

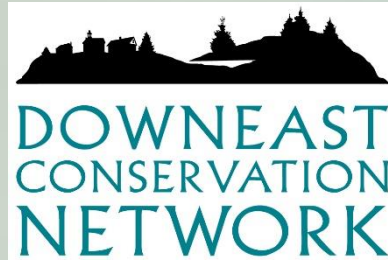
How Regional Planning Agencies Can Work with RCPs for Mutual Benefit

**RCP Network Gathering, UMass
November 15, 2018**

**Bill Labich, Dwayne Shaw, Anne Krieg,
Stefanie Covino, Margot Burns, Sam Gold**

Workshop Agenda

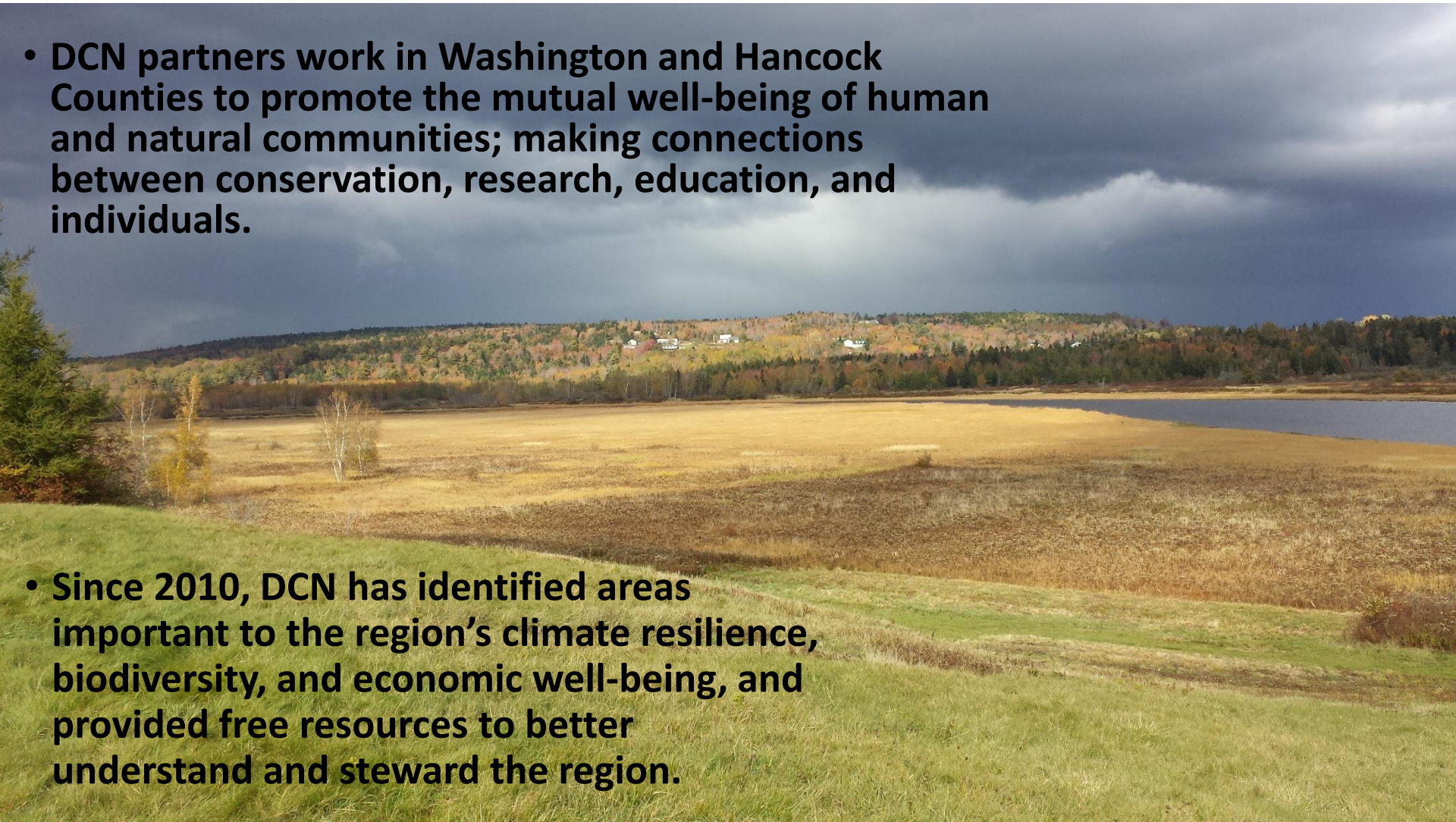
- **Where RPAs Work with RCPs:**
 - Downeast Conservation Network and Hancock County Government—Dwayne Shaw and Anne Krieg
 - Resilient Taunton Watershed Network and Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District—Stefanie Covino
 - Lower CT River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments—Margo Burns and Sam Gold
- **Small and Large Group Discussion:**
 - What are other promising directions for RCP-RPA coordination and collaboration?
 - How could the RCP Network contribute to the success of these relationships?



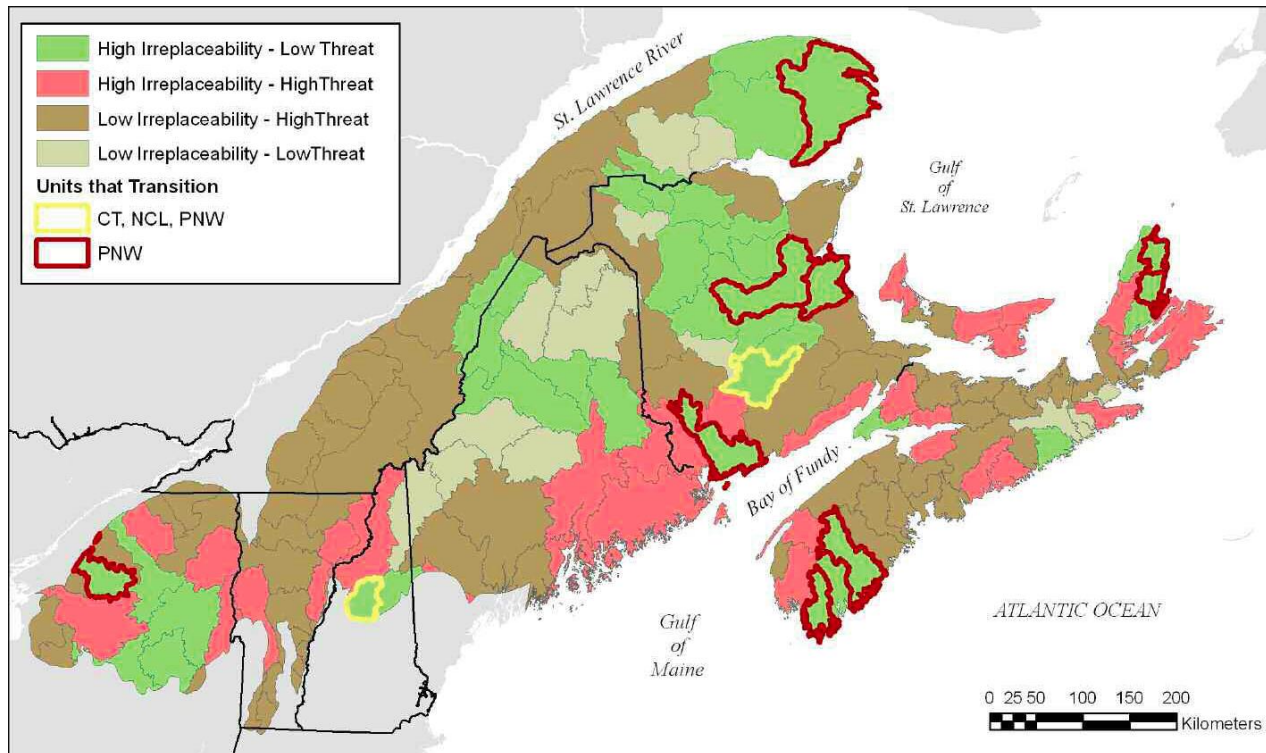
Connecting research, education, and
conservation in Downeast Maine

- DCN partners work in Washington and Hancock Counties to promote the mutual well-being of human and natural communities; making connections between conservation, research, education, and individuals.

- Since 2010, DCN has identified areas important to the region's climate resilience, biodiversity, and economic well-being, and provided free resources to better understand and steward the region.



Downeast: A High Priority



The Northern Appalachian/Acadian Ecoregion: *Priority Locations for Conservation Action* Two Countries/One Forest, Special Report #1, 2007

Partners

- Blue Hill Heritage Trust
 - College of the Atlantic
 - Cornell University
- Downeast Salmon Federation
- Frenchman Bay Conservancy
- Maine Coast Heritage Trust
 - Acadia National Park
 - Schoodic Institute
- Sunrise County Economic Council
- University of Maine – Machias and Orono
- Washington County Manager



Region

• Washington & Hancock Counties: Downeast Maine

- 5 universities/colleges
- Approximately 11 land trusts and 15 conservation organizations and institutions
- 6 state and federal government agency offices, and
- 4 Native American tribes (Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Maliseet, and Micmac)

Resource-based economy includes fisheries, forest products, and agriculture. There is also a large tourism, real estate, and construction economy.

