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- 8. **FUTURE MEETINGS**
- 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Parks and Natural Resources Committee

Tuesday January 21, 2020 7:00 PM
Mansfield Town Hall Conference Room B

Minutes -- DRAFT

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

Roll Call

Attending: Jim Morrow (Chair), Ken Feathers (secretary), Quentin Kessel (Cons. Com. Rep.), Sue Harrington, Michael Soares, Julianna Barrett (alt.), Vicky Wetherell (by phone)

Not present but on committee roster: Tom Harrington

Town Staff Present: Jennifer Kaufman

2. Brief Review of On-Line Meeting Software

Town staff presented an overview of new software to be used for minutes and agenda of our meetings as the town migrates away from paper documents. The goal is to have standardized formats and access. The software will be accessible through mansfield.civicweb.net, and all our documents will have both “public access” and “confidential” versions, with access to the confidential versions regulated by login credentials issued to the committee. Implementation is pending.

3. Opportunity for Public comment

No members of the public were present.

4. Review of Minutes

1. The Minutes of the November 19, 2019 meeting were approved, with modification of the close to read “respectfully submitted” (moved Kessel, second Soares)
2. The minutes of the November 16, 2019 special meeting were approved, with modification to add that Soares was not present (moved Feathers, seconded S. Harrington)
A tangent discussion ensued with a question from Soares regarding committee membership; Town staff listed current members and indicated that there is one vacancy for an alternate due to a resignation in the fall.
3. It was pointed out that the January 10, 2020 meeting did not have a quorum, and should be recharacterized as notes rather than minutes, with no approval therefore necessary.

5. New Business

1. *Mansfield Dog Park – Presentation from Community Members*
Presentation was tabled to the February meeting because the group was not present

6. Continuing business

1. *Simpson-Wood Preserve Projects.*
Morrow reported on the January 10 trip that he and Feathers took to go out and mark final trail layout in areas identified as needing work during the November 16 special meeting. Feathers had earlier walked the property with John Hankins, and Morrow and Feathers confirmed and finalized some suggested routing solutions on January 10, with the results summarized for today’s meeting.
Kaufman reported that town staff and Morrow met with Monty Grable, an eagle scout, about the details of a proposed project, and the decision was to refocus the project from a bridge crossing a wet area on the north-east part of the loop trail to instead ensuring that the entry

point and trail beginning had adequate provisions, such as a boardwalk or other low structure, to cross the major wet area near the road. A picture of a metal grid “boardwalk” was shown as a concept. Discussion focused on the need for any structures placed by the project to ensure that they did not impede any emergency vehicle access or future parking development. Wetherell advocated for expecting to need to develop parking at the trail head to address safety concerns with crossing Route 89 from the Mount Hope parking area. Discussion continued to note that any signage also should be installed to not impede emergency access or future parking development, including sightlines. Town staff will plan to meet on-site with town fire safety personnel to ensure that any boardwalk is appropriately placed.

2. *Simpson-Wood Draft Management Plan*

See note under 3

3. *Moss Sanctuary Management Plan*

Discussion of both Management Plans considered the need for a semi-generic template, as general as possible, that references an attachment listing priorities specific to the parcel. Soares and Feathers agreed to meet before the next meeting to develop a framework, with town staff needing 24 hours to publish notice of the meeting, tentatively on 4 February.

4. *Winter/Spring Programming*

Report by S. Harrington:

The winter tree walk got 12 people.

The winter birding program was cancelled due to low registration.

Discussion covered the need to better define the process for cancellation.

A more general discussion of fees occurred:

It was pointed out that materials available in print and on the web were inconsistent in listing fees, and town staff agreed that this needed to be improved.

Harrington pointed out that free programs were well attended (example: tree walk), but programs with fees often were undersubscribed (example: winter birding). Discussion raised a general question of why programs that specifically addressed our committee’s educational mission needed a fee, especially if they took place in the parks and did not use the community center facilities. Town staff indicated that the fees stemmed from the fee-based model of the community center, that fees were used to pay instructors, and there was a waiver process for individuals. The committee’s suggestion was to look into the potential for a blanket waiver for programs that could be considered as sponsored by PANRC, rather than the community center, especially if there was no facility usage at the community center and/or the instructor was a volunteer not seeking reimbursement for their time.

(Editorial note: absent from discussion was any consideration of a need for liability coverage.)

Upcoming programs:

- A Mother’s Day bird walk is planned
- Trails Day is June 7th, and the plan is to repeat the popular “Unnatural History” activity at Merrow Meadow that was run last year. Timing will be June 7 from 1-3 pm.
- Also for Trails Day Merrow and Charlotte Pyle will run a guided walk of the Simpson-Wood Preserve trail loop. Timing will be June 6 from 9:30 to 11:30 am

Discussion of coordination of the two Trails Day events finalized the proposed times noted above for inclusion in the community center brochure.

7. Communications

1. Other Committee Minutes

Consensus of the group was that there were no particular issues concerning our committee in the minutes listed in the agenda

2. Member Updates

- Morrow continued discussion reporting observations regarding trails at Simpson-Wood Preserve. Some wet areas may be able to be improved with minimal drainage modifications of the old logging roads, after obtaining appropriate wetland permissions.
- A discussion of mountain bikes occurred, stemming from observation that there did not seem to be current bike activity at Simpson-Wood Preserve. Town policy is that we cannot prohibit them, but won't encourage their use except in specific preserves with appropriately designed trails. Feathers suggested a need for a long term monitoring study of trails, to identify any potential impact, perhaps coordinated with UConn.

3. Staff Report

- The town is continuing to try for a National Park Service technical assistance grant. An NPS person will meet with the town to discuss an application to consolidate all trails information.
- There are two large subdivision applications pending, one from Mansfield Housing Authority and one from JE Shepard. The committee will have referral with opportunity to comment on JE Shepard, which has some identified cultural resources to address, but the Housing Authority is exempt because it is under statute 830g for affordable housing. *Discussion* ensued as to why the Housing Authority should not have to address how they conform to Mansfield's goals for conservation and sustainability. Town staff indicated that stormwater and wetlands requirements apply, but for other considerations the burden of proof is on the Town to show a problem, not on the applicant to show it conforms. The committee was referred to the 12/2 PZC packet for additional information on the project.

4. Correspondence as noted in package

8. Executive session in accordance with CGS section 1200(6)(D)

There were no issues requiring an executive session, and none was held

9. Future Meetings

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM by consensus (moved Kessel, seconded S.Harrington)

Respectfully Submitted

Ken Feathers, Secretary

Parks and Natural Resources Committee

Special Meeting

Tuesday February 4, 2020 6:30 PM

Mansfield Town Hall Conference Room A

Notes -- DRAFT

1. Call to order

The attendees for the special meeting working session gathered at 6:35 PM, convening eventually in Conference Room A instead of B. (Email and Agenda had identified different rooms, with one attendee in each at 6:30; the meeting was moved to A because of where electronic resources had been set up.)

Roll Call

Attending: Ken Feathers (secretary), Michael Soares

Not present but on committee roster: Jim Morrow (Chair), Quentin Kessel (Cons. Com. Rep.), Sue Harrington, Julianna Barrett (alt.), Vicky Wetherell, Tom Harrington

2. Opportunity for Public comment

No members of the public were present.

3. Continuing business

1. Simpson-Wood Draft Management Plan

See note under 3

2. Moss Sanctuary Management Plan

See note under 3

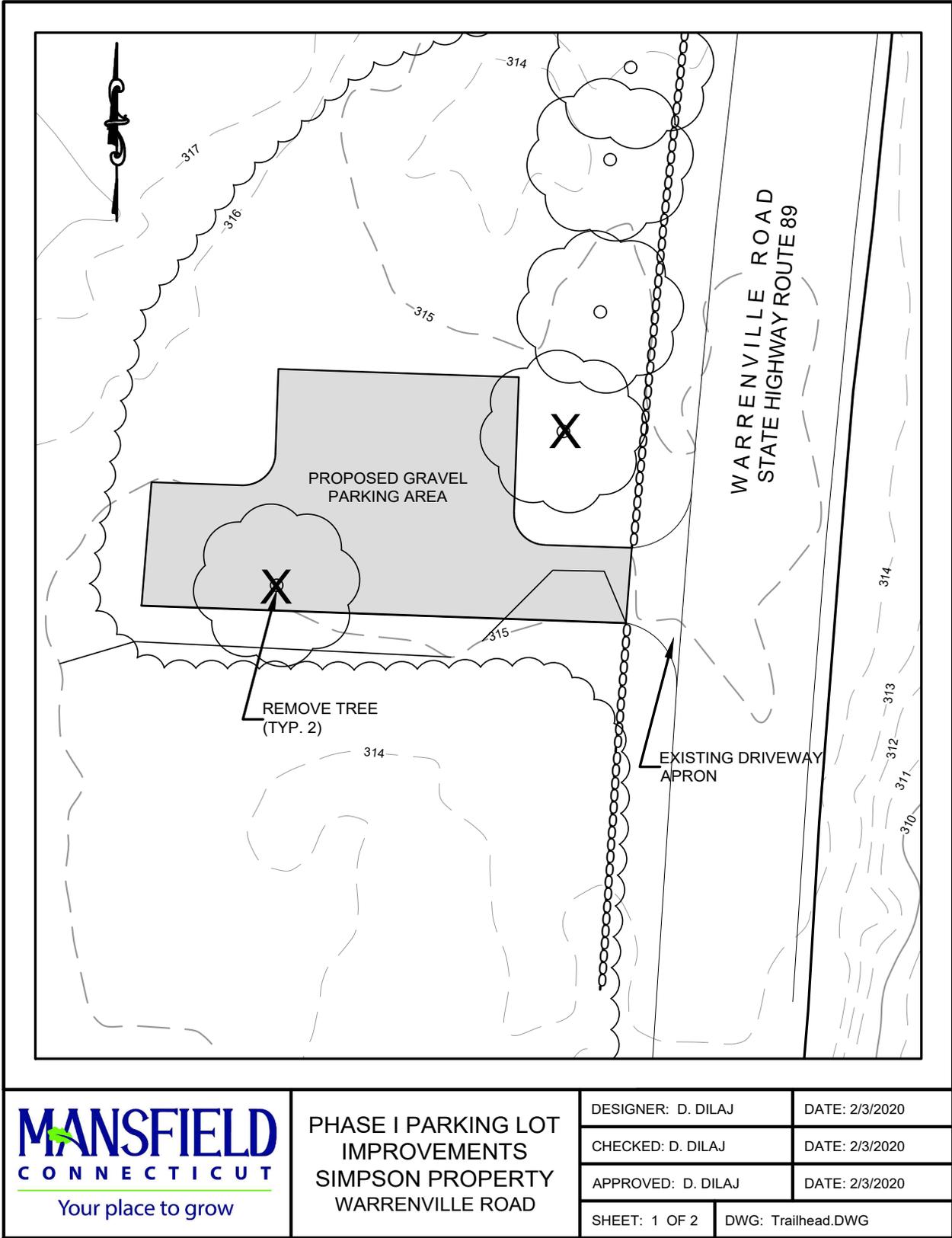
3. Attendees took, as an example, the Simpson-Wood Draft Management Plan and reviewed how the specific preserve goals related to the Goals, Strategies and Actions listed in the Town's Plan Of Conservation and Development. Discussion centered on identifying elements in the POCD goals and strategies that would be generally applicable to most protected parcels, as appropriate for a 3-7 year horizon for inclusion in the plan, and trying to create inclusive general language. Conceptually the discussion also looked at identifying specific more detailed and parcel specific actions that could be in a supplemental table, for implementing the goals and strategies of the plan, but updated and prioritized by staff and/or the committee on a more frequent basis, without needing to rewrite the management plan itself. One question that arose was what the update cycle frequency for management plans should be, especially considering the effort involved.

4. Adjournment

The working session ended at approximately 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted

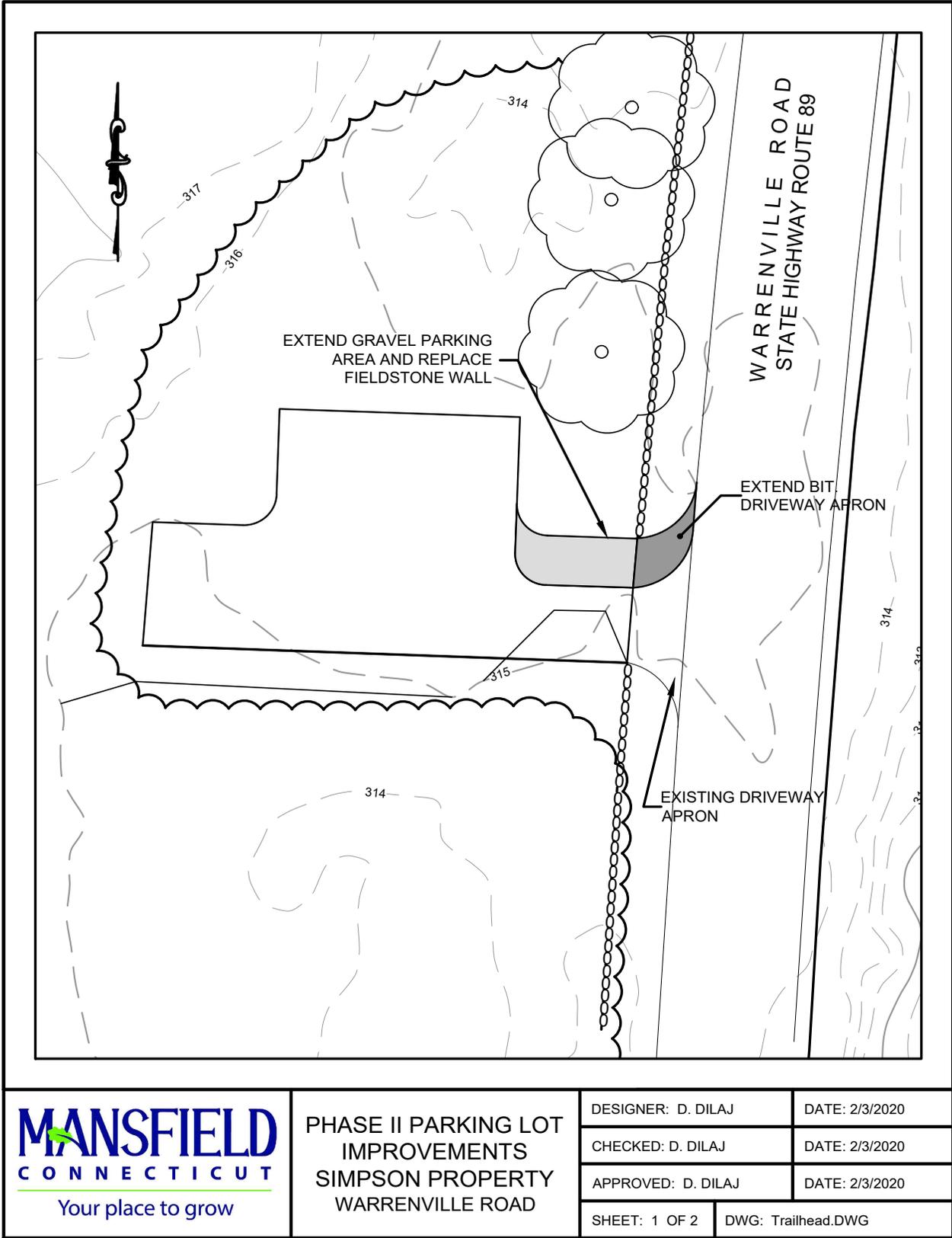
Ken Feathers, Secretary



**PHASE I PARKING LOT
IMPROVEMENTS
SIMPSON PROPERTY
WARRENVILLE ROAD**

DESIGNER: D. DILAJ	DATE: 2/3/2020
CHECKED: D. DILAJ	DATE: 2/3/2020
APPROVED: D. DILAJ	DATE: 2/3/2020
SHEET: 1 OF 2	DWG: Trailhead.DWG

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PHASE II PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS
SIMPSON PROPERTY
WARRENVILLE ROAD

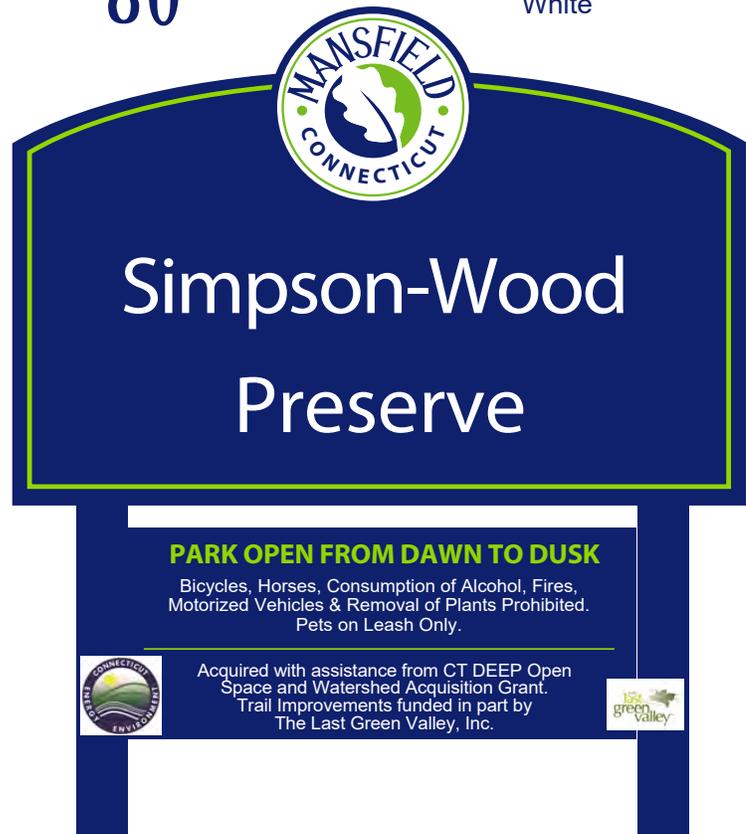
DESIGNER: D. DILAJ	DATE: 2/3/2020
CHECKED: D. DILAJ	DATE: 2/3/2020
APPROVED: D. DILAJ	DATE: 2/3/2020
SHEET: 1 OF 2	DWG: Trailhead.DWG

T:\Engineering\Municipal Facilities\Simpson Property

60"

Change Outline
on sign to
White

44"

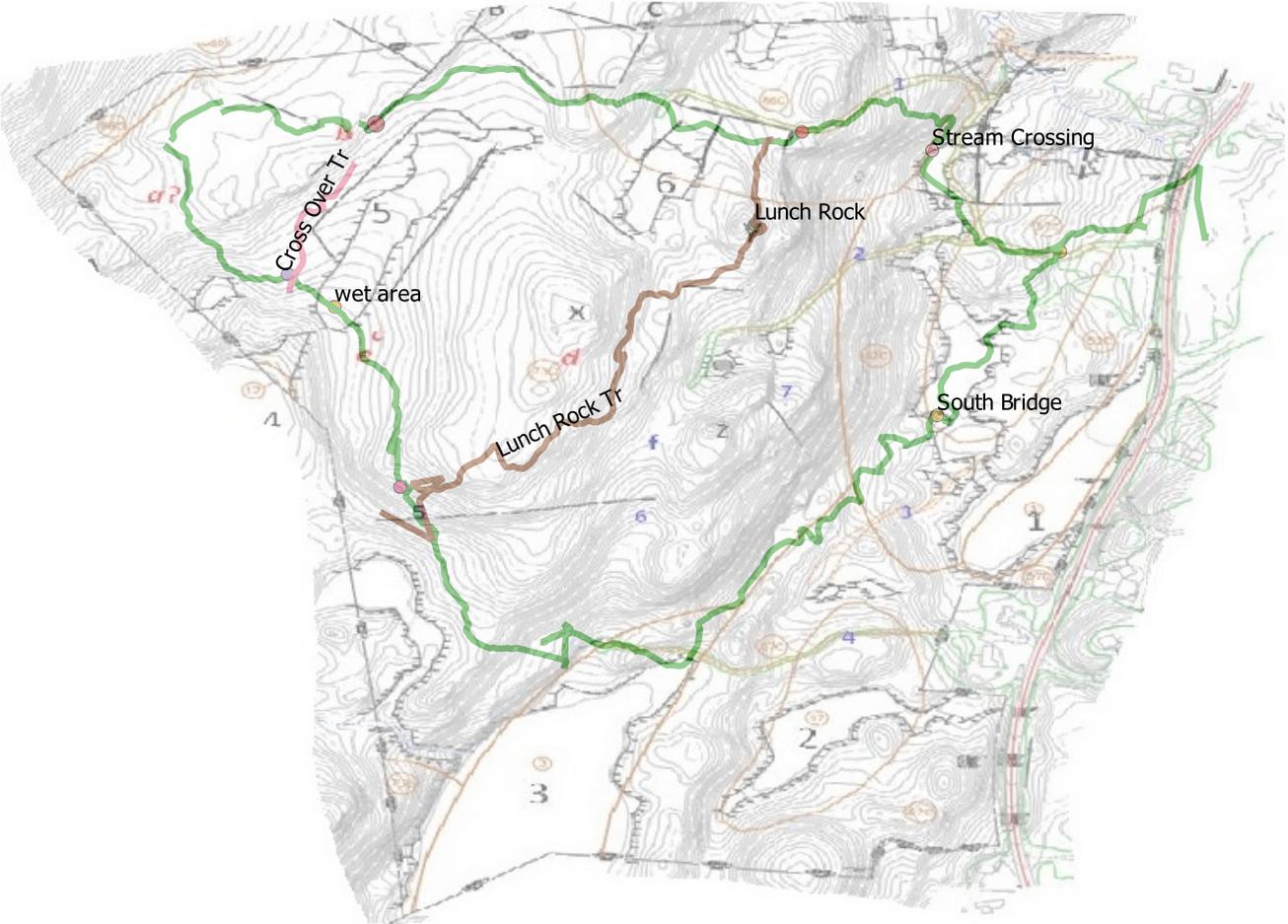


Simpson-Wood Preserve Discussion Points from Field Trip-Submitted by Jim Morrow

Name the cross trail route along the top of the escarpment “Lunch Rock Trail” noting in trail guide such as:

Lunch Rock was named by the volunteers doing the numerous environmental surveys of plants, birds, geology, etc. in preparation for writing the grant application for purchase of this property. They would meet here for lunch and comparing notes. Another name possibility would be Escarpment Cross Trail.

