision. With their eyes positioned on the front of the head, they have a somewhat human attribute that helps give rise to superstitions and legends.

## Outreach and Education

The Wildlife Division's Outreach Program published 6 issues of *Connecticut Wildlife* magazine, prepared press releases on wildlife topics, and assisted in the production of several publications, including the annual deer and turkey summaries and wildlife fact sheets. Most of these publications are posted on the DEP website ([www.ct.gov/dep/wildlife](http://www.ct.gov/dep/wildlife)).

The 8th Master Wildlife Conservationist (MWC) Program series was completed by 23 participants at the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center. MWCs assist the Wildlife Division with public programs and wildlife projects. Seventy-five MWCs provided over 3,700 hours of volunteer service in 2008. Also, MWCs and Division outreach staff presented 119 programs to various school, scout, civic, and general public audiences. Programs held at Sessions Woods included interpretive hikes and presentations on wildlife ecology and management, habitat dynamics, and wildlife natural history. Wildlife displays were manned at 15 public events, including the Hunting and Fishing Expo, Sharon Audubon Festival, and Nature Day at White Memorial Conservation Center in

Litchfield.

The Wildlife Division participated in "Bring Your Child to Work Day" at DEP Headquarters in Hartford and with the DEP's Seasonal Interpreters Training at Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby.

A new initiative to further educate northwest Connecticut communities on black bear issues was implemented this past fall with the assistance of MWC Felicia Ortner and the Connecticut Library Consortium. A new, traveling bear display board was fabricated for this purpose, with funding provided by the Friends of Sessions Woods (FOSW).

FOSW co-sponsored an Eagle Scout project for the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center. Steven Bagley, a Boy Scout from Troop 23 in Burlington, raised money and organized a native plant landscaping project. Native plants attractive to wildlife were purchased

## Friends of Sessions Woods

The Friends of Sessions Woods (FOSW) continues to support and enhance the educational efforts of the Wildlife Division at the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center in Burlington. FOSW was instrumental in the receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the Newman's Own Foundation for the printing of a workbook for use by children visiting Sessions Woods. FOSW also contributed to the enhancement of the workbook by designating additional funds for the creation of a 4-page color insert highlighting common animals of Sessions Woods. The Newman's Own Foundation grant also allowed funding for bus transportation to Sessions Woods for students to participate in wildlife presentations.

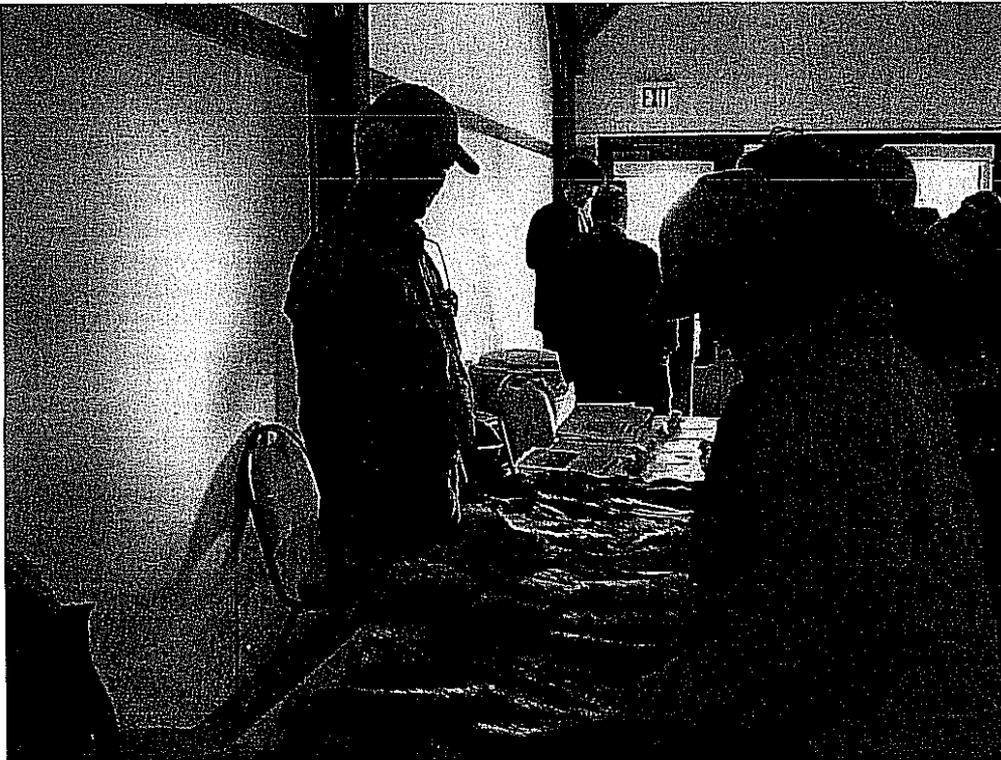
FOSW received a grant from the Main Street Community Foundation, Inc., to purchase waterfowl taxidermy mounts and a display case for Sessions Woods. FOSW provided a 50% match to the grant. The project is well underway with a generous donation of 12 mounts from Connecticut Waterfowl Association member Mark Hintsa.