16% of Hancock County and 28% of Washington County are in some form of land conservation

The background of the slide is a scenic photograph of a calm lake. In the distance, there are rolling hills or mountains covered in dense green forest. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. In the foreground, there are out-of-focus branches with green and some autumn-colored leaves, framing the bottom and right sides of the image.

Downeast Dialogue

Communities and Conservation

- **identify common goals and common concerns in an economically challenged region.**
- **municipal property tax impacts from land conservation can be a source of concern and stress for communities**
- **better understand how conservation impacts town budgets, provides economic benefits, and what role it can play in addressing community needs.**




Partners in conservation working with regional partners



Downeast Dialogue

“Communities & Conservation – a conversation about fiscal impacts and partnerships”

- **focus of the Annual General Meeting of the Washington County Council of Governments**
- **gain a better understanding about how conservation impacts town budgets, provides economic benefits, and what role it can play in addressing community needs**
- **identify common goals and common concerns and to develop shared goals with approaches to accomplish them.**



Valuing the Economic Benefits of Conservation Land in Downeast Maine

- a tool to help conservation groups and communities value the conservation in their communities
- better understand how conservation impacts town budgets, provides economic benefits, and what role it can play in addressing community needs.

Valuing the Economic Benefits of Conservation Land in Downeast Maine

- Visitor spending
- Recreation
- Carbon sequestering
- \$206/acre/year
- Conservation management employment
- Timber and blueberry markets
- Drinking water



Economic Analysis

Table 1. Economic benefits of Downeast conserved land (\$/yr)

Category	Hancock County	Washington County	Downeast Maine
<i>Ecosystem service benefits</i>			
Blueberry harvest	\$2,138,685	\$2,303,009	\$4,441,694
Timber harvest	N/A	N/A	\$17,500,000
Forest carbon sequestration	N/A	N/A	\$42,189,413
Recreation, all types	\$39,873,910	\$17,978,905	\$57,852,801
Science and Education	\$3,158,958	\$1,870,926	\$5,029,885
Beach Access	\$880,570	\$153,718	\$1,034,288
Clean water	\$7,120,383	\$4,172,278	\$11,292,662
Water supply	\$4,029,482	\$1,489,591	\$5,519,072
Wildlife habitat provision	\$21,136	\$12,518	\$33,654
<i>Additional economic benefits</i>			
Visitor spending	\$296,963,195	\$7,464,585	\$304,427,778
Conservation Employment	N/A	N/A	\$13,903,184

Bio Diversity Mapping

- map climate-resilient biodiversity resources within the Downeast region.
- support voluntary conservation and stewardship practices and planning
- region's biodiversity and resilience for three broad habitat groups:
 - 1) terrestrial
 - 2) aquatic (freshwater habitat, including lakes, ponds, stream and rivers)
 - 3) coastal (salt water habitats, including near-shore coastal and marine environments).

Access to BioDiversity Mapping

Mapping screenshot.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Reader DC

File Edit View Window Help

Home Tools Mapping screenshot... Mapping screenshot... x

68.3%

Share

https://sites.google.com/maine.edu/ummgis-planmaps/home

UMaine at Machias GIS Laboratory

Home

- Washington Cty Planners Maps
- Hancock Cty Planners Maps
- Washington Cty Parcel Viewer Maps
- Storm Surge & Sea Level Rise Maps

Online, Interactive Maps for Planning

The GIS Laboratory at the University of Maine at Machias, with support from partners such as the Washington County Council of Governments and the Downeast Conservation Network, provides interactive online maps for local communities. Use the links below to access maps and instructions.

- Washington County Maps for Planners**
- Washington County Public Parcel Viewer Maps**
- Hancock County Map for Planners**
- Climate, Storm Surge & Sea Level Rise Maps**
- Washington County Beginning with Habitat Data (Requires WCCOG or UMM password access)**

Scan to access this site!

Export PDF

Create PDF

Edit PDF

Comment

Combine Files

Organize Pages

Redact

Protect

Optimize PDF

Fill & Sign

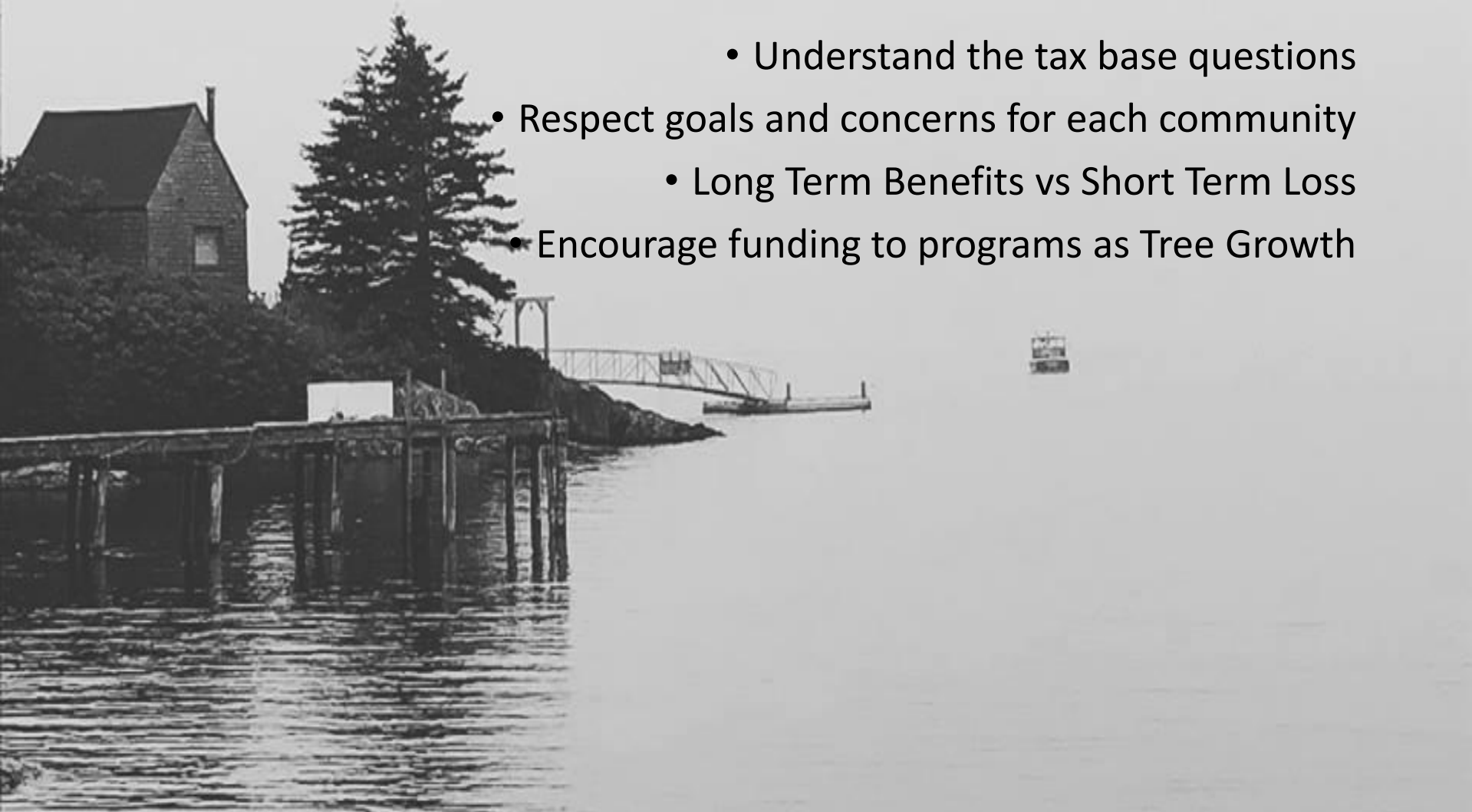
Send for Signature

Convert and edit PDFs with Acrobat Pro DC

Start Free Trial

Working with the communities

- Understand the tax base questions
- Respect goals and concerns for each community
 - Long Term Benefits vs Short Term Loss
- Encourage funding to programs as Tree Growth



Questions?