- In the very wet area on the “Simpson ~ Wood Loop Trail” To use arrows for marking the trail on the north side where one can find stepping stones. These will be removed when a permanent crossing of the mud and water is constructed.
- Initial effort should be on the Simpson ~ Wood Loop trail: and “Lunch Rocks Trail”

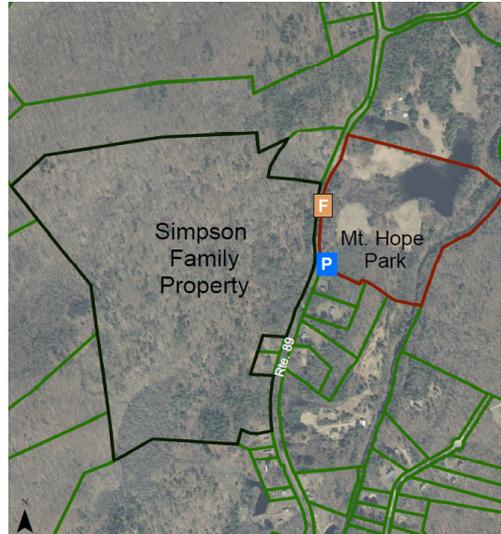


SIMPSON-WOOD PRESERVE

Natural Area Management Plan

Mansfield, Connecticut

2019



Location: The Simpson-Wood Preserve (“property”) is an undeveloped parcel on the West side of Warrenville Road (Rte. 89). As shown above, the parcel is located directly across from Mount Hope Park, a 35-acre park purchased in 1999. The parcel has approximately 1900 feet of wooded frontage along the west side of Warrenville Road, with two noncontiguous links of frontage of 491 feet and 1,374 feet. See attachments #2-3, *Town Road Map* and *Property Boundary Map*.

Access:

Existing farm roads and logging trails provide a network of trails that with scenic views and many of the site features. These existing paths will be used to develop a more extensive trail network. The public will be directed to the new preserve from the Mt. Hope Park parking area. The town will develop a trail guide, similar to the one developed for Mt. Hope Park (available upon request), that will be published on the town’s website to increase public awareness of the preserve.

Coordinates: 41°48'21.74"N, 72°10'18.59"W

Map/Block/Lot: Map 19, Block 70, Lot 12-1

Size: 114.648 acres

Zone: RAR-90 (Rural Agricultural Residential)

Property Classification: OPEN SPACE

Date this Plan was prepared: Feb., 2019

Date of Revisions/Amendments: _____

Date of Town Council Approval: _____

Committee Review (biannual review by Parks and Natural Resources Committee or other appropriate committee):

Reviewed by	Date

Reviewed by	Date

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INTRODUCTION

Authors, Contributors, and Sources

Jennifer Kaufman, Mansfield’s Environmental Planner, Weston Henry, Sustainability Intern, and other Ttown staff; Town commissions (Conservation) and committees (Parks and Natural Resources); CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP); UConn Center for Land Use Education & Research (CLEAR).

For more information on the development and content of this Plan, contact:

Jennifer Kaufman, AICP
Environmental Planner
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Parks and Recreation Department
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Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06268
860-429-3015
ParksandRec@MansfieldCT.org

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to describe how the Town of Mansfield envisions the management and public use of the Simpson-Wood Preserve. This plan describes the property’s natural and cultural resources and recommends actions which are designed to: preserve and maintain natural habitats and native species, protect cultural resources, and balance public use and enjoyment.

Property Intent and History

Named Simpson-Wood Preserve because the Wood Family and its descendants farmed this parcel pre-Revolutionary land grant from approximately 1719 to 1939. This parcel was part a much a larger parcel owned and occupied by the Simpson Family since 1963. In 1993, Dorothy Simpson conveyed the house located at 699 Warrenville Road with approximately 5 acres on the west side of the road and the 35-acre parcel across the street to Holly Hatch and Kirk Skinner. In 1999, the town acquired the 35-acre eastern parcel now known as Mt. Hope Park. In 2016, the Simpson family approached the town about purchasing this property for open space.

In 2017, the town negotiated a purchase and sale with the Simpson family and submitted an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant to CT DEEP. In 2017, the state awarded \$207,000 or 65% of the \$325,000 purchase price to the town. The town acquired the property on June 25, 2018. Pursuant to the grant, CT DEEP will hold a conservation easement on the property.

Preservation of this 114-acre parcel could be the beginning of a much larger effort to preserve the highlands that form a north/south corridor of interior forest extending over two miles from Mt. Hope Road to Mulberry Road. Further, acquisition of this property protects access to multiple valuable resources such as:

- A large corridor of interior, diverse forestland;
- Important wildlife habitat;
- Unique geological features;
- Significant Native American ceremonial stone landscapes;
- Land within a public drinking supply watershed;
- An area that has been identified on the December 2016 CT DEEP NDDDB as having endangered, threatened, or special concern plants or wildlife habitats.

Consistency with the 2015 Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development

The acquisition and preservation of this property accomplishes the following goals and strategies from the 2015 *Mansfield Tomorrow: Plan of Conservation and Development*:

1. Goal 2.2: Mansfield has healthy watersheds with high-quality ground and surface water resources and aquatic habitats.
2. Goal 3.1: Natural resources within Mansfield’s public and private open spaces are protected and well-managed.
 - Strategy A: Continue efforts to protect important natural and agricultural resources through property acquisition, development rights, easements and clustering development.
3. Goal 3.3 Mansfield’s park and preserve system, including natural and active recreation areas, provides access to residents and meets the needs of the population.
 - Strategy B: Continue to develop a safe network of walking and biking trails to improve connectivity and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and alternative transportation.

Some of these goals were achieved through the property’s acquisition as open space by the Town of Mansfield. For the specific Goals, Strategies, and Actions recommended for this property, see “Management & Stewardship Action Plan” on page 6.

INVENTORY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Overview

While the area was part of a farm in earlier times, the property today is undeveloped and mostly dominated by natural systems and processes. Its 114± acres of mature forest are located in the highlands that form a north/south corridor of interior forest extending from Northeast Mansfield to Mulberry Road, portions of which have been identified on the CT DEEP NDDDB map. The property lies directly across Warrenville Road from the Town-owned 35-acre Mt Hope Park, which was purchased in 1999.

The elevation at Warrenville Road is 300 feet. From Warrenville Road the property slopes gently 600 feet west to an elevation of 350 feet, then sharply rises to the high point in the property of 485 feet in a distance of approximately 365 feet. From there it slopes gently down approximately 600 feet to an elevation of 400 feet and then north to the northern boundary to an elevation of 420 feet. There is a dramatic slope and ridge of exposed bedrock running north to south through the eastern third of the property, and nearly 18 acres of delineated wetlands. In addition to unique geological features, the property contains several stone features that are significant Native American ceremonial stone structures identified by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Mohegan Tribe.

Protection of this 114-acre tract expands recreational opportunities in northeastern Mansfield where there are few town parks. Town ownership of this property provides permanent public access to a network of trails within the preserve, many which already exist as old farm and logging roads and showcase views of the property’s agricultural history. These views include large, long, stone walls, an extensive line of imposing

rock ledges, occasional glacial erratics, and diverse wetlands. These trails lead to overlooks where glimpses of the scenic Mt. Hope River valley offer a sense of being "away from it all."

Geological Features

This property is notable for its naturally occurring ledges and ridgeline. According to Dr. Peter Drzewiecki, Professor of Environmental Earth Science at Eastern Connecticut State University, the property contains unique geological features including well exposed bedrock along a number of NNE-SSW oriented ridges. These rocks are mapped as the Canterbury Gneiss Formation on the Bedrock Geologic Map of the Spring Hill Quadrangle (Pease, 1988). The statewide Bedrock Geological Map of Connecticut (Rodgers, 1985) also includes most of the property within the Canterbury Gneiss, but places the northernmost portion of the property within the slightly older Hebron Gneiss Formation. For further detail, Dr. Drzewiecki's complete report is provided in Attachment 11.

Ecology & Natural Resources

The Simpson-Wood Preserve rises in a series of terraces and scenic ledges, with permanent and ephemeral wetlands interspersed. The forest is mainly oak/hickory, but there are several red maple swamps. There are a few spots where invasive plant species will need to be controlled.

While the property does contain some State-Wide Important Farmland Soils, it will not be used for agriculture. At a future date, the town may develop a forest stewardship plan, which may include limited harvesting to improve the health of the forest and support wildlife habitat. The property was farmed in the 18th and 19th, and early 20th centuries as evidenced by the numerous stone walls. Other than a responsible timber harvest within the last 10 years, there have not been any agricultural uses on the property in the recent past. This property contains 17.8 acres of wetlands that were field-delineated in 2007 when the family was considering development.

The entire property drains into the Mt. Hope River, which is a tributary to the public water supply in the Willimantic Reservoir. Thus, protection of this property from development reduces threats of increased pollutant levels in a public drinking water supply.

Because the property is part of a large forest tract (250 to 500 acres of forest, as shown on Map 2.3 in the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development), it provides habitat for wildlife that require interior forest areas to survive. On an adjacent similar property, an interior forest species that is on the CT-DEEP's Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) list was recorded. This species' presence on the Simpson property is probable, but has not yet been confirmed. The numerous ledges and wetlands are potential sites for NDDDB plant species, but presence of these species would need to be confirmed during the growing season. The subject property does not support any of the 25 critical habitats listed for Connecticut.

To provide an initial inventory of the property's natural resources, several attachments are included:

- Forest Map
- Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) Map
- Soils Map

Additional resources can be found on the following websites:

- CT Environmental Conditions Online
<http://www.cteco.uconn.edu/index.htm>
- CT DEEP Wildlife Action Plan (2015)
http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=329520&deepNav_GID=1719
- Town of Mansfield GIS mapping service
<http://www.mainstreetmaps.com/ct/mansfield/public.asp>

Cultural & Historical Sites

The Simpson-Wood Preserve and Mt. Hope Park are part of a pre-Revolutionary land grant that was farmed by the Wood Family and descendants from approximately 1719 to 1939. Adjacent to the northern end of the property and visible from the road, the original house (circa 1719) retains its colonial character. The stone walls on the property speak to its agricultural history. Preservation of the subject property reunifies approximately 150 acres of the Wood Family property.

According to Elaine Thomas, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Mohegan Tribe, there are several stone features on the property that are significant Native American ceremonial stone structures. The preliminary report on the property’s culturally significant stone features is available upon request.

Other Activities & Uses

- Encroachments: none
- Rights-of way: none
- Abandoned infrastructure (old road, structures, etc.): none
- Dams, culverts, and other water control devices: none
- Agricultural: none

ACTIVITIES & USES

The Simpson-Wood Preserve is open to the public from dawn to dusk. Chapter A194 of Mansfield’s Code of Ordinances contains the Park Rules and Regulations adopted by the Town Council.

Permitted	Prohibited
Hiking Running Birdwatching Educational programs Picnicking Pets on leash only	Consumption of alcohol Fires Unauthorized vehicles Removal of Flora and Fauna

MANAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP ACTION PLAN

This Management & Stewardship Action Plan identifies:

- **Goals** that describe how the property is intended to be used and managed;
- **Strategies** for advancing each goal; and
- **Actions** – specific steps our community can take over the short term (before end of 2021), medium term (between 2022 and 2026) and long term (between 2027 and 2037) in support of each strategy.

These Goals, Strategies and Actions **do not provide a guarantee that resources will be available to advance each action.** In addition, this Management & Stewardship Action Plan is not intended to preclude the Town from preserving other actions as opportunities arise. As additional actions and initiatives are contemplated, they should be evaluated with regard to how the action will help to advance the intention outlined in this plan.

Goals to be determined by PNRC see email attachment for a list of DRAFT Goals.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Topographic Map
2. Town Road Map
3. Property Boundary Map
4. Ortho Photo Map
5. Forest Map
6. Natural Diversity Database Map
7. Soils Map
8. State Locational Guideline Map
9. Final Survey
10. Warranty Deed
11. Geologic Summary

The following is available in the property file for the Simpson-Wood Preserve:

1. Appraisal Report – Stewart Appraisal Services
2. Appraisal Report – T.W. Henry Real Estate Appraisals, LLC
3. Application for Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program
4. Proposed Trail Map, prepared by James Morrow

Goal 1. Protect the property’s historical features, natural resources and wildlife.

Strategy A: Preserve and protect wildlife habitat and ecosystem health.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Recruit qualified individuals to conduct surveys of species/habitats and create inventories to inform management options. Identify notable habitats found on the property (e.g. vernal pools, grasslands), CT DEEP critical habitats, and species listed by State or Federal agencies as endangered, threatened or of special concern.	Parks and Natural Resources Committee (PNRC), Town Staff, DEEP, Consultant	Short Term	Volunteer time
2. Develop a wildlife management plan to guide decisions on maintaining ecosystem health. Include recommendations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Monitor forests, meadows and wetlands for invasive species or other signs of degradation. b. Protect vulnerable species and implement management practices that preserve habitats. c. Communicate with owners/managers of adjacent open space about conservation objectives and look for opportunities to partner. 	PNRC, Town Staff, DEEP, Consultant	Ongoing	Staff time, volunteer time, Parks Improvement Fund, grant funding

Strategy B: Protect surface or groundwater resources.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Recruit qualified individuals to monitor watercourses and waterbodies for signs of degradation (e.g. erosion, invasive species). Address impacts as needed.	Parks and Rec, PNRC	Ongoing	Volunteer time

Strategy C: Protect historic and/or archaeological resources.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Recruit qualified individuals to identify archaeological resources or historic structures, sites or features (e.g. mill site, cemetery, foundations, or stone wall).	PNRC, Town Staff, Consultant	Short Term	Volunteer time
2. Monitor historic or archaeological structures, sites or features for vandalism, theft or degradation. Address impacts as needed.	PNRC, Town Staff	Ongoing	Volunteer time

Strategy D: Encourage partnerships that advance scientific knowledge and/or conservation.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Partner with qualified volunteers, UConn and ECSU faculty or students, CT DEEP, area land trusts, USDA NRCS and other organizations to conduct scientific research (e.g. archaeological, ecological studies).	PNRC, Town Staff, Volunteers	Ongoing	Volunteer time
2. Partner with qualified volunteers and organizations to implement conservation practices on the property consistent with the wildlife management plan. Examples include installing nest boxes, invasive species control, and trail maintenance/improvement projects.	PNRC, Town Staff, Volunteers	Ongoing	Volunteer time

Goal 2. Improve and encourage access to the preserve.

Strategy A: Develop trails and other infrastructure.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Create a trail system that connects to adjacent or nearby open spaces.	Volunteers, Town Staff	Short Term	Staff time, volunteer time, Parks Improvement Fund
2. Evaluate the possibility of installing biking trails.	PNRC, Parks and Rec	Short Term	Staff time
3. Route trails away from vulnerable areas, such as steep slopes, stream banks, wetlands, ecologically significant areas, and historically significant sites or structures.	PNRC, DPW	Ongoing	Volunteer time
4. Include signage to guide appropriate public use and access. This could include: a. Wayfinding signage to and from parking areas. b. Signs at major trailheads. c. Painted blazes or signs to mark trails and connections. d. Boundary signs around the perimeter of the preserve.	Volunteers, Parks and Rec	Short Term	Volunteer time, Parks Improvement Fund

Strategy B: Maintain trails and other infrastructure.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Ensure trails are passable to the public travelling on foot. Maintain tread and	Volunteers,	Ongoing	Staff time,

appropriate widths and clearances.	Town Staff		volunteer time, Parks Improvement Fund
2. Conduct general monitoring visits and file reports according to monitoring guidelines. High-priority tasks are to: a. Develop a monitoring form and online system to submit reports to Town staff or stewardship coordinator. b. Monitor and report on the condition of trails, trailheads, signs/blazes, and parking areas. c. If needed, document violations or areas of concern (degraded areas, unauthorized use, dumping, encroachment, Mansfield <i>Code of Ordinances</i> Prohibited Activities, etc.) d. Address issues as necessary.	Volunteers, Parks and Rec, PNRC, Town Staff	Ongoing	Staff time, volunteer time

Strategy C: Encourage access for people of different ages and abilities.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Evaluate the possibility of ADA-compliant recreation opportunities (e.g. accessible paths, waterfront access).	Town Staff	Ongoing	Staff time, volunteer time
2. Develop a trail guide that is readily available and posted on the Town's website. Include information such as site directions, trail connections, descriptions of key features, and other educational information.	Volunteers, Town Staff	Short Term	Volunteer time, Parks Improvement Fund
3. Encourage educational programs and other group-oriented activities on the property (i.e. CT Trails Day, Walktober).	Volunteers	Ongoing	Volunteer time, staff time

Strategy D: Create or enhance connections to nearby open spaces and recreation areas.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Evaluate opportunities for connections to state-designated, town-wide or multi-town greenway or trail systems (such as Willimantic River, Mt Hope River, Fenton River, Natchaug River, or the Nipmuck Trail).	Parks and Rec, PNRC, Town Staff	Ongoing	Staff time, volunteer time
2. Improve connection to nearby existing parks, open spaces, or residential neighborhoods through trail connections	Parks and Rec, PNRC, Town	Ongoing	Staff time, volunteer time

and signage.	Staff		
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MOSS SANCTUARY
Natural Area Management Plan
Mansfield, Connecticut
2019



Location: The 135-acre Albert E. Moss Sanctuary is a natural area between South Eagleville Road and Birchwood Heights Road. It is bounded by Route 195 to the east, South Eagleville Road and the University of Connecticut apartment complex to the north, private residential properties and Birchwood Heights Road to the South, and private residential properties and Knollwood Road to the west.

