

## **Request for Approval of Land Use Plan Amendment**

### **Portions of GU 15 and GU 18 Between Goat Lot Rd., Rockland Rd., and Bangs Rd., Guilford**

#### **Application to the Representative Policy Board (RPB) From the Regional Water Authority**

**April 2023**

---

#### **Application for an Amendment to Land Use Plan**

The Regional Water Authority (Authority) requests that the Representative Policy Board approve the Land Use Plan amendment described in this application, in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut State Act No. 77-98, as amended. This application and its annexed materials meet the requirements set forth in Connecticut State Act No. 77-98, as amended, and the Rules of Practice of the RPB.

##### **I. Proposed Amendment**

###### **A. Type of Amendment**

Relocation of the New England Trail, a walking/hiking trail for passive recreational use, from its current route over Authority's existing woods roads in Guilford to a separate footpath through the forest. The old route is over woods roads that are overgrown and wet at some points. The new route is under the canopy of the forest which means that overgrowth will be less of a problem. Additionally, the new route offers more interesting views than the current route. The total length of the relocated trail is 1.01 miles. The 0.92 miles of trail that exists between Goat Lot Rd. and Bangs Rd. will be kept as part of the Genesee trails system. Because there will be no impact to the public water supply, this is amendment is being submitted as a non-substantial amendment.

###### **B. Location**

Town in which property is located: Guilford  
Land Unit Number: GU 15 and GU 18  
Land Use Plan System: North Branford System  
(See Attachment A)

###### **C. Objectives of Amendment**

- 1) Relocation of the New England Trail from woods roads to a footpath that crosses Land Units GU 15 and GU 18.
- 2) Relocation of the trail will reduce maintenance from overgrowth.
- 3) Relocation of the trail will keep hikers on dry, high ground.
- 4) Relocation of the trail will provide a better aesthetic experience with more interesting views.

###### **D. Watershed Classification of Affected Areas**

Class I (acres): 0.00 acres  
Class II (acres): 0.13 acres  
Class III (acres): 0.48 acres

###### **E. Land Use Plan Classification**

Land within the affected area falls under the Natural Resource and Conservation Use - Forest designation and Non Water System Land designation.

## F. Description of Proposed Amendment

To relocate a trail across the Authority's properties as noted above. The Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) made a request to move a section of the New England Trail. The Authority always entertains proposals from requesting organizations, but only proceeds if the requestor agrees to cover the costs of creating and maintaining the trail. The relocation will avoid using a woods road that has overgrown brush and some wet spots. The relocation will enhance the experience of hikers along the trail. The CFPA and the Authority investigated alternate routes and the proposed route was found to be the best alternative. There are over 70 miles of trails already on Authority property. See Attachment A for a map that shows the relocated trail and the Authority's properties that will contain it.

## II. Existing Environment

### A. Watershed function

The trail route contains both Class II and III land. The existing trail is at the edge of the Little Meadow watershed. Only about 20% of the trail is on this watershed. The majority of the trail is on Class III land. Little Meadow is a diversion that diverts water to Lake Gaillard in the North Branford system.

### B. Physical/Biological

The subject area is covered by a forest of mixed hardwoods in upland environments. The area's physical and biological resources are further explored in the Preliminary Assessment prepared by Evans Associates Environmental Consulting, Inc. See Attachment B - "Preliminary Assessment - Guilford – Relocated New England Trail, Menunkatuck Section".

### C. Present land use

The Land Use Plan designates the subject area as Natural Resource and Conservation Use - Forest designation and Non Water System Land designation. All of the Authority's properties in this vicinity are forested.

### D. Social/Political environment (including surrounding land use)

The land uses surrounding the Authority's affected parcels are primarily residential. There is one commercial nursery and one sportsmen's club. The town boundary between Guilford and Madison is between 1,000 and 3,000 feet from the proposed trail depending on where you measure.

### E. Cost of maintaining the land in its present use

The land units in question have total annual costs to the RWA of approximately \$54,660. Security and maintenance of the property accounts for approximately \$38,700 of the annual costs and, and PILOT accounts for \$15,960.

## III. Environmental Impact Statement

### A. Summary of potential impact

As noted in the Preliminary Assessment (Attachment B), the potential impact to the environment is expected to be negligible and therefore this amendment is being submitted as a non-substantial amendment. The site contains a forest that will not be affected by the trail relocation. Proper placement and construction of the trail will avoid any negative impact to the public water supply. Most of the trail is on Class III land.

### B. Impact on public water supply

The addition of the trail will not affect the public water supply. Several Blue-blazed trails (long trails across the state coordinated by the CFPA) cross the Authority's property at other locations. There has not been any impact to the public water supply due to their existence.

### C. Financial impact on the RWA

There will be no financial impact to the Authority due to the proposed amendment. The security, maintenance, and PILOT costs will remain the same as before the trail relocation. The CFPA has signed an agreement to cover the costs of

our applications (LUP Amendment and DPH permit) and agreed to maintain the trail. There will be no impact on the Authority's forestry program. There is no impact to the Authority's liability since landowners are protected by state statute for allowing recreation on their property for no fee. Therefore, the entire financial burden of the trail is borne by the CFPA.

#### IV. Land Use Controls

##### A. Conformity with Authority land use policies

The Land Use Plan states that the subject area is to be used as a forest and non water system land. They are designated as Natural Resource and Conservation Use - Forest designation and Non Water System Land designation. There is no conflict in having a trail traverse these areas.

##### B. Conformity with other applicable plans

As noted in the Preliminary Assessment - Section H, the proposed trail conforms to the Conservation & Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut 2018-2023, South Central Region: Plan of Conservation and Development, 2018-2028, produced by the South Central Regional Council of Governments, and Guilford Plan of Conservation and Development Update, adopted in 2015.

We have received a Recreation Activity Permit from the Department of Public Health for the proposed trail relocation (Attachment C).