Protecting Land Through Planning and Partnership

RCPs & RPAs



RCP Gathering 2018
November 15, 2018
srpedd.org/rtnw

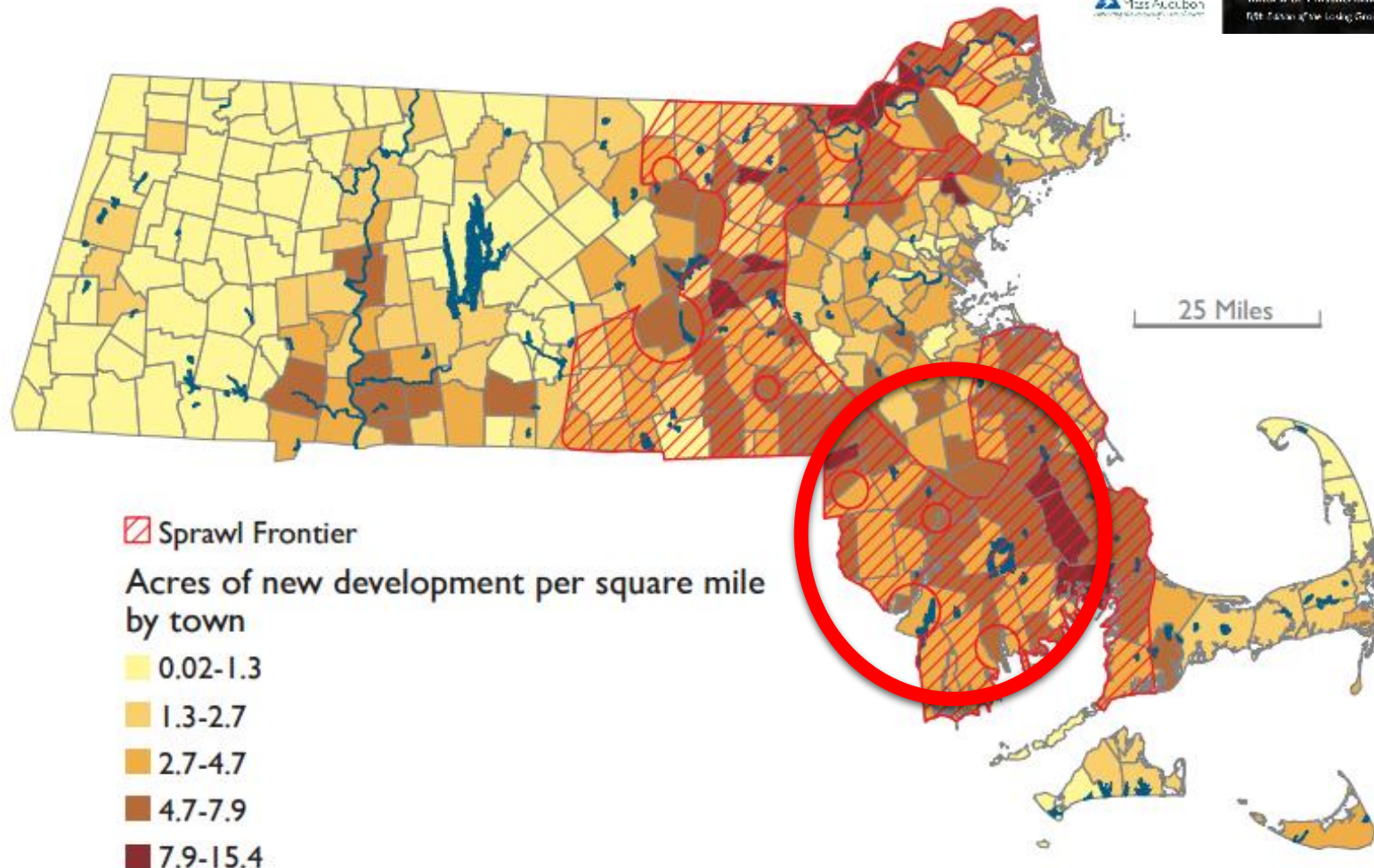


What's the problem?

Development is sprawling

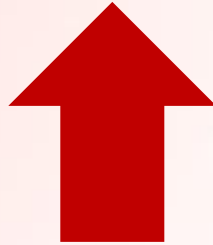


Mass Audubon
Conservation Science Center



Our climate is already changing

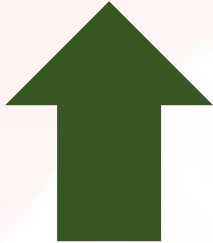
Temperature:



2.9°F

Since 1895

Growing Season:



11 Days

Since 1950

Sea Level Rise:



11 inches

Since 1922

Strong Storms:

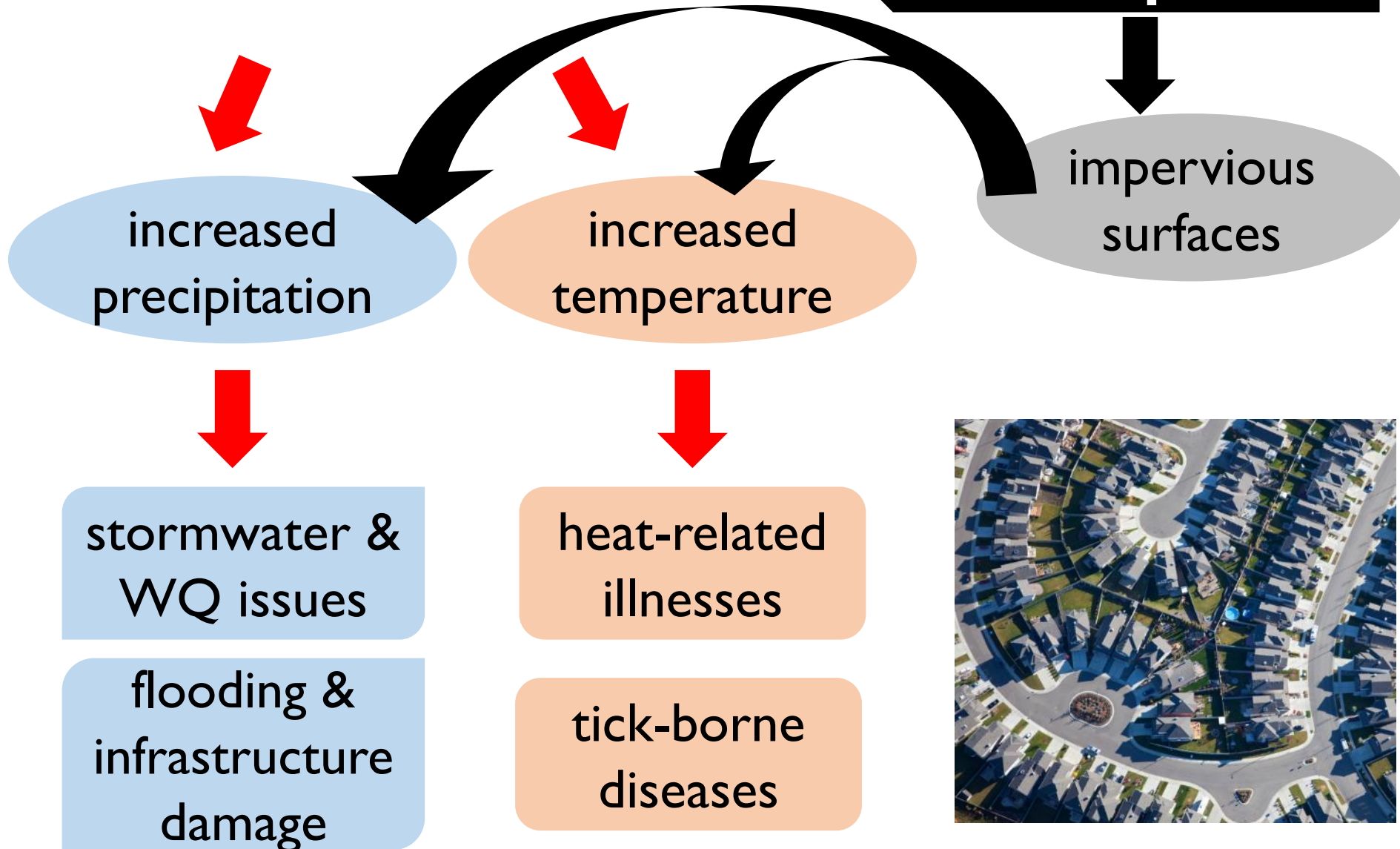


55%

Since 1958

Climate change

**Sprawling
Development**



Nature-Based Solutions

Nature-Based Solutions *use* natural systems, *mimic* natural processes, or *work in tandem with* traditional approaches to address natural hazards like **flooding**, **erosion**, **drought**, and **heat islands**.