Other abutting properties included in this management plan are the Birchwood Heights-Monticello Connector Property, and open space acquired through the Planning and Zoning Commission subdivision process detailed in Table 1 and depicted Attachment #1, *Moss Sanctuary Map*.

Access:

Currently, there is trail and maintenance vehicle access behind UConn’s student apartments across from town hall, and from both ends of Birchwood Road. For residents from other areas of town, parking and bicycle racks are available across the street in the Mansfield Community Center and town hall parking lot.

The Birchwood Heights-Monticello Connector and Open Space Birchwood Heights may be accessed via Birchwood Heights Road. Open Space Monticello is accessible via Monticello Lane, and Open Space Fellen may be accessed through Fellen Road. See Attachment #1, *Moss Sanctuary Map*.

Coordinates: N 41.796254° W 72.241393° (Moss Sanctuary)

Size: 156.27 acres

Zone: RAR-90 (Rural Agricultural Residential)

Property Classification: OPEN SPACE

Date this Plan was prepared: March, 2019

Date of Revisions/Amendments: _____

Date of Town Council Approval: _____

Committee Review (biannual review by Parks Advisory Committee or other appropriate committee):

Reviewed by	Date	Reviewed by	Date

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INTRODUCTION

Authors, Contributors, and Sources

Jennifer Kaufman, Mansfield’s Environmental Planner, Weston Henry, Sustainability Intern, and other Town staff; Town commissions (Conservation) and committees (Parks and Natural Resources); CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP); UConn Center for Land Use Education & Research (CLEAR).

For more information on the development and content of this Plan, contact:

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 Parks and Recreation Department
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 Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06268
 860-429-3015
ParksandRec@MansfieldCT.org

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to describe how the Town of Mansfield envisions the management and public use of the Moss Sanctuary and four nearby parcels. This plan describes the property’s natural and cultural resources and recommends actions which are designed to: preserve and maintain natural habitats and native species, protect cultural resources, and balance public use and enjoyment with these actions.

Property Intent and History

The Moss Sanctuary parcel was a farm dating back to at least 1840, with a farmhouse at the corner of Route 195 and Birchwood Heights Road. In 1840 Baruch Southwick and Sanford Tift purchased the 140-acre farm, including the farmhouse. In 1848 George Hanks acquired two acres of the farm and the right to dam the brook to create Hanks Reservoir. He also bought enough property for the new pond, which would be an auxiliary water supply for the Hanks Hill Silk Mill, the first silk mill in the country. The mill was built roughly one mile downstream from the pond.

While the rest of the farm was sold to James Sullivan in 1874, the pond remained in the Hanks family until 1945. Both the Hanks Property and the Sullivan Property were eventually purchased by the University of Connecticut in 1952. Although the pond is locally known as Tift Pond or Sullivan's Pond, neither of these families ever owned the pond.

In 1989, the land was designated as the Albert E. Moss Forest, Wildflower and Wildlife Sanctuary in honor of Professor Moss. Albert E. Moss was an inspiring educator in UConn's Forestry Department from 1914-1942, known for developing the first curricula in forest management (1924) and in wildlife management (1932).

Starting in 2002, the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (CFPA), the University of Connecticut, and the Town of Willington have been working cooperatively to preserve land in the Fenton River Watershed. This acquisition of the Moss Sanctuary involved CFPA purchasing a 96-acre property from Willington (known as the North Property) and conveying it – subject to a permanent conservation restriction – to UConn in exchange for a) the 152-acre Albert E. Moss Forest, Wildflower and Wildlife Sanctuary; b) a 50-year conservation restriction on the 300-acre UConn-Willington Forest tract, and c) permanent trail easements on several miles of Blue-Blazed Nipmuck Trail running through both the UConn-Willington Tract and UConn's Fenton Tract, which lies behind Horsebarn Hill and the College of Agriculture.

On April 12, 2005 the UConn Board of Trustees voted to convey the Moss Sanctuary to CFPA in exchange for the North Property. In 2010, the Town of Mansfield purchased the Sanctuary for \$100,000 to preserve its diverse habitats and to serve as a "village woods" offering walking trails for nearby residents. The CT Forest and Park Association holds a conservation restriction on the land to ensure its preservation as forest and wildlife habitat. The restriction includes a building envelope reserved for educational uses.

The Moss Sanctuary is a particularly valuable natural area because of its proximity to Storrs Center, one of Mansfield's most densely developed areas. Its acquisition is part of a continued preservation effort by the town, and allows for trail connections to nearby town-owned open spaces and conservation easements. Several nearby town-owned parcels, as shown in the *Moss Sanctuary Map* (Attachment 1), were acquired as a result of subdivisions or donations. Information on these parcels is listed in the tables below:

Parcel Name	Parcel ID	Acreage	Date Acquired	Amount Paid	Appraised Value	Survey vol./pg.	Deed(s) vol./pg.	Acquisition Information
Moss Sanctuary	16.57.6-OP	135.56	02/02/2010	\$100,000	\$474,500	38/17-18	683/371; 683/402	CFPA via UConn
Birchwood Heights-Monticello Connector	22.57.7	1.4	--	\$0	\$4,900	6/80	Not Available	Not Available
Open Space Fellen Road	22.59.10	0.90	06/05/1973	\$0	\$3,200	8/46	122/165	Joseph Glasser
Open Space Birchwood Heights	22.59.40	0.97	11/22/2010	\$0	\$3,400	3/190	105/296 97/478	Estate of Jeffrey Ossen & James McCoy
Open Space Monticello	22.59.46-OP	17.4	12/22/2005	\$0	\$48,000	33/87-102	594/249	KMC, LLC

Consistency with the 2015 Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development

The acquisition and preservation of this property accomplishes the following goals from the 2015 *Mansfield Tomorrow: Plan of Conservation and Development*:

1. Goal 2.2: Mansfield has healthy watersheds with high-quality ground and surface resources and aquatic habitats.
 - Strategy B: Maintain and improve health of watercourses, water bodies and wetlands.
2. Goal 2.3: Mansfield’s soil, plant and wildlife habitats are healthy and diverse.
3. Goal 3.1: Natural resources within Mansfield’s public and private open spaces are protected and well-managed.
 - Strategy A: Continue efforts to protect important natural and agricultural resources through property acquisition, development rights, easements and clustering development.
4. Goal 3.3: Mansfield park and preserve system, including natural and active recreation areas, provides access to residents and meets the needs of the population.
5. Goal 4.1: Mansfield honors and preserves its historic resources by protecting them for future generations.
 - Strategy C: Continue to protect villages and other areas with significant historic, cultural and scenic value.

INVENTORY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Overview

The 135-acre Moss Sanctuary parcel has been an outdoor classroom for university and town programs and a place where visitors from northeastern Connecticut can enjoy native flora and fauna, walks on trails, and discover a variety of natural habitats since it was established in 1989. This parcel currently serves as a “village woods” with trails that are easily accessible by nearby residents in a densely developed area. It provides an additional location for outdoor recreational programs at the Mansfield Community Center, and is used for field trips and research projects by E.O. Smith and UConn students.

The property is relatively hilly, with elevations ranging from about 680 feet (southern and western sides) to about 580 feet on the northeastern side (see Attachment #2, *Topographic Map*). The high points along the southern edge of the property slope downwards towards Monticello Lane and Fellen Road, and all four of the other parcels included in this plan are downslope. The Open Space Fellen and Open Space Monticello parcels each reach a low point of about 580 feet on the southern side.

Public access is available through a well-developed trail network that includes a trail around the perimeter of the property and a shorter loop around Tift Pond. The 1.3-mile perimeter loop begins 200 feet from the north entrance and gradually climbs through oak-hickory woods to the high point in the park. After descending beside a hemlock grove, the trail continues in oak woods before emerging on the west side of a field. There the trail splits into two parallel paths that cross the field through grassy glades and thickets of shrubs and young trees. After these paths merge on the east side of the field, the trail curves north toward the pond, crosses the dam and returns to the entrance.

A half-mile trail around the pond begins at the dam and cuts through cool woods along the south shore. After crossing one of the pond’s feeder brooks, the trail skirts to the west side of the pond, then crosses a maple swamp and a second feeder brook before rejoining the entrance trail. See Attachment #1, *Moss Sanctuary Map*.

The properties listed in table 1 provide several connections to trails within the Moss Sanctuary. On the southwest side of the perimeter loop trail, a trail through the Birchwood Heights – Monticello Connector property connects to the end of Birchwood Heights Road. About halfway down Birchwood Heights, a publically accessible trail through the Birchwood Heights Open Space (parcel 22.57.7) and the adjacent conservation easement (parcel 22.59.46-1) connects Birchwood Heights Road and the Monticello Open Space. See Attachment #1, *Moss Sanctuary Map*.

Geological Features

According to Downhan & Craig’s *Rare and Endangered Species of Connecticut and their Habitats* (1976), Moss Sanctuary lies within the Northern Hills Ecoregion. Described as an interior upland 30-55 miles from Long Island Sound, this area is characterized as a variably hilly landscape of intermediate elevation with local areas of steep and rugged topography. The property’s bedrock is classified as Hebron Gneiss (map unit SOh), interlayered dark-gray schists and green-grey gneisses that date back to about 500 million years ago.

The Moss Sanctuary’s most common parent material is glacial till, deposited by glaciers moving through the region from 26,000 to 15,000 years ago. Till is also the only parent material found within the four other properties included in this plan. Younger sediments classified as “swamp” deposits are found in the wetland to the northwestern corner of the Moss Sanctuary property, and the stream that flows from this wetland to Tift Pond lies along an “inferred glacial spillway” (see Attachment 3, *Hydrography Map*). A spillway is a valley created by the melting of a glacial ice sheet.

Ecology & Natural Resources

The Moss Sanctuary is in various forest stages, with early successional hardwood forest along Birchwood Road in the southeast corner and young mature stands of mixed hardwoods covering much of the property. In the northeast corner, an area of plantation softwoods (the "George Washington Memorial Forest") dates back to 1932. Most of the forest is 60-80 years old, with an area in the 80-100 year age class in the southwest and an area in the 40-60 year age class in the southeast. About 90 acres of mature forest is managed under the existing conservation easement.

The property has a legacy of agricultural uses that has reverted back to forestland within the last 100 years. Individual, open grown oaks in excess of 100 years are scattered throughout as are plantings of red and white pine (*Pinus* spp.) and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), the largest stand being the 15-20 acre plantation planting in the northern corner. At the high point of the trail is a grove of hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis*), in a cool, moist site on the east side of the hill.

Although it does not fall within a Natural Diversity Database Area, Moss Sanctuary contains a number of significant species. For example, there is an extensive stand of Northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), an uncommon plant typically found in northwestern Connecticut and farther north. Non-native, invasive plants are mostly absent from woodland areas; however around property edges, especially sunny roadsides, they may be quite common. Species-specific data for the other four nearby parcels is not available at this time.

Including Tift Pond, wetlands cover about one quarter of the Protected Property. These wetlands are interconnected draining easterly from the northwest. Water flows from the wetlands complex along South Eagleville Road southeast to Tift Pond, where it drains into another wetland along Ct. Route 195. From here, it flows northeast along an unnamed stream for 7200 feet to the Fenton River, eventually reaching the confluence of the Shetucket and Fenton Rivers in Willimantic. This is an important wetlands complex for wildlife and for the remediation, storage and recharge of storm water runoff from the surrounding road system. See Attachment #3, *Hydrography Map*.

Town-delineated wetlands occur in two of the four other parcels included in this plan, Open Space Birchwood Heights and Open Space Monticello. Like those within the Moss Sanctuary parcel, these wetlands drain into the complex along Ct. Route 195 and eventually into the Fenton River.

The soils on the protected property are a mix of unstratified glacial tills of the Charlton/Canton complex. Wetland soils are a combination of Ridgebury and Carlisle muck. There are no prime, statewide important or locally important farmland soils on the property. See Attachment #4, *Soils Map*.

Several attachments are included to provide an inventory of the property's natural resources. Included in this plan's Attachments are:

- Hydrography map, including inland wetland soils
- Forest Land Map
- Soils Map

Additional resources can be found on the following websites:

- CT Environmental Conditions Online
<http://www.cteco.uconn.edu/index.htm>
- CT DEEP Wildlife Action Plan (2015)
http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=329520&deepNav_GID=1719
- Town of Mansfield GIS mapping service
<http://www.mainstreetmaps.com/ct/mansfield/public.asp>

Cultural & Historical Sites

In 1932, George Washington’s 200th birthday was celebrated by tree plantings throughout the country. Under the direction of Professor Moss, head of the University of Connecticut’s Forestry Department, the forestry students planted white pine seedlings near what is now the trail entrance at the North end of Moss Sanctuary. Red pines were planted nearby several years later, and the area was named the George Washington Memorial Forest. Mary Sherwood, one of the students that planted the pines, would soon become the first woman in the country to graduate with a degree in forestry.

Other notable historic features include Tift Pond, which was originally built to serve as an auxiliary water source for the first silk mill in the United States. The trail around the pond passes over the historic stone dam, a dry masonry faced earth dam typical of 19th century mill dam construction. Historic farm features include a covered root cellar, stone walls, and a small gravel “borrow” pit.

Other Activities & Uses

- Encroachments: small yard waste dumping from residences along Birchwood Road, deer exclusion fencing intruding on the property behind one landowner’s house, small dumps of used furniture along the property’s western side.
- Rights-of way: none
- Abandoned infrastructure (old road, structures, etc.): covered root cellar, contamination-free oil tank on the northwest side.
- Dams, culverts, and other water control devices: Tift Pond Dam. Constructed between 1846 and 1848, the dam is classified as “lowest risk” by CT-DEEP and does not present an immediate threat to safety. However, the dam will require significant future maintenance, as there is not sufficient storage area between the dam and Route 195 to safely contain the combination of stormflow and dam failure flow without severe overtopping of the road (2008 Public Works report).
- Agricultural: none

ACTIVITIES & USES

Moss Sanctuary is open to the public from dawn to dusk. Chapter A194 of Mansfield’s Code of Ordinances contains the Park Rules and Regulations adopted by the Town Council.

Permitted	Prohibited
Hiking	Consumption of alcohol
Running	Fires
Birdwatching	Unauthorized vehicles
Educational programs	Removal of Flora and Fauna
Picnicking	Dumping of material
Pets on leash only	Horseback Riding
<i>Permitted in designated areas:</i>	Bicycles
Boating	
Fishing	

MANAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP ACTION PLAN

This Management & Stewardship Action Plan identifies:

- **Goals** that describe how the property is intended to be used and managed;
- **Strategies** for advancing each goal; and

- **Actions** – specific steps our community can take over the short term (before end of 2021), medium term (between 2022 and 2026) and long term (between 2027 and 2037) in support of each strategy.

These Goals, Strategies and Actions **do not provide a guarantee that resources will be available to advance each action.** In addition, this Management & Stewardship Action Plan is not intended to preclude the Town from preserving other actions as opportunities arise. As additional actions and initiatives are contemplated, they should be evaluated with regard to how the action will help to advance the intention outlined in this plan.

See attached goals in email. Final goals to be determined by PNR.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Moss Sanctuary Map
2. Topographic Map
3. Hydrography Map
4. Soils Map
5. Forest Map
6. Moss Sanctuary Survey

The following information is available in the Property File for Moss Sanctuary:

1. Conservation Restriction Baseline Documentation Report
2. Moss Sanctuary Trail Guide
3. Moss Sanctuary Comments on the Tift/Sullivan's Pond (Mansfield Department of Public Works). Completed March 20, 2008.
4. Quit-Claim Deed for Moss Sanctuary. Vol. 683 Page 371-375. Signed February 2, 2010.
5. Quit-Claim Deed for Moss Sanctuary. Vol. 683 Page 402-406. Signed February 2, 2010.
6. Warranty Deed for Open Space Fellen. Vol. 122 Page 165-166. Received June 5, 1973.
7. Warranty Deed for Open Space Birchwood Heights. Vol. 105 Page 296-298. Received January 30, 1968.
8. Executor's Deed for Open Space Birchwood Heights. Vol. 697 Page 478-480. Filed November 22, 2010.
9. Warranty Deed for Open Space Monticello. Vol. 594 Page 249-251. Filed December 22, 2005. '
10. Birchwood Heights (Parcel 22.59.46-1) Conservation Easement. Vol. 594 Page 242-248. Filed December 22, 2005.
11. Survey for Open Space Fellen. Vol. 8 Page 46. Received April 30, 1973.
12. Survey for Open Space Birchwood Heights. Vol. 3 Page 190.
13. Surveys for Open Space Monticello. Vol. 33 Pages 94, 96, 97. Received December 22, 2005.
14. Birchwood Heights – Monticello Connector Survey. Vol. 6, Page 80. Filed October 22, 1968.

Goal 1. Protect the property’s historical features, natural resources and wildlife.

Strategy A: Preserve and protect wildlife habitat and ecosystem health.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Recruit qualified individuals to conduct surveys of species/habitats and create inventories to inform management options. Identify notable habitats found on the property (e.g. vernal pools, grasslands), CT DEEP critical habitats, and species listed by State or Federal agencies as endangered, threatened or of special concern.	Parks and Natural Resources Committee (PNRC), Town Staff, DEEP, Consultant	Short Term	Volunteer time
2. Develop a wildlife management plan to guide decisions on maintaining ecosystem health. Include recommendations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Monitor forests, meadows and wetlands for invasive species or other signs of degradation. b. Protect vulnerable species and implement management practices that preserve habitats. c. Communicate with owners/managers of adjacent open space about conservation objectives and look for opportunities to partner. 	PNRC, Town Staff, DEEP, Consultant	Ongoing	Staff time, volunteer time, Parks Improvement Fund, grant funding

Strategy B: Protect surface or groundwater resources.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Recruit qualified individuals to monitor watercourses and waterbodies for signs of degradation (e.g. erosion, invasive species). Address impacts as needed.	Parks and Rec, PNRC	Ongoing	Volunteer time

Strategy C: Protect historic and/or archaeological resources.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Recruit qualified individuals to identify archaeological resources or historic structures, sites or features (e.g. mill site, cemetery, foundations, or stone wall).	PNRC, Town Staff, Consultant	Short Term	Volunteer time
2. Monitor historic or archaeological structures, sites or features for vandalism, theft or degradation. Address impacts as needed.	PNRC, Town Staff	Ongoing	Volunteer time

Strategy D: Encourage partnerships that advance scientific knowledge and/or conservation.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Partner with qualified volunteers, UConn and ECSU faculty or students, CT DEEP, area land trusts, USDA NRCS and other organizations to conduct scientific research (e.g. archaeological, ecological studies).	PNRC, Town Staff, Volunteers	Ongoing	Volunteer time
2. Partner with qualified volunteers and organizations to implement conservation practices on the property consistent with the wildlife management plan. Examples include installing nest boxes, invasive species control, and trail maintenance/improvement projects.	PNRC, Town Staff, Volunteers	Ongoing	Volunteer time

Goal 2. Improve and encourage access to the preserve.