and planted outside the wildlife viewing window in the center's exhibit area. Bird feeders were also installed. The landscaped area has become a hotbed of wildlife activity and a focal point of visitors to the Conservation Education Center.

The Wildlife Division provided rough-cut lumber to 24 groups for the construction of bluebird nest boxes. These groups, comprised of scout troops, school groups, senior centers, nature centers, and others, built and set up approximately 800 nest boxes across the state. The groups monitored the boxes for bird use and returned annual reports to the Division.

Division staff participated in Yale Peabody Museum's BioBlitz held in Stratford at the end of May. Cosponsored by Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, the BioBlitz brought together teams of scientists from across the region in an attempt to document as many species of living organisms as possible within the boundaries of Stratford's open spaces during a 24-hour period. The teams were organized into groups of taxonomic experts. Wildlife Division staff was charged with searching for freshwater mussels and mammals. Streams and impoundments were searched for freshwater mussels until sundown. Mist nets were then used to capture bats late into the night at Roosevelt Forest. All of the hard work paid off as a total of 914 species of plants and animals were recorded in Stratford.



Master Wildlife Conservationist (MWC) Dick Ronaliter (left) shares his expertise on Connecticut's wildlife with visitors to Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam during a "No Child Left Inside" event sponsored by the Connecticut DEP. Several MWCs participated in various "No Child Left Inside" events throughout the year.

selective herbiciding.

By combining WHIP funds with staff commitments from the Wildlife, Support Services, Parks, and Forestry Divisions, this past field season was extremely productive. Approximately 1,082 acres of early successional habitat enhancement practices were completed at 59 sites throughout the state. Projects ranged in size from a 4.3-acre meadow mix planting at Belding WMA (Vernon) to 150 acres at the Flaherty Management Area (East Windsor).

The 282-acre Belding WMA in Vernon was donated to the State of Connecticut in 1982 by Max Belding to be managed by the Wildlife Division. Using funding obtained through WHIP, a 4.3-acre wildflower meadow was established; competing trees were removed as the first step in regenerating pitch pine on 3 acres; invasive shrubs were removed in 4 fields; and over 700 native shrubs were planted. Brush mowing occurred on 20 acres to enhance early successional stage habitat. Annual bird, amphibian, and mast surveys were conducted, and the Belding Pond dam was repaired.

The State Lands Management Program continues to administer 7 Conservation Reserve Program contracts that involve the maintenance of grassland sites for a period of 10 years at Robbins Swamp WMA (Canaan), Pease Brook WMA (Lebanon), Bartlett Brook WMA (Lebanon), Spignesi WMA (Scotland), and Bloomfield Flood Control Area. The Program also oversees 52 agricultural agreements on approximately 1,324 acres, allowing farmers to use state-owned agricultural lands when properly managed and in the context of overall wildlife management goals.

Comprehensive 10-year management plans were developed for Talbot WMA (Scotland) and Goshen WMA, covering over 1,446 acres, to provide direction in managing their habitats over the next decade.

Staff members review various Department and outside proposals and provide guidance to assure that impacts to wildlife are minimized and potential benefits are secured. Staff was involved with a variety of reviews in 2008:

- Wildlife input on 4 forest management plans comprising 3,614 acres;
- Enduro reviews (2);
- Land acquisition reviews; and
- Reviews of agency proposals (12), including boat launches, access roads, trails, and facility development.