**Green
Infrastructure**

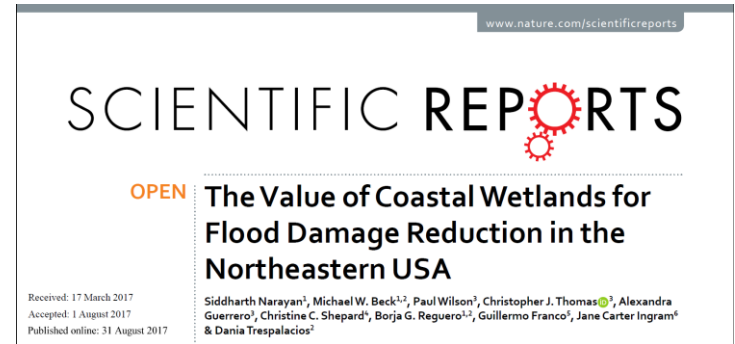


**Low Impact
Development (LID)**

GI is Good for Municipalities

Return on Investment Studies Northeast US Scientific Reports

- In Hurricane Sandy, wetlands reduced \$625,000,000 in direct flooding damages in New Jersey
- In New England, wetlands reduce storm damage by approximately 16%



<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-09269-z>

GI is Good for Municipalities

Return on Investment Studies in MA Trust for Public Land

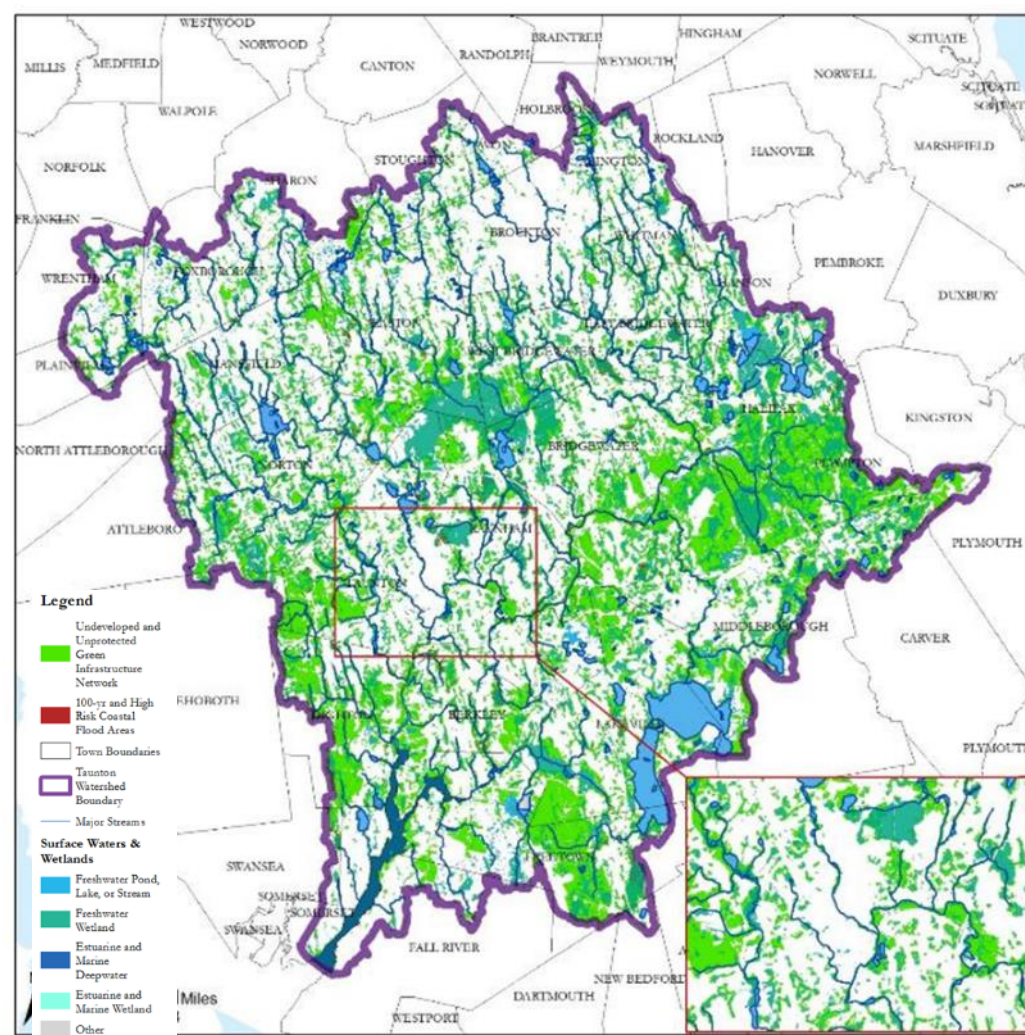
- Outdoor recreation generates:
 - \$10 billion in consumer spending
 - \$739 million in state and local tax revenue
 - 90,000 jobs
 - \$3.5 billion in annual wages and salaries
- Agriculture, forestry, commercial fishing, and related activities generate:
 - \$13 billion in output
 - 147,000 MA Jobs

Conservation Projects ROI \$4:\$1



Taunton Watershed

- Fastest developing watershed in MA from 2005-2013
- 30% undeveloped, unprotected, resilient (Priority GI)
- 562-square-mile watershed, one of the two largest contributors of fresh water to Narragansett Bay
- Low-lying & susceptible to flooding





The RTWN was formed in 2014 and is an award-winning collaboration of 19 organizations and agencies who care about the future health and resilience of the Taunton River Watershed and believe that nature-based solutions have economic, social, and ecological benefits.






- Bridgewater State University
- Horsley Witten Group
- Manomet Inc.
- MA Department of Environmental Protection
- MA Division of Ecological Restoration
- MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Mass Audubon
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
- The Nature Conservancy
- Old Colony Planning Council
- Save the Bay
- Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District
- Taunton River Watershed Alliance
- Tighe & Bond
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- National Park Service
- Wildlands Trust



- Depends on engaging partners to meet regional needs
- “Open door” policy for other orgs to use facilities
- Host/incubator for non-profits, including Taunton River Watershed Association
- Partners enhance:
 - capabilities to plan,
 - maximize the resources that we are able to provide
 - delivery and success of programs: Stormwater (GRRIP), Flood Hazard, Taunton River Stewardship/Restoration and Land Use and Resource Retention programs



- 
- Continue to employ multi-disciplinary partnerships to land use and resilience planning
 - Assist with reviewing bylaws/regs, ensure communities are prepared for flood hazards and stormwater mitigation
 - Assist with vulnerability assessments and ID priorities
 - Consider resilience in gray *and* green infrastructure that surrounds it
 - consider the life-cycle costs of resiliency investments and the potential savings in the design

Shared Goals: Planning for the Future



Plan for the future of Southeastern
Massachusetts
including **economic** opportunities
and protection of **natural resources**

srpedd.org/rtnw



Collaborations

EPA Healthy Communities grant (2016-2017)

- Creation/delivery of climate change & planning curriculum
- Creation of case studies highlighting NBS
- Map natural GI opportunities in watershed

**NARRAGANSETT BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM**





Current Grant: Promoting Community Resiliency through Nature-Based Solutions



Document & share the RTWN model beyond the watershed

(this is our most commonly received question)

- **Step 1:** Get together a great group of people
- **Step 2:** Determine what your region needs most
- **Step 3:** Figure out what everyone's good at and has resources for
- **Step 4:** Create goals
- **Step 5:** Work together and move the needle!



Peer-to-peer training & sharing best practices between states



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

State and local partnership to build resiliency to climate change

1. Engage Community

2. Identify CC impacts and hazards

3. Complete assessment of vulnerabilities & strengths

4. Develop and prioritize actions

5. Take Action

Develop case studies on best practices and projects



Review bylaws to encourage nature-based solutions

Factors	Conventional	Better	Best	Community's Zoning	Community's Subdivision Rules & Regulations	Community's Site Plan Review	Community's Stormwater/LID Bylaw/Regulations
GOAL 1: PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE							
Soils managed for revegetation	Not addressed	Limitations on removal from site, and/or requirements for stabilization and revegetation	Prohibit removal of topsoil from site. Require rototilling and other prep of soils compacted during construction	(Not applicable)			
Limit clearing, lawn size, require retention or planting of native vegetation/naturalized areas	Not addressed or general qualitative statement not tied to other design standards	Encourage minimization of clearing/ grubbing	Require minimization of clearing/grubbing with specific standards				
Require native vegetation and trees	Require or recommend invasives	Not addressed, or mixture of required plantings of native and nonnative	Require at least 75% native plantings				
GOAL 2: PROMOTE EFFICIENT, COMPACT DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS AND INFILL							
Lot size	Required minimum lot sizes	OSRD/NRPZ preferred. Special permit with incentives to utilize	Flexible with OSRD/NRPZ by right, preferred option				



Identify and assist funding implementation of projects



Thank you!