Strategy A: Develop trails and other infrastructure.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Create a trail system that connects to adjacent or nearby open spaces.	Volunteers, Town Staff	Short Term	Staff time, volunteer time, Parks Improvement Fund
2. Evaluate the possibility of installing biking trails.	PNRC, Parks and Rec	Short Term	Staff time
3. Route trails away from vulnerable areas, such as steep slopes, stream banks, wetlands, ecologically significant areas, and historically significant sites or structures.	PNRC, DPW	Ongoing	Volunteer time
4. Include signage to guide appropriate public use and access. This could include: a. Wayfinding signage to and from parking areas. b. Signs at major trailheads. c. Painted blazes or signs to mark trails and connections. d. Boundary signs around the perimeter of the preserve.	Volunteers, Parks and Rec	Short Term	Volunteer time, Parks Improvement Fund

Strategy B: Maintain trails and other infrastructure.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Ensure trails are passable to the public travelling on foot. Maintain tread and	Volunteers,	Ongoing	Staff time,

appropriate widths and clearances.	Town Staff		volunteer time, Parks Improvement Fund
2. Conduct general monitoring visits and file reports according to monitoring guidelines. High-priority tasks are to: a. Develop a monitoring form and online system to submit reports to Town staff or stewardship coordinator. b. Monitor and report on the condition of trails, trailheads, signs/blazes, and parking areas. c. If needed, document violations or areas of concern (degraded areas, unauthorized use, dumping, encroachment, Mansfield <i>Code of Ordinances</i> Prohibited Activities, etc.) d. Address issues as necessary.	Volunteers, Parks and Rec, PNRC, Town Staff	Ongoing	Staff time, volunteer time

Strategy C: Encourage access for people of different ages and abilities.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Evaluate the possibility of ADA-compliant recreation opportunities (e.g. accessible paths, waterfront access).	Town Staff	Ongoing	Staff time, volunteer time
2. Develop a trail guide that is readily available and posted on the Town's website. Include information such as site directions, trail connections, descriptions of key features, and other educational information.	Volunteers, Town Staff	Short Term	Volunteer time, Parks Improvement Fund
3. Encourage educational programs and other group-oriented activities on the property (i.e. CT Trails Day, Walktober).	Volunteers	Ongoing	Volunteer time, staff time

Strategy D: Create or enhance connections to nearby open spaces and recreation areas.

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
1. Evaluate opportunities for connections to state-designated, town-wide or multi-town greenway or trail systems (such as Willimantic River, Mt Hope River, Fenton River, Natchaug River, or the Nipmuck Trail).	Parks and Rec, PNRC, Town Staff	Ongoing	Staff time, volunteer time
2. Improve connection to nearby existing parks, open spaces, or residential neighborhoods through trail connections	Parks and Rec, PNRC, Town	Ongoing	Staff time, volunteer time

and signage.	Staff		
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Parks & Preserves



Winter Tree ID



Ever wonder how to identify trees without their leaves? Learn tree id skills by using clues such as twigs, buds and bark. We will start with a primer inside at the Community Center and then will bundle up and head across the street to the Moss Sanctuary to apply our skills. Bring a camera and/or sketch book to make notes.

- Instructor:** Dr. Bryan Connolly, Assistant Professor of Biology Framingham State University
- Location:** MCC Community Room and the Moss Sanctuary
- Date:** Sunday, January 19th
- Time:** 1-3 pm
- Fee:** Free
- Activity #:** 411001-A

Do You Want to be a Birder?

Would you like to be better acquainted with you feathered neighbors? Winter is a good time of year to start birding because there are fewer birds to learn and you can get good looks at them if you put up feeders. We'll discuss the winter birds, talk about their food preferences and learn to recognize their calls. Then we will explore some of the opportunities for getting involved in Citizen Science so you can contribute to our knowledge of bird populations

- Instructor:** Sue Harrington, Naturalist
- Location:** MCC Community Room
- Date:** Sunday, January 12th
- Time:** 1-3 pm
- Fee:** Residents \$7 per person; Non-residents \$17 per person
- Activity #:** 411002-A

Feet, Hooves and Paws –Winter Animal Tracking for People of All Ages

Learn the age old skill of identifying animal tracks. See what animals have been visiting your property and tell what they were doing. We will also learn a little about how animals walk and how that relates to their track patterns. The program will begin inside the Community Center with activities and will follow with a trek outside to see if we can find any tracks. Dress warmly and wear boots suitable for walking in the snow (if there is any!).

- Instructor:** Sue Harrington, Naturalist
- Location:** MCC Community Room
- Date:** Sunday, February 9th
- Time:** 1-3 pm
- Fee:** Residents \$7 per person; Non-residents \$17 per person
- Activity #:** 411003-A

2nd Annual Friends & Farmers of Mansfield



Meet some of Mansfield's local farmers and learn where to find local food. Residents can shop for locally grown products, ask about Community Supported Agriculture programs (CSA), and learn about nearby farm stands and pick your own operations. This program is coordinated through the Taste of Mansfield initiative and will be held at the Community Center. For more information, visit www.tasteofmansfieldct.org

- Location:** Mansfield Public Library
- Date:** Saturday, February 22nd
- Time:** 10 am to Noon
- Fee:** FREE



- ✓ Get to know your community
- ✓ Enjoy the freshest, healthiest foods available
- ✓ Keep your food dollars local
- ✓ Reduce your environmental impact
- ✓ Preserve our beautiful, rural vistas

Learn more:
tasteofmansfieldct.org

GET INVOLVED with your parks and preserves

Do like to build things? Like to be outside? Parks and Recreation is looking for people of all ages who are independent workers interested in building bridges, wildlife observation decks and more in town-owned parks and preserves. Town staff will work with you on a design, getting the necessary permitting. We also have a small fund available for supplies directly related to the project. If you have a project in mind or would like a suggestion, please contact Jennifer Kaufman, at KaufmanJS@MansfieldCT.org or 860-429-3335.

Spring 2020 Parks and Preserves Programs

Parks and Preserves

The Connecticut Trails Day Logo and Ad is a separate PDF. Embedded is for placement only.

Replace content on page 48, Winter, 2020 with info below.

Page 49, Winter 2020 stays the same.

Keep Get involved box page 48 Winter, 2020

Keep Taste of Mansfield “Ad” from winter, 2020 brochure page 48

Improving your Gardens with Pollinators

Pollinators, such as bees, butterflies and some birds, are responsible for one in three bites of food we eat, yet their populations are experiencing a precipitous decline worldwide. Learn to create a beautiful, bountiful vegetable, herb, and flower garden while creating important pollinator habitat. We will discuss how to choose, where to find, and when to plant vegetables, herbs and flowers to maximize pollinators and the bounty of your harvest.

Instructor: Raluca Mocanu, Owner of Shundahai Farm, Mansfield, CT
Location: CC Community Room
Date: Thurs., April 23
Time: 7-8:30 p.m.
Fee: FREE
Activity # 411005-A **Add New Taste of Mansfield Logo**

Birding with Mom

Bring your binoculars and join us for Mother’s Day birding watching! We will be hiking the new accessible trail at Bicentennial Pond while looking for our spring birds and listening to their songs. This should be the peak of the spring migration so we will be seeing many of the birds for the first time this year. Come and share a lovely spring morning. Dress for the weather and wear boots or sturdy shoes since there may some damp areas. Remember it is an accessible trail so wheelchairs are welcome. Bringing your mom is encouraged but not required.

Instructor: Naturalists Sue and Tom Harrington
Location: Bicentennial Pond (*From UConn go south on Rt 195. Turn right on Clover Mill Rd. Turn into entrance for Bicentennial Pond 1 mile up on the right*).
Date: Sun., May 10
Time: 7-9 a.m.
Fee: FREE
Activity # 411006-A

The Bats of the Moss Sanctuary

Bring your headlamps and insect repellent and survey bats around Moss Sanctuary’s Tift Pond. Using portable acoustic monitoring devices, we will learn about bat echolocation calls, which can tell us what

species are present, their activity patterns within a particular habitat, and characteristics of their foraging behavior. Dress for the weather. Heavy rain cancels.

Instructor: Laura Cisneros, Ecologist
Location: Moss Sanctuary
Park in the Mansfield Community Center Parking lot and Meet in front of the Mansfield Community Center, 10 South Eagleville Road.
Date: Fri., May 15
Time: 8-9 p.m.
Fee: FREE (Registration by 5/12 is Mandatory)
Activity # 411007-A



Connecticut Trails Day is June 6-7, 2020!
Join CFPA and trail enthusiasts around CT to celebrate the largest Trails Day event in the country. Visit ctwoodlands.org to learn about hundreds of guided hikes, bike rides, paddles & more!

GUIDED HIKE at Simpson-Wood Preserve

Celebrate Connecticut Trails Day with a guided hike at Simpson-Wood Preserve, Mansfield's newest preserve! A short, steep climb (on a good wide trail) brings us up to the quiet ridge top flats that feel much more remote than they really are. We will see ledges and interesting rock features as well as a diversity of pine and hardwood forests. With luck, we will hear the raven call.

Instructor: Charlotte Pyle and Jim Morrow
Location: Simpson-Wood Preserve *Meet at Mt Hope Park, Rte 89 (From the intersection of Rte., 195 and Rte 89, head north on Rte 89 for 3.4 miles, parking is on right).*
Date: Sat., June 6
Time: 9:30 -11:30 a.m.
Fee: FREE
Activity # 411008-A

Mansfield Community Gardens

Enjoy fresh air and fresh produce through gardening. 20' x 30' plots, located on Route 195 north of Mansfield Supply. Planting begins mid to late May. Returning gardeners will be notified by mail about pre-registration and will receive first priority. A few over-winter plots may be available. Once you have registered, you will receive a letter about the location of your garden plot and the recommended gardening practices. Gardeners are required to remove all large weeds, rocks, weed barrier from their plot by the end of the season.

Location: Rt. 195, North of Mansfield Supply
Fee: \$25/plot Res. \$35/plot non-res [Add New Taste of Mansfield Logo](#)
Activity#: 411004-A (Seasonal)
411004-B (Overwinter)

Community Supported Agriculture: How to support Mansfield farms while adding fresh, local food to your diet

Mansfield residents are very fortunate to have several farms in town and nearby that offer CSA memberships. CSA means Community Supported Agriculture. Imagine getting a bag of fresh-picked

vegetables, herbs and flowers every week from a farm located right in your town! Join Jiff Martin to talk about the CSA farm options nearby, how it works, and how joining a CSA can add incredibly fresh, local products to your menu at home. This seminar is sponsored by *Taste of Mansfield*.

Instructor: Jiff Martin, UConn Associate Extension Educator in Sustainable Food Systems
Location: CC Community Room
Day: Wed., April 29
Time: 6:30–8 pm
Fee: FREE to members; \$10 for non-members
Activity # 411009

November/December 2019

CONNECTICUT

Wildlife



From The Director



This issue of Connecticut Wildlife is perfect for the season. It is filled with many things to be thankful for. I am sure both the young falcon learning to fly and the adult bald eagle in need of some help would agree that the many residents of our state who care enough about our wildlife to help when needed would be high on the list. A highly skilled staff of wildlife and fisheries biologists and licensed wildlife rehabilitators are not far behind. The teamwork displayed by these individuals allowed a young falcon to survive and, hopefully, learn to soar through Connecticut skies and helped a veteran bald eagle – one of our first “home-grown” chicks – continue to thrive some 24 years later.

You will also read about how families were able to enjoy the magic of the outdoors together, whether through teaching kids to ice fish, learning lots of new things at Discover Outdoor Connecticut Day, or by mentoring the conservationists, biologists, and community leaders of the future through the University of Connecticut’s Natural Resources Conservation Academy. The stories you will read and the images captured reflect the wonder and curiosity that our natural world brings to all of us, regardless of our age.

There are things to celebrate – a piping plover population that continues to slowly grow after nearly disappearing from our state; a young angler who was able to catch the biggest fish of his young life; the adaptability of a small woodpecker that enables it to thrive in backyards as well as in forests; and yes, that adult eagle. Gone from our state as breeding birds by the mid-1950s and facing extinction largely due to the use of the pesticide DDT that caused their egg shells to weaken, the return of bald eagles to Connecticut as nesting birds in the early 1990s is one of our most poignant success stories. To learn that one of the chicks from that first nesting pair; one that I was fortunate enough to help band all those years ago, is still gracing our state touches me deeply.

While there are still many challenges ahead, as the story on hibernating bats underscores, there are things we can try and ways we can work together to achieve more conservation success stories. As we approach the New Year, I hope this issue inspires you to enjoy all the wonders our natural world has to offer, to celebrate the successes, and to let your curiosity lead you to the adventures waiting outside.

Jenny Dickson, DEEP Wildlife Division Director

Connecticut Wildlife

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A northern long-eared bat in a Connecticut hibernaculum where moisture condensation helps prevent dehydration during hibernation. PHOTO BY P. J. FUSCO

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Cover:

An adult female peregrine falcon perches on a Connecticut rock outcrop. Read about peregrine nesting success in the state during 2019 on page 4.
Photo courtesy Paul Fusco

Lesson on the River

Peregrine Falcon Takes a Training Flight

Written by Brian Hess, DEEP Wildlife Division

Peregrine falcons are the high performance sports cars of the bird world. Their long pointed wings are adapted to a blend of fast and maneuverable flight and can be tucked in for extremely high speed dives exceeding 240 miles per hour. Peregrines have specialized tubercles inside their nostrils that deflect high speed air that would damage their nasal passages (supersonic jet engines have similar structures that slow air before it reaches the turbines). To protect their eyes from high speeds, they repeatedly flush away debris with special membranes.

From the time young falcons take flight, they have these adaptations to fly fast. But, the process of learning to fly fast is difficult. First flights are awkward adventures for most young birds, but for falcons, their physiology and nesting locations mean that the learning curve can be steep, and the cost of errors can be high.

One fledgling falcon took a risky plunge from the Charter Oak Bridge this past summer. It was an exceptionally windy day on June 11 with afternoon gusts well over 30 mph. That afternoon, a fully-feathered peregrine fledgling that had not yet taken his first flight fell from the substructure under the bridge. The bird landed in the water, and swam to the Hartford shore. There, an angler scooped up the falcon and transported it to the Wildlife Division office at DEEP Headquarters in Hartford.

The Wildlife Division Director's office is not a suitable



C. VANN / DEEP WILDLIFE

A damp falcon waits to be transported from DEEP Headquarters to Horizon Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.



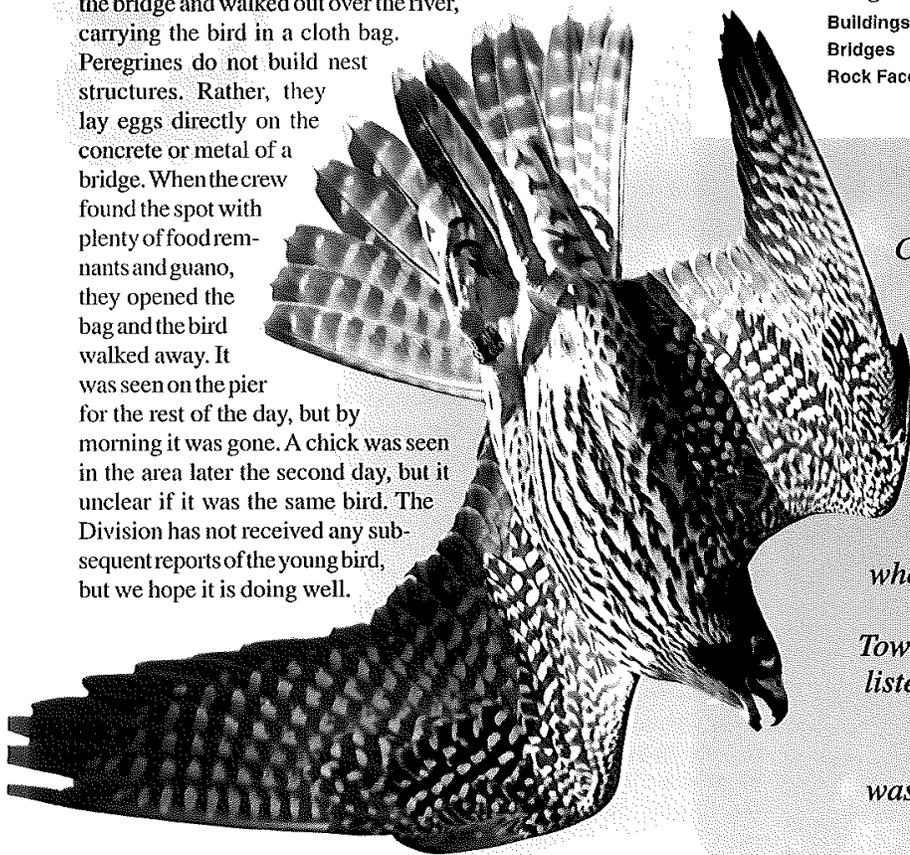
C. SAMORAJCZYK / CT DOT

The young bird was fitted with two leg bands – a bare aluminum band with a unique nine-digit number and a black and green colored band with a large alphanumeric code that can be seen with a spotting scope or zoom camera lens.



place to evaluate or rehabilitate a bird, so from there, DEEP staff took the bird to Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education Center in Ashford. Mary-Beth Kaeser, a state-licensed wildlife rehabilitator, fed the falcon and took him to be evaluated by a veterinarian the next morning. Under the dedicated eye of the staff at the center, the bird (with a clean bill of health) spent a few days in the flight pen to determine if he was ready to fly. While he had the necessary feathers, he was unable to jump up from the ground to a perch. Though the bird was not yet capable of strong flight, the staff at DEEP and Horizon Wings agreed that the best scenario was to return the falcon to the bridge as soon as possible. The falcon would be placed back on the bridge pier, where the adult falcons (who had not left the area) would hopefully keep feeding and protecting the young bird.

After marking the bird with aluminum leg bands, staff from CT DOT and DEEP crawled up into the cat-walk under the bridge and walked out over the river, carrying the bird in a cloth bag. Peregrines do not build nest structures. Rather, they lay eggs directly on the concrete or metal of a bridge. When the crew found the spot with plenty of food remnants and guano, they opened the bag and the bird walked away. It was seen on the pier for the rest of the day, but by morning it was gone. A chick was seen in the area later the second day, but it unclear if it was the same bird. The Division has not received any subsequent reports of the young bird, but we hope it is doing well.



Peregrine Falcon Nesting Summary, 2019

Even with their affinity to human and urban structures, falcons can be very difficult to monitor compared to other birds. The presence of a nest is assumed by the number of adults seen and if they are acting territorially. Despite these monitoring challenges, 2019 was a productive year for peregrine falcons in Connecticut. In particular, New Haven was a hot spot for falcons, with two new nests. At first glance, this may seem odd, but the area is full of pigeons, is along a migratory corridor, and has plenty of tall buildings and natural rock faces.

Productivity

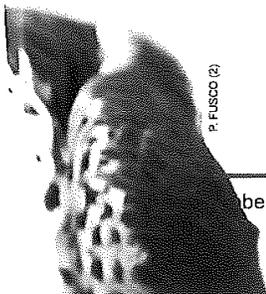
Active Nesting Territories	18
Successful Nests	6
Number of Chicks	11
Unknown Outcome	8
Failed Nests	4

Nesting Locations

Buildings	5
Bridges	8
Rock Face	5

Peregrine nesting activity in Connecticut declined through the 1920s and 1930s, with the last documented nesting occurring on the Travelers Tower in Hartford in the late 1940s. Peregrines remained absent from Connecticut until 1997 when a pair successfully nested once again on the Travelers Tower. The peregrine falcon was listed in 1992 as an endangered species on Connecticut's Endangered Species List. It was reclassified as a threatened species in the state in 2010.