## Creating Roosting Habitat for Connecticut's Smallest Owl

The northern saw-whet owl is a Connecticut species of special concern. It hunts for its food of white-footed mice under the darkness of the night. Many are amazed upon learning that Connecticut's smallest owl spends part of the winter in the state, roosting in select dense evergreens in close proximity to its hunting areas. Dense evergreen cover helps create a microhabitat for these little owls by providing thermal cover that reduces the negative effect of the cold winter elements. This cover also helps conceal the owl from avian predators during daylight.

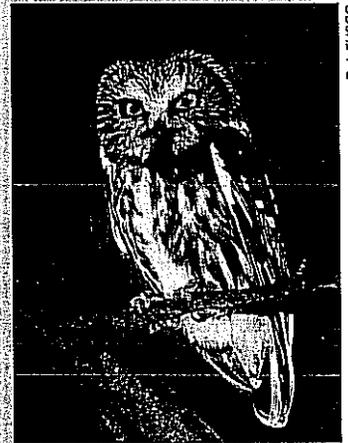
The Wildlife Division received a Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) grant to restore evergreen habitat at a saw-whet owl winter roosting site on state property in New Haven County. As the forests grew older, the owls' winter refuge of red cedars began to disappear because they were overshadowed and out-competed by the taller oaks, hickories, and maples. This led to a decline in evergreen presence and vigor, resulting in a decrease of the owls' winter habitat.

The Division recently completed the first phase of restoring and enhancing the evergreen habitat by clearing competing overtopping hardwood trees, thereby releasing and invigorating the remaining evergreens. This was accomplished through the use of a drum-style mowing/mulching machine known as a "brontosaurus" mower. This mowing apparatus basically chops, grinds, and mulches competing vegetation to ground level. Habitat managers consider the brontosaurus as one of the best tools to help restore habitat conditions.

The second phase of the project involves planting new evergreens in clusters near former roosting areas. In spring 2009, evergreens, such as red cedar and white spruce, will be planted

in the areas cleared by the brontosaurus mower. The evergreens will also be protected from damage by deer browsing with deer-proof fencing.

The Wildlife Division is grateful to the partners that helped facilitate this habitat restoration project, especially the DEP Parks Division and WHIP.



P. J. FUSCO



This photograph depicts the results of daylighting evergreens with the use of a brontosaurus to improve habitat conditions for wintering Northern saw-whet owls. Daylighting refers to the cutting and release of vegetation along areas within a forested habitat for the purpose of increasing sunlight on the forest floor.

P. PICONE, HABITAT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Operational activities included:

- Boundary posting of 27 miles at Rora-back WMA, Bishops Swamp WMA (Andover), Bartlett Brook WMA, and Babcock Pond WMA (Colchester).
- An upgrade of 2.5 miles of access roads at the Flaherty Management Area, Cockaponset State Forest (Had-dam), Sugarbrook WMA (Plainfield),

Sessions Woods WMA, and Nipmuck State Forest (Union).

- Routine maintenance activities at key public access locations on 35 WMAs. Activities included mowing, herbiciding, painting gates, staining wooden signs, replacement of informational signs, and general site clean-up.
- Maintenance at 17 inland marshes,

All projects require a 25% non-federal match, and most landowners provide in-kind services, such as brush mowing or herbiciding. The East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club is following up on the project by controlling non-native invasive plants. This effort will help native shrubs and valuable trees (apple, white oak, aspen) to become re-established after the completion of whole tree harvesting operations.

This project resulted in the enhancement of approximately 12 acres of early successional habitat. A wide variety of early successional dependent species, such as woodcock, ruffed grouse, chestnut-sided warbler, blue-winged warbler, indigo bunting, eastern towhee, field sparrow, prairie warbler, and eastern box turtle were found on site and will benefit from the project. The project will also indirectly benefit the state endangered timber rattlesnake by creating potential foraging and basking habitat. Meshomasic State Forest is home to these reptiles.