How Regional Planning Agencies Can Work with RCP's for Mutual Benefit

RCP Network Gathering, UMass
November 15, 2018

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments
Regional Conservation Partnership

Margot Burns, Environmental Planner, mburns@rivercog.org, lcrclandtrustexchange.org

How It Started

What We've Accomplished

What We Hope to Do

Benefits



How It Started



1972 - Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

1973 - Connecticut River Gateway Conservation Zone

1994 - Ramsar Estuary of Global Importance

1997 Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, 3 Divisions

1998 – American Heritage River

TNC - Last Great Place

2005 – Long Island Sound Stewardship Site

2009 – Wild and Scenic – Eightmile

2012 – Ct River National Blueway

4 State Designated Greenways and National New England Scenic Trail

2004

Conservation Easements What You Really Need To Know

2006

Connecticut River Riparian Mapping Project

2008

The Lower Connecticut River Ground Truthing Project



RiverCOG LTE Mission

- **Create a stronger connection between the local, regional conservation community, and the Regional, State, and Federal land use planning process;**
- **Enable effective collaboration and cooperation, in a regional manner, towards the creation of trails and greenways, and protection of existing habitat, water quality, and scenic and cultural landscape corridors**
- **Allow each to operate to its greatest potential**

Projects and Accomplishments

Entering 10th year of collaboration;

Natural Resource Based Strategic Conservation Plan

Case Statement for Conservation

Lower Ct River and Coastal Region Forest Stewardship Initiative

Funding Guide Matrix

Fund Development

The background of the slide is a photograph of a wide river, likely the Connecticut River, with a forested shoreline in the distance. The sky is clear and blue. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue rectangular area.

Lower CT River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange

CT Resource, Conservation, and Development Area (RC&D)

CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC)

UConn Extension Forestry – Tom Worthley

CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Emery Gluck – Cockaponset and Nehantic State Forester

Steve Gephard - Supervising Fisheries Biologist,

CT DEEP Inland Fisheries Division

US Fish and Wildlife


Rick Potvin – Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

US Dept. of Ag Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

District Conservationist

Judy Preston – UConn Sea Grant

Ct River Conservancy



Bats are dying off by the thousands in the caves where they hibernate. The cause is a mysterious disease known as White Nose Syndrome. Learn about the vital role bats play in our local ecosystem and overall health of the planet, and how you can help save these beneficial creatures and other endangered Connecticut wildlife. Join us for an enlightening talk by D.E.P. biologist Jenny Dickson on August 15th.

For more information:
smhaig@snet.net


Sponsored by:

- Deep River Land Trust
- Chester Land Trust
- Haddam Land Trust
- East Haddam Land Trust
- Essex Land Trust
- Lynde Point Land Trust
- Old Lyme Conservation Trust
- Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
- Chester Conservation Commission
- Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency
- Connecticut River Gateway Commission



Bats:

Where have they gone? Why should we care?



Find out on
August 15th
from 4-6 pm
at the Chester
Meeting House,
Chester, Ct.

The Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Forest Stewardship Initiative and the Menunketesuck - Cockaponset Regional Greenway

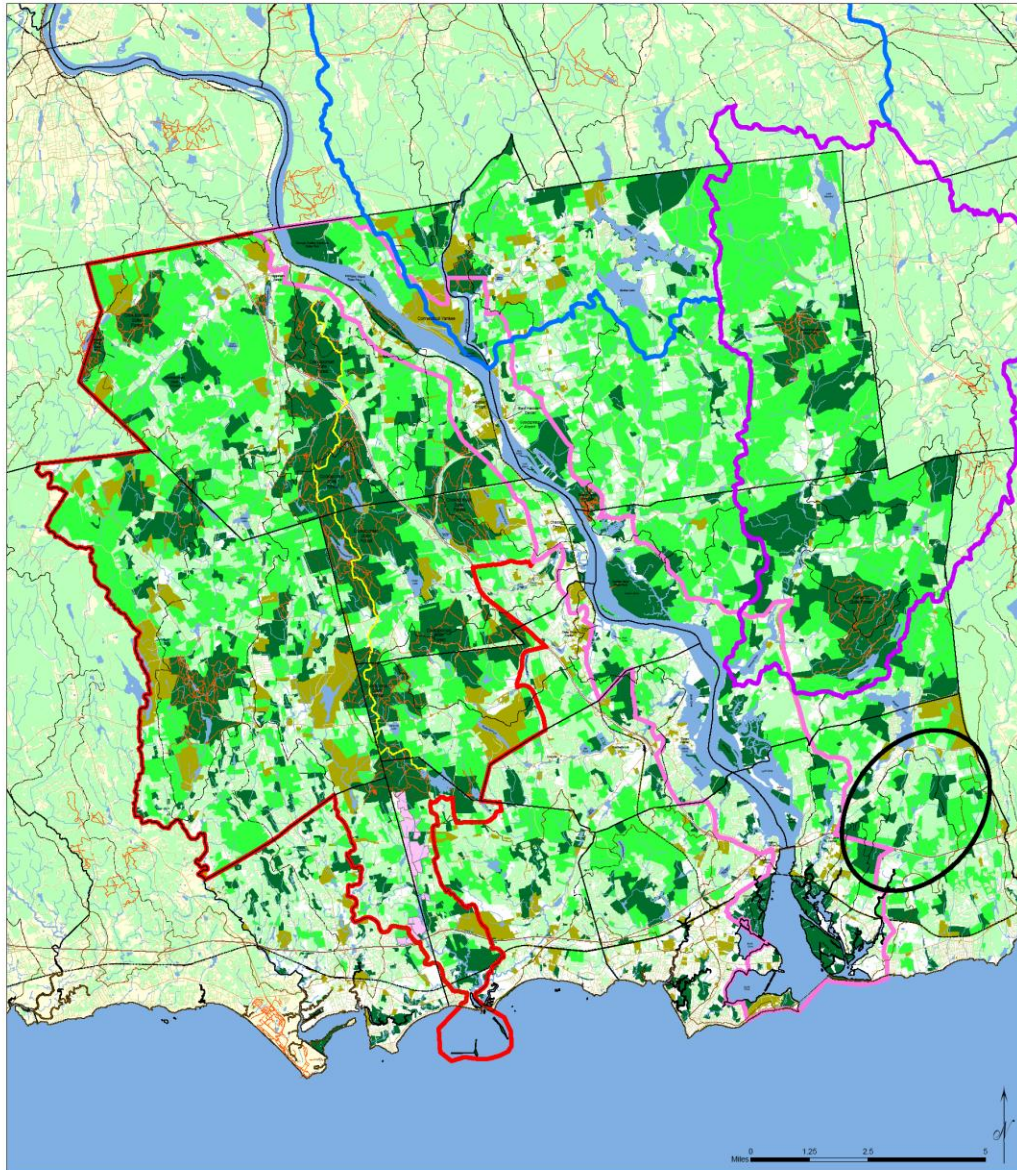


Draft Work Map - 2/2/2012



- Private Forest Lands
Parcels w/ 2 Acres or > Core Forest
Parcels w/10 Acres or > Any Forest
- Open Space
Federal, State, Municipal, Land Trust,
Nature Conservancy, Private
- Utility, Municipal other than
open space, Other Institutions,
maybe non-forested land
- Forest Cover
2006
- Targeted Greenway
Properties
- State DEEP Trails
- Quinimay Trail
- Draft
Greenway Boundary
- Eightmile Greenway
- Salmon River Division
- Old Lyme Greenway
- Base Layers**
 - Subregional Basins (Watersheds)
 - Gateway Conservation Zone
Boundary Line
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Primary Road
 - Secondary Road
 - Local Road
 - Railroad
 - Stream
 - Water

This data should only be used for planning purposes.
Base data layers provided by State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection. Parcel
and CMAA data provided by individual municipalities.
Parcel layers are of varying age and accuracies.
Forest data: UConn CLEAR and CERPFA.
Map produced by: M. Burns, CERPFA, 2/2/2012