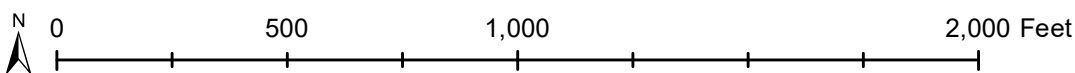
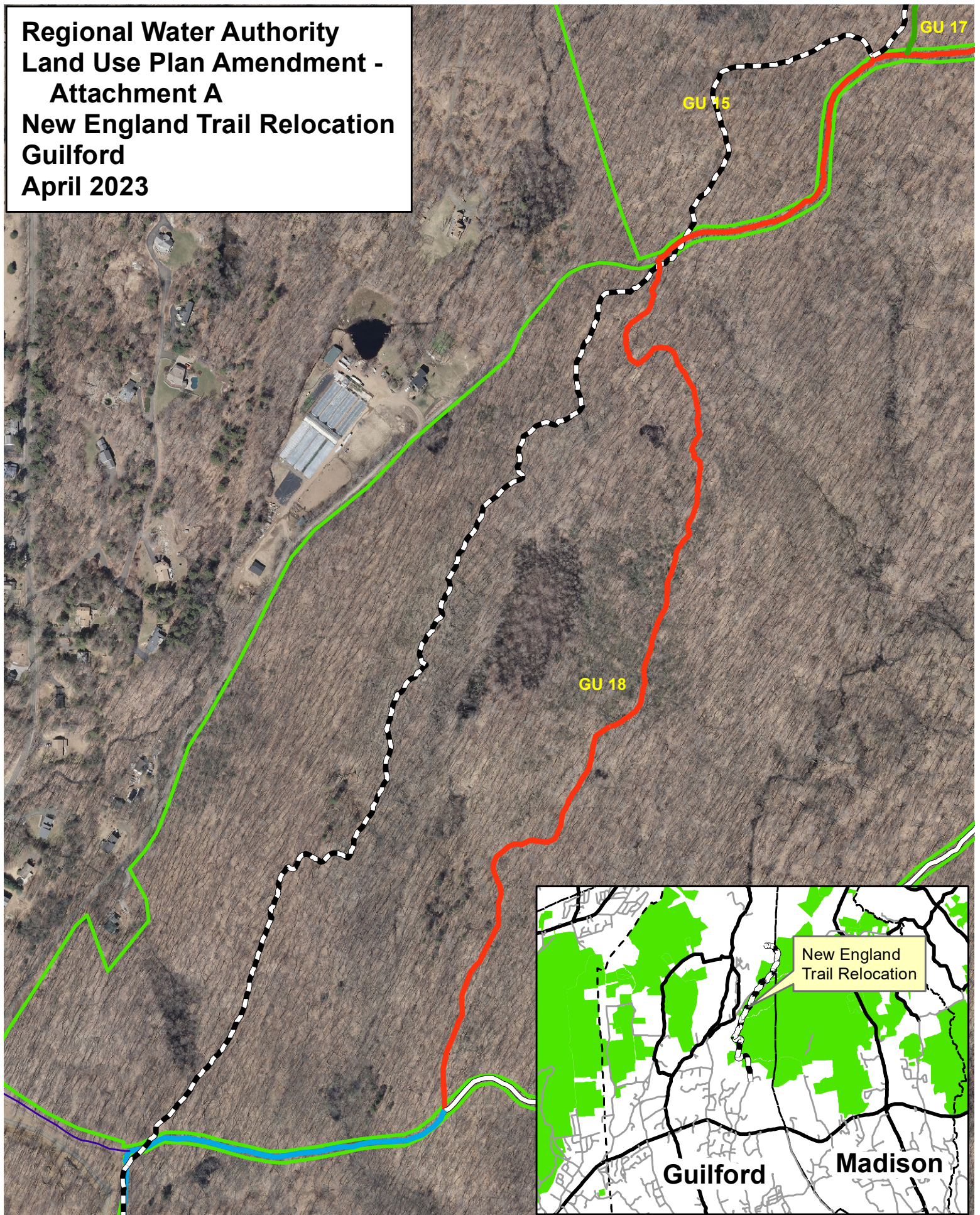
#### V. Authority's Final Evaluation and Recommendation

The Authority requests that this application, to relocate the New England Trail on Authority property, be accepted by the Representative Policy Board. The Authority recommends that the RPB approve this amendment for the following reasons:

The relocation of the trail on Authority property will not have an adverse impact on the water supply. The subject area is on Class II and III land. It is very distant from the any streams, diversions, or reservoirs. It will allow hikers to not traverse through brushy or wet areas. Best management practices will be employed to further prevent any potential impact during the trail's construction. Additionally, CFPA will cover all of the Authority's costs and be responsible for the trail's construction



**Regional Water Authority  
Land Use Plan Amendment -  
Attachment A  
New England Trail Relocation  
Guilford  
April 2023**





## Attachment B

### PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

#### Guilford – Relocated New England Trail, Menunkatuck Section

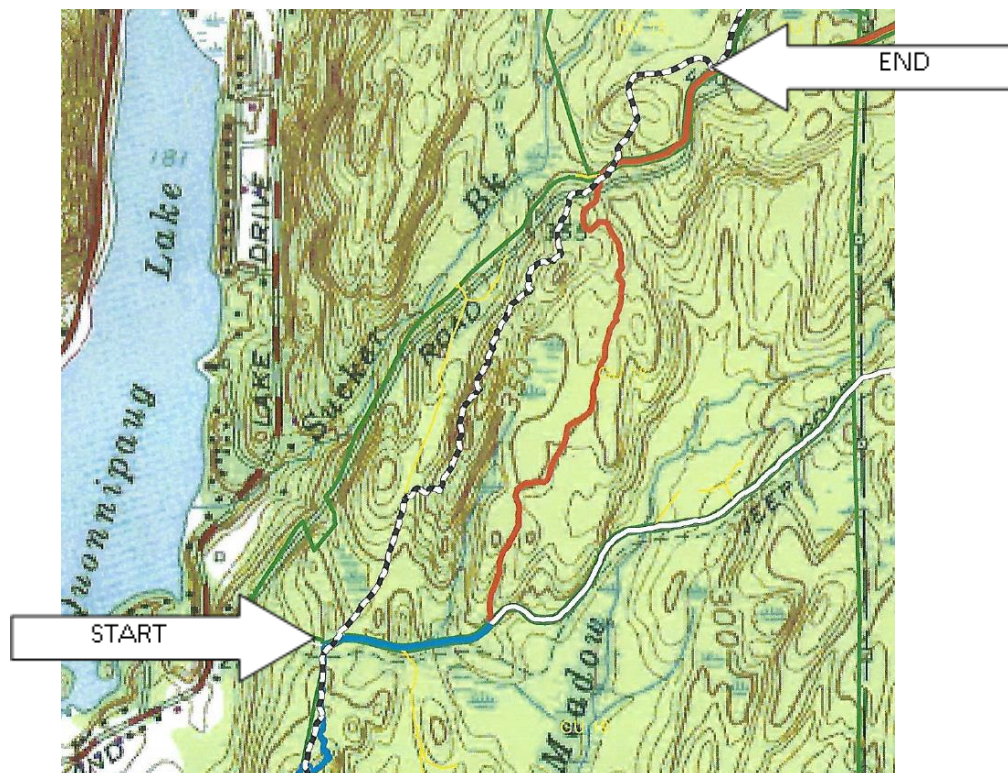
**Location:** Regional Water Authority (RWA) property located in Guilford. Portion of trail that was relocated between Goat Lot Road and Rockland Road.

**Existing Conditions:** The Menunkatuck Section of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) New England Trail (Part of the Blue Blazed Trail System) was relocated within the area between Goat Lot Road and Rockland Road in Guilford. This amended trail location, which is located on RWA property, was not approved by the required authorities: the Representative Policy Board (RPB) and the Department of Public Health (DPH). This Preliminary Assessment has been prepared as part of the application for approval.