Peregrine falcon populations declined rapidly between 1950 and 1965 throughout the United States and Europe. By 1975, the entire population of peregrines in the eastern United States was considered to be extirpated. This decline is directly attributed to the effect of organochlorine pesticides, such as DDT, on breeding populations.



P. FUSCO (2)

Where Do Bats Go During Winter?

Written by Kyle Testerman, Contractor for the Wildlife Management Institute; photos by Paul J. Fusco

The silhouettes of bats catching insects in the summer evening sky was enjoyed by many around Connecticut in decades past. In recent years, that sight has become more infrequent as the overall bat population in the state has dramatically declined.

While bats can still be seen by a few fortunate onlookers at dusk during the warmer months, winter brings a stillness in the air and an absence of furry flying mammals. So, where do bats go during winter?

For all bats in Connecticut, winter brings about a change to colder temperatures and a lack of insects for food. As a result, bats must leave their summer habitat and move to where they spend the winter. While there is not one simple answer to where bats go, there are some general trends on where different groups of bats end up each winter. The nine spe-



The red bat is North America's most abundant tree bat. This bat's reddish fur helps it blend in among pine cones and browning leaves in the tree tops. When hibernating, red bats use their furry tail membrane like an insulating blanket to conserve heat.



The silver-haired bat is one of three tree-roosting species found in Connecticut. These bats generally migrate long distances to more southern latitudes during the winter. They face threats from wind turbines along their migration paths.

cies of bats in Connecticut are often categorized into one of two general groups; cave bats or tree-roosting bats.

Cave Bats

Much more is known about cave bats because they tend to live more social and communal lives throughout the year. Cave bats include the big brown bat, which is the species most likely to roost around your home or in your barn in the warmer months. Come winter, big browns and the other cave bats, like tri-colored, northern long-eared, eastern small-footed, little brown, and Indiana bats, migrate regionally to cavernous spaces, usually below ground, where they hibernate through the

coldest months of the year. Bats select slightly different types of cave-like structures for hibernation, as long as the environmental conditions suit their needs. Most often, they are found hibernating in abandoned mines, caves, and other underground structures, where temperatures hold steady between 32°F and 49°F. During hibernation, the body temperature of a bat can decline from a normal summer range of 99°-106°F down to as low as 32°F. This drop in body temperature helps slow down a bat's metabolism, reducing its need to eat for several months.

Another important characteristic of suitable hibernating spaces is humidity. Hibernating bats are susceptible to dehydration, so choosing a hibernaculum with higher humidity will reduce evaporative water loss. In some cases, high humidity can cause water droplets to form on the fur of hibernating bats, which bats can drink when they

periodically wake up (photo below, northern long-eared bats). Waking and warming up from hibernation is energetically expensive. In fact, a bat can use 80-90% of its entire stored fat reserves just from waking up for a few minutes each winter. The high energy cost of warming up after waking is part of what makes cave bats so vulnerable to white-nose syndrome (WNS). The disease is caused by an introduced fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, or *Pd*) which thrives in the same cold, wet places where cave bats hibernate.

Since the discovery of WNS in North America in 2006, nearly seven million cave bats have perished. The fungus infects a hibernating bat's muzzle and wings, irritating the bat and causing it to wake up frequently and burn through stored fat reserves too soon. Starving bats are forced to leave their hibernacula in search of food, which leads to death in the cold winter months. Deaths from WNS for some species, like the little brown and northern long-eared bats, have resulted in over 90% population declines in the region.

Tree-roosting Bats

Connecticut's three tree-roosting bat species include the eastern red, silver-haired, and hoary bats. These species are mostly solitary throughout the year, and do not hibernate in cave-like environments, making them much more difficult to study. Tree-roosting bats generally migrate long distances to more southern latitudes during winter. Upon arrival to their winter range, many tree bats will still hibernate during periods of cold weather, emerging to feed during periods of warm winter weather.

While considered safe from the effects of WNS, migratory tree bats are still facing threats. Habitat loss and mortality associated with wind turbines present other conservation challenges.

Connecticut Bat Species and their Status

Common Name	Scientific Name	CT Status	Federal Status
Big brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	SGCN	
Little brown bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	E, SGCN	
Northern long-eared bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	E, SGCN	T
Eastern small-footed bat	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	E, SGCN	
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E, SGCN	E
Tri-colored bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	E, SGCN	
Silver-haired bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	SC, SGCN	
Eastern red bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	SC, SGCN	
Hoary bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	SC, SGCN	

SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need

E= Endangered

T = Threatened

SC = Special Concern

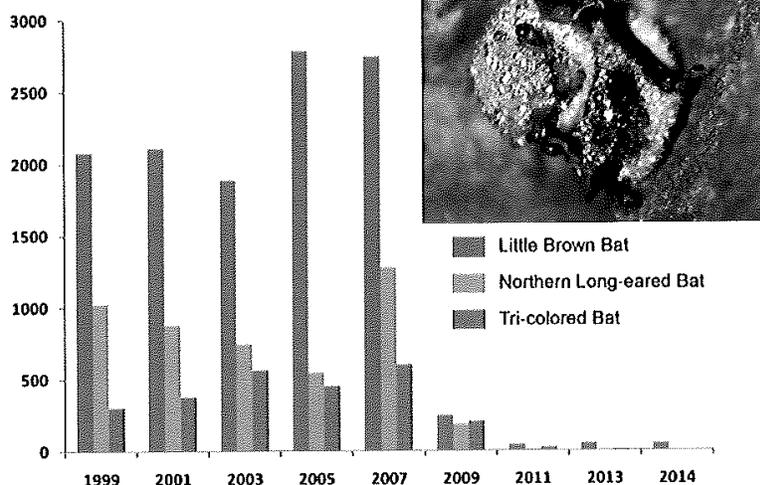
While bat populations face a long, uphill battle to recover, there are some things you can do to help:

- Report sightings of live and dead bats seen in late December through mid-March to deep.batprogram@ct.gov.
- Let the Wildlife Division know about summer bat colonies. There might be a maternity colony nearby. Report summer colonies to deep.batprogram@ct.gov.

- Put up a bat house. You could support a whole colony in your own backyard!
- Educate friends and family about the benefits of bats and the perils they face.

Next summer, if you are fortunate to see a bat flying overhead after sunset, appreciate the journey this amazing animal took to get back to your yard. The sad fact is that when bats leave for winter, many never make it back.

Number of bats counted at three hibernation sites in Connecticut.



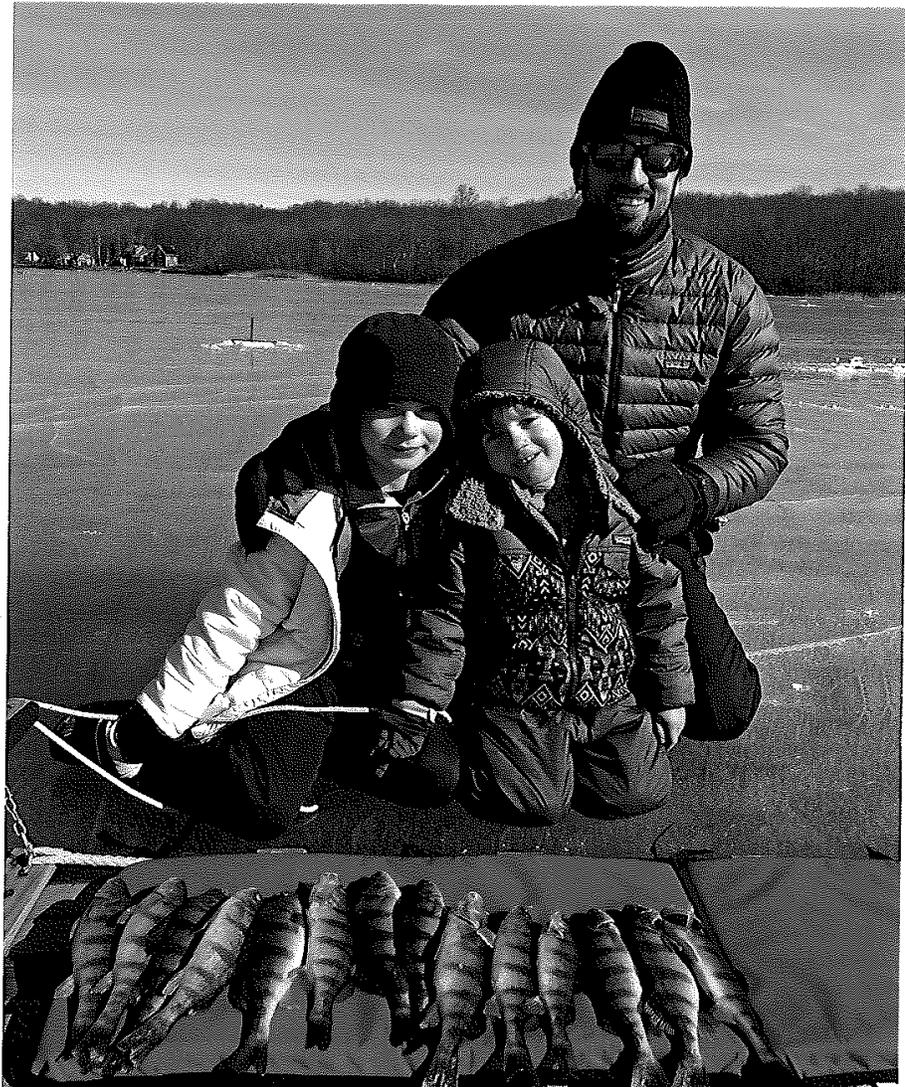
Families that Fish Together, Eat Fish Together!

Written by Justin Wiggins, DEEP Fisheries Division

Connecticut is home to many avid and passionate anglers who take advantage of the fantastic and diverse fresh and saltwater fisheries. What fuels and motivates people to fish will vary greatly depending on who you ask. Relaxation, spending time outdoors, catching lots of fish, catching BIG fish, spending time with family and friends, connecting with nature, and observing wildlife are all valid and genuine responses you could expect.

As far back as I can remember, I have been hooked on fishing. As a kid, fishing was an adventure into the unknown (a feeling that has not yet faded) and every fish and experience was new and exciting. One of the biggest joys in my life now is witnessing this excitement through the eyes of a “newbie” to fishing. Being with someone who is seeing things in the natural world for the first time is truly a remarkable and rewarding experience.

These days, there is nothing better than taking my young son and nephews fishing and I am already looking forward to my baby daughter joining in a few years! Like any parent, I love spending time with my kids, especially time spent outdoors. Quinn, my oldest at four years of age, loves digging for worms and using them to catch sunfish at our local town park. His reaction to seeing the first fish pulled



M. CLAVETTE FOR DEEP

Cousins Logan and Quinn had a great morning catching a dinner of fried yellow perch! The boys went back and forth, running from flag to flag. Yellow perch are the saving grace for many ice fishing outings. These beautiful native fish are very active during winter and can be caught on tip-ups or jigging rods. Yellow perch are excellent eating, even more so when pulled from the cold winter water.

up from a frozen pond during an ice fishing trip last winter was priceless – pure, sincere shock and awe (and screaming and running). He is still talking about the catfish he caught last summer and the blue crabs we scooped up and ate with

his cousins. These memories and experiences are imprinted in his young mind as they are mine, which is what I have come to love most about fishing – **sharing the experience**. Kids grow up way too fast, but these memories will last and be cherished forever.

Taking a kid fishing is much more than just fishing. Beyond the good old-fashioned family fun, time spent outdoors with youth has numerous consequential benefits, such as fostering a connection with our natural world and building a foundation of respect, knowledge, and love for the outdoors. Fishing provides the perfect excuse to put the cell phone away, turn the TV off, and connect with nature and each other. Take advantage of the opportunity and integrate positive life lessons into your fishing experience. For instance, I always make it a point to pick up any balloons and discarded fishing line I see. I now have a young boy with a keen eye for garbage, which he insists on picking up and disposing of properly – whether on the water, hiking trail, or in a parking lot.

Fishing with kids undoubtedly takes preparation, patience, and love! Following are some simple tips for making your next trip with kids a success:

- **Keep it simple:** Use live bait. A worm or live minnow under a bobber will catch fish. Kids like to catch fish. Enough said.
- **Be prepared:** Bug spray, sunscreen, first-aid kit, and a change of clothes are all essentials. You will need the change of clothes!
- **Snacks:** Got to have them! Lots of snacks. An absolute must.
- **Life jacket:** When fishing from a boat or on a floating dock, it is critical that a PFD be worn at all times. Even if the kids are good swimmers, this is responsible behavior and offers piece of mind.
- **Expectations:** If you get a few solid hours of fishing in, you did well!
- **Pictures:** Make sure to take lots! You will look back and cherish these memories.

Ice Fishing

Ice fishing is a wonderful way to introduce kids to fishing. It is a family-friendly outdoor activity that provides fresh air and exercise during the doldrums of winter. The fishing can be fast and furious, and the slow times are perfect for dragging the kids around in a sled, throwing a football or Frisbee, cooking hot dogs, and drinking hot chocolate. The Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) Program offers free “Introduction to Ice Fishing” classes during winter that will teach you everything you need to know to get started ice fishing!

The winter 2019 ice fishing season yielded some unforgettable times with family, friends, and new ice anglers. The target species while ice fishing is usually anything that will



J. WIGGINS / DEEP FISHERIES

Quietly paddling a canoe through a calm saltwater marsh, it did not take long before we noticed dimpling on the water's surface. The boys eagerly casted their snapper poppers toward the commotion as giant schools of peanut bunker were fleeing from snapper bluefish. The juvenile bluefish were a few months old and tiny, too small to catch, but Quinn and Ryan loved seeing the giant schools of baitfish. As the tide fell, we noticed blue crabs shuffling along the muddy bottom. Over the next hour, a dozen keeper blue crabs were netted for a feast that afternoon. The beauty and life exploding from a saltwater marsh is a must see for any kid!



M. CLAVETTE FOR DEEP

On the afternoon of Super Bowl Sunday, Quinn and I found ourselves in the midst of a perch feeding frenzy! As the sun was sinking, I began to pull tip-ups, thinking this trip could not get any better. One of the last tip-ups left got triggered. “Flag up,” I yelled to Quinn. He took it by himself. “Help, it’s a monster,” he replied. I laughed, assuming a yellow perch was on the line. Instead, I saw a walleye head sticking out of the ice hole and we had caught a 20-inch walleye. My three-year old boy (at the time) had just landed a bigger walleye than I ever have. We hugged, screamed, and smiled ear to ear for a photo.



Cousins Quinn, Logan, and Ryan were eager to spend a day on the boat after a long winter. The first warm day in early April found my brother-in-law and me taking the boys fishing. We watched great blue herons, ospreys, egrets, and bald eagles hunting for fish, just as we were. Casting live shiners under a bobber, we found a school of hungry fish. Over the next few hours, a flurry of sinking bobbers produced a stringer full of beautiful black crappie that made for a fantastic dinner!

bite! Tip-ups baited with live shiners dropped down to one to two feet off the lake bottom is all it takes to produce fish.

Freshwater fishing in lakes, ponds, and rivers offers a variety of options for the kids. From Trout Parks in spring to panfish, bass, and catfish during summer, the opportunities are endless! The "Connecticut Is Fishy" interactive web application, found at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing, can help identify family-friendly fishing locations near you. Not many fish can resist the simple, yet effective, presentation of a worm or minnow fished under a bobber.

The go-to quarry are panfish, a group of fish that includes sunfish, yellow perch, and black crappies. Panfish are abundant in our lakes, ponds, and large rivers and usually willing biters. An added bonus is panfish make fantastic table fare and the kids love eating the fish they catch.

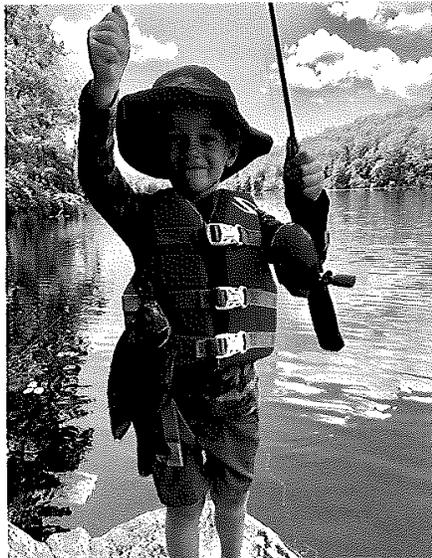
Long Island Sound and her bountiful tidal rivers, streams, and salt water marshes are bursting with great kid-friendly opportunities throughout summer.

Scup (porgy), referred to as the "sunfish of the seas", migrate into Long Island Sound in late spring, taking residence on almost every rock pile, mussel bed, pier, or jetty. A simple bottom rig baited with squid strips or sandworms, whether casted from the shore or drifting from a boat or kayak, is irresistible to scup and many other saltwater species. Drifting on a boat or kayak will allow you to cover ground, which will certainly help you find the fish. If you are shore bound, the DEEP-designated "Enhanced Shore Fishing Sites" have excellent public access and reduced length limits on fluke and scup. Jumping aboard one of the many Charter or Party Boats that cater to families will cost a bit

of money but greatly increase your chances of success and having a day you will never forget! Come August, the numerous tidal rivers, creeks, marshes, and beaches along the coast offer fantastic multi-species fishing for snapper bluefish and blue crabs. The "Saltwater Fishing Resource Map" found at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing has detailed information on shore fishing sites, boat ramps, and Party/Charter vessels found along the Connecticut shoreline.

Become a Volunteer CARE Fishing Instructor

I am grateful and fortunate to have a career with the DEEP Fisheries Division Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) Program. The CARE Program offers "Learn to Fish" classes around the state, affording the opportunity to share my passion and love of fishing with others who are interested in learning. Almost as rewarding is working with the hundreds of volunteer fishing instructors who donate their time to teach fishing to others.



Quinn and I launched my canoe into a small pond on a hot July afternoon. Just the two of us for an afternoon of bluegill fishing. A Spiderman push button rod with a piece of nightcrawler hung 18 inches under a bobber did the trick this day. We paddled around and argued about where we should fish, went for a swim, and caught bluegill after bluegill. A few dozen of these tasty fish made their way into our cooler destined for "Poor Man's Shrimp", an easy and delicious use of bluegill fillets. An afternoon well spent!



J. WIGGINS / DEEP FISHERIES (2)

We set out of Niantic Bay on a beautiful July day with the goal of gathering enough scup for fish tacos that evening. Hi-lo rigs baited with squid were sent to the bottom of Bartlett Reef. Almost instantly, they were hooked up. The boys reeled in scup after scup until their arms hurt! Not the biggest fish in the sea by any means, but what they lack in size scup make up for with their tenacious fight. And, they make for excellent fish tacos!

The CARE Program relies heavily on these volunteer instructors to provide quality first fishing experiences to Connecticut residents. If you are passionate about the outdoors and interested in sharing your knowledge and love with others, call the CARE Center at 860-663-1656 to become a volunteer fishing instructor. You may just find that what you enjoy most about fishing is sharing the experience!



A Backyard Favorite

The Industrious Downy Woodpecker

Article and photography by Paul Fusco, DEEP Wildlife Division



Female downy woodpeckers often have a dainty appearance. Note the black barring on the tail feathers, which is visible on the top and the underside of the feathers.