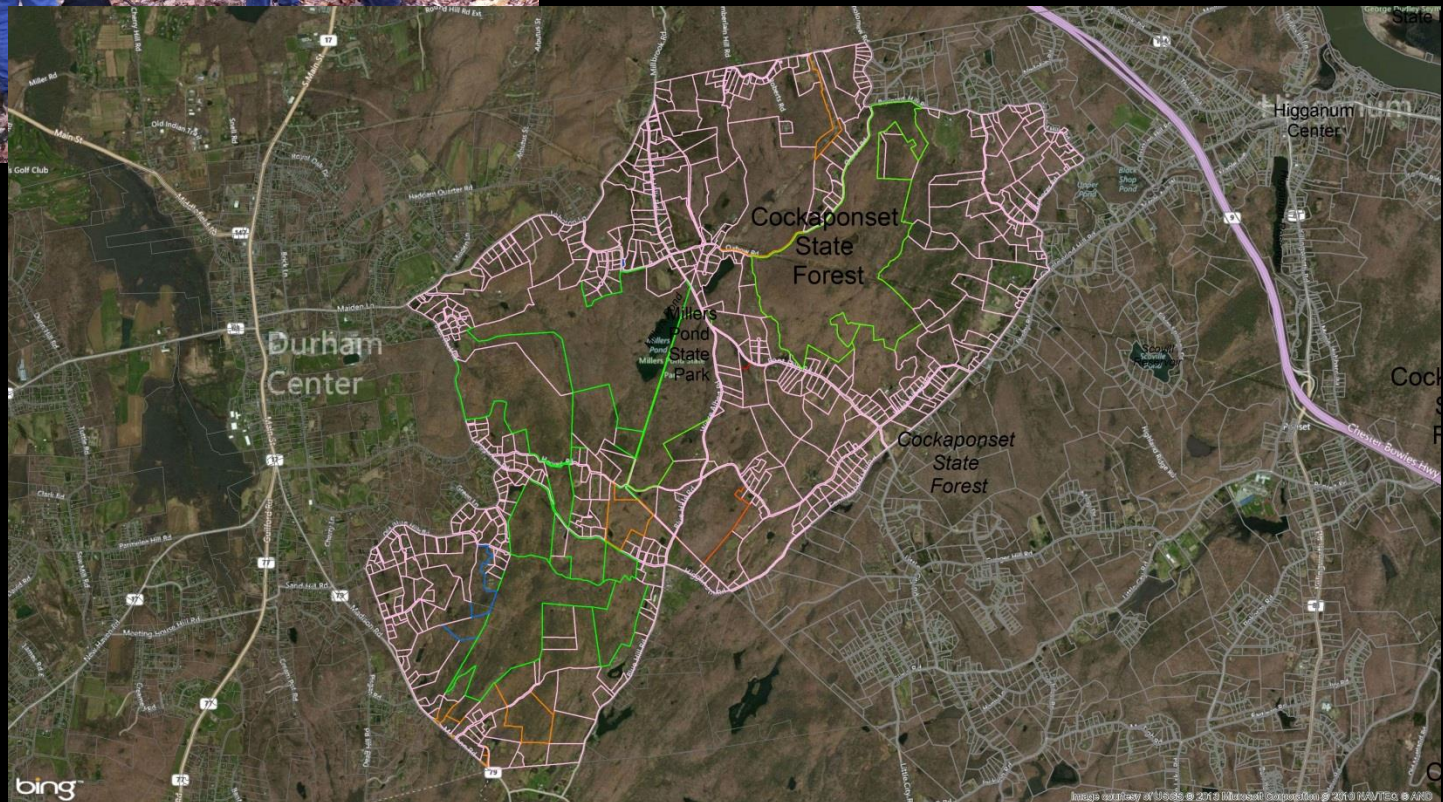






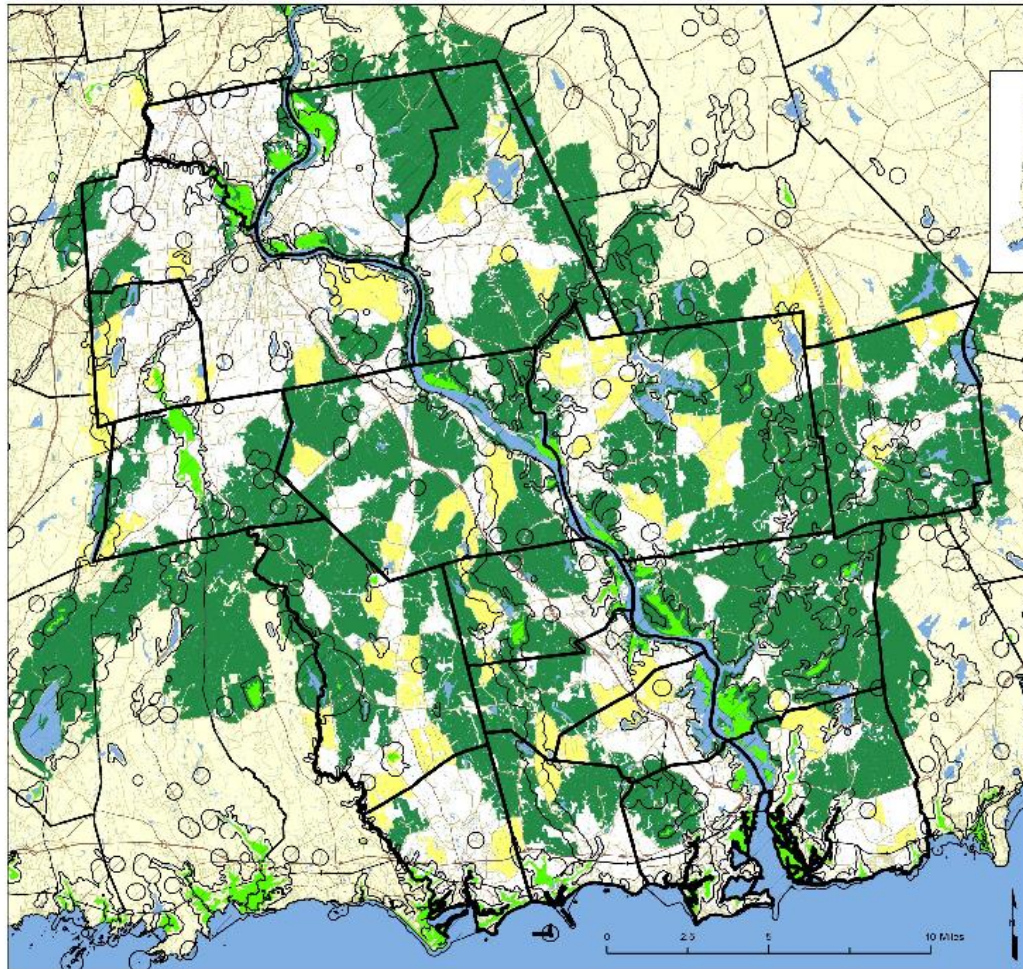
Neighborhood Forest Meetings

Haddam Quarter / Candlewood Hill
4 Corner Forest



Large Natural Areas Primary and Connecting Corridors

Map 1



- Primary Corridors
- Connecting Corridors
- Natural Diversity Database
- Critical Habitats

- Town
- River/COG
- Water
- Intermittent Streams
- Streams
- Railroad
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Local Road

The 86 LNAs with resource index scores of 4, 5, and 6 account for 69% of the total LNA acreage, 81% of core forest area, and 81% of the total resource value. The 10 LNAs with index scores of 7 and 8 account for 31% of the total LNA acreage, 19% of the core forest area, and 11% of the total resource value.

To retain the importance of the local areas they are included as separate regional models include those LNAs planning across regional and municipal boundaries.

This map should only be used for Data Sources: CT DEEP, UConn Map Created 6/2014 for the: The Lower CT River and Coastal Natural Resource Based Strategic A GIS Overlay Analysis

- Chester Land Trust
- Clinton Land Conservation Trust
- Connecticut River Land Trust
- Deep River Land Trust
- East Haddam Land Trust
- Essex Land Trust
- Haddam Land Trust
- Lyme Land Conservation Trust
- Lyme Point Land Trust
- Middlesex Land Trust
- Old Lyme Land Trust
- Old Saybrook Land Trust
- Salem Land Trust
- Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
- CT DEEP Forestry
- CT DEEP Inland Fisheries
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- National Park Service
- UConn Extension Forestry
- US Fish and Wildlife Service



The Lower CT River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange Natural Resource Based Strategic Conservation Plan A GIS Overlay Analysis

Mission Statement

To develop a plan that will enable effective collaboration towards the creation of large connected natural areas to provide wildlife habitat, to protect water quality and quantity, and to protect working and scenic lands.