The original trail section is still present and is located mainly to the east of the relocated portion of trail. The original section briefly follows Goat Lot Road (an unpaved ‘jeep trail’), passes through a wood lot, then continues through a low-lying area to the east of a ridge/bedrock outcrop. This trail is mainly forested, including some understory areas densely populated with mountain laurel shrubs. The relocated trail section mainly follows the ridge/bedrock outcrop to the west of the original path. This area comprises oak/hickory dominated woods, along with abundant rock outcrops and areas of low and herbaceous groundcover.

**Study Prepared By:** Evans Associates Environmental Consulting, Inc.

**Date:** November 7, 2022 (report); on-site review conducted September 22, 2022.



**Original (blue to red) and amended (white/black) trail locations, between arrows.**





**Typical habitats of original trail (above) and relocated trail (below). 09/22/2022.**





## **Introduction**

This Preliminary Assessment form provides for consideration of potential impacts on specific aspects of the environment, subdivided into eight general areas:

- A. Geology, Topography, Soils
- B. Hydrology and Water Quality
- C. Air Quality, Climate, Noise
- D. Biotic Communities
- E. Land Use
- F. Natural Resources and Other Economic Considerations
- G. Public Safety and Health
- H. Community Factors

Generally, all phases of a proposed action are considered during the Preliminary Assessment - planning, construction, and operation - as well as possible secondary or indirect effects. However, the proposed action (relocation/addition of a portion of trail) has already occurred. Therefore, potential impacts from the creation of the trail, along with the effects of its continued use will be considered. The impacts from this project, although occurring over approximately one mile, are linear, and therefore minimal.

For each “yes” response, the indicated specific information is provided in the space for notes. Elaborations of negative responses may also be provided if appropriate (e.g., to indicate positive impacts on a given environmental factor); “no” answers for which explanatory notes are provided are indicated by an asterisk. Sources of information, including individuals consulted, if applicable, are also listed in each section.

<b>A. Geology, Topography, Soils</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<p>1. Is the site subject to geologic hazards (e.g., seismic, landslide)? If yes, specify type of hazard, extent, relative level of risk, whether or not the proposed action is vulnerable to damage from such hazard, and any measures included in the proposed action to avoid or minimize the risk of damage.</p>		X
<p>2. Will the proposed action create a geologic hazard or increase the intensity of such a hazard? If yes, specify the type of hazard, the extent to which it will be increased by the proposed action, and whether or not the proposed action can be modified to reduce the hazard.</p>		X
<p>3. Does the site include any geological features of outstanding scientific or scenic interest? If yes, describe the features and their relative importance, the extent to which they will be impacted by the proposed action, and any measures included in the proposed action to avoid or minimize damage to important geologic features.</p>		X*
<p>4. Is the site subject to soil hazards (e.g., slump, erosion, subsidence, stream siltation)? If yes, specify hazards, their extent, the relative level of risk to the proposed action, and any measures included in the proposed action to avoid or minimize damage from soil hazards.</p>	X	
<p>5. Does the site have any topographic or soil conditions that limit the types of uses for which it is suitable (e.g., steep slopes, shallow-to-bedrock soils, poorly drained soils)? If yes, specify the conditions, the of limitations on use, the extent to which the proposed action requires the use of such areas, and any measures included in the proposed action to minimize adverse impacts of these uses.</p>	X	
<p>6. Does the site include any soil types designated as prime farmland? If yes, indicate the area of prime farmland soils and whether the proposed action requires any irreversible commitment of these soils to non-farm uses.</p>		X



## Notes (including sources of information):

### **A. Geology, Topography, Soils**

**A.3.** The altered pathway does not contain geological features of outstanding scientific or scenic interest. However, the proposed trail would pass through areas that contain scenic bedrock outcrops and other geologic features such as glacial erratic components (boulders). The use of the trail through these areas is not expected to negatively impact any of the geologic features, and would offer passive recreational access to these areas and features.

**A.4.** Erosion susceptibility is predicted in Connecticut for terrace escarpment type erosion. This prediction applies to areas of steep slopes, often alongside watercourses or drainageways, that have specific, easily-disturbed soils. There are four levels of erosion classification, from most susceptible to least, as follows: Most Susceptible, Highly Susceptible, Surficial Materials Susceptible, and Soils Susceptible. See Attachments for Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online (CTECO) map of Erosion Susceptibility.

Most of the soils on the ridge slopes that contain the relocated trail, fall within the lowest category: Soils Susceptible to Erosion. The trail is narrow and often traverses rocky areas, thereby somewhat limiting impacts that might contribute to soil erosion. However, areas with moderate to steep slopes, and/or exposed soils should be observed for signs of erosion, and repaired, as necessary. Currently, no areas on the relocated trail show evidence of excessive erosion or sedimentation.

#### **A.5. Potential impacts from trail use:**

***Steep slopes:*** In most areas, the relocated trail is mainly level to gently sloping as it follows the ridgetop. A few sections of the new trail, however, pass through steeper areas. As discussed above (Note A.4.), the steep slopes should be observed for evidence of erosion and sedimentation, and repaired, as necessary.

***Shallow-to-bedrock soils:*** Most of the soils on the trail along the ridge comprise shallow to bedrock soils and/or rock outcrops. No impact is expected to these areas from the relocated trail.

***Poorly drained soils:*** The relocated trail follows a ridge and avoids areas of poorly drained soils (wetland soils). Therefore, no impacts to wetland soils are expected from trail use. Some wetlands are located to the east of the trail, at the base of the slope. See Attachments for CTECO map of Inland Wetland Soils.

## **References:**

Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Web Soil Survey. Available online at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>, Accessed October 21, 2022.

[http://cteco.uconn.edu/advanced\\_viewer.htm](http://cteco.uconn.edu/advanced_viewer.htm) (Erosion Susceptibility, Inland Wetland Soils, and Farmland Soils maps). Accessed October 21, 2022.

<b>B. Hydrology and Water Quality</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<p>1. Is the site located on a present or projected public or private water-supply watershed or aquifer recharge area?</p> <p>If yes, specify the location, type, and volume of the water supply, the extent to which the proposed action involves construction or other use of the watershed or recharge area, and any measures included in the proposed action to minimize adverse effects on water supplies.</p>	X	
<p>2. Does the proposed action create a diversion of water from one drainage basin to another or significantly increase or decrease the flow of an existing diversion?</p> <p>If yes, specify the location, watershed area, and flow rates of the diversion, whether it involves a transfer of water between sub-regional drainage basins, the extent to which it will affect any required downstream flow releases and actual downstream flows, and the type and extent of expected impacts on the downstream corridor.</p>		X
<p>3. Does the site include any officially designated wetlands, areas of soils classified as poorly drained or somewhat poorly drained, or other known wetlands?</p> <p>If yes, specify the extent and type of wetlands on the site and indicate whether the proposed action involves any construction, filling, or other restricted use of wetlands.</p>		X
<p>4. Will the proposed action seriously interfere with the present rate of soil and subsurface percolation?</p> <p>If yes, specify the nature of the interference (compaction, paving, removal of vegetation, etc.), the extent to which the percolation rate will be hampered, and whether the project can be redesigned to minimize the interference.</p>		X
<p>5. Is the site located in a floodprone area?</p> <p>If yes, specify the frequency and severity of flooding, the area of the site subject to inundation, and the relative level of risk; indicate whether the proposed action will be subject to damage from flooding, the anticipated amount and type of damage, and any preventive measures included in the proposed action to minimize flooding damage.</p>		X
<p>6. Will the proposed action increase the effects of flooding, either on-site or downstream?</p> <p>If yes, specify the anticipated amount and location of increased flooding, the estimated damage from this increase, and any measures included in the proposed action to minimize the risk of flooding.</p>		X