One of Connecticut's most familiar backyard birds is the downy woodpecker. This little hammerhead is our smallest member of the woodpecker family. It is a hardy bird with a wide distribution across the continent, and is found virtually statewide in Connecticut. They can be seen in practically any woodlot, regardless of size. Downy woodpeckers are resident birds, but those from the northern part of their range may shift a short distance south.

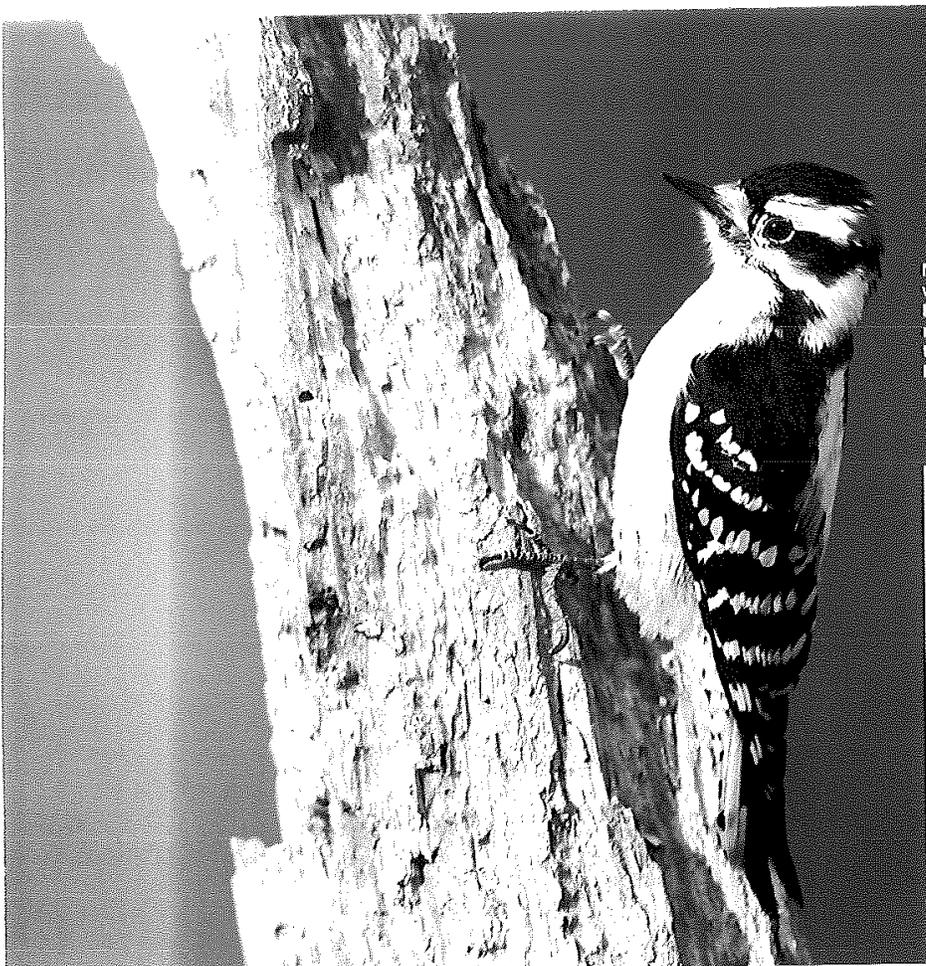
In winter, downy woodpeckers are common visitors to backyard bird feeders. They are often in the company of other small birds, including chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches, together forming a roving band of activity. By congregating in loose flocks, all of the individuals benefit as they locate food sources and watch for predators, such as hawks and cats.

Downy woodpeckers have a broad white patch on their back and a white underside. The black wings have white spots, giving them a bold checkerboard appearance. The head is striped black and white, and males have a red spot on the back of the head. The outer tail feathers are typically white with a few small black bars. The bill is small, straight, and finely-tipped. The birds also have a noticeable tuft of nasal bristles at the base of the bill.

While downy woodpeckers prefer open deciduous woodlands, they are also at home in orchards, parks, backyards, and young forest habitat with brushy or weedy edges. Because of their small size, these woodpeckers can forage on smaller twigs, branches, and herbaceous stems that would not support larger birds. The majority of the diet consists of insects, especially wood-boring beetles and their larvae. The downy woodpecker is a recognized predator of the invasive pest, the emerald ash borer.

At backyard bird feeders, this little woodpecker is fond of black oil sunflower seed, suet, peanuts, and peanut butter. It will sometimes visit hummingbird feeders for sugar water.

Woodpeckers often communicate by drumming on a resonating surface, such as a hollow



Male downy woodpeckers have a bright red patch on the back of the head.

Downy vs. Hairy

These two very similar black-and-white woodpeckers can be hard to distinguish.

The hairy woodpecker (below), with a length of 7.5 inches, is quite a bit larger than the downy at 5.75 inches. The hairy also has a much larger bill, proportionally, than the little bill of the downy.

The outer tail feathers of both species are white, but those of the downy have a small amount of black barring, while the hairy's are unbarred.

Another difference is the voice. The hairy woodpecker has a loud, sharp "peek" call note, while the downy has a mild but loud "pik" call note. Both have a similar rattling call, but the call of the hairy remains at about the same pitch while the rattle descends in pitch at the end with the downy.



How did they get their names?

The lower white patch on the back of the downy woodpecker has soft feathers, while those feathers on the hairy woodpecker are shaggy and more hair-like.

or dead branch. Drumming is done by both sexes and intensifies in late winter and early spring as males advertise for a mate and begin courtship. Drumming may also be a way for woodpeckers to claim a territory or as response to an intruder.

Drumming patterns can be separated by species. For instance, downy woodpeckers drum at a relatively slow pace, 15 or so taps per second, with a frequency of a few seconds between each set of drums. Compare that to the hairy woodpecker, which has a faster rate of about 25 taps per second, but a slower frequency, which may be over 20 seconds between sets.

Downy woodpeckers nest in dead trees, where they excavate a chamber with a small entrance hole. The cavity is usually up to 12 inches deep. Here, the female lays three to eight white eggs. Incubation takes 12 days and young fledge about 24 days after hatching.

Conservation

Because they are adaptable birds and use such a wide variety of habitats, downy woodpeckers have a relatively stable population. However, the same issues that are affecting many small birds are also a concern for downy woodpeckers. Chief

among those concerns is habitat loss, which is the number one concern for all wildlife, downy woodpeckers included. While Connecticut has experienced forest regeneration over the past 100 years, there has been a downturn in the amount of forest habitat in the state in recent years due almost entirely to land clearing for development. Other serious concerns for these birds include predation by cats, collisions, and pesticide poisoning.

Homeowners who wish to help downy woodpeckers can provide safe places for roosting at night. The birds will readily use bird boxes, such as bluebird nest boxes, for roosting on cold winter nights.



Piping Plover Numbers Continue to Grow

Written by Rebecca Foster, DEEP Wildlife Division; photography by Paul Fusco, DEEP Wildlife Division

The piping plover is a small (robin-sized) buff-gray and white shorebird that winters in the southern hemisphere and returns to the Connecticut shoreline to breed each spring. The DEEP Wildlife Division manages this state and federally threatened species consistent with guidelines provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This is the Wildlife Division's 33rd year of monitoring and managing this species in Connecticut under the USFWS guidelines, although the Division has been responsible for the management and protection of this small shorebird before it was listed as a threatened species.

Multi-faceted Management

Piping plovers nest on beaches, directly in the sand. Efforts to protect nests begin with using wooden posts and string to construct "fencing" delineating plover nesting habitat. Male piping plovers dig a small depression in the sand, called a "scrape", in which the female plover lays three or four cryptically-colored eggs. Fencing off prime nesting habitat from beach foot traffic minimizes disturbance while the birds are forming nesting territories. Fencing also prevents the eggs, and later small chicks, from being accidentally stepped on. Numerous signs are used in conjunction with the fencing, including yellow "STAY AWAY" (from sensitive nesting areas) signs, "NO DOGS ALLOWED" (during breeding season) signs, and educational signs explaining the life cycle and needs of the breeding plovers.

Once piping plover nests are located, the Wildlife Division may use an enclosure to limit egg predation. An enclosure is essentially a protective metal structure with netting over the top that is buried into the sand (around a nest) and anchored down with large, metal posts. Piping plovers are small enough to easily move in and out of the enclosure, and the enclosure is very effective at preventing large predators, both birds and mammals, from reaching the eggs. Our research has shown that the success rate for enclosed nests is higher than for unenclosed nests.

The final step involves carefully monitoring the fate of piping plover pairs, their nests, and chicks throughout the season (typically April through August). Monitoring is done to collect accurate data, document and minimize disturbances, and educate beachgoers who are interested in learning about piping plovers. The Wildlife Division is very fortunate to have a robust support system of conservationists who assist with monitoring piping plovers, including the Audubon Alliance for Coastal Waterbirds, The Nature Conservancy, DEEP State Parks Division, municipal governments, shoreline property owners, and over 100 dedicated volunteer piping plover monitors.

Piping Plover Nesting Results for 2019

This past season, 57 pairs of piping plovers and two non-breeding

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*All totalled,
260 plover eggs
were produced
statewide. Of
those, 149 chicks
hatched for a
hatching success
rate of 57%. A
total of 98 plover
chicks were able
to reach flight
age.*



Piping plover eggs and chicks are well camouflaged in their beach habitat.

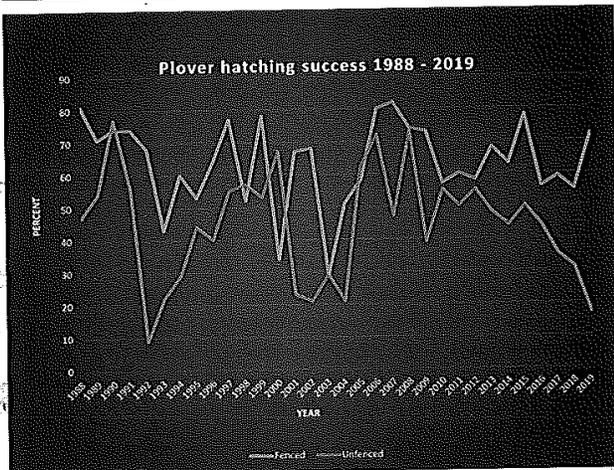
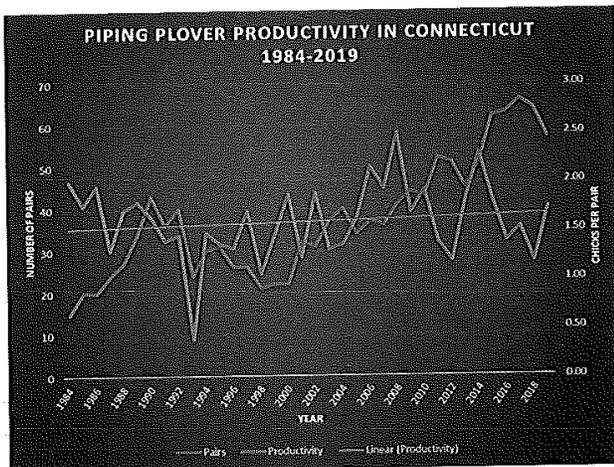
males were documented on Connecticut beaches. Of the 57 pairs, 53 were able to nest while four pairs did not. Several nests were destroyed and pairs renested. All totalled, 260 plover eggs were produced statewide. Of those, 149 chicks hatched for a hatching success rate of 57%. A total of 98 plover chicks were able to reach flight age, or "fledge," for a fledging success rate of 66%. Piping plover productivity for 2019 was 1.72 chicks produced per pair of plovers. The average productivity in Connecticut over the past 33 years indicates an increasing piping plover population for the state.

Private Property Challenge

Much of Connecticut's shoreline property is privately-owned. Therefore, successful shorebird breeding cannot occur without the cooperation and stewardship of these property owners. The Wildlife Division works diligently to develop and maintain positive relationships with shoreline property owners. The Division recognizes and appreciates that these landowners temporarily modify their activities and use of their beaches to accommodate the nesting birds, as well as allow staff access to their property. Most landowners who "host" nesting piping plovers on their property are enthusiastic about the birds. However, this past season, several landowners declined the protections that have proven to enormously increase plover nesting success. This lack of protection and best management practices created an unfortunate situation where residents and visitors constantly walked through nesting territories, causing the birds to abandon usually productive nesting areas.

Looking Ahead to 2020

The Wildlife Division will continue to work with landowners, municipalities, and beach visitors to implement protections and best management practices to ensure the greatest probability of breeding and nesting success for Connecticut's threatened piping plovers. Those interested in assisting the Division with piping plover monitoring for the 2020 season are encouraged to contact the Audubon Alliance for Coastal Waterbirds at ctwaterbirds@gmail.com.



Community Connections Through Conservation

Written by Nicole Freidenfelds, Visiting Assistant Extension Educator, NRCA Program Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Connecticut

The Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA) at the University of Connecticut (UConn) is a unique program that engages Connecticut teens and adult volunteers throughout the state with conservation efforts at the community level. The NRCA includes two different programs students can choose to participate in – the Conservation Ambassador Program (CAP) and the Conservation Training Partnerships (CTP) Program. With the guidance of UConn faculty and students, Academy participants in both programs conduct projects that address local conservation issues, such as creating an inventory of invasive



Evelyn, a student in the Conservation Ambassador Program, digs through leaf litter for earthworms and eastern red-backed salamanders with her community partner, Annette Evans, a doctoral student from the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology department at UConn.

PHOTO: A. CABANISS, UCONN NRCA

plant species for a specific property, collecting water quality data for stream/wetland protection, using geospatial technology to map resources or features of interest in a given area, along with many others. The products that result from these projects contribute to scientific research and vary from educational presentations and pamphlets to interactive online maps and short videos.

Popular among NRCA participants are conservation projects that focus on diverse topics related to wildlife. The species and habitats they choose to explore range from insects to bears and backyards to city trails. Here, we

highlight a number of wildlife-related projects being conducted by members of the current NRCA class.

Listening for State-listed Bats

All of Connecticut's native bat species are considered of greatest conservation need according to the state's Wildlife Action Plan, and all but one are listed under the state's Endangered Species Act. In addition to habitat loss and disturbance to roosting sites, another major threat to bats is the deadly fungus that causes white-nose syndrome, which has resulted in the death of tens of thousands of bats since it was first discovered in Connecticut in 2008.

Working as Conservation Training Partnerships (CTP) teammates, Laurie and Aiden are using acoustic recording devices to survey for bats throughout northwest Connecticut. Aiden, a high school student, notes that they are not only contributing valuable data to the state's long-term bat monitoring efforts, but also helping "educate the public about bats and their importance in the environment." Bats are often misunderstood, even though they provide important ecosystem services, such as reducing the number of insect pests (e.g., mosquitoes) and pollinating plants in some environments.

As one of Kent Land Trust's Board



Dr. Erin Kuprewicz, Vertebrate Collections Manager in UConn's Biodiversity Research Collections, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, lends her expertise during a tour of the vertebrate collections for a closer look at the mammals that benefit from beaver-created wetlands.

PHOTO: N. FREIDENFELDS, UCONN NRCA

of Directors, Laurie particularly wants to focus their survey efforts in the town of Kent, land trust properties, and specific micro-habitats within these areas so that the town and land trusts can better manage habitat for bat species. She also points out the need for well-trained wildlife rehabilitators who can care for abandoned or injured bats to help release them safely back into the wild.

Salamanders vs. Earthworms

Over the past few decades, an in-

crease in human activity and movement has enabled the spread of non-native earthworms into new areas of North American forest ecosystems. These invasive earthworms are driving changes in soil structure, nutrient cycling, and competition with native species for food and/or space.

Evelyn, a member of the NRCA's Conservation Ambassador Program (CAP), notes that "something as small as an earthworm can affect the ecology of a forest." She is partnering with Annette Evans, a doctoral student at UConn, to examine the impacts of non-native earthworms on the abundance of eastern red-backed salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*) in southwestern Connecticut. It is thought that earthworms reduce the amount of leaf litter and detritus on the forest floor, which in turn reduces the availability of invertebrates that make up the majority of salamander diets.

As Annette points out, "The introduction of non-native species, such as earthworms, can have devastating consequences for native ecosystems, including those in your town! Everyone can help preserve native Connecticut



Aiden is using SonoBat software to analyze bat acoustic recordings as part of his Conservation Training Partnerships project.

PHOTO: L. DOSS, MARVELWOOD SCHOOL

wildlife, such as salamanders, by not dumping unwanted plants or animals outside and never removing rocks or fallen logs from forests (even those next to your backyard!), as they provide important homes to native wildlife.”

Birds of a Feather

Michael and Michaela are a father-daughter CTP team whose goal is to combine Michaela’s passion for birding and Michael’s passion for the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve in East Lyme. According to Michaela, “The Oswegatchie Hills is an astounding place, with countless stories to tell.” She and her dad plan to create a series of entertaining and educational videos about the preserve “in hopes that it will bring more interest to the Hills.” Michael adds that when people become fascinated by the different things they can see and experience in the woods, they become more passionate about nature and thereby more inclined to preserve it.

Ovenbirds and Stock Market Models

Ovenbirds are olive-green warblers commonly heard singing throughout Connecticut forests during spring and summer, and the subject of CAP member Allie’s project. She is working with Eliza Grames, a UConn doctoral student, to better understand factors that affect ovenbird singing. Using models similar to those in financial market trading and earthquake aftershock analysis, Eliza and Allie are exploring the role of time during the breeding season and forest fragmentation on ovenbird singing behavior.

When asked about the project, Allie said it is “a perfect fit for me because I am passionate about computer science and technology, as well as environmental conservation. I was surprised when I began my project at how easily accessible it was to me. I am not an expert on bird calls or Connecticut bird species, but I was immediately able to start learn-



Eastern red-backed salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*) occur throughout Connecticut and are commonly found under leaf litter and woody debris on the forest floor.
PHOTO: N. FREIDENFELDS, UCONN NRCA

ing more. It’s important to understand that environmental conservation can be connected to many other fields (in this case, computer science) and that all forms of research are valuable.” Eliza hopes “to help Allie develop programming skills that she can use in her future research and give her an opportunity to combine her interests in computer science and wildlife.”

Eager Beavers

Inspired in part by the book *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter* by Ben Goldfarb, CTP teammates, Christin and Melinda, are creating an online story map featuring a beaver-created wetland at Mendell’s Folly preserve, a property of the Bethany Land Trust. Their story map will include information they gained during a recent visit to the UConn Storrs campus. Melinda and Christin were given a tour of the UConn vertebrate collections by Dr. Erin Kuprewicz and

met with Anna Puchkoff, a graduate student in the department of Natural Resources and the Environment, to learn more about wetlands, the valuable services they provide, and the organisms that use them.

Melinda’s goal with this project is to educate the general public and to encourage more people to participate in citizen science programs like the NRCA or smaller events, such as The Great Backyard Bird Count.

Interested in learning more about the Natural Resources Conservation Academy and conducting a local wildlife-related conservation project? Visit <https://nrca.uconn.edu> or email nrca@uconn.edu for more information. Programs are available for teens and adults. The CTP program is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation; CAP support is provided in part by the Goldring Family Foundation, Inc.

A Rewarding Story of Rescue and Release

Written by Sandra Ruiz, DEEP Wildlife Division

Successful stories about the recovery of injured wildlife are often the result of cooperative work among non-profit organizations, citizens, and DEEP. This year, the cooperative action of Audubon Connecticut's Sharon Audubon Center, volunteers, and DEEP's Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions resulted in the successful rescue and release of an adult male bald eagle. Early this past May, staff from DEEP's Burlington Trout Hatchery found a bald eagle stranded at one of the ponds and immediately contacted the Wildlife Division. The bird was taken to Sharon Audubon's Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic.