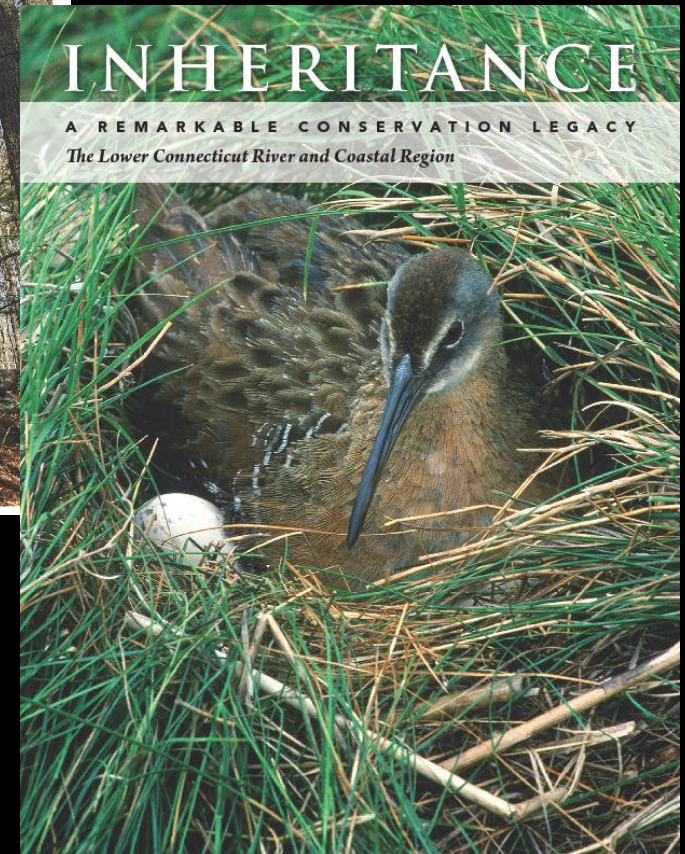
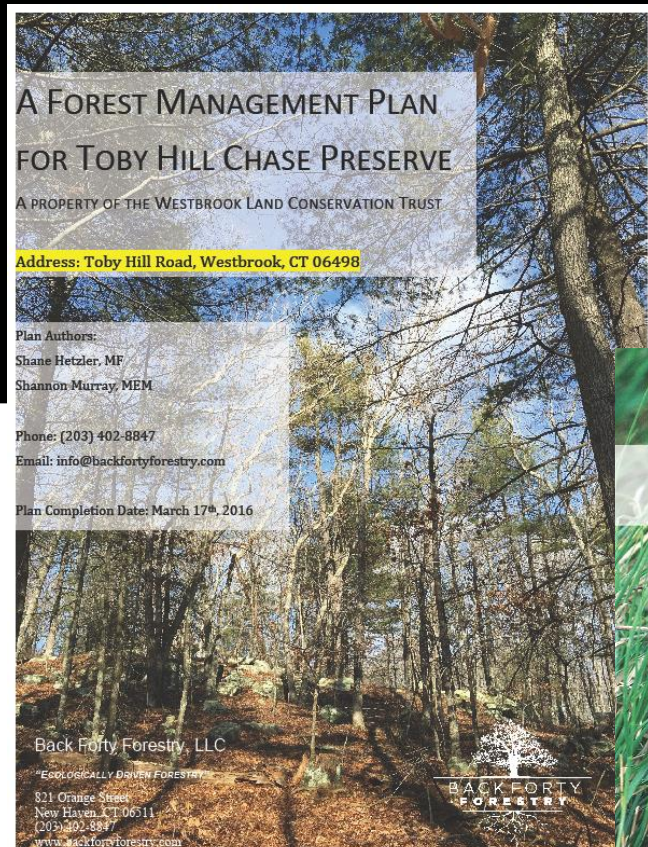
Margot Burns
Environmental Planner

Technical Assistance Provided by:
National Park Service

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)



CLCC Land Trust Advancement Initiative



The Connecticut Land Trust Advancement Initiative

SHARED SERVICES: A STRATEGY FOR LAND TRUST ADVANCEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IN CONNECTICUT

A project of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council in partnership with:

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments/
The Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange

Land Trust Alliance

Connecticut Resource, Conservation, and Development Area

Funded by the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service
Conservation Technical Assistance Program

Henrietta B. Jordan
February 2016



What We Hope to Do

Increase the Pace of Land Conservation In the Right Place for the Right Reasons

Improve Our Ability to Steward Our Lands and Waters

Build Capacity by Increasing Our Fund Raising Abilities



How Do We Mutually Benefit Each Other?

Information Sharing

Eliminates Duplication of Effort

Eliminates the Heavy Lift

Coordination of Effort

Raises Community Esteem and Awareness of All Concerned

Creates Community



The logo for the Connecticut Association of Councils of Governments (CTCOG) is located in the top left. It features the acronym "CTCOG" in a large, blue, sans-serif font with a slight 3D effect. Below the acronym, the full name "Connecticut Association of Councils of Governments" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background of the logo is a blue gradient with abstract, flowing shapes.