7. Will the proposed action generate pollutants (pesticides, fertilizers, toxic wastes, surface water runoff, animal or human wastes, etc.)? If yes, specify the type and source of pollutant, amount of discharge by volume, and parts per million, and the relative level of risk to biotic and human communities. X\*

**Notes (including sources of information):**

**B. Hydrology and Water Quality**

**B.1.** The relocated trail follows the ridge between watershed land (Class II and Class I) to the east, and non-watershed land (Class III) to the west. Recreational activities are limited by the conditions of permits issued pursuant to the regulations of the Department of Public Health (DPH). An after-the-fact permit for the relocated trail is being sought from the DPH and the Representative Policy Board (RPB). Approvals would ensure appropriate uses to avoid impacts to the water supply.

**B.7.** Increases in stormwater runoff from the narrow trail should be minimal, and proper trail maintenance and observation is recommended (see Note A.4.). Waste/trash produced during normal trail use would ideally be minimal or non-existent and would not pose a risk to biotic or human communities.

**Reference:**

[http://cteco.uconn.edu/advanced\\_viewer.htm](http://cteco.uconn.edu/advanced_viewer.htm) (Soil Flooding Class map). Accessed October 21, 2022.

<b>C. Air Quality, Climate, Noise</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<p>1. Is the present on-site air quality below applicable local, state, or federal air quality control standards?</p> <p>If yes, specify the extent to which the air quality fails to attain such standards and the potential effects of sub-standard air quality on the proposed action.</p>		X*
<p>2. Will the proposed action generate pollutants (hydrocarbons, thermal, odor, dust, or smoke particulates, etc.) that will impair present air quality on-site or in surrounding area?</p> <p>If yes, specify the type and source of pollutants, the peak discharge in parts per million per 24-hour period, and the relative level of risk to biotic and human communities.</p>		X
<p>3. Is the site located in a high wind hazard area?</p> <p>If yes, specify the range and peak velocity and direction of high winds; identify any features of the proposed action subject to damage from high winds, the relative level of risk, and any measures included in the proposed action to minimize wind damage.</p>		X
<p>4. Will the proposed action involve extensive removal of trees or other alteration of the ecosystem that may produce local changes in air quality or climate?</p> <p>If yes, describe the nature and extent of the changes, potential adverse effects, areas likely to be affected, possible cumulative effects of removal of natural vegetation and addition of new pollutant sources, and any measures that could be included to reduce the adverse effects.</p>		X
<p>5. Is the site subject to an unusually high noise level?</p> <p>If yes, specify the sources of noise, the noise levels, and any measures included in the proposed action to minimize the effects of noise.</p>		X
<p>6. Will the proposed action generate unusually high noise levels?</p> <p>If yes, specify the source of noise, the range of noise levels, and any measures incorporated into the project to minimize generation of, or exposure to, excessive noise levels.</p>		X



**Notes (including sources of information):**

**C. Air Quality, Climate, Noise**

**C.1.** In accordance with the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) has set national Ambient Air Quality Standards for six principal pollutants, which are called "criteria" pollutants. These pollutants are: ozone (O<sub>3</sub>); particulate matter (<10 micrometers in diameter-PM<sub>10</sub> or < 2.5 micrometers in diameter-PM<sub>2.5</sub>); sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>); nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>); carbon monoxide (CO); and lead (Pb).<sup>1</sup> Locations throughout Fairfield, New Haven, and Middlesex counties of Connecticut are not in attainment with the standards set for ozone.<sup>2,3,4</sup> Therefore, the subject site, located in New Haven County, does not meet the ozone standards. However, the site does not contribute to the air pollution problem, and the relocation of the trail does not have any impact upon air quality.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&Q=321796&deepNav\\_GID=1744](https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&Q=321796&deepNav_GID=1744)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&Q=321774&deepNav\\_GID=1619](https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&Q=321774&deepNav_GID=1619)

<sup>3</sup> <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Air/Planning/Ozone/Ozone-Planning-Efforts>

<sup>4</sup> <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Air/Monitoring/Trends/Ozone-Trends>

<b>D. Biotic Communities</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1. Are there any rare or endangered plant or animal species on the site? If yes, specify the species, the degree of rarity, and the estimated population on the site; indicate the extent to which the proposed action will disturb the species and its habitat, and specify any measures included in the proposed action to minimize such disturbance.		X*
2. Are there unusual or unique biotic communities on the site? If yes, specify type of community and its relative significance; indicate the extent to which the proposed action will destroy significant biotic communities and specify any measures included in the proposed action to minimize such damage.		X*
3. Is the site used as a nesting site by migrating waterfowl, or is it critical to the movement of migratory fish or wildlife species? If yes, specify the species, the extent to which nesting or migration will be disturbed as a result of the proposed action, and any measures included in the proposed action to minimize disturbance.		X*
4. Does the proposed action significantly reduce the amount, productivity, or diversity of the biotic habitat? If yes, specify the amount and types of habitat lost, types of wildlife or plants likely to be seriously affected by the proposed action, and any measures to mitigate impacts on biotic communities.		X

**Notes (including sources of information):**

**D. Biotic Communities**

**D.1.** The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) maintains a Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB), depicted on a set of maps that indicate the presence of Endangered, Threatened, and species of Special Concern. The NDDDB map for Guilford<sup>5</sup> was reviewed, and no listed species are present within the area of the relocated trail.

**D.2.** No unusual or unique biotic communities were noted along the relocated trail, however the ridge location offers some potentially more sensitive areas. Because of the exposed bedrock and shallow-to-bedrock soils, plant communities in these areas may be more susceptible to damage from foot traffic, leading to erosion and sedimentation and/or compaction. However, the trail is narrow and therefore impacts would likely be minimal.

**D.3.** Birds and other wildlife likely use the site for nesting and/or migration. However, the use of the relocated trail for passive recreation should not negatively impact the wildlife species on site.