Under the care of wildlife rehabilitation and outreach specialist, Sunny Kellner, along with the assistance of staff and volunteers, the eagle recovered his strength. Adult birds of prey taken in for rehabilitation without obvious injuries often show levels of lead poisoning and accumulation of environmental contaminants that are picked up from the prey and carrion they eat. In this case, medical examination showed no bodily injuries or chemical toxicity. The eagle's condition seemed to have been the result of weakness, possibly related to its remarkable age of 24 years old! Life expectancy in the wild ranges between 15 and 30 years, but for this bird to be free of toxins at that age is remarkable. Fortunately, the eagle only needed a safe place to recover weight and gain strength.

The surprise did not end with the medical results, band reports identified this eagle as a Connecticut native, banded as a chick by DEEP staff on June 8, 1995, in Barkhamsted. It is the offspring of the first pair of bald eagles to nest in Connecticut since the 1950s. This breeding pair was the



P. J. FUSCO

This 24-year-old bald eagle – the offspring of the first bald eagle pair to nest in Connecticut after almost 40 years of absence – was recently rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

only one in Connecticut from 1992 to 1995.

On October 1, 2019, after five months of hearty meals (including fish provided by the hatchery) and vigilant care, the eagle was released at the Burlington Trout Hatchery in the presence of those who were involved in his rescue and care.

Discover Outdoor CT 2019

Fun for the Whole Family

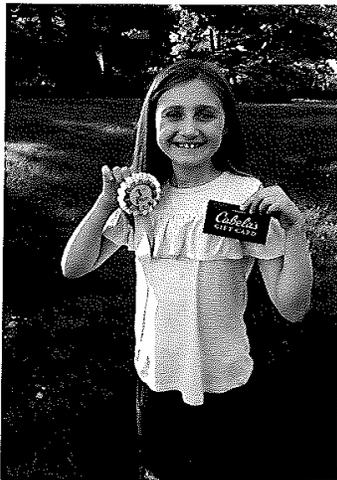
Written by Andrew LaBonte, DEEP Wildlife Division; photos by DEEP Wildlife Division staff

This year's Discover Outdoor Connecticut Day was held in September at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. The Bureau of Natural Resources Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions, along with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's Divisions of State Parks, Law Enforcement, and Boating, cooperatively hosted the event with more than 30 other groups, such as private hunting and fishing clubs, environmental education centers, and other conservation organizations.

The federal Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program, which is funded by special fees on hunting and fishing equipment and helps finance wildlife and fish management, habitat restoration, and other conservation programs in the states, helped make this event possible. Additional support was provided by Bill Embacher Decoys-Avian Taxidermy, East Hartford Cabela's, The Country Butcher, Friends of Sessions Woods, Home Depot, High Rock Shooting Preserve, Quinebaug Kennels, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Events like Discover Outdoor Connecticut would not be possible without tremendous support from various conservation and outdoor groups and local volunteers. The ultimate goal of the event is to provide attendees an opportunity to participate in various outdoor-related activities while also raising awareness and appreciation for resource conservation. Management efforts that benefit Connecticut's natural resources not only include fish and wildlife, but the air, water, and habitats in which those animals live. By introducing residents to our state's diverse natural areas and the species that live within, it is hoped they develop an appreciation, a sense of stewardship, and an interest in becoming involved.



Participants at this year's Discover Outdoor Connecticut learned from natural resource professionals about ongoing habitat management programs (top) and tried their hand at casting with spinning reels.



Emma Kowalchuk won third place in the youth category of the photo contest for her photo of a flower.

The second Discover Outdoor Connecticut Photo Contest was held in conjunction



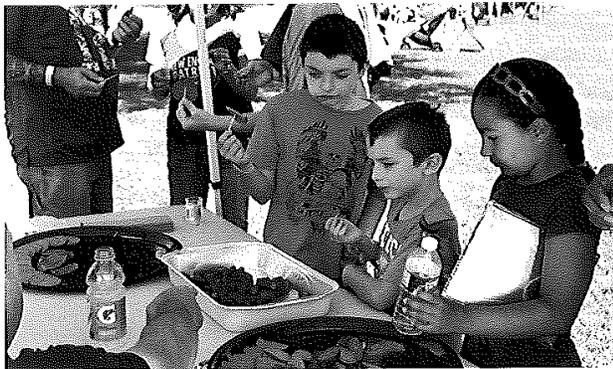


with the event. Whether a hunter, angler, or general outdoor enthusiast, seeing and capturing a great photo of a raccoon, frog, butterfly, dragonfly, or a beautiful landscape, can be a memorable experience.

The locavore movement is becoming more popular, spurring interest in harvesting and providing local food for one's own table. Thanks to generous venison donations from Josh Weiner and processing efforts from Steven Boyer of The Country Butcher in Tolland, over 300 pounds of local venison (deer) were made into kielbasa, meat sticks, pastrami, salami, and summer sausage for attendees to enjoy. Many left with a full appreciation of how good locally harvested food tastes and, hopefully, left them craving more.

Thanks to all of the DEEP staff, volunteers, and organizations who participated, the event featured a long list of outdoor activities for the whole family. Truly connecting with the outdoors cannot be accomplished through a smart phone or tablet. Nothing can replace a firsthand outdoor experience – such as spending the day on the water in a canoe or kayak, hiking through the woods with a camera, or harvesting one's own food for the table. Events like Discover Outdoor Connecticut not only increase awareness of DEEP's role in managing fish, wildlife, and their habitats, they also help build an understanding of the value and importance of natural resources as a whole.

It is hoped that attendees will continue to enjoy the outdoors and all it has to offer. Next year's event is planned again for Hammonasset Beach State Park, sometime in September. Stay tuned for details by checking the DEEP website at www.ct.gov/deep/DiscoverOutdoorCT.



Discover Outdoor Connecticut offers participants a unique opportunity to learn about Connecticut's natural resources and a variety of outdoor activities, including target archery, wildlife demonstrations, exhibits, a photo contest, venison tasting (left), and more!

Discover Outdoor Connecticut will be held in September 2020 at Hammonasset Beach State Park. Stay tuned for details at www.ct.gov/deep/DiscoverOutdoorCT or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CTFishAndWildlife>.



Notable Statistics from the 2018 Deer Hunting Season

Harvest Total	11,345
Archery Harvest	5,332
Shotgun/Rifle Harvest	4,298
Archery Permits	16,956
Shotgun/Rifle Permits	16,526
Success Rates	
Archery	31.3%
Shotgun/Rifle	24.6%
Muzzleloader	8.4%
Sex Ratio	
Males per Female	1.4:1
Top Harvest Towns	
Lebanon	227
East Haddam	228
Coventry	202
Woodstock	196
Top Archery Harvest Zone	
Zone 11	1,249
Reported Roadkill	608
Crop Damage	569

More specific details are in the 2018 Deer Program Summary at:

https://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/wildlife/pdf_files/gamef/deersum2018.pdf



A Fun Day of Fishing!

Thirteen-year-old Zack Adams attended DEEP's Discover Outdoor Connecticut Day this past September not knowing it would turn into the largest bass of his life! Zack was the winner of the Kid's Quiz contest at the event, which earned him a fishing prize package and an afternoon of fishing for his family at the Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) Center.

Zack has experience trout fishing, but bass fishing was new to him. He and his brother, Jake, were in for a treat that evening and CARE Fishing Instructor Jake Parise was on hand to assist with this new style of fishing. The conditions were calm and perfect for casting topwater frogs. The plastic frogs dragged across lily pads triggered several eruptions, and the boys were rewarded with a few nice largemouth bass. In the meantime, CARE Instructor Jake caught some live bait – small bluegill sunfish that he rigged on a large circle hook under a bobber. Bluegill sunfish are bass candy, and this turned out to be the ticket for Zack's biggest largemouth bass ever. Zack casted one of the live bluegill along a weed line and soon watched the bobber disappear. After a short battle, Zack pulled to shore a largemouth bass that was pushing four pounds. Congratulations to Zack!

Justin Wiggins, DEEP Fisheries Division



PHOTO COURTESY M. ADAMS

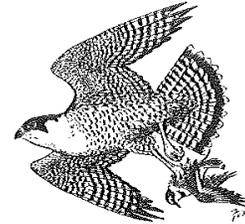
Bird Species on the Brink

Using the latest climate change models and known home ranges of 604 North American birds, National Audubon Society scientists were able to predict how each species' range will shift as climate change and other human impacts continue to influence the continent. The results indicate that two-thirds (389 out of 604) of North American bird species will be forced to relocate as the climate warms, and many of those species may not survive. While one might think that

certain species would simply shift their home ranges further north, the models emphasize the fundamental climate needs each species requires for survival; not the specifics of habitat. In other words, some species will likely be forced to move their home ranges further north, but there may not be any suitable habitat for them when they get there. So what does this mean for Connecticut birds? A two degrees Celsius warming could mean that over 50 species that call our state home

may lose more than half of their current range. This includes the eastern towhee, American woodcock, bobolink, and ovenbird. Reducing our carbon emissions and better absorbing emissions that are produced would greatly help limit our planet's warming trend. To learn more about how climate change will impact birds, visit www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees.

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Conservation Calendar

Dec. - March Observe eagles at the Shepaug Dam Observation Area in Southbury. The viewing area is open Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM from early December through early March. Visitation to the observation area is by reservation only. To schedule a free visit, go to https://www.firstlightpower.com/recreation/?location_id=397 or call 1-800-368-8954 (Tuesday through Friday between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM).

Jan. - April Donate to the Endangered Species/Wildlife Income Tax Check-off Fund on your 2019 Connecticut Income Tax form. Learn more at www.ct.gov/deep/EndangeredSpecies.

Early 2020 Hunting Season Dates

Jan. 1-31 Bowhunting season for deer and turkey on private land only in Deer Management Zones 11 and 12.

Jan. 1-Feb. 29 Hunting continues for pheasant, chukar and Hungarian partridges, gray squirrels, cottontail rabbits, European hares, and red and gray foxes. (See the 2020 Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide for additional season dates.)

Jan. 15-Feb. 15 Canada goose late season in the south zone.

Consult the 2020 Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guides and 2019-2020 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide for specific season dates and details. Guides are available at DEEP facilities, town halls, and outdoor equipment stores, and also on the DEEP website (www.ct.gov/deep/hunting; www.ct.gov/deep/fishing). Go to www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing to purchase Connecticut hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses, as well as required permits and stamps. The system accepts payment by VISA or MasterCard.

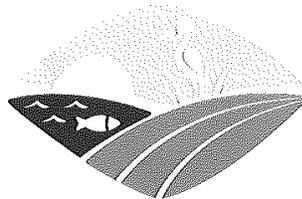
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Recovering America's Wildlife Act Advances in the U.S. House of Representatives

The U.S. Congress House Committee on Natural Resources recently advanced bills that protect our rivers and restore our wildlife populations, including Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 3742) which has 157 bipartisan cosponsors toward final passage in the House.

State fish and wildlife agencies have identified over 12,000 species in need of proactive conservation to prevent them from becoming threatened or endangered. The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), reintroduced by Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) in July of this year, is a solution to this critical problem.

The bill will dedicate \$1.3 billion annually to state fish and wildlife agencies to implement their science-based wildlife action plans and an additional \$97.5 million for tribal fish and wildlife managers to conserve fish and wildlife on tribal lands and waters. This will provide dedicated funding, so state and tribal wildlife managers can proactively conserve fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need in a voluntary, non-regulatory manner before federal listing under the Endangered Species Act is warranted. All of this can be done without additional taxes. Learn more at www.ct.gov/deep/AllianceforFishandWildlife or <http://ournatureusa.com/>. Follow progress on RAWA on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OurNatureUSA>.



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STORRS CT 06268-2574



P. J. FUSCO

A cedar waxwing makes use of ornamental crabapple berries on a cold and icy winter morning.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

36th Annual Connecticut Land Conservation Conference

Please join the Connecticut Land Conservation Council for the state's largest land conservation gathering and CLCC's premier annual event, featuring a full day of educational workshops and peer-to-peer networking followed by an informal reception with friends and colleagues from across the state.

Learning, sharing, and growing our skills & knowledge!

CONFERENCE AGENDA

- 7:30 am Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 am **Plenary Session**
 - Welcome Address
 - Awards Ceremony
 - Keynote Speaker
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:30 am **Workshop Session A**
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:15 pm **Workshop Session B**
- 2:30 pm Break
- 2:45 pm **Workshop Session C**
- 4:00 pm Break
- 4:15 pm **Workshop Session D**
- 5:00 pm Reception

Keynote Speaker

Coping with Green Angst: A Young Kaitiaki's Call to Action



Like all of us struggling to cope with the global climate crisis, twenty-two year old environmentalist and veterinary student, **Anne-Sophie Pagé**, is consumed by angst over the fate of our planet.

Embracing the Kaitiakitanga philosophy (environmental guardianship) of the indigenous Māori people of her native New Zealand, Anne-Sophie will share her hopes for the future through the lens of her global wildlife research—highlighting the importance of land conservation and other natural climate solutions for saving the planet, and inspiring us to take action to fight the climate crisis head-on.

Read more about Anne-Sophie at ctconservation.org

Choose 4 Workshops (1 from Session A, B, C, and D) Workshop Descriptions at ctconservation.org

Session A: 10:30 am–12:00 pm	Session B: 1:15–2:30 pm	Session C: 2:45–4:00 pm	Session D: 4:15–5:00 pm
TRACK 1 : Conservation Policy, Advocacy & Engagement			
A.1 Waging Peace Through Land Conservation: Resilience in the Face of Climate Crisis	B.1 Connecticut General Assembly 2020 Session Update	C.1 Environmental Justice Roundtable	D.1 A Conversation with Anne-Sophie Pagé and Dahr Jamail
A.2 Land Trust Law School—Tree and Land Law Connecticut Style	B.2 Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink	C.2 Land Trusts Taking Action on Climate Change	D.2 Update on Farm Bill and NRCS Funding Programs
TRACK 2 : Land Protection – Project Planning, Due Diligence & Model Documents			
A.3 Intro to Revised Model Conservation Easement (101 Series)	B.3 Revised Model Conservation Easement—Advanced Topics	C.3 Best Practices in Due Diligence	D.3 Intro to CT Model Agricultural Easement (101 Series)
	B.4 Doing Deals (101 Series)	C.4 Doing Deals—Advanced Models	D.4 Model Forever Wild Easement
	B.5 Farmland Access for New and Beginning Farmers		
TRACK 3 : Stewardship I – Managing Land to Mitigate & respond to Climate Change			
A.4 Film: <i>Lost Forests of New England</i> , followed by Q&A	B.6 Wildlands: Why We Need Them and How to Create and Manage Them	C.5 Forest Protection and Management for Biodiversity and Climate Mitigation	D.5 Making the Case for Conservation: 30 Years of Landscape Change in CT
A.5 Forest Management with a Climate Lens	B.7 Drones for Biodiversity Conservation	C.6 Working Lands as a Key to Climate Change Mitigation	
A.6 New England Landscape Futures Explorer Tool: Envision/Plan for Resilience			
TRACK 4 : Stewardship II – Habitat Management & Restoration			
A.7 Stewardship Speed Dating (101 Series)	B.8 Invasive Species Management Calendar	C.7 Innovative Beaver Control Program	D.6 Restoring a Coastal Forest in Westport
			D.7 Trail Building Basics (101 Series)
TRACK 5 : Stewardship III – Managing Land for Public Access & Community Engagement			
A.8 Youth-Powered Partnerships: Engaging Next Gen Conservation Leaders	B.9 Risk Management Strategies	C.8 Introducing Multi-Use Trails to Your Land Trust Properties (101 Series)	D.8 Using Conserved Land as Laboratory and Classroom
A.9 Community Forests: The 21 st Century New England Town Forest	B.10 Wander Our Watershed: Connecting Communities & Open Spaces	C.9 Hidden Landscapes: Native American Stone Ceremonial Sites on Public and Private Lands	D.9 Landscape Design for Cognitive Development
A.10 A Seat at the Table: Partnerships for Healthier Communities		C.10 Become a Certified Frogwatch Citizen Scientist (2 hrs)	D.10 Building Community Engagement with Pollinator Pathways
TRACK 6 : Organizational Strength & Sustainability			
A.11 Looking in the Mirror Towards a More Diverse Organization	B.11 Building a Stronger Board (101 Series)	C.11 Connecticut Land Trust Mergers (101 Series)	D.11 Staffing Up!
	B.12 Record Keeping (101 Series)	C.12 Boards, Fundraising, Strategic Plans	D.12 Financial Reports & Accounting
	B.13 Annual Stewardship Workplan	C.13 Ins & Outs of Restricted Gifts	
		C.14 Accreditation Myth Busters and Unexpected Bonuses	
TRACK 7 : Fundraising & Communications			
A.12 Connecting More Effectively with People from All Walks of Life	B.14 Using Visual Communications to Connect and Inspire People to Action	C.15 It's Not What You Save, It's Why You Save It	D.13 Social Media—You Can Do It!
A.13 Raising Major Gifts from Individuals (101 Series)			

The 101 Series is an entry-level workshop for those new to land conservation work, or needing a refresher.

Online Registration is Easy!

Via Credit Card or Check
www.ctconservation.org/2020-conference

(Check One)

- \$65 CLCC Members
- \$85 Non-Members
- \$25 Students

*Add \$10 for registrations mailed after March 1.

Send check payable to:
"CLCC" with memo "2020 Conference"
and completed registration form to:

Connecticut Land Conservation Council
deKoven House
27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT 06457

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Select 4 Workshops (1 from Sessions A, B, C, and D)

Session A _____

Session B _____

Session C _____

Session D _____

Visit www.ctconservation.org/2020-conference for full workshop titles and descriptions, conference updates, to download a PDF of this brochure, and more.

Amy Blaymore Paterson
abpaterson@ctconservation.org
(860) 852-5512

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Members Present: S. Stearns (Chair), C. Keuffner, T. Wollen, E. Hall, D. Dorfer, J. Jelliffe, M. Tindall (alt), N. Rawn (alt)

Members Absent: J. Lovdal, (recently resigned)

Staff Present: J. Kaufman, Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent; J. Woodmansee, Planning Specialist;

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

Nancy Rawn volunteered to be Secretary for this meeting.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

December 3, 2019 minutes- Diane motioned to approve the minutes and Nancy seconded, the minutes passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. INTERPRETATION OF ZONING REGULATIONS: ARTICLE 10, SECTION T, AGRICULTURAL USES

In light of Jillene's presence and the presence of two members of the public, (Mr. Morse and Ms. Peters) for whom this matter was related, new business was conducted first. Jillene introduced the issue of an animal enclosure at 170 Crane Hill Road that had been referred to the Agriculture Committee by the Planning and Zoning Committee. The owner of this property had been issued a violation based on the original interpretation of the enclosure as a "pen". The owners disputed this and called it a "pasture". Pictures of the property and enclosure, and maps of the site were examined and after some discussion, a motion was made by Terry Wollen that "the questionable area is a pen, not a pasture." This was seconded by Ed Hall. Discussion followed. It was generally agreed upon by the committee that an enclosure in which goats are housed permanently, fed, and watered and in which the fencing is not moved for said goats in a regular manner, is a pen. The fact that it is greater than 200 square feet is not relevant in this situation. Public comment by Mr. Morse confirmed that it is not a grassy area and Ed added that this time of year they would have to be fed in such an area, since it lacks potential for grazing. Stacy read definitions of "pen" and "pasture" from UNH Extension that reinforced ideas expressed by Ed.