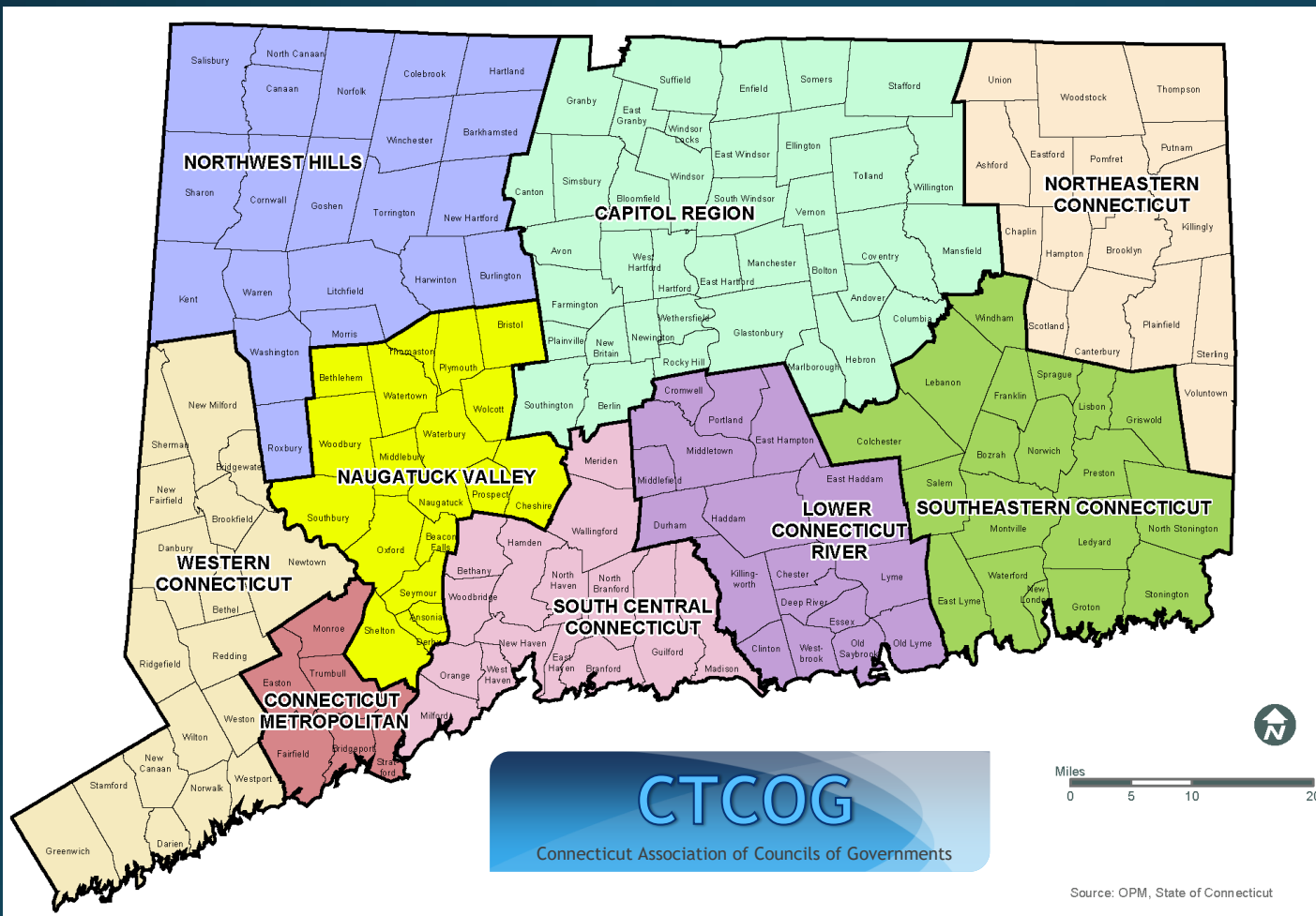
CTCOG

Connecticut Association of Councils of Governments

CRCOG-MetroCOG-RiverCOG
NECCOG-NVCOG-NHCOG
SCRCOG-SCCOG-WestCOG

Connecticut Perspective

How Regional Planning Agencies Can Work with RCPs for Mutual Benefit



Capitol Region COG

Connecticut Metro COG

Lower CT River Valley COG

Naugatuck Valley COG

Northeast Connecticut COG

Northwest Hills COG

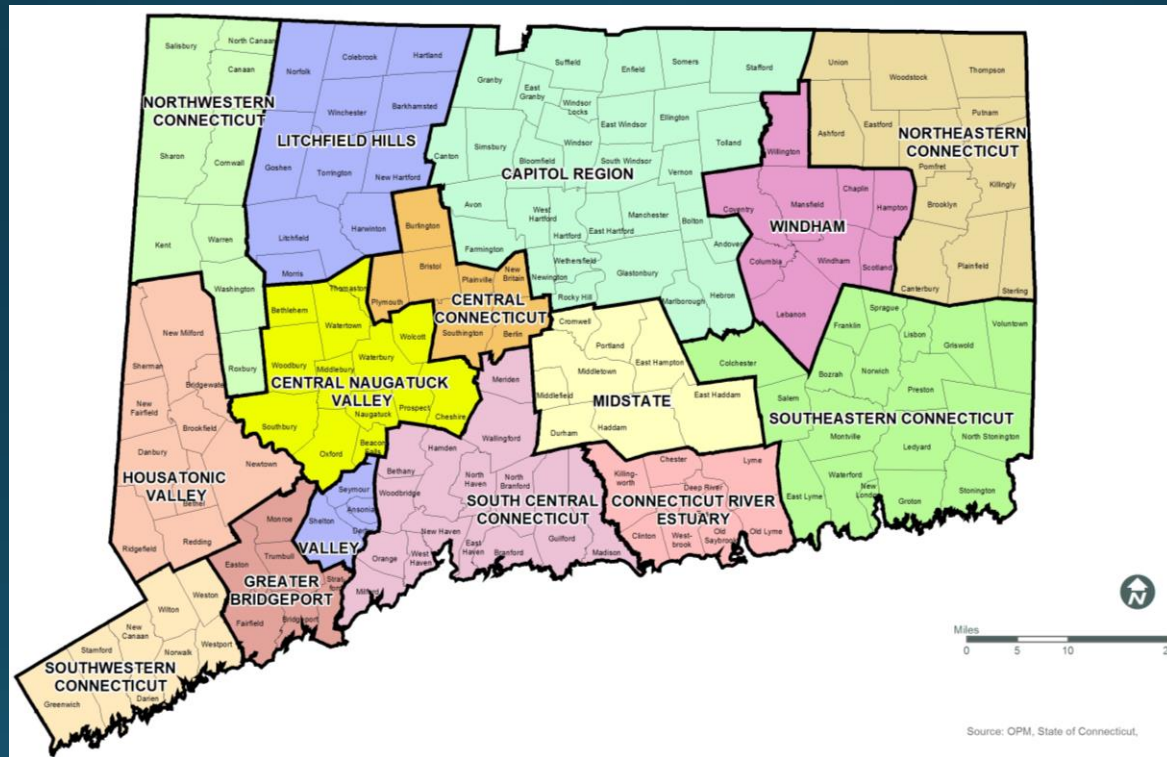
South Central CT COG

Southeastern CT COG

Western Connecticut COG

Source: OPM, State of Connecticut

Transition from 15 to 9



Transition from RPAs to COGs

- As of January 1, 2015 all Regional Planning Organizations had to be Councils of Governments
- Chief Elected / Executive Officers serve on the board
 - Increased municipal involvement
- One Town, One Vote (no weighted voting)
 - Smalls towns have more influence
- COGs were given the primary mandate of facilitating and furthering regional shared services

CGS Sec. 8-31b.(b)

“Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by each regional council of governments, except as provided in subsection (b) of section 9-229 and section 9-229b, and may include, without limitation, the following services: (1) Engineering; (2) inspectional and planning; (3) economic development; (4) public safety; (5) emergency management; (6) animal control; (7) land use management; (8) tourism promotion; (9) social; (10) health; (11) education; (12) data management; (13) regional sewerage; (14) housing; (15) computerized mapping; (16) household hazardous waste collection; (17) recycling; (18) public facility siting; (19) coordination of master planning; (20) vocational training and development; (21) solid waste disposal; (22) fire protection; (23) regional resource protection; (24) regional impact studies; and (25) transportation.”

CGS Sec. 8-31b.(b)

“Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by each regional council of governments, except as provided in subsection (b) of section 9-229 and section 9-229b, and may include, without limitation, the following services: (1) Engineering; (2) inspectional and planning; (3) economic development; (4) public safety; (5) emergency management; (6) animal control; (7) land use management; (8) tourism promotion; (9) social; (10) health; (11) education; (12) data management; (13) regional sewerage; (14) housing; (15) computerized mapping; (16) household hazardous waste collection; (17) recycling; (18) public facility siting; (19) coordination of master planning; (20) vocational training and development; (21) solid waste disposal; (22) fire protection; (23) regional resource protection; (24) regional impact studies; and (25) transportation.”

COG Regional Services & Initiatives

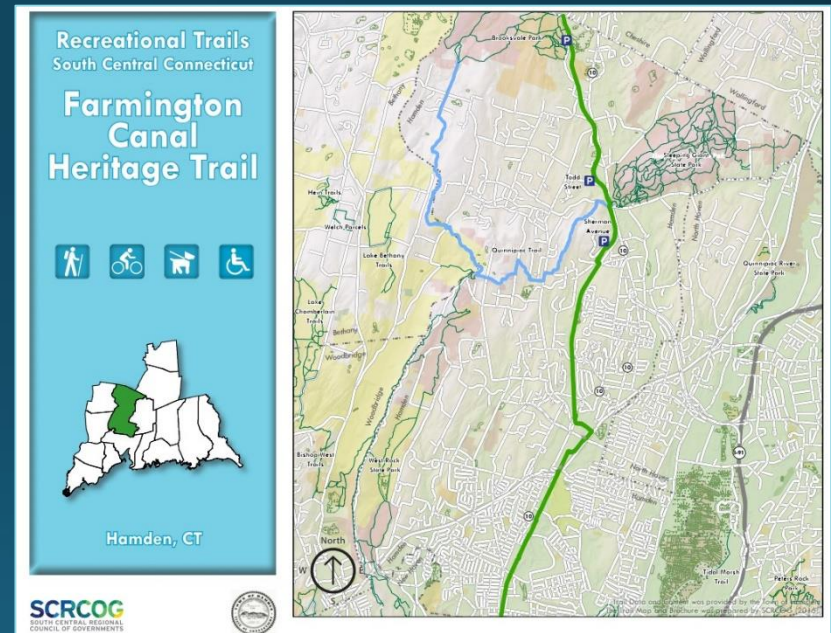
- Transportation Planning and Funding
- Regional Land Use Planning
- Emergency Planning and Preparedness
- Environmental Planning and Open Space Conservation
- Brownfields Remediation
- Information Technologies
- Geographic Information Systems
- Regional Property Revaluation
- Regional Animal Shelter
- Regional Equipment Sharing
- Household Hazard Waste Disposal and Recycling
- Economic Development

Transportation Planning and Funding

- COGs receive federal transportation planning funding
- Responsible for Transit, Bicycle and Pedestrian, and Trails Planning

South Central CT COG

- *Mapped over 100 recreational trails*



Environmental Planning & Open Space Conservation

- Open Space Mapping
- MS4 Storm Water Permit Assistance
- Farmland and Open Space Preservation

RiverCOG

- *Land Trust Exchange*
 - *14 Land Trust Working Together*
- *Lower CT River Land Trust, Inc.*
 - *Moving Towards a Regional Approach to Land Trust Administration, Fundraising, and Stewardship*
- *Regional Agricultural Council*



Brownfields



Regional Brownfields Partnership
of West Central Connecticut

\$800

RBP Annual
Dues Per
Town

\$3.5m

Active EPA
Grants

+

\$1m

Active DECD
Grants

\$4.9m

Total Active
Brownfield
Funding

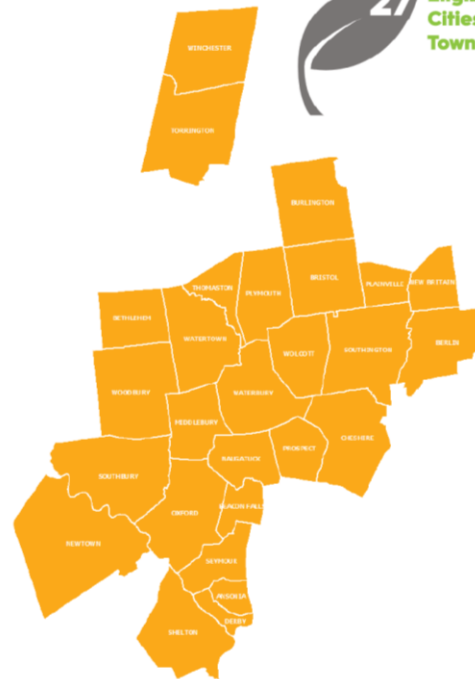
**2 Dedicated
Regional
Brownfields
Staff**



\$250k

Total Average Annual
Municipal Cost
Avoidance

27 Eligible
Cities and
Towns



Hazardous Waste & Recycling

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Programs
- Product Stewardship Initiatives
 - Paint, Electronics, Plastic Bags, & Mattresses

RiverCOG

Regional HHW Facility

- *Operate a HHW Collection Facility that Allows Storage of HHW Waste to Ensure Charges are for Full Containers*



County Equivalency

- Connecticut has no county government
- All Nine COGs voted to support U.S. Census recognition of COGs as county equivalents for Connecticut
- Counties and County Equivalents are eligible for more federal grants than municipalities
 - Connecticut receives \$70 less per capita in federal funds than average
 - On average \$45 per capita in federal funds go to counties
- Six states have county equivalents recognized by the U.S. Census
- Allowing COGs to apply for federal grants to counties will result in more applications, and more competitive applications for federal funds

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Table Group Discussion

- What are other promising directions for RCP-RPA coordination and collaboration?
- How could the RCP Network contribute to the success of these relationships?