---

<sup>5</sup> Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – Natural Diversity Data Base: [http://cteco.uconn.edu/maps/town/nddb/nddb\\_Guilford.pdf](http://cteco.uconn.edu/maps/town/nddb/nddb_Guilford.pdf) (*Natural Diversity Data Base Areas, Guilford, CT*, map updated June 2022)



<b>E. Land Use</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<p>1. Does the site include any officially designated historic or archaeological sites, or other sites of known historic, archaeological, or cultural significance?</p> <p>If yes, specify their type and significance, the extent to which they will be disturbed by the proposed action, and any measures to reduce such disturbance.</p>		X*
<p>2. Does the site have any outstanding scenic or aesthetic characteristics, especially as viewed from public highways or recreation areas?</p> <p>If yes, specify the type and significance of scenic features, the extent to which they will be disturbed by the proposed action, and any measure to reduce the extent of such disturbance.</p>		X*
<p>3. Is the site presently used for recreation?</p> <p>If yes, indicate the type of recreation, the amount of use, and the extent to which the proposed action will interfere with present recreational uses or limit recreation options on the site.</p>	X	
<p>4. Is the site presently used for residence or business?</p> <p>If yes, specify the type of use and the extent to which the proposed action will displace present occupants, especially disadvantaged persons or businesses, and any measures included in the proposed action for relocation of such occupants.</p>		X
<p>5. Will the proposed action break up any large tracts or corridors of undeveloped land?</p> <p>If yes, specify the area of undeveloped land surrounding the site, the amount of development the proposed action will involve, and the distance to the nearest developed land.</p>		X
<p>6. Does the proposed action include features not in accord with the Authority's Land Use Plan or land disposition policies?</p> <p>If yes, specify the nature and extent of conflict.</p>	X	
<p>7. Is the proposed action part of a series of similar or related actions that might generate cumulative impacts?</p> <p>If yes, specify the type and extent of related actions, implemented or planned, and the general nature of potential cumulative impacts; indicate whether a generic or programmatic impact assessment has been or will be prepared for this series of actions.</p>		X

**Notes (including sources of information):**

**E. Land Use**

**E.1.** A review of available information indicates that there are no known historic or archaeological sites or districts, or sites of cultural significance located in the area of the relocated trail. Reviews were conducted of the following data: National Register of Historic Places,<sup>6</sup> Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Historic Property (State Register of Historic Places) Database,<sup>7</sup> the Preservation Connecticut website,<sup>8</sup> the Visit Guilford website.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the RWA's Land Use Plan<sup>10</sup> does not mention any historical sites in the vicinity of the relocated trail.

No standing structures were observed in the vicinity of the relocated trail, and the pathway of the trail is narrow. Therefore, in the unlikely event that the remains of historic structures or sites are present, the relocated trail would not negatively impact them.

**E.2.** The area is mainly forested, therefore scenic views are minimal, but may occur from the bedrock outcrop ridge during the cooler seasons (with the leaves off of the trees). No impacts would occur to these features from the relocated trail.

**E.3.** Currently, the relocated trail and the original trails are used for passive recreation.

**E.6.** Recreational uses of the RWA property already occur (see response E.3., above). However, a Land Use Plan amendment by the RWA and approval by the DPH will be necessary to bring the relocated trail into compliance with regional and state regulations.

---

<sup>6</sup> <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/>, accessed October 27, 2022

<sup>7</sup> [https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic-Preservation/03\\_Technical\\_Assistance\\_Research/Research/Historic-Property-Database](https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic-Preservation/03_Technical_Assistance_Research/Research/Historic-Property-Database), accessed October 27, 2022

<sup>8</sup> <http://lhdct.org/maps/city/Guilford>, accessed October 27, 2022

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.visitguilfordct.com/map-of-guilford-ct/mapcategory/historic-sites/>, accessed October 27, 2022

<sup>10</sup> Land Use Plan of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, Approved by the Representative Policy Board January 21, 2016



<b><u>F. Natural Resources and Other Economic Considerations</u></b>	<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>
1. Does the proposed action involve any irreversible commitment of natural resources? If yes, specify the type of resource, the importance and scarcity of the resource, the quantity that will be irreversibly committed, and any measure that could be included in the proposed action to reduce irreversible commitments of resources.		X
2. Will the proposed action significantly reduce the value and availability of timber or other existing economic resources? If yes, specify the type and extent of resources affected, the estimated revenue loss, and any measures that could be included in the proposed action to improve the efficiency of resource utilization.		X
3. Will the proposed action require expenditures greater than the projected revenues to the Authority? If yes, specify the estimated difference.		X*
4. Will the proposed action require any public expenditure (e.g., provision of municipal services) that might exceed the public revenue it is expected to produce? If yes, specify the estimated difference.		X
5. Will the proposed action cause a decrease in the value of any surrounding real estate? If yes, estimate the amount and distribution of altered real estate values.		X

**Notes (including sources of information):**

**F. Natural Resources and Other Economic Considerations**

**F.3.** The Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) has already constructed the narrow, rustic trail at their own expense. Any future expenses incurred from the use of the trail (including acquiring the necessary permits), will be covered by the CFPA. RWA will not be responsible for any monetary expenditures.

<b>G. Public Safety and Health</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
------------------------------------	------------	-----------

1. Is the site subject to unusual fire hazard (from flammable vegetation, difficulty of access, lack of water for fire fighting, or other causes)?		X
--	--	---

If yes, specify the type of hazard, the extent to which the proposed action might increase the fire hazard, the extent to which it is subject to damage from such fires, and any measures included in the proposed action to reduce the risk of fire damage.

2. Does the site include any features that present potential safety hazards under the proposed conditions of use, or will the proposed action create any hazards to public safety?	X	
--	---	--

If yes, specify the hazards, the extent to which the public, workers, or others will be exposed to the hazard, the degree of risk, and any measures that will be included in the proposed action to eliminate hazards or reduce the risk of injury.

3. Does the proposed action have the potential to create increased risks to public health?		X
--	--	---

If yes, specify the nature of the health hazards, population at risk, the degree of risk, and any measures that will be incorporated in the proposed action to avoid adverse impacts on public health.

**Notes (including sources of information):**

**G. Public Safety and Health**

**G.2.** The relocated trail passes through areas of rocky, steep, and rugged terrain. These conditions could pose a safety hazard to hikers. Presumably, however, users of the trail would be aware of the general risks of hiking.