A vote was taken: The motion passed

In favor: Dorfer, Rawn, Hall, Wollen (Rawn was seated as voting member.) Abstained: Jeliffe, Keuffner

B. 2019-2020 AG LEASE REPORTS

Jennifer asked for confirmation that members of the committee had reviewed the Ag Lease Reports and asked if there were any questions. Chris moved that the Ag Lease Reports were reviewed and Terry seconded. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Taste of Mansfield Update - Jill Martin, UConn Extension

Tabled to February 2020 meeting.

B. March 9, 2020 Farmers Forum

Jennifer confirmed that it will take place at Buchanan Center at the library. The program was discussed and the following was decided on: Introductions, an update on Ag Committee projects (including the farm to table dinner), an update on Taste of Mansfield. A suggested keynote speaker was Bryan O'Hara, as he has a new book out. An alternate or second speaker suggested was Shuresh Gamire. Diane will explore those two possibilities and get back to Jennifer. Finally, farmers would have an opportunity to sign up as providers for the Farm to Table Dinner.

C. Marketing and Outreach

- **Farm to Table Dinner:** Diane reported that she spoke with Leslie McDonough, of Mansfield Library and that the lawn at the library could be used for this purpose, even on a Sunday. Bathrooms and kitchen area could be used. She reported that tent rental would be @\$700. (20ft x 40 ft) and would hold tables for 60 people. Sarah Cook Curtis, owner of Not Only Juice, was interested in catering. Tentative date of July 25th was proposed. It was agreed that draft budget was needed. Sub committee was chosen to meet with Sarah and Leslie. (Nancy and Diane) and will meet before Feb. Ag Comm Meeting. Jenn suggested that Taste of Mansfield could promote it.
- **Radio Appearance** Stacey reported that Ken Rawn (of local CSA) will appear on Wayne Norman show on Feb 19th to talk about the CSA concept, CSA day and local food. It was suggested a second farmer join Ken; Diane, Susan Mitchell, or Jiff Martin.
- **CSA Article in Mansfield Connections:** Stacey reported that this publication would not write such an article due to its policy of not promoting businesses.

D. Membership

Melissa Tindal and Nancy Rawn were approved as alternates, Diane Dorfer was made a full member due to resignation of Jude Lovdal. Jenn confirmed that there is one alternate seat open and that this news should be spread.

REPORTS

A. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

None

B. STAFF REPORT

Jennifer reported that the following events are happening:

- Community Dinner at the Middle school, January 29th
- A Friends and Farmers event for local CSAs at the library in coordination with morning storytelling on Feb. 22nd.
- There will be a Know Your Farmer Fair in Windham on Feb. 29th
- A member event at the Community Center about CSAs and local food presented by Jiff Martin. 4/29 from 6:30-8 pm MCC Community Room
- A member event at the Community Center by Raluca on Pollinator Plants-4/23 from 7-8:30 in the MCC Community Room

All of these events will be on the Taste of Mansfield Website.

Stacey moved to adjourn at 9:04. Chris seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy Rawn
Acting Secretary

MINUTES

Members Present:	P. Aho, B. Chandy, L. Cooley, C. Cotton, D. Plante, K. Rawn, V. Ward
Members Absent:	S. Accorsi, R. Hall
Alternates Present:	J. DeVivo, K. Fratoni
Staff Present:	L. Painter, Director of Planning and Development; J. Kaufman, Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent; J. Woodmansee, Planning Specialist; E. Galbraith, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Aho called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Members present are Aho, Chandy, Cooley, Cotton, Plante, Rawn and Ward. Alternates DeVivo and Fratoni are seated for absent members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cooley stated that she watched the video recording of the January 6, 2020 IWA meeting. Chandy MOVED, Plante seconded, to approve the January 6, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Motion PASSED unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. The Conservation Committee did not meet in January.
- B. Inland Wetlands Agent Kaufman reported that a notice of violation was issued to 753 Storrs Road for tree clearing and deck installation without a wetlands review or permit.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OLD BUSINESS

A. Application of the Mansfield Non-profit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) for a multifamily development at 113-121 S. Eagleville Road (Parcel ID 16.57.5) (IWA File W-1612)

Rawn MOVED, Ward seconded, to schedule a public hearing on March 2, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building, 4 South Eagleville Road to hear comments on the application of the Mansfield Nonprofit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) to construct a multifamily development consisting of 7 buildings, 81 parking spaces and associated site improvements on property located at 113-121 S. Eagleville Rd (Parcel ID 16.57.5) pursuant to the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations (File #W1612). Motion PASSED unanimously.

B. Application of J.E. Shepard Company and Capstone Collegiate Communities for construction of a 358-unit multifamily development at 1612 Storrs Road and Middle Turnpike (Assessor Parcel IDs 9.23.1, 9.23.7 and 9.23.8) (W1611-1)

Cooley MOVED, Plante seconded, to schedule a special meeting of the Inland Wetlands Agency and a public hearing on March 4, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building, 4 South Eagleville Road to hear comment on the revised application submitted by JE Shepard Company and Capstone Collegiate Communities (IWA File 1611-1) under the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield for construction of a 358-unit multi-family development in 10 residential buildings on property located at 1621 Storrs Road and Middle Turnpike (Assessor Parcel IDs 9.23.1, 9.23.7 and 9.23.8) as shown on a map dated 8/22/2019, revised through 12/30/2019. Motion PASSED unanimously. Kaufman explained that a special meeting has been scheduled for this public hearing, to avoid holding two potentially lengthy public hearings on the same night.

NEW BUSINESS

Wetlands Citation Ordinance

Plante MOVED, Ward seconded, to authorize the Chair to draft letter to the Town Council in support of modifying section 40-6 of the Town of Mansfield Code of Ordinances to be consistent with state statute. Motion PASSED unanimously.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

Noted.

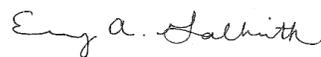
REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Aho adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Emmy A. Galbraith
Administrative Assistant

MINUTES

Members Present:	P. Aho, B. Chandy, L. Cooley, C. Cotton, D. Plante, K. Rawn, V. Ward
Members Absent:	S. Accorsi, R. Hall
Alternates Present:	J. DeVivo, K. Fratoni
Staff Present:	L. Painter, Director of Planning and Development; J. Woodmansee, Planning Specialist; E. Galbraith, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Aho called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. Members present are Aho, Chandy, Cooley, Cotton, Plante, Rawn, and Ward. Alternates DeVivo and Fratoni are seated for absent members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cooley stated that she watched the recording of the January 6, 2020 PZC meeting.

Rawn MOVED, Chandy seconded, to approve the January 6, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Motion PASSED unanimously.

ZONING AGENT REPORT

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Application of the Mansfield Nonprofit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) to amend the Zoning Map to change the zoning of property located at 113-121 South Eagleville Road (Parcel ID 16.57.5) from Rural Agriculture Residence 90 (RAR-90) to South Eagleville Road Housing Opportunity Zone (SER-HO) pursuant to Sec. 8-30g, C.G.S. (PZC File 1364-1)

Aho opened the public hearing at 6:43 p.m. Members present are Aho, Chandy, Cooley, Cotton, Plante, Rawn, and Ward. Alternates DeVivo and Fratoni are seated for absent members. Painter read aloud the legal notice advertising the public hearing, which was published in The Chronicle on 1/11/2020 and 1/16/2020.

Ward MOVED, Fratoni seconded, to adjourn the public hearing on the Zoning Map Amendment application (PZC File 1364-1) of the Mansfield Nonprofit Housing Development Corporation to change the zoning of property located at 113-121 South Eagleville Road to Monday, March 2, 2020 at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the

A.P. Beck Municipal Building. Motion PASSED unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 6:46 p.m.

B. Site plan application of the Mansfield Nonprofit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) for a 42-unit multifamily residential development at 113-121 South Eagleville Rd (Parcel ID 16.57.5) pursuant to Sec. 8-30g, C.G.S. (PZC File 1364-2)

Aho opened the public hearing at 6:46 p.m. Members present are Aho, Chandy, Cooley, Cotton, Plante, Rawn, and Ward. Alternates DeVivo and Fratoni are seated for absent members. Painter read aloud the legal notice advertising the public hearing, which was published in The Chronicle on 1/11/2020 and 1/16/2020.

Cotton MOVED, Rawn seconded, to adjourn the public hearing on the Site Plan application (PZC File 1364-2) of the Mansfield Nonprofit Housing Development Corporation for a multi-family development at 113-121 South Eagleville Road to Monday, March 2, 2020 at 6:50 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the A.P. Beck Municipal Building. Motion PASSED unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 6:50 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Modification to Special Permit: Application of Wendy and Dudley Hamlin (owner/applicant) of Holiday Hill Day Camp & Recreation Center, 41 Chaffeeville Road, Mansfield Center to convert existing vacant home on property to Airbnb lodging for wedding and party venue customers. (PZC File 0056)

Painter presented an overview of the requested modification.

Ward MOVED, Plante seconded, to authorize the Zoning Agent and PZC Chair to approve the application of Wendy and Dudley Hamlin to modify the Special Permit for the Holiday Hill Day Camp and Recreation Center at 41 Chaffeeville Road for use of a house on the property as a short term rental as specified in application materials. This approval is granted subject to the condition that the owners obtain and maintain a rental certificate pursuant to Chapter 130 of the Mansfield Code of Ordinances. Motion PASSED unanimously.

B. Interpretation of Zoning Regulations: Articles 10, Section T, Agricultural Uses

Painter updated the Commission on the Agriculture Committee's review of the question as to what constitutes a "pen" as opposed to a "pasture" and read excerpts from the Agriculture Committee minutes as well as a UNH Extension document referenced by the Agriculture Committee.

Cooley MOVED, Fratoni seconded, to direct Zoning Agents to use the following characteristics of an animal pen in determining whether a fenced enclosure is a pen or a pasture pursuant to Article 10, Section T.3.5.a:

- Characteristics of an animal pen: an enclosure where animals are housed permanently, fed, watered and in which the fencing is not moved in a regular manner.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

C. PZC-Initiated Amendments to Articles 7, 8 and 10 of the Mansfield Zoning Regulations related to owner-occupancy requirements for two-family and efficiency dwelling units and setback requirements for parking associated with parks, preserves and playgrounds. (P907-47)

Chandy MOVED, Plante seconded, to change the effective date from January 15, 2020 to February 1, 2020 for the amendments to Articles 7, 8 and 10 of the Mansfield Zoning Regulations related to owner-occupancy requirements for two-family and efficiency dwelling units and setback requirements for parking associated with parks, preserves and playgrounds that were adopted on January 6, 2020. Motion PASSED unanimously.

D. Application of the Mansfield Non-Profit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) to amend the Zoning Map to change the zoning of property located at 113-121 South Eagleville Road (Parcel ID 16.57.5) from Rural Agriculture Residence 90 (RAR-90) to South Eagleville Road Housing Opportunity Zone (SER-HO) pursuant to Sec. 8-30g, C.G.S. (PZC File 1364-1)

Tabled to March 2, 2020 Public Hearing.

E. Site plan application of the Mansfield Nonprofit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) for a 42 unit multi-family residential development at 113-121 So. Eagleville Road (Parcel ID 16.57.5) pursuant to Sec. 8-30g, C.G.S. (PZC File 1364-2)

Tabled to March 2, 2020 Public Hearing.

F. Application for Site and Building Modifications to the Spring Hill Inn on property located at 957 Storrs Road (Parcel ID 23.59.12), Lee Lambert, owner/applicant.

Tabled at the request of the applicant.

G. Application of the Taylor Family Trust (owner/applicant) to amend the Zoning Map to change the zoning of a portion of property located on the north side of Storrs Road, between 9 Timber Drive and 1768 Storrs Road (Parcel ID 2.5.22) from Rural Agriculture Residence 90 (R-90) and Professional Office 1 (PO-1) to Planned Business 3 (PB-3). (PZC File 1365)

Tabled to February 18, 2020 Public Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Chairman's Report

None.

Regional Planning Commission

None.

Regulatory Review Committee

Aho noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 7, 2020.

Planning and Development Director's Report

Painter noted that the terms of current Design Review Panel members have expired; however, by Town regulation, they continue to serve until they are reappointed or replaced. By consensus, the Commission requested that staff ask current members if they are interested in continuing to serve on the committee. If any members are not interested in continuing, staff will conduct outreach to find a replacement based on the member's field of expertise.

Other Committees

None.

COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Aho adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Emmy A. Galbraith
Administrative Assistant

MINUTES (Draft)

Members Present:	P. Aho, B. Chandy, L. Cooley, C. Cotton, D. Plante, K. Rawn, V. Ward
Members Absent:	S. Accorsi, R. Hall
Alternates Present:	J. DeVivo, K. Fratoni
Staff Present:	J. Kaufman, Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent; E. Galbraith, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Aho called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present are Aho, Chandy, Cooley, Cotton, Plante, Rawn, and Ward. Alternates DeVivo and Fratoni are seated for absent members.

Kaufman presented members with an Agenda Item to add under New Business.

Ward MOVED, Cooley seconded, to add the Application of the Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department to construct a 50 by 100-foot parking lot at Simpson-Wood Preserve, Rte. 89, Assessor's Parcel ID 19.70.12-1 under New Business. Motion PASSED unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ward MOVED, Chandy seconded, to approve the January 21, 2020 meeting Minutes as presented. Motion PASSED unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Application of the Mansfield Non-Profit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) for a multifamily development at 113-121 S. Eagleville Rd (Parcel ID 16.57.5) (IWA File W-1612)

Tabled to March 2, 2020 Public Hearing.

B. W1611-1- Application of J.E. Shepard Company and Capstone Collegiate Communities-Construction of a 358-unit multi-family Development-1621 Storrs Road and Middle Turnpike (Assessor Parcel IDs 9.23.1, 9.23.7 and 9.23.8)

Tabled to March 4, 2020 Public Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Application of Hull Forest Products for a Jurisdictional Ruling to Conduct a Timber Harvest at 971 and 979 Warrenville Rd and

Adjacent Vacant Parcel to the North-Assessor Parcel IDs 6.51.3, 6.52.5, and 6.51.4 (File # J-16)

Chandy MOVED, Plante seconded, to approve a finding that the proposed timber harvest (IWA File #J-16) on three parcels located at 971 and 979 Warrenville Rd and a vacant adjacent parcel (Assessor Parcel IDs 6.51.3, 6.52.5, and 6.51.4) owned by Bryan and Catherine Salai and Arthur and Jana McCann as shown on a map 1/20/2020 and as described in the associated attachments is permitted as of right pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations. Motion PASSED unanimously.

B. Application of J. Randazzo for a Jurisdictional Ruling to Conduct a Timber Harvest on a Vacant Parcel located on the North Side of Pleasant Valley Road-Assessor Parcel ID 36.88.90 (File # J-17)

Rawm MOVED, Ward seconded to approve a finding that the proposed timber harvest (IWA File #J-17) located on the north side of Pleasant Valley Road (Assessor's Parcel ID 36.88.90) on land owned by Robert Cardinal, as shown on a map dated 1/28/2020 and as described in the associated attachments is permitted as of right pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.

C. Application of J. Randazzo for a Jurisdictional Ruling to Conduct a Timber Harvest at 209 Mansfield City Road-Assessor's Parcel ID 32.88.1 (File # J-18)

Chandy MOVED, Plante seconded, to approve a finding that the proposed timber harvest (IWA File #J-18) located at 209 Mansfield City Road (Assessor's Parcel ID 32.88.1) on land owned by WJ Stearns and Sons, Inc., as shown on a map dated 1/28/2020 and as described in the associated attachments is permitted as of right pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations. Motion PASSED unanimously.

D. Application of J. Randazzo for a Jurisdictional Ruling to Conduct a Timber Harvest a 488-500 Mansfield Avenue-Assessor's Parcel ID 37.93.4 (File# J-19)

Chandy MOVED, Fratoni seconded, to approve a finding that the proposed timber harvest (IWA File #J-19) located at 488-500 Pleasant Valley Road (Assessor's Parcel ID 37.93.4) on land owned by Bruce Hussey, as shown on a map dated 1/28/2020 and as described in the associated attachments is permitted as of right pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations. Motion PASSED unanimously.

E. Application of the Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department to construct a 50 by 100-foot parking lot at Simpson-Wood Preserve, Rte. 89 Assessor's Parcel ID Assessor's Parcel ID 19.70.12-1)

Chandy MOVED, Ward seconded, to authorize Mansfield's Inland Wetlands Agent to issue a wetlands license for construction of a 50 by 100 foot parking lot at Simpson-

Wood Preserve Rte. 89 (Assessor's Parcel ID 19.70.12-1) under section 12.0 of Mansfield's Inland Wetlands Regulations. Motion PASSED unanimously.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

Noted.

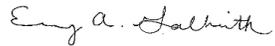
REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Emmy A. Galbraith
Administrative Assistant

MINUTES (NOT YET APPROVED)

Members Present:	P. Aho, B. Chandy, L. Cooley, C. Cotton, D. Plante, K. Rawn, V. Ward
Members Absent:	S. Accorsi, R. Hall
Alternates Present:	J. DeVivo, K. Fratoni
Staff Present:	J. Kaufman, Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent; J. Woodmansee, Planning Specialist; E. Galbraith, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Aho called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. Members present are Aho, Chandy, Cooley, Cotton, Plante, Rawn and Ward. Alternates DeVivo and Fratoni are seated for absent members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ward noted two corrections to the January 21, 2020 meeting Minutes. The first correction is to include the dates that legal notices for the public hearings were published in *The Chronicle*. And the second correction is to adjust the verb tense within the public hearing portion for consistency.

Fratoni MOVED, Cooley seconded, to approve the January 21, 2020 meeting Minutes with the proposed changes. Motion PASSED unanimously.

ZONING AGENT REPORT

Noted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Application of the Taylor Family Trust (owner/applicant) to amend the Zoning Map to change the zoning of a portion of property located on the north side of Storrs Road, between 9 Timber Drive and 1768 Storrs Road (Parcel ID 2.5.22) from Rural Agriculture Residence 90 (R-90) and Professional Office 1 (PO-1) to Planned Business 3 (PB-3). (PZC File 1365)

Tabled to February 18, 2020 Public Hearing.

B. Application of the Mansfield Non-Profit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) to amend the Zoning Map to change the zoning of property located at 113-121 South Eagleville Road (Parcel ID 16.57.5) from Rural Agriculture Residence 90 (RAR-90) to South Eagleville Road Housing Opportunity Zone (SER-HO) pursuant to Sec. 8-30g, C.G.S. (PZC File 1364-1)

Tabled to March 2, 2020 Public Hearing.

C. Site plan application of the Mansfield Nonprofit Housing Development Corporation (owner/applicant) for a 42 unit multifamily residential development at 113-121 So. Eagleville Road (Parcel ID 16.57.5) pursuant to Sec. 8-30g, C.G.S. (PZC File 1364-2)

Tabled to March 2, 2020 Public Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Historic Village Review: Proposed Drainage Improvements at the Mansfield Historical Society building, 954 Storrs Road (Spring Hill Historic Village)

Chandy MOVED, Plante seconded, to authorize drainage improvements to the Mansfield Historical Society building as described in the materials provided to the Commission at the February 3, 2020 meeting based on a finding that the improvements meet the Historic Village review criteria established in Article 10, Section J. Motion PASSED unanimously.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Regulatory Review Committee

Staff confirmed the Regulatory Review Committee will meet Friday, February 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Mansfield Town Hall.

Other Committees

Ward asked about the status of the Design Review Panel members continuing their current terms. Galbraith confirmed that all current members have requested to continue serving on the Design Review Panel, with the exception of one member yet to reply.

COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

Noted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Emmy A. Galbraith
Administrative Assistant