**Phragmites Control:** Six new projects to treat non-native, invasive phragmites and restore tidal marsh habitat got underway in 2008 and two ongoing projects received follow-up herbicide treatment. LIP partnered with the Tidelands Program of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

(TNC) to treat stands of phragmites that are still persistent, despite past treatment, in the important tidal and brackish marshes of the Lords Cove area of the Connecticut River and the lower Lieutenant River. TNC considers the lower Connecticut River Tidelands Area (which encompasses the watershed from Cromwell south) as "one of the last great places." The area was



A log skidder drags bundles of trees that were cut down to create and enhance early successional seedling/sapling habitat at the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club in Marlborough to benefit species at-risk.

recognized as containing "Wetlands of International Importance" under the Ramsar Convention in 1994. The Connecticut River is a major migratory route for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and passerine birds, many of which are considered at-risk and GCN species. The river provides important finfish and shellfish areas, especially for anadromous fish, such as the state threatened Atlantic sturgeon. The Lords Cove area provides critical habitat and supports plant and animal species at-risk.

The Lieutenant River, which enters the Connecticut River at Old Lyme, also

to forest and wildlife habitat management. LIP has worked in coordination with the DEP Support Services and Forestry Divisions and UCONN Extension to develop and maintain wildlife habitat demonstration areas at Goodwin State Forest in Hampton since 2005. In 2008, early successional habitat areas were treated using a backpack sprayer to selectively control invasives. These demonstration areas are used during the COVERTS workshop to highlight habitat management for species at-risk and are regularly used for a variety of other educational outreach efforts.



The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Division are working in partnership under the Landowner Incentive Program to continue to treat stands of invasive phragmites (background) that remain a threat to the restored, native, healthy vegetation (foreground) in the Lords Cove area of the Connecticut River. The restored vegetation provides critical habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

supports a number of plants considered at-risk, in addition to providing important fresh and brackish saltmarsh wildlife habitat.

**Education:** LIP also provided classroom and field instruction with other natural resource professionals at the multi-day 2008 COVERTS workshop, which is held for selected landowners with a strong interest and commitment

Unfortunately, no new applications for LIP projects are being accepted at this time due to the elimination of future program funding. Staff are exploring various options to keep this important private lands program viable in Connecticut.

benefit the Wildlife Division through improved communication and local assessment when evaluating coyote problems in some communities.

### Wildlife Rehabilitation

The Wildlife Division responds to calls from the public regarding sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals. The Division does not have the resources to provide care for these animals. Therefore, it relies on a network of volunteer wildlife rehabilitators that consists of private individuals, staff at nature centers, and local veterinarians who have the proper training, as well as the appropriate facilities to house wildlife species until they can be returned to the wild. There are 231 individuals authorized to care for animals in need. Of that group, 3 are authorized to care for orphaned fawns and 39 have specialized training and authorization for handling rabies vector species (RVS; skunks, raccoons, foxes). In addition, 58 individuals have federal permits to care for migratory birds. In 2007, wildlife rehabilitators cared for 12,877 animals, which included 8,055 birds, 4,607 mammals (of which 106 were fawns and 469 were RVS), and 215 reptiles and amphibians. A total of 8,888 of the animals cared for were released back into the wild.

### Nuisance Beaver Management

Beaver complaints have remained consistent over the past 3 years, with a slight increase in 2008. Human/beaver conflicts are aggravated by the loss of suitable beaver habitat and an increase in development. Concerns involve the cutting of trees; flooding of roads, septic systems and structures; increase in standing water; increase in mosquitoes; threats to fish and aquatic flora; potential encounters in recreation areas; and potential spread of diseases. Most of these concerns can be addressed with basic information on beaver behavior and the majority are deferred until the regulated

### Online Licensing Made Available for Sportsmen

Early in 2008, sportsmen were able to purchase hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, as well as all required deer, turkey, and migratory bird permits and stamps, on the DEP website ([www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmenlicensing](http://www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmenlicensing)). Payments could be made by Visa or Mastercard. The new online licensing system was an instant success.

## WHAMM Program Restores Habitat

The Wetland Habitat and Mosquito Management (WHAMM) Program assisted the Town of Fairfield by using its low ground pressure excavation equipment to clean debris and sediment from several tidal ditches to restore tidal flow and drainage to low-lying areas.