<b>H. Community Factors</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<p>1. Does the proposed action include any features that are not in conformity with local, regional, or state plans of conservation and development?</p> <p>If yes, specify the plan(s), the nonconforming features, and the extent of the nonconformity, and any measures that could be incorporated into the proposed action to improve conformity.</p>		X*
<p>2. Does the proposed action differ from the established character of land use in the surrounding area?</p> <p>If yes, specify the nature and extent of the conflict and any actions that might be taken to resolve it.</p>		X
<p>3. Will the proposed action require any service by public facilities (streets, highways, schools, police, fire) or public utilities that are expected to exceed capacity within 5 years?</p> <p>If yes, specify the type of facility or utility, its capacity, present and projected use, the additional capacity required to implement the proposed action, any public plans to increase the capacity, and any measures that can be incorporated into the proposed action to reduce excessive demands on public facilities.</p>		X
<p>4. Will the proposed action produce any substantial increase in nonresident traffic to the area (construction or other temporary workers, permanent workers, recreational users, etc.)?</p> <p>If yes, specify the amount and type of traffic, its potential impact on the surrounding neighborhood, and any measures included in the proposed action to reduce adverse effects from increased traffic.</p>		X*
<p>5. Will the proposed action produce an increase in projected growth rates for the area?</p> <p>If yes, specify the extent to which growth will be increased, the project ability of the community to cope with higher growth rates, and any measures include in the proposed action to reduce anticipated adverse effects from increased growth.</p>		X
<p>6. Is there any indication that the proposed action can be expected to generate public opposition or conflict over environmental concerns?</p> <p>If yes, indicate the type and source of conflict, whether it is limited to immediate neighbors of the site or extends to the larger community, and any measures that have been taken or could be taken to resolve the conflict.</p>		X

## Notes (including sources of information):

### **H. Community Factors**

**H.1.** State, regional, and local conservation and development plans have similar goals with regard to open space: providing residential access and encouraging passive recreational activities. The establishment of an additional trail along the ridge in this area supports these goals.

The relative principle, strategy, or action supporting passive recreation (including trail creation) is listed in the table below for the state, regional, and local plans. These plans are:

- Conservation & Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut 2018-2023, adopted on May 4, 2022 (CT C&D Plan)<sup>11</sup>
- South Central Region: Plan of Conservation and Development, 2018-2028, produced by the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG)<sup>12</sup>
- Guilford Plan of Conservation and Development Update, adopted July 15, 2015 (Guilford POCD)<sup>13</sup>

<b>Plan</b>	<b>Principle, Strategy, or Action</b>
CT C&D Plan	“Encourage collaborative ventures with municipalities, private non-profit land conservation organizations and other entities to provide a system of appropriately preserved and managed natural areas and resources that allow for a diversity of well-functioning habitats and the sustainable use of resources...”
Regional Plan: SCRCOG	“Encourage resident access to open spaces and recreational assets within the region through the expansion of existing bike/pedestrian network connecting open spaces and other existing/proposed regional trail connections.”
Guilford POCD	“Continue to support development and maintenance of interconnecting hiking trail systems and bikeways such as the National Park Service, the CT Forest and Park Association, Shoreline Greenway Trail.”

**H.4.** Because the relocated portion of trail begins and ends within the limits of other trails, an increase in traffic would not be expected. However, parking for recreational use of the trail may occur by the gate on Rockland Road.

---

<sup>11</sup><https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/IGPP/ORG/cdplan/20190214--Formatted-Document--20182023-Revised-State-CD-Plan.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://scrcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2018-07-SCRCOG-POCD-report-online.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> [https://cms5.revize.com/revize/guilfordct/Document\\_Center/Department/Planning%20&%20Zoning/FINAL-Guilford-PoCD-2015.pdf](https://cms5.revize.com/revize/guilfordct/Document_Center/Department/Planning%20&%20Zoning/FINAL-Guilford-PoCD-2015.pdf)



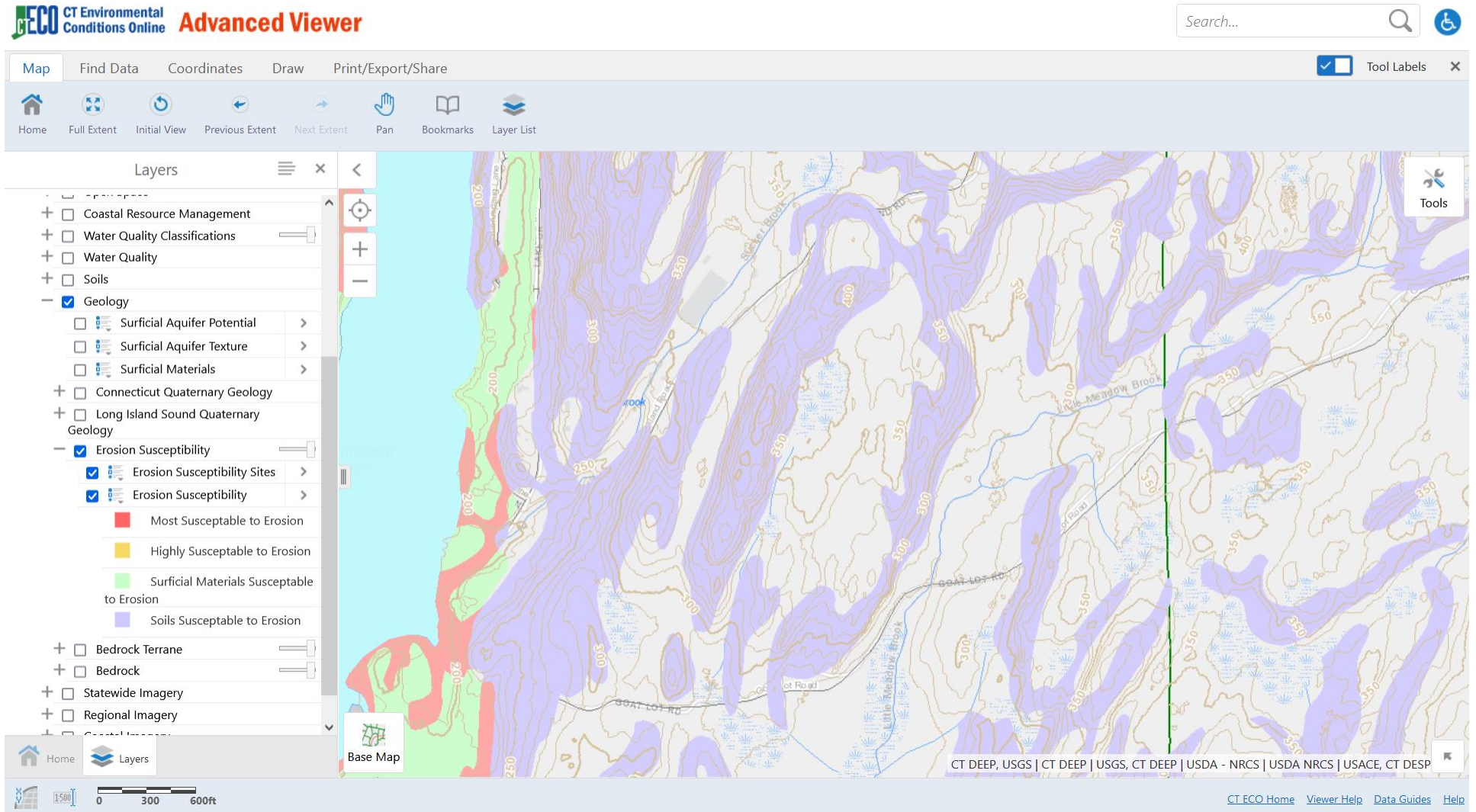
# **ATTACHMENTS**

**CTECO Maps:** *Erosion Susceptibility*  
*Inland Wetland Soils*

**Web Soil Survey Map**

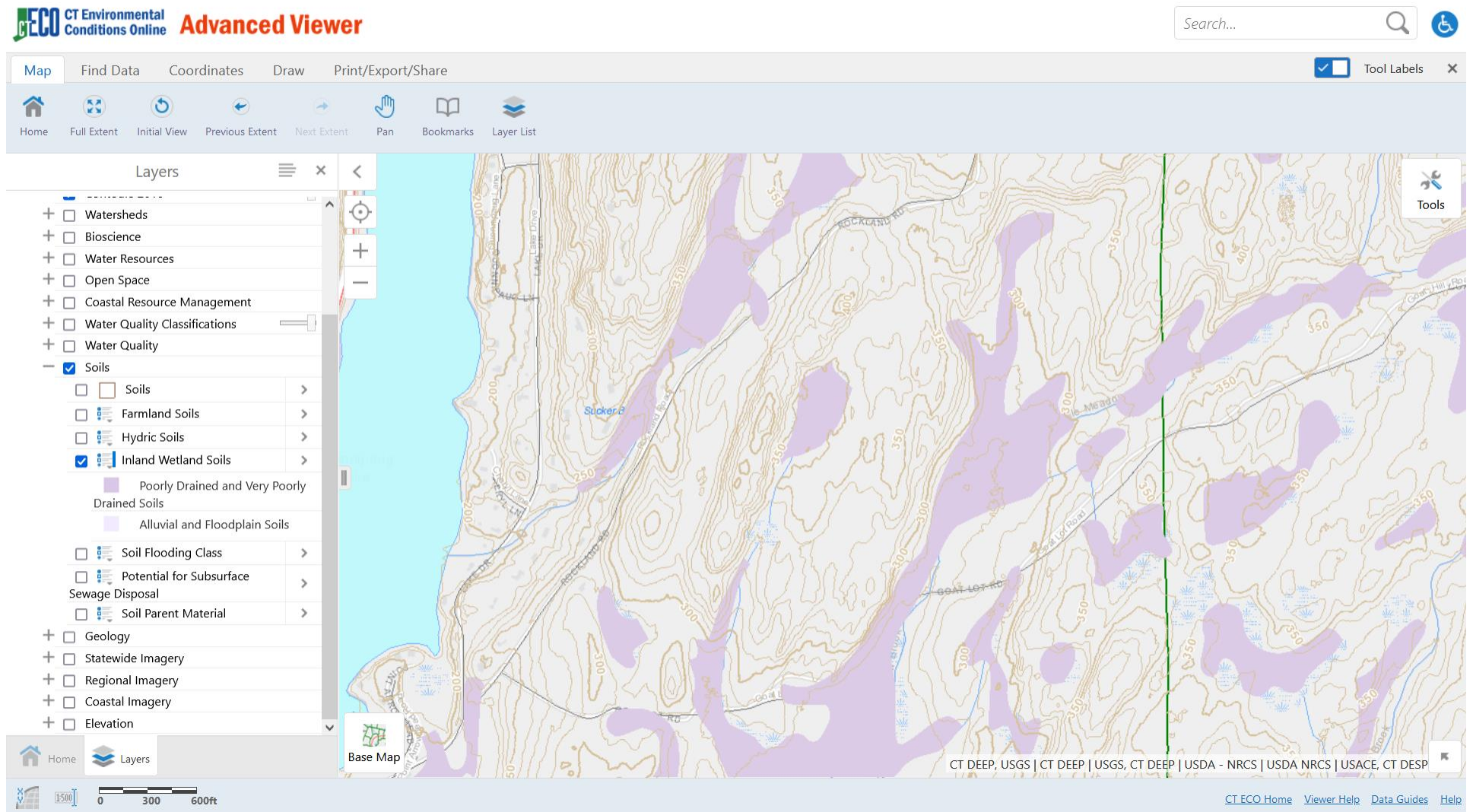
# Erosion Susceptibility

## Soils Susceptible to Erosion (Purple Shading)

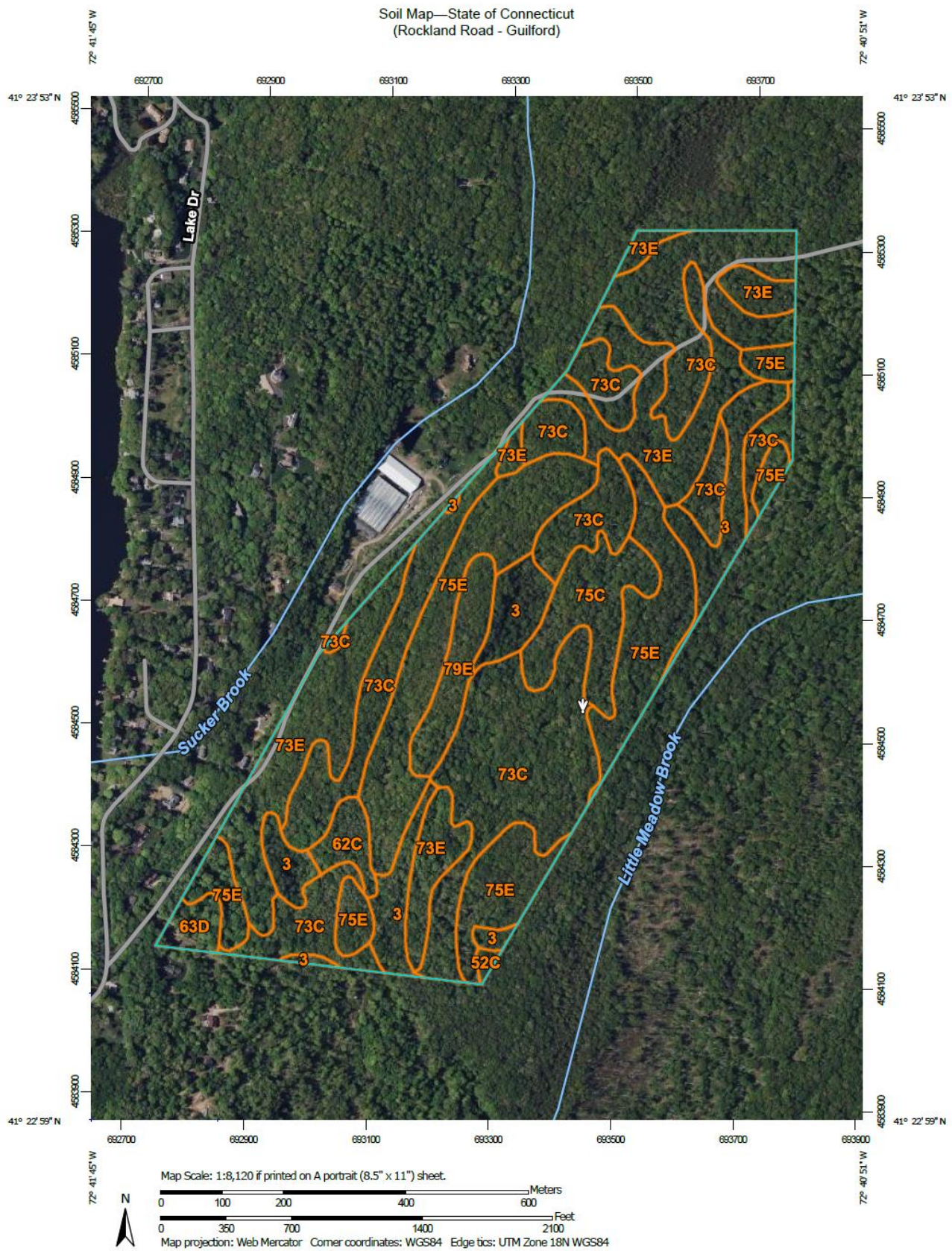


# Inland Wetland Soils

## Poorly Drained and Very Poorly Drained Soils (Purple Shading)







**Natural Resources  
Conservation Service**


Web Soil Survey  
National Cooperative Soil Survey

10/20/2022  
Page 1 of 3




## MAP LEGEND


### Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

### Soils

 Soil Map Unit Polygons

 Soil Map Unit Lines

 Soil Map Unit Points

### Special Point Features



Blowout



Borrow Pit



Clay Spot



Closed Depression



Gravel Pit



Gravelly Spot



Landfill



Lava Flow



Marsh or swamp



Mine or Quarry



Miscellaneous Water



Perennial Water



Rock Outcrop



Saline Spot



Sandy Spot



Severely Eroded Spot



Sinkhole



Slide or Slip



Sodic Spot



Spoil Area



Stony Spot



Very Stony Spot



Wet Spot



Other



Special Line Features

### Water Features



Streams and Canals

### Transportation



Rails



Interstate Highways



US Routes



Major Roads



Local Roads

### Background



Aerial Photography

## MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:12,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey URL:

Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: State of Connecticut

Survey Area Data: Version 22, Sep 12, 2022

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Data not available.

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.



Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey  
National Cooperative Soil Survey

10/20/2022  
Page 2 of 3

## Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
3	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, 0 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony	14.1	9.5%
52C	Sutton fine sandy loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	0.3	0.2%
62C	Canton and Charlton fine sandy loams, 3 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	2.2	1.5%
63D	Cheshire fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	1.8	1.2%
73C	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	56.0	37.7%
73E	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes, very rocky	28.3	19.1%
75C	Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	7.5	5.1%
75E	Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes	33.5	22.5%
79E	Rock outcrop-Holyoke complex, 3 to 45 percent slopes	4.8	3.2%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>148.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Attachment C

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Manisha Juthani, MD  
Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### Drinking Water Section

### RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY PERMIT

DWS Project: 2022-0183  
Permit No.: REC2022-03

In accordance with the application received on December 15, 2022, and the provisions of Section 25-43c of the Connecticut General Statutes, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) (PWSID# CT0930011) is authorized to extend a recreational hiking trail approximately 1 mile within South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's Little Meadow Diversion in the Town of Guilford, as identified in the maps included in the application dated December 5, 2022. This permit is issued subject to the following conditions:

1. The RWA is responsible to protect the drinking water sources and land in order to maintain the purity and adequacy of the public drinking water system.
2. The RWA shall terminate the permitted activities immediately in the interest of public health, if there is evidence of any adverse impact to the purity or adequacy of the public water supply.
3. In carrying out best management practices with available technology, the RWA shall minimally include the items in attached Schedule I in order to protect the present and future purity and adequacy of drinking water sources within the RWA's Little Meadow Diversion.
4. This permit expires on March 6, 2024.