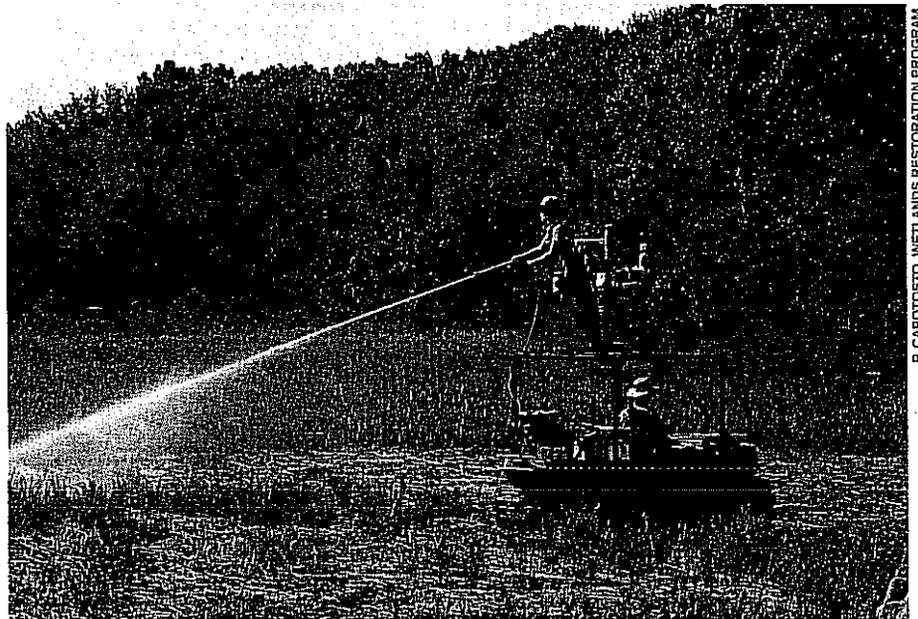
The Program also mowed 268 acres of heavy brush and overgrown meadows to restore grassland habitat on several tracts of land in state-owned wildlife management areas. These projects were funded by the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

Phragmites on 978 acres were sprayed with herbicides and the dead canes were mowed on 55 sites throughout the state. These projects were funded by the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), NRCS (WHIP and Wetland Reserve Program), Ducks Unlimited, and the Avalonia and Old Saybrook Land Trusts.

An infestation of Japanese knotweed (a non-native, invasive plant) was controlled on 4 acres as part of a dune restoration project (funded by NRCS WHIP funds) at Harkness Memorial State Park (Waterford).

The WHAMM Program is partnering with Ducks Unlimited and private landowners to restore the 100-acre Little River tidal marsh in New Haven and North Haven.

With funds generated through these various projects, the WHAMM Program has been able to purchase a MarshMaster® amphibious tracked vehicle and a smaller Argo® amphibious tracked vehicle, and is in the process of purchasing a Piston Bully® low ground pressure tracked mower to aid in habitat management efforts.



P. CAPOTOSTO, WETLANDS RESTORATION PROGRAM

Seasonal technician Adam Hendrick (spraying) and Mosquito Management Program coordinator Roger Wolfe conduct second year herbiciding of phragmites at Barn Island WMA in Stonington.

### Nuisance Beaver Management Program 2008

District	Phone Advice	Field Inspections	Total # Complaints	NWCO Permits Issued	Volunteer Authorizations Issued
Eastern	68	47	115	4	27
Western	78	52	130	12	12

### Deer Damage Permit Program 2008 (Jan. 1-Oct. 31)

District	Inspections			Office Reviews		
	Daylight	Jacklight	Total	Daylight	Jacklight	Total
Eastern	40	3	43	7	4	11
Western	38	0	38	6	3	9

# Wildlife Calendar Reminders

Jan.-April ..... Donate to the Endangered Species/Wildlife Income Tax Check-off Fund on your 2008 Connecticut Income Tax form.

## Programs at the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center

These programs are a cooperative venture between the Wildlife Division and the Friends of Sessions Woods. Please pre-register by calling 860-675-8130 (Mon.-Fri., 8:30 AM-4:30 PM). Programs are free unless noted. An adult must accompany children under 12 years old. No pets allowed! Sessions Woods is located at 341 Millford St. (Route 69) in Burlington.