In evaluating this application, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has relied upon the information provided by the RWA. However, if such information subsequently proves to be incomplete, inaccurate, false and/or deceptive, this permit may be modified, suspended or revoked. This permit may also be suspended or revoked if it is found that any condition has been violated or if such action is necessary to maintain the purity or adequacy of the water supply.

3/9/2023

Date

*Lori J. Mathieu*

Lori J. Mathieu  
Public Health Branch Chief  
Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

### SCHEDULE I RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY PERMIT



Phone: (860) 509-7333 • Fax: (860) 509-7359  
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1  
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308, MS DWS 12  
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

*Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer*



Trail Use (hiking, jogging, nature study, photography, cross- country skiing, snowshoeing) shall be allowed by the RWA's permit. All persons receiving a RWA permit for trail use shall agree to abide by the following rules:

1. The following are strictly prohibited:

- Swimming or wading in the reservoirs or tributaries
- Littering
- Smoking
- Alcoholic beverages
- Activities of any type on the ice of any frozen reservoir or tributary
- Discharge of firearms or dangerous weapons, hunting and trapping unless specifically permitted
- Motors (motor bikes, snowmobiles, motorized vehicles of any type)
- Fires
- Camping
- Removal of trees, shrubs, flowers, or other vegetation
- Vendors (except for authorized special events)
- Pets, unless controlled and restrained on a leash and specifically permitted
- Disposal or discharge of wastes or other substances into any reservoir or tributary
- Boating, unless specifically permitted
- Horses
- Bicycling, unless specifically permitted

2. All body wastes must be disposed of in sanitary facilities or off the watershed.
3. All pet wastes must be disposed of in a sanitary manner.
4. Recreators shall obey all signs, orders and directions of staff and security.
5. Violation of any of the rules may result in losing the privilege of using the water company land.
6. All items brought onto the property by visitors must be brought off the property or properly disposed of in available trash receptacles.
7. The RWA shall actively manage their sensitive areas especially steep slopes and wetland areas. If adverse impacts are identified, appropriate controls will be implemented as well as closing those identified areas to prevent disturbance of vegetation and accelerated erosion.
8. If basic trail maintenance and trail repair including minor trail relocation, is in an environmentally sensitive area, the repair or maintenance shall be consistent with best management practices such that repair or relocation results in increased buffers, soil erosion and vegetation control measures are maintained, and movement of activities is further away from the reservoir or watercourse. Additional trails or major relocation changes require a permit revision through the submittal of a new application.
9. Boundary limits of water company owned land along the trails shall be posted both ways on the trail at ends and/or access points so people know when they are entering/exiting water company lands.



10. Trails shall be adequately patrolled by staff with increased monitoring if there is evidence of dumping, discharge of wastes, vandalism, soil or vegetation erosion or other abuses.
11. Trail use shall be allowed on existing designated hiking trails. Trail use includes the activities of hiking, jogging, nature study, photography, and cross-country skiing.
12. The RWA shall provide an annual report for this activity to the department by February 15 each year, covering the preceding calendar year, with the following information: usage levels and number of permits issued; visitor conduct problems including vandalism, trash and litter control problems, waste disposal problems, trespassing, and other rule violations; erosion problems; and impacts on natural vegetation. An evaluation of the program shall be included along with recommendations for improvements and solutions to identified problems.