- Feb. 22..... **Winter Tracking**, starting at 9:00 AM. Join Wildlife Division Supervising Biologist Peter Good on a search to find and identify animal tracks and signs. Peter will provide an introduction to wildlife tracks and signs on this hike to the beaver marsh. Participants should wear winter boots suitable for walking off trail in snow and be prepared for a two to three-mile excursion. This program will be cancelled if there is no snow. Please meet in the exhibit area of the Center.
- March 1..... **Children's Program: An Introduction to Birds**, starting at 2:00 PM. Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro will introduce children to birds through a short slide show presentation and visit to the bird feeding station at Sessions Woods. Children also will discover what the Wildlife Division is doing to conserve birds in Connecticut. Participants should meet in the exhibit area of the Center.
- April 19..... **The Friends of Sessions Woods Annual Meeting: Live Raptor and Turkey Vulture Program**, with Teresa Kramer of Canton Raptor Care. Program starts at 1:00 PM. The mission of Canton Raptor Care is to promote wildlife conservation and responsible stewardship of the Earth's biological diversity through education and ethical wildlife rehabilitation. During this program, Teresa will introduce participants to the unique world of the turkey vulture and provide information on the wildlife rehabilitation of raptors.

## Hunting Season Dates

- Jan. 15-Feb. 15 ..... Special late Canada goose season in the south zone only.
- ..... *The 2009 Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide contains specific hunting season dates and details. The 2008-2009 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide contains information on duck, goose, woodcock, rail, and snipe seasons. Both guides are available at Wildlife Division offices, town halls, and on the DEP's website ([www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep)).*

## Shepaug Bald Eagle Observation Area

The Shepaug Eagle Observation Area, in Southbury, is open to the public on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays through March 11, 2009, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM — **strictly by advance reservation**. All individuals and groups wishing to visit the site to view eagles must make a reservation for a particular date, as there will be a limited number of visitors allowed per open day. Reservations can be made on Tuesdays through Fridays, from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, by calling 1-800-368-8954.

**The Connecticut River Eagle Festival, sponsored by Connecticut Audubon and originally scheduled for February 2009, has been CANCELLED.**



*Step Up to the Plate for Wildlife...*

*and show your support by displaying a wildlife license plate on your vehicle.*

*There are two great designs to choose from: the state-endangered bald eagle or the secretive bobcat.*

*Funds raised from sales and renewals of the plates will be used for wildlife research and management projects; the acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and management of wildlife habitat; and public outreach that promotes the conservation of Connecticut's wildlife diversity.*

*Application forms are available at DEP and Department of Motor Vehicle offices and online at [www.ct.gov/dmv](http://www.ct.gov/dmv).*

# Connecticut Wildlife

## Subscription Order

Please make checks payable to:  
Connecticut Wildlife, P.O. Box 1550, Burlington, CT 06013

Check one:

- 1 Year (\$6.00)     2 Years (\$11.00)     3 Years (\$16.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

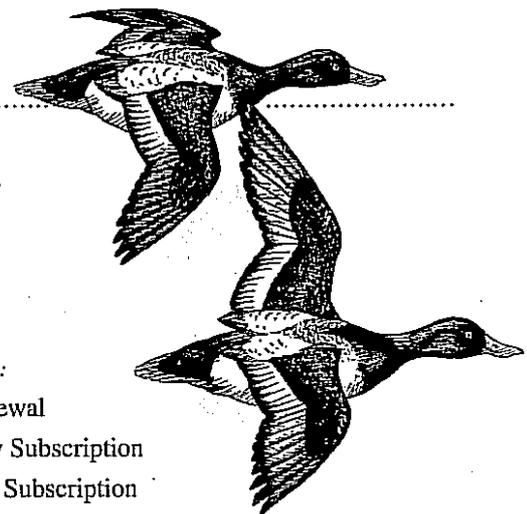
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

- Renewal  
 New Subscription  
 Gift Subscription

Gift card to read: \_\_\_\_\_





University of Connecticut  
*Office of the Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer*

Office of Environmental Policy

January 30, 2009

Richard A. Miller  
*Director*

Raymond L. Frigon, Jr.  
State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

RE: CONSENT ORDER #SRD 101  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (CTDEP)  
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT – OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2008  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT LANDFILL, STORRS, CT

Dear Mr. Frigon:

The University of Connecticut (UConn) issues this Quarterly Progress Report to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP).

In accordance with paragraph B.8. of Consent Order SRD-101, progress reports must continue “until all actions required by this consent order have been completed as approved and to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, Respondent shall submit a progress report to the Commissioner describing the actions which Respondent has taken to comply with this consent order to date.”

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If any of those individuals copied on this Progress Report no longer wish to receive these updates, they are welcome to contact Stephanie Marks, UConn Office of Environmental Policy at [Stephanie.marks@uconn.edu](mailto:Stephanie.marks@uconn.edu).

Progress reported during October, November and December 2008 include:

- Construction and Closeout Activities
- Permitting and Monitoring Activities
- Post Construction Remediation System Inspections
- Photographs taken during Post Construction Remediation System Inspections
- Long-Term Monitoring Plan (LTMP)
- Contact and project document information
- Certification

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

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Facsimile: (860) 486-5477  
e-mail: [rich.miller@uconn.edu](mailto:rich.miller@uconn.edu)

**Construction and Close-out Activities**

<b>Construction or Consultant Task</b>	<b>Estimated Start Date</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Waiver to use parking lot prior to final approval by CTDEP	Received August 4, 2008	Expires in 120 days, project close-out approval due by <b>December 2, 2008*</b>
Submit as-built plans to Commissioner within ninety (90) days of completion of the landfill closure – Construction Closure Report (CCR) as per CTDEP Approval dated November 22, 2004	August 26, 2008	Due by <b>November 24, 2008*</b> Expected February 2009
Operations and Maintenance Manual (OMM) – Haley & Aldrich (H&A) deliverable	September 2008	February 2009
Environmental Land Use Restriction (ELUR)	Underway	Following completion of CCR and OMM, est. April 2009
Bus Shelter construction– Partial, Foundation	July 25, 2008	TBD
Deck, Overlook construction – Partial	July 7, 2008	TBD

\* H&A contacted CTDEP on November 6, 2008 requesting to extend the deadline to submit the final reports due to the contractor’s delay in providing acceptable as-built drawings. We estimate that these drawings will be available shortly.

**Note:** Completed items have been removed.

**Permitting and Monitoring Activities**

**October 2008**

- The University continues the execution of the approved June 2004 Wetlands Mitigation Plan. Mason & Associates, Inc. staff conducted monitoring activities on the following dates: October 2, 6, 8, and 21, 2008

**November 2008**

- The University continues the execution of the approved June 2004 Wetlands Mitigation Plan. Mason & Associates, Inc. staff conducted monitoring activities on November 20, 2008.

**December 2008**

- On December 29, 2008, the Notice of Termination Form for Permit IW-2003-112, WQC-200302988 was submitted to the CTDEP.
- The Army Corps of Engineers was contacted to request that the deadline for the first annual Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Report be extended forty five (45) days from the original due date of December 15, 2008. As mentioned previously, the extension was required due to the contractor’s delay in providing acceptable as-built drawings. UConn’s consultants continue to review corrections to the drawings which by the date of this report have not been acceptable.

**Post Construction Remediation System Inspections**

In addition to routine inspections conducted by UConn Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) personnel, Haley & Aldrich conducted monthly inspections. Their inspection results are as follows:

- **October 3, 2008** – No issues found and recovery well volumes were ~47,000 gallons/day.
- **November 6, 2008** – No issues found and recovery well volumes decreased from an average of ~47,000 gallons/day to ~40,000 gallons/day.
- **December 16, 2008** – No issues found and recovery well volumes were ~42,000 gallons/day.

**Photographs taken during Post Construction Remediation System Inspections**



**Photo of North Pond taken during Remediation System Inspection  
November 6, 2008**



**Photo of South Pond taken during Remediation System Inspection  
December 16, 2008**

**Long-Term Monitoring Plan (LTMP)**

We sampled Round #8 in October/November 2008. Results from Sampling Round #8 will be the first sampling in which all of the structural remediation features are in place including all catch basins and surface water ponds. Sampling for Round #9 is anticipated to take place in the first quarter 2009.

**Listing of Project Contacts**

No change to previous report.

**Project Documents**

No change to previous report.

**UConn Project Web Site**

The site's Internet address is <http://landfillproject.uconn.edu/> and a subsection contains construction information <http://landfillproject.uconn.edu/updates/>.

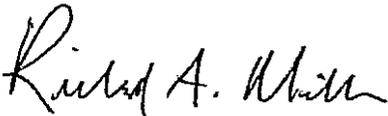
**Certification:**

As part of this submission, I am providing the following certification:

"I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statement made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense."

Please contact James M. Pietrzak, P.E. at (860) 486-5836 or Stephanie Marks at (860) 486-1031 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Miller  
Director, Office of Environmental Policy

RAM/JMP